



Colorado River District Awards \$150,000 For Forest Restoration

Yampa Valley Project One of Six to Receive Funding from \$780,000 Grant Cycle

STEAMBOAT SPRINGS, COLORADO-October 28, 2021-The Yampa River Forest Restoration Project was one of six projects to be recently awarded a grant from the Colorado River District. The project dedicated the \$150,000 contribution to restore tree cover along the Yampa River.

“The city is excited and grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Colorado River District on the next phase of the Yampa River Forest Restoration Project,” said Water Resources Manager Julie Baxter. “This project has long-term benefits for biodiversity, water quality, and overall river system health, and its continued success is a result of the hard work of many partner organizations and community volunteers.”

Over a three-year period, the Yampa River Forest Restoration Project aims to restore mid and upper canopy tree cover to reaches of the Upper Yampa River to help reduce summer water temperatures. As identified in the 2018 Yampa River Health Assessment and Stream Management Plan, the project offers an innovative, natural infrastructure approach to protecting Western Slope water supplies in the face of rising temperatures.



The expected outcomes from the project are six acres of new riparian plantings, and 1.5 miles of river with increased shading in reaches where summer temperatures exceed state standards. The project aims to increase shade along the river to reduce water temperatures, improve riparian habitat, and sequester carbon.

The Yampa Valley Sustainability Council has partnered on the reforestation project with the city, planting nearly 500 trees along the river each of the past three years. This effort is part of the YVSC's larger decade long ReTree initiative which has planted more than 23,000 trees in the Yampa Valley.

The Yampa River project was one of six community water projects to receive funding, totaling \$780,000, from the Colorado River District whose mission is to protect and conserve the water resources of the Colorado River Basin. A complete list of the Community Funding Partnership projects is available on the [district's website](#)

“These six projects represent collaboration between stakeholders across multiple user groups,” said Amy Moyer, Director of Strategic Partnerships for the Colorado River District. “When agricultural producers, environmental non-profits, recreationalists, and local communities join together, the outcome is beneficial for everyone in the watershed.”

-WeServeTheCity-

Contact

Julie Baxter, Water Resources Manager, 970.871.8267 or [email](#)
Michael Lane, Communications Manager, 970.871.8220 or [email](#)