

Yampa Water Project Coordinator

Full time, estimated 32 hours/week, Flexible hours based on project needs

Contractor Status, Hourly salary based on experience



The Community Agriculture Alliance (CAA) is a Colorado incorporated, non-profit community organization serving the Yampa River Valley. The CAA was established in 1999 to ensure that the agricultural community remain active and vital in the Yampa River Valley for generations to come. The CAA's mission is *"To preserve the agricultural heritage of the Yampa River Valley by initiating, supporting and encouraging actions, programs and policies that mutually benefit and connect agricultural producers and consumers"*. As part of the mission, CAA provides a leadership role and contracts with the Yampa White Green Rivers Basin Roundtable to implement water education, outreach, and engagement programs with agriculture producers in the region.

Job Summary

The Yampa Water Project Coordinator will work to identify, prioritize, and coordinate multi-beneficial projects that integrate irrigation water management, infrastructure improvements, river flow restoration or leases, and management of private riparian lands for local agriculture producers. Coordinator will serve as the lead point of contact with landowners, ditch owners, partnering organizations, technical advisors, and contractors, to coordinate communications, develop project proposals and realize funding opportunities. Projects may include agricultural diversion structure upgrades, riparian corridor improvements, ditch repair, measurement devices, and/or aquatic habitat restoration.

The overall goal is to implement projects related to Yampa stream management or watershed plans that do not have a defined project proponent or path forward. This position will enable CAA and local irrigators to better understand opportunities and apply for Colorado Water Conservation Board grants, other state agency and federal grants, and private funders to implement multi-benefit projects.

The position is a grant funded, two-year, full time contract position with funding through March 2023. Based in Routt County, with flexibility and travel expected throughout the Yampa River Basin.

Tasks

- Coordinate with local water managers and resource experts to identify priority multi-benefit projects and opportunities in the Yampa River Basin
- Help prioritize potential multi benefit irrigation water projects in the Yampa River Basin
- Conduct outreach and engagement with ag irrigators to identify potential projects
- Provide project leadership and coordination for interested ditch/landowners
- Provide facilitation as needed, between ditch owners and develop local agreements to facilitate communication and cooperation
- Coordinate with local organizations (NRCS, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, etc.) to provide technical assistance and build project collaboration
- Develop up to five project proposals per year, with funding strategies for project implementation
- Assist in coordinating potential opportunities for replicating this approach in other areas and conducting program evaluation
- Provide leadership and representation at Yampa White Green Basin Roundtable and other water planning meetings
- Support CAA organizational objectives and mission

Knowledge, Skills and Requirements

- Water project management experience (restoration and/or irrigation)

- Experience in agriculture, irrigation design and practices, aquatic/riparian ecosystem restoration project design and construction experience
- Experience assessing river function and health
- Successful grant writing and proposal development experience, especially with Natural Resource Conservation Service programs
- High level organization and communication skills
- Expertise and direct work experience in developing and implementing rural community engagement strategies and positive relationships with agriculture producers
- Possess ability to work individually with limited supervision, and as a team member
- Ability to establish and maintain positive relationships with diverse community members and partnering organizations
- Must provide a personal vehicle for all related travel and be privately insured

***Submit Letter of Interest, Qualifications and References by April 26, 2021 to Michele Meyer at
michele@communityagalliance.org***

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