

Fishing Is Fun Grant Program



INVESTING IN ANGLING IMPROVEMENTS ACROSS COLORADO

The Fishing Is Fun program provides up to \$400,000 annually in matching grants to local and county governments, park and recreation departments, angling organizations, water districts and others for projects to improve angling opportunities in Colorado.

Over more than 25 years, the Fishing Is Fun program has supported nearly 300 angling projects, bringing new and improved angling opportunities to Coloradoans, from small towns on the eastern plains and West Slope to every major metro area along the Front Range. In just the last few years, Fishing Is Fun grants have been awarded to projects in Hudson, Denver, Idaho Springs, Lake City, Durango, Steamboat Springs, Pueblo and more than two dozen other locations.

Projects supported through Fishing Is Fun include stream and river habitat improvements, public access easements to angling waters, pond and lake habitat improvements, new fishing pond development, parking areas and trails, and needed amenities such as benches, shade shelters and restrooms.

Project sponsors must provide non-federal matching funds or in-kind contributions equal to at least 25 percent of the total project cost. Additional match will help make a proposal more competitive in the review and ranking process; historically project partners have provided roughly 40 percent of project costs. Grants have ranged in size from \$2,500 to \$400,000, with an overall average of \$85,000.

The application period typically opens in November, with applications due by early March. Potential applicants are strongly encouraged to contact their local District Wildlife Manager or Aquatic Biologist for input into the proposed project prior to submittal. An independent review panel meets in early May for project

presentations and a develop funding recommendations. The Colorado Parks and Wildlife Director gives final approval of the list of projects by mid-June.

Fishing Is Fun funding comes from Colorado's allocation of federal Sport Fish Restoration Program funds, and projects are subject to federal reporting, compliance and accounting requirements. Grant funds are provided on a reimbursement basis, no "up-front" funding is provided.

A recent economic study found that fishing recreation contributes more than \$1.9 billion annually to the Colorado economy through direct and secondary expenditures, and supports 16,000 jobs statewide. More than 1,000,000 daily, multiday and annual fishing licenses are sold in Colorado each year.

Additional information on the Fishing Is Fun program is available on the Colorado Parks and Wildlife website at cpw.state.co.us. Potential applicants can also contact the Fishing Is Fun program coordinator, Travis Long, at 303-291-7621, or by email at travis.long@state.co.us.

