



**Board of County Commissioners**

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September 13, 2022

Colorado River Water Conservation District  
201 Centennial St, Suite 200  
Glenwood Springs, CO 81601

*Re: Support for Ruedi Reservoir Winter Release Community Funding Partnership Application*

Dear Madam Chair and Members of the Board,

We write to express our strong support for the Ruedi Reservoir Winter Release Community Funding Partnership application. This funding will allow Roaring Fork Conservancy to leverage local funds to support the Colorado Water Conservation Board's agreement to provide supplemental winter flows that mitigate anchor ice, benefitting both aquatic life and the local community.

The Fryingpan River is a proven ecologic and economic asset to Eagle County and surrounding communities. As pressures on this Gold Medal fishery continue to increase, we support efforts to strategically manage Ruedi Reservoir to ensure the river's long-term health and viability. Eagle County has supported Roaring Fork Conservancy's work to monitor and improve ecological health on the Fryingpan River for several years and encourages the efforts to enhance resiliency by maintaining winter flows from 60-70 cfs. Based on RFC's studies, this increased flow minimizes anchor ice formation, decreases stress to macroinvertebrate communities, and allows macroinvertebrate communities to recover from previous low flow durations. Ensuring the health of the stream system in turn benefits the recreation and tourism economy.

Having seen the benefit of this program in the past year, we encourage the River District to partner with Roaring Fork Conservancy to support supplemental flows in the Fryingpan River in winter months, providing long and short-term ecological benefits to the Fryingpan community, and supporting recreation and tourism demands.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeanne McQueeney  
Chair

Kathy Chandler-Henry  
Commissioner

Matt Scherr  
Commissioner