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**File Code:** 2500  
**Date:** September 9, 2022

Park County Land and Water Trust Fund Board  
856 Castello Avenue  
Fairplay, CO 80440

Dear Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of the Pike National Forest, South Park Ranger District in support of the grant application from the Coalition for the Upper South Platte (CUSP) to complete the 95% engineering design for the Lake George Dam Removal and Lower Elevenmile Stream Restoration Project. The dam was constructed by Colorado Springs Utilities (CSU) in the 1950s, who have since moved their water diversion rights to another location. It is located on National Forest Service land at the entrance to Elevenmile Canyon. The Coalition for the Upper South Platte obtained some funding from the Park County Land and Water Trust Fund previously to complete the 70% engineering design. The Forest Service, CUSP, CSU, and Colorado Parks and Wildlife continue to work in partnership to bring the design to contract for the removal of the structure. Funding of the project is extremely important in ensuring the continued progress of the project, which will greatly benefit aquatic habitat and water resources in the South Platte Watershed.

The Forest Service has received a grant from the South Platte Enhancement Board for \$40,000 which will be utilized for this project. In addition, the agency has contributed \$30,000 of internal funds towards the 95% design.

The Coalition for the Upper South Platte has an excellent track record for previous dam removal projects and for partnering with the Forest Service on a variety of different restoration projects. Continued support of the project will ultimately lead to the removal of an unused diversion structure that has altered the geomorphic function and blocked river connectivity for aquatic organisms since its installation.

The USFS owns this stretch of the South Platte River where the project would take place. The removal of the dam is anticipated during 2023 assuming funds can be located for the deconstruction contract.



If you have any questions, please contact Josh Voorhis, District Ranger on the South Park Ranger District at 719-836-3857 or [joshua.voorhis@usda.gov](mailto:joshua.voorhis@usda.gov).

Sincerely,

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JOSHUA VOORHIS  
District Ranger