**Environmental Studies Internship Opportunity Form**

**Organization name:** Upper Colorado River Watershed Group

**Organization Web address:** http://ucrwg.org

**Physical Address:** PO Box 1842

**City:** Grand Lake **State:** CO **Zip:** 80447

**Contact person:** Lisa Caruana

**E-mail:** [ucrwgteam@gmail.com](mailto:ucrwgteam@gmail.com) **Phone:** 716-913-9604

**Internship available these semesters (please mark one or more semesters):**

**Spring \_X\_\_ Summer** \_X\_\_ **Fall** \_X\_\_

**Brief description of Your Organization:**

UCRWG is a small, grassroots nonprofit based in Grand County, Colorado that focuses on protecting and restoring the headwaters of the Upper Colorado River. UCRWG was formed in 2016 by concerned community members who saw the need for a watershed group in the Upper CO River headwaters to unite disparate stakeholder groups in open, productive conversations. UCRWG’s mission is to protect and restore the headwaters of the Upper Colorado River through outreach, education, and science-driven restoration projects.

UCRWG faces unique challenges in that most of the water that flows through our watershed is owned by large water municipalities in the Colorado Front Range metro areas. Approximately 75% of flows no longer reach the watershed, with the Adams and Moffat Tunnels diverting water east over the Continental Divide in transbasin water diversions. The combination of decades of transbasin water diversions, increasing pressure from climate change and widespread devastation caused by the East Troublesome wildfire in October 2020 are threatening the overall ecological stability of the region.

The UCRWG Board of Directors consists of a team of highly skilled water scientists, hydrologists, environmental engineers, and community activists with deep roots in the local community and decades of experience in watershed restoration and reclamation projects. UCRWG stakeholders are both community members who love the wildness and beauty of the Upper Colorado River and the thousands of people in the Denver and Fort Collins metro areas that rely on transbasin water diversions from the watershed to meet their daily needs. UCRWG’s goals are to involve Front Range water users in supporting efforts to protect and restore the watershed they depend on and to oppose proposed increases in transbasin diversions in favor of increased water efficiency standards for the growing metro areas.

As a small, newly established organization, UCRWG would be an excellent internship opportunity for students interested in learning how to grow a nonprofit from the ground up and in the politically contentious world of water in the West.

**Project:** Historical narrative of water in Grand County

**Describe the nature/goals of the project(s):**

Constructing a narrative of water in Grand County to create a story of local water use and management. The goal is to help private citizens better understand local water management issues and educate water users on where their water comes from and the ongoing environmental impacts on the watershed.

**Please list required and/or desired skills and qualifications:**

* Ability to identify and evaluate credible resources
* Writing and editing skills
* Ability to create a well-organized works cited
* Ability to edit a WordPress website or willingness to learn
* Self-motivated and well-organized, with ability to stay focused with minimal supervision
* Research skills and ability to track down primary sources and wade through complex historical data, or willingness to learn