



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT 2007-2008 GRANT APPLICATION FORM

Agricultural Water Needs Assessment
and Water Supply Analysis

Gunnison River Basin

Name of Water Activity/Project

River Basin Location

111,480
74,320

☒

Basin Account

☒

Yes

☒

Statewide Account

☐

No

Amount of Funds Requested

Please Check Applicable Box

Approval Letter Signed By
Roundtable Chair and
Description of Results of
Evaluation and Approval
Process

*** For the Basin Account, the Application Deadline is 60 Days Prior to the Bimonthly CWCB meeting. The CWCB meetings are posted at www.cwcb.state.co.us and are generally the third week of the month.**

*** For the Statewide Account, the Application Deadline is 60 Days Prior to the March and September CWCB Board Meetings.**

* In completing the application you may attach additional sheets if the form does not provide adequate space. If additional sheets are attached please be sure to reference the section number of the application that you are addressing (i.e., A.1. etc.).

Instructions: This application form must be submitted in electronic format (Microsoft Word or Original PDF are preferred). The application can be emailed or a disc can be mailed to the address at the end of the application form. The Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines can be found at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/>. The criteria and guidelines should be reviewed and followed when completing this application. You may attach additional sheets as necessary to fully answer any question, or to provide additional information that you feel would be helpful in evaluating this application. Include with your application a cover letter summarizing your request for a grant. If you have difficulty with any part of the application, contact Todd Doherty of the Intrastate Water Management and Development (Colorado Water Conservation Board) for assistance, at (303) 866-3441 ext.3210 or email Todd at todd.doherty@state.co.us.

Generally, the applicant is also the prospective owner and sponsor of the proposed water activity. If this is not the case, contact the Todd Doherty before completing this application.

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Part A. - Description of the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner);

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District (on behalf of Gunnison Basin Roundtable)		
	Mailing address:	P. O. Box 1330 Gunnison, CO 81230		
	Taxpayer ID#:	98-11-687-0000	Email address:	ugrwcd@ugrwcd.org
	Phone Numbers: Business:	(970) 641-6065		
	Home:			
	Fax:	(970) 641-1162		

2. Person to contact regarding this application if different from above:

Name:	Frank Kugel	Ken Spann
Position/Title	Manager, UGRWCD	UGRWCD Rep., Gunnison Rndtable

3. Provide a brief description of your organization below: see “Description of Applicant” in Part 2 of Criteria and Guidance for required information.

This application is being formally applied for by the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District, a statutorily authorized Water Conservancy District, as the Project Applicant on behalf of: itself, the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, and numerous other cooperating entities on the Gunnison Basin Roundtable, including specifically the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Assn., the North Fork Water Conservancy District, the Grand Mesa Water Conservancy District, Delta County, the Colorado River Water Conservation District and the Office of the Division Engineer, Water Division 4. UGRWCD will act as Project Applicant and Project Administrator for the Assessment and Analysis.

The mission of the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District and these cooperating entities with the Gunnison River Basin Roundtable are to be active leaders and participants in legal, policy, and management issues affecting the water resources of the Gunnison Basin as directed by, among other things, the founding petition to the District Court under the framework of the Water Conservancy Act. The District and these cooperating entities within the Gunnison River Basin Roundtable all encourage the

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in-basin beneficial consumptive use and maintenance of high quality standards for the water resources of the basin. Flood control, ecological needs, recreational opportunities, and aesthetic values are issues of additional concern to the public the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District Board of Directors serves.

4. If the Contracting Entity is different then the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner) please describe the Contracting Entity here.

UGRWCD will be the principal Contracting Entity.

Part B. - Description of the Water Activity – Please Refer to Criteria and Guidance Document for Eligibly Requirements

1. Name of water activity/project:

Agricultural Water Needs Assessment and Water Supply Analysis

What is the purpose of this grant application?

☐

Environmental compliance and feasibility study

☐

Technical Assistance regarding permitting, feasibility studies, and environmental compliance

☒

Studies or analysis of structural, nonstructural, consumptive, nonconsumptive water needs, projects

Study or Analysis of:

☐

Structural project or activity

☐

Nonstructural project or activity

☒

Consumptive project or activity

☐

Nonconsumptive project or activity

☐

Structural and/ or nonstructural water project or activity

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2. Describe how the water activity meets these **Threshold Criteria**.

1. The water activity meets the eligibility requirements outlined in Part 2 of the Criteria and Guidelines.

The Agricultural Water Needs Assessment is a study and analysis of consumptive water needs throughout the Gunnison River Basin for agriculture and is being undertaken by an eligible entity, i.e. the UGRWCD and its also eligible cooperators. The analysis is specifically authorized by the express language of the authorizing legislation in HB 1177. Please see the Attached Work Plan.

2. The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes. The requirements/language from the statute is provided in Part 3 of the Criteria and Guidelines.

Nothing in this application will supersede, abrogate, or otherwise impair anything in the current system of water rights administration in Colorado. This study is fully consistent with the full range of protections contained in Section 37-75-102. Please see the Attached Work Plan

3. The water activity underwent an evaluation and approval process and was approved by the Basin Roundtable (BRT) and the application includes a description of the results of the BRT's evaluation and approval of the activity. At a minimum, the description must include the level of agreement reached by the roundtable, including any minority opinion(s) if there was not general agreement for the activity. The description must also include reasons why general agreement was not reached (if it was not), including who opposed the activity and why they opposed it. Note- If this information is included in the letter from the roundtable chair simply reference that letter.

This Study has been under development by the Gunnison Roundtable for some time. It was identified early and scoped as part of the initial Task Orders under HB 1400 funding. The Study was reviewed and approved by the Projects Subcommittee of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable on October 31, 2008. It was unanimously approved by the Gunnison Basin Roundtable on November 3, 2008. The letter of approval from Michelle Pierce, the Chair of the Gunnison Basin Roundtable is forwarded with this application and incorporated herein.

4. The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes. The requirements /language from the statute is provided in Part 3 of the Criteria and Guidelines.

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This proposed study is exactly on point to meet the specific requirements of Section 37-75-104(2)(c). This study effort will supplement the SWSI data already developed and provide data where none was originally developed, assist in the further development of a basin wide consumptive water supply needs assessment, and set the stage to propose additional projects to meet agricultural water needs where appropriate. The study will actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, irrigators, conservancy districts and water administrators on these issues. Results, as they become available will be transmitted to and available for the IBCC and for input into the Colorado River Water Availability Study.

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3. For Applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, describe how the water activity meets the **Evaluation Criteria**. See Part 3 of Criteria and Guidelines.

This assessment is and will promote collaboration and cooperation. This assessment, already in the process of developing the proposal and certainly in the implementation, will promote collaboration and cooperation among a great many water managers, users, and administrators along the Gunnison River Basin. It is anticipated that groups of users will be working together to identify on the ground shortage issues in a cooperative setting that has not been contemplated on this scale before. All of the principle water management entities involved in agriculture in the Gunnison Basin have committed to participate, each in a very meaningful way. The effort at putting serious time into learning and documenting the true shortages in the river system is fundamental in addressing our intrabasin and ultimately, the interbasin needs for water.

This assessment will facilitate Water Activity Implementation. A significant portion of the work proposed in this study is to carefully review the high altitude coefficients in the state CU models to update them to reflect more current data and study information. It is also anticipated that the State Mod information as to agriculture water rights, efficiency, and consumption in the Gunnison Basin will be reviewed and updated. There is a need to complete this effort now, as part of the Gunnison needs assessment and to coordinate that effort with the Colorado River Water Availability Study. These efforts will benefit the entire State. The study can be implemented in a relatively short period of time with the critical on the ground data developed and available early in the study period. The Applicant, the UGRWCD, in cooperation with its partners on this assessment, absolutely has the demonstrated expertise and ability to implement the proposed study. The Application contains a very conservative estimate of matching funds being provided by a number of entities. The actual contributions being made over the course of the assessment is expected to be much higher. The need for financial assistance to complete the assessment is directly a consequence of the statutory requirements that the basins develop a needs assessment.

This assessment will meet Water Management Goals and Objectives and Identified Water Needs.

This assessment helps complete the Gunnison Basin Needs Assessment, was identified early in the Task Orders under HB 1400 and remains unfunded. It also helps to fill in a serious data omission in SWSI, in that little or no information was developed on the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The information gathered will assist in the long term goal of the State to sustainably meet agricultural water demands and will meet the Gunnison Basin Roundtable basin wide water needs assessment in accordance with the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act.

This Agricultural Water Needs Assessment addresses Issues of Statewide Value.

This assessment is targeted at developing information needed to help sustain agriculture in western Colorado by critically focusing on where those water shortages are. The assessment is anticipated to assist in the administration of compact-entitled waters by refining and enhancing the actual and

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modeled information on the agricultural water use in the Gunnison Basin and is very complementary to the implementation of other CWCB programs, including the Colorado River Water Availability Study.

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4. Please provide an overview of the water project or activity to be funded including – type of activity, statement of what the activity is intended to accomplish, the need for the activity, the problems and opportunities to be addressed, expectations of the participants, why the activity is important, the service area or geographic location, and any relevant issues etc. Please include any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the Contracting Entity. Please refer to Part 2 of Criteria and Guidance document for additional detail on information to include.

Please see the Attached Work Plan. The Tabor issues are addressed by having UGRWCD be the Project Applicant and Project Administrator as that District has been “debruced” by the voters. It can therefore, handle the revenue stream passing through without Tabor complications.

5. Please summarize the proposed scope of work. Please refer to Part 2 of the Criteria and Guidance document for detailed requirements. On the following page there is an example format for the Scope of Work. You can use the example format or your own format, provided that comparable information is included.

The scope of work should outline by task how the water activity will be accomplished. It is important that the scope of work detail the specific steps, activities/procedures that will be followed to accomplish the water activity and the specific products/deliverables that will be accomplished. The scope of work should include but not be limited to: task description, key personnel, budget, schedule and deliverables and the final report/project documentation upon completion of the water activity.

See the Attached Work Plan. It outlines in detail the scope of work and how it will be accomplished.

5. Water Availability and Sustainability – this information is needed to assess the viability and effectiveness of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of each water supply source to be utilized for, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. For water supply sources being utilized, describe its location, yield, extent of development, and water right status. For water bodies being affected, describe its location, extent of development, and the expected effect of the water activity on the water body, in either case, the analysis should take into consideration a reasonable range of hydrologic variation.

This assessment is expected to look at a wide range of hydrologic supply and demand issues throughout the reach of the Gunnison River Basin. Please see the attached work plan.

7. Please provide a brief narrative of any related or relevant previous studies.

The Roundtable believes that the work in SWSI I and SWSI II are useful foundational work for this further detailed study. Those efforts, however, did not achieve the level of detail the Roundtable feels will adequately assess the long term irrigation needs in the basin. The study will closely coordinate with the efforts of the Colorado River Water Availability Study and build upon the

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consumptive use studies done at high altitude in the Gunnison Basin in the 1990s. Please see the attached work plan.

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8. Additional Information – If you feel you would like to add any additional pertinent information please feel free to do so here.

The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Applicant:

Print Applicant's Name:

Project Title: Gunnison River Basin Agricultural Needs Assessment and Water Supply Analysis

Return this application to:

Mr. Todd Doherty
Intrastate Water Management and Development Section
COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
1580 Logan Street, Suite 600
Denver, CO 80203

To submit applications by Email, send to: todd.doherty@state.co.us