

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 29a**

Applicant: Gunnison River Festival

Water Activity Name: 75 Ditch Diversion Improvements and Feature Enhancements

Water Activity Purpose: Structural water project or activity

County: Gunnison County

Drainage Basin: Gunnison River

Water Source: Gunnison River

Amount Requested: \$46,100 (Gunnison Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$110,584 (71% of Project Costs)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$46,100 from the Gunnison Basin Account for the construction of a multi-purpose structure on the Gunnison River in Gunnison at the location of the 75 Ditch diversion contingent on resolution of the items in the issues/additional needs section.

Water Activity Summary:

This proposal is for the construction of a multi-purpose structure on the Gunnison River in Gunnison, Colorado at the location of the 75 Ditch diversion, which is the oldest water right in the Gunnison Basin. These water rights were adjudicated in 1906 and have an 1875 appropriation date. The holistic design of this structure will improve the year-round delivery of water to the 75 Ditch, eliminating the annual instream disturbances currently caused by the use of heavy machinery to manipulate river substrate to ensure water delivery during low flows. In 2009, the Colorado Water Conservation Board provided the initial funding (through a severance tax grant) to have Recreational Engineering and Planning of Boulder, Colorado create a preliminary design and cost estimate used to develop this proposal.

The location for the proposed project is 400 feet downstream of Highway 50. Due to the channel width, stream gradient and diversion characteristics, this is an ideal location for a multi-purpose structure. Additionally, this reach of the Gunnison Whitewater Park currently poses a safety risk to commercial and private boaters at low flow conditions. Currently at lower flows, modifications to the existing diversion structure expose rocks which can create a danger to both private and commercial boaters. The new drop and pool will create the final feature to the popular Gunnison Whitewater Park and will enhance the park's usage by creating a feature designed to function at lower flow regimes than the existing features in the park therefore expanding the seasonal usage of the park.

The project will consist of:

1. The left wing of the existing diversion will be sealed and stabilized, thereby reducing the need for annual maintenance due to leakage or instability. The structure will be permanently stabilized, while enhancing water delivery to the existing diversion. The left-bank of this improved structure

will also include a fish passage area. One in-stream whitewater feature will be built within the lower portion of the existing 75 Ditch diversion structure.

2. Selective right-bank access improvements including minor bank re-grading, stone terraces, seating area, and re-vegetation. Care will be taken to not disturb the existing wells near this area.
3. Downstream pool excavation and grade control and large random boulders.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria. No statewide funds are being requested, therefore the evaluation criteria do not apply.

Funding Overview

The applicant is requesting grant funding in the amount of \$46,100 from the Gunnison Basin Account. Funding from the WSRA constitutes 29% of the overall project cost (\$156,684). The applicant has indicated matching funds of \$110,584.

Discussion:

The applicants do a good job articulating the multiple benefits to consumptive and non-consumptive users. This application improves the efficiency of an existing water diversion structure while protecting instream habitat. This non-consumptive will also provide improved boater passage and safety for the users of the existing recreational instream channel diversion secured by water rights held by the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District. The applicants have listed numerous participants and proponents of this project as well as the significant amount of matching funds committed.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- Considering that the applicant's reliance upon \$110,584 in other funding sources, staff recommends that this funding is contingent upon the applicant's ability to secure the remaining \$110,584.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$46,100 from the Gunnison Basin Account for the construction of a multi-purpose structure on the Gunnison River in Gunnison at the location of the 75 Ditch diversion contingent on resolution of the items in the issues/additional needs section.

All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to the CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and will help promote the development of a common technical platform.

In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the scope of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

Engineering: All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed by or under the responsible charge of professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice Engineering.