

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 11a**

Applicant: Leroux Creek Water Users Association

Water Activity Name: Hanson Reservoir Outlet Rehabilitation

Water Activity Purpose: Structural water project or activity

County: Delta

Drainage Basin: North Fork of the Gunnison River

Water Source: Leroux Creek

Amount Requested: \$50,000

Source of Funds: Gunnison Basin Account

Matching Funds: over \$50,000 from the applicant

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$50,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account to help complete the Hanson Reservoir Outlet Rehabilitation.

Water Activity Summary:

The Hanson Outlet Rehabilitation project involves replacing an existing downstream outlet valve with a new upstream valve on Hanson Reservoir, one of 28 reservoirs owned and operated by Leroux Creek Water Users Association (LCWUA). The Leroux Creek Dam Inventory study was funded by the Gunnison Basin Roundtable (GBRT) to identify and prioritize safety issues and maintenance needs on the reservoirs. This study identified problems with the Hanson outlet. After consulting with the State Dam safety Engineer for Division 4, this outlet issue became the number one priority for LCWUA. Inspection of the outlet and original dam plans indicated the existence of an older abandoned valve buried in the embankment some 20 feet upstream of the current outlet valve. This buried valve has developed some leakage around the stem which is producing a wet area on the dam face. The Dam Safety Engineer has indicated the need to repair this problem or face restrictions on dam operations. Hanson Reservoir dates from the early 1900's with a 1903 water right. It holds 300 AF of water which is used primarily for irrigation on over 2,000 acres of mixed fruit, small grains, alfalfa and pasture. The Town of Hotchkiss municipal water supply also comes from LCWUA.

In 1998 the LCWUA suffered a dam failure in its largest reservoir. Repairing this break cost \$1.5 million which was borrowed from the CWCBC. Payments have been made on schedule every year, but the ability of the Association to afford additional expenses is limited. It is extremely important to maintain the existing water supplies in the area as identified by the GBRT needs assessment. In addition, the repair and maintenance of Leroux Creek dams (specifically Hanson) has been made part of the North Fork Water Conservancy District Water Management Plan (Bureau of Reclamation 2001, updated 2009). Both the Forest Service and the Corps of Engineers have been contacted for permits with no immediate issues identified. A coordinated inspection visit is pending. In addition, the project may be exempt from 404 permitting due to the small area of disturbance. The WSRA funds would be used on a percentage basis for construction of the project.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Funding Overview

Grant funding in the amount of \$50,000 is requested from the Gunnison Basin Account. Requested WSRA funds constitute less than 50% of the overall project cost (\$103,330). The balance of funding comes from the applicant.

Discussion:

The Gunnison Basin Roundtable recognized the importance of maintaining existing water supplies in its Draft Memo on Gunnison Basin Water Needs Assessment and Related Task Items (Jan 31, 2007). In addition, SWSI also identifies keeping existing water resources as a top priority. This project will help protect the use of an important pre-1922 water right that supplies agricultural and municipal consumptive needs.

Issues/Additional Needs:

No issues or additional needs remain.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$50,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account to help complete the Hanson Reservoir Outlet Rehabilitation.

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.