

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 22c**

Applicant: Animas – La Plata Water Conservancy District

Water Activity Name: Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan

Water Activity Purpose: Nonstructural Nonconsumptive Study

County: La Plata County

Drainage Basin: Southwest

Water Source: Animas River

Amount Requested: \$25,000 (Southwest Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$50,000 (The ALPWCD and SW Water Conservation District have each contributed \$25,000 in 2010. Additional funding is being sought from the City of Durango, La Plata County, Colorado State Parks, and the National Park Service)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to develop a recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse.

Water Activity Summary:

The Lake Nighthorse Recreation Plan will produce design elements for recreation at the lake while ensuring that land and water usage for this purpose is efficient and environmentally sound. The plan will incorporate and structure public stakeholder meetings to gather input in determining the type of recreational opportunities to be included. It will also outline all the infrastructure requirements such as roads, parking lots, and utilities.

The scope of work outlines the following nonconsumptive tasks that will be incorporated into the Recreation Master Plan:

- 1) Water Quality Treatment Guidelines: Examines potential water quality impacts and mitigation from recreational activities.
- 2) Invasive Species Management: Develops a management plan for mandatory screening for mussel and other invasive species inspection in coordination with the Division of Wildlife.
- 3) Wildlife Habitat Enhancements: Researches the potential to restore and enhance ecological habitats on the Lake Nighthorse property.

Discussion:

Management of recreation at Lake Nighthorse is an important, unmet nonconsumptive need for this major consumptive IPP. Currently there is no public access to the facility which lies only 5 miles from downtown Durango. As such, this project seeks to realize a strategic nonconsumptive opportunity. The first public meeting was held in March 2009 to solicit input on recreational opportunities and educate the public on the process. The meeting was attended by over 100 people who supported recreation at the lake and offered diverse opinions on recreational development. Recent developments also appear to benefit the project including the anticipated availability of funds from the Bureau of Reclamation, a dedicated recreation planner donated from the National Park Service for 2 years, and increased interest in potential participation from local entities.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- Please include in the scope of work how these investigation tie into the stakeholder input process and overall recreational plan.
- Please coordinate all work on the recreational plan with the work of the San Juan Recovery Program and the Division of Wildlife Plan

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval, conditional upon meeting the issues/additional needs section, of up to \$25,000 to develop a recreation plan for Lake Nighthorse.

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.