

## **Statement of Work**

**WATER ACTIVITY NAME - Educating Today to Balance Tomorrow's Water Supplies & Needs**

**GRANT RECIPIENT – Rio Grande Watershed Conservation & Education Initiative**

**FUNDING SOURCE – Water Supply Reserve Account – Rio Grande Basin Funds**

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

Provide a brief description of the project. (Please limit to no more than 200 words; this will be used to inform reviewers and the public about your proposal)

This proposal requests \$25,000.00 to support the full time position of a Conservation Education Specialist for two years at \$12,500 per year. This money will be used to partially fund the salary of the conservation education specialist. WRSA funding will allow RGWCEI to improve and expand its activities to the broader community and to focus on the Rio Grande Basin's consumptive and non-consumptive water and natural resource needs and to build organizational capacity for its comprehensive program of conservation education. Last year this program reached 14 school districts, trained 90 teachers, and directly impacted more than 7,000 children in grades K-14. A new nonprofit emerging from a 20-year history of conservation education, RGWCEI mirrors the goals of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, supporting its basin-wide water needs assessment process, fostering conservation leadership, and building a solid base of public understanding of the complex issues involved in meeting this basin's main goal: Bringing the Rio Grande Basin water supply and consumptive and non-consumptive demand into balance. Expanding conservation education and creating a more informed public are essential steps in achieving this goal.

**PROGRAM OBJECTIVES** Conserving water today and in the future requires educating today's communities, raising the overall level of public awareness and understanding of issues relating to the management of the Basin's natural water supply, and openly discussing and analyzing the issues faced by

## Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant Application Form

Form Revised March 2009

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our communities as they struggle to satisfy changing demands within the Rio Grande Basin. Public education is critical as we prepare tomorrow's leaders to support the economic, environmental and community values and qualities which the people of the San Luis Valley attach to conserving land, water, range, and wetlands

The position of the Conservation Education Specialist will be to accomplish the following each year of WRSA funding:

**Task 1.** Provide and expand two levels of in-service training workshops for 60 teachers.

**Task 2.** Increase the number of students and teachers attending the workshops by approximately 2 % and assess their mastery of scientific material as related to resource conservation in the real world.

**Task 3.** Assist approximately 87 students annually in the completion of their projects for the 2010 San Luis Valley regional Science Fair and provide opportunities to compete in State and International fairs.

**Task 4.** Conduct the 5th annual summer "Water Festival" that attracts 300 students from across the San Luis Valley, in collaboration with NRCS, DOWR, DOW, USBR and other agencies, with Valley teachers, and with visiting teachers from the teacher workshops providing hands-on sessions for kids -- all focused on water conservation and on the consumptive and non-consumptive aspects of water.

**Task 5.** Hold Summer Camps open to valley youth ages 6-13 years old, giving children experience in the outdoors, with the Soil, Water and Range portions of the June Beaver Creek Youth Camp being an integral part of the educational experience. Children will begin to learn the various aspects of the outdoor ecosystems of Water, Soil, Range, Wildlife, and Forests.

**Task 6.** Initiate a series of landowner workshops with learning experiences for small land owners centered on conservation planning and the small acreage. Topics include water management, cover crops and water tolerant landscaping. Develop an action plan for a community series. This will be completed in each of the conservation districts in the San Luis Valley, including presentations on the role and activities of the Rio Grande Roundtable, the water issues confronting the basin and related topics that will be available for presentation to the broader community. This will be accomplished by presentations to civic organizations, students at Adams State College, and Community meetings. The presentations will be designed so that they can be used by other members of the Rio Grande Basin's Water Community.

**Task 7.** Provide Conservation Environmental Representation by serving as the conservation/environmental education voice at conferences, policy meetings, and local/state government planning sessions. Serve as the Rio Grande basin's conservation education voice.