

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 10.k**

Applicant: Moffat County Natural Resources Department

Water Activity Name: Yampa-White Basin Projects and Methods Analysis

Water Activity Purpose: Non-Structural Activity (consumptive and nonconsumptive)

County: Multiple

Drainage Basin: Yampa and White basins

Water Source: N/A

Amount Requested: \$190,000 (\$152K Statewide account; \$38K Yampa/White/Green basin account)

Source of Funds: Statewide and Yampa/White/Green Accounts

Matching Funds: Using basin funds to match statewide account requirements (20%)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends conditional approval of up to \$152,000 from the Statewide account and \$38,000 from the Yampa/White/Green Basin account (totaling \$190,000) to help the roundtable determine its consumptive and nonconsumptive projects and methods.

Water Activity Summary:

The Yampa-White Basin is nearing the completion of its consumptive and nonconsumptive needs assessments, which identified several needs within the Yampa-White Basin. The proposal seeks to build on the findings of these needs assessments to identify potential projects and methods that could be used to meet the Yampa-White Basin future water needs for both consumptive and nonconsumptive needs. This will be accomplished by developing spatial representation of consumptive needs and nonconsumptive needs within the basin. Information from previous Water Supply Reserve Account grant studies (Energy Study, Agricultural Needs Study and Watershed Flow Evaluation Tool Study), Colorado Water Conservation Board Statewide Water Supply Initiative 2010 report, and Basin Needs Assessment reports will be used to develop a comprehensive summary of the basins consumptive and nonconsumptive water needs. Using the information gathered a feasibility analysis will be undertaken to identify projects and methods within the Yampa-White Basin to meet future water needs. The second component of this project will develop a river operations model to assist the Yampa-White Basin in evaluating potential projects and methods to meet the basin's future water needs. Finally, this project will review priorities for the water rights of the statewide alternatives to examine their potential benefits or impacts in the Yampa-White Basin.

This project has the following tasks:

- 1) Task 1 – Develop Common Understanding of Water Needs in the Yampa-White Basin
- 2) Task 2 – Analyze River Operations for the Yampa
- 3) Task 3 –Comparison of existing water right priorities of Statewide SWSI Alternatives to those of the Yampa White basin.
- 4) Task 4 – Reporting and Final Deliverable

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Tier 1 evaluation criteria: *Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs.* The application meets each of the Tier 1 evaluation criteria. It addresses municipal, industrial, agricultural, recreational, and environmental needs. Although the applicant is Moffat County Department of Natural Resources, the Roundtable requested the application, involving numerous partnerships. In addition, not only does the proposal evaluate how it would meet the Yampa/White basin's own gap, it has an initial evaluation of large transmountain projects that could meet gaps across the state.

Discussion:

This request will help the Yampa/White/Green determine and model projects and methods to meet their needs, as required by H.B. 1177. To date, the application is the most sophisticated approach to meeting the requirements laid out by the legislation and should enable healthy interaction among the basin roundtables concerning projects and methods.

Staff's recollection of the roundtable discussion was that the modeling effort should include both the Yampa & White rivers. This does not seem to be in the final application.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- Staff recommends adding modeling of the White River to Task 2.
- Staff recommends clarifying that both identified projects and methods as well as additional projects and methods to meet consumptive and nonconsumptive needs will be modeled as part of Task 2.
- Staff recommends clarifying the amount of outreach needed to accomplish Task 2.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$152,000 from the Statewide account and \$38,000 from the Yampa/White/Green Basin account (totaling \$190,000) to help the roundtable determine its consumptive and nonconsumptive projects and methods, contingent upon addressing the issues and additional needs above.

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.