Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 5.a

Applicant: Painted Sky Resource Conservation and Development Council

Water Activity Name: Hartland Diversion Dam—Partial Dam Removal and Stabilization

Water Activity Purpose: Structural Project

County: Delta

Drainage Basin: Gunnison

Water Source: Gunnison River

Amount Requested: $53,100 (Gunnison Basin Account)

Matching Funds: Over $1.2 million in Federal and Local funds

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to $53,100 from the Gunnison Basin Account to fund the Hartland Diversion Dam project.

Water Activity Summary:
The Hartland dam is a barrier to fish of all varieties including a growing game fish population. It is also a complete barrier to the Federally listed Colorado pike minnow (*Ptychocheilus Lucius*) and razorback sucker (*Xyraucheu Texanus*). The Hartland diversion structure is 3.7 miles upstream of designated critical habitat which extends from the Gunnison confluence in Grant Junction to the mouth of the Uncompahgre River at Delta. However, this reach of the river from the Uncompahgre confluence to the base of Hartland dam is known to be occupied habitat because sampling studies have shown both Colorado pike minnow and razorback suckers are readily found in this reach of the river. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service strongly believe that passage at the Hartland diversion is in the best interest of endangered fish because it provides additional habitat. However, the project has not been a high priority since biologists have determined that low water temperatures upstream of the Dam are unlikely to support large populations of endangered fish. Besides providing passage for endangered and native fish, game fish passage has the potential to increase recreational opportunities upstream, which will increase fishing opportunities and provide a positive impact to the economy of the City of Delta and surrounding communities.

The Hartland Dam is also a dangerous barrier to boaters. The extreme safety hazard is caused when boats get caught in the lateral wave at the toe of the dam. A number of near drownings have occurred when boats going over the dam and get caught in the hydraulic (re-circulating wave) at the toe. In 2002, two young boys drowned while swimming at the base of the dam. Although partners are not seeking boat passage as a major ultimate objective of the planning project, it is an issue that is of interest to Hartland Irrigation Company for reasons of liability.

The implementation of the Lower Gunnison River Restoration Project will eliminate the last major fish blockage issue for the entire Lower Gunnison River drainage. The removal of this fish migration barrier will significantly improve river system health by reconnecting fragmented river habitat for the direct benefit of three fish species of special concern. Research indicates that the three focus species populations will increase. It is anticipated that the general fish population also will increase along with increases in wildlife

populations that depend on fish. At the same time, the implementation of this project will insure that the Hartland Irrigation Company maintains complete access to their senior pre-Colorado River Compact water decree, improve navigational safety on the river, and eliminate trespassing issues on private property. This grant, if awarded, will cover the costs associated with removing the required portion of the dam and stabilize the remaining dam.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria
The application meets all four Threshold Criteria. No Statewide funds are being requested, therefore the evaluation criteria does not apply.

Funding Overview
Grant funding in the amount of $53,100 is requested from the Gunnison Basin Account. Over $1.2 million dollars of Federal and local funds are committed to this project.

Discussion:
The applicant did a good job describing the issues associated with the existing dam and how improvements can allow for important environmental and recreational attributes to be improved upon. Most significant is the anticipated benefits to the federally listed Colorado pike minnow and the razorback sucker. In fact, this project was identified in 1996 by USFWS biologist as an action items for RIPRAP or Recovery Implementation Program Recovery Action Plan. In addition to the endangered fish species, the project would provide benefits to sports fish and allow a safe passage for boaters.

Issues/Additional Needs:
None

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to $53,100 from the Gunnison Basin Account to fund the Hartland Diversion Dam project.

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.