

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 12.e**

Applicant: The Friends of the Yampa

Water Activity Name: Yampa River Structures Project

Water Activity Purpose: Structural Project

County: Routt

Drainage Basin: Yampa

Water Source: Yampa River

Amount Requested: \$50,000 (Yampa/White Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$50,600 (Stakeholder match), which is a 100% match for the request

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends conditional approval of up to \$50,000 from the Yampa/White Basin Account to design, engineer, permit, and build several instream, recreational and environmental projects on the Yampa River in downtown Steamboat Springs, contingent upon the resolution of the issues and additional needs identified in this summary.

Water Activity Summary:

The proposed project would help meet a portion of the nonconsumptive needs identified by the Yampa/White Basin Roundtable. The affected section of river has the “Highest recreation use along the entire Yampa River allowing for multiple recreational opportunities and maintains the only RICD in entire Yampa/White/Green Basin”, according to Phase I of the NCNA.

The Yampa River Structures Project will carry out a portion of the City of Steamboat Springs’ Yampa River Structures Master Plan (YRSMP) approved in November 2008 by the City of Steamboat Springs.

This project will focus on seven locations and includes: 1) improvement of riparian and fisheries habitat; 2) creation of formalized access points; 3) repair and enhancement of existing recreational structures; and 4) installation of a new recreational structure.

The reach of river where this Yampa River Structures Project will be done is on the Yampa River from the Ambulance Barn a.k.a. the A-Hole, downstream to the Charlie’s Hole, 13th Street Bridge-Library area, in downtown Steamboat Springs, Colorado. This reach of river is approximately ¼ of a mile long.

Specific tasks of the project include:

- **Task 1:** Rebuild A-hole, which is now a dangerous structure. This task included riparian and fisheries habitat improvements as well as formalizing the access point.
- **Task 2:** Re-design and re-build the northern riparian buffer and access point. Re-design and re-build the recreational Z-hole and the Orange Peel Wave to decrease sediment and improve recreational opportunities. Improve fisheries habitat.
- **Task 3:** Re-design and re-build the northern riparian buffer and remove dangerous and unsightly concrete debris. Design, build/install a new recreational feature to enhance recreational opportunities. Improve fisheries habitat by placing boulder clusters in select areas.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Discussion:

Staff supports the tasks and objectives of this project because it is a nonconsumptive IPP that meets the needs identified in the Yampa/White Basin Roundtable's nonconsumptive needs assessment.

Staff reviewed Case 03CW86, concerning the application by the City of Steamboat Springs for a recreational in-channel diversion, and determined that the application does not appear to violate any of the terms and conditions stipulated in the case.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- Staff will work with the applicant to ensure that all applicable requirements in the CWCB Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado are satisfied.
- The structures should be able to withstand a large flood event. The applicant should demonstrate this during the design process. The 100 year flow in this reach of the Yampa could exceed 6,800 cfs.
- The applicant should specify that the grant will not pay for work associated with meeting the terms and conditions set forth in the water court decree granting the City of Steamboat Springs an RICD water right.

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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.