

THE COLORADO BASIN ROUNDTABLE
C/O P.O. BOX 1120
GLENWOOD SPRINGS, COLORADO
81602

July 26, 2012

Greg Johnson
COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
1580 Logan Street, Suite 600
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Greg:

The Colorado Basin Roundtable voted at its July 23, 2012, meeting to approve six grant requests and forward them to the CWCB staff and board for consideration.

Five of the grants address the Roundtable initiative to implement short-term projects and methods to address nonconsumptive needs. Earlier this year, the CBRT set up a workshop to recruit interest in nonconsumptive projects. Five applications emerged for Water Supply Reserve Account potential funding. They are:

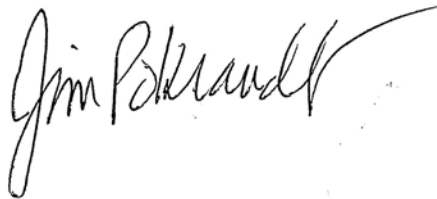
- **Grand County RICD Project.** The vote was 18-0 in favor with two abstentions. The abstentions related to conflicts of interest. The request is for \$100,000 in Basin Funds and \$400,000 in Statewide Funds. The CBRT believes this project on the Colorado River will solidify the recreational values enjoyed at the Pumphouse segment of the Colorado River, a benefit to the Basin and all of Colorado. Our funding would be directed at in-river work.
- **Grand Valley Riparian Restoration Collaborative Project/Tamarisk Coalition.** The vote was 20-0. The request is for \$42,726 in Basin Funds and \$207,274 in Statewide Funds. Funding would assist in tamarisk and Russian olive removal as well as work on invasive weeds. Money would also be directed at revegetation. Phreatophyte control is a local and statewide priority in water management and in restoring environmental integrity in important riparian zones.
- **Tenmile Creek Restoration Project/Blue River Watershed Group.** The vote was 19-1 in favor. The dissent questioned a "clear need" for the project. The request is \$17,500 in Basin Funds and \$332,500 in Statewide Funds. The targeted work on the creek will occur in the vicinity of the Copper Mountain Ski Area, a segment impacted over the decades by mining, timbering, ski area development, railroad and highway construction. The beauty of this project is that it is shovel-

ready and this money, along with cash and in-kind services, allows it to proceed to completion.

- **Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Projects/Eagle River Watershed Council.** The vote was 19-1 in favor. Dissent cited the fact that while this paves the way for projects, it is still a study. The request is for \$20,000 in Basin Funds and \$90,000 in Statewide Funds. This initiative seeks to create baseline information about a stretch of the Colorado River that has been little studied. It will prioritize strategies regarding rehabilitation projects and assess recreational impacts with an eye toward directing recreation to the most suitable sites on the river.
- **Crystal River Watershed Assessment and Design of Restoration Projects/Roaring Fork Conservancy.** The vote was 20-0 in favor. The request is for \$15,854 in Basin Funds and \$301,219 in Statewide Funds. This is a proposal to study a heavily impacted area of historical coal mining in drainage of the Crystal River. It will lead to projects, and includes a pilot project on road restoration.

As well, we approved one grant request addressed at consumptive uses. **The Robinson Ditch Company** that serves the Basalt-El Jebel area in the Roaring Fork Valley is seeking assistance for ditch piping. The request from the CBRT is for \$60,000 from Basin Funds. The vote was 19-1. Please note that the application asks for \$120,000. The dissent cited the lack of a revegetation plan, a need to engage the neighbors, impacts to wells and the fact that no ag was involved in this ditch that has seen uses migrate to urban uses. In halving the request, the applicants were also encouraged to apply for a low-interest CWCB loan to complete the work. The CBRT agreed overall that there are many benefits to piping this ditch that include safety to neighbors and the more efficient movement of water that enjoys about half its flow under pre-Colorado Compact water rights.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Pokrandt", with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Jim Pokrandt
Chair, Colorado Basin Roundtable



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT
APPLICATION FORM



Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Projects

Name of Water Activity/Project

Eagle River Watershed Council

Name of Applicant

Colorado River Basin

Amount from Statewide Account: \$ 90,000

Amount from Basin Account(s): \$ 20,000

Total WSRA Funds Requested: \$110,000

Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

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Required Exhibits

- A. Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule
- B. Project Map
- C. As Needed (i.e. letters of support, photos, maps, etc.)

Appendices – Reference Material

- 1. Program Information
- 2. Insurance Requirements
- 3. WSRA Standard Contract Information (Required for Projects Over \$100,000)
- 4. W-9 Form (Required for All Projects Prior to Contracting)

Part I. - Description of the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner);

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Eagle River Watershed Council, Inc.		
	Mailing address:	P.O. Box 7688 Avon, Co 81632		
	Taxpayer ID#:	20-4448864		
	Primary Contact:	Melissa Macdonald	Position/Title:	Executive Director
	Email:	macdonald@erwc.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 970-393-2727	Office:	970-827-5406
	Alternate Contact:	Tambi Katieb	Position/Title:	Director of Planning
	Email:	Katieb@erwc.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 970-401-3861	Office:	970-827-5406

2. Eligible entities for WSRA funds include the following. What type of entity is the Applicant?

- ☐ Public (Government) – municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities and the local entity should be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
- ☐ Public (Districts) – authorities, Title 32/special districts, (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
- ☐ Private Incorporated – mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
- ☐ Private individuals, partnerships, and sole proprietors are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
- ☒ Non-governmental organizations – broadly defined as any organization that is not part of the government.

3. Provide a brief description of your organization:

The Eagle River Watershed Council is a 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization that advocates for the health and conservation of the Upper Colorado and Eagle River basins through research, education and projects. We provide a forum where everyone can gain a greater understanding of the Colorado and Eagle River environments in Eagle County. We work to achieve our mission by actively monitoring the health of our rivers including the river below the Eagle Mine Superfund site; sponsoring public education programs such as Water Wise Wednesday which is additionally filmed and broadcast on local television; working with other organizations, such as the US Forest Service, on projects such as the Piney River, Red Dirt Creek and Homestake Creek restorations which are critical to the watersheds; and spearheading major projects such as Black Gore Creek/W. Vail Pass traction sand mitigation, the 1.6 mile, \$4 million Eagle River Restoration at Edwards, CO, and the updated 1996 Eagle River Watershed Plan for Eagle County. We also formed a 15 member stakeholder group to collect, assess and store all the water quality data collected by varying entities in Eagle County and will start work with the USFS on the three year (initially) Camp Hale Eagle River restoration project this summer. Annually, we mobilize nearly 1,000 local volunteers to clean up 121 miles of local roadways (April) and 55 miles of waterways (September).

4. If the Contracting Entity is different than the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner) please describe the Contracting Entity here.

N/A

5. Successful applicants will have to execute a contract with the CWCB prior to beginning work on the portion of the project funded by the WSRA grant. In order to expedite the contracting process the CWCB has established a standard contract with provisions the applicant must adhere to. A link to this standard contract is included in Appendix 3. Please review this contract and check the appropriate box.

☒

The Applicant will be able to contract with the CWCB using the Standard Contract

☐

The Applicant has reviewed the standard contract and has some questions/issues/concerns. Please be aware that any deviation from the standard contract could result in a significant delay between grant approval and the funds being available.

6. The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.
- N/A

Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

1. What is the primary purpose of this grant application? (Please check only one)

☒

Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational)

☐

Agricultural

☐

Municipal/Industrial

☐

Needs Assessment

☐

Education

☐

Other

Explain:

2. If you feel this project addresses multiple purposes please explain. N/A

3. Is this project primarily a study or implementation of a water activity/project? (Please check only one)

☒

Study

☐

Implementation

4. To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?

New Storage Created (acre-feet)

New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet)

Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)

Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)

Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)

Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – **circle one**)

Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)

☒

Other -- Explain:

Projects with measurable results will emanate from the Assessment.

4. To help us map WSRA projects please include a map (Exhibit B) and provide the general coordinates below: There are two lat/longs as we start where the Colorado enters Eagle County and end where it exits.

Colorado River enters Eagle County (Above Rancho Del Rio, Below Radium):

Lat: 39 degrees 55' 29.23"N

Long: 106 degrees 34' 43.23" W

Colorado River exits Eagle County in Glenwood Canyon (right before Bair Ranch):

Lat: 39 degrees 37' 29.45" N

Long: 107 degrees 6' 49.79" W

Latitude:

Longitude:

5. Please provide an overview/summary of the proposed water activity (no more than one page). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRA funding will be used for. A full **Statement of Work** with a detailed budget and schedule is required as **Exhibit A** of this application.

The Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) is planning to develop several restoration and conservation projects on the segment of the Colorado River that flows through Eagle County. These projects would be defined and prioritized based on science rather than opinion. In order to complete a scientific evaluation of the river, its inhabitants and ecosystems, ERWC will utilize Colorado River Basin Roundtable funding as well as Statewide Funding to create an Inventory and Assessment of the Colorado River in Eagle County. This Inventory and Assessment would provide the missing baseline data evaluating existing conditions for a river that is threatened by front range diversions, climate change, extensive recreational use, invasive species, possible oil and gas or residential development and deleterious land use.

The Assessment will be utilized to identify remedial or preventive projects, educate our community and other stakeholders and help us obtain public support and funding for these specified projects.

A complete understanding of the ecological setting of this portion of the Colorado River corridor will have lasting value for future land use decision making, conservation funding, enhancement projects, and other agricultural, recreational or wildlife-based initiatives that benefit Eagle County and its tourism-based economy. The ERWC/CSU Assessment will:

- Inventory channel, riparian, and upland characteristics within Eagle County that influence the ecological integrity, recreational amenities, and aesthetic values of the Colorado River and its major tributaries in the corridor
- Analyze existing monitoring data and information to assess the status of river corridor
- Conduct synoptic field surveys of riparian condition, chemical, physical, and biological water quality, and geomorphic attributes to supplement existing information
- Identify and describe candidate rehabilitation projects (structural and non-structural) and link to current issues and likely outcomes based upon the following:
 - Field reconnaissance
 - Meetings with watershed stakeholders
 - Meetings with local, state and federal scientists

- GIS inventory and analysis (riparian conditions, land cover, geomorphic processes, etc.)
- Scientific assessment
- Assess current and potential recreation impact upon the river
- Identify, describe and prioritize candidate sites best suited for recreation access based upon the following:
 - Field reconnaissance
 - Meetings with watershed stakeholders
 - Scientific assessment including GIS inventory and assessment,
- Prioritize rehabilitation strategies in a decision matrix based on likelihood of success, potential benefits, rough estimates of costs, and stakeholder input.
- Produce a report describing the results of the river corridor inventory and prioritized recommendations for rehabilitation projects following the updated approach and template of the 2005 Eagle River Inventory and Assessment. The final report will include the following:
 - Description of candidate rehabilitation projects (structural and non-structural) identified during the inventory
 - Prioritized list of rehabilitation strategies based upon likelihood of success, potential benefits and rough estimates of cost
 - MCDA (multi-criteria decision analysis) spreadsheet tool used to rank candidate projects
 - Detailed description of the methods in the inventory and analysis of candidate rehabilitation projects
 - List of names, titles and affiliations of all persons who prepared the content of the report and participated in the monitoring activities
 - Analysis of all quantitative monitoring data using graph and table formats when appropriate
 - Prints or colored photocopies of all photographs used
 - Maps identifying monitoring areas, cross-sections, transects, etc.
 - Results of qualitative monitoring of site characteristics, functions and values
 - Copies of all field data sheets will be made available for review if requested

Part III. – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

1. Describe how the water activity meets these **Threshold Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines.)

- a) The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.¹

¹ 37-75-102. Water rights - protections. (1) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the current system of allocating water within Colorado shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this article. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to repeal or in any manner amend the existing water rights adjudication system. The General Assembly affirms the state constitution's recognition of water rights as a private usufructuary property right, and this article is not intended to restrict the ability of the holder of a water right to use or to dispose of that water right in any manner permitted under Colorado law. (2) The General Assembly affirms the protections for contractual and property rights recognized by the contract and takings protections under the state constitution and related statutes. This article shall not be implemented in any way that would diminish, impair, or cause injury to any property or contractual right created by intergovernmental agreements, contracts, stipulations among parties to water cases, terms and conditions in water decrees, or any other similar document related to the allocation or use of water. This article shall not be construed to supersede, abrogate, or cause injury to vested water rights or decreed conditional water rights. The General Assembly affirms that this article does not impair, limit, or otherwise affect

The Project does not supersede, abrogate or impair the current system of allocating water or affect existing water rights.

- b) The water activity underwent an evaluation and approval process and was approved by the Basin Roundtable (BRT) and the application includes a description of the results of the BRTs evaluation and approval of the activity. At a minimum, the description must include the level of agreement reached by the roundtable, including any minority opinion(s) if there was not general agreement for the activity. The description must also include reasons why general agreement was not reached (if it was not), including who opposed the activity and why they opposed it. Note- If this information is included in the letter from the roundtable chair simply reference that letter. The proposed Colorado River Project underwent an evaluation and approval at the Colorado River Basin Roundtable meeting on March 26, 2012, for a Basin (only) fund grant of \$30,000. Our current request is for \$110,000 of which \$20,000 would be from the Colorado River Basin funds and the remaining \$90,000 from Statewide funds.
- c) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.² The Basin Roundtable Chairs shall include in their approval letters for particular WSRA grant applications a description of how the water activity will assist in meeting the water supply needs identified in the basin roundtable's consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs assessments. This approval letter will be forwarded to the CWCB after full Colorado River Basin Roundtable vote at the July 23rd meeting.
- d) Matching Requirement: For requests from the **Statewide Fund**, the applicants is required to demonstrate a **20 percent** (or greater) match of the request from the Statewide Account. Statewide requests must also include a minimum match of **5 percent** of the total grant amount from Basin Funds. Sources of matching funds include but are not limited to Basin Funds, in-kind services, funding from other sources, and/or direct cash match. Past expenditures directly related to the project may be considered as matching funds if the expenditures occurred within 9 months of the date the application was submitted to the CWCB. Please describe the source(s) of matching funds. (NOTE: These matching funds should also be reflected in your Detailed Budget in **Exhibit A** of this application) ERWC is requesting \$90,000 from the Statewide fund. These funds are matched by a \$25,000 grant from Eagle County's General Fund, \$25,000 from the County's Open Space Fund, \$30,000 from the Colorado River Basin Roundtable and CSU's in-kind donation for a total of \$86,501. This constitutes nearly a 100% match to the Statewide request. The Basin's match includes the \$30,000 previously awarded and an additional \$20,000 included in this request, for a greater than 50% match to the State request.

2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the **Statewide Account**, describe how the

the rights of persons or entities to enter into agreements, contracts, or memoranda of understanding with other persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water under other provisions of law.

² 37-75-104 (2)(c). Using data and information from the Statewide Water Supply Initiative and other appropriate sources and in cooperation with the on-going Statewide Water Supply Initiative, develop a basin-wide consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs assessment, conduct an analysis of available unappropriated waters within the basin, and propose projects or methods, both structural and nonstructural, for meeting those needs and utilizing those unappropriated waters where appropriate. Basin Roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs. Recommendations from this assessment shall be forwarded to the Interbasin Compact Committee and other basin roundtables for analysis and consideration after the General Assembly has approved the Interbasin Compact Charter.

water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines and repeated below.) Projects will be assessed on how well they meet the Evaluation Criteria. **Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

Evaluation Criteria – the following criteria will be utilized to further evaluate the merits of the water activity proposed for funding from the Statewide Account. In evaluation of proposed water activities, preference will be given to projects that meet one or more criteria from each of the three “tiers” or categories. Each “tier” is grouped in level of importance. For instance, projects that meet Tier 1 criteria will outweigh projects that only meet Tier 3 criteria. WSRA grant requests for projects that may qualify for loans through the CWCB loan program will receive preference in the Statewide Evaluation Criteria if the grant request is part of a CWCB loan/WSRA grant package. For these CWCB loan/WSRA grant packages, the applicant must have a CWCB loan/WSRA grant ratio of 1:1 or higher. Preference will be given to those with a higher loan/grant ratio.

Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs

- a. The water activity addresses multiple needs or issues, including consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs, or the needs and issues of multiple interests or multiple basins. This can be demonstrated by obtaining letters of support from other basin roundtables (in addition to an approval letter from the sponsoring basin)

The proposed Colorado River inventory and assessment of restoration and conservation projects addresses multiple issues and needs arising from the lack of a comprehensive ecological inventory for the Eagle County reach of the Colorado River. This has significant implications for both existing and future non-consumptive and consumptive needs, as well as needs and issues of Grand County and Garfield County located immediately upstream and downstream of Eagle County on the Colorado River.

The lack of an ecological baseline and recommended restoration strategies on this reach of river jeopardizes environmental, recreation and consumptive uses on both public and private lands. This issue may have significant ramifications for multiple users, as for instance, the BLM has simultaneously recognized "Outstanding Resource Values" associated with recreational float boating, fishing and wildlife viewing while the same agency's 2012 draft Resource Management Plan identifies land along the reach as having "medium potential" for oil and gas leasing. The Eagle County Conservation District has identified this area as a streambank management zone, while the Colorado River Outfitters Association has identified significant future capacity for increased commercial boating on the reach from State Bridge to Glenwood Springs and Eagle County has acquired several open space parcels with the intent to increase recreational river access.

Pairing results of this baseline inventory with both upstream and downstream information and management plans for the river (including Grand County and the Middle Colorado River Partnership) has the potential to better manage and address future non-consumptive and consumptive interests on public and private land, and to preserve and enhance the Colorado River through the work of multiple jurisdictions, agencies and organizations.

- b. The number and types of entities represented in the application and the degree to which the activity will promote cooperation and collaboration among traditional consumptive water interests and/or non-consumptive interests, and if applicable, the degree to which the water activity is effective in addressing intrabasin or interbasin needs or issues.

ERWC has initially identified the following entities as contributors to or stakeholders in the Inventory and Assessment:

Colorado State University; The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery program; Eagle County and the Open Space Advisory Committee; the Wild & Scenic stakeholder group; Eagle Valley Land Trust; Colorado River Conservation District; Colorado Water Conservation Board/SWSI; Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife; US Bureau of Land Management; US Forest Service; US Geological Survey; Sonoran Institute Western Colorado Legacy Program; The Nature Conservancy (Colorado River Program); Middle Colorado River Watershed Partnership; Eagle County Conservation District; Eagle Valley Trout Unlimited; Colorado River Ranch and other residents along the Colorado River.

They will be engaged in Task 1, Stakeholder Coordination and Input, to ascertain pressing issues and potential restoration activities throughout the Basin.

Additionally, ERWC's traditional partners which include all the towns, metro districts, special water districts, many individuals, corporations and foundations within Eagle County, will be invited to express their areas of interest, if any, in the project.

Sharing results of this baseline inventory with both upstream and downstream information and management plans for the river (including Grand County and the Middle Colorado River Partnership) offers the potential to better manage and address future non-consumptive and consumptive interests on public and private land, and to preserve and enhance the Colorado River through the work of multiple jurisdictions, agencies and organizations.

- c. The water activity helps implement projects and processes identified as helping meet Colorado's future water needs, and/or addresses the gap areas between available water supply and future need as identified in SWSI or a roundtable's basin-wide water needs assessment.
The water activity is designed to identify and implement projects which may be both consumptive and nonconsumptive in nature. The science-based inventory and assessment will help understand and protect the health of the Colorado River in Eagle County, then ascertain and prioritize projects that emanate from the information gained. Available water will be evaluated and weighed against posited future needs, and recommendations will be generated for Phase II restoration and conservation projects.

Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation

- d. Funding from this Account will reduce the uncertainty that the water activity will be implemented. For this criterion the applicant should discuss how receiving funding from the Account will make a significant difference in the implementation of the water activity (i.e., how will receiving funding enable the water activity to move forward or the inability obtaining funding elsewhere).
ERWC has found that there are several grantors who will fund projects generated by the study, but not the study itself. By receiving funding from the WSRA Statewide Account, we will be able to commence the work and attract other funders who are looking for science-based information and/or shovel ready projects that will inform, conserve or restore the health of the Colorado River.
- e. The amount of matching funds provided by the applicant via direct contributions, demonstrable in-kind contributions, and/or other sources demonstrates a significant & appropriate commitment to the project.

ERWC is requesting \$90,000 from the Statewide fund. These funds are matched by a \$25,000 grant from Eagle County's General Fund, \$25,000 from the County's Open Space Fund, \$30,000 from the Colorado River Basin Roundtable and CSU's in-kind donation for a total of \$86,501. This constitutes nearly a 100% match to the Statewide request. The Basin's match includes the \$30,000 previously awarded and an additional \$20,000 included in this request, for a greater than 50% match to the State request.

Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Other Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits

- f. The water activity helps sustain agriculture & open space, or meets environmental or recreational needs.
This environmental inventory and assessment encompasses a corridor that is rural, with agriculture and ranching being the primary way of life. Information gained from the study may help sustain and enhance these activities, offer direction for future consumption mitigation and create partnerships and direction to do so. Eagle County's Open Space Fund has displayed recent heightened interest in this watershed with several land purchases focusing on future recreation. The study will inform future countywide recreation plans as well.
- g. The water activity assists in the administration of compact-entitled waters or addresses problems related to compact entitled waters and compact compliance and the degree to which the activity promotes maximum utilization of state waters. Implementation of projects that the Assessment will identify should help protect downstream water users from sediment or salinity associated with poor riparian conditions. Other outcome of potential projects may be improved fishing and float boating access and improved habitat for aquatic life.
- h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.
The project seeks to identify the presence of threatened or endangered fish and riparian wildlife with the objective of designing projects to address their habitats and other needs which could assist in their recovery.
- i. The water activity provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds requested.
Our previous Eagle River Inventory and Assessment (2005) by Dr. Brian Bledsoe generated more than \$7 million invested in projects in Eagle County by various stakeholders in order to implement CSU's identified restoration strategies, leveraging the initial study investment by a remarkable 7,000%. We feel this proposed project will have similar beneficial results to Colorado.
- j. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.
The CWCB has recently approved a motion to appropriate in-stream flow rights in this section of the Colorado River - the first ever legal protection designed to ensure a minimum amount of water is maintained in the river to sustain healthy fish populations. This inventory and assessment is designed to further identify threats to the aquatic population and define prioritized solutions to those threats.

Continued: Explanation of how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**.
Please attach additional pages as necessary.

Part IV. – Required Supporting Material

1. **Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability** – This information is needed to assess the viability of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. This should include a description of applicable water rights, and water rights issues, and the name/location of water bodies affected by the water activity. The proposed inventory and assessment of the Colorado River and tributaries in Eagle County is nonconsumptive of water and may include water rights issues when completed.

2. Please provide a brief narrative of any related studies or permitting issues.

There are no permitting issues in the Inventory and Assessment Phase of this project.

We will incorporate review of all existing data and study of the Colorado River during the collection and assessment phase of the project, including work gathered by various agencies and organizations within the watershed. The following related studies will be evaluated and briefly summarized as part of the literature and data review, as they may pertain to water quality assessment, water quantity, ecological restoration and other issues in this reach of the watershed. Studies listed below are not all-inclusive, and may be subject to a call for data from identified stakeholders upon initiation of project

- Colorado River Water Bank Feasibility Study, Phase 1, MWH Americas Inc., 2012.
- Energy Development Water Needs Assessment Phase II Final Report, AMEC, 2011.
- Upper Colorado River Stakeholder Group Colorado River Instream Flow Filing (and associated Wild & Scenic data/reporting), 2011.
- Stakeholder Group, Upper Colorado River Stakeholder Group Wild and Scenic Alternative Management Plan, 2011.
- Draft Resource Management Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Study for the Colorado River Valley Field Office, Bureau of Land Management, 2011.
- Final Environmental Impact Statement (and associated EIS documents), Windy Gap Firing Project, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, 2011.
- Colorado Basin Needs Assessment Report, CDM/SWSI, 2010.
- Statewide Water Supply Initiative (SWSI) Report, CWCB, 2010.
- Hydraulic and Habitat Modeling of the Colorado River from Windy Gap to Kremmling, Colorado, Miller Ecological Consultants, Inc., 2010.
- Agricultural/Urban/Environmental Water Sharing: Innovative Strategies for the Colorado River Basin and the West, Colorado Water Institute, Colorado State University, 2010.
- Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Moffat Collection System Project, USACE, 2009.
- Ecological and Physical Processes during Spring Peak Flow and Summer Baseflows in the 15-Mile Reach of the Colorado River, Miller Ecological Consultants, Inc./Mussetter Engineering, Inc., 2008.
- Denver Water Integrated Resource Plan, Denver Water, 2008.
- 10825 Water Supply Study, Grand River Consulting Corporation, 2007.
- Water Supply and Needs Report for the Colorado Basin, Colorado Department of Natural Resources, 2006.
- Colorado River Flow Regimes, Tetra Tech Inc., 2008.
- Wolcott Reservoir Feasibility Assessment, Grand River/GEI Consultants, 2004.
- Phase II, Upper Colorado River Study, Hydrosphere Resource Consultants, 2003.
- National Water Information System, USGS 09070500 Colorado River near Dotsero, USGS 09058000 Colorado River near Kremmling, Gage Data for 71 and 49 years of record, respectively.
- USGS Water Resource Data, State Bridge and Dotsero water quality sampling, 2008.
- USGS National Water Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program, Upper Colorado River Basin Study Unit.
- Regional Water Quality Management Plan (208 Plan), Northwest Colorado Council of Governments, 2002 (as updated in 2012).

3. Statement of Work, Detailed Budget, and Project Schedule

The statement of work will form the basis for the contract between the Applicant and the State of Colorado. In short, the Applicant is agreeing to undertake the work for the compensation outlined in the statement of work and budget, and in return, the State of Colorado is receiving the deliverables/products specified. **Please note that costs incurred prior to execution of a contract or purchase order are not subject to reimbursement.** All WSRA funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis after review invoices and appropriate backup material.

Please provide a detailed statement of work using the template in Exhibit A. Additional sections or modifications may be included as necessary. Please define all acronyms and include page numbers.

Exhibit A

Statement of Work

WATER ACTIVITY NAME – Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Projects

GRANT RECIPIENT – Eagle River Watershed Council, Inc.

FUNDING SOURCE – Colorado River Basin Roundtable Water Supply Reserve Account and Statewide Account

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In 1996 a group of stakeholders interested in monitoring the clean up of the Eagle Mine Superfund Site produced the Eagle River Watershed Plan, which recommended the formal creation of an Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC). That same document also outlined a collaborative, local philosophy for protecting and improving water quality, quantity, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities and promoting compatible land use practices. The Plan focused exclusively on Eagle County's Eagle River watershed.

As one of its projects ERWC worked with Colorado State University (CSU) to create the "Eagle River Inventory and Assessment (ERIA)" which was produced by Dr. Brian Bledsoe in 2005. That 300- page compendium focused exclusively on assessment of the Eagle River watershed from an ecological perspective with the objective of defining and prioritizing potential restoration activities to improve the integrity of the river system. Dr. Bledsoe's science-based study has since been ERWC's guiding document with regard to Eagle River watershed restoration projects and strategy development. Nearly \$7 million has been raised and expended on projects identified in that study, leveraging the initial study investment by a remarkable 7,000%.

Similarly, the Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) is planning to develop several restoration and conservation projects on the segment of the Colorado River that flows through Eagle County. These projects would be defined and prioritized based on science rather than opinion. In order to complete a scientific evaluation of the river, its inhabitants and ecosystems, ERWC will utilize Colorado River Basin Roundtable funding as well as Statewide Funding to create an inventory and assessment of the Colorado River in Eagle County. This inventory and assessment would provide the missing baseline data on a river that is threatened by front range diversions, climate change, extensive recreational use, invasive species, possible oil and gas or residential development and deleterious land use. It will have lasting value for future decision-making with regard to land use, conservation and enhancement funding and other agriculture, recreation or wildlife-based projects that benefit Eagle County and its tourism-based economy, and the State of Colorado.

OBJECTIVES

- To create a prioritized list of needed restoration and conservation projects for Eagle County's Colorado River corridor, its inhabitants and ecosystems emanating from a science-based, overall inventory and assessment.
- To understand the ecological setting of the Colorado River corridor in order to preserve its values with future land use decision-making, conservation funding, enhancement and other agriculture, recreation or wildlife-based projects that benefit Eagle County, its tourism-based economy and the State of Colorado.
- To utilize the report to educate our community and state, and to help us obtain public support and funding as we realize these projects.

TASK 1 – Stakeholder Coordination and Input

Method/Procedure

The Eagle River Watershed Council, in coordination with Colorado State University (CSU), shall convene the stakeholder group as part of the project outreach to identify and better define the most pressing issues and potential restoration activities throughout the basin prior to CSU field work.

At a minimum this work will be important to identify critical questions about the watershed as well as a set of candidate restoration projects. The stakeholder input will be augmented through field reconnaissance, statistical analysis and a multi-criterion decision analysis approach to rank the ecological effectiveness of potential projects.

Stakeholders will be collaboratively identified by the Eagle River Watershed Council staff, and interviews will be conducted in group or individual settings ahead of field inventory and literature review. Preliminarily identified stakeholders in the project include, but are not limited to: Eagle County, NRCS, Eagle County Soil Conservation District, Colorado Division of Parks and Wildlife, Colorado River Water Conservation District, BLM, USFS, USGS, USACE, Trout Unlimited, Colorado River Outfitters Association, The Nature Conservancy, Sonoran Institute, CSU and significant landowners as well as major water rights owners.

Deliverable

A printed and electronic summary Stakeholder Input Report for CSU and ERWC use as part of the project.

TASK 2 – Data Inventory & Literature Review

Method/Procedure

CSU, in coordination with ERWC, will identify and analyze existing monitoring data and information to assess the status of river, including the identification of any data gaps. This will include a literature review of all known data for the Colorado River in Eagle County, including data which might overlap with upstream or downstream reaches, as well as any data provided through Task 1 (meetings with watershed stakeholders, and local, state and federal scientists).

Deliverable

A printed and electronic summary of Data Inventory & Literature Review for CSU and ERWC use as part of the project.

TASK 3 – Inventory and Synoptic Field Survey

Method/Procedure

CSU, in coordination with ERWC, will inventory channel, riparian, and upland characteristics within Eagle County that influence the ecological integrity, recreational amenities, and aesthetic values of the Colorado River and its major tributaries in the reach. This task will include conducting synoptic field surveys of riparian condition, of chemical, physical, and biological water quality, and of geomorphic attributes to supplement existing information. The step will also require GIS inventory and analysis of riparian conditions, land cover, geomorphic processes, etc., in coordination with Eagle County GIS Department and other applicable agencies.

Deliverable

Field survey data sheets, which may also include printed and electronic summaries, synoptic survey and mapping as applicable, to be utilized in the production of final CRIA report.

TASK 4 – Candidate Rehabilitation Projects List & Review

Method/Procedure

CSU, in coordination with ERWC, will utilize findings of Tasks 1 through 3 to identify and describe candidate rehabilitation projects (structural and non-structural) and link them to current issues and likely outcomes based upon field reconnaissance, stakeholder input, and scientific assessment.

Deliverable

Draft candidate rehabilitation projects list, to be coordinated and reviewed with ERWC staff and key project stakeholders, to be utilized in production of the final CRIA assessment and report. Draft projects list will be prioritized based on likelihood of success, potential benefits, rough estimates of costs, and stakeholder input using a multi-criterion decision analysis (MCDA) approach to rank the ecological effectiveness of potential projects.

TASK 5 – Draft Colorado River Inventory & Assessment (CRIA) Report

Method/Procedure

CSU, in coordination with ERWC, will produce a report describing the results of the river corridor inventory and prioritized recommendations for rehabilitation projects following the updated approach and template of the 2005 Eagle River Inventory and Assessment.

Deliverable

The final CRIA report will include the following:

- Description of candidate rehabilitation and other projects (structural and non-structural) identified during the inventory
- Prioritized list of rehabilitation strategies based upon likelihood of success, potential benefits and rough estimates of cost
- MCDA (multi-criteria decision analysis) spreadsheet tool used to rank candidate projects
- Detailed description of the methods in the inventory and analysis of candidate rehabilitation projects
- List of names, titles and affiliations of all persons who prepared the content of the report and participated in the monitoring activities
- Analysis of all quantitative monitoring data using graph and table formats when appropriate
- Prints or colored photocopies of all photographs used
- Maps identifying monitoring areas, cross-sections, transects, etc.
- Results of qualitative monitoring of site characteristics, functions and values

Budget Summary

- The total cost of the Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Project is \$196,501.
- The current Basin request (#2) is \$20,000.
- The Statewide Account request is \$90,000.
- Local cash matches total \$50,000 coming equally from the Eagle County General Fund and the County Open Space Fund.
- CSU is contributing \$6,501 minimally of their overhead, likely \$21,000.
- The Wild & Scenic Stakeholder Group is proposing to contribute water and ambient air temperature monitoring at 3 to 5 locations as an in-kind donation valued at \$2,300.

COLORADO RIVER INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT								
EXPENSES								
Tasks	Project Manager ERWC	Project Consultant CSU	CSU PhD candidate	CSU researcher	ERWC staff & supplies	CSU Materials & Supplies	CSU travel	Total Expenses
Task 1 - Stakeholder Coordination & Input	\$ 12,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 1,000	\$ 577		\$ 800	\$ 26,377
Task 2 - Data Inventory & Literature Review	\$ 12,000	\$ 3,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 100		\$ 400	\$ 27,500
Task 3 - Physical Inventory & Synoptic Field Survey	\$ 4,000	\$ 10,000	\$ 26,000	\$ 19,993	\$ 100	\$ 900	\$ 4,000	\$ 64,993
Task 4 - Candidate Rehabilitation Projects List & Review	\$ 6,000	\$ 9,000	\$ 10,967	\$ 7,700	\$ 100	\$ 936	\$ 800	\$ 35,503
Task 5 - Co. River Inventory & Assessment Report	\$ 14,000	\$ 8,828	\$ 14,000	\$ 2,700	\$ 2,000		\$ 600	\$ 42,128
Total Expenses	\$ 48,000	\$ 32,828	\$ 70,967	\$ 33,393	\$ 2,877	\$ 1,836	\$ 6,600	\$ 196,501

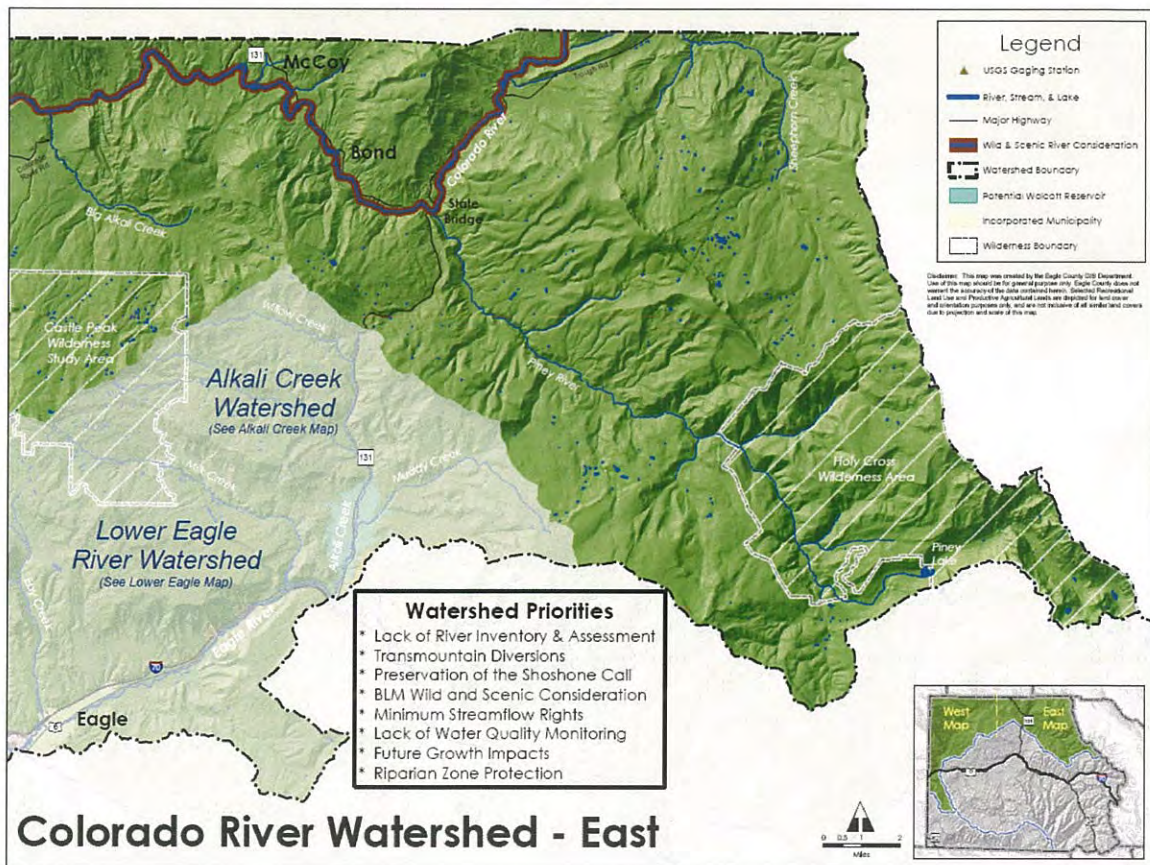
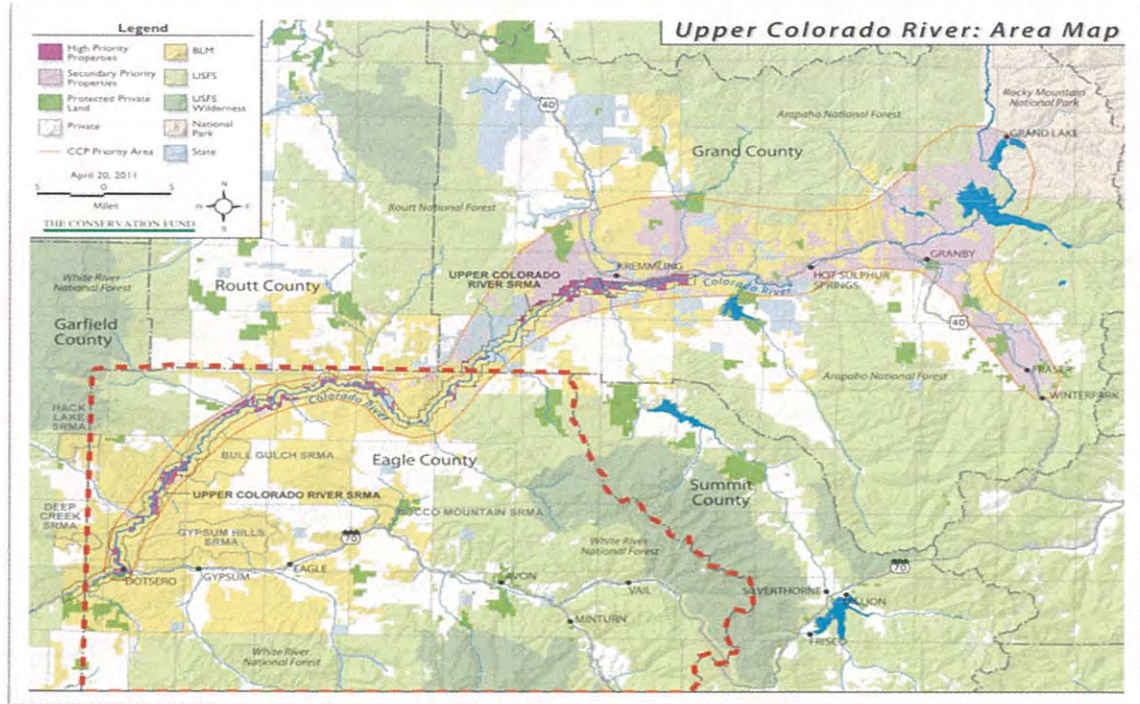
COLORADO RIVER INVENTORY & ASSESSMENT							
INCOME							
Tasks	CSU	Basin Roundtable Request #1	Basin Roundtable Request #2	State WRSA fund	Eagle County	OSAC	Total Income
Task 1 - Stakeholder Coordination & Input	\$ 585				\$ 17,500	\$ 8,292	\$ 26,377
Task 2 - Data Inventory & Literature Review	\$ 715	\$ 17,577				\$ 9,208	\$ 27,500
Task 3 - Physical Inventory & Synoptic Field Survey	\$ 2,666	\$ 12,423	\$ 20,000	\$ 29,904			\$ 64,993
Task 4 - Candidate Rehabilitation Projects List & Review	\$ 1,300			\$ 19,203	\$ 7,500	\$ 7,500	\$ 35,503
Task 5 - Co. River Inventory & Assessment Report	\$ 1,235			\$ 40,893			\$ 42,128
Total Income	\$ 6,501	\$ 30,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 90,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 25,000	\$ 196,501

Timeline

Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Projects

[illegible]

MAPS



OFFICE OF THE
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
970-328-8605
FAX: 970-328-8629
email: eagleadmin@eaglecounty.us
www.eaglecounty.us



PETER F. RUNYON
JON STAVNEY
SARA J. FISHER

February 27, 2012

Colorado River Basin Roundtable
c/o Jim Pokrandt
Colorado River Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 1120
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

Re: Eagle River Watershed Council Colorado River Inventory and Assessment Project

Dear Roundtable Members:

Eagle County is submitting this letter in support of the Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) grant application for the Colorado River Inventory and Assessment Project (CRIA). The project is already receiving funding from Eagle County and the Eagle County Open Space Advisory Committee, and we request your sponsorship of the grant.

Eagle County recognizes the importance of a good ecological baseline assessment of the reach of the Colorado River through Eagle County. Currently, there is no inventory of the river corridor outlining what areas should be preserved or restored that can help direct future community or State investment. As your members may be aware, Eagle County has made significant and strategic open space acquisitions over the last two years along this reach of the river in an effort to enhance recreational river access from State Bridge to Dotsero.

Funding a science-based inventory and assessment of the ecological setting of the Colorado River corridor will have lasting value for future land use decision making, conservation funding, water resource enhancement and other agriculture, recreation or wildlife-based projects that benefit Eagle County and its tourism-based economy.

The CRIA project, managed by ERWC in partnership with Colorado State University Engineering Research Center, should not be viewed as simply another 'study'. Instead, it will yield a comprehensive baseline inventory of ecological issues and prioritization of restoration efforts – an approach that has already proven instrumental in directing major community partnerships on the Eagle River since 2006.

Eagle County supports this effort wholeheartedly and looks forward to your endorsement of the enclosed project grant application.

Sincerely,
Eagle County Board of Commissioners

Peter F. Runyon
Chairman

Jon Stavney
Commissioner

Sara J. Fisher
Commissioner



March 6, 2012

Colorado River Basin Roundtable
Colorado River Water Conservation District
P.O. Box 1120
Glenwood Springs, CO 81602

Re: Eagle River Watershed Council Colorado River Inventory & Assessment

Dear Roundtable:

We are writing on behalf of the local, Eagle Valley Chapter of Trout Unlimited in support of the Eagle River Watershed Council's (ERWC) grant application for their Colorado Inventory and Assessment Project. We have spoken at length with our partners at the ERWC and feel strongly that our mission to conserve, protect and restore North America's cold water fisheries aligns with their vision to provide a scientific approach, aimed at protecting and enhancing this valuable resource in Eagle County.

Furthermore, the development of a plan now and its potential impact on water resource management in the future is essential to the sustainability of the Colorado River for generations to come. Please do not hesitate to contact us at any time should you like to discuss further our stance on this issue.

Sincerely,

Nick Rader
President/Eagle Valley Trout Unlimited

Alex Schaefer
Past President/Eagle Valley Trout Unlimited

Eagle Valley Trout Unlimited
P.O. Box 6353
Vail, CO 81658
www.eaglevalleytu.org

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 17.b**

Applicant: Eagle River Watershed Council

Water Activity Name: Colorado River Inventory and Assessment

Water Activity Purpose: Nonconsumptive

County: Eagle

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: Colorado River

Amount Requested: \$30,000 (Colorado Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$56,501 (Eagle County General Fund, Eagle County Open Space Fund, CSU)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$30,000 from the Colorado Basin Account to help complete the Colorado River Inventory Assessment.

Water Activity Summary:

The Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) seeks to create an Inventory and Assessment of the Colorado River in Eagle County. While updating Eagle County's 1996 Eagle River Watershed Plan, it became apparent that there was very little reference to the Colorado River in Eagle County, constituting almost 60 miles. In addition, there is virtually no monitoring on this stretch of the Colorado River in Eagle County, with the only USGS gage located in Dotsero close to the county line. As a result, there is minimal baseline data on this major reach of the river that is heavily affected by trans-basin diversions, climate change, extensive recreational use, invasive species, and many other issues.

Therefore, the proposed assessment seeks to understand and protect the Colorado River by creating a well-defined and prioritized list of restoration and conservation projects. The Assessment will be utilized to educate local communities and the state, as well as to ultimately help obtain funding for prioritized projects. A more complete understanding of the ecological setting of the Colorado River corridor will aid future land use decision making, conservation funding, and other agriculture, recreation or wildlife-based projects that benefit Eagle County and its tourism-based economy.

The proposed assessment will:

- Inventory channel, riparian , and upland characteristics within Eagle County that influence the ecological integrity, recreational amenities, and aesthetic values of the Colorado River and its major tributaries in the corridor.
- Analyze existing monitoring data and information to assess the status of river corridor.
- Conduct synoptic field surveys of riparian condition, chemical, physical, and biological water quality, and geomorphic attributes to supplement existing information.
- Identify and describe candidate rehabilitation projects (structural and non-structural) and link to current issues and likely outcomes.
- Assess current and potential recreation impact upon the river.
- Identify, describe and prioritize candidate sites best suited for recreation access.
- Prioritize rehabilitation strategies in a decision matrix based on likelihood of success, potential benefits, rough estimates of costs, and stakeholder input.

- Produce a report describing the results of the river corridor inventory and prioritized recommendations for rehabilitation projects following the updated approach and template of the 2005 Eagle River Inventory and Assessment.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Funding Overview

Matching funds are provided from the Eagle County General Fund, the Eagle County Open Space Fund, and CSU totaling \$56,501 and resulting in a total match over 188%.

Discussion:

The proposed project addresses multiple issues and needs arising from the lack of a comprehensive ecological inventory for the Eagle County reach of the Colorado River. This has significant implications for both existing and future non-consumptive and consumptive needs. The Eagle County Conservation District has identified this area as a stream bank management zone, while the Colorado River Outfitters Association has identified significant future capacity for increased commercial boating on the reach from State Bridge to Glenwood Springs. In addition, Eagle County has acquired several open space parcels with the intent to increase recreational river access. The project also seeks to identify and evaluate threatened or endangered fish and/or riparian wildlife with the objective of the conservation and/or restoration of their habitats.

Pairing results of this baseline inventory with both upstream and downstream information and management plans for the river (including Grand County and the Middle Colorado River Partnership) has the potential to better manage and address future nonconsumptive and consumptive interests on public and private land, and to preserve and enhance the Colorado River through the work of multiple jurisdictions, agencies and organizations. The proposed project seeks to attract additional funding to implement identified projects that will inform, conserve or restore the health of the Colorado River.

Issues/Additional Needs:

No issues or additional needs remain.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$30,000 from the Colorado Basin Account to help complete the Colorado River Inventory Assessment.

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.