

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 25.e**

Applicant: Mancos Conservation District

Water Activity Name: Mancos River Habitat and Diversion Project - Phase 2

Water Activity Purpose: Structural Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Water Project

County: Montezuma County

Drainage Basin: Mancos River

Water Source: Mancos River

Amount Requested: \$99,340 (Statewide Account); \$20,000 (Southwest Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$1,160 (Applicant, cash); \$5,000 (Trout Unlimited, cash); \$7,501 (Applicant, in-kind); \$6,621 (NRCS, in-kind); \$1,000 (Trout Unlimited, in-kind); \$1,000 (University of New Mexico, in-kind); \$2,520 (watershed volunteers, in-kind)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$99,340 from the Statewide Account and \$20,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to partially fund the Mancos River Habitat and Diversion Project, Phase 2.

Water Activity Summary:

The Mancos River Habitat and Diversion Project – Phase II is a comprehensive project to refresh the Mancos Valley Watershed Group’s watershed stewardship goals, to continue collaborative river condition monitoring begun in 2006, and to implement the findings and plans developed in the Mancos River Diversion Project- Phase 1 to improve the ecological and agricultural function of a 2.4 mile reach of the Mancos River. Phase 1 was partially funded with \$24,753 of WSRA Southwest Basin funds.

The objectives of the Mancos River Habitat and Diversion Project – Phase II are to:

- Reassess the condition of the Mancos River at 17 different sites and to host a training in the Rapid Stream Riparian Assessment methodology;
- Maintain the momentum of the Mancos Valley Watershed Group by convening the group to review progress and identify the next set of priorities for action to steward the health and productivity of the Mancos River;
- Implement the findings, recommendations and plans developed through the Mancos River Diversion Project - Phase I, and by the 2007 Functional Assessment of the Mancos River Watershed (Stacey 2007) through design and installation of improvements to four irrigation diversions, together with measures to improve channel function and habitat condition along the 2.4 mile South Town to Exxon reach of the Mancos River.

Many partners will collaborate to make this project a success, including the Mancos Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Trout Unlimited, Dr. Peter Stacey at the University of New Mexico, the Wild Utah Project, irrigation ditch companies, private landowners along the Mancos River, and local volunteers.

WSRA funds will specifically be used to fund the contracting of project management services, and the materials and contracted services necessary to install the river channel restoration measures and the diversion improvements.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

The application articulates how the project meets the Evaluation Criteria as summarized below:

Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation & Meeting Water Management Goals & Identified Needs: The project addresses non-consumptive needs including fish passage, channel bed and channel bank stability, shading, channel width to depth ratios, and aquatic habitat diversity, together with consumptive needs including efficient and measureable diversion of irrigation water rights. In addition, it involves communication and collaboration among ditch companies and irrigators, traditional consumptive water interests, and traditionally non-consumptive water interests. The project seeks to continue the implementation of several projects and processes identified in the Southwest Basins Non-Consumptive IPP list (SWSI 2010), including the efforts of the Mancos Valley Watershed Group, the Mancos River Instream Flow Study, the Mancos Watershed Plan, and the Mancos River Diversion Project.

Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation: WSRA funding will enable the purchase of materials and contracting the construction and project management services necessary to complete the project. A fairly diverse collection of matching funds (both cash and in-kind) are provided.

Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits: The water activity not only helps meet environmental needs but also helps sustain agriculture, in part by reducing annual diversion maintenance costs by approximately \$1600/year. The project will also assist in improving fish passage and aquatic habitat along a reach of the Mancos River situated several miles upstream of a reach near the Colorado/New Mexico State line where Roundtail Chub, a Federal Candidate Species and Colorado State Species of Special Concern, Bluehead Sucker and Flannelmouth Sucker were found to be present by US Fish and Wildlife Service. Bluehead Sucker have also been sampled upstream in the reach through the town of Mancos in 2009 by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and upstream in Chicken Creek on US Forest Service lands. Conservation of all three species is identified as a non-consumptive need by the Southwest Basins Roundtable (SWSI 2010).

Finally the project compliments other CWCB funding efforts. In 2009, the Southwest Basins Roundtable granted \$24,753 to the Mancos River Diversion Project – Phase I to map diversion structures within the Mancos River Watershed, to evaluate options for restoring flows, and to produce designs for new diversion structures. In 2011, CWCB's Watershed Restoration Program granted \$19,900 to install two of the structures designed under the Phase I project. The current project will compliment the outcomes of these previous grants by implementing the final design developed under Phase I, and by completing the design and installation of three additional diversion structures in a reach that lies immediately downstream of one of the structures, and includes the second structure, installed by the Watershed Restoration Grant.

Discussion:

This project will assist the Southwest Basin Roundtable in addressing nonconsumptive needs within the basin. The project directly addresses the basin's nonconsumptive needs as identified by SWSI 2 and the ongoing Roundtable assessment process. By completing river channel restoration measures along with diversion improvements the project also collaboratively addresses both consumptive and nonconsumptive needs in the basin. As a result this project is a good example of collaboration originally envisioned by the Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act (HB 05-1177).

Issues/Additional Needs:

No issues or additional needs remain.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$99,340 from the Statewide Account and \$20,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to partially fund the Mancos River Habitat and Diversion Project, Phase 2.

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 and Final Deliverable: 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. 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.