

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

Applicant: Blue River Watershed Group (BRWG)

Water Activity Name: Tenmile Creek Restoration Project

Water Activity Purpose: Non-consumptive Structural Water Project

County: Summit

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: Tenmile Creek

Amount Requested: \$350,000

Source of Funds: \$332,500 (Statewide Account) and \$17,500 (Colorado Basin Account)

Matching Funds: 270,000 (\$60,000 cash and \$210,000 material in-kind). Match is 44% of total project cost. Match is 86% of statewide request (including basin funds).

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval upon the condition of addressing concerns specified below in the Issues/Additional Needs section of up to \$17,500 from the Colorado Basin Account and \$332,500 from the Statewide account to help fund the Tenmile Creek Restoration Project.

Water Activity Summary:

This project includes stream and floodplain restoration, soil amendment, wetlands creation, and revegetation in a heavily impacted reach of Tenmile Creek near the Copper Mountain ski area. Funding will be used for: 1) securing materials for restoration work such as soil amendment products and native plants; 2) producing construction drawings from a design that has already been completed; 3) excavation and earthmoving; 4) in-stream habitat improvements; 5) incorporating soil amendments; 6) planting native vegetation; 7) wetlands creation; 8) documentation of the project for outreach and monitoring; and 9) supporting project management and oversight by the Blue River Watershed Group.

The restoration area has been impacted by historic mining, timber harvest, ski area development, and railroad and highway construction. Development along Tenmile Creek has altered its course and narrowed its floodplain. Tenmile Creek has been altered by widespread deposition of sediments, including sediments from mining activity. The resulting morphology is a braided stream channel flowing over poorly vegetated alluvium. Additionally, direct inputs of storm water, traction sand, and petroleum products from State Highway 91 affect water quality in Tenmile Creek.

Discussion:

This project will enhance floodplain connectivity, fish habitat quality, scenery, and wetlands function by re-creating the stream morphology and floodplain characteristics that existed before mining and development. The project will increase sinuosity and length in the stream channel, increase pool habitat and cover for fish, and increase the total area of vegetated wetlands. The project will improve recreational opportunities and public access to Tenmile Creek. The project will create a vegetated buffer between the stream and State Highway 91, reducing stream sedimentation and flood damage to the highway. The project also incorporates an education and outreach component by using volunteers to plant riparian plant species.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- Staff requests that BRWG make a good faith effort to secure other funding for this project. This can be accomplished by applying to grant programs outside of that which CWCB offers. Staff

recommends that BRWG seek an additional \$100,000 to offset the total amount needed from the Water Supply Reserve Account. Staff recommends that BRWG seek this funding from its partners.

- Staff will work with BRWG to incorporate appropriate signage at public access location(s)
- BRWG should work with CWCB Staff to ensure that geomorphic monitoring conforms to CWCB Measurable Results Program criteria.
- All proposed river channel work shall conform to the CWCB Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval upon the condition of addressing concerns specified above in the Issues/Additional Needs section of up to \$17,500 from the Colorado Basin Account and \$332,500 from the Statewide account to help fund the Tenmile Creek Restoration 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.