

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

Applicant: Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC)

Water Activity Name: Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Projects

Water Activity Purpose: Non-consumptive Non-Structural Water Project

County: Eagle

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: Colorado River

Amount Requested: \$110,000

Source of Funds: \$90,000 (Statewide Account) and \$20,000 (Colorado Basin Account)

Matching Funds: 86,501 (\$56,501 outside sources and \$55,000 other CWCB sources). \$30,000 provided through prior Colorado Basin application and \$25,000 provided through CWCB Multi-Objective Watershed Protection Program. Match is 39% of total project cost. Match is 41% of statewide request (including basin and other CWCB funds). Non-CWCB match is 26% of total project cost.

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval upon the condition of addressing concerns specified below in the Issues/Additional Needs section of up to \$20,000 from the Colorado Basin Account and \$90,000 from the Statewide account to help fund the Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Projects.

Water Activity Summary:

The objective of ERWC's planning effort is to develop several restoration and conservation projects on the Colorado River in Eagle County. The science based evaluation of the river will result in an inventory and assessment that prioritizes future implementation projects. The assessment will:

- Inventory channel, riparian, and upland characteristics that influence the ecologic function, recreational opportunities, aesthetic values of the Colorado River and its major tributaries in Eagle County
- Analyze existing monitoring data and information to assess the present status of the river corridor
- Conduct field surveys of biologic, geomorphic, and chemical attributes to supplement exiting information
- Identify and describe potential rehabilitation projects and explain likely outcomes if implemented
- Assess the current and potential impact that recreation has on the river
- Prioritize rehabilitation projects in a decision matrix based on likelihood of success, potential benefits, cost estimates, and stakeholder input
- Produce a report describing the results of the inventory that includes prioritized recommendations for rehabilitation projects.

Discussion:

The proposed project is designed to identify projects which may be both consumptive and non-consumptive. The inventory and assessment will prioritize projects through a science based evaluation. ERWC has

identified funding sources for implementation projects identified through this effort. CWCB staff supports watershed assessment and prioritization phases prior to project implementation. This approach allows for a watershed wide comparison of projects that improve ecologic function and support the goals of the resident stakeholders. CWCB staff will be attending stakeholder meetings to provide technical assistance. Other stakeholders include Eagle County, NRCS, Eagle County Soil Conservation District, CPW, CRWCD, BLM, USFS, USGS, USACE, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, CSU, landowners, and major water rights owners.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- ERWC will be working with Colorado State University to develop the report. The CSU indirect cost should not exceed 15%.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval upon the condition of addressing concerns specified above in the Issues/Additional Needs section of up to \$20,000 from the Colorado Basin Account and \$90,000 from the Statewide account to help fund the Colorado River Restoration and Conservation Projects.

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.