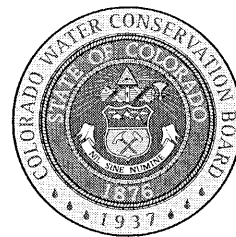


COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT 2006-2007 GRANT APPLICATION FORM



Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program - Alternatives Analysis

Name of Water Activity/Project

River Basin Location-

\$200,000

☐

Basin Account

☐

Yes

☒

Statewide Account

☐

No

Amount of Funds Requested

Please Check Applicable Box

Approval Letter Signed By
Roundtable Chair and
Description of Results of
Evaluation and Approval
Process

*** For the Basin Account, the Application Deadline is 60 Days Prior to the Bimonthly CWCB meeting.**
The CWCB meetings are posted at www.cwcb.state.co.us and are generally the third week of the month.

*** For the Statewide Account, the Application Deadline is 60 Days Prior to the March and September CWCB Board Meetings.**

*** In completing the application you may attach additional sheets if the form does not provide adequate space. If additional sheets are attached please be sure to reference the section number of the application that you are addressing (i.e., A.1. etc.).**

Instructions: This application form should be emailed, typed, or printed neatly. The Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines can be found at <http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/>. **The criteria and guidelines should be reviewed and followed when completing this application.** You may attach additional sheets as necessary to fully answer any question, or to provide additional information that you feel would be helpful in evaluating this application. Include with your application a cover letter summarizing your request for a grant. If you have difficulty with any part of the application, contact Rick Brown of the Intrastate Water Management and Development (Colorado Water Conservation Board) for assistance, at (303) 866-3514 or email Rick at rick.brown@state.co.us.

Generally, the applicant is also the prospective owner and sponsor of the proposed water activity. If this is not the case, contact the Rick Brown before completing this application.

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

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Colorado River Water Conservation District		
	Mailing address:	PO Box 1120 Glenwood Springs, CO 81602		
	Taxpayer ID#:		Email address:	dmeritt@crwcd.org
	Phone Numbers: Business:	9709458522		
	Home:			
	Fax:	9709458799		

2. Person to contact regarding this application if different from above:

Name:	David H. Merritt, P.E.
Position/Title	Chief Engineer

3. Provide a brief description of your organization below: Refer to Part 2 of criteria and guidance for required Information. Attach additional sheet(s) as needed.

The Sponsoring Organization, the Colorado River Water Conservation District, is the principal water policy and water development agency for Western Colorado, representing the drainages of the Yampa, White, Colorado and Gunnison/Uncompaghere. The River District is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado, and is authorized to perform all activities necessary for the appraisal, development, operation and delivery of water supplies in Western Colorado. The Colorado River Water Conservation District was established in 1937, pursuant to Articles 37-46-101 through 37-46-151. With a staff of 21, consisting of Engineers, Hydrologists, Attorneys and other support professionals, the River District has the expertise and experience to fully accomplish this undertaking, in cooperative with the other cooperating agencies and related consulting professionals.

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Part B. - Description of the Water Activity – Please Refer to Criteria and Guidance Document for Eligibly Criteria

1. Name of water activity/project:

**Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program –
Alternatives Analysis**

2. What is the purpose of this grant application? Check one.

- ☐ Environmental compliance and feasibility study
- ☐ Technical assistance regarding permitting, feasibility studies, and environmental compliance
- ☒ Studies or analysis of structural, nonstructural, consumptive, nonconsumptive water needs, projects, or activities (Please specify)
- ☐ Structural and/or nonstructural water project or activity

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3. Please provide an overview of water project or activity to be funded including – type of activity, statement of what the activity is intended to accomplish, the need for the activity, the problems and opportunities to be addressed, expectations of the participants, why the activity is important, the service area or geographic location, and any relevant issues etc. Please include any relevant Tabor issues. Please refer to Part 2 of criteria and guidance document for additional detail on information to include. Attach additional sheets as needed.

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program has been developed to aid the recovery of four species of fish that have been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The four species occupy the Colorado River in the “15-Mile Reach,” a segment of the river that extends from the confluence of the Gunnison River upstream 15 miles to the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Diversion Dam near Palisade, Colorado. In 1999, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service completed the “Final Programmatic Biological Opinion for Bureau of Reclamation’s Operations and Depletions, Other Depletions, and Funding and Implementation of Recovery Program Actions in the Upper Colorado River Above the Confluence with the Gunnison River” (also referred to as the “15-Mile Reach Programmatic Biological Opinion” or the PBO).

The PBO requires the State of Colorado to provide 10,825 acre-feet of water per year (10,825 Water) to the 15-Mile Reach during low flow years in the summer and fall months when the stream flow within the 15-Mile Reach is substantially impacted by upstream water diversions. The commitment to provide 10,825 Water is divided equally between East Slope and West Slope water users, with each responsible for 5,412.5 acre-feet per year. Currently, the 10,825 Water is provided on an interim basis by Denver Water And the Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District).

The purpose of this study is to study alternatives that can:

- provide the 10,825 Water to the 15-Mile Reach on a permanent basis, and

The study will be designed to provide a preliminary assessment of the outcome of an alternatives analysis that is consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines under the Clean Water Act.

For this study, the Consultant will develop and evaluate alternatives that meet the following project objective:

- Provide a permanent supply of 10,825 acre-feet of water annually to meet the West and East Slope requirements for the Colorado River Recovery Program. The water must be provided to the 15-Mile Reach, in all year types, during low flow periods in the summer and fall months.

This project is intended as a joint project of the Colorado, South Platte, Metropolitan Area and Arkansas Basin Roundtables, in that water users in each of these Roundtables have responsibility for ensuring the continued compliance with the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Colorado River Fishes.

In particular, it is anticipated that financial and technical assistance will also come from Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District, Denver Water, Southeastern Colorado Water Conservation District, Colorado Springs Utilities and Aurora Water Utility.

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4. Please provide a brief narrative of any related or relevant previous studies. Attach additional sheets as needed.

The Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program has been an activity of the States of Colorado, Wyoming, and Utah, as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service, the US Bureau of Reclamation, the Western Area Power Administration and the water users and power users in those respective states for over twenty years. There have been numerous studies and reports prepared over this period dealing with the needs of the fish and the efforts to recover these four species. The identification of a firm supply of 10,825 acre feet of water for the 15 Mile Reach is a result of the Programmatic Biological Opinion which is the basis for continued operation of the Federal Projects and inter-related features in the Colorado River Basin of Colorado.

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5. Please provide a copy of the proposed scope of work. Please refer to Part 2 of the criteria and guidance document for detailed requirements. Attach additional sheets as needed.

SEE ATTACHED SCOPE OF WORK

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6. List the names and addresses of any technical or legal consultants retained to represent the applicant or to conduct investigations for the water activity/project.

Name	Address/Phone Number
Kerry Sundeen Grand River Consulting Corp.	710 Cooper Avenue Glenwood Springs, CO 81601 970 945 2237
Tom Pitts Water Consult	535 North Garfield Avenue Loveland, CO 80537-5548 970 667 8690

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7. Water Availability and Sustainability – this information is needed to assess the viability and effectiveness of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of each water supply source to be utilized for, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. For water supply sources being utilized, describe its location, yield, extent of development, and water right status. For water bodies being affected, describe its location, extent of development, and the expected effect of the water activity on the water body, in either case, the analysis should take into consideration a reasonable range of hydrologic variation. Attach additional sheets as needed.

In accord with a the attached Scope of Work, this project will evaluate the reoperation and reallocation of existing storage project above the 15 Mile Reach, as well as alternatives to develop new storage reservoirs. All feasible structural and non-structural alternatives will be evaluated, with the intent being identifying a source of supply to comply with the Programmatic Biological Opinion for the Recovery of the Endangered Colorado River Fishes.

8. If you have not specifically and fully addressed the Evaluation Criteria found in Part 3 of the criteria and guidance document please provide additional detail here. Attach additional sheet(s) if needed.

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9. Additional Information – If you feel you would like to add any additional pertinent information please feel free to do so here. Attach additional sheets as needed.

The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Applicant:

David H. Meritt

Print Applicant's Name:

DAVID H. MERITT

Project Title:

*UPPER COLORADO RIVER ENDANGERED FISH
RECOVERY PROGRAM - ALTERNATIVES ANALYSIS*

Return this application to:

Mr. Rick Brown
Intrastate Water Management and Development Section
COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD
1580 Logan Street, Suite 600
Denver, CO 80203

To submit applications by Email, send to: rick.brown@state.co.us

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant Application Form

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Reference Information

The following information is available via the internet. The reference information provides additional detail and background information regarding these criteria and guidelines and water policy issues affecting our state.

Colorado Water Conservation Board Policies

Loan and Grant policies and information are available at - <http://cwcb.state.co.us/Finance/>

Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines –

http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/tools.htm#Water_Supply_Reserve_Account

Interbasin Compact Committee and Basin Roundtables

Interbasin Compact Committee By-laws and Charter –

<http://dnr.state.co.us/Home/ColoradoWaterforthe21stCentury/Interbasin+Compact+Committee/IbccHomePage.htm>

Basin Roundtable By-laws –

<http://dnr.state.co.us/Home/ColoradoWaterforthe21stCentury/IbccHome.htm>

Legislation

House Bill 05-1177 - Also known as the Water for the 21st Century Act –

<http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/statutes.htm>

House Bill 06-1400 – Adopted the Interbasin Compact Committee Charter –

<http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/statutes.htm>

Senate Bill 06-179 – Created the Water Supply Reserve Account –

<http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/statutes.htm>

Statewide Water Supply Initiative

General Information - <http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/>

Phase 1 Report - <http://cwcb.state.co.us/IWMD/PhaseIReport.htm>

Scope of Services

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program – Alternatives Analysis

Background

The Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program has been developed to aid the recovery of four species of fish that have been listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act. The four species occupy the Colorado River in the “15-Mile Reach,” a segment of the river that extends from the confluence of the Gunnison River upstream 15 miles to the Grand Valley Irrigation Company Diversion Dam near Palisade, Colorado. In 1999, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service completed the “Final Programmatic Biological Opinion for Bureau of Reclamation’s Operations and Depletions, Other Depletions, and Funding and Implementation of Recovery Program Actions in the Upper Colorado River Above the Confluence with the Gunnison River” (also referred to as the “15-Mile Reach Programmatic Biological Opinion” or the PBO).

The PBO requires the State of Colorado to provide 10,825 acre-feet of water per year (10,825 Water) to the 15-Mile Reach during low flow years in the summer and fall months when the stream flow within the 15-Mile Reach is substantially impacted by upstream water diversions. The commitment to provide 10,825 Water is divided equally between East Slope and West Slope water users, with each responsible for 5,412.5 acre-feet per year. Currently, the 10,825 Water is provided on an interim basis by Denver Water and the Colorado River Water Conservation District (River District).

The purpose of this study is to study alternatives that can:

- provide the 10,825 Water to the 15-Mile Reach on a permanent basis, and

The study will be designed to provide a preliminary assessment of the outcome of an alternatives analysis that is consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines under the Clean Water Act.

For this study, the Consultant will develop and evaluate alternatives that meet the following project objective:

- Provide a permanent supply of 10,825 acre-feet of water annually to meet the West and East Slope requirements for the Colorado River Recovery Program. The water must be provided to the 15-Mile Reach, in all year types, during low flow periods in the summer and fall months.

An outline of study tasks follows.

Task 1.0—Identify Potential Project Alternatives

Subtasks

- 1.1 Identify potential alternatives that may meet all or part of the purpose and need objectives. Project alternatives could consist of one or more elements, or separate projects. Consultant should consider each objective individually and identify alternatives and elements in general categories (or concepts), such as operational modifications or improvements, releases from existing storage, new storage projects, etc. Potential elements that should be analyzed include, but are not limited to:
 - Sulphur Gulch Reservoir
 - Wolcott Reservoir
 - Webster Hill Reservoir
 - Buzzard Creek Reservoir
 - Orchard Mesa Irrigation District Water Management
 - Wolford Mountain Reservoir Enhancements
 - Reudi Reservoir Releases
- 1.2 Determine the potential feasibility of elements and alternatives with conceptual-level analysis, including definition of operation, engineering feasibility, and potential environmental or institutional fatal flaws.
- 1.3 Prepare preliminary long list of alternatives and elements for further analysis.
- 1.4 Conduct meeting with stakeholders to develop concurrence on which elements should be carried forward to next level of analysis.

Task 2.0—Evaluation of Alternatives

Subtasks

- 2.1 Develop a description of the operation of each alternative/element and a conceptual layout of facilities required for each.
- 2.2 Develop preliminary estimates of capital and O&M costs for each.
- 2.3 Identify potential environmental impacts and issues, including impacts to wetlands, aquatic habitat, and threatened or endangered species with particular emphasis on impacts caused by changes in streamflows.
- 2.4 Assess potential impacts to water quality in affected reservoirs and streams including evaluation of changes in sediment load, TDS, and selenium.
- 2.5 Evaluate and compare each alternative/element in relation to the purpose and need objectives. Develop a short list of alternatives for each purpose and need objective that may be suitable to carry forward into the NEPA/permitting phase of the project.

- 2.6 Identify data gaps and any additional work required to carry each alternative forward into the NEPA phase.

Task 3—Prepare Report and Presentation to Stakeholders

Subtasks

- 3.1 Prepare a written report documenting the results of the study.
- 3.2 Develop a presentation to present to the stakeholders in a workshop setting. The goal of the presentation and workshop is to facilitate a decision by stakeholders on how to proceed with the project.

Task 4—Project Management and Meetings

Subtasks

- 4.1 Provide administrative management of the project, including tracking schedule and budget.
- 4.2 Provide technical management of the project, including review of work products.
- 4.3 Attend study team coordination meetings as required.

Scope of Services

Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program – Alternatives Analysis

Background

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