

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

Applicant: Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District

Water Activity Name: Purgatoire River Reach 3 Habitat Improvement Project

Water Activity Purpose: Structural Activity

County: Las Animas

Drainage Basin: Arkansas

Water Source: Purgatoire River

Amount Requested: \$26,200 (Arkansas Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$20,200 cash (Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$26,200 from the Arkansas Basin Account to assist in the funding of Purgatoire River Reach 3 Habitat Improvement Project contingent upon the resolution of the issues and additional needs identified in this summary.

Water Activity Summary:

The goal of this project is to improve the aquatic habitat and riparian areas of approximately 2,000 ft of the Purgatoire River in downtown Trinidad, Colorado. Improvements will provide velocity shelter, cover, and quality usable habitat for resident trout during the high flow summer months through the installation of in-channel habitat features. WSRA funds will be used for materials and equipment for construction of improvements. Improvements will include in-channel structures, bank-full benches, and grading of stream banks. Volunteers will be utilized to replant the riparian areas of the project.

Discussion:

Staff supports river restoration projects designed to improve channel stability and enhance aquatic habitat. The restoration project proposed to use Arkansas Basin funds approved for a river restoration demonstration project in Trinidad. The Board approved a \$75,000 grant in January 2011 for the Trinidad/Purgatoire River Reach 4 Demonstration Project. The project was completed under budget, leaving \$26,200 surplus. The Arkansas Basin voted to use the surplus from the original grant for Reach 3 of the river restoration project.

This demonstration project is a piece of a larger effort to enhance the Purgatoire River from the Trinidad State Park lake dam through the town of Trinidad, to the Highway 160 Bypass, nearly 5 miles of river. Efforts to remove invasive species along this stretch of river are already underway. A planning process funded with grant dollars from Trout Unlimited's Embrace-A-Stream program, along with local and regional donations from Trout Unlimited Chapters is complete, followed by a Project Concept and Preliminary Design, which was prepared by Fin-Up Habitat Consultants, Inc.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- The project identifies riparian area improvement as an objective, but the application does not describe any re-vegetation efforts. Staff believes that riparian re-vegetation is an essential

component of river improvement projects. Staff will work with the applicant to develop a riparian re-vegetation strategy for the project reach.

- Staff will work with the applicant to ensure that all applicable requirements in the CWCB Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado are satisfied. The applicant must demonstrate that there are no adverse impacts to the regulatory floodplain resulting from the project.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$26,200 from the Arkansas Basin Account to assist in the funding of Purgatoire River Reach 3 Habitat Improvement Project contingent upon the resolution of the issues and additional needs identified in this summary.

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.