

Statement of Work

WATER ACTIVITY NAME – Protecting Irrigated Agricultural Lands, and Agricultural Water Rights, for Agricultural Production

GRANT RECIPIENT – The Contract will be with Mancos Valley Resources

FUNDING SOURCE - Basin Account (\$30,000)

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

Provide a brief description of the project. (Please limit to no more than 200 words; this will be used to inform reviewers and the public about your proposal)

The goal of a program identified through this grant will be to assure that irrigated agricultural lands are protected as working agricultural lands, rather than simply as open space, and to make such lands more affordable for the next generation of farmers and ranchers. Keeping such lands in working agricultural production will help assure a local food and fiber production and will help assure that agricultural water rights remain in agricultural use.

OBJECTIVES

List the objectives of the project

1. Research existing barriers to conservation of working agricultural lands and solutions to overcoming such barriers.
2. Create a stakeholders group consisting of Southwestern Colorado Basin Roundtable members, farmers, ranchers, and land trusts that will help identify a program to protect irrigated agricultural lands and will assume responsibility for implementing the program in the future.
3. Identify a program, or an achievable plan for the creation of a program, that will result in protecting irrigated agricultural lands for agricultural production in southwestern Colorado and potential funding sources for such program.

TASKS

Provide a detailed description of each task using the following format

TASK 1 – Research existing barriers to conservation of working agricultural lands.

Description of Task – Although southwest Colorado land trusts and other organizations currently work to protect agricultural lands, they do not ensure that such lands remain in working agriculture. It is important to understand the barriers standing in the way of these organizations ensuring working lands remain in agricultural use in order to develop a program that can surmount such barriers. It is also important to understand the urgency of the problem of the loss of irrigated working lands as well as agricultural landowners' needs with respect to conservation of working lands, since no program can succeed without their participation and support.

Method/Procedure – Interviews and a survey will be conducted with the land trusts and

other organizations currently serving southwestern Colorado, including: Montezuma Land Conservancy, La Plata Open Space Conservancy, the Animas Conservancy, the Colorado Cattlemen's Agricultural Land Trust, Lake Fork Valley Conservancy, the Southwest Land Alliance, The Nature Conservancy, the New Community Coalition, and the Conservation Fund. Interviews will also be conducted with interested members of the Roundtable, farmers and ranchers, attorneys representing land trusts and similar organizations, and employees of the Natural Resource Conservation Service and Colorado State University Extension.

Deliverable – A written report to the Roundtable summarizing findings.

TASK 2

Description of Task – Research solutions to protecting irrigated agricultural lands and assuring they remain in working agriculture. The dilemma of the loss of productive agricultural lands facing Colorado is not unique, and other organizations in different parts of the country have attempted to find their own methods of assuring working agricultural lands remain in agricultural production and are kept affordable for future generations of farmers and ranchers. It may not be necessary to create an entirely new program in southwest Colorado – research may indicate a program or programs that could be adapted to Colorado's needs and implemented in the State.

Method/Procedure – Internet and personal interview research on agricultural protection activities around the country, focusing on those that assure protected lands remain in working agriculture. Land trusts such as the Equity Trust, the American Farmland Trust, the Montana Land Reliance and organizations supporting land conservation, such as the Land Trust Alliance will be researched, as will programs such as Montana's Land Link and community land trust affordable housing developments to determine their potential for replication in southwest Colorado and/or applicability to protecting working agricultural lands.

Deliverable – A written report to the Roundtable summarizing findings.

TASK 3

Description of Task – Identify and recruit individuals and organizations to join a stakeholders' group that is willing and able to help craft and implement the program, or the achievable plan for a program (see Task 4), to protect working irrigated agricultural lands.

Method/Procedure – Interview members of the Roundtable, members of local land trusts, interested farmers and ranchers and others (such as representatives of CSU Extension or the NRCS) with respect to their interest and willingness to serve on such a stakeholders' group. Secure suggestions for additional members from interviews conducted in Task 2.

Deliverable – An identified stakeholders' group whose membership reflects parties interested in retaining working agricultural lands and the water rights associated with such lands.

TASK 4

Description of Task – Working with the stakeholders' group (see Task 3) identify a program, or an achievable plan for the creation of a program, that will result in protecting irrigated agricultural lands for agricultural production in southwestern Colorado and potential funding sources for such program. Because the funding implications of a program may be difficult to assess, the program may be a pilot program that demonstrates that the expected results can be achieved, which will then serve as a model for a permanent program to protect irrigated agricultural lands.

Method/Procedure – Convene at least two (2) in-person meetings of the stakeholders' group to discuss possible programs that could be implemented in southwest Colorado and to identify the one program that a consensus of the stakeholders' group identifies as the most likely to achieve the goal of protecting irrigated agricultural lands as working lands. Prior to the first meeting of the stakeholders, or at least before the second meeting, identify potential funding sources for implementation of the program through in-person discussions with the Great Outdoors Colorado Trust Fund, the Colorado Conservation Trust, and other potential funders.

Deliverable – Identification of a program, or pilot program, for irrigated agricultural lands protection and a commitment from the stakeholders' group to pursue funding for the program through potential funding sources identified under this Grant. Prepare Final Report summarizing grant results.

REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE

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 statement 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.

BUDGET

Provide a detailed budget by task including number of hours and rates for labor and unit costs for other direct costs (i.e. mileage, \$/unit of material for construction, etc.). A detailed and perfectly balanced budget that shows all costs is required for the State's contracting and purchase order processes. Sample budget tables are provided below. Please note that these budget tables are examples and will need to be adapted to fit each individual application. Tasks should correspond to the tasks described above.

February 23, 2010

Total Costs			
	Labor	Other Direct Costs	Total Project Costs
Task 1: Research Existing Barriers	\$3,000	\$735	\$3,735
Task 2: Research Solutions	\$7,500	\$1,660	\$9,160
Task 3: Create Stakeholders Group	\$4,000	\$800	\$4,800
Task 4: Identify Program	\$8,750	\$3,555	\$12,305
Administration Fee Mancos Valley Resources	\$1,500		\$1,500
Total Costs:	\$24,750	\$6,750	\$31,500

Project Personnel:	Project Manager Consultant (Jane Ellen Hamilton: see attached resume)	Total Costs
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Hourly Rate:	\$75/hour	\$50/hour	
Task 1: Research Existing Barriers	40 hours	0	\$3,000
Task 2: Research Solutions	80 hours	30 hours	\$7,500
Task 3: Create Stakeholders Group	40 hours	20 hours	\$4,000
Task 4: Identify Program	90 hours	40 hours	\$8,750

Other Direct Costs						
Item: Total	Copies	Mileage	Telephone	Meeting Room Rental	Travel Expenses (hotel & meals)	
Units: Unit Cost:	No. \$0.10/each	Miles \$0.55/mile		\$500/day	\$200/day	Total
Task 1: Research Existing Barriers	100/\$10	500 mi./\$275	\$50	0	\$400	\$735
Task 2: Research Solutions	100/\$10	1,000 mi./\$550	\$100	0	\$1,000	\$1,660
Task 3: Create Stakeholders Group	250/\$25	500 mi./\$275	\$100	0	\$400	\$800
Task 4: Identify Program	1,800/\$180	1,500 mi./\$825	\$150	\$1,000	\$1,400	\$3,555

SCHEDULE

Provide a project schedule including key milestones for each task and the completion dates or time period from the Notice to Proceed (NTP). This dating method allows flexibility in the event of potential delays from the procurement process. Sample schedules are provided below. Please note that these schedules are examples and will need to be adapted to fit each individual application.

Task	Start Date	Finish Date
1	Upon NTP	NTP + 60 days
2	Upon NTP	NTP + 120 days
3	Upon NTP	NTP + 210 days
4	Upon NTP	12/31/10

NTP = Notice to Proceed

PAYMENT

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and invoicing by the applicant. Invoices from any other entity (i.e. subcontractors) cannot be processed by the State. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by major task, and estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire water activity in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues and proposed or implemented corrective actions. The last 5 percent of the entire water activity budget will be withheld until final project/water activity documentation is completed. 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 help promote the development of a common technical platform.