

**Water Supply Reserve Account Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
July 2013 CWCB Meeting
Agenda Item 23.b**

Applicant: Delta Conservation District

Water Activity Name: Curry Easements Woody Invasives Removal Project - West Side of the North Fork of the Gunnison River

Water Activity Purpose: Non-consumptive Water Project

County: Delta

River Basin: Gunnison

Water Source: North Fork of the Gunnison River

Amount Requested: \$8,865 (Gunnison Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$750 in-kind

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends approval of up to \$8,865 from the Gunnison Basin Account for the project titled: Curry Easements Woody Invasives Removal Project - West Side of the North Fork of the Gunnison River.

Water Activity Summary:

The proposed project covers the removal of invasive species on the Curry Easements along the North Fork of the Gunnison River on the west side of the river. The project will mechanically eradicate Tamarisk and Russian Olive, apply herbicidal treatment, and re-vegetate the area with native species as required. The project area includes an approximately 2 mile long reach of the North Fork of the Gunnison River above and below the Union Pacific railroad bridge in Hotchkiss. The reach contains

This project is a continuation of the Delta Conservancy District's (DCD) North Fork River Improvement Project addressing woody invasive species. The DCD's North Fork River Improvement Project is a multi-year effort that DCD has undertaken to improve the health of the North Fork of the Gunnison River. To date their efforts have completed clearing, herbicidal treatments, and chipping of Russian Olive, Tamarisk, and Siberian Elm on over 300 acres.

Task 1 will identify and obtain permission from landowners to gain the most workable access to the west bank of the Curry Conservation Easements. It will also remove Russian Olive, Tamarisk, and other invasive species in the project area. The DCD will continue to employ the Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) to do mechanical eradication of the invasive species, including herbicide application with assistance from the Delta County Weed Coordinator. Native vegetation will be reestablished with volunteer labor. Task 2 involves removal and/or treatment of new invasive species growth during Year 2. The final report will comprise Task 3.

Future funding of the multi-year project has been approved under the Invasive Phreatophyte Control Program administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Issues/Additional Needs:

- The applicant should have a plan to treat secondary weed infestations.
- The applicant should develop a strategy to re-vegetate the removal sites with native riparian plants.

- The applicant should work with CWCB Staff to ensure that the project meets the criteria outlined in the Invasive Phreatophyte Removal Program (IPCP).

Staff Recommendation:

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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 and Final Deliverable: 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. 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.

Location Map:

N/A