

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program**  
**Water Activity Summary Sheet**  
**January 27-28, 2014**  
**Agenda Item 31(a)**

**Applicant:** Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority

**Water Activity Name:** Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan – Section 4.2: Watershed Health

**Water Activity Purpose:** All inclusive

**River Basin:** Arkansas

**Water Source:** Arkansas River and tributaries

**Amount Requested:** \$19,975 Arkansas Basin Account

**Matching Funds:** n/a

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$19,975 from the Arkansas Basin Account to help complete the project titled: Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan – Section 4.2: Watershed Health

**Water Activity Summary:** WSRA funds will be expended to draft Section 4.2: Watershed Health of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan that conforms to the Basin Implementation Plan Guidance Document. This section will be drafted by WestWater Research, while Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority will act as the applicant and fiscal agent.

*Threshold and Evaluation Criteria:*

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

**Discussion:**

Southeastern Colorado Water Conservancy District has been contracted for \$205,691 from the Statewide Account to draft the Arkansas River Basin Study (March 2013 CWCB approval). Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority has been contracted for a total of \$127,455 (\$32,709 Statewide Account, and \$94,746 Arkansas Basin Account) to draft additional components of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan (November 2013 CWCB approval). Therefore, to date, a total of \$238,400 from the Statewide Account, and \$94,746 from the Arkansas Basin Account have been contracted with the two above mentioned entities to draft components of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan. If this request of \$19,975 is approved, the total from the Arkansas Basin Account dedicated to the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan will increase to \$114,721. If the following associated request of \$10,000 for Section 4.3 – Conservation, of the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan (Agenda Item 31(b)) is approved, the total from the Arkansas Basin Account dedicated to the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan will increase to \$124,721.

**Issues/Additional Needs:**

No additional issues or needs were identified.

**Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$19,975 from the Arkansas Basin Account for project titled: Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan – Section 4.2: Watershed Health.

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.



Arkansas Basin Roundtable  
P.O. Box 1976  
Colorado Springs, CO 80901

December 12, 2013

**Mr. Craig Godbout**  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Water Supply Planning Section  
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200  
Denver, Colorado 80203

**Re: Basin Implementation Plan Watershed Health, Section 4.2**

Dear Craig:

At the December 11, 2013, Arkansas Basin Roundtable meeting, the Roundtable agreed by consensus to approve this application for \$19,975 in Basin Funds. This grant request is a critical component for completion of our Basin Implementation Plan.

My expectation is that this grant request will be heard at the January, 2014 CWCB meeting. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Gary Barber  
Chair

c: Executive Committee, Ark Roundtable



WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT  
APPLICATION FORM FOR  
BASIN IMPLEMENTATION PLANS



ARKANSAS

Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority

**Basin**

December 11, 2013

**Applicant/Fiscal Agent**

Amount from Statewide Account:

**Roundtable Approval Date**

Amount from Basin Account:

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

19,975.00

19,975.00

Applicant Mailing  
Address:

231 Security Blvd  
Colorado Springs, CO 80911

Taxpayer ID#:

84-1428849

**Primary Contact:**

Elise Bergsten

Position/Title:

Manager

Email:

elise@dmasc.us

Phone Numbers:

Cell:

719-963-1809

Office:

719-634-8980

The Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) has requested that each basin roundtable complete a Basin Implementation Plan as a fundamental component of the forthcoming update to the Statewide Water Supply Initiative and the Colorado Water Plan requested by Governor Hickenlooper's Executive Order D 2013-005. The CWCB's technical team will be available to help with the creation of these plans. In addition, resources of the Colorado River Water Availability Study Continuation will be available to west slope basins to help with more detailed modeling analyses in the plans. Basins are also encouraged to use Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) funds to complete all or a portion of their plans.

Since the plans meet the intent and criteria of the WSRA program, fund requests for this purpose should use this streamlined WSRA application form. In addition, staff has determined that Basin Implementation Plans meet the WSRA evaluation criteria for funds from the Statewide WSRA Account, however, applications that seek more than 33% of funds from the Statewide Account must provide a separate sheet justifying the request.

Along with this completed form, the applicant must submit **a detailed scope of work as Exhibit A**, including a budget and schedule. The scope should closely follow the items set forth in the Basin Implementation Plan Guidance Descriptive Outline available on the CWCB website, including the following components:

Included in this  
Application (Y or N)?



<b>Executive Summary</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Section 1: Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes</b>	<b>No</b>
<b>Section 2: Evaluate Consumptive and Nonconsumptive Needs</b>	<b>No</b>
2.1 Nonconsumptive Needs	No
2.2 Consumptive Needs	No
<b>Section 3: Evaluate Consumptive &amp; Nonconsumptive Constraints and Opportunities</b>	<b>No</b>
3.1 Current Basin Water Operations and Hydrology	No
3.2 Water Management and Water Administration (Optional)	No
3.3 Hydrologic Modeling (Optional)	No
3.4 Shortages Analysis	No
<b>Section 4: Projects and Methods</b>	
4.1 Education, Participation & Outreach	No
4.2 WATERSHED HEALTH	<b>Yes</b>
4.3 M&I Projects and Methods (i.e. projects, conservation, reuse, drought planning)	No
4.4 Agricultural Projects & Methods	No
4.5 Non-consumptive Projects and Methods	No
4.6 Interbasin Projects and Methods (optional)	No
<b>Section 5: Implementation Strategies for the Projects and Methods</b>	No
<b>Section 6: How the plan meets the Roundtables' Goals and Measurable Outcomes</b>	No

The application must also be accompanied by the roundtable's letter of approval, required for all WSRA applications. In addition, the applicant must: coordinate plan development with CWCB's staff and technical team; meet all the WSRA eligibility criteria detailed in the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines document; be able to use the standard contract; address any TABOR issues; provide a W-9 form; and provide proof of required insurance. Other WSRA reference material is available on the CWCB website. Applications must be approved by the CWCB board, but the CWCB approval process may be expedited to accommodate aggressive timelines.

**Signature of Applicant:**

*Elise M. Bergsta*

**Print Applicant's Name:** Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority

**Date:** December 12, 2013

**Return an electronic version of all application materials to:**

WSRA Application – Basin Implementation Plans  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80203  
[rebecca.mitchell@state.co.us](mailto:rebecca.mitchell@state.co.us)

**Please note that costs incurred prior to execution of a contract or purchase order are not subject to reimbursement.** All WSRA funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis after review of invoices and appropriate backup material from the applicant. Invoices from any other entity (i.e. subcontractors) cannot be processed by the State. The invoice must include: a description of the work accomplished by major task, an estimate of the percent completed by individual tasks and the entire project 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 project budget will be withheld until final plan 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.



## **Exhibit A - Statement of Work**

**WATER ACTIVITY NAME** – Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan, Section 4.2, Watershed Health

**GRANT RECIPIENT** – Pikes Peak Regional Water Authority

**FUNDING SOURCE** – WSRA Funds – BIPs/State's Water Plan

### **INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

#### ***Project Description***

The inclusion of a watershed health component to the Basin Implementation Plans provides an opportunity for collaboration among the basin roundtables and the many stakeholders who are vested in the future health of our watersheds. The vision for a Watershed Health Basin Plan Working Group is threefold: 1) invite state, federal, and non-governmental organizations to actively participate in the process of formulating watershed health plans; 2) capture the experience of stakeholders and consumptive water users from the past decade of fire suppression and post-fire mitigation and recovery in Colorado; and 3) develop a common technical platform that integrates with prior basin non-consumptive needs assessments and provides full integration of the non-consumptive needs of each basin in its watershed health plan. The deliverables can be envisioned in two parts. First is a library of technical “how-to” manuals on fire suppression, post-fire mitigation, forest health and other watershed health initiatives, like wetland construction for water quality. These manuals will be based on current best management practices (BMPs) of local, state, and federal agencies that have substantial experience in these critical watershed health issues. The Working Group will integrate these BMPs based on presentations and “lesson learned” discussions among the relevant agencies and other stakeholders.

The second half of the library will be comprised of integrated planning documents that address areas of common interest, such as the headwaters of the Colorado, Arkansas, and South Platte Rivers. Picture a fire suppression plan for these headwaters that includes collaboration with Lake, Summit, Pitkin, Eagle and Park Counties, their respective U.S. Forest Service managers, and State agencies like Colorado Parks and Wildlife. The collaborative suppression plan would use a common technical platform to identify critical water infrastructure for protection and prioritize non-consumptive needs within the sub-basins. When completed, the same “Headwaters Fire Suppression Plan” could be referenced in each of the Basin Implementation Plans for the Colorado, Arkansas and Metro/S. Platte Roundtables. The Arkansas and Rio Grande might also coordinate on the forests common to the Sangre de Cristo Range in southern Colorado. The key to stocking the library will be the initial collaboration between basins and the stakeholders to create both the common technical platform and devise the process whereby integrated planning between basins is successful.

The Watershed Health Basin Plan Working Group will bring together basin roundtable chairs, vendors for Basin Implementation Plans, representatives from federal and state natural resource agencies, NGO stakeholders, and local government officials to identify priorities and action steps for managing forest and watershed health to protect important water resources. The Working Group will begin by developing the first part of the library, the “how-to” manuals described above. It is anticipated that the group will participate in eight 3-hour meetings over the course of five months to complete this work. These meetings

will occur throughout the state depending on which basin roundtables choose to support and participate in the project.

## **OBJECTIVES/TASKS**

### **Task Zero: Definition of Working Group Purpose and Need (1 Meeting)**

**Objective:** Define purpose, need, participants, and direction of Watershed Health Basin Plan Working Group

**Participants:** Basin roundtable chairs, CWCB staff

**Potential agenda items:**

- Integration with Basin Implementation Plan
- Components of the discussion: municipal infrastructure, water quality, habitat, recreation
- Selection of Working Group participants

**Deliverable:** WSRA grant request from PPRWA and Arkansas Basin Roundtable

### **Task One: Exploration of Current Forest and Watershed Health Data (1 Meeting)**

**Objective:** Synthesize existing forest and watershed health data to identify key components of watershed health planning

**Participants:** Basin roundtable chairs, vendors of BIP's and members, high-level representatives from federal and state forestry agencies, Front Range Water Council representatives, NGO stakeholders (e.g., CUSP)

**Potential agenda items:**

- Brief group discussion to develop protocols to guide subsequent discussions
- Presentation of a mapping overlay according to Hydraulic Unit Codes (HUC) that illustrates:
  - Jurisdictions
  - Forest health and status
  - Nonconsumptive values
  - Consumptive infrastructure
- Facilitated discussion to define key components of watershed health and planning, including:
  - How to identify areas that have already burned and areas that are likely to burn in the future
  - Fire suppression planning
  - Post-fire recovery
  - Forest health
  - Watershed needs in non-forested areas

**Deliverable:** Group protocols; meeting report that synthesizes participant feedback about current watershed and forest health information and outlines key components of watershed health planning for Working Group to analyze and discuss.

### **Task Two: Identification of Key Players and Methods (1 meeting)**

**Objective:** Explore a path forward that integrates with the efforts of other groups and agencies

**Participants:** Basin roundtable chairs, high-level representatives from federal and state forestry agencies, representatives from other federal and state agencies (e.g., BLM, CPW, NRCS), Front Range Water Council representatives, NGO stakeholders (e.g., CUSP), county commissioners, sheriffs

**Potential agenda items:**

- Presentation on the status of Forest Service management plans
- Presentation on the status of other work and learning that relates to forest and watershed health (e.g., CUSP report, in-kind methods)



- Facilitated discussion on:
  - Additional perspectives to inform the Watershed Health Basin Plan Working Group
  - Lessons learned by previous efforts
  - Established and new methods for enhancing and coordinating watershed health planning
  - How to integrate the efforts of the Working Group with other agencies

**Deliverable:** Meeting report outlining Working Group path forward and supporting action steps to be pursued by other partners and entities

### **Task Three: Prioritization of Watershed Health Planning Efforts (1 meeting)**

**Objective:** Define broad, macro-scale priorities to inform Working Group efforts

**Participants:** Watershed Health Basin Plan Working Group

**Potential agenda items:**

- Facilitated discussion on watershed health needs and priorities for:
  - Municipal entities
  - Nonconsumptive values
  - Agriculture
- Facilitated discussion on how the efforts of the Working Group will integrate with the Colorado Water Plan
  - Venn diagram method to create sub-working groups for areas where basin interests overlap
  - Modular planning model defined
- Data protocol that sets method for data collection and presentation (what language will we use to communicate, format for mapping (file types), unit of measure (HUC 8?))

**Deliverable:** Meeting report, including specific needs and priorities identified for municipal entities, nonconsumptive values, and agriculture; Working Group perspective on how its efforts will integrate into the Colorado Water Plan (Organize tech subcommittees to work between this meeting and the next to resolve data protocol and methods.)

### **Task Four: Refinement of Priorities (2 meetings)**

**Objective:** Define gaps and overlaps in watershed health knowledge, jurisdictions of authority (who is in charge and when) and management efforts throughout the state.

**Participants:** Watershed Health Basin Plan Working Group, technical committees

**Potential agenda items:**

- Presentation by technical parties outlining:
  - Surveys
  - Gaps and overlaps in watershed jurisdiction, health management and knowledge
- Facilitated discussion to define:
  - Where additional information is needed
  - How to gather information about areas where data is not available
  - Whether a one-size-fits-all approach to watershed health management will be appropriate

**Deliverable:** Meeting report that synthesizes gaps and overlaps in current watershed health management and knowledge and summarizes participant feedback about how to address these gaps and overlaps. This report will inform a draft Watershed Health Basin Action Plan which will provide guidance on watershed and forest restoration, fire suppression planning, post-fire rehabilitation efforts, other watershed needs and a preliminary prioritization list of specific infrastructure and nonconsumptive values to be protected.

### **Task Five: Review of Draft of Watershed Health Basin Action Plan (1 meeting)**



**Objective:** Gather participant feedback on draft Watershed Health Basin Action Plan

**Participants:** Watershed Health Basin Plan Working Group, technical committees

**Potential agenda items:**

- Presentation of the draft manuals, which will include:
  - Forest and watershed restoration strategies
  - Fire suppression action plan (including chain-of-command and communication protocols)
  - Integrated post-fire rehabilitation strategies
  - Other watershed priority areas
  - Updated mapping overlay by HUC
- Definition and organization of path forward to complete technical “how-to” library and begin integrated planning

**Deliverable:** Meeting report, program for completing common technical platform and commitment to integrated planning efforts. Priority and timing for integrated planning, funding options and steps for completion of a final how-to manuals

#### **Task Six: Operationalizing of the How-To Manuals (1 meeting)**

**Objective:** Define how and by whom the manuals will be implemented

**Participants:** Watershed Health Basin Plan Working Group, with potential participation from elected officials, IBCC members, and other basin roundtable members

**Potential agenda items:**

- Presentation of Watershed Health Basin manuals
- Facilitated discussion to identify:
  - Key players in facilitating the Watershed Health Basin manuals
  - How often the manuals should be updated
  - Protocols and guidelines for updating the manuals

**Deliverable:** Meeting report that identifies who, when, and how the Watershed Health Basin how-to manuals will be implemented and by whom, when and how it will be updated.

#### **BUDGET**

TASKS	Lead Facilitator		Associate		Mileage	Materials	Venues (avg)	TOTAL
	Bergman (\$135/hr)		Salmon (\$75/hr)		\$0.55/mi			
	Hours	Cost	Hours	Cost				
Task 0	5	\$ 675	8	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ 350	\$ 1,675
Task 1	10	\$ 1,350	12	\$ 900	\$ 275	\$ 50	\$ 350	\$ 2,925
Task 2	10	\$ 1,350	12	\$ 900	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ 350	\$ 2,650
Task 3	10	\$ 1,350	12	\$ 900	\$ 275	\$ 50	\$ 350	\$ 2,925
Task 4	20	\$ 2,700	24	\$ 1,800	\$ 275	\$ 100	\$ 700	\$ 5,575
Task 5	10	\$ 1,350	12	\$ 900	\$ 275	\$ 50	\$ 350	\$ 2,925
Task 6	14	\$ 1,890	14	\$ 1,050	\$ -	\$ 50	\$ 350	\$ 3,340
TOTAL	79	\$ 10,665	94	\$ 6,110	\$ 1,100	\$ 400	\$ 2,800	\$ 19,975

## SCHEDULE

<i>Task/Element Name</i>	<i>14-Mar</i>	<i>14-Apr</i>	<i>14-May</i>	<i>14-Jun</i>	<i>14-Jul</i>
Task Zero: Definition of Working Group Purpose and Need					
Task One: Exploration of Current Forest and Watershed Health Data					
Task Two: Identification of Key Players and Methods					
Task Three: Prioritization of Watershed Health Planning Efforts					
Task Four: Refinement of Priorities					
Task Five: Review of Draft of Watershed Health Basin Action Plan					
Task Six: Operationalizing of the How-To Manuals					