

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 24, 2013
Agenda Item 18(b)

Applicant: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (UMUT)

Water Activity Name: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Water Conservation and Management Plan

Water Activity Purpose: Planning

County: Montezuma/La Plata

River Basin: Southwest

Water Source: San Juan River Basin

Amount Requested: \$40,000 (Statewide Account); \$30,000 (Southwest Basin Account)

Matching Funds: \$30,331 (24%) for UMUT (in-kind and Bureau of Indian Affairs) and \$25,000 (20%) from U.S. Bureau of Reclamation Water Conservation Field Services Program

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$40,000 from the Statewide Account, and \$30,000 from the Southwest Basin Account to help complete the project titled: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Water Conservation and Management Plan

Water Activity Summary:

Now that the Animas-La Plata Project is in the final stages of construction, the UMUT faces significant questions about the best long-term management and planning for the development and use of its Animas-La Plata Project water. The UMUT also faces significant water management and use issues with its direct diversion and storage water rights and the rights used from the Dolores Project. Because the UMUT has limited time and funds to undertake significant work maintaining and implementing important water settlement and management work, it is important for the Tribe to develop water management and development priorities and that the UMUT have a clear plan supporting its management and development activities.

To meet this need, the UMUT is proposing to undertake a comprehensive water conservation and management plan (to meet, among other things, Bureau of Reclamation guidance for the development of water conservation and management plans). The overarching goal of this planning effort is to develop short-term and longterm planning goals to allow the UMUT to prudently and efficiently manage, develop, use, and protect its water resources. The specific objectives of this plan are: develop and prioritize water management goals; support basic services to UMU Tribal members; partner with non-Tribal entities to reduce costs, meet objectives and increase water efficiencies and yields; undertake short-term and long-term planning including investment partnerships; and create a final water conservation and management plan. The UMUT anticipates that this planning effort will: (i) identify areas where the UMUT can work with local, regional, state, and federal partners to develop and manage shared water infrastructure and resources; and (ii) allow the UMUT to develop prudent water management practices to implement in its own management and development of water resources.

The title indicates that this is a water conservation plan. This proposal does not intend to create a typical water conservation plan that satisfies the CWCB or Bureau of Reclamation guidelines but rather would be an inventory of water supply and rights as well as a demand study. The demand study is critical to pinpointing what water conservation measures could then be employed in a water conservation plan. This is preferred by CWCB staff as this will allow the UMUT to more efficiently and effectively use conservation measures to address their water management goals.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

The application articulates how the project meets the Evaluation Criteria as summarized below:

Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation & Meeting Water Management Goals & Identified Needs:

- a. **Multipurpose:** The project meets many varying needs for better management of the UMUT's water supply and demand, both consumptive and non-consumptive.
- b. **Collaboration and Cooperation:** This planning effort will create a planning structure to work with interested parties to evaluate how the UMUT can undertake short-term and long-term planning efforts to ensure that the UMUT makes appropriate regulatory and water use decisions. The UMUT vies this planning process as one that will help the UMUT and local water users avoid intra-basin conflicts.
- c. **Meets Defined Needs:** The UMUT anticipates that the proposed planning effort will assist in identifying collaborative options for meeting the water supply needs identified in the Southwest Basin Roundtable's consumptive and non-consumptive needs assessment.

Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation:

- d. While the applicant has significant matching funds and in-kind support, without WSRA funding, the scope of work will have to be modified so that the project would have to be modified dramatically in order to go forward.
- e. The UMUT has dedicated \$20,000 from Bureau of Indian Affairs, \$25,000 from Bureau of Reclamation and \$10,311 in-kind commitment to this project demonstrating a 138% for the statewide amount requested and a 44% match to the total project budget and thus satisfying both matches for the statewide and basin grant percentages.

Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits:

- f. The UMUT will identify environmental considerations in the San Juan River basin, including sensitive, threatened, and endangered species and including Tribal environmental principles. Additionally, the UMUT will identify short-term and long-term goals for the Tribe and for regional partners and interested parties which will address environmental considerations and the health of riparian habitats in southwestern Colorado, as well as land use planning considerations. The UMUT also anticipates that continued support for the vibrant agricultural economies in southwestern Colorado (including, for example, the UMUT's own Farm & Ranch Enterprise, which was developed with Dolores Project water) will be a central focus of the UMUT planning effort.
- g. The applicant anticipates the planning effort will evaluate how UMUT water management and development impacts or assists in the interstate compact issues.
- h. The applicant anticipates that this work will look at the UMUT's participation in the San Juan River Recovery Implementation Program, the UMUT's participation in the Dolores River Dialogue and other groups involved in management of the Dolores Project, and UMUT work with the State of Colorado on sensitive fish species and tamarisk removal in the Mancos River watershed.
- i. The project provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds

- requested through the improvement of UMUT water management and development planning activities which will improve both the State's role in management and administration of water in Southwest Colorado and the State's role in managing and developing share project water resources and associated water infrastructure.
- j. The planning effort will help identify areas where the UMUT and the CWCB share water management and use priorities and where the CWCB and UMUT might have opportunities to work together to implement CWCB programs.

Discussion:

No additional discussion is needed.

Issues/Additional Needs:

No issues have been identified.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$40,000 from the Statewide Account, and \$30,000 from the Southwest Basin Account for project titled: Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Water Conservation and Management Plan

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.