

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

**Applicant:** The Lower Willow Creek Restoration Company (LWCRCO)

**Water Activity Name:** Lower Willow Creek Restoration Project: Phase 2

**Water Activity Purpose:** Nonconsumptive

**County:** Mineral

**River Basin:** Rio Grande

**Water Source:** Willow Creek

**Amount Requested:** \$55,000 (Rio Grande Basin Account)

**Matching Funds:** \$22,250 (12%) cash match (CDPHE, Creede Resources, Inc.), \$107,750 (58%) in-kind

<b>Staff Recommendation</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$55,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to help complete the project titled: Lower Willow Creek Restoration Project: Phase 2

**Water Activity Summary:**

The proposed project will begin Phase 2 of the Lower Willow Creek Restoration Project. Work conducted during the first phase of this project included the identification of contaminated soils, construction of the new creek channel and installation of in-stream structures to stabilize the banks. The project will also increase the delivery of water to the Rio Grande by reducing surface area of the channel and thereby reducing evaporative loss. The goal of Phase 2 is to restore and enhance riparian and upland vegetation along the Lower Willow Creek corridor. This phase will address non-consumptive environmental issues, namely water quality and riparian health. To achieve this goal the LWCRCO will oversee the installation of erosion control fabric and wattles along the new channel. Soil will be imported to provide a growing medium for the tree, shrub, graminoid, and forb plantings that will occur to return the project site to a more natural state. Soil excavation, erosion control installation and vegetation enhancement activities will be conducted as part of Phase 2 of the Lower Willow Creek Restoration Project.

The Water Supply Reserve Account will fund Phase 2 activities include importing soil and planting/seeding to specified areas, legal fees associated with the topsoil donation, and administration time. Topsoil will be excavated from 'Airport Corner', less than one mile from the project site and stockpiled on the floodplain until vegetation activities are implemented. To obtain this soil, the LWCRCO has received a donation of 10,000 cubic yards of soil from John Parker. The permits associated with the mining of this soil expire in March 2014 and make this activity urgent. Vegetation activities will include spreading topsoil, planting woody riparian species, and seeding sites along the newly created riparian corridor of Lower Willow Creek. Because planting riparian species increases the uptake of metals, the input of organic matter to soil and water, as well as stabilization of creek bank, these proposed activities enhance Phase 1 work and increase water quality to the Rio Grande and enhance/create vegetation along lower Willow Creek. The immediate benefit is to the community of Creede and its visitors, and further to the quality of water in the Rio Grande and downstream users. The \$55,000 requested from the Rio Grande WSRA fund will be spent on the following: \$43,500 for excavation/hauling, \$3,000 for revegetation activities, \$2,500 for administration and \$6,000 for legal fees.

### *Threshold and Evaluation Criteria*

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

#### **Issues/Additional Needs:**

- The applicant should provide staff with a detailed monitoring plan that describes geomorphic and biologic monitoring methodologies.
- The monitoring plan should conform to the CWCB Measurable Results Program's Standard Operating Procedures for Topographic Survey of Stream Channels.

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$55,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to help complete the project titled: Lower Willow Creek Restoration Project: Phase 2

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.