

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
July 16-17, 2014
Agenda Item 20(e)

Applicant: Trout Unlimited

Water Activity Name: Upper Ohio Creek Flow Restoration

Water Activity Purpose: Nonconsumptive and Agricultural/Implementation

County: Gunnison

Drainage Basin: Gunnison

Water Source: Castle Creek

Amount Requested: \$6,000

Source of Funds: Gunnison Basin Account

Matching Funds: \$114,000 or 95% of the project cost (\$28,500 Trout Unlimited, \$40,500 Rock House Ranch, \$1,000 Castle Creek Ranch, \$4,000 NRCS, \$15,000 UGRWCD, \$25,000 CRWCD – refer to *Funding Overview/Matching Funds*)

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends approval of up to \$6,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account to assist in the funding of the project titled: Upper Ohio Creek Flow Restoration.

Water Activity Summary: The funding being requested by Trout Unlimited will work with the NRCS and agricultural water users (Acme Ditch water users) to improve an existing irrigation delivery system and irrigation water management. This improvement will decrease negative impacts irrigation withdrawals can have on the aquatic habitat of the source stream (Castle Creek). The goal is to improve irrigation efficiency for water diverted from Castle Creek into the Acme Ditch in order to maintain minimum flows in Castle Creek. The project will work to convert a difficult to flood 40 acre area from its existent flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation system. Flows will be remotely monitored in the creek and the ditch at the head gate, and irrigation water managers will coordinate individual users on the ditch. This will help irrigators, the creek, and other water users downstream to become more resilient during periods of water supply shortages.

Objectives:

It is expected that the proposed project will:

- 1) Improve irrigation efficiency and overall irrigation system function
- 2) Improve in stream water quality in Castle Creek and Upper Ohio Creek
- 3) Record how sprinkler irrigation influences production in Upper Gunnison Basin
- 4) Maintain agricultural values of Upper Ohio Creek Valley
- 5) Maintain use of pre compact water rights

Measurable outcomes include one mile of stream restoration and efficiency savings of 306 acre-feet/year. The project works to address both consumptive and nonconsumptive values and demonstrates nontraditional cooperation between conservation groups and agricultural water users.

Discussion:

No additional discussion is required.

Issues/Additional Needs:

No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Funding Overview/Matching Funds

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
WSRA Gunnison Basin Account	\$6,000	n/a	\$6,000
Trout Unlimited	\$23,500	\$5,000	\$28,500
Rock House Ranch	\$40,500	\$0	\$40,500
Castle Creek Ranch	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000
NRCS	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000
UGRWCD	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
CRWCD	<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>
Total Project Costs	\$111,000	\$9,000	\$120,000

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$6,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account to assist in the funding of the project titled: Upper Ohio Creek Flow Restoration.

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. Applicants are also happy to present the report in person to grantor meetings.

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.