

## **YAMPA/WHITE/GREEN BASIN ROUNDTABLE**

June 9, 2014

Ms. Rebecca Mitchell  
Water Supply Planning Section Chief  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Ms. Mitchell,

The Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable voted at our May 15, 2014 meeting to approve the WSRA application from the Colorado Water Trust for \$30,000 from Basin Account funds. These funds will be used for the redesign/engineering of the Highland Ditch, a very senior agricultural diversion that irrigates over 5,000 acres in the White River basin just east of Meeker.

The project was discussed and evaluated by the Yampa/White/Green Basin Roundtable on April 16, 2014 and was presented for the second discussion and final vote on May 14, 2014. One member voiced concern regarding the potential for the Highland Ditch Company's 1880's senior water right to place a call on the river and impact junior rights higher in the basin if this project is built. Others noted the ditch company has the right to place a call now, although in times of drought, the ditch company has a history of working collaboratively with other water users in the basin.

There was discussion regarding the importance of balancing the size the of the fish screened out of the ditch with expense and maintenance issues that may likely be encountered on a ditch of this magnitude. The Highland Ditch Company and the Colorado Water Trust are working collaboratively with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to address these issues during the design phase.

A presentation will be scheduled for the Roundtable next winter to present the findings and proposed design of the project. It is anticipated that a second grant will be requested to fund a portion of the construction phase of the project proposed for fall of 2015 pending approvals and availability of funds.

After discussion, there was agreement that this multi-purpose project was good for agriculture and the environment and would provide non-consumptive benefits in the White River Basin. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,



Jon Hill

CHAIR, Y/W/G BASIN ROUNDTABLE