



**WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT
APPLICATION FORM**

Today's Date: 4/13/2014

Repair of Gunnison Whitewater Park

Name of Water Activity/Project

Gunnison County

Name of Applicant

Marlene Crosby

Amount from Statewide Account:

Amount from Basin Account(s):

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$10,000

\$10,000

Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

FEIN

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Required Exhibits

- Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule
- Project Map
- As Needed (i.e. letters of support, photos, maps, etc.)

Appendices – Reference Material

- Program Information
- Insurance Requirements
- WSRA Standard Contract Information (Required for Projects Over \$100,000)
- W-9 Form (Required for All Projects Prior to Contracting)

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Instructions

To receive funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA), a proposed water activity must be approved by the local Basin Roundtable **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC). The process for Basin Roundtable consideration and approval is outlined in materials in Appendix 1.

Once approved by the local Basin Roundtable, the applicant should submit this application **with a detailed statement of work including budget and schedule as Exhibit A** to CWCBC staff by the application deadline.

WSRA applications are due with the roundtable letter of support 60 calendar days prior to the bi-monthly Board meeting at which it will be considered. Board meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meeting details, including scheduled dates, agendas, etc. are posted on the CWCBC website at: <http://cwcbb.state.co.us> Applications to the WSRA Basin Account are considered at every board meeting, while applications to the WSRA Statewide Account are only considered at the March and September board meetings.

When completing this application, the applicant should refer to the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines available at: <http://cwcbb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Documents/WSRACriteriaGuidelines.pdf>

The application, statement of work, budget, and schedule **must be submitted in electronic format** (Microsoft Word or text-enabled PDF are preferred) and can be emailed or mailed on a disk to:

Craig Godbout - WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203
Craig.godbout@state.co.us

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Craig Godbout at: 303-866-3441 x3210 or craig.godbout@state.co.us.

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Part I. - Description of the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner);

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Gunnison County		
	Mailing address:	195 Basin Park Dr Gunnison, CO 81230		
	FEIN #:			
	Primary Contact:	Marlene Crosby	Position/Title:	Public Works Director
	Email:	mcrosby@gunnisoncounty.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell:	Office:	970-641-0044
	Alternate Contact:	John Messner	Position/Title:	County Consultant
	Email:	johnamessner@gmail.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell:	Office:	970-901-6708

2. Eligible entities for WSRA funds include the following. What type of entity is the Applicant?

- ☒ Public (Government) – municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities and the local entity should be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
- ☐ Public (Districts) – authorities, Title 32/special districts, (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
- ☐ Private Incorporated – mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
- ☐ Private individuals, partnerships, and sole proprietors are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
- ☐ Non-governmental organizations – broadly defined as any organization that is not part of the government.

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3. Provide a brief description of your organization

Gunnison County is one of the largest counties in Colorado. The county rests in the Gunnison Basin formed by the Continental Divide to the east, Collegiate Peaks Wilderness rises in the northeast, Maroon Bells-Snowmass Wilderness and the White River National Forest to the north, the West Elk Wilderness rises in the west of the county with Delta and Montrose Counties on its western slopes. The Uncompahgre Wilderness rises in the southwest of the county and the Powderhorn Wilderness east of there and Saquache County being south of Gunnison county eastward over to Marshall Pass southeast of the county. According to US Census Data, there are 13,956 people, 5,649 households, and 2,965 families residing in the county. There are 5,649 households out of which 24.10% have children under the age of 18 living with them, 44.20% are married couples living together, 5.40% have a female householder with no husband present, and 47.50% are non-families. 27.20% of all households are made up of individuals and 4.60% have someone living alone who was 65 years of age or older. The average household size was 2.30 and the average family size was 2.84. In the county the population is spread out with 17.90% under the age of 18, 21.10% from 18 to 24, 32.90% from 25 to 44, 21.20% from 45 to 64, and 6.90% who were 65 years of age or older. The median age is 30 years. The median income for a household in the county was \$36,916, and the median income for a family was \$51,950.

4. If the Contracting Entity is different then the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner) please describe the Contracting Entity here.

5. Successful applicants will have to execute a contract with the CWCB prior to beginning work on the portion of the project funded by the WSRA grant. In order to expedite the contracting process the CWCB has established a standard contract with provisions the applicant must adhere to. A link to this standard contract is included in Appendix 3. Please review this contract and check the appropriate box.

☒

The Applicant will be able to contract with the CWCB using the Standard Contract

☐

The Applicant has reviewed the standard contract and has some questions/issues/concerns. Please be aware that any deviation from the standard contract could result in a significant delay between grant approval and the funds being available.

6. The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.

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Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

1. What is the primary purpose of this grant application? (Please check only one)

☒ Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational)

☐ Agricultural

☐ Municipal/Industrial

☐ Needs Assessment

☐ Education

☐ Other Explain:

2. If you feel this project addresses multiple purposes please explain.

3. Is this project primarily a study or implementation of a water activity/project? (Please check only one)

☐ Study

☒ Implementation

4. To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?

New Storage Created (acre-feet)

New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet)

Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)

Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)

Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)

Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – **circle one**)

Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)

Other -- Explain:

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4. To help us map WSRA projects please include a map (Exhibit B) and provide the general coordinates below:

Latitude:

Longitude:

5. Please provide an overview/summary of the proposed water activity (no more than one page). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRA funding will be used for. A full **Statement of Work** with a detailed budget and schedule is required as **Exhibit A** of this application.

This fall, Gunnison County staff identified several issues with two of the existing whitewater features at the Gunnison Whitewater Park. In light of these issues McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group was retained to evaluate the features, identify any structural damage and provide recommendations to repair any deficiencies. They found significant structural damage in both structure 2 and 3 which includes the high probability of complete structure failure in the near future as well as significant safety issues caused by the erosion of the existing features in the immediate term. The Park has become one of the most heavily used assets in the Gunnison Valley. It was created to provide activities for a variety of users including fishermen, kayakers, rafters, swimmers and those who simply enjoy relaxing near the river. During the summer months the Park attracts hundreds of users from all ages and demographics. The Park consists of two boat ramps, a trail system and three whitewater structures that enable "play spots" for recreational boaters. In addition, it is host every year to the Gunnison River Festival which brings in boaters and spectators from all around the region to participate in activities revolving around our River ecosystems. The uses in the Park also helped secure a Recreational Inflow Water Right for the Gunnison River Basin. In an effort to save one of the Gunnison Valley's most treasured amenities we are seeking funding to make the necessary repairs to the Park structures to ensure its functionality and safety for years to come.

Part III. – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

1. Describe how the water activity meets these **Threshold Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines.)

- a) The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.¹

This application requests funds for repair of a structural project to provide water for both consumptive and nonconsumptive water needs in the Upper Gunnison basin. The project is consistent with Section 37-75-102 C.R.S. and will fully comply with the Prior Appropriation Doctrine of the State of Colorado, while providing a reliable source of replacement water for a basin-wide plan of augmentation.

- b) The water activity underwent an evaluation and approval process and was approved by the Basin Roundtable (BRT) and the application includes a description of the results of the BRT's evaluation and approval of the activity. At a minimum, the description must include the level of agreement reached by the roundtable, including any minority opinion(s) if there was not general agreement for the activity. The description must also include reasons why general agreement was not reached (if it was not), including who opposed the activity and why they opposed it. Note- If this information is included in the letter from the roundtable chair simply reference that letter.

The application is pending GBRT approval.

¹ 37-75-102. Water rights - protections. (1) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the current system of allocating water within Colorado shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this article. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to repeal or in any manner amend the existing water rights adjudication system. The General Assembly affirms the state constitution's recognition of water rights as a private usufructuary property right, and this article is not intended to restrict the ability of the holder of a water right to use or to dispose of that water right in any manner permitted under Colorado law. (2) The General Assembly affirms the protections for contractual and property rights recognized by the contract and takings protections under the state constitution and related statutes. This article shall not be implemented in any way that would diminish, impair, or cause injury to any property or contractual right created by intergovernmental agreements, contracts, stipulations among parties to water cases, terms and conditions in water decrees, or any other similar document related to the allocation or use of water. This article shall not be construed to supersede, abrogate, or cause injury to vested water rights or decreed conditional water rights. The General Assembly affirms that this article does not impair, limit, or otherwise affect the rights of persons or entities to enter into agreements, contracts, or memoranda of understanding with other persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water under other provisions of law.

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- c) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.² The Basin Roundtable Chairs shall include in their approval letters for particular WSRA grant applications a description of how the water activity will assist in meeting the water supply needs identified in the basin roundtable's consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs assessments.

This application is pending GBRT approval.

- d) **Matching Requirement:** For requests from the **Statewide Fund**, the applicants will be required to demonstrate a 25 percent (or greater) match of the total grant request from the other sources, including by not limited to Basin Funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount shall be from Basin funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount must come from the applicant or 3rd party sources. Sources of matching funds include but are not limited to Basin Funds, in-kind services, funding from other sources, and/or direct cash match. Past expenditures directly related to the project may be considered as matching funds if the expenditures occurred within 9 months of the date the application was submitted to the CWCB. Please describe the source(s) of matching funds. (NOTE: These matching funds should also be reflected in your Detailed Budget in **Exhibit A** of this application)

This application repairs a failing, existing instream recreational whitewater structure while protecting instream habitat. This non-consumptive will also provide improved boater passage and safety for the users of the existing recreational instream channel diversion secured by water rights held by the Upper Gunnison River Water Conservancy District.

² 37-75-104 (2)(c). Using data and information from the Statewide Water Supply Initiative and other appropriate sources and in cooperation with the on-going Statewide Water Supply Initiative, develop a basin-wide consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs assessment, conduct an analysis of available unappropriated waters within the basin, and propose projects or methods, both structural and nonstructural, for meeting those needs and utilizing those unappropriated waters where appropriate. Basin Roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs. Recommendations from this assessment shall be forwarded to the Interbasin Compact Committee and other basin roundtables for analysis and consideration after the General Assembly has approved the Interbasin Compact Charter.

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2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the **Statewide Account**, describe how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines and repeated below.) Projects will be assessed on how well they meet the Evaluation Criteria. **Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

N/A

Evaluation Criteria – the following criteria will be utilized to further evaluate the merits of the water activity proposed for funding from the Statewide Account. In evaluation of proposed water activities, preference will be given to projects that meet one or more criteria from each of the three “tiers” or categories. Each “tier” is grouped in level of importance. For instance, projects that meet Tier 1 criteria will outweigh projects that only meet Tier 3 criteria. WSRA grant requests for projects that may qualify for loans through the CWCB loan program will receive preference in the Statewide Evaluation Criteria if the grant request is part of a CWCB loan/WSRA grant package. For these CWCB loan/WSRA grant packages, the applicant must have a CWCB loan/WSRA grant ratio of 1:1 or higher. Preference will be given to those with a higher loan/grant ratio.

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

- a. The water activity addresses multiple needs or issues, including consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs, or the needs and issues of multiple interests or multiple basins. This can be demonstrated by obtaining letters of support from other basin roundtables (in addition to an approval letter from the sponsoring basin).

The Gunnison Whitewater Park is a unique asset and a proven valuable amenity to the Gunnison Valley and the Western Slope of Colorado. Its uniqueness is mainly derived from the three manmade whitewater features that form waves and hydraulics not found anywhere else in the Gunnison River above Blue Mesa Reservoir. The Park also offers highly accessible public access to quality fishing habitat. As previously noted, recreational opportunities are available for a wide array of user groups.

Due to the current condition of the Park, the structures are not functioning as was initially intended. As previously stated the deterioration of features 2 and 3 have gotten to the point where the wave is no longer creating a surfable hydraulic and boulders that have caved off from the 3rd feature have created safety issues for users. Due to these safety issues both the 2nd and the 3rd features will have to be removed if we are unable to secure funding for the necessary repairs. In this situation the in river portions of the Park would lose value to the majority of user groups at the Park and the loss of features 2 and 3 would also have a negative impact on the functionality of feature 1. This creates an urgency to the situation as the Park has become one of the signature assets of the Gunnison Valley and to lose it would negatively affect both the local users as well as visitors to the area.

The Gunnison Whitewater Park is promoted heavily through both our local Chamber of Commerce as well as the Gunnison/ Crested Butte Tourism Association as a place that visitors to the community can easily access Gunnison River and participate in the activities the Park

offers. If the Gunnison community were to lose this amenity, users would have to travel a minimum of 60 miles in order to find a Park with similar characteristics. The educational opportunities that currently are available at the Park to WSCU, the local high schools and social and service groups would be minimized without the easily accessible and safe whitewater features that the Park provides.

In addition, the creation of the Gunnison Whitewater Park and its recreational uses helped secure a Recreational Inflow Water Right for the Gunnison River Basin ranging from 270 cfs to 1200 cfs. This is a permanent water right and preserves healthy river flows and a sustainable water source for local communities and a livable habitat for wildlife. The Park has created significant improvements within the river corridor that includes improved fishing habitat, bank stabilization, improved river access for recreational users and the creation of a trail system. In addition the creation of one of the whitewater features enhanced a diversion structure that was creating damage to the river floor.

- b. The number and types of entities represented in the application and the degree to which the activity will promote cooperation and collaboration among traditional consumptive water interests and/or non-consumptive interests, and if applicable, the degree to which the water activity is effective in addressing intrabasin or interbasin needs or issues.

Successful whitewater parks, like in Gunnison, provide recreation for a variety of users both in the river and along the riverbanks. In fact, a 2012 study of manmade whitewater parks by Kristen Podolak (PhD Candidate at the University of California, Berkeley) observed that 76% of users were on the riverbank. The study observed that a favorite spectator location was at the whitewater waves which suggests that these features are key to in-river and bank users' experiences and function of the Park. Current in-river park users include fisherman, rafters, swimmer, waders, body boarders, tubers, drift boats, kayakers and surfers. Riverbank users include spectators, walkers, joggers, and sunbathers. Populations served include commercial fishing and rafting companies, Western State Colorado University students, local individuals and families and visitors to the community. Existing Park usage has been observed to be approximately 20-50 river users per day and 80-150 river bank users per day in May – October. This estimate is supported by the data collected in the 2012 study where an average of 280 users visited the Salida Whitewater Parks daily with 70 in-river users and 210 riverbank users. It is expected that usage of the Gunnison Whitewater Park is lower than Salida due in most part to the annual 250,000 rafting visitors to the Arkansas Headwater Recreation Area. In addition, it is host annually to the very popular Gunnison River Festival which brings in boaters, spectators and water enthusiasts from all around the region to participate in activities revolving around our River ecosystems.

Below are some specific user groups that utilize the Park:

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Western State Colorado University: WSCU is a four year University with strong programs in both Environmental Studies and Recreation and Sports Science. The University and its students are a significant user of the Gunnison Whitewater Park. According to Matthew Ebbott, a Professor at the school, the Park is utilized for a Water Based Instruction class for instruction in kayaking, rafting, SUP and Swift Water Rescue. The Intro to Outdoor Recreation class utilizes it for an introduction to whitewater activities. Camps and athletic teams use it as a training area. In addition the Wilderness Pursuits program at the college utilizes the park for it's learn to kayak and learn to raft programs. Students also use the park recreationally and on most days during the summer many can be found swimming, kayaking, rafting or just sunbathing at the park.

Gunnison High School: Gunnison High School has an Outdoor Recreation class that utilizes the park as a way to teach whitewater skills and safety.

Commercial Rafting Companies: The Park is a great amenity to commercial rafting companies as it offers a feature in the Gunnison River that is not available in other parts of the river. It is also a convenient location to stop for lunch and relax during longer day trips taking out further down the river.

Fishermen: The Park has created a great public access point for both local and visiting fishermen to the Gunnison Valley. Pools created by the features of the Park create good habitat for fish and there is never a day that folks are not lining the banks to fish the different areas the park creates access to. Professional angling guides parade their trips through the Park to share the asset with their clients.

Recreational Boaters: This is one of the biggest user groups of the park. Kayakers, SUPers, surfers and rafters heavily utilize the park throughout the summer.

- c. The water activity helps implement projects and processes identified as helping meet Colorado's future water needs, and/or addresses the gap areas between available water supply and future need as identified in SWSI or a roundtable's basin-wide water needs assessment.

N/A

Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation

- d. Funding from this Account will reduce the uncertainty that the water activity will be implemented. For this criterion the applicant should discuss how receiving funding from the Account will make a significant difference in the implementation of the water activity (i.e., how will receiving funding enable the water activity to move forward or the inability obtaining funding elsewhere).

Without immediate funding for the repairs necessary to the Gunnison Whitewater Park the Gunnison Valley is going to lose one of its most prized recreational assets for the foreseeable future. While some loss of functionality in the features of the Park were noted during the Spring and Summer boating season of 2013, it was not until water levels lowered to a point in the Fall that the whitewater engineers were able to get into the river and see what was causing the

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problems. It was unexpected the level of degradation that was occurring and the urgency to immediately complete repairs became obvious. The significance of the repairs needed is not something that can be rolled into the Gunnison County General Fund budget. Without funding for the project the Gunnison Whitewater Park will no longer be functional and features 2 and 3 will need to be removed in order to ensure the safety of the public until funding could be secured in future years. Applicant funds would be budgeted towards the necessary repairs for the 2014 budget cycle.

- e. The amount of matching funds provided by the applicant via direct contributions, demonstrable in-kind contributions, and/or other sources demonstrates a significant & appropriate commitment to the project.

We have many community funding partners willing to participate in the repairs necessary to the Gunnison Whitewater Park. These partners include Western State Colorado University, the City of Gunnison, 1% for Open Space, and the Gunnison River Festival. Another significance to note is the fact that funding came not only from the south end of the Gunnison Valley but from the entire Gunnison River Watershed. This clearly shows that while the Gunnison Whitewater Park is located adjacent to the City of Gunnison it is an important regional asset that is utilized by the entire Gunnison Valley.

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

- f. The water activity helps sustain agriculture & open space, or meets environmental or recreational needs.

Recreation is an integral part of life for both residents of the Gunnison Valley as well as visitors. For many who live here it is the very reason for living in the community. River activities are a very important part of the recreational offerings of the Valley. Since its creation in 2002, the Gunnison Whitewater Park has become one of the most heavily utilized Parks in the Gunnison Valley. During the summer months the Park attracts hundreds of users from all ages and demographics. It's not uncommon for individuals and families to spend all day at the park, on the river or just enjoying the sun, socializing with neighbors and catching a quick dip to get cool. In addition, it is host every year to the very popular Gunnison River Festival which brings in hundreds of athletes and spectators from all around the region to participate in activities revolving around our River ecosystems.

- g. The water activity assists in the administration of compact-entitled waters or addresses problems related to compact entitled waters and compact compliance and the degree to which the activity promotes maximum utilization of state waters.

The creation of the Gunnison Whitewater Park and its recreational uses helped secure a Recreational Inflow Water Right for the Gunnison River Basin ranging from 270 cfs to 1200 cfs. This is a permanent water right and preserves healthy river flows and a sustainable water source for local communities and a livable habitat for wildlife.

- h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.

Fish passage is crucial for diverse fish populations, range, and spawning. Kokanee and trout are known to exist in the project reach. Existing whitewater wave structures provide fish passage. The proposed Feature #3 and other improvements will be designed to pass both Kokanee and trout species. MWDG has designed several fish passages at recreational whitewater projects. In Green River Wyoming, interstitial spaces between boulders at the whitewater wave structure shoulders provides passage for trout and lake run Kokanee. A similar design will be utilized on this project. It is anticipated that the CPW will establish passage design criteria such as minimum water depth and velocity suitable for target fish species.

- i. The water activity provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds requested.

Not only is the Gunnison Whitewater Park a valuable recreational and educational amenity, it is significant economic driver for the Gunnison Valley. Outdoor Recreation has become a major US industry, ranking third overall in annual consumer spending with \$646 billion in revenue (Outdoor Industry Association, 2012). Watersports, i.e. kayaking, rafting, canoeing and motorized boating, has become the second highest source of revenue with participant spending reaching \$86 billion annually. According to the Protect the Flows technical report, watersports recreation along the Colorado River Basin produces \$26 billion in economic output (Southwick Associates, 2012). While no specific economic report has been produced on the Gunnison Whitewater Park, a study done on the whitewater park in Golden, Co shows that it generates \$2.5-4 million dollars in economic impact from everyday uses and special events (Buchanon, 2012). The requested \$10,000, in addition to the additional funds requested from partners of the project will create an overall lasting impact.

- j. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

This project is complimentary to the Watershed Protection and Restoration Program. The project helps support our local watershed organization in its efforts to protect habitat and improve recreation and accessibility.

Part IV. – Required Supporting Material

1. **Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability** – This information is needed to assess the viability of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. This should include a description of applicable water rights, and water rights issues, and the name/location of water bodies affected by the water activity.

The water source for this project is the Gunnison River. The applicable water right is the Gunnison River Whitewater Course decreed in Division 4 Water Court case 02CW038. This project would restore and enhance recreational water features in the Gunnison River riparian corridor. No adverse impacts to other water rights are envisioned in implementing this proposal.

2. Please provide a brief narrative of any related studies or permitting issues.

Authorization of the work necessary to repair the structures would require authorization by the USACE for work performed in regulated “waters of the U.S.” Based on the evaluation provided by McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group, application for USACE Nation Wide Permits # 3 (Maintenance) and #33 (Temporary Construction, Access and Dewatering) would be required before commencement of the repair work.

The permit process would include; identification of regulated water features, including wetlands if located within the project perimeter, and the Ordinary High Water Mark of the river associated with the project area; a pre-application meeting with the Army Corps of Engineers; preparation of a USACE preconstruction notification (PCN); and application for the above mentioned authorized NWP permits. Plan and cross sections of the proposed repair activities will be prepared by McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group, and these will be submitted with the permit application. Activities to stabilize Feature 1 (75 Ditch Diversion) will likely not be regulated as this is a water diversion for agricultural use. However, the permit application will identify this feature and activity and request an opinion regarding regulation.

3. Statement of Work, Detailed Budget, and Project Schedule

The Gunnison Whitewater Park consists of both in-river and upland amenities. In-river improvements to enhance water based recreation are the centerpiece of the Park. Three structures built across the river along the bottom perpendicular to flow create whitewater waves. A wave, sometimes referred to as a hole, is a specific type of river hydraulic that allows river users to ride their craft or “surf” facing upstream as the water flows at them. The hydraulic action of the wave behind the users keeps them in the wave. Waves are also designed to allow safe passage of river users, such as, rafters, tubers, and swimmers in the downstream direction. Whitewater wave structures are designed to also create recirculating pools called eddies. Eddies provide users recovery areas where river currents are slower and access the wave from the pool below in an activity call “Park and Play”. This activity is unique in river paddle sports because unlike traditional river paddling where the users travels downstream over a long distance, Park and Play allows users to recreate for a long period of time without leaving a single location. All whitewater parks are predicated on this activity as it creates a high density of river users, a spectator friendly venue capable of hosting river festivals, and is convenient by a broad spectrum of user types. Whitewater wave structures at the Park are built from boulders and grout (cement). Several boulder jetties and deflectors exists at the Park along the river banks that create jets, eddies, currents, pools to support river recreation, and provide bank stabilization and aquatic habitat. Upland amenities to support the river activities include access roads, parking lots, changing rooms, a restroom, riverside trails, native plantings and landscaping, terraced boulder seating areas, beaches, and multiple access to the waters edge.

Originally built in 2002, the Gunnison Whitewater Park was regarded as one of the best whitewater parks in Colorado and the nation when it opened. The success of the annual Gunnison River Festival and high usage of the park were a model for whitewater parks in other communities. Quickly the park became a defining amenity for the community, drawing local residents and out of town visitors. The park has provided quality of life and economic benefits to Gunnison. Towns throughout Colorado with whitewater parks are seeing and recording the benefits of these parks in the Spring, Summer and Fall seasons.

Deteriorations of the in-river whitewater structures over the past decade, despite routine maintenance by the County, has decreased the performance and usage of the park. During the Gunnison River Festival last summer the park lacked a whitewater wave suitable for the freestyle kayaking rodeo event, a staple for the festival. This past year several potential safety issues were identified by park users and the County. McLaughlin Whitewater Design Group

(MWDG), nationally recognized recreational whitewater experts, was retained by the County to evaluate the condition of the park and provide recommendations for repairs. MWDG engineers designed the first in-river whitewater project in the U.S. at Confluence Park in Denver, the largest whitewater project in U.S., finished in 2013, on the Chattahoochee River in Columbus, Georgia and the whitewater wave that hosted the 2013 ICF World Freestyle Championships in North Carolina. Damage to two of the three whitewater wave structures in our Park were identified. MWDG recommended that these structures be repaired to improve performance and safety. The park evaluation by MWDG is included.

Structural damage was observed at the two downstream most existing whitewater wave structures, Feature #2 and Feature #3. Damage includes large boulders separated from the structures, voids and undercuts underneath structure, large cracks in the grout, and debris in downstream pools. The specific cause of the damage is not entirely clear, but MWDG has identified several possible contributing factors including natural river forces, hydrology, natural scouring of river bed and bank materials, structure foundations/cutoffs, and scour protection. Although the damage to the structures varies it is, according to MWDG, significant enough to require repair of both features to address current and potential future safety issues and provide recreational whitewater at the Park. Without repair complete failure of the structures is likely that could create hazardous conditions to the public, destabilize the river channel, and eliminate the whitewater recreation at the Park. The whitewater features provide channel stabilization critical to a primary irrigation diversion in the Gunnison River Valley.

The proposed project will repair Feature #3, stabilize the channel downstream of Feature #3, and stabilize the pool downstream of Feature #2. The MWDG report recommends a comprehensive repair of Feature #2 but acknowledges that it's in better condition than Feature #3. However, current available funding is insufficient to complete the recommended repairs. MWDG has recommended to the County that stabilizing the downstream pool downstream is a positive action that may extend the structure life and reduce public safety hazards until adequate funding becomes available. The center portion of Feature #3, consisting of boulders and grout, will be completely removed. Boulders and grout will be removed at the sides, called shoulders, where structural damage exists. A new foundation built with boulders, grout, and a liner will be installed under Feature #3. The foundation will extend below predicted scour depths at the downstream edge and to reduce subsurface water flow (piping) and uplift pressures along the upstream edge. Boulders and grout will be placed on the foundation to create a whitewater wave at the center and terraced seating areas at the shoulders. Existing boulders will be harvested and reused in the new structure. Grout will only be used in areas of high velocity and where high forces require it to provide structural stability. Injection methods to place grout will be utilized to minimize required quantity and improve aesthetics by reducing visible grout at the surface. In general, Feature #3 will be rebuilt at its current locations. Boulders, riprap, and cobbles will be mixed and placed in the pools downstream and adjacent to Feature #2 and #3 to control scour

and protect the whitewater wave structures. MWDG identified possible degradation (lowering) of the river channel downstream of Feature #3. Stabilization of the channel with riprap and cobble material without grout is proposed to maintain optimal pool levels and control local degradation. The pool level downstream of Feature #3 is key to the formation of the whitewater wave which is affected by the degradation. Construction of the proposed project in a “dry” condition is required. River water will be temporarily diverted around work areas and pumps will be used to remove additional water. Details related to quantities and materials are included in the **Project Budget**. Status of the necessary permits are described in a letter from Bio-Environs.

Design life of river infrastructure is evaluated and determined differently than other infrastructure. Flowing water and debris are responsible for most of the forces exerted on river structures. Hydrology, the term for the statistical timing, quantity, and duration of flow in a river, is key in determination of stability of a structure. Evaluating design life in terms of a duration of structure life is difficult at best, therefore structures are designed to withstand statistical flow events. For example, a 100-year event has a 1% chance of happening on any given year. It is therefore important to design river structures to withstand floods greater than the target design life. MWDG designs all their in-river structures to withstand flows up to the 100-year flood event. MWDG has designed some of the oldest whitewater parks in the U.S. Confluence Park in Denver was constructed in 1996 and the Atlanta Olympics Course on the Ocoee River was also finished in 1996. Both venues have experienced high flood flows and have successfully operated for 17 years without any structural damage or needed repairs. This performance is unmatched in the whitewater industry. The proposed whitewater wave structure at the Gunnison Whitewater Park will be designed to the same criteria as other MWDG river projects which will yield a design life of greater than 25 years.

The statement of work will form the basis for the contract between the Applicant and the State of Colorado. In short, the Applicant is agreeing to undertake the work for the compensation outlined in the statement of work and budget, and in return, the State of Colorado is receiving the deliverables/products specified. **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 invoices and appropriate backup material.

Please provide a detailed statement of work using the template in Exhibit A. Additional sections or modifications may be included as necessary. Please define all acronyms and include page numbers.

REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE

Reporting: 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 statement of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: 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.

PAYMENT

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and invoicing by the applicant. Invoices from any other entity (i.e. subcontractors) cannot be processed by the State. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by major task, and estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire water activity 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 water activity budget will be withheld until final project/water activity 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 and help promote the development of a common technical platform.

Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Applicant:



Print Applicant's Name: Marlene Crosby

Project Title: Gunnison Whitewater Park Repairs

Return an electronic version (hardcopy may also be submitted) of this application to:

Craig Godbout – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203
craig.godbout@state.co.us