

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
Agenda Item 23.b.**

Applicant: City of Gunnison

Water Activity Name: Gunnison River Riparian and Diversion Restoration Project

Water Activity Purpose: Consumptive and Non-consumptive Structural Water Project

County: Gunnison

Drainage Basin: Gunnison

Water Source: Gunnison River

Amount Requested: \$400,752

Source of Funds: Statewide Account

Matching Funds: \$356,648 cash and \$3,000 in-kind (cash match includes \$45,540 from Gunnison Basin Account, approved in March 2014)

| |
|---|
| Staff Recommendation |
| Staff recommends approval upon the condition of providing the additional documentation specified below in Issues/Additional Needs section of up to \$400,752 from the Statewide account to help fund the Gunnison River Riparian and Diversion Restoration Project. |

Water Activity Summary:

The project focuses on improvement of riparian and fishery habitat; improvement of agricultural water rights diversion structures; improvement of recreational opportunities; and protection of the municipal aquifer recharge area on a 3.59 mile reach of the Gunnison River adjacent to the city of Gunnison. The six segments in the project each have specific impairments related to agricultural diversions; recreation uses; fisheries and riparian habitat; and, flood attenuation.

An Assessment of Riparian and Aquatic Habitat Associated with the Upper Gunnison River, Gunnison County, Colorado (Bio-Environs, December 2010) includes the reach of the river being addressed in this project. The study found that, since 1950, because of increased residential development along the Gunnison River, approximately 50 percent of the riparian forest has been lost. Improved agricultural water diversion structures will contribute to enhanced plant communities and reduce streambank erosion, land loss and sedimentation downstream. Property designed diversion structures will benefit the irrigators by decreasing the annual costs of maintenance.

The project goals are to:

- construct four new diversion headgates to improve the beneficial agricultural water right use;
- assist water right holders in improving existing water diversion structures to improve habitat, stability and channel alignment;
- explore the potential to reconnect the floodplain with the existing channel to improve river function, flood storage, and aquifer recharge;
- assess aggradation and degradation near the bridges;
- maintain the existing river planform to maintain property boundaries;
- incorporate in-channel habitat improvement structures while not raising flood stage on properties adjacent to and downstream of project area which are not managed with the goal of maintaining floodplain connectivity;
- increase wild brown and rainbow trout biomass and densities;

- improve conditions for quality-sized adult trout;
- improve fishing access with a trail system;
- create in-channel deep pools to provide lower velocity holding areas;
- improve riparian habitat for wildlife and improve the river function by planting native woody vegetation; and,
- improve and manage boater access.

Discussion:

This reach is adjacent to the City of Gunnison, and will have significant recreational use.

Issues/Additional Needs:

Please provide the following additional detail:

- Geomorphic monitoring should conform to CWCB standards.
- All proposed river channel work shall conform to the CWCB Rules and Regulations for Regulatory Floodplains in Colorado.
- Applicant should demonstrate that all funds necessary to complete project are secured.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval upon the condition of providing the additional documentation specified below in Issues/Additional Needs section of up to \$400,752 from the Statewide account to help fund the Gunnison River Riparian and Diversion Restoration Project.

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: 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.

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.

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.