



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM

NoChicoBrush Agricultural Water Research Project

Name of Water Activity

NoChicoBrush
Colorado River Water Conservation District

Name of Applicant

Steve Schrock,
NoChicoBrush Project
Coordinator

Amount from Statewide Account:

\$55,000

Amount from Basin Account(s):

\$35,000

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$90,000

Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

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Required Exhibits

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

Appendices – Reference Material

- 1. Program Information
- 2. Insurance Requirements
- 3. WSRA Standard Contract Information (Required for Projects Over \$100,000)
- 4. 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://cwcb.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://cwcb.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):	NoChicoBrush Colorado River Water Conservation District		
	Mailing address:	408- 1740 Rd. Delta, CO 81416		
	Taxpayer ID#:			
	Primary Contact:	Steve Schrock	Position/Title:	Project Coordinator
	Email:	stephendschrock@yahoo.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: (970) 216-7204	Office:	
	Alternate Contact:	Cary Denison	Position/Title:	Participant
	Email:	Cdenison@tu.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: (970) 596-3291	Office:	same

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

The No-ChicoBrush group evolved in 2013 out of the Soil Health Initiative, an ongoing project directed at assisting farmers with implementing practices that improve soil health, profitability, and sustainability of farming in order to address the growing water availability and water quality concerns in the Gunnison and Colorado River Basins. The obvious tie to soil health is water. This group understands the severity of the issues related to water in Colorado and downstream on the Colorado River and realizes that without implementing creative water management strategies to improve water availability that farming in the lower Gunnison Basin will be increasingly difficult and will lead to an increasing strain on water resources. This is why local farmer leaders along with interested parties including Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association managers, Colorado River District, Delta Montrose Electric Association, local business leaders, local lending institutions, Montrose and Delta County Commissioners, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, and others have formed **a farmer led group focused on creating solutions to future water management and water quality issues in the basin.**

To address the issues associated with increasing demand, limited supply, agricultural water shortages and water quality, this group has envisioned a “Grand Design” for agricultural water use and deliveries in the Lower Gunnison Basin including the Uncompahgre and North Fork Valleys that is **driven by the simple idea of making the best use of water as possible.** The group foresees and wishes to encourage implementation of improvements to irrigation water systems that include common sense solutions such as canal lining, piping, on farm/system storage, and system optimizations as well as more multipart improvements such as increased hydroelectric production, and on- farm efficiency projects. The No-ChicoBrush group realizes that improved agricultural delivery systems may lead to increased consumptive use of water, in some cases, but that reductions in consumption by non-beneficial plants and evaporation coupled with deliveries driven by crop demands can result in numerous benefits.

Farmers in the North Fork, lower Gunnison and Uncompahgre valleys stand to benefit from the efficiency projects directly through improved crop yields, reduced operational inputs, and numerous other benefits from improved water quality and system reliability. Additionally, downstream users could see improved flows and water quality, while users upstream of the Uncompahgre would benefit as a result of the improved efficiency which could result in a decrease the likelihood of being called out during times of shortage

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

The contracting entity for this grant application is Colorado River Water Conservation District

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

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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.

The intent of this project is to complete irrigation related research in the Gunnison Basin from an on-farm level to identify how to best improve agricultural water use and management. Increasing agricultural efficiency has been identified by many as the most cost effective method of addressing ag water shortages and has also been linked to addressing non-consumptive needs while improving water quality by reducing salt and selenium discharges from inefficient applications. This research project will help guide and implement efficiency projects by increasing knowledge about agricultural demands and what happens to water on the farm, water managers and farmers will be able to make more informed decisions about water and crop management. NoChicoBrush will use the data gathered to help educate and inform irrigators and water managers.

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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This project will not directly improve water resources during the period of the project but rather will provide guidance to water users on how improvements can be made that will make marked improvements to water resources.

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

Latitude: 38deg. 29' 29"N

Longitude: 108deg. 07' 03"W

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.

The intent of this project is to perform farmer-led research on irrigation practices that will provide important information for both improved agricultural operations and future water use challenges in the Basin. To accomplish this, the project will compare furrow irrigation to overhead sprinkler, drip, and big gun irrigation systems in order to address the following water supply and water quality questions:

- How much water do these different irrigation systems currently “use” or need for the same crop type?
- What is the actual water demand for these crops?
- What is the application efficiency of these different irrigation systems? How much water is applied to the crop and at what times, compared to actual crop demands throughout the growing season?
- How much water returns to the system from the farm as either surface run off or deep percolation? What is the quality of water returning to the system in terms of salinity, selenium, nutrients and sediment?
- How much irrigation water can be saved by converting on-farm irrigation from open furrow or flood irrigation methods to systemized irrigation?
- What are the yield differences between the four irrigation methods? (comparing similar fields and soil types)

Project proponents wish to answer the question of what are the effects of on-farm and system wide improvements on other water demands.

- How would large scale changes affect water quality in the Gunnison River?
- How can on-farm data help farmers improve their water use?
- What other benefits occur as a result of improved efficiency?
- What types of incentives need to take place to expand irrigation efficiency projects?

Project Outreach Component Objective: As the research projects progress, findings will be shared with local agricultural producers and water managers. This part of the project will rely on farmer to farmer education and farmer to government agency rather than only expert to farmer education. Additionally the project proponents will share the data gathered with area water groups including local conservancy districts and water user associations.

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

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

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Yes, the proposed research project is consistent with the referenced Section of the Colorado Revised Statutes and will continue to protect the use of senior water rights in the State of Colorado.

- 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 NoChicoBrush group gave a presentation to the Gunnison Basin Roundtable on November 4, 2013, to inform the Roundtable of the groups purpose and address any questions. Additionally, various members of the Roundtable regularly attend NoChicoBrush meetings and are up-to-date on the research study proposal being submitted.

NoChicoBrush submitted a grant application request to the Roundtable Project Screening Committee on January 6th and is prepared to present the application and address any questions at the full Roundtable meeting on February 3rd. NoChicoBrush is committed to working with the Roundtable to address any questions or concerns they may have about the proposed project.

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.

Yes, the proposed activity is consistent with the referenced section of the Colorado Revised Statutes and in no way impair any contractual or property rights related to the use of irrigation water.

- d) Matching Requirement: For requests from the **Statewide Fund**, the applicants is required to demonstrate a **20 percent** (or greater) match of the request from the Statewide Account. Statewide requests must also include a minimum match of **5 percent** of the total grant amount from Basin Funds. 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 CWCBC. 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)

Matching funds and In-kind contributions are being provided by Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, Colorado Water Institute, and local farmers.

We are well within the match requirement as reflected in the Project Budget in Exhibit A.

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.**

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.

1. Tier 1- Promotes Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs:
 - A. This project is being forwarded with the cooperation and assistance from the Uncompahgre Valley Water Users Association, Tri- County Water Conservancy District, Delta Montrose Electric Association, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Trout Unlimited, The Nature Conservancy, the Colorado Water Institute, local farmers and others, to meet multiple demands and water needs.
 - B. Numerous sources including local farmers, Trout Unlimited, CSU, and The Nature Conservancy, are providing direct contributions and important in-kind donations for this project.
 2. Tier 2- Facilitating Water Activity Implementation:
 - C. This research and outreach project will affect how agricultural producers implement water efficiency projects in the future.
- Tier 3-Project Provides Statewide Value:
- D. The implemented project will provide valuable information about the benefits related to on-farm irrigation efficiency in western Colorado.
 - E. The information from this project can be used to address the growing demand and limited supply problems throughout the state.
 - F. Results of this project will address water quality concerns on the Gunnison River related to native species conservation including the Colorado Pikeminnow and Razorback Sucker, which are endangered species, as well the Roundtail Chub, Flannelmouth and Bluehead suckers which are species of special concern in the Gunnison and Colorado River.
 - G. This project will provide valuable, farmer-tested research data to agricultural producers, governmental organizations and water managers.
 - H. This project will address both consumptive and non-consumptive needs by evaluating how improvements in irrigation technology and irrigation water management can address both current and future water demands.

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

Signature of Applicant:

Print Applicant's Name: Stephen Schrock

Project Title: NoChicoBrush Coordinator

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