



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD

WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM



CURRY EASEMENTS WEST SIDE OF THE NORTH FORK OF THE GUNNISON
RIVER CORRIDOR WOODY INVASIVES REMOVAL PROJECT

Name of Water Activity/Project

DELTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Name of Applicant

Gunnison Basin
Roundtable

Amount from Statewide Account:

\$

Amount from Basin Account(s):

\$8,865

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$8,865

Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

Application Content

| | |
|--|---------|
| Application Instructions | page 2 |
| Part I – Description of the Applicant | page 3 |
| Part II – Description of the Water Activity | page 5 |
| Part III – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria | page 7 |
| Part IV – Required Supporting Material | |
| Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability | page 11 |
| Related Studies | page 11 |
| Signature Page | page 12 |

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)

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 (CWCB). 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 CWCB 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 CWCB 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:

Greg Johnson – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203
gregory.johnson@state.co.us

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Greg Johnson at: 303-866-3441 x3249 or gregory.johnson@state.co.us.

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

| | | | | |
|----|--------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------|
| 1. | Applicant Name(s): | DELTA CONSERVATION DISTRICT | | |
| | Mailing address: | 690 Industrial Blvd Delta, Colorado 81416 | | |
| | Taxpayer ID#: | 84-6010950 | | |
| | Primary Contact: | RALPH D'ALESSANDRO | Position/Title: | President |
| | Email: | rdinca@yahoo.com | | |
| | Phone Numbers: | Cell: (970) 314-5355 | Office: | (970) 874-5726 x121 |
| | Alternate Contact: | David Carey | Position/Title: | Manager |
| | Email: | david.carey@co.nacdn.net | | |
| | Phone Numbers: | Cell: | Office: | (970) 874-5726 x121 |

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.

3. Provide a brief description of your organization

The Delta Conservation District (DCD) is a political subdivision of the State of Colorado and its authorities, powers and structure are contained in Colorado Revised Statutes, Title 35, Article 70. The District, initially known as the Delta Soil Conservation District, was organized in 1951 in compliance with the Colorado Revised Statutes and received a certificate of organization from the Colorado Secretary of State. Water quality and quantity, including riparian habitat, are areas of concern within the District's statutory mandate. The DCD has Weed Control and Management as one of its Natural Resource Goals and Objectives in its 2011-2013 Long Range Plan. In 2011 the DCD partnered with Delta County, through its weed coordinator, and the NFRIA-WSERC Conservation Center (NWCC) to conduct an invasive weed survey and removal project on approximately 2 miles of riparian land along the east bank of the North Fork of the Gunnison River in two contiguous conservation easements (The Curry Easements). This was in the area of a former in-stream gravel mine. In 2012 and again in 2013 the DCD utilized the Western Colorado Conservation Corps to address and remove Russian olive and Tamarisk from parcels of approximately 300 acres of public and private land along the corridor of the North Fork of the Gunnison River. The DCD's 2013 Annual Plan of Work continues to address noxious weeds in multiple ways, including seeking additional funding to utilize for weed control and to support the county weed control program. The funding sought for this project is one part of the DCD's Annual Plan of Work. The removal of invasive Tamarisk and Russian olive along riparian areas is of especial importance in controlling invasive weeds because of the spread of seeds by river transport along the entire North Fork River corridor and into both the Gunnison and Colorado Rivers. This project will continue our earlier work along the west bank of the North Fork along The Curry Easements.

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

N/A

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.

There are no relevant TABOR issues.

Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

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

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Agricultural |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Municipal/Industrial |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Needs Assessment |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Education |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Other |

Explain:

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

The North Fork of the Gunnison River corridor project addresses multiple riparian issues along the 37 mile length of the river corridor. The non-consumptive eradication funds will continue extending the woody invasives removal project initiated in 2011 to address Russian olive and Tamarisk removal and herbicide follow-up treatment from the Paonia Reservoir Dam downstream to the confluence of the Gunnison River. This river corridor long eradication program is reducing seed flow down the North Fork corridor and into the main branch of the Gunnison River.

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

| | | | |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Study | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Implementation |
|--------------------------|-------|-------------------------------------|----------------|

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

| | |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/> | New Storage Created (acre-feet) |
| <input type="text"/> | New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet) |
| <input type="text"/> | Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet) |
| <input type="text"/> | Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet) |
| <input type="text"/> | Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet) |
| <input type="text"/> | Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – circle one) |
| <input type="text" value="14"/> | Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres) |
| <input type="text" value="2 miles"/> | Other -- Explain: <input type="text" value="A report on the invasives removed along this stretch of the length of the North Fork River corridor will be provided."/> |

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

Latitude:

N 38° 52' 29"

Longitude:

W 107° 35' 45"

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 project is located within environmental segment 6 on the North Fork of the Gunnison River stretching downstream from well below Paonia to the northern end of the Town of Hotchkiss straddling the above and below the Union Pacific railroad bridge. Task 1 will identify and obtain permission from landowners to gain the most workable access to the west bank of The Curry Conservation Easements and remove Russian olive, Tamarisk and other invasive species along the west side of the North Fork of the Gunnison in Hotchkiss above and below the Union Pacific railroad bridge opposite a portion of The Curry Easements. The DCD will continue to employ the Western Colorado Conservation Corps (WCCC) to do mechanical eradication of Tamarisk and Russian olive trees, including herbicide application with assistance from the Delta County Weed Coordinator. Native revegetation will be accomplished as needed with volunteers. The DCD will partner with WSCC, formerly NWCC, on this part of the project. Invasive regrowth will be removed and/or treated in Year 2 during Task 2. The final report will comprise Task 3.

In-kind participation by the WSCC and DCD and project management will complete the matching funding.

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.)

The proposed project, “North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project,” meets the criteria established in Senate Bill 06-179, as an Eligible Water Activity. The project proposed consists of three Tasks in a single Phase. Task 1 will complete all the tasks required to remove tamarisk and invasive weeds along a linear approximate 2 mile stretch above and below the railroad bridge in Hotchkiss on the west bank of the river. Task 2 remove and/or treat invasive regrowth in the second year, and complete native revegetation. Task 1 will use the Delta County landowner tax map to identify landowners from whom to obtain workable and safe access for this eradication effort. Task 3 will comprise compiling the final report. The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.¹

The proposed project will proceed from the foundational principle that the water rights of any landowner, domestic water or irrigation company will not in any way be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired or affected by invasive removal and surveying efforts or the diversion study of this project.

- a) 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 BRTs 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.

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.

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.

The project will include the removal and survey of invasive weeds, the mapping of river diversions and return flows, the consolidation of prior river studies, the publication of a public river access brochure, and the completion of an industrial/municipal diversion modification study, all of which will have no impact on any water rights, while increase the public's nonconsumptive use of the river corridor. Therefore, the project meets Section 37-75-104(2) C.R.S..

- b) **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 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)

The total project funding request is \$8,865 and the total match amount is \$750. The total program cost is \$9,615. The total match is 8.5 percent. No statewide funds are requested.

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.

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.**

Although no statewide funds are requested in this application, the following still are relevant concerning the benefits of the project.

Relative to the Tier 1, the number and different types of entities represented in this application include a the local conservation district (DCD), a local conservation center (WSCC) concerned with river health and committed to invasive control in riparian corridors, the local governmental weed control program (Delta County Weed Control Coordinator) and a local youth conservation organization (Western Colorado Conservation Corps – Grand Junction branch). The project will promote cooperation and collaboration among multiple organizations with non-consumptive interests. The project will address needs identified in the North Fork of the Gunnison Watershed Assessment.

Relative to the Tier 2, receiving funding for this project will enable the North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project to proceed and address invasive weed infestation affecting the health of the river corridor while promoting greater public awareness through press releases.

Relative to the Tier 3, funding of this project will help sustain agriculture. Removal of invasive species along the river corridor will help preserve the available water for agricultural use. The removal of invasive species along the river corridor will assist in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern. Funding the project will provide a great return for the investment by benefiting an entire river corridor, afford the opportunity to educate landowners about invasive eradication and control. Funding this project will have a multiplier effect by complimenting the implementation of a previously funded project under the Gunnison Basin Round Table CWCB program.

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).
- 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.

- 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.

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).
- 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.

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.
- 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.
- h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.
- i. The water activity provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds requested.
- j. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

Continued: Explanation of how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**.
Please attach additional pages as necessary.

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.

N/A – for the non-consumptive use portion of the project.

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

NA

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

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.

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

Signature of Applicant:

Print Applicant's Name: RALPH D' ALESSANDRO

Project Title: North Fork of the Gunnison River Corridor Project

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

Greg Johnson – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200
Denver, CO 80203
gregory.johnson@state.co.us