

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
July 15-16, 2015
Agenda Item 18(c)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Water Enhancement Authority

Water Activity Name: Remote Grand Mesa Cloud Seeder

Water Activity Purpose: Cloud Seeding

County: Mesa & Delta

Drainage Basin: Gunnison

Water Source: n/a

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$25,000 Gunnison Basin Account (total grant request)

Matching Funds: Applicant match (\$19,372.30/cash & in-kind) = 44% of the total project costs of \$44,372.30
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

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| Staff Recommendation: |
| Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Remote Grand Mesa Cloud Seeder. |

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved will be expended to purchase a remotely operated cloud seeder that utilizes silver iodide as the seeding nuclei. Following procurement, the seeder will be delivered to and installed at the proposed site, which is about 2 miles north of Big Meadows Reservoir, around 9,500 feet on the Grand Mesa almost due south of Collbran, Colorado on U.S.F.S. land. This seeder will join 17 other cloud seeders operated by the Water Enhancement Authority for the purpose of increasing snowpack levels on the Grand Mesa and other surrounding higher terrain. This particular location allows the cloud seeder to be close to the cloud bases it will target as well as be upwind of a good portion of our target area during storm events with north-northwest winds accompanying it and fills in one of the remaining “coverage gaps” in the Grand Mesa. This proposed effort will compliment the goals of the CWCB Weather Modification Program and will provide the opportunity supports technology transfer and modernization of cloud seeding equipment.

Discussion:

This project aligns with 4 of the Goals and Measurable Outcomes (#1, #3, #4 & #5; Section 1.2 Basin Goals; Table 11; page 28) identified in the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan and has been identified as a Tier 1 project (Weather Modification Program Enhancements) in the BIP (Section 5: Conclusions and Recommendations; Table 22: Proposed Basin Projects (Tier 1) and Basin Goals Met; page 182).

\$38,774.60 was indicated by the applicant as the cash and in-kind match for this project, as well as for the Colorado Basin Roundtable WSRA Grant application for WEA’s Remote Cloud Seeder for North Grand Mesa project. The proposed match actually applies to both grant requests; therefore the total match has been split 50/50 between the two grant requests at \$19,372.30 each.

Issues/Additional Needs:

Whether the equipment will be purchased or leased remains to be determined.

As a condition for funding this grant is that the WEA must host a training event and invite all other project sponsors and contractors of seeding programs to the deployment and demonstration by Idaho Power Company.

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria:

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria: n/a**Funding Summary/Matching Funds:**

| | <u>Cash</u> | <u>In-kind</u> | <u>Total</u> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| WEA | \$17,500 | \$1,872.30 | \$19,372.30 |
| WSRA Gunnison Basin Account | \$25,000 | \$0 | \$25,000 |
| Total Project Costs | \$42,500 | \$1,872.30 | \$44,372.30 |

CWCB Project Manager: Joe Busto

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.