

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program**  
**Water Activity Summary Sheet**  
**September 15-17, 2015**  
**Agenda Item 18(f)**

**Applicant & Fiscal Agent:** Ouray County

**Water Activity Name:** Upper Uncompahgre Basin Water Supply Protection and Enhancement Project

**Water Activity Purpose:** Planning study

**County:** Ouray

**Drainage Basin:** Gunnison

**Water Source:** Uncompahgre River and tributaries

**Amount Requested/Source of Funds:** \$25,000 Gunnison Basin Account  
\$25,000 Statewide Account  
\$50,000 Total grant request

**Matching Funds:** Basin Account Match (\$25,000) = 50% of total grant request (meets 5% min);  
Basin Account and Applicant Match (\$50,000) = 100% of total grant request (meets 25% min);  
Applicant & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Match (\$25,000) = 33% of total project costs (\$75,000)  
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
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Staff recommends approval of up to \$25,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account and \$25,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Ouray County: Upper Uncompahgre Basin Water Supply Protection and Enhancement Project.
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**Water Activity Summary:**

WSRA funds will be expended to assess water needs of existing and future agricultural water users, domestic water supplies, recreational and environmental water uses, as well as options for stabilizing and augmenting existing and future water uses. The solution options may include additional storage, exchanges, substitutions, and new appropriations. The coalition will then pursue those options determined to be the most advantageous and cost-effective. The goal is to assure a thriving agricultural economy including the protection and enhancement of pre-compact water rights, stabilize and help assure future municipal/domestic supplies, and enhance recreational and environmental uses. The diverse make-up of the coalition assures that solutions will provide multi-user benefits.

The analysis will include a review of existing water shortages, available water sources and water rights, a review of existing data and prior studies by the various participants, an analysis of available storage in Ridgway Reservoir, and an analysis of exchange potential on various segments of the main-stem and tributaries of the Upper Uncompahgre River. The goal of the study is to provide solution options to achieve the goal of assuring a full current and future water supply to the various water users in the basin.

Ouray County is the lead agency for purposes of this application, representing a coalition of all major water users in the region, including the City of Ouray, Town of Ridgway, Ouray County Water Users' Association, Log Hill homeowners, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, and Trout Unlimited. The Colorado River Water Conservation District is also providing financial and technical support for this effort.

**Discussion:**

This project was identified as a Tier 1 project in the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan, and conforms to the priorities expressed within the BIP. This cooperative effort is advanced for the varied and mutual beneficial interests of the residents and visitors to Ouray County. Participating entities include the County of Ouray, the City of Ouray, the Town of Ridgway, the Ouray County Water Users Association, homeowners groups from Log Hill Mesa, Tri-County Water Conservancy District, and Trout Unlimited. This cooperative effort is unprecedented in Ouray County.

With the information from the Gunnison River Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) as a starting point, the engineering analysis will focus on the "gap" between existing water supplies and water uses and those contemplated through 2050 to ensure a stable water supply, including an analysis of both physical and legal supplies, and options for augmenting current supplies through additional storage, exchanges and substitutions, new appropriations, conservation, demand management and efficiencies of operations and water management. The BIP included documentation of existing gaps in Upper Uncompahgre (Ouray County) water supplies, and this analysis will both more completely assess the gaps and solutions, which will be cooperatively pursued.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** None identified.

**Threshold and Evaluation Criteria:** The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

**Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria:**

This project has undergone review and evaluation per the Supplemental Scoring Matrix and staff has determined that this request satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Further analysis of the project, and how the project will meet Tiered Evaluation Criteria, is provided by the applicant in the WSRA Application.

**Funding Summary/Matching Funds:**

	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
WSRA Gunnison Basin Account	\$25,000	n/a	\$25,000
WSRA Statewide Account	\$25,000	n/a	\$25,000
Participating Entities	<u>\$25,000</u>	<u>n/a</u>	<u>\$25,000</u>
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>n/a</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>

**CWCB Project Manager:** Brent Newman

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.