

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
January 25-26, 2015
Agenda Item 24(a)

Applicants: Windy Gap Bypass Committee & Trout Unlimited

Fiscal Agent: Trout Unlimited

Water Activity Name: Windy Gap Reservoir Modification Project (Bypass Project)
– Engineering

Water Activity Purpose: Multipurpose

County: Grand

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: Colorado River

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$30,000 Colorado Basin Account (total grant request)

Matching Funds: Applicant Match: \$355,500 (cash & in kind) =92.2% of the total project cost of \$385,500
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section below)

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$30,000 from the Colorado Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Windy Gap Reservoir Modification Project (Bypass Project) – Engineering.

Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to fund the project titled Windy Gap Reservoir Modification Project (Bypass Project) – Engineering. Windy Gap Reservoir is located along the Colorado River approximately 4 miles west of the town of Granby, in Grand County, Colorado. Aquatic habitat of the Colorado River in the vicinity of Windy Gap is suboptimal. The Gold Medal trout fishery appears to be in decline over recent years and fish passage is blocked by the dam and impeded in places by shallow riffles. Water temperatures commonly exceed standards set by the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment during portions of the summer, and recent studies suggest key bio-indicator species are nearly extirpated for many miles below the reservoir.

The Windy Gap Bypass Committee is a stakeholder group whose goal is to ensure the construction of the Windy Gap Reservoir Bypass, a project designed to re-connect the Colorado River and its habitat by restoring approximately one mile of the river currently inundated by the Windy Gap Dam and Reservoir by constructing a bypass channel around the reservoir. Members of the Bypass Committee include Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District & Municipal Subdistrict, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Grand County, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Middle Park Water Conservancy District, Upper Colorado River Alliance, and Trout Unlimited.

The primary objective of the Project is to facilitate the recovery of aquatic species by improving existing conditions and physical processes impacted by Windy Gap. Specifically, the primary Project objectives are to:

- Improve sediment transport around or through the reservoir,
- Reduce stream bed armoring downstream of the reservoir,
- Moderate elevated stream temperatures,
- Provide connectivity for aquatic life and fish passage, and
- Enhance aquatic habitat.

The next step in the Project is to conduct field work, preliminary engineering of the major design components, and initiate permitting. Work will include:

- Wetlands delineation, Endangered Species Act assessment, and historic/cultural assessment needed for 404 permit
- Topographic and existing conditions mapping
- Channel design and hydraulic assessments
- Preliminary diversion structure plans
- Refine opinion of probable cost

Discussion: The Colorado Basin Roundtable identified this project as a priority project for the Grand County region in the final Basin Implementation Plan (BIP).

Additionally, this project meets several critical actions as identified in Chapter 10 of Colorado's Water Plan:

- **A: Supply – Demand Gap**
 - 1. Support and assist the basin roundtables in moving forward priority municipal, industrial, environmental, and agricultural projects and methods identified in their BIPs through technical, financial and facilitation support when requested by a project proponent and the pertinent BRT.
- **E: Storage**
 - 2. Prioritize grants and loans to support the implementation of BIP-identified multipurpose projects and methods, taking into consideration locally identified geographic and seasonal gaps.
- **F: Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation**
 - 7: Prioritize and implement projects identified in master planning efforts.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

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>
Committee members	\$355,500	n/a	\$355,500
WSRA Colorado Basin Account	\$30,000	n/a	\$30,000
Total	\$385,500	n/a	\$385,500

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.