

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
January 25-26, 2016
Agenda Item 24(d)

Applicants: San Miguel Watershed Coalition & Trout Unlimited
Fiscal Agent: Trout Unlimited
Water Activity Name: San Miguel River Stream Management Plan, Pilot Project
Water Activity Purpose: Nonconsumptive
County: San Miguel
Drainage Basin: San Miguel River Basin
Water Source: San Miguel River
Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$32,138 Southwest Basin Account (total grant request)
Matching Funds: Applicant Match: \$96,413 (cash & in-kind) = 75% of the total project cost of \$128,551
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section below)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$32,138 from the Southwest Basin Account to help fund the project titled: San Miguel River Stream Management Plan, Pilot Project.

Water Activity Summary: While developing its Basin Implementation Plan (BIP), the Southwest Basin Roundtable (SWBRT) identified a significant gap in information necessary to understand environmental and recreational (E&R) water needs. Understanding E&R water needs is particularly challenging given the size of the area and diversity of the nine basins that make up the SWBRT's area of interest. Given these challenges, the SWBRT voted to support the concept of a pilot project to develop E&R water needs information in one of the basins with the thought that the approach could be replicated, with adjustments to meet local needs, in other basins. The San Miguel basin was proposed for the pilot project. The San Miguel Watershed Coalition (SMWC) is interested in developing an understanding of E&R water needs within the San Miguel River Basin and a stream management plan to help guide cooperative water management efforts. This work should provide a model for conducting cost---effective watershed ---scale evaluations of E & R needs and implementing stream management planning efforts in other areas of the Southwest Basin.

The San Miguel River Pilot Project will assess environmental and recreational water needs within the San Miguel River basin and identify potential approaches to meet identified gaps, if any. The project consists of the following steps:

1. Review E&R attributes within the San Miguel River basin identified in the BIP for completeness;
2. Identify potential water gaps to support those attributes;

3. Assist the project sponsors and other stakeholders in defining desired outcomes for E&R uses within the project area and to identify projects to achieve the desired outcomes in a cooperative setting
4. Evaluate effectiveness of implementation of said projects

Discussion: The proposed project aligns well with several Goals and Measurable Outcomes in the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan, such as “Meet Environmental Needs” Goal E2: *Protect, maintain, monitor and improve the condition and natural function of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries, and to support native species and functional habitat in the long term, and adapt to changing conditions* (Section 1 - Basin Goals and Measurable Outcomes, Table 1, page 16). This proposal assists the Southwest Basin achieve these Goals and Measurable Outcomes by implementing a San Miguel-Basin IPP – *San Miguel Watershed Coalition*, ID No. 25-SB, Appendix A, page 18 of 18.

It is CWCB staff’s opinion that this proposal advances the Goals and Measurable Outcomes of Colorado’s Water Plan by reflecting the intent of the Programmatic *Critical Watershed, Environment, and Recreation Actions* #3 (Develop stream management plans for priority streams (identified in a BIP or otherwise) as having environmental or recreational value. As part of this work, the CWCB will provide guidelines and templates for developing stream management plans, and will conduct ongoing analyses through SWSI.), as exhibited in Chapter 10: *Critical Action Plan*, Section 10.3: Critical Goals and Actions, F. Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation, page 10-12.

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>
CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant	\$64,275	\$0	\$64,275
Southwestern Water Conservation District	\$14,138	\$0	\$14,138
Local Governments & Foundation	\$3,000	\$0	\$3,000
San Miguel Watershed Coalition/TU/American Whitewater	\$0	\$15,000	\$15,000
Subtotal Match	\$81,413	\$15,000	\$96,413
Southwest Basin WSRA Account	\$32,128	n/a	\$32,128
Total	\$113,541	\$15,000	\$128,541

CWCB Project Manager: Chris Sturm

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.