

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 16-17, 2016
Agenda Item 14(n)

Co-Applicants: Western Slope Conservation Center / Trout Unlimited

Fiscal Agent: Western Slope Conservation Center

Water Activity Name: North Fork of the Gunnison Environmental/Recreation and Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment and Planning

Water Activity Purpose: Multipurpose

County: Gunnison/Delta

Drainage Basin: Gunnison

Water Source: Gunnison River and tributaries

Amount Requested/Source of Funds:

\$27,000	Gunnison Basin Account
<u>\$30,000</u>	<u>Statewide Account</u>
\$57,000	Total Grant Request

Matching Funds:

Basin Account Match (\$27,000) = 47.3% of total grant request (meets 5% min);

Applicant/3rd Party Match (\$66,000) = 53.6% of total grant request

Basin Account & Applicant Match (\$93,000) = 163% of total grant request (meets 25% min)

(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$27,000 from the Gunnison Basin Account; and \$30,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: North Fork of the Gunnison Environmental/Recreation and Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment and Planning.
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Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will be expended to fund the project titled: North Fork of the Gunnison Environmental/Recreation and Irrigation Infrastructure Assessment and Planning. The North Fork of the Gunnison is a major tributary to the Gunnison River that provides irrigation water for agricultural producers from the small town of Somerset to Rogers Mesa, west of Hotchkiss. Upstream of major diversions, the North Fork supports a healthy fishery and at periods of high flow the river can support recreation as well. Unfortunately, the river is heavily impacted by diversions for agriculture, leaving the river dry or seriously impaired through the middle of the watershed during the height of the irrigation season. Simultaneously, ditch and canal companies struggle to maintain and effectively use their infrastructure, much of it out-of-date and in need of repairs. While some irrigation infrastructure, including delivery canals, have been upgraded to address salinity issues, most canals have not changed in the past 100 years.

In a collaborative effort to better understand the watershed, assess irrigation infrastructure needs, and address water supply along with environmental flow needs, Trout Unlimited (TU), Western Slope Conservation Center (WSCC), and the North Fork Water Conservancy District (NFWCD) have

joined forces on the creation of a Stream Management Plan (SMP). The proposed SMP will build upon previous modeling, engineering, assessments, and master planning efforts that have been completed by individual irrigation companies and conservation organizations including Trout Unlimited. The planning process will rely heavily on feedback from irrigators and water users throughout the watershed to identify projects and determine feasibility. The partners intend for the plan to serve as a valley-wide planning resource that can be used to address structural and supply issues irrigation water users face while improving flows and habitat in the North Fork. Creation of this SMP will provide the opportunity for a wide range of water users to collaborate on projects that will improve both consumptive and non-consumptive needs.

Project Objectives

1. Reduce administrative and physical water shortages
2. Improve watershed health
3. Identify important values related to water for a variety of water users in the North Fork
4. Identify and rank important irrigation infrastructure projects
5. Create realistic flow and environmental targets and goals
6. Protect existing uses and values
7. Establish flow targets for varying runoff regimes
8. Establish ranked inventory of non-consumptive and consumptive projects associated with the North Fork of the Gunnison
9. Create productive dialogue amongst all water users about water resource management in the North Fork

Discussion: This project serves multiple purposes and aligns with the goals and actions identified in the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan. Additionally, this project was identified as a Tier 1 project in the Gunnison BIP.

This project also aligns with critical actions identified in Colorado's Water Plan:

A1: "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."

D3: "Provide grants, loans, and technical support to update and improve Colorado's aging agricultural infrastructure, especially where improvements provide multiple benefits."

F6: "Provide technical and financial support to local stakeholder groups to develop watershed master plans for watersheds that are critical to consumptive or nonconsumptive water supply and quality."

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

Threshold and Evaluation Criteria:

The application meets all four Threshold Criteria.

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria:

This project has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to WSRA Application for applicant's detailed response.

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Sources</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Project Partners	\$19,000	\$19,500	\$39,500
CWCB Stream Management Plan Funds	\$27,500	\$0	\$27,500
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$46,500	\$19,500	\$66,000
WSRA Gunnison Basin Account	\$27,000	n/a	\$27,000
WSRA Statewide Account	\$30,000	n/a	\$30,000
Total Project Costs	\$103,500	\$19,500	\$123,000

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.