

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program**  
**Water Activity Summary Sheet**  
**May 18-19, 2016**  
**Agenda Item 18(b)**

**Applicant & Fiscal Agent:** Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

**Water Activity Name:** Upper Rio Grande Assessment

**Water Activity Purpose:** Nonconsumptive

**County:** Rio Grande, San Juan, Hinsdale, Mineral

**Drainage Basin:** Rio Grande

**Water Source:** Rio Grande and Tributaries

**Amount Requested/Source of Funds:** \$67,000 Rio Grande Basin Account (total grant request)

**Matching Funds:** Applicant & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Match: \$133,000 (cash) = 66.5% of the total project cost (\$200,000)  
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section below)

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
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Staff recommends <u>conditional</u> approval (refer to <b>Issues/Additional Needs</b> section below) of up to \$67,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Upper Rio Grande Assessment.
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**Water Activity Summary:** WSRA funds, if approved will be expended to assess the ecological condition of the mainstem of the Rio Grande, major tributaries, and upland ecosystems within the project area, identify causes of concern, and develop a list of prioritized projects that will improve the function of uplands, and aquatic and the riparian ecosystems. The assessment will concurrently identify projects that involve infrastructure as related to recreational, environmental, agricultural, and municipal/industrial needs in the basin. This effort will be a stakeholder driven watershed assessment that encompasses the Upper Rio Grande Basin, from the headwaters to the town of South Fork. There are many environmental challenges facing the Upper Rio Grande watershed, including extended drought, forest fires, extensive beetle kill, water quality impairments, endangered species, degraded habitat, and other anthropogenic impacts. While the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable and stakeholders recognize the vital need to implement projects to address these concerns, the current condition of the Upper Rio Grande watershed is largely undocumented, which this effort aims to remedy.

**Discussion:** The proposed project aligns well with many of the Goals and Measurable Outcomes in the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (#1, 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, & 14), while simultaneously furthering the goals of Colorado's Water Plans as highlighted by the five stated goals in Section 6.6: Environmental and Recreational Projects and Methods

**Issues/Additional Needs:** **Staff recommends conditional approval contingent upon the applicant providing their respective Basin Roundtables the opportunity to re-visit and re-affirm their approval given the current Tier II Severance Tax projections and status of the Roundtable Basin Account Balances.**

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

**Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria:** n/a

**Funding Summary/Matching Funds:**

<u>Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
REACT	\$100,000	\$0	\$100,000
CDPHE	\$33,000	\$0	\$33,000
Subtotal Non-WSRA Match	\$133,000	\$0	\$133,000
Rio Grande Basin WSRA Account	\$67,000	n/a	\$67,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$200,000</b>

**CWCB Project Manager:** Craig Godbout

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.