

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
July 20-21, 2016
Agenda Item 16(e)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Shavano Conservation District
Water Activity Name: Ditch Mapping of Colona Area
Water Activity Purpose: Multipurpose
County: Ouray
Drainage Basin: Gunnison
Water Source: Gunnison tributaries
Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$13,658 Gunnison Basin Account
\$13,658 Total Basin Account request

Matching Funds: Applicant Match: \$5,613 = 30% of the total project cost of \$19,271
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section below)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$13,658 from the Gunnison Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Ditch Mapping of Colona Area.
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Water Activity Summary: WSRA funds, if approved, will help fund the project titled: Ditch Mapping of Colona Area. The Shavano District encompasses 1,191,438 acres including all of Ouray County and portions of Montrose, Gunnison and Delta Counties. As a designated salinity control area, Shavano Conservation District holds salinity control as a top priority.

This application requests funding to complete the GIS ditch mapping efforts in the Colona area. Digital mapping of irrigation ditches and documentation of their operations is required by the Bureau of Reclamation for calculation of salt loads contributing to salinity in the Colorado River system. These salt loads must be established by the BOR for a ditch company to be eligible to apply for grants offered through the BOR-Basinwide Salinity Control Program. Ditch companies in the Colona area have expressed interest in applying for funds through this program to pipe portions of their irrigation delivery canals, however they are unable to do so until ditch mapping is completed in this area. The BOR has expended \$98,000 on the ditch mapping effort in the Lower Gunnison Basin over the past 3 years, and has no more funds available to complete this work in the Upper Uncompahgre area. Because interest in applying for federal funds to improve irrigations ditches has been expressed in the Colona area, and the ditch mapping work has been initiated, the Shavano Conservation District is seeking funds to complete the effort in this targeted area.

Completion of the ditch mapping effort is essential for the Colona area ditches to apply for significant federal funds available to finance piping projects. The BOR-Basinwide Salinity Control Program typically offers \$40M in grants every three years for ditch improvement projects in the Upper Colorado River Basin.

Since 2009, 122 ditches have been documented, with 730 miles of canal digitized in the Lower Gunnison basin, coordinated by Shavano and Delta Conservation Districts. The BOR-Basinwide Salinity Control Program, which relies on this ditch mapping data to rank the cost effectiveness of project applications, has awarded nearly \$90M to fund irrigation system improvements in the Lower Gunnison basin. Completion of this proposed project will extend eligibility to apply for these funds to another 12 ditches including 34 miles of canal.

Discussion: This project meets the measurable objectives and action items in the Gunnison Basin Implementation Plan including:

- Protects existing water uses in the Gunnison Basin;
- Discourages conversion of productive agricultural land to other uses;
- Improves agricultural water supplies to reduce shortages;
- Improves water quality;
- Restores, maintains, and modernizes critical water infrastructure.

This project also meets additional critical actions identified in the Critical Action Plan (Chapter 10) of Colorado's Water Plan:

- **D3:** Provide grants, loans, and technical support to update and improve Colorado's aging agricultural infrastructure, especially where improvements provide multiple benefits.
- **E2:** Prioritize grants and loans to support the implementation of BIP-identified multipurpose projects and methods, taking into consideration locally identified geographic and seasonal gaps.

Issues/Additional Needs: Staff will work with applicant to assemble a Scope of Work which meets the criteria for State contracting.

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

Tier 1-3 Evaluation Criteria: n/a

Funding Summary/Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Trout Unlimited	\$500	\$700	\$1,200
Shavano Conservation District	\$2,913	\$1,500	\$4,413
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$3,413	\$2,200	\$5,613
WSRA Gunnison Basin Account	\$13,658	n/a	\$13,658
Total Project Costs	\$17,071	\$2,200	\$19,271

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.