

Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
September 21-22, 2016
Agenda Item 20(j)

Applicant & Fiscal Agent: Trout Unlimited

Water Activity Name: Ware and Hinds Fish Passage Project

Water Activity Purpose: Nonconsumptive

County: Garfield

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: Elk Creek

Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$31,750 Colorado Basin Account
\$31,750 Statewide Account
\$63,500 Total Grant Request

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match (\$31,750) = 33.3% of total grant request (meets 5% min);
Applicant/3rd Party Match (\$102,930) = 162% of total grant request (meets 5% min);
Basin Account & Applicant/3rd Party Match (\$134,680) = 212% of total grant request (meets 25% min);
(refer to *Funding Summary/Matching Funds* section)

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$31,750 from the Arkansas Basin Account; and \$31,750 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Ware and Hinds Fish Passage Project.
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Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved would be expended to assist with the construction of a fish bypass channel around the Ware and Hinds Ditch diversion dam, enabling migrating trout and native fishes to access 3.3 miles of excellent spawning and rearing habitat upstream of the dam, habitat which is currently under-utilized. The Ware and Hinds Ditch diversion dam spans the entire width of Elk Creek. The ditch has some of the most senior water rights on the creek and provides irrigation water to agricultural producers along the north side of the Colorado River from New Castle to Silt, Colorado. While the diversion structure creates a barrier to upstream fish migration, its location just upstream from the main-stem Colorado River and its senior water rights also provide an opportunity to restore fish populations of the Elk Creek drainage and the Colorado River, without negative impacts to agricultural producers or their water rights.

Discussion: The proposed improvement to the Ware and Hind diversion structure, which has the full support of water users under the ditch, will improve trout habitat, trout populations and their resiliency in Elk Creek as well as in the Colorado River. The restoration activities are expected to increase populations of trout in the future. This improvement is directly in line with the primary theme identified by the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan, which is Ecosystem Health: Protect and restore streams, rivers, lakes and riparian areas. Further, this project will serve as a model project

for other diversions in the basin and elsewhere that impact fish. This project is borne out of a collaborative effort that has received the blessings of over 60 water users serviced by the Ware and Hinds Ditch. Collaboration over conflict is not only a common thread identified in the Colorado Water Plan, but it is also an identified foundation for future projects. This project will further meet stated goals of Colorado's Water Plan by modifying irrigation infrastructure to meet the needs of more than one water user, or water use.

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:

This activity 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 Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
CPW	\$78,500	\$19,550	\$98,050
Trout Unlimited	\$4,880	\$0	\$4,880
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$83,380	\$19,550	\$102,930
WSRA Colorado Basin Account	\$31,750	n/a	\$31,750
WSRA Statewide Account	\$31,750	n/a	\$31,750
Total Project Costs	\$146,880	\$19,550	\$166,430

CWCB Project Manager (interim): 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.