



# COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



## WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM

Today's Date: March 2, 2017

Abrams Creek Cutthroat Trout Project

### Name of Water Activity/Project

Trout Unlimited & Buckhorn Valley Metropolitan District No. 1

### Name of Applicant

Colorado River Basin

Amount from Statewide Account:

\$ 405,000

Amount from Basin Account(s):

\$ 45,000

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

\$ 450,000

### Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

*(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)*

FEIN: 38-1612715

### Application Content

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### Required Exhibits

- A. Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule
- B. Project Map
- C. As Needed (i.e. letters of support, photos, maps, etc.)

### Appendices – Reference Material

- 1. Program Information
- 2. Insurance Requirements
- 3. WSRA Standard Contract Information (Required for Projects Over \$100,000)
- 4. W-9 Form (Required for All Projects Prior to Contracting)

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### **Instructions**

To receive funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA), a proposed water activity must be approved by the local Basin Roundtable **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCBC). The process for Basin Roundtable consideration and approval is outlined in materials in Appendix 1.

Once approved by the local Basin Roundtable, the applicant should submit this application **with a detailed statement of work including budget and schedule as Exhibit A** to CWCBC staff by the application deadline.

WSRA applications are due with the roundtable letter of support 60 calendar days prior to the bi-monthly Board meeting at which it will be considered. Board meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meeting details, including scheduled dates, agendas, etc. are posted on the CWCBC website at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us> Applications to the WSRA Basin Account are considered at every board meeting, while applications to the WSRA Statewide Account are only considered at the March and September board meetings.

When completing this application, the applicant should refer to the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines available at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Documents/WSRACriteriaGuidelines.pdf>. In addition, the applicant should also refer to the [Supplemental Scoring Matrix](#) applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests .

The application, statement of work, budget, and schedule **must be submitted in electronic format** (Microsoft Word or text-enabled PDF are preferred) and can be emailed or mailed on a disk to:

Craig Godbout - WSRA Application  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203  
[Craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:Craig.godbout@state.co.us)

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Craig Godbout at: 303-866-3441 x3210 or [craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us).

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### Part I. - Description of the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner);

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Trout Unlimited & Buckhorn Valley Metropolitan District No. 1		
	Mailing address:	C/O Mely Whiting P.O. Box 1544 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147		
	FEIN #:	38-1612715		
	Primary Contact:	Mely Whiting	Position/Title:	Legal Counsel
	Email:	mwhiting@tu.org		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 720-470-4758	Office:	
	Alternate Contact:	John Hill	Position/Title:	District Manager
	Email:	jvhill.co@gmail.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 970.470.2087	Office:	

### 2. Eligible entities for WSRA funds include the following. What type of entity is the Applicant?

- ☐ Public (Government) – municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities and the local entity should be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
- ☒ Public (Districts) – authorities, Title 32/special districts, (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
- ☐ Private Incorporated – mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
- ☐ Private individuals, partnerships, and sole proprietors are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
- ☒ Non-governmental organizations – broadly defined as any organization that is not part of the government.

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3. Provide a brief description of your organization

*Trout Unlimited:* Trout Unlimited is a national, non-profit organization with over 150,000 members nationwide, approximately 12,000 members in Colorado. Our volunteers and staff engage in partnerships and stakeholder driven efforts with the goal of conserving, protecting, and restoring cold water fisheries and their habitat in a cooperative, constructive setting.

*Buckhorn Valley Metropolitan District No. 1:* Buckhorn is a quasi-municipal corporation and political subdivision of the State of Colorado organized pursuant to the laws of the State of Colorado in order to construct, operate and maintain certain public facilities and improvements in accordance with its approved service plan, including, but not limited to, irrigation services.

4. If the Contracting Entity is different than the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner) please describe the Contracting Entity here.

The contracting entity will be Trout Unlimited.

5. Successful applicants will have to execute a contract with the CWCB prior to beginning work on the portion of the project funded by the WSRA grant. In order to expedite the contracting process the CWCB has established a standard contract with provisions the applicant must adhere to. A link to this standard contract is included in Appendix 3. Please review this contract and check the appropriate box.

☒

The Applicant will be able to contract with the CWCB using the Standard Contract

☐

The Applicant has reviewed the standard contract and has some questions/issues/concerns. Please be aware that any deviation from the standard contract could result in a significant delay between grant approval and the funds being available.

6. The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.

None

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### Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

1. What is the primary purpose of this grant application? (Please check only one)

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> | Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational) |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Agricultural                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Municipal/Industrial                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Needs Assessment                               |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Education                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/>                   | Other  |

Explain:

2. If you feel this project addresses multiple purposes please explain.

This is a multi-purpose, efficiency project that will (1) address an environmental need specifically identified in the Colorado River Basin Roundtable's BIP; and (2) provide a more efficient means to deliver water used for crop irrigation and municipal purposes.

3. Is this project primarily a study or implementation of a water activity/project? (Please check only one)

- |                          |       |  |                |
|--------------------------|-------|--|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | Study | <input checked="checked" type="checkbox"/> | Implementation |
|--------------------------|-------|--|----------------|

4. To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?

- |                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="text"/>                | New Storage Created (acre-feet)  |
| <input type="text"/>                | New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet) |
| <input type="text"/>                | Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)                             |
| <input type="text" value="18,480"/> | Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)                           |
| <input type="text" value="29,790"/> | Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)                           |
| <input type="text" value="300 AF"/> | Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – <b>circle one</b> )       |
| <input type="text"/>                | Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)                                  |
| <input type="text"/>                | Other -- Explain:  |

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4. To help us map WSRA projects please include a map (Exhibit B) and provide the general coordinates below:

Latitude: 39°35'11.85"N

Longitude: 106°51'37.48"W

5. Please provide an overview/summary of the proposed water activity (no more than one page). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRA funding will be used for. A full **Statement of Work** with a detailed budget and schedule is required as **Exhibit A** of this application.

Abrams Creek supports a Core Conservation population of genetically pure Green-Lineage cutthroat trout. This is the only known aboriginal cutthroat trout population in the Eagle River watershed and one of a few remnant indigenous populations left in the Upper Colorado River. The Abrams Creek Green-Lineage cutthroat trout possesses a unique Haplotype not found elsewhere. Furthermore, Abrams Creek cutthroat are distinctive because they reside in a relatively low elevation drainage, giving them probable adaptations to warmer temperatures and drought conditions that may benefit reintroduction efforts in the face of climate change. Finally, due to uncertainties surrounding the distinction between green lineage and greenback cutthroat trout, listed as threatened under the ESA, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has advised federal agencies to conduct Section 7 consultations for actions that may affect green lineage cutthroat trout until such time as a status assessment and a decision pursuant to the ESA is made (Service 2012).

According to CPW, preservation and improvement of the Abrams Creek cutthroat trout population is one of the highest priorities for cutthroat conservation efforts in western Colorado. This valuable population is limited by reduced flows due to diversions by a single irrigation ditch, the JPO Ditch. This relatively small diversion (3.0 cfs decreed under two pre-Compact priorities) truncates about 50% of the useable cutthroat trout habitat in Abrams Creek. In dry years, the ditch has historically swept the entire creek with long lasting impacts on the trout population. Trout Unlimited and CPW have partnered with Buckhorn District, the ditch owner, in an effort to improve flow conditions in Abrams Creek while respecting Buckhorn's irrigation rights. The partners are proposing to pipe portions of the ditch, which is expected to improve delivery efficiency by 40%. In exchange, Buckhorn will reduce Abrams Creek diversions by 40% and will curtail all diversions if creek flows fall below 1.25 cfs, in perpetuity. The total efficiency savings is estimated to average ~300 AF/yr, which will be translated directly into increased streamflow in Abrams Creek. Increasing flows is expected to increase resiliency within the trout cutthroat population and, potentially, allow it to expand. If successful, the Abrams Creek cutthroat trout will assist in reintroduction efforts elsewhere in the Eagle River watershed.

### Part III. – Threshold and Evaluation Criteria

1. Describe how the water activity meets these **Threshold Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines.)

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- a) The water activity is consistent with Section 37-75-102 Colorado Revised Statutes.<sup>1</sup>

The project will be implemented through a negotiated agreement between Trout Unlimited and Buckhorn District and is consistent with C.R.S. 37-75-102.

- b) The water activity underwent an evaluation and approval process and was approved by the Basin Roundtable (BRT) and the application includes a description of the results of the BRT's evaluation and approval of the activity. At a minimum, the description must include the level of agreement reached by the roundtable, including any minority opinion(s) if there was not general agreement for the activity. The description must also include reasons why general agreement was not reached (if it was not), including who opposed the activity and why they opposed it. Note- If this information is included in the letter from the roundtable chair simply reference that letter.

A letter from the Roundtable Chair has been provided.

- c) The water activity meets the provisions of Section 37-75-104(2), Colorado Revised Statutes.<sup>2</sup> The Basin Roundtable Chairs shall include in their approval letters for particular WSRA grant applications a description of how the water activity will assist in meeting the water supply needs identified in the basin roundtable's consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs assessments.

The Abrams Creek Cutthroat Trout project is identified in the Colorado River Basin Roundtable Implementation Plan as supporting Theme 1 of the Plan: Protect and Restore Healthy Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas (Section 6.4, Table 16, at p. 88); and is one of the Projects, Policies and Processes identified for the Eagle River Region (Section 6.4, Table 17, at p. 89).

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<sup>1</sup> 37-75-102. Water rights - protections. (1) It is the policy of the General Assembly that the current system of allocating water within Colorado shall not be superseded, abrogated, or otherwise impaired by this article. Nothing in this article shall be interpreted to repeal or in any manner amend the existing water rights adjudication system. The General Assembly affirms the state constitution's recognition of water rights as a private usufructuary property right, and this article is not intended to restrict the ability of the holder of a water right to use or to dispose of that water right in any manner permitted under Colorado law. (2) The General Assembly affirms the protections for contractual and property rights recognized by the contract and takings protections under the state constitution and related statutes. This article shall not be implemented in any way that would diminish, impair, or cause injury to any property or contractual right created by intergovernmental agreements, contracts, stipulations among parties to water cases, terms and conditions in water decrees, or any other similar document related to the allocation or use of water. This article shall not be construed to supersede, abrogate, or cause injury to vested water rights or decreed conditional water rights. The General Assembly affirms that this article does not impair, limit, or otherwise affect the rights of persons or entities to enter into agreements, contracts, or memoranda of understanding with other persons or entities relating to the appropriation, movement, or use of water under other provisions of law.

<sup>2</sup> 37-75-104 (2)(c). Using data and information from the Statewide Water Supply Initiative and other appropriate sources and in cooperation with the on-going Statewide Water Supply Initiative, develop a basin-wide consumptive and nonconsumptive water supply needs assessment, conduct an analysis of available unappropriated waters within the basin, and propose projects or methods, both structural and nonstructural, for meeting those needs and utilizing those unappropriated waters where appropriate. Basin Roundtables shall actively seek the input and advice of affected local governments, water providers, and other interested stakeholders and persons in establishing its needs assessment, and shall propose projects or methods for meeting those needs. Recommendations from this assessment shall be forwarded to the Interbasin Compact Committee and other basin roundtables for analysis and consideration after the General Assembly has approved the Interbasin Compact Charter.



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- d) Matching Requirement: For requests from the **Statewide Fund**, the applicants will be required to demonstrate a **25 percent** (or greater) match of the total grant request from the other sources, including by not limited to Basin Funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount shall be from Basin funds. A minimum match of 5% of the total grant amount must come from the applicant or 3rd party sources. Sources of matching funds include but are not limited to Basin Funds, in-kind services, funding from other sources, and/or direct cash match. Past expenditures directly related to the project may be considered as matching funds if the expenditures occurred within 9 months of the date the contract or purchase order between the applicant and the State of Colorado is executed. Please describe the source(s) of matching funds. (NOTE: These matching funds should also be reflected in your Detailed Budget in **Exhibit A** of this application)

The total cost of the project is estimated at \$1,371,950. Applicant's WSRA request constitutes approximately 32% of the total cost of the project, with the remaining 68% to be derived from other sources including federal, other state sources, local government, private grants (corporate and foundations), and individual donors. Current estimates from these other sources are as follows:

Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Watershed Grant (application pending): \$90,000

BLM (committed): \$10,000

Eagle River Chapter of Trout Unlimited: \$5,000

Native Species Conservation Fund (committed): \$ 40,000

Fish and Wildlife Resources Grant (to be applied for): \$ 521,000

Western Native Trout Initiative (to be applied for): \$ 50,000

Private grants (to be applied for): \$ 76,239

Local governments (to be applied for): \$ 60,000

Individual donors (to be applied for): \$ 80,000

Trout Unlimited (in-kind): \$50,000

Buckhorn District (in-kind): \$25,000

These sources include the required 10% match from the applicant or a third party.

2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the **Statewide Account**, describe how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines and repeated below.) Projects will be assessed on how well they meet the Evaluation Criteria. **Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

**Evaluation Criteria** – the following criteria will be utilized to further evaluate the merits of the water activity proposed for funding from the Statewide Account. In evaluation of proposed water activities, preference will be given to projects that meet one or more criteria from each of the three “tiers” or categories. Each “tier” is grouped in level of importance. For instance, projects that meet Tier 1 criteria will outweigh projects that only meet Tier 3 criteria. The applicant should also refer to the Supplemental Scoring Matrix applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests. WSRA grant requests for projects that may qualify for loans through the CWCB loan program will receive preference in the Statewide Evaluation Criteria if the grant request is part of a CWCB loan/WSRA grant package. For these CWCB loan/WSRA grant packages, the applicant must have a CWCB loan/WSRA grant ratio of 1:1 or higher. Preference will be given to those with a higher loan/grant ratio.



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### Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs

- a. The water activity addresses multiple needs or issues, including consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs, or the needs and issues of multiple interests or multiple basins. This can be demonstrated by obtaining letters of support from other basin roundtables (in addition to an approval letter from the sponsoring basin).

This is an irrigation efficiency project designed to reduce stream diversions for the benefit of a rare cutthroat trout fishery. Water diverted from Abrams Creek is used to irrigate hay in areas that have not been developed. As such, the project furthers both consumptive and non-consumptive needs. Moreover, the project is designed to improve the resiliency and, potentially, expand the population of a species of special concern. Due to uncertainties surrounding the distinction between green lineage and greenback cutthroat trout, listed as threatened under the ESA, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has advised federal agencies to conduct Section 7 consultations for actions that may affect green lineage cutthroat trout until such time as a status assessment and a decision pursuant to the ESA is made (Service 2012). At a minimum, improving conditions for the Abrams Creek cutthroat trout will further the goals of the Conservation Agreement for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (2006), designed to prevent ESA listing.

- b. The number and types of entities represented in the application and the degree to which the activity will promote cooperation and collaboration among traditional consumptive water interests and/or non-consumptive interests, and if applicable, the degree to which the water activity is effective in addressing intrabasin or interbasin needs or issues.

The project is a partnership between the Buckhorn District, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, BLM and Trout Unlimited. The Eagle River Watershed Coalition will also join in the efforts. The project is an example of how irrigators, conservation interests, and regulatory agencies can work together to achieve, through collaboration, outcomes that are beneficial to all and are respectful of property rights. By increasing the resiliency and potentially expanding the habitat of a species of particular concern, the project meets the goal of protection of threatened species identified in several basin roundtables.

- c. The water activity helps implement projects and processes identified as helping meet Colorado's future water needs, and/or addresses the gap areas between available water supply and future need as identified in SWSI or a roundtable's basin-wide water needs assessment.

The Abrams Creek Cutthroat Trout project is identified in the Colorado River Basin Roundtable Implementation Plan as supporting Theme 1 of the Plan: Protect and Restore Healthy Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Riparian Areas (Section 6.4, Table 16, at p. 88); and is one of the Projects, Policies and Processes identified for the Eagle River Region (Section 6.4, Table 17, at p. 89).

### Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation

- d. Funding from this Account will reduce the uncertainty that the water activity will be implemented. For this criterion the applicant should discuss how receiving funding from the Account will make a significant

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difference in the implementation of the water activity (i.e., how will receiving funding enable the water activity to move forward or the inability obtaining funding elsewhere).

Funds for the project are being sought from various sources, including federal sources, other state sources, local government contributions, private foundations, corporations, and individuals. Extensive outreach to the community is being conducted to seek public participation in an effort to preserve the only indigenous cutthroat trout species in the Eagle River Basin. Still, the project requires significant funding and contribution from this account is critical to the project's ability to move forward. Without funding through the Water Supply Reserve Fund, it is unlikely that this project could move forward.

- e. The amount of matching funds provided by the applicant via direct contributions, demonstrable in-kind contributions, and/or other sources demonstrates a significant & appropriate commitment to the project.

Applicants expect to provide 68% in matching funds from various sources. See section III.1.d.

### Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Other Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits

- f. The water activity helps sustain agriculture & open space, or meets environmental or recreational needs.

The project is designed to improve the resiliency and, potentially, expand the population of a species of special concern. Due to uncertainties regarding the relationship between greenback and green lineage cutthroat trout, and whether or not these lineages could both be considered the greenback cutthroat trout, which is listed as threatened under the ESA, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has advised federal agencies to conduct section 7 consultations for actions that may affect both the greenback and green lineage cutthroat trout until such time as a status assessment and a decision pursuant to the ESA is made (Service 2012). At a minimum, improving conditions for the Abrams Creek cutthroat trout will further the goals of the Conservation Agreement for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (2006), designed to prevent ESA listing.

- g. The water activity assists in the administration of compact-entitled waters or addresses problems related to compact entitled waters and compact compliance and the degree to which the activity promotes maximum utilization of state waters.

The project addresses issues with a protected species in a manner that fully preserves the use of a pre-Compact water right. By improving efficiencies which leave more flows for protected species without reducing irrigation use, the project also promotes maximum utilization of state waters.

- h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.

The project is expected to assist in the recovery of Green-Lineage cutthroat trout, currently treated as threatened under the ESA and identified as a Colorado State species of concern. Finally, due to uncertainties surrounding the distinction between green lineage and greenback cutthroat trout, listed as threatened under the ESA, the US Fish & Wildlife Service has advised federal agencies to conduct Section 7 consultations for actions that may affect green lineage cutthroat trout until such time as a status assessment and a decision pursuant to the ESA is made (Service 2012). At a minimum, improving

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conditions for the Abrams Creek cutthroat trout will further the goals of the Conservation Agreement for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (2006), designed to prevent ESA listing. Benefits to threatened and conservation species are also itemized in CPW's Strategic Plan (2015), and this project fits into the following clearly articulated Objectives within Goal 1 of the Plan:

- "Maintain viable populations through species conservation planning";
- "Pursue partnerships and agreements to enhance in-stream flow and influence water management."

- i. The water activity provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds requested.

Given its uniqueness and risk of extirpation, preservation of the Abrams Creek cutthroat trout population provides an immeasurable benefit to the state.

- j. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

In addition to furthering the goals of the WSRA program and the Colorado Water Plan, the project furthers the goals of the CWCB's Fish and Wildlife Resources program, established pursuant to C.R.S. 37-60-122.2 for the purpose of mitigating impacts of construction, **operation**, or maintenance of water diversion, delivery, or storage facilities. The project also furthers the goal of Colorado's Species Conservation Program established under C.R.S. 24-33-11 *et. seq* to conserve species that have been listed as threatened or endangered under state or federal law, or are candidate species or are likely to become candidate species as determined by the United States fish and wildlife service.

Continued: Explanation of how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**.  
**Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

### Part IV. – Required Supporting Material

1. **Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability** – This information is needed to assess the viability of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. This should include a description of applicable water rights, and water rights issues, and the name/location of water bodies affected by the water activity.

Buckhorn District owns JPO Ditch No. 2 which diverts water from Abrams Creek, a tributary of the Eagle River, tributary of the Colorado River. The JPO Ditch No. 2 is decreed for a total of 3.0 cfs as follows:

- 1.0 cfs for irrigation under Civil Action 548, Water District 37, Division 5, issued on February 28, 1911, with an appropriation date of June 3, 1908; and
- 2.0 cfs for irrigation and domestic use under Civil Action 841, Water District 37, Division 5, issued December 3, 1925, with an appropriation date of April 1, 1916.

The point of diversion for the JPO Ditch is located in Abrams Creek, approximately half-way in the reach of Abrams Creek where Abrams Creek cutthroat trout are currently found.

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Water diverted by the JPO Ditch No. 2 is delivered to the District's irrigated lands, approximately 5 miles downstream in the Alkali Creek drainage. Estimates are that as much as 40 percent of the water diverted does not reach the irrigated lands due to ditch leakage. This is a transbasin diversion, with leakage accruing to the Alkali Creek basin drainage, not to Abrams Creek.

2. Please provide a brief narrative of any related studies or permitting issues.

Abrams Creek cutthroat trout have been subject to extensive study and have been the focus of cutthroat conservation efforts for more than 20 years. Eagle Ranch subdivision, as part of their mitigation for development, constructed a fish barrier to protect the native cutthroat from invasion by non-native trout in Brush Creek. In the late 1990's, genetic researcher D. K. Shiozawa identified this population as having an important "archaic allele" that distinguished them from other cutthroat trout. Since that time, advances in genetic analyses used Abrams Creek cutthroat as a reference population as part of a landmark study investigating the history, genetics, and morphological attributes of cutthroat trout across Colorado's landscape (Metcalf et al. 2012, Bestgen et al. 2013, Rogers 2010 and 2012). During this study, it was determined that Abrams Creek cutthroat belong to a previously unrecognized lineage of cutthroat trout in Colorado that is unique in the Eagle Watershed and are genetically more distinct than other populations – which in conservation terms is significant to preserving diversity and resiliency within the green-lineage cutthroat population. This population will be the focus of reclamation and cutthroat reintroduction projects in the Eagle Watershed to ensure their persistence well into the future.

[References: Bestgen, K. R. et al. 2013. Phenotype predicts genotype for lineages of native cutthroat trout in the southern Rocky Mountains; Metcalf, J. L. et al. 2012. Historical stocking data and 19th century DNA reveal human-induced changes to native diversity and distribution of cutthroat trout; Molecular Ecology 21:5194-5207; Rogers, K. B. 2012. Piecing together the past: using DNA to resolve the heritage of our state fish; Rogers, K. B. 2010. Cutthroat trout taxonomy: exploring the heritage of Colorado's state fish].

Applicants anticipate the need for a right of way permit or similar approval from BLM and a 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). Buckhorn District has had numerous pre-application project planning meetings with BLM, including extensive on-the-ground location and construction methods discussions. In addition, much of the evaluations associated with BLM's permitting have already been conducted.

The project will involve some wetlands modifications permitting at the JPO diversion structure. Buckhorn District has had introductory discussions with the USACE Grand Junction field office staff. The project will likely qualify for a nationwide permit.

3. Statement of Work, Detailed Budget, and Project Schedule  
See [Attachment A](#).

The statement of work will form the basis for the contract between the Applicant and the State of Colorado. In short, the Applicant is agreeing to undertake the work for the compensation outlined in the statement of work and budget, and in return, the State of Colorado is receiving the deliverables/products specified. **Please note that costs**

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**incurred prior to execution of a contract or purchase order are not subject to reimbursement.** All WSRA funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis after review invoices and appropriate backup material.

**Please provide a detailed statement of work using the template in Exhibit A.** Additional sections or modifications may be included as necessary. Please define all acronyms and include page numbers.

### **REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE**

**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 statement 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.

### **PAYMENT**


Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and invoicing by the applicant. Invoices from any other entity (i.e. subcontractors) cannot be processed by the State. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by major task, and estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire water activity in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues and proposed or implemented corrective actions. The last 10 percent of the entire water activity budget will be withheld until final project/water activity documentation is completed. 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 help promote the development of a common technical platform.

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The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Applicant: 

Print Applicant's Name: Amelia S. Whiting

Project Title: Abrams Creek Cutthroat Trout Project

Return an electronic version (hardcopy may also be submitted) of this application to:

Craig Godbout – WSRA Application  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203  
303-866-3441, ext. 3210 (office)  
303-547-8061 (cell)  
[craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us)