

**Water Supply Reserve Account – Grant and Loan Program**  
**Water Activity Summary Sheet**  
**March 22-23, 2017**  
**Agenda Item 24(d)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** Trout Unlimited & Buckhorn Valley Metropolitan District 1  
**Water Activity Name:** Abrams Creek Cutthroat Trout Project  
**Water Activity Purpose:** Non-consumptive Environmental Implementation  
**County:** Eagle County  
**Drainage Basin:** Colorado  
**Water Source:** Abrams Creek  
**Amount Requested/Source of Funds:** \$45,000 Colorado Basin Account  
\$319,711 Statewide Account \*  
\$364,711 Total Grant Request

**Matching Funds:** Basin Account Match = \$45,000  

- 14.1% of statewide request (meets 10% min)

Applicant/3<sup>rd</sup> Party Match (Cash & In-kind) = \$1,007,239  

- 319% of statewide request (meets 10% min)

Total Match (Basin & Applicant) = \$1,052,239  

- 329% of statewide request (meets 50% min)
- 76.7% of total project cost of \$1,371,950

\*NOTE: The discrepancy between the Statewide Account request in the application, the Roundtable Chair Recommendation Letter (\$405,000), and that stated herein (\$319,711) can be attributed to the applicant voluntarily reducing their request to accommodate the Statewide Account shortfall.

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
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Staff recommends approval of up to \$45,000 from the Colorado Basin Account; and \$319,711 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: Abrams Creek Cutthroat Trout Project.
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**Water Activity Summary:** If approved, WSRF grant funds will assist an irrigation efficiency project designed to reduce stream diversions and protect the Abrams Creek Cutthroat, the only known aboriginal cutthroat trout population in the Eagle River watershed. Currently, the single greatest limitation to this population is a significant diversion by a single irrigation ditch (JPO No 2). This very senior (1906) diversion takes away a significant portion of the habitat supporting water supply, especially during low flow. The project will pipe the JPO No. 2 ditch (29,790 ft), improving water delivery/efficiency by 40% (saving 300 ac-ft/yr). In turn, Buckhorn District (owner of the diversion rights) will reduce diversions by 40% and will curtail all diversions if flows are below 1.25 cfs. At a minimum, improving conditions for the Abrams Creek cutthroat trout will further goals of the Conservation Agreement for Colorado River Cutthroat Trout (2006), designed to prevent ESA listing. Moreover, the project is designed to improve the resiliency and, potentially, expand the population of a species of special concern.

**Discussion:** As described in the Colorado Basin Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter, this project was unanimously voted for and has widespread support including Eagle County’s State Representative, BLM, BR, USDA, Eagle Valley Land Trust, Eagle Ranch Wildlife Committee, Eagle River Watershed Council, Eagle County Board of County Commissioners, and the Town of Gypsum. The Abrams Creek Project is called out in the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan (CBIP) and squarely meets two of six CBIP objectives (Healthy Streams and Sustaining Agriculture). According to Parks and Wildlife, preservation and improvement of the Abrams Creek cutthroat trout population is one of the highest priorities for cutthroat conservation efforts in western Colorado.

This project also addresses a significant component of the Colorado Water Plan’s Critical Goals and Actions as identified in Chapter 10.3. F. Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation – specifically, recovering imperiled species and protecting healthy riparian habitat. If successful, the project could stave off listing of the rare, genetically pure Green-Lineage cutthroat trout.

**Issues/Additional Needs:** Staff will work cooperatively with the grantee to obtain all necessary letters of commitment from secured and pending funders.

**Eligibility Requirements:** The application meets requirements of the three subsections of the Eligibility Requirements: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, and Water Activity Eligibility.

**Eligibility Based on Funding Match Requirements:** The application meets the Basin and Statewide Accounts’ Matching requirements.

**Evaluation Criteria:** This activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter and the WSRF Grant Application for applicant’s detailed response.

#### **Funding Summary/Matching Funds:**

<b><u>Funding Source</u></b>	<b><u>Cash</u></b>	<b><u>In-Kind</u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>	<b><u>Status</u></b>
Bureau of Reclamation Cooperative Watershed Grant	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000	<i>Pending</i>
Eagle River Chapter of TU	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	Secured
Native Species Conservation Fund	\$40,000	\$0	\$40,000	Secured
Fish and Wildlife Resources Grant	\$521,000	\$0	\$521,000	<i>Pending</i>
Western Native Trout Initiative	\$50,000	\$0	\$50,000	<i>Pending</i>
Bureau of Land Management	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	Secured
Bureau of Reclamation	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000	<i>Pending</i>
Private grants	\$76,239	\$0	\$76,239	<i>Pending</i>
Local governments	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000	<i>Pending</i>
Individual donors	\$80,000	\$0	\$80,000	<i>Pending</i>
Trout Unlimited	\$0	\$50,000	\$50,000	Secured
Buckhorn District	\$0	\$25,000	\$25,000	Secured
<b>Subtotal Matching Funds</b>	<b>\$932,239</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$1,007,239</b>	
WSRA Colorado Basin Account	\$45,000	n/a	\$45,000	
WSRF Statewide Account	\$319,711	n/a	\$319,711	
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$1,296,950</b>	<b>\$75,000</b>	<b>\$1,371,950</b>	

**CWCB Project Manager:** Megan Holcomb

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, meeting summaries, 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 a professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice engineering.