

Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
May 17-18, 2017
Agenda Item 11(a)

Applicant & Grantee: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Water Activity Name: Rio Grande State Wildlife Area Design Project

Water Activity Purpose: Agricultural Implementation

County: Rio Grande

Drainage Basin: Rio Grande

Water Source: Rio Grande

Amount Requested: \$90,000 Rio Grande Basin Account

Matching Funds: Applicant Match = \$123,990

- 137.8% of the Basin Account request (meets 25% min)
- 57.9% of the total project cost of \$213,990

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$90,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Rio Grande State Wildlife Area (RGSWA) Design Project.

Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will help the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation improve agricultural irrigation infrastructure while addressing multiple environmental and recreational concerns. The RGSWA Design Project plans to stabilize 1000 ft. of stream, restore one acre of habitat, and develop designs for three diversion improvement projects. The designs include the survey and permitting for improvements to the San Luis Valley (SLV) Canal Headgate, Centennial Ditch Diversion, and the Rio Grande 2 Diversion, resulting in three ‘shovel ready’ improvement projects. The implementation of these projects, along with the proposed streambank stabilization and riparian restoration will significantly improve river health and water quality for fisheries, support a safer river for recreation, increase agricultural diversion efficiency, and protect the water supply to the complex wetland system on the RGSWA. The project brings together a diverse group of project partners united with a common goal to improve the river for agriculture, community enjoyment, and wildlife that depend on riparian ecosystems.

Discussion: As described in the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter, this project was supported and recommended for approval by the roundtable on March 14, 2017. Currently, the Rio Grande flowing through the RGSWA is unstable. River dynamics are eroding streambanks at an accelerated rate near water control infrastructure, threatening water delivery the SLV Canal and the Centennial Ditch, as well as the Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) siphon. Under flood conditions, CPW managers are concerned that the Rio Grande will wash away the siphon and change channel course, cutting off water delivery to the Centennial Ditch. This would eliminate CPW’s ability to maintain the 100 acres of critical wetlands that are irrigated by the siphon and Centennial Ditch. This project addresses these concerns and protects critical wetland and riparian habitat through streambank stabilization, riparian restoration, and the replacement of aging irrigation infrastructure.

The project meets the following Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan Goals numbers 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 11, 12, and 14. In addition to meeting numerous BIP goals, the project aligns with the Colorado Water Plan's policy to identify and implement projects to meet community and agricultural water needs, while balancing the needs of the environment and recreation (see Critical Goals and Actions as identified in *Chapter 10.3.D: Agriculture, 10.3.E. Storage, and 10.3.F. Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation.*)

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

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

Funding Match Requirements: This application meets the Basin Account 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:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
CPW Wetlands Program	\$24,990	\$0	\$24,990
Colorado Parks & Wildlife	\$0	\$10,000	\$10,000
Great Outdoors Colorado Habitat Restoration	\$25,000	\$0	\$25,000
North American Wetlands Conservation Act (pending)	\$60,000	\$0	\$60,000
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	\$0	\$4,000	\$4,000
Subtotal	\$109,990	\$14,000	\$123,990
WSRF Rio Grande Basin Account	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000
Total Project Costs	\$199,990	\$14,000	\$213,990

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. Information will 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 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements specified 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: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report summarizing project completion that may contain photographs, meeting summaries, and engineering reports.

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.