

Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
July 19-20, 2017
Agenda Item 15(e)

Applicant & Grantee: Denver Trout Unlimited

Water Activity Name: Biological and Ecological Benefits from Chatfield Reallocation Environmental Pool Increased Releases

Water Activity Purpose: Multi-purpose Study

County: Denver Metropolitan Area (within State Highway 470 beltway)

Drainage Basin: South Platte

Water Source: South Platte River

Amount Requested: \$10,000 Metro Basin Account

Matching Funds: Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$36,500

- 365% of Basin Account request (meets 25% min)
- 78% of total project cost of \$46,500

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$10,000 from the Metro Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Biological and Ecological Benefits from Chatfield Reallocation Environmental Pool Increased Releases.

Water Activity Summary: This WSRF grant, if approved, will help fund a study by Denver Trout Unlimited to determine the biological and ecological benefit of additional flows by season in the South Platte River downstream from Chatfield Dam. Funding will also help in the development of a Stream Management Plan that provides guidance on operational flow releases. The study takes previous evaluations to the next step of a multi-phased plan and will support both consumptive and non-consumptive needs throughout the Metro and downstream areas and benefit many users and uses along the river corridor.

The ultimate goal of this multi-phased plan is to develop a decision support matrix to understand how flows available through the Chatfield Reallocation Environmental Pool can be put to their most beneficial use downstream, taking into account time-varied flows and during which time of the year the flows are most beneficial. The decision support system analysis will include determination of: (1) a change in wetted area by stream flow as a metric for biological productivity; (2) water depths as a function of flow as a metric to determine the amount of refuge habitat for fish by season; and (3) annual peak flows as a metric for evaluation of bankfull and overbank flow for riparian benefits. The study will support non-consumptive use by providing a “new” water source to the downstream users, the Central Water Conservancy District, by allowing water for agricultural use throughout the area and by providing a greater volume of water in the river for stormwater and wastewater effluent dilution.

Discussion: As described in the Metro Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter, this project assists in satisfying Colorado’s Water Plan (CWP) Critical Goals and Actions as identified in

Chapter 10.3.F: Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation to develop Stream Management Plans for 80% of prioritized rivers. This study will help to meet the South Platte basin’s environmental and recreation goal to “fully recognize the importance of, and support the development of environmental and recreational projects and multipurpose projects that support water available for ecologically and economically important habitats and focus areas.” The study will also support *CWP Chapter 10.3.H: Education, Outreach, and Innovation* by providing information at public outreach events including Denver Trout Unlimited (DTU) general meetings and DTU’s annual fundraising event where the project will be presented. The information will be available to the public and can be presented at meetings requested by the CWCB.

This project received \$20,500 in support from the CWCB Watershed Restoration Program at the January 2017 Board meeting.

Issues/Additional Needs: The decision support system is impacted by a State Statute and it will need to operate within this structure. As Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) will be the ultimate user of the plan, the applicant notes it would be helpful in project evaluation to have the CPW materials necessary to inform their obligation. As such, CPW has been included in project discussions thus far.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, Water Activity Eligibility, and Eligibility Based on Match Requirements.

Evaluation Criteria: This activity has undergone review and staff has determined it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria outlined in Colorado’s Water Plan, Section 9.4. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter and the Application for a detailed response.

Funding Summary / Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>	<u>Total</u>	<u>Status</u>
CWCB Watershed Restoration Program	\$20,500	\$0	\$20,500	Secured
Denver Trout Unlimited	\$10,000	\$5,000	\$15,000	Secured
Colorado Trout Unlimited Golmacheck Grant	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	Secured
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$31,500	\$5,000	\$36,500	
WSRF Metro Account	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000	
Total Project Costs	\$41,500	\$5,000	\$46,500	

CWCB Project Manager: Megan Holcomb