

NORTH PLATTE BASIN ROUNDTABLE

Wm. Kent Crowder, Chair
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July 12, 2017

Mr. Craig Godbout - WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Water Supply Reserve Account Grant Application for Aqua Fria Reservoir Rehab –
Lucky Penny Ranches LLC - \$75,000 from Bain Account WSRA Funds

Dear Mr. Godbout:

This letter is to advise you that the WSRA grant application submitted by Lucky Penny Ranches, LLC requesting \$75,000 from Bain Account WSRA Funds was reviewed and evaluated by the North Platte Basin Roundtable and was approved by a unanimous vote of the nine (9) voting members present at the North Platte Basin Roundtable meeting held on the 11th day of July, 2017. Because there were no dissenting votes, a minority report is not required.

Funding this rehabilitation project will address issues identified by the Dam Safety Branch of the Office of the State Engineer to repair damages to the Aqua Fria dam and outlets works to prevent further degradation of the dam and reservoir's functions. This rehabilitation project will preserve an existing water right and ensure the continued use of Aqua Fria Reservoir in the North Platte Basin. Water from this reservoir is used to irrigate hay meadows to produce very high quality mountain meadow hay that is sold and used for North Park cattle production. Funding repairs will also help preserve a quality fishery and provide nesting habitat for water fowl and other water birds. The project addresses both consumptive and nonconsumptive needs, and the repair of the dam and maintenance of the storage capacity in the Aqua Fria Reservoir is a high-priority project for the North Plate Basin. In addition to its role in water delivery, the reservoir provides recreational opportunities to campers, hikers and anglers using surrounding federal forest lands. Several goals set forth in the North Platte Basin Implementation Plan are addressed by the project. The preserved storage helps to maintain and maximize the consumptive use of water in the basin while helping to maintain important existing water infrastructure. In addition, the multiple purpose uses of the reservoir help to directly maintain healthy wetlands while showcasing the beneficial relationship between agricultural and environmental and recreational water use.

Please feel free to call me with any questions that you may have regarding the North Platte Basin Roundtable meeting or our level of support for this project.

Sincerely,



Wm. Kent Crowder, Chair
North Platte Basin Roundtable

cc: John and Sharon Harvat, Lucky Penny Ranches, LLC