

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

Applicant & Grantee: Grand County Irrigated Land Company
Water Activity Name: Vail Ditch Flow Monitoring Improvements
Water Activity Purpose: Agricultural Implementation
County: Grand
Drainage Basin: Colorado
Water Source: Meadow Creek Reservoir
Amount Requested: \$11,000 Colorado Basin Account
Matching Funds: Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$12,000

- 109% of Basin Account request (meets 25% min)
- 52% of total project cost of \$23,000

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$11,000 from the Colorado Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Vail Ditch Flow Monitoring Improvements.

Water Activity Summary: This WSRF grant, if approved, will help replace the Grand County Irrigated Land Company's (GCILC) Parshall flume in Strawberry Creek that blew out during a high water event in 2010. The damaged flume will be removed from the stream channel and 100 feet of stream habitat will be restored above and below the flume. The new flume will be designed by the Natural Resource Conservation Service to safely by-pass high flows. The project will also include the procurement and installation of a stage discharge recorder (SDR) and telemetry system that will allow for cost effective, continuous, real-time monitoring of the water released from Meadow Creek Reservoir and provide the District 51 Water Commissioner with flow data.

GCILC is a mutual ditch company that maintains about 10 miles of ditch to convey water from Meadow Creek Reservoir to the mesa for irrigation of approximately 1,000 acres of agricultural land, distributing water to the approximately 50 shareholders on Granby Mesa. The Parshall flumes located at Upper Vail Ditch and Strawberry Creek are both located in the Arapahoe National Forest, Sulphur Ranger District, and will require concurrence by the District Ranger. The location is several miles from the nearest road and difficult to access other than by hiking in; an easement has been granted by the U.S. Forest Service for the Vail Ditch water conveyance system to GCILC. The Forest Service has requested that the old flume be removed, the habitat be restored at the site, and the access to the site avoids wetlands. A work plan will be submitted to the District Ranger and concurrence is not expected to be an issue.

Discussion: As described in the Colorado Basin Roundtable Chair's Recommendation Letter, this project supports the Colorado Basin Implementation Plan by improving irrigation water delivery, modernizing flow monitoring, and restoring habitat where high flows caused damage in 2010.

This project assists in satisfying Colorado's Water Plan Critical Goals and Actions as identified in *Chapter 10.3.A: Supply-Demand* as the project supports the basin roundtable in moving forward with identified projects. The flume replacement, along with a stage discharge recorder and telemetry system, will improve ditch conservation and efficiency through continuous flow data, as requested by the District 51 Water Commissioner.

Issues/Additional Needs: Support funds from the Grand County Mutual Ditch and Reservoir Company are secured, but applicant is awaiting a letter of support. Contracting will only proceed after all project funding sources are confirmed.

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>
Natural Resource Conservation Service	\$0	\$2,000	\$2,000	Secured
Grand County Mutual Ditch and Reservoir Co.	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	Secured
Grand County Irrigated Land Company	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000	Secured
Subtotal Matching Funds	\$10,000	\$2,000	\$12,000	
WSRF Colorado Basin Account	\$11,000	\$0	\$11,000	
Total Project Costs	\$21,000	\$2,000	\$23,000	

CWCB Project Manager: Megan Holcomb