# Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program

Water Activity Summary Sheet March 21-22, 2018 Agenda Item 25(h)

**Applicant & Grantee:** Ducks Unlimited, Inc.

Water Activity Name: BOR - Narrows Tracts: Shallow Water Wetland Enhancements

and Recharge Development

**Water Activity Purpose:** Multipurpose (Ag/Env&Rec) – Implementation

**County:** Morgan

**Drainage Basin:**South Platte
Water Source:
South Platte

**Amount Requested:** \$50,000 South Platte Basin Account

\$450,000 Statewide Account \$500,000 Total Request

**Matching Funds:** Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$657,932

• 146% of the Statewide Account request (meets 10%

min)

Basin Account Match = \$50,000

• 11% of Statewide Account Request (meets 10% min)

Total Match (Basin Account & Applicant) = \$707,932

• 157% of the Statewide Account request (meets 50%

min)

#### **Staff Recommendation:**

Staff recommends approval of up to \$50,000 from the South Platte Basin Account; and \$450,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project titled: BOR - Narrows Tracts: Shallow Water Wetland Enhancements and Recharge Development.

Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist Ducks Unlimited in partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and local water providers, to enhance existing shallow water wetlands and develop a complex of recharge ponds on three BOR properties, commonly referred to as the Narrows Tracts. In 2015, the CWCB funded the Phase-I feasibility study of these properties which concluded in September 2017 and laid the groundwork for project implementation (Phase-II). Through this WSRF grant proposal and significant DU philanthropic support, we are proposing to develop three multi-purpose projects on the Narrows properties to improve public recreational opportunities, develop new agricultural water supplies, and provide additional wildlife habitat along the South Platte River.

Specifically, WSRF funding will be utilized to:

- 1. Complete the final engineering drawings and solicit competitive construction bids
- 2. Construct the three properties as outlined in the Exhibit-A (SOW). Activities include the installation of 15,000 linear feet of 24" pipeline, 15 in-line water control structures, and approximately 20,000 cubic yards of earthwork.

- 3. Manage all construction activities.
- 4. Provide interim progress reports and a final report to the CWCB upon project completion.

**Discussion:** This project furthers multiple goals and objectives of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (SPBIP) in accordance with Section 4.5.2.5: Cooperative and Multi-Purpose Projects, an example of which is identified as "Environmental or recreational pools or cooperative agreements with respect to storage reservoirs, providing streamflows that enhance or protect recreational or environmental instream flow needs"; and Section 1.9.1: Agriculture, with a Measurable Outcome #3 of "Support strategies to address agricultural water shortages through IPPs, new multi-purpose projects and innovative measures to maximize use of available water supplies".

With respect to Colorado's Water Plan, this project supports the Critical Goals and Actions as described in Section 10.3A: Supply and Demand Gap, "Protect and Develop Compact Entitlements and Manage Risks", Section 10.3D: Agriculture, "Maintain Agricultural Viability", and Section F: Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation to Enhance Environmental and Recreational Economic Values.

Ducks Unlimited received a WSRF Grant in Sept 2015 for \$137,187 (\$15,554 South Platte Basin Account, \$121,633 Statewide Account) for the project titled *Water Development of the Bureau of Reclamation properties, known as the Narrows Tract, along the South Platte River* which was successfully completed to staff's satisfaction.

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

**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 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:**

Funding Source	Cash	In-kind	<u>Total</u>	<b>Status</b>
Ducks Unlimited	\$657,932	\$0	\$657,932	Secured
WSRF South Platte Basin Account	\$50,000	n/a	\$50,000	
WSRF Statewide Account	\$450,000	n/a	\$450,000	
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	\$1,157,932	\$0	\$1,157,932	

CWCB Project Manager: Craig Godbout

South Platte Basin Roundtable Garrett Varra, Chair gvarra@varracompanies.com

January 19th, 2018

Craig Godbout
Water Supply Planning Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street Suite 718
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Ducks Unlimited, Inc. – BOR – Narrows Tracts Shallow Water Wetland Enhancements and Recharge Development WSRF Grant Application

Dear Mr. Godbout,

The South Platte Basin Roundtable approved funding of \$50,000.00 from the basin fund to Ducks Unlimited, Inc. for the Narrows Tracts Shallow Water Wetland Enhancements and Recharge Development. The project was reviewed by the Roundtable on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 at the monthly meeting. There was a quorum of members present at the meeting. The project requests \$450,000.00 in funding from the statewide account.

There was one vote against approving the project. The concern voiced over this project was that the Roundtable member would like to see more project updates from Ducks Unlimited, Inc. Ducks Unlimited, Inc. has received grant money in the past. Prior to granting further money, there should be updates on how past projects have been finalized or are progressing.

This project follows a CWCB funded feasibility study of the Narrows Tracts approved in 2015. This project will construct the wetland enhancements and recharge studied in the prior project. This project will also support the South Platte BIP by creating groundwater recharge that will support local augmentation plans, as well as creating and enhancing many acres for recreation and environmental benefit.

The completed grant application will be forwarded directly to you by the applicant. Please contact the applicant directly or me at 720-272-2857 – <a href="mailto:gvarra@varracompanies.com">gvarra@varracompanies.com</a>, if you have any comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Garrett Varra



#### **Colorado Water Conservation Board**

### Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application

#### Instructions

All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines.

To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be approved by a Roundtable(s) **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly according to the schedule on page 2 of this application.

If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:

Arkansas Gunnison | North Platte | Colorado | Metro | Rio Grande | South Platte | Yampa/White Southwest

Ben Wade Craig Godbout Megan Holcomb

ben.wade@state.co.us craig.godbout@state.co.us megan.holcomb@state.co.us

303-866-3441 x3238 303-866-3441 x3210 303-866-3441 x3222

	WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)
Х	I acknowledge this request for funding was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring Basin Roundtable(s).
Х	I acknowledge I have read and understand the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines.
Х	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract. (1)
Exhib	bit A
Х	Statement of Work <sup>(2)</sup> (Word – see Exhibit A Template)
Х	Budget & Schedule <sup>(2)</sup> (Excel Spreadsheet – see Exhibit A Template)
	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(2)</sup>
Exhib	bit C
Х	Map <sup>(2)</sup>
	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support
Х	Certificate of Insurance <sup>(3)</sup> (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
Conti	racting Documents
Х	Certificate of Good Standing <sup>(3)</sup>
Х	W-9 <sup>(3)</sup>
	Independent Contractor Form <sup>(3)</sup> (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form <sup>(3)</sup>
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- (1) Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting
- (2) Required with application if applicable.
- (3) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.



Schedule			
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request	
January	December 1	Basin Account; BIP	
March	February 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP	
May	April 1	Basin Account; BIP	
July	June 1	Basin Account; BIP	
September	August 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP	
November	October 1	Basin Account/BIP	

	Desired Timeline
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	January 2018
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	April 2018

Water Activity Summary			
Name of Applicant	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.		
Name of Water Activity	Bureau of Reclamation – Narrows Tracts: Shallow Water Wetland Enhancements and Recharge Development		
Approving Roundtable	e(s)	Basin Account Request(s) <sup>(1)</sup>	
South Platte Basin Roundtable		\$50,000	
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$50,000	
Statewide Account Request <sup>(1)</sup>		\$450,000	
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$500,000	
Total Project Costs		\$1,157,932	

<sup>(1)</sup> Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)



Grantee and Applicant Information			
Name of Grantee(s)	Ducks Unlimited, Inc.		
Mailing Address	1825 Sharp Point Drive, Suite 118, Fort Collins, CO 80525		
FEIN	13-5643799		
Grantee's Organization Contact <sup>(1)</sup>	Martin Grenier		
Position/Title	Manager Conservation Programs		
Email	mgrenier@ducks.org		
Phone	970.775.4416		
Grant Management Contact <sup>(2)</sup>	Nancy Jensen		
Position/Title	Project Coordinator		
Email	njensen@ducks.org		
Phone	701.355.3514		
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)			
Mailing Address			
Position/Title			
Email			
Phone			

- (1) Person with signatory authority
- (2) Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

### **Description of Grantee**

Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. is a member organization structured under section 501(c)(3). The organization was created in 1937 for the conservation of North America's waterfowl and its habitat. Ducks Unlimited conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people. DU is the world's leader in wetland conservation, having conserved more than 14 million acres across the continent. DU's Colorado Field Office in Fort Collins employs experts in biology, engineering, hydrology, water law, agricultural economics, and land protection. Our experience in the region, network of landowners and partners, fundraising capabilities, and diverse skillsets position enable DU to effectively deliver multi-beneficial projects in this important focus landscape.



	Type of Eligible Entity (check one)
	<b>Public (Government):</b> municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
	<b>Public (Districts):</b> authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
	Private Incorporated: mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
Χ	Non-governmental organizations: broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
	Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes

	Type of Water Activity (check one)
	Study
Х	Implementation

	Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)				
Х	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)				
Х	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)				
Х	Agricultural				
	Municipal/Industrial				
	Needs Assessment				
	Education & Outreach				
	Other	Explain:			

Location of Water Activity			
	county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . vide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.		
County/Counties	Morgan County		
Latitude	40.267		
Longitude	-103.969		



### **Water Activity Overview**

Please provide a summary of the proposed water activity (200 words or less). Include a description of the activity and what the WSRF funding will be used for specifically (e.g. studies, permitting, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the activity. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, area of habitat improvements. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule.

Through a partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) and local water providers, Ducks Unlimited (DU) is proposing to enhance existing shallow water wetlands and develop a complex of recharge ponds on three BOR properties, commonly referred to as the Narrows Tracts. In 2015, the CWCB funded the Phase-I feasibility study of these properties (WSRF Contract CTGG1-1148) which concluded in September 2017 and laid the groundwork for project implementation (Phase-II). Through this WSRF grant proposal and significant DU philanthropic support, we are proposing to develop three multi-purpose projects on the Narrows properties to improve public recreational opportunities, develop new agricultural water supplies, and provide additional wildlife habitat along the South Platte River.

Specifically, WSRF funding will be utilized to:

- 1. Complete the final engineering drawings and solicit competitive construction bids
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- 3. Manage all construction activities.
- 4. Provide interim progress reports and a final report to the CWCB upon project completion.

Measurable Results				
To catalog measurable res	To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.			
	New S	torage Created (acre-feet)		
Approximately 1,000		New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive		
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)			
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)			
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)			
40	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)			
16,926 linear feet	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved			
	Other	Explain:		



### **Water Activity Justification**

Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of <u>Colorado's Water Plan</u>, the most recent <u>Statewide Water Supply Initiative</u>, and the respective <u>Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan</u> and <u>Education Action Plan</u> (1). The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).

For applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) (Also listed pp. 4-5 in <u>2016 WSRF</u> Criteria and Guidelines).

With a history of completing successful multi-purpose aquifer recharge projects in the South Platte Basin (eg: Heyborne, Brush Prairie Ponds, Drakeland Farms, Harm, Heron, Rumsey, and Carmen), DU was specifically recognized in the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) as being a leader in cooperative water project development:

### South Platte Basin Implementation Plan - Section. 4.5.2.5

"Some examples of cooperative or multi-purpose projects include:

• Recharge projects which provide wetland areas and wildlife habitat, specifically various Ducks Unlimited programs throughout the basin."

With regard to goals identified in the South Platte BIP, this project supports the following:

- 1. **Identified Plans and Processes (IPP's)** groundwater recharge is identified as of the premier IPP's due to the multi-purpose nature of conjunctive use projects.
- 2. **Agricultural Gap** this project will help to narrow the predicted agricultural gap for 2050 in the South Platte Basin of 262,000 acre-feet. We are estimating 1,000 acre-feet of new water supply will be developed with the potential to expand in the future.
- 3. **Environmental & Recreational Gap** although the BIP did not specifically identify Environmental and Recreational gap dues to the lack of methodology, this project will improve over 2,000 acres of publicly accessible lands in the Lower South Platte River, where 80% of the State's waterfowl hunters recreate. When completed, this improvement to a major South Platte environmental and recreational attribute will stand as a keystone achievement in the Basin.

This project supports several categories of measurable objectives under Section 10 (Critical Action Plan) of the Colorado Water Plan. Specifically, the following is a description of the critical action items this project will contribute toward under Section 10.3 of the CWP:

**10.3A - Supply Demand Gap** – Through conjunctive use management of South Platte water resources, streamflow will be retimed from periods of excess (spring and fall) to times of deficit (summer irrigation season). This conservation of water that would otherwise leave Colorado unused assists in narrowing the agricultural supply gap and helps Colorado meet its obligations under the South Platte River Compact with Nebraska.

10.3D. Agriculture – Without a reliable source of augmentation, many junior agricultural wells are



### **Water Activity Justification**

at risk of curtailment during dry years. The additional augmentation supplies generated by this project will help to maintain Colorado's agricultural viability, support our rural economies, and provide food security by offsetting agricultural well depletions for the Bijou Irrigation District

**10.3E - Storage** – Considering the inefficient environmental permitting process and high costs for building for new reservoirs, aquifer recharge projects have become the premier IPP for water needs in the South Platte Basin. This multi-purpose aquifer recharge project provides an innovative water storage alternative that will be operational in under three years and provide measurable annual supplies. Preliminary estimates indicate this project will contribute at least 1,000 acre-feet per year and would provide a positive step towards achieving the 400,000-acre-foot goal of additional yield from IPP's by 2050.

10.3F - Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation - A primary benefit of this project will be the increase in migratory bird hunting and viewing opportunities along the South Platte River (SPR) with the restoration and creation of shallow water habitat. The ponds will aide in maintaining the habitat base for the significant population of nonbreeding waterfowl that utilize the lower South Platte River in fall, winter and, especially, spring. The target species for this project include mallards and northern pintails, although all dabbling ducks will benefit. The intent of the project is to increase the availability and quality of shallow-water habitat to spring and fall migrants, such that body condition is maintained and pre-breeding physiological demands are met. These habitat types are in decline along Colorado's South Platte River.

(1) Access Basin Implementation Plans or Education Action Plans from Basin drop down menu.

#### **Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests**

**Basin (only) Account** grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3<sup>rd</sup> party and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment** as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)	
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	\$657,932 (cash)	



Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests				
Total Match	\$657,932			
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.				

## **Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests**

**Statewide Account** grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3rd party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3rd party) and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment.** Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):		
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	\$657,932 (cash)		
South Platte Basin Roundtable	50,000		
Total Match	\$707,932		
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).			

### **Related Studies**

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.



#### **Related Studies**

On December 17, 2015, CWCB through the WSRA Grant Program awarded Ducks Unlimited \$137,187 to complete the "Narrows Feasibility Study" for this project. The completed project provided resources to investigate the wetland enhancement and recharge development potential on four properties currently owned by the Bureau of Reclamation, commonly referred to as the "Narrows Properties" in Morgan County, Colorado. The final report was submitted to CWCB in September 2017 and describes the findings, as well as conceptual designs for implementation of this project.

Additionally, in June of 2012, CWCB through WSRA Grant Program awarded Ducks Unlimited \$85,421 to complete a Decision Support System Model for Recharge along the South Platte River. The model identified the Narrows Properties, specifically the Lantz Tract, as ranking very high for augmentation potential. This has since been confirmed through investigative work completed by Ducks Unlimited and CWCB as part of the Narrows Feasibility Study grant referenced above.

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Flevious GWCB Grants				
List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order				
See attached list of projects				
Tax Payer Bill of Rights				
The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive.				
Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.				
Not Applicable				

Applicant Name	Water Activity Name	Approving Roundtable	CWCB Date	Contract or P.O. #
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Narrows Feasibility Study	South Platte	12/15	CTGG1 2016-1148
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Water Development Feasibility State Land Board	South Platte	12/13	OE PDA 14IBC00027
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Prewitt Reservoir Wetland Partnership	South Platte	9/13	POGG1 2015-145
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	FLEX Water Market Education and Implementation	South Platte	7/13	C154227
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	South Platte Phreatophyte Control	South Platte	7/12	OE PDA 13IBC000004
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Decision Support System Model for Recharge	South Platte	6/12	OE PDA 12IBC000023
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	NP Irrigated Meadow Conservation Program	North Platte	6/10	OE PDA 10000000126
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Weld County School District Wetland Partnership	South Platte	2/9	OE PDA 0900000063
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Central South Platte Wetland Partnership	South Platte	9/9	C150454
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	Lower South Platte Water Protection	South Platte	4/9	09 PDA 00097
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.	South Platte Recharge Project	South Platte	4/8	08 PDA 00094









