

**Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 21-22, 2018
Agenda Item 25(n)**

Applicant & Grantee: Eagle River Watershed Council

Water Activity Name: Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan

Water Activity Purpose: Multi-use Study

County: Eagle

Drainage Basin: Colorado

Water Source: Eagle River mainstem from headwaters to confluence with the Colorado River

Amount Requested: \$75,000 Colorado Basin Account

Matching Funds: Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$314,945

- 420% of the Basin Account request (meets 25% min)
- 81% of the total project cost of \$389,945

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$75,000 from the Colorado Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan.

Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist Eagle River Watershed Council (ERWC) in the development of the Eagle River Integrated Water Management Plan (ER-IWMP). ERWC has a mission to advocate for the health and conservation of the Upper Colorado and Eagle River basins through research, education and projects. The Integrated Water Management Plan will develop proactive water management recommendations that anticipate changes to local hydrology due to 1) population growth and increasing municipal demand for water in Eagle County, 2) climate change, and 3) projects related to the Eagle River MOU (ERMOU), an intergovernmental agreement for developing municipal water supplies in the upper Eagle River watershed.

The ER-IWMP will be developed through a stakeholder process with local conservation organizations, state and federal agencies, recreational users, ERMOU partners, commercial fishing/rafting guides, local municipalities, agriculture, and other local stakeholders to develop strategies that can respond to these changes in a way that meets municipal demands, while also maintaining and improving ecological attributes in the Eagle River watershed.

The ER-IWMP will integrate both consumptive and non-consumptive water uses to ensure that all existing and future uses are considered. The ER-IWMP will safeguard the interests of the community and extended stakeholders, which include the environmental and recreational use needs. ERWC will provide the opportunity for all interested parties to participate and will educate the community so that the results of this plan are accepted as a fair and reasonable approach to managing our precious water resources.

Discussion: As described in the Colorado basin roundtable (BRT) chair's recommendation letter, this project was supported and recommended for approval by the roundtable on January 22, 2017. The project scored 12.25 of a possible 14.25 points on the Colorado BRT scoring matrix which measures how grants address roundtable objectives. This project assists in satisfying Colorado's Water Plan Critical Goals and Actions as identified in Chapter 10.3, F. Watershed Health, including the development of watershed coalitions and watershed master plans that address the needs of a diverse set of local stakeholders. The Colorado BRT refers to streamflow/watershed planning as Integrated Water Management Planning as a way to show that this type of work involves all stakeholder groups from ag, to municipal, to environmental, to recreation.

Eagle River Watershed Council has been doing such work in the Eagle River watershed since 2004, but will take the next step with the ER-IWMP. The plan demonstrates a commitment to protecting stream health, agriculture, and non-consumptive uses, while planning for change, and engaging the community with a focus on cooperation and collaboration between stakeholders with disparate views.

It is important to note that the Eagle River MOU partners are currently evaluating project alternatives to develop water storage and conveyance projects in the Eagle River basin for West Slope and East Slope interests. It is anticipated there will be strong proponents and opponents to each alternative, however by providing a forum for balanced conversation based upon mutually developed understandings of environmental and recreational use needs and by coming to consensus on what those needs are, partners can create a plan that is in the best interest of all stakeholders.

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

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

Evaluation Criteria: Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Summary / Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Homestake Water Project Partners cash	\$20,000	\$0	\$20,000
Eagle Park Reservoir Company	\$15,000	\$15,000	\$30,000
Vail Resorts (pending)	\$15,000	\$0	\$15,000
Eagle River Watershed Council in-kind	\$0	\$12,000	\$12,000
Climax Mine	\$11,000	\$0	\$11,000
Colorado River District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Eagle County (pending)	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Town of Vail	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Town of Avon	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Town of Gypsum	\$5,000	\$0	\$5,000
Town of Minturn	\$500	\$0	\$500
CWCB Watershed Restoration Grant	\$181,445	n/a	\$181,445
Sub-total	\$287,945	\$27,000	\$314,945
WSRF Colorado Basin Account	\$75,000	n/a	\$75,000
Totals	\$256,445	\$27,000	\$389,945

CWCB Project Manager: Megan Holcomb