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Re: Final Report

Number: POGG1 PDAA 201700000375 Page# 01

WSRF Grant Title: POGG1 PDAA 201700000375

WSRA Education and Public Outreach in the Rio Grande Basin

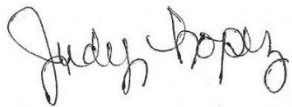
**4/17/2018**

Dear Megan,

Please find the attached Final report for the Ag Sustainability in the San Luis Valley in the Rio Grande Basin project.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thank you!



Judy Lopez  
Colorado Open Lands  
Conservation Project Manager

This Coordinator implemented and administer outreach and education activities, as the PEPO liaison, Judy Lopez. This project showcased the collaborative work of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable education committee and that of water users of all types across the Rio Grande Basin. This initiative worked to recognize the value of Colorado's water and communicate this value by making it readily identifiable to all community members. The project continued long established newspaper articles and radio interviews, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable webpage and Video Vignettes.

Because the stakeholders in the Rio Grande live in a rural, headwaters community that are facing several critical water issues they need to stay informed. The Coordinator insured that the information connection is expanded and complete.

The hiring of a Rio Grande Basin Roundtable Intern, Helen Smith, helped the basin expand their outreach capabilities. The intern was responsible for writing 28 monthly articles that were published in the local Valley Courier newspaper. The production of a Basin Roundtable Newsletter, taking minutes for each monthly roundtable meeting and organizing tours. The intern also participated in the basin ed committee meetings and the PEPO summits.

The project included tours of the following RGBRT funded projects:

- The Conejos Irrigation Improvement Projects
- The Macdonald Ditch Project Completion
- The Prarie Ditch Project
- RWEACT Post Fire Work
- The Sanchez Reservoir Project Completion
- The Rio Grande Cooperative Project
- The Continental/Santa Maria Reservoir Completion
- The Trinchera Improvement Project

These tours helped ensure that there is a connection between constituents and water funding. Showcasing the projects viability and sustainably of the basins water resource.

The funds also helped to design and implement the basins website, [www.rgbrt.org](http://www.rgbrt.org) The website serves as an archive for newspaper articles, radio

shows as available, the basin newsletter, meeting dates and minutes, WSRF Grant materials and the Colorado and RG Basin waterplans.

Finally, the grant paid for the production of nine video vignettes. The vignettes help tell the story of the Basin's consumptive and Non-consumptive uses, Environmental and Recreational uses, as well as water management and the social aspects of water. The vignettes are available for use by a variety of constituents. That include: roundtable members, local and regional governments, community groups, universities and schools and private organizations.

Vignettes produced include:

- Rio Grande Basin Water Plan
- Rio Grande Compact
- Rio Grande - Well Rules and Regulations
- Rio Grande Cooperative Project
- El Agua es Vida: Acequia Communities of Southern Colorado
- Conejos Irrigation Improvement
- RGB Radar Project
- Watershed Health
- Conservation Easement

The project and its deliverables were designed to line out the Education and Outreach goals as set out in the Rio Grande Basin and Colorado Water plans. The project used \$90,000.00 over three years from WSRF basin account funds. The WSRF funds were 65% of the total project cost of \$139,500.00. Matching funds are as follows: \$7,500.00 or 5% from the COL as cash; \$27,000.00 or 19% as COL in-kind participation and \$12,000.00 paid as cost share for the vignettes.