

# Metro Roundtable Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF) Program Guidelines Approved January 12<sup>th</sup> 2017

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## Program Summary

<b>How/Where to Apply?</b>	<a href="http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Pages/StatewideWaterSupplyReserveAccountGrants.asp">http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Pages/StatewideWaterSupplyReserveAccountGrants.asp</a>
<b>Eligible Entities</b>	<b>Government, Districts, Private Incorporated, Non-governmental organizations</b>
<b>Match Requirements</b>	<b>25%</b>

## Background

Colorado's growth and development as a state are intertwined with water. Development and management of water is complex, controversial and at times contentious. Decisions regarding water have become increasingly complex as Colorado has experienced both unprecedented population growth and a greater emphasis on multiple uses of this precious resource.

To facilitate discussions on water management issues and encourage locally driven collaborative solutions, nine basin roundtables were established by the [Colorado Water for the 21st Century Act](#). These roundtables represent each of the state's eight major river basins and the Denver metropolitan area.

The Metro Roundtable (MRT) is the only roundtable not designated out of a natural hydrological river basin. The Metro region's unique needs and water uses necessitated its designation apart from the South Platte River Basin (within which it lies). In 2010, the Denver Metro region had more than 2.6 million residents – about half of the state's population – and by 2050, this number is expected to increase to 4.1 million residents.

Nearly two-thirds of the increase in the state gross municipal and industrial (M&I) demand for water by 2030 – will be in the overall South Platte Basin (a combination of the MRT and the [South Platte Basin Roundtable](#) areas).

The MRT WSRF Grant Program is designed to help meet this demand by funding projects and processes that are consistent with the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan, including but not limited to:

- Maximize Implementation of Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs). Priority will be given to IPPs that provide a yield for the Metro area or reduce the Metro area M&I Gap as well as those serving other parts of the South Platte Basin that significantly leverages other funding for implementation.
- Implement conservation and reuse projects and programs in the Metro area or significantly leverage other funding for conservation and reuse in other parts of the South Platte Basin.
- Implement multi-purpose storage projects. Priority will be given to storage projects that provide a yield for Metro area and South Platte Basin water providers.
- Implement efforts that improve federal and state permitting processes without diminishing environmental protections.
- Implement projects or programs that protect and enhance environmental and recreational attributes. Priority will be given to projects or programs in focus areas in the BIP that are in the Metro area. Other priorities will be to implement endangered species programs, or programs to prevent the listing of threatened species in the South Platte Basin, as well as projects or programs in other focus areas in the BIP.
- Implement projects, programs, or studies that continue to investigate, preserve, and develop new Colorado River Basin supplies.

- Implement projects that maximize use of existing South Platte Basin water supplies including groundwater.
- Implement projects or programs that promote and advance Alternative Transfer Methods in lieu of “buy and dry”.
- Research new technologies and strategies to utilize lesser quality water supplies.
- Implement projects or programs that manage the risks of climate change.
- Implement communications and outreach programs on water projects and issues in the Metro area and South Platte Basin.

## Funding Source

The Water Supply Reserve Fund authorizing legislation (SB 06-179) created an account to help citizens identify and meet their critical water supply needs and provides funds for a broad range of eligible activities. SB09-106 reauthorized the program in perpetuity and appropriates \$10 million annually for the fund, subject to available funding. In recent years, total funding has ranged between \$4 million and \$10 million.

Water Supply Reserve Fund funds are divided between a single Statewide Account and nine Basin Accounts. The Statewide Account provides funding for projects that are of statewide significance. Approximately 64% of total available funding is awarded through the Statewide Account. The remaining funds, approximately 36%, are divided equally among the nine basin roundtable areas (Basin Accounts), providing approximately \$400,000 annually for projects of importance within the roundtable area.

All WSRF Grant request require final approval of the Colorado Water Conservation Board. All WSRF Grant requests need to comply with CWCB’s WSRF Grant Program Criteria and Guidelines.

## Purpose

The Metro Roundtable (MRT) has actively developed several projects by leveraging funds from the Water Supply Reserve Fund (WSRF). It is the goal of these WSRF Grant Guidelines to:

- Provide documented guidelines and procedures for WSRF grant applications, suitable for the needs of the MRT and consistent with the CWCB WSRF Criteria and Guidelines, and help maximize applicant success of meeting the information needs of the MRT in pursuit of WSRF grants from both the Statewide and/or Basin Accounts.
- Provide a mechanism to aid grant applicants in understanding the requirements of the WSRF grant application process and allow the MRT Needs Committee to provide feedback to applicants in order to align projects with Metro area needs and strengthen the applications.
- Provide an evaluation methodology that gives the greatest preference to projects that support the principles and goals of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP). Provide the opportunity for the MRT to evaluate grant applications with more thorough consideration of the suitability of the project for the Metro Area. The MRT Needs Committee may actively seek grant proposals that support the Colorado State Water Plan, on which a majority of the MRT’s goals are built upon.

## MRT Vision

These guidelines are intended to create structure around the WSRF funding request approval process in such a way that will promote applications that best address the consumptive and environmental and recreational needs of the Metro area.

As a majority of Colorado’s M&I gap is expected to occur in the South Platte Basin, the MRT believes that efforts to meet M&I demands should continue to be a high priority for the basin. The MRT also believes that efforts to close the projected M&I gap should be done in a way that ensures to the greatest extent possible the long-term sustainability of the Basin’s agriculture and natural environment, both for their own sake and for the beneficial economies, open space, wildlife habitat, and outdoor recreation activities that agriculture and a healthy environment support.

The MRT wishes to encourage WSRF grant-funded projects of statewide and local basin significance to address existing and future M&I demands while also meeting goals related to the long-term sustainability of agricultural economies and the natural environment. As such, all projects seeking to receive favorable grant consideration by the MRT should be able to demonstrate how their project will encourage collaboration while providing multiple benefit projects or studies and planning efforts that meet the MRT Priorities.

It is important for WSRF Grant applicants to understand that MRT members are focused on delivering on-the-ground solutions to the M&I gap, but doing so in a manner that lessens the negative impacts to agriculture, the environment, and recreation. To date, several multiple benefit projects have been approved and developed by the MRT. Of course, the MRT recognizes that not all individual projects can accomplish these ambitious goals. Therefore, projects that only meet one or two of the needs will be considered according to their contribution to the basin and statewide goals for meeting future water demand.

The roundtable is committed to demonstrating the value of non-consumptive projects by fulfilling this directive.

## **Eligible Entities**

In order to be eligible for MRT grants, applicants must be registered business entities legally conducting business in Colorado, municipal corporations, Title 32 water and sanitation districts, or other city, state or local governmental or quasi-governmental entities. “Private”, meaning private individuals, partnerships and sole proprietors are not eligible for Statewide Account WSRA funds (though may apply for Basin Account funds) and must either organize a legal entity to manage the project and apply for funds, or work through an eligible agency to be the fiscal agent.

## **Call for Projects**

The MRT Needs Committee will provide information on the MRT WSRF process, and at times, actively seek applicants or projects that are designated as MRT top priorities. The MRT Needs Committee will be happy to answer any specific questions a prospective applicant may have prior to their application submittal. The MRT Needs Committee can be reached through the Committee Chair, Tim Murrell, at [tmurrell@douglas.co.us](mailto:tmurrell@douglas.co.us)

## **Match Requirements**

Applications for Basin Account funds – The CWCB requires a 25% match for basin funds, from either cash or in-kind contributions. Applicants should be able to accurately describe how they will account for in-kind match.

Applications for Statewide Account funds – Statewide Account applications must provide at least 50% match from either cash or in-kind sources. At least 10% of the 50% match must come from the sponsoring roundtable’s Basin Account while an additional 10% must come from the applicant or a third party in any combination of cash, in-kind services or in-kind materials. Waivers are available for half of the required Statewide match if significant financial hardship can be sufficiently demonstrated (see revised CWCB [WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#) for additional details)

## How to Apply

1. Review the **Topic Areas Funding Distribution and Grant Priorities** on pages 7-17 to determine if your project meets one or more of the priority areas.
2. If the project meets one or more topic area priorities, the applicant is asked to provide a short (no more than a two-page) summary at least two weeks prior to the next scheduled MRT meeting to the appropriate topic area lead listed in the **Topic Areas Funding Distribution and Grant Priorities** section on pages 7-17. Applicants are encouraged to work backwards in time from any State grant request timelines, where applicable, that they will be required to meet. The topic area lead, or MRT Needs Committee Chair, will then notify the prospective applicant if the grant request meets the intent of the priority and if funding is available based on the request.
3. Assuming funding is available and intent is met, the applicant will be asked to provide a short presentation (5-10 minutes) to the MRT at least one month prior to the applicant seeking grant approval from the MRT. An applicant that has either not met intent or exceeds the funding allocation is still allowed to present to the larger membership, but the topic lead will notify membership of their concern(s) related to the application. Again, applicants are encouraged to work backwards in time from any State grant request timelines that are required to be met. This short 5-10 minute presentation, together with the two-page project summary, provides the entire MRT the opportunity to learn more about the application and ask questions related to the grant request. The MRT topic area lead will assist the applicant through this process and introduce the presenter to the membership. All attempts will be made to provide the opportunity to present at the MRT meeting requested but may be limited to a certain number of applicants based on meeting agenda constraints.
4. After the applicant presents to the MRT, the membership will decide whether the grant request sufficiently meets their priorities. Assuming the MRT decides the grant request should move forward, the Applicant must provide a completed [WSRF Grant Application](#) to the associated topic area lead or MRT Committee Chair at least two weeks prior to the MRT meeting that the grant request will be heard (next regularly scheduled MRT meeting where possible). The WSRF Grant Application should also be provided to the CWCB staff serving the MRT. At this stage there is no guarantee that the Applicant's grant will be approved but it is a significant hurdle to final approval.
5. At the MRT meeting where the grant will be considered for adoption, the topic lead will re-introduce the grant applicant, funding requested, and nature of the project. CWCB staff and any MRT membership may bring up any questions or concerns for the applicant so the applicant is strongly encouraged to attend this meeting. Approval is based on a vote of 2/3 majority of the voting membership of the MRT.

6. Assuming the grant is approved, applicant must submit the Grant Application form (Word or text-enabled PDF), statement of work, budget, schedule, and maps by the first of the month, the month prior to a CWCB Board meeting via email to the CWCB's Water Supply Planning Section, c/o: Craig Godbout, [craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us)  
Electronic applications can also be mailed to:  
Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Water Supply Planning Section  
WSRA Application  
1580 Logan Street, Suite 200  
Denver, CO 80203
  
7. Work with CWCB staff to address any issues or additional information needed prior to CWCB Board review.
  
8. Submit W-9 and Insurance Certificate form, if requested.

### Statewide Account Funding Ask

In addition to Basin account funds, applicants may also seek Statewide Account funds. Statewide Account funds, which are administered by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB), require approval by the MRT (including the required match) and by the CWCB Board.

More information about WSRA Statewide Account funds can be found here: [Link](#)

An applicant must apply and receive Basin Funds (at least 10% of total grant request), and request a letter of support from the MRT, to qualify for Statewide Account funds. Below are the scheduled CWCB WSRF award hearing dates:

	Summer	Winter
<b>CWCB Award Decision</b>	September	March

**Metro Roundtable**  
**Water Supply Reserve Fund Committee**  
**Topic Areas Funding Distribution and Grant Priorities**  
**2017**

The Metro Roundtable (MRT) membership has approved the prioritization of its remaining 2016 and 2017 WSRF funds based on five specific topic areas related to the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan. This will help the MRT prioritize their basin funding while assisting grant applicants in understanding what projects/concepts the membership is looking to support.

In order to facilitate the discussion on prioritization, the Metro Roundtable's WSRF Needs Committee appointed the following topic area leads:

- Conceptual Projects – In-Basin and Transbasin – Eric Hecox, [Eric.Hecox@sheaproperties.com](mailto:Eric.Hecox@sheaproperties.com)
- Municipal and Industrial – Conservation and Reuse – Joe Stibrich, [jstibrich@auroragov.org](mailto:jstibrich@auroragov.org)
- Environment and Recreation – David Nickum, [DNickum@tu.org](mailto:DNickum@tu.org)
- Municipal and Industrial – Implementation of IP&P's - Barbara Biggs, [biggsbj@cdmsmith.com](mailto:biggsbj@cdmsmith.com)
- Education and Outreach – Casey Davenhill, [casey@nilenet.com](mailto:casey@nilenet.com)

The MRT has approved the earmarking of 2016-17 basin funding based on the priorities listed within the five topic areas. Applications for grant funding and letters of recommendation will be evaluated based on the following priorities and funding available.

Should any clarification be necessary on the process please contact the WSRF Needs Committee Chair Tim Murrell at [tmurrell@douglas.co.us](mailto:tmurrell@douglas.co.us)

**Conceptual Projects**  
**Topic Areas Funding Distribution and Grant Priorities**  
**2017 MRT WSRF Funding Request - \$75,000**

- The Metro Roundtable will solicit applications to implement the following Recommendations from the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP):
  - **Further Develop In-Basin Conceptual Projects and Methods** – The Roundtables recommend additional development and analysis associated with the conceptual in-basin projects and methods presented in Section 4.6.2 (BIP, p. 6-17).
  - **Further Develop New Colorado River Basin Supply Strategies** – The Roundtables recommend additional conceptualization analysis of shared development of additional Colorado River Basin supplies and the projects and methods presented in Section 4.8.2 (BIP, p. 6-17).
- In order to ensure that resources are not spread too thin, in 2016/2017 the Metro Roundtable will attempt to fund one effort to further develop each concept.
- Successful applications will build upon the South Platte/Metro BIP per the details below.
- Anticipated WSRF Funding needs:
  - The Metro Roundtable anticipates advancing the Conceptual Projects in conjunction with the South Platte Roundtable and possibly other Basin Roundtables.
  - The Metro Roundtable would reserve approximately \$35,000 from its Basin Account for each concept.
  - If the South Platte Roundtable also contributed approximately \$35,000, the Roundtables would have approximately \$70,000 to advance each concept.
  - The Roundtables could leverage their Basin Account Funds and target Statewide Account funds for each concept.
  - Additionally, it is anticipated that in-kind or cash matches for each concept would be provided by Metro Roundtable members. Finally, it is anticipated that the Arkansas Basin Roundtable and potentially other Basin Roundtables would be interested in participating in the development of the New Colorado River Basin Supply Strategies concept.

Successful application to further develop **In-Basin** Conceptual Projects and Methods would build upon the following work in the BIP:

- Efforts to advance this concept should build on the recommendation in Executive Summary related to “Maximize use and effectiveness of native South Platte supplies” (BIP S.5.3, p. S-13). Specifically it should help “develop new, in-basin, multipurpose water storage and conveyance mechanisms, explore further integration of South Platte water supply systems to enhance yield and reliability, and develop methods to more effectively use groundwater.”
- Efforts to advance this concept should specifically reference and build upon Section 4.6.2 Conceptual Future In-Basin Multipurpose Project (BIP, p. 4-74 – 4-85).
- Additional work on this concept should build upon Portfolio B as described in Section 5.4.2 (BIP, p. 5-16) and subsequent analysis in Section 5.4.4.
- Finally, the successful application should describe how it advances the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan Elements #3 Maximize use and effectiveness of native South Platte supplies (BIP Section 5.5.3, p. 5-25) and # 7 Promote multi-purpose storage projects that enhance other South Platte Basin solutions (BIP Section 5.5.8, p. 5-29).

Successful application to further develop **New Colorado River Basin Supply Strategies** would build upon the following work in the BIP:

- Additional work on this concept should build on the recommendation in the Executive Summary related to “Simultaneously advance the consideration and preservation of new Colorado River Basin supply options” (BIP S.5.6, p. S-14). Specifically it should help “promote additional conceptualization analysis of shared development of additional Colorado River Basin supplies [and] consider potential criteria for ‘State Water Projects’ including benefits and challenges.”
- Efforts to advance this concept should specifically reference and build upon Section 4.8 Interbasin Projects and Methods (BIP, p. 4-100 – 4-118).
- Efforts to advance this concept should examine how a specific new Colorado River Basin supply strategy would relate to the elements of the IBCC’s Conceptual Framework.
- Additional work on this concept should build upon Section 5.3.3 Collaborative Statewide Approach on Colorado River Basin Supplies, Colorado River Management and a State Water Project (BIP, p. 5-13).
- Additional work on this concept should build upon Portfolio C as described in Section 5.4.3 (BIP, p. 5-17) and subsequent analysis in Section 5.4.4.
- Finally, the successful application should describe how it advances the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan Elements #Simultaneously Advance Investigation, Preservation, and Development of New Colorado River Supply Options (BIP Section 5.5.6, p. 5-27) and # 7 Promote multi-purpose storage projects that enhance other South Platte Basin solutions (BIP Section 5.5.8, p. 5-29).

**Municipal & Industrial - Conservation and Reuse**  
**Topic Areas Funding Distribution and Grant Priorities**  
**2017 MRT WSRF Funding Request - \$75,000**

The following is offered for Roundtable discussion related to the setting of priority and funding for WSRF grants to be considered by the Metro Roundtable for the Municipal & Industrial – Conservation and Reuse topic. The governing criteria for such grant requests will first be based on how such requests will meet Plan Element #2 of the South Platte Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) – **Maintain leadership in conservation and reuse and implement additional measures to reduce water consumption rates.** To achieve this, the Metro Roundtable will consider WSRF grant requests that address the following:

- **Water Conservation** - Refine and normalize projected water conservation savings by municipal and industrial water use sectors to estimate future passive and active savings by 2050. Develop estimated ranges of practical stretch goal savings. Identify the relationships of these savings to reducing the M&I gap.
- **Reuse** - Look towards advancing new or innovative technologies. Evaluate direct and indirect potable reuse and non-potable reuse potential in the basin, looking at available M&I supplies physically and legally available for reuse, planned uses of such supplies by current owners, factors affecting reuse availability and practicality (regulatory issues, benefits within and across water use sectors, impacts of enhanced conservation on reuse supplies and potential, and impacts to downstream water use).

A grant request doesn't necessarily need to address all of the above aspects to be given funding consideration, but requests will be evaluated against these as selection criteria. Consideration will also be given to how a request addresses the issues identified in the BIP related to conservation and/or reuse, including:

- Successive use, conservation, and reuse – The dependence on successive use of return flows on the South Platte for M&I, agricultural, and environmental and recreational needs to be defined and considered (Section S.3.2).
- Passive and Active Conservation – Each type of conservation needs to be clearly defined and the application of any savings to meet the gap must be differentiated from savings to be used for other purpose (drought protection, factor of safety, climate change/variability, (public policy, etc.) (Section 4.3.1).
- Conservation Successes – Any analysis of estimated future conservation must objectively incorporate conservation programs and successes already in place to develop reasonable and achievable future savings (Section 4.3.1.).
- Reuse sources – Identification and differentiation of sources of reusable supply, including nonnative (TMD) water, agricultural-municipal transfers, nontributary groundwater, decreed reuse water (Section 4.3.2).
- Reuse limitations – Consideration of infrastructure needs, losses, timing, impacts to downstream rights, water quality, treatment and disposal, regulatory requirements for potable (direct and indirect) and non-potable uses (Section 4.3.2)

In 2016/2017 the Metro Roundtable would fund one or more efforts to address Water Conservation

and one or more efforts to address Reuse. It is recommended that WSRF funding from the Metro Roundtable be capped at \$25,000 for each effort. However, consideration will be given to fund additional efforts provided that approved requests total less than \$75,000. Additional funding potential that may be used to leverage Metro BRT funding for larger efforts include:

- The Metro Roundtable anticipates advancing Water Conservation and Reuse concepts in conjunction with the South Platte Roundtable, potentially providing matching funding.
- The Roundtables could leverage their Basin Account Funds and target Statewide Account funds for each concept. Possible matching funding by the South Platte Basin could provide \$150,000 to advance each concept.
- Additionally, it is anticipated that in-kind or cash matches for each concept would be provided by Metro Roundtable (and potentially South Platte Roundtable) members, further increasing funding of each concept.

**Environment & Recreation**  
**Topic Areas Funding Distribution and Grant Priorities**  
**2017 MRT WSRF Funding Request - \$65,000**

The overall environmental and recreational goal of the South Platte/Metro Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) is to enhance the health and vitality of rivers and streams in the South Platte Basin, sustaining ecosystems and providing important environmental, societal, and economic benefits to the region. The environmental and recreational assets within the basin include high mountain stream, foothills stream and warm water stream habitats, metropolitan corridors and areas of recreational opportunity.

The (BIP) established the following goal for environmental and recreational values, and WSRF proposals should directly address this goal:

- Fully recognize the importance of, and support the development of environmental and recreational projects and multipurpose projects that support water availability for ecologically and economically important habitats and focus areas.

Project needs identified under the measurable outcomes for this goal include restoration, recovery and sustainability of endangered, threatened and imperiled aquatic, riparian and wetland dependent species and plant communities (MO#1), enhancement of economic values associated with environmental and recreational water uses such as fishing, boating, waterfowl hunting, wildlife watching, camping and hiking (MO#2), and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat (MO#3).

Additionally, the BIP recognized the need to further assess environmental and recreational attributes, the projects and methods for their protection and enhancement, and the sufficiency of those projects and methods. Initial efforts should be directed toward the South Platte Focus Areas (p. 6-17).

Collaboration across water use sectors and multi-purpose projects were emphasized as priorities under plan elements 5 and 7:

- 5) Protect and enhance environmental and recreation attributes through collaboration with other water use sectors.
- 7) Promote multi-purpose storage projects that enhance other South Platte Basin solutions

In light of the needs for increased assessment, environmental and recreation projects and methods, and for collaboration on multi-purpose projects, we suggest that proposals be invited in each of those three categories: stream management planning/assessment; environmental and recreation enhancements; and development of environmental and recreational components in multipurpose projects. We recommend a target total of \$90,000 in funding for these projects over the upcoming year (contingent on the quality of applications submitted), or \$130,000 if the South Platte Roundtable chose to pursue this effort jointly and provide a like level of investment from their basin account.

**Geographic scope.** While the BIP was a basin-wide collaboration, given the Metro Basin's defined boundaries, proposals should address projects and waterways that are located either within,

or upstream and influencing, the watersheds within the Metro Roundtable boundaries. If the South Platte Roundtable wished to join us in pursuing and funding these projects, we could combine resources and expand the scope throughout the South Platte watershed. In either case, initial emphasis should be on identified environmental and recreational Focus Areas (an exception may be for restoration of priority imperiled species into suitable, but currently unoccupied habitat). A map showing South Platte BIP Environmental & Recreation Focus Areas is attached.

**Leveraging.** Given limited WSRF funds for a diverse set of environmental and recreation priorities, grants should emphasize leveraging of other matching resources (cash and/or in-kind) rather than relying on Basin WSRF funds as the primary financial support for a project. Examples of such leverage could include CWCB stream management plan grants, county funding through the Conservation Trust Fund, statewide WSRF allocations (for projects of statewide significance), Colorado Parks and Wildlife grant programs for wetlands and fishery enhancement, and matching resources from other water use sectors as part of multi-purpose projects.

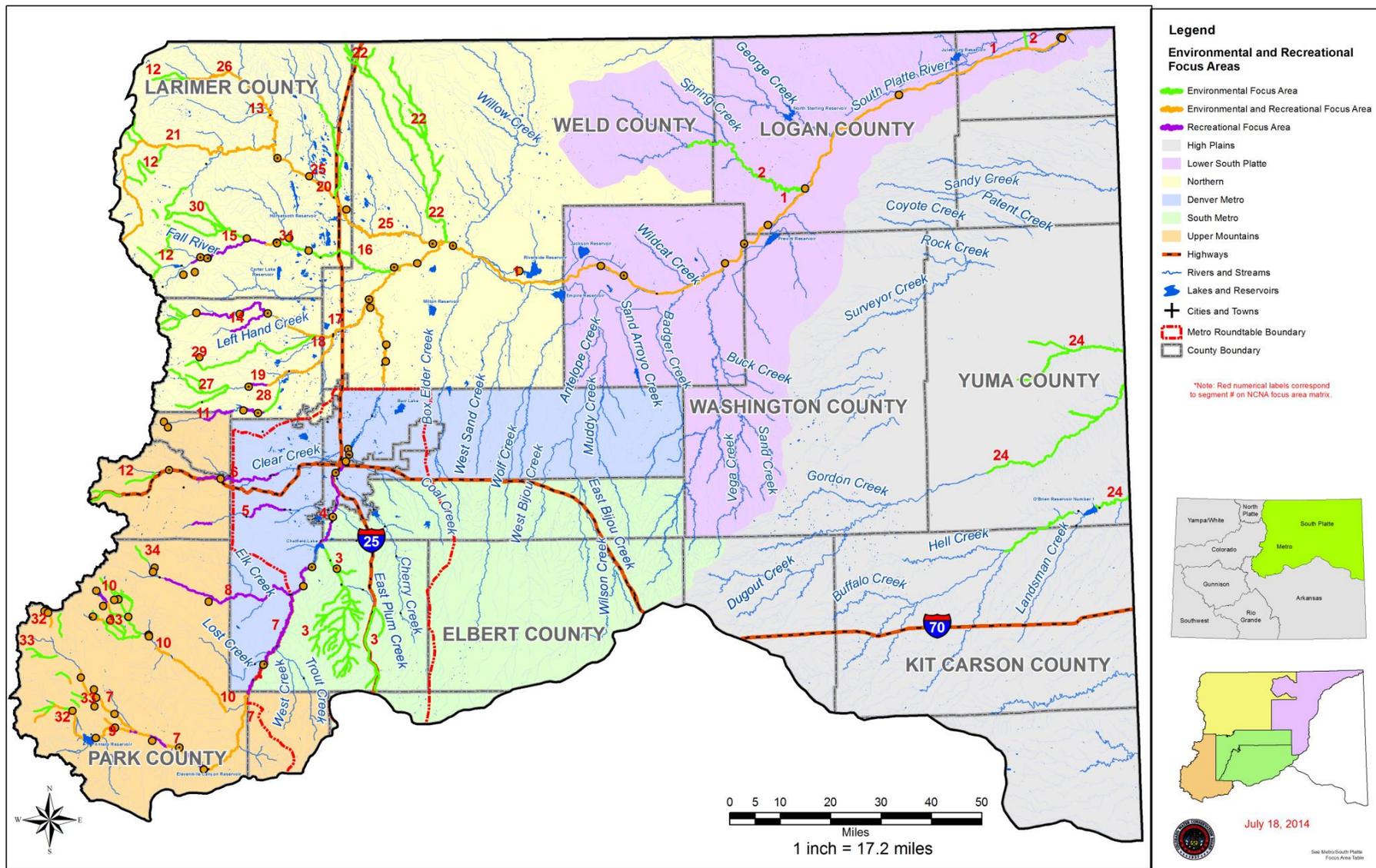
#### Proposed Environmental and Recreation Grant Types

- (1) Assessment grants.** Assessments of environmental and recreational needs must be done to establish baseline understanding of those needs, and define projects and methods to avoid degradation of current conditions where they are adequate and to restore ecosystems to sustainable and resilient levels where feasible. These assessments will fill existing data gaps regarding protection of environmental and recreational attributes in order to better understand the adequacy of existing and future protections. It is anticipated that these grants would be used in concert with other funds including the CWCB's Watershed Restoration Grants program for "stream management plans." Assessment work should emphasize Focus Areas where diverse stakeholders are engaged and where opportunities exist for collaborative projects (new, or through operation agreements on existing projects) to enhance habitat and/or flow conditions. \$14,400 could provide seed money grants for one such "stream management plan" efforts per year.
- (2) Environmental/recreational enhancement grants.** These grants would provide matching resources toward projects for direct enhancement of aquatic, riparian and/or wetlands habitat within identified Focus Areas. Examples of such projects would include restoration of stream channels to provide improved habitat; project for recovery of habitat for and/or reintroduction of imperiled species; restoration of riparian and other wetland habitat and vegetation. \$25,300 could provide matching funds toward other (larger) grant programs for one such priority project. Emphasis should be on projects that address critical species and/or that provide benefits for multiple environmental and recreational attributes (eg, riparian wetlands and improved water quality for fish habitat; greenway recreation and aquatic/riparian species habitat; etc.)
- (3) Environmental/recreational multi-purpose project grants.** Collaboration on projects among different water use sectors will be vital in achieving BIP goals and maximizing the basin's ability to meet its diverse water needs within limited resources. Seed funding would support incorporation of environmental and recreational components with other new or existing projects. Examples could include:
  - assistance with efforts such as environmental pools in reservoirs for in-reservoir habitats of concern and downstream flow management;
  - modernization of diversion structures with more river-friendly designs that facilitate aquatic life passage and natural river function;

- development of cooperative operating agreements to maximize environmental and recreation benefits from storage and delivery of water for other end uses; \$25,300 could provide matching funds towards one such multi-purpose project.

For each of these grant areas, funding could be doubled (and support two projects per year) if the South Platte Roundtable were to partner on this effort and provide a like level of funds. We would also recommend that the Metro Roundtable, should there be multiple strong proposals in one category but a lack of strong proposals in another, retain flexibility to shift funding between these three pots based on the proposals ultimately submitted in any given year.

## South Platte Environmental and Recreational Focus Areas



**Municipal and Industrial – Implementation of IP&P’s**  
**Topic Areas Funding Distribution and Grant Priorities**  
**2017 MRT WSRF Funding Request - \$75,000**

The following is offered for Roundtable discussion related to the setting of priority and funding for WSRF grants to be considered by the Metro Roundtable for the Municipal and Industrial – Implementation of Identified Projects and Processes (IP&P’s) topic. The governing criteria for such grant requests will first be based on how such requests will meet Plan Element #2 of the SPBIP – **Maximize Implementation of IPPs**. In order to accomplish this, the unique nature of the Metro Roundtable must be considered:

- The Metro Roundtable is made up of generally very sophisticated project sponsors, so the role of the BRT in supporting successful implementation of IPPs needs to recognize the primary role of the water providers.
- The Metro Roundtable will solicit applications to support successful implementation of IPPs. The BIP identifies four general categories of IPPs:
  - Reuse IPPs
  - Agriculture Transfer IPPs
  - In-Basin IPPs
  - Transbasin IPPs

It is assumed that Reuse IPPs will be addressed in conjunction with the Conservation and Reuse topic area. Similarly, In-Basin IPPs and Transbasin IPPs will be addressed in conjunction with the Conceptual Projects topic area.

To make progress toward meeting the BIP goal of maximizing the implementation, the Metro Roundtable will actively seek grant applications to assist water providers with projects that will implement their IPPs. In addition, the Metro Roundtable will actively work to, and considering funding, participation in efforts to improve project implementation under Colorado's Water Plan and tasks undertaken under the next SWSI update to update and refine the IPPs of smaller water providers in the Metro region. Finally, the Metro Roundtable may want to poll proponents of IPPs of water users in the South Platte Basin to determine whether collaboration and education among the proponents on permitting processes could improve the efficiency the permitting processes for the IPPs. If the polling is promising, the Metro Roundtable may consider funding collaboration and education efforts to help improve permitting efficiency.

**Education and Outreach**  
**Topic Areas Funding Distribution and Grant Priorities**  
**2017 MRT WSRF Funding Request - \$25,000**

Funding related to Education and Outreach Priorities will be consistent with the approved Metro Roundtable Education Action Plan and available for view or download at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us>

- Education and Outreach - \$25,000

Grant applicants seeking Education and Outreach funds will need to successfully demonstrate how their project ties to the recommendations in the Metro Roundtable Education Action Plan.