


TIER-1 APPLICATION TO THE NEW MEXICO INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION
FOR NEW MEXICO UNIT OR WATER UTILIZATION ALTERNATIVE
UNDER THE ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT

APPLICANT INFORMATION (PRINT OR

DATE: 4/30/2011

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|---|--|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| <p>1. Legal Name: Gila National Forest</p> | <p>2. Organization: United States Forest Service</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>3. Address (street, city, county, state, and zip code): 3005 E. Camino del Bosque Silver City, NM 88061</p> | <p>4. Name, email, and phone number of contract person: Rhonda S Helzner rhelzner@fs.fed.us (575) 388-8220</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>5. TYPE OF APPLICATION (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> Final <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Preliminary for review <input type="checkbox"/> Revised</p> | <p>6. TYPE OF APPLICANT (CHECK BOX): <input type="checkbox"/> local governments or municipalities <input type="checkbox"/> soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts or commissions, acequias, or other political subdivision of the State of New Mexico <input type="checkbox"/> institutions of higher education or a consortium of such institutions <input type="checkbox"/> non-profit organizations or associations <input type="checkbox"/> private individual/s <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> federal agency (ies) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify)</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>7. BRIEF PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Installation and Operation of Stream Flow (Gage) Stations</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>8. AREAS AFFECTED (describe by county, municipality, township, etc. as applicable):</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>9. TOTAL FUNDING REQUESTED (in \$1,000): (See Attachment 14A for Details)</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse; text-align: center;"> <tr> <td style="width: 16.6%;">2012:</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">2013: \$40</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">2014: \$100</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">2015: \$64</td> <td style="width: 16.6%;">2016: \$64</td> </tr> <tr> <td>2017: \$64</td> <td>2018: \$64</td> <td>2019: \$64</td> <td>2020: \$64</td> <td>2021: \$64</td> </tr> </table> | | 2012: | 2013: \$40 | 2014: \$100 | 2015: \$64 | 2016: \$64 | 2017: \$64 | 2018: \$64 | 2019: \$64 | 2020: \$64 | 2021: \$64 |
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| <p>10a. TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE AND BELIEF, ALL DATA IN THIS APPLICATION ARE TRUE AND CORRECT, THE DOCUMENT HAS BEEN DULY AUTHORIZED BY THE GOVERNING BODY OF THE APPLICANT AND THE APPLICANT WILL COMPLY WITH THE ATTACHED REQUIREMENTS AND ASSURANCES IF THE PROPOSAL IS ACCEPTED.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>10b. TYPED OR PRINTED NAME OF AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE: Patrick McKee, Acting Forest Supervisor</p> | <p>11. TITLE: Supervisor</p> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>12. PHONE NUMBER: 575-388-8201</p> | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>13. SIGNATURE: </p> | <p>DATE: 5/2/11</p> | | | | | | | | | | |

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14. Evaluation criteria. Comprehensive responses to criteria A through D should be supported where possible by the best available science and scientific data, studies, models, and, where applicable, cite state, regional, or other water plans. Where such data and information is not available, applications should include best estimates and describe how such information would be obtained. Applications that do not include the requested information will not satisfy Tier-1 standards and, therefore, will not be eligible for Tier-2 consideration. Use Form 14a if needed.

A. State whether the proposal is for the “New Mexico Unit,” a “water utilization alternative,” or both.

This proposal is a Water Utilization Alternative. It has the potential to provide information valuable in evaluating water flows including high/peak flows, environmental risks and effects of land treatments, and over time to provide probabilities of various flows.

B. Describe how the proposal will meet a “water supply demand” in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region, comprised of Catron, Grant, Hidalgo and Luna Counties.

Quantification of water is lacking. AWSA relates to high flows; strategically-placed gages in the Gila/San Francisco basin can help provide information on flows at various levels of a drainage area.

See Attachment 14B.

C. Describe how the proposal considers the Gila environment and describe how any negative impacts might be mitigated.

This project proposal is within the provisions of AWSA and would need to be subject to all other legal requirements such as NEPA, Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act, including permit requirements and conditions.

Installation of stream gages is a minor and very short lived construction activity. No listed species are anticipated to be impacted, although surveys, consultation with US Fish and Wildlife Service, and consideration for habitat disruption would be conducted prior to any construction, and alternate sites would be evaluated if it was determined that deleterious and long term impacts to habitats would occur from any construction or maintenance of these gaging facilities.

- D. Describe how the proposal considers the historic uses of and future demands for water in the Southwest New Mexico Water Planning Region and the traditions, cultures and customs affecting those uses.

This project will provide environmental benefits to the Gila – San Francisco basin. The project also helps evaluation of projects designed to meet current and anticipated future demands for water.

Exhibit A. Interstate Stream Commission Gila Policy Statement, September 2004, and 2004 Arizona Water Settlements Act, Section 212 (i)

INTERSTATE STREAM COMMISSION GILA POLICY STATEMENT, SEPTEMBER 2004:

The Interstate Stream Commission recognizes the unique and valuable ecology of the Gila Basin. In considering any proposal for water utilization under Section 212 of the Arizona Water Settlements Act, the Commission will apply the best available science to fully assess and mitigate the ecological impacts on Southwest New Mexico, the Gila River, its tributaries and associated riparian corridors, while also considering the historic uses of and future demands for water in the Basin and the traditions, cultures and customs affecting those uses.

2004 ARIZONA WATER SETTLEMENTS ACT, SECTION 212 (i)

(i) NEW MEXICO UNIT FUND- The Secretary shall deposit the amounts made available under paragraph (2)(D)(i) of section 403(f) of the Colorado River Basin Project Act (43 U.S.C. 1543(f)) (as amended by section 107(a)) into the New Mexico Unit Fund, a State of New Mexico Fund established and administered by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission. Withdrawals from the New Mexico Unit Fund shall be for the purpose of paying costs of the New Mexico Unit or other water utilization alternatives to meet water supply demands in the Southwest Water Planning Region of New Mexico, as determined by the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission in consultation with the Southwest New Mexico Water Study Group or its successor, including costs associated with planning and environmental compliance activities and environmental mitigation and restoration.

FORM 14A

USE THIS FORM TO COMPLETE ANSWERS TO CRITERIA 1 THROUGH 4. NUMBER EACH ADDITIONAL RESPONSE WITH THE CORRESPONDING CRITERIA NUMBER AND SUB-CRITERIA. USE AS MANY PAGES AS NEEDED.

Attachment 9:

It is anticipated that design plans would be developed by the US Geological Survey in conjunction with Gila National Forest and others, and would likely be based on existing gages in the area. It is anticipated that if funded by AWSA, the US Geological Survey would take over all operation and maintenance of gages, incorporating them into their streamgage monitoring network, and publish results. Estimated US Geological Survey costs of these installations have been developed (for one installation):

Design, installation: \$7,500 - \$10,000
Operation & Maintenance:
Year 1: \$25,000
Subsequent years: \$16,000/yr

Operation and maintenance includes 10 visits per year, development of rating curves, quality control, on-line publishing of records, and replacement due to loss or damage.

There may be an opportunity to utilize AWSA funds to obtain other cost-share dollars or partners.

AWSA funding will depend on the number of gages to be installed, not yet determined, and the amount of cost sharing. Assuming 50% cost sharing and four gages, cost for installation, operation and maintenance for 10 years is approximately \$360,000.

Attachment 14B:

The monitoring sites would be located within the Southwest Planning Region, one or more watersheds on the Gila National Forest in Grant and Catron Counties. The proposal entails investigation in consultation with other offices of the U.S. Forest Service, US Geological Survey, National Park Service, and others regarding the suitability of certain stream reaches for monitoring, gage installation and streamflow measurements. Provision for long-term maintenance and monitoring of these high quality measurement locations (over periods exceeding 10 years) is also included. Watershed monitoring above or between gages could also be valuable.

Quantification of water in the Gila/San Francisco basin is lacking. The "Gila River near Gila" streamgage is the only active USGS gage on the Gila River above Redrock. Tributary flows into both the Gila and the San Francisco River watersheds have by and large never been monitored. .

All users in the local area could benefit from this information when placement of gages is strategically planned and designed across the area. The people of the United States benefit by having more local gages with which to evaluate risks and benefits of future project proposals.