

SUBMIT OPTION SUBMITTAL FORM BY:

1. EMAIL TO: COLORADORIVERBASINSTUDY@USBR.GOV

2. U.S. MAIL TO: BUREAU OF RECLAMATION, ATTENTION MS. PAM ADAMS, LC-2721, P.O. BOX 61470, BOULDER CITY, NV 89006-1470

3. FACSIMILE TO: 702-293-8418

Option Submittal Form

Contact Information (optional):

Keep my contact information private.

Contact Name: _____	Title: _____
Affiliation: _____	
Address: _____	
Telephone: _____	E-mail Address: _____

Date Option Submitted: 1/28/12

Option Name:

Colorado River Climate Change Adaptation & Environmental Trust Fund

Description of Option:

Create a basin-wide trust fund that provides funding to preserve critical "services" provided by a healthy environment and to help pay for basin-wide climate change adaptation. Climate change adaptation needs to be tackled at a scale beyond an individual state, water provider or district. Creating a fund from water customers (water bills), recreational users, hydropower and others who will benefit from a healthy river and climate change adaptation will allow the Basin to adapt more holistically and comprehensively to a changing climate.

For example, funds could be raised from all municipal water users by charging .03 per 1000 gallons. For a household using 100,000 gallons in a year would pay \$3/year. Recreational users could include flat water recreation users, permitted and commercial river trips. The fee could be calculated by a day use fee, such as \$.50 - \$1 per day/per person. For example, someone going down a commercial or private trip through the Grand Canyon might pay between \$4-18 depending on how long their trip lasts. Hydropower users already pay a surcharge that supports recovery programs in the Basin, but it would be worth assessing hydropower fees to ensure they are on par with a municipal fee if one were imposed.

This fund could likely generate up to \$50M per year for climate change adaptation and environmental purposes. It could be used to help prevent listing of species that are currently imperiled and expedite existing recovery program efforts through habitat improvement and purchase of water rights. It could also be used to implement land use practices to minimize dust on snow or tamarisk and Russian olive removal. It could be used to match Farm Bill monies to maximize on-farm efficiency. It could be used to construct wetlands in the Upper Basin to minimize the impacts of flooding in wet years and increase water coming back to the river in dry years.

Location: Describe location(s) where option could be implemented and other areas that the option would affect, if applicable. Attach a map, if applicable.

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Basin-wide

Quantity and Timing: Roughly quantify the range of the potential amount of water that the option could provide over the next 50 years and in what timeframe that amount could be available. If option could be implemented in phases, include quantity estimates associated with each phase. If known, specify any important seasonal (e.g., more water could be available in winter) and/or frequency (e.g., more water could likely be available during above-average hydrologic years) considerations. If known, describe any key assumptions made in order to quantify the potential amount.

This is a strategy to implement the options and so therefore there is no quantity or timing associated with water.

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Additional Information

Technical Feasibility: Describe the maturity and feasibility of the concept/technology being proposed, and what research and/or technological development might first be needed.

It is technically feasible though it will raise logistical issues related to setting up the fund and implementing the fee arrangement.

Costs: Provide cost and funding information, if available, including capital, operations, maintenance, repair, replacement, and any other costs and sources of funds (e.g., public, private, or both public and private). Identify what is and is not included in the provided cost numbers and provide references used for cost justification. Methodologies for calculating unit costs (e.g., \$/acre-foot or \$/million gallons) vary widely; therefore, do not provide unit costs without also providing the assumed capital and annual costs for the option, and the methodology used to calculate unit costs.

There is no cost *per se*. Instead, this will help create a funding mechanism to pay for some of the basin-wide, environmental or climate change solutions. There is will be a cost to those who benefit, but it will be minor per individual because it will be spread out across beneficiaries

Permitting: List the permits and/or approvals required and status of any permits and/or approvals received.

No permits required.

Legal / Public Policy Considerations: Describe legal/public policy considerations associated with the option. Describe any agreements necessary for implementation and any potential water rights issues, if known.

The most difficult aspect of this idea is creating the political will and the appropriate legal mechanism to collect and distribute the funds.

Implementation Risk / Uncertainty: Describe any aspects of the option that involves risk or uncertainty related to implementing the option.

Getting support and buy-in from all the water users to pay into a fund is going to be very difficult, but if we can collectively identify the "need", it will be easier to garner support.

Reliability: Describe the anticipated reliability of the option and any known risks to supply or demand, such as: drought risk, water contamination risk, risk of infrastructure failure, etc.

This strategy should help increase reliability as it will provide revenue sources in perpetuity to mitigate drought, climate variability, and environmental risks and can facilitate more sustainable water development options.

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Water Quality: Identify key water quality implications (salinity and other constituents) associated with the option in all of the locations the option may affect.

This fund could be used to pay for water quality impacts identified by the Study.

Energy Needs: Describe, and quantify if known, the energy needs associated with the option. Include any energy required to obtain, treat, and deliver the water to the defined location at the defined quality.

Energy Required	Source(s) of Energy
N/A	

Hydroelectric Energy Generation: Describe, and quantify if known, any anticipated increases or decreases in hydroelectric energy generation as a result of the option.

Location of Generation	Impact to Generation
N/A	There could be location specific positive and/or negative impacts.

Recreation: Describe any anticipated positive or negative effects on recreation.

Location(s)	Anticipate Benefits or Impacts
Basin-wide	This could benefit recreation basin-wide and help mitigate negative impacts to recreation.

Environment: Describe any anticipated positive or negative effects on ecosystems within or outside of the Colorado River Basin.

Location(s)	Anticipated Benefits or Impacts
Basin-wide	This is expected to benefit the environment by providing necessary funding to support, protect or restore the river and related benefits.

Socioeconomics: Describe anticipated positive or negative socioeconomic (social and economic factors) effects.

There may be a very small negative financial impact if every stakeholder has to pay a small fee to support the fund. However, the greater societal benefit should greatly outweigh what any stakeholder has to pay into the fund.

Other Information: Provide other information as appropriate, including potential secondary benefits or considerations. Attach supporting documentation or references, if applicable.

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We recognize that this that cannot be modeled in CRSS, nor is it a water supply solution. But it is a strategy to support implementation at the scale necessary to address climate variability and facilitate a sustainable river system.