

(Options compiled by Steve Gaul. This is a working document and is for potential subcommittee discussion purposes only. Numbering of items does not imply priority or support)

BRAINSTORMING OPTIONS ON FUNDING FOR CONJUNCTIVE USE RELATED DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Types of Revenue Options / Funding Actions State Could Theoretically Take (Brainstorming Options NOT Recommendations)

1. One-time State Appropriation
2. Annual State Appropriations to Program
3. Dedicated State Tax Source
 - a) Cigarettes
 - b) Lottery
 - c) Collection of Water Fees (various fee structures possible)
 - Use Tax?
 - Consumptive Use Tax?
 - Acreage Tax?
 - Basin Wide Assessments per Irrigated Acre?
 - Transfer Fees?
 - Severance Tax Based Upon Distance Water Moved?
 - d) Dedicated Sales Tax Source
 - e) Other Potential New Tax Sources, "Sin" taxes etc.
4. Establish and Fund State Competitive Grant Program
5. Raise and/or Earmark Appropriations for University research
6. Use Existing State Programs (Environmental Trust?, Other?)
7. Open Up Requirements on Use of Resources Development Fund and/or Soil and Water Conservation Fund.
8. Raise NRD Tax Lids
9. Raise Other Local Tax Lids
10. Fund and Dedicate a DNR Staff Member to Grant Writing for Federal and Private Programs (*potential money sources mentioned by others have included Equip, Farm Bill, High Plains Aquifer Program, and Conservation Security Program*)
11. Provide Separate Funding Sources for the Republican (Settlement Monies) and the Middle and Upper Platte River (COHYST) Versus Other Areas of the State.
12. No New Funding – Do only what can be done with existing staff

Types of Programs

1. Continuing State Data Collection and Analysis (Research) Program
2. Continuing Local Program
3. Continuing State Competitive Grants Programs
4. One Time Competitive Grants Program
5. One Time State Level Study

Uses for Money

1. State Data Collection
2. Local Data Collection
3. State Data Analysis
4. Local Data Analysis
5. State Program Implementation
6. Local Program Implementation

Level of Funding Questions / Other

1. What Is Needed?
 - a) Individual General Studies?
 - b) Individual In-Depth Studies?
 - c) Continuing Research Program?
 - d) Studies on an As-Needed Basis by NRD?
 - e) *What Level of Funding is Needed?*
2. What Level of Research is Needed in Areas that May be Over-Appropriated on Only Rare Occasions?
3. Should Areas where Significant Action Is Already Underway Be Treated Differently? (Republican, COHYST)
4. What Might be Revenue Needs for Studies NRDs may Request of State Under Current LB 108 Law in Near Term Future?