

Water Supply Reserve Fund – Grant and Loan Program
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 22-23, 2017
Agenda Item 24(h)

Applicant & Grantee: Northstar Horse Rescue
Water Activity Name: Little Blanco Highline Ditch Renovation
Water Activity Purpose: Agricultural/Environmental & Recreation Implementation
County: Archuleta
Drainage Basin: Southwest
Water Source: Rito Blanco River
Amount Requested/Source of Funds: \$7,500 Southwest Basin Account
Matching Funds: Applicant Match: \$7,964 (cash & in-kind) =

- 106% of the Basin Account request (meets 25% min)
- 48.4% of the total project cost of \$15,464

Note: The discrepancy between the \$11,598 Southwest Basin Account request and the \$7,500 request herein can be attributed to the Roundtable members’ determination that the applicant should shoulder a larger proportion of the financial burden of this project.

Staff Recommendation:
Staff recommends approval of up to \$7,500 from the Southwest Basin Account to help fund the project titled: Little Blanco Ditch Renovation Project.

Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will assist in the rehabilitation of approximately 3.6 miles of existing earthen ditch and cleaning of 11 existing culverts within the Little Blanco Highline Ditch. Though currently unable to carry water, it is reputedly the oldest water ditch in Archuleta County, dug by horse and human power, and remained in fairly continuous use since 1894. Falling out of use in the last five years has put historic water rights (five total holders) at risk for abandonment without renovation. The project is not only historically significant by maintaining historic water rights and agricultural activities, but also serves to revive 13 acres of grazing land for Northstar Horse Rescue, would benefit all residents along County Road 335 by raising the water table, and has spurred cooperation between the five water rights holders on the Ditch to enter a maintenance agreement to ensure long-term success of the Ditch.

Discussion: As described in the Southwest Basin Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter, this project is consistent with the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan (SWBIP) Multi-Basin IPP #8: “Ditch Company Improvement and Efficiency Projects.” This project is also consistent with the SWBIP’s Goal and Measurable Outcome B2 under Agricultural Needs: “Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production.” Additionally, this project assists in satisfying Colorado’s Water Plan Critical Goals and Actions as identified in Chapter 10.3, D. Agriculture: Support Agricultural Conservation and Efficiency.

Issues/Additional Needs: No issues or additional needs have been identified.

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of the three subsections of the Eligibility Requirements: General Eligibility, Entity Eligibility, and Water Activity Eligibility.

Eligibility Based on Funding Match Requirements: This application meets the Basin Account Matching requirements.

Evaluation Criteria: This activity has undergone review and evaluation and staff has determined that it satisfies the Evaluation Criteria. Please refer to Basin Roundtable Chair’s Recommendation Letter and the WSRF Grant Application for applicant’s detailed response.

Funding Summary / Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Northstar Horse Rescue, Inc.	\$6,400	\$1,564	\$7,964
WSRA Southwest Basin Account	\$7,500	n/a	\$7,500
Total Project Costs	\$13,900	\$1,564	\$15,464

CWCB Project Manager: Megan Holcomb

All products, data, and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to the CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in-turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and will help promote the development of a common technical platform. In accordance with the revised WSRA Criteria and Guidelines, staff would like to highlight additional reporting and final deliverable requirements. The specific requirements are provided below.

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the scope of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, meeting summaries, and engineering reports/designs.

Engineering: All engineering work (as defined in the Engineers Practice Act (§12-25-102(10) C.R.S.)) performed under this grant shall be performed by or under the responsible charge of a professional engineer licensed by the State of Colorado to practice engineering.

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE
Michael Preston, Chair
c/o Dolores Water Conservancy District
P.O. Box 1150
Cortez, Colorado 81321
970-565-7562

January 11, 2017

Mr. Craig Godbout
Water Supply Management Section
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1580 Logan Street, Suite 600
Denver, Colorado 80203

SUBJECT: Renovation, Little Blanco Highline, Northstar Horse Rescue - \$7,500 from Basin Fund

Dear Mr. Godbout:

The Southwest Basin Roundtable approved funding of \$7,500 from the Basin Fund for the Renovation of the Little Blanco Highline Ditch sponsored by the Northstar Horse Rescue Inc. The application was considered in detail at the January 11, 2017 meeting of the Southwest Basin Roundtable. There was a quorum of Roundtable members present.

This Project is consistent with the Southwest Basin Implementation Plan Multi-Basin IPP #8 "Ditch Company Improvement and Efficiency Projects." The project is also consistent with Goal and Measurable Outcome B2 under Agricultural Needs: "Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production."

The Roundtable considered several pertinent facts: The Little Blanco Highline Ditch is reportedly the oldest water ditch in Archuleta County and these pre-1922 water rights are at risk for abandonment without this Renovation. The desire to irrigate the Northstar Horse Rescue has galvanized cooperation among other water rights holders on the Ditch. The Roundtable supports this effort but believes its long-term success depends on a ditch agreement or association organized to maintain the ditch and an initial O&M cost estimate, so those entering into this agreement have an idea what annual maintenance is projected to cost. Accordingly, WSRF Basin funding is approved in the amount of \$7,500 subject to a maintenance agreement and cost estimate.

The completed Grant Application will be forwarded directly to you by the applicant. Please contact the applicant directly or me at 970-565-7562, mpreston@frontier.net, if you have questions or wish to discuss this application in more detail.

Sincerely,



Michael Preston
Southwest Basin Roundtable Chair



COLORADO WATER CONSERVATION BOARD



WATER SUPPLY RESERVE ACCOUNT APPLICATION FORM

Today's Date: 12/29/2016

Renovation, Little Blanco Highline Ditch

Name of Water Activity/Project

Northstar Horse Rescue Inc

Name of Applicant

[Empty box for Name of Applicant]

Amount from Statewide Account:

[Empty box for Statewide Account]

Amount from Basin Account(s):

11,598.00

Total WSRA Funds Requested:

11,598.00

Approving Basin Roundtable(s)

(If multiple basins specify amounts in parentheses.)

FEIN:

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Required Exhibits

- A. Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule
- B. Project Map
- C. As Needed (i.e. letters of support, photos, maps, etc.)

Appendices – Reference Material

- 1. Program Information
- 2. Insurance Requirements
- 3. WSRA Standard Contract Information (Required for Projects Over \$100,000)
- 4. W-9 Form (Required for All Projects Prior to Contracting)

Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

Instructions

To receive funding from the Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA), a proposed water activity must be approved by the local Basin Roundtable **AND** the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Basin Roundtable consideration and approval is outlined in materials in Appendix 1.

Once approved by the local Basin Roundtable, the applicant should submit this application **with a detailed statement of work including budget and schedule as Exhibit A** to CWCB staff by the application deadline.

WSRA applications are due with the roundtable letter of support 60 calendar days prior to the bi-monthly Board meeting at which it will be considered. Board meetings are held in January, March, May, July, September, and November. Meeting details, including scheduled dates, agendas, etc. are posted on the CWCB website at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us> Applications to the WSRA Basin Account are considered at every board meeting, while applications to the WSRA Statewide Account are only considered at the March and September board meetings.

When completing this application, the applicant should refer to the WSRA Criteria and Guidelines available at: <http://cwcb.state.co.us/LoansGrants/water-supply-reserve-account-grants/Documents/WSRACriteriaGuidelines.pdf>. In addition, the applicant should also refer to the [Supplemental Scoring Matrix](#) applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests .

The application, statement of work, budget, and schedule **must be submitted in electronic format** (Microsoft Word or text-enabled PDF are preferred) and can be emailed or mailed on a disk to:

Craig Godbout - WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
Craig.godbout@state.co.us

If you have questions or need additional assistance, please contact Craig Godbout at: 303-866-3441 x3210 or craig.godbout@state.co.us.

Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

Part I. - Description of the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner);

1.	Applicant Name(s):	Northstar Horse Rescue Inc		
	Mailing address:	1478 CR 335 Pagosa Springs, CO 81147		
	FEIN #:	45-5280198		
	Primary Contact:	Elizabeth E Dickerson	Position/Title:	Executive Director
	Email:	lizzie.dickerson@gmail.com		
	Phone Numbers:	Cell: 207-317-7565	Office:	970-264-0421
	Alternate Contact:		Position/Title:	
	Email:			
	Phone Numbers:	Cell:	Office:	

2. Eligible entities for WSRA funds include the following. What type of entity is the Applicant?

- Public (Government) – municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities and the local entity should be the grant recipient. Federal agencies are eligible, but only if they can make a compelling case for why a local partner cannot be the grant recipient.
- Public (Districts) – authorities, Title 32/special districts, (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
- Private Incorporated – mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
- Private individuals, partnerships, and sole proprietors are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
- Non-governmental organizations – broadly defined as any organization that is not part of the government.

Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

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3. Provide a brief description of your organization

Northstar Horse Rescue was founded in Rockland, Maine, in 2012, and relocated to Pagosa Springs, Colorado, in 2014. We are a 501(c)(3) devoted to rehabilitating, retraining, retiring, and rehoming horses, primarily Thoroughbreds off the track. We currently have five Thoroughbred residents at our rescue, and we have helped dozens of horses find their new homes through our work with other rescues and equine advocates.

Our mission is to prevent cruelty to horses, to educate the public on equine issues, and to assist or facilitate equine rescue efforts.

Northstar Horse Rescue was relocated to Pagosa Springs because Executive Director Elizabeth Dickerson had a job opportunity in Colorado. Ms. Dickerson found a small ranch for a reasonable price at 1478 CR 335, and the ranch came with water rights on a water ditch called the Little Blanco Highline Ditch, which runs past the ranch, and traditionally was used for flood irrigation on the pastures. Northstar Horse Rescue leases the space for the non-profit from Ms. Dickerson, who owns the property. The lease is enclosed.

The Little Blanco Highline Ditch is reputedly the oldest water ditch in Archuleta County, dug by horse and human power. Spanning a little over 4 miles, the ditch traditionally brought water out of the Rito Blanco River to the Lower Blanco Basin, settled by farmers in the late 1800s and still dominantly a ranching and farming area, despite residential housing development. Digging of the ditch commenced on September 1, 1894. (See attached document, Priority 49.)

Northstar Horse Rescue encompasses 13 acres of grazing land, however, this land is very dry and when initially developed for agricultural use in the times of the settlers, depended on irrigation in order to be productive. The Little Blanco ditch provided the needed water.

Currently, the ditch is unable to carry water due to not having been maintained for many years, and close to abandonment status. The pastures for the horses are in desperate need of irrigation. Overgrazing did occur before Northstar established itself in Pagosa, and it is difficult to re-establish grass without a source of water.

There are five total holders of water rights on the ditch. A chart is enclosed showing the water rights on the ditch and the carriage amounts per each stakeholder, in addition to total carriage of the ditch.

However, even though there are a small number of water right holders on the ditch, the ditch has historic significance as the oldest if not one of the oldest water ditches in Archuleta County. We are located down Rt 84, near the Chama Diversion, which takes a significant amount of water from our region. We feel that given the historic significance of the ditch, the importance of maintaining historic water rights, the importance of maintaining agricultural activities, and the benefit of raising the water table for all residents along County Road 335 make this an important project.

4. If the Contracting Entity is different then the Applicant (Project Sponsor or Owner) please describe the Contracting Entity here.

Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

Revised October 2013

5. Successful applicants will have to execute a contract with the CWCB prior to beginning work on the portion of the project funded by the WSRA grant. In order to expedite the contracting process the CWCB has established a standard contract with provisions the applicant must adhere to. A link to this standard contract is included in Appendix 3. Please review this contract and check the appropriate box.

The Applicant will be able to contract with the CWCB using the Standard Contract

The Applicant has reviewed the standard contract and has some questions/issues/concerns. Please be aware that any deviation from the standard contract could result in a significant delay between grant approval and the funds being available.

6. The Tax Payer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect the applicant.

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Part II. - Description of the Water Activity/Project

1. What is the primary purpose of this grant application? (Please check only one)

Nonconsumptive (Environmental or Recreational)

Agricultural

Municipal/Industrial

Needs Assessment

Education

Other Explain:

2. If you feel this project addresses multiple purposes please explain.

This project addresses both an agricultural need and also would improve the general environmental conditions of the Lower Blanco valley due to an influx of needed water in a very dry region, thereby raising the water table.

3. Is this project primarily a study or implementation of a water activity/project? (Please check only one)

Study

Implementation

4. To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRA funds can you provide any of the following numbers?

New Storage Created (acre-feet)

New Annual Water Supplies Developed, Consumptive or Nonconsumptive (acre-feet)

Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)

Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)

Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)

Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year OR dollars/year – **circle one**)

Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)

Other -- Explain:

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4. To help us map WSRA projects please include a map (Exhibit B) and provide the general coordinates below:

Latitude:

37.156057

Longitude:

-106.965682

5. Please provide an overview/summary of the proposed water activity (no more than one page). Include a description of the overall water activity and specifically what the WSRA funding will be used for. A full **Statement of Work** with a detailed budget and schedule is required as **Exhibit A** of this application.

The proposed water activity is to renovate approximately four miles of water ditch known as the Little Blanco or Rito Blanco Highline Ditch, which flows out of the Rito Blanco River, traverses along Rt. 84, dips through a culvert below Rt. 84, and then winds down County Road 335 before finally emptying back into the Rito Blanco. The ditch has not been used for approximately five years. Eleven culverts will need to be blown out, with the culvert under Rt. 84 being about 80 feet, and the other culverts being about 40 feet in length. The ditch itself will need to be dug back out to approximately 1.5 feet wide at the bottom, 6 feet wide at the top, and 2 feet deep. This dimension will flow 7.9CFS, which is the decreed water right that is due to flow through the ditch to the stakeholders on the ditch, at a grade of 0.2 feet/100 feet.

The WSRA funding will be used to clean out the ditch and blow out the culverts.

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2. For Applications that include a request for funds from the **Statewide Account**, describe how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**. (Detailed in Part 3 of the Water Supply Reserve Account Criteria and Guidelines and repeated below.) Projects will be assessed on how well they meet the Evaluation Criteria. **Please attach additional pages as necessary.**

Evaluation Criteria – the following criteria will be utilized to further evaluate the merits of the water activity proposed for funding from the Statewide Account. In evaluation of proposed water activities, preference will be given to projects that meet one or more criteria from each of the three “tiers” or categories. Each “tier” is grouped in level of importance. For instance, projects that meet Tier 1 criteria will outweigh projects that only meet Tier 3 criteria. The applicant should also refer to the Supplemental Scoring Matrix applied to Evaluation Criteria Tiers 1-3 for Statewide Account requests. WSRA grant requests for projects that may qualify for loans through the CWCB loan program will receive preference in the Statewide Evaluation Criteria if the grant request is part of a CWCB loan/WSRA grant package. For these CWCB loan/WSRA grant packages, the applicant must have a CWCB loan/WSRA grant ratio of 1:1 or higher. Preference will be given to those with a higher loan/grant ratio.

Tier 1: Promoting Collaboration/Cooperation and Meeting Water Management Goals and Identified Water Needs

- a. The water activity addresses multiple needs or issues, including consumptive and/or non-consumptive needs, or the needs and issues of multiple interests or multiple basins. This can be demonstrated by obtaining letters of support from other basin roundtables (in addition to an approval letter from the sponsoring basin).
- b. The number and types of entities represented in the application and the degree to which the activity will promote cooperation and collaboration among traditional consumptive water interests and/or non-consumptive interests, and if applicable, the degree to which the water activity is effective in addressing intrabasin or interbasin needs or issues.
- c. The water activity helps implement projects and processes identified as helping meet Colorado’s future water needs, and/or addresses the gap areas between available water supply and future need as identified in SWSI or a roundtable’s basin-wide water needs assessment.

Tier 2: Facilitating Water Activity Implementation

- d. Funding from this Account will reduce the uncertainty that the water activity will be implemented. For this criterion the applicant should discuss how receiving funding from the Account will make a significant difference in the implementation of the water activity (i.e., how will receiving funding enable the water activity to move forward or the inability obtaining funding elsewhere).
- e. The amount of matching funds provided by the applicant via direct contributions, demonstrable in-kind contributions, and/or other sources demonstrates a significant & appropriate commitment to the project.

Tier 3: The Water Activity Addresses Other Issues of Statewide Value and Maximizes Benefits

- f. The water activity helps sustain agriculture & open space, or meets environmental or recreational needs.
- g. The water activity assists in the administration of compact-entitled waters or addresses problems related to compact entitled waters and compact compliance and the degree to which the activity promotes maximum utilization of state waters.
- h. The water activity assists in the recovery of threatened and endangered wildlife species or Colorado State species of concern.

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- i. The water activity provides a high level of benefit to Colorado in relationship to the amount of funds requested.
- j. The water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.

Continued: Explanation of how the water activity/project meets all applicable **Evaluation Criteria**.

Please attach additional pages as necessary.

Water Supply Reserve Account – Application Form

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Part IV. – Required Supporting Material

1. **Water Rights, Availability, and Sustainability** – This information is needed to assess the viability of the water project or activity. Please provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized, or the water body to be affected by, the water activity. This should include a description of applicable water rights, and water rights issues, and the name/location of water bodies affected by the water activity.

Blanco Highline and Extension from Rio Blanco Water Right Summary - Diversions at both Rito Blanco and Rio Blanco-						
Case	Adj	Appro	Flo	use	Source	Comment
W0653	12/19/68		0.25		Rito Blan	Masanz- Enlargement Cond to ABS Sequence 6
05CW0037	12/31/05	6/15/05	0.08		Rito Blan	Youlker Enlargement (0.75 Carrage Case# 05CW77&78
05CW0077	12/31/05	6/15/05	0.2		Rito Blan	Thorton Enlargement Lot 30
05CW0078	12/31/05	6/15/05	0.25		Rito Blan	Millette Enlargement
			0.75			Decreed Carrage
CA308-D	12/19/68		1		Blanco	Baker Enlargement Irrigation 35 acre (page 142), Priority 1968-114
			2.53			Decreed at Rito Blanco Heading
98CW76, 06CW0063, 13CW09	12/31/98	12/22/97	3.5		Blanco	CONDITIONAL 1.5 irrigation of 70 acres 2 cariage
80CW142	1/20/02		0.67		Blanco	0.67 from Rock Bottom Ditch -Kings Navajo Village- Dennis King
W1880	4/19/62		-0.4		Blanco	Removed 0.4 from 7 cfs CA308 to Ohare pump Lot 15 Rio Blanco Sub A
CA308	1/20/02		7		Blanco	Priority 49a 290acre Priority 334 , 5/20/1947 Decree and Appro
W1833	12/31/78		0.1		Blanco	Wills Irrigation System -AP Blanco Highline
CA308-D	12/19/68		3.25		Blanco	First Enlargement - B Collyer (Page 253) Irrig 135 acre
91CW0065	4/19/62		-0.6		Blanco	Abandoned Priority 334 - 4/19/1962 adj
91CW0065	12/31/98		-3.25		Blanco	Abandoned Priority 68-224
02CW0056	4/19/62		-2.15		Blanco	Abandoned Priority 334 - 4/19/1962 adj
03CW0047	12/31/05		-0.25		Blanco	Transferred to Wilson Suttcliffe Priority 334 - 4/19/1962 adj
			7.87			Decreed at Rio Blanco
			2.5			Decreed use and ownership at Two Bears Sub befor Rito Comingle
			7.9			Can be passed to the Rito Blanco Heading

2. Please provide a brief narrative of any related studies or permitting issues.

None known

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3. Statement of Work, Detailed Budget, and Project Schedule

The statement of work will form the basis for the contract between the Applicant and the State of Colorado. In short, the Applicant is agreeing to undertake the work for the compensation outlined in the statement of work and budget, and in return, the State of Colorado is receiving the deliverables/products specified. **Please note that costs incurred prior to execution of a contract or purchase order are not subject to reimbursement.** All WSRA funds are disbursed on a reimbursement basis after review invoices and appropriate backup material.

Please provide a detailed statement of work using the template in Exhibit A. Additional sections or modifications may be included as necessary. Please define all acronyms and include page numbers.

See EXHIBIT A, ATTACHED

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REPORTING AND FINAL DELIVERABLE

Reporting: The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of the executed contract. The progress report shall describe the completion or partial completion of the tasks identified in the statement of work including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

Final Deliverable: At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a final report that summarizes the project and documents how the project was completed. This report may contain photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

PAYMENT

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and invoicing by the applicant. Invoices from any other entity (i.e. subcontractors) cannot be processed by the State. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by major task, and estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire water activity in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues and proposed or implemented corrective actions. The last 10 percent of the entire water activity budget will be withheld until final project/water activity documentation is completed. All products, data and information developed as a result of this grant must be provided to the CWCB in hard copy and electronic format as part of the project documentation. This information will in turn be made widely available to Basin Roundtables and the general public and help promote the development of a common technical platform.

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The above statements are true to the best of my knowledge:

Signature of Applicant:

Print Applicant's Name:

Elizabeth E Dickson, Director, Hawthorn
Horse Rescue
Inc.

Project Title:

gfr
1/2/17

Date:

Return an electronic version (hardcopy may also be submitted) of this application to:

Craig Godbout – WSRA Application
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 721
Denver, CO 80203
303-866-3441, ext. 3210 (office)
303-547-8061 (cell)
craig.godbout@state.co.us

Exhibit A
Statement of Work
Date: February 14, 2017

WATER ACTIVITY NAME: Little Blanco Highline Ditch Renovation
GRANT RECIPIENT: Northstar Horse Rescue Inc
FUNDING SOURCE: WSRF- Basin Funding

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

The Little Blanco Highline Ditch is reputedly the oldest water ditch in Archuleta County, dug by horse and human power. Spanning a little over 4 miles, the ditch traditionally brought water out of the Rito Blanco River to the Lower Blanco Basin. The region was settled by farmers in the late 1800s and is still dominantly a ranching and farming area, though now including some residential housing development. Digging of the ditch commenced on September 1, 1894.

Northstar Horse Rescue encompasses 13 acres of grazing land, however, this land is very dry and when initially developed for agricultural use in the times of the settlers, depended on irrigation in order to be productive. The Little Blanco Ditch provided the needed water. The ditch has run pretty much continuously since 1894, but, in the past five years, approximately, the ditch has fallen out of use.

Currently, the ditch is unable to carry water. The pastures for the horses are in desperate need of irrigation, and we would like to preserve this historic ditch both as a continuous record of agricultural use in the Blanco Basin and because of the many benefits that additional water would bring to our valley.

There are five total holders of water rights on the ditch. A chart is on this application, in the section above, showing the water rights on the ditch and the carriage amounts per each stakeholder, in addition to total carriage of the ditch.

The ditch has historic significance as the oldest if not one of the oldest water ditches in Archuleta County. We are located down Rt 84, near the Chama Diversion, which takes a significant amount of water from our region. We feel that given the historic significance of the ditch, the importance of maintaining historic water rights, the importance of maintaining agricultural activities, and the benefit of raising the water table for all residents along County Road 335 make this an important project.

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE COLORADO WATER PLAN:

Critical Action Plan Implementation Goals Met:

- 1. Supply and Demand: (A)** This project allows for better management of water resources and increased water availability in drought scenarios.
- 2. Conservation: (B)** This project will increase the available water in the Little Blanco valley, raising water tables and decreasing the need to haul in water or deplete wells.
- 3. Land Use: (C)** This project will help with land use planning in that water will be more readily available, making more efficient use of the land possible.
- 4. Agriculture: (D)** The project will increase the ability of the horse farm to sustainably support its residents, and also increase the amount of forage and foods grown for both animals and humans.

5. **Storage (E)** There is a large pond dug in one pasture that was intended as a storage area for water, but is now dry. This pond will be renovated and used for storage.
6. **Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation (F)** The project will raise water levels in the valley area, making the area more attractive to wildlife and more environmentally healthy. The area will not be specifically a recreation area, as most of the land is on private property, however, the area will become more attractive to residents and visitors who wish to walk along the roadway or recreate in the adjacent national forest.
7. **Funding (G)** This project uses a variety of funding mechanisms, from in-kind matches to private funding.
8. **Education, Outreach and Innovation (H)** Northstar Horse Rescue's mission statement includes a clause stating that one purpose of the organization is to educate the public about equine issues. We engage in outreach activities through social media, our website, and on-site volunteer days.

OBJECTIVE

1. **Renovate the Little Blanco Highline Ditch so that irrigation water can once again flow.**

TASKS

TASK A: Blow out 11 culverts

Description of task

There are eleven culverts that are filled with silt. One of the culverts travels under Hwy 84 and is quite large and quite filled with silt.

Method/procedure

These culverts will need to be hydro-excavated.

TASK B: Clean out 3 miles of water ditch below Hwy 84

Description of Task

The water ditch is grown in with plant material and filled in with silt and will need to be dug out.

Method/procedure

Using backhoe and/or excavator, the ditch will be dug out and graded.

TASK C: Clean out 0.6 miles of ditch above Hwy 84

Description of Task

The water ditch is grown in with plant material and filled in with silt and will need to be dug out.

Method/procedure

Using backhoe and/or excavator, the ditch will be dug out and graded.

TASK D: Deliverables for Tasks A-D and Final Reporting

Upon completion of project, receipts will be furnished to WSRA, and a report showing the completed project. The project will be documented on the Northstar Horse Rescue website so that donors to the horse rescue can see the improvements made, and a new website will be created for residents of the area so that they can be kept abreast of water ditch activities.

WATER BALANCE BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

Task	Description	Start Date	Finish Date
A	Blow out 11 culverts	June 20, 2017	June 20, 2018
B	Clean 3 miles of ditch below hwy 84	June 20, 2017	June 20, 2018
C	Clean out 0.6 miles of ditch above Hwy 84	June 20, 2017	June 20, 2018
E	Reporting	June 20, 2017	June 20, 2018

WATER BALANCE BUDGET AND SCHEDULE

TASK	DESCRIPTION	CASH MATCH	IN KIND CONTRIBUTION	BASIN ACCOUNT	TOTAL
A	Blow out 11 culverts			5300.00	5300.00
B	Clean 3 miles of ditch below hwy 84	6000.00	1000.00	2000.00	9241.00
C	Clean out 0.6 miles of ditch above Hwy 84	400.00	564.00	200.00	923.00
D	Reporting				No cost
Totals		6400.00	1564.00	7500.00	15464.00
Percent Totals		41.50%	10%	48.50%	100%

Rito Blanco Highline Ditch



Diversion and headgate on Rito Blanco flume currently submerged. Evaluate once ditch is cleaned to determine if flume needs to be reset.

Item 1 - Ditch from headgate to Hwy 84 - 0.6 miles
Requires cleaning but not the extent as ditch below Hwy 84

Item 2 - Ditch from Hwy 84 to end - 3 miles
Requires extensive cleaning

Hwy 84

Item 3 - 11 culverts from Hwy 84 to end of ditch
Approximately 2/3 full of soil-gravel mix
Cleaning required

