

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.