



Last Update: May 19, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Reserve Fund
Grant Application

Instructions		
<p>All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines.</p> <p>To receive funding from the WSRF, a proposed water activity must be approved by a Roundtable(s) AND the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The process for Roundtable consideration and recommendation is outlined in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. The CWCB meets bimonthly according to the schedule on page 2 of this application.</p> <p>If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:</p>		
Arkansas	Gunnison North Platte South Platte Yampa/White	Colorado Metro Rio Grande Southwest
Ben Wade ben.wade@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3238	Craig Godbout craig.godbout@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3210	Megan Holcomb megan.holcomb@state.co.us 303-866-3441 x3222

WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)	
X	I acknowledge this request for funding was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring Basin Roundtable(s).
X	I acknowledge I have read and understand the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines .
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the Standard Contract . ⁽¹⁾
Exhibit A	
X	Statement of Work ⁽²⁾ (Word – see Exhibit A Template)
X	Budget & Schedule ⁽²⁾ (Excel Spreadsheet – see Exhibit A Template)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽²⁾
Exhibit C	
X	Map ⁽²⁾
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support
X	Certificate of Insurance ⁽³⁾ (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
Contracting Documents	
X	Certificate of Good Standing ⁽³⁾
X	W-9 ⁽³⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽³⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
X	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form ⁽³⁾

(1) Click "Grant Agreements". For reference only/do not fill out or submit/required for contracting

(2) Required with application if applicable.

(3) Required for contracting. While optional at the time of this application, submission can expedite contracting upon CWCB Board approval.



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Schedule		
CWCB Meeting	Application Submittal Dates	Type of Request
January	December 1	Basin Account; BIP
March	February 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
May	April 1	Basin Account; BIP
July	June 1	Basin Account; BIP
September	August 1	Basin/Statewide Account; BIP
November	October 1	Basin Account/BIP

Desired Timeline	
Desired CWCB Hearing Month:	September 2017
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	October 2017

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	
Name of Water Activity	Five Ditches: Rio Grande Diversion and Headgate Improvement Project	
Approving Roundtable(s)		Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾
Rio Grande Basin Roundtable		\$98,000
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$98,000
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾		\$882,000
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$980,000
Total Project Costs		\$3,105,500

(1) Please indicate the amount recommended for approval by the Roundtable(s)



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (CRGRF)
Mailing Address	623 Fourth Street, Alamosa, CO 81101
FEIN	75-3169057
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Emma Reesor
Position/Title	Executive Director
Email	emma@riograndeheadwaters.org
Phone	(719) 589-2230
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	<i>Same as Organization Contact</i>
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	<i>Same as Grantee</i>
Mailing Address	
Position/Title	
Email	
Phone	

(1) Person with signatory authority

(2) Person responsible for creating reimbursement invoices (Invoice for Services) and corresponding with CWCB staff.

Description of Grantee
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
<p>The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, a non-profit organization, is the fiscal agent for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP). The mission of the RGHRP is "to restore and conserve the historical functions and vitality of the Rio Grande in Colorado for improved water quality, agricultural water use, riparian habitat, wildlife and aquatic species habitat, recreation, and community safety, while meeting the Rio Grande Compact." The RGHRP was formed to implement the recommendations of the 2001 Study. Since formed, the RGHRP has improved the condition of the Rio Grande by partnering with over 60 landowners and multiple ditch companies.</p>



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	Public (Government): municipalities, enterprises, counties, and State of Colorado agencies. Federal agencies are encouraged to work with local entities. 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.
X	Non-governmental organizations: broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
	Covered Entity: as defined in Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
	Study
X	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
X	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
X	Agricultural	
	Municipal/Industrial	
	Needs Assessment	
	Education & Outreach	
	Other	Explain:

Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in decimal degrees . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Counties	Rio Grande County
Latitude	37.63
Longitude	-106.22 (Project includes 4 sites, see Exhibit C for each site location)



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Water Activity Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water activity (200 words or less). Include a description of the activity and what the WSRF funding will be used for specifically (e.g. studies, permitting, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the activity. Include details such as acres under irrigation, types of crops irrigated, number of residential and commercial taps, length of ditch improvements, length of pipe installed, area of habitat improvements. If this project addresses multiple purposes or spans multiple basins, please explain. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit A, a detailed Statement of Work, Budget, and Schedule.

The Consolidated Ditch, Pace Ditch, San Luis Valley Canal, Centennial Ditch, and Rio Grande #2 Ditch divert water off the Rio Grande to irrigate a combined 35,906 acres of agricultural land. Each ditch is facing issues of aging and inefficient diversion infrastructure and the river is impacted by nearby channel instability and sedimentation. The WSRA request will address the identified issues by funding the construction of diversion and headgate replacements, as well as streambank stabilization and riparian restoration adjacent to each location.

The project will include the following activities:

- 1) Replacement of the Rio Grande #2 diversion and headgate;
- 2) Replacement of the Consolidated and Pace Ditch diversion and headgates;
- 3) Replacement of the SLV Canal headgate;
- 4) Replacement of the Centennial Ditch Diversion;
- 5) Stabilization of streambanks surrounding each diversion structures.

The project will benefit each ditch company by improving diversion efficiency and reducing maintenance by replacing aging diversion dams and installing headgates with automated gates. The project will also enhance water quality by reducing sediment input, improve riparian condition, improve aquatic and wildlife habitat, and enhance local recreation and community safety by ensuring diversions are passable by fish and boats where appropriate. When complete, the project will help ensure that the Rio Grande can continue to support the diverse human, agricultural, and ecological communities that depend on it.

Measurable Results

To catalog measurable results achieved with WSRF funds please provide any of the following values.

	New Storage Created (acre-feet)	
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive	
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
3,500	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
5	Other	Explain: Replacement of irrigation infrastructure (diversion dam and headgates) for five ditches: Consolidated Ditch, Pace Ditch, Rio Grande #2, SLV Canal and Centennial Ditch.



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Water Activity Justification

Provide a description of how this water activity supports the goals of [Colorado's Water Plan](#), the most recent [Statewide Water Supply Initiative](#), and the respective [Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan and Education Action Plan](#)⁽¹⁾. The Applicant is required to reference specific needs, goals, themes, or Identified Projects and Processes (IPPs), including citations (e.g. document, chapters, sections, or page numbers).

For applications that include a request for funds from the Statewide Account, the proposed water activity shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan criteria for state support (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;) (Also listed pp. 4-5 in [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#)).

The Five Ditches Project is a structural project that will improve the ability of the Rio Grande to meet consumptive and non-consumptive needs by replacing poorly functioning diversions and headgates for five ditches, stabilizing streambanks, and increasing the ability of the river to transport water. As such, the Project will address agricultural, environmental, recreational, and water administration needs facing the Rio Grande Basin.

The Project will meet the following Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan Goals (Rio Grande BIP, Chapter 3):

1. Protect, preserve, and/or restore the sustainability of the Rio Grande Basin watersheds by focusing on watershed health and ecosystem function.
2. Protect and preserve the doctrine of prior appropriation and vested water rights, and fully utilize Colorado's compact entitlements as specified under the Rio Grande and Costilla Creek Compacts.
4. Operate, maintain, rehabilitate, and create necessary infrastructure to meet the Basin's long-term water needs including storage.
5. Manage water use to sustain optimal agricultural economy throughout the Basin's communities.
6. Support the development of projects and methods that have multiple benefits for agricultural, municipal and industrial, and environmental and recreational water needs.
7. Meet new demands for water, to the extent practicable, without impacting existing water rights and compact obligations.
9. Make progress towards meeting applicable water quality standards throughout the Basin.
10. Promote water management and administrative practices that are adaptive, flexible, and responsive to optimize multiple benefits.
11. Protect, preserve, and enhance terrestrial and aquatic wildlife habitats throughout the basin.
12. Conserve, restore, and maintain wetlands and riparian areas for the benefit of a healthy watershed.
14. Maintain and enhance water-dependent recreation activities.

In addition to meeting many of the Rio Grande Basin Goals, the Project also meets the Colorado Water Plan Goals and Criteria.

The development of the Five Ditches Project is a result of years of planning and collaboration between multiple ditch companies, State and Federal agencies, San Luis Valley nonprofit organizations, and area landowners, farmers, and ranchers. Participation from diverse stakeholders ensures that both consumptive and non-consumptive needs are being met through the design and implementation of each project component. In addition, Project partners have raised a significant amount of funding through NRCS programs, landowners, and in-kind contributions totaling 68% of the project cost. Without the requested WSRF funds, Project partners would likely not be able to raise sufficient dollars out of pocket or from other grant sources in time to retain the grants currently secured. As such, WSRF funds are critical to complete the Project.



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Water Activity Justification

The Colorado Water Plan highlights the importance of “efficient and effective water infrastructure” to protecting agriculture and addressing water gaps (Colorado Water Plan, 10-3). By replacing multiple aging diversion dams and headgates on the Rio Grande, the Project allows for agriculture demands to be met by increasing the ability of irrigators to divert their appropriated water rights when they are in priority. The Project will protect water users and landowners along the Rio Grande from loss by replacing aging diversion and headgate infrastructure, repairing the river channel, and restoring habitat within the riparian corridor, thereby preserving the values inherent in the San Luis Valley’s rural and agricultural communities.

Through streambanks stabilization, habitat restoration, and improvements to diversion structures, the Project will result in multiple environmental benefits including improved streambank stability, water quality, riparian and aquatic habitat, and community safety and recreation opportunities. The ditches not only supply water for agriculture, but also provide water to surrounding wetlands and riparian areas. For example, the Centennial Ditch supplies water to wetlands on the Rio Grande State Wildlife Area and Higel State Wildlife Area. Stabilizing streambanks and replacing aging irrigation infrastructure will allow these ditch companies to improve their operations, benefiting the whole river system. Additionally, the Project is located in the management area for the San Luis Valley Regional Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) for the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher and the Yellow-billed Cuckoo. In accordance with the HCP, the riparian restoration activities will improve streambank habitat for these threatened species and help with recovery efforts.

Finally, as the Rio Grande Basin faces water shortages and prolonged drought, the need for accurate water management becomes increasingly crucial. The Project will assist in administration of the Rio Grande Compact as it includes installation of automated measuring gates on several headgates and improvements to the gauging stations in the ditches. These improvements will assist the Division Engineer in water management and meeting the Rio Grande Compact.

(1) Access Basin Implementation Plans or Education Action Plans from Basin drop down menu.

Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests

Basin (only) Account grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3rd party and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment** as described in the 2016 WSRF



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Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests

Criteria and Guidelines (submitted on the contributing entity's letterhead). Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind)
Total Match	\$
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests

Statewide Account grant requests require a 50% match as described in the 2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines. A minimum of 10% match shall be from Basin Account funds (cash only). A minimum of 10% match shall be provided by the applicant or 3rd party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3rd party) and shall be accompanied by a **letter of commitment**. Attach additional sheet if necessary.

Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Natural Resources Conservation Service (EQIP) (Cash)	\$750,000
Consolidated Ditch and Headgate Company (Cash – CWCB Loan)	\$650,000
Centennial Ditch Company (Cash – CWCB Loan)	\$230,000
San Luis Valley Canal Company (Cash)	\$200,000
Rio Grande Ditch #2 (Cash)	\$7,500
Rio Grande Ditch #2 (In-kind)	\$8,000
Natural Resources Conservation Service (In-kind)	\$180,000
Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (In-kind)	\$10,000
Rio Grande Basin Account Request	\$98,000
Total Match	\$2,223,500
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	

Related Studies

Please provide a list of any related studies, including if the water activity is complimentary to or assists in the implementation of other CWCB programs.



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Related Studies

The 2001 Study: The 2001 Study was prompted by local stakeholders due to a realized deterioration of the functions of the Rio Grande. The 2001 Study analyzed the condition of the riparian area and structures along a 91-mile reach of the Rio Grande from the town of South Fork to the Alamosa – Conejos County line (Attachment B. Maps - Figures 1 and 2). The 2001 Study was sponsored by the San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District and funded with a \$250,000 grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB). The study evaluated the condition of the river's functions as they related to:

- The condition of riparian habitat and fisheries;
- Accessibility of the river to existing irrigation structures and their condition and performance;
- The protection of lives and property;
- The protection of channel and flood plain from flood damage;
- The maintenance of river channel and over bank capacity;
- The ability to meet the Rio Grande Compact requirements.

The 2001 Study found the primary cause of degradation to be sedimentation and identified measures that could be implemented to holistically improve the river's functions. These measures were both "structural" in nature, such as riparian restoration or diversion replacement, or "nonstructural" measures, such as grazing management practices or land use issues. The proposed project seeks to implement these actions in order to improve the function of the Rio Grande.

The 2007 Rio Grande Watershed Restoration Strategic Plan: In 2004, the need was identified for a well-defined Rio Grande Watershed Restoration Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan). Completed in 2007, the Strategic Plan outlined priority projects for the entire Rio Grande watershed in Colorado. Priority projects included: flood protection, riparian and headgate improvements, grazing management, flow management, and future studies. The Strategic Plan highlighted the importance of continued efforts to implement the recommendations from the 2001 Study.

The Five Ditches Project seeks to address priority issues highlighted in the 2001 Study and the Strategic Plan to improve the function of the Rio Grande through irrigation infrastructure improvements, streambank stabilization and riparian restoration.

Previous CWCB Grants

List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order



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Previous CWCB Grants				
Applicant Name	Water Activity Name	Approving RT	CWCB Board meeting date	Contract number
CRGRF	Rio Grande State Wildlife Area Design Project	Rio Grande	May 2017	POGG1 2017-0001
CRGRF	Upper Rio Grande Assessment	Rio Grande	May 2016	POGG1 2017-268
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 3 – Prairie Ditch	Rio Grande	February 2014	CTGG12015-295
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 2 – McDonald Ditch	Rio Grande	September 2013	C150492
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 1 – Plaza Plan	Rio Grande		
CRGRF	2009 Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project – Phase 4	Rio Grande		C150486
CRGRF	Lower Rio Grande Assessment	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		POGG1 PDAA 20150000000000000260
CRGRF	Rio Grande Project – Cooperative with Southwest Conservation Corps	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		

Tax Payer Bill of Rights
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.
<p>The Applicant, The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, is not subject to TABOR limitations, as it is a Colorado nonprofit organization operating under Section 501(c)(3) of the U.S. Internal Revenue Code.</p>