

**Water Supply Reserve Fund
Water Activity Summary Sheet
March 21-22, 2018
Agenda Item 25(cc)**

Applicant & Grantee: Florida Consolidated Ditch Company

Water Activity Name: Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project: Phase 1

Water Activity Purpose: Environmental, Recreational, and Agricultural Implementation

County: La Plata

Drainage Basin: Southwest

Water Source: Florida River

Amount Requested: \$45,000 Southwest Basin Account
\$54,000 Statewide Account
\$99,000 Total Grant Request

Matching Funds: Basin Account Match = \$45,000

- 90% of statewide request (meets 10% min)

Applicant Match (cash & in-kind) = \$154,000

- 258% of the statewide request (meets 10% min)

Total Match (Basin & Applicant) = \$199,000

- 369% of the statewide request (meets 50% min)
- 77% of the total project cost of \$253,000

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends approval of up to \$45,000 from the Southwest Basin Account and \$54,000 from the Statewide Account to fund: Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project: Phase 1.
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Water Activity Summary: WSRF grant funds, if approved, will contribute to a multi-purpose project to provide preliminary design concepts and a feasibility study for repairs to the Florida Canal Diversion Structure (“Diversion Structure”). The Diversion Structure delivers pre-compact irrigation water rights to the Florida Canal headgate for irrigation of 6,900 acres on the Florida Mesa. The current Diversion Structure is a low head dam that impedes upstream fish and aquatic organism passage. The WSRF funding will be used for Phase 1 of the project including environmental and cultural permitting needs, easement and right-of-way acquisition, and a loan feasibility study for future funding of the project.

The Florida Canal provides water to Pastorius Reservoir which is a State Wildlife Area, as well as irrigation water to land on which alfalfa, spring wheat, orchard, small grains, and grass pasture are grown. The area of habitat improvement is approximately 48.8 acres of the Florida River, from Lemon Dam downstream to the Florida Farmers Ditch Diversion Structure. Objectives are to:

1. Provide more permanent long-term repair to the Florida Canal Diversion Structure.
2. Protect pre-compact water rights, firm agricultural irrigation supply, provide water supply to Pastorius Reservoir (a State Wildlife Area), and provide drought resistance to the Florida Mesa.
3. Promote safety, fish passage and connectivity to a reach of the Florida River that is currently disconnected.

Discussion: As described in the Southwest Roundtable (SWBRT) chair's recommendation letter, this project was supported and recommended for approval on January 10, 2018. The project aligns with numerous goals and objectives in the SW Basin Implementation Plan, SWSI 2010 and Colorado's Water Plan as identified in the application. The project is a specific and unique multi-purpose project (new IPP) that will address multiple consumptive and non-consumptive needs on the Florida Mesa and within the Florida River watershed, and will protect pre-compact water rights entitlement by rehabilitating the Diversion Structure.

Non-consumptive environmental and recreational needs will be addressed through restoration of the Diversion Structure. The project will replace the existing low head dam with a structure that is safer for river users. The Florida River is an important fishery in the Southwest Basin as the CWCB holds two In-Stream Flow water rights that extend from below Lemon Dam downstream to the Confluence with the Animas River. The project will provide connectivity for a reach of The Florida River that is approximately 11.5 miles by providing a fish passage as part of the project design and implementation.

Multiple entities and stakeholders will be involved in collaboration efforts and technical support early on and throughout the Project including The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Florida Water Conservancy District, and the Florida Consolidated Ditch Company. The FCDC is planning on taking out a CWCB loan to fund the project.

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

Eligibility Requirements: The application meets requirements of all eligibility components.

Evaluation Criteria: Staff has determined this activity satisfies the Evaluation Criteria.

Funding Summary / Matching Funds:

<u>Funding Source</u>	<u>Cash</u>	<u>In-Kind</u>	<u>Total</u>
Southwestern Water Conservation District	\$75,000	\$0	\$179,717
The Nature Conservancy	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Florida Water Conservancy District	\$10,000	\$0	\$10,000
Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	\$19,000	\$40,000	\$59,000
Subtotal	\$114,000	\$40,000	\$154,000
WSRF Southwest Basin Account	\$45,000	n/a	\$45,000
WSRF Statewide Account	\$54,000	n/a	\$54,000
Totals	\$213,000	\$40,000	\$253,000

CWCB Project Manager: Megan Holcomb

SOUTHWEST BASINS ROUNDTABLE

Michael Preston, Chair

c/o Dolores Water Conservancy District

P.O. Box 1150

Cortez, Colorado 81321

970-565-7562

January 17, 2018

Megan Holcomb

Water Supply Management Section

Colorado Water Conservation Board

1580 Logan Street, Suite 600

Denver, Colorado 80203

SUBJECT: Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project Phase I, \$45,000
from the Basin Fund and \$54,000 from the Statewide Fund

Dear Ms. Holcomb:


The Southwest Basin Roundtable approved funding of \$45,00 from the Basin Fund and \$54,000 from the Statewide for the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project Phase I. The application was considered in detail at the January 11, 2018 meeting of the Southwest Basin Roundtable. There was a quorum of Roundtable members present.

This project builds on SWBRT IPP 4-A by coupling efficiency improvements with enhanced recreational opportunities that will result from rehabilitating the diversion structure. The project also meets SWBRT Goal A2: IPPs important to multiple purposes: Agriculture, M&I, recreation, quality of life and protection of pre-1922 water rights; as well as SWBRT Goal D1: Maintain, protect and enhance recreational values and economic values to local and statewide economies derived from recreational water uses . . . including increasing the reliability of water supply to Pastorius Reservoir, an important State Wildlife Area, which is also supported by SWBRT Goal B2: Protect, improve natural function of streams, lakes, wetlands and riparian areas. The project also addresses SWBRT Goal B2: Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and consumption.

The project addresses several Colorado Water Plan goals including Critical Goal and Action D: Support Agricultural Viability and Critical Action F: Environmental and Recreational Values, and Protect Healthy environments. The Roundtable approves the use of \$45,000 from the Basin fund. The Roundtable strongly recommends the Statewide fund request based on the fact that this project will provide more reliable water supply to Pastorius Reservoir, will help protect pre-1922 water rights and the expression of intent that the applicant is planning on taking out a CWCB loan to help finance the project.

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



Last Update: August 3, 2017

(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.

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:	March 2018
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	April 2018

Water Activity Summary	
Name of Applicant	Florida Consolidated Ditch Company
Name of Water Activity	Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project: Phase 1
Approving Roundtable(s)	Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾
Basin Account Request Subtotal	\$45,000.00
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾	\$54,000.00
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)	\$99,000.00
Total Project Costs	Phase 1 = \$253,000.00



Last Update: August 3, 2017

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

Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	Florida Consolidated Ditch Company
Mailing Address	P.O. Box 2138, Durango, CO 81301
FEIN	94-0204321
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Roger Cole
Position/Title	President
Email	floridaditch@gmail.com
Phone	(970) 749-4675
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	<u>Jessica Upshaw</u>
Position/Title	Secretary
Email	floridaditch@gmail.com
Phone	(970) 749-4675
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)	
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 Florida Consolidated Ditch Company (FCDC) is composed of the Florida Farmers Ditch Company, the Florida Canal Company, the Florida Enlargement Canal Company and the Florida Co-Operative Ditch Company. The FCDC is a mutual ditch company that provides water to 329 shareholders serving approximately 18,700 acres of irrigated Agriculture through the Florida Farmers Ditch, the Florida Canal, and the Florida Co-operative Ditch. Additionally, the FCDC provides water to Pastorius Reservoir, a State Wildlife Area. In total, the FCDC operates 86.5 miles of canals, ditches and laterals, and delivers approximately 24,125 acre-feet of water per year.</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.
	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
✓	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
✓	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
✓	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
✓	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	La Plata County
Latitude	37.312869
Longitude	-107.772065

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

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Water Activity Overview

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.

Phase 1 of The Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project is a multi-purpose project to provide preliminary design concepts and feasibility study for repairs to the Florida Canal Diversion Structure (Diversion Structure).

The Diversion Structure delivers pre-Compact irrigation water rights to the Florida Canal headgate for irrigation of 6,900 acres on the Florida Mesa. The current Diversion Structure is a low head dam that impedes upstream fish and aquatic organism passage.

The WSRA funding will be used for Phase 1 of the project including environmental and cultural permitting needs, easement and right-of-way acquisition, and a loan feasibility study for future funding of the Project. The water supply source is the Florida River. The Florida Canal provides water to Pastorius Reservoir which is a State Wildlife Area, as well as irrigation water to land on which alfalfa, spring wheat, orchard, small grains, and grass pasture are grown.

The area of habitat improvement is approximately 48.8 acres of the Florida River, from Lemon Dam downstream to the Florida Farmers Ditch Diversion Structure. The CWCB holds two instream flow (ISF) water rights on the Florida River that extend from below Lemon Dam downstream to the Confluence with the Animas River.

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Water Activity Overview

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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)
60,720	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)
48.8	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved
12,264	Other Explain: (acre-feet) irrigation water preserved on the Florida Mesa.



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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](#)).

Goals of the Southwest Basin Roundtable Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) that are in line with the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project include the following:

1. Balance all needs and reduce conflict: Supporting specific and unique new IPPs including, but not limited to environmental, agricultural, and compact compliance needs (p.11 & 12, BIP).
2. Pursue a high success rate for identified specific, unique, and multi-purpose IPPs to meet identified gaps and to address all water needs and values (p.12, BIP).
3. Meet recreational and environmental water needs (p.11, BIP).
4. Maintain watershed health by protecting and/or restoring watersheds that could affect critical infrastructure and/or environmental and recreational areas (p.12, BIP).
5. Maintain agriculture water needs: Implement efficiency measures to maximize beneficial use and production – Implement projects in order to help preserve agriculture and open space values, and to help address municipal, environmental, recreational, and industrial needs...Implement strategies that encourage continued agricultural use and discourage permanent dry-up of agricultural lands (p.11 & 13, BIP).
6. Plan and preserve water supply options for all existing and new uses and values. Promote dialogue, foster cooperation and resolve conflict among water interests in every basin and between basins for the purpose of implementing solutions to Southwest Colorado and the entire state of Colorado's water supply challenges (p.11 & 18, BIP).
7. Protect, maintain, monitor and improve the condition and natural function of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries, and to support native species and functional habitat in the long term, and adapt to changing conditions (p.16, BIP).
8. Maintain, protect and enhance recreational values and economic values to local and statewide economies derived from recreational water uses, such as fishing and boating, among others (p.15, BIP).
9. Comply with Colorado River Compact and manage risk: Preserve Southwest Basin's ability to develop Colorado River compact entitlement to meet our water supply gaps, and protect 100% of pre-compact water rights in the Southwest Basin Area (p.11 & 18, BIP).

Several subcategories identified in the Statewide Water Supply Initiative 2010 (SWSI) that are in line with the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project:

1. Special Value Waters – CWCB ISF Water Rights (p.258, Appendix C, SWSI).
2. The Florida River is mapped in the category of having 2-3 environmental and recreational subcategory uses in SWSI 2010 (p. 260, Appendix C, SWSI).
3. Meet agricultural demands (p.ES-28, SWSI).
4. Optimize existing and future water supplies by: maximizing use of existing and new in-basin supplies (p.ES-28, SWSI).
5. Promote cost-effectiveness by: providing viable financing mechanisms, including local, state, and federal funding/financing (p.ES-28, SWSI).
6. Protect cultural values by maintaining open space (p.ES-28, SWSI).
7. Provide operational flexibility and coordinated infrastructure (p.ES-28, SWSI).
8. Comply with all applicable laws and regulations, meet all applicable compact obligations, and protect water rights including the right of water right owners to market their water, while recognizing some institutional changes may be needed to implement certain strategies (p.ES-28, SWSI).



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Water Activity Justification

Goals of the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) that are in line with the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project:

1. Colorado's Water Plan promotes statewide cooperation for water supply planning through protecting Colorado's ability to fully develop compact entitlements...Colorado will focus planning efforts on maintaining healthy systems and avoiding a Colorado River Compact deficit, rather than focusing on its response to compact curtailment (p.8-3, CWP).
2. Encourage multi-partner, multipurpose, cooperative projects through financial incentives and technical support (p.8-3, CWP).
3. Project proponents that demonstrate a commitment to collaboration through involving multiple participants and consulting with a broad set of local stakeholders and local governments before or early in the regulatory process (p. 9-43 & 9-44, CWP).
4. Project proponents demonstrate sustainability through avoiding adverse effects to environmental and recreational interests, mitigating economic and social impacts on agricultural and rural communities, and maximizing the use of water resources through firming the yield of existing supplies, and improving or modernizing aging infrastructure (p.9-44, CWP).
5. Maintain agricultural viability, which will maintain Colorado's agricultural productivity, support rural economies, and food security through grants, loans, and technical support to update and improve Colorado's aging infrastructure for long-term maintenance needs, especially where improvements provide multiple benefits (p.10-10, CWP).
6. Enhance environmental and recreational economic values through near-term projects and methods that support economically important water-based recreation, consider the net environmental benefit, and evaluate the water quality impacts of water quantity management approaches (p.10-12, CWP).

The Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project (Project) is in line with the goals and findings listed above in the BIP, SWSI and CWP:

The Project is a specific and unique multi-purpose project (new IPP) that will address multiple consumptive and non-consumptive needs on the Florida Mesa and within the Florida River watershed. The Project will protect pre-Compact water rights entitlement by rehabilitating the Diversion Structure allowing for reliable delivery of pre-Compact water rights through the Florida Canal.

The Project will promote sustainability and watershed health through improving aging infrastructure that maintains open space and provides recreational opportunities throughout La Plata County. More specifically, the Project increase the reliability of water supply to Pastorius Reservoir, which is an important State Wildlife Area with recreational opportunities including fishing, non-motorized boating, hunting, hiking, and wildlife viewing. Rehabilitation of the Diversion Structure firms up agricultural irrigation supply and promotes agricultural viability and productivity, as well as providing increased drought resistance for the Florida Mesa during dry years.

Non-consumptive environmental and recreational needs will be addressed through restoration of the Diversion Structure. The Project will replace the existing low head dam with a structure that is safer for river users. The Florida River is an important fishery in the Southwest Basin as the CWCB holds two ISF water rights that extend from below Lemon Dam downstream to the Confluence with the Animas River. The reach where the Project is located is identified as special value waters in SWSI because of the CWCB ISF water rights. The Project will provide connectivity for a reach of The Florida River that is approximately 11.5 miles by providing a fish passage as part of the project design and implementation. Pastorius Reservoir is a State Wildlife Area that relies on water delivered from the Florida River, and is an important state recreation area.

Multiple entities and stakeholders will be involved in collaboration efforts and technical support early on and



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Water Activity Justification

throughout the Project including The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, the Florida Water Conservancy District, and the Florida Consolidated Ditch Company (FCDC) (see Exhibit A, Table 2). The FCDC is planning on taking out a CWCB loan to fund the project. The Project will promote cost-effectiveness by providing viable financing mechanisms, including private, local, and state funding and financing. In addition, flow enhancement alternatives and concepts will be evaluated to potentially augment the ISF water rights and assist in financing the project.

IPPs relevant to the Project:

- Ditch Company Improvement and Efficiency Projects (Multi-Basin IPP No. 4-MB)
- Florida Water Conservancy District – Irrigation system efficiency improvements by the Florida Mesa Ditch Companies that would firm up agricultural delivery and provide additional water supply for those other uses in Lemon Reservoir through the reduction of losses in the delivery system (IPP No. 4-A).
- Florida Consolidated Ditch Companies: Florida Canal Diversion Structure and headgate repair (IPP No. 36-A (pending approval)).



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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 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)
Southwestern Water Conservation District	\$75,000 (cash – pending)
The Nature Conservancy	\$10,000 (cash)
Florida Water Conservancy District	\$10,000 (cash)
Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	\$19,000 (cash)
Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	\$40,000 (in-kind)
Total Match	\$154,000
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):
Southwestern Basin Roundtable WSRA	\$45,000 (cash - pending)
Southwestern Water Conservation District	\$75,000 (cash - pending)
The Nature Conservancy	\$10,000 (cash)
Florida Water Conservancy District	\$10,000 (cash)
Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	\$19,000 (cash)
Florida Consolidated Ditch Company	\$40,000 (in-kind)
Total Match	\$199,000
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).	



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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.

- Florida Project Water Conservation and Management Plan.

Previous CWCB Grants

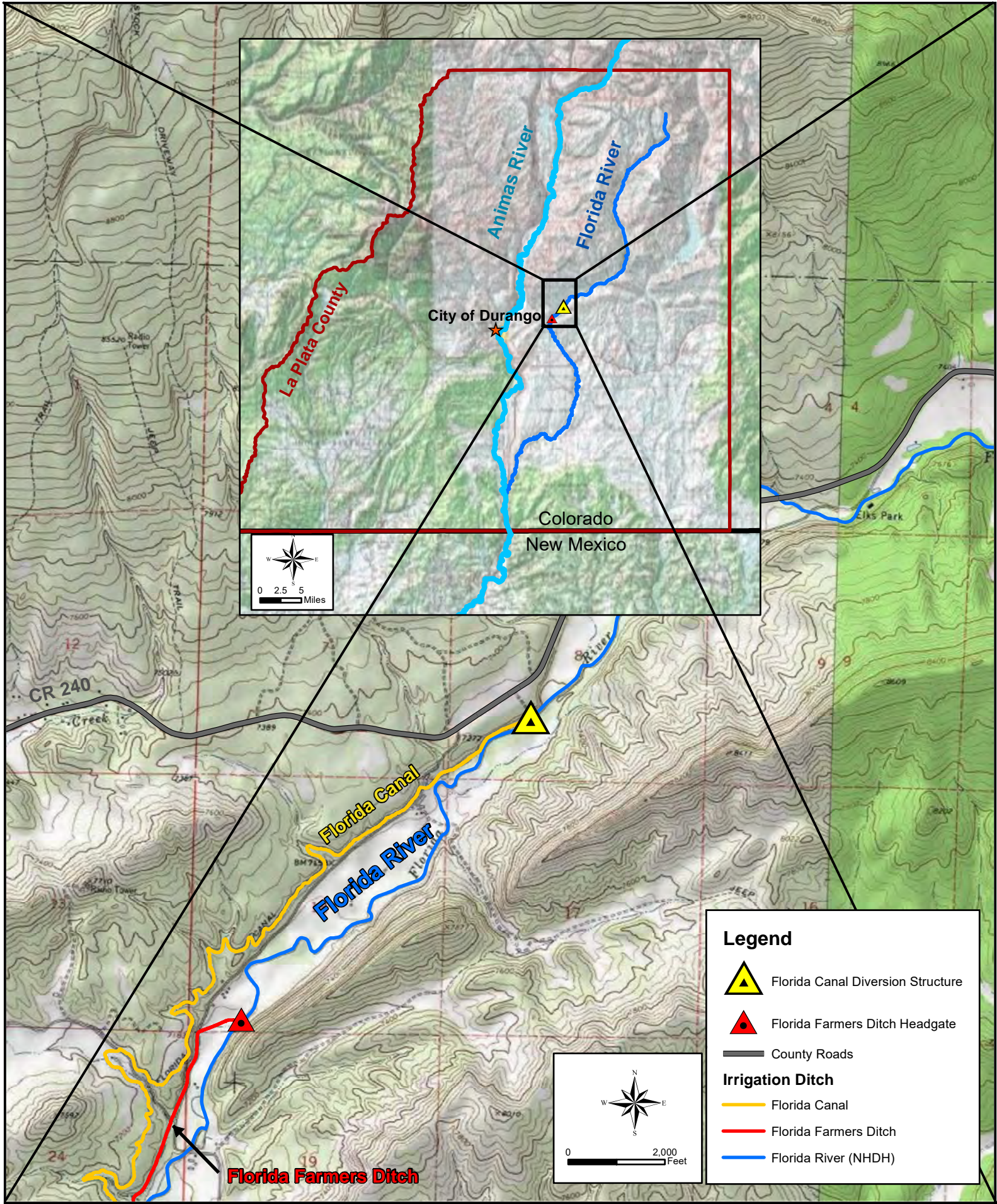
List all previous or current CWCB grants (including WSRF) awarded to both the Applicant and Grantee. Include: 1) Applicant name; 2) Water activity name; 3) Approving RT(s); 4) CWCB board meeting date; 5) Contract number or purchase order

- 1). Florida Consolidated Ditch Company, 2). Ditch Loss, Hydropower, and Monitoring Improvement Program, 3). Southwest Basin Roundtable, 4). March 17, 2009.
- 1). Florida Consolidated Ditch Company, 2). Canal Seepage Reduction Project, 3). Southwest Basin Roundtable, 4). November 17, 2009.
- 1). Florida Consolidated Ditch Company, 2). Canal Seepage Reduction Project, 3). Southwest Basin Roundtable, 4). September 15, 2010.
- 1). Florida Consolidated Ditch Company, 2). Hess Lateral Improvement Project 3). Southwest Basin Roundtable 4). September 17, 2015.

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.

N.A.



Document Path: P:\061-110\140 Florida Canal Diversion Dam\05 Mapping\Florida Canal Diversion Structure - Location Map.mxd



THE SOUTHWESTERN WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Developing and Conserving the Waters of the
SAN JUAN AND DOLORES RIVERS AND THEIR TRIBUTARIES
IN SOUTHWESTERN COLORADO

**West Building – 841 East Second Avenue
DURANGO, COLORADO 81301
(970) 247-1302**

January 25, 2018

Board of Directors
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman Street
Denver, CO 80203

Subject: Florida Consolidated Ditch Company WSRF Application

Dear Board of Directors:

The Southwestern Water Conservation District offers financial assistance in the form of grants to “qualified entities” that are carrying out the statutory purpose of the District to protect, conserve, use, and develop the water resources of the San Juan and Dolores River basins, as well as to safeguard all waters to which the state of Colorado is equitably entitled.

Previously funded work in southwestern Colorado has included ditch rehabilitation, water storage development and enhancement, water quality studies, collaborative water forums and workgroups, habitat restoration, and educational programs, to name a few.

The Florida Consolidated Ditch Company has submitted an application to the District for 2018 funding to support rehabilitation of their canal diversion in the amount of \$75,000. While the District board won’t consider the grant request for approval until February 14, 2018, staff has reviewed the application and found it meets all minimum requirements. The request is in line with the District’s statutory mission.

While at this time staff cannot guarantee the application will be approved in all, or in part, due to limits on available funds and the need for board review and approval, we thank the CWCB board for their review of this application and their ongoing collaboration in meeting water needs in southwestern Colorado.

Sincerely,

Bruce Whitehead
Executive Director
(970) 247-1302

Background Table for Engineering, Surveying and Construction for Emergency Repair and
Conceptual Design: Funds Expended within Nine Months of Application

Work Type	Contractor	Amount	Invoice Date
Emergency Repair	Sunnyside	\$23,407.04	May-17
Engineering	WWE	\$689.50	May-17
Engineering	WWE	\$1,551.00	June-17
Engineering	WWE	\$808.80	July-17
Engineering	WWE	\$218.25	August-17
Engineering	WWE	\$530.75	September-17
Engineering	WWE	\$2,625.25	October-17
Engineering	WWE	\$814.25	November-17
Engineering	WWE	\$5,237.81	December-17
Surveying	WWE - Subcontractor Goff	\$1,515.24	June-17
Surveying	WWE - Subcontractor Goff	\$471.12	July-17
Surveying	WWE - Subcontractor Goff	\$2,241.61	October-17
Total		\$40,110.62	



Wright Water Engineers, Inc.

1666 N. Main Avenue, Suite C
Durango, Colorado 81301
(970) 259-7411 TEL
(970) 259-8758 FAX

www.wrightwater.com
e-mail: pfooster@wrightwater.com

January 2, 2018

Email: mpreston@frontier.net
Michael Preston, Chair
Southwest Basin Round Table
Dolores Water Conservancy District
60 South Cactus
Cortez, CO 81321

Re: Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project: Phase 1

Dear Mike,

Wight Water Engineers, Inc is pleased to provide you with a joint Southwest Basin and Statewide Water Supply Reserve Account (WSRA) Application for Phase 1 of the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project.

Phase 1 of the project includes: design, environmental and cultural permitting and easement considerations, and a CWCB Loan Feasibility Report for project financing of Phase 2.

Enclosed is the WSRA Application with a budget and schedule and letter of commitments provided in Attachment A, a completed Southwest Basin Questionnaire in Attachment B and photographs, conceptual design plans, a conceptual cost estimate and letters of support are provided in Attachment C.

The purpose of the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project is to provide more permanent long-term repair to the Florida Canal Diversion Structure (Diversion Structure) using design approaches which reduces sediment and debris from entering the canal, enhance the natural stream corridor, promotes safety and fish passage and connectivity.

The Diversion Structure is a six to eight-foot tall vertical check structure located on the Florida River that serves to deliver irrigation water to the Florida Canal headgate. The Florida Canal and the Florida Farmers Ditch (located downstream) serve approximately 18,200 acres on the Florida Mesa. According to CDSS the Florida Canal serves approximately 6,900 acres of the 18,200 acres served by the FCDC.

The water rights in the Florida Canal are Pre-Compact Water Rights as the appropriation dates for the Diversion Structure range from 1888 to 1907 for the construction of the Florida Canal Diversion Structure. The Florida Canal was originally decreed for 111 cfs in Case Nos. CA1751 and B-1751.

The Florida Canal also diverts project water stored and released as part of the Federal Florida Project constructed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and operated by the Florida Water Conservancy District. Even though the Florida Canal carries both adjudicated and Florida Project

Water, based on discussion with the USBR the Diversion Structure is not considered Florida Project infrastructure and MOA funding from USBR is not available for funding this project. The Florida Canal also diverts water for storage in Pastorius Reservoir, a Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) State Wildlife Area. In addition, the applicant has met onsite with CPW on the design approach for the Diversion Structure and the CPW supports the Rehabilitation Project (see attached support letter). The applicant has also met with the Colorado Division of Water Resources and no water rights impacts were identified during the meeting.

From field observations the existing Diversion Structure appears to be constructed of concrete piers imbedded across the Florida River with timber boards across the face of those piers to create an instream vertical check structure. The vertical check structure is a low head dam and has created a scour pool at its base. In early 2017, a portion of the timber face of Florida Canal Diversion Structure began to fail (see Photographs 1). Temporary emergency repairs to the Diversion Structure were installed in May 2017 (see Photographs 2 and 3). These emergency repairs are intended to be temporary, and the diversion is in need of a more permanent rehabilitation solution.


Wright Water Engineers, Inc. (WWE) conceptual design approach for the new Diversion Structure incorporates a stabilized concrete core, filling the existing scour pool and raising the streambed downstream of the Diversion Structure using a series of boulder run-downs and rock step-pool structures that will provide long term stability to the Diversion Structure. Other operational related improvements include the following:

- Installation of a sluice gate on the canal headgate to facilitate cleaning of accumulated sediment at the headgate entrance.
- Installation of a return to river gate and associated conveyance structure in the Florida Canal further downstream than the existing return.
- Installation of a boulder run down and resting pools that provides fish passage and aquatic connectivity.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or e-mail me at pfoster@wrightwater.com.

Sincerely,

WRIGHT WATER ENGINEERS, INC.

By 
Peter R. Foster, P.E.
Vice-President

Attachments:
SW Basin and Statewide WSRA Application.



La Plata County
Colorado

Board of County Commissioners

Julie Westendorff, Chair • Gwen Lachelt, Vice Chair • Bradford P. Blake, Commissioner

1101 East 2nd Ave
Durango, CO 81301
(970) 382-6219

December 18, 2017

Bob Wolff, Board President
Southwestern Water Conservation District
841 E. Second Ave
Durango, CO 81301

Michael Preston, Southwestern Basin Roundtable Chair
Dolores Water Conservancy District
60 South Cactus
Cortez, CO 81321

cc: Megan Holcomb
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203

Dear Mr. Wolff, Mr. Preston, and Ms. Holcomb:

La Plata County is pleased to offer our support for the Florida Consolidated Ditch Company's *Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project*. The Florida Consolidated Ditch Company has demonstrated strong leadership in crafting a multiple purpose project that includes important agricultural water use and safety considerations, as well as consideration for environmental and fishery uses on the Florida River.

La Plata County recognizes this project as an important opportunity to improve aging infrastructure that will preserve longstanding agricultural practices and protect pre-Compact water rights and open space in La Plata County, improve connectivity on the Florida River to ensure habitat and recreational use at the Pastorius Reservoir State Wildlife Area, and to improve irrigation system deliveries.

We recommend the Southwest Water Conservation District and the Southwestern Basin Roundtable consider funding this important project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

LA PLATA COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS



Julie Westendorff
Chair



Gwen Lachelt
Vice-Chair



Bradford P. Blake
Commissioner



COLORADO Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Southwest Region Office
415 Turner Drive
Durango, CO 81303
P 970-375-6702 | F 970-375-6705

December 14, 2017

Mr. Bob Wolff, President
Southwestern Water Conservation District
841 East Second Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

Dear Mr. Wolff,

Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW) is pleased to offer our support for the grant request made by the Florida Consolidated Ditch Company for the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project (Proposed Project). The diversion structure currently functions as a barrier to fish movement on the upper Florida River, limiting fish migration and fragmenting fish habitat. CPW is providing technical input on the engineering design for the Proposed Project to facilitate fish passage. Fish passage at this structure will improve genetic diversity and increase access to spawning habitat within the watershed.

CPW works closely with the Florida Consolidated Ditch Company to manage Pastorius Reservoir, a State Wildlife Area (SWA). Aquatic and terrestrial wildlife and wildlife recreational opportunities at the SWA rely on water deliveries from the Florida Canal. Pastorius Reservoir is also a critical infrastructure component for irrigation within the Florida Canal system. We recognize this project as an important opportunity to improve fish connectivity on the Florida River, to ensure wildlife and wildlife recreational use at the SWA, and to improve irrigation system deliveries.

CPW supports the multiple benefits the Proposed Project would provide including: efficient and reliable irrigation delivery, decreased annual maintenance and disturbance to aquatic habitat, fish passage, and increased public safety. We recommend the Southwest Water Conservation District consider funding this important project. Thank you for the opportunity to express our support. If you have any questions about the fishery and the benefits of the Proposed Project please feel free to contact me at 970-375-6732.

Best Regards,

Ryan Unterreiner
Southwest Region Water Resources Specialist
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

CC: Matt Thorpe, Durango Area Wildlife Manager, Jim White, Aquatic Biologist, Area File, Region File



December 21, 2017

Chairman Mike Preston
Southwest Basin Roundtable

Dear Mike:

On behalf of The Nature Conservancy, I am pleased to offer our support for the Florida Consolidated Ditch Company's *Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project*. The Florida Consolidated Ditch Company has shown strong leadership in crafting a multiple purpose project that includes important agricultural water use, pre-Compact water rights protection, and safety considerations, as well as consideration for environmental and fishery uses (including fishery and recreational uses at the Pastorius Reservoir State Wildlife Area) on the Florida River. We are thrilled to participate in a project that meets so many goals and measurable outcomes of the Southwest Basin Roundtable's Basin Implementation Plan and Colorado's Water Plan, as well as the goals of SWSI 2010.

I am also pleased to confirm The Nature Conservancy's financial support and commitment of \$10,000 to the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project. The Nature Conservancy is a committed partner on this project, and we strongly encourage the Southwest Basin Roundtable to fully support the project.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Celene Hawkins
Western Colorado Water Project Director



Southwestern Water Conservancy District
821 E. 2nd Avenue
Durango, CO 81301

December 12, 2017

RE: Letter of Support- Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project, Financial Assistance Application.

Dear SWCD Board Members,

This letter expresses Trout Unlimited's unmitigated support of the Florida Canal Diversion Structure Rehabilitation Project and the associated request for funding for phase 1 of this important project.

Trout Unlimited is the nation's oldest and largest coldwater conservation non-profit organization with more than 150,000 members nationwide, including those in the Durango's Fiver Rivers Chapter, dedicated to conserving, protecting and restoring North America's trout and salmon fisheries and their watersheds. Since 1959, TU staff and volunteers have worked toward the protection of sensitive ecological systems necessary to support robust native and wild trout populations in their respective ranges. We recognize the high value of public lands and the role public lands play in providing habitat to coldwater fisheries, drinking water, and wildlife habitat. Trout Unlimited believes that the actions taken on public lands are ultimately reflected in the quality of fish and wildlife habitat and their populations.

Reconnecting fisheries, through projects like this, can positively impact trout populations by allowing trout to access refuge during periods of low water or high temperatures. TU also realizes the benefit to all water uses through engagement in collaborative project like this one.

Trout Unlimited is interested in supporting this phase of the project through design review and is currently evaluating the level of financial support that we can provide this project.

In summary, we encourage the SWCD to support this project and approve the grant request.

Sincerely,

Cary Denison

Trout Unlimited: America's Leading Coldwater Fisheries Conservation Organization
Cary Denison, Project Manager
264 County Road 4, Montrose, CO 81403
(970) 596-3291 • www.tu.org