



Last Update: August 3, 2017

Colorado Water Conservation Board
Water Supply Reserve Fund
Grant Application

Instructions

All WSRF grant applications shall conform to the current [2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines](#).

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.

If you have questions, please contact the current CWCB staff Roundtable liaison:

Arkansas

Ben Wade
ben.wade@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3238

**Gunnison | North Platte |
South Platte | Yampa/White**

Craig Godbout
craig.godbout@state.co.us
303-866-3441 x3210

**Colorado | Metro | Rio Grande |
Southwest**

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)
	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 rd Party Commitments ⁽²⁾
Exhibit C	
X	Map ⁽²⁾
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support
	Certificate of Insurance ⁽³⁾ (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.)
Contracting Documents	
	Certificate of Good Standing ⁽³⁾
	W-9 ⁽³⁾
	Independent Contractor Form ⁽³⁾ (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
	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:	March, 2018
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	May 15, 2018

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	TRINCHERA IRRIGATION COMPANY	
Name of Water Activity	Mountain Home Reservoir Outlet Rehabilitation – Phase III	
Approving Roundtable(s)		Basin Account Request(s) ⁽¹⁾
Rio Grande Basin		
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$60,221
Statewide Account Request ⁽¹⁾		\$602,217
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$662,438
Total Project Costs		\$1,056,913

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



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	TRINCHERA IRRIGATION COMPANY
Mailing Address	PO BOX 41, Blanca, CO 81123
FEIN	84-0338590
Grantee's Organization Contact ⁽¹⁾	Tracy Kester
Position/Title	President
Email	(none)
Phone	719-379-3467
Grant Management Contact ⁽²⁾	<u>Wayne Schwab</u>
Position/Title	Superintendent
Email	trincherairrigation2@gmail.com
Phone	719-298-1369
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).
Trinchera Irrigation Company manages irrigation in north Costilla County, operating Mountain Home Reservoir, Smith Reservoir, and the Sangre de Cristo Canal. TIC's 47 ranching and farming stockholders have both surface and groundwater rights, with 26 miles of canals, 45 miles of laterals, 100 sprinkler pivots and several thousand acres of flood irrigation. Each of its 12,500 shares is entitled to irrigate one acre, with assessments determined by sharing operating costs and debt service. A 50-year-old perpetual lease with The Division of Wildlife (now CPW), created a State Wildlife Area and a 653-acre ft. conservation pool at Mountain Home Reservoir, providing fishing and recreation in an area that has only 2% public land.



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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
X	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
X	Implementation

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

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	Costilla
Latitude	37.39512
Longitude	-105.38133



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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.

Objective – TIC will rehabilitate the outlet works' century-old gate valves at Mountain Home Reservoir to meet SEO drawdown requirements, restoring reliable water level elevation management, eliminating the annual leakage of over 2,000 AF of stored water, and ensuring the long term integrity and protection of a high-value recreation and wildlife area. In addition to preserving CPW's conservation pool, TIC is dedicating an additional 25 acres adjacent to the reservoir to be used for outdoor recreation, Trinchera creek fishing, and the enjoyment of spectacular vistas of Mount Blanca and the Sangre de Cristo watershed.

WSRA funds use – Funds will replace the existing gate valves, repair the concrete within outlet tunnel, and install hydraulic-operated system & actuators for each valve. Bolstered by an outpouring of public support, TIC's budget includes the administration item of \$30,000 in WSRA funds specifically to administer the recreational, environmental, and public access aspects of Mountain Home Reservoir; to implement a year-round calendar of outdoor and natural resource activities; and to enhance the collaboration and the opportunities available through CPW and the Costilla County Trails, Recreation and Open Space master plan.

Water Supply Source & Impact of Project -- The Trinchera watershed includes flows from Trinchera Creek, Sangre de Cristo Creek and Ute Creek, each of which is managed by TIC and by the Sangre de Cristo Trinchera Diversion Canal. Bordering the Trinchera Ranch and Louis Bacon Moore's 167,000-acre conservancy, this project will not reduce the level of the reservoir during construction, thanks in great part to a grant from the Moore Charitable Foundation. This will sustain CPW's conservation pool, continue the historic seasonal wet and dry patterns of the lentic riparian-wetland areas, promote soil health, and protect the reservoir's natural habitats and public recreational assets. TIC is aware that CPW would like to remove unwanted, non-native fish species which inhabit the reservoir, and TIC looks forward to working with CPW to achieve that objective at some point in the future, when conditions favor that action.

Multiple Purposes – This project cures a decades-long leakage problem and meets the primary Rio Grande BIP goal of preserving storage, improving water management, reducing reliance on groundwater pumping, and promoting watershed health & ecosystem function. By linking the upgrade of the reservoir's outlet works with the improvement and expansion of the region's sparse recreational opportunities, this project meets multiple consumptive and nonconsumptive objectives. A major accomplishment of TIC has been to engage the proactive collaboration of Trinchera Water Conservancy, CPW, the town of Blanca, Costilla County, two local nonprofit organizations, and the Moore Charitable Foundation, with the newly formed "Friends of Mountain Home Rez" providing a high level of positive community participation. www.mtnhomerez.org and <http://www.earthnest.org> provide details.



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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
12,000 AF	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
Daily 2-5 cfs leakage	Efficiency Savings =1,095 cf/yr avg
715 acres (SWA)	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved
	Other Explain:

Water Activity Justification
<p>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).</p> <p>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).</p>
<p>(on next page)</p>



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Water Activity Justification

Colorado's Water Plan Goals:

- “Reduces overall future water needs through cost-effective water efficiency measures” -- **By eliminating water loss through leakage of outlet works.**
- “Promote water efficiency ethic throughout Colorado” -- **By restoring full function to a 100+ year-old reservoir.**
- “Seek creative options for improving agricultural irrigation conservation and efficiency” **By establishing long-term dam safety, reliable water-level elevation management, improved water storage management, reduced dependence on pumping, and remedy storage loss from faulty outlet works.**
- “Promote watershed health and support the development of watershed coalitions ... that address the needs of a diverse set of local stakeholders.” – **By a funded partnership with Trinchera Water Conservancy District and by an environmental stewardship grant from the Moore Charitable Foundation. TIC has received wide volunteer participation and outreach thanks to Friends of Mountain Home Rez and the Fort Garland Revitalization Committee; and has won a \$35,000 grant from the Moore Charitable Foundation to prevent excessive drawdown and to preserve the recreational and environmental assets at Mountain Home Reservoir.**
- Section 7.1: Watershed Health and Management – **By encouraging and supporting storage capacity in an area that currently does not have watershed groups or other groups that work with a broad set of local stakeholders. A significant breakthrough.**

SWSI 2010, Rio Grande Basin - Environmental & Recreational nonconsumptive needs.

- Meets requirements in Section 2 #6 and #7 – Listed in “**Wetlands (National Wetlands Inventory).**” See attached map.

Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan

- **By preserving the CPW conservation pool and by not excessively lowering the level of the reservoir during construction, TIC meets the following Rio Grande BIP goals:**

#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. #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 recreational activities by involving schools, youth-corps groups, and the community.

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



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Water Activity Justification

Mountain Home Reservoir was evaluated in Phase II to determine the dam's capability of meeting the SEO draw-down requirements. The results of the reservoir drawdown evaluation and data from the 1993 Hydrology and Hydraulics Report prepared by The Engineering Company (TEC) were used by Engineering Analytics Inc. (EAI) in Phase II to assess the hydraulic conditions of Mountain Home Reservoir.

Given the rate of deterioration and the likelihood of increased hazard potential over time, a complete repair and upgrade of the outlet works was determined to be the most favorable and cost-effective solution. WSRA grant and loan funds will be used to replace the existing gate valves, to repair the concrete in the outlet tunnel, and to install a hydraulic-operated system & actuators for each valve.

Mountain Home Reservoir is a vital resource to residents in north Costilla County. In addition to its spectacular natural beauty and its well-known fishing and recreational appeal, there are some in this economically stressed community who come to the reservoir year-round in order to get their meat, with ice fishing in winter being especially important.

At the beginning of Phase II one of the options being considered involved the possibility of having to lower the levels of the lake or perhaps having to drain the reservoir in order to make the required repairs. As word got around, TIC received many expressions of concern from the community. What would happen if that were done? With historic levels of precipitation and record stream flows in 2017, the reservoir reached its highest level ever, flooding access roads and camping areas and reaching to just five feet below the spillway. In this drought-weary farming community, the notion of emptying the reservoir did not sit well. Since Fort Garland is unincorporated, a few residents approached the Fort Garland Revitalization Committee (FGRC) asking what could be done. A group calling themselves "Friends of Mountain Home Rez" put out a preliminary survey, conducted a community clean-up day, and distributed an informal survey asking folks what improvements they would like to see at Mountain Home Reservoir. The Friends group helped FGRC and TIC to form a nonprofit Fiscal Sponsorship agreement, resulting in a \$35,000 grant to FGRC, specifically for this TIC project, from the Louis Bacon Moore Charitable Foundation. This matching fund is earmarked "to help Trinchera Irrigation Company keep water in the reservoir." The Friends group joined up under the nonprofit umbrella of EarthNest Institute and they kept on volunteering, organizing, dispelling rumors and fears and gathering survey results. WSRA funds will be used in part to administer the recreational, environmental and public access elements of this project, through a management contract with Friends of Mountain Home Rez and its sponsoring nonprofit, EarthNest Institute.

Public appreciation and positive vibes have a way of swaying things in a good way. The Board of TIC determined to abandon the leasing of grazing lands at the reservoir and to dedicate a fenced off area on Trinchera Creek as additional public recreational space. Then Trinchera Water Conservancy District came forward with a cash pledge of \$20,000, to be dedicated to the preservation of water and to water-related activities such as boating and fishing. The Board of EarthNest Institute is seeking three or four new members - preferably with skills in conservation, recreation and community development – with a plan to create a year-round calendar of activities and events at Mountain Home Reservoir.

This project has sparked all of that.

Meanwhile, TIC will maintain the historic storage and irrigation patterns during construction; ensure preservation of the CPW conservation pool; continue public access to this popular fishing and recreation area; and maintain the wetland area's duration-frequency patterns of soil inundation per irrigation-seasonal flood occurrence.

There are many recreational opportunities available through CPW, Costilla County and Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Growing popularity has increased the need for maintenance of areas around the reservoir. This project upgrades the dam outlet works and creates long-term solutions for improved administration and management of the recreational assets at Mountain Home Reservoir.



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(Deleted the Basin Only block – this is a Statewide Account Request)		
Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests		
<p>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.</p>		
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):	
Moore Charitable Foundation	\$ 18,000	Cash
Wayne Schwab	\$ 800	Cash
Trinchera Water Conservancy District	\$ 20,000	Cash
Great Outdoors Colorado	(Conditional – Pending) \$ 55,000	Cash
Trinchera Irrigation Company	\$ 22,625	Cash
Trinchera Irrigation Company	(CWCB LOAN) \$ 200,000	Cash
Trinchera Irrigation Company	\$ 29,800	In-Kind
Trinchera Irrigation Company	\$ 31,250	In Kind
EarthNest Institute	\$ 6,000	In Kind
Colorado Parks & Wildlife	\$ 2,500	In Kind
Costilla County	\$ 5,000	In Kind
Fort Garland Revitalization Committee	\$ 2,500	In Kind
Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project	\$ 1,000	In Kind
RIO GRANDE BASIN	\$ 60,221	CASH
TOTAL MATCH	\$454,696	
If you requested a Waiver to the Statewide Account matching, indicate % you wish waived. (Max 50% reduction of requirement).		Requesting a variance of 7% (See letter)



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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.

- a. July, 1908: H.I. Reid. Civil Engineering issued Construction Plans for the original construction of Mountain Home Reservoir Dam.
- b. February 10, 1995: Smith Geotechnical Engineering issued As-Constructed Drawings for improvements made to Mountain Home Reservoir Dam.
- c. April 23, 2015: Office of the State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Dam Safety Branch requested plans and specifications for the rehabilitation of the dam outlet works.
- d. April 1, 2016: RJH Consultants Inc. presented alternatives for the rehabilitation of the Mountain Home Dam outlet works.
- e. June 7, 2016: Office of the State Engineer, Division of Water Resources, Dam Safety Branch requested improvements be made to the Mountain Home Dam outlet works, returning all outlet valves to operating condition in order to meet the SEO drawdown requirements.

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

TIC	Sangre de Cristo Trinchera Diversion Canal Restoration	RG	9/15/2009	150458
TIC	Sangre de Cristo Trinchera Diversion Canal Restoration	RG	1/26/2010	150458
TIC	Mountain Home Reservoir Dam Outlet Works Upgrade Feasibility Study	RG	5/22/2014	POGG12015-120
TIC	Phase II Engineering Services for Mountain Home Reservoir Dam Outlet Works Upgrade	RG	5/17/2017	POGG1 2017-1040

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.

There are no TABOR limits applicable to this project.

TRINCHERA WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT

PO BOX 145 – 610 MAIN STREET – BLANCA, CO 81123

12/13/2017

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

Dear Ms Holcomb:

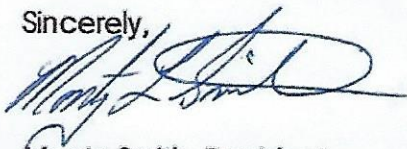
At its regular meeting today, Trinchera Water Conservancy District approved allocating \$20,000.00 to directly support Phase III of Trinchera Irrigation Company's Mountain Home Reservoir Outlet Rehabilitation project.

We ask that CWCB approve the funding requested by TIC to restore and upgrade the outlet works of Mountain Home dam to full operating efficiency. Our District, as a tax-supported entity, represents every landowner in northern Costilla County. We therefore urge CWCB to recognize the critical role of Mountain Home Reservoir in storing water and the vital function of TIC to safeguard, administer and distribute that water for our communities. In addition, with dryer times predicted in the future, ensuring an adequate supply of water for future generations is critically important.

Since this financial commitment represents a significant part of our general operating budget, the District's intention is to gain the highest value we can from these funds, achieving as many benefits as possible for everyone who uses and enjoys the State Wildlife Area at Mountain Home.

As TIC satisfies the structural and safety requirements of Colorado State Engineer's Dam Safety Office, our intention with these funds is to help achieve multiple and long-term environmental, recreational, wildlife and public access benefits for the people of northern Costilla County. For this reason, we encourage TIC to work with the Town of Blanca, with Costilla County, with the Fort Garland Revitalization Committee, and with Friends of Mountain Home Reservoir to pursue additional funds and to create an attractive and well managed natural area for public recreation and enjoyment at Mountain Home Reservoir. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Monty Smith, President

THE TOWN OF BLANCA COLORADO



AT THE FOOT OF MT. BLANCA

January 3, 2018

P.O. Box 190 • Blanca, Colorado 81123 • Phone (719) 379-3461 • Fax (719) 379-4762

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

Reference: Mountain Home Reservoir Outlet Rehabilitation – Phase III

Dear MS Holcomb:

At its regular monthly meeting on this date, the Town Council of the Town of Blanca voted to support the Phase III grant application submitted by Trinchera Irrigation Company (TIC) requesting funds from CWCB's Water Supply Reserve Account.

Trinchera Irrigation Company manages irrigation in north Costilla County, operating Mountain Home Reservoir, Smith Reservoir, and the Sangre de Cristo Trinchera Diversion Canal, with approximately 26 miles of canals, 45 miles of laterals, 100 sprinkler pivots and several thousand acres of flood irrigation. With almost 50 stockholders, TIC has been a mainstay of our agricultural economy for generations, with its only business being to store, manage and distribute water. Repairing and upgrading the outlet works of Mountain Home Dam is essential for maintaining the agricultural economy of the Trinchera watershed.

As TIC seeks funding to replace the existing gate valves, to repair the concrete in the outlet tunnel, and to install a hydraulic system and hydraulic actuators for each valve, the Town of Blanca also supports TIC's request for administrative funds to help develop and sustain the recreational and environmental aspects of this project.

As demonstrated by an informal survey by Friends of Mountain Home Rez, there is significant need to improve public access at the reservoir. Respondents asked for better infrastructure and sanitary facilities, adequate roadways and parking areas, and safe and appropriate recreational amenities for young people and families. Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project has offered to advise the project on habitat and riparian health, and the Executive Committee of the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable will be consulted for guidance over the next few years as the Friends group works to establish long term stewardship for Mountain Home Reservoir's wetland habitats and natural beauty.

In order to bring more resources into this project for recreation and environmental improvements, the Town of Blanca, in collaboration with CPW, Costilla County and Friends of Mountain Home Rez, has agreed to submit at least one application for LPOR funding from Great Outdoors Colorado (GOCO). Since only a governmental entity can apply for these funds, the Town of Blanca is the most appropriate applicant. Funds requested will be used for physical on-the-ground improvements at Mountain Home Reservoir, guided in part by CPW and by the County master plan. The initial request will be for \$75,000, and a copy of that proposal will be provided to CWCB.

With appreciation and thanks for all you do, the Town of Blanca asks that you approve TIC's request for funds.

Sincerely,

Myrrl Smith, Mayor
Town of Blanca

Land of Opportunity in the Heart of the Rockies



352 Main Street
PO Box 100
San Luis, CO 81152

(719) 672-3372
(719) 672-3962 fax

www.costillacounty-co.gov

COSTILLA COUNTY

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

"Where Colorado Began"

January 4, 2017

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

Re: Mountain Home Reservoir Outlet Rehabilitation – Phase III

Dear Ms Holcomb:

The Costilla County Board of Commissioners encourages CWCB to approve the grant application submitted by Trinchera Irrigation Company (TIC) requesting basin and statewide funds from CWCB's Water Supply Reserve Account to upgrade the outlet works at Mountain Home Dam.

Costilla County, home to Colorado's oldest town, is rooted in water history, with the People's Ditch being the State's first adjudicated water right. The Board places high priority on preserving the integrity of the county's agricultural economy and the vital water resources which sustain the region's ranching and farming lifestyle. The Board asks that you approve the funds requested so that Trinchera Irrigation Company can replace the existing gate valves, repair the concrete in the outlet tunnel, and install a hydraulic system and hydraulic actuators for each valve.

In its 2012 Costilla County Trails, Recreation and Open Space master plan, Costilla County identified Mountain Home Reservoir as a strategic environmental and recreational resource. In its ongoing efforts to improve and link opportunities for tourism and recreation throughout the County, the Board of Commissioners supports TIC's local outreach and the funded commitments it has received from the Louis Bacon Moore Charitable Foundation and the Trinchera Water Conservancy District. By working with our local nonprofit organizations and with Sierra Grande Schools, TIC has opened new avenues for implementing the Costilla County Trails, Recreation and Open Space master plan.

The Board of Commissioners welcomes the efforts of the Fort Garland Revitalization Committee and of Friends of Mountain Home Rez to connect TIC's dam repairs to the environmental and recreational objectives expressed in the County's master plan for recreation and open space. With guidance from this plan, Costilla County offers its support to CPW and to TIC as they seek new ways to enhance recreation, to promote healthy and active lifestyles, and to protect the unique environmental and wildlife resources at Mountain Home Reservoir. The county will also consider in-kind contributions of equipment and operators as these projects develop.

With many thanks to the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable for its consistent support for Trinchera Irrigation Company, our Board asks that you give this proposal your positive determination.

Sincerely,

COSTILLA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS;

Dolores Burns

Dolores Burns, Chair



COLORADO

Parks and Wildlife

Department of Natural Resources

Monte Vista Office
0722 S CO RD 1 East
Monte Vista, CO 81144
P 719.587.6900 | F 719.587.6934

January 8, 2018

Megan Holcomb
Colorado Water Conservation Board
1313 Sherman St., Room 718
Denver, CO 80203
Reference: Mountain Home Reservoir Outlet Rehabilitation - Phase III

Dear Ms Holcomb:

Colorado Parks and Wildlife asks that CWCB approve the grant application by Trinchera Irrigation Company (TIC) requesting basin and statewide funds from CWCB's Water Supply Reserve Account to upgrade the outlet works at Mountain Home Dam.

CPW and TIC have history working together for the benefit of wildlife and public recreation at Mountain Reservoir that dates back to the creation of a perpetual easement in 1967 and likely prior to that time. Without belaboring the legal specifics, CPW purchased rights to control the surface acres of both land and water for public recreation along with a conservation pool for fisheries management purposes.

As the work at the reservoir gets underway to replace the existing gate valves, to repair the concrete in the outlet tunnel, and to install a hydraulic-operated system & actuators for each valve, CPW anticipates additional opportunities to work together for the benefit of wildlife and public recreation. CPW would like to remove unwanted, non-native fish species which inhabit the reservoir. CPW had originally hoped this project might necessitate draining the reservoir allowing us to meet those fisheries management goals through removal.

Understanding the ability to store and maintain water over time can be challenging and the current lack of moisture only exacerbates the problem. However, the current conditions may create another avenue to remedy the non-native situation. As irrigation water is pulled from the reservoir, it is potentially likely that water needs may necessitate the draining of the reservoir. We look forward to working with TIC in capitalizing upon such an eventuality, if it were to come to pass this upcoming irrigation season.

Considering the San Luis Valley's economic realities and with decreasing public funding, CPW looks forward to working with TIC, with Costilla County, and with the network of support created by the Friends of Mountain Home Rez to improve the facilities and to find long-terms solutions for the safety and the expanded public enjoyment of the recreational and environmental assets at Mountain Home Reservoir. It is one of only a few publicly accessible



recreation opportunities in Costilla County, and likely the busiest. It is important to note that this property is a State Wildlife Area and not a park. Even though camping and other park-like related activities are permitted, the management of this property is wildlife recreation focused. Intelligent and strategic planning efforts must be executed to meet the mission of this property and we look forward to working collaboratively to that end.

CPW especially acknowledges and appreciates the financial support TIC has received through the Fort Garland Revitalization Committee and the Louis Bacon Moore Charitable Foundation.

We therefore urge CWCB to fund the implementation phase of this project, with confidence that the communities of north Costilla County are working together to strengthen and support the TIC-CPW partnership for generations to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rick Basagoitia', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Rick Basagoitia
Area Wildlife Manager - San Luis Valley
Colorado Parks and Wildlife

Valley News

Trinchera Blanca Foundation supports Mountain Home Reservoir project

FORT GARLAND – The Fort Garland Revitalization Committee (FGRC) has received \$35,000 from The Trinchera Blanca Foundation to help The Trinchera Irrigation Company (TIC) preserve water in Mountain Home Reservoir during its planned upgrade, allowing county residents to continue fishing, camping and boating as work on the reservoir proceeds. Only two percent of Costilla County is public land, and accessible outdoor recreation opportunities are limited. To address that shortfall, Colorado Parks and Wildlife maintains a conservation pool of 653 acres at Mountain Home Reservoir, stocking the reservoir with rainbow trout on a regular basis.

Earlier this year, TIC had proposed a rehabilitation that normally would require significant drainage of the reservoir, seriously impacting fishing and recreational benefits and TIC's normal water storage and distribution operations. As an organization focused on enhancing overall quality of life through revitalization and outreach programs, FGRC was determined to work with TIC to find a way to keep this popular outdoor spot accessible to residents and tourist during the upgrade.

Support from the Trinchera Blanca Foundation will enable a portion of the repairs to be completed under water and ensure that people continue to have access to recreation areas at the reservoir throughout the project.

"We applaud the Fort Garland Revitalization Committee for promoting projects that benefit the Fort Garland community, and we are thankful that they told us about the access dilemma, which TIC can now help resolve," said Ann Colley, executive director and vice president of The Moore Charitable Foundations and its affiliates, including the Trinchera Blanca Foundation. "Enabling the preservation of local activities at Mountain Home Reservoir in tandem with the TIC's upgrades is a win-win for all."

"Mountain Home Reservoir is an essential recreation area and irrigation source for our community," said Ty Ryland, ranch manager for Trinchera Blanca Ranch. "When the Trinchera Irrigation Company informed us about the issue, that without additional support the reservoir would need to be drained to complete the necessary repairs, it was a no-brainer for us to support a solution to ensure water levels for recreation and irrigation purposes."

"We couldn't have protected this significant area and the recreation of our community without the help of The Trinchera Blanca Foundation," said Lisa Gonzales, executive director of the Fort Garland Revitalization Committee. "We're delighted to have participated in creating this positive outcome for all."

Sharon Gibson, president of FGRC said, "Outdoor recreation is important for our community and we are appreciative of the project support that will let us continue to enjoy this special place."

The Fort Garland Revitalization Committee was formed in 1995 and became a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization in 1998. The organization is run entirely by resident volunteers, with donations and fund-raising efforts used to enhance Fort Garland and the overall quality of life through community revitalization and outreach programs that would otherwise be unavailable to residents of this small unincorporated community.

The Trinchera Blanca Foundation, the Colorado affiliate of The Moore Charitable Foundation, founded by Louis Bacon in 1992 supports organizations committed to protecting land, water and wildlife habitat in Colorado's San Luis Valley. The Trinchera Blanca Foundation also supports community programs dedicated to improving quality of life in the surrounding region.



Fort Garland Revitalization Committee

P.O. BOX 489, FORT GARLAND, CO 81133

719-989-0950

July 26, 2017

Mr. Tracy Kester, President
Trinchera Irrigation Company
610 Main Street
P.O. Box 41
Blanca, CO 81123

Dear Mr. Kester:

We are pleased to let you know that the Fort Garland Revitalization Committee has received check number 000479, dated 7/19/2017, from The Trinchera Blanca Foundation, LLC in the amount of \$35,000. This is the grant award which we have all been hoping for.

Rather than depositing these funds in our account at this time, and rather than immediately opening a new checking account specifically for these funds, FGRC needs to determine the simplest and most direct method to disburse these funds to Trinchera Irrigation Company in keeping with our Fiscal Sponsorship agreement; in compliance with the terms of our grant agreement with the Foundation; and in a manner that does not burden or negatively impact FGRC.

We need your input on how best to do that, so we are holding this check in safekeeping until our next Board meeting on August 10, at 6:00 PM, at the Community Center. At that time we would appreciate having your suggestions so that these funds are used in accordance with the terms of our grant application to the Foundation. Of course you and your staff are welcome to come early for snacks and visiting at 5:30. Please RSVP to Nicole Langley.

It is a pleasure to have facilitated this handshake between the communities of Fort Garland and Blanca on behalf of our beautiful Mountain Home Lake. Thank you for keeping our water in the Reservoir!

Sincerely,

Lisa Gonzales (original hand signed)

Lisa Gonzales, Executive Director
The Fort Garland Revitalization Committee

cc via email: Ashley.Blazer@moorecharitable.org

EIN # 45-0564639

TO:

FOR:

Accepted:

[illegible]

CANCEL! DONATION!