



Last Update: July 31, 2018

<b>Colorado Water Conservation Board</b>
<b>Water Supply Reserve Fund Grant Application</b>

<b>Instructions</b>
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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:

<b>Arkansas</b>  Ben Wade <a href="mailto:ben.wade@state.co.us">ben.wade@state.co.us</a> 303-866-3441 x3238	<b>Gunnison   North Platte   South Platte   Yampa/White</b>  Craig Godbout <a href="mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us">craig.godbout@state.co.us</a> 303-866-3441 x3210	<b>Colorado   Metro   Rio Grande   Southwest</b>  Megan Holcomb <a href="mailto:megan.holcomb@state.co.us">megan.holcomb@state.co.us</a> 303-866-3441 x3222
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<b>WSRF Submittal Checklist (Required)</b>
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X	I acknowledge this request was recommended for CWCB approval by the sponsoring roundtable.
X	I acknowledge I have read and understand the <a href="#">2016 WSRF Criteria and Guidelines</a> .
X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <a href="#">Standard Contract</a> . <sup>(1)</sup>
<b>Application Documents</b>	
X	Exhibit A: Statement of Work <sup>(2)</sup> ( <i>Word – see Template</i> )
X	Exhibit B: Budget & Schedule <sup>(2)</sup> ( <i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i> )
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(2)</sup>
X	Map <sup>(2)</sup>
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
	Letters of Support
<b>Contracting Documents<sup>(3)</sup></b>	
X	Detailed/Itemized Budget <sup>(3)</sup> ( <i>Excel Spreadsheet – see Template</i> )
	Certificate of Insurance <sup>(4)</sup> ( <i>General, Auto, &amp; Workers' Comp.</i> )
	Certificate of Good Standing <sup>(4)</sup>
	W-9 Form <sup>(4)</sup>
	Independent Contractor Form <sup>(4)</sup> ( <i>If applicant is individual, not company/organization</i> )
	Electronic Funds Transfer (ETF) Form <sup>(4)</sup>

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

(2) Required with application if applicable.

(3) Additional documentation providing a Detailed/Itemized Budget maybe required for contracting. Applicants are encouraged to coordinate with the CWCB Project Manager to determine specifics.

(4) 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 2020
Desired Notice to Proceed Date:	August 2020

Water Activity Summary		
Name of Applicant	New Cenicero Ditch Company	
Name of Water Activity	Cenicero Diversion Dam, Headgate and Bank Stabilization	
Approving Roundtable(s)		Basin Account Request(s) <sup>(1)</sup>
Rio Grande		\$106,000
Basin Account Request Subtotal		\$106,000
Statewide Account Request <sup>(1)</sup>		\$318,000
Total WSRF Funds Requested (Basin & Statewide)		\$ 423,800
Total Project Costs		\$ 1,183,788

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



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Grantee and Applicant Information	
Name of Grantee(s)	New Cenicero Ditch Company
Mailing Address	16740 County Road G, Antonito, CO 81120
FEIN	
Grantee's Organization Contact <sup>(1)</sup>	Elliott Salazar
Position/Title	President
Email	<a href="mailto:rockinsranchllc@gmail.com">rockinsranchllc@gmail.com</a>
Phone	970-946-8135
Grant Management Contact <sup>(2)</sup>	Elliott Salazar
Position/Title	President
Email	<a href="mailto:rockinsranchllc@gmail.com">rockinsranchllc@gmail.com</a>
Phone	970-946-8135
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).
The Cenicero Ditch Company was adjudicated April 15, 1856, priority number 11 with flow rate of 18.31 cfs. The New Cenicero Ditch Company was incorporated March 11, 1904 with 67 current shareholders and 1500 ditch company shares servicing approximately three miles. The project will construct a new irrigation diversion dam and headgate, reduce erosion, and improve riparian habitat on the Rio San Antonio through a targeted EQIP project. Administration of flows for the Rio Grande compact will be more efficiently managed. The project will improve water delivery to shareholders and improve stream and riparian health for terrestrial and aquatic species.



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Public (Government):</b> 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.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Public (Districts):</b> authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Private Incorporated:</b> mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> are eligible for funding from the Basin Accounts but not for funding from the Statewide Account.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Non-governmental organizations:</b> broadly, any organization that is not part of the government
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Covered Entity:</b> as defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a>

Type of Water Activity (check one)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Study
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Implementation

Category of Water Activity (check all that apply)		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Nonconsumptive (Environmental)	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Nonconsumptive (Recreational)	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Agricultural	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Municipal/Industrial	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Needs Assessment	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Education & Outreach	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Other	Explain:

Location of Water Activity	
Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed activity below in <b>decimal degrees</b> . The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.	
County/Countries	Conejos
Latitude	37.064210
Longitude	-105.976662

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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 Cenicero Diversion Dam, Headgate, and Bank Stabilization Project will fund work on the Cenicero Ditch that will improve water delivery and administration of water rights for all users along with improving terrestrial and aquatic habitats on the Rio San Antonio. The Cenicero Ditch Company was adjudicated April 15, 1856 with a flow rate of 18.31 cfs. The New Cenicero Ditch Company (NCDC) was incorporated March 11, 1904. There are currently 67 shareholders and 1500 ditch company shares encompassing approximately three river miles.

The project will upgrade the diversion dam and headgate to allow for effective administration of water rights by the NCDC, reduce erosion of the river banks and improve riparian habitat through various restoration activities, and will incorporate fish passage infrastructure along approximately 440 feet of the Rio San Antonio. The diversion and headgate upgrades will improve water delivery and administration of shareholders water rights while improving terrestrial and aquatic habitats since the need for annual heavy equipment use in the active channel to repair the infrastructure will be reduced or eliminated. The NCDC is working with NRCS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and others to develop and complete the construction and restoration of the proposed project.

### 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)	
440 ft	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
	Acres Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Length of Pipe/Canal Built or Improved	
	Other	Explain:

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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](#) <sup>(1)</sup>. 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](#)).

Both the Colorado Water Plan and the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan describe the need to provide efficient use of Colorado's water while maintaining and sustaining watershed health. The NCDC project will improve effective and efficient administration and water management of water rights for all water users in the service area, reduce erosion and improve water quality, and improve habitat conditions for terrestrial and aquatic species. The current ditch diversion consists of an instream rock diversion structure that is annually maintained with heavy equipment operated within the active channel of the Rio San Antonio. The annual disturbance associated with this activity reduces water quality, negatively impacts aquatic species habitats and populations, increases erosion of the streambed and adjacent river banks, and reduces the quality of riparian habitat. Upstream and downstream river banks have eroded over time with very little riparian vegetation along the banks although habitat does exist adjacent to the river banks on floodplain wetlands. Given the current condition and type of diversion structure, water administration to all users is inefficient and at times impossible. This project on the Rio San Antonio meets multiple objectives stated in the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) including upholding Colorado water law system namely prior appropriation doctrine, supporting development of multipurpose projects, maintaining wetland and riparian areas and self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian habitats, and promoting the sustainability of habitats for threatened and endangered species (Chapters 6 and 9, CWP). This project meets 9 of the 14 goals (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12) of the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) including meeting multiple benefits for agriculture and environmental water needs. CWP and BIP goals will be met through the construction of a new diversion dam and headgate, reduction of streambed and bank erosion, installation of fish passage structures, and riparian restoration of any area disturbed during project construction.

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



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Matching Requirements: Basin Account Requests	
<b>Basin (only) Account</b> grant requests require a 25% match (cash and/or in-kind) from the Applicant or 3 <sup>rd</sup> party and shall be accompanied by a <b>letter of commitment</b> 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)
Basin	\$106,003
NRCS	\$759,788
Total Match	7.17 times match
If you requested a Waiver to the Basin Account matching requirements, indicate the percentage you wish waived.	

Matching Requirements: Statewide Account Requests	
<b>Statewide Account</b> 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 3 <sup>rd</sup> party (cash, in-kind, or combination). The remaining 30% of the required match may be provided from any other source (Basin, applicant, or 3 <sup>rd</sup> party) and shall be accompanied by a <b>letter of commitment</b> . Attach additional sheet if necessary.	
Contributing Entity	Amount and Form of Match (note cash or in-kind):
Rio Grande Basin Account	\$106,000
NRCS	\$759,788
Total Match	\$859,788
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.

A recent project, The San Luis Valley Wetland and Wildlife Conservation Assessment (SLVWWCA; Wetland Dynamics, LLC 2019), outlined the importance of maintaining existing riparian and wetland habitat given the declines in extent of surface water available throughout the San Luis Valley over the past 50 years. Additionally, the SLVWWCA found that a majority of available wet acres occurred on private lands which further demonstrates the need to maintain existing agricultural lands, especially those that continue to flood irrigate native hay meadows such as those found along the Rio San Antonio. Project completion of the NCDIC will improve administration and water management capabilities for users in the Cenicerito Ditch Service Area and will maintain and sustain current irrigated wet meadow (wetlands) and riparian habitats identified in the SLVWWCA as a limited resource important to the overall health of watersheds throughout the San Luis Valley. Wetland Dynamics, LLC staff visited the Cenicerito ditch project area on Friday, June 28, 2019 to evaluate the existing and potential environmental benefits of the proposed ditch project. The following summary briefly outlines the existing health of the riparian habitat, the potential benefits to the environment from the project and most importantly, precautions that should be taken during construction so that the environmental impact of construction of the ditch infrastructure does not negatively affect existing riparian and wetland health.

The Cenicerito ditch incorporates the active channel of the Rio San Antonio and the floodplain wetland system that currently appears to be fairly intact, healthy, and diverse as evidenced by the plant species diversity, willow density, and multiple age classes of cottonwood that exist in the riparian area. The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) map (Figure 1 Exhibit E) shows that this area has emergent wetlands, forested shrub wetlands, and riverine habitats. The SLVWWCA can be utilized to show wet areas that are among the most resilient in the SLV, specifically highlighting areas that are wet in the driest of years which potentially indicates areas of important resources for wildlife. The Cenicerito ditch area has remained resilient over time, meaning that even in the severe drought years between 2000 and 2004 (Exhibit E, Figures 2 and 3) the area around the Cenicerito Ditch has had some surface water to maintain these wetland areas identified in the NWI map. Since this area is able to remain consistently wet even in the driest of years as a result of agricultural activities and natural conditions, this area may be extremely important and should be maintained as part of the environmental value of the ditch project. The riparian forest is likely to support many bird species including multiple neo-tropical migrants as well as species protected by the Endangered Species Act including:

- Federally Endangered Southwestern Willow Flycatcher,
- Federally Threatened Yellow-billed Cuckoo,



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### Related Studies

- Lewis's Woodpecker which is a state of Colorado Tier 2 species of greatest conservation need (Colorado State Wildlife Action Plan, 2016).

Because the NCDC service area contains potential habitat for the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher and threatened yellow billed cuckoo the NCDC project will coordinate with the Rio Grande Water Conservation District who administers The San Luis Valley Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to make sure that riparian habitat is maintained and improved through various activities during construction of the project to avoid any 'take' of habitat.

These reports and plans add support to the environmental and water efficiency goals of the CWCB. The completion of the NCDC project will have multiple benefits that include improving administration of water rights, maintaining international compacts, maintaining agricultural practices, and improving watershed health.

### 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

N/A

### 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

**Water Supply Reserve Fund  
Water Activity Summary Sheet  
March 11-12, 2020  
Agenda Item 23(o)**

**Applicant & Grantee:** New Cenicero Ditch Company

**Water Activity Name:** Cenicero Diversion Dam, Headgate and Bank Stabilization

**Water Activity Purpose:** Env & Rec/M&I - Study

**County:** Ouray

**Drainage Basin:** Rio Grande

**Water Source:** Rio San Antonio

**Amount Requested:** \$106,000 Rio Grande Basin Account  
\$318,000 Statewide Account  
\$424,000 Total Request

**Matching Funds:** Basin Account Match = \$106,000

- 33% of statewide request (meets 10% min)

Applicant & 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Match (cash) = \$759,788

- 238% of the statewide request (meets 10% min)

Total Match (Basin & Applicant) = \$865,788

- 272% of the statewide request (meets 50% min)

<b>Staff Recommendation:</b>
Staff recommends approval of up to \$106,000 from the Rio Grande Basin Account and up to \$318,000 from the Statewide Account to help fund the project: Cenicero Diversion Dam, Headgate and Bank Stabilization.

**Water Activity Summary:** WSRF Funds, if approved will assist the New Cenicero Ditch Company (NCDC) improve water delivery and administration of water rights for all users along with improving terrestrial and aquatic habitats on the Rio San Antonio. The project will upgrade the diversion dam and headgate to allow for effective water delivery for share holders and administration of water rights by the NCDC, reduce erosion of the river banks and improve riparian habitat through various restoration activities, and will incorporate fish passage infrastructure along approximately 440 feet of the Rio San Antonio. These improvements will eliminate the need for annual heavy equipment use in the active channel to repair the infrastructure. The NCDC is working with NRCS, Colorado Parks and Wildlife, and others to develop and complete the construction and restoration of the proposed project.

**Discussion:** This effort will assist the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable meet 9 of the 14 goals (1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12) of the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan (BIP) including meeting multiple benefits for agriculture and environmental water needs. This project on the Rio San Antonio meets multiple objectives stated in the Colorado Water Plan (CWP) including upholding Colorado water law system namely prior appropriation doctrine, supporting development of multipurpose projects, maintaining wetland and riparian areas and self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian habitats,

and promoting the sustainability of habitats for threatened and endangered species (Chapters 6 and 9, CWP).

**Issues/Additional Needs:** The applicant shall submit to CWCB all required match letters of commitment prior to entering into a grant contract with the state, otherwise there are no additional issues or needs.

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

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

<b>Funding Sources/Match</b>	<b>Cash</b>	<b>In-kind</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Status</b>
NRCS	\$759,788	\$0	\$759,788	Pending
WSRF Rio Grande Basin Account	\$106,000	\$0	\$106,000	Secured
Sub-total	\$865,788	\$0	\$865,788	
WSRF Statewide Account	\$318,000	n/a	\$318,000	
<b>Total Project Costs</b>	<b>\$1,183,788</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$1,183,788</b>	

**CWCB Project Manager:** Craig Godbout



*Craig Godbout*  
*Program Manager*  
*Colorado Water Conservation Board*  
*Water Supply Planning Section*  
1313 Sherman Street, Suite 718  
Denver CO 80203  
[craig.godbout@state.co.us](mailto:craig.godbout@state.co.us)

February 10, 2020

Mr. Godbout;

On July 9, 2019 Elliott Salazar presented a project for the New Cenicero ditch. The ditch carries 18.3 cfs to the Priority #11. The 42 share holders and water users are all in favor of this project that will rebuild and improve the stream bank/riparian area, the diversion core, and the receiving headgate. This project meets many of our Basin's goals as identified in our Basin Plan.

The total proposed cost is around \$1.2 Million dollars with \$423,800 coming from the WSRA funding divided with \$106,000 basin funds and \$318,000 from state funds. NRCS EQIP funds are contributing \$780,000 to the project and finally \$20,000 from the Cenicero as matching as well.

The Project was unanimously supported and the discussion was complimentary regarding the significant amount of matching funds being used. The membership discussion also thanked Mr. Salazar for including a significant amount of environmental/ riparian work in this project to help accomplish our Basin objectives.

Sincerely,

Nathan Coombs- Chair