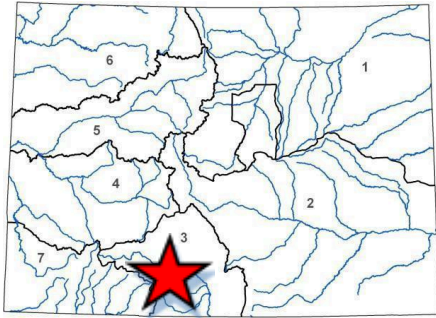




## Water Plan Grant Program



LOCATION	
County:	Alamosa
Basin:	Rio Grande

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$339,250.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$254,438.00
Recommended Amount:	\$254,438.00
Match Commitment:	\$84,812.00
Grant to Match Ratio:	75/25
Project Type:	Design/Engineering/Study
Primary Project Category:	Agriculture
Measurable Result:	15,182 acre-feet existing storage preserved and enhanced

Terrace Irrigation Company is seeking Colorado Water Plan grant funding to expand storage opportunities in the Alamosa River basin by exploring administrative and structural flexibility at Terrace Reservoir.

Located southwest of Monte Vista, Terrace Reservoir has a storage capacity of 15,182 acre-feet (AF). It serves 22 stockholders irrigating approximately 44,400 acres in the valley below and maintains 1,500 AF of water for the Terrace Reservoir State Wildlife Area for year-round fish habitat and public recreational fishing. The reservoir handles various water releases, including those for the CWCB's instream flow (ISF) water right on the Alamosa River and augmentation water for the Town of Jasper.

Terrace Reservoir is a multibeneficial, pre-compact reservoir, not tributary to the Rio Grande or Conejos rivers, and located upstream of major uses. This makes it uniquely positioned to increase flexibility for the local agricultural community.

This project aims to utilize Terrace Reservoir as another lever for the San Luis Valley to flexibly manage water to support aquifer sustainability, compact compliance, and the agricultural economy through two strategies. First, Terrace Irrigation Company will explore expanding Terrace Reservoir storage opportunities to additional water users along the Alamosa River outside of the Terrace Irrigation Company service area, allowing agricultural users to re-time water releases to modify their farming practices and reduce groundwater pumping. Specifically, the project will involve engaging an engineering firm to analyze the potential for existing downstream direct flow water rights to be exchanged via upstream reservoir storage.

Second, in their current condition, Terrace Reservoir's outlet works and headgate do not allow for precise, low-flow releases necessary for the proposed direct flow exchange program and other potential partnerships. Terrace Reservoir will hire a technical team to complete the design and engineering of an improved outlet works and automated headgates to allow for precise management of reservoir releases.

This effort advances the Colorado Water Plan by supporting viable agriculture, promoting watershed health, enhancing existing storage, and exploring innovative water management solutions. Project supporters include the Alamosa La Jara Water Conservancy District, Alamosa Riverkeeper, Rio Grande Basin Roundtable, and Trout Unlimited.

### Funding Recommendation:

Staff recommends a Water Plan Grant award not to exceed \$254,438.00 to Terrace Irrigation Company for Tools for Adaptive Storage in the Alamosa River Basin.

