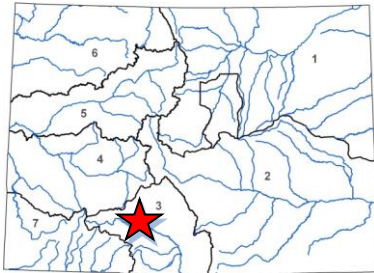




# 2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation and Habitat Improvement Project Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

September 2021 Board Meeting

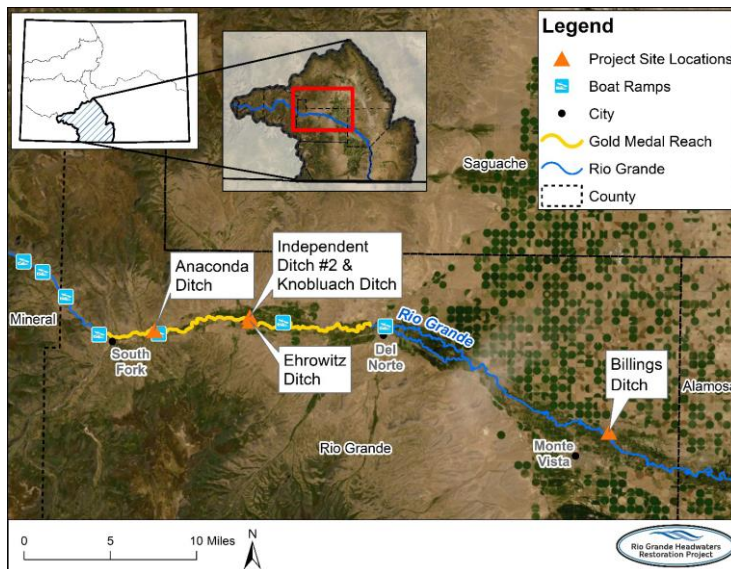
## Water Plan Grant Application



L O C A T I O N	
County/Countries:	Rio Grande
Drainage Basin:	Rio Grande

D E T A I L S	
Total Project Cost:	\$1,666,705
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$818,030
<b>Recommended amount:</b>	\$818,030
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0
Other Funding Amount:	\$848,675
Applicant Match:	\$0
Project Type(s):	Construction
Project Category(Categories):	Agricultural / Environmental & Recreation
Measurable Result:	Stream restoration, water efficiency savings, preserved/restored habitat, infrastructure replacement

The 2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project is a multipurpose project to improve irrigation diversion structures that service five ditches, enhance boat passage, and improve stream function and riparian habitat. The Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches rely on aging and inefficient diversion infrastructure and require frequent instream maintenance by water users, which adversely affects aquatic habitat and stream condition. Additionally, with the exception of the Billings Ditch, each ditch diversion presents a navigational hazard for recreational boating.



This project was identified as a priority through the Rio Grande Stream Management Plan (SMP) and is a result of planning and collaboration between Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD), Trout Unlimited (TU), project landowners, and shareholders on the Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches. Participation from diverse stakeholders ensures that both consumptive and non-consumptive needs are being met through project design and implementation.

Grant funds will support the following project activities:

1. Replacement of the diversions servicing the Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches with structures that improve diversion efficiency, reduce maintenance, and include fish and boat passage;
2. Replacement of the headgates servicing the Billings, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches;
3. Enhancement of aquatic habitat through channel shaping and the installation of habitat features;
4. Stabilization of 3960 linear feet of streambank and restoration of 3 acres of riparian habitat.



Last Updated: May 2021

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Water Plan Grant Application

#### Instructions

To receive funding for a Water Plan Grant, applicant must demonstrate how the project, activity, or process (collectively referred to as “project”) funded by the CWCB will help meet the measurable objectives and critical actions in the Water Plan. Grant guidelines are available on the CWCB website.

If you have questions, please contact CWCB at (303) 866-3441 or email the following staff to assist you with applications in the following areas:

Water Storage & Supply Projects	Matthew.Stearns@state.co.us
Conservation, Land Use Planning	Kevin.Reidy@state.co.us
Engagement & Innovation Activities	Ben.Wade@state.co.us
Agricultural Projects	Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Water Sharing & ATM Projects	Alexander.Funk@state.co.us
Environmental & Recreation Projects	Chris.Sturm@state.co.us

**FINAL SUBMISSION:** Submit all application materials in one email to

**[waterplan.grants@state.co.us](mailto:waterplan.grants@state.co.us)**

**in the original file formats [Application (word); Statement of Work (word); Budget/Schedule (excel)]. Please do not combine documents. In the subject line, please include the funding category and name of the project.**

#### Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation	
Name of Water Project	2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project	
CWP Grant Request Amount		\$818,030
Billings Ditch Company (Cash, committed)		\$170,700
2020 NAWCA Grant (Cash, secured)		\$250,000
2021 NAWCA Grant (Cash, pending)		\$275,750
Ehrowitz Ditch Shareholder (Cash, committed)		\$25,000
Independent Ditch #2 Shareholders (Cash, committed)		\$50,000
San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (Cash, committed)		\$77,225
Total Project Cost		\$1,666,705



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<b>Applicant &amp; Grantee Information</b>
Name of Grantee(s): Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
Mailing Address: 623 4 <sup>th</sup> Street, Alamosa, CO 81101
FEIN: 75-3169057
Organization Contact: Emma Reesor
Position/Title: Executive Director
Email: emma@riograndeheadwaters.org
Phone: (719) 589-2230
Grant Management Contact: <i>Same as above</i>
Position/Title
Email
Phone
Name of Applicant (if different than grantee)
Mailing Address
Position/Title
Email
Phone
<b>Description of Grantee/Applicant</b>
Provide a brief description of the grantee's organization (100 words or less).
The Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation, a non-profit organization, is the fiscal agent for the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project (RGHRP). The mission of the RGHRP is "to restore and conserve the historical functions and vitality of the Rio Grande Basin in Colorado for improved water quality, agricultural water use, riparian habitat, wildlife and aquatic species habitat, recreation, and community safety, while meeting the Rio Grande Compact." Guided by multiple watershed assessments and stream management plans, the RGHRP works with landowners, irrigators, state and federal agencies, and diverse stakeholders to improve the conditions of the Rio Grande and its tributaries.



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Type of Eligible Entity (check one)	
	<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.
	<b>Public (Districts):</b> Authorities, Title 32/special districts (conservancy, conservation, and irrigation districts), and water activity enterprises.
	<b>Private Incorporated:</b> Mutual ditch companies, homeowners associations, corporations.
	<b>Private Individuals, Partnerships, and Sole Proprietors:</b> Private parties may be eligible for funding.
X	<b>Non-governmental organizations (NGO):</b> Organization that is not part of the government and is non-profit in nature.
	<b>Covered Entity:</b> As defined in <a href="#">Section 37-60-126 Colorado Revised Statutes</a> .

Type of Water Project (check all that apply)	
	Study
X	Construction
	Other

Category of Water Project (check the primary category that applies and include relevant tasks)		
	<p>Water Storage &amp; Supply - Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity, multi-beneficial projects, water sharing agreements, Alternative Transfer Methods, and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p> <p><b>Note:</b> For Water Sharing Agreements or ATM Projects - please include the <a href="#">supplemental application</a> available on the CWCB's website.</p>	
	<p>Conservation and Land Use Planning - Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, water efficiency, and drought planning. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>	
	<p>Engagement &amp; Innovation - Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s):</i></p>	
X	<p>Agricultural - Projects that provide technical assistance and improve agricultural efficiency. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s): Tasks 1-6</i></p>	
X	<p>Environmental &amp; Recreation - Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation. <i>Applicable Exhibit A Task(s): Tasks 1-6</i></p>	
	Other	Explain:



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### Location of Water Project

Please provide the general county and coordinates of the proposed project below in **decimal degrees**. The Applicant shall also provide, in Exhibit C, a site map if applicable.

County/Countries	Rio Grande County
Latitude	37.69102
Longitude	-106.49382

### Water Project Overview

Please provide a summary of the proposed water project (200 words or less). Include a description of the project and what the CWP Grant funding will be used for specifically (e.g., studies, permitting process, construction). Provide a description of the water supply source to be utilized or the water body affected by the project, where applicable. 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, and area of habitat improvements, where applicable. 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, Other Funding Sources/Amounts and Schedule.

The *2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project* is a multi-purpose project to improve irrigation diversion structures that service five ditches, enhance boat passage, and improve stream function and riparian habitat. The Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches rely on aging and inefficient diversion infrastructure and require frequent instream maintenance by water users, which adversely affects aquatic habitat and stream condition. Additionally, with the exception of the Billings Ditch, each ditch diversion presents a navigational hazard for recreational boating.

This Colorado Water Plan Grant request will address these issues by funding the rehabilitation of each diversion structure and surrounding river channel and banks, providing multiple benefits to the Rio Grande and its water users.

Grant funds will support the following project activities:

1. Replacement of the diversions servicing the Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches with structures that improve diversion efficiency, reduce maintenance, and include fish and boat passage;
2. Replacement of the headgates servicing the Billings, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches;
3. Enhancement of aquatic habitat through channel shaping and the installation of habitat features;
4. Stabilization of 3960 linear feet of streambank and restoration of 3 acres of riparian habitat.



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Measurable Results		
To catalog measurable results achieved with the CWP Grant funds, please provide any of the following values as applicable:		
	New Storage Created (acre-feet)	
	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive	
	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)	
3960	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)	
297 acre-feet/year	Efficiency Savings (indicate acre-feet/year OR dollars/year)	
3	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)	
	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning	
	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity	
5	Other	Explain: Replacement of diversion infrastructure for five ditches, the Billings Ditch, Ehrowitz Ditch, Independent Ditch #2, Knoblauch Ditch, and Anaconda Ditch

Water Project Justification
<p>Provide a description of how this water project supports the goals of <a href="#">Colorado's Water Plan</a>, the <a href="#">Analysis and Technical Update to the Water Plan</a>, and the applicable Roundtable <a href="#">Basin Implementation Plan</a> and <a href="#">Education Action Plan</a>. 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>The proposed water project shall be evaluated based upon how well the proposal conforms to Colorado's Water Plan Framework for State of Colorado Support for a Water Project (CWP, Section 9.4, pp. 9-43 to 9-44;)</p> <p>The <i>2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project</i> (project) will improve the ability of the Rio Grande to meet consumptive and non-consumptive needs by replacing poorly functioning and inefficient diversions and headgates for five ditches, enhancing boat passage, stabilizing streambanks, improving riparian and aquatic habitat, and improving the ability of water administrators to effectively administer water rights. As such, the project will address agricultural, environmental, recreational, and water administration needs facing the Rio Grande Basin and State of Colorado.</p> <p>The project meets several of the CWP Goals and Criteria in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• By replacing and improving multiple aging diversions and headgates on the Rio Grande, the project supports CWP agricultural goals to “<i>maintain agricultural viability</i>” and “<i>support agricultural conservation and efficiency</i>” (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-10). Further, these activities directly address the CWP’s critical agricultural action to “<i>update and improve Colorado’s aging agricultural infrastructure, especially where improvements provide multiple benefits</i>” (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-10).</li><li>• Through restoration of streambanks and riparian areas, enhancement of fish habitat and rectification of boating hazards, the project supports many of the <i>Watershed Health, Environment, and Recreation</i> goals listed in Section 10.3, including the goal to “<i>Protect Healthy Environments: Understand, protect, maintain, and improve conditions of streams, lakes, wetlands, and riparian</i></li></ul>





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*areas to promote self-sustaining fisheries and functional riparian and wetland habitat to promote long-term resiliency” (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-12). The project also meets the goal to “Enhance Environmental and Recreational Economic Values” (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-12).*

- Finally, by restoring riparian vegetation, stream shading will increase, thereby buffering water temperature. Additionally, alluvial aquifer storage will be increased, thereby augmenting late summer streamflow. In these ways, the project will help meet the goal to “*Work on creating resilient watersheds to protect, restore, and enhance water quality in the face of climate change*” (CWP, Section 10.3, pp. 10-14).

The project will also help water users and administrators meet the agricultural water gap and environmental needs identified in the recent 2019 Analysis and Technical Update to the Water Plan (Technical Update). The Technical Update quantified agricultural water needs and corresponding gaps in supply. The project will mitigate the agricultural water supply gap by improving individual diversion efficiency. The Technical Update also resulted in the Environmental Flow Tool, which assesses potential future risks associated with predicted changes in streamflow. Environmental Flow Tool results for the Rio Grande suggest future impairments to aquatic life are likely as a result of low flow conditions. The project will mitigate potential impairment and stressors due to low streamflow by improving fish and aquatic invertebrate habitat through the creation of pools and woody habitat.

In addition to meeting many of the Colorado Water Plan Goals and complimenting the Technical Update, the project meets many of the Rio Grande Basin Implementation Plan Goals and is supported by the Rio Grande Basin Roundtable.

This project was identified as a priority through the Rio Grande Stream Management Plan (SMP) and is a result of planning and collaboration between Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD), Trout Unlimited (TU), project landowners, and shareholders on the Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches. Participation from diverse stakeholders ensures that both consumptive and non-consumptive needs are being met through project design and implementation.

Currently, stream and riparian areas surrounding the Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, and Knoblauch ditches are in poor condition. Channel instability, degraded aquatic habitat, and lack of riparian vegetation adversely impact river health in these areas and threaten the viability of each diversion structure. Additionally, accelerated bank erosion and diversion dam maintenance at the Billings Ditch and Ehrowitz Ditch requires substantial in-channel work, which impacts downstream water users as well as water quality and aquatic habitat. Through streambank stabilization, and riparian and aquatic habitat restoration, the project will have multiple environmental benefits including reduced sediment inputs and improved water quality, increased streambank stability, and enhanced riparian and aquatic habitat.

Additionally, with the exception of the Billings Ditch, each ditch diversion presents a navigational hazard for recreational boating. The Anaconda, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Ehrowitz ditches are located within the Rio Grande’s Gold Medal waters where both wade and float fishing are popular activities. During low flow conditions, watercraft, especially dories and drift boats, have difficulty navigating these structures due to the lack of a defined low flow channel or other boat passage design features. These navigational hazards reduce the number of boatable days on the Rio Grande between South Fork and Del Norte, particularly during dry years. The project will address these issues through the replacement of each ditch’s diversion structure with a new structure that include fish and boat passage, while also allowing the ditches’ water users to divert their full water right at all flows. Rectifying these navigational hazards will be a significant benefit the local boating and angling community, as well as commercial outfitters and the recreation economy.

As the Rio Grande Basin faces water shortages and prolonged periods of drought, the need for accurate water management becomes increasingly crucial. The project will assist in administration of the Rio



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Grande by improving diversion efficiency and measurement capabilities for each of the ditches. Increased diversion efficiency and measurement accuracy will enable DWR to administer water rights more efficiently and effectively, thereby assisting the Division Engineer in water management and meeting the Rio Grande Compact. Increased efficiencies within the Rio Grande system will allow water managers to maximize the benefits of flows in the river for water rights holders and wildlife

Finally, requested CWP grant funds for the project will be leveraged by match funding provided by landowners, ditch shareholders, and federal funding through US Fish and Wildlife Service's North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) program. The requested CWP funds will help provide non-federal match required by the NAWCA program. Without this funding, project partners would likely not be able to raise sufficient dollars out of pocket or from other grant sources in time to meet the requirements of these federal dollars. As such, CWP funds are critical to complete the project.

### Related Studies

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

**Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project 2001 Study** – The 2001 Study surveyed 91 miles of the Rio Grande through the Valley floor, summarized the condition of the river and riparian area, analyzing the causes of declining river health, and provided recommendations for restoration. The 2001 Study found the primary cause of degradation to be sedimentation and identified measures that could be implemented to holistically improve the river's functions. These measures were both "structural" in nature, such as riparian restoration or diversion replacement, or "nonstructural" measures, such as grazing management practices or land use issues. The proposed project seeks to implement these actions in order to improve the function of the Rio Grande.

**Rio Grande Stream Management Plan (SMP):** The projects and restoration needs included in this proposal were identified as priorities in the Rio Grande Stream Management Plan (SMP) and is a result of planning and collaboration between the multiple ditches, RGHRP, San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD), the Colorado Division of Water Resources (DWR), Colorado Parks and Wildlife (CPW), and area landowners, farmers and ranchers. The ditches included in this project were listed as priorities for improvement in the SMP. This multi-benefit project meets a number of the goals listed in the Rio Grande SMP including the following:

- Goal A. Improve function and reduce maintenance of irrigation infrastructure, both for water users and river health.
- Goal B. Maintain or improve bank and channel stability, especially near important wildlife habitat and critical infrastructure such as homes, diversion structures, roads, and bridges.
- Goal C. Maintain and improve the function of floodplains, associated alluvial aquifers, and natural channel processes.
- Goal D. Maintain and improve the extent and condition of riparian areas.
- Goal F. Maintain or improve water quality, with a focus on mine reclamation projects and compliance with state water quality standards.
- Goal G. Maintain or improve long term sustainability of Rio Grande fisheries and associated aquatic habitat.
- Goal H: Improve infrastructure to support recreational access and use in the Rio Grande.





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A full copy of the Rio Grande SMP report can be downloaded at: <https://riograndeheadwaters.org/stream-management-plans>. In addition, the SMB diversion inventory report cards for each ditch involved in this project are included as an attachment to this grant packet.

Previous CWCB Grants, Loans or Other Funding				
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; 6) Percentage of other CWCB funding for your overall project.				
Applicant Name	Water Activity Name	Approving RT	CWCB Board meeting date	Contract number
CRGRF	Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 2	n/a, Colorado Water Plan Grant	March-21	Not Contracted
CRGRF	Conejos River Partnership Project – Phase 1	Rio Grande	Sept-20	CTGG1 PDAA 2021*3056
CRGRF	Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project – Phase 5	n/a, Watershed Restoration Program	Jan-20	CTGG1 PDAA 2021-0020
CRGRF	Rio Grande, Conejos, and Saguache Stream Management Plans (WSRF Grant)	Rio Grande	Jun-19	POGG1 PDAA 202000002065
CRGRF	Park Creek Watershed Improvement Project	n/a, Colorado Water Plan Grant	May-19	POGG1 PDAA 202000002111
CRGRF	Del Norte Riverfront Project	n/a	Nov-18	POGG1 PDAA 201900002852
CRGRF	Del Norte Riverfront Project – Phase 1	n/a	CWCB Severance Fund Grant	POGG1 PDAA 201800000980
CRGRF	Rio Grande, Conejos River and Saguache Creek SMP (CWRP Grant)	n/a	Jan-18	POGG1 PDAA 201800000791
CRGRF	Five Ditches Project	Rio Grande	Sep-17	CTGG1 2018-971
CRGRF	Rio Grande State Wildlife Area Design Project	Rio Grande	May-17	POGG1 2017-0001
CRGRF	Upper Rio Grande Assessment	Rio Grande	May-16	POGG1 2017-268
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 3 – Prairie Ditch	Rio Grande	Feb-14	CTGG12015-295
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 2 – McDonald Ditch	Rio Grande	Sep-13	C150492
CRGRF	Plaza Project: Phase 1 – Plaza Plan	Rio Grande		
CRGRF	2009 Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project – Phase 4	Rio Grande		C150486
CRGRF	2008 Rio Grande Riparian Stabilization Project – Phase 3	Rio Grande		



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CRGRF	Lower Rio Grande Assessment	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		POGG1 PDAA 20150000000000000260
CRGRF	Rio Grande Project – Cooperative with Southwest Conservation Corps	CO Healthy Rivers Fund		

### Taxpayer Bill of Rights

The Taxpayer Bill of Rights (TABOR) may limit the amount of grant money an entity can receive. Please describe any relevant TABOR issues that may affect your application.

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

### Submittal Checklist

X	I acknowledge the Grantee will be able to contract with CWCB using the <a href="#">Standard Contract</a> .
X	Statement of Work <sup>(1)</sup>
X	Budget & Schedule <sup>(1)</sup>
	Engineer's statement of probable cost (projects over \$100,000)
X	Letters of Matching and/or Pending 3 <sup>rd</sup> Party Commitments <sup>(1)</sup>
X	Map (if applicable) <sup>(1)</sup>
X	Photos/Drawings/Reports
X	Letters of Support (Optional)
	Certificate of Insurance (General, Auto, & Workers' Comp.) <sup>(2)</sup>
	Certificate of Good Standing with Colorado Secretary of State <sup>(2)</sup>
	W-9 <sup>(2)</sup>
	Independent Contractor Form <sup>(2)</sup> (If applicant is individual, not company/organization)
Water Sharing Agreements and Alternative Transfer Methods ONLY	
	Water Sharing Agreements and Alternative Transfer Methods <a href="#">Supplemental Application</a> <sup>(1)</sup>

(1) Required with application.

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



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## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Water Plan Grant - Exhibit A

#### Statement Of Work

<b>Date:</b>	<b>July 1, 2021</b>
<b>Name of Grantee:</b>	Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation
<b>Name of Water Project:</b>	2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project
<b>Funding Source:</b>	Colorado Water Plan Grant
<b>Water Project Overview:</b>	
<p>The <i>2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project</i> is a multi-purpose project to improve irrigation diversion structures that service five ditches, enhance boat passage, and improve stream function and riparian habitat. The Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches rely on aging and inefficient diversion infrastructure and require frequent instream maintenance by water users, which adversely affects aquatic habitat and stream condition. Additionally, with the exception of the Billings Ditch, each ditch diversion presents a navigational hazard for recreational boating.</p> <p>This Colorado Water Plan Grant request will address these issues by funding the rehabilitation of each diversion structure and surrounding river channel and banks, providing multiple benefits to the Rio Grande and its water users.</p> <p>Grant funds will support the following project activities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Replacement of the diversions servicing the Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches with structures that improve diversion efficiency, reduce maintenance, and include fish and boat passage;</li><li>2. Replacement of the headgates servicing the Billings, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches, including automation for the Billings and Independent #2 ditches.</li><li>3. Enhancement of aquatic habitat adjacent to each structure through channel shaping and the installation of habitat features;</li><li>4. Stabilization of 3960 linear feet of streambank and restoration of 3 acres of riparian habitat surrounding the diversion structures.</li></ol>	
<b>Project Objectives:</b>	



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1. Improve diversion efficiency and reduced maintenance by replacing the aging diversions and headgates servicing the Billings, Ehrowitz, Independent #2, Knoblauch, and Anaconda ditches;
2. Improve local recreation by including fish and boat passage in the new diversion structures;
3. Improve aquatic habitat through bank stabilization structures, which will provide habitat complexity for fish species;
4. Improve riparian condition by stabilizing 3960 feet of streambank and restoring riparian vegetation throughout the project area;
5. Enhance water quality by reducing erosion and sediment inputs;
6. Increase sediment transport capacity on the Rio Grande.

Tasks
<b>Task 1 – Billings Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration</b>
<b>Description of Task:</b> Complete project design and required permitting for the replacement of the Billings Ditch diversion dam and headgate and surrounding streambank stabilization in consultation with project partners. Remove the existing diversion dam and construct a new grouted rock diversion that allows for fish and boat passage. Construct a new concrete headgate with a sluice gate and trash rack. Add automation to the headgate. Implement channel shaping, streambank stabilization and riparian and aquatic habitat improvements up and downstream of the Billings Ditch diversion and headgate structures.
<b>Method/Procedure:</b> Southwest River Engineering will be hired to complete designs for the Billings Ditch diversion and headgate and surrounding streambank stabilization and habitat restoration. Designs will be reviewed by the Billings Ditch Company, the project landowner, CPW and DWR. The CRGRF will work with the project engineer to complete all required permits and surveys. The Billings Ditch Company and CRGRF will hire contractors to remove the current diversion dam, clear and shape the channel, and enact pollution control. Contractors will then complete grade preparation and build a grouted rock diversion structure. Contractors will then complete the foundation work, earthwork, and concrete and reinforcement for the headgate and sluice gate. Structural work and automated gate installation will also be completed. Finally, the contractor will implement streambank stabilization measures, which may include bank shaping, channel reconfiguration, rock or log structure installation, and riparian habitat improvements. Riparian improvements may include, but are not limited to willow clump plantings and grass and forb seeding. Upland areas disturbed during onsite activities will be reseeded with appropriate species.
<b>Deliverable:</b> Final designs and required permits. Improved water diversion efficiency and riparian and aquatic habitat. Reduced maintenance, increased riparian vegetation, and improved water quality resulting from streambank stabilization measures.



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Tasks
<b>Task 2 – Ehrowitz Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration</b>
Description of Task: Complete project design and required permitting for the replacement of the Ehrowitz Ditch diversion dam and surrounding streambank stabilization in consultation with project partners. Remove the existing diversion dam and construct a new stacked rock cross vane diversion that allows for fish and boat passage. Install a new steel headbox and sluiceway. Implement channel shaping, streambank stabilization and riparian and aquatic habitat improvements upstream of the Ehrowitz Ditch diversion structure.
Method/Procedure: Southwest River Engineering will be hired to complete designs for the Ehrowitz Ditch diversion and surrounding streambank stabilization and habitat restoration. Designs will be reviewed by the Ehrowitz Ditch shareholders, project landowners, CPW, DWR and TU. The CRGRF will work with the project engineer to complete all required permits and surveys. The CRGRF will hire contractors to remove the current diversion dam, clear and shape the channel, and enact pollution control. Contractors will then complete grade preparation and build a stacked rock cross vane diversion structure that allows for fish and boat passage. A steel headbox with a sluiceway will also be installed. Finally, the contractor will implement streambank stabilization measures, which may include bank shaping, channel reconfiguration, rock or log structure installation, and riparian habitat improvements. Riparian improvements may include, but are not limited to willow clump plantings and grass and forb seeding. Upland areas disturbed during onsite activities will be reseeded with appropriate species.
Deliverable: Final designs and required permits. Improved water diversion efficiency, reduced maintenance, enhanced recreation opportunities, and improved aquatic habitat resulting from the new diversion structure. Increased riparian vegetation and improved water quality resulting from streambank stabilization measures.

Tasks
<b>Task 3 – Independent Ditch #2 and Knoblauch Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration</b>
Description of Task: Complete project design and required permitting for the replacement of the diversion dam and headgates for the Independent Ditch #2 and Knoblauch Ditch, as well as surrounding streambank stabilization in consultation with project partners. Remove the existing diversion dam and construct a new grouted rock diversion that allows for fish and boat passage. Construct a new concrete headgates with a sluice gate and trash rack. Add automation to the headgate. Implement channel shaping, streambank stabilization and riparian and aquatic habitat improvements up and downstream of the Independent Ditch #2 and Knoblauch Ditch diversion and headgate structures.
Method/Procedure:



Last Updated: May 2021

Southwest River Engineering will be hired to complete designs for the Independent Ditch #2 and Knoblauch Ditch diversion dam and headgates, surrounding streambank stabilization, and habitat restoration. Designs will be reviewed by the Independent #2 and Knoblauch Ditch shareholders, the project landowners, CPW, TU, and DWR. The CRGRF will work with the project engineer to complete all required permits and surveys. The CRGRF will hire contractors to remove the current diversion dam, clear and shape the channel, and enact pollution control. Contractors will then complete grade preparation and build a grouted rock diversion structure with a low flow channel for fish and boat passage and sediment transport. Contractors will then complete the foundation work, earthwork, and concrete and reinforcement for the Independent #2 and Knoblauch headgates and sluice gate. An automated gate will also be installed for the Independent #2. Finally, the contractor will implement streambank stabilization measures, which may include bank shaping, channel reconfiguration, rock or log structure installation, and riparian habitat improvements. Riparian improvements may include, but are not limited to willow clump plantings and grass and forb seeding. Upland areas disturbed during onsite activities will be reseeded with appropriate species.

**Deliverable:**

Final designs and required permits. Improved water diversion efficiency, reduced maintenance, enhanced recreation opportunities, and improved aquatic habitat resulting from the new diversion structure. Increased riparian vegetation and improved water quality resulting from streambank stabilization measures.

## Tasks

### Task 4 – Anaconda Ditch Infrastructure Replacement

**Description of Task:**

Complete project design and required permitting for the replacement of the Anaconda Ditch diversion dam and headgates in consultation with project partners. Remove the existing diversion dam and construct a new stacked rock cross vane sill diversion that allows for fish and boat passage. Install a new steel headbox with sluiceway and trash rack. Implement channel shaping, streambank stabilization and riparian and aquatic habitat improvements up and downstream of the Anaconda Ditch diversion and headgate structures.

**Method/Procedure:**

Southwest River Engineering will be hired to complete designs for the Anaconda Ditch diversion and headgate replacement. Designs will be reviewed by the SLVWCD, project landowners, CPW, DWR and TU. The CRGRF will work with the project engineer to complete all required permits and surveys. The SLVWCD and CRGRF will hire contractors to remove the current diversion dam, clear and shape the channel, and enact pollution control. Contractors will then complete grade preparation and build a stacked rock cross vane diversion structure that allows for fish and boat passage. A steel headbox with a sluiceway will also be installed. The contractor will implement streambank stabilization measures, which may include bank shaping, channel reconfiguration, rock or log structure installation, and riparian habitat improvements. Riparian improvements may include, but are not limited to willow clump plantings and grass and forb seeding. Upland areas disturbed during onsite activities will be reseeded with appropriate species.

**Deliverable:**





Last Updated: May 2021

Final designs and required permits. Improved water diversion efficiency, reduced maintenance, enhanced recreation opportunities, and improved aquatic habitat resulting from the new diversion structure. Increased riparian vegetation and improved water quality resulting from streambank stabilization measures.

Tasks
<b>Task 5 – Project Monitoring</b>
Description of Task:
Monitor each project site for three years using the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project’s (RGHRP) Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP).
Method/Procedure:
Monitoring will consist of several assessments that include documenting streambank locations with cross sections, photographic documentation, visual stream assessments, and structure assessment. Pre-construction, post-construction, and long-term surveys will map locations and features of the streambanks, diversion, and headgate over time. Photographic documentation will be used to track conditions of the riparian and shoreline plant communities, bank stabilization, and overall visual condition of the Project area. The United States Department of Agriculture’s Stream Visual Assessment Protocol II (SVAP II) will be used to assess the sites. Project engineers will complete an annual check sheet that assesses the condition and function of the headgate and diversion structure. This monitoring strategy is used in other RGHRP projects. The CRGRF staff will be responsible for monitoring.
Deliverable:
Annual Reports which summarize monitoring data and condition of the sites in order to demonstrate diversion efficiency improvements, relative stability of streambanks, and to evaluate the degree of improvement in the riparian condition.

Tasks
<b>Task 6 – Project Management and Administration</b>
Description of Task:
Complete project oversight, management, and partner coordination. Complete all necessary contracts, status reports, and internal and external documents. Ensure tasks are completed within the approved costs and timelines.



Last Updated: May 2021

Method/Procedure:

The CRGRF will manage and administer the 2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project. The CRGRF will complete contracts with the CWCB and other project funders, project partners, landowners, and contractors; obtain the necessary environmental permits; manage project budgets, and reimbursement requests; and complete semi-annual and final reports. The CRGRF will perform project oversight, ensuring project design and implementation are timely and accurate.

Deliverable:

All appropriate contracts, external and internal reports, and on-site project activities completed within planned period and anticipated costs.

### Budget and Schedule

This Statement of Work shall be accompanied by a combined Budget and Schedule that reflects the Tasks identified in the Statement of Work and shall be submitted to CWCB in excel format.

### Reporting Requirements

**Progress Reports:** The applicant shall provide the CWCB a progress report every 6 months, beginning from the date of issuance of a purchase order, or the execution of a contract. The progress report shall describe the status of the tasks identified in the statement of work, including a description of any major issues that have occurred and any corrective action taken to address these issues.

**Final Report:** At completion of the project, the applicant shall provide the CWCB a Final Report on the applicant's letterhead that:

- Summarizes the project and how the project was completed.
- Describes any obstacles encountered, and how these obstacles were overcome.
- Confirms that all matching commitments have been fulfilled.
- Includes photographs, summaries of meetings and engineering reports/designs.

The CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

### Payment



Last Updated: May 2021

Payment will be made based on actual expenditures and must include invoices for all work completed. The request for payment must include a description of the work accomplished by task, an estimate of the percent completion for individual tasks and the entire Project in relation to the percentage of budget spent, identification of any major issues, and proposed or implemented corrective actions.

Costs incurred prior to the effective date of this contract are not reimbursable. The last 10% of the entire grant will be paid out when the final deliverable has been received. All products, data and information developed as a result of this contract must be provided to as part of the project documentation.

### Performance Measures

Performance measures for this contract shall include the following:

(a) Performance standards and evaluation: Grantee will produce detailed deliverables for each task as specified. Grantee shall maintain receipts for all project expenses and documentation of the minimum in-kind contributions (if applicable) per the budget in Exhibit C. Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, the CWCB will pay out the last 10% of the budget when the Final Report is completed to the satisfaction of CWCB staff. Once the Final Report has been accepted, and final payment has been issued, the purchase order or grant will be closed without any further payment.

(b) Accountability: Per Water Plan Grant Guidelines full documentation of project progress must be submitted with each invoice for reimbursement. Grantee must confirm that all grant conditions have been complied with on each invoice. In addition, per Water Plan Grant Guidelines, Progress Reports must be submitted at least once every 6 months. A Final Report must be submitted and approved before final project payment.

(c) Monitoring Requirements: Grantee is responsible for ongoing monitoring of project progress per Exhibit A. Progress shall be detailed in each invoice and in each Progress Report, as detailed above. Additional inspections or field consultations will be arranged as may be necessary.

(d) Noncompliance Resolution: Payment will be withheld if grantee is not current on all grant conditions. Flagrant disregard for grant conditions will result in a stop work order and cancellation of the Grant Agreement.



**COLORADO**

Colorado Water  
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

## Colorado Water Conservation Board

### Water Plan Grant - Exhibit B Budget and Schedule

**Prepared Date: July 1, 2021**

**Name of Applicant: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation**

**Name of Water Project: 2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project**

**Project Start Date: 11/1/2021**

**Project End Date: 12/1/2023**

Task No.	Task Description	Task Start Date	Task End Date	Grant Funding Request	Match Funding	Total
1	Billings Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration	11/1/2021	5/1/2022	\$ 277,965.00	\$ 410,575.00	\$ 688,540.00
2	Ehrowitz Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration	1/1/2022	4/1/2023	\$ 103,750.00	\$ 135,000.00	\$ 238,750.00
3	Independent Ditch #2 and Knoblauch Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration	1/1/2022	4/1/2023	\$ 284,390.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 484,390.00
4	Anaconda Ditch Diversion Replacement	1/1/2022	4/1/2023	\$ 71,825.00	\$ 71,825.00	\$ 143,650.00
5	Project Monitoring	11/1/21	12/1/24	\$ 8,400.00	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 14,400.00
6	Project Management and Administration	11/1/21	12/1/24	\$ 71,700.00	\$ 25,275.00	\$ 96,975.00
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
						\$0
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$818,030</b>	<b>\$848,675</b>	<b>\$1,666,705</b>

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan Grant - Detailed Budget Estimate

Fair and Reasonable Estimate

Prepared Date: 7/1/2021

Name of Applicant: Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation

Name of Water Project: 2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project

	Personnel Expenses	Contractual Expenses (fixed fee)	Materials and Construction Expenses				Total	CWCB Funds	Matching Funds
	CRGRF Staff (\$45/hour)	Design & Engineering	Unit	Estimated Quantity	Estimated Cost per Unit	Subtotal			
Task 1 - Billings Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration									
Survey, engineering, design, and permitting		\$ 60,500.00					\$60,500.00	\$0.00	\$60,500.00
Site prep and removal of existing structures			CY	400	\$25.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$8,000.00
Large rock, 4-5 ft, placed			EA	420	\$300.00	\$126,000.00	\$126,000.00	\$46,000.00	\$80,000.00
Rock rip rap, placed			CY	610	\$134.00	\$81,740.00	\$81,740.00	\$26,740.00	\$55,000.00
Concrete grout, placed			CY	120	\$180.00	\$21,600.00	\$21,600.00	\$5,600.00	\$16,000.00
Concrete and steel reinforcement (headgate), placed			CY	75	\$1,100.00	\$82,500.00	\$82,500.00	\$37,500.00	\$45,000.00
45 mil geomembrane, installed			SF	1200	\$5.00	\$6,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
Water control gates and actuators, installed			EA	1	\$27,500.00	\$27,500.00	\$27,500.00	\$13,500.00	\$14,000.00
Sluice gate and trash rack, installed			LS	1	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$12,000.00
Dewatering during construction			LS	1	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$75,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$40,000.00
Headgate automation			LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
Channel shaping			CY	1100	\$10.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$3,000.00
Willow clumps, transplanted			EA	250	\$50.00	\$12,500.00	\$12,500.00	\$6,425.00	\$6,075.00
Riparian fencing			LF	1050	\$4.00	\$4,200.00	\$4,200.00	\$2,200.00	\$2,000.00
Mobilization			LS	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$9,000.00
Construction contingency (~10%)			LS	1	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$60,000.00	\$38,000.00	\$22,000.00
Construction management		\$ 50,000.00					\$50,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00
TASK 1 TOTAL							\$688,540.00	\$277,965.00	\$410,575.00
Task 2 - Ehrowitz Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration									
Survey, engineering, design, and permitting		\$15,000.00					\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$0.00
Large rock, 4-5 ft			EA	350	\$150.00	\$52,500.00	\$52,500.00	\$10,000.00	\$42,500.00
Subgrade prep/rock rip rap, placed			CY	200	\$100.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$14,000.00
Build cross vane diversion structure			EA	1	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$7,000.00	\$8,000.00
New steel headbox with sluiceway, placed			EA	1	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$18,500.00	\$8,500.00	\$10,000.00
Channel shaping			CY	2700	\$10.00	\$27,000.00	\$27,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$17,000.00
Place large rock with excavator with thumb, bank stabilization			EA	200	\$150.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$12,000.00	\$18,000.00
Large cottonwood rootwads, installed			EA	10	\$1,800.00	\$18,000.00	\$18,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$10,000.00
Willow clumps, transplanted			EA	150	\$50.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$3,250.00	\$4,250.00
Site clean-up, reseed, mobilization/demobilization			LS	1.0	\$7,250.00	\$7,250.00	\$7,250.00	\$4,000.00	\$3,250.00
Construction contingency (~5%)			LS	1	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00
Construction management		\$15,000.00					\$15,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$5,000.00
TASK 2 TOTAL						\$208,750.00	\$238,750.00	\$103,750.00	\$135,000.00
Task 3 - Independent Ditch #2 and Knoblauch Ditch Infrastructure Replacement and Restoration									
Survey, engineering, design, and permitting		\$60,500.00				\$0.00	\$60,500.00	\$40,500.00	\$20,000.00
Large rock, 4-5 ft, placed			EA	150	\$280.00	\$42,000.00	\$42,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$22,000.00
Subgrade prep/rock rip rap, placed			CY	280	\$100.00	\$28,000.00	\$28,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$12,000.00
Concrete grout, placed			CY	80	\$900.00	\$72,000.00	\$72,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$32,000.00
45 mil geomembrane, installed			SF	880	\$5.00	\$4,400.00	\$4,400.00	\$2,400.00	\$2,000.00
Concrete and steel reinforcement (headgate), placed			CY	50	\$980.00	\$49,000.00	\$49,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$19,000.00
Water control gates and actuators, installed			EA	3	\$11,000.00	\$33,000.00	\$33,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$17,000.00
Trash rack and sluice gate, installed			LS	1	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$21,000.00
Headgate automation			LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00
Dewatering during construction			LS	1	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$40,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$15,000.00
Channel shaping			CY	500	\$10.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Willow clumps, transplanted			EA	40	\$50.00	\$2,000.00	\$2,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Site cleanup, reseed, mobilization/demobilization			LS	1	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$7,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$4,000.00
Construction contingency (~10%)			LS	1	\$33,990.00	\$33,990.00	\$33,990.00	\$23,990.00	\$10,000.00
Construction management		\$50,000.00				\$0.00	\$50,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$18,000.00
TASK 3 TOTAL						\$373,890.00	\$484,390.00	\$284,390.00	\$200,000.00
Task 5 - Anaconda Ditch Infrastructure Replacement									
Survey, engineering, design, and permitting		\$ 15,000.00					\$15,000.00	\$0.00	\$15,000.00
Remove existing diversion material			LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Large rock, 4-5 ft			EA	200	\$150.00	\$30,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00
Rock rip rap, placed			CY	200	\$100.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$5,000.00
Build cross vane sill diversion structure			LS	1	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00
New steel headbox with sluiceway and trash rack, placed			EA	1	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$13,000.00	\$13,000.00
Revegetation, including willow transplants and native seed			AC	0.5	\$3,300.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,650.00	
Mobilization			LS	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,000.00
Construction contingency (~10%)			LS	1	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$11,000.00	\$6,000.00	\$5,000.00
Construction management		\$ 10,000.00					\$10,000.00	\$3,175.00	\$6,825.00
TASK 5 TOTAL							\$143,650.00	\$71,825.00	\$71,825.00
Task 5 - Project Monitoring									
Staff time for project monitoring (320 hours)	\$ 14,400.00						\$14,400.00	\$8,400.00	\$6,000.00
TASK 5 TOTAL							\$14,400.00	\$8,400.00	\$6,000.00
Task 6 - Project Management and Administration									
Staff time for project management and administration staff time (2155 hours)	\$ 96,975.00						\$96,975.00	\$71,700.00	\$25,275.00
TASK 6 TOTAL							\$96,975.00	\$71,700.00	\$25,275.00
PROJECT TOTAL							\$1,666,705.00	\$818,030.00	\$848,675.00

2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project:  
Letters of Matching Fund Commitments

San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District  
623 Fourth Street  
Alamosa, CO 81101  
[heather@slvwcd.org](mailto:heather@slvwcd.org)



June 29, 2021

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant Application Matching Fund Support Letter  
2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project

Dear CWCB Board of Directors,

The San Luis Valley Water Conservancy District (SLVWCD) is thrilled to support the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation's (Foundation) application to the Colorado Water Plan grant program. The SLVWCD operates an augmentation program within five counties in the San Luis Valley. Through our operations, we replace injurious depletions to the Rio Grande caused by pumping of domestic, commercial, and municipal wells. Additionally, the SLVWCD is a leader in the local and state water communities, working with partners to address timely issues such as groundwater sustainability, compliance with the Rio Grande Compact, and water supply protection. The SLVWCD partnered with the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) almost 20 years ago to complete the 2001 Study, a restoration master plan for 91 miles of the Rio Grande. Since that time, the SLVWCD has remained committed to implementation of the 2001 Study and supported efforts by the Foundation to improve river health in the Rio Grande Basin, including the completion of the Rio Grande Stream Management Plan.

The Foundation's proposed project brings together multiple ditches and diverse stakeholders to implement priorities from the Rio Grande SMP, including the rehabilitation of poorly functioning irrigation infrastructure to benefit water users, recreation, and river health. This project includes the replacement of the Anaconda Ditch diversion structure, of which the SLVWCD owns water rights as a part of our augmentation program. A portion of the Anaconda Ditch's existing diversion contains remnants of rebar, which presents a recreational hazard. The SLVWCD board has voted to partner with the Foundation on this project to replace the diversion with a structure that is safe for boaters, while meeting the needs of the ditch shareholders.

The SLVWCD will be an active partner throughout project planning and implementation by providing staff time for the technical advisory team. The SLVWCD will also contribute up to \$77,225 to the completion of the Anaconda diversion replacement (Task 4). I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the Foundation's application. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Heather R. Dutton".

Heather Dutton, Manager



2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project:  
Letters of Matching Fund Commitments



June 29, 2021

**Colorado Water Conservation Board**

1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant Application Matching Fund Support Letter  
2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project

Dear CWCB Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Rio Grande Headwaters Land Trust (RiGHT), I am writing to express our support of the 2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project. This project aligns directly with RiGHT's goals to protect and support wildlife habitat, water resources, agricultural heritage, and scenic landscapes in the San Luis Valley. In order to further collaborative restoration and conservation efforts in the Valley, RiGHT as partnered with the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation (CRGRF), Colorado Open Lands, Ducks Unlimited, and private landowners to put together two applications through the North American Wetland Conservation Act (NAWCA) grant program. The first of these applications was awarded in 2020 and includes \$250,000 committed to the Billings Ditch diversion infrastructure replacement. The second application will be submitted on July 9, 2021 and will include \$275,750 committed to the Ehrowitz and Independent Ditch #2 diversion infrastructure replacement.

RiGHT is excited to work with the CRGRF to improve diversion infrastructure that is critical to protecting agricultural lands and flood irrigated wetlands. These actions will benefit agricultural water uses, fish and wildlife habitat, boaters and angler, having a ripple effect on the local economy and ecology.

I appreciate your consideration of this grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Allen Law", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Allen Law  
Executive Director, RiGHT

PO Box 444 Del Norte, CO 81132  
(719) 657.0800  
[info@riograndelandtrust.org](mailto:info@riograndelandtrust.org)  
[riograndelandtrust.org](http://riograndelandtrust.org)

CONSERVING  
OUR LAND, WATER  
AND WAY OF LIFE  
IN COLORADO'S  
SAN LUIS VALLEY

2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project:  
Letters of Matching Fund Commitments

**Billings Ditch Company**

118 Washington Street  
Monte Vista, CO 81144

June 29, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Room 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant Application Matching Fund Support Letter  
2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project

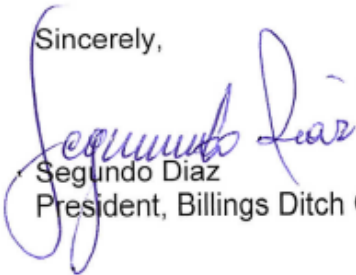
Dear CWCB Board of Directors,

On behalf of the Billings Ditch Company Board, we are requesting funding from the Colorado Water Plan Grant Program to replace our diversion dam and headgate with new structures that divert more efficiently and stabilize streambanks surrounding the diversion. The Billings Ditch diversion and headgate are in poor condition, as noted in the Rio Grande Stream Management Plan. In addition, eroding and unstable streambanks threaten to cut off our headgate in the future. Because of these challenges, a new headgate, diversion dam, and stabilized streambanks are critical to improve our operations, reduce maintenance, and protect the ditch's full water rights into the future. In addition to replacing our aging headgate and diversion dam, this project will include adjacent streambank stabilization to protect our diversion infrastructure, reduce sediment in the river, improve water quality for users downstream, and enhance surrounding wildlife habitat. To complete this project, the board has partnered with the Rio Grande Headwaters Restoration Project to help secure funding and coordinate partners.

In order for the project to come to fruition, we are prepared to contribute \$170,700 to the cost of the project. Our board and shareholders are committed to fundraising for the project and are in the process of applying for a loan through the Colorado Water Conservation Board's Water Project Loan Program to support our commitment.

We hope that you will consider this request for funding through the Colorado Water Plan grant program. These funds are imperative to the completion of this project as well as other similar projects. The completed project will not only benefit our shareholders, but the health of the river as well.

Sincerely,



Segundo Diaz  
President, Billings Ditch Company

2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project:  
Letters of Matching Fund Commitments

**Ehrowitz Ditch**  
316 County Rd 17  
Del Norte, CO 81132

June 28, 2021

Colorado Water Conservation Board  
1313 Sherman St., Rm. 721  
Denver, CO 80203

Re: Colorado Water Plan Grant Application Matching Fund Support Letter  
2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project

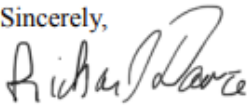
Dear CWCB Board of Directors,

As the water rights holder on the Ehrowitz Ditch, I am writing to express my support of the 2021 Rio Grande Diversion Infrastructure, Recreation, and Habitat Improvement Project. The Ehrowitz Ditch diversion is in poor condition, as noted in the Rio Grande Stream Management Plan. The structure lacks an adequate diversion structure, which requires significant maintenance and makes it challenging to divert the ditch's full water rights, especially during low flows. The point of diversion also presents a challenge to recreational boaters. The river at this ditch's point of diversion is very difficult to navigate, particularly during low river flow conditions.

For the reasons mentioned above, a new structure that diverts more efficiently and provides boat passage is critical. Not only will the project benefit the water rights associated with the Ehrowitz Ditch, but will also improve boat passage and the health of the river. This project would improve the operations and reduce maintenance needs of this ditch, now and into the future. These funds are imperative to the completion of this project as well as several other similar projects.

I am committed to participating in this project as a partner with the Colorado Rio Grande Restoration Foundation. In addition, I am prepared to contribute \$25,000 towards to the replacement of the Ehrowitz Ditch diversion structure and surrounding streambank stabilization. Thank you for considering this grant request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Davie".

Rick Davie,  
Ehrowitz Ditch