COLORADO
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan

Water Project Summary

Name of Applicant	3 Rocks Ranch LLC
Name of Water Project	Canon Heights Intake Rehabilitation & SteadyFlow Gate™ Installation
Grant Request Amount	**$53,000.00**
Primary Category	$53,000.00
Agricultural Projects	
Total Applicant Match	**$26,600.00**
Applicant Cash Match	$21,600.00
Applicant In-Kind Match	$5,000.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	**$26,600.00**
3 Rocks Engineering and Surveying	$5,000.00
Canon Heights Irrigation and Reservoir Company	$21,600.00
Total Project Cost	**$106,200.00**

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: 3 Rocks Ranch LLC
Mailing Address: 1406 Cone Ave Canon City CO 81212

Organization Contact: Greg Van Riper
Position/Title: Board President
Phone: 7192698655
Email: gsvanriper@gmail.com

Grant Management Contact: Greg Van Riper
Position/Title: Board President
Phone: 7192698655
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Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Dimitri Zamarripa
Position/Title: Director of R&D
Phone: 7194309632
Email: dimitriz@3rocksengineering.com

Description of Grantee/Applicant

Agricultural business primarily serving Fremont County, Colorado focusing on hay production, beef production, services to support local irrigation companies, and other services to support local producers.

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)
- ☐

- [ ] Ditch Company
- [ ] Private Incorporated
- [x] Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- [ ] Non-governmental Organization
- [ ] Covered Entity
- [ ] Other

Category of Water Project

- [x] Agricultural Projects
  Developing communications materials that specifically work with and educate the agricultural community on headwater restoration, identifying the state of the science of this type of work to assist agricultural users among others.
- [ ] Conservation & Land Use Planning
  Activities and projects that implement long-term strategies for conservation, land use, and drought planning.
- [ ] Engagement & Innovation Activities
  Activities and projects that support water education, outreach, and innovation efforts. Please fill out the Supplemental Application on the website.
- [ ] Watershed Restoration & Recreation
  Projects that promote watershed health, environmental health, and recreation.
- [ ] Water Storage & Supply
  Projects that facilitate the development of additional storage, artificial aquifer recharge, and dredging existing reservoirs to restore the reservoirs' full decreed capacity and Multi-beneficial projects and those projects identified in basin implementation plans to address the water supply and demand gap.

Location of Water Project

Latitude	38.529000
Longitude	-105.217000
Lat Long Flag	Precise coordinates: Project coordinates are readily definable and precisely define the location of the project
Water Source	Fourmile Creek
Basins	Arkansas
Counties	Fremont
Districts	12-Arkansas: Salida to Portland

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Agricultural
Type of Water Project	Construction / Implementation
Scheduled Start Date - Design	10/1/2025
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	11/1/2025

Description

This project will rehabilitate the historic Canon Heights Ditch Company intake on Fourmile Creek in Fremont County. The rehabilitation includes design and installation of two SteadyFlow Gate™ units, reconstruction of the headworks concrete structure, construction of a V-notch weir for flow measurement, installation of a fish screen and secondary debris rack, and construction of an overflow channel and low-water crossing.

Measurable Results

0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
0	New Annual Water Supplies Developed or Conserved (acre-feet), Consumptive or Nonconsumptive
0	Existing Storage Preserved or Enhanced (acre-feet)
0	New Storage Created (acre-feet)
500	Length of Stream Restored or Protected (linear feet)
100.00	Length of Pipe, Canal Built or Improved (linear feet)
$7,500	Efficiency Savings (dollars/year)
20	Efficiency Savings (acre-feet/year)
1	Area of Restored or Preserved Habitat (acres)
0	Quantity of Water Shared through Alternative Transfer Mechanisms or water sharing agreement (acre-feet)
217	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Incorporating Water-Saving Actions into Land Use Planning
217	Number of Coloradans Impacted by Engagement Activity

Other

Reduction in sediment load - Reduced ditch entry of sediment due to low-turbulence intake, debris screen, overflow

Water Project Justification

The proposed project directly supports multiple goals and strategies outlined in the 2023 Colorado Water Plan and the Arkansas Basin Implementation Plan (BIP). Specifically:

- This project will sustain and improve irrigation infrastructure that supports continued agricultural production in the Arkansas Basin, aligning with the agriculture goal to “sustain a productive agricultural economy… that sustains viable rural, agricultural-based communities.” The Canon Heights Ditch Company supports over 1,000 acres of farmland in Fremont County, a region that faces growing pressure from water variability, infrastructure aging, and rising labor costs. The improvements proposed in this project will directly benefit multiple local farms, allowing them to better manage limited water supplies during both drought and high-flow conditions. - Chapter 4 pg 91

- The proposed installation of SteadyFlow Headgates improves ditch infrastructure efficiency and reliability, echoing the BIP’s recognition that “many facilities need repair or restoration” and that “rural areas within the Arkansas Basin have identified water needs but face challenges in marshaling resources to implement solutions”. Previously, the Canon Heights Irrigation and Reservoir company relied on board members' time to adjust this intake daily, and this project will significantly reduce the time needed in the mornings and evenings, as well as remove the need for midday adjustments altogether. - Chapter 4 pg 90

- The project increases resilience to extreme hydrologic conditions and variability in water supply by offering more responsive control of irrigation water, a direct response to the Water Plan’s emphasis on “resilient planning” and “balancing future risk”. In 2022, the creek from which the project draws water experienced a flood, requiring one of the ditch board members to wade through waist-deep water to shut off the headworks. The gates that are being installed there in this project will make the intake resilient to similar events in the future without the need for someone to manually shut them off. - Chapter 4 pg 150

- Through ongoing testing and design refinement by 3 Rocks Engineering and Surveying in partnership with Canon Heights Irrigation and Reservoir Company, the project also builds capacity for regional innovation, in line with the Water Plan’s education and outreach goals. Proving that the SteadyFlow gate improves efficiency and accuracy of a system will encourage other dilapidated systems in the region to pursue adoption of more of the devices, which will only positively impact the entire basin as it spreads. Canon Heights is the pilot for these

devices and hopes to improve its run-down infrastructure in a way that will create a robust and more functional system for years to come. Other ditches in the region have already expressed interest in this pilot, and we hope to be a proof to launch a larger-scale adoption of these devices in the region. - Chapter 6 pg 228

Related Studies
N/A

Taxpayer Bill of Rights
N/A