

Purgatoire Ditch Infrastructure Repair Project

In 2016 our sister district in Las Animas County, the Purgatoire River Water Conservancy District, had not de-Bruiced and needed assistance accepting and administering a grant from the Colorado Water Conservation Board. The Huerfano County Water Conservancy District agreed to become the fiscal agent and to have its District Administrator, Carol Dunn, oversee the grant.

The PRWCD grant application covered several ditch infrastructure projects involving headgate and ditch repairs located in that district: the Picketwire Ditch, the Enlarged Southside Irrigation Ditch, the Chilili Ditch, the Baca Ditch, the New John Flood Ditch, and the El Moro Ditch. The project not only addresses crumbling infrastructure but also stream bank erosion. None of the small ditch companies involved in these projects had the funds available to complete the project, and it was necessary to ensure compact compliance and prevent water losses that have gradually become critical. In addition, approximately 1,000 linear feet of eroded Purgatoire River bank will be restored.

The project's total costs will be \$222,500 of which PRWCD will pay \$100,000 and the local ditch companies will contribute \$32,500. The remaining \$90,000 will be covered by the CWCB grant that is being administered by HCWCD.