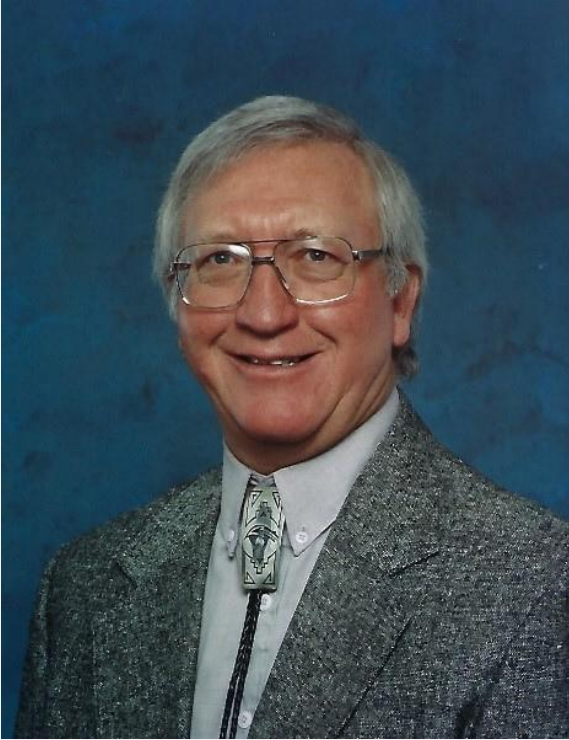


MANNIE COLON



Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance

Many of you know Mannie Colon as DARCA's President. Mannie has been engaged in DARCA's leadership for a number of years alongside running his orchard operation and sitting on a number of boards. Mannie shares a passion for water and DARCA. Mannie is a 3rd generation produce farmer in Canon City. He grew up on the family farm learning from his Father, the old fashioned way. After graduating from Moo U (@ColoradoStateUniversity, Fort Collins) in Business Administration, Mannie went to work for the State of Colorado, in finance for over 30 years, so he could afford to farm.

The local apple market his parents started in 1937 has grown into a full-fledged agritourism farm market. Teachers from the area bring school children to tour the farm and educate them on agriculture values. He has always had a strong interest in agriculture and specifically history, ownership, and use of water as our civilization changes. He is currently the President of The Canon City and Hydraulic and Irrigating Ditch Company, The Grandview Irrigation Company, and The Ditch and Reservoir Company Alliance. He is Vice President of The Canon City and Oil Creek Ditch Company. He sits on the boards of Upper Arkansas Water Conservancy District, The Arkansas River Basin Water Forum, and the Arkansas River Basin Round Table.

When asked when he was going to retire he looked down at his hands and the dirt under his nails, "That's not dirt, it's soil, once there it never goes away."