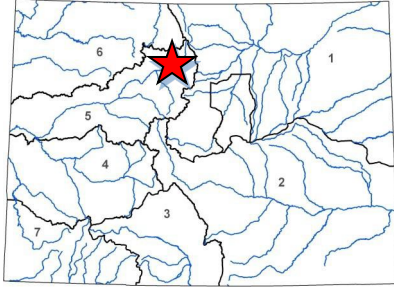




Grand County Stream Management Plan Implementation - Project Coordination Learning By Doing, Inc

Water Plan Grant Application

Lat: 40.07271
Long: -106.09748



LOCATION

County: **Grand**
Drainage Basin: **Colorado**

DETAILS	
Total Project Cost:	\$172,000.00
Water Plan Grant Request:	\$103,200.00
Recommended Amount:	\$0.00
Other CWCB Funding:	\$0.00
Other Funding Amount:	\$40,000.00
Applicant Match:	\$28,000.00
Project Type:	Planning/Project Mgmt
Project Category:	Watershed Health & Recreation
Measurable Result:	Project coordination for three years

Grand County Learning By Doing (LBD), a collaborative effort of local, state, federal, and nonprofit water stakeholders, is seeking funding for project coordination to assist in its efforts to preserve, and where possible, improve the aquatic environment at the headwaters of the Colorado River in the face of transmountain diversions, drought, and climate change.

LBD is a unique partnership of East and West Slope water stakeholders committed to restoring and protecting ecological processes in the collaborative effort area, which includes the Fraser, Williams Fork, and Colorado River basins to the confluence with the Blue River. To do so, LBD engages in an extensive network of activities, including:

- Collecting data necessary to evaluate the health of the aquatic environment, including stream temperature, sediment transport, macroinvertebrate surveys, and with the assistance of CPW, fish surveys for the entire collaborative effort area.
- Using the data collected by LBD and others to develop in-depth assessments of aquatic habitat health and identifying the sources of any detected declines.
- Conducting weekly operation calls (mid-April to September) involving operators of major water diversions and reservoirs within the effort area, to try to find ways to operate their systems to minimize impacts to aquatic life within the cooperative effort area.
- Implementing on-the-ground projects to improve stream health and aquatic habitat and make it more resilient in the face of reduced and warmer flows.
- Keeping the public informed regarding stream and aquatic habitat conditions and LBD activities.
- Maintaining and updating the Grand County Stream Management Plan (GC SMP), the guiding document for LBD activities.

LBD accomplishes its work through a Management Committee which is the decision-making body of LBD and includes representatives of Colorado Parks and Wildlife, Colorado River Water Conservation District, Denver Water, Grand County, Middle Park Water Conservancy District, Northern Colorado Water Conservation District, and Trout Unlimited.

As much as LBD has accomplished, its effective operation over the next three years is critical. LBD is planning many new on-the-ground projects to take advantage of the significant amount of federal and state funding made available over the next three years. LBD has the tools to act in the face of the challenges to the headwaters streams, but it cannot do so without assistance to help organize this diverse group of water stakeholders and ensure that their important work gets done. The funds requested, paired with the dedicated 40% cash match from LBD Inc. and LBD partners, will allow LBD to retain one or more consultants to provide professional coordination and operations assistance for the next three years.

Funding Recommendation: This project is not recommended for funding as a general programmatic support grant it did not meet Water Plan Grant guidelines for project grants.

**COLORADO**Colorado Water
Conservation Board

Department of Natural Resources

Colorado Water Conservation Board

Water Plan**Water Project Summary**

Name of Applicant	Learning By Doing, Inc
Name of Water Project	Grand County Stream Management Plan Implementation - Project Coordination
Grant Request Amount	\$103,200.00
Primary Category	\$103,200.00
<i>Watershed Health & Recreation</i>	
Total Applicant Match	\$28,800.00
<i>Applicant Cash Match</i>	\$28,800.00
<i>Applicant In-Kind Match</i>	\$0.00
Total Other Sources of Funding	\$40,000.00
<i>Denver Water</i>	\$9,200.00
<i>Grand County</i>	\$9,200.00
<i>Northern Water</i>	\$9,200.00
<i>Colorado River Water Conservation District</i>	\$9,200.00
<i>Trout Unlimited</i>	\$3,200.00
Total Project Cost	\$172,000.00

Applicant & Grantee Information

Name of Grantee: Learning By Doing, Inc
Mailing Address: PO Box 38 Hot Sulphur Springs CO 80451
FEIN: 301,176,284

Organization Contact: Anna Drexler-Dreis
Position/Title: Project Coordinator Email: gclearningbydoing@gmail.com
Phone: 970-531-1171

Organization Contact - Alternate: Rachel Badger
Position/Title: Planning Manager Email: rachel.badger@denverwater.org
Phone: 303-628-6518

Grant Management Contact: Anna Drexler-Dreis
Position/Title: Project Coordinator Email: gclearningbydoing@gmail.com
Phone: 970-531-1171

Grant Management Contact - Alternate: Rachel Badger
Position/Title: Planning Manager Email: rachel.badger@denverwater.org
Phone: 303-628-6518

Description of Grantee/Applicant

No description provided

Type of Eligible Entity

- ☐ Public (Government)
- ☐ Public (District)
- ☐ Public (Municipality)
- ☐ Ditch Company
- ☐ Private Incorporated
- ☐ Private Individual, Partnership, or Sole Proprietor
- ☒ Non-governmental Organization
- ☐ Covered Entity
- ☐ Other

Category of Water Project

- ☐ 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	40.072720
Longitude	-106.097480
Lat Long Flag	Default/Proponent headquarters: If the location cannot be defined with flags above, use location of project proponent headquarters
Water Source	The Fraser, Williams Fork, and Colorado River basins and their tributaries in Grand County, Colorado.
Basins	Colorado
Counties	Grand
Districts	50-Muddy/Troublesome Creeks; 51-Upper Colorado/Fraser Rivers

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Planning
Scheduled Start Date - Design	1/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	
Description	

Grand County Learning By Doing (LBD), a collaborative effort of local, state, federal, and nonprofit water stakeholders, is seeking funding for project coordination to assist in its efforts to preserve, and where possible, improve the aquatic environment at the headwaters of the Colorado River in the face of transmountain diversions, drought and climate change.

LBD's success would not have been possible without the assistance of its Project Coordinator, funded by LBD members and the CWCB's generous grant contributions. As much as LBD has accomplished, its effective operation over the next three years is critical. Data collected over the last several years is being analyzed as part of the SMP's update to understand the conditions of the headwaters' aquatic environment and the drivers influencing stream health.

LBD has the tools to act in the face of the challenges to the headwaters streams, but it cannot do so without assistance to help organize this diverse group of water stakeholders and ensure that their important work gets done. The funds requested, paired with the dedicated 40% cash match from LBD Inc. and LBD partners, will allow LBD to retain one or more consultants to provide professional coordination and operations assistance for the next three years.

Measurable Results

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

Other

Funding from this grant award will provide Learning By Doing (LBD) with project coordination support for three years, which will help guide LBD to fulfill its goal of updating the Grand County Stream Management Plan.

Water Project Justification

This project supports the goals of the Colorado Basin Roundtable in that it:

- Supports the Basin Implementation Plan's ongoing project of developing stream management plans throughout the basin (page 12, BIP). The Project Coordinator will be responsible for providing organizational and administrative support to oversee the Phase 1 and Phase 2 updates to Grand County's Stream Management Plan.
- The project's will identify areas of concern and improve the Upper Colorado River above the confluence of the Blue River, which is located in Learning By Doing's Cooperative Effort Area (page 14, BIP Theme #1).
- Ensures continued collaboration among new and current stakeholders and major water providers which the Colorado Basin Roundtable has identified as "undercurrents" of the six themes.
- This project supports the Colorado River Cooperative Agreement which provides stream health benefits to Grand County streams (page 9, BIP).
- Ensures Learning By Doing will be the driver of the project to direct, coordinate, and apply resources as well as

continued sampling for macroinvertebrates and water quality (page 12, BIP).

This project supports the Colorado Water Plan (CWP):

- A central goal of the CWP is the Colorado vision for thriving watersheds. "Stream management plans and integrated water management plans are collaborative efforts that can identify projects and needed flows for stream rehabilitation that consider all of the benefits that a stream provides to local users" (page 205, CWP). The Project Coordinator will oversee and manage the Grand County Stream Management Plan including the Phase 1 and Phase 2 updates to Grand County's 2010 Stream Management Plan.
- Another goal is the Colorado vision for Vibrant Communities and the "One Water ethic" (page 178, CWP). The Learning By Doing (LBD) Cooperative Effort represents a unique partnership program between East and West slope water stakeholders in Colorado. LBD is, in essence, a monitoring and adaptive management program with the goal of maintaining and where possible, improving the health of Colorado River headwater streams in Grand County. The LBD Coordinator provides organizational and administrative support to achieve LBD's goals.

This project supports the CBRT Education and Action Plan (EAP):

- One vision of the EAP is to "Encourage awareness and development of holistic locally driven collaborative solutions support by best available hydrologic and watershed data" (page 1). LBD operates extensive monitoring programs and coordinates water operations to assess and address changes in the aquatic environment and LBD is a unique partnership of East and West slope water stakeholders committed to restoring and protecting ecological processes in the collaborative effort area.
- Another vision of the EAP is to "Increase collaborations and partnerships with other Colorado basin organizations that wish to promote water awareness, education, and engagement" (page 2). LBD's Management and Technical Committees are made up of several Colorado basin organizations who work together to promote water awareness, education, and engagement through on-the-ground stream improvement projects, quarterly e-newsletters, public presentations, and a professional website.

Related Studies

Learning By Doing (LBD) emerged from Inter-Governmental Agreements (IGAs) in 2012 and 2016 resulting from two water diversion projects, both impacting rivers in Grand County: Denver Water's Moffat Project and the Northern Water Subdistrict's Windy Gap Firming Project. Both IGAs establish a long-term partnership of cooperation, not conflict, among the groups. With a shared vision of river health, LBD cooperatively responds to setbacks in Grand County's aquatic environment.

Since the inception of the 2010 Grand County Stream Management Plan (SMP), changes have occurred throughout Grand County on both minor and landscape scales that warrant a necessary reexamination of the technical aspects of the SMP to better reflect current conditions. In addition, a significant amount of new data has been collected throughout the Cooperative Effort Area by LBD partners that supports a robust watershed assessment to improve characterization and prioritization of areas of concern compared to the existing SMP. The Project Coordinator will be responsible for overseeing the SMP update as well as implementing the update to the SMP.

CWCB has generously awarded funding previously (PO 2021-2393) for LBD's Project Coordinator that was matched with 50% cash contributions by LBD partners.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No known TABOR issues.