



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	Implementation of Grand County's Stream Management Plan
Grant Request Amount	\$145,350.00
Primary Category	\$145,350.00
<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>Colorado River Water Conservation District</i>	
	\$9,200.00
<i>Northern Water</i>	
	\$9,200.00
<i>Trout Unlimited</i>	
	\$3,200.00
<i>Denver Water</i>	
	\$9,200.00
<i>Grand County</i>	
	\$9,200.00
Total Project Cost	\$214,150.00

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
Phone: 970-531-1171
Email: gclearningbydoing@gmail.com

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

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

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

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	

Water Project Overview

Major Water Use Type	Environmental
Type of Water Project	Capacity Building
Scheduled Start Date - Design	6/1/2024
Scheduled Start Date - Construction	6/1/2027
Description	

Grand County's LBD, a collaborative effort of local, state, federal, and nonprofit water stakeholders, is seeking funding for project coordination to implement Grand County's SMP and 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 with the support they need to implement the Grand County Stream Management Plan.

Water Project Justification

Colorado Basin Implementation Plan (BIP)

The Colorado Basin BIP focuses heavily on stream and integrated water management planning as a tool to manage water resources and to implement on-the-ground projects that advance the BIP's goals. (BIP Vol. II, p. 42). The Colorado Basin Roundtable recommends permanently funding these plans and identifying who is responsible for keeping them up to date as conditions change. (Id.). The BIP includes several strategies that use these plans as mechanisms to reduce risks and enhance benefits (BIP Vol. II, p. 42), and points to their increasing use to "adaptively manage" rivers. (Id.) If awarded, funding from this grant would be used by LBD to fund a project coordinator, which is critical for implementation of the Grand County Stream Management Plan (GC SMP). This project supports the goals of the Colorado Basin Roundtable in that it:

* Will assist with the implementation of the GC SMP which furthers a primary goal of Theme 1 of the BIP (BIP

Vol. I, p. 13) to “protect and maintain healthy and self-sustaining aquatic and riparian ecosystems and rehabilitate damaged ecosystems.”

* Prioritizes on-the-ground projects that address areas of concern identified in the BIP (BIP, Vol I, p. 14), including areas significantly impacted by TMDs (BIP, Vol I, p. 40).

* Supports two “undercurrents” identified in the BIP: (1) collaboration and partnership among stakeholders, and (2) action in the face of climate change. (BIP, Vol. 1, p. 13)

* Furthers three future strategies identified in the BIP: Future Strategy 1 (Fund SMPs/IWMPs and projects and activities they identify) (BIP, Vol. 1, p. 42); Future Strategy 3 (Use the IWMP/SMP mechanism to reduce risk and enhance benefits) (BIP, Vol. 1, p. 43); and Future Strategy 4 (Implement projects that support the goals of the BIP) (BIP, Vol. 1, p. 43).

Colorado Basin Roundtable Education and Action Plan (EAP)

One vision of the EAP is to "Encourage awareness and development of holistic locally driven collaborative solutions supported 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. LBD is a unique partnership of East and West slope water stakeholders committed to restoring and protecting ecological processes in LBD's Collaborative Effort Area in the Fraser, Williams Fork, and Colorado River basins and their tributaries in Grand County.

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 Committee and three Technical Subcommittees (Monitoring, Operations, Projects) 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, publication of quarterly e-newsletters, public presentations, and a professional website. In addition, regularly LBD works with other agencies as appropriate in the furtherance of its mission.

Colorado Water Plan (CWP)

A central goal of the CWP is achieving Colorado's 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 implement the GC SMP including the updates to the GC SMP.

Another CWP goal is achieving Colorado's vision for Vibrant Communities and the "One Water ethic" (page 178). The 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.

Related Studies

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 Gross Reservoir Expansion 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.

The original GC SMP has been the guiding document for LBD's activities since its inception in 2012. Since then,

a significant amount of data has been collected and changes have occurred throughout Grand County on both minor and landscape scales, warranting a re-examination of the technical aspects of the SMP to better reflect current conditions and improve characterization and prioritization of areas of concern. The Project Coordinator is responsible for implementation of the goals and objectives of the current SMP, for overseeing the update to the SMP, and for implementation of the goals and objectives of the updated SMP once it is completed.

Taxpayer Bill of Rights

No known TABOR issues.