

LEARNING BY DOING

Grand County Learning By Doing Public/Private Partnership Project Guidance

Background

The Grand County Learning By Doing Cooperative Effort (LBD) seeks to “maintain and, where reasonably possible, restore or enhance the condition of the aquatic environment in Grand County.” To further its mission, LBD implements stream restoration projects using funds committed through the inter-governmental agreements (IGAs) that created LBD, grants, LBD member contributions and private party contributions. Often, stream segments in need of restoration flow through private lands. In these cases, restoration projects can only be implemented through a public/private partnership. This guidance is intended to provide general direction to the LBD Management Committee in determining appropriate LBD contributions and other conditions for stream restoration projects in stream segments that flow entirely through private lands.

Public Benefit

LBD prioritizes funding river restoration projects that incorporate a public benefit. “Public benefit” as used in this guidance includes direct, obvious benefits, such as public access to aquatic resources, but it also includes other important public benefits to the natural environment, such as significant improvement in stream health and aquatic resources, protection and enhancement of native species, and critical ecological connectivity between public and private stream reaches. Reasonable public access to a stream is LBD’s preference, but LBD recognizes that this may not always be feasible and that sometimes stream sections in the greatest need of restoration flow through private lands. Accordingly, LBD will consider funding of projects on stream reaches that run through private land and provide for public access or significantly enhance the aquatic environment.

Examples of potential projects include, but are not limited to:

- Low-flow rehabilitation of a streambed to enhance aquatic habitat and increase velocity and sediment transport
- Creation of additional riparian habitat or protection of existing riparian habitat to lower stream temperatures and enhance aquatic habitat
- Installation of an aquatic organism passage (AOP) culvert or fish ladder to improve native fish passage
- Stream bank stability or reinforcement

Guidance

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The following guidance is to be used by the LBD Management Committee when considering the appropriate LBD funding contribution for projects on private land stream sections. This is only a guide for how LBD will prioritize projects. This guidance is not binding as all projects will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

Guidance for Determining LBD’s Contribution to River Restoration Projects with a Private Land Component

<i>Public benefit(s):</i>	<i>LBD funding contribution:</i>
Public access available full time on total river/stream mileage of restoration project; and/or Limited/no public access, but restoration needed to provide high priority benefits to the entire stream reach. Water rights for instream flows or other environmental benefit to be dedicated in perpetuity	Up to 100%
Managed public access or reserved fishing (zero or minimal rod fee with no guide requirement) and/or Limited public access (only open to certain groups of the public at specified times of year).	Up to 75%
No public access, but offers another public benefit, including but not limited to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Endowment or other long-term funding to LBD • Connectivity to other restoration projects • Ecological benefits (i.e. stream temperature, velocity, riparian habitat, etc.) and establishment of a long-term protection instrument (e.g., conservation easement or deed restriction) to protect the ecological resources in perpetuity 	Up to 50%
No public access or other public benefit offered	None

Note: LBD contracting requirements shall apply.