LEARNING BY DOING COLORADO RIVER BASIN

A NEW APPROACH TO MANAGING AQUATIC RESOURCES

Jen Stephenson
Northern Water Quality Stakeholders Meeting
October 17, 2018
OVERVIEW

- Focus on LBD Monitoring Plan
- Challenges
- Successes
LEARNING BY DOING 101

Mitigation and Enhancement Requirements
- Municipal Subdistrict’s Windy Gap Firming Project
- Denver Water’s Moffat Project
- More than $10 million earmarked for projects

Inter-Governmental Agreements
- Cooperative partnership of East and West Slope Stakeholders
- Establishes organizational structure and decision making
- Sets goals and priorities
PARTNERS

• COLORADO PARKS AND WILDLIFE
• COLORADO RIVER DISTRICT
• DENVER WATER
• GRAND COUNTY
• MIDDLE PARK WATER CONSERVANCY DISTRICT
• NORTHERN WATER/NORTHERN WATER MUNICIPAL SUBDISTRICT
• TROUT UNLIMITED
GOAL OF LEARNING BY DOING

To maintain and, where possible, restore or enhance aquatic environments in Grand County.
AQUATIC RESOURCE MONITORING PLAN

- Required in the IGA
- Incorporates recommendations from Stream Management Plan
- Scope of Work from LBD Management Committee
  - Identify existing monitoring efforts
  - Evaluate monitoring gaps
  - Evaluate effectiveness of restoration and operations
  - Provide annual monitoring plan and reports
- Formation of Monitoring Subcommittee
### Challenges

Tremendous amount of existing monitoring activities

- 203 sites
- 12 monitoring entities
- Water quality, temperature, habitat, aquatic life and flow
CHALLENGES

- Establishing objectives
- Establishing annual planning process
CHALLENGES

- Disagreement on some methodologies for LBD specific programs
- Disconnect between Management and Monitoring Committees
- How to bring information together in comprehensive report?
SUCCESS STORIES - 2018 AQUATIC RESOURCE MONITORING PLAN

- 2017 Monitoring Summary
- 2018 Temperature Monitoring Plan
- 2018 Substrate Monitoring Plan
- 2018 Macroinvertebrate Monitoring Plan
- 2018 Fraser Flats Monitoring Plan
- 2018 303(d) Monitoring Plan
- 2018 CPW Fish Monitoring Plan
- 2018 Riparian Areas and Wetlands Monitoring Plans
- 2018 ILVK Monitoring Plan
- 2018 Connectivity Channel Monitoring
SUCCESS STORIES – FRASER FLAT'S RIVER HABITAT PROJECT

• LBD/Denver Water Pilot Project
• **Goal:** Restore aquatic habitat on 1 mile of the Fraser River
  • Instream channel improvements
  • Revegetation of riparian area
  • May 2018 - 0.4 miles opened for public fishing
• Monitoring conducted pre-restoration
• Monitoring efforts underway to evaluate post-restoration conditions

New point bars use rocks to redirect water into the middle of the river when water levels are low. Photo courtesy of Denver Water.
SUCCESS STORIES – 2018 STREAM TEMPERATURE

- Weekly operation calls
- Incorporate temperature data
- Operational adjustments considered to help alleviate high temperatures
“...THE QUALITY OF THE HUMAN CHARACTER AND THE DEDICATION OF PEOPLE CAN OVERCOME A LOT OF OBSTACLES.”

Eric Wilkinson, Northern Water

More information on the Learning By Doing Website:
https://www.grandcountylearningbydoing.org/