

~~~ *Gunnison Basin Roundtable* ~~~

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GUNNISON BASIN ROUNDTABLE EDUCATION ACTION PLAN – 2017-2020

Educational Goals for 2017, and strategies to meet them

The Gunnison Basin Roundtable PEPO Liaison will work with partners in the Gunnison Basin to address these public education, participation and outreach goals, primarily associated with the GBRT Basin Implementation Plan and the Colorado Water Plan:

GOAL 1: Ensure that Basin residents, leaders and decision makers have information about the adopted Gunnison River Basin Implementation Plan, Colorado’s Water Plan, basic water information, and challenges facing water users in the Gunnison Basin and the state.

STRATEGIES:

- (a) Continue to work with partner groups, including the Colorado River District, on completion of the initial introduction of the Gunnison Basin website, and the continued work of providing content and oversight.
- (b) Continue annual State of the River meetings cohosted with the Colorado River District.
- (c) Update and republish the previously distributed booklet titled: The Gunnison River basin, A Handbook for Residents. This widely distributed handbook includes a compendium of basic information about water use, water law, and water organizations in the Basin.
- (d) Working with interested partners, engage in continuing education for Colorado’s political and economic leaders by providing leadership, information exchanges, education opportunities, and materials to help educate political officials, planning commissioners, developers, contractors, and others engaged in land use planning and development.
- (e.) Continue collaboration with the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University and other partners on educational seminars, articles and other public forum and field trip opportunities for youth, elected officials, and interested public.

GOAL 2: Engage the “next generation” of Gunnison Basin water users and river lovers in water matters and the implementation of the BIP.

STRATEGIES:

- (a) Collaborate with the Center for Environmental and Sustainable Studies at Western State Colorado University and the Water Center at Colorado Mesa University, and other relevant programs at both colleges, to identify courses for which a slate of outside speakers from the water community might be identified and committed to presentations.
- (b) Work with interested partners on a Water Leaders program to engage interested high school and college students in a diverse water curriculum and related activities, including local water professionals as mentors and teachers.

GOAL : 3 *Support research and Education on Hydrologic Changes and Cycles Affecting Water Resources*

Strategies:

- (a) Support and collaborate with partners engaged in scientific research related to potential hydrologic changes and conditions that may affect future water resource availability and uses in the Gunnison Basin and throughout the Colorado River Basin.
- (b) Support interested partners engaged in conservation studies and projects, and assist with providing information regarding these projects and outcomes to the public and stakeholder water users.

Roundtable Involvement in Education Action Plan

GBRT members are asked to participate in the execution of this plan in two ways:

- - The PEPO Liaison seeks feedback from Roundtable members on education actions proposed, and responses and participation from them on actions undertaken.
- The Basin Education committee meets periodically to discuss proposed projects and implementation of approved projects, such as the website. In addition to decision making, members of the committee, and the Roundtable are asked to provide expertise, write articles, and participate in forums and educational programs.

Partnerships

Partnerships with local organizations are indicated in the Strategies above for each goal. In particular, on-going partnerships with the Colorado River District, Colorado Mesa University, Trout Unlimited, Nature Conservancy, and other groups will be maintained on specific projects, as identified.

Budget (for \$6,500 CWCB funds)

2016-17 PEPO Budget

Support Colorado Mesa University educational program for youth.	Hutchins Water Center	\$1,000
Support activities by watershed groups and other partner organizations to inform the public and other stakeholder groups about the CWP, GBRT BIP, and GBRT activities.*	Partner Groups	\$1,500
Update and republish the "Citizens' Guide"		\$4,000
	TOTAL	\$6,500

*In order to qualify for funding, an organization must submit a brief proposal to the PEPO representative stating what the activity is, how it will inform the public and/ or other stakeholder groups about the CWP, GBRT BIP, and GBRT activities, and the funds requested. With the approval of the GBRT Education committee, the organization may conduct the activity and invoice CWCB for the funds.