

# COLORADO WATER PLAN



## UPDATE VISION

This information sheet highlights initial input and potential direction for the Colorado Water Plan update. The update will build upon and streamline the 2015 Water Plan. It will not lose sight of our longstanding water issues, but will focus on new innovations, emerging challenges and actions that help address Colorado's evolving water goals. Read more about how the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) is thinking about the Water Plan update and provide your thoughts by visiting [engagecwcb.org](https://engagecwcb.org).

### ACTION-FOCUSED

Colorado's water values – a productive economy, efficient and effective infrastructure, and a strong environment – drove the initial Colorado Water Plan. The Water Plan was organized around nine objectives that support those values. The objectives looked out as far as the year 2050, many focused on common cross-cutting themes that overlapped multiple water use sectors." (see "Cross-Cutting Themes"; right).

This update will keep the values of the original plan, but will be increasingly action-focused and will provide a vision that spans our long-term planning horizon while identifying near-term actions that help manage risk. The spirit of the original Water Plan objectives will be captured with implementable actions that promote the main action areas (listed below).

### INCREASINGLY ACCESSIBLE

The vision for the update involves making the document increasingly accessible to the average reader. Rather than simply adding new content to the 540 pages that comprise the original document, the update is intended to use a two-volume format as was done with the 2019 Analysis and Technical Update to the Colorado Water Plan. Volume 1 will be actionable and concise, while Volume 2 materials might include deeper reading that reflects some of the overarching concepts explained thoroughly in the 2015 plan. Additionally, reflecting the changing way information is consumed, CWCB will seek ways to logically lay out the Volume 1 and Volume 2 content online in ways that are engaging and digestible.

### ORGANIZED BY ACTION AREA

To increase ease and accessibility for searching by sector for specific content and trends, as well as for engaging in specific areas, the updated Water Plan will be organized around major action areas, including cities, farms, streams, and people.

As with the original Water Plan, some stage-setting chapters are needed for context and to discuss major policy topics. The update will consider streamlining the plan layout by organizing the values into four key action areas. Those values seek to maintain the Colorado way of life and are encapsulated in the following action areas:

-  Vibrant Communities
-  Robust Agriculture
-  Resilient Planning
-  Thriving Watersheds

### ► KEY CONCEPTS & DATES

#### Cross-Cutting Themes

The Water Plan will include cross-cutting themes that transcend different sectors like storage, alternative transfer methods, and land use planning, and which provide benefits to cities, farms, streams and people. Topics that emerge as cross-cutting themes include but are not limited to:

- Funding
- Supply
- Equity
- Climate Change
- Land Use Planning
- Storage
- Efficiency
- Education
- Recreation
- Forest Health

#### Updates & Implementation

This seven-year update cycle began with the 2015 Water Plan and concludes with the 2022 update. Seven years is not only the average time other state's water plans are updated, but offers a helpful check-in point that is consistent with the scenario planning process, where regular updates help identify changing conditions and needs. During the next update cycle, actions will focus on work that can be implemented within the next 5-7 years starting in 2023 knowing the next Water Plan update is slated for 2029.

#### UPDATE DRAFT & TIMING

This update for the Colorado Water Plan is broken into three phases:

- Scoping Phase (10/20 - 6/21)
- Drafting Phase (7/21 - 3/22)
- Finalization Phase (4/22 - 12/22)

A draft of the update will be available for public comment before mid-year 2022.