

COLORADO WATER PLAN



UPDATE VISION

This information sheet highlights the current direction for the update to the Colorado Water Plan. The Water Plan updates 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 risk-mitigating actions that help address Colorado's water future. Read more about Colorado Water Conservation Board's (CWCB) Water Plan update process and provide your thoughts by visiting engagewcb.org.

ACTION-FOCUSED

Colorado's priorities around water in the original 2015 Water Plan were expressed as "water values" and included a productive economy, efficient and effective infrastructure, and a strong environment. These priorities were organized around nine objectives. The objectives looked out as far as the year 2050, and many focused on common cross-cutting themes that overlapped multiple water use sectors." (see "Cross-Cutting Themes"; right).


The new Water Plan will keep the priorities of the original plan and will be expanded to include resilience - *forward-thinking solutions that are sustainable and resilient to changing conditions and result in strong, equitable communities that can adapt to and thrive in the face of adversity*. It will be increasingly action-focused and will provide a vision that supports long-term planning while identifying near-term actions that help manage risk. The spirit of the original Water Plan objectives will be captured within the actions in each of the four action areas (listed below).

INCREASINGLY ACCESSIBLE

The vision for the Water Plan involves making it increasingly accessible to the average reader. Rather than simply adding new content to the ~600 pages that comprise the original document, the update will make the water plan a living document by providing links to additional materials while the main document remains short and accessible. It will be a two-volume format as was done with the 2019 Analysis and Technical Update to the Colorado Water Plan. Additionally, reflecting the changing way information is consumed, CWCB will make the entry point to the Water Plan online through the CWCB website and at engagewcb.org, and will use engaging and digestible language.

ORGANIZED BY ACTION AREA

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

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

KEY CONCEPTS & DATES

Cross-Cutting Themes

The Water Plan will include cross-cutting themes that overlap with each action area. Whether it's storage, conservation or education, these cross-cutting themes likely need to be noted in each of the four action areas as they 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
- Forest Health

Updates & Implementation

The state began with the 2015 Water Plan and is now updating that original Plan for 2022. Because the next update may not be initiated for three years, the collective process to get to the next water plan update may take 10 years with various elements being completed in the interim years. The Cycle is a necessary and appropriate amount of time to identify trends given hydrology, population growth, and other planning factors that must be evaluated to help inform actions. During the next update cycle, actions will focus on work that can be implemented from 2023 to 2033.

Update Draft Timing

A draft of the update will be available for public comment from June, 30 2022 to September 30, 2022.

