



## COLORADO

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**TO:** Colorado Water Conservation Board Members

**FROM:** Chris Sturm, Watershed and Flood Protection Section

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**AGENDA ITEM:** Agenda Item 13. January 27-28, 2025 Board Meeting  
Wildfire Ready Watersheds Program Update

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### Introduction

This informational agenda item provides an update on the status of the Wildfire Ready Watersheds (WRW) program. There are twenty Wildfire Ready Action Plans (WRAP) and ten projects designed to mitigate post wildfire impacts in progress. The update will detail some of the technical aspects of the planning and the pathway towards project identification.

### Discussion

In early 2023 the CWCB and its technical consultant team completed a statewide post-fire hazard susceptibility analysis. Values at risk and post fire hazards were identified in 3500 small watersheds (10,000 - 40,000 acres). This analysis served as staff's roadmap to identify where more detailed WRAPs would be most beneficial. In 2023 and 2024 staff actively solicited WRAP funding applications from stakeholders in susceptible watersheds.

The ultimate objective of a WRAP is to develop mitigation strategies that can be implemented before or after wildfire. Projects implemented before fire oftentimes serve multiple objectives in watershed health and water supply protection. The program ethos is that it will take a mosaic of different project types implemented strategically across the landscape to impart resiliency at watershed scales, i.e. the whole is greater than the sum of the parts. WRAP stakeholders develop a vision, define objectives, map values at risk, identify locations where post wildfire hazards are likely to occur, perform analysis to determine where the values are most susceptible to the hazards, and identify specific projects to mitigate the susceptibility. CWCB staff and the technical consultant team are working very closely with the WRAP stakeholders to develop tools, templates, and strategies to better refine the planning process.

Staff will update the Board on WRAP locations, stakeholder dynamics, planning progress, technical aspects of the planning, and the path forward towards implementation. Staff will also discuss gap planning areas and potential solutions to fill those gaps.

