

INFORMATION FOR LANDOWNERS

The Colorado Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program provides funding to local sponsors to implement projects to reduce risk from flooding and erosion in watersheds affected by the 2013 Colorado flood event. Eligible projects were selected in 2015.

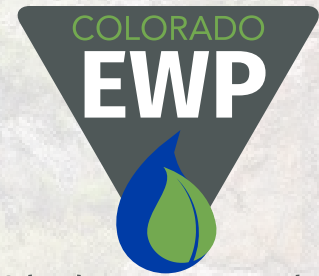
The EWP program offers a unique opportunity to protect assets and restore stream reaches along private land. Watershed coalitions are charged with coordinating the implementation of EWP projects, as part of their mission to restore healthy and resilient watersheds through the collaboration of diverse stakeholders, including private landowners and local governments.

Quick Summary

PURPOSE	Implement emergency recovery measures to protect life and property in watersheds impaired by a natural disaster.
FUNDING	\$63.2 mil. total (\$47.4 mil. federal) over 3 years
PROJECTS	74 designated as eligible
FEDERAL ADMINISTRATOR	USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
STATE SPONSOR	Colorado Water Conservation Board
LOCAL SPONSORS	Counties, cities/towns, watershed coalitions, others
TIMELINE	Project construction must be complete by January 1, 2018.

Benefits to Landowners

- **SAFETY** – Projects are designed to reduce risk to life-safety, property, and critical infrastructure from future flooding and erosion.
- **HOLISTIC APPROACH** – Projects are designed to consider the whole stream system and to minimize impacts to downstream properties, as well as address reach-wide water and sediment management issues.
- **STREAM AND HABITAT HEALTH** – Projects improve ecological health of the stream corridor through the reestablishment of native plants and in-stream habitat for fish and aquatic life.
- **SHARED COSTS** – Projects are funded through federal, state, and local sponsors, without capital cost to landowners.



Colorado Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

Sponsored by the Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB)
Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

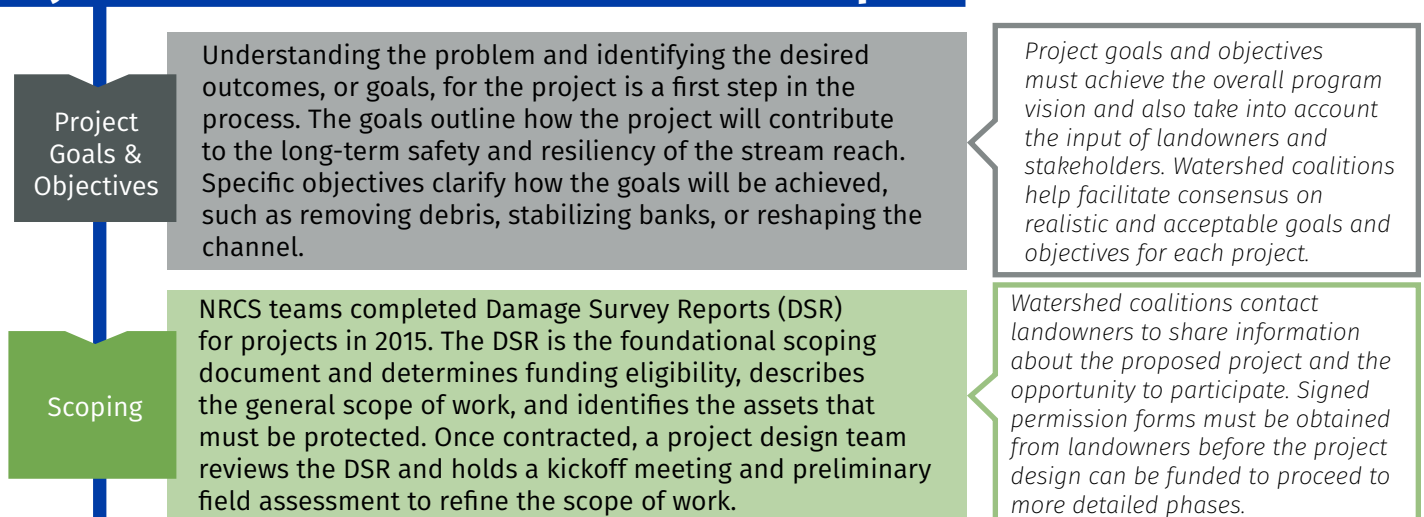
Program Vision

To implement watershed recovery projects that reduce risk to life and property, enhance riparian ecosystems, and generate long-term stream system resilience through a collaborative, watershed-based approach that incorporates the needs of diverse stakeholders.

Flood Risk Still Exists

EWP projects are designed to reduce risk, but flood hazards will still exist in floodplain areas. Purchasing flood insurance; floodproofing, elevating, and setting back structures; and protecting the floodplain's natural function are ways that landowners can protect their property and prevent future damage.

Project Timeline: What Landowners Can Expect





Field Investigation & Data Collection

To develop a better understanding of the stream reach, the project design team researches best available reports and data to inform the analysis and design. This includes collecting information on stream flows, water diversions, soils, biologic inventories, land surveys, and more.

Analysis & Design

The purpose of this phase is to analyze the benefits of different types of features and improvements to identify which are sustainable, cost effective, and best meet the goals and objectives of the project. The multi-disciplinary project design team draws upon a range of expertise to consider the river system holistically. The team analyses the system's natural processes and flow dynamics, including the results of hydraulic computer modeling, to better understand the system's opportunities and constraints.

Design Concept

The design concept plan lays out the project goals and objectives, data analysis, and design decisions. The plan set shows the location and purpose of treatments and improvements and recommends plantings. Check the coloradoewp.com website in the future for more information on river restoration treatment types.

Project design teams, sponsors, and coalitions seek input from landowners at this stage to identify concerns and answer questions in the three key topic areas shown here. Ultimately, the project design team must determine the most appropriate and holistic approach to create a healthy river system and meet program goals and funding requirements.

Channel Location
Projects may enhance the existing stream channel or move it to where a better location for the main channel is possible.

Floodplain & Landscape
Projects may change the shape of the floodplain, the area adjacent to the stream that periodically floods. Banks may need reinforcement using rock or wood materials.

Vegetation & Plantings
Planting plans will use native vegetation. Existing trees will be preserved to the greatest extent possible.

Final Design

The project design team submit the final design plan to CWCB and NRCS for approval. The final design provides further detail on the plan set, moving the project closer to implementation by the contractor. The plan set includes an engineering report, details of specific treatments and features, a Quality Assurance Plan, and an Operations and Maintenance Plan.

Construction

The onsite installation of the project typically lasts from one to six months. Project construction is dirty, noisy, and often inconvenient for residents. During this phase, keep in mind the importance of correct installation and the long-term benefits of the completed project.

During construction, the project sponsor and watershed coalition will keep landowners informed on the project schedule and progress.

Monitoring and O&M

The local project sponsor is required to perform inspections of the project for three years after construction to ensure it performs as expected. The project sponsor also may conduct annual monitoring of vegetation establishment and the stream channel to assess whether the project is fulfilling its identified goals and objectives. Vegetation will take several seasons to fully establish and thrive. Expect the stream channel to move and change. Channel adjustment is a healthy process that occurs as the river moves water and sediment over time. These projects are designed to minimize long-term maintenance needs and enhance the long-term stability and function of the entire river system.

LEARN MORE

Visit the Colorado EWP website at coloradoewp.com for more info. Contact your local project sponsor and/or watershed coalition coordinator for project-specific questions.

