



Colorado Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

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

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.

Goals and Objectives

1. Reduce hazards and protect life safety and property

- 1.1. Improve property owner, community, and stakeholder understanding of hazards, risk, and the limitations of mitigation measures.
- 1.2. Educate stakeholders on natural flood protection services of healthy ecosystems.
- 1.3. Reduce hazards created by erosion and channel movement by enhancing stability of stream systems.
- 1.4. Design and construct projects that prioritize protection of private property, public infrastructure, and critical facilities.

2. Use federal and state funding effectively

- 2.1. Fund and implement projects that align with vision.
- 2.2. Leverage partners and other funding sources to increase buy-in and further impacts of investments.
- 2.3. Provide river restoration opportunities across watersheds and stream reaches.
- 2.4. Obligate funding throughout program life cycle, i.e. start spending soon.
- 2.5. Identify and prevent waste and duplication of effort.

3. Enhance the health and resilience of watersheds and stream corridors

- 3.1. Design and construct projects to improve geomorphic and ecological structure and function according to the Stream Function Pyramid framework.
- 3.2. Establish goals and objectives that identify the functional improvements being targeted by each project.
- 3.3. Design projects to contribute to improvements at individual site, stream corridor, and watershed scales.
- 3.4. Catalyze natural stream recovery and stabilization processes to minimize need for operations and maintenance.

4. Build capacity of watershed coalitions

- 4.1. Implement priorities identified in watershed master plans.
- 4.2. Provide training, resources, and other opportunities for coalition staff and members to improve capabilities.
- 4.3. Assist coalitions in engaging stakeholders, building relationships, and serving as valued educators.
- 4.4. Empower coalitions with responsibility for long-term monitoring and oversight of projects.

5. Advance a watershed-based approach to flood recovery

- 5.1. Develop and implement projects within a framework through which their long-term successes and failures can be monitored and analyzed.
- 5.2. Create resources to assist with replication and future implementation of similar programs.
- 5.3. Document and communicate lessons learned, challenges, and successes in terms of science and policy.