

Watershed Wildfire Protection Group (WWPG)

Scope: Regional Watershed

Location: Colorado

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Websites
Watershed Wildlife Protection Group
Colorado State Forest Service <https://csfs.colostate.edu/forest-management/watershed-management/#1461353300678-0751ed96-2485>
<https://www.jw-associates.org/projects/watershed-wildfire-protection-group>
Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, Source Water Assessment and Protection
<https://cdphe.colorado.gov/swap>

SCOPE:

- The Watershed Wildfire Protection Group (WWPG) formed to identify hazards to water supplies from wildfires in Colorado
- WWPG's mission is to promote healthy watersheds by facilitating Education and awareness; and facilitating prioritization, Implementation and water quality monitoring for people and wildlife.

COLLABORATIVE FORMATION:

- The WWPG is a diverse group of watershed stakeholders, that started collaborating in 2006.
- WWPG began as part of the Front Range Roundtable, and was formed to identify hazards to water supplies from wildfires in Colorado.
- JW Associates facilitated the WWPG during the development of a watershed prioritization process.
- WWPG meets on a quarterly basis and is open for anyone to join.

STRUCTURE/FUNDING:

The WWPG meets on a quarterly basis. Participation by Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment (CDPHE) staff is funded by the state of Colorado using Capacity Development and Wellhead Set Aside funding under the Safe Drinking Water Act. In addition, Colorado Rural Water Association staff routinely participates in this collaborative and funding is provided the Colorado Water Resources and Power Authority funding from Clean Water State Revolving Fund Administrative fees. All other WWPG members are independently funded. The WWPG could really benefit from a federal or collaborative funding source related to wildfire risk reduction.

MEMBERS:

The WWPG Collaborative is made up of a highly diverse stakeholder group, including water providers, federal and state agencies, county commissioners, local officials, local watershed non-profits, conservation organizations, timber industry associations, recreation organizations, homeowner associations (HOAs), private landowners and other interested parties.

WATER CONCERNS:


- Protection of forest watersheds from wildfires

STRATEGIES:

- WWPG promotes healthy watersheds by facilitating education and awareness; and facilitating prioritization, implementation and monitoring for people and wildlife, including educational events such as: Fish & Aquatics, For the West, Mammals, Next Generation, Public, Recreationists, and Rivers & Streams
- Integrating source water protection into forestry management plans
- Accessing federal funding for wildfire prevention
- WWPG's primary goals include connecting implementers with funders, providing education and outreach, and maintaining a statewide focus.

RESULTS:

- Completed a [Post Wildfire Playbook](#) developed for counties, tribes, municipalities, and water providers for guidance in navigating complexities surrounding post-fire rehabilitation. The Post-fire playbook is designed to help fill this gap in guidance by serving as an actionable worksheet that includes specific and critical steps to take and contacts to make before, during, and within the first 30 days of a fire to facilitate the process.
- Completed 15 wildfire/watershed hazard assessments. These Wildfire/Watershed Assessments identify hazards, prioritize 6th level watersheds (HUC12), and recommend measures to protect those watersheds that provide or convey critical community water supplies from the adverse effects of post-wildfire hydrologic changes, including flooding, erosion, debris flows, and deposition.



Information current as of June 2021. Please check with the Collaborative contacts (or website if available) for the most up to date information. To find other source water collaboratives across the U.S. or to add yours to the list, visit the Source Water Collaborative's [How To Collaborate Toolkit](#)