



Western Water Assessment (WWA) is an applied research program that works directly with communities, water managers, hazard risk planners, and other partners in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming. WWA helps partners make the best use of science to build resilience and manage risks from natural hazards like wildfire and smoke, flooding, drought, and extreme heat. WWA's team includes faculty, researchers, and staff with expertise across the physical and social sciences, including hydrology, geography, atmospheric science, and hazard impacts. We have a small, full-time staff team that works with partners to provide expertise and help advance projects. Because our core operations are funded through the NOAA CAP/RISA program, we are often able to work with partners at no cost to them.

ACCESSING AND USING INFORMATION

When you know you want to incorporate information about weather, water, hazards, and extreme events into your resilience planning, but you aren't sure how to do this or need help identifying the best sources of information.

For example, we can:

- Compile and interpret available hazard or hydrologic information relevant to community priorities
- Develop online tools that help partners interpret and use weather and hazard data
- Create a plan with partners to incorporate information into existing planning frameworks in ways that build local resilience
- Provide presentations of the best-available, locally-scaled information about hazard risk or weather impacts in your community

CONDUCTING NEW ANALYSIS OR RESEARCH

When you have a question about your natural hazard risk, but there doesn't seem to be existing information or science.

For example, we can:

- Analyze community-scale relevant hydrologic trends and relationships, exposure to natural hazards, and cross-sectoral impacts
- Target site selection for monitoring of natural hazard exposure or resilience building pilot projects (Ex. Stream gage location for optimal flood warning)
- Synthesize the best available science for water supply forecasting for future infrastructure and resilience planning

CONNECTING AND CONVENING

When you have multiple relevant parties who need to come together to understand or resolve a local hazard-related issue, but you need help designing and facilitating a process that moves you towards a solution.

For example, we can:

- Design and plan a community meeting with partners that include municipal elected officials and staff to address a complex community issue that requires many constituencies working together
- Facilitate a process that helps a community bring in a range of perspectives to collectively prioritize, evaluate, and select adaptation actions

TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

When you know that there is a natural hazard problem/risk, but you don't have the resources, expertise, or skills to respond.

For example, we can:

- Train partners in a needed skillset or subject area to expand their ability to respond to local challenges internally
- Connect partners with WWA's deep network of experts and practitioners across the Intermountain West

More Information: wwa.colorado.edu