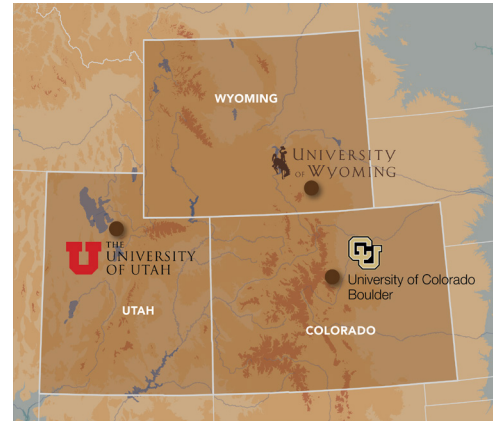




For over 25 years, Western Water Assessment (WWA) has partnered closely with communities, resource managers, and other decision makers in Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming to empower them to make the best use of science to understand risk and manage for impacts of extreme weather and other natural hazards like wildfire, flooding, and drought. We harness expertise across the physical and social sciences to meet partner needs in ways that they can immediately use.



“Western Water Assessment is very important to rural communities because of their need, their lack of available resources, and/or people to even engage help. Rural communities need this benefit ... and everybody needs water.”

- Phil Johnson, Former Director of Public Works of Cortez, Colorado

Building Water Security and Resilience Across the West

Wildfire Resilience

WWA works with partners to build wildfire-resilient communities and water systems in the region. In partnership with local experts, community leaders, and state agencies, WWA researchers are identifying the long-term wildfire recovery needs of impacted rural communities in Colorado. WWA experts are also using cutting-edge laboratory experiments, snowpack monitoring, and computer simulations to better understand the risks posed by wildfire on water supply and water quality. **Our relationships with partners mean that this work can be quickly used to help inform decisions such as maintaining safe drinking water after wildfires.**

Water Security

WWA is helping Utah water managers improve their understanding of how changing snowpack and drought will affect critical water resources and inform management decisions. The team worked with Weber Basin Water Conservancy District to develop a vulnerability assessment of their watershed and with Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities (SLCDPU) to develop a forecast tool that helps water managers in Utah and the West better anticipate water shortages each year. This tool has the potential to transform the approach that SLCDPU and other regional providers use in their operations.

Rural Hazard Resilience

WWA convened a series of workshops to support rural communities in building homegrown resilience to hazards like flooding, wildfire, and drought. Communities included Lander, WY, Springdale and Moab, UT, and Cortez and Durango, CO. The workshops brought together community leaders and local experts, **centering local knowledge** to identify concerns, information needs, and actions to reduce hazard impacts. WWA helped one community identify that their flood shelter was located within the floodplain, another launched a local water conservation program for drought resilience, and yet another made infrastructure investments for a resilient water supply.



Tools and Resources

WWA develops and maintains a set of **free, easy-to-use tools and resources** on our website that help partners and the public access important and timely information about weather, water, hazards, and extreme events. **Water managers, communities, agencies, and researchers use these tools regularly to improve decisions.**

Intermountain West Dashboard

The Intermountain West Dashboard is an online resource for up-to-date weather, water, and seasonal information for the WWA region. It provides infographics that support seasonal water supply planning and is used by many other resource managers and planners. We release regular Intermountain West Briefings that summarize monthly weather and water conditions in the region.

Utah Hazard Planning Dashboard

The Utah Hazard Planning Dashboard connects hazard planners with critical resources about historical incidence, current risks, and forecasts of future occurrence of key hazards like drought, wildfire, flooding, and extreme heat. We developed the tool in partnership with Utah Division of Emergency Management and communities to ensure it was easy to use and would help protect communities and plan for future hazard risks.

One local decision-maker said the Intermountain West Dashboard is a **“One-stop shop for seeing the information I need in one place. Just fast and concise and shows what I need for situational awareness to start the week.”**

WWA's Partners

Colorado Basin River Forecast Center
Colorado Resiliency Office
Colorado Water Conservation Board
Cortez, CO
Denver Water
Durango, CO
Golden, CO
Jackson, WY

Lander, WY
Moab, UT
National Center for Environmental Information (NCEI)
National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)
National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
Provo, UT
Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities
Utah Division of Water Resources



Leveraging the U.S. Investment in Science for Decision-Makers

WWA is one of several teams across America in the NOAA Regional Integrated Sciences and Assessments (RISA) network. For a modest federal investment, RISA benefits include:

- Developing **trusted relationships for over 30 years** with partners across the country
- Taking the billions of dollars invested in weather and other research the last mile, making it usable for communities and resource managers to **protect lives and property**
- Ensuring science is responsive to information needs for **on-the-ground decision making** via tools, trainings, and synthesis
- Informing innovative solutions that **promote economic prosperity and community safety** across a wide range of sectors and landscapes

The NOAA RISA program has received **bipartisan support** in recognition of this essential work. It is housed within the NOAA Climate Program Office and funded under the Regional Climate Data and Information (RCDI) budget line.

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