

What are the Water Risks?

Why is the County making a water plan?

Larimer County has initiated a Water Master Plan development process to take further steps on strategic goals to:

- improve long-term planning for water supply in unincorporated areas,
- promote water-sharing and water conservation strategies to preserve agriculture and sustain water supplies,
- identify and address risks and sustainability, and
- prepare responsive land use policies and standards.

The Water Master Plan will become an element of the Larimer County Comprehensive Plan and will help bolster Larimer County’s strategic planning for water, stormwater, and environmental flows. Keep in mind that Larimer County is not a utility provider, so the County may play specific strategic, coordinating, and collaborating roles to achieve water goals determined through the Water Master Plan.

Current Risks to Larimer County’s Water System & Supply

Larimer County is taking steps to identify and prioritize risks to water supply and sustainability for the Water Master Plan. The list below outlines risks identified during the Regional Water Existing Conditions Report (2022) and through conversations the Water Advisory Group (WAG) and the Technical Advisory Group (TAG).

We would like to hear from you! Please provide your feedback on additional risks that Larimer County should consider during the development of the Water Master Plan.

- Cost of water and affordability
- Decline in water quality
- Gaps in information and planning
- Increased demands on the water supply
- Infrastructure concerns (such as: age, damage to, and inadequate storage)
- Lack of education and awareness
- Lack of watershed protection
- Diminishing agriculture land from transfer of water rights, water rental market limitations
- Natural hazards (drought, reduce water, wildfire, flood, climate change)
- Heavy reliance on Colorado River water
- Risks to economy due to lack of water
- Water rights (being purchased by entities outside of Larimer County and costs of rights)

Feedback on additional risks? Which do you think are the most important?

