

WESTERN WATER ASSESSMENT  
CIRES University of Colorado Boulder  
<http://www.colorado.edu>

## Connecting Colorado Communities with Weather and Climate Information

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## Western Water Assessment

*Conducting innovative research in partnership with decision-makers in the Rocky Mountain West, helping them make the best use of science to manage for weather and climate impacts*

- Established in 1999 at University of Colorado
- Serving Colorado, Utah, and Wyoming
- 20+ researchers with expertise in hydrology, climate modeling, policy, and social sciences

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## Synthesizing & sharing climate information

Climate Change in Colorado Report:

- Observed record of CO climate
- Primer on climate modeling
- Linking observed changes in CO to global changes
- Projections of future climate and impacts on water resources
- Incorporating climate information into vulnerability assessment and planning

<https://www.colorado.edu/publications/reports/>

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## Connecting Information with CO Communities

### Vulnerability Planning Workshops (aka VCAPS)

- Participatory workshops in 5 communities
- Centered on key hazard identified by community
- Brief science talk focused on hazard
- Community members are the experts:
  - Identify impacts
  - Share context
  - Brainstorm actions
- Report and diagrams produced

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## Putting observations in historic context: What's happened here before?

NOAA Climate at a Glance Toolkit: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/cag/>

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## What's happening now in the Intermountain West?

Intermountain West Climate Dashboard  
<https://www.colorado.edu/climate/dashboard.html>

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### Considering climate change: *What do we expect in the future?*

US Climate Explorer:  
<http://toolkit.climate.gov/tools/climate-explorer>

**THE CLIMATE EXPLORER**  
Explore graphs and maps of historical and projected climate variables for any county in the contiguous United States.

- 1. Select Location
- 2. Select Variables
- 3. Select a Time Period
- 4. Download Data to File

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## Thank you!

Feel free to contact me:  
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