Review of the 2014 Water Year in Colorado

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Abstract. After devastating drought and wildfire in 2012 followed by catastrophic flooding in 2013, the state climatologist will review the weather conditions from the 2014 Water Year in Colorado. The talk will highlight snowpack, precipitation, temperature, evapotranspiration and reservoir conditions across the state that occurred between October 2013 and September 2014. After several years of experiencing climate extremes, the 2014 water year was much tamer than previous years. Highlights of the 2014 Water Year include: continued above average moisture in October 2013 after the flood of September 2013, drought alleviation over much of the state except the Arkansas valley, low elevation snow affected temperatures both in the western valleys (Dec) and eastern plains (Feb), much more seasonal summer temperatures and evapotranspiration rates, enhanced North American monsoon continuing to keep drought conditions at bay over much of northern Colorado, much above average winter wheat yields on the NE plains and normal snowpack combined with reduced irrigation demand led to excellent reservoir storage conditions.