

A Review of the 2007 Water Year in Colorado

Nolan J. Doesken and Michael Gillespie

Department of Atmospheric Science, Colorado State University

Abstract. The 2007 Water Year (October 2006 – September 2007) was the first wetter than average year for the state of Colorado since 1999. Huge snowstorms in December 2006 across the eastern half of the state set the stage for good spring soil moisture and excellent summer crops. Winter snowpack lagged below average over parts of the state, and warmer than average spring temperatures encouraged earlier than average snowmelt runoff. But a cool start to June slowed helped spread the runoff later into the summer. Temperature, precipitation and snowpack information will be presented and the resulting annual hydrographs at selected monitoring sites will be shown. Overall, water supplies for the year were adequate for most parts of the state. Crops were good, and by the end of the year reservoir levels statewide had returned to near average for the first time since 2001.