Water, Climate & Health at CU Boulder

Using and enhancing technology to address water challenges from local to global scales

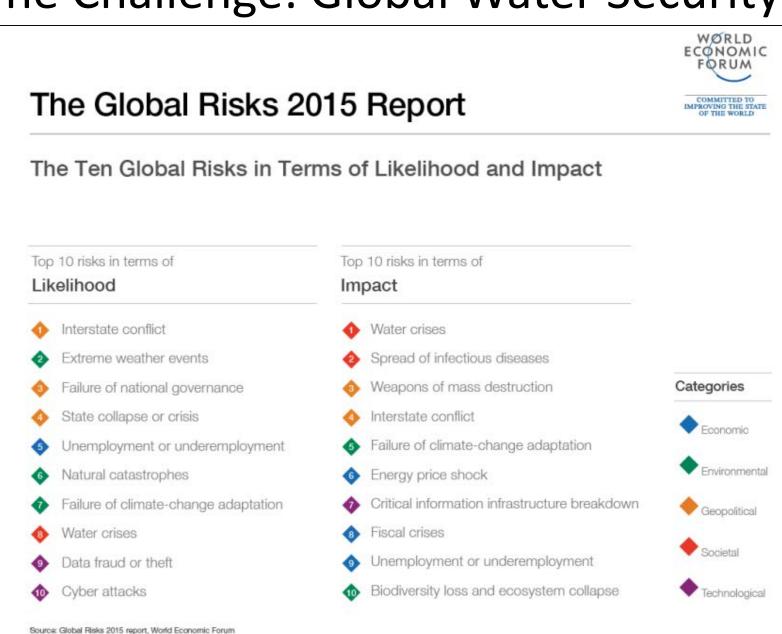


Center for Water, Earth Science and Technology

Major Contributors

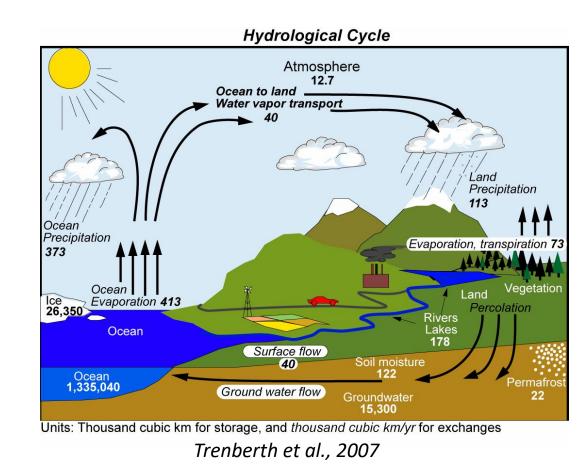
- Noah Molotch GEOG, INSTAAR, CWEST
- Rajagopalan Balaji CEAE, CIRES
- Bob Brakenridge INSTAAR
- Lisa Dilling WWA, CIRES, ENVS
- **Chuck Howe** IBS, Environment and Societies Program
- Joseph Kasprzyk CEAE
- **Ben Livneh** CIRES / CEAE
- **Diane McKnight** CEAE, ENVS, INSTAAR, Hydrologic Science
- Ralph Milliff CIRES
- Steve Nerem CIRES, ASEN
- Scott Summers CEAE
- John Weiner IBS, Environment and Societies Program

The Challenge: Global Water Security



Addressing the Challenge with Technology

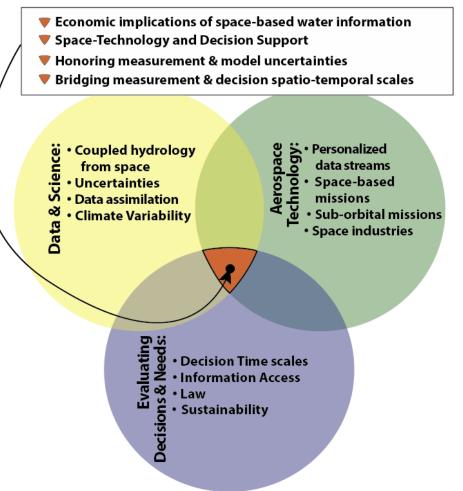
- Several NASA missions focused on water resources.
- Data Informatics.
- Computational Modeling.
- Analytical Chemistry.



CU & Water: A New Paradigm Emerging

- Catalyze innovation in STEM, arts, and communications.
- Synthesize and translate data, and enhance contextual aspects of emerging technologies (e.g. space, airborne, ground, analytical).
- Transform human relationships with water.

Space-Based Transformation Water Science



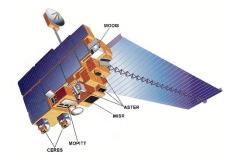
Summary: CU Water Research Across Scales

Global / International

Earth-Observing Satellites GCMs

Sea level, ice sheets, ENSO, PDO, MJO, Monsoons

Emissions standards, climate accords, disaster relief, food security

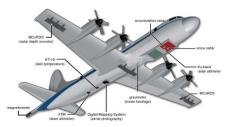


Regional / Inter-State

Airborne obs, regional obs networks Regional/Basin Models

Atmospheric river, drought/flood, fire, snowpack, soil moisture

Inter-state water compacts, land management, air quality management, disaster preparedness



Local / Inter-County

river /eco/land-use/water quality / hydrologic models

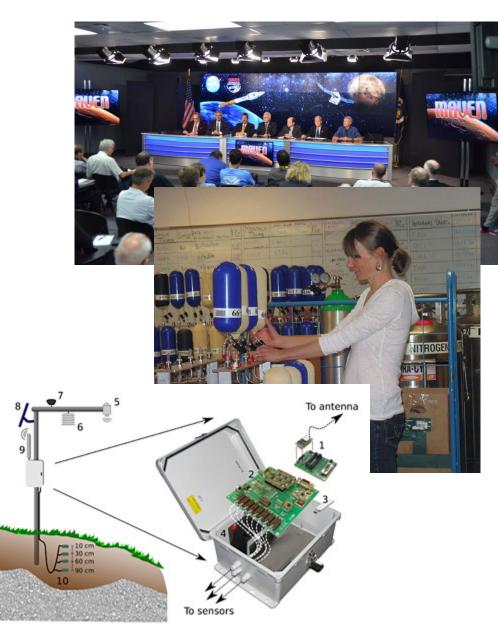
UAV's, ground measurements: snow, soil moisture, vegetation productivity; water quality monitoring

Information systems, decision/management models, transbasin diversions, food production, environmental remediation



Technology

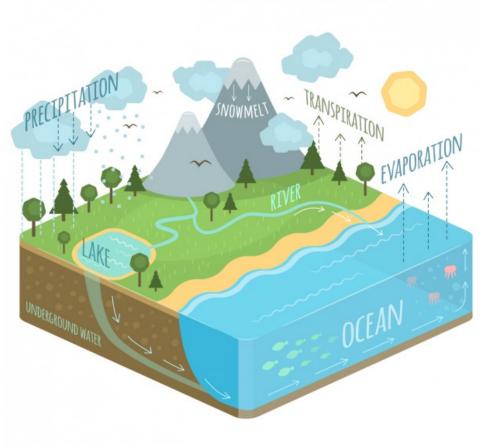
- Incubate new observing systems in the context of their scientific and water resource management implications.
- CU is a world-leading institution in space technology, airborne platforms, ground measurements, and analytical chemistry.
- Key players are CIRES, INSTAAR, LASP, Aerospace Engineering, industry partners, Federal Labs.





Physical Science

- Understand Process: Global to local physical processes are endowed with uncertainties.
- Integrating Observations & Models: Spaceborne, airborne sensing, in-situ automated systems integrated with modeling (e.g., climate / atmosphere, cryosphere, hydrology).
- Transform Interactions: Connecting existing groups on campus and establish CU as a center for water innovation.
- Key Players: Geosciences and Engineering (geology, geography, hydrology, environmental and civil engineering, and the multitude of federal labs located in Boulder that already collaborate with CU such as NOAA, USGS, NCAR etc). Leveraging NSF-CZO, NSF-LTER, and other large CU Geoscience Programs



Decision Making & Socioeconomics

- Usable Science: Must involve potential users from the start.
- Co-Production with End-Users: deep awareness of the context of application.
- Stakeholder-Driven Technology: incorporate institutional, legal, social and economic frameworks into technology development.



 Key Players: IBS, WWA, CADSWES, ENVS, Geography, Economics, Law School / Getches-Wilkinson, Sociology, History, Political Science, Anthropology, Public Health

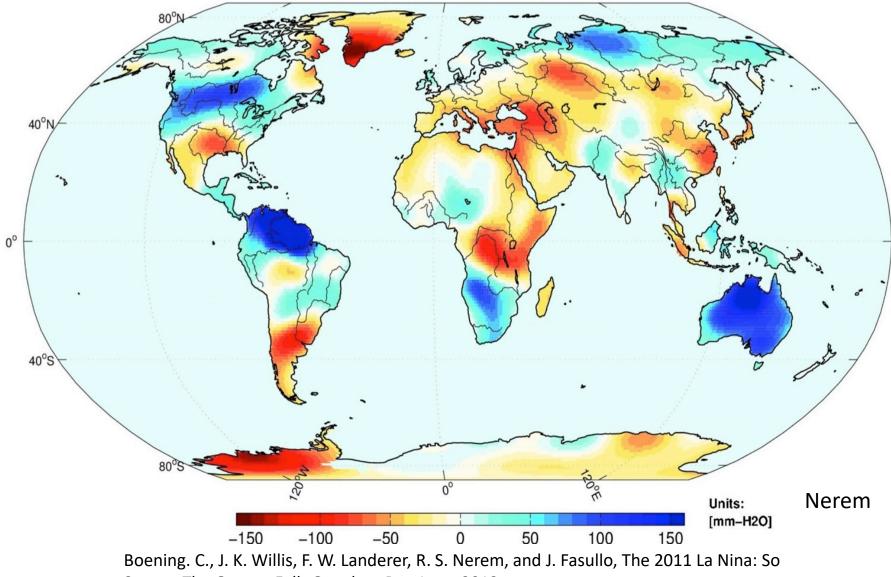
Aerospace: Global water & GRACE



Gravity Recovery and Climate Experiment

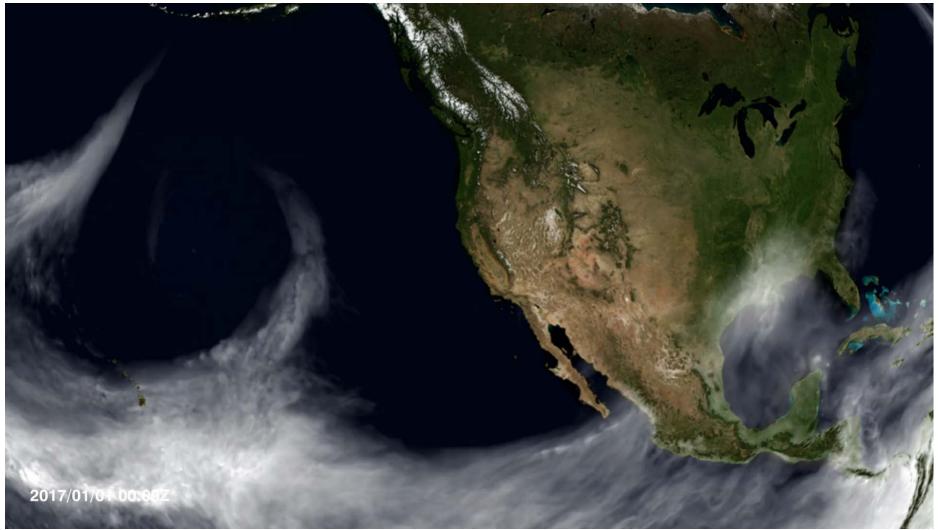
Nerem

GRACE Terrestrial Water Changes



Strong, The Oceans Fell, Geophys. Res. Lett., 2012.

CWEST & CEAE: Regional Climate & Hydrologic Extremes



CWEST: Snowpack, Water Supply, & Flood Risk

Q SEARCH

SFGATE LOCAL NEWS SPORTS BUSINESS A&E FOOD LIVING TRAVEL REAL ESTATE

Even after epic storms, groundwater still depleted by drought

By Peter Fimrite, San Francisco Chronicle Updated 5:36 pm, Monday, January 30, 2017



California this January





Los Angeles Times

Molotch

INSTAAR / Dartmouth Flood Observatory: Remote Sensing of Floods



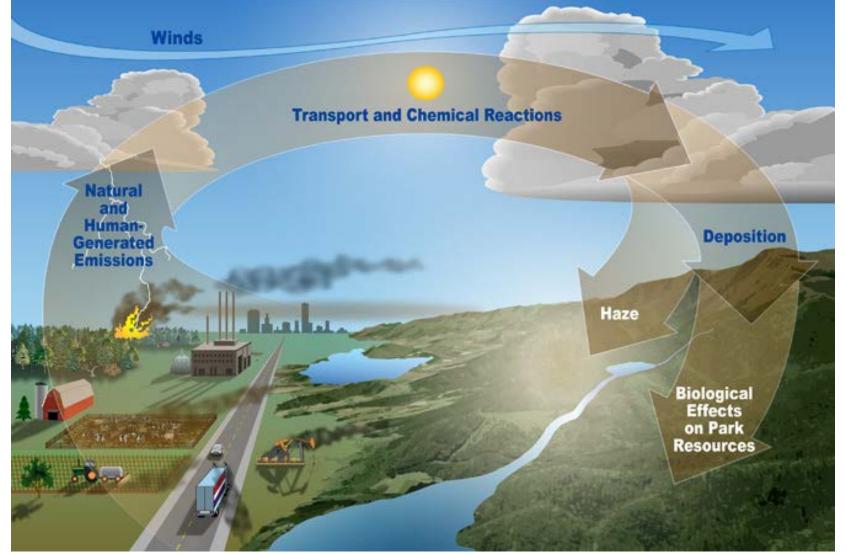
Dartmouth Flood Observatory

Web map services to improve real-time flood data in Africa

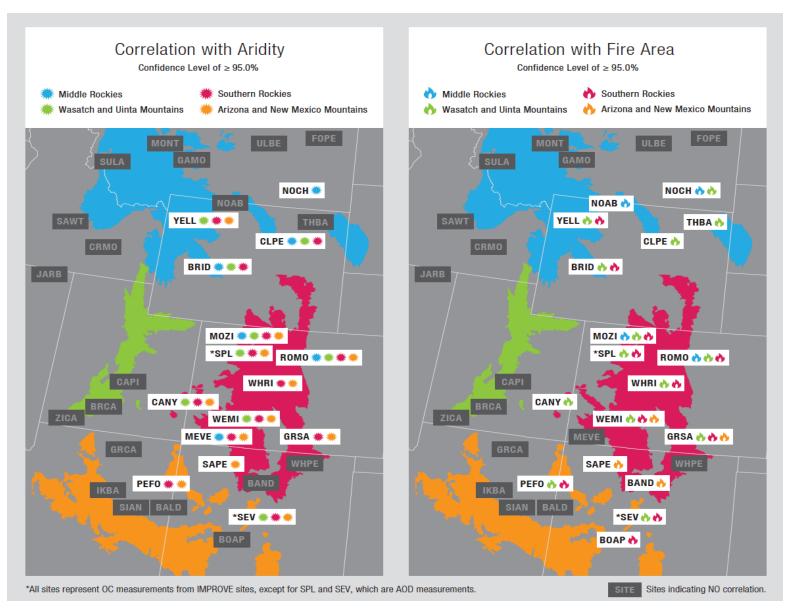
Brakenridge

Globally, Africa has the second highest number of disaster victims year over year. Whereas other continents show a steady decline, disaster victims in Africa are on the rise. These increases can be attributed almost exclusively to floods and droughts. In early 2015, for example, Malawi was hit by severe floods of the Shire River, affecting more than a million people. In Mozambigue, flooding the same year affected 160,000 people

CWEST & CEAE: Drought, Wildfire, Ecosystems, Air & Water Quality



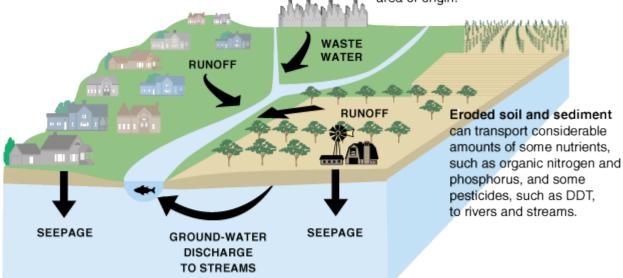
CWEST & CEAE: Drought and Air Quality



Hallar, Molotch, Livneh et al., 2017 – Environmental Research Letters

CEAE: Watershed Sediment Response to Drought and Wildfire

Air pollution spreads across the landscape and is often overlooked as a major nonpoint source of pollution. Airborne nutrients and pesticides can be transported far from their area of origin.



Droughts have a long term impact on drinking water quality

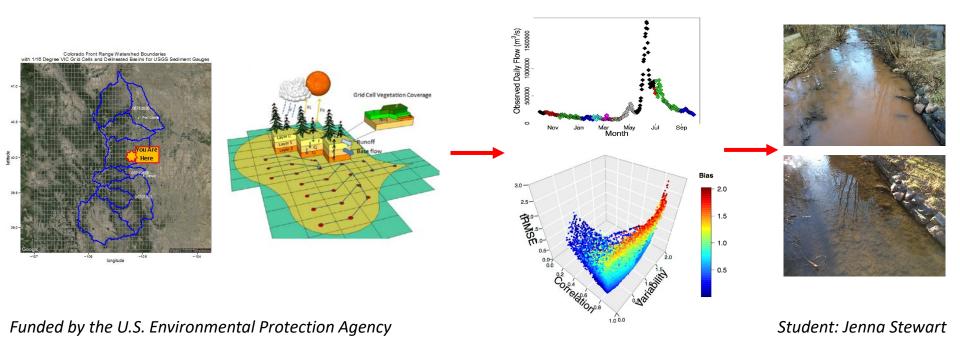
- Reduced streamflow→reduced dilution
- Potential for watershed fires → mobilization of DOM, metals, turbidity
- Droughts followed by floods → exacerbated water quality impacts

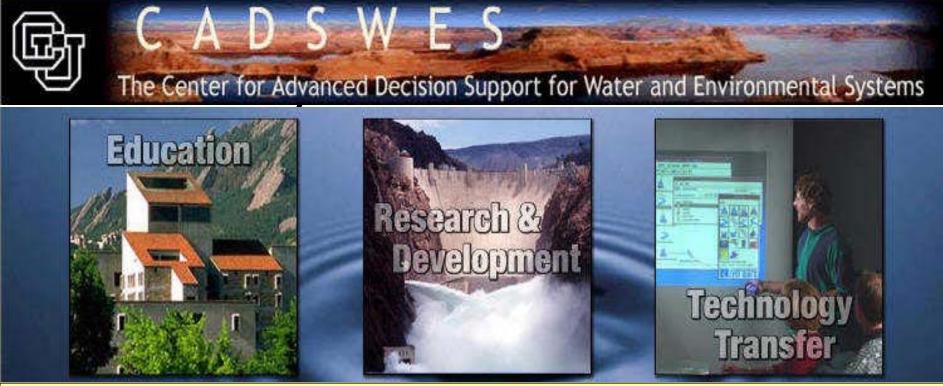
CEAE: Watershed Sediment Response to Drought and Wildfire



Objectives: Develop a model ensemble for suspended sediment prediction in large-scale catchments in the Colorado Front Range

- Five sediment modules coupled within a hydrologic model
- Future climate: Increasing risk of drought and wildfire
- Assess risks on water availability and quality





Mission of CADSWES...

Provide **Decision Support Tools** to Water Management Agencies that

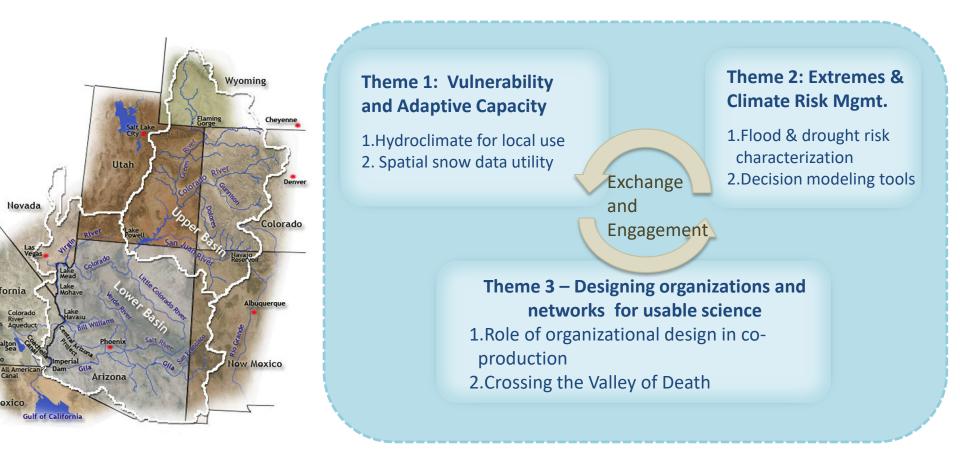
- Bridge the gap between science and decision-making
- Transform information to knowledge to solve multi-objective problems
- Formulate problems and solutions in terms of risk management

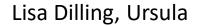
Transfer technology to agencies and other users

Educate the next generation of water resources engineers and scientists



WWA: Western Water Assessment







Making a water-secure world – the three I's Stronger & more-**INFRASTRUCTURE** adaptable to store, transport & treat water **INSTITUTIONS** Better & more-accessible **INFORMATION**