

The drought of 2001-02 in Colorado: how does it rank in the instrumental record?

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Colorado, and much of the southwestern U.S., has slipped into one of its most severe drought episodes in the last century. In this paper, we present an analysis of meteorological and hydrological aspects of this event, ranking it against historic droughts as documented in precipitation records, snowpack data, streamflow, and reservoir levels through the last century. A preliminary documentation of impacts will be included for available sectors, such as wildfire management, agriculture, and tourism.