

**Governor's Conference on Managing Drought & Climate Risk**  
**October 8 - 10, 2008**  
**Grand Hyatt**  
**1750 Welton Street**  
**Denver, CO 80202**

***\*PLEASE NOTE: AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE***

The Colorado Basin is undergoing the effects of prolonged drought since 1999. The region, including the State of Colorado, has experienced droughts in the past, however, the present and future reliability of its water resources face the combined effects of climate change, increased growth and changing landscapes. Climate change together with natural variability and increasing demand may lead to the State of Colorado and the region experiencing drought conditions rarely or never observed in the historic record. Preparedness is the key to successfully addressing the challenges of increasing drought risk and demands on water availability. Drought preparedness includes drought early warning and mitigation planning, implementation of proactive adaptation measures, and increased public awareness. Participants at the Conference will assess the status of drought risk, impacts, and preparedness in Colorado and the improvements that may be needed for management under different conditions such as climate change. The Conference goals are to share information and experience on drought preparedness across the public and private sectors, and to identify pathways for adaptation to the impacts of climate change and demand on water resources in the State of Colorado.

**Day 1 – Wednesday, October 8, 2008**

***Morning***

Continental Breakfast [7:00-8:00] (*Imperial Ballroom Foyer*)

**Conference Begins (*Imperial Ballroom*)**

*Veva Deheza, Section Chief, CWCB Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning*  
Introductions – Conference Goals and Logistics [8:15-8:30]

*Harris Sherman Introduces Governor* [8:30]

*Governor Bill Ritter Opens Conference* [8:30-9:10]  
Overview of Colorado Climate Action Plan and what it means for Colorado's water resources

**Session 1: Overview: The State of the State [9:10-9:55]**

*Harris Sherman, Executive Director, Department of Natural Resources*  
A Look to the Future

*Martha Rudolph, Director of Environmental Programs, CO Dept of Public Health & Environment*  
Drought Impacts: Does the absence of water quantity matter for water quality?

**Break [10:00-10:20] (*Imperial Ballroom Foyer*)**

**Session 2: Drought & Climate in Colorado [10:20-11:45]**

*Moderator – Andrea Ray, Scientist, NOAA, Earth System Research Laboratory*

*Nolan Doesken, State Climatologist*

Drought Characteristics in Colorado: 1890 to 2008

*Jennifer Gimbel, Executive Director, Colorado Water Conservation Board*

Current Initiatives Addressing Water Supply Adaptation to Drought & Climate Change

*Joseph Barsugli, Cooperative Institute for Research in Environmental Sciences, Climate Diagnostic Center*

CWCB Report on: Climate Change in Colorado: A Synthesis to Support Water Resources Management and Adaptation

**LUNCH [12:00-1:30] (*Grand Ballroom*)**

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Susan Solomon, Senior Scientist, NOAA and Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Co-chair of Working Group 1 (Physical Science Basis)**

***Afternoon***

**Session 3: Drought – A Part of Colorado’s History [1:30-2:40]**

*Moderator – John Rehring, Vice President, CDM, Inc.*

*Jeff Lukas, University of Colorado*

The Long View of Drought in Colorado: What Tree Rings Tell Us About Hydrologic Variability

*Ben Harding, AMEC/Hydrosphere*

The 1977 and 1981 Droughts in Colorado

*Kelly DiNatale, Principal & Senior Water Resources Engineer, CDM, Inc.*

Lessons Learned from the 2002 Drought: Implications for Municipal Water Supply Planning

**Break [2:40-3:00]**

**Session 4: Lessons from Drought Planning and Management: Other State & Regional Perspectives [3:00-5:30]**

*Moderator – Mike Hayes, Director, National Drought Mitigation Center*

An Update on Drought Planning: The West in Perspective

*Bill DeOreo, President, Aquacraft*

## Role of Water Conservation in a Long Range Drought Plan

*Mark Pifher, Director, Aurora Water*  
Water Supply and Water Quality

*Mike Crimmins, Climate Assessment for the Southwest (CLIMAS), Univ of Arizona*  
Drought Planning and Preparedness: Examples from Arizona

*Jeanine Jones, Interstate Resources Mgr, CA Dept of Water Resources*  
Drought Preparedness Lessons from California

*Marty Hoerling, Meteorologist, NOAA, Earth Systems Research Laboratory*  
Is a Crisis Looming for Colorado River Water Supply?

**RECEPTION [5:30 – 7:30] (*Sunlight Peak Room - 37<sup>th</sup> Floor Pinnacle Club*)**

### **Day 2 – Thursday, October 9, 2008 (*Imperial Ballroom*)**

#### ***Morning***

Continental Breakfast [7:00-8:00] (*Imperial Ballroom Foyer*)

#### ***Morning***

**Overview of Day 1 and Intro for Day 2 [8:00-8:10]**

*Veva Deheza, Section Chief, CWCB Office of Water Conservation & Drought Planning*

**Session 5: National Integrated Drought Information-What is it and what is the NIDIS pilot study in the Upper Colorado River Basin? [8:10-8:30]**

*Roger Pulwarty, Director of NIDIS, NOAA and, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Author*

**Session 6: Overview: 2002 Colorado State Drought Mitigation & Response Plan, 2007 Update, & Future Plans [8:30-9:00]**

*Dick Wolfe, CO State Engineer*

**Session 7: Expert Panels (all Plenary): Managing Drought-Related Risks: Sectors and Cross-sectors**

**Panels:** Each panel will have 3 – 4 panelists, with a moderator  
(3-4 case-based presentations/comments about 20 mins each, 15 min discussion)

#### **Key Issues:**

- What is status and trends?
- How does drought planning and management take place each season/year and over the long-term?
- What are the information and partnership needs?
- What drought triggers do you use? How do you coordinate sustainability?
- How do you plan for drought & climate change?

## **Agriculture Panel [9:00-10:10]**

*Moderator – James Pritchett, Professor, Colorado State University*

*Reagan Waskom, Director, Colorado Water Institute*

Agricultural Impacts and Adaptation to Drought and Climate Variability in Colorado

*Pat O'Toole, President, Family Farm Alliance*

Water, Climate and Impact on Rural Communities

*John Stulp, Commissioner, Colorado Dept of Agriculture*

Can Ag Do More With Less?

## **Break [10:10-10:30] (*Imperial Ballroom Foyer*)**

## **Municipal Panel [10:30-12:00]**

*Moderator – Brad Udall, Director, Western Water Assessment*

*Laurna Kaatz, Climate Scientist, Denver Water*

Planning for Climate Change: Front Range Climate Change Vulnerability Study

*Douglas Kenney, University of Colorado*

Success Stories in Urban Demand Management during Drought

*Lee Rozaklis, Hydrosphere/AMEC*

Boulder's Experiences Planning for Drought and Climate Change

## **LUNCH [12:00-1:30] (*Grand Ballroom*)**

**Keynote Speaker: Dr. Patricia N. Limerick, Faculty Director, Center of the American West and Professor of History, University of Colorado at Boulder**

## ***Afternoon (Imperial Ballroom)***

## **Water for Environment & Recreation Panel [1:30-3:00]**

*Moderator - Geoff Blakeslee, The Nature Conservancy, CWCB Board Member*

*Greg Espegren, Aquatics Specialist, Trout Unlimited*

Trout Unlimited's Conservation Success Index

*Tony Dixon, Regional Deputy Forester, US Forest Service*

Saving Our Source: Forest Headwaters and Water Supply in a Changing Climate

*Steve Torbit, Regional Executive Director, National Wildlife Federation*

Western Governors' Association, Wildlife Habitat and Corridor Initiative  
Context, Process, Results and Implications

*Luke Cartin, Environmental Manager, Vail Resorts Inc.  
Drought and the Ski Industry*

**Break [3:00-3:20] (*Imperial Ballroom Foyer*)**

**Regional and County Watershed and Communication Planning [3:30-5:00]**

*Moderator – Susan Morea, Senior Vice President, CDM*

*Eric Kuhn, General Manager, Colorado River Water Conservation District  
2002 With Perfect Hindsight*

*Brian Werner, Public Information Department Manager, Northern Colorado Water  
Conservancy District  
Water Managers Worst Fear: 2002*

*Greg Fisher, Denver Water  
Is Drought the Same Everywhere?*

**Day 3 – Friday, October 10, 2008 (*Imperial Ballroom*)**

***Morning***

**Recap of Day 1, 2 and Intro to Day 3: Focus on No-Regrets Planning [8:00-8:20]**

*Jim Verdin, USGS, Deputy Director of NIDIS*

**Session 8: Responding to Drought and Adapting to Climate Change [8:20-9:35]**

*Moderator: Brad Udall, Director, Western Water Assessment*

*Gordon McCurry, Ph.D, P.G, CDM, Inc.  
The Effect of Climate Change on Municipal Water Demands in Colorado*

*Ted Kowalski, Program Manager, Colorado Water Conservation Board  
Tools to Keep Colorado River Water Working for Colorado: Augmentation,  
Water Banking, & Water Administration*

*Zeke Williams, Partner, Faegre & Benson  
Drought and Climate Change in the Environmental Review Process Under the  
National Environmental Policy Act*

**Session 9: Developing a Drought Early Warning System for Colorado: Information  
Services for Adaptation [9:35-11:30]**

*Robert Webb, Climate Analysis Branch Chief, NOAA*

*Mark Svoboda, Climatologist, National Drought Mitigation Center [9:35-10:05]*

Introduction & Live Demonstration of the US Drought Portal at  
[www.drought.gov](http://www.drought.gov)

**Break [10:05-11:45] (*Imperial Ballroom Foyer*)**

*Roger Pulwarty, Director of NIDIS, NOAA, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change  
Author*

*Duane Smith, Executive Director, Oklahoma Water Resources Board,  
Past Chairman of Western States Water Council [10:25-11:45]*

Facilitating Proactive Risk Management: Challenges, Roles, and Opportunities for  
Adaptation

**Brief Conclusion of All Three Days & Final Thoughts [11:45-12:00]**