

**Redefining the New Normal? How 2002 Compares to 2012 from a Meteorological Perspective, Nolan Doesken, Colorado State Climatologist**

Drought emerged once again across nearly all of Colorado in 2012 and expanded rapidly during the summer to many parts of the country. The evolution of this drought will be shown and described including the impact of the extreme warmth Colorado experienced this spring and summer. This is the second widespread drought affecting Colorado in just 10 years. Similarities and differences with 2002 will be presented. Long term trends in Colorado temperature and precipitation will be shown and comparisons with previous drought episodes (1930s, 1950s and 1970s) will be made.