



Navigating Shortages for Southwest Colorado Water Users

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Photo by Corey Robinson



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DP = MVIC sr rights, FS
area, Ute Farm & Ranch,
D/S fish pool & secure
local M&I



McPhee Annual 350 KAF -
Use 250 KAF 70%
Historical carryover at
100 KAF (40%)



Stationarity is Dead or
100% snow pack doesn't
make what it used to



We designed our projects,
systems and operations
on historical patterns



Multi Year drought, 2nd
Year of La Nina with no
carry over storage



What can help? Long
term drought forecasting?
CBRFC? ASO? Other tools



Changing weather
patterns? Long term
trends? Hard to tell while
in mid-course



Annual water cycle -
monsoons-> soil moisture-
> snow pack-> runoff->
repeat



Forrest Health - other
no regret options?
Cloud Seeding



Understanding of rising
temperature impacts still
developing, not necessarily
predicative of future
precipitation



No water,
No crops,
No revenue,
No water payments



Sharing? Limited by prior appropriation, requires funding, following impacts, see Republican & Rio Grande



Emergency drill: Cut Costs -
keep up morale - hard
lessons - learn and continue
improving, adapt.



Structural Changes may be
considered



Ultimately demand will have
to match supply



Stay tuned, we're not done
adapting to change.