### New Software Tools for Snowpack Water Supply Analysis AWRA Colorado, February 27, 2018





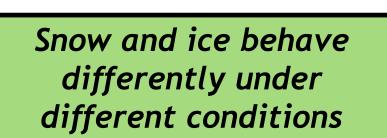
Steve Malers, Open Water Foundation steve.malers@openwaterfoundation.org www.openwaterfoundation.org

### **Open Water Foundation**

Social enterprise 501(c)3 nonprofit focusing on developing open source software and open data tools to help make better decisions about water resources. Water is a public resource, and water data and software tools should also be public.

### open data | open software | open decisions openwaterfoundation.org

### Snow and Ice



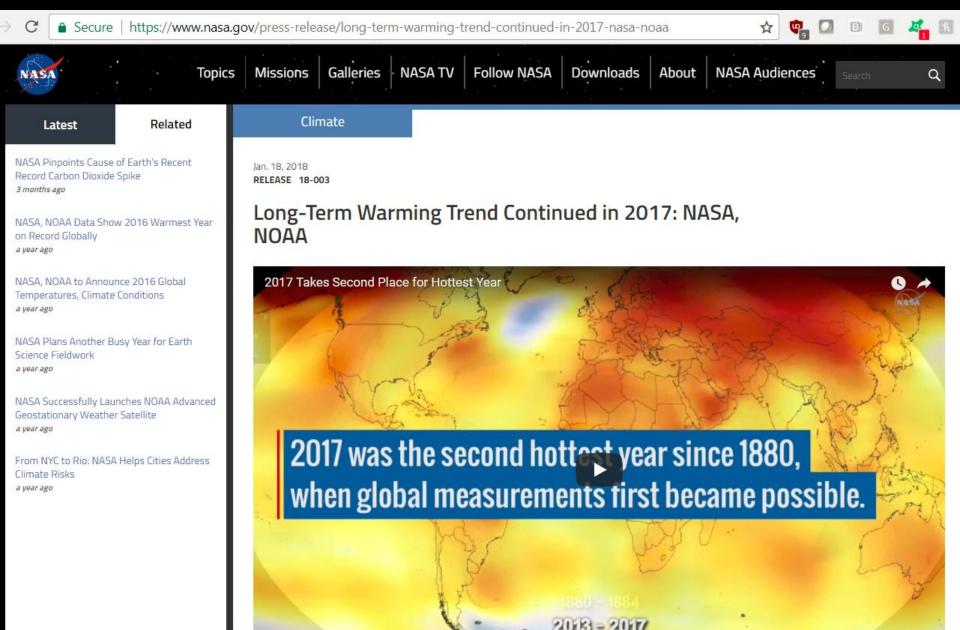
# **CDSS SNODAS Tools Project Overview**

- Colorado Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Severance Tax Project
- Team led by the Open Water Foundation
- Main goals of project, from scope of work:
  - Improve water resources data access and transparency
  - Help water managers visualize data for their supply basins
  - Improve information for water providers and their customers

# **Project Need**

- Some basins do not have snow monitoring stations (SNOTEL)
- Existing monitoring stations are not representative of snow conditions across the entire watershed
- Water managers lack late-season information because snow has melted out at observing stations

## **Context - Climate Change**



### **Context - Dust on Snow**

Dust on Snow Controls Springtime River Rise in West

"The researchers found that the effects of dust dominated the pace of the spring runoff even in years with unusually warm spring air temperatures.

Conversely, there was almost no statistical correlation between air temperature and the pace of runoff."



https://www.jpl.nasa.gov/news/dust-on-snow-controls-springtime-river-rise-in-west Photo credit: NASA

### **Context - World Risks**

"Climate and tech pose the biggest risks to our world in 2018"

World Economic Forum: <u>https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2018/01/the-biggest-risks-in-2018-will-be-environmental-and-technological</u> Photo by <u>Ross Stone</u> on <u>Unsplash</u>

### **Context - Natural Disasters**

C () abcnews.go.com/US/federal-report-2017-shattered-us-damage-record-natural/story?id=52507313

ODC NEWS VIDEO LIVE SHO

VE SHOWS 👯

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_U.S.\_states\_and\_territories\_by\_GDP

### Federal report says 2017 shattered US damage record for natural disasters \$306.2B (does not consider loss of work?)

ρ

By BILL HUTCHINSON · Jan 21, 2018, 7:37 PM ET



WATCH	Federal report says 2017	shattered US damage	record for natural
-------	--------------------------	---------------------	--------------------

		2016 State GD	P	
14	14	Washington	476,770	2.58
15	15	🎇 Maryland	382,437	2.07
16	16	💮 Indiana	347,249	1.88
17	17	Minnesota	339,096	1.83
18	18	• Tennessee	331,868	1.79
19	19	Colorado	322,644	1.74
20	20	😨 Wisconsin	313,088	1.69
21	21	🎬 Arizona	305,849	1.65
22	22	💼 Missouri	299,113	1.62
23	23	Sector Connecticut	259,918	1.40
24	24	🕭 Louisiana	236,999	1.28
25	25	CO 2017 but	dget: \$26	<b>.8</b> B <sup>1.24</sup>
26	26	O Water Plan		
27	27	azon HQ2 =	205 625	4.4
28		Kentucky		

### **Context - Agriculture**

### Perennial Crop Solutions to Annual Agricultural Challenges

Perennial plants do not have to be reseeded or replanted every year, so they do not require annual plowing or herbicide applications to establish.

Perennial crops are robust; they protect soil from erosion and improve soil structure. They increase ecosystem nutrient retention, carbon sequestration, and water infiltration, and can contribute to climate change adaptation and mitigation. Overall, they help ensure food and water security over the long term.

Many fruit, forage and some vegetable crops, including fruit trees, alfalfa, grapes, asparagus, and olive trees, are perennials that have been grown for thousands of years. The Land Institute is

working to add perennial grains, legumes, and oilseed crops

great potential for truly sustainable production systems. In a perennial food crops, The Land Institute also conducts ecol put those crop plants into diverse mixtures called polycultur and natural ecosystems.



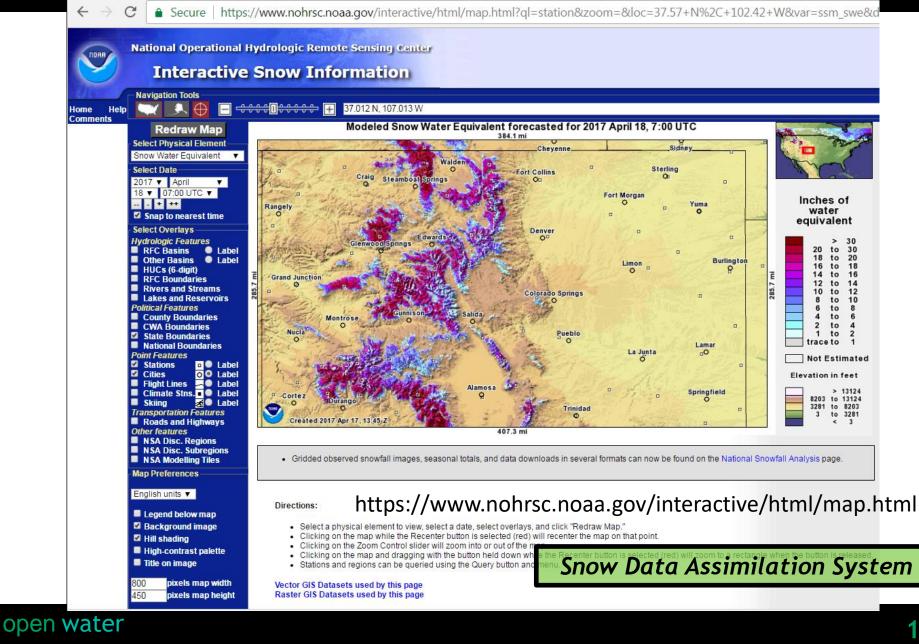
Annual wheat on the left, and Kernza® on the right.

Perennial grains, legumes and oilseed varieties represent a paradigm show will changes in climate, hydrology, and agriculture interact?

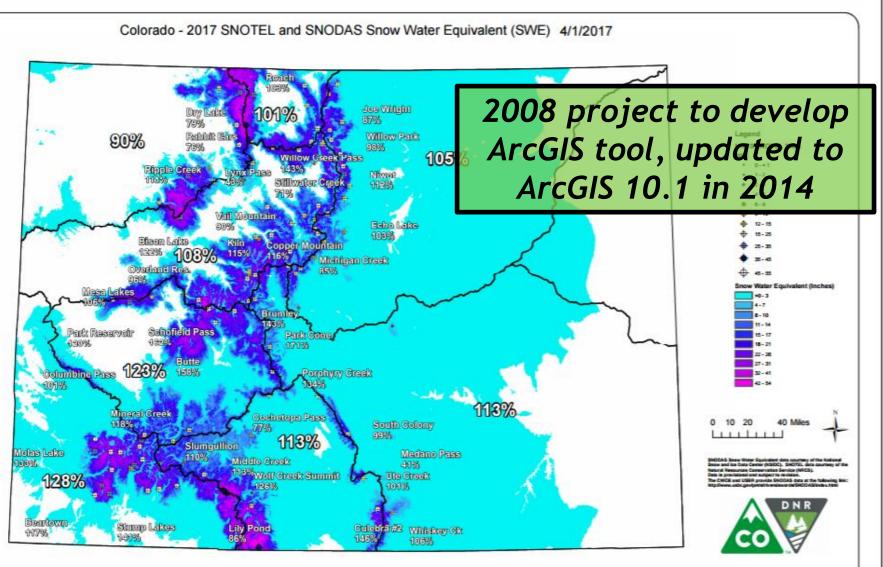
https://landinstitute.org/our-work/perennial-crops/

We are using two approaches to breed perennial grain, pulse, and oilseed crops:

### What is SNODAS?



## **Previous CWCB SNODAS Projects**



http://cwcb.state.co.us/water-management/flood/pages/snodassnowpackmaps.aspx

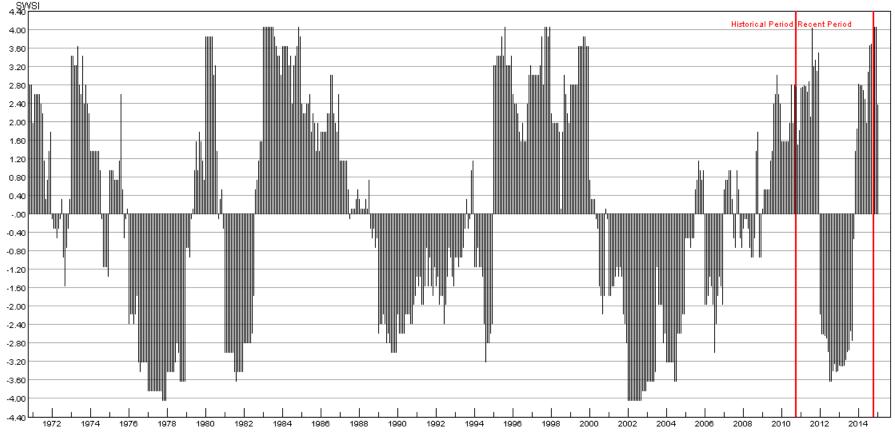
### **Previous CWCB Projects**

- SNODAS:
  - 2008-2009 SNODAS map products for Rio
     Grande Water Conservation District
  - 2012-2013 SNODAS map products for Dolores Water Conservancy District
- Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI):
  - 2015 Open Water Foundation updated
     Colorado Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI)
     process used by CWCB and Division of
     Water Resources (DWR).

### Surface Water Supply Index (SWSI) in a Highly Managed Basin

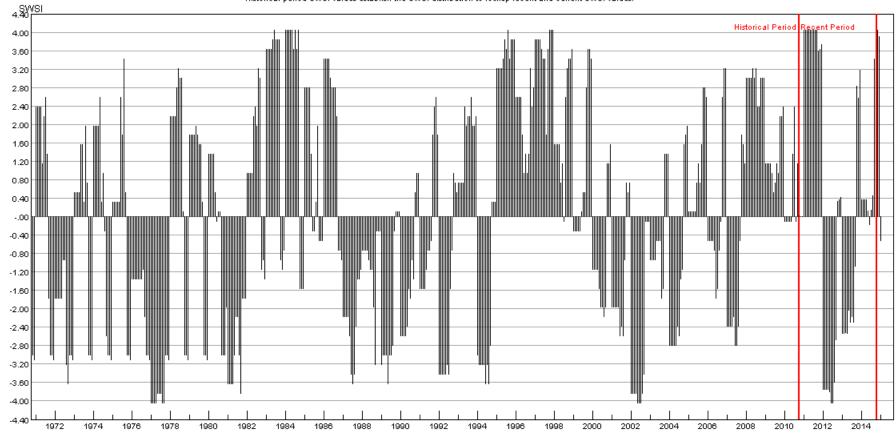
#### South Platte Basin SWSI History

Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.



South Platte-DataComposite-SWSI

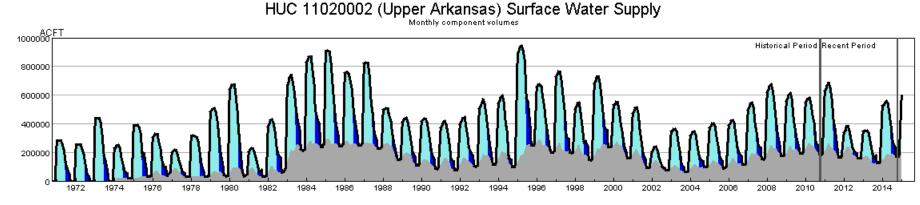
### SWSI in a Less-Managed Basin



Yampa-White Basin SWSI History Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.

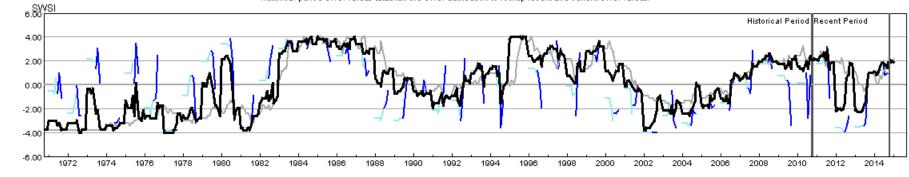
Yampa-White-DataComposite-SWSI

### SWSI at Hydrologic Unit Code Scale



HUC:11020002-DataComposite
 HUC:11020002-Component-PrevMoStreamflow
 HUC:11020002-Component-ForecastedRunoff
 HUC:11020002-Component-ReservoirStorage

#### HUC 11020002 (Upper Arkansas) SWSI



Historical period SWSI values establish the SWSI distribution to lookup recent and current SWSI values.

HUC:11020002-PrevMoStreamflow-SWSI HUC:11020002-ForecastedRunoff-SWSI

— HUC:11020002-ReservoirStorage-SWSI

HUC:11020002-DataComposite-SWSI

# CDSS SNODAS Tools Approach

- 1. Download daily SNODAS SWE grid (national)
- 2. Clip to Colorado water supply basins
- 3. Calculate statistics for basins
- 4. Output to CSV, GeoJSON, Shapefile.
- 5. Process CSV files into time series graph products using TSTool software.
- 6. Publish to the web (80 GB total for 2003-2017)

### Software:

- QGIS, PyQGIS, GDAL for spatial processing
- Leaflet for web mapping
- TSTool for time series products

### **Downloadable Data Files**

About

Dat

Data

a Analysis

The national SNODAS data are available from the Snow Data Assimilation System (SNODAS). The SNODAS data are processed into statistical data products by the CDSS SNODAS Tools. The output consists of comma-separated-value (CSV) files **ByDate** (basin data for each day) and **ByBasin** (historical period for each basin). Data files can be downloaded by accessing the following URL resources. The zip file contains a shapefile with daily statistics in the attribute table (attribute names have been truncated to adhere to shapefile limit).

http://projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-cocwcb-2016snodas/prototype/SnowpackStatisticsByBasin/Snowpack

http://projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-cocwcb-2016-

snodas/prototype/SnowpackStatisticsByDate/SnowpackS

http://projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-cocwcb-2016snodas/prototype/SnowpackStatisticsByDate/SnowpackS

http://projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-cocwcb-2016-

snodas/prototype/SnowpackStatisticsByDate/SnowpackS

The following static resources are also available:

http://projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-cocwcb-2016snodas/prototype/json/CO\_boundary.geojson (State of Colorado rectangular boundary)

ison/SNODAS\_CO\_BasinBoundaries.geoison (basin boundaries, same as daily boundaries)

<u>StaticData/SNODAS\_CO\_BasinBoundaries.zip</u> (input basin boundary layer shapefile)

StaticData/Watershed Connectivity v3.xlsx (input basin

- Comma-separated-value (CSV)
- Shapefile
- GeoJSON
- Static data for basins

### **Developer and User Documentation**

 $\leftarrow \rightarrow$ 

() software.openwaterfoundation.org/cdss-app-snodas-tools-doc-user/process/processing-steps/#1-download-snodas-data

#### SNODAS Tools Process / Processing Steps

SNODAS Tools (User Manual) Home SNODAS Tools Data ~ SNODAS Tools Process ~ Overview Processing Steps Additional Details SNODAS Tools Products ~ National SNODAS grids are downloaded to the SNODAS Tools computer for processing into products that are relevant to Colorado.

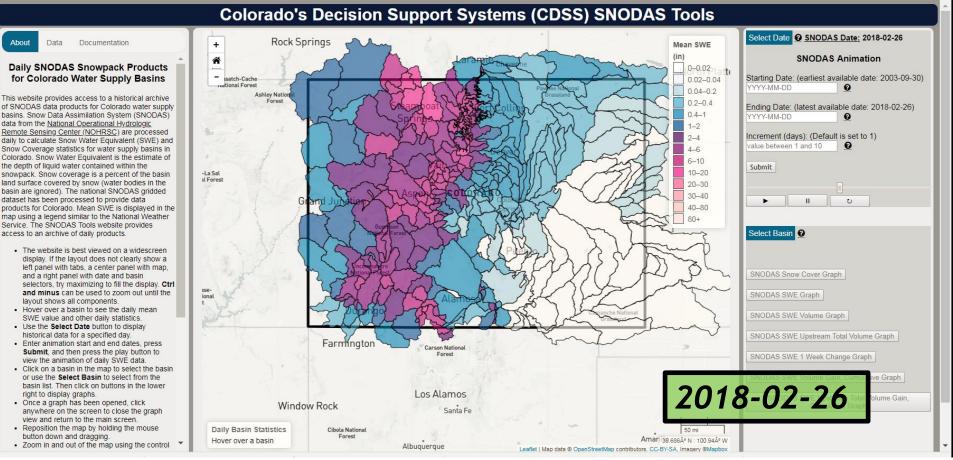
Daily SNODAS data grids are national grids representing a variety of snowpack parameters. They are developed by NOAA National Weather Service's National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) and hosted by the National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC). NSIDC stores the daily grids, dating back to September 30th, 2003, in a public FTP site that is updated every day. Although, as mentioned before, the SNODAS products contain many grids of snowpack parameters, the SNODAS Tools are designed to specifically calculate snowpack statistics in regards to the Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) grid. Below is an image of a daily SNODAS grid representing SWE values across the nation. The areas of higher SWE are represented by blue while the areas with lower, or no SWE values, are represented by brown.



Q Search

🗧 🔶 C 🛛 projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-co-cwcb-2016-snodas/prototype/index.html

#### 🗨 🕁 ២ 🗖 🖪 🖼 😫 🔇



http://projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-co-cwcb-2016-snodas/prototype

Working to deploy to new State of CO server.

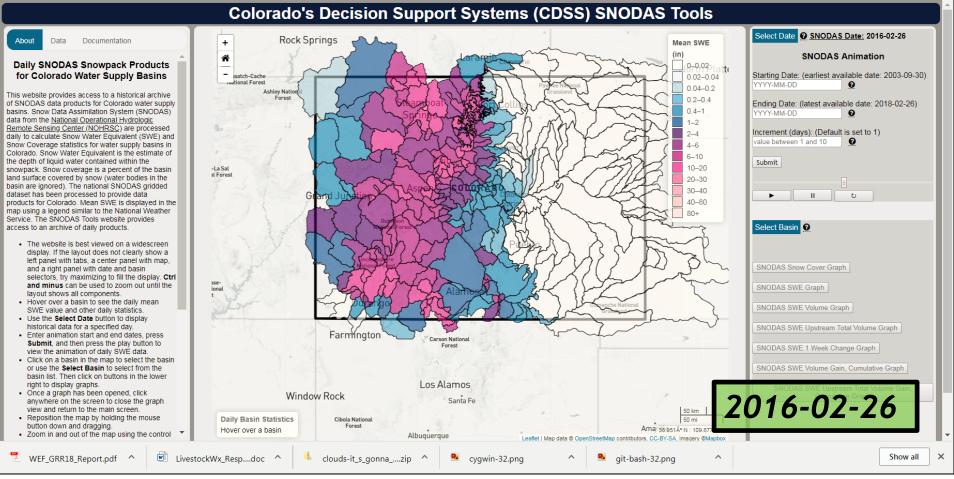
→ C ① projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-co-cwcb-2016-snodas/prototype/index.html

#### \_ ↔ 🗢 🗖 🗉 🖬 🐇 🕚

#### Colorado's Decision Support Systems (CDSS) SNODAS Tools Select Date 2 SNODAS Date: 2017-02-26 About Data Documentation **Rock Springs** + Mean SWE (in) SNODAS Animation \* Daily SNODAS Snowpack Products 0-0.02 for Colorado Water Supply Basins Starting Date: (earliest available date: 2003-09-30) 0.02-0.04 satch-Cache tional Forest YYYY-MM-DD 0 0.04-0.2 This website provides access to a historical archive Forest 0.2-0.4 of SNODAS data products for Colorado water supply Ending Date: (latest available date: 2018-02-26) 0.4-1 basins, Snow Data Assimilation System (SNODAS) YYYY-MM-DD data from the National Operational Hydrologic 1-2 Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) are processed Increment (days): (Default is set to 1) 2-4 daily to calculate Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) and value between 1 and 10 О Snow Coverage statistics for water supply basins in 4-6 Colorado. Snow Water Equivalent is the estimate of 6-10 the depth of liquid water contained within the Submit 10-20 snowpack. Snow coverage is a percent of the basin -La Sal I Forest land surface covered by snow (water bodies in the 20-30 basin are ignored). The national SNODAS gridded 30-40 dataset has been processed to provide data products for Colorado. Mean SWE is displayed in the 40-80 map using a legend similar to the National Weather 80+ Service. The SNODAS Tools website provides Select Basin 🔞 access to an archive of daily products. Selected Basin ID: GPSC2L\_F · The website is best viewed on a widescreen Basin Name: EAGLE - BLO GYPSUM display. If the layout does not clearly show a left panel with tabs, a center panel with map, SNODAS Snow Cover Graph and a right panel with date and basin selectors, try maximizing to fill the display. Ctrl and minus can be used to zoom out until the SNODAS SWE Graph ional layout shows all components · Hover over a basin to see the daily mean SNODAS SWE Volume Graph SWE value and other daily statistics. Use the Select Date button to display historical data for a specified day. SNODAS SWE Upstream Total Volume Graph · Enter animation start and end dates, press Farmington Carson National Submit, and then press the play button to Forest SNODAS SWE 1 Week Change Graph view the animation of daily SWE data. · Click on a basin in the map to select the basin or use the Select Basin to select from the SNODAS SWE Volume Gain, Cumulative Graph basin list. Then click on buttons in the lower right to display graphs. Los Alamos Once a graph has been opened, click Window Rock 2017-02-26 Santa Fe anywhere on the screen to close the graph view and return to the main screen. · Reposition the map by holding the mouse **Daily Basin Statistics** Cibola National 50 mi button down and dragging. Forest Hover over a basin Amar 36.076Ű N : 106 Zoom in and out of the map using the control Albuquerque Leaflet | Map data @ OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA, Imagery @Ma Show all × WEF GRR18 Report.pdf ^ LivestockWx\_Resp....doc ^ cygwin-32.png git-bash-32.png clouds-it\_s\_gonna\_....zip

← → C ③ projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-co-cwcb-2016-snodas/prototype/index.html

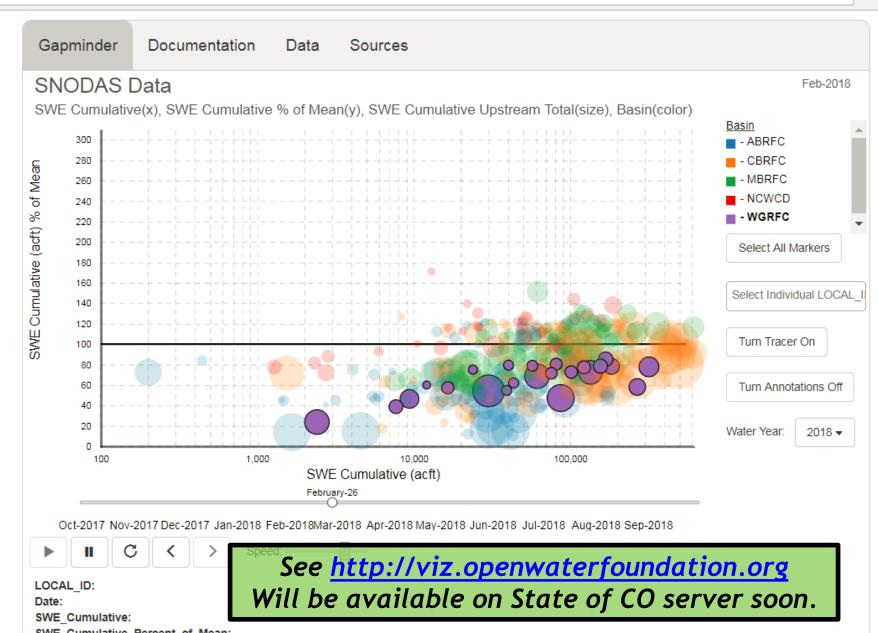
#### 



### **Start Online Demonstration**

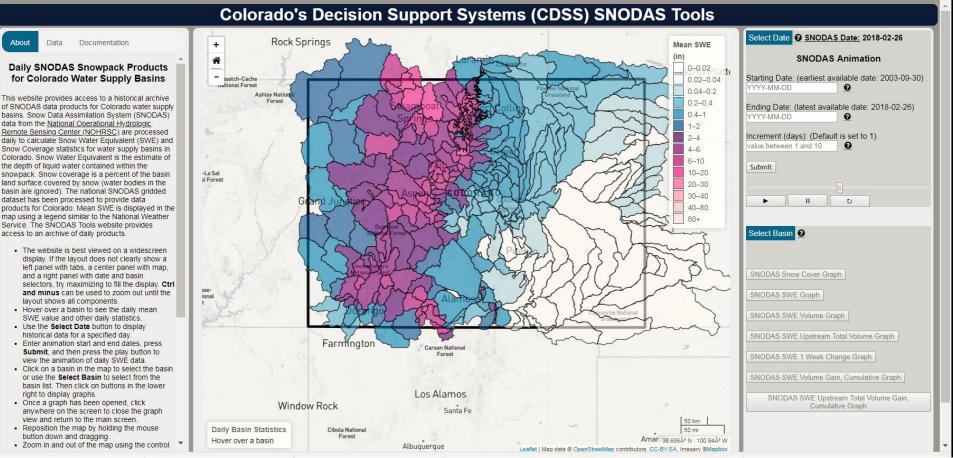
Ð ☆

() viz.openwaterfoundation.org/co/owf-viz-co-snodas-gapminder/



🗧 🔶 🖸 projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-co-cwcb-2016-snodas/prototype/index.html

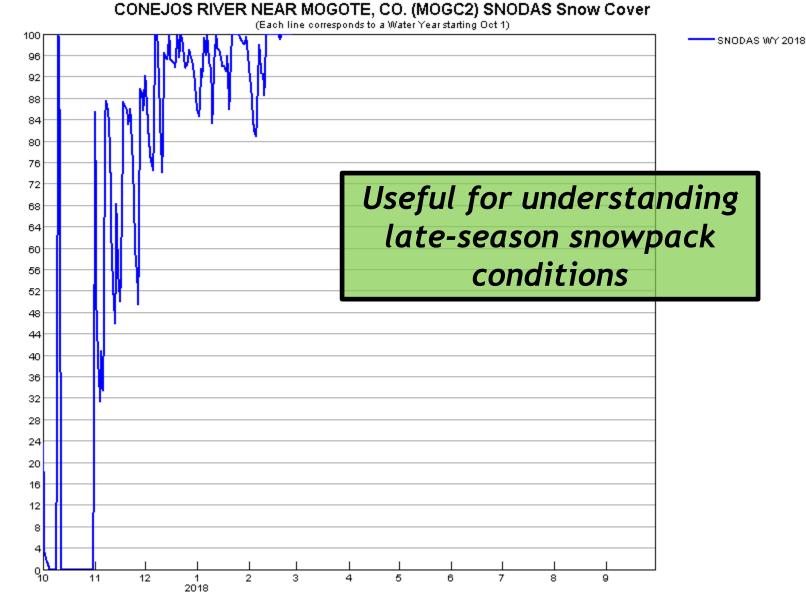
#### 🗨 🕁 ២ 🚺 🖪 🖉 🛱 😫 🔇



http://projects.openwaterfoundation.org/owf-proj-co-cwcb-2016-snodas/prototype

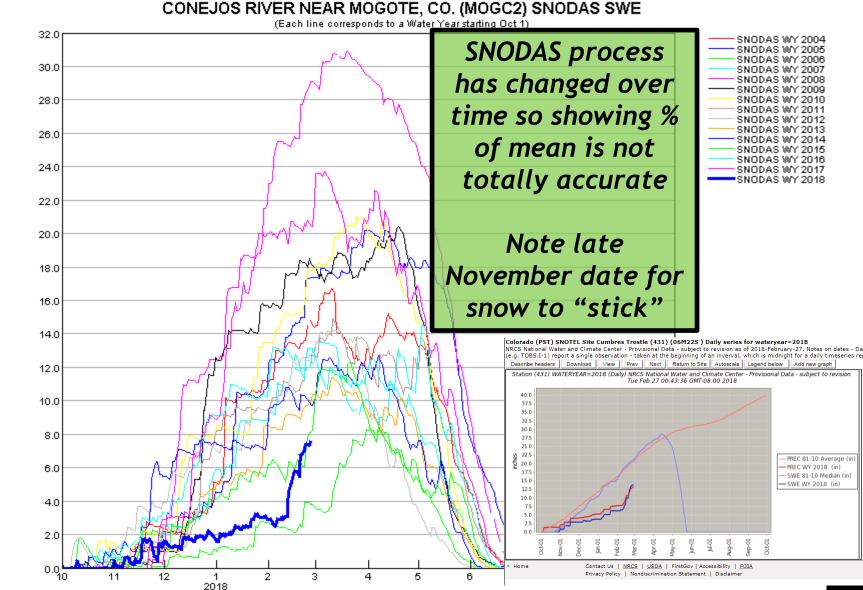
Interactive map shows Colorado water supply basins.

## Snow Cover (Percent)



Snow Cover (percent of non-waterbody basin area)

### **SNODAS Snow Water Equivalent**

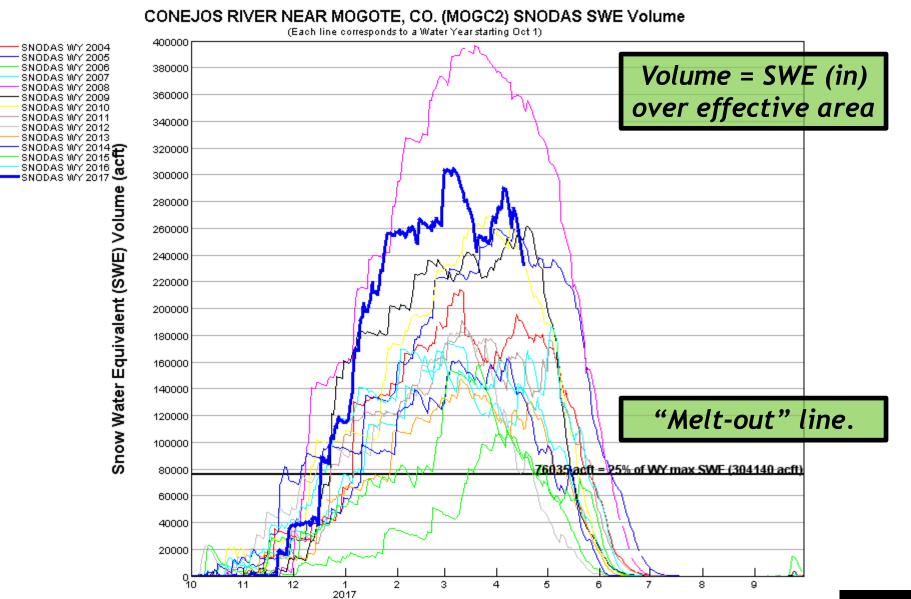


pen mater

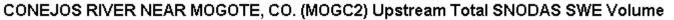
Snow Water Equivalent, SWE (in)

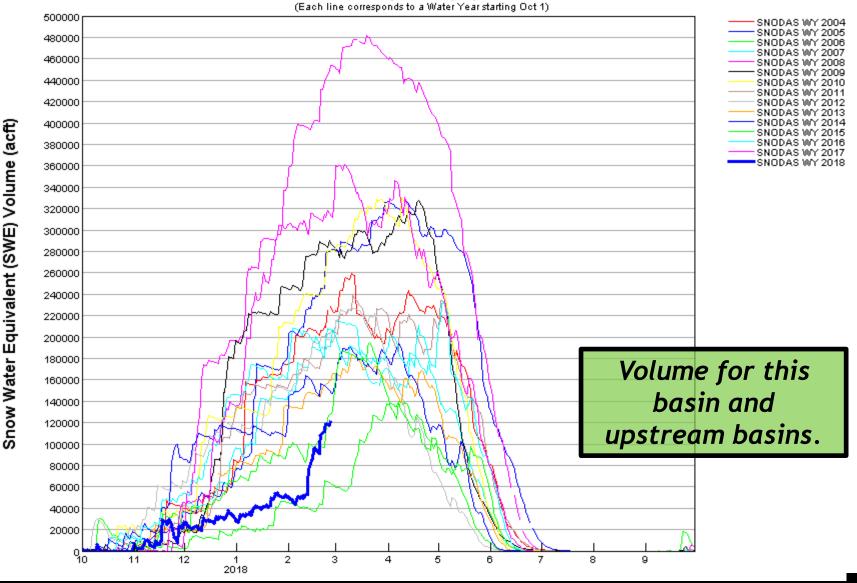
26

### **SNODAS SWE Volume**



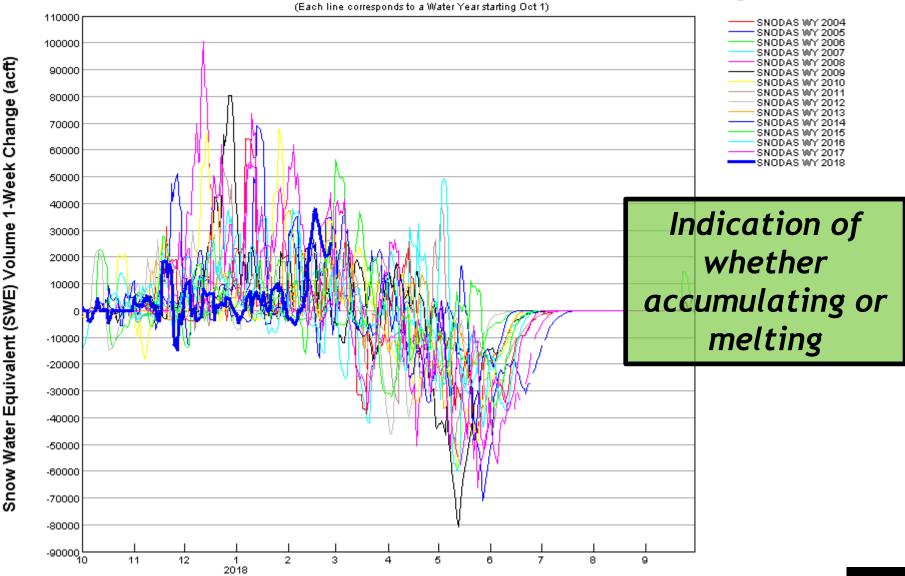
### **SNODAS Total Upstream SWE Volume**



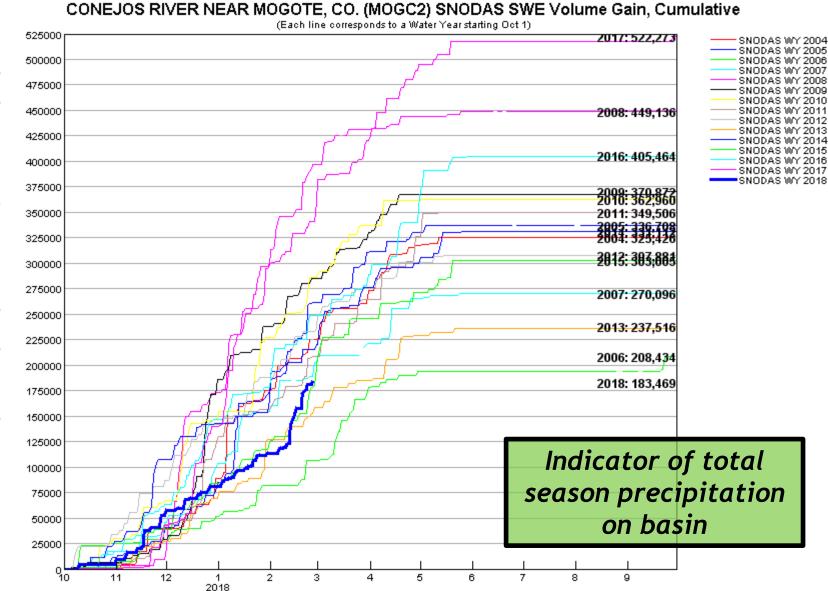


# **SNODAS SWE Volume 1-Week Change**

CONEJOS RIVER NEAR MOGOTE, CO. (MOGC2) SNODAS SWE Volume 1-Week Change



### **SNODAS SWE Volume Gain, Cumulative**

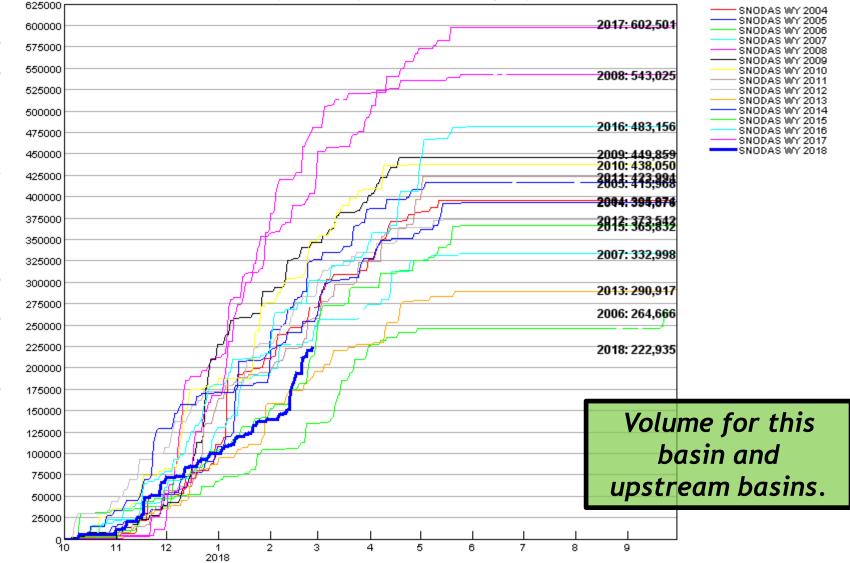


Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Volume Gain, Cumulative (acft)

### SNODAS SWE Upstream Total Volume Gain, Cumulative

#### CONEJOS RIVER NEAR MOGOTE, CO. (MOGC2) Upstream Total SNODAS SWE Volume Gain, Cumulative

(Each line corresponds to a Water Year starting Oct 1)



Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) Volume Gain, Cumulative (acft)

### **Daily SWE Map Animation**

Select Date SNODAS Date: 2018-02-25
SNODAS Animation
Starting Date: (earliest available date: 2003-09-30) 2017-10-01
Ending Date: (latest available date: 2018-02-26) 2018-02-26
Increment (days): (Default is set to 1) 7
Submit
2018-02-25 ▶ ॥ ʊ

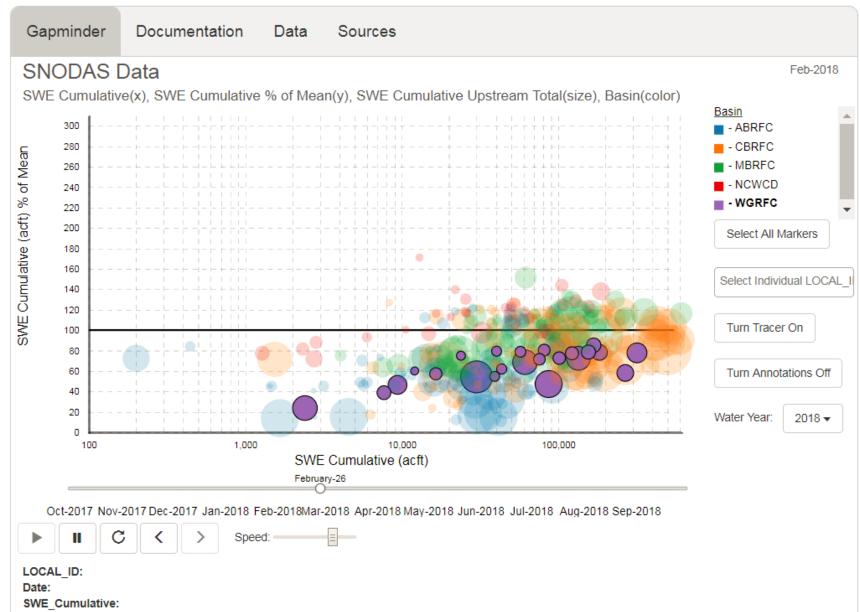
- It is pretty cool!
- Can see storm events
- Can see when snow started to accumulate and melt out

### "Gapminder"

**€** ☆

υD

(i) viz.openwaterfoundation.org/co/owf-viz-co-snodas-gapminder/



SME Cumulative Dereent of Means

### **End Online Demonstration**

See <u>http://viz.openwaterfoundation.org</u> Will be available on State of CO server soon.

# Observations

- It seems to take longer for snow to "stick"
- Snow events are often followed by melt periods - more of an issue at lower elevations
- Does snow that melts at higher elevations cause the snowpack to "harden" into ice? could actually prolong runoff season
- Lots of variability snowpack as a storage reservoir does not have carryover
- Need to understand water supply as a system

### **Challenges and Successes**

- Open source approach: software, data, documentation
- Processing a lot of data
- Software works on Windows (desktop) and Linux
- Integrated spatial and temporal displays

# **Next Steps and Opportunities**

- Finish moving system to State's Google Cloud Platform Server
- Training webinars
- Respond to feedback Improve User Experience (UX)
- Continue adding new tools to understand snowpack for water resources planning
- Integrate SNODAS and SNOTEL data
- Need funding

See also: <u>http://viz.openwaterfoundation.org</u>

### New software - GeoProcessor

- "TSTool for spatial"
- Automate geospatial data processing
- QGIS and ArcGIS versions (QGIS is current focus)
- Developed in Python

### Share It

The content of this presentation is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution NonCommercial License: http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0



### open data | open software | open decisions openwaterfoundation.org