



CENTER FOR SNOW & AVALANCHE STUDIES



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Dear Friend of CSAS,

We hope you enjoyed Thanksgiving and a great beginning of winter. The snowpack at our Swamp Angel Study Plot has already accumulated to more than a meter – the most by Thanksgiving since 2004.

Thanks to several successful fundraising efforts this fall, we've already raised just over half of our needed private donations for our fiscal year (ending in June). We screened the film *Chasing Ice* which reminded us a lot of our own struggles with instrumentation and field science. It also fueled our interest in timelapse video to better understand our snowpack. During the 2013 spring melt season we experimented with inexpensive timelapse cameras to study snow surface roughness, hoping to gain insight into how dust may be increasing sublimation and decreasing spring runoff. We found the resulting video fascinating – you can watch it at <http://snowstudies.org/timelapse>.

This past spring brought more dust than we've ever measured. We were shocked with the April 8th dust storm, which lasted only 16 hours, but deposited a whopping amount of dust to the San Juans - more than a film canister full for every square meter (419 lbs/acre)! The Colorado water community along with the US Forest Service is paying close attention to this phenomenon, and more than ten agencies have renewed their support for our Colorado Dust-on-Snow program.

Forest Health and its effects on mountain hydrology have become a hot topic in Colorado. In September David Scott of CSU conducted a forest health assessment, involving the coring of trees within Senator Beck Basin. We lent our amateur help with tree coring and were quite impressed with David's efficient expertise. In fact, he ended up doing most of the coring work alone after an early snowstorm in September. In David's early analysis, he believes Senator Beck Basin to be relatively safe from a major Spruce Beetle outbreak for now. We worked hard to raise the extra funds to make that project possible.

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This winter we are looking forward to working with snow hydrology researchers from Boise State (HP Marshall's team), hosting a course from the University of Colorado, and participating in the Western Snow Conference. We are developing a Field School for water professionals which we hope to launch in February. Once spring rolls around, we'll be busy with dust field work, driving around Colorado to dig pits, and rolling out our new hydrologic 'pattern forecast' product.

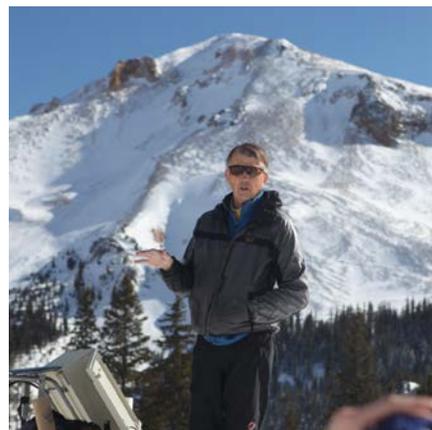
We have several other new research opportunities in the works, but all require upfront investment of our time before we can get them funded. At the moment we are consumed with revising a scientific paper presenting data to the hydrologic modeling community. Our reviewers tell us that SBB may be the highest elevation experimental hydrologic watershed in the world, and have found our work to be "really exciting." Surprisingly, we know of only one other snow-dominated watershed system for which coherent hydrologic data has been published (Reynold's Creek Experimental Watershed in Idaho).

Unfortunately, our work in preparing this important scientific data for publication is completely unfunded. Climate change scientists are utilizing Senator Beck Basin, however, it is generally unacceptable for scientists to pay for data. Support from Friends of like you have helped sustain that critical data flow. We hope you'll continue to find CSAS worthy of your support.

More soon,



Chris Landry – Executive Director



May 5th, 2013 at Senator Beck Study Plot

P.S. We have lots more news to share! Take a look at snowstudies.org for news from the past year and current happenings. Or call us up – we'd love to hear from you.