Climate Change Is Changing The West

Stephen Saunders
President
The Rocky Mountain Climate Organization

RMCO’s 31 partner organizations:

City and County of Denver

City of Fort Collins

City of Boulder

Summit County

City of Aspen

Town of Breckenridge

Town of Frisco

Town of Silverthorne

RMCO partners, continued:

Town of Dillon

Town of Telluride

Denver Water

Aspen Skiing Company

Boulder Community Hospital

Colorado Association for Recycling

Colorado Association of Ski Towns

Colorado Conservation Trust

RMCO partners, continued:

Continuum Partners

Domani

Intrawest Colorado

National Wildlife Federation

The Nature Conservancy of Colorado

New Belgium Brewing Company

Qwest

RBI Strategy & Research

RMCO partners, continued:

Roche Colorado

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union

Vail Resorts

Westcliffe Publishers

Western Resource Advocates

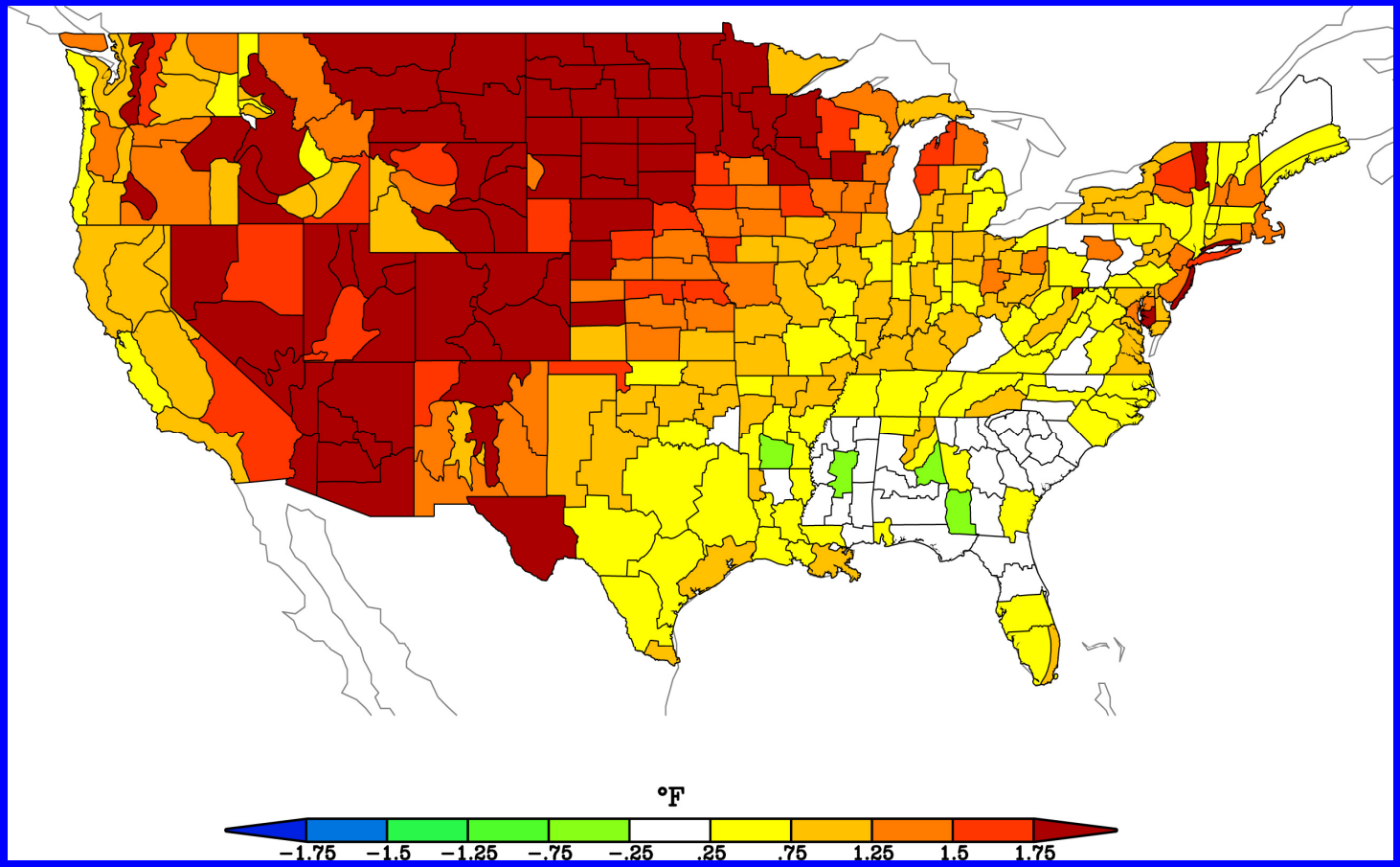
Wild Oats Natural Marketplace

Wright Water Engineers

Climate disruption in the West is likely to make us hotter and drier.

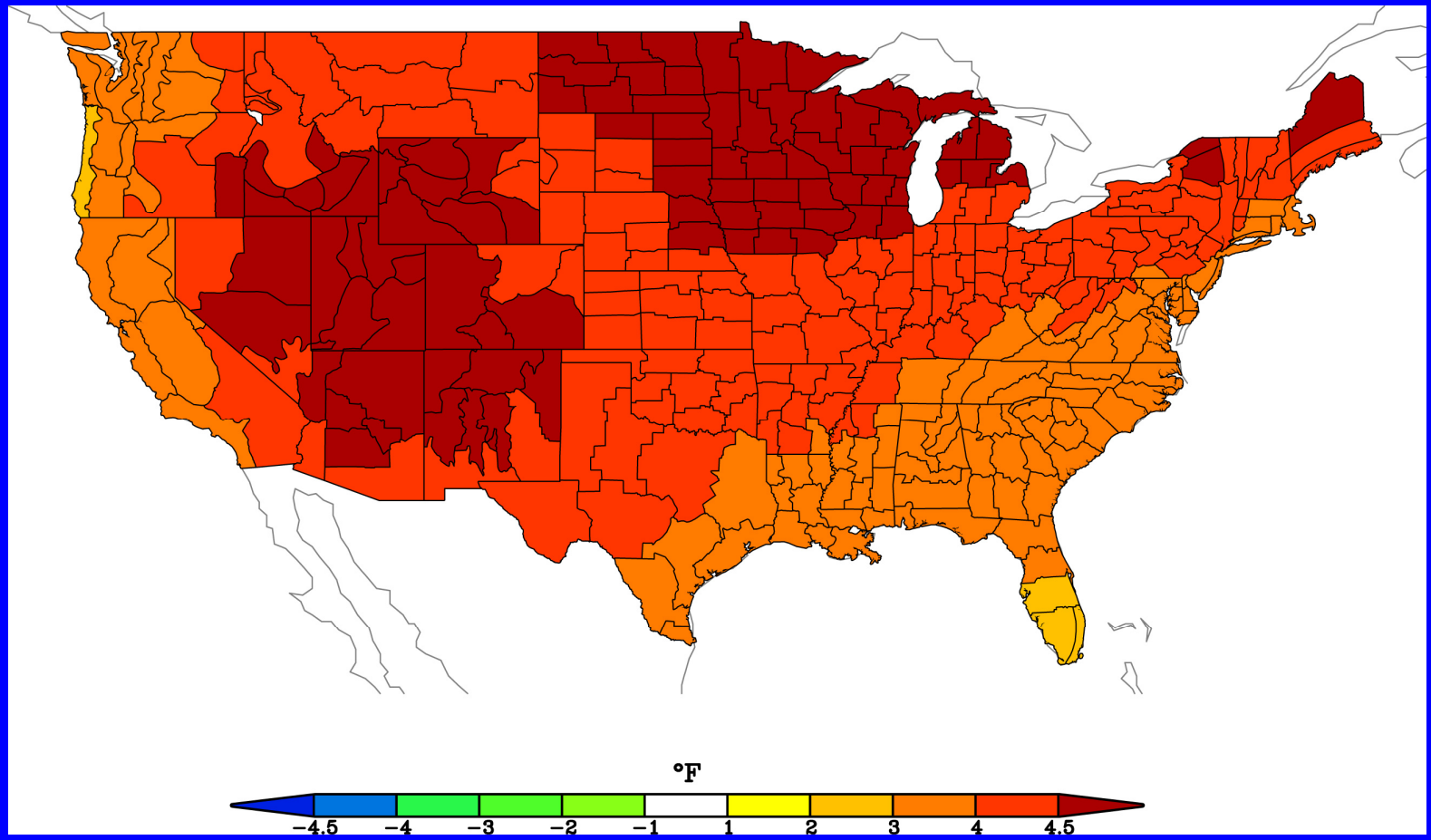
(How much depends on what we decide to do about it.)

Observed Annual Temperature Anomaly 2000-2006



Source: Dr. Martin Hoerling, NOAA

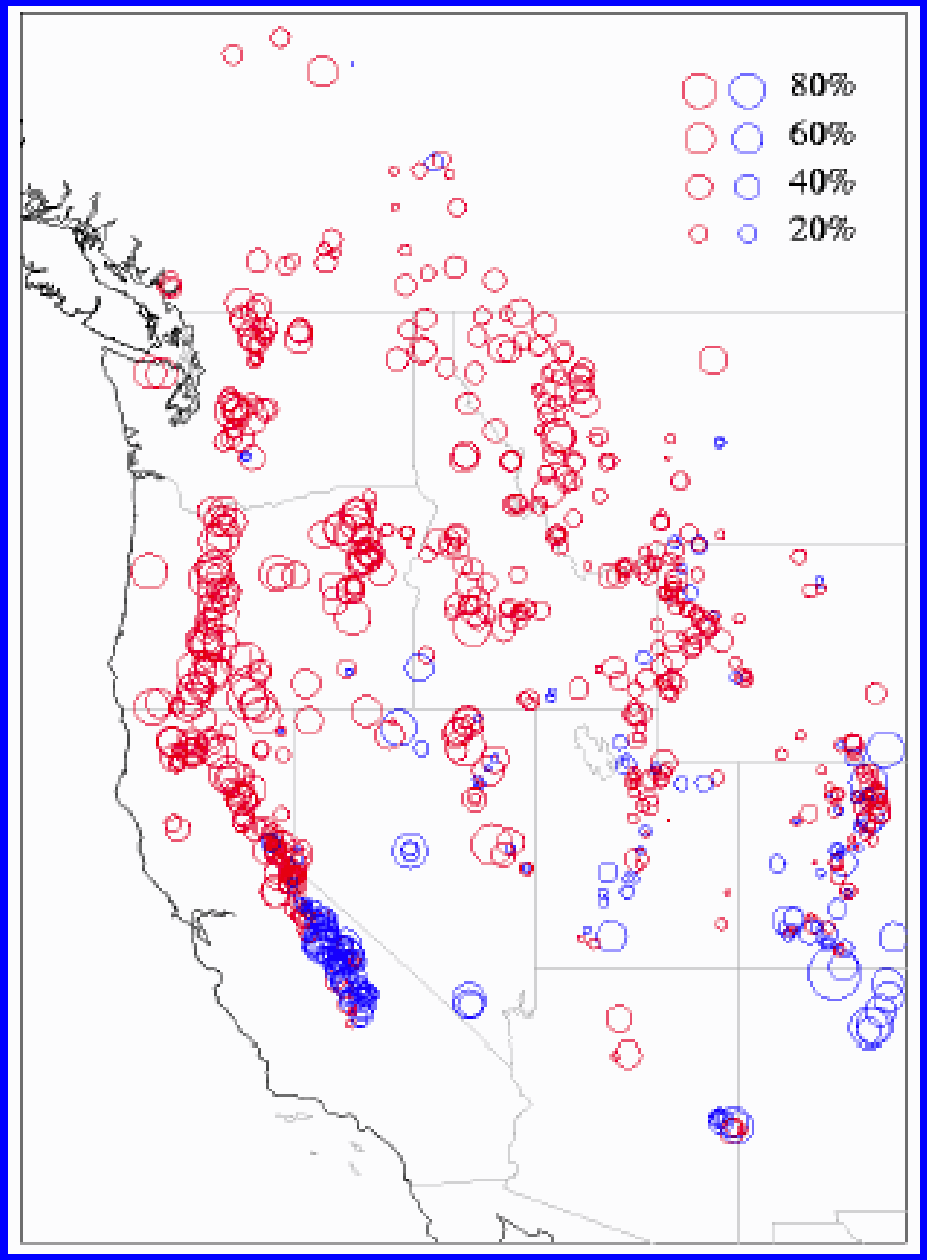
Projected Change in Annual Temperature 2035-2060



Source: Dr. Martin Hoerling, NOAA

“Snowpack is very likely to decrease as the climate warms, despite increasing precipitation, for two reasons. It is very likely that more precipitation will fall as rain, and that snowpack will develop later and melt earlier.”

Climate Change Impacts on the United States (2000)

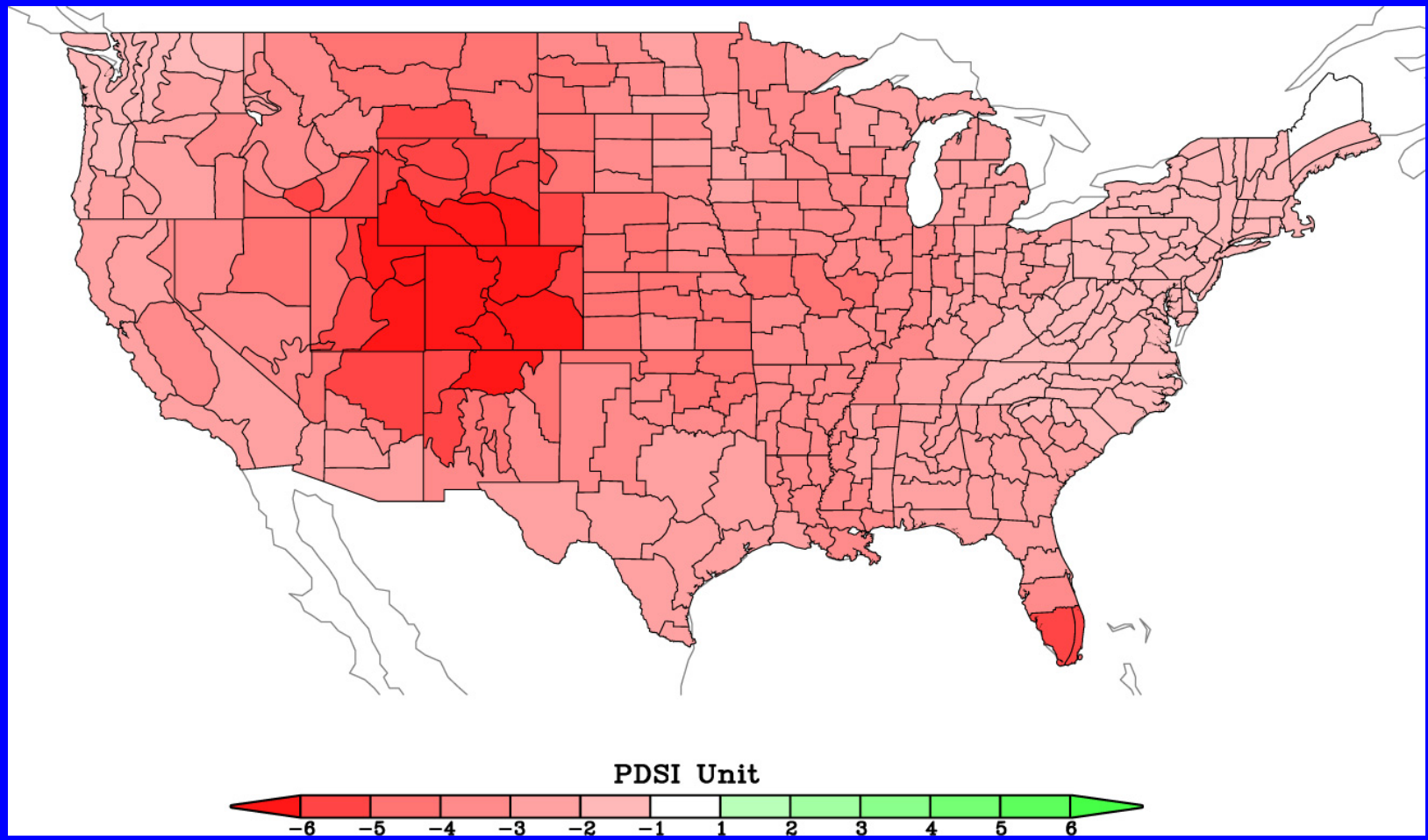

80%
60%
40%
20%

“The Colorado River is the canary in the coal mine for global warming.”

Eric Kuhn, General Manager

Colorado River Water Conservation District

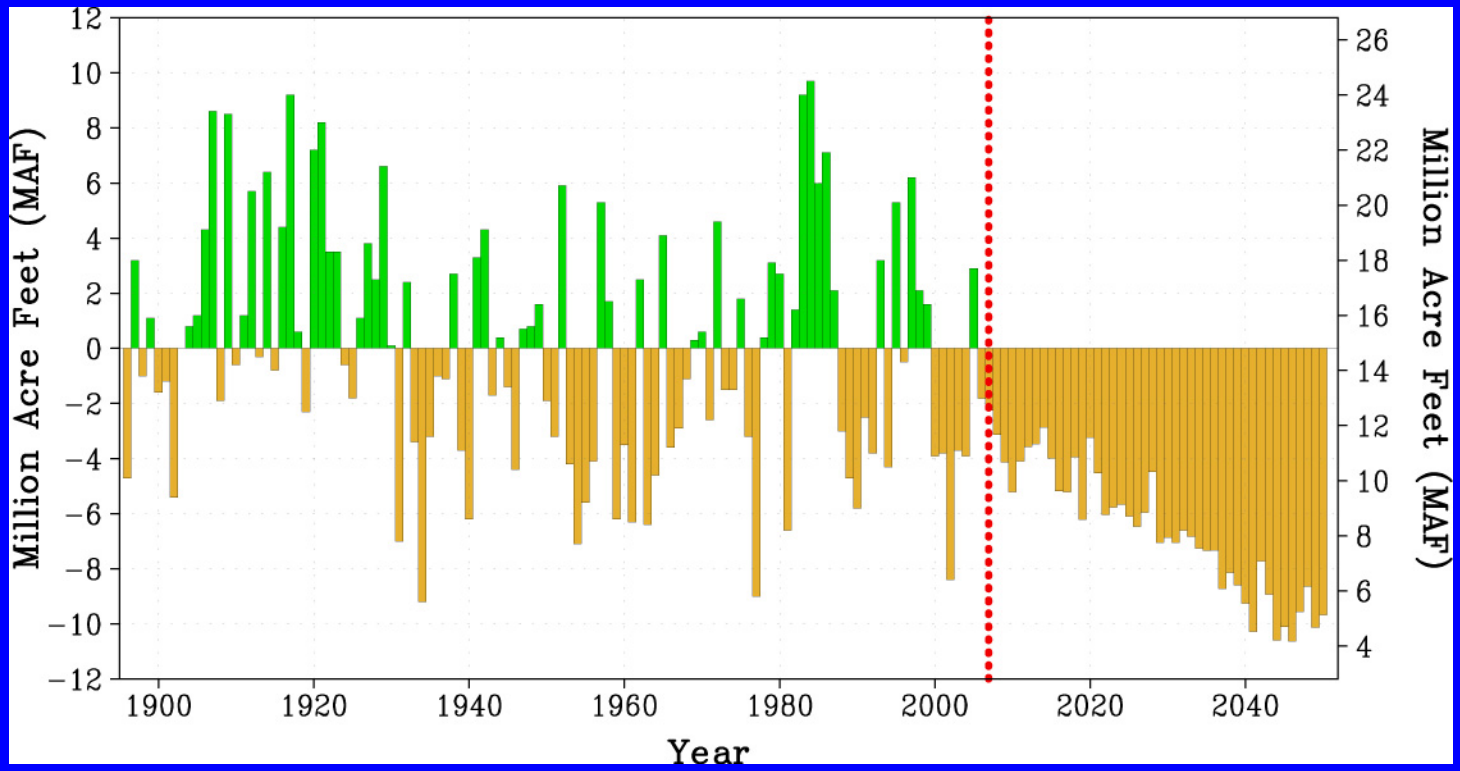
Projected Change in Palmer Drought Index 2035-2060



Source: Dr. Martin Hoerling, NOAA

One Colorado River Projection

Projected Streamflow Change at Lees Ferry



Source: Dr. Martin Hoerling, NOAA

Another Colorado River Projection

Percentage of Years With Colorado River Shortages

Averages of 11 Climate Models

Time Periods	Lower Emissions	Higher Emissions
2010-2039	21%	21%
2040-2069	31%	35%
2070-2099	38%	42%

Source: Christensen and Lettenmaier