

## TRANSCRIPT

### Noah Molotch Summarizes Snowpack Trends In Colorado

#### **What snowpack trends do you see in Colorado?**

In Colorado, the trends in snowpack are actually quite mixed. In some parts, we have seen an increase in snow-water equivalent, which is the measure we use to describe how much water is stored in the snowpack. Looking at that measure on April 1 each year, which tends to represent a time period that is close to the maximum amount of water, we have seen in many parts of the state a decrease in snow water equivalent over the last 50 years. In some parts of the state, we have actually seen an increase.

#### **How do you explain those local differences?**

We don't actually know why there is a decrease in some areas and an increase in others. In most cases it has to do with elevation. Higher elevation areas haven't seen the rate of warming that the lower elevation areas have seen. And also the higher elevation areas aren't near the zero degree Celsius or 32 degree Fahrenheit cutoff for having snowfall shift to rainfall or to have snowmelt come earlier of the year. So it really depends on a combination of the topography and also the weather systems.