

# Principal Effects of Projected Climate Change on southwestern New Mexico

- Temperature increases, now clearly observed, are likely to continue at an accelerated rate as greenhouse gas forcing slowly overwhelms other known climate forcings.
- Rises in temperature and sea level are, by far, the most robust climate change predictions we can make ... but the rate of changes to expect is (and will remain) uncertain.
- Warmer temperatures will lead to reduced snowpack, less spring runoff, lower streamflows, more evaporation from reservoirs, and drier soil conditions ... **the Gila may cease to be a snow-fed river.**
- The impacts of episodic droughts would be more severe in a warmer climate, regardless of long-term trends in precipitation ... we expect the climate to become more variable.

*Thanks to the Gila Conservation Coalition for inviting me here, and thanks for your interest!*

