



Dr. Ed Hall
Research Scientist II, NREL
Colorado State University
Fort Collins, CO 80523-1499
Tel: 970-491-2162
ed.hall@colostate.edu

This is the final report for the WCFY2015 Fellows Award titled “Uniting Water Related Research Expertise in Latin America at CSU ” awarded to Ed Hall (NREL) in July of 2014. The main purpose of this effort was to unite expertise in water related research being conducted in Latin America by researchers at CSU. CSU has a rich history of participating in cutting edge research and development projects on water related issues around the world including Latin America. In particular, CSU has an existing diverse expertise working with communities in Latin America to address a wide-range water related challenges. In addition to our research expertise there are five or more study abroad programs being offered in the region. At the time of this proposal there was little to no coordination among researchers or research projects and no public face that highlighted our diverse water related expertise and existing research and educational collaborations in Latin American. To begin to create a more synthetic environment of Latin American water related activities I proposed to organize a symposium on campus and build a web-interface where this expertise could be highlighted, each with the goal of fostering collaborative opportunities.

In March of this year (2015), in collaboration with Jorge Ramirez, I organized a session on water related topics in Latin America at Hydrology Days held in the Lory Student Center (March 23-25th, 2015). The session was well-attended and included a broad range of topics covering, climate, hydrology, ecology and social science related to water quality and quantity in 6 different countries across Latin America. Presenters included member of two colleges from 4 different departments at CSU and one presenter from outside CSU. Presentations in this year’s session were:

- Niche Shift and Potential Distribution of an Invasive Freshwater Diatom (*Didymosphenia geminata*) in Southern Chile. Sunil Kumar et al. NREL, CSU
- Colorado State University Chapter of Engineers Without Borders: Potable Water Supply and Distribution in La Criba, El Salvador. Christopher Bareither et al. CEE, CSU
- Spatial and Temporal Variability of Snow Cover in the Andes Mountains. F. Saavedra and S. Kampf GEO/ESS/NREL, CSU
- A Conceptual Framework and Preliminary Evidence on Evaluating Net Effects of Watershed Service Payments on Coupled Natural-Human Systems in Mexico. K. W. Jones et al. HDNR, CSU
- Evaluation of Alternative Weather Forcing for Hydrologic Modeling in Tropical Basins of Puerto Rico. D. Auerbach et al. Cornell University
- (I-WATER) Organic Carbon Storage in Steep Mountain Streams of Chile N.A. Sutfin et al. GEO, CSU

Jorge Ramirez (Hydrology Days Organizing Committee Chair), was supportive of the session and thought it would be good to include it in next years program. This activity has the potential to be an annual event that can provide a showcase for much of the research on water related issues in Latin America taking place at CSU.

In addition, to the Hydrology Days symposium with the technical support of Greg Newman (NREL) we created a web page with an interactive geo-spatial map to highlight the regions of Latin America where CSU has been involved with water related research and education programs. The draft web site is available for viewing:

(<http://ibis-live.nrel.colostate.edu/cwis438/websites/LAWR/Index.php?WebSiteID=24>)

We are waiting on participant's feedback to finalize content before making the site public. The goal is that this site will serve as a 'one-stop' shopping for students, faculty and potential funders or stakeholders that are interested in water related topics in Latin America. Our goal is to continue to support and maintain this site to foster collaboration among educational programs and researchers on campus. We envision the web page as a public face for the ongoing research in this area. This has the potential to benefit faculty participants, students involved in exchange program from CSU in Latin America, and from Latin America at CSU and the University as a whole.

In summary, funding for this initial fellowship provided salary support for PI Hall (1 mo.) and Greg Newman (0.5 mo.) and a small stipend to a graduate student to create content for the web site (Anna Pfohl MsC in WRS with Stephen Fassnacht). The activities from this initiative have been well-received by the CSU community and we hope to continue to provide a synergistic face to water related research in Latin America at CSU.