

Subject: : Conservation

Topic: : DE paper: extreme rain on rise?

Re: DE paper: extreme rain on rise?

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Date: : 2014/4/7 14:48:07

URL:

Quote:

Article is meaningless nonsense. I'll wait to see if anyone else can point out why.

They precede the statement by saying that temperature, snowfall, etc. has wild ups and downs. To anyone trained in statistics, that immediately tells you that there's a lot of noise, and due to the amount of noise, the sample size is too small to come up with reasonable control limits, i.e. any sort of an estimate of a "typical range".

They follow it up with extreme rainfall events. The same logic applies. Hence showing that it is too small of a sample to properly understand "typical" behavior.

Most of climate science is hampered by the same innate weakness. It's a noisy system, and signals are small, so the signal/noise ratio is just horrendous. To be statistically valid, that means you have to compare separate 20 or 30+ year time frames. In doing so, you can indeed identify statistically valid trends. But such trends are the cumulative result of sometimes a dozen or more KNOWN causes and an untold number of unknown ones, all acting in different directions but still dependent on one another.

To get anything real, you have to do a lot of averaging out, and then it loses significance to any one time or place. For instance, if you want to get meaningful data on temperature, one place is way too noisy unless you wanna use 100+ year time frames. So you average over the globe to reduce noise, allowing meaningful data in a mere decade. You then find that 53 places are warming and 47 are cooling. That is statistically real, not imagined, and carries scientific meaning. But what it means for your backyard is totally lost.