

As the lower atmosphere becomes warmer, rates of evaporation increase.

As air gets warmer, it can hold and store more water vapor. This can lead to more intense storms and flooding.

As air gets warmer, more precipitation falls as rain rather than snow. Less water is stored in a seasonal “snowpack.”

Changing patterns in snowmelt reduce the availability of fresh water during summer and fall months.

With less fresh water available in lakes, rivers and reservoirs, humans increasingly depend on groundwater in underground aquifers. These aquifers take much longer to replenish than surface water.

With less surface water and increased temperatures, the soil on the surface of the land dries out. This increases drought.

Freshwater resources along the coast face risks because as the ocean levels rise, saltwater moves into freshwater areas.