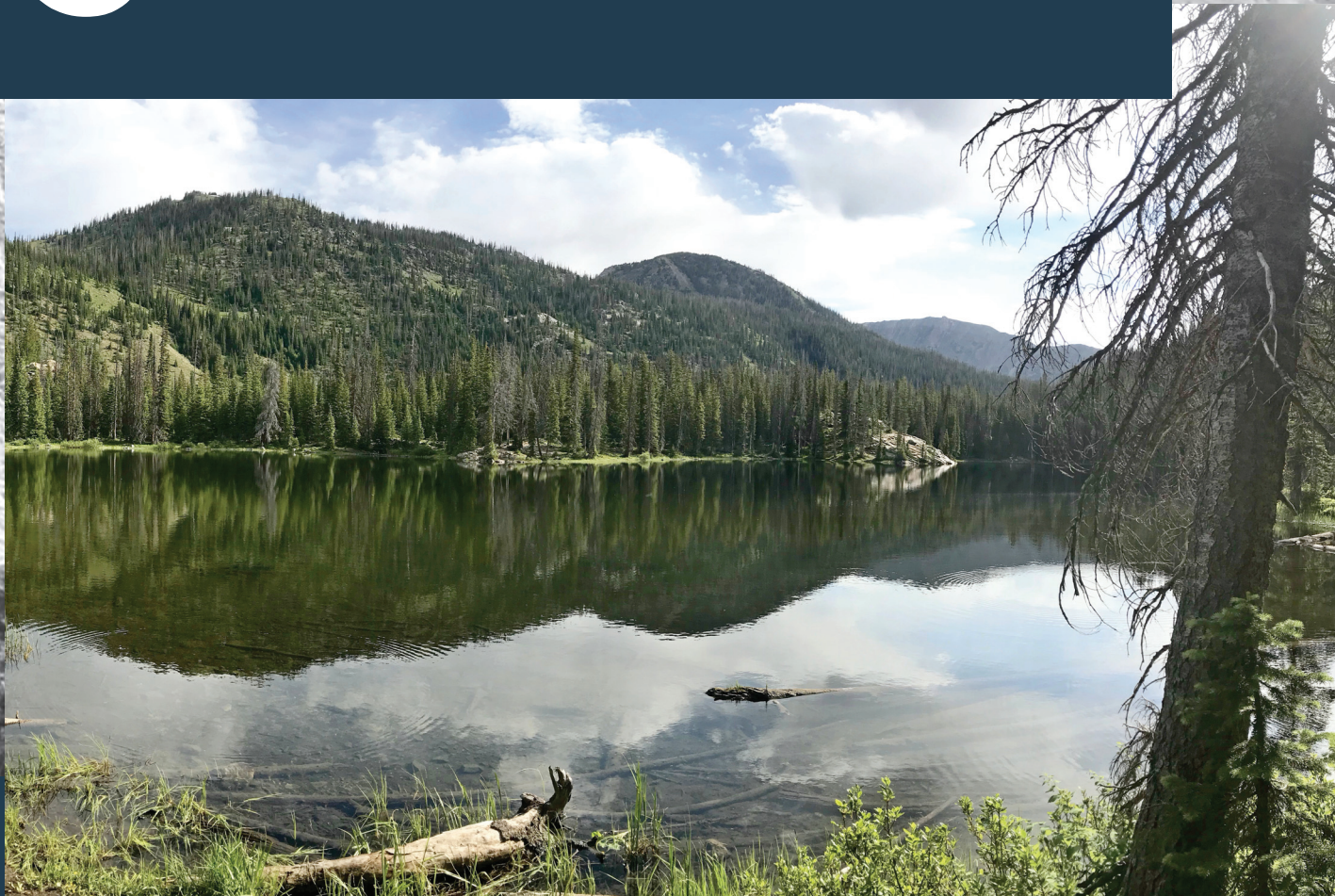


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Cover photo. Gold Creek Lake is located in the Mount Zirkel Wilderness north of Steamboat Springs, Colorado, USA. This and the five other study lakes in Parish et al. are located in a vital snow-accumulation region that the Western United States relies upon for year-round water availability. A fossil pollen-based winter precipitation reconstruction indicates that this region in northern Colorado experienced a large and persistent period of below-modern winter precipitation in the first millennium of the Common Era. Photo: Kristina Bartowitz (see the article by Parish et al., pages 1–13 this issue).