This dataset is an archive of the ClimHydroDB database, which was actively used from early 2001 to mid 2020. The database contained contributions from 62 contributors (primarily from the LTER Network and US Forest Service) and 672 research sites. Data records total approximately 16 million (raw) or 1.6 million (aggregated) for 22 meteorologic or hydrologic variables. This archive contains the 23 core tables of the ClimHydroDB database as text tables of comma separated values, plus the database entity relationship diagram (ERD), User Guide, database table descriptions (DDL, SQL script), and a zip file of related documents and presentations.

Database design: At last upgrade, the database was implemented in Microsoft SQL Server 2008 (see DDL for more information). Database tables are primarily in a key-value pair arrangement, with controlled input for many fields, and extensive cross referencing. This design allows many types of descriptors to be assigned, e.g., for the types of activities taking place at research stations, or for physical parameters to describe a research area itself. The EML metadata for tables holding controlled vocabularies are described using the string “List of …”. Cross reference tables are described in metadata as such, including the parent table names.

Database history: To facilitate intersite research within the LTER network, site data managers developed a system to provide climatic summaries dynamically, called ClimDB. Later funding from the U. S. Forest Service allowed the original database to be expanded to include hydrologic variables, and the combined database was renamed ClimHydroDB in 2003. The database also harvested real-time streamflow data from USGS gauging stations, using code developed by the Georgia Coastal Ecosystem LTER. As of 2021, the ClimHydroDB content is available as data packages from individual contributing sites, each containing identically formatted text tables in the ODM 1.1 format, for integration with CUAHSI tools (https://cuahsi.org). Contact info@environmentaldatainitiative.org for more details.