

Western Regional Climate Center
WRCC
THE COCORAHS 'STATE CLIMATES' SERIES

The Western Regional Climate Center

The Western Regional Climate Center (WRCC) was established at the Desert Research Institute (DRI) in 1986 and is one of six Regional Climate Centers in the country. DRI is the environmental research arm of the Nevada System of Higher Education. Eleven states comprise the RCC Western region: Alaska, Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington (and the Pacific Islands). Expansive federal forest, rangeland, national parks and other government lands account for a significant fraction of area within these states. The West is also unique in that much of the region has extensive mountainous terrain, creating complex land, atmosphere and ocean climate interactions. Water, wildfire, energy and agriculture provide a focus for many of the climate data products and activities within WRCC.

Current Activities

- Provide information to state and local government agencies, non-governmental organizations and businesses on climate, climate change and extremes (droughts, floods, heat waves, etc.).
- Provide climate data and information to state, local and federal government agencies, private individuals, businesses, legal, educational institutions and researchers. In the first half of 2010, we had over 30 million web hits and over 800,000 unique web visitors in addition to over 3000 direct contacts by phone or email.
- Provide up-to-date information on the current climate conditions on a region-wide and state-by-state basis. The state of the climate is a critical component to many decisions in the West.
- WRCC plays a critical role in climate observations, including providing near real-time climate data, determining climate observation locations, setting up climate observation stations, archiving and quality control of climate data.
- WRCC works closely with NOAA, the National Weather Service, the state climatologists, and other agencies and groups in providing climate services to our customers.

To find out more about the WRCC visit: <http://www.wrcc.dri.edu>