



# Colorado CoCoRaHS

Because Every Drop Counts!

July 2014  
Volume 2, Issue 7

## U.S. PRECIPITATION (% OF AVERAGE) – LOOKING BACK AT JUNE 2014

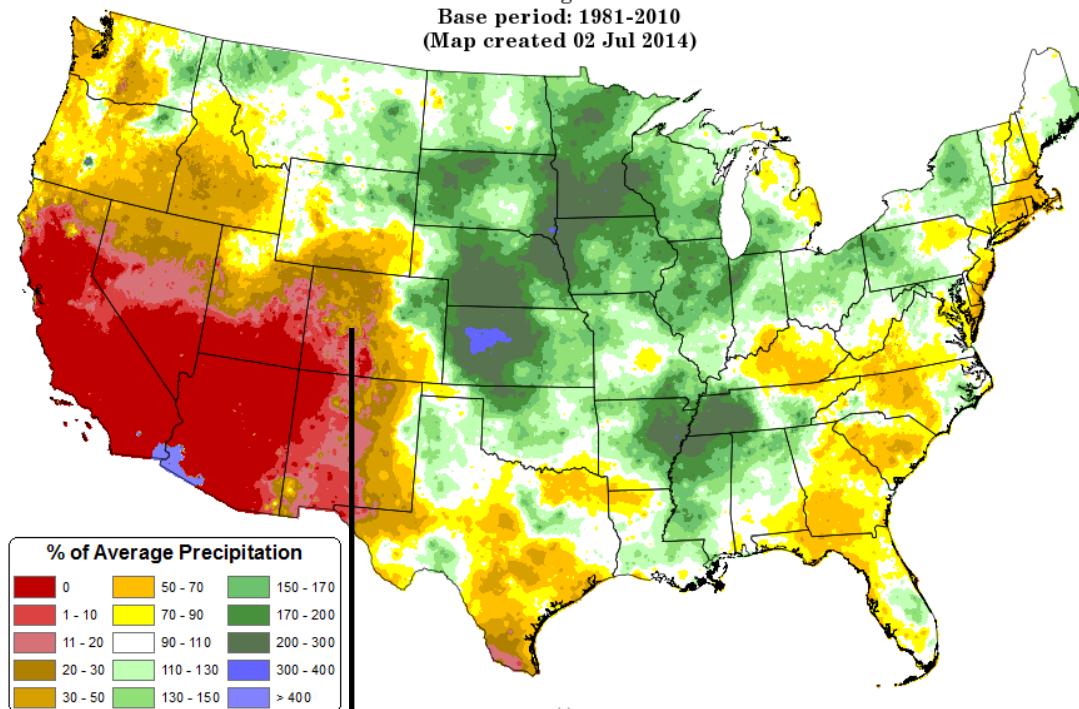
The month of June was very dry across much of the western United States, including most of Colorado. In fact, most every reporting station was at or below normal except in the northeast quarter of the state, where a series of strong and slow moving afternoon thunderstorms dropped copious amounts of rain and hail.

### Total Precipitation Anomaly: June 2014

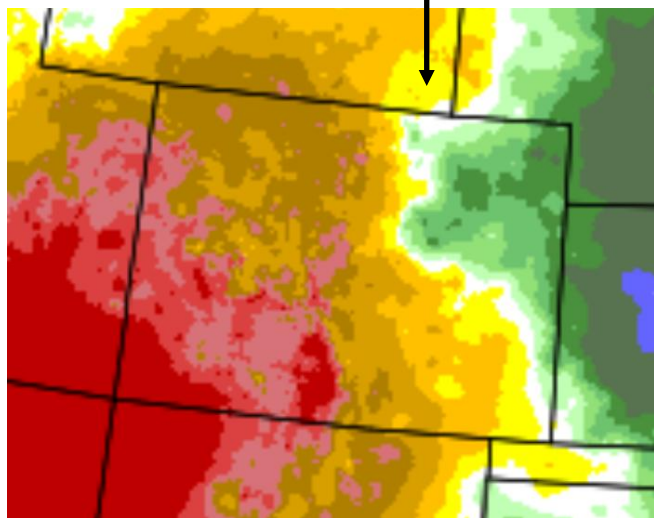
Period ending 30 Jun 2014

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 02 Jul 2014)



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	June Precip (in.)	Departure From Average
Alamosa	0.02	-0.47
Aspen	0.04	-1.09
Co. Springs	1.29	-1.21
Denver	1.82	-0.16
Durango	T	-0.64
Fort Collins	0.99	-1.18
Grand Junction	0.13	-0.33
Lamar	1.27	-1.08
Pueblo	0.86	-0.50



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## U.S. TEMPERATURES (ANOMALY) – LOOKING BACK AT JUNE 2014

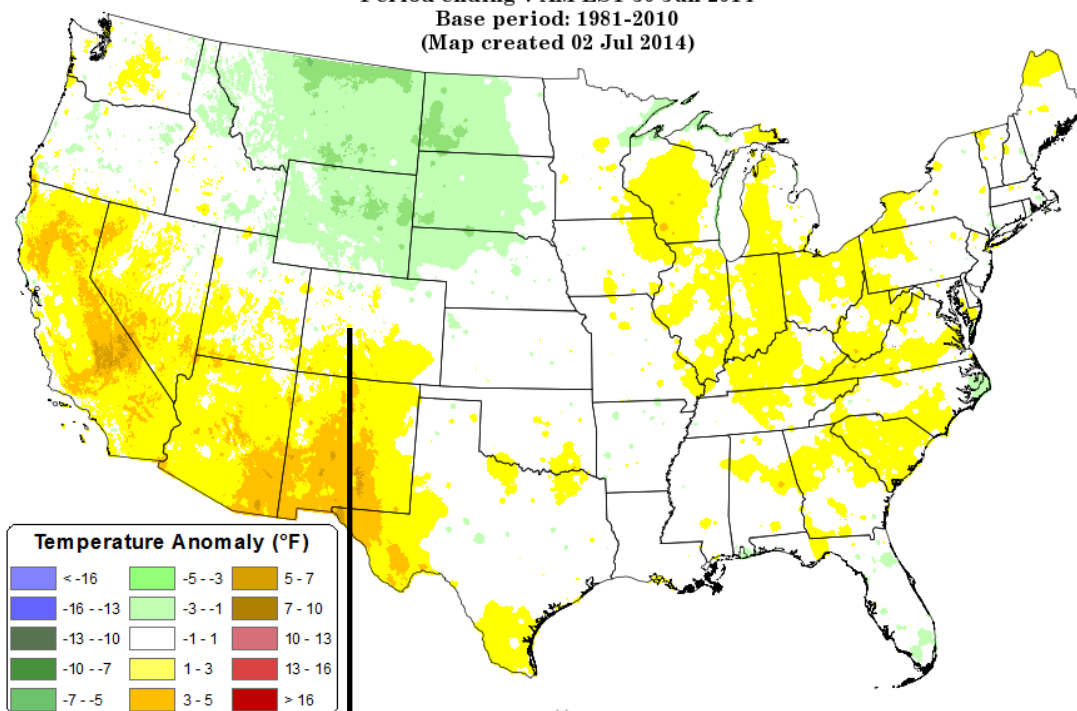
Colorado sat in between a pocket of cooler-than-normal weather to the north with warmer-than-normal temperatures to the south during June. While some locations ran as high as 3 to 4 degrees above the 30 year average, most were just about where they should have been for the sixth month of 2014.

### Daily Mean Temperature Anomaly: June 2014

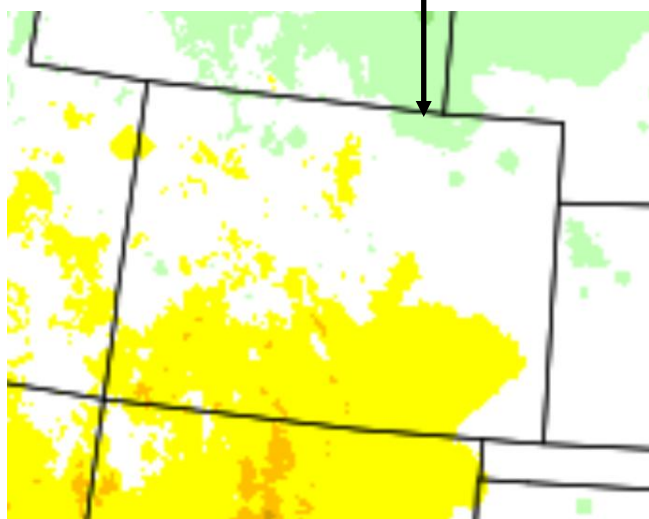
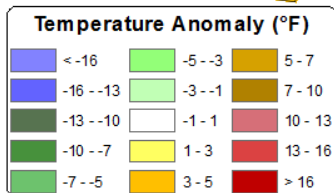
Period ending 7 AM EST 30 Jun 2014

Base period: 1981-2010

(Map created 02 Jul 2014)



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	June Mean Temp. (°F)	Anomaly
Alamosa	60.6	1.0
Aspen	58.0	0.5
Co. Springs	66.9	1.8
Denver	67.3	-0.1
Durango	62.4	0.3
Fort Collins	66.7	0.2
Grand Junction	70.7	-1.3
Lamar	74.8	3.2
Pueblo	72.7	2.7



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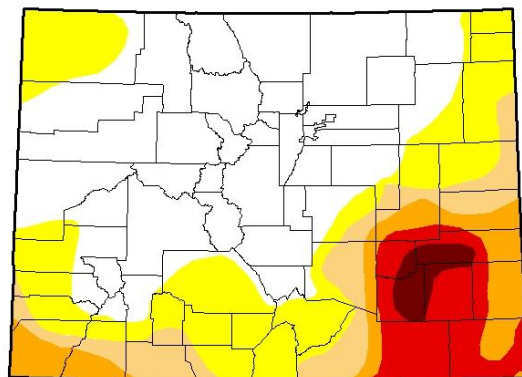
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## COLORADO DROUGHT UPDATE

We continue to see a trend toward gradual improvement across far northeast and southeast Colorado. Granted, there is still a long way to go in some areas, such as in the Arkansas River Valley of southeast Colorado. Drought conditions have worsened just a bit in the San Luis Valley of south-central Colorado.

### U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



**June 10, 2014**

(Released Thursday, Jun. 12, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	50.86	49.14	25.38	16.56	9.33	1.89
<b>Last Week</b> 6/5/2014	50.27	49.73	30.04	18.85	12.49	1.89
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 3/11/2014	38.90	61.10	21.36	13.54	4.23	1.47
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 12/01/2013	32.04	67.96	22.33	13.56	4.01	1.47
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 10/01/2013	24.91	75.09	37.88	12.01	4.01	1.47
<b>One Year Ago</b> 6/11/2013	0.00	100.00	93.18	72.19	26.51	15.91

#### Intensity

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

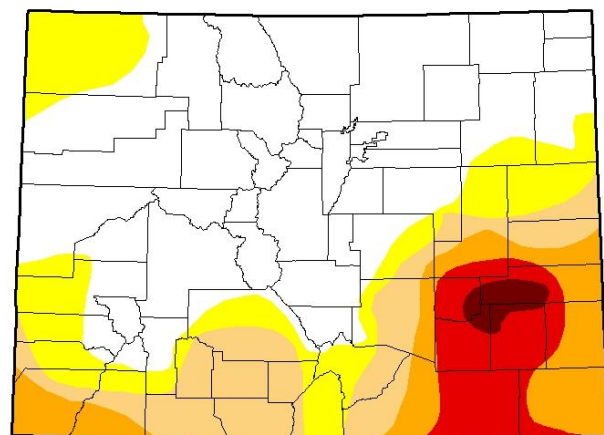
Author:

Matthew Rosencrans  
CPC/NCEP/NWS/NOAA



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

### U.S. Drought Monitor Colorado



**July 8, 2014**

(Released Thursday, Jul. 10, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

#### Intensity

D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought
D2 Severe Drought	

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

Anthony Artusa  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



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## JULY'S FEATURED COLORADO COUNTY – LA PLATA

La Plata County was named for the La Plata River and the La Plata Mountains. In Spanish, “La Plata” means silver. Durango is the county seat. It was founded on February 10, 1874. The county covers 1,700 square miles, has only 7.6 square miles of water, and is home to communities including Bayfield, Ignacio and Hesperus.

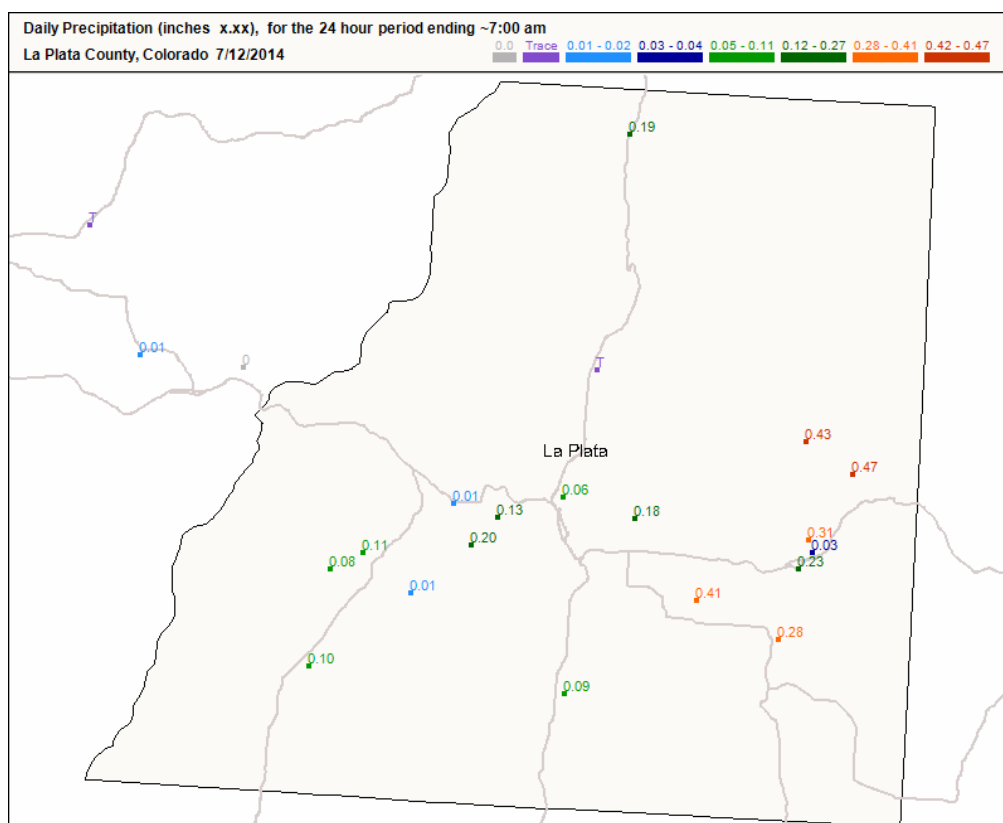
Much of the southern half of the county is tribal land, belonging to the Southern Ute Indian Tribe, headquartered near the town of Ignacio.

You can find the Durango Rock Shelters Archeology Site there, where Pueblo People (Anasazi) lived between AD 0 and AD 1000.

La Plata County has a good network of CoCoRaHS observers, nicely spaced, considering there are just over 51,334 residents. But there's always room to grow! In populated areas, we'd love to see one or more observers per square mile, and in rural locations, one or more per every 36 square miles.

This part of the state has been extremely dry in recent months, and in fact, continues to experience moderate to severe drought conditions.

If you know someone who lives in La Plata County, who would enjoy being a part of CoCoRaHS, encourage them to join!





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## JUNE FUN FACTS FROM AROUND COLORADO

\*As of 2 pm, 7/14/2014

- 1,197 stations filed at least one daily report
- 845 stations reported at least half of the month
- 373 stations filed a report every day
- Wettest station: CO-PH-28 (Holyoke 5.7 NW) with 8.51" of precipitation
- Driest station that reported all 30 days: There were 15 stations with no precipitation in the month of June that also filed a report every single day of the month.

<a href="#">CO-AU-15</a>	Pagosa Springs 6.2 W
<a href="#">CO-DR-3</a>	Dove Creek 12.4 SSW
<a href="#">CO-GF-40</a>	Glenwood Springs 1.7
<a href="#">CO-LP-22</a>	Durango .35 E
<a href="#">CO-LP-25</a>	Bayfield 0.6 WSW
<a href="#">CO-LP-26</a>	Hesperus 13.3 SSW
<a href="#">CO-LP-37</a>	Bayfield 1.0 NNW
<a href="#">CO-LP-60</a>	Durango 7.1 WSW
<a href="#">CO-LP-67</a>	Ignacio 2.9 N
<a href="#">CO-LP-74</a>	Hesperus 14.1 SSW
<a href="#">CO-LP-77</a>	Bayfield 5.6 NNE
<a href="#">CO-LP-78</a>	Hesperus 6.9 S
<a href="#">CO-MZ-30</a>	Dolores 4.8 ENE
<a href="#">CO-MT-15</a>	Montrose 2.9 ESE
<a href="#">CO-RG-20</a>	Monte Vista 7.0 SE

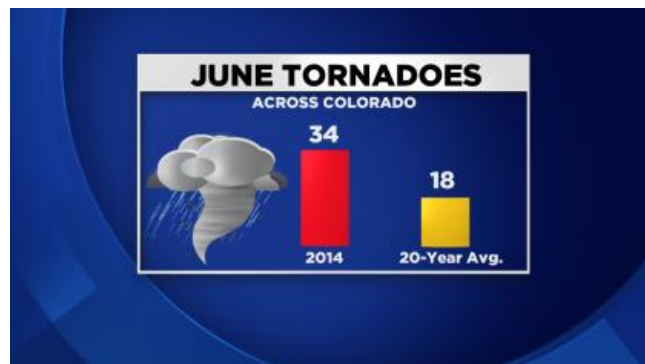
- 81 stations filed a multi-day accumulation report

- 6 stations reported snow greater than a Trace during June

<a href="#">CO-GN-18</a>	Crested Butte 6.2 N	2.5"
<a href="#">CO-PK-5</a>	Alma 3.1 N	2.0"
<a href="#">CO-LR-769</a>	Fort Collins 0.7 SSW	0.9"
<a href="#">CO-LK-28</a>	Leadville 0.5 NW	0.3"
<a href="#">CO-LK-1</a>	Leadville 1.4 WNW	0.2"
<a href="#">CO-ME-61</a>	Mesa 5.7 SSE	0.1"

## JUNE ACTIVE FOR TORNADES ACROSS COLORADO

June lived up to its reputation for being an active severe weather month across Colorado.



(Graphic Credit: CBS4)

According to the National Climatic Data Center, Colorado typically sees about 18 tornadoes during the month of June, with about 53 tornadoes annually. (Data between 1991-2010)

June 2014 produced an above-average number of tornadoes with 34 twisters reported on 10 different days of the month.

Tornadoes were reported in Adams, Arapahoe, Baca, Bent, Cheyenne, Douglas, Elbert, Las Animas, Lincoln,





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Morgan, Park, Sedgwick, Washington and Weld counties.

One of the more memorable tornado days was June 8th, when three rare, high-altitude tornadoes touched down during the late morning hours in Park County.



(Credit: CBS4)

On the same day, a tornado touched down during a golf tournament at the Blackstone Country Club, in southeast Aurora.

The twister injured a man when winds flipped his golf cart, pinning him to the ground.

On June 21st, a tornado swept through a farm in Hudson, destroying a barn as a man hid inside. He had quite a story to tell afterward, including, seeing the storm rip a tree out of the ground.

June was dominated by a very active weather pattern as a series of upper-level weather disturbances crossed Colorado.

Severe thunderstorms were reported in the Denver metro area on June 4th, 5th, 6th, 8th, 14th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, 24th, 25th and 26th. Thunder was observed at the official Denver weather station on 16 days during the month with hail reported on 3 days.

A peak wind gust of 55 miles per hour out of the southwest was measured at Denver International Airport on June 18th.



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## 3 HOTSPOTS FOR LIGHTNING IN COLORADO

Each year there are an estimated 25 million cloud-to-ground (CG) lightning strikes in the United States, with most strikes occurring in the southeast.

While Colorado is no stranger to lightning, we don't rank as high as one might think, coming in at 26 out of the 50 U.S. states.

The 30-year average for lightning fatalities in the United States is 52. Over the past 10 years, the average has been 35.

In 2013, there were 28 people killed by lightning in our country.

As a general rule, lightning victims are almost always outside when struck, 80 percent are male, 20 percent are under a tree and 20 percent are on or near water.

## COLORADO STATS

Over the past 20 years, on average, there have been 3 lightning deaths and 15 injuries each year in Colorado.

Lightning can strike anywhere in the state, but there seems to be three hot spots for strikes that result in fatalities or injuries.

The Colorado Springs metro area in El Paso County ranks No. 1. Since 1980, there have been 10 people killed and 64 injured in that region.

Jefferson County is close behind with eight fatalities and 36 injuries since 1980.

There have been seven fatalities and 53 injuries in Larimer County since 1980.

## LIGHTNING, A SILENT KILLER

Because lightning typically only affects one or two victims at a time, and does not leave behind vast destruction like a tornado, it usually receives less attention.

While lightning is associated with thunderstorms, one does not have to be directly underneath or in the path of a storm to be struck. In fact, lightning can strike more than 10 miles away from the area of rain inside a thunderstorm.

A good rule of thumb to follow is if you can hear thunder, you could be at risk.

Most lightning deaths and injuries occur during the afternoon and evening hours because that is when most people tend to be outside during stormy weather.

The National Weather Service says the chance that you will be struck by lightning is about one in 700,000 for each year of your life. However, your chance of being struck also depends on whether you consistently practice lightning safety rules.



*Lightning appears to strike a building in downtown Denver as a thunderstorm moves into the city. (Credit: Chris Spears)*

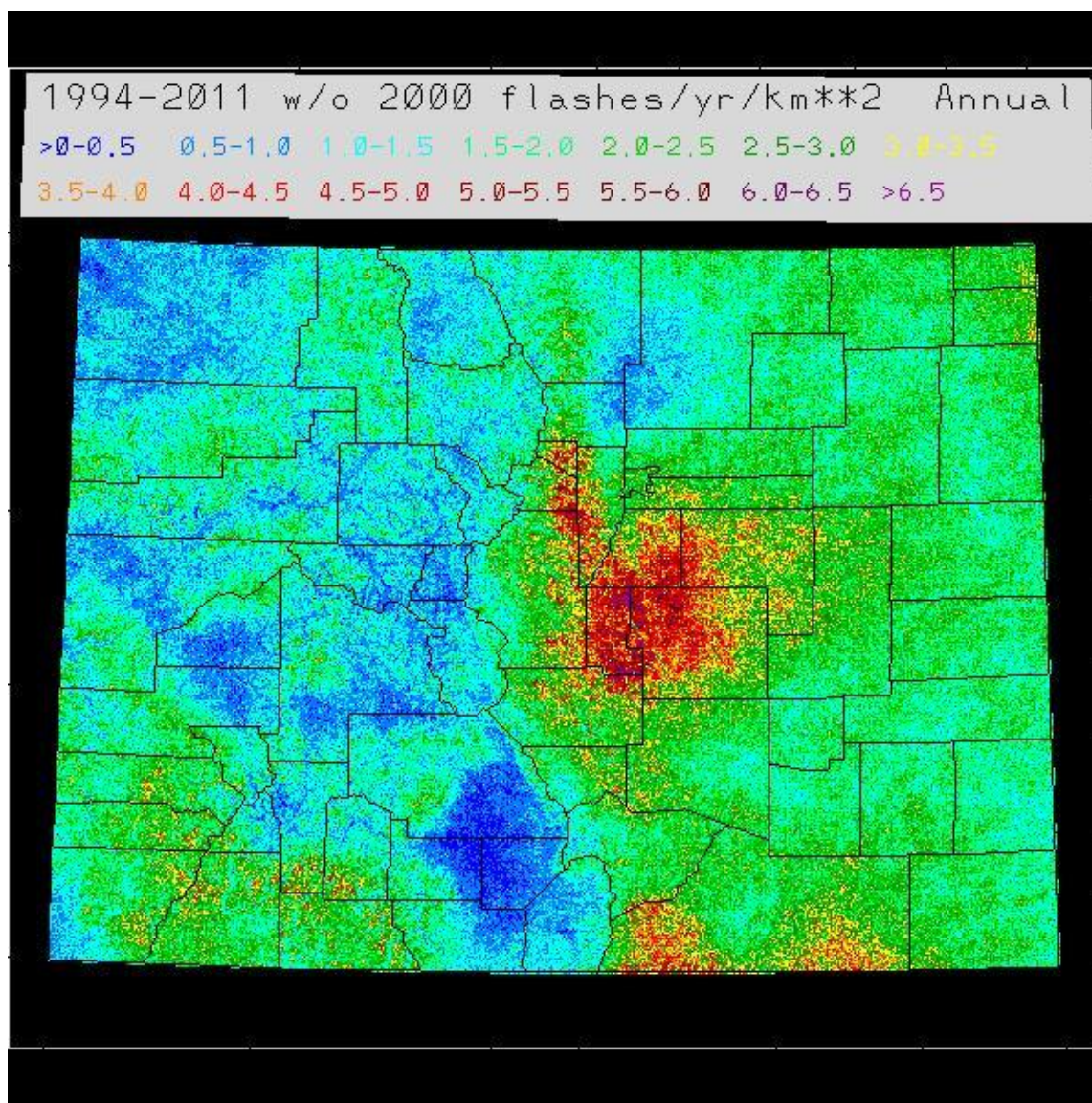




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The map above is a flash density of cloud-to-ground lightning strikes across Colorado between 1994-2011, without data from the year 2000. Areas in red typically record the highest number of strikes annually. The areas that stand out the most are the Palmer Divide, the Pikes Peak vicinity, the foothills west of Denver, the Raton Mesa and the higher peaks of the San Juan Mountains.

## HELPFUL LIGHTNING LINKS

CoCoRaHS Lightning Webinar: [http://youtu.be/Ek\\_PXi2j8Is](http://youtu.be/Ek_PXi2j8Is)

NOAA's Lightning Safety Page: <http://www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov/>

Lightning Strike and Electric Shock Survivors International, Inc: <http://www.lightning-strike.org/DesktopDefault.aspx>