U.S. PRECIPITATION (% OF AVERAGE) - MAY 2014

The month of May was drier-than-normal for much of the lower 48 states with pockets of above normal precipitation in the south, along the east coast, in the Great Lakes, the Pacific Northwest and the central Rockies, including parts of Colorado. One of the biggest precipitation producers last month was the Mother's Day snowstorm, especially for Denver and the mountains.





	May Precip	Departure From Average
Alamosa	0.23	-0.35
Aspen	0.83	-0.71
Co. Springs	2.56	0.53
Denver	3.51	1.39
Durango	0.68	-0.12
Fort Collins	4.76	2.33
Grand Junction	1.49	0.61
Lamar	1.92	-0.10
Pueblo	0.65	-0.86



U.S. TEMPERATURES (ANOMALY) - MAY 2014

May delivered near average temperatures to Colorado with just a few pockets that were a degree or two on either side of the daily mean. Much of the western and eastern United States were warmer than normal, with cooler than normal conditions across a big chunk of the middle of the country.





	May Daily Mean Temp.	Anomaly
Alamosa	50.6°	-0.6
Aspen	48.8°	0.4
Co. Springs	56.8°	0.9
Denver	57.5°	0.4
Durango	52.3°	-0.7
Fort Collins	57.7°	-0.1
Grand Junction	60.2°	-1.4
Lamar	62.9°	0.7
Pueblo	61.4°	0.9



COLORADO DROUGHT UPDATE

The latest U.S. Drought Monitor map of Colorado has a bit of encouraging news. For the first time in recent memory, there is visible improvement in drought conditions across parts of hard hit southeast Colorado. While there is still a long way to go, it brings hope, especially to those who live in that part of our state.





MONTHLY ZERO REPORT

We're all busy people, especially now that the days are long and there are so many projects to be completed!

If you haven't used the "Monthly Zeros" feature, check it out. It's an easy way to file all of your zero reports with just a few clicks of the mouse, and to see if you might have missed a daily precipitation report somewhere along the way.



Here's how it works! A calendar showing your station's data will pop up like the one above, helping you to quickly be able to tell what days were missed. If they were all zeros, you can file all of the reports at once by checking the boxes that should have been a 0.00" and then hitting submit! **NOTE OF CAUTION:** Using the monthly zeros feature can open the door for unintentional mistakes. Remember, your daily report is offset a day because you're reporting for the 24-hour period ending at your observation time. So in the example above, if a nice afternoon rain fell on Saturday the 13th, which appears to be missing, it was actually reported on Sunday, the 14th, when the observation period ended.



SIGNIFICANT WEATHER REPORTS

If you're at your CoCoRaHS station when severe weather strikes, did you know that you have the ability to tell the National Weather Service what is happening in real-time? Often, this information can help with the issuance of advisories and warnings.

It's called the "Significant Weather" report, and it can be found in the "Enter My New Reports" section of the CoCoRaHS website. It allows you to give a snapshot of what is happening or has just happened, such as hail, intense rain or snow.

The report <u>does not</u> take the place of your daily report. So for instance, if 0.88" of rain falls in 20 minutes, and you file a "Significant Weather" report at 4 pm to tell the National Weather Service, you will still file your daily report of 0.88" (or more if additional rain falls) the next morning at your observation time.

Ratts COM	1MUNITY COLLABORATIVE RAIN, HAIL & SNOW NETWORK "Because every drop counts"
COCO	Home States View Data Maps My Data My Account Admin Logout
	My Data Entry : Significant Weather Report Form
Enter My New Reports	 Notification: Use this form to report heavy rain or snow that has just fallen, or is still falling.
Daily Precipitation Multi-Day Accumulation	Cignificant Weather Deport
• <u>Hail</u>	Station Number : CO-AR-179
Significant Weather Monthly Zeros	Station Name : Arapahoe Park 1.4 WSW
Drought Impact Report Evapotranspiration	* Denotes Required Field
	6/16/2014 + *Observation Date
FROST Reports Frost	PM ✓ *Observation Time
Optics Snowflake	Minutes V Time duration that the report covers
• <u>Thunder</u>	
List/Edit My Reports	P Rain
Daily Precipitation	New Rain and Melted Snow that has fallen during the in. report duration, in inches to the nearest hundredth
<u>Multi-Day Accumulation</u> <u>Hail</u>	Total Precipitation, rain and melted snow, since storm began, in inches to the nearest hundredth
<u>Drought Impact Report</u> Evapotranspiration	Snow
FROST Reports • Optics	Depth of New Snow that has fallen during the report in duration, in inches to the nearest tenth
Frost Snowflake Thunder	Total depth of snow and ice on ground at the time of in. this observation to nearest half inch
• <u>Inunder</u>	Additional Information
	● Yes ONo Report was taken at registered location?
	Was There Flooding?
	○ No
	If Yes, how severe?
	O Minor (typical). Street or field flooding.
	O Unusual street or field flooding (only see this every few years)

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JUNE'S FEATURED COLORADO COUNTY

For the past year, we've featured a CoCoRaHS observer in each newsletter. And while we will return to that at some point, I thought it'd be nice to change the feature up for something new. So for the next few newsletters, we'll be featuring some Colorado counties, to show their CoCoRaHS network. This month, we start with Prowers County in southeast Colorado.

The county was named after John W. Prowers, a leading pioneer of the region. It covers 1,644 square miles, and has only 5.9 square miles of water. The county is home to communities including Lamar, Holly, Granada, Wiley, Bristol and Hartman.

Prowers County has a good network of CoCoRaHS observers, nicely spaced, considering there are just over 12,000 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.

Multiple gauges are always an option! We have one volunteer in southern Prowers County who reads 4 different gauges on his farm/ranch to help fill the network in a very remote part of the county. Having a gauge at home and another at work is always an option.

This part of the state continues to suffer from serious drought, and the daily reports are invaluable in drought analysis. If you know a resident of Prowers County who would enjoy being a part of CoCoRaHS, encourage them to join!





MAY FUN FACTS FROM AROUND COLORADO

*As of 11 am, 6/16/2014

- 1,249 stations filed at least one daily report
- 852 stations reported at least half of the month
- 356 stations filed a report every day
- Wettest station: CO-WE-93 (Briggsdale 11 S) with 8.56" of precipitation and 1" of snow
- Driest station that reported all 31 days: CO-EP-29 (Yoder 4.2 SE) and CO-PU-15 (Pueblo 4.3 N) both had 0.27" of precipitation and no snow
- 72 stations filed a multi-day accumulation report
- 650 stations reported snow greater than a Trace) with the most being 39" at station CO-GN-18 (Crested Butte 6.2 N)

May 2014				
Colorado CoCoRaHS				
Top 10 Snow Totals				
<u>CO-GN-18</u>	Crested Butte 6.2 N	39		
<u>CO-CC-7</u>	Idaho Springs 4.7 SSE	37.1		
CO-GR-3	Kremmling 10.9 NW	32.7		
<u>CO-JF-331</u>	Golden 12.5 NW	31.6		
<u>CO-GR-29</u>	Kremmling 7.8 WNW	30.5		
<u>CO-BO-373</u>	Allenspark 2.2 ESE	28.1		
<u>CO-JK-23</u>	Walden 16.3 WSW	27.2		
<u>CO-LR-250</u>	Livermore 10.5 WSW	25.5		
<u>CO-LR-329</u>	Red Feather 5.9 NE	25.5		
<u>CO-LR-897</u>	Livermore 9.9 WSW	25.5		

The 2013-2014 snow season will come to a close this month. It was quite snowy for many locations!

Here are the top 10 CoCoRaHS snow totals for the season thus far.

Sept. 2013 - May 2014				
Colorado CoCoRaHS				
Top 10 Snow Totals				
<u>CO-GN-18</u>	Crested Butte 6.2 N	461.5		
<u>CO-JK-23</u>	Walden 16.3 WSW	324.8		
<u>CO-SU-6</u>	Silverthorne 2.1 WSW	298.2		
<u>CO-SU-40</u>	Breckenridge 3.3 SE	259.2		
<u>CO-RT-43</u>	Steamboat Springs 1.9 E	258.5		
<u>CO-GR-3</u>	Kremmling 10.9 NW	256.3		
<u>CO-SU-39</u>	Breckenridge 0.9 NNE	237.3		
<u>CO-GF-56</u>	Glenwood Springs 7.8 ESE	217.1		
<u>CO-RT-25</u>	Steamboat Springs 1 SE	213.4		
<u>CO-RT-44</u>	Oak Creek 1.7 WNW	205.2		

We're in the home stretch of the annual snowmelt. Many rivers and streams are still running high and fast, but the fears of flooding due to the snowmelt have lowered.

MONSOON SEASON AHEAD

It's just about time for the North American Monsoon to kick in, a seasonal shift in the wind pattern that brings plumes of tropical moisture into Colorado.

As we get deeper in July, that will translate into slow moving afternoon thunderstorms that produce plenty of wind, lightning and locally heavy rain.

Sometimes thunderstorms can produce large hail and tornadoes, but flash flooding becomes one of our primary concerns as we move into the summer.