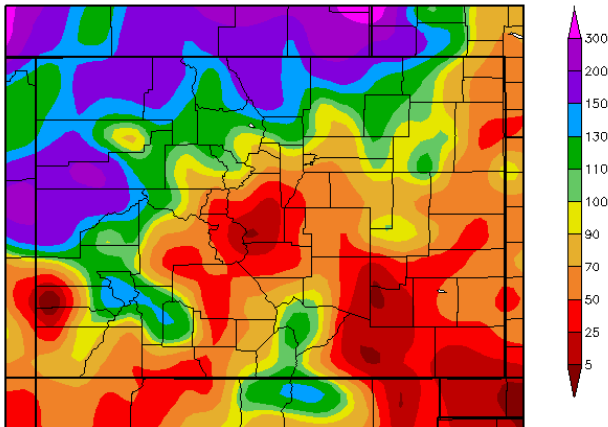




OCTOBER PRECIPITATION

What a difference a month can make in terms of precipitation! The September map was full of blues and purples with just about the entire state at or above normal. Its almost a complete flip flop for October, with the exception of northwest and extreme northern counties, and a few small pockets in the southern mountains!

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2013 - 10/31/2013



Generated 11/11/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

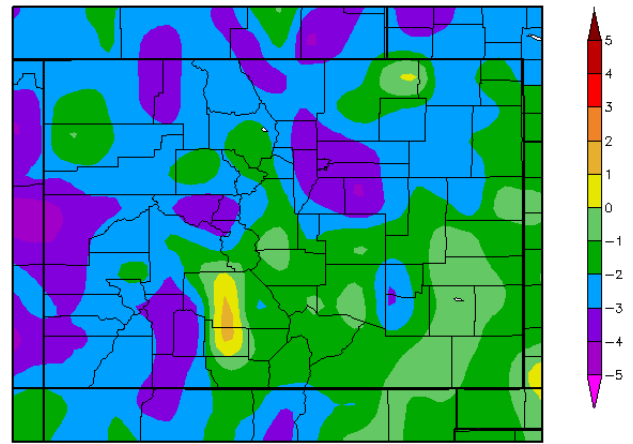
It remains very dry in the Arkansas River valley east of Pueblo where the worst drought conditions in the state continue.

OCTOBER FAIRLY COOL ACROSS COLORADO

While many of the past months have been warmer-than-normal, October brought some relief to the electric bill with average to slightly below average temperatures. Western Colorado was the coolest on average with temperatures running as much

as 5 degrees below normal. It was also cooler along the I-25 urban corridor between Colorado Springs and Fort Collins. There was a small pocket of slightly above normal temperatures in the San Luis Valley.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/1/2013 - 10/31/2013



Generated 11/11/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

A CoCoRaHS Haiku

*People measuring
Falling precipitation
Across the nation*

How creative are you feeling? Email your CoCoRaHS Haiku to Chris Spears and it just might appear in the December newsletter!
Chris.Spears@colostate.edu



OCTOBER FUN FACTS FROM AROUND COLORADO

*As of 5pm, 11/17/2013

- 1,283 stations filed at least one daily report
- 900 stations reported at least half of the month
- 394 stations filed a report every day
- Wettest station: CO-RT-43 (Steamboat Springs 1.9 E) with 4.61" of precipitation
- Driest station that reported all 31 days: CO-BA-16 (Campo 11.3 ESE) with 0.08" of precipitation
- 61 stations filed a multi-day accumulation report
- 791 stations reported measurable snow (greater than a Trace) during October with the most being 35" at station CO-GN-18 (Crested Butte 6.2 N). This station was also the snowiest in Colorado for the month of September.

Colorado Weather Trivia

Question: *What is the greatest snowfall on record for one season in Colorado?*

Answer: Wolf Creek Pass measured 837.5" of snow during the winter of 1978-1979.

October 2013 Snow		
Top 10		
CoCoRaHS stations in Colorado		
Station	Name	Snow
CO-GN-18	Crested Butte 6.2 N	35
CO-GF-56	Glenwood Springs 7.8 ESE	31.6
CO-SU-6	Silverthorne 2.1 WSW	30.5
CO-RT-43	Steamboat Springs 1.9 E	27.8
CO-RT-26	Yampa 5.1 S	21.4
CO-GR-3	Kremmling 10.9 NW	21.1
CO-EG-21	Vail 0.9 WNW	21
CO-RT-25	Steamboat Springs 1 SE	21
CO-RT-16	Steamboat Springs 1.1 E	20.8
CO-SU-39	Breckenridge 0.9 NNE	20.6

OCTOBER HAIL REPORTS

There were 24 hail reports filed across Colorado during the month of October. You may not think of hail during the tenth month of the year in our state but it does happen.

The earliest hail report was on October 3rd around 8:30 p.m. in the Estes Park area. Two observers, one southwest and one southeast of town, both measured 1/4" to 3/8" sized hail.

There were multiple reports of hail on the 10th from several areas of the state including Yuma and Phillips counties in northeast Colorado, the foothills of Larimer County, and in the higher terrain of south-central Colorado near Hesperus and Crestone.

Several reports of small hail came out of the Denver metro area on the 14th. This was a particularly interesting event because it happened during the tail end of the morning rush hour as some energy from a passing storm system found just enough dynamics to produce a rapid change in the weather.



The latest hail report for the month came on the 30th northwest of Montrose.

The largest hail reported by a CoCoRaHS observer during October in Colorado was a half-inch by CO-PH-27 (Holyoke 0.16 SSW) on the 10th and CO-ME-94 (Whitewater 4.2 SSE) on the 13th. The report near Whitewater was particularly interesting because it happened at 11:15 p.m. and did cause some leaves to fall off trees.

Two things can be gleaned from this quick hail summary: Colorado can and does see October hail at any time of the day and month, but it's usually small and doesn't pose a huge hazard to life and property.

SIGNIFICANT WEATHER REPORTS

There were 8 significant weather reports filed during October by CoCoRaHS observers around Colorado, mostly pertaining to snow in the higher elevations.

OBSERVER SPOTLIGHT

Meet Patricia Potter, this month's featured CoCoRaHS observer. She maintains station CO-GR-5 in Grand County, just outside of Tabernash. She sent her first precipitation report to CoCoRaHS back on February 17, 2003.

Why did you join CoCoRaHS? We moved to Evergreen back in 1978. From when we arrived until 2003 we used the same wooden yardstick to measure snow. In the fall of 2001 came another move, to our cabin in the woods between Fraser and Tabernash, on one of several creeks in Grand County named Trail Creek.

In the winter of 2001-2002 came a severe drought and we only measured 76" of snow; a new low for the area. In late 2002 or 2003 we saw an article in the local paper about CoCoRaHS and knew we had to join.

What have you learned from measuring precipitation? We've learned how important it is to find a clear, representative area to measure from, especially since there are so many tall trees at our location. With the amount of snow we receive, it's also important to find an area that is easy to get to!

Has being a CoCoRaHS observer made you more aware of climate? Yes, we had already been measuring snow for many years, but adding the gauge and tracking the liquid part of the precipitation measurement has made it more interesting and been very educational.



Patricia Potter with her CoCoRaHS gauge and two special helpers at station CO-GR-5.



Colorado CoCoRaHS

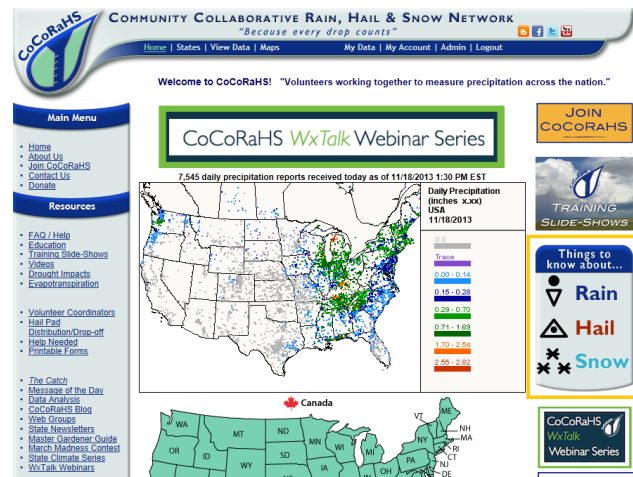
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Patricia is a huge fan of snow, and a pro at making snow observations! In fact, we might just have to talk her into teaching snow measuring classes. Check out her yearly snow totals since 2001!

2001-2002	76"
2002-2003	244"
2003-2004	124"
2004-2005	171"
2005-2006	172"
2006-2007	181"
2007-2008	216"
2008-2009	173"
2009-2010	131"
2010-2011	167"
2011-2012	105"
2012-2013	126.5"
2013-2014	???

ADDITIONAL TRAINING RESOURCE OR REFRESHER

If you need a quick refresher on measuring winter precipitation, or find yourself with a unique situation and can't recall what to do, be sure to check out the online training and help guides.



CoCoRaHS Blog

If you enjoy a good read with your morning coffee, check out the CoCoRaHS blog. It's full of interesting weather tid bits and covers a wide range of topics from past, current and sometimes even future weather events.



October sunrise at CoCoRaHS station CO-AR-179. Morning clouds often make for a beautiful Colorado sunrise, making our state live up to its nickname of Colorful Colorado! Photo by Chris Spears.