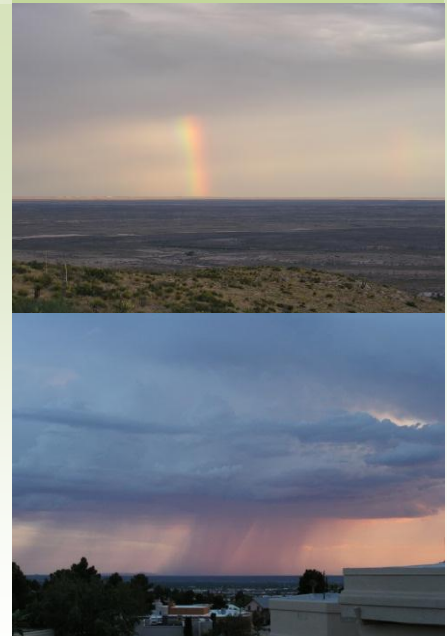


New Mexico CoCoRaHS News



A Message from Dr. Dave DuBois, CoCoRaHS NM Coordinator and State Climatologist

As the NM CoCoRaHS state coordinator, I am pleased to bring you our first New Mexico newsletter. Former New Mexico CoCoRaHS state coordinator Leeann DeMouche handed her position to me last year. Leeann was at this post at the beginning and has been the champion to get CoCoRaHS started in NM.

Let me introduce myself. I was born in New Mexico but raised in the heart of southern New Jersey in a farming community. As a child I spent summers in Albuquerque, on the Navajo reservation and travelling NM. I earned an undergraduate degree in Physics from Rutgers and a M.S. in Physics from NMSU. I studied the effects of laser radiation on tiny aerosol particles. I continued my education at the University of Nevada, Reno, completing my Ph.D. in Atmospheric Science. I studied more about atmospheric aerosols at the Desert Research Institute, and I worked in Santa Fe at the New Mexico Environment Department, Air Quality Bureau. I was lured back to the Desert Research Institute for seven years as a research scientist in the areas of visibility, air quality, and climate assessments.

I started as the NM State Climatologist in February 2010. I'm continuing my research into the connection between climate and air quality. I'm also working with the NM Departments of Health and Environment to evaluate the air quality networks and establish a baseline level of air quality in southwestern NM, west Texas and northwestern Chihuahua. I also want to push the NM Climate Center forward to serve the citizens of NM with climate information.

The CoCoRaHS program would cease to exist without your observations. I enjoy reading the comments and looking at the maps and data every day. I also want to thank our National Weather Service regional coordinators and county coordinators for their help and recruitment. Of course I am eager to assist you or answer any question you may have as part of the CoCoRaHS team.

Contents

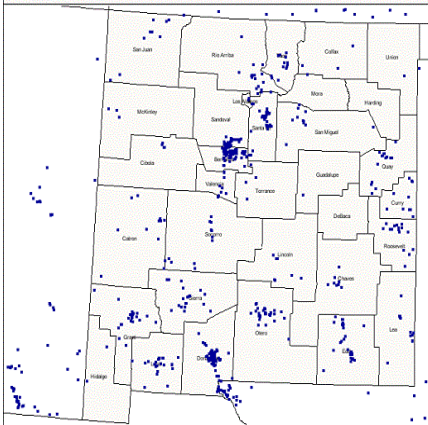
Special Interest Articles

New Members Needed	2
Coordinator Spotlight	2
Monsoon Forecast	3
Drought Monitoring	4

Individual Highlights

Interesting Facts	2
Observer Comments	3
Precipitation map	4



Active Stations
New Mexico

New Observers Needed

More than 300 CoCoRaHS stations in New Mexico reported information last month. We appreciate the fact that we have so many dedicated observers, but we could always use more.

The information provided by observers is valuable. A variety of organizations use the information gathered by CoCoRaHS volunteers, including the National Weather Service, other meteorologists and hydrologists, city managers, the

USDA, farmers and ranchers, and outdoor enthusiasts.

Volunteering for CoCoRaHS can be rewarding on a personal level. You get to make a contribution to your community and learn more weather in your area.

Please talk to friends, family members, coworkers, and neighbors about volunteering to report the weather, especially if you live a county with a small population and few CoCoRaHS stations.

Send new volunteers to cocorahs.org to sign up or have them contact Dr. Dave DuBois at cocorahs@nmsu.edu

Interesting Facts

316 Number of CoCoRaHS

observer stations that made reports in June 2012.

1.85 in The greatest amount of total precipitation for the month of June reported by a CoCoRaHS station in New Mexico. It was reported by the station in Milnesand in Roosevelt County.

Do you have any pictures of interesting weather in New Mexico? Please send any pictures to us at cocorahs@nmsu.edu. We are working to put them on the climate center's website.

Coordinator Spotlight: Alberta Morgan

We want to put a spotlight on the good work being done by New Mexico's CoCoRaHS coordinators and volunteers. The first spotlight is on Alberta Morgan, coordinator for four counties in Southwest New Mexico.

Alberta Morgan may be a name you're familiar with as a weather watcher in New Mexico. As the CoCoRaHS coordinator for four counties in Southwest New Mexico, she recruits new members and helps them get set up with gauges and trainings. She also schedules Weather Spotter classes with the National Weather Service.

She became involved in CoCoRaHS in 2005 through the Master Gardner program. She says that the first thing a gardener does is look up so it was a natural fit for her to start observing for CoCoRaHS. She became a coordinator as more volunteers entered the program.

There are many volunteers who have been faithfully recording precipitation numbers for the seven years Alberta has been involved with CoCoRaHS. However, there is "always a demand for more volunteers as many sign up, get a gauge, then never report." This can get very discouraging, but there are always ways to find new volunteers.

Alberta has found success with recruitment in senior citizen homes, in some school districts, and through posters and "community briefs" columns in the local newspaper. Fraternal organizations and gardening clubs might be good places to recruit as well. Master Gardeners and Weather Spotters might be especially willing to become CoCoRaHS volunteers since they're already watching the weather. By the same token, CoCoRaHS observers might want to become Weather Spotters.

Thanks to Alberta's dedicated work, New Mexico CoCoRaHS is going strong.

Know a coordinator or volunteer who should be highlighted? Send suggestions to cocorahs@nmsu.edu.



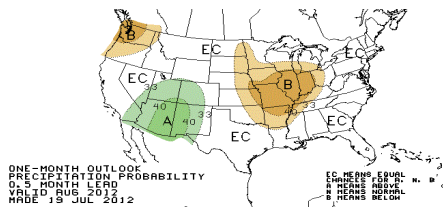
Monsoon Forecast: Is Relief on the Way?

Monsoon season—which lasts from June 15 to September 30—is an exciting time for CoCoRaHS observers in New Mexico. Many of us go months without recording any precipitation. When the summer months come around we finally have something to record besides a 0.

In July reports of precipitation have come in from all over the state, from Chama to Las Cruces and from Datil to Clovis. But how much precipitation can we expect for the rest of the year this year?

Forecasts indicate an above average chance of precipitation through August in the majority of New Mexico. Chances should remain above average throughout the remaining summer months.

So it looks like your rain gauge might be seeing some significant precipitation in the remaining months of the summer.



In Need of More Training?

Do you need more training? Are you interested in meeting other observers in your area? Please let Dr. DuBois know. He wants to set up a few meetings this year in various areas of the state and wants to gauge the level of interest. Contact him at 575-646-2974 or cocorahs@nmsu.edu to let him know you're interested and what area of the state you're in.

Comment Spotlight

Did you know that when you enter your daily precipitation report you can also enter comments? Here are a few interesting comments submitted recently by CoCoRaHS users.

First rain of the season! Rumbling thunder, lightning flashing, dogs cowering on the bed. Beautiful!
--Comment from the Corrales 0.8 ESE station on 7/3/2012

We wait..and wait...maybe this week we will get some much needed precip—even a little would be nice...it will take more than a little, but have to start somewhere.
--comment from Albuquerque 3.1 WSW on 7/2.2012

First measurable precipitation in 48 days!! --Comment from Los Alamos 6.1 SE on 7/2/2012

No measurable precipitation at NM-SN-70 since 10 April. Anyone out there got a bucket of water they can spare? --Comment from Rio Rancho 2.2 SSE on 7/1/2012

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575-646-2974
 Fax: 575-646-6041
cocorahs@nmsu.edu

All photos of New Mexico weather by Dr. Dave DuBois.

Find us on the Web:
cocorahs.org

Read the CoCoRaHS blog:
<http://cocorahs.blogspot.com/>

The New Mexico Climate Center's website is
<http://weather.nmsu.edu>. Go here for more climate data.

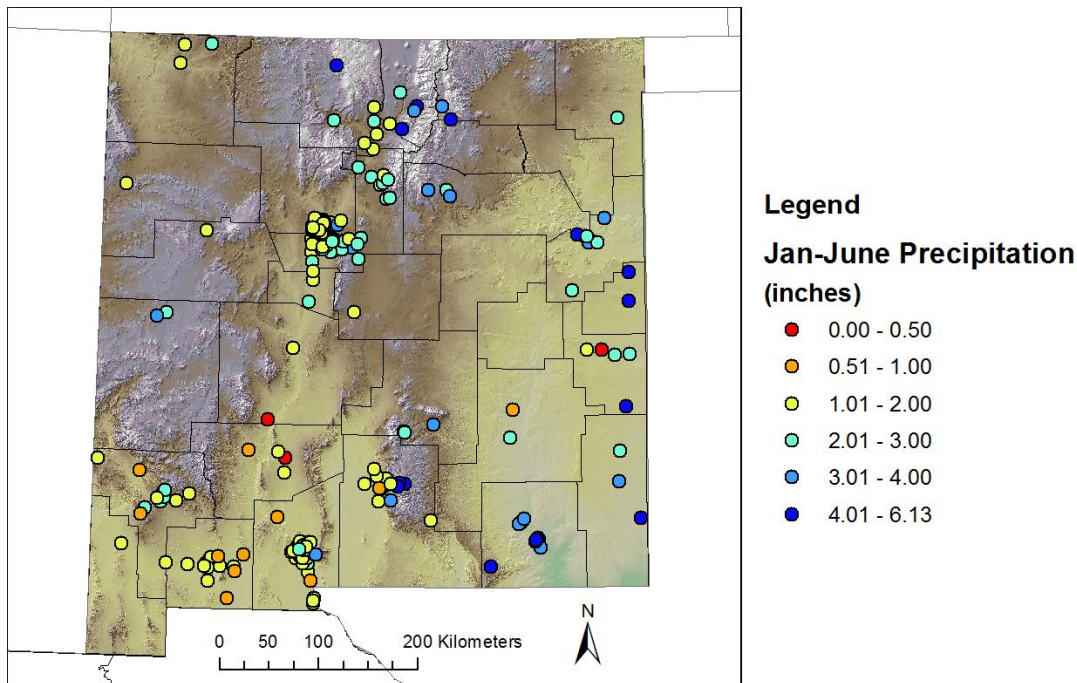
July Drought Update

By the NM Drought Monitoring Work Group

Drought is on the minds of many New Mexicans. Ninety percent of the state faced severe drought conditions at some point in 2011. Precipitation for the first half of 2012 was 51 percent of average, making it the tenth driest start on record and the second year in a row of a very dry start to the year. See the map below to find out what NM CoCoRaHS stations reported for this time period.

The New Mexico Drought Monitoring Work Group provides information to the governor on a monthly basis to keep her advised on the latest drought conditions. Their latest report (for June 2012) indicated that above normal June precipitation was limited to a few locations in the far northeastern plains and east central plains. In stark contrast, much of the rest of New Mexico received little or no precipitation during June 2012. Also, April through June 2012 was the third warmest April to June on record for New Mexico, adding to the drought stress across the state.

The first three weeks of July 2012 saw below normal precipitation for much of the northeast plains, in parts of southwest New Mexico, and in much of the lower Rio Grande Valley. Above normal rainfall was noted in the southern San Juan Mountains, the Jemez Mountains and in parts of southeast New Mexico as well. For more information and the newest reports see the Governor's Drought Task Force website: <http://www.nmdrought.state.nm.us>



Total amounts of observed precipitation at CoCoRaHS stations in New Mexico for January through June 2012. Information from stations that reported at least 75% of the time.