

New Mexico CoCoRaHS News



Welcome to the Summer 2103 Newsletter

As we head into monsoon season (July-September) some of your gauges are getting the most use they'll get all year. The rain is a welcome relief after so many weeks of little precipitation. Many days this past spring observers were reporting only on the blowing dust that came through their area—for example, all three reporting observers in Tucumcari on May 29 mentioned a dust storm. Unfortunately, they are not alone in reporting on dust in New Mexico. For more information on how you can report on the impacts of drought in your area, see page 3. On a brighter note, the U.S. Drought Monitor predicts that the drought will remain but show an improvement for the state in August.

Many of you have already experienced a wet July. For more information on what's happening when the North American (or Mexican) Monsoon rolls through the area, see the article on page 2.

Thanks to all of you who enter your data even when there is only a "0" to enter. There are over 300 hundred stations reporting data on most days. If you don't already look at the maps and the reports for the state that are available on the website, we encourage you to do so when you have a spare minute. Just click on the "view data" link at the top of the CoCoRaHS webpage. You'll learn what's happening in other parts of the state and see how your weather compares to your neighbors' weather.

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Training Materials in Spanish Available Soon

The New Mexico State Coordinator has had CoCoRaHS training materials translated into Spanish. These materials will soon be sent to other state coordinators so that even more observers can be trained and join the network. We're hoping to also use the materials to train observers in Mexico so there will be a more complete picture of

precipitation in North America. CoCoRaHS currently has observers in all fifty states and two Canadian provinces (Manitoba and Saskatchewan). We hope the newly translated materials will help to expand the CoCoRaHS network. Contact state coordinator Dave DuBois if you know of someone who could use these Spanish language materials.

Did you know that there is a CoCoRaHS app for your Android device? Look for it at the Google Play store to add precipitation observations on the go.

By the Numbers

366

Number of stations reporting on July 3, the highest number so far this summer.

3.45 in

The greatest daily precipitation reported so far this summer; reported in Carlsbad on July 18, a day when all Carlsbad stations reported at least 2 inches.

9.77 in

The most precipitation reported in July across NM was reported north of Silver City at NM-GR-33.

3

Days so far this summer that all of the reporting stations in New Mexico recorded "0;" on June 1, 23 and 26.

Top Ten Facts about the North American Monsoon

1. The word "monsoon" is derived from the Arabic word "mausim," which means season.
2. A monsoon is caused by seasonal reversals of winds over the tropics; these reversals happen because of differences in temperature over land and sea.
3. The wind reversals are less pronounced over the Americas than those that happen in Asia or Australia.
4. Western Mexico and the Southwestern U.S. see high levels of rainfall.
5. The regions most affected by the North American Monsoon are among the most rapidly growing in the U.S. and Mexico.
6. The binational region impacted has a population of about 12 million.
7. This region receives about half of its annual rainfall during July, August and September; New Mexico is the U.S. state most affected by the monsoon.
8. The heaviest rains generally occur over the higher elevations during the afternoon and evening, and at lower elevations later at night.
9. The incidence of many diseases (including Valley Fever and Hanta Virus) is related to monsoon variability.
10. Flash floods (which are a potential risk of monsoon rains) are the number two weather-related killer in the U.S. (behind excessive heat).
11. This region becomes the most active area for lightning in the Western Hemisphere during July and August.

Source: NOAA: Report to the Nation: The North American Monsoon. Found at http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/outreach/Report-to-the-Nation-Monsoon_aug04.pdf

CoCoRaHS - Community

www.cocorahs.org/Admin/MyDataEntry/DroughtImpactReport.aspx

My Data Entry : Drought Impact Report Form

Submit Data Reset

Drought Impact Report Form

Station Number : NM-

Station Name : Las Cruces

The significance of drought is tied directly to the impacts that it causes. Identifying and documenting impacts as they first appear and as they continue is essential for comprehensive drought monitoring. Please refer to the [CoCoRaHS training slide show](#) for reporting drought impacts.

* indicates required field

Duration

Drought is a gradual, slow-moving phenomenon. The start date is an approximation. End dates are not required.

Impact Start Date

7/15/2013

End Date

Description

Please provide a description of how drought is affecting you, your livelihood, your activities, etc. *



CoCoRaHS Comments

Don't forget that you can enter comments when you enter your daily precipitation. We don't ask that you do it every day, however; do it when you have the time. Many users report the time of precipitation, temperature and cloud cover information. Here are a few highlights from so far this summer.

It appears that Mother Nature neither read nor listened to yesterday's heavy rainfall forecasts. The day was, however, surprisingly cool. Temperatures remained in the 70s throughout the day and fell slowly into the low 60s during the overnight hours. In spite of a slightly drier atmosphere (DP currently at ~50F) the chances for rainfall seem to bit a bit better today. We'll have to wait and see!

--from Corrales on 7/16 (the station had no rain)

Nice gentle rain in the evening. But the timing of hanging my wash out to dry was not good!

--from Santa Fe on 7/15

Most single storm rainfall in at least 2 years.

—from Albuquerque on 7/15 (a good day for rain across NM)

The cattle are enjoying the green grasses but they are still showing their rib bones. Hopefully this green will help fatten them up. —from Datil on 7/29/13

Drought Impact Reports

The next time you enter your precipitation data, consider making a drought impact report. These short reports document the impact of drought in your community and on your land. The impact reports provided by CoCoRaHS observers are viewed weekly by authors of the Drought Monitor and used by the National Drought Mitigation Center at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. They can provide important information about how drought impacts areas that might not otherwise get documented.

It is likely you have something to report since the U.S. Drought Monitor shows nearly the entire state of New Mexico in a drought. As of July 30, 74% of the state is in the two most severe categories of drought. Forty-seven drought impact reports have been filed for New Mexico in the past year. Volunteers from Las Cruces to Taos and Quay County to Catron County have provided information that makes for a sobering read. Lack of water is costing ranchers tens of thousands of dollars to keep their cattle fed, it has caused farmers to grow fewer crops, and it has caused people to truck in water. People are reporting dust devils in Taos, worries of wells going dry in Grant County, allergies from all of the dust in Luna County, and parts of the Cibola National Forest and Grasslands have been closed. Many people have noticed that even the native grasses are having trouble surviving.

To make a drought report, go to the usual "My Data" page. In the left hand column you'll see a link labeled "Drought Impact Report" under "Enter My New Reports." Click on it to access the reporting page and a training slide show that tells you more about drought and what types of things you should report. Whether you report on the agricultural, economic, plant and wildlife, or health impacts of the drought, you'll be providing valuable information to help us understand what the drought is doing in your area. You can see the reports at the Drought Impact Reporter page at <http://droughtreporter.unl.edu/>.

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Are You Seeing Normal Precipitation Amounts?

Have you compared your precipitation amounts for the summer to the 30-year normals shown on your PRISM Portal? You can access the PRISM Portal through the "My Account" page. Some observers saw more rain in July than is normal for their location. But because rainfall is so variable and localized, some observers will fall below the 30-year normal for their location, and some might see a difference between their location and the official amount reported for their town or city. So check it out and see how the monsoon is impacting your location.

Promising Precipitation Outlook

The National Weather Service's Climate Prediction Center released their precipitation outlook map for the month of August. You can see that a large part of New Mexico is expected to see above normal precipitation.

