

The Catch

COCORAHS UPDATE — DRY TIMES FOR COCORAHS

FORT COLLINS, CO — Wednesday, September 27, 2006

Widespread dry weather

I just wanted you to know that yesterday (September 26) only 7 people out of 1256 that have entered their daily precipitation for the period ending at 7AM reported any measurable precipitation. Of those 7, it looks like 2 were probably accumulation reports from previous days. Today, only 14 folks reported measurable precipitation -- those were all small amounts mostly in northern Wyoming associated with a fall cold front.

-- BTW Please remember to use the "Multi Day" form to enter precipitation that has accumulated over a period of days so we don't confuse multi-day accumulations with rain that fell on a particular day --

This means that yesterday and today are the driest days across CoCoRaHS land since we spread to 12 states. I realize it is more interesting and exciting to measure and report when there is something in the gauge to measure and report. But ZEROs are good data too and we really appreciate so many of you taking the time and making the effort to let us know that it DID NOT RAIN. Thank you , thank you, THANK YOU. Drought is slow and creeping and sometimes unnoticeable problem, since we all like dry and sunny weather, but it is one of the worst and widespread natural disasters that nature dishes out through our variable climate -- when all is said and done. CoCoRaHS was developed to help measure and map heavy storms, but tracking dry weather is just as important.

By the way, a quick scan of "Rainy Days reports" show that we have had two rainfall reports this year in excess of 10" 10.06" was reported by a station in Maryland on June 26, and 10.65" was reported this past weekend on Sept. 23 from a station in SE Missouri. That is a LOT of rain -- way more than we've had in the entire past year. There have been 67 days since April 1, 2006 with at least one report of daily rainfall of at least 3.00"

Water Year Summaries

I have had many questions regarding how to summarize water year reports. Some have also noticed that they cannot get the numbers to add up right. Also, some say they cannot find data they were sure they had entered.

I don't have explanations for everything, but if you entered data it should be here. I do know that multi-day accumulations can pose some challenges in adding up your monthly and water year totals, so keep an eye out for that.

Your monthly totals should include the reports from the 1st to the last day of each month, even though the last day of each month technically ends at 7 AM that day. Rain that falls later that day, if you report at 7 AM, is included in the total for the next month. I hope this isn't too confusing.

Many of you have joined the project this year and do not have complete totals for the water year. Go ahead and compile totals for the months that are complete.

Again, remember you can go back and fill in data for past dates, but just make sure you enter the correct date. For example, if you use our standard 7 AM observing time and rain fell during the afternoon of September 27, it should appear as the rainfall report for 7 AM September 28th.

Enough for now. Short at last!

Nolan