



Wyoming CoCoRaHS

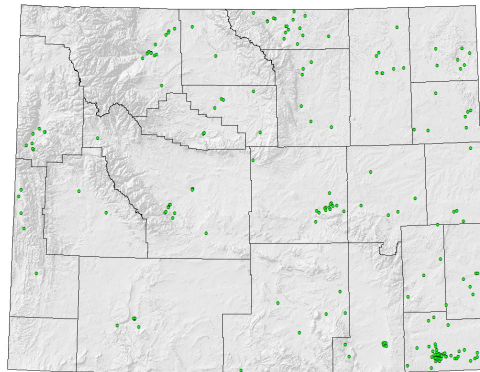
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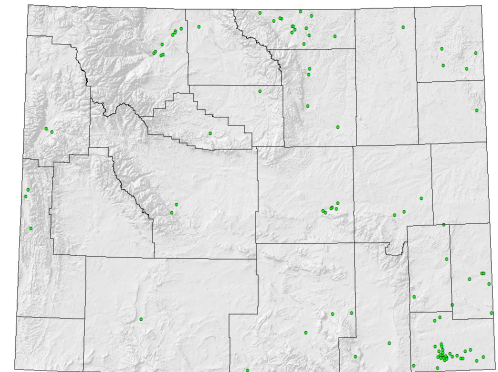
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Over 200 Observers Active during 2nd Quarter 2012



Stations making at least one report



Stations with 85% completeness

208 observers made at least one report in Apr, May, and Jun 2012. Of those 208, 43 of you reported every day (see *Never Missed a Drop*, page 2) The left map above shows all stations that reported at least once in Apr, May, and Jun 2012. Almost half the Wyoming observers reported at least 85% of the time during the 2nd quarter of 2012 and those stations are shown on the map above to the right.

85% is the cutoff for which stations can be used when calculating Normals for PRISM (see *CoCoRaHS and PRISM*, page 2)

Over 12,000 observations were made during this time period with an average of over 134 reports per day.

CoCoRaHS is entirely a volunteer network and you need only report when you want and can, but I do encourage you to participate as much as possible. Your observations are valuable and are used by many people and organizations.

This is even more so now with the drought conditions in our state (see *Drought Impacts*, page 3) Each CoCoRaHS observation contributes to a more complete look at conditions in the state and I appreciate every report made.

Wyoming CoCoRaHS 2nd Quarter 2012

- ◆ Most observations in a day: 152 Reports on May 1st
- ◆ Greatest Amount: 3.25" on June 7th, Cheyenne
- ◆ Five days with no precipitation Statewide
- ◆ Six days with a trace or less Statewide
- ◆ 12,234 reports submitted
- ◆ 208 active observers

Wyoming CoCoRaHS now on Facebook

Wyoming CoCoRaHS has started a Facebook page. <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Wyoming-CoCoRaHS/230236620324909>

This horrendous URL will become much more succinct once

the page becomes established and has more subscribers.

The page can be used to ask questions, and various announcements and information will be placed on it. It will be monitored daily, though

posts will be made at much less frequent intervals.

For those of you who are not on Facebook, this page is simply another means of interacting with the observers and will **not** become the exclusive method of communication.



Significant Weather Reports

You can report significant weather through CoCoRaHS. When you click on **My Data**, one of the reporting options on the left menu is for **Significant Weather**.



This form can be used to report any significant weather taking place at your loca-

tion at any time of the day or night.

You do not need to wait until your normal observation time but, rather, can input these at any time. *But, be sure to make your normal daily report, though, since these are separate.*

What types of weather qualify as significant? A heavy downpour or snowfall or hard hail or flooding are just a few examples that you might enter.

These reports go directly to the local National Weather

Service in real-time and can help provide critical information to the forecasters when it comes to issuing severe weather warnings.

If you are unsure as to whether or not what you are experiencing is "significant" it's better to be safe than sorry...go ahead and make the report as soon as it is safe for you to do so.

Your report could help save lives whether from flooding, severe thunderstorms or even tornados.



My Data Entry : Significant Weather Report Form

Significant Weather Report Submit Data Reset

Station : WY-AB-8 Laramie 08 NNE * Denotes Required Field

6/30/2012 * Observation Date

PM * Observation Time

Minutes Time duration that the report covers

Rain

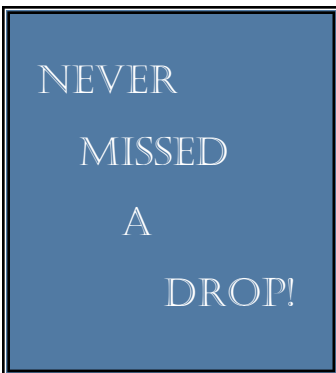
New Rain and Melted Snow that has fallen during the report duration, in inches to the nearest **hundredth**

Total Precipitation, rain and melted snow, since storm began, in inches to the nearest **hundredth**

Snow

Depth of New Snow that has fallen during the report duration, in inches to the nearest **tenth**

Total depth of snow and ice on ground at the time of this observation to nearest **half inch**



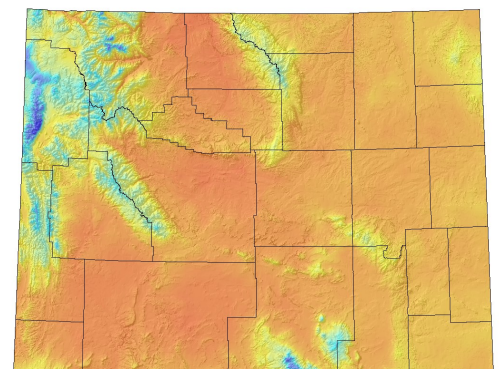
Stations reporting every day 01 Apr thru 30 Jun

WY-AB-8	WY-GS-9	WY-LM-5	WY-PK-16
WY-CK-6	WY-JN-14	WY-LM-63	WY-PK-8
WY-CR-11	WY-LM-102	WY-LM-73	WY-PT-14
WY-CR-12	WY-LM-106	WY-LM-92	WY-SH-10
WY-CR-4	WY-LM-107	WY-LM-96	WY-SH-14
WY-CR-5	WY-LM-112	WY-LN-17	WY-SH-17
WY-CV-11	WY-LM-120	WY-LN-2	WY-SH-18
WY-CV-12	WY-LM-21	WY-NT-24	WY-SH-22
WY-GS-20	WY-LM-22	WY-NT-3	WY-SH-9
WY-GS-7	WY-LM-23	WY-NT-35	WY-WH-1
WY-GS-8	WY-LM-36	WY-PK-11	

CoCoRaHS and PRISM

The PRISM Group (<http://prism.oregonstate.edu>) has completed the gridded 1981-2010 Normals. These Normals are calculated every ten years and span the previous 30-year period. For the first time, there were CoCoRaHS stations with histories long enough and complete enough that they could be used in the process of creating the PRISM grids.

This is a major accomplishment for the CoCoRaHS network and I'm proud to report that 73 stations in Wyoming were able to be used in the generation of Normals for at least one of the months of the year. 16 stations had data complete enough to be used for all 12 months and the Annual total. To be considered adequately complete, the station had to have 85% of the observations for a given month for five or more years. Well done!



PRISM Annual Precipitation Map (1981-2010 Normals)



My Data Entry : Drought Impact Report Form

Drought Impact Report Form [Submit Data] [Reset]

Station : WYAB11 Laramie 73 ENH

The significance of drought is felt 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
7/29/2012

End Date

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

Report Categories

Drought Impacts

Have you been impacted by drought? It is one thing to be dry, it is another thing for there to be consequences resulting from the dryness. In an effort to gather more information on the extent and effects of drought, you can now report Impacts to the National Drought Mitigation Center directly through CoCoRaHS.

When you click on My Data, one of the menu items on the left side of the screen will be **Drought Impact Report**.

On the form that is displayed, you can input a Start Date (approximate) and an optional End Date (leave blank if ongoing) and then enter a description of a particular impact that you are experiencing at your location.

Are fields drying? Nearby wildfires? Is a stream near your location having less and less flow than usual? Pests in the fields? Dust storms?

For complete instructions on how to use the **Drought Impacts Report**, please visit:

http://www.cocorahs.org/DroughtImpactsGuide_Final_2-2010.html

Please note that some long-term observers (ones who signed up under the old system) may experience problems where the link to the **Drought Impact Report** is not visible. If you do not see it in the list under **Enter My New Reports**, be sure to contact antonius@uwyo.edu to take care of this.

Keep the Comments Coming

Your comments are important because they provide a context for your observation. They can confirm that you had an isolated shower when everyone around you reports zero.

Was it smoky from fires?
Was there dust blowing?

Did the lilacs just start to bloom near your station? Are the leaves starting to turn color? Did you simply want to report the high and low temperatures at your station? The comments section of the report is the perfect place for these types of anecdotal information.

While we try to read all comments, if you have a specific need or question, please contact your Regional or State Coordinator directly. See top section of page 4 for contact information for these individuals.

Clear this morning.
Warm yesterday, in the
90's. Mild breezes. We
had a thunderstorm
build overhead in the
evening, yet no moisture.
It moved on and dumped
over Laramie Peak.



How Much Rain Didn't You Get?

Knowing how much rain fell is important. But did you know that knowing how much didn't fall is just as important? Wyoming does very well when it comes to reporting non-events and I want to take this opportunity both to thank all the observers who report when there has been no rain and to encourage those who do not to try to. Some observers report reliably every time there has been precipitation but do not report zeros.

In such cases the station may not be used because, even though every bit of precipitation that fell in a given month has been reported, we can't be sure of this because of the missing days. Typically a month needs to be 85-90% complete before it can be used for any mapping or statistics. (see CoCoRaHS and PRISM, page 2) For observers who report all rainfall events, there is a solution that allows you to report your zeros with minimal effort. When you have time, you can bring up a calendar showing your observations (**Monthly Zeros** form on the left of the page at <http://cocorahs.org> when you select **My Data**) and you can easily "fill in your zeros"

State Coordinator

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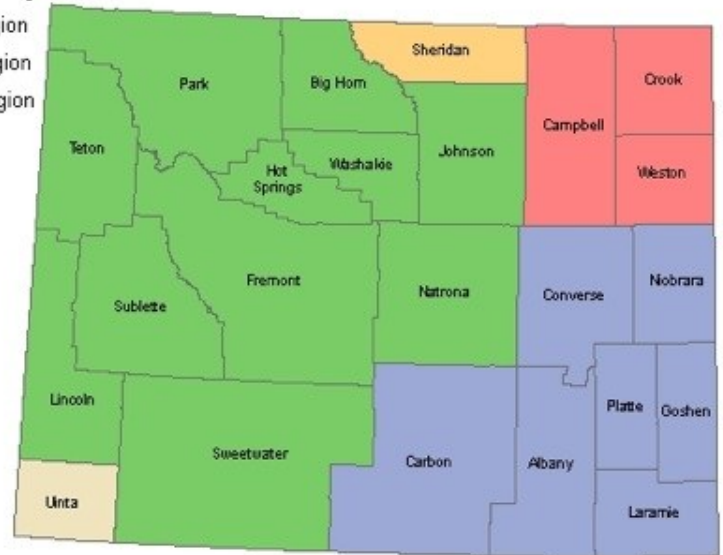
Phone: 307-766-3786
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<http://cocorahs.org>
<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu>

Wyoming Regions

- West-Central Region
- North-Central Region
- Northeast Region
- Southeast Region
- Southwest Region

Wyoming CoCoRaHS Regions



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We Need You!



Thunderstorm over Cheyenne 04 Jun 2009, seen from Laramie.
Photo by Tony Bergantino

If you are not a CoCoRaHS observer and would like to take part joining is simple.

Just go to <http://cocorahs.org> and click on the **Join CoCoRaHS** link on the left side of the page.

Participation requires only a few minutes a day, an internet connection, and an interest in measuring and reporting rainfall.

Your observations will appear each day on a map and you can see how much you received compared to your neighbors, neighboring counties, and neighboring states.

Meanwhile, your data are used by

various entities throughout the country such as the National Weather Service, the National Drought Mitigation Center, researchers, and those who are just curious about how much rain fell where.

CoCoRaHS helps to fill in holes in places where there are no observers for other networks. CoCoRaHS is a high-density network which allows us to see the variations in precipitation across the country **and** across town.

If you are interested in joining or have any questions, please contact Tony Bergantino at:

antonius@uwyo.edu