Highlights of the 2006 Water Year in Colorado

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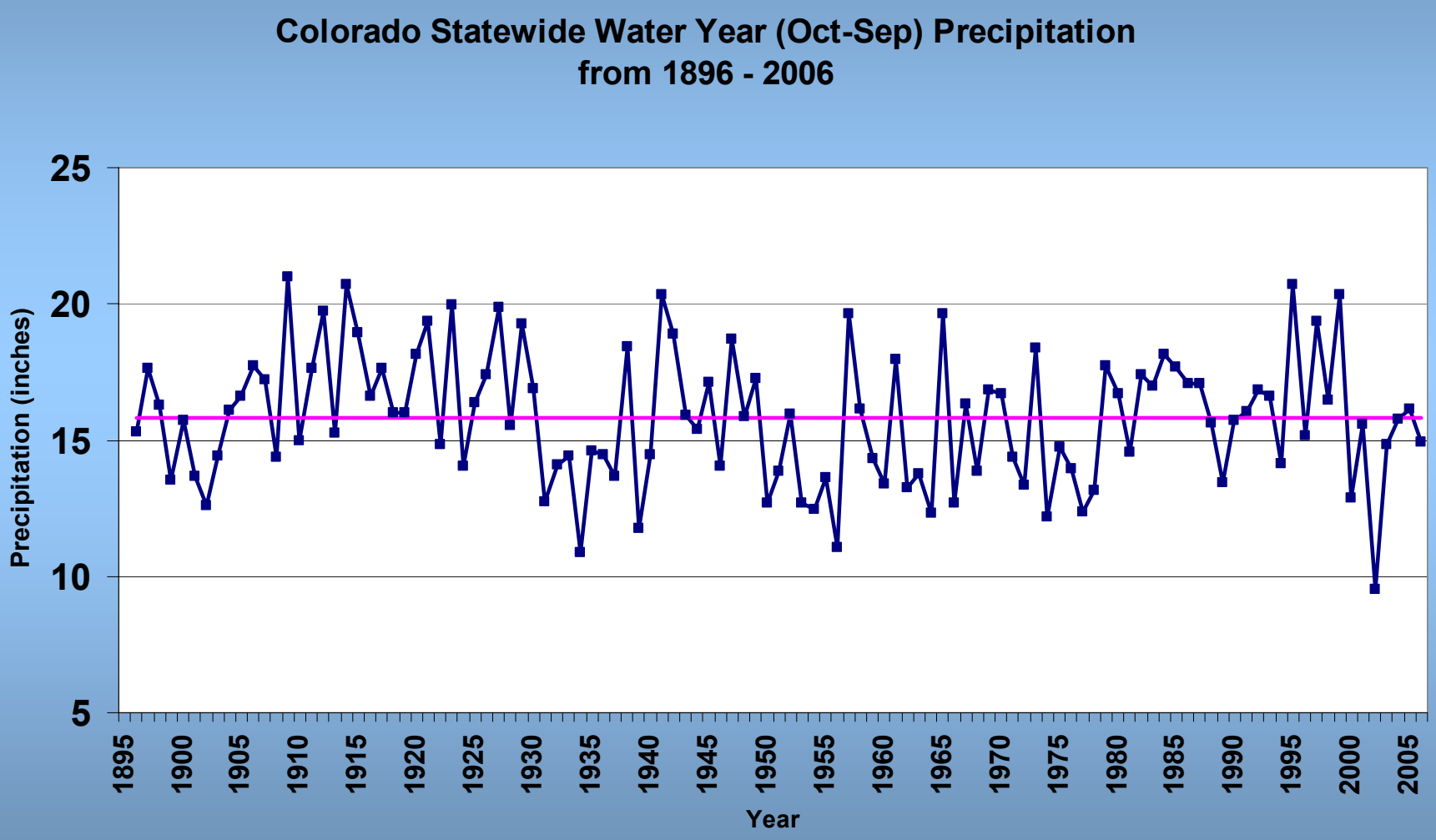
Prepared by Odie Bliss

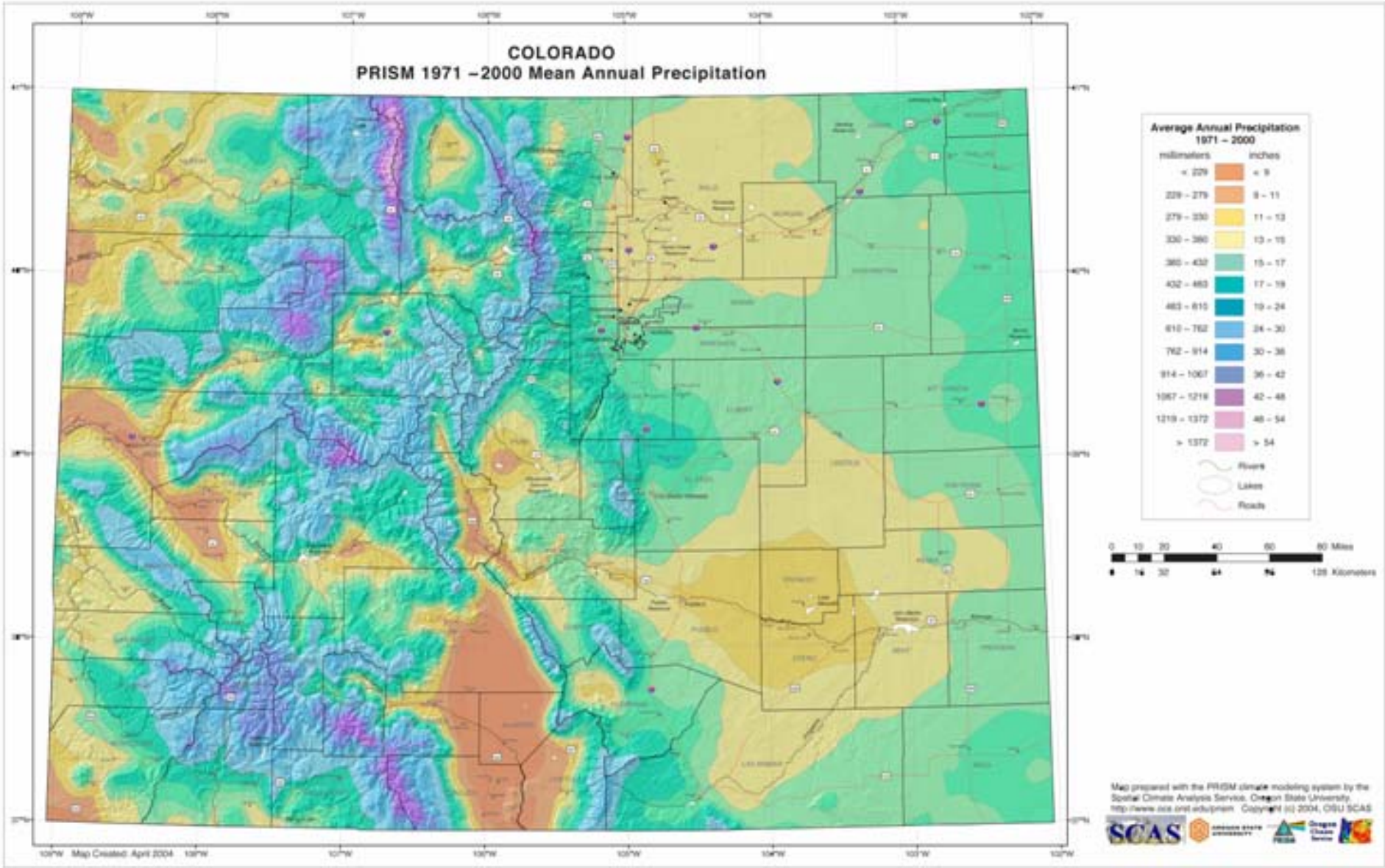
A quick review of climatic conditions leading up to the 2006 Water Year

Photo by Lynn Kral, Loveland, January 2006

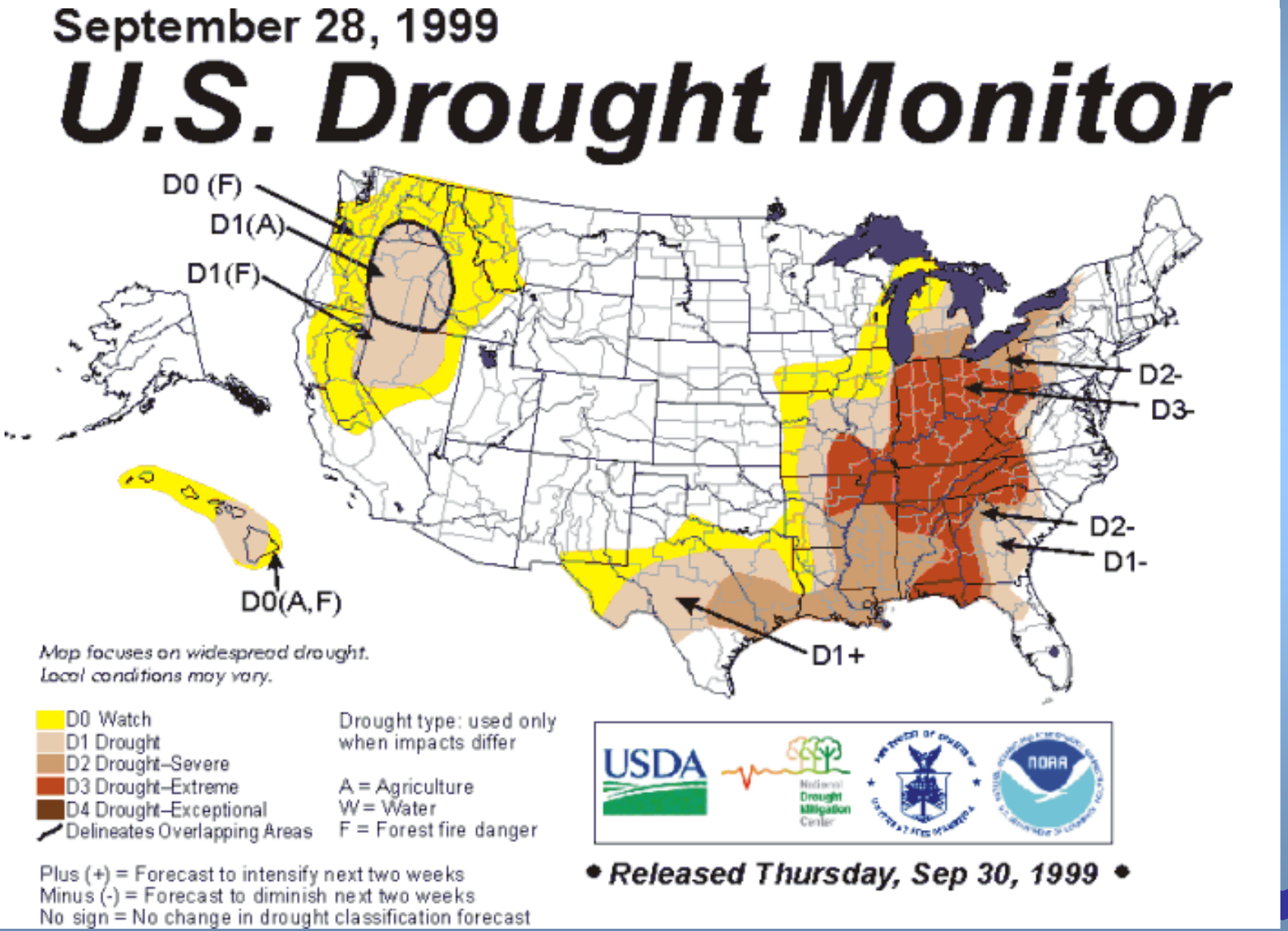
Colorado Precipitation in Historic Perspective



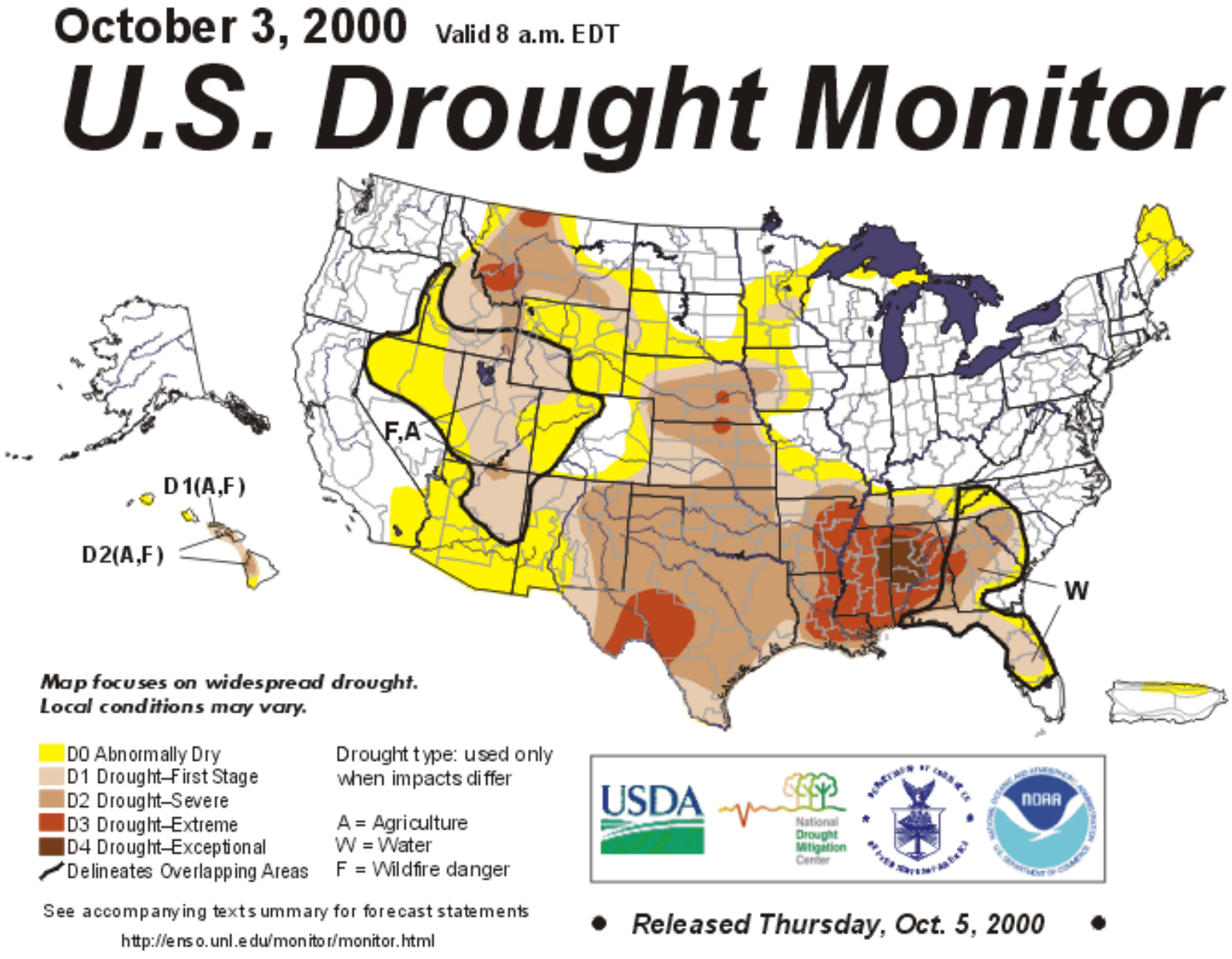
Colorado Average Annual Precipitation



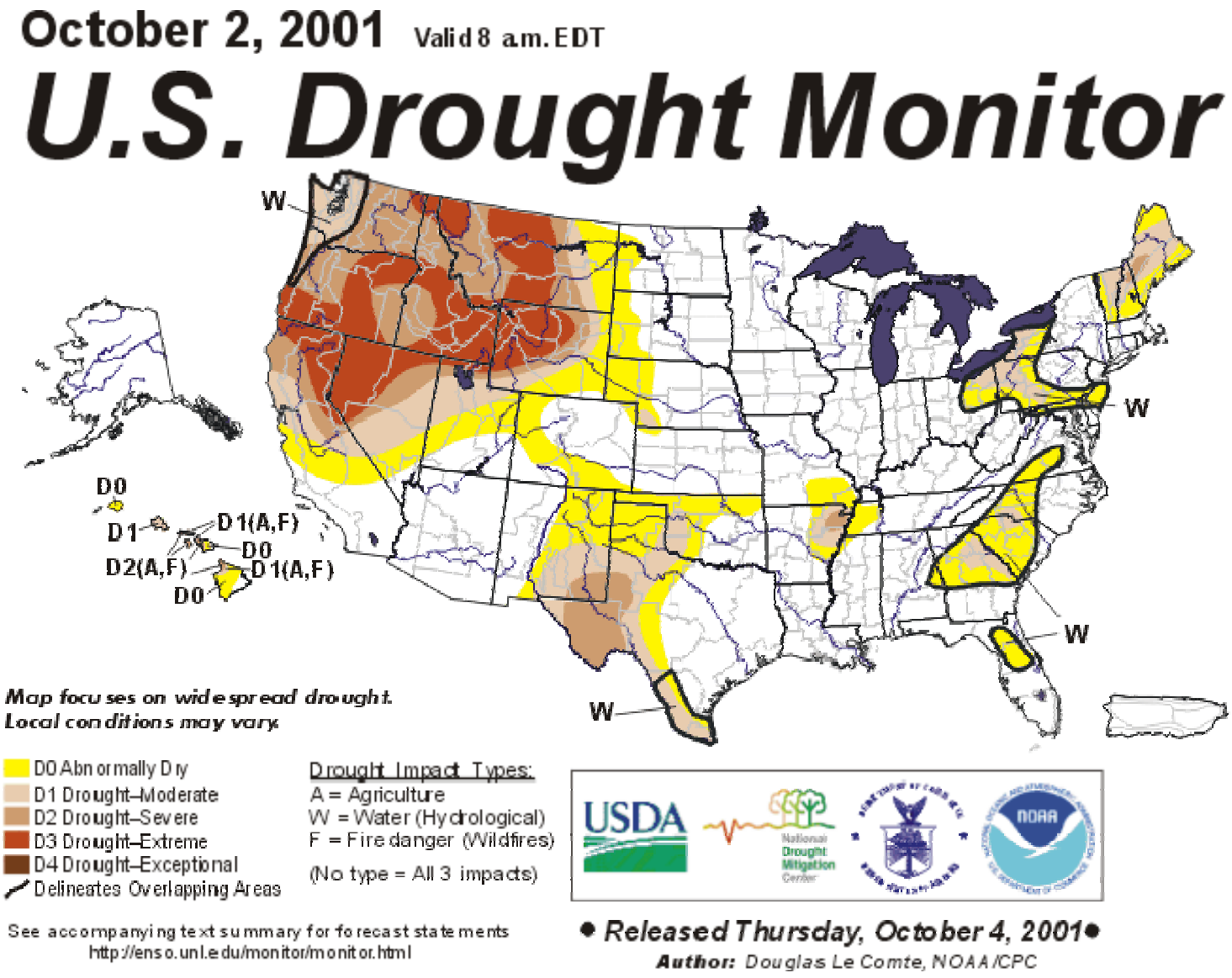
Sept 1999 Drought Monitor Map



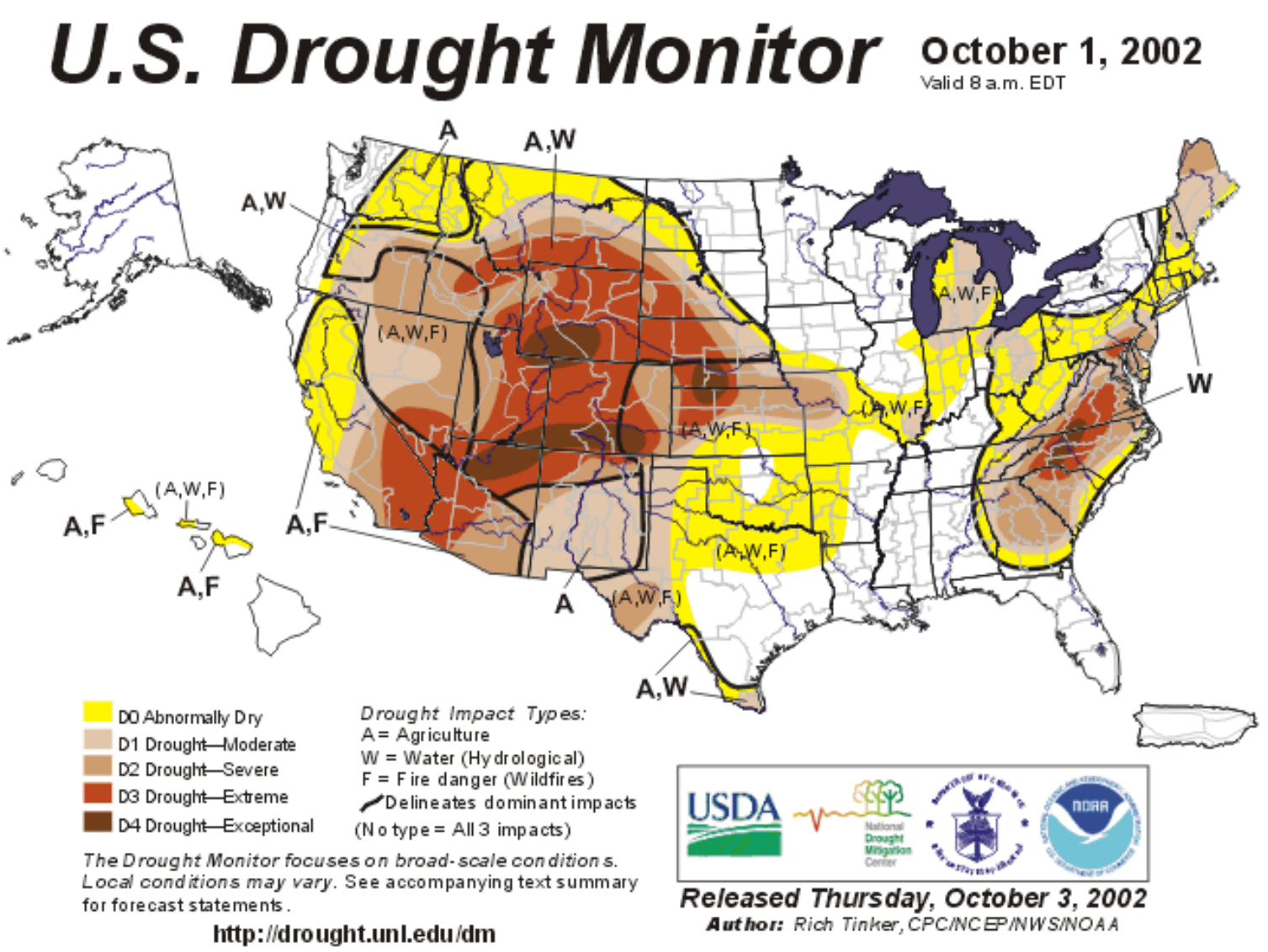
October 2000 Drought Monitor Map



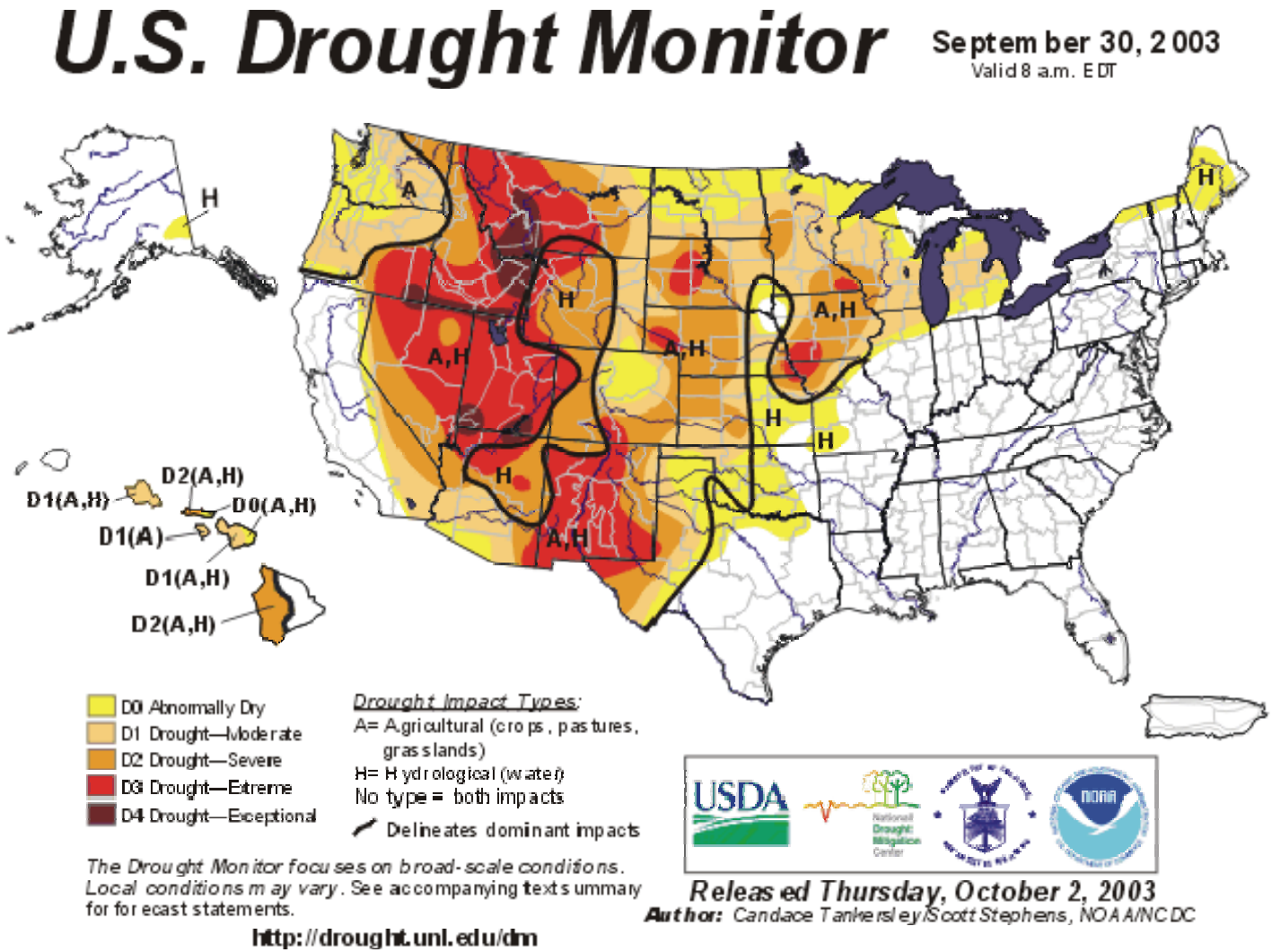
October 2001 Drought Monitor Map



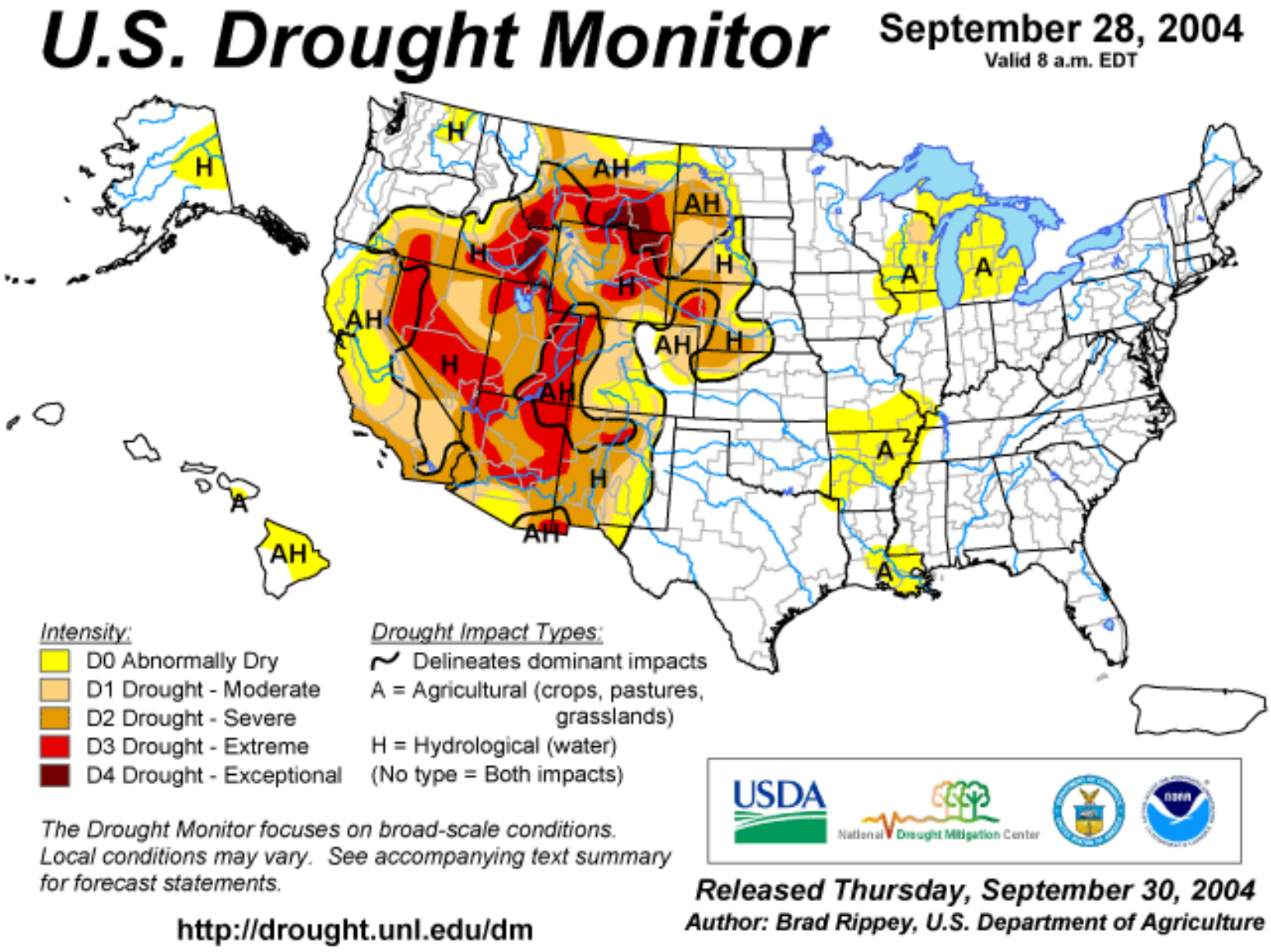
October 2002 Drought Monitor Map



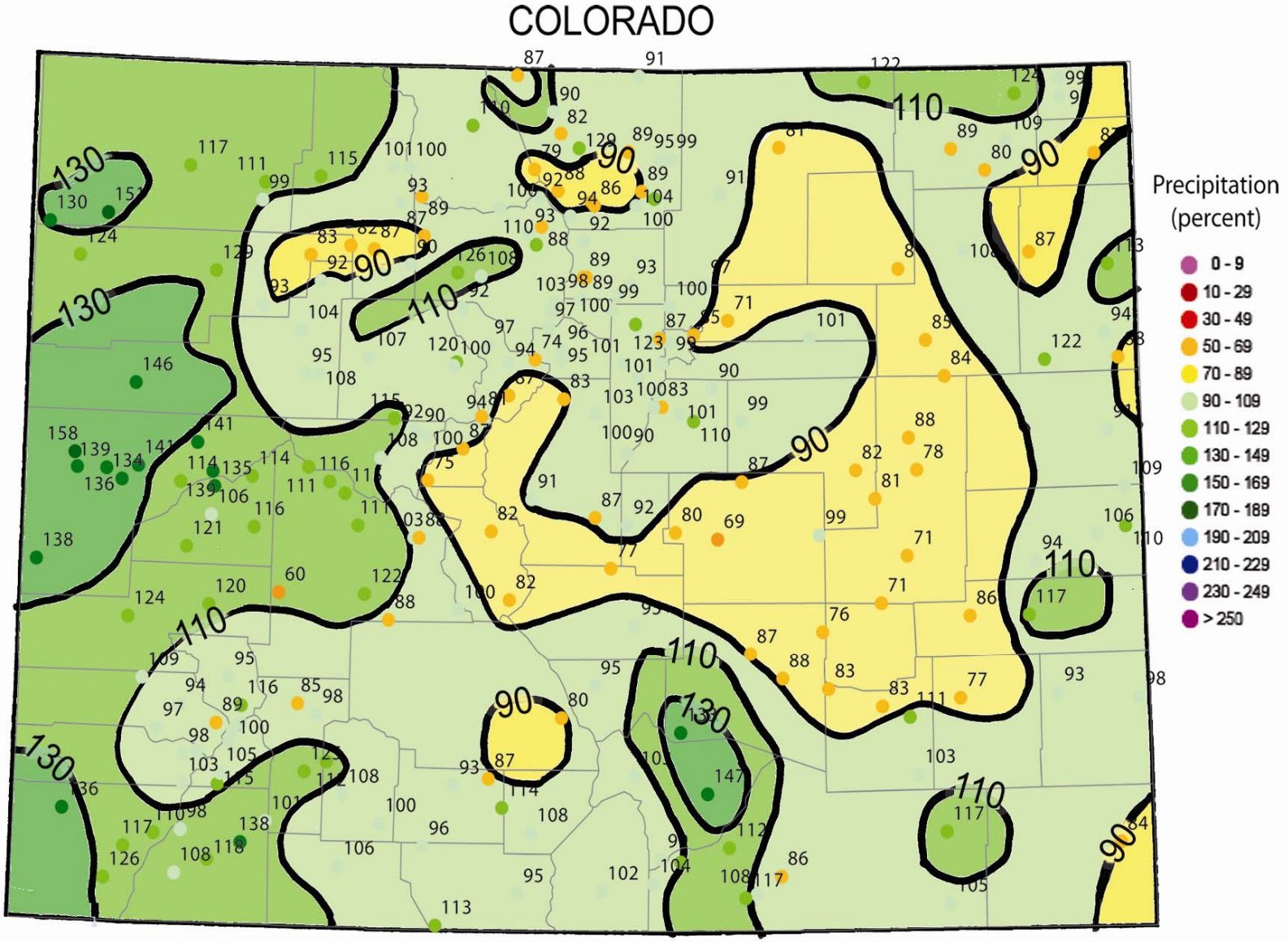
September 2003 Drought Monitor Map



September 2004 Drought Monitor Map

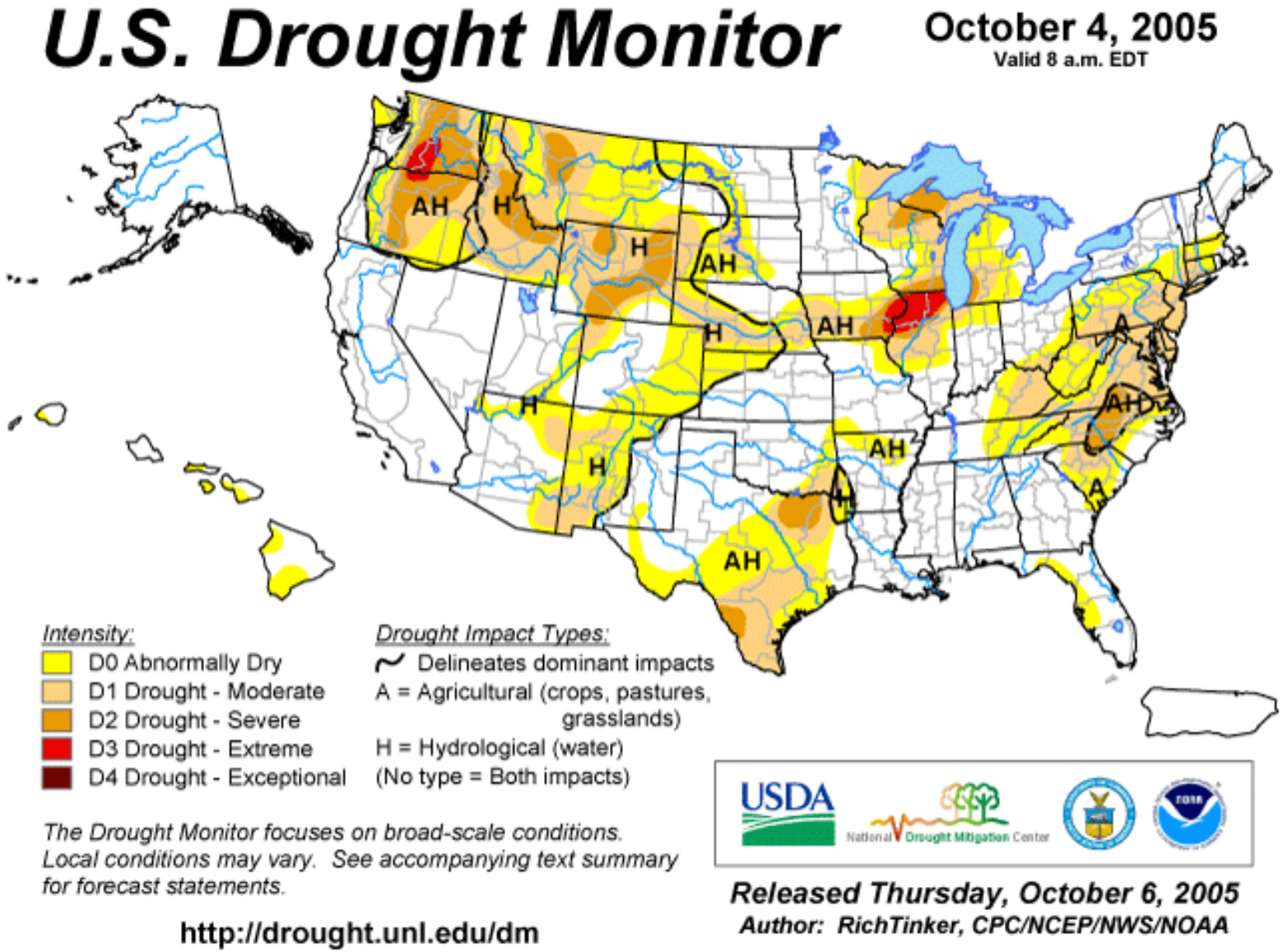


2005 Water Year Precipitation



Water Year 2005 (Oct 04 - Sep 05) precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

October 2005 Drought Monitor Map



What happened this past year? WY2006 Highlights

- Soaking October storm – especially over Eastern Colorado
- Windy, dry winter over Foothills and Eastern Plains
- Frequent midwinter snows Northern Mountains
- Very warm and dry spring (tough on Agriculture)
- Early July soaking
- Wet summer over much of southern Colorado
- A chilly ending to another warm year

A closer look at the climate of the 2006 Water Year in Colorado

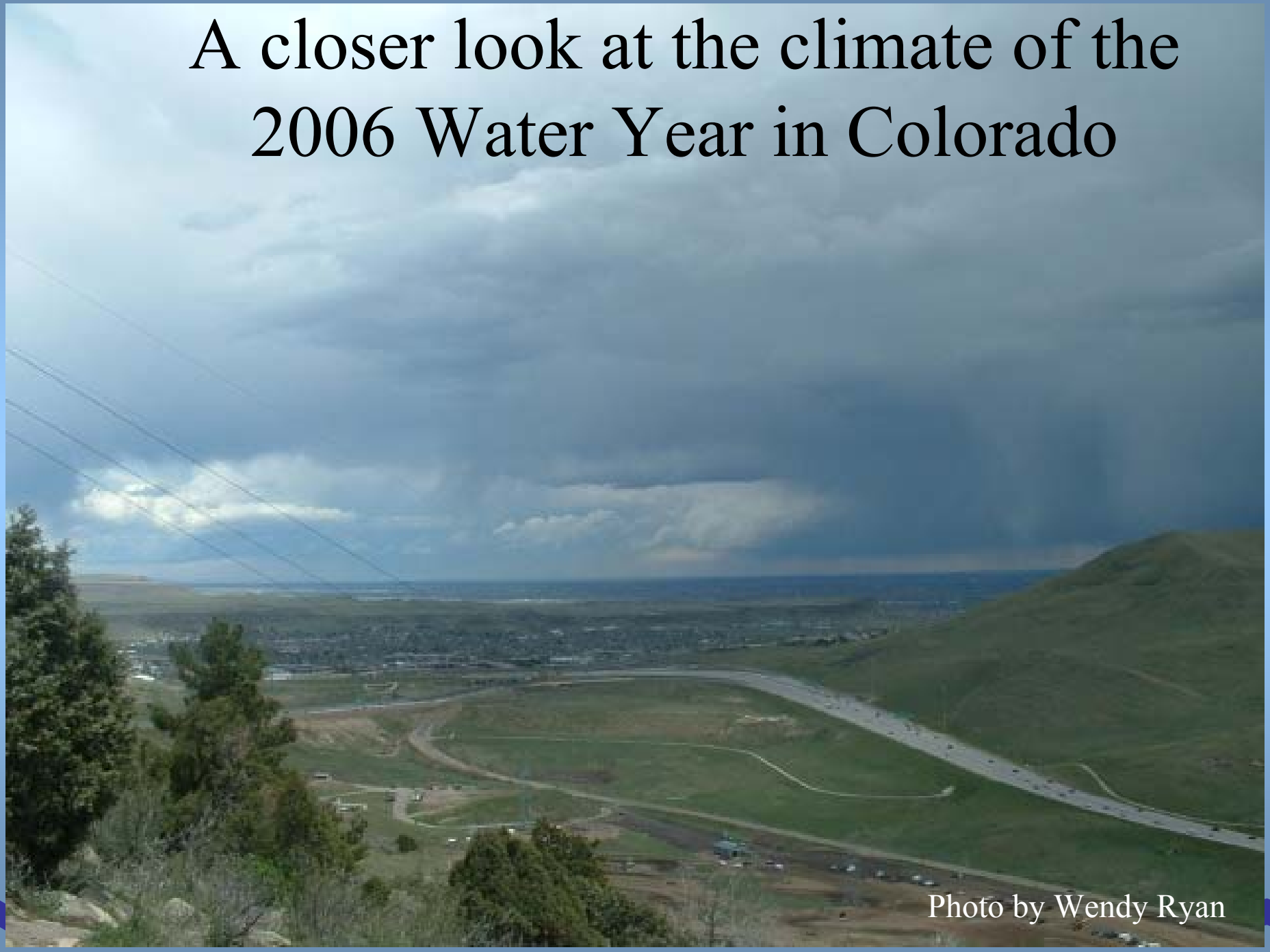
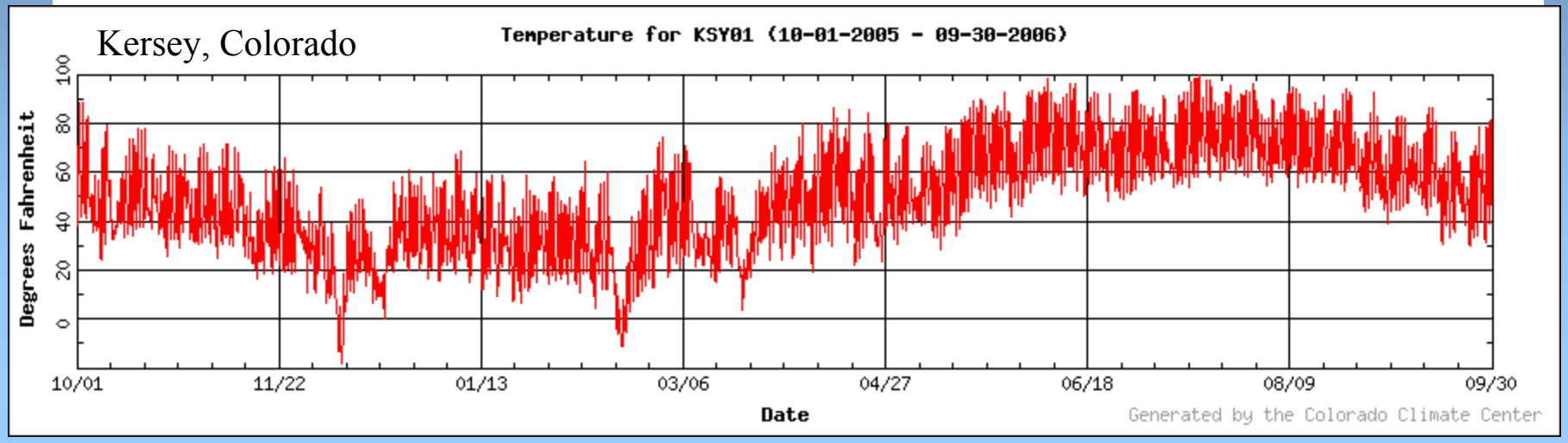


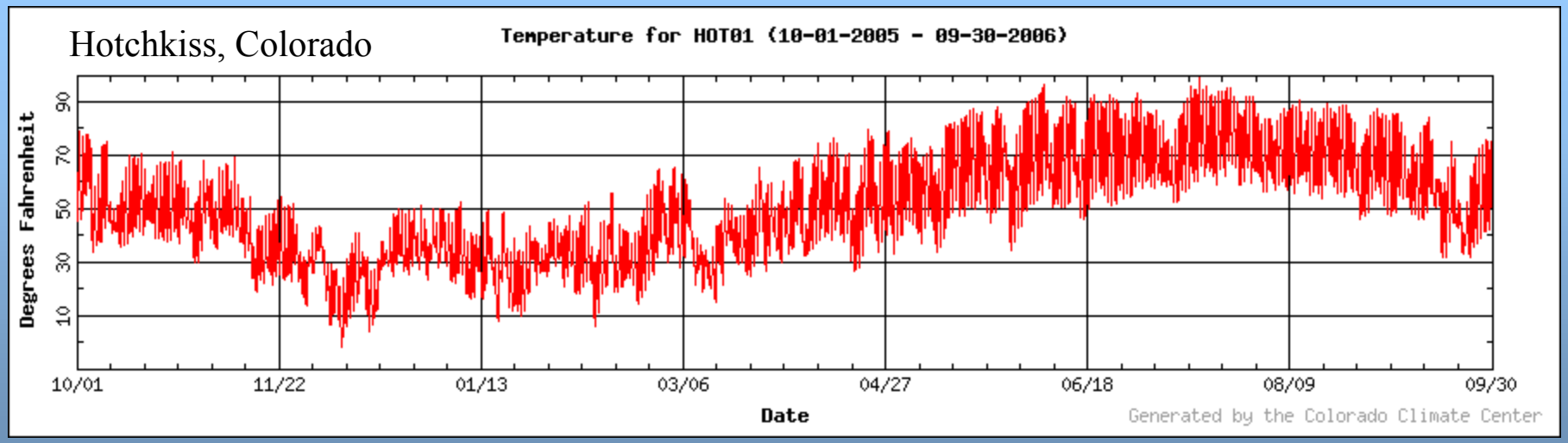
Photo by Wendy Ryan

CoAgMet Temperatures

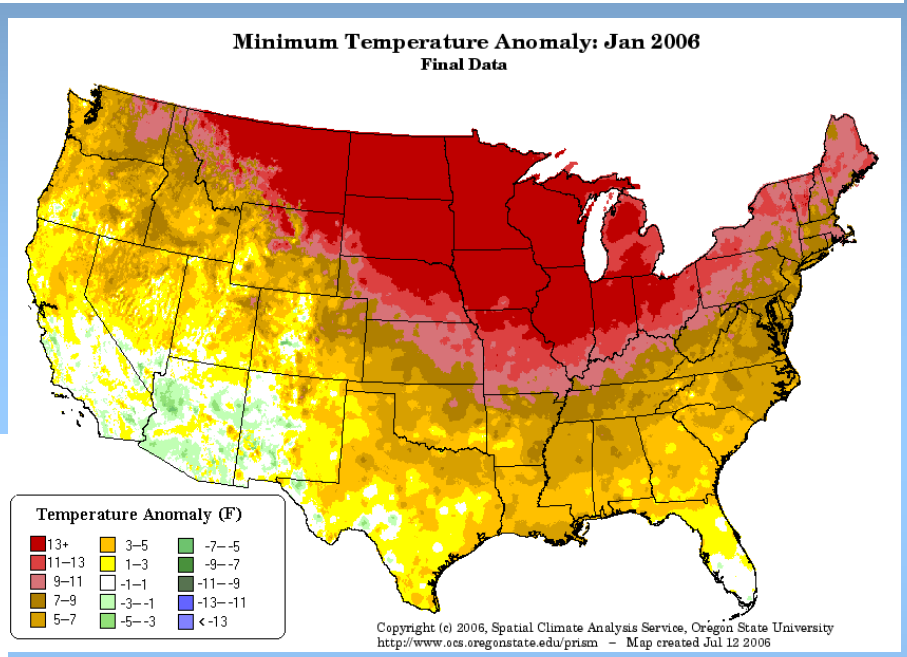
Kersey, Colorado

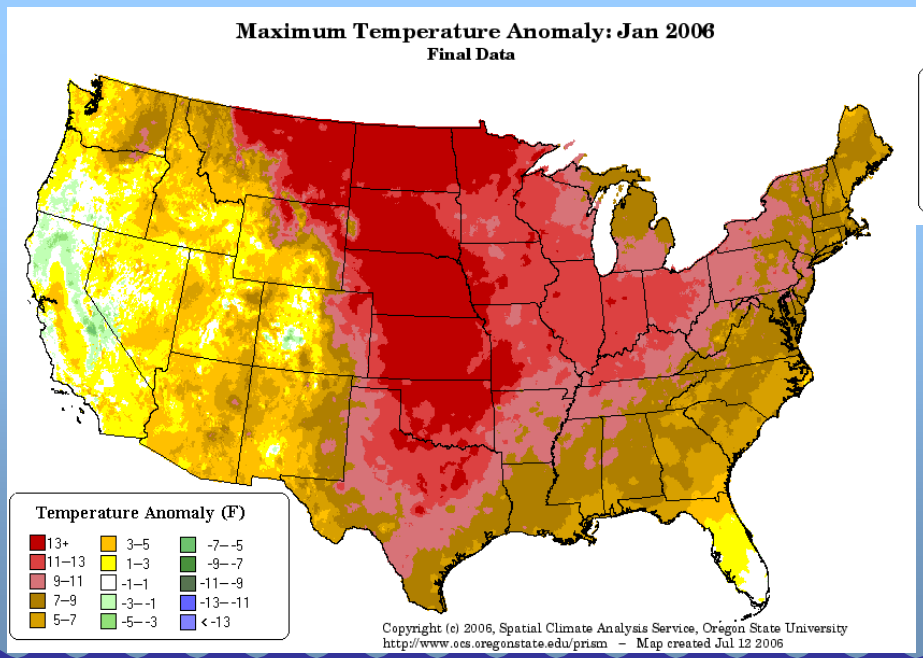


Hotchkiss, Colorado

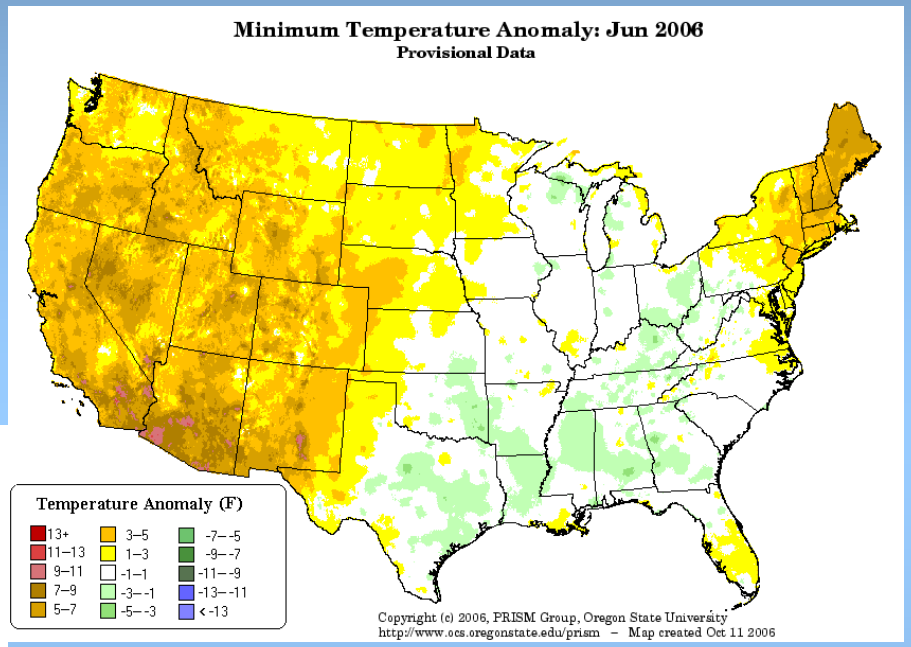


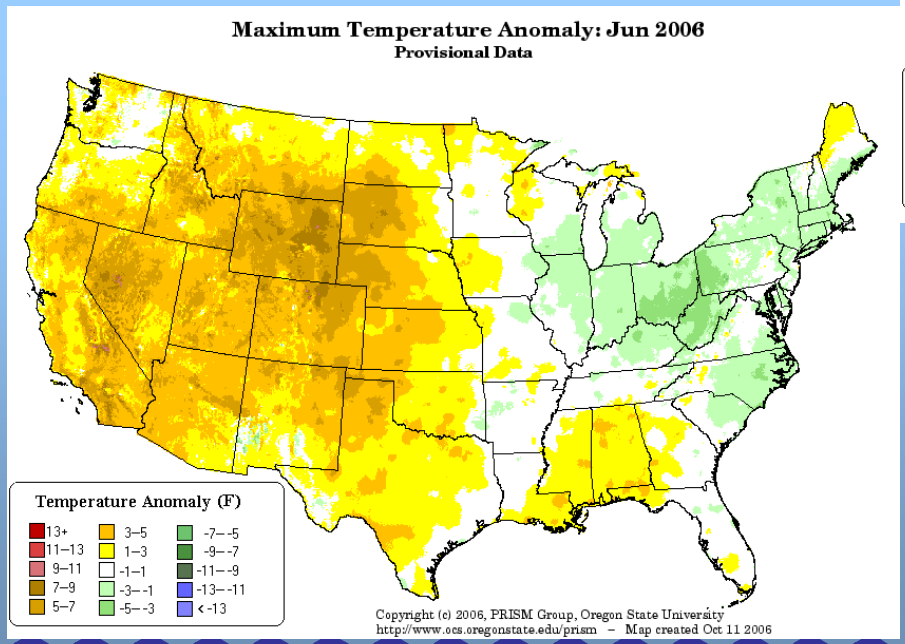
January 2006 departure from average (Prism)



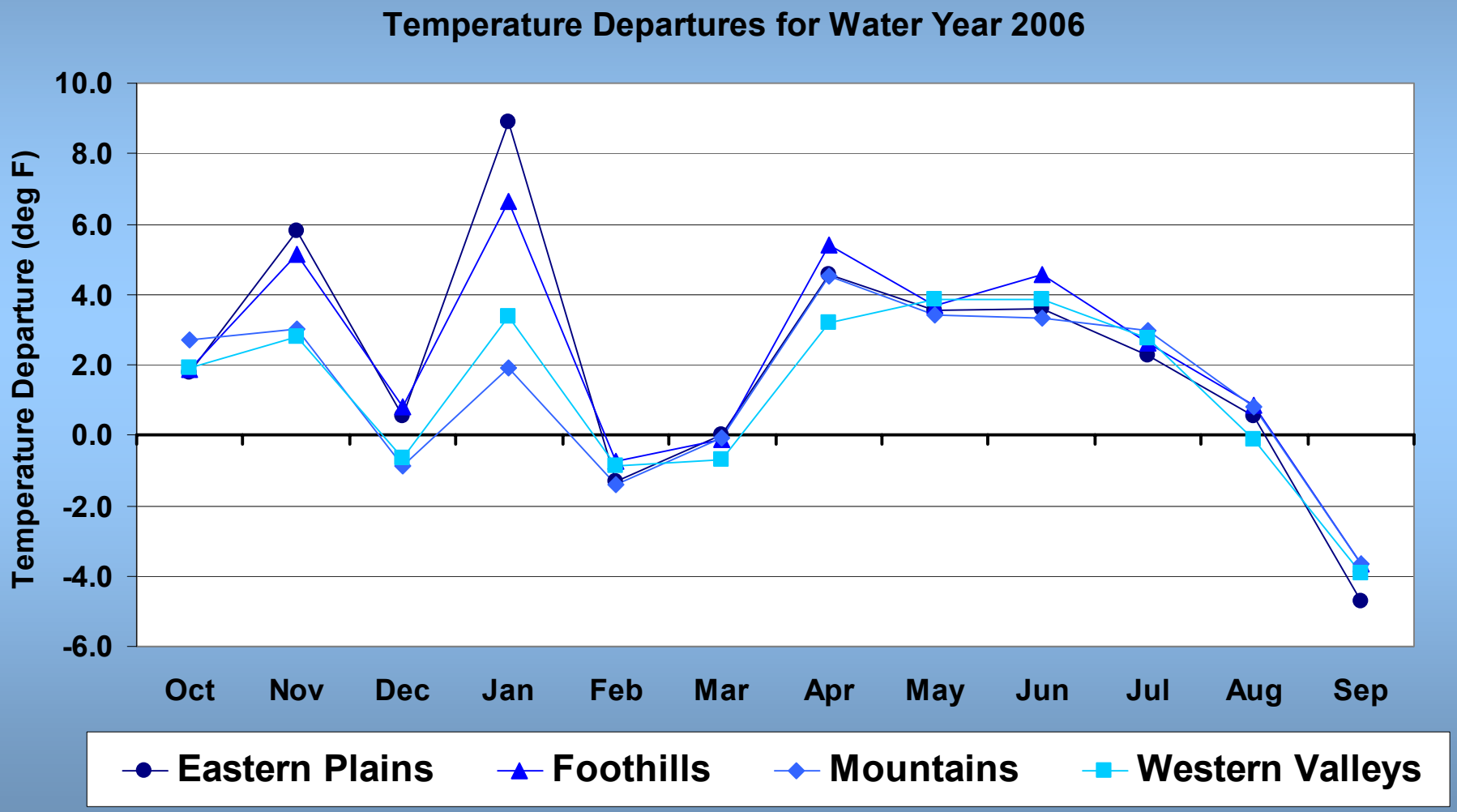


June 2006 departure from average (Prism)

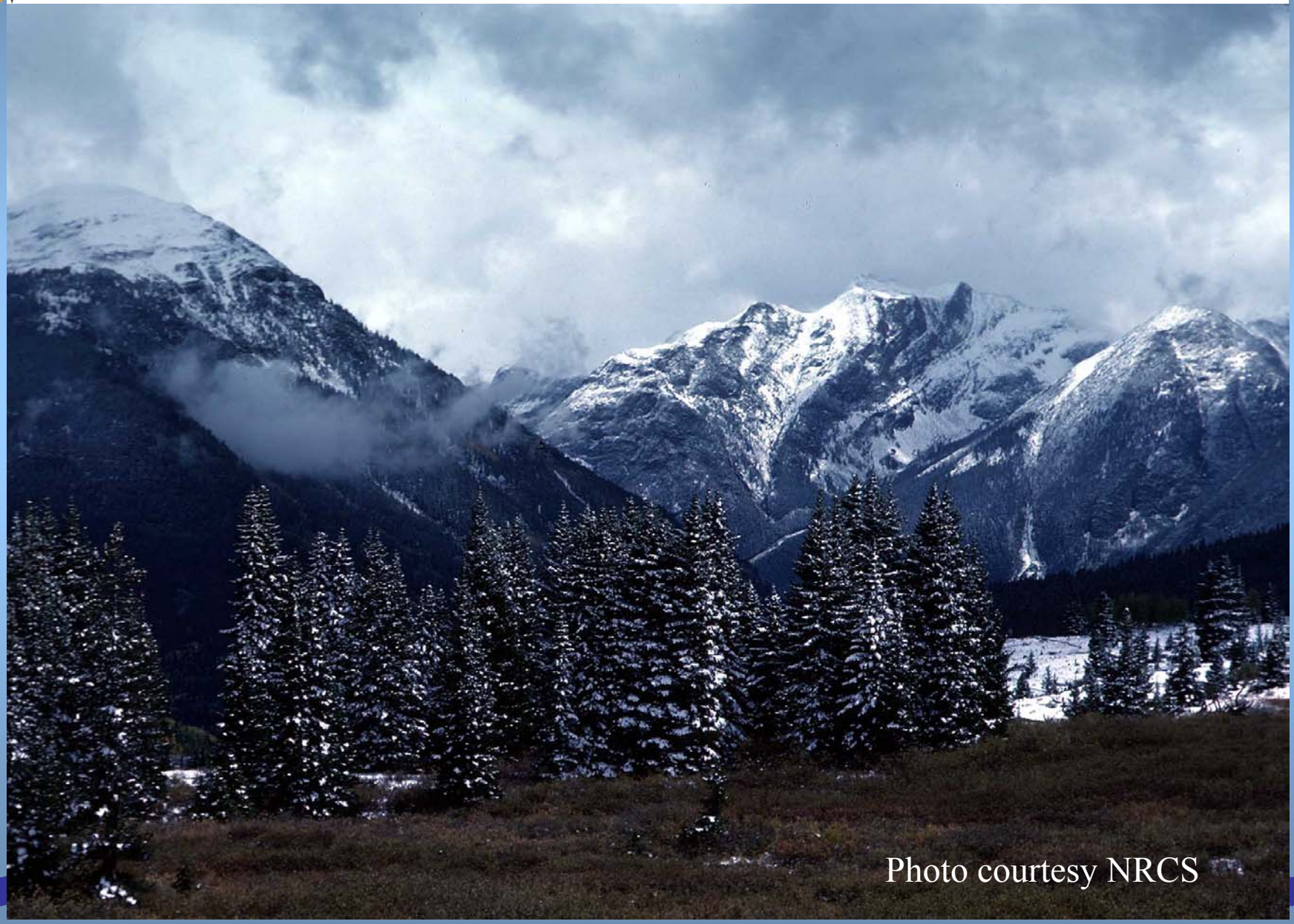




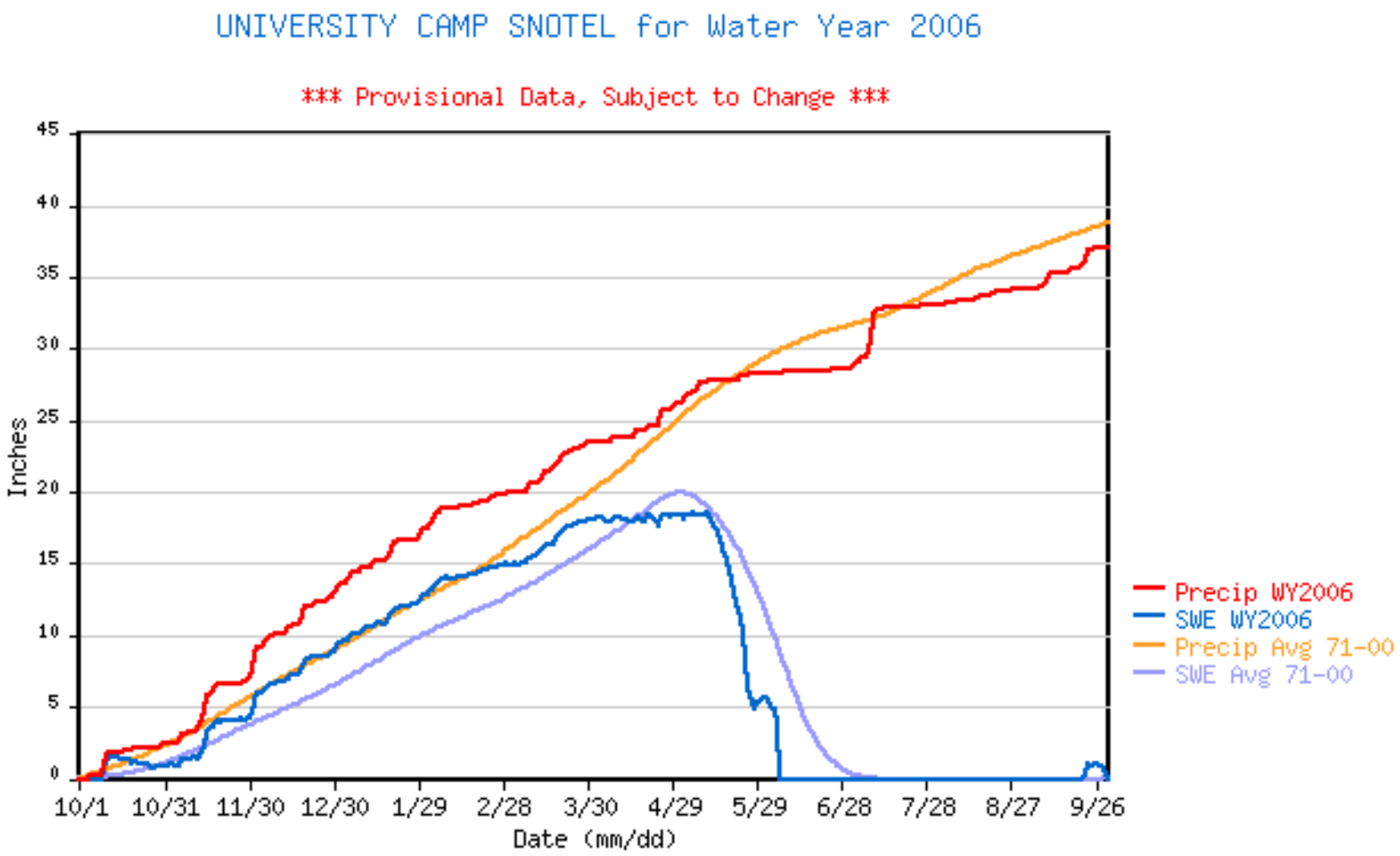
Water Year 2006 temperature departures from 1971-2000 average



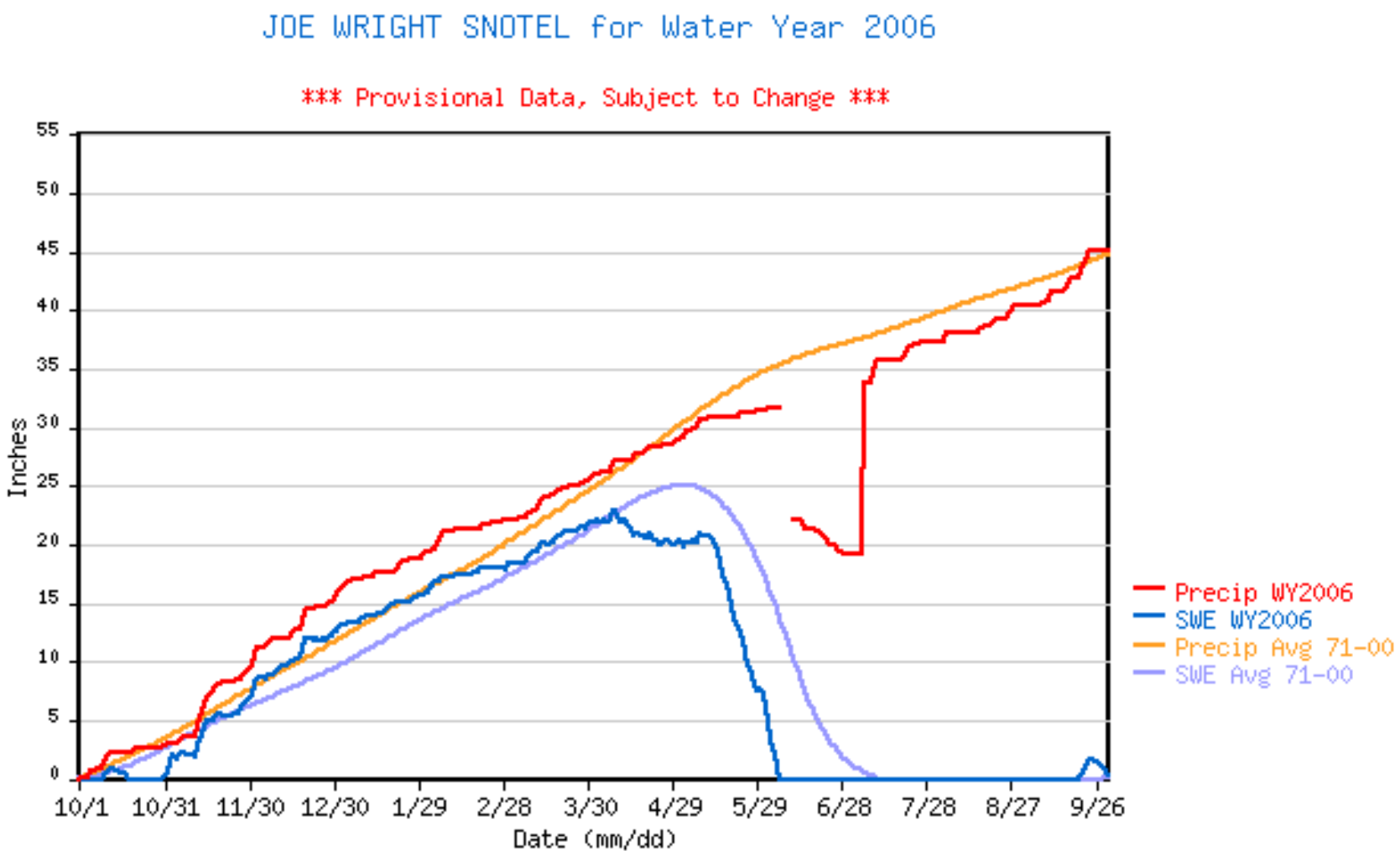
WY2006 Snowpack Accumulation and Meltout



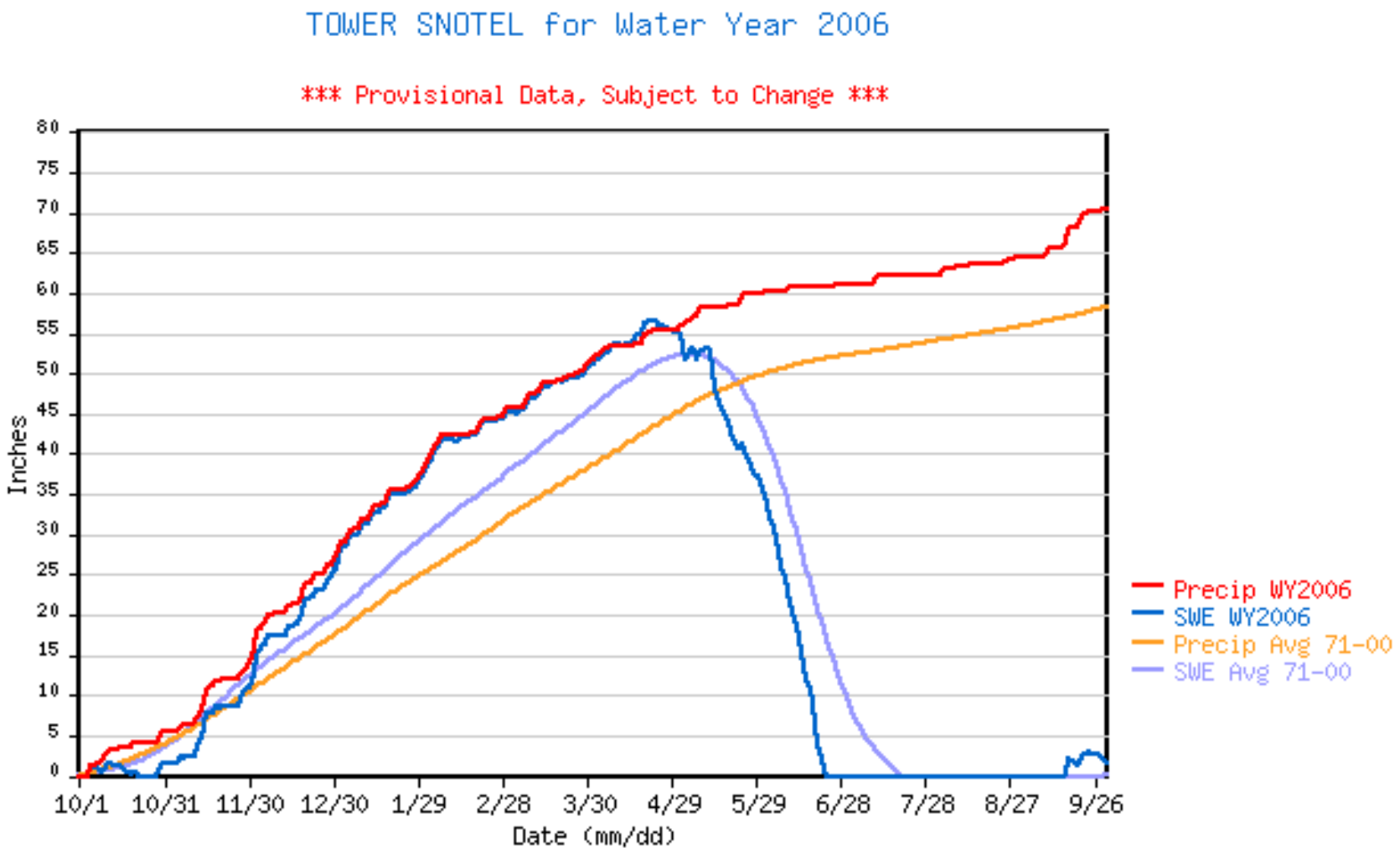
University Camp Snotel



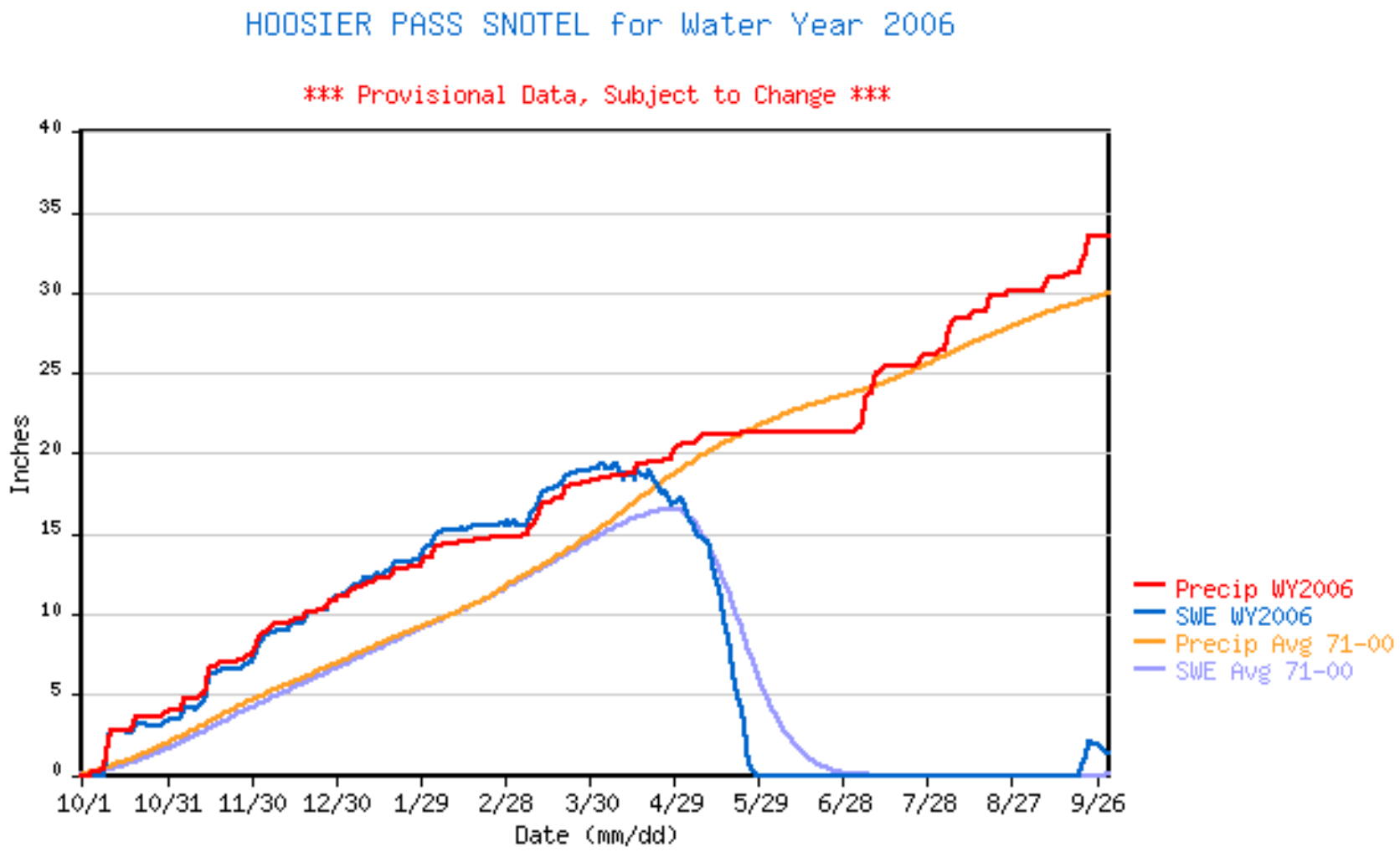
Joe Wright Reservoir Snotel



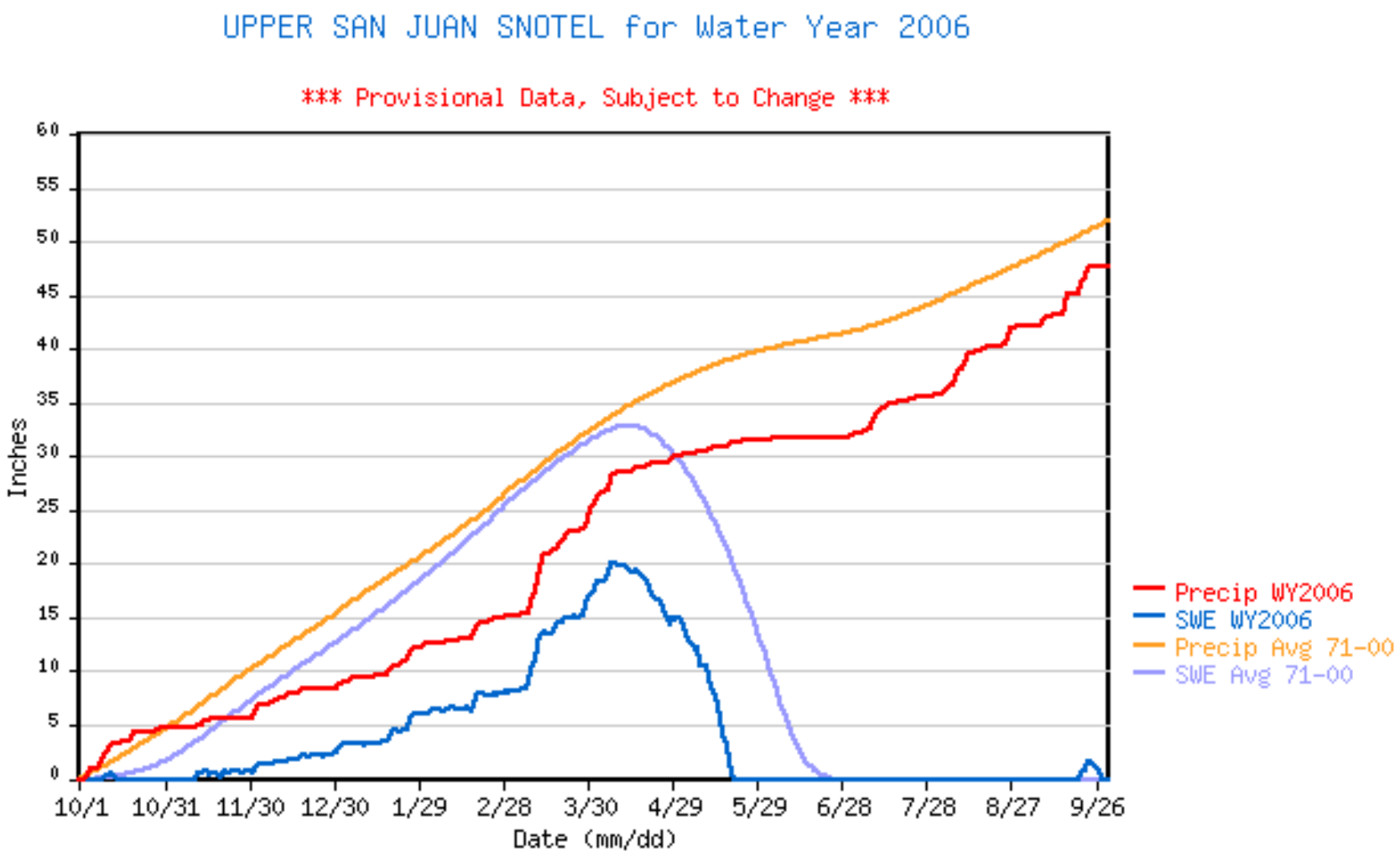
Tower Snotel



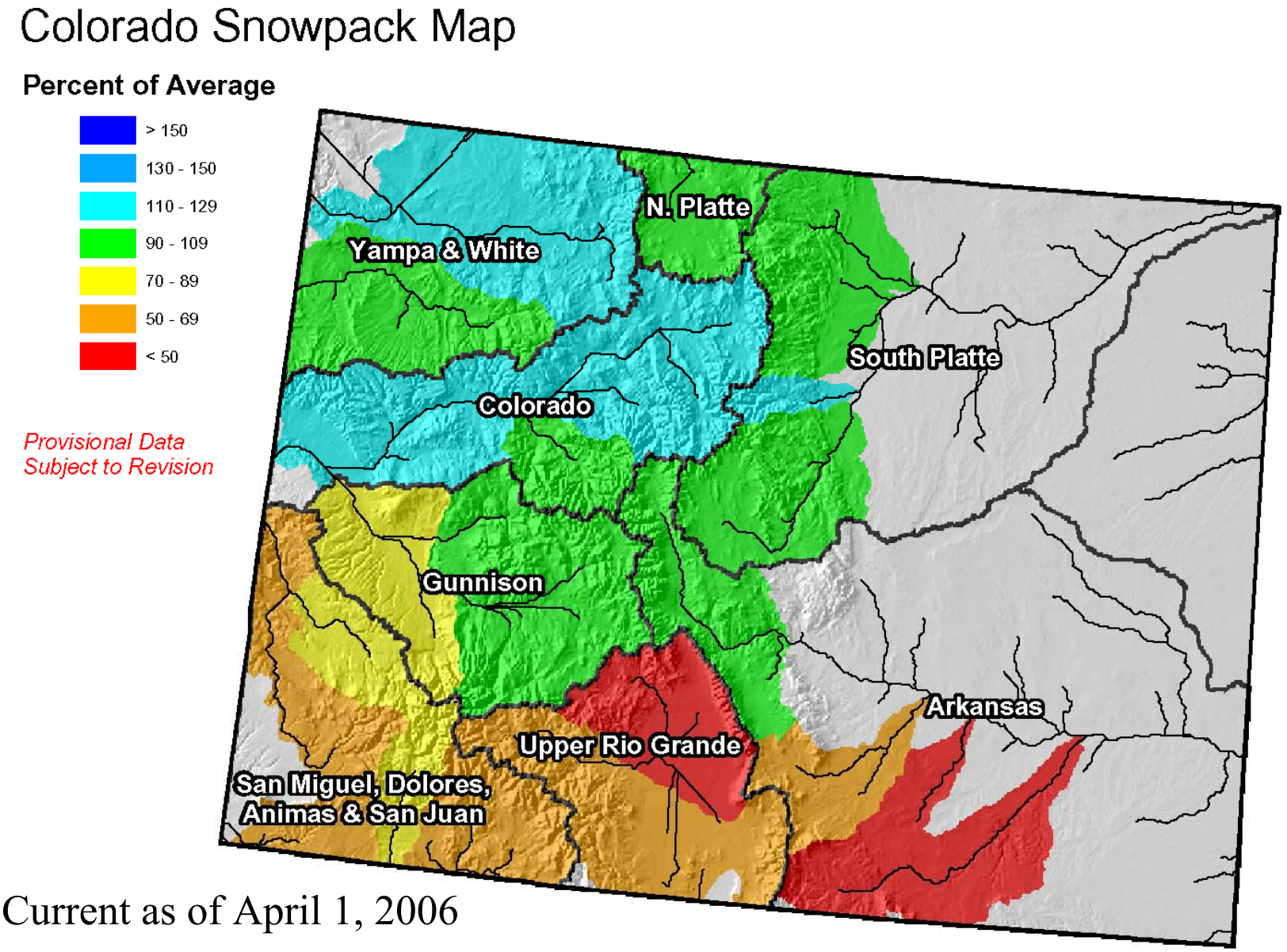
Hoosier Pass Snotel



Upper San Juan Snotel

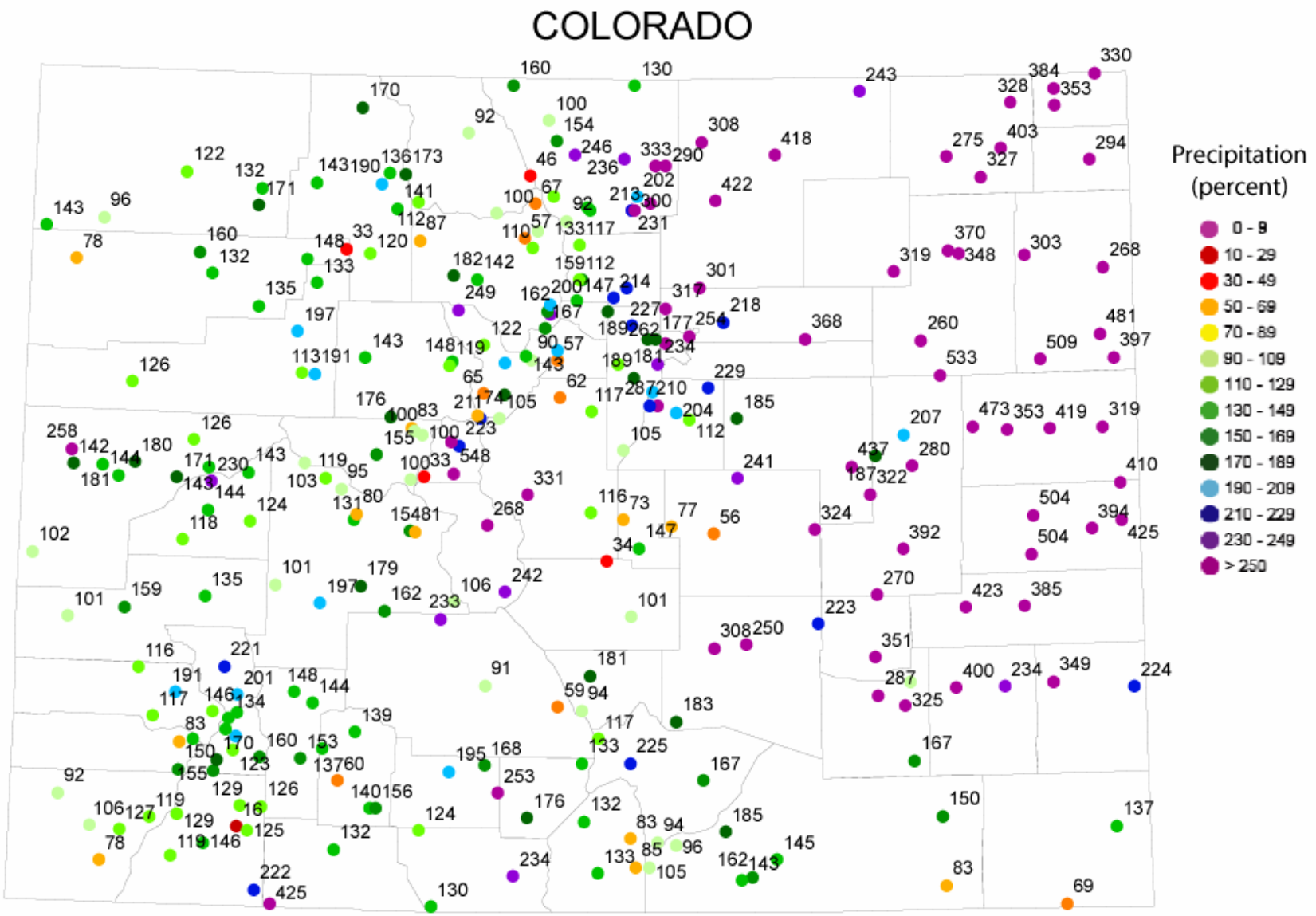


April 1 Snowpack



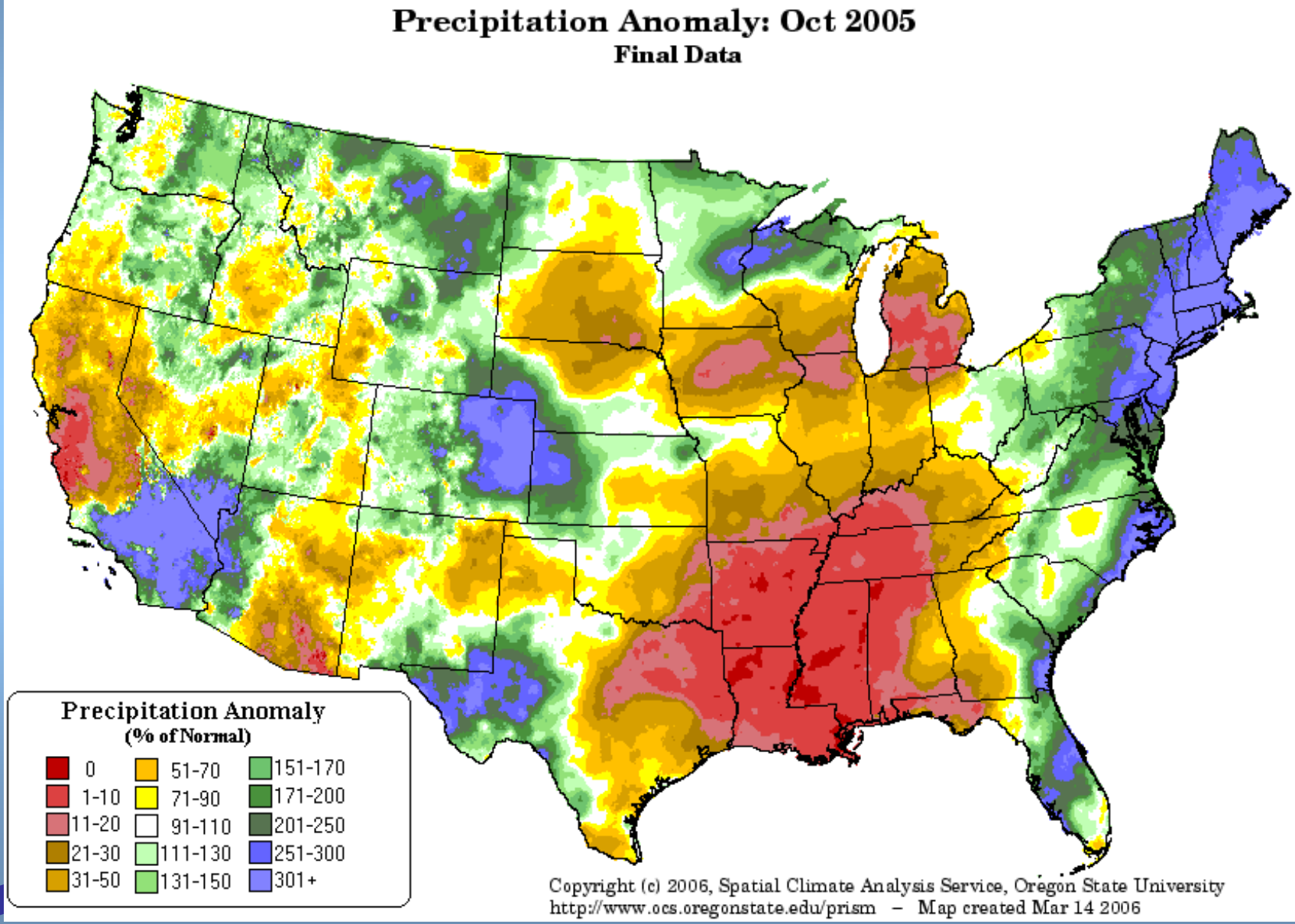
Current as of April 1, 2006

Oct 2005 Precipitation percent normal

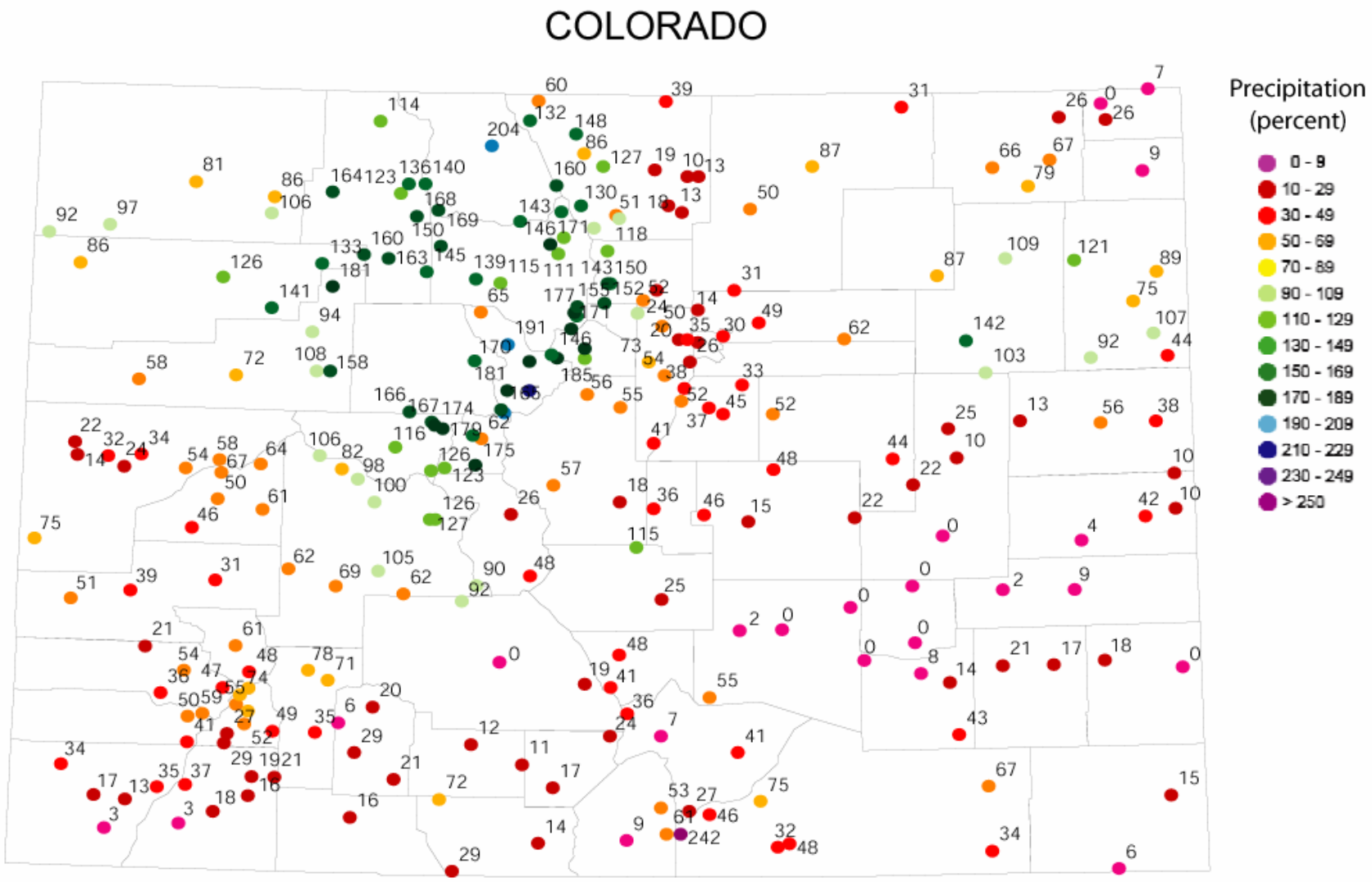


October 2005 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

October 2005 precipitation as percent of average (Prism)



Nov 2005 Precipitation percent normal



November 2005 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

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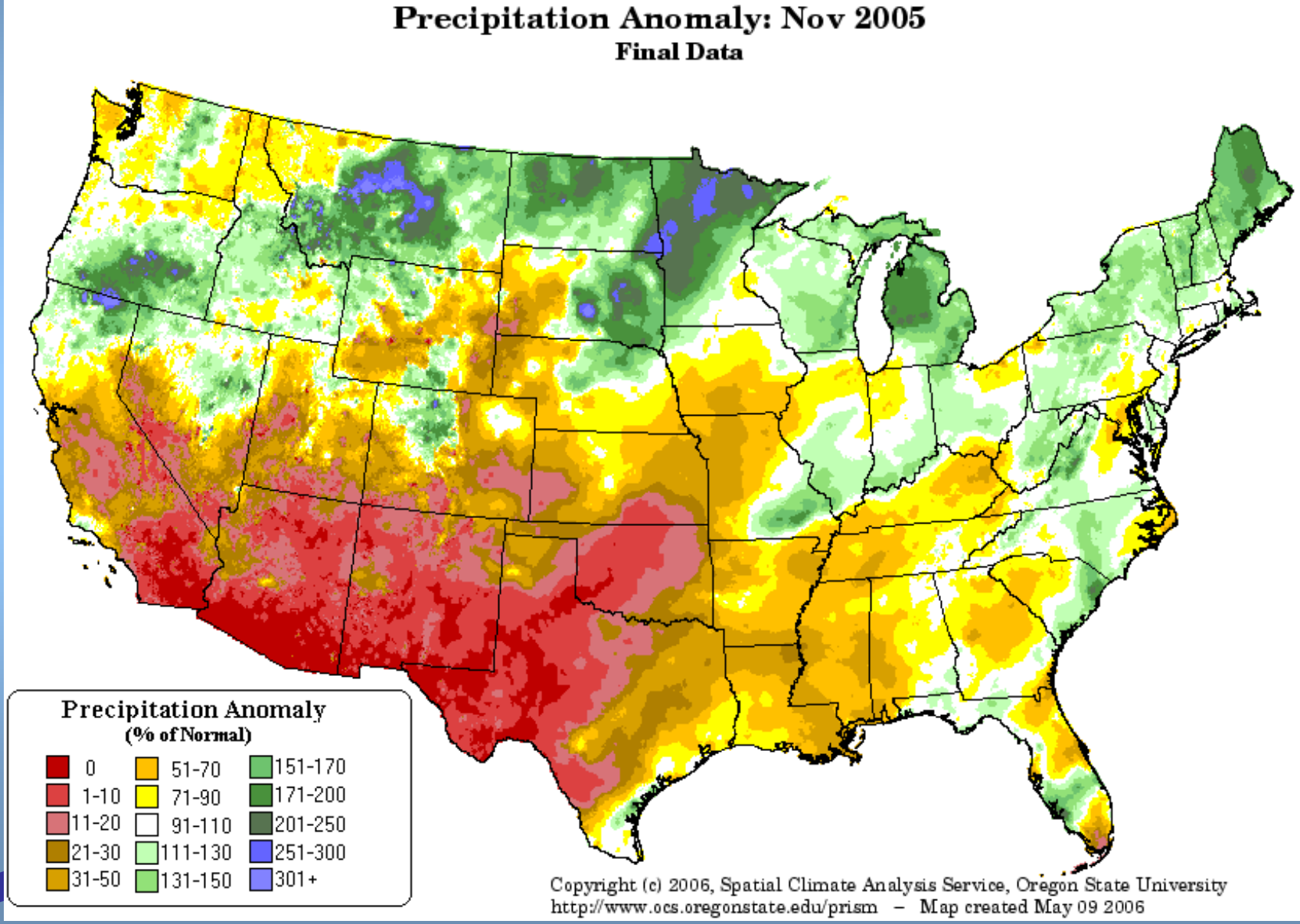
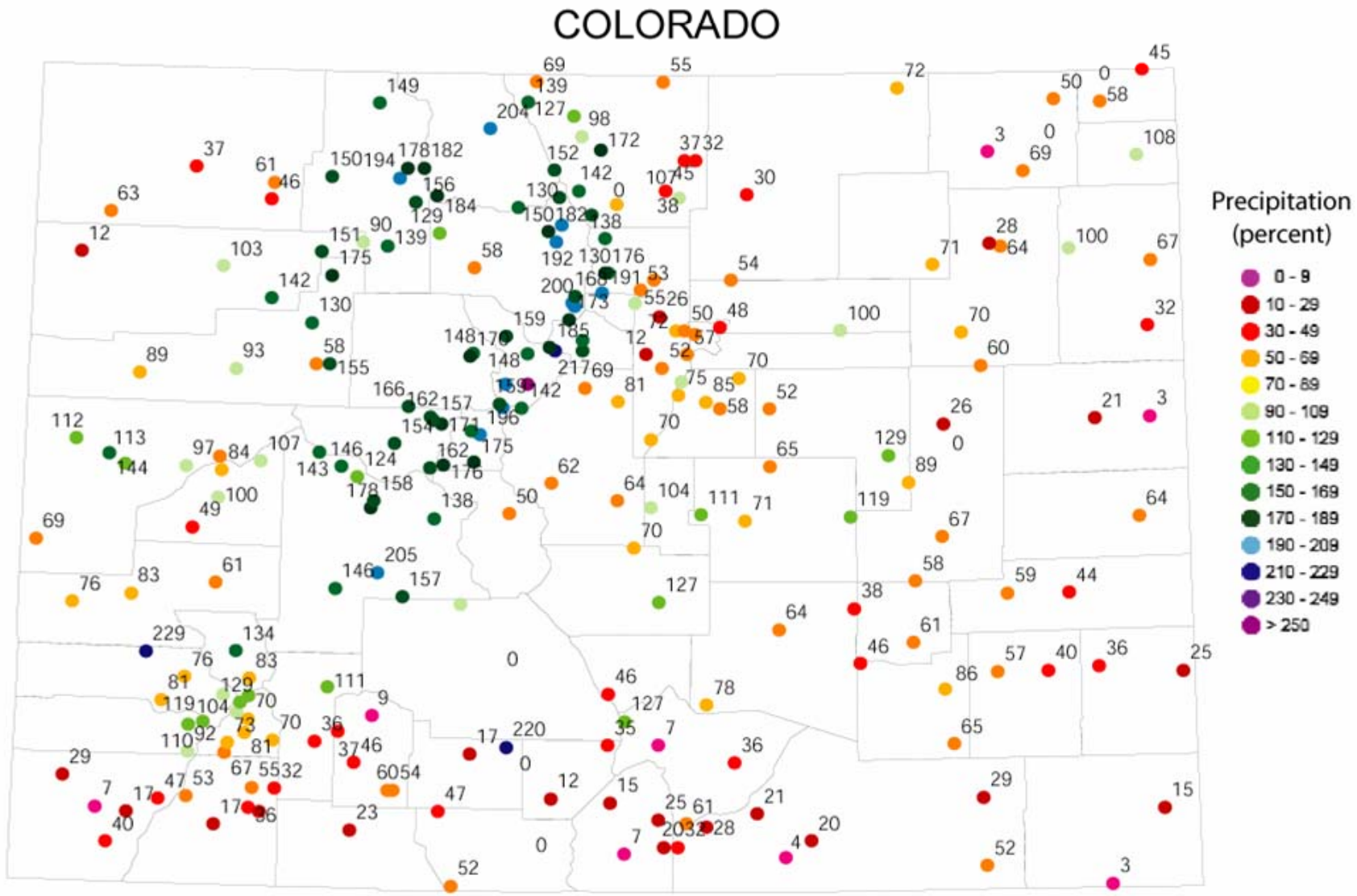
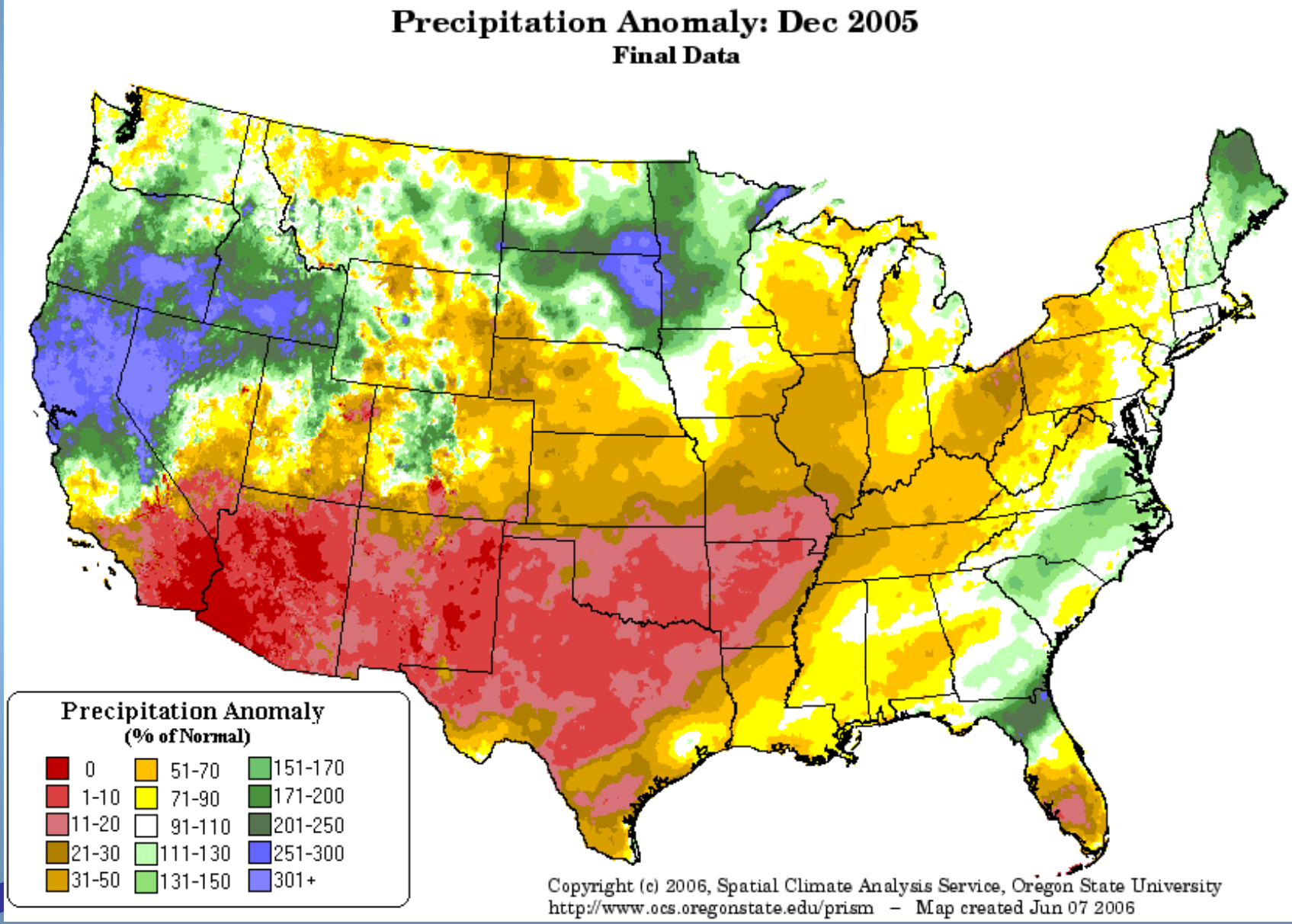


Dec 2005 Precipitation percent normal

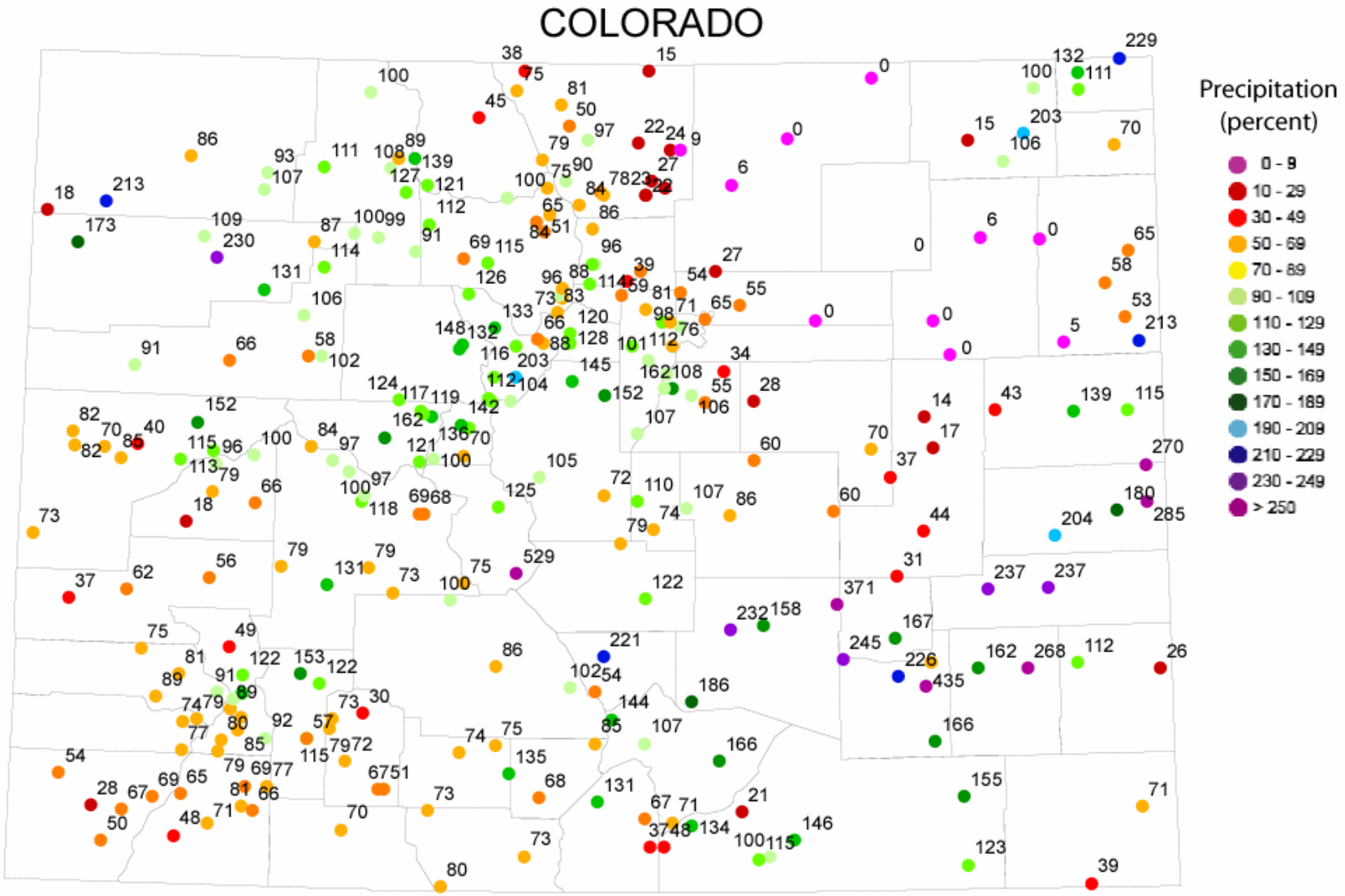


December 2005 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

December 2005 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

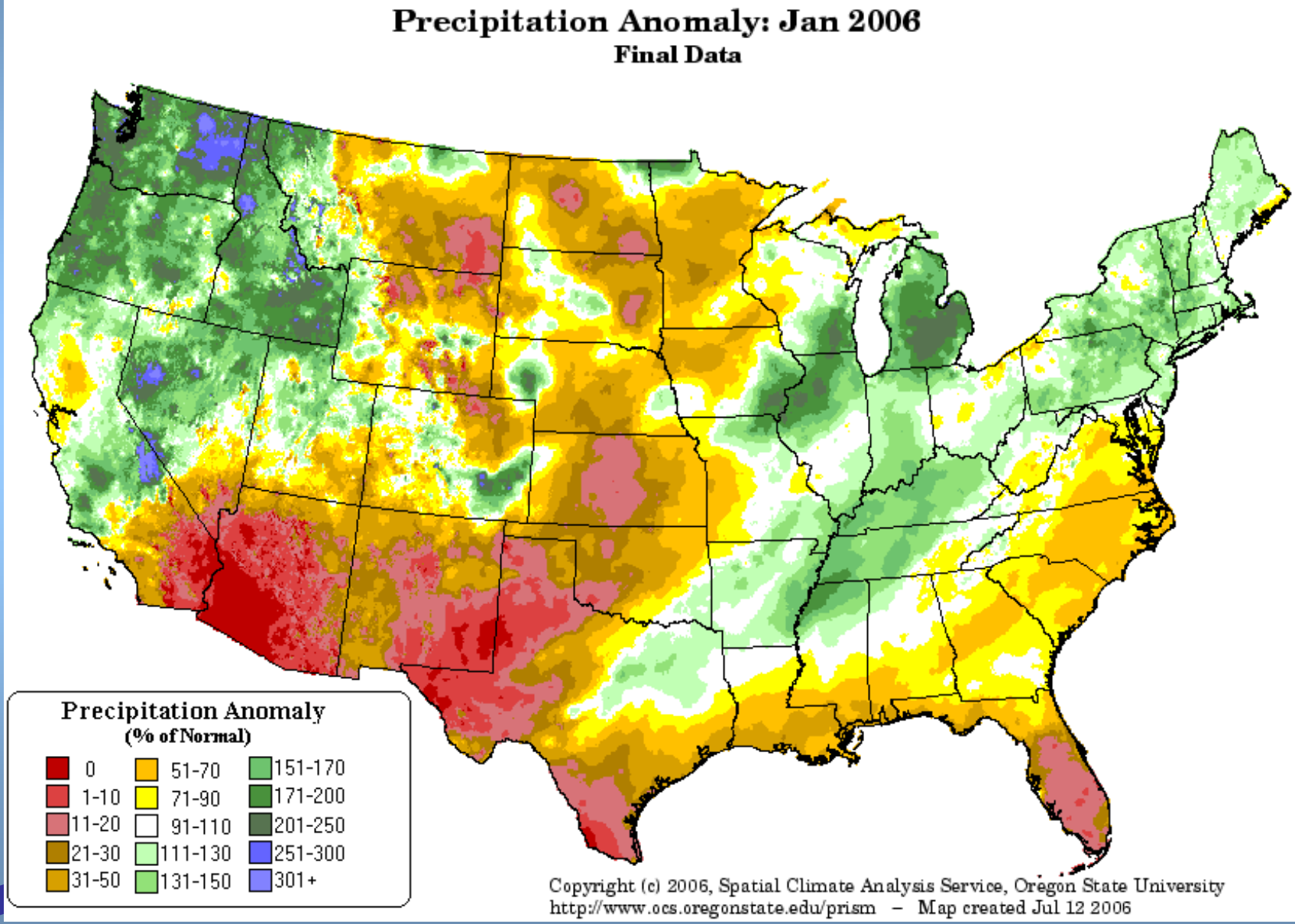


Jan 2006 Precipitation percent normal

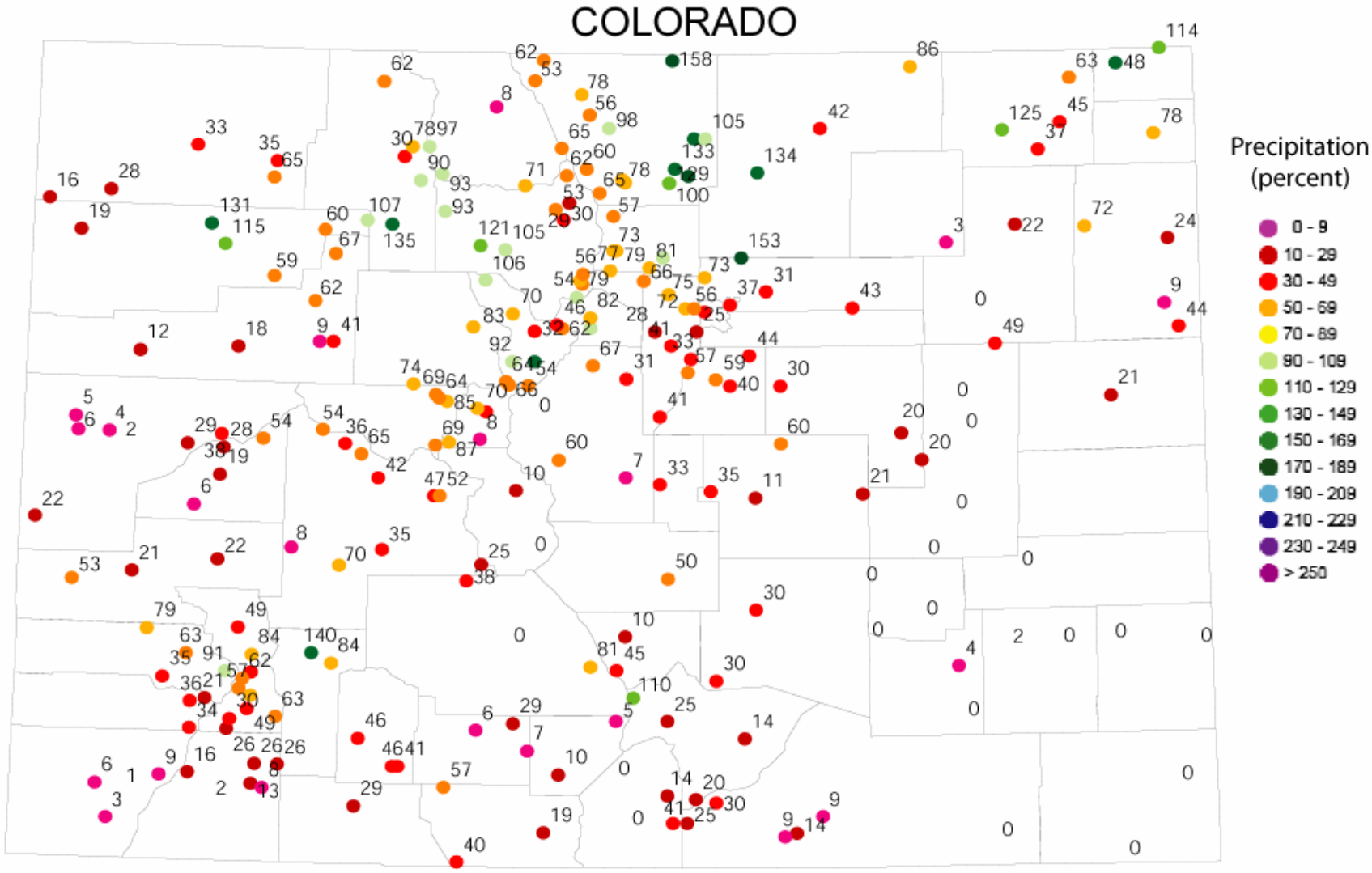


January 2006 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

January 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

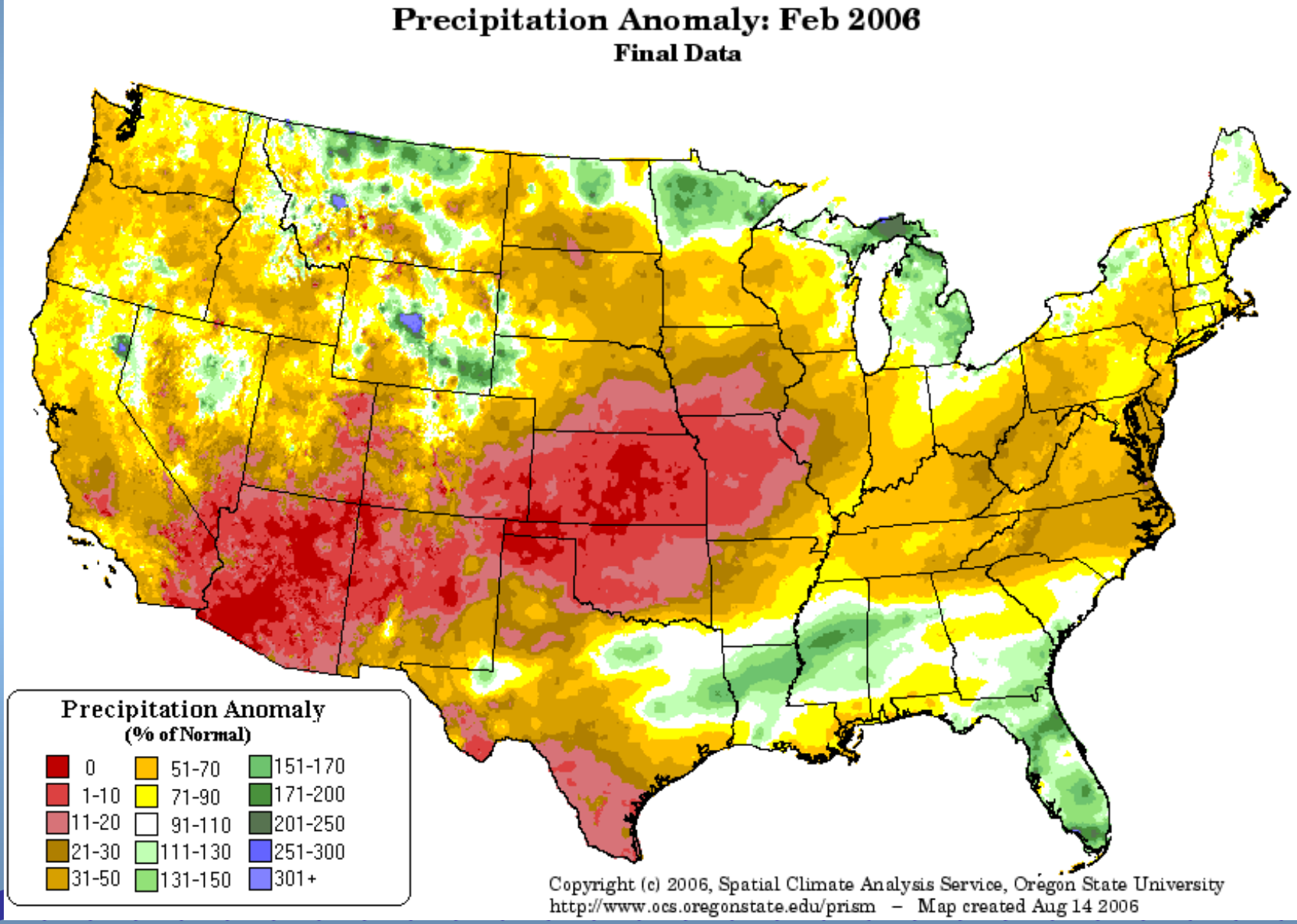


Feb 2006 Precipitation percent normal

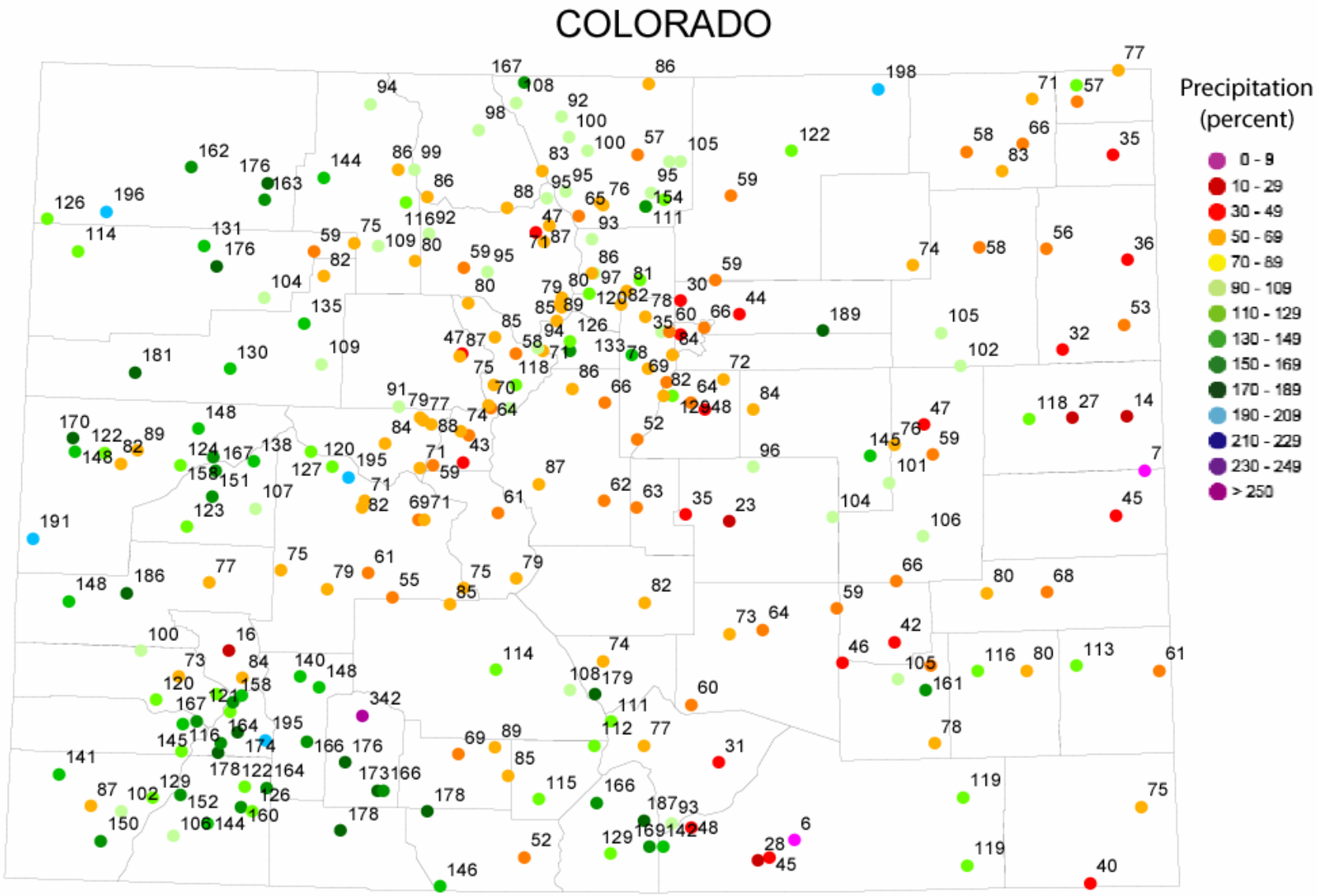


February 2006 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

February 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

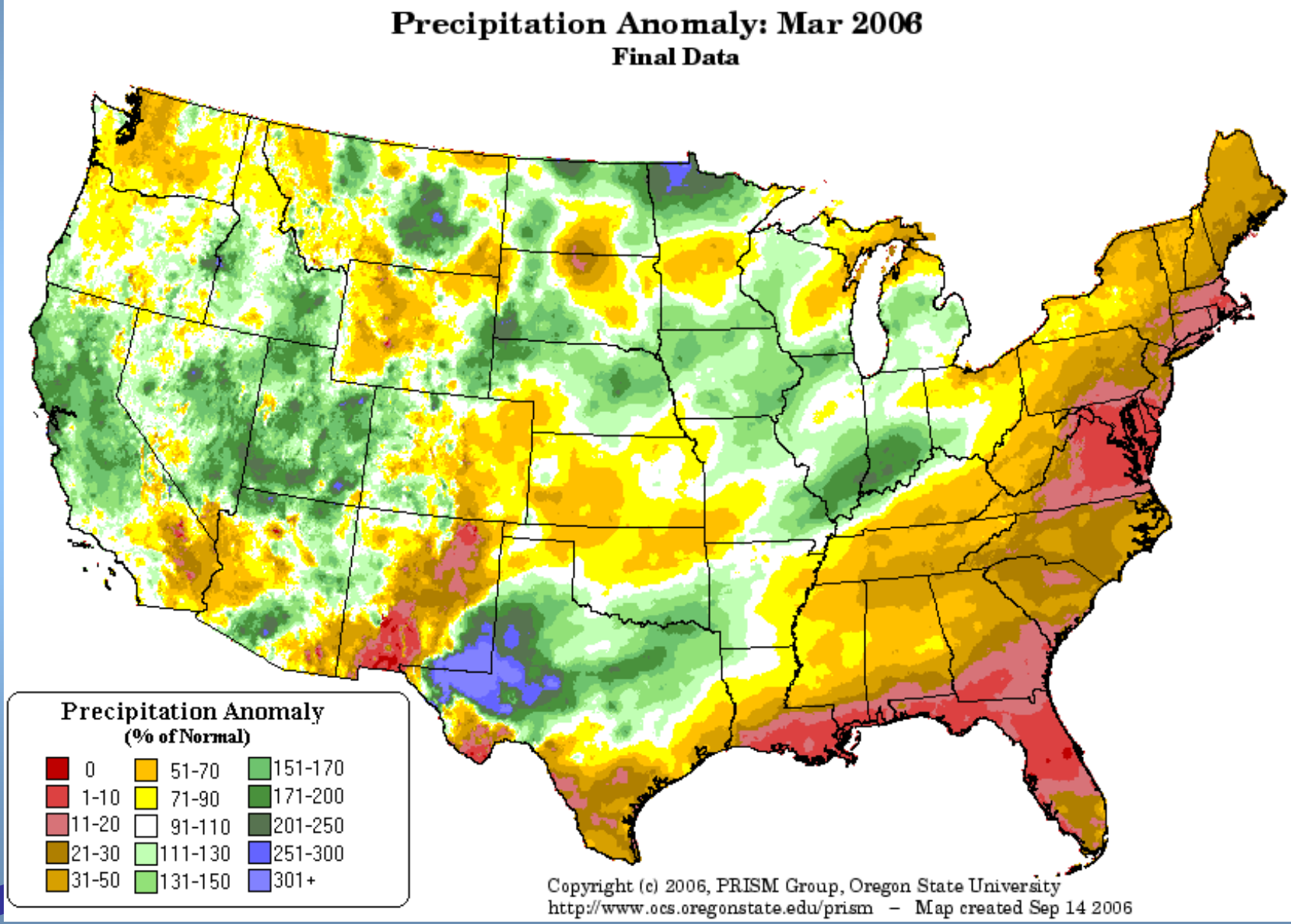


Mar 2006 Precipitation percent normal

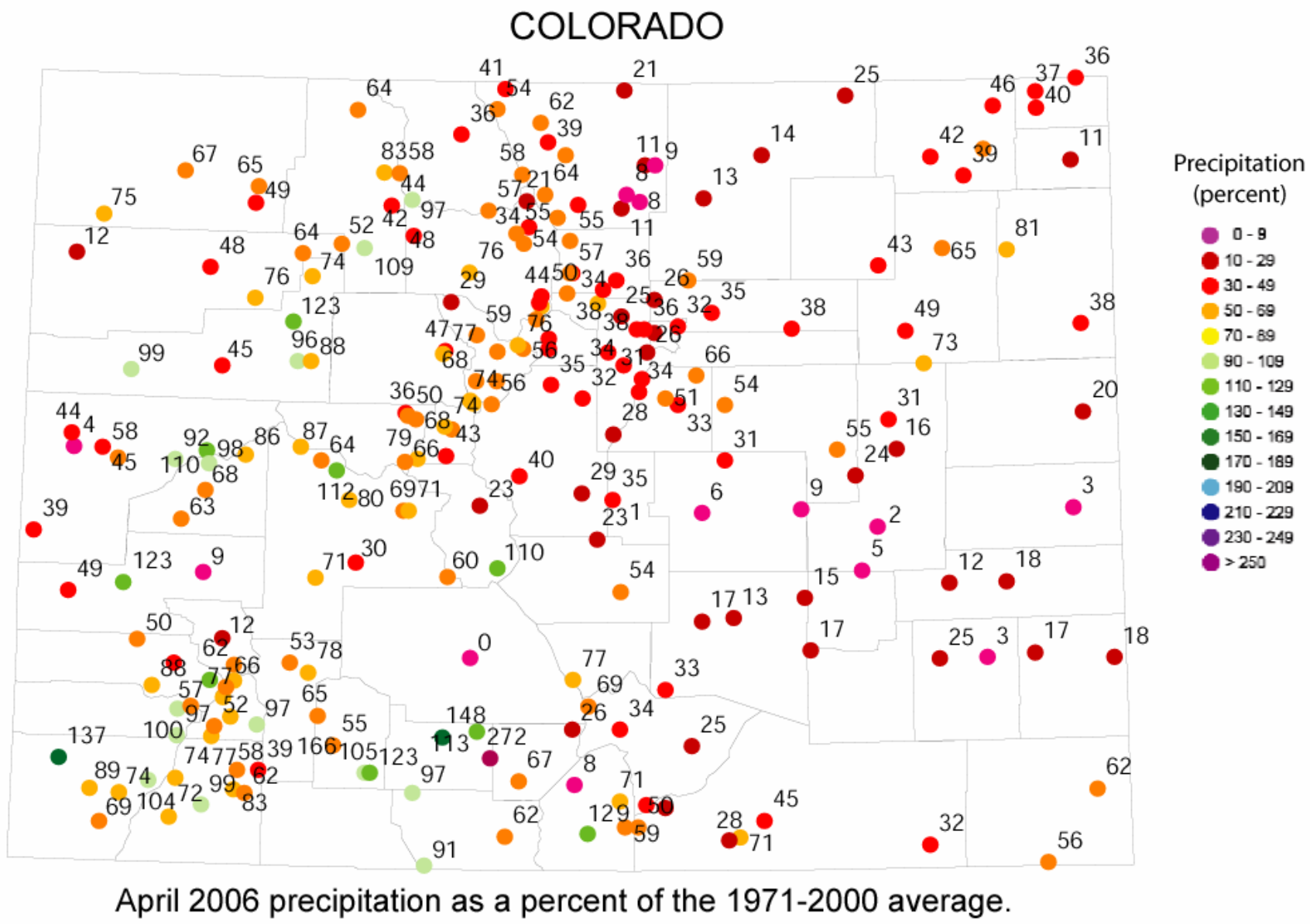


March 2006 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

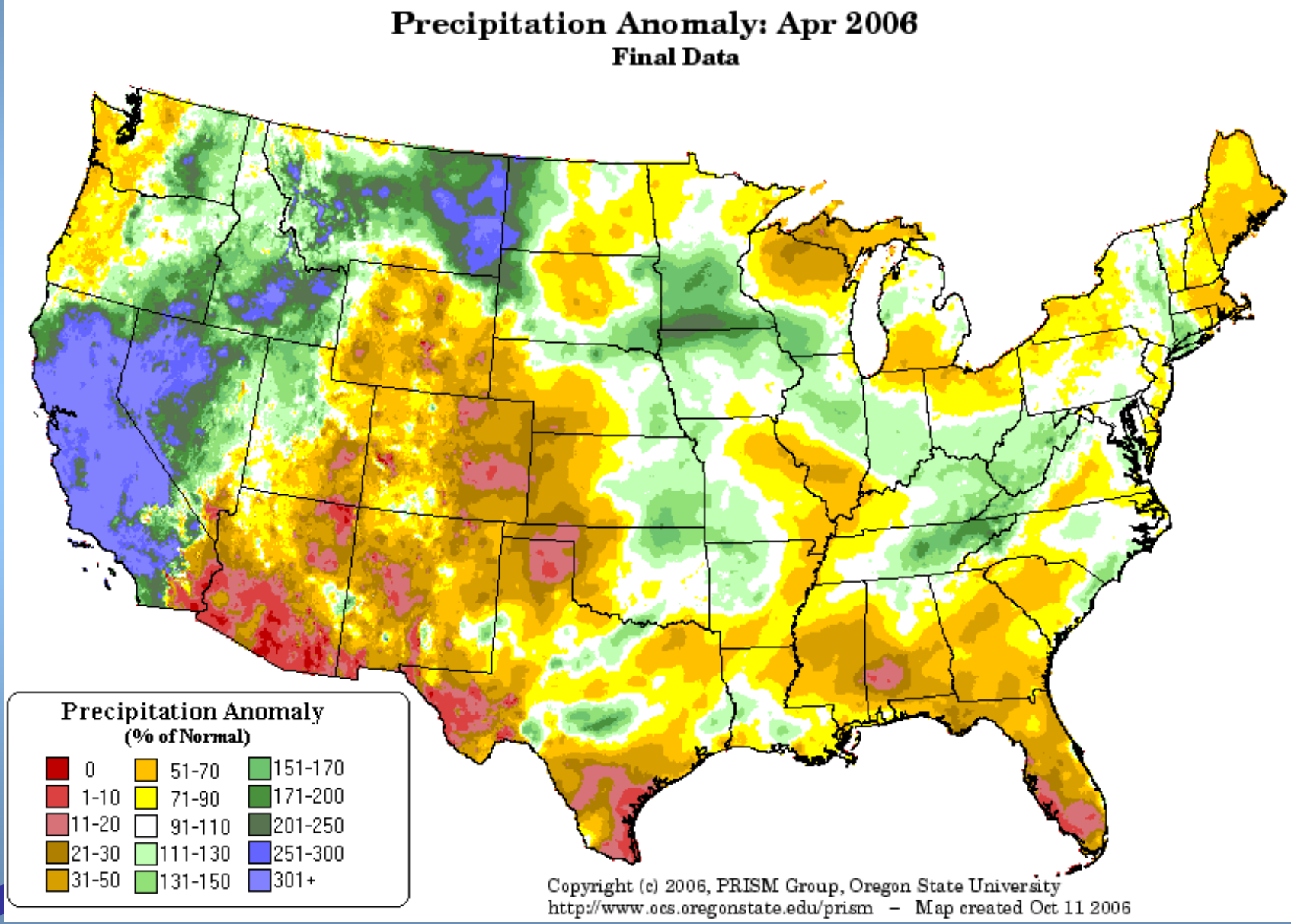
March 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)



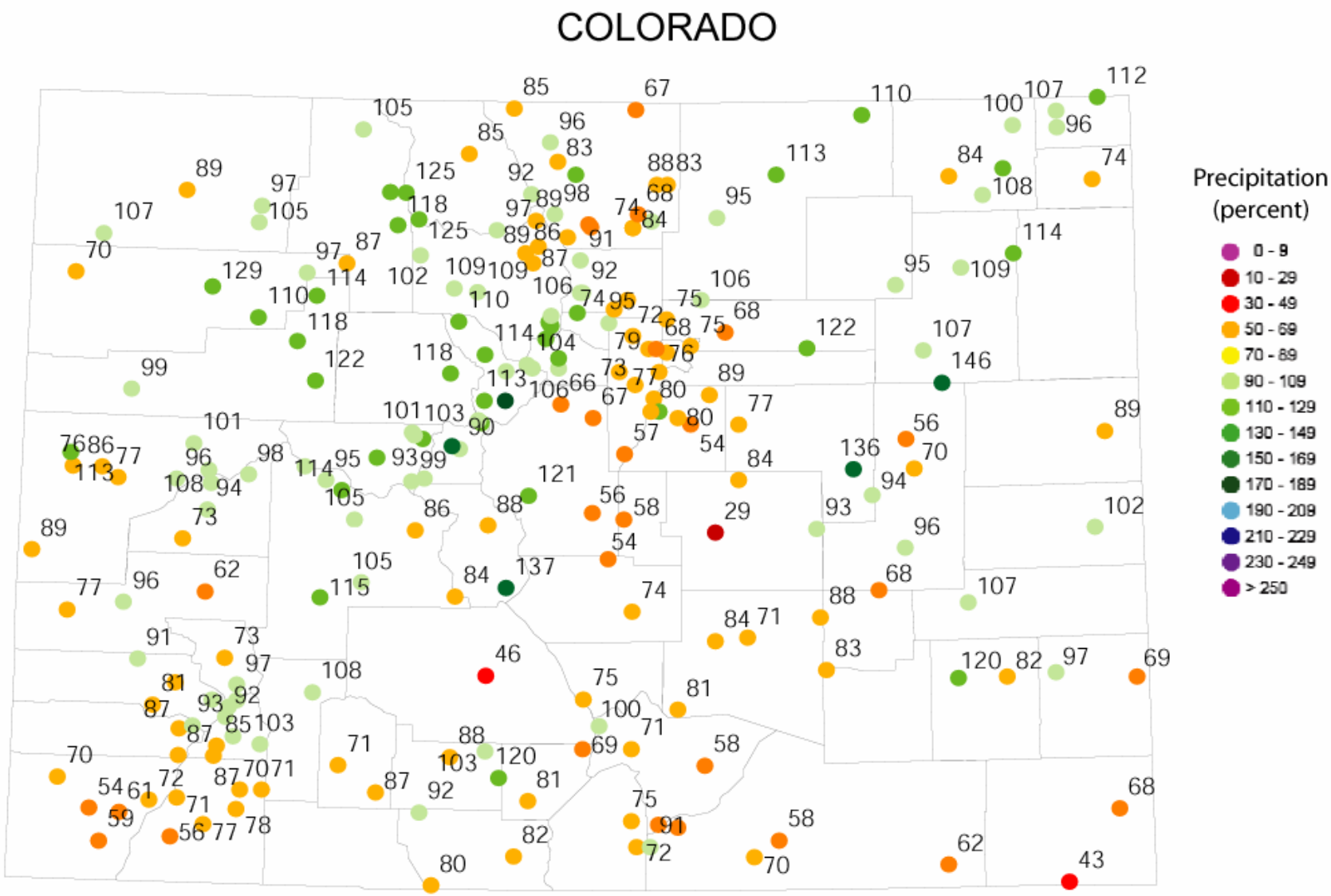
Apr 2006 Precipitation percent normal



April 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

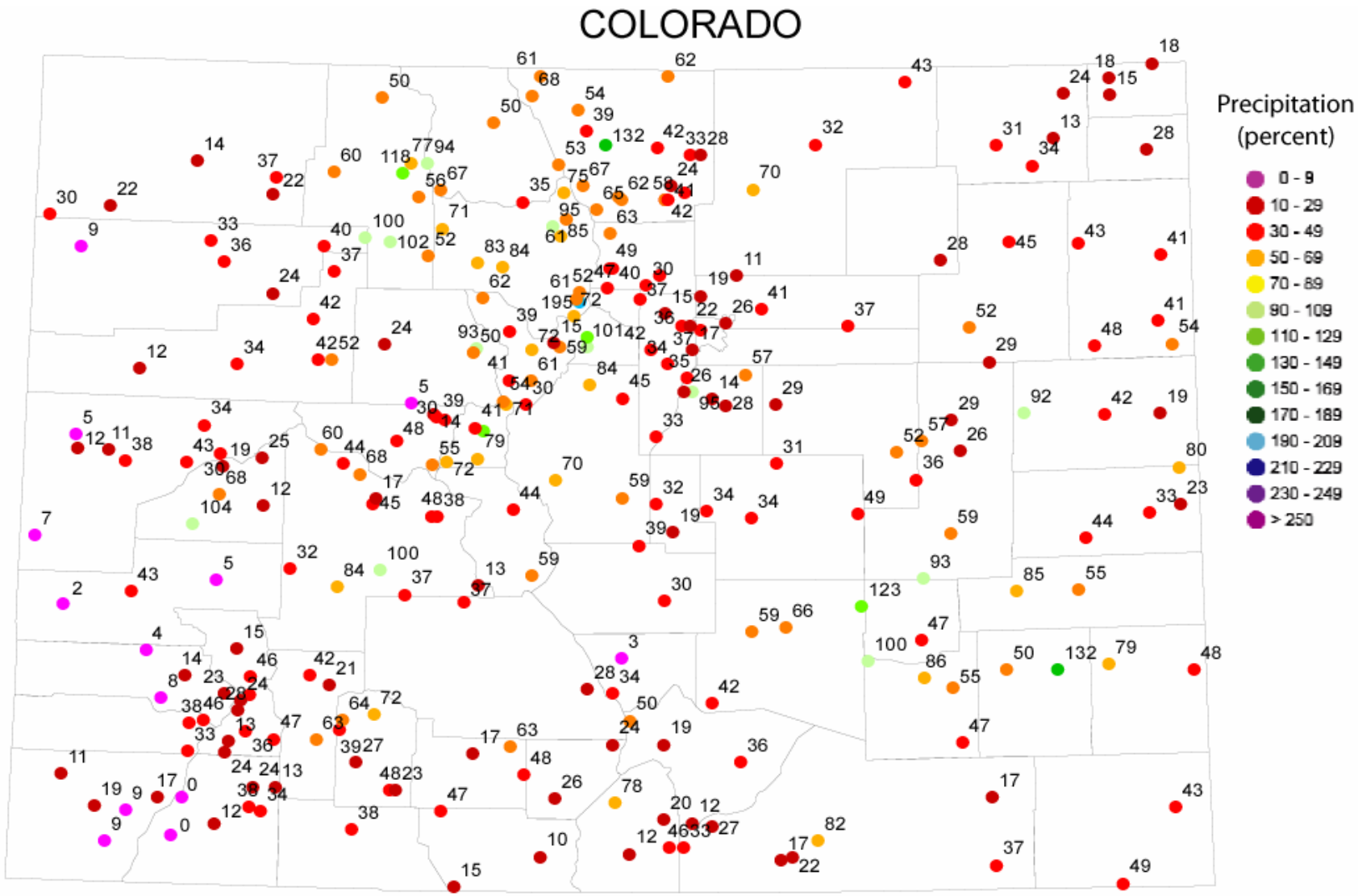


Winter (Oct 2005 - April 2006) precipitation as percent of average



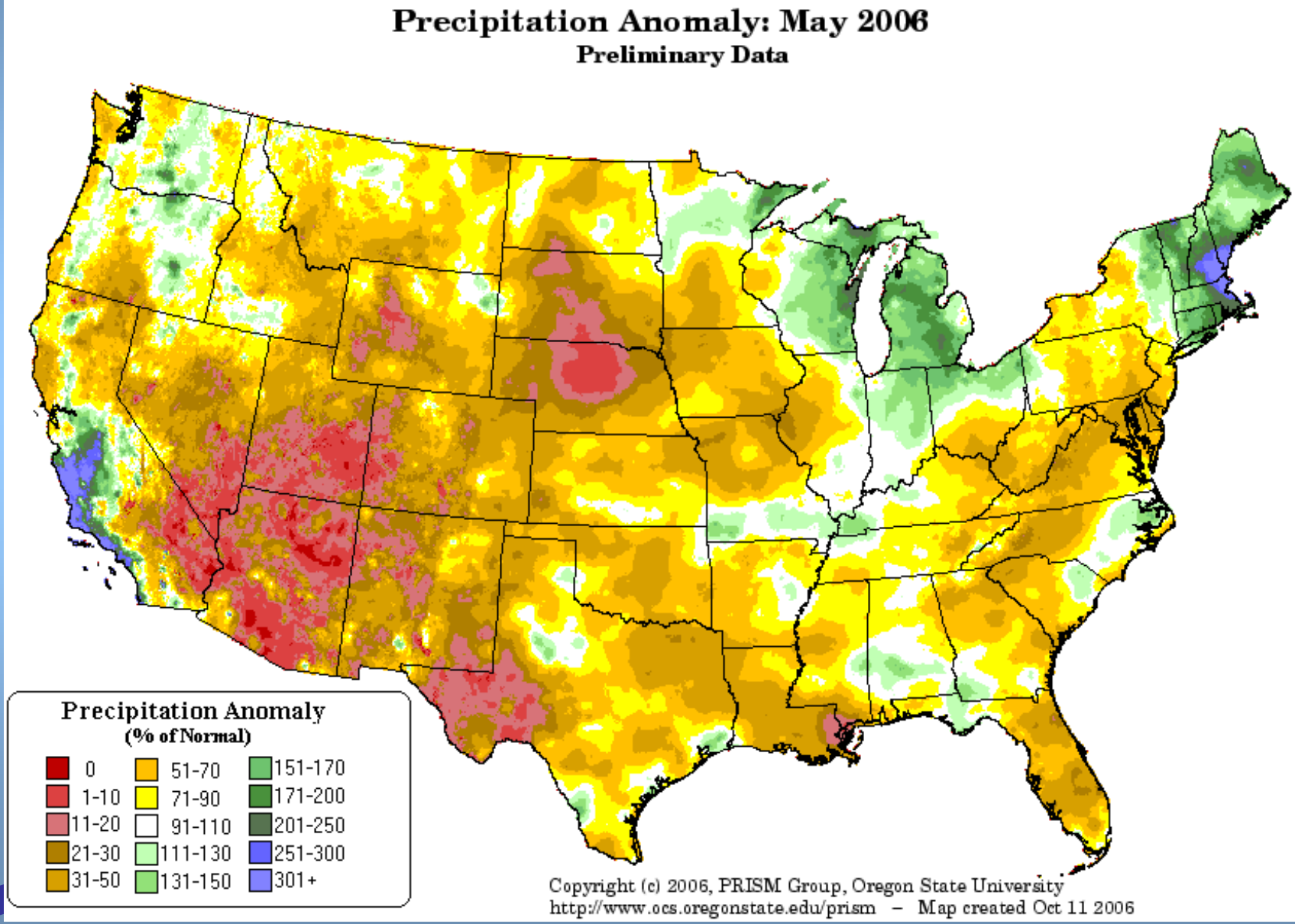
Water Year 2006 (October 2005 through April 2006) precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

May 2006 Precipitation percent normal

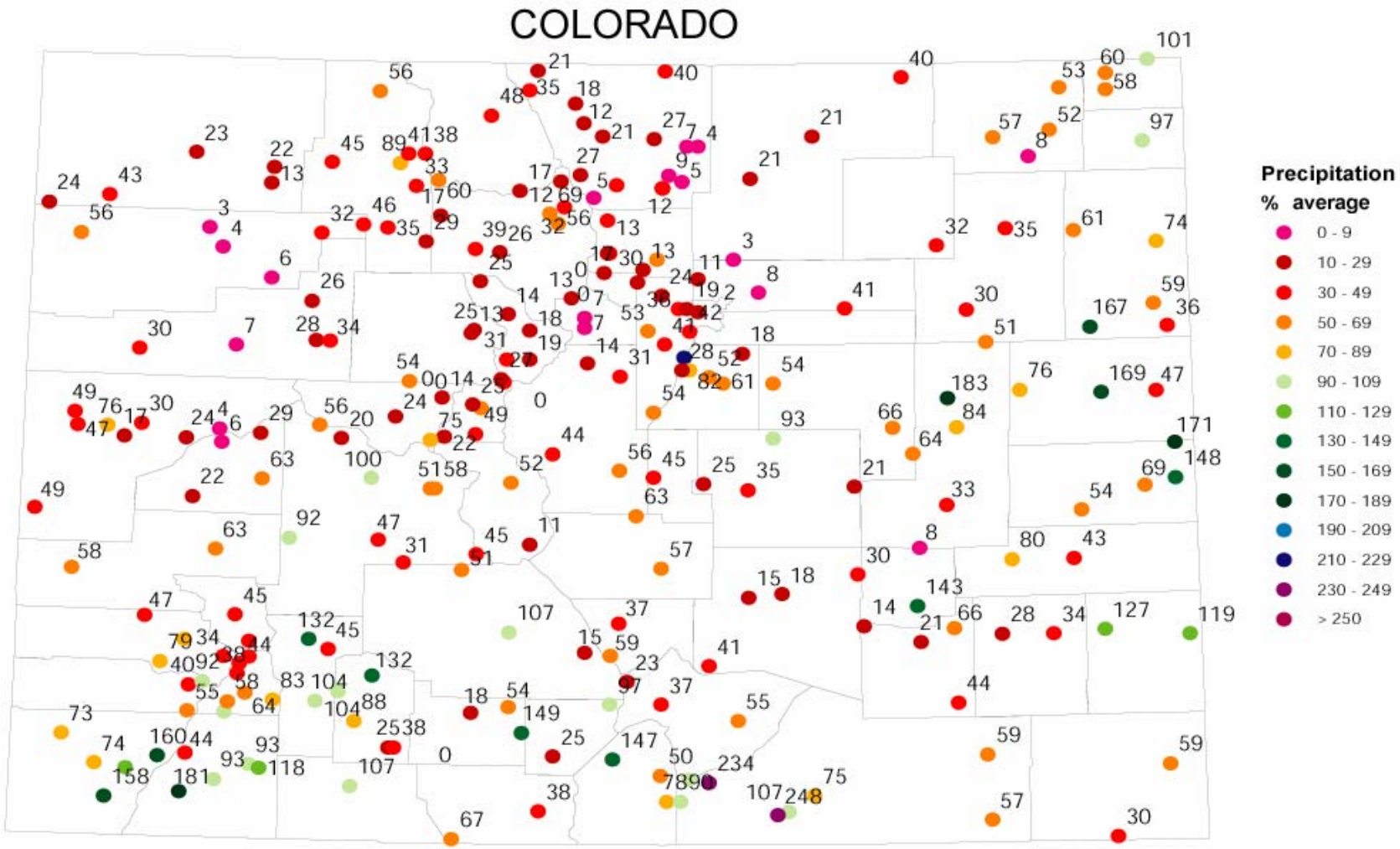


May 2006 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

May 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

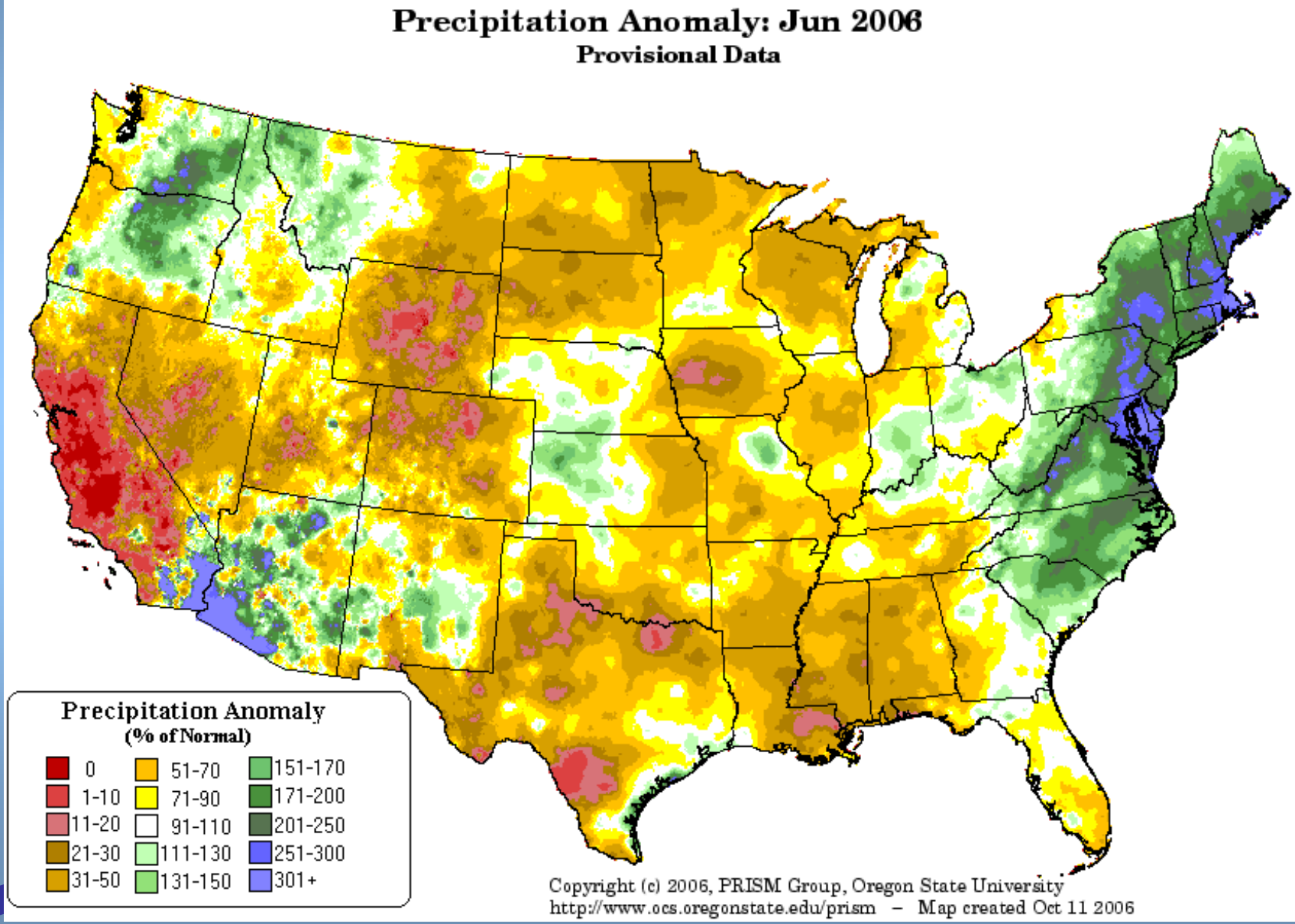


Jun 2006 Precipitation percent normal

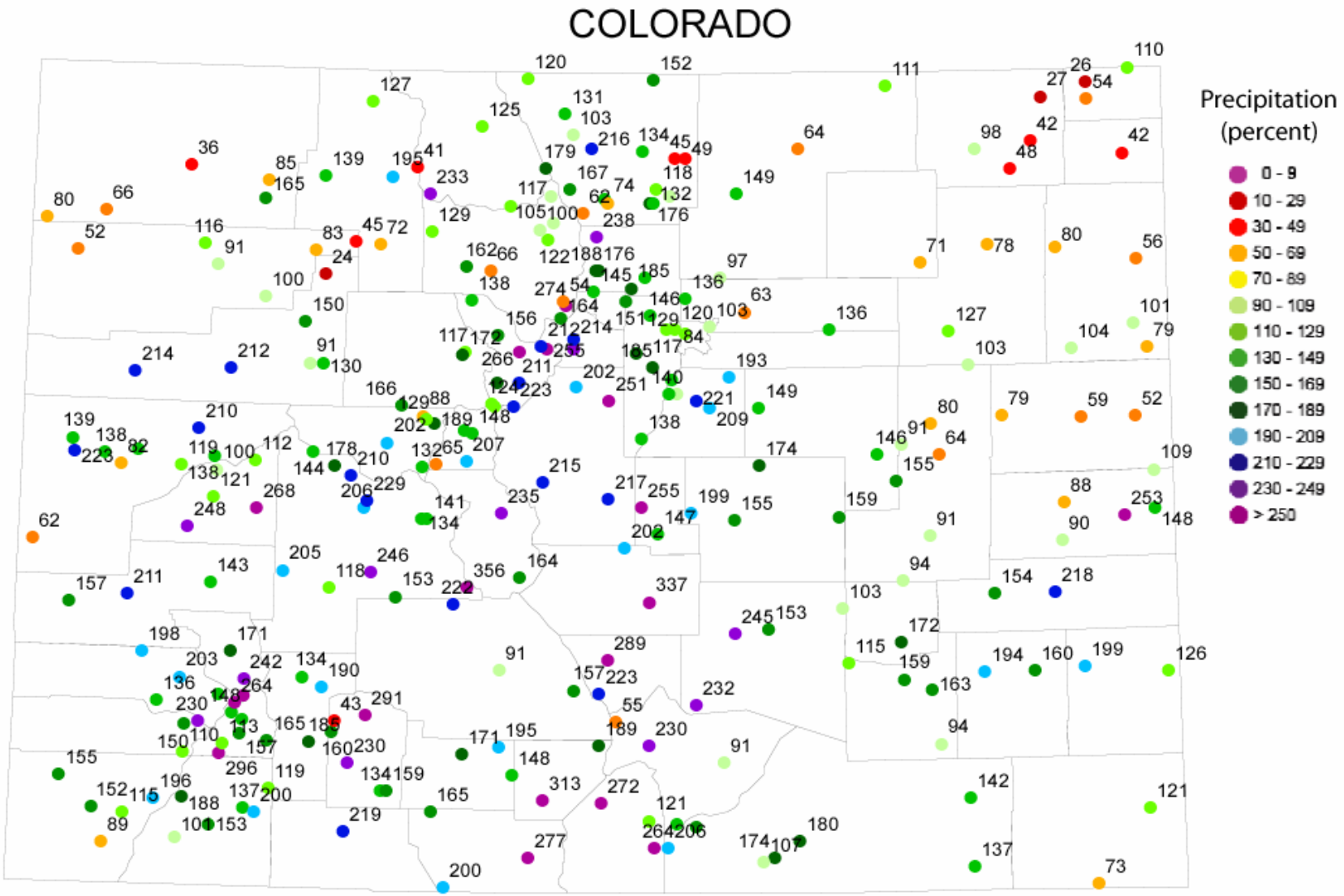


June 2006 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

June 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

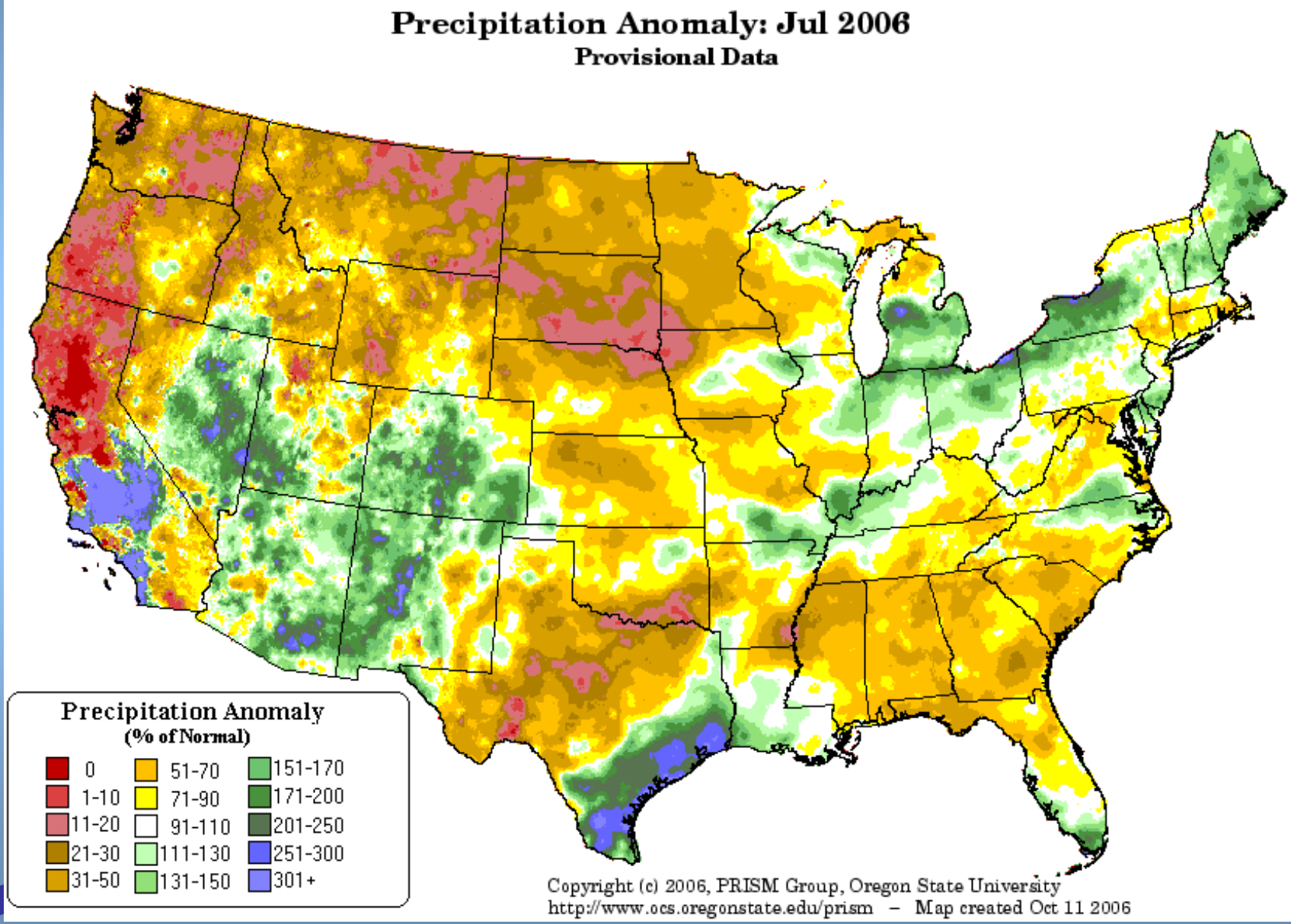


Jul 2006 Precipitation percent normal

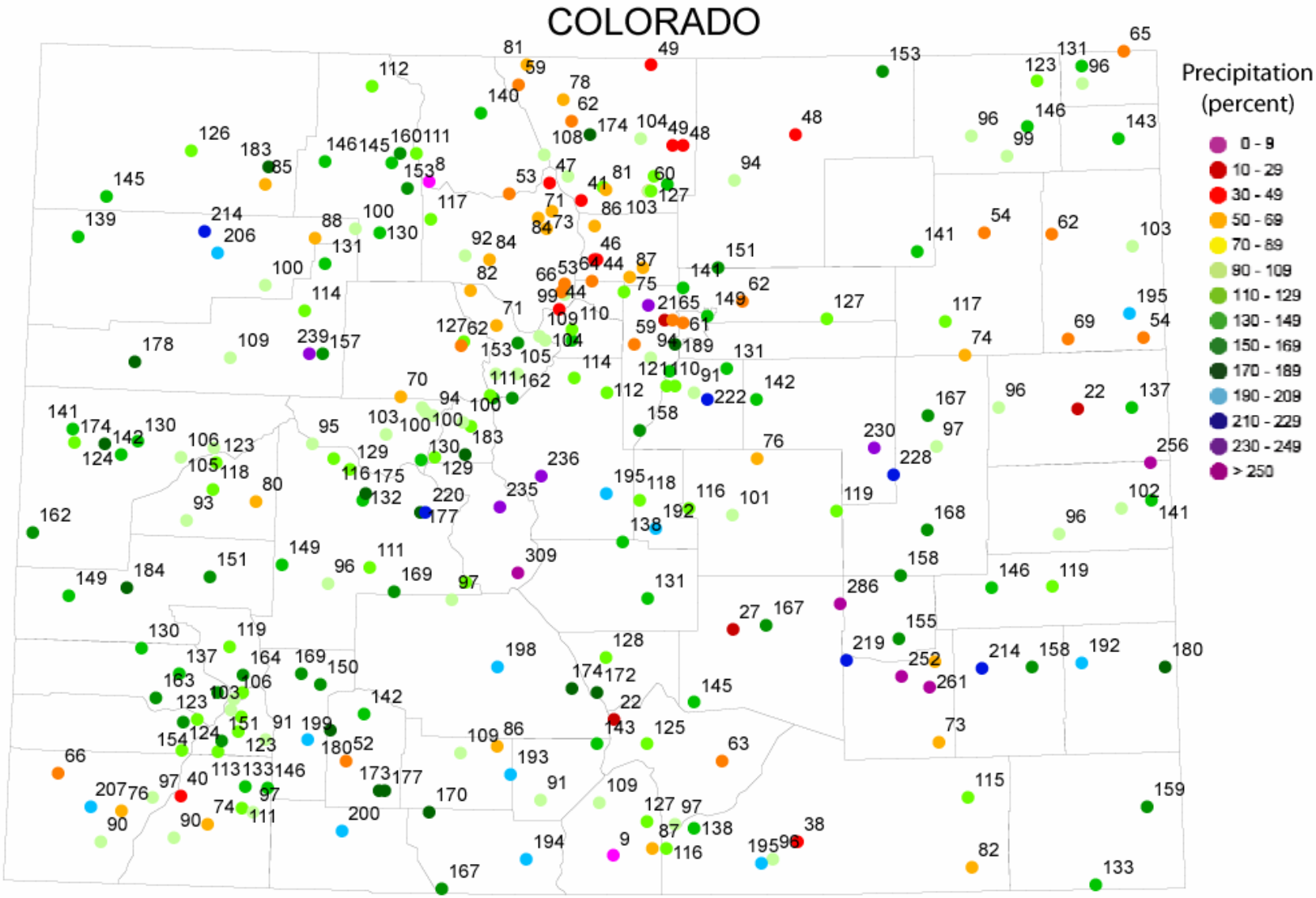


July 2006 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

July 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

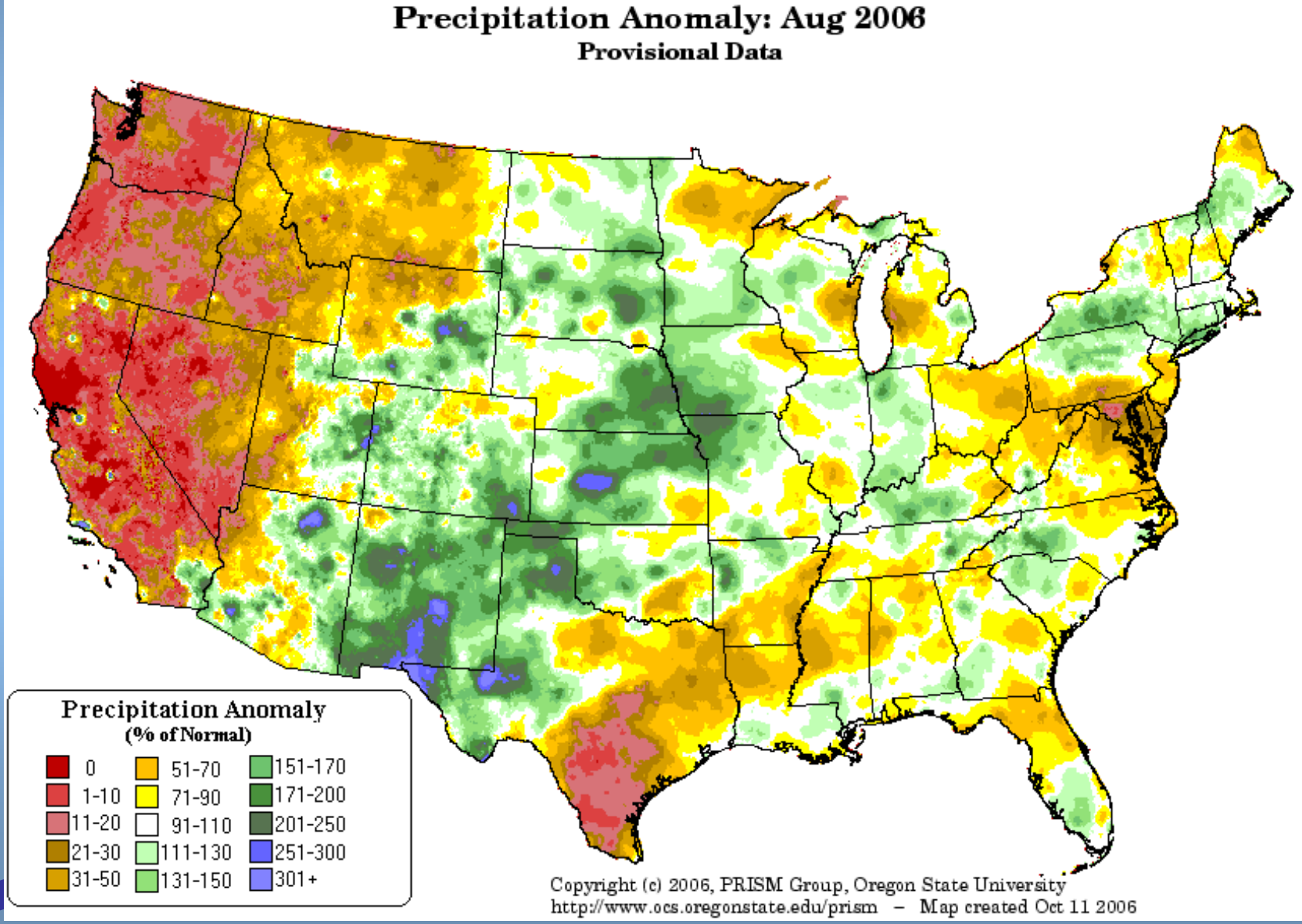


Aug 2006 Precipitation percent normal

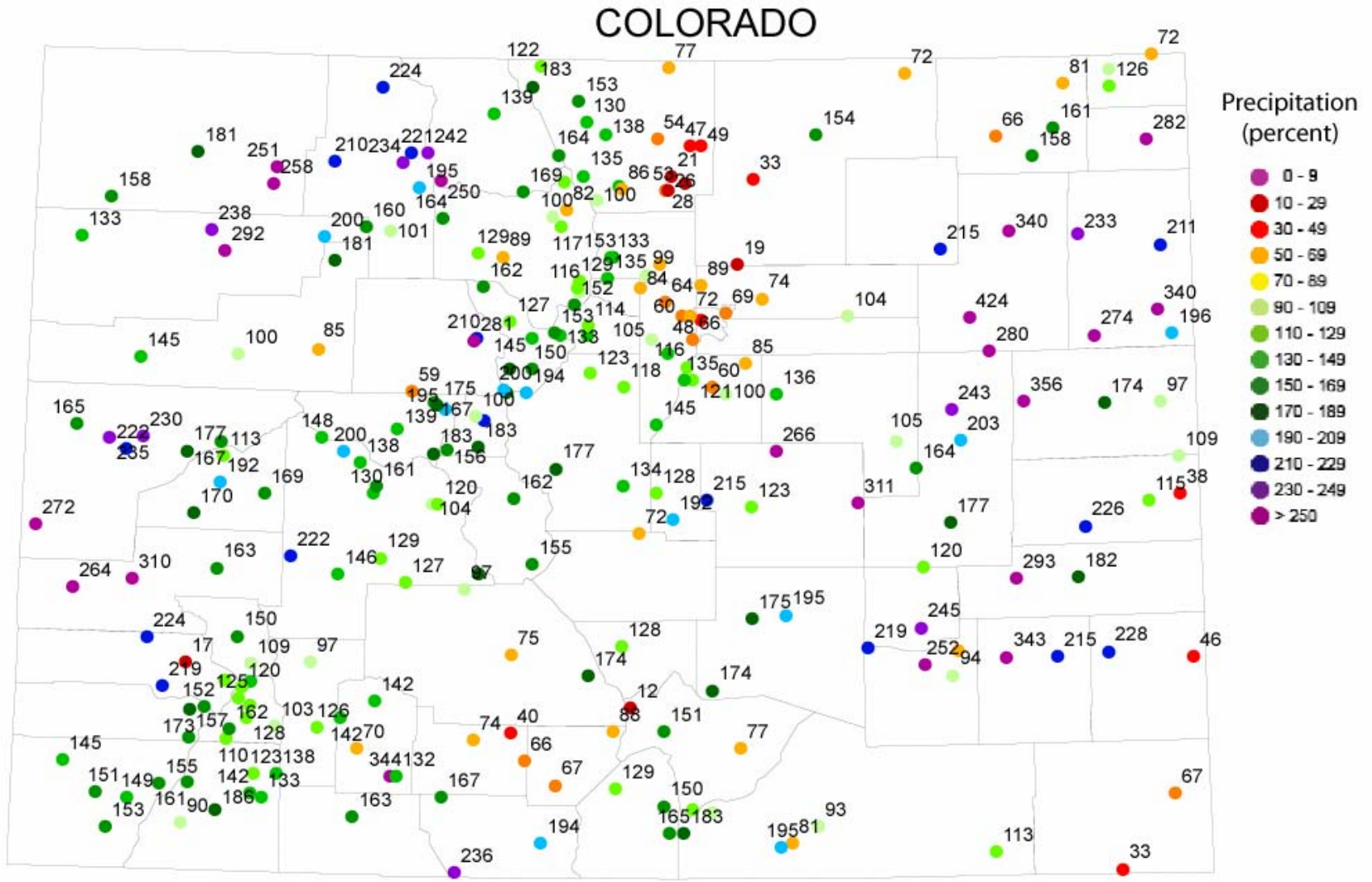


August 2006 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

August 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

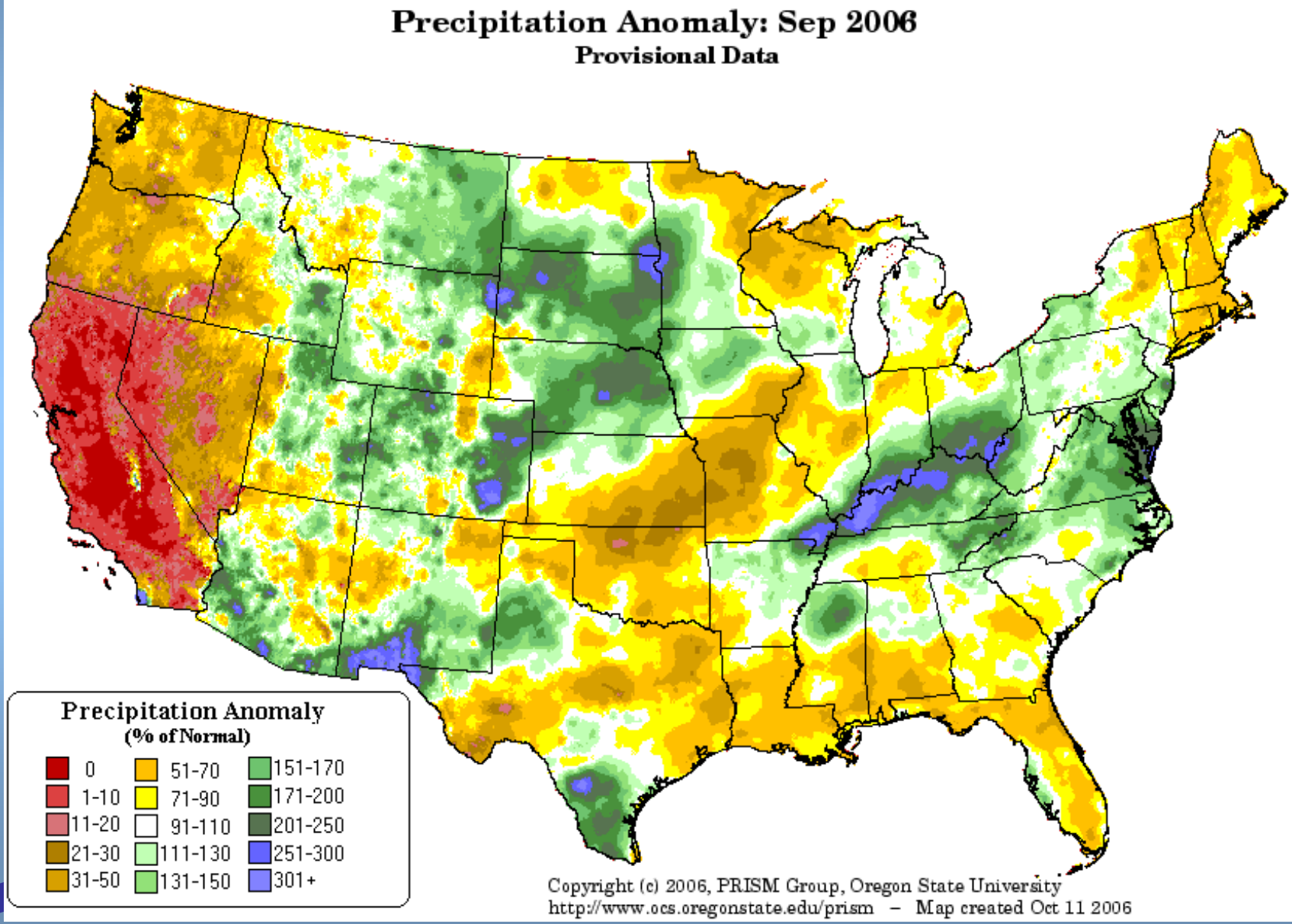


Sep 2006 Precipitation percent normal

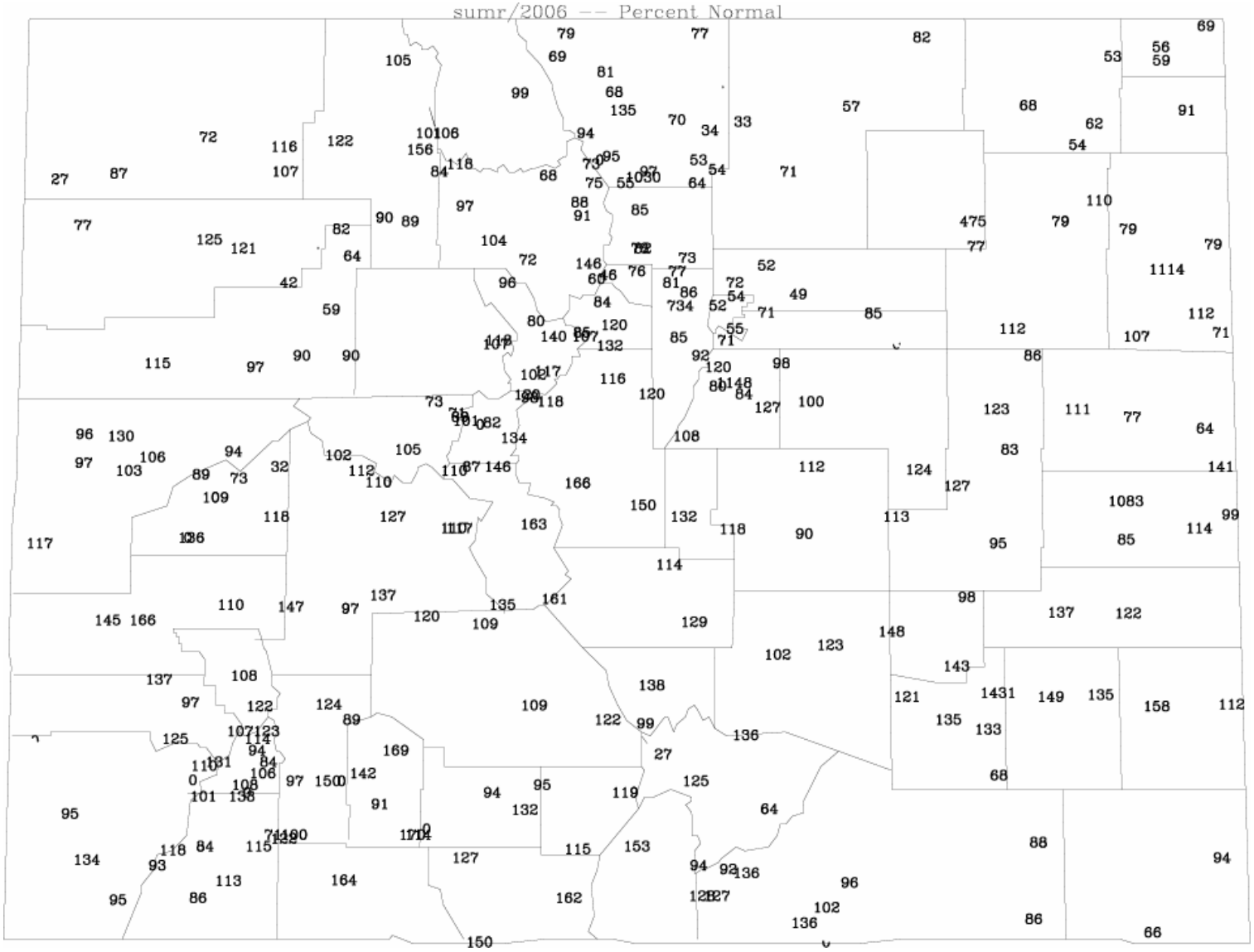


September 2006 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

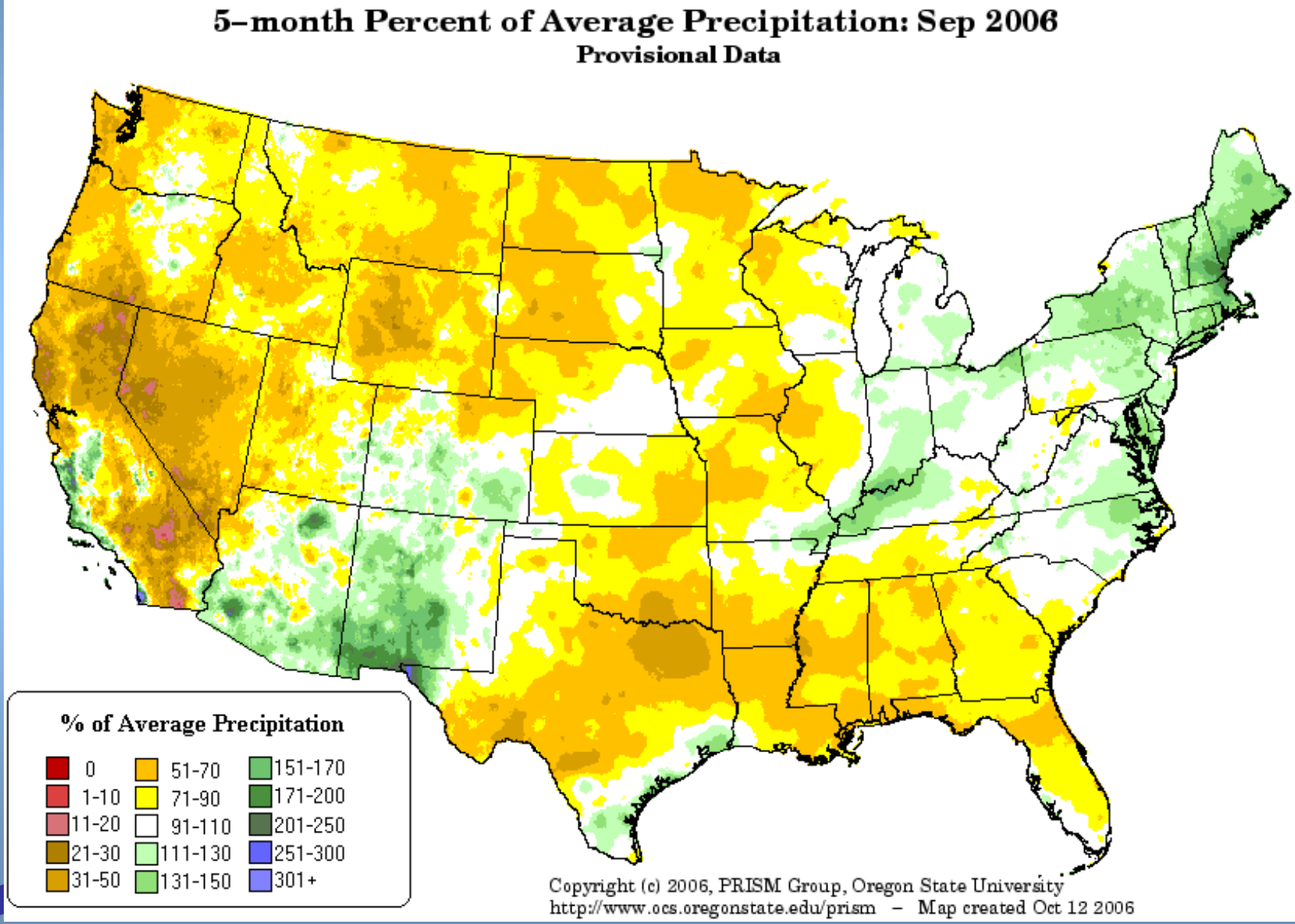
September 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)



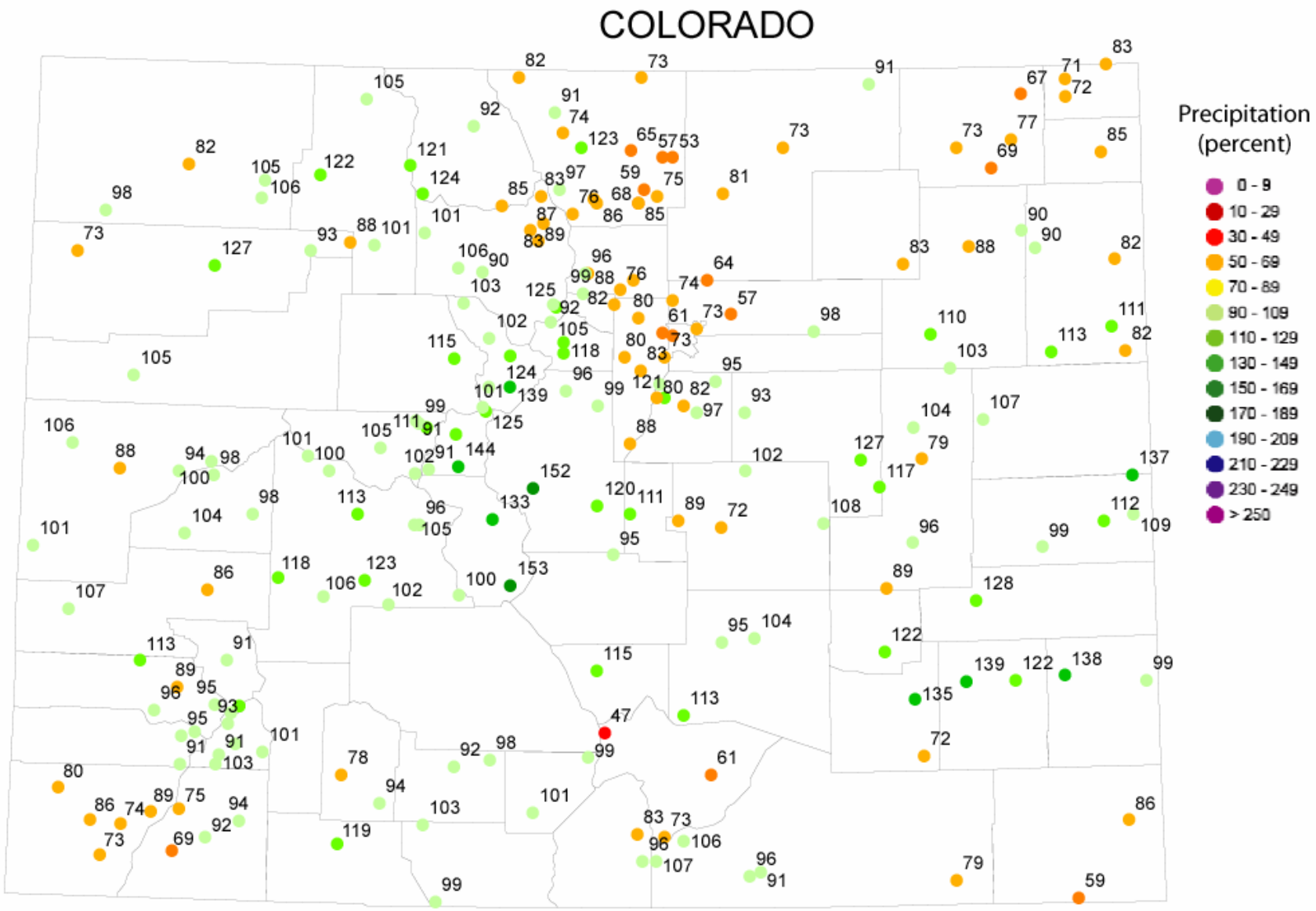
Summer 2006 (May–Sep) precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average



Summer 2006 (May–Sep) precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

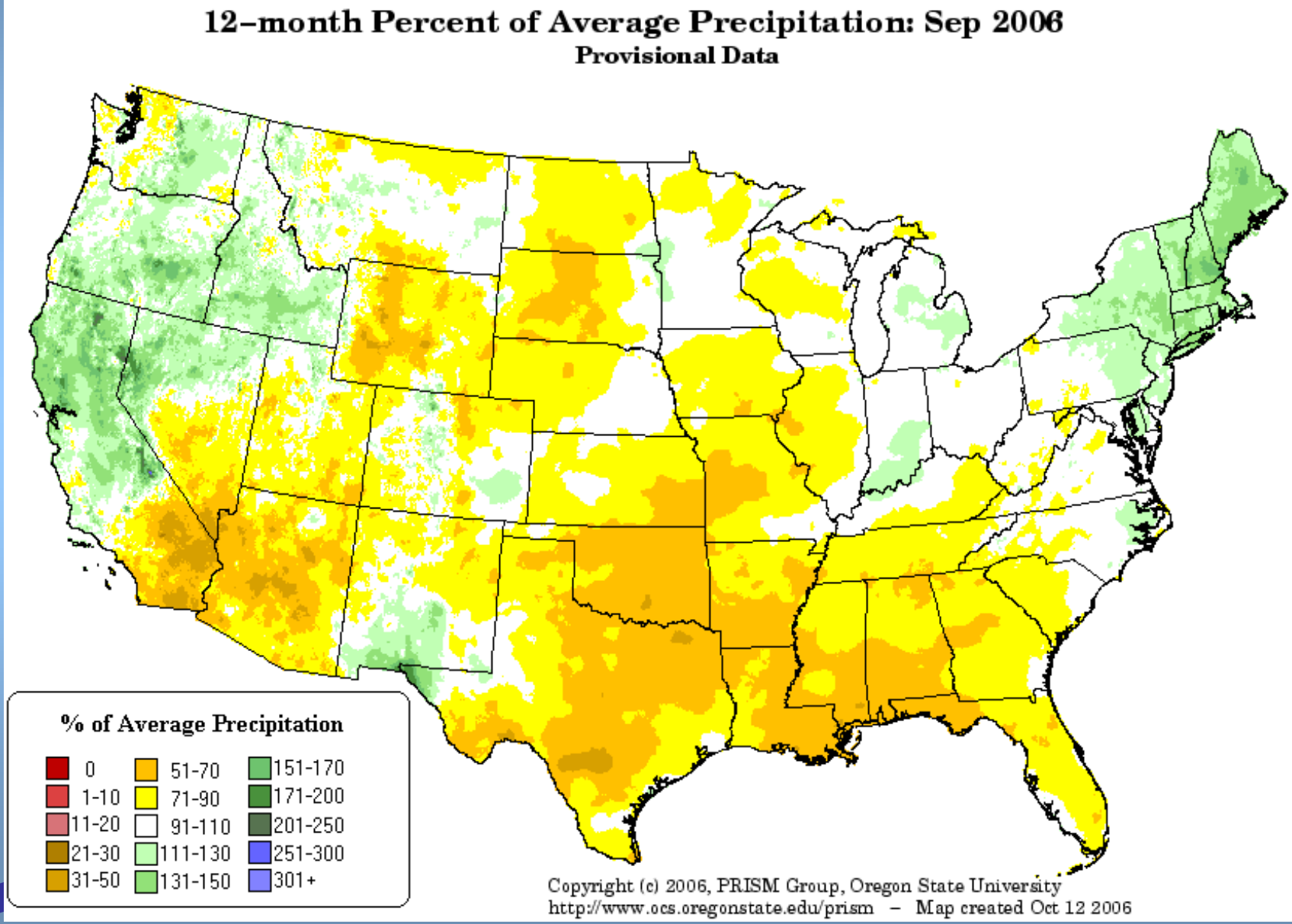


Water Year 2006 precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average

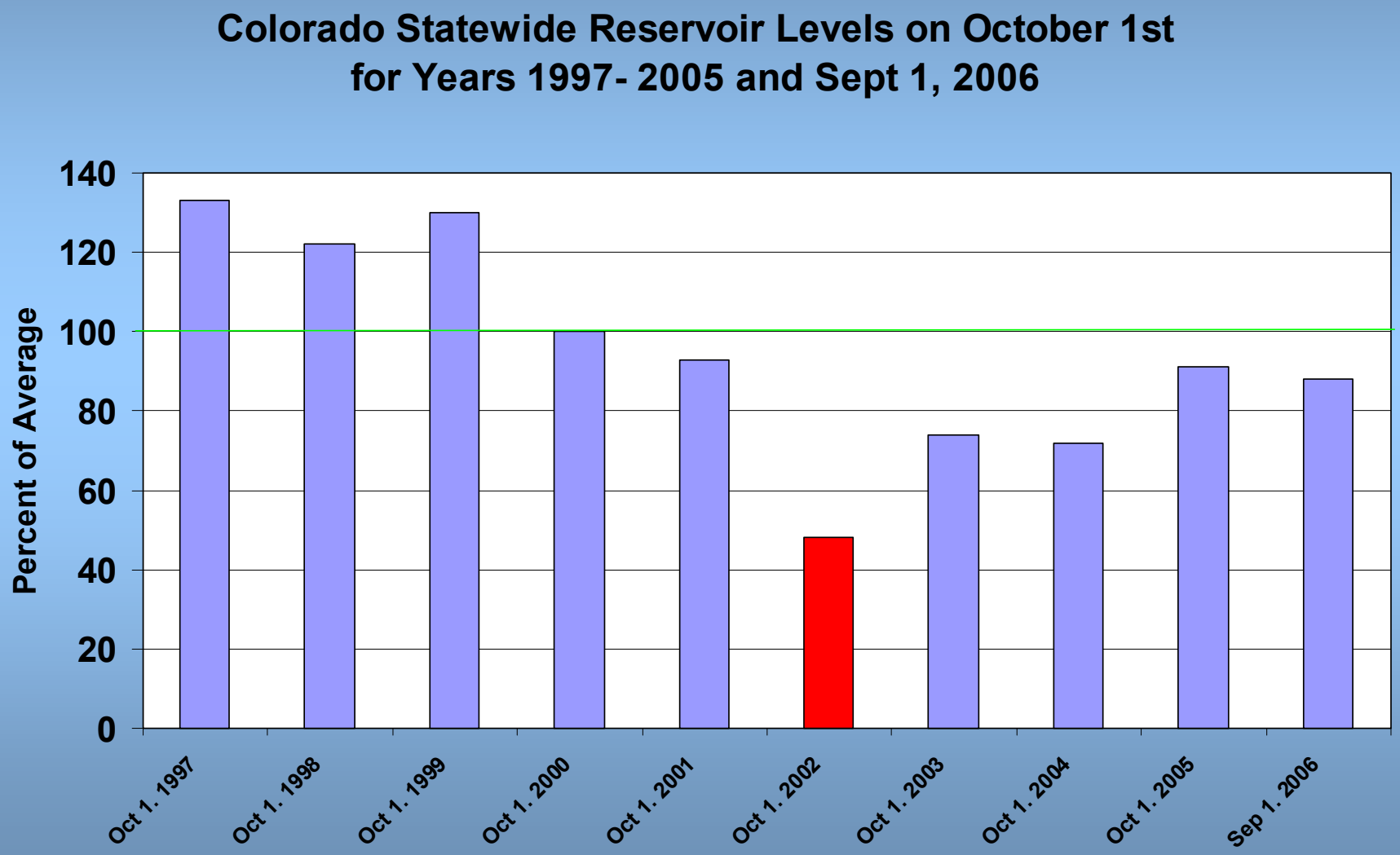


Water Year 2006 (October 2005 through September 2006) precipitation as a percent of the 1971-2000 average.

Water Year 2006 precipitation as a percent of average (Prism)

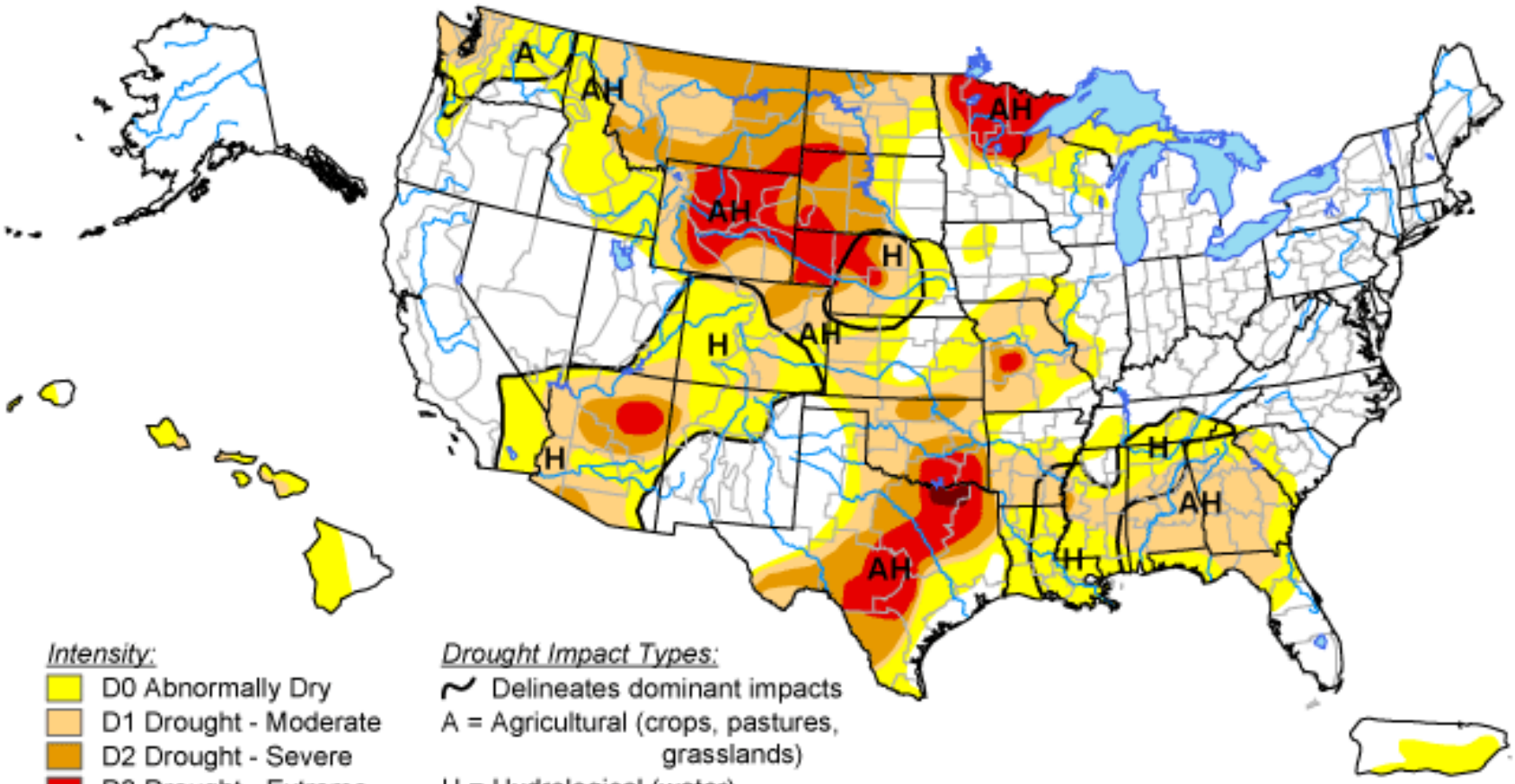


Reservoir Storage Levels



U.S. Drought Monitor

October 3, 2006
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:
- ~ Delineates dominant impacts
- A = Agricultural (crops, pastures, grasslands)
- H = Hydrological (water)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

USDA National Drought Mitigation Center

Released Thursday, October 5, 2006

Author: Rich Tinker, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

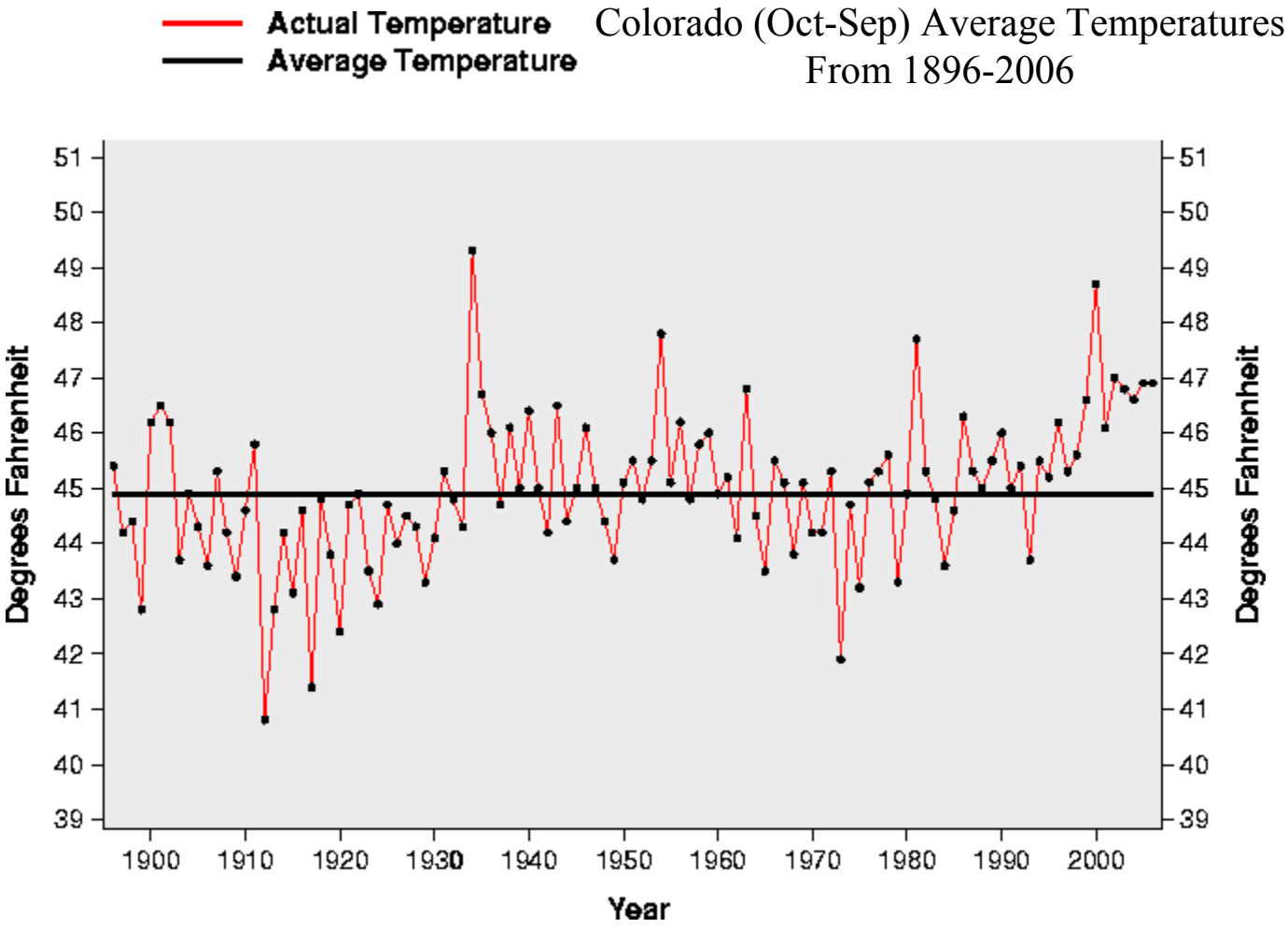
Summary

- Soaking October storm – especially over Eastern Colorado
- Windy, dry winter over Foothills and Eastern Plains
- Frequent midwinter snows Northern Mountains
- Very warm and dry spring (tough on Agriculture)
- Early July soaking
- Wet summer over much of southern Colorado
- A chilly ending to another warm year

But,

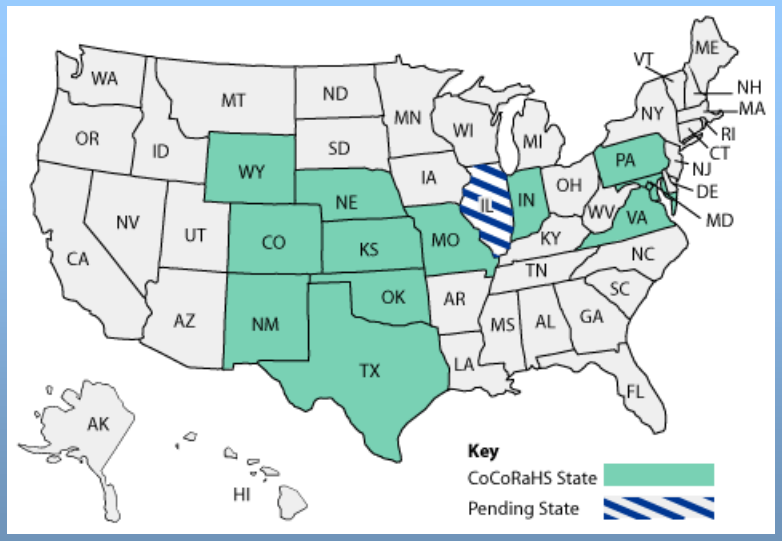
- Some cold and windy winter weather, but still warmer than average for many areas for 13th winter in a row

Overall, 2006 Water Year warmer than average again



And How About CoCoRaHS?

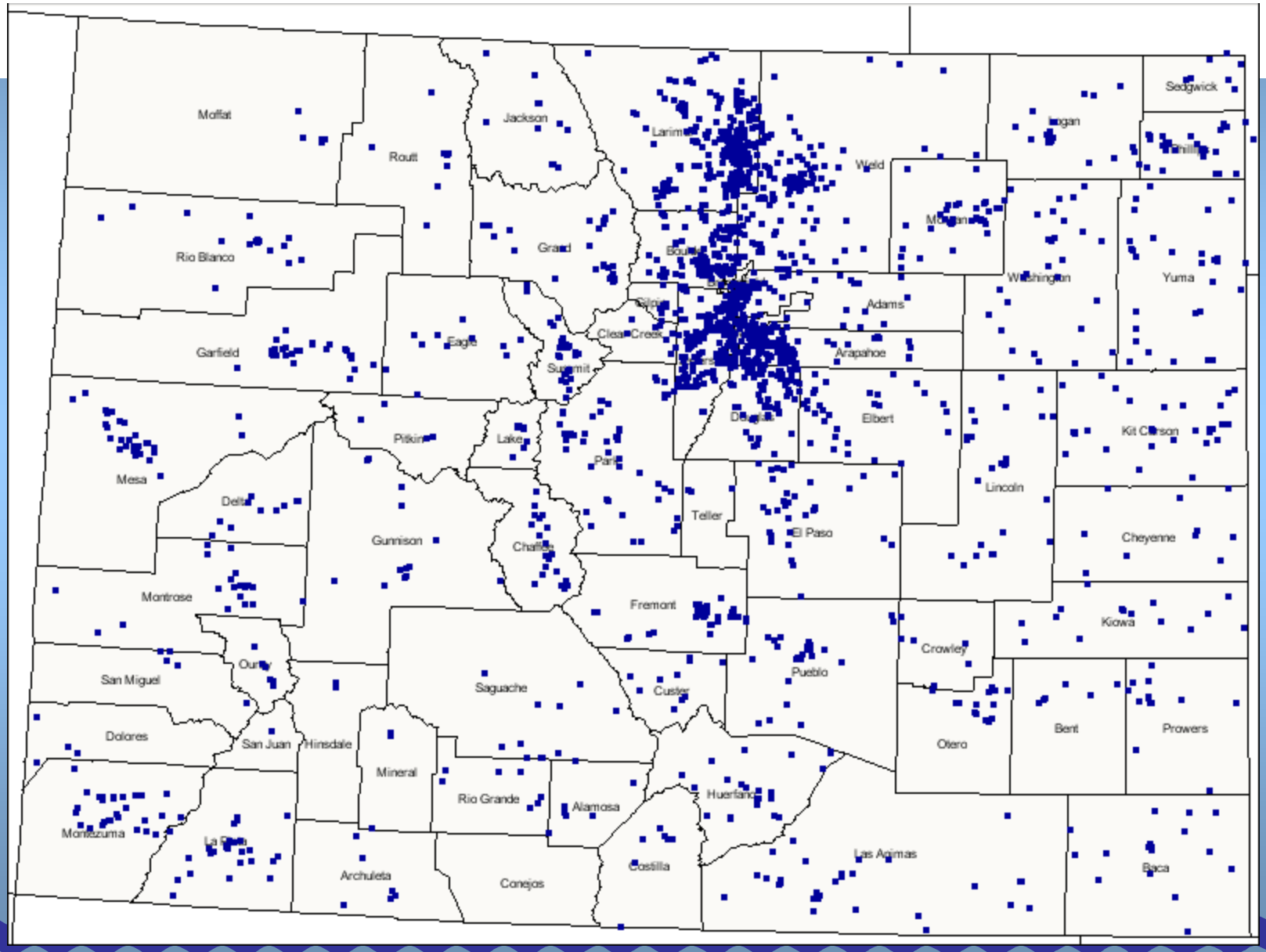
- Hundreds of new observers, especially from other states
- Illinois, Montana, and parts of Alaska will be coming online in December



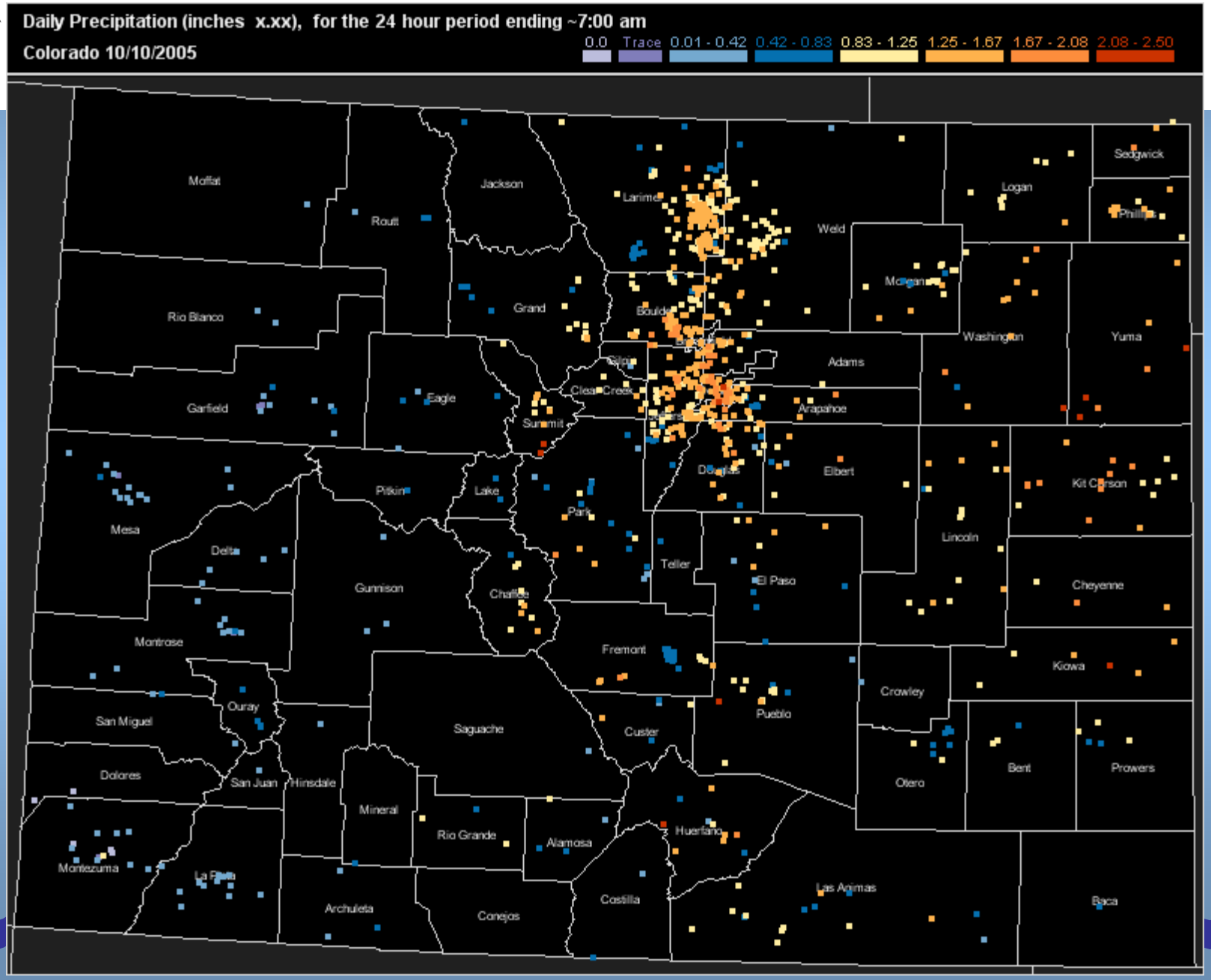
CoCoRaHS

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, & Snow Network

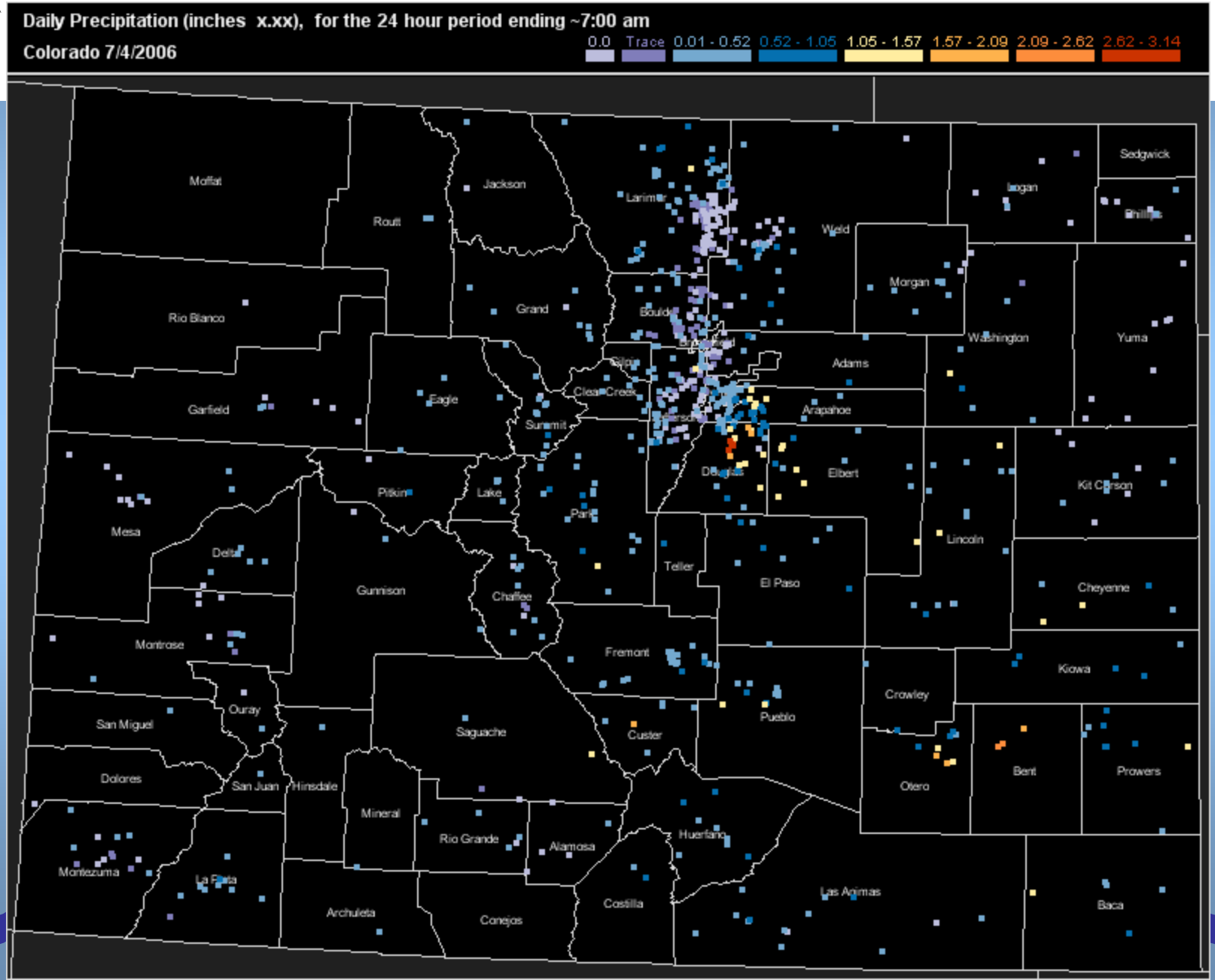
Active CoCoRaHS stations in Colorado



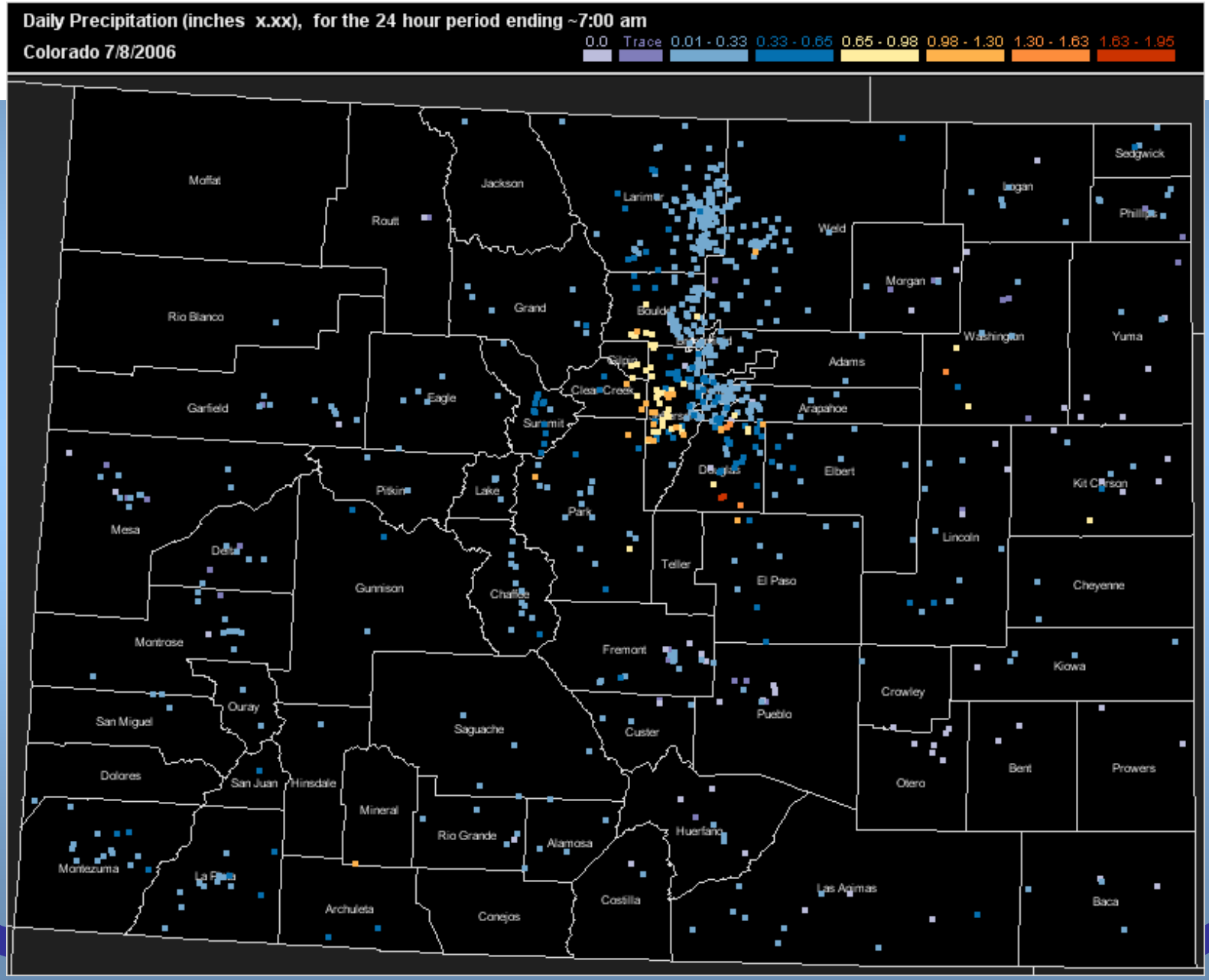
CoCoRaHS Precipitation map for Oct 10, 2005



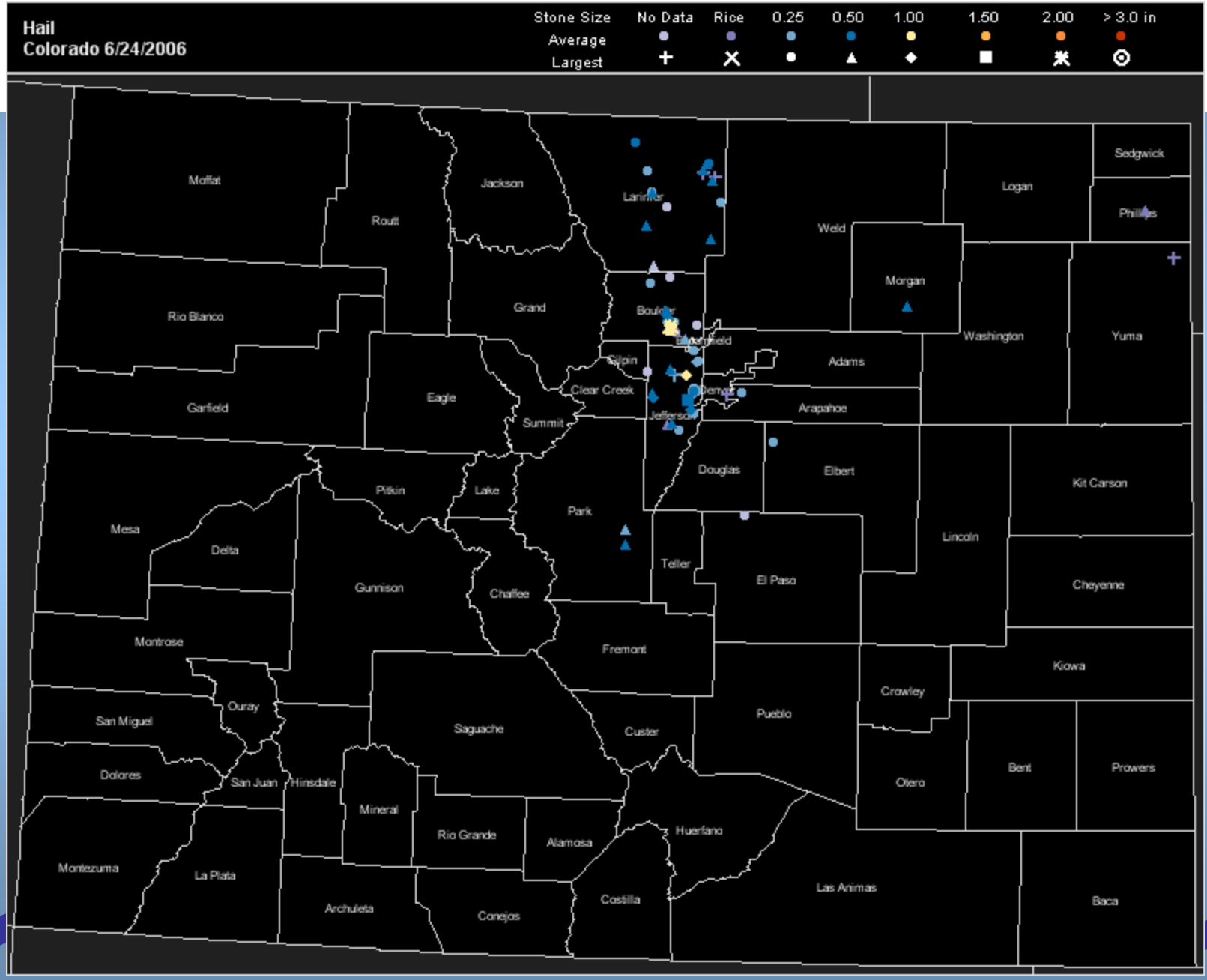
CoCoRaH Precipitation map for July 4, 2006



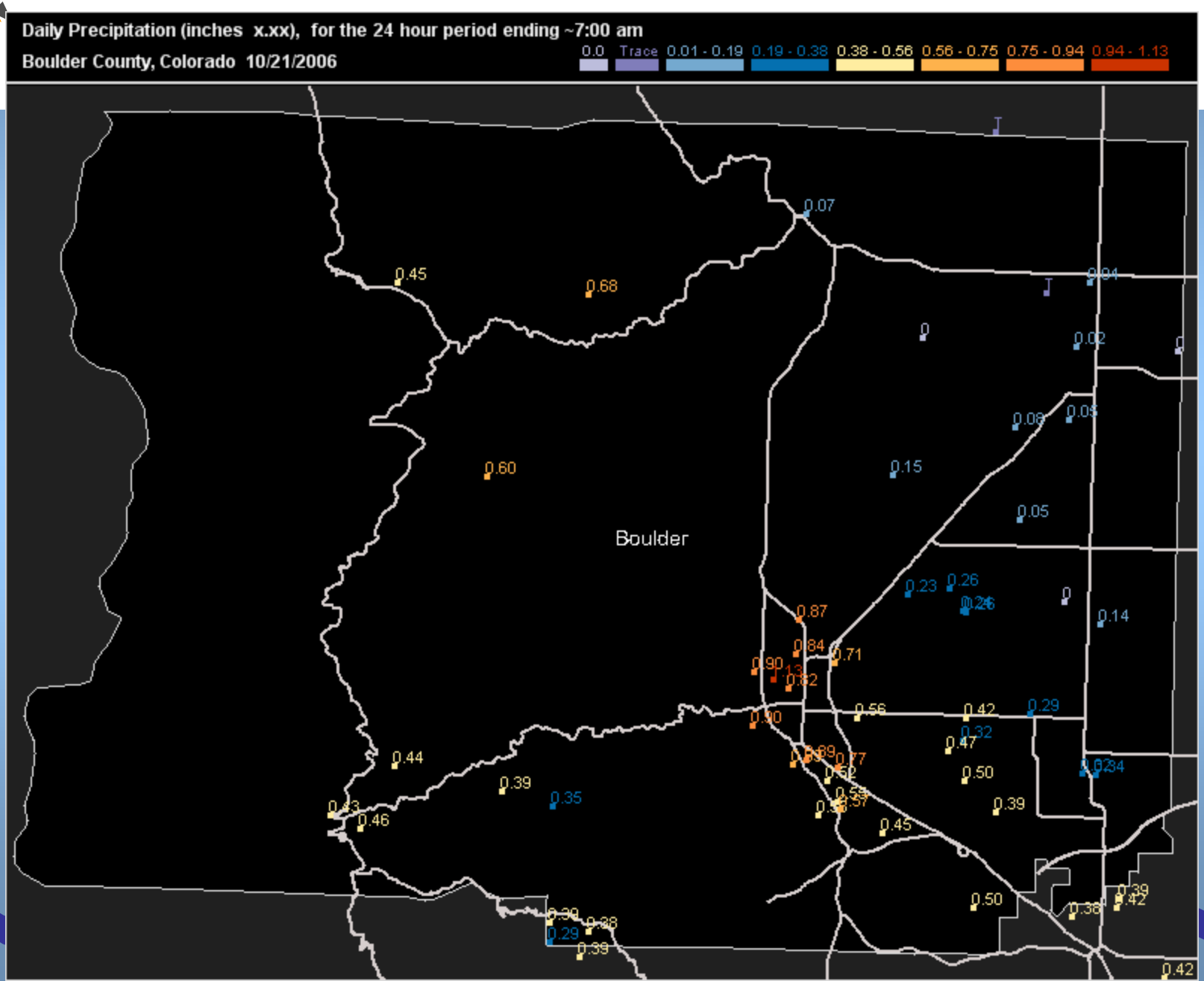
CoCoRaH Precipitation map for July 8, 2006



CoCoRaHS Hail map for June 24, 2006



CoCoRAHS Precipitation map for October 21, 2006



For More Information, Visit the CoCoRaHS Web Site

http://www.cocorahs.org

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NOAA Environmental Literacy Program
and
many local charter sponsors.

Colorado Climate Center

Data and Power Point Presentations available for downloading

http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu

- click on “Drought”
- then click on “Presentations”

Colorado State University
Knowledge to Go Places

Colorado Climate Center