

Climate Update

Nolan Doesken and Wendy Ryan

**Colorado Climate Center
Atmospheric Science Department
Colorado State University**

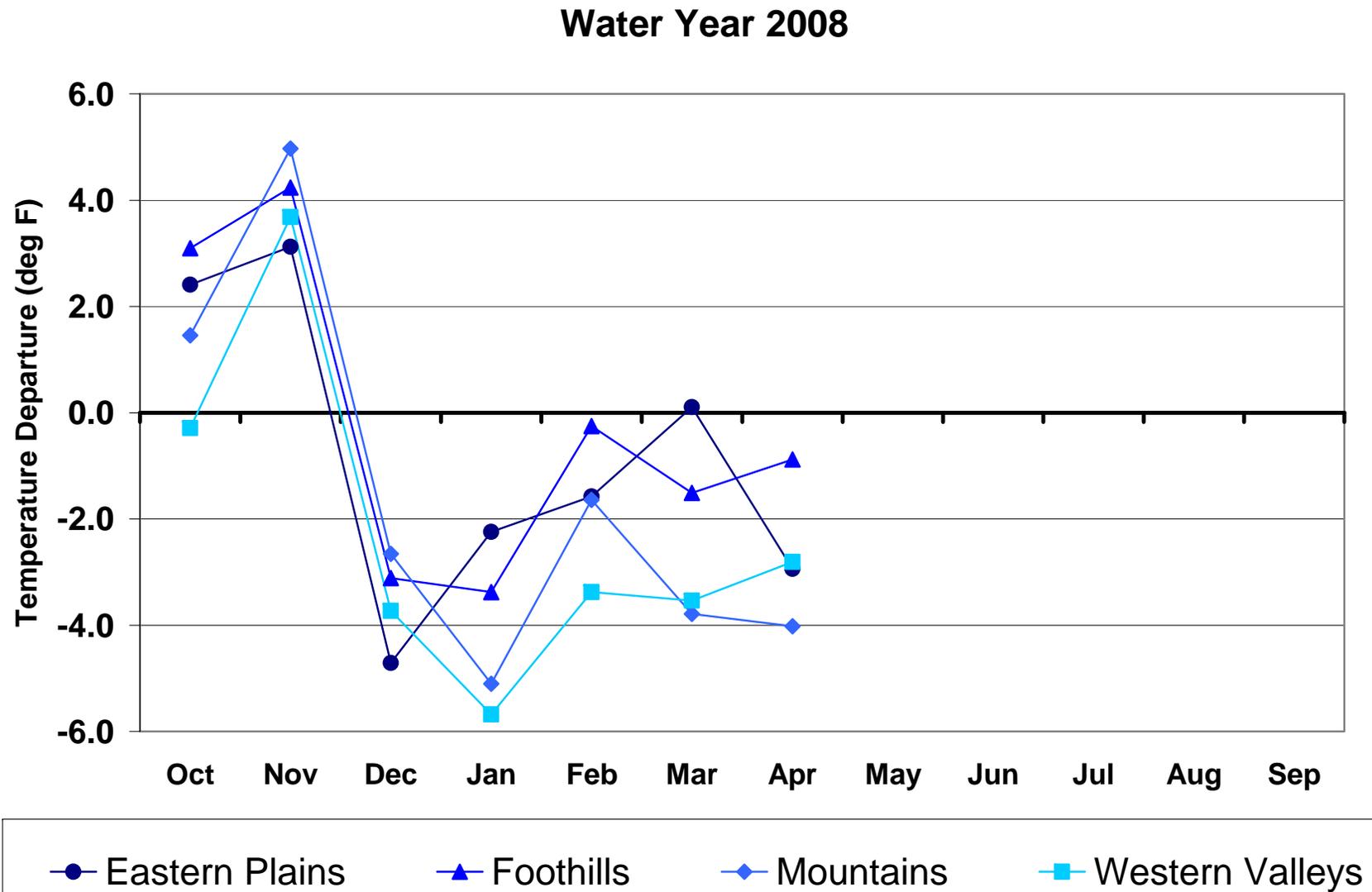
**Presented to Water
Availability Task Force
May 19, 2008
Denver, CO**



**Colorado
State
University**
Knowledge to Go Places

Prepared by Odie Bliss

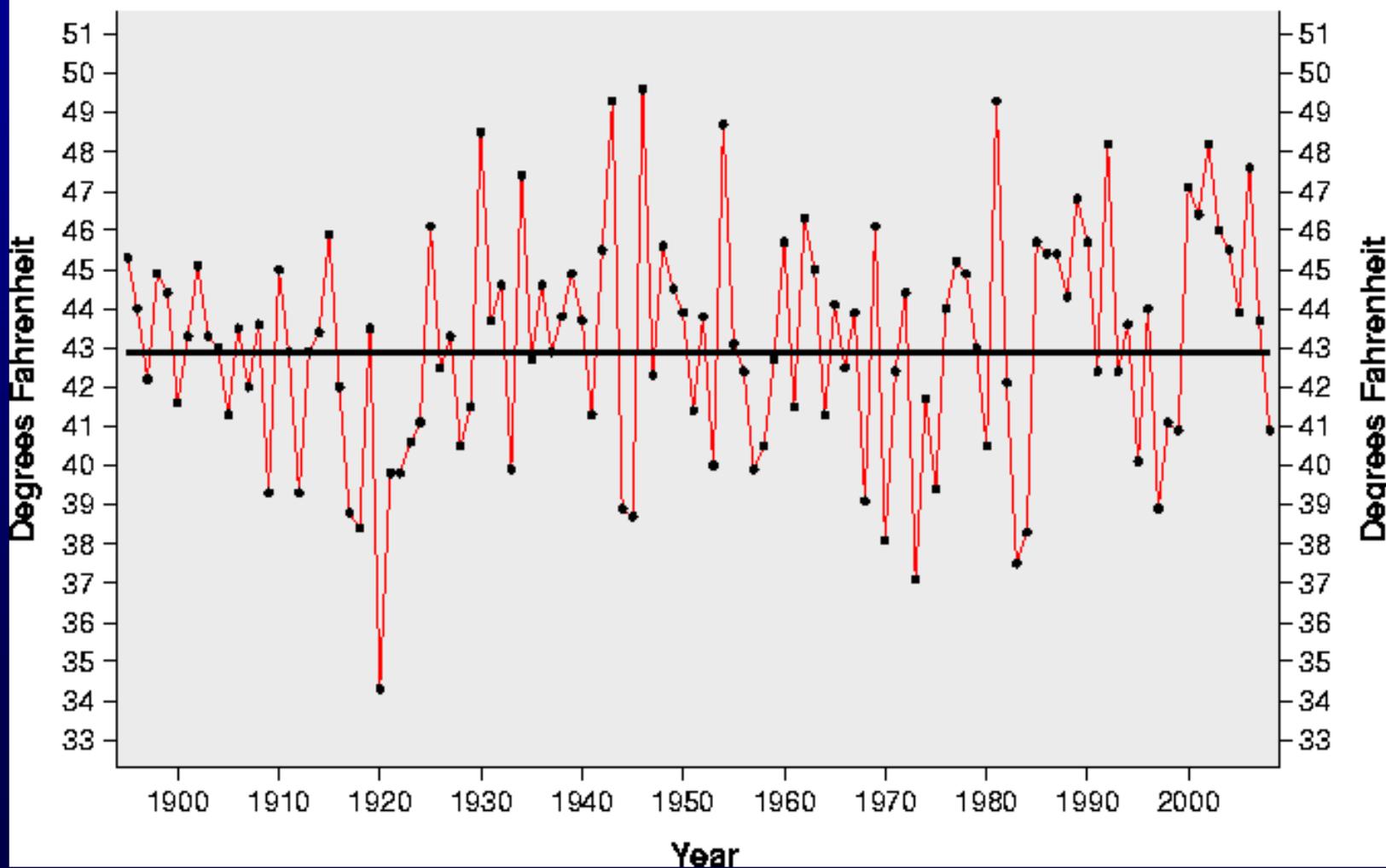
Water Year 2008 Temperature Departures



April Average Temperature History for Colorado (NCDC)

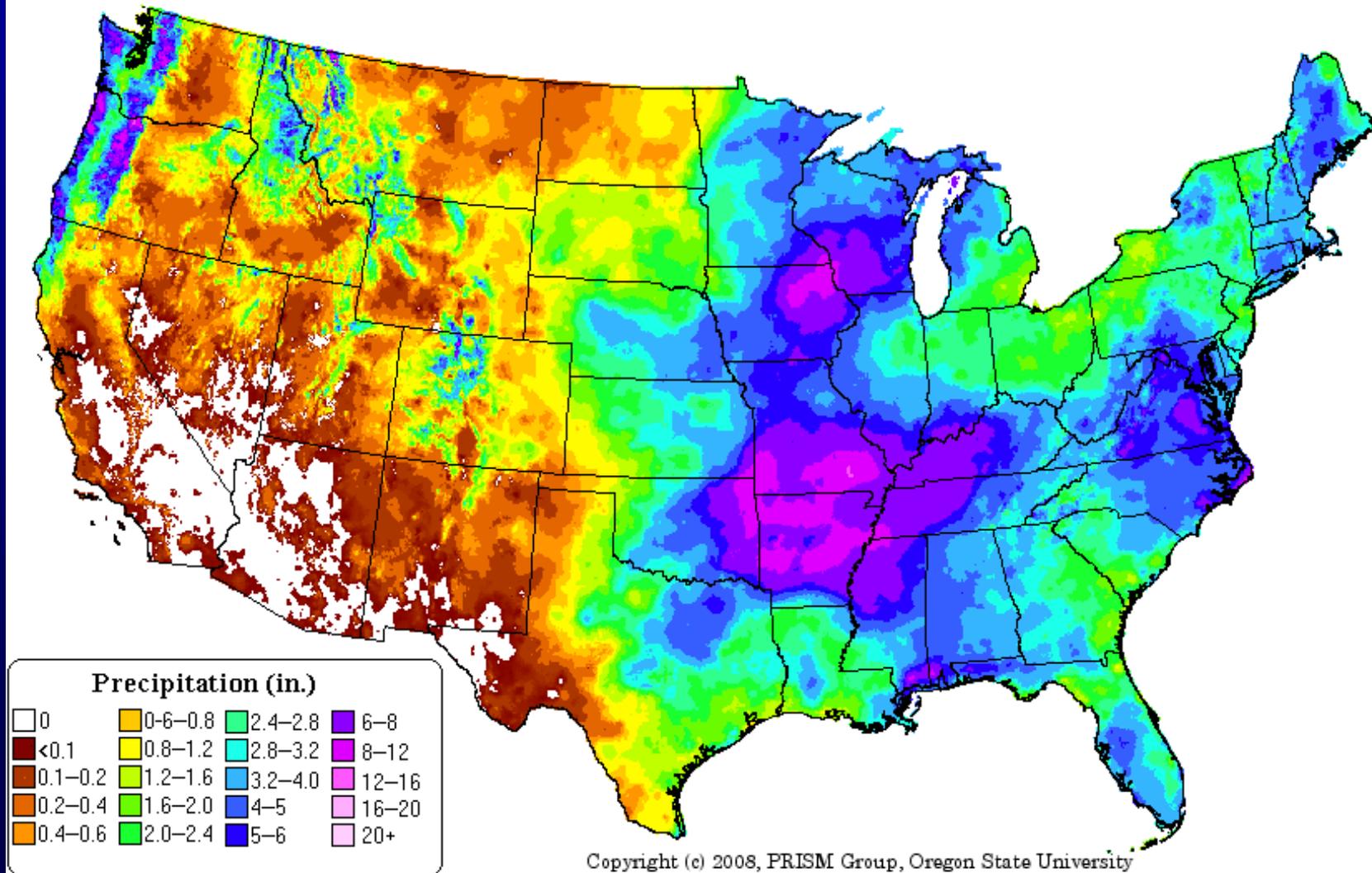
— Actual Temperature
— Average Temperature

April 2008: 40.9 deg Rank: 25
Period of record 1895-2008



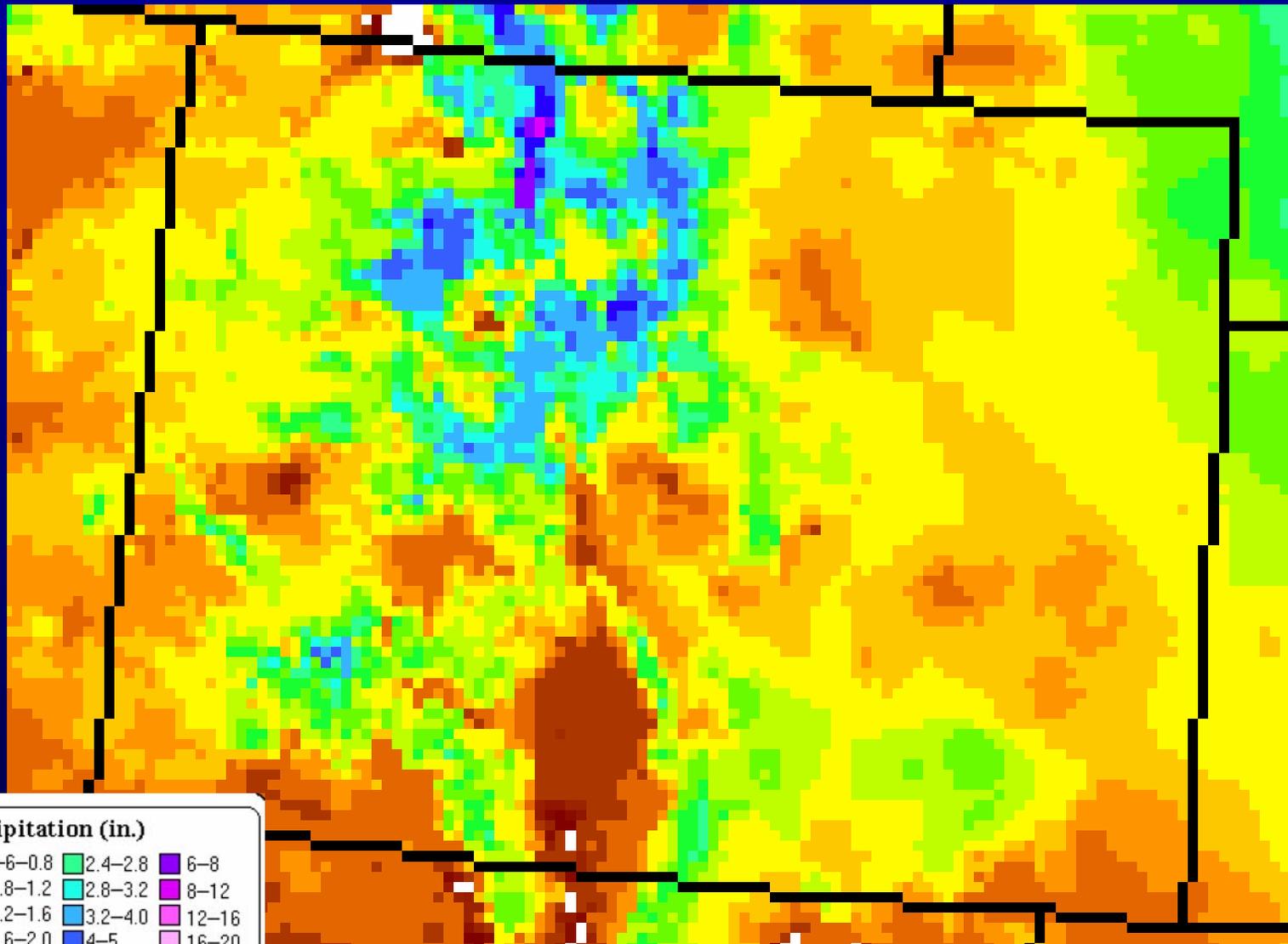
April 2008 Precipitation (inches)

Precipitation: Apr 2008
Provisional Data



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<http://www.prismclimate.org> - Map created May 12 2008

April 2008 Precipitation (inches)

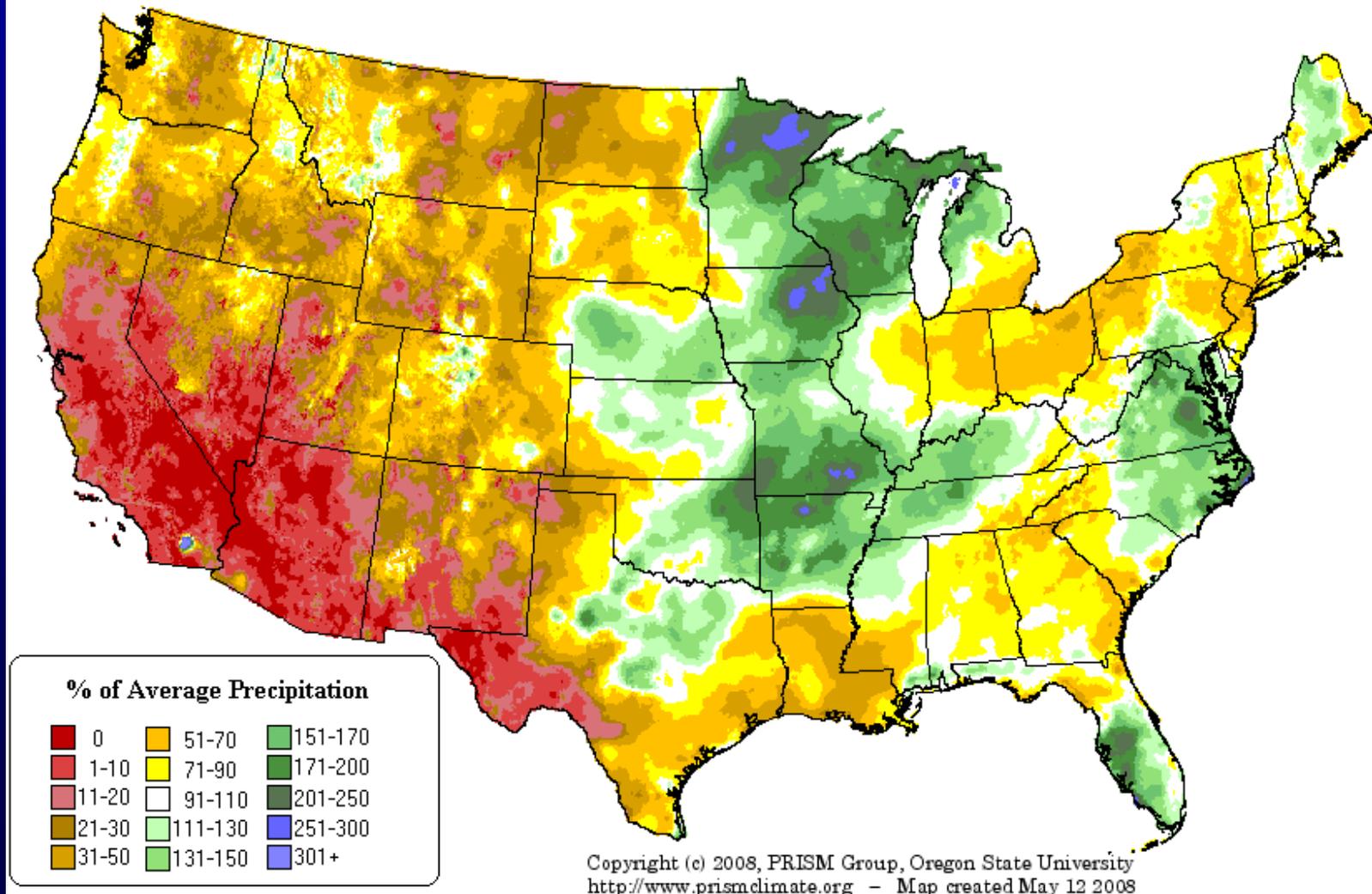


Precipitation (in.)

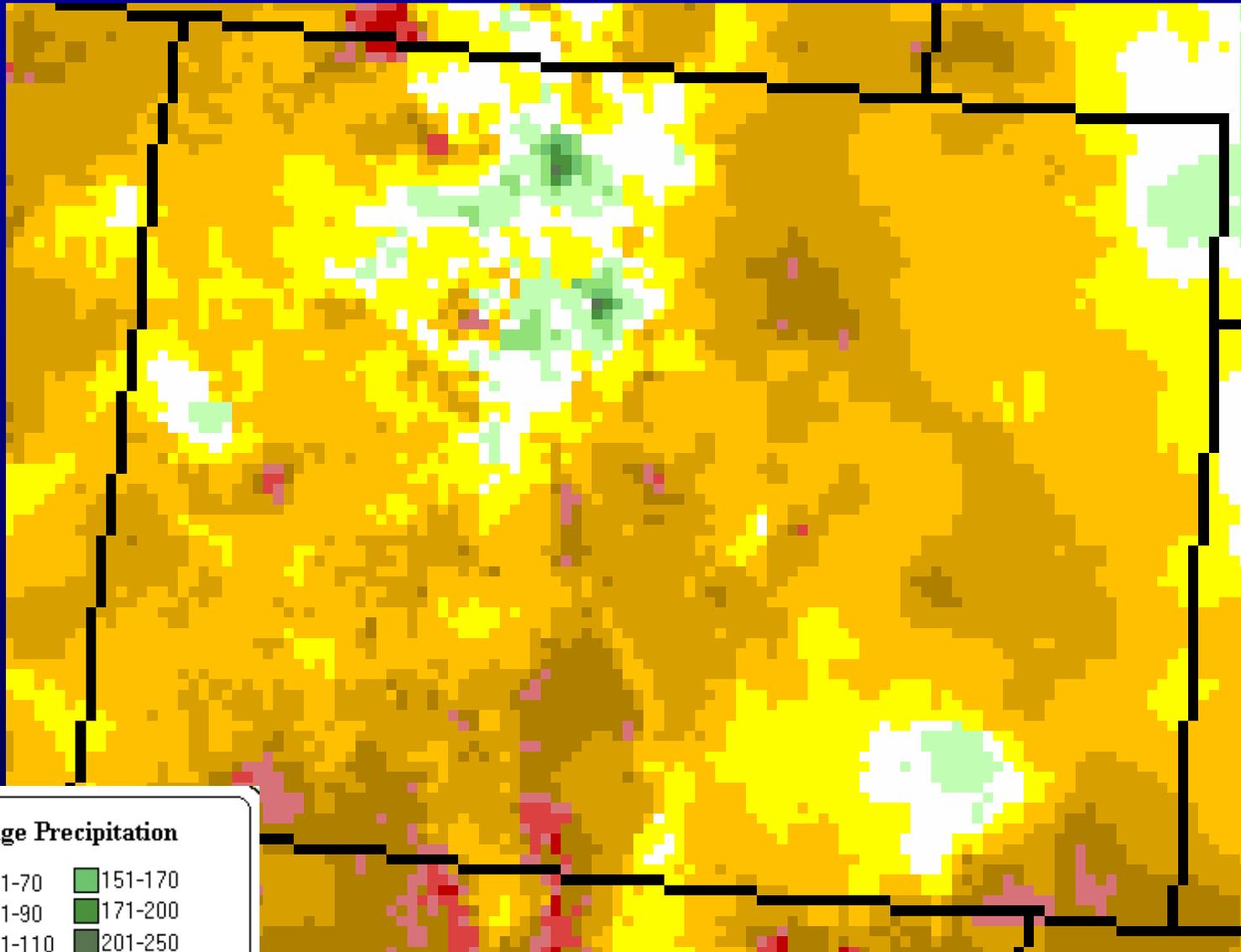
0	0-6-0.8	2.4-2.8	6-8
<0.1	0.8-1.2	2.8-3.2	8-12
0.1-0.2	1.2-1.6	3.2-4.0	12-16
0.2-0.4	1.6-2.0	4-5	16-20
0.4-0.6	2.0-2.4	5-6	20+

April 2008 Percent of Average (Prism)

1-month Percent of Average Precipitation: Apr 2008
Provisional Data



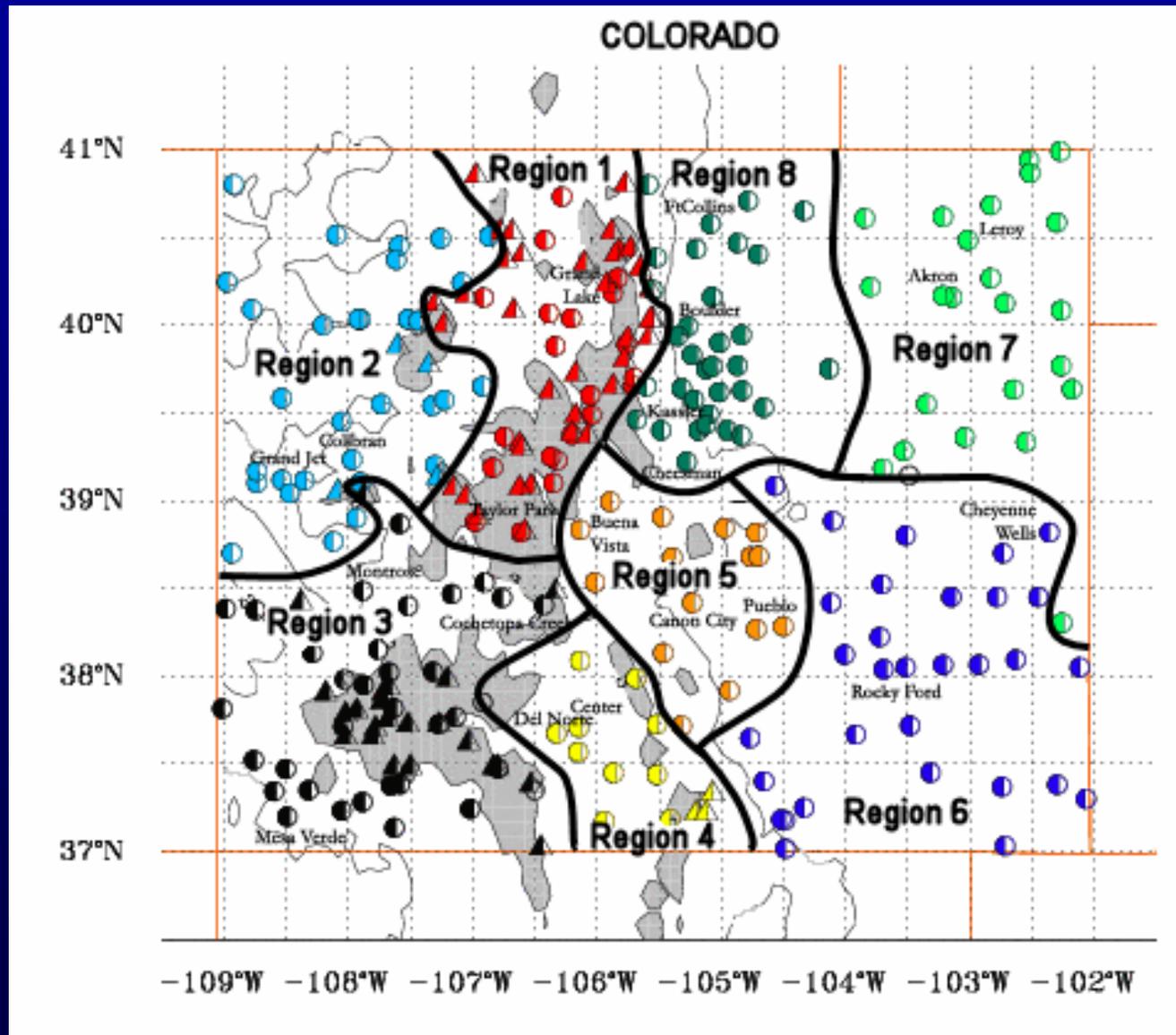
April 2008 Percent of Average (Prism)



% of Average Precipitation

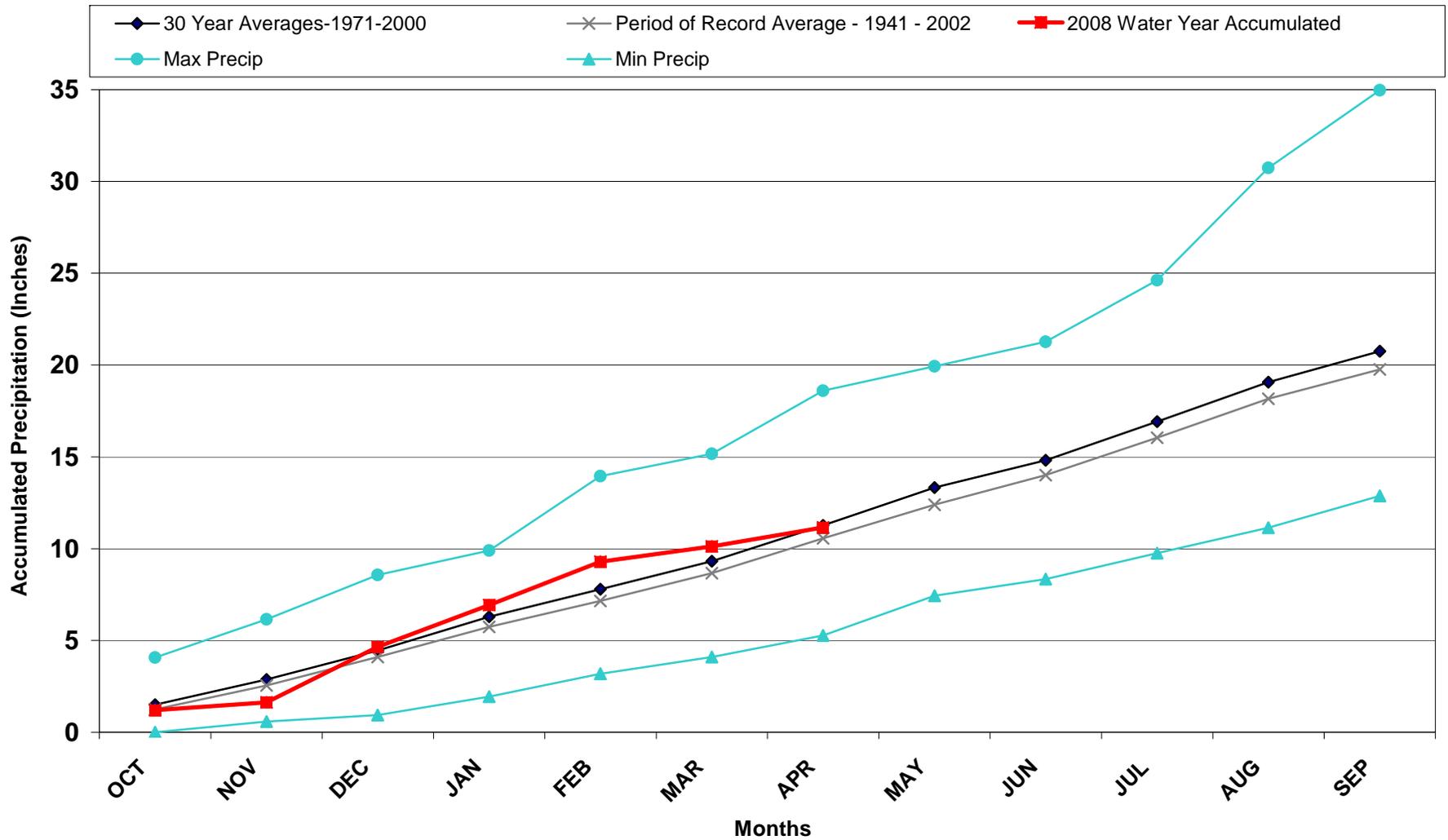
0	51-70	151-170
1-10	71-90	171-200
11-20	91-110	201-250
21-30	111-130	251-300
31-50	131-150	301+

Climate divisions defined by Dr. Klaus Wolter of NOAA's Climate Diagnostic Center in Boulder, CO



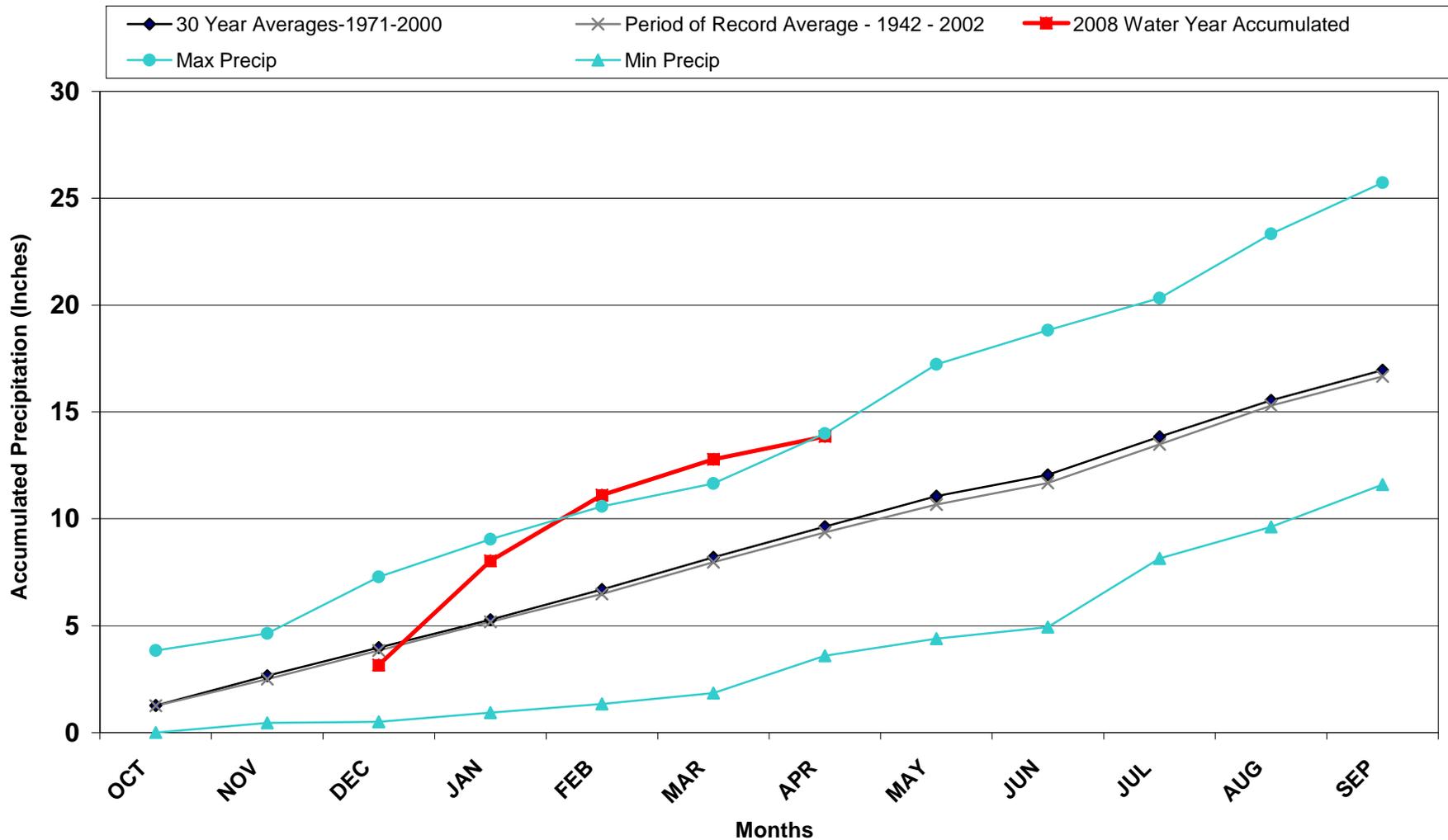
Division 1 – Grand Lake 1NW

Grand Lake 1 NW 2008 Water Year



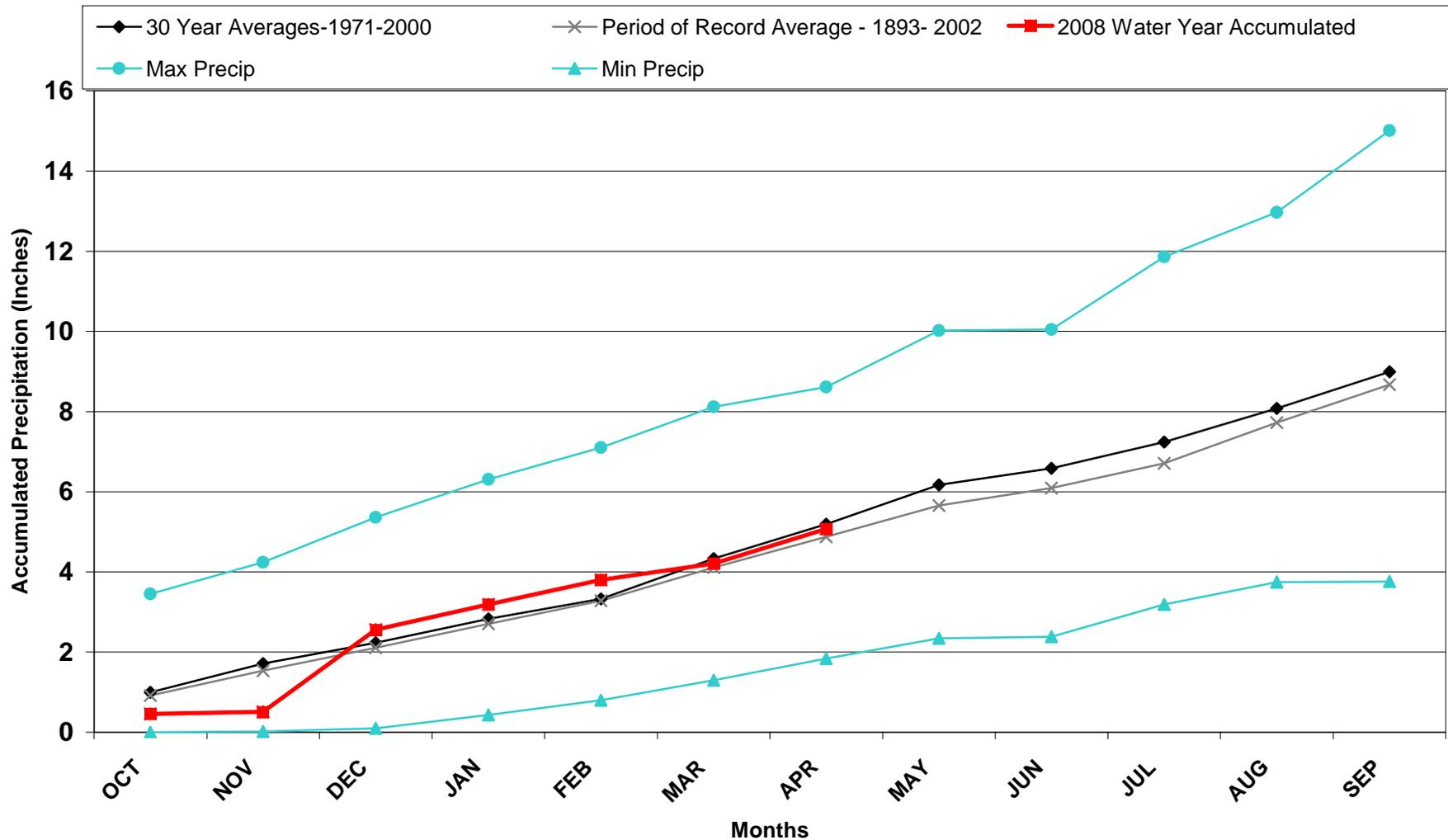
Division 1 – Taylor Park

Taylor Park 2008 Water Year



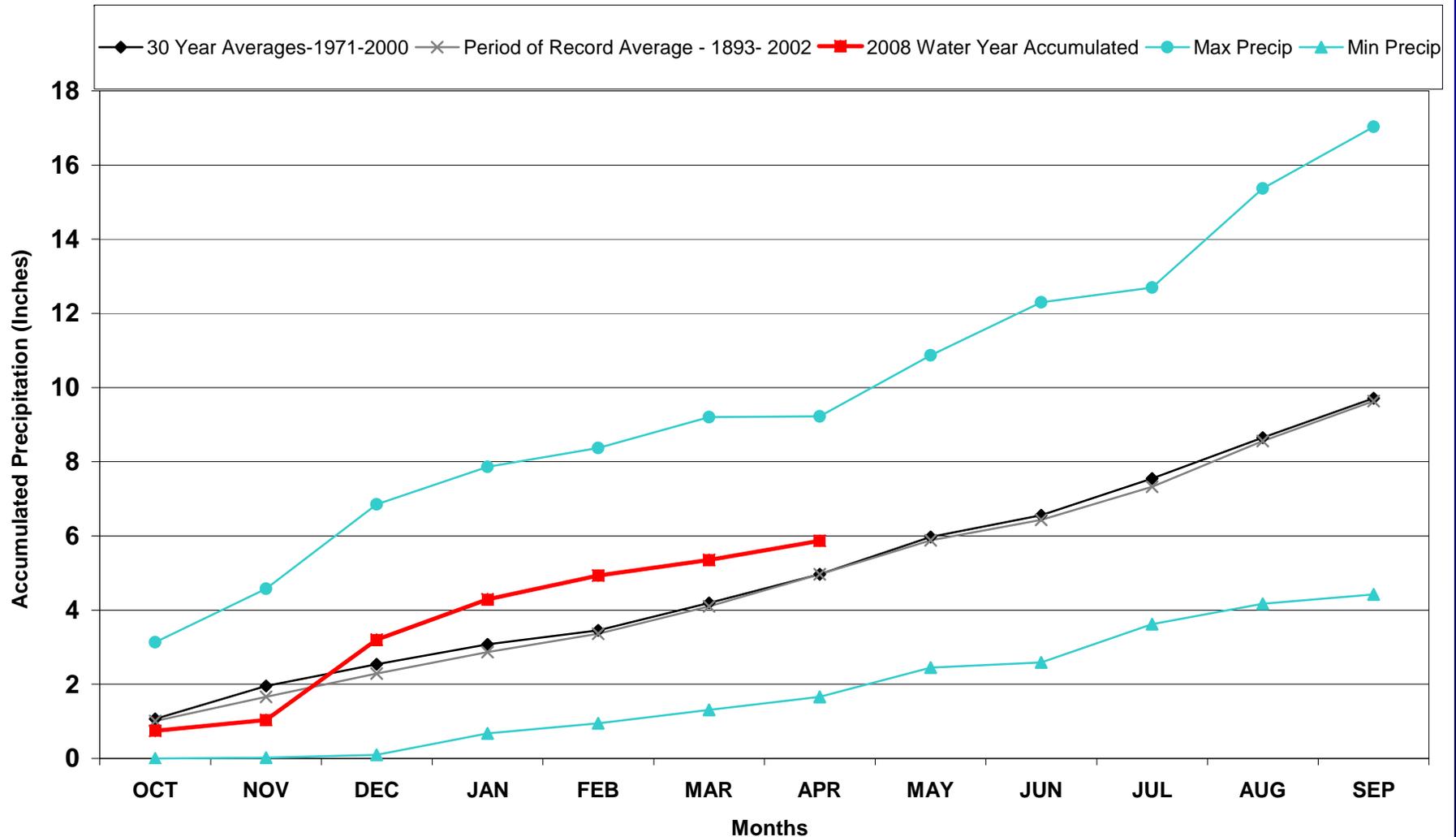
Division 2 – Grand Junction

Grand Junction WSFO 2008 Water Year



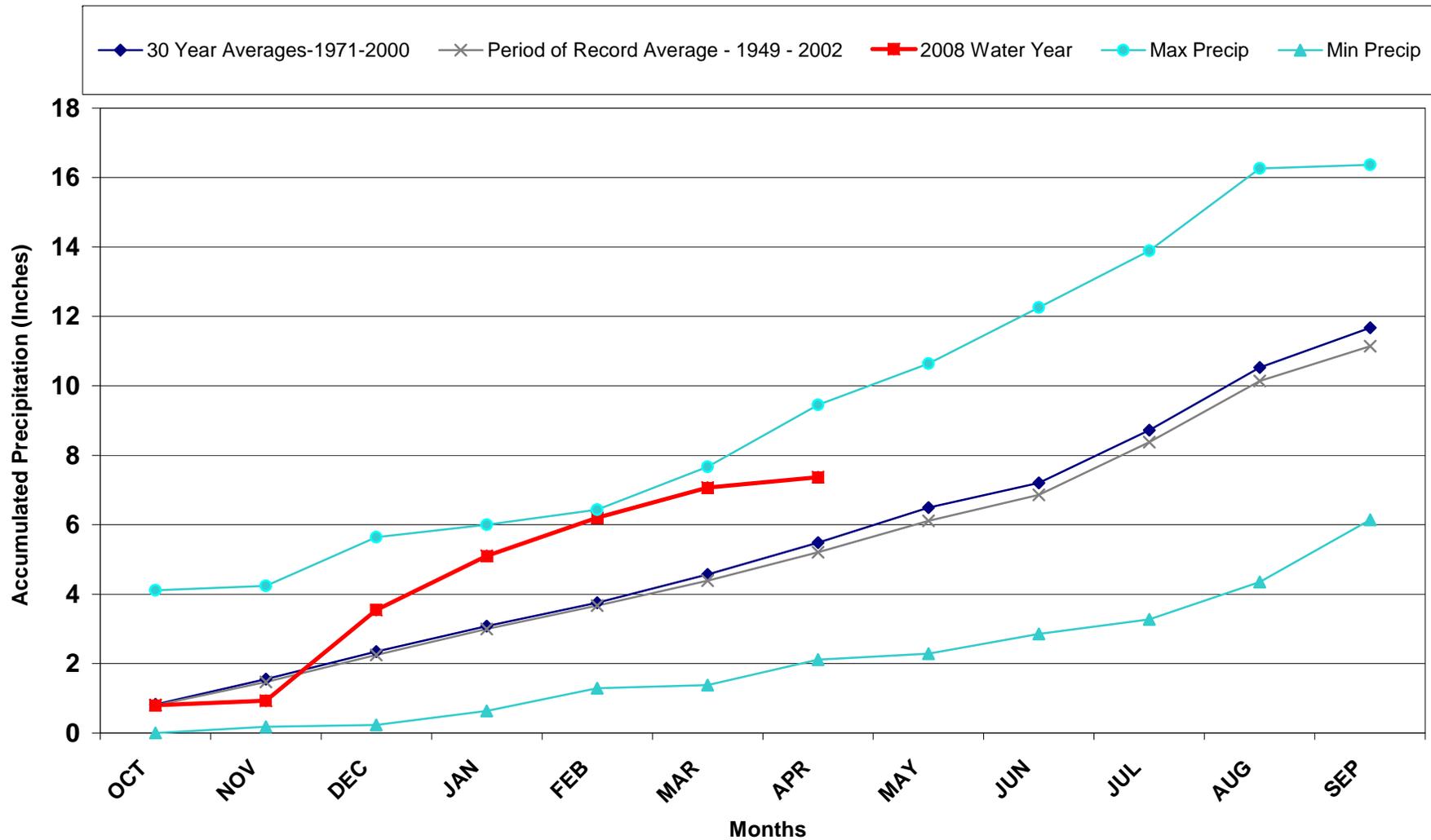
Division 3 – Montrose

Montrose #2 2008 Water Year



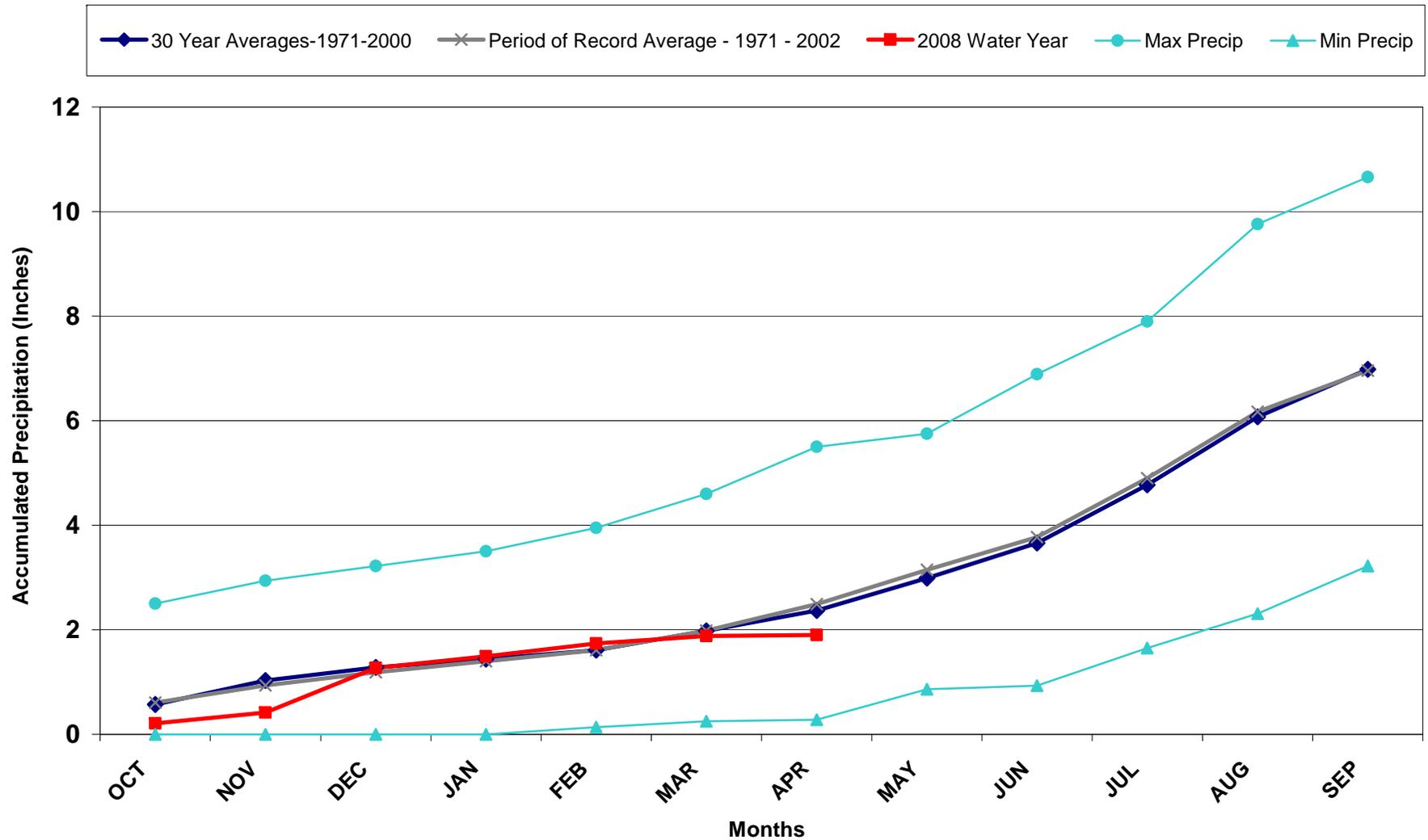
Division 3 – Cochetopa Creek

Cochetopa Creek 2008 Water Year



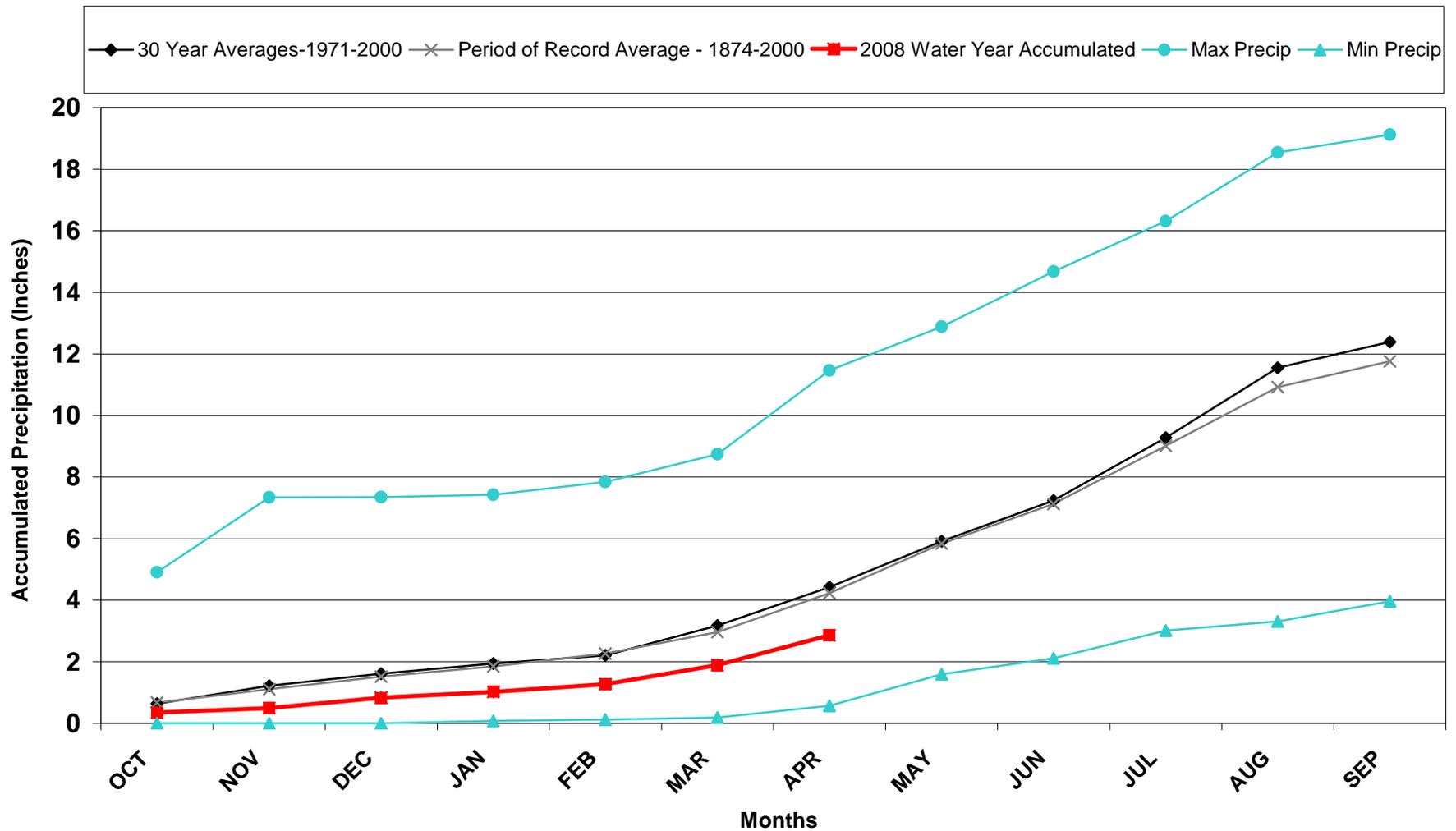
Division 4 – Center

Center 4SSW 2008 Water Year



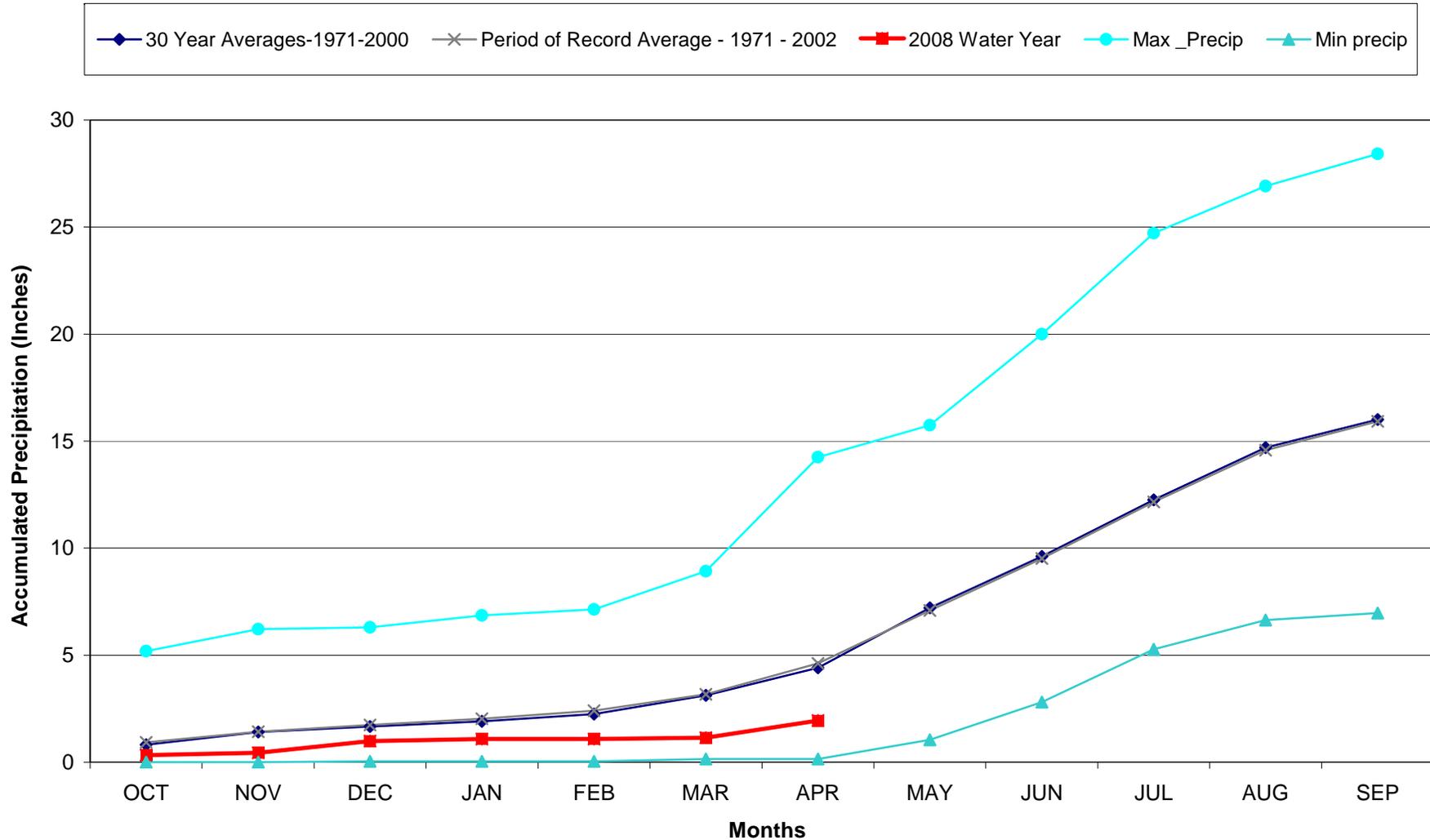
Division 5 – Pueblo

Pueblo WSO 2008 Water Year



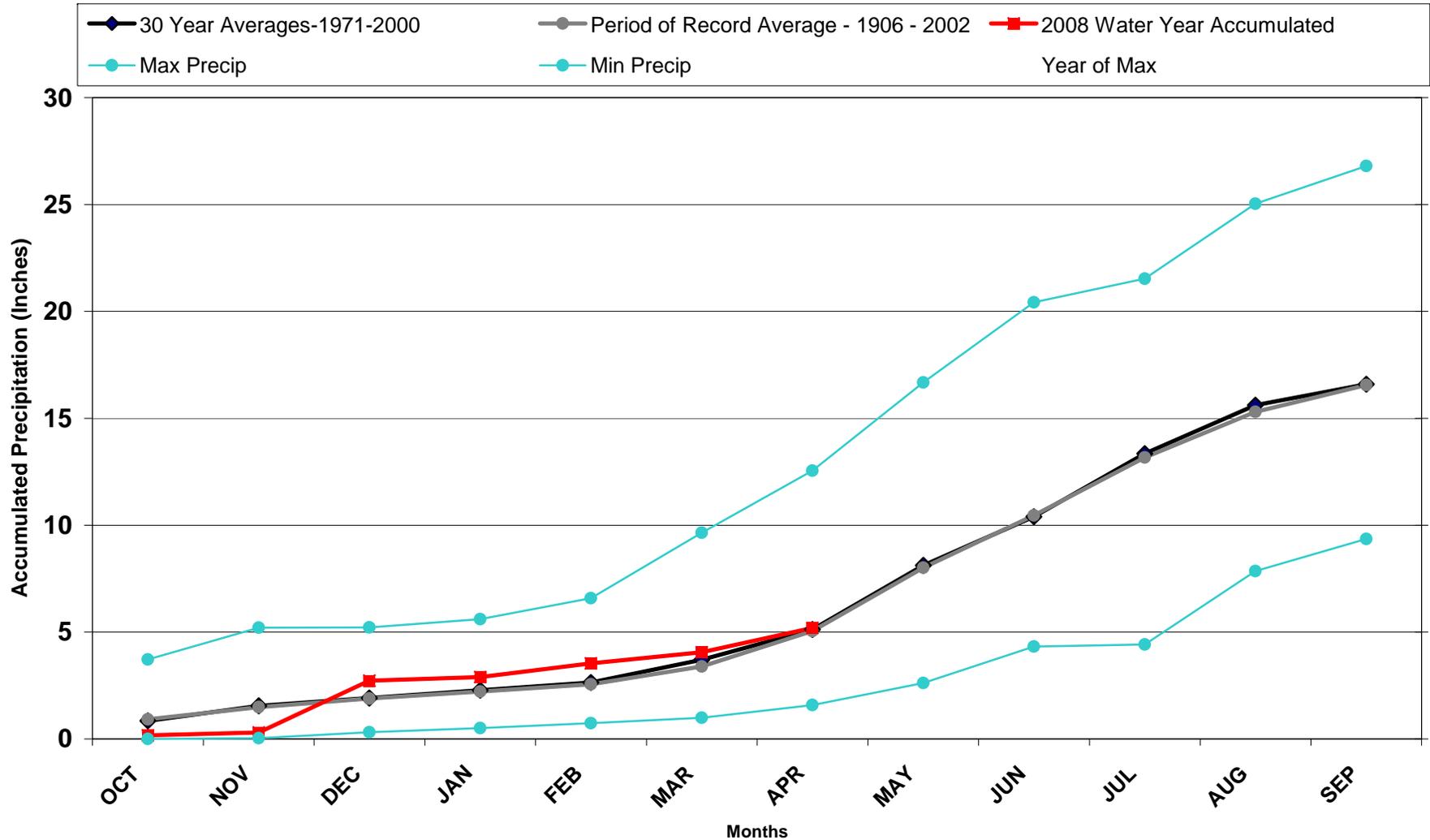
Division 6 – Cheyenne Wells

Cheyenne Wells 2008 Water Year



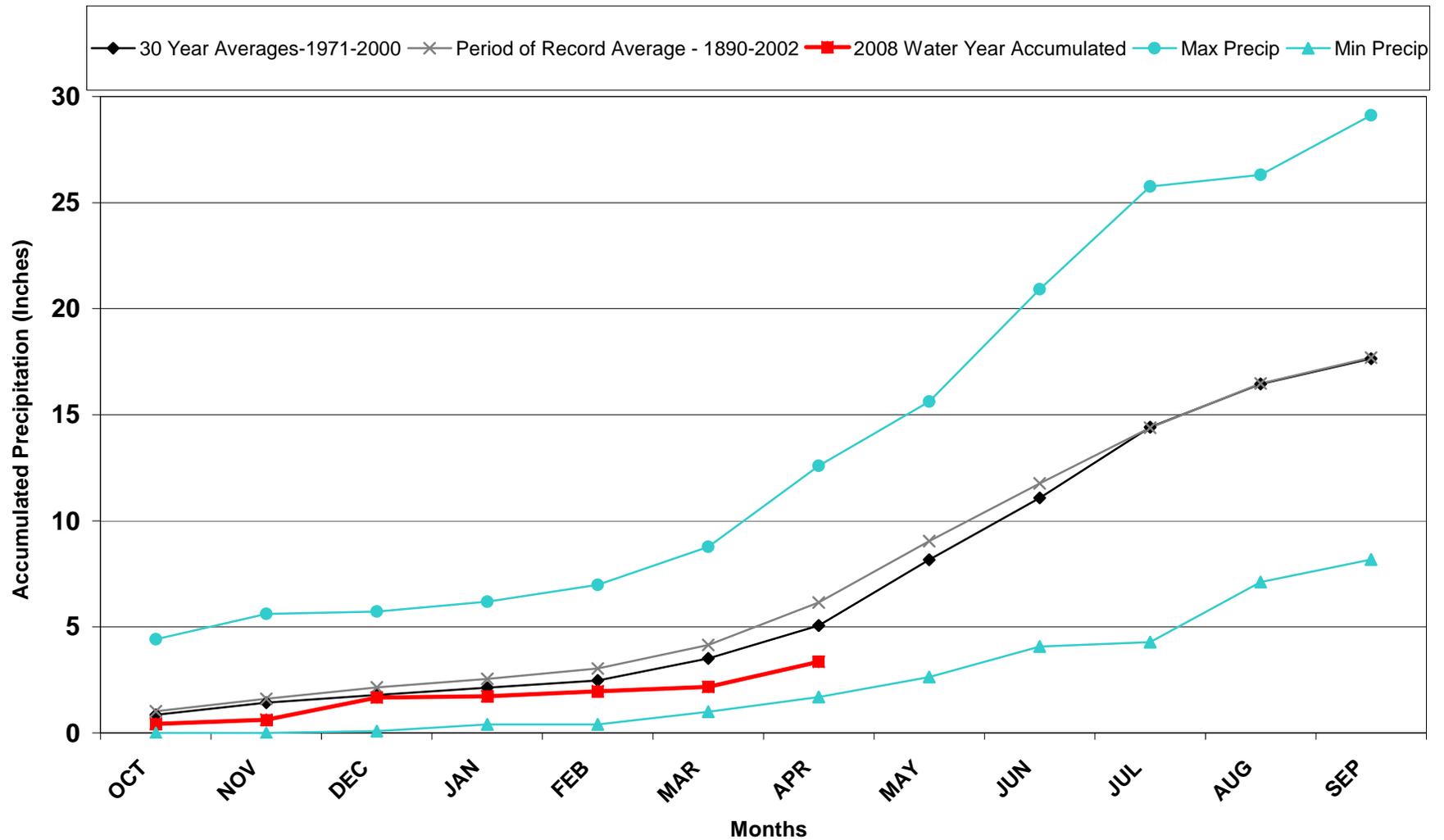
Division 7 – Akron

Akron 4E 2008 Water Year



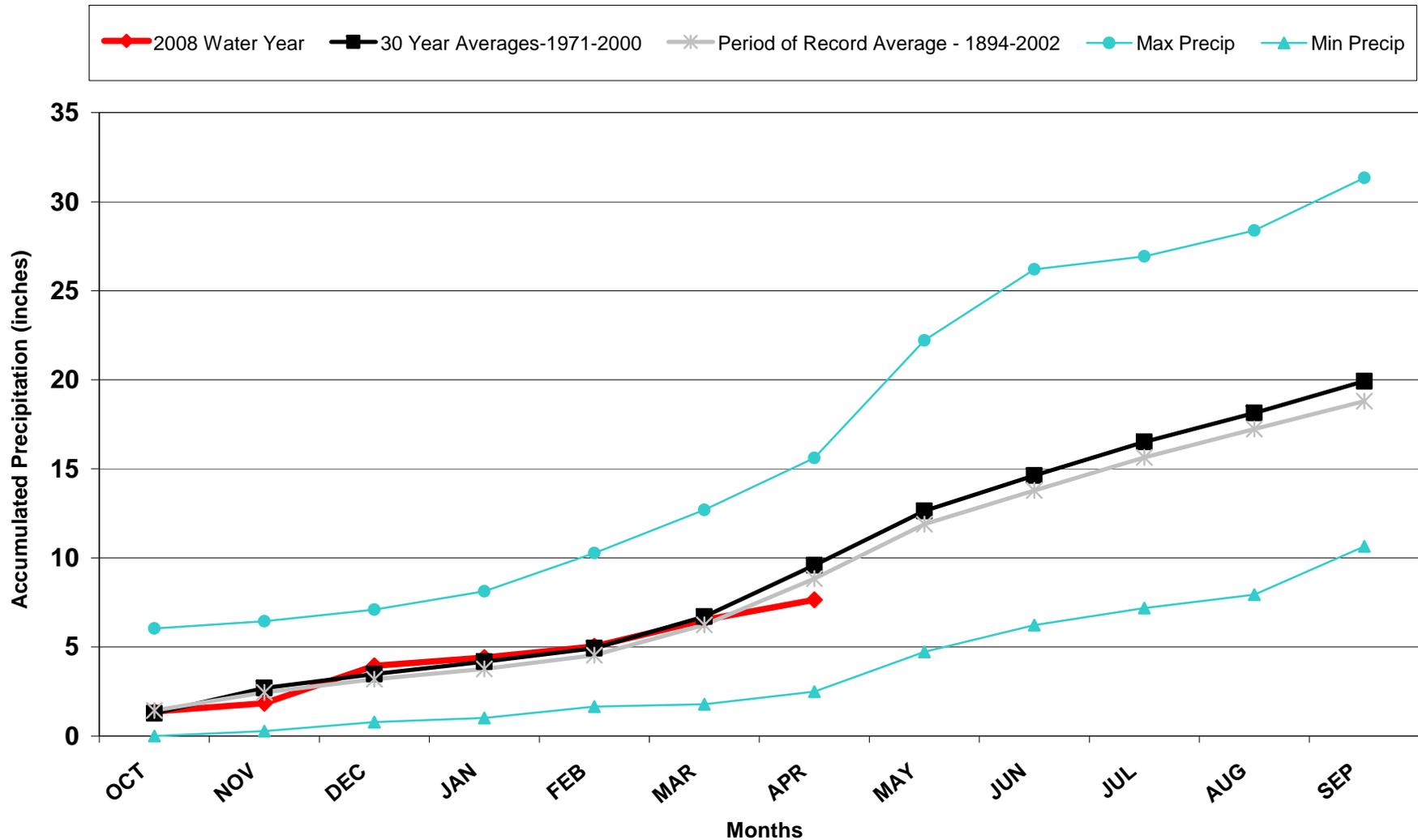
Division 7 – Leroy

Leroy 5SW 2008 Water Year



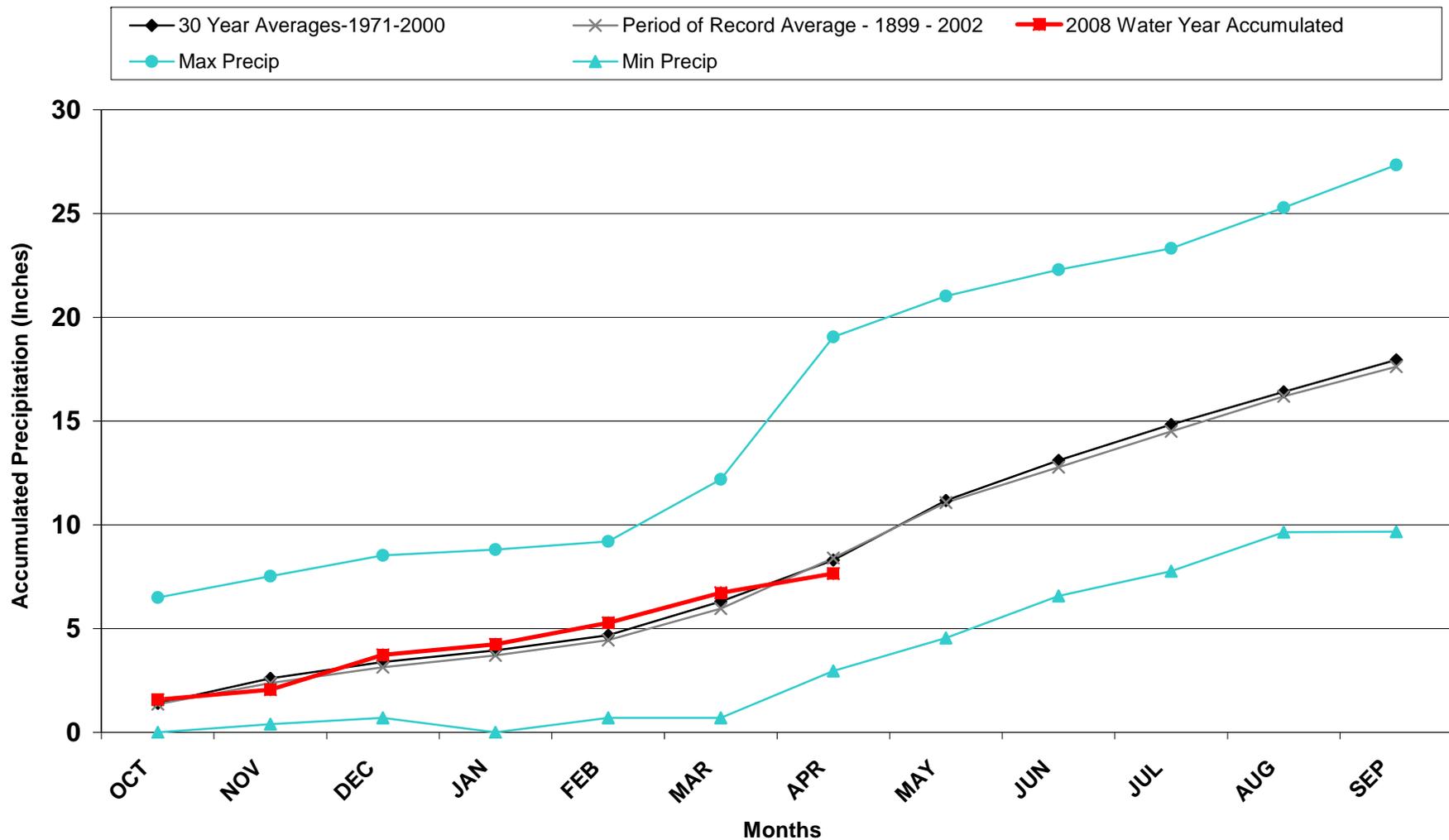
Division 8 – Boulder

Boulder 2008 Water Year



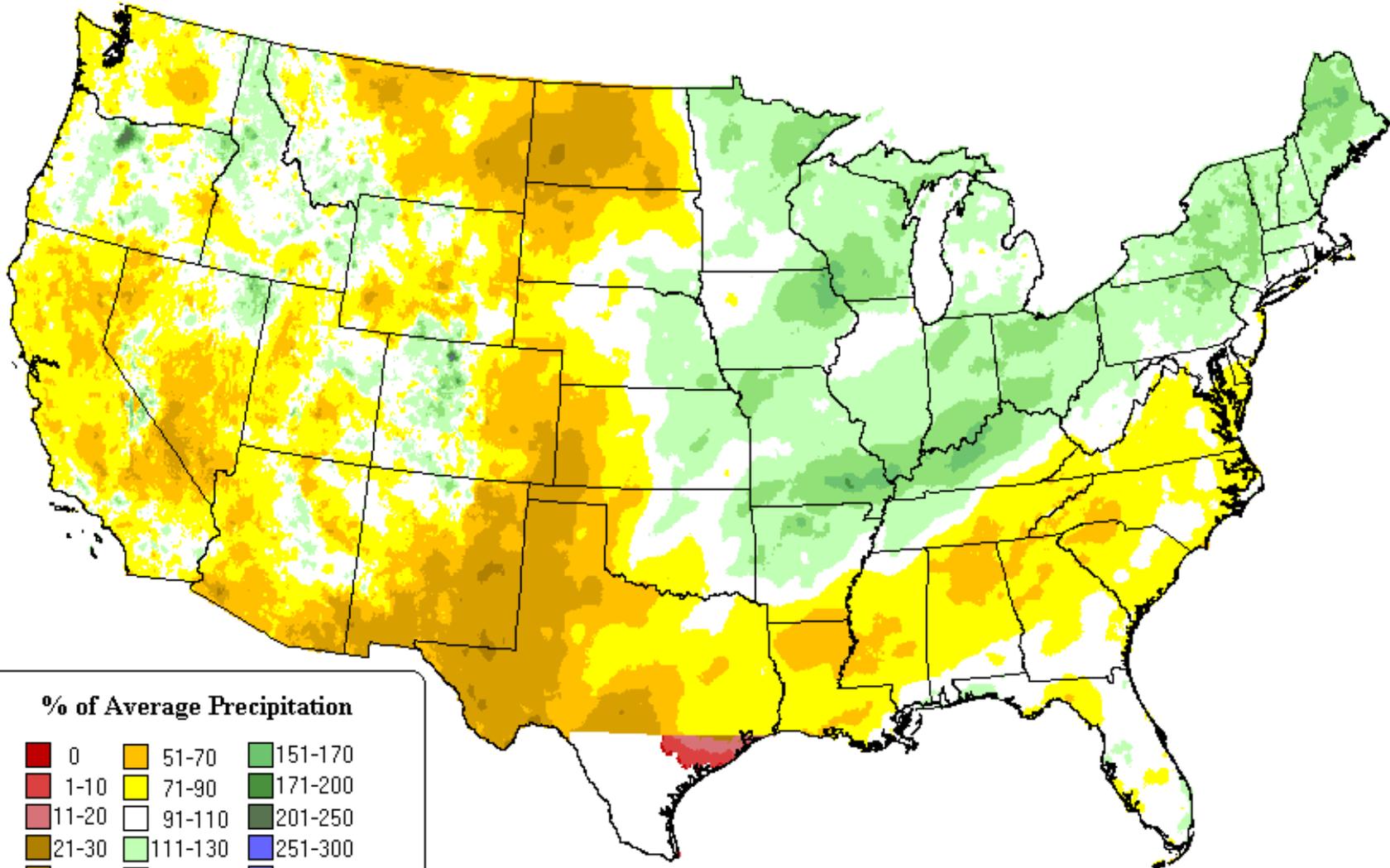
Division 8 – Kassler

Kassler 2008 Water Year



Water Year 2008 (Oct 07-Apr 08) Prism

7-month Percent of Average Precipitation: Apr 2008
Provisional Data

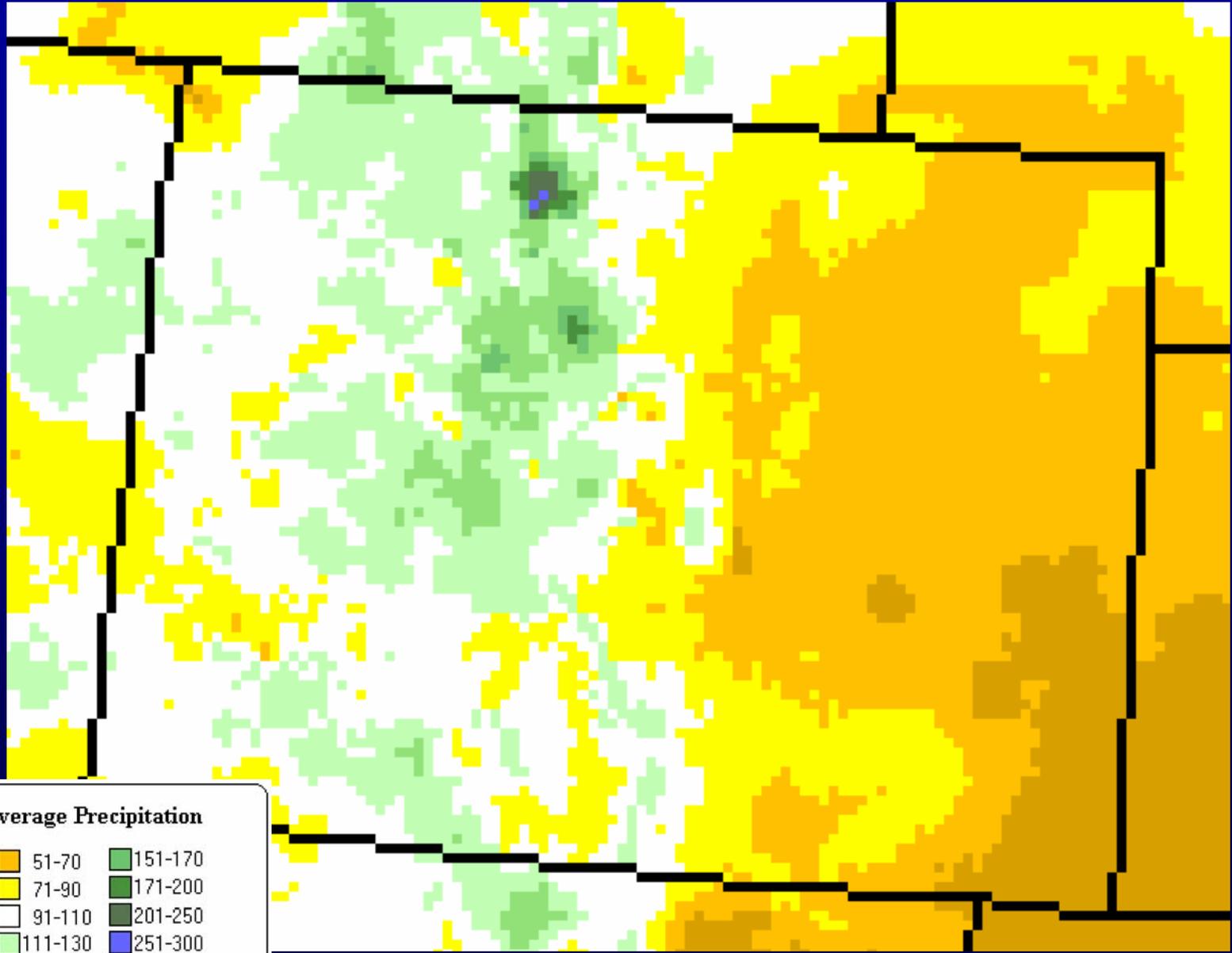


% of Average Precipitation

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<http://www.prismclimate.org> - Map created May 12 2008

Water Year 2008 (Oct 07-Apr 08) Prism

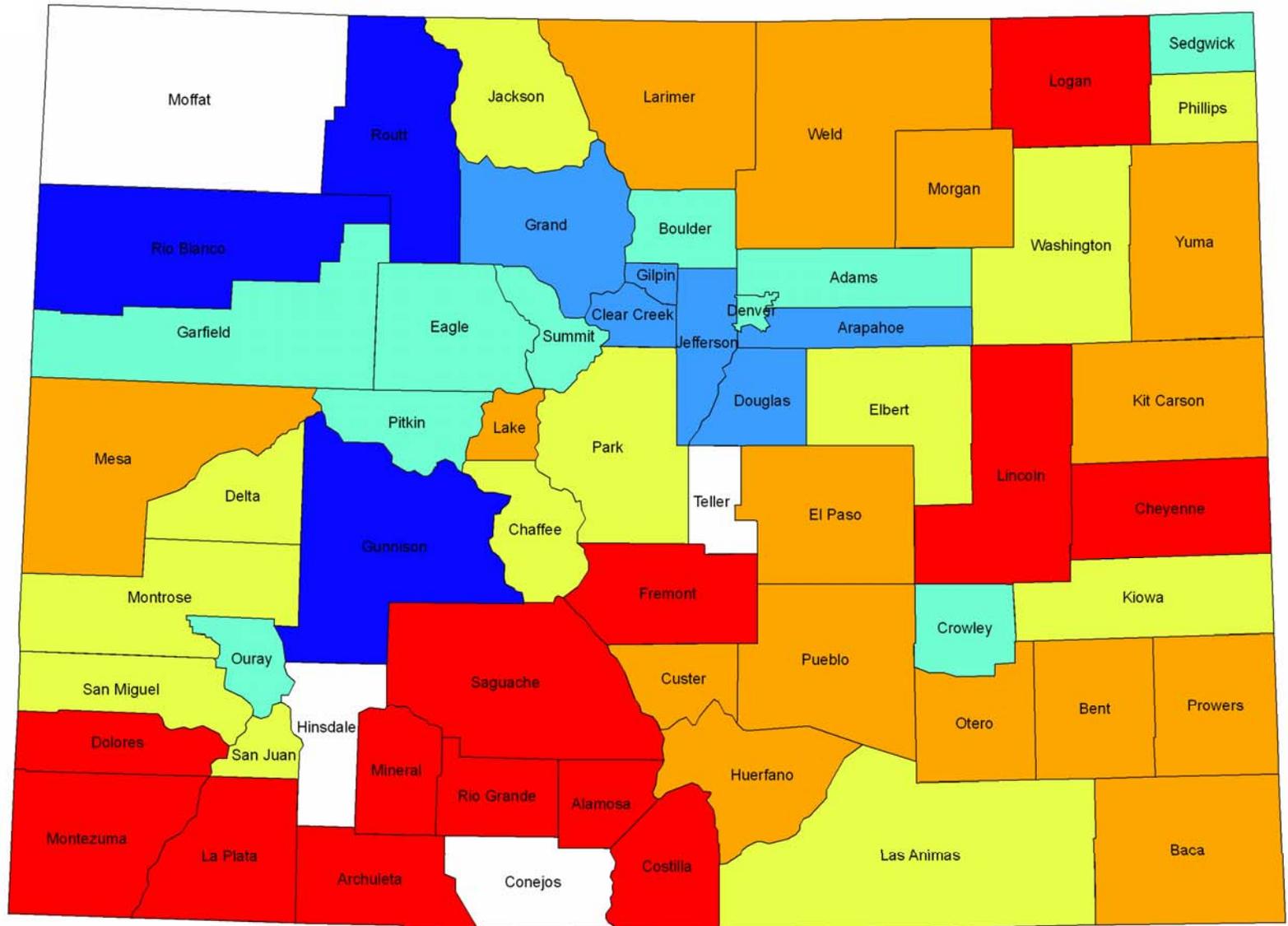
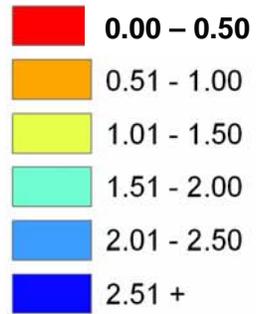


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Average Cocorahs May 1- May 15 2008 Precipitation by County

Colorado_Counties



Summary

- Cooler than average temperatures have continued through mid May (longest string of consecutive cooler than average months in many years)
- Spring precipitation through mid May has been highly variable
 - Above average precipitation in much of northern and central mountains
 - Southwest and south central Colorado very dry since March
 - Considerably drier than average since March over much of eastern Colorado
 - Average or better precipitation mid Front Range counties and extreme NE Colorado

Summary continued

- Most low elevation snow has melted in its typical uneventful manner
- High elevation melt out is now underway
- No large spring storms so far this spring. Early summer mountain dry spell usually begins now.

Summary continued

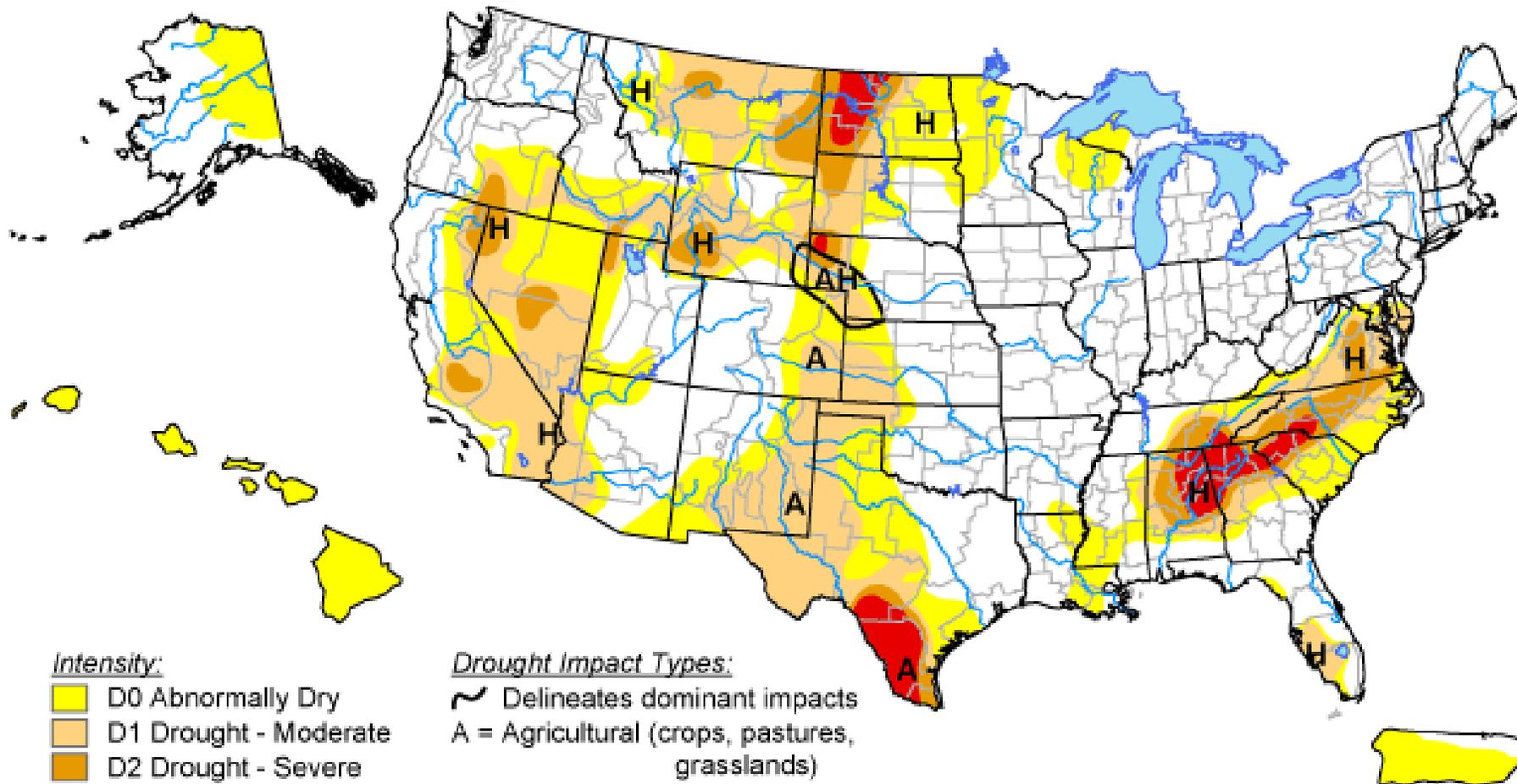
- Only four weeks remain in eastern Colorado's typical "Wet season." Thereafter, we shift to primarily convective precipitation – storms locally intense but usually not widespread.
- June – peak tornado season – Watch out for HAIL.



U.S. Drought Monitor

April 8, 2008

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.



Released Thursday, April 10, 2008

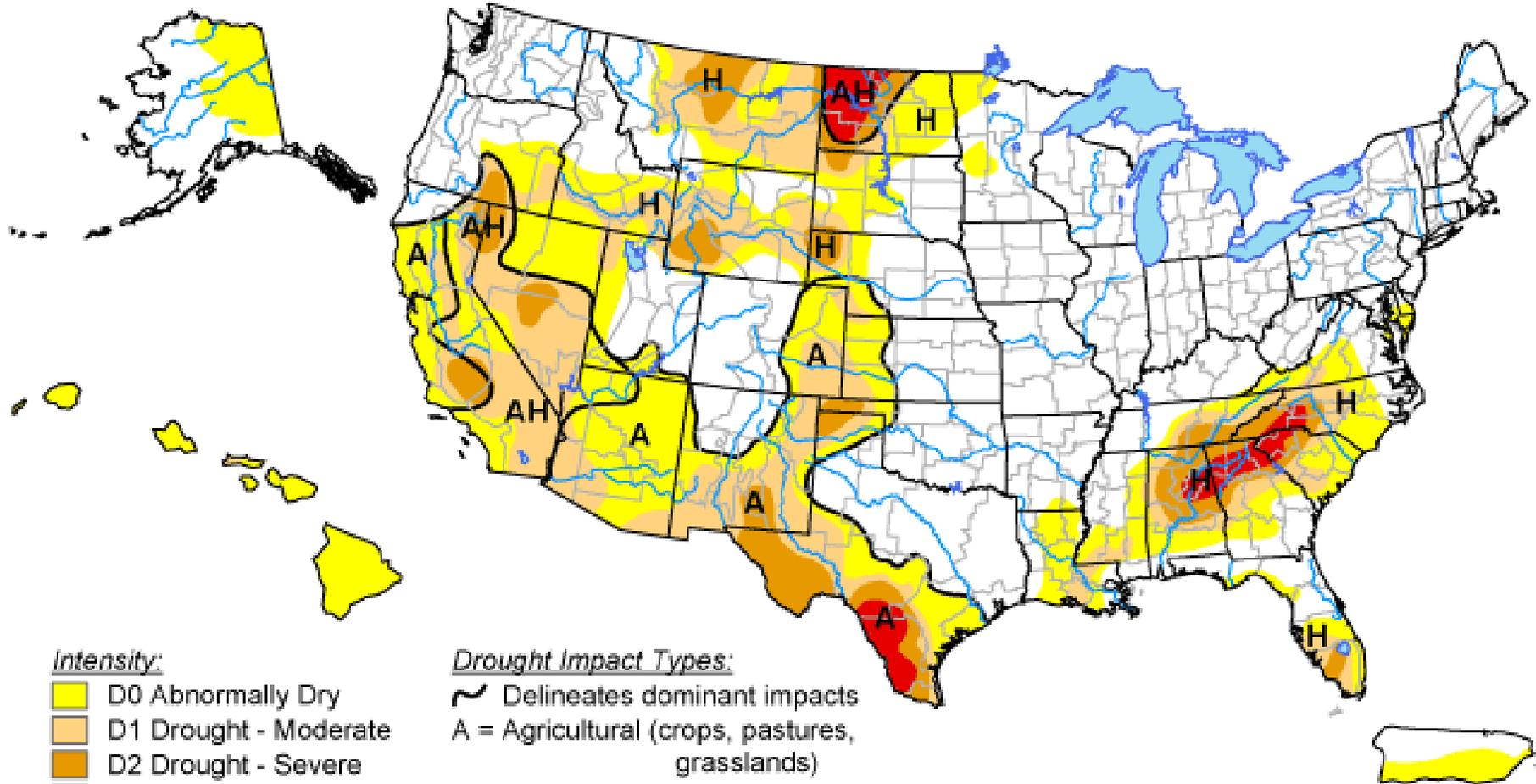
Author: Rich Tinker, Climate Prediction Center, NOAA

<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>

U.S. Drought Monitor

May 13, 2008

Valid 8 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

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-  D1 Drought - Moderate
-  D2 Drought - Severe
-  D3 Drought - Extreme
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<http://drought.unl.edu/dm>



Released Thursday, May 15, 2008
Author: Michael James, JAWF/CPC/NOAA

Colorado Climate Center

Data and Power Point Presentations
available for downloading

<http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu>

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

