

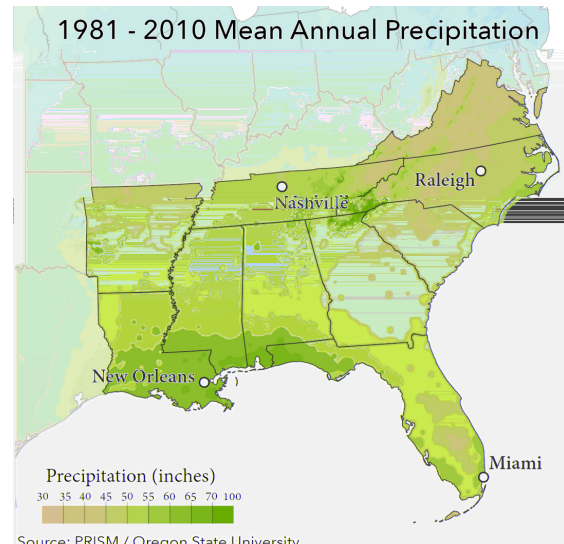


# REGIONAL GUIDANCE FOR CONDITION MONITORING OBSERVERS

## What is Condition Monitoring?

In addition to daily precipitation measurements, CoCoRaHS observers can submit weekly reports describing recent weather conditions and their impacts on the local environment. Observers select from one of seven categories, from severely wet to severely dry, to indicate how conditions compare to what is normal for their area. They also provide written reports with a description of local conditions. Regular reporting helps the scientists who use the data compare conditions and changes over time. Access the reports on the [interactive condition monitoring web map](#).

**Regional Condition Monitoring Guidance** makes condition monitoring easier for observers and demystifies the process of writing observations. Region-specific information helps observers recognize the many different potential effects of weather and climate events and write more detailed and relevant reports. Greater clarity about what conditions might look like at different levels of wetness or dryness in a region can help them make scale bar selections more consistently, enhancing scientists' ability to compare reports between locations and time periods.



Map from the Southeast Condition Monitoring Regional Guidance

## Regional Guidance Elements

### Regional Background

States are divided into regions with similar climate characteristics, landscapes, and weather drivers. The “Regional Background” section provides information to help volunteers understand what is “normal” for their region.

- A regional map shows annual precipitation amounts.
- Climographs from several cities in the region show representative monthly temperature and precipitation averages.
- Links to online resources direct observers to data for additional locations in their region.

### Reporting Reminders

- This guidance encourages observers to use the "severely" wet and dry categories sparingly.
- For drought periods, observers are reminded to think about long-term conditions (over weeks to months) as drought events typically do not end with a single rainfall event.
- For wet periods, observers are asked to provide notes on specific storm events as well as longer-lasting effects from rainy weather.

### Reporting Guidance

- For the condition monitoring scale bar, the guidance instructs observers on selecting a representative wet, dry, or normal category for their region.
- Examples of different types of impacts are drawn from previously submitted reports and the National Drought Mitigation Center's Drought Impact Reporter.

## About the Condition Monitoring Project

The Carolinas Integrated Sciences & Assessments (CISA) in partnership with the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) network and the National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) are conducting research to assess the usefulness of consistent, qualitative reports to monitor the onset, intensification, and recovery of drought conditions. This project is supported by the National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) as part of the NIDIS Carolinas Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) program.

