

### This is a Live Virtual Class

- Voice in Computer no phone needed headphones helpful
- All are in listen mode until the end



**GoTo**Webinar

### New to GoToWebinar? Here's the basics

- the Menu barAudio tests your volume
- Attendees all in attendance
- Poll answer poll questions
- Questions type in a question for the speaker to answer

- Handouts download & print
- Chat speaker's comments
- Click on the Hand to raise
- Click orange arrow to collapse window





# **Objectives**



- Understand the importance of the Precipitation Observations
- Learn how to take accurate rain and snow reports
- Learn how to prepare and be safe during hazardous weather
- Receive the Winter Outlook 2022-2023

Now let's look back at last year.....





# December 30, 2021 - Heavy Snow



Holiday Season snow can affect travel, especially as mountain passes close. Heavy snow also reported in the LC Valley.







## January 6-7, 2022 - Heavy Snow



Heavy snow hit the region with 1-2 feet of snow.

18" Moyie Springs 13" Elmira 21" Tonasket 21" Sunnyslope 13" Quincy





### April 14, 2022 - Heavy Snow



Unstable conditions can produce intense snow amounts.

8" to 16" East Wenatchee







### To our current Observers....





# THANK YOU!

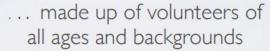
### Community **Collaborative** Rain Hail and Snow **Network**

- **NWS Partner**
- Fort Collins, Colorado
- Manages sites all over North America
- Began in WA/ID 2008 -14 years ago

### What is CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS is a national grassroots, non-profit, community-based, high-density precipitation network ...



















# National Weather Service (NWS)



- Part of the Federal Government Dept of Commerce
- •Responsible for all weather/water Watches & Warnings
- •126 offices across the country
- Work with local agencies
- Observe & Forecast
- "Behind the Scenes"
- Decision Support
- Preparedness & Education

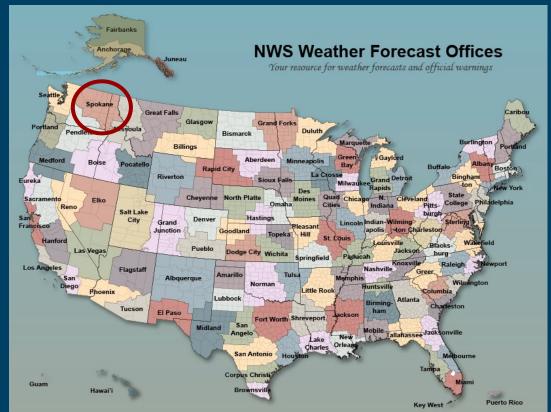
Issue Weather and Water watches/warnings for the protection of life and property.





### **NWS Spokane Forecast and Warning Area**





#### Includes 2 states

- 13 counties in eastern WA
- 8 counties in north Idaho

#### Elevations range

- 9500+ ft in the north Cascades
- 170 ft along the mid Columbia River



**Public Forecast Zones** 



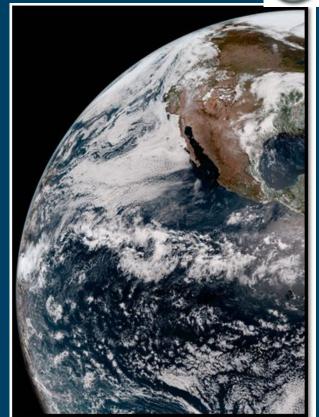


### **NWS Tools**











### **Doppler Weather Radar**







### Weather Balloon - Radiosonde



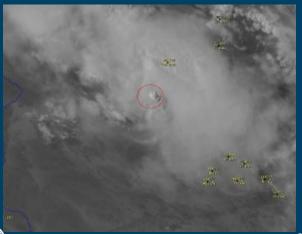


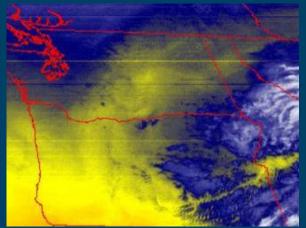
### **Weather Satellites**

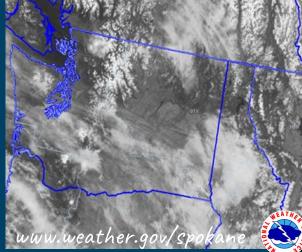
IR, Water Vapor & Visible
New images every 5 minutes
Aids in early detection
Thunderstorms & Wildfires







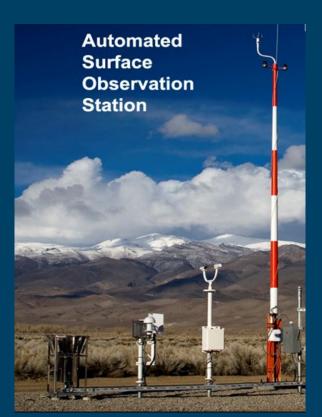


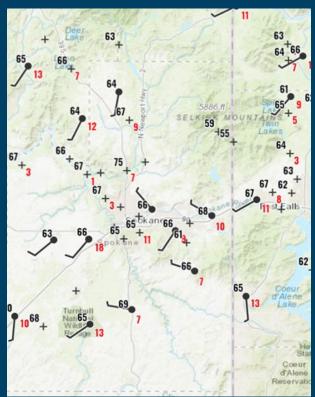


### **Surface Observations & Web Cams**

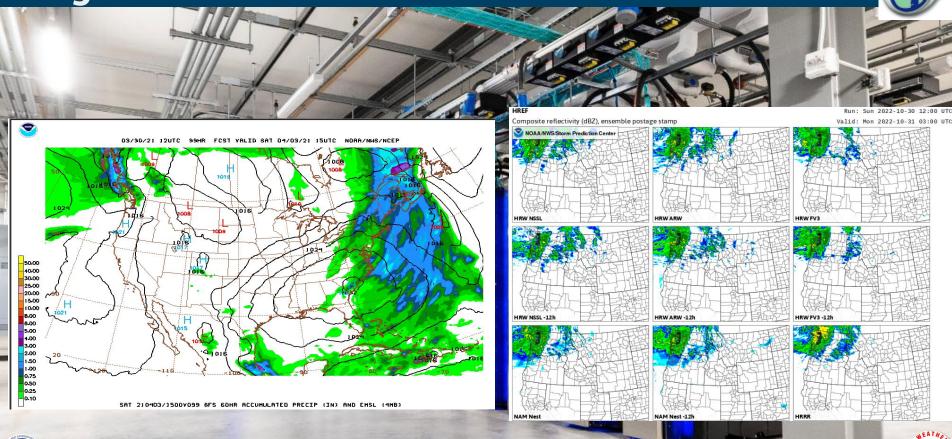








# **High Resolution Weather Models**







# We need observers! Why?





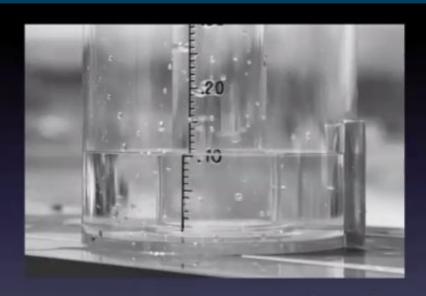
- Limitations to radar, satellite, and surface observations
- Receive Ground Truth on events
- Fill in the "holes" not seen by observations
- Understand the many micro-climates in the region
- Maximize Warning effectiveness and Lead Times
- Add Credibility to NWS Warnings Leads to Public Action!





### Who else uses CoCoRaHS observations?





- Weather Forecasters
- Hydrologists
- 3. Water management
- 4. Researchers
- 5. Agriculture
- 6. Climatologists
- 7. Insurance Industry
- 8. Engineering
- 9. Recreation
- 10. Many others

"CoCoRaHS is CRITICAL (my emphasis) to hazardous weather operations at the NWS Austin-San Antonio Weather Forecast Office. We utilize the daily precipitation reports to produce maps such as the one attached, which are used extensively by the media (directly shown on TV broadcasts), our emergency management partners (for briefing officials and planning search and recovery operations), and the general public." Jon Zeitler - NWS Austin-San Antonio Weather Forecast Office



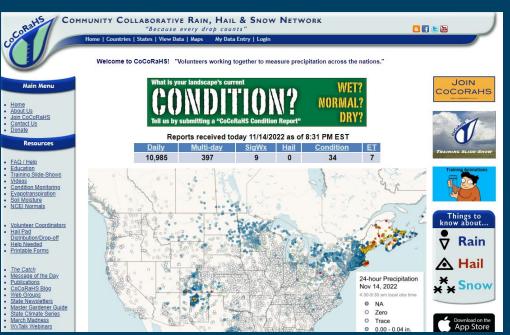


### CoCoRaHS - easy to report



Help Observe Precipitation in your Community <u>www.cocorahs.org</u>

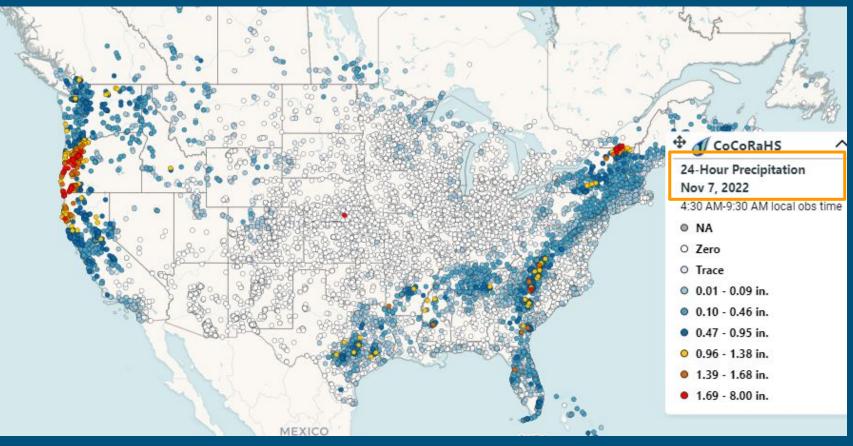
Volunteers take readings once a day - transmit online or on a mobile device







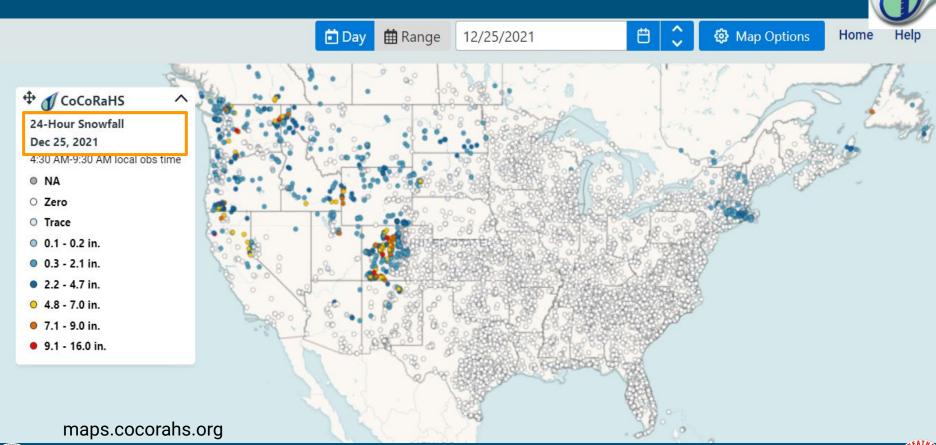




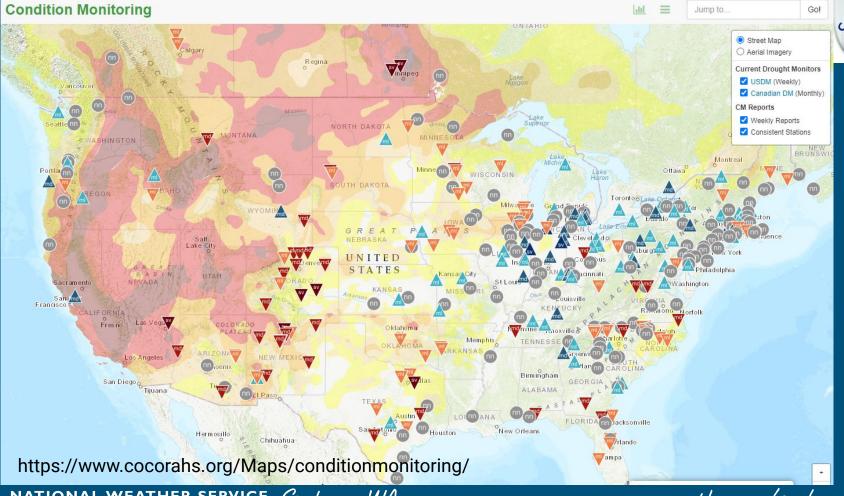


maps.cocorahs.org















NOLAN DOESKEN'S MONTHLY COCORAHS E-MAIL MESSAGE

CoCoRaHS -- New (Water) Year Resolution - 18,000 Daily Reports

Fort Collins, Colorado -- September 27, 2022

Early autumn greetings to all. We continue to see a hefty number of new sign ups, and this coming Thursday we are on track to cross four million daily reports since January 1. Today we saw a large influx of new volunteers in Alaska (two, actually, but for Alaska that's a big day). Close to two dozen new volunteers signed up recently in Vermont. Texas continues to add new rain gaugers -- many recruited through the Texas Master Naturalist organization. The National Weather Service is often listed as the referral source for many of our volunteers, but in recent weeks, "friends, family and co-workers" seem to dominate. Regardless of where or how you found out about CoCoRaHS, we're glad you did, and we're glad you're here with us.

YOUR NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SPOKANE QUARTERLY REPORT

### The Weather Watcher

of the Inland Northwest

www.weather.gov/Spokane



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Vol XXVII, Septembei

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### Arrival of the Fire and Smoke Season wildfire season may have had a slow start this year, but it ramped up quickly by Aug

The wildfire season may have had a slow start this year, but it ramped up quickly by August after the heat, lightning, and dry, breezy winds. So far, there have been at least 14 wildfires across the Inland NW with around 50,000 acres burned across eastern Washington and north Idaho. Initially the grasses and rangeland were the first to see the fires. Now that the timber at the higher elevations have dried out, wildfires have developed there as well. The number of local and regional wildfires have brought waves of smoke and degraded air quality across the Inland NW.

#### Significant Fire Outlook—September and October

Above normal fire potential remains through September as dry conditions prevail with rounds of breezy winds. Wetter and cooler conditions should limit significant fire potential by October.





#### Fall Seasonal Outlook ~ La Niña Advisory

The NWS Climate Prediction Center's three month outlook for September thru November 2022

#### Editor's Notes

Days are getting shorter and the summer heat will soon be a thing of the past. Its's time to enjoy the changing foliage of fall and cool crisp days. Yet it won't be long before colder weather grips the region with freezing temperatures, ice and snow. It's time to prepare your household and vehicle for the changing seasons. September is National Preparedness month.

The Autumn Equinox arrives on Thursday, September 22nd at 6:30 am PDT. This marks the equal time between day and night. After this date, expect shorter day hours and longer nights. The upcoming full moons include: Harvest.

### **Emails**



It's important to keep emails current. You may receive notifications on:

- Upcoming WIDESPREAD Severe Weather or Winter Storm events.
- Requests for SWE reports
- Training updates

# **SWE MONDAYS**

What's your Snow Water Equivalent?

Report the water content of your "snow on the ground" each Monday

The "Total SWE Monday" Habit . . . Please give it a try!



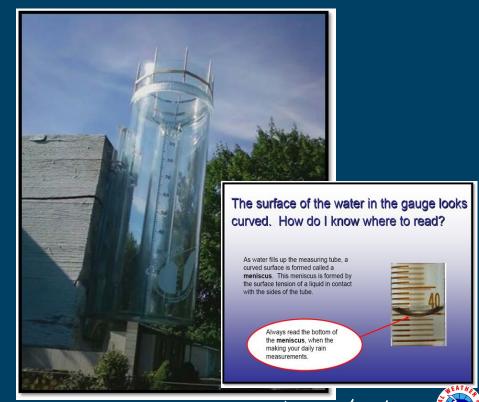


### **Interested in CoCoRaHS? How to Start!**



### Five easy steps

- 1. Sign-up at on the CoCoRaHS web site <a href="https://www.cocorahs.org">www.cocorahs.org</a>
- 2. Obtain a 4" plastic rain gauge
- 3. View the online "training slide show"
- Set up the gauge in a "good" location in your yard away from trees
- 5. Start observing precipitation and report online daily



### Snow

### **NWS Spokane** appreciates the many

snow reports each year!

Yes, It can be challenging!

Before the snow flies, make sure you remove the inner tube and funnel.

### MEASURING SNOW





- Snowfall measurement is typically more difficult than rainfall
- Snowfall measurement takes a little more time

Accurate and timely snowfall measurements can be extremely important to your local National Weather Service office, public works departments, media outlets, climatologists, and other scientists.





# Setting up for Measuring Snow





Video Courtesy of CoCoRaHS



### **Snow Tools**



4" Diameter CoCoRaHS Rain Gauge

Outer Cylinder for winter weather

**Snow Board** 



**Snow Swatter** 



Ruler or yardstick,



# **Snow Measurements - 4 part observation**



- 1. The depth of new snow (new snowfall)
- 2. Liquid water equivalent of new snow (either in the gauge or on the snowboard)
- 3. The total depth of new snow <u>and</u> old snow and ice at observation time
- 4. Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) of total snow on the ground (optional)





# **Snow Measurements - 4 part observation**



- 1. The depth of new snow (new snowfall)
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www.weather.gov/spokane

### **How to Measure New Snow Depth**





<u>Video Courtesy</u> of CoCoRaHS



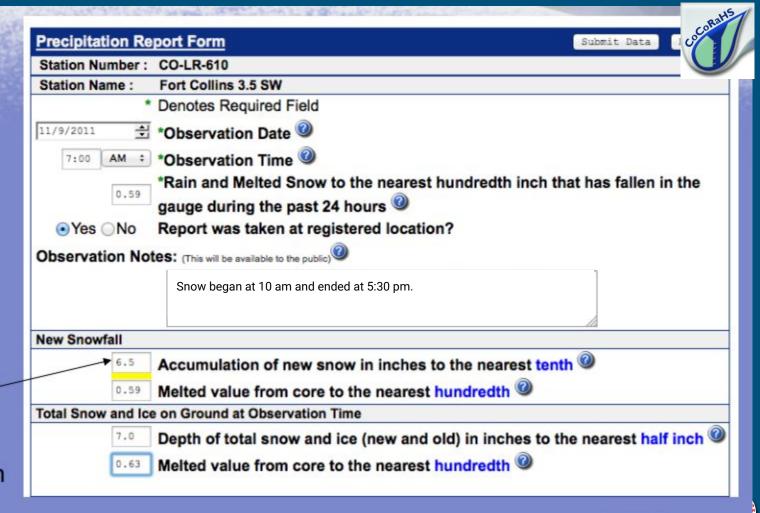


# Snow Measurements - Depth of new Snowfall

CocoRaHS

- Snowfall is the accumulation of new snow (and ice) in the past 24 hours prior to melting or settling.
- Use a ruler and measure on the snow board or a level spot in your yard. Do not use a ruler in your gauge to measure snowfall.
- You can measure snowfall soon as it has stops snowing, it does not need to be at the observation time.
- Report snowfall to the nearest tenth of an inch.





Report your measurement of new snowfall to the nearest tenth of an inch

# **Snow Measurements - 4 part observation**



- 1. The depth of new snow (new snowfall)
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# **Daily Precipitation When It Snows**





Video Courtesy of CoCoRaHS

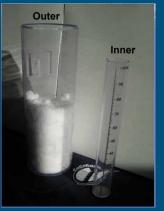




# Snow Measurements - Liquid Water Equivaler







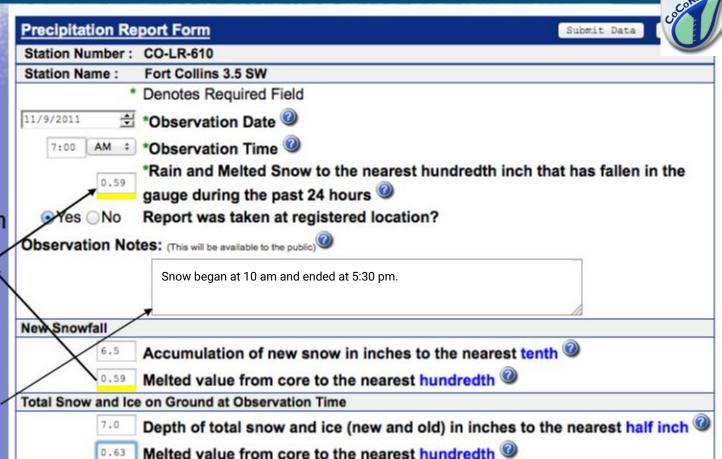








- 1. Swat excess snow from gauge
- 2. Bring outer gauge inside.
- 3. Fill inner gauge with warmer water
- 4. Pour a measured amount of warm water into the tube to melt the snow.
- 5. Once melted, pour contents of the snowmelt and warm water into the inner measuring tube.
- 6. Read the measurement, remember to subtract what you added!



Water melted from core is reported / as the daily precipitation

Remember to add notes in the Comments section if needed.

# **Snow Measurements - 4 part observation**



- 1. The depth of new snow (new snowfall)
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- 3. The total depth of new snow and old snow and ice at observation time
- 4. Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) of total snow on the ground (optional)





www.weather.gov/spokane

# Measuring Total Depth and SWE





Video Courtesy of CoCoRaHS

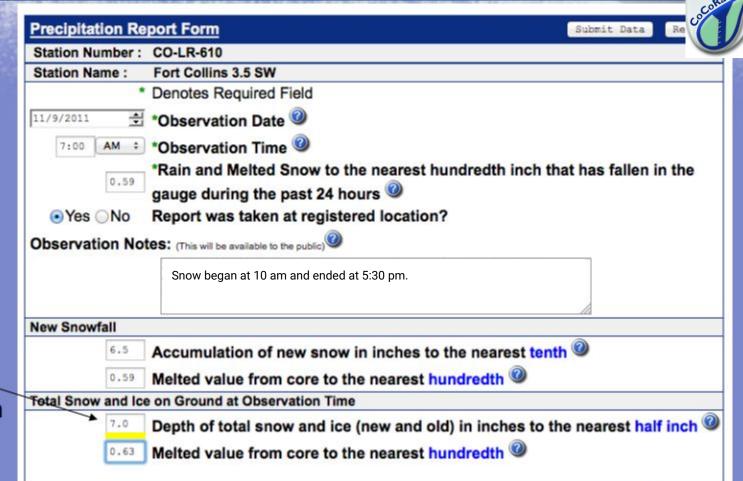


## **Snow Measurements - Total Depth**

- The Total Snow = Old Snow + New Snow
- The average depth of snow (including old snow and ice and new snow) that remains on the ground at observation time.
- Total depth of snow can be done in a flat portion of your yard, away from drifts or snow piles.
- Take several measurements and average them
- Report Total Snow Depth to nearest half inch







Report the total depth to the \_\_\_ nearest half inch

# **Snow Measurements - 4 part observation**



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# Snow Measurements - Snow Water Equivalen















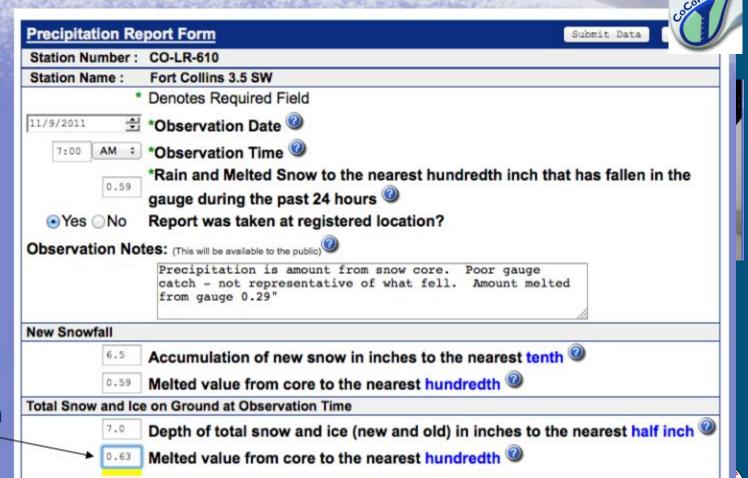
Light snow events

Once you have a core sample, melt it down with warm water and measure the liquid. Remember to subtract what you added!



Deeper snow events

SWE is important to know how much water is in the snow pack. It is usually done weekly (SWE Mondays) or when the snowpack is deep in an area.



Report the melted value to the nearest hundredth

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

#### **CoCoRaHS Post It Notes**

CSC GRAHS

Even if there is **No New**precipitation, please
send a report. Even

zeros are important!

If snow melts as it lands, report a **Trace** (**T**) of snow for the day and add it to comments

Windy conditions may lead to increased blowing and drifting. May need to take a core sample in a location more representative in your yard and not your gauge.

If **Heavy Snow** is falling, you can send in a Storm Report (available through the web page only)



#### **CoCoRaHS Post It Notes**



What if you are **gone for a few days**? Send in a multi-day report

Freezing Rain - This is a liquid that freezes. Do not report it as snow.

Meltdown what is frozen in the gage and report it as rain. Leave a note in comments section. New snowfall =0.

Total Snow Depth= ice thickness.

What if you run out of time to finish your snow report? Put NA in the Rain and Melted snow box and leave a note in the comments box and then send in your report. You can return to the report to edit it later in the day.

### Different programs - All useful to the NWS











## **Weather Spotter**



Weather enthusiast who volunteers time to report severe or hazardous weather

- As needed basis
- No weather equipment is necessary
- Simply call, email or send a report online
- Checklist provided on weather to report

Register: nws.spokane@noaa.gov







# Citizen Weather Observers Program CWOP





#### Register: www.wxqa.com

- Have a weather station and want to share data online
- Has a PC and Internet access
- Register Online & Receive a weather station ID
- Transmits data every 15 mins





## **Additional Training**



Cocorahs.org

Slideshows Notes Videos





BY WEIGHT

www.weather.gov/spokane

## **Typical Winter Storm Scenario**



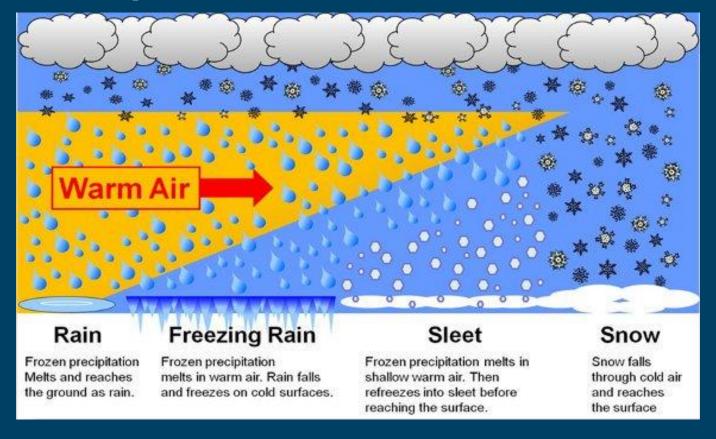
- Cold air in place over the Inland Northwest, especially in the valleys
- Warm Pacific Air rides over the cold air
- Precipitation begins as snow, occasionally changes to rain with possible freezing rain





## Vertical Temperature Profile is Critical!









# **Winter Precipitation**



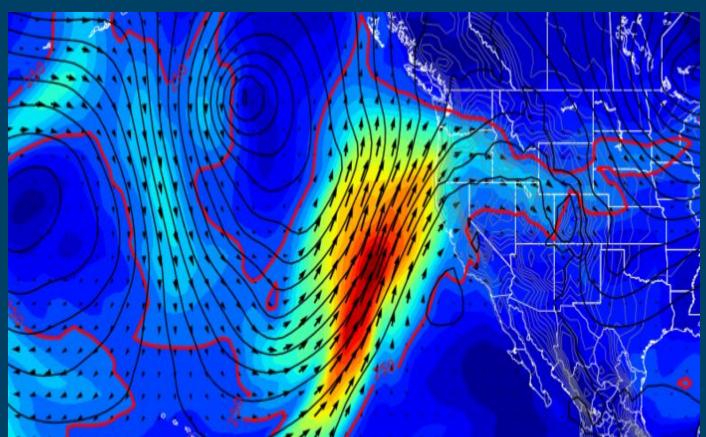


# **Atmospheric Rivers**



Plumes of atmospheric moisture

Mild & Wet Weather







# **Atmospheric River Events**





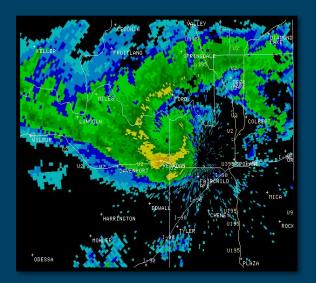




#### **Small Scale Unstable Lows**



- Develop Behind Strong Cold Fronts
- May not be well forecast by models
- Potential for ~1 ft of snow in a short time







#### What is a

# SNOW SQUALL?

Intense burst of snow and winds
Short duration (1-3 hours)
Whiteout visibility
Rapidly deteriorating road conditions



IOWA DOT





#### QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT

#### SNOW SQUALLS

WWW.WEATHER.GOV/SAFETY



#### WHAT ARE THEY?

Quick intense bursts of snow Accompanied by strong gusty winds Short-lived, typically less than 3 hours Normally occur during the day

#### WHAT ARE THE IMPACTS?

Rapidly reduced visibility
Treacherous travel conditions
Potential for chain-reaction accidents



#### WHAT'S A SNOW SQUALL WARNING?

Warning is usually 30-60 minutes in length
Issued for small areas where snow
squalls are expected
Similar to a Tornado or Severe
Thunderstorm Warning

#### HOW CAN YOU STAY SAFE?

Have a way to get forecasts and warnings Consider an alternate route or delaying travel Stay alert for rapidly changing road conditions Reduce speed and use low beam headlights



WEATHER.GOV

# Safety



- Personal Safety is the Primary Objective of every observer
- Protect You and Your Family First
- Do NOT put yourself in harm's way
  - Don't walk or drive over obstructions as flooded roads or downed power lines
  - Don't put yourself under objects that have the potential to fall or be blown over
- ACES Awareness, Communication, Escape Route and Safe Zones

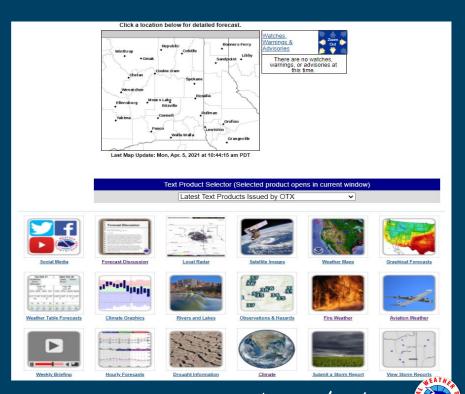






# **Stay Informed** NWS Spokane Web Page www.weather.gov/Spokane

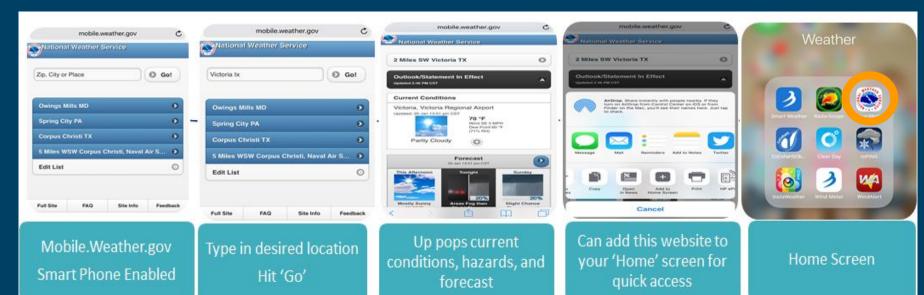




# **Stay Informed**On your Smartphone

#### mobile.weather.gov









# Staying Informed On Your Phone!



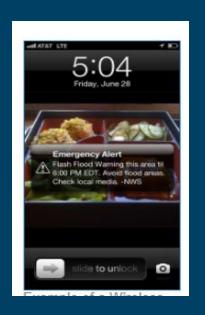
#### **Weather Warnings**

- Tornado Warnings
- Flash Flooding Warnings
- Extreme Wind Warnings
- Dust Storm Warnings
- Snow Squall Warnings



Extreme Weather & Water Warnings
Local emergencies & Evacuations
AMBER Alerts
Presidential Alerts – National emergency





# **Stay Informed**

Be Prepared - Disaster Kits and Disaster Plans





www.weather.gov/spokane



learning products







**Training Animations** 







A Guide to Monitoring your Local Conditions





#### **Climate Records**



After 100 reports, your site becomes a climate site!

Water Year reports are available each year

First time, CoCoRaHS stations have been incorporated into the new Climate normals. - NCEI Normals (5448 CoCoRaHS stations)

2008 Water Year	2009 Water Year	2010 Water Year	2011 Water Year
Report	Report	Report	Report
2012 Water Year	2013 Water Year	2014 Water Year	2015 Water Year
Report	Report	Report	Report
2016 Water Year	2017 Water Year	2018 Water Year	2019 Water Year
Report   Certificate	Report   Certificate	Report   Certificate	Report   Certificate
2020 Water Year	2021 Water Year	Current Water Year	
Report   Certificate	Report   Coming Soon	Report	

National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

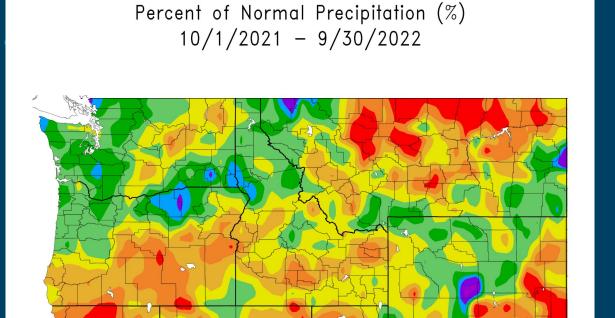






#### Water Year 2021- 2022...





Generally, not too bad! We have made progress from our record 2021 dry spring and hot and dry summer.



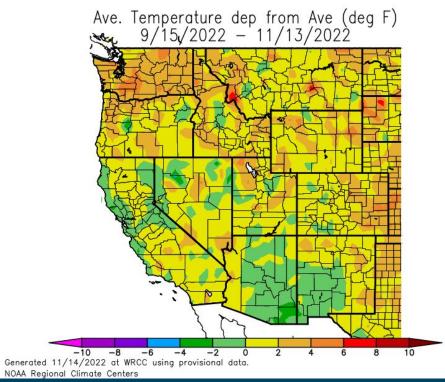


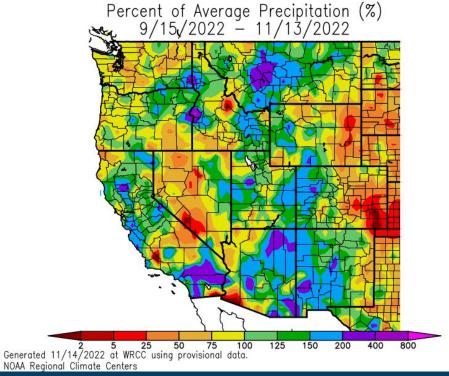
#### Fall 2022...

wrcc.dri.edu/

Now in Water Year 2022, temperatures trending cooler to near normal and Precipitation trending wetter than normal!





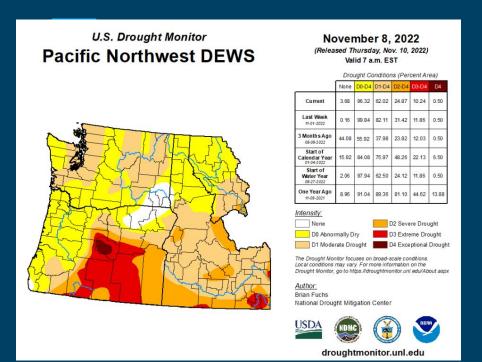


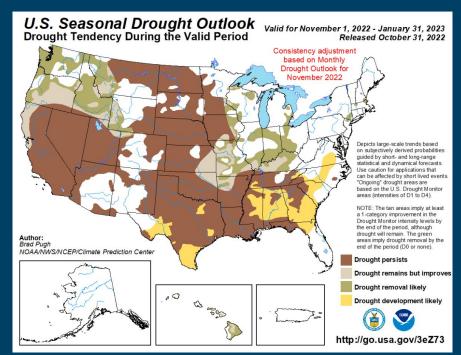


# **Drought Update**

### US Drought Monitor & Seasonal Outlook









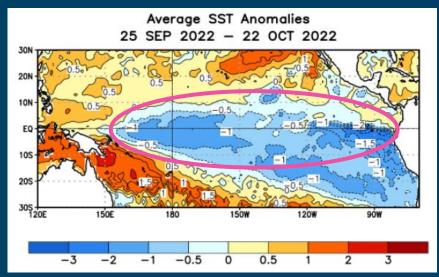


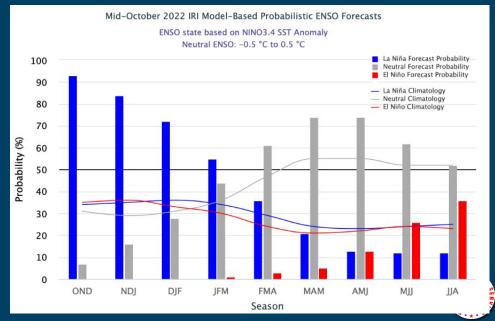
#### La Nina Continues...

Cacanans

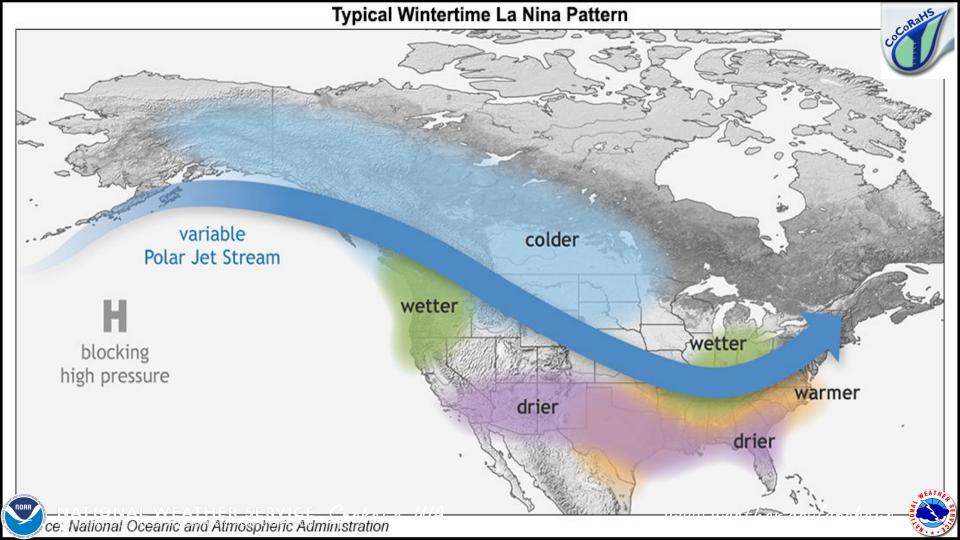
- Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below average across most of the Pacific Ocean.
- La Niña conditions will persist especially now through February 2023 in the Northern Hemisphere.

www.cpc.noaa.gov



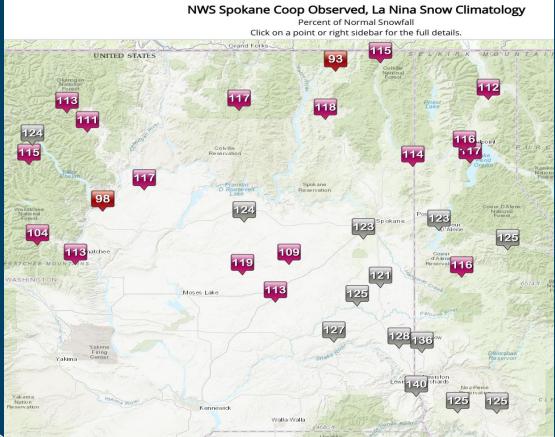






# **Interactive La Nina Snow Climatology**





https://www.wrh.noaa.gov/otx/climate/

### **3rd Consecutive La Nina**



The only other winters to have a third La Nina in a row was

1975-1976 2000-2001

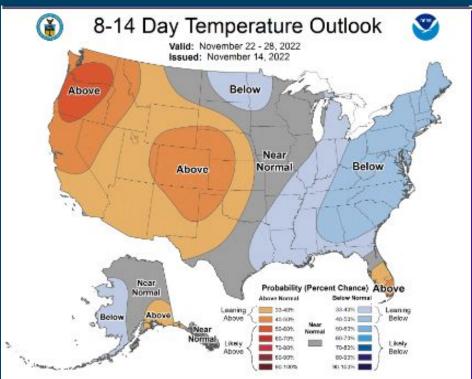


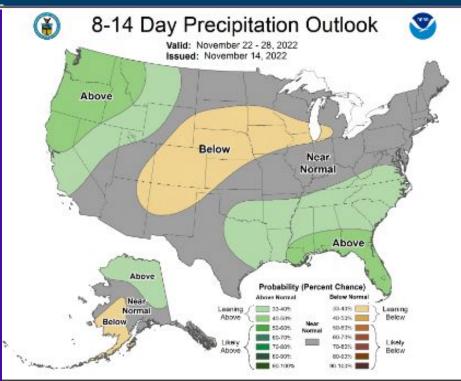


## 8-14 Day Outlook

#### www.cpc.noaa.gov









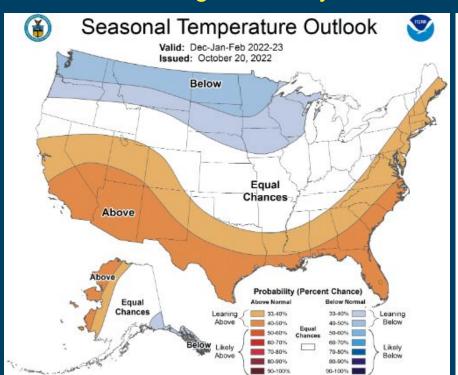


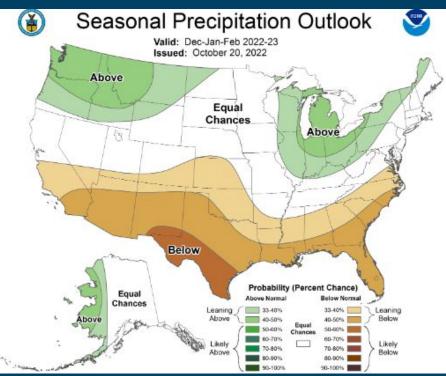
#### **Three Month Outlook**

#### www.cpc.noaa.gov



#### **December through February**





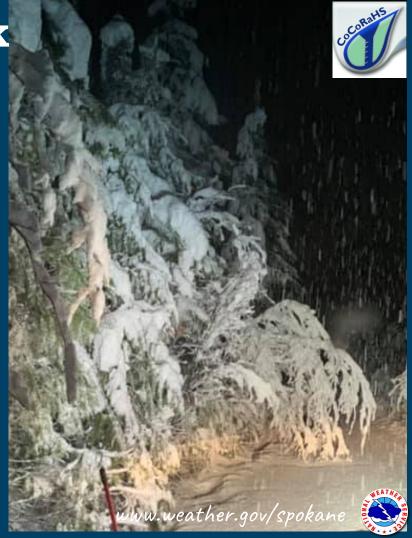




## **Key Points – Winter Outlook**

- La Nina will continue through the upcoming winter
  - Winter outlook Elevated odds of cooler, wetter & snowery than normal
- Winter is HERE! Anticipate more storms with snow, ice, rain and wind, but not one storm makes a season.
- We look forward to your reports!









#### nws.spokane@noaa.gov

#### **THANK YOU!**

#### What's Next?

Visit cocorahs.org

- Register if you want to join
- Review training videos and slides
- Check out the latest precipitation maps

# **Any Questions?**

Unmute yourself to talk

