Climate Update

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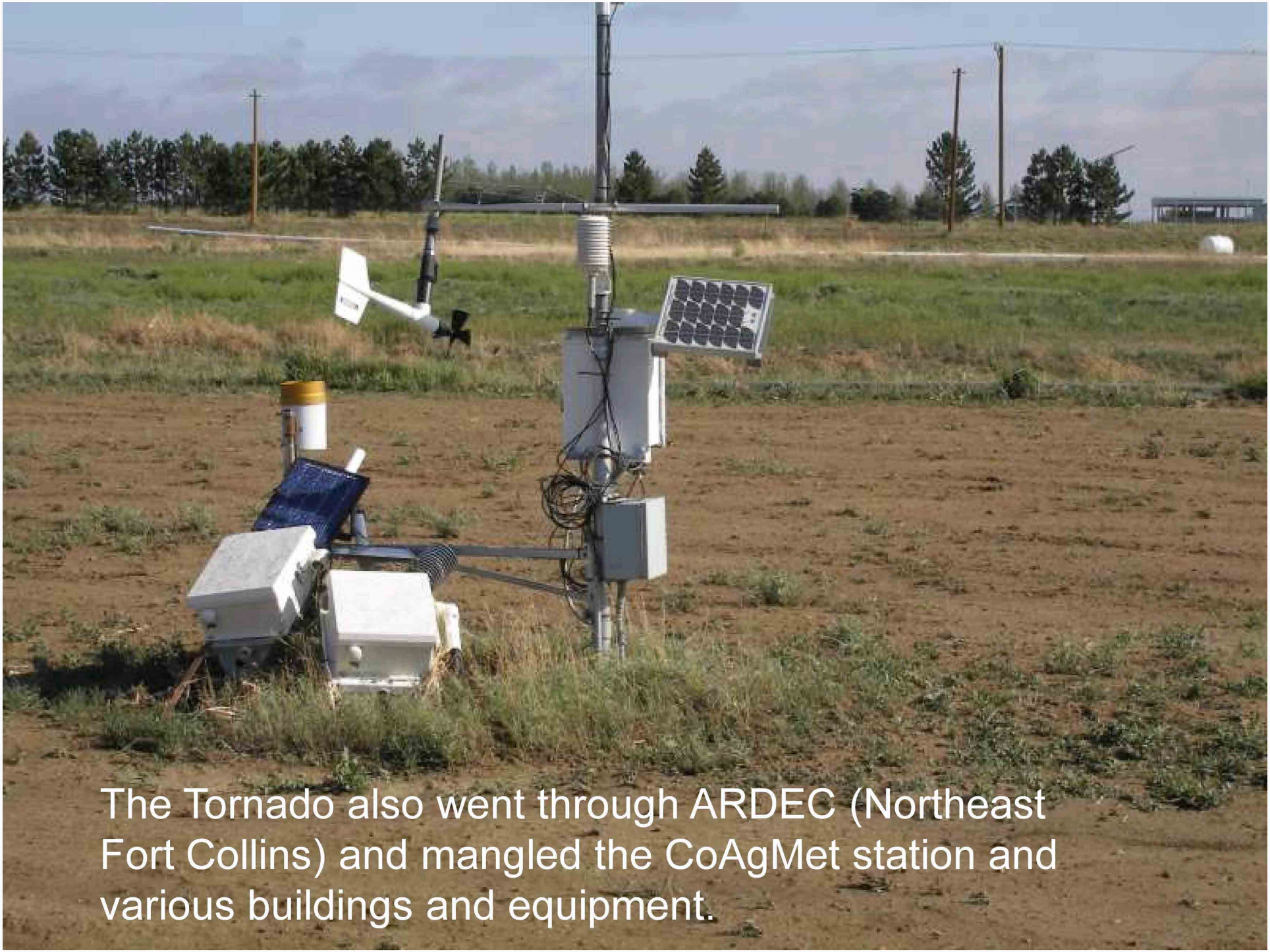
Presented to Water Availability Task Force
June 26, 2008
Denver, CO

Prepared by Odie Bliss

Colorado State University
Knowledge to Go Places

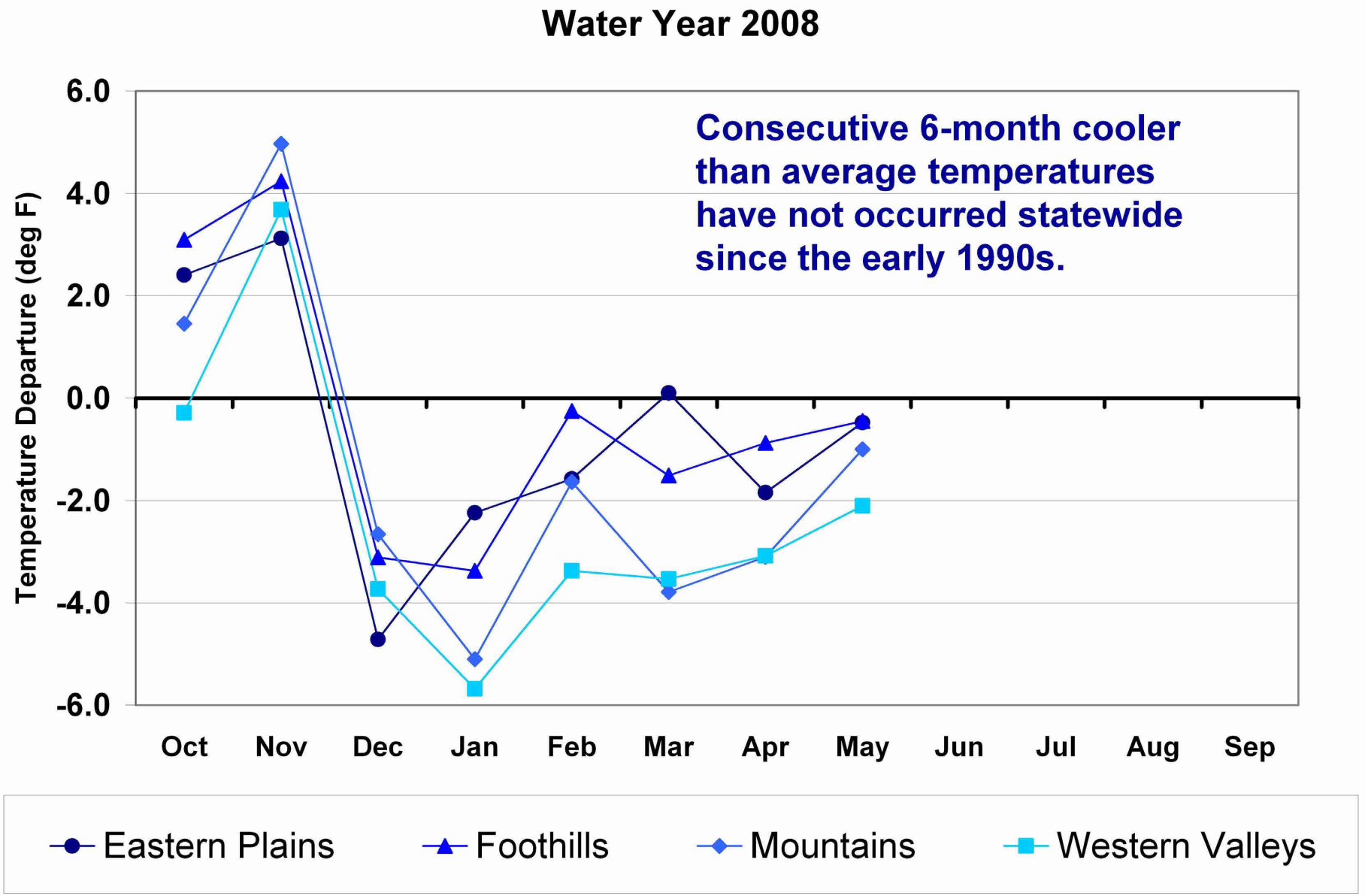
May 22, 2008 Tornado

- Unusual path traveled from southeast to northwest (from Platteville, CO to Laramie, WY)
- Hit east side of Windsor pretty hard
- 1 loss of life; ~800 homes damaged; numerous businesses, churches, etc.
- Small to Large damaging hail in the storm system

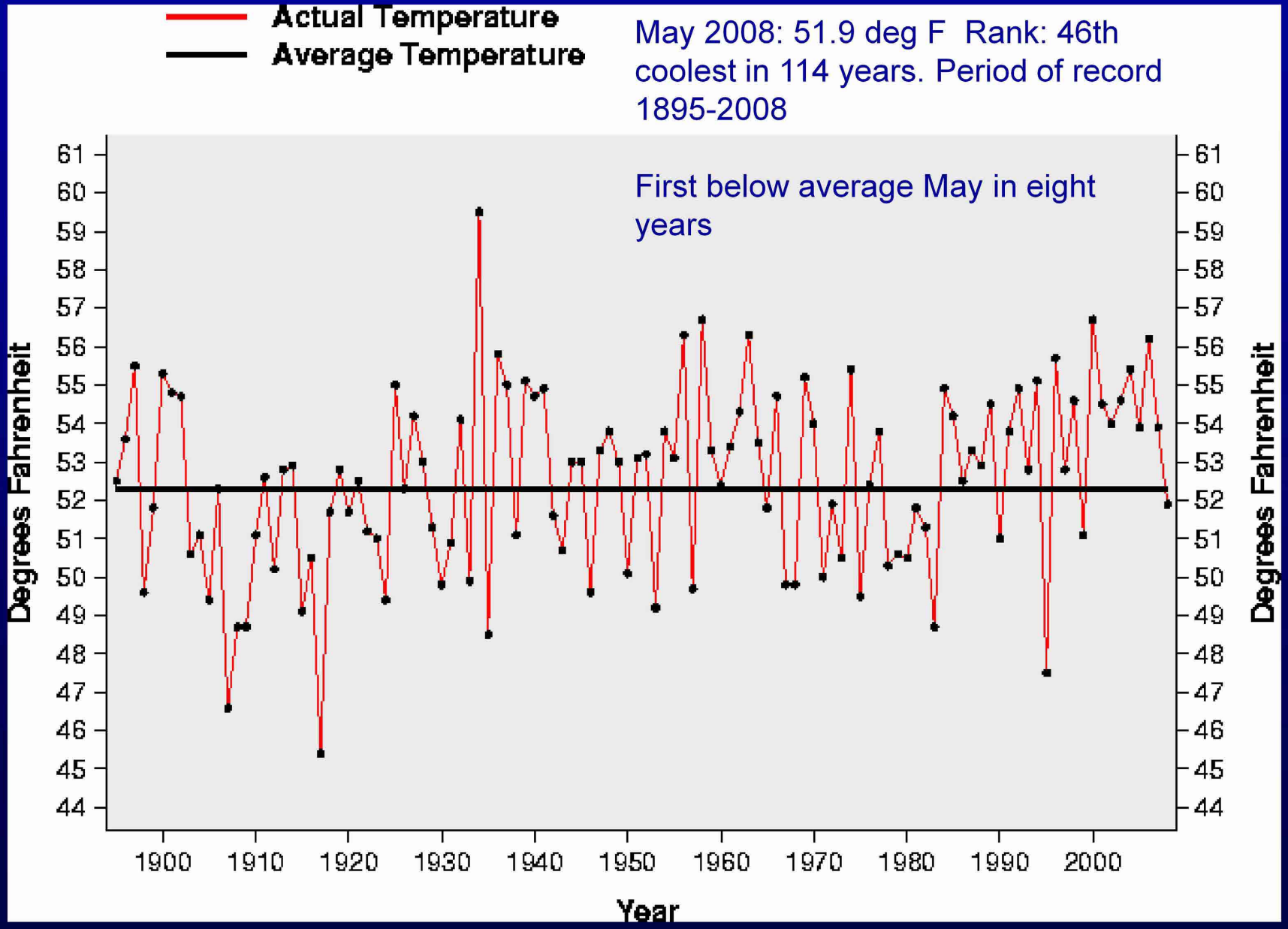


The Tornado also went through ARDEC (Northeast Fort Collins) and mangled the CoAgMet station and various buildings and equipment.

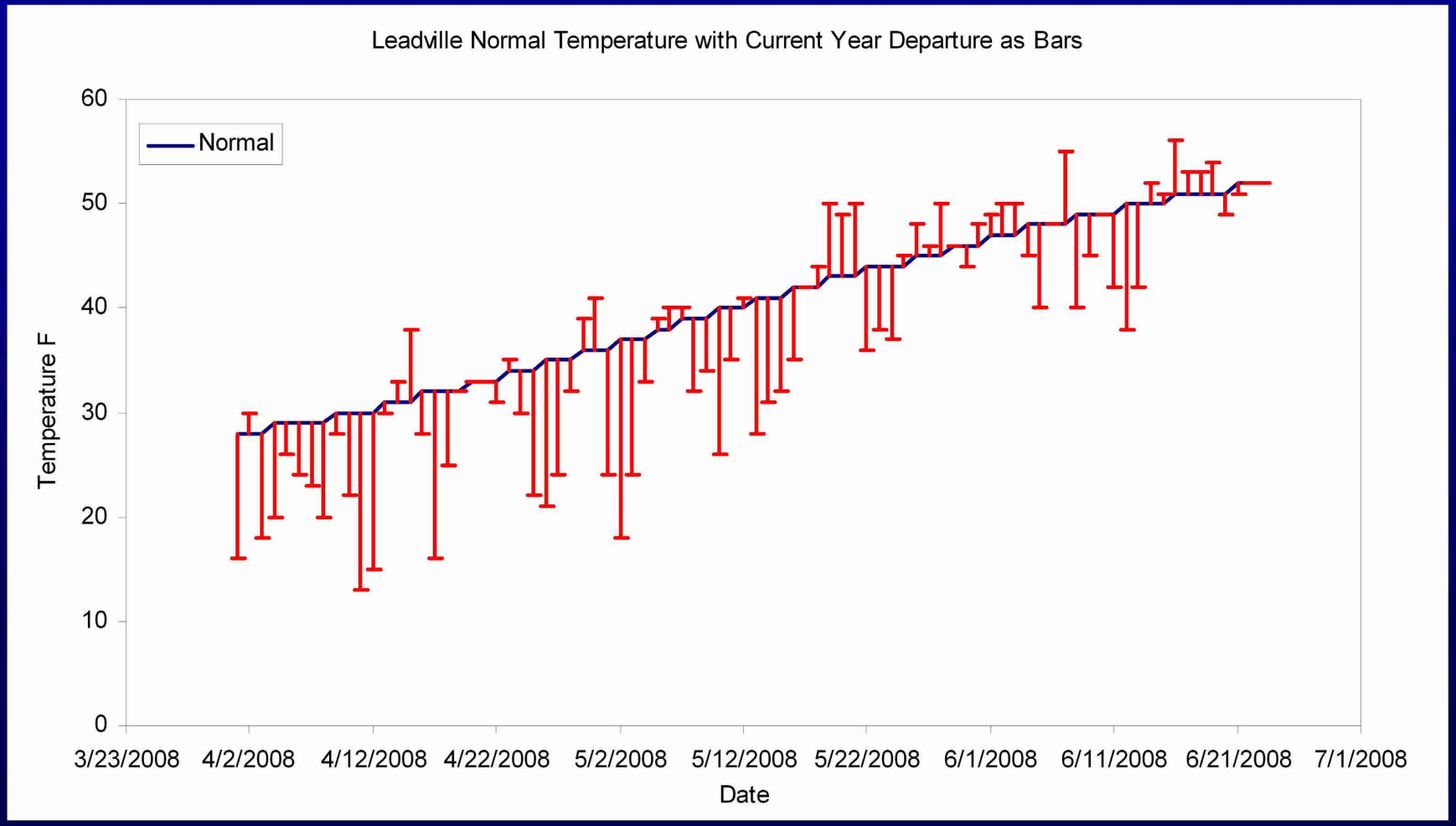
Water Year 2008 Temperature Departures



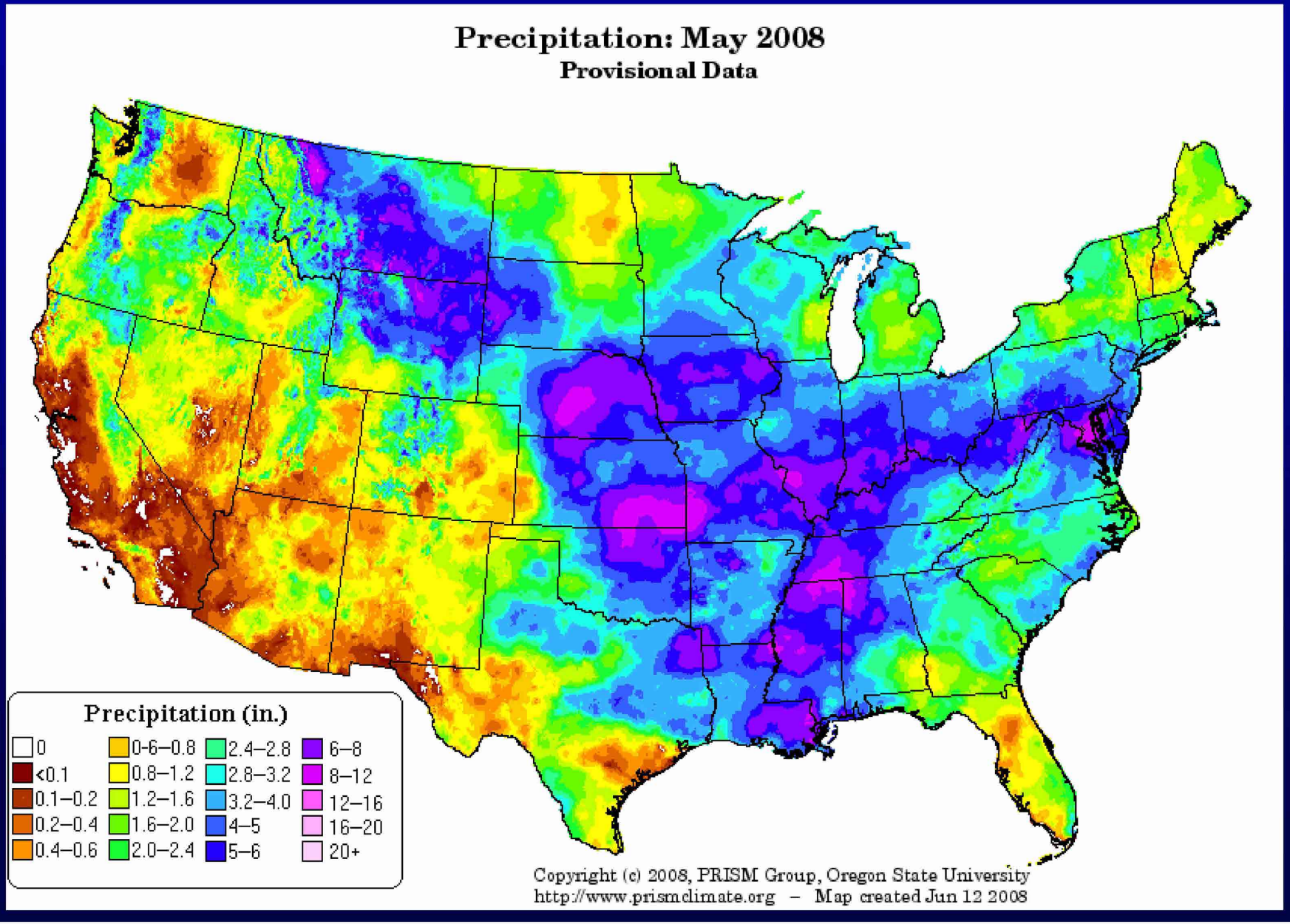
May Average Temperature History for Colorado (NCDC)



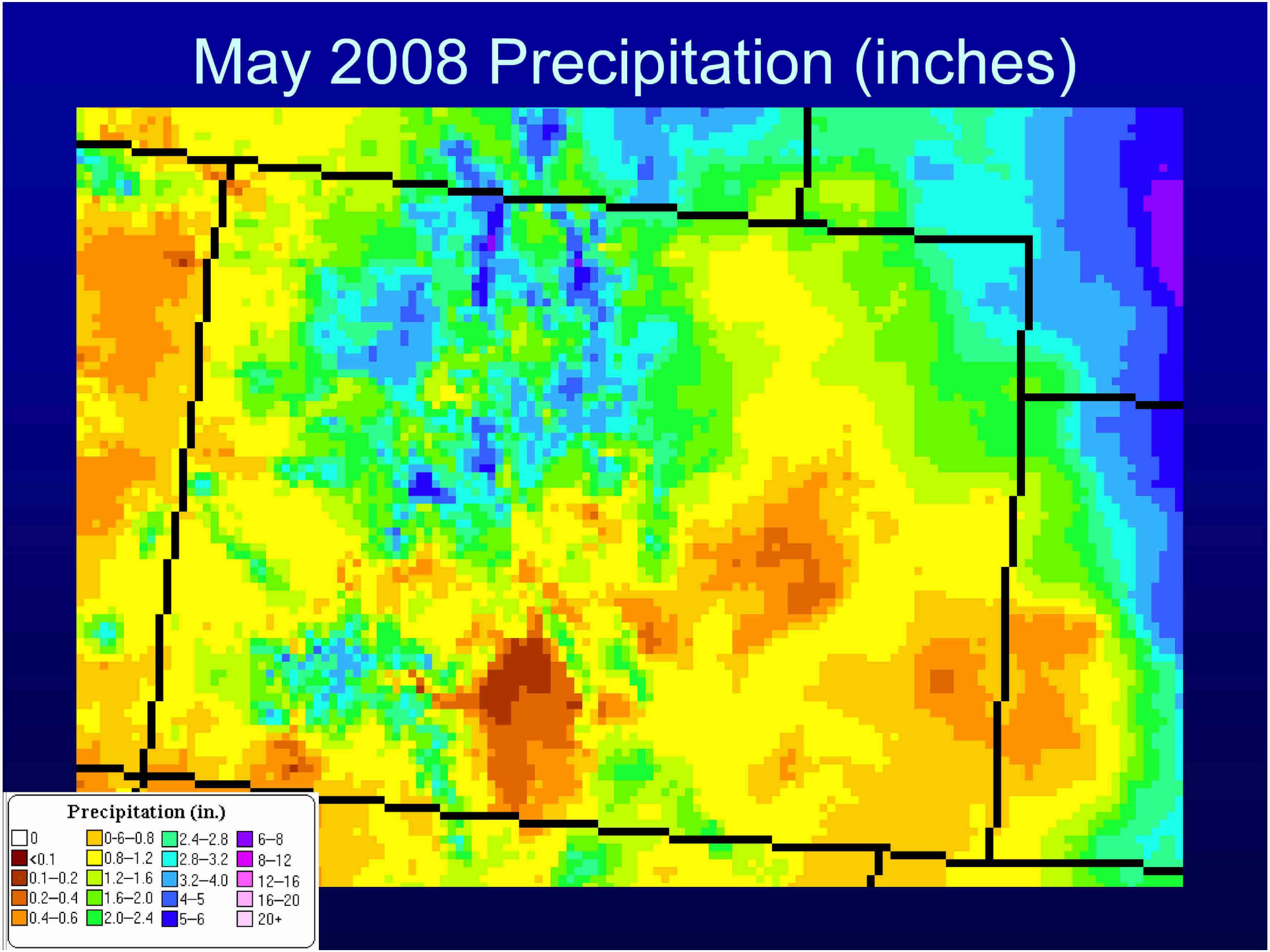
Late spring temperatures have been only slightly below average. With alternating warmer and colder than average temperatures all spring, snow melt has been delayed and large peaks in runoff that could have caused flooding have largely been averted.



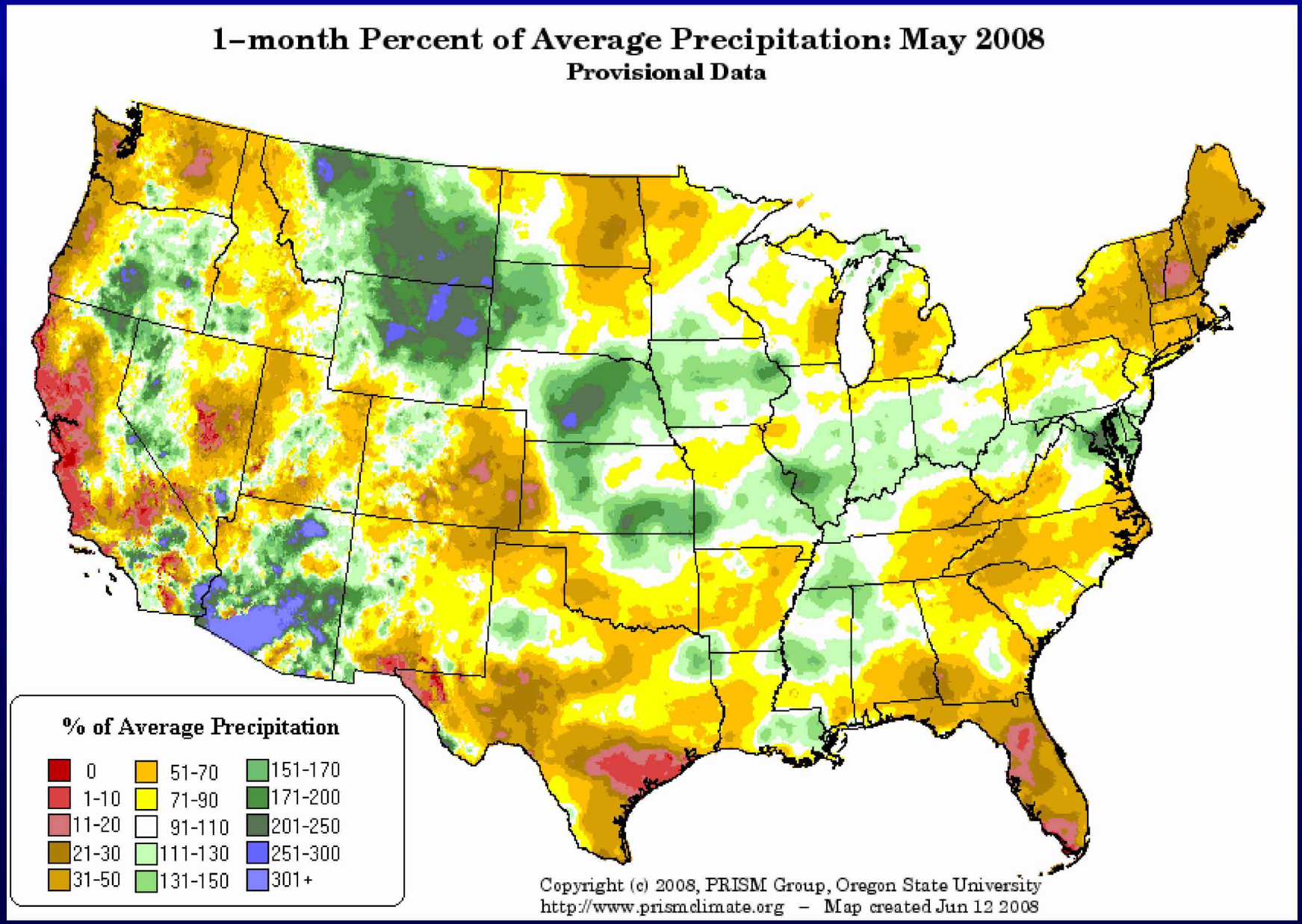
May 2008 Precipitation (inches)



May 2008 Precipitation (inches)



May 2008 Percent of Average (Prism)



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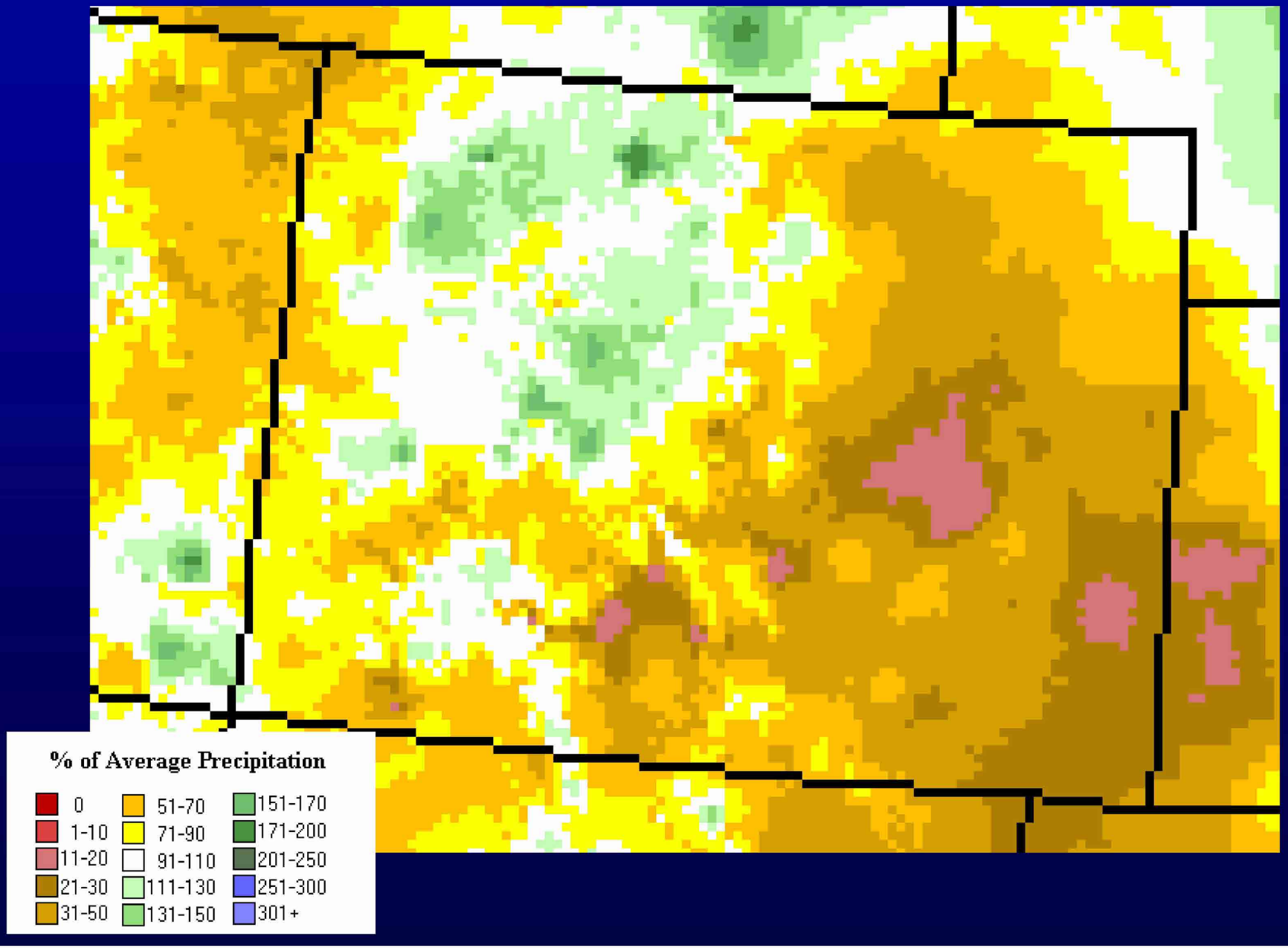
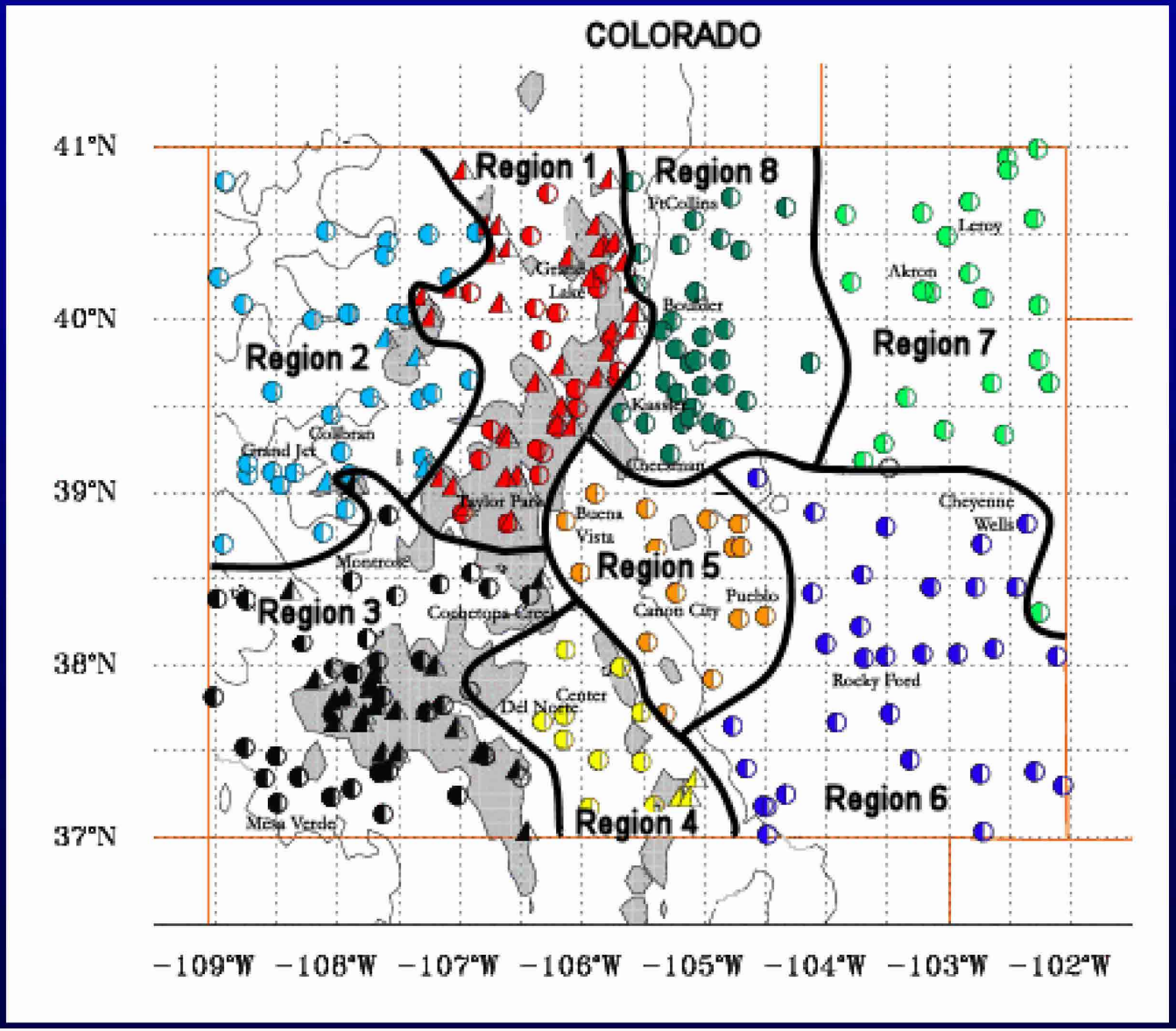
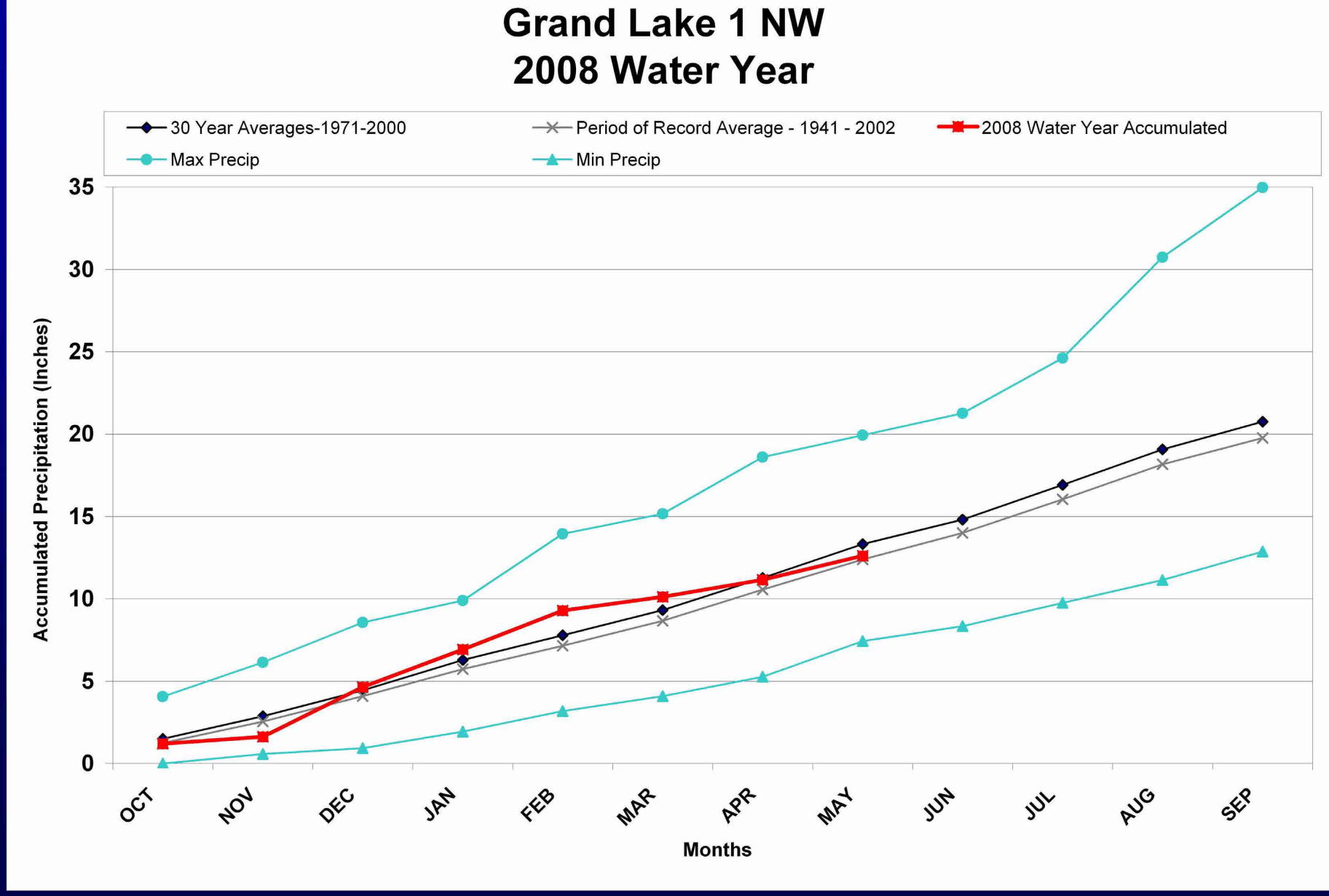


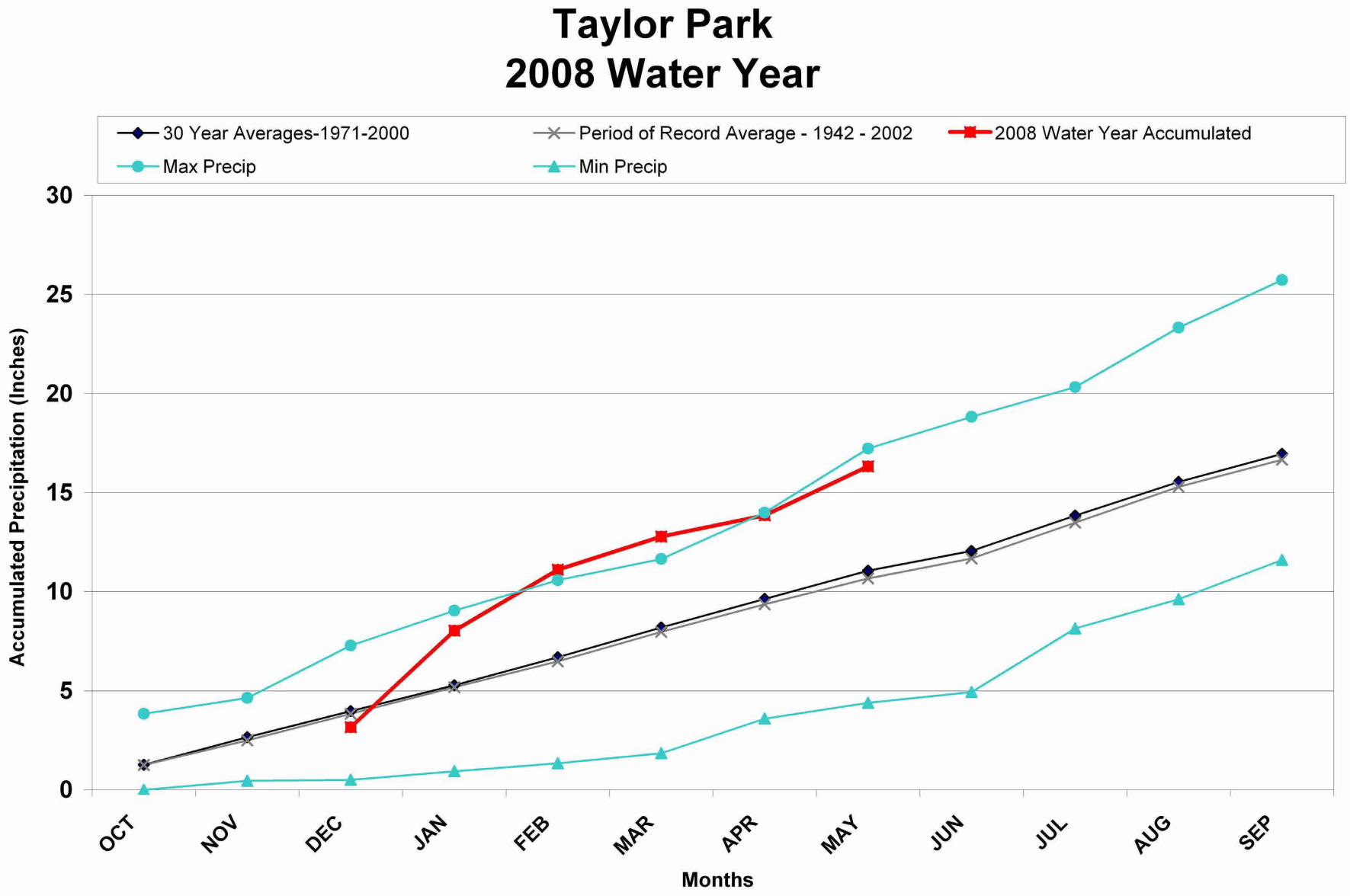
Climate divisions defined by Dr. Klaus Wolter of NOAA's Climate Diagnostic Center in Boulder, CO



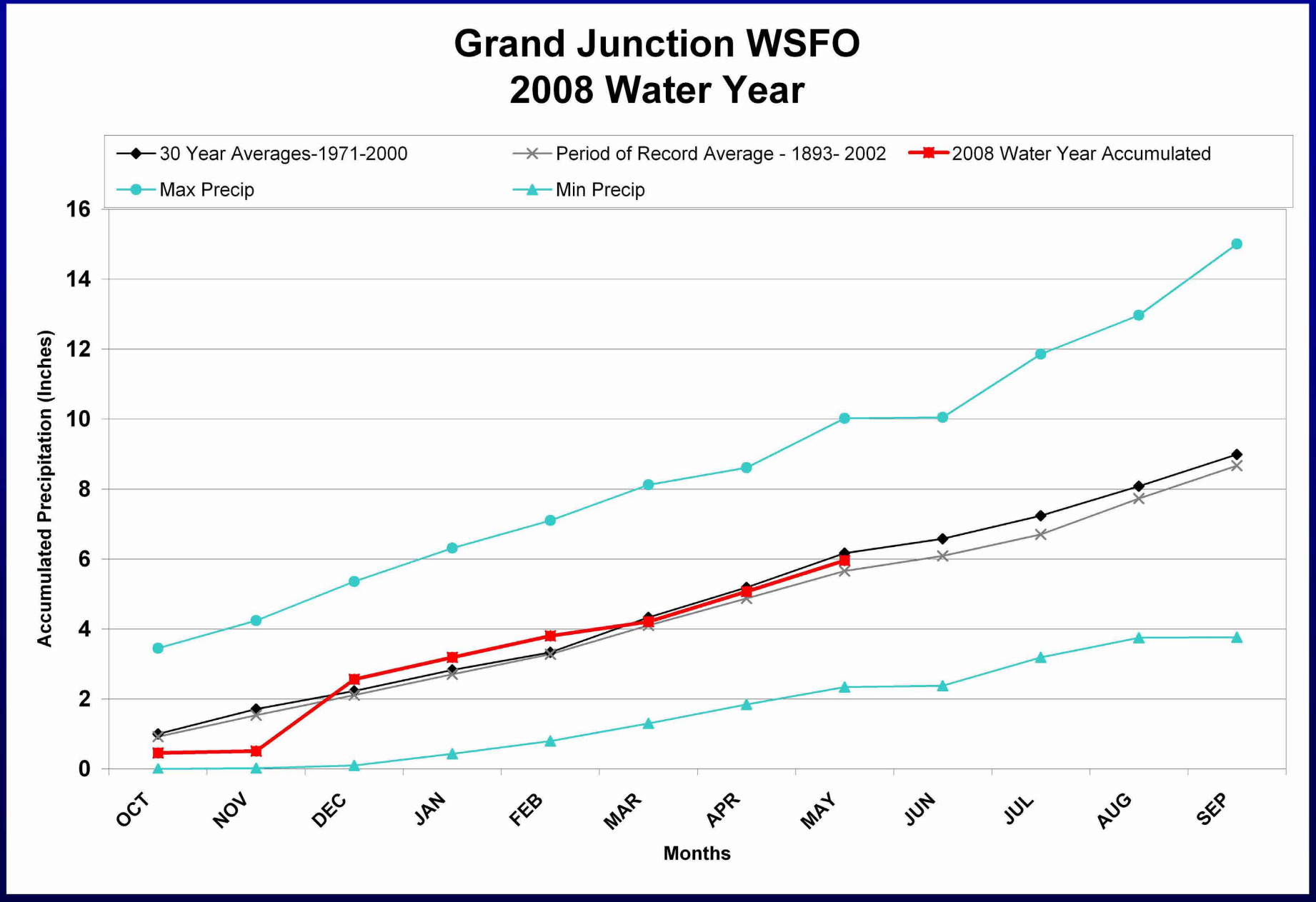
Division 1– Grand Lake 1NW



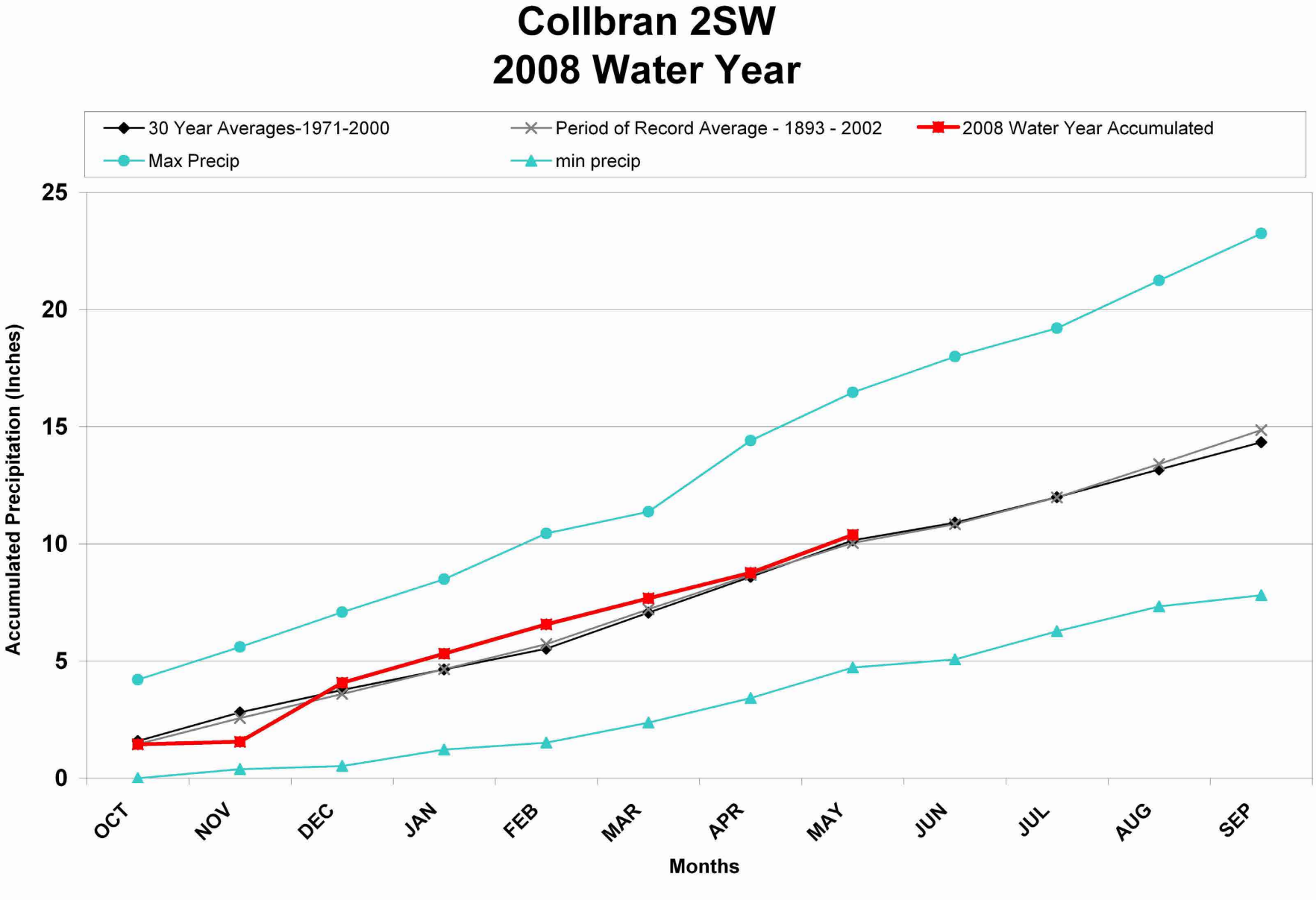
Division 1 – Taylor Park



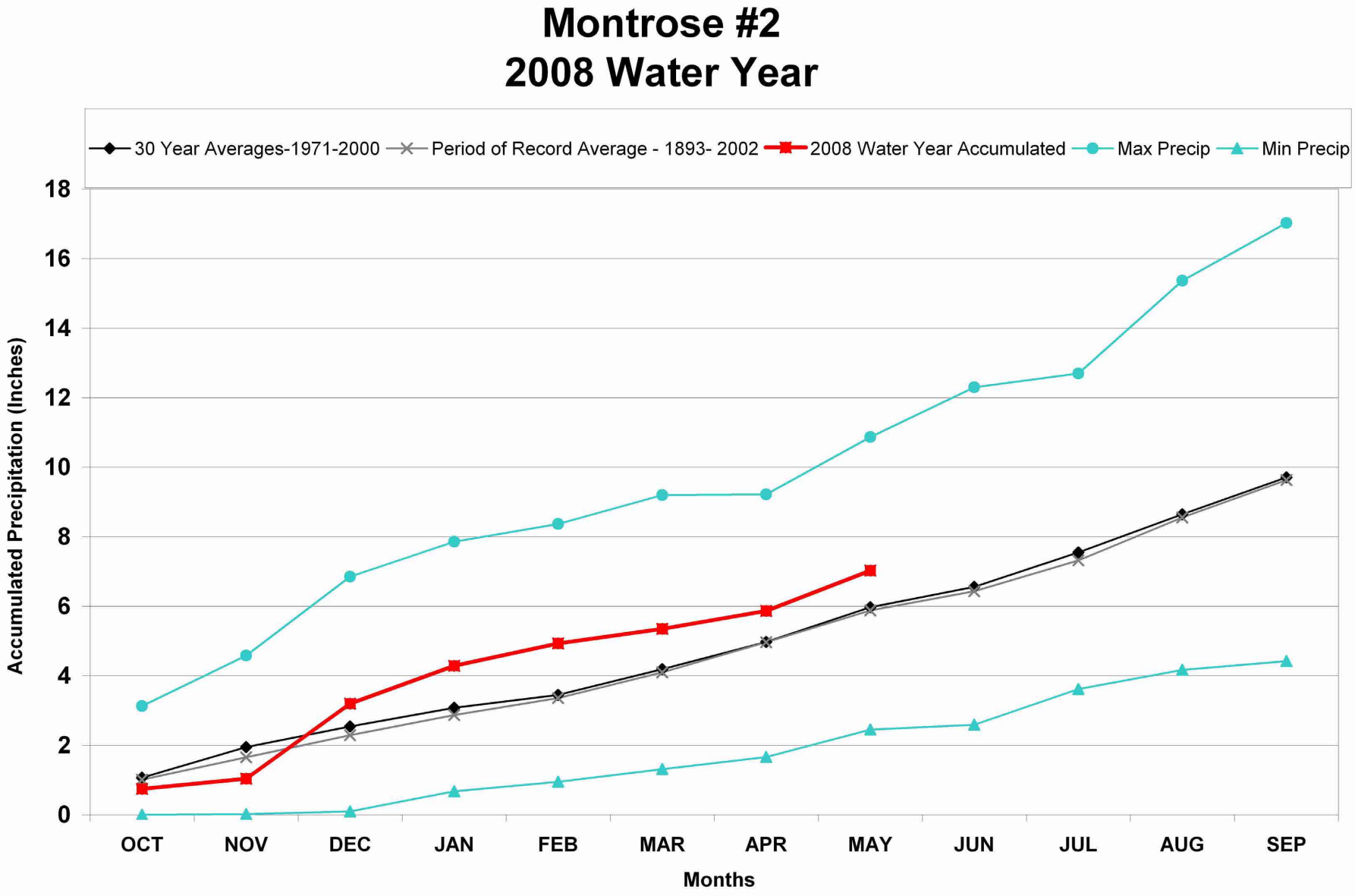
Division 2 – Grand Junction



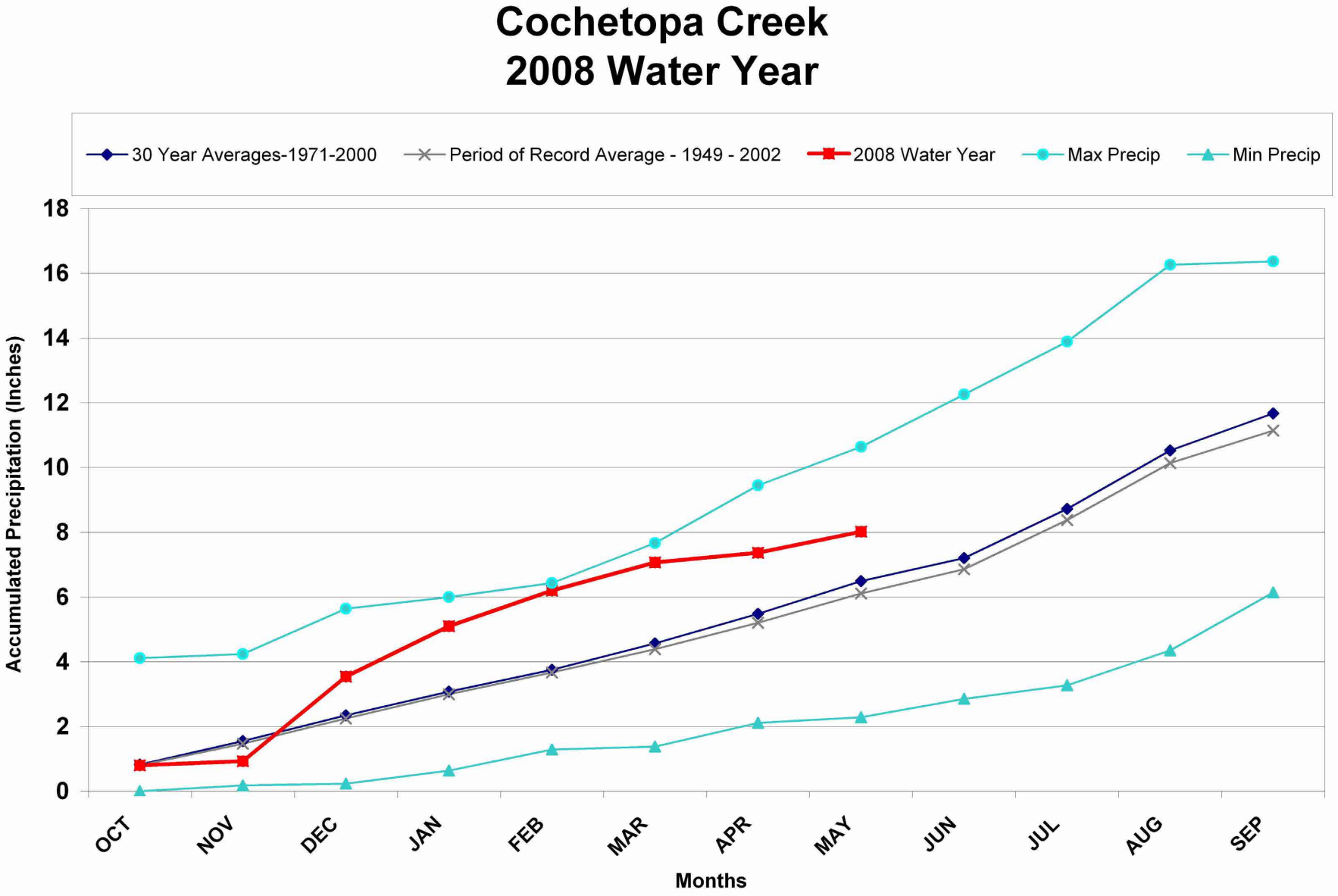
Division 2 – Collbran



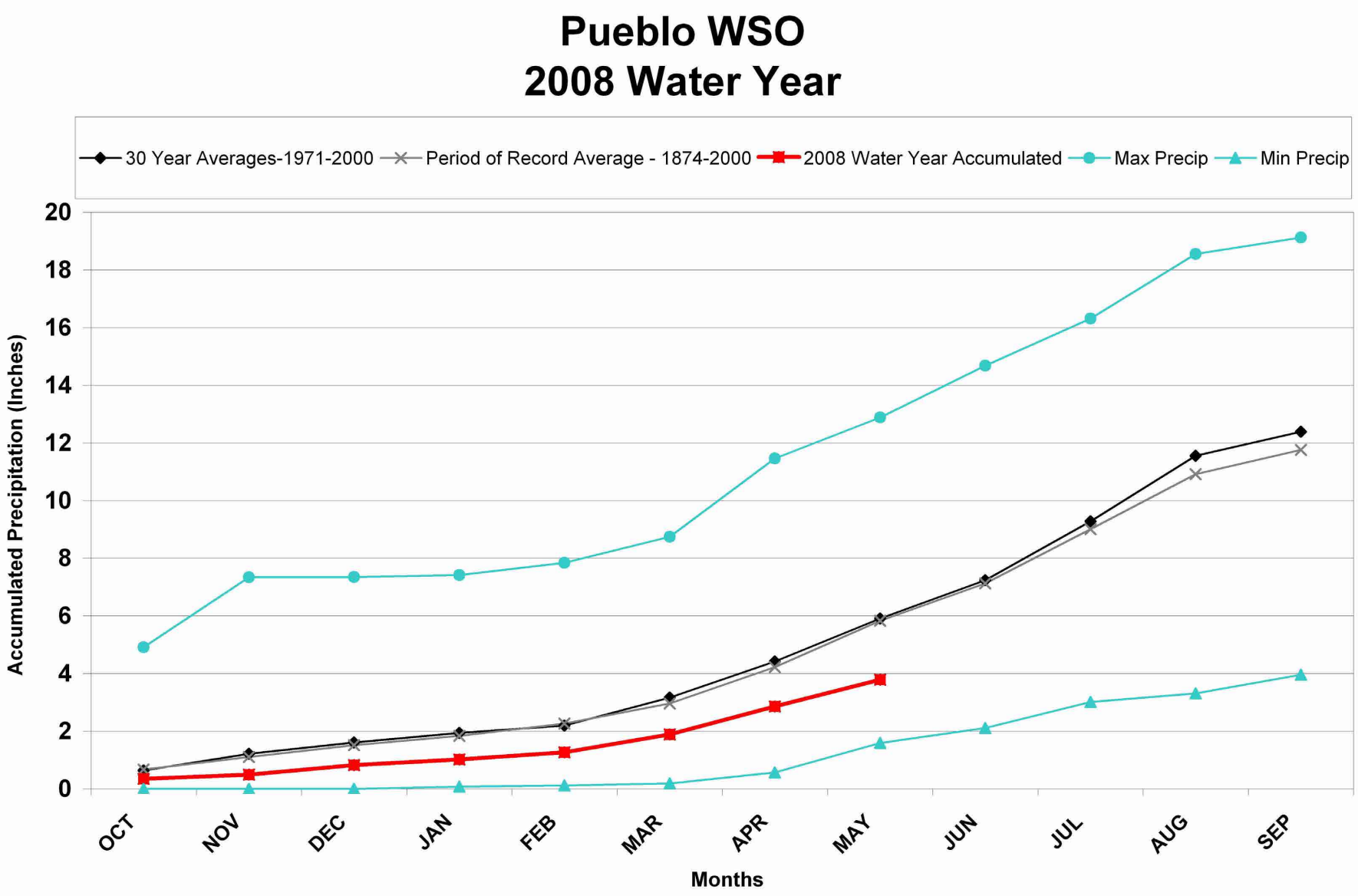
Division 3 – Montrose



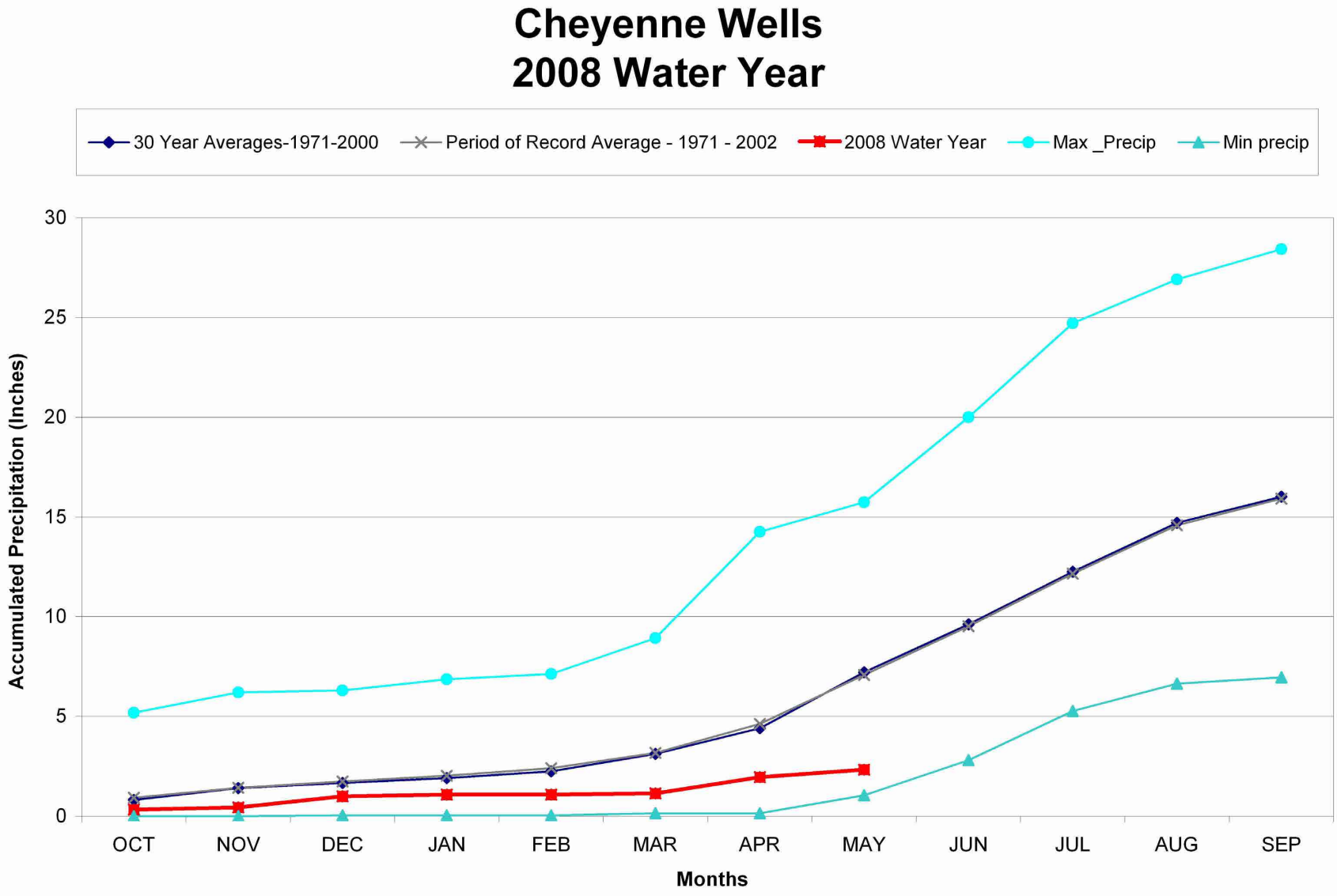
Division 3 – Cochetopa Creek



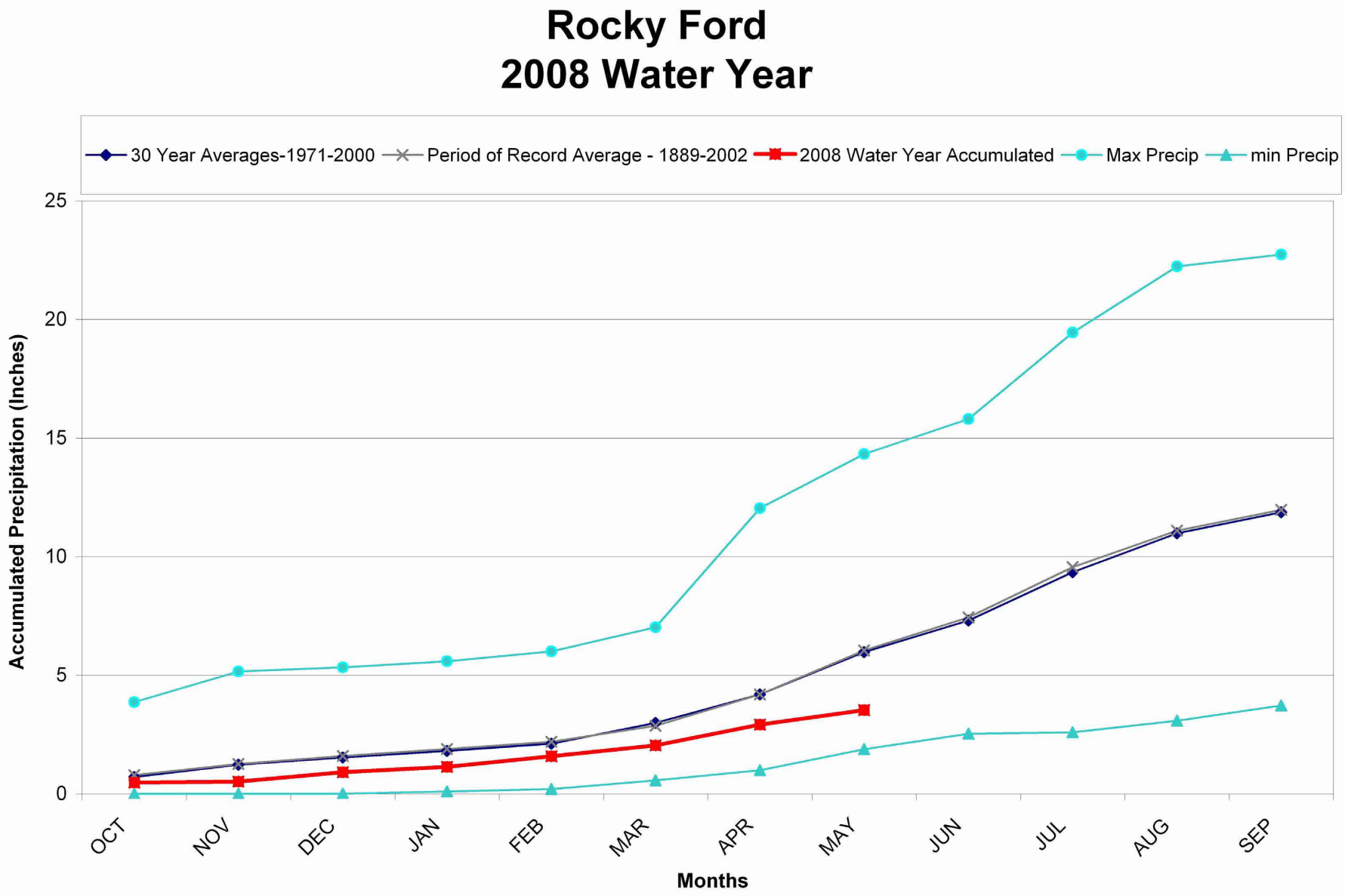
Division 5 – Pueblo



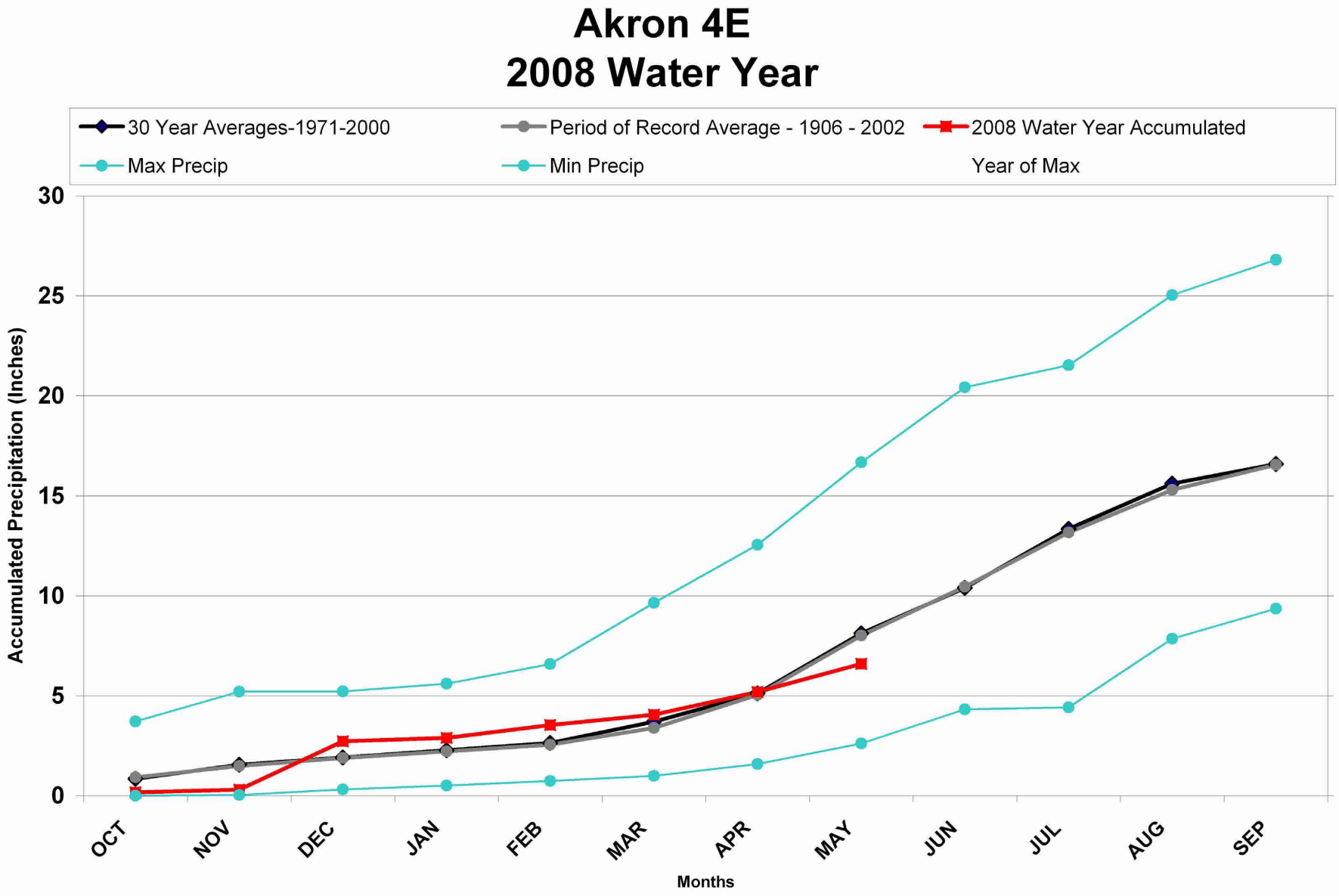
Division 6 – Cheyenne Wells



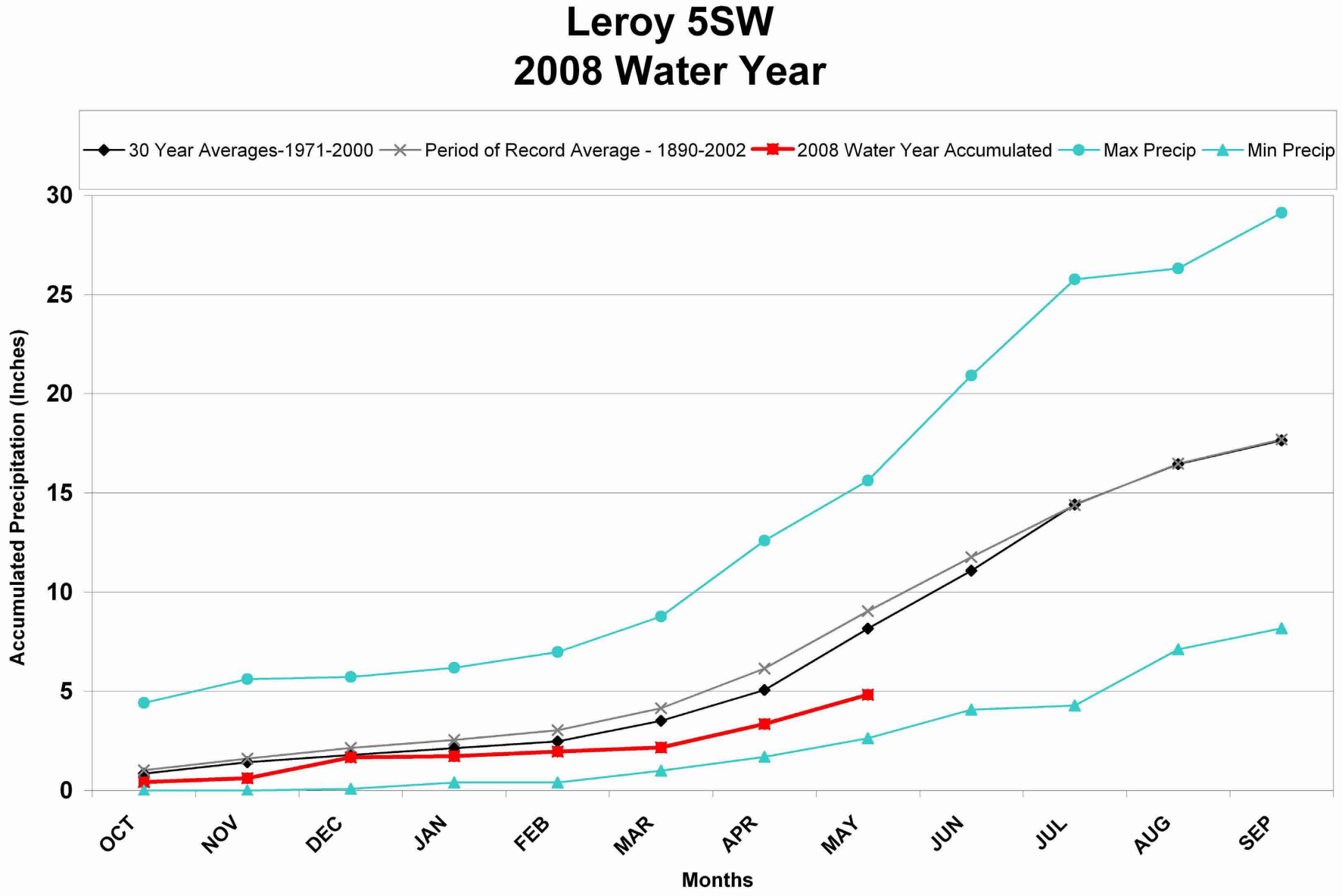
Division 6 – Rocky Ford



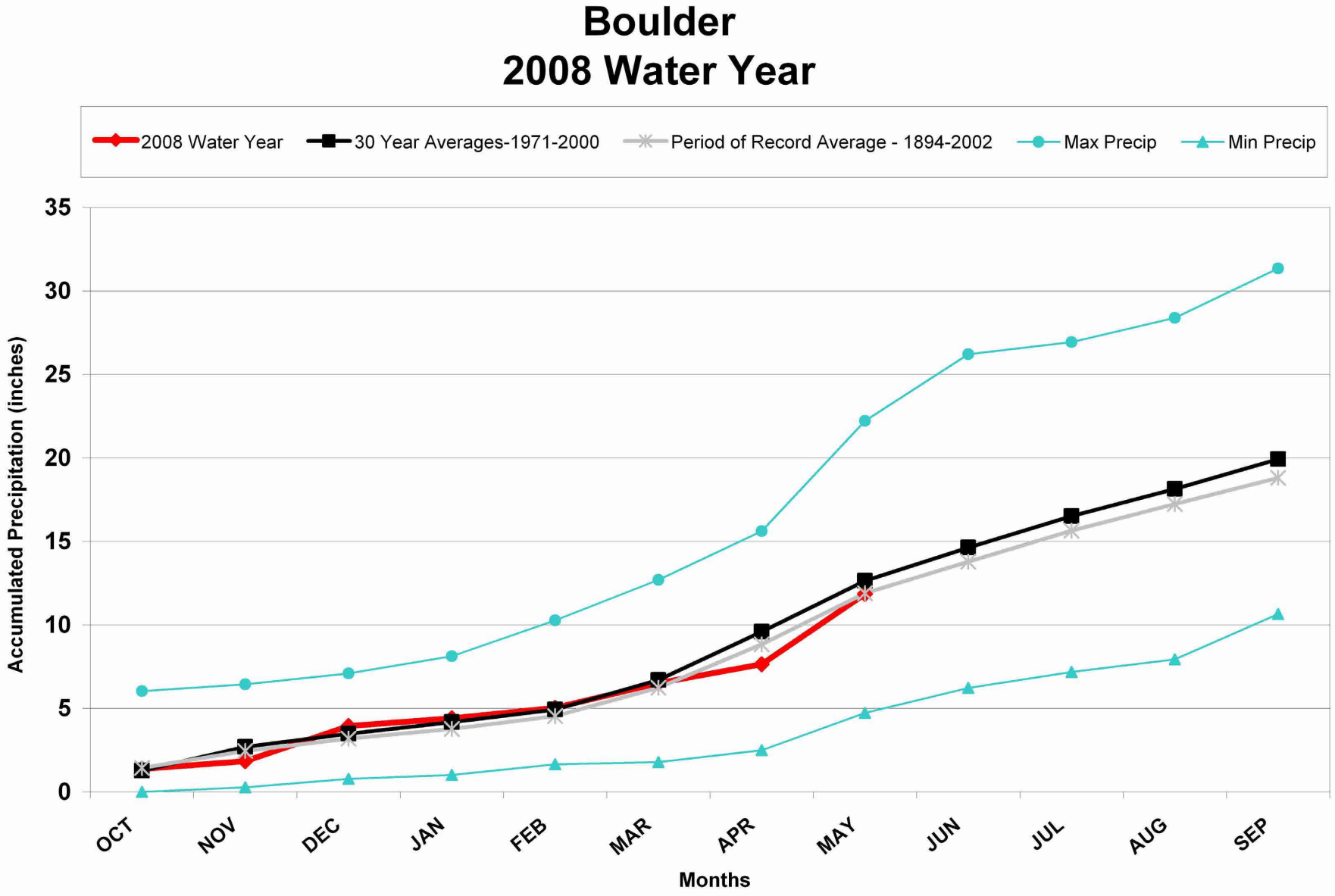
Division 7 – Akron



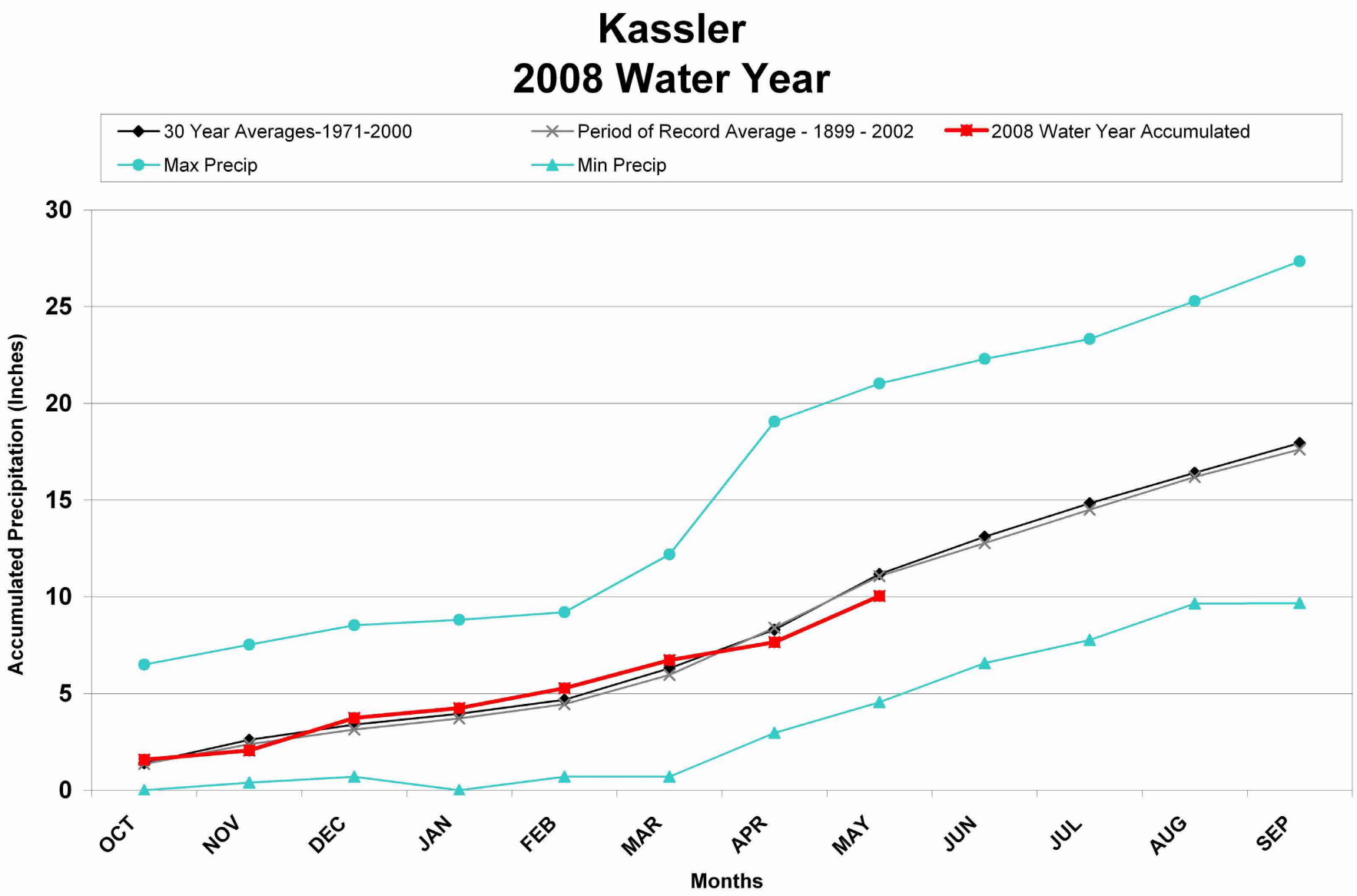
Division 7 – Leroy



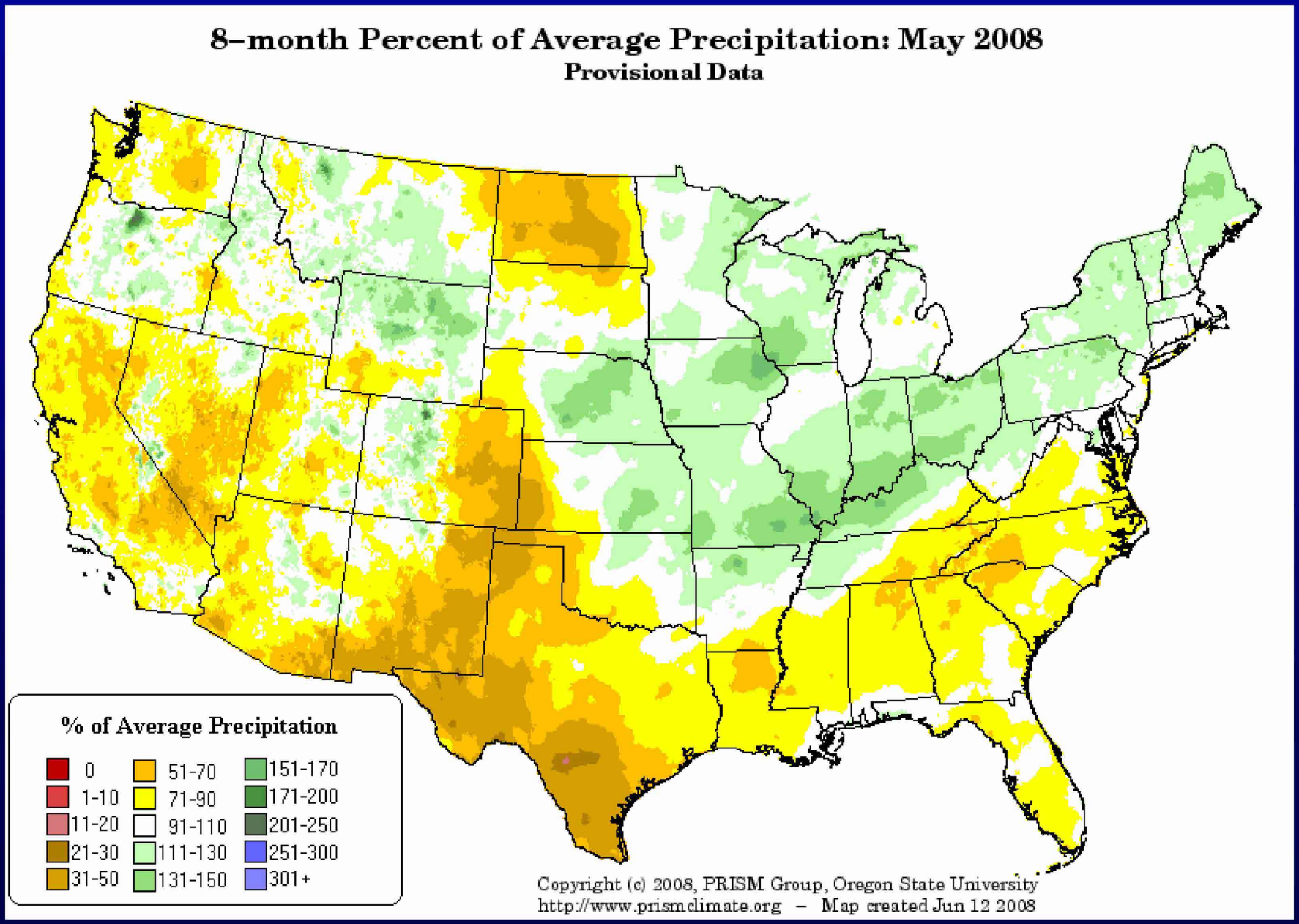
Division 8 – Boulder



Division 8 – Kassler



Water Year 2008 (Oct 07-May 08) Prism



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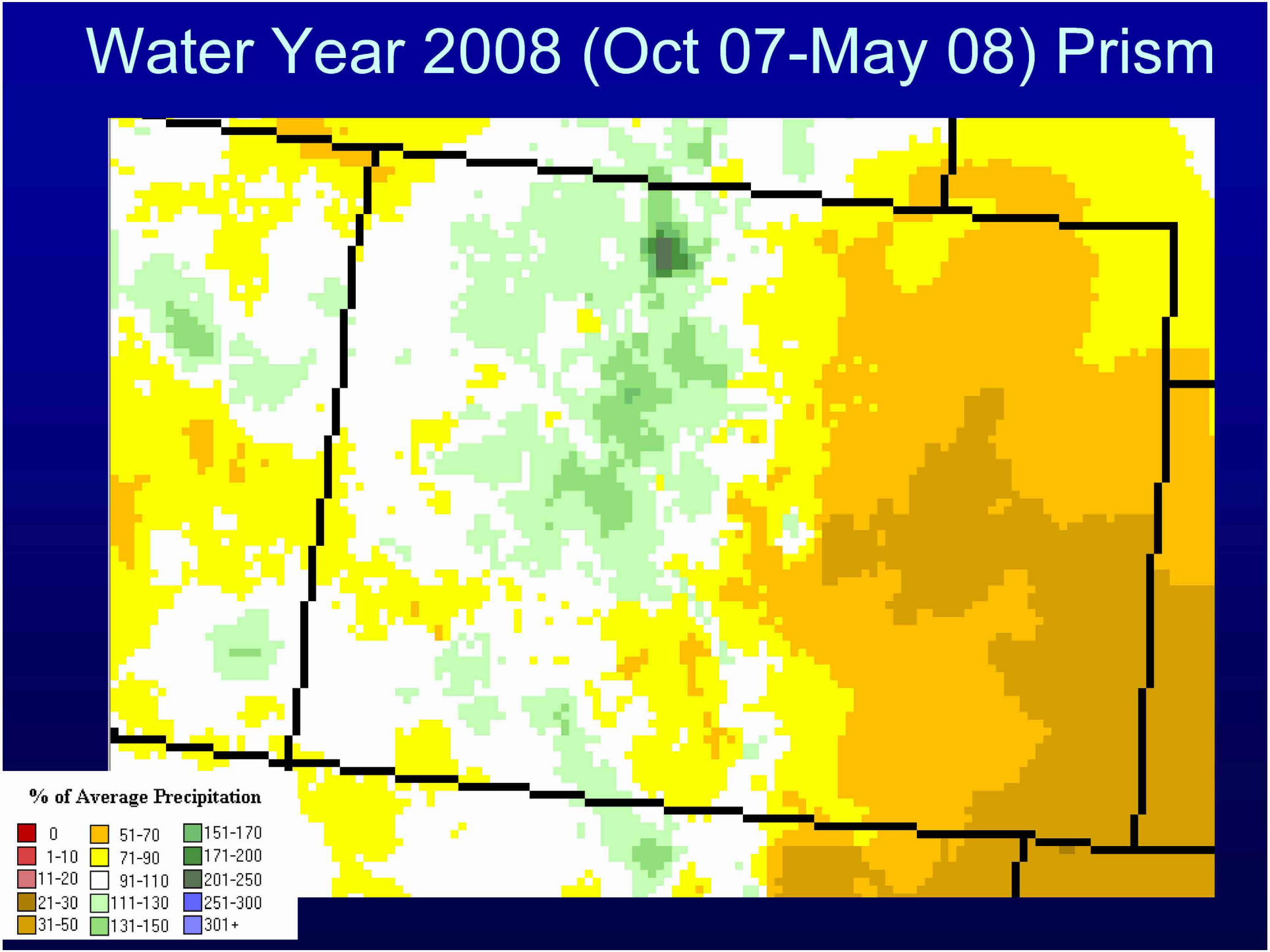
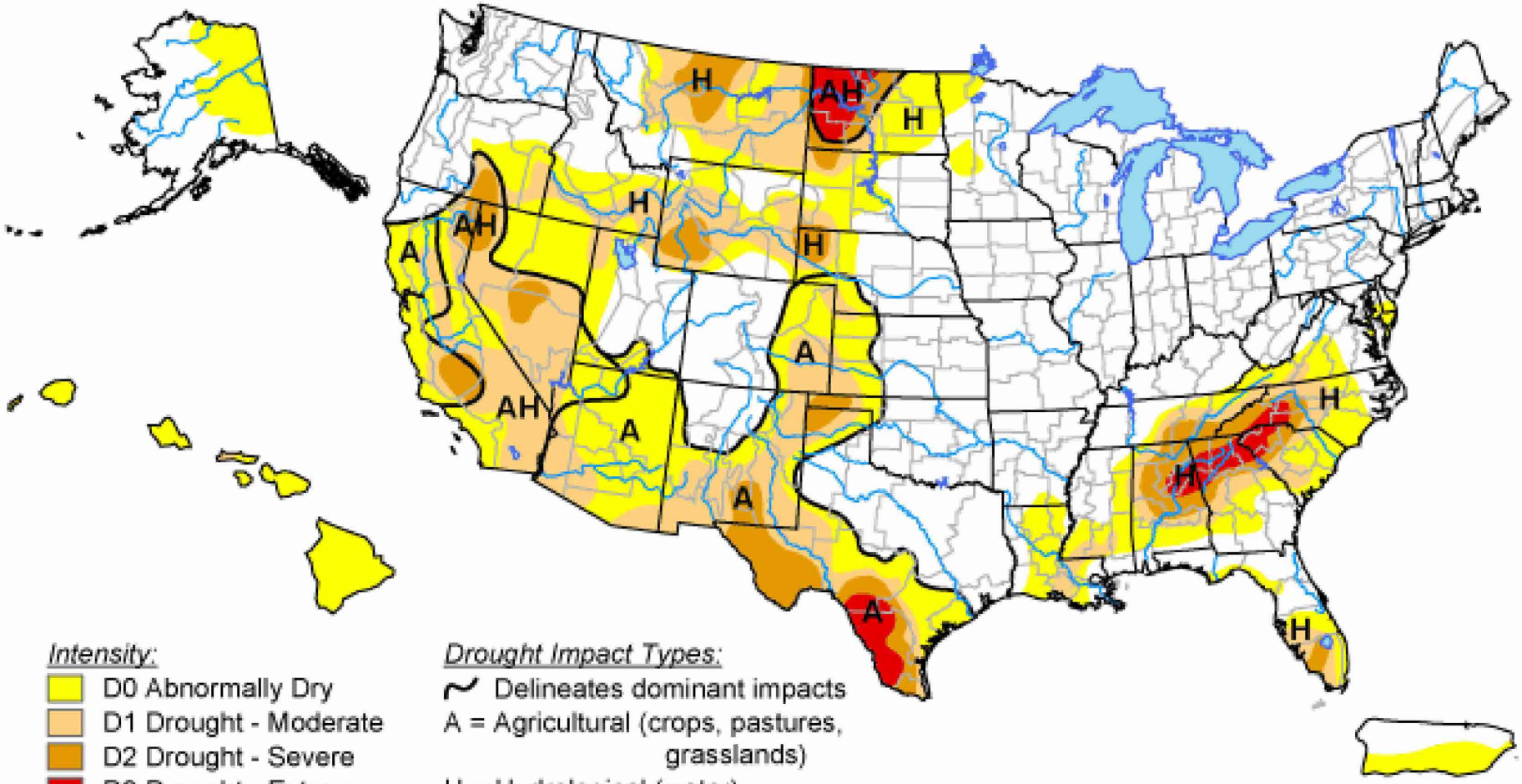


U.S. Drought Monitor

May 13, 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.

http://drought.unl.edu/dm

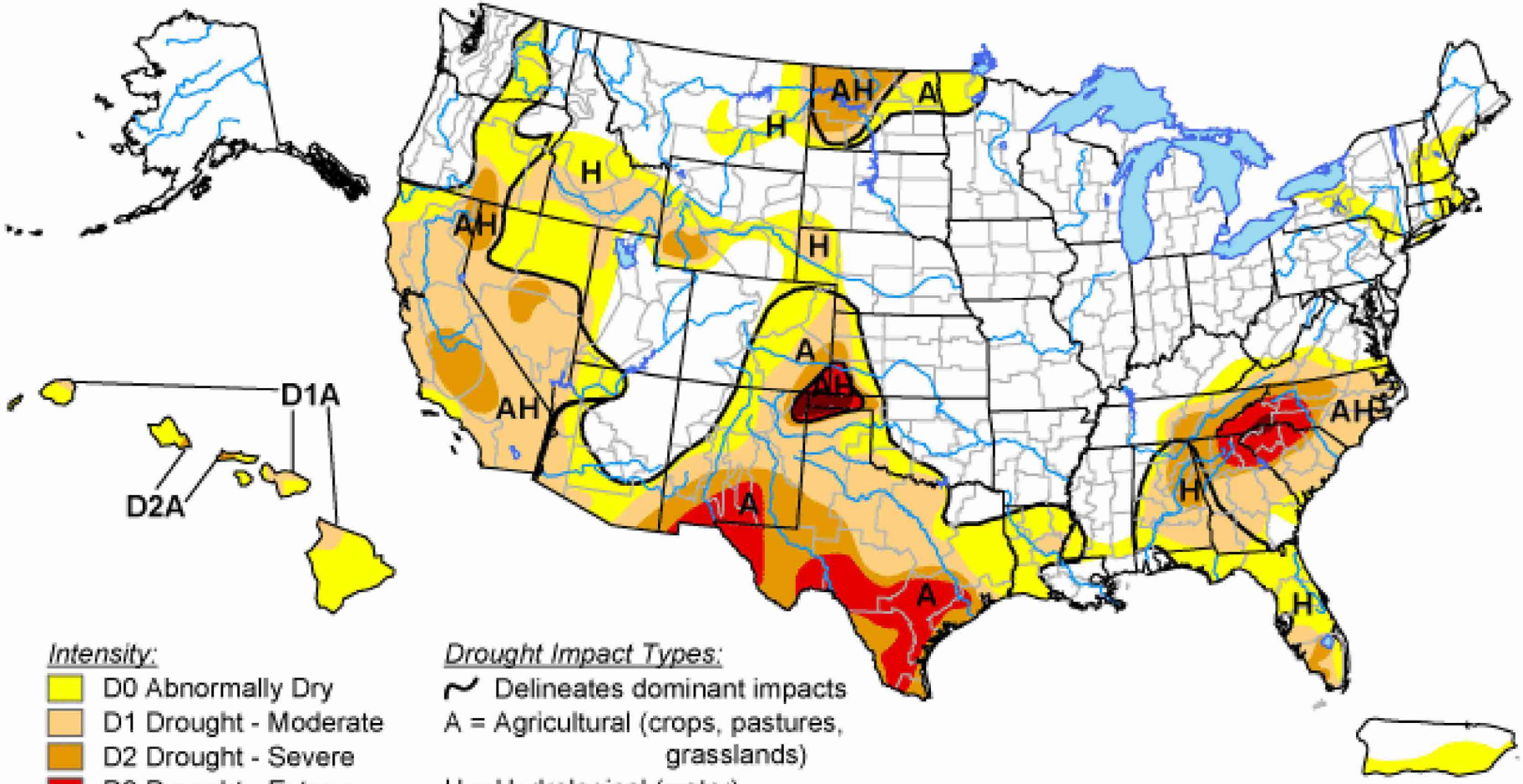
USDA National Drought Mitigation Center

Released Thursday, May 15, 2008

Author: Michael James, JAWF/CPC/NOAA

U.S. Drought Monitor

June 17, 2008
Valid 8 a.m. EDT



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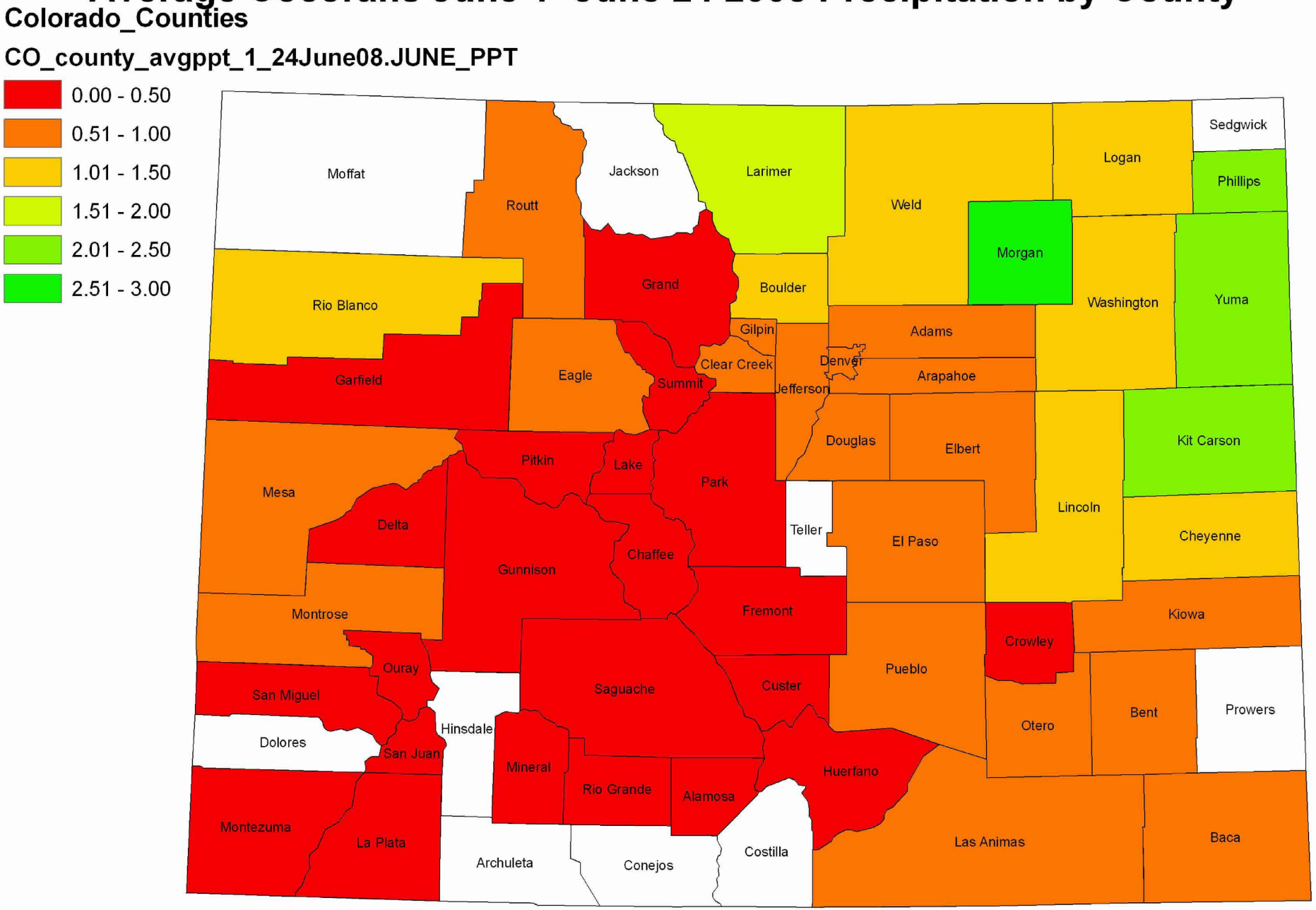
http://drought.unl.edu/dm

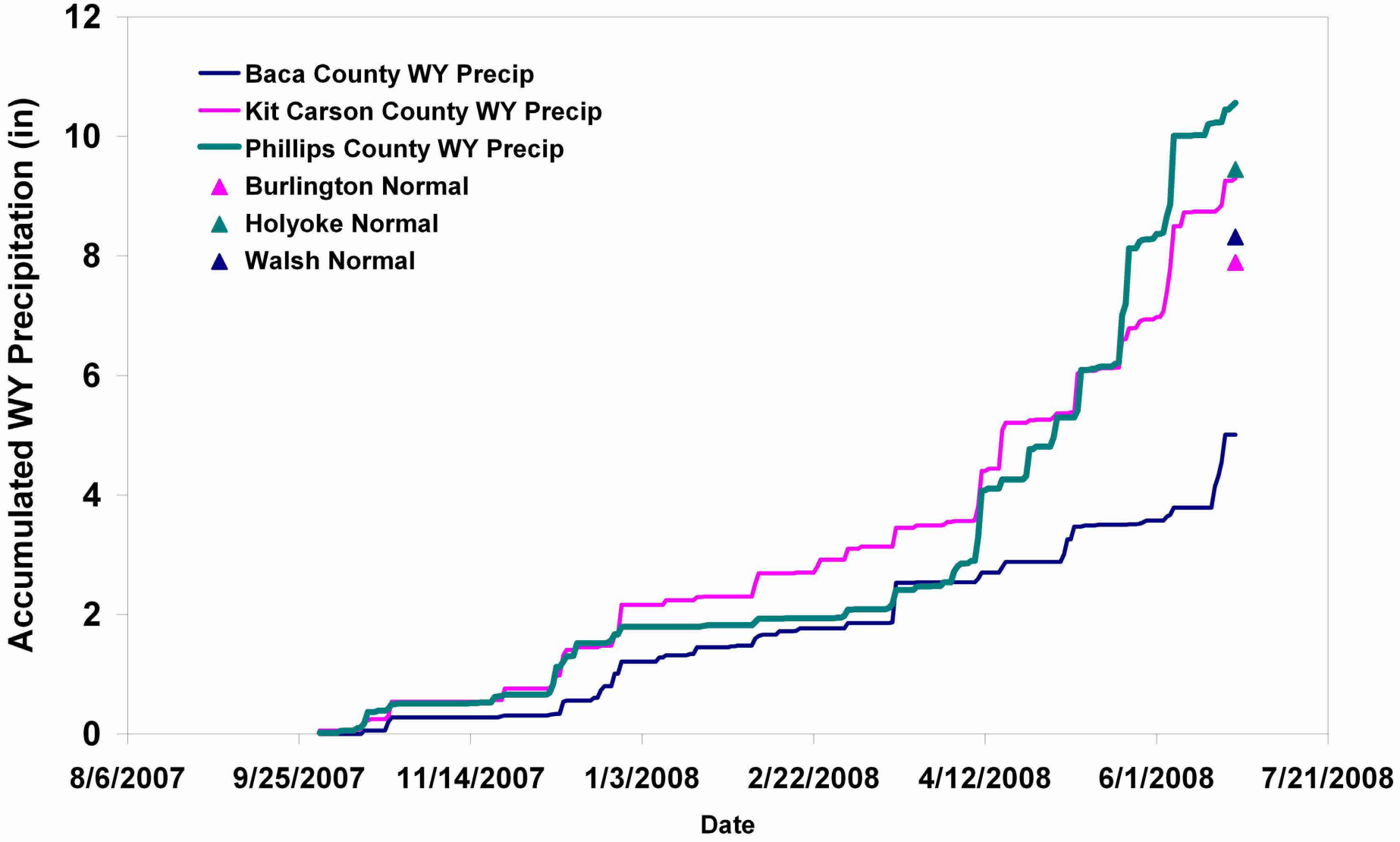
Released Thursday, June 19, 2008

Author: Rich Tinker, CPC/NOAA

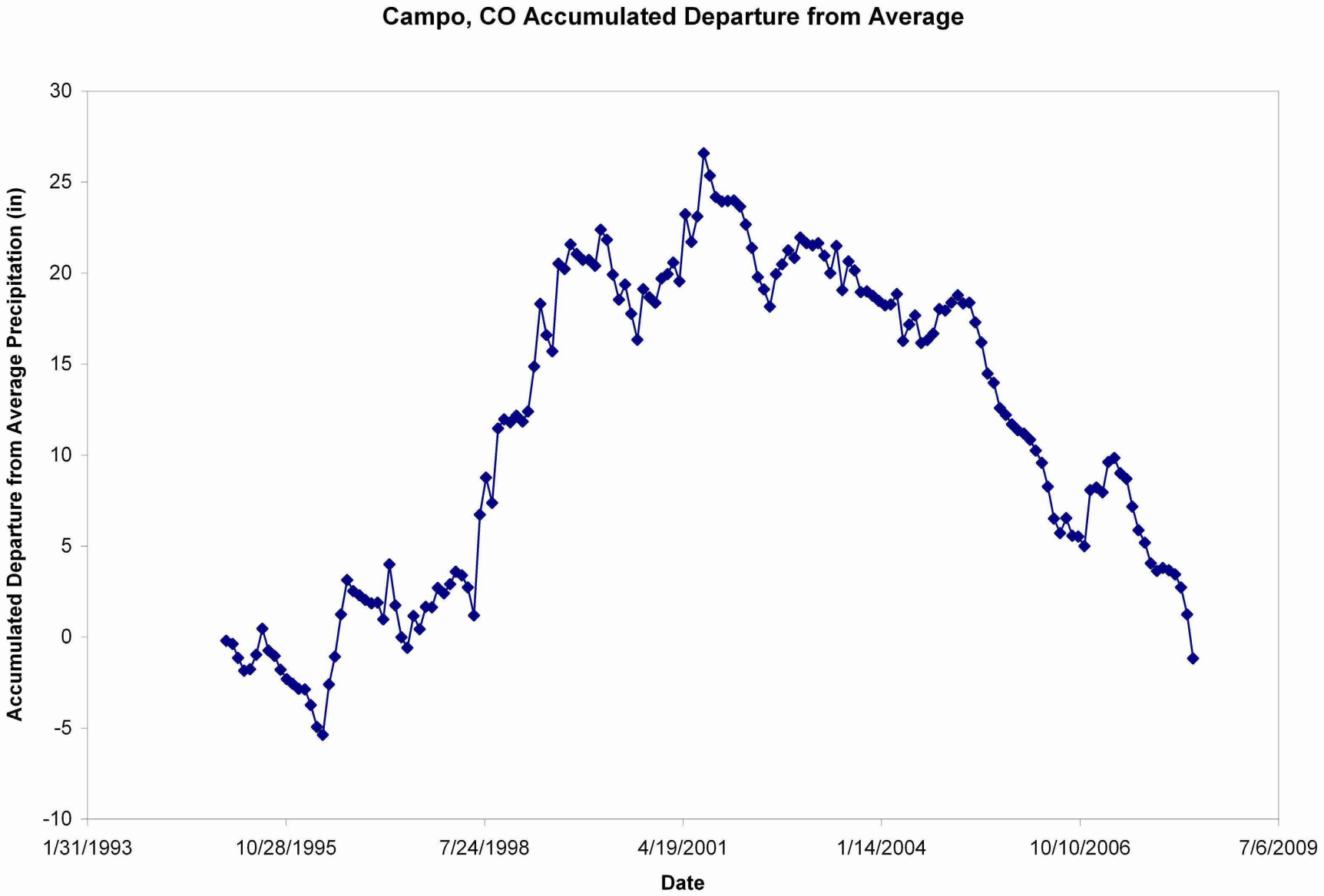
Average Cocorahs June 1- June 24 2008 Precipitation by County



CoCoRaHS Accumulated WY Precipitation for Selected Counties



Campo Accumulated Precipitation Deficit



Drought Monitor Archives

Maps | Tables | 1999 Archive | GIS Data

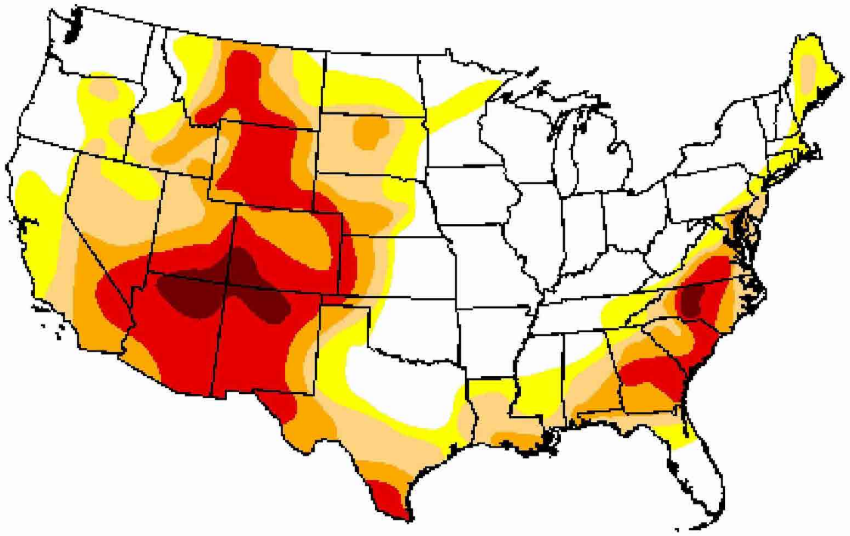
Select an area and click the 'Update' button to view the archive.

(•) Contiguous United States ( ) Region Northeast ▾ ( ) State Alabama ▾ Update

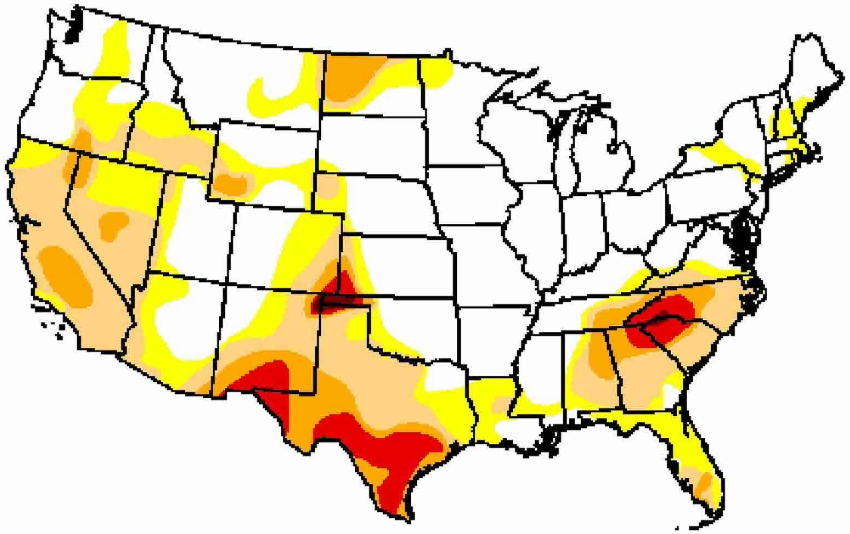
Drought Severity

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

June 18, 2002 ▾



June 17, 2008 ▾



Summary

- Cool weather has continued for Colorado
- No prolonged spring heat waves to produce large peak flows.
- Delayed snowmelt generally good for water supplies.
- Severe weather has been a problem for parts of eastern Colorado.

Summary continued

- Western Slope drying now underway.
- Drought vulnerability continues over SE Colorado.
- Next anticipated weather change – onset of “North American Monsoon” with increased chances of precipitation, especially over SW and Central Colorado.

Colorado Climate Center

Data and Power Point Presentations available for downloading

http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu

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

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Knowledge to Go Places

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