

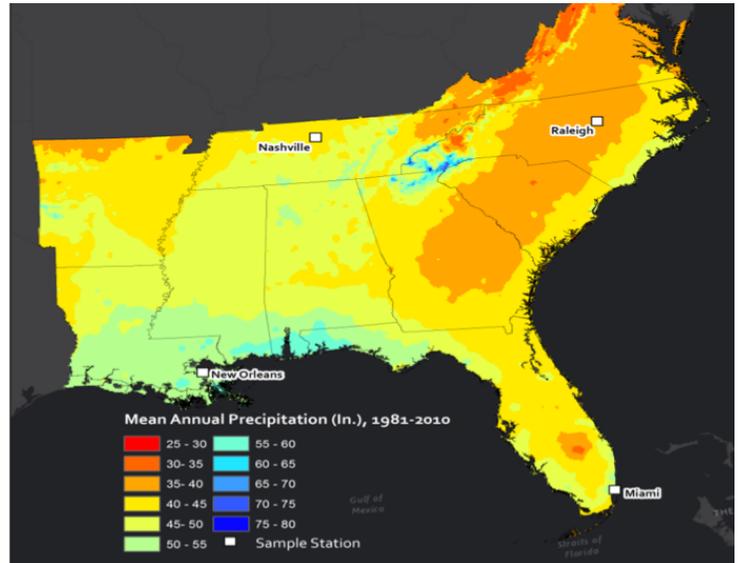
## What is Condition Monitoring?

In addition to daily precipitation measurements, CoCoRaHS observers submit weekly reports describing recent weather conditions and their impacts on the local environment in their respective communities. 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 qualitative reports with a description of local conditions. Regular reporting is intended to help report users compare conditions and changes over time. Access the reports on the [interactive condition monitoring web map](#).

## Regional Guidance for Volunteers

### Regional Condition Monitoring Guidance

is intended to make condition monitoring easier for observers and demystify the process of qualitative observation. Region-specific suggestions about impacts can help observers recognize the secondary and tertiary effects of weather and climate events, letting them create more detailed and relevant content. Greater clarity about thresholds can help them categorize their reports more consistently, enhancing end-users' 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 depict representative, monthly temperature and precipitation averages.
- Links to online resources direct observers to data for additional locales 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.