



# Office of the Washington State Climatologist

November 19, 2008

## Introduction

Greetings! My name is Karin Bumbaco and this is my first newsletter as the Assistant State Climatologist. Thank you for the warm welcome in last month's issue. Being new to the west coast, I have a lot to learn about Washington geography and climate so please bear with me for the next few months as I get my feet under me! There should be plenty of exciting additions to the OWSC in the coming months and I'm looking forward to keeping you updated on our projects.

This month's issue includes an update on the CoCoRaHS project, the October climate summary, and seasonal temperature and precipitation outlooks. A couple utilities on our website are also highlighted in this issue.

### In this Issue

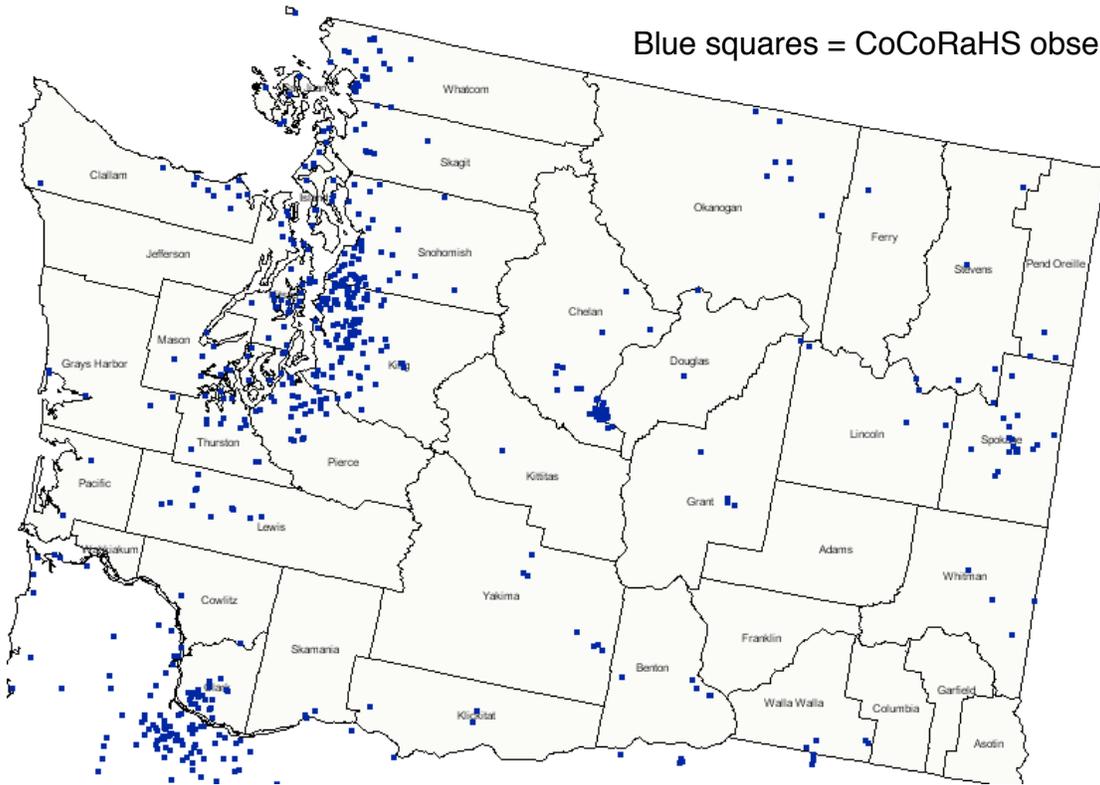
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## CoCoRaHS update

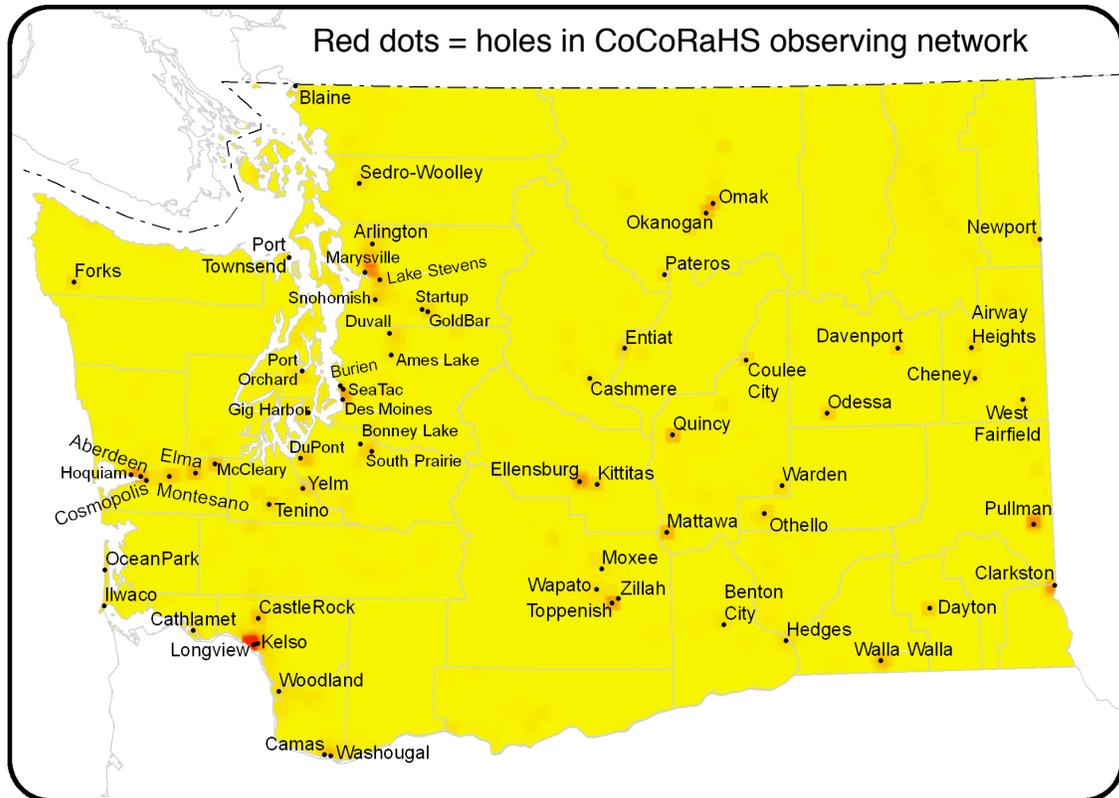
The CoCoRaHS program is still growing! The blue squares on the map on the next page show the locations of all of our observers including the large numbers of participants that signed up at Wenatchee. Despite the growth, there are still locations around the state that are lacking in observers. The second map on the next page highlights the locations that need observers in red, and includes the name of the town/city. If you are an observer already, thanks and please spread the word to anyone that may be interested! If not, and you're interested in taking daily weather readings, consider joining - see cocorahs.org to find out how and what's involved, or contact us at climate@atmos.washington.edu.



Blue squares = CoCoRaHS observers

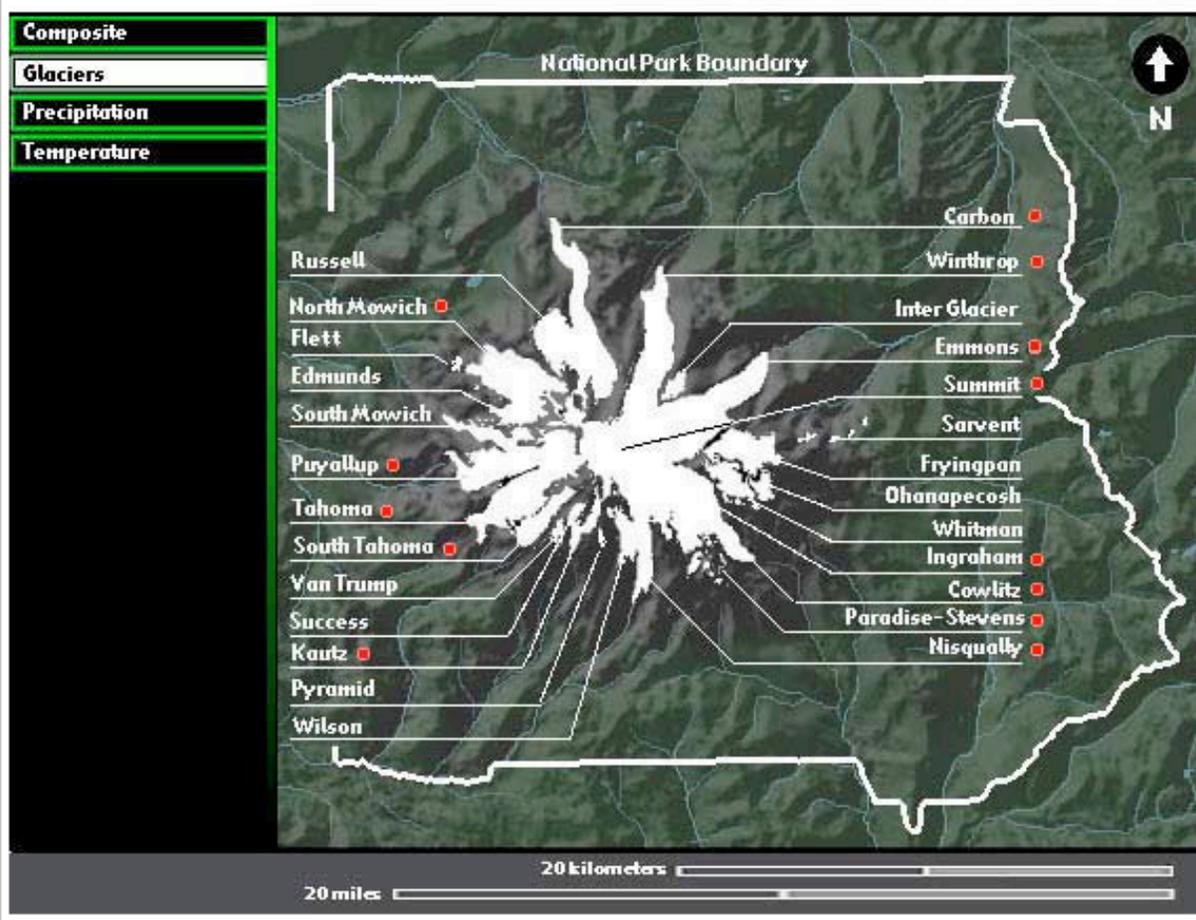


Red dots = holes in CoCoRaHS observing network



## Highlight - Washington Glaciers

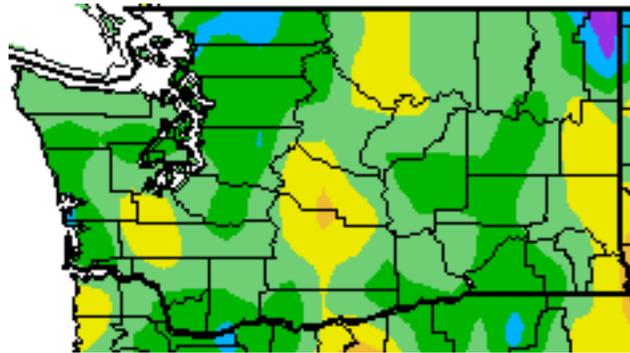
Learn about the glaciers in Mount Rainier National Park! Being new to this area, I found this link on our website particularly interesting. To get to it, go to the OWSC website, <http://climate.washington.edu>, and click on "Climate Data". Then click on "Color Maps of Climate Data". The 10th link down, "Glacier Atlas of Mt. Rainier" brings you to the Mt. Rainier National Park website where the glaciers are named, and information is given about several of them. Spend some time perusing each glacier (with a warm cup of coffee in your hand, of course!) and take note of the retreat of the glaciers. The latest extent of the glaciers shown on these maps is from 1994. It would be interesting to see how the boundaries have changed since then (14 years).



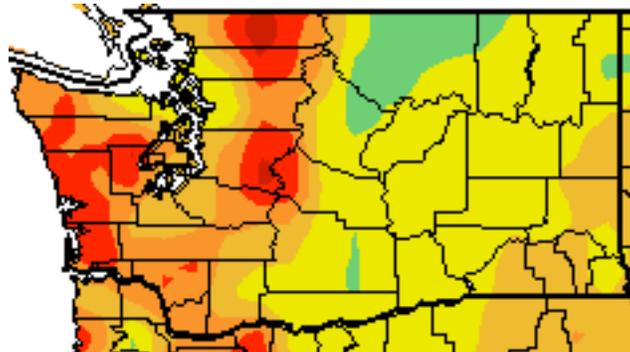
Just below the "Glacier Atlas of Mt. Rainier", there is another link about western glaciers called "Glaciers of the American West". Did you know that Washington has 3,079 glaciers making up an 449.6 km<sup>2</sup>? I didn't!

## Climate Summary

Overall, October was cool and dry. As shown in the departure from normal temperature plot below (normal baseline from 1971-2000), most of the state experienced cooler than normal temperatures with some cool spots located in Whatcom County and near the Northeastern border of the state. Not all of the state was cool, as some near-normal temperatures were recorded for the month in some parts of central Washington. October was drier than normal in the western half of the state and the southeastern section of the state as shown in the departure from normal precipitation plot (in inches). However, some near-normal precipitation amounts were seen throughout the central part of the state.



Temperature (F)



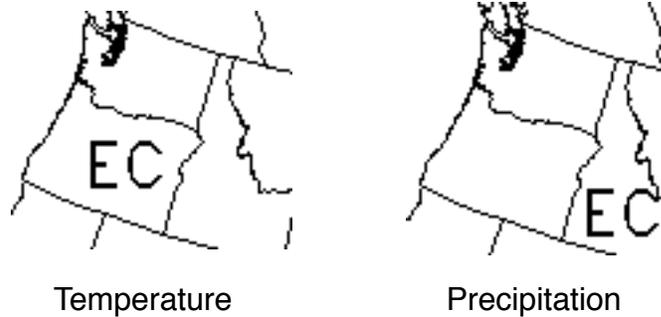
Precipitation (in)



*October temperature departure from normal (top) and October precipitation departure from normal (bottom). Source: High Plains Regional Climate Center (<http://www.hprcc.unl.edu>).*

## Outlook

The seasonal climate forecast by the NOAA Climate Prediction Center for November-December-January calls for an equal chance of below, equal to, or above normal temperatures and precipitation amount for the entire state. The same outlook is true for winter (December-January-February).



*Source: Climate Prediction Center (<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/>).*

The ENSO status is still neutral, and these neutral conditions are expected to last through the new year (<http://www.cpc.noaa.gov/products/precip/CWlink/MJO/enso.shtml>).