

Citizen Science: Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) observing network



Matthew Kelsch, Hydrometeorologist

Fort Collins
28 July 1997
Photo by John Weaver

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow (CoCoRaHS) observing network

www.cocorahs.org

What do citizen observers provide?

- Accurate spatial representation of rain, snow and hail
 - Scientific study
 - Water supply planning, road and utility maintenance
 - Environmental planning and design
 - Safety and law enforcement

What do citizen observers get?

- A more flexible and resilient community
- A positive role in the local and the larger community
- The thrill of having your observations used in the media

How do we get citizens engaged?

- Demonstrate the benefits
- Take advantage of major precipitation events

28 Dec 2006

Boulder's NOAA campus

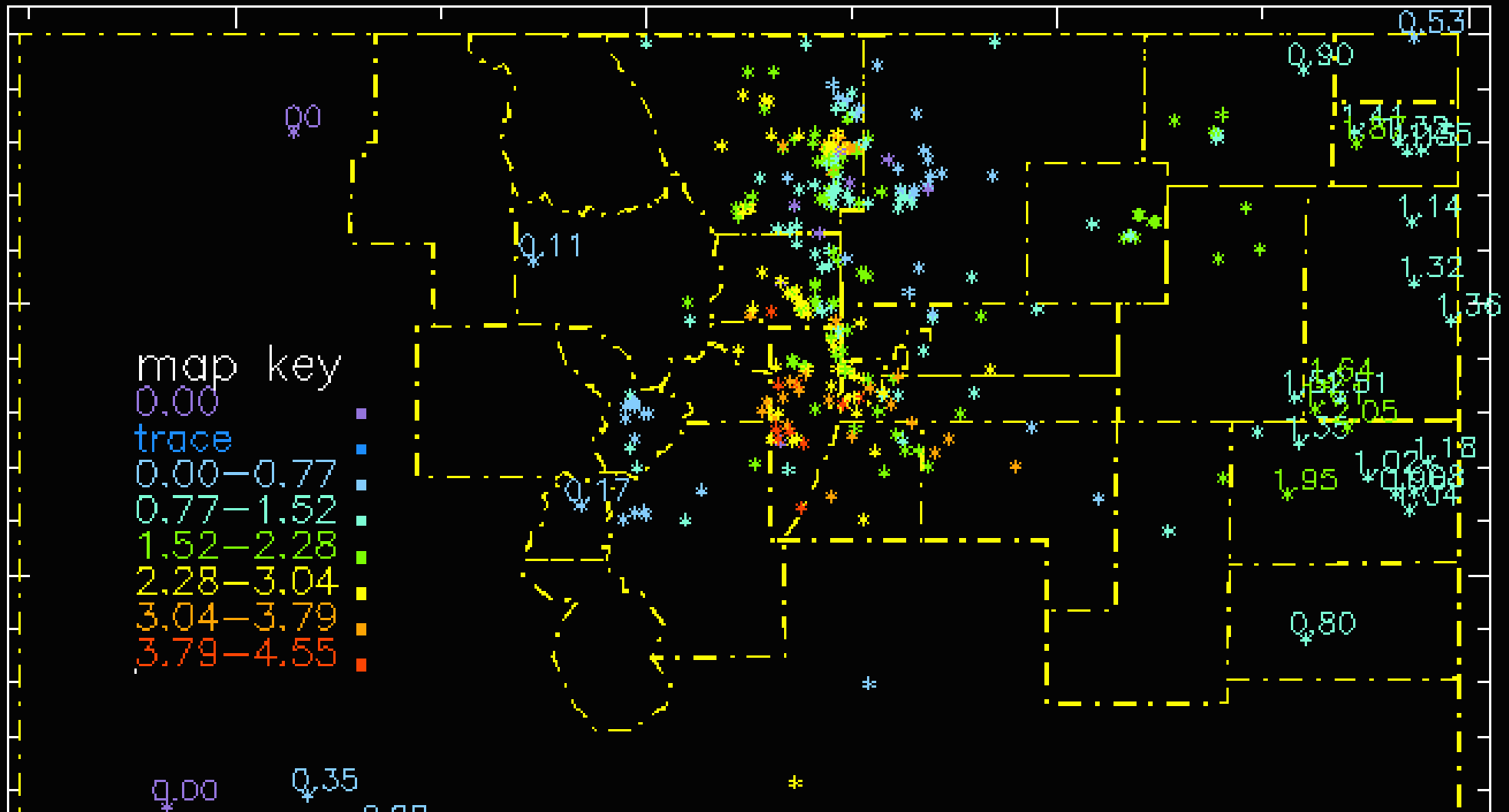
Photo by Bob Henson

Front Range Big Snow, 17-19 March 2003

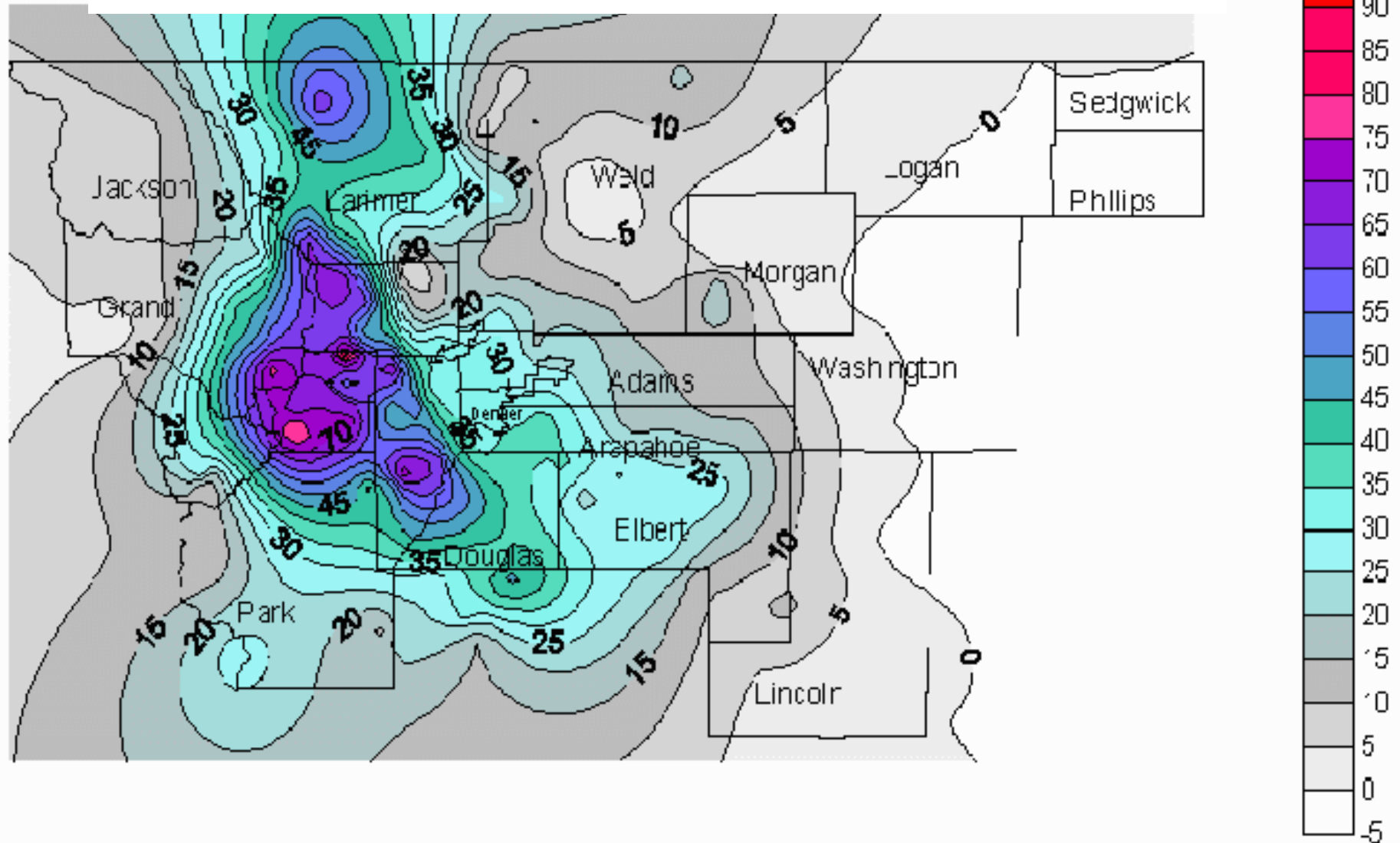


CoCoRaHS Liquid Equivalent of Snow 19 March 2003

Colorado Overview Precipitation Map
For the 24 hour period ending ~7:00 am on 03/19/2003



CoCoRaHS Snowfall 17-20 March 2003

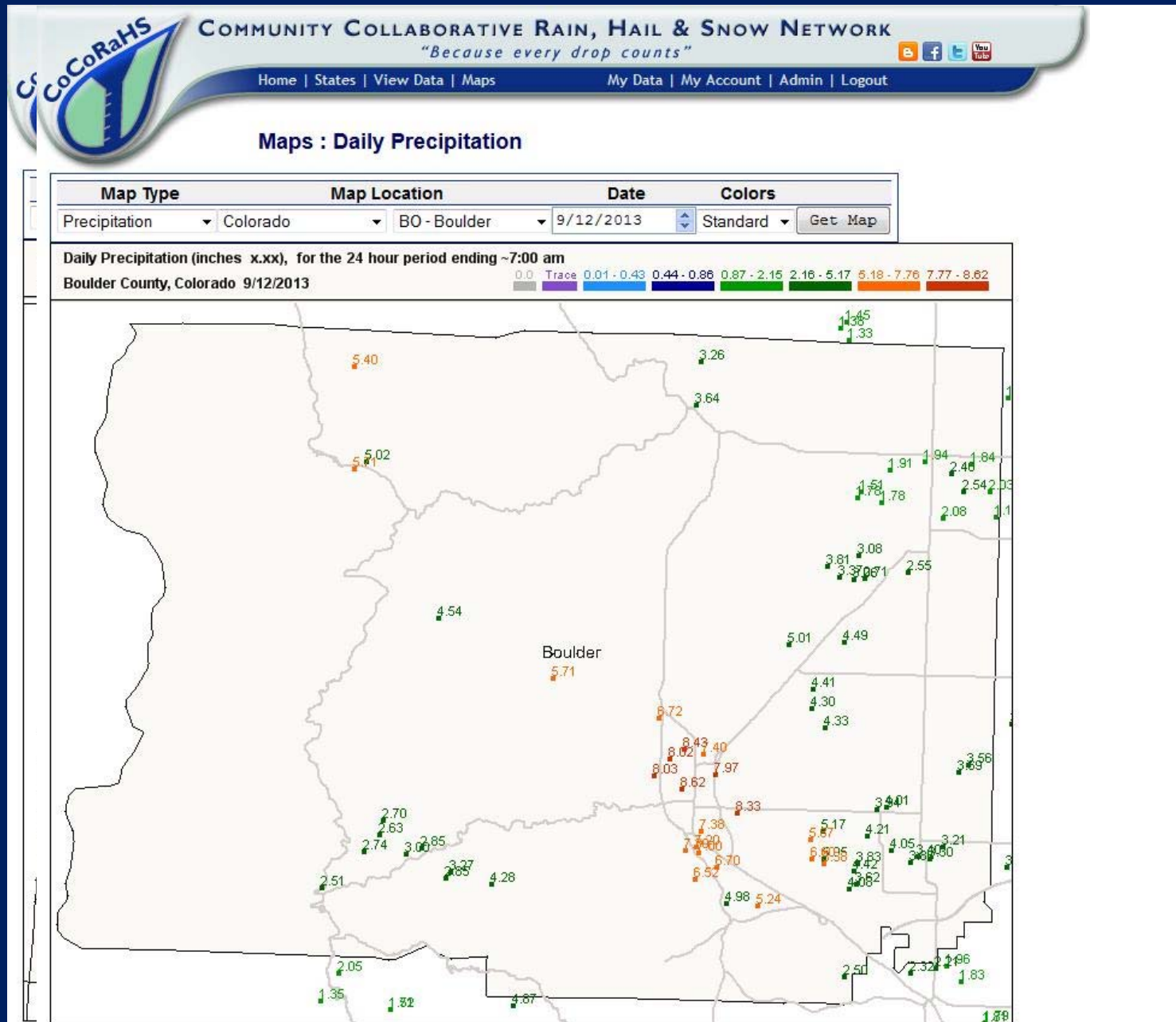


Front Range Flood, 11-13 September 2013



Boulder, CO
12 September 2013
Photo by Matt Kelsch

CoCoRaHS 24-h rainfall, 12 September 2013



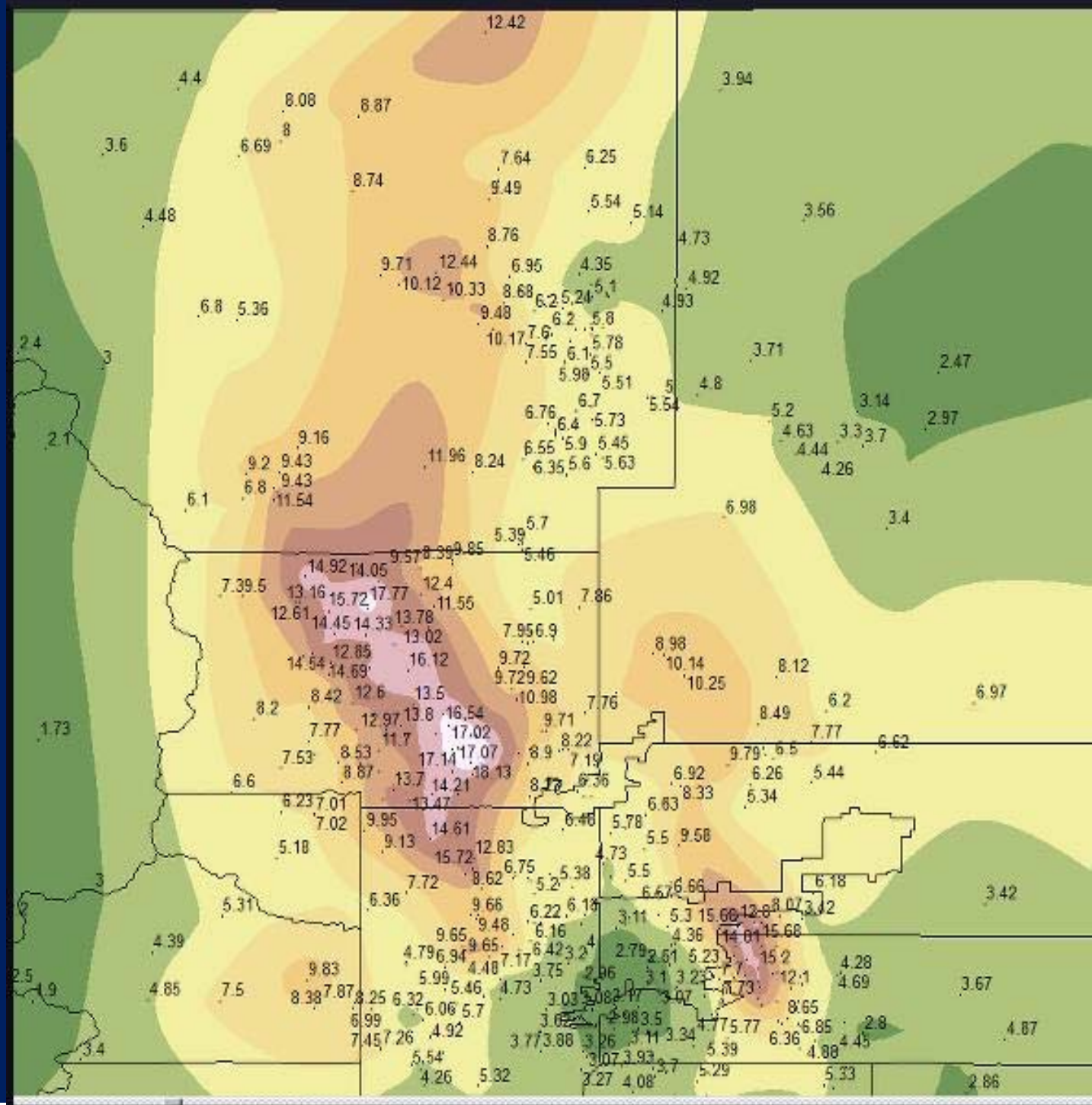
Observations 8-15 Sep 2013

CoCoRaHS

www.cocorahs.org

Other rain gauges:

- Cooperative Observers
- Denver UDFCD



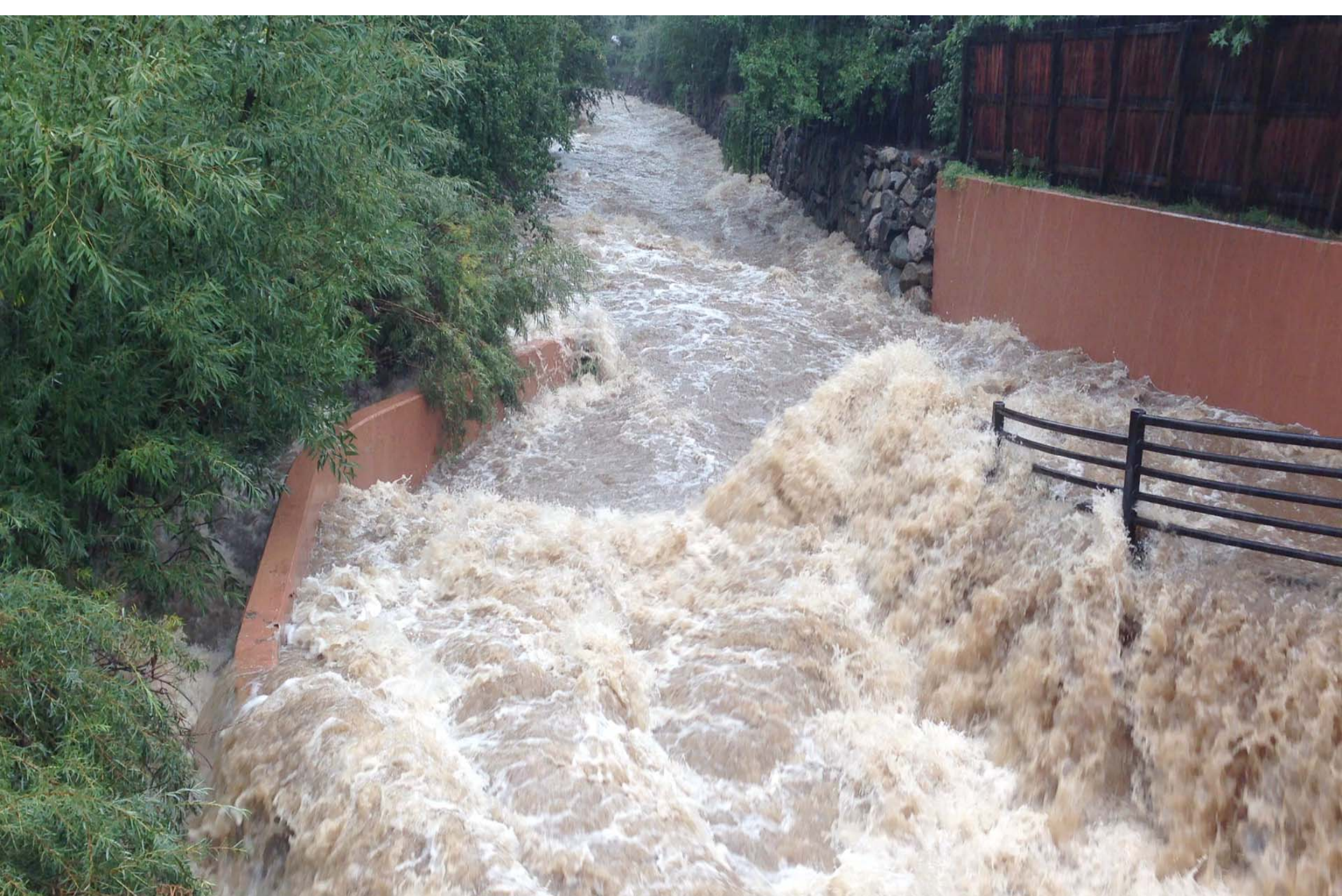
The community has invested in many floodway corridors



- Bear Creek Floodway
- Just west of US Hwy 36
- 12 September 2013



Photo by Bob Henson



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Measuring precipitation, or lack of it

Citizen Scientists and Observers

- Your observations help build a better and more disaster resilient community
- Create a greater sense of belonging to a community of caring citizens

Weather and climate are fascinating, beautiful, devastating, and always with us. We will always have weather in common.

Loveland, CO
June 2012
Photo by Linda
Kelsch