

High Plains Regional Climate Center

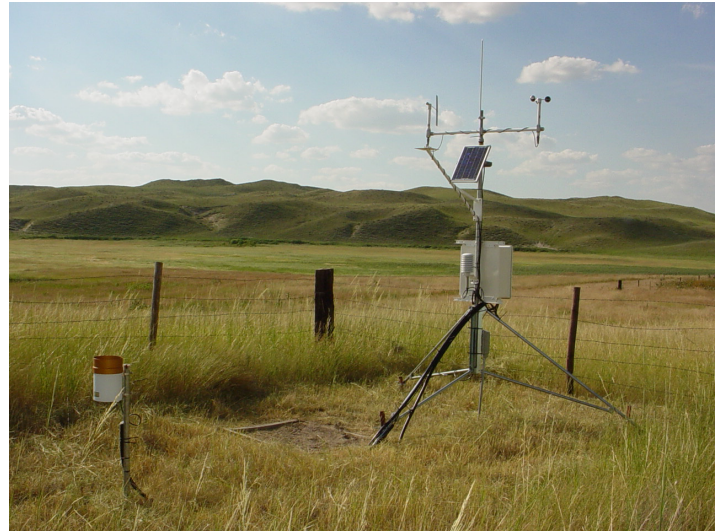
Director

Martha D. Shulski, 2009-present

Kenneth G. Hubbard, 1987-2009

Vision and Mission

The mission of the High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) is to increase the use and availability of climate data in the High Plains region. The HPRCC carries out applied climate studies, develops improved climate information products, and provides climate services in the High Plains region. The Regional Climate Centers are a key part of NOAA's vision for the new National Climate Service. They support a three-tiered approach, emphasizing services that are national, regional or state in scope.



Merritt, NE AWDN station



Applied Climate Information System
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Background

Congress passed the National Climate Program Act in 1978 to promote the understanding of climate and to provide for climate service. The Act directed the development of a network of regional climate centers (RCCs) to meet regional climate service needs. The HPRCC was established in 1987 at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The Coordinating Commission for Postsecondary Education in Nebraska approved the HPRCC as an official University of Nebraska-Lincoln Unit on April 26, 2005.

The HPRCC emphasizes:

- providing services based on direct interaction with climate stakeholders
- distributing accurate and unbiased climate data, data-products, and information
- enhancing climate services and developing decision support tools through applied research
- educating stakeholders on emerging regional climate issues

Faculty and Staff

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Senior Programmer/Analyst
Regional Climatologist
Research Assistant Professor
Intern
Intern
Intern
Intern



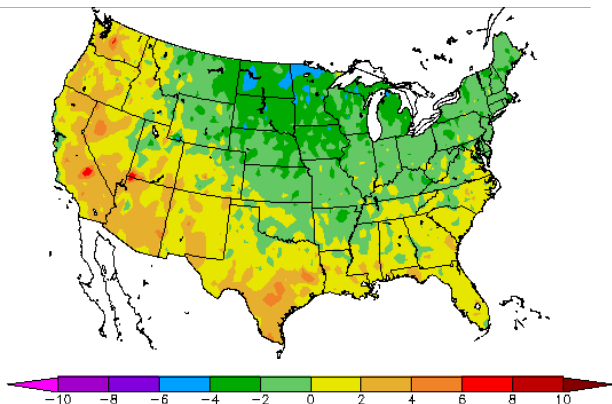
University of Nebraska—Lincoln

SNR

School of Natural Resources

High Plains Regional Climate Center

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
5/1/2009 - 7/31/2009



Funding

Support for the HPRCC comes mainly from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The HPRCC has received nearly \$2.75 million from NOAA since 2004.

Publications and Information Products

HPRCC staff have written or collaborated on 28 journal articles since 2006.

Information products available via the web include:

- access to data from nation-wide climate networks through the Applied Climate Information System
- summary maps incorporating real-time data (38 updated daily and >22,000 archived online)
- a monthly newsletter reporting climate monitoring and impacts
- Nebraska soil moisture

Collaboration

The HPRCC's collaborative activities include weekly input to the National Drought Monitor; NIDIS working groups; site surveys for the U.S. Climate Reference Network and Historic Climate Network with the National Center for Climatic Data and state climatologists; NOAA panels, work groups, and committees; American Meteorological Service committees; NOAA Test Beds for Climate and Hydrometeorology; interaction with National Weather Service Forecast Offices (NWS), NWS Central Region Headquarters, and River Forecast Centers; development and management of NWS climate information systems; NOAA National Data Stewardship Team; National Climate Extremes Committee implementation and support of WeatherCoder 3 for NWS; creation of Datzilla for reporting errors; research with the National Climatic Data Center; and research with the National Drought Mitigation Center.



Scientists from Chile visit an AWDN station.

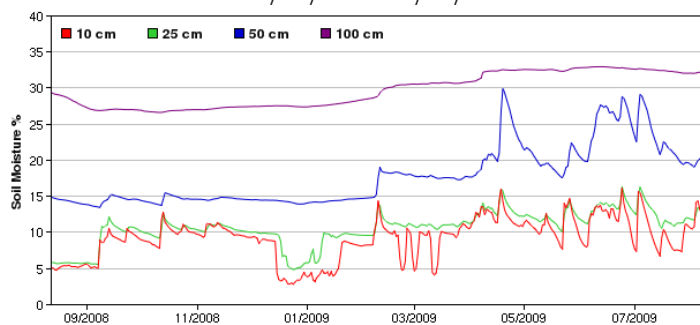
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Activities

The HPRCC:

- operates 201 stations in 10 states with the Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN) which records hourly data for air temperature and humidity, soil temperature, wind speed and direction, solar radiation, and precipitation.
- is working with the Nebraska Wind Energy Monitoring Program to assess good sites for turbines.
- provides additional services to clients including certification and customized data reports.

Gudmundsen Research Soil Moisture
valid 8/12/2008 - 8/11/2009



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