

# The Observer

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

WINTER 2013

## A New Year; A New Season for Rain

Greetings! I hope you all enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and are getting settled into the new year. We are now into the second month of collecting rain data as part of the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS). I have received positive feedback from several volunteers about the new program, and I hope you are all finding it easy to use and worthwhile. I have looked at the CoCoRaHS website several times since the Tehama RCD rain monitoring program became a part of the CoCoRaHS and it is exciting to be able to see the valuable

data collected by you on a map of the county. If you haven't explored the maps on the CoCoRaHS website, I hope you take



the time to take a look. It has been interesting to see the differences in the rainfall amounts reported by folks in different parts of the county on a daily basis!

This newsletter is the first in a series that will be sent out to our volunteers three times per year (winter, spring/summer, fall), and I plan to include some interesting weather related information in future issues. In order to make this newsletter as useful and interesting to you as possible, I welcome your suggestions and ideas about things you would like to see in future issues.

Until next time, enjoy the wet weather!

Warm Regards,  
Rose Calzontzi  
Tehama County RCD  
Watershed Coordinator

## The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS)

On November 27, the Tehama County RCD held a volunteer rain monitor appreciation meeting at Evergreen Middle School near Cottonwood. The topic of the meeting was the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network, a

non-profit, community-based network of volunteers who map daily precipitation levels across the county. The Tehama County RCD is now participating in this collaborative approach to precipitation monitoring, and this program will

replace the previous Tehama County RCD rain monitoring program. Attendees of the meeting learned all about the program—what it entails, how it works, and how the data collected through this nationwide effort is used. For those who were unable

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Weather Talks 2

2012 Rainfall Totals 3



### Weather Data Sites of Interest

- **CoCoRaHS**  
<http://www.cocorahs.org>
- **Northern California Weather Blog**  
[www.northstateweather.com](http://www.northstateweather.com)
- **National Weather Service Forecast Office, Sacramento**  
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto>
- **California Data Exchange Center**  
<http://cdec.water.ca.gov>
- **DWR Water Data Library**  
<http://wdl.water.ca.gov>
- **DWR Planning and Local Assistance Northern District**  
<http://www.nd.water.ca.gov>
- **California Irrigation Management Information System**  
<http://www.cimis.water.ca.gov/cimis/welcome.jsp>

## CoCoRaHS (cont.)

to make it to the meeting the following provides a brief overview of CoCoRaHS.

### What is CoCoRaHS?

A unique, non-profit, community-based nationwide network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation by using low-cost measurement tools, stressing training and education, and utilizing an interactive Web-site.

### What will volunteer observers be doing?

Volunteers take daily measurements of precipitation and report them on the CoCoRaHS

Web site or to the Tehama County RCD who then reports it on the CoCoRaHS website.

### Who uses CoCoRaHS?

CoCoRaHS is used by a wide variety of organizations and individuals including meteorologists, hydrologists, city utilities, insurance adjusters, mosquito control, ranchers and farmers, outdoor & recreation interests, teachers, students, and neighbors in the community.

### What benefits are there in volunteering?

One of the neat things about participating in this network is coming away

with the feeling that you have made an important contribution that helps others. By providing your daily observation, you help to fill in a piece of the weather puzzle that affects many across your area in one way or another.

If you were a past volunteer rain monitor for the Tehama County RCD, but haven't participated in a while, I hope that you will consider joining us again. Participating as part of the CoCoRaHS program is an exciting and easy way to monitor rainfall and compare what falls in your backyard to those around you.

## FREE Monthly Web-Based Weather Talks

Each month the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail, and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) presents a FREE one-hour interactive internet seminar (webinar) featuring engaging experts in the fields of atmospheric science, climatology and other pertinent disciplines. These easy to follow presentations are live and last approximately sixty minutes. The audience will be given the chance to submit questions too!

This month's webinar will be presented on January 17, 2013 at 10AM and is titled "Flavors of

Climate variability: El Nino, La Nina and Recurring Jet Stream patterns." Dr. Gerry Bell, a seasonal forecaster with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association will present a talk "designed to introduce several major climate phenomena that strongly influence our weather throughout the year, sometimes for decades at a time."

To register for the FREE webinar, please visit the CoCoRaHS Weather Talk Webinars page at <http://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=wxtalk>

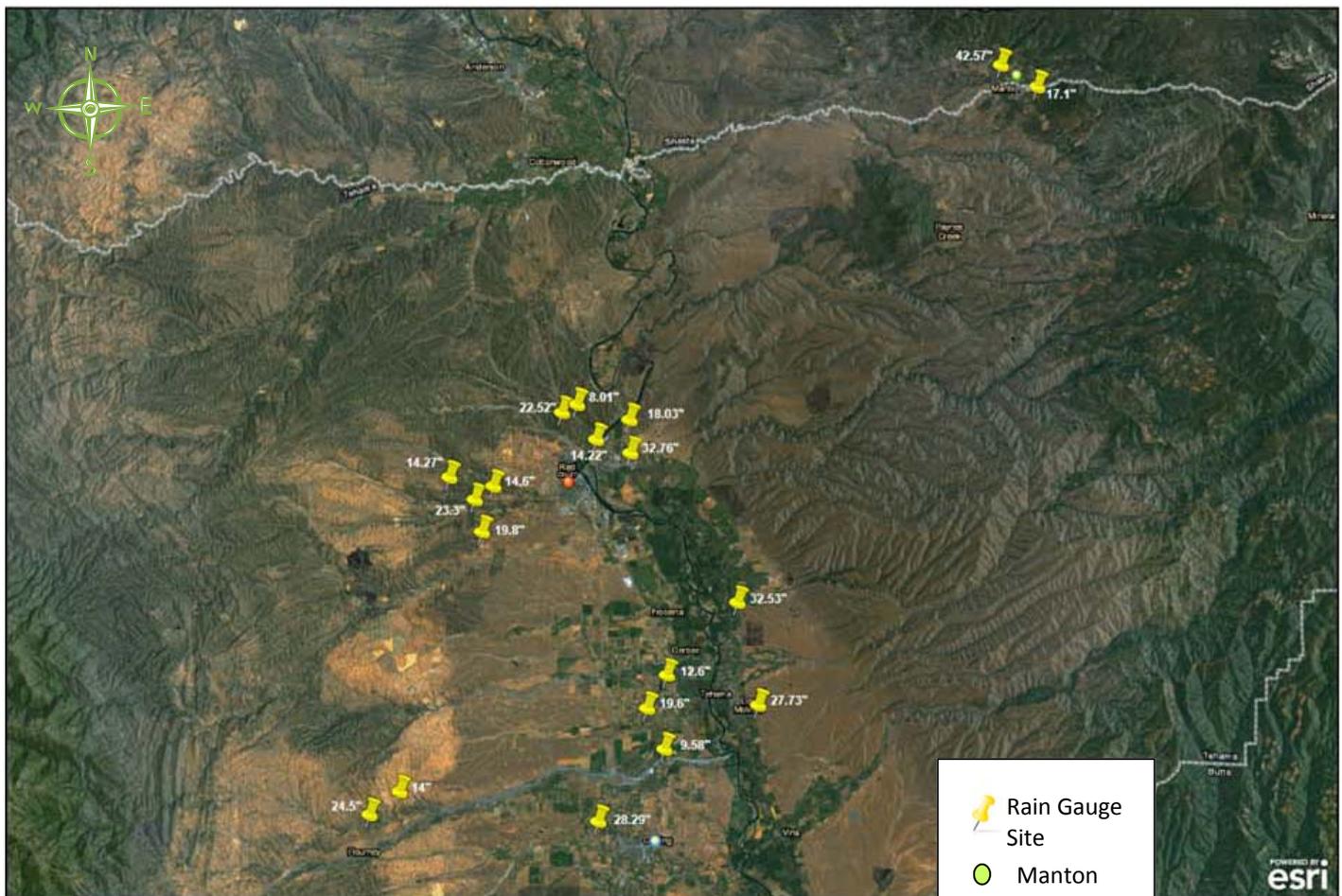
# How Much Rain Did Our Volunteers Measure in 2012?

In 2012, we had 19 volunteers who contributed daily rainfall measurements for either a portion of or the entire twelve months of 2012. The map below

shows the total rainfall, as reported to the Tehama County RCD, of each of our volunteer rain monitors.

Site Number	Total Rainfall (Inches)								
10	32.53	30	19.6	40	22.52	73	24.5	84	42.57
11	9.58	33	12.6	43	18.03	75	14.6	88	14
19	28.29	35	32.76	51	23.3	76	8.01	89	17.1
23	19.8	38	14.22	53	14.27	78	27.73		

**Tehama County RCD  
Volunteer Rain Monitor Program  
2012 Rainfall Totals by Site**





Tehama County Resource Conservation District

**For more information on the  
Volunteer Rain Monitor  
program contact:**

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**Connect with us!**

<http://www.tehamacountyrcd.org>

<http://www.cottonwoodck.org>

**Find us on Facebook @**

[facebook.com/TCRCD](https://www.facebook.com/TCRCD)

**Know someone who is an  
armchair weather watcher or is  
constantly chatting about the  
weather?**



The Tehama County RCD is always looking for new volunteers!

Anyone with an interest in weather is welcome to join.

We especially need folks who are in the **Cottonwood Creek** area of Tehama County. If you know someone who is interested in tracking rainfall patterns, we'd love to speak with them about our program. The Tehama County RCD provides all instructions to get started and the materials to participate.

## **About the RCD**

The Tehama County Resource Conservation (TCRCD) is a non-regulatory public agency whose mission is "to assist citizens with managing, conserving, and improving the natural resources of Tehama County." TCRCD provides a number of services for the residents, landowners, agricultural producers and government agencies of Tehama County.

**Our mission is to assist people to manage, conserve, and improve the natural resources of Tehama County.**

**Our vision is for a balanced use of the county's natural resources, where all land use decisions are socially acceptable, environmentally sound, and economically feasible.**

**The TCRCD includes approximately 1,761,000 acres and embodies all of Tehama County with the exception of the cities of Tehama, Corning and Red Bluff.**