

High Plains Regional Climate Center
HPRCC
THE COCORAHS 'STATE CLIMATES' SERIES

The High Plains Regional Climate Center

As we continue our "Climates of the Fifty States" series, we move toward our second region of the country and look at the states of the High Plains Regional Climate Center, one of six regional climate centers in the United States.

The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) is located within the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and has been in operation since 1987. Its mission is to increase the use and availability of climate data in the region and encompasses a six-state area (North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas, Colorado, and Wyoming). The Center serves clientele across a broad spectrum that includes agriculture, energy, industry, legal, media, insurance, and education sectors. Agriculture is the dominant economic influence in the region and many products and services are tailored to this sector. HPRCC personnel work closely with scientists from other regional and federal agencies on climate services and programs to provide a regional structure for climate applications.

The primary activities of the center include:

- Operation of more than 200 stations in the regional Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN), in cooperation with state agencies and Universities
- Development of value-added climate products for decision-making
- Conducting applied climate research relevant to the region, such as soil moisture monitoring and crop water use
- Monitoring the regional climate conditions and providing analysis for extreme events
- Development of computer software for summarizing and disseminating climate information
- Climate education and outreach for the community

We will feature the six states of the HPRCC in the coming weeks, as we focus on the second region of our "Climates of the Fifty States" series. To find out more about the HPRCC, visit: <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu>