NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Cooperative Observer Program (COOP)

Be part of the Nation's largest and oldest climate/weather observing network - established in 1890

Job of a Co-Op Observer

Today's network of volunteer observers collect daily hydrometeorological data. Observations include some or all of the following parameters:

- ✔ *24-hour maximum and minimum temperature,*
- ✔ *24-hour liquid precipitation amounts (including melted snowfall),*
- ✔ *snowfall and snow depth,*
- ✔ *evaporation,*
- ✔ *soil temperature,*
- ✔ *river stage, and,*
- ✔ *special phenomena such as hail, thunder, damaging winds, fog, etc.*

Equipment for the Co-Op Observer

COOP equipment can vary from a simple 8 inch non recording plastic or metal rain gauge to a full coop station with electronic thermometer and recording precipitation gage.

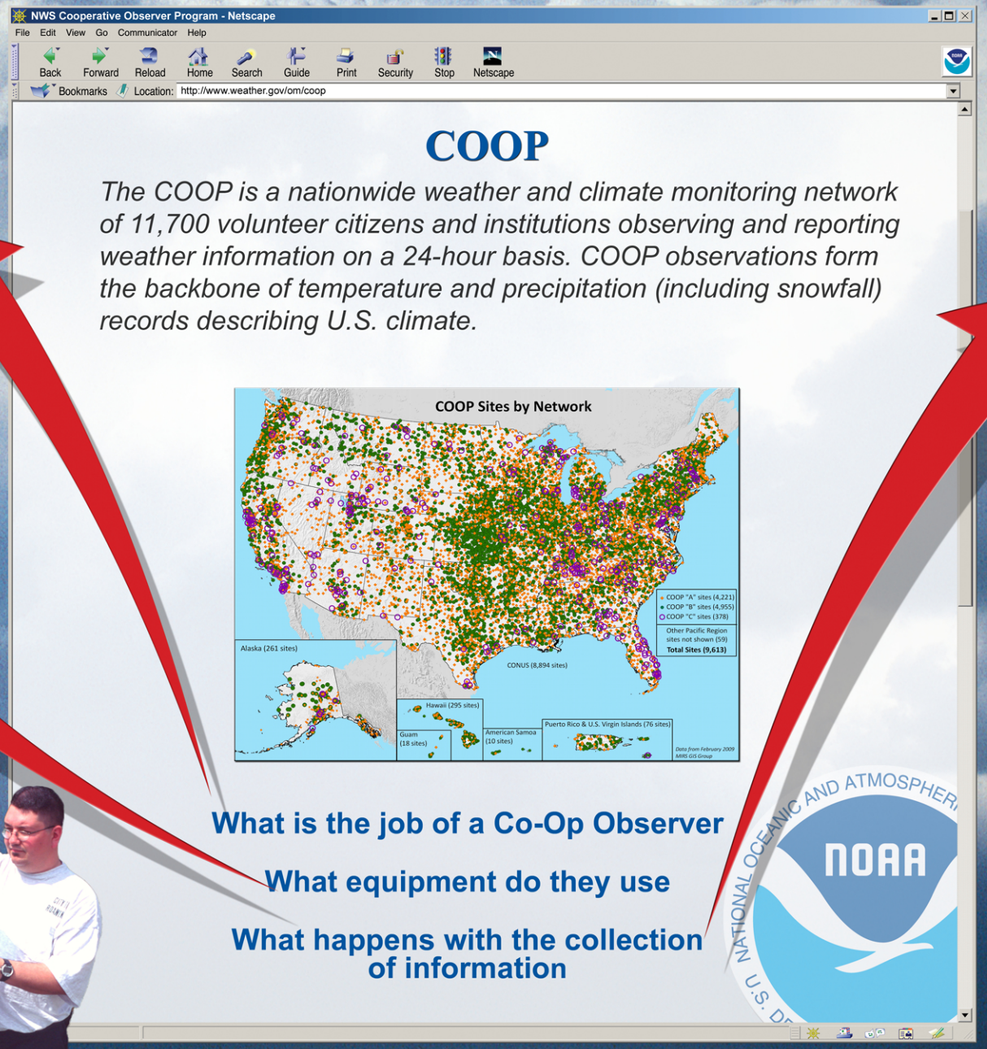
Max Min Temperature Sensor

Evaporation Gauge

Fisher Porter Hourly Precipitation Gauge

COOP Station

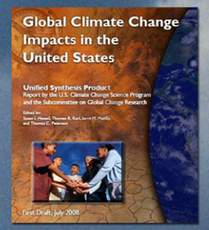
Standard Rain Gauge

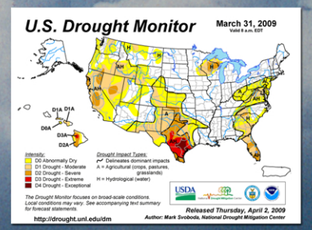


What Happens with the Collection of Information

Volunteer weather observers conscientiously contribute their time so that observations can provide the vital information needed. These data are invaluable in learning more about the floods, droughts, heat and cold waves affecting us all.

The data are also used in agricultural planning and assessment, engineering, environmental-impact assessment, utilities planning, and litigation. COOP data plays a critical role in efforts to recognize and evaluate the extent of human impacts on climate from local to global scales.





For more information about the Cooperative Observer program go to **www.weather.gov/om/coop**