



# Climate Update

**Nolan Doesken  
Colorado Climate Center**

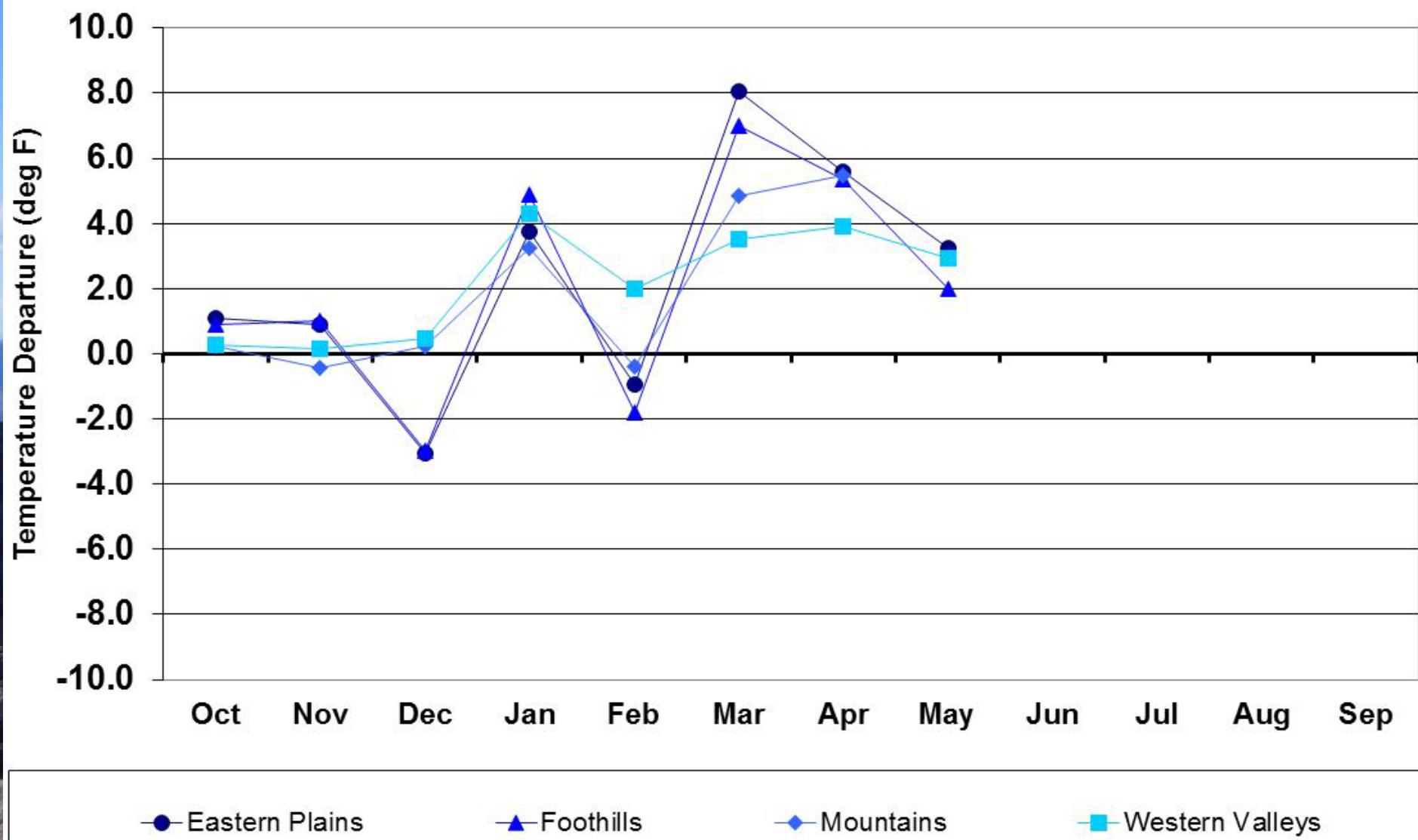
**Atmospheric Science Department  
Colorado State University**

Presented to  
**Water Availability Task Force**  
June 20, 2012  
Denver, CO

Prepared by Wendy Ryan

# Water Year 2012 Temperature Departures

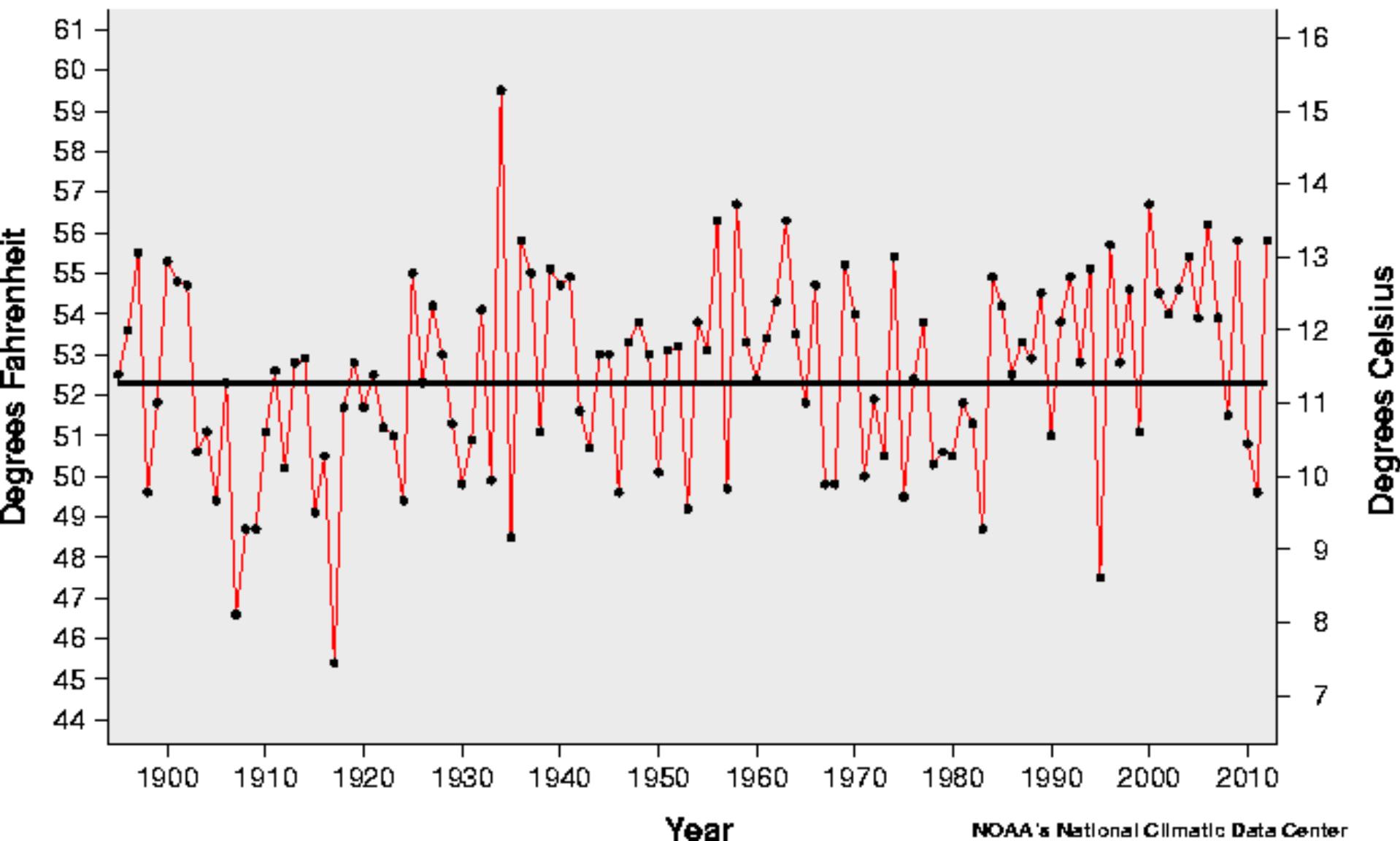
## Water Year 2012



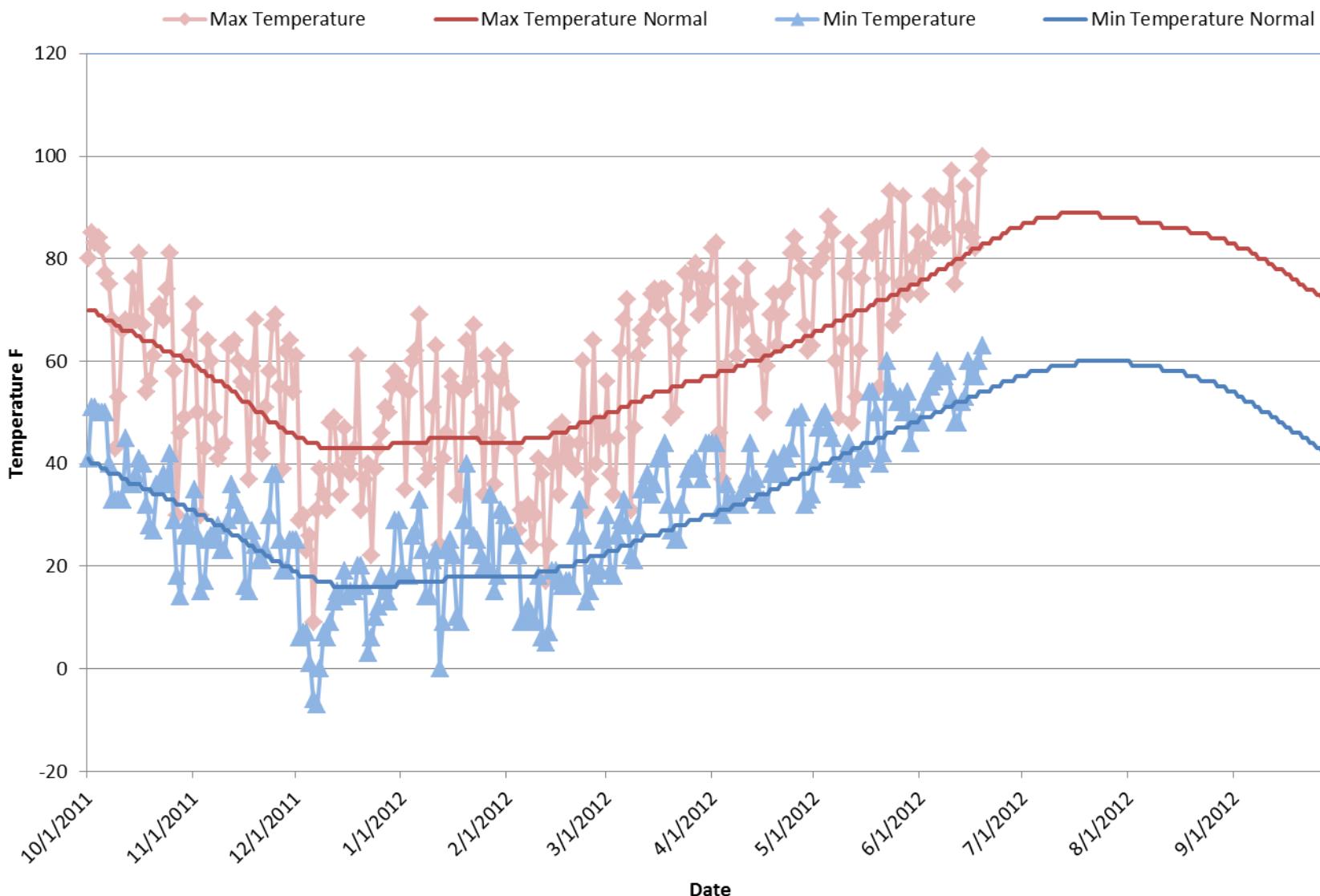
# May Average Temperature History for Colorado (NCDC)

Actual Temperature  
Average Temperature

55.8 Ranks as the 7<sup>th</sup> warmest on record  
1895-2012.

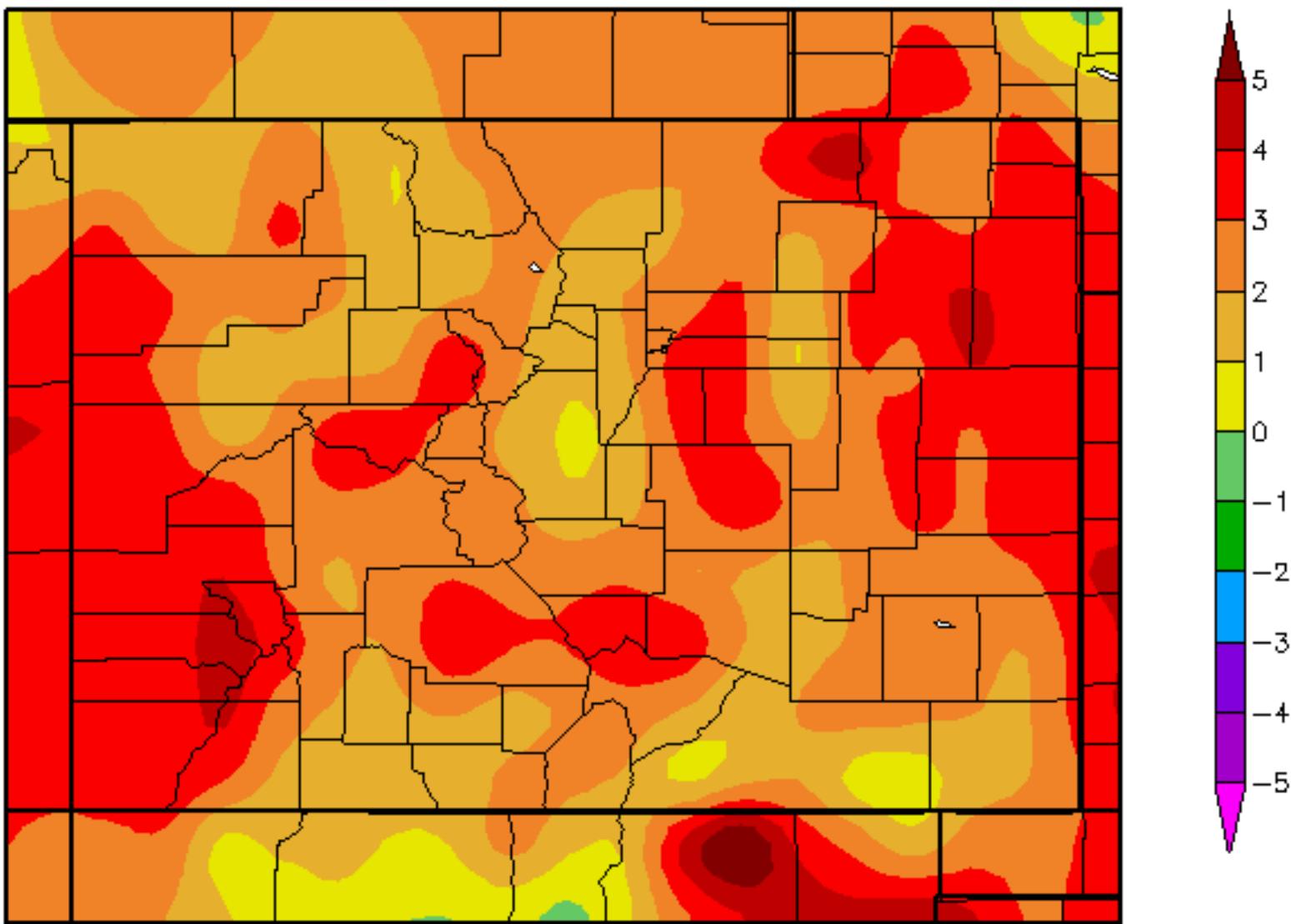


# Denver Stapleton Daily Max/Min Temperatures and Normals



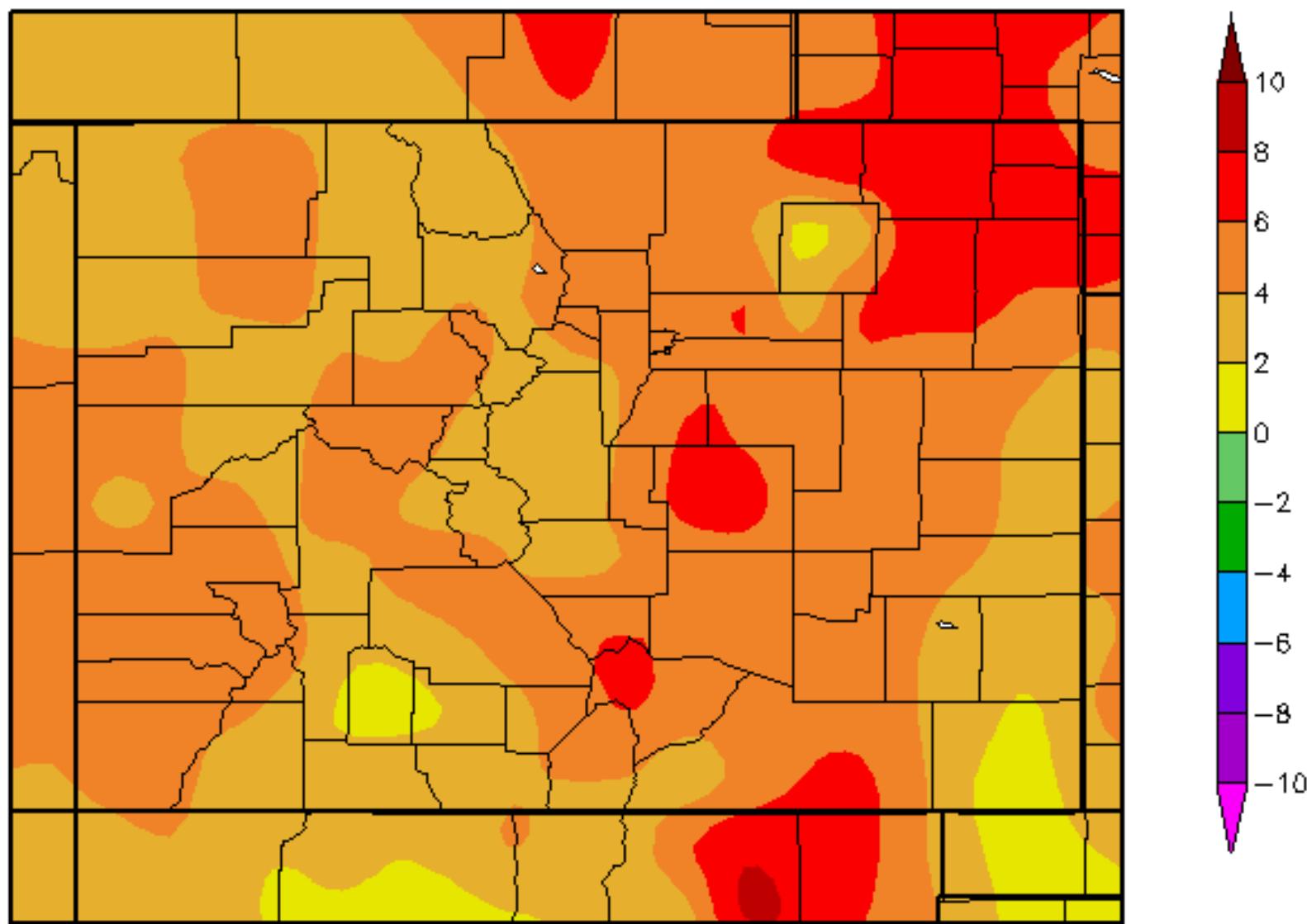
# Departure from Normal Temperature (F)

5/1/2012 – 5/31/2012

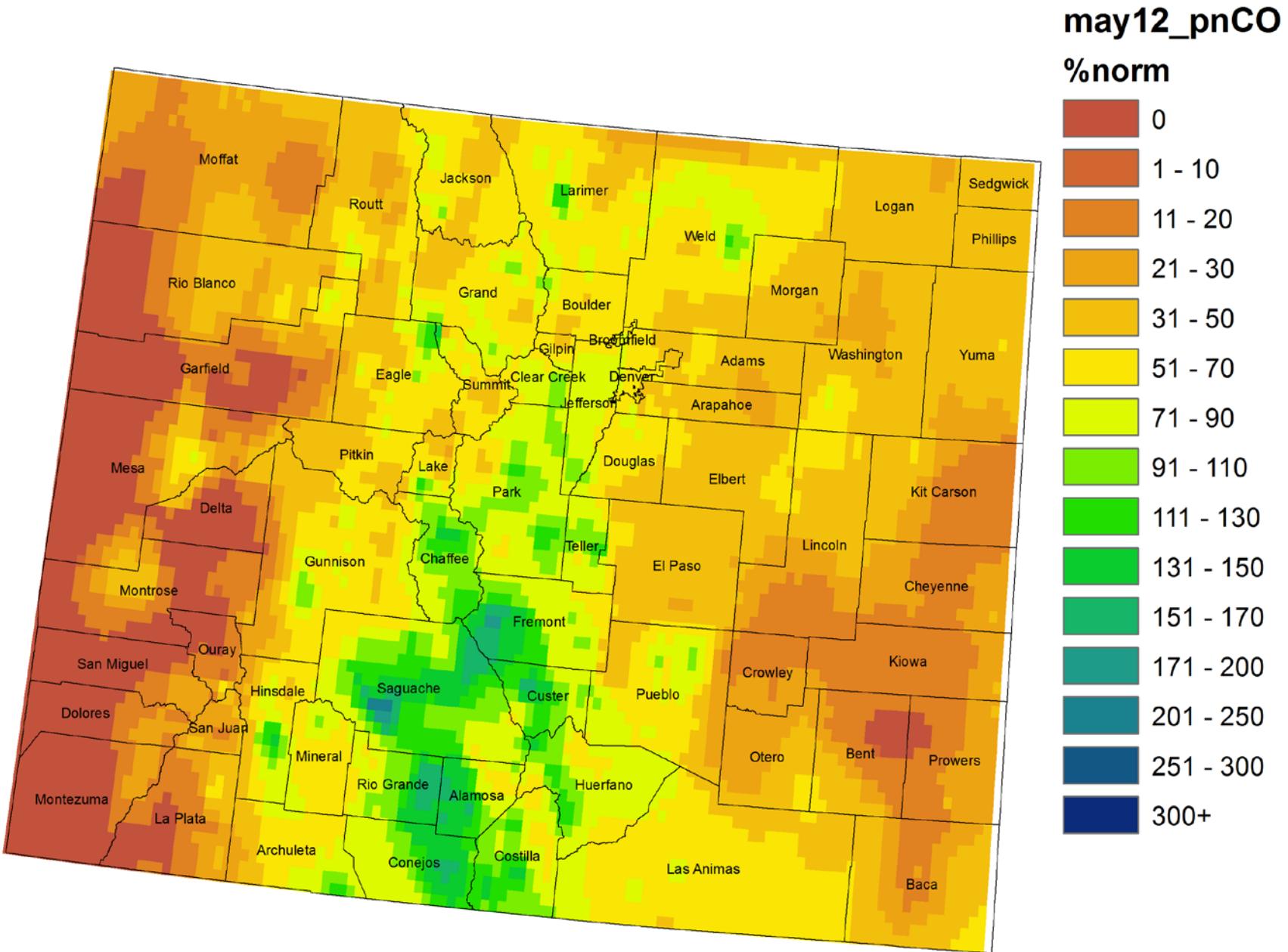


# Departure from Normal Temperature (F)

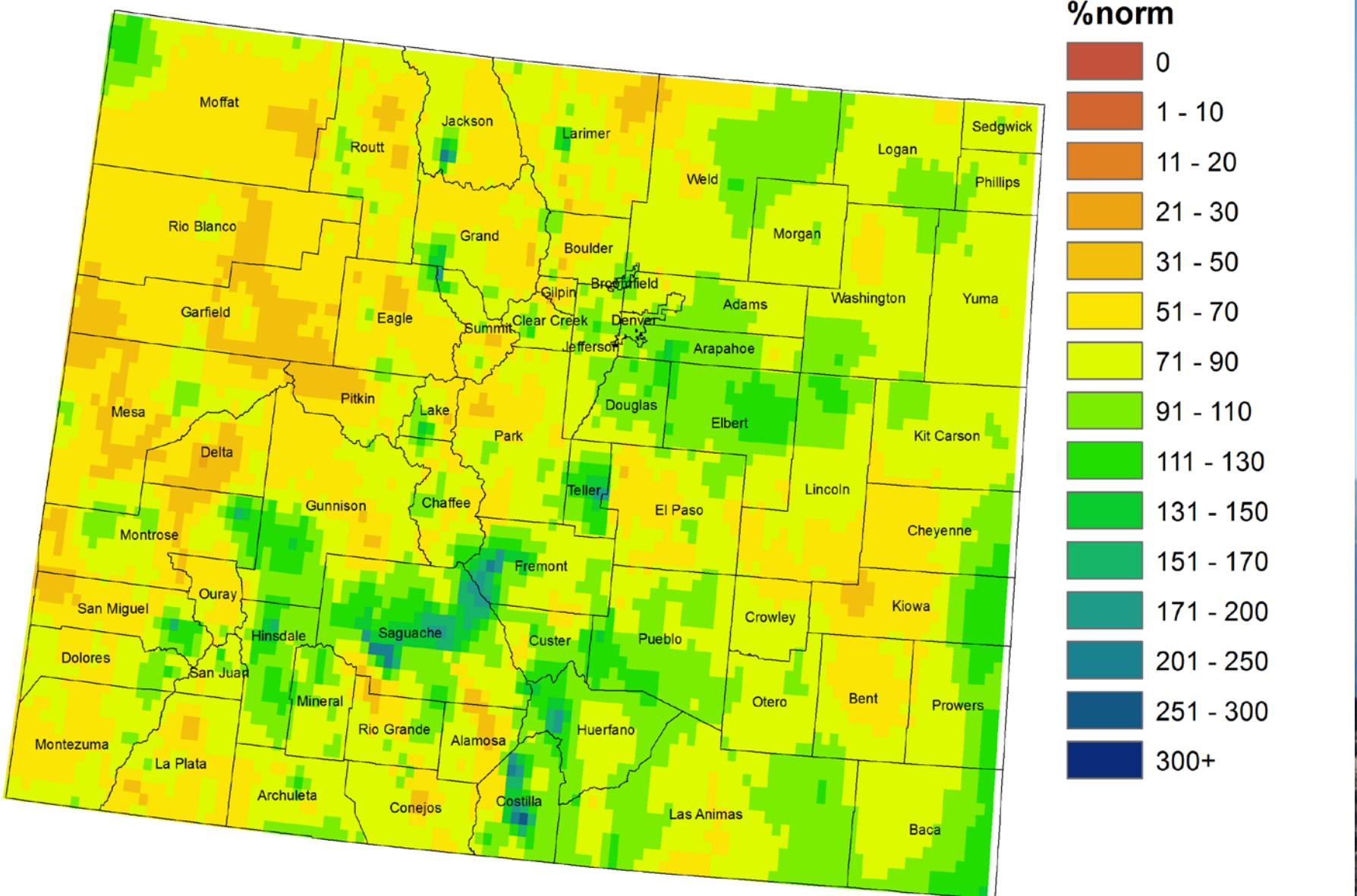
6/1/2012 – 6/18/2012



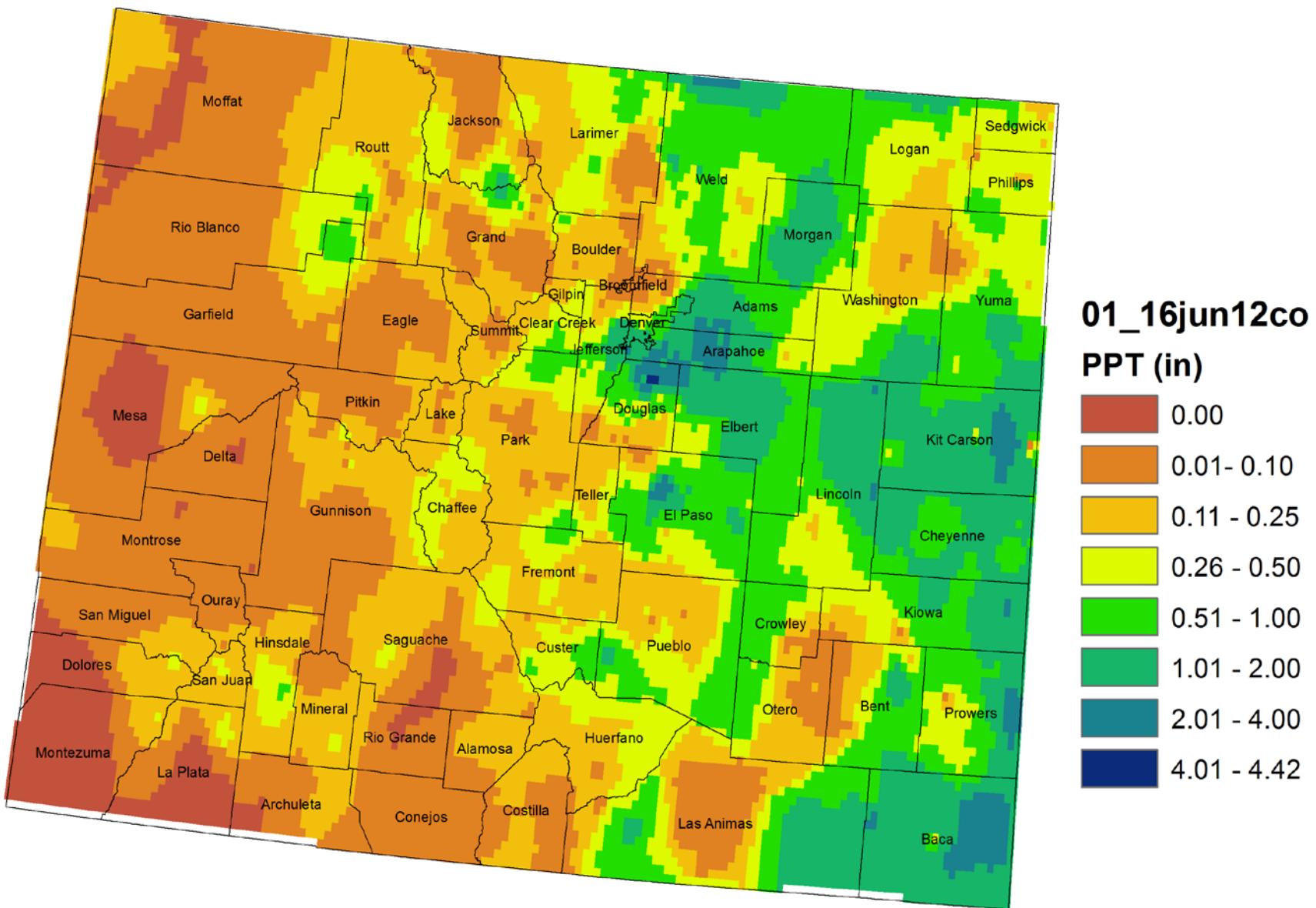
# Colorado May 2012 Precipitation as Percentage of Normal



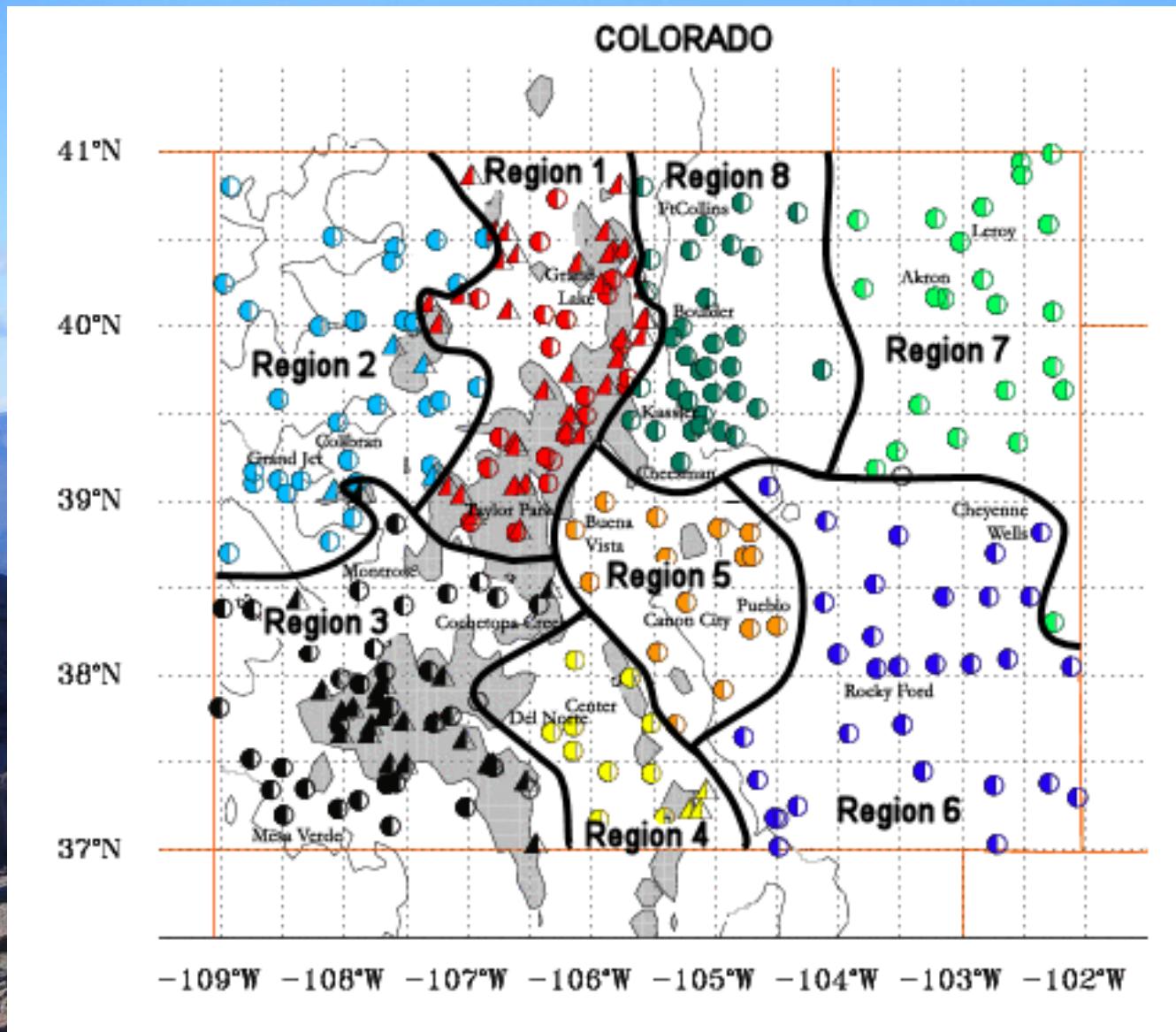
# Colorado Water Year 2012 Precipitation as Percentage of Normal (Oct 2011 - May 2012)



# Colorado Precipitation (in) June 1-16, 2012

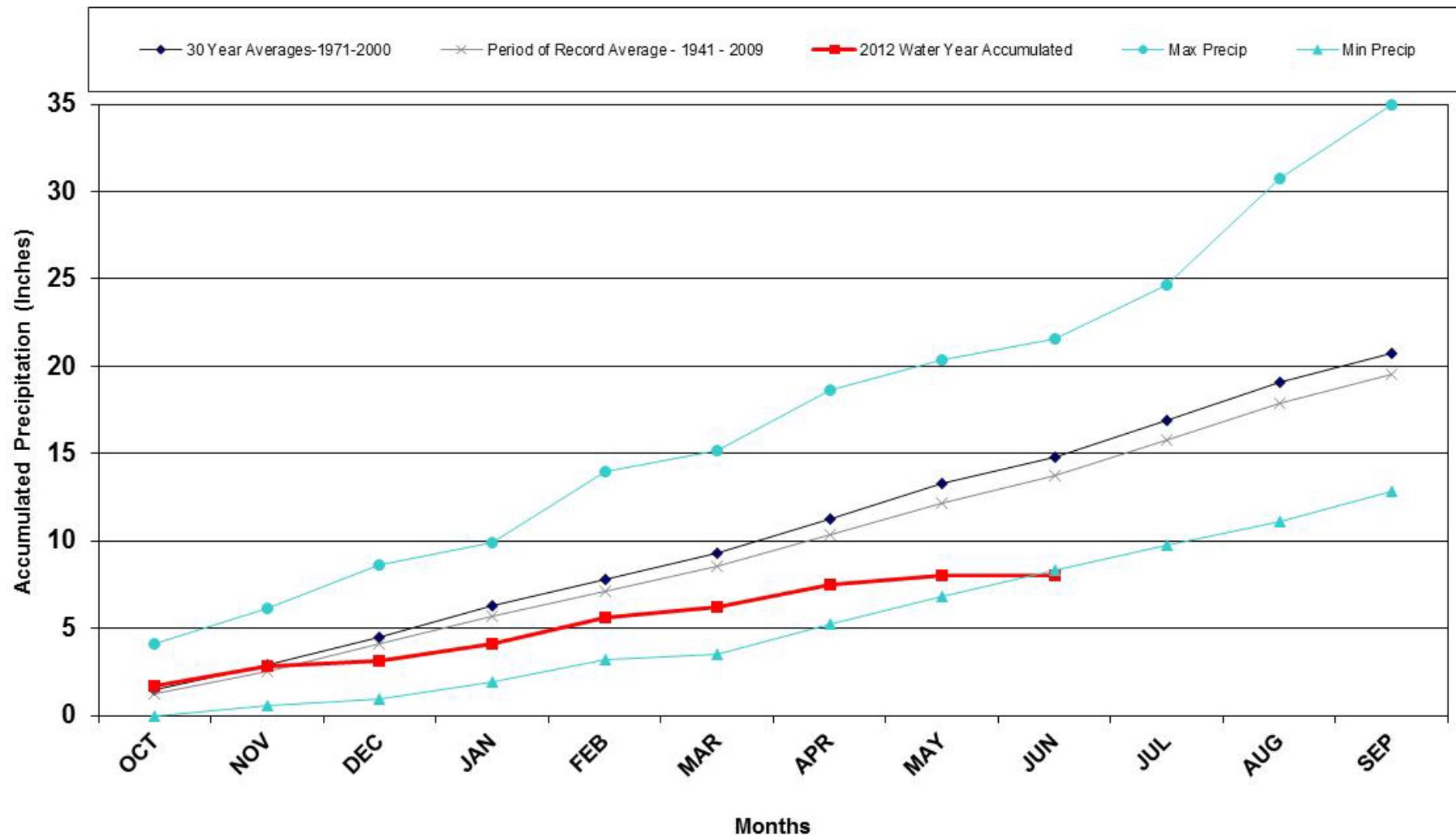


# Climate divisions defined by Dr. Klaus Wolter of NOAA's Climate Diagnostic Center in Boulder, CO

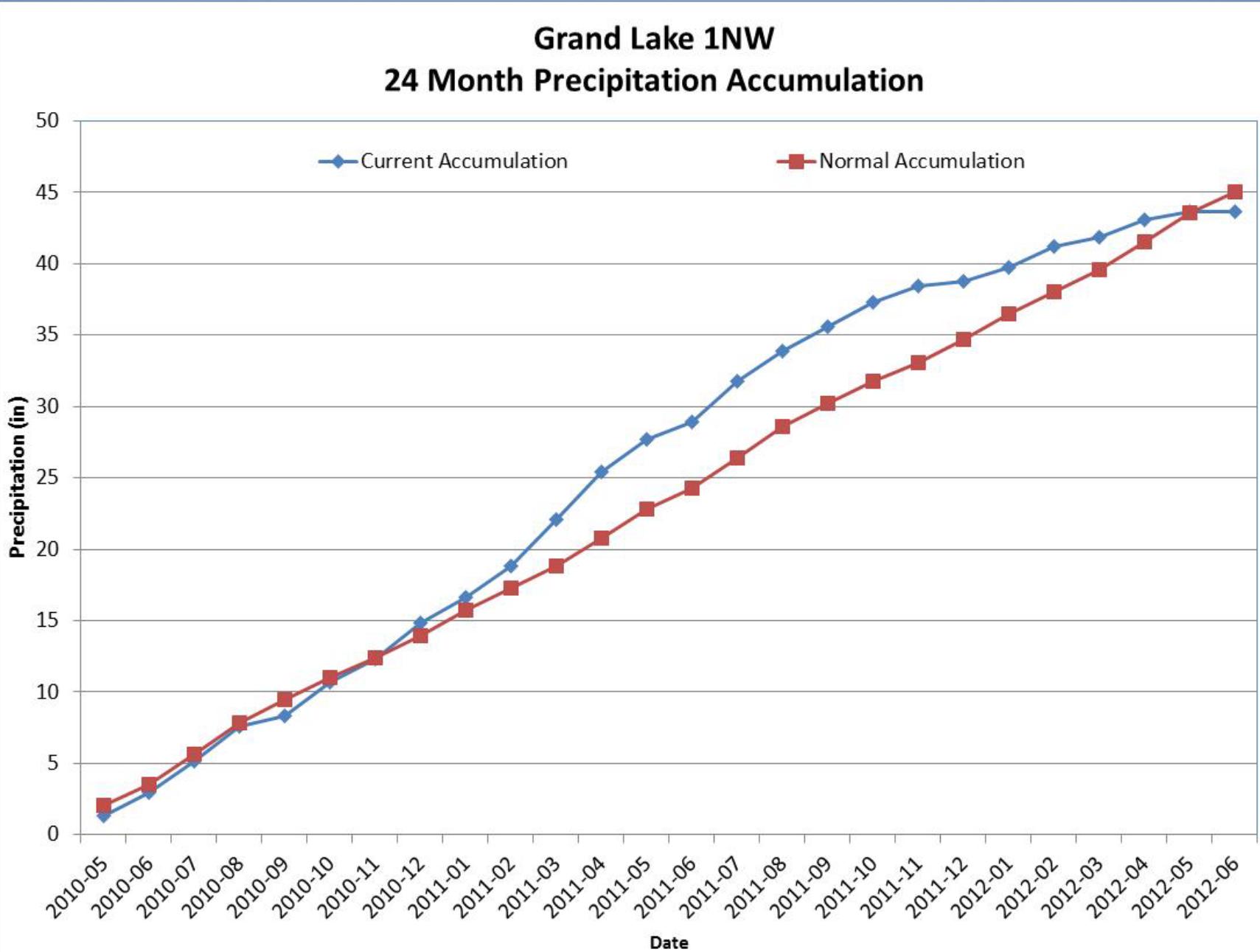


# Division 1 – Grand Lake 1NW

## Grand Lake 1 NW 2012 Water Year

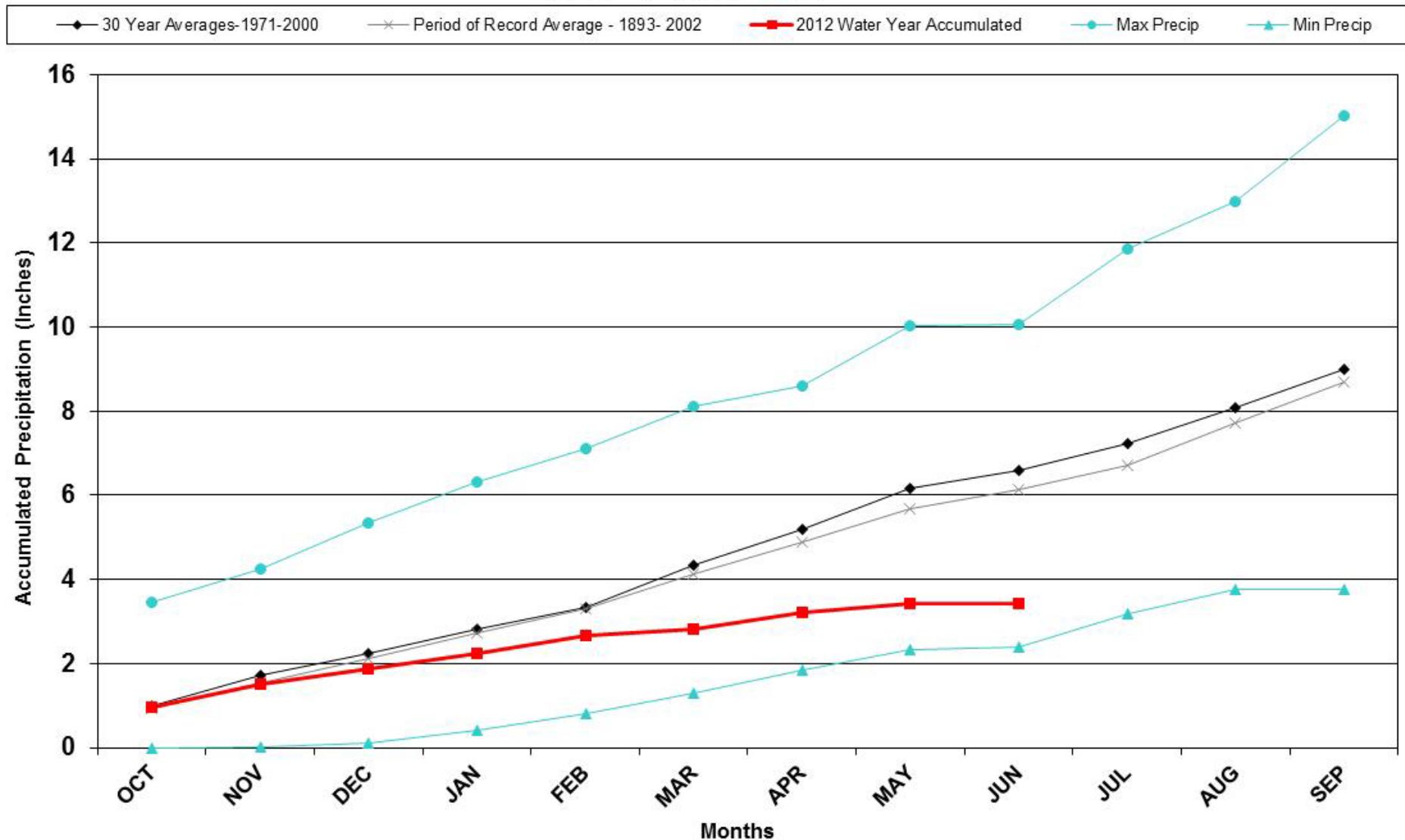


# Division 1 – Grand Lake 1NW



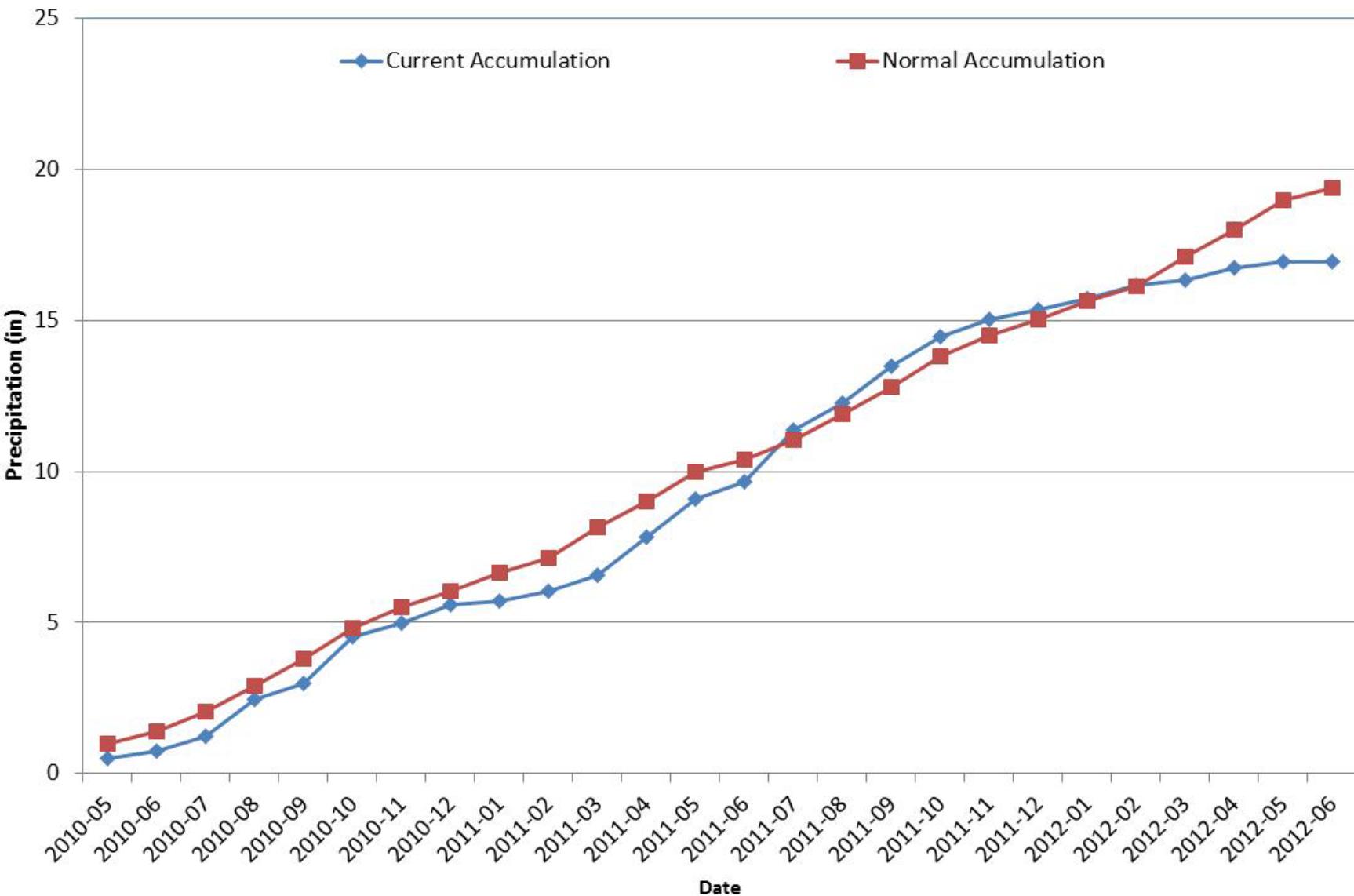
# Division 2 – Grand Junction

## Grand Junction WSFO 2012 Water Year



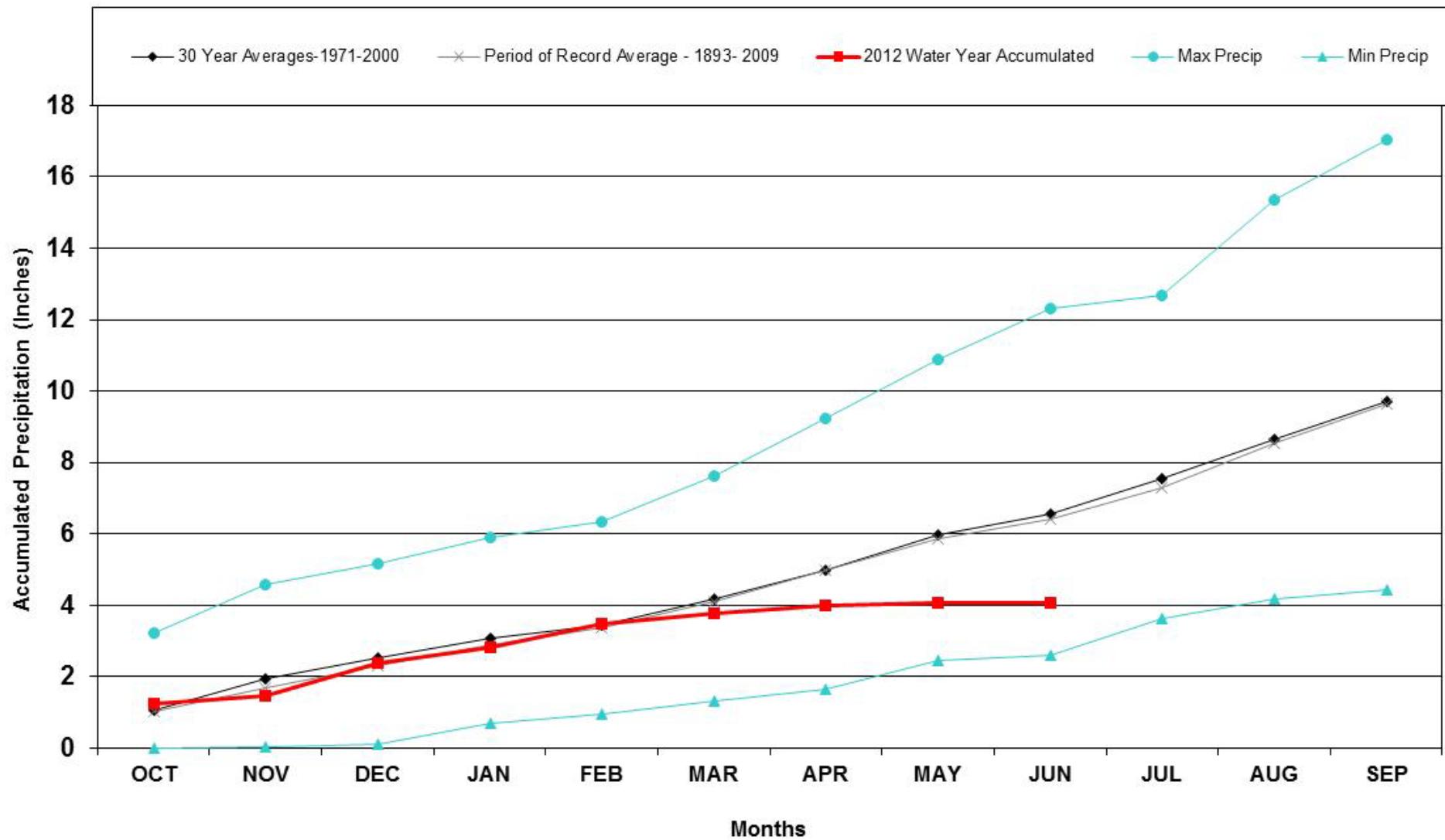
# Division 2 – Grand Junction

## Grand Junction 24 Month Precipitation Accumulation



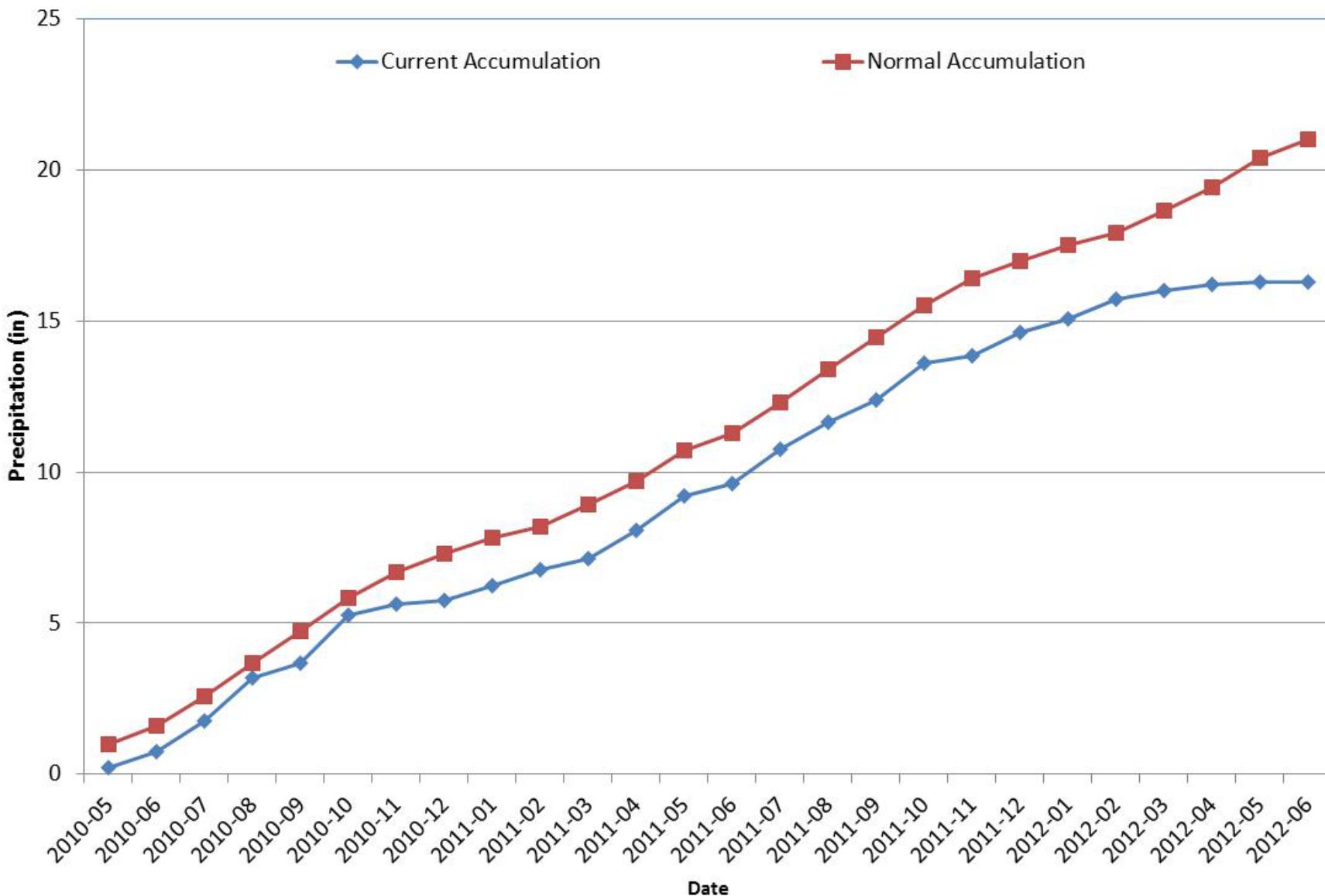
# Division 3 – Montrose

## Montrose #2 2012 Water Year



# Division 3 – Montrose

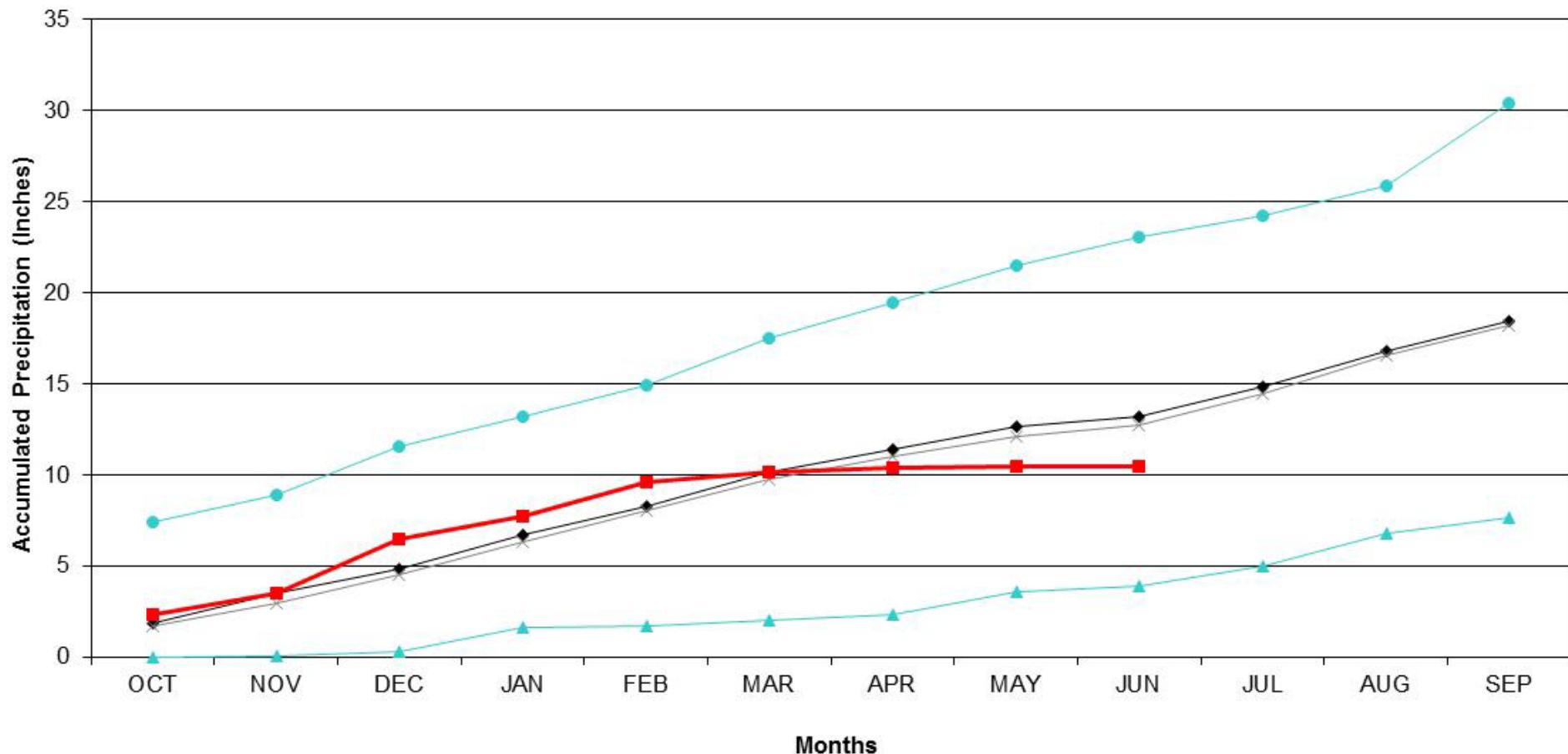
## Montrose #2 24 Month Precipitation Accumulation



# Division 3 – Mesa Verde NP

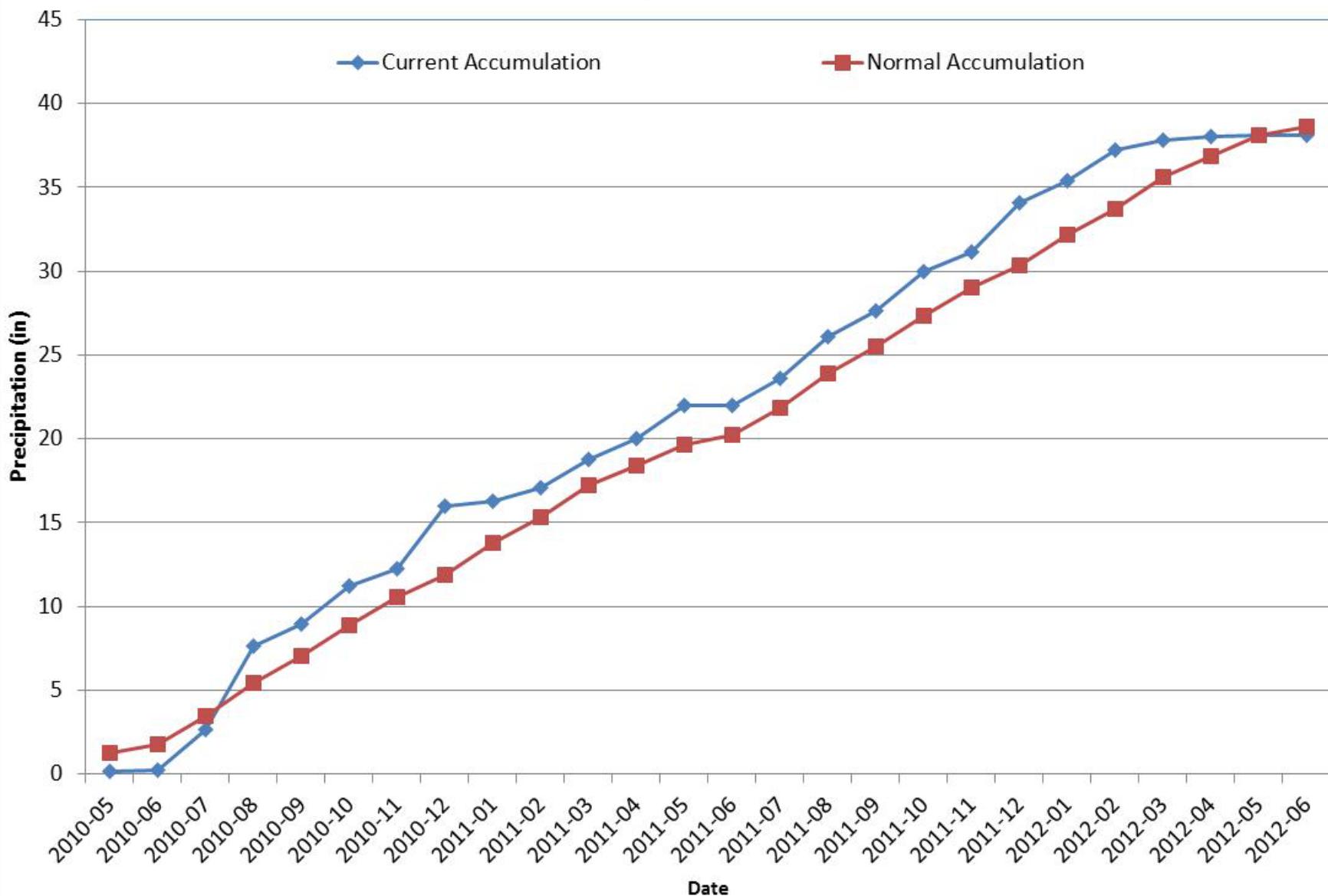
## Mesa Verde NP 2012 Water Year

● 30 Year Averages-1971-2000    ✕ Period of Record Average - 1893- 2009    — 2012 Water Year Accumulated    ● Max Precip    ▲ Min Precip



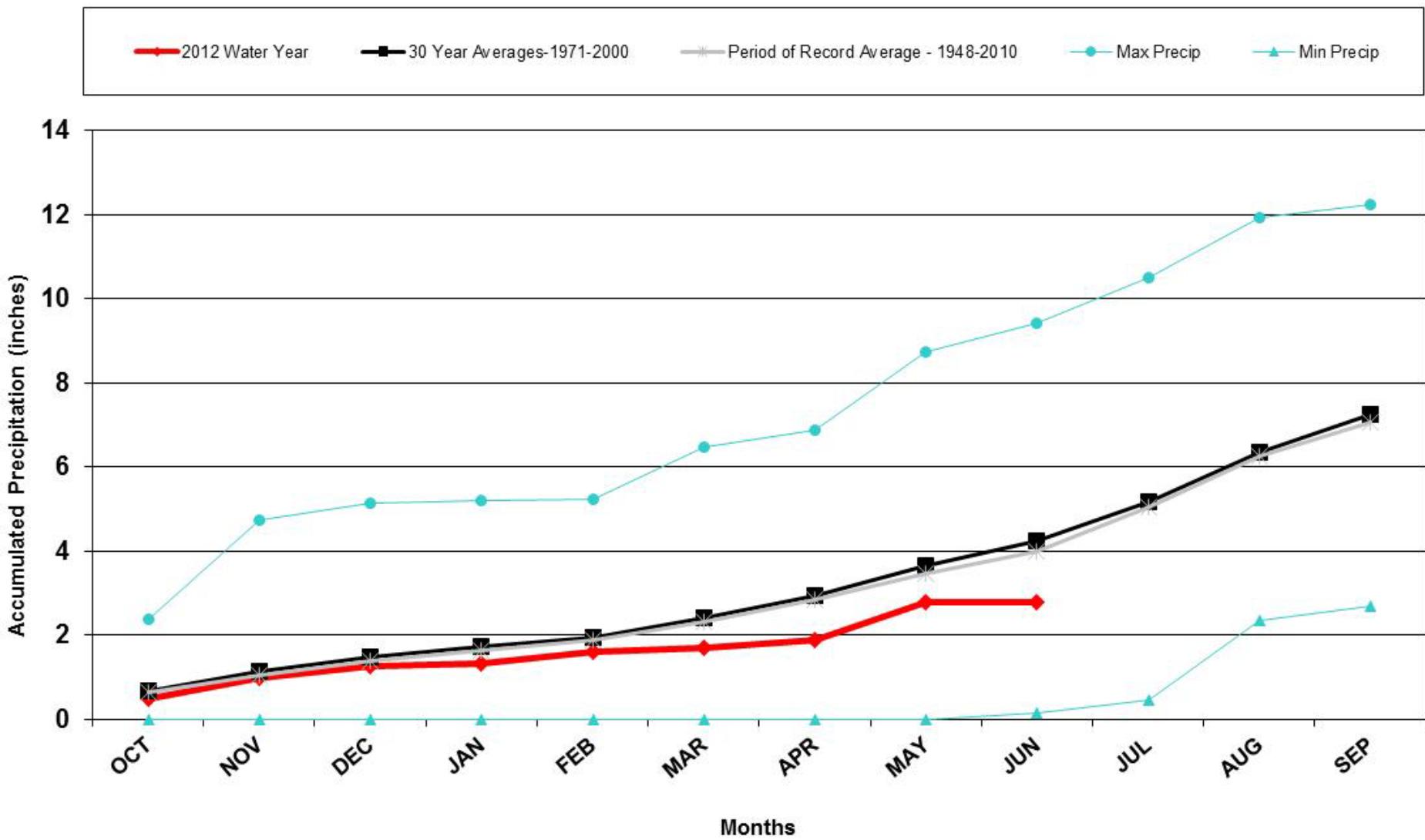
# Division 3 – Mesa Verde NP

Mesa Verde NP  
24 Month Precipitation Accumulation



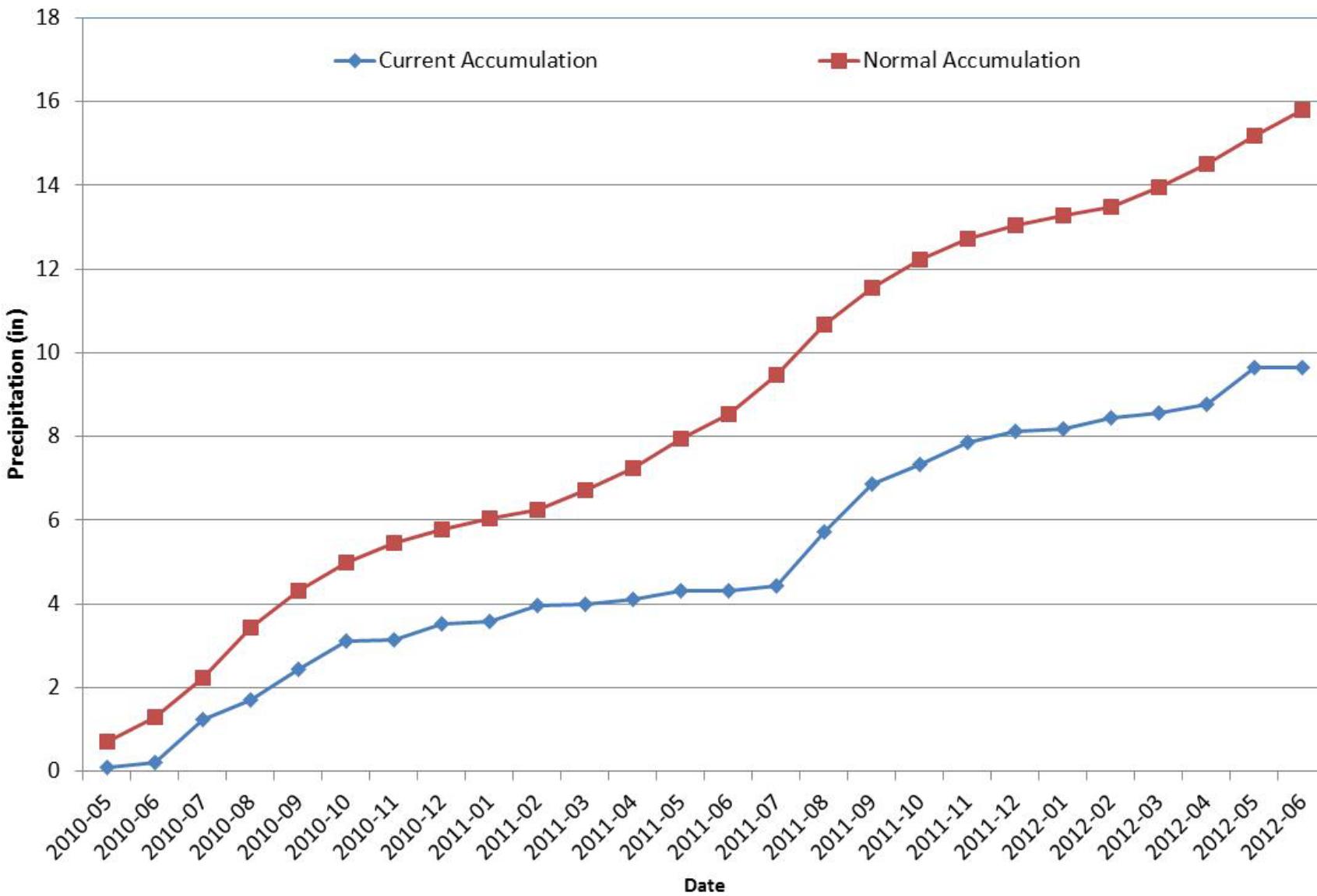
# Division 4 – Alamosa

## Alamosa WSO 2012 Water Year



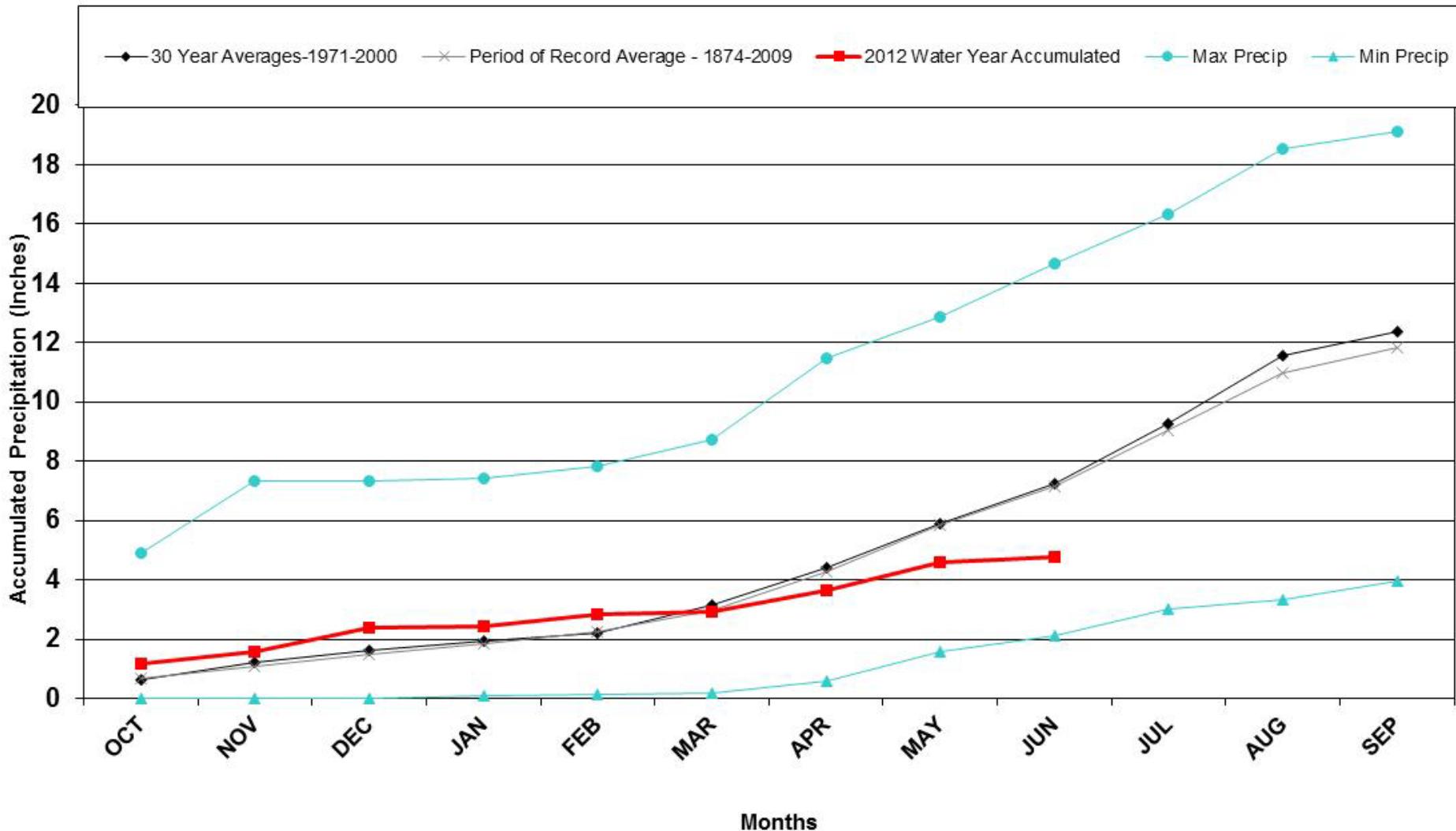
# Division 4 – Alamosa

Alamosa WSO  
24 Month Precipitation Accumulation



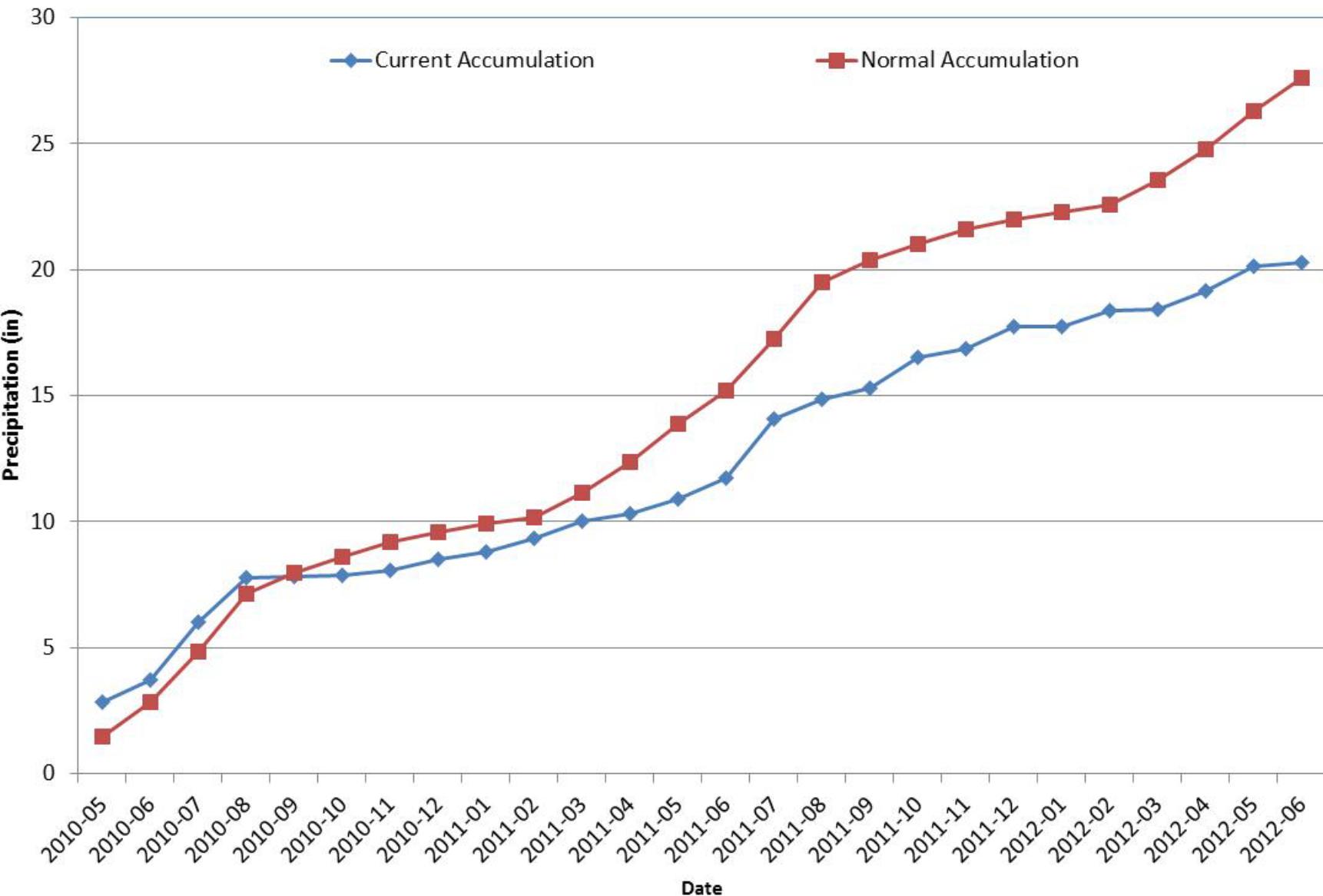
# Division 5 – Pueblo

## Pueblo WSO 2012 Water Year



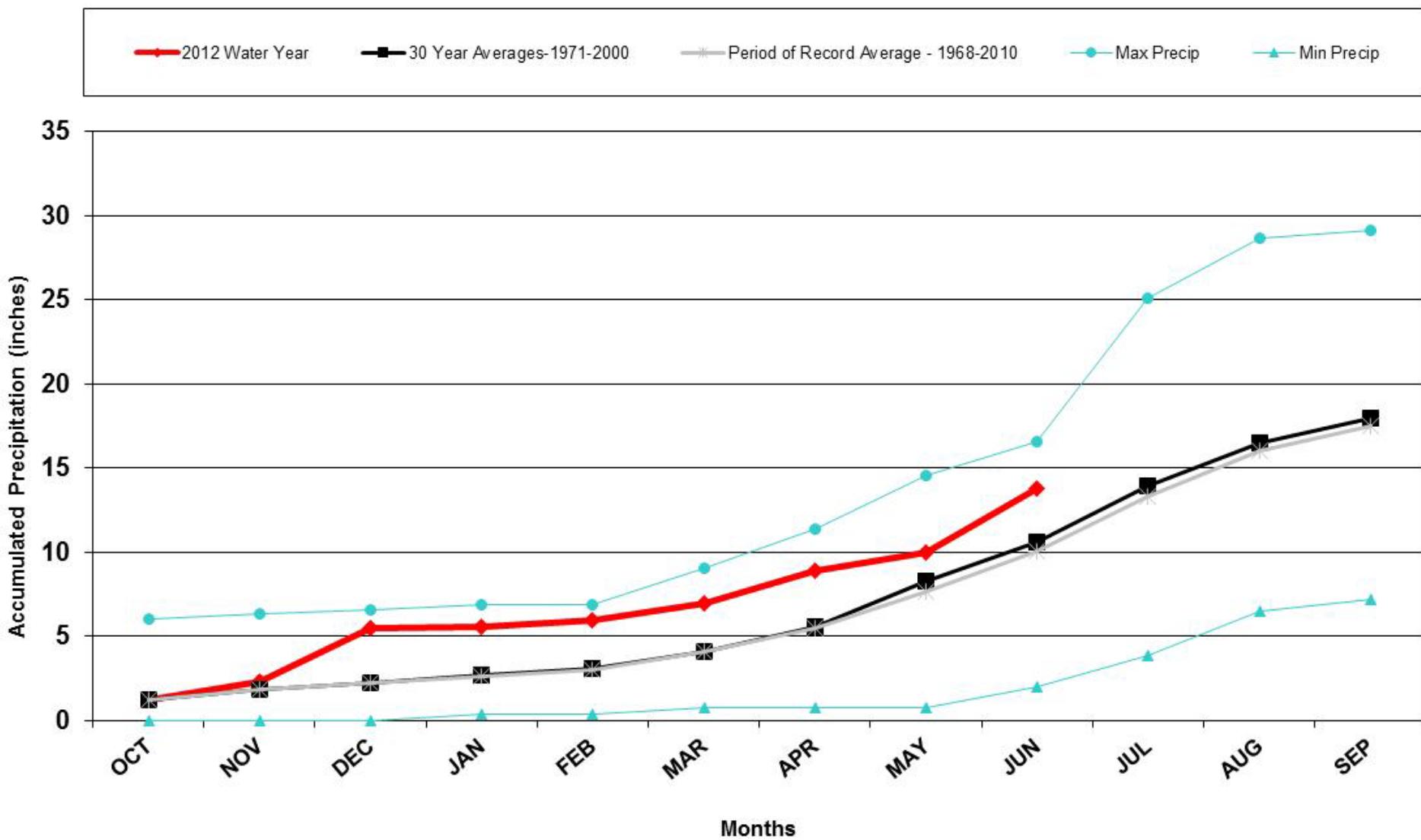
# Division 5 – Pueblo

Pueblo Memorial AP  
24 Month Precipitation Accumulation



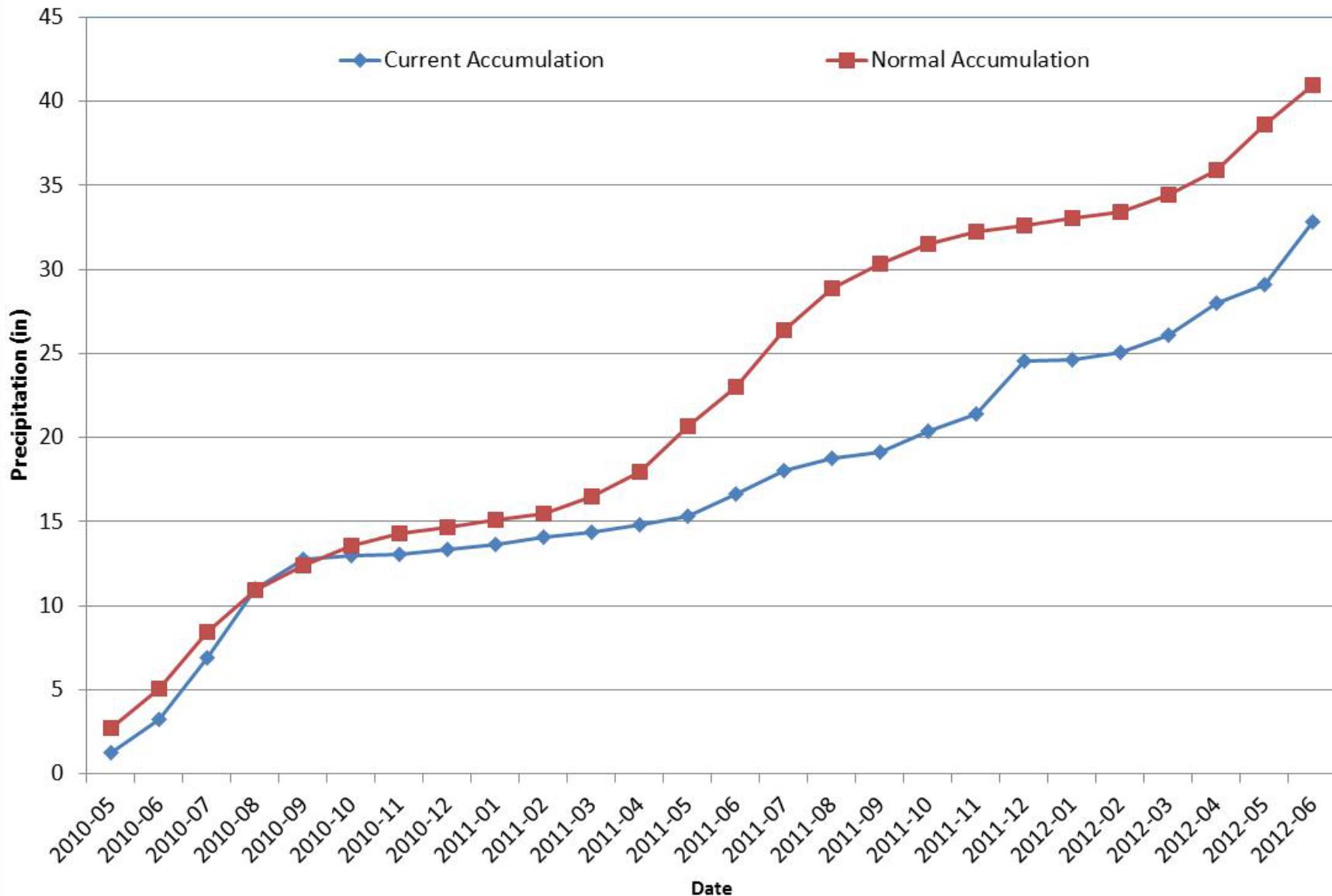
# Division 6 - Walsh

## Walsh 2012 Water Year



# Division 6 - Walsh

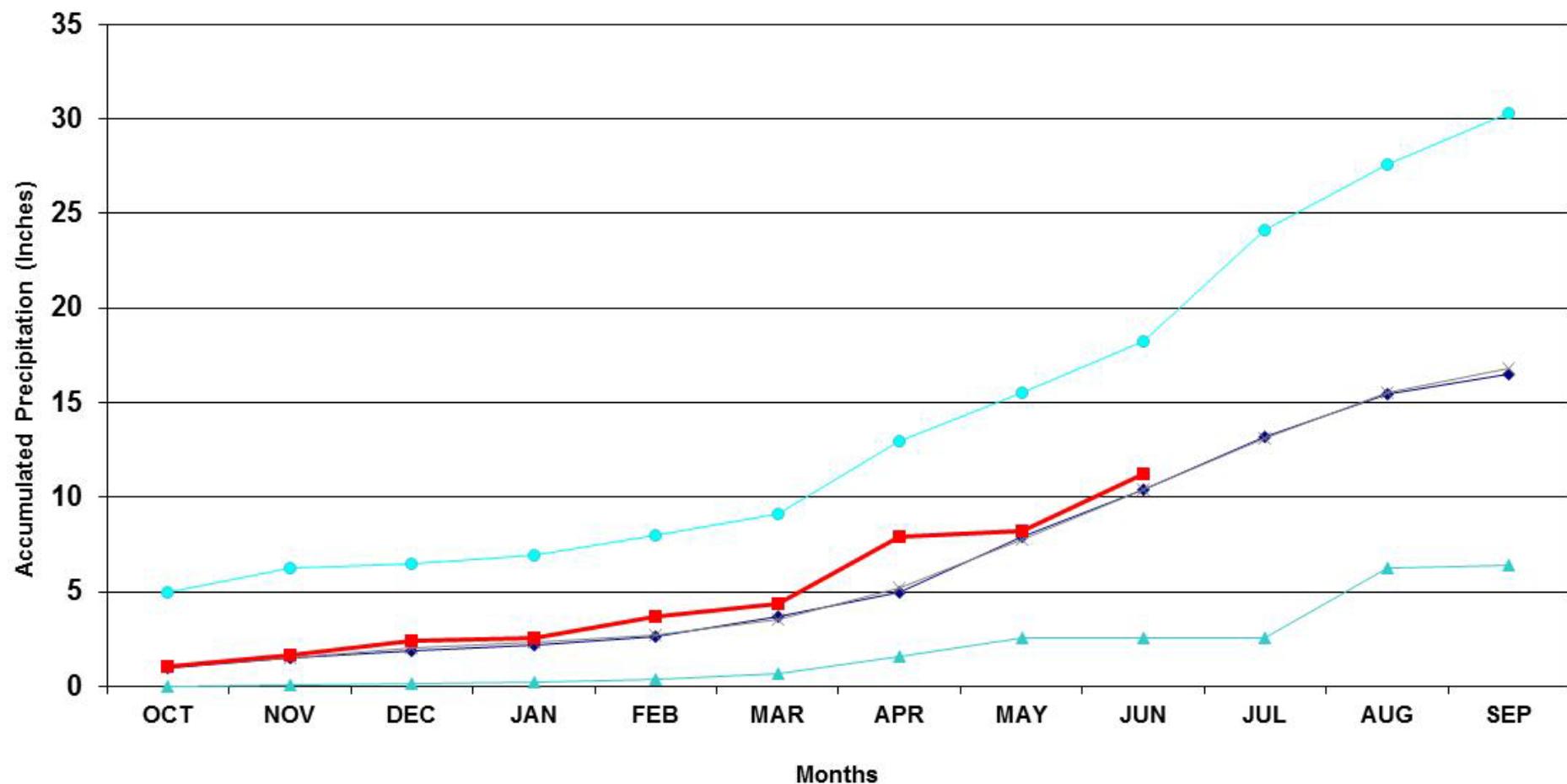
## Walsh 1W 24 Month Precipitation Accumulation



# Division 6 - Burlington

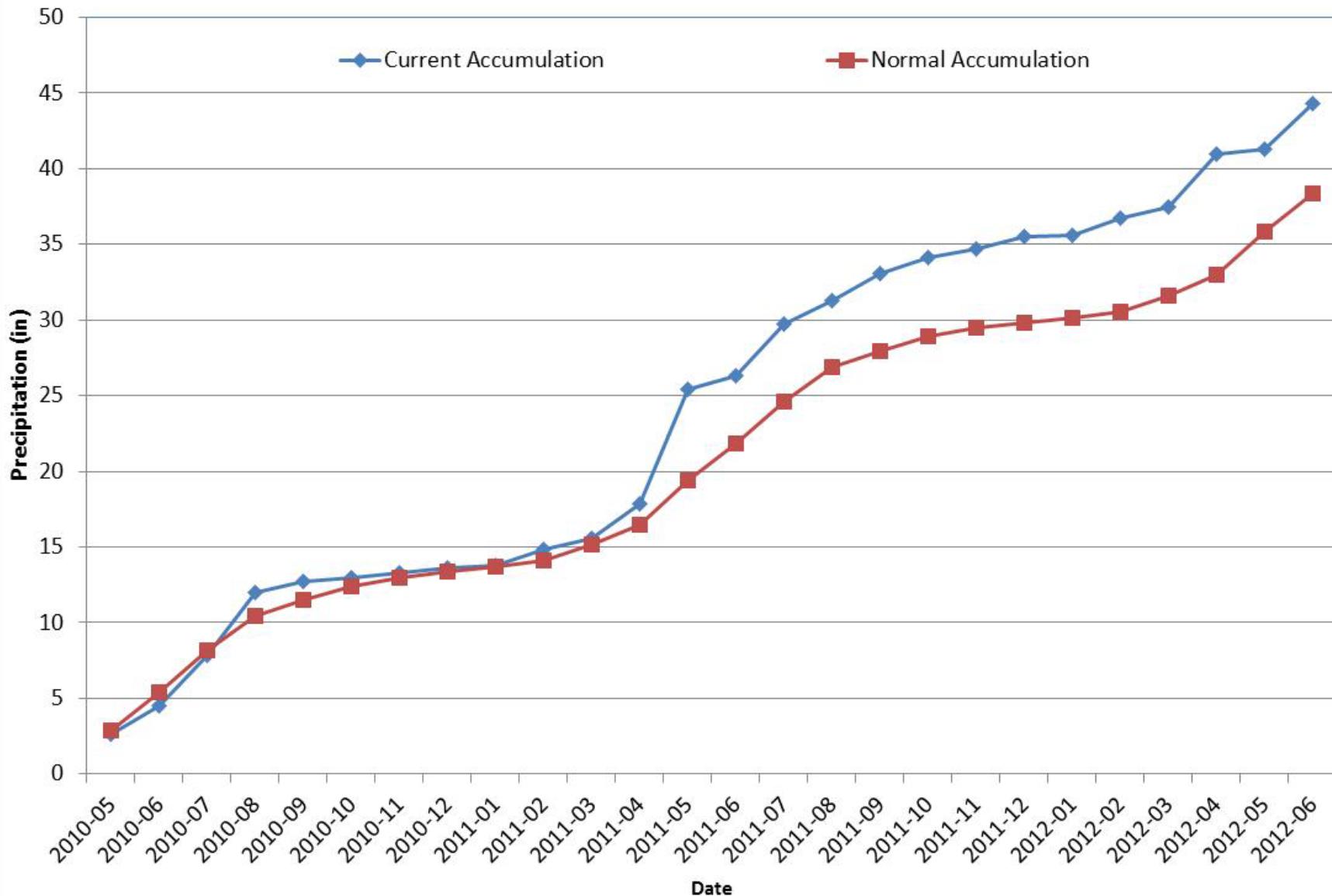
## Burlington 2012 Water Year

—●— 30 Year Averages-1971-2000      —★— Period of Record Average - 1892-2009      —■— 2012 Water Year      ●— Max Precip      ▲— Min Precip



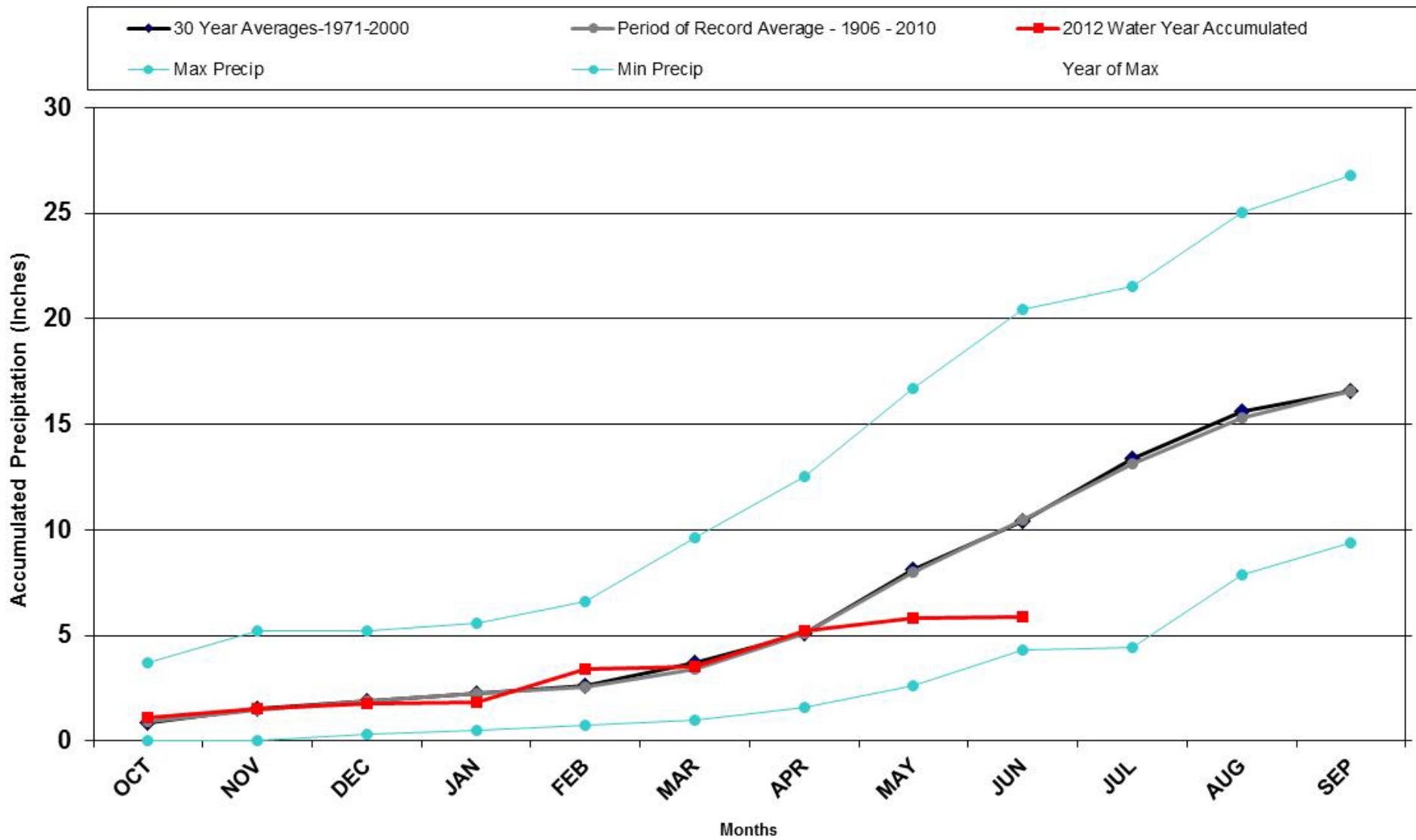
# Division 6 - Burlington

Burlington, CO  
24 Month Precipitation Accumulation



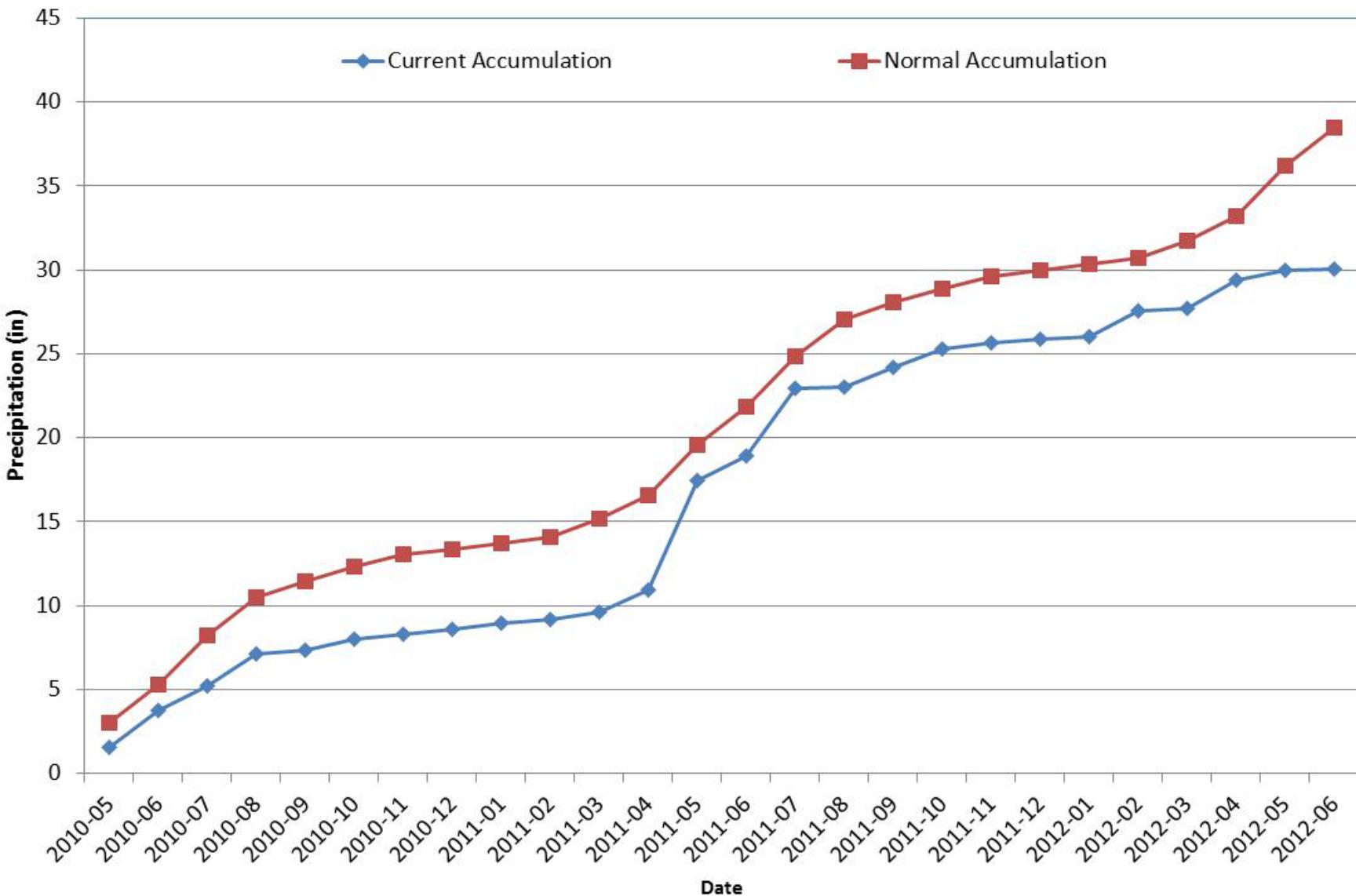
# Division 7 – Akron

## Akron 4E 2012 Water Year



# Division 7 – Akron

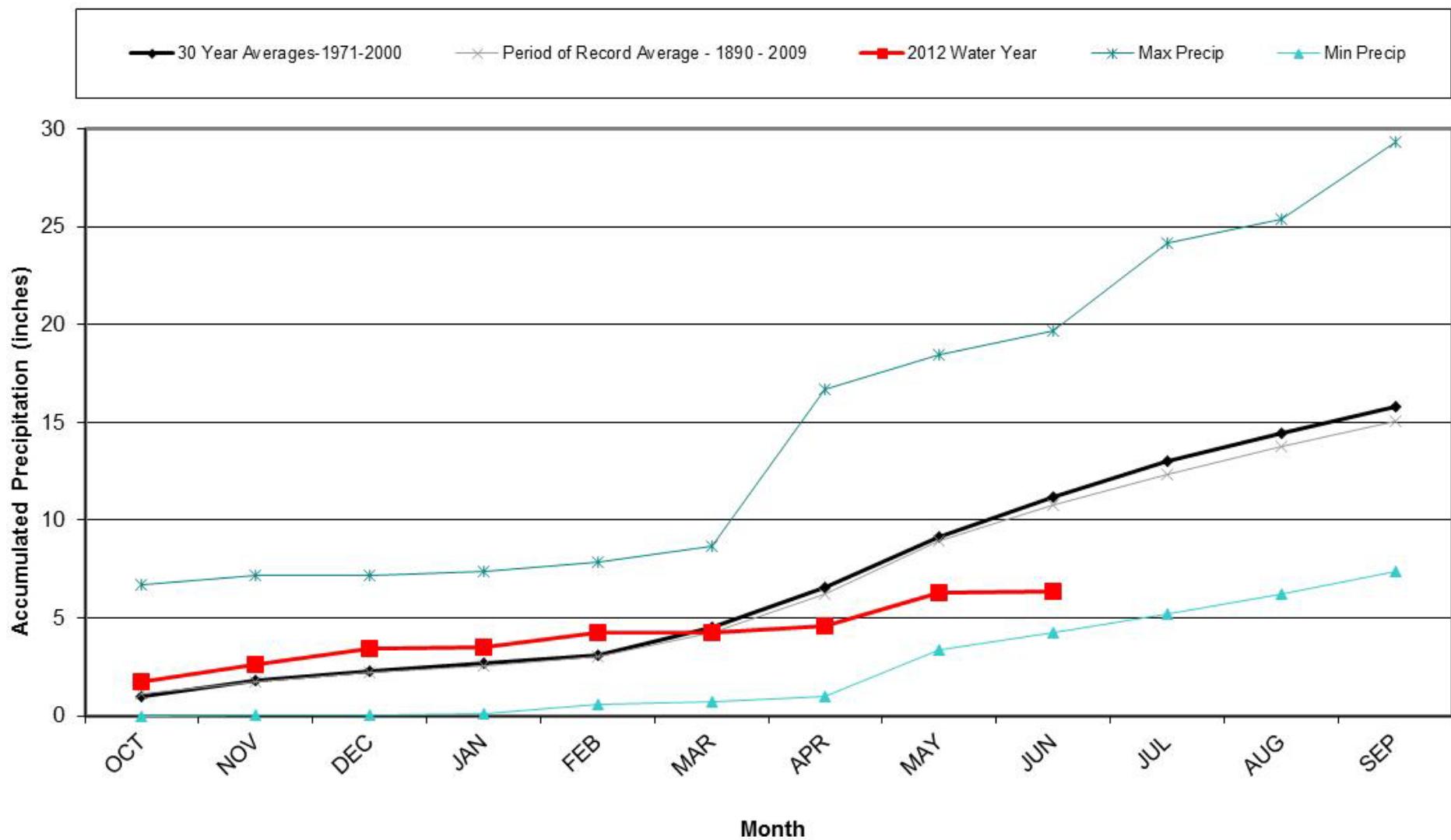
## Akron 4E 24 Month Precipitation Accumulation



# Division 8 – Fort Collins

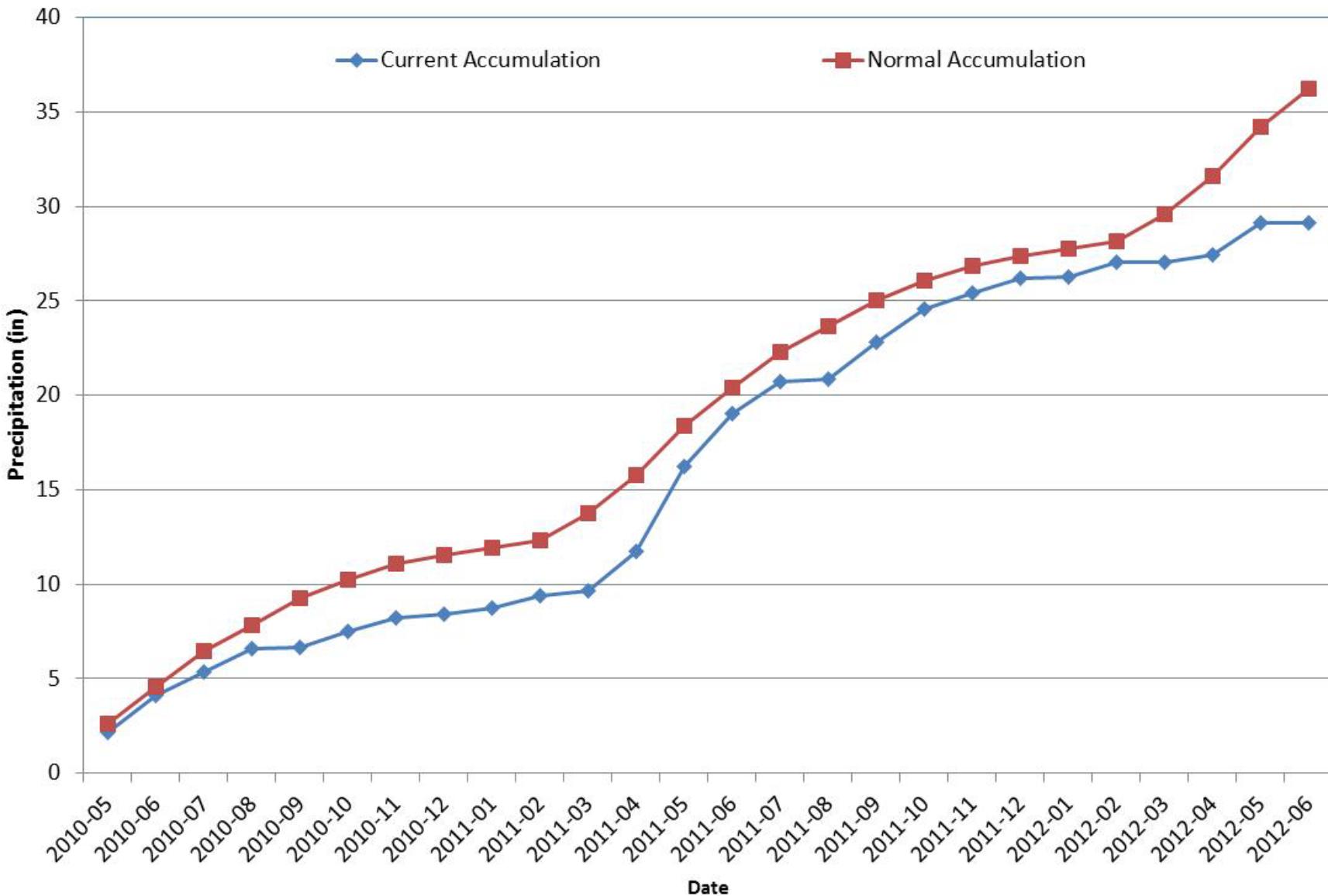
## Fort Collins

### 2012 Water Year



# Division 8 – Fort Collins

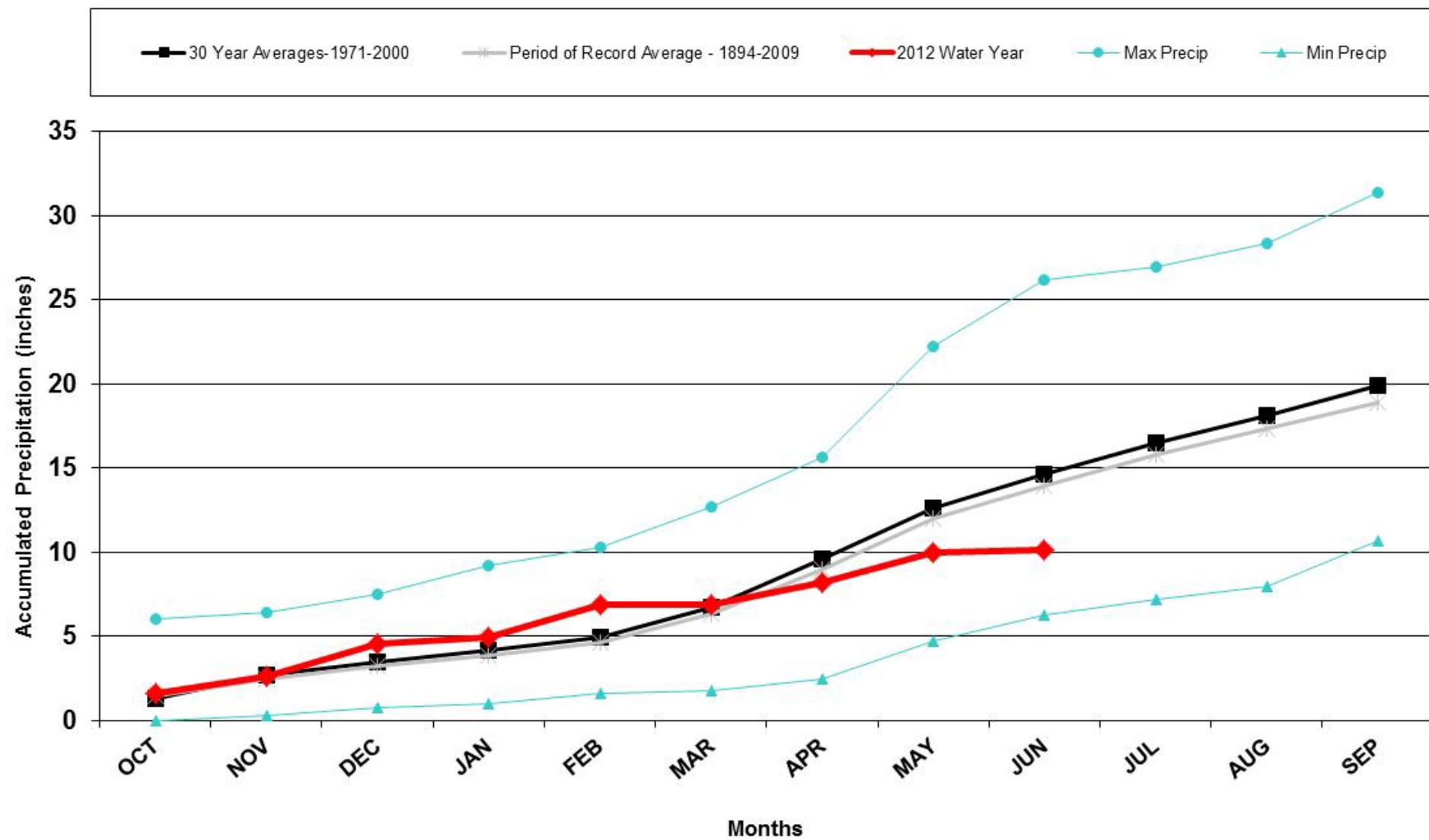
**Fort Collins**  
**24 Month Precipitation Accumulation**



# Division 8 - Boulder

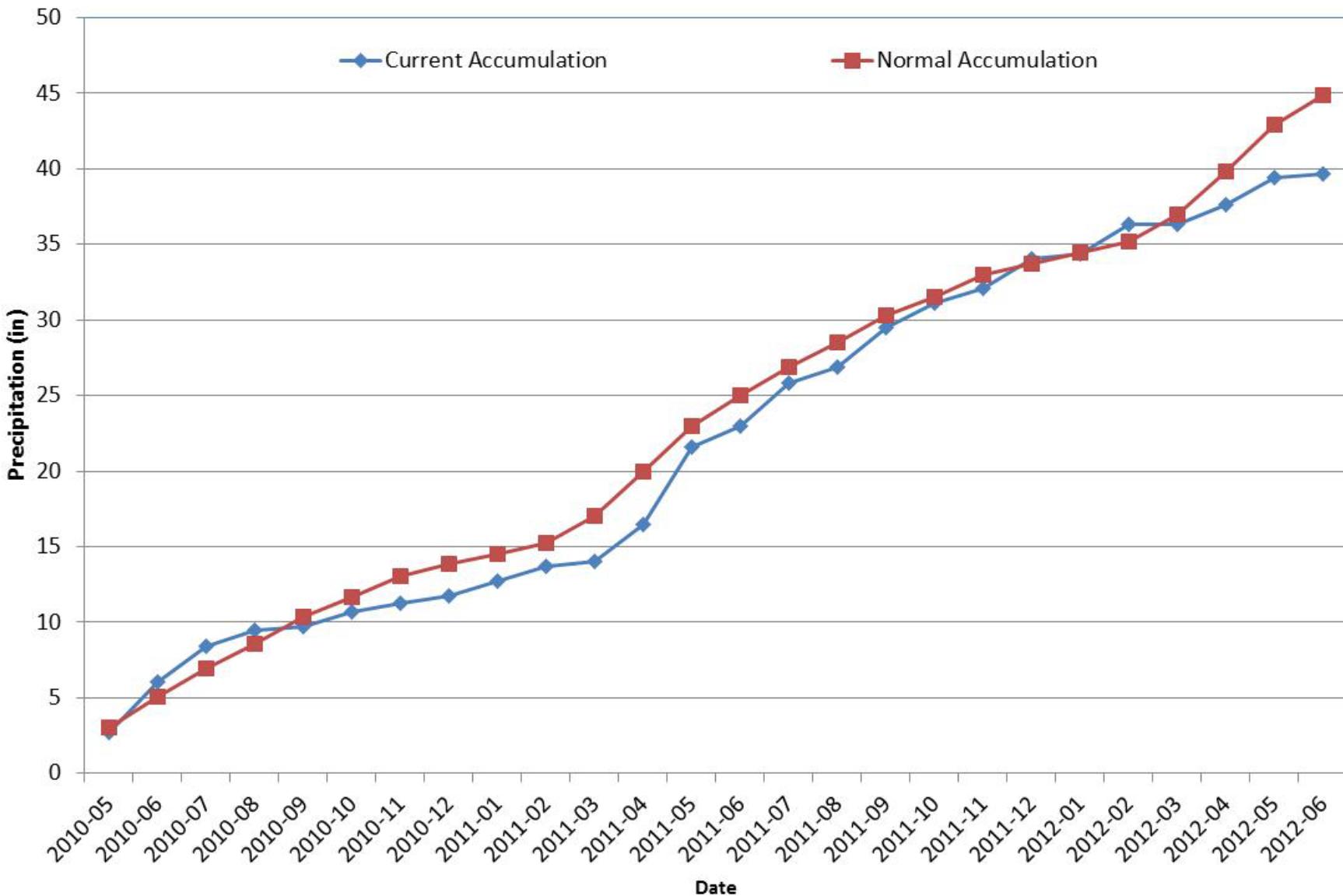
## Boulder

### 2012 Water Year



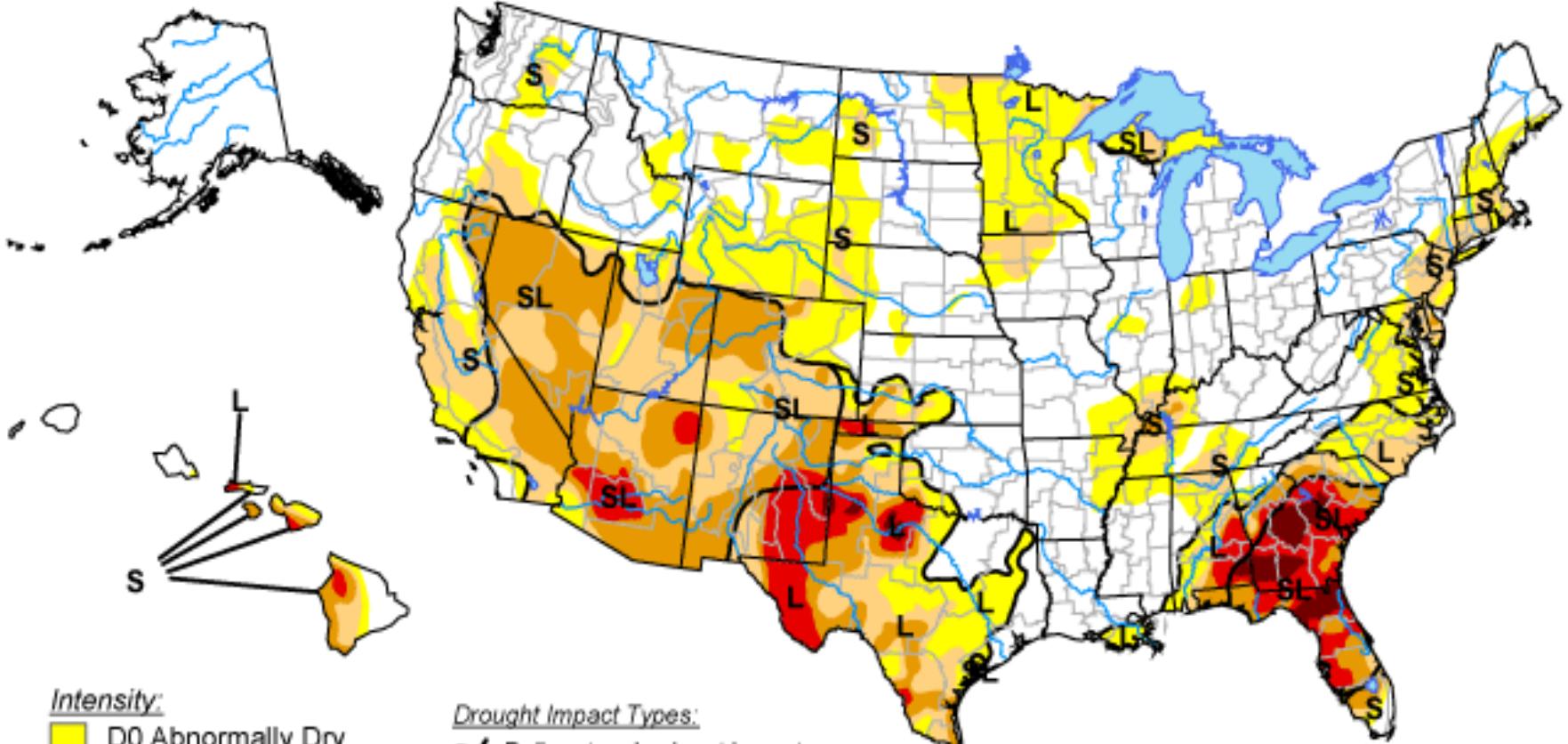
# Division 8 - Boulder

## Boulder 24 Month Precipitation Accumulation



# U.S. Drought Monitor

May 15, 2012  
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



Intensity:

- [Yellow square] D0 Abnormally Dry
- [Orange square] D1 Drought - Moderate
- [Brown square] D2 Drought - Severe
- [Red square] D3 Drought - Extreme
- [Dark Red square] D4 Drought - Exceptional

Drought Impact Types:

- [Wavy line symbol] Delineates dominant impacts
- [S symbol] S = Short-Term, typically <6 months  
(e.g. agriculture, grasslands)
- [L symbol] L = Long-Term, typically >6 months  
(e.g. hydrology, ecology)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.  
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary  
for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

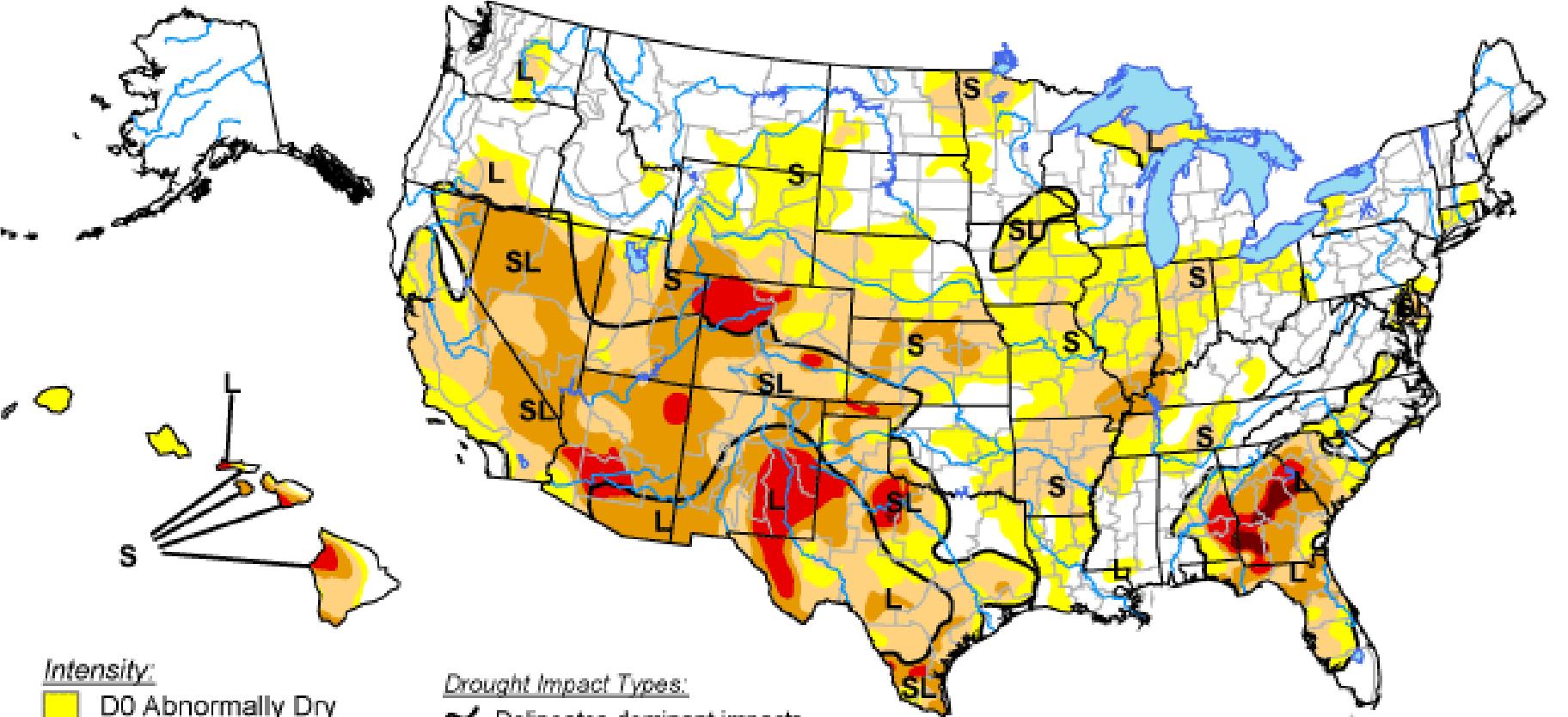


Released Thursday, May 17, 2012

Author: Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

# U.S. Drought Monitor

June 12, 2012  
Valid 7 a.m. EDT



## Intensity:

- [Yellow square] D0 Abnormally Dry
- [Light Orange square] D1 Drought - Moderate
- [Medium Orange square] D2 Drought - Severe
- [Red square] D3 Drought - Extreme
- [Dark Red square] D4 Drought - Exceptional

## Drought Impact Types:

- [Curved line symbol] L = Long-Term, typically >6 months (e.g. hydrology, ecology)
- [Square symbol] S = Short-Term, typically <6 months (e.g. agriculture, grasslands)

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions.  
Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary  
for forecast statements.

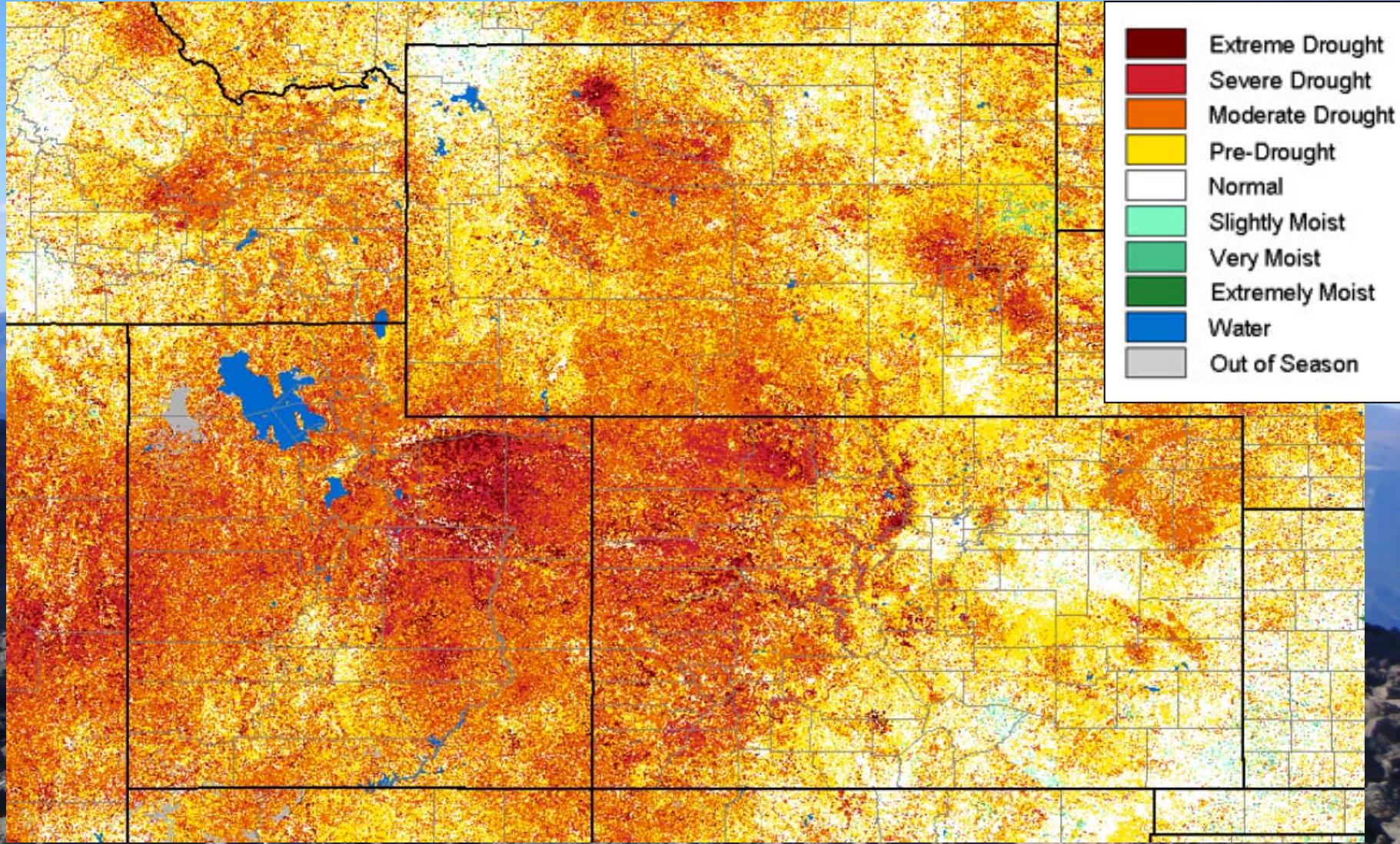
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



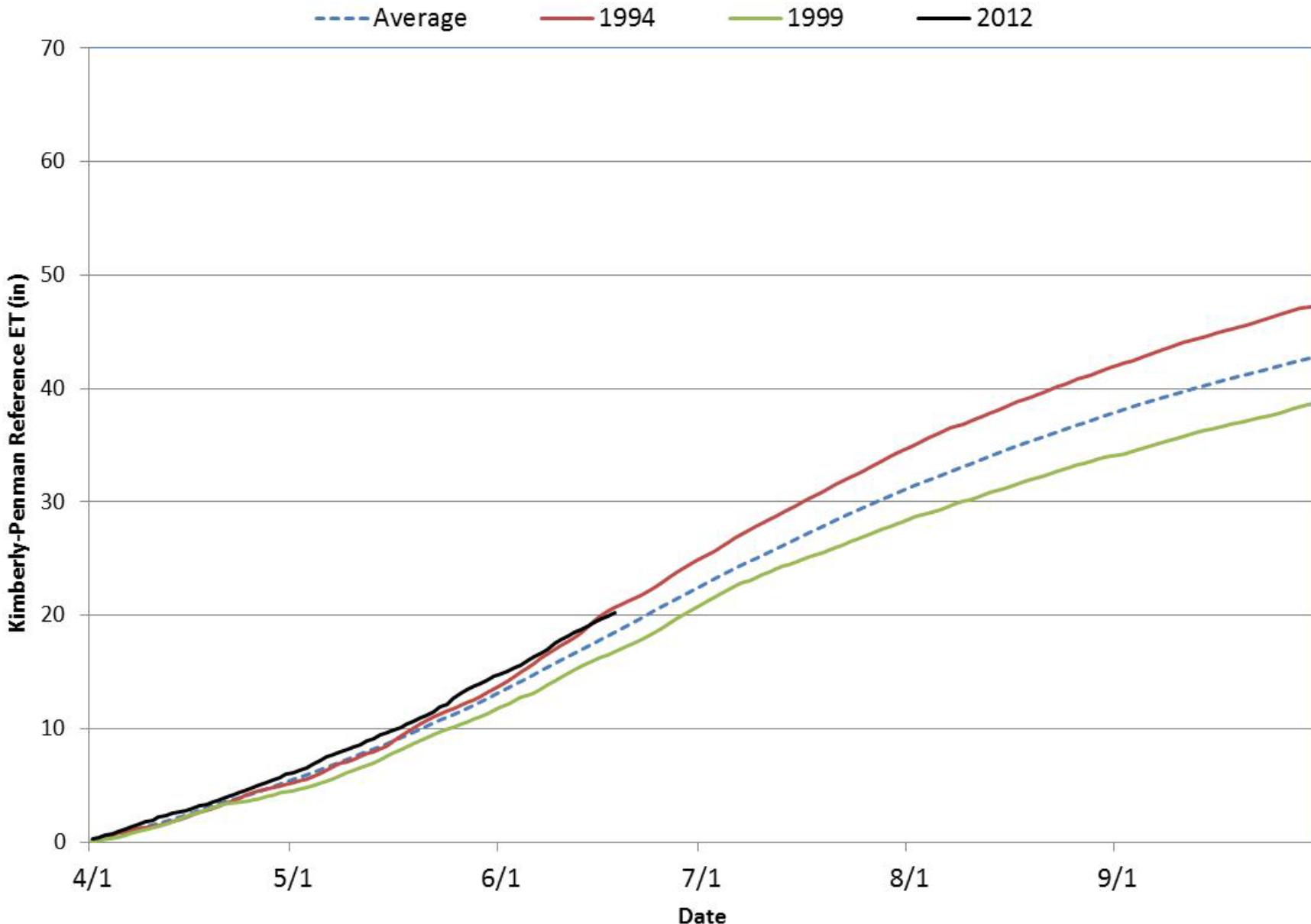
Released Thursday, June 14, 2012  
Author: David Miskus, NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC

# eMODIS VegDRI Vegetation

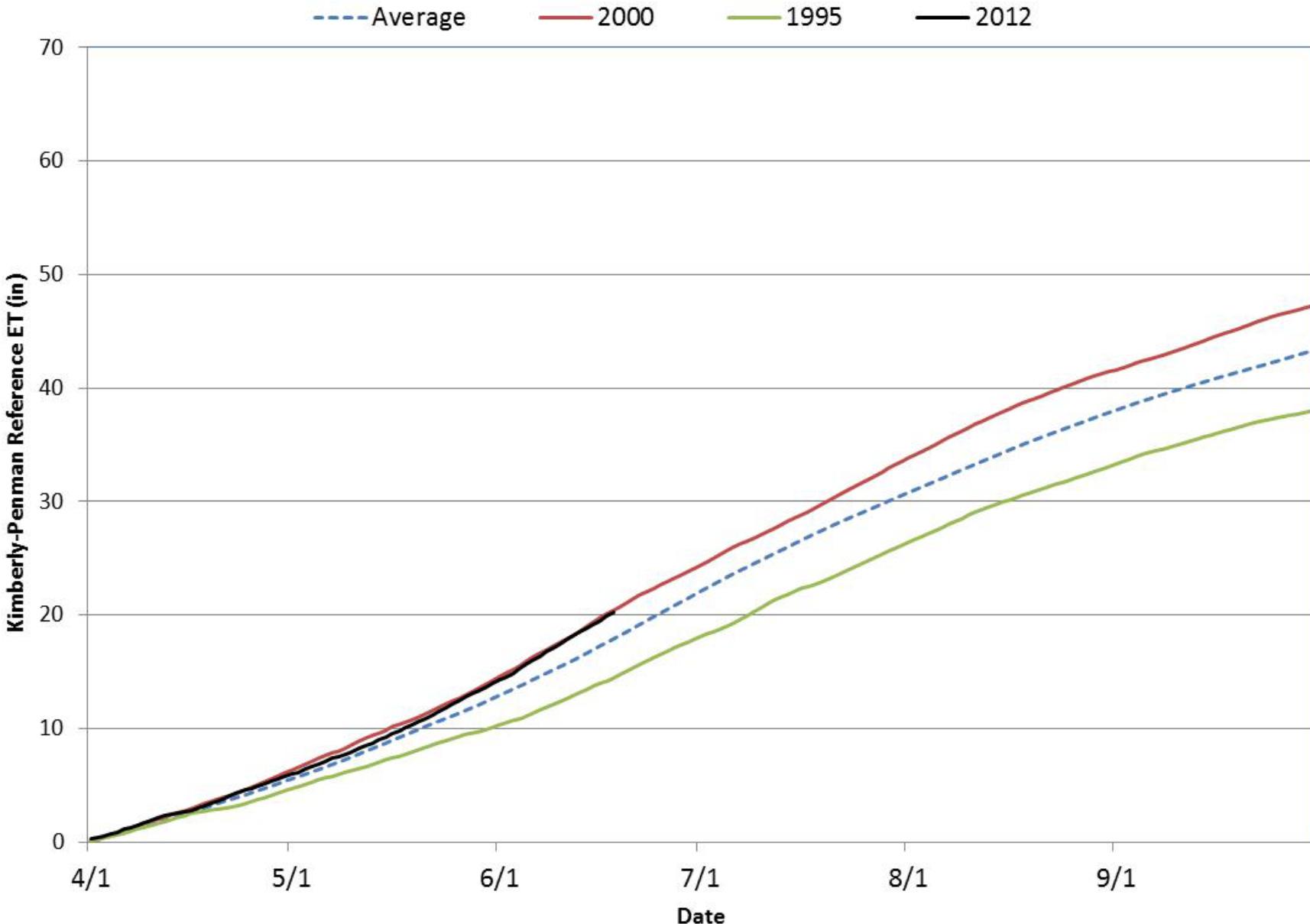
## 17 June 2012



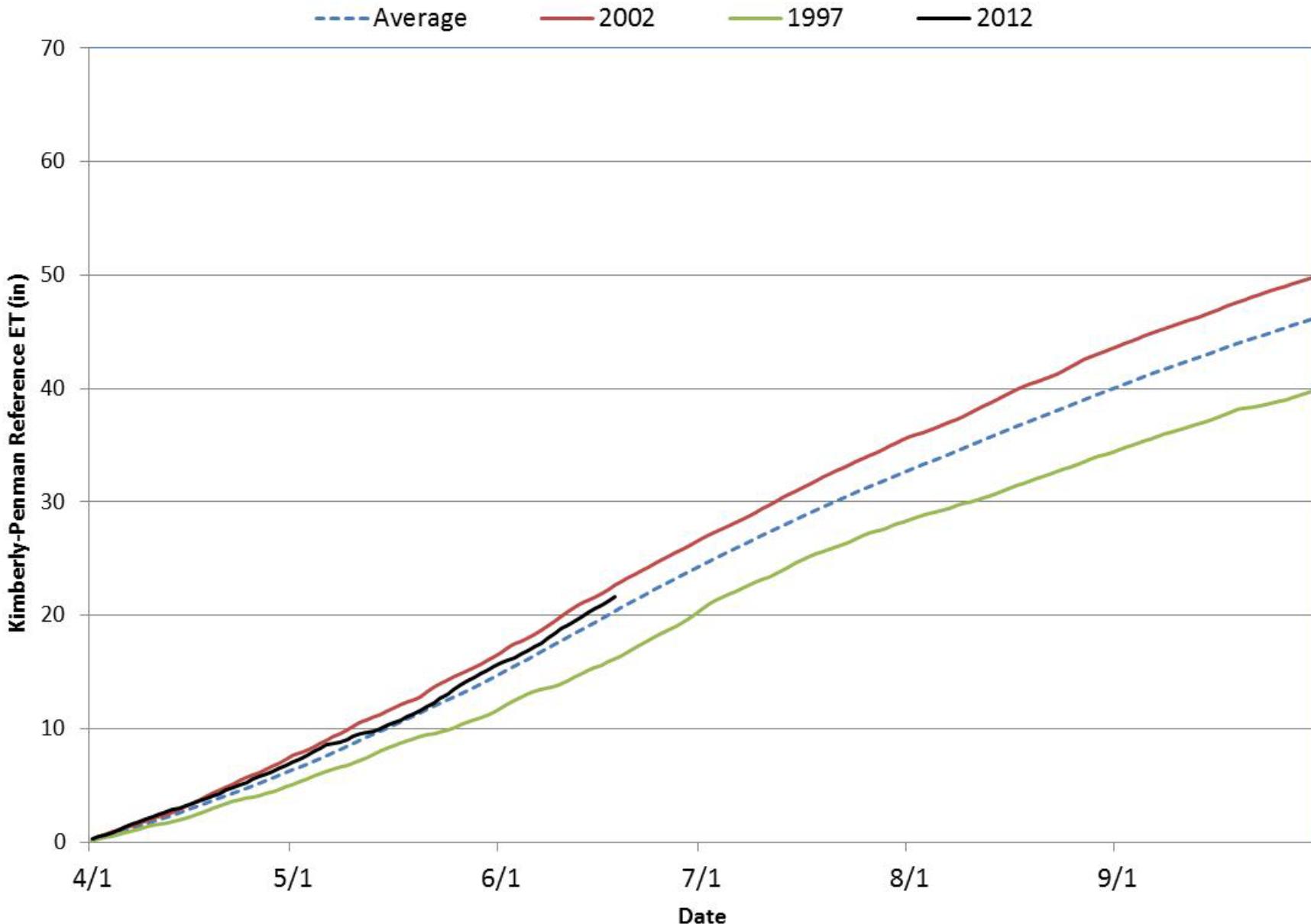
## Olathe Kimberly-Penman Reference ET (1993 - 2012)



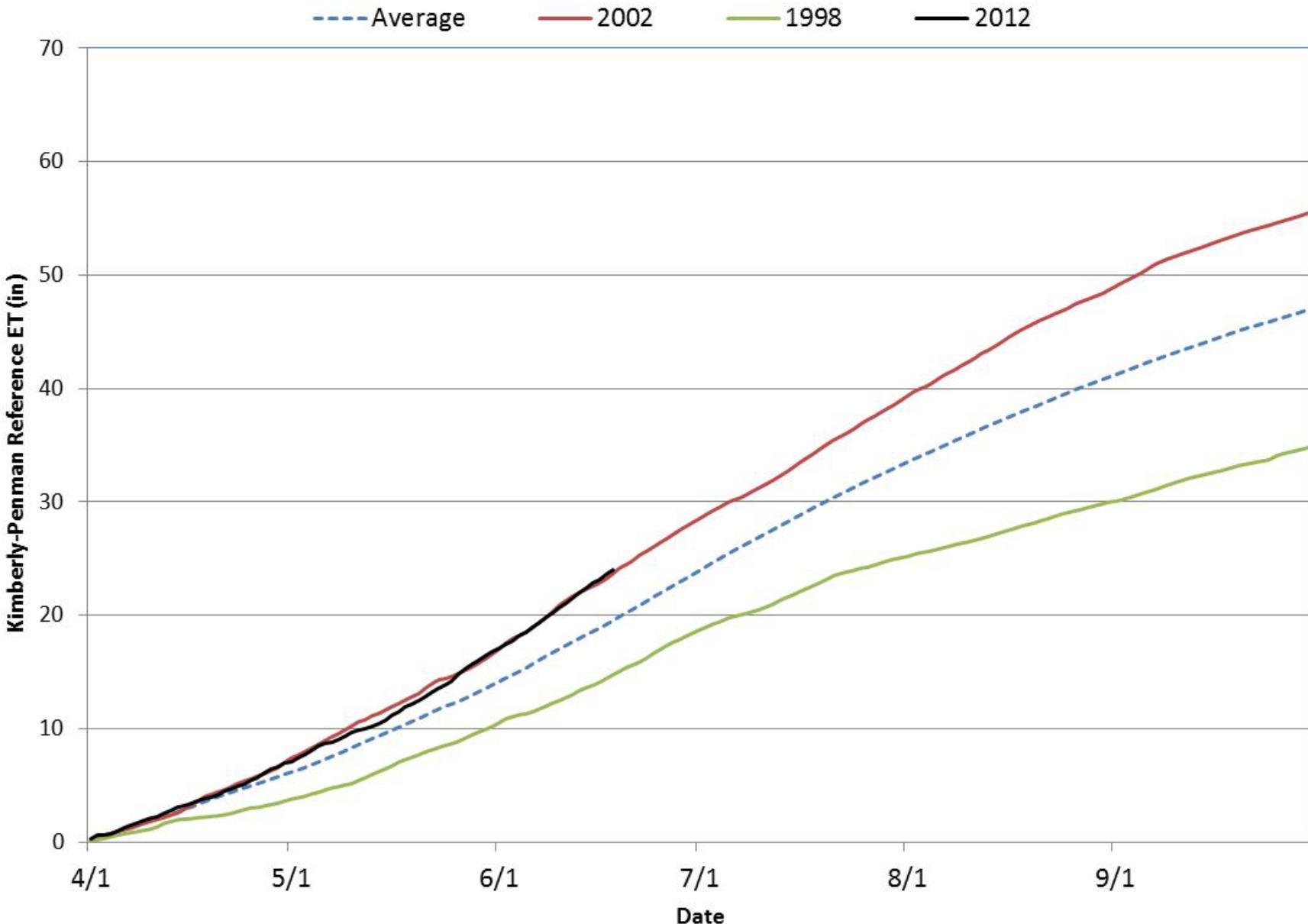
## Cortez Kimberly-Penman Reference ET (1992 - 2012)



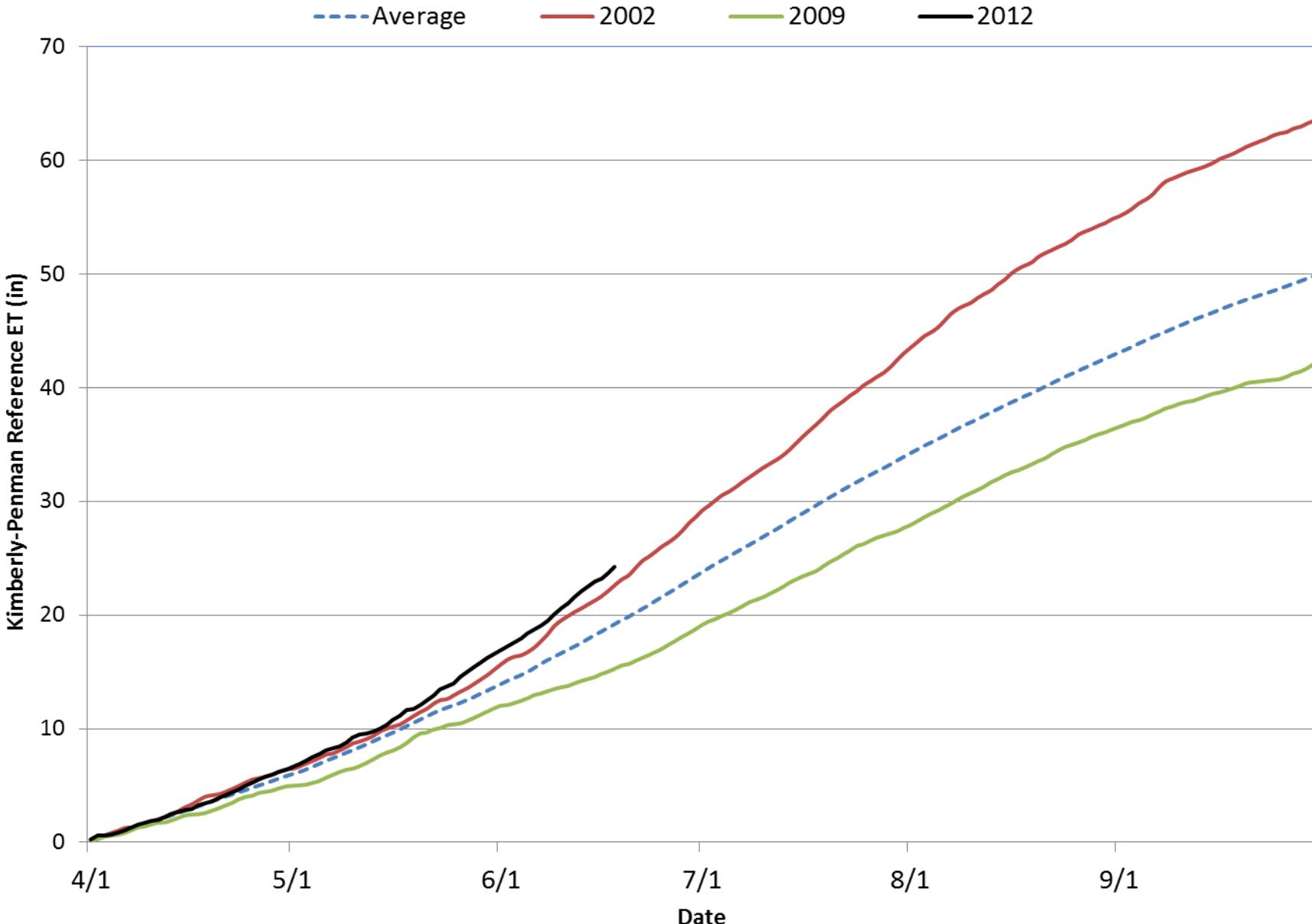
## Center Kimberly-Penman Reference ET (1994 - 2012)



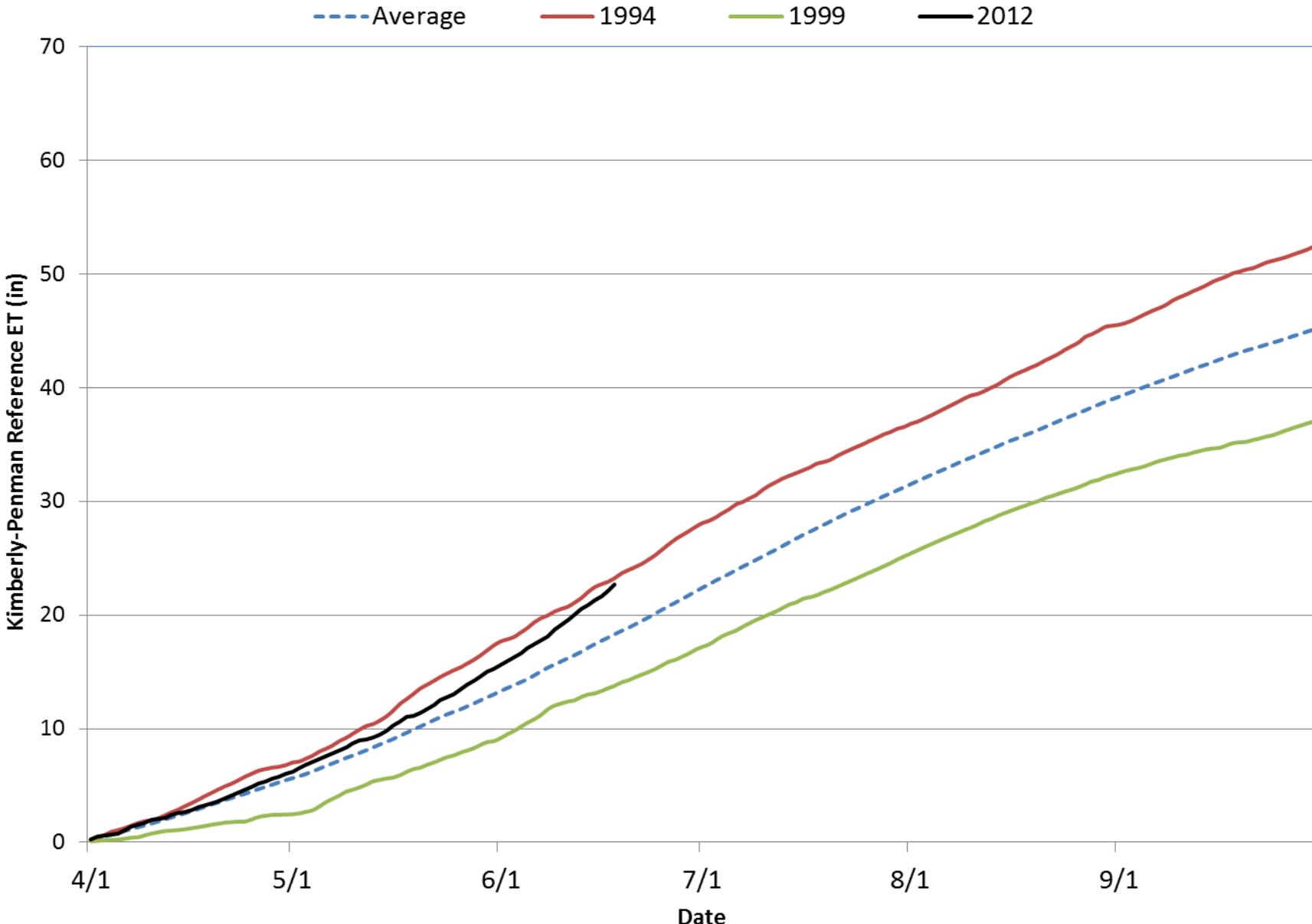
## Avondale Kimberly-Penman Reference ET (1993 - 2012)



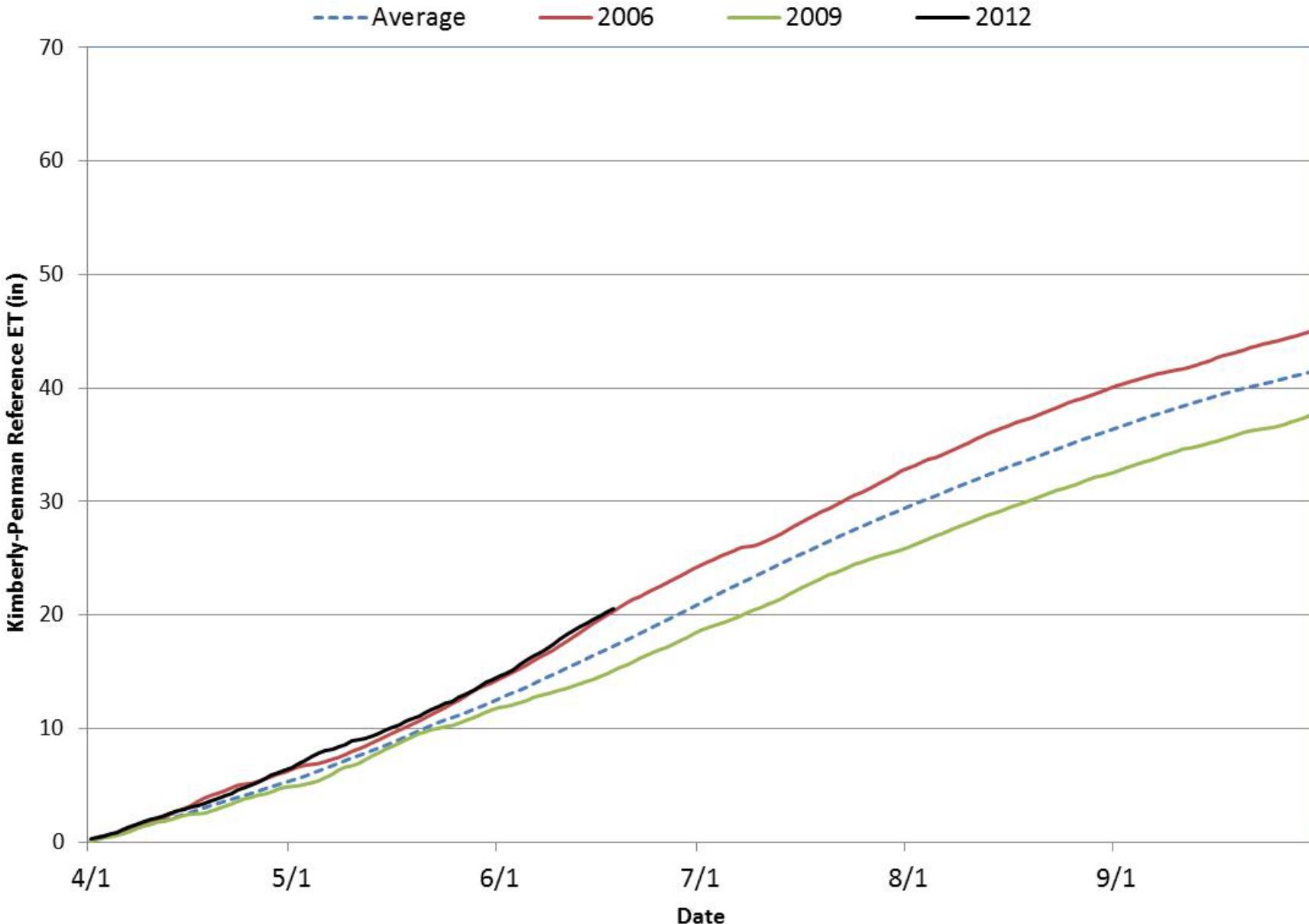
## Idalia Kimberly-Penman Reference ET (1992 - 2012)



## Holyoke Kimberly-Penman Reference ET (1992 - 2012)

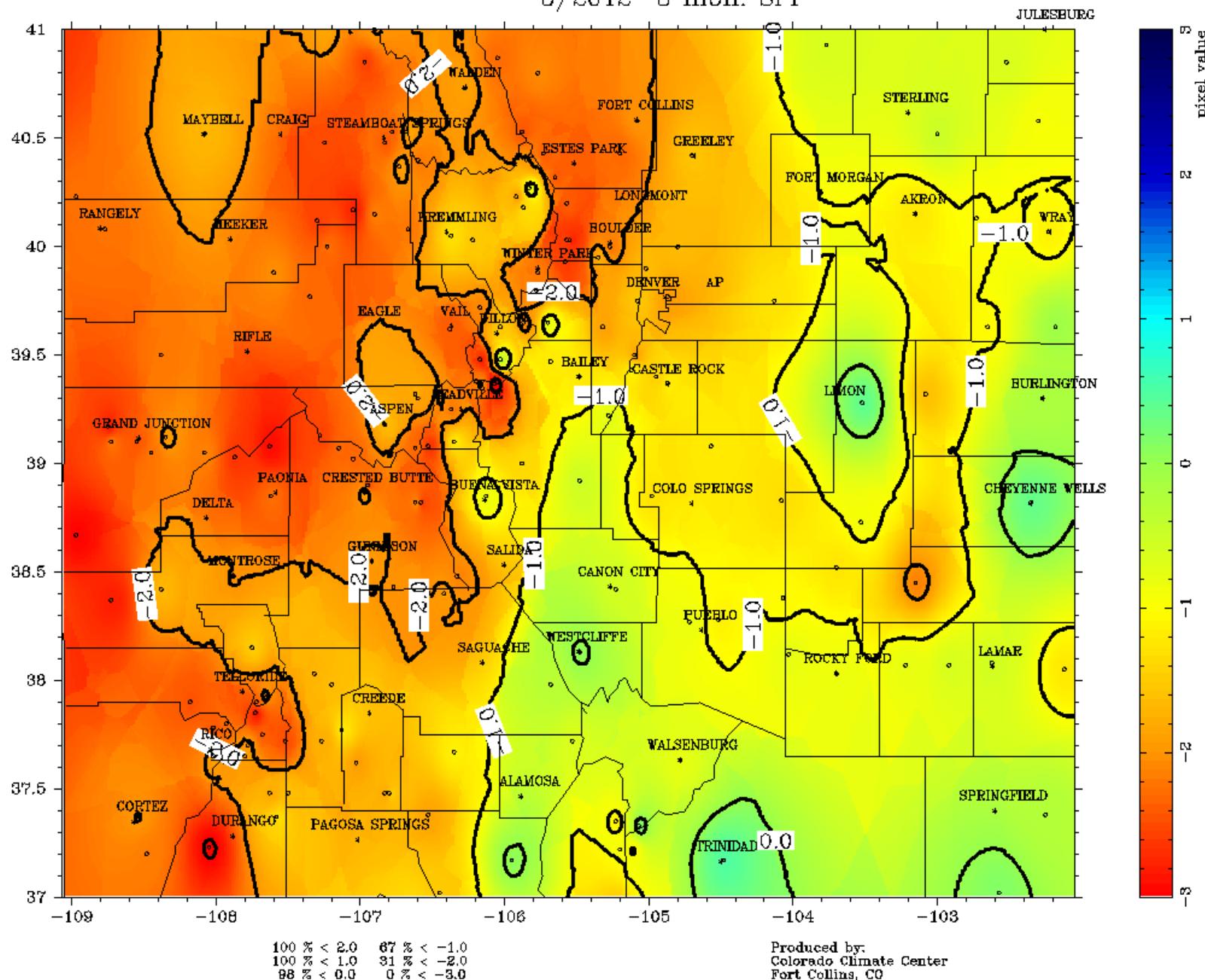


## Lucerne Kimberly-Penman Reference ET (1992 - 2012)



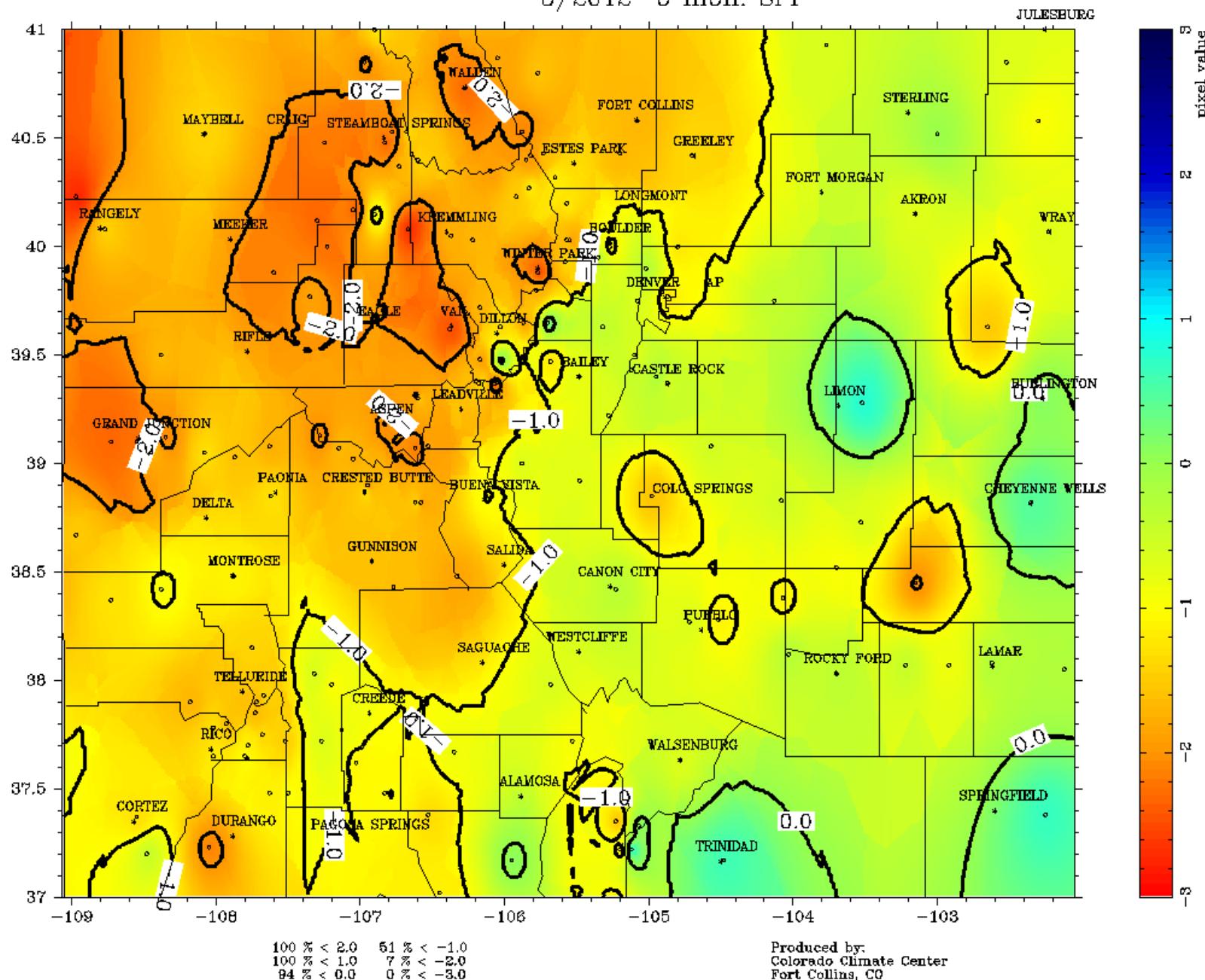
# Colorado

5/2012 3 mon. SPI



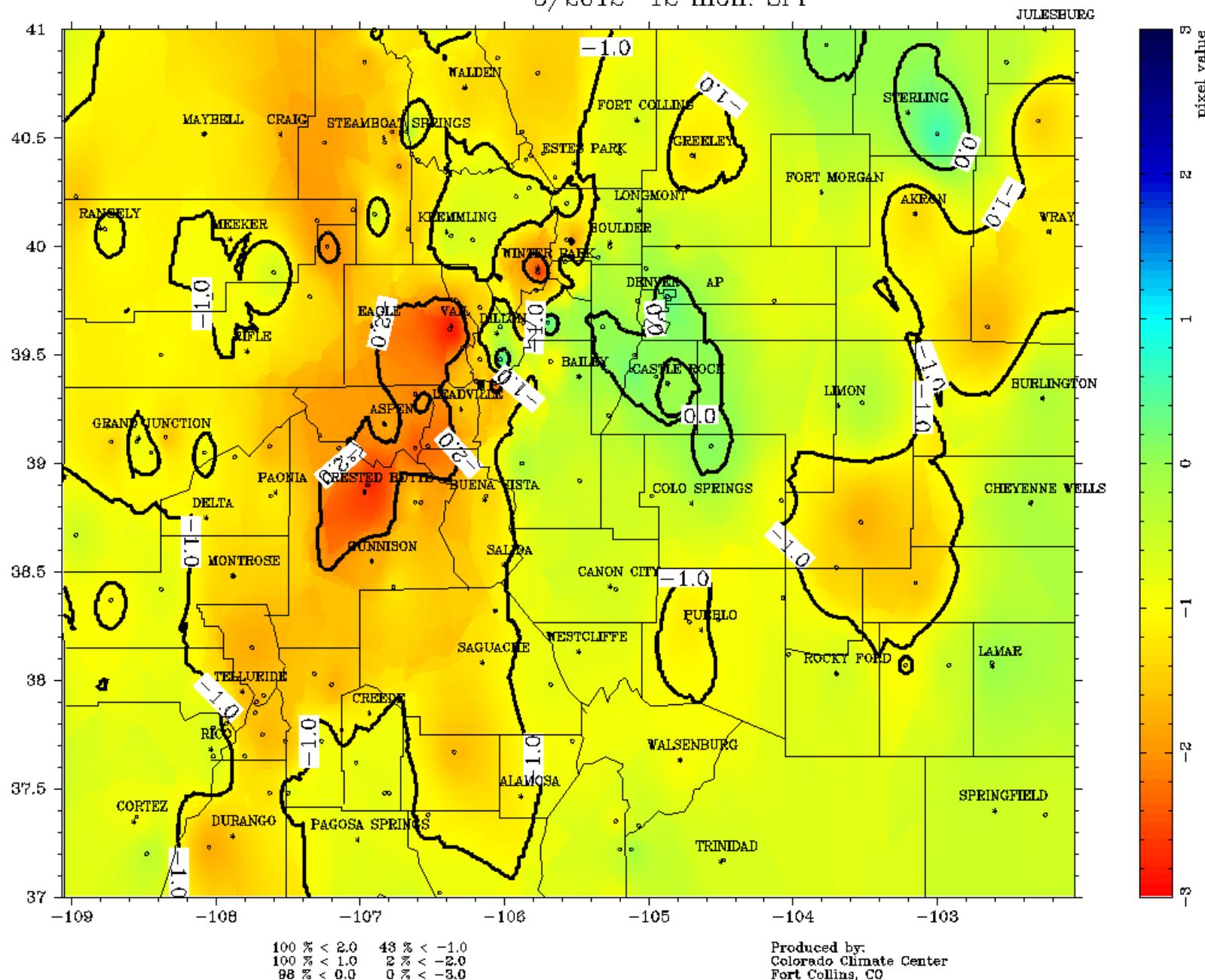
# Colorado

5/2012 6 mon. SPI

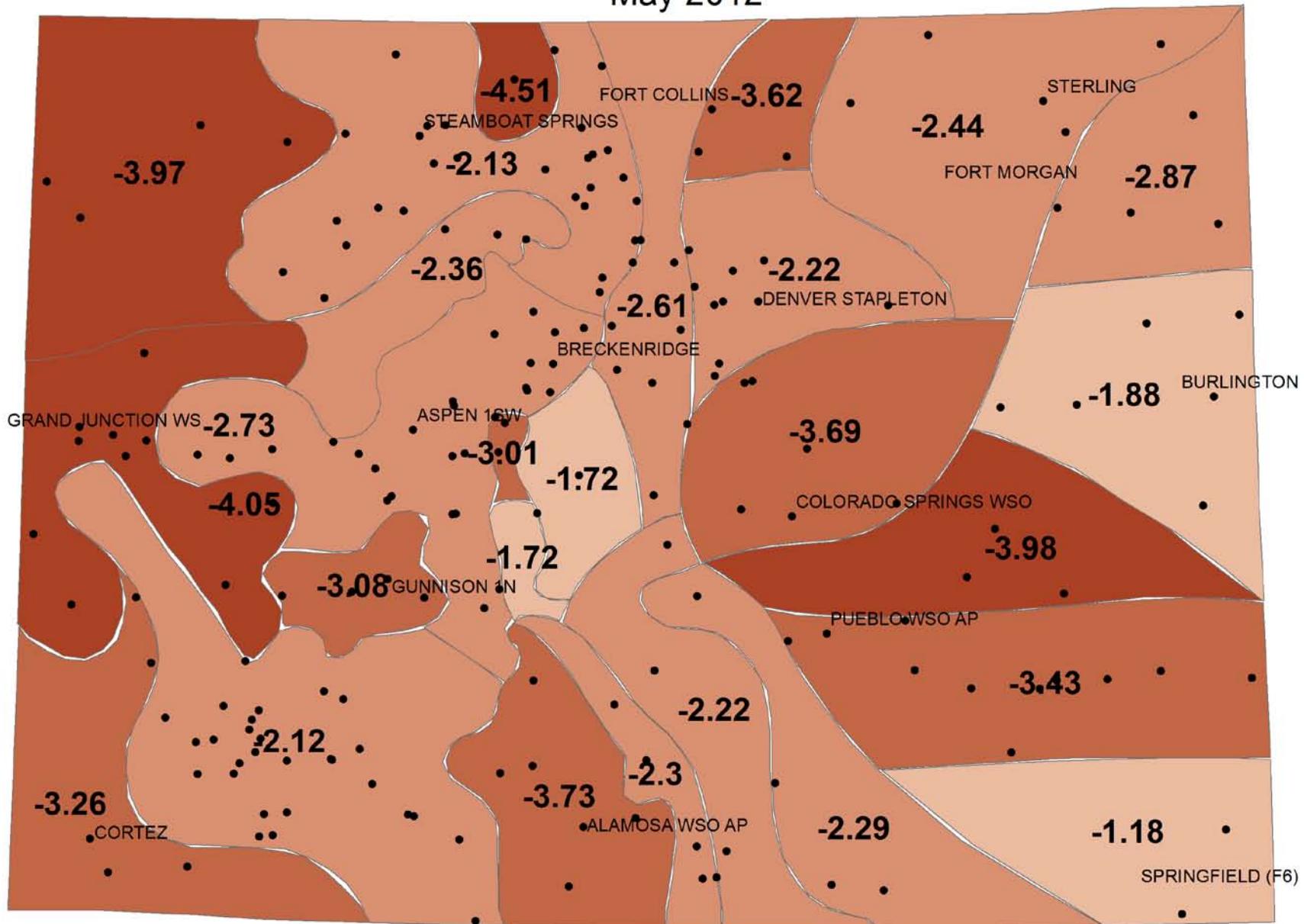


# Colorado

5/2012 12 mon. SPI



## Modified Palmer Drought Severity Index for Colorado May 2012



# Colorado Climate Center

Data and Power Point Presentations available for  
downloading

<http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu/droughtpresentations.php>

