Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS)

Whether you are wanting to paddle the river or do some stewardship activity on the River, wouldn’t it be really helpful to get an idea of the water level beyond what you can glean from what the river gauges and local weather data can tell you? We all know that precipitation levels can vary dramatically within just a few miles.

CoCoRaHS may be the answer! The Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) is a unique, non-profit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation (rain, hail and snow). Volunteers record their home-measured precipitation on the CoCoRaHS website. This then gets plotted on a map showing the precipitation levels of every volunteer data provider across the region.

Would you like to be a precipitation recorder for FOMR? If we can develop a network of FOMR volunteers along the main stem of Middle River as well as other tributaries, there would be two big benefits to our members:

1. We all would be able to see exactly where and how much precipitation fell that might be influencing water levels downstream. We could use that to make decisions about float trips, cleanups, etc.
2. We’d be able to more closely record the influence of precipitation on specific sites in our benthic and E. coli monitoring programs.

Here’s an example. Let’s say you plan a morning float trip starting in Verona at Mile marker 29. But unbeknownst to you, overnight there was a really big downpour that happened very locally right around the Spring Hill area at Mile Marker 39. That rain would not show up on the upstream gauge at mile Marker 48 near Eagle Rock Lane because the storm happened downstream of Eagle Rock Lane. Nor will the high water have made it yet to Mount Meridian to show up on the gauge there at Mile Marker 2. So you just wouldn’t know about it until you showed up onsite. However, if you checked the CoCoRaHS map, you’d be able to see that there was a significant rain just upstream of your put-in so you’d be prepared for high and muddy water.

The process of submitting precipitation data is very easy.  It takes me no more than 60 seconds to record your rainfall measurement for the previous 24 hours.

Would you consider becoming a CoCoRaHS precipitation reporter? From the website, they write, “Everyone can help, young, old, and in-between.  The only requirements are an enthusiasm for watching and reporting weather conditions and a desire to learn more about how weather can affect and impact our lives... Each time a rain, hail or snow storm crosses your area, volunteers take measurements of precipitation.  These precipitation reports are then recorded on our Web site [www.cocorahs.org](https://www.cocorahs.org/). Read more about CoCoRaHS [HERE](https://www.cocorahs.org/Content.aspx?page=aboutus).

Buy a rain gauge [HERE.](https://weatheryourway.com/collections/cocorahs-gauge-parts)