

The logo for the Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC) is displayed within a dark blue rectangular box. The text "Southern Regional Climate Center" is written in a white, elegant cursive font at the top. Below it, the acronym "SRCC" is written in a larger, bold, white serif font. At the bottom of the box, the text "THE COCORAHS 'STATE CLIMATES' SERIES" is written in a smaller, white, all-caps serif font.

Southern Regional Climate Center
SRCC
THE COCORAHS 'STATE CLIMATES' SERIES

The Southern Regional Climate Center

As we continue our "State Climates" series, we move to the third region of the country and look at the states of the Southern Regional Climate Center, one of six regional climate centers in the United States.

The Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC) was established in 1991 at Louisiana State University (LSU) as the last of six Regional Climate Centers providing regional climate services in the U.S. The SRCC consists of six states that include Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee. Our region is characterized by a highly variable rainfall regime that varies from the dry steppes of western Texas and Oklahoma, averaging as low as 10" per year, to the semitropical region of the Central Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Mississippi that averages of 60" per year. Our service support for sectors and industries is also diverse and includes areas such as transportation, construction, risk management, agriculture, and water resource management. Government agencies at local, state, and national levels are an especially important service sector at the SRCC. We provide climate information that supports planning, policy, and management decisions, and we monitor changing climate conditions that impact regional decisions. We also support emergency managers with tropical-storm and hurricane events in the Gulf of Mexico by providing planning and exercise support. During declared emergencies we provide operational information support as storms approach the coast and as storm recovery operations occur within impacted areas.

In addition to service provision and monitoring activities, the SRCC also maintains an active role in the development of leading-edge information technology. We develop and improve products for the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS), investigate and adopt new technologies for interactive graphical products, and adopt software routines that analyze geospatial and temporal characteristics of climate patterns. We also developed and maintain the Datzilla climate error reporting and tracking system that allows NOAA and State Climatologists to identify, report, and follow the progress of error corrections that involve NWS and NCDC managers to improve the quality of U.S climate data-collection systems. Recently, we have become more involved in climate change issues, partnering with a NOAA Regional Integrated Science and Assessment Center and the Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program, to help people respond and adapt to the impacts of climate change within our region.

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