NEW GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE FOR PRESENS

By Mark D. Schneider

In an era where more data is required to make better decisions, the State of North Dakota is implementing new and innovative ways to collect it. PRESENS is an acronym for Pushing REmote SENSors, but also is meant to convey a sense that the ND Department of Water Resources (DWR) has a "presence" across the state. To date, DWR has deployed over 450 PRESENS sites, each one collecting data that could include water levels, barometric pressure, soil moisture and temperature, precipitation, and air temperature.

The PRESENS system collects and sends in over 40,000 data points each day via cellular or satellite networks. Recently, the DWR has added a web interface to display PRESENS data in a useful way to the public through the DWR website. The data is also available for download from the website.

To access PRESENS data through the DWR website:

Go to "www.dwr.nd.gov"

Click on the "Information & Education" tab

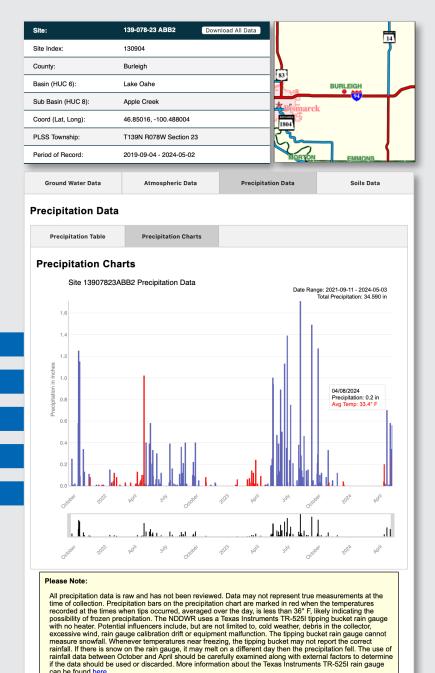
Select "Maps/GIS & Data"

Scroll down and click on "Water Resource Sites"

Select the "Location" and "Data Type"

During a rain event, every 0.01 inches of rain is counted and summed over each 5-minute period by the PRESENS tipping-bucket rain gauge. This data is then sent back to the servers in Bismarck every 15 minutes during the precipitation event to provide near real-time precipitation amounts.

There are currently 33 PRESENS sites that measure soil and precipitation data. This summer, DWR field technicians will be installing additional PRESENS sites across the state. The long-term goal is to cover our state with a dense network of PRESENS sites and DWR is off to a good start!



Atmospheric Resource Board I North Dakota Department of Water Resources I 1200 Memorial Highway, Bismarck, ND 58504 (701) 328-2788 I dwr.nd.gov

ND Weather Modification Association I PO Box 2599 I Bismarck, ND 58502 I (701) 223-4232

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