

# Weather Station Network for Agriculture



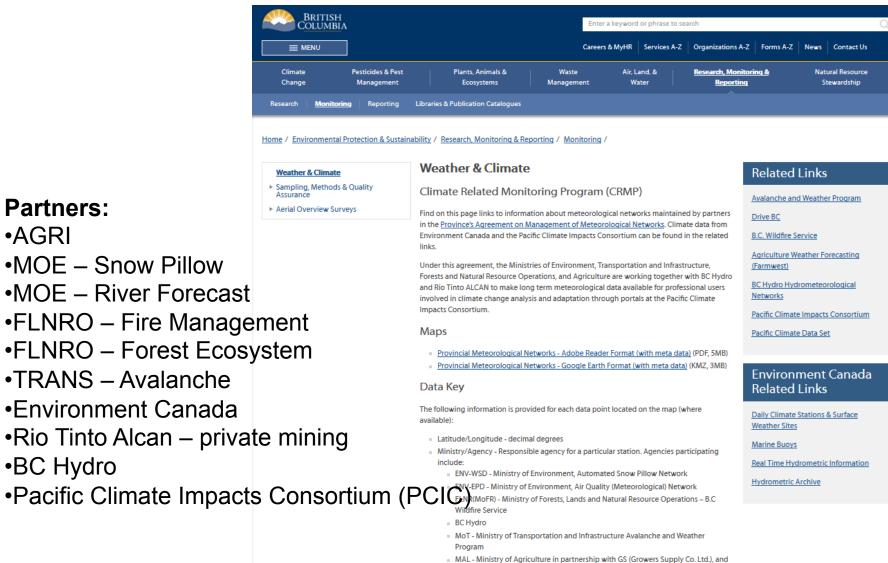
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Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC

**Stephanie Tam**, P.Eng.

Water Management Engineer
BC Ministry of Agriculture

# Climate Related Monitoring Program (CRMP)



FBC (Fraser Basin Council)

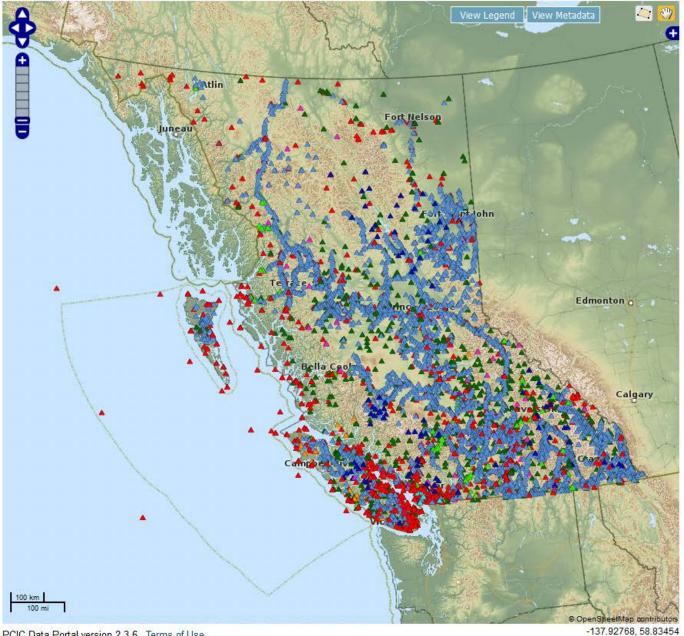
## **Partners:**

- •AGRI
- •MOF Snow Pillow
- MOE River Forecast
- •FLNRO Fire Management
- FLNRO Forest Ecosystem
- •TRANS Avalanche
- Environment Canada
- Rio Tinto Alcan private mining
- •BC Hydro



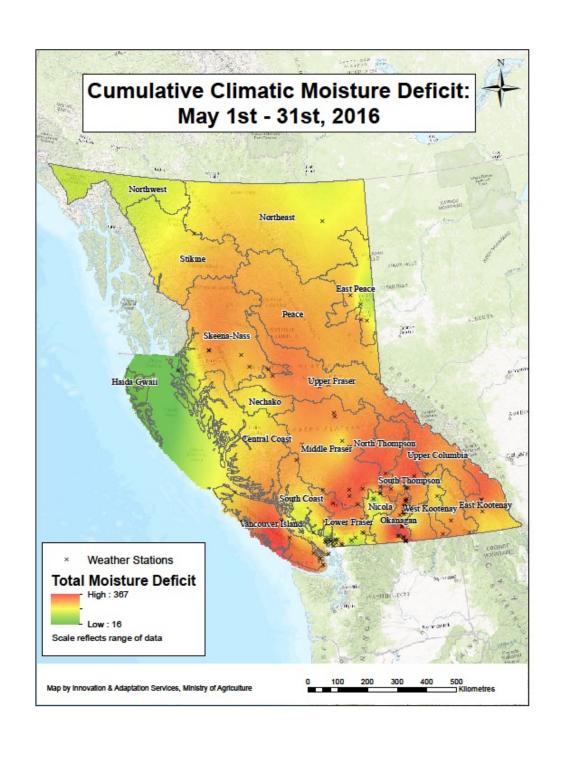
## **BC Station Data - PCDS**

PCIC Home User Docs



	Date Range	
YYYY/MM/DD	to YYYY/MM/DD	
	Climate Variables	
All	-	[?]
	Network Name	
All		[?]
Ot	servation Frequency	
Any	•	[?]
Only inc	clude stations with 1971-2 climatology	2000
S	election Information	
7019 statio		1
447M observa 53k climato		

	Output Format	
NetCDF		[?]
Clip tir	ne series to filter dat	e range
Climatology	Timeseries	



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Climate/Adaptation

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**Industry Directory** 

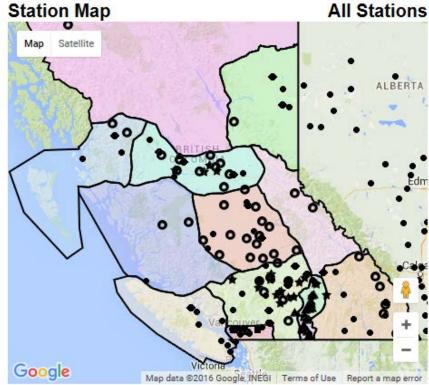
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#### Home

#### Thompson River University

Applied Sustainable Ranching SPEAKER SERIES





## Regions in BC

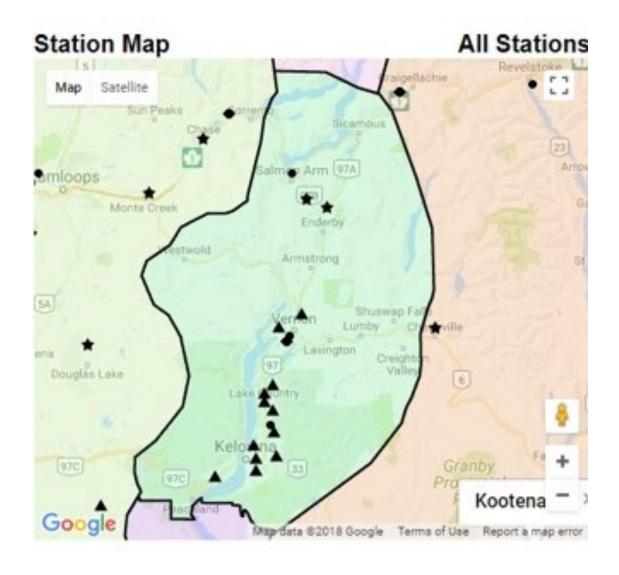


#### Station Legend

- Environment Canada Stations
- ★ Private Stations
- ♦ Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada
- ▲ Grower Supply Co. Ltd. Stations
- Metro Vancouver Stations
- Ministry of Transportation
- Ministry of Forests, Land and Natural Resource Operations



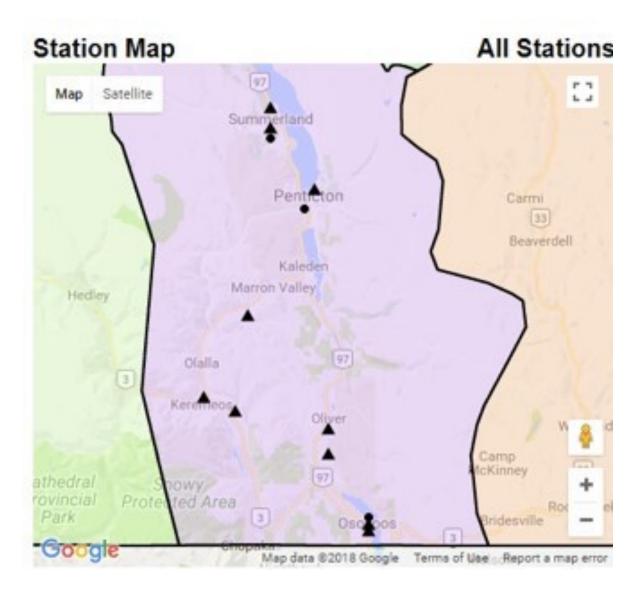
# North Okanagan Stations



- 3 Environment Canada
- 12 Grower Supply
- 3 Private Stations
- 1 Ministry of Transportation



# South Okanagan Stations



- 3 Environment Canada
- 10 Grower Supply
- 3 of the 10 Grower Supply stations are provided through OBWB funding – no agreement for maintenance

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GROWING DEGREE DAYS

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#### Weather Forecast for: Abbotsford Airport

Environmement Environment

Updated: Jun 02, 2016 at 12:05 PM



View All Forecasts

Jun 02 High: 18 °C

Thu

Thu PM

Jun 02



Jun 03



Sat



Sun





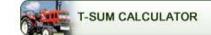
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#### **BC Forage Council**



#### **BCFC Home**

- 2016 Membership Form
- · 2016 Sponsorship Form
- · 2016 Board of Directors
- AGM September 17, 2016

#### Thompson River University

## PFCA PROJECT: STRATEGIES TO IMPROVE FORAGE YIELD AND QUALITY WHILE ADAPTING TO CLIMATE CHANGE (2015-2018)

Project Summary: This project will help the dairy sector and other producers of forages in the Fraser Valley and Vancouver Island by providing a modern tool-kit of practical adaptive management strategies to improve yield and quality of the forage crops under future scenarios of changing climate and increasingly variable weather. Efficient forage production is at the heart of profitable cattle operations.

#### Read Full Story Here

#### Field Crop and Forage Pests and their Natural **Enemies in Western Canada (2015)**

NEW! Field Guide to Support Integrated Pest Management (IPM) in Field





Investment Agriculture Foundation

of British Columbia

Advanced Silage Corn Management

Order Your Book Here!

**Agricultural Irrigation Scheduling Calculator** 



System failed when EC changed the rainfall data outputs







# Climate Network

## Growers Supply Stations

- Originally funded by Agriculture Environment Partnership Initiative (AEPI)
- Agreement for maintaining stations expired after 10 years of service.
- Business Risk Management (AGRI has provided funding to GS after the 10 year funding agreement with AEPI ended

#### Private Stations

- Station data is fed to Farmwest through ROM communications
- Data transmission costs are funded by BCAC funds that was established as a one time grant
- No coordinated method of station maintenance

## Other networks

- Grape industry has a number of stations that could be connected to farmwest
- OBWB has three stations are connected to farmwest
- Other private stations scattered through the Okanagan that are not connected to farmwest



# Climate Data Issues

#### CRMP

- The current 7 year agreement is ending and an new 7 year MOU is being planned
- Metro Vancouver is a new CRMP Partner
- Partners are primarily government agencies except Rio Tinto Alcan, BC Hydro and Pacific Field Corn Association (Farmwest)
- Working on a network of networks
- With PCIC, by March 2018 conduct a gap analysis of stations in agricultural areas in BC

#### Farmwest

- GS has refused to provide data to Farmwest for free after agreement ended
- Only the IIABC sponsors Farmwest at the current time (\$1000/year)
- Farmwest (as the AGRI website) does not obtain base funding from the province
- Peace River network is asking to join Farmwest



# Climate Data Issues

## Farmwest

- Ongoing support in the Okanagan is based on an agreement with Grower's Supply. (They are owned by the Fruit Growers Association)
- Grower's Supply (GS) received funding to upgrade stations for pest and disease modelling from AEI – the agreement did not required future commitment to supply Farmwest with data.
- SIR program provided funding to GS to obtain weather data support disease modelling in mid 2000's SIR has collaborated with Washington State to improve the disease modelling. GS was interested in the improved disease modelling and now offers the data to SIR for free.
- Work with ECCC is underway to integrate the 18 agricultural stations (private stations) into a centralized data processing system



# Coordinating Agricultural Data

- BC Tree Fruit Coop owns Growers Supply
- SIR program is partly funded for farmers and is in the best interest of farmers
- Growers Supply weather data should be made available to all farmers through SIR, OBWB and Farmwest for all purposes, including water management.