

## August Spot Check - Colorado

*By Dr. Richard Keen*

At the end of each month, NCDC posts a "U.S. Climate at a Glance" summary on its website, <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/cag3/cag3.html> . The post features a color map of monthly mean temperature anomalies (departure from normal) for the entire U.S., based on an unspecified selection of stations.

It's fun to find your home and pick out what the previous month was like there. I've done that for the past two months (June and July), and compared the analyzed departures to those actually measured at my NWS co-op station at Coal Creek Canyon, Colorado. For both months I found that the map departures calculated by NCDC for my location were about two degrees higher than the directly measured departure. The reports were posted on ICECAP and Watt's Up With That, and last month I closed by saying... "I'll keep checking this in future months, but I suspect the story will remain the same, with mystery adjustments inflating the temperature departures in one direction only."

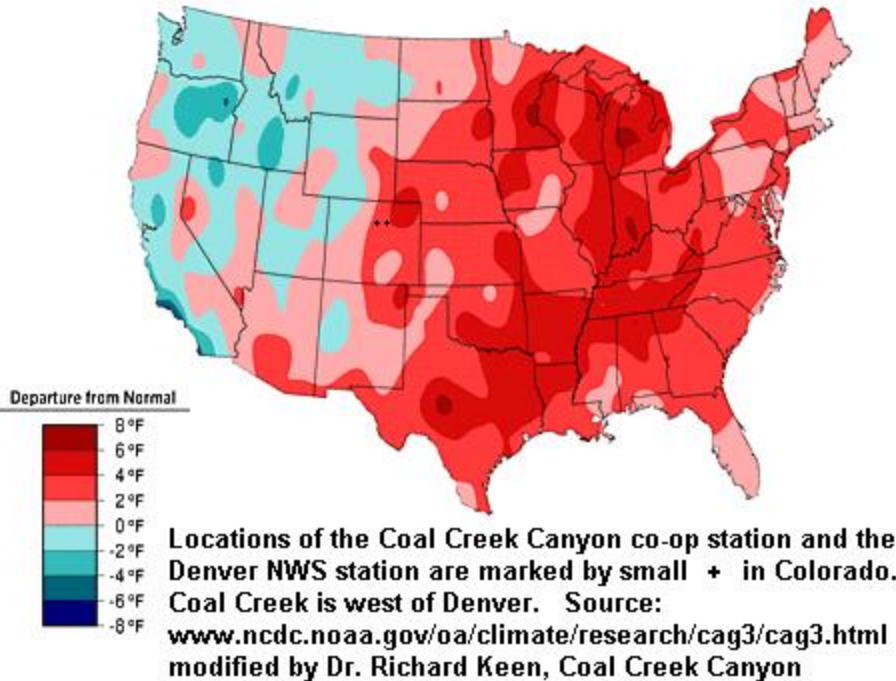
Now here is August's report. I added the locations of Coal Creek Canyon and of the nearest NWS first-order station, Denver, to the map. On the map, both stations are within the +2F contour, with Denver approaching +4F. My best interpolation gives analyzed map departures of +2.5F at Coal Creek and +3.5F at Denver. Compare that to the actual departures (compared to the calculated normals for each station) of +1.2 and +2.1, respectively. Once again, the point departures in this part of Colorado are inflated by more than one degree.

Here is a list of the compared departures and Coal Creek and Denver for June, July, and August, 2010. The story is consistent - the NCDC analysis has the summer of 2010 running 3 degrees hotter than normal, while the observations have warm anomalies of less than half that. Those "mystery adjustments" raised Colorado's summer temperature by 2 degrees above the direct measurements. Keep in mind that this two degree discrepancy is greater than the alleged "Climate Change" signal to date.

As I noted earlier, this is simply a spot check of two of NCDC's 2000 grid points. But Denver is a major first-order station, and Coal Creek has been a stable station with no moves or urban influences for almost 30 years, and the instruments are meticulously maintained. Coal Creek is at 8950 feet elevation in the Colorado Rockies, a region predicted by all models referenced by the IPCC to have the greatest warming in the "lower 48" United States. According to NCDC analyses, this warming is occurring. According to actual observations, it is not.

## August 2010 Temperature Departure from Normal

(Departure from the 1971 - 2000 Normal)



Monthly Temperature Departures from 1971-2000 normals:  
Observed vs. NCDC analyses

Analyzed monthly maps from NCDC "U.S. Climate at a Glance"  
[www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/cag3/cag3.html](http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/research/cag3/cag3.html)

Stations: Coal Creek Canyon (CC), Denver Airport (DEN)

Dr. Richard Keen, Coal Creek Canyon, CO, observer

Month	Station	Analyzed	Observed	Anal.-Obs.
June-2010	CC	3.5	0.9	2.6
June-2010	DEN	4.0	1.2	2.8
July-2010	CC	2.5	0.3	2.2
July-2010	DEN	2.8	1.8	1.0
August-2010	CC	2.5	1.2	1.3
August-2010	DEN	3.5	2.1	1.4
Average	CC	2.8	0.8	2.0
Average	DEN	3.4	1.7	1.7