



[SCIPP](#), [CoCoRaHS](#), the [Earth Observation and Modeling Facility](#), and [iSeeChange](#) invite you to participate in “Field Photo Weekends”, a project to create a national picture of our landscape. The project started as a way to compare visual impacts of drought to the kinds of things we measure, like rainfall and stream flow. But the photos of places that are not in drought can be equally valuable, providing a frame of reference for future years and seasons.

For each Field Photo Weekend, we ask citizen scientists to take pictures of the land around them - water bodies, fields, forests, or any other facet of our environment - at roughly the same time. These events began in 2012 and have continued over Presidents Day and Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day ever since. For more information, see a short [animated video](#) explaining what we measure and why.

Taking Pictures

All you need to participate is a camera. Any old camera will do, but if you have a camera with GPS capability or a smartphone, that would be even better.

If you are using a SmartPhone or GPS camera, make sure “location services” is turned on. This will automatically encode the picture’s latitude, longitude and direction you are looking. To turn on location services, go to your phone’s settings and you should see “Location Services” in the menu. When you select this, you will get a list of applications that use location services, each with an on/off switch. Make sure camera and compass are both turned on. If you feel better not having your phone know where you are, you can turn these off again after taking the pictures. The embedded latitude and longitude will help us from having to estimate from a map.

Photos should tell the story of the field or landscape, anything that you feel is representative of the world around you. Just as you do not find the deepest snowdrift for your snowfall measurements, you should not find the vegetation that is in the worst condition for your pictures. We want to see what it may look like walking through a field, where some things may be in better condition than others.

Photos can be of any of the following:

- A water body, showing how much water it is currently holding and where the natural bank might be. For example, a farm pond showing the ring of bare soil around it that is usually submerged.
- A tree, showing the health of its leaves. It may be a tree in your front yard, one in a nearby park, or something over in the woods, whatever you think tells the story about how it is faring this year.

- A field, such as a pasture, meadow, or crops. The photo should show whether vegetation is brown or green, if soil is becoming exposed, if seeds are burnt up, or if vines are withering.
- A typical scene showing the depth of snow, maybe a meadow, nearby hill, or looking up at the mountains. Be sure to add comments telling us whether the snow is more than or less than usual for this time of year.

A single picture can be worth a thousand words, but a book is even better. If you are able, take six pictures from the same spot, one looking each direction (north, east, south and west), one looking down, and one looking up. The one looking down shows whether it is sunny, cloudy, or if there are any obstructions like a tree.

Submitting your photos

There are four ways to contribute to the project:

1. Upload your photos with the EOMF [iPhone app](#) or [Android app](#).
2. Upload your photos directly to the [EOMF Photo Archive](#).
3. Post your pictures to [iSeeChange](#).
4. Email them to us at fieldphotos@southernclimate.org.

If you upload the photos yourself, please add **#CoCoRaHSJul16** to any photos in the Field Notes section so we can identify those related to this project. If you email them to us, we do need a little information from you so that we can place them properly on a map:

1. Description of where the photo was taken, as detailed as possible. For example, northwest corner of Highway 9 and Jenkins in Norman, Oklahoma, looking west.
2. The date the photo was taken
3. If you are a CoCoRaHS observer, your CoCoRaHS station number (we want to give due credit!)

What we do with your photos

Photos are stored in the [EOMF Field Photos Archive](#) along with all the other photos received from researchers, field projects, and citizen scientists. All of these photos are valuable in trying to figure out how the landscape responds to both sudden and gradual changes in climate, water, ecology and even geology.

For the Field Photo Weekends project, photos are tagged in the notes section with **#cocorahsmmyy** (mmm=month and yy=year, for example sep14). You can search the archive by keyword such as **#cocorahsmay15** to see all the photos that were submitted over Memorial Day Weekend in 2015.

Questions

If you have questions along the way, please e-mail SCIPP at fieldphotos@southernclimate.org. SCIPP will help clarify any questions about taking, uploading or viewing photos.

We want this to be a fun experience for everyone and give everyone a chance to see what it looks like near where we all take our observations each day. We hope that you will be as excited about participating as we are in hosting this.

