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Status

Table 1: Gauge visits during the spring 2020 campaign. Comments: DD=gauge data download, MN=general gauge maintenance (cleaning, re-level), CA= rain gauge calibration, CV= vegetation clearing, ECC=electric contact cleaning treatment, and BR = data logger battery replacement.

Date	Gauges Visited	Technicians	Comments	Vehicle
3/21/2020	104, 110, 4	Doug	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
3/23/2020	106, 10**A	Doug, Jared (10:30 am)??	DD, MN, CV, CA	4wd needed
3/28/2020	111, 112	Doug, Elizabeth	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
3/30/2020	106, 10	Doug, Lisa	DD, MN, CV, CA	4wd needed
4/4/2020	11; 3	Doug	DD, MN, CV, CA	4wd needed
4/6/2020	101, 102, 103	Doug, Marlee	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
4/13/2020	Make up day	Doug, ????	DD, MN, CV, CA	????
4/18/2020	100T, 108, 109	Doug, Lisa	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
4/20/2020	107, 11	Doug	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
4/25/2020	301, 302**B	Doug, [Lyn??], Marlee	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
5/2/2020	303s, 306	Doug, Jonathan	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
5/4/2020	305, 309, 310	Doug, Brady, Jeremiah	DD, MN, CV, CA	4wd needed
5/12/2020	300, 308	Doug, Tom	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
5/14/2020	2; 5; 8**C	Doug, [Sam P ??]	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
5/16/2020	301, 302	Doug, Brady, Jeremiah, Chris G	DD, MN, CV, CA	any vehicle
5/27/2020	304, 307	Doug	DD, MN, CV, CA, ECC	4wd needed
6/8/2020	105, 311	Doug, Lisa	DD, MN, CV, CA, ECC	any vehicle
6/9/2020	2; 5; 8	Doug, Don, Cody	DD, MN, CV, CA, ECC	any vehicle

**A => postponed due to rain - visit later, **B => GSMNP closed - visit later, **C => postponed due to restrictive COVID-19 procedures at Waynesville Watershed Operations Plants – visit later

Gauge visitation in support of the Duke Great Smoky Mountain Rain Gauge Network (GSMRGN) during the spring 2020 campaign occurred over fourteen days spanning a period of twelve weeks in March - June 2020. The primary purpose of the visits in the spring 2020 was [1] to perform downloads of gauge tip observations since the previous gauge visits in the autumn 2019, [2] to complete rain gauge and data logger maintenance tasks, [3] to clear vegetation and tree limbs and, [4] to calibrate ALL rain gauges since field calibrations were last completed in the spring 2019. Ten technicians and volunteers (listed on the front page) made the visits and performed the required work. It is important to note that the volunteers were NOT directly involved in any critical gauge visit tasks, but were volunteering primarily to assist with personal safety should someone get injured during a particular series of gauge visits. Student field technicians from UNC Asheville were not allowed to assist in fieldwork after 6 April 2020 due to strict distancing measures imposed by UNCA due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The general tasks completed at every gauge visit consist of (1) gauge data download from the data loggers [DD in Table 1], (2) general gauge maintenance and ML1 logger condition monitoring [MN in Table 1], (3) clear vegetation within a five foot radius of the rain gauge [CV in Table 1], and, (4) calibration of rain gauges using a

single trial of the 50, 100, and 300 mm nozzles [CA in Table 1]. As the gauge visit campaign progressed, it became obvious that systematic failure due to poor electronic contact between the logger cable leads and the gauge switch metal plates, caused by contamination build-up (e.g., dust, dirt) over the years, required electronic contact cleaner to be sprayed on the logger wires and switch metal plates (ECC in Table 1; referred to as “electronic contact cleaning [ECC] treatment” in the field notes). This procedure was only followed in the final three day (seven gauge) visits of the spring 2020 visit campaign. The primary specialized task was the necessary data logger lithium battery replacement at five rain gauge locations (as indicated using a multimeter to test logger battery voltage after a long winter), at JR Rich (g #103, 3.54V), Utah Mountain (g #108, 3.52V), Camel Hump Knob (g #300, very low voltage), Snake Den Ridge (g #302, preventative measure), and Big Creek (g #311, 0.00V). We have had significant problems with ML1-420 loggers draining the lithium batteries down in a very short period of time. Task (1) merely required a serial port link between the field study laptop and the gauge data logger and consisted of pulling the data (often in files having raw (*.txt) and CSV formats) onto a desktop folder on the laptop, checking for completeness of the data, and comparing the data logger time and date to the actual GPS time and date (making a screenshot of the time comparison). The standard that has been chosen for this study is to maintain the clocks on Eastern Daylight Time, since most of the “warm” precipitation will be occurring during the season when EDT is in effect. Most ML1-FL data logger times have been adjusted (using “TA” command) during previous gauge visits to coincide with the EDT given by the GPS locator. As noted above, several ML1 and ML1-420 loggers (g #102 [Hemphill Bald], #109 [Eaglesnest Ridge], #301 [Mt. Guyot], #008 [Double Spring Gap]) showed a lack of response to tips, even though the battery voltage was good. Please read the MS Word document containing the field notes to find a more thorough description of these problems. ECC treatment will be made at all gauge visits during the summer 2020 campaign. Task (2) required the cleaning of debris from the funnel filter, cleaning the tipping buckets of debris (if necessary), cleaning the gauge drain ports and siphon, re-leveling the gauge if it has come unleveled, and fixing or replacing the gauge mesh if it had been damaged. Liquid wrench is needed at g #101, g #103, and g #108 in the summer 2020 visit as the nut in one of the bolt ports had become rusty and was replaced with a stainless steel one. Task (3) consisted of cutting briars and other emerging vegetation during the spring season within a five foot radius of the gauge using clippers or weeding by hand. Several locations had tree limbs cleared with the extension saw (g #301 [Mt. Guyot], #105 [Hultquist property], #008 [Double Spring Gap], #005 [Deep Gap #2]) and two locations will need tree limbs cleared using the GSMNP arborist (g #308 and g #311) during the summer 2020 visit. Task (4) was completed successfully in every data logger at each of the rain gauge locations. It should be noted that the ML1-420 logger temperature files at several gauges (g #103 [JR Rich property], #300 [Camel Hump Knob], #302 [Snake Den Ridge Trail], and #301 [Mt. Guyot]) were downloaded to help differentiate tips due to liquid precipitation from tips due to melting snow.

Challenges encountered during some of the gauge visits in the spring 2020 were; (i) muddy and rainy conditions early in the campaign [resulting in gauge visit postponements and scheduling challenges, see description below], (ii) complications arising due to the emergence of COVID-19 just as the gauge visit campaign was getting underway; GSMNP closure, lack of access to UNCA field technicians, and restrictions at the Waynesville Watershed Operations Plant, and (iii) closure of the Cove Creek Gap Rd [near g #105; Hultquist property] to repair the wash-out from a rockslide in 2013. I’m thankful for the trusty volunteers that helped keep me safe and allowed the visit campaign to be completed on 8 June 2020!

Details of every gauge visit along with raw precipitation text and CSV format files are found via Google Drive <https://drive.google.com/open?id=10a3fR0Yv5J7rlBI6uubaFDMEhWxC2vv9>

which contains sub-folders for each gauge that consist of the individual data files (often having at least two different formats), pictures taken at the gauge site during the visit, screenshots of the GPS (laptop) and ML1 logger time comparison, and a MS Word document that mirrors the notes made in the field journal during each visit.

Noteworthy precipitation events of October 2019 – February 2020 as observed at KAVL are highlighted in yellow in **Appendix A**. The bookend months of the five month period (October 2019 and February 2020) saw a significant amount of above normal rainfall. An event on 6 February 2020, in particular, caused a significant washout of a road in the GSMNP, located near Cataloochee Creek, along with at least one landslide (Wooten, personal communication).

Plans for the summer months of 2020

Table 2: Planned gauge visits during the summer 2020 campaign. DD=gauge data download, MN=general gauge maintenance (cleaning, re-level), CA= rain gauge calibration, CV= vegetation clearing, ECC=electric contact cleaning treatment, and BR = data logger battery replacement.

Date	Gauges Visited	Technicians	Comments
7/??/2020	3; 11; 107; 109	Doug + 1 field technician	DD, MN, CV, ECC
7/??/2020	2; 5; 8; 106; 10	Doug + 1 field technician	DD, MN, CV, ECC
7/??/2020	4; 104, 110, 105	Doug + 1 field technician	DD, MN, CV, ECC
7/??/2020	111, 112, 311	Doug + 1 field technician	DD, MN, CV, ECC
7/??/2020	101, 102, 103, 100T, 108	Doug + 1 field technician	DD, MN, CV, ECC
7/??/2020	303s, 306, 308	Doug + 2 field technicians	DD, MN, CV, ECC
8/??/2020	304, 307, 305, 309, 310	Doug + 2 field technicians	DD, MN, CV, ECC
8/??/2020	301, 302, 300	Doug + 2 field technicians	DD, MN, CV, ECC

Gauge visitation in support of the Duke GSMRGN during the summer 2020 will occur over at least eight days spanning July and August 2020. The primary purpose of the visits will be to download precipitation observations that were made since the previous gauge visits in March - June 2020 [DD in Table 2], perform maintenance and check if the ML1 logger times have drifted between visits and make the corresponding needed adjustments [MN in Table 2], and clear vegetation (and tree branches) from overhanging gauges [CV in Table 2], and electronic contact cleaning [ECC in Table 2]. Gauge parts and loggers may have to be replaced during some of the visits if less-than-acceptable conditions show no signs of improvement, as noted in the previous section description.

Details of every gauge visit along with each gauge precipitation record will be posted online and shall contain sub-folders for each gauge that consist of the individual data files (often having at least two different formats), pictures taken at the gauge site during the visit, screenshots of the GPS (laptop) and ML1 logger time comparison, and a MS Word document that mirrors the notes made in the field journal during the visit.

The technician roster during the 2019-2020 academic year consisted of Meredith Avison, Marlee Burgess, Lyn Comer, Andrew Hill, Alice Monroe, Samuel Peterson, and Samantha Wood. New undergraduate research students at UNC Asheville will be recruited as field technicians for the Duke GSMRGN project in the fall 2020.

Table 3: The Duke Great Smoky Mountain Rain Gauge Network is currently (valid as of 20 May 2020) composed of 32 tipping bucket rain gauges.

Gauge #	Location	Latitude	Longitude	Altitude
RG002	Lickstone Bald	35°25.5' N	82°58.2' W	5680 ft.
RG003	High Top	35°23.0' N	82°54.9' W	5280 ft.
RG004	Lickstone Ridge S	35°22.0' N	82°59.4' W	6305 ft.
RG005	Deep Gap	35°24.5' N	82°57.8' W	4986 ft.
RG008	Double Summer Gap	35°22.9' N	82°58.4' W	5700 ft.
RG010	Beaty Summer Gap	35°27.3' N	82°56.8' W	4849 ft.
RG011	near Deep Gap	35°23.7' N	82°54.9' W	4081 ft.
RG100T	Purchase Knob	35°35.1' N	83°04.3' W	4905 ft.
RG101	The Swag	35°34.5' N	83°05.2' W	4986 ft.
RG102	Hemphill Bald	35°33.8' N	83°06.2' W	5365 ft.
RG103	JR Property	35°33.2' N	83°07.0' W	5539 ft.
RG104	Cat. Ski Area	35°33.2' N	83°05.2' W	5208 ft.
RG105	KH Property	35°38.0' N	83°02.4' W	4412 ft
RG106	Pinnacle Ridge	35°25.9' N	83°01.7' W	3969 ft
RG107	Lookout Point	35°34.0' N	82°54.4' W	4459 ft
RG108	Utah Mountain	35°33.2' N	82°59.3' W	4188 ft
RG109	Eaglesnest Ridge	35°29.7' N	83°02.4' W	4922 ft
RG110	JH Property	35°32.8' N	83°08.8' W	5128 ft
RG111	Hurricane Ridge	35°43.7' N	82°56.8' W	4573 ft
RG112	Ore Knob	35°45.0' N	82°57.8' W	3884 ft
RG300	Camel Hump Knob	35°43.5' N	83°13.0'W	5110 ft
RG301	Mt Guyot	35°42.3'N	83°15.3'W	6570 ft
RG302	Snake Den Ridge	35°43.2'N	83°14.8'W	6104 ft
RG303s	Mt Cammerer	35°45.7'N	83°09.7'W	4887 ft
RG304	Big Cataloochee	35°40.2'N	83°10.9'W	5971 ft

RG305	Mt Sterling 1	35°41.4'N	83°07.9'W	5349 ft
RG306	Sunup Knob	35°44.7'N	83°10.2'W	5039 ft
RG307	Balsam Mountain	35°39.0'N	83°11.9'W	5327 ft
RG308	Cosby Knob	35°43.8' N	83°10.9'W	4826 ft
RG309	Mt Sterling 2	35°40.9'N	83°09.0'W	5262 ft
RG310	Mt Sterling 3	35°42.1'N	83°07.3'W	5761 ft
RG311	Big Creek	35°45.9'N	83°08.4'W	3398 ft

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NOTES:

LAST OF SEVERAL OCCURRENCES

COLUMN 17 PEAK WIND IN M.P.H.

PRELIMINARY LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (WS FORM: F-6) , PAGE 2

STATION: ASHEVILLE NC
MONTH: OCTOBER
YEAR: 2019
LATITUDE: 35 25 N
LONGITUDE: 82 33 W

[TEMPERATURE DATA] [PRECIPITATION DATA] SYMBOLS USED IN COLUMN 16

AVERAGE MONTHLY: 61.5	TOTAL FOR MONTH: 7.78	1 = FOG OR MIST
DPTR FM NORMAL: 5.1	DPTR FM NORMAL: 4.87	2 = FOG REDUCING VISIBILITY TO 1/4 MILE OR LESS
HIGHEST: 91 ON 3, 2	GRST 24HR 2.24 ON 30-31	3 = THUNDER
LOWEST: 33 ON 24	SNOW, ICE PELLETS, HAIL	4 = ICE PELLETS
	TOTAL MONTH: 0.0 INCH	5 = HAIL
	GRST 24HR 0.0	6 = FREEZING RAIN OR DRIZZLE
	GRST DEPTH: 0	7 = DUSTSTORM OR SANDSTORM: VSBY 1/2 MILE OR LESS
		8 = SMOKE OR HAZE
		9 = BLOWING SNOW
		X = TORNADO

[NO. OF DAYS WITH] [WEATHER - DAYS WITH]

MAX 32 OR BELOW: 0	0.01 INCH OR MORE: 11
MAX 90 OR ABOVE: 2	0.10 INCH OR MORE: 9
MIN 32 OR BELOW: 0	0.50 INCH OR MORE: 6
MIN 0 OR BELOW: 0	1.00 INCH OR MORE: 3

[HDD (BASE 65)]
TOTAL THIS MO. 156 CLEAR (SCALE 0-3) 9
DPTR FM NORMAL -122 PTCLDY (SCALE 4-7) 14
TOTAL FM JUL 1 158 CLOUDY (SCALE 8-10) 8
DPTR FM NORMAL -177

[CDD (BASE 65)]
TOTAL THIS MO. 54
DPTR FM NORMAL 44 [PRESSURE DATA]
TOTAL FM JAN 1 1327 HIGHEST SLP 30.35 ON 24
DPTR FM NORMAL 465 LOWEST SLP 29.69 ON 31

[REMARKS]
#FINAL-10-19#

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CXUS52 KGSP 011232
CF6AVL
PRELIMINARY LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (WS FORM: F-6)

STATION: ASHEVILLE NC
MONTH: NOVEMBER
YEAR: 2019
LATITUDE: 35 25 N
LONGITUDE: 82 33 W

TEMPERATURE IN F:	:PCPN:	SNOW:	WIND	:SUNSHINE:	SKY	:PK WND
1 2 3 4 5 6A 6B 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18						
		12Z	Avg	MX	2MIN	

29	65	54	60	23	5	0	0.34	0.0	0	7.6	29	180	M	M	9	1	42	180
30	65	43	54	17	11	0	0.06	0.0	0	10.7	24	190	M	M	2	1	33	190
31	50	37	44	7	21	0	0.00	0.0	0	11.2	17	350	M	M	0		22	330

SM	1704	1041	635	0	4.29	T	226.1	M	131
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AV	55.0	33.6			7.3	FASTST	M	M	4	MAX (MPH)	
			MISC	---->	#	40	340		#	48	340

NOTES:

LAST OF SEVERAL OCCURRENCES

COLUMN 17 PEAK WIND IN M.P.H.

PRELIMINARY LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (WS FORM: F-6) , PAGE 2

STATION: ASHEVILLE NC
MONTH: DECEMBER
YEAR: 2019
LATITUDE: 35 25 N
LONGITUDE: 82 33 W

[TEMPERATURE DATA]	[PRECIPITATION DATA]	SYMBOLS USED IN COLUMN 16
AVERAGE MONTHLY: 44.3	TOTAL FOR MONTH: 4.29	1 = FOG OR MIST
DPTR FM NORMAL: 4.9	DPTR FM NORMAL: 0.70	2 = FOG REDUCING VISIBILITY TO 1/4 MILE OR LESS
HIGHEST: 67 ON 24	GRTST 24HR 0.62 ON 30- 1	3 = THUNDER
LOWEST: 22 ON 12	SNOW, ICE PELLETS, HAIL	4 = ICE PELLETS
	TOTAL MONTH: T	5 = HAIL
	GRTST 24HR T ON 11-11	6 = FREEZING RAIN OR DRIZZLE
	GRTST DEPTH: 0	7 = DUSTSTORM OR SANDSTORM: VSBY 1/2 MILE OR LESS
		8 = SMOKE OR HAZE
		9 = BLOWING SNOW
		X = TORNADO
[NO. OF DAYS WITH]	[WEATHER - DAYS WITH]	
MAX 32 OR BELOW: 0	0.01 INCH OR MORE: 13	
MAX 90 OR ABOVE: 0	0.10 INCH OR MORE: 9	
MIN 32 OR BELOW: 17	0.50 INCH OR MORE: 5	
MIN 0 OR BELOW: 0	1.00 INCH OR MORE: 0	
[HDD (BASE 65)]		
TOTAL THIS MO. 635	CLEAR (SCALE 0-3) 13	
DPTR FM NORMAL -159	PTCLDY (SCALE 4-7) 14	
TOTAL FM JUL 1 1341	CLOUDY (SCALE 8-10) 4	
DPTR FM NORMAL -320		
[CDD (BASE 65)]		
TOTAL THIS MO. 0	[PRESSURE DATA]	
DPTR FM NORMAL 0	HIGHEST SLP 30.62 ON 12	
TOTAL FM JAN 1 1327	LOWEST SLP 29.45 ON 1	
DPTR FM NORMAL 464		
[REMARKS]		
#FINAL-12-19#		

290
CXUS52 KGSP 011922
CF6AVL

PRELIMINARY LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (WS FORM: F-6)

STATION: ASHEVILLE NC
MONTH: JANUARY
YEAR: 2020

19	53	43	48	7	17	0	0.03	0.0	0	9.4	24	340	M	M	9	1	29	330
20	43	32	38	-3	27	0	0.27	0.8	0	6.8	25	330	M	M	10	1	31	330
21	41	26	34	-8	31	0	0.00	0.0	0	13.0	25	340	M	M	2		31	320
22	56	23	40	-2	25	0	0.00	0.0	0	3.2	13	330	M	M	0		16	330
23	59	26	43	1	22	0	0.00	0.0	0	2.6	15	200	M	M	3		21	210
24	47	43	45	3	20	0	0.31	0.0	0	5.0	14	210	M	M	10	1	19	150
25	63	44	54	12	11	0	0.11	0.0	0	5.1	16	210	M	M	5	1	19	210
26	60	34	47	4	18	0	T	0.0	0	6.5	26	310	M	M	6	12	33	310
27	45	28	37	-6	28	0	T	T	T	13.9	29	330	M	M	4		41	330
28	46	26	36	-7	29	0	0.00	0.0	0	4.0	18	340	M	M	4		25	260
29	43	30	37	-6	28	0	0.05	1.1	1	10.7	25	340	M	M	3	1	35	320

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SM 1563 1025 584 0 7.25 2.4 204.2 M 156

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AV 53.9 35.3 7.0 FASTST M M 5 MAX (MPH)
MISC ----> # 29 340 # 41 330

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NOTES:
LAST OF SEVERAL OCCURRENCES

COLUMN 17 PEAK WIND IN M.P.H.

PRELIMINARY LOCAL CLIMATOLOGICAL DATA (WS FORM: F-6) , PAGE 2

STATION: ASHEVILLE NC
MONTH: FEBRUARY
YEAR: 2020
LATITUDE: 35 25 N
LONGITUDE: 82 33 W

[TEMPERATURE DATA]	[PRECIPITATION DATA]	SYMBOLS USED IN COLUMN 16
AVERAGE MONTHLY: 44.6	TOTAL FOR MONTH: 7.25	1 = FOG OR MIST
DPTR FM NORMAL: 4.3	DPTR FM NORMAL: 3.49	2 = FOG REDUCING VISIBILITY TO 1/4 MILE OR LESS
HIGHEST: 71 ON 3	GRTST 24HR 3.40 ON 6-7	3 = THUNDER
LOWEST: 23 ON 22,15	SNOW, ICE PELLETS, HAIL	4 = ICE PELLETS
	TOTAL MONTH: 2.4 INCHES	5 = HAIL
	GRTST 24HR 1.1 ON 29-29	6 = FREEZING RAIN OR DRIZZLE
	GRTST DEPTH: 1 ON 29	7 = DUSTSTORM OR SANDSTORM: VSBY 1/2 MILE OR LESS
[NO. OF DAYS WITH]	[WEATHER - DAYS WITH]	8 = SMOKE OR HAZE
MAX 32 OR BELOW: 0	0.01 INCH OR MORE: 15	9 = BLOWING SNOW
MAX 90 OR ABOVE: 0	0.10 INCH OR MORE: 11	X = TORNADO
MIN 32 OR BELOW: 14	0.50 INCH OR MORE: 3	
MIN 0 OR BELOW: 0	1.00 INCH OR MORE: 2	

[HDD (BASE 65)]	
TOTAL THIS MO. 584	CLEAR (SCALE 0-3) 7
DPTR FM NORMAL -106	PTCLDY (SCALE 4-7) 14
TOTAL FM JUL 1 2603	CLOUDY (SCALE 8-10) 8
DPTR FM NORMAL -636	

[CDD (BASE 65)]	
TOTAL THIS MO. 0	
DPTR FM NORMAL 0	[PRESSURE DATA]
TOTAL FM JAN 1 0	HIGHEST SLP 30.54 ON 15
DPTR FM NORMAL 0	LOWEST SLP 29.16 ON 7

[REMARKS]
#FINAL-02-20#