



2020

CALIFORNIA LIGHTNING REPORT



ABOUT THIS REPORT

The 2020 Lightning Report was prepared by Earth Networks using the Earth Networks Total Lightning Network (ENTLN). The following report includes in-cloud, cloud-to-ground, and total lightning data for this state and the surrounding water bodies (if any) throughout 2020. Counts, densities, rankings, Dangerous Thunderstorm Alerts (DTAs), and Thunder Days in this report are from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

THE EARTH NETWORKS TOTAL LIGHTNING NETWORK (ENTLN)

The lightning data in this report is derived from the Earth Networks Total Lightning Network (ENTLN), which monitors the combination of in-cloud and cloud-to-ground lightning strikes over 100 countries. With over 1,800 sensors, the ENTLN is the most extensive and technologically advanced total lightning network in the world. ENTLN has been specifically deployed to detect real-time lightning and provide advanced warning for severe weather events that could threaten public safety and operational efficiency.

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REPORT TERMINOLOGY

To help you better understand the insights from this lightning report, we've included definitions of our frequently used report terminology below.

Lightning Pulse: This report measures lightning pulses. A pulse is a surge of electric current in lightning usually accompanied by a burst of light. Pulses are classified as In-cloud (IC) or Cloud-to-Ground (CG).

Lightning Flash: A lightning flash is a collection of pulses close in space and time that approximates the continuous ionized channels of a complete bolt of lightning.

Cloud-to-Ground Lightning (CG): Lightning that happens between opposite charges in a cloud and on the ground.

In-Cloud Lightning (IC): Lightning that occurs between opposite charges within a thunderstorm cloud.

Total Lightning Detection: The combination of all in-cloud and cloud-to-ground lightning activity.

Pulse Density: The number of lightning pulses per square mile per year.

Dangerous Thunderstorm Alerts (DTAs): Earth Networks patented advanced severe weather warnings that notify users of incoming storms up to 45 minutes before storm arrival.

Thunder Days: Any given day where lightning was detected in a certain area.

TOTAL LIGHTNING

is the combination of cloud-to-ground (CG) and in-cloud (IC) lightning strikes



Cloud-to-Ground lightning:

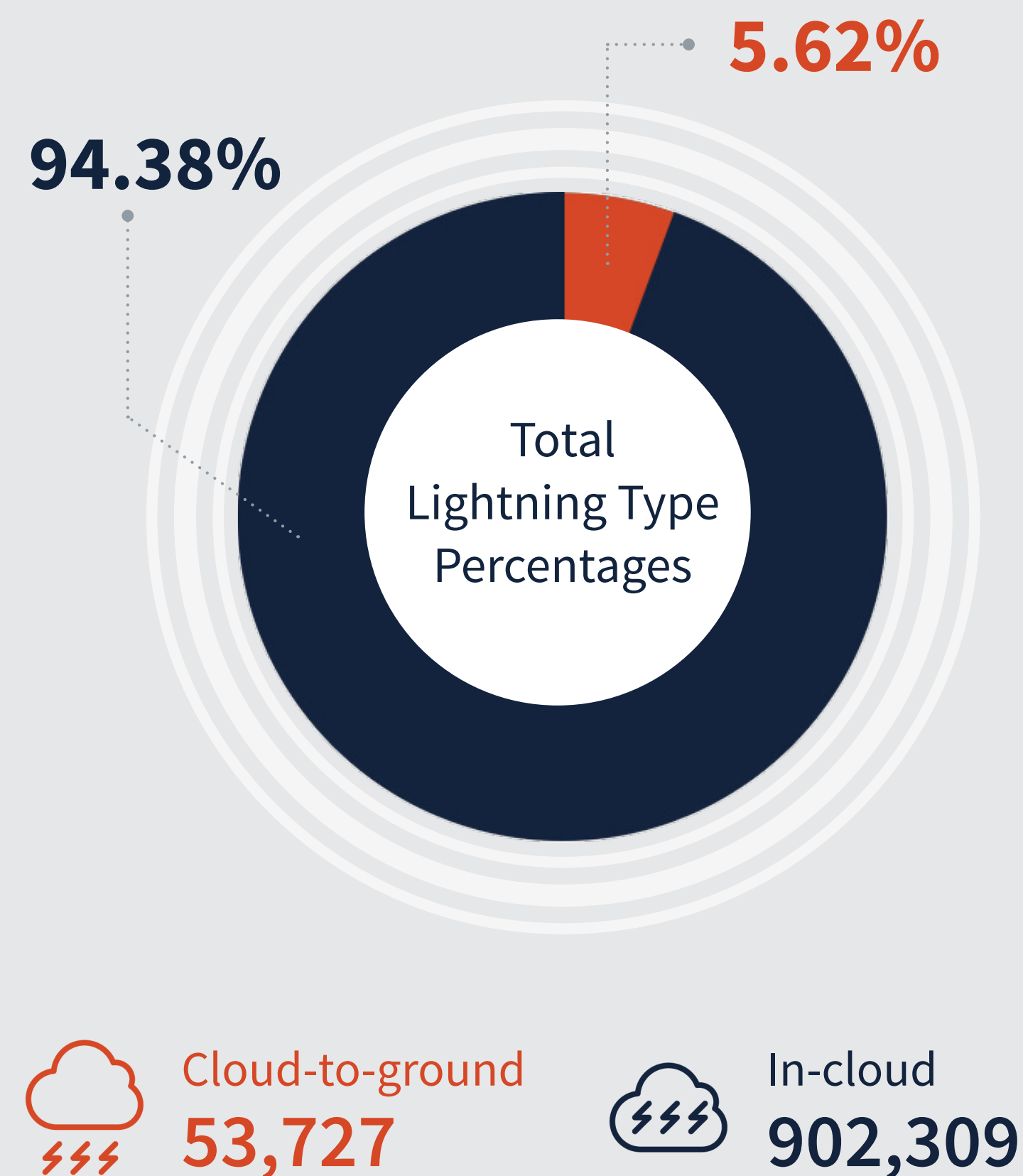
Lightning that happens between opposite charges in a cloud and on the ground

In-Cloud lightning:

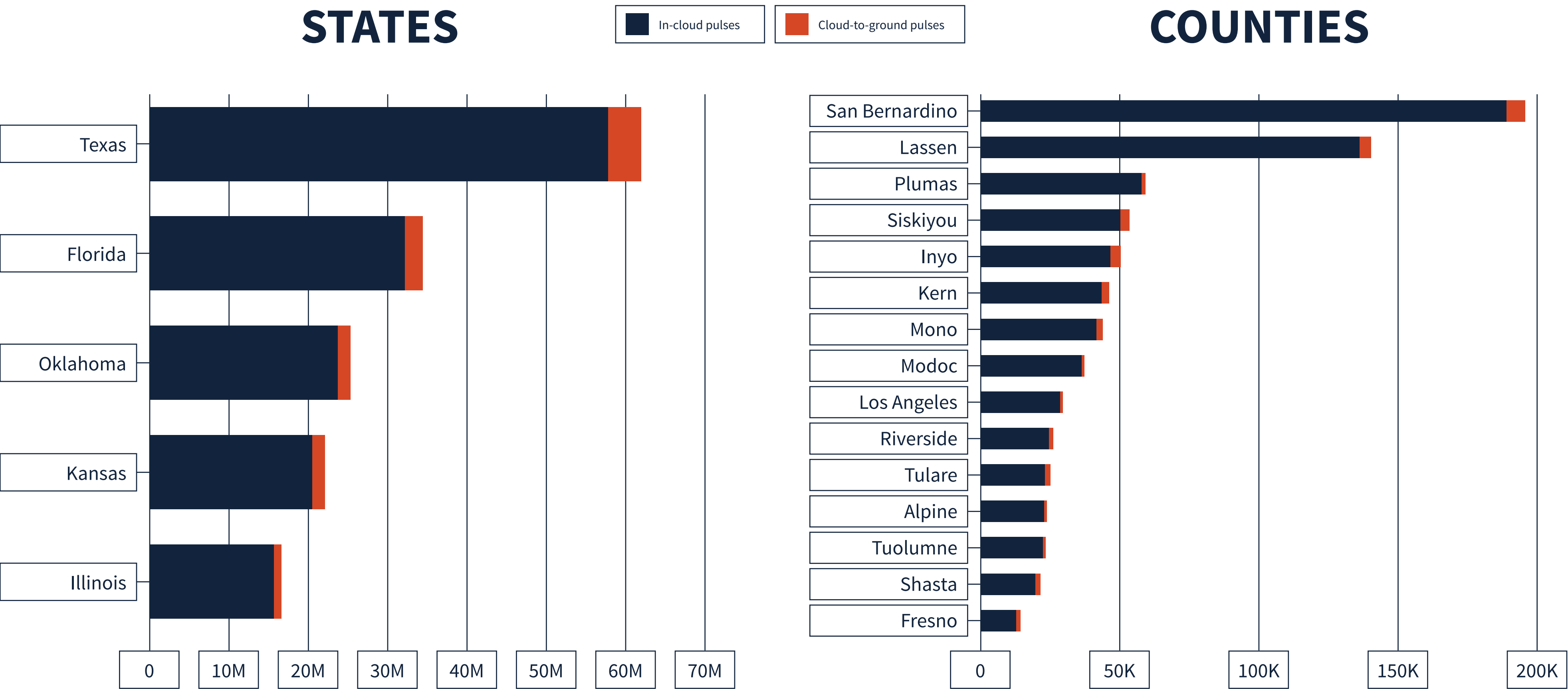
Lightning that occurs between opposite charges within a thunderstorm cloud

CALIFORNIA TOTAL LIGHTNING PULSES

956,187

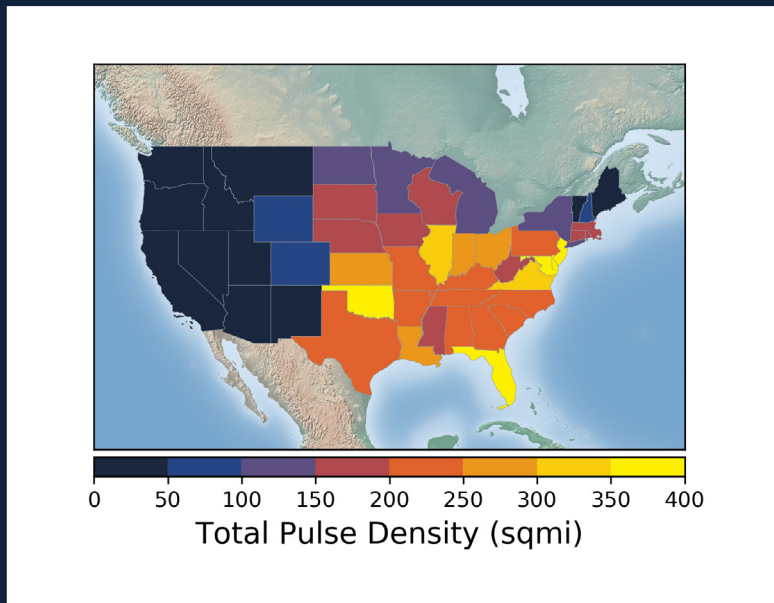
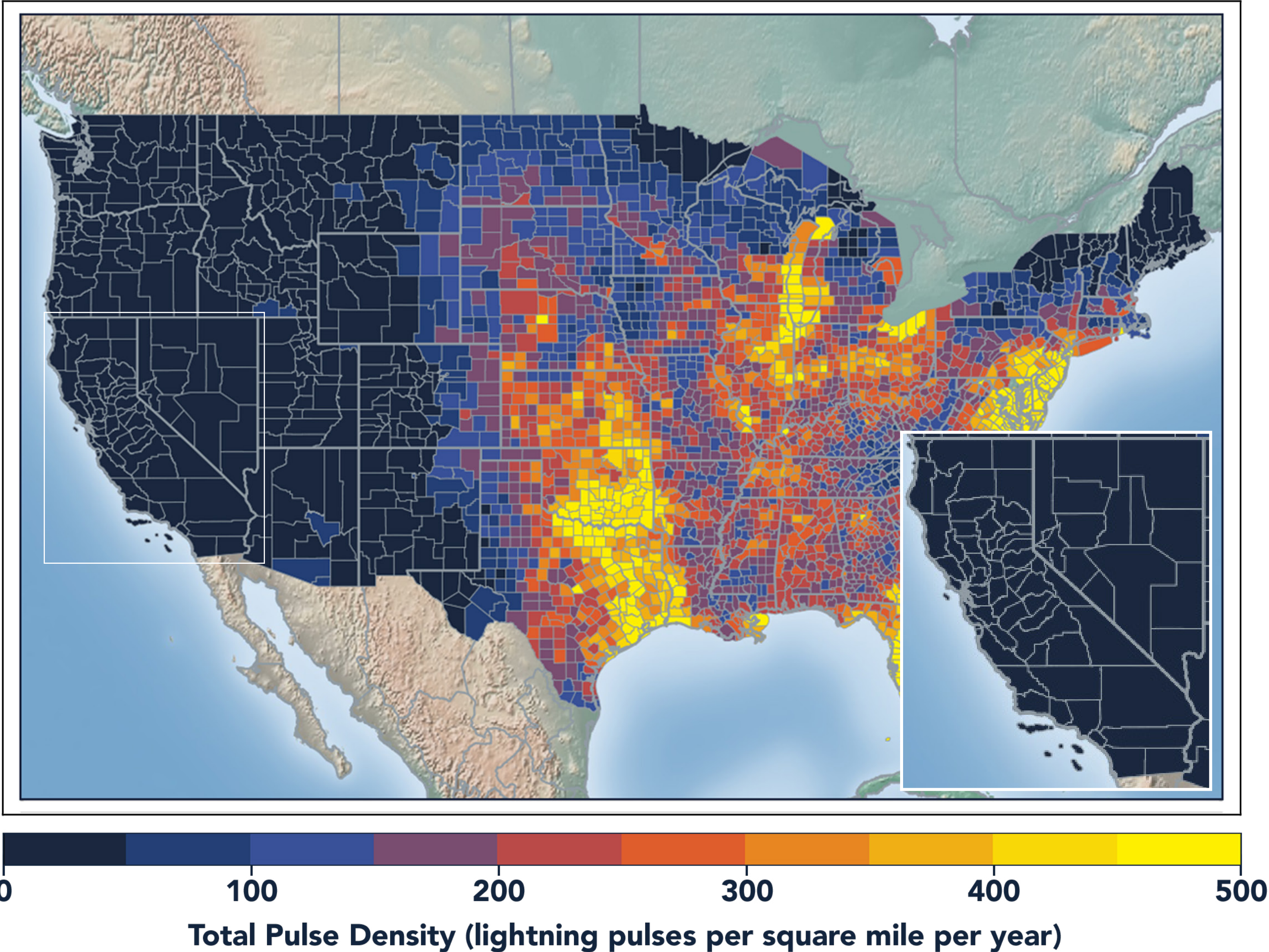


LIGHTNING COUNT RANKINGS



California ranked 41 in total lightning pulses for 2020.

TOTAL (CG+IC) PULSE DENSITY MAP



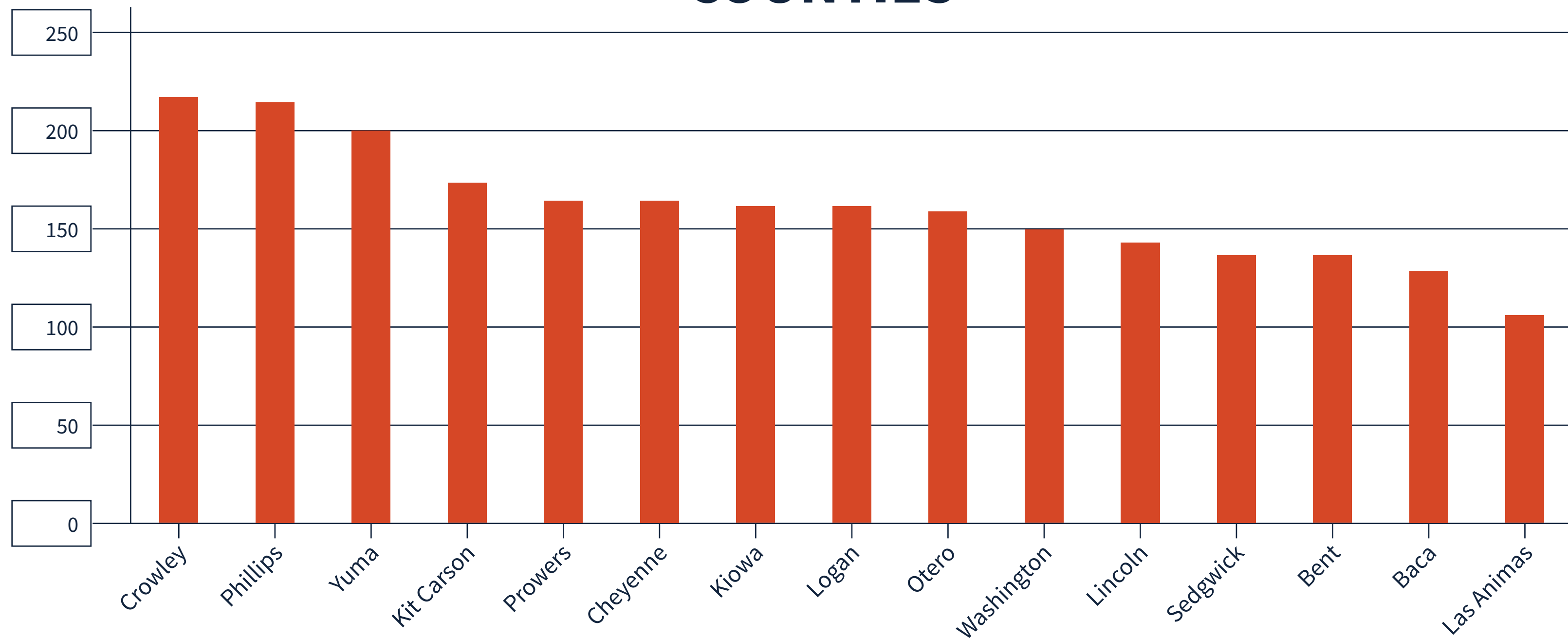
Pulse density is a better indicator of lightning activity than total lightning counts because it enables us to compare different sized areas (like states and counties) fairly.

We cluster pulses together into a flash. With every pulse we detect, we receive a more precise measure of lightning activity. At left, areas in bright yellow experienced the highest lightning pulse density per square mile in 2020.

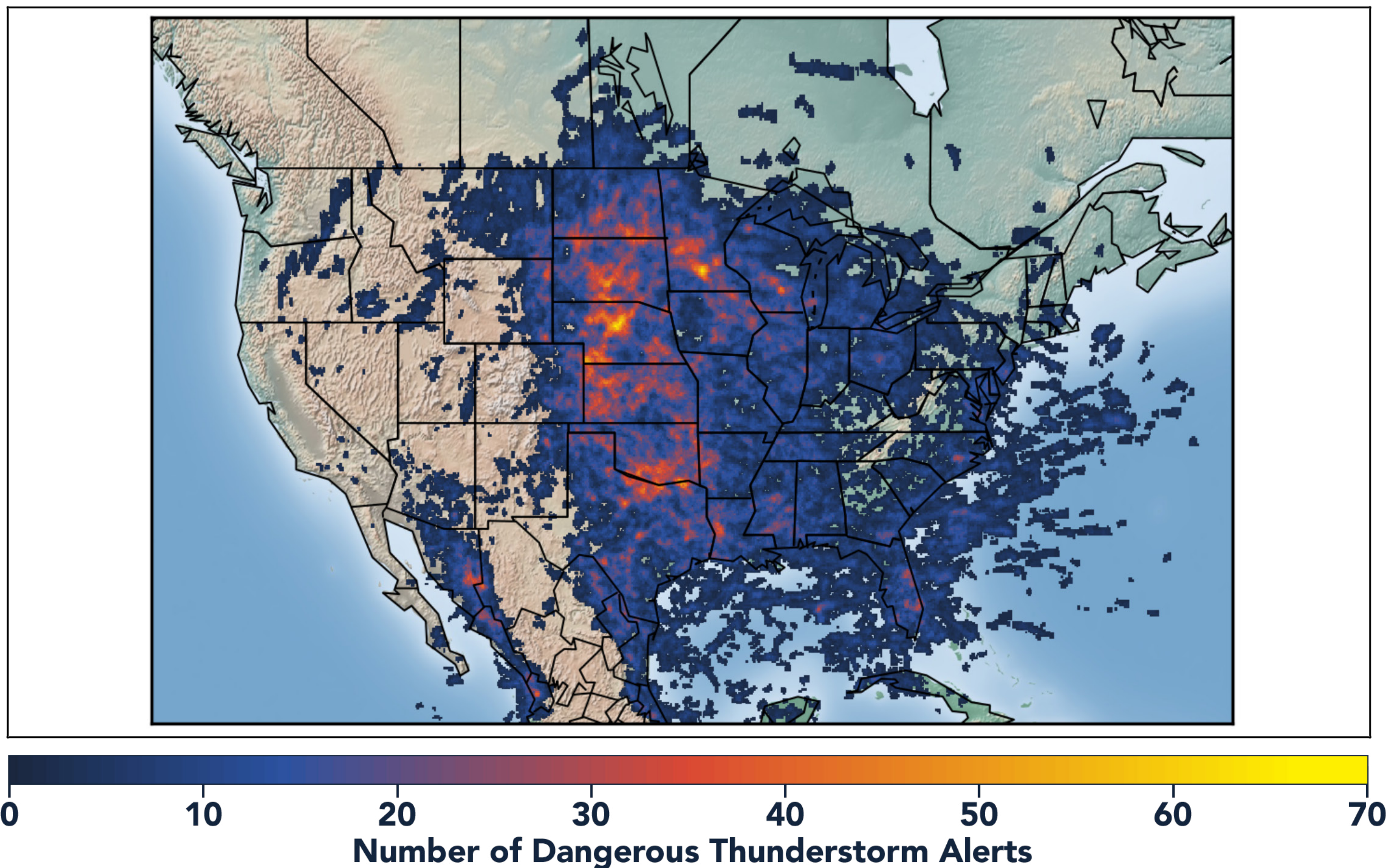
TOTAL PULSE DENSITY RANKINGS

This chart shows the top 15 counties in the state ranked by total pulse density, which is the total lightning divided by the area of the county (in square miles).

COUNTIES



DANGEROUS THUNDERSTORM ALERTS IN THE U.S.



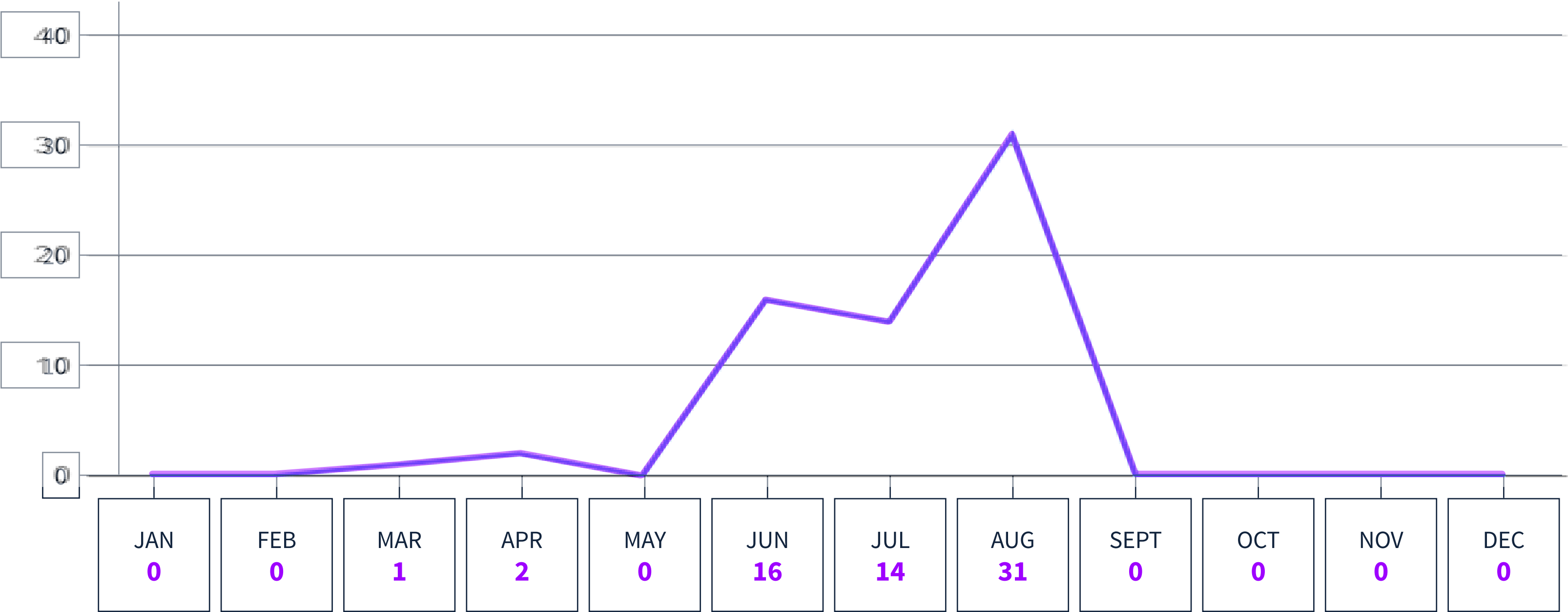
Earth Networks issued 29,401 Dangerous Thunderstorm Alerts (DTAs) in 2020. This year's map clearly shows the persistent drought conditions that have plagued the South and Southwest.

Dangerous Thunderstorm Alerts (DTAs), available exclusively to Earth Networks, provide **50% more lead time** to severe storms compared to publicly available alerts.

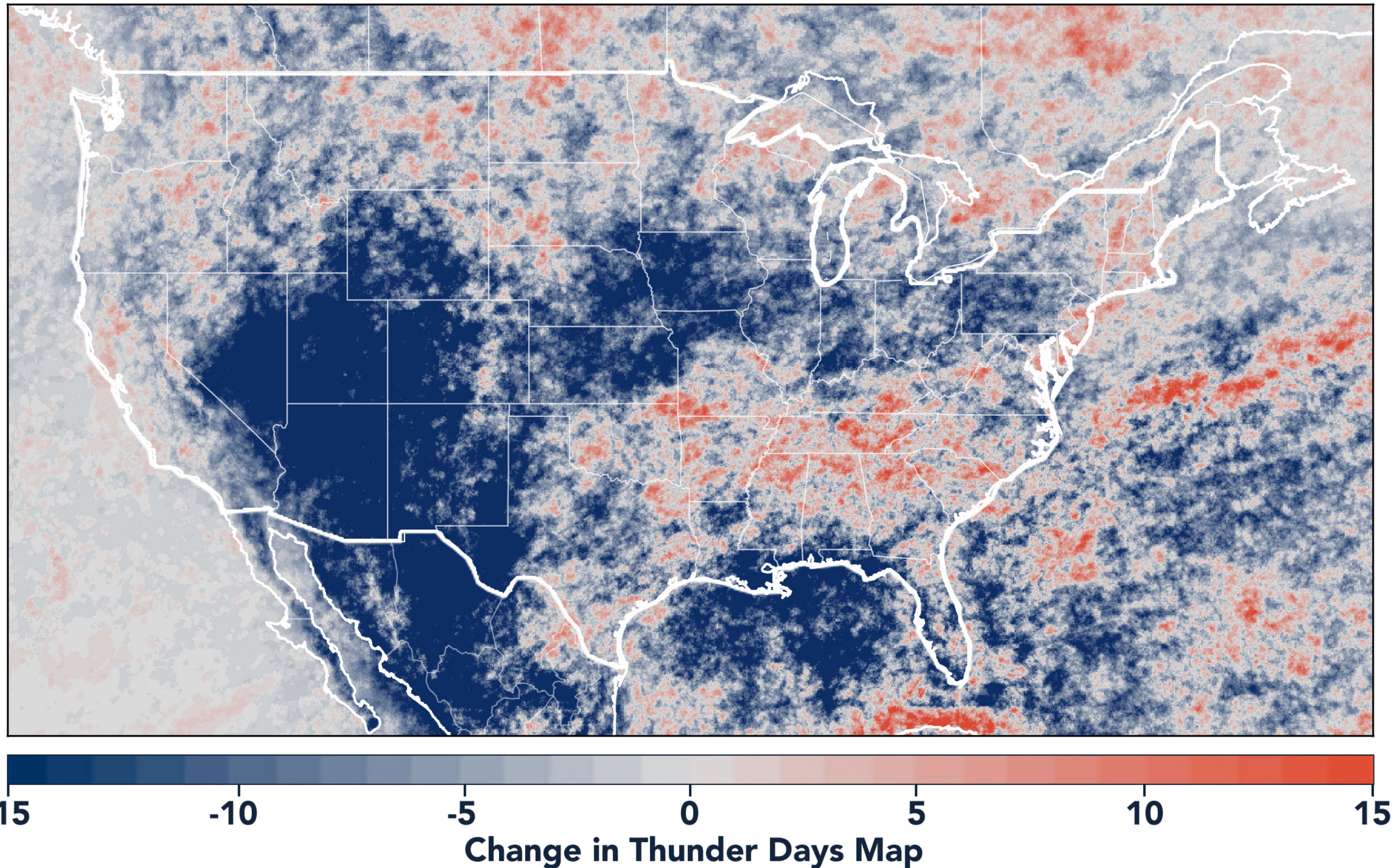
DANGEROUS THUNDERSTORM ALERTS BY MONTH

Earth Networks issued 64 Dangerous Thunderstorm Alerts for the state in 2020.

CALIFORNIA



TOTAL STATE THUNDER DAYS: 151



Thunder Days are the days we detected lightning over a certain area. The map shows a deviation from our 7-year average and illustrates our overall finding that lightning decreased about 15% from 2019.

This year, the Southwest and Midwest experienced significantly less lightning than in previous years due to a persistent drought and weak monsoon. States in the Southeast experienced a substantial uptick in lightning activity this year, including Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, Florida, Louisiana, Arkansas, and Kentucky.



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THANK YOU

For additional insights or permission to use data or graphics from this report, please contact us at: info@earthnetworks.com or call 1 301.250.4000



APPENDIX

This table ranks all U.S. states by total lightning pulses, including in-cloud and cloud-to-ground from highest to lowest. Total number of thunder days in each state (the total number of days in the year when lightning was detected by ENTLN) are also included. The period covered is January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

STATE	TOTAL LIGHTNING PULSES	TOTAL THUNDER DAYS
TX	63,683,799	278
FL	35,430,198	246
OK	26,159,420	205
KS	23,125,675	179
IL	16,785,149	166
NE	14,433,875	178
MO	14,081,658	184
VA	13,234,163	176
GA	13,016,803	217
OH	12,009,955	143
SD	11,940,870	156
LA	11,787,379	230
AL	11,448,621	202
AR	11,417,155	211
NC	10,666,834	203
PA	10,024,978	151
MS	9,236,279	210
IN	9,175,986	149
IA	9,121,097	140
WI	8,812,327	145
TN	8,458,373	186
MN	8,009,792	148
KY	7,974,926	166
MI	7,769,382	159
ND	7,634,287	131
SC	7,454,219	197
CO	7,360,769	185
MD	6,666,766	124
NM	5,819,550	196
MT	5,107,593	154
WY	4,951,397	166
NY	4,943,122	152
WV	4,684,226	150
AZ	3,532,759	151
NJ	3,465,297	96
UT	1,951,574	162
ID	1,518,171	172
MA	1,267,046	80
NV	1,237,862	146
DE	1,168,918	89
CA	956,187	151
OR	915,855	132
CT	802,252	70
NH	618,242	70
WA	402,333	117
ME	358,334	81
VT	354,695	75
RI	190,992	42
DC	44,204	47

APPENDIX

This table ranks all counties in the state by total lightning pulses, including in-cloud and cloud to-ground from highest to lowest. Total number of thunder days in each county (the total number of days in the year when lightning was detected by ENTLN) are also included. The period covered is January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.

COUNTY	TOTAL LIGHTNING PULSES	TOTAL THUNDER DAYS
San Bernardino County	195,646	47
Lassen County	140,407	44
Plumas County	59,531	35
Siskiyou County	53,617	37
Inyo County	50,314	55
Kern County	46,221	28
Mono County	44,194	50
Modoc County	37,488	38
Los Angeles County	29,683	15
Riverside County	25,928	25
Tulare County	25,223	46
Alpine County	23,787	36
Tuolumne County	23,442	50
Shasta County	21,615	37
Fresno County	14,466	52
Imperial County	14,420	15
Trinity County	12,484	27
Sierra County	11,750	37
Tehama County	10,906	34
Placer County	10,445	44
Nevada County	9,997	34
Mariposa County	8,901	38
Madera County	8,876	43
San Diego County	8,016	17
Santa Barbara County	7,378	10
Butte County	6,065	20
Mendocino County	5,425	16
El Dorado County	4,917	36
San Luis Obispo County	3,890	12
Ventura County	3,670	9
Glenn County	3,539	20
Monterey County	2,571	13
Stanislaus County	2,476	15
Colusa County	2,322	7
Sonoma County	2,232	12
Lake County	1,985	9
Yuba County	1,931	9
Merced County	1,855	18
Humboldt County	1,829	12
San Joaquin County	1,662	9
Sutter County	1,600	8
Sacramento County	1,422	9
Calaveras County	1,392	23
Alameda County	1,289	7
Amador County	1,155	24
Napa County	943	5

COUNTY	TOTAL LIGHTNING PULSES	TOTAL THUNDER DAYS
San Mateo County	924	2
Marin County	906	4
Contra Costa County	803	3
San Benito County	776	13
Kings County	658	12
Santa Clara County	634	9
Yolo County	554	4
Del Norte County	426	8
Santa Cruz County	272	5
San Francisco County	182	3
Solano County	170	5
Orange County	42	2