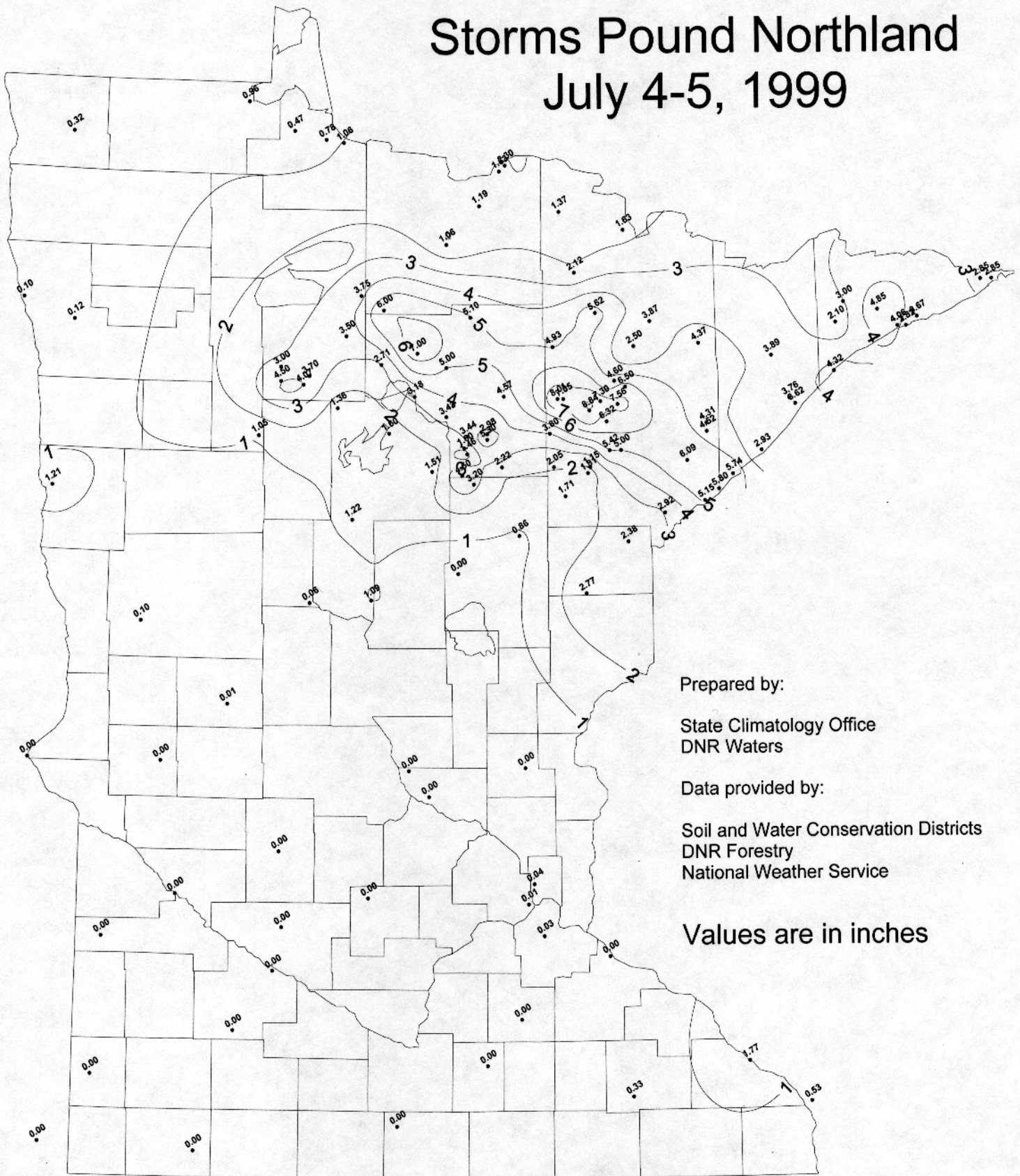


Storms Pound Northland July 4-5, 1999



A complex of severe thunderstorms rumbled across northern Minnesota during the morning and early afternoon hours of July 4th. The thunderstorms brought damaging winds which downed millions of trees in the BWCA and dropped torrential rains. Thunderstorms redeveloped during the evening of July 4th and continued into the morning hours of July 5th. The later round of thunderstorms dropped very heavy rains upon already waterlogged soils, leading to significant flooding. Some of the worst flooding occurred in central and southern St. Louis, southern Cook, and southern Lake counties. The largest reported two-day precipitation total was 8.84 inches in west central St. Louis county. Many roads in St. Louis, Lake, and Cook counties were closed temporarily due to high water and washouts.