

## MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR DECEMBER 2011

### ...TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW...

Temperatures were significantly below normal during December due to a series of storm systems that affected the region. Precipitation was also above normal for most areas, especially along and south of the Mogollon Rim.

#### DECEMBER DATA AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

	MAX	DEP	MIN	DEP	PCPN	DEP	PCPN
	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TOTL	NORM	%NORM
FLAGSTAFF	39.2	-3.3	13.3	-3.5	2.16	+0.29	116
BELLEMONT	39.5	-4.8	6.9	-6.3	1.81	+0.08	105
COTTONWOOD	55.7	-2.8	30.1	+0.5	1.83	+0.67	158
GRAND CANYON	41.7	-2.1	13.3	+0.8	0.56	-0.95	37
WINSLOW	44.5	-4.1	21.5	+0.9	0.65	+0.09	116
PRESCOTT AP	48.6	-2.6	23.8	-1.5	1.74	+0.78	181
PRESCOTT WTP	47.4	-4.1	21.7	-1.7	2.33	+0.87	160
SAINT JOHNS	43.9	-4.5	18.5	-1.0	0.54	-0.13	81
SELIGMAN	49.9	-3.0	21.5	-1.1	1.34	+0.45	151
SHOW LOW AP	39.3	-7.6	18.7	-4.5	2.50	+0.99	166

Here are some other December precipitation totals from our Co-operative observers around northern Arizona.

#### LOCATION                      DECEMBER PRECIP

ALPINE RANGER STN	2.00
BAGDAD	2.81
BETATAKIN	1.18
BLUE RIDGE RANGER STN	2.40
BRIGHT ANGEL RANGER STN	1.12
CASTLE HOT SPRINGS	3.75
CHINO VALLEY	1.50
CORDES	3.26
FORT VALLEY	1.30
GANADO	T
GISELA	3.16
GRAND CANYON NP 2 (S RIM)	0.49
HAPPY JACK RANGER STN	3.07
JEROME	2.50
KEAMS CANYON	T
LEES FERRY	0.59

MCNARY 2 N	3.54
MONTEZUMA CASTLE N.M.	1.71
NATURAL BRIDGE	4.17
OAK CREEK	3.61
PAGE	0.43
PAGE (ASOS)	0.49
PAINTED DESERT N.P.	1.42
PAYSON	3.29
PETRIFIED FOREST N.P.	3.92
PHANTOM RANCH	0.61
PLEASANT VALLEY R.S.	1.83
SAINT MICHAELS	0.64
SNOWFLAKE	1.79
SPRINGERVILLE	3.02
SUNRISE MOUNTAIN	3.89
SUNSET CRATER N.M.	1.27
TEEC NOS POS	0.51
TUBA CITY	0.24
WALNUT CANYON N.M.	1.39
WALNUT CREEK	3.30
WALNUT GROVE	2.42
WILLIAMS	2.00
WINDOW ROCK (ASOS)	0.54

**...SIGNIFICANT WEATHER...**

**December 1<sup>st</sup>-2<sup>nd</sup> Snowstorm**

A strong area of low pressure moved across the region from the 1<sup>st</sup> into the early part of the 2<sup>nd</sup>. A particularly hard hit area stretched from the eastern Mogollon Rim into the Little Colorado River Valley where unusually heavy snow fell. Here are some snowfall totals (in inches):

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SNOWFALL</b>
<b>...COCONINO COUNTY...</b>	
GRAND CANYON N. RIM	14.0
JACOB LAKE	12.0
BELLEMONT	10.5
FOREST LAKES	10.0
GRAND CANYON S. RIM	8.0
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	6.5
MORMON LAKE	5.2
<b>...YAVAPAI COUNTY...</b>	
4 W PRESCOTT	3.0
4 S PRESCOTT VALLEY	2.0
<b>...NAVAJO COUNTY...</b>	

SHOW LOW	24.0
LINDEN	15.5
SNOWFLAKE	15.0
TAYLOR	14.0
HEBER-OVERGAARD	10.5
<b>...APACHE COUNTY...</b>	
MCNARY	8.0
10 MI S PETRIFIED FOREST	6.5

### December 3<sup>rd</sup> Snowstorm

Another even colder storm system dove southward into the state late on the evening of the 2<sup>nd</sup> and continued into December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Additional snowfall occurred at most locations above 4000 feet elevation. Here are some snowfall totals (in inches):

LOCATION	SNOWFALL
<b>...COCONINO COUNTY...</b>	
FOREST LAKES	11.0
MUNDS PARK	10.0
ARIZONA SNOWBOWL	8.0
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	6.6
KACHINA VILLAGE	6.1
MORMON LAKE	5.9
BELLEMONT	5.8
WILLIAMS	3.6
<b>...GILA COUNTY...</b>	
14 NNW PAYSON	5.5
PAYSON	3.0
<b>...NAVAJO COUNTY...</b>	
HEBER	6.0
<b>...YAVAPAI COUNTY...</b>	
N SEDONA	4.0
3 NE PRESCOTT	4.0
PAULDEN	2.5
CHINO VALLEY	2.5
SELIGMAN	2.0
PRESCOTT VALLEY	2.0
VILLAGE AT OAK CREEK	1.0

### December 6<sup>th</sup> Record Low Temperatures

Several locations set new record lows on the morning of December 6<sup>th</sup>.

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW LOW	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
FORT VALLEY (1909 - 2011)	-15	-10 IN 1955
GRAND CANYON NP N RIM (1925 - 2011)	-8	-4 IN 1925
HEBER RS (1950 - 2011)	-6	5 IN 1960
PETRIFIED FOREST (1931 - 2011)	0	0 (TIED) IN 1953

**December 12<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup> Winter Storm**

A large winter storm moved from off the Pacific into the state from late on the 12<sup>th</sup> through the 14<sup>th</sup>. Heavy snow was reported down to near 5000 feet elevation. Here are some snowfall totals (in inches):

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SNOWFALL</b>
<b>...APACHE COUNTY...</b>	
ALPINE	22.0
<b>...COCONINO COUNTY...</b>	
FOREST LAKES	33.0
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	17.6
KACHINA VILLAGE	17.0
MUNDS PARK	15.8
BELLEMONT	13.5
ARIZONA SNOWBOWL	12.0
PARKS	9.0
4 S WILLIAMS	8.5
<b>...GILA COUNTY...</b>	
PINE	15.0
PAYSON	5.0
<b>...NAVAJO COUNTY...</b>	
SHOW LOW	4.0
<b>...YAVAPAI COUNTY...</b>	
5 W PRESCOTT	9.0
PRESCOTT	2.0

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> Snow**

A cold storm system brought snow to much of central and eastern Arizona. The heaviest snow fell from the eastern Mogollon Rim into the White Mountains. Here are some snowfall totals (in inches):

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>SNOWFALL</b>
HEBER-OVERGAARD	7.0-11.0
ALPINE	8.0
VERNON	8.0
SHOW LOW	6.0-8.0
EAGAR	6.0
FOREST LAKES	6.0
CONCHO	4.5
CIBECUE	4.0

**December 29<sup>th</sup> Record High Temperatures**

An unusually strong area of high pressure affected the state near the end of December. Some new record high temperatures were set across the region.

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
FORT VALLEY (1909 - 2011)	59	59 (TIED) IN 1917
HEBER RS (1950 - 2011)	61	60 IN 1973
PRESCOTT AIRPORT (1948 - 2011)	68	67 IN 1980

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PLEASE SEND QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO [W-FGZ.WEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV](mailto:W-FGZ.WEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV)