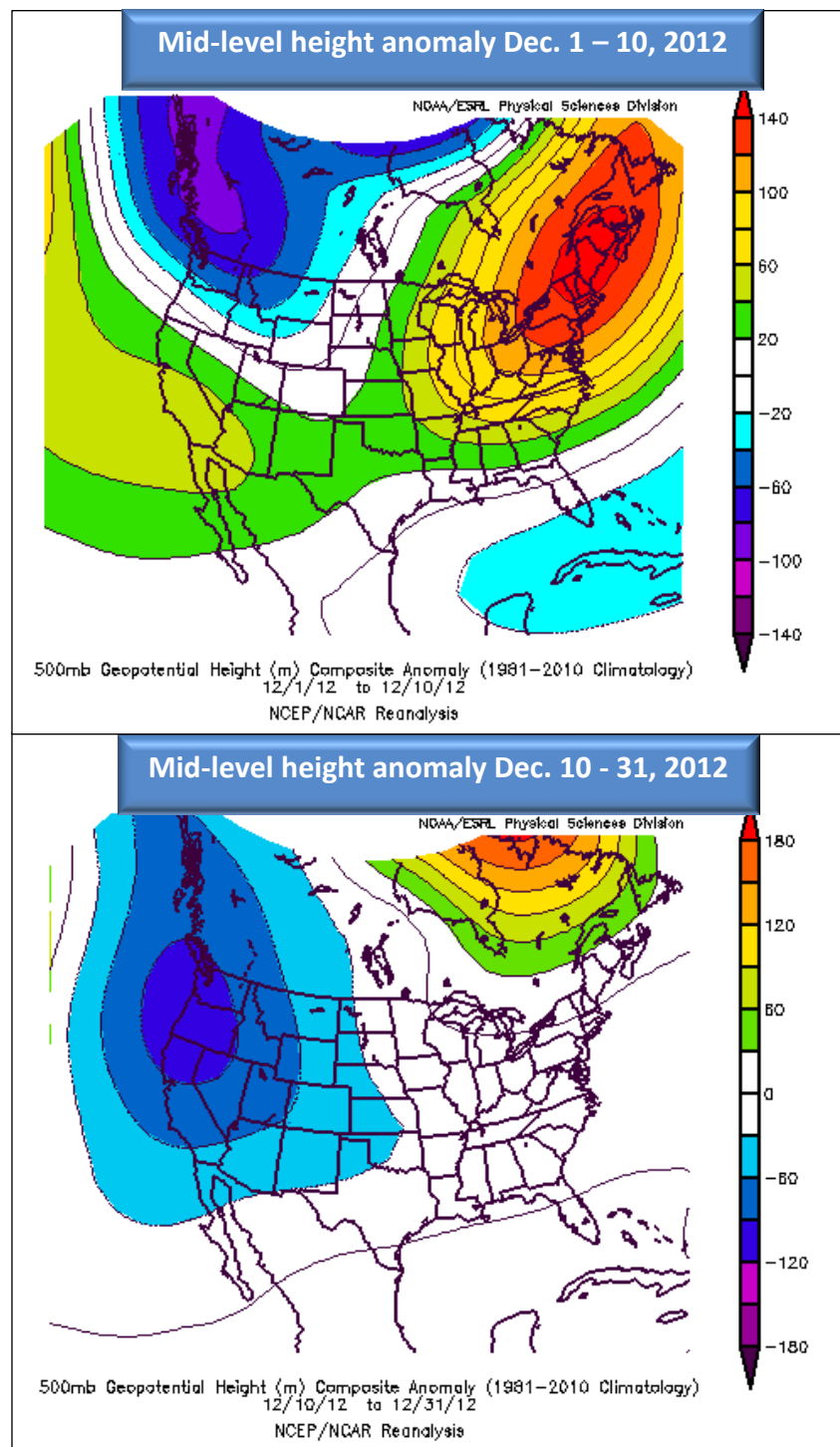


MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR DECEMBER 2012

...TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW...

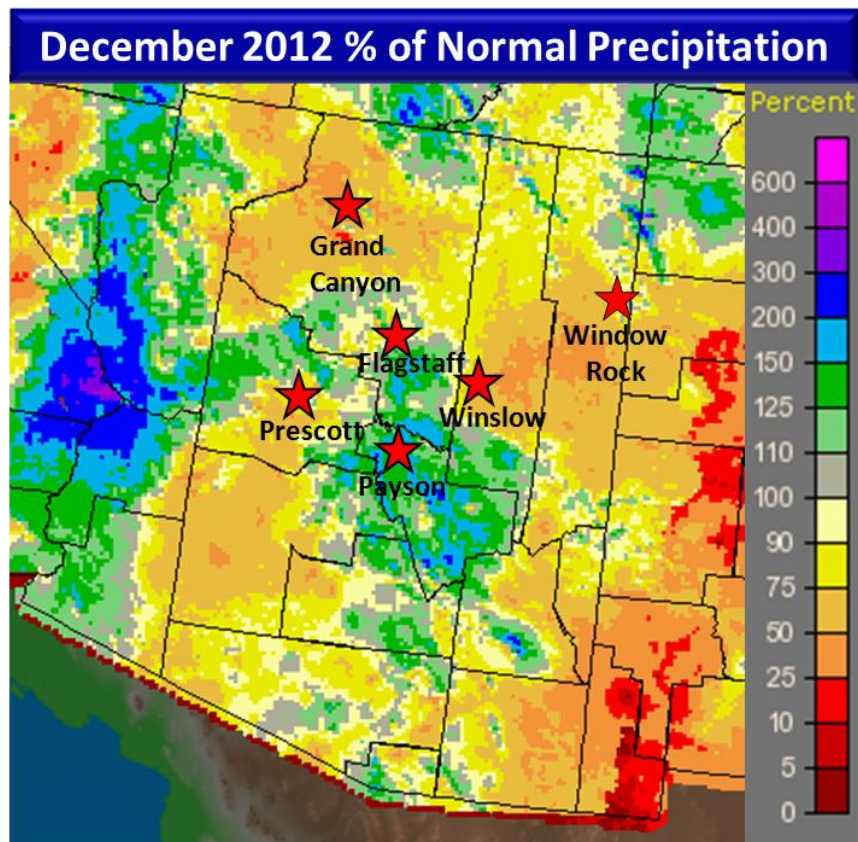
After a very dry fall season, December saw a significant weather pattern change as several storm systems affected the region. The first part of December was characterized by dry and warmer than normal conditions, but by the middle of the month the high pressure pattern broke down giving way to several storm systems that moved through the western and southwestern United States. Each storm system spread rain and snow across the state and brought periods of much colder temperatures. By the month's end, most of northern Arizona ended up with higher than normal precipitation and cooler than normal temperatures.

The two graphics to the right illustrate the pattern change that took place in December. These mid-level height anomaly graphics indicate departure from normal pressure at middle levels of the atmosphere. The top graphic shows height anomalies from December 1st - 10th, with the green colors across much of the southwest indicating above normal heights, or high pressure, for this time of year. This is indicative of fair, dry, and generally warm weather. The lower image shows height anomalies from December 10th - Dec 31st, with blue colors across the western U.S. indicating low height anomalies, or lower than normal pressure. This is indicative of the stormier pattern observed through the latter portion of the month.



DECEMBER DATA AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

	Max		Min		PCPN		PCT Normal
	Temp	Dep	Temp	Dep		Dep	
Flagstaff	41.3	-1.2	15.4	-1.4	2.08	0.21	111%
Winslow	50.6	2.0	22.0	1.4	0.64	0.08	114%
Prescott AP	50.7	-0.5	26.3	1.0	1.11	0.15	116%
Prescott WTP	51.4	-0.1	24.0	0.6	1.73	0.27	118%
Grand Canyon AP	41.3	-2.5	10.0	-2.5	N/A	N/A	N/A
Bellemont	40.8	-3.5	7.8	-5.4	2.10	0.37	121%
Show Low AP	46.9	0.0	25.6	2.4	1.99	0.48	132%
Cottonwood	57.6	-0.9	30.2	0.6	1.37	0.21	118%
Seligman	50.7	-2.2	22.2	-0.4	0.79	-0.10	89%



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

LOCATION	DECEMBER PRECIP
BAGDAD	2.52
BLUE RIDGE R.S	2.40
CAMP VERDE 3N	1.54
CASTLE HOT SPRINGS	1.90
CHINO VALLEY	1.36
FLAGSTAFF 4SW	1.90
FORT VALLEY	2.27
FREDONIA 7SSE	0.63
GANADO	1.15
GISELA	3.00
GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER	1.18
HEBER (BLACK MESA) R.S.	1.66
JEROME	4.93
LEES FERRY	0.47
MCNARY 2 N	2.40
METEOR CRATER	0.89
MUNDS PARK	3.28
OAK CREEK	3.89
PAGE	0.62
PAINTED DESERT N.P.	0.57
PAYSON	4.19
PETRIFIED FOREST N.P.	0.48
PHANTOM RANCH	0.95
PINETOP 2E	3.45
SAINT JOHNS	0.51
SAINT MICHAELS	1.11
SNOWFLAKE	0.64
SUNSET CRATER N. M.	1.82
TEEC NOS POS	0.93
TSAILE 1SSW	1.62
WALNUT CANYON N. M.	1.51
WHITERIVER 1 SW	2.12
WILLIAMS	1.93
WILLIAMS 35NNW	0.92
WINDOW ROCK	1.21

...SIGNIFICANT WEATHER...

RECORD HIGHS IN EARLY DECEMBER:

...RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA ON DEC 01 2012...

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
WINSLOW (1893 - 2012)	71	70 IN 2005

...RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA ON DEC 05 2012...

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
PETRIFIED FOREST (1931 - 2012)	71	69 IN 1958
WINSLOW (1893 - 2012)	72	71 IN 1958

DECEMBER 14TH - 15TH WINTER STORM:

TWO STORM SYSTEMS PASSED THROUGH NORTHERN ARIZONA BRINGING THE FIRST HEAVY SNOWFALL OF THE SEASON TO MUCH OF NORTHERN ARIZONA. THE AMOUNTS BELOW REPRESENT TWO-DAY TOTAL SNOWFALL FROM THESE TWO STORMS.

LOCATION	STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL /INCHES/
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ARIZONA

...APACHE COUNTY...

2 N MCNARY	10.3
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...COCONINO COUNTY...

BELLEMONT	20.5
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	20.3
FOREST LAKES	20.0
PARKS 2N	20.0
MUNDS PARK	19.0
KACHINA VILLAGE	13-18
GRAND CANYON N. RIM	18.0
MOUNTAINAIRE	17.0
CLINTS WELL	15.0
2 S FLAGSTAFF	13.5
12 N PARKS	13.0
WILLIAMS	8.2
WALNUT CANYON	7.0
1 SSE GRAND CANYON V	7.0

...GILA COUNTY...

22 E PAYSON	18.0
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STRAWBERRY	12.0
TONTO VILLAGE	11.5
12 NNE PAYSON	10.0
STAR VALLEY	5.0
PAYSON	4.0
1 SW PAYSON	1.0

...YAVAPAI COUNTY...

WEST PRESCOTT	6.0
2 N PRESCOTT	6.0
25 SW SELIGMAN	5.0
SELIGMAN	5.0
PRESCOTT WTP	2.0

DECEMBER 18TH - 19TH SNOW: A WEATHER SYSTEM WHICH CROSSED NORTHERN ARIZONA TUESDAY THE 18TH THROUGH WEDNESDAY MORNING THE 19TH PRODUCED ACCUMULATING SNOWFALL AT MANY HIGH ELEVATION LOCATIONS. SNOWFALL TOTALS INCLUDED:

LOCATION	STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL /INCHES/
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.APACHE COUNTY...

MCNARY	2.5
WINDOW ROCK	2.0
CONCHO	0.5

.COCONINO COUNTY...

SNOWBOWL	6-12
HAPPY JACK	7.0
FOREST LAKES	6-7
WALNUT CANYON NM	6.0
JACOB LAKE	6.0
BELLEMONT	5.3
FLAGSTAFF	2-5
WILLIAMS	4.8
PARKS	3-4
FLAGSTAFF AP	2.8
GRAND CANYON VIS CENTER	3.0
KACHINA VILLAGE	2.0

.GILA COUNTY...

PAYSON	T
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.NAVAJO COUNTY...

SHOW LOW	1-4
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HEBER-OVERGAARD	1.5
PETRIFIED FOREST	0.5-1
ST. JOHNS	T

.YAVAPAI COUNTY...

PRESCOTT	0.5-1
PRESCOTT VALLEY	0.3
JEROME	0.2
SEDONA	T

DECEMBER 30TH - 31ST SNOW:

A COLD STORM SYSTEM BROUGHT SNOW TO MUCH OF CENTRAL AND NORTHERN ARIZONA FROM SUNDAY DEC. 31ST THROUGH THE AFTERNOON OF MONDAY DEC. 31ST (NEW YEAR'S EVE). ACCUMULATING SNOWFALL WAS OBSERVED DOWN TO ELEVATIONS NEAR 4000 FEET...WITH SNOW LEVELS DROPPING BELOW 3000 FEET AT TIMES. THE HEAVIEST SNOWFALL WAS IN THE PAYSON VICINITY AND ACROSS THE EASTERN MOGOLLON RIM AND WHITE MOUNTAINS...WITH LESSER AMOUNTS TO THE NORTH AND WEST. BELOW IS A LIST OF SNOWFALL AMOUNTS:

LOCATION	STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL /INCHES/
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...APACHE COUNTY...

SUNRISE SKI RESORT	9.0
2 N MCNARY	8.3
MANY FARMS	2.0
CONCHO	1.0

...COCONINO COUNTY...

ARIZONA SNOWBOWL	10.0
FOREST LAKES	6.0
MUNDS PARK	5.0
3 E JACOB LAKE	4.0
4 S WILLIAMS	3.2
12 N PARKS	3.0
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	2.6
BELLEMONT	2.3
PARKS	2.0
KACHINA VILLAGE	2.0
GRAND CANYON S RIM	0.5

...GILA COUNTY...

PAYSON 1 N	8.3
PAYSON 2 NE	8.0
2 ENE PAYSON	5.5
PAYSON	5.0
STRAWBERRY	4.0
YOUNG	2.0

...NAVAJO COUNTY...

SHOW LOW	3.0
HEBER-OVERGAARD	2.5
N HEBER-OVERGAARD	1.0
NAVAJO NATL MON	0.9

...YAVAPAI COUNTY...

12 S PRESCOTT	4.0
1 N PRESCOTT VALLEY	3.0
SEDONA	2.0
PRESCOTT	1.5
2 NW PRESCOTT	1.5
RIMROCK	1.0
PRESCOTT VALLEY	1.0
5 N PRESCOTT	1.0
CORNVILLE	1.0

PLEASE SEND QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO
W-FGZ.WEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV