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Wyoming's Climate: September 2011

Streamflow

Thanks to the strong snowpack received during early 2011, streamflow conditions for September remained good with normal and often above normal flows being seen in all portions of the state.

Precipitation

Dryness continued and intensified in September with over one-third of stations being at 25% or less of normal. The improvement that was seen last month in the northern portion of the state was lost in September and only Kaycee showed a very modest amount above normal. The Laramie 2NW station in the southeast was another exception to the drier than normal conditions and was right about at the normal.

The last third of the month was very dry among CoCoRaHS observers, too, with no precipitation reported from the 23rd through the end of the month, and the 4 days prior to that seeing only very minimal amounts from a very small subset of stations.

Temperature

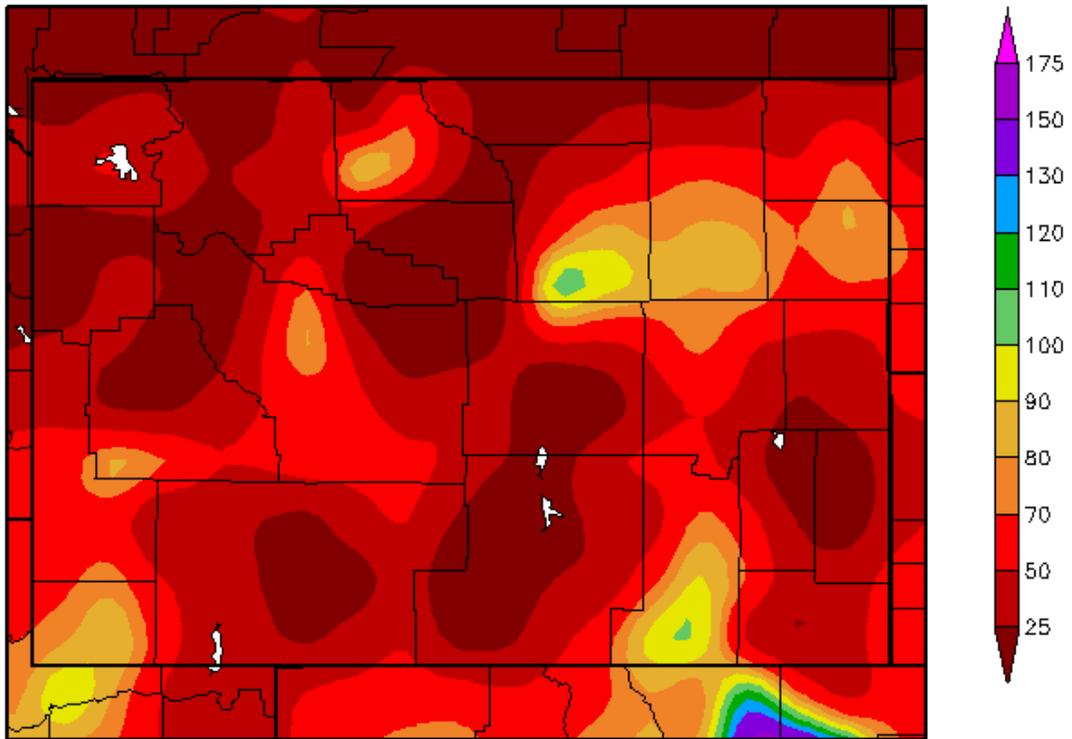
The above normal temperatures that dominated Wyoming last month continued in September. Most of the stations in the state saw temperatures that were one to five degrees F above normal. The southeast quarter of the state was generally cooler than the rest of the state but, even there, all stations but Fort Laramie (departure from normal of about -1F) were on the plus side of normal.

Compared to August, September temperatures in the southeast were closer to normal whereas the departures in the northwest were further on the warm side of normal.

The D0 (Abnormally Dry) category that was introduced by the US Drought Monitor into the eastern part of Weston and the northeastern part of Niobrara counties in August was increased in area (but not intensity) during September. It reached a maximum area during the 13 September report in which it comprised the eastern edges of Weston, Niobrara, Goshen, and Laramie counties. By the end of the month, the area had been decreased and was a little bit less than the eastern half of Goshen County, the southeastern quarter of Niobrara and the very northeastern tip of Laramie County.

This report was prepared by the Wyoming State Climate Office, which is a division of the Wyoming Water Resources Data System at the University of Wyoming. More information can be found at: <http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu> and http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/sco/climate_office.html. Special thanks to the National Weather Service's Riverton and Cheyenne Offices and the NRCS Casper Office for supplying much of the data and information used in this report.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
9/1/2011 - 9/30/2011

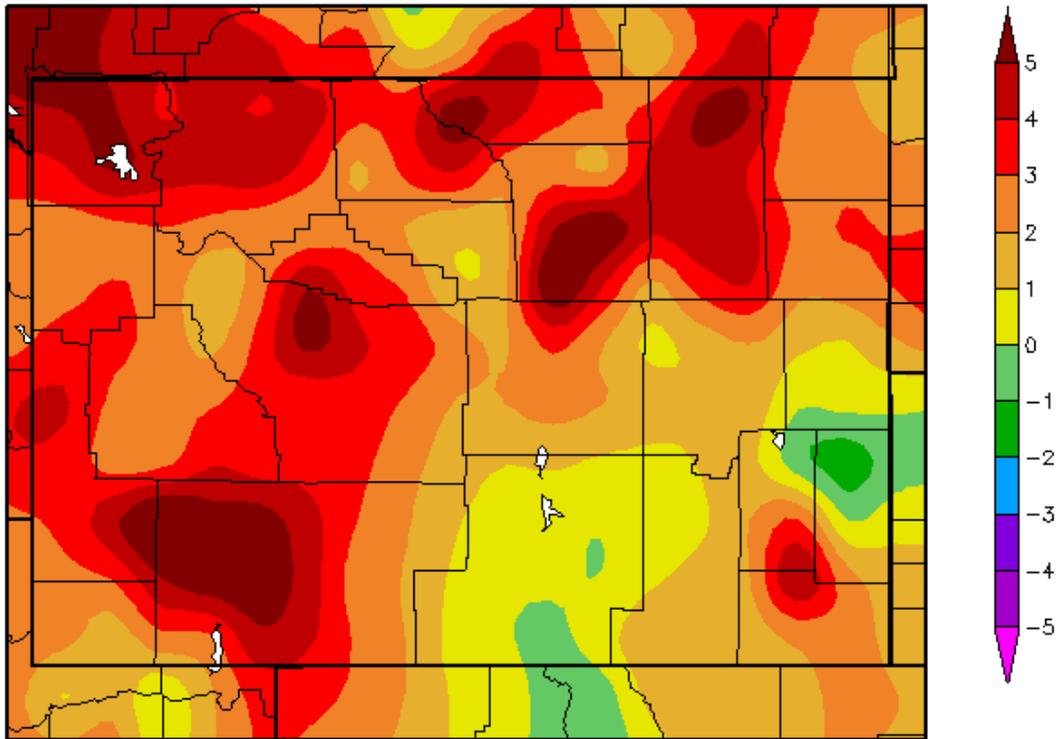


Generated 10/11/2011 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing September 2011 precipitation as a percentage of historical averages (vs. 1971-2000 “normal” period) for Wyoming. Courtesy of the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
9/1/2011 - 9/30/2011



Generated 10/11/2011 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing mean September 2011 temperatures as departures from historical averages (vs. 1971-2000 "normal" period) for Wyoming. Courtesy of the High Plains Regional Climate Center.