



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

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Wyoming's Climate: August 2012

Precipitation

After a wetter July, precipitation again turned off in August except for the northern part of Crook County. With that exception, all stations in the state had below Normal precipitation with most stations running at 25% or less compared to the 1981-2010 Normal. This dry pattern is also evident in the CoCoRaHS data for August.

<http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu/sco/CoCoRaHS/2012Aug.html> is a table showing average precipitation recorded for each day in August for each county from the CoCoRaHS network. The values are a simple arithmetic mean (no spatial consideration) and not all stations report every day (though are more likely to report when there is measurable precipitation). The low monthly totals (except for Crook County) and the sparseness of non-zero days is very evident.

Reference ET (Short Grass) gauges were deployed in a few areas of the state during August. While not all these stations were in place for all of August the ones that were active for the full month show water balances ranging from -4.73" in Sheridan County to -7.84" in Campbell County. The station in Albany County had a deficit of 5.16".

Temperature

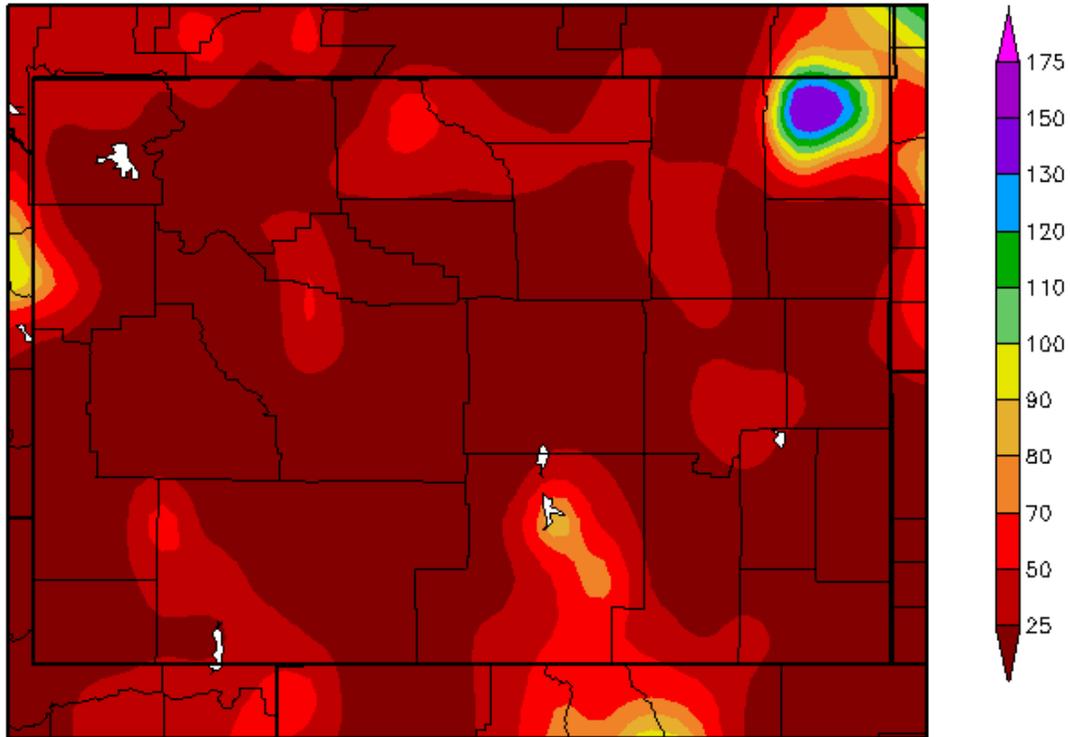
Temperatures around the state in August were generally near to above the 1981-2010 Normals with a few exceptions in the east and north central. The southwest was 3° F to 5° F above the Normal and the positive departure became less toward the northeast. Much of the north central and northeast parts of the state were within a degree above or below Normal.

Drought levels continued to expand and increase in August. All parts of the state were in at least D0 at the end of August and D4 was introduced during the last week of August/first week of September and covers most of Goshen County as well as southeastern Niobrara, extreme northeast Laramie and extreme northeast Platte counties. D3 was expanded to cover all of Laramie, Platte, and Weston counties as well as the southern third of Crook, southern half of Campbell, and most of Converse counties in the east. In the central part of the state, D3 expanded north from Sweetwater County into Sublette, Fremont, Hot Springs, Washakie, Big Horn, western Sheridan, and eastern Park counties. The 28th of August marked the first time that the entire state was in D0 or greater since April 24th of 2007.

This report was prepared by the Wyoming State Climate Office, which is part 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 Office, the NRCS Casper

Office, and the Cheyenne US Geological Survey Office, and Wyoming CoCoRaHS observers for supplying much of the data and information used in this report.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/1/2012 – 8/31/2012

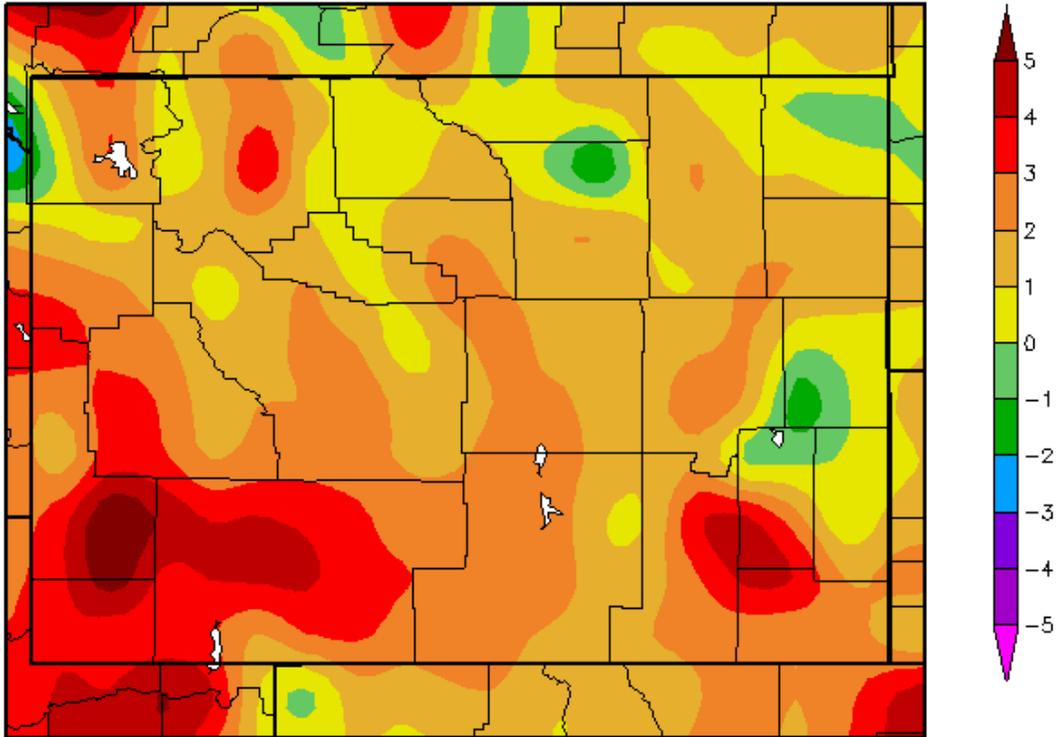


Generated 9/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing August 2012 precipitation as a percentage of historical averages (vs. 1981-2010 “normal” period) for Wyoming. Courtesy of the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/1/2012 – 8/31/2012



Generated 9/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing mean August 2012 temperatures as departures from historical averages (vs. 1981-2010 “normal” period) for Wyoming. Courtesy of the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

U.S. Drought Monitor

September 4, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST

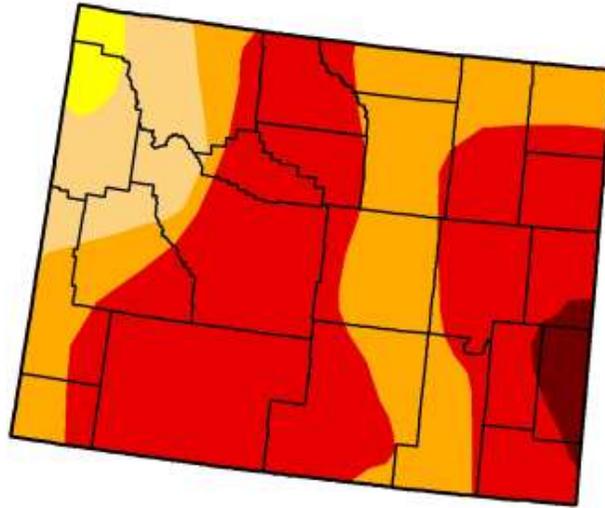
Wyoming

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.91	87.53	58.48	2.62
Last Week (08/28/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	94.87	81.85	37.05	0.00
3 Months Ago (06/05/2012 map)	14.92	85.08	30.71	0.70	0.15	0.00
Start of Calendar Year (12/27/2011 map)	99.84	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Start of Water Year (09/27/2011 map)	98.26	1.74	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
One Year Ago (08/30/2011 map)	97.63	2.37	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Drought - Moderate
- D2 Drought - Severe
- D3 Drought - Extreme
- D4 Drought - Exceptional



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



Released Thursday, September 6, 2012
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center

Map showing Wyoming Drought Status as of the end of August 2012. Courtesy of the US Drought Monitor.