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## Wyoming's Climate: January 2012

### **Snowpack**

Snowpack continued to be of concern in January but there was some improvement. At the end of January, the Upper Bear, Upper North Platte, and Little Snake basins were at only about 70% of normal while the Snake, Wind, Upper Yellowstone, Lower North Platte, and the Upper and Lower Green basins ranged from about 85% to 95%. The Belle Fourche, Shoshone, and Bighorn basins are doing better with snowpacks generally around normal. Only the Powder-Tongue basin is above normal at almost 120%

### **Precipitation**

January was dry for the north central part of the state. The counties of Park, Washakie, Big Horn, Hot Springs, Fremont, Sheridan and Johnson all saw well below normal precipitation amounts (less than 50% of normal). The far west counties of Teton and Lincoln and parts of Uinta were about normal to slightly above normal which was an improvement from last month. Dryness persisted in the southern portion of the state causing the introduction of Moderate Drought in parts of Sweetwater and Carbon counties.

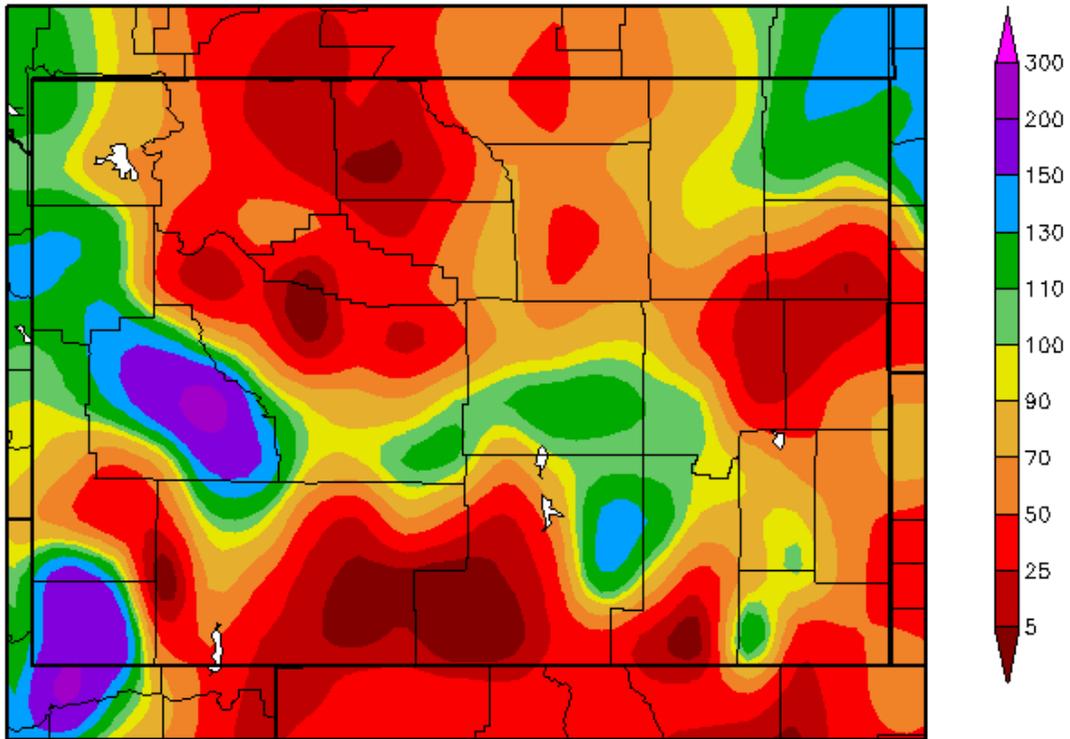
### **Temperature**

The entire state had above normal temperatures for the month of January with some stations reporting in at more than 10°F above normal. This was especially so in the north central areas of the state, ie the Wind/Big Horn basins and parts of northwestern Sweetwater County/southeastern Lincoln County.

The D0 (Abnormally Dry) category that was introduced into the very northeastern part of Crook County on 08 November remained. Because of the poor snowpack in the southwest, D0 was also introduced to Uinta, the southern part of Lincoln, and the southwestern half of Sweetwater counties on 10 January. As conditions deteriorated, this was extended east along the southern third of Carbon and the very southwest portion of Albany a week later. On 24 January, the D0 was expanded northward somewhat along the Sweetwater/Carbon county border and D1 (Moderate Drought) was introduced to the southern portion of Carbon and southeastern part of Sweetwater county. This marks the first time since 08 March 2011 where there has been any drought shown in Wyoming.

*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](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 (%)  
1/1/2012 – 1/31/2012

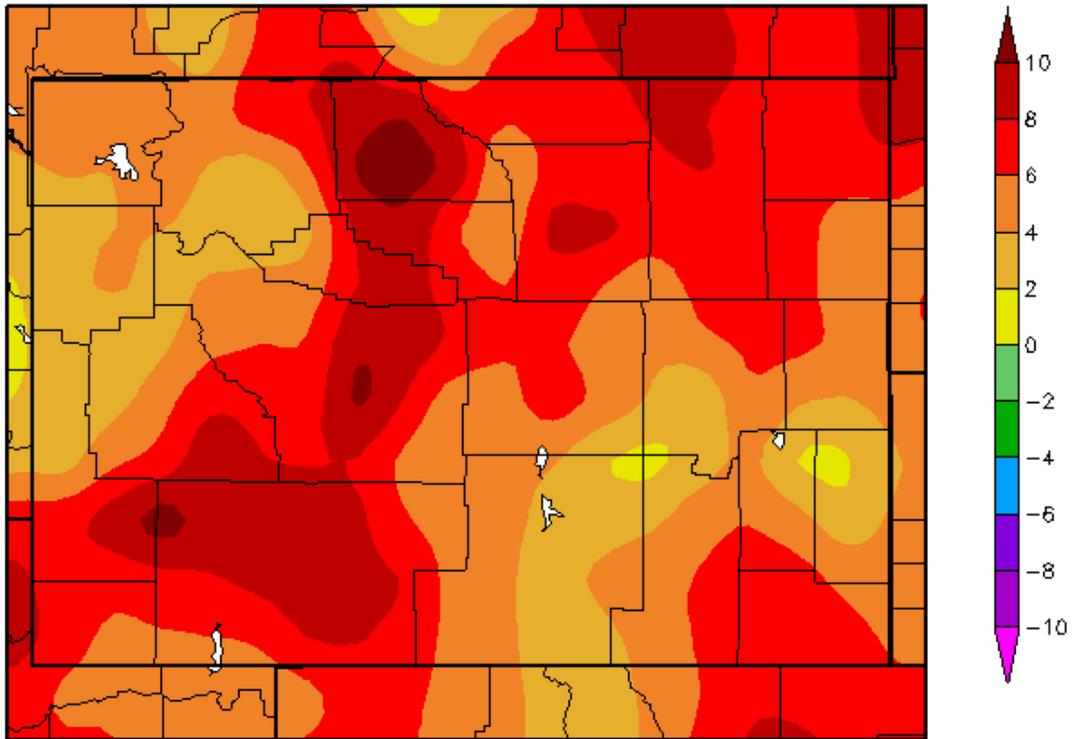


Generated 2/5/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

**Map showing January 2012 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)  
1/1/2012 – 1/31/2012



Generated 2/5/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

**Map showing mean January 2012 temperatures as departures from historical averages (vs. 1971-2000 “normal” period) for Wyoming. Courtesy of the High Plains Regional Climate Center.**