



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Wyoming State Climate Office
Dept 3943, 1000 E. University Ave.
Laramie, Wyoming 82071
Phone: (307) 766-6651
Email: stateclim@wrds.uwyo.edu

Wyoming's Climate: March 2012

Snowpack

With the exception of the extreme northwest part of the state (Madison-Gallatin and Yellowstone basins) snowpack declined statewide in March. Some basins lost only a few percentage points compared to normal, but the northeastern basins like the Powder, Tongue, Belle Fourche, and Cheyenne a significant amount. In the south central part of the state, the Little Snake went from 84% to 53%. At the end of the month, the following table represents the conditions for the state.

Basin	%Normal	Basin	%Normal
Snake	89	Upper North Platte	59
Madison-Gallatin	98	Sweetwater	71
Yellowstone	95	Lower North Platte	89
Wind	77	Laramie	64
Bighorn	96	South Platte	76
Shoshone	94	Little Snake	53
Powder	87	Upper Green	84
Tongue	92	Lower Green	70
Belle Fourche	*	Upper Bear	62
Cheyenne	5		

Precipitation

Dry was the order of the month for most of Wyoming. The southeast, especially, saw very little precipitation with several stations reporting 0" or T for the entire month. There were a few exceptions in the northwest quarter of the state, but even there many stations reported monthly totals that were less than 50 percent of Normal. Some exceptions to this were Clark and Powell in Park County, Ten Sleep in Washakie County, and Old Faithful and Lake Yellowstone in Yellowstone National Park.

Temperature

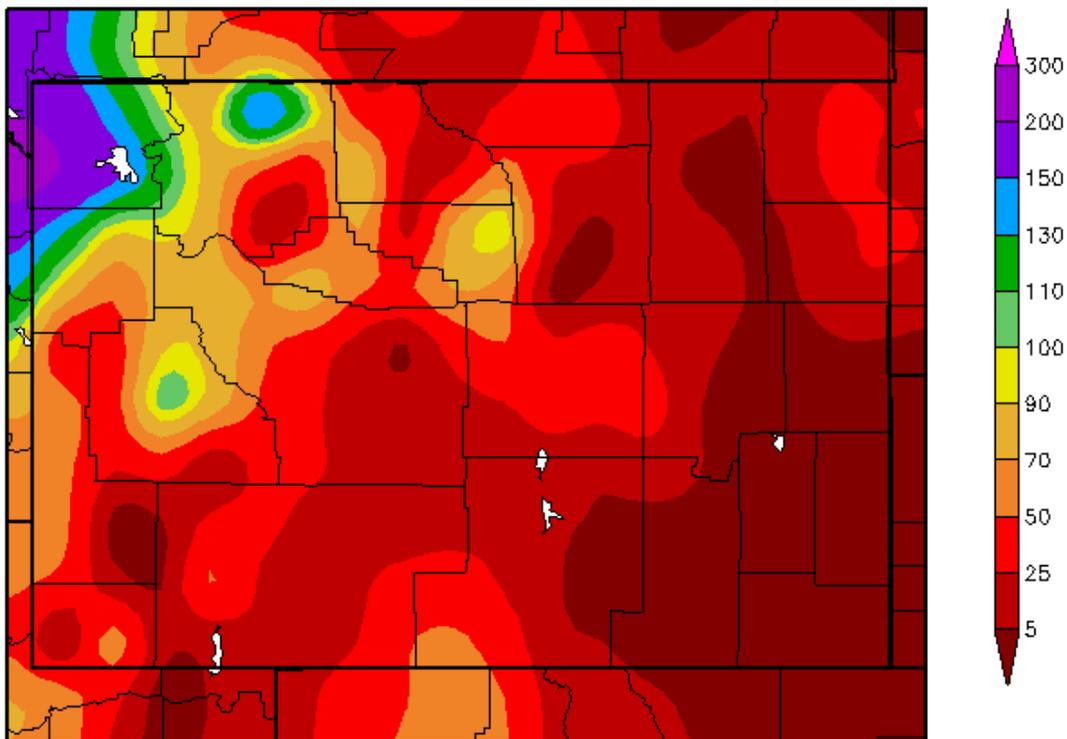
Going with the dryness, warmth spread over all of the state in March and, without exception, all stations reported average monthly temperatures that were above normal. Afton in Lincoln County was the lowest in the state with respect to its normal being just slightly under. The northeast part of the state was the highest above normal with some stations greater than 10°F above normal. Going to the southwest and west the temperatures generally lessened but still remained 5°F to 10°F above normal.

The D0 (Abnormally Dry) category introduced to the southern and southwest portion of the state as well as the northeastern corner of Crook County remained in place during March. The D0

portion was extended across southern Carbon County and a little ways into southwestern Albany County. A small section of D0 was introduced to the very northern part of Campbell County as well as a small section in eastern Niobrara County and the southeast part of Laramie County. The D1 (Moderate Drought) in southeast Sweetwater/southwest Carbon counties remained as well, although the D2 (Severe Drought) that was introduced to the extreme southwest corner of Uinta county on 21 February was removed. Following the very dry and warm March, look to see D0 begin to emerge in the eastern tiers of counties from Colorado up to the Montana border.

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 Offices and the NRCS Casper Office for supplying much of the data and information used in this report.

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%) 3/1/2012 - 3/31/2012

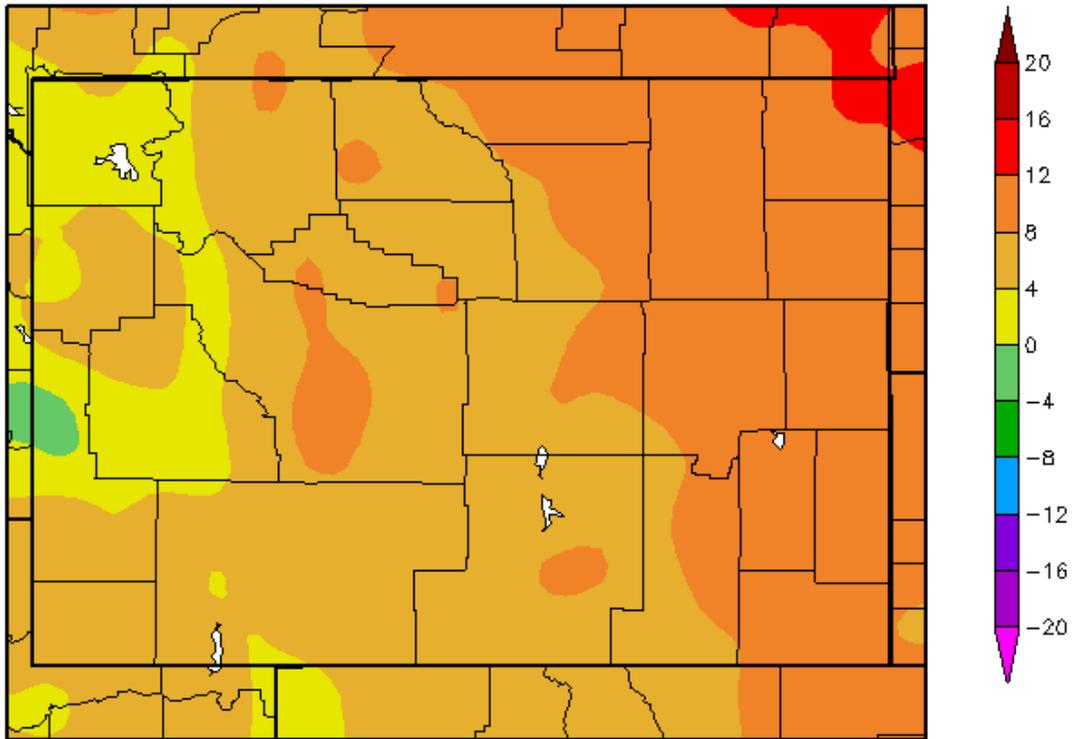


Generated 6/22/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing March 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)
3/1/2012 - 3/31/2012



Generated 6/22/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

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

U.S. Drought Monitor

Wyoming

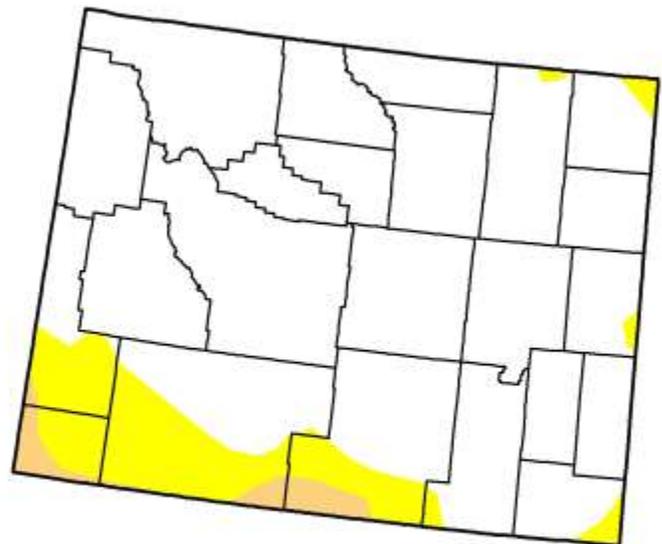
March 27, 2012
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	86.16	13.84	2.34	0.00	0.00	0.00
Last Week (03/20/2012 map)	87.80	12.20	2.23	0.00	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (12/27/2011 map)	99.84	0.16	0.00	0.00	0.00	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 (03/22/2011 map)	81.58	18.42	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, March 29, 2012
Eric Luebehusen, USDA

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