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Wyoming's Climate: May 2012

Precipitation

The dryness that has prevailed recently continued and intensified in May. The northern part of Lincoln County continued to see slightly above normal moisture as did parts of the extreme northwest of Wyoming as well as northern Campbell County. Crook and Big Horn counties saw a change from being above normal last month to below normal in May, although there was a bit of an expansion of the moister area in the far west central part of Wyoming which extended deeper into northwestern Fremont County. The southern half of the state, which was already below normal precipitation last month saw even less in May compared to normal. Many stations saw precipitation totals that were less than 25% of the normal.

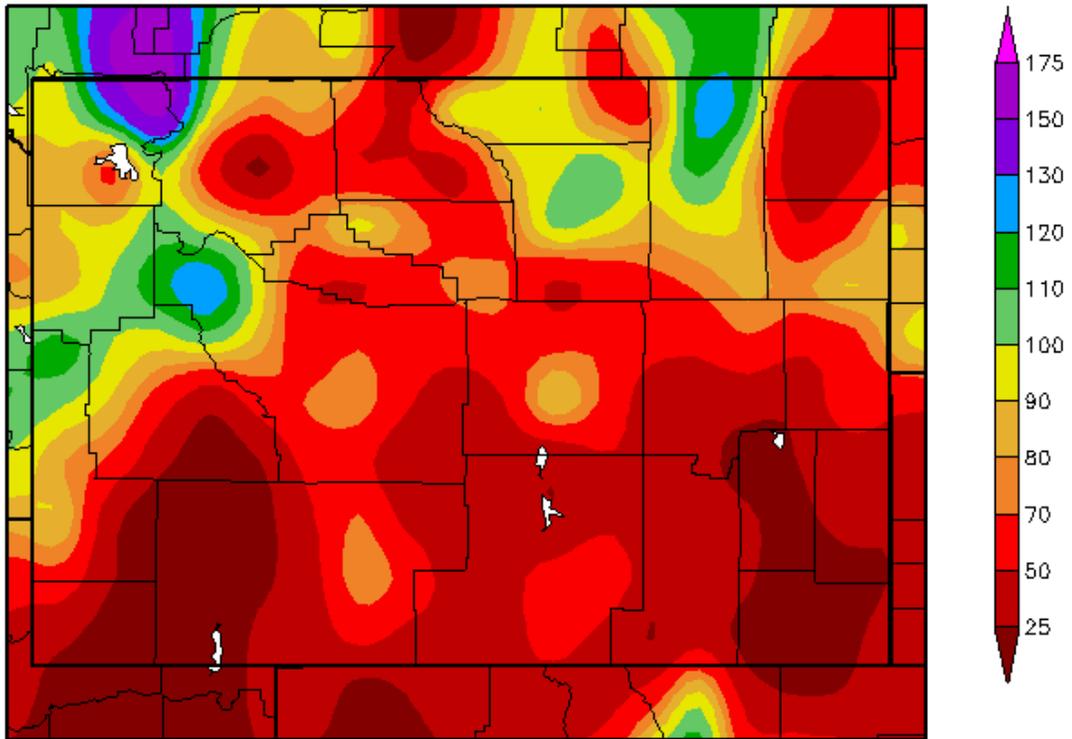
Temperature

The northwestern two-thirds of the state saw temperatures that ranged from about a degree above normal to about two degrees below normal. Moving to the eastern part (Natrona, Converse, Niobrara, Weston, Crook, and Campbell counties) the range went from one to two degrees above normal. The southern third of the state, however, was still on the warm side with average temperatures still ranging from one to four degrees above normal.

The D0 (Abnormally Dry) category was expanded in May to include most of the state except for northern Lincoln, most of Teton, western Park, most of Big Horn and Washakie, and a tongue going down along eastern Fremont/western Natrona counties. D1 (Moderate Drought) was expanded northward to include the southern part of Lincoln County, most of Sweetwater and Laramie counties, two-thirds of Carbon County, all of Platte and Goshen counties, and parts of Albany, Converse and Niobrara counties. Additionally, D2 (Severe Drought) was introduced to the extreme southeast of Sweetwater and extreme southwest of Carbon counties. This area is expected to expand and intensify in the coming weeks.

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 (%)
5/1/2012 – 5/31/2012

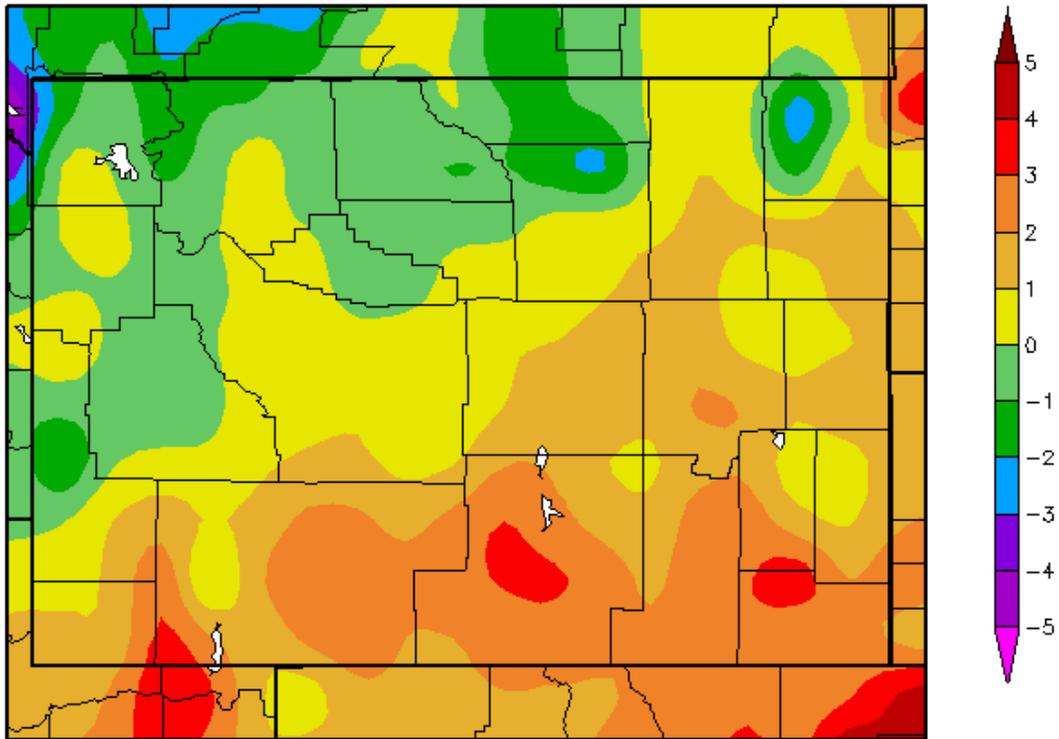


Generated 6/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing May 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)
5/1/2012 – 5/31/2012



Generated 6/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing mean May 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

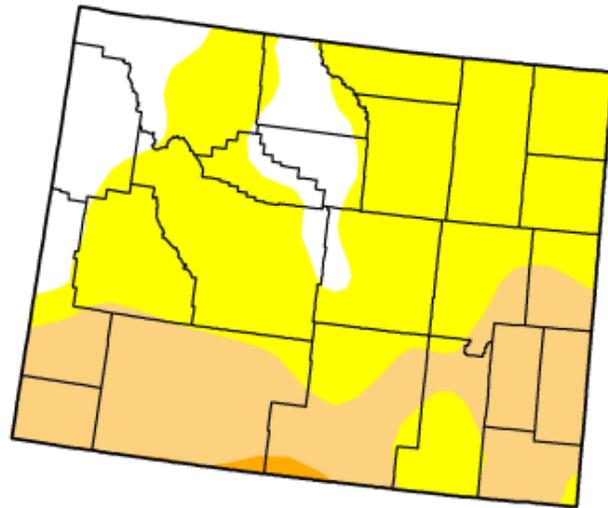
May 29, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Wyoming

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	14.92	85.08	30.71	0.70	0.00	0.00
Last Week (05/22/2012 map)	21.81	78.19	33.83	0.70	0.00	0.00
3 Months Ago (02/28/2012 map)	87.60	12.40	2.23	0.16	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 (05/24/2011 map)	100.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00



Intensity:



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, May 31, 2012
Brad Rippey, U.S. Department of Agriculture

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