



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

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Wyoming's Climate: November 2012

Precipitation

Precipitation in the southeast quarter of the state ran well below the Normal as it did in large portions of the northeast. The western parts of the state fared better but still had many stations reporting less than Normal precipitation. There were some areas that received good doses of moisture, though. Sheridan, Washakie, and Johnson counties were, for the most part, normal to well above normal and this extended into Fremont, Sublette and even parts of Sweetwater and Lincoln counties.

Generally the bulk of the precipitation that fell in November was from two events starting the 9th and the 25th (mostly reported during AM observations on the 10th and 26th respectively). An event that was reported on the morning of the 14th brought some precipitation to the far west and southeast of the state. Other than these dates, only the western part of the state saw any substantial precipitation on a few other days.

This overall pattern was reflected in the snowpack at higher elevations as well with the basins in the south and east being below to well below Normal. Currently the Snake River Basin in the west has the highest percentage of snow water equivalent at 111%. The Belle Fourche in the northeast is the lowest at 38%. The Lower North Platte Basin is currently at "0%" although at this point in the season the data are not a fully valid indicator of conditions.

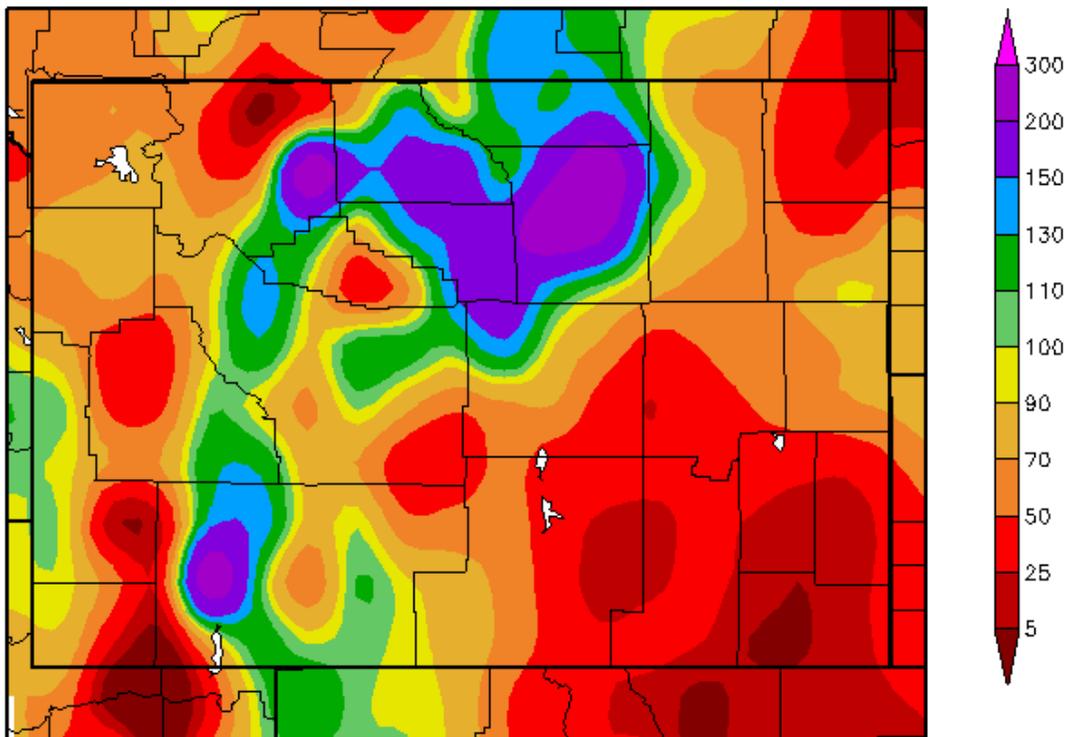
Temperature

After a cooler October, November saw above Normal temperatures for the entire state with most stations in the southern half of Wyoming being 2°F or more above the 1981-2010 Normal. The north central part of the state (generally Park, Hot Springs, and Sheridan counties) was the cooler part of the state although even that area experienced temperatures that were still just on the warmer side of their Normals.

Drought levels remained fairly similar to those at the end of October with the exception of some improvement from D3 to D2 in Uinta County, extreme southeast Lincoln County, and the far southwest corner of Sweetwater County. There was expansion in the east, however. D3 crept a bit farther north into Campbell and Crook counties and the D4 region there expanded to cover more of northeast Converse County as well as southeast Campbell County. While there was some improvement of the D4 in extreme southeast Weston County, the D4 there did expand to cover most of the western two-thirds of that county. The amount of the state in D1-D4 conditions did not change from the end of October although the percentage of the state in the most extreme conditions (D4) did increase by 2.5%, now covering a total of 10.1% of the state.

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 (%)
11/1/2012 – 11/30/2012

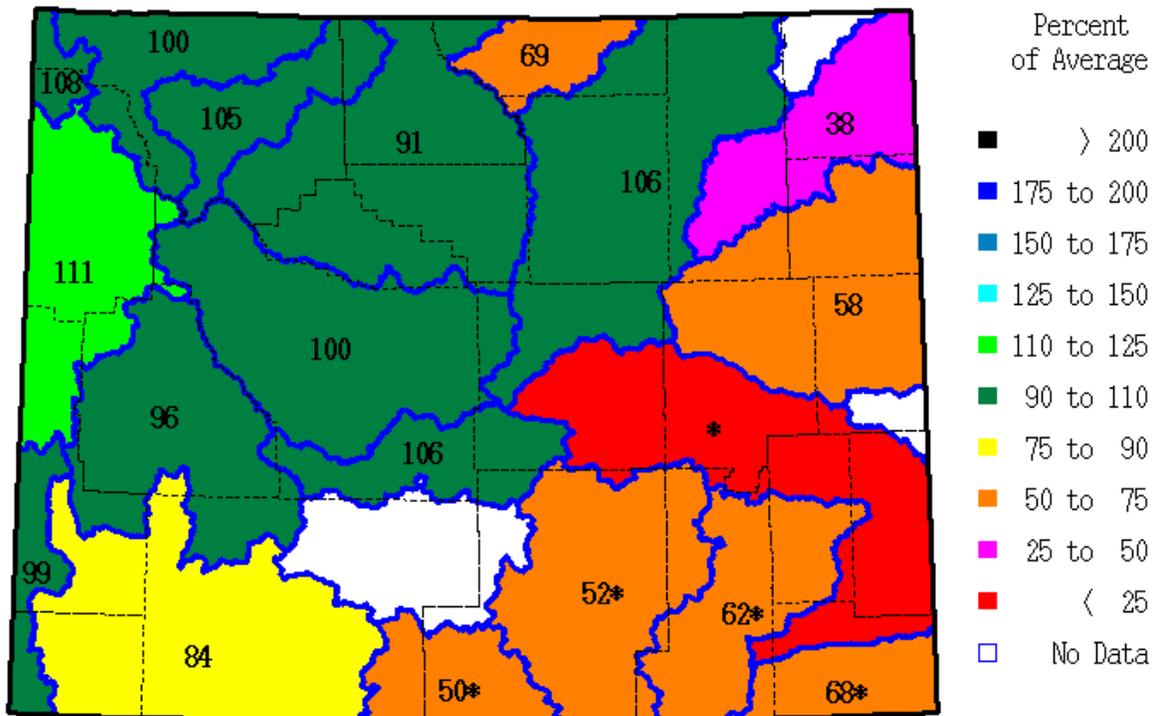


Generated 12/2/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

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

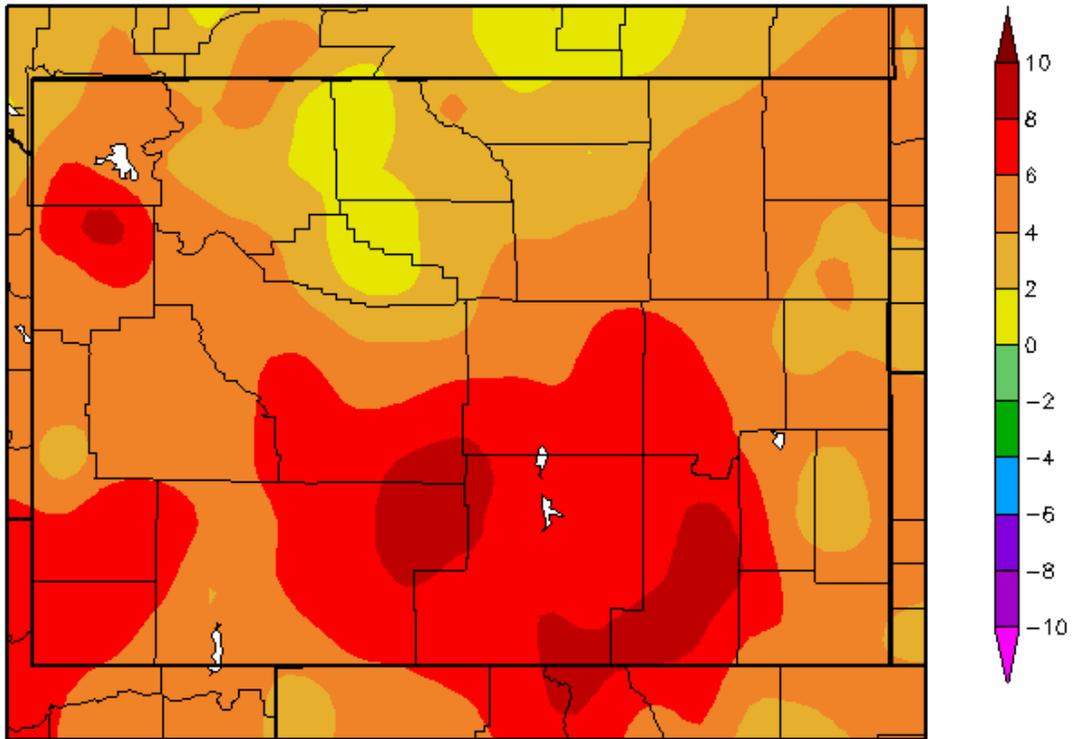
SWE % of Average as of Monday, 03 December 2012



* = Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions

Map showing end of November snow water equivalent as a percentage of historical averages (vs. 1981-2010 “normal” period) for Wyoming. Courtesy of the NRCS National Water and Climate Center, map by Wyoming State Climate Office.

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
11/1/2012 – 11/30/2012



Generated 12/2/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing mean November 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

November 27, 2012

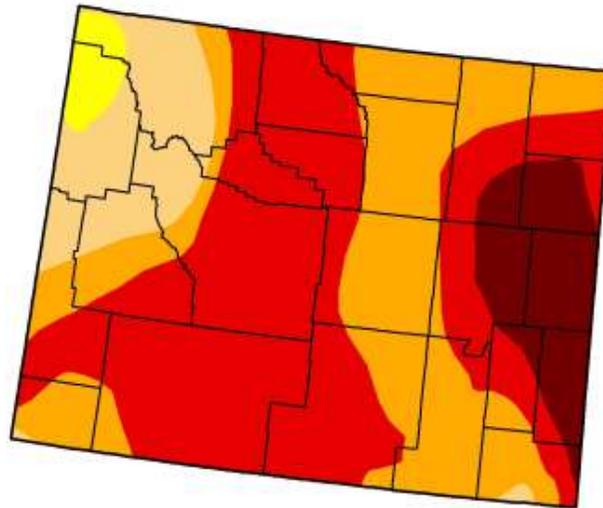
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Wyoming

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	97.77	86.16	55.90	10.10
Last Week (11/20/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	97.77	86.16	55.16	7.61
3 Months Ago (08/28/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	94.87	81.85	37.05	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 (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	98.01	87.30	58.34	2.72
One Year Ago (11/22/2011 map)	99.70	0.30	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, November 29, 2012
National Drought Mitigation Center,

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