



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: February 2013

Snowpack

The changes in the percent of median for Snowpack in Wyoming's basins were mixed with most basins gaining or losing less than 10%. The Lower North Platte was the big gainer going from 31% of median at the end of January to 68% of median on Feb 28th. The northeast basins generally declined about 5% while the western basins lost a bit more with the extreme northwest losing 11%. The southeastern basins improved but are still below 80% of their medians.

Precipitation

Precipitation was quite varied over the state during February. The north central region saw mostly above normal totals for the month while the west and northwest were again generally at or below 75% of normal. This is close to the same pattern that was seen in January. The northeast quarter of Wyoming was somewhat more drier compared to normal than it was in January while there was finally some relative improvement in the southeast part of the state.

Many CoCoRaHS (the Community Collaborative Rain, Hail & Snow Network) stations in the central part of the state received over 20 inches of snow during February with some observers in Natrona, Lincoln, and Fremont counties reporting over two feet at their locations. Park County was again on the low receiving end for snow with some stations reporting less than an inch of snowfall for the month.

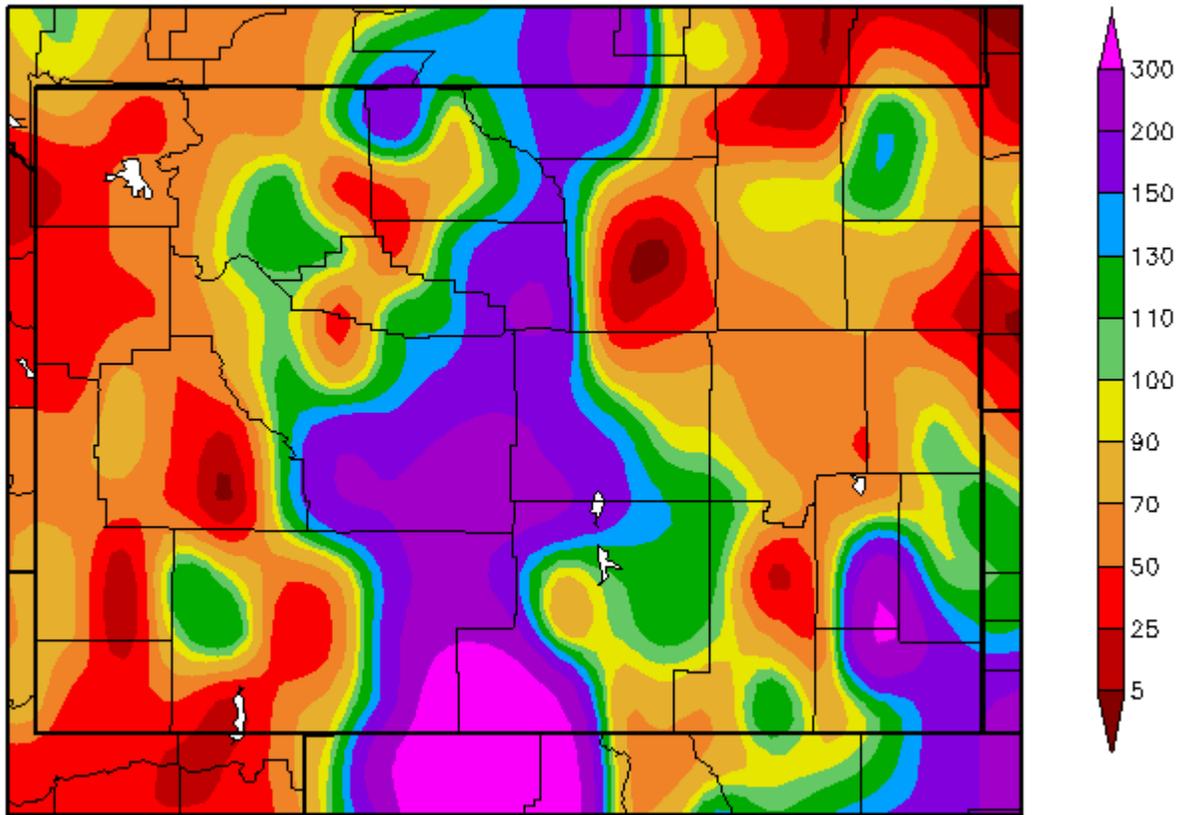
Temperature

Temperatures in Wyoming were mostly below normal again in February with a few exceptions, those being in southeast Lincoln and central Sublette County where departures from normal were up to +3°F. Big Horn and Washakie counties, as well as a station in central Sheridan County, on the other hand, were four to five degrees below normal and parts of Albany, Carbon, and southwest Fremont counties were about three degrees below their normal.

There were some improvements in the drought depiction during February with D0 (Abnormally Dry) expanding in the northwest, taking the place of some of the D1 (Moderate Drought) there. The D1 was also expanded, erasing some of the D2 (Severe Drought) in the extreme southwest. D3 (Extreme Drought) was reduced in some areas in the Bighorns, too. Just over 10 percent of the state is in D4 (Exceptional Drought) as of the end of February.

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 (%)
2/1/2013 – 2/28/2013

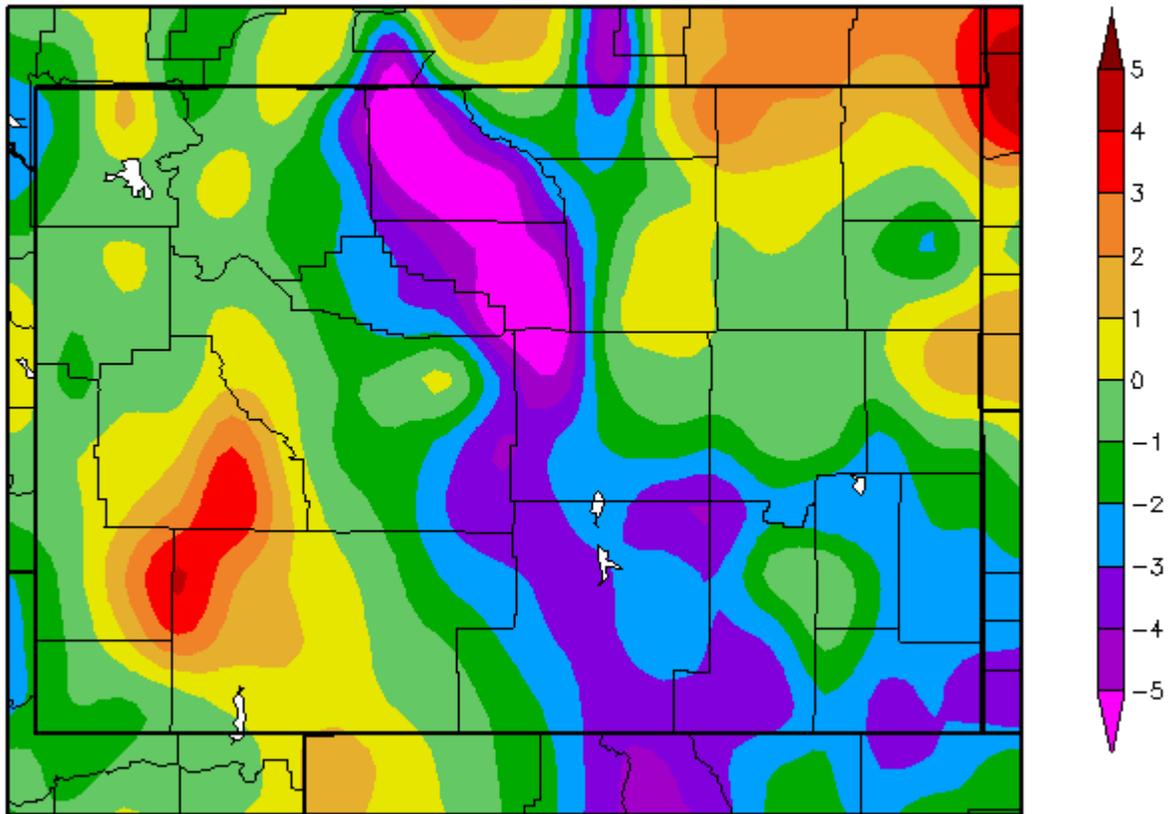


Generated 3/5/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing February 2013 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)
2/1/2013 – 2/28/2013



Generated 3/2/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing mean February 2013 temperatures as departures from historical averages (vs. 1981-2010 “normal” period) for Wyoming. Courtesy of the High Plains Regional Climate Center.

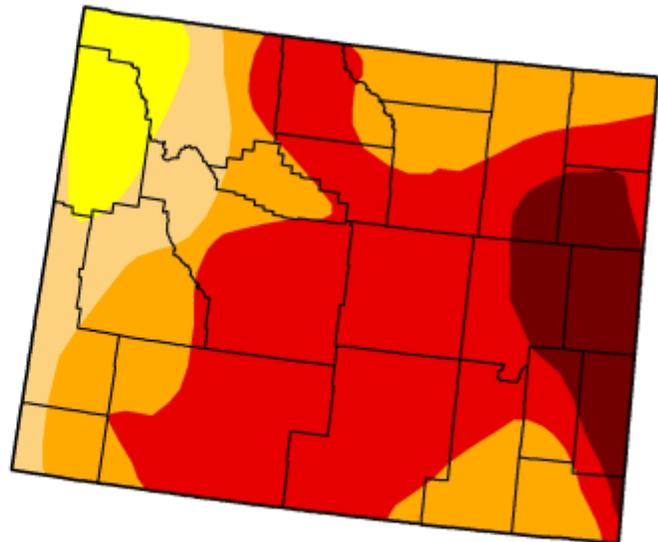
U.S. Drought Monitor

Wyoming

February 26, 2013
Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	93.56	83.64	56.71	10.10
Last Week (02/19/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	93.58	83.64	56.71	10.10
3 Months Ago (11/27/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	97.77	86.16	55.90	10.10
Start of Calendar Year (01/01/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	96.15	86.03	64.23	10.51
Start of Water Year (09/25/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	98.01	87.30	58.34	2.72
One Year Ago (02/21/2012 map)	87.11	12.89	2.48	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.

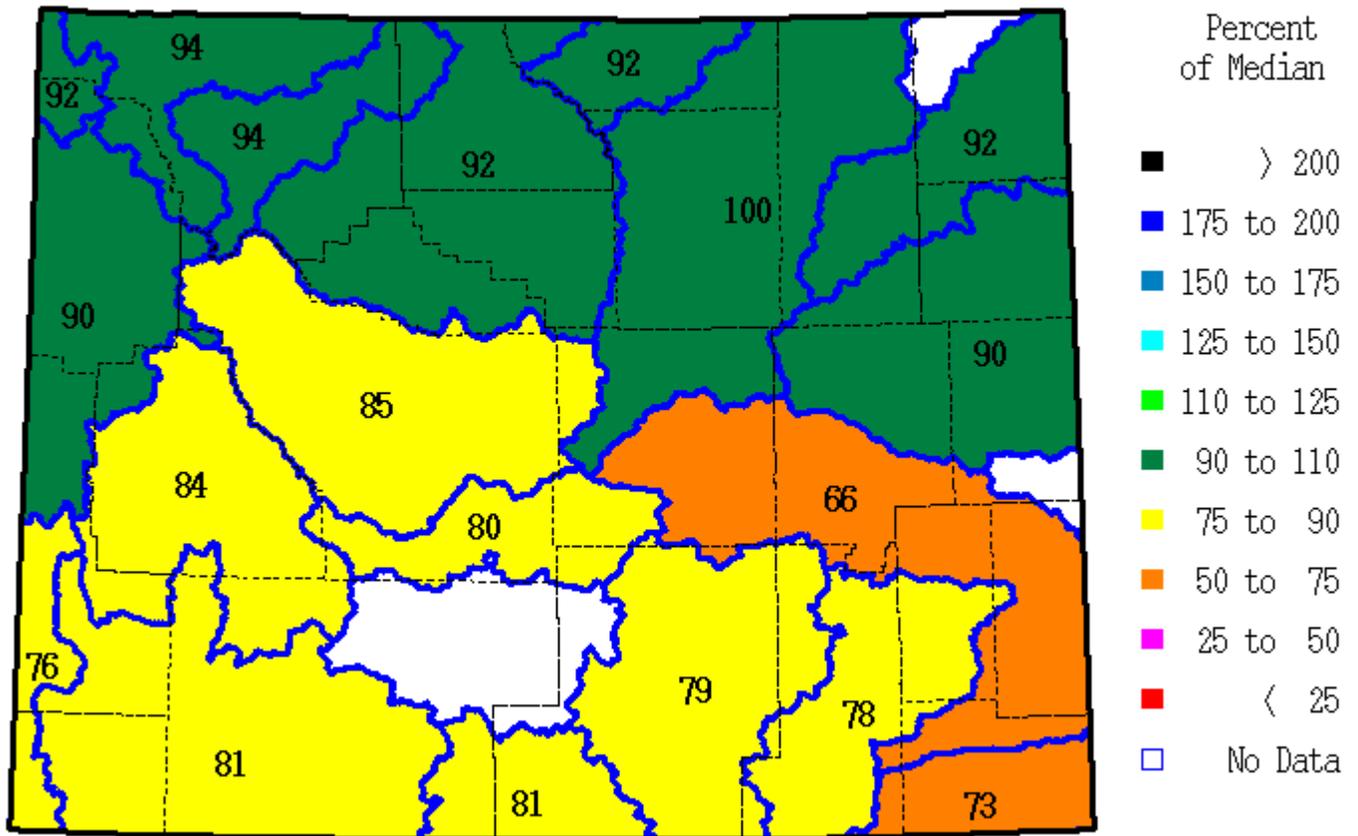
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu>



*Released Thursday, February 28, 2013
Brian Fuchs, National Drought Mitigation Center*

Map showing Wyoming Drought Status as of the end of February 2013. Courtesy of the US Drought Monitor.

SWE % of Median as of Monday, 04 March 2013



* = Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions

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