



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

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Wyoming's Climate: January 2013

Snowpack

Snowpack changes were mixed throughout the state in January. The west and northwest decreased with respect to percent of median while the north and northeast saw some improvements. There were also some minor improvements in some areas of the south and southeast.

Unfortunately, even with improvements, over half the state is at less than 90% of the median with most areas of the southeast quarter being around 75% or less of the median. With the important March and April time period still ahead, there is time for growth, but the current pattern will have to change. The one- and three-month outlooks for precipitation both have Wyoming with "Even Chances" meaning that the odds are about the same that it will be above normal as they are for being below normal.

Precipitation

Much of the state saw below normal precipitation in January although there were some notable exceptions such as Big Horn and Sheridan counties where many stations reported monthly precipitation totals that were more than 150% of normal. The west and southwest were just below to much below normal and most of the southeastern quarter of the state was at less than 50% of normal.

Temperature

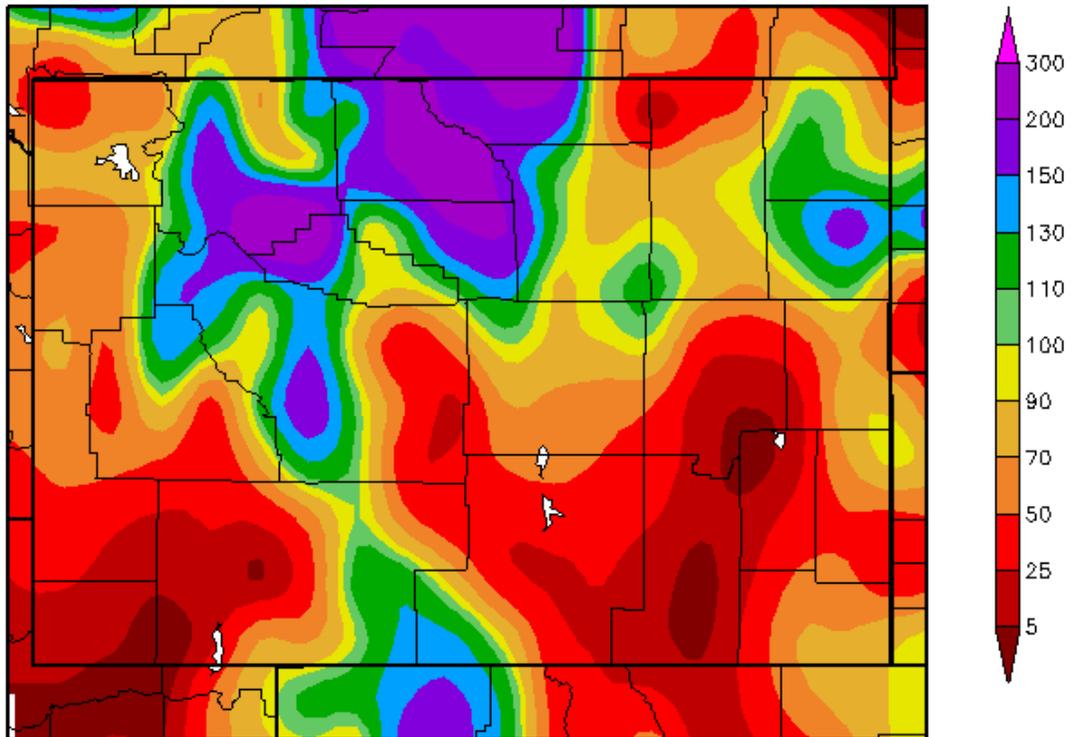
The cooler temperatures that were experienced in the latter part of December for much of the state continued and intensified in January with only a few stations being more than 2°F above their normal for January. These stations were mainly in Sheridan and Natrona counties. These counties also saw a few additional stations that were up to 2°F above their normal.

A few other stations around the state were in the 0°F to 2°F range above their normal, these being in Johnson, Converse, Platte, Crook, and Park counties. On the below side of normal there were a large group of stations spread throughout the state that were 0°F to 4°F below normal. Teton, Lincoln, Sweetwater, southern Carbon, Fremont, and Hot Springs counties all had stations running 4°F to more than 10°F below normal.

There was very little change in the drought depiction in January. The only change was a small area of D1 (Moderate Drought) in south-central Laramie County which gave way to D2 (Severe Drought) during the January 15th Drought Monitor update.

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 (%)
1/1/2013 – 1/31/2013

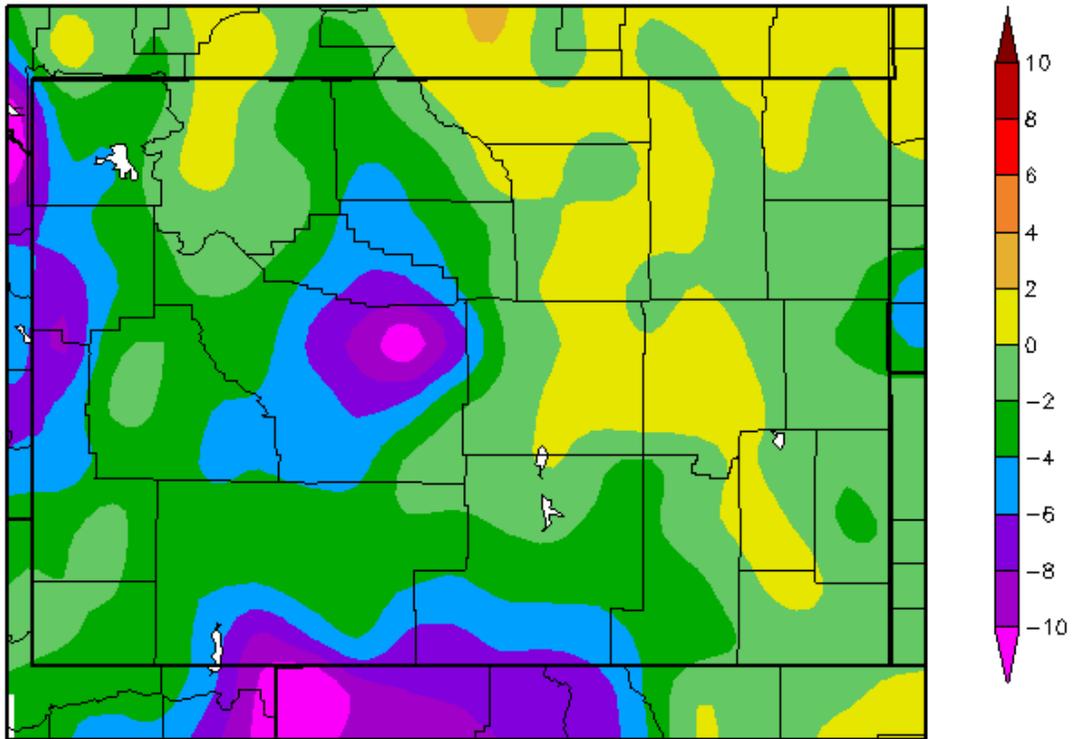


Generated 2/2/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Map showing January 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)
1/1/2013 – 1/31/2013

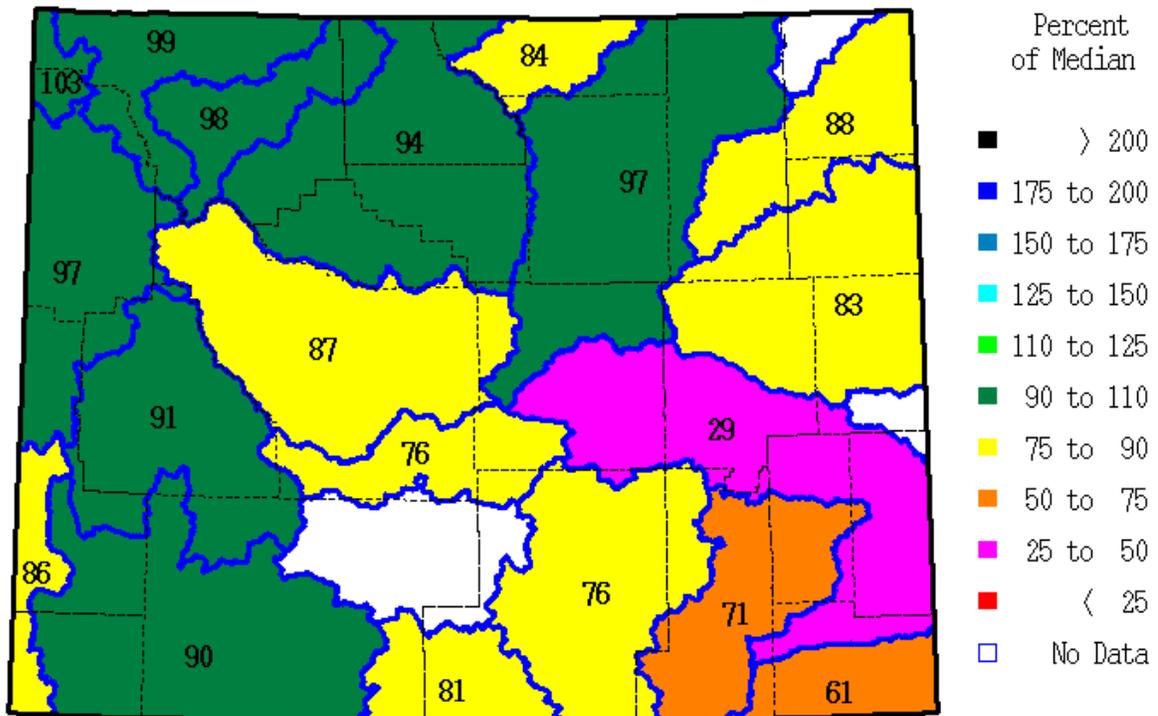


Generated 2/2/2013 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

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

SWE % of Median as of Monday, 04 February 2013



* = Data may not provide a valid measure of conditions

Map showing end of January 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.

U.S. Drought Monitor

January 29, 2013

Valid 7 a.m. EST

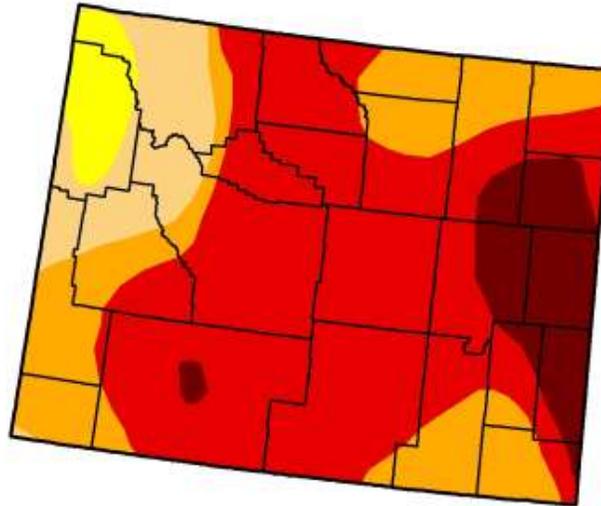
Wyoming

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	0.00	100.00	96.12	86.22	64.14	10.51
Last Week (01/22/2013 map)	0.00	100.00	96.12	86.22	64.14	10.51
3 Months Ago (10/30/2012 map)	0.00	100.00	97.77	86.23	56.98	7.61
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 (01/24/2012 map)	85.20	14.80	1.92	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, January 31, 2013
Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

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