

Flagstaff, AZ

Weather and Climate Review for 2016 in Northern Arizona



Presented by
National Weather Service
Flagstaff, AZ

2016 Climate Summary

City	Avg Temp (F)	Departure from Normal	Rank	Precipitation Total	Departure from Normal	Rank
Flagstaff	47.4°	1.2°	18 th warmest	25.80"	3.94"	19 th wettest
Prescott Airport	58.0°	2.2°	2 nd warmest <i>(tied)</i>	17.51"	3.54"	9 th wettest
Prescott <i>(Coop)</i>	56.2°	1.4°	N/A	24.25"	6.30"	13 th wettest
Saint Johns Airport	55.1°	0.4°	10 th warmest <i>(short record)</i>	8.19"	-3.80"	6 th wettest <i>(short record)</i>
Window Rock Airport	50.8°	2.7°	1 st warmest <i>(short record)</i>	12.14"	-0.16"	7 th wettest <i>(short record)</i>
Winslow Airport	57.4°	1.5°	5 th warmest	7.22"	0.21"	49 th driest
Bellefont	45.1°	0.7°	5 th warmest <i>(short record)</i>	22.04"	1.89"	6 th wettest <i>(short record)</i>
Payson Airport	58.1°	2.3°	N/A	21.90"	0.57"	30 th wettest
Page Airport	62.1°	2.9°	4 th warmest <i>(short record)</i>	5.74"	-2.59"	10 th driest <i>(short record)</i>
Canyon de Chelly <i>(Coop)</i>	54.8°	1.6°	N/A	10.09"	0.51"	29 th wettest

January

The year started on a wet note from the Mogollon Rim southward including Flagstaff. Most of the month's precipitation came during a series of wet Pacific disturbances from January 4th through 8th. Some mountain areas received heavy snowfall during the month, including Flagstaff with 36.4" – the 16th snowiest January since 1899. Another cold storm system started to affect the area on the 31st, with some areas receiving rain, snow and even thunderstorms. January temperatures were near normal.

Photos following the Jan 4-8 Storm



Forest Lakes – Robert McKeever



Mund's Park – Caroline Haldeman

February

The month of February was characterized by unseasonably warm and dry weather. The only measurable precipitation that fell during the month fell on the 1st of the month. High pressure returned to the region for the remainder of the month resulting in a prolonged period of dry and warm weather, with numerous daily record highs shattered. Winslow set their all-time February record high of 79 on Feb. 17th.

	Feb. 2016 Avg. Max Temp.	Rank
Seligman	66.8°	1 st warmest
Prescott	65.0°	1 st warmest
Flagstaff	53.5°	2 nd warmest
Winslow	62.2°	3 rd warmest
Show Low	57.1°	4 th warmest

March

March was much warmer and drier than normal. Most locations received less than 25% of normal precipitation. Daytime high temperatures averaged 5 to 7 degrees warmer than normal. A few cold fronts moved through the region bringing strong wind gusts of 50-65 mph, but most of the rain and snow associated with these fronts remained north of the state.

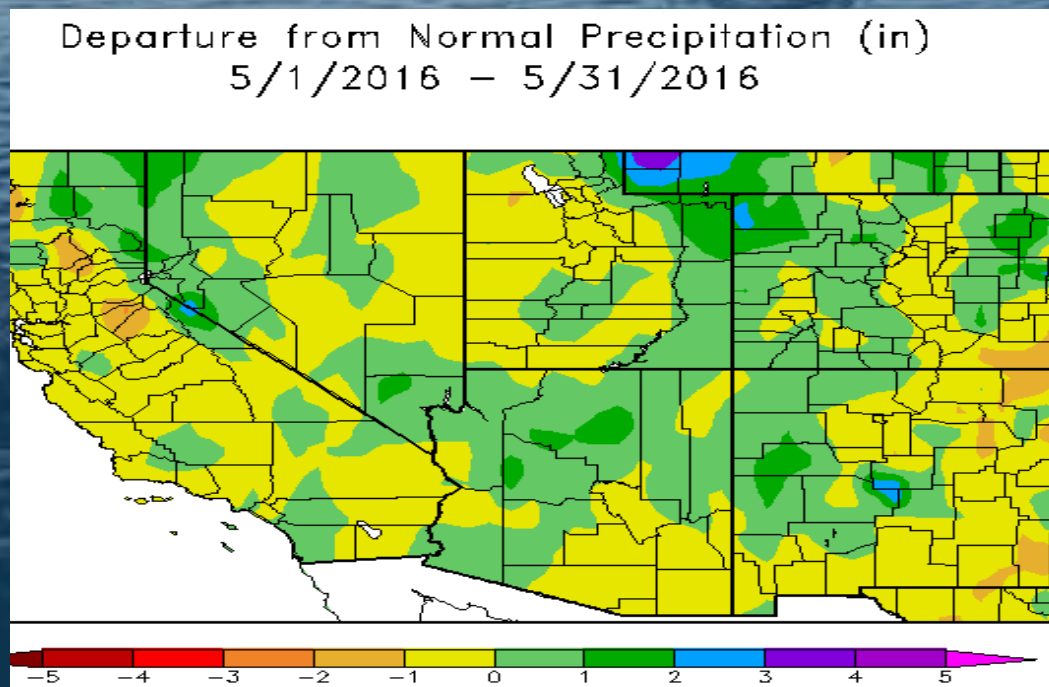
	March 2016 Avg. Temperature	Rank
Show Low	48.4°	2 nd warmest
Prescott	48.8°	9 th warmest
Winslow	49.9°	9 th warmest
Flagstaff	40.2°	15 th warmest

April

The month of April saw multiple cold, spring storm systems that brought very beneficial rainfall and even high elevation snowfall to northern Arizona. This caused periods of cold temperatures with quite warm weather in between. When averaged over the month, temperatures were close to normal for the month. Monthly precipitation was near or above normal for most locations.

May

May brought multiple cold spring storm systems resulting in periods of cool and stormy weather. Overall, temperatures were cooler than average and precipitation was well above normal for one of the historically driest months in northern Arizona. The storm systems brought periods of windy conditions along with some high elevation snowfall.



June

June 2016 was among the warmest on record for most northern Arizona locations. Precipitation was well above normal from Gila County to the Mogollon Rim and Flagstaff regions as unusually moist air invaded the region. It was drier than normal for most other locations, including northeast Arizona where little rain fell.

	June 2016 Average Temperature	Rank
Winslow	77.7°	1 st warmest
Page	84.6°	1 st warmest
Prescott (Sundog)	74.7°	1 st warmest
Prescott (Airport)	76.4°	2 nd warmest
Navajo Natl Mon	73.0°	2 nd warmest
Payson	74.0°	2 nd warmest
Flagstaff	64.2°	6 th warmest

New Record High Temperatures June 2016

Location	New Record High	Date
Payson	99	6/4
	99	6/5
	93	6/19
	103	6/20
	103	6/21
Castle Hot Springs	112	6/3
	112	6/4
	111	6/5
	113	6/18
	116	6/19
	113	6/20
Phantom Ranch	113	6/5
	114	6/20
Jerome	98	6/4
	100	6/5
** denotes new all-time record high	98	6/6
	108**	6/21

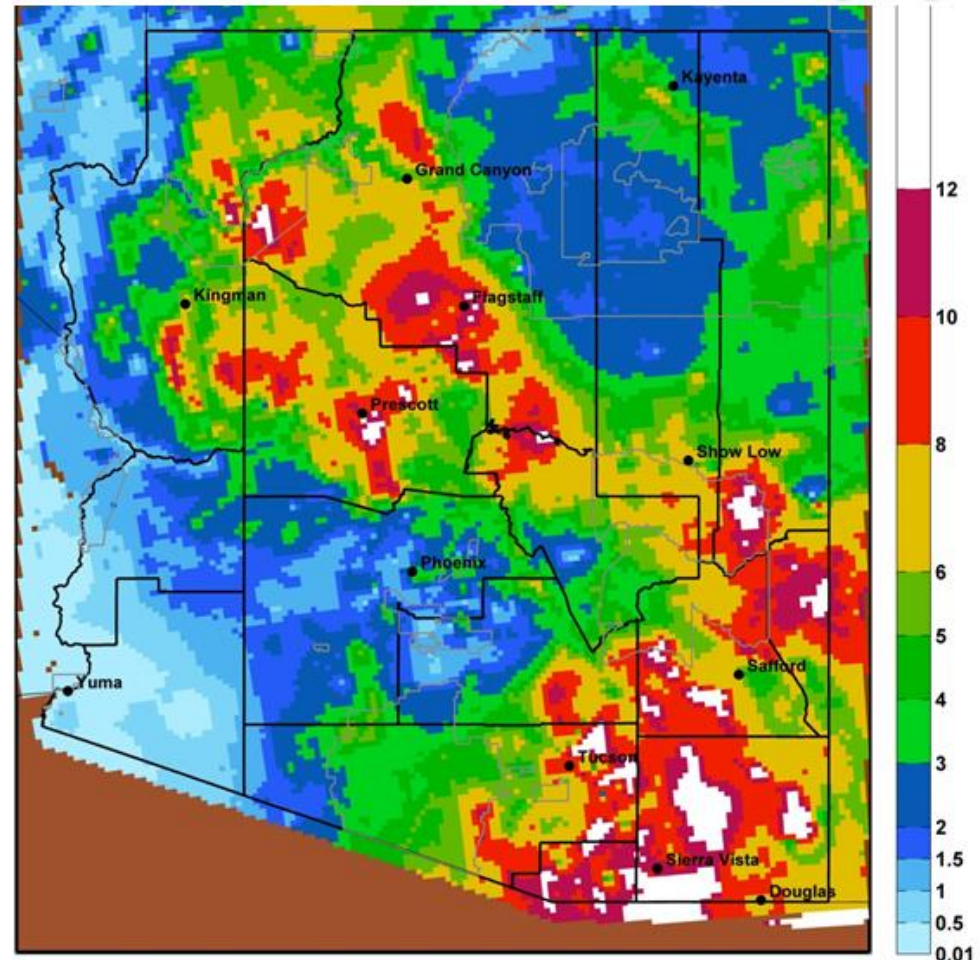
Location	New Record High	Date
Flagstaff	87	6/3
	88	6/5
	93	6/19
	95	6/20
Winslow	99	6/3
	99	6/4
	101	6/5
	104	6/19
	108	6/20
Prescott Airport	97	6/3
	99	6/4
	98	6/5
	102	6/19
	105**	6/20
Page	100	6/3
	103	6/5
	104	6/19
	106	6/20
	108	6/21
	104	6/22

Monsoon Season (June 15 – September 30)

Monsoon season across northern Arizona was wetter than normal for most areas along and south of the Mogollon Rim. The wettest month of the season was August, which was among the wettest ever recorded in Flagstaff (6.34”), Prescott (8.77”), and Payson (5.11”).

Location / Period of Record	August Precipitation Ranking	August Temperature Ranking
Flagstaff (1898-2016)	4 th Wettest	14 th Coolest
Winslow (1915-2016)	37 th Wettest	18 th Coolest
Prescott Airport (1948-2016)	2 nd Wettest	14 th Coolest
Prescott (1898-2016)	3 rd Wettest	52 nd Warmest
Payson (1948-2016)	9 th Wettest	21 st Coolest
Wupatki N.M. (1940-2016)	1 st Wettest	4 th Coolest
Navajo N.M. (1939-2016)	11 th Wettest	5 th Coolest

Total Monsoon Rainfall (in)



Map produced using daily total precipitation estimates from the NOAA National Weather Service Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS). Data information available at <http://water.weather.gov/precip/about.php>. Date created: 01-Oct-2016
University of Arizona - <http://cals.arizona.edu/climate/>





Monsoon 2016 Rainfall Summary



Location	Observed Precipitation (in)	Normal Precipitation (in)	Departure From Normal (in)	Percent of Normal	All-Time Ranking (Period of Record)
Alpine	9.80	11.58	-1.78	85%	53 rd Driest (1905-2016)
Bagdad	6.99	5.36	1.63	130%	19 th Wettest (1925-2016)
Bellefont	8.22	7.86	0.36	105%	6 th Wettest (1994-2016)
Bright Angel Ranger Station	9.67	6.75	2.92	143%	15 th Wettest (1925-2016)
Canyon de Chelly (Chinle)	3.98	3.75	0.23	106%	38 th Wettest (1909-2016)
Castle Hot Springs	6.65	4.93	1.72	135%	17 th Wettest (1916-2016)
Chino Valley	6.93	6.20	0.73	112%	17 th Wettest (1941-2016)
Cottonwood	8.05	5.37	2.68	150%	10 th Wettest (1920-2016)
Flagstaff Airport	11.41	8.31	3.10	137%	12 th Wettest (1898-2016)
Grand Canyon Airport	7.36	5.93	1.43	124%	4 th Wettest (1997-2016)
Heber (Black Mesa Ranger Stn)	4.50	8.48	-3.98	53%	11 th Driest (1950-2016)
Jerome	8.09	7.33	0.76	110%	39 th Wettest (1897-2016)
McNary	10.13	10.81	-0.68	94%	46 th Driest (1933-2016)
Page Airport	1.12	2.18	-1.06	51%	14 th Driest (1957-2016)
Payson	9.94	7.52	2.42	132%	20 th Wettest (1940-2016)
Petrified Forest	3.64	5.11	-1.47	71%	32 nd Driest (1931-2016)
Phantom Ranch	5.27	3.54	1.73	149%	10 th Wettest (1935-2016)
Prescott (Sundog Water Plant)	13.34	7.96	5.38	168%	8 th Wettest (1898-2016)
Prescott Airport	9.27	6.51	2.76	142%	8 th Wettest (1948-2016)
Saint Johns Airport	3.95	5.99	-2.04	66%	8 th Driest (1999-2016)
Seligman	6.60	5.57	1.03	118%	28 th Wettest (1904-2016)
Show Low Airport	6.50	7.59	-1.09	86%	13 th Driest (1984-2016)
Sunset Crater Natl Mon	8.01	7.93	0.08	101%	22 nd Wettest (1969-2016)
Teec Nos Pos	5.21	3.19	2.02	163%	4 th Wettest (1962-2016)
Walnut Canyon Natl Mon	8.51	8.15	0.36	104%	22 nd Wettest (1910-2016)
Williams	11.38	8.32	3.06	137%	13 th Wettest (1897-2016)
Window Rock	5.63	5.73	-0.10	98%	12 th Driest (1998-2016)
Winslow	2.87	3.23	-0.36	89%	34 th Driest (1893-2016)
Wupatki Natl Monument	7.93	3.89	4.04	204%	4 th Wettest (1940-2016)

October

October 2016 was among the warmest on record across northern Arizona as high pressure controlled the weather pattern across the region for most of the month. Monthly rainfall amounts were less than half of normal for most of northern Arizona, with a small area near 80 percent of normal in central Yavapai County including Prescott.

	October 2016 Average Temperature	Rank
Page	64.7°	3 rd warmest
Winslow	61.5°	3 rd warmest
Payson	61.4°	5 th warmest
Seligman	59.8°	6 th warmest
Prescott Airport	61.2°	7 th warmest
Prescott (City)	59.2°	7 th warmest
Flagstaff Airport	50.6°	11 th warmest

November

Overall, much of November experienced well above average temperatures. It wasn't until the last week of the month that colder weather arrived. After a dry October, a few different storm systems brought beneficial rain and high elevation snow to northern Arizona. Nearly all of northern Arizona received above average monthly precipitation.

December

December 2016 was wetter and slightly warmer than normal. Mild and dry conditions affected the region for the first half of the month. The second half of December was wet, with four storm systems affecting Arizona. Much of the precipitation fell as rain, even at the higher elevations. The heaviest snow of the month fell on Christmas Eve causing major travel disruptions, closing Interstates 40 and 17 as well as numerous secondary routes.

Storm total snowfall from the event beginning on December 24th, and ending early on the 25th for most locations.

Munds Park 18.5"

Flagstaff (Univ Heights) 16.0"

Mountainaire 14.8"

Flagstaff Airport 14.7"

4 S Williams 13.5"

Kachina Village 12.2"

Jerome 8.0"

4 NW Mcnary 8.0"

3 N Prescott 7.5"

Wilhoit 7.1"

Prescott Valley (area) 5 to 8"

Bagdad (area) 5 to 8"

Grand Canyon Visitors Center 6.0"

Payson 5.4"

Star Valley 4.9"

Sedona (area) 2 to 4.5"

Dewey 3.0"

Seligman 2.0"

Cordes Lakes 1.0"