MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR APRIL 2012

...TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW...

The month of April was warmer than normal across northern Arizona due to periods of unusually strong high pressure over the region. Two storm systems brought precipitation to the area during the month, delivering near normal precipitation to most of Coconino and Yavapai counties. Precipitation amounts diminished as the storms moved eastward, with well below normal monthly precipitation observed across Apache county in far eastern Arizona.

APRIL DATA AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

	MAX	DEP	MIN	DEP	PCPN	DEP	PCPN
	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TOTL	NORM	NORM
Flagstaff	62.2	+4.0	29.3	+0.8	1.24	+0.09	108%
Winslow	76.0	+4.2	39.0	+2.3	0.18	-0.08	69%
Prescott AP	71.8	+4.6	40.2	+2.1	0.53	0.03	106%
Prescott WTP	69.4	+2.4	38.9	+2.0	0.78	0.00	100%
St Johns	74.0	+4.3	37.1	+1.8	0.11	-0.29	28%
Grand Canyon AP	63.8	+3.3	26.2	+2.1	0.57	-0.39	59%
Bellemont	61.6	+4.2	25.7	+2.0	1.21	-0.08	94%
Cottonwood	80.8	+3.2	45.6	+1.9	0.45	-0.14	76%
Show Low AP	69.2	+3.4	39.5	+3.3	0.38	-0.31	55%
Seligman	73.3	+3.2	36.3	+2.6	MM	MM	MM

Here are some other precipitation totals from our Cooperative observers around northern Arizona.

LOCATION	APRIL PRECI
ALPINE R.S.	0.44
BAGDAD	0.70
BETATAKIN	0.49
BLUE RIDGE R.S.	1.18
BRIGHT ANGEL R.S.	1.64
CANYON DE CHELLY	0.12
CASTLE HOT SPRINGS	0.15
CHINO VALLEY	0.47
FORT VALLEY	1.07
GISELA	0.41
GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENT	FER 0.14

HEBER (BLACK MESA) R.S.	0.33
JEROME	0.77
MCNARY 2 N	0.66
MONTEZUMA CASTLE N.M.	0.34
NATURAL BRIDGE	0.64
OAK CREEK	2.18
PAINTED DESERT N.P.	0.15
PAYSON	0.65
PETRIFIED FOREST N.P.	0.10
PHANTOM RANCH	0.17
SAINT JOHNS	0.11
SAINT JOHNS (ASOS)	0.06
SAINT MICHAELS	0.22
SHOW LOW AIRPORT	0.38
SNOWFLAKE	0.17
SPRINGERVILLE	0.04
SUNRISE MOUNTAIN	0.46
SUNSET CRATER N.M.	0.47
TUZIGOOT N.M.	0.45
WALNUT CANYON N.M.	0.81
WUPATKI	0.38

... SIGNIFICANT WEATHER...

April 1st Wind Event

A cold front moved across Arizona and produced strong and gusty winds over much of the area on April 1st.

PEAK WIND GUSTS AT AIRPORT SITES:

SHOW LOW	5.8	мрц
WINSLOW	54	MPH
FLAGSTAFF	52	MPH
SAINT JOHNS	48	MPH
WINDOW ROCK	47	MPH
GRAND CANYON	43	MPH

ADDITIONAL REPORTS:

HAPPY JACK	51	MPH
DONEY PARK	47	MPH
LUPTON/I-40	47	MPH
TWO GUNS/I-40	47	MPH
CONCHO	44	MPH

GREER	42	MPH
MORMON LAKE	40	MPH
HOUSEROCK	40	MPH

April 11th Strong Winds / Dust Storm

Strong southwest winds developed along and ahead of a cold front passing through Arizona on April 11th. Below is a list of wind gusts reported to the National Weather Service.

PEAK WIND GUSTS AT AIRPORT SITES:

WINSLOW	56	MPH
FLAGSTAFF	55	MPH
SAINT JOHNS	52	MPH
WINDOW ROCK	51	MPH
GRAND CANYON	45	MPH
PAGE	45	MPH
SHOW LOW	41	MPH
WILLIAMS	41	MPH
SEDONA	40	MPH

ADDITIONAL REPORTS:

TATALO MONACIA TATA A O D	F 0	NATIO
KYKOTSMOVI VILLAGE	52	MPH
BELLEMONT	52	MPH
CONCHO	47	MPH
DONEY PARK	46	MPH
HOUSEROCK	46	MPH
HAPPY JACK	44	MPH

The strong winds produced a severe Dust Storm across the Chinle Valley for several hours during the afternoon. Visibility was reduced to near zero in many areas, including Chinle, Many Farms, Cow Springs, and Kayenta.

April 14th Snowstorm

A cold storm system brought snow to much of northern Arizona on Saturday, April $14^{\rm th}$. Below is a list of snowfall reports received by the National Weather Service.

LOCATION STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL

...APACHE COUNTY...

2 N MCNARY

CONCHO 4.0

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...COCONINO COUNTY...
  GRAND CANYON N RIM 12.0 (6<sup>th</sup> Highest 1-day April snowfall)
                        8-12
  FLAGSTAFF
                      10.0 (17<sup>th</sup> Highest 1-day April snowfall)
  FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT
  4 S WILLIAMS
                        11.1
  KACHINA VILLAGE
                        8.7
  BELLEMONT NWS OFFICE
                         7.9
                        7.0
  PARKS
  WILLIAMS
                         6.0
...GILA COUNTY...
  2 NE PAYSON
                         3.0
  PINE
                         2.0
  2 W STRAWBERRY
                         2.0
  PAYSON
                         1.7
...NAVAJO COUNTY...
  PINETOP-LAKESIDE
                        7.0
  3 SE LINDEN
                         4.5
  SHOW LOW AIRPORT 3.0
...YAVAPAI COUNTY...
  5 W PRESCOTT
                          7.0
                         3.0 (6<sup>th</sup> Highest 1-day April snowfall)
  SELIGMAN
  PRESCOTT (SUNDOG WTP) 1.0
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April 21st - 24th Record Warmth:

An unseasonably strong ridge of high pressure building over the western states just after mid-April resulted in record warm high temperatures across the state for about a three day stretch. Below is a list of record high temperatures that were tied or exceeded.

...RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA ON APR 21 2012...

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS	RECORD/YEAR
PRESCOTT AIRPORT (1948 - 2012)	86	85	IN 1965

...RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA ON APR 22 2012...

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS	RECORD/	YEAR
FLAGSTAFF (1899 - 2012)	78	76	IN	1949
FORT VALLEY (1909 - 2012)	78	76	IN	1950
NAVAJO NM (1939 - 2012)	78	76	IN	1989
PAGE (1958 - 2012)	91	86	IN	1989
PAYSON (1949 - 2012)	87	85	IN	1954

PETRIFIED FOREST (1931 - 2012)	88	85	IN	1989
PRESCOTT (1899 - 2012)	87	84	IN	2009
PRESCOTT AIRPORT (1948 - 2012)	88	83	IN	1949
SPRINGERVILLE (1911 - 2012)	83	79	IN	1989
WINSLOW (1893 - 2012)	90	89	IN	1965

...RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA ON APR 23 2012...

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS	RECORD/	YEAR
ALPINE (1905 - 2012)	77	76	IN	1943
FLAGSTAFF (1899 - 2012)	78	77	IN	1949
FORT VALLEY (1909 - 2012)	78	74	IN	1987
HEBER RS (1951 - 2012)	83	76	IN	2002
PAGE (1958 - 2012)	93	86	IN	1965
PETRIFIED FOREST (1931 - 2012)	90	84	IN	1949
PRESCOTT (1899 - 2012)	86	86 (TIE	D) IN	1949
SELIGMAN (1905 - 2012)	88	88 (TIE	D) IN	1949
SPRINGERVILLE (1911 - 2012)	83	80	IN	1949
WINSLOW (1893 - 2012)	90	87	IN	1949

... RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA ON APR 24 2012...

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR		
ALPINE (1905 - 2012)	75	75 (TIED)	IN 2	002
GRAND CANYON NP N RIM (1926 - 2012)	72	72 (TIED)	IN 1	949
PAGE (1958 - 2012)	90	89	IN 1	996
WINSLOW (1915 - 2012)	89	89 (TIED)	IN 1	996
MCNARY 2N (1921 - 2012)	77	75	IN 1	987
PAGE (1958 - 2012)	90	89	IN 1	996
SUNSET CRATER NM (1970 - 2012)	78	75	IN 2	002
WUPATKI (1940 - 2012)	89	87	IN 1	981

April 26th Storm System

A cold front and low pressure system moved across Arizona on Thursday, April $26^{\rm th}$. Widespread rain and thunderstorms, some light snowfall, and strong gusty winds were observed. Another severe Dust Storm developed during the late afternoon across portions of northeast Arizona including the Chinle Valley where visibility dropped to near zero.

AIRPORT WIND REPORTS INCLUDE...

ST JOHNS	59	MPH
WINDOW ROCK	49	MPH
SEDONA	47	MPH
PRESCOTT	44	MPH
WINSLOW	43	MPH
FLAGSTAFF	41	MPH
SHOW LOW	40	MPH

Rainfall ranged from a trace to over half an inch with the heaviest reports in northern Gila County, Yavapai County, and along the Mogollon Rim.

BLUE RIDGE	0.63	INCH
MUNDS PARK	0.61	INCH
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	0.58	INCH
PAYSON	0.54	INCH
BELLEMONT	0.52	INCH
FORT VALLEY	0.52	INCH
IRON SPRINGS	0.51	INCH
SEDONA	0.43	INCH
HAPPY JACK	0.40	INCH
NAVAJO NATL MON	0.35	INCH
KAYENTA	0.35	INCH
CONCHO	0.32	INCH
CROWN KING	0.30	INCH
LAKESIDE	0.30	INCH
JEROME	0.30	INCH
PRESCOTT WTP	0.30	INCH
COTTONWOOD	0.28	INCH
WUPATKI NATL MON	0.23	INCH
PRESCOTT AIRPORT	0.20	INCH
MCNARY 2N	0.18	INCH
BAGDAD	0.16	INCH
GRAND CANYON AIRPORT	0.12	INCH
PETRIFIED FOREST	0.11	INCH
WINDOW ROCK	0.06	INCH
SAINT JOHNS	0.06	INCH

Rain changed to snow in the Flagstaff region for a brief period around mid-day. Flagstaff Airport reported 0.4" of new snow, with 1" at the National Weather Service office in Bellemont. The snow quickly melted by early afternoon.

PLEASE SEND QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS TO W-FGZ.WEBMASTER@NOAA.GOV