

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLAGSTAFF AZ
 900 PM MST FRI SEP 4 2009

...MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR THE MONTH OF AUGUST 2009...

I. TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW

AUGUST 2009 TEMPERATURES REMAINED ABOVE NORMAL WITH PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS BELOW NORMAL. THIS CONTINUES A WARM AND DRY PERIOD EXTENDING BACK THROUGH THE END OF JUNE. MUCH OF THE DRIER CONDITIONS WAS DUE TO RIDGING OVER NORTHERN ARIZONA. BETWEEN PERIODS OF RIDGING...MORE FREQUENT THAN NORMAL TROUGHS WOULD SCOUR MONSOONAL MOISTURE OUT OF THE AREA. COOLER THAN NORMAL NIGHTTIME TEMPERATURES CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO THE DRIER AIR ACROSS THE REGION.

AUGUST 2009 DATA AND DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

	MAX	DEP	MIN	DEP	AVE	DEP	PCPN	DEP
	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TOTL	NORM
FLAGSTAFF	82.2	+3.2	47.5	-2.2	64.9	+0.5	0.74	-2.01
GRAND CANYON N. RIM	78.1	+3.5	45.0	-1.9	61.6	+0.8	1.33	-1.22
WINSLOW	93.5	+3.0	58.4	-2.3	76.0	+0.4	0.23	-1.21
GREER (WHITE MTNS.)	77.6	+5.1	46.4	+0.0	55.3	+2.6	1.27	-3.18
PRESCOTT	90.6	+4.1	60.2	+1.2	75.4	+2.7	0.62	-2.11
BELLEMONT	81.0	+3.3	40.1	-6.2	60.6	-1.5	0.54	-2.26
SEDONA	96.9	+3.6	66.0	+2.2	81.5	+2.9	0.26	-1.91
MONTEZUMA CASTLE	100.9	+2.7	62.8	+0.2	81.9	+1.5	0.50	-1.53

II. SELECTED RECORDS

A PERSISTENT PATTERN OF TROUGHS REMOVING MOISTURE FROM THE REGION... FOLLOWED BY STRONG RIDGING OVER NORTHERN ARIZONA COMBINED TO PRODUCE BOTH RECORD HIGHS AND LOWS FOR MANY LOCATIONS DURING AUGUST. WITH DRY AIR AND STRONG RIDGING WE TYPICALLY SEE MOSTLY CLEAR SKIES. DURING THE DAYTIME THE LACK OF CLOUDS WOULD ALLOW UNSEASONABLY WARM TEMPERATURES TO OCCUR. ON THE OTHER HAND DRY AND CLEAR CONDITIONS AT NIGHT WOULD ALLOW TEMPERATURES TO RAPIDLY DROP DUE TO RADIATIONAL COOLING.

...RECORD LOW TEMPERATURES FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA ON AUG 08 2009...

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW LOW	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
COTTONWOOD-TUZIGOOT (1977-2009)	57	58 IN 1991
FLAGSTAFF (1899 - 2009)	35	39 IN 1950
FORT VALLEY (1909 - 2009)	27	31 IN 1991
GRAND CANYON NP N RIM (1925 - 2009)	32	35 IN 1937
NAVAJO NM (1939 - 2009)	47	49 IN 1974
PETRIFIED FOREST (1931 - 2009)	49	54 IN 1988

PHANTOM RANCH (1966 - 2009) 68 69 IN 2002

...RECORD LOW TEMPERATURES FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA ON AUG 17 2009...

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW LOW	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
BAGDAD (1929 - 2009)	56	56 (TIED) IN 1949
PETRIFIED FOREST (1931 - 2009)	51	51 (TIED) IN 1978

...RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURES FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA ON AUG 21 2009...

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
ALPINE (1905 - 2009)	84	83 IN 1986
FLAGSTAFF (1899 - 2009)	90	90 (TIED) IN 1991
FORT VALLEY (1909 - 2009)	90	87 IN 2007
GRAND CANYON NP N RIM (1925 - 2009)	85	83 IN 2007
GRAND CANYON NP S RIM (1966 - 2009)	94	89 IN 2007
GREER (1905 - 2009)	82	81 IN 1997
PAGE (1958 - 2009)	101	101 (TIED) IN 1960
PETRIFIED FOREST (1931 - 2009)	98	97 IN 1991
PHANTOM RANCH (1966 - 2009)	112	112 (TIED) IN 1991
SPRINGERVILLE (1911 - 2009)	91	89 IN 1949

III. SIGNIFICANT WEATHER

AN ABNORMALLY DRY MONSOON THROUGH THE END OF AUGUST HAS RESULTED IN MANY LOCATIONS ACROSS NORTHERN ARIZONA TO BE RANKED IN THE TOP TEN DRIEST

MONSOONS ON RECORD. THIS DRY PERIOD EXTENDS BACK TO THE BEGINNING OF THE YEAR...WITH MANY LOCATIONS ALSO IN THE TOP TEN RUNNING FOR DRIEST YEAR ON

RECORD TO DATE.

SELECTED STATIONS RAINFALL TOTALS AND THEIR RANKINGS AS FAR AS DRIEST ON RECORD

THROUGH AUGUST 31 FOR BOTH THE MONSOON (BEGINNING JUNE 15) AND THE YEAR (YTD):

CITY RANKING	MONSOON TO DATE	RANKING	YTD TOTAL	
FLAGSTAFF	2.10"	2ND	6.94"	4TH
PRESCOTT	2.99"	9TH	7.13"	6TH
WINSLOW	0.50"	2ND	1.85"	4TH
PAGE	0.87"	16TH	3.63"	22ND
SEDONA	0.63"	1ST	6.01"	4TH
HEBER (BLACK MESA)	2.86"	3RD	6.66"	2ND
PETRIFIED FOREST	1.83"	10TH	4.21"	11TH
BAGDAD	1.62"	10TH	4.70"	5TH
NATURAL BRIDGE	2.72"	4TH	9.77"	8TH
BELLEMONT	2.63"	1ST	7.93"	3RD
TUBA CITY	0.70"	11TH	2.77"	15TH
ALPINE (WHITE MOUNTAINS)	5.51"	6TH	8.98"+	2ND
GRAND CANYON N.P	2.06"+	11TH	6.14"+	4TH

+ ESTIMATED

DUE IN PART TO THE DRIER CONDITIONS THIS SUMMER...NORTHERN ARIZONAS FORESTS HAD MORE VOLATILE FUELS TO BURN. THE HIGHER FIRE DANGER REQUIRED THE FLAGSTAFF WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE TO ISSUE 183 SPOT FORECASTS FOR FIRES ACROSS THE REGION DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST. THE MOST ABUNDANT NUMBER OF ACTIVE FIRES THIS YEAR WERE OCCURRING LATE JULY AND EARLY AUGUST WHEN WE TYPICALLY ONLY HAVE A FEW FIRES TO FORECAST FOR.

A WEEKLY COUNT OF THE NUMBER FIRES OCCURRING ACROSS YAVAPAI, COCONINI, APACHE, NAVAJO, AND NORTHER GILA COUNTY COMPARED TO LAST YEAR:

DATE	# ACTIVE FIRES IN 2009	# ACTIVE FIRES IN 2008
AUGUST 1	14	5
AUGUST 8	7	2
AUGUST 15	2	3
AUGUST 22	1	4
AUGUST 29	2	1
TOTAL FORECASTS	183	56

THE FIRST FEW DAYS THIS SEPTEMBER HAS SEEN MODERATE MONSOONAL MOISTURE ACROSS THE AREA WITH SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS. THERE MAY STILL BE ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES TO RECEIVE BENEFICIAL RAINFALL ACROSS THE AREA. WITH EVEN MODEST RAINFALL TOTALS...MANY STATIONS ACROSS NORTHERN ARIZONA CAN STILL PULL OUT OF THE TOP TEN DRIEST MONSOON RANKINGS BEFORE FALL ARRIVES.