

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
 NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLAGSTAFF AZ
 1240 PM MST MON JAN 4 2009

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

I. TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW

A PROGRESSIVE TROUGH AND RIDGE PATTERN BROUGHT SEVERAL PERIODS OF SNOW FOLLOWED BY OUTBREAKS OF BELOW NORMAL TEMPERATURES ACROSS NORTHERN ARIZONA IN DECEMBER. A COUPLE OF THE LOW PRESSURE SYSTEMS...NOTABLY DECEMBER 6TH THROUGH 8TH...AND THEN ON DECEMBER 12TH AND 13TH...PRODUCED LARGE AMOUNTS PRECIPITATION FOR MANY LOCATIONS ACROSS NORTHERN ARIZONA. NORTHERLY FLOW BEHIND THESE SYSTEMS USHERED IN COLD AND DRY AIR MASSES THAT REMAINED IN PLACE FOR SEVERAL DAYS.

DECEMBER 2009 DATA AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

	MAX	DEP	MIN	DEP	AVE	DEP	PCPN	DEP
	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TOTL	NORM
FLAGSTAFF	37.3	-6.2	11.2	-5.4	24.3	-5.8	2.85	+0.84
BELLEMONT	37.3	-7.0	3.7	-9.5	20.5	-8.3	2.96	+1.66
WINSLOW	44.7	-2.3	17.3	-3.2	31.0	-2.8	0.22	-0.38
PRESCOTT	46.8	-5.6	23.5	-0.9	35.2	-3.3	1.75	+0.69
SAINT JOHNS	43.6	-5.6	16.6	-1.1	30.1	-3.4	0.46	-0.28
WINDOW ROCK	40.1	-4.4	10.0	-5.3	25.1	-4.9	1.06	+0.11
PAGE	39.7	-4.5	26.0	-0.7	32.9	-2.6	0.66	+0.18
MONTEZUMA CASTLE	56.3	-3.4	27.1	+1.1	41.7	-1.2	1.37	+0.12

II. SELECTED RECORDS

A SERIES OF COLD AIR MASSES SETTLED ACROSS NORTHERN ARIZONA DURING THE FIRST HALF OF DECEMBER. CLEAR NIGHTS UNDER STRONG HIGH PRESSURE RESULTED IN RECORD LOW TEMPERATURES FOR SEVERAL LOCATIONS ON DECEMBER 5TH AND THEN ON DECEMBER 10TH AND 11TH.

SELECTED RECORD LOWS FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA IN DECEMBER 2009:

ON DECEMBER 5TH:

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW LOW	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
BAGDAD (1929 - 2009)	19	21 IN 1948
COTTONWOOD-TUZIGOOT (1977 - 2009)	19	23 IN 2005
GRAND CANYON NP S RIM (1966 - 2009)	4	4 (TIED) IN 1948

ON DECEMBER 10TH:

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW LOW	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
FLAGSTAFF (1898 - 2009)	-5	-2 IN 1956
SELIGMAN (1904 - 2009)	-6	-4 IN 1972

ON DECEMBER 11TH:

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW LOW	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
SELIGMAN (1904 - 2009)	-6	-2 IN 1961

III. SIGNIFICANT WEATHER

MUCH NEEDED DROUGHT RELIEF ARRIVED DECEMBER 6TH THROUGH 8TH AS A VERY STRONG LOW PRESSURE SYSTEM MOVED ACROSS NORTHERN ARIZONA. MANY LOCATIONS IN THE HIGHER TERRAIN SAW BLIZZARD CONDITIONS AND HEAVY SNOWFALL TOTALS. LOW ELEVATIONS RECEIVED STEADY RAINFALL FOR SEVERAL HOURS DURING THE STORM.

STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL AND PRECIPITATION FOR SELECT LOCATIONS:

SNOWFALL TOTALS:

FLAGSTAFF.....	20 TO 26 INCHES
BELLEMONT.....	19 INCHES
GRAND CANYON SOUTH RIM.....	18 INCHES
MCNARY.....	16 INCHES
WINDOW ROCK.....	6 INCHES
SHOW LOW.....	6 INCHES
PINETOP.....	10 INCHES
PAYSON.....	6 INCHES
PRESCOTT.....	2 TO 6 INCHES
ARIZONA SNOWBOWL.....	21 TO 32 INCHES
CANYON DE CHELLY.....	1 INCH
HEBER.....	8 INCHES
WILLIAMS.....	20 INCHES

TOTAL LIQUID PRECIPITATION:

FLAGSTAFF.....	1.75 INCHES
PRESCOTT.....	2.12 INCHES
BAGDAD.....	3.88 INCHES
FORT VALLEY.....	1.40 INCHES
MONTEZUMA CASTLE.....	1.12 INCHES
CASTLE HOT SPRINGS.....	2.70 INCHES

ALTHOUGH MOST LOCATIONS IN NORTHERN ARIZONA RECEIVED ABOVE NORMAL PRECIPITATION IN DECEMBER...THE LONG TERM PRECIPITATION DEFICIT REMAINS LARGE...AND MOST OF NORTHERN ARIZONA CONTINUES TO EXPERIENCE D2 AND D3 (SEVERE AND EXTREME) INTENSITY DROUGHTS.

WITH THE END OF THE YEAR PASSING SEVERAL LOCATIONS IN NORTHERN ARIZONA IN 2009 EXPERIENCED THEIR TOP TEN DRIEST YEAR ALL TIME.

SELECTED CITIES AND THEIR 2009 PRECIPITATION TOTALS AND THEIR RANKING AMONGST THE DRIEST YEARS ON RECORD:

CITY	2009 TOTAL	DRIEST RANKING
FLAGSTAFF	11.65"	4TH
PRESCOTT	10.31"	10TH
WINSLOW	2.81"	2ND
PAGE	4.51"	6TH
BAGDAD	9.41"	5TH

SELIGMAN
BELLEMONT

6.77"
12.36"

8TH
2ND

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