

MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR MARCH 2012

...TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW...

The month of March was mostly characterized by dry and warm weather with high pressure affecting the southwestern states. Many dry and sunny days led to above normal high temperatures with clear and cool nights bringing below normal minimum temperatures. The majority of March's precipitation fell with one major Pacific storm system that affected the state from March 17th-19th. This storm brought the only precipitation of the month for many locations, and thus overall monthly precipitation was extremely variable from location to location.

MARCH DATA AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

	MAX	DEP	MIN	DEP	PCPN	DEP	PCPN
	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TOTL	NORM	NORM
Flagstaff	52.9	2.5	21.9	-1.7	1.81	-0.30	85%
Winslow	66.7	3.1	29.0	-1.4	0.29	-0.25	54%
Prescott AP	62.5	2.3	31.8	-0.9	1.30	0.29	127%
Prescott WTP	60.4	0.8	27.7	-3.3	2.07	0.38	122%
St Johns	66.2	4.8	25.7	-3.3	0.04	-0.48	8%
Grand Canyon AP	55.4	2.4	18.8	-1.8	1.40	-0.24	85%
Bellefont	52.0	0.2	17.5	-2.0	1.93	0.29	118%
Show Low AP	58.8	1.0	30.5	-0.2	0.35	-0.75	32%
Seligman	64.7	2.0	26.6	-2.2	1.30	0.22	120%

Here are some other precipitation totals from our Co-operative observers around northern Arizona.

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MARCH PRECIP</u>
ALPINE R.S.	0.29
BAGDAD	1.40
BELLEMONT	1.93
BLUE RIDGE R.S.	1.35
BRIGHT ANGEL R.S.	1.79
CANYON DE CHELLY	0.35
CASTLE HOT SPRINGS	1.40
FLAGSTAFF 4SW	0.70
FORT VALLEY	1.83
GANADO	0.15
GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER	0.74
HEBER (BLACK MESA)	1.05

MCNARY 2 N	1.08
MONTEZUMA CASTLE N.M.	0.99
NATURAL BRIDGE	1.12
OAK CREEK	1.81
PAGE	0.20
PAINTED DESERT N.P.	0.06
PAYSON	1.13
PETRIFIED FOREST N.P.	0.60
PHANTOM RANCH	0.91
PINETOP 2E	1.41
PLEASANT VALLEY R.S.	0.77
PRESCOTT CITY	2.07
SAINT JOHNS	0.11
SAINT MICHAELS	0.35
SELIGMAN	1.30
SNOWFLAKE	0.54
SPRINGERVILLE	0.42
SUNRISE MOUNTAIN	1.73
SUNSET CRATER N. M.	0.90
TEEC NOS POS	0.13
WAHWEAP	0.20
WALNUT CANYON N. M.	1.75
WALNUT GROVE	1.28
WINDOW ROCK	0.25
WUPATKI	0.31

...SIGNIFICANT WEATHER...

March 6th Wind Event

A low pressure system diving into southern Nevada produced strong and gusty winds across Northern Arizona on Tuesday, March 6th. Below is a list of peak wind gusts reported. In addition to the wind, there were reports of severe blowing dust around Marble Canyon, Kayenta, Chinle, and Many Farms.

HOUSE ROCK	69 MPH
TWO GUNS	65 MPH
WUPATKI NM	63 MPH
DONEY PARK	57 MPH
WINDOW ROCK	55 MPH
GRAND CANYON AIRPORT	55 MPH
MOGOLLON AIRPARK	55 MPH
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	54 MPH
PRESCOTT AIRPORT	53 MPH
WILLIAMS	53 MPH

WINSLOW	52 MPH
MARBLE CANYON	51 MPH
OVERGAARD	50 MPH
BELLEMONT	49 MPH
PAGE	47 MPH
SHOW LOW	47 MPH
SEDONA	47 MPH
PETRIFIED FOREST NP	46 MPH
ST. JOHNS	45 MPH

March 17th-19th Major Winter Storm: Strong Winds Followed by Heavy Snowfall

A very strong cold front approaching Arizona on Saturday, March 17th brought strong southwest winds to much of northern Arizona. Below is a list of peak wind reports.

MOGOLLON AIRPARK	62 MPH
LINDEN	61 MPH
PARKS	61 MPH
DONEY PARK	56 MPH
LIMESTONE CANYON	54 MPH
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	53 MPH
SHOW LOW	52 MPH
PHANTOM RANCH	52 MPH
HEBER-OVERGAARD	51 MPH
TWO GUNS	48 MPH
WINSLOW AIRPORT	47 MPH

The strong cold front associated with this large Pacific storm system swept across Arizona bringing heavy snow to many locations from March 18th-19th. For many areas, this was the heaviest snow storm so far this season with heavy snow falling down to 4000 feet elevation and some accumulations reported as low as 3000 feet. Below is a list of storm total snowfall amounts from this event.

... APACHE COUNTY ...

2 N MCNARY	12.5
ALPINE	5.0
CONCHO	4.0
WINDOW ROCK	1.0
EAGAR	1.0

...	COCONINO COUNTY	...	
	ARIZONA SNOWBOWL		53.0
	NWS BELLEMONT		28.4
	N FLAGSTAFF		29.0
	FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT		26.4
	4 S WILLIAMS		24.7
	FORT VALLEY		24.0
	WILLIAMS		24.0
	4 NE FLAGSTAFF		23.0
	MOUNTAINAIRE		22.0
	2 N PARKS		22.0
	KACHINA VILLAGE		21.0
	FOREST LAKES		20.0
	2 N PARKS		20.0
	3 E FLAGSTAFF		18.0
	MORMON LAKE		17.5
	13 NNE SEDONA		17.0
	GRAND CANYON VILLAGE		6.0
	1 N JACOB LAKE		5.0
...	GILA COUNTY	...	
	PINE		22.0
	PAYSON		12.5
...	NAVAJO COUNTY	...	
	PINETOP-LAKESIDE		26.0
	1 S SHOW LOW		14.0
	3 SE LINDEN		13.0
	HEBER-OVERGAARD		10.0
	SHOW LOW		8.0
	KYKOTSMOVI VILLAGE		6.0
	PINON		5.0
	KEAMS CANYON		4.0
	3 N PINON		2.0
...	YAVAPAI COUNTY	...	
	5 W PRESCOTT		27.0
	W PRESCOTT		21.0
	5 WNW PRESCOTT		19.0
	4 NW PRESCOTT		17.0
	1 E PRESCOTT		16.0
	CROWN KING		14.8
	PRESCOTT VALLEY		11.0
	SEDONA		9.5
	JEROME		5.5
	COTTONWOOD		3.0

For some locations, this was one of the heaviest March snowfall events on record. Below is a list of some stations that ranked in the top 20 for highest two-day March snowfall totals.

LOCATION	RANK OF HIGHEST TWO-DAY MARCH SNOWFALL EVENTS
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	2 ND Highest
PAYSON	6 TH Highest
SELIGMAN	9 TH Highest
PRESCOTT WTP	15 TH Highest
JEROME	20 TH Highest

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