MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR DECEMBER 2016

... DECEMBER TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW ...

The month of December saw a few very wet storm systems that brought well above average precipitation to northern Arizona. The first two storm systems were relatively warm with only the highest mountains receiving snowfall, while the third system arriving Christmas Eve brought heavy snow to many areas above the 4000 foot elevation level. A few places ranked among one of the 10 wettest Decembers on record. Temperatures were generally warmer than average, especially overnight low temperatures.

DECEMBER DATA AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES

| | Max T | | Min T | | | | |
|------------------------|-------|------|-------|------|--------|-------|----------|
| | Avg | Dep | Avg | Dep | Precip | Dep | % Normal |
| Flagstaff | 43.9 | 1.4 | 20.9 | 4.1 | 4.42 | 2.55 | 236 % |
| Winslow | 52.5 | 3.9 | 25.1 | 4.5 | 1.06 | 0.50 | 189 % |
| Prescott AP | 52.7 | 1.5 | 28.3 | 3.0 | 2.66 | 1.70 | 277 % |
| Prescott WTP | 52.3 | 8.0 | 25.5 | 2.1 | 3.71 | 2.25 | 254 % |
| St Johns AP | 52.9 | 4.3 | 22.6 | 2.9 | 0.52 | -0.36 | 59 % |
| Grand Canyon AP | 44.8 | 1.0 | 19.4 | 6.9 | 1.89 | 0.38 | 125 % |
| Bellemont | 43.5 | -0.8 | 15.5 | 2.3 | 4.52 | 2.79 | 261 % |
| Show Low AP | 48.0 | 1.1 | 27.5 | 4.3 | 3.33 | 1.82 | 221 % |
| Page Airport | 54.1 | 1.2 | 25.9 | 3.3 | 2.32 | 1.43 | 261 % |
| Window Rock | 44.5 | 8.0 | 28.9 | -0.6 | 1.10 | 0.55 | 200 % |
| | 48.6 | 4.7 | 19.9 | 5.8 | 1.82 | 1.03 | 230 % |

| Wettest December Ranking | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| Location | December Precipitation (in.) | Rank | | | | | |
| Prescott Airport | 2.66" | 4 th wettest | | | | | |
| Show Low Airport | 3.33" | 5 th wettest | | | | | |
| Payson | 4.38" | 10 th wettest | | | | | |
| Flagstaff Airport | 4.42" | 12 th wettest | | | | | |
| Prescott WTP | 3.71" | 16 th wettest | | | | | |
| Winslow Airport | 1.06" | 18 th wettest | | | | | |
| Warmest December Ranking | | | | | | | |
| Location | December Avg. Temperature | Rank | | | | | |
| Show Low Airport | 37.8° | 5 th warmest | | | | | |
| Payson | 42.8° | 7 th warmest | | | | | |
| Winslow Airport | 38.8° | 12 th warmest | | | | | |
| Prescott Airport | 40.5° | 18 th warmest | | | | | |

...ADDITIONAL PRECIPITATION REPORTS FROM CO-OP OBSERVERS...

<u>Location</u> <u>December Precipitation (inches)</u>

| BDDA3 :BAGDAD : 3.06 FGZ :BELLEMONT WFO : 4.52 BETA3 :BETATAKIN : 0.79 MORA3 :CASTLE HOT SPRINGS : 3.65 FLG :FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT (ASOS) : 4.42 GISA3 :GISELA : 2.53 | |
|---|--|
| RETA3 · RETATAKIN · 0.79 | |
| BETA3 :BETATAKIN : 0.79 MORA3 :CASTLE HOT SPRINGS : 3.65 | |
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| | |
| FLG :FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT (ASOS) : 4.42 | |
| GISA3 :GISELA : 2.53 | |
| GCN :GRAND CANYON AIRPORT (ASOS) : 1.89 | |
| GCEA3 :GRAND CANYON EAST ENTRANCE : 1.94 | |
| GERA3 :GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER : 2.57 | |
| JRMA3 : JEROME : 3.94 | |
| MNYA3 :MCNARY 2 N : 2.81 | |
| TNBA3 :NATURAL BRIDGE : 3.51 | |
| PGA : PAGE (ASOS) : 1.10 | |
| PAIA3 :PAINTED DESERT N.P. : 1.23 | |
| PYSA3 : PAYSON : 4.38 | |
| PTFA3 :PETRIFIED FOREST N.P. : 0.94 | |
| PHRA3 : PHANTOM RANCH : 1.60 | |
| PNEA3 :PINETOP 2E : 3.44 | |
| PRC : PRESCOTT AIRPORT (ASOS) : 2.66 | |
| PSTA3 :PRESCOTT CITY : 3.71 | |
| STJA3 :SAINT JOHNS : 0.60 | |
| SJN :SAINT JOHNS (ASOS) : 0.52 | |
| SAMA3 :SAINT MICHAELS : 2.04 | |
| SELA3 :SELIGMAN : 2.32 | |
| SOW :SHOW LOW AIRPORT : 3.33 | |
| SMTA3 :SUNRISE MOUNTAIN : 4.70 | |
| SCIA3 :SUNSET CRATER N.M. : 2.85 | |
| TEEA3 :TEEC NOS POS : 0.15 | |
| WALA3: WALNUT CANYON N.M. : 2.88 | |
| RQE :WINDOW ROCK (ASOS) : 1.82 | |
| INW :WINSLOW AIRPORT (ASOS) : 1.06 | |
| WPTA3 :WUPATKI : 1.42 | |

...SIGNIFICANT WEATHER...

Dec. 16th-**17**th **Wind and Rain:** A strong cold front moved through northern Arizona on December 16th bringing very strong southerly winds (gusting from 40 mph to over 60 mph) and widespread rainfall amounts ranging from 0.50" to over 3.00". The heaviest rain fell across the eastern Mogollon Rim. Wind and Rain Reports Here.

Dec. 22nd Rain: A moist and relatively warm air mass brought widespread rainfall to much of northern Arizona with amounts generally ranging from 0.25" to 1.50". The highest rainfall amounts were recorded from Yavapai County into southern portions of Coconino County, across a swatch of central Arizona. Rainfall Reports Here.

Dec. 24th **Christmas Eve Snow Storm:** A very strong frontal system surged from west to east across Arizona bringing gusty winds and widespread precipitation, with rapidly falling snow levels. Snow accumulated down to some of the lower valley locations in the Verde Valley such as Sedona, Camp Verde and Cottonwood. Mountainous locations along the Mogollon Rim and Yavapai County received the heaviest snow where amounts of near and over a foot of snow were common. Snow Reports Here. Wind Reports Here.

Dec. 24th Record Snowfall at Flagstaff Airport:

A RECORD SNOWFALL OF 10.1 INCHES FELL AT THE FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT ON SATURDAY, DEC 24TH. THE PREVIOUS RECORD FOR DEC 24 WAS 4.0 INCHES SET IN 1914.