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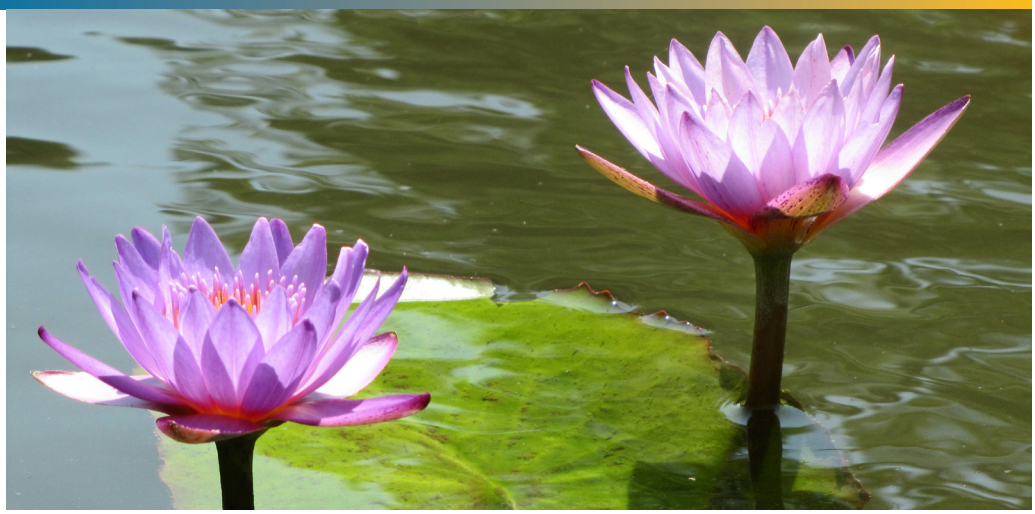

Sunken Gardens in Lincoln, Nebraska - Photo by Joseph Brum
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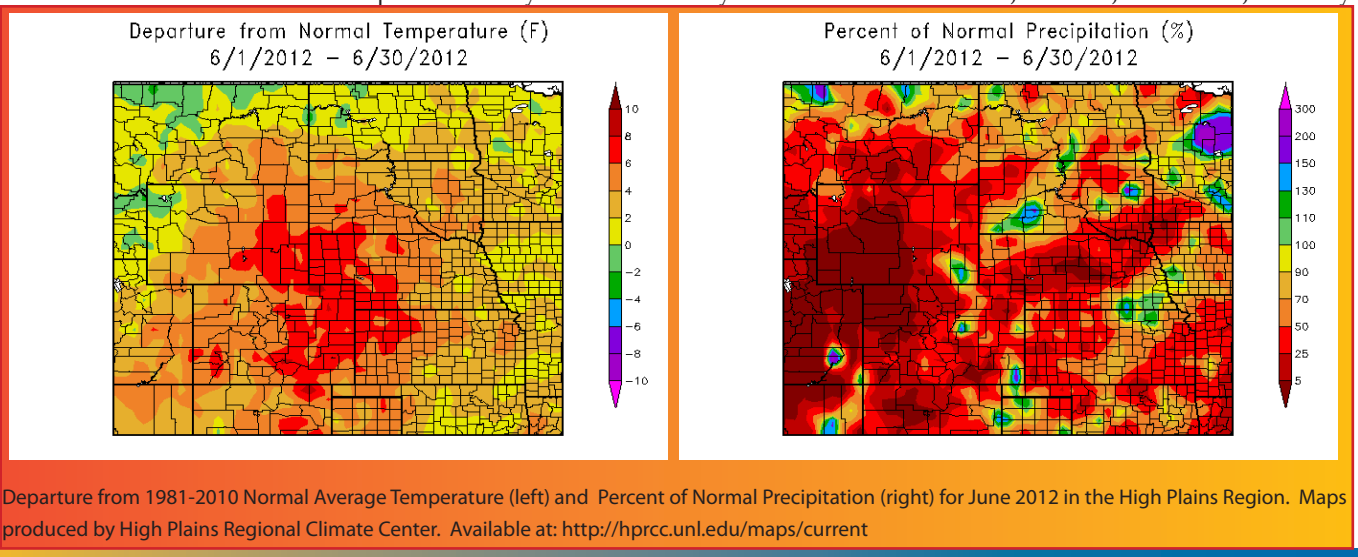
June 2012 Climate Summary

Region Breakdown

June 2012 was hot and dry across the High Plains Region. The largest temperature departures occurred in an area encompassing the panhandle of Nebraska, eastern Wyoming, eastern Colorado, and northwestern Kansas where the departures from normal temperature ranged from 6.0-10.0 degrees F (3.3-5.6 degrees C) above normal. The only areas in the Region to have lower than normal temperatures were northwest Wyoming and a few pockets of North Dakota. The warm pattern caused many locations across the Region to be ranked in the top 10 warmest Junes on record. Colorado Springs, Colorado had its warmest June on record with an average temperature of 73.2 degrees F (22.9 degrees C) which was 8.1 degrees F (4.5 degrees C) above normal. This crushed the old record of 70.8 degrees F (21.6 degrees C) which occurred in 2002 (period of record 1894-2012). Interestingly, each of the past three years in Colorado Springs have been ranked in the top 10 warmest Junes on record - 2012 was ranked warmest, 2011 was ranked 3rd warmest, and 2010 was ranked 7th warmest. For more information on June temperature rankings, please see page 6.

In addition to monthly records, hundreds of daily records were set across the Region. This was especially the case the last week of the month as temperatures skyrocketed. Many locations in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyo-



Departure from 1981-2010 Normal Average Temperature (left) and Percent of Normal Precipitation (right) for June 2012 in the High Plains Region. Maps produced by High Plains Regional Climate Center. Available at: http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current

ming set or tied their all-time record highs (for any day of the year). With one of the highest temperatures in the Region, McCook, Nebraska set a new all-time record high with 115 degrees F (46.1 degrees C) on June 26th. The old record of 114 degrees F (45.6 degrees C) was set on July 20, 1932 (period of record 1909-2012). Another location that set its all-time record high was Colorado Springs, Colorado. Colorado Springs hit 100 degrees F (37.8 degrees C) on both the 23rd and 24th, which tied the record at the time. But, two days later, on the 26th, a new all-time record high was established when the temperature got to 101 degrees F (38.3 degrees C). The impressive part is that within 4 days (June 23-26), the temperature was at or above 100 degrees F (37.8 degrees C) 3 times, yet previously, Colorado Springs had only hit 100 degrees F (37.8 degrees C) 4 other times since records began in 1894.

When taking a look at 2012 so far, June was just one more month of continued warmth. Most of the Region has had warmer than normal temperatures each month this year and this has caused many locations to have their warmest first half of a year ever. One example was Omaha, Nebraska which had its warmest January-June on record with an average temperature of 53.6 degrees F (12.0 degrees C). The old record of 51.9 degrees F (11.1 degrees C) was set in 1921 (period of record 1871-2012).

The continued hot and dry conditions have taken their toll on pastureland across Kansas, Colorado, Nebraska, and Wyoming. According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service, producers in those states had to relocate or reduce their livestock herds due to poor pastureland conditions. Row crops were also starting to show signs of stress from the hot and dry weather. Although severe weather was not widespread this month, hail damage to crops was reported in the Dakotas and Wyoming. On June 7th, a tornado, hail, and high winds affected approximately 20,000 acres in southeastern Wyoming. In addition, the hot and dry weather also created dangerous fire conditions. For more information on the June fires, please see page 4.

All-time Record Highs Set in June 2012 - Highlights

Temperature Records

Temperature in degrees F

Location	Temperature - Date	Record or Previous Record - Date	Period of Record
Colorado Springs, CO	101 - June 26	100 - 06/24/2012*	1894-2012
Denver, CO	105 - June 25, 26	tied - 07/20/2005*	1872-2012
Evergreen, CO	97 - June 26	96 - 07/09/2003*	1961-2012
Holyoke, CO	110 - June 27	tied - 07/11/1954*	1897-2012
La Junta Muni AP, CO	110 - June 24	tied - 06/28/1990	1945-2012
Lamar, CO	111 - June 27, 28	tied - 07/14/1934*	1893-2012
Ruxton Park, CO	88 - June 25, 26	87 - 06/24/2012*	1959-2012
Sedgwick 5 S, CO	110 - June 27	tied - 07/16/2006	1958-2012
Cedar Bluff Dam, KS	110 - June 26, 29	tied - 07/15/2003*	1949-2012
Colby 1 SW, KS	113 - June 28	112 - 06/25/2012	1957-2012
Dodge City, KS	111 - June 27	110 - 06/26/2012*	1874-2012
Garden City Exp Stn, KS	112 - June 28	109 - 06/29/2012*	1956-2012
Norton Dam, KS	118 - June 28	113 - 06/25/2012	1962-2012
Oakley 4 W, KS	111 - June 25, 28	tied - 07/11/1954*	1920-2012
Tribune 1 W, KS	111 - June 25, 27, 28	109 - 06/24/2012	1893-2012
Benkelman, NE	114 - June 27	tied - 07/11/1954	1926-2012
Harrisburg 12 WNW, NE	105 - June 24, 27	tied - 07/16/2006	1961-2012
McCook Muni AP, NE	115 - June 26	114 - 07/20/1932	1909-2012
Trenton Dam, NE	111 - June 27	tied - 08/04/1954	1949-2012
Cody 12 SE, WY	102 - June 24	tied - 07/22/2007*	1962-2012

All Data are Preliminary and Subject to Change.
* indicates multiple records, latest date is listed
Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data

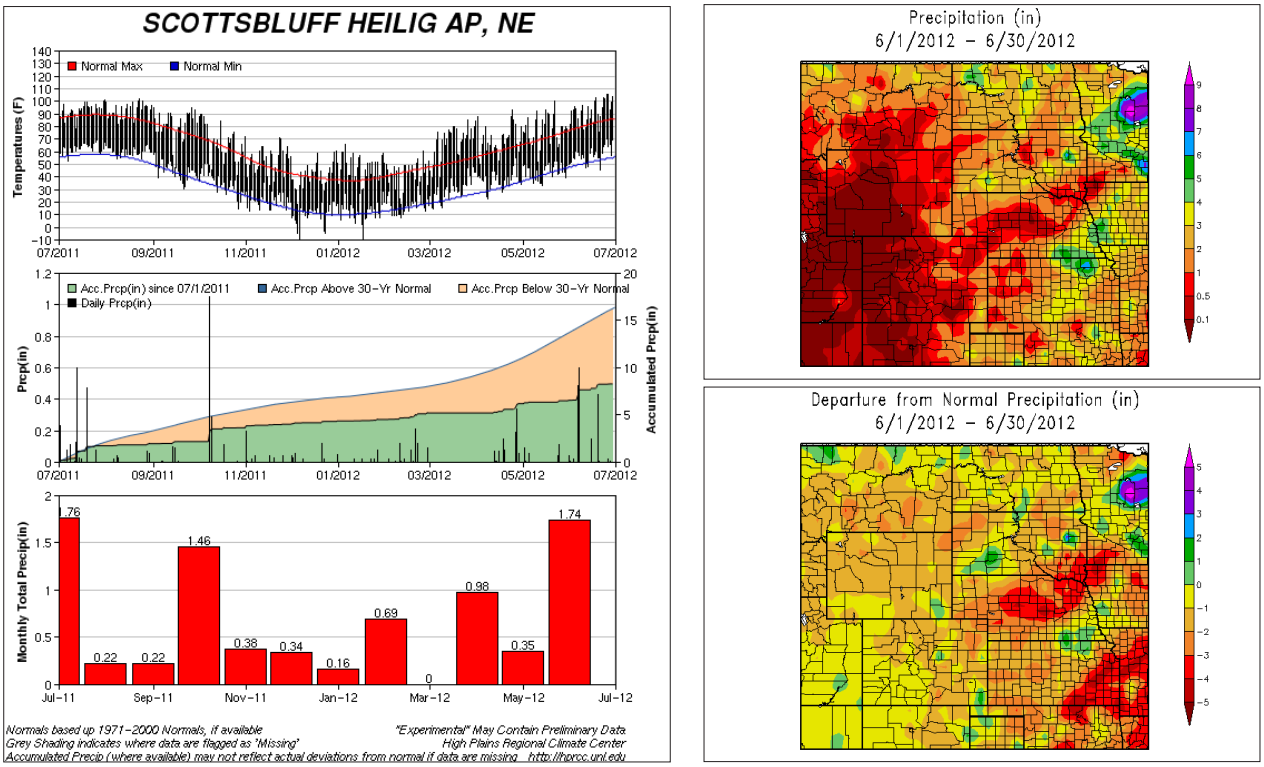
The High Plains Regional Climate Center is one of the Regional Climate Centers, and is involved in the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) development and management effort. Data found throughout this publication were derived using products built on the ACIS framework.

ACIS
Applied Climate Information System - Regional Climate Centers

Precipitation Summary

Precipitation was significantly lacking in all but a few isolated areas of the High Plains Region this month. Most of Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and Kansas received less than 50 percent of normal precipitation. There were even large areas of the Region that received less than 5 percent of normal precipitation, including western and central Wyoming, northwest Colorado, and central Nebraska. Unfortunately, only isolated areas scattered across the Region received near normal precipitation. One of the few locations to receive higher than normal precipitation was Seward, Nebraska which set a new record for the highest one-day precipitation total in June. On June 15th, an incredible 4.55 inches (116 mm) fell in Seward which smashed the old daily record of 3.40 inches (86 mm) set in 1982. This amount also beat the old June record of 3.75 inches (95 mm) set on June 25, 1989. To put this one-day precipitation total in perspective, the normal precipitation for the *entire* month of June in Seward is 4.42 inches (112 mm). By the end of the month, the total June precipitation was 5.74 inches (146 mm), which ranked as the 25th wettest June on record (period of record 1893-2012).

The majority of locations in the Region received little to no precipitation this month and this dearth of precipitation caused many locations to be ranked in the top 10 driest Junes on record. Pueblo, Colorado had its 3rd driest June on record with only 0.07 inches (2 mm) of precipitation (period of record 1888-2012). This small amount of precipitation was 1.29 inches (33 mm) below normal, or 5 percent of normal precipitation. Pueblo's driest June on record occurred in 1990, when no measurable precipitation fell. So far, 2012 has also been a dry year for Pueblo, which has only received 2.53 inches (64 mm) of liquid precipitation (January 1 to June 30). That makes this period the 9th driest on record in Pueblo. Another very dry location in the Region was Scottsbluff, Nebraska. The January 1 to June 30 precipitation total of 3.92 inches (100 mm) ranks as the 2nd driest on record (period of record 1893-2012). The driest on record occurred only 10 years ago, when 2.50 inches (64 mm) fell in 2002. The figure below shows just how dry it has been in Scottsbluff over the past year.



Above: Maximum, minimum, and normal temperatures, accumulated precipitation, and monthly total precipitation for Scottsbluff, NE over the past year (top left). Total precipitation (inches) (top right) and Departure from Normal Precipitation (inches) (bottom right) for June 2012 in the High Plains Region. These maps are produced by HPRCC and can be found on the Current Climate Summary Maps page at: http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current.

The High Plains Regional Climate Center is one of the Regional Climate Centers, and is involved in the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) development and management effort. Data found throughout this publication were derived using products built on the ACIS framework.

ACIS
Applied Climate Information System - Regional Climate Centers

High Plains Region Fire Summary

The hot and dry weather this month created dangerous fire weather conditions in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, and South Dakota. Although some fires started early in June, the record-setting heat, lack of rainfall, and windy conditions during the last week of the month contributed to the explosiveness of many fires. It was during this time that much of Colorado had multiple days at or above 100 degrees F (37.8 degrees C). While many of the fires were caused by lightning, the causes of others are still under investigation. Unfortunately, the fires have been incredibly destructive as hundreds of thousands of acres have burned and at this point, countless structures have been affected as conditions at the end of the month were still too dangerous to perform damage assessments in some areas. The fires have had impacts in many different sectors ranging from tourism, to water resources, to energy. Even 4th of July celebrations are expected to be impacted as many communities have cancelled 4th of July fireworks shows, according to *9NEWS* in Denver. As many of these fires continue to burn and new fires start, the final toll of these fires is yet to be determined. Here is a summary of just some of the fires that started this month in the Region:

- **High Park Fire:** Started by lightning on June 9, about 15 miles west of Fort Collins, Colorado. By the end of the month, the fire had burned 87,284 acres and over 250 homes, but was 100 percent contained with a final estimated cost of $39.2 million. These figures could increase as damage assessments are completed.

- **Waldo Canyon Fire:** Started on June 23, just west of Colorado Springs, Colorado. Only three days later, it surged eastward burning several neighborhoods and causing the evacuation of thousands of people. Although not the largest in terms of acres burned, the Waldo Canyon Fire is now the most destructive in the state's history due to the number of homes burned, according to the Incident Information System. At the end of the month, the fire was over 17,000 acres in size and had burned nearly 350 homes.

- **Fontenelle Fire:** Started on June 24 due to unknown causes, about 18 miles west of Big Piney, Wyoming. Oil, gas, and helium production has been shut down, leading to significant economic impacts in the area. At the end of the month, the fire had burned over 47,000 acres and was only 5 percent contained.

Above: Waldo Canyon Fire as seen from the Chapel Hills Mall in Colorado Springs, Colorado on June 26, 2012. Photograph courtesy Ashley Murphy.

- **Flagstaff Fire:** Started on June 26 due to lightning, just southwest of Boulder, Colorado. The fire prompted the evacuation of many neighborhoods in southern Boulder as well as the Mesa Lab at the National Center for Atmospheric Research. At the end of the month the fire had burned 300 acres and was 90 percent contained.

- **Arapaho Fire:** Started on June 27 due to unknown causes, about 30 northwest of Wheatland, Wyoming. The fire conditions there were so explosive, that, according to the *Wyoming Tribune*, the Arapaho fire grew from 5,000 acres to nearly 37,000 acres in just one day. Hot temperatures, low moisture, high winds, and complex terrain all contributed to the rapid progress of the fire. By the end of the month, the fire was approximately 75,000 acres in size and was at 0 percent containment. Although much of the affected land is sparsely populated, conditions were too hazardous for an assessment of property damage.

- **Pine Ridge Fire:** Started on June 27 by lightning, about 13 miles east of Grand Junction, Colorado along the Colorado River. By the end of the month the fire had burned over 13,000 acres and was 35 percent contained.

- **White Draw Fire:** Started on June 29 by a motor vehicle fire, northeast of Edgemont, South Dakota. The fire has burned nearly 5,000 acres and was 50 percent contained.

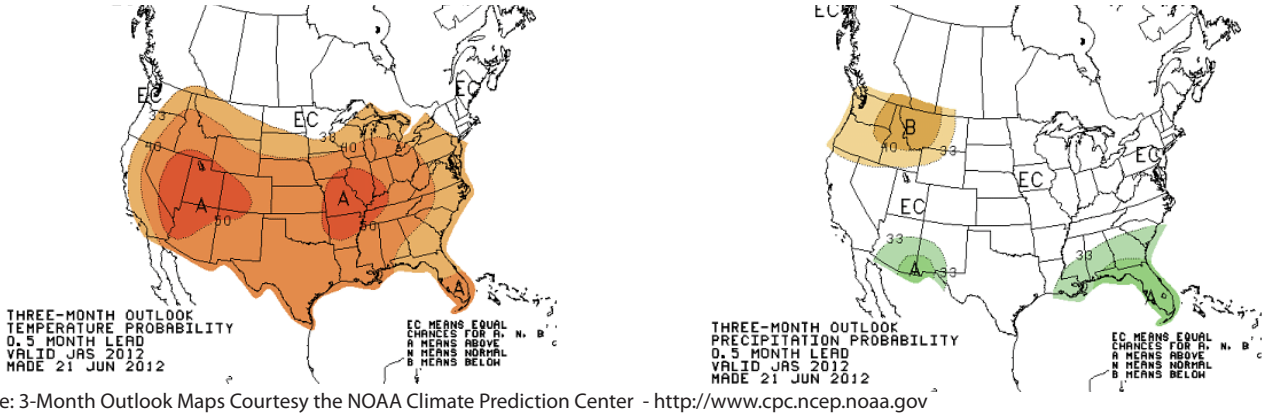
- **Camp 5 Fire:** Started on the evening of June 30 by lightning in the Nebraska National Forest near Halsey, Nebraska. By morning the fire had grown to 1000 acres and was 0 percent contained.

Reports may be Preliminary and Subject to Change.

Source for fire information: InciWeb - Incident Information System

Climate Outlook

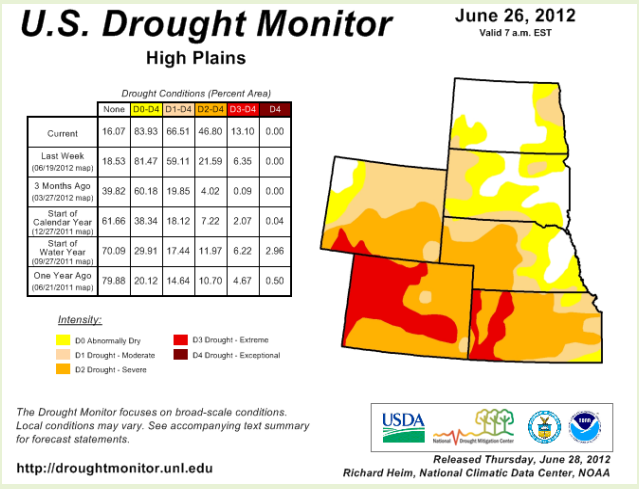
ENSO-neutral conditions continue and there is a 50 percent chance that El Niño conditions will develop later this year. The temperature outlook indicates a higher probability of above normal temperatures for Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, Wyoming, southwest North Dakota, and all but the far northeast corner of South Dakota. The precipitation outlook indicates a higher probability of below normal precipitation for northwest Wyoming. Equal chances of above, near, or below normal precipitation and temperatures are predicted elsewhere in the Region. The seasonal outlooks combine the effects of long-term trends, soil moisture, and when applicable, the El Niño Southern Oscillation cycle (ENSO).

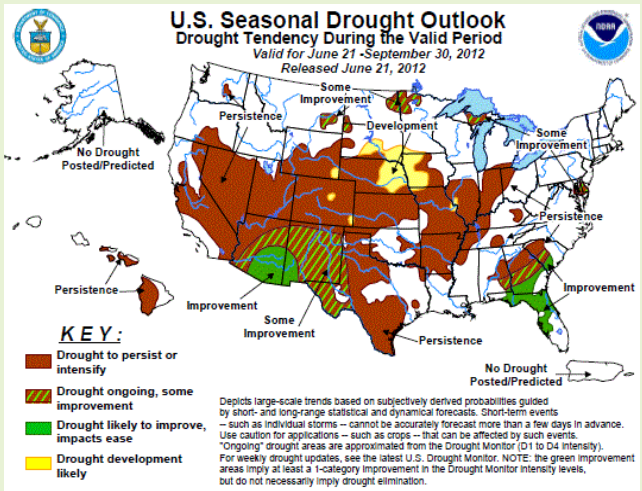


Above: 3-Month Outlook Maps Courtesy the NOAA Climate Prediction Center - http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov
(left) The Three-Month Temperature Probability Outlook, (right) The Three-Month Precipitation Probability Outlook

Drought Watch

There were major changes to the U.S. Drought Monitor this month as hot and dry conditions prevailed over the majority of the Region. Drought conditions developed or worsened in each state in the Region over the past month. At the end of the month nearly 84 percent of the Region had a D0-D4 designation (abnormally dry to exceptional drought conditions), while at the end of last month the figure was 66 percent. The expansion of the D2-D4 range (severe to exceptional drought conditions) was quite impressive as it jumped from 8 percent coverage at the end of May to 47 percent coverage at the end of June. The entire state of Colorado has D1 designation (moderate drought conditions) or higher, and by the end of the month nearly 46 percent of the state was experiencing D3 (extreme drought conditions). D3 conditions also expanded into southwestern Wyoming and western Kansas. According to the U.S. Seasonal Drought outlook released on June 21st, drought conditions were expected to improve only in eastern North Dakota and the far northwest corner of South Dakota. Current areas of drought in Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, and Wyoming were expected to persist, while drought was expected to develop in eastern Nebraska and southern South Dakota.





The U.S. Drought Monitor is produced as a joint effort of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), National Drought Mitigation Center, U.S. Department of Commerce and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). Real-time data provided through ACIS from the Regional Climate Centers are often used by the agencies involved in the U.S. Drought Monitor when determining the area and intensity of drought conditions, although the product itself is not produced by HPRCC. For current Drought Monitor information, please see: http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/
Portions of this Drought Watch are courtesy the Drought Monitor Text Discussion found on the Drought Monitor webpage.

State Summaries

Colorado	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Akron Washington County Airport	92.7	58.8	75.7	8.5	107	06/27	45	06/01	0.27	-2.19	11
Alamosa San Luis Airport	86.5	42.4	64.5	4.9	93	06/25+	31	06/11	0.21	-0.28	43
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	89.2	57.3	73.2	8.1	101	06/26	45	06/01	0.59	-1.91	24
Grand Junction Walker Field Airport	94.8	61.2	78.0	6.0	102	06/30+	48	06/12+	0.04	-0.42	9
Pueblo Memorial Airport	95.8	58.2	77.0	7.0	107	06/24	49	06/17+	0.07	-1.29	5

Kansas	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Concordia Municipal Airport	91.5	63.6	77.6	4.2	107	06/27	42	06/01	4.72	0.67	117
Dodge City Regional Airport	94.6	63.7	79.1	5.2	111	06/27	47	06/01	1.78	-1.46	55
Goodland Renner Field	94.6	59.3	77.0	7.3	110	06/27+	46	06/01	0.99	-2.26	30
Topeka Municipal Airport	91.6	66.3	79.0	4.8	106	06/28	45	06/01	2.39	-3.01	44
Wichita Mid-Continent Airport	92.2	67.1	79.7	3.9	106	06/28+	48	06/01	2.55	-2.65	49

Nebraska	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Chadron Municipal Airport	92.1	56.2	74.2	8.3	109	06/26	41	06/21+	1.27	-1.97	39
Grand Island Airport	88.7	62.6	75.7	4.4	107	06/27	43	06/01	1.27	-3.03	30
Lincoln Municipal Airport	87.9	62.3	75.1	2.5	102	06/27	41	06/01	3.57	-0.78	82
Omaha Eppley Airfield	87.1	65.0	76.1	4.0	102	06/27	45	06/01	3.57	-0.61	85
Norfolk Karl Stefan Airport	86.3	60.9	73.6	3.4	103	06/27	41	06/01	0.89	-3.37	21
North Platte Regional Airport	92.0	58.5	75.3	7.4	107	06/26	42	06/02	0.87	-2.55	25
Valentine Miller Field	89.9	59.1	74.5	7.0	102	06/27	45	06/01	1.72	-1.84	48

North Dakota	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Bismark Municipal Airport	80.9	53.5	67.2	2.5	93	06/30+	38	06/12	2.15	-1.02	68
Fargo International Airport	82.3	57.6	69.9	3.7	96	06/09	41	06/12	2.50	-1.40	64
Grand Forks International Airport	79.6	53.2	64.0	2.4	93	06/09	38	06/12	2.38	-1.10	68
Theodore Roosevelt Airport	79.4	50.8	65.1	2.9	98	06/26	40	06/12	2.35	-0.85	73
Williston International Airport	77.3	51.3	64.3	1.1	96	06/26	43	06/15+	2.92	0.40	116

All Data are Preliminary and Subject to Change. + indicates multiple dates, latest date listed.
Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data
Data are retrieved through the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS).
These data are available for the entire period of record through the CLIMOD system. For more information please see http://hprcc.unl.edu/services.

June 2012 Climate Summary

South Dakota	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Aberdeen Regional Airport	84.0	55.7	65.6	4.3	95	06/17	37	06/12	1.27	-2.43	34
Huron Regional Airport	85.2	59.2	72.2	4.4	96	06/17	41	06/12	3.13	-0.80	80
Pierre Regional Airport	85.1	57.8	67.7	3.8	100	06/26	41	06/12	1.92	-1.65	54
Rapid City Regional Airport	86.6	54.0	70.3	5.8	109	06/26	43	06/13	2.04	-0.49	81
Sioux Falls Joe Foss Field Airport	84.7	59.5	72.1	4.3	96	06/27	40	06/01	0.74	-3.18	19

Wyoming	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Casper Natrona County International AP	87.2	48.6	67.9	5.7	100	06/25+	37	06/21	0.28	-1.33	17
Cheyenne Municipal Airport	83.8	52.0	67.9	5.8	96	06/23	44	06/11+	2.69	0.35	115
Lander Hunt Field Airport	85.2	51.1	68.2	5.2	98	06/24	37	06/10	0.04	-1.23	3
Laramie Regional Airport	82.6	45.5	64.0	6.8	93	06/25	32	06/11	0.24	-1.30	16
Rawlins Municipal Airport	84.9	46.4	65.7	6.4	97	06/25	35	06/12+	0.00	-1.03	0
Sheridan County Airport	83.6	48.2	65.9	4.3	102	06/26	37	06/10	0.33	-1.79	16

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Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data
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June 2012 Top 10 Temperature Rankings - Highlights

Temperature Rankings

Temperature in degrees F

Location	Average Temperature / Ranking	Record or Old Record / Year	Period of Record
Alamosa, CO	64.5 / warmest	63.1 / 1956	1906-2012
Colorado Springs, CO	73.2 / warmest	70.8 / 2002	1894-2012
Denver, CO	75.0 / warmest	73.5 / 1994	1872-2012
Grand Junction, CO	78.0 / 2nd warmest	79.0 / 1977	1893-2012
Pueblo, CO	77.0 / warmest	76.2 / 1956	1888-2012
Dodge City, KS	79.1 / 8th warmest	81.7 / 1952	1874-2012
Goodland, KS	77.0 / 2nd warmest	77.2 / 1911	1895-2012
Salina, KS	80.3 / 3rd warmest	81.9 / 1952	1948-2012
Topeka, KS	79.0 / 7th warmest	82.3 / 1934	1887-2012
North Platte, NE	75.3 / 3rd warmest	77.0 / 1933	1874-2012
Scottsbluff, NE	75.3 / warmest	73.6 / 1933	1893-2012
Valentine, NE	74.5 / 5th warmest	77.2 / 1933	1889-2012
Fargo, ND	69.9 / 7th warmest	73.8 / 1988	1881-2012
Huron, SD	72.2 / 10th warmest	78.3 / 1933	1881-2012
Rapid City, SD	70.3 / 4th warmest	75.6 / 1988	1942-2012
Casper, WY	67.9 / 5th warmest	72.5 / 1988	1939-2012
Cheyenne, WY	67.9 / 2nd warmest	68.0 / 2006	1872-2012
Lander, WY	68.2 / 4th warmest	72.5 / 1988	1891-2012

All Data are Preliminary and Subject to Change.
* indicates multiple records, latest year is listed
Source: National Weather Service Cooperative Observation Network Data

State Spotlight - North Dakota

F. Adnan Akyüz - State Climatologist, Barb Mullins
North Dakota State Climate Office, North Dakota State University

Precipitation:

The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) June percent of normal precipitation ranged from ~40% in the northeast to ~180% of normal in the northwest and mostly below normal conditions in between (Figure 1, NDAWN Center). In the beginning of the month, the National Drought Monitor (DM) was depicting northeastern parts as moderate drought (D1, based on the DM categorization). Dry conditions in the northeast and southwest portions of the state exacerbated the drought conditions even further. By the end of the month, more than 10% of the state was under moderate drought including a newly added southwestern D1. A very localized storm on June 7 bringing 1.75", 1.10" and 0.92" of rainfall in Hofflund, Ross and Crossby respectively in the northwestern ND skewed the monthly total in favor of above normal precipitation in the region. Despite the magnitude of precipitation deficit in dry regions through the end of June, drought impact was minimal because of the charged soil moisture conditions from the previous seasons. However, dry dug outs, and some reports of drought stress on crops were seen in some isolated areas.

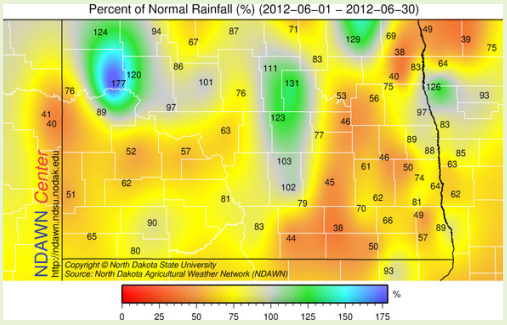

Figure 1. Percent of Normal Precipitation in June 2012 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)

Temperature:

June daily average air temperatures ranged from the low 60s in northern ND, to the low 70s in southeastern ND. On average, the daily temperatures were between 1 to 4°F greater than the normal daily temperatures in June. One exception is northwestern Ward County where the daily average temperatures were 1°F below normal (Figure 2, NDAWN Center). A strong cold front swept through the state on June 11 dropping the temperatures as severe as 18°F below their seasonal averages at certain locations especially in Wells County.

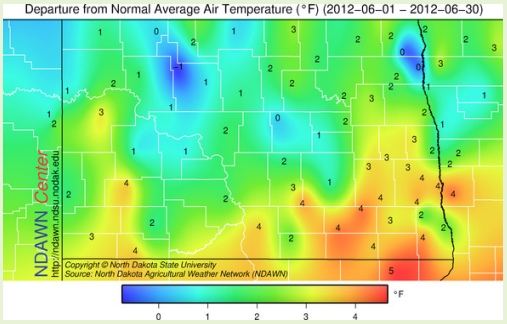

Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in June 2012 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)

For more information about the North Dakota State Climate Office: http://www.ndsu.edu/ndsco
For more information on the North Dakota Agricultural Network: http://www.ndawn.ndsu.nodak.edu
The North Dakota Agricultural Network is a part of the Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

State Spotlight - Wyoming

Tony Bergantino - Assistant State Climatologist
Wyoming State Climate Office, University of Wyoming

Streamflow

Streamflow in the Wyoming ranges from Normal to Dry with one Wet exception (Highline Ditch near Dayton in Sheridan County) Generally the northwest part of the state is seeing Normal conditions along with the northeast (Belle Fourche) and east-central (the North Platte from Orin to the State Line). The southwest is at the 24th percentile or less while flows in Carbon and Albany counties are in the 10th percentile and less.

Precipitation

Following a dry May was an even drier June. Only the extreme southeast part of Wyoming saw above normal precipitation and that was due largely in part to two days of heavy rain near the beginning of the month. The rest of the state was less than 50% of normal with a large percentage of stations being below 25% of normal. There were a few stations that were exceptions but they were all still below the normal.

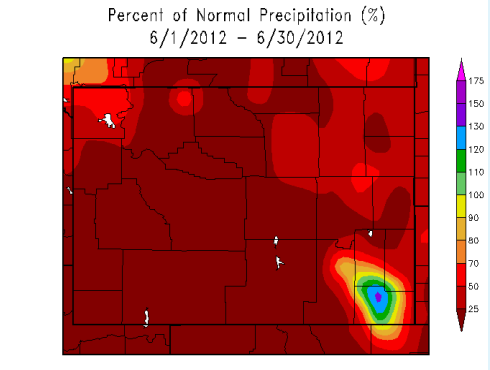

Figure 1. Map showing June 2012 precipitation as a percentage of historical averages (vs. 1981-2010 normal period) for Wyoming. Courtesy HPRCC.

The continued dryness and high temperatures have prompted an early start to the fire season and by the end of the month there were fires in the far east (Oil Creek in Weston County), the far west (Fontenelle in Lincoln and Sublette counties) the north (Index Creek in Park County, Cato in Johnson County, and Otter Creek in Washakie County) and in the south (Arapaho and Squirrel Creek in Albany County).

Temperature

The cooler than normal conditions in the northwest during May mostly gave way to above normal temperatures with only a few stations in Park, Teton, and Lincoln counties being between normal and 2°F below normal. The remainder of the state was up to 8°F above normal with the eastern counties seeing the greatest departure to the plus side of normal. The positive departure from normal generally increased as one went from the western part of the state to the eastern.

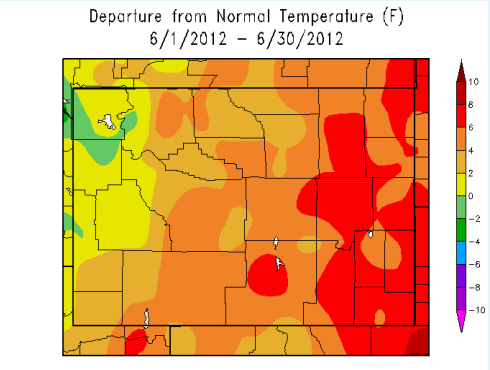

Figure 2. Map showing mean June 2012 temperatures from historical averages (vs. 1981-2010 normal period) for Wyoming. Courtesy HPRCC.

June saw an expansion and intensification of Drought in Wyoming. By the end of June, over 90% of the state was at or worse than D0 (Abnormally Dry) and almost 85% was in Drought (D1 to D4). D3 was introduced into Wyoming in June for the first time since October of 2007. The D0 existent in May was increased to D1 or D2 for all but the west central and northwest portions which remain at D0. The D2 that barely touched the southwest of Carbon and southeast of Sweetwater counties was expanded to cover most of southern Wyoming with the exception of Laramie and southern Plate/Goshen counties. D1 was expanded northward all the way to the Montana border, and D3 was introduced to southern Sweetwater County along with the eastern portions of Uinta and Lincoln counties. A small portion of southwestern Carbon County was also intensified to D3. The D2 will be expanded farther into the northeast part of the state in July.

This report was prepared by the Wyoming State Climate Office, which is a division of the Wyoming Water Resources Data System at the University of Wyoming. More information can be found at: http://www.wrds.uwyo.edu and http://www.wrds.uwyo.edy/sco/climate_office.html. Special thanks to the National Weather Service's Riverton and Cheyenne Offices, the NRCS Casper Office, the Cheyenne US Geological Survey Office, and Wyoming CoCoRaHS obcervers for supplying much of the data and information used in this report.

About the High Plains Regional Climate Center

The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) operates out of the University of Nebraska - Lincoln (UNL) in Lincoln, Nebraska. As one of 6 regional climate centers throughout the nation, HPRCC works closely with other organizations such as the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), Local and Regional National Weather Service (NWS) Offices, and other climate services organizations such as the National Drought Mitigation Center (also located at UNL) to provide climate data services and specialized climate products.

For More Information Online

High Plains Regional Climate Center: http://hprcc.unl.edu

High Plains Regional Climate Services: http://hprcc.unl.edu/services

CLIMOD: http://climod.unl.edu

Regional Climate Centers and ACIS: http://www.rcc-acis.org

National Weather Service: http://www.weather.gov

National Climatic Data Center: http://ncdc.noaa.gov

University of Nebraska - Lincoln: http://www.unl.edu

National Drought Mitigation Center: http://drought.unl.edu

Climate Prediction Center: http://www.cpc.noaa.gov

NOAA Storm Prediction Center: http://www.spc.noaa.gov

Photo of the Nebraska Sandhills by Bill Sorensen - Senior Programmer - HPRCC

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