



# February 2015 Climate Summary

Early February snow storm in Lincoln, NE - Photo by Natalie Umphlett  
<http://hprcc.unl.edu>

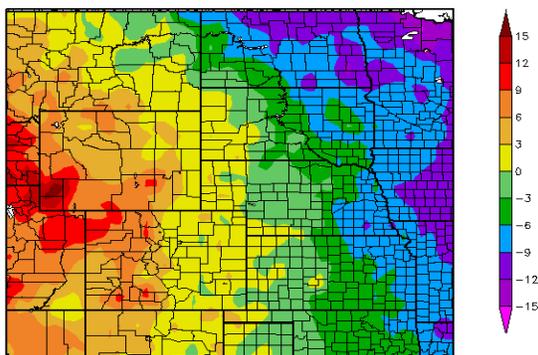
## On the Dividing Line

This month, there was a large contrast in temperatures across the United States due to a ridge to the west and a trough to the east. The extreme warmth in the west was a concern due to the continued low snowpack and the cold in the east allowed for wintry weather to impact locations even in the Deep South. Because the High Plains region was on the dividing line of the warm and cold air, eastern areas were below normal, central areas were near normal, and western areas were above normal. This resulted in impressive temperature departures ranging from about 12.0 degrees F (6.7 degrees C) below normal in parts of North Dakota to about 12.0 degrees F (6.7 degrees C) above normal in parts of Wyoming. Interestingly, even with these large temperature departures, locations with long-term station histories did not set records and relatively few locations ranked in the top 20 coldest or warmest Februaries on record.

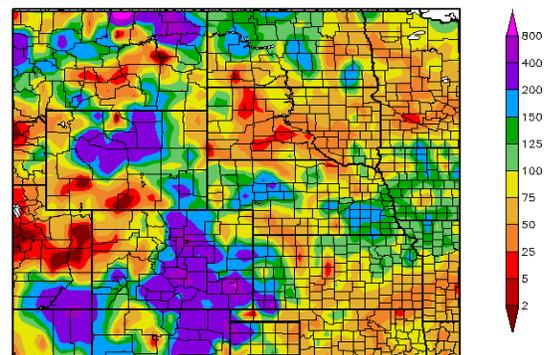
As is often the case, precipitation varied across the region. Areas picking up heavy precipitation included central Wyoming and the Front Range in Colorado. Liquid equivalent precipitation totals in those areas generally ranged from 200-400 percent of normal precipitation, however isolated locations in Colorado topped 400 percent of normal. Other areas receiving ample precipitation included portions of western and southeastern Nebraska, far western Kansas, and pockets of North Dakota. These areas had precipitation totals of at least 150 percent of normal. Several locations with long station histories set new records for snowiest and/or wettest February on record. Likewise, numerous locations ranked in the top 10. There were dry areas of the region as well, including South Dakota, southern Kansas, southwestern Wyoming, and portions of eastern North Dakota and northwestern Colorado where precipitation totaled 50 percent of normal, at best. A few isolated areas received little to no precipitation and ranked in the top 10 driest Februaries on record. At this time of the year, precipitation does not contribute a large percentage of the annual total; however dry areas will need to be monitored this spring when deficits can grow more quickly.

## Temperature and Precipitation Overview

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
2/1/2015 - 2/28/2015



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
2/1/2015 - 2/28/2015



Above: Departure from 1981-2010 normal temperature (left) and percent of normal precipitation (right) for February 2015 in the High Plains region. Maps produced by the High Plains Regional Climate Center and are available at: <http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current>.

## Precipitation

After a fairly dry January, precipitation returned for some areas of the High Plains region, especially along the Front Range in Colorado, areas of central Wyoming, and portions of Kansas, Nebraska, and North Dakota. Other areas of the region were fairly dry and drought conditions expanded across western Colorado and into southwestern Wyoming, which is uncommon for this time of the year. The following takes a look at some local examples of extremes experienced across the region this month.

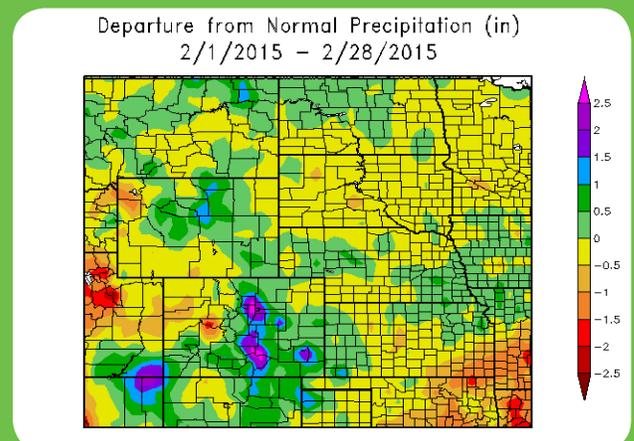
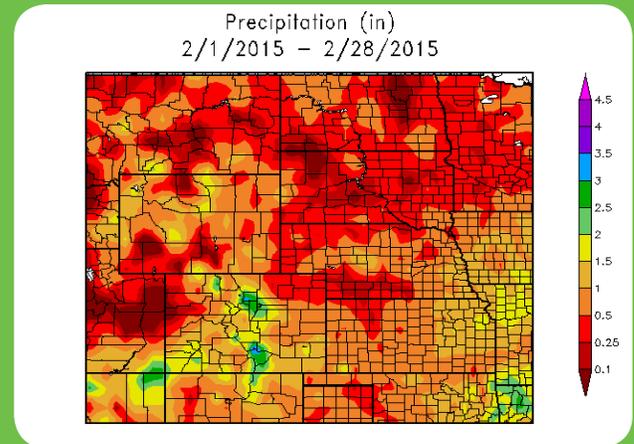
Areas along the Front Range received hefty amounts of snow this month, with many locations ranking in the top 10 snowiest Februaries on record. One very impressive record occurred in Boulder, Colorado, which broke its previous February total snowfall record by over 20 inches (51 cm)! The new record February total of 54.8 inches (139 cm) of snow completely smashed the old 2012 record of 32.1 inches (82 cm) (period of record 1893-2015). Some other locations in Colorado also had their snowiest February on record including Denver and Pueblo.

On the drier end of the spectrum, little precipitation fell across South Dakota. For instance, Pierre, South Dakota had its 7th least snowiest February on record with only 1.5 inches (4 cm) of snow (period of record 1893-2015). Although snowfall over the past couple of months has been lacking in Pierre, the seasonal total is just above normal.

In a follow-up to last month's summary, it was mentioned that Fargo, North Dakota had yet to have its first 1-inch (3 cm) snowfall. That streak was broken on February 10th with 3.5 inches (9 cm) and the new record was officially set. Prior to this season, the latest 1-inch (3 cm) snowfall to have occurred was January 27, 1944 (period of record 1885-2015). Even with slightly above normal snowfall in February, the seasonal snowfall totals were still lagging in Fargo with 15.6 inches (40 cm) received through the end of the month. This was only 41 percent of normal.

The dryness across South Dakota and eastern North Dakota may prove to be a benefit as flood risk is reduced with a low snowpack. Additionally, in recent years, fields have been quite wet in the spring, which has been a difficulty for farmers in the planting season. The possibility of drier soils this spring could be a welcome sight in both regards.

### Regional Precipitation



Above: Total precipitation in inches (top) and departure from normal precipitation in inches (bottom) for February 2015. These maps are produced by HPRCC and can be found on the Current Climate Summary Maps page at: <http://hprcc.unl.edu/maps/current>.

## Snowpack Update

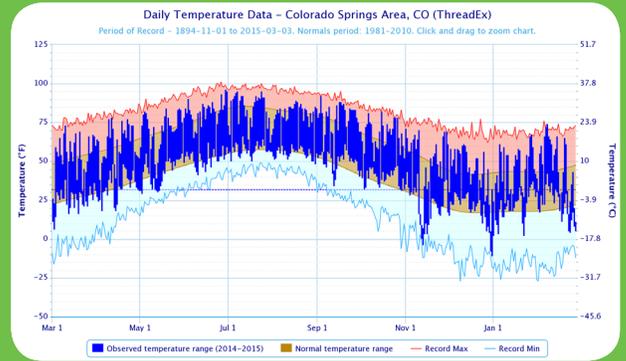
Snowpack in the western U.S. is still a major concern this winter. According to the U.S. Drought Monitor, many monitoring sites in the Cascades and Sierra Nevada are snow free, which is unusual for this time of year. Here in the Missouri River Basin, heavy snows along the Front Range increased Colorado's statewide snowpack from 81 percent to 88 percent of median over the past month and all but one basin in the southwest had improvements. Meanwhile, Wyoming's statewide snowpack has been holding steady at around 94 percent of median. According to the latest hydrologic outlooks, no significant flooding is expected in the basin due to the mountain snow runoff this spring. Localized, minor flooding is possible in northern areas due to rain-on-frozen-ground events, while minor to moderate flooding is likely in southern parts of the basin due to spring thunderstorms. This flood risk is typical, however.

# Temperatures

Extreme temperatures were a common theme this winter and February was no exception. For the High Plains region, being on the dividing line between the warm and cold air made for an impressive range of temperature departures. Despite these large departures, the warmth to the west and cold to the east was not generally record breaking across the region, although a few isolated locations may have set new records. What was more widespread was the list of locations which ranked in the top 20 warmest/coldest Februaries on record. Some examples on the cool side included Minot, North Dakota (9th), Lincoln, Nebraska (16th), and Topeka, Kansas (20th). Examples on the warm side included Rawlins, Wyoming (5th) and Grand Junction, Colorado (11th).

A look at the daily values shows that hundreds of daily records were set this month, the majority of which were record highs. Even locations in eastern Colorado and western Kansas were flirting with their highest all-time February temperatures from the 6th through the 10th. February 7th was a particularly warm day and Colorado Springs, Colorado came close to its all-time February maximum temperature with a high of 74 degrees F (23.3 degrees C). This tied for the 2nd warmest February day on record in Colorado Springs, but was just shy of the highest value of 76 degrees F (24.4 degrees C), which occurred on February 5, 1963 (period of record 1894-2015). The 7th was a warm day for other locations too as Denver, Colorado and Goodland, Kansas tied for their 6th warmest February day on record with 74 degrees F (23.3 degrees C) and 79 degrees F (26.1 degrees C), respectively. The graph above shows the extreme warmth that occurred this past month, especially during the second week of February in Colorado Springs.

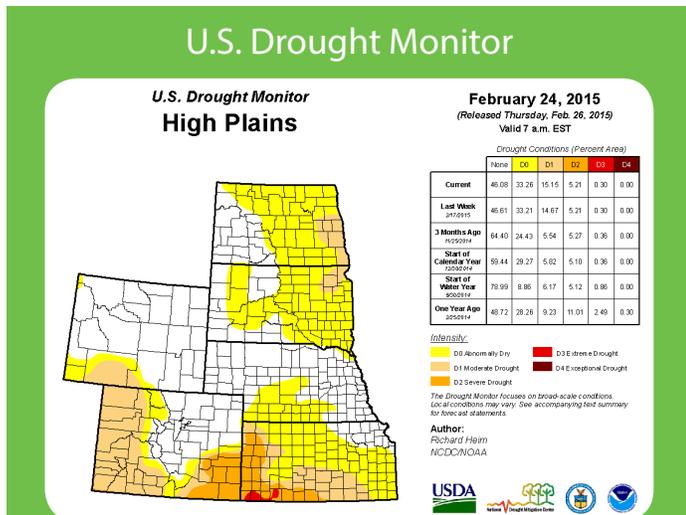
## Station Spotlight: Colorado Springs, CO



Above: Daily temperatures along with extremes and normals values over the past year in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

# Drought Conditions

Although typically a quiet time of the year for drought developments/improvements in the High Plains Region, drought conditions expanded over the past month, according to the latest releases of the U.S. Drought Monitor. The total area in drought (D1-D4) increased from about 12 percent to just over 20 percent with moderate drought conditions (D1) expanding across western Colorado and into southern Wyoming. A combination of unseasonably warm weather and a low snow water equivalent in the mountain snowpack has led to this depiction on the U.S. Drought Monitor. For the region as a whole, this expanded the total D1 coverage from about 7 percent to 15 percent. The remaining severe (D2) and extreme (D3) drought conditions in portions of eastern Colorado and western and southern Kansas remained unchanged. Meanwhile, abnormally dry conditions (D0) expanded into central Colorado, southwestern Wyoming, and west-central South Dakota. In areas receiving heavy rain and snow, such as northeastern Kansas and southeastern Nebraska, D0 was eliminated.



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). For current Drought Monitor information, please see: <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>.

As more data are collected and analyzed, drought impacts are still being realized in some parts of the region. According to a study by the U.S. Forest Service and Colorado State Forest Survey, the spruce beetle epidemic has expanded due to a combination of factors, one of which is drought. Southwestern areas of the state have experienced the most rapid expansion of the infestation. On a related matter, the mountain pine beetle epidemic has slowed, most likely due to a lack of live trees.

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# Climate Outlooks

It finally became official - the latest observations show that El Niño conditions have developed, according to the Climate Prediction Center. Because the current El Niño conditions are weak and impacts in the spring and summer are limited anyway, the High Plains region may not be affected. El Niño conditions are expected to continue through the fall.

The seasonal temperature and precipitation outlooks below combine the effects of long-term trends, soil moisture, and when applicable, the El Niño Southern Oscillation cycle (ENSO). To learn more about these outlooks, please see: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

## Temperature

The temperature outlook through May indicates a higher probability for above normal temperatures across the western third of the U.S. For the High Plains region, this includes the western half of Wyoming and small portions of the northwest corners of Colorado and North Dakota. Meanwhile, a higher probability for below normal temperatures exists for south-central parts of the country, but does not include any portion of the High Plains region. The rest of the region has equal chances for above, below, or near normal temperatures.

## Precipitation

The precipitation outlook for the next three months shows a higher probability for above normal precipitation for a large area of the western U.S. stretching to the east from Arizona through Texas and to the north through southern Montana. For the High Plains region, this includes the majority of Colorado and Wyoming, as well as the panhandle of Nebraska and a portion of western Kansas. An area of the southeastern U.S. also has a higher probability of above normal precipitation. Meanwhile, the Pacific Northwest is the only area of the country to have an increased chance for below normal precipitation. The remainder of the contiguous U.S. has equal chances for above, below, or near normal precipitation.

## Drought

According to the U.S Seasonal Drought Outlook released February 19th, drought conditions are forecast to persist over the majority of the drought stricken areas across the country, particularly in the western states. Some areas could see improvements or removal of drought conditions over the next three months including central Idaho, southern Wyoming, northwestern and southeastern Colorado, western and southern Kansas, central Oklahoma, northern Texas, a couple of pockets of Louisiana and Alabama, and an area stretching from central Arkansas through central Kentucky. Meanwhile, three areas of the country are likely to have drought development - Hawaii, portions of the Pacific Northwest, and parts of the north-central U.S. including eastern portions of the Dakotas, most of Minnesota, northeastern Iowa, and southern Wisconsin. Current drought in the eastern Dakotas is expected to persist through the end of May.

### Temperature Outlook

**THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
TEMPERATURE PROBABILITY  
0.5 MONTH LEAD  
VALID MAR 2015  
MADE 19 FEB 2015**

EC MEANS EQUAL CHANCES FOR A, N, B  
 A MEANS ABOVE  
 N MEANS NORMAL  
 B MEANS BELOW

### Precipitation Outlook

**THREE-MONTH OUTLOOK  
PRECIPITATION PROBABILITY  
0.5 MONTH LEAD  
VALID MAR 2015  
MADE 19 FEB 2015**

EC MEANS EQUAL CHANCES FOR A, N, B  
 A MEANS ABOVE  
 N MEANS NORMAL  
 B MEANS BELOW

### Drought Outlook

**U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook**  
 Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for February 19 - May 31, 2015  
 Released February 19, 2015

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short-lived events. \*Ongoing drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor near (interior of D1 to D5).  
 NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

Author: [www.noaa.gov](http://www.noaa.gov)  
 NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center

<http://go.usa.gov/HHTe>

Above: The three-month temperature probability outlook (top), the three-month precipitation probability outlook (middle), and the U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook. For more information on these outlooks, produced by the Climate Prediction Center, see: <http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov>.

## Station Summaries: By the Numbers

Colorado	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Akron Washington County Airport	44.8	20.6	32.7	1.3	72	02/07	3	02/28+	0.09	-0.35	20
Alamosa San Luis Airport	45.6	10.4	28.0	5.2	59	02/14+	-3	02/17	1.01	0.75	388
Colorado Springs Municipal Airport	46.1	20.9	33.5	1.4	74	02/07	-3	02/28	1.45	1.11	426
Denver International Airport	46.6	21.0	33.8	1.3	74	02/07	-6	02/27	1.25	0.88	338
Grand Junction Walker Field Airport	52.6	25.8	39.2	4.7	63	02/13+	15	02/17	0.13	-0.41	24
Pueblo Memorial Airport	50.6	20.1	35.3	1.4	78	02/07+	0	02/28	1.13	0.83	377

Kansas	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Concordia Municipal Airport	39.5	15.7	27.6	-5.1	73	02/07	-2	02/02	0.35	-0.44	44
Dodge City Regional Airport	48.0	19.9	34.0	-1.9	79	02/07	6	02/24	0.64	-0.04	94
Goodland Renner Field	46.8	19.5	33.1	0.8	79	02/07	5	02/23+	0.80	0.31	163
Topeka Municipal Airport	38.4	15.5	27.0	-7.4	69	02/08	0	02/05	0.87	-0.45	66
Wichita Mid-Continent Airport	44.5	20.0	32.3	-4.9	74	02/08	7	02/02	0.54	-0.64	46

Nebraska	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Chadron Municipal Airport	43.6	17.4	30.5	3.1	71	02/07	-8	02/27	0.55	-0.06	90
Grand Island Airport	36.3	11.4	23.8	-5.3	64	02/08	-9	02/02	0.70	0.02	103
Lincoln Municipal Airport	33.5	9.7	21.6	-7.4	57	02/08	-16	02/05	0.93	0.16	121
Norfolk Karl Stefan Airfield	34.0	8.7	21.3	-5.5	61	02/07	-13	02/02	0.31	-0.45	41
North Platte Regional Airport	42.7	12.9	27.8	-1.2	71	02/07	-9	02/02	0.46	-0.04	92
Omaha Eppley Airport	30.9	10.6	20.8	-7.3	53	02/07	-6	02/05	0.45	-0.40	53
Valentine Miller Field	40.0	11.6	25.8	-1.4	73	02/07	-15	02/02+	0.31	-0.17	65

North Dakota	Temperatures (degrees F)								Precipitation (inches)		
	Averages				Extremes				Totals		
	Max	Min	Mean	Depart	High	Date	Low	Date	Obs	Depart	% Norm
Bismark Municipal Airport	23.0	1.1	12.0	-6.1	48	02/07	-16	02/27	0.39	-0.12	76
Fargo International Airport	17.6	-2.1	7.7	-6.9	36	02/07	-19	02/22+	0.57	-0.04	93
Grand Forks International Airport	14.7	-6.6	4.1	-7.9	33	02/05	-28	02/19	0.40	-0.12	77
Theodore Roosevelt Airport	29.3	5.4	17.3	-3.2	58	02/07	-16	02/22	0.15	-0.18	45
Williston International Airport	24.4	0.2	12.3	-4.6	49	02/07	-20	02/22	0.46	0.07	118

All data are preliminary and subject to change. + indicates multiple dates, latest date listed.

Data are retrieved through the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) and are available online through the CLIMOD system.

For more information please contact us: <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/contact.php>.

## February 2015 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	23.5	1.3	12.4	-5.2	47	02/07	-20	02/27	0.37	-0.18	67
Huron Regional Airport	27.5	3.5	15.5	-6.1	54	02/07	-18	02/27+	0.26	-0.34	43
Pierre Regional Airport	34.0	6.7	20.4	-3.9	70	02/07	-10	02/27+	0.22	-0.37	37
Rapid City Regional Airport	42.2	14.0	28.1	0.7	72	02/06	-10	02/26	0.25	-0.19	57
Sioux Falls Joe Foss Field Airport	26.1	4.9	15.5	-6.0	47	02/07	-12	02/27	0.41	-0.19	68

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	42.1	18.3	30.2	3.5	62	02/09	-8	02/22	0.79	0.22	139
Cheyenne Municipal Airport	41.7	21.7	31.7	2.1	64	02/06	-2	02/28	0.70	0.23	149
Lander Hunt Field Airport	41.3	17.8	29.6	4.4	62	02/14+	-12	02/23	1.56	0.98	269
Laramie Regional Airport	38.8	15.8	27.3	3.8	59	02/14	-15	02/23	0.26	-0.08	76
Rawlins Municipal Airport	41.7	20.7	31.2	7.5	57	02/14+	-8	02/23	0.09	-0.33	21
Sheridan County Airport	42.6	17.0	29.8	3.2	72	02/06	-13	02/27	1.28	0.74	237

## February 2015 Highlights

### Monthly Rankings

Temperature in degrees F / Precipitation and Snowfall in inches

Wettest / Driest	Precipitation / Ranking	Record / Year	Period of Record
Alamosa, CO	1.01 / 3rd wettest	1.42 / 1963	1906-2015
Boulder, CO	3.69 / WETTEST	2.44 / 1987	1893-2015
Colorado Springs, CO	1.45 / 4th wettest	2.45 / 1987	1894-2015
Pueblo, CO	1.13 / 7th wettest	1.47 / 1897	1888-2015
Lander, WY	1.56 / 9th wettest	2.32 / 1911	1891-2015
Snowiest / Least Snowiest	Snowfall / Ranking	Record / Year	Period of Record
Alamosa, CO	15.9 / 2nd snowiest	16.0 / 1963	1906-2015
Boulder, CO	54.8 / SNOWIEST	32.1 / 2012	1893-2015
Colorado Springs, CO	16.6 / 5th snowiest	23.2 / 1987	1894-2015
Denver, CO	22.4 / SNOWIEST	22.1 / 1912	1874-2015
Pueblo, CO	23.5 / SNOWIEST	20.1 / 1894	1888-2015
Lincoln, NE	12.4 / 10th snowiest	26.1 / 1965	1948-2015
Pierre, SD	1.5 / 7th least snowiest	0.2 / 1985	1893-2015

All data are preliminary and subject to change. + indicates multiple dates, latest date listed.

Data are retrieved through the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) and are available online through the CLIMOD system.

For more information please contact us: <http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/contact.php>.

# North Dakota Monthly Climate Summary

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## Precipitation:

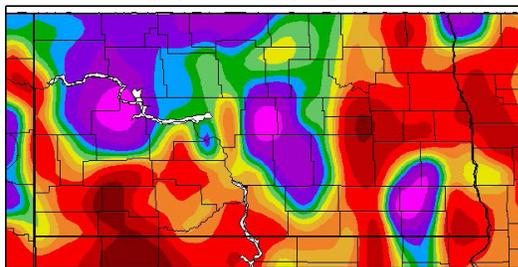
The percent of normal precipitation in North Dakota showed high variations across the state during the month of February (Figure 1). Some locations in the central and northern portion of the state recorded well above average precipitation, whereas much of southwestern and many parts of northeastern North Dakota were quite dry. Although the month did at least bring some locations above average precipitation during the month, the combination of the past several months being dry and with most of the eastern part of the state recording little snowfall in February, the U.S. Drought Monitor continues to list 68% of North Dakota in either Abnormally Dry or Moderate Drought conditions.

## Temperature:

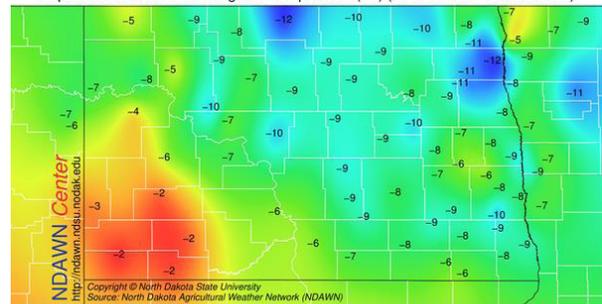
After two consecutive months with above average temperatures, February concluded climatological winter on a very cold note (Figure 2). The NDAWN (North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network) average temperature was 7.0 degrees which is 8.7 degrees below normal. That would rank the month as tied for the 42nd coldest February since records began in 1895. The coldest day was on February 22 when several record low temperatures were set. One of those records was in Bottineau with a low temperature of -32°F. The NDAWN station 14 miles west of Bottineau recorded a low of -36°F that morning. That was the coldest temperature measured at any of the NDAWN stations during the winter of 2014-2015.

## Temperature and Precipitation Overview

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
 2/1/2015 - 2/28/2015



Departure from Normal Average Air Temperature (°F) (2015-02-01 - 2015-02-28)



Above: Percent of normal precipitation (left, figure 1, produced by HPRCC) and departure from normal average temperature (right, figure 2, produced by NDAWN) for February 2015 in North Dakota.

# Kansas Climate Summary

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 Kansas Weather Data Library, Kansas State University  
 For more information: [www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl](http://www.ksre.ksu.edu/wdl)

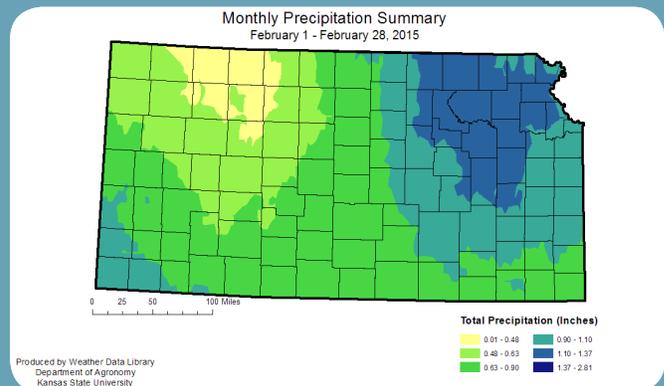
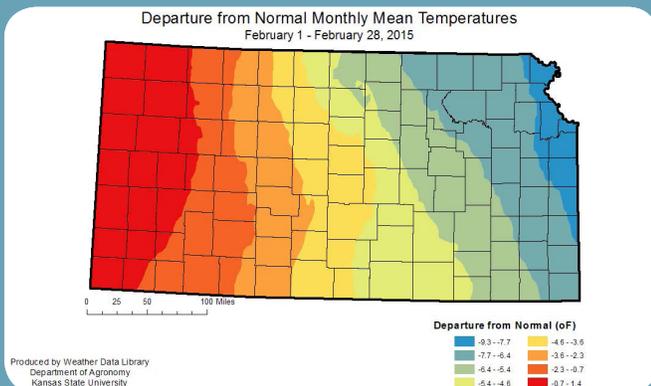


## Extended Cold

Despite some record warm readings at a few locations, February was characterized by colder than normal conditions. This was particularly true during the last week of the month when temperatures averaged 17F cooler than normal. For the entire month, state-wide temperatures averaged 30.1F which was 3.1F cooler normal. This places it as the 31st coldest since 1895. The Northwest Division came closest to average at 31.0F or exactly normal. The Northeastern Division saw the greatest departure. The average temperature for February in that region was 24.7F, or 7.6F cooler than normal. The colder than average temperatures didn't mean that the month was without warm weather. All divisions reached highs in the mid to upper seventies. The warmest reading for the month was 85F at Hays 1ESE on the 8th. The coldest reading occurred at the middle of the month, as an Arctic front again moved into the state. The coldest reading was a -8F at Howard, on the 19th. Sub-zero readings were recorded in all but the three southern divisions and the Central Division. There were 79 record maximum daily temperatures. There were 8 record daily warm minimum temperatures set and 5 records tied. On the cold side of things, 52 record daily low maximum temperatures were set and 15 records were tied. There were 4 record daily low minimum temperatures set, and 14 records tied. State-wide average precipitation was 0.88 inches which was 94 percent of normal. The Northwest, West Central, Central, South Central, and Southeastern divisions averaged below normal for the month. The Southeast Division had the lowest percentage of normal at 61 percent, which translates to a deficit of 0.68 inches. The areas with greatest departure from normal only had slight increases. The Southwest Division saw 0.27 inches more than normal, which was 161 percent of normal. The Northeast Division, which had the second largest percent of normal at 117 percent, was just 0.21 inches above normal. The remaining divisions with near normal conditions saw less than a tenth of inch more than normal. The wettest day of the month was on the 1st, when the average reported precipitation was 0.61 inches. The highest total reported for the CoCoRaHS network was 1.50 at Atchison 6.8 NNE. This came as a mixed rain and snow event, with the highest amounts in the area where it was all rain. The highest 24hr total reported for the month at a National Weather Service Coop (NWS) site was 1.28 inches at Bonner Springs, also on the 1st. Highest monthly total for the NWS was 2.81 inches at Lawrence. The greatest monthly total for CoCoRaHS was 2.52 inches at Tonganoxie 6.3 SSW

As typical, February was quiet on the severe weather side. There were snow events, but amounts were generally not troublesome. Highest daily total reported was 7 inches at Axtell (NWS) and 12.4 inches at Barnes (CoCoRaHS) on the 1st. Unfortunately, the moisture from the snow was limited. Drought conditions persist across the state, particularly in the west. There was some degradation in the eastern portions of the state. The wet start to February brought a brief halt to further deterioration. However, a continued dry pattern is likely to result in a rapid expansion of more severe drought conditions. March is well into our wetter part of the year, and deficits can accumulate rapidly, particularly in the eastern third of the state. The El Niño conditions are now present in the Pacific, but are weak. As we move later into Spring, the impacts are less consistent. Other global circulation patterns, including the North Atlantic Oscillation (NAO), can have significant impacts on the Spring season. The March temperature outlook calls for cooler than normal conditions state-wide. The precipitation outlook is neutral, with precipitation equally likely to be above normal, normal, or below normal. This does not indicate how that moisture might be distributed, and means rain/snow events or extended dry periods are both possible.

## Temperature and Precipitation Overview



Above: February 2015 departure from normal monthly mean temperatures (left) and total precipitation (right) in Kansas. Maps produced by Weather Data Library, Department of Agronomy, Kansas State University.

# About the High Plains Regional Climate Center

The High Plains Regional Climate Center (HPRCC) is one of six NOAA Regional Climate Centers (RCCs) that has been providing timely climate data and information to the public for cost effective decision-making since 1987. The HPRCC primarily serves the six-state region of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming, but has also served people from all across the country and even throughout the world. HPRCC operates under a three-tiered structure of climate services and works closely with other organizations on the local, regional, and national levels. HPRCC staff engage with a wide range of stakeholders including K-20 education, the public, media, private industry, research, and state/tribal/federal entities, among others.

Much of the data and products found throughout this publication were built on the Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) framework. ACIS was designed to manage the complex flow of information from climate data collectors to the end users of climate data information. The main purpose of ACIS is to alleviate the burden of climate information management for people who use climate information to make management decisions.

HPRCC is involved in the ongoing development and management of ACIS. In the spring of 2014, the RCCs released a new website for ACIS. This new and improved website not only contains descriptions of ACIS and the sources of data found within, but also features real-world examples of how RCCs and external groups are using ACIS for their particular climate data needs. In addition to these examples, there is extensive documentation and tutorials on how ACIS can be used and accessed by external clients using Web Services. For more information see: <http://rcc-acis.org>.



## Additional Summary Information for the High Plains

### Missouri River Basin Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook

For more information:  
[www.drought.gov/drought/content/resources/reports](http://www.drought.gov/drought/content/resources/reports)

### Midwest and Great Plains Monthly Climate and Drought Webinar

To sign up for future webinars:  
<http://www.drought.gov/drought/content/regional-programs/regional-drought-webinars>

For an archive:  
[www.hprcc.unl.edu/webinars.php](http://www.hprcc.unl.edu/webinars.php)

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