

## MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR DECEMBER 2014

### ...TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW...

December was warmer and wetter than average. Overnight low temperatures were well above average, due mainly to high humidity and cloud cover during the first half of the month. Precipitation amounts were generally well above the 30-year normals, with some locations recording 200% or more of normal precipitation. Much of the precipitation was in the form of rain as mild but wet storms affected the region at the beginning of the month and again mid month. A much colder system brought widespread heavy snow on New Year's Eve.

### DECEMBER DATA AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

Location	Avg Max T	Dept. from Norm	Avg Min T	Dept. from Norm	Precip	Dept. from Norm	% Norm
Flagstaff	43.6	+1.1	22.7	+5.9	3.44"	+1.57"	184%
Winslow	48.5	-0.1	27.4	+6.8	1.12"	+0.56"	200%
Prescott Airport	52.7	+1.5	30.0	+4.7	1.93"	+0.97"	201%
Prescott (Sundog)	53.1	+1.6	27.9	+4.5	1.79"	+0.33"	123%
St Johns	49.6	+1.0	26.0	+6.3	1.69"	+0.81"	192%
Grand Canyon	44.8	+1.0	20.5	+8.0	0.89"	-0.62"	59%
Bellefont	43.5	-0.8	19.6	+6.4	2.59"	+0.86"	150%
Show Low	47.3	+0.4	28.3	+5.1	1.68"	+0.17"	111%
Cottonwood	60.6	+2.1	34.5	+4.9	2.16"	+1.00"	186%
Seligman	53.1	+0.2	28.1	+5.5	2.32"	+1.43"	261%
Page Airport	47.0	+3.3	34.7	+5.2	0.76"	+0.21"	138%
Window Rock Airport	46.4	+2.5	19.8	+5.7	1.42"	+0.63"	180%

### December Precipitation Rankings:

Location	Ranking	Period of Record
Cottonwood	9 <sup>th</sup> Wettest	(1920-present)
Jerome	10 <sup>th</sup> Wettest	(1897-present)
Seligman	11 <sup>th</sup> Wettest	(1904-present)

Oak Ck Canyon	12 <sup>th</sup> Wettest	(1935-present)
Winslow	16 <sup>th</sup> Wettest	(1915-present)
Flagstaff	21 <sup>st</sup> Wettest	(1898-present)
Prescott	41 <sup>st</sup> Wettest	(1898-present)

**Here are some additional monthly precipitation totals from our Co-operative weather observers.**

<b>LOCATION</b>	<b>DECEMBER PRECIPITATION (INCHES)</b>
Bagdad	2.29
Bellefont NWS Office	2.59
Blue Ridge R.S.	1.33
Bright Angel R.S.	1.73
Castle Hot Springs	1.51
Chino Valley	1.77
Flagstaff Arboretum	2.72
Flagstaff Airport	3.44
Grand Canyon Airport	0.89
Grand Canyon East Entrance	2.24
Grand Canyon Visitor Center	0.94
Jerome	3.94
Keams Canyon	1.46
Mcnary 2 N	2.92
Montezuma Castle N.M.	2.75
Natural Bridge	3.46
Oak Creek	6.11
Page	0.76
Painted Desert N.P.	1.69
Payson	2.78
Petrified Forest N.P.	1.85
Phantom Ranch	0.82
Pinetop 2E	3.01
Prescott Airport	1.93
Prescott City	1.79
Saint Johns	1.69
Saint Michaels	1.61
Seligman	2.32
Show Low Airport	1.68
Sunrise Mountain	3.76
Sunset Crater N. M.	1.88
Tuzigoot N.M.	2.16
Walnut Canyon N. M.	2.00
Williams 35NNW	1.21
Window Rock	1.52
Winslow Airport	1.12

## ...SIGNIFICANT WEATHER...

### Record High Temperatures:

#### Dec. 22<sup>nd</sup>:

City	(Period Of Record)	New High	Previous
Cottonwood-Tuzigoot	(1977 - 2014)	70	70 (Tied) In 1985
Page	(1957 - 2014)	65	57 In 1981

### Soaking Rains Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup>:

#### Storm Total (48 Hr) Rainfall through Thursday evening, Dec. 4<sup>th</sup>:

7 Miles West of Prescott.....	3.56	Inches
West Fork Oak Creek .....	3.12	Inches
Crown King .....	2.24	Inches
Iron Springs .....	1.92	Inches
Flagstaff Airport .....	1.79	Inches
Bellefont .....	1.77	Inches
Sedona Airport .....	1.71	Inches
Pinetop.....	1.65	Inches
Prescott Airport .....	1.57	Inches
Fort Defiance (Piney Hill) .....	1.36	Inches
Payson .....	1.24	Inches
Camp Verde .....	1.23	Inches
Saint Johns Airport .....	1.15	Inches
Window Rock Airport .....	0.96	Inches
Winslow Airport .....	0.78	Inches
Navajo National Monument .....	0.54	Inches
Grand Canyon Airport.....	0.41	Inches
Page Airport .....	0.31	Inches

### Record Daily Rainfall Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>:

A record rainfall of 0.61 inches was set at Prescott Airport  
On December 3<sup>rd</sup>. This breaks the old record of 0.26 set in 2011.

### Early December Fog:

The soaking rains during the first few days of December were followed by stable high pressure that moved over Arizona. The moist air near the ground remained trapped beneath warmer and more stable air aloft generating an extensive bank of low clouds and fog that affected much of north-central and northeastern Arizona. The low clouds and fog expanded overnight reaching the northern slopes of the Mogollon Rim and even parts of the Grand Canyon through

the early morning hours. Cloudy areas were unable to warm significantly during the afternoon hours and this strengthened the atmospheric inversion. The clouds and fog persisted on and off through the first 2 weeks of December. Below are some photos of the fog received via the NWS Flagstaff Facebook page.



## December 12<sup>th</sup> - 13<sup>th</sup> Rain & Light Snow:

### Precipitation totals (24 Hour) as of Saturday morning, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>:

Pine.....	1.30	Inches
Oak Creek Canyon.....	1.00	Inches
Sedona Airport.....	0.80	Inches
Williams.....	0.58	Inches
Crown King.....	0.50	Inches
Flagstaff Airport .....	0.54	Inches

### Snowfall totals (24 Hour) as of Saturday night, Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>:

Pinetop-Lakeside	2.7
Ganado	2.0
McNary	2.0
Jacob Lake	2.0
1 N Jacob Lake	2.0
Forest Lakes	2.0
North Rim Grand Canyon	2.0
Snowbowl	2.0
Navajo National Mon.	1.4
Window Rock	1.0
Flagstaff	1.1
Happy Jack	1.0
Grand Canyon Airport	1.0
Williams	1.0
Kachina Village	0.4
Show Low	T

## Dec. 17<sup>th</sup> & 18<sup>th</sup> Light Snow Totals:

Forest Lakes	5.0	
Jacob Lake	3.5	
Flagstaff Airport	3.3	
Mountainaire	3.0	
Munds Park	3.0	
Pinetop-Lakeside	2.0-3.0	
2 N McNary	2.6	
Window Rock	2.0	1 To 4 Inches
Clints Well	2.0	
Bellemont	1.9	
4 S Williams	1.7	
Blue Ridge Ranger Stn	1.5	
Mormon Lake	1.5	
Second Mesa	1.5	

Burnside Junction	1.0
5 NNE Grand Canyon Ap	1.0
25 E Grand Canyon Ap	1.0
1 N Parks	1.0
Kachina Village	1.1
Valle Airport	0.5
10 E Flagstaff	0.4
Sunset Crater	0.3

### **Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> Major Snowstorm:**

A strong and unusually cold storm system moved across northern and central Arizona from the early morning hours on New Year's Eve through New Year's Day. This storm brought heavy snow accumulations to the high country, with significant snow even at some lower elevation areas that rarely experience such conditions. The storm had a major impact on travel during a very busy holiday period. Portions of Interstate highways 17 and 40 were closed at times due to traffic accidents caused by slick roads. The interstate 40 closure in western Arizona was a lengthy one with many people stranded. Closures were also reported on U.S. Highway 93, and Highway 87 south of Payson.

Here are the storm total snowfall amounts from this storm:

LOCATION	STORM TOTAL SNOWFALL /INCHES/
...Apache County...	
McNary	7.7
5 NW Vernon	6.0
Alpine	5.0
St. Johns	4.0
Concho	4.0
Window Rock	3.0
Tsaile	2.4
...Coconino County...	
Mountainaire	20.0
Mormon Lake	18.0
Flagstaff Airport	17.3
Kachina Village	16.0
Oak Creek Canyon	14.5
Williams	14.0
Forest Lakes	14.0

Doney Park	14.0
10 NE Flagstaff	13.0
Bellefont	12.2
Timberline	12.0
Parks	12.0
12 N Parks	8.0
Grand Canyon S Rim	7.0
Page	4-6
Bright Angel R.S.	5.0
1 W Page	3.0
Phantom Ranch	0.9
...Gila County...	
9 NE Payson	15.0
Pine	14.5
Tonto Village	13.5
Payson	12.0
1 E Payson	10.0
...Navajo County...	
4 ESE Pinetop	10.0
Linden	9.5
Show Low	9.0
Heber-Overgaard	8.0
Kayenta	6.0
3 W Snowflake	4.0
13 E Snowflake	3.5
Winslow	3.0
...Yavapai County...	
10 S Ash Fork	12.0
Jerome	11.0
Sedona	9.8
West Sedona	9.0
21 SW Seligman	9.0
1 SW Cottonwood	7.0
2 E Rimrock	7.0
Prescott (West Side)	7.0
Cottonwood	5.0
Camp Verde	5.0
Prescott (Sundog)	4.0
Chino Valley	4.0
Cornville	3.5
1 S Prescott Valley	3.0
Yarnell	3.0