

MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR MAY 2012

...TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW...

The month of May was warmer and drier than normal across all of northern Arizona. The majority of the region received no precipitation at all, with some very light amounts across Gila County and the White Mountains due to some thunderstorm activity around the middle of the month. Daytime highs were significantly above normal, with overnight lows closer to normal or even below normal in some locations. These temperature trends are typical of a dry weather pattern, with abundant sunshine allowing for strong daytime heating, and efficient radiational cooling each night. Flagstaff received no precipitation in May, not even a trace, only the 3rd time this has occurred since 1899.

MAY DATA AND DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

	MAX	DEP	MIN	DEP	PCPN	DEP	PCPN
	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TOTL	NORM	NORM
Flagstaff	71.9	+3.8	34.8	-0.2	0.00	-0.63	0%
Winslow	85.2	+3.5	45.8	+0.4	T	-0.33	0%
Prescott AP	81.6	+4.9	48.1	+1.5	0.00	-0.46	0%
Prescott WTP	80.1	+3.8	45.8	+0.8	0.00	-0.49	0%
St Johns	83.1	+4.2	43.8	-0.3	T	-0.41	0%
Grand Canyon AP	75.5	+5.1	29.0	-1.4	T	-0.49	0%
Bellefont	72.2	+3.0	28.7	-2.8	T	-0.60	0%
Show Low AP	77.3	+2.3	46.1	+1.9	0.00	-0.59	0%
Seligman	82.2	+2.8	41.3	+0.6	0.00	-0.34	0%

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

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>MAY PRECIP</u>
ALPINE R.S.	T
BAGDAD	0.00
BETATAKIN	0.00
BLUE RIDGE R.S.	T
BRIGHT ANGEL R.S.	0.01
CASTLE HOT SPRINGS	0.00
CHINO VALLEY	0.00
FORT VALLEY	0.00
GISELA	0.00
GRAND CANYON VISITOR CENTER	T

HEBER (BLACK MESA) R.S.	0.00
JEROME	0.00
MCNARY 2 N	0.05
MONTEZUMA CASTLE N.M.	0.00
NATURAL BRIDGE	0.01
OAK CREEK	T
PAYSON	0.03
PHANTOM RANCH	T
SNOWFLAKE	0.00
SUNRISE MOUNTAIN	0.00
SUNSET CRATER N.M.	0.00
WALNUT CANYON N.M.	0.00
WUPATKI	0.00

...SIGNIFICANT WEATHER...

May 13th Record High of 89 degrees tied at Prescott Airport.

May 17th Record High of 94 degrees at Page Airport. The old record was 92 in 2006.

May 18th Strong Winds

A trough of low pressure and associated cool front moved across Arizona, bringing gusty southwest winds to the area.

Some peak wind gusts from this event:

...AIRPORT WIND REPORTS INCLUDE...

SHOW LOW	55 MPH.
ST JOHNS	52 MPH.
WINSLOW	52 MPH.
WINDOW ROCK	52 MPH.
FLAGSTAFF	46 MPH.
GRAND CANYON	39 MPH.
PRESCOTT	38 MPH.
SEDONA	38 MPH.

...ADDITIONAL AUTOMATED REPORTING SITES...

HOUSE ROCK	58 MPH.
TWO GUNS	52 MPH.
LUPTON	51 MPH.
CONCHO	50 MPH.

DONEY PARK 49 MPH.
PARKS..... 49 MPH.

May 21st Record High of 90 degrees tied at Prescott Airport.

May 22nd Record High of 96 degrees at Page Airport. The old record was 94 set in 1964.

May 23rd Wind/Dust Storm

A low pressure system over the Great Basin brought windy conditions and areas of blowing dust to much of the region on May 23rd. Visibility dropped to below a half mile across the Chinle Valley with localized areas down to 100 feet.

Some peak wind gusts reported:

WINDOW ROCK	60 MPH
ST. JOHNS	52 MPH
HOUSE ROCK	50 MPH
WINSLOW	49 MPH
FLAGSTAFF	48 MPH
SHOW LOW	46 MPH
WUPATKI RAWS	45 MPH
GREER	43 MPH
GRAND CANYON AIRPORT	41 MPH
ALPINE	40 MPH
PAGE	39 MPH
WILLIAMS	38 MPH

Memorial Day Weekend Wind/Dust then Colder

A deep low pressure system approached northern Arizona on Friday, May 25th bringing strong winds and blowing dust which lasted through Saturday, May 26th. High Wind Warnings were in effect for much of the region, with a Dust Storm Warning for the Chinle Valley. Blowing dust lasted from Friday morning all the way through Saturday afternoon for some areas. Poor visibility in dust was reported in Kykotsmovi, Chinle, Many Farms and Kayenta.

Friday's Peak Wind Gusts:

LUPTON	58 MPH
MOGOLLON AIRPARK	53 MPH

WINDOW ROCK AIRPORT	51 MPH
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	51 MPH
GRAND CANYON AIRPORT	51 MPH
SHOW LOW AIRPORT	49 MPH
WINSLOW AIRPORT	49 MPH
HOPI	46 MPH
CONCHO	45 MPH
PAGE AIRPORT	39 MPH
PAYSON	35 MPH

Saturday's Peak Wind Gusts:

MOGOLLON AIRPARK	63 MPH
LUPTON	63 MPH
PAINTED DESERT NP HQ	58 MPH
WINSLOW AIRPORT	58 MPH
WINDOW ROCK AIRPORT	56 MPH
TWO GUNS	56 MPH
SAINT JOHNS AIRPORT	55 MPH
FLAGSTAFF AIRPORT	53 MPH
CONCHO	52 MPH
LINDEN	50 MPH
HOPI	50 MPH
HOUSEROCK	50 MPH
DONEY PARK	49 MPH
FOUR SPRINGS RAWS	49 MPH
GRAND CANYON AIRPORT	44 MPH
PAGE AIRPORT	44 MPH

High Temperatures were close to 20 degrees below normal on Saturday leading to very cold morning lows on Sunday as the wind subsided. Here are some record lows set on Sunday morning, May 27th. Most other locations fell to within 3 degrees of the old records.

CITY	NEW LOW	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
BAGDAD	40	40 (TIED) IN 1929
MCNARY 2N	27	28 IN 1956
PETRIFIED FOREST	30	33 IN 1971
SUNSET CRATER NM	15	17 IN 1987

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