

PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FLAGSTAFF AZ
230 PM MST THU OCT 1 2009

...MONTH IN REVIEW FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER 2009...

I. TEMPERATURE AND PRECIPITATION OVERVIEW

SEPTEMBER 2009 TEMPERATURES WERE AGAIN ABOVE NORMAL FOR MOST PARTS OF NORTHERN ARIZONA...ALTHOUGH THE DEPARTURES FROM NORMAL WERE NOT AS EXTREME AS THOSE WE SAW IN JULY AND AUGUST. THIS CONTINUES A WARM AND DRY PERIOD EXTENDING BACK THROUGH THE END OF JUNE. THE MOST NOTABLE DEVIATIONS FROM THE NORMAL SEPTEMBER VALUES WERE THE PRECIPITATION TOTALS...OF WHICH ALL SELECTED CITIES EXCEPT SEDONA WERE BELOW NORMAL.

SEPTEMBER 2009 DATA AND DEPARTURE FROM NORMAL FOR SELECTED CITIES:

	MAX	DEP	MIN	DEP	AVE	DEP	PCPN	DEP
	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TEMP	NORM	TOTL	NORM
FLAGSTAFF	74.4	+0.9	43.6	+1.7	59.0	+1.3	0.77	-1.16
BELLEMONT	73.5	+0.7	37.2	-0.4	55.4	+0.2	0.90	-1.20
WINSLOW	85.3	+0.8	52.9	+0.2	69.1	+0.5	0.54	-0.38
PRESCOTT	84.9	+1.4	54.8	+2.0	69.9	+1.8	0.41	-0.66
SAINT JOHNS	81.2	-1.5	49.8	+1.8	65.5	+0.2	0.86	-0.44
WINDOW ROCK	77.1	+0.1	41.4	-2.3	59.3	-1.1	0.59	-0.64
SEDONA	89.0	+0.7	61.6	+3.4	75.3	+2.1	3.80	+2.20
GRAND CANYON S. RIM	77.7	+2.0	45.6	+2.7	61.7	+2.4	0.23	-1.20
PAGE	87.3	+3.1	63.1	+3.8	75.2	+3.5	0.06	-0.68

II. SELECTED RECORDS

ON SEPTEMBER 10TH THE COMBINATION OF AMPLE MOISTURE, AIRMASS INSTABILITY, AND AN UPPER LEVEL LOW MOVING ACROSS THE REGION PRODUCED SCATTERED SHOWERS AND THUNDERSTORMS ACROSS NORTHERN ARIZONA. THAT AFTERNOON A STRONG THUNDERSTORM DEVELOPED AND MOVED SLOWLY ACROSS SEDONA PRODUCING RECORD RAINFALL FOR THE DATE TOTALING 2.5". IN ADDITION TO THE RECORD RAINFALL...FLASH FLOODING OCCURRED AT THE TLAQUEPAQUE ARTS AND CRAFTS VILLAGE AND LOS ABRIGADO CAUSING EXTENSIVE DAMAGE. VEHICLES THAT WERE PARKED THERE WERE WASHED INTO THE VILLAGE, WITH SOME CARS STACKED ATOP ONE ANOTHER AS A RESULT OF THE FORCE OF THE FAST MOVING FLOOD WATERS.

A STRONG TROUGH SWEEPED THROUGH NORTHERN ARIZONA ON SEPTEMBER 22ND, EFFECTIVELY REMOVING ANY LINGERING MONSOON MOISTURE. AFTER THIS TROUGH HAD PASSED, A RIDGE OF HIGH PRESSURE BUILT INTO THE REGION PRODUCING CLEAR SKIES AND DRY CONDITIONS. THE COMBINATION OF DRY AIR AND SUNNY DAYS ALLOWED FOR TEMPERATURES TO RISE MUCH ABOVE NORMAL DURING THE DAYTIMES. AS A RESULT SEVERAL RECORD HIGH TEMPERATURE WERE TIED OR BROKEN ON SEPTEMBER 26TH AND 27TH. ANOTHER NOTE OF INTEREST IS THAT DUE TO THESE DRY CONDITIONS AND CLEAR SKIES...NIGHTTIME LOWS WERE ACTUALLY A FEW DEGREES BELOW NORMAL ON THESE DAYS. IN FACT...AT OUR WEATHER FORECAST OFFICE IN BELLEMONT WE MEASURED A LOW OF 29 THE MORNING OF THE 27TH FOLLOWED BY A HIGH OF 82... A 53 DEGREE TEMPERATURE INCREASE IN ABOUT 6 HOURS.

SELECTED RECORD HIGHS FOR NORTHERN ARIZONA IN SEPTEMBER 2009:

SEPTEMBER 26:

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
PAGE (1958 - 2009)	90	90 (TIED) IN 2003

SEPTEMBER 27:

CITY (PERIOD OF RECORD)	NEW HIGH	PREVIOUS RECORD/YEAR
FLAGSTAFF (1898 - 2009)	83	83 (TIED) IN 1963
GREER (1905 - 2009)	76	75 IN 2005
PAGE (1958 - 2009)	92	90 IN 2003
PHANTOM RANCH (1966 - 2009)	101	101 (TIED) IN 2003

III. SIGNIFICANT WEATHER

THE CONTINUING STORY THE PAST FEW MONTHS IS HOW DRY THE WEATHER HAS BEEN ACROSS NORTHERN ARIZONA. WITH THE MONSOON SEASON NOW OFFICIALLY OVER WE HAVE RANKED IT AMONGST THE DRIEST MONSOON SEASONS ON RECORD...AND IF WE LOOK AT RAINFALL TOTALS SINCE JANUARY 1ST YEAR TO DATE (YTD) WE ALSO SEE THAT NORTHERN ARIZONA HAS ACTUALLY BEEN DRIER THAN NORMAL FOR A LONGER PERIOD THAN THE MONSOON SEASON.

SELECTED STATIONS RAINFALL TOTALS AND THEIR RANKINGS AS FAR AS DRIEST ON RECORD THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH FOR BOTH THE MONSOON (BEGINNING JUNE 15) AND THE YEAR (YTD):

CITY	MONSOON TOTAL	RANKING	YTD TOTAL	RANKING
FLAGSTAFF	2.87"	2ND	7.71"	2ND
PRESCOTT	4.34"	10TH	8.48"	8TH
WINSLOW	1.04"	2ND	2.39"	3RD
PAGE	0.93"	6TH	3.69"	16TH
SEDONA	4.43"	12TH	9.81"	8TH
BAGDAD	2.02"	4TH	5.10"	4TH
SELIGMAN	2.77"	8TH	5.00"	9TH
BELLEMONT	3.53"	1ST	8.83"	2ND

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