

Northeast Montana Weather Summary for the Summer of 2006

June was generally warmer and drier than normal, although there were a few locations that were wetter than normal, including 3.89 inches at Westby, 3.55 at Port of Raymond, and 3.54 at Wolf Point. At least a dozen stations had under an inch of rain though, including only 0.25 inch at Richey, 0.34 at Content, and 0.48 at Hinsdale 21SW.

Although there wasn't much hot weather until the last week of the month, very cool days were few too. There were a few cool days around the 10th, with numerous highs only in the 50s and lower 60s. Hinsdale 4SW and Opheim 12SE came in with highs of only 50 on the 10th, while Baylor and Westby were only 51 degrees. The hottest temperature observed during the month was 102 degrees at Malta 35S, Glasgow #2, and Malta 7E. Some very warm lows occurred late in the month too, with 72 degrees for a low at Glendive on the 31st, and 70 degrees at Glasgow #2, and Hinsdale 4SW on the 29th.

No freezing temperatures or snow were reported in June. There were about 10 reports of lows in the 30s, mainly around the 1st of the month. Redstone and Scobey 4NW had 36 degrees, while 38 degrees occurred at Plentywood, Opheim 12SE, Scobey 4NW, and Terry 21NNW on either the 1st or the 22nd.

The June outstanding severe weather event occurred on the 14th when winds exceeding 90 mph hit Glendive, causing numerous reports of damage to trees, roofs, and structures. There was several million dollars in damage from the Terry area through Glendive and into North Dakota.

July was much hotter and much drier than normal. In many cases it was second only to 1936 as the hottest July ever. Most locations recorded 100 degrees at least once during the month, and some locations had several days exceed 100. The hottest reported was 106 at Malta 35S on the 24th. Malta 35S also had a 105 degrees on the 10th, while Glendive had 105 on the 15th. Almost all highs during the month were in the 80s and 90s or higher, with very few reports of days in the 70s for highs. Hinsdale 4SW had the coolest high temperature, 71 degrees on the 5th. Also there was a high of 73 degrees at Westby and 74 degrees at Zortman on the 1st.

The coolest temperature for the entire month was 40 degrees at Scobey 4NW on the 9th. Some very warm low temperatures were recorded. Bloomfield had a low of 77 degrees on the 16th, while Cohagen, Glendive, and Vida 6NE had lows of 74 degrees. Altogether, Glendive had 7 nights where lows were in the 70s.

Rainfall was mostly less than an inch. Brockway only had a trace, the driest reported. Terry 21NNW had only 0.01 inch and Baylor 0.07 inch though. Wolf Point had the most rain, 1.54 inches, followed by 1.24 at Redstone and 1.17 at Bredette.

The July outstanding weather event for the month was the fires started by dry thunderstorms that formed around Fort Peck Lake on the 15th. The lightning caused several large fires on both sides of the lake in Garfield, Petroleum, Phillips, and Valley

counties. These were the most significant lightning caused fires of the year, and burned for more than a week. Over 160,000 acres of land was burned in northeast Montana from these fires.

August was hotter and drier than normal, but unlike July, there were several brief cool spells between numerous hot spells. Westby had the most rainfall, with 2.21 inches, Bainville had 2.11, and Homestead 5SE 2.07 inches. The least amount of rain was 0.14 at Port of Raymond, 0.18 at Malta and Whitewater, and 0.20 inch at Saco.

100 degree highs were numerous during the first half of the month. Malta 35S had 104 degrees on the 8th, while Hinsdale 4SW had 103 degrees. Unlike July though, many stations had a day or two where highs were only in the 60s. Zortman and Opheim 12SE both came in with 61 degrees for the lowest high of the month, Opheim 12SE also had another day with 62 degrees for a high, while Malta 7E had a 63 degree day. These all occurred on the 17th or 31st.

These were also several lows into the 30s too. Redstone had 33 degrees on the 31st, Opheim 10N, and Scobey 4NW had lows of 35 degrees on the 14th. The warmest low temperature reported was 75 degrees at Glasgow #2 on the 9th.

The significant weather event for August was to significant drought conditions that the region plunged into. When the summer started, we had no drought conditions at all, but through July and August, northeast Montana plummeted into the severe drought category on the National Drought Monitor. Glasgow had its driest summer on record, with only 1.73 inches of rain. The previous record is from 1930 when Glasgow had 1.93 inches. It was also the 5th warmest on record for Glasgow, with records going back to 1893.