

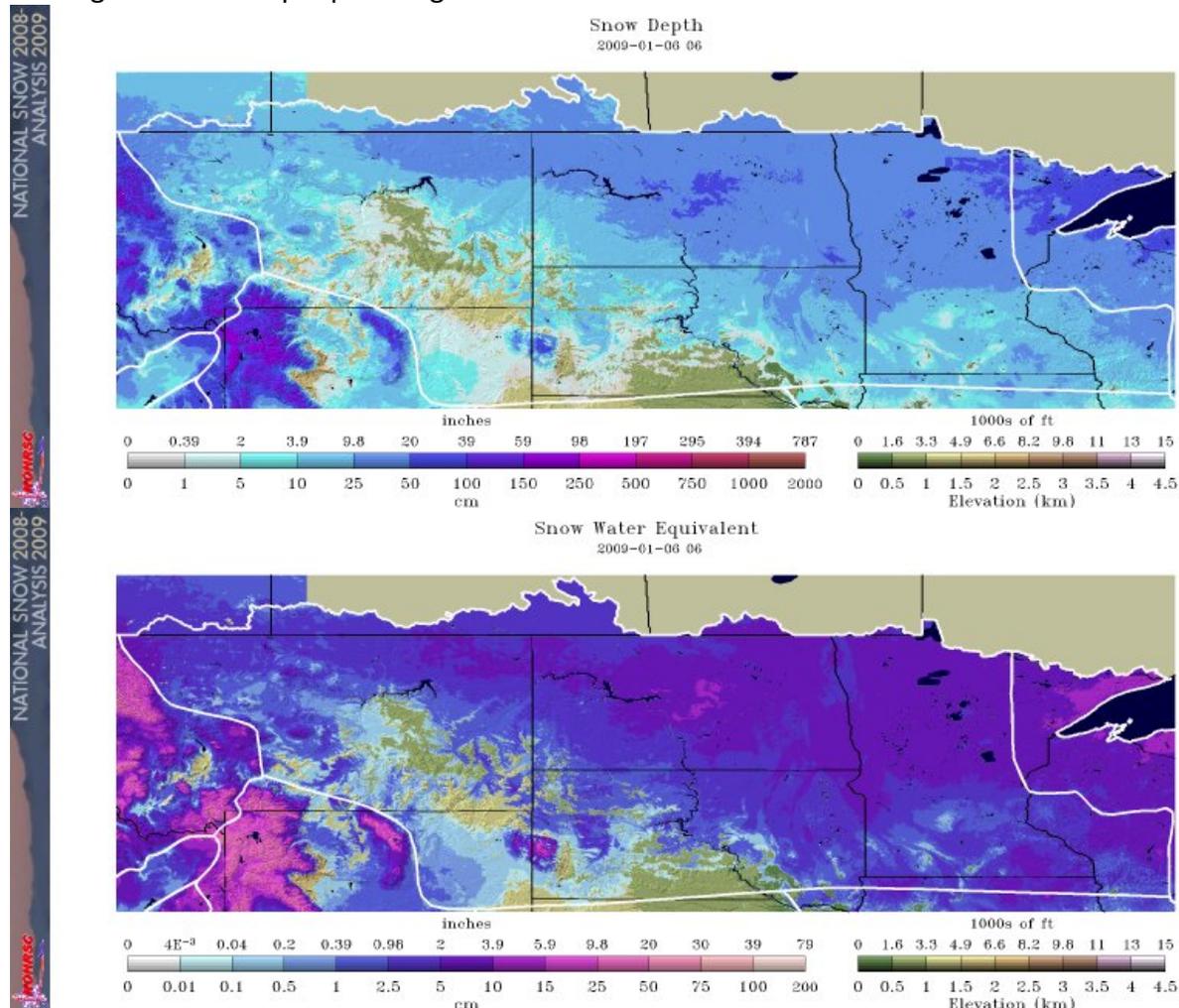
# Under the Big Sky 1/7/09

## Happy New Year!

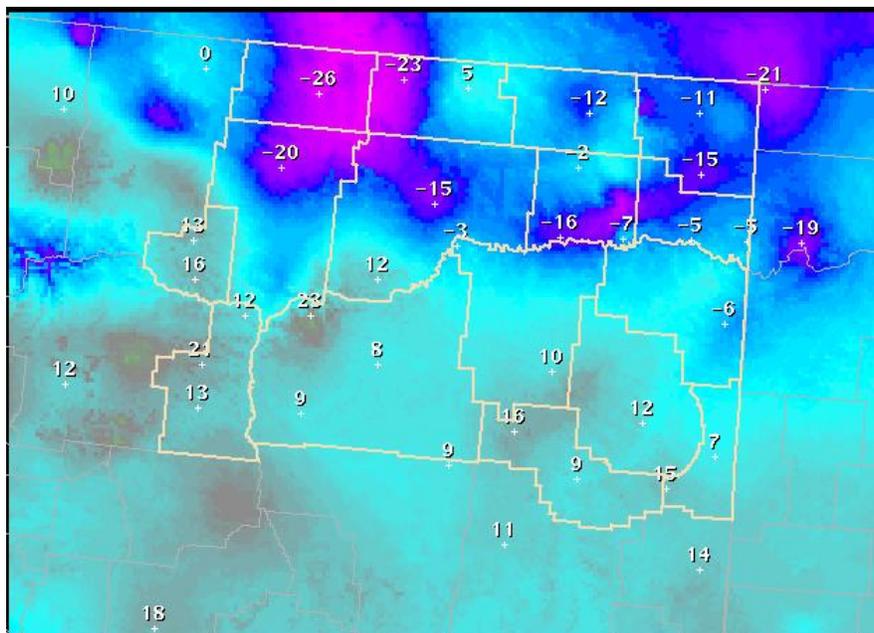
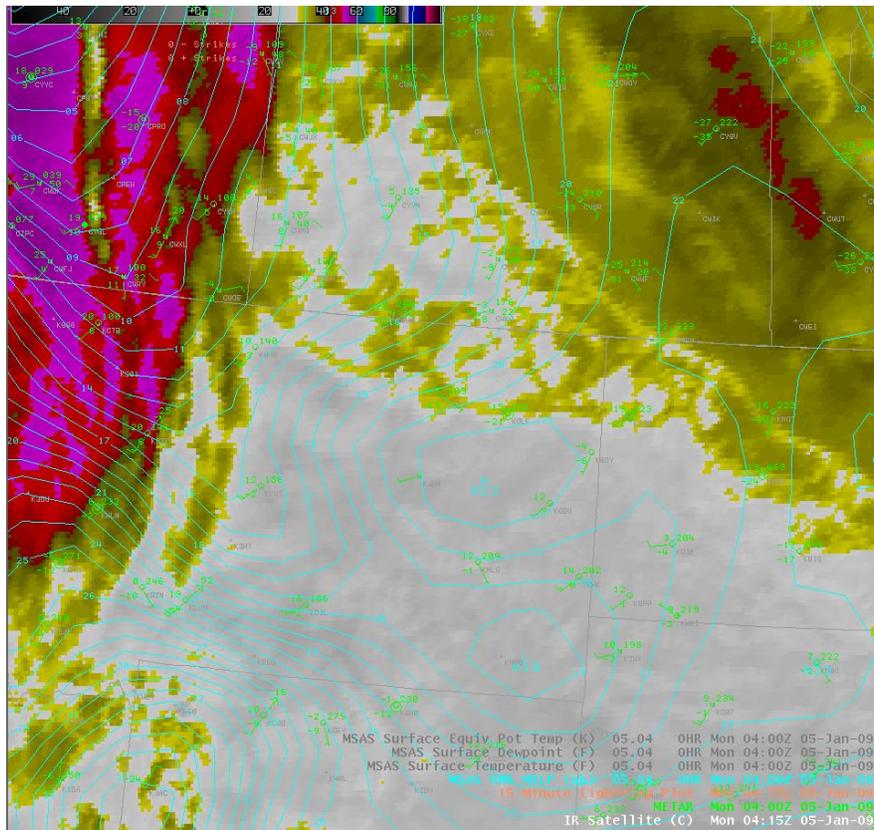
**Record Snowfall hits the region in December:** While we don't have all the cooperative weather observations in yet, we do know that Glasgow broke a record monthly snowfall with 24.8" of snow. The previous record was 18.8" in December 2003. Here are some snowfall totals that we do have:

22" Bainville 6NE	13.5" Brockton 20S	8" Winnett	19" Hinsdale 4 SW
15.6" Nashua	9.5" Port of Morgan	32.3" Port of Raymond	13.1" Savage
17" Scobey	12.5" Terry	19" Westby	8.5" Wibaux 2E

The following two graphics are a look at the satellite estimated snow depth on Jan 6, 2009, and the snow water equivalent (how much moisture would be in the snow if you melted it down). You can see an area from about Opheim to Fort Peck and east that shows anywhere from 10-20 inches of snow on the ground, with a snow water equivalent of about 2-4". If you remember, the area from Plentywood to Sidney had some significant drought last spring and summer, so this is good news for people living there.



**Satellite Meteorology:** Our recent cold weather over the weekend was very evident in the Missouri and Milk River Valleys. One of our forecasters, Andrew Zimmerman, caught an infrared satellite image (we had clear skies in northeast MT) that showed the cold air sunk in the valleys. Below are that satellite image and a graphic showing the current temperatures at the same time. Notice the light yellow lines in the left image showing the cold air in the valleys, and the corresponding current temperatures in the picture on the right.



**Do you have a cloth grocery bag or two?** I have so many; I don't know what to do with them all. (If you need one, let me know!) Supermarkets in the UK will be halving the number of plastic and paper bags they give to customers by next spring, instead encouraging people to use cloth bags. The following article states that in 2006, around 13 billion bags were used by consumers in the UK. I'm noticing that not only does Albertson's have the cloth bags for sale, but so does Gordon's in Glasgow now. Do your local stores have cloth bags for you all to use? Do you use them? <http://www.ens-newswire.com/ens/dec2008/2008-12-29-02.asp>

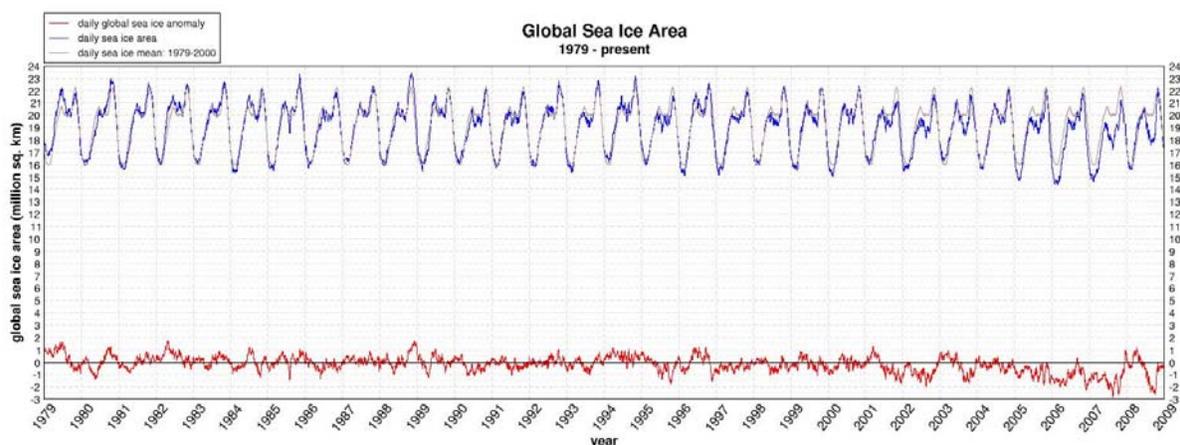
**Glacier National Park Story on ABC News:** ABC News recently did a profile on Glacier National Park and the climate changes and glaciers disappearing. Researchers suggest that all the Glaciers will be gone by 2020. To view the video, visit: <http://cosmos.bcst.yahoo.com/up/player/popup/?rn=3906861&cl=11380713&ch=4226713&src=news>

**Arctic Sea Ice has rapid growth this winter:** Researchers have found that we have had a rapid rebound in the arctic sea ice extent in the past few months. That is good news considering we've been setting record low sea ice area the past two summers. From the article:

“Earlier this year, predictions were rife that the North Pole could melt entirely in 2008. Instead, the Arctic ice saw a substantial recovery. Bill Chapman, a researcher with the UIUC's Arctic Center, tells *DailyTech* this was due in part to colder temperatures in the region. Chapman says wind patterns have also been weaker this year. Strong winds can slow ice formation as well as forcing ice into warmer waters where it will melt.

Why were predictions so wrong? Researchers had expected the newer sea ice, which is thinner, to be less resilient and melt easier. Instead, the thinner ice had less snow cover to insulate it from the bitterly cold air, and therefore grew much faster than expected, according to the National Snow and Ice Data Center. “

To read the entire article, go to: <http://www.dailytech.com/Article.aspx?newsid=13834>



To view the above graphic in a larger scale, visit: [http://images.dailytech.com/nimage/9972\\_large\\_daily.gsia.jpg](http://images.dailytech.com/nimage/9972_large_daily.gsia.jpg)

### ***NWS Glasgow Happenings:***

It's been busy with people on leave, lots of weather, and the holidays. Our new intern Amy Schnetzler arrived just before the New Year. She moved here from Missouri and arrived to quite a bit of icy roads and snow drifts. Our other new employee, Rex Morgan, is coming from St. Paul Island, Alaska, and he'll be here in mid February.

I hate to admit this to you all, but I'm heading to Phoenix, AZ this weekend to attend the annual American Meteorological Society conference. I'm looking forward to walking on sidewalks that aren't icy! I'll put tidbits from that conference in the next newsletter. I'll be helping with the WeatherFest event, speaking at the student conference about careers, giving a poster on the experimental cold advisory for newborn livestock system we are working on implementing soon, and attending many of the presentations as well as committee meetings.

### ***Misc:***

***Two Story Tall Snowman:*** Some residents of Madison, WI found time to make a massive snowman. He's two stories tall:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/28521911#28521911>

The US isn't the only one getting hammered this year from winter weather. The Eiffel Tower in Paris was recently closed because of the snow falling there, and in Poland, they have had at least 10 winter weather related deaths

Eiffel Tower: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28506507/>

Europe Deaths: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/28543275/>