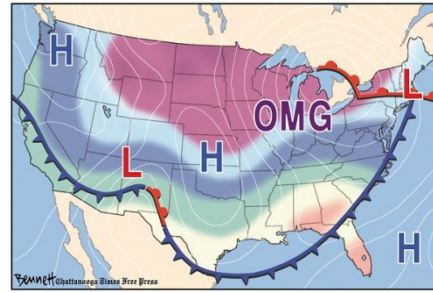


NWS Glasgow
Under the Big Sky e-Letter
October 21, 2010

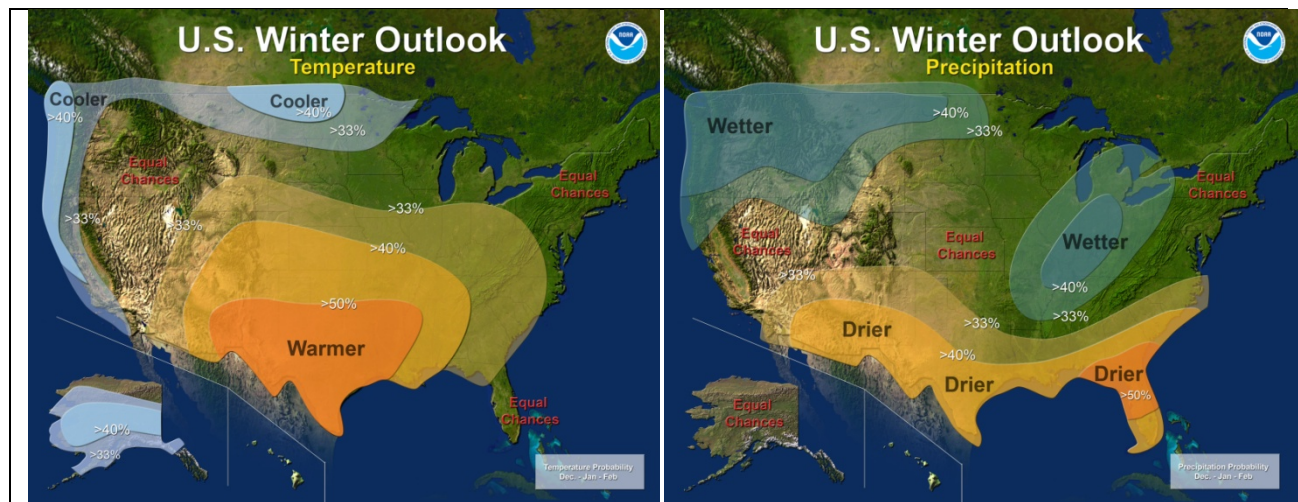


Weather Forecast

The Winter Weather Outlook (Dec-Feb) for 2010-2011 has been released. *You all better get ready!*

With the La Niña occurring in the equatorial Pacific, it allows the Arctic air to come streaming down the Canadian Rockies and into the northern plains. It's not the news I would like to be telling you all, and I personally don't mind if the outlook turns out to be wrong. ☺ So, expect it to be colder than normal, and more precipitation than normal, meaning we'll also likely see an increase in storms, and the possibility of flooding come springtime considering the wet year we've had going into this winter.

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101021_winteroutlook.html



What does America know about Climate Change? Yale University recently did a study that found while 63% of American's believe that global warming is occurring, many don't understand why. Here are some of the statistics published in the stud: For example, only:

- 57% know that the greenhouse effect refers to gases in the atmosphere that trap heat;
- 50% of Americans understand that global warming is caused mostly by human activities;
- 45% understand that carbon dioxide traps heat from the Earth's surface;
- 25% have ever heard of coral bleaching or ocean acidification.

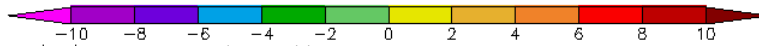
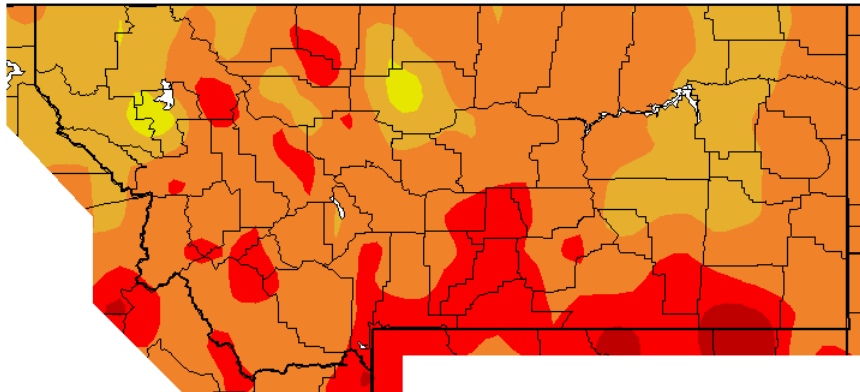
Meanwhile, large majorities incorrectly think that the hole in the ozone layer and aerosol spray cans contribute to global warming, leading many to incorrectly conclude that banning aerosol spray cans or stopping rockets from punching holes in the ozone layer are viable solutions.

However, many Americans do understand that emissions from cars and trucks and the burning of fossil fuels contribute to global warming, and that a transition to renewable energy sources is an important solution.

You can see the study at: <http://environment.yale.edu/climate/files/ClimateChangeKnowledge2010.pdf>

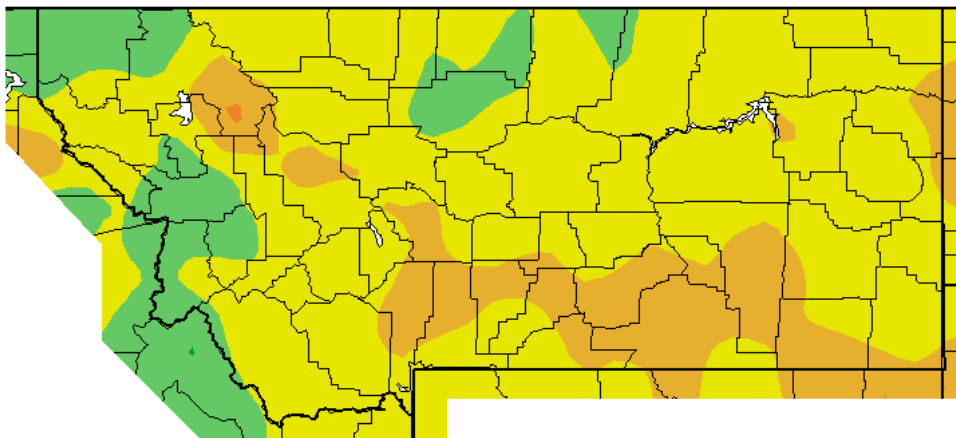
Recent Montana Climate: This October has been quite a bit different than last year. Below is a look at the last 30 days of temperatures and precipitation in Montana. You can see the entire state has been from 2 to 10 degrees above normal temperature wise, and precipitation has been near average.

Ave. Temperature dep from Ave (deg F)
9/20/2010 – 10/19/2010



Generated 10/20/2010 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

Precipitation Departure from Average (in.)
9/20/2010 – 10/19/2010



Generated 10/20/2010 at WRCC using provisional data.
NOAA Regional Climate Centers

NWS Glasgow happenings:

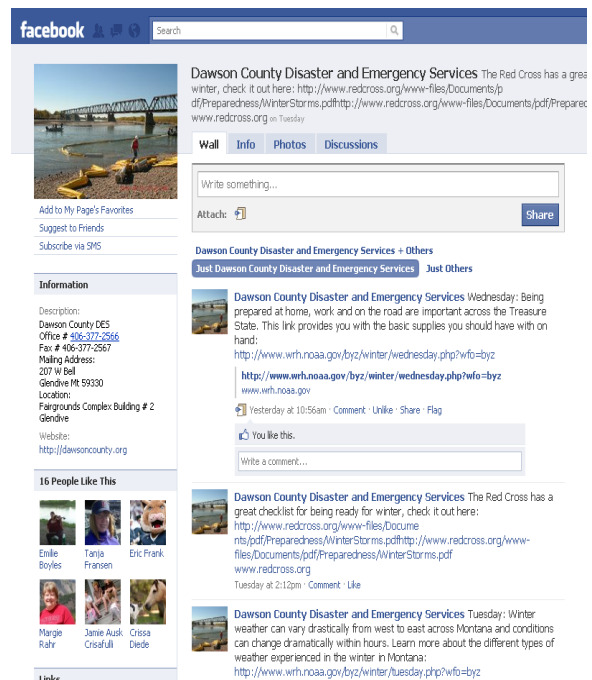
We've done some **winter weather safety talks** in Plentywood and Sidney this week, as well as met with 60+ employees from the Montana Department of Transportation at their annual safety meeting in Wolf Point. I was able to provide them information on what the NWS does, where to get information, and discuss how important it is for us to get information during storms. We had some discussion back and forth where I was able to ask questions of them as well. Thanks to all the dedicated people at MDT (especially the plow driver who was able to stop on Highway 2 last winter as my car kept sliding down Airport Rd, right across the highway!!)

One more Winter Weather Safety presentation will be held in Glasgow at the Cottonwood Inn on October 28th starting at 600 pm.

Facebook: Several counties around Montana are getting involved with sharing preparedness, safety and emergency information on local Facebook pages. The Montana Tourism Department recently helped the NWS in promoting Winter Weather Awareness Week on their Facebook page, which has 69,000 followers! In northeast Montana, counties with pages include Dawson County DES, McCone County Search and Rescue and in the near future Richland County will have an Emergency Preparedness site as well. Many local newspapers, and TV stations have facebook pages as well, and are a good source of information when something is occurring in the community. The National Weather Service has a national facebook page, but they are just now testing local office facebook pages. We are hoping to see an NWS Glasgow page in the next 6-9 months. It will allow you to post storm reports and photos for our staff to receive during weather events, as well as communicate local climate tidbits, outreach happenings and many other weather items of interest.

Working with students: The forecasters at NWS Glasgow have had a few tours they've conducted recently. The Hinsdale Earth Science class (9th grade) toured the office, a Nashua High School student spent a day doing a job shadow with our staff. I was also able to go and teach the Glasgow 7th grade Geography classes about weather maps and symbols, and discuss some of the positive and negative impacts of weather on society. It's great interacting with students! Several of our staff members will be in Wolf Point on November 11th at the career fair there, discussing what meteorologists do, and careers within NOAA.

StormReady: Congratulations to Richland County, Dawson County, Sheridan County and their incorporated communities, all of which were recertified as StormReady in October. The StormReady program recognizes communities for their work in emergency preparedness, ways to monitor hazardous weather and ways to disseminate emergency messages to the public. For more information, go to: <http://www.stormready.noaa.gov/>



The screenshot shows a Facebook page for Dawson County Disaster and Emergency Services. The page header includes the Facebook logo and a search bar. Below the header is a cover photo of a bridge over water. The page content includes a post from Dawson County Disaster and Emergency Services mentioning a Red Cross winter preparedness checklist. Below this is a post from Dawson County Disaster and Emergency Services mentioning a checklist for being ready for winter. The page also shows a '16 People Like This' section with profile pictures of users and a 'Links' section at the bottom.

Upcoming Events:

- Several staff members will be attending and presenting at the Great Divide Weather Workshop in Billings at the beginning of November. Topics they will cover include Hail Spikes on Radar, Rural Heat Health Warning System, and the Sheridan County Tornado. To see the agenda, or even to attend, you can go to:
<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/byz/greatdivide/welcome.php?wfo=ggw>
- I'll be headed south to San Antonio presenting at the International Association of Emergency Management Conference about the National Skywarn Program. For the past year or so I have been the co-lead for this NWS team to bring the Skywarn program online so that more weather spotters have access to the training.
- We switch the clocks (Fall Back) on November 7th this year. Mountain Daylight Time becomes Mountain Standard Time.



NOAA News:

Arctic Report Card - Region Continues to Warm at Unprecedented Rate: The Arctic region, also called the “planet’s refrigerator,” continues to heat up, affecting local populations and ecosystems as well as weather patterns in the most populated parts of the Northern Hemisphere, according to a team of 69 international scientists. The findings were released today in the Arctic Report Card, a yearly assessment of Arctic conditions. <http://www.arctic.noaa.gov/reportcard>
Among the 2010 highlights:

- Greenland is experiencing record-setting high temperatures, ice melt and glacier area loss;
- Summer sea ice continues to decline — the 2009-2010 summer sea ice cover extent was the third lowest since satellite monitoring began in 1979, and sea ice thickness continues to thin. The 2010 minimum is the third lowest recorded since 1979, surpassed only by 2008 and the record low of 2007; and
- Arctic snow cover duration was at a record minimum since record-keeping began in 1966.

Year to Date Temperatures Ties for Warmest on Record Globally: The first nine months of 2010 tied with the same period in 1998 for the warmest combined land and ocean surface temperature on record. The global average land surface temperature for January-September was the second warmest on record, behind 2007. The global ocean surface temperature for January–September was also the second warmest on record, behind 1998.

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101015_globalstats.html

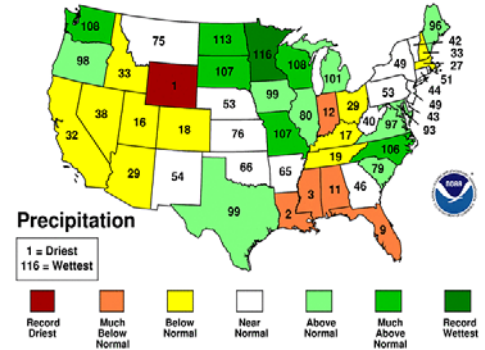
NOAA Unveils Special Collection of Civil War Maps and Nautical Charts: For those historians out there, this article may be of interest to you:

http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101007_civilwar.html

US Climate Summary for September: It was the 14th warmest September on record in the US. New Mexico, Colorado, Arizona, Florida and the Northeast States all were within their 10th warmest years on record. Wyoming had its driest September on record, Louisiana the second driest, and Minnesota had the wettest September on record.
http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2010/20101007_sept_emps.html

September 2010 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



Recent Weather in the News:

Lake Mead at Record Lows Due to Drought: <http://ecocentric.blogs.time.com/2010/10/18/water-lake-mead-is-at-record-low-levels-is-the-southwest-drying-up/>

Floods in Thailand and Cambodia kill dozens: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39759713/ns/weather/>

Thailand Rescues 100 elephants from flooding:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39716797/ns/world_news/

Flooding in Vietnam kills over 40: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39736204/ns/weather/>

Flooding in Benin kills 43: <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39719813/ns/weather/>

Pakistan Flood Damages estimated at \$9.5 Billion!!

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39650570/ns/weather/>

Indonesian Flooding Death Toll Jumps over 145:

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39611033/ns/weather/>

Arizona Tornadoes: <http://www.cnn.com/2010/US/10/07/arizona.tornadoes/index.html> and

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/fgz/News/06Oct2010tor/06Oct2010.html>

Cool Photo Montage of Fall Leaves Changing around the Globe:

http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/39689115/ns/travel-picture_stories/displaymode/1247/beginSlide/1/beginChapter/1/beginTab/1/