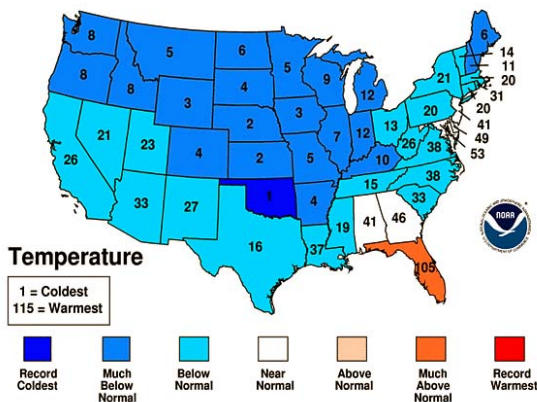




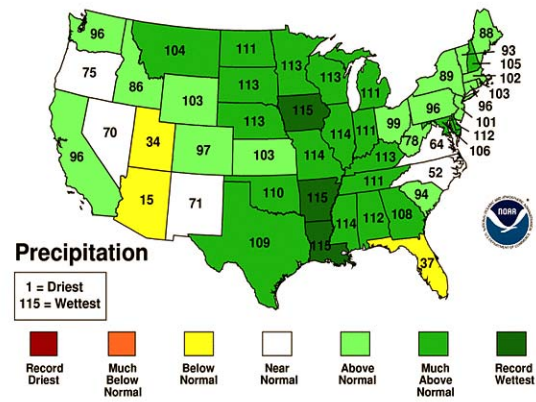
Under the Big Sky November 16, 2009

October Climate Summary: October was the third coldest on record for the United States (and also third coldest for many eastern MT locations). It was also the highest recorded precipitation on record in the United States for the month. It was the coldest on record in Oklahoma, and second coldest in Nebraska and Kansas. Florida was the only state above normal for temperatures in October. Iowa, Arkansas and Louisiana had their wettest months on record, while Missouri, Illinois and Mississippi had their second wettest on record. Florida, Utah and Arizona were the only ones below normal for the month. To read about the highlights of the month, visit: http://www.noaanews.noaa.gov/stories2009/20091110_octoberstats.html

October 2009 Statewide Ranks
National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



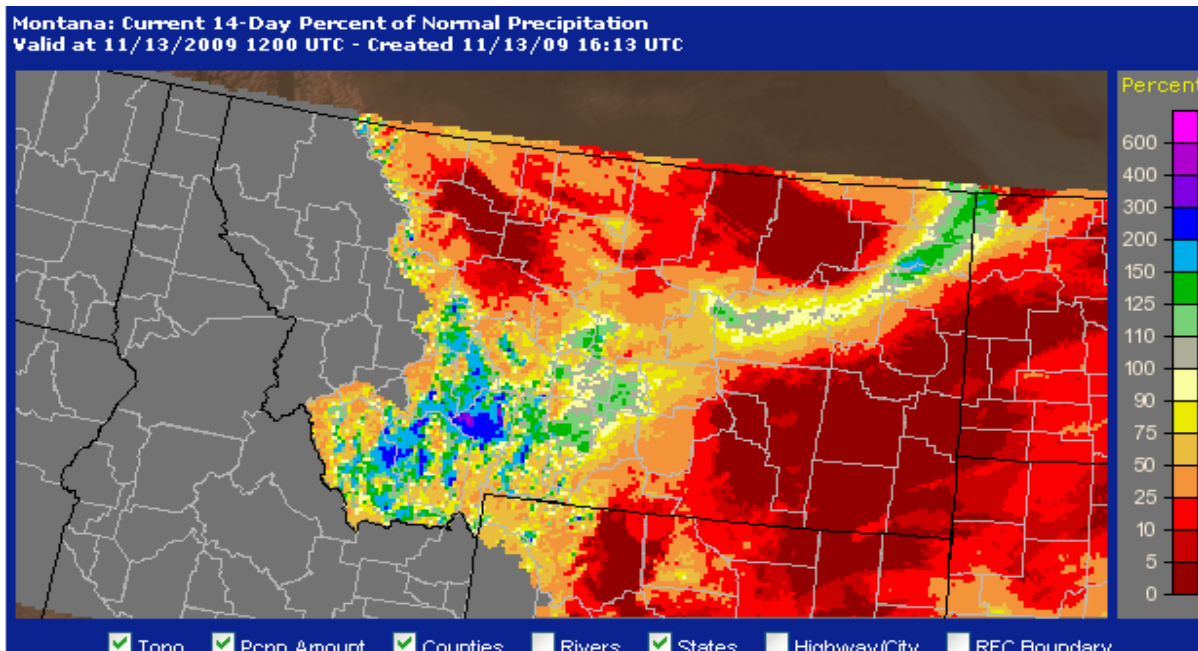
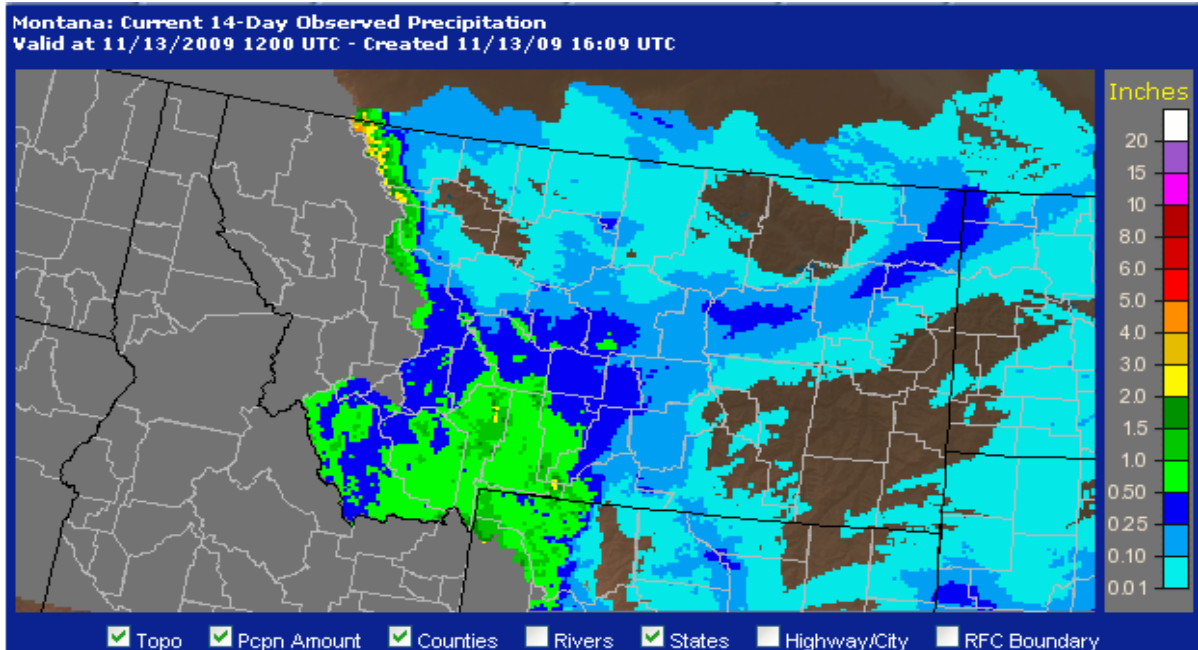
October 2009 Statewide Ranks
National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA

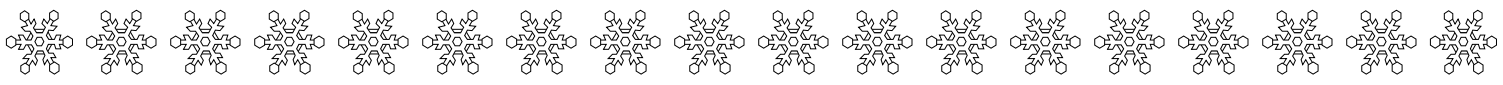


Other notable October highlights:

- Cheyenne, Wyo., tallied 28 inches of snow in October, making this the city's snowiest October on record. North Platte, Neb., recorded 30.3 inches of snow, making October 2009 the snowiest month ever for the city.
- October saw below-normal fire activity, with a total of 3,207 fires that burned about 158,000 acres, according to the National Interagency Coordination Center.

Recent weather/lack of precipitation: I don't know about you all, but I haven't had measureable precipitation at my house since Oct 24th. I did finally update my CoCoRaHS observations with all those zero's as well. Remember you can see a wealth of precipitation reports (or lack of precipitation) online at: <http://www.cocorahs.org/state.aspx?state=mt> We are still looking for observers in Petroleum, Garfield, McCone, Prairie and Wibaux Counties. If you are interested, or know someone who is, please let me know. Below is a look at the last two weeks of observed precipitation, and the percentage from normal for that time frame as well.





Season of Giving: This is the time of year when the Combined Federal Campaign occurs, allowing federal employees to donate a portion of each paycheck to various charitable organizations. Our staff raised over \$11,000 dollars this year. Also, our intern Amy Schnetzler recently started an office campaign for the Glasgow “Warmth Drive” and for the local food bank (photo at the top of the newsletter). Office staff contributed a lot of new and gently used winter weather clothing and gear for the Hiline Homes Program for area families in need. We’re also collecting food and money for the local food bank as well through the holiday season.

EMT Refresher course: I was able to do an hour long winter survival class with the Valley County EMT’s this past weekend. It was fun to do this for them, and I just want to note how much we appreciate all that the EMT’s and First Responders do across eastern MT! It’s a very tough job, with little recognition at times, but you all are my hero’s! (Along with fire fighters and law enforcement!) 😊

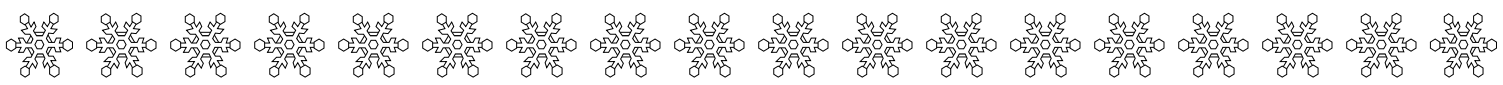
Wolf Point High School Career Fair – I was able to attend the career fair in Wolf Point earlier this week. I tried to keep track of the number of students I spoke to, and it was about 50 total. About half of them had an interest in science careers (either physical, earth or biological). Two specifically mentioned marine biology, and four mentioned meteorology, all careers within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the agency I was representing. It’s always great to speak with students who are interested in science, and if you know of any with interests in meteorology, please let us know. We’d be happy to do a tour of our office for them, communicate about colleges and perhaps set up a volunteer internship to get them started.

Lead Forecaster/IMET becomes a new Dad: We offer our congratulations to Patrick (and Christine) Gilchrist on the early arrival of their daughter Amelia Jamie. They are quickly adjusting to their new routine, and Patrick will be home for a few weeks to help out. Welcome Amelia!!

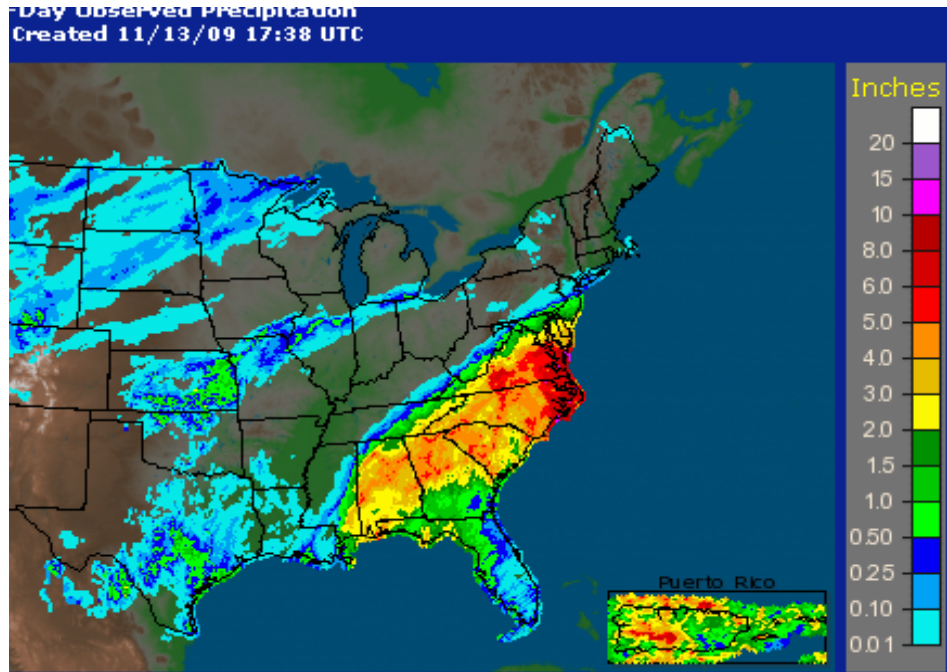
Forecaster leaving our office: Andrew Zimmerman was hired here as an intern and then promoted to a meteorologist position a few years ago. He has been selected as a forecaster in Wakefield, VA, which will bring him and his wife and daughter closer to their family in Pennsylvania. Andrew has been one of the folks who has really dug into the climate data here in Glasgow, and has helped with many outreach events and Skywarn training sessions. We wish them the best with their move at the beginning of the New Year. The search is on for his replacement as well.

Weather in the News:

Hurricane Ida: This hurricane is one of the latest US landfalling hurricanes on record. In fact, only 5 hurricanes have hit US shores in November since records have been kept. As it moved through the Gulf of Mexico, it did cause significant problems in Central America, with at least



7,000 homes destroyed and 134 dead from mudslides and flooding caused by the torrential rainfall. It was the third hurricane of the season (which ends Dec 1). It is currently impacting the east coast of the US with heavy rainfall. Many coastal areas of New Jersey and New York are experiencing flooding and at least one boat has been sunk (with passengers missing) and a large barge washed ashore. Here's a look at the recent precipitation along the Gulf and East Coasts for the last 7 days (note, some areas have officially reported over 8" of rainfall from Alabama through New York):



Heavy snow kills 40 in China: MSNBC is reporting that portions of northern China, including the 7.5 million people in Beijing are being impacted by snowfall. Buildings are collapsing under the weight of the snow, and nearly 500,000 acres in crops are destroyed. Many of the deaths were due to traffic accidents, and some from the collapsed buildings. What I've found most interesting is the record snowfall being reported is actually only a few inches, 3.7" in one provincial capital! <http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33910709/ns/weather/>

Significant Drought in Venezuela leads to water restrictions: While we may enjoy the warmer than normal weather expected in an El Niño year, portions of South America suffer from loss of precipitation during the sometimes year or longer event. Venezuela has had low reservoir levels, and the lack of precipitation is leading to water rationing throughout the country. <http://www.cnn.com/2009/WORLD/americas/11/02/venezuela.water.rationing/index.html#nSTText>

Significant Blackout in Brazil and Paraguay caused by storms: Residents of Rio De Janeiro and surrounding areas (60 million total!) were without power recently as heavy rain, winds and

lightning rolled through the area and short circuited several major transmission lines. It caused problems in 18 of the 26 states in Brazil, and the entire country of Paraguay was without power. http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/33844757/ns/world_news-americas/

Family Stranded in Winter Storm in OR: This video interviews a dad and his 7 kids who were stranded in a snowstorm recently. Please don't forget to take winter survival kits with you when traveling in the winter!

<http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/21134540/vp/33824212#33824212>

Weather Humor:

