

COLD SNAP IN JUNE ACROSS NORTHERN NEVADA

By Meteorologists Pam Szataneck and Ray Martin



National Weather Service — Elko Weather Forecast Office

The Great Basin Spotter Newsletter

Cool morning temperatures during the summer are no stranger to northern Nevada. However, this past June a series of strong lows swept across the Great Basin bringing unseasonably cold air to the region. June 16th, the forecast staff at Elko issued a freeze warning for Humboldt,

Elko, Lander, Eureka and White Pine counties which was valid from 2am to 7am PDT on June 17th. Keep in mind that a freeze warning is for forecast minimum “shelter” or eye level temperatures less than or equal to 32°F during the growing season. Elko's average last freeze (32°F

reading) is June 8th. Well's and Ely's is June 18th. McDermitt's is June 23rd. In fact, Elko has reached 32 degrees or lower 22 times in July since 1888. So even when near the summer solstice or the dead of summer, gardeners need to remain vigilant.

Observed Minimum Temperatures from June 17th, 2011

ELKO NWS OFFICE (COOP)	5235 FT	31° F.
LAMOILLE 2 N (COOP)	5750 FT	28° F.
RYNDON (COOP)	5205 FT	25° F.
WELLS (HANDAR)	5688 FT	32° F.
SOUTH FORK (COOP)	5270 FT	31° F.
JARBIDGE (RAWS)	8502 FT	30° F.
MOUNTAIN CITY RS (HADS)	5620 FT	26° F.
JACKPOT (HANDAR)	5295 FT	31° F.
WINNEMUCCA AIRPORT (ASOS)	4301 FT	29° F.
MCDERMITT (COOP)	4430 FT	29° F.
EUREKA AIRPORT (ASOS)	5936 FT	30° F.
ELY AIRPORT (ASOS)	6262 FT	31° F.
CHARLESTON (COOP)	5968 FT	21° F.

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Special points of interest:

- We are now on Facebook!
- Look for us at the Skyfair & Fire Prevention Picnic in September.
- Look for us at Kmart Safety Fair in October.



NWS Tours South Fork Reservoir and Dam

By Larry Whitworth

At the conclusion of a very busy flood season, staff from the National Weather Service Weather Forecast Office in Elko was provided a tour of the South Fork Reservoir and Dam facility. The tour gave personnel insight into the function of the reservoir and provided a detailed overview of dam operations. After a busy 2011 flood season, this very informative tour helped staff understand some of the logistics involved as water enters and exits the dam along the South Fork Humboldt River. On July 29th, 2011, Staff Engineer Rich Perry from the State of Nevada Division of Water Resources met WFO personnel at the entrance to the South Fork State Recreational Area about 10 miles due south of Elko to talk about the history of the South Fork area and how the dam came to be. Most dams in Nevada are designed to store and deliver water based on water rights. However South Fork

Reservoir is designated for recreational use. Situated along the South Fork Humboldt River, the reservoir currently covers approximately 1,650 acres and has a storage capacity of 40,000 acre-feet. The average depth is 30-35 feet and the water level is so constant that it has become a high-productive fishery, attracting fishermen from other states. South Fork Dam is designed as a rolled, earth filled embankment approximately 1,850 feet long and 90 feet high.

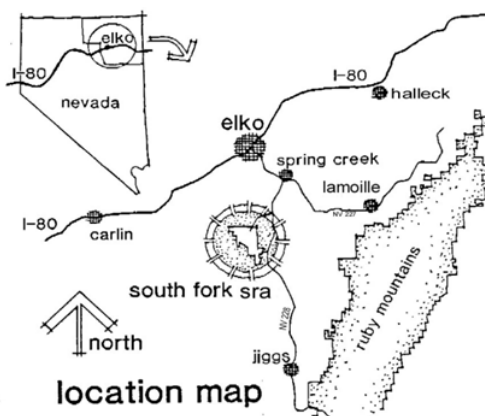
Hastings Cutoff, a travel route of the infamous Donner Party in the mid 1800's, took pioneers through South Fork Valley. Initial settlement of South Fork Valley occurred in 1867 when the Tomera Ranch was established. With implementation of the 1938 Flood Control Act, the U.S. Congress authorized feasibility studies for building dams and reservoirs on rivers such as the Humboldt. The Tomera family sold the ranch to the state of Nevada in 1983 allowing design and construction to begin. Covering up fertile meadows formerly used for hay production and grazing, the reservoir was filled by 1995 and boaters, sunbathers, swimmers and fishermen had a new place to hang out. The Operations Building for South Fork Dam is located atop the actual dam. A system of electronically-controlled valves opens and closes the lift gate to regulate water flow. Water flows underneath the

gate and a computer program monitors multiple sensors to ensure proper function of the equipment. In the event of a failure of the dam or system components, a computer will automatically notify emergency managers via a call list. Maintenance of the dam and associated operating systems can be expensive. When maintenance on underwater equipment is necessary, skilled commercial divers must be brought in to

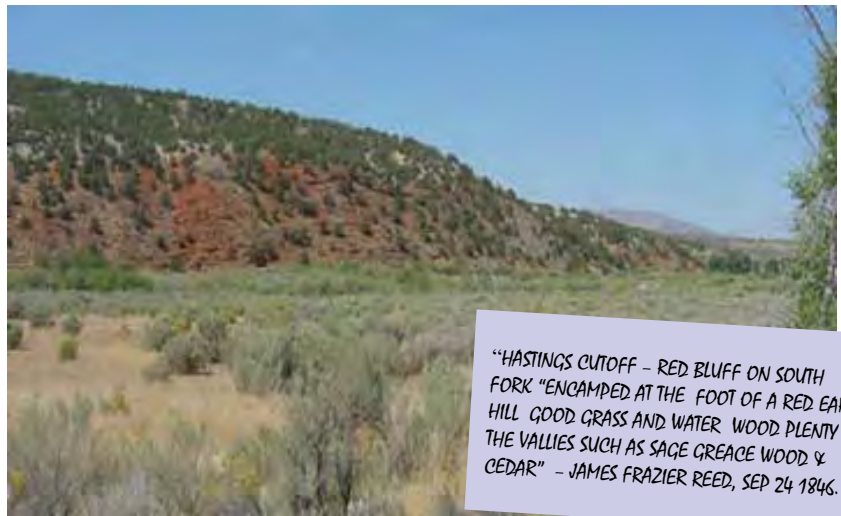


perform the work. Divers must be able to work timely in low-visibility conditions utilizing waterproof equipment such as flashlights, video cameras and two-way radios to relay information to surface personnel to assess repair methods and to help guide them through the process.

In order to maintain, lower or raise water level in South Fork Reservoir, flow must be measured upstream and downstream of the reservoir. Numerous small creeks flow from the west side of the Ruby Mountains and water enters the South Fork Humboldt River upstream of the reservoir near Twin Bridges. Mr. Perry took our group to the gage along the South Fork Humboldt River a few miles upstream of



the gage a few miles upstream of the dam that is used to monitor inflow. A cement waterway was built at the same time of dam construction to help provide a more laminar flow and minimize erroneous readings. The vicinity of this upstream gage is of historical note as well. On September 24th, 1846, the Donner-Reed Party actually camped near



“HASTINGS CUTOFF – RED BLUFF ON SOUTH FORK “ENCAMPED AT THE FOOT OF A RED EARTH HILL GOOD GRASS AND WATER WOOD PLENTY IN THE VALLIES SUCH AS SAGE GREACE WOOD & CEDAR” – JAMES FRAZIER REED, SEP 24 1846.



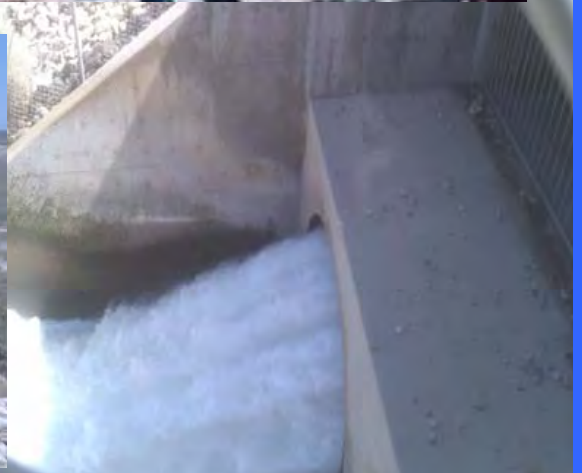
the gage site we visited, noting the “red earth hill” visible from the upstream gage site.

On September 24th, 1846, the Donner-Reed Party actually camped near the gage site we visited, noting the “red earth hill” visible from the upstream gage site.

There is a lift gate where the South Fork Humboldt River enters the reservoir. When the gate is lifted, cold water enters at the bottom, often stirring up sediment and making the water cloudy but at the same time providing a burst of food for

inhabitants of the reservoir. When water is released from the reservoir, the flow is dampened to mitigate erosion at the point of release. The gage used to measure outflow is located few miles downstream of the reservoir along the South Fork Humboldt River. The tour of South Fork Dam that Rich

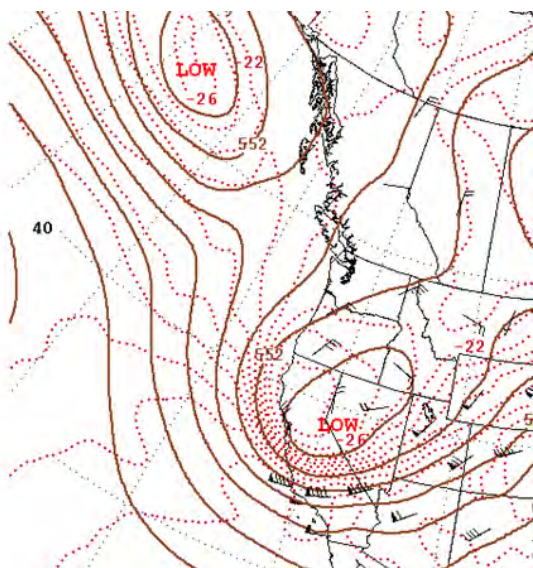
Perry provided staff from the National Weather Service was packed with historical and technical information. It helped us to understand dam operations from inflow to South Fork Reservoir to its discharge downstream of the dam. It was a fitting end to a busy flood season at WFO Elko.



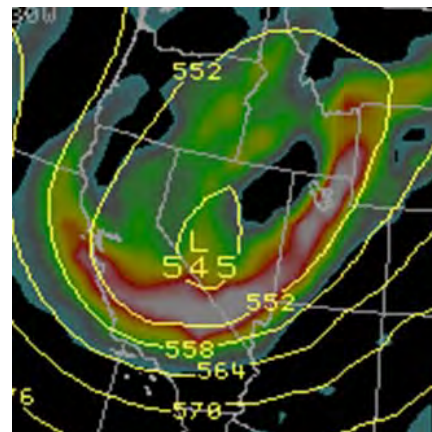
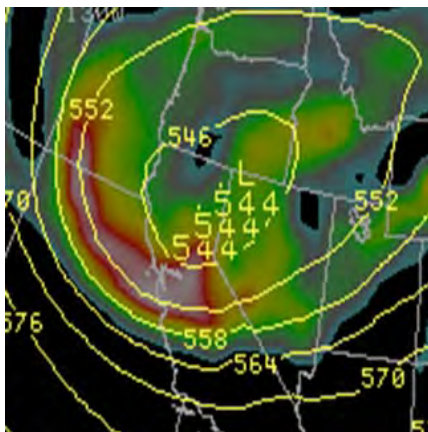
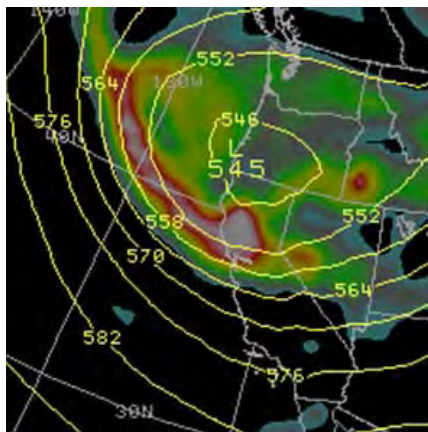
An Unseasonably Cold Low Brings Winter Weather to the Silver State Memorial Weekend

by Pam Szataneck, Meteorologist

Traditionally, Memorial Day is considered by many to be the unofficial start of summer. However, this past Memorial holiday weekend felt nothing like summertime as a cold and wet Pacific storm sweep across the Sierra, intensified in the lee of the Sierra Mountains and moved through central Nevada. It was a classic "Tonopah Low". Multiple records for record low temperatures and precipitation were set, the oldest record broken dated back to 1896. This was a multiple day event and snow blanketed numerous locations at both high and low elevations from Wheeler Peak to Crescent Valley. Headline products for wintry weather were issued for White Pine County, and portions of Elko County by the Elko Field Office staff. Impressive storm totals dating from May 28th through May 30th were recorded at both SNOTEL sites and by spotters. In the Independence Mountains, 7 to 10 inches of new snow fell although it is very possible that higher amounts fell where no instrumentation was located. The Jarbidge Wilderness area above 7000 feet received 3 to 6 inches of snow. Meanwhile, above 7800 feet multiple SNOTEL sites in the Ruby Mountains/East Humboldt Range measured 8 to 13 inches of fresh snow. White Pine County received the lion's share of the snow. The snow observer in Ely at 6500 feet recorded 9 inches, the Berry Creek SNOTEL which is east of Ely recorded 25 inches at 9100 feet and the SNOTEL at 10147 feet on Wheeler Peak measured 18 inches. Many thanks to our cadre of spotters and COOP participants!!



(Right) Barrick employee in Crescent Valley taken at 10:18am
(Left) The 500mb height contours at 10 am PDT on Sunday May 29th.



The track of the upper level low from 5pm PDT Saturday May 28th to 11pm PDT Saturday May 28th to 8am PDT Sunday May 29th (left to right).



WANTED!

**VOLUNTEERS OF ALL AGES
TO HELP SCIENTISTS STUDY STORMS**

The exploration begins in your back yard with CoCoRaHS!



What is CoCoRaHS?

Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network or CoCoRaHS is a unique, nonprofit, community-based network of volunteers of all ages and backgrounds working together to measure and map precipitation including rain, hail and snow. Currently, over 12,000 volunteer CoCoRaHS observers in 50 states submit daily precipitation totals on the Web.

CoCoRaHS began at Colorado State University in 1998, after a devastating flash flood submerged part of Fort Collins, Colorado. The details of the storm were not reported by the existing network of weather stations so the population was not given adequate warning. The non-profit network is sponsored in part by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service, as well as individual contributors and organizations.

In essence the program is an extension of the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network (COOP), but unlike the COOP network, CoCoRaHS only measures precipitation and is a 100% grass roots volunteer program.

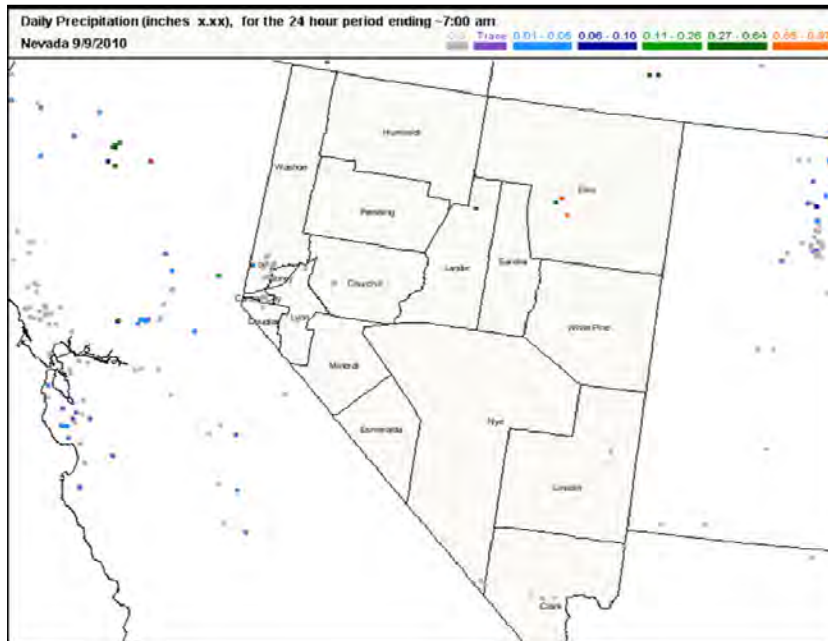
Nevada is a large state, and there is a shortage of precipitation measurement sites across the state from the mountains to deserts. Even with official precipitation measurement sites such as the COOP network, across Nevada observing sites are thinly distributed, that precipitation is often not reported in sufficient detail, particularly in the sparsely populated counties of central and northern Nevada.

So who can join the network and help? Well everyone can help - young and old and in between.

Please spread the word to friends, families, and anybody you know who has an interest in monitoring rain and snowfall in Nevada. Here are the basic requirements for being a CoCoRaHS weather observer...

- (1) Have access to the internet and the ability to browse the CoCoRaHS web site <http://www.cocorahs.org/>, where you will enter your daily precipitation data.
- (2) Have an official-type CoCoRaHS rain gauge. You can buy one inexpensively on the website.
- (3) Have a good site on your property with good exposure, as free of trees and obstructions as possible; where you can place the rain gauge about five feet off the ground.
- (4) Take a training course offered by your local National Weather Service Office or take the online CoCoRaHS observer training course.
- (5) Be willing to enter your precipitation data on a daily basis

between 6 AM-9AM through the CoCoRaHS internet web site.



Example output of CoCoRaHS observers daily reports.

How does one become a CoCoRaHS observer?

Go to the CoCoRaHS web-site (www.cocorahs.org) and click on the "Join CoCoRaHS" emblem on the upper right side of the main website.

If you want further information or have any questions pertaining to the program, please contact Donald Dumont via email at Donald.Dumont@noaa.gov or via phone by calling (775) 778-6716.

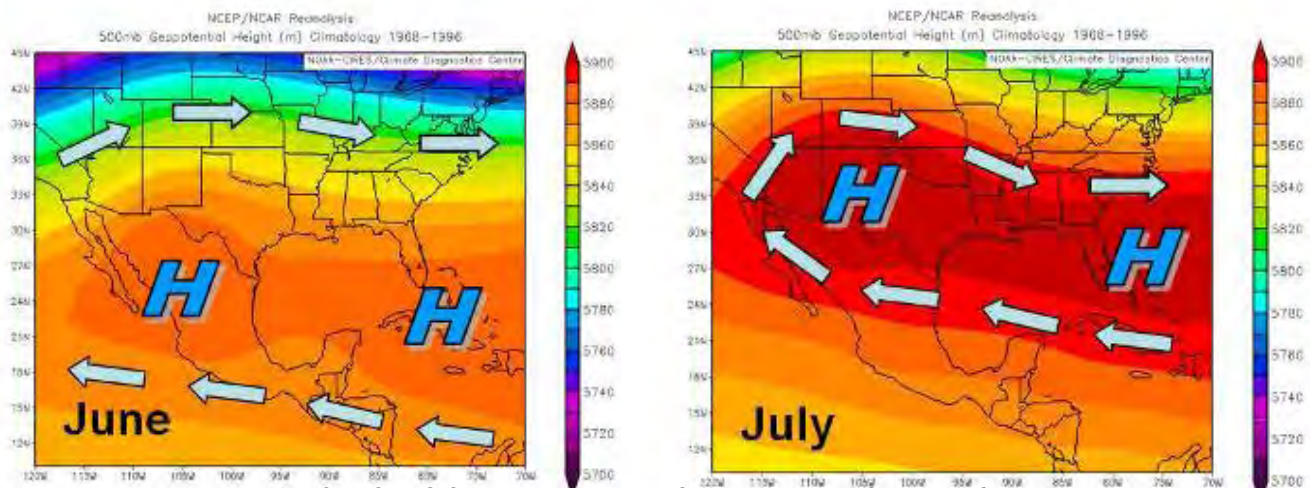
Pair of Monsoon Surges in July

By Pam Szatanek, Meteorologist

The North American Monsoon generally occurs from late June or early July into September. The moisture originates from Gulf of Mexico and the Gulf of California and spreads into the southwestern United States impacting Arizona, California, Nevada, Utah and New Mexico. Typically, meteorologists look for a persistent “Four Corners High” and in the model data we monitor surges in relative humidity or values of precipitable water. Although the monsoon brings welcome rains and relief from the summer heat, the thunderstorms that materialize from the monsoon bring their own hazards ranging from flash floods to frequent lightning. What may start off as a typical summer day can quickly turn into a hazardous one when these monsoon thunderstorms develop. This past July, two abnormally strong monsoon surges pushed their way into central and northern Nevada. They occurred the first and the last week of July. Both delivered widespread thunderstorm activity, and a suite of headlines for both flash flooding and significant weather advisories for hail were issued from northern Nye to Humboldt and Elko Counties.



Picture taken by Ryan Knutsvig, Science and Operations Officer of the Elko Field Office, July 30th, 2011



Images provided by the NOAA-CIRES Climate Diagnostics Center, Boulder, Colorado, from their website at

<http://www.cdc.noaa.gov>

Where in the CWA did that Happen?

Take a few moments and look at the picture to the right. It was taken somewhere in the County Warning Area (CWA).

What's going on in the picture and do you know where it was taken ?

If you know the answer to these questions send Michael and email with your answers at:

michael.fitzsimmons@noaa.gov

The first to answer both questions correctly will win a prize. Be sure to include your name, phone number, and address in the email.

We will give all the details about this picture in the next edition of the Great Basin Spotter Newsletter.



Native America – Reaching Out Through Cooperation and Partnership

By Michael Fitzsimmons, WCM

The National Weather Service in Elko has provided a number of different programs to the residents of northern and central Nevada over the years. Of these programs, one that has become significantly engrained in the office culture is that of cooperation and partnership with the Native American community. The Elko Forecast office began this cultural exchange through an initial introductory meeting, which then expanded to our attending partnership meetings with the Te-Moak and Paiute Tribes. From these meetings, our trust and partnership continues to grow to the point of sharing and participating in the annual Tribal Communities' Earth Day activities, certifying the Paiute Duck Valley Indian Reservation as StormReady, and sharing in numerous educational and training programs such as HazMat tabletop exercises, Tribal Emergency Response Committee (TERC) meetings, and Science and Safety preparedness education. As part of the Science and Safety preparedness, the focus has been on the Tribal Community children, providing an educational awareness and foundation in science and math and supporting their educational growth. The Elko Forecast office takes pride in this relationship and is committed to working toward achieving the standards of the No Child Left Behind Act.



Climate Summary of spring and Summer 2011 in Northeastern and Central Nevada

By Ray Martin

Spring 2011 (defined meteorologically as the months of March, April and May) was unusually wet and snowy in most of the region. This was due to the multitude of significant storm systems which affected the region as a persistent upper-level trough of low pressure remained in place throughout most of the spring. In Elko, Ely and Winnemucca, spring 2011 was among the 20 wettest on record, and it was also among the 20 snowiest on record in Elko and Ely. Only the area around Tonopah did not also share in the excessive precipitation. The trough of low pressure which sat over the region during much of the spring also resulted in below normal temperatures, with Winnemucca and Tonopah experiencing one of the 20 coldest springs on record. Significant snowstorms affected much of the region in March, April and even late May (in the Ely area). All-in-all, spring 2011 was not very spring-like at all!

Summer 2011 (defined meteorologically as the months of June, July and August) was considerably different. Overall, the region was slightly warmer than normal, except in northwestern Nevada where temperatures were below normal. June continued the cool pattern of the spring with snowfall reaching down to low elevations across northeastern Nevada early in the month, including Elko itself. However, ever since then the weather has been on a warming trend as a ridge of high pressure became established over the central United States and expanded its influence into the western United States. While July was only marginally warmer than normal overall, the strengthening ridge allowed August 2011 to rank among the warmest August's on record across eastern and central Nevada. The ridge didn't affect northwestern Nevada as much, with only a modest departure from normal in Winnemucca. Precipitation during the summer was below normal overall across the region. June was wet in parts of northern Nevada but dry elsewhere. July was wet in central Nevada courtesy of several surges of monsoon moisture, but dry in the north. August was dry in most areas with a relative lack of strong monsoon moisture surges. As is typical in the summer, precipitation totals do vary somewhat, due to localized thunderstorms being the main source of precipitation.

What does the Weather Balloon Do?

By Delyne Kirkham, Hydro-Meteorological Technician (HMT), WFO Elko, NV



Weather balloons carry instruments called radiosondes that are used by meteorologists to measure what is happening in the atmosphere. Radiosondes gather upper air information. Data from the radiosonde is fed into mathematical computer models that simulate the weather for

upcoming days, based on current weather conditions. A number of global and regional forecast models are run in different countries worldwide. Sometimes predictions from an ensemble of models are used. That's how forecasts are made.

Countries share information from their balloon flights, which allow snapshots of the atmosphere twice a day; 00 and 12 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). In Elko, NV that is at 4 am and 4 pm Pacific Standard Time (PST). A weather balloon is a high altitude balloon made from latex or neoprene and usually filled with hydrogen. The average balloon is around six to seven feet in diameter before being released. Attached to the radiosonde is a small, orange parachute which prevents it from injuring people or property when it falls after the balloon bursts. The radiosonde rises at about 1,000 feet per minute. Sensors in the radiosonde send back information on pressure, temperature, humidity and wind speed. These sensors are linked to a radio transmitter that transmits the information to a ground receiver. For wind data, radiosondes are tracked by a satellite based Global Positioning

System (GPS). Balloon flights usually last around two hours. Weather balloons can reach heights over 25 miles into the atmosphere and have been known to drift for more than 125 miles. We had one sent back recently that left Elko and landed in Ely the same day. As the balloon rises it can expand to over twenty feet, until it grows beyond its elastic limit and then bursts. Very few radiosondes are recovered, but occasionally people do find them. They are not harmful and can be returned by using the instructions and the mailbag that comes with each radiosonde, be reconditioned, and then re-used.

The National Weather Service operates 92 upper air locations in North America and 10 sites in the Caribbean. The data obtained is essential to provide short and long term weather forecasts. You are welcome to call our Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM), Michael Fitzsimmons at 775-778-6716, to set up a date and time if you want to observe the balloon launch at our office in Elko, Nevada.

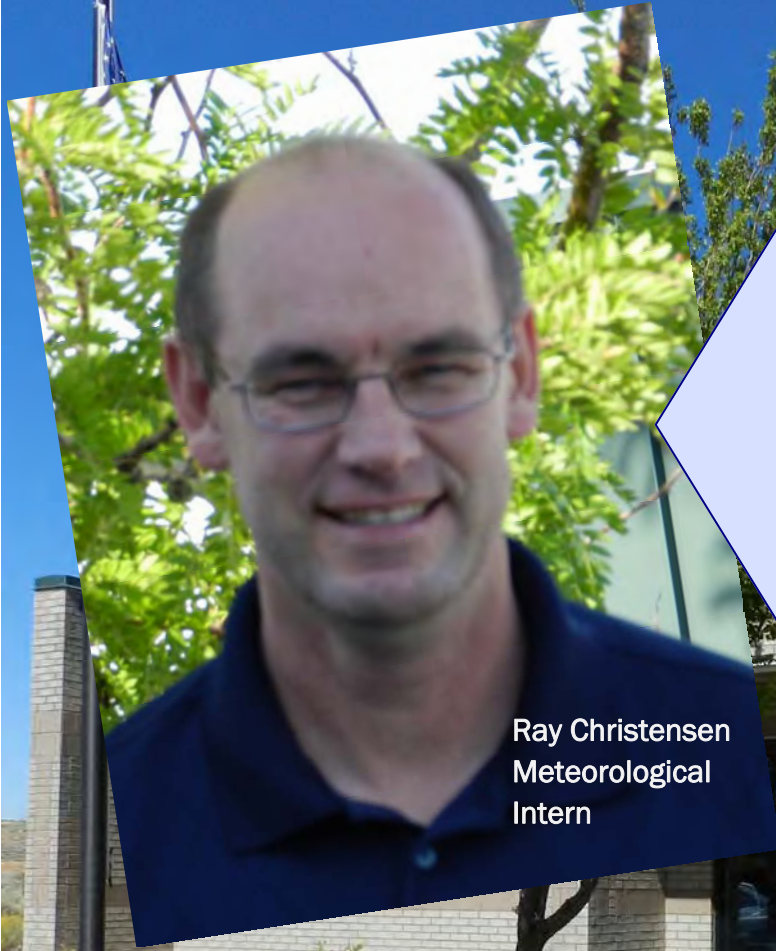


Right : Weather balloon burst

Left: Students releasing weather balloon



New To ELKO WFO



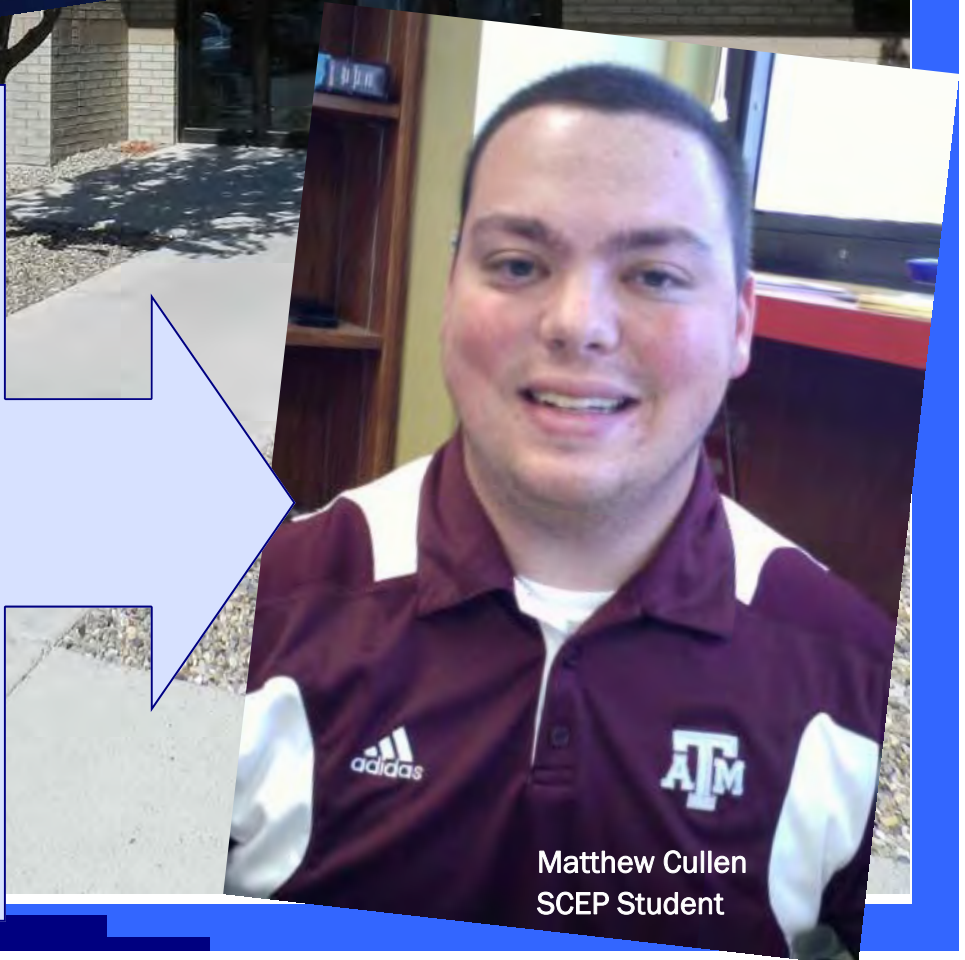
Ray Christensen
Meteorological
Intern

I spent my growing up years in Alamogordo, New Mexico, home of the White Sands. I joined the Air Force in 1986 and initially worked as a Photo Maintenance Technician, but after working 3 years at Offutt Air Force Base near Omaha, Nebraska I developed an enthusiasm for weather. I then had an opportunity to cross train into Weather in 1990. I first went to observing school and spent a year and half observing the weather at Offutt Air Force Base. I then returned to forecaster school and was then stationed in Fort Rucker, Alabama near Dothan, Alabama where I began my forecasting career in 1992 and where I first learned how to operate the NEXRAD. I then served in many locations including South Korea, Oklahoma City, and Germany where I continued my college education. I concluded my Air Force career at Offutt Air Force Base at the Air Force Weather Agency working on weather acquisitions and training sections from 2002-2007, during this time I finished my Undergraduate degree in Business and Graduate degree in Atmospheric Sciences at Creighton University. As a civilian I moved to upstate NY near Syracuse working with Lockheed Martin as a Business Development manager selling weather systems to locations in South America and Asia. I then worked for two years as a weather forecaster with the New York Air National Guard for locations in upstate NY and Afghanistan supporting unmanned aircraft. I then had the opportunity to join the NWS in Elko, Nevada and I am loving every minute of it and plan to make a long career in the NWS.

My name is Matthew Cullen, and I was hired this summer as a Student Trainee Meteorologist as part of the Student Career Experience Program (SCEP). I am currently a graduate student at Texas A&M University in College Station, TX, where I am working towards my Masters degree in Atmospheric Science. I graduated from Florida State University in 2010 with a bachelor's degree in Meteorology.

While in Elko this summer, I primarily worked with the Public Service Unit, where I answered phone calls, collected and quality controlled observations, and issued climate products. I also became upper air certified, which enabled me to launch weather balloons to take upper air observations.

I spent six weeks in the office this summer and have returned to school for the upcoming academic year. However, I will be back next summer and am looking forward to returning to Elko!



Matthew Cullen
SCEP Student

Fall / Winter Weather Word Search

W C P D J K M N S L E E T W C N E C R O Q Z N T H S G A Y U H S C T G
 O E L I A H E A X N X M I A X I P B Q X E K L E P A R B D H U V O X B
 T R L K T G L N K I E N R D G A V K D A W R I Q N N S E P M E A C X N
 S Y X L O J O F X D T V G O V R V C J N R D W T K D J T K L I S O B J
 M J S R S S Z W U E E N A H E G R O A D C L O S U R E S I I T Z R H Q
 D S D U G F S V R R Q E M D M N L Q Y S X I Z O F J E U A N H Q A M Z
 N Y E H P S N S S M P L A P A I S S O P R Y F R Y W S T Q B G V H E T
 H F D Q P U O Z J T V L R D L Z C B F O T C V F G L M W D N Y S S R I
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 E C K O L C W F C Q A L E V O H S W O N S W I N D C H I L L P O H I Y
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 K H P T O D A U W Y R O S I V D A E F Q Y F Z C W W V D A I S C M W X
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 W D V N B N A N D G P Z D A D A L S I H L G S M R O T S R E D N U H T
 I M A A D C O R R K O P E N U R I U I P R T S O L Y V B X L Z R U G Z
 D M D E E A A W O A T L O E A V N P P L E K F F N O S Z V D D V L F V
 K Y G B R Z R H T Q W S O I R Q E C V N S P B G Y O J W Y W P N V Y C
 Y G O W Z M Z D G I O O N R J F K S S K E U P P E R A I R A Q J V J Z
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 K V L P M B P O D I H E Q X D E N O I O V H A N G N I N T H G I L Q N
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ADVISORY
 AUSTIN
 BLIZZARD
 CARLIN
 CARVERS
 CHRISTENSEN
 COCORAHS
 CULLEN
 DEWPOINT
 ELKO
 ELY
 EUREKA
 FACEBOOK
 FREEZE

FREEZINGRAIN
 FROST
 HAIL
 HASTINGS
 HIKERS
 HUNTERS
 HURRICANE
 HYDROGEN
 ICE
 IRENE
 LIGHTNING
 MATTHEW
 METEOROLOGIST
 MONSOON

NEVADA
 OBSERVERS
 PAIUTE
 RADIOSONDE
 RAIN
 RAY
 RESERVOIR
 ROADCLOSURES
 SLEET
 SNOW
 SNOWPLOWING
 SNOWSHOVEL
 SNOWTIRES
 SPOTTER

STANDARDTIME
 STORMREADY
 TEMOKE
 THUNDERSTORMS
 UPPERAIR
 WARNINGS
 WATCHWARNING
 WELLS
 WILDFIRE
 WINDCHILL
 WINDSHIELDWASHER
 WINNEMUCCA
 WINTERSOLSTICE

From the Desk of the Warning Coordination Meteorologist

Michael Fitzsimmons

Hi Everyone! I hope you all had a wonderful and safe summer. Speaking of summer, it's hard to believe how quickly it went by. The climatological months of summer (June-July-August) were actually drier than normal, while temperatures were slightly warmer than normal in the Elko area. In spite of the dry conditions in the Elko area, thunderstorms were prevalent across much of northern and central Nevada this summer. In fact, two distinct slow moving thunderstorms were responsible for producing very heavy rainfall around Manhattan in northern Nye County during July. Each of these storms caused two separate flash flood events, submerging portions of state highways 376 and 377 under mud, debris and water to nearly two feet deep. Fortunately, no one was injured during either event. Remember, the best way to response to a flooded roadway is to "Turn Around, Don't Drown".



As we look toward the months ahead, the snow will start accumulating over our higher mountain peaks then eventually lower to the valley floors of northern and central Nevada. Preparation is your key to being safe during the winter months. Whether at home, work, or in your vehicle have a plan or survival kit available. Winter plans and survival kits along with other winter weather information can be found in the National Weather Service winter weather brochure at:

http://www.weather.gov/om/winter/resources/Winter_Storms2008.pdf .

To keep ahead of the storm and receive the latest winter watch, warning and advisory information from the National Weather Service in Elko, listen to NOAA Weather Radio or log onto the web at www.weather.gov/ELKO twenty-four hours a day. By being prepared and driving for the conditions of the road, this will ensure everyone has safe and enjoyable winter.



NOAA Weather Radio

NOAA Weather Radio All Hazards (NWR) is a nationwide network of radio stations broadcasting continuous weather information directly from the nearest National Weather Service office. NWR broadcasts official Weather Service warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Working with the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Emergency Alert System, NWR is an "All Hazards" radio network, making it your single source for comprehensive weather and emergency information. In conjunction with Federal, State, and Local Emergency Managers and other public officials, NWR also broadcasts warning and post-event information for all types of hazards – including natural (such as earthquakes or avalanches), environmental (such as chemical releases or oil spills), and public safety (such as AMBER alerts or 911 Telephone outages).

Known as the "Voice of NOAA's National Weather Service," NWR is provided as a public service by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), part of the Department of Commerce. NWR includes 1000 transmitters, covering all 50 states, adjacent coastal waters, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the U.S. Pacific Territories. NWR requires a special radio receiver or scanner capable of picking up the signal. Broadcasts are found in the VHF public service band at these seven frequencies (MHz):

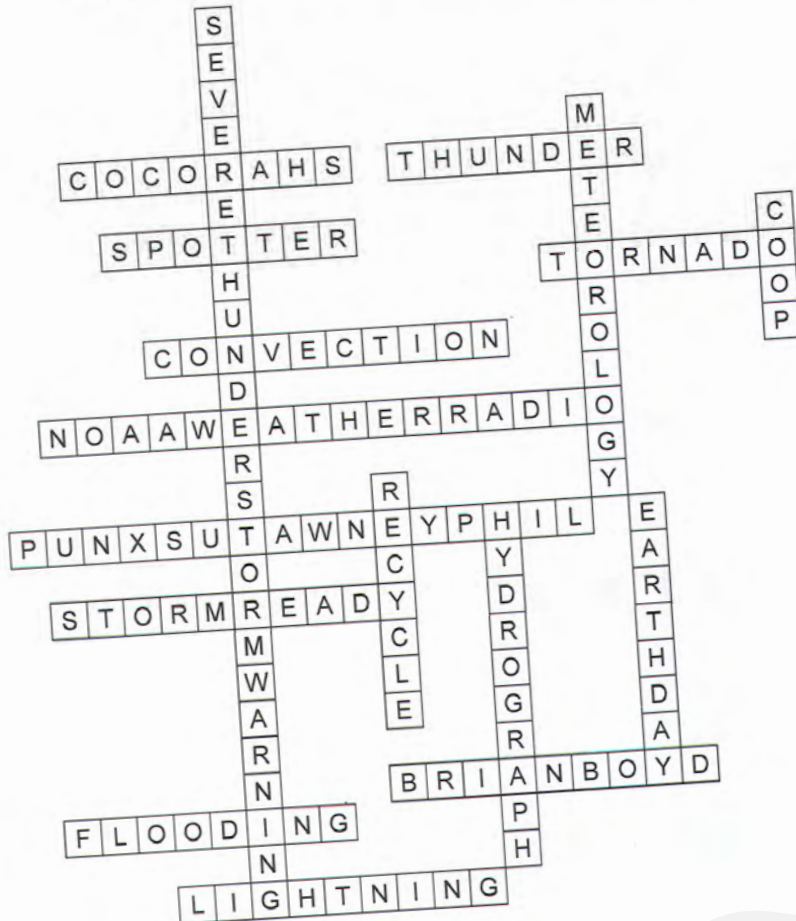
162.400	162.425	162.450	162.475	162.500	162.525	162.550
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spring / Summer Newsletter

Puzzle Solutions

Spring and Summer Crossword



Where in the CWA did that Happen?

This flooding happened in the spring of 2011 just east of Golconda Summit. The water is flooding the road and a wash, which is usually dry, with runoff from the Sonoma Mountains snowmelt.





**NOAA
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Elko Weather
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Find us on the internet at
www.weather.gov/Elko

The National Weather Service in Elko has some exciting news...we're on Facebook! Some of you are no doubt familiar with Facebook, but others are surely asking "What is this Facebook thingamajig?" Well, Facebook is a social networking web site where users can connect and interact with other people, organizations, and businesses.

The Elko NWS is hoping to develop a more robust relationship with our partners and folks in the community who already use Facebook as a means of communication. Our office staff is already sharing local weather information on Facebook, along with other interesting weather tidbits from around the globe. Facebook users also have the opportunity to comment on the Elko NWS page, sharing their own thoughts and reports on the weather, not only with the Elko weather office, but with the rest of the Facebook community as well.

**We are
now on
Facebook!**

If you'd like to check us out on Facebook, you can find our page by going to our website, www.weather.gov/elko, then clicking the link to Facebook at the bottom of the left hand menu.

Hope to hear from you soon!!

Michael Zwier
Meteorologist Intern / Social Media Focal Point

From the Desk of *Kevin B. Baker* **Meteorologist in Charge**

As we close out another summer, it's time to think about the cold season once again. With winter approaching, I would like to remind weather observers and spotters to call in your reports of snow and significant winter weather. We especially like to hear from observers that have seen snow amounts in excess of 2 inches, or extremely icy conditions that impact travel.

There have been some changes on the NWS Elko web page recently. We now have a link to Facebook social media that includes posts about newsworthy weather events. As we transition into winter, expect to see Facebook posts updating weather information especially during high impact events.

The NWS has a mission to protect



Kevin Baker
Meteorologist in Charge

lives and livelihoods, and a goal to improve decision support services during significant weather events. Expect to see more NWS services focused on storms that impact travel and other activities with dissemination through social media, weather stories, and web briefings. All of these services will be available through our web page. In addition, I encourage use of our mobile services at: <http://mobile.srh.noaa.gov>, where you can enter your location and receive weather information on the road.

Many thanks to our weather spotters for providing ground truth observations when we have active weather. This information proves invaluable when verifying weather events, and providing weather warning and advisory products to the public.