

## Seasonal Weather Summary for Northeast Montana Winter 2007-08

December was warmer and much drier than normal. Eleven locations had no measurable precipitation. Even the wettest locations were still drier than normal, which were at Flatwillow and Nashua, both with 0.26 inches for the month. Snowfall was light, with no major storms during the month, and most of the snow falling the first few days of the month. The most snowfall for the entire month reported was 5.0 inches at Zortman, while Wibaux 2E, and Winnett 6NNE had 3.5 inches.

There were no major or prolonged cold spells, however all places had a least a couple of nights that were below zero. Most of the colder readings were around the 8th, led with a 25 below reading at Scobey 4NW, and 23 below at Culbertson and Redstone. A few days with highs in the teens occurred throughout northeast Montana, nothing unusual for December. Some of the coldest high temperatures reported were Opheim 10N with a high of only 2 degrees above on the first, Westby and Scobey 4NW with highs of 4 degrees above on the second. Mild weather and high temperatures either above to well above freezing were frequent and widespread throughout the month. Jordan 43 ENE came in the warmest with a high of 65 degrees on the 11th, while Mosby hit 61 degrees, Terry and Malta 35S reached 60 degrees.

January had two very distinct faces: A very mild and very dry first half of the month, with most locations having no precipitation at all; followed by a second half of the month that was colder and wetter than normal. The amount of moisture varied greatly, as it often does. Zortman led the way with 0.88 inches, Carlyle 13NW 0.67 inches, and Brussett 0.45 inches. Even so, 10 stations had under a tenth of an inch for the whole month. Brockton 17N was driest, with just a trace.

For snowfall, Zortman also led with 12.9 inches total for the month, followed by 11.6 inches at Glasgow, and 10.8 inches at Carlyle 13NW. The main snowfall events occurred on the 16-18th, 23rd, and 28-29th. A few locations had 3-5 inches from one or two weather systems on these dates.

Most of the warm temperatures for the month occurred early. The 62 degree high at Flatwillow on the 14th was the warmest. Brockway, Circle, and Content 3SSE came in with 57 degrees for highs. The turn to colder weather at mid-month brought lows of 30 degrees below or colder to a few locations by late in the month. Baylor and Opheim 12SE were coldest, reporting 32 degrees below, while Westby, Port of Morgan, and Bredette fell to 31 degrees below zero. A day of two of subzero highs were also common throughout the area around the 29th. Westby could only manage a frigid 17 below for a high on the 29th, while Port of Raymond and Redstone could get no warmer than 15 below for highs. This blast of arctic air on the 28-29th, the coldest of the winter, was accompanied by snow and windy weather, and the resulting bitter cold winds chills that ranged from 40 to nearly 60 below zero in many places. Temperatures that were into the 40s just before that arctic blast couldn't even reach above zero just a day later.

February was just a little colder than normal, with precipitation near normal on average, but with great variation once again. Carlyle 13NW led in total moisture with 0.96 inches for the month, while Raymond had 0.67 inches, Cohagen 21E 0.65 inches.

Several places had a tenth of an inch or less. Bloomfield only had a trace, Westby 0.03 inches, and Port of Morgan 0.07 inches.

Most of the colder weather occurred the first half of the month, with the coldest readings around the 10th. That day, the Port of Raymond and Westby fell to 23 degrees below, as the coldest reported during the month. Bredette and Opheim 10N both had 20 degrees below. Most locations around the 10th had a day of two where their highs were only in the single digits above zero at best, and many were below zero. Westby could only manage a high of 13 degrees below on the 10th, while Bredette had a high of 10 below, and Opheim 12SE had 9 below for a high temperature that day. The warmest readings were at the end of the month, Flatwillow reaching 61 degrees, Mosby 59 degrees, and 56 degrees at Malta 35S.

The most snowfall reported for February was 13.5 inches at Carlyle 12NW, 12.0 inches at Winnett 6NNE, and 10.0 inches at Port of Raymond. Some of the greater snow amounts occurred around the 10th and 11th when a few places reported 4 to 7 inch snowfalls during that time, led by 7.0 inches at Winnett 6NNE