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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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State Climatologist

FOR MARCH 1986

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SYNOPSIS

March 1986 was the second warmest third month since records began in Nevada. This followed record or near record warmth in January and February, making this the Silver State's second warmest January-March period, topped only by January-March 1934.

Precipitation was highly variable, with more than twice normal occurring in some locations in the extreme north and in the west while some sites in Central and Northwestern Nevada had less than 50% of normal.

TEMPERATURE

This was the second warmest March on record in Nevada, surpassed only by March 1934. This has also been the second warmest January-March period, close behind 1934. (NOTE: The 21 month period from June 1933 through February 1935 was unprecedented, in that all but one month averaged above normal,with several months at record breaking levels.)

Departures from normal in March 1986 ranged from 4 to 9 degrees above normal. Glenbrook and Carson City in Far Western Nevada, logged 4 - 4.5 degree plus averages, while Mtn. City and Austin in the Northeast were about 9° above normal for the month.

A new record high temperature for March was established for Nevada on the 28th when Laughlin reached 99°. The old record high for the month was a questionable 98° at Overton in Moapa Valley in March 1940. Las Vegas had 96 degrees on March 7, 1910. This is the second month in a row that Laughlin has established a new record high temperature for the State. A 93 degree reading was logged there during February.

Although no new high temperatures were established at other climate stations, three sites did tie their March maxima. Lovelock and Lahontan Dam with 80°, tied 1966, and Denio recorded 78°, which tied the 1960 March maximum. Records began in 1895 at Lovelock, 1912 at Lahontan Dam, and 1950 in Denio.

Heating requirements were unusually low for the third month in a row. Only 60 - 75% of the normal heating degree days have been logged during this three month period, varying from 60% in portions of Central Nevada to near 75% in parts of the Northeast. Since records began in the 1870's and 1880's, only January-March 1934 had fewer heating requirements for the first three months of the year.

PRECIPITATION

Great variation in precipitation was the rule over Nevada, with more than twice the normal amount occurring in Yerington (.78, 211%) and Denio (2.05, 241%), with the latter location logging the wettest March since records began in 1950. At the other end of the rain gauge sticks, Fallon, Lovelock, and Lahontan Dam in the West and Tonopah in Central Nevada, had less than 40% of normal precipitation (less than .15").

Heaviest amounts of precipitation fell in the Sierra Nevada, where Incline had 3.79", Glenbrook 2.71", Zephyr Cove 2.78", and Stateline 2.26". Another wet area was around Pioche, in Lincoln County north of Caliente, where 2.88" fell.

The greatest snowfall at daily reporting sites, also occurred in the Sierra, with 25" at Daggett Pass and 16" at Incline, both well below normal, as unusually mild temperatures caused more rain than snow below the 7500 foot level. At months end Tahoe Meadows at an elevation of 8500 feet on the south slope of Mt. Rose south of Reno, had a snowpack of 152" with a water content of 70".

Winter half-year precipitation (November through April) is now above normal over all but a small portion of Southern Nevada, and over 150% of normal in the watersheds of the Sierra Nevada eastern slopes.

SUNSHINE AND WIND

Sunshine hours were well above normal in the northeastern one-half of Nevada where Winnemucca logged 71% of the possible hours (normal is 57%) and Ely had 84% versus a normal of only 70%. In the remainder of the State sunshine hours were near normal. For example, Reno had 75% with an average of 76%, and Las Vegas 82% of the possible hours versus an average of 83%.

Wind averages were above normal in all but the Northeast, with measured peak gusts reaching slightly over 50 mph in Las Vegas and near Reno early in the month.

John W. James
State Climatologist for Nevada

MARCH 1986
PRELIMINARY NEVADA CLIMATE DATA

LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGH	LOW	HEATING DEGREE DAYS BASE=65	DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	GR. 24 HR	SNOW FALL
NORTHWEST													
CARSON CITY	4650'	59.7	32.5	46.1	+4.6	27TH 76	18TH* 21	586	-157	1.73	+ .73	8TH 1.03	-
DAGGETT PASS	7380	48.5	29.5	39.0	-	29TH 66	29TH 16	-	-	-	-	8TH 1.68	25"
DENIO	4158	61.4	31.8	46.6	+7.2	29TH* 78	18TH 20	-	-	2.05	+1.20	8TH 1.47	3"
DUFERRENA	4800	-	-	-	-	-	18TH 20	-	-	1.72	-	-	-
FALLON EXP. STATION	3965	63.2	31.6	47.5	+4.7	29TH 78	18TH 18	545	-143	.05	- .35	30TH* .02	0"
FALLON NAS	3935	67.0	37.0	52.0	+8.0	29TH 84	18TH* 22	-	-	.21	+ .28	10TH .04	T
GERLACH	3800	60.8	36.6	48.7	-	30TH 77	19TH 28	-	-	.68	-	10TH .19	-
GLENBROOK	6530	50.5	30.6	40.6	+4.2	29TH 64	17TH 19	-	-	2.71	+ .61	-	-
INCLINE	6525	49.3	29.9	39.6	-	28TH 67	17TH 16	-	-	3.79	-	8TH 1.90	16"
LAHONTAN DAM	4150	64.9	39.8	52.4	+8.9	28TH 80	19TH 28	-	-	.14	- .21	18TH .11	-
LOVELOCK	3957	63.2	31.7	47.5	+6.5	29TH 80	18TH 19	545	-199	.14	- .28	-	-
MINDEN AP	4709	61.6	27.9	44.8	+5.3	30TH* 76	19TH* 20	639	-152	.13	- .69	8TH .07	-
OROVADA	4310	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	.45	- .57	-	-

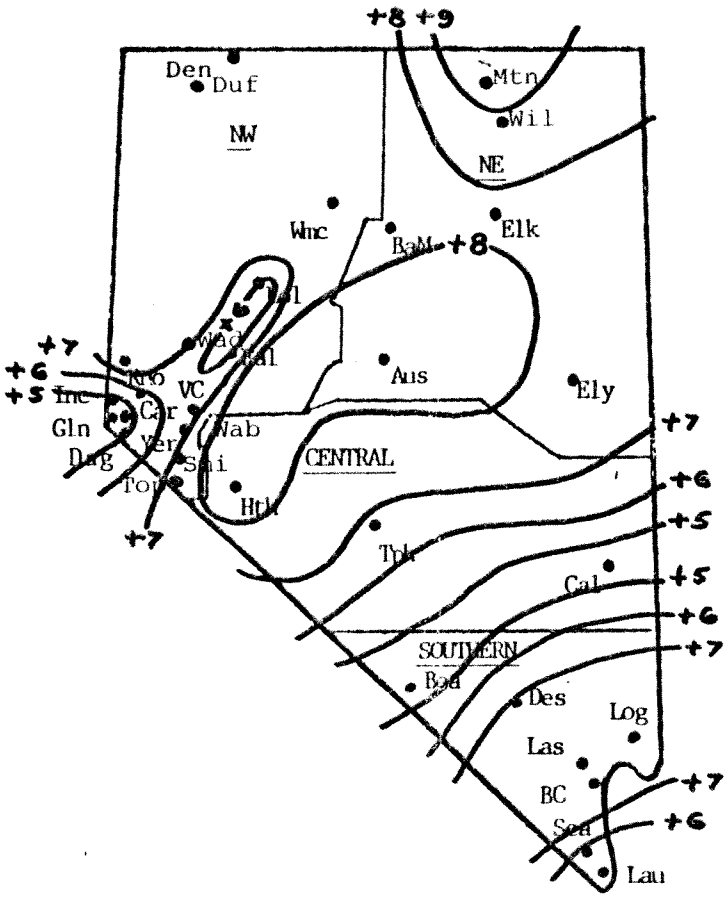
LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGH	LOW	HEATING DEGREE DAYS BASE=65	DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	24 HR	SNOW FALL
RENO WSFO AP	4405'	61.5	33.9	47.7	+7.1	29TH 77	17TH 20	528	-228	.88	+ .14	8TH .59	1.5"
RENO UNR	4550	60.8	37.1	49.0	-	29TH* 76	17TH 23	-	-	.96	-	8TH .60	T
SMITH 6N	5000	61.8	28.5	45.2	+5.2	29TH 76	15TH 13	-	-	.90	+ .01	7TH .71	0"
VIRGINIA CITY	6340	54.2	36.2	45.2	+6.2	29TH 71	13TH 24	612	-194	1.34	+ .46	7TH .55	4"
WABUSKA 5SE	4300	63.8	30.5	47.2	-	29TH* 78	18TH 19	-	-	.74	-	8TH .59	0"
WADSWORTH	4200	63.4	31.6	47.5	-	30TH 79	18TH* 20	-	-	.43	-	8TH .30	-
WINNEMUCCA	4295	60.8	30.7	45.8	+7.1	29TH* 77	18TH 19	590	-225	.39	- .28	8TH .11	2"
YERINGTON	4375	63.5	34.8	49.2	+6.6	27TH 79	14TH 22	485	-190	.78	+ .41	8TH .62	T
NORTHEAST AUSTIN	6605	56.1	31.9	44.0	+8.7	27TH 71	18TH 16	651	-271	.93	- .47	-	-
BATTLE MT. AP	4340	NO DATA RECEIVED											
ELKO	5075	58.8	28.8	43.8	+7.8	28TH* 75	13TH 20	650	-249	.52	- .33	12TH .18	2"
ELY	6260	55.8	26.1	41.1	+7.7	28TH 71	13TH 8	737	-243	1.47	+ .56	8TH .67	7.5"
MTN. CITY	5641	54.0	25.2	39.6	+9.2	28TH 70	13TH 11	-	-	1.15	+ .21	8TH .42	-
WILDHORSE RES.	5641	50.5	23.3	36.9	-	28TH 68	12TH 11	865	-	1.03	-	10TH .21	7"

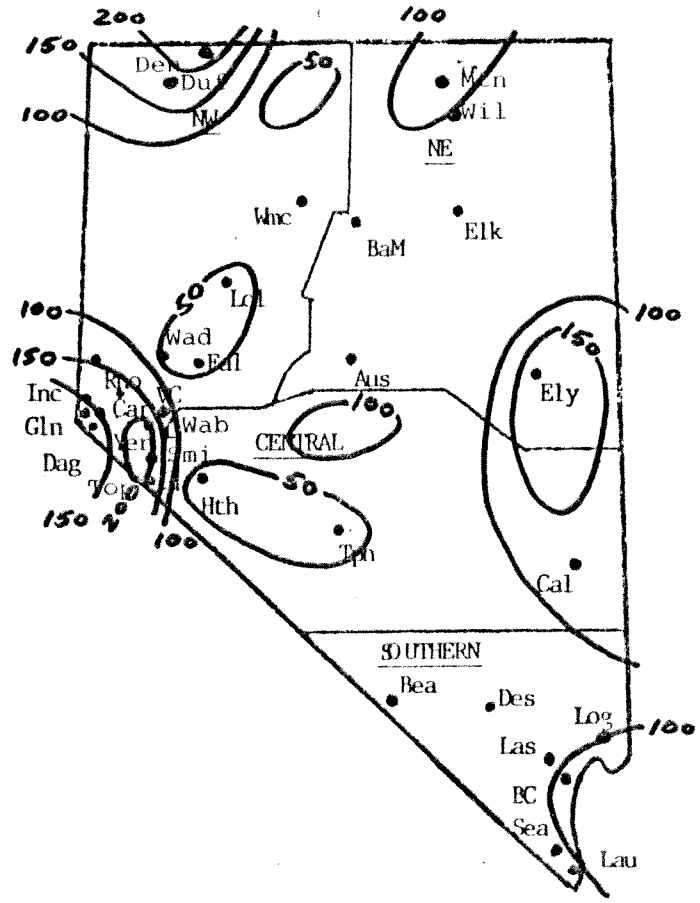
LOCATION	ELEV	MAX	MIN	MEAN	DEPART	HIGH	LOW	HEATING DEGREE DAYS BASE=65	DEPART	PRECIP	DEPART	GR. 24 HR	SNOW FALL
CENTRAL													
CALIENTE	4400'	63.5	32.4	48.0	+4.6	28TH 80	19TH* 24	528	-142	1.21	+ .24	-	-
DYER 4SE	4975	NO DATA RECEIVED											
HAWTHORNE	4215	66.7	38.7	52.7	+8.4	27TH 81	14TH 27	382	-247	.18	- .21	-	-
SMOKEY VALLEY	5625	59.5	29.0	44.3	+4.8	28TH 74	14TH 19	-	-	.64	+ .04	10TH .32	T
SUNNYSIDE	5300	61.2	30.8	46.0	-	28TH 76	15TH 17	-	-	1.50	-	8TH .51	7"
TONOPAH AP	5425	60.7	33.9	47.3	+6.9	28TH 76	15TH 21	549	-186	.14	- .25	-	-
SOUTHERN													
BEATTY	3550	68.5	40.1	54.3	+4.7	28TH 84	15TH 27	334	-147	.37	- .08	10TH .18	0"
BOULDER CITY	2525	75.2	52.1	63.7	+7.3	30TH* 87	13TH 39	138	-163	.83	+ .09	18TH .42	0"
DESERT ROCK	3300	70.3	44.5	57.4	+7.2	27TH 84	15TH 34	242	-211	.92	- .29	13TH .35	0"
LAS VEGAS	2160	75.8	50.2	63.0	+7.7	28TH 89	13TH 40	123	-190	.32	- .09	10TH .17	0"
LAUGHLIN	550	84.2	50.5	67.4	-	28TH 99	12TH 41	63	-	.67	-	10TH .25	0"
LOGANDALE	1320	79.5	46.3	62.9	-	27TH 94	10TH 34	-	-	.60	-	17TH .19	0"
SEARCHLIGHT	3540	69.6	46.2	57.9	+5.8	28TH* 83	13TH 33	-	-	.71	- .07	11TH .30	0"

*LATEST OF MORE THAN ONE OCCURRENCE
NOTE: NORMALS BASED ON 1951-80 PERIOD

DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE
FROM NORMAL (F°)

MARCH 1986



PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

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