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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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DECEMBER 1992
VOLUME 11, NUMBER 12

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SYNOPSIS

December was cold and wet over most of the Silver State. This was the second month in a row with below normal temperatures. This is quite a contrast to the past six years that have had mostly warmer than normal conditions. The 1.71" total in Las Vegas was five and a half times the normal of .32", for the second wettest December since the combined downtown/airport records began 86 years ago. The wet month also capped the second wettest year on record, with the 9.36" being over twice normal, but short of the 1941 record of 10.72".

Except for the central portion of the State, 3-month 1992-93 Water Year totals are well above normal, and generally the wettest start to a Water Year in the past ten years. All of this bodes well for drought relief in some areas if it continues.

TEMPERATURE

Departures from normal December temperatures ranged from 6-7 degrees below normal in the Northeast to 2-3 degrees below in portions of the Northwest and South. This was a result of persistently cool temperatures rather than extreme cold. In fact, coldest readings were 20-25 degrees warmer than State records. For example, Wildhorse Reservoir had -26 on the 6th, San Jacinto -22 on the 18th, Deeth -21, and Reese River -20. In January 1937 San Jacinto had -50 for the alltime State record. The December record was set two years ago when Mountain City recorded -46.

Warmth was hard to come by this December as the highest the mercury could rise was 67 degrees at Amargosa Farms on the 2nd. Fallon had 65 on the 10th, and Cottonwood Cove and Callville Bay 64 on the 30th. This is far below the December record of 91 degrees set in Las Vegas in 1910.

PRECIPITATION

Except for a swath across the central portion of Nevada December was a very wet month. Most of the State had one and a half to two times normal, with over three times average in the north-central and southern portions of the Silver State.

The wettest reporting site was 7,500 foot Verdi Peak near Reno where the Mattson family measured 22.52" of precipitation and 174" of snowfall. 4.51" and 39" of snow fell on the 29th.

Byrne Falke had 11.65" and 111" of snow at 7,800 foot Upper Incline at Lake Tahoe. Some other high totals were 10.70" at Daggett Pass, 7.55" measured by Norris Barsumian at Woodfords, 6.59" and 49" of snow at Kyle Canyon on Mt. Charleston, 6.35" at Sheridan Acres near Minden, 4.65" at Geoff Dornan's Raleigh Heights home near Reno, and 4.57" of precipitation, and 52" of snow at Tuscarora. Virginia City Fire Department had 4.51" and 54" of snow.

In Central Nevada precipitation gages got very little use, with no measurable rain/snow at Duckwater, .11" at Tonopah Airport (.55" fell downtown), .18" at Walker Lake, .22" at Hawthorne, and .25" at Blue Eagle Hanks Ranch.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Unusual stormy conditions caused below normal sunshine hours this month in all but central Nevada. Reno had 54 percent of the possible hours and an average of 64 percent, while Las Vegas had 77 percent and an average of 79 percent.

Wind speeds were also a reflection of frequent airmass changes, with above normal readings statewide. Peak gusts reached over 80 mph in southwest Reno on the 17th, with some damage to trees, fences and roofs.

Evaporation was only measured at two locations: Overton had 2.68" and Boulder City 2.87" of pan evaporation, both of which were below normal.

NOTE: The coldest and warmest January and February temperatures?

January	-50	at San Jacinto in 1937
	84	at Logandale in 1931
February	-42	at Carlin Newmont in 1989
	93	at Laughlin in 1986

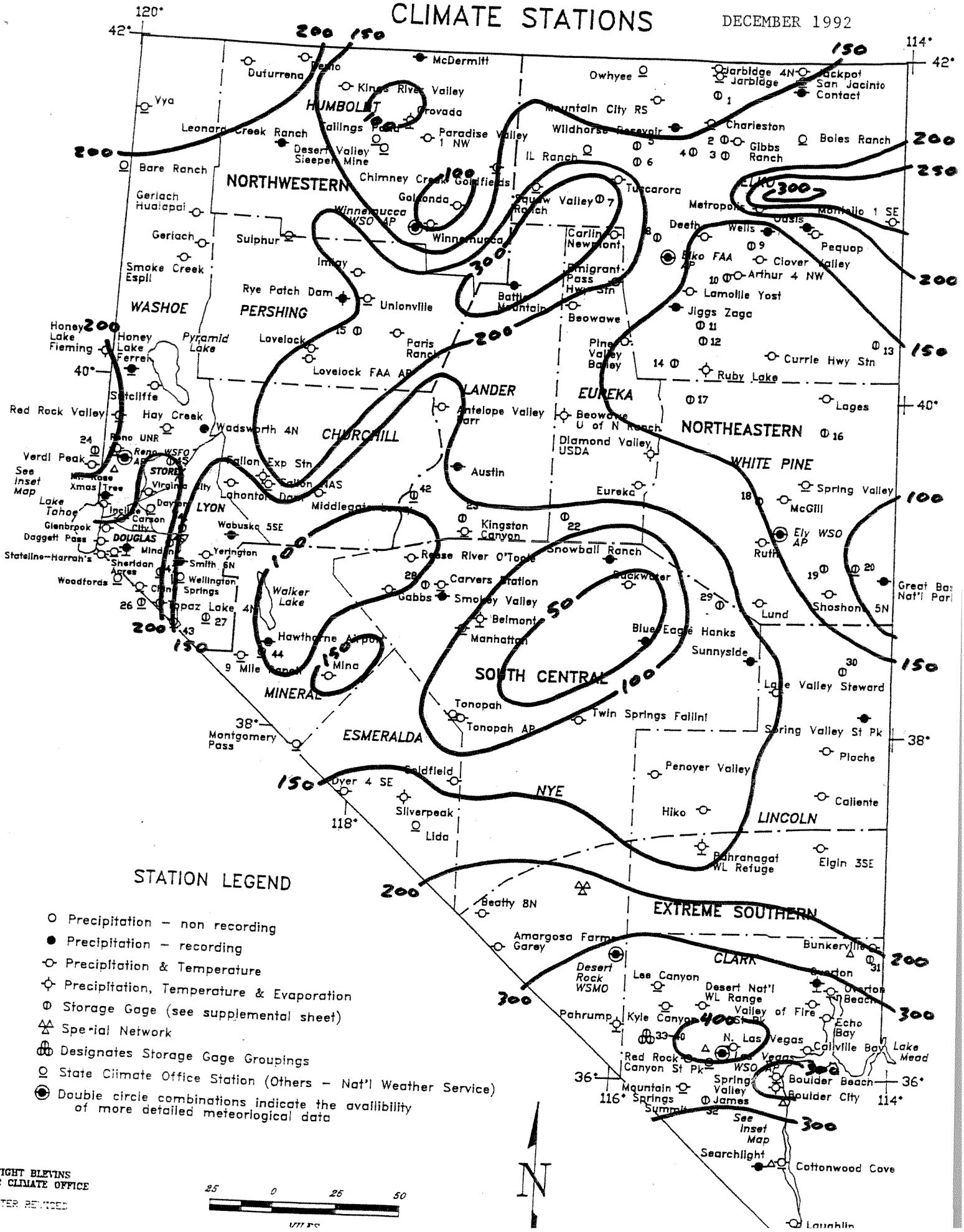
John W. James
State Climatologist

NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

DECEMBER 1992



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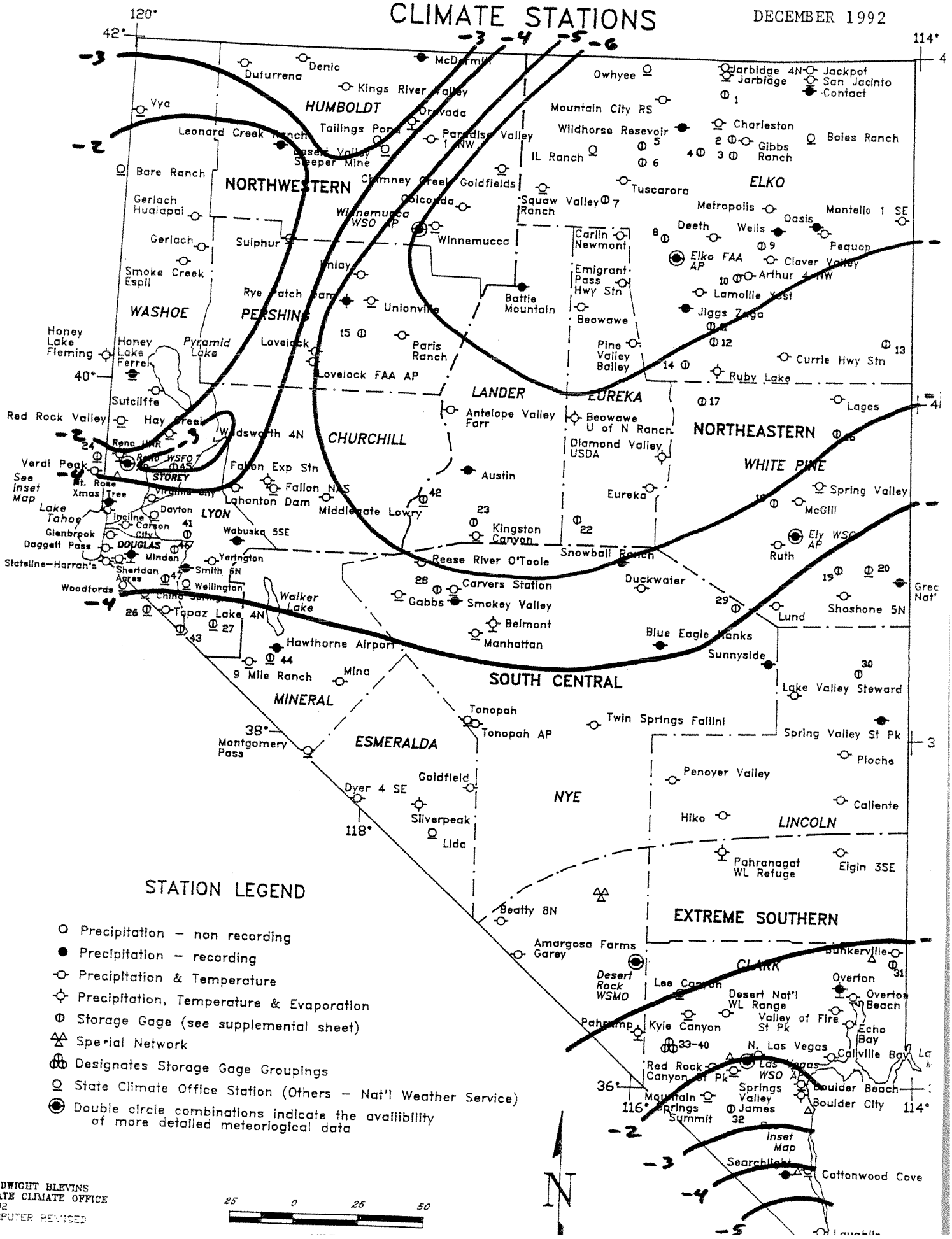
NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERAT
FROM NORMAL (F°)

DECEMBER 1992



STATION LEGEND

- ○ Precipitation – non recording
- ● Precipitation – recording
- Precipitation & Temperature
- Precipitation, Temperature & Evaporation
- Storage Gage (see supplemental sheet)
- Special Network
- Designates Storage Gage Groupings
- State Climate Office Station (Others – Nat'l Weather Service)
- Double circle combinations indicate the availibility of more detailed meteorlogical data

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