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NEVADA CLIMATE SUMMARY

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STATE PUBLICATIONS

Office of the State Climatologist

NOVEMBER 1992
VOLUME 11, NUMBER 11

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SYNOPSIS

Temperatures averaged below normal over all of Nevada for the first time in one and a half years. Except for Elko County and scattered locations in the northwestern corner of the State, it was also a much drier than normal month. At the end of the month, mountain snowpacks were almost non-existent. Only higher elevations in Elko County have a significant pack. Many locations in the Silver State had no measureable precipitation this month.

The outstanding weather occurrence this month was the -30 degrees recorded by Frank Prunty at Charleston on the 25th. This breaks one of the State's oldest records of -23 degrees set at Wells on Nov. 27, 1896, for the coldest November reading in State records that go back 120 years.

TEMPERATURE

In addition to the record low at Charleston, the mercury fell to -25 at Wildhorse Reservoir, -21 at Pine Valley Bailey, -18 at Mountain City, -15 at Ruth, and -14 at Deeth. The -14 at Deeth was only 2 degrees higher than the 40-year November record for that site, set in 1969. The same was true for Pahrump, where the 13 degree reading of the 26th was near the 45-year November low set in 1989. November's extreme maximum temperature record for Nevada (98 degrees at Mesquite in 1944) was not approached, as thermometers could only rise to 83 at Callville Bay and Amargosa Farms, and to 82 at the North Las Vegas Fire Department on the 3rd.

Departures from normal November temperatures were generally in the 2 to 4 degree range below normal Statewide. The only exceptions were -5 to -6 degrees below in portions of the Northeast, and near normal in the valleys of Far Western Nevada east of the Sierra Nevada and near Lake Mead.

Heating degree days were above normal as homes, businesses, public buildings, etc. in most areas had to cope with below normal temperatures.

PRECIPITATION

Most of Nevada was drier than normal this month. In fact, many locations had no rain/snow. In general, Elko County and the northern portions of Eureka, Washoe and Humboldt Counties were

wetter than normal, as the winter storm track stayed mostly north of the State. Over one and a half times the normal November precipitation was measured at Vya and Bare Ranch in extreme northern Washoe County, with nearby Ft. Bidwell, CA recording about three times normal. In the Northeast, the Jarbidge, and Jackpot-San Jacinto-Contact region in the Salmon Falls River Valley also had over one and a half times normal. In addition Ruby Valley, along the east slopes of the Ruby Mountains, and Emigrant Pass, west of Elko, also enjoyed at least one and a half times the normal November rain/snow.

The wettest reporting site in Nevada was Jarbidge (very near the Nevada border, Ft. Bidwell, CA had 3.17"), where Robert Karstaedt measured 2.98" with 1.14" on the 1st, and fourteen days of measureable rain/snow. The 14" monthly snowfall here also topped State "inhabited" reporting locations. At nearby Jarbidge 4N Betsy Williams had 2.55" and 13" of snow. Some other wet locations were Emigrant Pass Highway Station, 2.29", and Ruby Lake U.S. Fish & Wildlife 2.15", with 1.14" on the 1st. Other high snowfalls were 12" measured by Donna Andrews at Contact and 11" at the Farnes Egbert Ranch at Metropolis.

SUNSHINE, WIND & EVAPORATION

Sunshine hours were well above normal in all but portions of Elko County. Las Vegas had 89 percent of the possible hours (normal = 80%), Ely 81 percent (normal = 67%), Reno 78 percent (normal = 71%), and Winnemucca 74 percent (normal 55%).

Except for the eastern portion of the State, wind speeds also averaged above normal during November. Maximum gusts reached 47 mph at Sheridan Acres near Minden on the 19th, 58 mph at Smokey Valley Highway Station on the 22nd, and 68 mph in the southwest Reno foothills, also on the 22nd.

Most evaporation pans were stored for the winter, but Delmar Leatham at Overton measured a near normal 4.54" and Forrest Smith had 4.02" at the CalVada Golf Course at Pahrump. Boulder City USBR had a little above normal 5.19".

NOTE: At an early November meeting, the State Drought Review and Reporting Committee heard testimony from various water, weather/climate and agricultural experts, including the Agricultural Drought Task Force Chairman. Based on these reports the Drought Committee recommended that Governor Bob Miller declare an agricultural drought disaster in the State of Nevada, excluding Esmeralda, Lincoln and Clark counties. This was done by the Governor and the declaration was forwarded to the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture in Washington, D.C. This will initiate action by the U.S. Government to put emergency disaster relief programs into operation in order to assist Nevada farmers and ranchers through this severe six year-long drought.

The State Drought Committee was appointed five years ago, and has been meeting monthly or bimonthly from Fall through Spring at various locations in the State. This is a voluntary group with no State funding support. Please contact any member of the Committee if you have questions about the drought, or would like to know about future meeting sites and times. Members are listed on the following page.

We wish you and yours a very Happy Holiday season!

John, Keirsten, and Ted

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Chairman of the Agricultural Task Force is:
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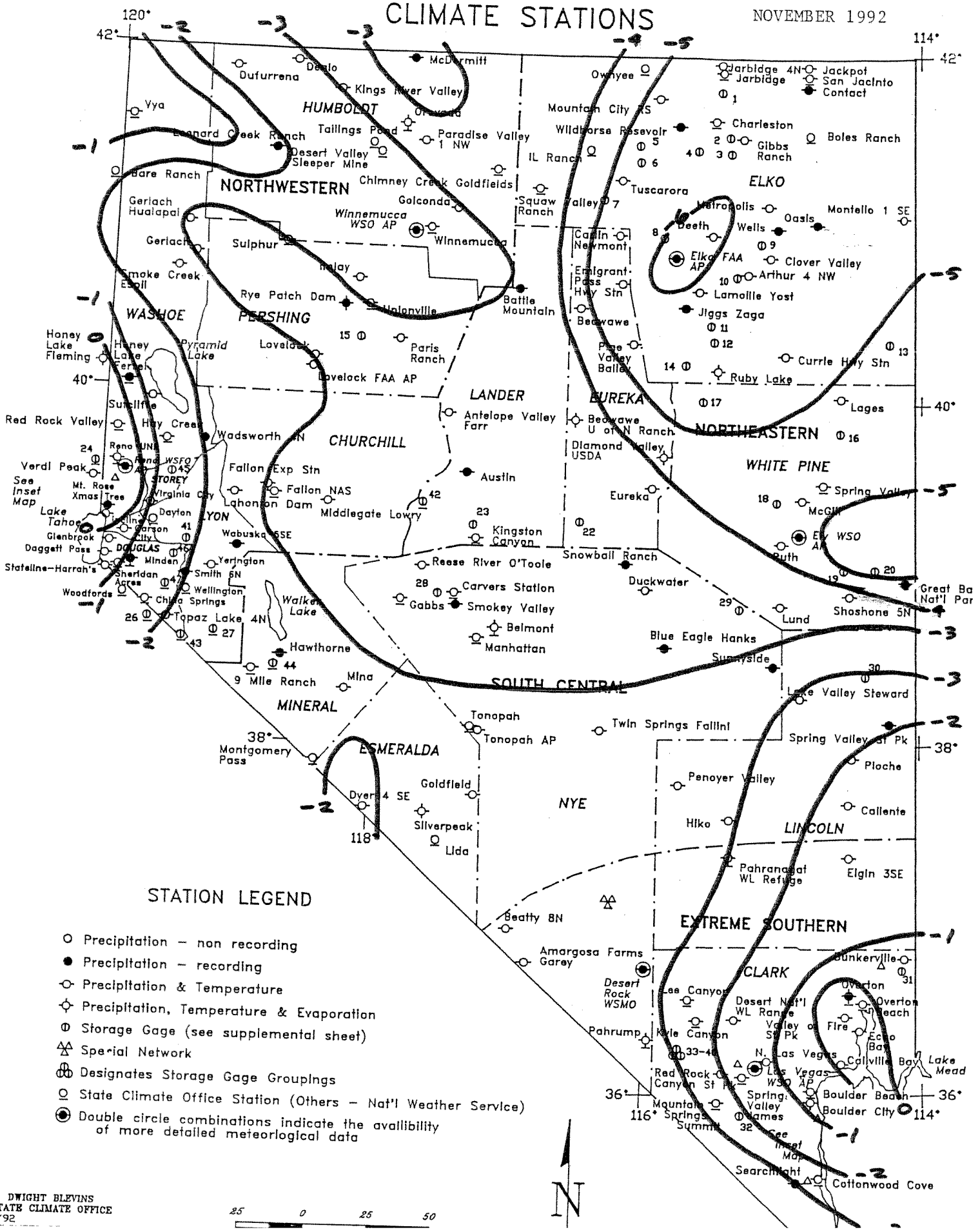
NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

DEPARTURE OF MEAN TEMPERATURE FROM NORMAL (F°)

NOVEMBER 1992



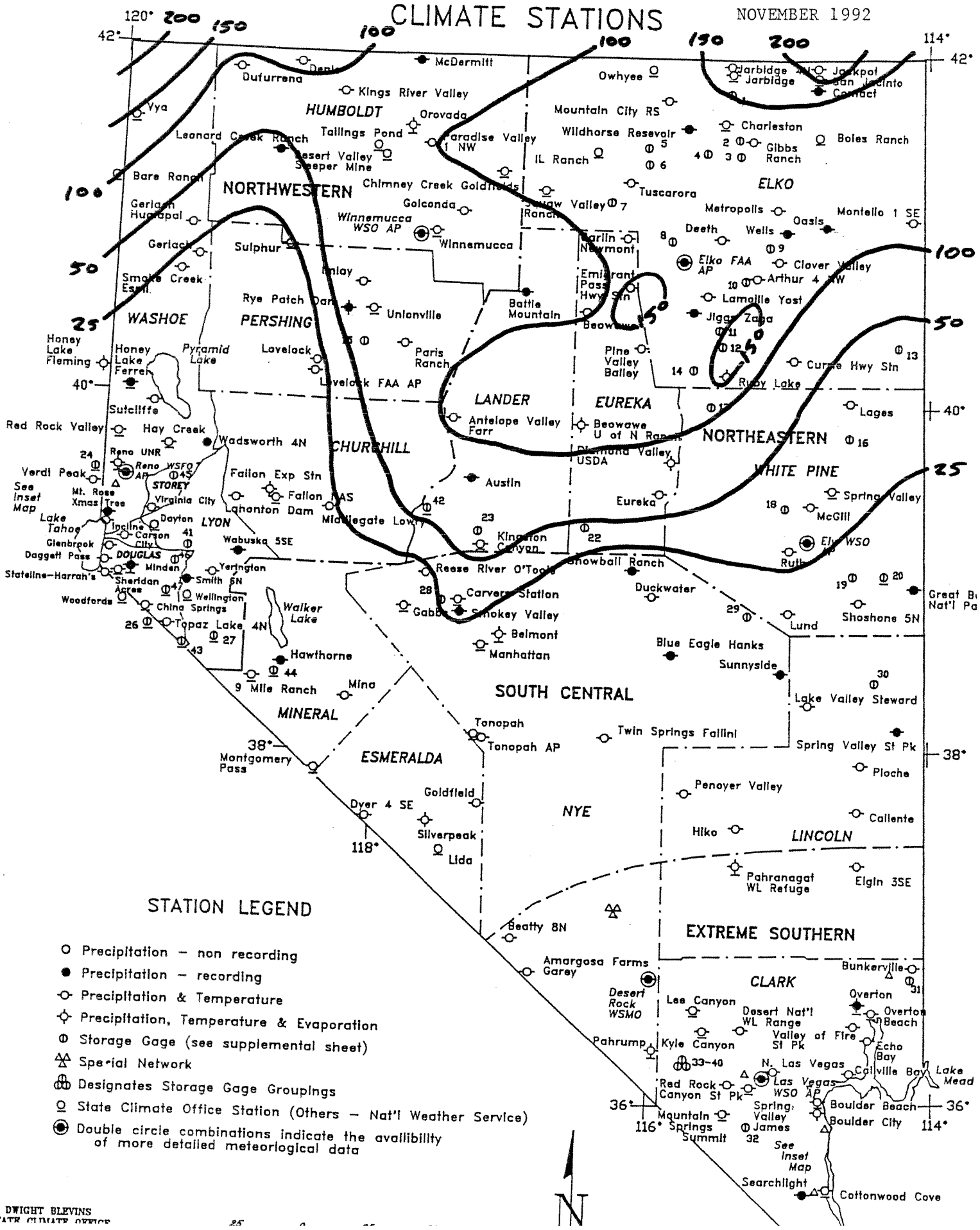
F. DWIGHT BLEVINS
STATE CLIMATE OFFICE
2/92

NEVADA

CLIMATE STATIONS

PERCENTAGE OF NORMAL PRECIPITATION

NOVEMBER 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 meteorological data

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STATE CLIMATE OFFICE