

May 15, 2012

Appendix A

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brian Nesvik  
Tom Ryder

FROM: Terry Creekmore

COPY TO: Rick King  
File

SUBJECT: 2012 Laramie Region Winter Conditions Summary

**2012 Laramie Region Winter Conditions Summary**

**Summary**

This report details winter conditions in the Laramie Region during the period from October 2011 to April 2012. Snow water equivalent, departure from normal precipitation, percent of normal precipitation and departure from normal temperature data are included.

In the Laramie Region, the winter of 2011-2012 was characterized by below normal precipitation, below normal snow water equivalent and above normal temperatures. Winter mortalities of mule deer were negligible and pronghorn mortalities were less than are seen during a typical winter. Damage claims, which are often indicative of winter severity, were lower this winter than last year. Lack of significant snow fall allowed big game animals to disperse somewhat rather than crowd onto winter ranges or haystacks.

The overall outlook for big game in the Laramie Region is good. Good overwinter survival should benefit mule deer and pronghorn populations although poor precipitation to date may result in decreased habitat conditions at the lower elevations and may negatively impact winter range conditions in the future.

A series of photos taken on Pumpkin Vine Hill southeast of Laramie are indicative of winter snow conditions in the lower elevations of the Laramie Region.

**Pumpkin Vine Hill, 7,767 feet**



January 7, 2012



February 8, 2012



March 6, 2012



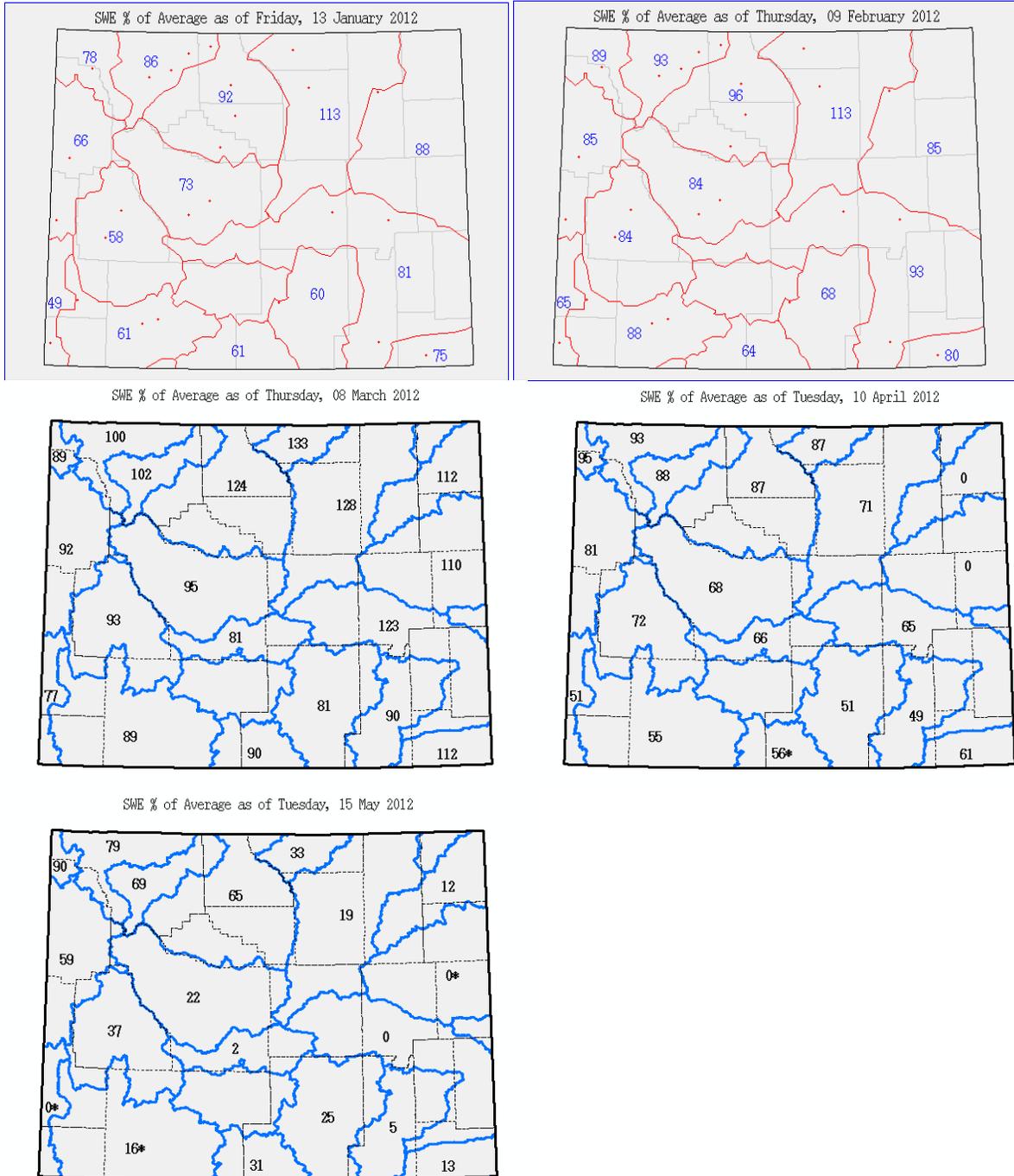
April 5, 2012



May 10, 2012

Snow water equivalent (SWE) was below average for the entire period spanning January 2011 to May 2012. During this period SWE for the Snowy Range was well below average (Range 25-81%) and as of May 15 was only 25% of average.

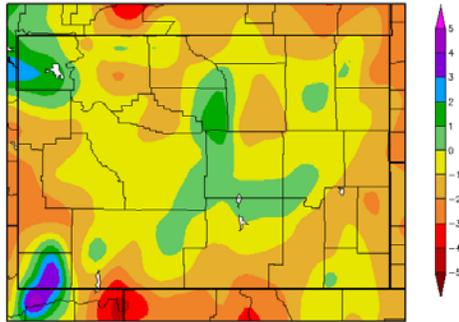
## Snow water equivalent through May 15, 2012



Departure from normal precipitation was near or below average for the entire period spanning January 2011 to April 2012. This is particularly evident during March 2012.

# Departure from Normal Precipitation

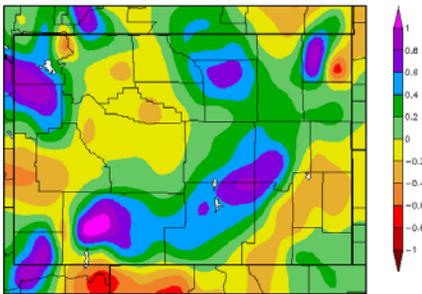
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
10/11/2011 - 4/10/2012



Generated 4/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

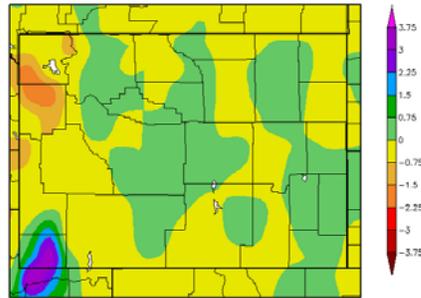
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
11/1/2011 - 11/30/2011



Generated 12/11/2011 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

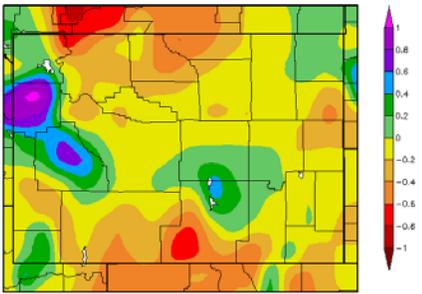
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
12/1/2011 - 12/31/2011



Generated 1/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

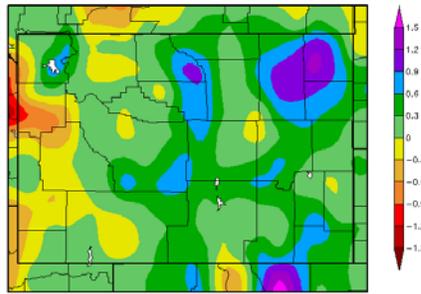
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
1/1/2012 - 1/31/2012



Generated 2/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

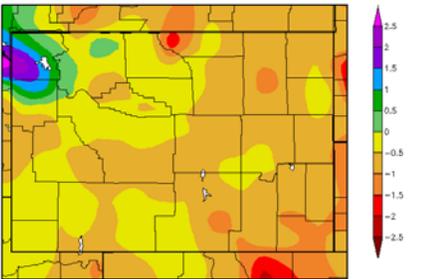
Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
2/1/2012 - 2/29/2012



Generated 3/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Precipitation (in)  
3/1/2012 - 3/31/2012



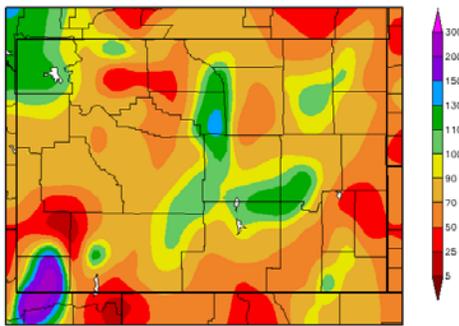
Generated 4/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

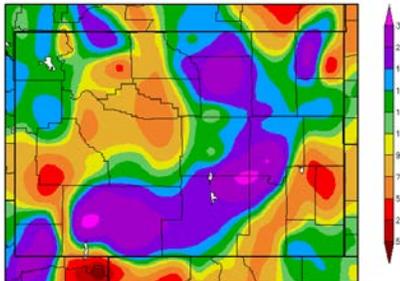
Percent of normal precipitation was below average for the entire period spanning January 2011 to April 2012. Above average precipitation during November and February failed to offset the lack of precipitation during January and in particular during March. This lack of precipitation during March contributed to the decline of the mean SWE for the Laramie Region from 94% on March 8 to 54% on April 10.

## Percent of Normal Precipitation

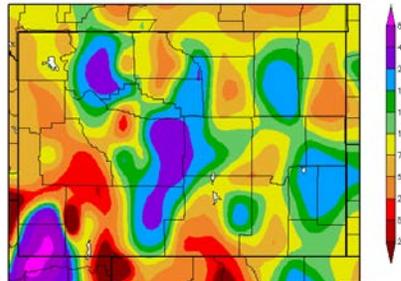
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
10/11/2011 - 4/10/2012



Generated 4/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.  
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
11/1/2011 - 11/30/2011



Regional Climate Centers  
Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
12/1/2011 - 12/31/2011



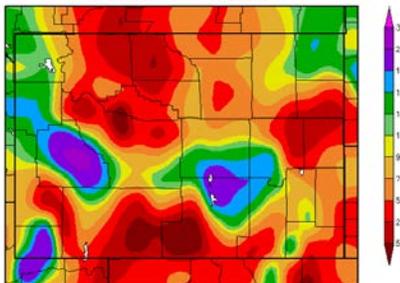
Generated 12/11/2011 at HPRCC using provisional data.

Regional Climate Centers

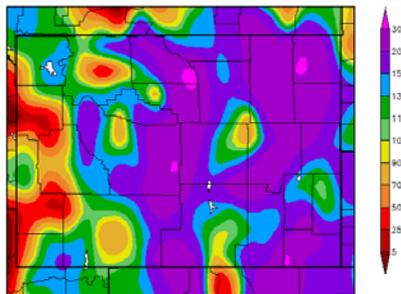
Generated 1/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

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Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
1/1/2012 - 1/31/2012



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
2/1/2012 - 2/29/2012

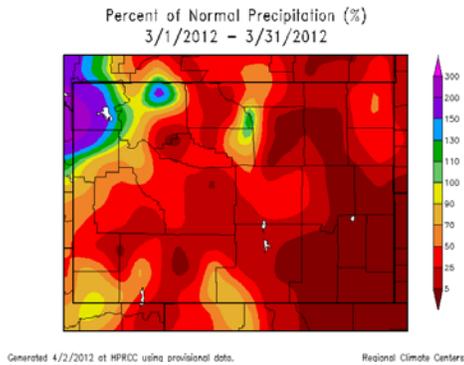


Generated 2/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

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Generated 3/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data.

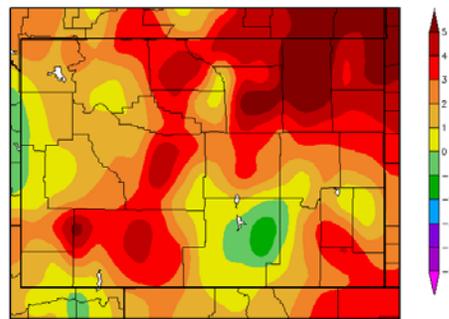
Regional Climate Centers



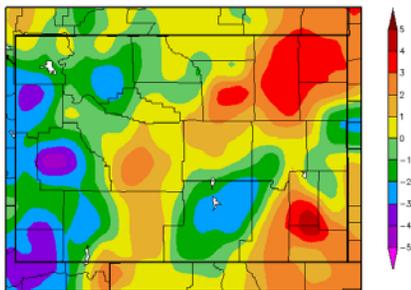
Departure from normal temperature maps indicate that the Laramie Region was above average for the entire period spanning January 2011 to April 2012. Slightly below normal temperatures during December and February contrast sharply with above normal temperatures during January and March.

### Departure from Normal Temperature

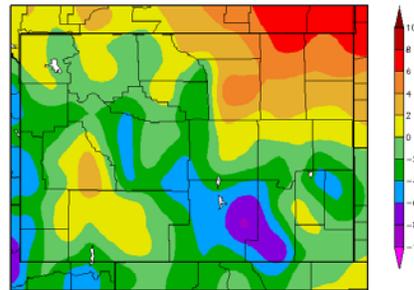
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
10/1/2011 - 4/10/2012



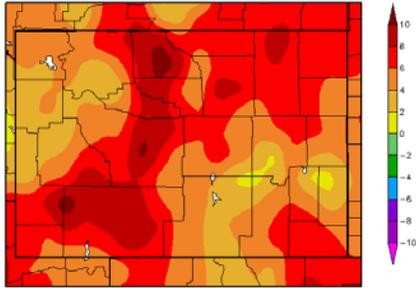
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
11/1/2011 - 11/30/2011



Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
12/1/2011 - 12/31/2011

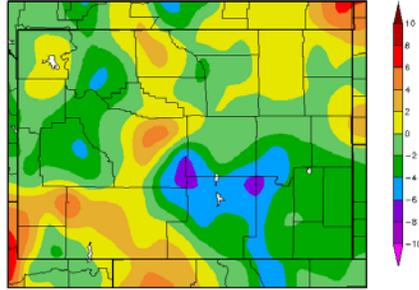


Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
1/1/2012 - 1/31/2012



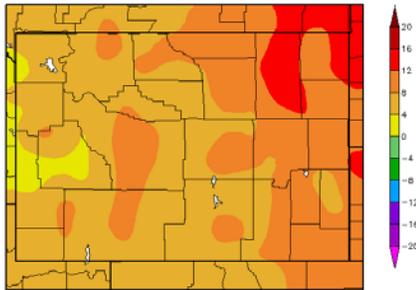
Generated 2/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data. Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
2/1/2012 - 2/29/2012



Generated 3/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data. Regional Climate Centers

Departure from Normal Temperature (F)  
3/1/2012 - 3/31/2012



Generated 4/11/2012 at HPRCC using provisional data. Regional Climate Centers