



North Dakota

Monthly Climate Summary

February 2011

Precipitation:

Precipitation ranged from roughly 5% to 200% of normal precipitation. Above normal precipitation fell primarily in the south central region and the western and southeastern edge. The majority of the state had 5% to 70% of normal precipitation (Figure 1. High Plains Regional Climate Center). Precipitation totals ranged mostly from 0.01 to 0.7 inches. While it was the 6th driest February for Fargo, most of the state received roughly 0.05 to 0.1 inches of precipitation. According to the USDA, National Agricultural Statistics Service, North Dakota Field Office the statewide average snow depth was 15.6 inches on February 28 compared to 17.1 inches at this time last year. The mid-February thaw reduced the snowdepth. However, the National Weather Service reported that the moisture content in the snowpack in parts of the southern Red River Valley is higher than it was in 2009 when Fargo hit a record high crest. Spring flood preparations started in the Fargo-Moorhead area as sandbag operations went into full swing. The city of Fargo filled 1.5 million sand bags to date which is 50% of the total sandbags planned to be filled. The North Dakota National Guard began training exercises to prepare for the potential flood fight in the eastern part of the state.

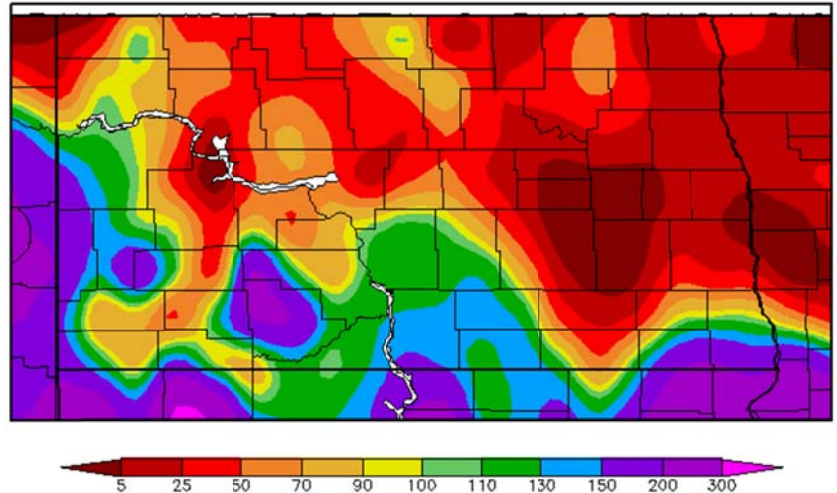


Figure 1. Precipitation Percent of Normal in February 2011 for North Dakota (High Plains Regional Climate Center)

Temperature:

The North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) February average air temperatures ranged from 5 °F to 13 °F. NDAWN departure from normal temperatures ranged from -1 °F to -10 °F (Figure 2. North Dakota State Climate Office). Average air temperatures were below normal across the state and would have dipped even further below normal if not for the 10 days of above normal temperatures. Average air temperatures were near or above 25 °F across North Dakota from the 3rd through the 5th, and from the 11th through the 17th. The above normal temperature melted some of the snow depth. The remaining days in February were cold with 10 °F to 25 °F below normal average air temperatures for most of the state.

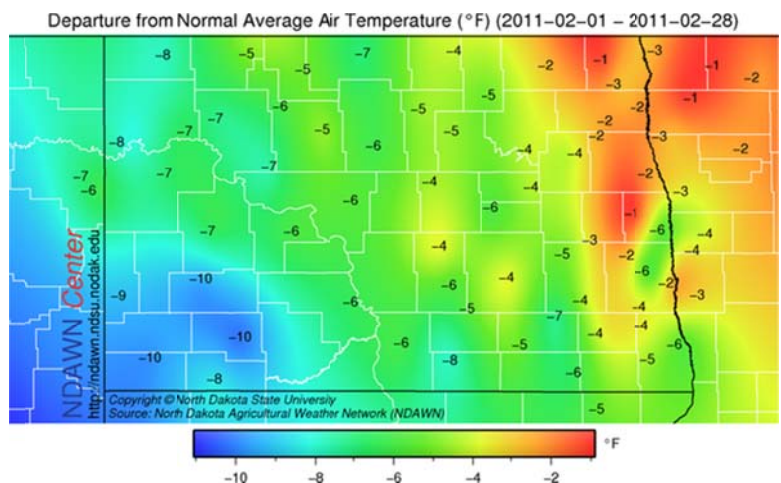


Figure 2. Temperature Departure from Normal in February 2011 for North Dakota (North Dakota State Climate Office)