

# Hottest year on record: 2012 State of the Climate

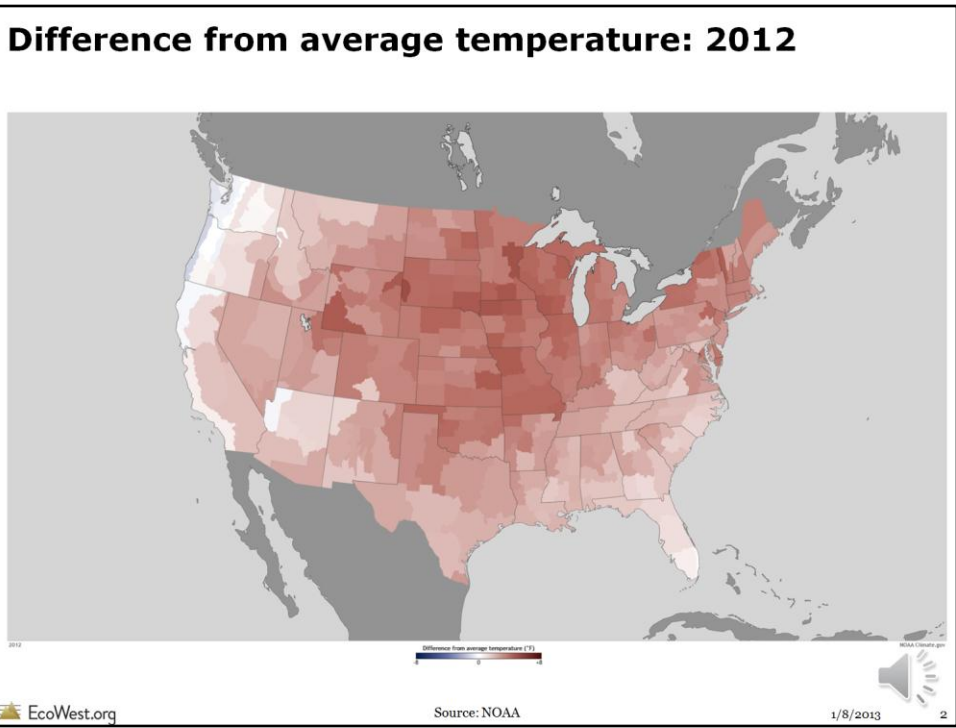


 EcoWest.org

1/8/2013



In this set of slides, we share findings from the federal government's 2012 State of the Climate report.



Narrative: 2012 was a year for the record books and the hottest on record for the United States since 1895. It was especially warm in the middle of the country and Northeast.

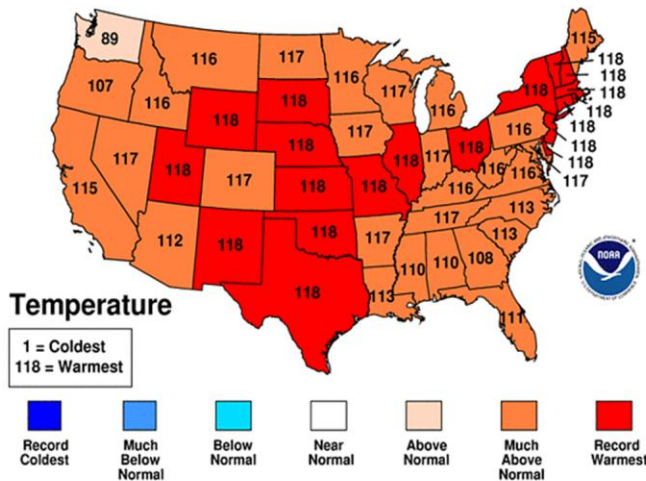
Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
URL: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/13>  
Notes:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/service/national/Statewidetrack/201201-201212.gif>

## Many states had their warmest years on record

### January-December 2012 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



EcoWest.org

Source: NOAA

1/8/2013

3

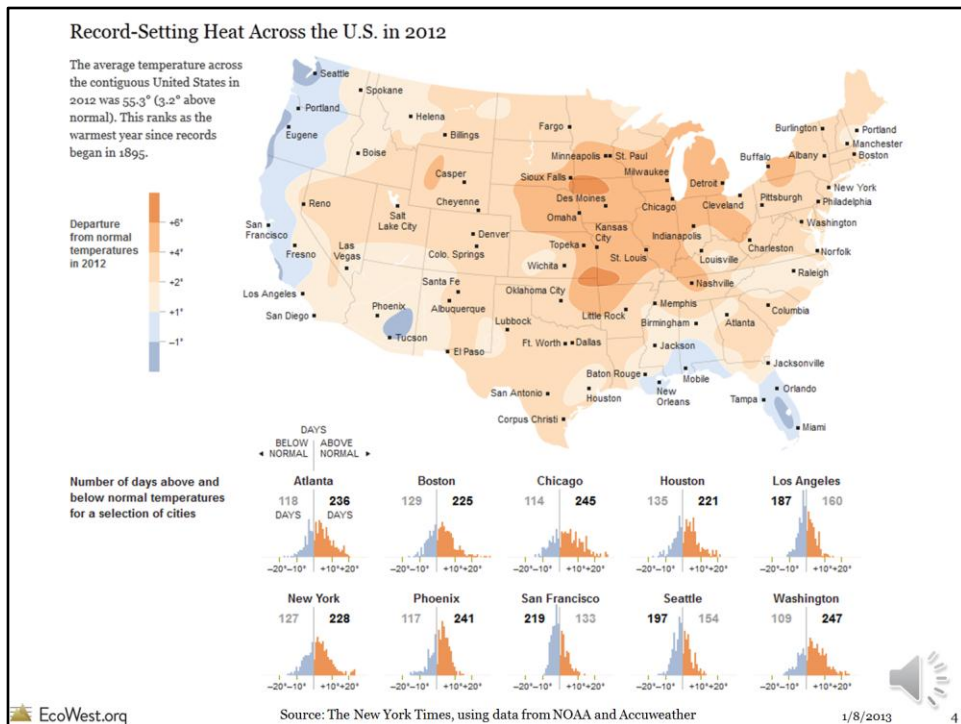
Narrative: Many states experienced their warmest conditions in the past 118 years and temperatures were above normal in every state.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

URL: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/13>

Notes:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/service/national/Statewidetrack/201201-201212.gif>



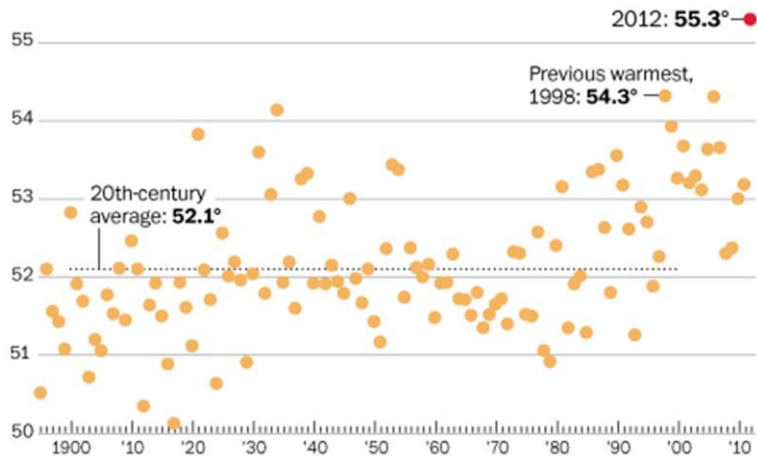
Narrative: Here's another look at 2012 temperatures and their departures from normal that The New York Times produced. Although the nation's midsection was exceptionally hot in 2012, parts of the Pacific Coast and Florida were colder than usual.

Source: The New York Times, using data from NOAA and Accuweather.

URL: <http://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2013/01/08/us/record-setting-heat-across-the-us-in-2012.html?ref=earth>

Notes: "The average temperature across the contiguous United States in 2012 was 55.3° (3.2° above normal). This ranks as the warmest year since records began in 1895. The number of days during which the average temperature was normal are not labeled on the charts."

## 2012: Hottest year on record



EcoWest.org

Source: The Washington Post, using NOAA data

1/8/2013



Narrative: The Washington Post plotted average temperatures over time and 2012 really stands out. It was a full degree warmer than the previous record, set in 1998 and 3.2 degrees hotter than the 20<sup>th</sup> century average.

Source: The Washington Post, using NOAA data

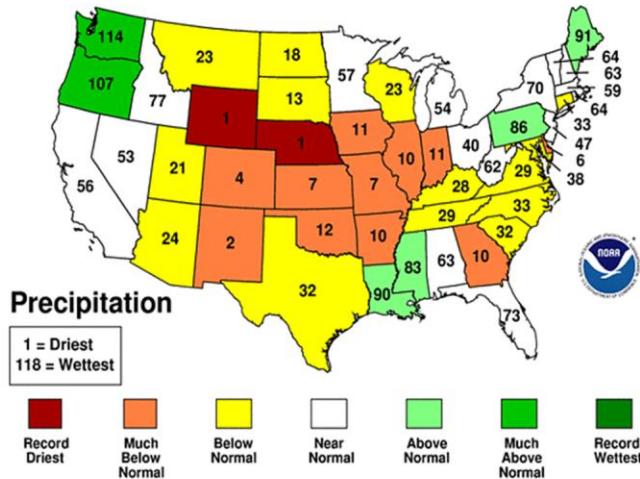
URL: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/2012-hottest-year-on-record/2013/01/08/29b8b7b4-59ba-11e2-88d0-c4cf65c3ad15\\_graphic.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/2012-hottest-year-on-record/2013/01/08/29b8b7b4-59ba-11e2-88d0-c4cf65c3ad15_graphic.html)

Notes:

## Nation's midsection was very dry

### January-December 2012 Statewide Ranks

National Climatic Data Center/NESDIS/NOAA



EcoWest.org

Source: NOAA

1/8/2013

6

Narrative: The story for precipitation was more varied. The middle of the country was gripped by drought, but it was wetter than normal in the Pacific Northwest.

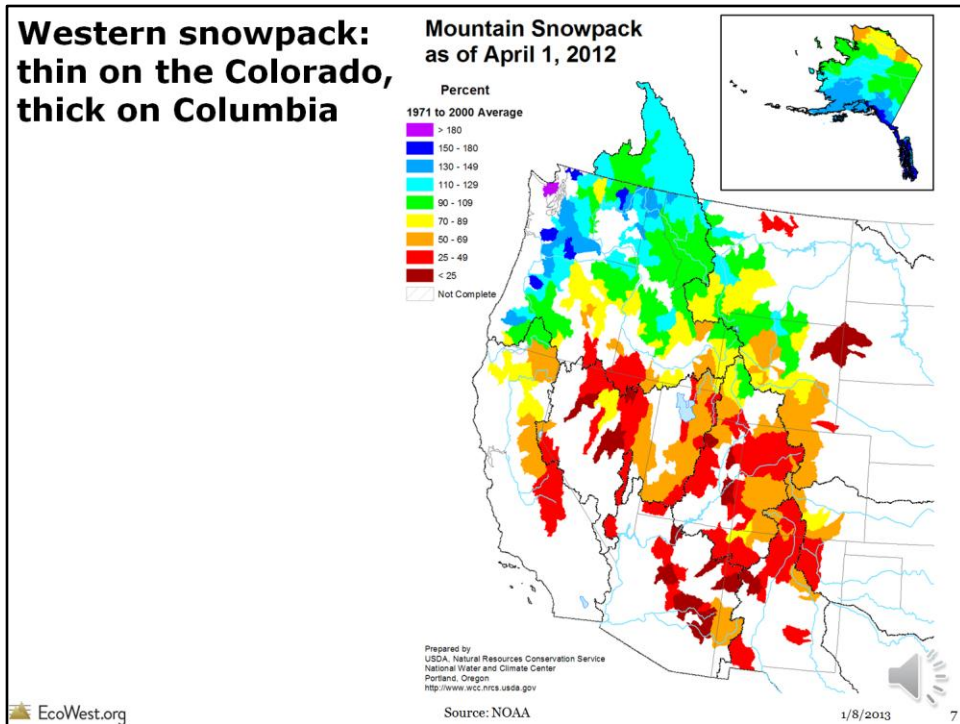
Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

URL: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/13>

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/service/national/Statewideprank/201>

201-201212.gif

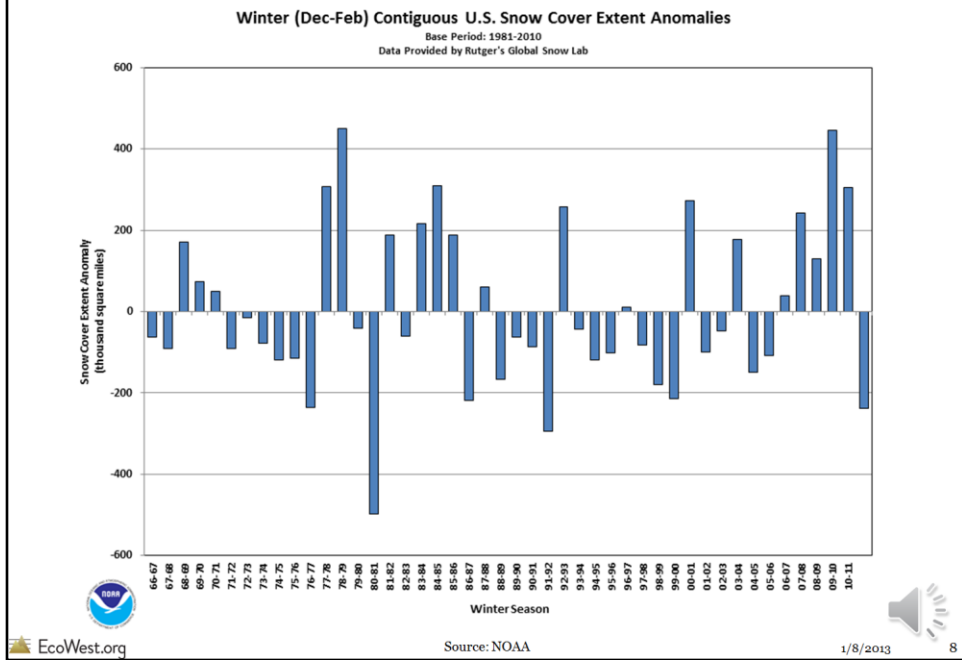
Notes:



Narrative: The West's snowpack, which is vital for filling streams, rivers, and reservoirs, was very thin in the Colorado River Basin but above normal in many parts of the Columbia River Basin.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 URL: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/13>  
<http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/images/snow/2012/apr/snow1204.gif>  
 Notes:

# Snow cover was meager in 2012



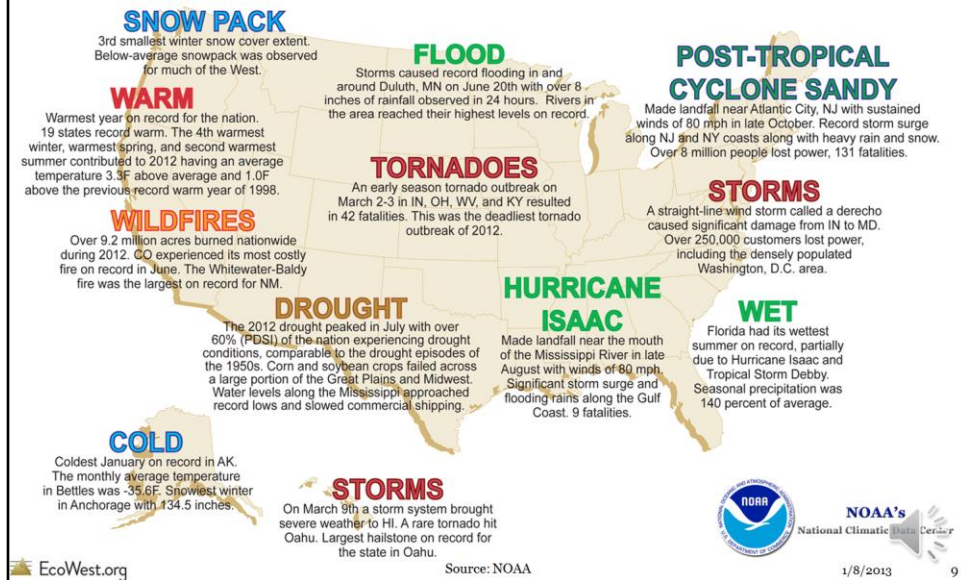
Narrative: Nationwide, the amount of snow covering the ground was at one of its lowest levels in decades.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 URL: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/13>  
[http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/images/snow/2012/feb/DJF\\_US\\_snowcover\\_anom.png](http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/images/snow/2012/feb/DJF_US_snowcover_anom.png)  
 Notes:

<http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/13>  
[http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/images/snow/2012/feb/DJF\\_US\\_snowcover\\_anom.png](http://www1.ncdc.noaa.gov/pub/data/cmb/images/snow/2012/feb/DJF_US_snowcover_anom.png)



# Preliminary Significant U.S. Weather and Climate Events for 2012



Narrative: There were also a large number of extreme weather events in 2012, including Superstorm Sandy and Hurricane Isaac. Out West, drought conditions led to a bad fire year in many areas, including Colorado, which suffered its most expensive blaze on record, and New Mexico, which witnessed its largest recorded wildfire.

Source: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 URL: <http://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/sotc/national/2012/13>  
 Notes:

Download more slides and other resources

ecowest.org

