

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
WEATHER BUREAU
Climatological Unit
Room 703, Federal Office Building
Seattle 4, Washington

February 1, 1950

DECEMBER - 1949
MONTHLY SUMMARY OF WEATHER IN WASHINGTON
(Preliminary Release)

December was moderately cold, with highly variable precipitation, although averaging near normal. The month contrasted strongly with the preceding month, November, which had been unseasonably warm. However, this December was much warmer than the same month in 1948 which had near record cold weather. Snowfall of the month was about 150 per cent of normal, due largely to excess amounts received in higher elevations.

The monthly average temperature was 32.9° which was 1.3° below the normal, averaging near normal east, and more than 2° below normal west of the Cascades. The month opened quite warm everywhere, then turned generally colder until the final week became variably above normal. Along the northeastern border it was severely cold in the period 19-21. There was considerable irregularity in temperature departures in eastern counties, south-central and southeastern stations showing averages above normal while most northeastern points were moderately subnormal. North Head Weather Bureau had the high monthly mean temperature 43.0° , while Chesaw had the lowest, 20.4° . The high daily maximum temperature occurred at Forks 1 E, 64° on the 1st, and lowest minimum was -17° at Lacrosse 3 ESE on the 20th.

The state monthly precipitation average, 5.34 inches was very nearly normal, although western counties averaged about 15 per cent above, and eastern about 25 per cent below normal. The eastern counties' deficiency was rather general except on the eastern slopes of the Cascade Mountains where a number of higher elevation stations had substantial excesses. Precipitation was rather well distributed through the month, except that west of the Cascades, the bulk was received in the final decade with very heavy rains about the 23rd and 27-28. The greatest monthly precipitation was 28.55 at Quinalt Ranger Station and the least, 0.05 inch at Prosser 4 NE. Forks 1 E had the greatest 24-hour precipitation, 5.22 inches on the 1st. The average snowfall, 16.8 inches, was more than 6 inches above normal, but this high average was the result rather of considerable depths at many mountain stations, especially on both sides of the Cascade watershed. There was a considerable rise in the Skagit, Snohomish, and other western rivers between the 27-29th, streams going over their banks but with only moderate damage. A short-lived, destructive wind, probably tornadic but of short duration, unroofed a house and damaged other buildings at Long Beach, Washington, on the 23rd. The total damage for the Long Beach windstorm was placed at \$1,000. Strong southwest winds toppled trees and communication lines in the Elwha Valley of northern Clallam County between Lake Crescent and Elwha on the 28th with considerable, but not fully estimated, damage.