

## january 2018

**A**mid intensifying drought and wild temperature variations, farmers across the southern half of the Plains watched rangeland, pastures, and winter wheat turn brown or wither. In contrast, snow periodically blanketed the northern Plains and upper Midwest, although early-January cold blasts locally resulted in temperatures below  $-40^{\circ}\text{F}$ .

Meanwhile, Western precipitation was often confined to the northern tier of the region except during one notable storm, on January 8–9. During that renegade storm, heavy rain swept across Southern California and the southern Great Basin. At the height of the event, mudslides and debris flows devastated several Southern California communities, some of which had recently dealt with wildfires.

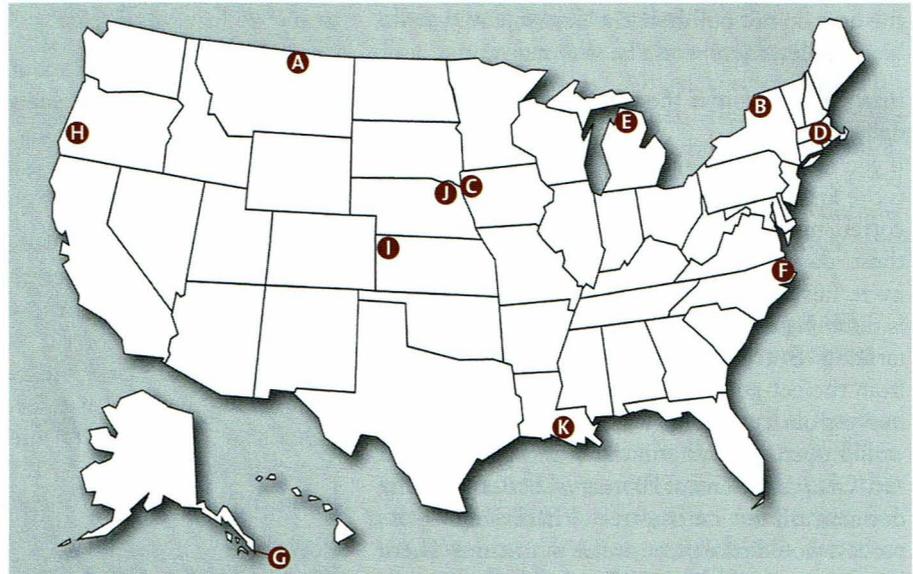
Outside of the western United States, one of the month's most significant storms brought blizzard conditions to parts of the Plains and upper Midwest on January 21–22. Snowfall totals locally in excess of a foot were reported from Nebraska into the upper Great Lakes region.

Elsewhere, periods of rain and wintry precipitation affected the South, East, and lower Midwest. Those regions also had to contend with early- to mid-month cold waves, including some of the South's coldest weather in nearly 30 years. The Southern cold wave, which peaked on January 17–18, was preceded by multiple rounds of snow.

### Nippy New Year

The New Year began amid a historic Midwestern cold wave. In fact,

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#### WEATHER OF NOTE: JANUARY 2018

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| A. $-36^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Turner, Montana, on the 1 <sup>st</sup>                | G. $66^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Annette Island, Alaska, on the 14 <sup>th</sup> |
| B. $-33^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Watertown, New York, on the 1 <sup>st</sup>            | H. $71^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Roseburg, Oregon, on the 17 <sup>th</sup>       |
| C. $-28^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Sioux City, Iowa, on the 2 <sup>nd</sup>               | I. $74^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Goodland, Kansas, on the 19 <sup>th</sup>       |
| D. 16.8 inches of snow in Worcester, Massachusetts, on the 4 <sup>th</sup>         | J. 14.6 inches of snow in Norfolk, Nebraska, on the 22 <sup>nd</sup>       |
| E. $-35^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Pellston, Michigan, on the 6 <sup>th</sup>             | K. 5 inches of snow in New Iberia, Louisiana, on the 27 <sup>th</sup>      |
| F. $73^{\circ}\text{F}$ in Elizabeth City, North Carolina, on the 12 <sup>th</sup> |  |

New Year's Eve (December 31) and New Year's Day (January 1) featured consecutive daily-record lows in locations such as Cedar Rapids, Iowa ( $-22^{\circ}\text{F}$  and  $-24^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), and Timber Lake, South Dakota ( $-31^{\circ}\text{F}$  and  $-32^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). On January 1, temperatures plunged to  $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$  or below and set daily records in Turner, Montana ( $-36^{\circ}\text{F}$ ); Kennebec, South Dakota ( $-35^{\circ}\text{F}$ ); Watertown, New York ( $-33^{\circ}\text{F}$ ); Havre, Montana ( $-32^{\circ}\text{F}$ );

Aberdeen, South Dakota ( $-32^{\circ}\text{F}$ ); Mobridge, South Dakota ( $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$ ); and Miles City, Montana ( $-30^{\circ}\text{F}$ ).

Farther south, sub-zero readings set records for New Year's Day in several locations, including Saint Joseph, Missouri ( $-14^{\circ}\text{F}$ ), and Garden City, Kansas ( $-9^{\circ}\text{F}$ ). Meanwhile in Illinois, record-setting minimum temperatures for January 1 dipped to  $-19^{\circ}\text{F}$  in Moline and  $-16^{\circ}\text{F}$  in Peoria. In fact, high tem-

peratures on New Year's Day remained below 0°F in Illinois locations such as Peoria, Lincoln, and Moline—all of which peaked at -2°F.

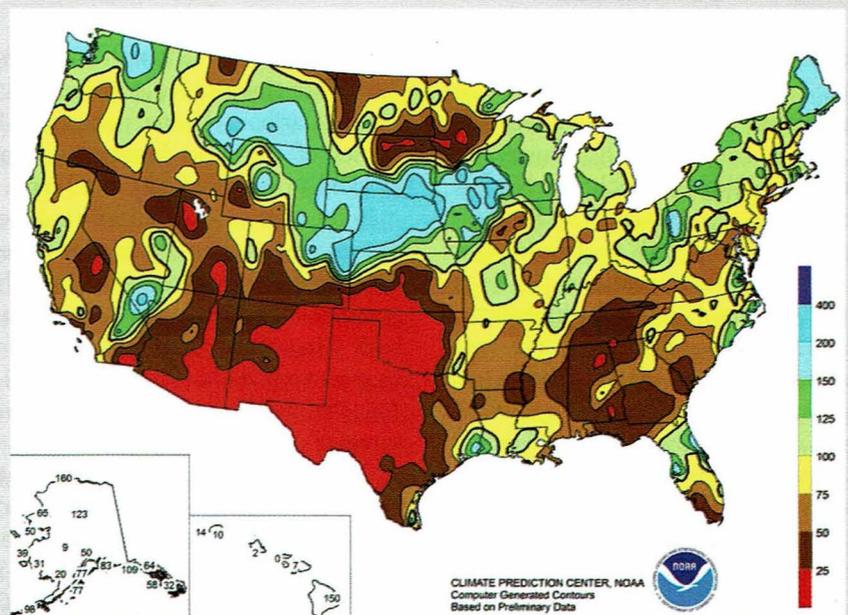
The brutally cold conditions continued through January 2, when Sioux City, Iowa (-28°F), experienced its fifth-lowest reading on record—and its lowest temperature since December 29, 1917. Cedar Rapids, Iowa, posted a third consecutive daily-record low on January 2, with a reading of -23°F.

In the lower Midwest, sub-zero daily records for January 2 included -13°F in Dayton, Ohio, and Fort Wayne, Indiana. From December 28–January 2, Glens Falls, New York, registered five daily-record lows in six days, tumbling to -25°F on the 2nd.

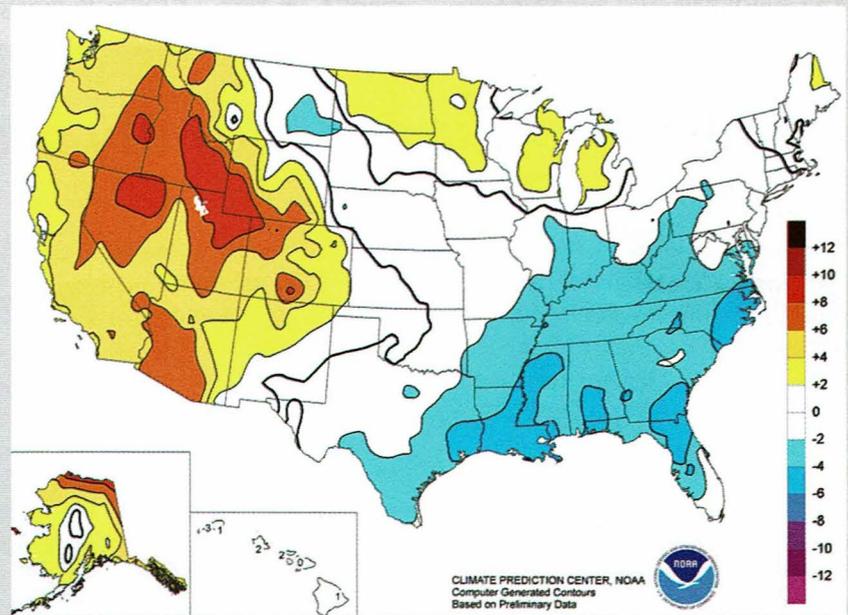
Later, cold air reached deep into the Southeast, with single-digit readings resulting in daily records in North Carolina locations such as New Bern (5°F on January 5) and Elizabeth City (4°F on January 6). Bitter cold also re-intensified in the Great Lakes region, where Pellston, Michigan, tallied consecutive daily-record lows (-33°F and -35°F, respectively) on January 5–6.

Temperatures in Indianapolis, Indiana, remained at or below 20°F for 12 consecutive days (December 26–January 6), breaking the station record of 10 days set from January 4–13, 1912; January 23–February 1, 1936; and January 2–11, 1979. And, the temperature in Saint Louis, Missouri, remained below 32°F on 14 consecutive days from December 26–January 6, which was the longest stretch of sub-freezing weather in that location since December 15–30, 1983. **Finally, Columbia, South Carolina, reported six consecutive days from January 2–7 with minimum temperatures below 20°F, breaking the record of five days that had been set several times, most recently from January 3–7, 2010.**

In stark contrast, several daily-record highs were set in California and the Southwest. On January 2, Woodland Hills, California, noted a daily-record high of 85°F. With a high of 81°F, Yuma, Arizona, logged a record-setting high for January 5.



Percent of normal precipitation, January 2018



Departure of average temperature from normal (°F), January 2018