



# THE ATMOSPHERIC RESERVOIR

*Examining the Atmosphere and Atmospheric Resource Management*

## A SOGGY SEPTEMBER

By Mark D. Schneider

Record monthly rainfall and erratic temperatures characterized the month of September in North Dakota. Of North Dakota's primary reporting sites, Grand Forks had its wettest month on record with 9.07 inches of precipitation, eclipsing the previous record of 7.54 inches set in 1957. Williston received a whopping 8.09 inches of precipitation, making it the wettest September on record since 1894 and its second wettest month of all time. In fact, we have to go all the way back to June of 1901, when Williston received 8.84 inches of precipitation, to top this year's soggy September. Garrison and Minot also reported their wettest September on record, while Bismarck and Jamestown finished with their second wettest September and Dickinson claimed its third wettest.

Other interesting weather records set during September were record high minimum temperatures. On the morning of September 17, Fargo's low temperature of 71°F was actually a degree warmer than the average high of 70°F on

that day. Amazingly, all of the reporting sites listed in the enclosed table remained above 32°F through the beginning of October. The warm overnight lows that North Dakota experienced were caused, in part, by moisture in the air. Dewpoint temperatures were abnormally high during September, preventing air temperatures from cooling off substantially. Cloud cover also helped trap solar radiation overnight, contributing to warmer temperatures.

With saturated soils and unharvested crops going into Autumn, most North Dakotans would agree that a below normal snow season would be quite welcome. After our soggy September, let's hope for a drier Fall, Winter, and Spring before next year's growing season.

REPORTING SITE	SEPTEMBER 2019	30 YEAR NORMAL	DIFFERENCE
Grand Forks	9.07"	2.05"	+7.02"
Garrison	8.96"	N/A	N/A
Williston	8.09"	1.06"	+7.03"
Minot	7.85"	1.46"	+6.39"
Bismarck	5.74"	1.59"	+4.15"
Dickinson	5.62"	1.47"	+4.15"
Jamestown	5.50"	2.00"	+3.50"
Fargo	4.47"	2.57"	+1.90"

Atmospheric Resource Board | North Dakota State Water Commission | 900 East Boulevard, Bismarck, ND 58505  
(701) 328-2788 | <http://swc.nd.gov>

ND Weather Modification Association | PO Box 2599 | Bismarck, ND 58502 | (701) 223-4232