

The Weather Wire

March 2012

Volume 19 Number 3

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Skyview Weather Website/Feb Snow Totals

The Skyview Weather website: www.SkyviewWeather.com can be a useful tool for clients as there is a daily weather related blog and blog archive, an education section, past and present newsletters and climate information. There are also pages created solely for client use. On these client pages all you need to do is log in with your username and password from the main page then a column on the right side will appear with available forecast areas. Forecasts are updated daily to these pages as well as updates. Not only is the daily forecast included on the client page but there is current radar, surface maps, the NWS Weather Story for the day and web cams that can be very useful in day to day operations. If you are not currently using the website please give it a try and if you are using the website please feel free to give us some feedback on what we can do to improve on the site, or what you like about it. If you still need a user name and password or forgot what it was please send an email to Tim@SkyviewWeather.com and an account can be created for you, or your information retrieved. We strive to do all we can to make getting weather information to you easily, accurately and focused on your area.

We all became very aware of how close we came to breaking the all time February snowfall record of 22.1" set back in 1912 with 20.2" of snow officially at DIA. Well some Denver suburbs not only received greater than 22.1" but some areas received greater than 30" in one month which is about half a winters worth of snow. Areas of northern Colorado and south of the Palmer Divide did not do as well as Denver and surrounding areas with much less snowfall. Below are some additional snow amounts for February not found in the table at the end of the newsletter:

Location	Feb Total
Arvada	25.8
Aurora/Eaglecrest	20.8
Black Forest	19.9
Boulder	32.0

Castle Pines 2.2 NE	39.5
Castle Rock - 1 N	28.1
Centennial	31.2
Cherry Hills North	28.5
Cheyenne	13.7
Colo Sprgs N FD #19	10.4
Colo Sprgs W FD#18	12.1
Colo Springs 5.7 WNW	9.2
Colo Springs South	6.1
Colo Springs NE FD#20	10.5
Colo Springs S FD HQ	6.1
Conifer 3SW	38.0
Denver - Stapleton	18.3
Estes Park*	18.8
Evergreen 1S	31.7
Falcon 2.3 NNE	14.3
Fort Collins 4E	7.5
Fort Collins SW	18.0
Fort Collins WSW	17.4
Glendale	26.8
Gleneagle	17.4
Greeley 4NW	6.0
Greenwood Village	30.4
Ken Caryl Ranch	36.5
Lakewood 6th and Simms	32.6
Lakewood Grn Mtn	35.4
Littleton SW	37.9
Lone Tree	30.9
Longmont 2NE	17.0
Longmont West	18.2
Louisville	27.4
Loveland	16.0
Monument Hill	27.1
Morrison	33.7
Nederland	50.9
Niwot	23.3
Roxborough Park	40.9
Windsor SW	10.4

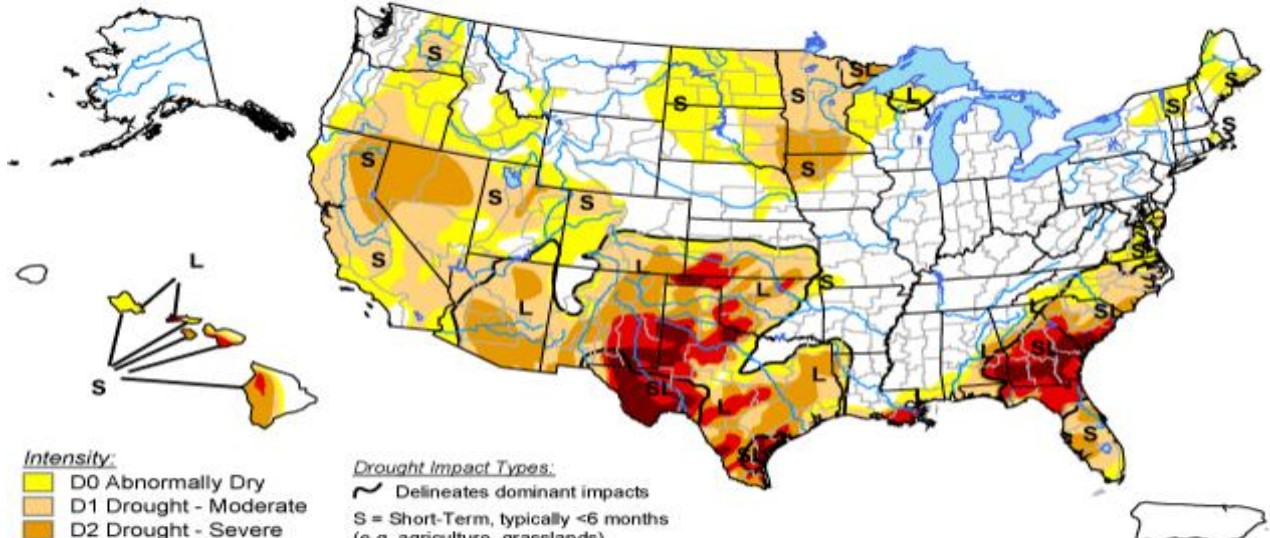
Drought Update

Drought conditions persist in parts of the state except for the northeast quadrant. There has been some improvement out west as of late and if the mountains continue to get good snows the drought conditions will improve further.

U.S. Drought Monitor

February 28, 2012

Valid 7 a.m. EST



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

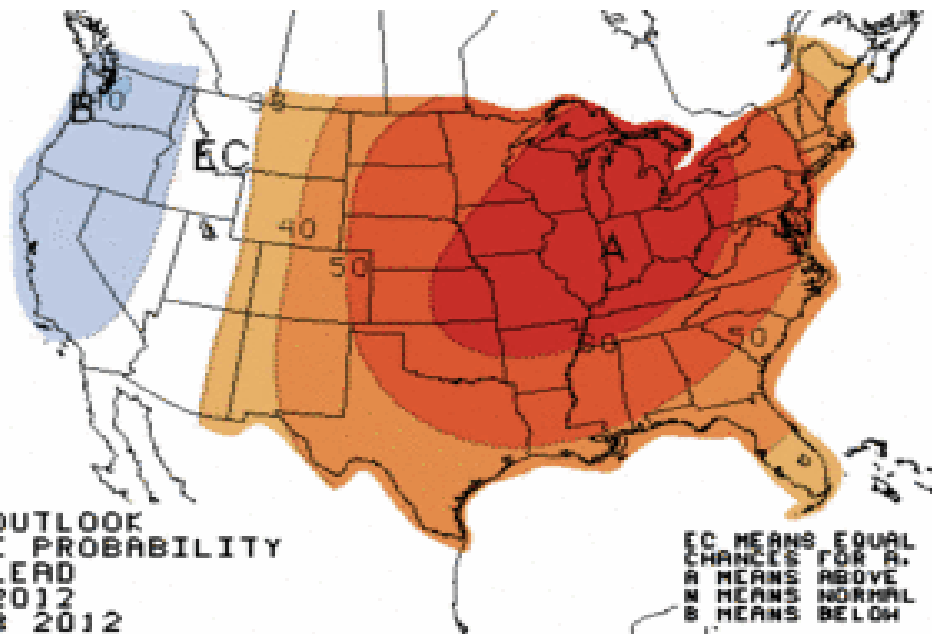
<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>



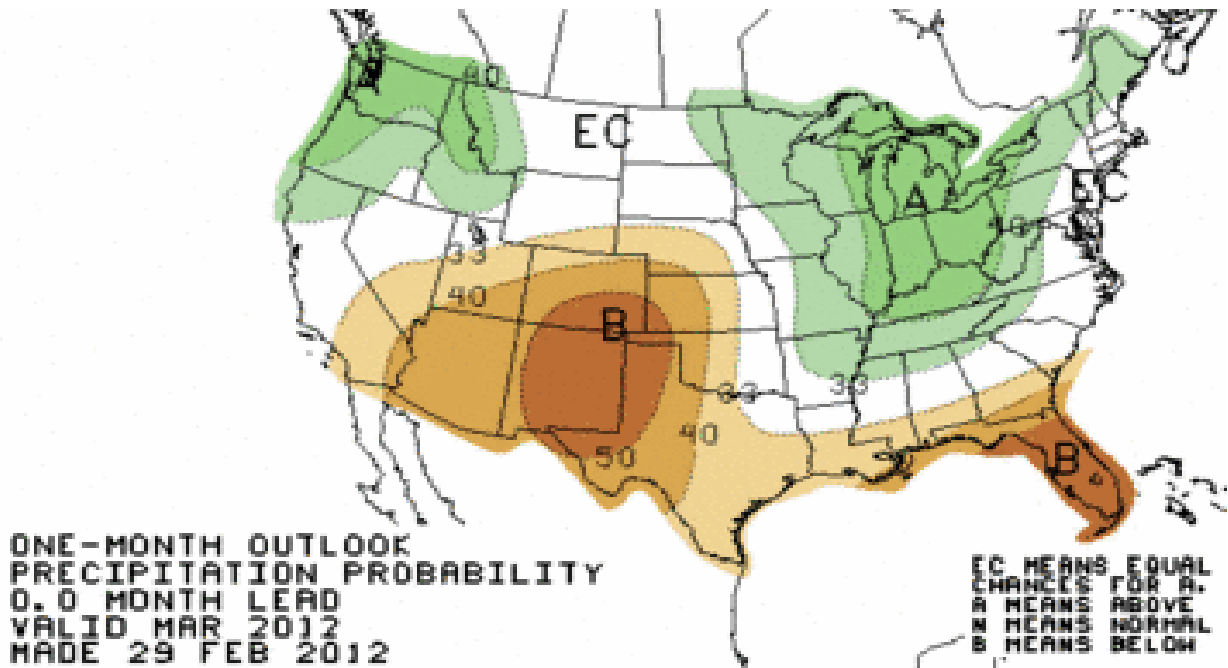
Released Thursday, March 1, 2012

Author: Mark Svoboda, National Drought Mitigation Center

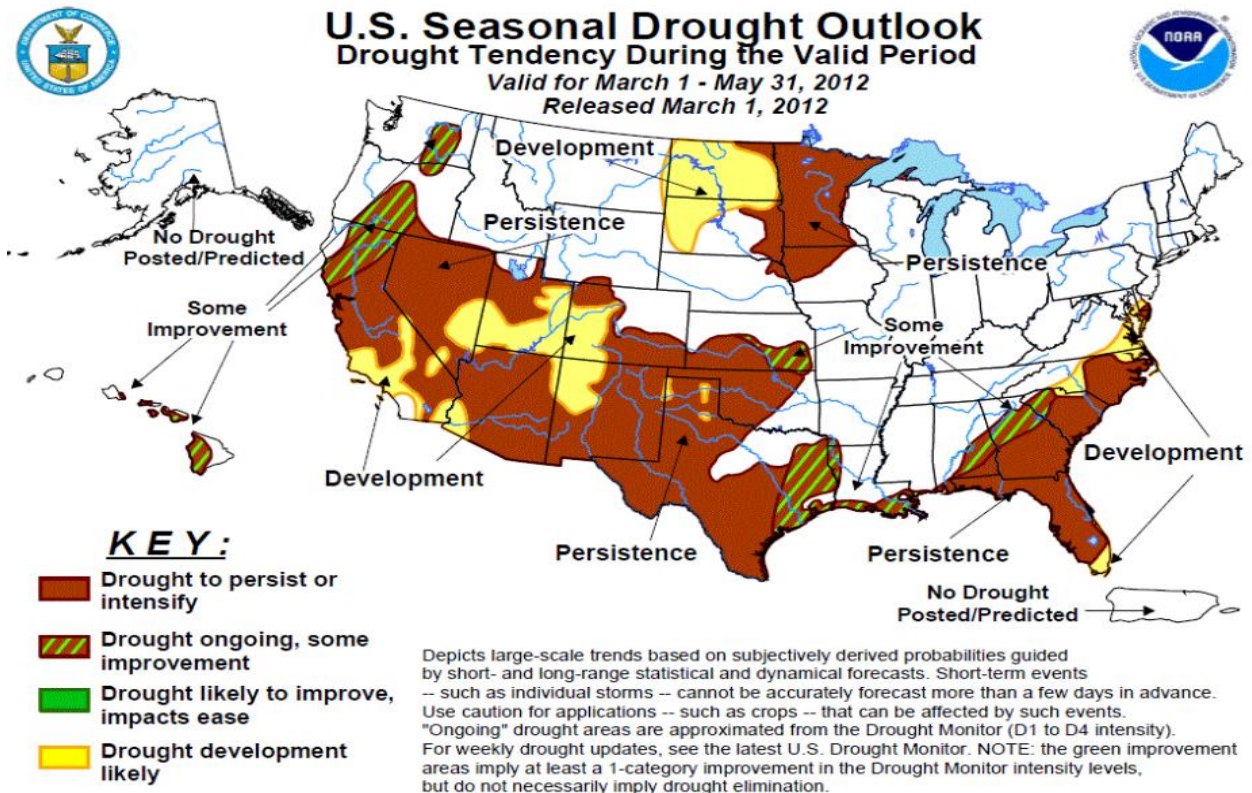
The map below shows forecasted temperature deviances for March 2012. Slightly above normal temperatures are expected for the state of Colorado favoring far eastern areas.



The map below shows forecasted precipitation deviances for February 2012. Below normal precipitation is forecast for the state with highest probabilities in southern and southeast Colorado.



Drought conditions may develop over the SW states with improvement over the NW. The lack of snow this winter for the northern plains will result in persisting and developing drought.



February Summary

February of 2012 was cold and snowy in and around Denver with well below normal temperatures. Normal highs for the month were 7.5 degrees below normal at 38.7 degrees. The average lows were below normal but just slightly below the average of 18.9 at 18.1 degrees. These two combined to give a monthly mean temperature of 28.4 degrees right around 4 degrees below normal. The below normal temperatures can be attributed to the heavy snowfall event that occurred on the 2nd and 3rd which left a persistent snow cover that resulted in temperature inversions keeping the colder air locked in at the surface. Days that would have easily been in the 40s without snow only warmed into the 30s. The snow storm to start the month was the biggest snow in February history with a storm total of 15.9" recorded at DIA but some of the western and southern suburbs were reporting totals of up to 18-20" or more! There was another significant storm for the Palmer Divide and west/south suburbs of Denver on the 23rd which deposited another 6-10" of snow but DIA only reported 1.9" from this storm. For the month there was 20.2" of snow at DIA only 1.9" away from breaking the all time record of 22.1" set back in 1912. Many areas to the west of downtown such as Lakewood, Wheatridge, Golden, and from roughly the Tech Center southward into Douglas County reported anywhere from 25-35" or more of snow for the month which is nearly half a winters worth of snow! Precipitation for the month was at 0.90", well above the 0.32" on average. For the year DIA has reported 1.16" of moisture which is 0.48" above normal.

February Stats

TEMPERATURE (IN DEGREES F)

AVERAGE MAX	38.7	NORMAL 46.2	DEPARTURE -7.5
AVERAGE MIN	18.1	NORMAL 18.9	DEPARTURE -0.8
MONTHLY MEAN	28.4	NORMAL 32.5	DEPARTURE -4.1
HIGHEST	65 on the 25 th		
LOWEST	3 on the 11th		

DAYS WITH MAX 90 OR ABOVE	0	NORMAL	0
DAYS WITH MAX 32 OR BELOW	9	NORMAL	3.9
DAYS WITH MIN 32 OR BELOW	28	NORMAL	26.9
DAYS WITH MIN ZERO OR BELOW	0	NORMAL	1.3

TEMPERATURE RECORDS

No temperature records tied or broken.

Single day snowfall record of 12.5" on the 3rd

15.9" Heaviest February storm total

HEATING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	1055	NORMAL 908	DEPARTURE 147
SEASONAL TOTAL	4380	NORMAL 4468	DEPARTURE -88

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

MONTHLY TOTAL	0	NORMAL 0	DEPARTURE 0
YEARLY TOTAL	0	NORMAL 0	DEPARTURE 0

PRECIPITATION (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	0.90	NORMAL 0.32	DEPARTURE 0.58
YEARLY TOTAL	1.16	NORMAL 0.68	DEPARTURE 0.48
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	0.75" from 2/2 to 2/3		
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIP.	7		

SNOWFALL (IN INCHES)

MONTHLY TOTAL	20.2	NORMAL 5.9	DEPARTURE 14.3
SEASONAL TOTAL	54.6	NORMAL 37.4	DEPARTURE 17.2
GREATEST IN 24 HOURS	12.5" on the 3rd		
GREATEST DEPTH	NA		

WIND (IN MILES PER HOUR)

AVERAGE SPEED	11.3mph
PEAK WIND GUST	59mph from the South

MISCELLANEOUS WEATHER

NUMBER OF DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORM	0	NORMAL	0
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HEAVY FOG	8	NORMAL	1
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH HAIL	0		
NUMBER OF SUNNY DAYS	7		
NUMBER OF PARTLY CLOUDY DAYS	14		
NUMBER OF CLOUDY DAYS	8		
AVERAGE RELATIVE HUMIDITY	62%		

March Preview

March is well known to produce some of the season's biggest snow storms in Denver History. What seems like not long ago in 2003 the largest snow storm in Denver history occurred. A record 35.2" of snow fell during March of 2003, largely from 1 storm that spanned 3 days! Even though there can be some big snow storms snow generally melts rather quickly and has difficult accumulating on pavement during the daylight hours. Winter driving conditions are largely limited to the overnight and early am hours. Thanks to additional sunlight of up to 3 minutes a day at times temperatures really begin to warm up in March. The average high is 53.7 degrees. Compare that with the 38.7 degrees from February, a whopping 15 degree warm up for average highs can be expected. Most nights still fall below freezing and every day of the month has a record low temperature of zero or below except the final 3 days of the month. The record low is -11 set back in 1886 on the 28th and the record high is 84 degrees was set back in 1971 on the 26th, only 2 calendar days from each other. These two combined result in a temperature spread of 95 degrees for the month. Precipitation ramps up in the spring with 1.28" of moisture on average and 11.7" of snowfall. March is the snowiest month of the year for the Denver Metro area on average. There are typically 9 days with measureable precipitation and 4 days with 1" or more of snow. There are not any signs that a major storm is on the horizon which may lead to a drier than normal March. Still 2-4 storms for the month look likely producing below normal snowfall and precipitation.

DENVER'S NOVEMBER CLIMATOLOGICALLY NORMAL (NORMAL PERIOD 1971-2000)

TEMPERATURE

AVERAGE HIGH	53.7
AVERAGE LOW	25.4
MONTHLY MEAN	39.6
DAYS WITH HIGH 90 OR ABOVE	0
DAYS WITH HIGH 32 OR BELOW	3
DAYS WITH LOW 32 OR BELOW	24
DAYS WITH LOWS ZERO OR BELOW	1

PRECIPITATION

MONTHLY MEAN	1.28"
DAYS WITH MEASURABLE PRECIPITATION	9
AVERAGE SNOWFALL IN INCHES	11.7"
DAYS WITH 1.0 INCH OF SNOW OR MORE	4

MISCELLANEOUS AVERAGES

HEATING DEGREE DAYS	788
COOLING DEGREE DAYS	0
WIND SPEED (MPH)	9.7mph
WIND DIRECTION	South
DAYS WITH THUNDERSTORMS	Less than 1
DAYS WITH DENSE FOG	1
PERCENT OF SUNSHINE POSSIBLE	69%

EXTREMES

RECORD HIGH	84 on 3/26/1971
RECORD LOW	-11 on 3/28/1886
WARMEST	50.4 in 1910
COLDEST	26.4 in 1912
WETTEST	4.56" in 1983
DRIEST	0.11" in 1908
SNOWIEST	35.2" in 2003
LEAST SNOWIEST	0.3" in 1883

Sunrise/Sunset (January - June Denver area)

	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	
	sr - ss	sr - ss	sr - ss	sr - ss	sr - ss	sr - ss	
01	0721-1646	0708-1719	0632-1753	0643-1925	0600-1955	0534-2022	01
02	0721-1647	0707-1720	0631-1754	0642-1926	0559-1956	0533-2023	02
03	0721-1648	0706-1722	0629-1755	0640-1927	0557-1957	0533-2024	03
04	0721-1649	0705-1723	0628-1756	0639-1928	0556-1958	0533-2024	04
05	0721-1649	0704-1724	0626-1757	0637-1929	0555-1959	0533-2025	05
06	0721-1650	0703-1725	0625-1758	0635-1930	0554-2000	0532-2025	06
07	0721-1651	0702-1726	0623-1759	0634-1931	0553-2001	0532-2026	07
08	0721-1652	0701-1728	0622-1800	0632-1932	0552-2002	0532-2027	08
09	0721-1653	0700-1729	0620-1801	0631-1933	0551-2002	0532-2027	09
10	0721-1654	0659-1730	0618-1802	0629-1934	0550-2003	0532-2028	10
11	0720-1655	0658-1731	0717-1903	0628-1935	0549-2004	0531-2028	11
12	0720-1656	0657-1732	0715-1904	0626-1936	0548-2005	0531-2029	12
13	0720-1657	0655-1733	0714-1905	0625-1937	0547-2006	0531-2029	13
14	0720-1658	0654-1735	0712-1906	0623-1938	0546-2007	0531-2029	14
15	0719-1659	0653-1736	0710-1907	0622-1939	0545-2008	0531-2030	15
16	0719-1701	0652-1737	0709-1908	0620-1940	0544-2009	0532-2030	16
17	0718-1702	0650-1738	0707-1909	0619-1941	0543-2010	0532-2030	17
18	0718-1703	0649-1739	0706-1910	0617-1942	0542-2011	0532-2031	18
19	0718-1704	0648-1740	0704-1911	0616-1943	0542-2012	0532-2031	19
20	0717-1705	0646-1741	0702-1913	0614-1944	0541-2013	0532-2031	20
21	0716-1706	0645-1743	0701-1914	0613-1945	0540-2014	0532-2031	21
22	0716-1707	0644-1744	0659-1915	0612-1946	0539-2014	0533-2032	22
23	0715-1709	0642-1745	0658-1916	0610-1947	0539-2015	0533-2032	23
24	0715-1710	0641-1746	0656-1917	0609-1948	0538-2016	0533-2032	24
25	0714-1711	0639-1747	0654-1918	0608-1949	0537-2017	0533-2032	25
26	0713-1712	0638-1748	0653-1919	0606-1950	0537-2018	0534-2032	26
27	0712-1713	0637-1749	0651-1920	0605-1951	0536-2019	0534-2032	27
28	0712-1714	0635-1750	0650-1921	0604-1952	0536-2019	0535-2032	28
29	0711-1716	0634-1752	0648-1922	0602-1953	0535-2020	0535-2032	29
30	0710-1717		0646-1923	0601-1954	0535-2021	0536-2032	30
31	0709-1718		0645-1924		0534-2022		31

Snowfall

Oct 2011 to Apr 2012

City	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	Total
Aurora (Central)	6.0	7.0	19.3	5.4	16.8			54.5
Brighton	5.8	7.5	14.2	1.7	18.9			48.1
Broomfield	9.7	7.2	25.1	5.2	26.8			74.0
Castle Rock	10.1	9.5	23.6	6.8	30.3			80.3
Colo Sprgs Airport	3.6	1.0	11.7	0.5	4.9			21.7
Denver DIA	8.5	4.5	16.5	4.9	20.2			54.6
Denver Downtown	7.9	7.0	21.9	9.0	25.7			71.5
Golden	8.9	7.1	36.6	9.8	33.2			95.3
Fort Collins	9.7	10.6	16.5	1.0	14.7			52.5
Highlands Ranch	7.4	10.5	28.2	7.2	34.7			88.0
Lakewood	7.8	4.8	19.0	6.4	23.0			61.0
Littleton	6.0	7.6	26.4	8.4	33.7			82.1
Parker	12.1	10.0	23.8	6.2	23.2			75.3
Sedalia - Hwy 67	6.5	9.0	27.8	6.1	28.9			78.3
Thornton	6.6	7.1	20.7	2.3	22.0			58.7
Westminster	8.8	7.8	26.6	6.4	28.2			77.8
Wheatridge	7.6	7.6	25.7	7.7	30.9			79.5

Skyview Weather
2350 N Rocky View Rd
Castle Rock, CO 80108

Phone: (303) 688-9175
Fax: (303) 380-3338

E-mail: tim@SkyviewWeather.com
On the web at www.SkyviewWeather.com

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