

WESTERN KANSAS WEATHER MODIFICATION PROGRAM

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WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

No. 2012-18

For the period August 4 – August 10, 2012

General Interest: July was yet another very hot and dry month we will all long remember. However, July was certainly not the warmest on record for the area. According to the National Weather Service in Dodge City, July of 2011 was the third warmest on record for that city while July 2012 was the 11th warmest for Dodge. For the contiguous United States, the warmth was a record breaker with an average temperature of 77.6 degrees. According to a report by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), July 2012 was the warmest month for the nation for any July on record as well as the warmest month of any month in recorded history going back to when record keeping first began in 1895. Previously the record for the warmest month in history was back in July 1936, when the average temperature was 77.4 degrees. So far this year, the contiguous U.S. is on track to experiencing the hottest year on record. The January – July 2012 period was the warmest first seven months of any year on record, according to NOAA.

July was also an exceedingly slow month of seeding activity. Only two days of seeding occurred in July as brief seeding for both hail suppression and rain optimization occurred on July 7th, while a brief period of seeding for rain optimization occurred on July 17th. With only two days of seeding, July easily broke the record for least number of seeding days for the month going back to our first year of operations in 1975. The old record for least number of July days was seven set back in 2002, 2008, and 2011. The average number of seeding days for July is 13-days with a maximum of 25-days set back in 1998. Interestingly, July 2012 was the 19th least active seeding month of our 210-month history.

Source: NOAA

Weather: The week started out rather mild and mostly sunny through Tuesday. Storms broke out across portions of western Kansas Tuesday afternoon. Most of the storms produced light to moderate rain. Partly cloudy skies with temperatures in the 90's occurred Wednesday and Thursday. A few late night showers with some rumbles of thunder occurred Friday; otherwise partly to mostly clear skies prevailed.

Operations: No operations occurred this week. Two observation flights were conducted on August 7th.

Acknowledgement: The Western Kansas Weather Modification Program is funded, in part, through the State Water Plan, administered by the Kansas Water Office.

Walter Geiger, Meteorologist
Western Kansas Weather Modification Program