February 2011 Weather and Climate Summary

Averaged statewide, February 2011 was colder and wetter than normal in New Hampshire. Like January 2011, the state-averaged February temperature of 18.9 °F (rank 50) was below both the 1895-2011 average temperature (19.6 °F) and the 1971-2000 normal (21.1 °F). This was in contrast to February 2010 (26.4 °F; rank 113), which was 7.5 °F warmer than February 2011. February 2011 joins 2003 (17.1 °F; rank 34) and 2007 (15.2 °F; rank 16) as the only three out of the past 15 years in which average February temperature was below normal. Total February precipitation of 3.20 inches (rank 88) was above the climatic normal (2.62 inches) and average for the period of record (2.85 inches). Although above normal, it was nearly an inch below the total February 2010 (4.17 inches; 103) precipitation.

Temperature:
Despite several unseasonably warm days, February daily temperatures were below normal most of the month. Daily temperatures remained as much as 10 °F below normal statewide through the fifth. The coldest temperatures of the month were reported on the 4th and 5th when minimum daily temperatures dropped below -10 °F at Franklin Falls (-12 °F); Concord and Colebrook (-13 °F); Newport and North Stratford (-17 °F); Lancaster and the Manchester area (-18 °F). The lowest temperatures were reported at First Connecticut Lake where nighttime lows dropped to -26 °F and -25 °F. Although temperatures increased during the day on the fifth, with daytime highs rising above freezing statewide on the 8th, they fell back below freezing on the 10th.

A stretch of clear, dry conditions resulted in sunny days and above freezing daytime highs on the 13th-15th while clear skies overnight kept minimum temperatures below normal through the 18th. Maximum daily temperatures exceeded 50 °F on the 14th and 15th at Concord, Lebanon and Greenville (50 °F); Newport (51 °F); Durham, Portsmouth and the Manchester area (52 °F); Keene (53 °F); Greenland and Rochester (54 °F); Epping and Hudson (55 °F). High temperatures peaked above
40 °F on the 15th to the north at Colebrook and North Stratford (40 °F); Berlin (41 °F); Lancaster (43 °F); York Pond (44 °F); Benton and Jefferson (46 °F).

After a drop in daytime highs on the 16th, daily temperatures rose, with highs exceeding 50 °F and low approaching the melting point, making the 18th and 19th the warmest days of the month for the state. Daytime highs surpassed 60 °F on the 18th at Greenland (61 °F) and Durham (62 °F) and on the 19th at Keene, Rochester and the Manchester area (60 °F); Hudson (61 °F); and Epping (62 °F). Nighttime stayed above freezing on the 18th and 19th at Portsmouth and Rochester\(^1\) (32 °F) and Lebanon\(^1\) and Hudson\(^1\) (34 °F). Except for a brief spike in daytime highs on the 25th, daily temperatures remained near to below normal for the remainder of the month. During this time, temperatures remained below freezing in the north while southern areas moved toward more seasonable daytime highs at or just above freezing.

**Precipitation:**

A major winter storm produced nearly a foot of snow across the Seacoast area on the 1st and 2nd with a two-day storm total of 14.4 inches reported at Portsmouth. Two-day storm totals exceeded 12 inches on the 2nd and 3rd at Newport (12.5 inches), Berlin and First Connecticut Lake (14.0 inches). Another system on the 6th resulted in lesser accumulations to the north and little to no new snow for southern parts of the state. Statewide, snow depth reached a season high of two feet or more by the 8th with 30+ inches reported at Berlin (33 inches) and First Connecticut Lake (35 inches).

Clear and dry conditions prevailed across the state from the 10th through the 25th resulting in daily snowfall totals below 2.0 inches for the north and little more than trace for the south. Above freezing temperatures midmonth resulted in high snowmelt, reducing snow depth to 24 inches or less throughout the state by the 25th. Snow depth was reduced to less than a foot by the 25th for Seacoast areas including Portsmouth (7 inches) and Greenland (10 inches).

An active weather pattern returned, bringing heavy snowfall to Concord (11.3 inches) the Merrimack Valley region on the 25th and an additional 6+ inches of new snow to northern areas on the 26th. The Concord area received another 7 inches of new snow on the 27th with and inch or two of new snow accumulating north and west through the 28th. The Seacoast and portions of the Merrimack Valley received a mix of rain and snow on the 27th and 28th. Despite the midmonth melt, above average seasonal snowfall and overall cold temperatures left much of the state still buried under 20+ inches of snow at the end of the month. Snowfall accumulations on the 27th resulted in a state high snow depth at Concord (36 inches) to end the month.

**Data Sources:**

- Northeast Regional Climate Center: *CLIMOD* [http://climod.nrcc.cornell.edu/](http://climod.nrcc.cornell.edu/)
  1. Daily Temperature, Precipitation and Snowfall Data for a Month
  2. 1971-2000 Monthly Temperature, Precipitation and Degree Day Normals
  3. Summarized Snowfall and Snow Depth data for a time interval

NHSCO (February 2011)