

DECEMBER 21, 2012 - FRIDAY

End Of Storm & 13th Baktun In addition to the 260-day Mayan cycle, including also the 52-year Venus calendar, the Maya of Central America were also responsible for developing and establishing a calendar of far greater range and duration; one that was based upon the Long Count, a recurring time period of precisely 1,872,000 days, 13 baktuns, 260 katuns, 5,125.36 years, and 5,200 tuns. This Great Cycle is the measurement of the planetary passage through 5,125 years from August 13, 3,113 BC to December 20, 2012. Each baktun contained 144,000 days, equal to 394.26 years (Wikipedia. 2012).

The Walkers were aware of the Mayan calendar and one of its many scenarios which was that December 21, 2012 marked the end of the world or a similar catastrophe concerned with four last things: death, judgement, heaven, and hell. However, too much was happening and it was not much on their minds; they did note the next day to each other that the 21st had passed.

Some thought completion of the Mayan Long Count calendar, whose 13th baktun cycle ended on December 21, 2012, as marking the precise time at which the current world age would end and a new one begin. The celestial basis for this was that upon the completion date of the Long Count, there would be an alignment of the earth and sun with the galactic equator, occurring at the time of the winter solstice point of the earth's orbit.

Therefore, Thursday, December 20, 2012, was the last snow storm of the 13th baktun and the start of the 14th baktun (Photo 11). It was certainly part of the transition into a new life for the Walkers, so much had happened.

- 12:01 a.m. 34°F Outside; not snowing.
- 12:45 a.m. 34°F Outside; no change.
- 1:30 a.m. 68°F Inside/34°F Outside; dead calm, not snowing.
- 4:00 a.m. 66°F Inside/34°F Outside; dead calm, not snowing; added firewood.
- 5:00 a.m. 65°F Inside/34°F Outside; dead calm, not snowing; melting snow.
- 5:45 a.m. 65°F Inside/34°F Outside; dead calm, not snowing; melting snow.
- 7:00 a.m. 10,138 customers still did not have power, almost all outside of GP (Duewel. 2012c).
- 8:15 a.m. 66°F Inside/34°F Outside; dead calm, not snowing; the Walkers started boiling water for coffee on their little backpack camping stove that HB had bought BH about 15 years ago as a Christmas gift.



*Photo 11. Giant Oak Tree Fell At Riverside Park In Grants Pass During Snow Storm
Courtesy Of Bullard, Daily Courier*

Boiling water for coffee was almost fun as they and their doggers were safely together with shelter and food. Heat was being provided by the fireplace in their well insulated home that Mike's brother Dale had built for them in 1997. They had prepared and had drinking water (i.e., 5-gallon military container and plastic water bottles) and toilet water (i.e., they had filled up the tub in the master bedroom). They had several flashlights and two Coleman lanterns: one battery and one fuel. They had a little battery radio, but did not use it. HB used BH's cell phone so her cell phone would be available later. Sneaky woman. The cell phones would not last long if used



Photo 12. Walker Home & Sidewalk Finally Cleared

over a few days. For the long haul they were ready and could have easily cooked on their little camping stove or several other larger 3-burners. The refrigerator and freezers were staring to thaw. The Walkers will have to think about getting a generator as a backup, to be better prepared.

11:30 a.m. 66°F Inside/36°F Outside; it was not snowing and the fireplace was happily flaming.

Noon Electric Power On

Outstanding! The Walkers were among the fortunate first group to get their power back. The short time they were dark was part of a puny two days and one night. It seemed longer to HB and BH, and eventually would be for many other residents of the county.

Walkers	12/20-21/12	2 days (16 hours & 30 minutes) without power.
Stulls	12/20-23/12	4 days (85 hours & 50 minutes) without power.
128 Others	12/20-26/12	7 days (135 hours) without power.

Being without electricity in your safe home slaps you in the face with the fact that the invention of electricity is a great wonder. Today we cannot even dream of living with the absence of electricity. There is no walk of life in which it is not used these days. Kerosene oil lanterns and gas lamps are now things of the past. We now light our homes with power of electricity. Switch on the button and there is the day-like light even in the darkest night. In the summer season electric fans and air conditioning are used to provide us with a cool atmosphere. In winter, heating plants are used to keep the home warm. Electric bells and stoves are things of every-day use. Refrigerators keep food in a fresh condition. In the country it brings domestic water from your well to your kitchen faucet and refills the toilet tank. Indeed electricity serves as a faithful domestic servant in our daily lives.

3:00 p.m. 73°F Inside/37°F Outside; snow melting.

4:00 p.m. It was almost dark and HB hauled firewood; we had let fire in fireplace go out; but cozy now.

4:30 p.m. Mom called HB and told her she needed to come down to move her Toyota pickup because a big tree had fallen down on Jon and Linda's RV and Dale and

- Lana's vehicle being parked there. HB's pickup needed to be moved to avoid the possibility of parts of the tree being cut up hitting it.
- 5:35 p.m. 70°F Inside/35°F Outside; snow melting. It turned out to be a poor idea for the boys to work in the dark at Mom's. The chainsaw broke and while another vehicle was being moved the chain broke and the vehicle ended up in front of HB's Toyota blocking it in. HB walked home in the dark and cold from Mom's.
- 6:00 p.m. HB safely home to our Jess Way habitat. We had electricity, light, and heat. We were together. Yaaaa!
- 6:30 p.m. 70°F Inside/35°F Outside; snow melting; can hear the water from the melting.
- 8:00 p.m. 69°F Inside/34°F Outside; not snowing.
- 11:30 p.m. 69°F Inside/35°F Outside; can hear the water from the snow melting.

DECEMBER 22, 2012 - SATURDAY

On Saturday, two days after the Thursday snowstorm, the *Daily Courier* reported that thousands of residents still did not have electric power and were in the dark without heat.

Local Residents Mopping Up After Snow Storm. In the aftermath of Thursday's snowstorm, thousands of Josephine County residents still didn't have power, and hundreds were dealing with downed trees (Photo 11). The storm had dumped anywhere from 6 inches to 2 feet or more of snow all over the county, and sent hundreds of trees and limbs into power lines.

Monte Mendenhall of Pacific Power said at 9:00 a.m. Saturday that 9,444 customers were still powerless, out of 45,000 customers in the county, the Rogue River area and into Glendale in southern Douglas County. *"This storm is as bad as anything I've seen," Mendenhall said. Most should have power back by Sunday evening, as 150 crew members are working day and night,* Mendenhall said.

Snow continued to fall above 2,000' this morning, and a NWS winter storm watch was still in effect through Sunday evening. All area passes could be affected by snow, especially anything above 2,500'. At 9:15 a.m. Saturday, it was snowing hard at the 1,960' Sexton Pass north of Grants Pass, with no chain restrictions yet. But on 4,300' Siskiyou Summit south of Ashland, traffic was snarled as snow fell heavily. Chains were required for all vehicles.

The heaviest snow fell Thursday, the day of the snowstorm, when county road crews plowed to the top of Happy Camp Road southeast of Cave Junction, where 4' of snow fell in two days, said Rob Brandes, public works director for Josephine County.



Photo 13. Walker Home December 23, 2012

The breakdown for 6,380 customers without power in the area at 9:00 a.m., Saturday, December 22, 2012, was: 500 in Rogue River, 130 in O'Brien, 25 near Grants Pass, 325 on Lower/Upper River Road, 1,500 in Glendale/Wolf Creek/Sunny Valley; 1,500 in Merlin, 1,000 in Cave Junction, 700 in Jerome Prairie/Riverbanks Road, 300 in Selma, 200 in Provolt, and 200 in the Redwood District.

"We think we're going to make some really good headway today," Mendenhall said (Duewel. 2012d).

5:00 a.m. 69°F Inside/34°F Outside. At the Walker's it was another day of staying home safe from the snow outside. The direction a slope faces with respect to the sun (aspect) has a profound influence on the snow pack. North facing slopes receive very little heat from the sun in mid-winter. Conversely, south facing slopes receive much more heat. Therefore, a north facing slopes will usually develop a dramatically different snow pack than a south facing slope - usually the snow stays longer. The Walker's home lot was just north of a small east-west ridge. They were on the north side where the snow always had held several days longer, especially on the Walker's driveway up the hill to Jess Way.

6:30 a.m. 69°F Inside/34°F Outside; snow melting.

8:00 a.m. 69°F Inside/34°F Outside; drizzling pretty hard; lost satellite signal from slush on dish.



Photo 14. Walker Driveway A Mess

8:15 a.m. 68°F Inside/34°F Outside; snowing small flakes - sticking? Don't know.

8:45 a.m. 68°F Inside/35°F Outside; snowing off and on; not snowing now.

9:00 a.m. 9,444 folks were still powerless, out of 45,000 customers in the county, the Rogue River area and into Glendale in southern Douglas County (Duewel. 2012d).

9:15 a.m. It was snowing hard at the 1,960' Sexton Pass north of GP, with no chain restrictions yet (Duewel. 2012d).

11:20 a.m. 68°F Inside/36°F Outside; not snowing now; can hear the water from the snow melting.

12:10 p.m. 68°F Inside/35°F Outside; pretty good down pour of wet drizzly snow; BH tried to clear a little of the sidewalk for Fred.

3:30 p.m. 68°F Inside/36°F Outside; drizzly snowing; BH cleared a little more of the sidewalk for Fred.

6:30 p.m. 68°F Inside/35°F Outside; not snowing; can hear the water from the snow melting; cold outside as ground had been covered in snow for three days - starting to harden.

10:45 p.m. 68°F Inside/35°F Outside; not snowing.

Saturday's weekend edition of the *Daily Courier* reported that thousands of folks were still in the cold and dark. HB and BH were concerned for HB's folks that lived in Kerby, Oregon. They knew that they were still without power, in the natural dark.

Warming Stations' for Those Without Power With outages leaving thousands of Pacific Power customers in the cold and dark, the Red Cross had set up two "warming stations." One was set up at the Josephine County Fairgrounds in southwest Grants Pass off of Redwood Highway. The second was at Immanuel United Methodist Church, 200 West Watkins Street, Cave Junction.

Interim Fairgrounds Manager Mary Groves said the Arts Building was open for people who needed a place to warm up, feel safe and enjoy a hot beverage. Also, the Josephine County Sheriff's Office and Search and Rescue transported elderly residents who were without power or heat to an evacuation center.

Pacific Power reported heavy, wet snow caused numerous trees and power lines to fall, resulting in extensive damage to equipment and widespread outages affecting more than 10,000 customers overall in Josephine County. *"We expect that the majority of our customers in this area will be restored by late (this) evening. We apologize for the inconvenience,"* Pacific Power's news release said. *"All available crews and personnel worked through the night and will continue to work through the day, restoring power to all customers as quickly as possible. Additional Pacific Power crews are being brought in from other parts of the state to assist with the restoration efforts."* (Daily Courier. 2012a).

DECEMBER 23, 2012 - SUNDAY

Aftermath

- 8:00 a.m. 69°F Inside/34°F Outside. At the Walker's it was yet another day stuck at home. Medium drizzle snow (Photos 12 & 13).
- 8:05 a.m. 69°F Inside/34°F Outside; BH drove his pickup around the bottom driveway for a few minutes. The idea was to break up the remaining 4" - 5" of snow in the lower driveway for easier melting (Photo 14). HB had two goals for the day: 1. get her pickup back home from Mom's, and 2. move BH's 4-wheel drive Ford 150 pickup up to the top of the driveway as the next day she needed to go to work in GP for a minimum of two hours.
- 8:55 a.m. 70°F Inside/34°F Outside; not snowing. HB telephoned her insurance company, USAA, for roadside towing service and walked down the hill to Mom's to meet the tow truck driver.
- 9:18 a.m. 70°F Inside/34°F Outside; automatic telephone recording that trucker was estimated to be at Mom's in 15 minutes.
- 9:20 a.m. 70°F Inside/34°F Outside; not snowing; HB telephoned BH; she was at Mom's; tow trucker driver not there yet. HB's cell phone was not working.
- 9:45 a.m. BH received a USAA road side service telephone with a recorded message. *"Had roadside service arrived?"* BH telephones Mom's; HB answers *"Yes the tow truck driver was there."*
- 10:15 a.m. 69°F Inside/34°F Outside; not snowing; light snow drizzle; can hear the water from the melting snow.
- 10:20 a.m. BH outside for 20 minutes driving his pickup on lower driveway.
- 10:25 a.m. HB was home after tow truck hauled her pickup home; she parked on top of driveway at gate and shoveled snow (Photo 15). Her folks were still without power and were living in their RV in Kerby, Oregon.
- 11:05 a.m. 69°F Inside/34°F Outside; medium sticking snow.



Photo 15. Cindy's Toyota Parked At Top Of Driveway At Jess Way

- 11:40 a.m. 69°F Inside/35°F Outside; snow sticking on sidewalk.
- 12:45 p.m. 69°F Inside/37°F Outside. The 37°F outside temperature was the highest so far since the Thursday snow storm. Outside it had stopped snowing. BH took a couple pictures of Mt. Sexton which was partly showing at the bottom of the mountain with overhead clouds (Photo 16).
- 1:30 p.m. HB and BH moved the Ford 150 pickup up the driveway to the top of the hill next to the Toyota.
- 2:20 p.m. 68°F Inside/39°F Outside; 39°F was the highest outside temperature for the day. Yippee! It was weird to think of a small temperature rise as an exclamation of joy, and pleasure with the anticipation of the snow melting faster.
- 4:30 p.m. 68°F Inside/38°F Outside; darn temp. was going down again, but not snowing and it was clear except of overhead clouds.
- 5:10 p.m. 68°F Inside/38°F Outside; not snowing; sidewalk clear to concrete.
- 5:30 p.m. BH called Chuck Stull on his cell phone to see if they had power yet. Chuck and Jan were in Cave Junction getting some Mexican take home. No power yet.
- 6:20 p.m. **The Stulls finally received their power in Kerby, Oregon**, on Sunday, December 23, 2012. They had been camping first in their house and then in their RV for four days and three nights, for 85 hours and 50 minutes. They were glad to abandon their RV for their own warm home.
- 6:45 p.m. 69°F Inside/37°F Outside; temperature still going down; not snowing; can hear snow melting.
- 8:05 p.m. 69°F Inside/36°F Outside; not snowing.
- 10:00 p.m. 70°F Inside/34°F Outside; not snowing; hopefully like the previous nights it would not get down to, or below 32°F outside.



*Photo 16. Sexton Mt. Showing Its Skirt
With Overhead Clouds: December 23, 2012*

DECEMBER 24, 2012 - MONDAY

- 4:00 a.m. 72°F Inside/34°F Outside; not snowing. Fred had to poop and the ground felt like it was frozen solid to BH. Fred went down the front yard hill with BH trying unsuccessfully to divert him as Fred could not walk in the frozen puppy trashed snow terrain (i.e., he kept falling down). Finally he did his job, but it did not look like he could make it back up the hill. BH was freezing by this time and felt he needed to take urgent action. He lifted Fred up with him growling while BH was

waiting to be bitten. Finally all were safe back in their warm cozy home. What a wonderful feeling; mission accomplished.

6:15 a.m. 72°F Inside/34°F Outside; not snowing; temperatures had not changed.

8:45 a.m. 69°F Inside/34°F Outside; not snowing.

5:00 p.m. 69°F Inside/36°F Outside; not snowing.



Photo 17. 5:00 a.m. Christmas Morning With Remnants of 8.5" SBFP

Josephine County residents have had just about enough of lighting candles, firing up wood stoves and bundling up at night in darkness, following four days of no power. Thursday's snowstorm knocked out power to nearly 20,000 of the county's 45,000 customers, and as of 9:00 a.m. Monday, December 24, 2012 that number was down to 1,861, according to Paul Vogel of Pacific Power.

Count Robert Bigelow, and his wife, Missy, of the Jerome Prairie area among those 1,861. They've been using a wood stove to keep warm and a gas grill to cook. But he did something he'd never done on the wood stove — he successfully fried an egg.

Vogel said that by tonight there should be fewer than 1,000 customers still without power — those in the most remote areas. "We're hoping to have this substantially complete today," he said. The hardest-hit spots continue to be Wilderville with 890 out, O'Brien with 102, Cave Junction with 107, Selma with 121 and Wolf Creek-Sunny Valley-Glendale with a few hundred.

Holiday drivers got a bit of a break today, and the NWS called for on-and-off rain through the week. Snow levels could drop to 2,000 feet that tonight, but gradually rise during the week. Drivers could expect to see snow on higher passes on Christmas Day (Duewel 2012e).

DECEMBER 25, 2012 - TUESDAY: CHRISTMAS

1:00 a.m. 70°F Inside/35°F Outside; not snowing.

5:00 a.m. 72°F Inside/35°F Outside; not snowing; snow storm did not arrive last night as forecast (Photo 17).

7:00 a.m. 69°F Inside/35°F Outside; not snowing. It was a strange Christmas morning as BH was still medically an invalid and had been bound to the home place for many weeks - no real Christmas tree; no significant presents from BH to HB, etc. He was just not able to do his job. The bad to terrible weather had also restricted and/or limited travel. However, HB made it happen Christmas morning with her big smile and the presents they did have. Deeno and Pebbles did not quite know what to do with all the Christmas wrappings on the floor.

7:45 a.m. 69°F Inside/35°F Outside; snowing pretty good.

11:10 a.m. 70°F Inside/36°F Outside; not snowing.

12:25 p.m. 70°F Inside/37°F Outside; medium rain outside; snow starting to melt in driveway down to gravel where it had been driven on.

4:00 p.m. 70°F Inside/38°F Outside; medium rain; snow melting.

6:05 p.m. 69°F Inside/37°F Outside; not snowing.
 8:10 p.m. 69°F Inside/37°F Outside; not snowing; can hear the water from the melting snow.
 11:00 p.m. 67°F Inside/37°F Outside; not snowing; can hear the water from the melting snow.

DECEMBER 26, 2012 - WEDNESDAY

4:00 a.m. 69°F Inside/36°F Outside; not snowing.
 6:10 a.m. 71°F Inside/36°F Outside; not snowing.
 9:45 a.m. BH & HB had a consultation visit with Dr. Powell who had been BH's surgeon that had removed his gallbladder at the Three Rivers Community Hospital (i.e., follow-up meeting after December 11, 2012 gallbladder surgery).
 11:00 a.m. HB went to work at BLM driving BH's Ford 4-wheel drive pickup. Puppy dogs on home sidewalk (Photo 18). Her Toyota pickup was brought down from the top of the driveway on Jess Way (Photo 19). BH took the chains off and drove the pickup into the garage. HB was happier.



Photo 18. Puppies Pebbles & Deeno Checking Out Their World

As one of the most extended power outages to hit the county in years winds down, Old Man Winter kept hurling more storms at Josephine County. Blizzard conditions caused holiday travel problems nationally, sometimes fatally, and tornadoes hit the Gulf Coast.



Photo 19. HB Toyota Safe At Home

The National Weather Service has issued a winter weather advisory for Wednesday, December 26, 2012, through 10 p.m. in Josephine County above 2,500 feet, warning of more hazardous conditions for holiday drivers. From 2 to 8 inches of snow was forecast depending on elevation, and passes as low as Mount Sexton north of Grants Pass could be affected. The NWS predicted a snow level of 1,800 feet tonight.

A woman and her dog were rescued from the snow at about 2 a.m. Christmas Day — Tuesday — on Mount Sexton, according to a news release from the Josephine County Sheriff's Office. Josephine County Search and Rescue was notified at 10 p.m. on Monday that the pair was stuck in the snow on Old Highway 99. Sheriff Gil Gilbertson and Deputy Cory Krauss responded with snowmobiles to retrieve the driver and her pet. Gilbertson said

this morning that the woman said she was on her way to a friend's home about two miles farther up the road when she got stuck in deep snow.

Still, the latest round of snow should amount to nowhere near last Thursday's blizzard that dumped 2 feet of snow at higher elevations and a few inches in Grants Pass. That storm sent thousands of trees and limbs into power lines, initially cutting off power to nearly 20,000 of Josephine County's 45,000 Pacific Power customers.

As of 9:30 this morning, all but 128 customers had power restored, said Monte Mendenhall of Pacific Power. A pocket of homes near Hayes Hill on the Redwood Highway lacked power, along with some homes in the Glendale, Wolf Creek and Sunny Valley areas.

So many people were without power that a clerk at Home Depot on Sunday said no more generators were available.

More than 200 workers from around the state worked on the outage. *"This is the worst outage I've experienced in 34 years,"* Mendenhall said. *"We appreciate the customers' patience."* (Duewel. 2012f).

- 1:40 p.m. 68°F Inside/42°F Outside; clear not snowing.
- 3:40 p.m. 68°F Inside/42°F Outside; clear not snowing. Mike takes a picture of himself in computer room (Photo 20).
- 4:30 p.m. HB home from work; Ford parked on Jess Way.
- 7:45 p.m. 68°F Inside/38°F Outside; clear not snowing. Mike continued to work on this snow storm story in the computer room, and he was tired of it. Time to end it.

DECEMBER 27, 2012 - THURSDAY

- 1:15 p.m. 68°F Inside/37°F Outside; not snowing.

It was forecast that holiday travelers the next several days wouldn't see the stormy weather that Southern Oregon had experienced the past 10 days. But with overnight low temperatures projected at freezing or below into New Year's Day, drivers still needed to be wary of slippery roads. Drivers would also encounter some fog through early next week, according to the NWS.

The only real snow potential was the next day through early Saturday in the Cascades and Siskiyou, and only the higher passes would be affected, based on the NWS forecast. Snowfall should be light. The sun should show itself a lot on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, the NWS predicted. The snowstorm that hit last week, Thursday, December 20, 2012, had knocked out power to close to 20,000 customers in Josephine County plus the Glendale and Rogue River areas. Just 12 customers in the county still did not have power, according to Pacific Power. December's 10.58 inches of precipitation in Grants Pass was already in the 10 wettest Decembers since 1950, well above the average of 6.19 for the month (Daily Courier. 2012b).

2013 was about to begin and our planet had survived yet another end-of-the-world prophesy. We don't get much snow here in Climate Town, averaging just 3 inches or so a year, but when the flakes do fall, most residents appreciate the wintry scene, though it normally doesn't last long. The snow we got last Thursday was different. While we say "it can't happen here," just look back into local history: in February 1917 more than 34 inches of snow fell on Grants Pass.

The Thursday snow storm was a good experience, a fire drill, if you will, for home preparedness. Too often, the notion has been scoffed at as part of the various end-of-the-world scenarios rather than just surviving a basic emergency, such as a major snowstorm or earthquake (James. 2012a).



Photo 20. Mike In Computer Room Of Walker's Home

Table 1. It's the Climate - Grants Pass, Oregon (353445)⁷
Period of Record Monthly Climate Summary
Period of Record : 1/ 2/1928 to 12/31/2005
 Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu
<http://www.wrcc.dri.edu/cgi-bin/cliMAIN.pl?orgran>

Ave. Maximum Temperature ¹	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ave ⁶
Ave. Minimum Temperature ²	47.0	54.4	60.7	67.5	75.1	81.8	89.9	89.6	83.7	69.9	53.6	46.6	68.3
Ave. Total Precipitation ³	32.5	33.7	35.4	38.2	43.1	48.3	52.1	50.9	45.5	40.0	36.4	33.8	40.8
Ave. Total Snow Fall ⁴	5.49	4.00	3.34	1.92	1.39	0.70	0.27	0.31	0.74	2.29	4.54	5.91	30.9
Ave. Snow Depth ⁵	2.1	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.8	3.8
Ave. Snow Depth ⁶	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Footnotes

1. Average Maximum Temperature (fahrenheit)
2. Average Minimum Temperature (fahrenheit)
3. Average Total Precipitation (inches)
4. Average Total Snowfall (inches)
5. Average Snow Depth (inches)
6. Average
7.
 - Percent of possible observations for period of record.
 - Max. Temp.: 98.7% Min. Temp.: 98.6% Precipitation: 98.8% Snowfall: 98.6% Snow Depth: 98.5% Check Station Metadata or Metadata graphics for more detail about data completeness.
 - Western Regional Climate Center, wrcc@dri.edu

Table 2. Climate In Grants Pass, Oregon

Climate	Grants Pass, OR	United States
Rainfall (in.)	30.8	36.5
Snowfall (in.)	3.9	25
Precipitation Days	113	100
Sunny Days	196	205
Avg. July High	90	86.5
Avg. Jan. Low	32.5	20.5
Comfort Index (higher=better)	51	44
UV Index	3.2	4.3
Elevation ft.	1,049	1,443

Sperlings, Downloaded January 2, 2013
http://www.bestplaces.net/climate/city/oregon/grants_pass

Appendix A. Climate for Grants Pass, Oregon

Extreme weather includes unusual, severe or unseasonal weather; weather at the extremes of the historical distribution — the range that has been seen in the past. Weather is the state of atmosphere, to the degree that it is hot or cold, wet or dry, calm or stormy, clear or cloudy. Most weather phenomena occur in the troposphere, just below the stratosphere. Weather generally refers to day-to-day temperature and precipitation activity, whereas climate is the term for the average atmospheric conditions over longer periods of time.

True to its motto, "*It's the climate!*", GP has a Zone 7 climate with hot, long summers and mild but pronounced winters with sharply defined seasons without severe winter cold or humidity. This climate zone differs from the rest of Western Oregon in that there is less ocean influence, cooler winters, and warmer drier summers.



Grants Pass Post Office at Railroad

From his undergraduate days at Oregon State University, in the Natural Resources Department, Mike remembered that the lower Rogue River Valley's climate was Dry-summer Subtropical Climate (Cs) (Mediterranean). He privately liked the idea of Mediterranean and its glamorous reputation. He also liked the rhythm of the seasons, winter, spring, summer, and fall.

He also remembers the *It's the climate* sign, off and on, all his life in GP. When was it first put up? Perhaps in the 1910s? It's the climate can also mean the variable unpredictable nature of the weather (i.e., what's it going to do today, rain, snow, sun, or all of them?).

Zone 7 summer days are sunny, dry and hot but it cools down dramatically at night; the average July high temperature is 90 °F and the low, 53 °F. Winters are cool and fairly rainy with only occasional snow; the average January high temperature is 47.5 °F and the low, 32.5 °F. It receives roughly 30 inches of precipitation per year, with three-quarters of it occurring between November 1 and March 31. The mild winters and dry summers support a native vegetation structure quite different from the rest of Oregon, dominated by madrone, deciduous and evergreen oak, manzanita, pine, chinquapin, and other species that are far less abundant further north.

The record high temperature of 113°F was on July 23, 1928. The record low temperature of -1°F was on December 9, 1972 until 1990 when it reached -3°F. There are an average of 51.3 days annually with highs of 90°F or higher and 77.5 days annually with lows of 32°F or lower.

Measurable precipitation falls on an average of 110 days annually. The wettest year was 1996 with 55.64 inches of precipitation and the driest year was 1976 with 15.35 inches of precipitation. The most precipitation in one month was 20.63 inches in December 1996. The heaviest rainfall in 24 hours was 5.27 inches on December 29, 1950. There is an average of only 4.6 inches of snow annually. The most snowfall in one month was 34.1 inches in February 1917.

1. From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Grants_Pass,_Oregon#Climate
Downloaded April 19, 2014.

Appendix B. Weather Resources

Monte Mundenhall, Southern Oregon Pacific Power Web Site
<http://www.pacificpower.net/index.html>

KTVL Channel 10
<http://www.ktv1.com/>

KDRV Channel 12 T.V.

GrantsPassWeather.com
<http://www.grantspassweather.com/>

The Weather Channel
<http://www.weather.com/>

Accuweather
<http://www.accuweather.com/>

Weather Underground
<http://www.wunderground.com/>

National Weather Service (NOAA)
<http://www.weather.gov/>

Intellicast
<http://www.intellicast.com/>

Interstate 5 Oregon Freeway Road Conditions, Weather, and Traffic Web
http://www.medfordfuel.com/Medford_Fuel_Weather.htm

RyanWeather
<http://www.ryanweather.com/>