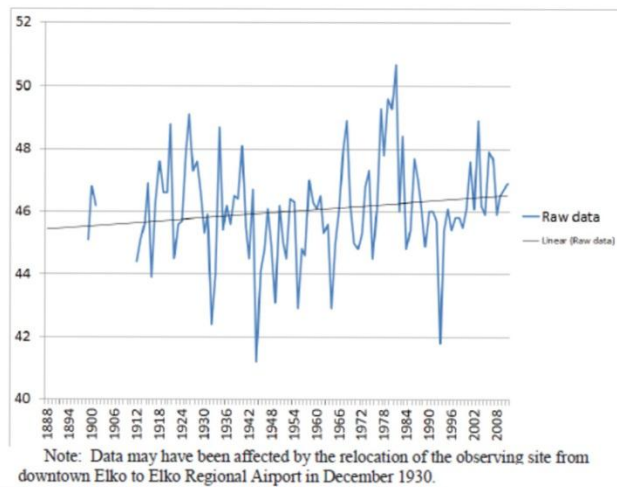


## How Hot Was It This Summer?

By Larry Hyslop

ANNUAL DAILY AVERAGE TEMPERATURES  
(GRAPHED)  
ELKO



The annual daily average temperatures fluctuate wildly

It was very hot this summer and I may have complained to Cindy once or twice about the heat. But she raised the stakes when she said she did not think it was that bad. So I had to contact the Elko Weather Forecast Office, just to prove her wrong.

Ray Martin is the Climate Focal Point with the local office. "Yes, this year so far has been unusually warm, to be sure," he told me. 2012 is the second hottest year on record, since records have been kept for Elko. Only 1981 had an average higher temperature. We still have three months to go in 2012 and we could still top 1981's average daily temperature to become the hottest year on record.

June through August was the third hottest on record with an average of 70.7 degrees at the airport. Only 1981 and 1967 were warmer. We had 65 days with temperatures over 90 degrees, when the normal number is 44 days. The hottest day this summer was July 12, at 102 degrees, whereas the normal highest temperature is 100 degrees. Four days reached 100 or higher, where the normal is only two days.

Summer nights were also warm. On July 13, the lowest temperature reached was 70 degrees, the third warmest low recorded in Elko, and the warmest low in over 80 years. On August 10, the night time low was 69 degrees, an all-time record for August. Twelve nights had lows of 60 or above, ranking third in this category.

So naturally, I asked why this summer was so hot. Ray said global warming is one reason. The above chart shows yearly temperatures that fluctuate wildly but its trend line shows an upward climb. More specifically, a high pressure region sat over the Four Corners Area this summer, keeping us warm. This high brought moisture to southern Nevada, making their summer very wet but that moisture did not extend far enough north to benefit us.

It was a hot summer and I proved that to Cindy, but she will not acknowledge it. Unfortunately, the warmer than normal temperatures and dry weather looks like it will continue through this fall.

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