NWS FORM E-5 (11-88) **(PRES. by NWS Instruction 10-924)**	**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE**	HYDROLOGIC SERVICE AREA (HSA) **WFO Midland, Texas**
MONTHLY REPORT OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR: MONTH YEAR **December 2006**
TO: Hydrometeorological Information Center, W/OH2 NOAA / National Weather Service 1325 East West Highway, Room 7230 Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283		SIGNATURE **Lora J Mueller** In Charge of HSA DATE **January 7, 2007**

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

X **An X inside this box indicates that no flooding occurred within this hydrologic service area.**

An interesting weather pattern set up during December across the MAF HSA. The southern jet stream became quite active as a series of upper level disturbances dove down through the western portions of the US and into northern (and sometimes central) Mexico. This brought some needed (albeit short-lived) precipitation (generally in the form of wintry precip) across portions of the HSA. This pattern began to become established as we neared mid-month. As an upper level low approached northern Mexico from near Baja California, a Winter Storm Warning (WSW) was issued for the Davis Mountains and the Marfa Plateau. Precipitation reports from this sparsely populated area ranged from 0.01 inches of rainfall around the Marfa area to 0.08 inches near Dryden. However, locations throughout Big Bend National Park consistently reported rainfall amounts for December 8 ranging from a third of an inch to slightly above one half of an inch. Spotty precipitation continued across the lower Trans Pecos region into December 9 and 10 without any significant accumulation amounts reported.

This pattern was repeated several times throughout the month of December with various types of precipitation involved across different locations. The next time allowed much of Southeast New Mexico to receive varying degrees of a wintry mix over December 19 and 20th. Spotters reported everything from freezing rain, to sleet, to snow and sometimes a combination of all. Additional reports of sleet were received from the McDonald Observatory atop Mt Locke in the Davis Mountains. The Carlsbad ASOS reported 0.23 inches of precip with only a Trace of that as snow which is fairly consistent with most Coop Observer totals. Additionally, many of the observers around Southeast New Mexico also reported ¼ to ½ inches of sleet accumulations as the event occurred.

The third time the pattern repeated it looked as if a white Christmas might be possible across some locations in the Midland HSA. But, this was not to be as the system pushed through too quickly. Precipitation amounts (mainly in the form of rain) ranged from 0.05 inches to a little above a tenth of an inch from the 24th. While the surface front pushed through the area, the biggest problem associated with the system was very high and damaging winds.

December's final run with this active pattern came over the last days of the month (and year) starting late on the 28th. This run provided everything from frozen precipitation to thunderstorms. A Winter Storm Advisory was issued again for the Davis and Apache Mountains. Spotter reports from those locations indicated half a foot or more of snow accumulations in the lower elevations in and around Alpine. Additional reports from Southeast New Mexico indicated heavy snow with accumulations of ¼ inch to over 1 inch on grassy areas.

Midland International Airport (MAF) received 1.37 inches of liquid precipitation for the month of December. This is 0.70 inches above normal for the month of December. MAF ended the year with 15.81 inches for the year which is 1.01 inches above the climatological average and 1.79 inches above the total precipitation received in 2005 (14.02 inches).

Additional precipitation amounts from ASOS/AWOS sites across the area for the month of December:

City	ASOS ID	Monthly Total	Departure from Last Month
Big Spring	BPG	0.70 inches	+0.70 inches
Carlsbad	CNM	0.23 inches	+0.16 inches
Fort Stockton	FST	0.43 inches	+0.43 inches
Odessa	ODO	1.50 inches	+1.50 inches
Snyder	SNK	1.13 inches	+1.11 inches
Dryden	6R6	0.42 inches	+0.41 inches
Wink	INK	0.89 inches	+0.89 inches

Reservoir levels across the Hydrologic Services Area averaged 42.14% of conservation capacity at the end of December compared to 32.71% at the end of November. Champion Creek remained the lowest at 12%, which held steady from November and Lake Colorado City was highest with a capacity of 77% which also held steady from last month. Three reservoirs made a decent upwards jump with the increased precipitation amounts in December:

Reservoir (County, State)	November Conserv Cap (%)	December Conserv Cap (%)
JB Thomas (Scurry, TX)	16	16
Colorado City (Mitchell, TX)	77	77
Champion Creek (Mitchell, TX)	12	12
Moss Creek (Howard, TX)	36	74
Brantley (Eddy, NM)	36	46
Avalon (Eddy, NM)	17	34
Red Bluff (Reeves, TX)	35	36

Products Issued:

Flash Flood Watches: 0
Flash Flood Warnings: 0
Flash Flood Statements: 0
Flood Warnings: 0
    River Flood Warnings: 0
    Non-River: 0
Flood Statements: 0
    River Flood Statements: 0
    Non-River: 0
Hydrologic Statements (RVSMAF): 0
Drought Statements: 4

Total Products: 4

cc: mail: DOA, HIC, IBWC-ELP, IBWC-PRS, SWFED, USGS-CNM, USGS-SJT
cc: email: HIC, SRH, W/SR2, W/SR3, W/SR-ABQ, W/SR-ELP, W/SR-FWR, /SR-LBB, W/SR-MAF, W/SR-SJT, LCRA, TAMU, TCEQ