

Using UW Weather Web

Weather web can be found at <http://weather.uwyo.edu/>.

Remember that the times are given in Zulu time unless otherwise indicated. Zulu time, or UTC (Coordinated Universal Time), is what used to be known as Greenwich Mean Time, and is usually not the same as local time. Mountain Standard time is seven hours earlier than UTC; Mountain Daylight Time is six hours earlier than UTC.

Opening Page

Capsule descriptions of the options on the opening page are listed here. More detailed descriptions follow.

Weather Data for Wyoming

Links to data for individual Wyoming cities, weather service offices, and web cameras.

Weather Information for US Cities

Allows selection of current weather data in several formats for U.S. Weather stations. Select the data and format, then click on the station location. It doesn't always give you exactly what you ask for; you sometimes must make do.

Surface Observations

Current and some archived data for just about anywhere. You can get the U.S. Cities data here, too. You can get some archived data as well.

Observations and Images

This allows you to make all sorts of graphics for all regions of earth for a few days back. To save the graphics, hit the "Save/Print" button first.

Upper Air Observations

Raw sounding data and nice graphics.

Forecasts from Numerical Models

This is basically for the career meteorologist. It reports the predictions of mathematical forecasting formulas, giving really cool animations. How much should you trust them? Well, if you understand the models, how they work, their strengths, and their limitations, you can probably get a lot of insight from these. Otherwise, they're just really cool animations.

Polar Meteorology

This provides links to meteorological data and forecasts for the Arctic and Antarctic regions. There is not much human habitation in these regions, so there aren't many data stations. But sometimes it's good to look at these data to remind yourself that the weather in Laramie really isn't too bad by comparison.

Page Details

For most of the pages, my best advice is to simply explore. After all, you can't break the site. But there are some gems I'd like to bring to your attention.

Weather Data for Wyoming

Weather Information for Individual Cities

This brings up an interactive map of Wyoming with observation stations marked. Clicking on a station allows you to choose not only surface observations, but also forecasts and sun/moon data.

Weather at UW

Current conditions: Current data from the roof of the Engineering building.

Graphics: A meteogram of the recent observations.

Weather Cam: Just what you'd think. This gives a view from the Engineering building.

Wyoming Weather Service Offices

These direct you to the pages of the National Weather Service offices. From these, you can find a host of information, including forecasts, satellite images, and stream level readings

Daily Streamflow Conditions

An interactive map of gauging stations nationwide, showing stream flow by color. Clicking on a station takes you to a map of gauging stations for the state. Hovering the cursor over an individual station reports current data for that station.

Weather Information for US Cities

This displays a map of observation stations nationwide. Hovering the cursor over a station displays the station's name; clicking brings up whatever product you have selected from the menu at the left.

Surface Observations

This is a lot like the US Cities page: hover over the stations on the map to learn their identities; click on a station to access the information selected from the menu.

Observations and Images

This page is the highlight of the site. The sheer selection of the data, breadth of information, and flexibility in display make this the most informative weather site I know. It doesn't always have all the data you want, but you can almost always find something very enlightening.

When you first access the page, it looks boring: all you see is an outline map of states in the western contiguous United States. You can, however, change this using the "**Region**" drop-down menu.

The first block of checkboxes allows you to choose some graphic overlays. Select one, such as “radar,” and see what happens. If nothing happens after a few seconds, try another choice.

The “**Observations**” drop-down menu allows you to select what data to display from the different weather observation stations in the region. “Station Model” displays everything; other choices give a display of numbers for the selected measurement. Selecting to display in color shows different number ranges in different colors, making it easy to see how conditions change from place to place.

The “**Contours**” drop-down menu allows you to view data graphically rather than as just a bunch of numbers.

The **time** selections (“date,” “hour,” and “minute”) allow you to see conditions at selected times over the last several days.

If you want to save a nifty graphic you have made, click the “Save/Print” button at the lower left. It will bring you the graphic in a smaller window. You can save it by right-clicking on it.

Upper Air Observations

Upper Air Maps

Select the region and data you want to see. Click on “Get Map,” and see a contour map of the altitude of the pressure surface you selected.

Soundings

Select from the menu options what sort of display you want to observe. (For the Stuve Plot activity, choose “Text:List.”) Make sure you select the date and time (two choices per day, 00Z and 12Z) that you want. Select a location from which weather balloons are released, and see the data!

Profiler Data

Okay, if you’ve read this far, you got me. I don’t really know what this is.