CHAPTER 19

WINTER STORM AND BLIZZARD

Severe winter storms affect far more people in Wyoming than their summer counterparts, even though they are inherently less violent. Severe snowstorms are so extensive that they usually require a day or two to cross and completely exit the state. Blizzard conditions bring the triple threat of heavy snowfall, strong winds, and low temperatures. Poor visibility and huge snowdrifts are major hazards caused by blowing snow. These storms disrupt work, make travel difficult or impossible, isolate communities, kill livestock by the hundreds or thousands, and sometimes leave human fatalities in their wake.

Fortunately, the simultaneous combination of heavy snowfall, strong winds, and low temperatures are fairly rare, even in Wyoming. In some places, however, such as southeastern Wyoming, strong winds often lift snow crystals from the ground in quantities large enough to produce hazardous ground blizzards without accompanying snowfall.

Data show that Lake Yellowstone and Lander lead the state in frequency of major snowstorms with an average of about five such days per year. The time of year when they receive these storms, however is quite different. At Lake Yellowstone and throughout most of western Wyoming, major snowstorms strike—most often in the mid-winter months. In Lander and most other parts of the state (excluding the high mountains), major snowstorms hit with greatest frequency in March and April. The springtime snowstorm peak is particularly destructive for ranchers because it coincides with calving and lambing seasons.

History

The winter storm history in Wyoming extends from 1871 to present. There have been several winter storms in Wyoming that have caused great damage, loss of life, significant economic impact, and brought about change in livestock practices. A few of the most significant storms are described below.

The winter of 1886 to 1887 was one of the most significant early storms recorded. The snow came early and grew very deep. Then, a freak thaw turned much of this to water. As cold weather moved back in, this froze into a crust of ice, which prevented cattle getting through to the forage underneath. These conditions, accompanied by a blizzard of unusual severity, caused a loss of more than 50 percent among the state's livestock operations. The snow was 6 feet deep on the level between Mountain Home and Woods Landing. On February 12, 1887 the storms were still raging over the state, and the snow was packed so hard that stages could drive over it. Trains were stalled on their tracks. The winter of 1886 to 1887 sounded the death knell of the open range cattle business as it had been during previous years.

The most significant blizzard in Wyoming’s history in terms of total human impact occurred from January 2, 1949 to February 20, 1949. Snowfall in parts of eastern and southeastern Wyoming measured up to 30 inches, with drifts 20 to 30 feet high. Within 24 hours of the storm

initiation, all bus, rail, and air traffic was halted. There were thousands of stranded motorists and rail passengers. Thirty-three hundred (3300) miles of state highway lay in the storm area. Seventeen people perished, along with 55,000 head of cattle and more than 105,000 sheep. That was an estimated loss of 15 percent of the state's cattle. As the storm continued, Wyoming cities began to run out of food in the stores. Several other blizzards followed the first. It is estimated from reports of field men that 4194 people received aid through the U.S. Department of the Interior operations, and that help was given to 994 ranches (**Figure 19.1**). Seventeen people lost their lives during the storm, the greatest loss of life documented for a winter storm. Total economic loss is estimated at more than $9 million. In 2006 dollars, the economic loss would be more than $75.5 million.

Figure 19.1—Hay trucks bringing aid to marooned farms and ranches, Blizzard of 1949. Photograph courtesy of Wyoming State Archives.

From April 25-27, 1984, the worst late spring blizzard ever to hit Wyoming battered the northern part of the state for three days. The northeast section was the hardest hit as snowfalls of 2 to 3 feet were whipped into 15 to 20 foot drifts by 65 mph winds. A rancher near Wright and one near Sundance died of exposure as they were stranded hauling hay to their livestock. All of northeast Wyoming was effectively shut down for two days by the blizzard. The major damage occurred to the livestock industry as more than 200,000 sheep and cattle perished in the storm. Some ranchers lost up to 95 percent of their sheep, and up to 50 percent of their cattle. Contributing

factors to the very high losses were: a large number of the sheep had recently been shorn; the livestock were well into the spring lambing and calving season; and finally, the storm started as cold rain that changed to wet snow which stuck to everything. In addition, the weight of the record-breaking snow damaged many roofs, and high winds of 50 to 65 mph blew down quite a few structures. Total economic loss is estimated at more than $100 million. In 2006 dollars the economic loss would be over $191.9 million. The storm is the most costly in Wyoming's history.

On October 4-5, 1998, 8 to 12 inches of heavy, wet snow fell across eastern Converse County and Niobrara County. The heavy snow downed trees and power lines. Ice build up was up to 6 inches around many power lines. The build-up of ice around the power lines, along with 40 mph winds, caused 200 power poles to snap. Four thousand people were without power for up to 5 days in the Lusk, Manville, Van Tassle, and Lance Creek areas. Interstate 80 between Cheyenne and Laramie was closed due to near zero visibilities.

On November 1, 2000, an intense winter storm brought high winds and heavy, wet snowfall to portions of northeastern Wyoming. In Crook and Weston counties, snowfall rates were one to two inches an hour. Snowfall totals in the plains were from 4 to 8 inches, while in the Bear Lodge Mountains, totals were from 8 to 24 inches. The Four Corners area in northeastern Weston County reported the most snowfall at 24 inches. High, sustained winds up to 40 mph with gusts to 60 mph caused blizzard conditions and toppled 600 power poles. Seven thousand people were without power; almost 15 miles of lines had to be replaced. The city of Moorcroft had more than 150 stranded semi-trucks after the interstate was shut down. In Campbell County, the temperatures were too warm for snow and rain fell throughout the day, but high winds were reported with gusts more than 50 mph at times. The highest gust in Campbell County was 64 mph at Echeta.

A complete history of storms that caused damage, loss of life, significant closure of highways, and/or impacts to the livestock industry is in **Table 19.1**. The data were derived from the monthly Storm Data and Climatological Data reports from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Climatic Data Center (NCDC). Other sources are unpublished reports from WOHS, newspaper accounts, and periodicals from public libraries.

Wyoming State Property

Historically Wyoming State Government property has experienced 28 damaging winter storm events totaling $220,000 in the 307-month period from August, 1985 through February, 2011. If we can assume past experience will continue into the future, the state can anticipate 1 damaging winter storm event to its structures each year ([28 events / 307 months = .09 each month] * 12 months = 1.08 events annually). Given the number of anticipated annual damaging winter storm events, and given past experience, damages of $8,592 can be anticipated annually ([$219,803.73 / 307 months] * 12 months = $8,591.64). Reference State Building Insurance Claims Appendix.

Presidential and State Emergency/Disaster Declarations

There have been two Presidential Disaster Declarations related to winter storms in Wyoming. FEMA DR-WY-1268 was associated with the October 4-5, 1998, storm in Niobrara and Converse Counties. FEMA DR-WY-1399 was associated with the November 1, 2000 storm in Crook and Weston Counties.

State-Level Emergencies (Winter Storm)

Date	Case #	Duration (days)	Location	Event Type	Resource Used	Cost to WOHS (supported by docs)	Cost to WOHS - Est. (personnel, vehicle etc	Total Costs	Notes
2/7/2007	07-0002	1	Albany County	Snow Removal	Nat'l Guard	$ 11,233.36	$ 200.00	$ 11,433.36	
2/4/2008	08-0003	4	Niobrara County	Snow Removal	Nat'l Guard	$ 13,510.09	$ -	$ 13,510.09	Guard front-end loaders & dump trucks

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
12/02/1871	12/04/1871		Cheyenne to Rock Springs to Fort Washakie					A blizzard began on the evening of December 2nd and lasted two days, affecting the entire length of the tracks across Wyoming. A train was stranded by snowdrifts blocking the tracks. Work trains were sent out from both the east and the west ends to clear the tracks. However, the winds continued to blow so severely the tracks were blown full of snow and closed almost as fast as they were cleared. Finally, after several days of strenuous efforts, both work crews and the hungry passengers reached safety. The pattern for the next three months was set. Drifts went up to 15 feet high.
1/31/1883	2/01/1883		South Pass City, Big Sandy, Green River Area	4	2			"Old timers claim the blizzard of 1883 was the worst they ever had." Three men and one woman froze to death and two men were crippled for life. On January 30th another stage left Big Sandy about dark for South Pass. They were lost all night but arrived next day at Pacific Springs about noon. Superintendent Stewart insisted on going to South Pass with them as he had staked the road the day before. The team struggled against the blizzard for 8 miles to Fish Creek, which was about 4 miles from South Pass but finally refused to face the storm. Night came on and the inky darkness added to the horror of the situation. Another stage left Big Sandy for Green River on January 31st, with Al Dougherty as driver. Hopelessly lost, he unhitched the horses and spent the entire night driving them around a bunch of brush to keep alive. When light came he realized he must find help soon if he wanted to live, so clumsily tying the traces to a heavy belt he was wearing he let the horses drag him as he fell and struggled through the snow, back to Big Sandy Station.

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1886	1887		Statewide	Several	Several	Loss of 50% of livestock operations		The winter of 1886 to 1887 was the earliest severe economic disruption. The snow that winter came early and grew very deep. A freak thaw turned much of this to water. As cold weather moved back in, this froze into a crust of ice, which prevented cattle getting through to the forage underneath. These conditions, accompanied by blizzard of unusual severity, caused a loss of more than 50% among the state's livestock operations. The snow was 6 feet deep on the level between Mountain Home and Woods Landing. On February 12, 1887 the storms were still raging over the state, and the snow was packed so hard that stages could drive over it. Trains were stalled on their tracks. The winter sounded the death knell of the open range cattle business as it had been during previous years. Cattlemen called the disastrous winter of 1886 "The Equalizer." During the spring of 1887, in certain sheltered areas, residents were able to step from one carcass to another without touching ground.
1/01/1887	1/31/1887		Yellowstone National Park					In January of 1887, F.J. Haynes joined a cross-country ski expedition led by Frederick Schwatka, the arctic explorer. Soon after an eight-man expedition left Mammoth Hot Springs for Norris, a brutal winter storm hit. That night temps fell to -37ºF and several inches of snow fell the next day. The expedition took three days to reach Norris. They made it to the Upper Geyser Basin Hotel, but were shut in for five days during the continuous snowstorm. After two clear days in which Haynes took many photographs of the geysers in eruption, they returned to Norris, and then east to the Grand Canyon. After a couple of days at the nearly buried Canyon Hotel, they returned to Mammoth by way of crossing the Washburn Range. The clear day soon became a blinding blizzard, with visibility cut to 30 feet. Huddling beneath the branches of an alpine fir, they built a small fire to keep warm and nibbled carefully at their food, for they had only brought one day's provisions. They stayed awake the whole night, fearing a few moments sleep would become eternal in the subzero temperatures. The next day they set out, and the storm grew even worse. With no idea where they were, they wandered on, hoping against hope that they might find civilization. Finally, the sun emerged from the clouds and showed them the way to Tower Fall and to Mammoth.

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1/11/1888	1/13/1888		Statewide	Great loss of life		Thousands of cattle		This blizzard covered a number of states. The combination of strong winds, snow, and rapid temperature drops made it very dangerous. Loss of life was great and thousands of cattle died.
10/16/1906			Southwest Wyoming, Smiths Fork Area			Zero loss of stock		It was the fall of 1906, on October 16th, the storm began and continued for three days. In their two-room log cabin home, my parents with two small children, like other families in the vicinity, were virtually locked indoors. It was necessary nevertheless, that fuel be secured for warmth and cooking. The winter wood supply was not yet in, so the top rails of the good corral fence had to be cut up and burned. The water hole and the path to the nearby stream drifted full too fast to keep shoveled out, so my father filled the buckets by lying face down and dipping it from beneath the bridge by the barnyard. He then had to carry it above the level of the snow which was waist high. Since there was no follow-up snow storm immediately there was no loss of stock to speak of.
10/20/1906	10/23/1906		Southeast Wyoming					An unusually heavy and prolonged autumn snowstorm in southeast Wyoming. Twenty-three inches of snow fell in Cheyenne and numerous roads and train routes were blocked by snow.
1/1/1910			Eastern Fremont County					New Years morning, 1910, about 0500 MST, after a night with mercury ranging above freezing, the most severe blizzard I have ever experienced ranged through eastern Fremont County. Oliver Johnson and the late J.A. Delfelder had several herd of sheep in the vicinity of Castle Garden. The sheep drifted in the storm and the herders went after them. The railroad was snowbound. A train had not gotten through in weeks.
3/25/1931	3/28/1931		Statewide	2				This blizzard covered several states. Temperatures dropped rapidly. Strong winds drifted snow badly, blocking highways for several days. Two people died in Wyoming.
4/16/1939			Statewide					A number of sheep were reported killed in a blizzard that swept the State on the sixteenth.
4/13/1941	4/14/1941	Albany & Carbon	Southeast Wyoming					Two-three feet of snow reported in the storm over the northern portion of Carbon County and the northwestern portion of Albany County on the 13th and 14th. Automobile traffic on Highway 30 was severely disrupted. Nearly eighty cars were stalled between Medicine Bow and Ft. Steele.
4/11/1943		Sublette	Pinedale					A snowstorm at Pinedale on the 11th when a total of 30.0 inches of snow fell in one day.

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4/12/1945			Entire State					A heavy snow storm occurred on Easter Sunday and the following two days. This storm covered the entire State but was especially heavy over the southern third.
3/14/1946	3/15/1946		Southeast Wyoming					A heavy snow storm occurred over the southeast portion of the State on the 14th and 15th. Snowfall up to 15 inches occurred at a few places during this first storm.
3/20/1946	3/21/1946		Northeast Wyoming					A heavy snow storm occurred over the northeast portion on the 20th and 21st. The storm covered a large area and many stations reported from 12 to 17 inches of snow. Many of the secondary roads in the north portion of the State were blocked by this storm.
4/28/1947		Albany	Pole Mountain Nursery					The heaviest amount in 24 consecutive hours occurred at Pole Mountain Nursery where 20 inches fell on 28th. This was in connection with a snow storm which brought a total of 21 inches of snow. Highway 30 between Cheyenne and Laramie was temporarily blocked by this storm stranding several cars on Sherman Hill.
6/11/1947	6/12/1947	Statewide				250,000		Heavy losses were experienced in livestock during the storms on June 11-12 and 20-21. One rancher in the Cheyenne area reported losses of approximately $15,000, and in Natrona County losses are estimated at $125,000. It is estimated that the losses throughout the state from these two storms will run to approximately a quarter of a million dollars. These losses were confined entirely to newly shorn sheep and young lambs. Some damage resulted to the bean crop and wheat by frost following the storm of June 11-12, but the principal damage was to gardens.
6/20/1947	6/21/1947	Laramie	Cheyenne			15,000		Heavy losses were experienced in livestock during the storms on June 11-12 and 20-21. One rancher in the Cheyenne area reported losses of approximately $15,000, and in Natrona County losses are estimated at $125,000. It is estimated that the losses throughout the State from these two storms will run to approximately a quarter of a million dollars. These losses were confined entirely to newly shorn sheep and young lambs.

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4/18/1948	4/19/1948	Sheridan	Sheridan					Eight inches of snow fell during this storm at Sheridan, causing considerable damage to trees, shrubbery, and telephone and electric wires.
1/2/1949	2/20/1949	Laramie, Albany, Carbon, Campbell, Crook, Niobrara, Goshen, Weston, Platte, and Converse		17		9,000,000 Livestock losses were great		Most significant blizzard in Wyoming's history. Snowfall measured up to 30 inches, with drifts 20 to 30 feet high. Within 24 hours of the storm initiation, all bus, rail, and air traffic was halted. There were thousands of stranded motorists and rail passengers. Thirty-three hundred miles of state highway lay in the storm area, there was an estimated loss of 15% of the state's cattle. Seventeen people perished, along with 55,000 head of cattle and more than 105,000 sheep. As the storm continued, Wyoming cities began to run out of food in the stores. Several other blizzards followed the first. "It is estimated from reports of field men that 4194 people received aid through the Interior Department operations; that 104,839 cattle and 421,479 sheep were relieved; and that help was given to 994 ranches. A total of 12,894 miles of roads and feed lanes were opened; 1457 tons of food, fuel, and other supplies were hauled over opened roads; 26,604 tons of feed was hauled over opened roads or made available; and the total number of operated machine hours, for snow moving equipment only totaled 18,310. Wind speeds were 30 to 78 mph with an average of 55 mph. Temperature was below zero. Funding: $200,000 initial relief, later an additional $500,000, federal government turned over $125,000. Out of the $700,000 appropriated, more than $450,000 was returned. Damage and cost: Highway department normally spent $265,000 for snow removal, this storm generated costs of $618,029.50; total economic loss is estimated at more than $9 million. Time spent: December through March snow removal equipment spent 139,000 hours; man-hours amounted to 201,000 hours. Cost of these operations to the government is estimated at $169,550.64, with a unit total cost of approximately $13.15 per mile of road opened and approximately $9.25 per operated hour of snow moving equipment.
3/25/1950	3/27/1950		Statewide	1				Heavy snow and strong winds covered much of several states, including Wyoming. Snowfall up to 60 inches fell in Wyoming. There was widespread damage to power lines and many cars and trains were stranded. Drifts were up to 16 feet and one person died in the state.

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6/1/1951	6/2/1951	Fremont				35,000		The heavy snow on the 1st and 2nd caused extensive damage in Fremont County. This snow storm caused numerous breaks in telephone and electric wires as well as damage to trees and shrubs. The damage in this storm was estimated at approximately $35,000.
3/20/1952	3/21/1952	Carbon & Sweetwater	South Central Wyoming					Heavy snow over Southern Wyoming on the 20th and 21st blocked Highway 30 between Rawlins and Rock Springs causing a number of motorists to be stranded.
5/16/1952			Southwest Wyoming			170,000		A severe wind and snow storm over the southwest portion of the State on the 16th caused approximately $70,000 property damage and about $100,000 damage in livestock losses. Property damage was confined principally to telephone and light poles broken, small buildings demolished and some damage to automobiles. Many young lambs and newly shorn sheep perished in the storm.
1/14/1953	1/15/1953	Platte	Wheatland	1				The storm of the 14th and 15th was triggered by the passage of several weak disturbances from the west coast causing the development of an intense low pressure area in western Kansas. The low caused the advection of cold Canadian air over Wyoming accompanied by snow and northerly winds causing the blizzard conditions in local areas. Travel was greatly hampered and near Wheatland one death was caused by freezing. Livestock interests suffered because of shrinkage but the loss of animals was small. Fortunately, the low pressure area continued its eastward movement so the storm was of short duration.
2/18/1953	2/20/1953		Statewide	5				A storm covered the entire State but was generally light west of the Continental Divide and moderate to heavy over the east portion. Many observers reported this storm as the worst since the blizzard of 1949. Roads in the east portion of the State were blocked and many secondary roads were still blocked at the end of the month. A total of five persons lost their lives during the month in traffic accidents as a result of the storms.
11/5/1953		Unknown		2				Ice covered roads were contributing factors in two fatal automobile accidents
3/12/1954			Northeast Wyoming					The worst blizzard of the year, occurred on March 12 over the extreme northern and east portions of the State. There were a few livestock losses reported, and roads and highways were blocked intermittently for short periods.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
4/30/1954	5/1/1954	Albany				5,000	1,000	An ice storm in northern Albany County on April 30 and May 1, caused property damage of about $5,000 and crop damage of about $1,000.
2/18/1955	2/20/1955		Statewide	4				This blizzard covered several states, including Wyoming. Up to 11 inches of snow fell with winds to 65 mph and temperatures below zero. There were four deaths in Wyoming.
4/2/1955	4/4/1955		North Central & Northeast WY			1,000,000		A snowstorm occurred from the 2nd to the 4th and covered the northeast portion of the State plus part of the Big Horn Basin. The storm resulted from a slow-moving low pressure system that stagnated over the Black Hills of South Dakota. Most stations reported up to 30 inches of snow or more with drifts of 10 to 15 feet. No injuries or loss of life were reported but livestock losses were heavy, estimated at over one million dollars. All highways and secondary roads in the area were blocked with snow. Higher temperatures following the storm soon melted the snow.
4/11/1955		Laramie, Niobrara & Goshen	Southeast Wyoming					A severe snowstorm covered the southeast portion and was confined to the counties of Laramie, Goshen, and Niobrara. This storm began on the 11th and lasted less than 24 hours. As much as 30 inches of snow fell during the storm and strong winds piled the snow into drifts that blocked all roads. Due to the fact that the storm was of short duration, livestock losses were kept at a minimum and warm temperatures following the storm soon melted the snow. Much needed moisture resulted from these two storms.
11/1/1956	11/3/1956		Eastern Wyoming					A severe blizzard on November 1-3 wrought general havoc in the eastern half of Wyoming; transportation was disrupted, utilities damaged, and livestock lost.
12/5/1956	12/7/1956			9				The snowstorm of December 5-7 caused general nuisance to transportation; the weather was indirectly involved in auto accidents which claimed nine lives
3/5/1957		Converse	Bill 10 NE					Bill 10 NE reported blizzard conditions on the 5th.
3/5/1957		Laramie	Carpenter 3 E					Carpenter 3 E reported a severe blizzard which began about 10 p.m. of the 5th and continued until midnight.
3/10/1957		Park	Crandall Creek					Crandall Creek reported a blizzard on the 10th.
3/22/1957	3/25/1957		Statewide					Heavy snow fell over several states, including Wyoming. Drifts were from 10 to 25 feet deep and many motorists were trapped in cars or snow bound in towns.
3/22/1957		Laramie	Cheyenne		1			On the 22nd the wet snow followed by freezing temperatures

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								produced hazardous, icy conditions and poor visibility on a highway about five miles north of Cheyenne. Cars from both directions skidded on a hill and stalled, blocking the highway, or slid into the ditches beside the road. Later approaching cars, unable to stop, collided with those already disabled and immobile. About ten cars in all were involved. Fortunately only one man suffered bruises. Some damage to cars was incurred.
11/1/1957	11/5/1957	Unknown			2			Ice storms the first 4 or 5 days of the month and around the 19th, caused locally heavy property damage to telephone and power lines and some trees and bushes, also contributed to hazardous driving conditions which resulted in a few injuries from automobile accidents but no fatalities.
11/19/1957		Unknown						Ice storms the first 4 or 5 days of the month and around the 19th, caused locally heavy property damage to telephone and power lines and some trees and bushes, also contributed to hazardous driving conditions which resulted in a few injuries from automobile accidents but no fatalities.
4/22/1958	4/23/1958		Northern Wyoming					The snowstorm started on the 22d and continued through the 23d. Although snow was reported by most stations in the northwest quarter of the State, the greatest accumulation was reported over the northern part of the Big Horn Mountains. Snow depths in the mountains ranged up to three feet in Wyoming. Drifting snow blocked mountain roads trapping six persons on a mountain pass 9,000 feet high. When the storm broke a spectacular helicopter rescue was performed. There was some loss of livestock as well as downed telephone and power lines. Schools were disrupted but storm losses were more than offset by increased water supplies.
10/20/1958			Northeast Wyoming					Snow combined with strong winds on October 20 to cause considerable inconvenience and some damage through the northern counties of Wyoming from the Big Horn Mountains eastward. Snowfall accumulations over the Big Horn Mountains ranged up to 18 inches. Several hunters were caught in the storm. Northward into Montana, there was some loss of life. In the northeast corner of Wyoming, as much as 10 to 12 inches of snow fell. Strong winds, together with the snow, took down power and telephone lines, television antennas, upset small buildings, and caused miscellaneous other damage. Livestock damage was not large because of the relative warmness and

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								short duration of the storm.
5/13/1961	5/14/1961		Southeast Wyoming			275,000		Thunderstorms and rain showers began on the 12th, then early on the 13th rain turned to snow and continued with drifting throughout the day and stopped about 0330 MST on the 14th. Hundreds of motorists were stranded and much damage was done to power and telephone lines. Some damage was done to trees and some crops were damaged by runoff. There were numerous minor auto accidents due to low visibility.
10/7/1961	10/8/1961		Western half			27,500		Snow accompanied by high winds began early afternoon and lasted through most of the next morning causing considerable damage to power and telephone lines and stranded over 500 motorists at various points in the western half of the state, notably along Highway 30.
10/28/1961			Statewide	5	4	27,500		Snow accompanied by high winds began early afternoon and continued through the evening. Three people were killed and four were injured in auto accidents caused by low visibility. Two hunters were lost and died in the storm.
9/15/1965	9/17/1965		Statewide			2,750,000		A cold wave moved over the state the evening of the 15th and caused considerable damage to crops, trees, power, and phone lines, stopped much of the transportation by closing roads, caused an estimated 5% shrinkage in marketable livestock and a few death losses in livestock. Temperature dropped quite low for so early in the season and the heavy (18- to 22-inch) band of snow from the southwest part of the state to the northeast part was by far the heaviest so early in the season.
4/29/1967	4/30/1967		Eastern Wyoming			275,000		Heavy snowstorm began early evening spreading over eastern Wyoming with strong winds. Considerable damage was done to power and phone lines. Highways were blocked with travel halted. Stockmen in northeast quarter of the state lost stock especially newborn calves and lambs.

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5/1/1967			Northeast Wyoming			2,750,000		A heavy snowstorm started the evening of the 29th of April and continued to late on the 1st of May accompanied by strong winds. Damage was done to communication lines, electric lines, transportation was halted, and several thousand sheep and cattle were killed.
4/2/1968	4/3/1968		Southern half	3		275,000		A blizzard started early evening over the southern half of the state and continued until late afternoon of the 3rd. Three people were killed in blizzard associated incidents. Numerous people were stranded and there were numerous outages of power and communications.
4/24/1969	4/27/1969		Northeast Wyoming			5,500,000		Heavy wet snow with strong winds, occasionally reaching 60 knots did about $5.5 million damage over much of northeast Wyoming. Losses of sheep were especially heavy as shearing and lambing were well underway. Lighter losses were incurred in the cattle industry. Forests were damaged as well as utility lines, and roads were blocked with numerous accidents due to low visibility.
3/13/1973	3/14/1973		Statewide			275,000		Heavy snow and strong winds blanketed the state, with roads, streets, and farms and ranches blocked. There were numerous power and communications outages as well as livestock losses.
3/27/1975	3/28/1975		Statewide			2,750,000		A severe blizzard with winds 40 to 50 mph and gusts to 75 mph, snow and temperatures down to 0 degrees started the morning of the 27th and continued to the evening of the 28th. Highways were blocked and some people stranded for varying times but all rescued. Some damage to signs, windows, trees, etc., but most damage to livestock, especially new born, and to cows (udders frostbitten, etc.). The storm was most severe over the eastern half of the state and most of the damage was there also.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
5/19/1975	5/21/1975		Southwest and West Central Wyoming			27,500		A late spring snowstorm hit much of southwestern and south central Wyoming with heavy snow and, at times, high winds. This combination of weather closed roads and schools, destroyed some trees, and resulted in auto accidents and power outages. Conditions were especially bad near Rock Springs, Green River, and also in Sublette County where winds estimated to be as high as 65 mph whipped the 7- to 12-inch snowfall into 4- to 8-foot drifts. At Lander a record snowfall of 31.5 inches was recorded. This was not only a record single storm snowfall for May, but, combined with the 2.4 inches of snow from the remainder of the month, set a new monthly record snowfall for May at Lander. The major damage at Lander was $20,000 to an airplane destroyed when a hangar collapsed.
12/31/1975	1/1/1976		Most of Wyoming			275,000		Heavy snow with strong winds began early on December 31, 1975 and continued through most of the state for most of the storm. Livestock losses were minimal and most of the damage is attributed to loss of time, cars stuck, rescue missions, and snow removal.
3/10/1977	3/11/1977	Laramie, Albany, Platte, and Goshen	SE Wyoming			275,000		Blizzard got underway about noon and soon blocked traffic and high winds caused damage to trees, power lines, and roofs in Laramie, Albany, Platte, and Goshen counties.
11/16/1977	11/19/1977		Statewide	1		275,000		Snow with large accumulations entered the state the afternoon on the 16th, accompanied by very cold temperatures. Some blowing and drifting caused hazardous driving conditions in many areas. The snow ended by the morning of the 18th but was quickly followed by strong, gusty, westerly winds that moved the large amounts of loose snow into ground blizzards with severe problems on highways, ranches, etc. One man was killed in Rawlins as he tried to walk into town along the interstate from the west. Numerous people were stranded along the highways and in towns and ranches until the roads were opened.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
5/4/1978	5/7/1978	Big Horn, Campbell, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Natrona, Sheridan, Washakie, Weston, Hot Springs, and Niobrara	Central and East portions of Wyoming			11,753,000		This late spring snowstorm dumped 15 to 32 inches of wet heavy snow over much of central and eastern Wyoming including 11 counties (Big Horn, Campbell, Converse, Crook, Johnson, Natrona, Sheridan, Washakie, Weston, Hot Springs, and Niobrara). Extensive damage to crops and livestock was estimated at $11,743,890. Numerous local power outages were reported. Many county and state roads were closed, especially in the Laramie area. Interstate 80 was closed west of Cheyenne for nearly two days.
9/17/1978	9/18/1978	Lincoln				275,000		Considerable damage from a heavy wet snow over most of Lincoln County included downed power lines and trees, and extensive crop damages across the county.
12/5/1978	12/7/1978		Statewide			275,000		This very heavy snowstorm dumped over a foot of snow across much of the state causing road and airport closures in many areas throughout the state. Winds gusting to 75 mph caused extensive blowing and drifting snow, stopping both local and interstate travel. This storm isolated livestock from ranchers, contributing to subsequent substantial losses of cattle and sheep in Wyoming.
12/22/1978		Laramie	5 miles west of Cheyenne			275,000		Wind gusts estimated to 85 mph blew four Union Pacific freight cars off their tracks west of Cheyenne. Other personal property damages were reported as well. Extensive blowing and drifting snow caused snow drifts up to 17 feet high in some exposed areas west of Cheyenne.
1/1/1979	1/31/1979		Statewide			2,500,000		Numerous heavy snows combined with prolonged extremely cold temperatures caused widespread damage across much of Wyoming during the month of January. Estimated loss of 2700 sheep and 2000 cattle with projected losses of calves and lambs to 35,000 head are reported. Also, numerous towns and communities across the state have extensive damages to their water systems due to frozen water mains and sewer systems. Emergency Winter Storm Relief Aid of $2.5 million is currently being asked for by the State.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
11/19/1979	11/21/1979	Albany, Goshen, Laramie, and Platte	Southeastern Wyoming			275,000		Snow began falling at 1600 MST on the 19th, changing to blizzard conditions by mid-morning on the 20th. Roads were blocked, travelers stranded, schools closed, and business disrupted. A 26-inch snowfall at Cheyenne broke records for November. Some county roads were still not open by the end of the month. While there were no reported losses of livestock, hay was airlifted to some cattle that were without feed for about a week.
1/6/1980	1/15/1980	Teton						Snow began on the 6th and ended on the 15th. Four feet of snow closed all roads into Jackson Hole for one day. Winds in excess of 100 mph were clocked by the U.S. Forest Service at the top of Rendezvous Mountain, while residents at Moose reported gusts to 76 mph. Major avalanches closed Teton Pass indefinitely and slide in the Snake River Canyon closed that route.
1/10/1980			Statewide					Much of the state was paralyzed. Freak thunderstorms occurred in Casper, Riverton, and Lander areas. Roads were closed and some motorists stranded. Interstate 25 from Laramie to the Utah state line was closed by winds approaching 80 mph in south-central Wyoming. An estimated 60 vehicles were in the ditch along I-80 west of Rawlins. Reported 90 mph winds in Medicine Bow blew out car and truck windows and a large window in a cafe. Many schools were closed.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
1/25/1980	1/27/1980		Statewide	4				Snow and blowing snow from the morning of the 25th to the evening of the 27th swept across Wyoming dumping a record 11 inches of snow on Cheyenne in a 12-hour period. Heavy snow and slick road surfaces due to bitter cold temperatures closed many highways and interstates, including I-80 from the Nebraska state line to Rock Springs. Near Bitter Creek Hill, 38 miles east of Rock Springs, 21 cars and trucks were involved in a pile-up on the afternoon of the 25th. Two men were killed at 1900 MST on the 26th, 9 miles east of Powell when the driver lost control, ejecting both men. One fatality occurred on the 27th at 1130 MST on I-80 near Rock Springs when a car slowed down because of poor visibility and slick roads and the truck driver, trailing the vehicle, failed to slow down in time and crushed the back end of the car in which the victim was riding. A man died about 1245 MST on the 27th when the flatbed truck he was driving 95 miles south of Gillette jack-knifed on a left-hand curve and rolled on its top. Schools in Cheyenne were closed at noon on Friday and did not reopen until Wednesday. Most churches in Cheyenne remained closed on Sunday. Casper thermometers dipped to record lows of -27º on Saturday, -28º on Sunday night, and -32º Monday morning. Cheyenne reported temperatures at 0 or below zero for a period of 79 hours. Weather-related problems may have caused the derailment of 12 empty freight cars at Point of Rocks at 0645 MST on the 25th.
5/11/1980	5/12/1980		Central Wyoming	1	2			A sudden spring snowstorm covered the area with heavy, wet snow. The storm caused power failures, closed schools, threatened livestock, and was blamed for at least one traffic death when a car skidded into the path of an oncoming snowplow on Ross Road, north of Douglas. Two passengers were injured.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
10/14/1980	10/16/1980		Statewide	4	5			Snow beginning on the evening of the 14th moved across the state leaving 13 inches in Laramie and 11 inches in Rawlins. Most other areas received from 1 to 3 inches. Some highways were closed on the 16th, including I-80 between Cheyenne and Walcott Junction (100 miles). One person was killed and three others injured in a storm-related two-vehicle accident southwest of Cody on the 15th. The storm contributed to a light plane crash that killed one man near the airport at Rock Springs at 2110 MST on the 15th. Blizzard-like conditions were contributing factors when a freight train plowed into the caboose of a grain train 13 miles southeast of Laramie about 1600 MST on the 16th, killing two crew members and injuring two others. Schools in Laramie, including the University of Wyoming, were closed on the 16th. Many hunters were stranded. Tree limbs snapped causing power outages in Rawlins and Sinclair.
1/5/1982		Natrona, Albany, and Converse			4	27,500		Wind gusts to 85 mph downed power poles causing electrical outages to most of Casper for 3.5 hours. High winds broke windows and commercial signs, while debris hurled by winds injured at least 4 people. I-80 between Laramie and Rawlins was closed due to high winds and blowing snow.
1/5/1982		Teton	Jackson					Wind near 100 mph in open areas, combined with snow, blowing snow, and avalanche problems isolated Jackson from the world Monday. The avalanche slid inside the Town of Jackson just after 1300 MST from the Gros Ventre Butte and caused over flooding near the Meadowbrook Condominiums
2/11/1982	2/12/1982	Teton, and Sublette	Jackson, Pinedale			2,750		Extreme cold to -42ºF caused electrical power outages overnight to the Jackson area and from 0600 to 1400 MST Friday in the Pinedale area. The extreme cold caused conductors to break at the splice joints, failure of oil protective systems in the circuits, and failure of a power switch to open after repairs.
9/13/1982	9/14/1982	Yellowstone National Park, Park, Hot Springs, Fremont, Big Horn, Sheridan, Johnson, and Natrona			6	2,750,000	2,750,000	This late summer snowstorm dumped heavy wet snow in northwest, north central, and central Wyoming which stranded hundreds of motorists, left thousands of people without electricity, and closed several roads and schools. The areas most affected along with some snow depth reports as of noon on the 14th include: Lander, 16.9 inches; Story, 10; South Fork of the Shoshone River, 12 to 18; Powell, 5; Sheridan, 4.5; Cody, 3.5; and Casper, 1. Damages from the storm to property and crops are estimated in the millions of dollars. The six known injuries

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								were from storm related vehicle accidents.
10/8/1982	10/9/1982	Eastern Wyoming: Crook, Weston, Campbell, Niobrara, Albany, Platte, Goshen, and Laramie				100,000		An early fall storm swept across the mountains and plains of Wyoming Friday night and Saturday. The storm buried the Bear Lodge Mountains and the Moskee area south and east of Sundance in Crook and Weston counties with up to 5 feet of wet snow. An estimated 4000 cattle still on summer ranges were stranded. Rescue efforts estimated at $100,000 lasted from the 11th to the 17th. Elsewhere in the east plains, high winds with record peak gusts to 65 mph at Cheyenne, 54 mph at Sheridan, 53 mph at Laramie, and 50 mph at Gillette, caused blowing snow and reduced visibilities to zero in some areas.
12/1/1982		Fremont, Hot Springs, Carbon, Albany, Natrona, Converse, Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Platte, Goshen, Laramie, and Niobrara		1				A major winter storm dumped heavy snow in the state Wednesday and Thursday morning. Casper was hit the hardest with 24 inches of snow, breaking the previous 24-hour total. The Wind River Canyon between Shoshoni and Thermopolis also reported 24 inches. Elsewhere in the basins and plains, amounts varied from 5 to 11 inches. Winds to 40 mph caused blizzard conditions in the central and northeast areas causing drifts of 5 to 8 feet deep. One death was attributed to this storm.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
12/23/1982	12/24/1982	Fremont, Natrona, Converse, Albany, Platte, Goshen, and Laramie						A major winter storm through central and southeast Wyoming packed strong winds and moderate to heavy snow. Shoshoni experienced winds that exceeded 60 mph causing over-turned trailers and a boat at the Boysen Lake Marina. Casper recorded a record 29 inches of snow from the storm. Lander and Cheyenne accumulated around 6 inches each. Strong winds gusting into the 40 mph range caused blizzard conditions which forced the closure of many highways in central and southeast areas, stranding holiday travelers.
1/8/1983	1/9/1983	Freemont, Natrona, Sheridan, Johnson, Campbell, Crook, and Weston				2,750		Snow up to 6 inches in the northern mountains and up to 3 inches at lower elevations combined with high winds gusting to 60 mph in some central and northeast sections of the state. Localized blizzard conditions forced the closure of South Pass at the southern tip of the Wind River Range and all highways in and out of Sundance on the west slopes of the Black Hills.
3/5/1983	3/6/1983	Crook, Campbell, Weston, Natrona, Albany, Platte, Goshen, Laramie, Sweetwater, Lincoln, and Uinta				2,750		A major winter storm deposited a blanket of snow varying from 4 to 16 inches over east and south Wyoming stranding over 250 travelers in Laramie alone. All roads in and out of Cheyenne and Laramie were closed with additional closures between Rawlins and Evanston. Winds averaging 25 mph and gusting to near 40 mph in many areas caused ground blizzards.
3/25/1983	3/26/1983	Southern				2,750		Several hundred miles of state and federal highways were closed as a strong spring snowstorm moved east. Snow, with accumulations up to 8 inches in the southwest, was blown about by 20 to 30 mph winds causing ground blizzard conditions.
4/3/1983	4/4/1983	Southwest Wyoming: Uinta, and southern Lincoln						Northeast winds of 40 mph with gusts up to 60 mph caused blizzard conditions for two days as snowfall amounted to about 10 inches. Drifting and blowing snow closed numerous highways in the area and caused a rash of minor traffic accidents.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
4/12/1983	4/13/1983	All but northwest and north central Wyoming						A two-day storm buried most of the state with 6 to 15 inches of snow. Some mountain locations near Casper received up to 2.5 feet of snow. In addition, north winds of 25 to 40 mph caused near blizzard conditions mainly in the southwest and southeast with many roads closed. Power also was interrupted for up to 6 hours in quite a few areas of the state.
4/21/1983	4/22/1983	Southern half of Albany	Laramie					An unusual storm dumped up to 22 inches of heavy wet snow in the Laramie vicinity. The snow occurred near a freezing level of 7200 feet, which is very close to the elevation of the area. The rest of southern and eastern Wyoming reported only rain. Power outages were widespread, with the entire city of Laramie without power at one time or another.
5/11/1983		All of Wyoming except the southeast quarter						A spring snowstorm swept through northern, central, and western Wyoming dumping an average of 6 to 12 inches of snow. Up to 18 inches fell in some western mountain towns. Near blizzard conditions occurred in southwest Wyoming as northeast winds of 30 to 40 mph whipped up 2 to 4 foot drifts. At least two interstate highways were closed for a period of time, and lots of traffic accidents were reported across the state.
5/17/1983		Southeast Wyoming: Albany, Laramie, Platte, Goshen						Another spring snowstorm blanketed southeast Wyoming with 1 to 2 feet of snow. Strong winds gusting up to near 50 mph caused near blizzard conditions in the morning. All major roads in the area were closed for the day, and numerous traffic accidents were reported.
12/4/1983			Lander			2,750		Heavy snow collapsed the roof of a chicken farm that housed some 6000 chickens. Up to a thousand hens perished in the pre-dawn tragedy which also demolished most of the building.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
12/20/1983	12/25/1983		Statewide			2,750,000		The worst arctic outbreak ever in December hit Wyoming full-force with almost all of the state remaining below zero for five days. Overnight lows in the 20 to 40 below range were common, with quite a few towns setting record Dec lows. Most Wyoming residents fared much better in the cold than mechanical items. A malfunctioning transformer left the town of Lander without power for 12 hours, and numerous vehicles were damaged by the extreme temperatures. The greatest damage, however, occurred to homes and businesses as hundreds of water pipes froze and burst. The State Capitol Building in Cheyenne, for example, suffered almost $250,000 in damage due to burst water pipes.
2/14/1984		Laramie	Cheyenne					A localized blizzard whipped a 6-inch snowfall into 5-foot drifts as winds howled at over 40 mph. All roads around Cheyenne were closed for the night, and several areas had power outages lasting up to 6 hours.
4/20/1984			Southeast Corner			2,750		A large spring storm dumped up to 2.5 feet of snow on southeast Wyoming. At Cheyenne a fall of 17 inches of snow in 24 hours set a new April record. All major highways around Cheyenne were closed for about 12 hours during the storm. Some livestock were lost in the snowstorm, and some winter wheat crops were damaged.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
4/25/1984	4/27/1984		Northern two-thirds of State	2		100,000,000	27,500	The worst late spring blizzard ever to hit Wyoming battered the northern part of the state for three days. The northeast section was the hardest hit as snowfalls of 2 to 3 feet were whipped into 15 to 20 foot drifts by 65 mph winds. A rancher near Wright and one near Sundance died of exposure as they were stranded hauling hay to their livestock. All of northeast Wyoming was effectively shut down for two days by the blizzard. The major damage occurred to the livestock industry as more than 200,000 sheep and cattle perished in the storm. Some ranchers lost up to 95 percent of their sheep, and up to 50 percent of their cattle. Contributing factors to the very high losses were: a large number of the sheep had recently been shorn; the livestock were well into the spring lambing and calving season; and finally, the storm started as cold rain that changed to wet snow which stuck to everything. In addition, the weight of the record-breaking snow damaged many roofs, and high winds of 50 to 65 mph blew down quite a few structures. In the Big Horn Basin, a drive-in theatre was demolished by winds at Basin, and roofs and trees were heavily damaged at Worland. In retrospect, the blizzard of 84 will go down in the record books as the worst late spring blizzard ever in Wyoming. Other storms have been worse in northeast Wyoming, but they occurred in the months of January and March, not at the end of April.
9/23/1984	9/24/1984		Sheridan, Fremont, Park, and Washakie					Sheridan received 15 inches of snow on the 23rd through the early evening on the 24th. This broke Sheridan's record of snowfall for September. The 12.9 inches received on the 23rd broke Sheridan's record of snowfall for a 24-hour period. Other heavy amounts were 21 inches at Dubois in Fremont County, the most reported, and 17 inches at Cody in Park County. In Worland, heavy, wet snow caused considerable damage to leaf-laden trees and resulted in widespread power outages.
11/26/1984			Carbon	1	1			Eight inches of snow was reported on Beaver Creek, 10 miles south of Encampment in Carbon County; 5.5 inches snow was logged at nearby Saratoga. One man was killed and one injured when the fatality's car slid broadside into oncoming traffic south of Laramie.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
2/7/1985	2/8/1985							Up to 2 feet of snow fell in northwest Wyoming late on the 7th and early on the 8th. The 2-foot snowfall was recorded at Teton Village, just outside of Jackson, in Teton County. Blowing and drifting snow closed most of the roads in the area.
3/22/1985		Campbell				2,750		Many power outages were reported due to lines broken by the buildup of ice from freezing rain.
9/27/1985	9/28/1985	Albany, Laramie					2,750,000	Heavy snow hit the southeast corner of the state. Twelve inches of snow was reported near Granite Reservoir in extreme east Albany County, followed by 8 inches at Easterbrook. In Laramie County, a maximum of 7 inches was reported about 25 miles west of Cheyenne; near zero temperatures on the morning following the storm devastated the potato crop in the eastern part of the county.
12/8/1985	12/9/1985	Fremont		1	1			Record-breaking snow at Lander fell during the 8th and morning of the 9th. Lander received 28 inches followed closely by Riverton with 25 in. A man near Crowheart Butte suffered a heart attack and died from shoveling snow. A snowmobiler suffered a broken ankle when a group of seven got stranded in the storm on Union Pass south of Lander.
12/8/1985	12/9/1985	Southwest Wyoming						Accumulations of 6 to 12 inches were common through Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Carbon counties during a snowstorm. In Lincoln County, Kemmerer got 21 inches and LaBarge, 18 inches. Rock Springs, in Sweetwater County got 12 inches of snow. Winds gusting to 50 mph from Rawlins to Rock Springs, on the 9th, caused blizzard conditions and shut down most of the roads in the southwest part.
2/17/1986	2/18/1986	Fremont				27,500		Up to 3 feet of new snow and blizzard conditions caused numerous power outages in the South Pass area.
2/17/1986		Teton		1		27,500		Six inches of snow fell during the day on Rendezvous Peak, west of Teton Village. Wind gusts to 100 mph during the morning damaged cabin roofs and mobile homes. A ski patrolman was buried and died in an avalanche near Rendezvous Peak, where 74 inches of snow had fallen in the past 6 days. A series of avalanches kept passes in and out of Jackson Hole closed. Blizzard conditions prevented the reopening of the passes and caused an extreme avalanche hazard.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
2/18/1986		Sweetwater				2,750		High winds and heavy, wet snow at Rock Springs caused numerous power outages due to downed lines.
4/3/1986		Platte, and Laramie						Sustained winds of 35 to 50 mph and near zero visibility in blowing snow closed roads in the southeast corner of the state. Gusts to 65 mph were logged at Granite Reservoir. Eight inches of snow were reported at Cheyenne and Granite Reservoir at mid-evening.
1/28/1987	1/29/1987		Southeast	1				Several gusts near 70 mph were observed at Vedauwoo around 1330 MST on the 28th. Gusts from 60 to 70 mph were also logged at Cheyenne airport from 2200 MST on the 28th to 0205 MST on the 29th. Wind gusts to around 60 mph were common at other locations over the southeast. The strong winds, coupled with blowing and drifting snow, reduced visibilities to near zero mainly over the higher elevations from Rawlins to Cheyenne. These areas of blowing and drifting snow contributed to a fatal car accident one mile west of Arlington along I-80 during the evening of the 28th. High winds caused power blackouts across Torrington.
2/23/1987	2/25/1987		Northwest mountains to Wind River Basin					A moist storm developed over Nevada on the 23rd and moved over Wyoming through the 25th. This moist storm combined with favorable upslope flow and dumped from 6 to 26 inches of snow. The storm unloaded a new record snowfall total in Lander of over 26 inches. At one point heavy snow was observed in Lander on the 24th from 1900 to 2300 MST, where 8 inches of new snow fell. Some other individual snowfall reports were 11 inches at Rendezvous Peak with 10 to 14 inches at Crowheart and Riverton. The storm caused numerous road closures and frequent cancellation of schools and public meetings.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
3/20/1987	3/21/1987		Central and Eastern Wyoming					A small but vigorous winter storm developed over south central Wyoming on the morning of the 20th. This storm raced through eastern Wyoming by the morning of the 21st and ushered in spring with 6 to 12 inches of snow in its path. Strong gusty winds of 35 to 55 mph accompanied the storm, creating many areas of blowing and drifting snow. Many roads were closed for a time, even all the interstate highways from Rawlins in the south to Sundance in the northwest. This was due to the wind pushing fast-developing drifts over roads and blowing snow reduced visibilities at times to near zero. Numerous minor accidents were noted across central and eastern Wyoming. Also some ranchers had trouble feeding their livestock as well. Some individual snowfall reports were 11 inches at Douglas, 9 inches at Casper, and 6 inches in Gillette.
12/10/1987		Platte, Goshen, and Laramie				275,000	2,750	On December 10 a vigorous cold front that entered far west Wyoming on December 9 swept through the state. 4 to 6 inches of new snow fell with 8 inches at higher elevations over northwest Wyoming and the Wind River Mountains during the early morning hours. Very strong wind gusts were associated with this cold front as it moved over eastern Wyoming. From 0300 MST to 0830 MST very strong wind gusts of 65 to 70 mph were clocked. These very strong wind gusts stretched from Sheridan airport in the north to the Missouri Basin Power Plant in the south. Platte and Goshen counties were raked by extremely intense wind gusts between 75 and 80 mph between 0830 and 1100 MST. A few of these gusts were estimated to be more than 90 mph. Numerous 18-wheel semi-tractor-trailers were blown over from Douglas to Cheyenne. A 50-foot four-legged microwave tower located about 13 miles east of Wheatland was blown down about 1030 MST. Two of the four legs were pulled completely out of the ground still in the concrete anchors. Damage to this tower was around $55,000. A house trailer being pulled on I-90 south of Sheridan was completely destroyed. A few trees more than 20-foot tall from Buffalo in the north to Pine Bluffs in the south were toppled. A multitude of blown over roofs and power poles and downed fences were reported across much of eastern Wyoming.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
12/21/1987			Yellowstone National Park, Southeast Wyoming			2,750		A fairly moist but strong upper level westerly flow dumped 4 to 8 inches of new snow over Yellowstone National Park. This strong westerly flow produced wind gusts around 60 mph from 0130 to 0500 MST at Cody Regional Airport. These strong westerly winds continued to move into southeast Wyoming during the morning and the afternoon. Shortly before 0300 MST Natrona County Airport near Casper recorded a wind gust to 43 mph. From 0500 to 1330 MST sustained winds of 35 to 45 mph were clocked from Rawlins to Cheyenne along I-80. These strong winds were also observed from Wheatland to Cheyenne. Very strong wind gusts from 0500 to 1030 MST reached speeds of 58 to 64 mph at the Cheyenne airport. Construction damage due to these high winds was reported in the Cheyenne area.
12/22/1987			West Wyoming	1		27,500		A cold front associated with a strong upper level westerly flow dropped between 8 to 14 inches from Evanston to Yellowstone National Park. Slick roads about half a mile west of Jackson were blamed for a fatal automobile accident. Two other persons were also seriously injured in a car accident in Teton County. Green River alone had at least 18 weather related traffic accidents between 1600 to 1800 MST with damages greater than $12,550.
12/23/1987			Western mountains and southwest					A cold front entered west Wyoming on the 22nd combined with moist southwesterly flow as the front moved through the rest of Wyoming on the 23rd. Snowfall totals associated with this cold front varied from 4 to 25 inches as it moved from the northwest to the southeast across Wyoming. Lesser amounts of snow in the 3 to 7 inch range were noted over the western mountains and southwest. Wind speeds of 30 to 40 mph from Rock Springs to Laramie produced areas of blowing and drifting snow. Visibilities were reduced below 0.5 mile in these areas of blowing snow. Also, these strong winds produced snow drifts 2 feet high or more and closed Interstates 80 and 25 over southern and southeast Wyoming. Some particular snowfall totals with this winter storm were Albin/Baggs/Chugwater/Encampment - 12 inches; ; Casper Mountain, 25 inches; Crystal Reservoir, 20 inches; Snowy Range Resort, 19 inches; and South Pass, 17 inches.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
12/27/1987			Southeast Wyoming					A very strong upper level trough developed over Arizona on the 25th and moved into eastern Colorado on the morning of the 27th. This trough developed blizzard conditions over southeast Wyoming from 0700 to 1800 MST. Snowfall amounts varied from 6 to 20 inches. Wind speeds over southeast Wyoming were clocked at 25 to 35 mph with gusts to 45 mph. These strong winds combined with the heavy snow amounts frequently lowered visibilities below 0.25 mile. The winds also produced over 4-foot-tall snow drifts, particularly over roadways. These included I-80 to the Nebraska border and I-25 from Douglas to the Colorado border. These roads stayed closed for much of the 27th to the morning of the 28th. This blizzard stranded over 300 holiday travelers in the tiny town of Chugwater. Some particular snowfall totals associated with this blizzard are Albin, 14 inches; Carpenter, 8 inches; Chugwater, 10 inches; Double Four Ranch (Albany County), 16 inches; Encampment, 6 inches; La Grange, 19 inches; Lusk, 6 inches; Pine Bluffs, 15 inches; Saratoga, 9 inches; and Wheatland, 10 inches.
1/10/1988	1/11/1988							A cold front blitzed into far west Wyoming and produced thunderstorms and 8 to 20 inches of new snow from Kemmerer north to Yellowstone National Park. Around 0500 MST wind gusts of 115 mph were recorded at the top of Rendezvous Peak at the Teton Village Ski Resort. Wind gusts of 50 to 55 mph raked across the Green River to Wind River Basin around 0530 MST. These strong winds caused short power outages at Big Piney and Pinedale during the morning of the 11th. Also, wind gusts to 55 mph were noted in the Gillette area around 0700 MST. Carbon County sustained winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts of 55 to around 70 mph. One peak wind gust over the southeast part of Casper reached 68 mph at 1000 MST with 71 mph at Rawlins airport at 1300 MST. During these high winds, several tractor trailer trucks were knocked down between Wamsutter and Laramie along I-80. Truck drivers along the Interstate complained the strong winds were treating their semi-tractor trailers "like kites pulling whichever way the wind was blowing." One man was injured on I-80 when two tractor trailers collided.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
1/14/1988			Central Plains, Southeast Wyoming					Strong upper level westerly winds mixed down to the surface around 0500 MST and gusted to 60 mph at Cody airport. Very strong winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts of 51 to 82 mph were clocked over the central plains and southeast Wyoming. Air Force personnel about 25 to 30 miles north of Cheyenne reported wind gusts of 82 mph. Also, Muddy Gap in northern Carbon County logged sustained winds of 45 mph with gusts of 67 mph. More than 25 auto accidents occurred with the winds and associated areas of blowing and drifting snow. Visibilities were frequently below 1 mile in the blowing and drifting snow. A small plane was rolled over at the Natrona County airport west of Casper due to the high winds. The pilot was not injured.
1/23/1988			Eastern Wyoming					A very strong upper level northwest flow of air over Wyoming mixed down and accelerated surface winds to 30 to 45 mph with gusts 55 to 70 mph from north-central to southeast Wyoming. The most noticeable wind gusts were at Arlington, 65 mph; Casper, 70 mph; Cheyenne, 58 mph; and Sheridan, 71 mph. Also, this strong northerly airflow helped to dump 5 inches of new snow about 25 miles west of Laramie near Centennial. Most roads were closed over south-central and southeast Wyoming due to blowing and drifting snow.
1/24/1988	1/25/1988		Big Horn Mountains and northeast plains					Very strong upper level northerly flow of air continued to prevail over eastern Wyoming. This strong flow of air induced strong surface winds of 35 to 45 mph with gusts of 55 to around 70 mph. Peak wind gusts of 72 mph on the 24th flipped over a fairly large mobile home onto two cars in the Gillette area. Also, these strong winds tore the roof off a house 4 miles west of Gillette. A power plant northeast of Wheatland clocked wind gusts of 70 mph from 0200 to 0630 MST on the 24th. From 2000 MST on the 24th to 1000 MST on the 25th sustained winds of 35 to 45 mph were clocked with gusts near 58 mph from Arlington to Cheyenne along I-80 over southern Wyoming. This storm dumped 10 inches of snow at Burgess Junction in the Big Horn Mountains. These strong winds produced snow drifts 14 to 16 feet deep over the southeast. Numerous roads were closed over east Wyoming due to strong winds and the associated snow drifts. The National Guard had to dig out stranded ranch families in southern Goshen County.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
3/10/1988	3/12/1988		Eastern Wyoming		5	275,000	27,500	An intense winter storm which developed over Nevada on the 9th moved through Colorado on the 10th and 11th and into Kansas on the 12th. This winter storm combined with good easterly flow over Wyoming first smashed into west and central Wyoming with 5 to 14 inches of new snow. As this winter storm moved through Colorado it intensified and produced blizzard conditions over much of eastern Wyoming from the 10th to the morning of the 12th. Six to 25 inches of new snow generally dumped on eastern Wyoming with this storm. Also sustained winds of 25 to 40 mph with gusts of 50 to 65 mph raked across eastern Wyoming. This heavy snow and strong winds frequently kept visibilities below 0.25 mile over much of southern and eastern Wyoming. The strong winds and heavy snow whipped snow drifts to a depth of 10 to 30 feet over eastern Wyoming. Most roads were closed at times over southern and eastern Wyoming due to the extremely low visibilities and blowing and drifting snow. Numerous traffic accidents occurred across the state with at least five people sustaining injuries. Travelers were stranded throughout eastern Wyoming with more than 200 people trapped at the Snowy Range Ski Resort west of Laramie. The skiers spent the night sleeping on floors and tables. The eastern plains were particularly hard hit by the blizzard from Douglas southeast to the LaGrange area. A few travelers in the eastern plains were completely trapped in their vehicles for 36 to 40 hours. Drifts ranging from 15 to 30 feet high were common around Lusk with a number of vehicles totally buried by the snow. Ranchers over the eastern plains were in the midst of calving and lambing season. About 15 to 35 head of calves were lost. Some noticeable snowfall totals were Albin, 18 inches; Bates Creek, 13 inches; Burgess Junction, 20 inches; Douglas, 11 inches; Gillette, 12 inches; Keeline, 10 inches; LaGrange, 21 inches; Lander, 10 inches; Laramie, 11 inches; Lusk, 20 inches; Rock Springs, 20 inches; and Snowy Range, 14 inches.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
5/6/1988	5/7/1988		Northern and west-central Wyoming, South-central mountains					The strong low pressure system both at the surface and aloft moved slowly northeastward to extreme southeast Montana by the 7th. This storm unleashed very heavy snow over most areas with elevations above 6000 feet MSL in the north and west sections of Wyoming. Since this storm had begun the morning of the 6th more than 20 inches of new snow had fallen in the Big Horn Mountains of northern Wyoming, while there was 6 to 10 inches of snow at Yellowstone National Park. Additionally, more than 10 inches of new snow was on the ground near Pinedale and the Snowy Range to the west of Laramie. More snow fell at these locations during the 7th. By 1335 MST on the 7th, Arrowhead Lodge in the Big Horn Mountains had a total of 3 feet of new snow on the ground. Bear Lodge, located in the Wyoming Black Hills, had 24 to 30 inches of new snow by the afternoon of the 7th. Numerous trees and power lines were downed by very wet snow, with several communities without electricity through much of the 7th.
11/12/1988	11/14/1988		Western Mountains, Green River Basin, Red Desert					The combination of a series of mid- and upper- level disturbances and a fast, very moist westerly upslope flow triggered a prolonged snow event over the northwest and west parts of the state from the 12th through the 14th. Many valley floors received more than 1 foot of new snow with numerous mountain location accumulations more than 3 feet. New snow amounts included 16 inches at Jackson Hole, 22 inches at Moran Junction, and a ski area in extreme northwest Wyoming measured about 5 feet on the top of one of its mountains. Bridger Teton National Forest recorded about 30 inches of snow in their mountains while many sections of Yellowstone National Park accumulated 10 to 20 inches. This storm closed the Jackson Hole airport, and there were numerous automobile and truck accidents. Some of the accidents did cause personal injuries. The storm was the greatest snowfall event since November 1985.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
2/2/1989	2/6/1989		Entire state					Record cold temperatures gripped the state from the 2nd through the morning of the 6th, the coldest in at least 5 years. Many locations had at least 80 to 100 consecutive hours of subzero readings. Wind chills from 50º to 90º below zero accompanied the cold. Most overnight lows were between minus 20º and minus 40º with maximum temperatures struggling above 15º or 20º below zero. On the morning of the 3rd, Sheridan set a record low of minus 32º, eclipsing the old record of 24º below zero, set in 1985. Casper had a record low of 27º below zero. The minimum at Cheyenne was minus 24º, one degree shy of the record low for the 3rd, dating back to 1883. Weston, located over far northern Wyoming, dropped to 47º below zero while locations in Yellowstone National Park dipped lower than minus 40º. These low temperatures were typical through the 6th. The maximum temperature for Cheyenne on the 3rd was 18º below zero. Not only was that a record low maximum, but the second coldest such reading since weather records have been kept at Cheyenne, back more than 100 years. During the morning of the 6th, the temperature at the capitol city finally rose above zero. The record is 120 hours, set in December 1983. This was the coldest February ever for Casper. It was also the worst cold spell for Gillette in a decade.
3/5/1990	3/8/1990		Central Plains, Eastern Plains, Southern Mountains, Laramie Valley, Southeast Plains					An intense slow-moving storm system caused a prolonged heavy snow event for roughly the southeastern quarter of the state. The storm lasted for about 54 hours, from the evening of the 5th through the early morning on the 8th. The heaviest snow occurred during the 6th, when 24-hour snow totals ranged from 6 to 18 inches. Total snow amounts for the event were generally from 1 to 4 feet. During the 6th and 7th, at least 300 miles of roads were closed. Nearly all travel to and from Cheyenne, the state capitol, was halted. Additionally, there were power outages because of downed power lines due to the wet, heavy snow. Storm totals of 3 to 4 feet of snow were common at several locations in the Laramie Mountains. Some other reports included 20 inches in Centennial; 19.2 inches in Cheyenne. For Cheyenne, this was the greatest single snowfall event ever in March and the storm tied for ninth place on the list of biggest snowstorms.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
3/15/1990	3/16/1990		Laramie Valley					From the evening of the 15th through the morning of the 16th, strong winds occurred on the I-80 summit. Vedauwoo, 30 miles west of Cheyenne, logged 40 to 50 mph sustained winds with peak gusts up to 56 mph. The winds caused considerable blowing and drifting snow along with periods of zero visibilities. I-80 from Cheyenne to Laramie was closed during this event.
3/15/1990			Eastern Wyoming					During much of the 15th, high winds blew across eastern Wyoming. Sustained winds of 40 to 55 mph were common. Some peak wind gusts were: 67 mph near Wheatland; 65 mph on the I-80 summit, 30 miles west of Cheyenne; 60 mph in Sheridan; and 58 mph in Gillette. These winds produced widespread blowing and drifting snow and ground blizzard conditions across the far southeastern part of the state. During most of the 15th, almost all roads to and from Cheyenne and Laramie were closed because of the blowing snow. It was not until the afternoon of the 16th that the roads were reopened for travel.
4/26/1990	4/27/1990		Big Horn Mountains, Northern Front Range, Northeast Plains					A spring snowstorm dumped heavy snow on northeast Wyoming. Highest amounts fell in the Big Horn Mountains (18 inches), with about 4 to 12 inches elsewhere. The snow was particularly wet and heavy across most of Campbell County and the western parts of Crook and Weston counties. Most of the damage was to power lines as approximately 400 poles went down. Power was out in some areas for up to 3 days.
12/18/1990	12/22/1990		Statewide			27,500		A major winter storm followed by a bitter-cold Arctic outbreak, plagued most of Wyoming for about two to four days. Heavy snows with strong winds occurred on the 18th over the far western part of the state, with up to a foot in the mountains. Light snows of 2 to 6 inches generally occurred over the rest of the state, except in the far southwest where storm totals approached 15 to 20 inches by 1800 MST on the 19th. Bitter-cold Arctic air started spilling into the state after 1200 MST on the 18th. On the 19th and 20th, wind chills dropped to -40º to -75º at times in many areas. The coldest temperatures occurred on the 21st and 22nd, with most areas from -25º to -45º. Minus 50º readings were reported at Worland and near Jackson. Casper set an all-time record-low of -41º on the 21st. Major roads affected by the snow and winds were confined to the far west and southwest. The worst conditions occurred along I-80 from Rock Springs to Rawlins on the night of the 19th and 20th where snow and strong

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								winds closed the road, stranding many people. The bitter cold caused power outages in some places, most notably in Jackson. Schools and other events were widely canceled due to the cold weather.
3/8/1992	3/9/1992		Southeast Wyoming					Wind gusts to 53 mph with heavy snow reduced visibilities to near zero with a storm Sunday evening and night. The Wyoming Highway Patrol officials said 50 to 75 accidents in the state were storm related. Most roads and highways in southeast Wyoming were closed after 1800 MST. Snowy Range received up to 13 inches of snow with Cheyenne Airport collecting 10 inches of snow by early Monday.
11/3/1992			Southeast Wyoming					A localized storm brought a foot of snow and winds 20 to 35 mph to the mountains southwest of Cheyenne. Roads were closed and visibilities were frequently near zero.
1/10/1993			Southwest Wyoming					A moist winter storm continued to engulf southwest Wyoming during the day and night. Snow amounts included 10 inches in Rock Springs and 6 to 8 inches additional snow in the Evanston area. South Pass City collected 4.5 inches of new snow. I-80 in southwest Wyoming was closed most of the day.
12/5/1993			Northeast Wyoming					A winter storm dropped heavy snow over the northeast quarter of Wyoming. Hulett reported 10 inches of new snow with drifts over 4 feet temporarily closing I-90. The visibility at Lusk was near zero for much of the day.
2/11/1994			Southern Wyoming					Snow fell heavily at times across southern Wyoming. Eleven inches of new snow fell at Rock Springs closing I-80 for a time. Cheyenne observed near blizzard conditions that evening. Seven inches of snow combined with 35 mph gusts caused 40 automobile accidents in and near Cheyenne.
10/16/1994	10/17/1994		North-Central Wyoming					Heavy snow pounded the Big Horn Mountains during a two-day period. Snow amounts of 18 to 24 inches were common. Dozens of hunters were stranded in the backcountry.
9/19/1995	9/20/1995		East Central			13,000		An early season winter storm dropped 6 to 12 inches of snow from Casper and the south end of the Big Horn Mountains to the Nebraska border. The snow damaged trees, breaking many branches. Power was out in the area for a time in the morning, with as many as 4000 homes without power from Casper to Glenrock. In Lusk, the snow snapped a 2x4 beam in a building.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
10/21/1995	10/23/1995		All except the southwest corner			1,000,000		Heavy snow and strong winds caused blizzard conditions over much of Wyoming. Snowfall amounts ranged from 4 inches at Rock Springs and Gillette to 17 inches at Casper Mountain. Generally, 6 to 10 inches of snowfall was common. Winds gusted to 55 mph and caused blizzard conditions with drifts up to 5 feet deep. Reported drifts of 2 to 4 feet were common. Many roads were closed from the 22nd to the afternoon of the 23rd due to drifting and near-zero visibilities. Many travelers were stranded across the state until the 23rd and a number of hunters had to be rescued. Power was out for a time in various places, due to downed power lines from the heavy snow and strong winds.
11/1/1995			In and near most mountains					Snow fell over most of Wyoming, with areas in and near the mountains receiving significant snowfall. Most of these areas had between 6 and 10 inches of snow, with the largest amount being 11 inches at Story (Sheridan County). Due to the snow, Highway 70 between Baggs and Encampment (Carbon County) was closed during the afternoon.
1/1/1996		Big Horn, Fremont, Johnson, Park, and Sheridan	Yellowstone National Park Mt ID, north and south Absarokas, Wind River Mountains east, northern and southern Big Horn Mountains; Sheridan, Buffalo, Lander, and Cody foothills					Up to 11 inches of snow fell in the northern mountains and the adjacent foothills. The largest amount of 11 inches fell in Lander. I-90, north of Buffalo was closed until 0600 MST, temporarily stranding a number of travelers.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
1/16/1996	1/18/1996	Big Horn, Campbell, Converse, Hot Springs, Johnson, Natrona, Niobrara, Park, Sheridan, Washakie	North Absarokas; north and south Big Horn Basin; northern and southern Big Horn Mountains; Sheridan, Cody, and Buffalo foothills; South Campbell, Converse, Natrona, and Niobrara					Strong winds, snow, and cold temperatures combined to create blizzard conditions over eastern and northern Wyoming. During that time, winds gusted to as high as 55 mph creating wind chill temperatures as low as 70º below zero. Two to 6 inches of snow fell through late afternoon on the 17th. This wind and snow produced very low visibilities in blowing snow. Some roads were closed in northeastern Wyoming on the 17th and schools were cancelled in some areas on the 18th.
1/17/1996		Sweetwater	Rock Springs/ Green River, Red Desert, Flaming Gorge, Southwest Sweetwater			4,000		Six to 12 inches of snow fell in parts of southwestern Wyoming. The greatest amount was 11 inches at the Rock Springs airport. Many accidents were reported and power was out for a time in the Rock Springs area.
1/20/1996	1/21/1996	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Fremont, Laramie, Natrona, and Sweetwater	Green Mountains, Natrona, Rock Spgs/Green River, Red Desert, Flaming Gorge, Southeast Sweetwater, Southwest Carbon, North Carbon, Snowy Range, North Laramie Mountains, Laramie Valley, Laramie					Winds were sustained between 40 and 50 mph from Jeffrey City and Casper, southeast to just east of the Laramie Mountains. Wind gusts were between 55 and 65 mph, with the strongest gust being 71 mph, 10 miles south of Wheatland between 1753 and 1909 MST. Highway 191, south of Rock Springs was closed due to blowing snow from 2300 to 0600 MST.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
			Mountains, Platte					
1/23/1996	1/24/1996	Albany, Carbon, and Laramie	Southwest Carbon, North Carbon, Snowy Range, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains					Widespread blowing snow created near zero visibilities over the south central part of the state. Interstate 80 was closed during that time from Walcott Junction to Laramie.
1/24/1996		Carbon, Lincoln, Sweetwater, and Uinta	Kemmerer, Uinta, Rock Sprgs/Green River, Red Desert, Flaming Gorge, Southeast Sweetwater, Southwest Carbon, North Carbon					Strong winds and heavy snowfall created blizzard conditions in southwest and south central Wyoming. Winds gusted to around 50 mph over the area. Snowfall was from 12 to 18 inches in Evanston, with 3 to 6 inches over the rest of the area. Many roads, including I-80 in the southwest corner, were closed due to the snow and blowing and drifting snow. A number of travelers were stranded in the southwest corner. Some snowplows in the area even became stuck and stranded due to the poor conditions.
1/27/1996	1/28/1996	Albany, Carbon, Fremont, Lincoln, Park, Sublette, and Teton	Yellowstone National Park MT, and ID; north and south Absarokas, Teton Range, Jackson Valley, Wind River Mountains, Star Valley, Salt River Range, Snowy Range					Heavy snow and strong winds were over the western mountains and the Snowy Range. Fifteen to 40 inches of snow fell, with the greatest amount being 40 inches in some of the west facing mountains. Jackson saw 24 inches of snow in 24 hours, which was the largest 24-hour snowfall ever recorded for that city. Some roads in the area were closed on the 28th. In addition, winds were from 55 to 70 mph with gusts more than 100 mph over the open, higher areas. The strong winds caused considerable blowing and drifting snow.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
1/30/1996		Platte, Goshen, and Laramie	Platte, Goshen, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs			15,000		Light snow and strong winds produced poor travel conditions and numerous accidents.
2/1/1996	2/4/1996	Park, Fremont, Sublette, Hot Springs, Washakie, Big Horn, and Teton	Yellowstone National Park MT and ID, north and south Absarokas, Cody Foothills, north and south Big Horn Basin, Teton Range, Jackson Valley, Owl Creek Mountains, Dubois, Wind River Mountains Lander Foothills	1		50,000		Low temperatures dropped to between 10º below zero and 45º below zero during this time across the state. On the 1st, strong winds lowered wind chill temperatures to as low as 60º below zero in some locations. Some young livestock were frozen. The cold also froze many pipes and caused some water lines to break or leak. A number of schools and events were cancelled across the state during this time. About 40 residences were without natural gas in the Big Horn Basin on the 3rd due to the cold causing a valve malfunction. Many accidents occurred on the 1st due to poor visibilities. One person froze to death just north of Buffalo early on the 2nd while walking for help after his car broke down.
3/1/1996		Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Gillette, Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills					The Wyoming Black Hills received 7 to 9 inches of snow while Gillette reported 6 inches. Blizzard conditions caused numerous accidents and closed a number of highways.
3/1/1996		Campbell, Johnson, and Sheridan	Sheridan and Buffalo foothills, South Campbell					Strong wind gusts to 50 mph and snow produced blizzard conditions in the area. Some highways were closed during that time and many accidents were reported. Snowfall amounts were from 3 to 9 inches, with the greatest amounts in the northern Black Hills. Sundance received 9 inches of snow.
3/18/1996		Albany and Laramie	Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Cheyenne Foothills					Very heavy snow showers produced 1 to 3 inches of snow from Laramie to Cheyenne along with strong wind gusts. Near zero visibilities occurred. I-80 over the Laramie Mountains was closed form 1145 MST and was reopened at 1700 MST because of the poor conditions.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
3/23/1996	3/24/1996	Natrona, Converse, Niobrara, Laramie, Platte, Goshen, and Albany	Natrona, Converse, Niobrara, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Platte, Goshen, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs					Snow and strong winds combined to produce blizzard conditions in east central and southeastern Wyoming. Visibilities were near zero and wind chill temperatures as low as 45º below zero. Three to 6 inches of snow were common in the area, with drifts as high as 7 feet in the Cheyenne area. Many roads were closed during this time.
3/23/1996		Fremont, Hot Springs, Lincoln, Sublette, Sweetwater, Uinta, and Washakie	Owl Creek Mountains, south Big Horn Basin, Dubois, Wind River Mountains east, Lander Foothills, Green Mountains, Kemmerer, Upper Green River Basin, Uinta, Rock Sprgs/Green River					Heavy snow fell in parts of western Wyoming. The largest amounts were 20 inches at Sinks Canyon (Fremont County) and 22 inches at Pinedale. In addition, 10 inches at Lander, 9 inches at Mountain View and 15 inches at Thermopolis. I-80 was closed for a time between Fort Bridger and Evanston due to the snowfall. Power was out during much of the time in parts of the southwest corner of the state.
10/25/1996	10/26/1996	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte	Converse, Niobrara, southwest Carbon, north Carbon, Snowy Range, north Laramie Mountains, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Platte, Cheyenne Foothills					Heavy snow and strong winds created blizzard conditions in much of south central and eastern Wyoming. The snow and winds closed many roads in that area, especially in and near the southeast mountains. The heaviest snowfall was in the Laramie Mountains and Snowy Range, where 12 to 18 inches of snow was reported. Other snowfall amounts in the area were 7 inches in Laramie, 8 inches in Douglas and 5 inches in Lusk. Only 1 to 4 inches fell in parts of the southeast plains. Winds gusted to near 50 mph and produced near zero visibilities. Drifts as high as 5 feet were observed in the Laramie Mountains between Cheyenne and Laramie. The strong winds and snow caused power outages to many rural areas in south central and southeast Wyoming.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
10/25/1996	10/26/1996	Sweetwater	Rock Springs/Green River					Around 6 inches of snow was received. Strong winds caused blowing and drifting of snow and closure of I-80 with numerous accidents.
10/26/1996		Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Gillette, south Campbell, Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills, Weston			62,000		Six to 12 inches of snow with wind gusts over 45 mph produced occasional blizzard conditions. Drifts to 3 feet were common and blowing snow reduced visibilities to zero. Numerous roads were closed including I-90 from Gillette to the Montana border. Widespread power outages were reported.
11/22/1996		Weston						Freezing drizzle coated highways; the ice caused four car accidents. Three people were seriously injured in one accident on U.S. Highway 16.
12/16/1996		Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Gillette, south Campbell, Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills, Weston					A blizzard moved into northeast Wyoming during the early morning and ended around midnight. Blowing and drifting snow reduced visibilities to zero, which closed I-90 and other highways. Numerous accidents occurred along the roads, but none had serious injuries. Wind chill temperatures fell to around 50º below zero.
1/9/1997	1/11/1997	Albany, Carbon, and Laramie	Southwest Carbon, north Carbon, Snowy Range, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs					Heavy snow that began on the 9th and ended on the 10th combined with strong winds to create whiteout conditions in southeast and south central Wyoming and the Nebraska panhandle. I-80 was closed between Cheyenne and Big Springs, NE due to blowing and drifting snow on the 10th from 0100 to 0645 MST, and Nebraska Highway 71 was closed between Scottsbluff and Kimball from 0100 until 0830 MST. Some snowfall totals include 3 inches in Scottsbluff, NE; 4 inches at Kimball, NE; 7 inches at Sidney, NE; 5 inches at Potter, NE; 6 inches at LaGrange; 4 inches at Cheyenne; and 8 inches at Snowy Range Ski Area. Additionally, I-80 was closed January 11 for a few hours at night between Rawlins and Laramie, and for almost 24 hours between Laramie and Cheyenne.
1/25/1997			Southwest Carbon					Strong winds combined with snow to create whiteout conditions in south central Wyoming. Highway 287 was closed north of Rawlins by 1900 MST due to blowing and drifting snow. Sustained winds were 40 to 45 mph with a gust to 63 mph at Rawlins at 2150 MST.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
3/12/1997	3/13/1997	Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Gillette, south Campbell, Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills, Weston					A winter storm of freezing drizzle, fog, and light snow turned roads into ice rinks and resulted in numerous power outages across northeast Wyoming.
4/4/1997	4/5/1997	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte	Converse, Niobrara, southwest Carbon, north Carbon, Snowy Range, north Laramie Mountains, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Platte, Goshen, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs					Strong winds combined with snow amounts of generally 8 to 12 inches to create widespread blizzard conditions in southeast Wyoming and the Nebraska panhandle. By 2045 MST on the 4th, all roads had been closed in and out of Cheyenne except for I-25. Closed and impassable roads became the norm from the evening of April 4 through April 6 due to blowing and drifting snow. Many automobile accidents occurred as a result of the treacherous conditions, and many power lines were downed due to the weight of snow. Many livestock were killed by the snow and accompanying cold temperatures because the storm occurred in the calving season. The highest snow amount was 12 inches at Albin and Lusk, and sustained winds were generally 40 to 50 mph through the event.
4/4/1997	4/6/1997	Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Gillette, south Campbell, Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills, Weston					Snowfall of 1 to 2 feet combined with 40 to 60 mph winds producing zero visibility and drifts to 15 feet across much of northeast Wyoming. Most roads were closed and power outages were widespread. Ranchers were hard hit with livestock losses as calving season was underway.
4/4/1997	4/6/1997	Johnson, Natrona	Natrona, southeast Big Horn Mountains, East Johnson			5,000,000		Two-day blizzard with winds in excess of 50 mph and deep snow drifts caused numerous road closures and some livestock losses. Heavy snow amounts of up to a foot in the Lander Foothills and Sunlight Basin.
10/12/1997		Albany and Carbon	North Carbon, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains	1	30	25,000		A Utah man died of head injuries after his pickup truck slid on black ice on a bridge and rolled. The accident occurred on I-80 at the Arlington interchange. An accident near Laramie involving a bus injured at least 30 people. Icy conditions created a 20-mile long traffic backup on westbound I-80 near the summit rest area between Laramie and Cheyenne.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
10/23/1997	10/25/1997	Fremont, Johnson, Natrona, Park, and Sweetwater	Yellowstone National Park, Absarokas, Cody Foothills, Dubois, Wind River Mountains Lander Foothills, Wind River Basin, Green Mountains, Natrona, Rock Springs/Green River, Red Desert, east Johnson					Winter storm spanned three days and moved from western Wyoming late on the 23rd to eastern Wyoming on the 25th. Snowfall amounts approached 1.5 feet in some locations, with the greatest amounts on northeast-facing slopes and eastern foothills. Sinks Canyon, near Lander, received 17 inches of snow; Lander, 16 inches; South Pass, 15 inches; along the South Fork of the Shoshone River southwest of Cody, 11 to 13 inches; Casper, 8 to 12 inches; extreme southwest Sweetwater County, 12 inches. In addition, blizzard conditions prevailed across Sweetwater County on the 24th, with I-80 and many county roads closed.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
10/24/1997	10/25/1997	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte	Converse, Niobrara, southwest Carbon, north Carbon, Snowy Range, north Laramie Mountains, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Platte, Goshen, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs			100,000	10,000	An early season blizzard dumped up to 20 inches of snow in areas of southeastern Wyoming, downing power poles and power lines as well as making many roads impassable. Wet, wind-driven snow damaged trees in addition to unharvested milo, corn, and sunflower fields. Many motorists were stranded on impassable roads or when vehicles slid off roads. High School athletic events were postponed, and high school bands and athletic teams were stranded when their buses could continue no further. The following occurrences were documented as occurring on the 24th. Semi-tractor trucks with trailers tipped over after jackknifing on I-80 near Sinclair and at milepost 340. The Wyoming Highway Patrol received 198 accident reports by 1645 MST, compared to the normal of 30 to 50. I-25 was closed from the Colorado border to Wheatland at approximately 1600 MST. I-80 was closed the entire length of Wyoming by late evening. The following occurrences were documented as occurring on the 25th. I-80 remained closed from the Nebraska border to Rock Springs. A Wyoming Department of Transportation employee received minor injuries when the snow plow he was operating flipped over east of Cheyenne. Postal delivery service from Cheyenne was shut down for the first time in at least 15 years. Two hunters were rescued in the Snowy Range near Arlington after spending the previous night in the Medicine Bow National Forest. The Wyoming Highway Patrol received 252 accident reports since 0800 MST on the 24th, several times the normal figure.
11/9/1997	11/10/1997	Carbon	Southwest Carbon	1		8,000		An 81-year-old Rawlins man died when his car slid off an icy Rawlins street, crashing through a small fence and tumbled over a 17-foot retaining wall, landing on its roof. Several inches of snow fell on November 9, making roads slick. M81VE

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
12/8/1997	12/11/1997	Albany and Laramie	Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs	1	36	100,000		Winter storm conditions caused by fresh snow and strong winds contributed to 76 accidents from 2200 MST on the 8th to 1700 MST on the 10th in Laramie and Albany counties. Seventeen of the accidents involved injuries. Twenty-one passengers on a bus were injured on the 10th when the bus rear-ended an eastbound semi-truck approximately 14 miles west of Cheyenne. On the 11th, a 73-year old woman died while trying to reach her ranch on foot after her vehicle became disabled. Her body was located in an abandoned mobile home approximately 0.5 mile from her vehicle, near the Horse Creek Ranch along the county line between Laramie and Albany counties. The temperature at the time was approximately -20º with wind chills in the vicinity of -70º. F73OU
12/27/1997	12/28/1997	Albany, Goshen, Laramie, Niobrara, and Platte	Cheyenne Foothills - Pine Bluffs					Ground blizzard conditions were created by strong winds blowing over freshly fallen snow. Near zero visibility was reported at Horse Creek and on Wyoming Highway 20 between Keeline and Lusk at 1815 MST. Vehicles were stranded around Lusk, and hotels and churches in Lusk were filling up with stranded travelers. Between 2130 and 2215 MST, area roads were closed by officials in Cheyenne, Laramie, Wheatland, and Torrington due to blowing and drifting snow coupled with poor visibilities. Sustained winds of 45 mph were recorded 32 miles NE of Cheyenne between 2000 and midnight MST, and Cheyenne recorded a wind gust of 67 mph at 1056 MST.
1/10/1998	1/11/1998	Big Horn, Lincoln, Park, Sublette, Teton	Yellowstone National Park, north and south Absarokas, Cody Foothills, north Big Horn Basin, Teton Range, Jackson Valley, Salt River Range, Wind River Mountains west					Winter storm over northwestern part of state for two days, with the heaviest snow falling Saturday afternoon through Sunday. Hardest hit were Jackson Hole, northern and western Park County, and northern Sublette County, with up to 2 feet of snow reported in these areas over the weekend. In Jackson, storm was characterized as the "biggest in years." Whiteout conditions reported parts of northern Park County on Sunday.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
2/9/1998	2/10/1998	Johnson	Southeast Big Horn Mountains, east Johnson					In a localized event, up to 2 feet of snow fell overnight in southern Johnson County, closing schools in the region. The Mayoworth area reported 18 to 24 inches of snow, the Barnum area 12 to 18 inches, and the Kaycee area up to 12 inches.
2/15/1998	2/16/1998	Albany and Laramie	Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains			21,000		Light snow created icy roads across Laramie and Albany counties resulting in 14 accidents across the area. No injuries or major property damage was reported.
2/18/1998		Campbell	South Campbell					Freezing drizzle and freezing fog produced widespread icy roads. A driver was injured when his car slid off Wyoming Highway 387.
2/24/1998	2/28/1998	Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Gillette, south Campbell, Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills, Weston					A powerful winter storm produced blizzard conditions between the 24th and 28th; with snow accumulations between 6 and 16 inches and sustained winds around 40 mph over most of northeastern Wyoming. Snow drifts up to 16 feet were observed in the Gillette area. Numerous schools, coal mines, and roads (including I-90) were closed during the storm.
2/25/1998		Johnson and Natrona	Natrona, southeast Big Horn Mountains, east Johnson					Blizzard conditions reported across much of Johnson and eastern Natrona counties. Snowfall of up to 10 inches in the Casper area. In Johnson County, drifts up to 4 feet deep were reported in the east, and I-90 was closed. Winds gusted to more than 50 mph.
3/3/1998	3/4/1998	Big Horn, Park, and Washakie	Northern and southern Big Horn Basin, western Big Horn Mountains					Heavy snow and considerable blowing and drifting over central and southern sections of the Big Horn Basin and western slopes of the Big Horn Mountains. Schools closed in southern Big Horn County. Up to 8 inches of snow in parts of the basin, with over a foot of new snow in the mountains.
3/6/1998	3/7/1998	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Platte, and Niobrara	Converse, Niobrara, southwest Carbon, north Carbon, Snowy Range, Platte		19	65,000		A winter storm affected parts of southeast Wyoming, with a total of 11 inches of snowfall reported in Rawlins, 10 inches at Lusk and Hanna, and 8 inches of snowfall was reported across Platte County. The Wyoming Highway Patrol received 19 reports of automobile accidents involving injuries due to snow packed roads, and another 90 accidents without injuries between midnight and 1917 MST.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
3/17/1998	3/18/1998	Fremont, Hot Springs, and Sweetwater	Owl Creek Mountains, south Big Horn Basin, Lander Foothills, Wind River Basin, Green Mountains, Rock Springs/Green River, Red Desert					Heavy snow, considerable blowing and drifting across parts of southwestern and central Wyoming. Schools, businesses, and roads closed in Fremont, Hot Springs, and Sweetwater counties. First time some schools had been closed for many years in Fremont County. Power outages in sections of Fremont County. Five- to 6-foot drifts reported in parts of Sweetwater County, with I-80 closed until the morning of the 19th.
4/14/1998	4/15/1998	Fremont, Johnson, Park, and Teton	Yellowstone National Park MT and ID, Cody Foothills, Jackson Valley, Dubois, Lander Foothills, southeast Big Horn Mountains, east Johnson		1			Two-day storm dumped up to 3 feet of snow on parts of Johnson County, with the heaviest amounts near the town of Buffalo. Roads (including I-25 and I-90) and schools were closed, and tree limbs and power lines were down in Buffalo. Lesser amounts fell over northwest Wyoming, with 7 to 12 inches reported from central parts of Jackson Hole northward into Yellowstone National Park.
6/3/1998	6/4/1998	Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Park, Teton, and Washakie	North and south Absarokas, Teton Range, Owl Creek Mountains, Wind River Mountains east, Lander Foothills, Wind River Basin					Late spring storm dropped 1 to 3 feet of snow on Beartooth Highway in northwest Park County, 10 inches of snow in the Owl Creek Mountains near Thermopolis, and 7 to 9 inches of snow in the Wind River Mountains and Lander Foothills. Power outages in Fremont County due to downed power lines.
6/6/1998	6/7/1998	Goshen					150,000	Unseasonably cold temperatures occurred across Goshen County. Reports by the University of Wyoming Research Department said the temperature dropped down to 26 degrees. 400 acres of corn were lost around the Torrington area due to the

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								extreme cold.
6/17/1998		Albany and Carbon	Snowy Range					Heavy snow up to 8 inches fell over the higher elevations of the Snowy Range. The snow stranded travelers on the Snowy Range Pass. Two snowplows slid off of curves and into ditches as they tried to plow the Pass.
10/4/1998	10/5/1998	Converse and Niobrara	Converse, Niobrara, Laramie Mountains			225,000		Eight to 12 inches of heavy, wet snow fell across eastern Converse County and Niobrara County. The heavy snow downed trees and power lines. The build up of ice up to 6 inches around the power lines along with 40 mph winds, caused 200 power poles to snap; 4000 people were without power for up to five days in the Lusk, Manville, Van Tassle, and Lance Creek areas. I-80 between Cheyenne and Laramie was closed due to near zero visibilities.
10/5/1998		Albany, Carbon, and Laramie	North Carbon, Laramie Mountains					Law enforcement officials reported that the summit of I-80 and Highway 210 were closed due to whiteout conditions at the higher elevations of these roads. The town of Buford also had whiteout conditions.
10/15/1998	10/17/1998	Natrona mainly	Yellowstone National Park MT and ID, Owl Creek Mountains, Green Mountains, Natrona, Casper			1,000,000		A severe winter storm moved across western and central Wyoming dumping locally heavy snow from southern Yellowstone National Park to the Casper area. The main brunt of the storm was felt in the Casper area where up to 17 inches of snow fell. Strong winds accompanied the heavy snow causing widespread tree damage and power outages. Poor visibilities and icy road conditions caused numerous vehicle accidents.
12/9/1998		Laramie	Cheyenne Foothills		1	30,000		Icy roads brought the closure of I-25 from Cheyenne south to the Colorado border. Six traffic accidents occurred on I-25 and 3 occurred on I-80 on the icy roads. One person in one of the accidents sustained minor facial injuries.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
12/18/1998	12/19/1998	Albany, Carbon, and Laramie	Southwest Carbon, north Carbon, Snowy Range, Laramie Mountains, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs					A winter storm dumped 12 to 18 inches of snow on the southwest mountains, and 8 to 10 inches of snow on parts of the adjacent plains. Interstates 80 and 25 in southeast Wyoming were closed due to icy conditions and poor visibilities.
2/11/1999			Southwest Carbon			30,000		A winter storm dumped 8 to 12 inches of snow across southwest Carbon County. In addition, strong winds overturned 10 semi-trailers along I-80 in Carbon County.
3/5/1999		Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Gillette, Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills					A surface low-pressure system south of the Black Hills brought wrap around snowfall into northeastern Wyoming. The Gillette area had the most precipitation with up to 12 inches reported. I-90 was closed from Gillette to Sheridan because of the snowfall and the rapid accumulations that occurred at times.
3/5/1999			Laramie Mountains, Cheyenne Foothills	1	3	50,000		Blowing snow and icy roads caused several accidents on Interstates 25 and 80. An accident occurred at 1516 MST west of Cheyenne when a man lost control of his pickup on the ice. The truck flipped over into the ditch. The man, his wife, and 3 daughters were not injured in the accident. However, while waiting on the side of the road after the accident, a semi-trailer traveling west jack-knifed and hit the 32-year-old mother and one of her daughters. The woman died instantly and the daughter was taken to the hospital in serious condition. Two other people were injured in a two-vehicle accident, on I-80 west of Cheyenne at 0920 MST. I-80 west of Cheyenne was closed at 1000 MST because of black ice, high winds, and the cleanup of a large number of accidents. The Interstate was reopened around 1430 MST. I-25 north and south of Cheyenne was closed from 0800 MST to 1238 MST. F32EQ
3/27/1999			Southwest Carbon		2	37,000		Ice on U.S. Highway 287 caused a collision between two pickup trucks. The driver of one of the pickup trucks was seriously injured and was extricated from the vehicle. The accident occurred 6 miles south of Muddy Gap at 0730 MST. Another accident occurred 30 miles north of Rawlins, in which a person lost control of their vehicles on the ice. The vehicle slid into the ditch and rolled 3 times. The driver sustained a broken arm. The accident occurred at 0715 MST.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
3/31/1999		Big Horn, Fremont, Natrona, Park, and Washakie	Cody Foothills, south Big Horn Basin, Wind River Mountains east, Lander Foothills, Wind River Basin, Green Mountains, Natrona, western Big Horn Mountains					Major spring storm dropped more than 3 feet of snow on parts of the eastern slopes of the Wind River Mountains, with a total of 38 inches at Sinks Canyon near Lander. In Lander, 28 inches was recorded with a near one-day record of 13 inches on the 1st of April. Around 21 inches fell in the Jeffrey City area, with up to 18 inches in the Casper area. This storm continued through the morning of April 2nd.
4/1/1999		Sheridan	Northeast Bighorn Mountains, Sheridan Foothills					Major spring storm dropped over 3 feet of snow on parts of the eastern slopes of the Wind River Mountains, with a total of 38 inches recorded at Sinks Canyon near Lander. In Lander, 28 inches was recorded with a near one-day record of 13 inches on the 1st. Around 21 inches fell in the Jeffrey City area, with up to 18 inches in the Casper area. This storm began on the afternoon of March 31st.
4/22/1999	4/23/1999	Fremont, Lincoln, Park, Sweetwater, and Washakie	Cody Foothills, south Big Horn Basin, Dubois, Wind River Mountains east, Lander					Second major spring storm of the month in the Lander Foothills and Wind River Basin area, with record one-day snowfall at Lander of 29 inches on the 22nd. Storm total at Lander was 53 inches, which was also a record. More than 4 feet of snow fell in Sinks Canyon west of Lander. Other storm totals included 23 inches in Hudson and 22 inches in Riverton. Many roads were closed due to poor visibility caused by falling and blowing snow. Downed power lines and power outages were widespread.
9/27/1999	9/28/1999	Fremont	Wind River Mountains east, Lander Foothills					Up to a foot of snow in the Sinks Canyon area, 7 inches in Lander.
9/28/1999		Albany, Carbon, and Laramie	Southwest Carbon, Snowy Range, Laramie Mountains	1	1			Snow fell over parts of south central and southeast Wyoming, with snowfall of 8 inches reported at Elk Mountain, and 6 inches at Buford. Icy bridges resulted in an accident on I-80, 15 miles east of Rawlins, which killed one person and injured another. F68VE

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
10/15/1999	10/16/1999	Fremont	Wind River Mountains east, Lander Foothills, Green Mountains					Upslope snow event brought 14 inches of snow to Sinks Canyon State Park, 11 inches of snow to Lander, and 7 inches to Jeffrey City.
12/3/1999		Albany and Laramie	Laramie Valley and Laramie Mountains	1	4	45,000		Icy roads resulted in a couple of accidents near Laramie, with one fatality occurring in a rollover on I-80 about 6 miles west of Laramie.
12/19/1999		Sheridan	Northeast Big Horn Mountains, Sheridan Foothills					Moisture associated with an arctic cold front produced heavy snowfall throughout Sheridan County during the early morning hours of the 19th. Sheridan received 6 inches of new snow, and Burgess Junction picked up 8 inches. In addition, sustained winds as high as 41 mph with gusts up to 50 mph produced whiteout conditions in Sheridan. Several road closures were reported in Sheridan County.
2/16/2000	2/17/2000	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Niobrara, and Platte	Converse, Niobrara, southwest Carbon, Snowy Range, Platte		12	100,000		Heavy snow fell over parts of south-central and eastern Wyoming, resulting in icy roads and numerous accidents. I-80 was closed for a while between Laramie and Rawlins. Around 8 inches of snow accumulated in Rawlins, with 6 inches reported in Douglas, Wheatland, and Lusk.
2/25/2000	2/26/2000	Converse and Niobrara	Converse, Niobrara		15	100,000		Heavy snow combined with gusty winds over east-central Wyoming to produce blizzard-like conditions with near zero visibilities in some areas. Many roads were closed with numerous accidents, stranding some travelers. Snowfall of 3 to 5 inches was common.
2/25/2000		Crook and Weston	Wyoming Black Hills					A strong storm system brought 4 to 18 inches of snow throughout northeastern Wyoming with drifts of 2 to 3 feet. Winds of 25 to 40 mph with gusts to 50 mph were common on the plains with visibilities less than a quarter mile. I-90 was closed for several hours during the afternoon and evening. There were more than 20 minor accidents with no major injuries reported.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
9/22/2000	9/24/2000	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Laramie, and Platte	Southwest Carbon, north Carbon, Snowy Range, north Laramie Mountains, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Platte, Cheyenne Foothills			100,000		Heavy snow fell over south central and southeast Wyoming over a two-day period, with 5 to 9 inches common. Elk Mountain, reported 12 to 14 inches of snow while Cheyenne, recorded a record 10.5 inches. I-80 between Laramie and Rock Springs, as closed during much of the storm, stranding up to 1200 travelers, mostly in Rawlins.
9/22/2000		Sheridan	Northeast Bighorn Mountains, Sheridan Foothills			1,000		A strong cold front moved through south and central Montana into northern Wyoming. In addition, an area of low pressure formed in central Wyoming and moved northeast into southeast Montana. This provided an area of upslope over Sheridan County in northern Wyoming. The combination of these two systems brought the first snow of the season to the area. Trees still had foliage, and as a result, some areas experienced power outages due to broken tree limbs on power lines. Some trees were damaged. Snowfall amounts were around 12 inches. Burgess Junction reported 12 inches of snow. Story reported 10 inches of snowfall and Sheridan reported 4 inches.
11/1/2000		Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills, Weston			787,000		An intense winter storm brought high winds and heavy, wet snowfall to parts of northeastern Wyoming. In Crook and Weston counties, snowfall rates were 1 to 2 inches an hour. Snowfall totals in the plains were from 4 to 8 inches, while in the Bear Lodge Mountains, totals were from 8 to 24 inches. The Four Corners area in northeastern Weston County reported the most snowfall at 24 inches. High winds sustained up to 40 mph with gusts to 60 mph caused blizzard conditions and toppled 600 power poles; 7000 people were without power and almost 15 miles of lines had to be replaced. The city of Moorcroft had more than 150 stranded semi-trucks after the interstate was shut down. In Campbell County, the temperatures were too warm for snow and rain fell throughout the day, but high winds were reported with gusts more than 50 mph at times. The highest gust in Campbell County was 64 mph at Echeta.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
12/15/2000		Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Gillette, south Campbell, Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills, Weston					A strong cold front moved across the region producing strong winds from 35 to 45 mph with gusts to 60 mph. Up to 3 inches of snowfall was reported with ground blizzard conditions bringing visibilities to zero. Area wide, there were more than ten auto accidents reported. On one highway south of Gillette several semi-trucks were jack-knifed due to poor visibility and icy conditions. Conditions improved by late evening across the region. Wind chill temperatures dropped to 50º to 70º below zero through the night and into the next day.
12/16/2000	12/17/2000	Albany, Carbon, Laramie, and Platte	North Carbon, Laramie Mountains, Platte, Cheyenne Foothills					Strong winds were reported over the mountains and foothill areas of southeast Wyoming, with gusts as high as 83 mph recorded near Chugwater, and gusts up to 73 mph at Arlington. I-80 was closed for a few hours for localized conditions due to blowing snow.
2/6/2001	2/7/2001	Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Gillette, south Campbell, Moorcroft, Wyoming Black Hills, Weston					Snowstorm dropped from 6 to 9 inches of snow with isolated amounts of up to 11 inches. Some blowing and drifting as reported with roads closed in parts of southwest and central Wyoming including I-80.
2/7/2001		Carbon, Converse, and Sweetwater	Converse, southwest Carbon, north Carbon					Heavy snow fell in a swath from south central into east central Wyoming, with as much as 11 to 13 inches of snow reported in Rawlins and 6 to 7 inches in Douglas. A 250-mile stretch of I-80 was closed for much of the day between Laramie and Rock Springs, with many secondary roads also closed.
4/10/2001	4/11/2001	Laramie and Platte	Platte, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs			350,000		A powerful winter storm produced blizzard conditions over much of far southeast Wyoming, resulting in some power outages and closing many roads. All roads out of Cheyenne were closed with winds in excess of 40 mph and almost 10 inches of snow recorded, while many power poles were knocked over in eastern Laramie County. Thirteen inches of snow fell in Chugwater, with 10 to 12 inches common over much of Laramie County and the southern Laramie Mountains.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
4/21/2001	4/22/2001	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Goshen, Laramie, and Platte	Converse, Niobrara, north Carbon, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Platte, Goshen, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs			100,000		The second major winter storm in 10 days produced heavy snow over much of southeast Wyoming, with blizzard conditions in some spots. Twelve to 16 inches recorded in Wheatland and Cheyenne. All roads out of Cheyenne, were closed again, as was much of I-80. Power outages were also reported in parts of Laramie County as winds gusted to around 40 mph.
5/3/2001		Sweetwater	Rock Sprgs/Green River, Red Desert, Flaming Gorge, southeast Sweetwater					Four to 6 inches of snow, very strong winds sustained between 40 and 60 mph with gusts to more than 80 mph. Visibilities near zero in many areas. Most roads in Sweetwater County (including I-80) closed most of the day. Large pine trees, fences, and power lines were blown down in Rock Springs and Green River.
6/12/2001	6/13/2001	Park	Powell					Heavy rain flooded streets, caused power outages. Amounts ranged up to 3.25 inches. Heavy rain and snow downed power poles and lines on Heart Mountain near Cody.
6/12/2001	6/14/2001	Park and Teton	Yellowstone National Park MT and ID, north Absarokas, Teton Range					Late spring snowstorm dropped up to 30 inches of snow in the northwest Wyoming mountains. Yellowstone National Park was closed for part of June 13th.
1/20/2002	1/22/2002	Park, Teton, and Lincoln	Yellowstone National Park MT and ID, Teton Range, Salt River Range					A Pacific storm system brought heavy snow and strong winds to the western Wyoming mountains. Snowfall amounts included upwards of 2 feet at Grand Targhee Ski Resort and 1 to 2 feet elsewhere. The combination of strong winds and heavy snow closed both Teton and Togwotee passes and the highway between Moose and Moran Junction. Both Grand Targhee and Jackson Hole ski areas closed ski lifts due to the strong winds.

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Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
2/7/2002	2/9/2002	Albany, Carbon, Goshen, Laramie, and Platte	Niobrara, north Carbon, Snowy Range, north Laramie Mountains, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Platte, Goshen, Cheyenne Foothills, Pine Bluffs					A strong winter storm brought high winds and snow to much of southeast Wyoming, producing blizzard-like conditions in many areas. Snowfall amounts were generally from 1 to 4 inches, but winds gusted more than 50 mph in many areas, creating widespread blowing and drifting snow. Gusts as high as 74 mph were recorded at Warren AFB on the west side of Cheyenne, Wyoming, with gusts to 73 mph near Arlington. I-80 was closed from Rawlins to the Nebraska border along with other roads over eastern Wyoming. Scattered power outages occurred in Cheyenne, Wyoming.
3/12/2002	3/13/2002	Park	Cody Foothills					A cold front dropped south into the Big Horn Basin, while moist Pacific air moved east across the area. Bands of heavier snow dropped 6 to 8 inches of snow from around Cody north to the Montana border. Clark reported the heaviest snowfall with 8 inches. The brief heavy snow caused road closures north of Cody and suspended operations at the Yellowstone Regional Airport for more than 4 hours.
3/13/2002	3/14/2002	Carbon, Converse, and Niobrara	Converse, Niobrara, southwest Carbon, north Carbon			10,000		Heavy snow fell across a swath of southeast Wyoming from near Rawlins to Lusk. Lusk was buried under 24 to 26 inches of snow, which caused a drive-in canopy to collapse. Douglas reported around 18 inches of snowfall while Rawlins and Shirley Basin recorded 12 to 15 inches. Many roads in the area were closed for more than 24 hours.
11/25/2002		Johnson	Southeast Bighorn Mountains, northeast and southeast Johnson County					The combination of strong northwest winds and fresh snow cover resulted in blizzard conditions across much of Johnson County. The visibility was reported near zero in open areas. A section of I-90 was closed for a few hours due to drifting snow. The Buffalo Airport ASOS reported a wind gust of around 60 mph at 1331 MST and a wind gust of 67 mph was reported in the Big Horn Mountains.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
2/1/2003	2/2/2003	Fremont, Hot Springs, Johnson, Lincoln, Natrona, and Washakie	Southwest Big Horn Basin, northeast Johnson County, east Wind River Mountains, Wind River Basin, Lander Foothills, Green Mountains, Rattlesnake Range, Natrona County lower elevations, Salt River					A vigorous upper level disturbance moving through the central Rockies coupled with strong, moist upslope flow resulted in a significant winter storm. The snow was heaviest across central and southwestern Wyoming. Snowfall amounts ranged from 12 to 20 inches in the mountains to 6 to 14 inches in the lower elevations. The wind and snow produced blizzard conditions across Sweetwater County during the late morning and afternoon of February 2, causing numerous accidents along I-80. Also, I-80 was closed for a period of time, east of Rock Springs. A wind gust of 61 mph was reported at the Rock Springs airport on February 2 at 1218 MST.
3/5/2003	3/7/2003	Fremont, Lincoln, Park, and Teton	Yellowstone National Park, Absaroka Mountains, Teton and Gros Ventre ranges, Jackson Hole, Wind River Mountains, Star Valley, Salt River Range and Wyoming Peak, Upper Green River Basin					A strong westerly flow and abundant Pacific moisture brought heavy snow to the mountains of western Wyoming. Snowfall ranged from 15 to 40 inches in the mountains to 6 to 12 inches in the valleys. In addition, strong winds produced considerable blowing and drifting snow, causing blizzard conditions in the Jackson Valley on the morning of March 6th. During the same morning, snow drifts of 3 to 4 feet stranded several motorists north of Afton. On March 6th around 2300 MST, the summit of Rendezvous Peak at the Jackson Hole Ski Resort reported a wind gust of 93 mph. The summit also clocked a wind gust of 84 mph on March 7th around midnight MST.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
3/17/2003	3/18/2003	Big Horn, Fremont, Hot Springs, Johnson, and Natrona	Owl Creek and Bridger mountains, west and southeast Big Horn Mountains, northeast and southeast Johnson County, east Wind River Mountains, Wind River Basin, Lander Foothills, Green Mountains, Casper					A nearly stationary low-pressure system over southeastern Colorado pumped moisture north from the Gulf of Mexico into central Wyoming. As the low deepened on the 17th and 18th, north to northeast winds resulted in upslope flow across much of central Wyoming. The combination of upslope flow and an abundant supply of Gulf moisture produced a significant snowstorm across central Wyoming. Snowfall of 1 to 2 feet fell in Casper and in the eastern Wind River Mountains. The heaviest snowfall was 3 to 4 feet on Casper Mountain. Snow amounts elsewhere ranged from 4 to 10 inches. A gusty north to northeast wind of 20 to 40 mph prevailed through much of the event. The combination of wind and snow closed many state highways and portions of Interstates 25, 80, and 90 by late March 17th. Snowdrifts of 4 to 8 feet were common across much of Natrona County.
3/17/2003	3/19/2003	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Goshen, and Platte	Converse, north Carbon, north Laramie Mountains, Laramie Valley, Laramie Mountains, Platte, Goshen, Cheyenne Foothills			100,000		A powerful winter storm produced heavy snow and blizzard conditions over much of southeastern Wyoming over a 2.5-day period, closing most roads and isolating many areas. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 3 feet were reported over the Laramie Mountains west of Cheyenne. Snowfall amounts from 12 to 20 inches were common over the adjacent plains from Douglas to Cheyenne, with Cheyenne recording just over 18 inches. In addition, gusty winds from 30 to 45 mph combined with the snow to produce drifts from 6 to 10 feet in some areas.
3/17/2003	3/19/2003	Campbell, Crook, and Weston	Campbell, Moorcroft, Weston					A potent winter storm slowly moved across the central Rockies and through the northern Plains, bringing heavy snow and strong winds to much of northeastern Wyoming. Rain developed across the area during the day of the 17th and then gradually changed to snow from west to east during the evening and overnight hours. Snow continued on the 18th as the wind began to increase in intensity, causing near blizzard conditions at times. The snow and wind finally began to taper off during the evening of the 18th. Snowfall amounts were heaviest across Campbell County, where 8 to 12 inches of snow were common, with drifts 2 to 3 feet deep. Snowfall amounts across Crook and Weston

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
								counties were generally in the 4 to 8 inch range, with lesser amounts along the South Dakota border.
3/26/2003	3/27/2003	Fremont, Hot Springs, Johnson, Park, Teton, and Washakie	Yellowstone National Park, Absaroka Mountains, Cody Foothills, Big Horn Basin, Big Horn Mountains, northeast and southeast Johnson County, Teton Range					A spring storm brought heavy snow to western and central Wyoming. The heavy snow was the result of an upper level disturbance that dropped south from Montana and moved across Wyoming. The storm track created a favorable upslope flow for areas east of the Continental Divide. Snowfall ranged from 4 to 10 inches in the lower elevations to 24 to 30 inches in the Teton Range of western Wyoming. Also, snowfall was around 1 foot in Lander and Meeteetse. The combination of wind and snow closed many state highways around the area on the morning of March 27th.
4/9/2003		Fremont	Wind River Mountains East - Lander Foothills					An early April storm moved across Southern Montana and Northern Wyoming bringing heavy snow to the foothills of the Big Horn Mountains. The following reports were received across the Sheridan area: 12 inches 21 S Dayton; 12 inches 19 SW Sheridan; 6 inches 15 WSW Dayton; 6 inches at the Burgess Junction Ranger Station.
8/29/2003	8/31/2003	Sublette and Teton	Teton and Gros Ventre ranges		1			Two hikers climbing Grand Teton were caught in a winter storm on August 29. On the summit of Grand Teton, 2 feet of snow was deposited between the 29th and 31st. The climbers sought refuge inside a dry cave until skies cleared on August 31st. However, one of the climbers was seriously injured when he fell during descent.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
10/29/2003	10/31/2003	Fremont, Hot Springs, Johnson, Lincoln, Natrona, Park, and Sweetwater	Yellowstone National Park, Absaroka Mountains, Owl Creek and Bridger mountains, southeast Johnson County, Wind River Mountains, Wind River Basin, Lander	2				A strong autumn snowstorm brought widespread heavy snow to much of western and central Wyoming. Some parts of this region received anywhere from 1 to 3 feet of snow. The most concentrated area of heavy snow was observed from the southern Wind River Mountains, including Lander, east to Riverton, Casper, and Casper Mountain. Roads became treacherous bringing travel to a halt across much of the area. Two highways in southwest Wyoming were closed: U.S. 191 west of Rock Springs and U.S. 189 east from Kemmerer to Wyoming Highway 372 near Fontenelle Reservoir. Two people were killed in separate accidents when their automobiles slid off the roadway. Additional traffic related accidents totaled 396, with about 100 people reporting injuries. M0VE, M40VE
12/25/2003	12/31/2003	Fremont, Lincoln, Park, Sublette, Teton	Yellowstone National Park - Absaroka Mountains - Teton and Gros Ventre Mountains - Jackson Hole - Wind River Mountains West - Wind River Mountains East - Star Valley - Upper Green River Basin Foothills - South Lincoln County					Three vigorous weather systems slammed into the western mountains and valleys of Wyoming, dropping significant snowfall as 2003 came to a close. Holiday travel was significantly impacted as snow began with the first storm on Christmas Night. The final storm pushed out of western Wyoming on 1/1/04. Total snowfall accumulation during this eight day stretch approached 4 to 5 feet in the western mountains and northern Star Valley. Two to three feet of snow was recorded in the rest of the western valleys during this time frame. Several roads were closed across western and central Wyoming including Highway 29 at South Pass and Highway 22 at Teton Pass. The conclusion of this event is provided in the January 2004 Storm Data Publication.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
1/1/2004	1/2/2004	Fremont, Lincoln, Park, Sublette, Teton						Three vigorous weather systems slammed into the western mountains and valleys of Wyoming dropping significant snowfall as 2003 came to a close. Holiday travel was significantly impacted as snow began with the first storm on Christmas Night. The final storm pushed out of western Wyoming on 1/1/04. Total snowfall accumulation during this eight day stretch approached 4 to 5 feet in the western mountains and northern Star Valley. Two to three feet of new snow was recorded in the rest of the western valleys during this time frame. Several roads were closed across western and central Wyoming including Highway 28 at South Pass and Highway 2 at Teton Pass.
2/11/2004		Johnson	Northeast Johnson County					Gusty north wind created white-out conditions near Buffalo. Interstate 90 was closed from Buffalo north to the Sheridan County line during portions of the morning as blowing and drifting snow caused visibilities to drop to near zero.
2/26/2004	2/29/2004	Fremont, Johnson, Lincoln, Natrona, Sweetwater						Two potent winter storms dropped heavy snow across western and central Wyoming. General snowfall accumulations ranged from 3 to 6 inches in the lowest elevations of southwest Wyoming, increasing to 9 to 12 inches in lower elevations of central Wyoming. Upwards of 2 feet of snow fell in the Wyoming, Salt, Wind River, and Big Horn Mountains. Snowfall combined with some areas of 20 to 30 mph wind and created difficult traveling conditions.
2/28/2004	2/29/2004	Campbell, Crook, Weston,	Northern Campbell - South Campbell - Western Crook - Wyoming Black Hills - Weston - Northeastern Crook					A powerful upper level storm system moved slowly across the Central Rockies and then through the Northern and Central Plains, bringing abundant precipitation and heavy snow to much of Northeast Wyoming. The system began to affect Northeast Wyoming on the afternoon of the 28th as rain and snow overspread the area. Precipitation changed to all snow during the evening hours and continued through the overnight. There was a brief break in the precipitation during the morning hours of the 29th. Snow then redeveloped across the area in the afternoon and persisted into the morning hours of March 1st. Strong northwest winds developed late on the 29th. The winds caused significant blowing and drifting of snow into the next day. Snowfall amounts in Northeast Wyoming were generally in the 5 to 12 inch range, with locally higher amounts across the Bear Lodge Mountains and the Wyoming Black Hills.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
11/27/2004	11/28/2004	Laramie	Cheyenne Foothills - Pine Bluffs					Heavy snow fell over much of Laramie County with Cheyenne, WY, reporting 10 to 11 inches of snowfall. Gusty winds resulted in some drifting snow resulting in some road closures.
11/27/2004	11/28/2004	Lincoln, Natrona, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton	Wind River Mountains East - Wind River Basin - Lander Foothills - Green Mountains & Rattlesnake Range - Natrona County Lower Elevations - Casper Mountain - Salt River & Wyoming Ranges - Upper Green River Basin - South Lincoln County - Sweetwater County					A strong Pacific Storm System dumped 12 to 16 inches across the higher terrain of central Wyoming. Lower elevations received 4 to 8 inches of snow. In Sweetwater County, very strong winds closed several federal and state highways as significant areas of blowing and drifting snow created white-out conditions.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
1/7/2005	1/9/2005	Fremont, Lincoln, Park, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton	Yellowstone National Park - Teton & Gros Ventre Mountains - Jackson Hole - Wind River Mountains West - Wind River Mountains East - Star Valley - Salt River & Wyoming Ranges - Upper Green River Basin Foothills			5,000		A strong Pacific storm system dropped very heavy snow across western Wyoming. Snowfall amounts of 2 to 3 feet were common above 8000 feet. Lower elevations west of the Continental Divide received 1 to 2 feet of snow through the period. Snowfall combined with wind gusts to 40 mph, dropped surface visibilities to near zero in some areas creating treacherous traveling conditions.
4/20/2005	4/21/2005	Campbell, Crook, Weston	Northern Campbell - South Campbell - Western Crook - Wyoming Black Hills - Weston					A strong spring storm developed across the Central Rockies and moved across the Central Plains. This storm brought heavy snow to Campbell County, far western parts of Crook and Weston Counties, and the higher elevations of the Wyoming Black Hills. Rain changed to snow during the overnight hours and continued through the day. Snow amounts of 6 to 12 inches fell across Campbell County, with local amounts of 15 inches in western parts of the county. Western parts of Crook and Weston Counties and the Wyoming Black Hills had accumulations of 4 to 8 inches. The heavy wet snow caused numerous power outages and brought down tree limbs across the area. A roof of a convenience store collapsed under the weight of the snow. Many highways across Campbell County, including Interstate 90 west of Moorcroft, were closed for much of the day.
4/21/2005		Sheridan	Sheridan Foothills					A very moist spring storm system brought abundant precipitation to Northern Wyoming. This came both in the form of rain and snow. The following is a list of the snowfall reports from this storm: 6 inches 15S Sheridan and 6SW Sheridan; 12 inches 15NNE Clearmont (power failures and 18 inch drifts); 8 inches 8NE Clearmont.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
4/27/2005	4/28/2005	Carbon	North Carbon - Snowy Range					A late season winter storm brought heavy snow to parts of south central Wyoming with amounts of 8 to 12 inches reported from Rawlins eastward over the Snowy and Sierra Madre ranges.
5/11/2005	5/12/2005	Campbell, Crook	Northern Campbell - South Campbell - Western Crook - Wyoming Black Hills - Northeast Crook					A strong late spring storm developed across the Central Rockies and moved across the Northern Plains. The storm brought heavy snow to much of Campbell County and northern portions of Crook County. Rain gradually changed to snow across the area during the midday hours and increased in intensity by evening. Snowfall amounts of 6 to 12 inches fell north of a line from west of Wright to Gillette to Sundance, with lesser amounts to the south. The heavy wet snow downed many tree limbs and caused some power outages.
6/5/2005		Albany	Laramie Valley - Laramie Range					An unusual late season snowfall blanketed parts of southeast Wyoming at elevations generally above 7500 feet. Laramie, WY. Reported 4-6 inches of snowfall which damaged many trees. 12 inches of snow was reported over the southern Laramie Range which forced the closure of Interstate 80 for several hours.
10/4/2005	10/5/2005	Campbell, Crook	Northern Campbell - South Campbell - Western Crook - Wyoming Black Hills - Northeastern Crook			550,000		A strong low pressure system developed over the Central Rockies and moved through the Northern Plains, bringing heavy snow to much of northeast Wyoming. Precipitation started as rain during the day and changed over to snow late in the afternoon, mixed with freezing rain and sleet. Heavy snow fell during the night and ended in the morning. Snowfall amounts were generally 6 to 12 inches, with locally higher amounts across northern Campbell and Crook Counties. The heavy, wet snow resulted in many downed trees, branches, and power lines. This caused numerous power outages and some minor property damage. The 7 inches of snow at Colony tied for the 5th highest daily snowfall for October. 7 inches also fell at Sundance and tied for the 9th highest daily snowfall there in October.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
10/5/2005		Sheridan	Sheridan Foothills					8 inches 8W Sheridan with lesser amounts in town but there were widespread power outages with trees snapping. A strong cold front moved across South Central Montana and Northern Wyoming on the 4th and 5th. Behind the front, a surface low moved across Northern Wyoming providing for a moist upslope flow across the Billings County Warning Area. Rain developed behind the cold front during the morning of the 5th and changed to a wet heavy snow by mid-afternoon. Trees across the area were still in full foliage. As a result...many trees and branches were heavily damaged. In addition...many branches fell on power lines and transformers resulting in widespread power outages...some of which last 36 to 48 hours.
12/1/2005	12/2/2005	Fremont, Lincoln, Park, Sublette, Sweetwater, Teton	Absaroka Mountains - Teton & Gros Ventre Mountains - Jackson Hole - Wind River Mountains - Star Valley - Salt River & Wyoming Ranges - Upper Green River Basin Foothills - Upper Green River Basin - South Lincoln County					A strong Pacific Storm System dumped 15 to 25 inches of snow across the mountains of western Wyoming through the period. Western valley locations received 6 to 12 inches of snow by storms end. Snowfall combined with wind gusts to 40 mph at ridge-top, dropping surface visibilities to near zero in mountain passes creating treacherous traveling conditions.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
1/30/2006	1/31/2006	Lincoln, Sublette, Teton	Yellowstone National Park - Teton & Gros Ventre Mountains - Jackson Hole - Star Valley - Salt River & Wyoming Ranges					A strong upper-level storm system pummeled extreme western Wyoming with significant snowfall accumulations. The western valleys generally received 4 to 7 inches. Meanwhile the mountains of western Wyoming received generally 12 to 22 inches of new snow accumulation. Strong westerly winds approaching 35 mph at mountain-top combined to make travel treacherous across mountain passes throughout the event.
2/15/2006	2/16/2006	Washakie, Big Horn, Johnson, Sublette, Fremont, Teton, Natrona, Sweetwater, Lincoln			1			A major late-winter storm inundated western and central Wyoming with 12 to 20 inches of mountain snowfall and 8 to 14 inches in most basin locations. Snow began to accumulate during the early morning hours of February 15th and wound down early on the 16th. Schools in Natrona County were closed on the 16th due to unsafe roadways. The decision to cancel classes due to weather is rare in the Casper area. However only one injury was reported, when a firefighter was hit by a sliding car while responding to another accident.
3/26/2006	3/26/2006	Albany	Snowy Range					Strong winds combined with snow to produce blizzard conditions over and close to the Snowy range mountains. The conditions contributed to a major crash on Interstate 80 east of Elk Mountain involving semi-trailers and automobiles which closed a 150 mile stretch of Interstate 80 from near Rawlins to Cheyenne, WY.
4/18/2006	4/19/2006	Campbell, Crook, Weston	Northern Campbell-Western Crook-Wyoming Black Hills-Weston-Northeastern Crook					A major spring storm moved across the Northern and Central Plains, bringing heavy snow to much of northeast Wyoming. Snowfall amounts of 6 to 12 inches were common across much of the area. Across the Wyoming Black Hills, snowfall amounts were generally 12 to 30 inches. Gusty northwest winds on the plains resulted in considerable blowing and drifting snow, reducing visibilities to below a quarter mile at times. Interstate 90 was closed from Gillette to the South Dakota border for over 24 hours. Some trees were downed and power outages resulted from heavy wet snow and gusty winds.
12/20/2006	12/21/2006	Platte	Platte-Goshen-Cheyenne Foothills-Pine Bluffs					Blizzard conditions with snowfall estimates of 17 inches in Chugwater, WY.

Table 19.1 - Damaging Winter Storms in Wyoming From 1871 through 2006								
Start date	**End date**	**County**	**Location**	**Deaths**	**Injured**	**Estimated Property Damage (USD)**	**Estimated Crop Damage (USD)**	**Information**
3/28/2007	3/29/2007	Johnson	Eastern Johnson			130,000		Blizzard
3/28/2007	3/29/2007	Albany, Carbon, Converse, Niobrara	Converse-Niobrara-Southwest Carbon-North Carbon-Snowy Range-Laramie Valley-Laramie Range			5,000		4 to 8 inches of snow reported with unofficial amount near 12 inches. Visibilities occasionally less than 1/4 mile due to blowing snow with drifts in excess of 6 feet.

Impacts

Winter storms usually cover a significant part of the state, and as such are difficult to describe regionally. The historic dollar impact of winter storms is around $161.6 million. In 2006 dollars, the impact is about $428 million. The actual impacts are much greater because of the effects on transportation and because of loss of life and injuries. The impacts from loss of livestock can carry over for many years.

Future Impacts

The history of winter storms in Wyoming indicates for a worst case scenario the dollar impacts could be as high as $210.6 million in 2010 dollars (based upon the April 25-27, 1984 storm), the loss of life could be as high as 17 to 20, enough power lines could be toppled that emergency intervention could be required, thousands of travelers could be stranded, and the livestock industry could lose 15 to 20 percent of its inventory.

There is a reasonable possibility a significant winter storm will occur each year in Wyoming.

Local Mitigation Plan Risk Assessments

A review of the local plans reflects all consider winter storms and blizzards to be a hazard within their borders as they each address the hazard within their local plan. Those counties addressing the issue of winter storms utilize data available to them through the State Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Counties addressing winter storms have ranked winter storm and blizzard risks within their borders based on the population impacted, probability of occurrence within their borders and the property impacted.

Below is a table outlining information mined from the local plans' winter storms hazard sections. The table shows previous historical incidents of winter storms within each county's borders as outlined in their plans and extrapolates, based on population impacted, probability of occurrence within their borders, and property impacted, the risk perceived by each county relative to winter storms hazards. You will note all counties with mitigation plans consider the hazard to rank from medium-high to high within their borders. Most do not state a specific number of incident occurrences but recognize there are multiple storms each year, and reflect significant potential damage as a result of winter storms.

Winter Storms-Blizzards
Information Mined from Local Plans

COUNTY	Plan Y/N	Year Approved	Included in Plan	Rank-High, Medium, Low	Loss Potential	Previous Incident(s)
ALBANY	Y	2010	Y	Medium-High	State-wide $ Only quoted from State Plan	Multiple Annually
BIG HORN	Approvable	2010	Y	Medium	Historical Losses Only $14.5 million total	Multiple Annually
CAMPBELL	Expired	2005	Y	High	State-wide $ Only quoted from State Plan	Multiple Annually
CARBON	Y	2008	Y	Medium-High	$7 million	Multiple Annually
CONVERSE	N/Draft	2005			Incomplete Information	
CROOK	N/Draft	2003	Y		State-level Info from State Plan	
FREMONT	Expired	2005	Y	High	Incomplete Information	Multiple Annually
GOSHEN	Y	2007	Y	High	Historical-$70.8 million/event	49
HOT SPRINGS	N					
JOHNSON	Y	2008	Y	High	State-wide $ Only quoted from State Plan	Multiple Annually
LARAMIE	Expired	2005	Y		Incomplete Information	
LINCOLN	Y	2006	Y	Medium-High	$400,000	1 every 2-3 years
NATRONA	Approvable	2010	Y	Medium	Medium-High	Annually
NIOBRARA	Y	2009	Y	Medium-High	$6.7 million	1 every 2 years
PARK	Y	2006	Y	Medium	$5.4 million	Multiple Annually
PLATTE	Expired	2004	Y	Medium-High	historical $135,296	Multiple Annually
SHERIDAN	Y	2009	Y	High	$30 million	45-1 every 2.6 yrs
SUBLETTE	Y	2008	Y	Medium-High	$225,000	Multiple Annually
SWEETWATER	N					
TETON	Y	2009	Y	High	$1.3 million	Multiple Annually
UINTA	N/Draft	2011	Y		Not stated	Multiple Annually
WASHAKIE	Expired	2005	Y	Medium	$34 million	1 every 4 years
WESTON	N					
NORTHERN ARAPAHO TRIBE	N					
EASTERN SHOSHONE TRIBE	N					

Because winter storms are so prevalent in Wyoming, vulnerable populations can be significantly impacted. Impacts include inability to get from one location to another because of closed roads, making pharmacies and grocery stores inaccessible. Electrical outages are also prevalent during winter snow storms and blizzards, limiting or eliminating household heating capabilities and the ability to cook an issue. Preparation for winter storms is needed to ensure successful weathering of the situation. Some winter storm preparations to be considered by residents include the creation and maintenance of adequate water and food within a 72-hour kit both in vehicles and at home, backup power generation capabilities, and backup household heating options. Winter storms are best weathered by sheltering in place during the storm, and attempting to go out only after the storm has ended.

Rural areas also tend to be more susceptible to power outages in winter storms and power outages in rural areas tend to be of greater duration than those in more populated areas. Also, rural locations are more likely to have livestock and farming economic factors, which can be significantly impacted by a blizzard. Blizzards and winter storms have resulted in livestock deaths and needed livestock rescue efforts including hay drops by helicopter following a winter storm and snow removal efforts to give ranchers access to their livestock so losses can be minimized.

Winter storms and blizzards are particularly impactful on people unfamiliar with the hazard. This makes those areas of increased development more vulnerable and subject to risk from the hazard, assuming a percentage of those moving to developing areas are unfamiliar with winter storms, specifically the need to make preparations ahead of the storm and the need to shelter-in-place through a blizzard or winter storm. The 2010 census documents those counties with the greatest increase in population. In areas of high development and influx of individuals and families education is critical to help prepare the community for the hazard. Other important mitigation efforts include advance warning through media and all-hazard radios.

Proposed State Mitigation Projects

The following mitigation projects have been proposed by state, federal, and local entities in the process of generating the Wyoming Multi-Hazard Mitigation Plan. Chapter 22 has all proposed mitigation projects.

- Encourage purchase or assembly of 3-day survival Kits for home and vehicle.
- Develop plans for livestock evacuation and food supplies in the event of winter storm.
- MRE Distribution
- Strengthen overhead power lines.
- Develop a power line inspection and assessment program.
- Increase use of existing pole testing and replacement programs.
- Planning study to determine effectiveness of building code enforcement on snow loads.
- Design and locate new snow fence
- Additional webcams on state highways to allow drivers to better monitor highway conditions
- Provide all-hazards weather radios to all residences in Wyoming
- Identify and inspect shelters in hazard prone areas
- Research feasibility and costs of adding new frontage roads /detour routes to I-80, I-90, and I-25 to prevent significant delay in traffic flow and resultant economic loss and possible loss of life.
- Provide hazards info to shelters, emergency facilities in public buildings, campgrounds, and phone books.
- Provide emergency phones at strategic locations with direct lines to emergency dispatch services.
- Develop reseeding plans for losses due to all hazard events.
- GIS training for local jurisdictions with emphasis on hazards recognition and analysis for application to mitigation planning.
- Investigate opportunities for developing or improving warning systems as a means to reduce loss of life, damage to property, and economic losses.
- Education programs encompassing multi-hazard insurance for business, resident and government application.
- Education programs encompassing multi-hazard mitigation for business, resident and government application.

- Planning studies regarding transportation of essential and/or key personnel during all hazard events
- Continue outreach to counties on identifying cost effective and feasible mitigation projects.
- Promote Continuity of Operations and Continuity of Government, statewide.
- Maintain and continue to expand hazards databases that were generated for the State Hazard Mitigation Plan. Seek new sources of information.
- Identify, document, and advertise all volunteer agency's locations and contact information.