Narrative Summary – July 2016

July 2016 was cooler than normal, averaging 76.7°F, 0.4° below normal (77.1°F). The warmest (1985) averaged 82.2°F. The coolest (1993) averaged 70.5°F. There were 12 days in July with maximum temperatures ≥90°F compared to a July normal of 20. There have been 25 days this year with maximum temperatures ≥90°F compared to a normal (through July) of 31 days. There were 5 days in July with maximum temperatures ≥100°F compared to a July normal of seven. There have been 10 days this year with maximum temperatures ≥100°F compared to a normal (through July) of eight. There were no daily temperature records established in July 2016.

Precipitation for July 2016 totaled 0.27 inches, 150% of normal (0.18 inch). The wettest July (1993) received 1.76 inches, while the driest (2003) received no precipitation. Total precipitation for 2016 (through July) is 3.94 inches, 99% of normal (3.96 inches).

The average wind speed for July 2016 was 10.3 miles per hour (mph), which was 1.7 mph above normal (8.6 mph). This was the second windiest July on record. The windiest July (1983) averaged 10.7 mph, while the July with the lightest winds (1955) averaged 6.8 mph. The peak gust for July 2016 was 43 mph on July 4. The record wind gust for July was 69 mph in 1979.

On July 31 smoke from a large fire that started on the firing range near Moxee and spread across the Rattlesnake Mountain range caused visibility at the Hanford Meteorological Station to drop to 3 miles.

The monthly climatological data summaries, as well as other information, are available on the Internet. Address: http://www.hanford.gov/hms

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Note: The data in this summary pertain specifically to the Hanford Meteorology Station (HMS), which is located approximately 25 miles northwest of Richland, WA. No attempt should be made to infer meteorological conditions at other locations from these data.