

Natural Bridges National Monument Water Year 2020 Climate Summary

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This document summarizes current temperature and precipitation anomalies relative to 30-year (1981-2010) averages for Natural Bridges National Monument (NABR) during the 2020 water year (October 2019 through September 2020). The data for these analyses were collected at the Co-op weather station at the visitor center by NPS personnel and downloaded from [ClimateAnalyzer.org](https://climateanalyzer.org) on 25 February, 2021 using R (ver. 4.0.3, R Core Team, 2020) and the climateAnalyzeR package (ver 0.0.0.9000, Van Scoyoc, 2021). The data used for these analyses include the daily high temperature (TMAX), daily low temperature (TMIN), and daily precipitation accumulation (PRCP). This is an automated summary and all results are provisional.

Temperature

Water year 2020 was the [insufficient data] warmest water year in the 55-year record for NABR (1965 to 2020). The average annual temperature was NA, which is NA°F NA the 30-year average (50.85°F). This summary suggests that temperatures are increasing 0.23°F per decade (Figure 1A). The monthly average TMAX was above normal most of the year and exceeded the 30-year monthly average 7 times (Nov, Mar, Apr, Jun, Jul, Aug, and Sep ; Figure 1B). The monthly average TMIN was above normal most of the year and exceeded the 30-year monthly average 7 times (Nov, Dec, Mar, Jun, Jul, Aug, and Sep ; Figure 1C).

Precipitation

Water year 2020 was the 5th driest on record for NABR. Total accumulated precipitation was 7.06 inches and was 5.85 inches below the 30-year average (12.91 inches). This summary suggests that precipitation is decreasing at a rate of 0.21 inches per decade (Figure 2A). Nov, Dec, and Jun received above average precipitation (Figure 2B), but were not enough to compensate for the 8 months that were below average (Oct, Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, Jul, Aug, and Sep ; Figure 2C).

Figures

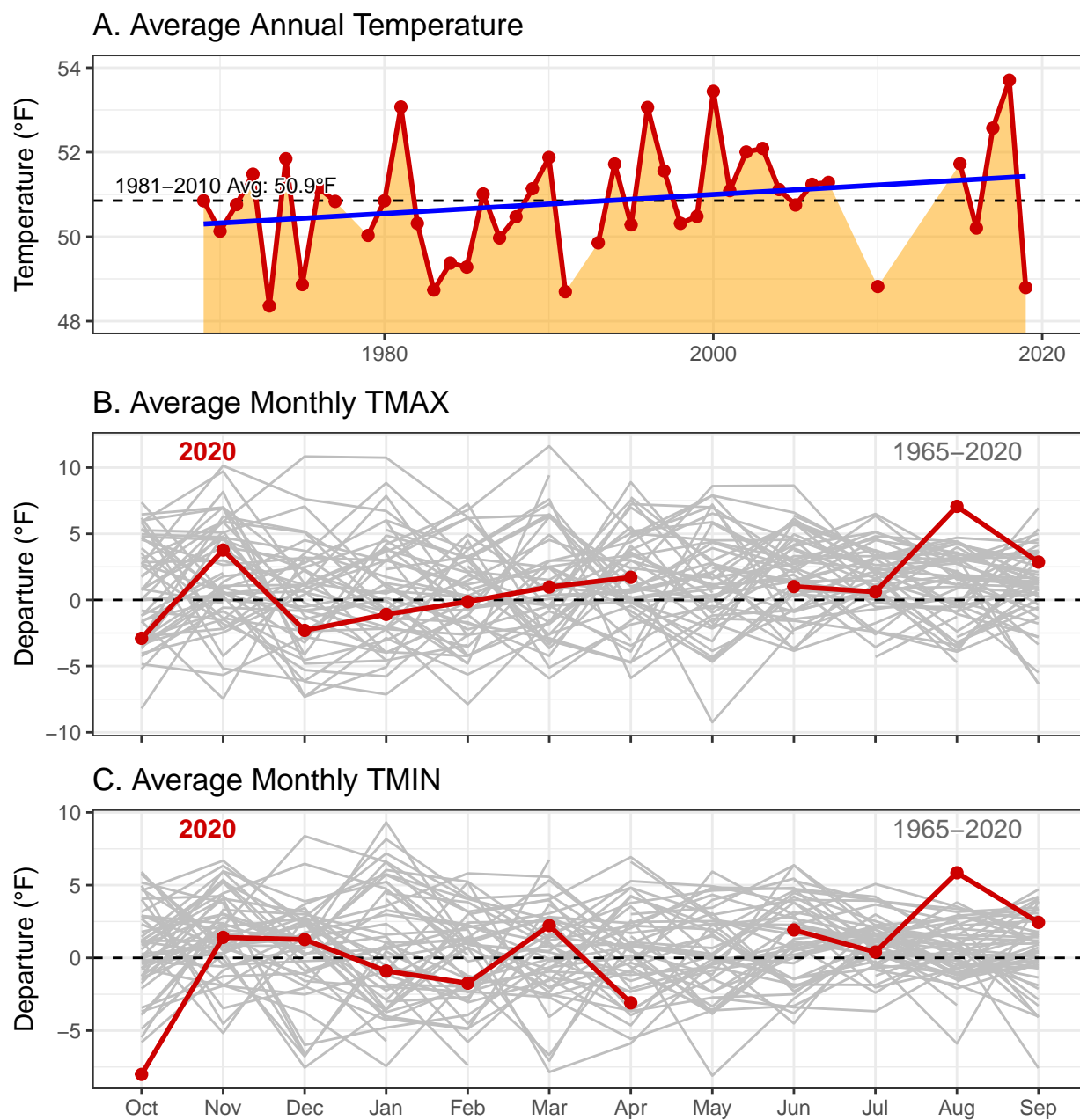


Figure 1: Trends in average temperature.

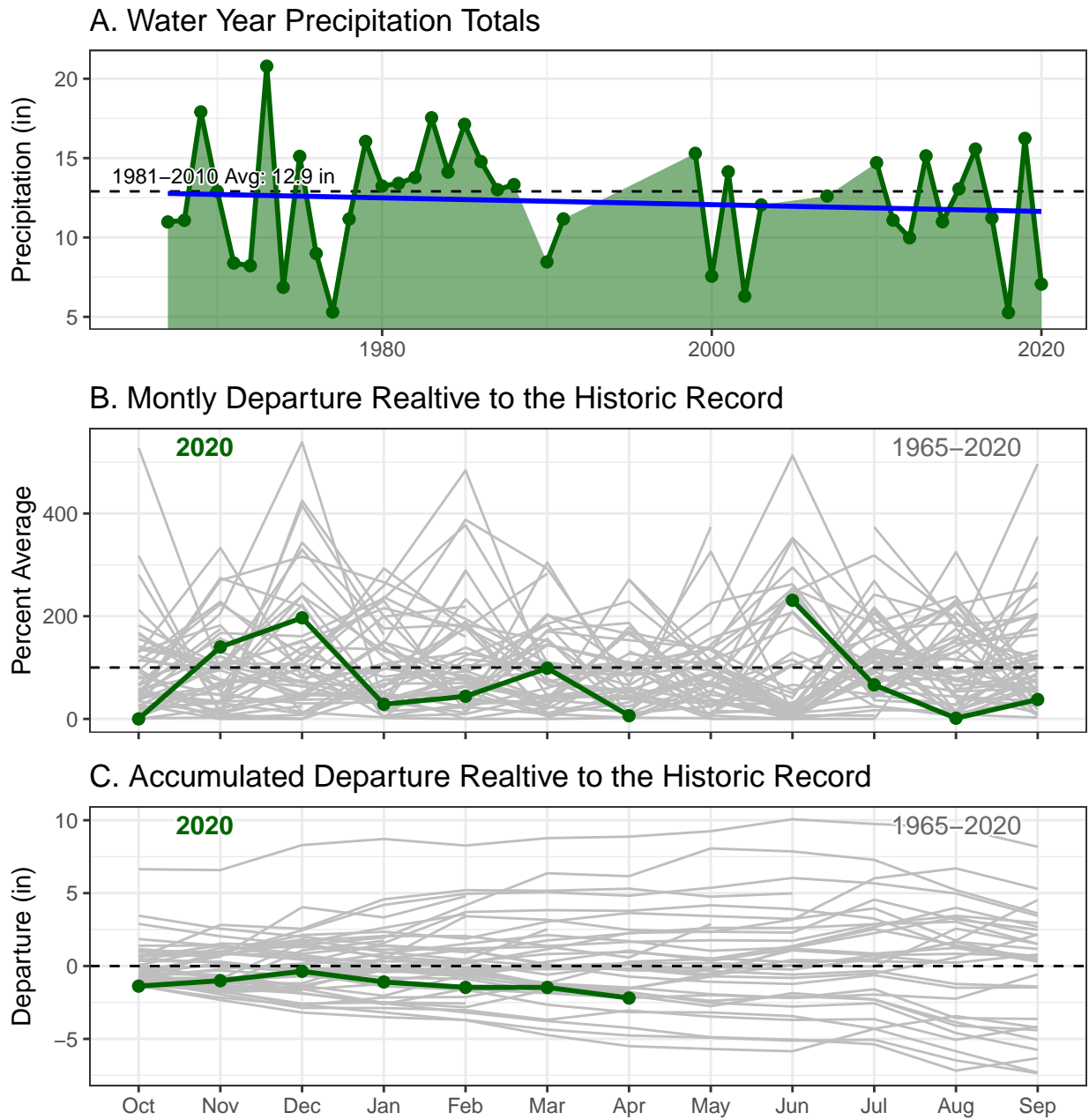


Figure 2: Trends in precipitation.