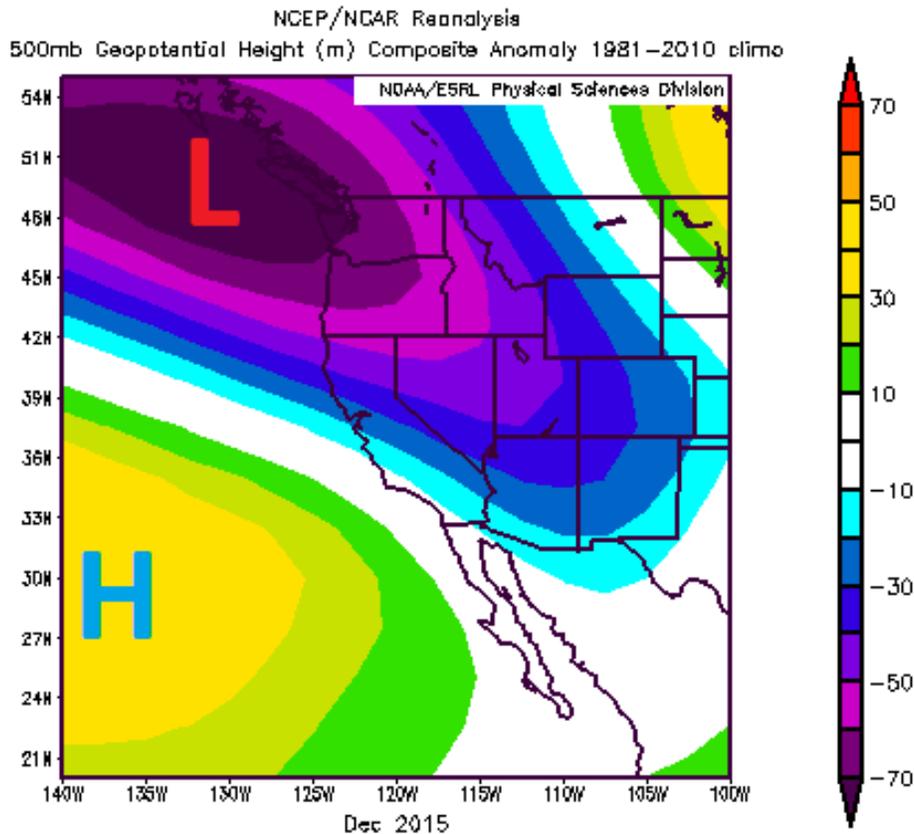


NNSS Climate Summary

December 2015



500 mb height anomalies for December 2015. Courtesy: NOAA/ESRL

December was a cool and relatively dry month on the NNSS. After a cool November, December started off with above average temperatures. These conditions persisted through the 10th with many locations recording their highest temperatures of the month from the 8th thru 10th. The pattern changed on the 11th as a series of storms from the northwest affected the area. Not much precipitation was recorded but temperatures returned to below average values. The strongest and coldest system of the month affected the area on the 24th and 25th. Low elevation snow was recorded with measureable snow even at Desert Rock Airport. A cold air mass behind the storm settled over the area for the remainder of the month. High temperatures were only in the 40's at the warmest locations and several of the northern areas had lows below 10°F.

Drought information: The U.S. Drought Monitor has the NNSS classified D2 (Severe Drought)

El Niño update: A strong El Niño is present in the equatorial Pacific. Forecast models are predicting this event to continue but slowly weaken through the remainder of winter 2016.

Below is data for some select locations.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Highest (°F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lowest (°F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Precipitation (in.)</u>
Mercury	63	8	23	27	0.18
Desert Rock Airport	68	10	20	17, 28	0.09
Frenchman Flat	66	10	12	30	0.15
Rainier Mesa	55	8	7	26	M*
Yucca Dry Lake	65	8	14	28	0.56

* Unable to access site due to snow.

Monthly highlights:

Highest temperature: 68°F at Desert Rock Airport
Lowest temperature: 3°F at Schooner Crater (Meda 29)
Highest precipitation: 0.67" at Meda 45 (Area 01)
Lowest precipitation: 0.09" at Desert Rock Airport

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

A Wind Advisory was issued for December 10th from 1415 to 2100 PST.
A Wind Advisory was issued for December 14th from 0800 to 1700 PST.

James Wood