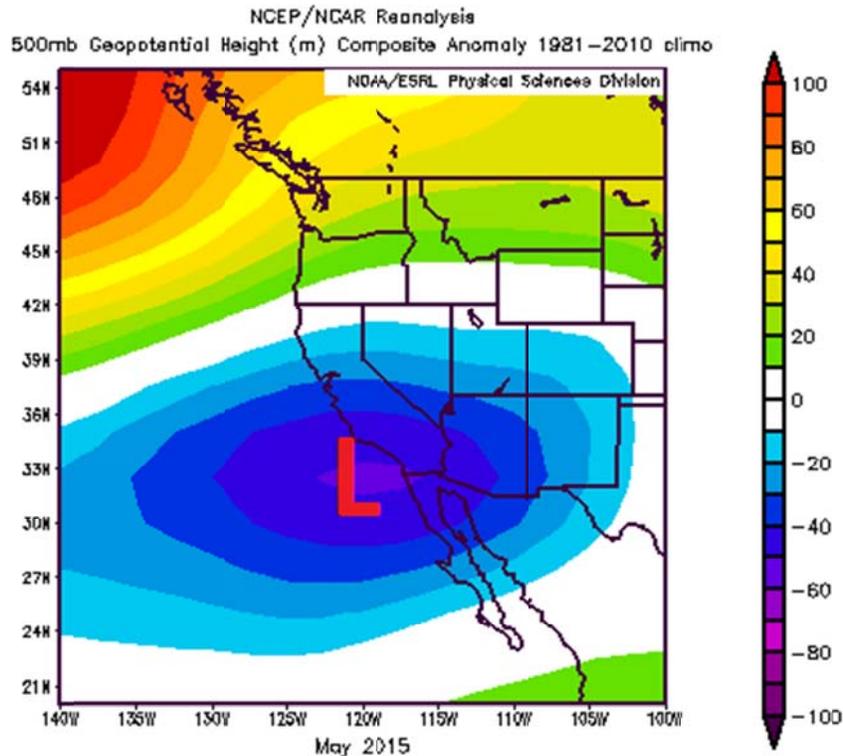


NNSS Climate Summary

May 2015



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

The plot above shows May 500 mb height anomalies and indicates lower heights centered to the southwest of southern Nevada. This area of abnormally low heights was associated with the atmospheric response to El Niño.

May usually is a time when temperatures climb toward summer values and little precipitation is recorded on the NNSS. This May was quite the opposite. Most of the month's weather was influenced by a persistent trough of low pressure over the western U.S. which allowed several areas of low pressure to traverse the region. This pattern led to the development of scattered thunderstorms which produced a large range in precipitation totals on the NNSS. The higher terrain in the northern areas received the most precipitation with Schooner Crater measuring the highest total, 3.19". Measurable precipitation was recorded there on eight straight days, from the 22nd through the 29th! This is something that is rarely observed on the NNSS even during the winter rainy season. Temperatures were generally below seasonal values except near the end of the month.

Drought information: The U.S. Drought Monitor has the NNSS classified D3 Extreme Drought.

El Niño update: El Niño was declared on March 5, 2015 and has now reached moderate strength. There is a 90% chance that El Niño will continue through the Northern Hemisphere summer and a greater than 85% chance it will last through 2015.

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	94	31	44	08	0.36
Desert Rock Airport	99	31	43	09	0.14
Frenchman Flat	97	31	33	09	0.44
Rainier Mesa	76	30	26	08	0.71
Yucca Dry Lake	92	30	35	09	0.53

Monthly highlights:

Highest temperature: 99°F at Amargosa Valley
Lowest temperature: 26°F at Rainier Mesa
Highest precipitation: 3.19" at Schooner Crater
Lowest precipitation: 0.14" at Desert Rock

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

A Lightning Alert was issued for May 4th from 1100 to 2000 PDT.
A Lightning Alert was issued for May 8th from 1430 to 2000 PDT.
A Wind Advisory was issued for May 11th from 1430 to 1900 PDT.
A Wind Advisory was issued for May 13th from 1230 to 1800 PDT.
A Lightning Alert was issued for May 18th from 1000 to 2000 PDT.
A Lightning Alert was issued for May 19th from 1345 to 1900 PDT.
A Lightning Alert was issued for May 21st from 1445 to 2000 PDT.
A Lightning Alert was issued for May 22nd from 0945 to 1900 PDT.

James Wood