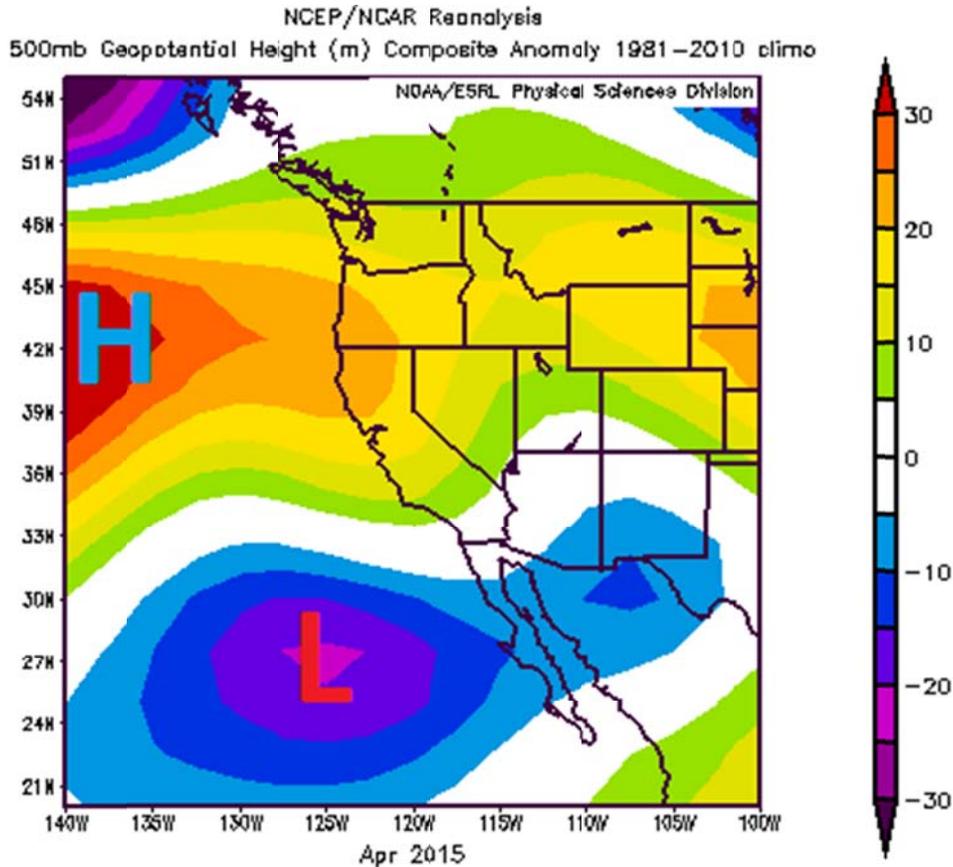


# NNSS Climate Summary

## April 2015



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

The plot above shows April 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 which began to influence our weather in April.

The persistent ridge of high pressure that had kept the NNSS in drought conditions this past winter broke down during April allowing several storms to affect the area. Although dry conditions persisted and temperatures were above average they were closer to seasonable values.

April began with seasonal conditions before a Pacific system affected the area on the 6<sup>th</sup>. This system was accompanied by strong winds, cooler temperatures, and light precipitation on the mesas. By the 9<sup>th</sup> the storm was east of the area which allowed high pressure to rebuild over the Southwest. Warm and dry conditions were observed through the 14<sup>th</sup> before another Pacific system passed across the area. Once again strong winds were observed along with cooler temperatures. High pressure regained control of the weather through the 21<sup>st</sup>. This allowed temperatures to become unseasonably warm. An active stretch of weather was observed from the 22<sup>nd</sup> through the 25<sup>th</sup>. The strongest system occurred

on the 25<sup>th</sup> when a fast moving, cold area of low pressure approached from the northwest. Showers and thunderstorms developed during the afternoon with most locations recording light amounts of precipitation. The remainder of the month was warm and dry as high pressure regained control of the weather.

Drought information: The U.S. Drought Monitor has the NNSS classified as D3-Extreme Drought. Short term relief is doubtful as the Desert Southwest's rainy season has mostly come to an end.

El Niño update: El Niño was declared on March 5, 2015 and has now reached moderate strength. Forecast models are predicting the event to continue to strengthen and peak at the end of the year.

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	84	29	39	15	0.05
Desert Rock Airport	88	29	36	04	0.10
Frenchman Flat	87	30	24	05	0.02
Rainer Mesa	66	29, 30	19	15	0.33
Yucca Dry Lake	83	29	26	04	0.07

**Monthly highlights:**

Highest temperature: 89°F at Gate 510 on the 30<sup>th</sup>  
Lowest temperature: 19°F at Rainer Mesa on the 15<sup>th</sup>  
Highest precipitation: 0.40" at E Tunnel  
Lowest precipitation: 0.01" at Port Gaston and Area 6S

**Hazardous Weather Notifications:**

A Lightning Alert was issued for April 6th from 1200 to 2000 PDT.  
A High Wind Warning was issued from April 13<sup>th</sup> at 1200 to April 15<sup>th</sup> 0600 PDT.  
A Lightning Alert was issued for April 22nd from 1530 to 2000 PDT.  
A Lightning Alert was issued for April 23rd from 1215 to 2000 PDT.  
A Lightning Alert was issued for April 24th from 1115 to 1900 PDT.

James Wood