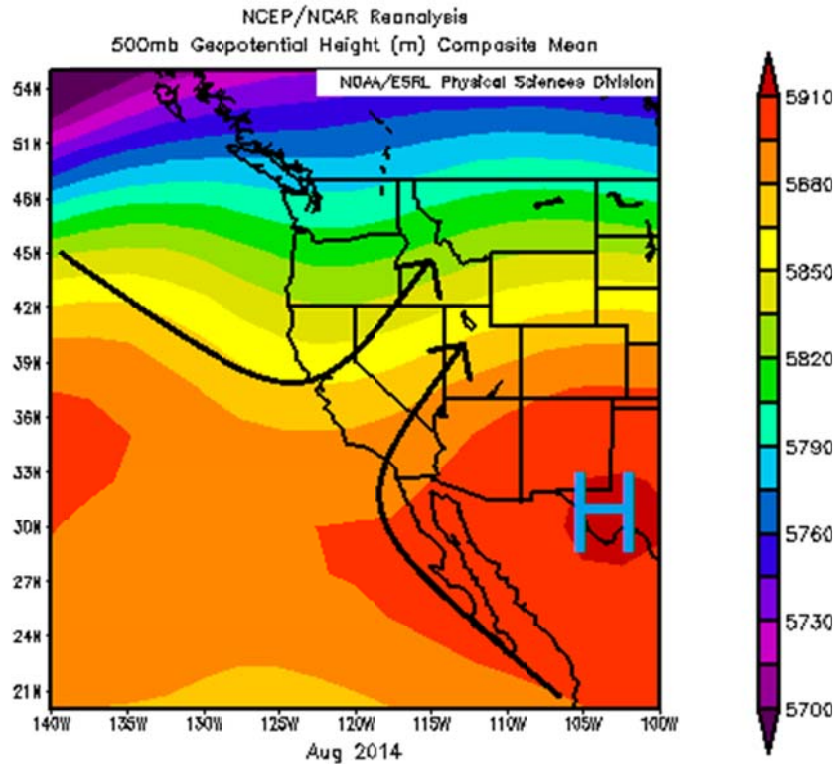


August 2014 Climate Summary



Average location of August ridge as depicted by 500 mb heights. Courtesy: NOAA/ESRL

Two distinct weather patterns combined to give the NNSS a “cool” and wet August. The month began with the monsoon and ended with a pattern resembling early fall. This provided a wide variety of weather that included flooding rains and some cool morning lows.

The month did start off hot. High pressure was centered near southern Nevada with most locations recording their highest temperatures for the month on the 1st. The High moved to the east and was located near the Four Corners by the 4th. The resulting clockwise flow around it brought southerly winds to the area. This helped to steer an area of low pressure northward from Baja California through southern California and Nevada. The low had abundant moisture so precipitation was reported at all locations beginning on the 3rd. As the center of the low approached the area on the morning of the 4th, thunderstorms with very heavy rain developed across the NNSS. Meda 28 in Area 6 measured the highest 24 hour precipitation total of 3.16 inches. As a result some roadways in the area became covered with flood water and debris and a Flash Flood Warning was issued. Other significant precipitation amounts that day were 2.63” at Meda 43 and 1.77” at Meda 48.

The next widespread precipitation event was on the 10th thru 12th. Low pressure was located off the northern California coast producing southerly flow over Nevada. This bought a return of monsoon moisture to the NNSS. Precipitation was recorded at all locations but amounts were mostly light. The one exception was Meda 29 with 0.66”. The final push of moisture for the month was on the 18th and 19th. Low pressure was located over central California which briefly brought southerly flow to the NNSS. Only a few locations received measurable precipitation during this event but Meda 48 did record 0.46” on the afternoon of the 19th.

The remainder of the month was uneventful due to a persistent trough of low pressure located off the Pacific Northwest Coast. A dry southwest flow over the area kept monsoon moisture well to the east. With the dry air in place and mostly clear late summer nights, some of the coolest locations on the dry lakes observed morning lows in the 40's during the final week of the month. There was a warming trend through the Labor Day weekend as high pressure built over the Southwest.

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>
Meda 23 (Mercury)	100	01	62	04	1.75
Desert Rock Airport	104	01	62	28	1.20
Meda 05 (W5B)	103	01	52	28	1.92
Meda 40 (Rainier Mesa)	82	01	51	26	1.70
Meda 43 (Yucca Dry Lake)	99	01	53	28	3.09

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

- A Lightning Alert was issued for August 1st from 1230 to 1900 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for August 4th from 0800 to 2000 PDT.
- A Flash Flood Watch was issued for August 4th from 0800 to 2000 PDT.
- A Flash Flood Warning was issued for August 4th from 1345 to 2000 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for August 11th from 0730 to 1900 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for August 12th from 0700 to 1000 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for August 12th from 1330 to 2200 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for August 18th from 1545 to 2200 PDT.

James Wood