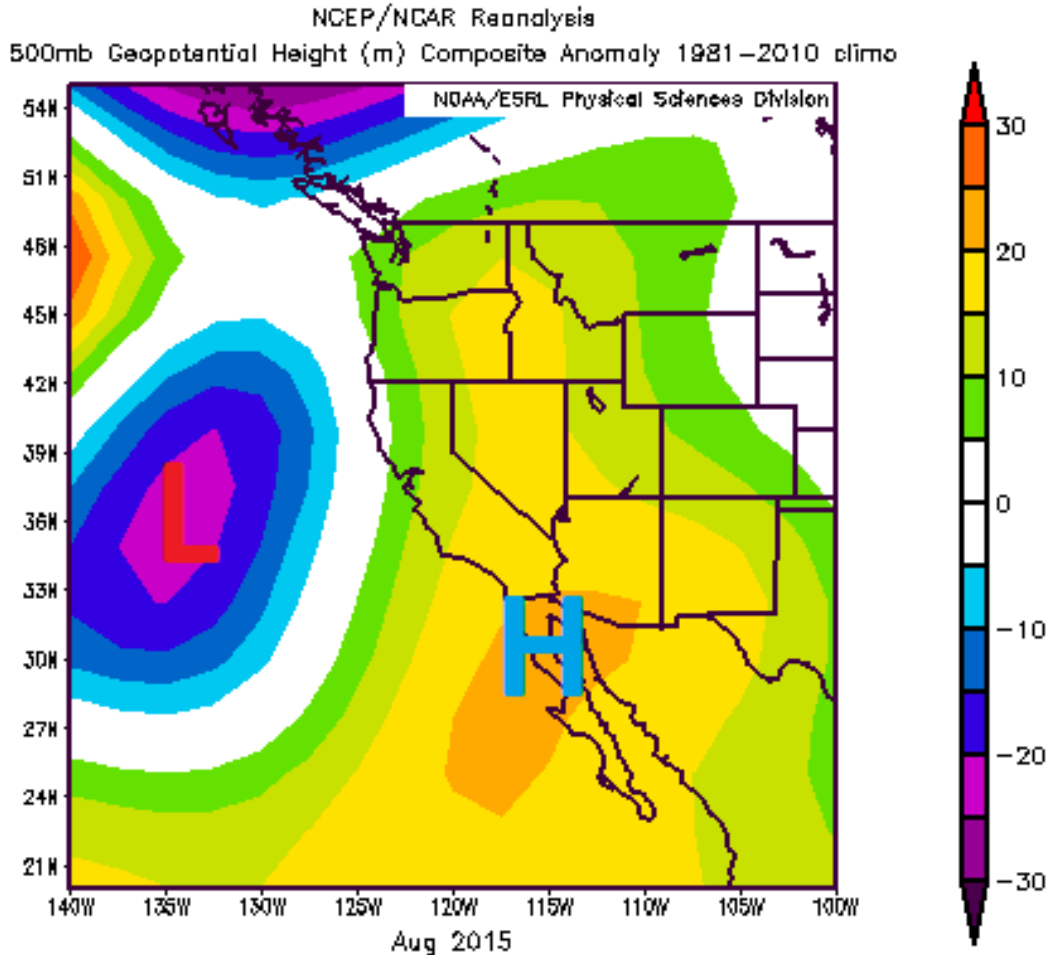


NNSS Climate Summary

August 2015



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

August is the final month of meteorological summer and usually a time when the worst of the summer heat is behind us. This year was an exception. The influx of monsoon moisture that kept July “cool” waned by the middle of the month as high pressure established itself over the West. This resulted in a dry southwest flow that allowed daytime highs to climb to above average levels. Although some locations received significant precipitation, most areas were relatively dry.

The most significant weather of the month occurred on the first. Thunderstorms developed during the afternoon and produced heavy rainfall at the higher elevations. Meda 40 on Rainer Mesa recorded 1.32” of rain which was the highest 24-hour total for the month. Meda 48 and E Tunnel also recorded over an inch on that date. The second significant event was on the 13th. Thunderstorms developed over the northern end of the Spring Mountains and moved northeastward over Areas 22 and 23 producing almost an inch of precipitation in a short amount of time. That was the last significant push of monsoon moisture for the month.

Temperatures also had a wide range. Morning lows on the 8th and 9th were cool due to a Pacific system with the coolest locations dropping into the 40s. The hottest temperatures occurred on the 16th thru 18th when many of the lower elevation sites recorded highs of 105 degrees or more.

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

El Niño update: El Niño has reached moderate strength. Forecast models are predicting the event to continue to strengthen into the strong category during the winter of 2015-16.

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	102	18	67	8	0.54
Desert Rock Airport	106	16	59	9	1.19
Frenchman Flat	106	18	49	9	0.10
Rainer Mesa	86	17	49	8	1.83
Yucca Dry Lake	103	18	53	9	0.54

Monthly highlights:

Highest temperature: 108°F at Gate 510

Lowest temperature: 49°F at Frenchman Flat

Most precipitation: 1.83” at Rainer Mesa

Least precipitation: 0.02” at Jackass Flat

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

A Lightning Alert was issued for August 6 from 1400 to 0000 PDT.

A Lightning Alert was issued for August 7 from 0730 to 1200 PDT.

A Lightning Alert was issued for August 13 from 1115 to 2000 PDT.

A Lightning Alert was issued for August 27 from 1215 to 1900 PDT.

James Wood