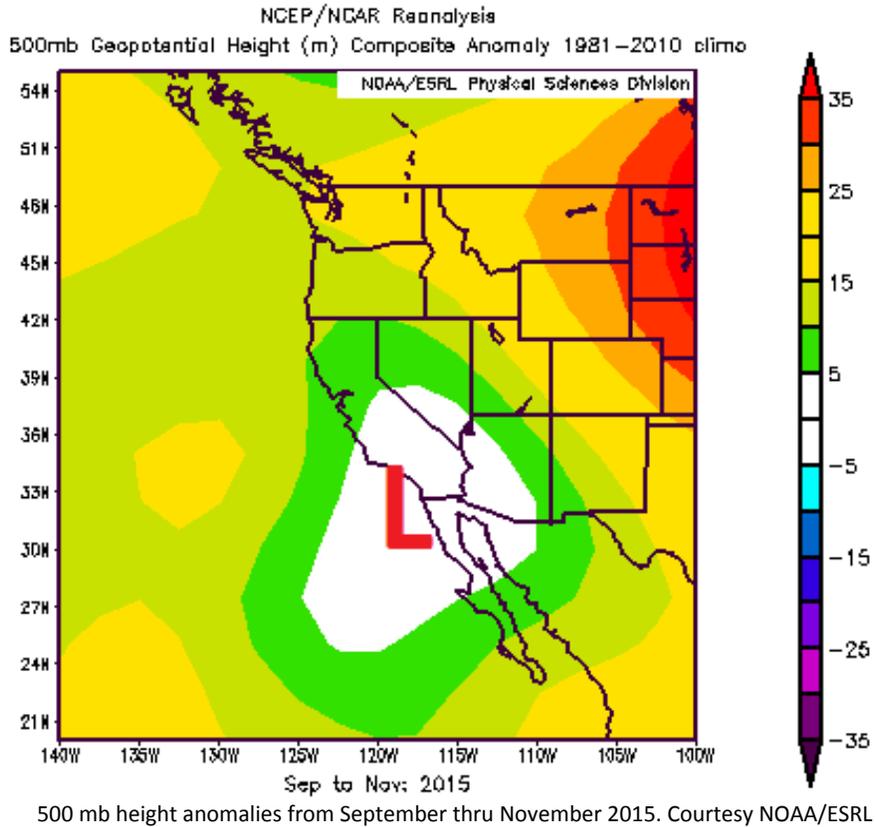


NNSS Climate Summary

Fall 2015



The Fall of 2015 was influenced by a maturing, strong El Niño in the tropical Pacific. The image above shows 500 mb height anomalies for the season and depicts a low pressure anomaly centered just off the southern California coast. This most likely is a response to El Niño. Although the Fall as a whole was warmer than average, an abrupt change to cold weather occurred in November. October was notable for the record rainfall.

September is the first month of meteorological Fall but it felt like the fourth month of summer. The weather resembled that of a typical June. Strong high pressure was over the Southwest for most of the month resulting in well above average temperatures and sparse precipitation.

October remained warm but the main story was the record precipitation that fell on the NNSS. An area of low pressure that was cut off from the westerlies meandered over the southwestern United States and Northern Mexico for the majority of the month. It created two significant precipitation events for the NNSS. The first was from the 4th thru 6th. Thunderstorms brought locally heavy rain during this period with most locations receiving 1-3" of rain. The second was from the 16th thru 18th. Early morning on the 18th a line of slow moving thunderstorms developed over the NNSS. Very heavy rain with rates in excess of an inch per hour were measured and in some instances persisted for nearly three hours. As a result, widespread flash flooding occurred in Areas 5, 6, 14, 25 and 26 causing damage to roadways and "filling" the dry lakes in Areas 5 and 6. The most significant totals from 18th were 3.50" at Mid Valley, 3.43" at Jackass Flats, and 3.14" at Port Gaston. October ended up as one of the wettest months ever recorded at the NNSS with many sites recording over three inches of precipitation.

An abrupt change in the weather occurred in November. While the first two months of Fall were warm with temperatures mostly running above average, much colder weather arrived early in the month. Several systems passed through with light precipitation but the main impact was persistent cold weather. Accumulating snow occurred on the mesas and all stations recorded their first freeze of the season.

Listed below are temperature and precipitation amounts for some selected stations.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Highest (°F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lowest (°F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Precipitation (in.)</u>
<u>Mercury</u>	Sep	100	11	58	17	0.01
	Oct	89	12	49	30	2.39
	Nov	74	2	30	28	0.12
<u>Desert Rock Airport</u>	Sep	104	11	56	18,19	0.00
	Oct	92	12	45	26	2.12
	Nov	76	1,2	21	30	0.20
<u>Well 5B</u>	Sep	103	10	44	20	0.00
	Oct	93	12	39	26	2.39
	Nov	76	1	13	30	0.17
<u>Rainier Mesa</u>	Sep	82	11	42	17	0.00
	Oct	72	12	30	30	5.50
	Nov	59	1	11	28	0.58
<u>Yucca Dry Lake</u>	Sep	101	11	44	19	0.00
	Oct	90	12	39	26	3.03
	Nov	73	1	15	30	0.07

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

- A Wind Advisory was issued for September 14th from 1445 to 2000 PDT.
- A Wind Advisory was issued for October 1st from 1200 to 1900 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for October 5th from 0645 to 2000 PDT.
- A Wind Advisory was issued for November 2nd from 0800 to 2200 PDT.
- A Freeze Warning was issued for November 4-6 from 0200 to 1000 PST.
- A Wind Advisory was issued for November 9th from 0800 to 2000 PST.
- A Wind Advisory was issued for November 16th from 0700 to 2000 PST.
- A Wind Advisory was issued for November 24th from 0800 to 2359 PST.

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