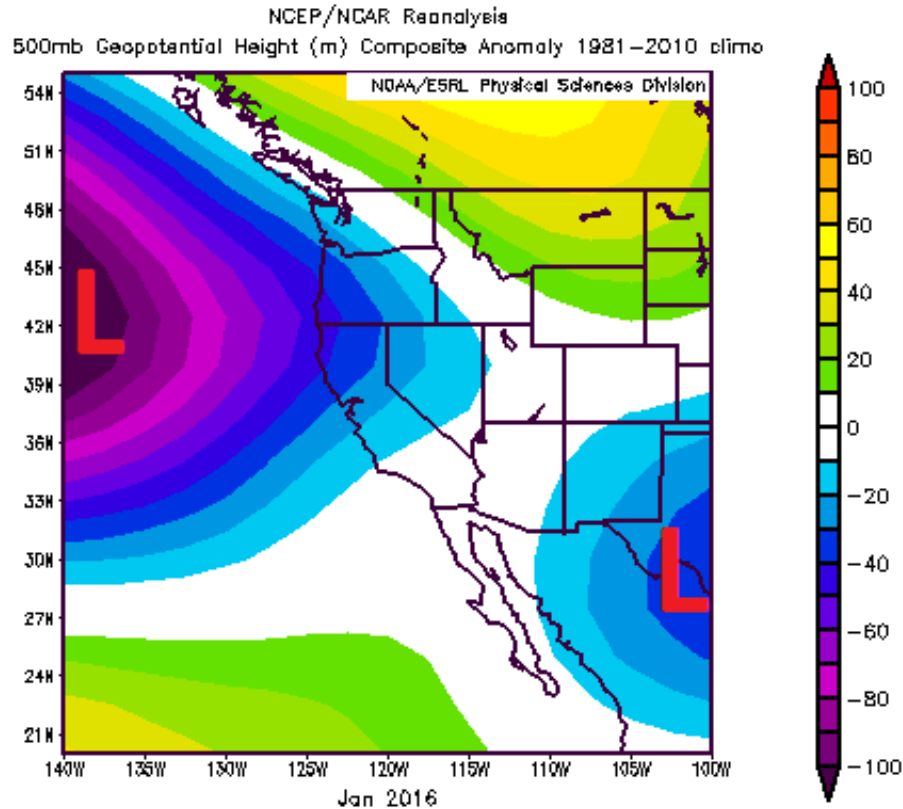


# NNSS Climate Summary

## January 2016



500 mb height anomalies for January 2016. Courtesy: NOAA/ESRL

The graphic above shows low height anomalies extended from the Pacific onto the West Coast. This represents the location of the storm track. This pattern kept temperatures on the cool side in January and most of the NNSS received seasonable amounts of precipitation.

The month started off very cold with some of the coldest weather observed on the first. Temperatures modified but remained cool until the end of the month. This was due in large part to inversions that set up in the valleys and failed to mix out due to the long winter nights. The warmest temperatures were at the end of the month as a strong Pacific storm approached the area. Southerly winds ahead of the storm mixed out the inversions allowing some lower elevation stations to reach 70°F on the afternoon of the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Seasonable amounts of precipitation were measured in January. Several Pacific storms affected the region with the most noteworthy from the 4<sup>th</sup> through the 6<sup>th</sup> and on the 31<sup>st</sup> which was particularly potent. This system produced widespread precipitation during the afternoon and was even accompanied by a line of thunderstorms. Snow levels quickly fell behind the front with light accumulations of snow observed at the lower elevations and several feet observed at the highest elevations.

Drought information: The U.S. Drought Monitor has the NNSS classified D1 (Moderate Drought). This is an improvement from being classified D2 (Severe Drought) in December.

El Niño update: The strong El Niño has peaked. Forecast models are predicting the event to weaken through the remainder of winter and spring 2016.

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	65	30	23	1	1.08
Desert Rock Airport	69	30	25	1	1.21
Frenchman Flat	68	30	19	12	0.98
Rainier Mesa	51	28	12	1	M*
Yucca Dry Lake	62	28	21	1	2.05

**Monthly highlights:**

Highest temperature: 70°F at Gate 510 in Area 25

Lowest temperature: 6°F at Schooner Crater

Highest precipitation\*: 2.71" at Mid Valley

Lowest precipitation: 0.98" at Frenchman Flat

\* The roads to Rainier Mesa and E Tunnel are impassable so the data is missing.

**Hazardous Weather Notifications:**

A Winter Weather Advisory was issued for January 4<sup>th</sup> 1500 thru Jan 6<sup>th</sup> 1000 PST.

A Lightning Alert was issued for January 31<sup>st</sup> from 1500 to 2200 PST.

James Wood