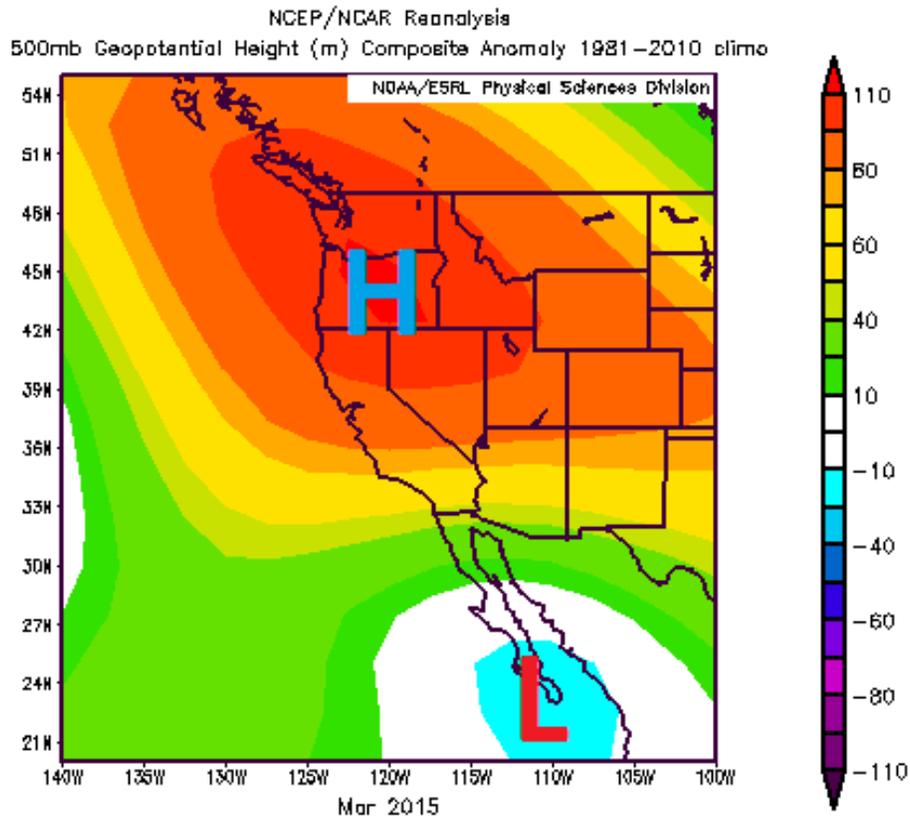


# NNSS Climate Summary

## March 2015



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

March arrived like a lion with a winter storm bringing much needed precipitation to the region. However, the persistent pattern observed this past winter of strong high pressure over the West and a deep trough over the East quickly returned and continued for the remainder of the month.

A brief shift in the weather pattern occurred at the beginning of the month as several Pacific systems impacted the area with significant precipitation and below average temperatures. The system on the 2<sup>nd</sup> was particularly potent bringing widespread precipitation and snow to elevations above 5000 feet. Valley locations received from .25 to .75 of an inch of rain while the upper elevations received up to a foot of snow. This was the most significant snowfall since the beginning of December. Cool conditions lasted until the 5<sup>th</sup> before high pressure rebuilt over the West. Above average temperatures and virtually no precipitation were observed during the remainder of the month. An area of low pressure did manage to produce a few weak thunderstorms on the 18<sup>th</sup> with Port Gaston recording .02". High pressure aloft intensified at the end of the month bringing the warmest weather of the year. Temperatures peaked on the afternoon of the 30<sup>th</sup> when many valley locations observed highs in the mid 80's. Desert Rock and Gate 510 in Area 25 both recorded a high temperature of 87°F, the warmest of the month, making it feel more like May.

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 Nino update: El Nino was declared on March 5, 2015. It is currently weak and not expected to have significant impacts on our weather through this spring. Forecast models are trending towards the event strengthening this fall.

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)        | 82                  | 30          | 33                 | 04          | 0.71                       |
| Desert Rock Airport      | 86                  | 30          | 31                 | 03          | 0.65                       |
| Meda 05 (W5B)            | 87                  | 29          | 24                 | 01          | 0.84                       |
| Meda 40 (Rainer Mesa)    | 65                  | 30          | 16                 | 04          | 1.02                       |
| Meda 43 (Yucca Dry Lake) | 83                  | 30          | 25                 | 01          | 0.41                       |

**Hazardous Weather Notifications:**

A Lightning Alert was issued for March 2<sup>nd</sup> from 1215 to 1800 PST.

A Lightning Alert was issued for March 3<sup>rd</sup> from 1145 to 1800 PST.

A Lightning Alert was issued for March 18<sup>th</sup> from 1700 to 2000 PDT.

James Wood