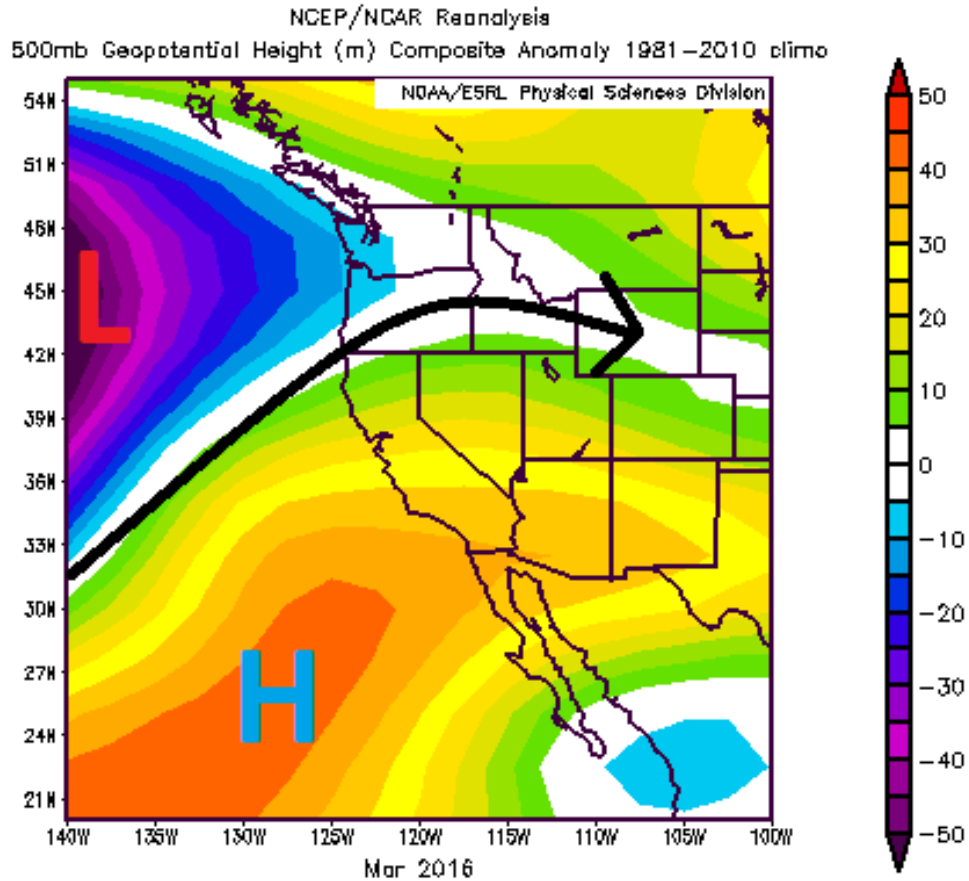


NNSS Climate Summary

March 2016



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

March was a dry and relatively warm month on the NNSS. The persistent ridge of high pressure that kept the storm track north of the region in February remained mostly in place. There was a brief return to winter-like weather during the second week of the month. Otherwise, the weather was mostly uneventful.

The month began with warm and dry weather before the storm track briefly dipped south beginning on the 5th. A rather strong but moisture starved system passed across the area from the 6th through 8th bringing mainly light precipitation and much cooler temperatures. Strong winds accompanied this system with gusts to more than 50 mph common. Yucca Dry Lake recorded the highest gust, 77 mph. A second system passed through on the 11th and 12th. After that, strong high pressure built in producing warm temperatures and dry conditions. The high weakened at the end of the month which allowed temperatures to return to seasonable levels.

Drought information: The U.S. Drought Monitor has the NNSS classified D1 (Moderate Drought)

El Niño update: A strong El Niño is present and is weakening. Forecast models predict the event to continue to weaken through the spring of 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	79	20	37	7	0.30
Desert Rock Airport	82	20	32	8	0.21
Frenchman Flat	81	20	26	15	0.14
Rainier Mesa	58	1	18	30	0.81
Yucca Dry Lake	75	19	26	7	0.24

Monthly highlights:

Highest temperature: 82°F at Gate 510

Lowest temperature: 18°F at Rainier Mesa

Highest precipitation: 1.32" at Schooner Crater

Lowest precipitation: 0.14" at Frenchman Flat

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

A Special Weather Statement was issued for March 3rd from 0930 to 1600 PST.

A Wind Advisory was issued for March 11th from 1000 to 2000 PDT.

A Wind Advisory was issued for March 21st from 1345 to 2200 PDT.

A Wind Advisory was issued for March 22nd from 0700 to 1300 PDT.

A High Wind Warning was issued for March 28th from 0745 to 2200 PDT.

A Lightning Alert was issued for March 28th from 1200 to 1700 PDT.

James Wood