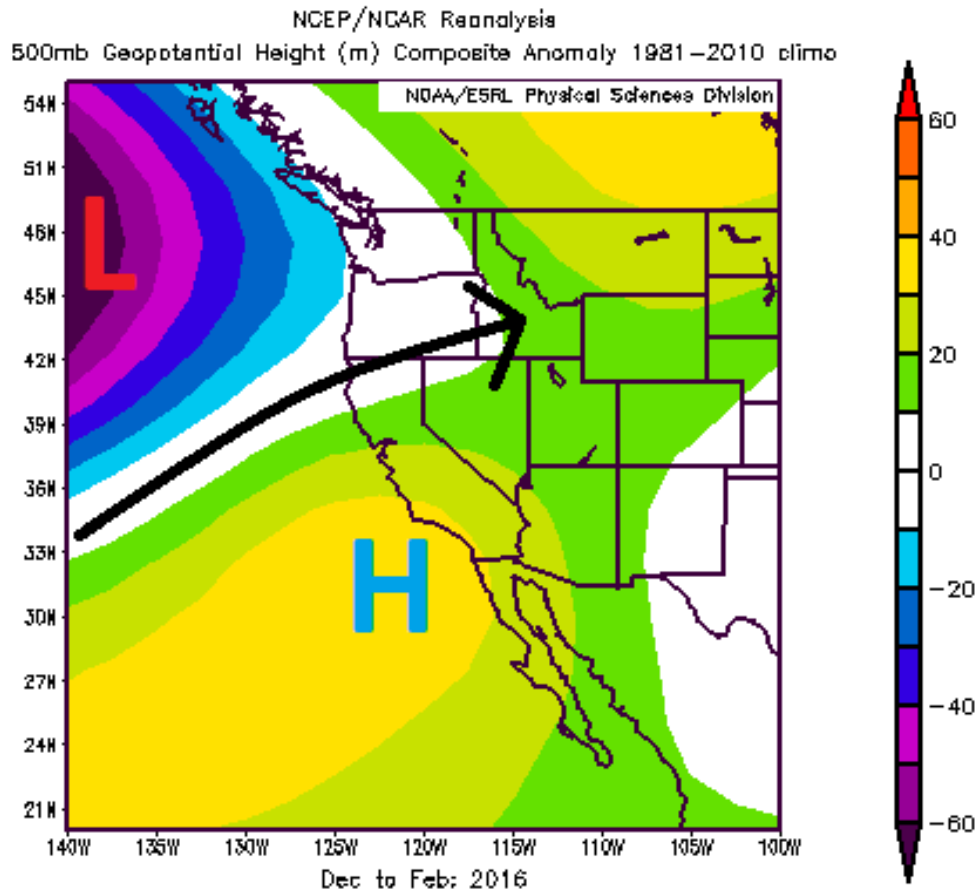


NNSS Climate Summary

Winter 2016



Average 500 mb height anomalies from December 2015 through February 2016. Courtesy NOAA/ESRL

The plot above shows the ridging that influenced the weather over the NNSS for the majority of the winter 2015/16. Its presence off the southern California coast kept the storm track focused on northern California and southern Oregon. This resulted in only a few significant storms for the NNSS.

After a very warm and wet fall, December was cold with seasonal precipitation. The month started off with above average temperatures which persisted through the 10th. Many locations recorded their monthly highs from the 8th thru 10th. The pattern changed on the 11th as a series of storms from the northwest affected the area. Not much precipitation was recorded but temperatures returned to below average values. The strongest and coldest system of the month affected the area on the 24th and 25th. Measureable snow was recorded at elevations as low as Desert Rock Airport. A cold air mass behind the storm settled over the area for the remainder of the month with high temperatures only in the 40's at the warmest locations. Several sites in the northern areas had lows below 10°F.

January 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 which allowed some lower elevation stations to reach 70°F on the afternoon of the 30th.

Seasonable amounts of precipitation were measured in January. Several Pacific storms brought rain and snow to the region with the most noteworthy from the 4th through the 6th and on the 31st 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 on the mesas.

February started cold due to the late January storm as some of the coldest air of the season settled over the region which was covered by large amounts of snow. Schooner Crater had a subzero low of -0.1°F on the morning of the 2nd. Warm and dry weather took hold on the 4th and lasted until the 16th before the lone significant weather system of the month affected the area. Light precipitation was observed as the system passed across the area and lowered temperatures to near seasonal values. By the 18th, high pressure had reestablished itself and remained in place through the end of the month. The warmest temperatures were actually recorded on Leap Day with the lower elevations reaching the mid to upper 70's.

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

	<u>Month</u>	<u>Highest</u> <u>(F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lowest</u> <u>(F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Precipitation</u> <u>(in.)</u>
<u>Mercury</u>	Dec	63	8	23	27	0.18
	Jan	65	30	23	1	1.08
	Feb	73	29	23	3	0.51
<u>Desert Rock Airport</u>	Dec	68	10	20	17,28	0.09
	Jan	69	30	25	1	1.21
	Feb	76	28,29	25	3	0.50
<u>Frenchman Flat</u>	Dec	66	10	12	30	0.15
	Jan	68	30	19	12	0.98
	Feb	77	29	19	3	0.24
<u>Rainier Mesa</u>	Dec	55	8	7	26	0.50
	Jan	51	28	12	1	2.96
	Feb	M	M	M	M	0.28
<u>Yucca Dry Lake</u>	Dec	65	8	14	28	0.56
	Jan	62	28	21	1	2.05
	Feb	72	29	26	2	0.39

M = missing data

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

A Wind Advisory was issued for December 10th from 1415 to 2100 PST.

A Wind Advisory was issued for December 14th from 0800 to 1700 PST.

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

A Lightning Alert was issued for January 31st from 1500 to 2200 PST.

A Wind Advisory was issued for February 1st from 0800 to 2000 PST.

A Wind Advisory was issued for February 17th from 0800 to February 18th to 1000 PST.

A Wind Advisory was issued for February 18th from 0945 to 1300 PST.

James Wood