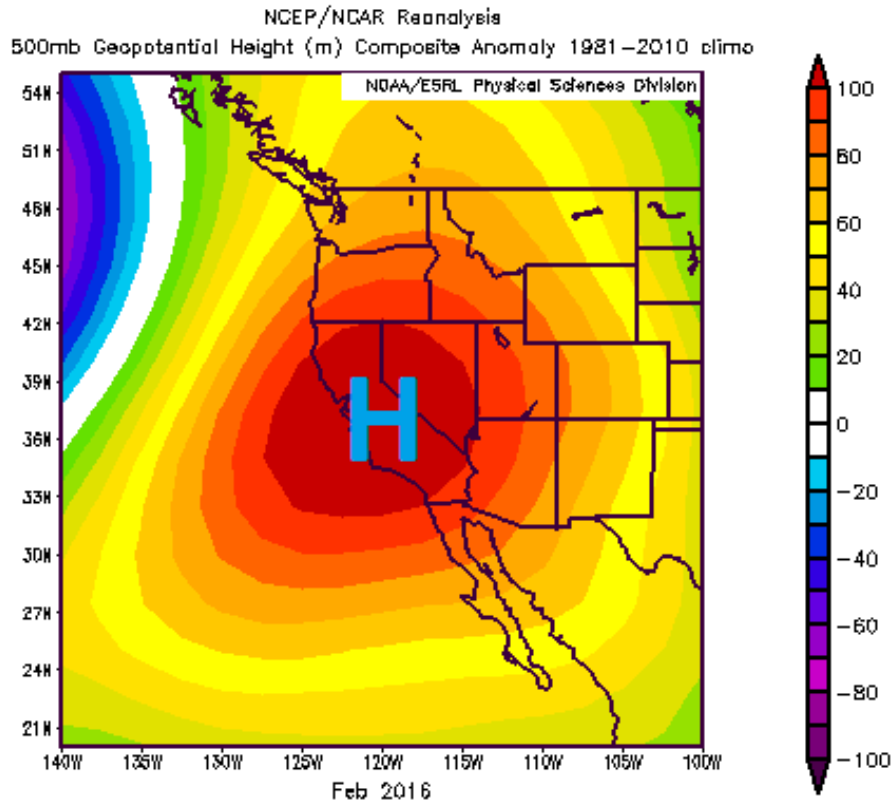


NNSS Climate Summary

February 2016



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

The first two months of meteorological Winter were cool and relatively wet on the NNSS. When a strong El Niño is occurring, February usually is the wettest month of the year in the Southwest. However, February 2016 was drier than normal. The long wave trough that had resided along the West Coast for much of the winter retrograded offshore allowing a strong ridge of high pressure to establish itself over the Southwest. Temperatures were well above normal and dry conditions prevailed.

January ended with a strong Pacific system bringing widespread precipitation and cold temperatures to the NNSS. The last effects of this storm were observed from February 1st through the 3rd. Some of the coldest air of the season settled over the area 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.

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

El Niño update: A strong El Niño is present but has passed its peak intensity. Forecast models are predicting the event to wane towards neutral conditions by the summer.

Below is data for some selected locations.

<u>Station</u>	<u>Highest (°F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lowest (°F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Precipitation (in.)</u>
Mercury	73	29	23	3	0.51
Desert Rock Airport	76	28, 29	25	3	0.50
Frenchman Flat	77	29	19	3	0.24
Rainier Mesa	M	M	M	M	0.28
Yucca Dry Lake	72	29	26	2	0.39

M = missing data

Monthly highlights:

Highest temperature: 78° at Gate 510 in Area 25

Lowest temperature: 0°F at Schooner Crater

Highest precipitation: 0.76" at Port Gaston

Lowest precipitation: 0.19" at Beef

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

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