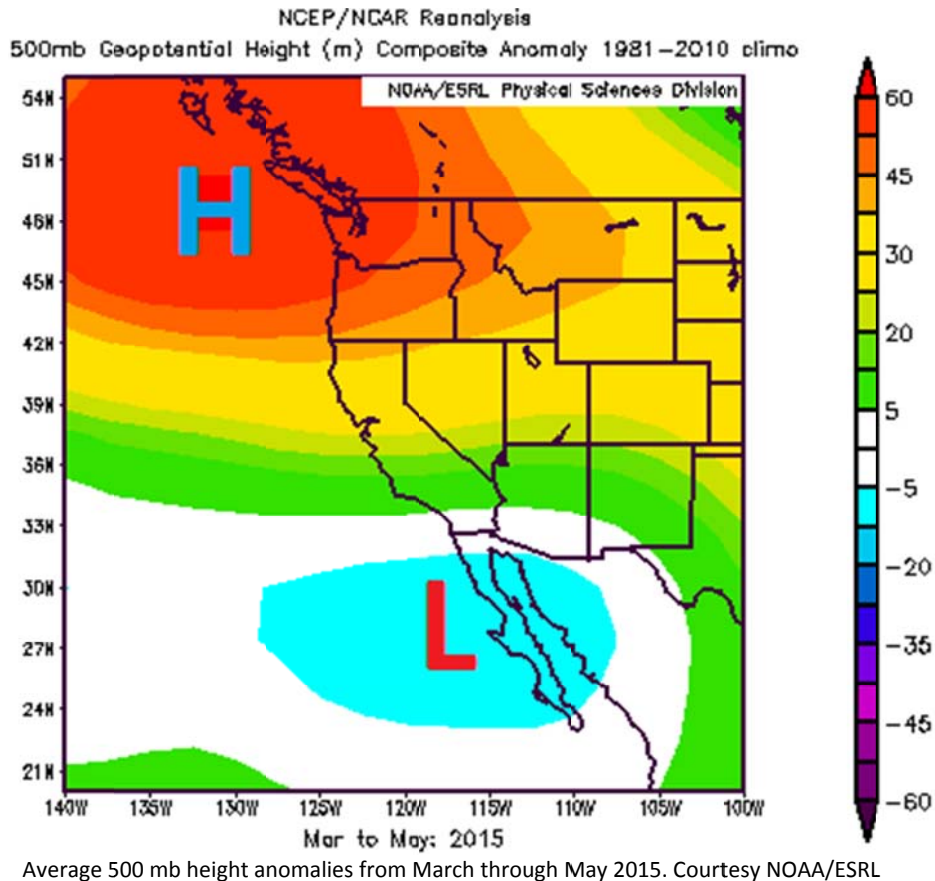


NNSS Climate Summary

Spring 2015



Spring is a time of transition but this spring didn't exactly follow the rules. The persistent ridge of high pressure that has caused drought conditions in much of California and Nevada finally broke down and was increasingly replaced by troughing along the West Coast. This was a result of the atmosphere responding to the development of El Niño. The plot above shows 500 mb height anomalies and depicts the ridge retreating north with the development of lower pressure to our southwest.

The Climate Prediction Center declared El Niño in March but the atmosphere did not respond. A winter storm did impact the NNSS with higher elevation snow and valley rain to begin the month. After that, the persistent ridge reestablished itself and the month as a whole was dry with above average temperatures.

The atmosphere began to respond to the strengthening El Niño in April. The ridge broke down and allowed several areas of low pressure to affect the region. Precipitation amounts were light and temperatures were above seasonal values but were closer to normal.

May usually is a time when temperatures climb towards summer values and little precipitation is recorded on the NNSS. This May was an exception. El Niño continued to strengthen and the atmosphere responded with troughing the dominate feature over the West. This allowed an active weather pattern to develop which brought several site wide precipitation events. The northern areas received the most precipitation with Schooner Crater recording over three inches for the month. High

pressure did take control at the end of May with hot temperatures recorded at the lower elevations. This was not enough to overcome the abnormally cool conditions that prevailed earlier in the month making May the first month in a while to record below average temperatures.

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

<u>Station</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Highest (F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Lowest (F)</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Precipitation (in.)</u>
<u>Meda 23 (Mercury)</u>	Mar	82	30	33	04	0.71
	Apr	84	29	39	15	0.05
	May	94	31	44	08	0.36
<u>Desert Rock Airport</u>	Mar	86	30	31	03	0.65
	Apr	88	29	36	04	0.10
	May	99	31	43	09	0.14
<u>Meda 05 (W5B)</u>	Mar	87	29	24	01	0.84
	Apr	87	30	24	05	0.02
	May	97	31	33	09	0.44
<u>Meda 40 (Rainer Mesa)</u>	Mar	65	30	16	04	1.02
	Apr	66	30	19	15	0.33
	May	76	30	26	08	0.71
<u>Meda 43 (Yucca Dry Lake)</u>	Mar	83	30	25	01	0.41
	Apr	83	29	26	04	0.07
	May	92	30	35	09	0.53

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

- A Lightning Alert was issued for March 2nd from 1215 to 1800 PST.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for March 3rd from 1145 to 1800 PST.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for March 18th from 1700 to 2000 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for April 6th from 1200 to 2000 PDT.
- A High Wind Warning was issued from April 13th at 1200 to April 15th 0600 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for April 22nd from 1530 to 2000 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for April 23rd from 1215 to 2000 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for April 24th from 1115 to 1900 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for May 4th from 1100 to 2000 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for May 8th from 1430 to 2000 PDT.
- A Wind Advisory was issued for May 11th from 1430 to 1900 PDT.
- A Wind Advisory was issued for May 13th from 1230 to 1800 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for May 18th from 1000 to 2000 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for May 19th from 1345 to 1900 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for May 21st from 1445 to 2000 PDT.
- A Lightning Alert was issued for May 22nd from 0945 to 1900 PDT.

James Wood