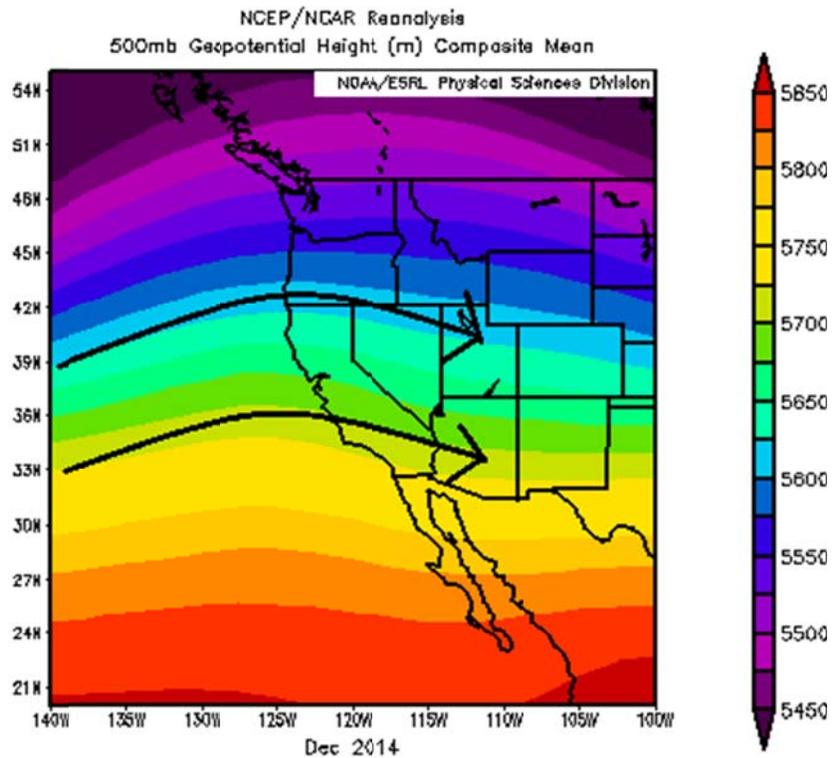


December 2014 Climate Summary



Average location of November ridge depicted by 500 mb heights. Courtesy: NOAA/ESRL

After a very warm and dry fall on the NNSS, significant precipitation was finally observed in December. The month started with a Pacific system impacting the area from the 2nd through 4th. All stations received measureable precipitation that averaged a quarter to a third of an inch. Due to the sub-tropical origin of the system, the snow level remained above the highest terrain of the NNSS. This warm and humid air mass also led to areas of low clouds and fog that persisted into the 6th. High pressure was over the Southwest through the 11th before a more winter-like system affected the area on the 12th-13th. Widespread precipitation was observed with the first significant snowfall of the season on the mesas. Warm ground temperatures initially limited snow accumulation but areas above 6000 feet measured 5 to 8 inches of snow. A weak system affected the area from the 16th through 18th providing light precipitation.

The warmest day of the month was on the 22nd. Gusty winds mixed out the valley inversions so afternoon temperatures were able to reach the upper 60's to low 70's at the lower elevations. This would prove to be the last of the warm weather for the month as a major pattern shift followed.

A strong cold front moved through the NNSS early on the 25th. It was accompanied by gusty winds and cooler temperatures and a few light showers. This provided more seasonable temperatures through the 28th. By the 29th, a cold air mass settled over the NNSS as a strong area of low pressure developed over southern California. This brought the coldest temperatures of the month to the NNSS with highs only in the 40's for the warmest locations and widespread freezing temperatures at night. Meda 40 on Rainier Mesa recorded the lowest temperature of the month, 4°F, on the morning of the 31st.

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)	68	22	23	31	0.93
Desert Rock Airport	69	22	21	29	1.13
Meda 05 (W5B)	70	22	11	29	0.62
Meda 40 (Rainier Mesa)	57	4	4	31	1.72
Meda 43 (Yucca Dry Lake)	66	22	11	29	0.77

Hazardous Weather Notifications:

A Winter Storm Watch was issued on December 10th for December 12th.

A Winter Storm Watch was updated on December 11th for December 12th.

A Wind Advisory was issued for December 12th from 0915 to 1800 PST.

A Wind Advisory was issued for December 25th from 0000 to 1200 PST.

James Wood