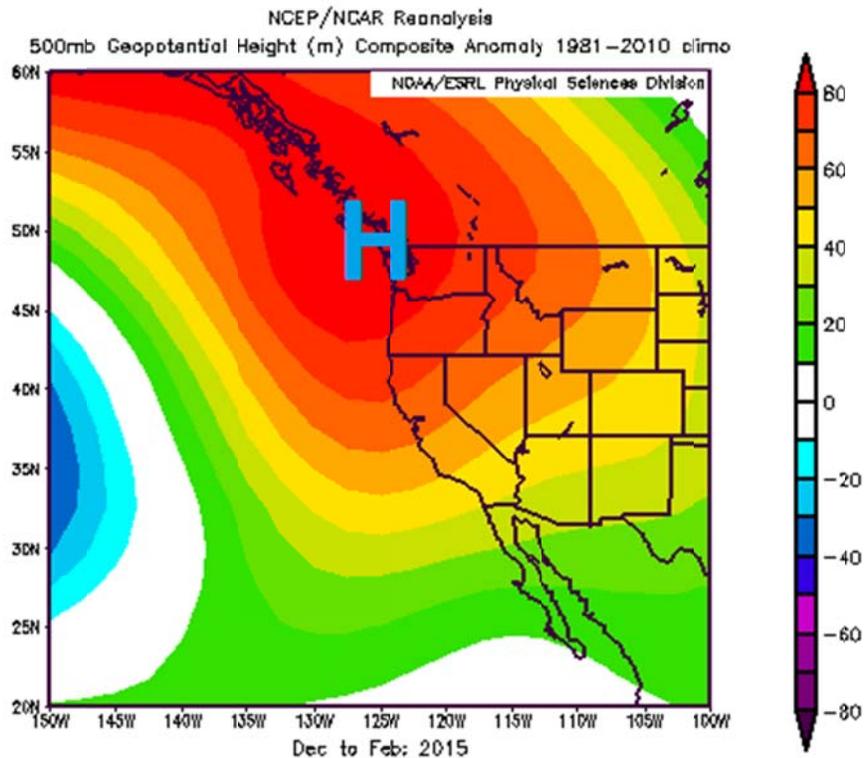


# NNSS Climate Summary

## Winter 2015



Average 500 mb height anomalies from December 2014 through February 2015. Courtesy NOAA/ESRL

The plot above clearly shows the ridging that controlled the weather over the NNSS for the majority of the December 2014-February 2015 period. Winter weather was only able to make a few appearances with the most noteworthy centered around the beginning of the new year. Although significant precipitation was recorded in December, the winter as a whole ended up with below average totals due to long dry spells in January and February.

After a very warm and dry fall, substantial precipitation was finally observed in December. The majority of the precipitation was the result of several Pacific systems that were able to draw subtropical moisture northward over the region. Temperatures remained unusually mild until the final days of the month when a cold air mass settled in over the West providing the coldest temperatures for the month and year at many locations. Some low elevation snow was also seen during this time.

January started off cold but most of the month was abnormally warm and dry under a persistent ridge of high pressure. Precipitation returned to the area at the end of the month when a Pacific system once again drew subtropical moisture into the Southwest. As a result of the unusually dry and mild weather almost no snow cover was seen at the end of the month.

February normally is the wettest month of the year on the NNSS. Although there was some active weather during the last week of the month, February's weather was mostly dominated by high pressure. The tenacious ridge that had controlled the weather for most of December and January remained in place for the first three weeks of February. Mostly sunny skies and well above normal temperatures were observed during this time. The brief period of seasonal conditions at the end of the month did little to offset the first three weeks so that overall February was exceptionally warm and dry.

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>	Dec	68	22	23	31	0.93
	Jan	71	07	26	01	0.49
	Feb	73	15	31	23	0.37
<u>Desert Rock Airport</u>	Dec	69	22	21	29	1.13
	Jan	72	25	23	02,03	0.39
	Feb	77	13,15	32	25	0.32
<u>Meda 05 (W5B)</u>	Dec	70	22	11	29	0.62
	Jan	75	07	11	02	0.54
	Feb	79	13	24	25	0.12
<u>Meda 40 (Rainer Mesa)</u>	Dec	57	04	04	31	1.72
	Jan	55	08	13	01	0.93
	Feb	60	13	16	23	M
<u>Meda 43 (Yucca Dry Lake)</u>	Dec	66	22	11	29	0.77
	Jan	73	07	14	03	0.78
	Feb	76	13	25	25	0.08

M = missing data

**Hazardous Weather Notifications:**

A Winter Storm Watch was issued on December 10<sup>th</sup> for December 12<sup>th</sup>.

A Winter Storm Watch was updated on December 11<sup>th</sup> for December 12<sup>th</sup>.

A Wind Advisory was issued for December 12<sup>th</sup> from 0915 to 1800 PST.

A Wind Advisory was issued for December 25<sup>th</sup> from 0000 to 1200 PST.

A Wind Advisory was issued from February 6<sup>th</sup> at 1330 to February 7<sup>th</sup> to 0400 PST.

A Winter Weather Advisory was issued on February 23<sup>rd</sup> from 0715 to 1300 PST.

James Wood