

Weather and Climate Summary and Forecast

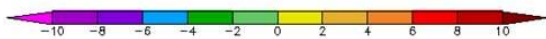
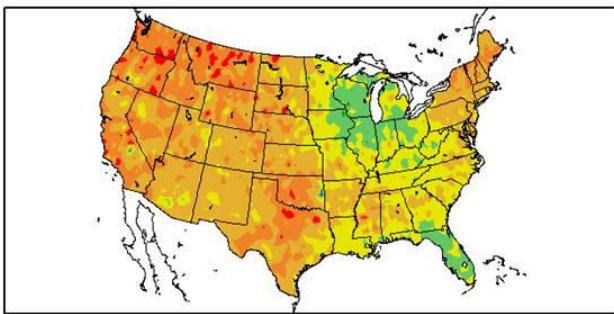
End of Season and Winter 2014-15

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November 2, 2014

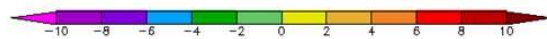
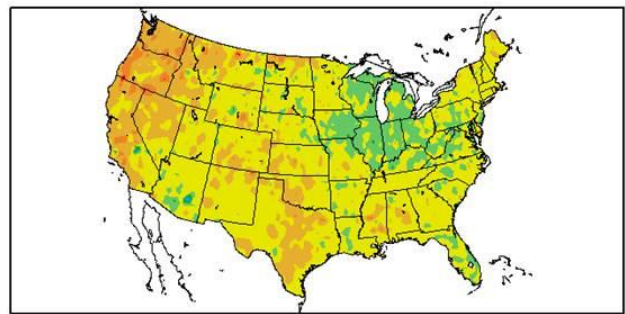
As the growing season closes into a beautiful fall and we approach winter, the summary for the year so far is one of warm and dry over the western US. October 2014 continued the warmer than normal conditions for the western half of the US with temperatures ranging from 1 to 8 degrees above normal (see figure below or attached). Portions of the eastern US, especially in the Great Lakes and across most of Florida, saw temperatures continue below normal in October.

Rainfall patterns nationwide during October were mixed with wetter than average conditions in the Midwest, portions of the southeast, and the Pacific Northwest (PNW). These regions saw October rainfall amounts that were 200-300% of normal (see figure below or attached). The rainfall in the PNW was more than all long-lead forecasts projected, but came mostly in the second half of the month and has helped recharged the soils and started to fill up rivers across the region. However, the majority of California did not see much rain in October and is still running significantly below normal.

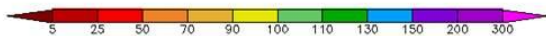
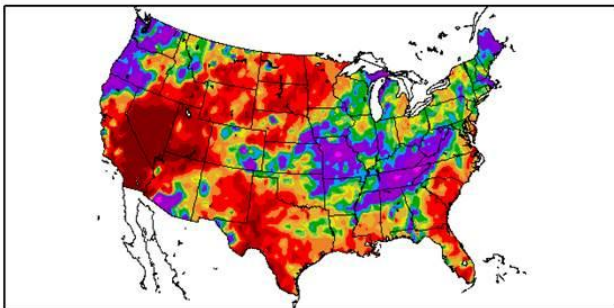
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
10/1/2014 - 10/31/2014



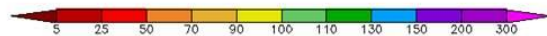
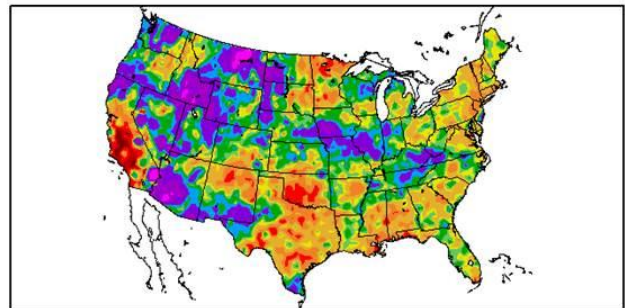
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
8/1/2014 - 10/31/2014



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
10/1/2014 - 10/31/2014



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
8/1/2014 - 10/31/2014

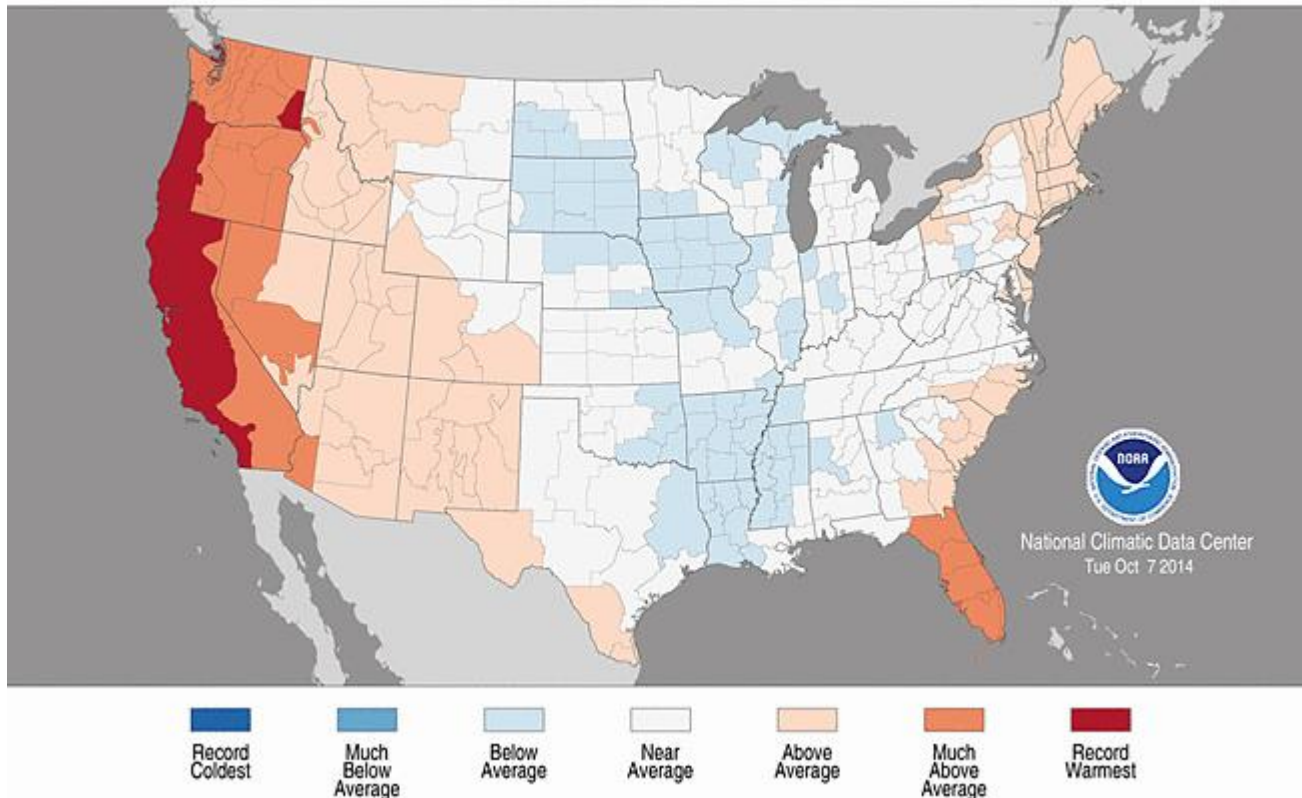


The three month period from August through October remained the same from previous periods, with warmer than average conditions over the western US. Much of Washington, Oregon and California has just experienced its warmest April through September period on record (see figure below or attached). However, the middle and eastern portions of the US continued to have mostly a cooler than normal summer. The August through October rainfall pattern over the US largely reflects the start of fall/winter rain events in the PNW, thunderstorm events in the central US, and remnants from tropical systems in the southwest. However, again little relief from the extreme drought conditions came to central to southern California.

Divisional Average Temperature Ranks

April–September 2014

Period: 1895–2014



October temperatures in Oregon continued above normal with McMinnville, Milton-Freewater, Roseburg and Medford ranging from 4.3 to 7.1°F warmer than average. The October conditions brought the 2014 growing degree-day (GDD) accumulations to record numbers for all four locations. The locations were 6-18% above the 2013 growing season, 15-30% above the 2004-2013 average, and 22-31% over their respective 1981-2010 averages for the April through October growing season. Interestingly, GDD values in 2014 for McMinnville (2858) was over 1000 GDD higher than 2010 (1853) and reached the values that occurred in eastern Oregon and Southern Oregon in 2010.

As we head into winter, forecasts from earlier this fall appear to be holding with generally warmer and drier conditions over most of the western US. The current 6-10 and 8-14 day outlooks from the Climate Prediction Center both point to a greater than 80% chance that temperatures in the western half of the US will be warmer than normal, while the eastern half is forecasted to be cooler than normal. Although there is some rain forecasted during the next couple of weeks, the overall outlook is for a greater likelihood of dry conditions over most of the west. The 30 day outlook through the month of November is not much different, with a greater likelihood of warmer conditions along most of the west coast but an equal chance of being slightly above to slightly below our normal November rainfall totals.

The longer term forecast extended out to 90 days (Nov-Dec-Jan) from the Climate Prediction Center forecast continues the 30 day pattern ... likely warm and equal chances of slightly above to slightly below precipitation. Furthermore, most forecasting agencies are still holding on a minor El Niño developing in the tropical Pacific which would not likely push the western US climate to extremes on either end.

In summary, all evidence continues to point to seasonally mild conditions over the next couple of weeks and toward the end of the month. Initial winter forecasts are tilting the odds to warmer than normal, but near normal precipitation first half of the winter.

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