

Weather and Climate Summary and Forecast Fall 2014

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October 10, 2014

While October to date has continued its warmer than average to mild (6-9 degrees warmer in many sites in CA, OR, and WA) and dry run, models are converging toward the western US finally receiving a broader change in circulation and the initiation of some much needed rain and cooler temperatures.

Conditions over the weekend should be very nice in most inland locations, although there will be with a slight chance of rain from the central Oregon coast north into the Puget Sound. The next system will come Monday night through Wednesday where much of the west from Puget Sound south to Monterey will get some rain, with the typical coastal areas pushing an inch or more. Temperatures should cool noticeably from the conditions of the past couple of weeks. Unsettled conditions Wednesday and Thursday will give way to the next system on Friday, which appears to have a good chance of pulling in quite a bit of moisture from Typhoon Vongfong (nearing Japan today). Models diverge somewhat with this system, but tend to indicate the system moving into Northern California and Southern Oregon from Friday through Sunday. This system has the potential for some significant rains but it is still too early to better define amounts up and down the coast at this point.

The take home is that the warm and dry period that has led to great harvest conditions is likely coming to an end over the short term ... however, the long term is still pointing to a relatively dry and warm first half of winter. The most recent El Niño discussion from the Climate Prediction Center shows that models are predicting El Niño conditions to develop in the Tropical Pacific during October-December 2014 and to continue into early 2015. However, the consensus at this time is for this El Niño to likely remain weak. This would tend to point to very little tropical influence on our winter conditions, which, if historical conditions are accurate, tends to leave California normal to drier than average and the PNW average to slightly wetter than average. More on this as we move into November.

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