



# NWS Reno 2025-26 Winter Outlook

What Does the Magic 8-Ball Say?

[weather.gov/reno](https://weather.gov/reno)

Weather Forecast Office

Reno, NV

Wednesday, November 12

775-673-8100



**Dawn Johnson**

Warning Coordination  
Meteorologist

National Weather Service  
Reno, Nevada

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# Coming Soon...Rain, Wind, Snow

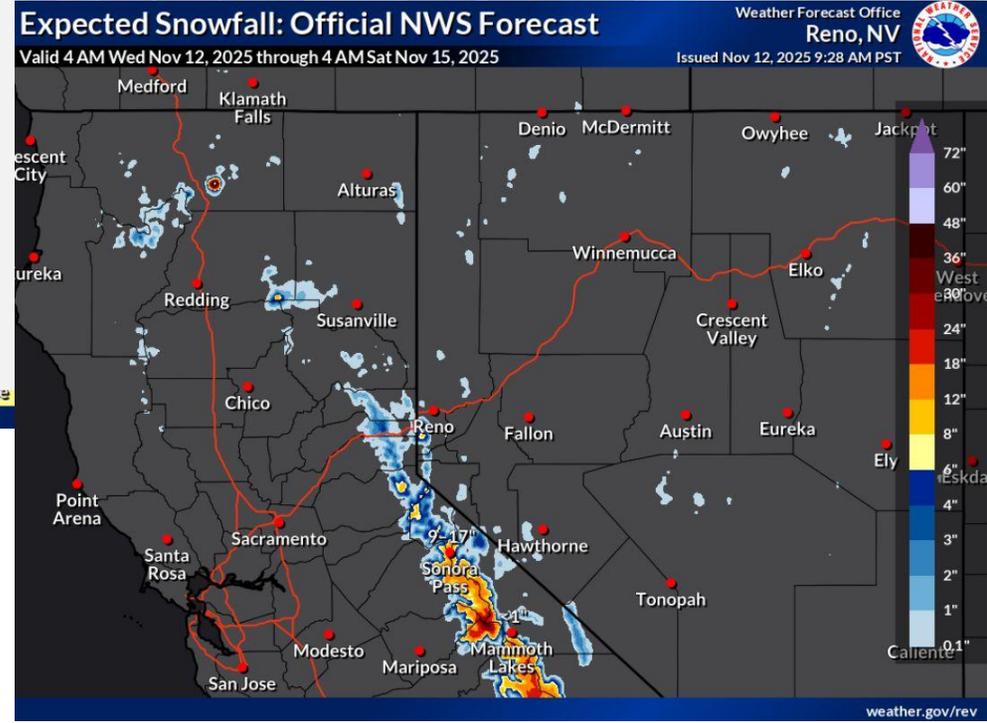
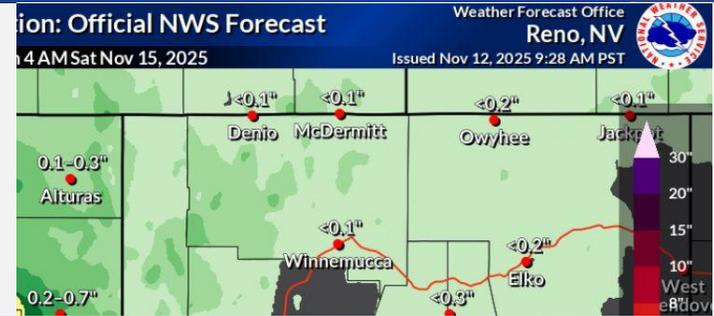
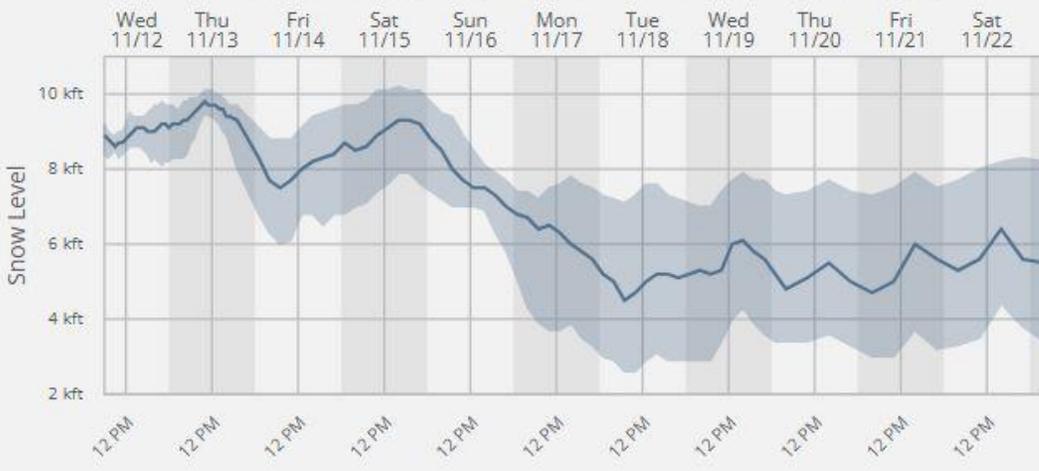
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Wednesday, November 12



## Range of Snow Level

Wednesday Morning, Nov 12 - Sunday Morning, Nov 23

— Truckee Tahoe (Median) ■ Truckee Tahoe (Upper/Lower Range)



@NWSReno weather.gov/reno

weather.gov/rev



# What Might Winter Have in Store...?

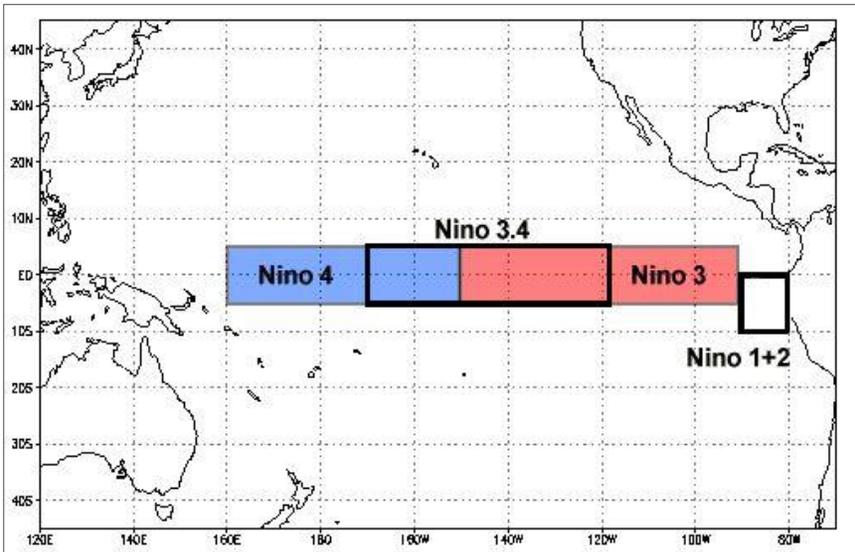
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Wednesday, November 12





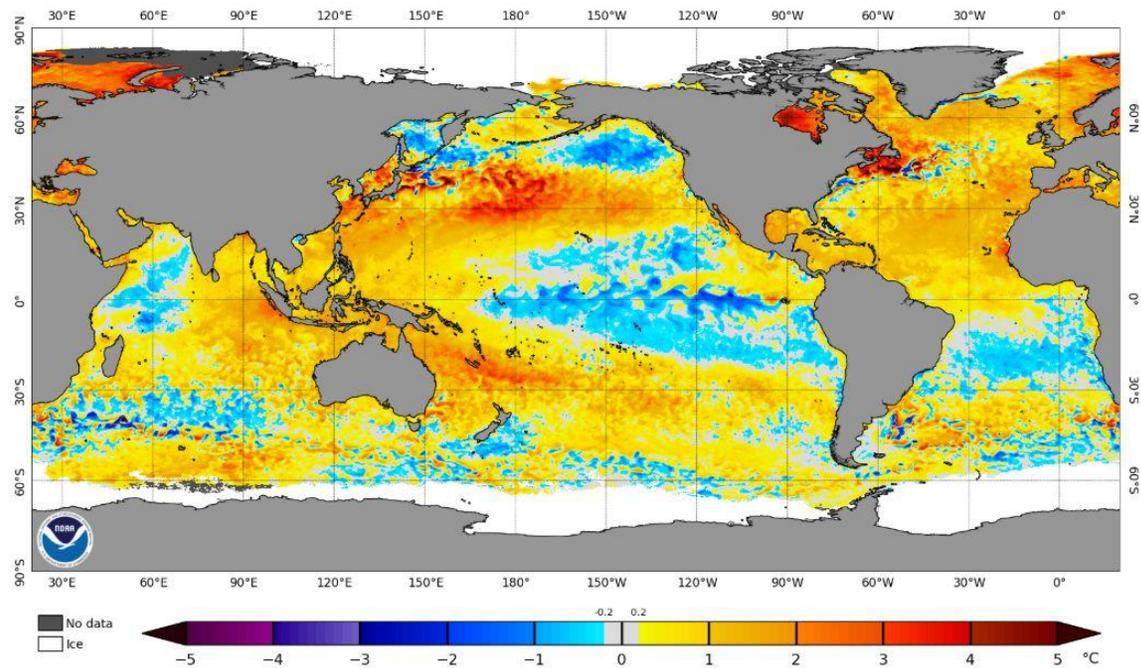
# Every Year We Talk About ENSO

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Wednesday, November 12



## Currently: Weak La Niña

NOAA Coral Reef Watch Daily 5km SST Anomalies (v3.1) 2 Nov 2025



Sources

[www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/enso/sst](http://www.ncei.noaa.gov/access/monitoring/enso/sst)

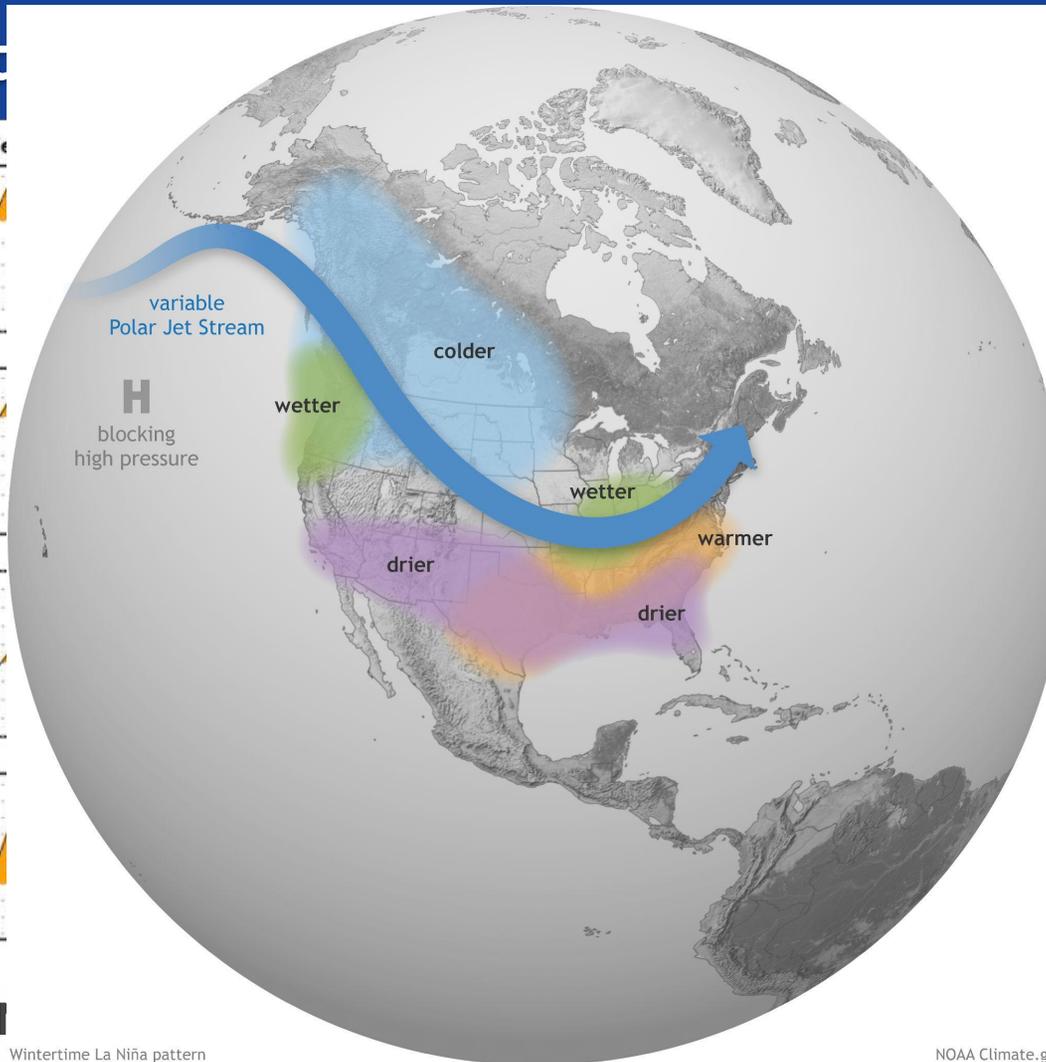
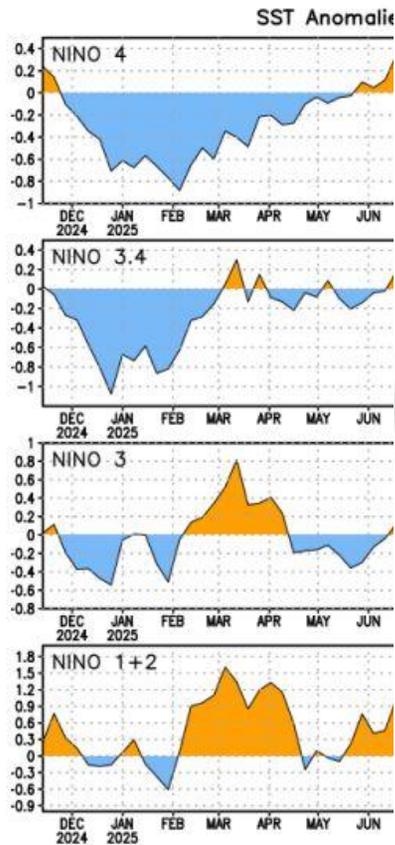
[www.ospo.noaa.gov/products/ocean/sst/anomaly/](http://www.ospo.noaa.gov/products/ocean/sst/anomaly/)



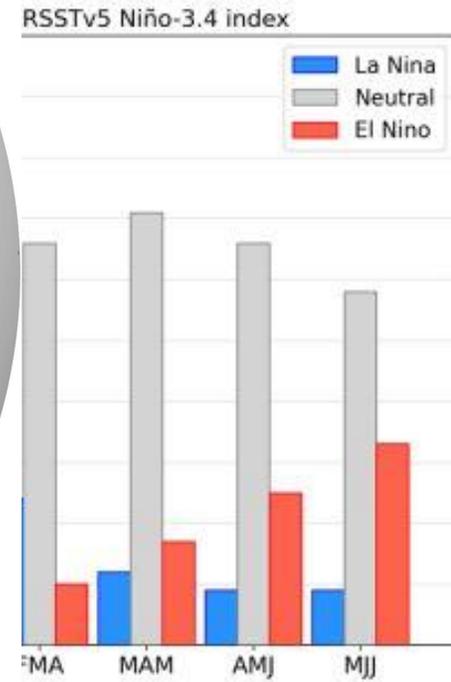
# Winter

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Reno, NV  
Wednesday, November 12

a



es (issued October 2025)



→ Weak La Niña

Wintertime La Niña pattern

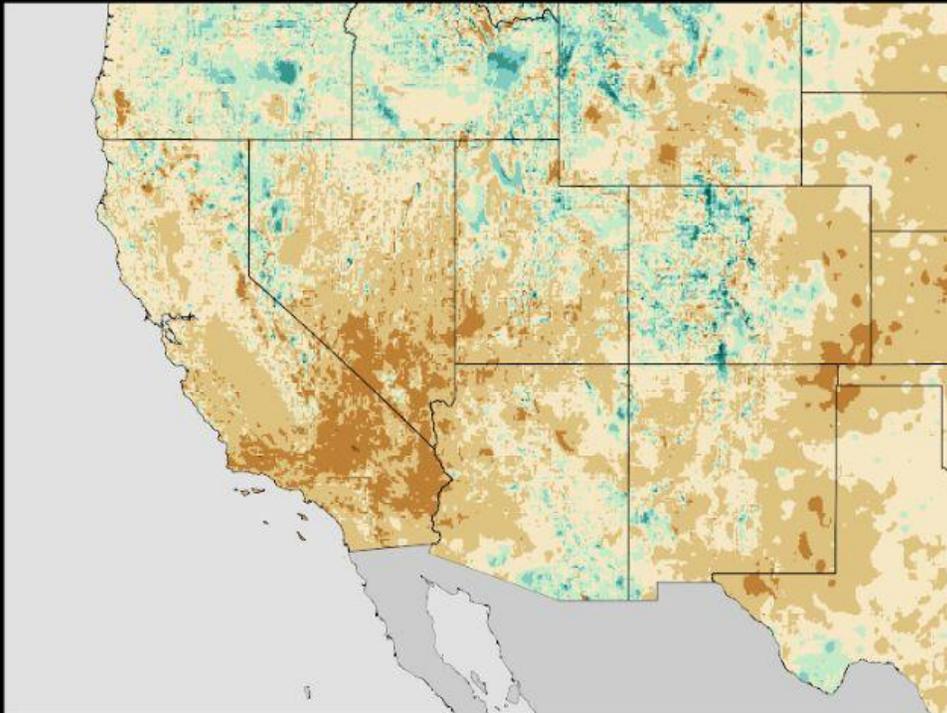
NOAA Climate.gov

Dec 2025 - Feb 2026  
r 2026

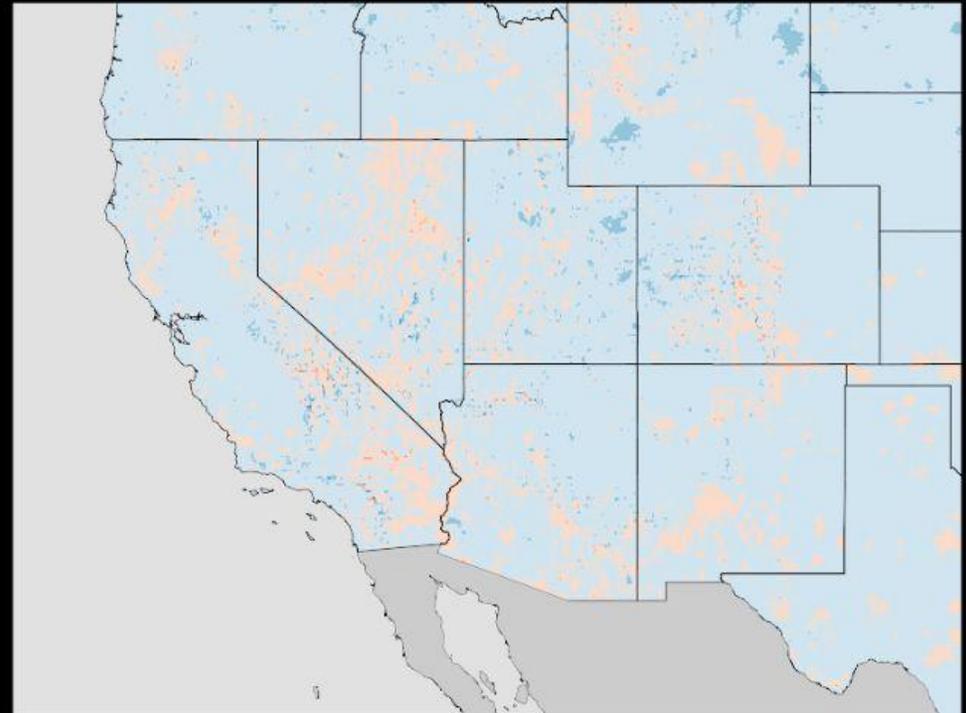
*Typical La Niña Deviations From Average*

# ENSO NEUTRAL CASES

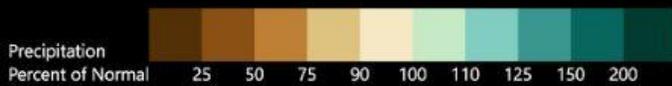
## Precipitation Mean



## Temperature Mean



Based on 24 ENSO Neutral cases since 1950

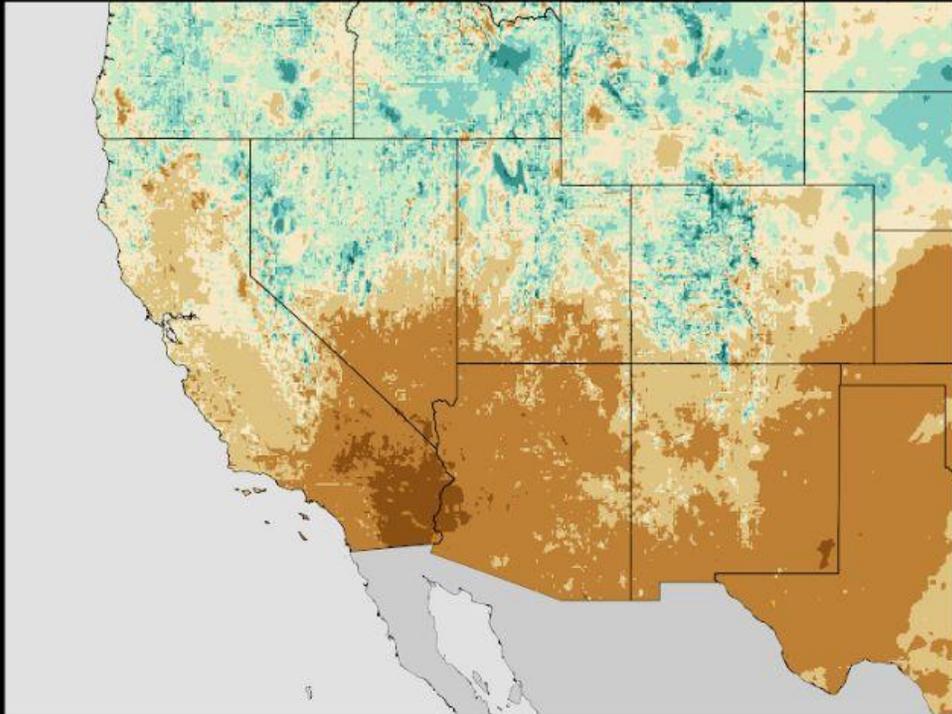


Data: PRISM, Oregon State University

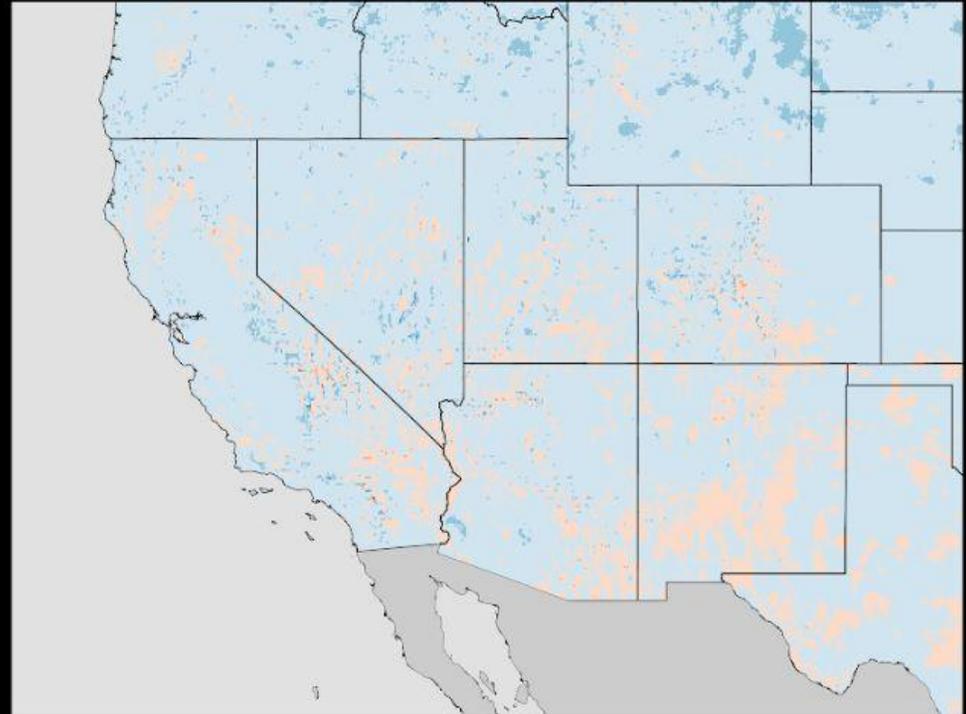


# WEAK LA NIÑA CASES

## Precipitation Mean



## Temperature Mean



Based on 12 weak La Niña cases since 1950

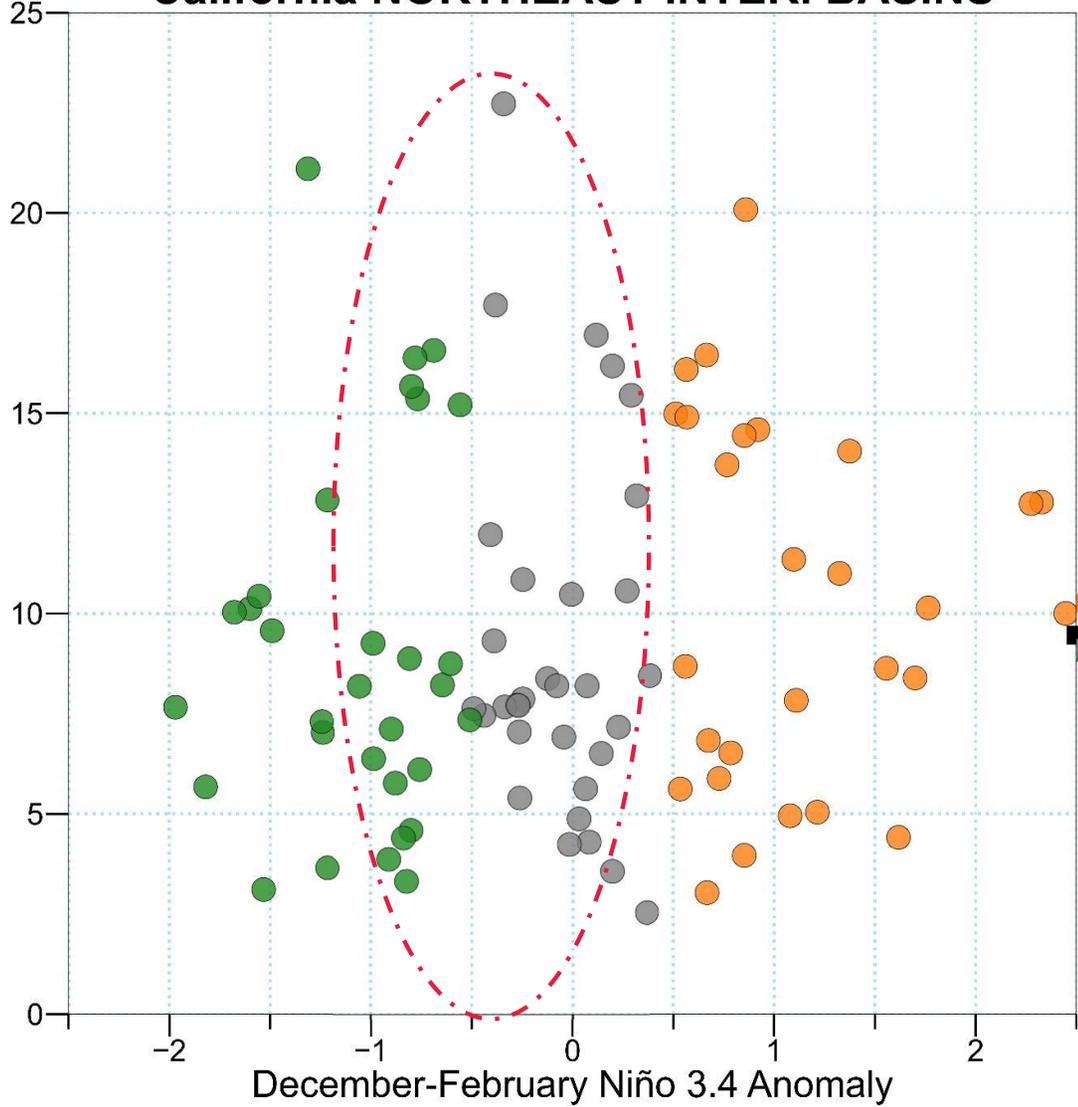


Data: PRISM, Oregon State University



# California NORTHEAST INTER. BASINS

December-February Precipitation (inches)

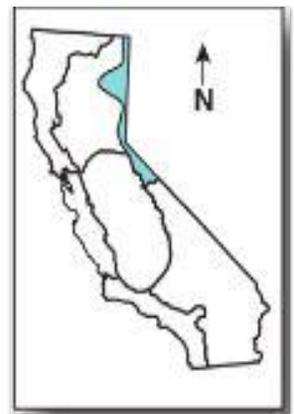
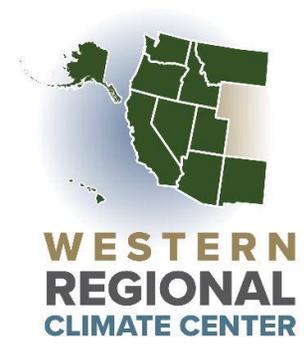


Years:  
1933/1934 - 2023/2024

$r^2 = 0.01$   
Correlation = 0.10

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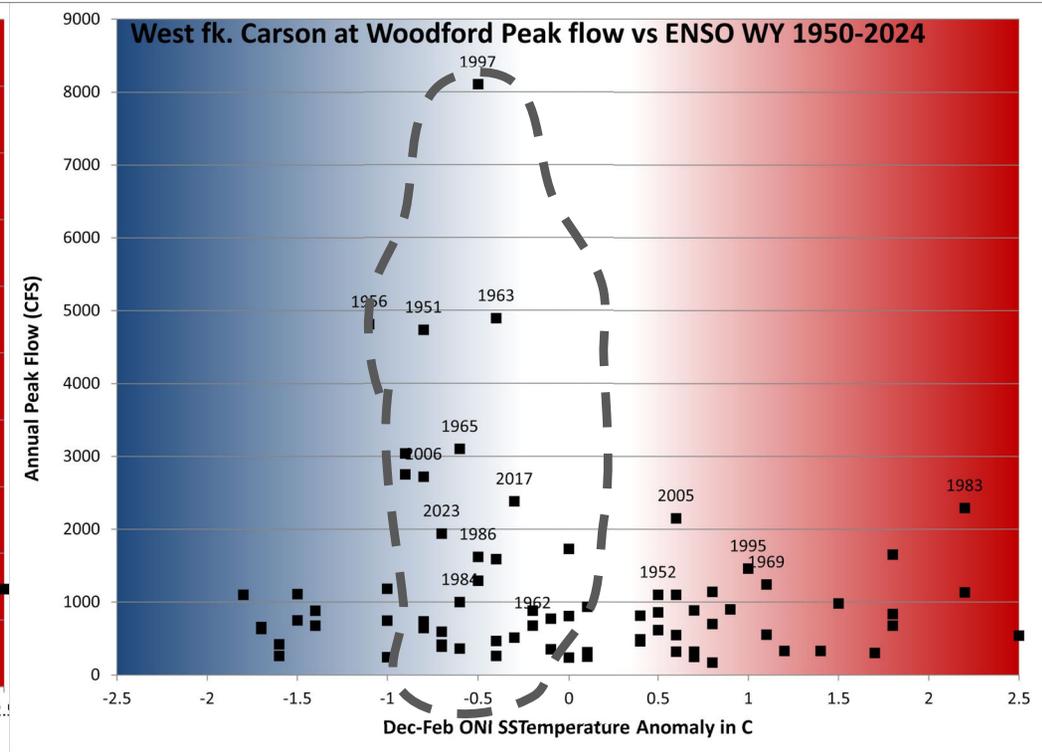
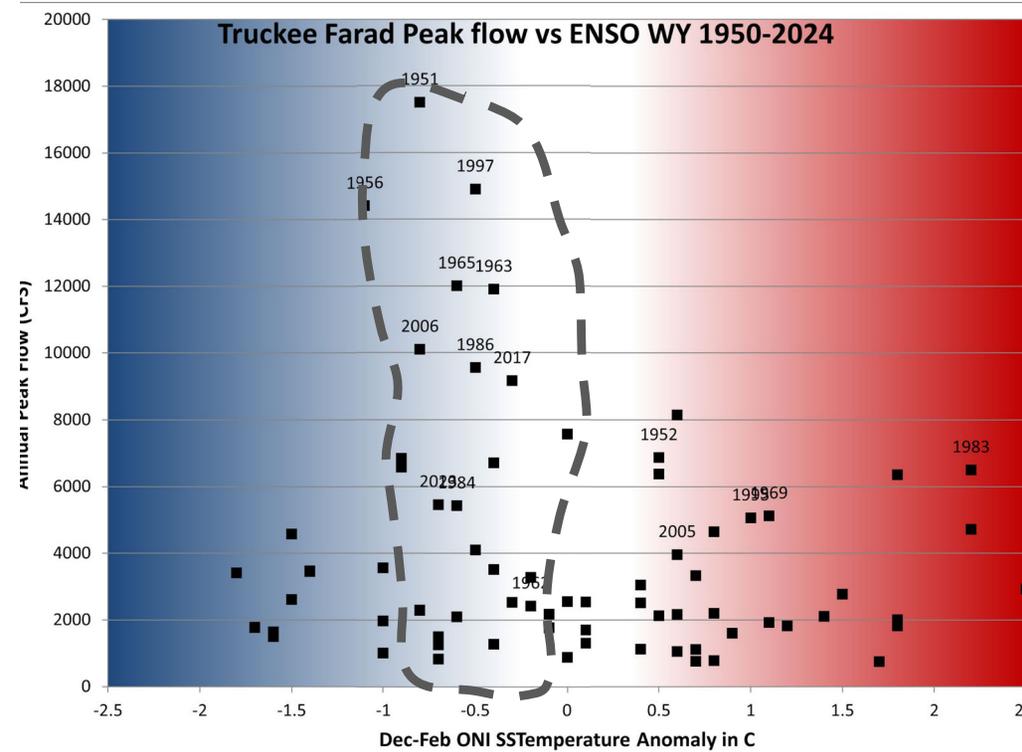
■ Mean El Niño = 10.25  
■ Mean All = 9.45  
■ Mean Neutral = 9.14  
■ Mean La Niña = 9.03





# Weak La Niña's and Winter River Flooding...

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*Many of our highest flows have occurred in neutral to weak La Nina winters. But, many similar winters have resulted in unremarkable peak flows as well.*



# Seasonal Forecasts

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*“Too good to ignore,  
but not good enough to use.”*





# Official Outlook: November-December-January

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Wednesday, November 12

## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2025-26  
Issued: October 16, 2025

## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Nov-Dec-Jan 2025-26  
Issued: October 16, 2025

### Tahoe Area: NOV-JAN 2026 Month Outlook

Issued: October 20, 2025 | Normal Low: 24°F, High: 43°F | Normal Precip: 10.1 in

#### Temperature Probability



#### Precipitation Probability



- Above Normal (Temp)
- Above Normal (Precip)
- Near Normal (Temp)
- Near Normal (Precip)
- Below Normal (Temp)
- Below Normal (Precip)

- No strong signal on precipitation or storm frequency
- Leaning warmer than normal. Moderate signal for Sierra & N NV.



# Official Outlook: December-January-February

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Wednesday, November 12

## Seasonal Precipitation Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26  
Issued: October 16, 2025

## Seasonal Temperature Outlook

Valid: Dec-Jan-Feb 2025-26  
Issued: October 16, 2025

### Tahoe Area: DEC-FEB 2026 Month Outlook

Issued: October 20, 2025 | Normal Low: 23°F, High: 42°F | Normal Precip: 11.49 in

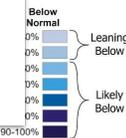
#### Temperature Probability



#### Precipitation Probability



- Above Normal (Temp)    ■ Above Normal (Precip)
- Near Normal (Temp)    ■ Near Normal (Precip)
- Below Normal (Temp)    ■ Below Normal (Precip)



- More or less a La Niña pattern to temperature & precipitation.
- No big signal for the Sierra & much of NV, outside of far S NV drier.



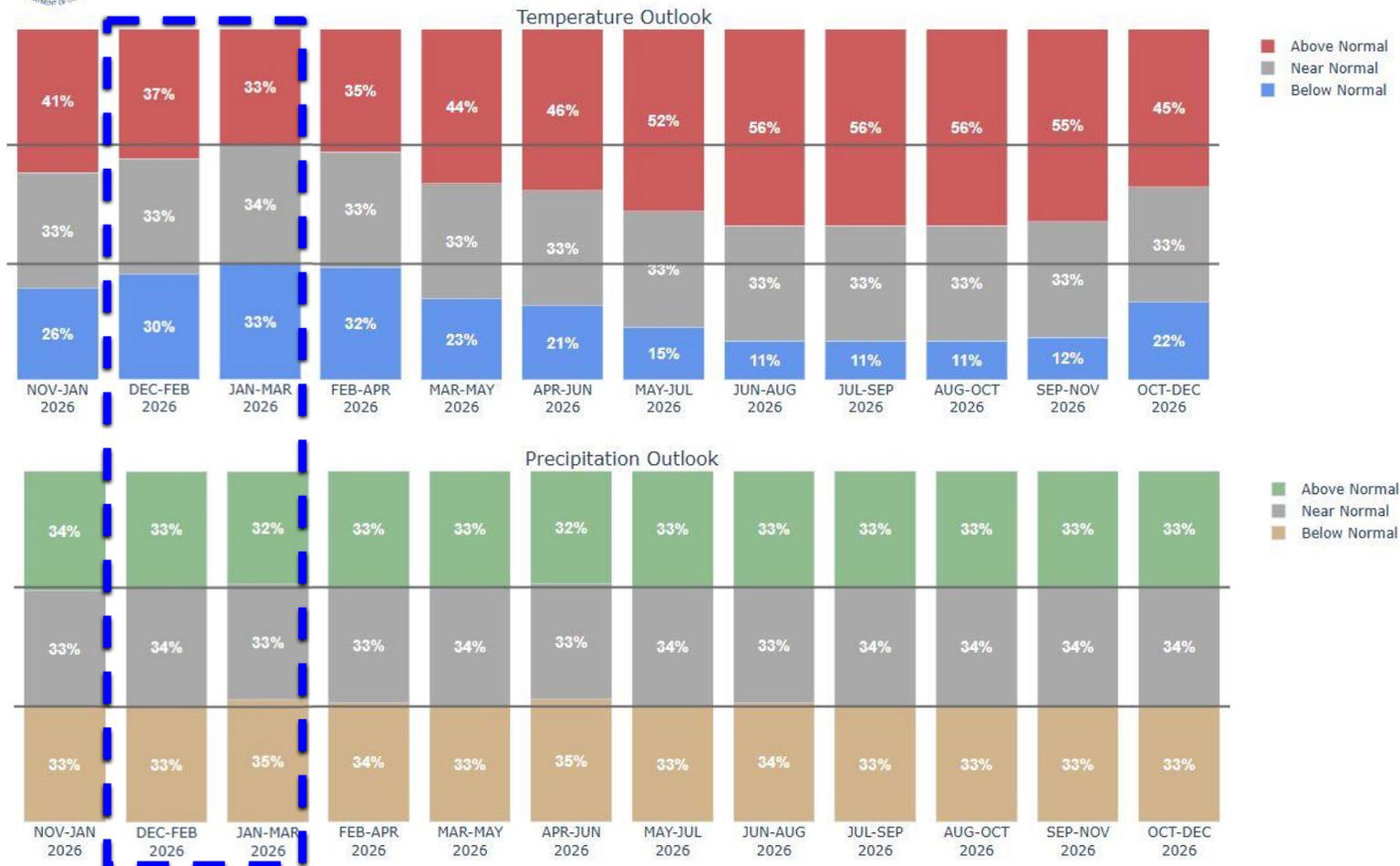
# Longer Range Outlooks

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Wednesday, November 12



## 3-Month Temperature and Precipitation Outlooks

Location: Tahoe Area | Source: NWS Climate Prediction Center | Created November 10, 2025





**Snow amounts and Character - wet vs. dry**

**Flash Freeze Potential**

**Fog/Freezing Fog/Low Stratus**

**Rain/Snow Lines and/or transitions**

**Wind**

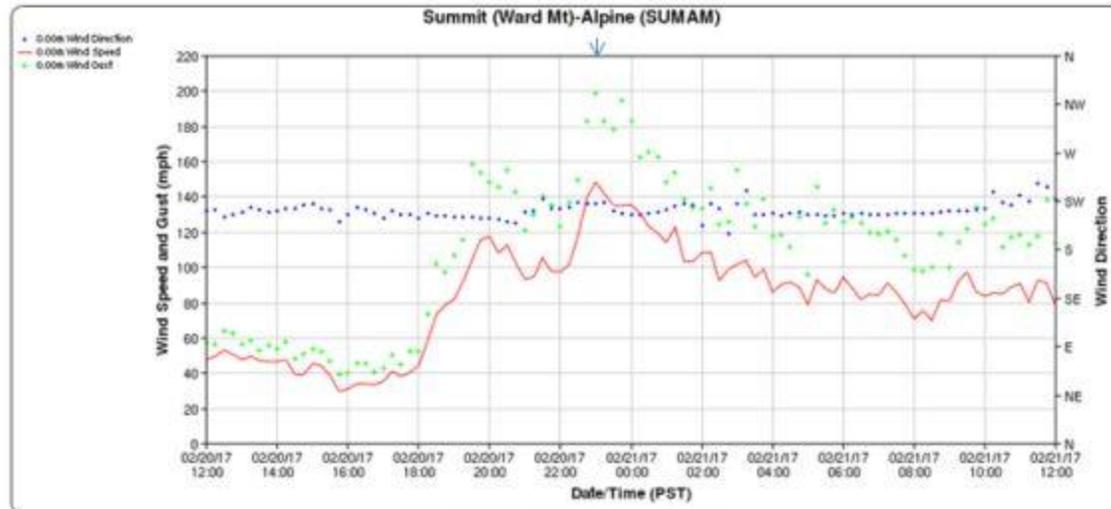
**Atmospheric Rivers**

**Marshmallow man potential!**

## Gusts of 199 mph at Ward Mt., 193 mph at Squaw Peak (Sierra Crest) February 20, 2017 at 11:00 pm PST

### Downslope

- Mountain wave (jump)
- Most typical fall low level jet structure
- Gusts typically
- Strongest along
  - Maximized adjacent to



### Wind Storms

Temperature  
Spring/fall (transition)  
mph valleys  
between wind  
directions.





# East Wind Events

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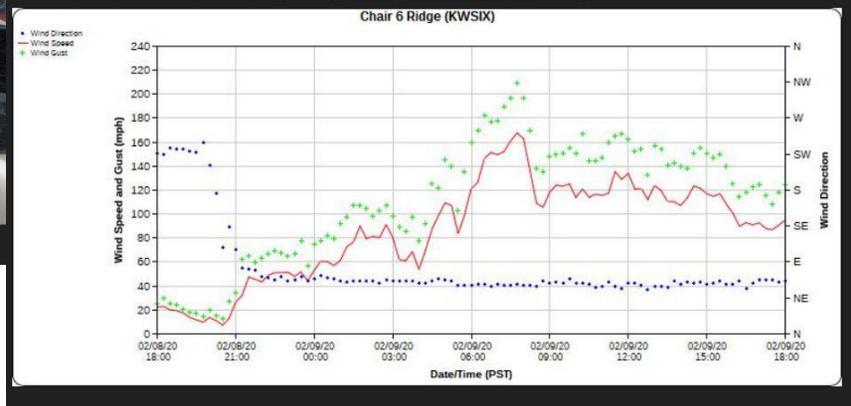


Kirkwood Feb 9, 2020



Pictures from Kirkwood

Kirkwood 209 mph (unverified) wind gust



## Science + History

*Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 Northeast Wind Event:  
Devil's Postpile Tree Blowdown*

This was an unusually strong northeast wind event that mostly affected Tahoe and Mono County. Devil's Postpile National Monument had a huge blowdown, and there were numerous trees down in South Lake Tahoe.





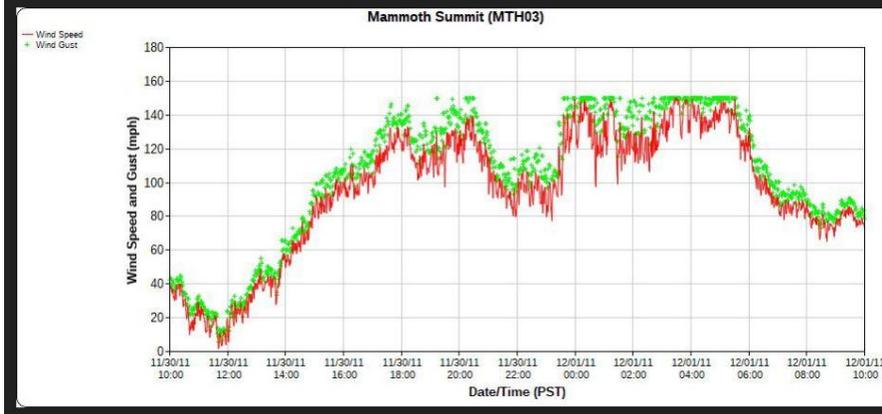


### Past Easterly Wind Events on Mammoth Mountain Summit

Date	Sustained Wind	Wind Gust
Dec 1, 2011	150 mph	150 mph*
Dec 11, 2007	102 mph	127 mph
Nov 21, 2004	70 mph	120 mph
Oct 28, 2009	92 mph	120 mph
Jan 5, 2007	90 mph	112 mph
Nov 29, 2004	87 mph	110 mph
Oct 13, 2008	90 mph	105 mph

\* Equipment at the time was capped at 150 mph. Gusts were estimated at 150-200 mph during this event.

Mammoth Mtn Dec 1, 2011 - Wind reporting capped at 150 mph





# Atmospheric Rivers: Winter's Moisture Tap

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January 2017 - Sparks PD



Truckee CHP



- Giant plumes of moisture crossing the Pacific Ocean. Can usually see these coming 5+ days in advance at a broad scale.
- Most AR's are beneficial - 50% or more of annual precip, snowpack come from just a handful of these events.
- Strong or extreme AR's = hazardous snow, wind, and/or flooding. Often from stalling ARs.
- Rain - snow line elevations are critical but often a source of the largest forecast errors.
- Climate change trends - increased risk of more extreme ARs with heavier precipitation including spillover east of the Sierra.



# Snow and Airport Operations

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## What We Know

- When conditions are lining up for snowfall.
- If the storm is more of a “nuisance” or major event and usually snow character (wet vs dry).
- General timing for airport operations, better details the closer we get to the event.

## What We Don't Know

- Snow levels can be +/- several hundred or more feet. Big boom/bust potential on the valley floor.
- Exact timing several days out.

 Truckee Tahoe Airport  
27 mins · 🌐

Morning after 16"+ of heavy #SierraCement at elevation 5,901' in Truckee Tahoe. A Citation X tail-dragging. (Photos by: James Shues)



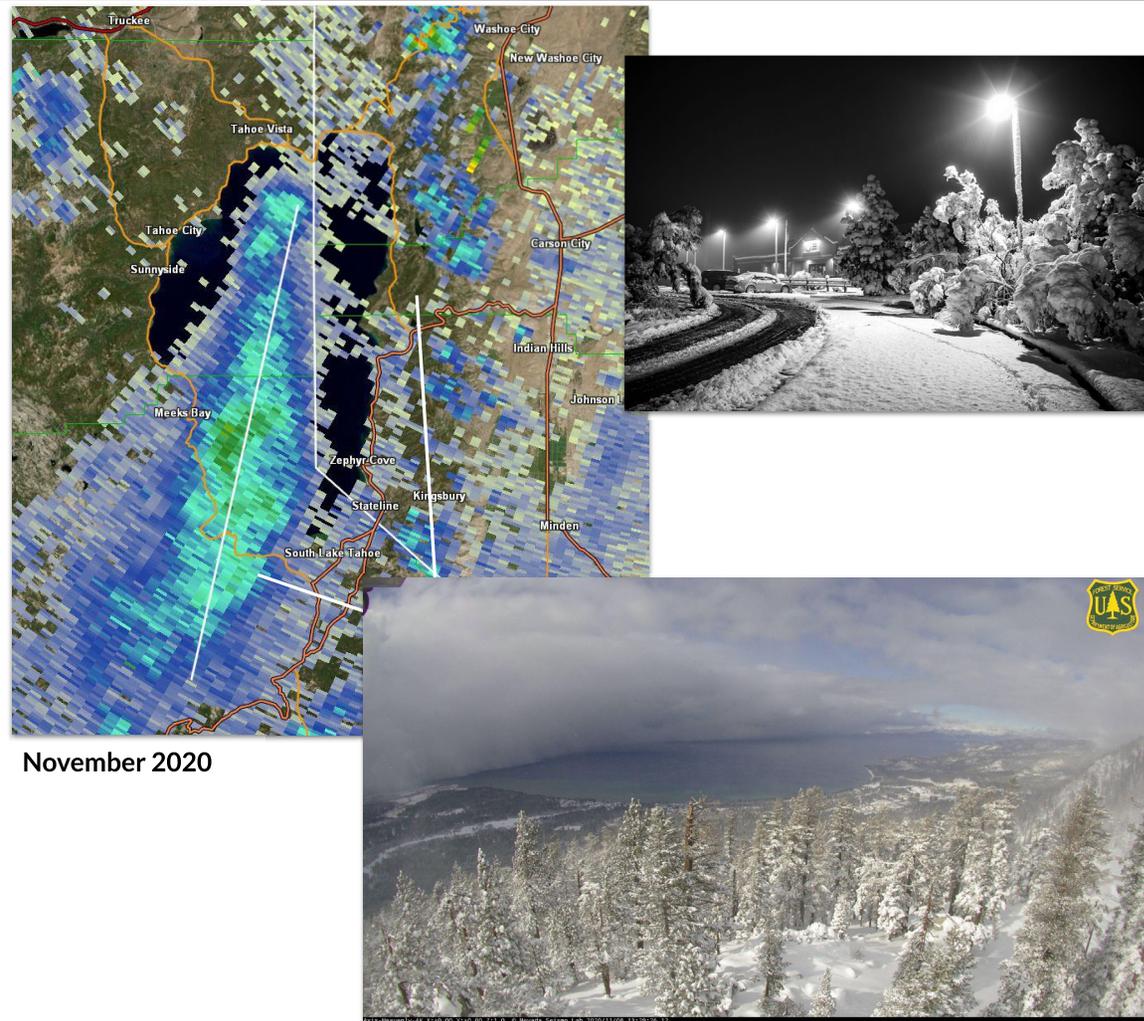
Pictures: Truckee Tahoe Airport





# Lake Effect Snow: Small Scale, Big Impact

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- Hot spots: Carson City, Washoe Valley, Reno, Spanish Springs, Fernley, South Lake Tahoe, June Lake, Lee Vining.
- Localized high intensity snow, 2-4"/hour not uncommon. No snow just a few miles away.
- Often peak intensity at night or early morning - bad news for AM commute & schools.
- Predictability is limited - 1-3 days on general potential, 0-12 hours on specifics.
- Snow Squall Warning can be used for these high intensity bursts of snow.
- Climate change aspect - LE snow becoming more common as lakes stay warmer, longer into the winter months.



# Freezing Fog & Flash Freezes

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Wednesday, November 12



Photo: Truckee Tahoe Airport Social Media, January 16 2024

## Flash Freeze:

Recent rainfall, rapid temperature drop below freezing, no sun, light or no wind



# Aviation Specific Support

Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Wednesday, November 12

- Aviation AFD (2x/day)
- Briefing emails [aka the Freakout]
- TAFs (4 or more/day, 00z,06z,12z, 18z are standard)
- Please call us: **775.673.8108** for 24/7 weather support - non-public #)
- Social media: @NWSReno



Aviation Impacts → Wednesday Morning to Thursday Night  
Sierra Ridge Wind Gusts 100+ MPH with surface winds 60+ MPH.

Strong West Winds

Strong West Winds

Downslope Winds Mixing Down 60+ MPH!

**Turbulence and Shear Likely**

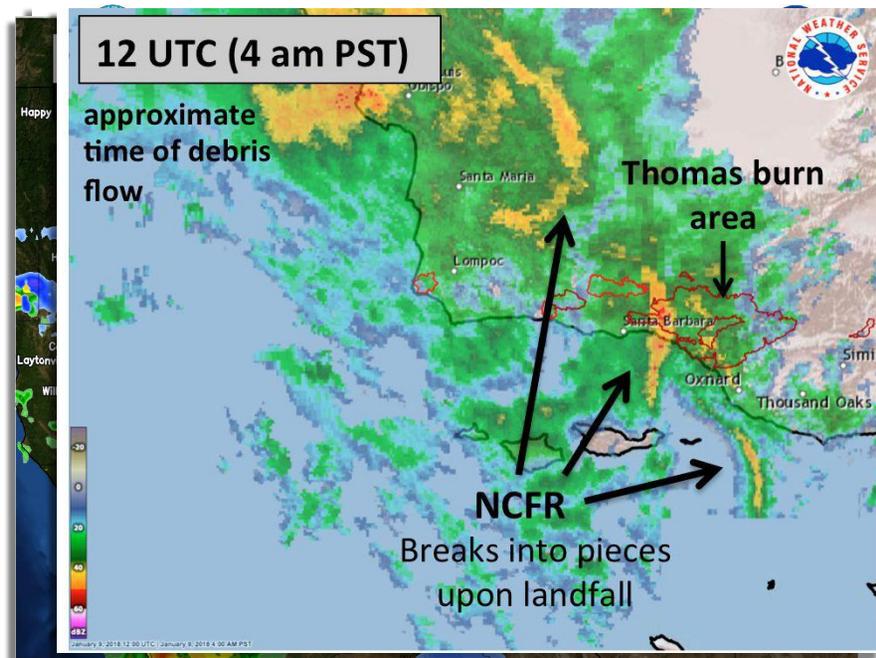
NWSReno weather.gov/Reno

## 7-14 Days

Broad trends: wetter vs drier, heavily probabilistic outlooks (e.g. lean wet).

## 2-5 Days

What kind of storm: flood vs blizzard vs high wind scenarios become clearer.



## 6-48 Hours

Small scale but high impact features: rapid snow level drops, inside sliders, cold frontal squall lines.



# Aviation Specific Predictability

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Wednesday, November 12

## The “Easy”

Observation Network

Webcams

Satellite Data

Wind climatology and diurnal patterns

Mountain Waves (to a degree)

## The “Humbling”

Fog and Low Stratus Extent

Rain vs. Snow (at times)

Anything Smoke Related

Radar Coverage

Thunderstorms - Exactly Where

Rotors

Extreme Winds



# Watch/Warning/Advisory

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Wednesday, November 12



**Outlook or Partner Email**

Risk of weather hazard in the next 7 days

Could pose a threat to life and property

Prepare a Plan of Action

**Watch**

Risk of weather hazard in the next 2-5 days

Could pose a threat to life and property

Have a Plan of Action

**Advisory**

Weather hazard is imminent or occurring

Could cause significant inconvenience

Use Caution

**Warning**

Weather hazard is imminent or occurring

Weather hazard poses a threat to life/property

Take Protective Action



**TACO WATCH**

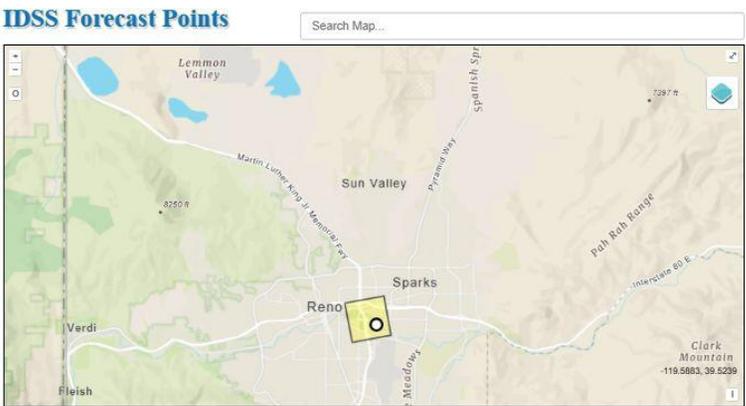
**TACO WARNING**



# Webpage Resources

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Wednesday, November 12

## Weather Forecasts, Graphs, and Tables



Background Map:

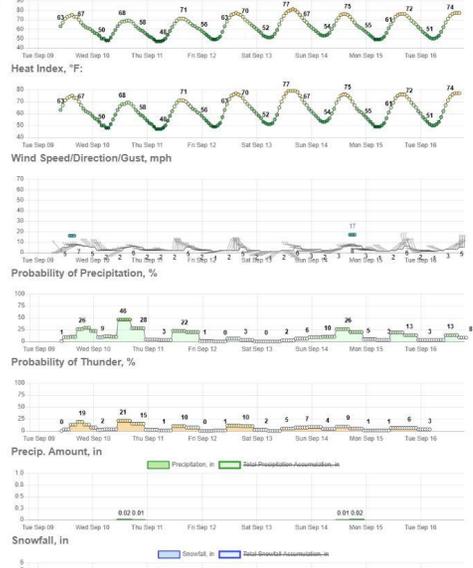
Table updated: 215 am PDT Tue. 9/9/2025 (Last Update: 405 minutes ago)  
Click for Text Forecast  
REV Forecast Discussion  
4 miles ESE of Reno, NV

**Weekly Summary**

	Tue Sep 9	Wed Sep 10	Thu Sep 11	Fri Sep 12	Sat Sep 13	Sun Sep 14	Mon Sep 15
Max Temp, °F	75	70	73	77	81	77	76
Min Temp, °F	58	48	47	49	51	53	49
Max Wind, mph	7	6	5	5	6	8	6
Min Wind, mph	2	2	2	1	1	2	1
Max Wind Gust, mph	16	15	12	12	13	17	13
Max Prob. of Precip., %	29	46	22	6	9	26	19
Max Prob. of Thunder, %	19	21	10	11	8	9	6
Max Dew Point, °F	47	46	47	50	47	47	47
Min Dew Point, °F	40	41	40	41	39	41	39
Max RH, %	58	84	87	86	78	72	83
Min RH, %	29	36	32	29	23	28	26
Max Cloud Cover, %	81	64	55	38	43	51	35
Min Cloud Cover, %	50	27	17	10	6	29	11
Min Snow Level, x1000ft.	9.7	9.3	9.7	10.3	11	10.2	9.8

### Hourly Table

Day of week:	Tuesday 9/9												Wed			
Time:	9AM	10AM	11AM	12PM	1PM	2PM	3PM	4PM	5PM	6PM	7PM	8PM	9PM	10PM	11PM	12AM
Weather:																
Temperature (°F):	58	63	67	71	73	74	75	73	73	70	67	64	62	61	60	58
Heat Index, °F:	58	63	67	71	73	74	75	73	73	70	67	64	62	61	60	58
Wind Speed (mph):	2	2	5	5	5	6	6	6	7	7	7	6	6	6	5	5
Wind Gust (mph):	8	8	13	13	13	16	16	16	15	15	15	13	13	13	9	9
Wind Direction (°):	320	320	240	240	240	240	240	270	270	270	280	280	280	310	310	
Wind Direction (°):																
Prob. of Precip. (%):	1	1	9	9	9	10	10	10	26	26	26	29	29	29	22	22
Prob. of Thunder (%):	0	0	3	3	3	13	13	13	19	19	19	13	13	13	7	7
Precip. Amount (in.):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Snow (in.):	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Ice (in.):	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Dew Point (°F):	43	47	46	44	42	40	41	41	42	43	43	44	44	45	45	45
RH (%):	57	56	46	38	33	29	29	31	33	37	42	48	52	55	58	61
Sky Cover (%):	72	72	60	60	60	73	73	73	81	81	81	55	55	55	50	50
Snow Level (x1000 ft.):	10.1	10.1	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4	10.4



IDSS Forecast Points  
<https://www.weather.gov/forecastpoints/>



Available  
anywhere in the  
United States!

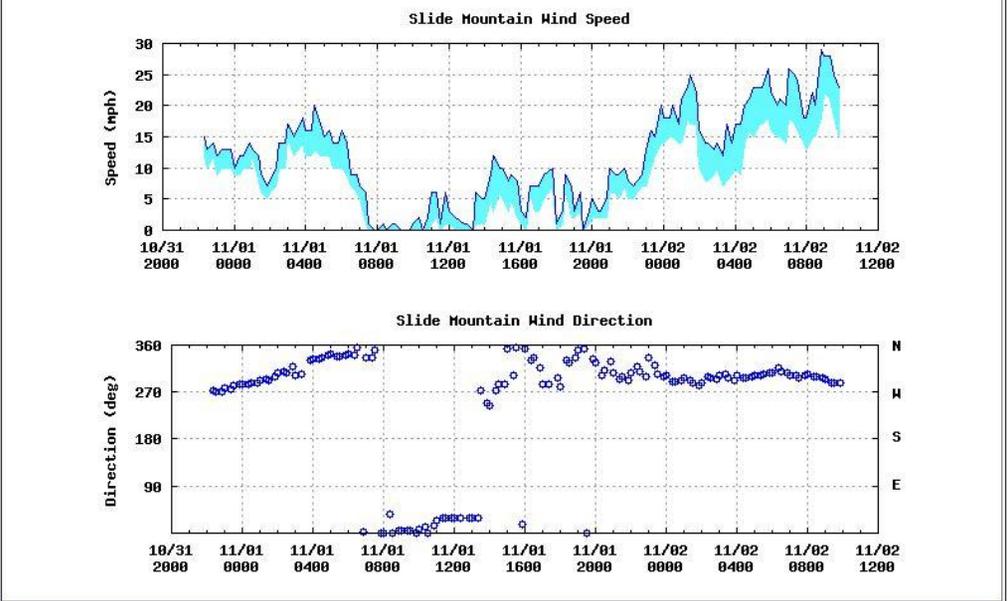
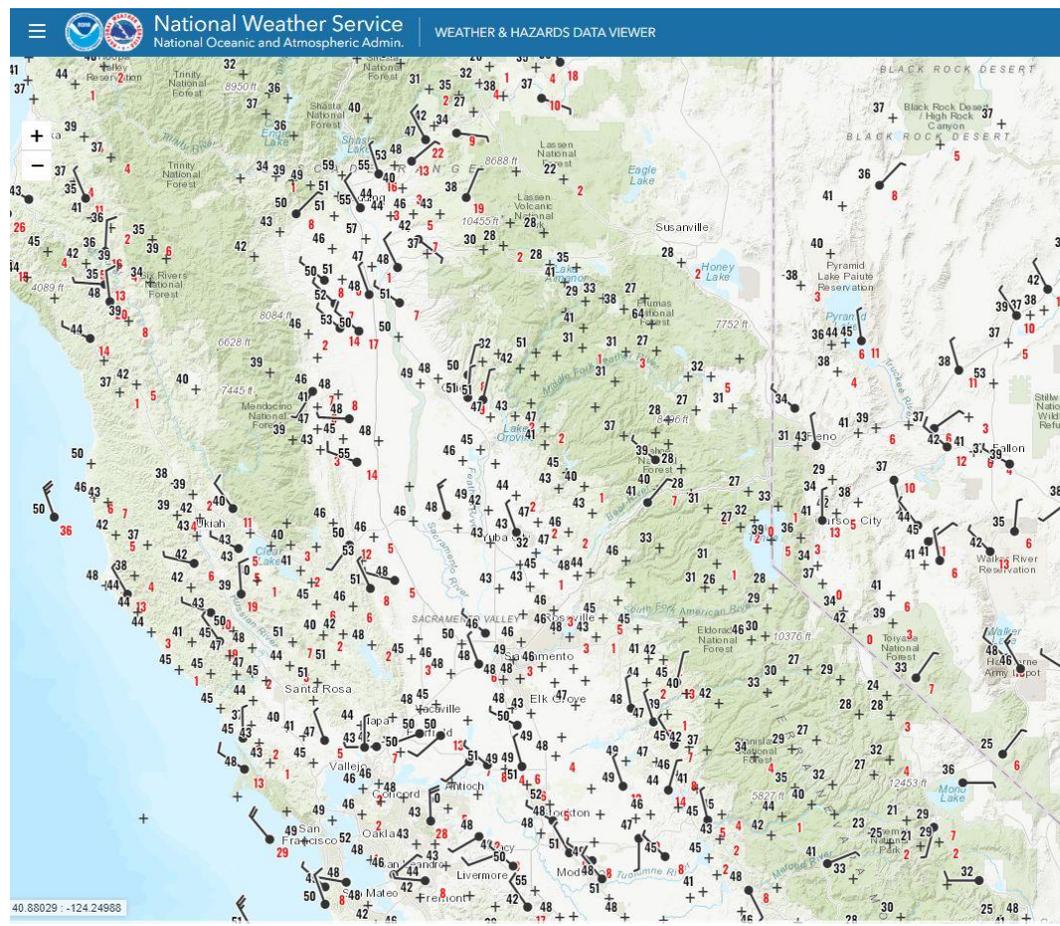
**Includes:**  
Temp, winds,  
gusts, probability  
of precip, snow,  
snow level,  
humidity, & more





# Surface Observation Network

Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Wednesday, November 12



**Slide Mountain Observations - Elevation 9650 Feet**

Date	Time(PST)	Temperature (F)	Dew Point (F)	Humidity (%)	Wind Direction	Wind Speed (MPH)	Wind Gust (MPH)
2023-11-02	09:20	41	29	49	288	21	28
2023-11-02	09:00	41	28	47	295	22	28
2023-11-02	08:50	41	26	43	298	18	29
2023-11-02	08:30	41	26	43	299	15	20
2023-11-02	08:20	42	28	46	300	15	22
2023-11-02	08:00	42	28	44	304	13	18
2023-11-02	07:50	41	27	44	302	14	18
2023-11-02	07:30	42	28	47	297	16	24
2023-11-02	07:20	41	27	45	301	17	25
2023-11-02	07:00	41	26	43	301	18	26
2023-11-02	06:50	40	26	44	306	14	20
2023-11-02	06:30	40	26	45	309	15	21

Sources: <https://www.weather.gov/rev/remotedata> and <https://www.weather.gov/wrh/hazards?obs=true&wfo=rev>



# NWS Partner Emails, aka "The Freakout"

Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Wednesday, November 12

## Early heads up of impending weather prior to traditional watches and warning.

NWS Connect



Note: This is for partners in public safety roles



National Weather Service  
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Monday, Sep 8, 2025

### Smoky Skies Today, Breezy Winds Tonight, Shower Chances This Week

Lots of haze across the skies today, especially over Mono County. This afternoon breezes will help to scour some of the smoke out, but the winds will relax into the nighttime, which would allow the smoke to settle into valleys once again. Air quality across the region will therefore continue to be affected, check fire.airnow.gov for your latest local conditions.

#### KEY POINTS

- Breezes Increasing Today
- Cooler, Chilly Overnight Lows
- Showers and Storms Returning This Week

#### CHANGES FROM PREVIOUS BRIEFING

- Dense Smoke Advisory in effect for Mono County until 11 AM today.
- Lake Wind Advisory in effect for Lake Tahoe and Pyramid Lake from 11 AM - 11 PM today.

#### WEATHER RISK OUTLOOK

Risk levels incorporate potential impacts from weather hazards and likelihood of occurrence for a reasonable worse case scenario.

	Mon 9/8	Tue 9/9	Wed 9/10	Thu 9/11	Fri 9/12	Sat 9/13	Sun 9/14
Greater Reno Area, Quad Counties	Breezy PM winds below avg temps	10-20% ch of t-storms	30-50% ch of showers & t-storms Cool temps		Warming and drying		
Tahoe Region	Cool & windy 10-20% t-storm chances		30-50% ch of showers & t-storms Cool temps		Warming and drying		10-15% ch of showers
E Lassen, Surprise Valley, N Washoe	Cool & windy 10-20% t-storm chances		30-50% ch of showers & t-storms Cool temps		Warming and drying		10-20% ch of showers/t-storms
Lassen W of US-395, Plumas Co	Cool & windy 10-20% t-storm chances		30-50% ch of showers & t-storms Cool temps		Warming and drying		10-20% ch of showers/t-storms
Mono Co, E Sierra	40-60% ch of showers/T-storms Breezy PM winds, below avg temps	10-20% ch of t-storms	30-50% ch of showers & t-storms Cool temps		Warming and drying		
Pershing, Churchill, Mineral Co	Breezy PM winds below avg temps	10-20% ch of t-storms	30-50% ch of showers & t-storms Cool temps		Warming and drying		

Risk Levels: Little to None, Minor, Moderate, Major, Extreme

#### DETAILS

- Breeziest Winds Today: Widespread 25-35 mph gusts today with increased fire weather concerns and travel and recreation impacts.

## Weather Risk Outlook: When Should I Freakout?

Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Monday, August 25

	Monday, Aug 25	Tuesday, Aug 26	Wednesday, Aug 27	Thursday, Aug 28	Friday, Aug 29	Saturday, Aug 30	Sunday, Aug 31
Greater Reno Area, Quad Counties	50-70% chance T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk	T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk		T-storm chances may decrease	Finally drying out?		
Tahoe Region	60-80% chance T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk	T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk		T-storm chances may decrease	Finally drying out?		
E Lassen, Surprise Valley, N Washoe	40-50% T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk	T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk		T-storm chances may decrease	Finally drying out?		
Lassen W of US-395, Plumas Co	40-60% chance T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk	T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk		T-storm chances may decrease	Finally drying out?		
Mono Co, E Sierra	70-80% chance T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk	T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk		T-storm chances may decrease	5-15% showers/T-storms Finally drying out?		
Pershing, Churchill, Mineral Co	40-70% chance T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk	T-storms, heavy rain & local flooding risk		T-storm chances may decrease	5-15% showers/T-storms Finally drying out?		

What Does This Mean?  
Color integrates impact potential and forecaster confidence levels.

No worries 😊 Minor freakoutness 😊 Moderate freakoutness 😊 Major freakoutness 😞 Extreme freakoutness 😡

Week 2: 9/1-9/7  
Temperatures near average with above average precipitation.



# That's a Wrap. Any questions?

Weather Forecast Office  
Reno, NV  
Wednesday, November 12



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