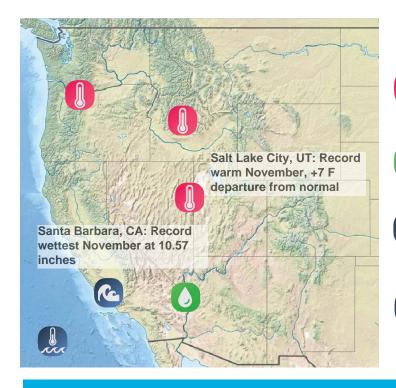
Quarterly Climate Impacts and Outlook

Significant Events for Sep-Oct-Nov 2025



Sep-Oct-Nov Highlights

Warmest September on record for Washington and Oregon.

Record warmest November for Idaho, Nevada, Oregon, and Utah.

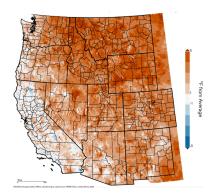
Record wet November for parts of southern California, southern Nevada, and Arizona.

Strong storm brought record rain and dangerous surf to the southern California coast in mid-November.

ENSO neutral conditions shifted over to La Niña conditions this Autumn with a Sep-Nov Oceanic Niño Index Value of -0.6 degrees Celsius.

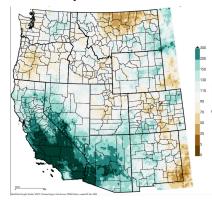
Regional Overview for Sep-Oct-Nov 2025

Mean Temperature Percentile Sep-Oct-Nov 2025



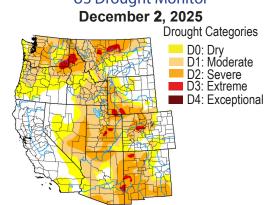
Autumn temperatures were above normal across the West in every state except for parts of California. Records were observed in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, New Mexico, and Nevada for warmest Autumn. At the local scale, Albuquerque, NM, Spokane, WA, and Manti, UT all had the hottest Autumn on record.

Precipitation Percentile Sep-Oct-Nov 2025



Areas of below normal precipitation occurred in northern Montana and southeastern New Mexico. Most of California, western and southern Nevada, and Arizona saw areas of well above normal precipitation in Autumn. Record wet Autumns were set in Las Vegas, NV, Santa Barbara, CA, Phoenix, AZ, and Bakersfield, CA.

US Drought Monitor



At the end of Autumn 50% of the West was in moderate drought (D1), 22% in severe drought (D2), 2% in extreme drought (D3), and no areas of exceptional drought (D4). Drought expanded in northern Montana and New Mexico. The greatest drought reductions were found throughout California, Arizona, Nevada, Oregon, and Idaho.

Regional Impacts for Sep-Oct-Nov 2025

Agriculture

With below normal snowpack and record warm temperatures, farmers across Utah ran out of their irrigation water this Autumn needing support and loans from the state government.

Flooding

Heavy monsoonal rains around Phoenix, Arizona of 1.64 inches during the end of September caused flooding that submerged roadways and multiple vehicles, leaving three dead. In mid-October, another round of heavy monsoonal rain hit the Phoenix area dropping 3 inches over the course of two days accompanied by wind speeds reaching up to 70 mph.

Snow Drought

After a record warm Autumn for most of the West, snow cover is at its lowest level by this time of year since record keeping began in 2001. It is most severe across the Sierra Nevada, Cascade Range, Blue Mountains, and the Great Basin.

Drought and Water Supply

Colorado River water shortages continue with Lake Mead at 32% of capacity and still below the Tier I shortage threshold.

Extreme Rainfall and Dangerous Surf for Southern California

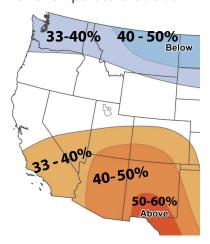


Figure: Lifeguards search the coast for a 7-year old girl after her and her father were swept away by a large wave. Credit: California State Parks

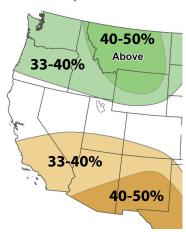
Parts of southern California recorded their wettest November on record with some areas seeing totals of over ten inches of rain. Most of this rain fell when a storm stalled off the California coast mid-November also bringing dangerous surf and downing trees. Seven deaths were attributed to the storm including a young girl who was swept out to sea by the powerful waves. Santa Barbara and Van Nuys shattered their wettest November records, at 10.57 inches and 5.17 inches respectively, while Westminster reported 1.84 inches of rain in a single hour.

Regional Outlook for Jan-Feb-Mar 2026

CPC Temperature Outlook



CPC Precipitation Outlook



Numbers indicate percent chance of temperatures in warmest/coolest one-third and precipitation in wettest/driest one-third. Outlook produced December 2025.

The CPC outlook for January-March favors above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation for the southern half of the West, below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation for the Pacific Northwest, Idaho, and Montana, and equal chances elsewhere. This outlook reflects a typical La Niña pattern, which is now present. If the outlook were to verify it would likely bring some relief to areas of the Pacific Northwest, Montana, and Idaho that are currently experiencing prolonged drought conditions.

Western Region Partners

Western Regional Climate Center wrcc.dri.edu/my

National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS) - drought.gov Western Governors' Association westgov.org

Western States Water Council westgov.org/wswc

NOAA/ESRL Physical Sciences Division esrl.noaa.gov/psd

NOAA Climate Prediction Center www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov

National Centers for Envir. Info. (NCEI) www.ncei.noaa.gov

USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center - www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov

National Interagency Fire Center www.nifc.gov

Western Water Assessment www.colorado.edu

Climate Assessment for the Southwest climas.arizona.edu

California Nevada Applications Program cnap.ucsd.edu

Climate Impacts Research Consortium pnwclimate.org/resources

NWS Western Region Forecast Offices www.wrh.noaa.gov/



