

# Nevada State Climate Office

## Quarterly Report and Outlook

July - September 2019

### News from the State Climate Office!

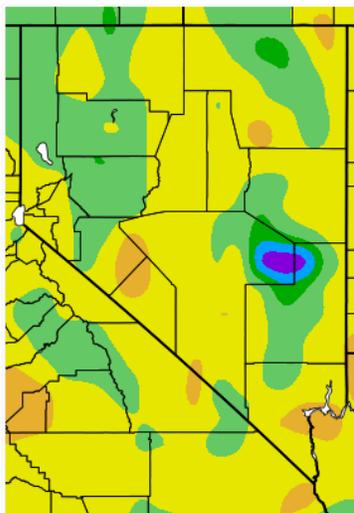
There have been some changes in staffing. Dr. Doug Boyle stepped down as the State Climatologist this summer and is the Chair of the Department of Geography at the University of Nevada, Reno. Dr. Steph McAfee, the Deputy SC since 2015, is now the State Climatologist, as well as continuing to teach in the Geography Department at University of Nevada, Reno. She is an applied climatologist who is always happy to work people to get the climate information they need. Away from the office, Steph likes to knit, tend a garden that is mostly consumed by deer, run, and hang out with her family.

Antoinette Serrato is a new graduate student in the Geography Department. She will be studying seasonal forecasting needs in relation to the outlook accuracy. Two undergraduates, Liz Mason a math major, and Benjamin Khoh, who is double-majoring in Geography and History, have also joined the State Climate Office to work on analysis of Nevada's past weather and climate.

### Notable Weather and Climate in Nevada

In southern Nevada, summer was slightly warmer than normal, but it was particularly notable for the lack of rain. Parts of Clark and southern Nye county received less than 5% of the normal precipitation. In northern Nevada, the summer was generally cool. In Reno, it only hit 100°F once – a nice break after 20 days with daytime highs of 100°F or more in 2018. There is one oddity on the map – an area of eastern Nye/northern Lincoln county where temperatures may have been as much as 8°F below normal. That part of the state doesn't have great weather station coverage, so if you're in that area near Sunnyside, Lund, and Hiko, let me know. Did you have a particularly cold summer?

Departure from Normal Temperature (°F)  
7/1/2019 – 9/30/2019



Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)  
7/1/2019 – 9/30/2019

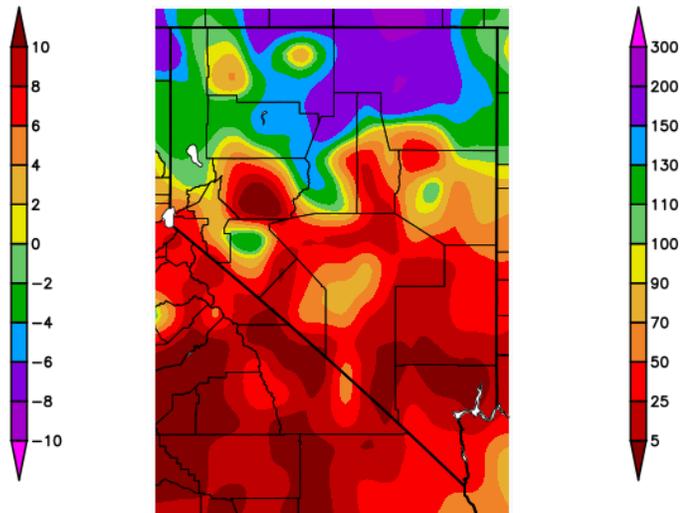


Figure 1. Difference from normal temperature (°F, left) and percent of normal precipitation (right) for July - September 2019.  
Figure source: <https://hprcc.unl.edu/maps.php?map=ACISClimateMaps>

## Outlook for November – March

Because we depend on winter rain and snow for the summer, the fall is a good time to look at the outlook for the full winter. No matter where you are in Nevada, the odds are decent that winter will be warmer than normal, both from November – January (top left) and January – March (bottom left). Basically, there is a 40 to 50% chance that both the early and later winter will be warmer than normal. The precipitation outlook is not as helpful. For most of the region, the forecast identifies roughly equal changes of wet, dry, or normal conditions. The one exception is far northwestern Nevada, where there is a slight indication of drier than normal conditions early in the winter.

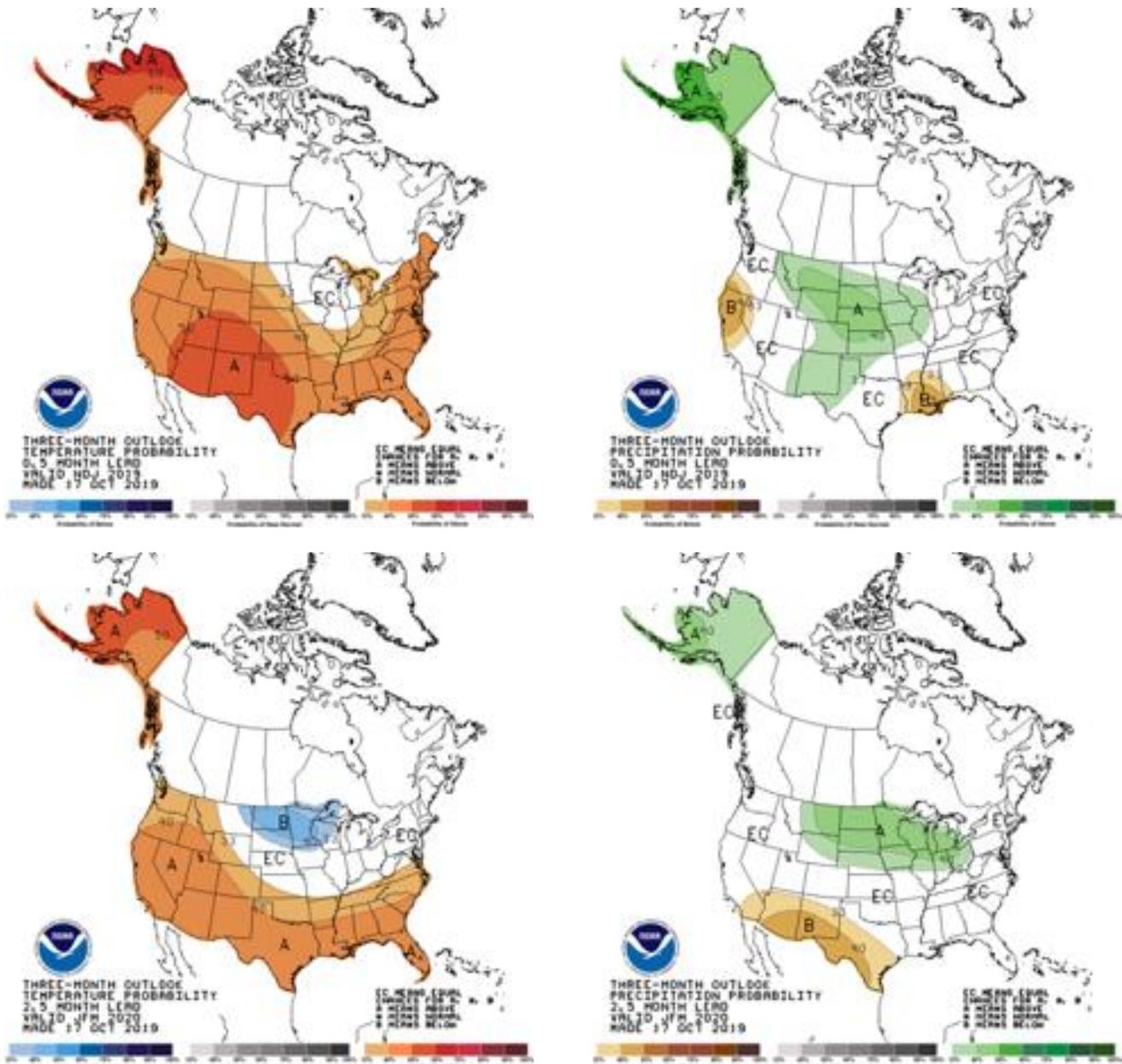


Figure 2. November - January temperature (top left) and precipitation (top right) outlooks and January - March temperature (bottom left) and precipitation (bottom right) from the Climate Prediction Center. Image source: [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/seasonal.php?lead=1](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=1) and [https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/seasonal.php?lead=3](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=3).

**In depth – a little late, but here’s our handy guide for climate-informed Halloween planning.**

*Courtesy Peyton Murphy and Antoinette Serrato*

It’s the season of Halloween and trick or treating! Temperatures during this fun night can range from 40°F to 80°F, so it’s good to know what kind of costumes you should and (maybe) shouldn’t wear! The table below is organized by percentages of how often the minimum temperatures in cities from all over Nevada are below 32°F on Halloween night. The costume of recommendation will be next to the cities that experience below 32°F for the percentage posted.

Percent of time minimum temperature has been equal or less to 32°F	Cities that have this percentage	Costume to wear in order to be the most comfortable
75-100%	Eureka, Ely, Elko, Lovelock  Wearing costumes with long sleeves would be a good idea!	
50-74%	Winnemucca, Caliente, Tonopah, Yerington, Battle Mountain  Be a ghost – you can hide warm clothes underneath!	
25-49%	Reno, Fallon, Carson City, Sparks, Virginia City  Not a big chance of being really cold, fly that cape!	
0-24%	Las Vegas, Hawthorne, Laughlin, Pahrump  It rarely gets below freezing. Ballerinas galore! Wear any costume you’d like!	

Happy trick or treating, and stay warm! If it is really hot on Halloween, make sure you have some water with you, and if it’s cold, hand warmers for the kiddos wouldn’t be a bad idea!

**Get in touch!**

It’s always great to hear from you! If you have questions, comments or concerns, you can always reach out to the State Climate Office at [climate@unr.edu](mailto:climate@unr.edu) or [smcafee@unr.edu](mailto:smcafee@unr.edu) or call 775-784-6999.