

Nevada State Climate Office

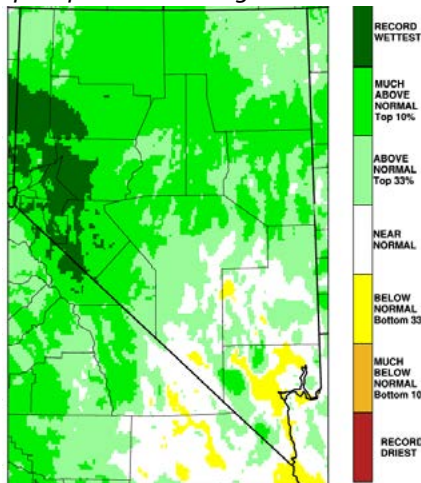
Photo by A. Csank

*Quarterly Report & Outlook
October - December 2021*

Notable Weather & Climate in Nevada: October - December

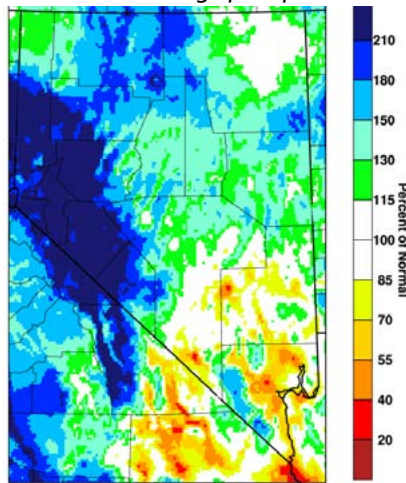
It was a rousing start to the water year in northern Nevada. Parts of northwestern Nevada, saw the wettest fall (October - December) on record (to 1895). In southern Nevada and far northeastern Nevada, it was an okay autumn. Precipitation was near or only slightly below normal. Much of the precipitation fell in just a few storms. Early October brought at least light rain or snow to almost all of Nevada. Over 200 weather stations have data for October 1-15 - only two recorded no precipitation. A major storm in late October brought heavy rain and snow to northwestern Nevada. In late October, the Mt. Rose Ski Area received 13.9" of precipitation (rain plus melted snow). Over 7" of it fell on a single day! Another storm arrived in early December. Then came the holiday storm, which dropped 20" of snow on Mt. Charleston.

October - December 2021 precipitation ranking

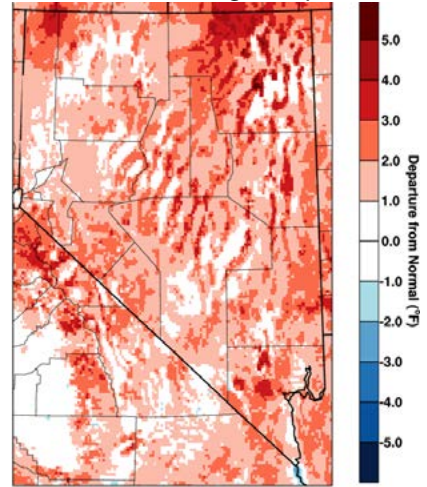


WestWideDroughtTracker <https://wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/>

Percent of 1981-2010 October - December average precipitation

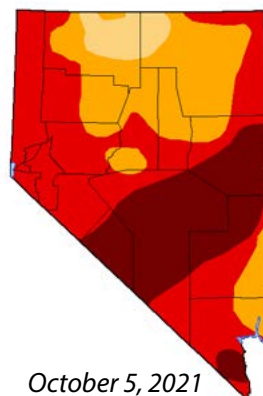


Difference from 1981-2010 October - December average temperature



Overall, October was cool and wet, November was warm and dry, and December was wet with average monthly temperatures. In many places, December was "average" because of a mix of warm and cold days. Because November was so warm, the autumn average is a bit above normal over most of the state.

The wet and relatively mild fall has led to significant improvements in drought conditions, even if the drought is not yet over. Several counties now have no Extreme (D3) or Exceptional (D4) Drought, in comparison to early October.



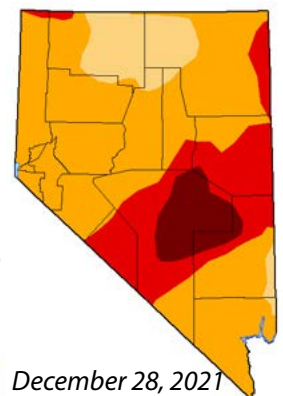
October 5, 2021

US Drought Monitor

Intensity:
None
D0 Abnormally Dry
D1 Moderate Drought
D2 Severe Drought
D3 Extreme Drought
D4 Exceptional Drought

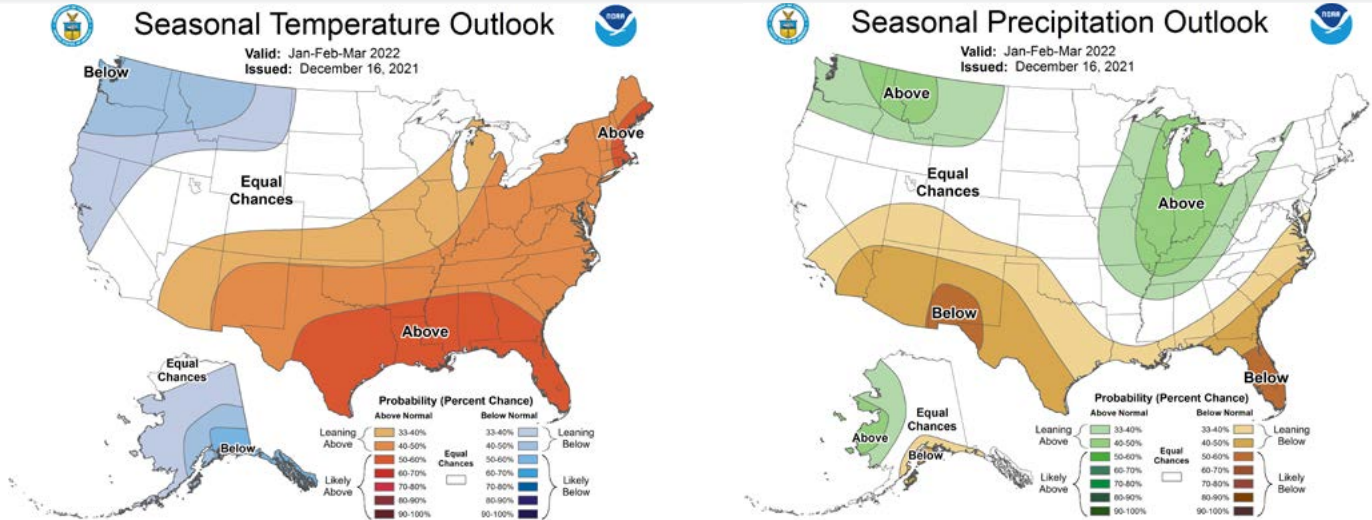
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/about.aspx>

Author:
Brian Fuchs
National Drought Mitigation Center



December 28, 2021

Outlook for January - March



The [Climate Prediction Center](#) seasonal outlook says that odds of a cooler-than-normal winter are just slightly better than odds of a warmer than normal winter -- at least in northwest Nevada. Over the rest of the state there are equal chances of cooler than normal, normal, or warmer than normal temperatures through March. It's not the most satisfying forecast, but certainly one we're used to here in Nevada. Precipitation outlooks are as expected for a La Niña winter like this one. During La Niñas, winter precipitation is often lower than normal in southern Nevada, and that's what the outlook suggests. In Las Vegas, there's a 42% chance that winter will be drier than normal, a 33% chance of a normal winter, and a 25% chance of having a wet winter. Elsewhere in Nevada, La Niña doesn't have much influence on winter precipitation, so the forecast is for equal chances of a wet, dry or normal winter. As always, take the seasonal outlook for Nevada with a grain of salt. It's a best effort on an amazingly difficult task.

In depth - public engagement with the National Climate Assessment

The fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5) has started! Roughly every four years, researchers, resource managers and other professionals evaluate new information about climate, climate change, and its impacts on the natural environment and different aspects of society. Then it's put together in a way that's easy to understand and publicly available, because, as the NCA5 director Alison Crimmins says, "You shouldn't need an advanced degree or a decoder ring to figure out a National Climate Assessment." ([NPR, September 30, 2021](#)).

Over the next month or so, there will be a series of on-line workshops so that the public can provide input. You can peruse the topics and register at <https://www.global-change.gov/nca5>. There are around 30 of these meetings, so it doesn't make sense to list them all here, but these might be of particular interest to Nevadans.

Human Social Systems

» January 11, 9AM - 1PM

Ecosystems, Ecosystem Services & Biodiversity

» January 11, 9AM - 1PM

Energy Supply, Delivery & Demand

» January 12, 9AM - 1PM

Built Environment, Urban Systems & Cities

» January 14, 9AM - 1PM

Tribal & Indigenous Peoples

» January 18, 9AM - 1PM

Agriculture, Food Systems & Rural Communities

» January 28, 10AM - 2PM

Southwest

» February 4, 10AM - 2:30PM

Water

» February 9, 9AM - 1PM