OR/WA 2020 Water Year Meeting

Winter Season Outlook

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Last year’s Outlook

- ENSO-neutral to persist through the winter (~55-60% chance).

- Forecast consistent with models and long-term trends. Adjustments possible as we get closer to winter.

Outlook favored:
- Above normal temperatures over Pacific NW (higher probability over OR/SE WA)

- Below normal precipitation over California and SW Oregon, equal Chances over Washington
December-January-February

The Outlook favored:

- Above normal temperatures over all of the Pacific NW (higher probabilities over SE OR)

- Above normal precipitation (with equal chances over SW Oregon)
Temperature (NDJ)

Gridded/Categorical version of the outlook & observations

Observations supported:

- Above normal temperatures over Eastern Washington & much of Oregon
- Cooler than Near normal over Western Washington and Coastal Oregon (below normal ~ NW OR).
Temperatures (DJF)

Observations supported:

- Below normal conditions for WA, and Western OR
- Near normal conditions over Eastern OR
Precipitation (NDJ)

Observations supported

- Below median precipitation over much of the Pacific NW

- Near Median Coastal, and NE WA
Precipitation (DJF)

Observations supported

- Near to above median precipitation over Washington and Eastern Oregon.

- Below median precipitation over Western Oregon and South Central Washington.
Background Considerations

- Climate/Inter seasonal patterns (ENSO, Madden-Julian Oscillation, etc.)
- Dynamical and statistical model guidance
- Trends

Updated 3rd Thursday of the month (Nov 19)

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/fxus05.html

https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/90day/tools.php
• **La Niña Advisory**
  - La Niña conditions are have been observed
  - 85% Chance of La Niña continuing through Winter
  - 60% Chance of La Niña continuing through Spring
  - Consensus model forecast is for a moderate La Niña, a few forecast a strong La Niña

• La Niña is associated with cooler and wetter than average conditions in the PNW. However, more factors are at play.
Model Forecast

Models broadly show sea surface temperature (SST) anomalies over the Niño 3.4 region - cooler than -0.5° C

Figure provided by the International Research Institute (IRI) for Climate and Society
November Outlook Favors Precipitation Above Average

One-Month Precipitation Outlook November 2020

Climate Prediction Center
Issued: 10/15/20
November Outlook Favors

Precipitation
Above Average

Temperatures
Equal Chances
Dec-Jan-Feb Outlook Favors Precipitation Above Average
Dec-Jan-Feb Outlook Favors

Precipitation
Above Average

Temperatures
Below Average
Bottom Line

Climate predictions can have skill in predicting seasonal totals/averages.

However, most impacts are associated with short-duration storm systems.

Outlook does not project seasonal snowfall accumulations (snow generally not predictable beyond 7-days)

- Tilted towards conditions favoring improved snowpack (colder and wetter)
- Can be a lot of variability especially true over the lowlands. There is likely more skill over the mountains - but that may not be a slam-dunk either when it comes to end of the year totals.
Thank You

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