

# 2022-23 Winter Outlook & Related Tools / Resources

NWS Atlanta – North & Central Georgia Integrated Warning Team Meeting

December 6, 2022

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#### 2022-23 Winter Outlook

What are some weather/climate factors that go into seasonal outlooks??





## **2022-23 Winter Outlook**

DISCLAIMER: Long-range (> 14 days) outlooks are just that – outlooks. They
are intended to provide a big picture - probabilistic view of potential long-wave
patterns that could impact temperatures and precipitation across different
regions of the world.

#### What it is NOT designed for:

- How many snow/ice storms will we see this winter?
- Will it snow 3" on Christmas day?
- Record cold temperatures in February?
- Early Spring?





### What is El Niño / La Niña (ENSO)?

#### **ENSO = El Niño Southern Oscillation**



A very strong El Niño in 2016 - large 'red tongue' in equatorial Pacific. (Credit: NOAA/NESDIS)



La Niña event - large blue area in equatorial Pacific. (Credit: NOAA/NESDIS)

- El Niño is characterized by unusually warm ocean temperatures along the Equatorial Pacific, whereas La Niña is characterized by unusually cold ocean temperatures in the same region.
- Determined over the Niño 3.4 region (5°N 5°S, 120°W 170°W)
- These variations from "normal" influence the tropical Pacific ocean atmosphere system, which in turn impacts weather around the globe, including the Southeast US.



**NOAA** Definitions for ENSO

**ENSO = El Niño Southern Oscillation** 

• The Oceanic Niño index (ONI) is based on three-month running-mean Sea Surface Temperature (SST) departures from average in the Niño 3.4 region, and is a principal measure for monitoring, assessing, and predicting El Niño.



- <u>El Niño</u>: characterized by a *positive* ONI greater than or equal to +0.5°C.
- La Niña: characterized by a *negative* ONI less than or equal to -0.5°C.
- By historical standards, to be classified as a full-fledged El Niño or La Niña <u>episode</u>, these thresholds must be exceeded for a period of at least 5 consecutive overlapping 3-month seasons.



### A closer look at ENSO...

#### Subsurface Temperature Departures during September and October 2022

Temperature patterns beneath the surface of the equatorial tropical Pacific



In a La Niña, more upwelling of cold water over the Niño 3.4 region leads to faster trade winds over the Pacific and a stronger than normal atmospheric circulation.

Creates high pressure in NE Pacific, which changes the flow pattern over the CONUS.



### A closer look at ENSO...

#### **October 2022 Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Departures**





#### Latest ENSO Conditions + Forecast ENSO = El Niño Southern Oscillation



- <u>Third consecutive</u> winter season with weak to moderate La Niña (very rare).
- Pattern <u>increases the chances of</u> <u>seeing drier than normal and</u> <u>warmer than normal conditions</u> over a 3-month period (Dec/Jan/Feb)
- Local climatology shows better chances of seeing "near normal" precipitation & temperatures
  - Previous "La Niña" winters: 2010-11, 2011-12, 2020-21, 2021-22



## Latest ENSO Conditions + Forecast

ENSO = El Niño Southern Oscillation



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#### NOAA's 2022-23 Winter Outlook

Released October 20, 2022

•



Outlooks show a slightly higher than "average" chance (>33-40%) of a warmer/drier winter (Dec/Jan/Feb)

## **Does this look familiar???**





#### Last year's NOAA (2021-22) Winter Outlook



- Temperature (warm) signal not as strong as what was being seen last year
- Precipitation signals very similar thanks to La Nina



Atlanta (ATL) by the numbers (December 2021 – February 2022):

- Average Temperature (includes max & min temps) = 50.7 F (+3.8F above normal)
  - 6<sup>th</sup> warmest on record (since 1878) !!!
- Average Max Temperature = 60.2F (+4.1F above normal / 5<sup>th</sup> warmest on record)
- Average Min Temperature = 41.2F (+3.6F above normal / 11<sup>th</sup> warmest on record)
- Highest temperature = 78F
- Lowest temperatures = 26F
- Total precipitation (3-month period) = 14.74" (52<sup>nd</sup> wettest on record)
   Actually ended up <u>above normal</u> // 13.71 = seasonal average (1991-2020)
- 2021-22 Snowfall = 0.3 inches (-1.9" below normal)



#### **Other Weather Group "outlooks"**



#### Weatherbell









#### Winter La Niña Pattern





#### How can "La Niña" patterns influence our Winter?

- Third consecutive winter season with weak to moderate La Niña.
- Pattern increases the chances of seeing drier than normal and warmer than normal conditions over a 3-month period (Dec/Jan/Feb)





## Seasonal Drought Outlook (Dec-Feb)

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U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Valid for November 17, 2022 - February 28, 2023 Drought Tendency During the Valid Period Released November 17, 2022



- Persistent dry/warm
  conditions resulted in a
  rapid and widespread
  development of
  Autumn drought
  conditions in GA.
- Forecast for the DJF period is heavily influenced by the high potential for La Niña conditions to persist.
  - Climate anomalies associated with cold ENSO events favor drier and warmer conditions along the southern tier of the CONUS



#### Seasonal Drought Outlook (Dec-Feb)

NOAA/NCEI Climate Division Composite Precipitation Anomalies (in) Dec to Feb 1975-76,2000-01 Versus 1991-2020 Longterm Average



Actual precipitation data (departure from normal) taken from past winter seasons following 3<sup>rd</sup> consecutive La Nina "winter"



## So... what does this all mean for me??

- Better than average chance we'll be warmer than normal (again) but not as warm as last Winter
- Near to slightly below normal precipitation (based La Nina research)
- North GA (north of I-20)... be ready for at least 1 to as many as 5 notable snow and/or ice storms (especially mountains & typical "wedge" zone across northeast GA)
- Central GA... be ready for 1-2 snow/ice events (> Trace)
- Coldest time of year = January to mid February
- Best time/month to see significant ice storms 
   February



#### No matter the outlook... must be ready for this!





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TOOLS & RESOURCES



## **Breaking down Weather Support**

- Day-to-day updates & outlooks:
  - Local Decision Support web pages
  - Hourly Weather Page (planning)
- Higher-impact events:
  - Emails / "Live" Webinar Briefings
- Situational Awareness:
  - GDOT Road Sensors
  - EDD / State weather page
  - Radar
- Communications:
  - NWSChat
  - Phone / Email
- Other support:
  - Site-specific (SPOT) Forecasts (SAR, HAZMAT, Outdoor events, etc.)
  - Web graphics / Social Media (www.weather.gov)





## **Decision Support Page**

https://www.weather.gov/ffc/dss

#### Contact info + Forecast support pages (interactive)

Weather Briefings saved here

#### Weather forecasts & guidance

- Severe
- Heavy rain/Flood
- Tropical
- Fire weather
- Winter





## Winter Snow/Ice Probabilistic Forecasts

Provides customers and partners a range of snowfall possibilities, better communicate forecast uncertainties, and enhance Decision Support Services (DSS) during winter weather events.



www.weather.gov/ffc/winter



## Winter Snow/Ice Probabilistic Forecasts

#### www.weather.gov/ffc/winter



- Creates "goal posts" <u>based on the official</u> <u>NWS snowfall forecast</u>
- It is NOT a worst-case scenario!
- The Low End and High End graphics are communicated as the minimum (expect at least this much) and maximum (potential for this much) snowfall, respectively, while the official (NWS) snowfall forecast is communicated as the "most likely" snowfall amount
- Graphically displays probability (% chance) of seeing a certain amount of snow (i.e. 1", 2", 4"... etc.)
- This is also shown in tabular format can select county to get list of towns/cities

Snowfall Totals by Location Experimental - Leave feedback

	11/22/2018 0700PM to 11/25/2018 0700PM What's this?											
		County	: Baldwin, GA	•								
For cities in Baldwin, GA county												
	Sn	ow Amount Poter	ntial		Chan	ce of S	eeing	More	Snow	Than		
Location	Low End Snowfall	Expected Snowfall	High End Snowfall	>=0.1"	>=1"	>=2"	>=4"	>=6"	>=8"	>=12"		
Meriwether, GA	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		
Milledgeville, GA	0	0	0	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%		

E NWSAtlanta



## **WSSI – Winter Storm Severity Index**

https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wssi/wssi.php?id=FFC



Forecasts the potential impacts of winter storms including tree damage, property damage, transportation impacts and disruptions in your community.



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Potential Winter Storm Impacts

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Limited Impacts

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Extreme Impacts

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Created by

Weather Prediction Center

The National Weather Service

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## **WSSI – Winter Storm Severity Index**

https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wssi/wssi.php?id=FFC



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Contras Contras

\* Initiation of the

C9:00:01

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(Levine)

anados

Monday, November 30, 2020

8 AM ET

- blowing snow
- ground blizzard
- Graphics for each of the 6 components
- Helps create an all-inclusive
   Winter Storm Severity Index

What's the difference between 2" snow in Atlanta vs. 2" snow in the mountains of Wyoming? WSSI designed to provide a more simplified reasoning behind this question.



## Advancements in Point Forecasts (Planning)

#### https://www.weather.gov/forecastpoints

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### **Real-time Weather Observations**

#### 63 GDOT Road Weather Sensors: www.weather.gov/ffc/gdot\_rwis Measures: temp/dewpt/winds/precip/road sfc temp/sub sfc temp\*\*

#### **RWIS data from GDOT**

Weather.gov > Peachtree City. GA > RWIS data from GDOT

Peachtree City, GA

Weather Forecast Office

Current Hazards C Date	Tem	p Dew	Relative	Wind	Wind	Vsby	Road	SubSfc	Road	1h Pcp	12h Pcp	24h Pcp
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+ Q <sub>at</sub> 11/14 09:5	52 41	26	47	ENE	5G11	≥ 1.2	47	52	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
11/14 09:4	2 41	26	48	E	5G11	≥ 1.2	46	52	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
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11/14 09:2	22 40	26	53	E	6G16	≥ 1.2	43	52	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
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11/14 07:3	32 37	26	64	E	6G16	≥ 1.2	38	52	N/A	0.0	0.0	0.0
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AirTemp DewptTemp RoadTemp



## **NWSChat v2.0 (Slack) is coming!!**





## NWS Radar Pages – What's new?

#### https://radar.weather.gov



- "Standard" low-bandwidth page (default)
- Higher-resolution "Enhanced" page is more interactive (but could take up more space on your computer)

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## NWS Enhanced Data Display (EDD)

https://preview.weather.gov/edd/

\*\*may not be supported - future

#### NWS Enhanced Data Display v4.6.1 😤 🛚 81'F 👔 🛛 Innel Han 🖉 🧶 🔧 🕹 Legend 🔚 Harard Watch - Refensiving or 13 around Cest Al batck Lawers # Titlers Doubled 🏥 🏤 😂 🖉 🚛 🜉 575 🏋 📆 Ape: 4 minutes 🤤 Radar adat Cantro Lange 🚺 OT CHE 0.00 Hazarda **Hivers** Backterman A Nore Leven

- Excellent situational awareness "dashboard"
- Can display/overlay radar, current observations, Watches/Warnings, etc.
- Ability to SAVE and SHARE customized display



### **Climate Resources**

- NWS Atlanta Climate Archives

   (https://www.weather.gov/ffc/ClimateArchive)
  - View the monthly and seasonal data going back to 2018 for each of our climate sites.
  - Contains climate graphs, records, archived events, and outlooks
- Southeast Regional Climate Center (SERCC) (https://sercc.com/climate-perspectives)
  - View climate data on a map interface
  - Can view records, rankings, and departures from normal.
- Current U.S. Drought Monitor Conditions for Georgia

(https://www.drought.gov/states/Georgia)

• Updated every Thursday



#### Below are the overview stats for September 2022 for our 10 climate sites.

September 2022 Monthly Rankings								
Climate Site	Temperatures	Precipitation						
Athens	41st Warnest	13rd Column						
Atlanta	26th Coolest	the Direst						
Colombus	36th Coolest	29th Drien.						
Macon	20th Coolest	This Orwest						

Sep 2022 Climate Averages										
Climate Site	Sep Temp ("F)	Average Temp	Departure from Normal							
Athens	73,0	73.9	-0.9							
Atlanta	74.6	74.9	-0.3							
Columbus	76.0	77.6	-1.6							
Macon	74.4	76.2	-1.8							
Cartersville	72.0	72.5	-0.5							
Deixalb Peachtree Arpt	71.3	72.9	-1.6							
Futton Co Arpt	73.1	73.5	-0.4							
Gainesville	72.2	72.4	-0.2							
Peachtree City	73.4	74.1	-0.7							
Rome	73.1	73.8	-0.7							





Molwestern Regional Climate Center I-WATE, MRCC Application Tools Environment Generates at: 10/2/2012 6-40.08 AM CDT



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NWS Atlanta -- North & Central GA Integrated Warning Team Meeting **NWS WINTER PRODUCTS** 

# (WATCHES/WARNINGS)



## Winter Season Precipitation Types



Rain

#### **Freezing Rain**

Frozen precipitation Melts and reaches the ground as rain. Frozen precipitation melts in warm air. Rain falls and freezes on cold surfaces.

#### Sleet

Frozen precipitation melts in shallow warm air. Then refreezes into sleet before reaching the surface.

#### Snow

Snow falls through cold air and reaches the surface 1-3° temp
difference
within only
2-3K feet
(sfc-cloud
base)



## **NWS Winter Products and Timelines**

- Outlooks/Statements  $\rightarrow$  3 to 5 days out
  - Hazardous Weather Outlook (HWO)
  - Special Weather Statement (SPS)
- Winter Storm WATCH → within 48-72 hours of threat/impact onset
- Winter Storm / Ice Storm WARNING or Winter Weather ADVISORY → within 36 hours of onset
- \*\*NEW (2022-23 from NWS Atlanta)\*\* Special Weather Statement(s) during event OR for rogue/localized impact event
  - Similar to Significant Weather Advisories for strong storms/heavy rain



#### Timeline of NWS Winter Weather Products



NWS Atlanta -- North & Central GA Integrated Warning Team Meeting SPS – Winter Product "demo"



## Why use the SPS for winter weather?

- Fill the information gap between Watch or Warning issuance and when the winter conditions begin
- Give details on when precipitation is expected to begin and end
- Message potentially impactful events that do not meet Warning or Advisory criteria
- Give details on precipitation types and expected changeovers, accumulations, and calls-to-action
- Provide rumor control



#### **Example 1: Recent case from NWS Pittsburgh**





#### Example 2: Supplementing a Warning\*

Special Weather Statement National Weather Service Peachtree City GA 154 PM EST Tue Nov 29 2022

GAZ014-022>025-027-033>035-045>047-291930-Madison-Hall-Banks-Jackson-Dawson-North Fulton-Walton-Rockdale-Barrow-DeKalb-Forsyth-Gwinnett-154 PM EST Tue Nov 29 2022

...WINTER PRECIPITATION WILL AFFECT NORTH CENTRAL ROCKDALE... BARROW...DEKALB...FORSYTH...GWINNETT...BANKS...NORTHWESTERN WALTON... SOUTHEASTERN DAWSON...HALL...JACKSON...NORTHEASTERN FULTON AND WEST CENTRAL MADISON COUNTIES...

A mix of winter precipitation is expected to begin by 4 PM across these counties. Precipitation may begin as a mix of rain, sleet, and snow before transitioning to all snow by evening as colder air filters in from the northeast.

#### Locations impacted include...

Gainesville, Lawrenceville, Decatur, Winder, Jefferson, Commerce, Cumming, Homer, Peachtree Corners, Sandy Springs, Roswell, Johns Creek, Alpharetta, Dunwoody, Milton, Duluth, Sugar Hill, Snellville, Suwanee and Buford.

## A Winter Storm Warning is in effect for the area. Please monitor local media outlets and the National Weather Service for further statements.

Icy roads are possible as the snow melts on the roads then quickly refreezes.

Conditions can deteriorate rapidly in winter weather situations. Be prepared for snow or ice covered roads. Slow down and allow extra time when traveling.





TimingPrecip type

Locations to be impacted

- Potential hazard
- Calls-to-action

\*In this situation, a Warning is already in effect, so this product is intended to provide updated information to the public



#### **Example 3: Wintry precip above a certain elevation\***

Special Weather Statement National Weather Service Peachtree City GA 206 PM EST Tue Nov 29 2022

GAZ006>009-013>016-291930-Gilmer-Dawson-Union-Towns-Pickens-White-Lumpkin-Fannin-206 PM EST Tue Nov 29 2022

...A WINTRY MIX WILL AFFECT CENTRAL TOWNS...NORTHERN LUMPKIN... SOUTHEASTERN GILMER...NORTHWESTERN WHITE...NORTHWESTERN DAWSON... NORTHEASTERN PICKENS...CENTRAL UNION AND SOUTHEASTERN FANNIN COUNTIES...

At 206 PM EST, an area of mixed precipitation including snow, sleet and freezing rain was located across the **higher elevations of Northern Georgia**. Light wintry accumulations are possible.

Impacts from this wintry mix will be confined to elevations above approximately 2000 feet.

#### Locations impacted include...

Young Harris, Suches, Amicalola Falls State Park, Sequoyah Lake, Blue Mountain Shelter, Woods Hole Shelter, Low Gap Shelter, Fausett Lake, Len Foote Hike Inn, Vogel State Park, Anna Ruby Falls, Stover Creek Shelter, Turners Corner, Gaddistown, Camp Merrill, Whitley Gap Shelter, Brasstown Bald, Mountain Scene, Springer Mountain Shelter and Camp Coleman Lake.

Although this event is expected to be short lived, if conditions worsen, a Winter Weather Advisory may become necessary. Please monitor local media outlets and the National Weather Service for further statements.

LAT...LON 3493 8360 3492 8359 3491 8363 3488 8366 3482 8365 3480 8368 3478 8366 3465 8383 3465 8393 3461 8405 3444 8433 3457 8445 3474 8414 3483 8418 3484 8399 3482 8386 3494 8392 3492 8376 3495 8355

- SPS basis: wintry mix

Precip type

Elevations to be impacted

- Locations to be impacted

**Call-to-action** 



\*In this situation, the polygon was drawn to include only the portions of the counties at or above 2000 feet



## The Winter SPS is not just for precipitation!

- Freezing fog
- Flash freeze
- Black ice

Little to no accumulation involved, but can have major impacts on travel and thus require special messaging

## The Winter SPS will be used as needed this winter!

Planned, future additions include:

- Bulleted, standardized format
- Updated call-to-action options
- Additional information options for the forecaster to choose from



## Winter Storm Warning/Advisory Criteria

## Snow Accumulation Thresholds that might trigger Winter Storm WATCH / WARNING\*\*





\*\*NOTE – this does not take into account IMPACTS!



## Impacts vs. Amounts

## 3" of Snow



# **28**° 1/2" of Snow





# Thank you!!

