

Significant Weather Observation Program

November 15, 2021

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Winter 2021-2022 Call Agenda



- What to Report
- Winter Precipitation Types
- Snow Measurement
- Winter 2021-2022 Outlook



Question/Answer Session
Afterwards



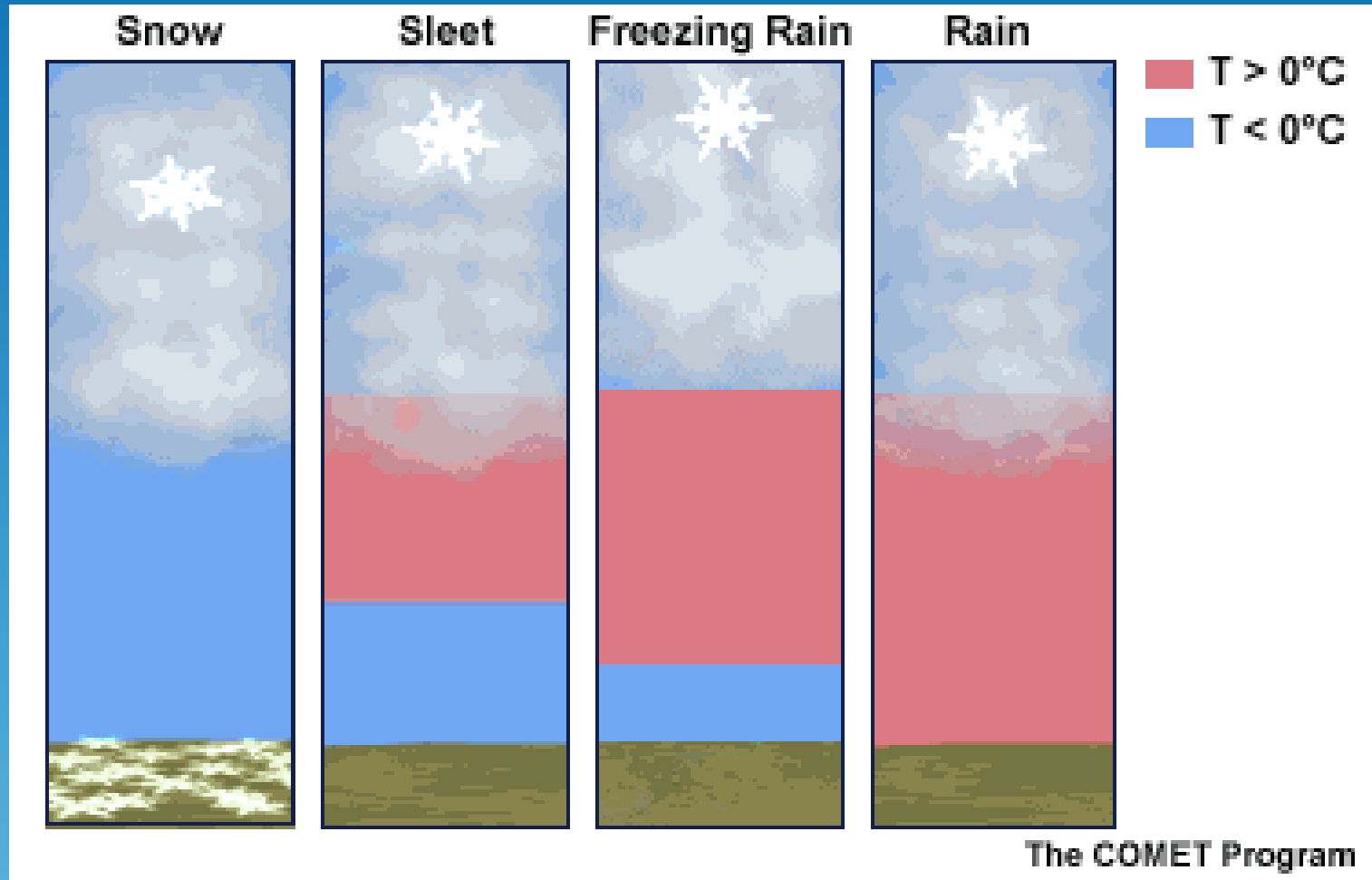
What to Report

- Type of precipitation
- When it started
- When it changes (rain to snow)
- Measurement



Report to us as quickly as possible...as we can use your data to adjust our forecasts and graphics “on the fly”

Winter Precipitation Types



Depends on the depth of the **WARM LAYER**

Snow

- Use an NWS “snow stick”
- Or a yardstick/ruler
- Measured in tenths of an inch
(0.1, 1.8, 4.6)



Snow

- Select a flat, grassy location
- Make sure you're away from structures and trees
- Take at least 5 measurements and average them
- If possible, please provide us with a measurement **DURING** the event
- Then send a **STORM TOTAL** afterwards

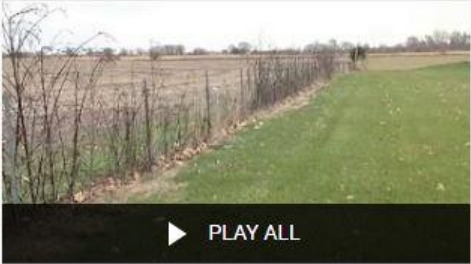


Snow

Much more information on the **SWOP Training Page**

<https://www.weather.gov/ilx/swop-training>

Including **TIPS** and several **YouTube** demonstration videos




▶ PLAY ALL

Supplemental Weather Observer Program (SWOP)

5 videos • 651 views • Last updated on Oct 31, 2020






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This playlist will contain training materials and informational segments for the ILX SWOP Program.



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SUBSCRIBE

-  **SWOP Part 1**
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7:43
-  **SWOP Part 2**
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-  **SWOP Part 3**
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-  **SWOP Part 4**
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5:07
-  **Winter 2020-2021 Outlook**
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10:53

Sleet

- Tiny balls of ice that bounce upon impact with surfaces
- Typically does not last long
- But can occasionally produce significant accumulations
- Measure using a ruler



Freezing Rain

- A slick glaze of ice
- Use a ruler
- Measure ice accumulation on a branch or on top of a flat surface
- Measured in tenths of an inch, but we can do the math ($1/16'' = 0.1$)



Rain

- Use an official NWS gauge
- Or your backyard gauge
- Measured in hundredths of an inch (0.06, 0.57, 1.31)

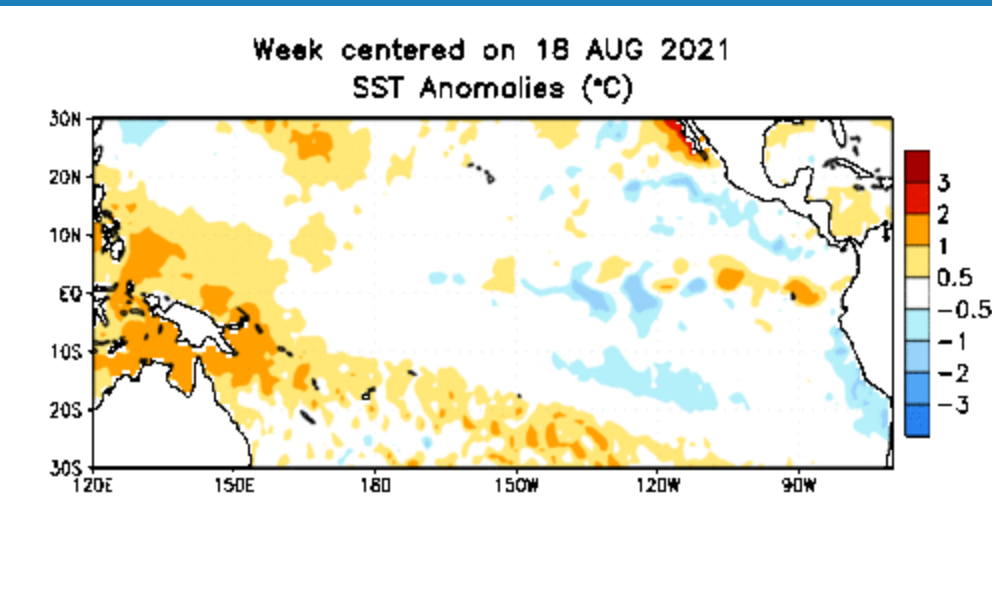
If you'd like one of our gauges, go to:
<https://weatheryourway.com/>

Makes a great Christmas present!



Winter 2021-2022 Outlook

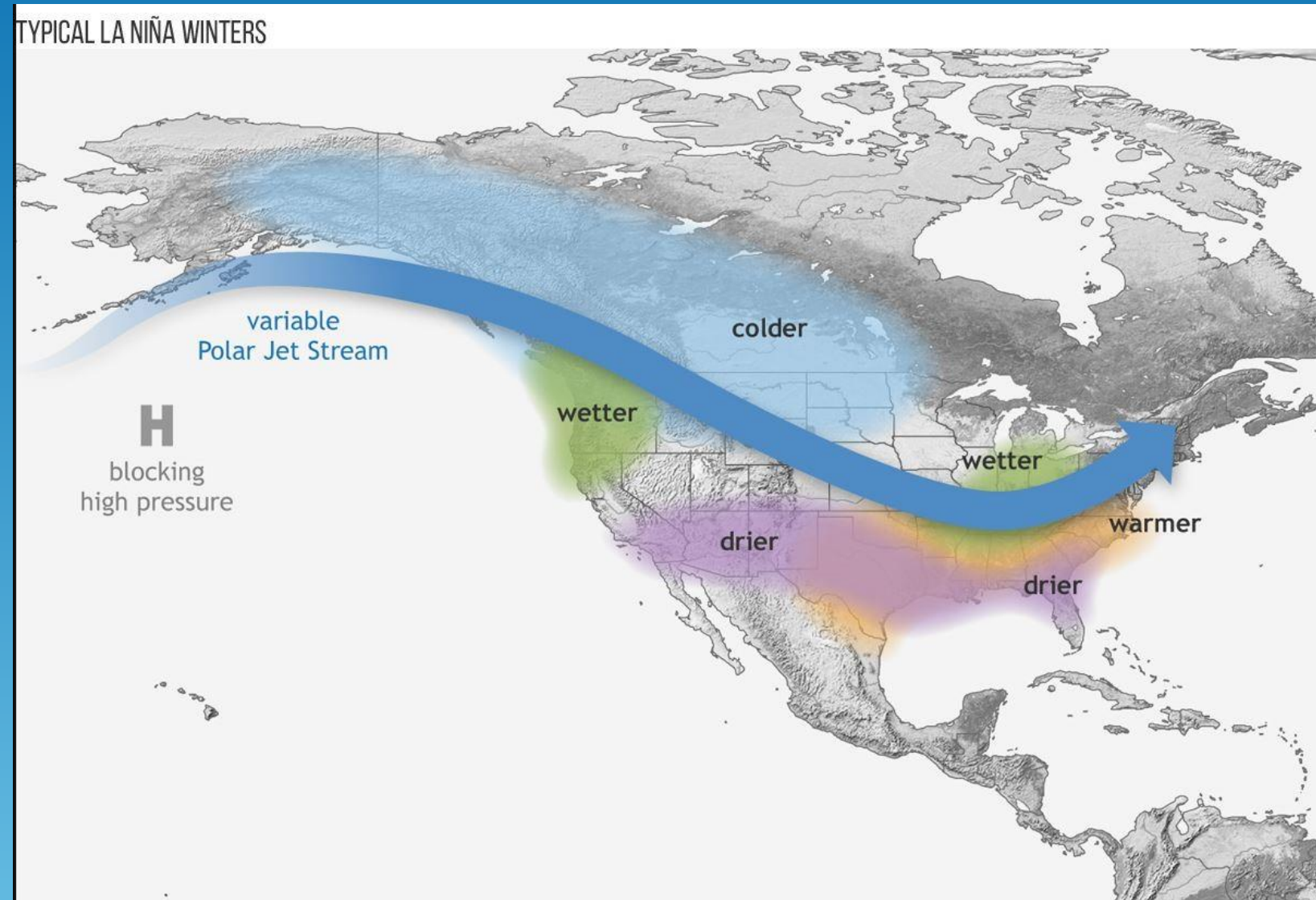
We're heading into a **La Nina** winter



The correlation between La Nina and Midwest winter weather is weak and varies from event to event

Other shorter-term atmospheric oscillations will largely drive our weather

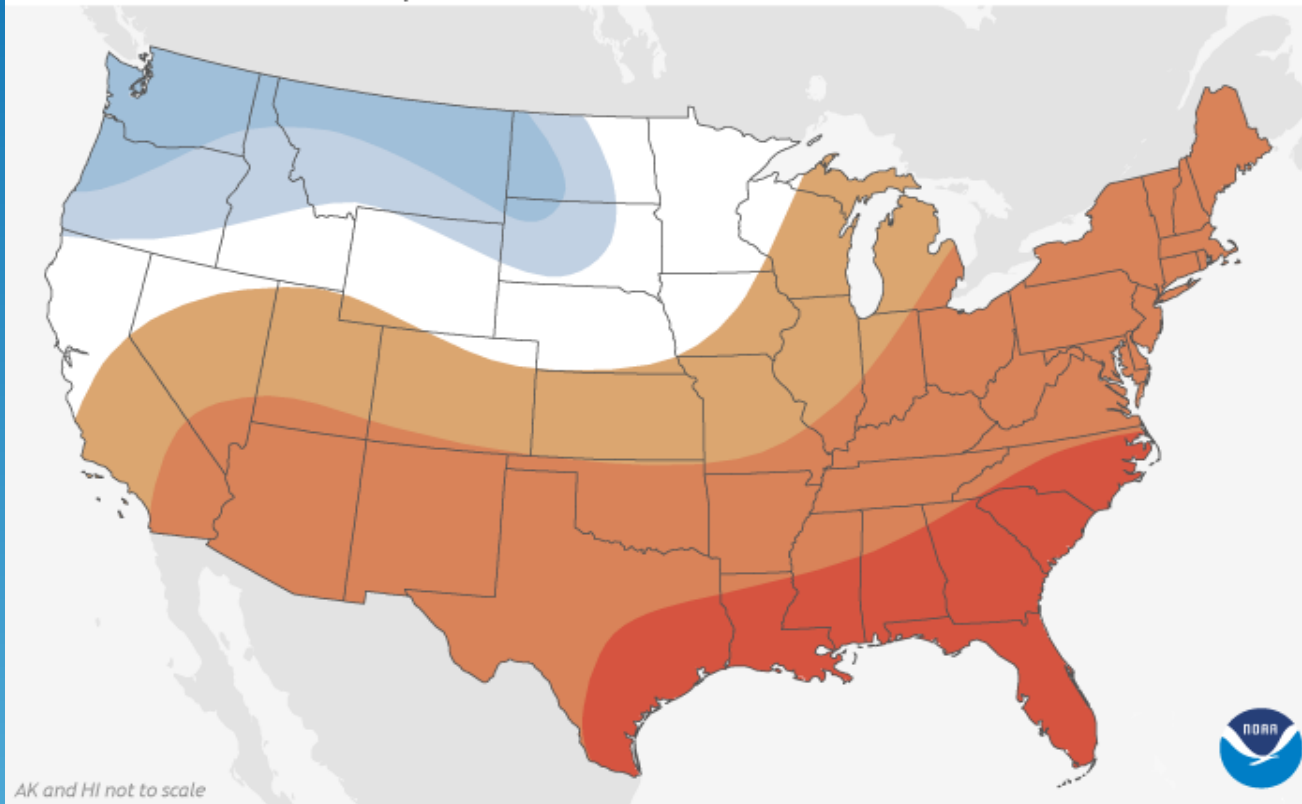
Typical La Nina Winter Pattern



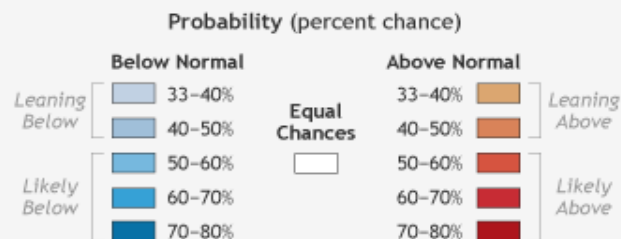
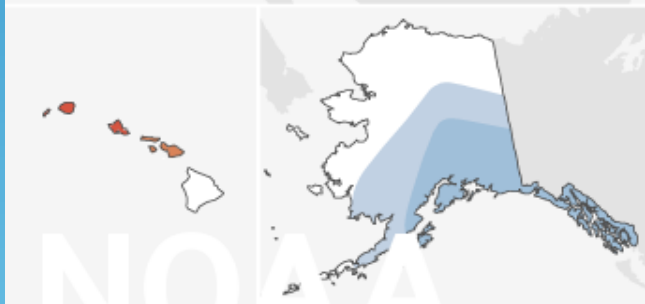
Winter 2021-2022 Outlook



Winter 2021: U.S. Temperature Outlook



AK and HI not to scale



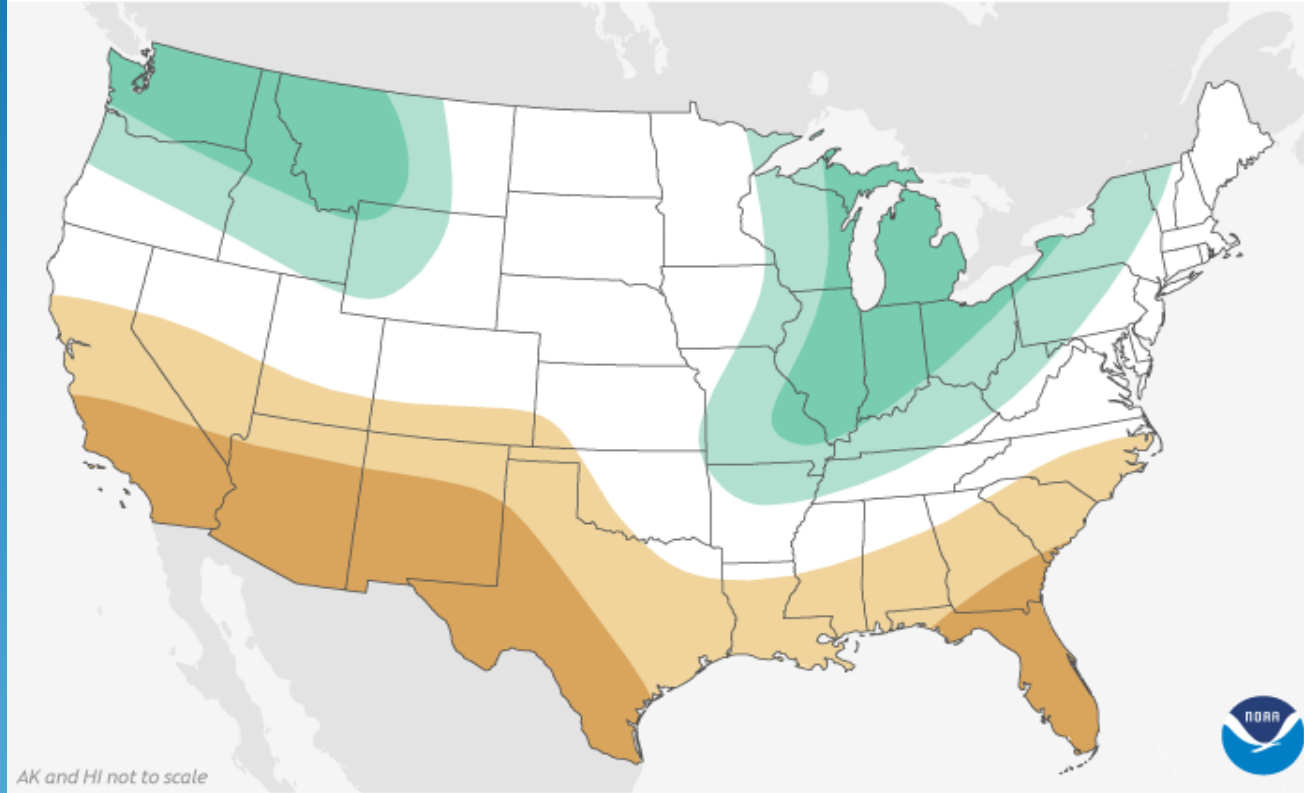
Temperature Outlook
for December 2021 - February 2022
Issued 21 October 2021

NWS Climate Prediction Center
Map by NOAA Climate.gov

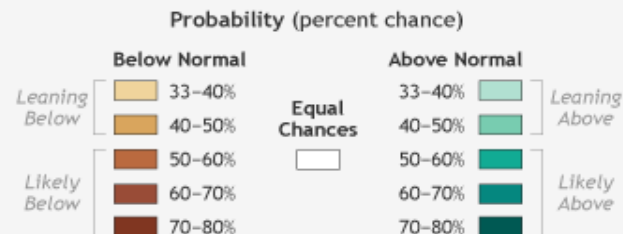
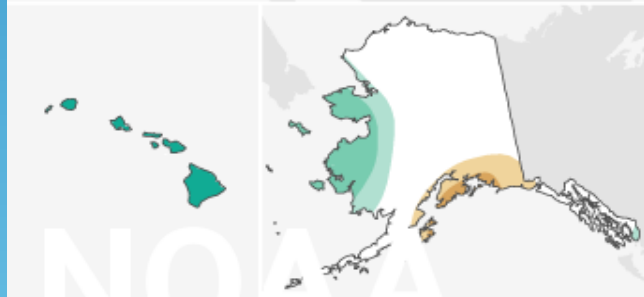
Winter 2021-2022 Outlook



Winter 2021: U.S. Precipitation Outlook



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Precipitation Outlook
for December 2021 - February 2022
Issued 21 October 2021

NWS Climate Prediction Center
Map by NOAA Climate.gov

The Bottom Line

- Overall **warmer** and **wetter** conditions anticipated
- Does NOT imply a mild winter...as plenty of “ups and downs” will occur
- There will be heavy snow and ice events...so the main take-away is to be prepared for anything



Questions?

