

The Month In Review

February 2021

National Weather Service
Pendleton, Oregon

Photo: Heavy snow at Pendleton, Oregon

February 2021, Climate Summary

February 2021 can be described as a month of variable weather conditions, ranging from record high temperatures at the start of the month, to an arctic intrusion during the middle of the month (mainly during the Valentines weekend from Feb 12th – 15th). Overall, the month averaged mostly colder than normal due to that arctic intrusion, and snowier than normal from the heavy snow that fell during the middle of the month. During Valentines weekend, Pendleton, OR recorded nearly 21 inches of snow accumulation, and the Blue Mountains received an upslope snow event which dumped several feet of snow from Meacham to Tollgate, OR. However, even with the arctic intrusion, there were only a handful of record low temperatures reported, suggesting that it could have been much colder and that it was not a particularly strong arctic blast of cold air. There were also a couple high wind events and a day with a station reporting a record high temperature on the 5th of the month. Below are some photos of the typical conditions that were experienced during February 2021.



Nearly 17 inches of fresh snow in Pendleton, OR from the 12th – 15th.



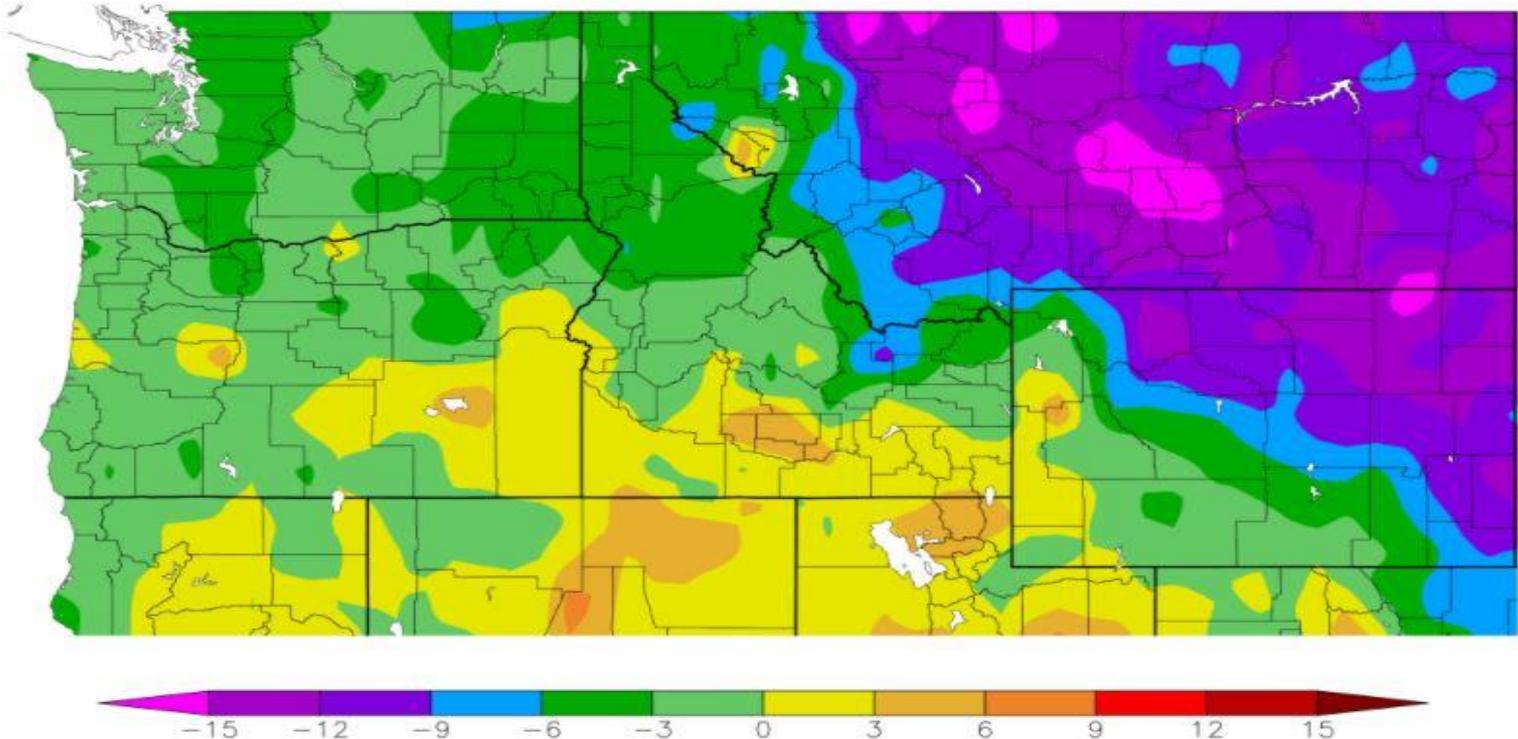
Snow covered trees during the evening sunset in the OR Blue Mountains.



A rare early morning rainbow over Pendleton, OR.

February 2021, Departure from Normal of Average Temperatures

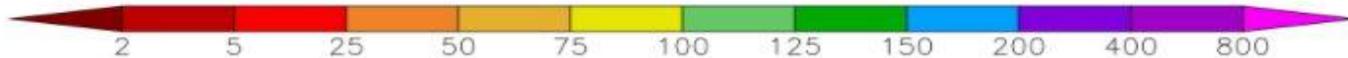
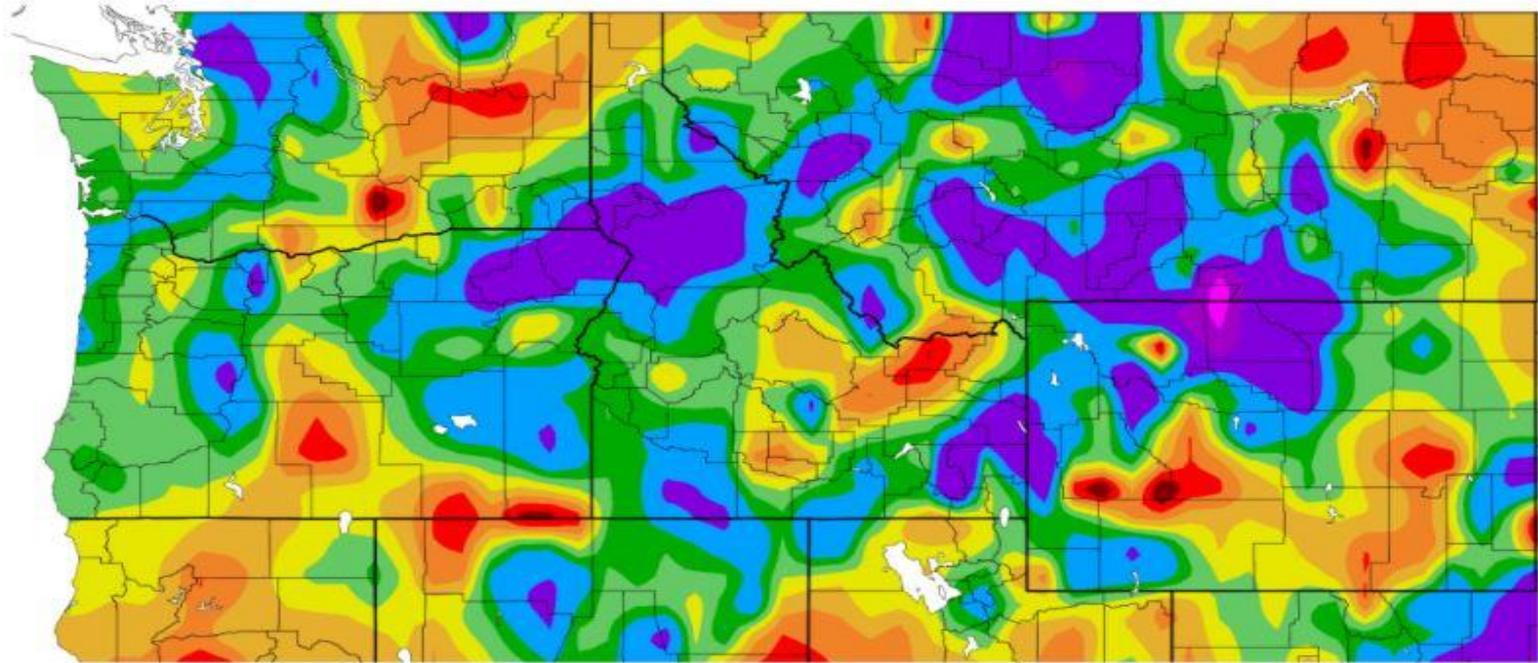
Departure from Normal Temperature (F)
2/1/2021 – 2/28/2021



Just about all the forecast area (NE Oregon/SE Washington) had slightly below normal temperatures, overall, for February. There was a small portion of north central Oregon where temperatures were near to slightly above normal. The coldest locations were in the Washington Cascades and the eastern - northeast mountains.

February 2021, Percent of Normal of the Average Precipitation

Percent of Normal Precipitation (%)
2/1/2021 – 2/28/2021



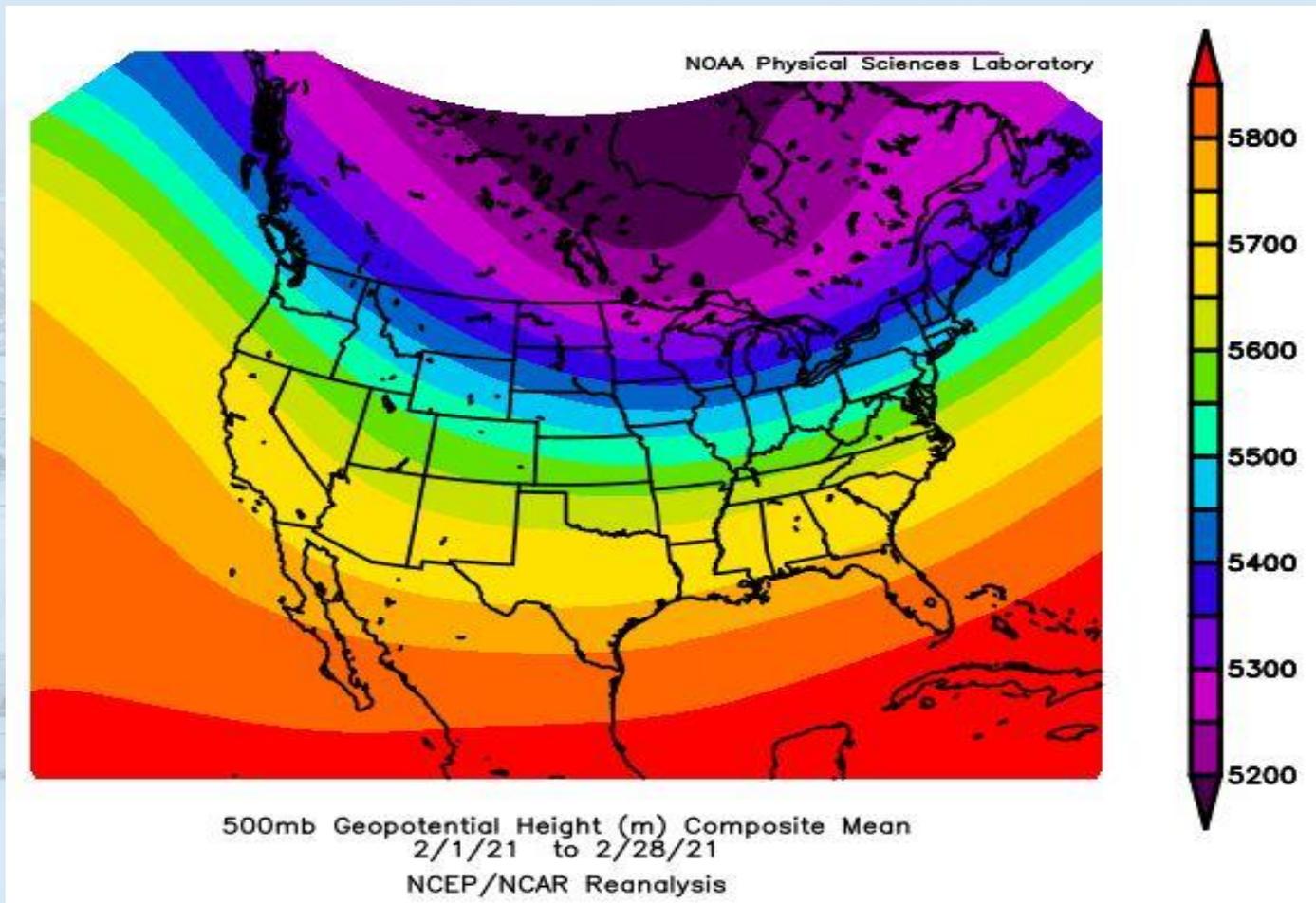
There was a wide variability in the percent of normal precipitation over the forecast area (central-NE Oregon and south central – SE Washington). The northeast mountains had about 100-400 percent of normal precipitation, as well as the Oregon Cascades. Most of the rest of forecast area had a negative percent of normal (below normal) precipitation in February 2021.

February 2021, Departures from Normal Averages/Sums for Select Cites

	Max T	Max T D	Min T	Min T D	Ave T	Ave T D	PCPN	PCPN D
Yakima	44.2	-2.1	25.4	-0.5	34.8	-1.3	0.94	0.16
Kennewick	44.6	-3.4	29.4	-1.3	37.0	-2.3	1.84	1.06
Walla Walla	40.5	-5.5	29.1	-3.1	34.8	-4.3	1.50	-0.26
The Dalles	46.1	-2.5	32.2	0.4	39.1	-0.8	0.98	-0.79
Redmond	45.6	-1.2	24.2	0.5	34.9	-0.3	0.44	-0.21
Pendleton Airport	41.9	-4.9	28.1	-2.2	35.0	-3.5	2.11	1.00
La Grande	38.3	-4.6	23.8	-2.1	31.2	-3.2	0.00	-1.14
John Day	45.2	-2.2	27.5	2.7	36.4	0.3	1.74	1.00

All the mean maximum temperatures shown above were below normal for the month. The coldest was at Walla Walla, WA with an average maximum of -5.5 degrees from normal. There was close to an even split for the mean minimum temperatures, with the coldest being at Walla Walla, WA by -3.1 degrees, and the warmest at John Day with 2.7 degrees above normal. All stations in the list, except for John Day OR, had below normal mean averages. There was about an even split for the departures from normal precipitation.

February 2021 Average 500 MB Weather Pattern

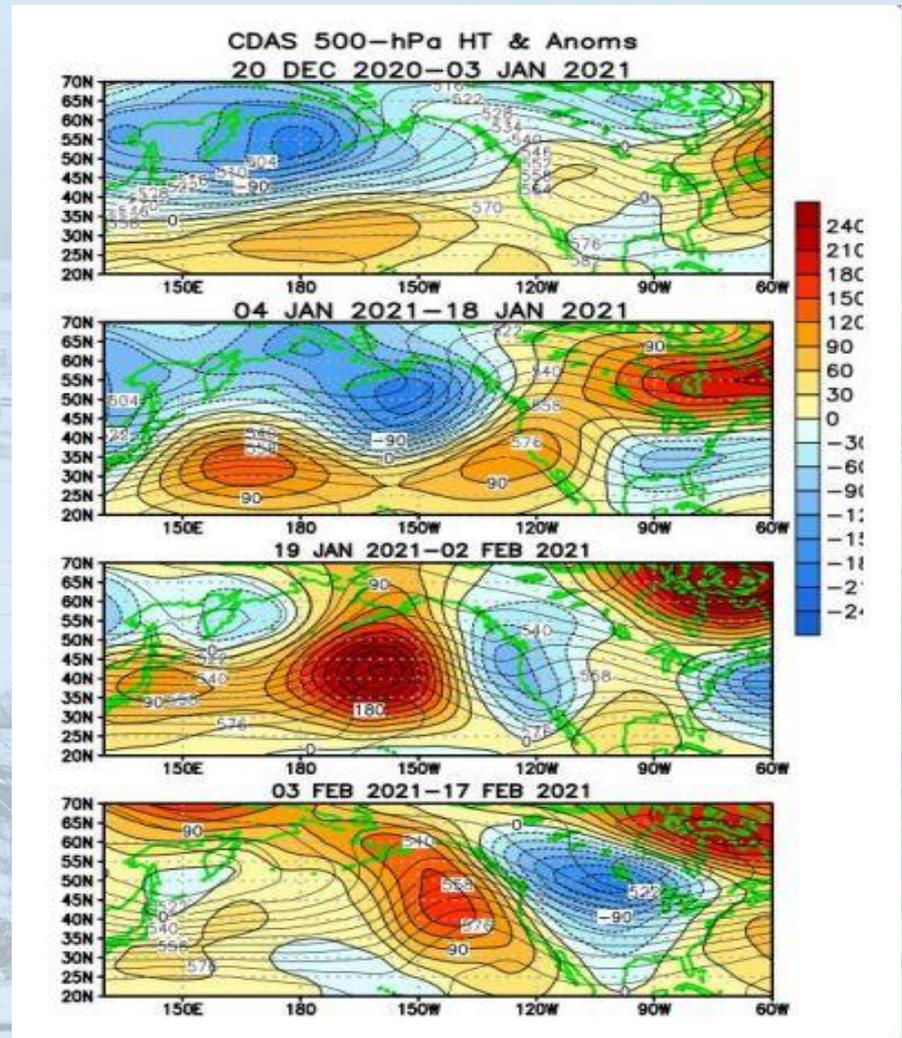


The average 500 MB pattern was an overall northwest flow over the Pacific Northwest and the forecast Area. This is likely what caused the overall below normal temperatures for the month, though there were some warm days which helped keep the average temperatures not too distant from normal. The northwest flow also likely resulted in good orographic lift into the NE mountains to produce heavy snow.

More Detailed 500 MB Plots for February 2021

These are more detailed semi-monthly average 500 mb pattern plots, which were from the following periods: 20th Dec 2020 through 17th of February 2021.

The land boundaries are shown in green. Yellow and orange colors represent areas of high pressure at 500 mb and the cooler shades of blue color show areas of low pressure at 500 mb.



During the latter part of December through mid January, the 500 mb pattern was mostly an upper ridge over the western USA. Then from January 19th through February 17th (the bottom two images) there was either an upper trough or a northwest flow over the region, which is also a likely reason that February had mostly slightly below normal temperatures.

Significant Weather Events for February 2021

Significant Weather Events				
Event	Date	Report	Where	Source
Snow	February 3, 2021	M 1.8 inches	2 S Bend, OR	CoCoRaHs
Snow	February 3, 2021	M 2.2 inches	2 W Bend, OR	CoCoRaHs
Snow	February 3, 2021	M 2.5 inches	1 WSW Bend, OR	CoCoRaHs
Snow	February 3, 2021	M 3.5 inches	12 SW Three Rivers, OR	CoCoRaHs
Snow	February 3, 2021	M 3.9 inches	18 N White Salmon, WA	CoCoRaHs
Snow	February 3, 2021	M 1.5 inches	2 WNW Sisters, OR	CoCoRaHs
Snow	February 3, 2021	M 3.5 inches	5 NNW La Pine, OR	Trained Spotter
Non-TSTM Wind Gust	February 6, 2021	M 47 mph	2 SE Kennewick, WA	Trained Spotter
Non-TSTM Wind Gust	February 6, 2021	M 64 mph	3 WSW Rufus, OR	Meso-Net
Non-TSTM Wind Gust	February 6, 2021	M 63 mph	2 NW Wasco, OR	Meso-Net
Non-TSTM Wind Gust	February 6, 2021	M 61 mph	2 NNW Pendleton, OR	ASOS
Non-TSTM Wind Gust	February 6, 2021	M 61 mph	1 E Hermiston, OR	ASOS
Snow	February 11, 2021	M 2.1 inches	2 NW Pendleton, OR	Official NWS Ob
Snow	February 11, 2021	M 2.5 inches	3 N Bend, OR	Media
Snow	February 12, 2021	M 3.5 inches	1 SW The Dalles, OR	Amateur Radio
Snow	February 12, 2021	M 3.0 inches	25 SW Dayville, OR	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 7.0 inches	9 S Hardman, OR	Dept of Highways
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 4.0 inches	5 S Pendleton, OR	Dept of Highways
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 4.9 inches	4 ENE Thorp, WA	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 4.0 inches	9 ENE Gateway, OR	Dept of Highways
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 4.0 inches	Shaniko, OR	Dept of Highways
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	M 4.0 inches	4 ESE Pilot Rock, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	M 10.0 inches	5 ENE Appleton, WA	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	M 5.0 inches	Heppner, OR	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	M 7.0 inches	4 ESE Mosier, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	M 11.0 inches	4 ENE White Salmon, WA	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	M 9.7 inches	1 S Snowden, WA	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 7.0 inches	1 WNW Starkey, OR	Dept of Highways
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	M 4.0 inches	5 SE Appleton, WA	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 6.0 inches	Pendleton, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 5.0 inches	WNW Ione, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 6.0 inches	5 SE Stanfield, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	M 4.5 inches	1 SW The Dalles, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 4.5 inches	W Mayville, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 6.0 inches	Cle Elum, WA	Public
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 4.0 inches	4 ESE Walla Walla, WA	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 5.0 inches	Walla Walla, WA	Newspaper Media
Snow	February 12, 2021	M 5.0 inches	Trout Lake, WA	Co-Op

Significant Weather Events for February 2021 (cont.)

Significant Weather Events (continued)				
Event	Date	Report	Where	Source
Snow	February 12, 2021	M 5.0 inches	19 N White Salmon, WA	Co-Op
Snow	February 12, 2021	M 2.5 inches	2 E Kennewick, WA	Public
Snow	February 12, 2021	M 3.1 inches	2 N Hermiston, OR	Trained Spotter
Snow	February 12, 2021	M 4.5 inches	2 WNW Yakima, WA	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	E 8.0 inches	13 SSW Lexington, OR	Public
Snow	February 12, 2021	U 5.0 inches	Goldendale, WA	Public
Snow	February 12, 2021	U 4.0 inches	W Yakima, WA	Public
Heavy Snow	February 12, 2021	U 7.0 inches	SE Joseph, OR	Public
Snow	February 12, 2021	M 4.8 inches	NE Walla Walla, WA	Public
Snow	February 12, 2021	E 4.5 inches	Walla Walla, WA	Public
Snow	February 13, 2021	M 5.0 inches	2 SE Kennewick, WA	Co-Op
Snow	February 13, 2021	M 5.0 inches	1 SW The Dalles, OR	Amateur Radio
Snow	February 13, 2021	M 7.0 inches	25 SW Dayville, OR	Trained Spotter
Snow	February 13, 2021	E 2.0 inches	10.4 NNE Three Rivers, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 6.0 inches	Pendleton, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	U 5.0 inches	Prosser, WA	Public
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 6.0 inches	Richland, WA	Public
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 5.5 inches	5 NNE La Grande, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 7.0 inches	Kennewick, WA	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 4.5 inches	1 NNE Richland, WA	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 6.0 inches	Kennewick, WA	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 6.0 inches	Hermiston, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	E 6.0 inches	Union, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	E 8.0 inches	Helix, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 5.5 inches	W. Kennewick, WA	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 6.4 inches	Cove, OR	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 5.0 inches	9 WNW Ruggs, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 5.1 inches	4 ENE Thorp, WA	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 10.5 inches	SSE Prosser, WA	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 6.0 inches	Heppner, OR	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	E 8.5 inches	5 ENE Walla Walla, WA	Public
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 8.0 inches	2 SSW Camp Sherman, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	E 10.0 inches	13 W Pine Grove, OR	Dept of Highways
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 4.0 inches	2 WNW Bend, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 4.0 inches	5 NNW Bend, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 10.0 inches	2 SSE Pendleton, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 13.0 inches	4 ESE Pilot Rock, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 9.0 inches	4 WSW Kennewick, WA	Public

Significant Weather Events for February 2021 (cont.)

Significant Weather Events (continued)				
Event	Date	Report	Where	Source
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	E 11.0 inches	6 W Yakima, WA	Public
Snow	February 13, 2021	M 5.1 inches	1 S Snowden, WA	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 6.0 inches	1 SE Spray, OR	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 13, 2021	M 5.0 inches	Union, OR	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 14, 2021	M 13.0 inches	2 WSW Hermiston, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 14, 2021	M 10.0 inches	Richland, WA	Public
Heavy Snow	February 14, 2021	M 9.7 inches	Umatilla, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 14, 2021	M 14.5 inches	Pendleton, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 14.0 inches	1 N Kennewick, WA	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 19.0 inches	13 SE Mission, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 12.0 inches	Dayton, WA	Public
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	U 12.0 inches	Milton-Freewater, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 16.0 inches	La Grande, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 6.0 inches	La Grande, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 6.0 inches	5 ENE Appleton, WA	Public
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 8.0 inches	7 ENE Paulina, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 4.0 inches	NE Hermiston, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 7.2 inches	10 SW Pendleton, OR	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 8.0 inches	Pendleton, OR	Official NWS Ob
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 7.0 inches	Athena, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 11.0 inches	9 SW Ski Bluewood, WA	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 11.0 inches	5 SSW Spout Springs, OR	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 6.5 inches	2 SE Dayton, WA	Co-Op
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 5.8 inches	12 SSE Canyon City, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 4.6 inches	7 NE White Salmon, WA	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 5.4 inches	4 ENE White Salmon, WA	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 4.5 inches	WNW White Salmon, WA	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 10.0 inches	2 SSE Snoqualmie Pass, WA	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 15, 2021	M 10.0 inches	9 N Elgin, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 16, 2021	E 10.0 inches	22 E Milton-Freewater, OR	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 16, 2021	E 11.0 inches	12 NW Elgin, OR	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 16, 2021	E 10.0 inches	16 SE Mission, OR	Media
Heavy Snow	February 16, 2021	U 18.0 inches	1 SW Pendleton, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 17, 2021	M 20.0 inches	Ski Bluewood, WA	Public
Snow	February 18, 2021	M 4.0 inches	Maupin, OR	Trained Spotter
Snow	February 23, 2021	E 5.5 inches	4 NNW Island City, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	M 7.0 inches	9 N Elgin, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	M 8.0 inches	5 NNE La Grande, OR	Trained Spotter

Significant Weather Events for February 2021 (cont.)

Significant Weather Events (continued)				
Event	Date	Report	Where	Source
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	E 14.0 inches	38 W White Salmon, WA	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	M 11.0 inches	9 SW Ski Bluewood, WA	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	E 12.0 inches	5 SW Spout Springs, OR	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	E 20.0 inches	20 N Roslyn, WA	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	M 8.0 inches	Cove, OR	Public
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	E 7.0 inches	14 SSW La Grande, OR	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	E 14.0 inches	30 W Tieton, WA	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	E 6.0 inches	18 ENE Seneca, WA	Public
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	E 12.0 inches	28 WNW Tieton, WA	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 26, 2021	E 6.0 inches	18 ENE Seneca, OR	Meso-Net
None-TSTM Wind Gust	February 26, 2021	M 62 mph	10 ENE Goldendale, WA	Meso-Net
None-TSTM Wind Gust	February 26, 2021	M 62 mph	8 NW W. Richland, WA	Meso-Net
None-TSTM Wind Gust	February 26, 2021	M 59 mph	6 SE Sisters, OR	Meso-Net
None-TSTM Wind Gust	February 26, 2021	M 58 mph	17 NW Warm Springs, OR	Meso-Net
None-TSTM Wind Gust	February 26, 2021	M 58 mph	5 ENE Rufus, OR	Meso-Net
Heavy Snow	February 27, 2021	M 15.0 inches	Ski Bluewood, WA	Public
Snow	February 27, 2021	M 5.0 inches	SSE Joseph, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 27, 2021	M 11.9 inches	9 N Elgin, OR	CoCoRaHs
Snow	February 27, 2021	M 5.0 inches	4 NW Meacham, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 27, 2021	M 6.3 inches	2 SW Wallowa, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 27, 2021	M 9.2 inches	12 SSW Canyon City, OR	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 27, 2021	M 12.0 inches	2 SSE Snoqualmie, Pass, WA	CoCoRaHs
Heavy Snow	February 27, 2021	U 10.2 inches	Cove, OR	Public
Snow	February 27, 2021	E 5.0 inches	2 NNE Starkey, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 27, 2021	E 12.0 inches	SSE Granite, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 27, 2021	E 7.0 inches	4 NNW Wallowa, OR	Trained Spotter
Heavy Snow	February 27, 2021	M 9.2 inches	9 NW Seneca, OR	Trained Spotter

During the month of February, there were several significant winter weather events. At the beginning of the month there was a snow event on the 3rd, a wind event on the 6th, and a heavy snow event during the Valentines weekend (Feb 12-15), with arctic air. Then there was a heavy upslope snow event on the 16th-17th in the Blue Mountains. The month ended with another winter storm event and a wind event from Feb 26th-27th.

Record Weather Event Reports for February 2021

Record Weather Reports					
Event	Date	Where	Previous Record	New Record	Records Began
High Temp	February 5, 2021	Yakima, WA	61 / 2018	61 (Tied)	1909
Low Temp	February 11, 2021	Walla Walla, WA	18 / 1989	18 (Tied)	1930
Low Temp	February 12, 2021	Pelton, Dam, OR	16 / 1990	16 (Tied)	1958
Low Temp	February 12, 2021	The Dalles, OR	20 / 2019	19	1929
Low Temp	February 12, 2021	Whitman Mission, WA	18 / 2006	15	1962
Low Temp	February 13, 2021	Pelton, Dam, OR	15 / 2018	13	1958
High Snowfall	February 13, 2021	Pendleton, OR	3.0 / 1937	4.1	1934
Low Temp	February 13, 2021	Satus Pass, WA	10 / 1995	8	1967
Low Temp	February 13, 2021	Whitman Mission, WA	17 / 1986	15	1962
Low Temp	February 14, 2021	Meacham, OR	4 / 2005	3	1929
High Snowfall	February 14, 2021	Pendleton, OR	1.8 / 2018	4.5	1934
High Snowfall	February 15, 2021	Heppner, OR	1.5 / 1976	4.0	1889
High Snowfall	February 15, 2021	Kennewick, WA	5.0 / 1933	5.0 (Tied)	1884
High Snowfall	February 15, 2021	Pendleton, OR	3.0 / 1937	4.1	1934

Except for one record high temperature reported on the 5th, all the record reports were either record low temperatures or record high snowfall amounts. These occurred mostly during the period February 12th – 15th when an arctic air mass moved south into the Pacific Northwest. Several Pacific weather systems moved across the region in a southwest flow aloft, up and over the dome of cold arctic air over most of the forecast area. The coldest record low temperature occurred on the 14th, at Meacham, OR with a record low temperature of 3 degrees F. Most of the record snowfall reports occurred during the Valentines weekend winter storms (February 13th – 15th), of which there were 3 episodes of moderate to heavy snow over the forecast area.

February 2021, Observed Monthly Max & Min Temperatures

Location	Highest Maximum Temperature	Lowest Minimum Temperature
Pendleton, OR	62	6
Redmond, OR	61	10
Pasco, WA	64	6
Yakima, WA	61	9
Walla Walla, WA	63	9
Bend, OR	55	6
Ellensburg, WA	54	12
Hermiston, OR	67	11
John Day, OR	63	14
La Grande, OR	53	7
The Dalles, OR	58	18
MT Adams RS, WA	47	13

Most stations in the list had a monthly maximum temperature in the 50s or 60s, except for the Mt. Adams Ranger Station, which had a monthly maximum of only 47 degrees. Lowest minimum temperatures ranged from 6 degrees at Pendleton OR, Pasco WA, and Bend OR to 18 degrees at The Dalles OR. These monthly maximums and minimums are not uncommon to occur during the month of February.

February 2021, Observed Monthly Precipitation and Snowfall/Hail Totals

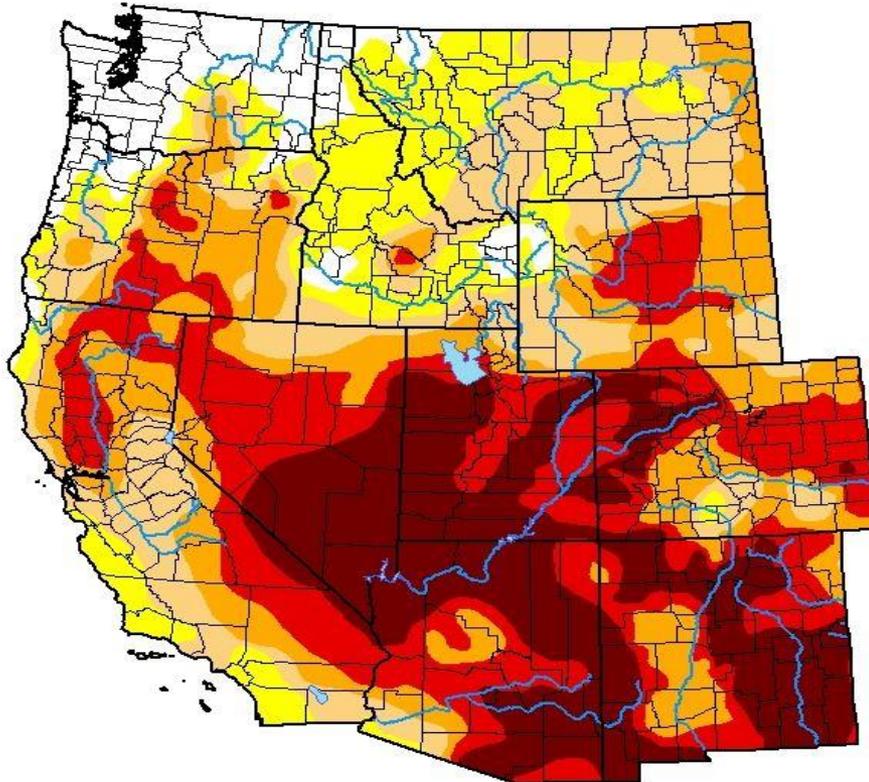
Location	Total Monthly Precipitation (inches)	Total Snowfall/Hail (inches)
Pendleton, OR	2.11	20.8
Redmond, OR	0.44	M
Pasco, WA	0.65	M
Yakima, WA	0.94	M
Walla Walla, WA	1.50	M
Bend, OR	0.61	2.1
Ellensburg, WA	0.93	M
Hermiston, OR	0.31	M
John Day, OR (RAWS)	1.74	M
La Grande, OR	T	M
The Dalles, OR	0.98	M
Mt Adams RS, WA	2.23	10.0

The greatest precipitation amount was at Pendleton, OR with a total of 2.11 inches of liquid equivalent precipitation. The least was at La Grande, OR with only a trace of precipitation. Most other stations ranged from a half inch to an inch and a half. Snowfall amounts were only available for three stations, with Pendleton, OR receiving the most snowfall (20.8 inches for the month), followed by 10.0 inches at the Mt. Adams Ranger Station, and 2.1 inches at Bend, OR (which is rather low for Bend, OR for February).

February 2021 - Drought Monitor

U.S. Drought Monitor West

February 23, 2021
(Released Thursday, Feb. 25, 2021)
Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	7.35	92.65	78.93	61.18	42.13	20.43
Last Week <i>02-16-2021</i>	7.24	92.76	79.30	62.00	43.09	19.47
3 Months Ago <i>11-24-2020</i>	11.06	88.94	75.60	60.85	44.08	19.48
Start of Calendar Year <i>12-29-2020</i>	11.57	88.43	78.63	65.18	46.49	22.16
Start of Water Year <i>09-29-2020</i>	8.51	91.49	76.07	54.55	33.11	2.31
One Year Ago <i>02-25-2020</i>	53.17	46.83	20.48	3.02	0.00	0.00

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 <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

Author:

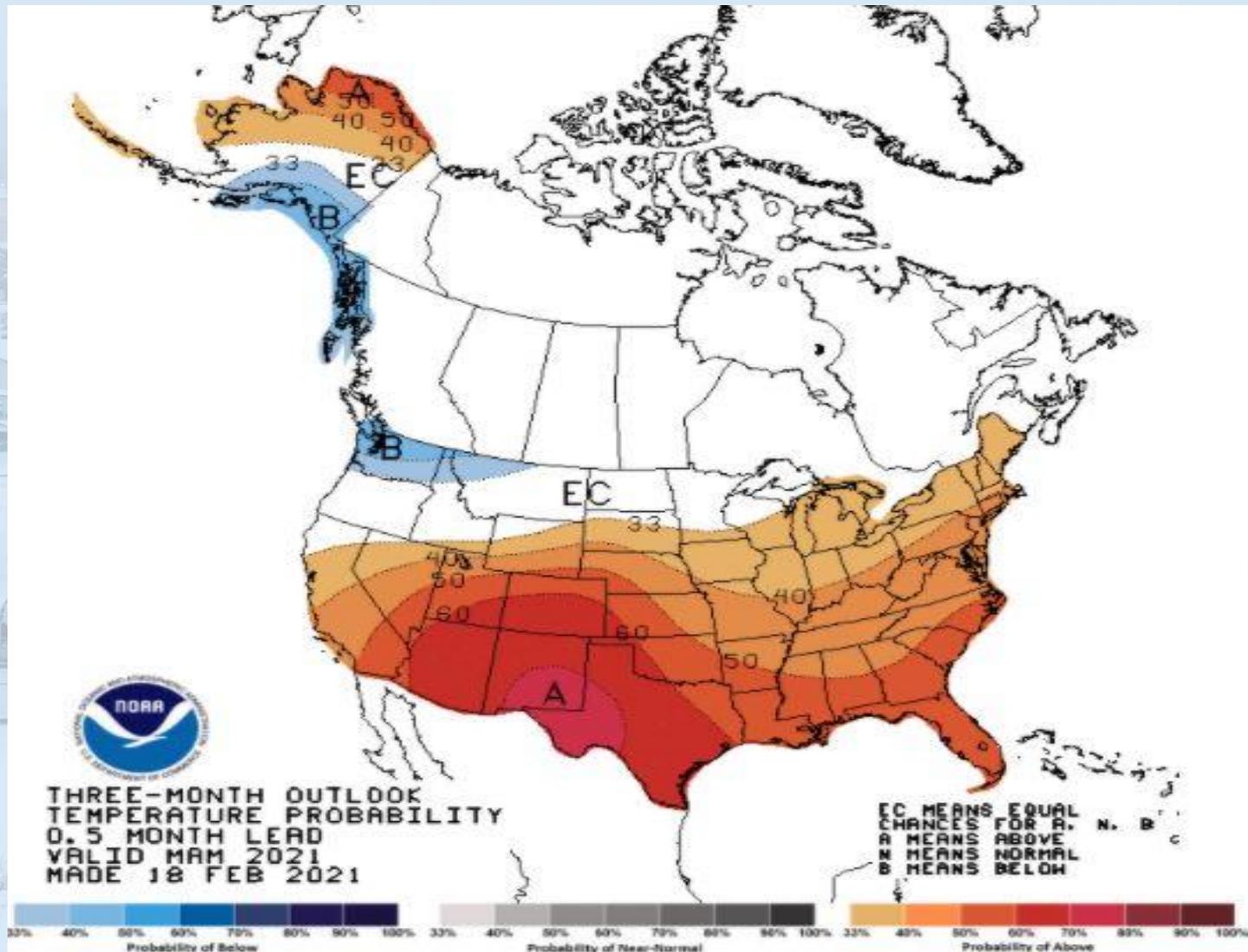
David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



droughtmonitor.unl.edu

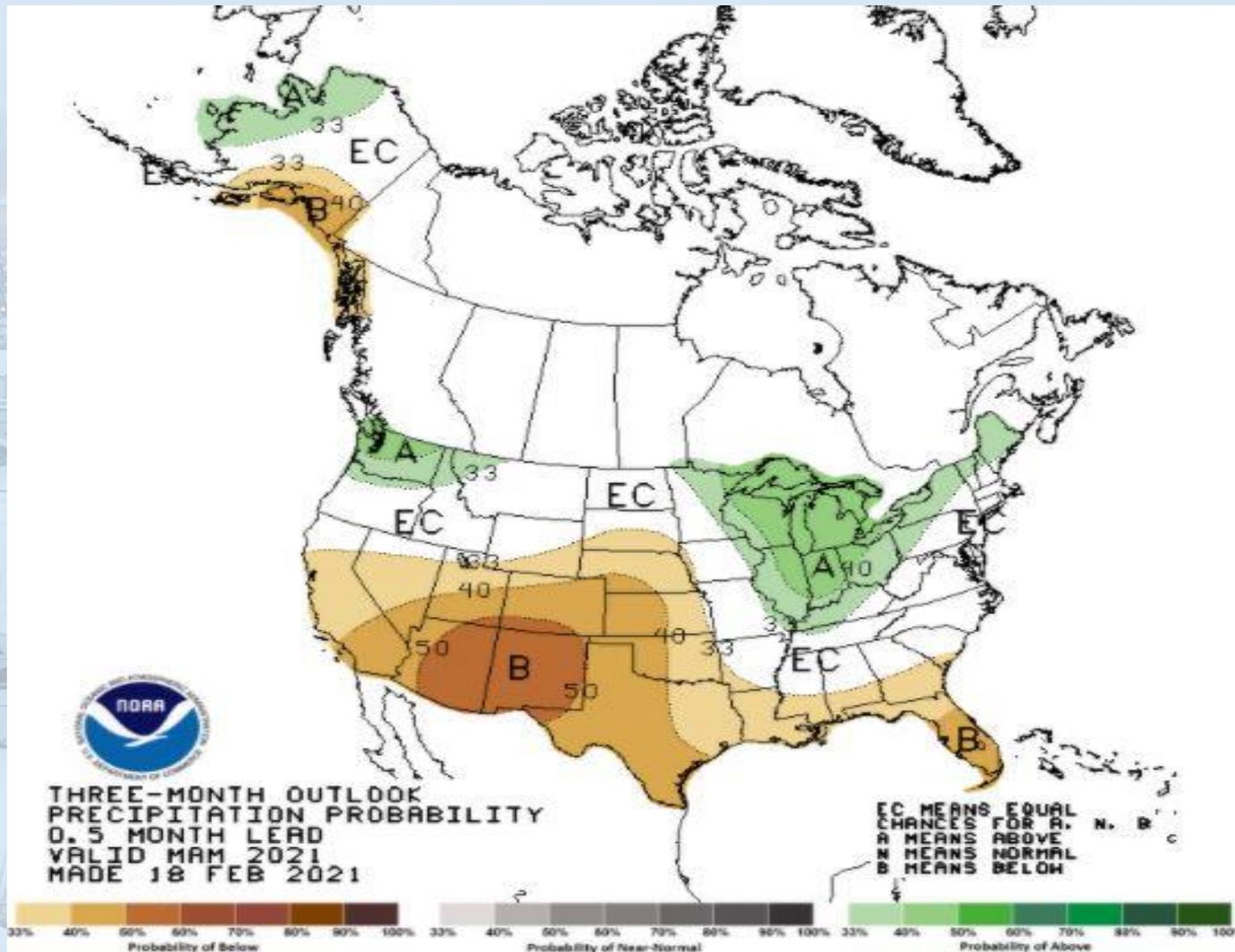
As of February 23rd, most of northeast OR and southeast WA had drought conditions greater than “D0” (none, or no drought)., The areas which were the driest were in the central OR Cascade east slopes and adjacent valleys/lower elevations to the east. The northern Blue Mountains and the WA Cascades had a drought classification of “D0” or none (no drought).

USA Three Month Temperature Outlook



The temperature outlook for the next 3 months (March - May) are below normal over Washington, but equal chances of above or below normal for Oregon.

USA Three Month Precipitation Outlook

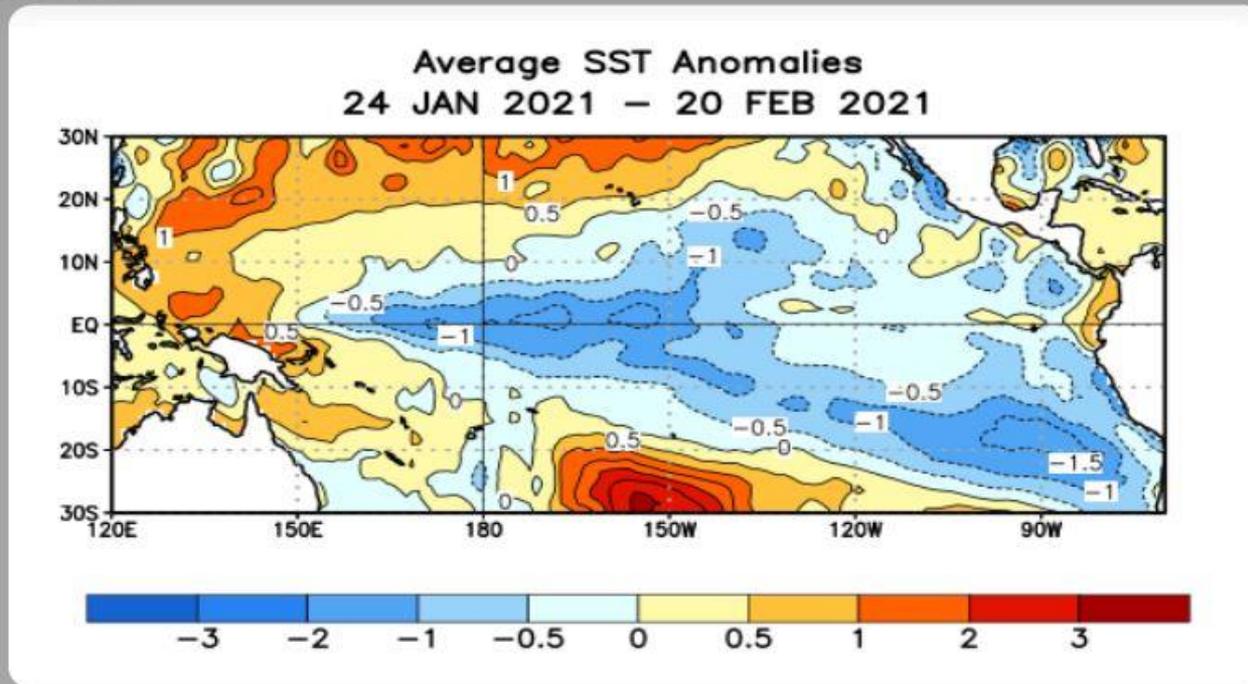


The precipitation outlook for the next 3 months (March - May) shows that Washington is expected to have above normal precipitation. Most of Oregon is expected to have equal chances of above or below normal precipitation, except for the northern border area with WA.

Average Sea Surface Temperature (SST) Anomalies for February 2021

SST Departures ($^{\circ}\text{C}$) in the Tropical Pacific During the Last Four Weeks

In the last four weeks, equatorial SSTs were mostly below average from the west-central Pacific to 135°W . Equatorial SSTs are near average in most of the eastern Pacific Ocean.



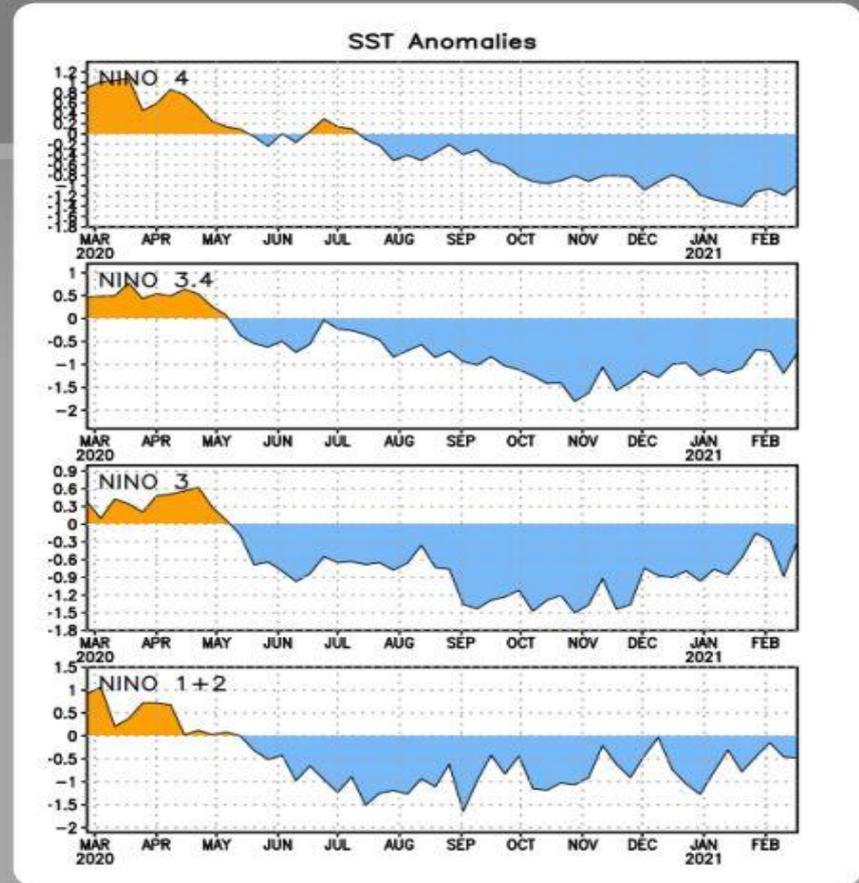
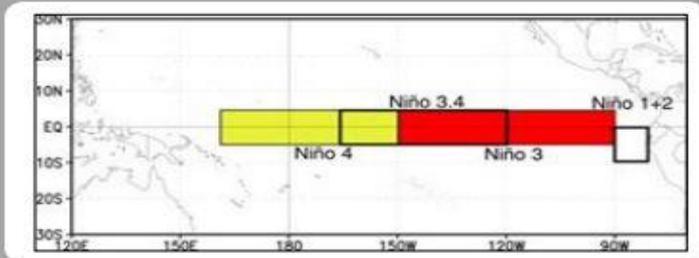
SSTs were still below average again in late January to late February. However, they were not as much below average in the eastern tropical Pacific as in previous months, or the central tropical Pacific. This could be a sign that the current La Nina event is weakening, and ENSO is becoming closer to neutral again, as was predicted through this past fall and winter.

El Nino/La Nina Regions, Showing SST Anomalies for Each Nino Region

Niño Region SST Departures (°C) Recent Evolution

The latest weekly SST departures are:

Niño 4	-1.0°C
Niño 3.4	-0.7°C
Niño 3	-0.3°C
Niño 1+2	-0.5°C



All Niño Regions are showing below normal SST's again during this past month; however, temperatures are not as below normal than before December - January 2021. This slight warming of the tropical eastern pacific is consistent with the La Nina event beginning to weaken.

Current ENSO (El Nino Southern Oscillation) Alert System Status

Summary

ENSO Alert System Status: **La Niña Advisory**

La Niña is present.*

Equatorial sea surface temperatures (SSTs) are below average from the west-central to eastern Pacific Ocean.

The tropical atmospheric circulation is consistent with La Niña.

There is a ~60% chance of a transition from La Niña to ENSO-Neutral during the Northern Hemisphere spring 2021 (April-June).*

The current ENSO status is still: “**La Nina Advisory**”, which is still in effect. However, now there is a 60 percent chance that conditions will transition from La Nina to ENSO-Neutral during this spring from April to June. This is consistent with the previous two slides that are showing some warming taking place in the eastern tropical Pacific.



Thank You!