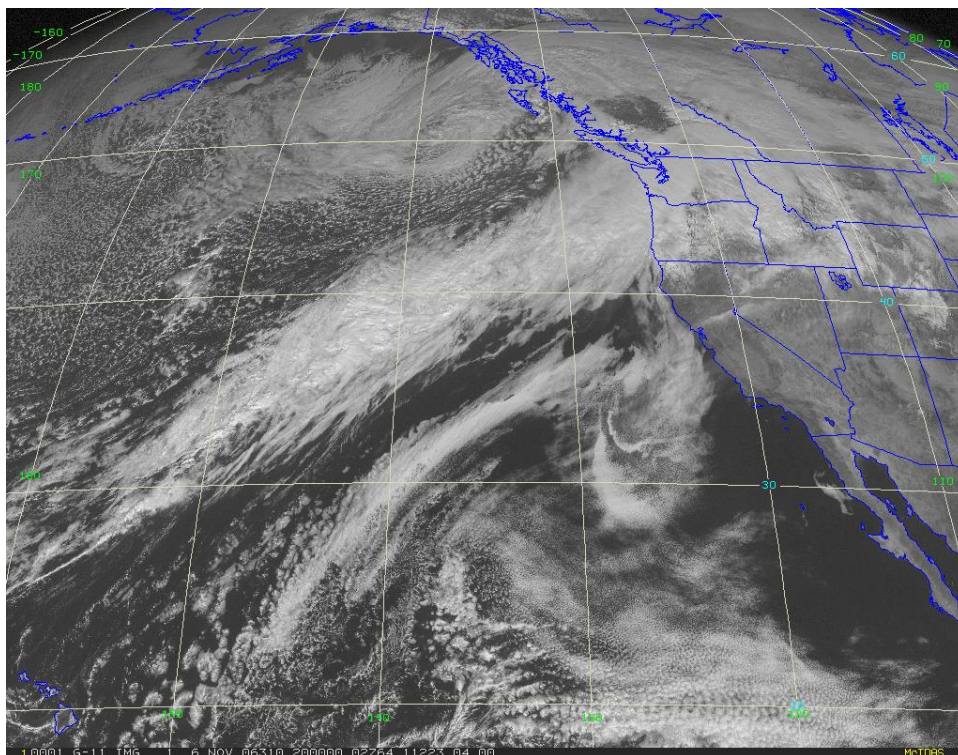


Seattle's Wettest Month and Record Flooding in Western Washington – November 2006

November is typically the wettest month of the year in Seattle with hardened residents preparing for a lack of sunlight and frequent wet days. On average, there is measurable rain in Seattle on 18 out of November's 30 days. But it is not uncommon to see 20 or more. November 2006 was one such month. Sea-Tac airport recorded measurable rain on 23 days that month. It wasn't so much the frequency of rainfall that was astounding that month, but rather the total rainfall. An atmospheric river event during the first week of the month imported subtropical moisture into the region. Here's a visual satellite image captured during the month's wettest day (the 6th).



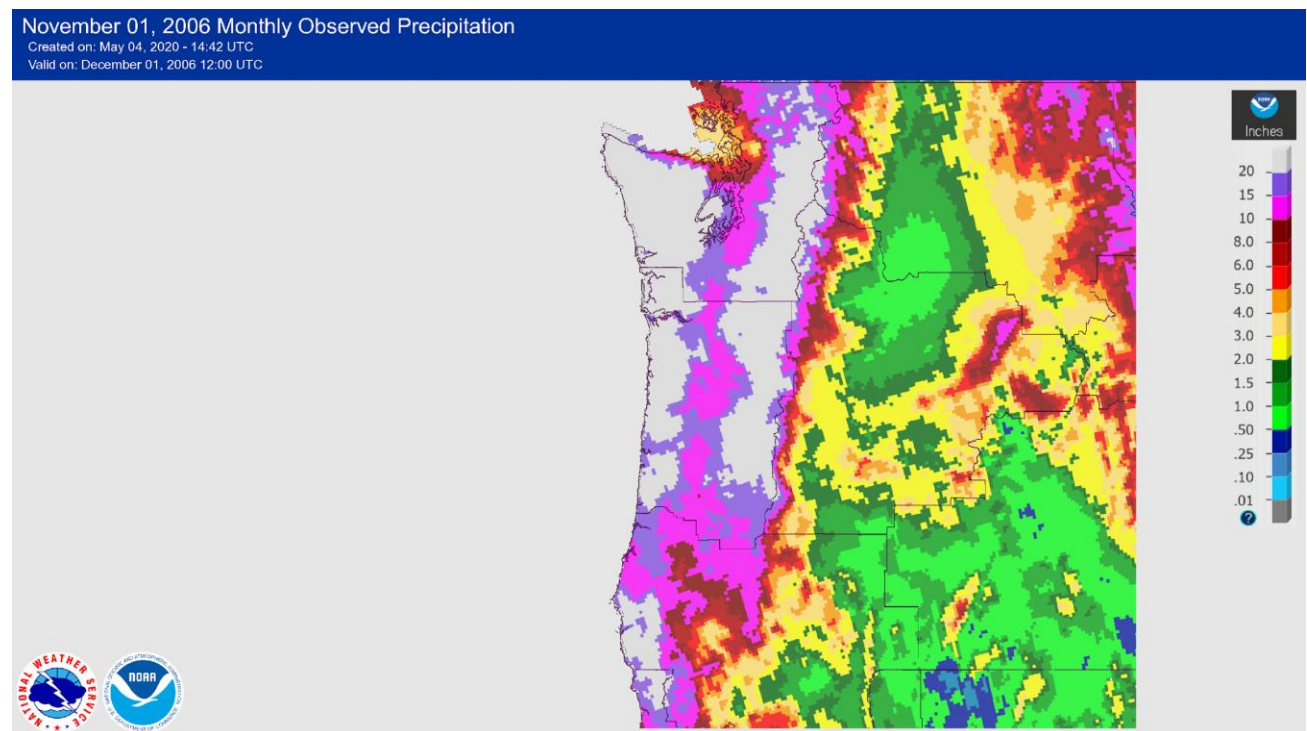
A number of daily rainfall records were set that day at locations across Western Washington. Check out some of these totals for Nov 6th, 2006:

Stampede Pass: 8.22 inches

Olympia: 4.31 inches

Sea-Tac Airport: 3.29 inches

Totals like these capped off a week of extensive heavy rainfall across the region. In total, flooding warnings for 41 different river forecast points were issued by our office and 15 different rivers in Western Washington reached all-time flood crest levels. Extensive damage was caused by flooding including portions of Mount Rainier National Park where 18 inches of rain fell in just 36 hours. By the time the month concluded, a large portion of Western Washington had received more than 20 inches of rain as seen in this accumulated rainfall map.



An all-time monthly rainfall record of 15.63 inches was set at Sea-Tac airport. While impressive itself, it was locations on the Olympic Peninsula that really left their mark on the climate record. More than 51 inches of rain was recorded that month near Lake Quinault in the foothills of the Olympics. Quillayute saw more than 30 inches of rain. And even normally dry Sequim that benefits from an Olympic rain shadow received nearly 6 inches of rain.

Flooding and rain were not the only events that month, a modified Arctic air mass arrived at the end of the month with a convergence zone bringing widespread snowfall to the Puget Sound area. Just two weeks later, a wind storm in mid December would knock out power to almost 2 million people.