

# Seasonal Climate Forecast Verification

## September – November 2025

Issued: December 11, 2025

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Production - ODF: Julie Vondrachek; Kristin Cody; Gary Votaw; Sherri Pugh

*Photo: Pete Parsons*

# Format and Purpose:

- A side-by-side comparison of the “Seasonal Climate Forecast” vs. what (Actually Occurred) is done for both the 1-month & 3-month forecasts.\*
- The accuracy of each forecast is reviewed, and the need for analog-year updates is examined.
- This is part of an ongoing assessment of the utility of this forecast method.\*\*

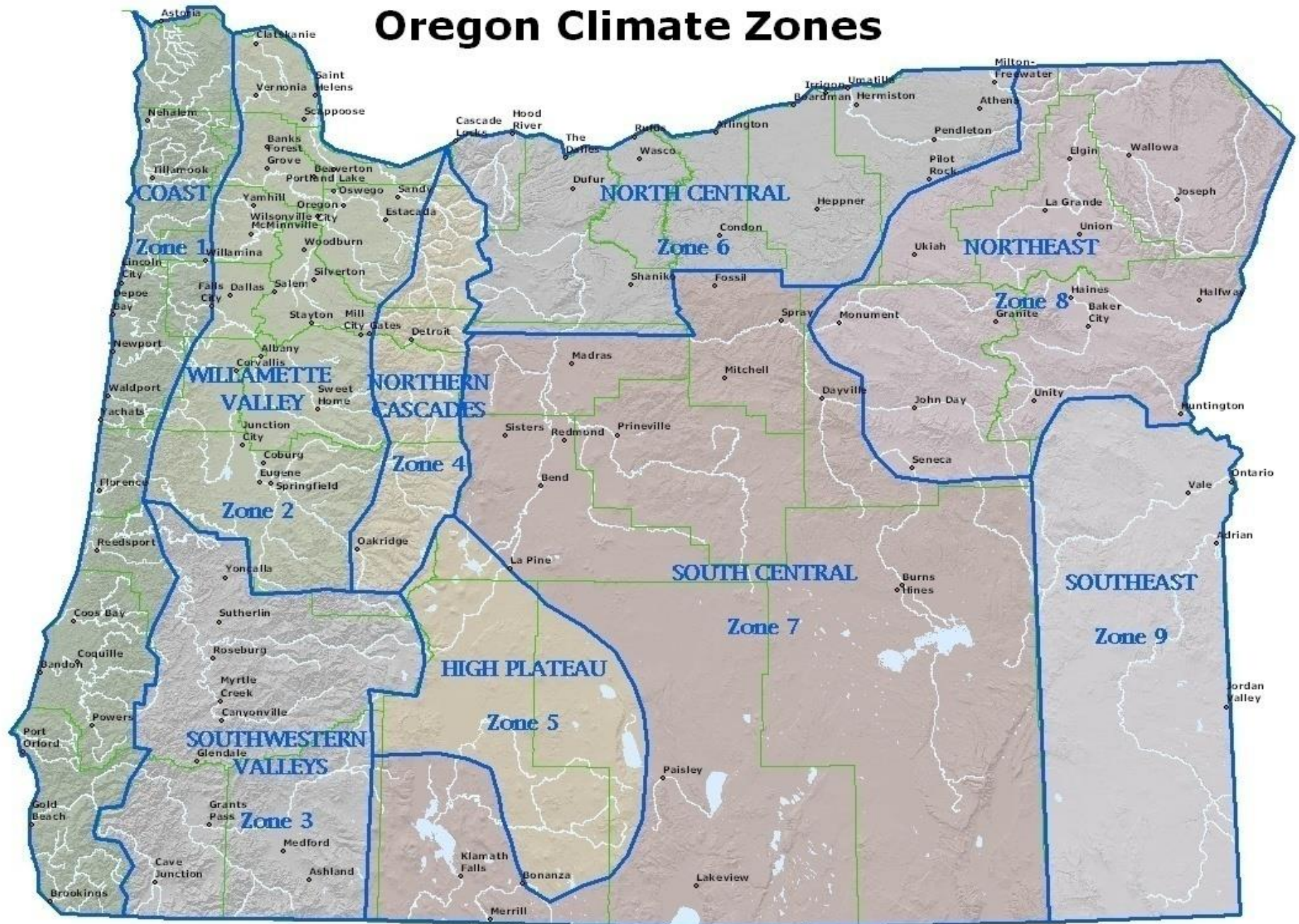
*\*Utilizes 1991-2020 long-term averages*

\*\*See “Forecasting Methods...” at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/natural-resources/pages/weather.aspx>



# Oregon Climate Zones



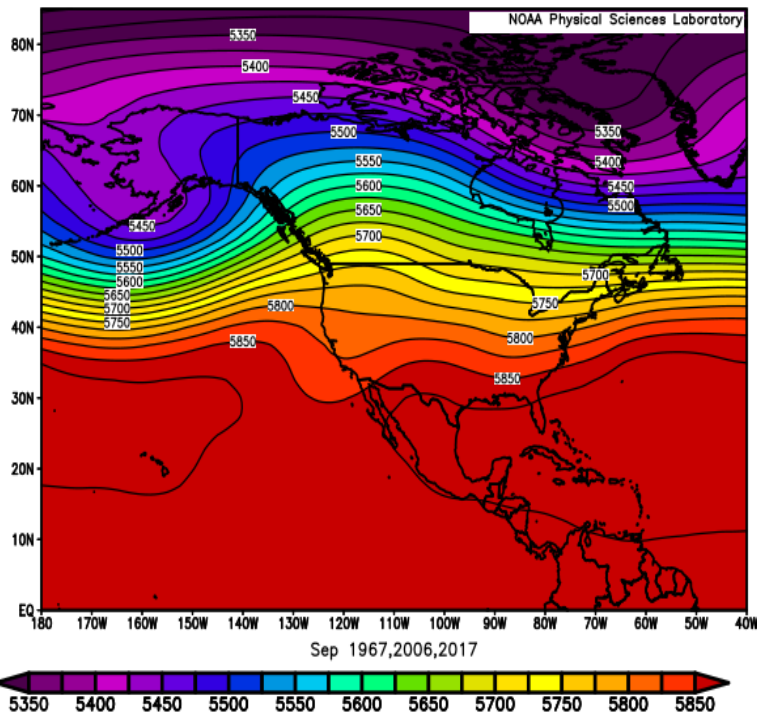
# September 2025

(Forecast Issued August 21, 2025)/(Actual)

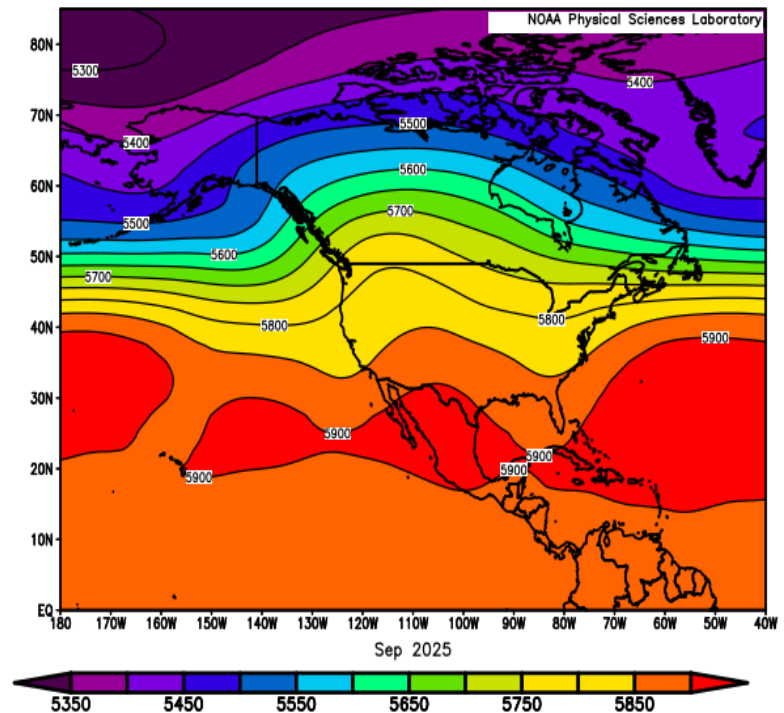
Forecast Upper-Air Pattern

Actual Upper-Air Pattern

NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis  
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Mean



NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis  
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Mean



- The analog composite (left) and 2025 pattern (right) showed upper-level ridging centered just east of the Pacific NW with predominant W-SW flow aloft over Oregon. *A “forecast hit.”*



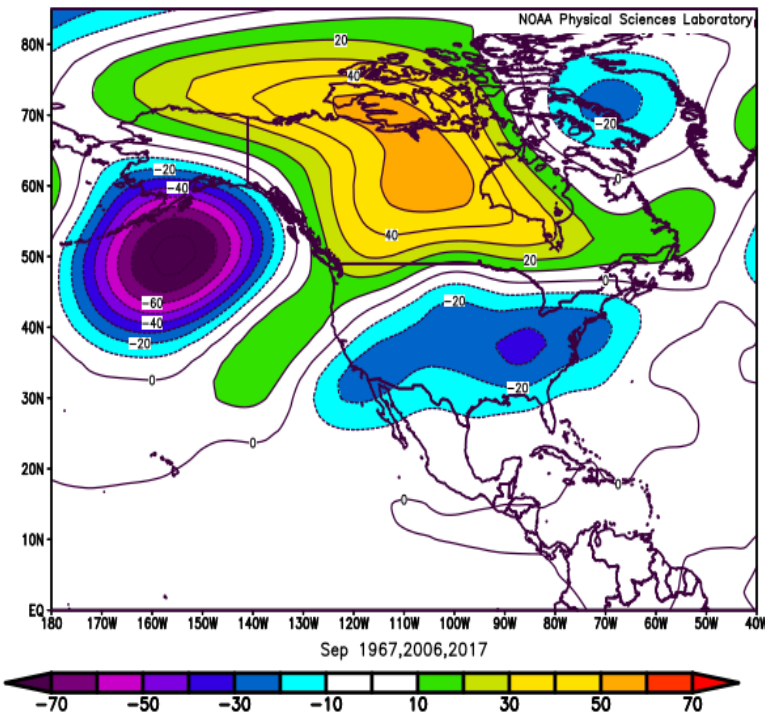
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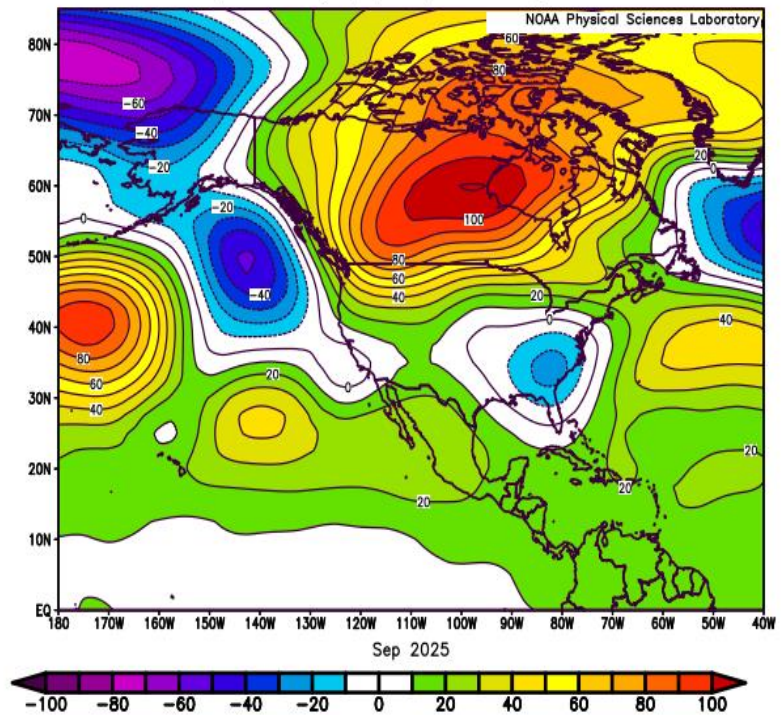
Forecast Upper-Air Anomalies

Actual Upper-Air Anomalies

NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis  
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Anomaly 1991–2020 climo



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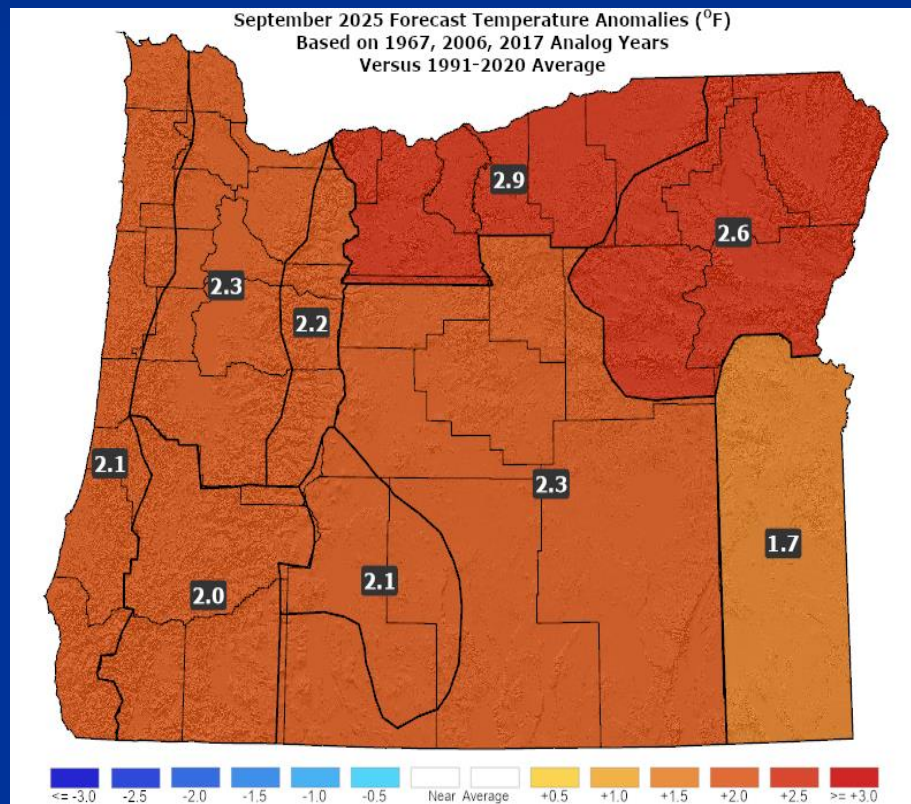


- Both the analog forecast (left) and the September 2025 pattern (right) had a broad area of positive (warm) anomalies centered over central Canada extending southwestward, to over the Pacific NW. *A “forecast hit.”*

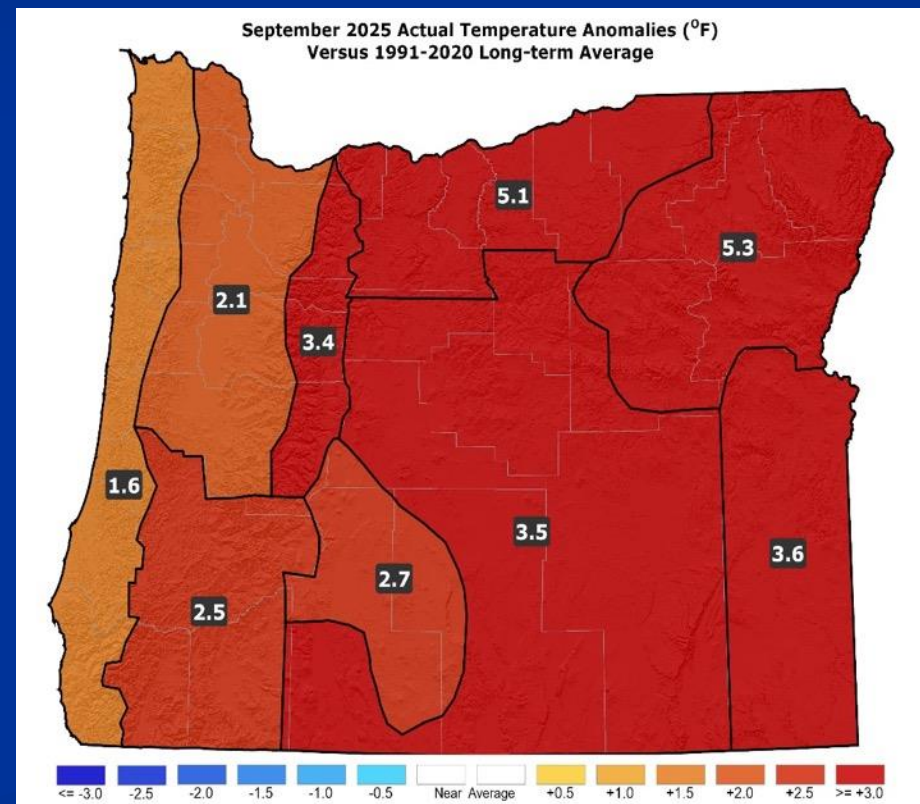
# September 2025

(Forecast Issued August 21, 2025)/(Actual)

## Forecast Temperatures



## Actual Temperatures



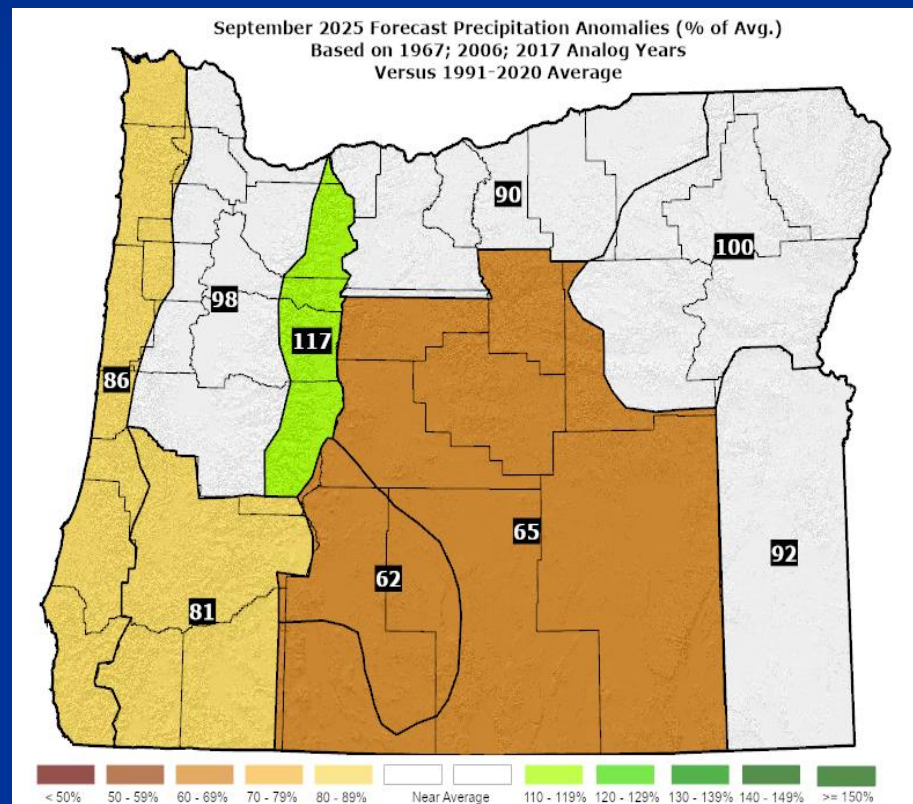
Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)



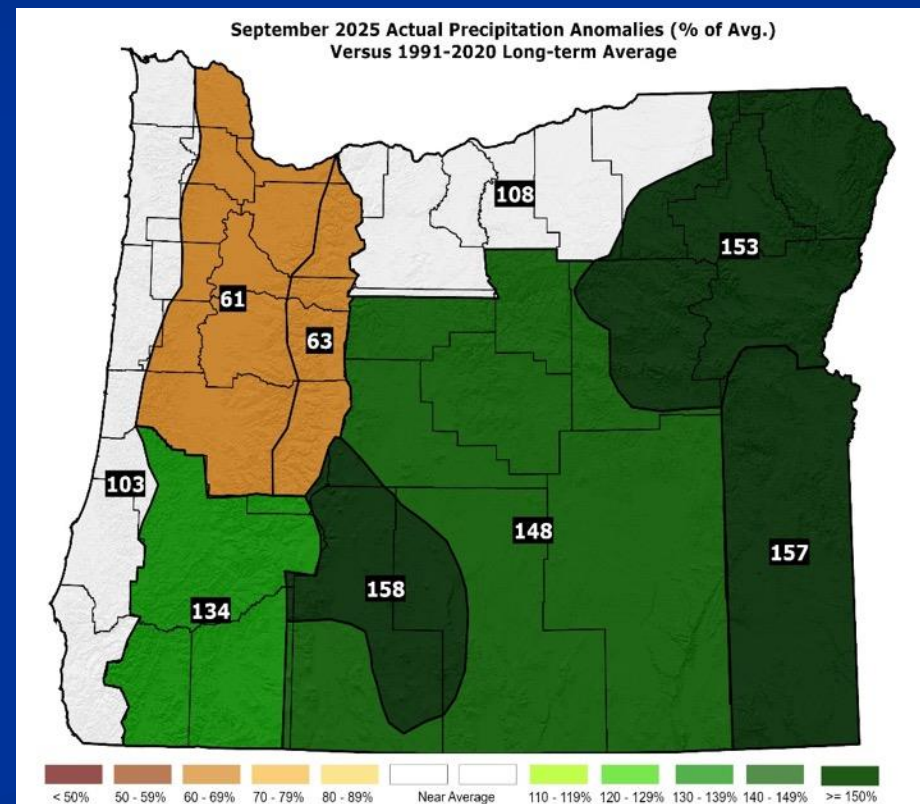
# September 2025

(Forecast Issued August 21, 2025)/(Actual)

## Forecast Precipitation



## Actual Precipitation



Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

# September 2025

(Forecast Issued August 21, 2025)/(Actual)

- Above-average temperatures with enhanced chances for 100+°F heat in some western valley and eastern basin sites through mid-month. (Temperatures were above normal statewide...with highs climbing into the 90s at times in both the western valleys and the eastern basins.) A “forecast hit.”
- Precipitation near or below average. Drier analogs of 1967 & 2006 were countered by a wetter 2017. All analog years had at least some shower activity. (Upper-level troughs brought showers to much of the state at mid-month and again at month’s end. Rainfall was below average in the NW zones but near or above average elsewhere, in what is typically one of the drier months of the year statewide. A “partial forecast hit.”



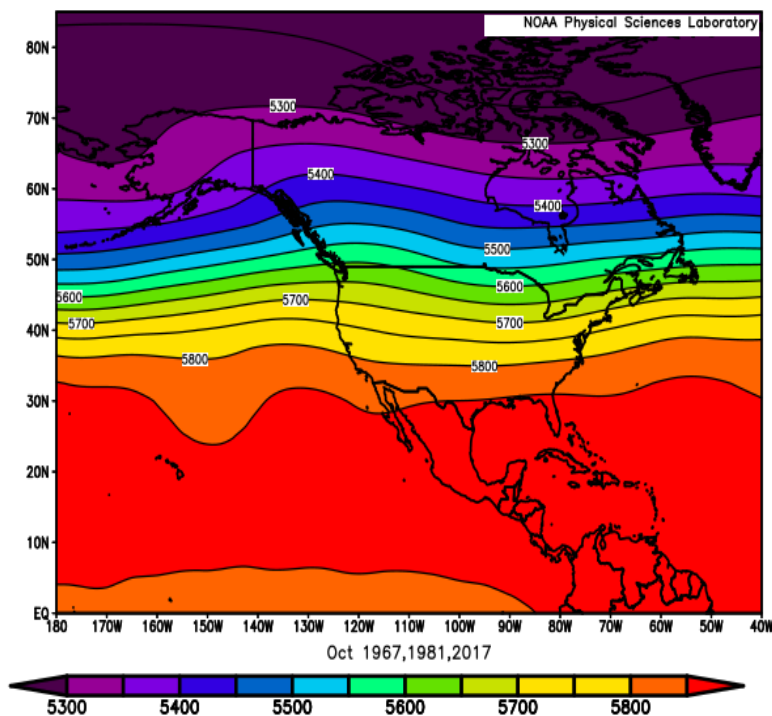
# October 2025

## (Forecast Issued September 18, 2025)/(Actual)

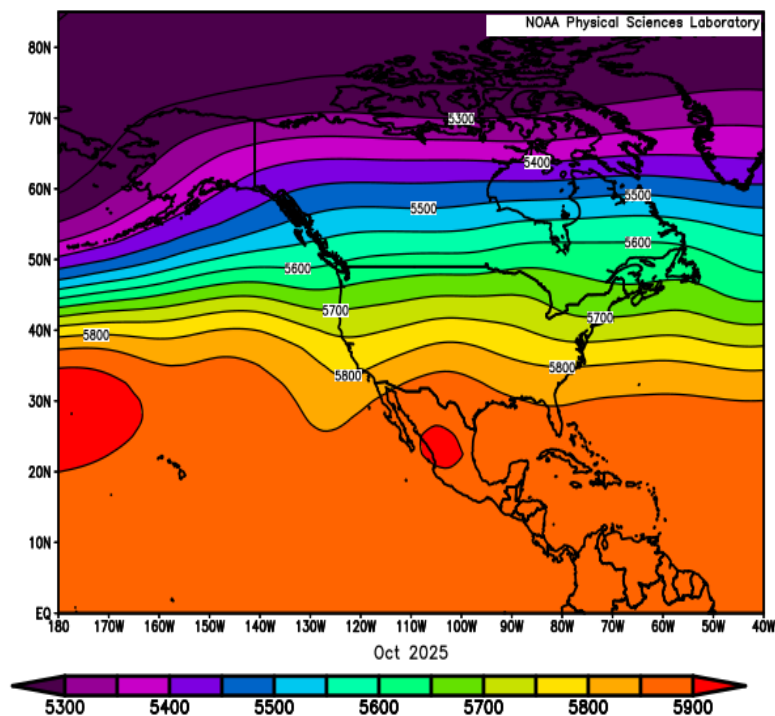
### Forecast Upper-Air Pattern

### Actual Upper-Air Pattern

NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis  
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Mean



NCEP/NCAR Reanalysis  
500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Mean



- Both the analog blend (left) and the October 2025 observed pattern (right) had prevailing westerly flow aloft over Oregon...ranging from more SW flow, in 1967, to more W-NW flow, in 2017. A “forecast hit.”

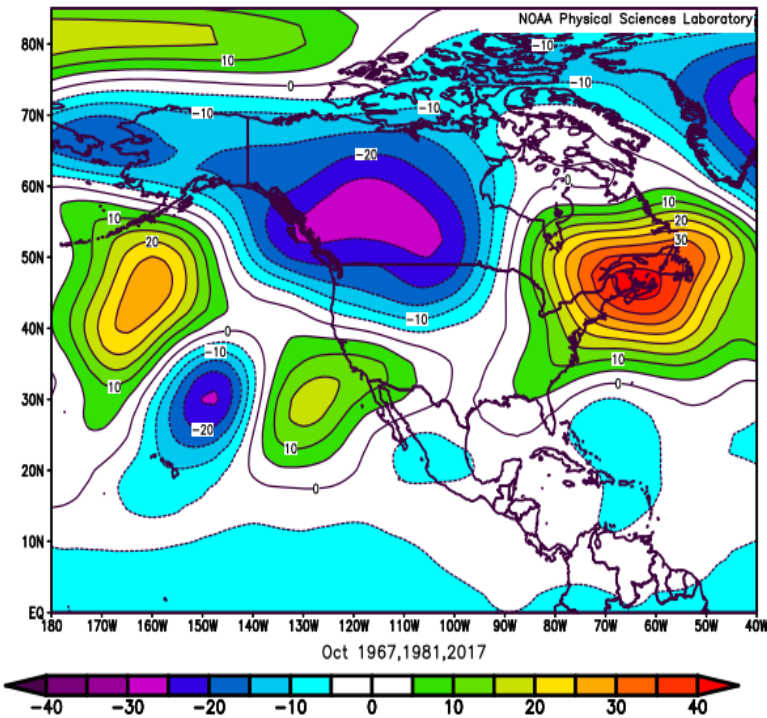
# October 2025

## (Forecast Issued September 18, 2025)/(Actual)

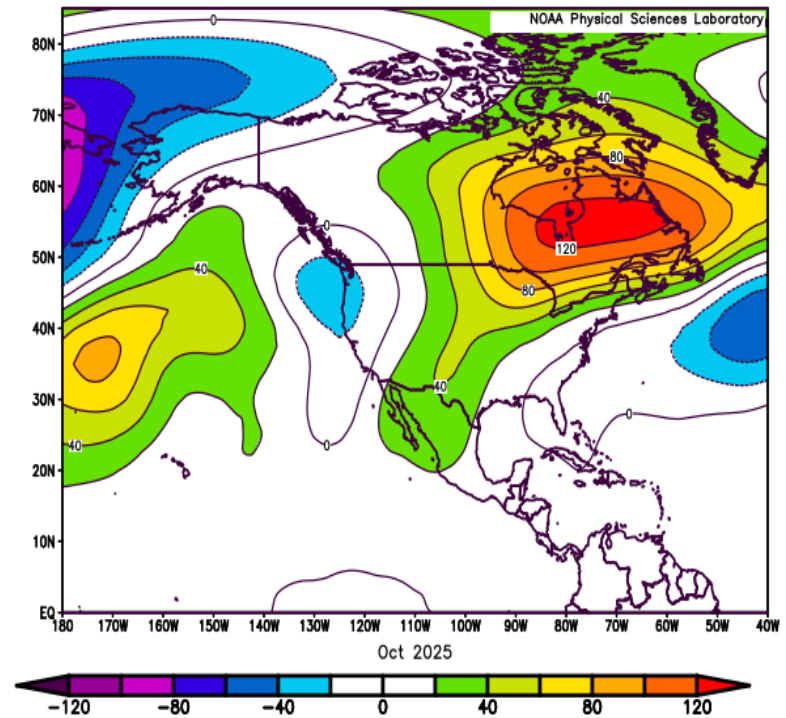
### Forecast Upper-Air Anomalies

### Actual Upper-Air Anomalies

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500mb Geopotential Height (m) Composite Anomaly 1991–2020 climo



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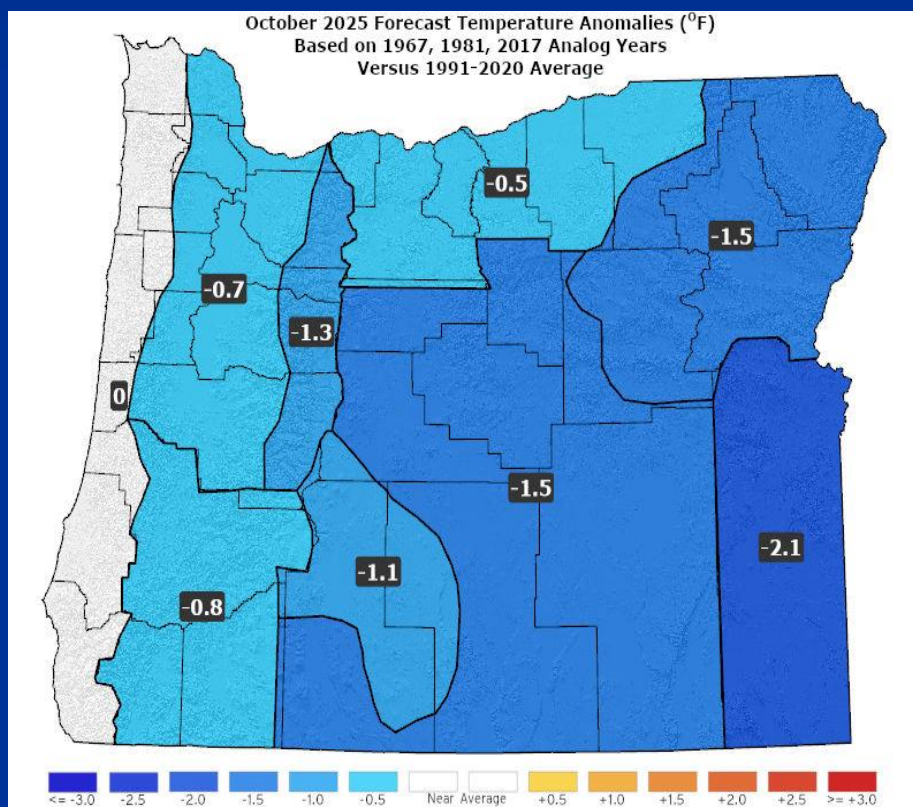
- Analogs (left) ranged from anomalous troughing in 1981 to ridging in 2017, with the blend favoring troughing. 2025 (right) had anomalous troughing. *A “forecast hit.”*



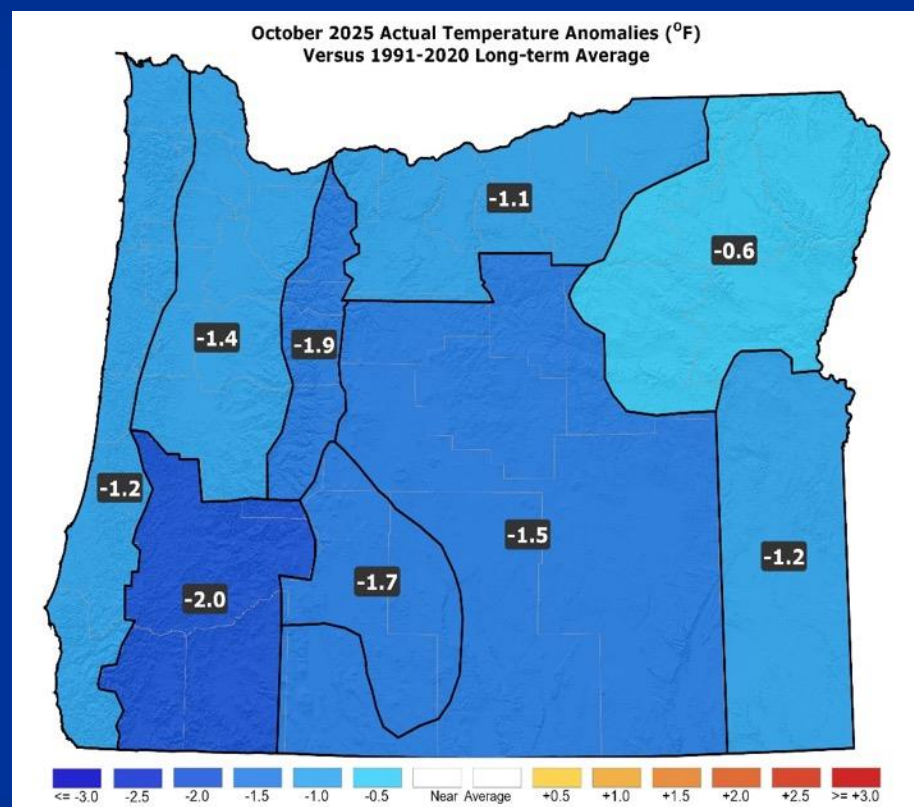
# October 2025

## (Forecast Issued September 18, 2025)/(Actual)

### Forecast Temperatures



### Actual Temperatures



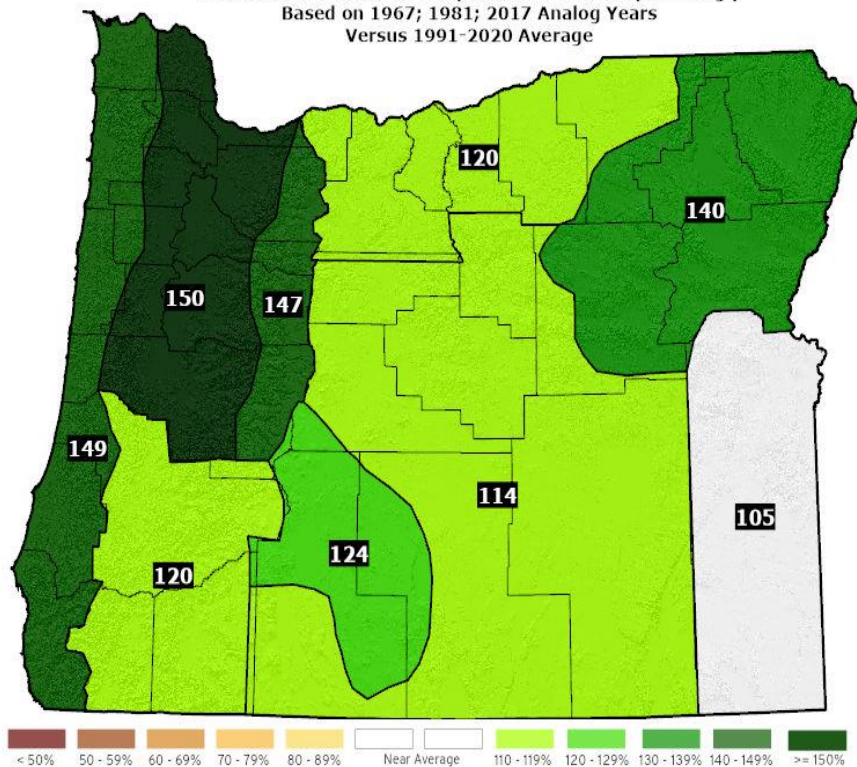
Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

# October 2025

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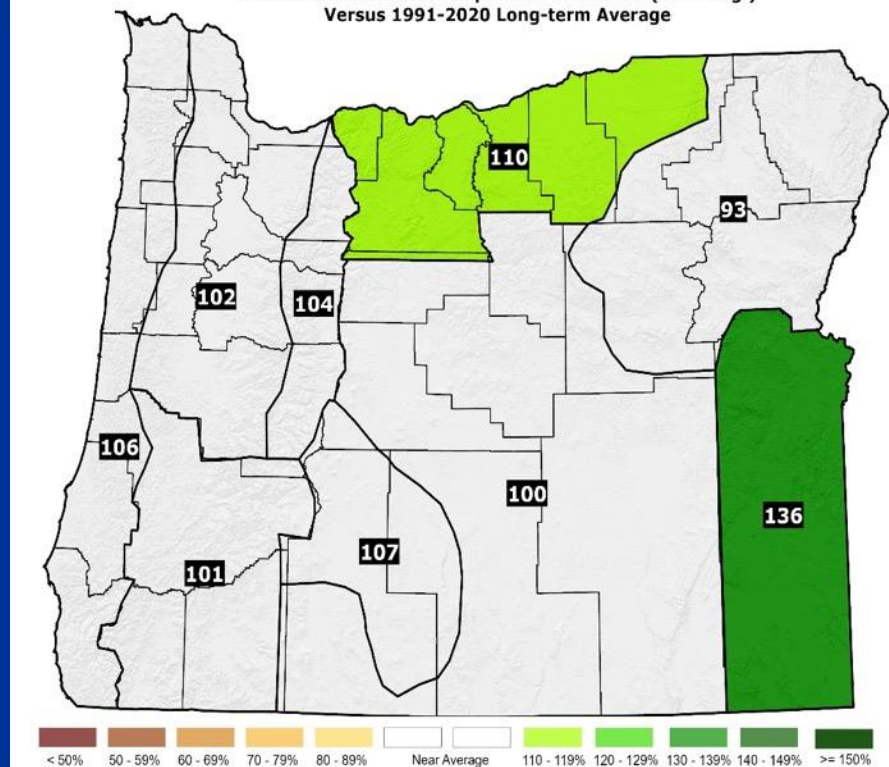
### Forecast Precipitation

October 2025 Forecast Precipitation Anomalies (% of Avg.)  
Based on 1967; 1981; 2017 Analog Years  
Versus 1991-2020 Average



### Actual Precipitation

October 2025 Actual Precipitation Anomalies (% of Avg.)  
Versus 1991-2020 Long-term Average



Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)



# October 2025

(Forecast Issued September 18, 2025)/(Actual)

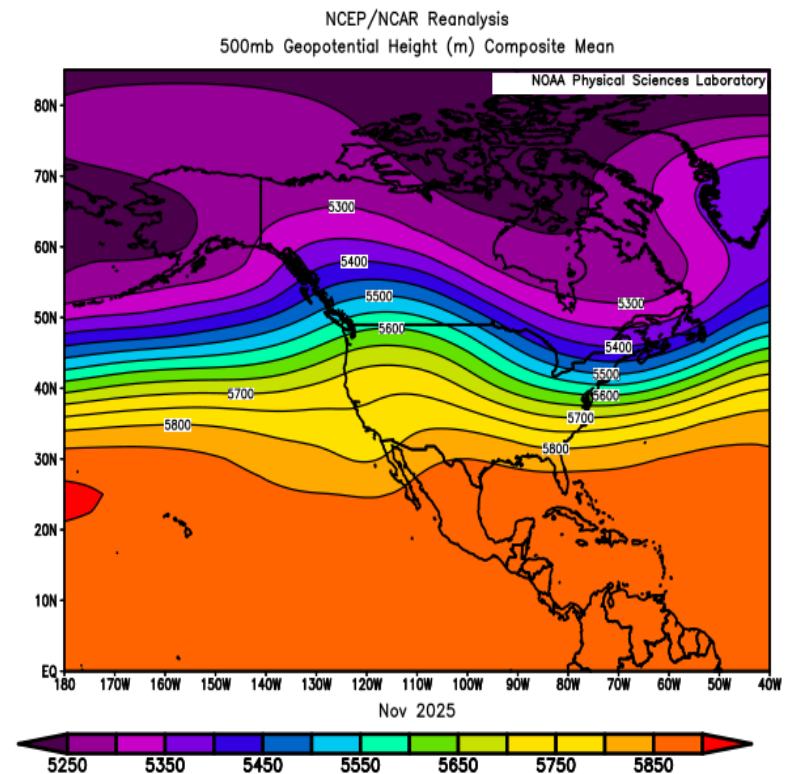
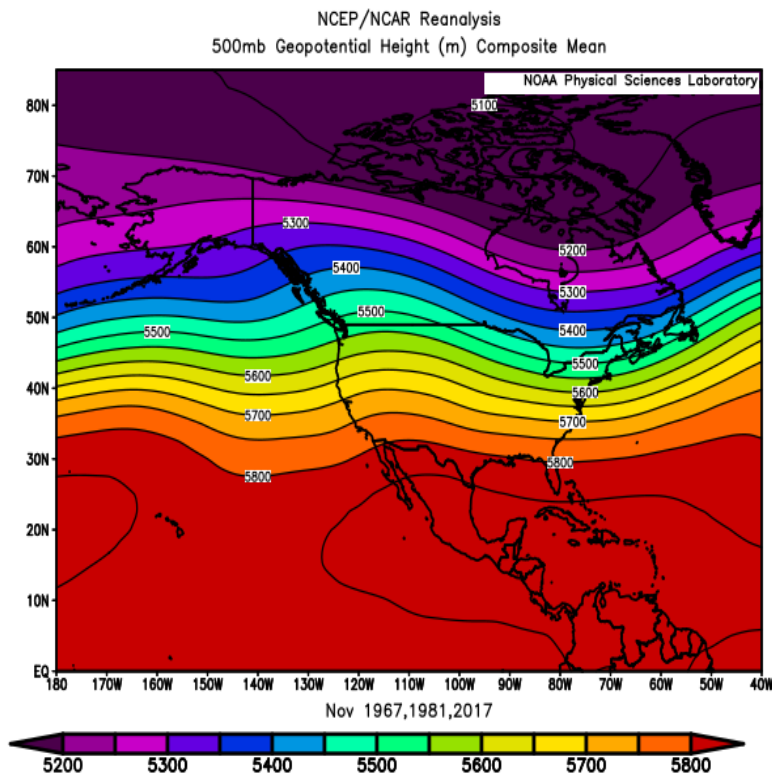
- Despite differing upper-air patterns, the analogs had average or slightly below average temperatures. (October 2025 brought a marked shift from well-above-average temperatures to below-average temperatures.) A “forecast hit.”
- Above-average precipitation with some snow on the mountain passes by month’s end. (October 2025 had near-average or above-average precipitation. The mountain passes saw brief snow.) Mostly a “forecast hit.”

# November 2025

## (Forecast Issued October 16, 2025)/(Actual)

### Forecast Upper-Air Pattern

### Actual Upper-Air Pattern



- The forecast (left) and the observed pattern (right) both showed mean ridging over the Rockies with prevailing SW flow aloft over Oregon. A “forecast hit.”



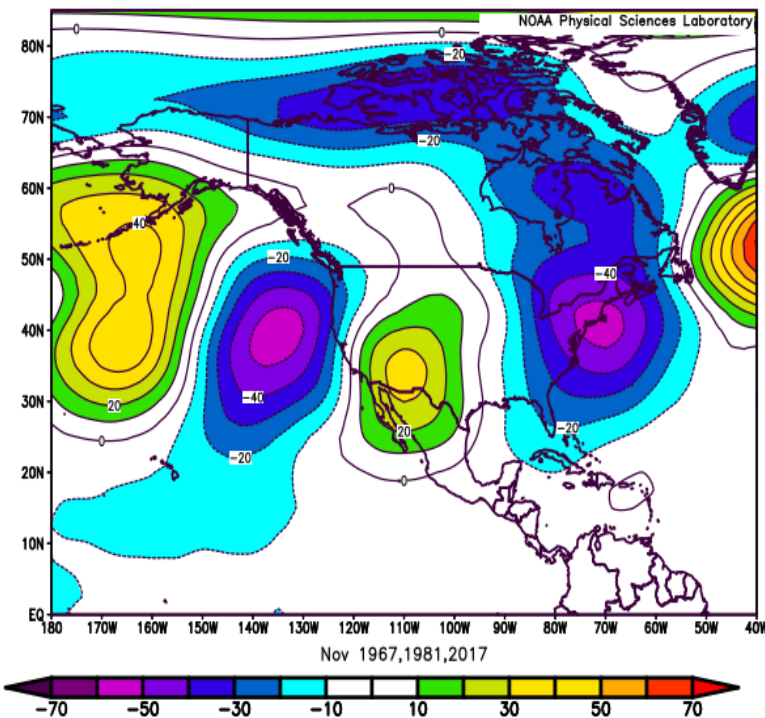
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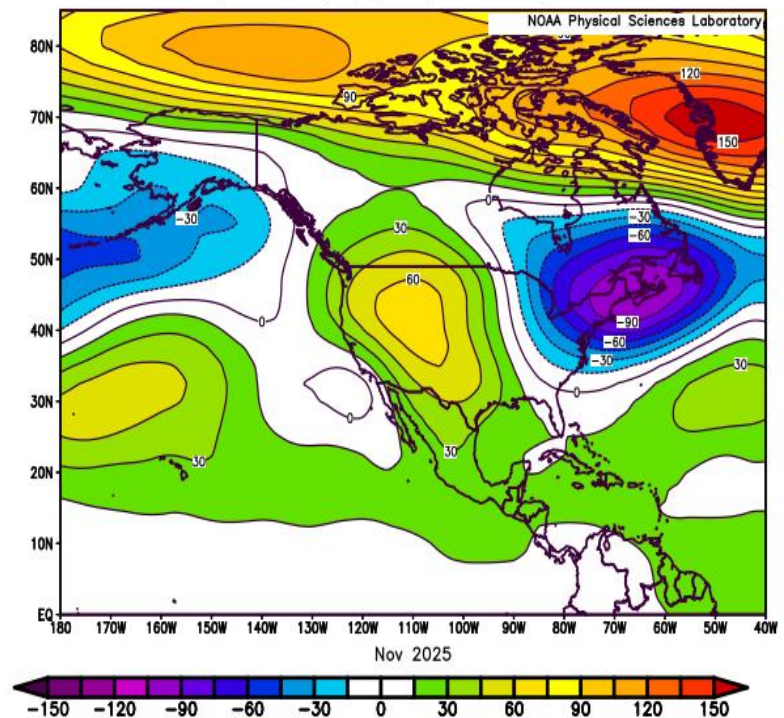
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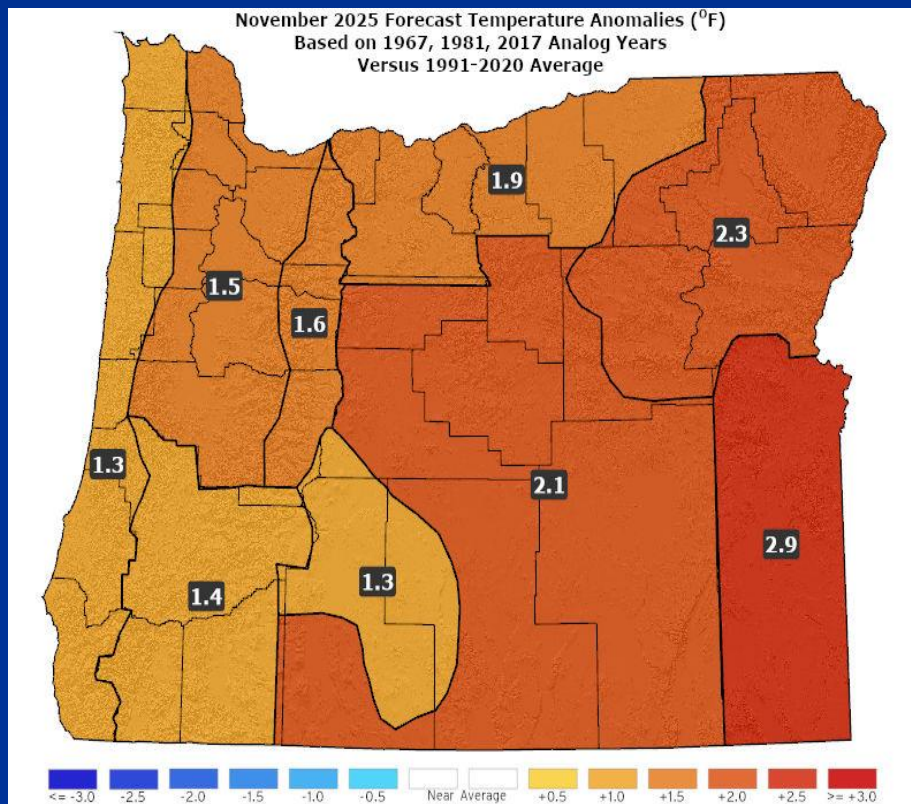


■ The analog composite (left) had stronger anomalous troughing offshore than was observed (right), but both had anomalous ridging over the Rockies. *A “partial forecast hit.”*

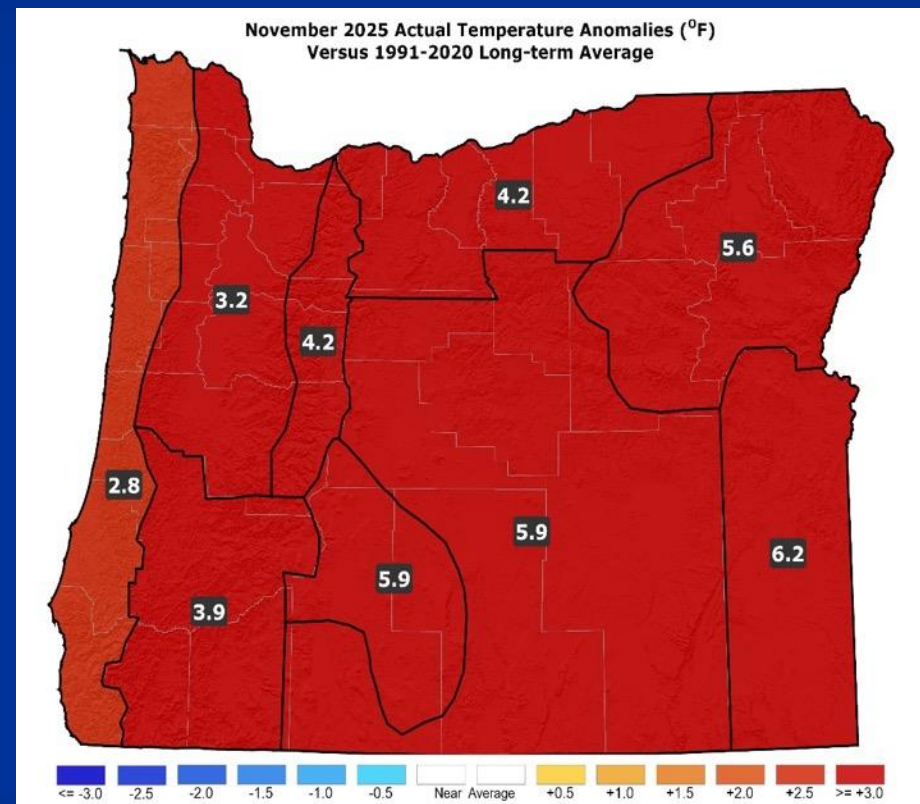
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## Forecast Temperatures



## Actual Temperatures



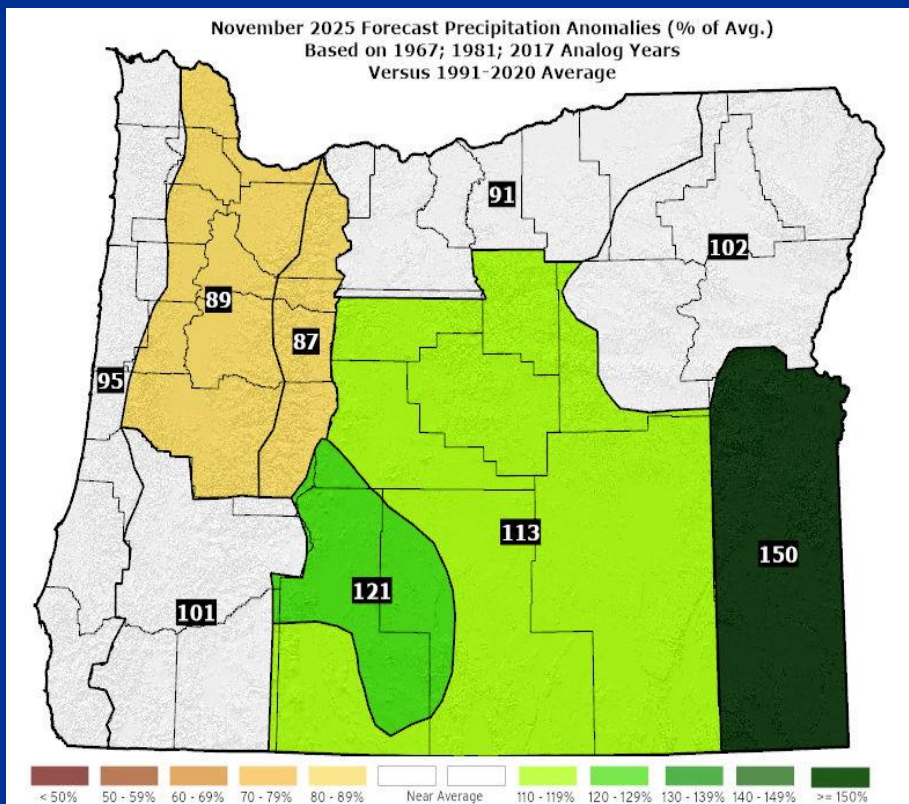
Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)



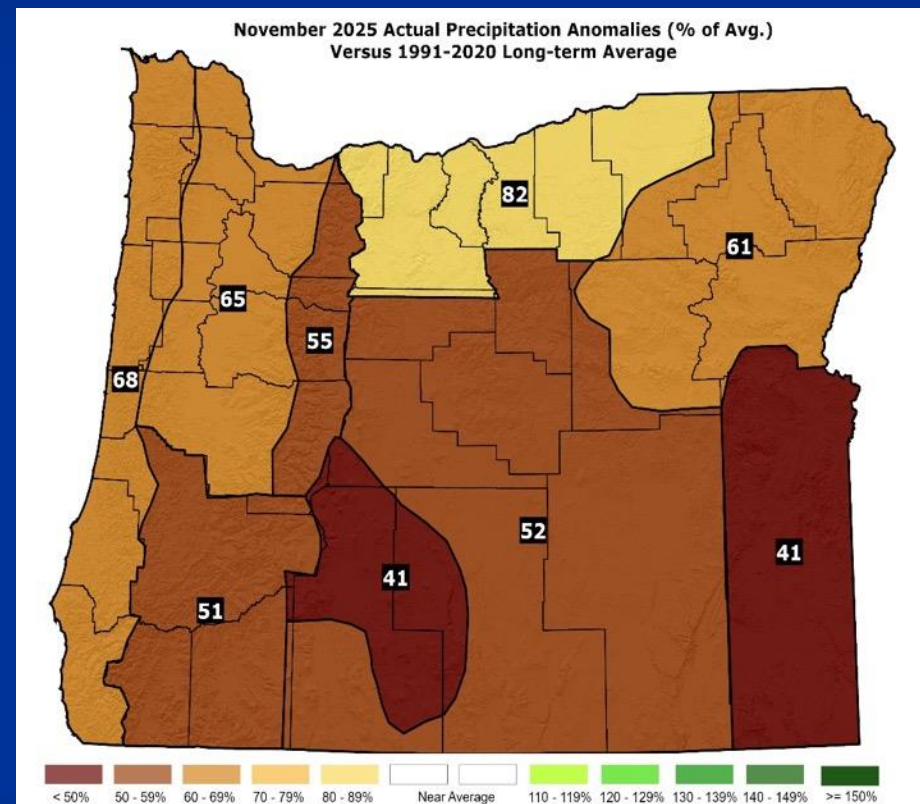
# November 2025

## (Forecast Issued October 16, 2025)/(Actual)

### Forecast Precipitation



### Actual Precipitation



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# November 2025

(Forecast Issued October 16, 2025)/(Actual)

- Analogs exhibited above-average temperatures. 1981 had a significant windstorm (south winds) across the western zones. (Temperatures were well-above average statewide. There were stormy periods, especially along the coast and across the SW interior. Strong SSE winds, gusting to 82 mph, were observed in the Siskiyou Mountains SW of Ashland on the 13<sup>th</sup>.) A “forecast hit.”
- Lower confidence in the precipitation forecast, with 1967 being quite dry and the other analogs years having near or above-average rainfall. (Rainfall was below average and less than predicted statewide...closest match was 1967.) A “partial forecast hit.”

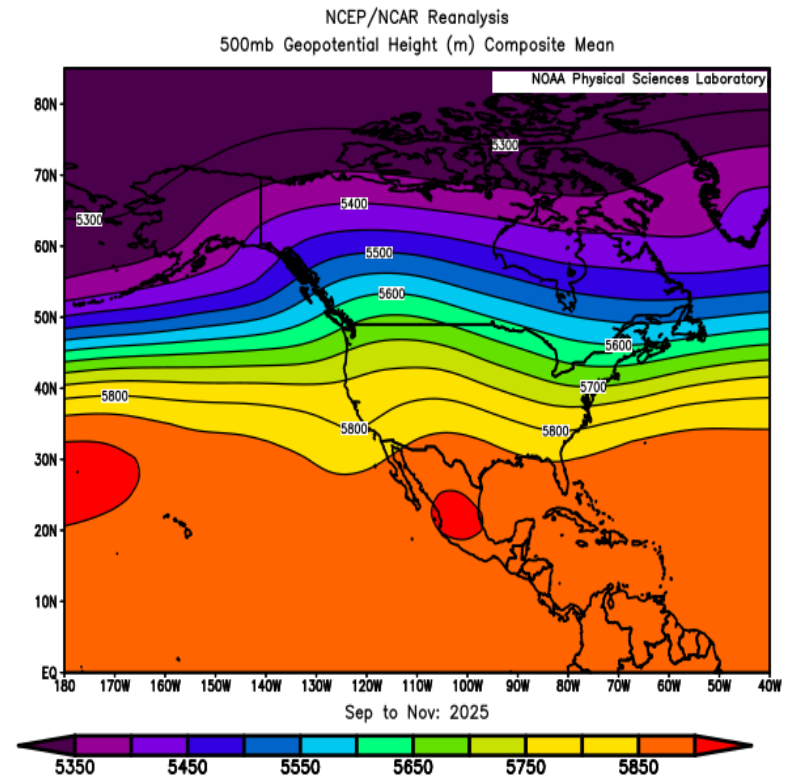
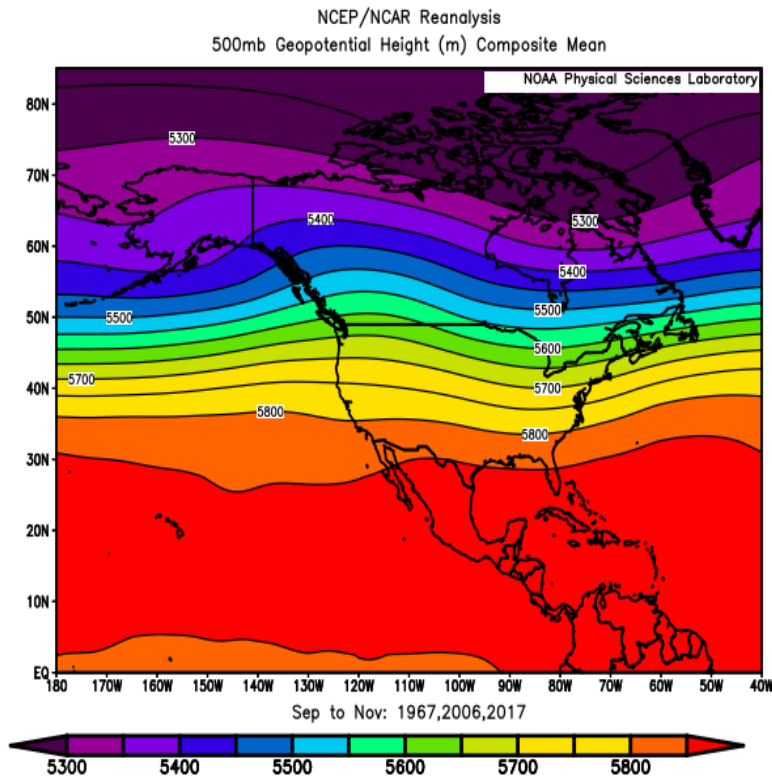


# September – November 2025

(Forecast Issued August 21, 2025)/(Actual)

Forecast Upper-Air Pattern

Actual Upper-Air Pattern



- A composite of the analogs (left) and the actual 2025 upper-air pattern (right) both showed mean ridging centered over the Rockies. *A “forecast hit.”*

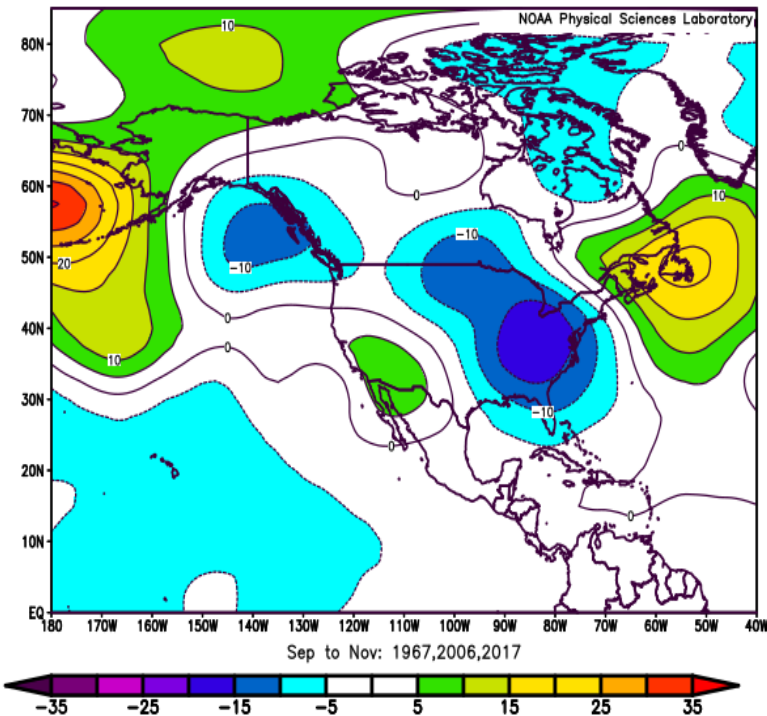
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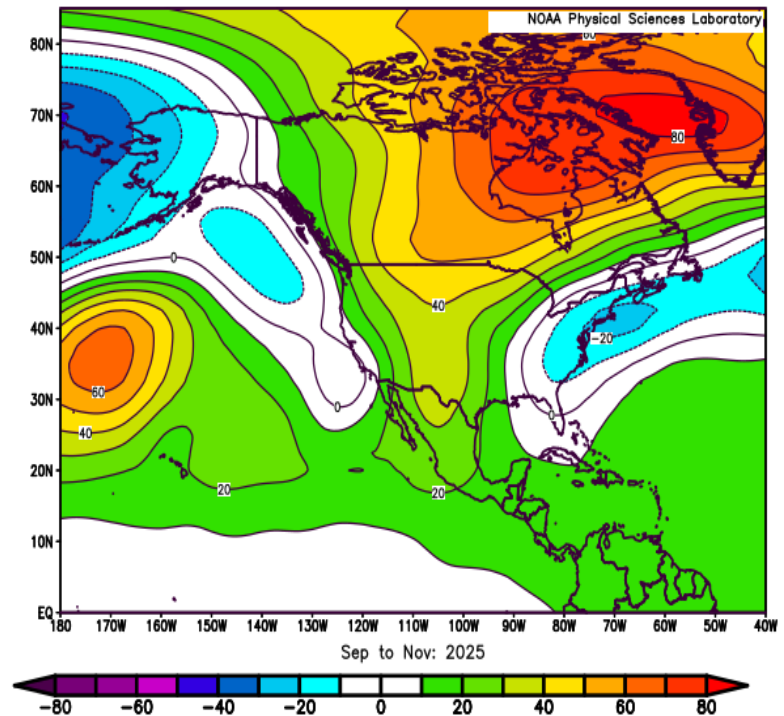
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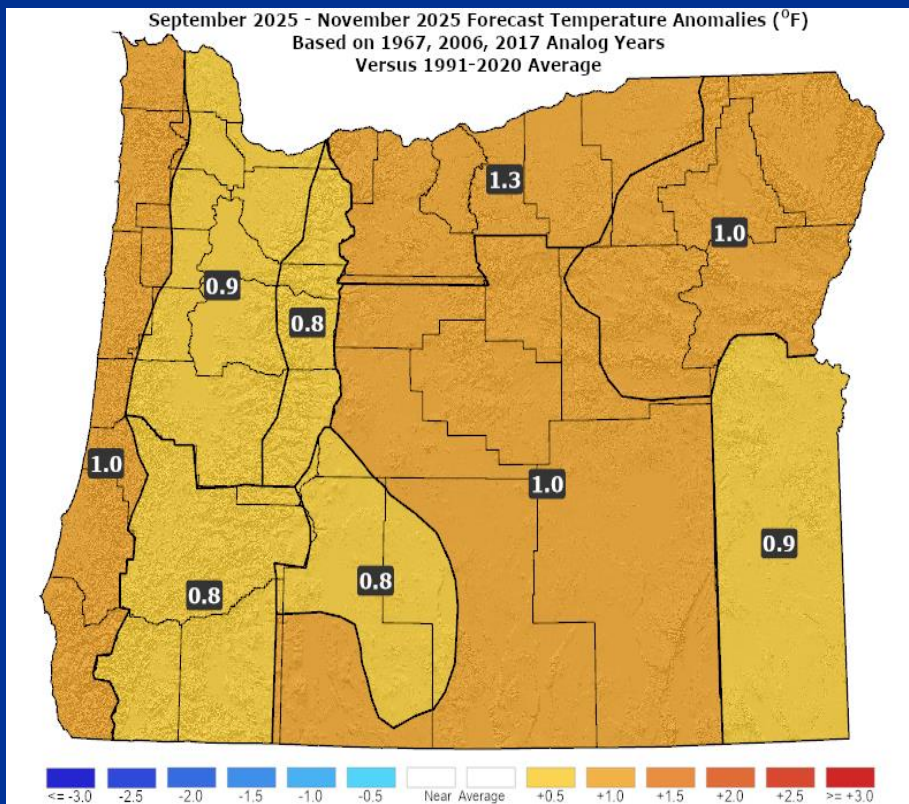
- Analogs ranged from weak anomalous ridging (1967) to weak anomalous troughing (2006) over Oregon. Their blend (left) had minimal anomalies, but 2025 had weak anomalous ridging extending over Oregon. *A “partial forecast hit.”*



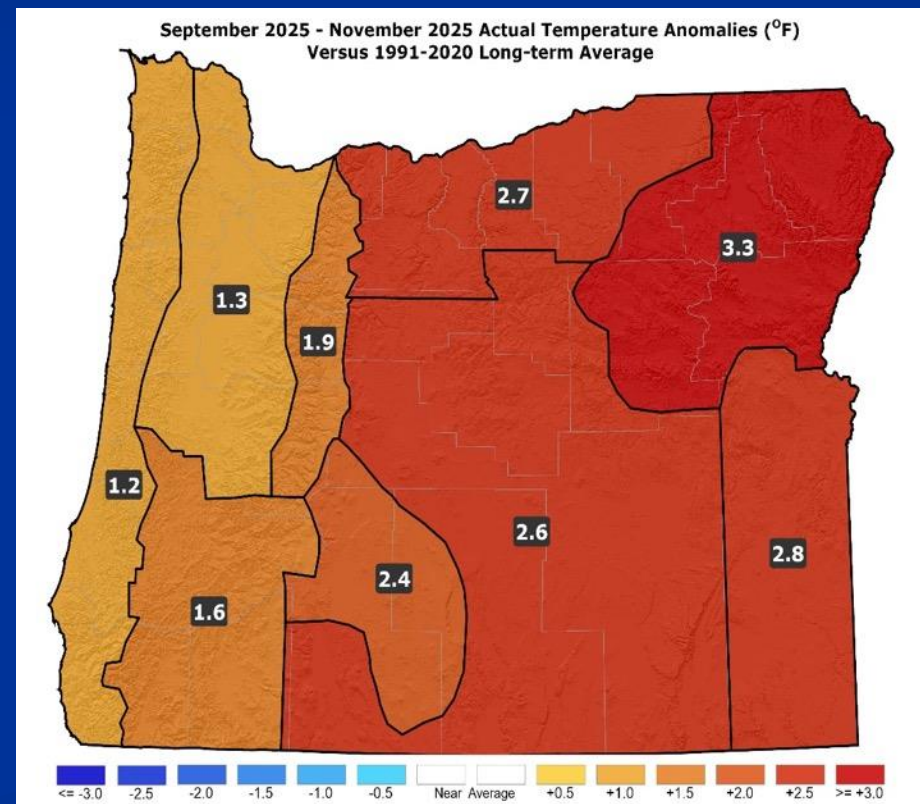
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## Forecast Temperatures



## Actual Temperatures

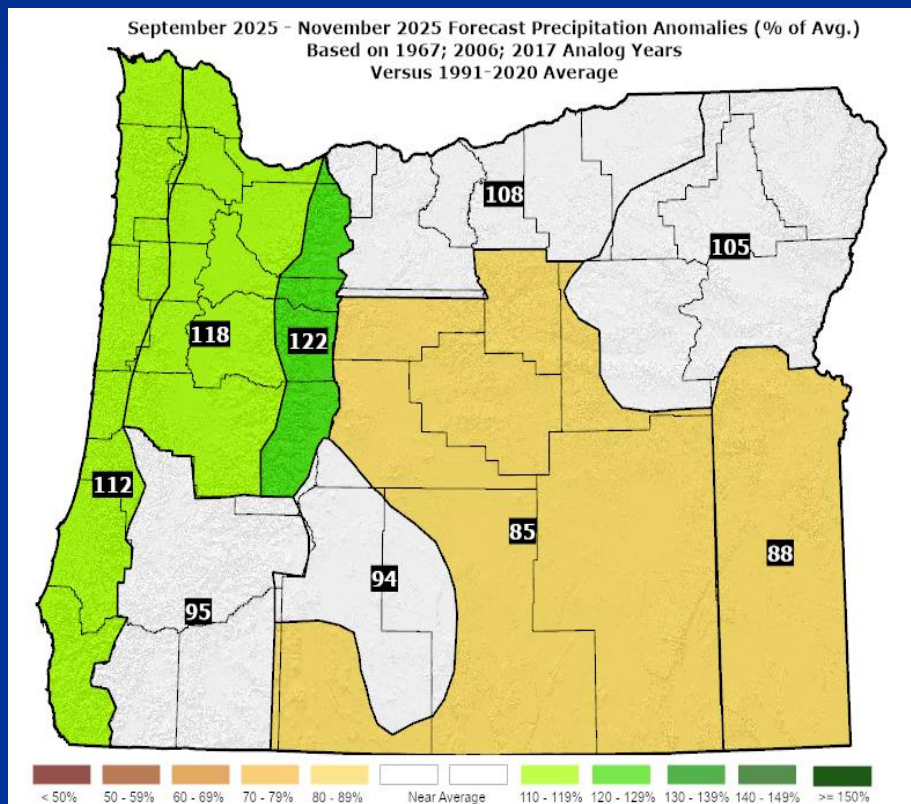


Data courtesy of the National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

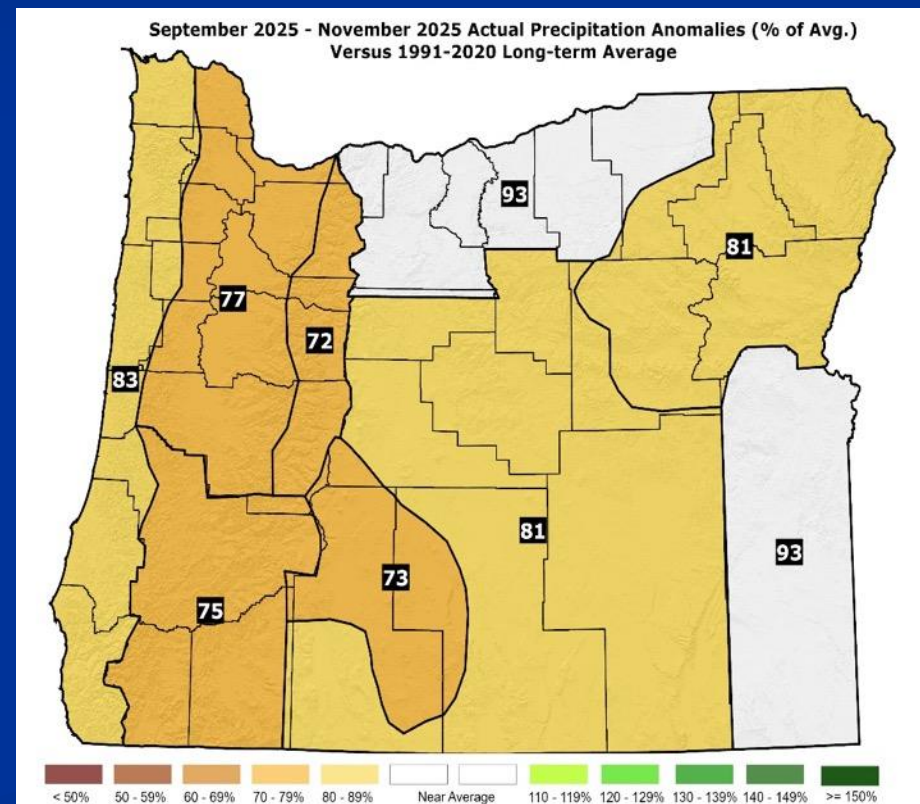
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## Forecast Precipitation



## Actual Precipitation



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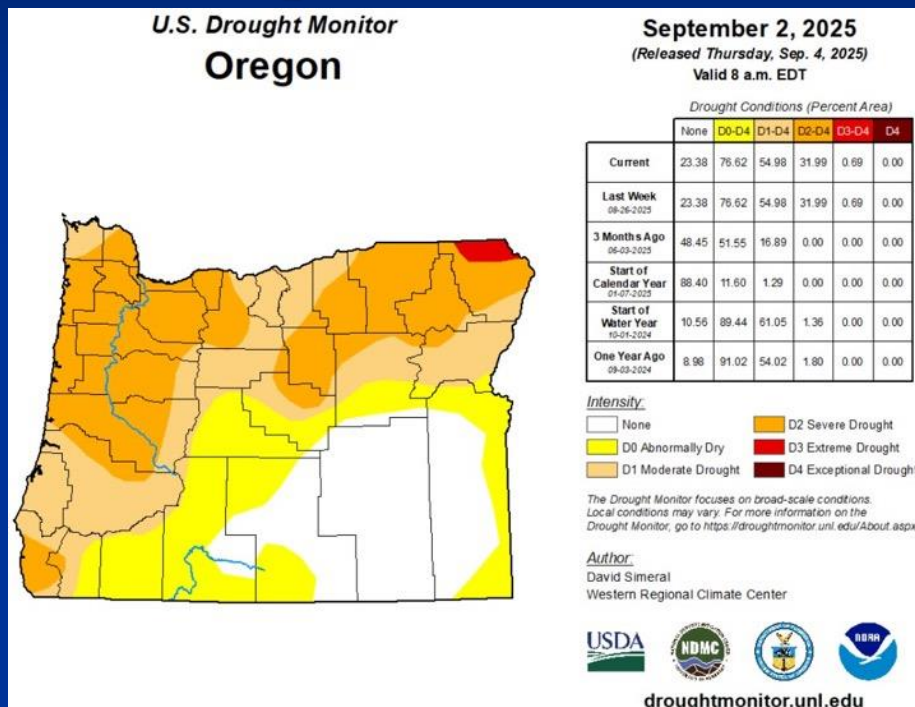
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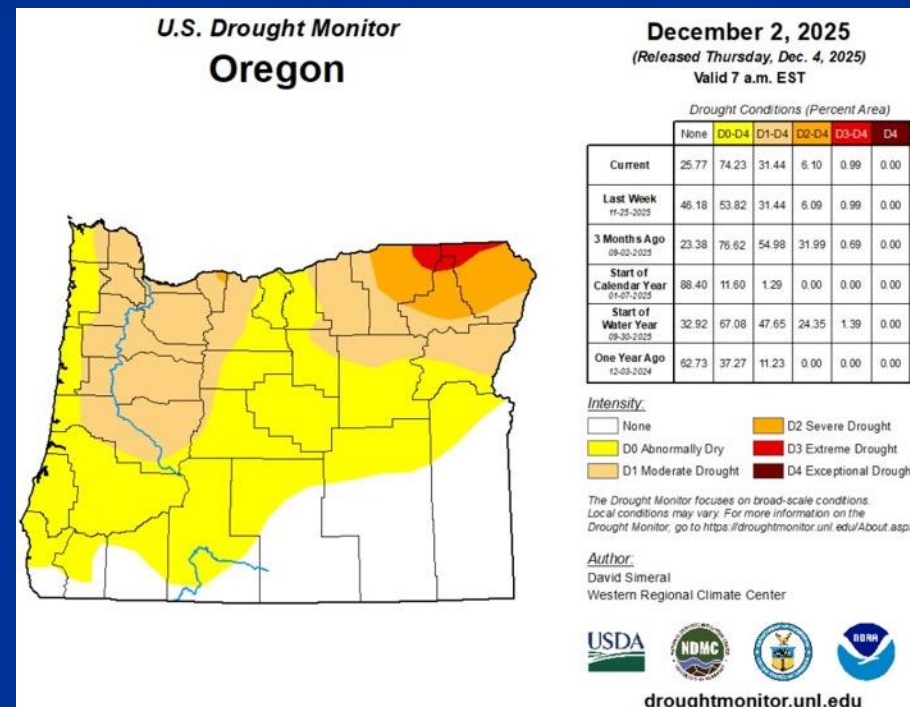
- Warmer than average weather through September, then a marked shift to average or slightly cooler-than-average conditions in October, followed by a mild November. (Above-average temperatures were experienced in September, with a switch to cooler-than-average conditions in October. November turned quite mild and stormy.) A “forecast hit.”
- Lowered confidence in the precipitation forecast due to wide-ranging analog solutions. (September was drier than average for the NW zones, but the remainder of the state had near or above-average rainfall. October saw mostly near-average rainfall. November was drier than average statewide.) A “partial forecast hit.”

# Oregon Drought Status (Minor Improvement Most Areas)

September 2, 2025



December 2, 2025



Courtesy: National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC)

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



# Forecast Resources

- ODA Seasonal Climate Forecast Home:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/natural-resources/pages/weather.aspx>

- CPC Official US Three-Month Forecasts (Graphics):

[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/seasonal.php?lead=01](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/seasonal.php?lead=01)

- CPC US 30-Day & 90-Day Forecasts (Discussions):

[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long\\_range/fxus07.html](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/predictions/long_range/fxus07.html)

- CPC Weekly & Monthly ENSO Discussions:

[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory)

- Australian Government Climate Model Summary:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/model-summary/#region=NINO34&tabs=Overview>

- Australian Government ENSO Wrap-Up:

<http://www.bom.gov.au/climate/enso>

- IRI ENSO Quick Look:

<https://iri.columbia.edu/our-expertise/climate/forecasts/enso/current/>

# Water Supply / Fire-Potential Outlook

- CPC U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook:

[https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/season\\_drought.png](https://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/season_drought.png)

- NRCS Snow Water Equivalent Oregon Map:

[https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/or\\_swepctnormal\\_update.pdf](https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/ftpref/data/water/wcs/gis/maps/or_swepctnormal_update.pdf)

- NRCS/USDA Snow Water Equivalent Products:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/wcc/home/snowClimateMonitoring/snowpack/>

- NDMC U.S. Drought Monitor:

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

- NIDIS North American Drought Portal:

<https://www.drought.gov/nadm/content/percent-average-precipitation>

- WRCC WestWideDroughtTracker:

<https://www.wrcc.dri.edu/wwdt/>

- NWCC Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (video)

<https://gacc.nifc.gov/nwcc/predict/outlook.aspx>



# Updated Mid-Month

Your Feedback is Welcome!

Sign-up for Email notification of updates at:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORODA/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=ORODA\\_14](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORODA/subscriber/new?topic_id=ORODA_14)

Contact: Pete Parsons, ODF Lead Meteorologist  
at 503-945-7448 or [peter.gj.parsons@odf.oregon.gov](mailto:peter.gj.parsons@odf.oregon.gov)