

Forecasters predict warmer winter for two-thirds of US

October 21 2021, by Emma H. Tobin



Credit: Larisa Koshkina/public domain

Expect a drier, warmer winter down south and a wetter winter up north, U.S. government forecasters said Thursday.

The National Weather Service predicted two-thirds of the U.S. will see above average temperatures from December through February, while the Pacific Northwest and southern Alaska will likely get colder than usual.

The Midwest, Northwestern states and Hawaii should expect above normal precipitation while the South will have less.

As the U.S. enters a second La Nina year in a row, these [weather conditions](#) across the country are typical, said Jon Gottschalck of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

La Nina, the flip side of El Nino, is the periodic cooling of parts of the Pacific, affecting [weather patterns](#) worldwide.

A dry winter down south means worsening drought across Nevada, Utah, Wyoming, Southern California and other Western states.

However, the Pacific Northwest "really stands out" for having the best chance to improve drought conditions, said Brad Pugh of NOAA.

Gottschalck also said it will be less likely than normal for the Northeast and Texas to experience paralyzing blizzards that shut down cities last winter.

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Citation: Forecasters predict warmer winter for two-thirds of US (2021, October 21) retrieved 12 May 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2021-10-warmer-winter-two-thirds.html>

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