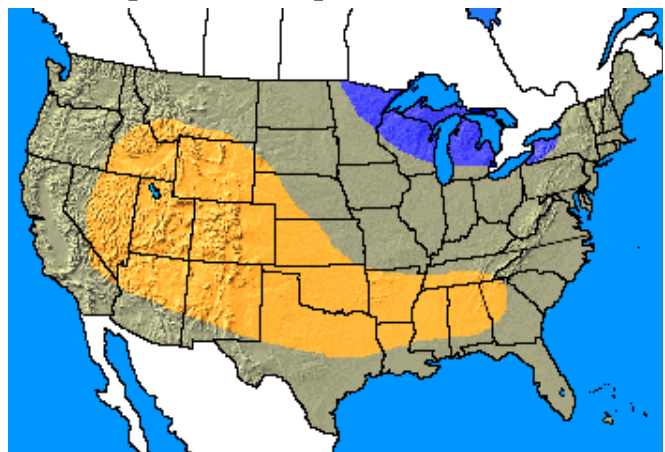


Over the last few months sea surface temperatures across the equatorial Pacific have warmed slightly to more average values or a neutral ENSO level. Forecast models indicate that sea surface temperature anomalies across the Pacific will remain neutral or slightly warmer than normal (weak El Niño) during the next few months. Therefore the fall temperature outlook was partly based with a weak El Niño pattern in mind. However, the NAO (North Atlantic Oscillation) index was also strongly considered in preparing this outlook especially for the eastern third of the country. The NAO index has been running strongly negative throughout much of the month of August. Forecast models indicate this negative trend will continue during the remainder of the month and possibly into early September. What this means is that an upper-level ridge pattern will be in place across the North Atlantic. As a result, more of an upper-level trough pattern is likely across portions of the upper Great Lakes and possibly the Northeast. The presence of this trough pattern is expected to result in below normal temperatures across the upper Great Lakes. In contrast, an upper-level ridge is expected to generally prevail across the Rockies and portions of the Lower Mississippi Valley resulting in above average temperatures in these areas.

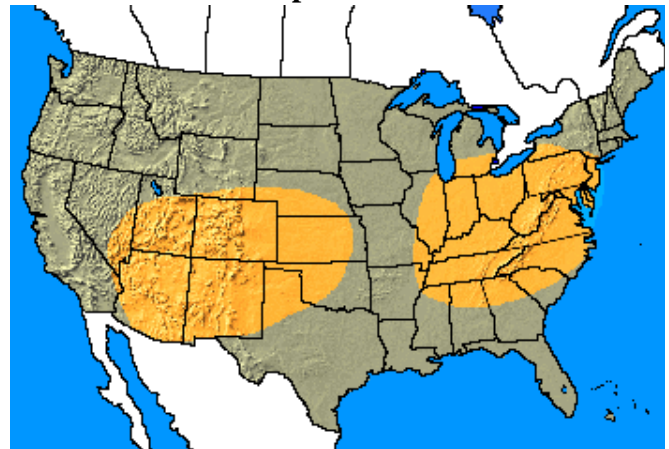
More above average temperatures are forecasted across the eastern third of the country during October based on the anticipation of the NAO index becoming more positive thus creating more of a ridging pattern. The southern Rockies along with portions of the central and southern Plains are likely to remain above normal. The northern Rockies and Plains may see more of a broad upper-level trough develop in response to the ridging out east. However, at this time near normal temperatures are forecasted as the pattern may remain progressive. Also, if a stronger El Niño develops, these areas climatologically remain warmer.

The November temperature forecast is based on a return to a negative NAO index causing an upper-level pattern bringing periods of cool Canadian air across portions of the Ohio Valley and eastern Great Lakes. In response, upper-level ridging along with above normal temperatures will likely remain across portions of the Rockies and Plains. If a stronger El Niño becomes established, the area of above normal temperatures may shift to the northern Plains and the effects of the NAO across the east could be less.

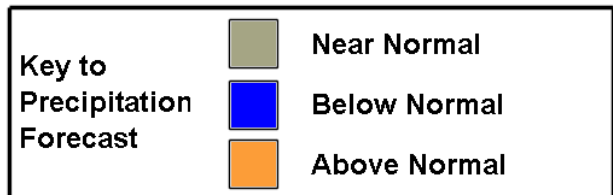
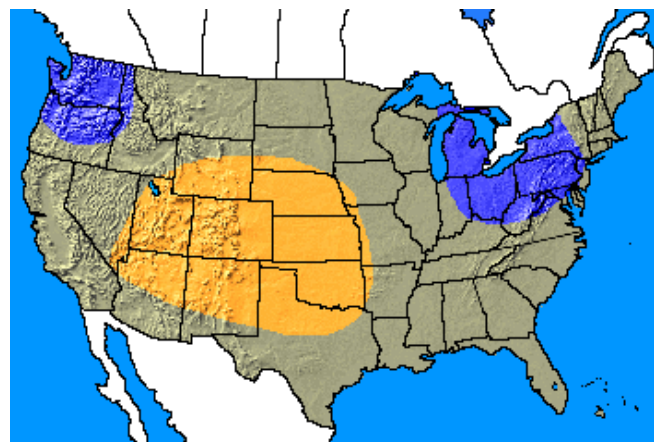
September Temperature Outlook



October Temperature Outlook



November Temperature Outlook

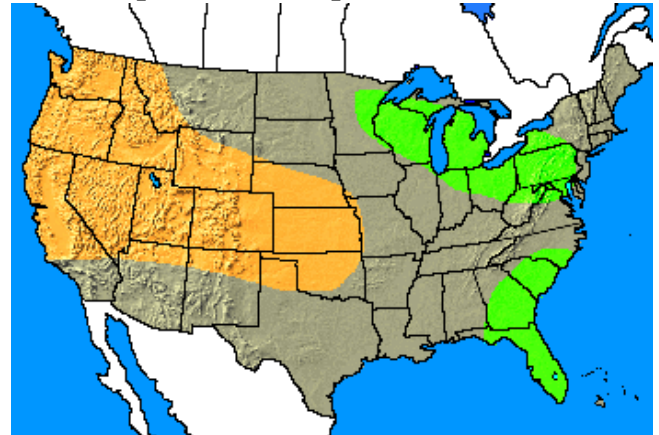


The fall monthly precipitation outlooks were again based on the trends of the NAO index and with the assumption of a neutral or weak El Niño ENSO phase in place. Forecast models indicate a negative NAO into at least the first portion of September which would result in an upper-level trough pattern across the Great Lakes and Northeast. With this trough in place, periodic frontal boundaries are likely across these areas and thus more above normal precipitation is forecasted. Above normal precipitation is also predicted across the southeastern US due to the anticipation of tropical cyclone activity affecting this region. Below normal precipitation is expected across much of the western US and portions of the Plains states as upper-level ridging is expected to prevail.

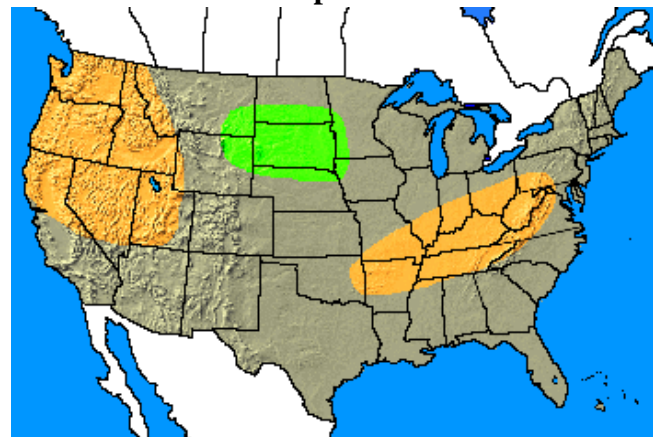
During October it is likely that the NAO index will become at least somewhat positive. As a result, more of a ridging pattern is forecasted across portions of the eastern third of the country. Below normal precipitation is indicated for portions of the Tennessee and Ohio valleys in response to this pattern. The southeastern US and Gulf Coast states were kept at near normal precipitation as the drying due to the ridge pattern could be offset by possible tropical activity. A progressive upper-level trough pattern is anticipated across portions of the northern Plains in response to the ridging out east. As a result, slightly wetter than normal conditions are predicted. Dry weather is likely to continue out west with some upper-level ridging persisting. Climatologically speaking the Pacific Northwest often sees drier weather during the fall when a weak El Niño is in place.

The November precipitation outlook continues to indicate drier conditions across portions of the Great Basin region. The northern and central Plains could also see below normal precipitation if a stronger El Niño sets up. Above normal precipitation is forecasted across the Gulf Coast states as this area is climatologically favored to be wet during a possible El Niño event. Portions of the Northeast may also see wetter than normal conditions as a result of the NAO falling back to negative and thus creating a trough pattern across this area once again.

September Precipitation Outlook



October Precipitation Outlook



November Precipitation Outlook

