



FROM THE AIR PROGRAM

Late Storm Season Snow & Rain Levels

NOAA National Weather Service stated in March that El Nino is weakening to neutral in late spring, with an increasing chance of La Niña (dry conditions) during the second half of the year. NOAA predicted “better than average confidence for a wetter than normal” February through April period for the Las Vegas—Bishop area. El Nino indicators can help predict, but not guarantee, the precipitation that bolsters the west’s water supply. And of course, availability of water across areas varies greatly with distribution inequities. So how is California faring this season so far? The following state-wide numbers are available with the State Water Resource Control Board:

(find more at: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/snowapp/sweq.action>

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/reservoirs/RES>

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/reports/DROUGHTSUM>

As of January 20, California’s 14 major reservoirs combined for this season were at 51% of historical average capacity. As of mid-April, they are at 89%.

As of January 20, the statewide snowpack water content for this season was at 115% of average for that date.

As of mid-April, it’s now at 65% average for this date.

Yosemite’s total rainfall this season was at 108% of average on 1/19/16, and is at 100% as of mid-April.

Death Valley’s total rainfall this season was at 143% of average on 1/19/16, and is at 70% as of mid-April.

Bakersfield’s total rainfall this season was at 81% of average on 1/19/16, and is at 79% as of mid-April.

Los Angeles’ total rainfall this season was at 58% of average on 1/19/16, and is at 45% as of mid-April.

In 2016 so far, the Tribe’s weather station has measured 1” in rainfall.

BURN INFO

The Air Program thanks everyone who has renewed and followed the rules of their burn permits this year. (Permits are good for the year until Dec 31st.) Already this year so far, the number of permits is higher than usual for this time of year.

Springtime conditions can turn from calm and prime for burning to dangerously windy, and back, with little warning. It is important to check the most up-to-the-moment info you can get on burn days. Remember that even on “yes” burn days, it is still up to you to judge whether or not it is too windy to burn, because conditions can change. **If you have online access you can also check the Tribe’s weather station data, including wind speed and the webcam, for real time weather info, at http://www.bishoptribeemo.com/index_air.htm.**

Why must outdoor burns be OUT BY NOON? In the Owens Valley, the winds typically pick up in the afternoon, making it possible for even a small fire to get out of control. In addition, if you put your fire out by noon, but have a flare up, it will happen during daylight hours when you can more easily manage it.

Why are some calm days “NO” burn days? Sometimes, this happens when barometric pressure is high, and we get cold, clear days when the smoke stays around. You can identify them by looking out your window. The smoke from your neighbor’s woodstove will be streaming out horizontally. This means that the smoke tends to hang around for you to breathe. So these “no” burn days are designed to keep the air cleaner