

A landscape photograph showing a dirt road winding through a field. The sky is blue with wispy white clouds. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

ODA Climate Forecast

Updated: August 14, 2008

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Oregon
Department
of Agriculture

Seasonal Climate Forecast

September – November (2008)



Issued: August 14, 2008

Purpose: To provide Oregon farmers and growers with a seasonal climate outlook that is more accurate than assuming “average” conditions will prevail.

Basis of Forecast: Changes in Sea-Surface Temperatures (SST) in the Tropical Pacific Ocean have been closely linked with subsequent changes in world-wide weather patterns. Using modern technology, it is possible to accurately measure, analyze, and catalog ocean temperature patterns.

By comparing the current tropical SST structure (including the evolution since the previous winter) with those from former years, best matches with the current year (analog years) can be identified. Based on historical weather data from these analog years, a climate forecast can be created.

Accuracy: Over the past decade, using historical records, from analog years, to create a climate forecast has proven more accurate than simply forecasting average conditions. The accuracy of the forecast increases during El Niño and La Niña events, because the resultant weather pattern changes are more identifiable and affect the local climate in fairly consistent ways. It should be noted that the accuracy of this type of climate forecast decreases markedly beyond one season.

Limitations of Forecast: Long-range climate forecasts are fundamentally different from short-term weather forecasts derived from dynamic computer models. Rather than getting specific, the goal of this product is to forecast general “trends” in the local climate during the upcoming season.

Forecast: ENSO- neutral (El Niño-Southern Oscillation) conditions prevail in the equatorial Pacific Ocean and will likely persist at least through this autumn. Some lingering atmospheric circulation features associated with La Niña are still present.

These September – November climate predictions are based on historical weather data from the top three analog years (1929, 1999, and 2000). All three years were given equal weight:

- Well below normal precipitation is likely, statewide, during the 3-month period.
- There is an increased chance of thundershower activity (Cascades eastward) in September.
- Increased chance of early season frost for all zones.
- A wider than normal range in daily temperatures is likely, due to drier than normal air masses, with early-season freezing temperatures likely statewide.
- A transition to mild and wet conditions is likely near the end of November.

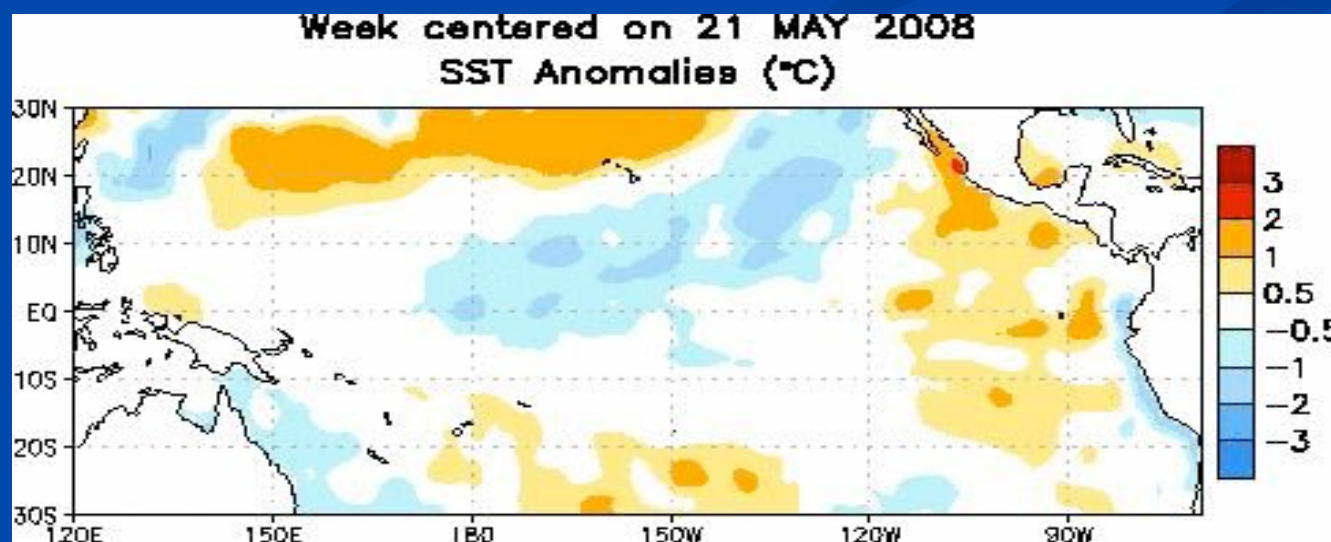
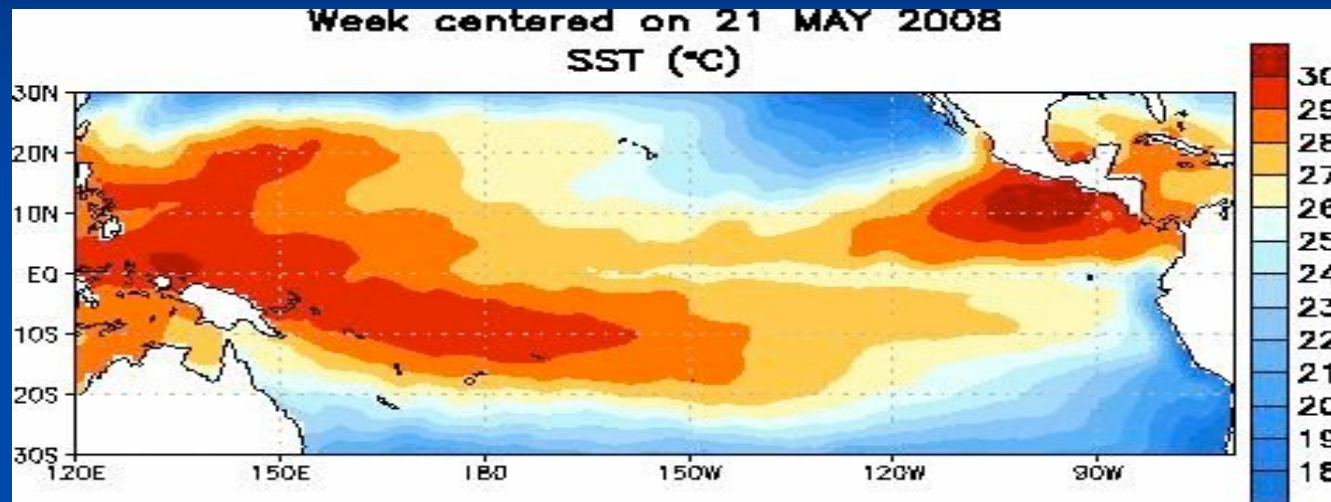
Please Continue for a more detailed presentation. Your feedback is encouraged to help us maximize the utility of this service.

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The Latest From NOAA:

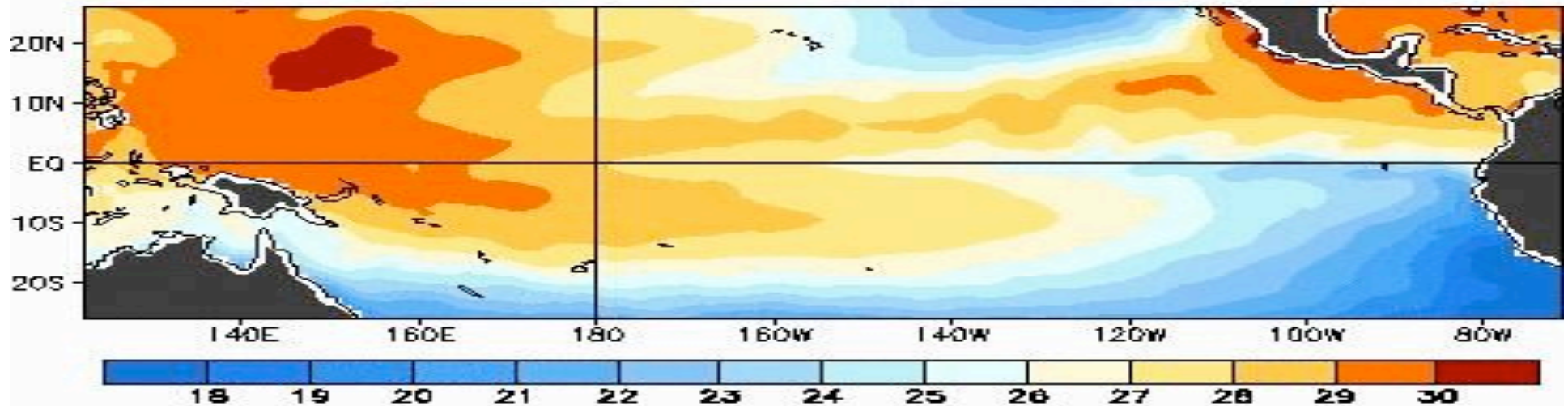
- ENSO-neutral conditions are present in the equatorial Pacific Ocean.
- Atmospheric circulation patterns still show the lingering effects of La Niña.
- Recent equatorial sea-surface temperature trends and computer model forecasts indicate that ENSO-neutral conditions are forecast to persist through autumn 2008.

Evolution of Tropical Ocean Temperatures / Anomalies

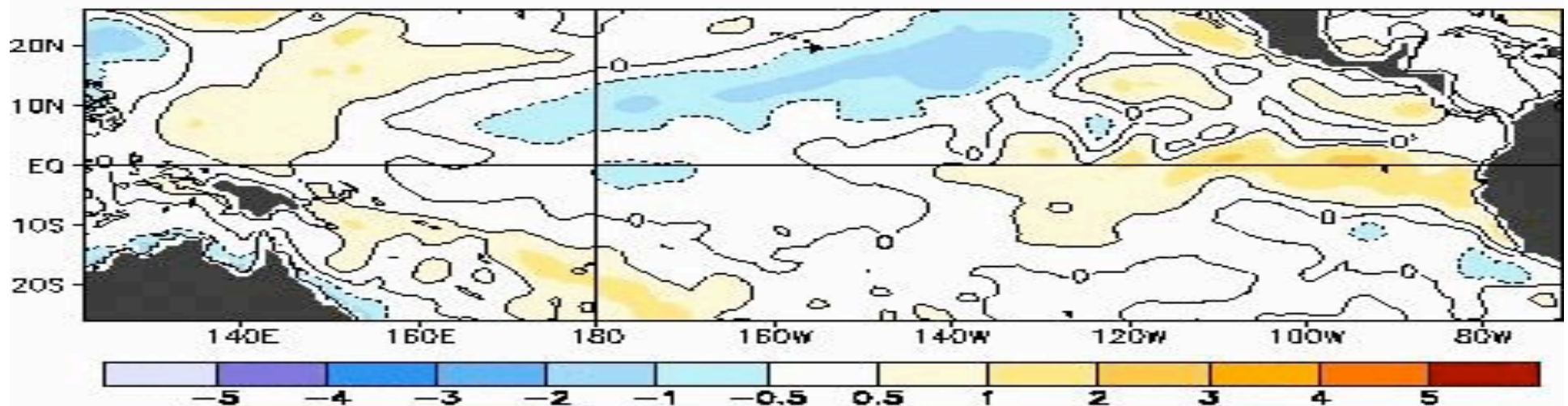


ENSO-Neutral Conditions

Observed Sea Surface Temperature (°C)



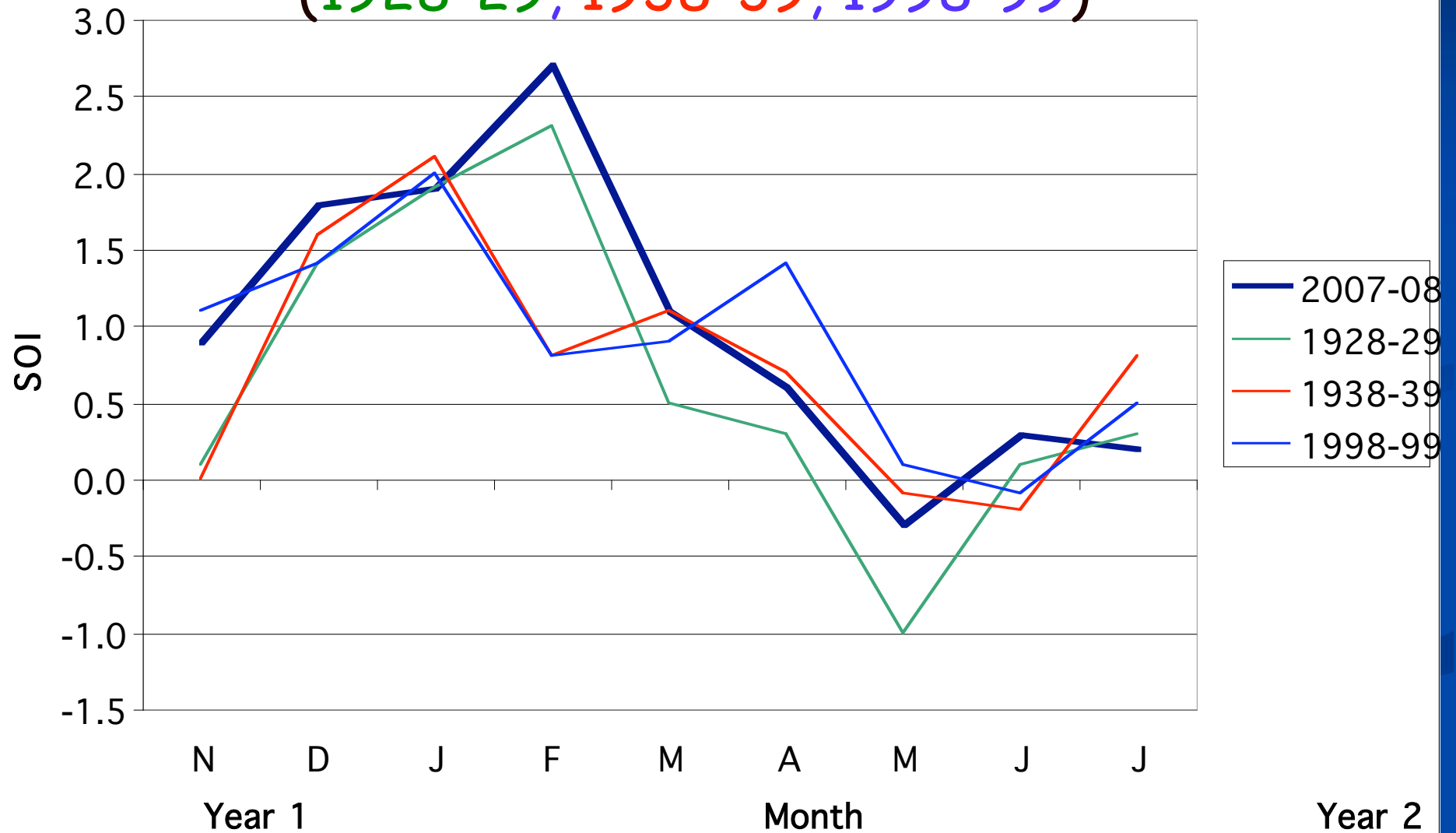
Observed Sea Surface Temperature Anomalies (°C)



7-day Average Centered on 06 August 2008

Best Analog Years Based on SOI for the Past 9 Months

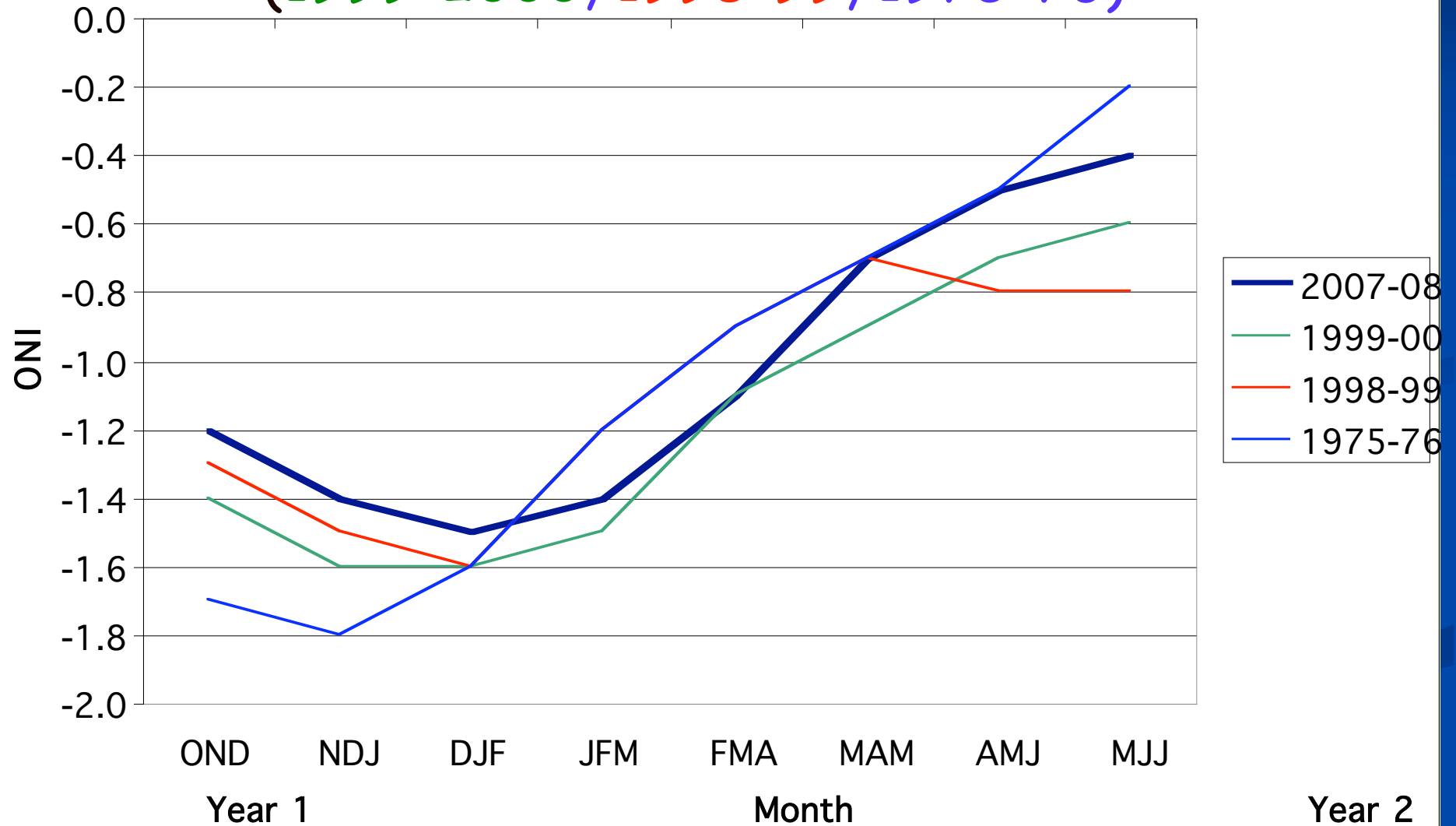
(1928-29, 1938-39, 1998-99)



3 Best Analog Years Based on ONI*

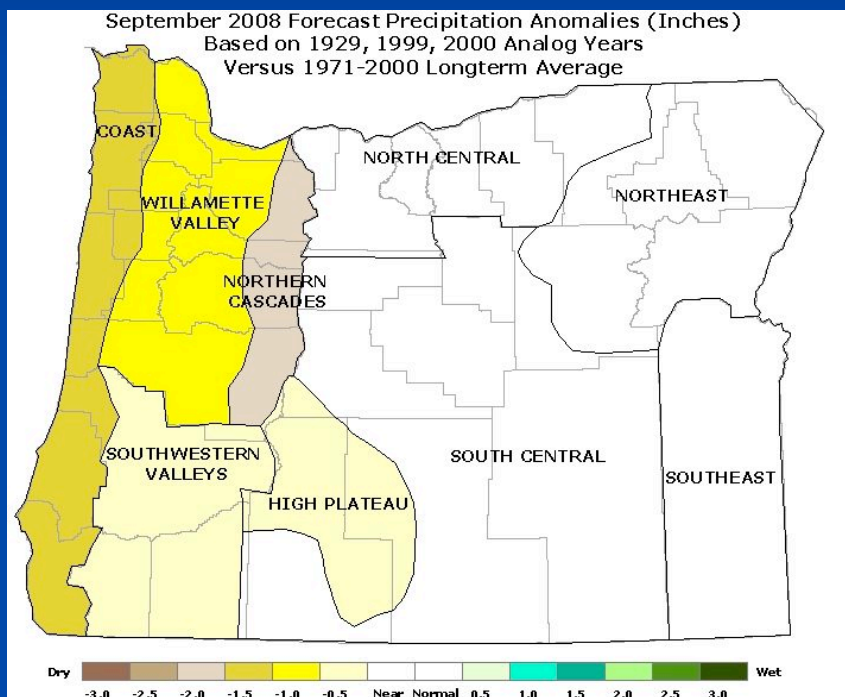
*Data Not Available Prior to 1950

(1999-2000, 1998-99, 1975-76)

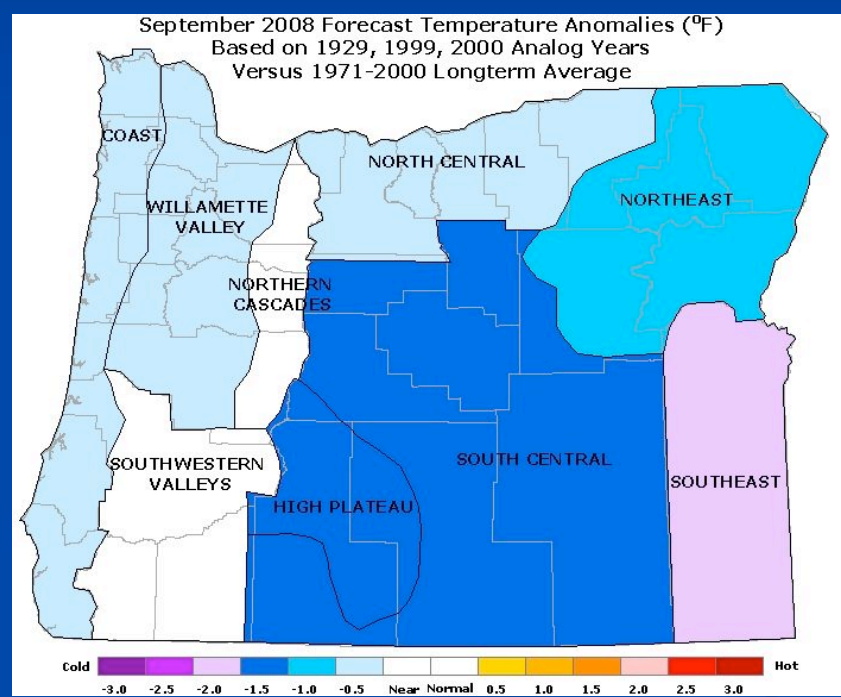


September 2008 Forecast

Precipitation



Temperatures

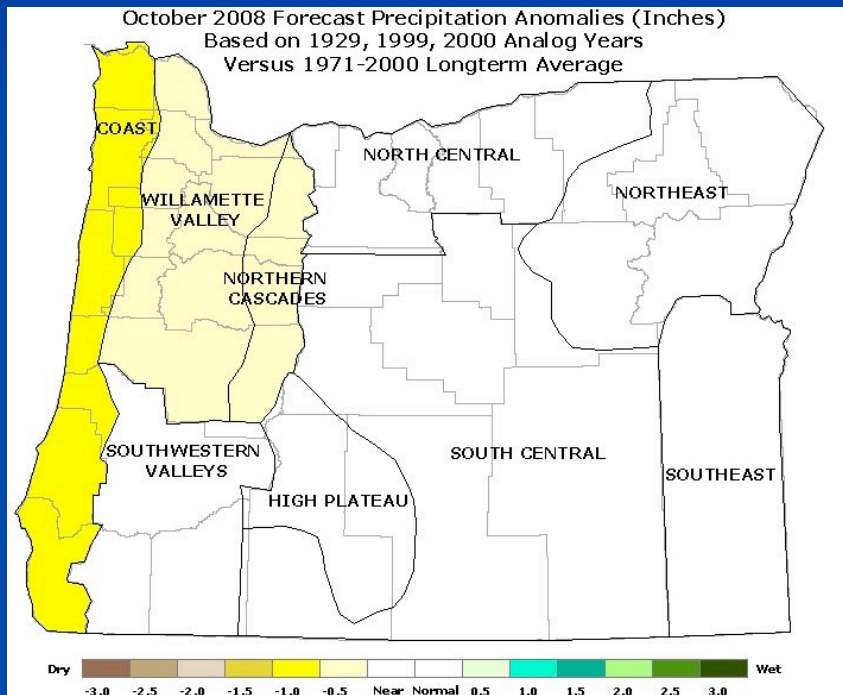


September, 2008 Forecast (Based on 1929, 1999, 2000)

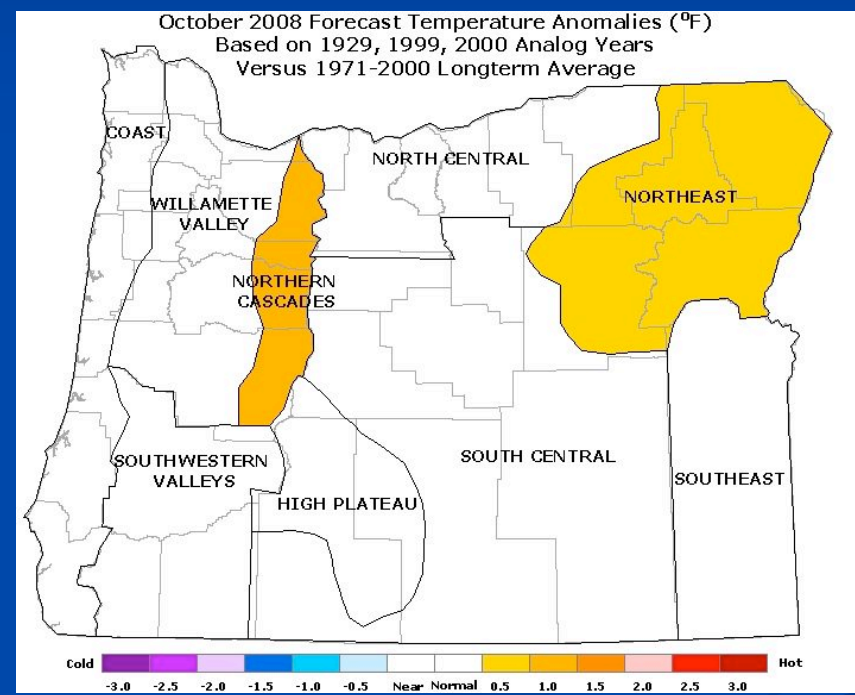
- Drier than normal...especially for the western zones.
- Increased chance of t-storms, forest fires, and early season frosts (mainly eastern zones).
- Good chance of temperature extremes, in both directions, due to unusually dry air masses.

October 2008 Forecast

Precipitation



Temperatures

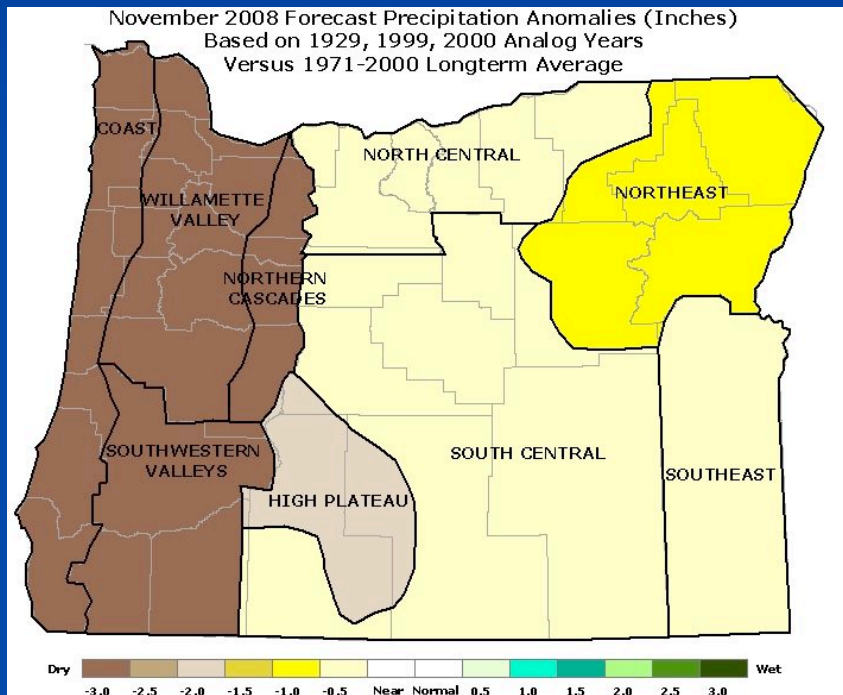


October, 2008 Forecast (Based on 1929, 1999, 2000)

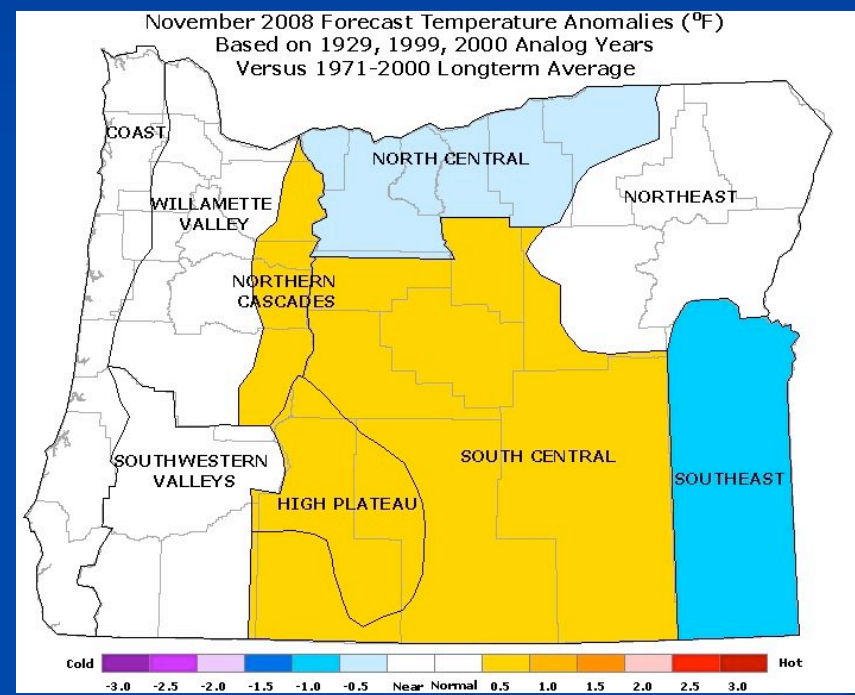
- Large range between high and low temperatures early in the month due to continued dry conditions.
- Drier than normal west, and near normal precipitation east.
- The usual seasonal transition to moist weather will likely hold off until the middle or end of the month.

November 2008 Forecast

Precipitation



Temperatures

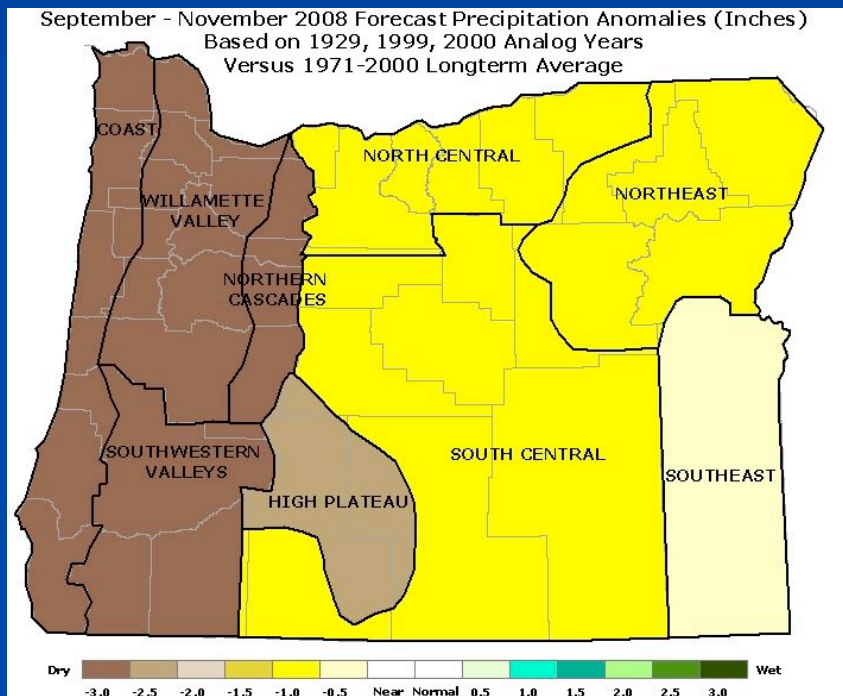


November, 2008 Forecast (Based on 1929, 1999, 2000)

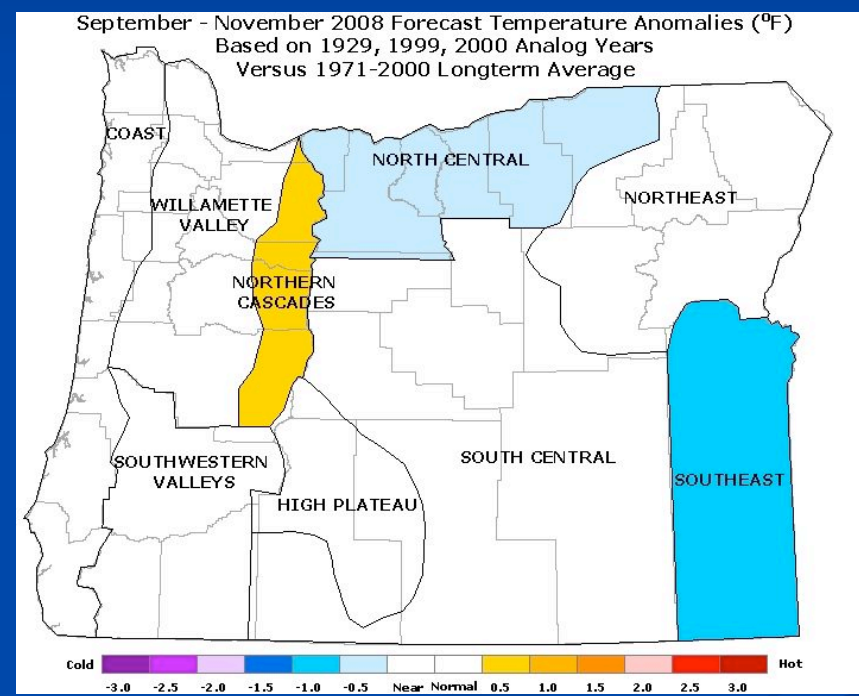
- The main theme from the analog years was for much drier than normal conditions statewide.
- A transition to wet weather occurred late in the month in two out of the three analog years.

September – November 2008 Forecast

Precipitation




Temperatures



Sept. – Nov., 2008 Forecast (Based on 1929, 1999, 2000)

- Well below normal precipitation likely statewide during the 3-month period.
- Increased t-storm threat in September, mainly from the Cascades eastward.
- Wide range in daily temperatures due to dry air masses (early freeze).



**The ODA Climate Forecast is
Usually Updated Around the
10th of each Month**

Your Feedback is Welcome

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