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January certainly hasn't been kind to the lower 48! It was heavy rain for the Pacific Northwest and unusually heavy snow and freezing rain working across the mid and southern sections of the country. Many of these areas only see this weather every few years. The question stands, is this a result of a moderate El Niño year?



Well today is "Ground Hog Day," do you believe in Punxsutawney Phil or like most others do you rely on your weather service to give you your Spring prediction? Either way it's safe to say we're not out of winter quite yet. More snow is on the way for the southern Mid Atlantic region; and possibly one last round to come.

## Northeast

You can expect a mixed bag of rain and snow to start the month, before turning colder for Valentine's Day and the President's Day Weekend. A fair amount of sunshine carries you to the end of the month along with a slight warming trend. You may see a passing shower mixing with a little snow. Look for March to begin with some sunshine and mild temperatures.

## Pacific Northwest

This region appears to be following the El Niño pattern with heavy rain likely and near normal to above normal temperatures. Get set for a soggy February with very little, if any snow. Temperatures show a pattern of the mid 40s to lower 50s and overnight lows staying slightly above the freezing mark. By mid month a slight respite from the rain with sunshine before rain again targets the region for the end of the month.

## Intermountain Region

It's sunshine for the northern part of the region while snow showers may target the southern part of the region from Boise to Salt Lake City if not Grand Junction Colorado. For President's Day Weekend it's too close to call who will see measureable snow; it appears as though a storm will develop and move through the Rockies bringing snow to the central and southern portion of the region. Through the end of the month temperatures remain on the cold side with light snow showers taking you into March.

## Rockies

A little snow targets the foothills to start February. Denver can look for temperatures above normal through Valentine's Day. The Northern Rockies can anticipate temperatures colder than normal with sunshine and a passing snow shower or two. President's Day and beyond, the region can look for a developing storm that will bring accumulating snow to the area. We'll close out the month with limited sunshine.

## **Great Plains**

February starts on a mild note with temperatures above normal and very little precipitation. Look for more sunshine than clouds moving toward mid month. Following President's Day the pattern becomes unsettled with a chance for a few snow showers mixing with or changing to rain with warmer temperatures. Sunshine helps to round out February taking us into March.

## **Ohio Valley**

A series of storms work through the Ohio Valley to start February. President's Day may be a snowy one for the Ohio Valley before warm temperatures work in at the end of the month . You may still see a few snow showers mixing with some rain heading toward March as temperatures show signs of turning colder.

## **Great Lakes and Midwest**

Mild temperatures ring in February with rain showers likely. Temperatures show a trend of colder air for mid month with a good possibility of lake effect snow. Shortly after President's Day, sunshine returns with the temperatures remaining colder than normal. Rain and snow return to round out February with the cold remaining in place to usher in March.

## **Pan Handle and Northern Texas**

Milder temperatures highlight the start of February before colder temperatures return with a threat for more snow the second week of the month. A few snow showers mixing with freezing rain carry you to President's Day before mild air returns with sunshine for the end of the month.

## **Appalachians**

The unsettled conditions continue for more snow showers with the temperatures hovering near the freezing mark from Central Pennsylvania continuing north. The remainder of the region will see temperatures in the 40s. President's Day may bring patchy freezing rain for the entire region. Seasonable temperatures round out the month with a chance for a rain and snow mix.

## **Mid Atlantic**

Mild temperatures are in place to start the month before a cooling trend develops for Valentine's Day. Early in the month the Metro Washington region can expect a series of storms that will plague the region, with the unsettled conditions continuing through the 10<sup>th</sup>. As a cold front sweeps through the region this is the signal colder air is returning by the 18<sup>th</sup>. A rain and snow mix will finish off the end of February with warmer air taking hold moving into March.

## **Alaska**

Sunshine and seasonable temperatures start February with snow developing for President's Day weekend. A cold front will intensify the snow showers that develop during week three as cold air moves in from an Aleutian Low. The end of the month shows temperatures slightly above normal with little precipitation.