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I'm sure most of you are happy about not seeing a typical winter of snow, snow, and more snow, along with biting cold temperatures. A La Nina weather pattern has been talked about for some time now and there are indicators that the La Nina may have reached its peak and is becoming neutral. If all the indicators are correct and with a pattern change like this, it may mean winter is back! Going out on a limb, and again talking about computer models and indicators, a major winter storm may work up the east coast around the 13th and again toward the end of the month. A fine line (temperature line) will determine whether this will be a significant snow or rain event, right now it's too early to call. Looking west of the Rockies and South very little winter weather can be expected through January. The Denver Metro area has seen more snow locally in the last six weeks than they have in recent winters, but it looks like they get a break for the remainder of the month.

Pacific Northwest: Rain highlights the 1st week of 2012 before sunshine returns for a limited engagement during week two. Leading up to the 15th overnight lows will linger close to the freezing mark, and may create some driving issues with remnants of the daytime rain showers. Slightly cooler temperatures are forecast for week three, along with rain and possibly a few snow showers further inland. During week four, temperatures continue the downward spiral as we work into February with a limited amount of sun.

Intermountain and the Cascade Region: January brings a mix of rain and snow to the north, while sunshine highlights the remainder of the region through week two. Week three shows a band of snow working east from Boise to Salt Lake City as a fast moving disturbance targets the area. As a series of lows move east the area finishes out weeks three and four with mild temperatures and rain in the forecast. The north may see periods of sun while the central and south will see the lion's share of the rain

Rockies and High Plains: Sunshine ushers in the New Year before snow arrives in the higher elevations and during week two with slightly colder temperatures. The unsettled conditions will remain in place through week three, although sunshine is likely for the southern part of the region. Widely scattered snow showers, sunshine, and warming temperatures round out the month.

Upper Midwest: Not a typical start to January for the upper Midwest, look for above normal temperatures and very little snow. A Clipper works its way across the region during week two bringing the chance of snow and considerably colder temperatures. Weeks three and four remain unsettled; with milder temperatures for week three before a dip in the jet stream allows colder Canadian air to spill into the region.

Heartland: Sunshine and colder temperatures highlight the start of 2012 and carry us through week two with sunshine remaining. Week three shows a pattern change of moderate temperatures along with periods of rain mixed with a little snow in the north. Week four shows a disturbance rolling through the Midwest bringing snow showers and colder temperatures to round out January.

Upper Tennessee Valley: Sunny but unseasonably cold temperatures rang in the New Year. Week two allows temperatures to moderate slightly, with more clouds and a threat for rain midweek. The last half of the month shows a series of disturbances rolling through the Tennessee Valley with showers likely. Sunshine and cooler temperatures dominate the last few days of January.

Great Lakes: Snow showers and slightly below normal temperatures target the Great Lakes Region to start 2012. Normally by now the Lakes are frozen and cold Canadian air is in place with snow covering the ground. This is an unusually warm winter and is well behind the normal snowfall totals. The end of week two shows the possibility of a storm that may leave its calling card, with accumulating snow for the eastern side of the lakes before migrating east. Weeks three and four see cold Canadian air spilling into the region providing the necessary ingredients for snow and more winter like conditions.

Ohio Valley: Week one brings cold temperatures and snow showers to the north while sunshine dominates the central and south through the end of week two. Weeks three and four show more clouds likely with scattered showers mixing with snow. At the end of January temperatures take a dive with snow likely for the entire region.

Appalachians: January starts on an unsettled note that continues into mid-month. Near seasonable temperatures will lend the possibility of freezing rain and snow for the central and northern parts of the region, while the southern portion will see above normal temperatures through the 15th. Weeks three and four continue with an unsettled pattern while colder air works south to usher in February.

Mid Atlantic: The first ^{half} of January shows mainly sunny skies with mild temperatures. There is a hint of a storm around the 13th, although it's still too early to say whether it will be a major snow producer or snow mixed with rain. Temperatures will moderate slightly for week three before diving below freezing with another chance of snow as colder Canadian air arrives.

Northeast: January brings snow to the Northeast as a series of clippers roll across the northern border. Cold temperatures remain in place through mid-month. Temperatures moderate slightly for week three and a portion of week four before another round of cold Canadian air targets the region.

North Texas, Oklahoma and the Panhandle Region: Sunshine and few clouds ring in the New Year and continue into mid-January with slightly above normal temperatures. Look for an area of low pressure to develop in the four corners region and slowly work northeast allowing for showers to develop and cooler temperatures.

Alaska: Well below normal temperatures usher in January with snow and freezing rain possible for the central and southern areas. Snow may highlight the northern part of Alaska through the 15th. Temperatures remain on the mild side for weeks three and four in the south with more rain than snow. Central and northern Alaska can expect snow for the last half of January with colder temperatures as the Arctic Jet dives south.