



December 2015

Accumulated Precipitation



1

00:00:01,340 --> 00:00:04,040

It's challenging to predict the precipitation for a whole season,

2

00:00:04,090 --> 00:00:08,100

but particularly during an El Niño year. An El Niño warms

3

00:00:08,120 --> 00:00:12,270

the ocean's surface, which changes the structure of the atmosphere, including

4

00:00:12,290 --> 00:00:16,320

shifting the position of the jet stream and it changes where the weather patterns

5

00:00:16,340 --> 00:00:20,430

are. Observations from NASA's GPM mission help us monitor

6

00:00:20,450 --> 00:00:24,490

the impacts of these changes, particularly in drought-weary California,

7

00:00:24,510 --> 00:00:28,510

which scientists predicted would get substantial rains this winter due to the

8

00:00:28,530 --> 00:00:32,560

El Niño. This Rainfall accumulation map from December

9

00:00:32,580 --> 00:00:36,590

reveals how El Niño storms provided some relief to the Golden State.

10

00:00:36,610 --> 00:00:40,650

Storms passing through Northern California brought up to 34

11

00:00:40,670 --> 00:00:45,730

inches of rain to the northern coast and added water to the state's reservoirs.

12

00:00:45,750 --> 00:00:48,800

In early January very heavy storms were

13

00:00:48,820 --> 00:00:52,830

seen in Southern California. Over the course of a couple of days,

14

00:00:52,850 --> 00:00:56,890

Los Angeles was hit with nearly 3 inches of rain, which is

15

00:00:56,910 --> 00:01:00,940

more than half the rain the city received in all of 2015.

16

00:01:00,960 --> 00:01:05,000

Meanwhile San Francisco received more rain in January than it had

17

00:01:05,020 --> 00:01:09,060

in the last 5 Januarys combined. But El Nino

18

00:01:09,080 --> 00:01:13,150

effects appeared to lose momentum in February, which was extremely dry,

19

00:01:13,170 --> 00:01:17,220

showing just how variable an El Niño can be. The effects

20

00:01:17,240 --> 00:01:21,310

of this year's El Niño still have several months to emerge. And it'll be interesting to

21

00:01:21,330 --> 00:01:25,400

see how things play out. Although we know the rains from this winter won't