



Tony Phillips



1
00:00:09,669 --> 00:00:06,309
what happened to all the snow

2
00:00:11,509 --> 00:00:09,679
presented by science at nasa

3
00:00:14,390 --> 00:00:11,519
winter seems to have been on hold this

4
00:00:16,230 --> 00:00:14,400
year in some parts of the united states

5
00:00:18,070 --> 00:00:16,240
snowfall has been scarce in places that

6
00:00:20,390 --> 00:00:18,080
were overwhelmed by the white stuff by

7
00:00:22,150 --> 00:00:20,400
the same time last year

8
00:00:23,830 --> 00:00:22,160
mammoth mountain in california is a

9
00:00:26,230 --> 00:00:23,840
prime example

10
00:00:28,310 --> 00:00:26,240
the mammoth ski resort got more than 200

11
00:00:30,630 --> 00:00:28,320
inches of snow last december says nasa

12
00:00:32,310 --> 00:00:30,640
climatologist bill patzert of the jet

13
00:00:34,150 --> 00:00:32,320

propulsion laboratory

14

00:00:35,590 --> 00:00:34,160

this december they got less than 10

15

00:00:38,069 --> 00:00:35,600

inches

16

00:00:40,069 --> 00:00:38,079

it's not only skiers who are put out

17

00:00:41,990 --> 00:00:40,079

sled dogs are troubled too

18

00:00:44,389 --> 00:00:42,000

my huskies just don't understand what's

19

00:00:46,069 --> 00:00:44,399

going on says tony phillips a nasa

20

00:00:47,990 --> 00:00:46,079

writer who dog sleds in california's

21

00:00:49,670 --> 00:00:48,000

rugged sierra nevada

22

00:00:52,069 --> 00:00:49,680

last year we had more than six feet of

23

00:00:53,670 --> 00:00:52,079

snow to work with this year it's just

24

00:00:55,990 --> 00:00:53,680

bare dirt

25

00:00:59,029 --> 00:00:56,000

temperatures have flip-flopped too

26

00:01:00,790 --> 00:00:59,039

there were 583 heat records broken in

27

00:01:02,150 --> 00:01:00,800

the first five days of january in the

28

00:01:04,390 --> 00:01:02,160

u.s

29

00:01:06,469 --> 00:01:04,400

it was 86 degrees in los angeles on

30

00:01:08,390 --> 00:01:06,479

january 4th says patzert

31

00:01:10,870 --> 00:01:08,400

everyone thinks it's july

32

00:01:12,550 --> 00:01:10,880

in fact it's warmer today in la than it

33

00:01:14,710 --> 00:01:12,560

was on july 4th

34

00:01:16,710 --> 00:01:14,720

and it's been in the 60s and 70s even in

35

00:01:18,390 --> 00:01:16,720

the dakotas lately

36

00:01:19,990 --> 00:01:18,400

similar reports are coming from across

37

00:01:21,510 --> 00:01:20,000

the united states

38

00:01:24,630 --> 00:01:21,520

what's going on

39

00:01:26,950 --> 00:01:24,640

patzert identifies two culprits la nina

40

00:01:28,630 --> 00:01:26,960

and the arctic oscillation

41

00:01:30,710 --> 00:01:28,640

first of all he explains we are

42

00:01:32,390 --> 00:01:30,720

experiencing a la nina pattern of sea

43

00:01:33,429 --> 00:01:32,400

surface temperatures in the pacific

44

00:01:35,510 --> 00:01:33,439

ocean

45

00:01:37,429 --> 00:01:35,520

this pushes the jet stream and the cold

46

00:01:39,590 --> 00:01:37,439

arctic air northward

47

00:01:42,469 --> 00:01:39,600

on top of that this year's arctic

48

00:01:44,789 --> 00:01:42,479

oscillation has been stronger

49

00:01:46,469 --> 00:01:44,799

the arctic oscillation is a see-sawing

50

00:01:48,389 --> 00:01:46,479

pressure difference between the arctic

51
00:01:50,389 --> 00:01:48,399
and lower latitudes

52
00:01:52,550 --> 00:01:50,399
where the pressure difference is high a

53
00:01:53,510 --> 00:01:52,560
whirlpool of air forms around the north

54
00:01:55,749 --> 00:01:53,520
pole

55
00:01:56,870 --> 00:01:55,759
when the whirlpool motion is weaker like

56
00:01:59,109 --> 00:01:56,880
last year

57
00:02:01,670 --> 00:01:59,119
cold air escapes from the polar regions

58
00:02:03,429 --> 00:02:01,680
and heads southward to the us

59
00:02:05,510 --> 00:02:03,439
this year the whirlpool has been more

60
00:02:07,749 --> 00:02:05,520
forceful corralling the cold air and

61
00:02:10,550 --> 00:02:07,759
keeping it closer to the pole that has

62
00:02:11,990 --> 00:02:10,560
reinforced la nina's impact

63
00:02:14,150 --> 00:02:12,000

while the corralling action of the

64

00:02:15,750 --> 00:02:14,160

arctic oscillation has kept snow away

65

00:02:16,790 --> 00:02:15,760

from parts of the contiguous united

66

00:02:18,949 --> 00:02:16,800

states

67

00:02:21,030 --> 00:02:18,959

it has brought extra snow to places

68

00:02:23,270 --> 00:02:21,040

inside the whirlpool

69

00:02:24,710 --> 00:02:23,280

snowy storm tracks are pounding alaska

70

00:02:26,390 --> 00:02:24,720

says patzert

71

00:02:28,710 --> 00:02:26,400

this is the flip side of the absence of

72

00:02:31,910 --> 00:02:28,720

winter in the lower 48.

73

00:02:33,830 --> 00:02:31,920

cordova a small coastal town about 150

74

00:02:36,869 --> 00:02:33,840

miles east of anchorage has been

75

00:02:39,430 --> 00:02:36,879

especially hard hit more than 18 feet of

76

00:02:41,110 --> 00:02:39,440

snow has fallen so far this winter

77

00:02:42,949 --> 00:02:41,120

snow dumps are full

78

00:02:45,430 --> 00:02:42,959

roads have turned into one-lane snow

79

00:02:48,470 --> 00:02:45,440

canyons and national guardsmen have been

80

00:02:50,790 --> 00:02:48,480

sent in to help residents dig out

81

00:02:52,869 --> 00:02:50,800

the sled dogs of the lower 48 don't need

82

00:02:55,270 --> 00:02:52,879

that much white stuff but they'd like

83

00:02:57,509 --> 00:02:55,280

enough to cover the ground at least

84

00:02:59,350 --> 00:02:57,519

be patient don't sell that new dog sled

85

00:03:01,509 --> 00:02:59,360

yet advises patsert

86

00:03:03,190 --> 00:03:01,519

we haven't gotten to the heart of winter

87

00:03:04,869 --> 00:03:03,200

there's plenty of time for the arctic

88

00:03:05,990 --> 00:03:04,879

oscillation to weaken and bring us some

89

00:03:08,390 --> 00:03:06,000

snow

90

00:03:10,790 --> 00:03:08,400

after all he points out it ain't over

91

00:03:13,110 --> 00:03:10,800

until the siberian huskies sing