

La Nina peaks, snowpack on the line

By Don Jenkins, Capital Press

A weak to moderate La Nina in the tropical Pacific has probably peaked, though it may have enough punch left to swell snowpacks, climatologists reported last week.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said that the cooler-than-normal ocean likely will begin warming, but won't reach average temperatures until the spring. Climatologists estimated the chances of La Nina sticking through the winter at 90 percent.

La Nina stacks the deck in favor of cool and wet weather for the next few weeks, Washington State Climatologist Nick Bond said.

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