

Weather: Higher than normal rainfall in September

October 1, 2019



The local forecast calls for a periods of sun and rain through the rest of this week, and the latest rain amounts might surprise you.

If you were out and about last Sunday, you might have been one of those caught in a downpour in Crescent City and Brookings.

According to the National Weather Service, Crescent City received between one-quarter and one-half an inch of rain Sept. 29, while Brookings recorded nearly a quarter of an inch.

“We have had many more active weather systems come through this area, with more rainfall this month, compared to previous years,” said National Weather Service meteorologist Brad Schaaf of Medford.

The normal weather pattern for our region signals the usual September and October transition months from summer-like to fall conditions, but this current transition period has seen more rain than usual.

“We recorded 4.23 inches of rain for September in Brookings and 2.85 inches in Crescent City, which is above normal,” Schaaf said. “Normal rainfall for September in Brookings is about 2.08 inches, and in Crescent City for that same period it’s 1.17 inches of rain.”

That said, from Oct. 1, 2018 to Sept. 30, 2019 Brookings saw below-normal rainfall, at 71.44 inches, compared to the average of 76.54 inches.

Crescent City, on the other hand, recorded 59.34 inches, above the yearly average of 57.3 inches.

Schaaf said it’s hard to pinpoint specific reasons for the current weather patterns. “Science has yet to determine why,” he said, “and we aren’t expecting specific impacts from El Nino or La Nina, because they are in neutral positions.”

Looking through data provided by the National Weather Service’s Climate Prediction Center, Schaaf said, over the next 30 days the region will see a higher chance for colder-than-normal temperatures and likely more wet weather.

“So, we will continue to see a parade of systems coming through (that are) keeping us cooler than normal, with equal chances for rain and snowfall,” he said.

Schaaf said the climate center’s prediction shows the jet stream shifting further to the north, which could send the majority of the storm systems towards Portland and Seattle. “So Brookings and Crescent City could see a couple of those systems coming through.

“But right now,” he said. “it’s still unclear. And meteorology is a really a guessing game.”

Current forecasts are found at currypilot.com.

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