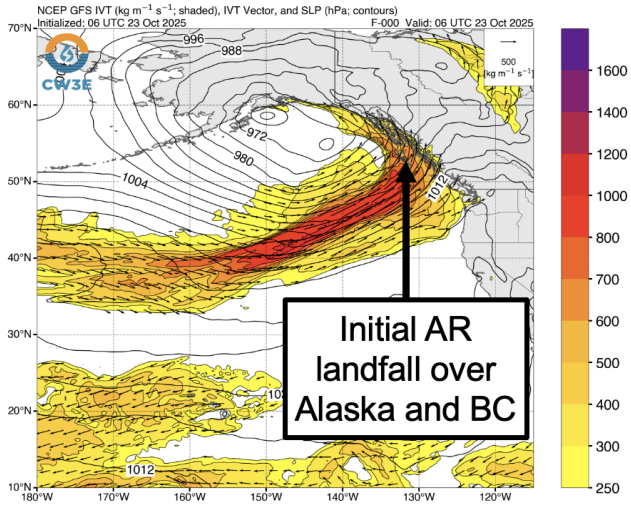
Quick Summary of the Recent Storms in the Pacific Northwest and Northern California

Updated: 28 October 2025

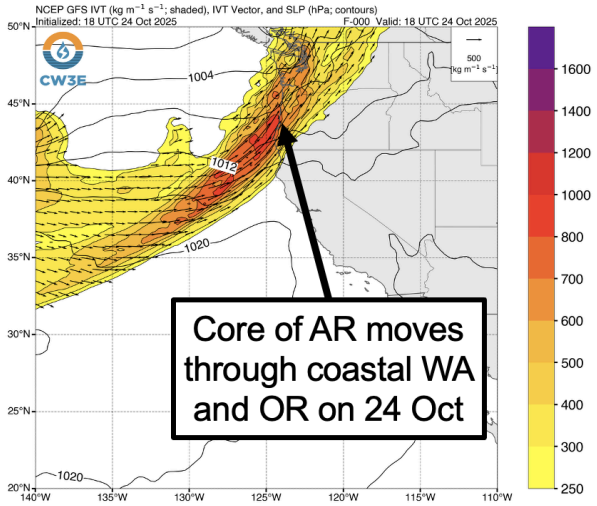
- An atmospheric river (AR) associated with a strong low-pressure system in the Gulf of Alaska made landfall over southeastern Alaska and British Columbia late Wed 22 Oct.
- Over the next 48 hours, the AR gradually moved southward along the coast, bringing moderate-to-strong AR conditions (IVT 500–1000 kg m^{-1} s^{-1}) to coastal Washington, Oregon, and northern California.
- As the AR began to weaken, a low-pressure system rapidly developed off the coast and drove a second pulse of moisture transport onshore on Sat 25 Oct.
- A third and final pulse of moisture transported moved onshore over northern California on Sun 26 Oct in association with a second, weaker cyclogenesis event.
- The initial AR was ranked as an AR 3 (based on the Ralph et al. 2019 AR Scale) in coastal southern Oregon and an AR 2 over much of the rest of coastal Washington and Oregon.
- An AR 2/AR 3 was also observed over coastal northern California, where the second and third moisture pulses prolonged AR conditions after the initial AR landfall.
- These three systems produced a combined 2–5 inches of precipitation across coastal Washington and Oregon, the Cascades, the Klamath Mountains, and the Northern Sierra Nevada, with locally higher amounts in the Olympic Mountains, Willapa Hills, Northern Oregon Coast Range, North Cascades, and near Mount Saint Helens.
- Lower freezing levels during the second and third storms facilitated significant snowfall accumulations (>6 inches) above 5,000 feet in the Washington and Oregon Cascades.
- Strong winds associated with the low-pressure system that moved onshore on Sat 25 Oct caused widespread tree damage and numerous power outages in western Washington and northwestern Oregon. A peak wind gust of 77 mph was reported at Hoquiam Bowerman Airport.

GFS IVT & SLP Analyses

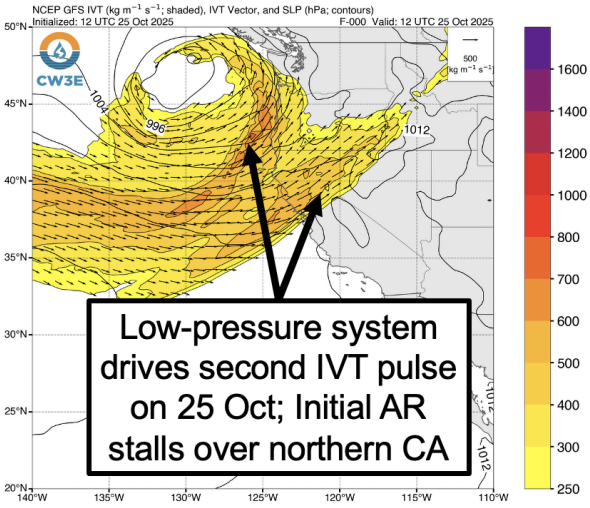
Valid 11 PM PDT 22 Oct



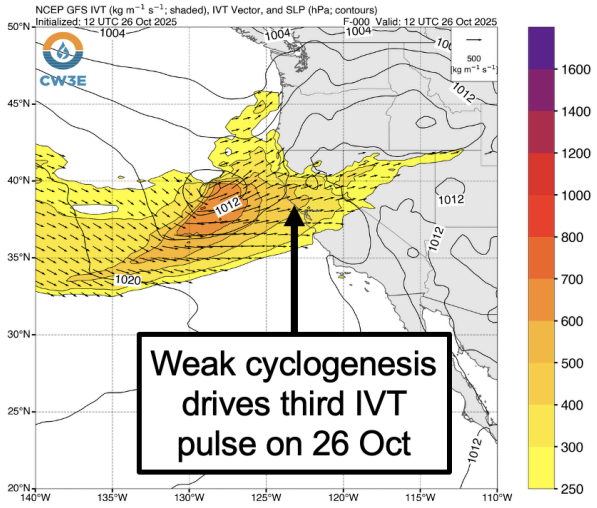
Valid 11 AM PDT 24 Oct

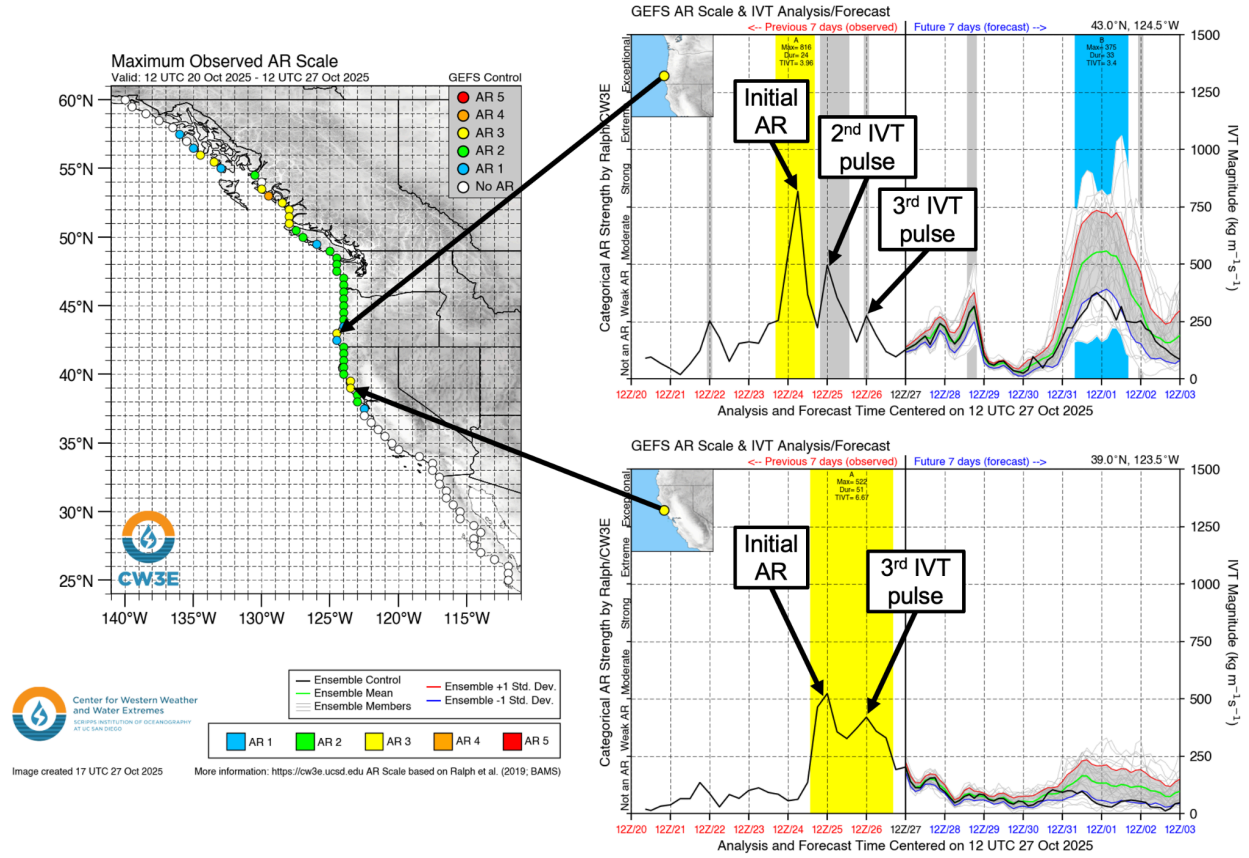


Valid 5 AM PDT 25 Oct



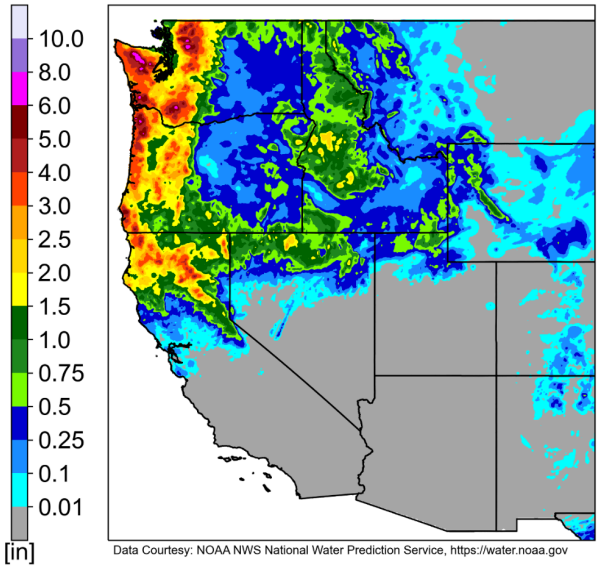
Valid 5 AM PDT 26 Oct





NWS Stage IV 72-h QPE

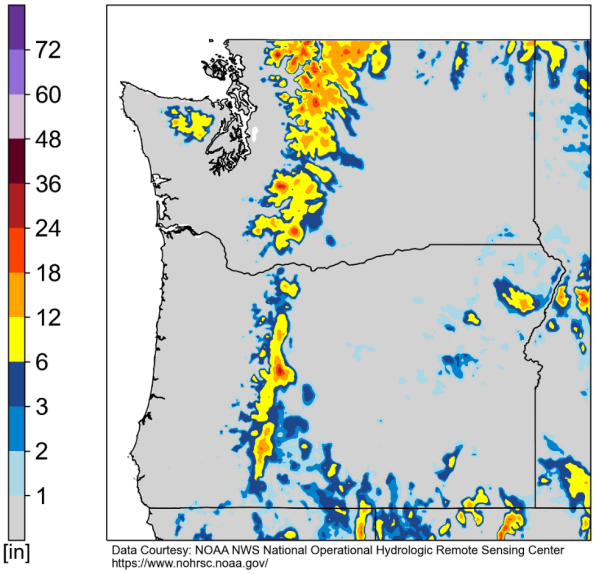
Valid: 5 AM PDT 27 Oct 2025



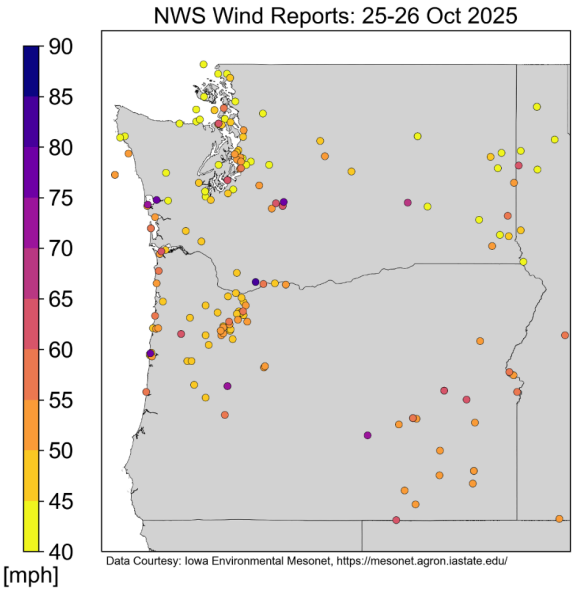
Data Courtesy: NOAA NWS National Water Prediction Service, https://water.noaa.gov

NWS 72-h Snowfall Analysis

Valid: 5 AM PDT 27 Oct 2025



Data Courtesy: NOAA NWS National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center
https://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/



Credit: Puget Sound Energy