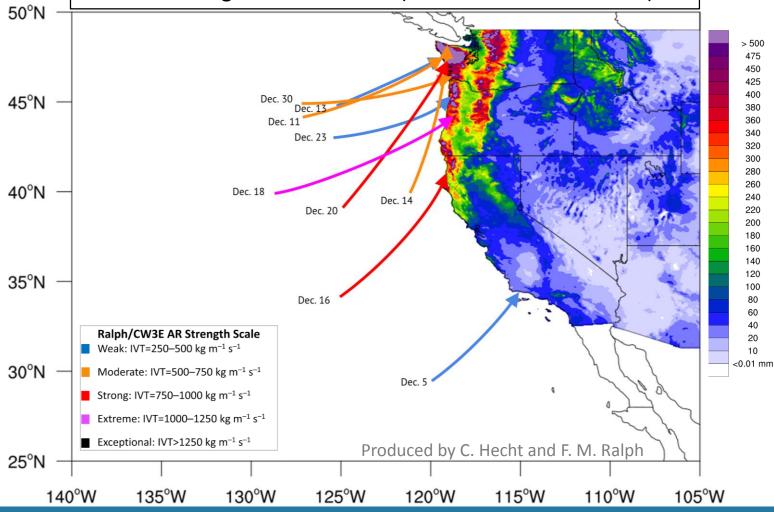
### Water Year 2019: December Atmospheric Rivers



AR Strength	AR Count
Weak	3
Moderate	3
Strong	2
Extreme	1
Exceptional	0

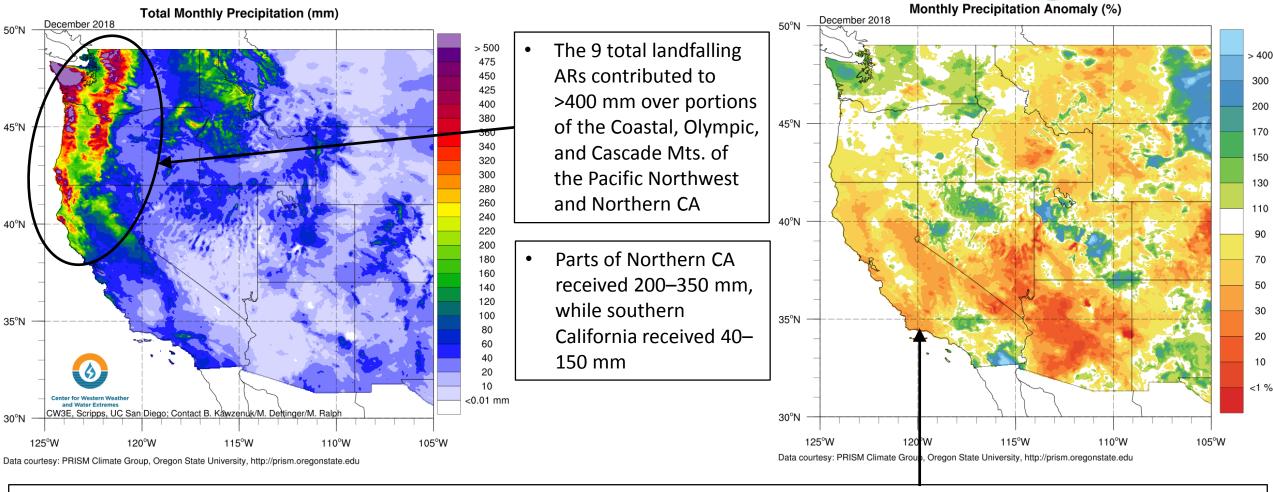
Regions Impacted by Each AR		
State/Region	AR Conditions	
Washington	8	
Oregon	8	
Northern CA	7	
Central CA	2	
Southern CA	2	

	•	Nine atmospheric rivers made landfall over the U.S. West Coast during December 2018 (Third Month of WY 2019)
N —		The second secon



## **December 2018 Precipitation**





- The high amounts of precipitation over the Pacific Northwest resulted in normal or above normal monthly precipitation during Dec. 2018
- Most of California, with the exception of parts of Southern CA and the Central Valley, experienced below normal monthly precipitation during December 2018



### **December 2018 Compared to December 2017**

Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes
SCRIPPS INSTITUTION OF OCEANOGRAPHY AT UC SAN DIEGO

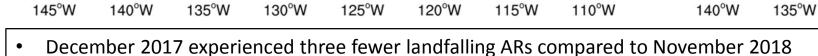
Dec. 14

Produced by C. Hecht and F. M. Ralph

115°W

110°W

105°W



Produced by C. Hecht and F. M. Ralp

- December 2017 also only had 1 strong AR and no extreme, whereas December 2018 had 2 strong and 1 extreme AR
- The ARs during Dec. `17 were all strongest over the PNW/NorCal and a majority of ARs exhibited a westerly orientation where Dec. '18 saw a couple ARs that were strongest over CA and a majority had a southwesterly orientation (more favorable for upslope over the Sierra)

50°N

5°N

5°N

∠5°N

100

<0.01 mm

December 2018

Ralph/CW3E AR Strength Scale

Moderate: IVT=500-750 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

Extreme: IVT=1000-1250 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

130°W

125°W

120°W

Strong: IVT=750-1000 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

Exceptional: IVT>1250 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

Weak: IVT=250-500 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

Dec. 30 Dec. 11

These factors resulted in higher precipitation accumulations over much of the U.S. West Coast during December 2018



50°N

45°N

40°N

35°N

30°N

25°N

December 2017

Ralph/CW3E AR Strength Scale

Moderate: IVT=500-750 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

Extreme: IVT=1000-1250 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

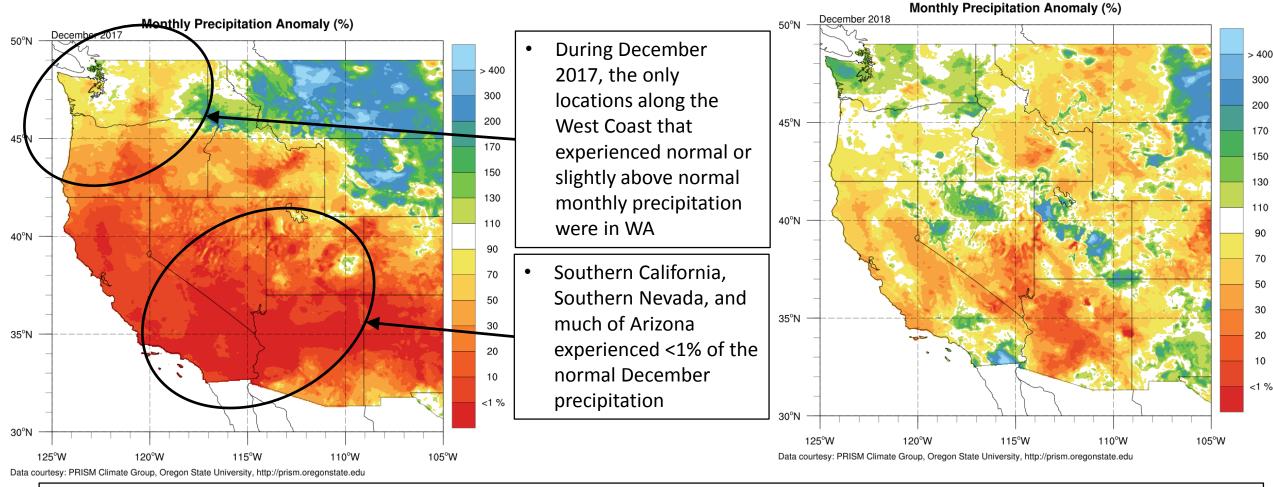
Weak: IVT=250-500 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

Strong: IVT=750-1000 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

■ Exceptional: IVT>1250 kg m<sup>-1</sup> s<sup>-1</sup>

#### **December 2018 Compared to December 2017**

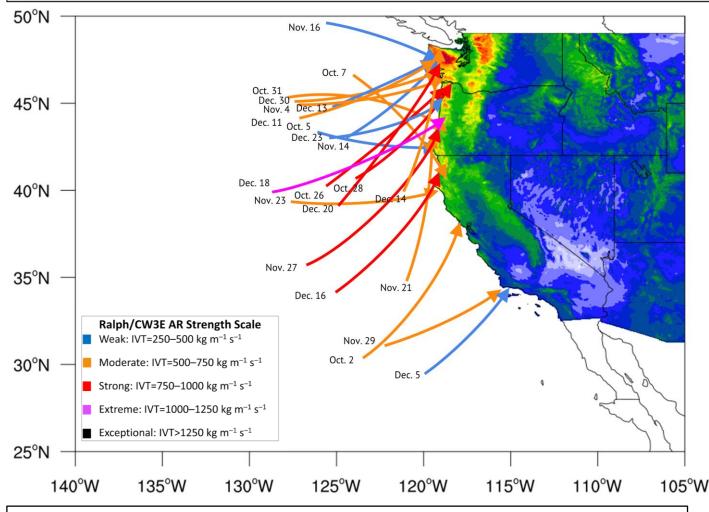




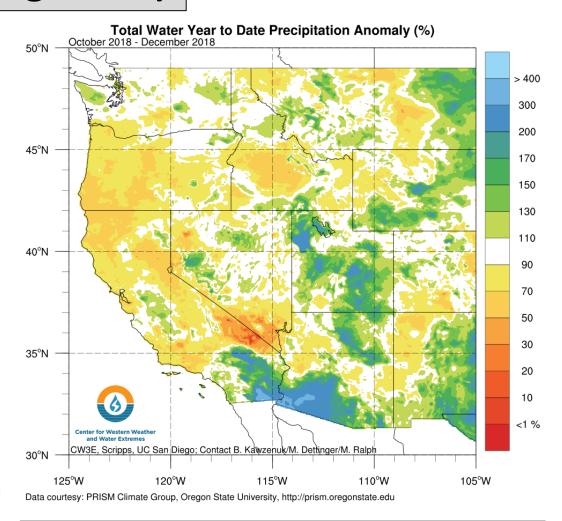
- When comparing this December to last December, this December (2018) was not as far below normal as last December (2017)
- Much of Washington and Northern Oregon were at or slightly above normal during this December (2018)
- Portions of SoCal experienced above normal monthly precipitation this December (2018), where last December was <1% of normal



# Water Year to Date Summary (Oct. through Dec.)



- The 9 ARs that made landfall during November 2018 brings the Water Year total to 22 (6 Weak, 10 Moderate, 5 Strong, and 1 Extreme)
- The total number that made landfall through November 2017 was 19 (5 Weak, 5 Moderate, 7 Strong, and 2 Extreme)



- Through December 2018, a majority of the U.S. West Coast has received below normal precipitation to date
- Most of Washington, the southern Central Valley, and Southern California has received near or above normal precipitation