

AREA FORECAST DISCUSSION

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE LAS VEGAS NV
315 PM PDT TUE APR 14 2015

.SYNOPSIS...A COLD FRONT WILL PRESS SOUTH ACROSS THE AREA THIS EVENING RESULTING IN GUSTY WINDS AND AREAS OF BLOWING DUST THAT WILL LOWER VISIBILITY. GUSTY NORTH WINDS WILL CONTINUE ACROSS MOST OF THE AREA ON WEDNESDAY AND IN THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY ON THURSDAY. AFTER A MARKED COOLDOWN ON WEDNESDAY TEMPERATURES WILL GRADUALLY WARM UP SEVERAL DEGREES EACH DAY THROUGH THE WEEKEND EVENTUALLY REBOUNDED BACK ABOVE NORMAL. A WEAK SYSTEM MAY BRING AN ISOLATED SHOWER TO THE SOUTHERN SIERRA OVER THE WEEKEND INTO EARLY NEXT WEEK. &&

.SHORT TERM...TONIGHT THROUGH THURSDAY NIGHT.

DUSTY AND GUSTY IS THE TITLE FOR TODAY AS A STRONG COLD FRONT IS BLASTING SOUTH ACROSS THE AREA THIS AFTERNOON KICKING UP THE WIND AND THUS ALSO THE DUST. THE LATEST SURFACE ANALYSIS PLACES THE FRONT FROM NEAR MILFORD TO AMARGOSA VALLEY TO HAIWEE. OUTSIDE OF LINCOLN COUNTY VERY LITTLE MOISTURE ACCOMPANIES THIS FRONT AND CLOUD COVER IS SCARCE. EVEN IN LINCOLN COUNTY WHATEVER MOISTURE EXISTS IS MEAGER AND MAINLY ABOVE 500 MB SO MOST AREAS HERE SHOULD JUST SEE AN INCREASE IN CLOUDS WITH AN ISOLATED SHOWER POSSIBLE AT BEST IN THE PANHANDLE.

AS IS TYPICAL WITH SHARP THERMAL GRADIENTS IN THE SPRING, WHEN THE MOISTURE LACKS AND THE UPPER-LEVEL SUPPORT IS THERE AND THE WINDFIELDS ALIGN WELL ENOUGH, THE GATES ARE OPEN FOR THE WIND TO HOWL. UPPER AIR PLOTS AND MODEL DATA SHOWS A 70 KT+ JET AT 250 MB ROUNDING THE BASE OF THE TROUGH WITH 700 MB WINDS AT THE PRESENT SHOWN TO BE BETWEEN 30 AND 40 KTS. A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS HAVE SEEN WIND GUSTS EXCEED 50 MPH, HOWEVER, WE HAVE HAD REPORTS OF A FEW SEMIS BLOWN OVER IN ESMERALDA COUNTY LATE THIS MORNING SO ISOLATEDWARNING LEVEL GUSTS ARE STILL POSSIBLE IN THE NORTHWEST CWFA THROUGH THIS EVENING. THE MAIN ISSUE WITH THE FRONT HAS BEEN AN EXTENSIVE AREA OF BLOWING DUST THAT WAS LOFTED WHEN THE FRONT CROSSED ESMERALDA COUNTY DUE TO THE DRY ANTECEDENT CONDITIONS THERE COURTESY OF THE DROUGHT AND THE SPARSE AMOUNT OF VEGETATION. SOME AREAS HAVE HAD VISIBILITY TANK TO OR BELOW A QUARTER OF A MILE. AS THE FRONT SHIFTS SOUTH THIS DUST WILL SPREAD SOUTH WITH AND ADDITIONAL DRY LAKE BEDS, SAND DUNES AND SPARSELY VEGETATED LAND PARCELS WILL CREATE ADDITIONAL SOURCE REGIONS FOR MORE DUST IN DEATH VALLEY AND SOUTHERN NYE COUNTY A DUST STORM WARNING WAS ISSUED FOR THIS EVENING. AS THE FRONT RACES SOUTH, WE EXPECT IT TO CROSS INTO THE LAS VEGAS VALLEY BY THE START OF THE RUSH HOUR, HOWEVER, THE DUST SHOULD THIN AS IT MOVES AWAY FROM THE SOURCE REGIONS. STILL SOME LOFTED DUST IS NOT OUT OF THE QUESTION ESPECIALLY COMING INTO THE WEST SIDE OF THE VALLEY.

AS THE FRONT HEADS SOUTH TONIGHT, WINDS IN THE MID-LEVELS INCREASE TO 35-45 KTS. THIS COMBINED WITH TIGHT NORTH-SOUTH SURFACE PRESSURE GRADIENTS SHOULD CAUSE A BRIEF PERIOD OF GUSTS TO NEAR 60 MPH FROM THE NORTH BEHIND THE COLD FRONT IN THE LAUGHLIN-BULLHEAD CITY AREA. BECAUSE OF THIS, THE WIND ADVISORY WAS UPGRADED TO A HIGH WINDWARNING THERE. BY LATE WEDNESDAY MORNING, WIND SPEEDS HERE WILL DECREASE TO MORE IN THE RANGE OF GUSTS OF 40-50 MPH FROM THE NORTH. THE REST OF THE WIND ADVISORIES IN EFFECT FOR WEDNESDAY STILL LOOK GOOD.

COLD NORTHERLY FLOW AND GOOD WINDS BLOWING WILL MAKE THINGS FEEL KIND OF CHILLY FOR MID-APRIL AND ESPECIALLY GIVEN WHAT A MILD WINTER AND WARM SPRING WE HAVE HAD SO FAR. TEMPS WILL BE A GOOD 10-15 DEGREES COLDER FOR HIGHS ON WEDNESDAY. AS THE UPPER SUPPORT GRADUALLY WEAKENS ALONG WITH SURFACE PRESSURE GRADIENTS WINDS AT THE SURFACE WILL SLOWLY DECREASE ACROSS THE AREA WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON INTO WEDNESDAY NIGHT. MOST AREAS WILL SEE WINDS BELOW 20 MPH ON THURSDAY EXCEPT FOR THE COLORADO RIVER VALLEY, WHERE WINDS MAY STILL BE CLOSE TO LAKE WIND ADVISORY CRITERIA IN THE LAUGHLIN-BULLHEAD CITY AREA.

A MID/UPPER LEVEL RIDGE BUILDING IN FROM THE WEST WILL PUSH TEMPS BACK UP SEVERAL DEGREES FOR THURSDAY WITH THE BEST WARMING IN THE WEST WHERE NORTHERLY FLOW IS WEAKER.

.LONG TERM...FRIDAY THROUGH TUESDAY NIGHT.

THE AFOREMENTIONED SYSTEM WILL SLOW TO A CRAWL NEAR THE FOUR CORNERS REGION ON FRIDAY AS IT CUTS OFF FROM THE MAIN FLOW. THE BIG CLOSED MID/UPPER LEVEL LOW WILL SIT THERE KEEPING THE EASTERN HALF OF THE AREA UNDER WEAK NORTHERLY FLOW WHICH WILL STILL SUPPRESS THE RATE OF ANY WARM-UP. HOWEVER, THIS SYSTEM WILL BE FAR ENOUGH EAST BY THEN TO KEEP ANY MOISTURE AWAY. BY SATURDAY, THE LOW SHOULD START TO PUSH FURTHER EAST AS THE POSITIVELY TILTED MID/UPPER RIDGE SHIFTS INLAND AND PUSHES THE LOW ON EAST. THIS WILL PROMOTE FURTHER WARMING.

A WEAK MID/UPPER LEVEL LOW WITH LIMITED MOISTURE IS SLATED TO DROP INTO NORCAL THIS WEEKEND. MODELS ARE IN GENERAL AGREEMENT ON THIS FEATURE BUT VARY IN HOW FAR SOUTH IT DROPS AND HOW QUICKLY IT MOVES TO THE EAST AND EXITS. THE COLD POOL ALOFT ASSOCIATED WITH THE LOW CENTER LOOKS TO BRING ENOUGH INSTABILITY TO THE SOUTHERN SIERRA AND POSSIBLY ESMERALDA COUNTY AND THE WHITE MOUNTAINS THAT WE COULD SEE A FEW SHOWERS AND EVEN A THUNDERSTORM MAINLY IN THE AFTERNOON AND EVENING HOURS STARTING ON SATURDAY AND LASTING THROUGH TUESDAY. AHEAD OF THIS FEATURE WE SHOULD SEE INCREASED SOUTHWEST FLOW AND A BUT FURTHER WARMING BUT REMAIN DRY. &&