

FXUS65 KVEF 221031
AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion

National Weather Service Las Vegas NV

330 AM PDT MON AUG 22 2016

SYNOPSIS...Isolated to scattered thunderstorms will occur today and tonight as a low pressure system moves across the Mojave Desert region this afternoon and evening. Drier conditions are expected Tuesday with shower chances generally confined to the higher terrain. Temperatures will be near or slightly below normal through the week.

SHORT TERM...through Tuesday night.

A complex interaction of circulations will be at play across the forecast area today combined with only marginal instability and moisture across the Mojave Desert zones of southeast California and southern Nevada. The best potential for thunderstorms will be over the southern Sierra and northwest Arizona.

A weak circulation remained over northwest Arizona this morning and an upper low was just off the central California coast. In between...a weak counter-clockwise circulation as over northern and central Nevada. A deformation zone in the midst of these converging circulation will setup up over southern Nevada and surrounding areas today. If there were deeper moisture and higher instability, this would be a more volatile setup for convection. However...mesoanalysis charts show limited moisture and instability today with only a little boost of moisture from the northeast outflow that occurred late last evening from thunderstorms near the border of southwest Utah. The circulation off the central California coast is now forecast to dip farther south than was indicated 24 hours ago...dropping down over the area south of San Bernardino county this evening. Thunderstorm chances were lowered slightly over southern Nevada and southeast California this afternoon...but there will still be the potential for isolated to scattered storms. The potential for significant rainfall will be confined primarily to northwest Arizona where the higher moisture content resides.

Drier and more stable northwest flow will develop over the region late tonight through Tuesday on the back side of the circulation as it becomes a progressive open trough moving across Arizona. There will still be potential for thunderstorms over the mountains...especially the southern Sierra...but very little chance of storms over the deserts. Temperatures will remain will be a few degrees lower today and Tuesday with readings slightly below normal.

LONG TERM...Wednesday through Sunday.

No significant changes to the long term period this morning. Forecast confidence in general remains below average due to the high sensitivity of the sensible weather to the tricky synoptic pattern next week.

For Wednesday, expect mostly dry conditions across the area. The questionable items are Mohave County where lingering moisture could feasibly still be in place as well as the Sierra (Wednesday) and southern Great Basin (Wednesday night) due to some added dynamics from a shortwave could bring some isolated precipitation.

For Thursday, the aforementioned shortwave will pull in some additional moisture before it ejects east-northeast across the Great Basin. This will bring a better shot of convection, especially over Lincoln County. Similar, low-grade monsoon moisture will remain in place Friday and Saturday and therefore broad-brushed precipitation chances remain through Saturday across the southern Great Basin and Mohave County. Ridging appears likely by late in the weekend, and PoPs were tapered off. Temperatures will hover around normal through the period.

AVIATION...For McCarran...A circulation moving across southern California and southern Nevada later today will lead to a about a 30 percent chance of a thunderstorm affecting the terminal area...mainly late this afternoon or early this evening. Otherwise... a generally light east-southeast wind component will become south-southwest late this afternoon with sct-bkn clouds above 10 Kft.

For the rest of southern Nevada...northwest Arizona...and southeast California...Isolated to scattered thunderstorms can be expected across the region this afternoon and evening as a low pressure system moves across southern California and southern Nevada. Storms will be more numerous over the southern Sierra and northwest Arizona. Gusty and erratic winds can be expected with thunderstorms...possibly well away from storm locations.

FIRE WEATHER...Isolated to scattered thunderstorms will be possible today and tonight across much of the region. Brief heavy rain will be more common with storms over northwest arizona. Widespread clouds and elevated moisture values will keep temperatures near to slightly below normal. Things will dry out again by midweek but some storm activity will remain possible in the higher terrain. Temperatures will be warming back to near seasonal normals.

FXUS65 KVEF 221619
AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion

National Weather Service Las Vegas NV

915 AM PDT MON AUG 22 2016

UPDATE...Still anticipating an uptick in convection today. Some cloud cover lingers this morning across Lincoln and eastern Clark county which may delay initiation by an hour or two in those areas but otherwise I do not think the cloud cover will be a major limiting factor today compared to past days. Convection should initiate along the higher terrain of the Sierra and White mountains by late morning as well as across much of Southern Nevada and Northwest Arizona this afternoon. Lincoln county appears most favored for strong thunderstorm activity today with some of the storms congealing into a complex and developing south this evening into Clark county. Will be making a few tweaks to the PoPs but the overall forecast is in good shape.

Area Forecast Discussion

National Weather Service Las Vegas NV

1250 PM PDT MON AUG 22 2016

SYNOPSIS...Widespread thunderstorm activity is expected this evening and overnight as a weather system moves across the region. Drier conditions are expected Tuesday with shower chances generally confined to the higher terrain. Temperatures will be near or slightly below normal through the week.

Short Term...through Tuesday night.

Weak upper level low pushing through the area continues to generate shower and thunderstorm activity this afternoon. Convection so far has materialized across the Sierra and Mohave county and more recently isolated convection has increased across Lincoln/northern Nye county and the higher terrain of Clark County. High resolution models and the HRRR have been fairly consistent in suggesting thunderstorms in Lincoln county will develop into a larger scale complex and drift south into Clark and Mohave counties this evening, possibly impacting the Las Vegas Valley. Strong and gusty north winds will accompany this complex should it unfold as advertised. As the low pushes east tonight, greatest chances for storms will transition eastward to become focused across Mohave county and eastern Lincoln county.

Overall thunderstorm intensity will be limited by fairly weak wind shear but strong and gusty outflow winds and localized flash flooding will be the primary concerns from storms which develop today and tonight. The I-15 corridor from Vegas to St. George as well as Lake Mead is likely to be impacted by thunderstorms moving southward out of Lincoln County late this evening.

Drier air will move in Tuesday but scattered storms are still a good bet across the higher terrain of southern Nevada and northwest Arizona thanks to lingering moisture and instability. Some additional storms are also expected across the Sierra and Owens Valley. With this in mind I did bump PoPs up slightly across much of the region, and even included low chances across the Spring and Sheep range as well as the Mojave Preserve.

Long Term...Wednesday through Monday.

Mid/upper trough will have exited to the east by Wednesday with a somewhat drier and more stable northwest flow over the forecast area. Thunderstorm chances appear to be minimal but cannot totally rule out an isolated afternoon thunderstorm over the Sierra and higher terrain of northern Mohave County. More shortwave energy will approach the area from the north Thursday, and with moisture not being totally flushed out, increasing thunderstorm chances are expected across mainly Lincoln and northern Mohave Counties. This shortwave will just very slowly drift east across the area keeping a chance of thunderstorms in the forecast through Saturday, again mainly for Lincoln and northern Mohave Counties. The models are in decent agreement moving the shortwave east of the area Sunday as high pressure builds over southern California. Isolated thunderstorms may still linger over higher terrain of northern Mohave County Sunday but the entire area should be dry by Monday. Temperatures through the long term look fairly close to normal Wednesday and Thursday then slight cooling for Friday and Saturday followed by warming to normal again Sunday and Monday as the southern California high starts to build.

FIRE WEATHER...Numerous thunderstorms are expected across the area this afternoon, particularly across the Sierra, southern Nevada, and Northwest Arizona. Widespread clouds and moisture will keep local Relative Humidities elevated and winds will generally be light outside of thunderstorm outflow boundaries. Drier air will move in Tuesday but scattered storms remain possible across the higher terrain. Conditions will continue to dry out by midweek and onward but daily low chances for thunderstorms will persist in the mountains. Temperatures will be near seasonal normals.

AVIATION...For McCarran...Scattered thunderstorms remain possible through the evening hours with a good possibility of gusty north winds sometime in the 02-06z time period associated with thunderstorm outflow. Should this north push occur, wind speeds of 15 to 20 knots with gusts to 35 knots would be possible (Similar to last night).Otherwise...SCT-BKN clouds above 10k expected overnight. Drier conditions expected tomorrow but thunderstorms may persist across the Peach Springs Corridor and across the Clark County mountains.

FXUS65 KVEF 230535 CCA
AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion National Weather Service Las Vegas NV 1035 PM PDT MON AUG 22 2016

UPDATE...Updated the forecast to significantly boost precipitation chances over central/southern Mohave County tonight where a complex of storms was moving southeast. Also increased forecast wind speeds tonight since strong outflow is moving south across Mohave County. The main concern at this hour is the flash flood prone areas of Dolan Springs to Kingman. In general expect thunderstorms to weaken as they move to the eastern Mohave County border with CAPE values dropping off fairly quickly south of I-40 and east of Valentine.

With this update I also decreased precipitation chances across Clark and Lincoln counties. Left a slight chance as the HRRR does develop some weak wrap-around showers. -Wolcott-

AVIATION...For McCarran...Showers and thunderstorms were ending across the Las Vegas Valley as of 530z. FEW-SCT clouds around 5k feet will gradually dissipate overnight, however SCT-BKN clouds are likely to remain through morning. East winds will gradually weaken overnight, likely becoming light and variable. Drier conditions expected tomorrow but thunderstorms may persist across the Peach Springs Corridor and across the Clark County mountains.

For the rest of southern Nevada...northwest Arizona...and southeast California...Scattered to numerous thunderstorms will push southeast across southern Mohave County and along the Colorado River Valley through the early morning hours. Gusty surface winds and convective turbulence can be expected in these areas. Sct-Bkn clouds at 5-10k feet can be expected as well. Drier conditions expected Tuesday but scattered mountain thunderstorms will remain possible.

FXUS65 KVEF 231031
AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion National Weather Service Las Vegas NV 331 AM PDT TUE AUG 23 2016

SYNOPSIS...Thunderstorms are expected to develop again this afternoon, however they are expected to be more isolated than Monday, mainly confined to the mountains. Mostly dry conditions are expected Wednesday. Thunderstorm chances will return to the forecast for the southern Great Basin and northwest Arizona Thursday through Saturday.

SHORT TERM...Today through Thursday Night.

Only weak radar echos around a remnant circulation remain after an active night of convection. This circulation, associated with an upper level shortwave, will drift toward the Four Corners region today, leaving our area with a bit less dynamic forcing for convection today. This combined with a worked over atmosphere and cool morning temperatures is likely to lead to a somewhat less active day overall. Convection is still expected over the southern Great Basin and northwest Arizona today, but will likely be confined to the mountains for the majority of the day. Storms are likely to begin a bit later today, between 12-1 PM, due to the cooler start. A portion of the hi-res guidance is hinting at the potential for strong northeasterly outflow winds from storms in Lincoln, northern Mohave, and/or Northeast Clark County this evening. Once again today, the best shot of precipitation in Las Vegas will be after 5PM and will likely be associated with these outflows should they develop. The primary threats will be similar to Monday (gusty winds, heavy rain/flooding, and hail).

As the aforementioned shortwave continues to push east Wednesday, drier northwest flow will develop across the forecast area. Have left mostly a dry forecast for now, with temperatures climbing back up to a hair above normal.

By Thursday, another shortwave moving south along the Cascades into northern CA/NV will aid in pulling in some more low-grade moisture and will provide enough dynamic support for showers/thunderstorms to develop across the southern Great Basin and northern Mohave County.

LONG TERM...Friday through Tuesday.

The potential for a few thunderstorms will persist over Lincoln and Mohave counties Friday and Saturday before a drier pattern sets up the rest of the weekend and early next week. The medium range models are in good agreement with a shortwave trough dropping into central Nevada and stalling Friday and Saturday. A southerly flow below 700mb is forecast to provide modest moisture advection from western Arizona into southeast Nevada. Mid level cooling associated with the trough will provide some destabilization for afternoon and evening thunderstorms. Elsewhere across the forecast area, a generally dry southwest flow will result and temperatures will nudge downward a few degrees below normal. Highs across most of the Mojave Desert zones will stay under the century mark Friday and Saturday.

An area of high pressure off the southern California coast is then forecast to migrate inland across southern Nevada and northwest Arizona Sunday through early next week providing additional drying and stabilization along with a slight warming trend.

AVIATION...For McCarran...Mainly light winds favoring typical diurnal trends today. Thunderstorms are likely to develop over the mountains again today, however the chances of them moving into the valley are less favorable than yesterday. The main concern will be gusty and erratic outflow winds at the terminal...with the best chances between 00-08z this evening. Thunderstorms are possible in the Peach Springs, Mormon Mesa, and Beatty corridors. Areas of mechanical turbulence should be expected near thunderstorm activity.

For the rest of southern Nevada...northwest Arizona...and southeast California...Mainly light winds favoring typical diurnal trends through 00z today. Gusty and erratic thunderstorm outflow winds will be possible across much of the region after 00z. Thunderstorms are likely to develop over the mountains of the southern Great basin, eastern Mojave Desert, and northwest Arizona again today, with overall less coverage than seen Monday. Thunderstorms may last into the evening hours once again. Areas of mechanical turbulence should be expected near thunderstorm activity.

FXUS65 KVEF 231612

AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion

National Weather Service Las Vegas NV

912 AM PDT TUE AUG 23 2016

UPDATE...No changes from the previous thinking for today. Some moisture and instability lingers behind the exiting mid/upper low so thunderstorms are still possible today mainly north and east of Las Vegas along with the Spring Mountains and Sheep Range. Temperatures are still pretty cool which should delay the onset of convection. Of some concern is the latest HRRR output which shows precipitation limited to mainly the Sierra and then later over northern Mohave County. The 12z GFS and NAM12 still support the current forecast so at this time I do not plan on making any changes. -Harrison-

FXUS65 KVEF 232150

AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion

National Weather Service Las Vegas NV

250 PM PDT TUE AUG 23 2016

SYNOPSIS...Scattered thunderstorms are possible through this evening across southern Nevada and northwest Arizona and Inyo County in California. Generally dry conditions are expected Wednesday across the region. Thunderstorm chances will return to the forecast for the southern Great Basin and northwest Arizona Thursday through Saturday.

DISCUSSION...Tonight through Tuesday.

Showers and thunderstorms were developing about as expected this afternoon...mainly over higher terrain north and east of Las Vegas. Models indicate this activity continuing through the evening as cells track generally southeastward. A couple of the hi-res models have been showing activity tracking southeast out of Inyo County and the southern Great Basin across Clark and the northern two thirds of Mohave County through midnight...possibly hitting the Las Vegas Valley and possibly lingering after midnight in portions of Mohave County. Most of the area will be fairly dry and stable Wednesday under northwest flow. There is still an outside chance of an afternoon thunderstorms in northern Mohave County and over the Sierra. The next mid/upper level trough will drop down over Nevada Thursday and linger through Saturday leading to scattered thunderstorms over mainly Lincoln and Mohave Counties. High pressure will push into southern California Sunday and Monday with dry conditions area wide and warming temperatures. The high may linger through Tuesday although the ECMWF brings a trough into the Pacific Northwest, suppressing the high. Kept dry conditions in the forecast for Tuesday with temperatures a little above normal.

AVIATION...For McCarran...Mainly light winds favoring typical diurnal trends through Wednesday. Thunderstorms are possible in the Peach Springs, Mormon Mesa, and Beatty corridors through this evening and thunderstorms cannot be totally ruled out at the terminal this evening. Gusty and erratic winds are possible due to thunderstorm activity. Areas of mechanical turbulence should be expected near thunderstorm activity.

For the rest of southern Nevada...northwest Arizona...and southeast California...Mainly light winds favoring typical diurnal trends through 00z today. Gusty and erratic thunderstorm outflow winds will be possible across much of the region by 00-03z. Scattered showers and thunderstorms mainly north of Las Vegas late this afternoon will track southeast this evening and could persist across Mohave County until the early morning hours of Wednesday. Mainly dry conditions are expected Wednesday. Areas of mechanical turbulence should be expected near thunderstorm activity.

FXUS65 KVEF 240411 AAA
AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion National Weather Service Las Vegas NV 911 PM PDT TUE AUG 23 2016

UPDATE...at 830 pm...radar showed light showers across east central Nye and Lincoln counties with embedded isolated thunderstorms moving into far southwest Lincoln County possibly reaching northwestern Clark County in the next hour. A strong storm was moving through northeastern Mohave county. The latest HRRR suggests northern Mohave County will see the best chance through the evening hours. Based on radar and satellite trends, trimmed back pops in the western half of the area but left a slight chance in for Las Vegas due to the action in Lincoln County potentially making its way into the valley later this evening. The rest of forecast looks on target so no other changes were made at this time.

FXUS65 KVEF 241041
AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion National Weather Service Las Vegas NV 340 AM PDT WED AUG 24 2016

SYNOPSIS...Dry and stable conditions are expected today across most of the region. Thunderstorm chances will return to the southern Great Basin and northwest Arizona Thursday through Saturday as a weak low pressure system drops into central Nevada.

SHORT TERM...through Friday night.

We will see greatly diminished thunderstorm potential today as drier and more stable northwest flow spreads over the region on the back side of the upper low pulling across the Four Corners. Temperatures will increase several degrees today as an area of high pressure off the southern California coast noses inland slightly. Attention will then turn to the upstream broad trough currently over the northwest states. This features is forecast to slide down over the Great Basin Thursday and linger through Friday. This will bring some mid level cooling and destabilization across the central Nevada and the southern Sierra while increasing low level southerly flow advects some moisture up through northwest Arizona and southeast Nevada. This will lead to the potential for isolated to scattered thunderstorms mainly across Mohave and Lincoln counties. Also, cannot rule out a slight chance of thunderstorms over the southern Sierra and southern Nevada mountains. Temperatures will trend downward...especially Friday under the influence of the trough with highs 3-5 degrees below normal.

LONG TERM...Saturday through Tuesday.

Chances for showers will continue across Lincoln and Mohave counties into Saturday before a shortwave moves across the region. Behind this wave, a suppressed eastern Pacific ridge will slowly move into the region bringing dry and warmer conditions Sunday into Monday. The 6-10 day outlook shows the pattern becoming more amplified with a trough over the eastern Pacific/western CONUS. This pattern would be less favorable overall for monsoon flow and may result in a forecast more akin to the transition seasons (think gusty winds and fronts). The forecast confidence is low in the forecast details beyond Sunday. Temperatures are likely to run a few degrees above normal.

AVIATION...For McCarran...No significant weather is expected today and tonight with generally light south-southwest winds under a mostly clear sky.

For the rest of southern Nevada...northwest Arizona...and southeast California...Mostly clear conditions with generally light winds can be expected across the majority of the region. Isolated thunderstorms will be possible over the southern Sierra and northwest Arizona this afternoon.

FXUS65 KVEF 241648
AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion National Weather Service Las Vegas NV 948 AM PDT WED AUG 24 2016

UPDATE...Overall the thinking has not changed from previous discussion regarding today. However, latest HRRR and local 3km model do develop some weak convection over portions of southern Mohave County where we do not have anything mentioned. Not planning on an update at this point but will monitor. -Harrison-

FXUS65 KVEF 242143
AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion National Weather Service Las Vegas NV 243 PM PDT WED AUG 24 2016

SYNOPSIS...The area should remain free of thunderstorms this evening and tonight. Thunderstorm chances will return Thursday through Saturday as a weak low pressure system drifts across Nevada. The main threat of thunderstorms will be across Lincoln and Mohave Counties. High pressure will lead to dry conditions and a warming trend Sunday and Monday.

SHORT TERM...Tonight through Wednesday.

There have been very isolated thunderstorms along the Lincoln County and Utah border this afternoon and also in northeast Mohave County. This activity could linger into the very early evening but overall looking at quiet conditions tonight. Still looking at weak low pressure sagging south into central Nevada Thursday and remaining nearly stationary through Saturday. This will lead to a chance of thunderstorms mainly over Lincoln and Mohave Counties. We should also see south/southwest winds pick up with locally breezy conditions...especially Thursday. Temperatures will generally drop to a few degrees below normal by Friday and Saturday under the influence of the trough. Dry conditions and warming temperatures are then expected Sunday and Monday as high pressure builds over southern California. A Pacific trough approaching the coast Tuesday will start to suppress the high somewhat but it should remain dry. This trough looks to deepen along the coast Wednesday which helps to pull a little wave and some moisture up from the south up into Mohave County. The models have not been in total agreement with this scenario so I was conservative in only bumping pops up to slight chance category over the higher terrain in Mohave County for now.

AVIATION...For McCarran...No significant weather is expected 18z Thursday. South winds are expected to increase into the 10-18kt range after 19z Thursday. A few clouds around 12k feet will develop in the afternoon and there is a slight chance of thunderstorms over the Spring Mountains.

For the rest of southern Nevada...northwest Arizona...and southeast California...Mostly clear conditions with generally light winds can be expected across the majority of the region through tonight. Isolated thunderstorms will be possible over the southern Sierra and northwest Arizona Thursday afternoon. South to southwest winds will increase after 18z with speeds generally 10-20kts.

FXUS65 KVEF 250349 AAA
AFDVEF

Area Forecast Discussion National Weather Service Las Vegas NV 849 PM PDT WED AUG 24 2016

UPDATE...Radar and satellite imagery shows little cloud cover and dry conditions across the forecast area this evening. Troughing well to our north sinks south through the Great Basin overnight with a 60-65 knot jet setting up over central California. Models generate some high clouds over portions of southern Nevada and northwest Arizona overnight in the left entrance region of the jet. There could be a few mid level clouds mixed in as well but it is hard to imagine any shower activity developing with drier air now in place and cooler overnight surface temperatures. The forecast has been adjusted for the overnight period to remove any lingering thunderstorm chances.

SYNOPSIS...Thunderstorm chances return today to Northwest Arizona and Lincoln county, and will expand to include much of southern Nevada and eastern California Friday and Saturday as weather system moves through the area. Drier conditions return next week. Temperatures will remain near late August normals through the weekend before climbing above normal next week.

SHORT TERM...Tonight through Sunday night.

This mornings Infrared imagery indicates some scattered clouds across the Southern Great Basin and some light shower activity as well associated with a jet streak moving through the area. This activity will translate eastward today with scattered showers remaining a possibility through the morning hours across Lincoln county and scattered thunderstorms a good bet during the afternoon. Elsewhere...another fairly dry day is expected aside from an isolated shower or two across interior Mohave county. Smoke from ongoing wildfire activity in California will keep our skies hazy once again today and I've added haze to the forecast to account for this.

On Friday...another weak upper level low will begin to take shape over central California and slowly drop southward into our region Saturday. Similar to the last low we had...moisture is fairly limited but the low will act to steepen our lapse rates (colder temperatures aloft-->increased instability) as well as provide some increased dynamics which would further support thunderstorm development. Numerical MOS guidance also suggests at least slight chances across much of southern Nevada and northwest Arizona, which would seem plausible given the pattern and what occurred a few days ago. Moisture looks to be a little bit greater on Friday while dynamics are a bit more favorable Saturday, so either day could prove to be fairly active. I've gone ahead and boosted PoPs into the slight chance category or greater across most of Clark, Lincoln, and Mohave counties with lesser chances further west and south.

The low will push east Sunday so chances for storms become limited to eastern Mohave county Sunday...although we will need to monitor for lingering moisture content depending on how Friday and Saturday pan out. Temperatures through the short term period will be near typical for this time of year.

LONG TERM...Monday through Thursday.

Some rather large discrepancies exist tonight with the large-scale pattern depicted in the long-range model solutions. In general, the differences stem from the placement/depth of a longwave trough near or off the West Coast, with the 00Z ECMWF deeper/farther east with the trough axis than the 00Z GFS (by about 5 degrees longitude at 12Z Wednesday), and its influence on a subtropical ridge centered somewhere in the eastern Pacific or adjacent southwestern U.S. I am immediately suspicious of most deterministic solutions this evening for a couple of reasons. The first is that there is clear (large) sensitivity of the overall pattern to the degree of phasing between the northern and southern stream. This is often poorly forecast in the four-to-seven day period, and given the large discrepancies among operational guidance, this gives me almost zero confidence in the GFS/ECMWF/CMC operational solutions. Consider, for example, that the longwave trough depicted by the ECMWF to approach the West Coast by 12Z Wednesday is progged to do so by 18Z Thursday (GFS) or as barely a perturbation in the wave pattern at all by the CMC. These differences are clearly tied to how each model phases said trough with a cyclonic circulation to its south, with the ECMWF quick to phase the trough axis to this circulation...the GFS never really quite phasing the two features...and the CMC holding the southern stream circulation much farther west (amplifying an upstream trough instead). The second reason is a clear lack of model continuity regarding such phasing.

Unfortunately, the aforementioned discrepancies lead to very different depictions of the overall pattern in the Southwest, with the GFS insistent on the northeast progression of a midlevel ridge from the eastern Pacific (Monday) to the Four Corners (Thursday). The ECMWF, meanwhile, suppresses this ridge southward and keeps it well into the Pacific while allowing a westward-propagating tropical wave to approach Baja California Tuesday and Wednesday and the deeper/more progressive West Coast trough to exert more influence over the area (especially the southern Great Basin).

The GFS solution is not favorable for precipitation in our area, at least until around Thursday when the ridge is in a more favorable position to advect moisture northward on its western side. Nevertheless, the approaching trough would preclude much westward extension beyond northwest Arizona. The ECMWF solution is much more favorable for monsoonal moisture to seep into eastern portions of the area as early as Tuesday. Temperature differences also become substantial by Wednesday, as the stronger trough depicted by the ECMWF brings cooler (below average) temperatures to the area whereas the GFS insists upon average to slightly above average readings.

Forecast thinking is that the ECMWF is probably too aggressive in the development/phasing of the amplified West Coast trough. However, the quick progression of the subtropical ridge eastward by the GFS also looks rather suspect. For now, went with a consensus approach, which suggests that moisture may creep into the region a bit earlier than previous forecasts indicated. As such, increased PoPs for Mohave County Wednesday and Thursday and expanded into portions of the higher terrain of Lincoln County. Also bumped temps downward a bit as a compromise between the GFS/ECMWF solutions. A very low confidence forecast, to say the least.

FIRE WEATHER...Light showers possible this morning across Lincoln county giving way to increasing thunderstorm chances later this afternoon. Elsewhere, mostly dry conditions are expected with just very isolated thunderstorms in interior Mohave county. Showers and thunderstorms will increase Friday and Saturday across much of the region as a weather system moves through, with drier conditions returning next week. Temperatures will be near normal through the weekend and begin to climb next week into above normal territory. Humidities will be elevated through the weekend before drying out after Sunday.

AVIATION...For McCarran...South or southwest winds favored much of the day with gusts to 25 knots possible during the afternoon. Skies will be mostly sunny with few-sct clouds above 12kft possible during the afternoon. Some haze is likely as well. Winds will decrease after sunset.

For the rest of southern Nevada...northwest Arizona...and southeast California...South breezes of 10-20 knots will be common across much of the region today with gusts to to 25 knots possible. FEW-SCT clouds possible above 10k with showers and thunderstorms possible across the southern Great Basin and Northwest Arizona.