

# Out the Window

**Impressive dust devil in South Reno Sunday!**



# What You Need to Know Up-Front Updated 3/23/20 @ 930 AM Pacific

## ✿ Key Points ✿



- **Winds starting to increase today:** Strongest winds this afternoon through Tuesday. Winds likely to remain breezy overnight. Rough waters on area lakes, high-profile vehicle risks, and rough air for aviators. Not a major wind event by Sierra standards.



- **Here comes the snow:** A few showers and thunderstorms in the Sierra today, better snow chances Tuesday into Wednesday. Winter travel impacts for Sierra passes mainly at night. Showers may linger into Thursday. Simulations still show W. Nevada cities possibly seeing light snow Tues/Wed nights, but questionable for accumulation lowest valleys.



- **Looking drier through end of month with some warming:** Storm track more likely to shift farther north after Thursday, with mostly dry conditions and warmer temps. Possible light showers for N Sierra/NE CA on Saturday 3/28.

## ↑ Important Changes ↓

- Increased winds Tuesday.
- Chances for a few showers and thunderstorms today in Sierra, mainly south of Tahoe. Better tstorm chances Wed/Thurs.

How much has the  
forecast changed?

Minor Changes

Moderate Changes

Many Changes

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Forecasting for the Sierra and western Nevada since 1905



# Situational Awareness - When Should I Freak Out?

NWS Reno 7-14 Day Scan for Unusual Upcoming Weather across the Eastern Sierra and Western Nevada

	Mon <sup>3/23</sup>	Tues <sup>3/24</sup>	Wed <sup>3/25</sup>	Thurs <sup>3/26</sup>	Fri <sup>3/27</sup>	Sat <sup>3/28</sup>	Sun <sup>3/29</sup>	W2 <sup>3/30-4/5</sup>
Wind	Gusty at times with some impacts to road and air travel + lake impacts.		Cool W/NW breezes.			W/SW breezes. Maybe slightly breezier near Oregon border.	Nothing too exciting at this point.	Looking drier with storm track shifting farther north.
Snow	Light snow mainly limited to Sierra passes.	Periods of mountain snow with rain or snow valleys. Best western NV accumulating snow risk Tues night and Wed night. Travel impacts mountain roads, intermittent impacts W NV cities.		Trending drier. A few showers possible still.		Light precip possible mainly northern Sierra northward to OR border. Looks rather spotty with low liquid totals.		
Flooding	No concerns here.							
Unusual Cold or Heat	Cooling back off to below normal, but nothing too dramatic (~10 degrees below normal Wed-Thurs). Temps below freezing overnight Thurs AM-Sat AM even in warmest valleys. Protect any sensitive vegetation.					Warming trend with temps near normal.		
Ventilation, Fog	Looking good. Improved mixing and more wind.							Slowly warming, may finally get above average by month's end.
Fire Weather	Recent rain and snow finally brings an "off season" period for fire weather impacts.							

**What Does This Mean?** Integrates impacts and confidence

No worries



Low freakoutness



Moderate freakoutness



High freakoutness



Really bad

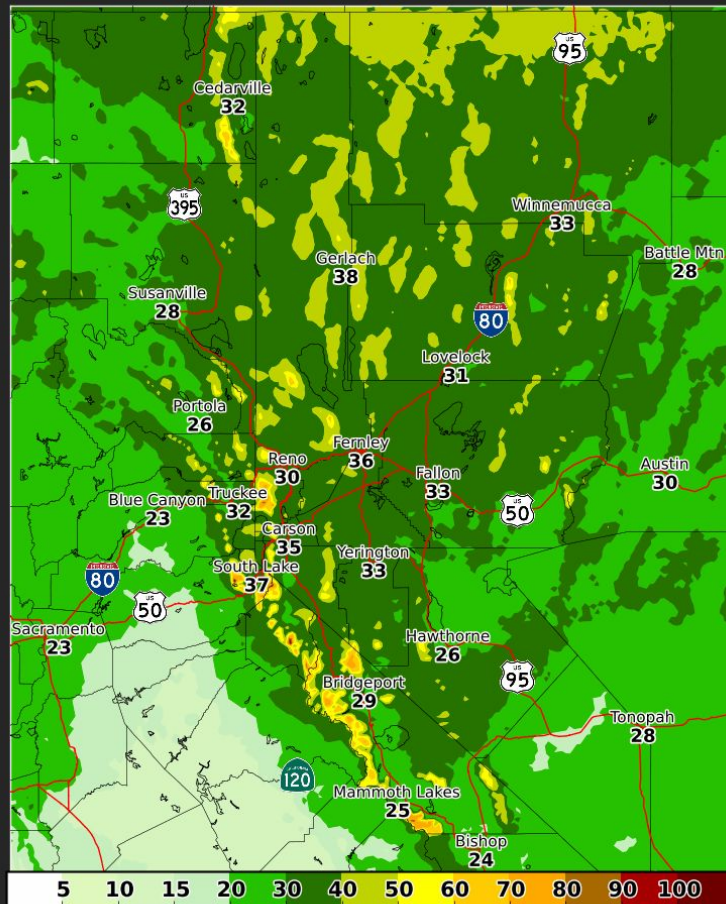


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## Wind Gust Forecast

03/23/2020 11:00 AM - 03/24/2020 05:00 PM PDT



Created: 06:19 AM PDT 03/23/2020

Speed (MPH)

weather.gov/Reno

# Breezy Monday

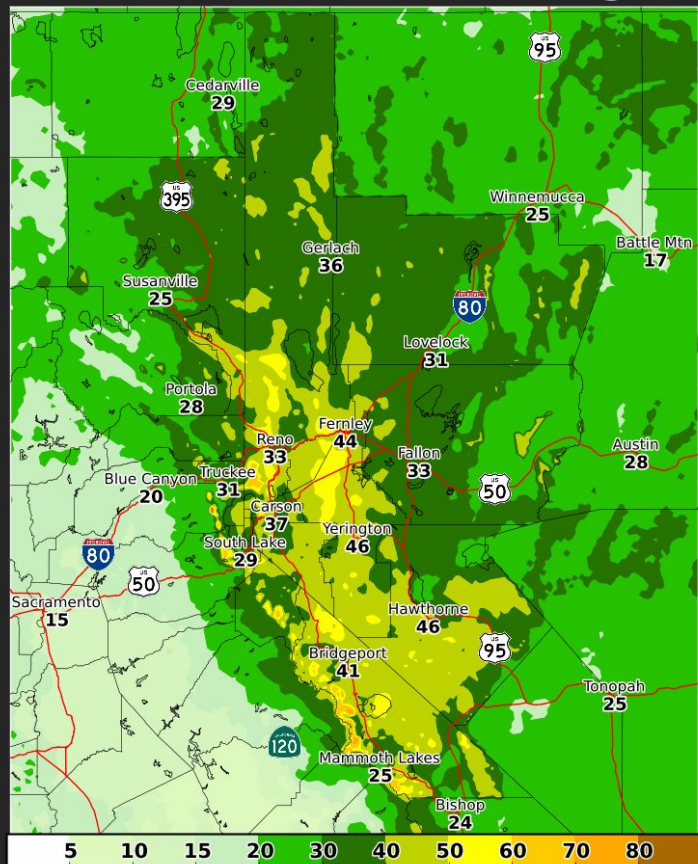
- Southwest winds increase today into Tuesday ahead of a deep trough dropping down the West Coast.
- Low end wind event with gusts in the 30-45 mph range in valleys and 80-100 mph for Sierra ridges.
- Typical impacts can be expected such as choppy lakes, difficult travel for high profile vehicles, and increasing turbulence for air travel.
- **Higher peak winds expected Tuesday**

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## Tuesday Afternoon Wind Gusts

Tuesday Afternoon



Created: 09:57 AM PDT 03/23/2020

Speed (MPH)

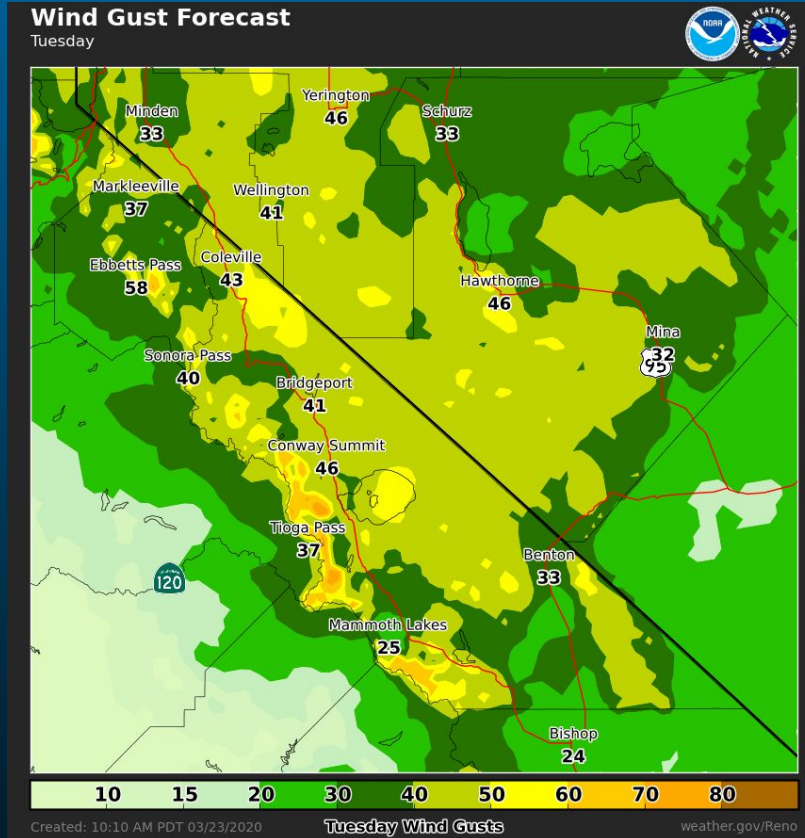
weather.gov/Reno

# Gusty Winds Continue Tuesday

- Strong southwest-west winds peak Tuesday with a cold front moving through.
- Gusts in the 30-45 mph range in valleys and 80-100 mph for Sierra ridges.
- Continued impacts such as choppy lakes, difficult travel for high profile vehicles, and rough air for aviators.
- Plan for localized areas of blowing dust, especially near and east of US-95.



# Wind Gusts Tuesday: Wind Prone Areas

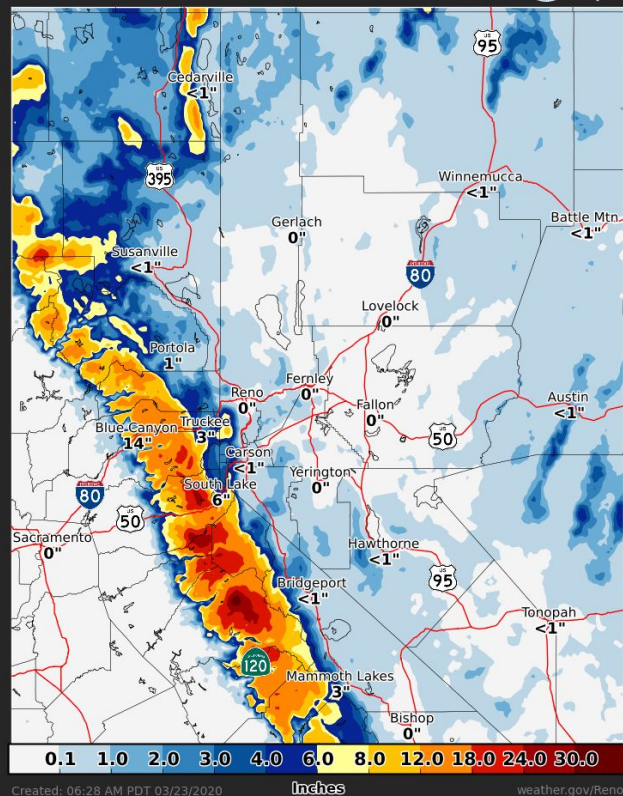


- Winds peak for wind prone:
  - Morning NE CA/NW NV
  - Mid-morning through mid-afternoon  
Reno-CC-Minden area
  - Afternoon-evening Mono-Mineral
- Gusts 50-65 mph possible Hwy 95 near Walker Lake and Hwy 395 from Lee Vining south.

# Rain-Snow Projections Through Wednesday

## Snowfall - Official Forecast

Monday through Wednesday



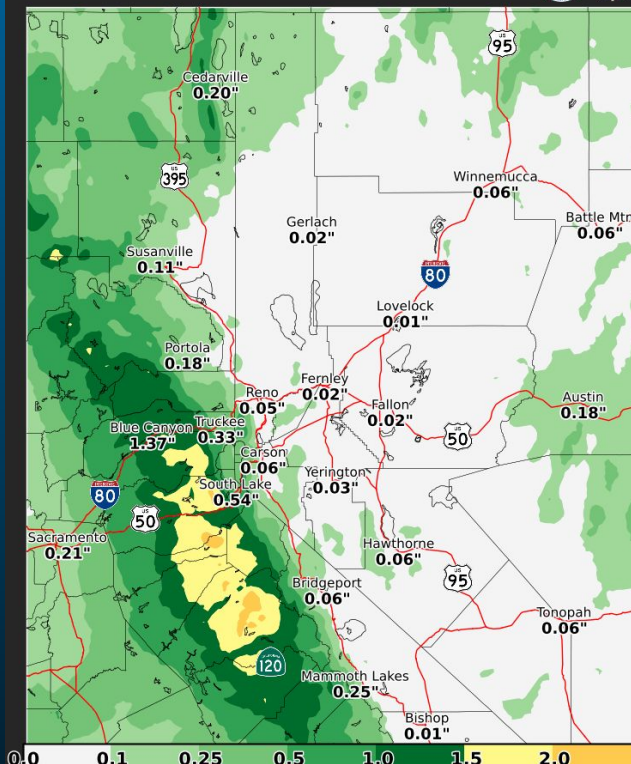
Created: 06:28 AM PDT 03/23/2020

Inches

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## Liquid Totals - Official Forecast

Monday through Wednesday



Created: 06:34 AM PDT 03/23/2020

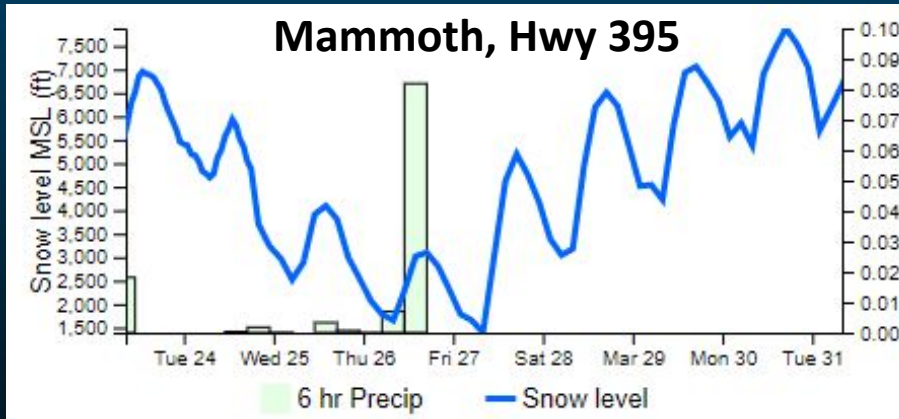
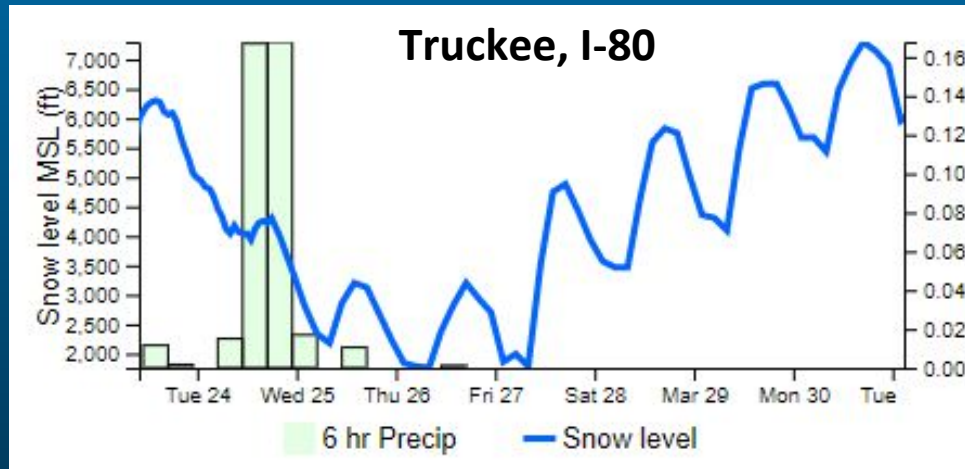
Inches

weather.gov/Reno

- A couple back-to-back waves to impact CA, NV through Wednesday.
- Maps show our official forecast for rain and snow, spread out over **three days**.
- Heaviest precipitation expected Tuesday afternoon into Wednesday.
- Snow totals limited by time of the year - snow will be quick to melt and settle.
- Minor if any accumulation during the day outside of heaviest rates at highest passes.



# Snow Level Trends for This Week's Storms



- Storms this week are likely to start “warmer” Monday then cool off Tuesday into Wednesday.
- Sierra passes are likely to see periods of travel impacts as snow levels don’t look to rise much above 6,500 feet even during warmest phase.
- **Daytime road accumulations will be harder to come by given time of year.** Greatest concern overnight and early morning.
- Very light snow in W Nevada is possible. If W Nevada does see any accumulating snow, the best chance would be Tuesday night and Wednesday night.