



SAGE WINDS

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

BOISE, IDAHO

<http://www.weather.gov/boise>

APRIL 2011

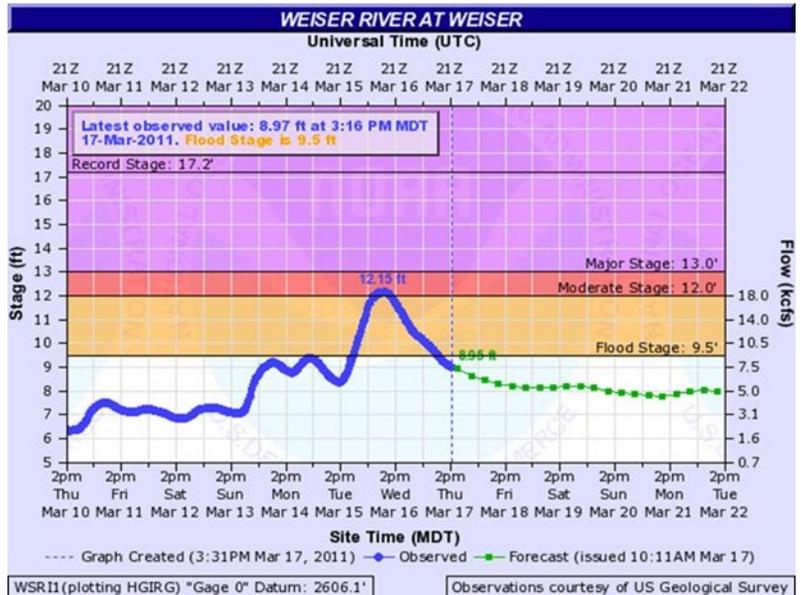
SERVING NWS WEATHER SPOTTERS, CO-OP OBSERVERS & COCORAHS OBSERVERS

SAGE WINDS

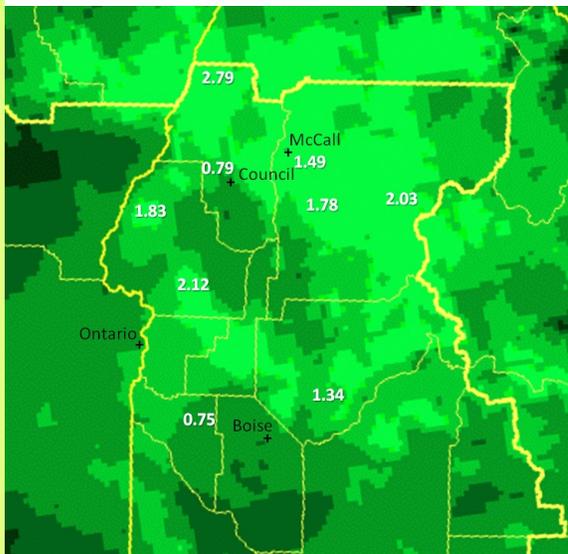
Flooding on the Weiser River

In mid-March, a strong jet stream over the Pacific Northwest tapped abundant moisture in the North Pacific and streamed it eastward into Oregon and Idaho. On Tuesday, March 15th, stratiform rain spread east into Idaho and the Weiser Basin.

In this pattern, surface temperatures remained near March normals and snow levels were quite high—around 5000 ft MSL. Due to lingering spring snowpack across the Weiser Basin, this incoming rain caused significant snowmelt.



This combination of rain and melting snow eventually led to considerable runoff and significant rises on the Weiser River.



As seen in the hydrograph above, the Weiser River first rose above flood stage on the evening of March 15th, and kept rising until it crested at 12.2 ft in the early morning hours of Wednesday March 16th. The river finally receded below flood stage late in the morning on Thursday, March 17th.

<< Event-total liquid precipitation (in inches) across the Weiser Basin.

Windy Conditions of March 20th

In the early morning hours of Sunday, March 20th, a deep surface low was centered over northern California and was moving east toward northern Nevada. With a 1016 mb surface high already in place over eastern Idaho, a very strong east-to-west surface pressure gradient was expected to develop by mid-day Sunday.

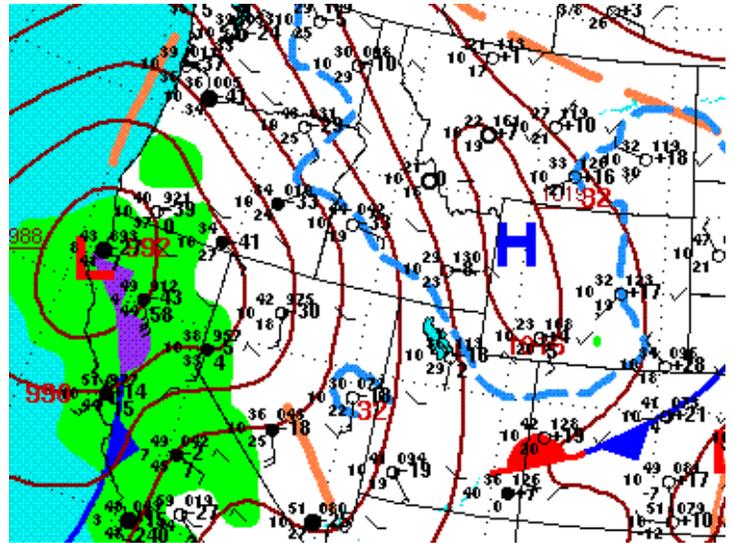
Subsequently, NWS-Boise forecasters issued a **Wind Advisory** for the Treasure Valley at 3:07 a.m. Sunday morning.

Just before sunrise, the strengthening surface gradient caused wind gusts of 25-30 mph across the Treasure Valley. By late morning, surface winds had strengthened further due to mixing with strong southwesterly winds aloft. (Afternoon upper air observations would later show 50-55 mph southwesterly winds at 3500 ft above the surface.)

Peak gusts were generally between 45 and 55 mph with this event, and several Treasure Valley locations, including Boise and Mountain Home, experienced sustained wind speeds greater than 30 mph.

These types of wind events occur, on average, seven times per year in Boise. However, the predominant wind direction is usually from the northwest. Wind events like this one, where the prevailing direction is from the southeast, are less likely. In fact, according to a Boise-WFO study, northwest wind events occur twice as frequently as non-northwest wind events. Most of these are southeast wind events, but on very rare occasions south or southwest winds may prevail.

- A **Wind Advisory** means that sustained winds of at least 30 mph, or gusts of at least 45 mph, are occurring or expected to occur.



PEAK WIND GUSTS (MPH)

Boise - Airport	53 MPH
Mountain Home—AFB	49 MPH
Parma - 4 Miles E	45 MPH
Middleton—3 Miles NNE	52 MPH
Caldwell—5 Miles SE	49 MPH

Weather In The News

[“Severe Storms Rock Space Shuttle Endeavour Launch Site” \(SPACE.COM\)](#)

[“Spring Flooding Underway, Expected to Worsen Through April” \(NOAA NEWS\)](#)

[“Severe Weather Sweeps Across Central Florida” \(CNN\)](#)

[“110 MPH Winds Damage Homes in Mississippi” \(AP/YAHOO NEWS\)](#)

Tsunami Information & Preparedness

At approximately 11 pm MST on March 10th, a 9.0 magnitude earthquake hit off the eastern coast of Japan. It sent shock waves through the Japanese mainland and immediately spawned a tsunami strong enough to threaten the whole Pacific Ocean.

Subsequently, both the [Pacific Tsunami Warning Center](#) (Ewa Beach, Oahu, Hawaii) and the [West Coast & Alaska Tsunami Warning Center](#) (Palmer, Alaska) issued Tsunami Warnings in the early hours of Friday, March 11th.

Although tsunamis don't pose a threat to southwest Idaho and southeast Oregon, it is still important to have an understanding of this hazard and to be prepared when you visit a nearby (or far away!) coast-line.

- For information on tsunamis and tsunami preparedness, please refer to the following website:

<http://www.tsunami.noaa.gov/>

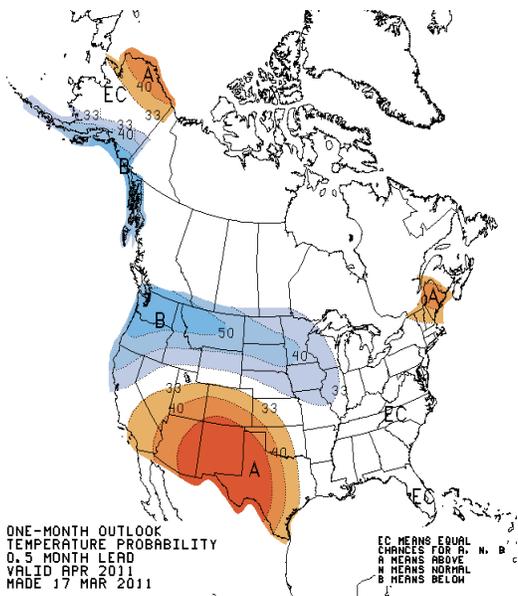
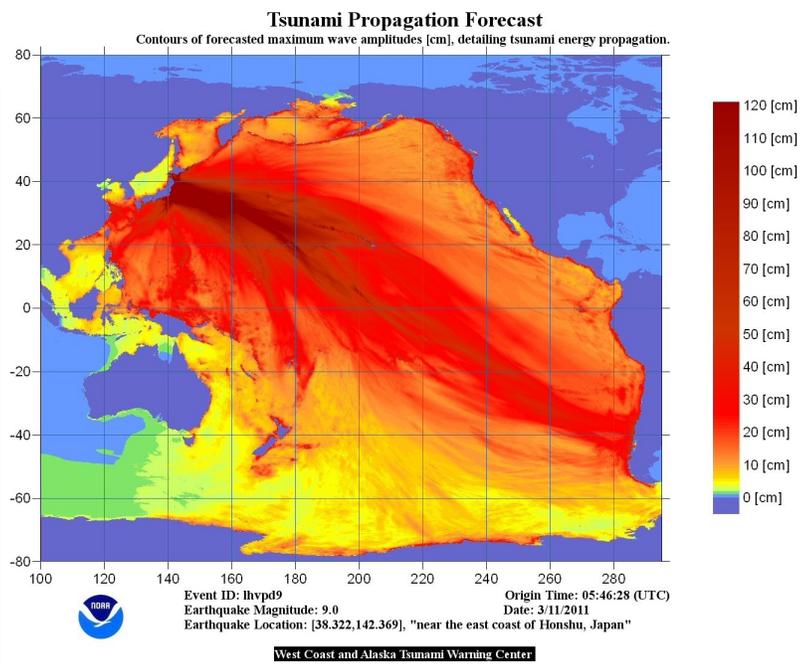
- For a video on the Tsunami Warning Centers' response to this event, go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/user/usweathergov>

**National Weather Service
Boise Forecast Office**

3833 S. Development Ave, Bldg 3807
Boise, Idaho, 83705
(208) 334-9860

Email us at:
boi.spotter@noaa.gov



April Outlook

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