



Heavy Rain, Hazardous Seas, Tidal Overflow and High Surf

National Weather Service - Portland, OR

Issued: 3:00pm PST Sunday, January 10, 2021

Next Update: By late afternoon Monday, January 11, 2021. We are also highly considering conducting a live webinar Monday afternoon to discuss forecast details and expected impacts.

Point of Contact: NWS Operations (24/7/365) (503) 326-2340

KEY POINTS

- An atmospheric river will bring heavy rain and flooding concerns to northwest OR and southwest WA Tuesday through Wednesday. Both areal flooding and river flooding will be possible, but river flooding is the bigger concern. River flooding concerns could linger into Thursday.
- High snow levels above 6000-7000 feet will increase the potential for river flooding.
- Hazardous seas and tidal overflow expected Monday through Wednesday, with high surf conditions possible on Tuesday and Wednesday. Tidal overflow is also possible Thursday.
- High winds possible along the coast Tuesday morning. High winds possible Wednesday along the coast and for inland coastal communities. Locally gusty winds possible at times for interior valleys, Cascades and Foothills.

WEATHER AND IMPACTS OUTLOOK

Mon 1/11	Tue 1/12	Wed 1/13	Thu 1/14
Tidal overflow expected, rain begins to the north.	Widespread moderate to heavy rain with flood concerns, tidal overflow expected, high surf possible. High winds possible along the coast.	Rain continues, flooding concerns remain, tidal overflow expected, high surf possible. High winds possible along the coast.	Rain ending, however some lingering river flooding is possible. Tidal overflow possible.

Weather Impacts Legend



CONFIDENCE AND DETAILS

Coastal Locations

HIGH Confidence

Tidal overflow Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Moderate to heavy rain late Monday into Wednesday.

MODERATE Confidence

Tidal overflow Thursday. High surf Tuesday and Wednesday.

LOW Confidence

High winds along the coast Tuesday morning. High winds along the coast and for inland coastal communities on Wednesday morning. Exact timing precipitation amounts.

Details:

Moderate to heavy rain is likely beginning late Monday and continuing into Wednesday. Currently, the period of heaviest rain looks to occur Tuesday morning through early Tuesday afternoon and again Tuesday night through Wednesday morning. Preliminary rainfall estimates may be sufficient to cause flooding of creeks and rivers draining the Coast Range and the Willapa Hills. Nuisance flooding in urban areas is also possible. Current rainfall estimates range from 2 to 4 inches for the entire event. In addition, tidal overflow is expected on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. The most impactful tidal overflow event is expected on Tuesday. Tidal overflow is possible on Thursday as well, but looks less likely. High surf conditions are also possible on Tuesday and Wednesday. Lastly, high winds are possible along the coast Tuesday morning and again on Wednesday. High winds may affect inland coastal communities as well on Wednesday. Confidence in high winds is low at this time. That said, the potential for high winds looks higher on Wednesday when compared to Tuesday morning. Confidence is also low when it comes to the exact timing and exact precipitation amounts.

Coast Range and Willapa Hills

HIGH Confidence

Moderate to heavy rain late Monday into Wednesday.

MODERATE Confidence

Strong winds over higher terrain Tuesday morning and again Wednesday morning.

LOW Confidence

Exact timing and precipitation amounts.

Details:

Moderate to heavy rain is likely beginning late Monday and continuing into Wednesday. Currently, the period of heaviest rain looks to occur Tuesday morning through early Tuesday afternoon and again Tuesday night through Wednesday morning. Preliminary rainfall estimates may be sufficient to cause flooding of creeks and rivers draining the Coast Range and Willapa Hills. Current rainfall estimates range from 3 to 6 inches, with locally higher amounts up to 8 inches possible. Minor debris flows are possible over and near the recently burned area of the Echo Mountain Complex. Lastly, strong winds are possible over the higher terrain Tuesday morning and again Wednesday morning. Confidence is low when it comes to the exact timing and exact precipitation amounts.

Interior Valleys and Columbia River Gorge

HIGH Confidence

Moderate to heavy rain late Monday into Wednesday.

MODERATE Confidence

Gusty winds Tuesday morning and again Wednesday morning.

LOW Confidence

Exact timing and precipitation amounts.

Details:

Moderate to heavy rain is likely beginning late Monday and continuing into Wednesday. Currently, the period of heaviest rain looks to occur Tuesday morning through early Tuesday afternoon and again Tuesday night through Wednesday morning. Preliminary rainfall estimates may be sufficient to cause

flooding of creeks and smaller rivers in the Willamette Valley and Columbia Gorge. Current rainfall estimates range from 1 to 2.5 inches, with locally higher amounts up to 3.5 inches possible. Landslides are possible over the steep terrain of the Gorge. Lastly, gusty winds are possible Tuesday morning and again Wednesday morning. Confidence is low when it comes to the exact timing and exact precipitation amounts.

Cascades and Foothills

HIGH Confidence	Moderate to heavy rain late Monday into Wednesday. Snow levels.
MODERATE Confidence	Strong winds Tuesday morning and again Wednesday morning.
LOW Confidence	Exact timing and precipitation amounts.

Details:

Moderate to heavy rain is likely beginning late Monday and continuing into Wednesday. Currently, the period of heaviest rain looks to occur Tuesday morning through early Tuesday afternoon and again Tuesday night through Wednesday morning. Current rainfall estimates range from 3 to 6 inches, with locally higher amounts up to 8 inches possible. Flooding and debris flows are possible over and near the recently burned areas of Beachie Creek, Riverside, and Holiday Farm. That said, confidence in debris flows is low as this will be highly dependent on the exact rain rates over the burned areas, and the duration of the peak rain rates. Lastly, strong winds are possible along peaks and ridges Tuesday morning and again Wednesday morning. Confidence is low when it comes to the exact timing and exact precipitation amounts. Expect snow levels to be high throughout this event, generally above 6000-7000 feet. Heavy rain on the current snowpack will increase the potential for downstream river flooding.

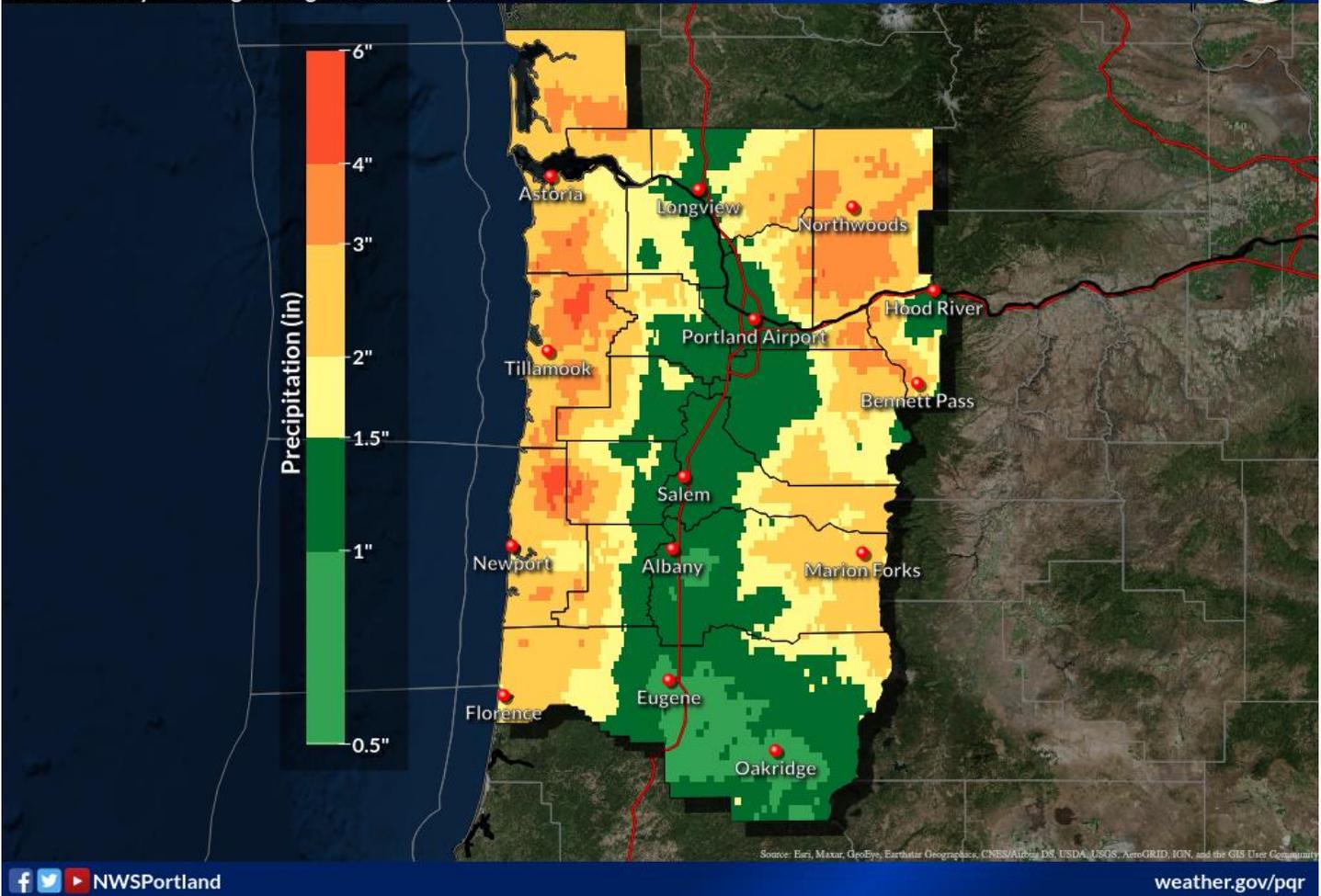
FORECAST GRAPHICS (please see next page)

Total Rainfall Estimates

From Monday morning through Wednesday afternoon

Weather Forecast Office
Portland, OR

Issued Jan 10, 2021 2:23 PM PST



NOTE: Please use the colorbar shown in the graphic above to determine the rainfall estimate for your location. Not shown in this graphic is the potential for locally higher amounts to around 8 inches for favored locations in the Coast Range and Cascades. Lastly, rainfall estimates **WILL** change with future updates as forecast details come into focus!

For the latest forecast updates, visit www.weather.gov/portland

If you have questions or would like to submit weather reports, please call NWS Portland at (530) 326-2340.