

Quick Look at the Cutoff Low Forecast to Bring Precipitation to California *Updated: 8 April 2026*

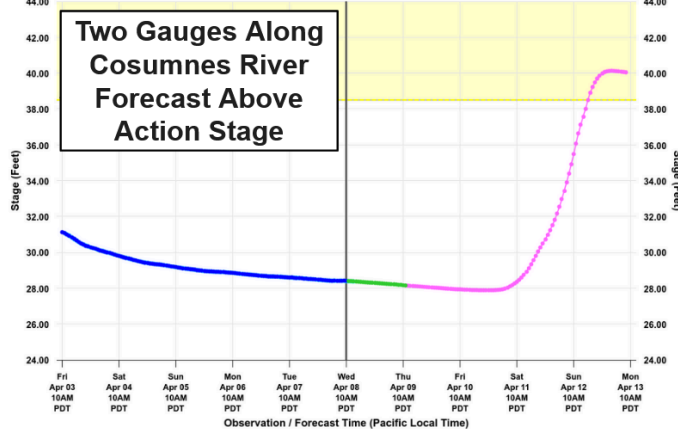
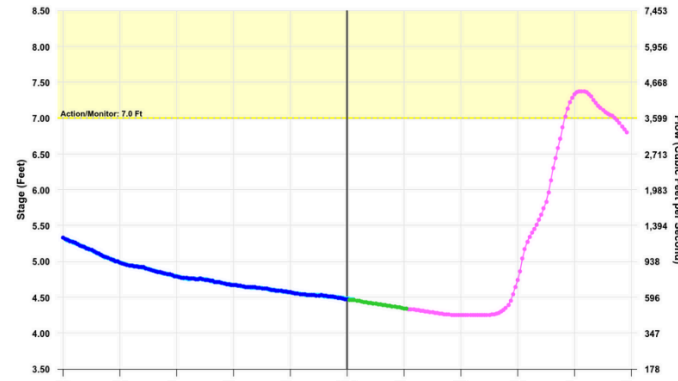
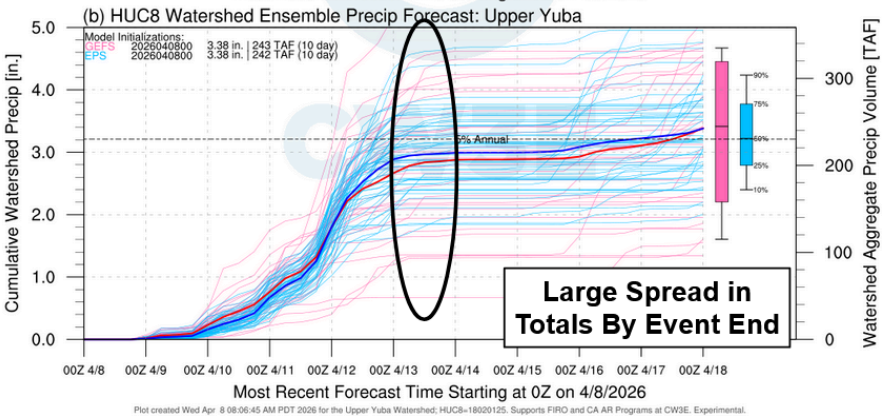
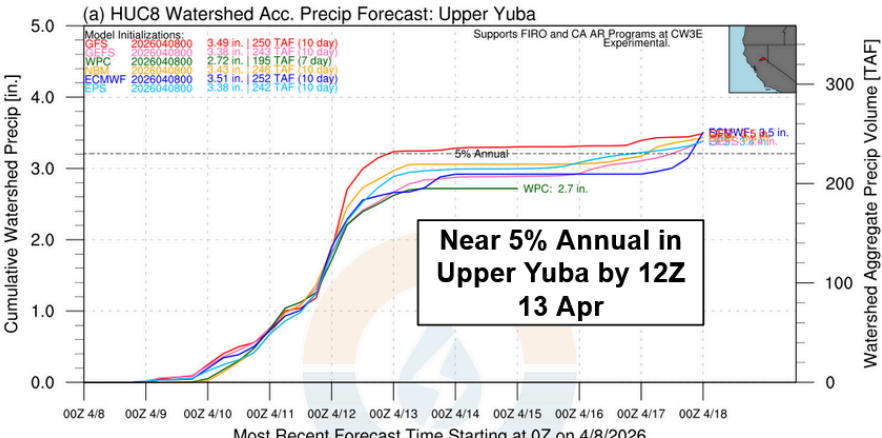
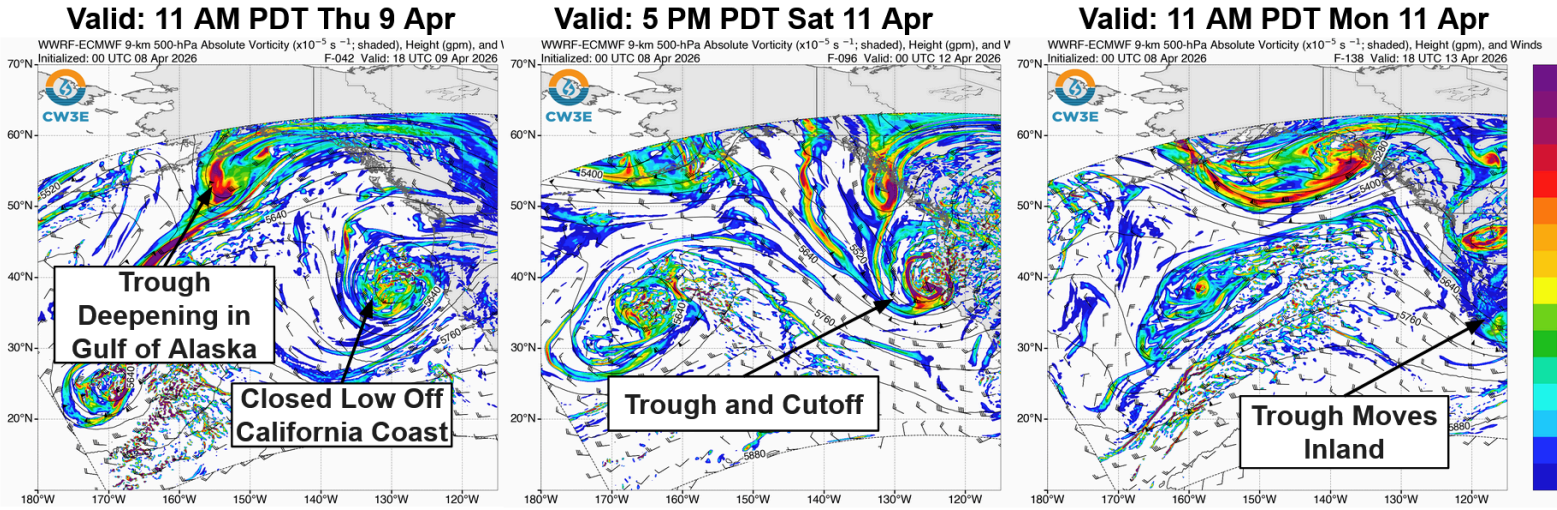
A cutoff low and mid-level shortwave are forecast to bring precipitation and cooler temperatures to California between Friday 10 April and Monday 13 April.

Forecast Highlights:

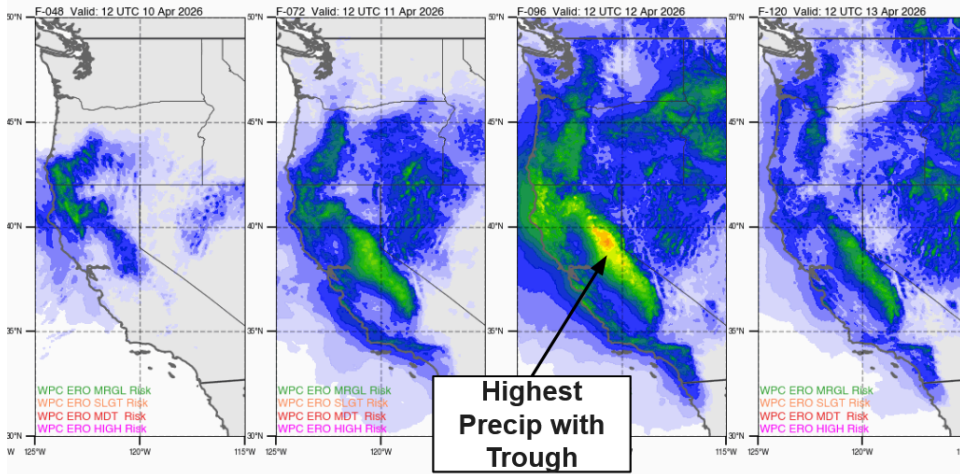
- A mid-level cutoff low west of California is forecast to propagate east today and stall off the California coast through Friday 10 April. This low is forecast to bring light precipitation to northern California.
- A trough originating over the Aleutian Islands is forecast to deepen and propagate southeastward through Friday 10 April, reaching the northern California coast on Saturday 11 April, and phasing with the weakening cutoff low.
- The trough is forecast to persist over California through Sunday 12 April before moving inland on Monday 13 April.
- This trough is forecast to bring cooler temperatures to the US West Coast and produce widespread precipitation over coastal California and Oregon, the Oregon Cascades and the Sierra Nevada.
- The NWS Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting 2–4 inches of precipitation over the Sierra Nevada and 1–2 inches over coastal California, coastal Oregon and the Oregon Cascades for the 72-hour period ending 5 AM PT Mon 13 April.
- The NWS Storm Prediction Center (SPC) has identified a risk of thunderstorms over northern and central California in their days 1 through 3 (Wed through Fri) convective outlooks. The West-WRF initialized with the ECMWF simulated reflectivity forecasts show a line of storms moving through the Bay Area Saturday evening
- There is large ensemble spread in the precipitation forecasts for watersheds in the Sierra Nevada and across northern California. While GEFS and EPS total watershed mean precipitation forecasts are similar through 5 AM PT Mon 13 April, individual member accumulations range from < 1 inch to > 4 inches throughout the Sierra Nevada.
- Freezing levels over the Sierra Nevada are forecast to fall from ~12,000 feet to near 6,000 feet between Thursday 9 and Monday 13 April, leading to the potential for snowfall.
- Both the GEFS and EPS are showing high probabilities (>80%) of snowfall \geq 12 inches across the Sierra Nevada by 5 AM PT Mon 13 April.
- While stream rises are expected in California with the precipitation from this event, the California-Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC) is currently forecasting only two gauges to reach action stage over the next 5 days .
- The precipitation and potential snowfall are likely to be quite beneficial for California. Much of California has received < 50% of normal precipitation since January and HUC8 basins across the Sierra Nevada are currently well below the median snow water equivalent.

Stay alert to official NWS forecasts, watches, and warnings at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov)

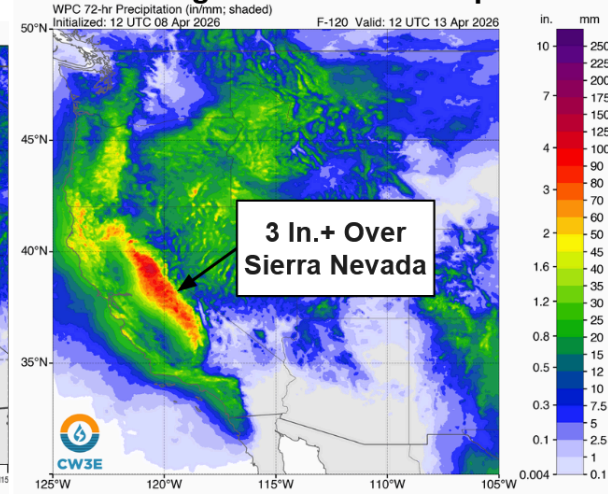
WWRF ECMWF 500 hPa Heights and Vorticity



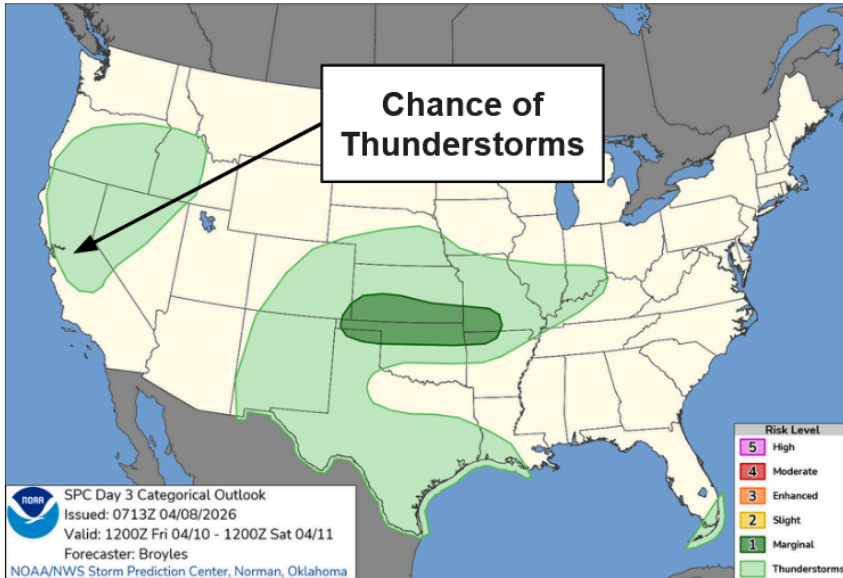
WPC Days 2-5 QPF: Periods Ending 5 AM PT 10-13 Apr



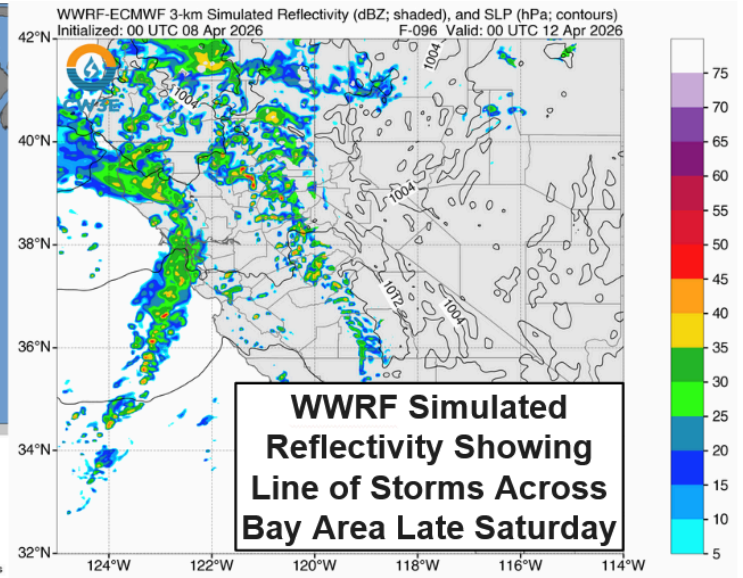
WPC 72 Hour QPF: Period Ending 5 AM PT Mon 13 Apr

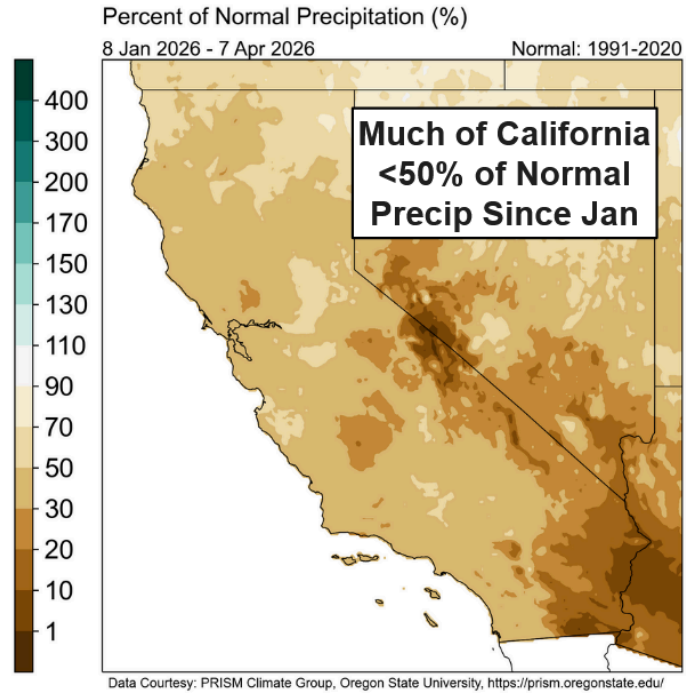
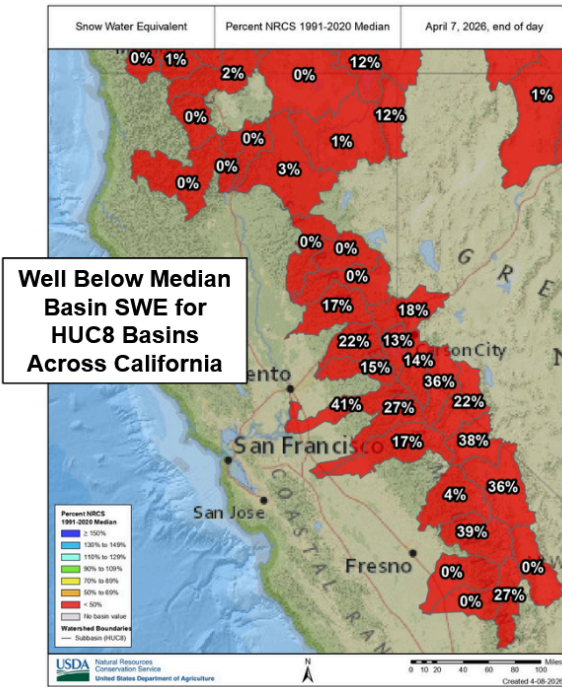
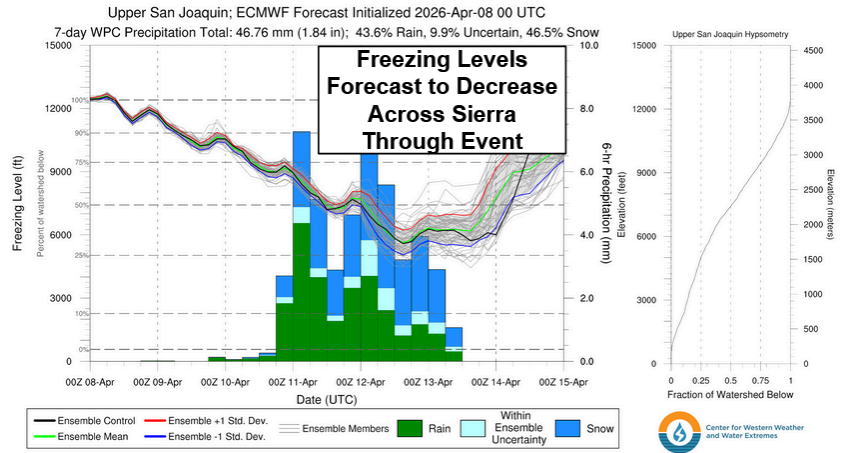
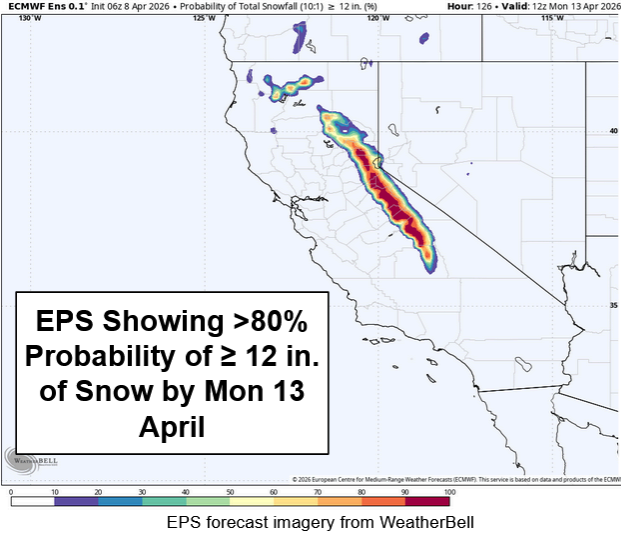


SPC Day 3 Categorical Outlook



WRF ECMWF Simulated Reflectivity





Additional Considerations:

Visit <https://www.weather.gov/cnrfc/> for specific river and stream forecasts and <https://www.weather.gov/> for point specific forecasts.

In-depth AR forecasts products can be found here:

<http://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iwv-and-ivt-forecasts/>

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