

DISCOVER-AQ Outlook for Thursday, July 20, 2011

As this week's heat wave is getting into place today, southeasterly flow has pushed today's maximum ozone to the west and northwest of the main emission corridor. The winds will shift to more southwesterly tomorrow, leading to higher ozone within the corridor tomorrow. The 500 hPa ridge intensifies over the eastern US tomorrow, leading to hotter temperatures, along with high dew points. This pattern continues on Friday, with high temperatures around 100 F on both days. Dew points are forecast to be even higher on Friday, leading to the greater possibility of late afternoon/evening thunderstorms at about a 25% probability. We'll need to reassess this tomorrow. Code Orange or greater ozone is forecast for both days. Saturday and Sunday will likely have greater cloudiness, but the pollution episode will likely continue. We definitely recommend flying tomorrow to catch a day with little cloudiness and high ozone.