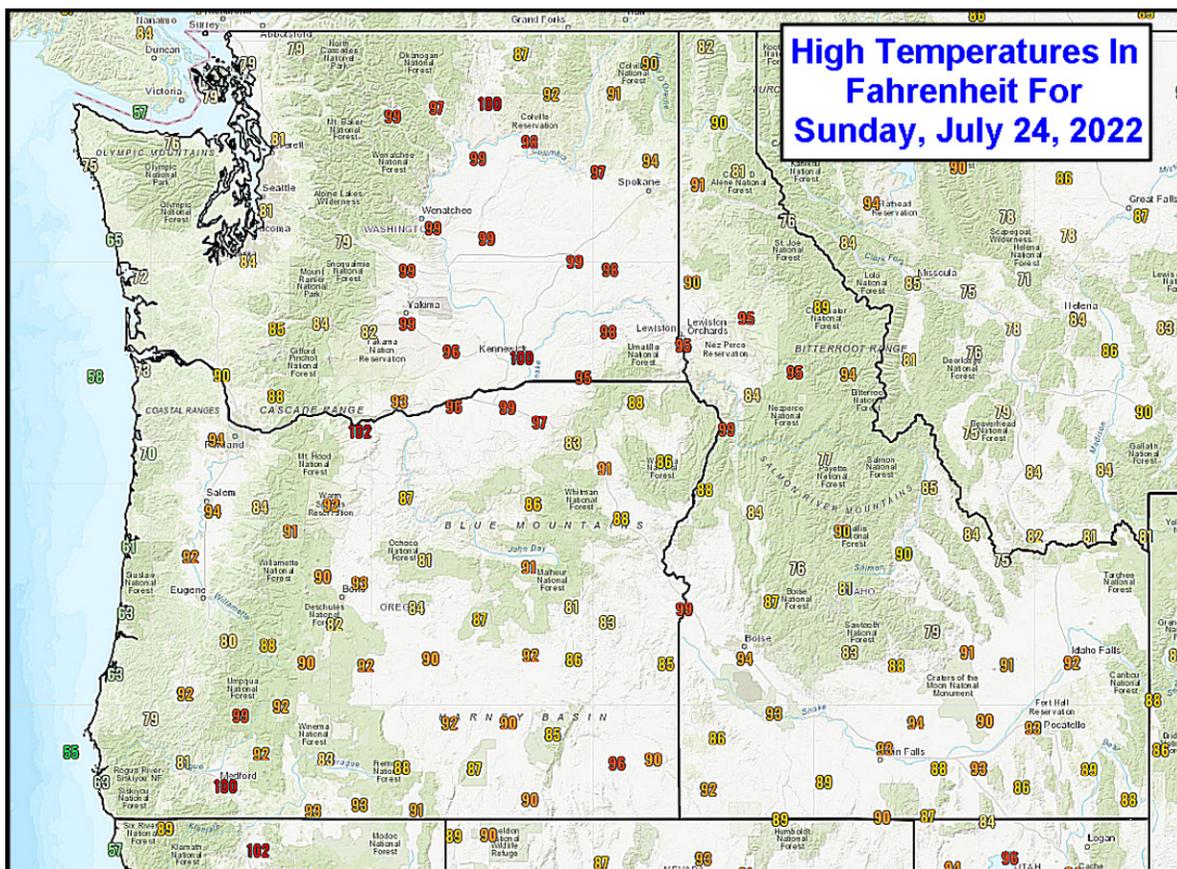


Heat In Western U.S. To Strain Irrigation, Electrical Systems

By Drew Lerner

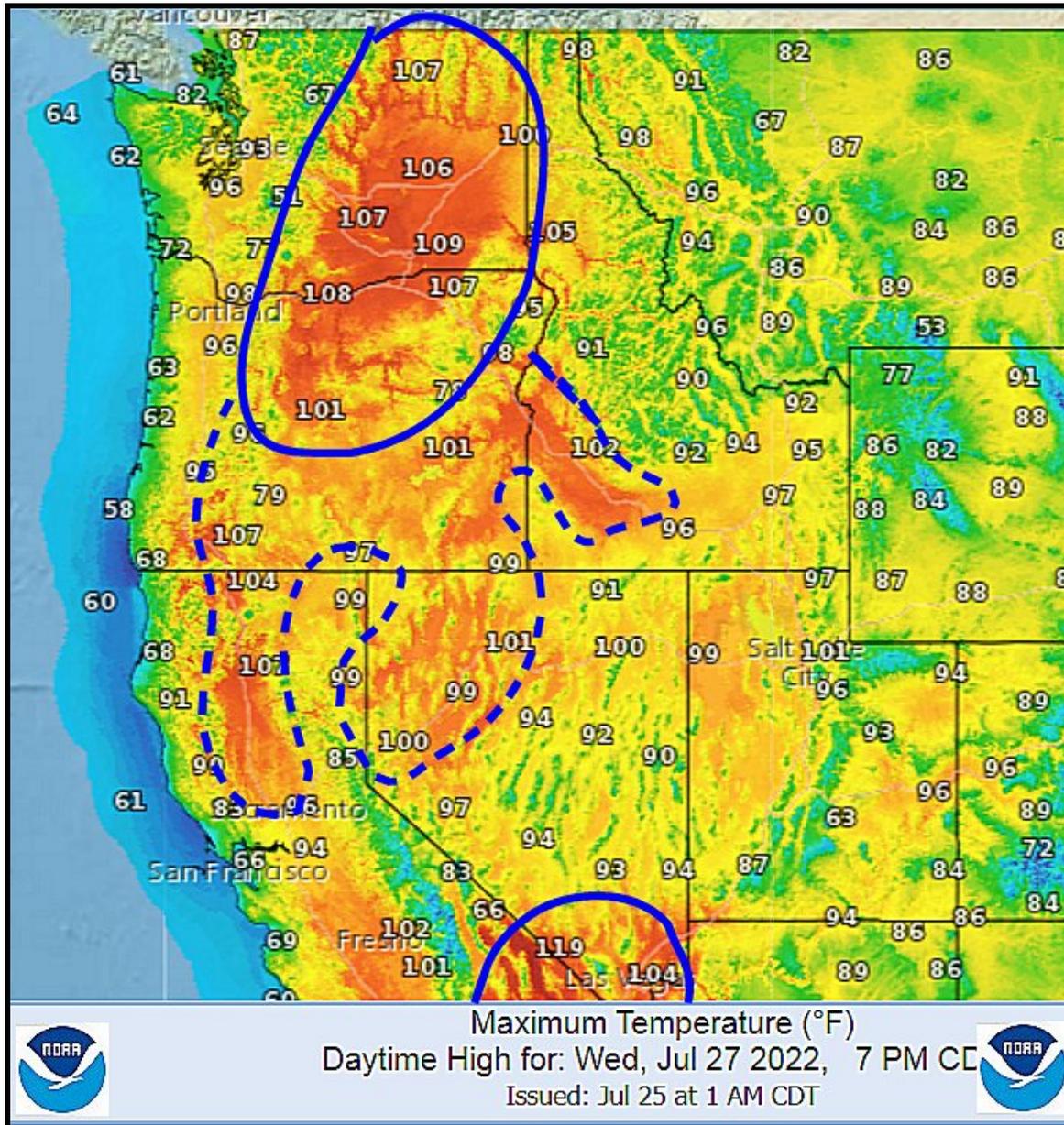
Kansas City, July 25 (World Weather Inc.) – *A building ridge of high pressure expected over the western United States during the second half of this week promises to produce hot temperatures from the southwestern desert region through California and the Great Basin to the Pacific Northwest, northern Rocky Mountains and British Columbia, Canada. The heat expected will be impressive, although not quite like that of last year, but impressive enough to induce some serious crop and livestock stress. The heat will place a huge strain on electrical and irrigation systems throughout the western states. Fires will continue to break out, as well.*



Early weekend temperatures were already hot in the northwestern U.S. where highs reached into the 90s with one location in west-central Idaho reaching 100 Fahrenheit. The ridge of high pressure has not evolved over the western U.S. yet, but when it does it promises to produce some impressive heat. *Extreme highs during the middle and latter part of this week will reach near and above 120 degrees Fahrenheit in the southwestern desert region while varying from 105 to 110 degrees in many other areas from California's central Valleys and Great Basin northward into Washington's Yakima Valley. A couple of extremes in central Washington might get to 112, but only for a quick two to three days Wednesday through Friday.* However, temperatures over 100 will already be prevalent today will increase Tuesday.

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The Dalles, Oregon reported an extreme of 102 Sunday while most readings in the Yakima Valley were in 96 to 100.



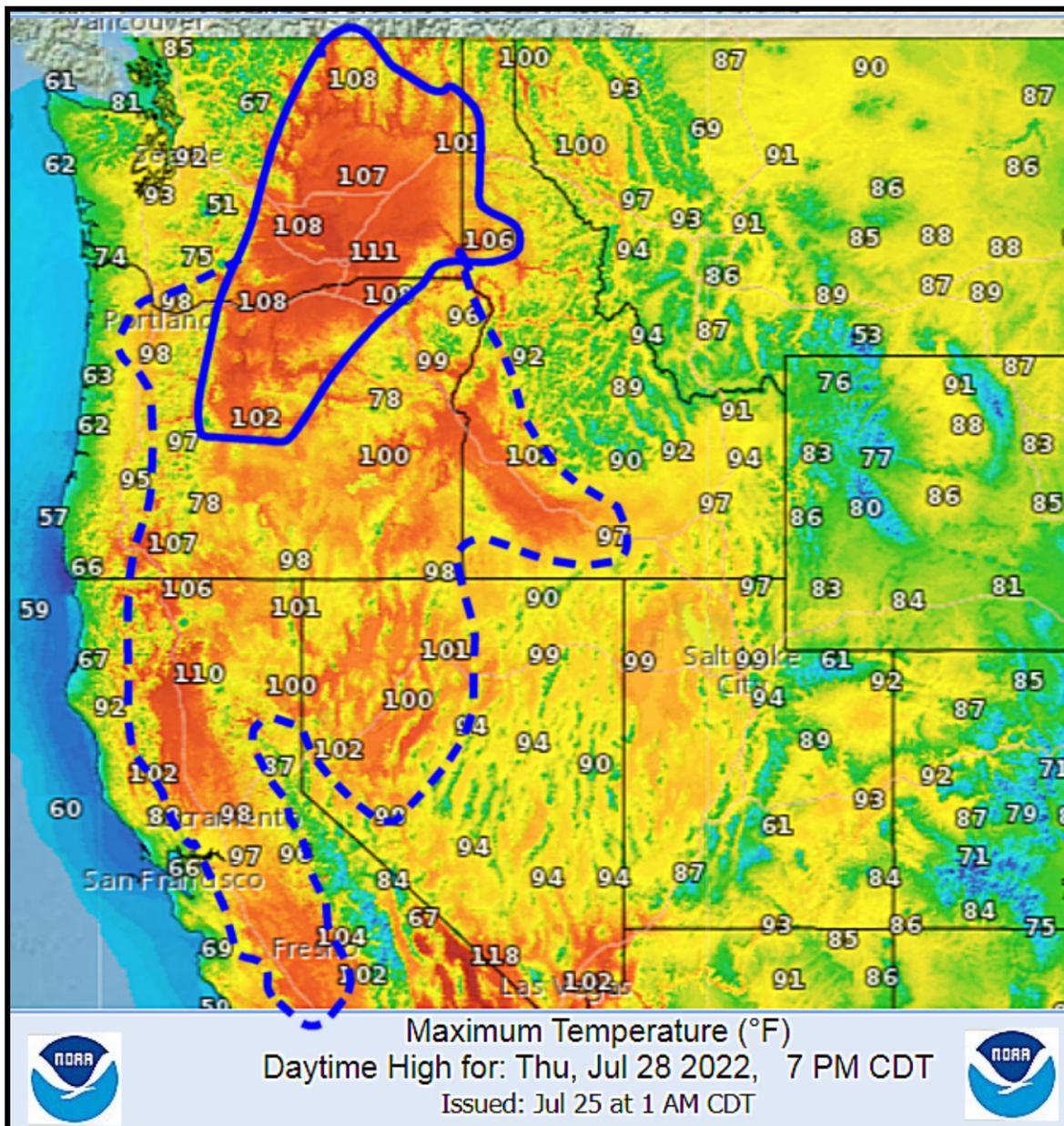
The ridge of high pressure expected to induce the excessive heat later this week will become a progressive ridge and should move out of the western United States during the weekend and early part of next week. The ridge should pass through the Rocky Mountain States during the weekend and early next week and into the Great Plains during the early to middle part of next week.

Some computer weather forecast models continue to move the ridge to the east next week reaching the western Corn Belt late in the week and then into the heart of the Midwest during the August 4-8 period. The excessive heat advances with the ridge bring back

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extreme temperatures to the U.S. Plains during the middle to latter part of next week and possibly impacting the western fringes of the Corn Belt once again as well.

The GFS Ensemble moved the ridge into the heart of the Midwest Aug. 4-8 bringing some impressive heat to the western and some central Midwest locations. Higher relative humidity in those areas will prevent temperatures from getting too extreme “if” the ridge of high pressure reaches that far to the east. *World Weather, Inc. believes the ridge will stay more in the Plains and western fringes of the Corn Belt instead of moving into the heart of the Midwest. The expectation is similar to that observed earlier this month when the ridge and excessive heat were mostly confined to the Plains and western fringes of the Corn and Soybean Belt, but only time will tell what the impact will be.*



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In the meantime, the excessive heat in the far western U.S. will be limited to just a few days this week, but much damage can be done in a short period of time. Irrigation demand will be high and that will strain many irrigation system from the Pacific Northwest into California. *The quick easing of the hottest conditions this weekend into next week will help prevent a more serious impact; however, there will be enough heat in the western states to possibly lead to some blackouts or brown outs in the electrical grid in some parts of the western United States.*

Once the heat gets to the Plains next week there will be a new wave of livestock stress and more potential problems with crop development. The coming heat wave will place an even greater importance on rain in the central United States over the next several days. Rain must fall abundantly enough to carry crops in the Plains through the more stressful period of heat and dryness next week.

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