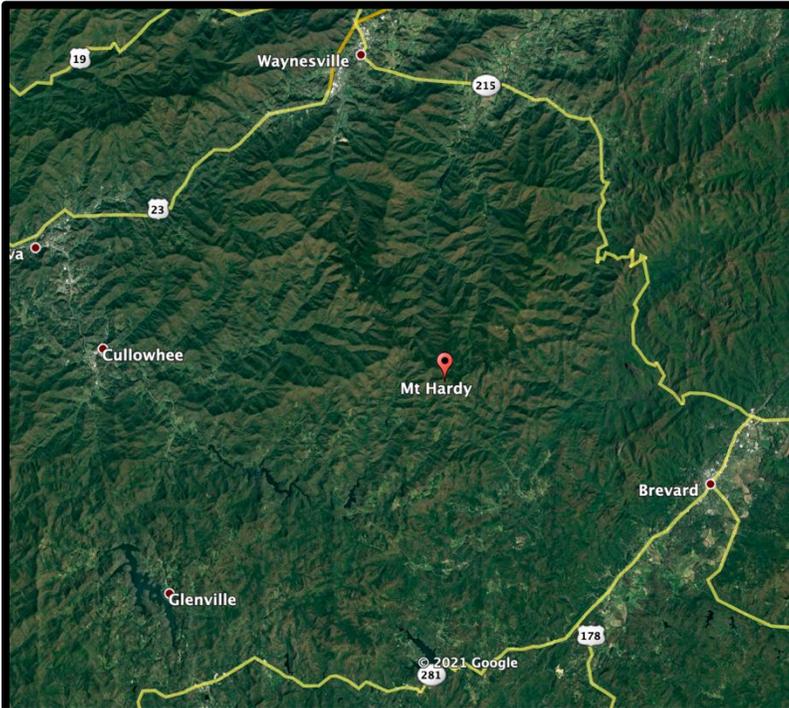


WEATHER FORECAST FOR YOUR HIKE

Let's say you want to know what the weather at Mt. Hardy is likely to be for your planned hike. Do you look for a weather forecast for Waynesville? Cullowhee? Brevard? All are somewhat far away and have various mountains between them and Mt. Hardy which can easily change the weather conditions.

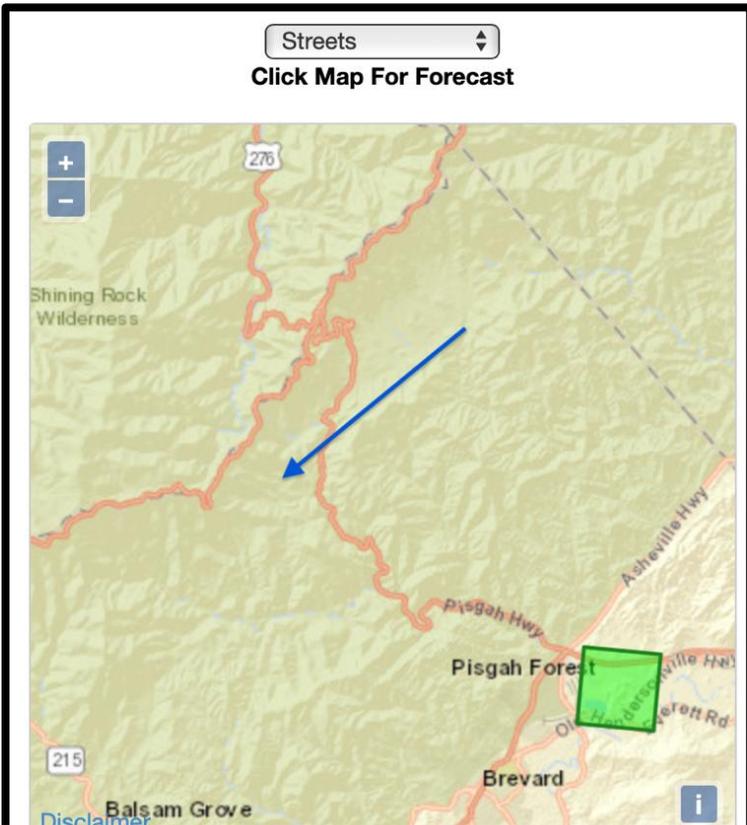


There is a solution that many hikers don't know about. It's www.weather.gov. This weather predictor allows you to zero in on any location and will tell you the forecast (BY THE HOUR!) for the temperature, the wind speed, the precipitation chances, the cloud cover, and several other items so you can plan your hike accordingly.

Let's try it. Go to weather.gov, plug in "Mount Hardy, NC" at the top left and click "GO".

A screenshot of the National Weather Service (NWS) website. At the top, the NWS logo is on the left, and the text "NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE" and "NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION" is on the right. Below this is a navigation menu with links for HOME, FORECAST, PAST WEATHER, SAFETY, INFORMATION, and EDUCATION. The main content area features a "Local forecast by" section with a search box containing "Mount Hardy, NC" and a "Go" button. To the right of the search box, the forecast title is "Unsettled in the South; Pacific Storm on the West Coast" and the text describes "Showers and a few strong to severe thunderstorms associated with a system in southeast...". Below the forecast is a "WPN" logo and a row of links: ACTIVE ALERTS, FORECAST MAPS, RADAR, RIVERS, LAKES, RAINFALL, and AIR. On the left side, there is a "Customize Your Weather.gov" sidebar with a "City, ST" input field, a "Remember Me" checkbox, and a "Submit" button. On the right side, there is a weather map of the United States with colored regions, and a timestamp "Created: 03/05/21 at 21:25 UTC".

If your place name does not come up, don't quit. Plug in some close-by place and then the map will let you pinpoint the area you want. For example, suppose you are hiking Looking Glass Rock. Plug in a close place such as Pisgah Forest, NC and then scroll to the right and down to the small map. Using the map as topographic or streets, whichever you are more comfortable with, click on the Looking Glass area and the forecast for that exact area will come up.



On the left you can see an abbreviated forecast for the week. But if you scroll down below the map, you will see "Hourly Weather Forecast". Click that. At the top, you will see all the weather elements that they offer. Check the ones you wish to see, change the date and hour at the top and select "Submit". Then you will be able to see the forecast by the hour for those elements.

