



Decision Support Briefing for SnowEx (NASA) – 17 February, 2017

Overview

The first phase of this prolonged weather system begins this evening with weak radar returns already lifting into SW Colorado. Light precipitation already being reported across SE Utah with snow falling over the Abajo mountains. For Senator Beck and the Grand Mesa initial snow level around 8500 ft this early this evening drop to mountain bases by midnight. Snow is likely to pick up by mid evening through the early morning hours...tapering off by sunrise on Saturday. Southwest flow aloft will favor the south facing slopes and high peaks. General snow amounts are 2 to 4 inches on these aspects and 1 to 3 elsewhere. By daybreak Saturday, precipitation rates if any will be very light. Expecting that low clouds will stick around over the Grand Mesa during this morning lull. From noon onwards, another round of precipitation looks to occur for both sites through the afternoon with another wave and instability leading to showery precipitation. Another short break in precipitation is possible early Sunday with the last and strongest phase of this weather system impacting the region by sunrise on Sunday through Monday morning. Upper level flow remains from the southwest then transitions to northwest Sunday afternoon. This switch in flow will signal the cold frontal passage with snow falling across most of western Colorado down to 7000 ft. The lulls in between the three parts of this weekend's storm may last a better half of a day, but not feeling confident that low stratus will not linger in between these best chances of snow. Conditions will clear out on Monday and into early Tuesday before the next threat of weather moves in Tuesday afternoon.

Local Weather Hazards for 10 Miles NNW Cedaredge CO (Grand Mesa at Mesa/Delta Co Line)

[Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

National Weather Service Forecast for 10 Miles NNW Cedaredge CO (Grand Mesa at Mesa/Delta Co Line)

For the latest forecast, go to:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=39.027&lon=-108.02>

This Afternoon: A chance of rain and snow before 5pm, then a chance of rain and snow showers. Cloudy, with a high near 38. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 50%. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Tonight: Periods of snow showers. Low around 28. South wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Saturday: Snow showers likely, mainly before 9am. Cloudy, with a high near 32. Southeast wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Saturday Night: A 50 percent chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a low around 26. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Sunday: Snow showers. High near 34. Southeast wind 5 to 10 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Sunday Night: Snow showers, mainly before 11pm. Low around 20. Chance of precipitation is 80%.

Washington's Birthday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 11am. Partly sunny, with a high near 35.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 26.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 38.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 27.

Wednesday: A chance of rain and snow. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 38.

Wednesday Night: A chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 19.

Thursday: A chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 26.

Thursday Night: A chance of snow. Cloudy, with a low around 14.

Friday: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 26.

Local Weather Hazards for 7 Miles ENE Ophir CO (Senator Beck)

[Hazardous Weather Outlook](#)

National Weather Service Forecast for 7 Miles ENE Ophir CO (Senator Beck)

For the latest forecast, go to:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=37.905&lon=-107.72>

This Afternoon: A 40 percent chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 34. South southwest wind around 15 mph.

Tonight: Periods of snow showers. Low around 20. South southwest wind around 15 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Saturday: Snow showers likely, mainly after 1pm. Patchy blowing snow after 9am. Cloudy, with a high near 26. Breezy, with a south wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 3 inches possible.

Saturday Night: Snow showers likely. Widespread blowing snow before 11pm, then areas of blowing snow after 5am. Cloudy, with a low around 20. Breezy, with a south southeast wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 3 to 5 inches possible.

Sunday: Snow showers. The snow could be heavy at times. Areas of blowing snow. High near 24. South southeast wind around 15 mph becoming west southwest in the afternoon. Winds could gust as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 90%.

Sunday Night: Snow showers likely, mainly before 11pm. Patchy blowing snow. Cloudy, with a low around 13. Chance of precipitation is 70%.

Washington's Birthday: A 20 percent chance of snow before 11am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 30.

Monday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 20.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 33.

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 22.

Wednesday: A chance of snow. Partly sunny, with a high near 30. Breezy.

Wednesday Night: Snow likely. Widespread blowing snow. Cloudy, with a low around 13. Breezy.

Thursday: A chance of snow. Cloudy, with a high near 17. Breezy.

Thursday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 5.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 18.

Aviation Forecast for Grand Junction Regional Airport

KGJT 172329

TAFGJT

TAF

KGJT 172329Z 1800/1824 28008KT P6SM OVC090

FM180100 16005KT P6SM VCSH OVC050

TEMPO 1803/1807 -SHRA OVC035

FM182000 17006KT P6SM VCSH OVC040

FM182300 14006KT P6SM OVC035=

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TEMPO 1803/1807 -SHRA OVC035
FM182000 17006KT P6SM VCSH OVC040
FM182300 14006KT P6SM OVC035=

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FM182000 17006KT P6SM VCSH OVC040
FM182300 14006KT P6SM OVC035=

Discussion

Grand Mesa forecast cloud levels:

Saturday: CIGS AOB 3000 ft agl with occasional OVC010 and 3 miles in snow showers.

Senator Beck forecast cloud levels:

Saturday: CIGS OVC 4000 ft AGL by 9am MST, then dropping below 2500 ft AGL around 11am with periods of 2 miles and snow.

Current PIREPS: <https://www.aviationweather.gov/airep/plot?type=turb@ion=SW>

Current SITREPS: <https://www.aviationweather.gov/sigmat>

Current radar:

<http://radar.weather.gov/radar.php?rid=GJX&product=NCR&overlay=11101111&loop=yes>

Current satellite: <http://www.weather.gov/satellite?image=ir#ir>

Hourly weather graphics for the Grand Mesa:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=39.0326&lon=-108.0245&unit=0&lg=english&FcstType=graphical>

Hourly weather graphics for Senator Beck:

<http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lat=37.9247&lon=-107.7179&unit=0&lg=english&FcstType=graphical>

For official pilot briefings, call 1-800-WX-BRIEF

For Further Information

- Contact National Weather Service operations 24 hours a day at 970-256-9463 (unlisted)
- For specific support of emergency response incidents, request a spot forecast by contacting the NWS forecast office by phone or online.

- Online spot forecast request available at:
<http://www.weather.gov/spot/monitor/?lat=39.0293452169889&lon=-109.20392753906285&z=7>

Forecaster: Julie Malingowski

