



Decision Support Briefing for SnowEx (NASA) – 22 February, 2017

Overview

Breezy conditions will continue into this evening and overnight ahead of the next storm system with scattered to broken mid and high level clouds. Some cumulus development is seen over the higher terrain with scattered light showers occurring. The frontal boundary stalled this morning and afternoon over southern Wyoming and never made it further south which is why the afternoon saw more sun with scattered clouds and that mid level dry air. The low levels will saturate tonight with snow most likely to start in earnest between 2 am and 5 am Thursday morning. The front is projected to move through the region Thursday morning, with colder air. Snow looks to continue through much of the day Thursday into Thursday evening over the higher terrain with periods of broken skies and lulls at times as low level dry air works in the afternoon. Otherwise, stormy and unsettled through Friday morning with some showers lingering through late Friday afternoon in northwest flow. Conditions improve with most precipitation coming to an end by late Friday afternoon into the evening. Mid and high level cloud cover will hang around into Saturday, with clouds increasing and lowering late Saturday evening ahead of another storm system set to impact the area on Sunday.

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: Snow showers likely before 5pm, then snow likely after 5pm. Partly sunny, with a high near 36. Windy, with a west southwest wind around 30 mph, with gusts as high as 50 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. Total daytime snow accumulation of less than a half inch possible.

Tonight: Snow. Widespread blowing snow, mainly between 3am and 5am. Low around 14. Breezy, with a southwest wind around 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Thursday: Snow. Areas of blowing snow before 2pm. High near 16. Breezy, with a west wind 15 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Thursday Night: Snow showers likely, mainly after 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 7. West northwest wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of around an inch possible.

Friday: A 50 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 17. West wind around 10 mph.

Friday Night: A 30 percent chance of snow showers before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 5.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 21.

Saturday Night: A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 12.

Sunday: A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 24.

Sunday Night: A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 17.

Monday: Snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 29.

Monday Night: Snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 17.

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

Tuesday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 11.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, 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: Scattered snow showers. Patchy fog. Otherwise, partly sunny, with a high near 28. Windy, with a southwest wind around 35 mph, with gusts as high as 55 mph. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

Tonight: Snow, mainly after 2am. Widespread blowing snow after 4am. Low around 6. Wind chill values as low as -10. Windy, with a southwest wind 30 to 35 mph, with gusts as high as 50 mph. Chance of precipitation is 80%. New snow accumulation of less than one inch possible.

Thursday: Snow likely. Widespread blowing snow before 9am. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 8. Wind chill values as low as -15. Windy, with a west wind 20 to 30 mph, with gusts as high as 45 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Thursday Night: Snow showers likely, mainly before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around -3. Wind chill values as low as -25. West wind around 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New snow accumulation of 1 to 2 inches possible.

Friday: A 40 percent chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy and cold, with a high near 7. West wind around 15 mph.

Friday Night: A chance of snow showers before 11pm, then a chance of flurries after 11pm. Partly cloudy, with a low around -3. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Saturday: A 20 percent chance of flurries with a slight chance of snow showers after 11am. Mostly sunny, with a high near 15.

Saturday Night: A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 9. Breezy.

Sunday: Snow showers likely, mainly after 11am. Cloudy, with a high near 18. Breezy.

Sunday Night: Snow showers likely, mainly before 11pm. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 13. Breezy.

Monday: Snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a high near 22. Breezy.

Monday Night: Snow showers likely. Cloudy, with a low around 11. Breezy.

Tuesday: A chance of snow showers. Cloudy, with a high near 18. Breezy.

Tuesday Night: A chance of snow showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 5.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 21.

Aviation Forecast for Grand Junction Regional Airport

KGJT 222340Z 2300/2324 34010G18KT P6SM BKN090 BKN110
FM230300 11008KT P6SM BKN090
FM230500 14009KT P6SM BKN080 WS020/24025KT
FM230900 30010KT P6SM VCSH BKN050
FM231800 29014G22KT P6SM VCSH BKN070=

Aviation Forecast for Colorado Springs Airport

KCOS 222338Z 2300/2324 20012G22KT P6SM SCT200
FM230400 VRB06KT P6SM SCT200
FM231600 16010KT P6SM SCT200

FM231700 24025G35KT P6SM SCT200=

Aviation Forecast for Centennial Airport

KAPA 222333Z 2300/2324 06012G20KT P6SM FEW100 SCT150
FM230200 18012KT P6SM SCT100 BKN150
FM231000 30010KT P6SM SCT070 BKN100
FM231700 26014G22KT P6SM VCSH SCT040 BKN080
FM232200 34016G26KT 5SM -SHSN BKN025 OVC040=

Discussion

Grand Mesa forecast cloud levels:

Thursday: Cloud bases of 2000 ft AGL as of Wednesday evening lower to the base of the Grand Mesa with fully saturated layer between 2 am and 5 am until about 11 am. Clouds lift to around 4000 ft AGL after 11 am until 8 pm before becoming fully saturated again and lowering to the surface. Mountains will be obscured at times throughout the day Thursday in snow showers.

Friday: CIGS rise from surface to about 2000 to 3000 ft AGL by 8 am through 5 pm before improving.

Senator Beck forecast cloud levels:

Thursday: CIGS of 5000 ft AGL at mid levels and 12000 ft AGL at high level as of Wednesday evening, will fully saturate by 11 pm tonight with snow showers beginning to occur. Peaks will remain obscured in snow and blowing snow through the day on Thursday.

Friday: CIGS lift to 2000 ft AGL by 2 pm Friday with dry air at mid and upper levels (so a shallow low moist layer). Fully dry after 5 pm with improving CIGS.

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

Current SITREPs: <https://www.aviationweather.gov/sigmet>

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: Matthew Aleksa

