

NW Flow Snow Conf Call Minutes for March 14, 2014

Participants from UNC-A, ASU, WFOs GSP and RNK

Sandy NWFS journal article:

Still shooting for March 31 deadline to get drafts of each section completed (but most likely for some of us it will be the end of that work-week, April 4). Potential figures can be added to the Sandy Journal Outline document (see link below), and don't worry for now about number of color figures. If something is just as easily conveyed in B&W and can easily be converted, that's fine. Otherwise, go ahead with color. Baker and David will coordinate on Section 5, and Doug will coordinate with Daniel Martin on contributions to Section 3. Steve will draft a Conclusion section, but will probably need quite a bit of re-working once all other sections are completed.

Google Drive document is located:

<https://docs.google.com/a/noaa.gov/document/d/1spoUWfO0PmQoYUFG-UdvyOWFcrkTt1IKs6R6jiOMjil/edit>

For now, we are being told not to worry about page charges, but we should still consider limiting figures to those that are most important. The documents for each section can be placed separately in the NWFS_Sandy shared folder, with a name something like "WAF_Section1".

Eastern Snow Conference (June 3-5):

A really good program is shaping up, with a good southern Appalachian and NWFS presence. Many of us will be there! New study from RNK will be presented as a poster and is focused on sounding characteristics of significant vs. minor westerly upslope snows, including wind profile, moisture depth, temperatures, and instability (including Froude # calculation).

Good discussion on this week's (March 12-13) event which overall was minor but with a few reports of over 5", and especially good downstream spillover/banding case. Role of terrain vs. mesoscale convergence and upstream instability in determining banding locations, as well as a potential Great Lakes influence despite much higher-than usual ice cover. Also more graupel in Watauga Co, resulting in higher road impact than what might have otherwise been. Several potential studies could come from this little case. Those who are generating bukit data from local WRFs for PogaMtn should archive some forecasts and share with Baker (for Focus Topic study).

Focus topics for upcoming season:

Next call on this scheduled for Tues March 18, @11am. Two topics are listed below. ASU student Alex McMahon working on first one with Baker. ASU student Rick Poremba working on second topic with Baker.

- Use of Snow-Liquid Ratio data from Poga Mtn to better anticipate future SLRs and which atmospheric variables are most important for anticipating those in NWFS events.
- Validating model forecasts of moisture depth and radar echo characteristics with the Poga Mtn MRR, and possible downstream data sets that are part of HMT-SEPS, and also UNC-A soundings. Can focus on using BUFKIT output from local WRF models that some offices are producing for Poga Mtn, but other forecast data sets that we can get a hold of would also be good to consider.

Field Projects:

- UNC-A sounding equipment/supplies basically done for the season, unless an extreme high impact event develops.
- Some talk of trying to find replacement MRR for Poga Mtn, since current one likely to be moving on before next season, at least for a couple of years.
- Dr. Rezaul Mahmood (Wm Kentucky Univ and director of KY Mesonet) via email reminded us that Harlan Co (Black Mountain) station is on line. It's over 4,000ft near the border of VA. <http://www.kymesonet.org/>

Next call:

Early April, focus mainly on Sandy journal article and fine-tuning and merging the sections together. Steve K will send Doodle poll.