

# **Product Description Document**

## **New York and Northern New England Mountain Point Forecasts**

### **Part I – Mission Connection**

Product/Service Description - The Mountain Point Forecasts from WFO Albany, NY compliment the official narrative text recreational forecasts that have long been issued by WFO Albany, in similar form to those issued by other WFOs in northern New York and New England and across the country. The web based display leverages the ESRI Map interface to allow the user to readily access forecasts for back country mountain peaks. The WFO Recreational Forecast program serves as a public safety tool by providing tailored weather forecasts for frequently visited high elevation mountain summits across the region. These regions are frequently impacted by severe and life-threatening weather, such as thunderstorms and high winds and white outs due to clouds, freezing fog and snow. In addition, recreational forecasts provide forecasts for thunderstorms and lightning, strong winds and cold water safety messages for large lakes and rivers.

Product Type – Official

Purpose – The purpose of this product is to provide customers of the current narrative mountain and lake forecasts an option to view a higher resolution forecast of key elements at a specific point based on latitude and longitude. This provides more lifesaving weather information for the higher elevation summits that are most commonly the location of a variety of outdoor activities (i.e., hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, etc.).

Audience – Mountain Point Forecasts for the Albany Forecast Area were requested by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYS DEC) and the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources (VT ANR). The audience for this product also includes any customer or partner with needs for specific detailed recreation forecasts. This includes the general public, as well as emergency officials in support of potential search and rescue missions.

Presentation Format – The forecast is available on a webpage as a combination of a text box popup on a clickable ESRI Map background. The URLs for this product are:  
<https://www.weather.gov/aly/mountain>, <https://www.weather.gov/btv/mountain>,  
<https://www.weather.gov/gyx/recreation> and <https://www.weather.gov/car/mountain>.

### **Part II - Technical Description**

Format and Science Basis – This product uses the WFO gridded data set that is created in order to produce the official recreational forecasts. The text forecasts are issued under the product header XXXRECXXX. The gridded data set is data that is available in the official NDFD suite (i.e., temperature, wind, sky/cloud cover, weather, probability of precipitation and lightning). The current resolution of the gridded data set is 2.5km. With a 2.5km resolution, conditions on a smaller temporal and spatial scale can be resolved (i.e. mountain tops, trails, etc.).

Availability – The point data are automatically created within the GFE software and uploaded to the website whenever the official REC forecast product (xxxRECxxx) is issued.

Additional Information - Example of Mountain Point Forecast.

**SNOWY MOUNTAIN**

The forecast for Snowy Mountain, New York at 3,899 ft:  
 Last Updated at 652 AM EDT Wed Oct 07 2020

.TODAY...Cloudy this morning, then becoming obscured in clouds. Showers. A chance of thunderstorms this afternoon. Some thunderstorms may produce gusty winds this afternoon. Highs in the lower 50s. Temperature falling into the upper 40s this afternoon. Southwest winds 10 to 15 mph with gusts up to 30 mph, increasing to west 20 to 25 mph with gusts up to 50 mph this afternoon.

.TONIGHT...Summits obscured in clouds. A chance of showers. Lows in the mid 30s. Northwest winds 15 to 25 mph with gusts up to 50 mph.

.THURSDAY...Mostly cloudy in the morning, then clearing. Highs in the lower 40s. Northwest winds around 15 mph with gusts up to 30 mph.

Detailed Forecast Data:

DATE	Wed 10/07/20					Thu 10/08/20							
TIME (EDT)	06	09	12	15	18	21	00	03	06	09	12	15	18
TEMP (F)	50	50	51	50	47	44	41	38	35	34	39	43	41
WIND DIR	SW	SW	SW	W	W	W	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	NW	W
WIND SPD (MPH)	10	13	18	23	25	25	24	19	17	16	14	16	13
WIND GST (MPH)	14	21	33	42	49	44	42	31	26	27	25	27	23
SKY COVER (%)	84	OB	OB	OB	OB	OB	OB	OB	83	26	15	14	
WIND CHL (F)	46	45	51	43	39	35	31	28	25	24	31	35	33
PROB PRECIP (%)	24	52	78	70	51	42	30	12	9	3	4	4	3
LIGHTNING RISK	NR	NR	NR	MD	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR	NR

Map labels: Kingston, Bolton Creek, Adirondack Park, Rutland, Montpelier, Green Mountains, Black River, Pennesseet River, Saint-Hyacinthe, Sherbrooke, Magog, 90 ft, 908 ft, 231 ft, ESRI, POWERED BY, EAQ USGS EPA NPS, [Product/Service Description Document](#)

**Sky Cover Legend:** IO = In and out of clouds, OB= Obscured in clouds, AB= Above the clouds

**Lightning Risk Legend:** NR = No Risk, LO = Isolated Coverage, MD = Scattered to Numerous Coverage, HI = Widespread Coverage