

NW Flow Snow Conf Call Minutes for Jan 14, 2015

Participants from UNC-A, WFOs GSP, MRX, LWX and RNK, and ER SSD

Sandy NWFS journal article:

ER SSD will likely have their review of the manuscript to us by the end of next week.

Field projects and instrumentation:

Oak Ridge Lab (TN) is likely willing to do a small number of special U/A launches for us during significant NWFS events so we can see the profile immediately upstream of srn Appalachians, so if we are anticipating a fairly significant event, we can notify David Hotz who will make the contact, and will let us know how to access the data. Not sure how many they can do or how frequently, but we'll take what they are willing to do!

Potential focus topics for upcoming season:

- Model QPF validation efforts: Discussion of how we can access certain NCEP high res model archives and Steve Z will send a request to NCEP for the addition of at least a few days of HiRes WRF and HRRR grib files via NOMADS. May also be able to consider BUFR data but are limited to those locations, and there aren't many in ideal upslope sides of the Appalachians. Doug suggested we consider the handful of stations that were used in the Sandy review. Doug, Baker, and Steve K will coordinate separately on this.
- GSP has tools for blending high res model fields for near term PoP generation in GFE: called "CamPoQPFF" on the internal NWS Software Collaboration Portal (SCP), but documentation is still needed. Pat will be coordinating with Harry G at GSP on this, but once all this is available any NWS office can install and test these out in NWFS (and other) situations for generating PoP grids.
- Froude # efforts: Pat will work on getting GSP tool for GFE up on the SCP and then other offices can consider setting up locally.
- Will talk more about ideas for expanding wind direction climatology in NWFS events to some other specific sites when we can include Baker in the conversation hopefully next call.
- Some discussion of the Winter Storm Impact Index and the Blowing Snow component (a WFO BTV initiative) and how we could explore this or something based on this running locally in GFE to focus just on Blowing Snow Impacts. Steve Z thinks LWX may be doing something similar already locally in GFE and will investigate. For these indices, SLRs are determined by simply dividing NDFD SnowAmt by NDFD QPF (for 6 hr periods I think). Doing more research to learn about SLR variability and

what atmospheric parameters best correlate to this in NWFS would be another related area to help offices determine appropriate SLR to use when creating SnowAmt grids from QPF. Currently, the BTV images that include the individual components of the total index (such as the Blowing Snow component) are only available on a CONUS scale and hard to read (especially considering part of the Blowing Snow index considers high res GIS land use data), but Steve K will share any examples with the group following any significant NWFS events this season.

Future calls:

Decided we would try the first Tuesday of each month, at 11am, which works for our academic partners, **so next call planned for Tues Feb 3 @11am.**