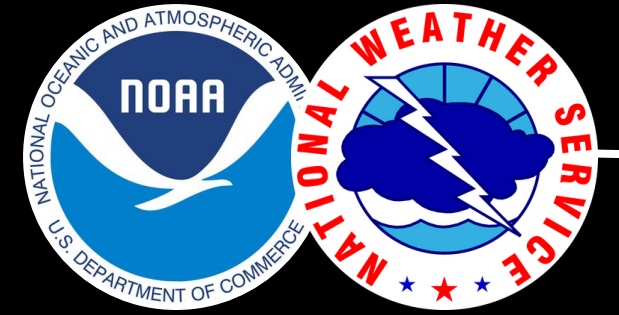


# ADVANCED STORM SPOTTER TRAINING



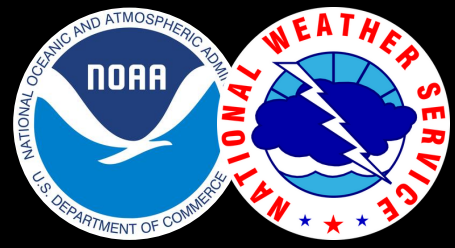
National Weather Service

Phoenix, AZ

# ABOUT NWS PHOENIX



- 11 Forecasters, 4 electronic technicians/IT support, 1 administrative support assistant, 1 hydrologist, 1 observations program leader, 1 science & operations officer, 1 warning coordination meteorologist, and 1 meteorologist in charge.
- Open 24/7/365 to provide essential forecasts and warnings for the public, emergency management, aviation, land management, road management, water management...



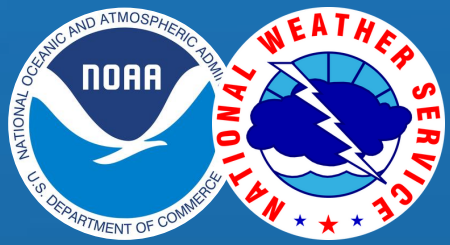
# PROGRAM OUTLINE

## PART I

- Organized Storm Ingredients
- Storm Classification
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- The Monsoon

## PART II

- Mesoanalysis Tools
- Radar Analysis
- Case Studies



# FIVE FUNDAMENTAL RULES

## RULE 1

Warm air rises

## RULE 2

Cool air sinks

## RULE 3

Stuff runs downhill

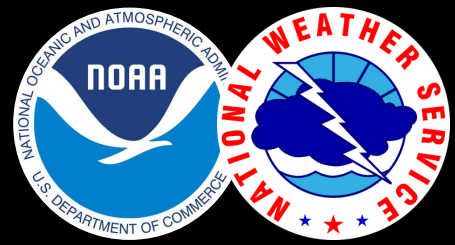
## RULE 4

Stuff gets blown  
downwind

## RULE 5

What goes up,  
must come down





1. Moisture

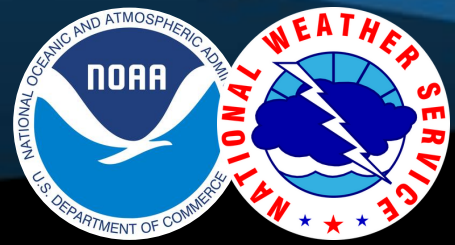
2. Instability

3. Lift

4. Wind Shear

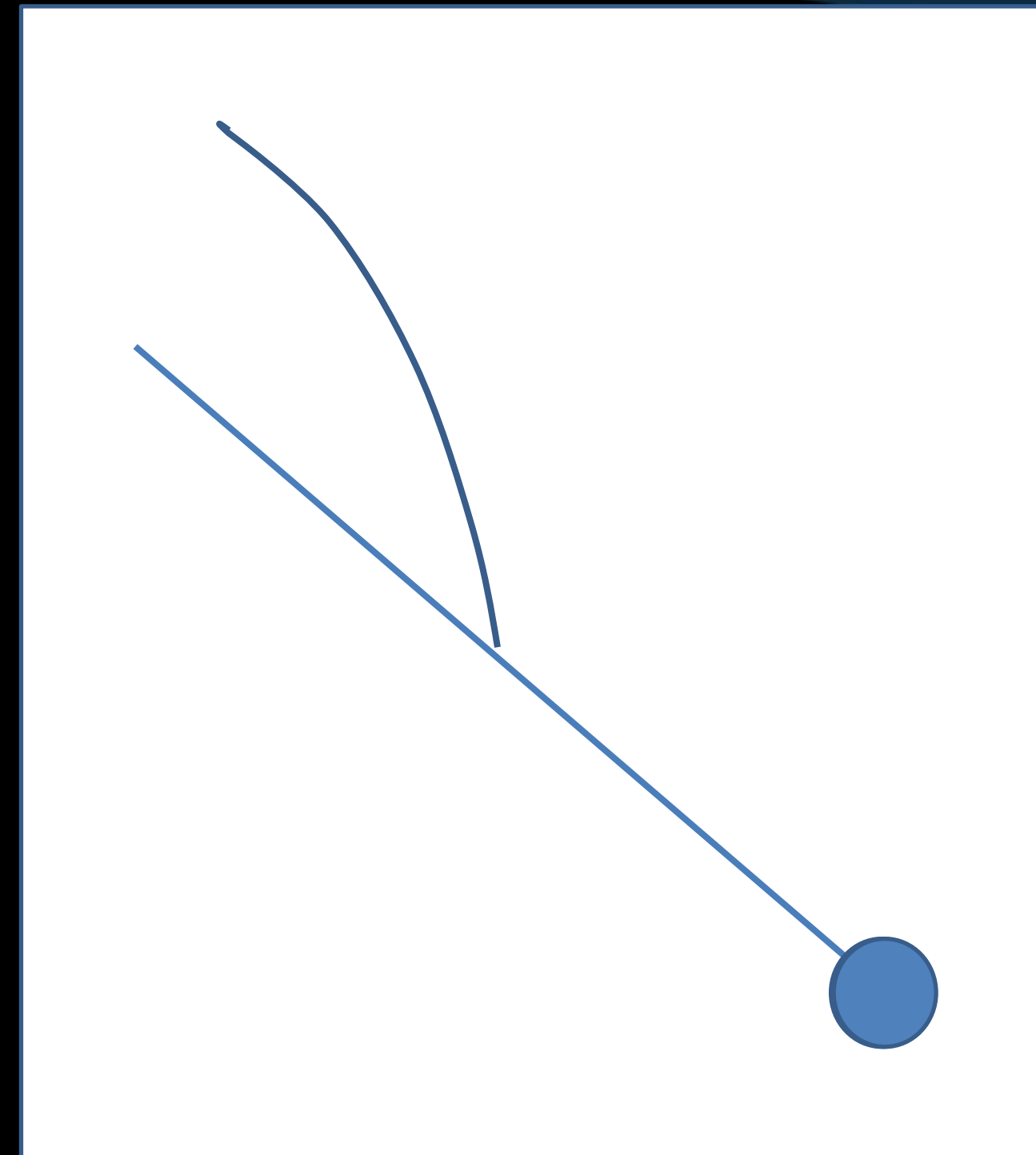
# ORGANIZED STORM INGREDIENTS

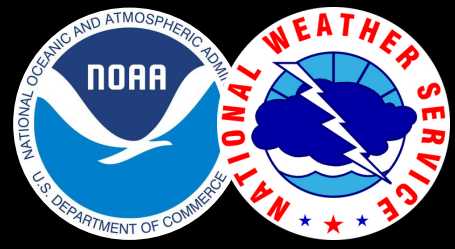




# MOISTURE

- Moisture is necessary for cloud formation and precipitation
- Moisture increases instability (aka CAPE). *Why is this?*
- **LATENT HEAT RELEASE** – this thermodynamic process occurs when water vapor in saturated air parcels **condenses** to form cloud droplets; the parcel of air is **warmed** relative to its surroundings

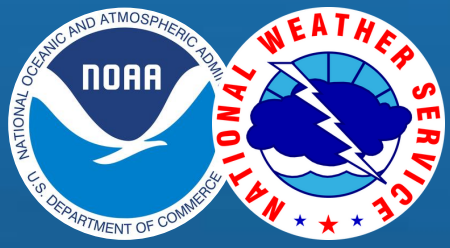




# INSTABILITY



- Air parcels that are warmer than the environment are less dense and will rise - **UNSTABLE**
- Air parcels that are cooler than the environment are more dense and will sink - **STABLE**
- The larger the temperature difference between the parcel and the environment, the greater the instability.

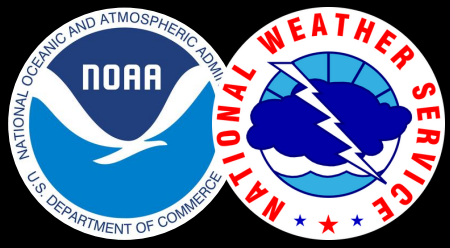


# HOW DO WE MEASURE INSTABILITY?

- **CAPE** (**C**onvective **A**vailable **P**otential **E**nergy): measure of instability in the atmosphere
- The larger the CAPE, the greater potential for severe weather
- **CIN** (**C**onvective **I**nhibition): often referred to as “opposite CAPE”, or the “cap”; amount of energy that will prevent a parcel from rising

CAPE Value (J/kg)	Severe Weather Potential
250-1000	Thunderstorms
1000-2000	Severe Thunderstorms; possibly tornadoes; hail
>2000	Severe weather outbreaks; tornadoes ; major wind events; damaging hail

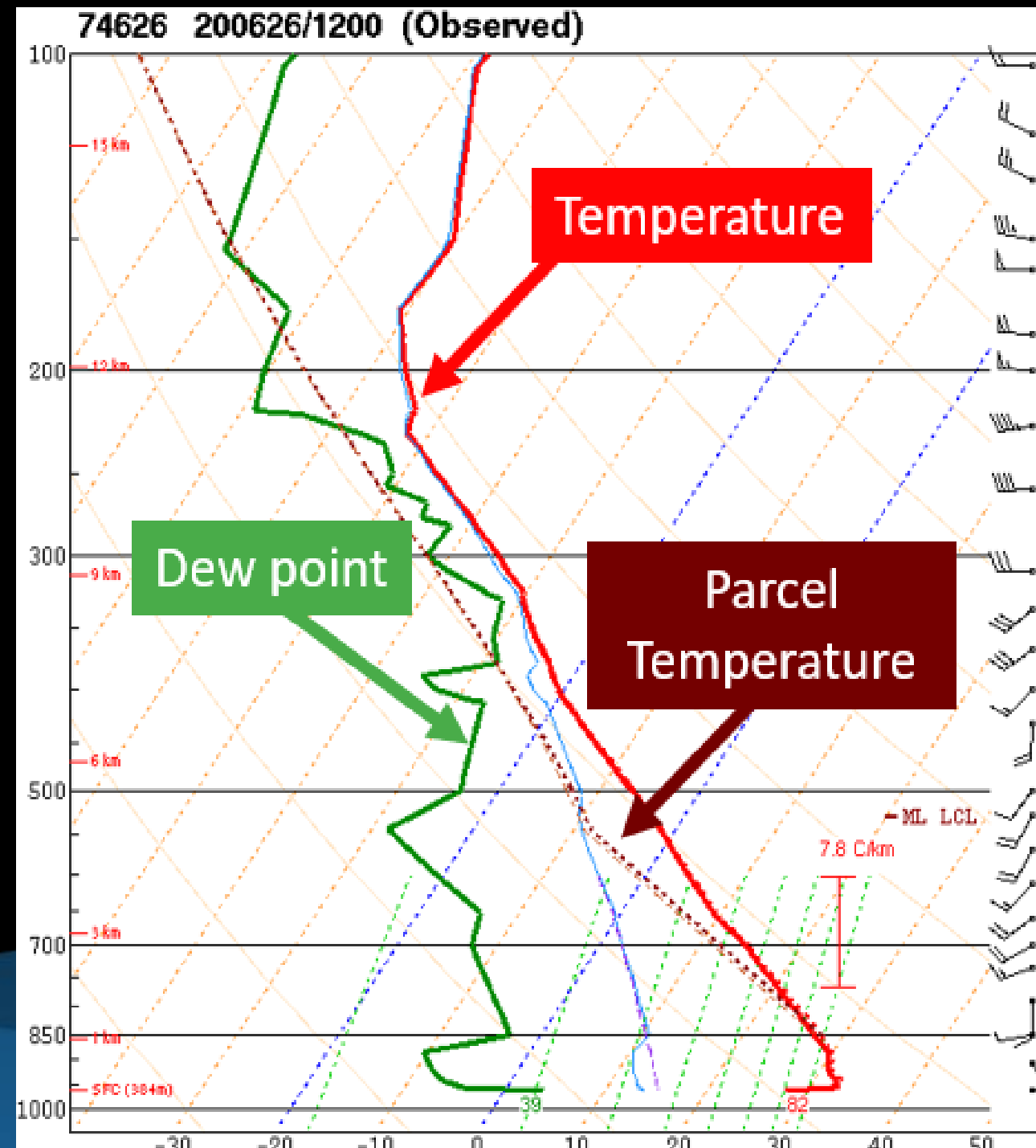




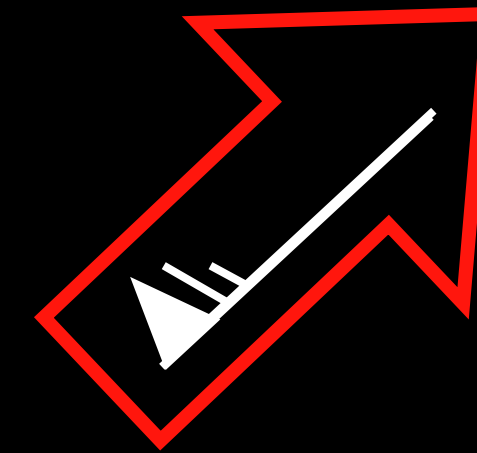
# THUNDERSTORM INGREDIENTS AND SKEW-T'S

**Skew T:** plot of temperature, dew point, and wind through the atmosphere at a given point

For real-time observed soundings:  
<https://www.spc.noaa.gov/exper/soundings/>

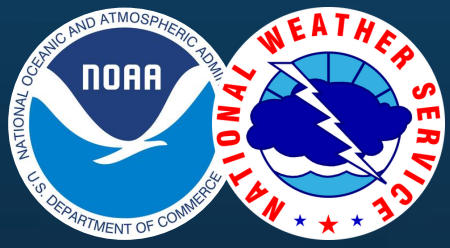


**Wind Barbs**

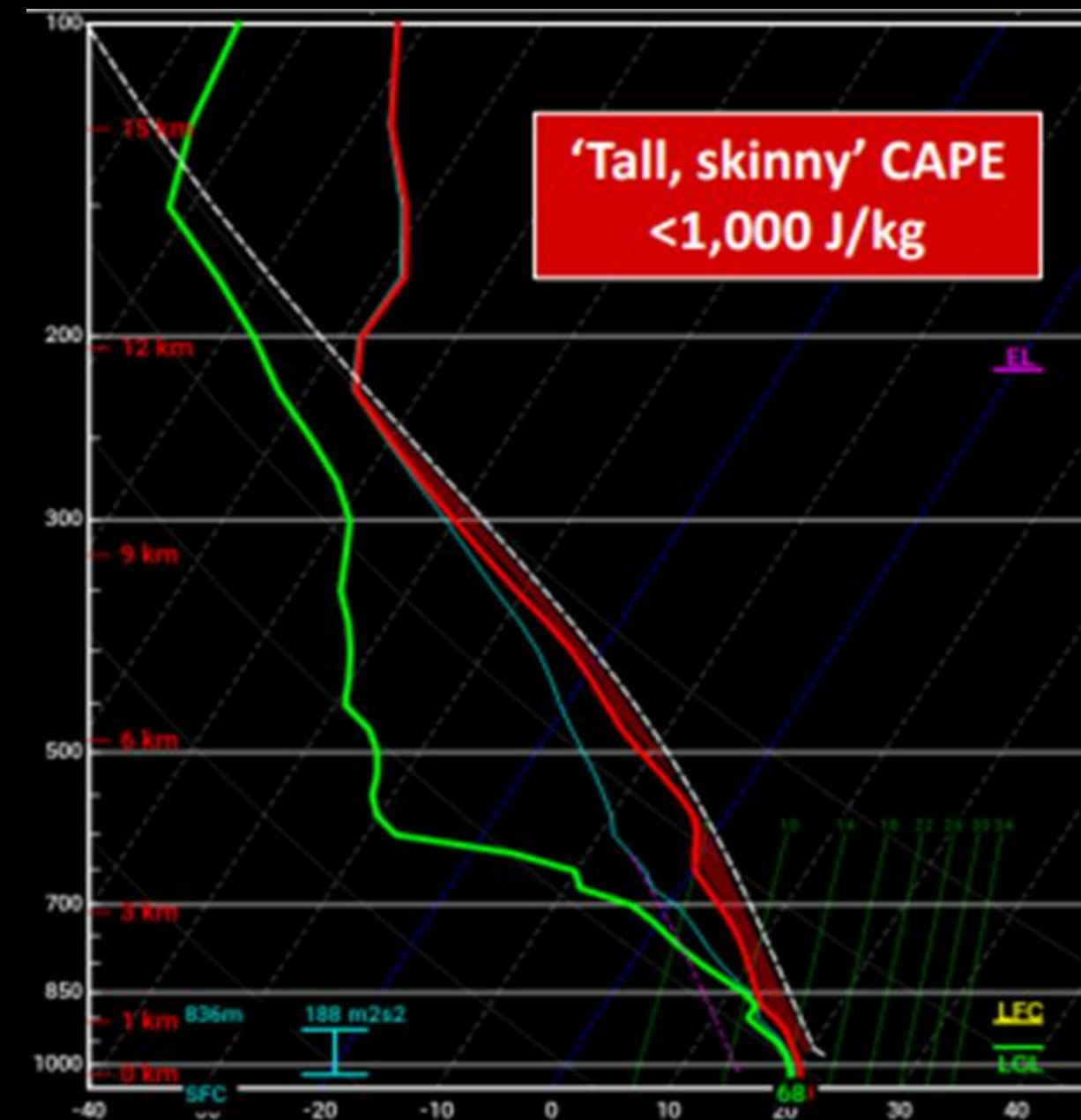
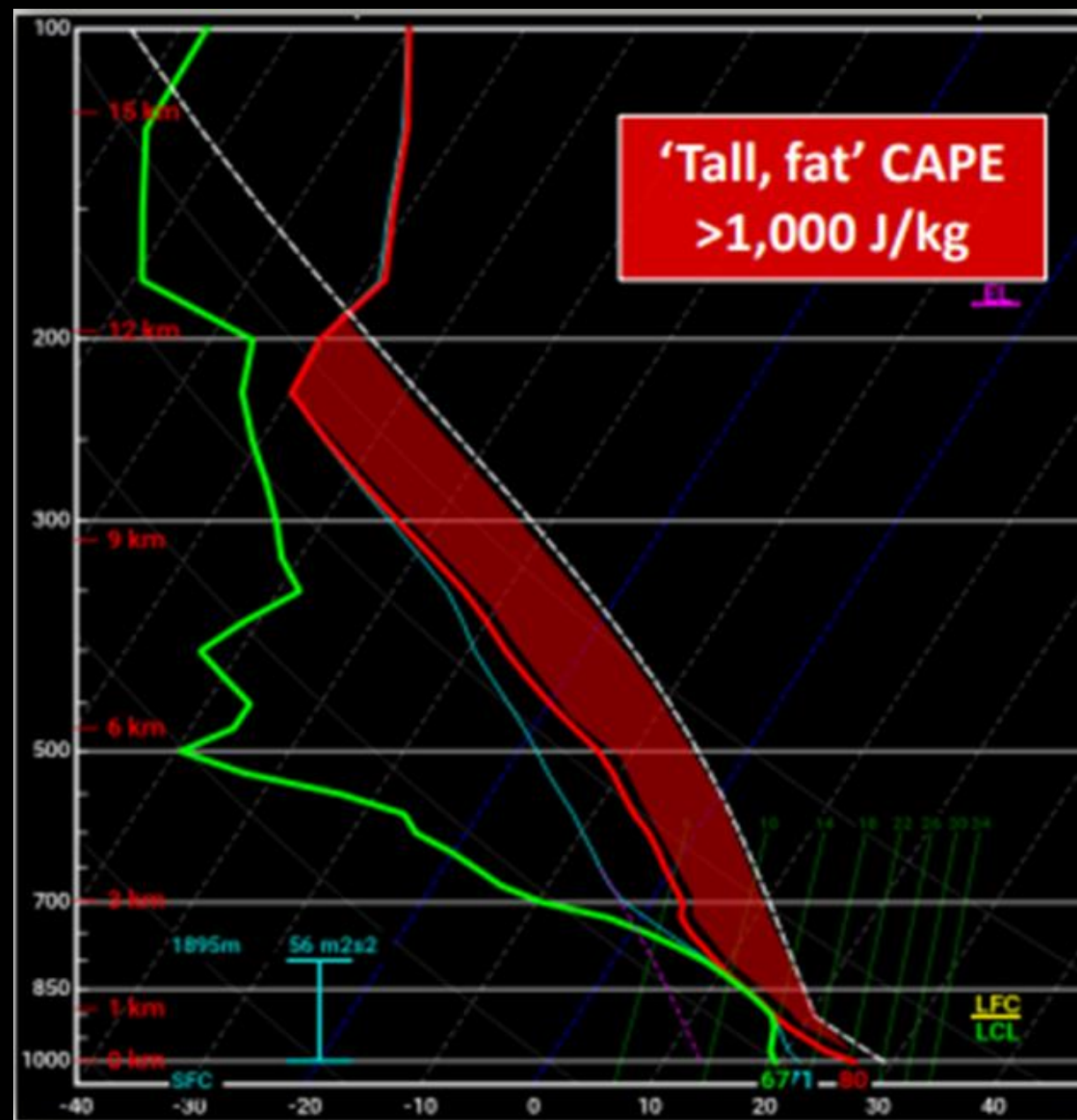


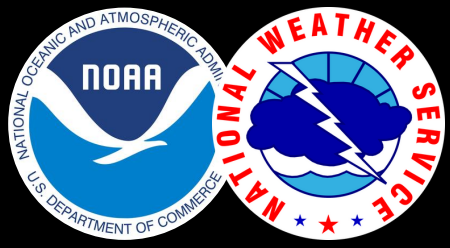
Pennant: 50 kts  
1 Barb = 10 kts  
Half-barb = 5 kts



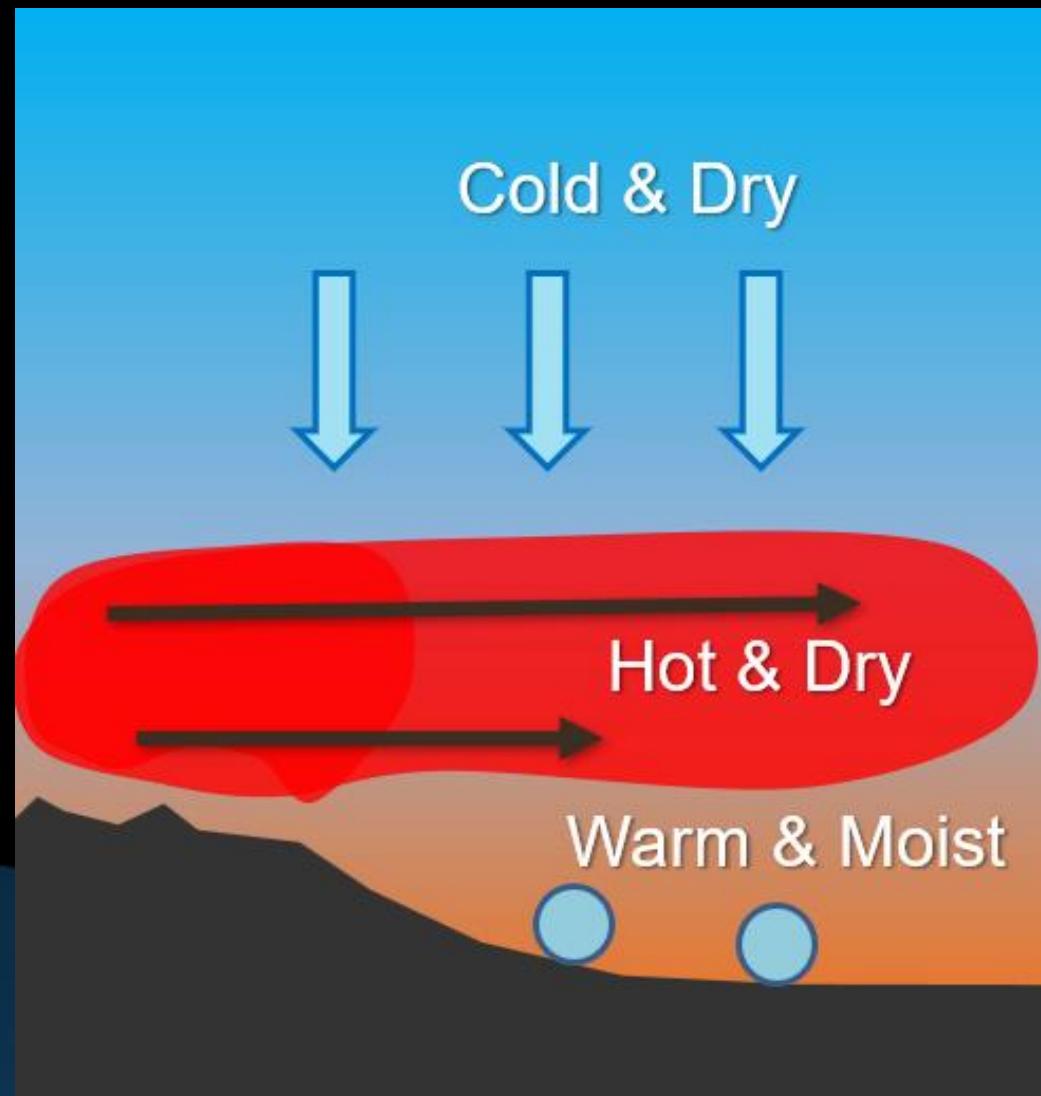


# INSTABILITY - Weak vs. Strong CAPE





# INSTABILITY – The Cap (aka CIN)



Cap ("lid") can originate from high terrain or sinking air.

Hot air 2-3 miles above ground creates stable layer.

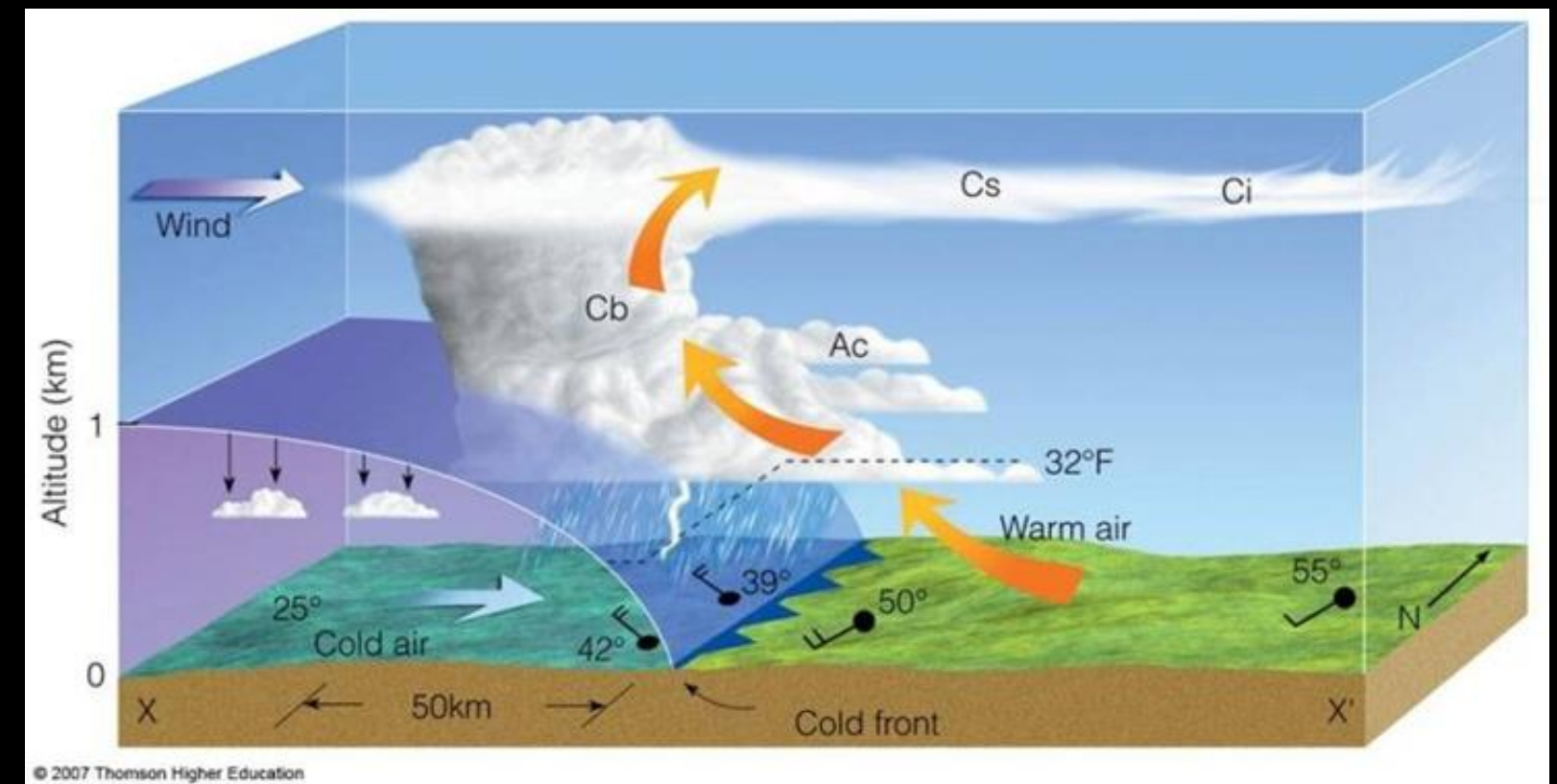
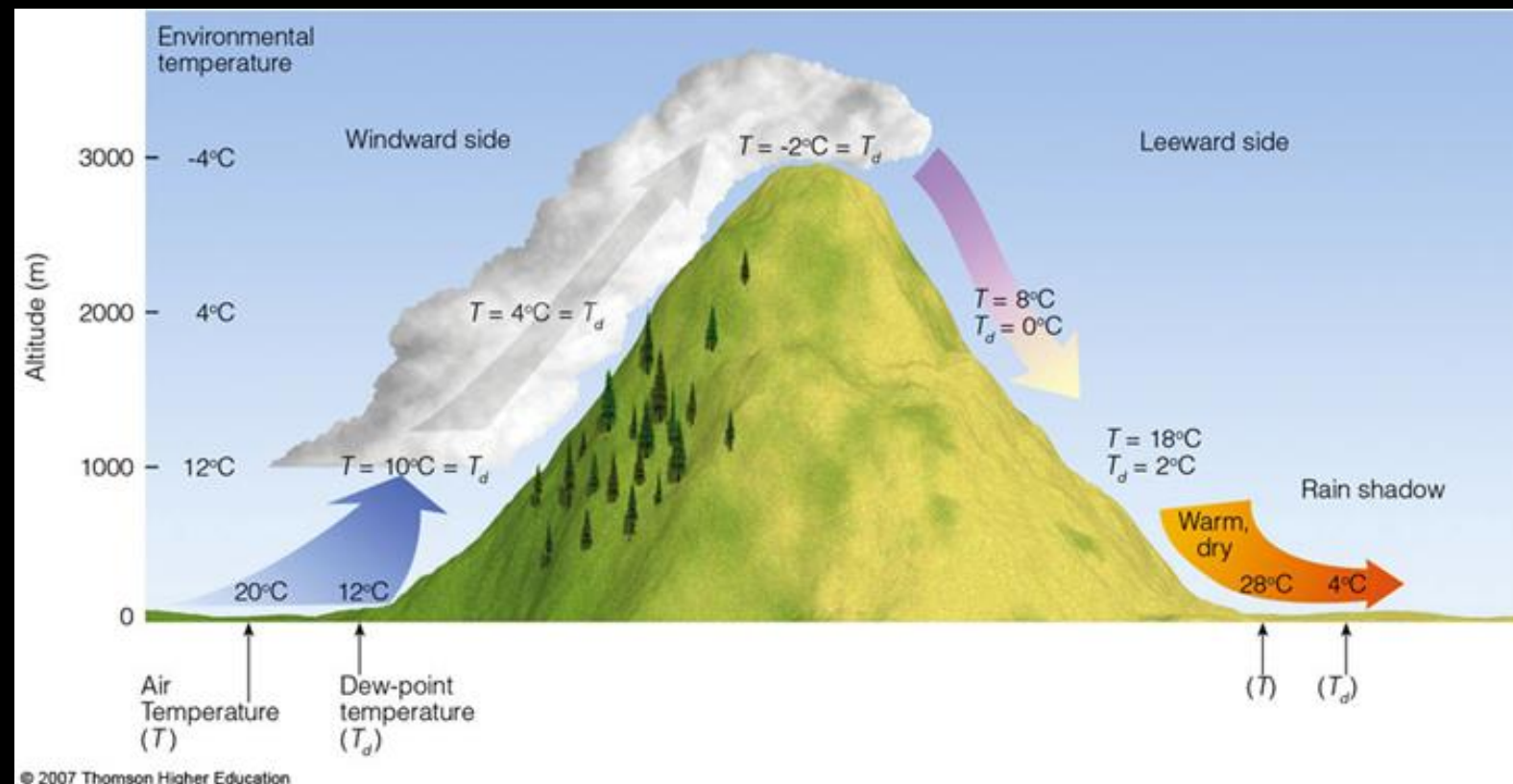
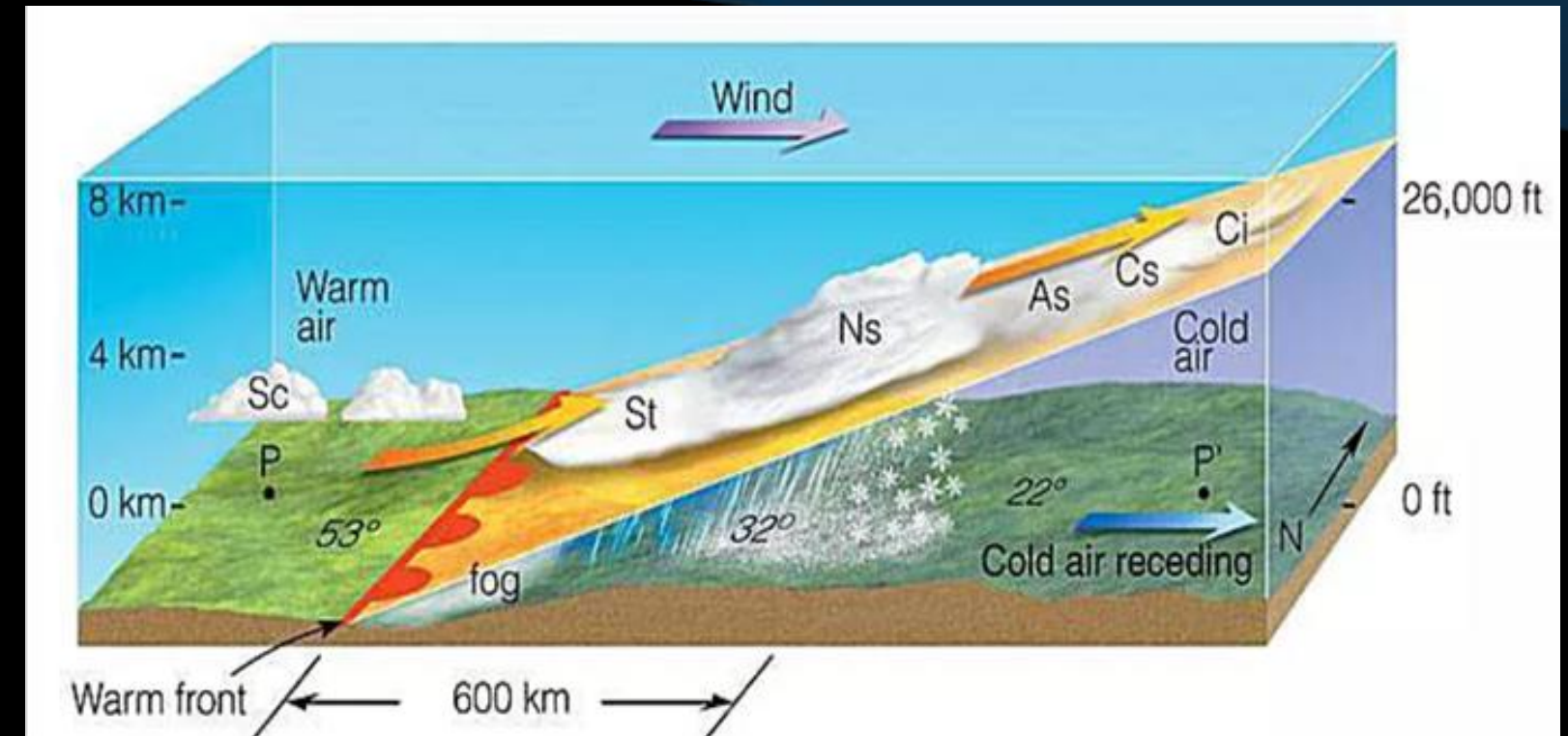
Difficult for rising warm/moist air to break through Cap.

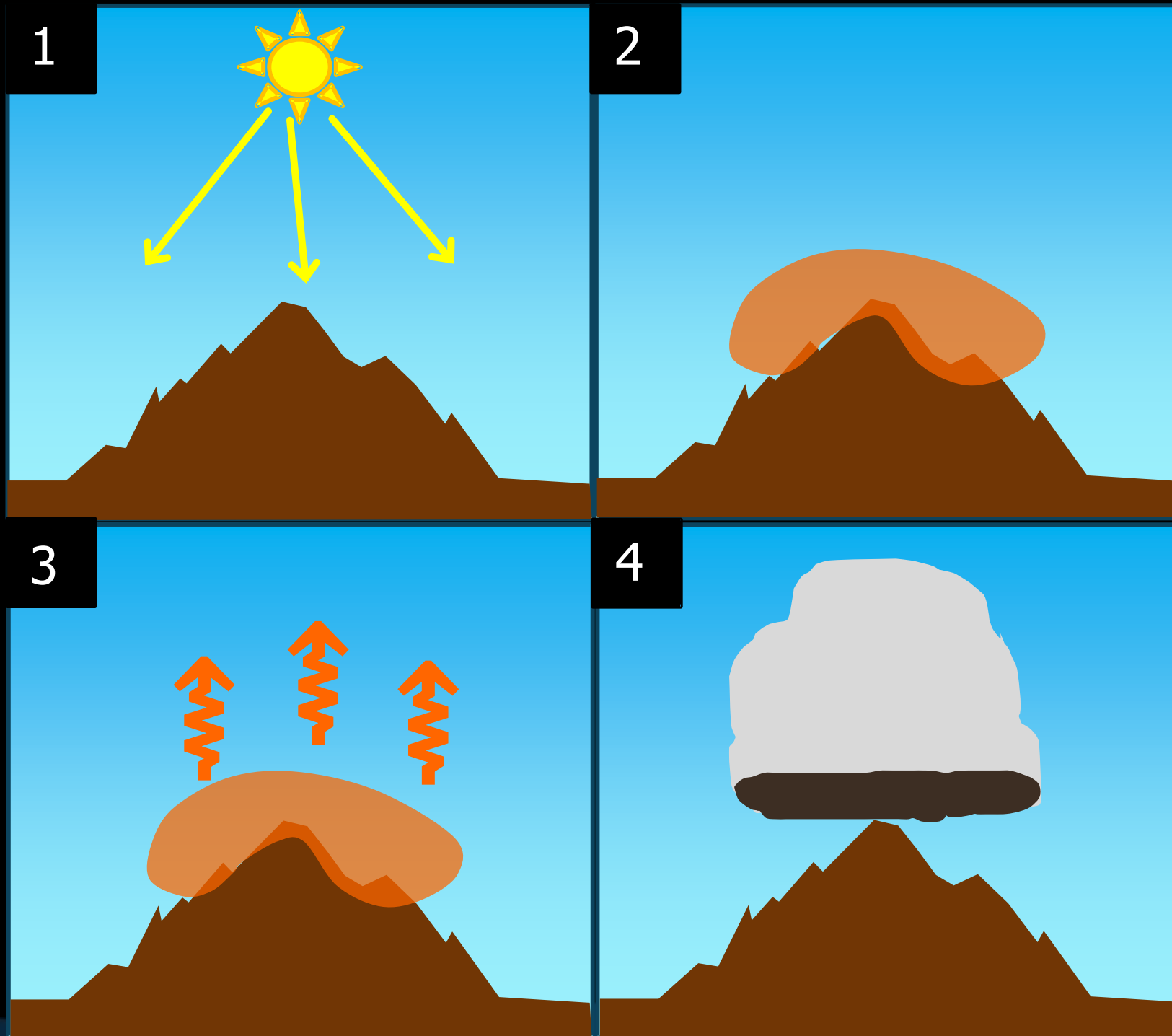
Large scale lift can weaken cap (through cooling and forced ascent).



# LIFT

- Lift is necessary to create clouds and thunderstorms
- What are ways air is forced to rise?
  - Mountains
  - Fronts and Boundaries

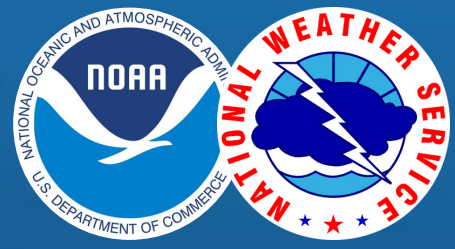




# LIFT - ELEVATED HEAT SOURCE

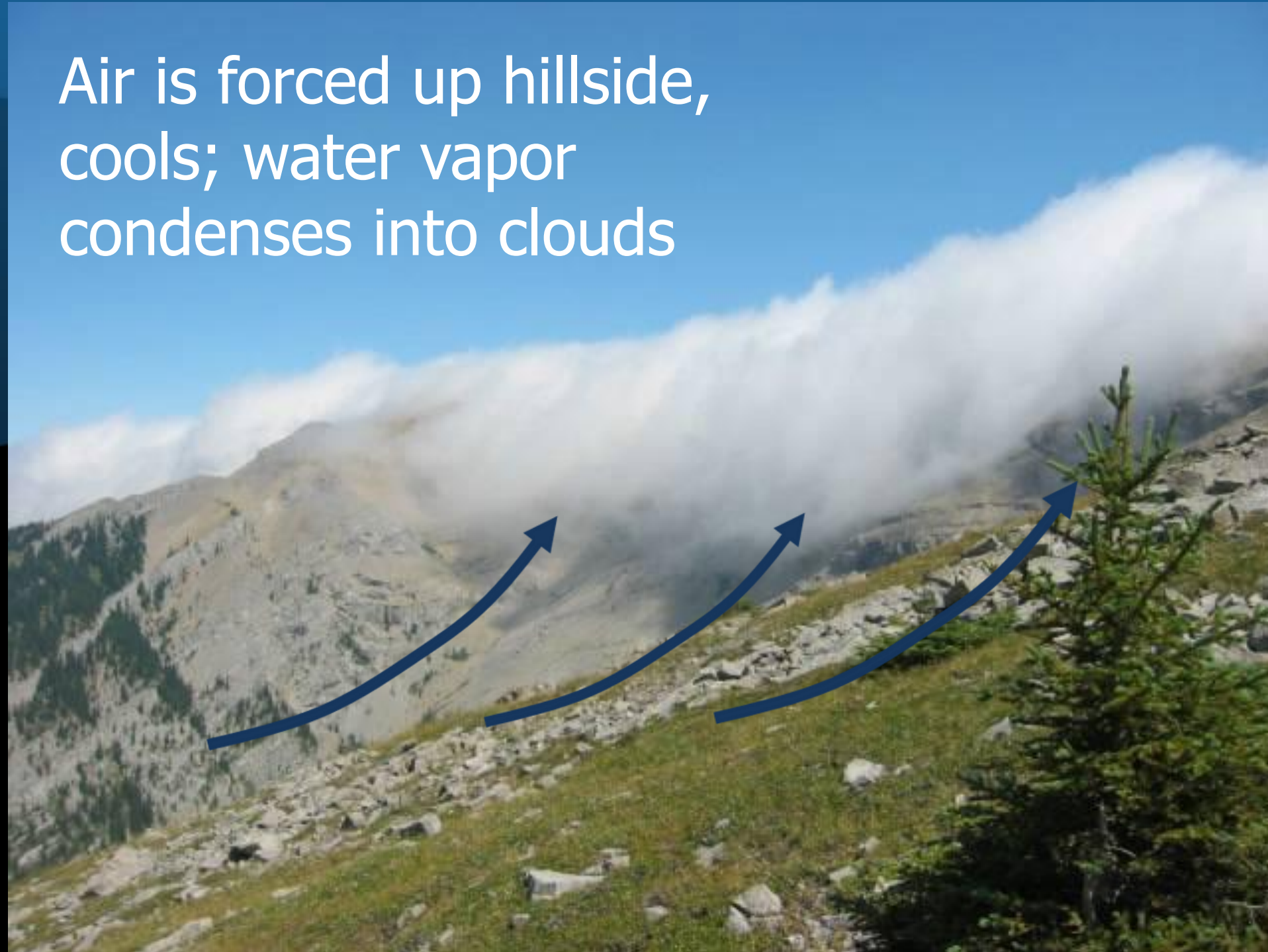
- 1) Sun heats mountain tops faster than surrounding air
- 2) Mountains heat air above them
- 3) Air starts to rise
- 4) If conditions are favorable (moisture & instability), updrafts and thunderstorms can develop



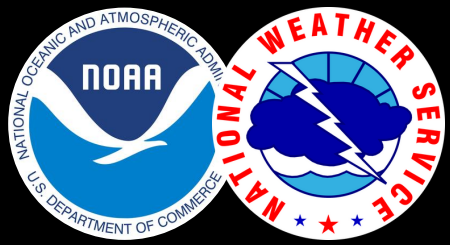


# LIFT – UPSLOPE FLOW

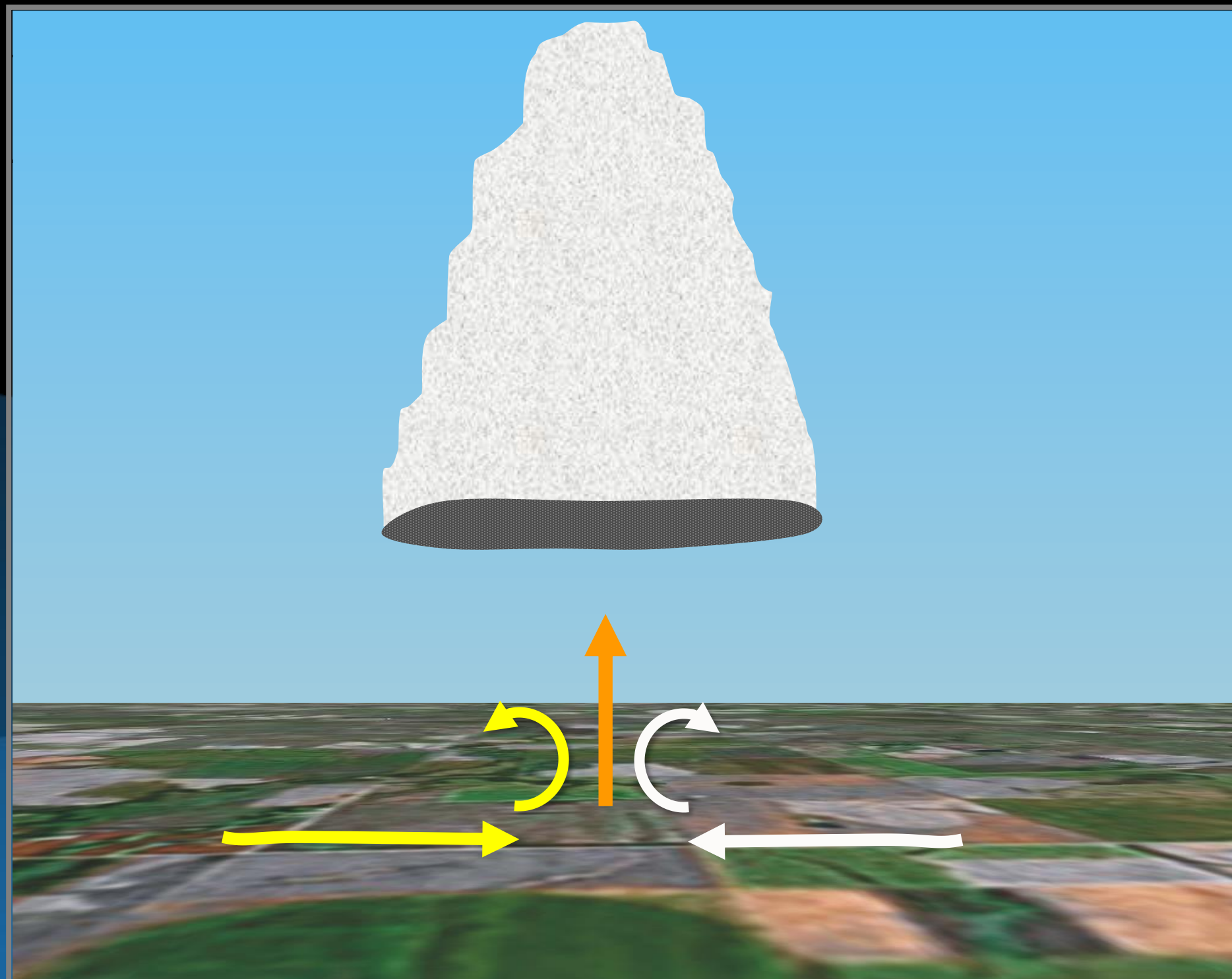
Air is forced up hillside,  
cools; water vapor  
condenses into clouds

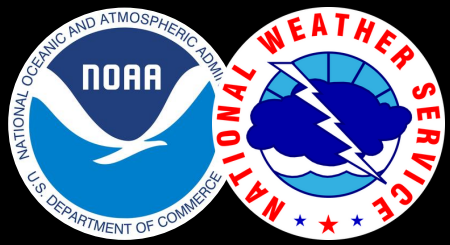




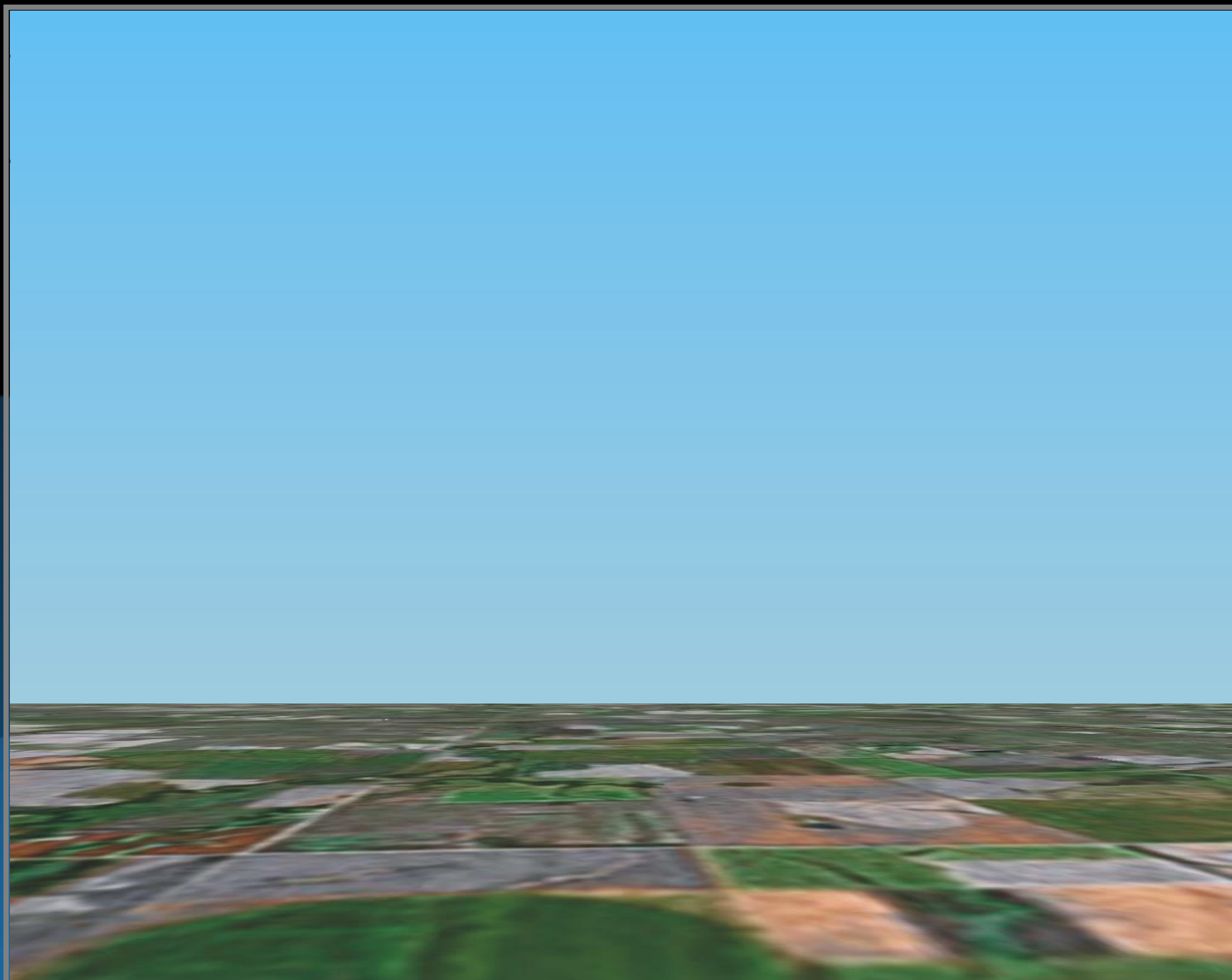


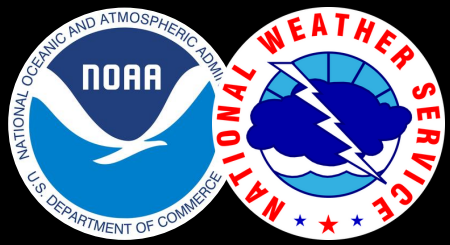
# LIFT – FRONTS & BOUNDARIES



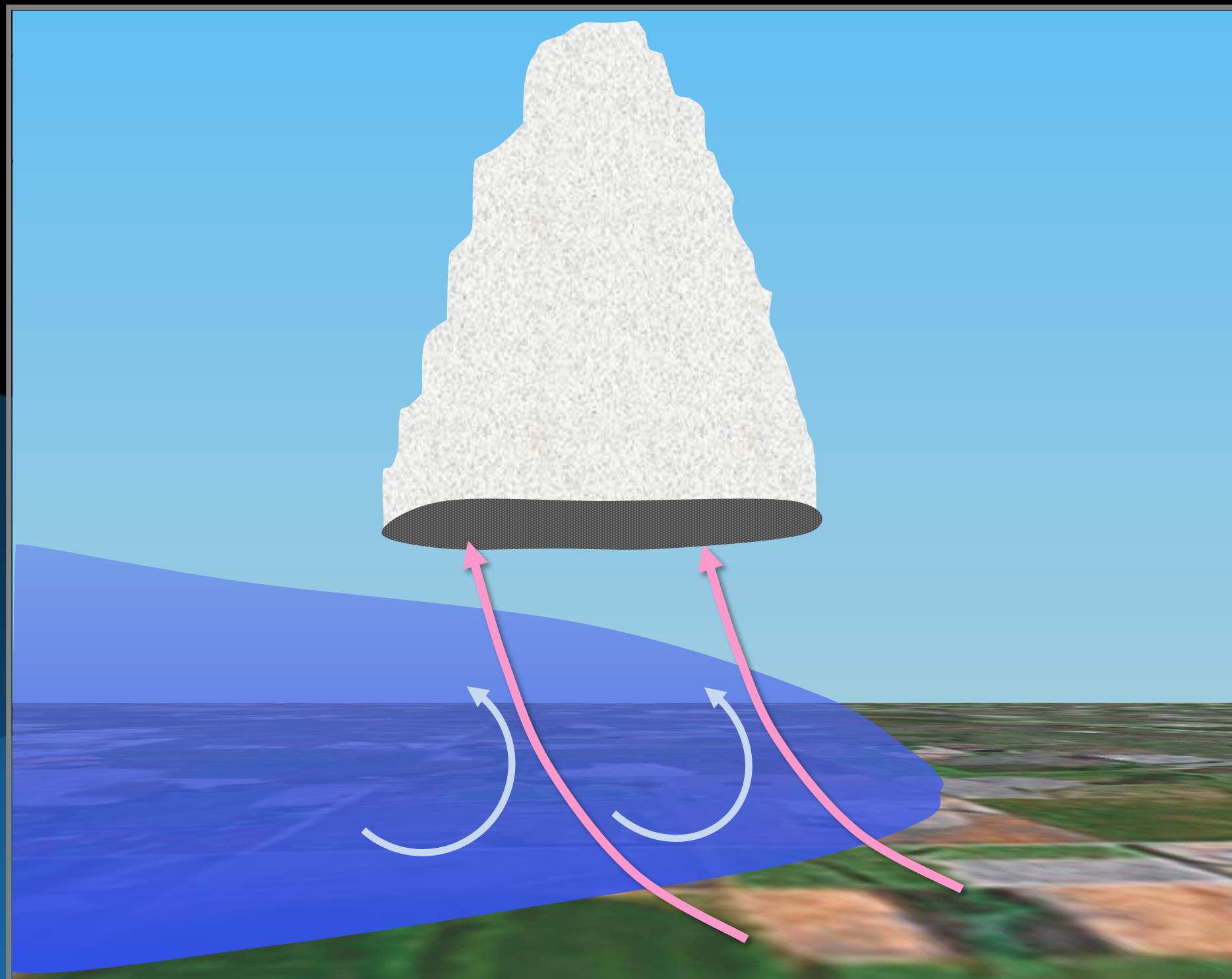


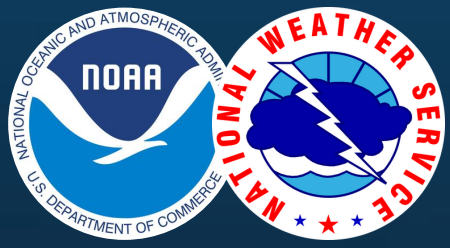
# LIFT – FRONTS & BOUNDARIES





# LIFT – FRONTS & BOUNDARIES



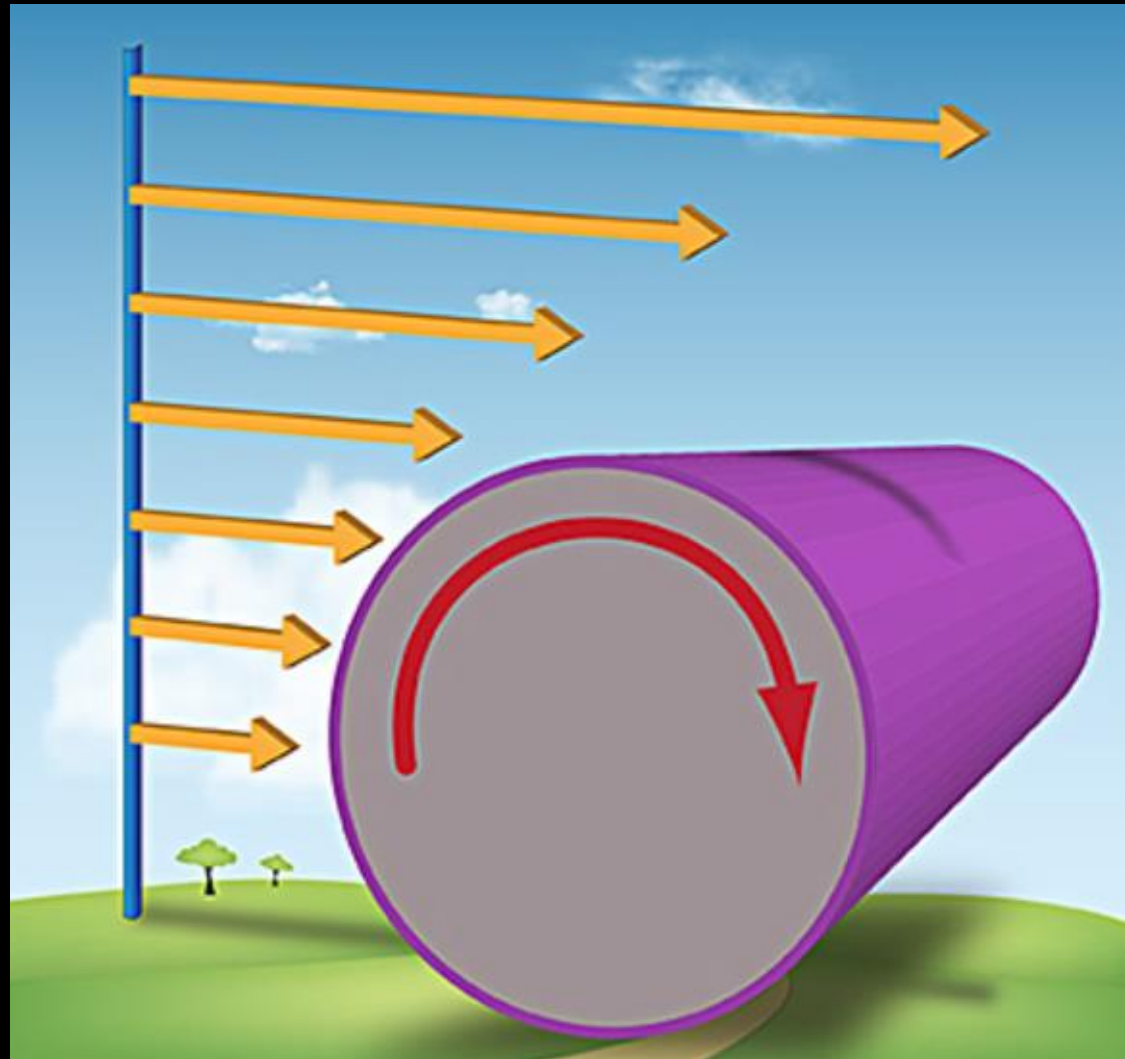


# VERTICAL WIND SHEAR

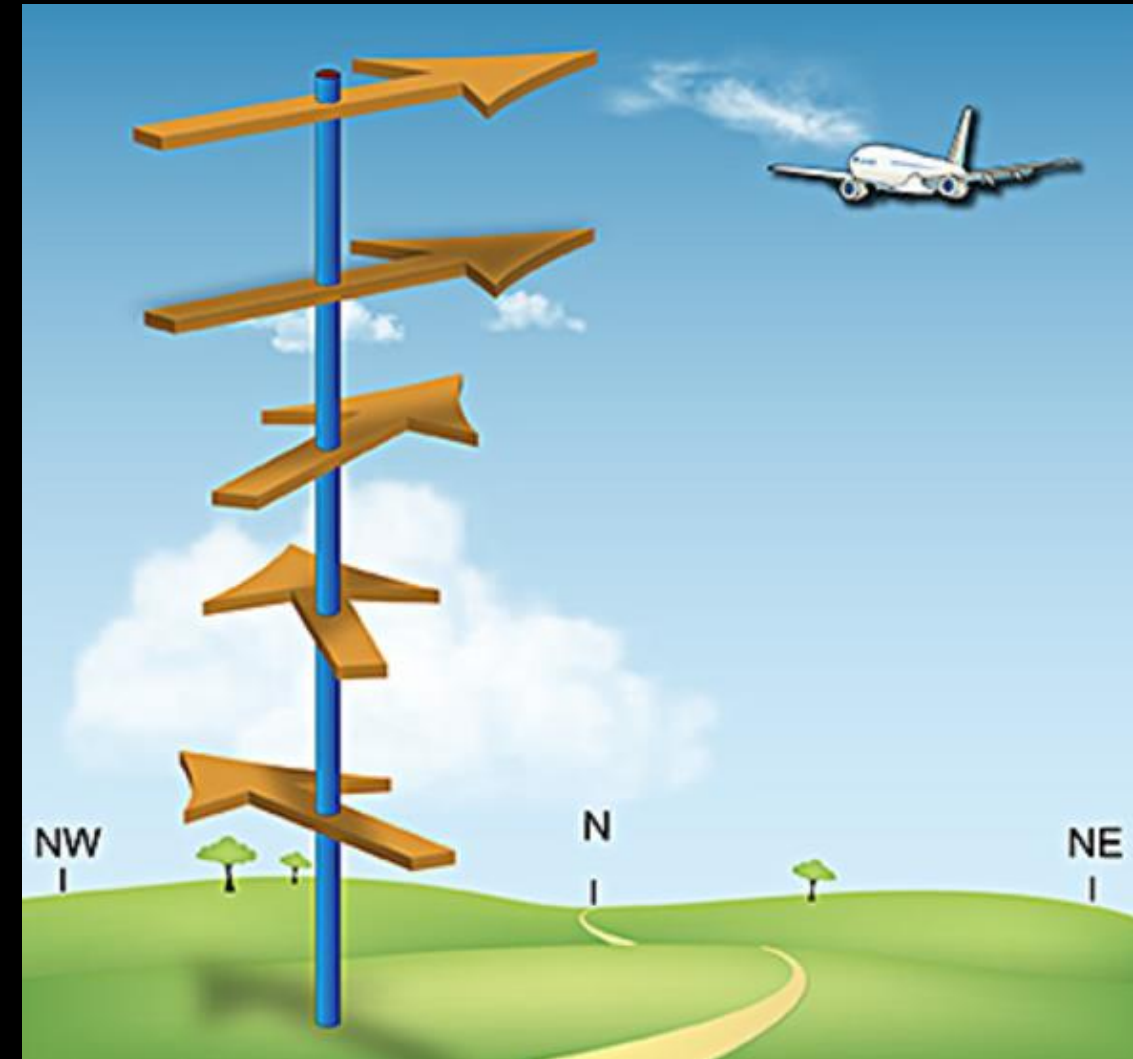
- Change of wind direction and/or speed with height
- May have speed shear, directional shear, or both in the atmosphere
  - “Deep Layer” (0-6 km) values of 25+ kts necessary for storm organization
  - 0-6 km vertical wind shear of 35+ kts helpful for mid-level storm rotation
- Crucial in storm organization/lifetime



# WINDSHEAR – TYPES



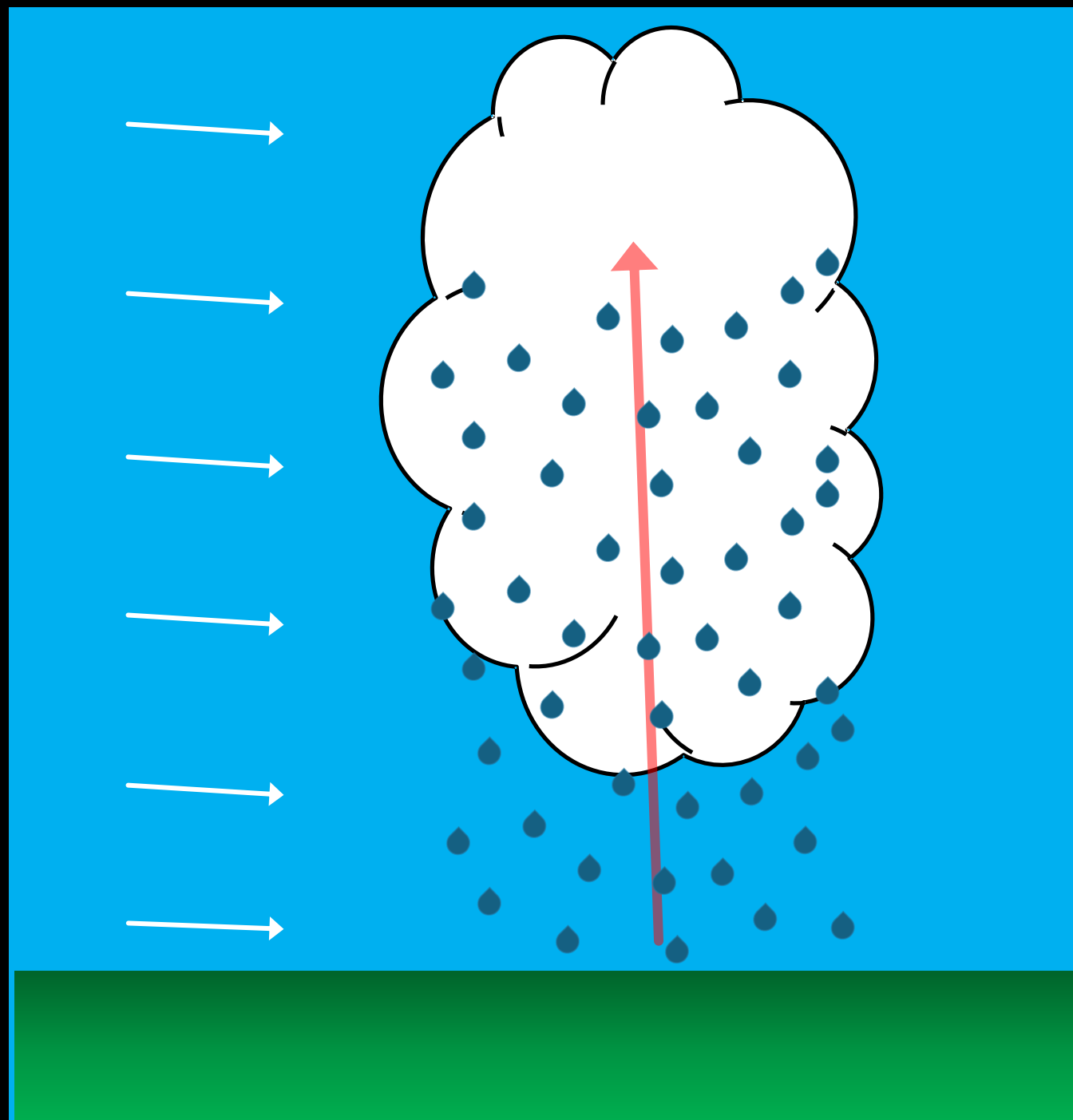
- Speed Shear
  - Wind **speed** changes with height



- Directional Shear
  - Wind **direction** changes with height



# WEAK DEEP-LAYER SHEAR

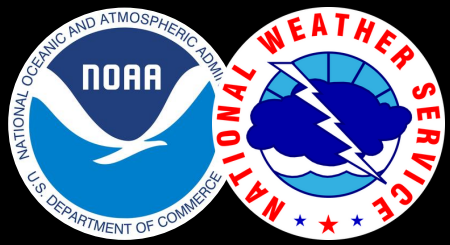


Little change of  
wind with height

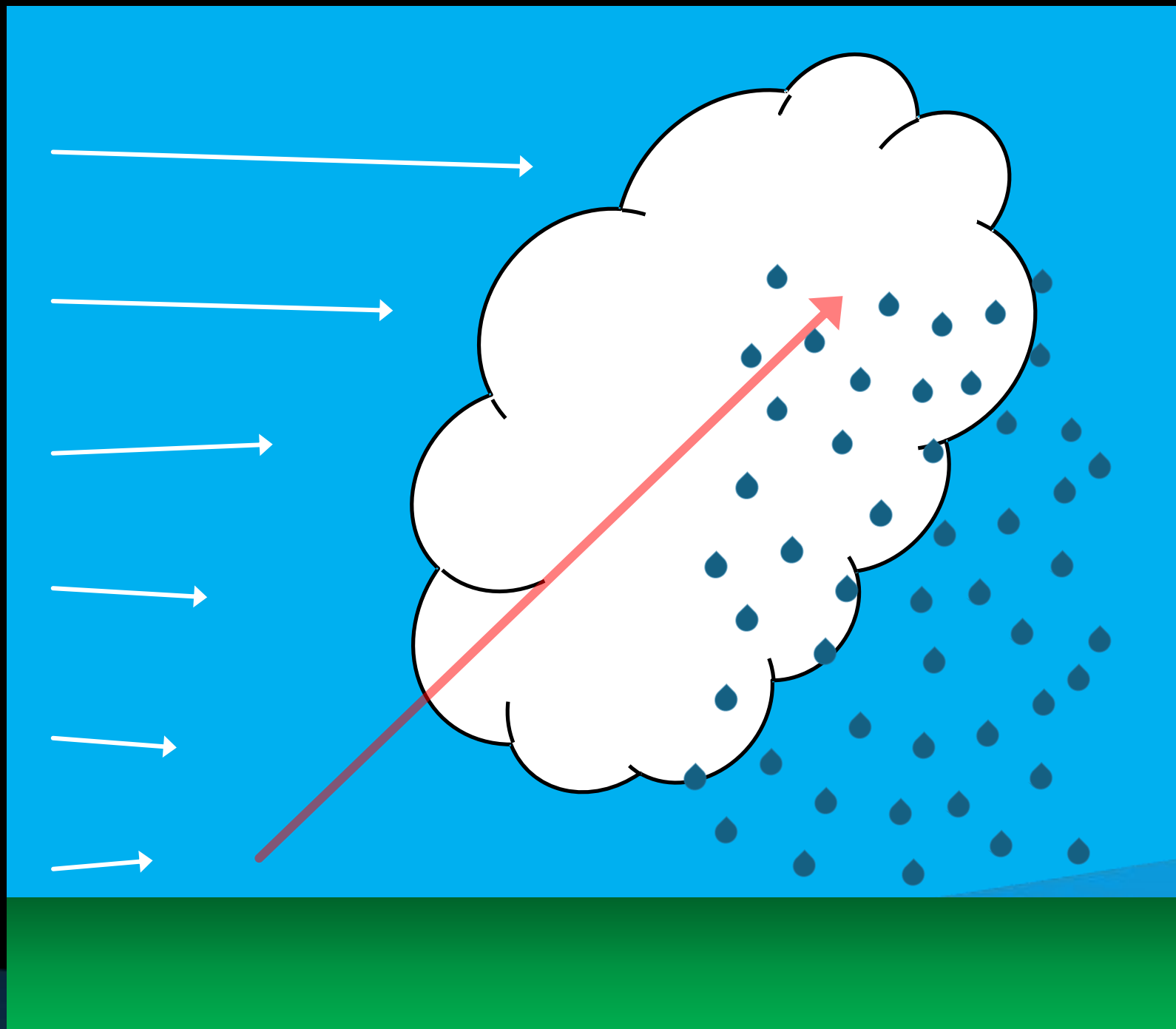
Precip. falls down  
through updraft

Updrafts are  
choked, usually  
short-lived

Outflow can spread  
out, cut off inflow



# STRONG DEEP-LAYER SHEAR



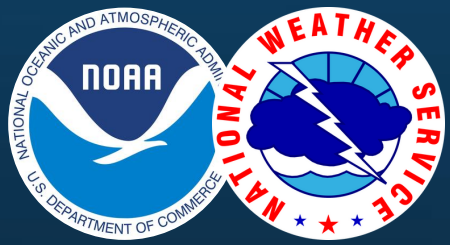
Ventilates updraft

Helps separate  
updraft/downdraft

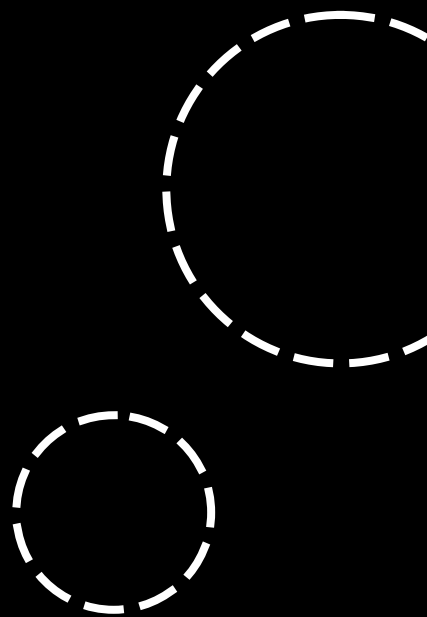
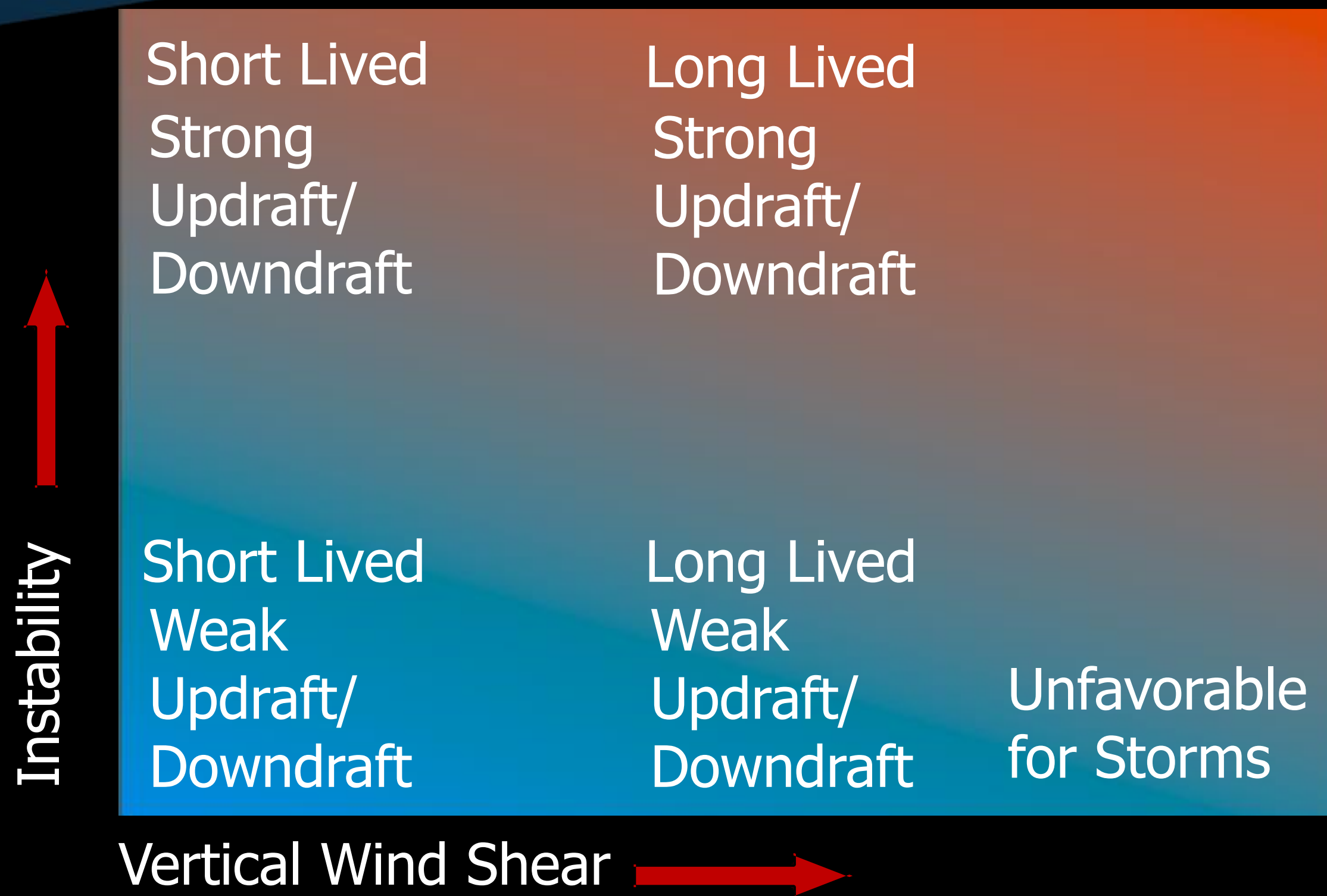
Updrafts and downdrafts  
can live longer

Can induce mid-level rotation

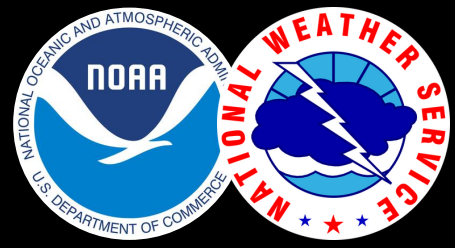
Can we have too much  
shear?



# INSTABILITY AND VERTICAL SHEAR







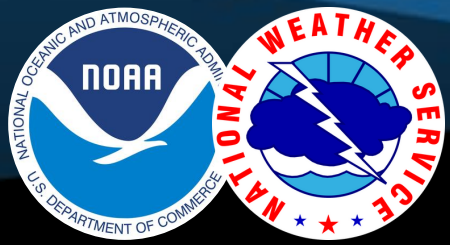
# PROGRAM OUTLINE

## PART I

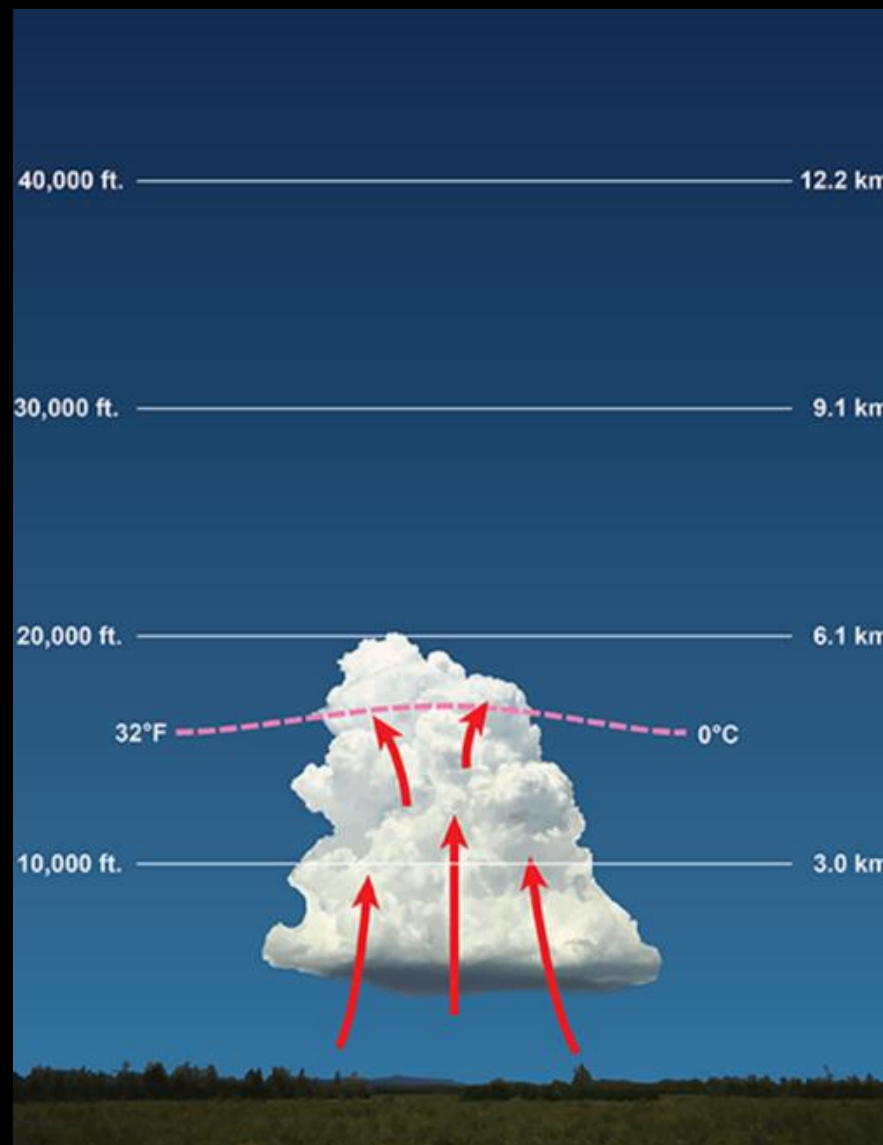
- Organized Storm Ingredients
- Storm Classification
- Tornadoes & Land Spouts
- The Monsoon

## PART II

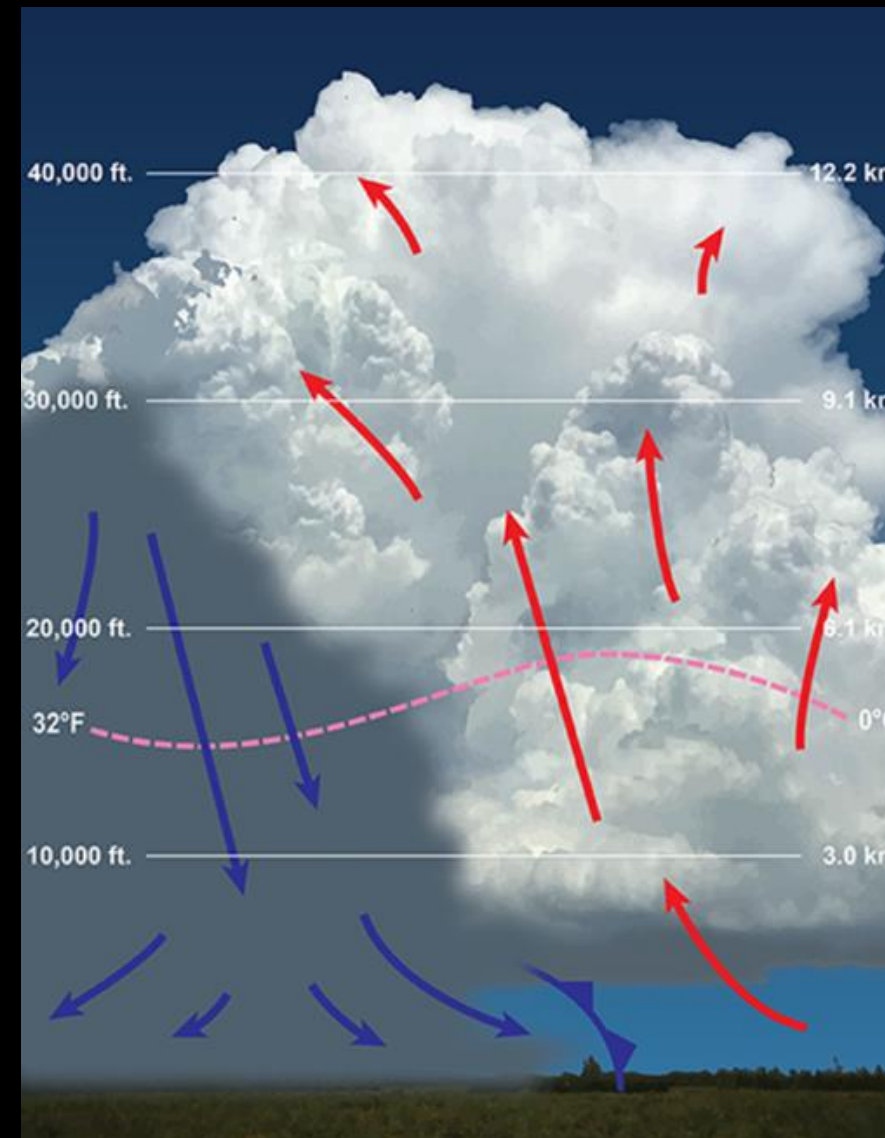
- Mesoanalysis Tools
- Radar Analysis
- Case Studies



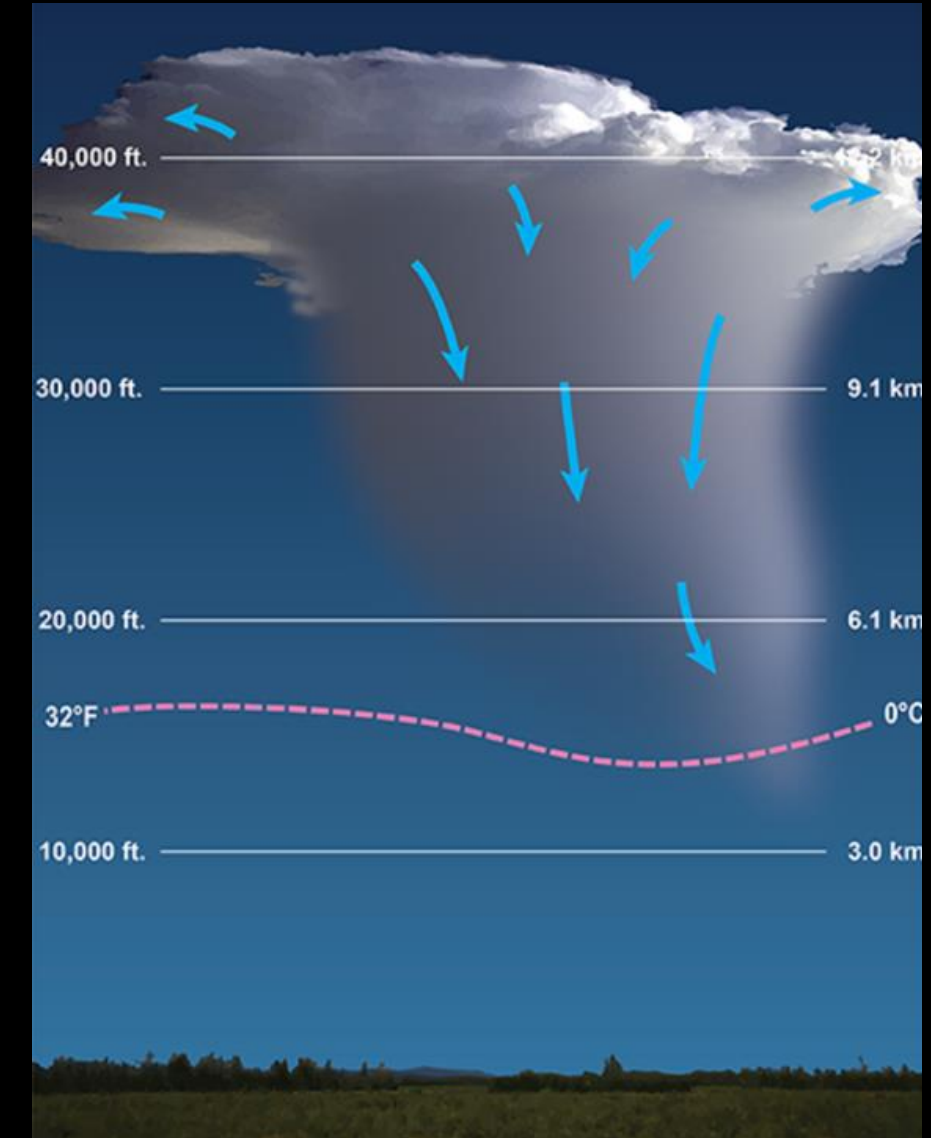
# ORDINARY THUNDERSTORMS



Towering Cumulus

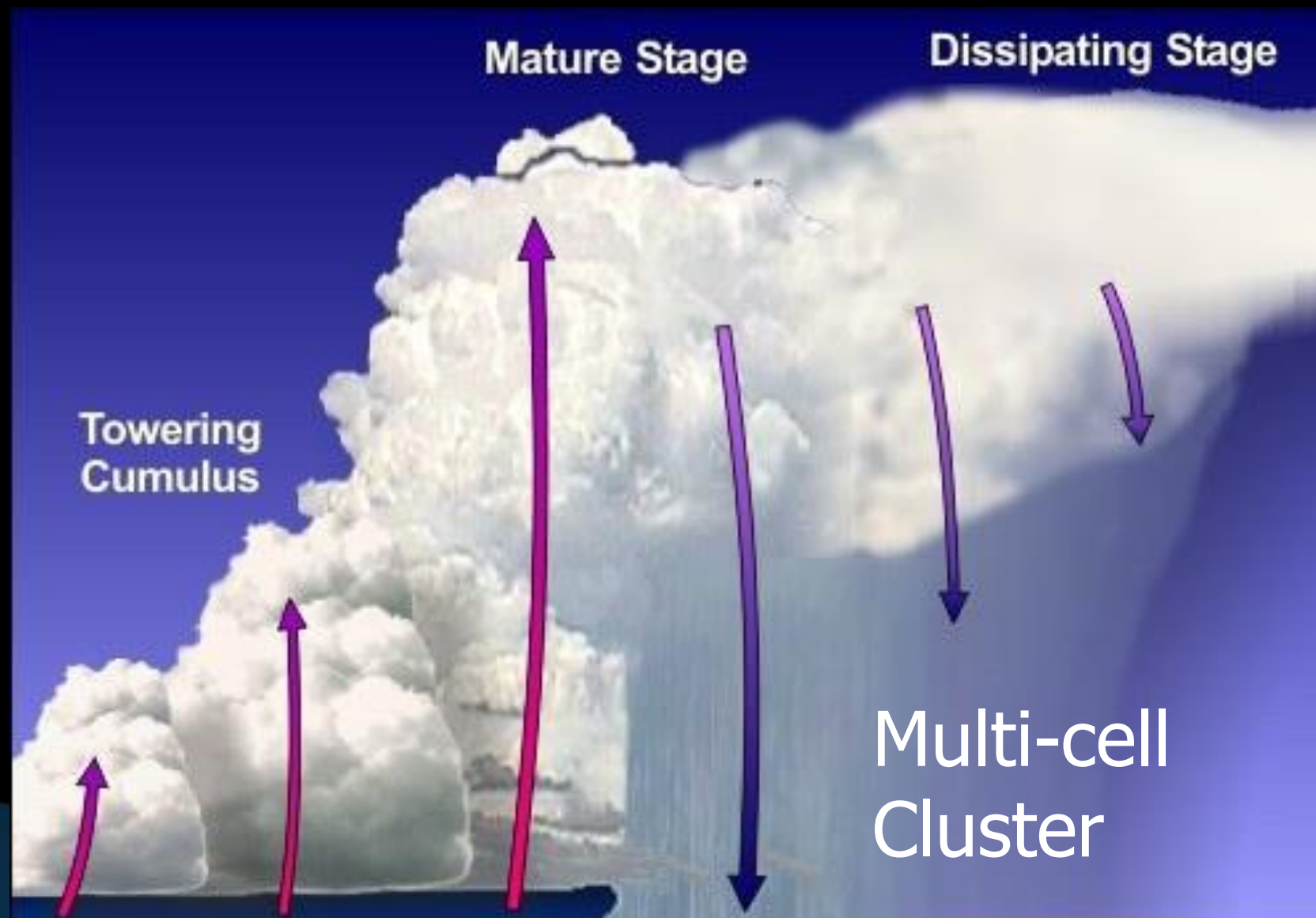


Mature Stage



Dissipation

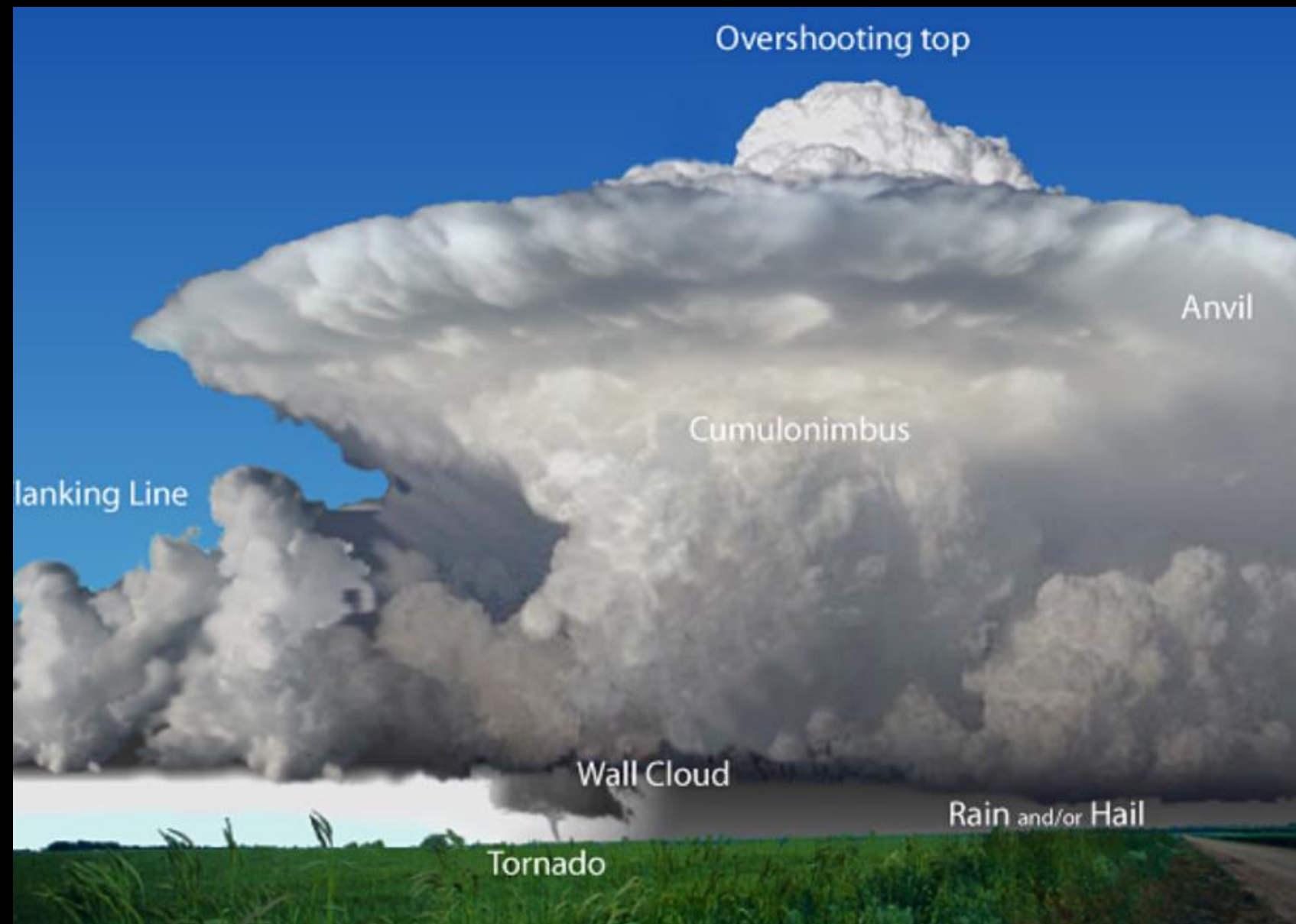
# MULTI-CELL THUNDERSTORMS



- As the initial cell matures, upper level winds carry it downstream
- At the same time, a new cell forms upwind to take its place
- If upper-level winds are opposite of low-level winds, **backbuilding** can develop
  - This can lead to flash flooding



# SUPERCCELL THUNDERSTORMS

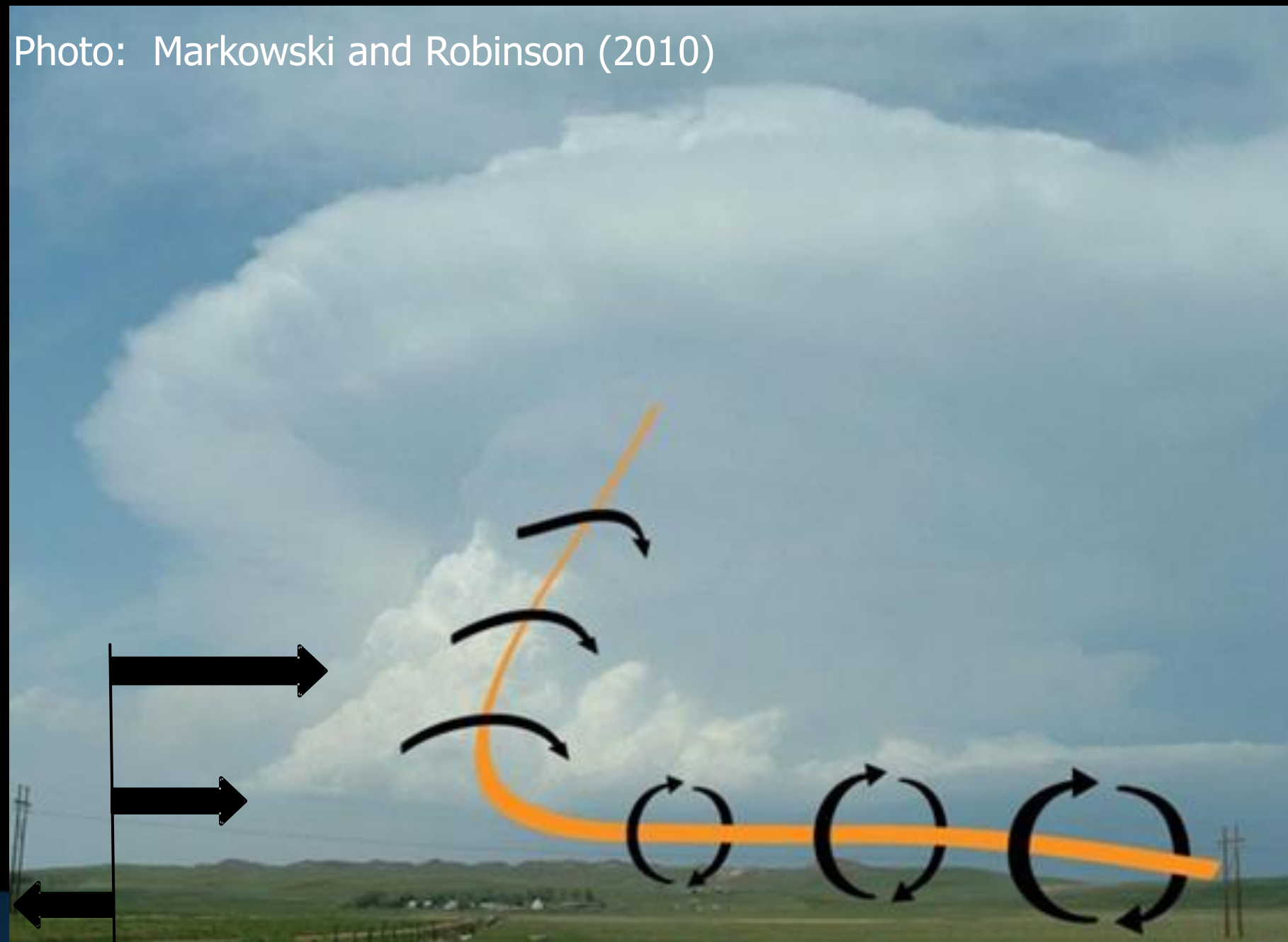


- Virtually all supercells are severe
- Supercells can attain updraft speeds over 100 mph and dangerous downbursts
- Supercells are responsible for nearly all tornadoes in the U.S.
- Tornadoes are most likely to occur in a supercell that has winds turning clockwise with height (veering)
- Can produce extreme rainfall: **flash flood threat**



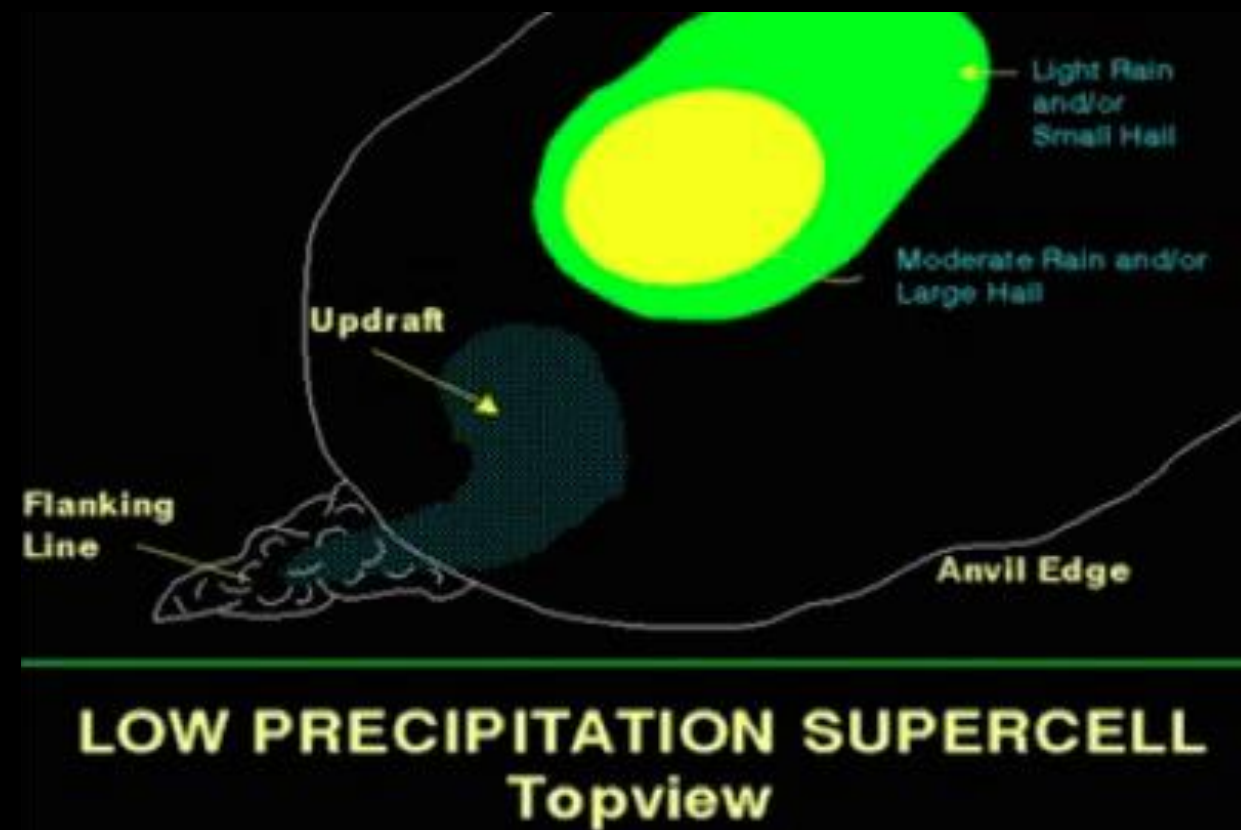
# SUPERCELLS - MESOCYCLONE

Photo: Markowski and Robinson (2010)

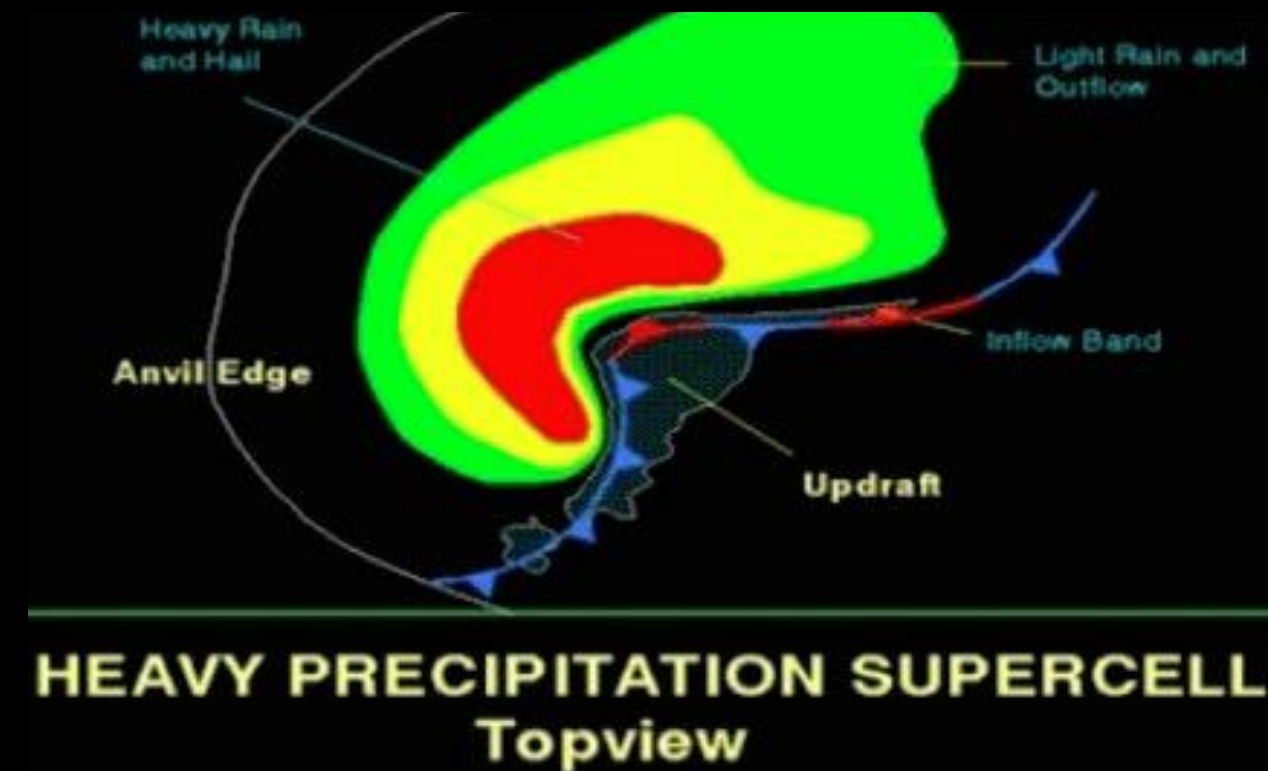


- Tilting of horizontal vorticity by updraft
- Maximum updraft -> maximum tilting -> maximum rotation at mid-levels
- Mid-level (relative) low pressure accelerates updraft
- Can produce stronger updrafts than thermodynamics alone

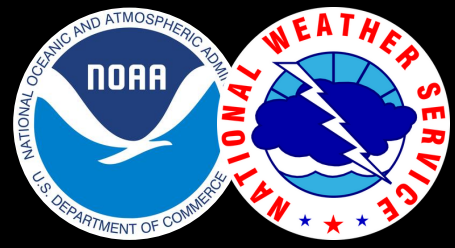
# TYPES OF SUPERCELLS



**Low-Precip (LP)  
Supercells**



**High-Precip (HP)  
Supercells**



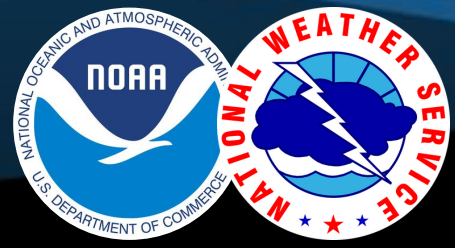
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- Radar Analysis
- Case Studies

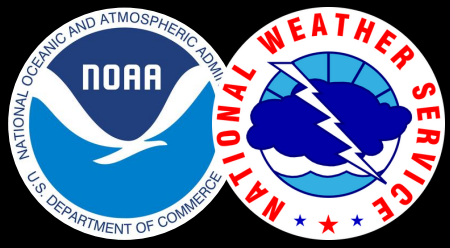


# TORNADOES – TORNADOGENESIS

## 3 step process to tornado formation

1. Wind shear causes horizontal spin to be tilted vertically when it is pulled into the updraft. This causes mid-level rotation, this is not strong enough for a tornado to form.
2. Temperature differences along the edge of the rain-cooled downdraft provides another source of horizontal spin with air moving from the downdraft toward the updraft.
3. If the air within the downdraft is not too cold (too dense), spinning air can be tilted vertically and stretched by the updraft leading to the formation of a tornado.

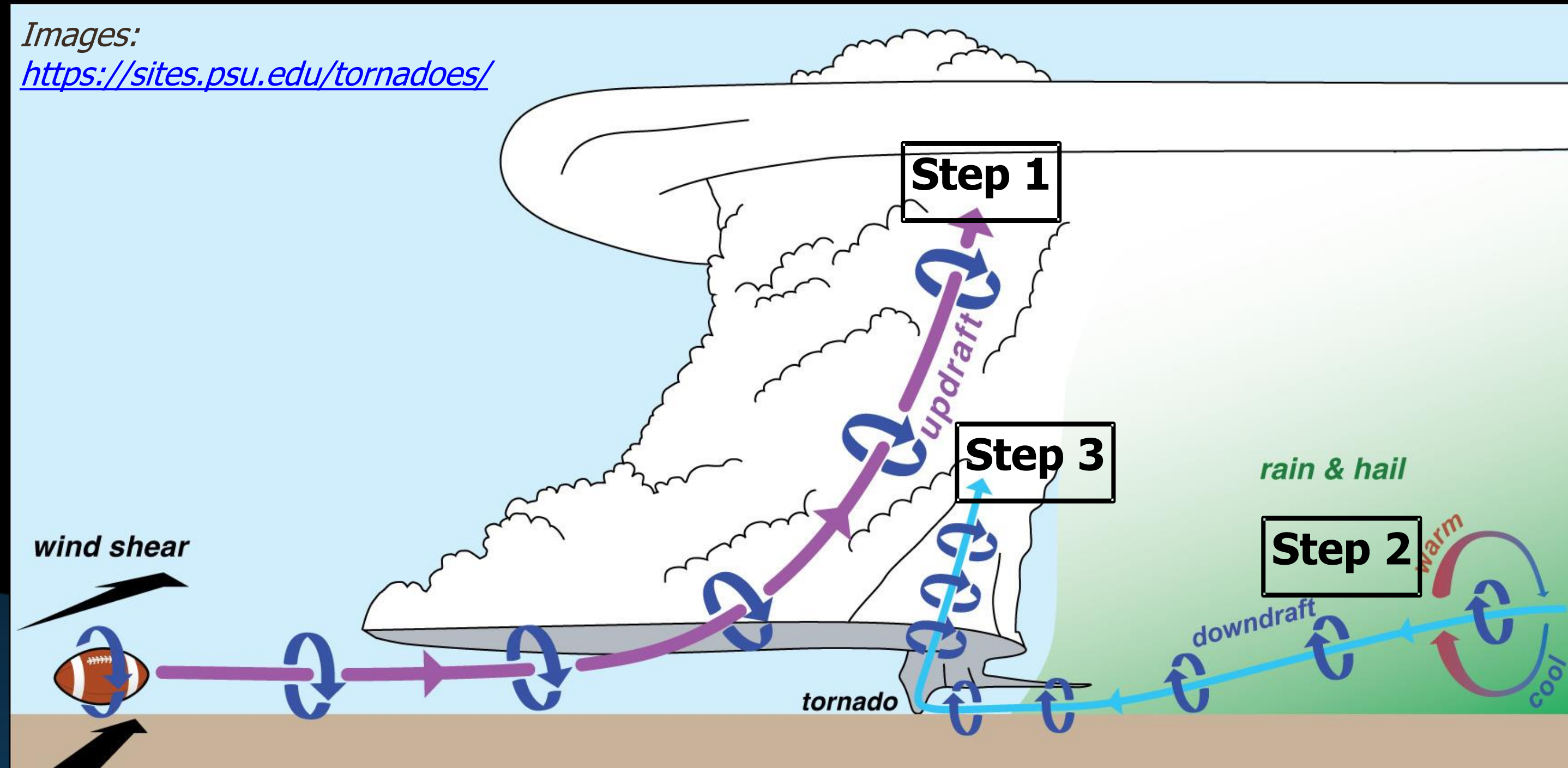




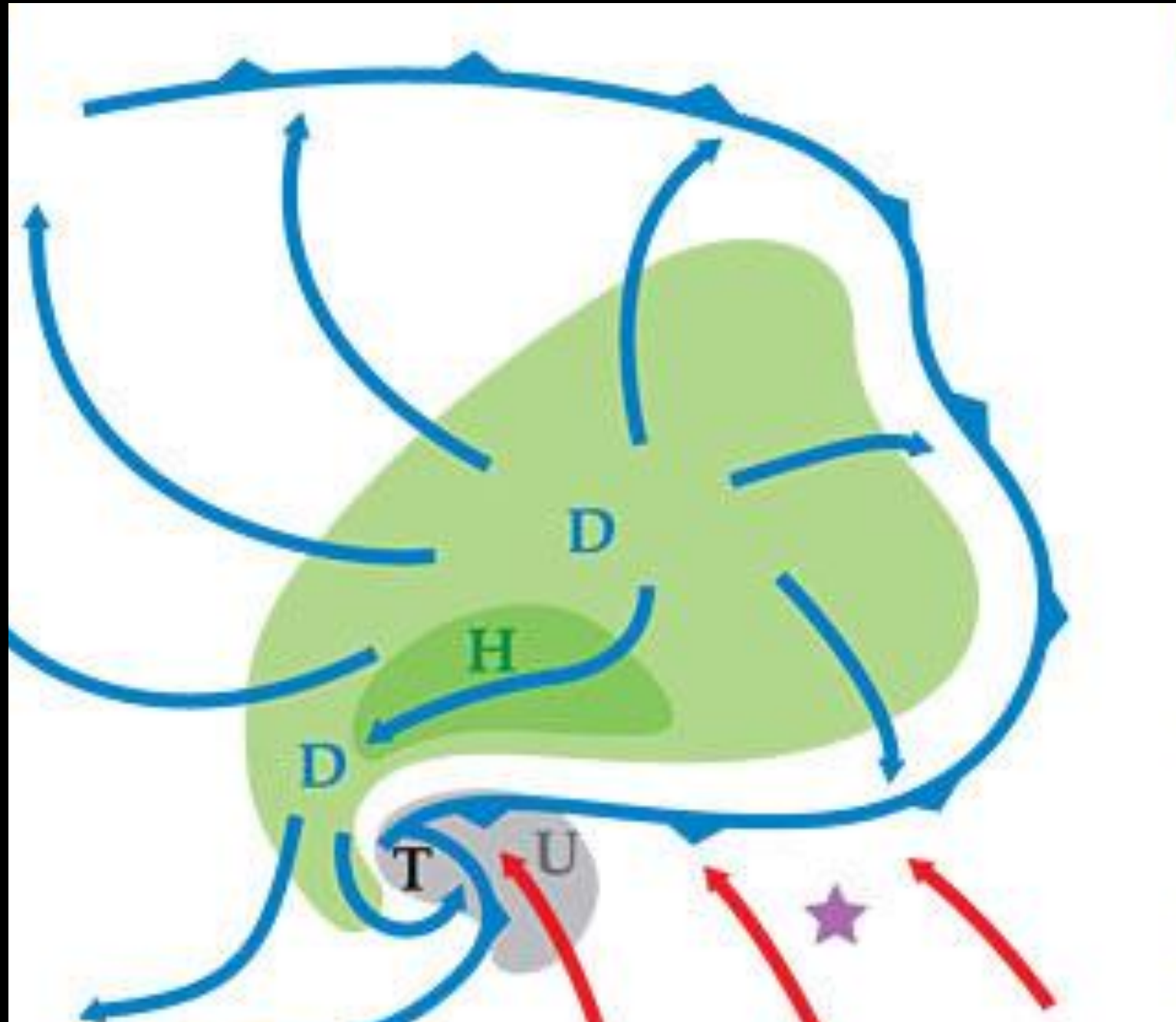
# TORNADOES - TORNADOGENESIS

Images:

<https://sites.psu.edu/tornadoes/>



# TORNADOES - TORNADOGENESIS



Tornadic Supercell – Top View

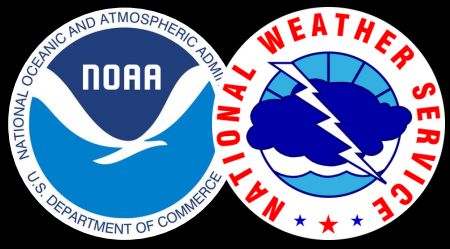
"D" = Downdraft

"H" = Hail area

"U" = Updraft

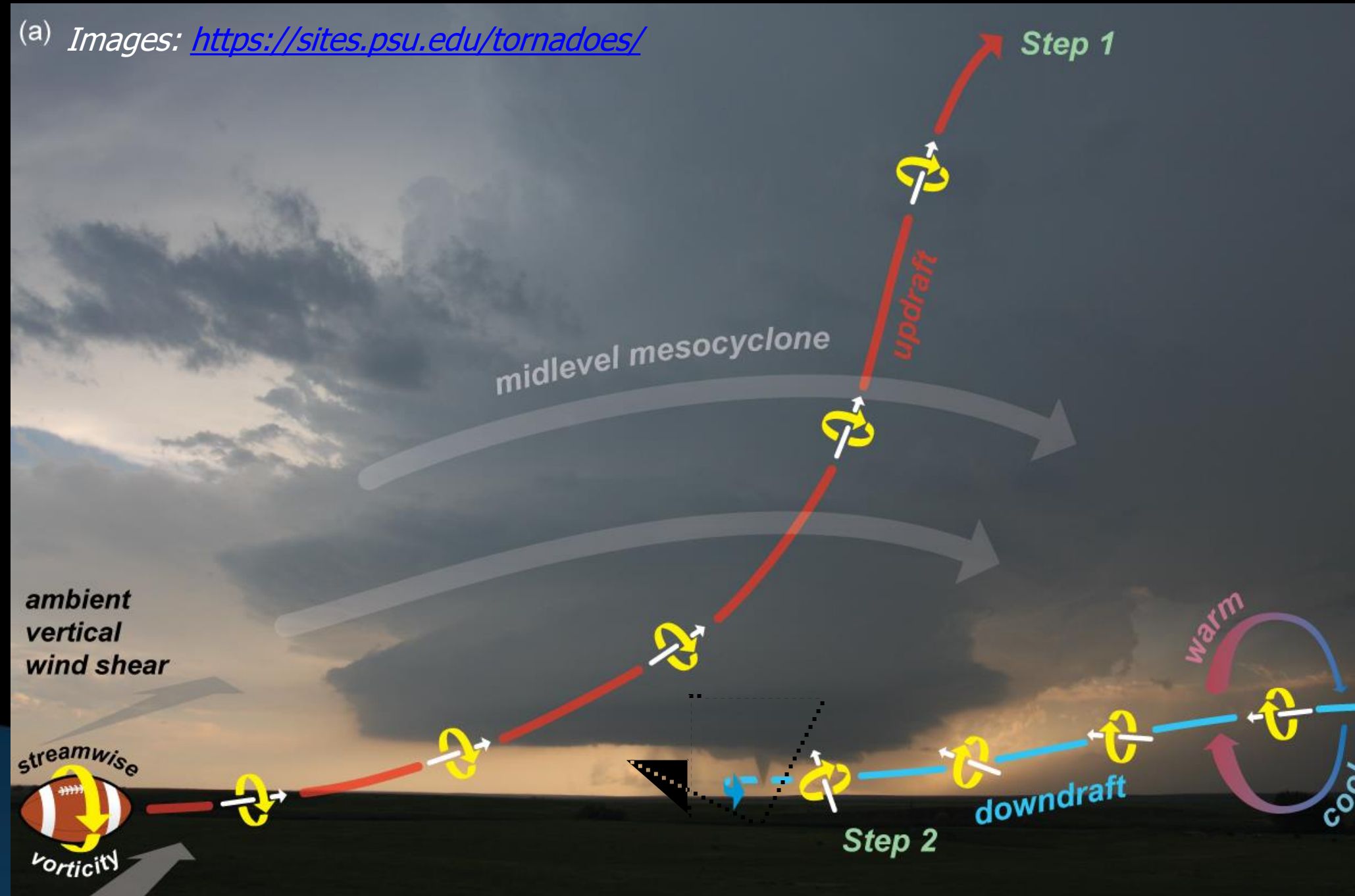
"T" = Tornado

*Images: Physics Today - Markowski and Richardson  
(adapted from Lemon and Doswell)*



# TORNADOES – TORNADOGENESIS

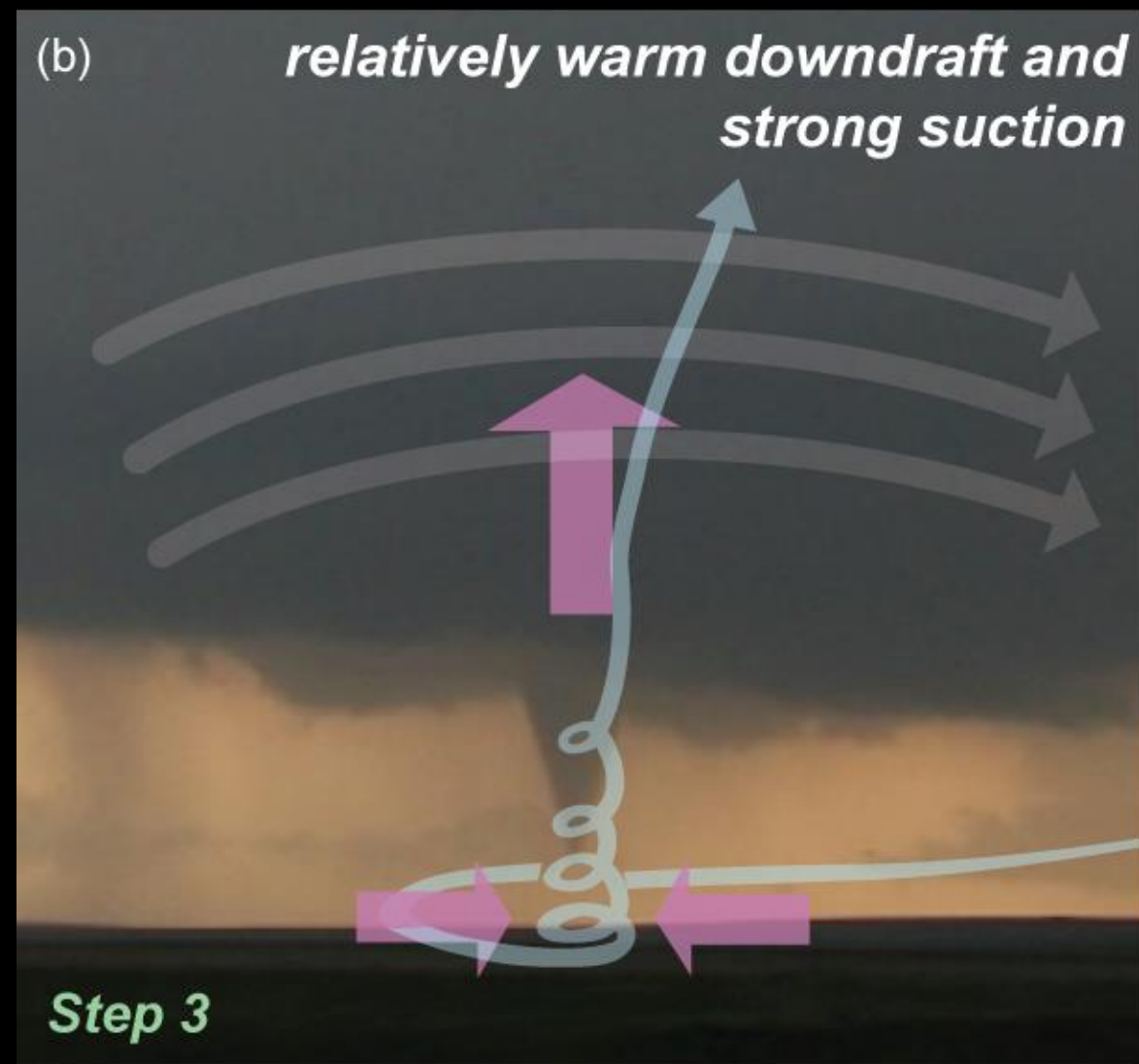
## Steps 1 & 2



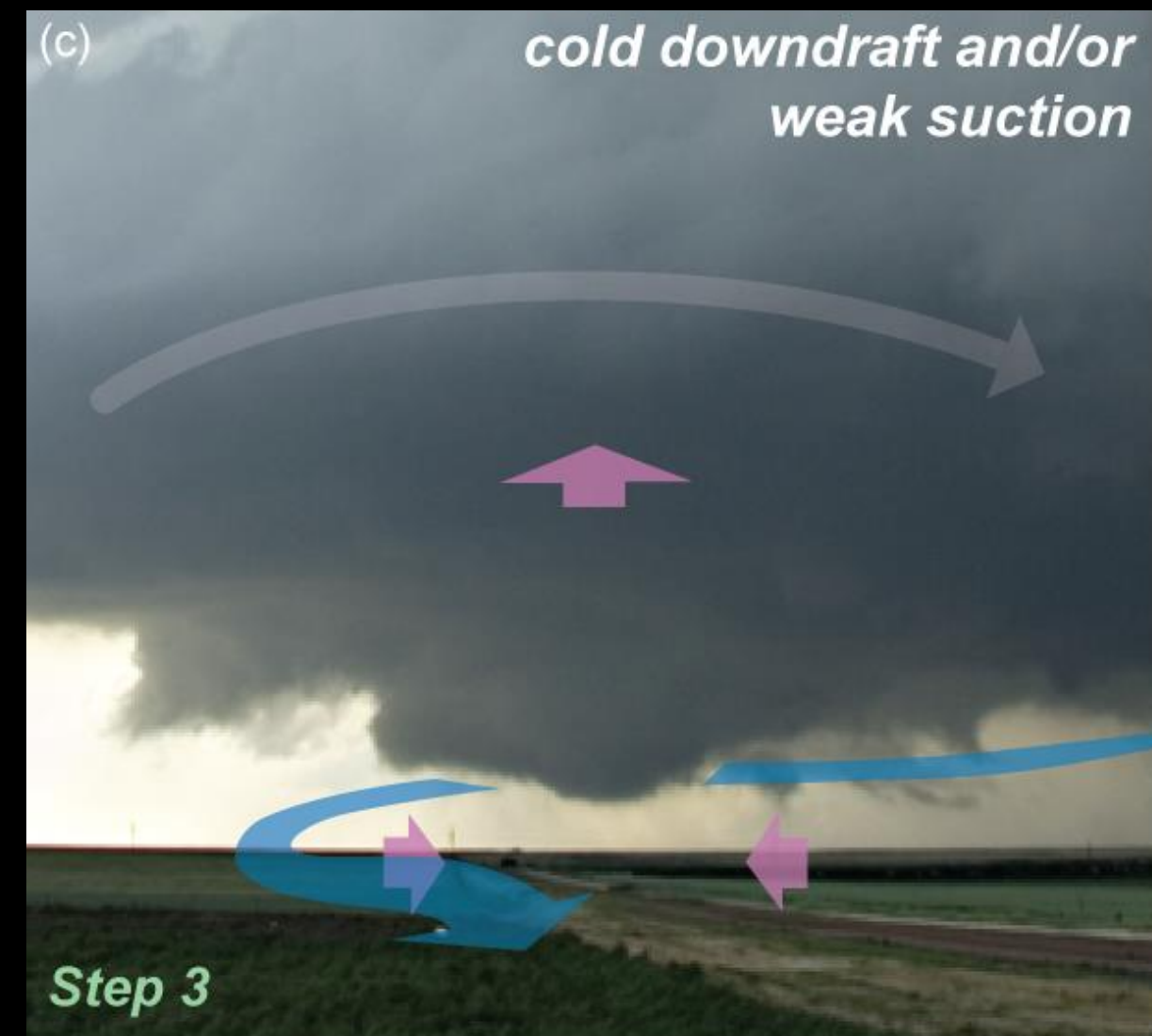


# TORNADOES - TORNADOGENESIS

## Step 3 - Tornado



## Step 3 – No Tornado



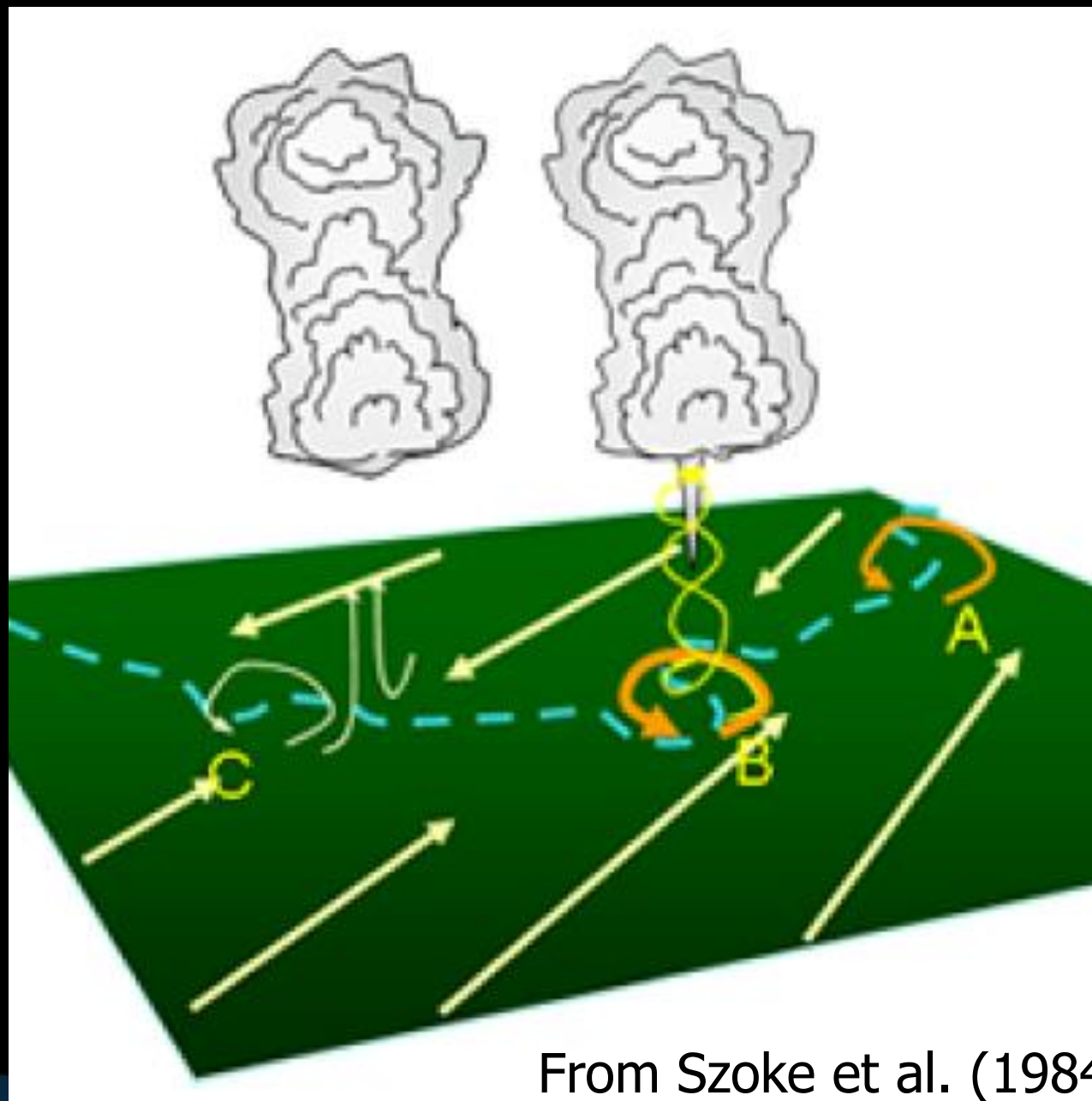
*Images:*

<https://sites.psu.edu/tornadoes/>



# LANDSPOUTS – FORMATION

## Non-Supercell

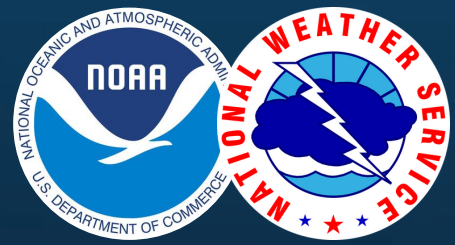


From Szoke et al. (1984)

A – convergence/ shear along stationary boundary. No updraft, no tornado

B – strengthening updraft stretches shear/rotation into tornado

C – updraft and shear not colocated, no tornado



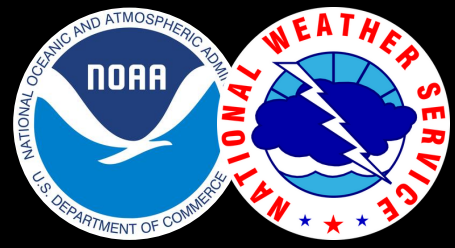
# LANDSPOUTS



Paul Mueller



John Sirlin



# PROGRAM OUTLINE

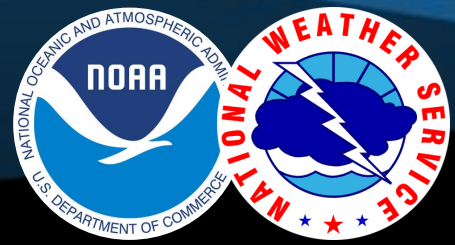
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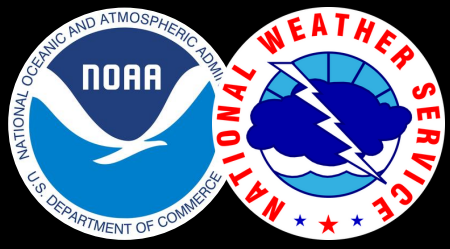




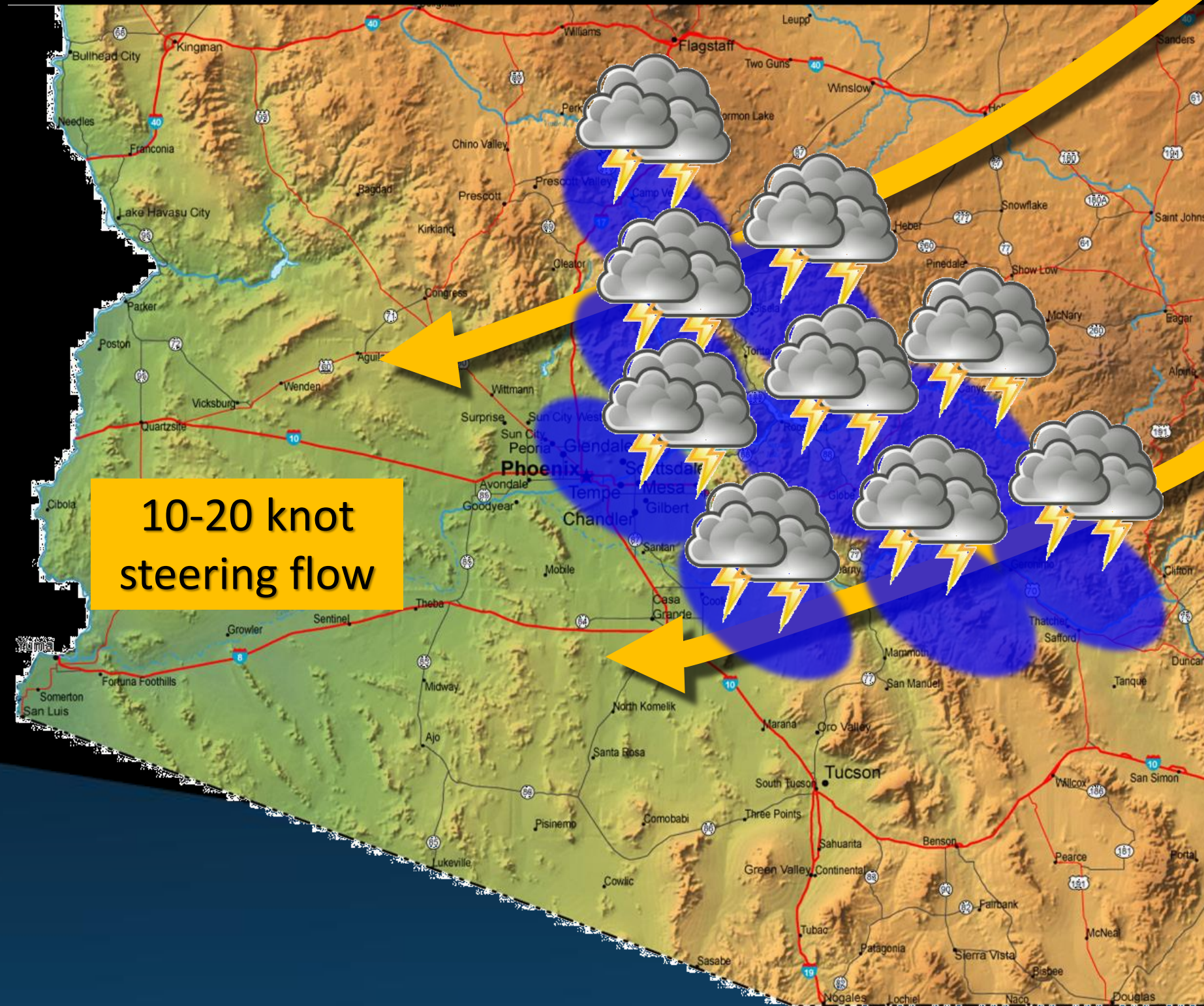
# MONSOON STORM EVOLUTIONS

- Usually weak steering flow from the southeast
- Initial storm development over high terrain of Mogollon Rim and/or southern Arizona
- Outflows move toward lower desert
- Development of storms over lower deserts dependent on available CAPE, breakable CIN, strength of lift along gust front/cold pool
- Stronger shear or presence of larger-scale lift may enhance storm organization and lifetime

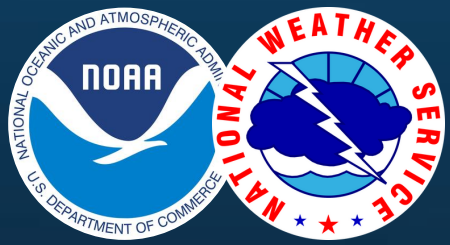




# MONGOLLON RIM STORM EVOLUTION

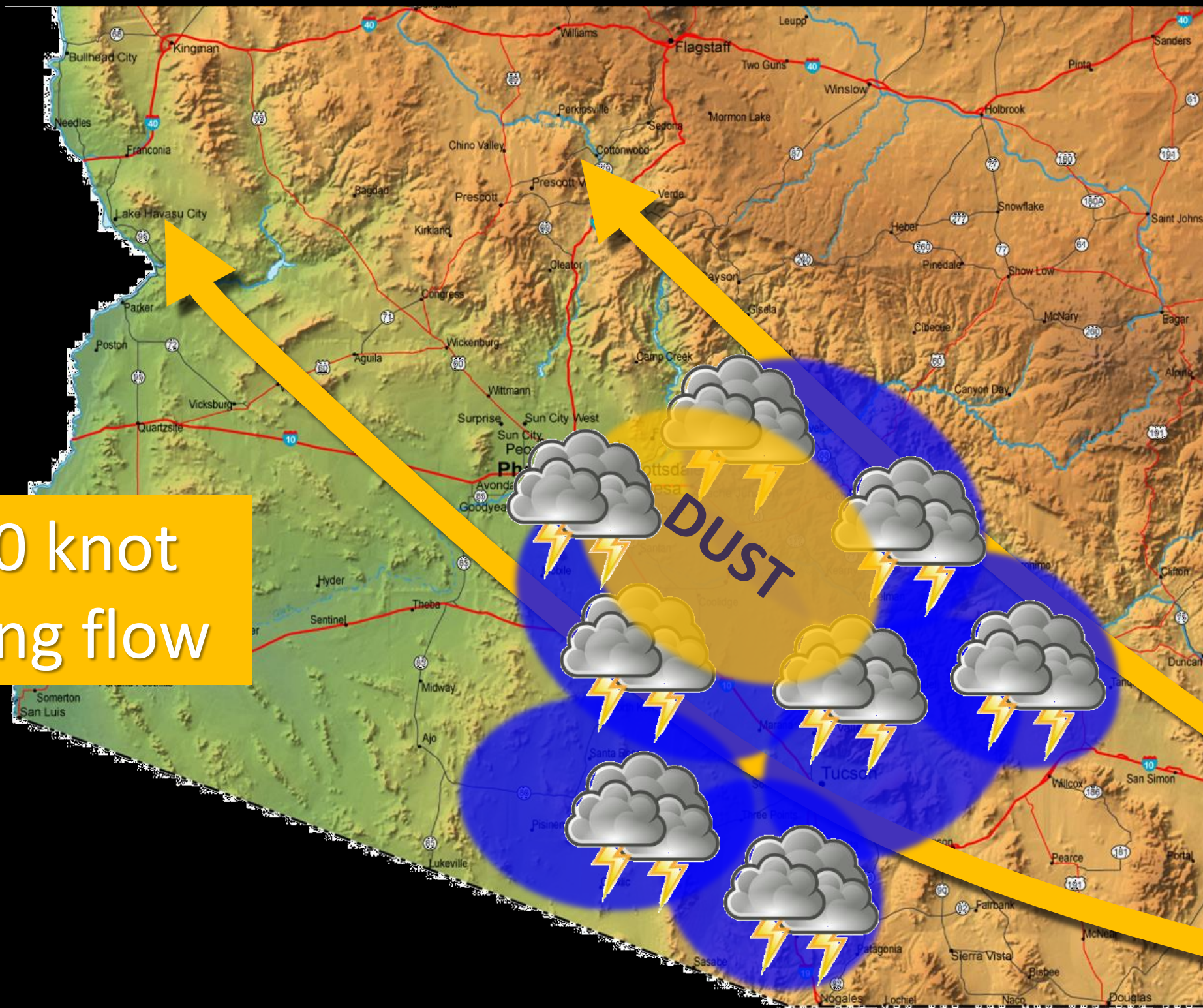




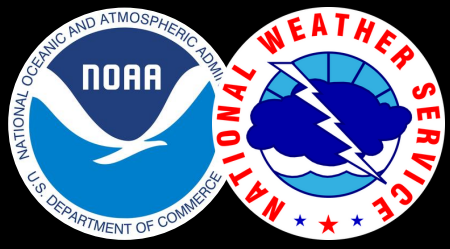


# SOUTHERN ARIZONA STORM EVOLUTION

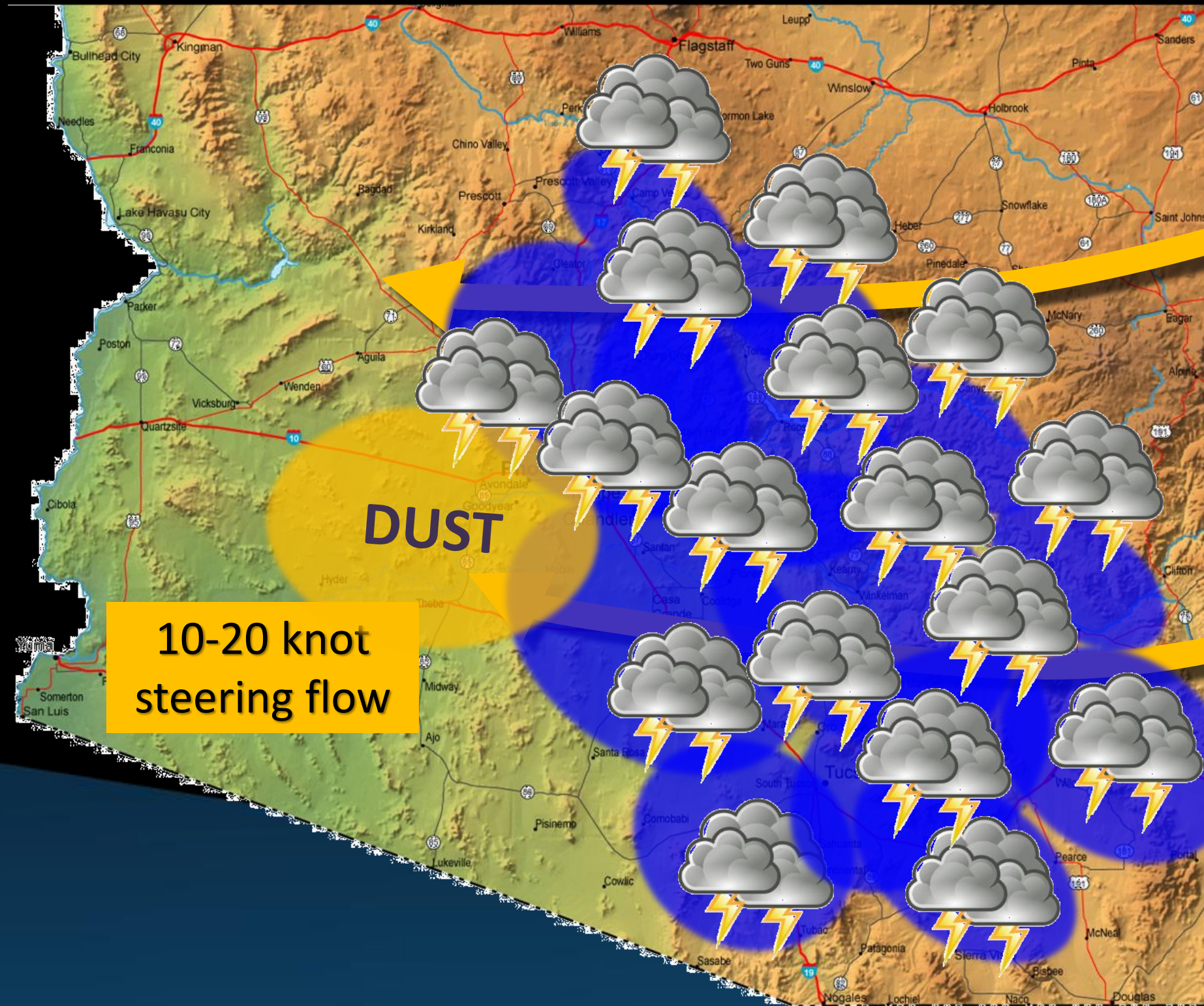
10-20 knot  
steering flow



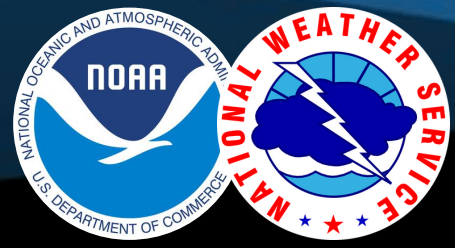




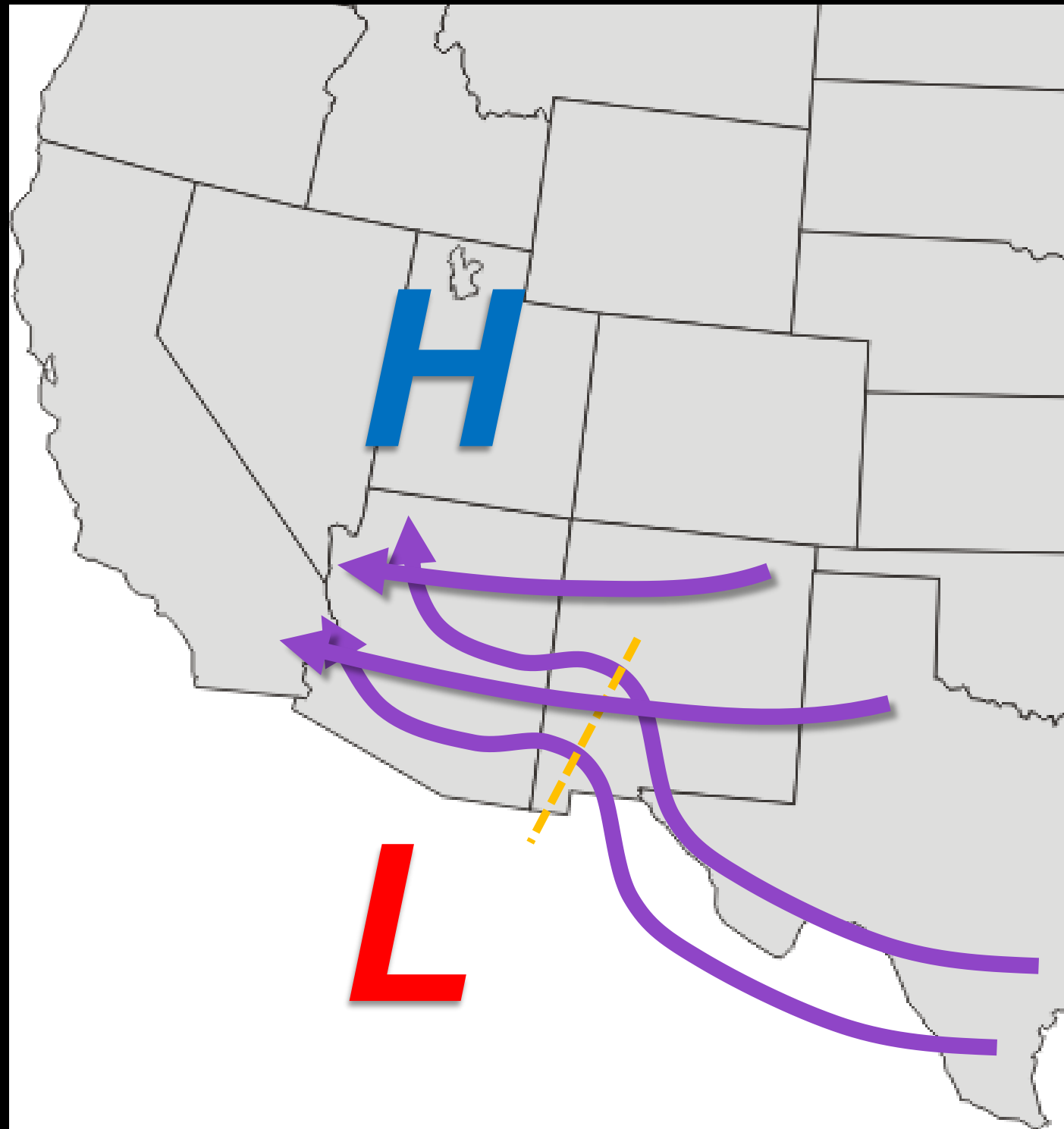
# COMBINED STORM EVOLUTION







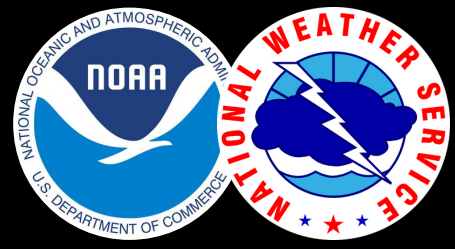
# “ENHANCED” MONSOON EVENTS



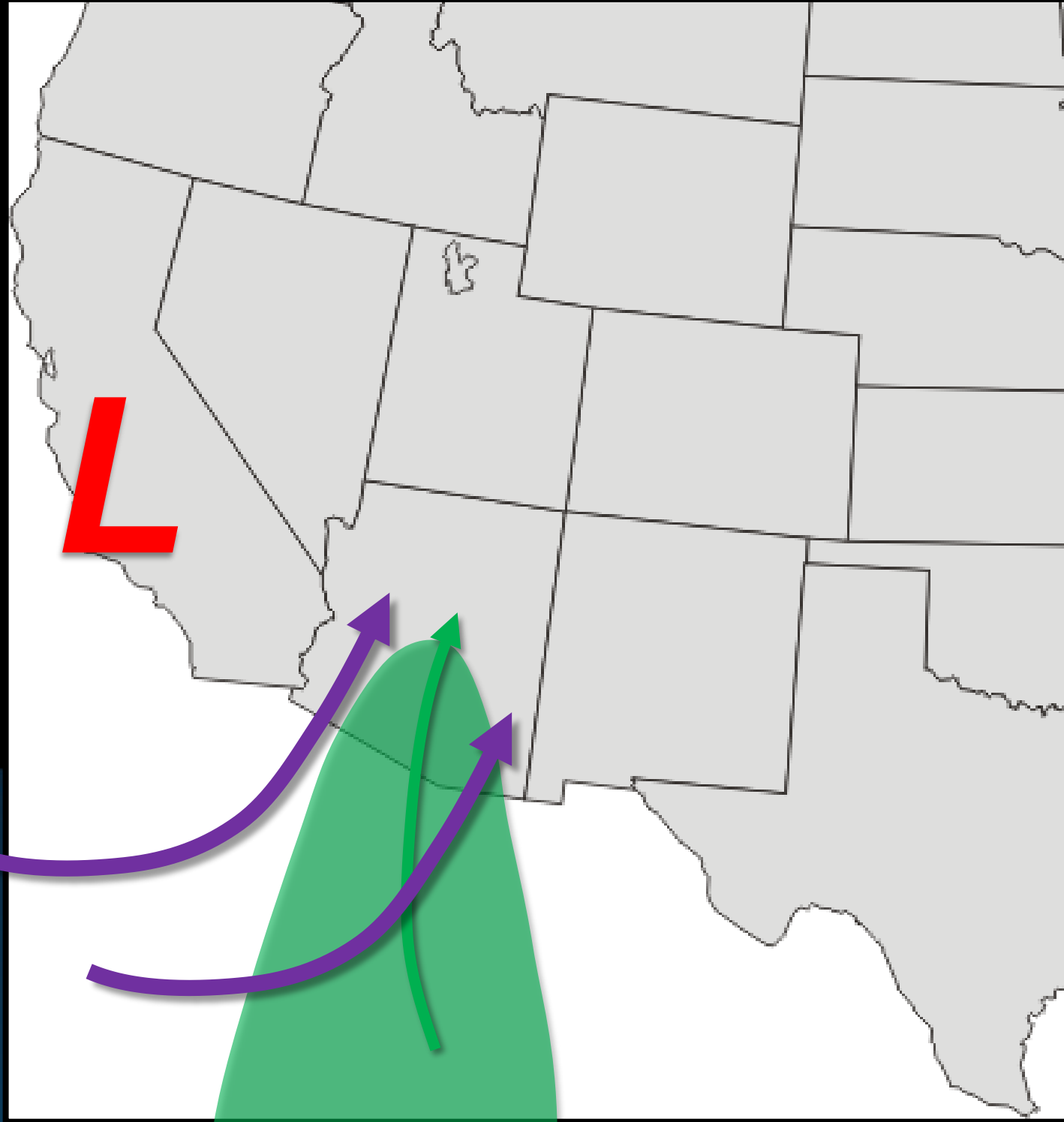
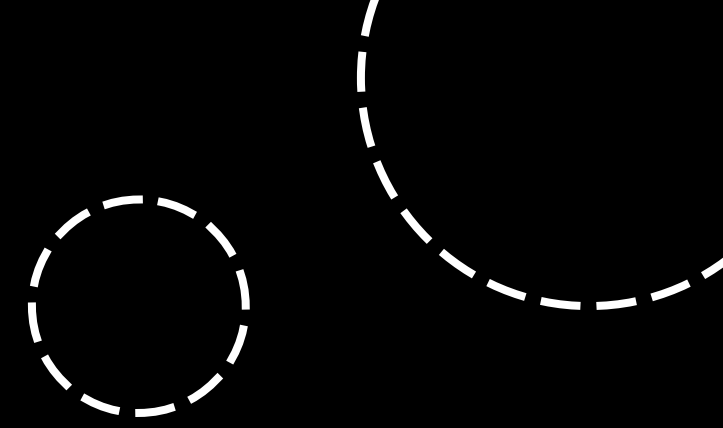
Subtropical waves (inverted troughs, easterly waves) can provide large-scale lift

Lift can help overcome shortcomings in the environment

If upper high shifts over Great Basin area, with lower pressure over northern Mexico, increased gradient can enhance deep-layer shear



# 'TRANSITION' EVENT



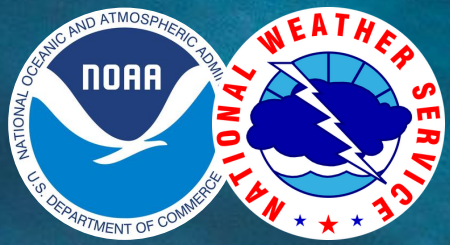
As monsoon ends, High retreats southward.  
Residual moisture over Mexico remains in place

Upper level system in the Westerlies affects the southwest U.S.

Moisture and shear patterns can resemble springtime Plains events

Highly organized/severe storms are possible



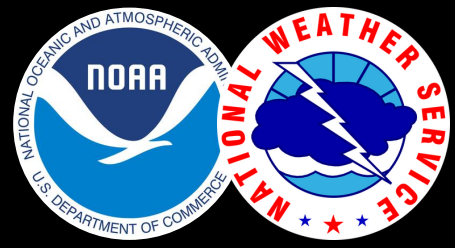


# Break!

MIKE OLBINSKI  PHOTOGRAPHY

*Photo: Mike Oblinski Photography*





# PROGRAM OUTLINE

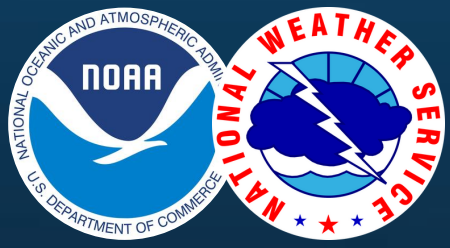
## PART I

- Organized Storm Ingredients
- Storm Classification
- Tornadoes & Land Spouts
- The Monsoon

## PART II

- Mesoanalysis Tools
- Radar Analysis
- Case Studies





# STORM PREDICTION CENTER

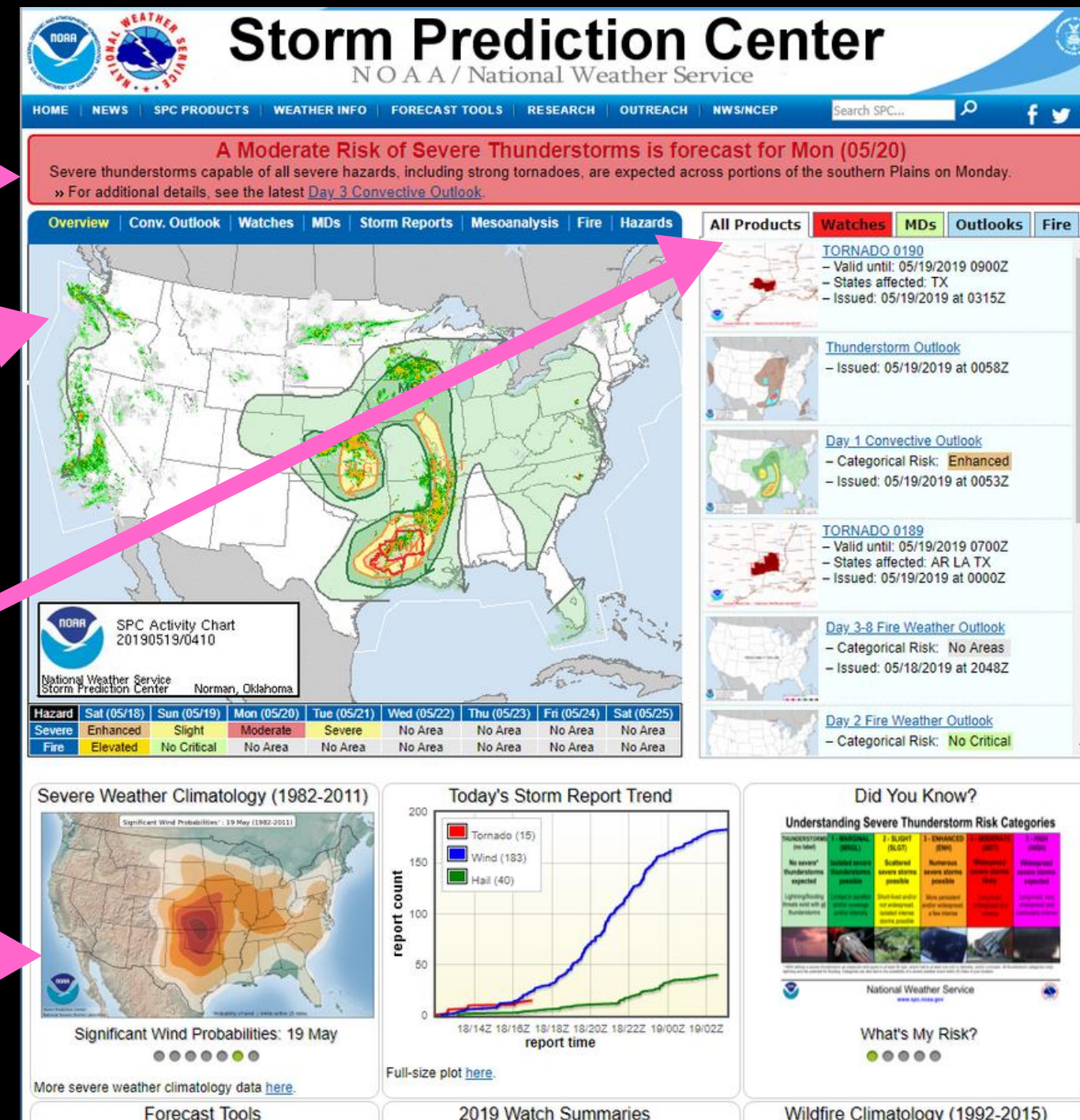
[www.spc.noaa.gov](http://www.spc.noaa.gov)

Headlines and  
drop-down menus

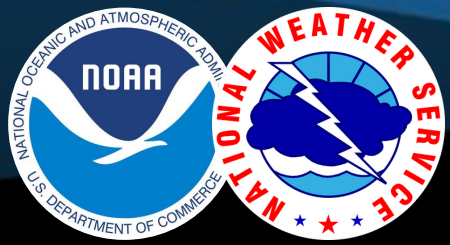
Mouse over to see  
individual maps

Recently-issued information

Climatology maps  
and report trends





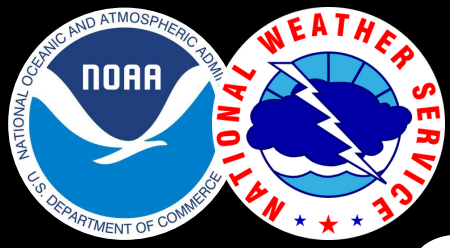


# SPC CONVECTIVE OUTLOOK

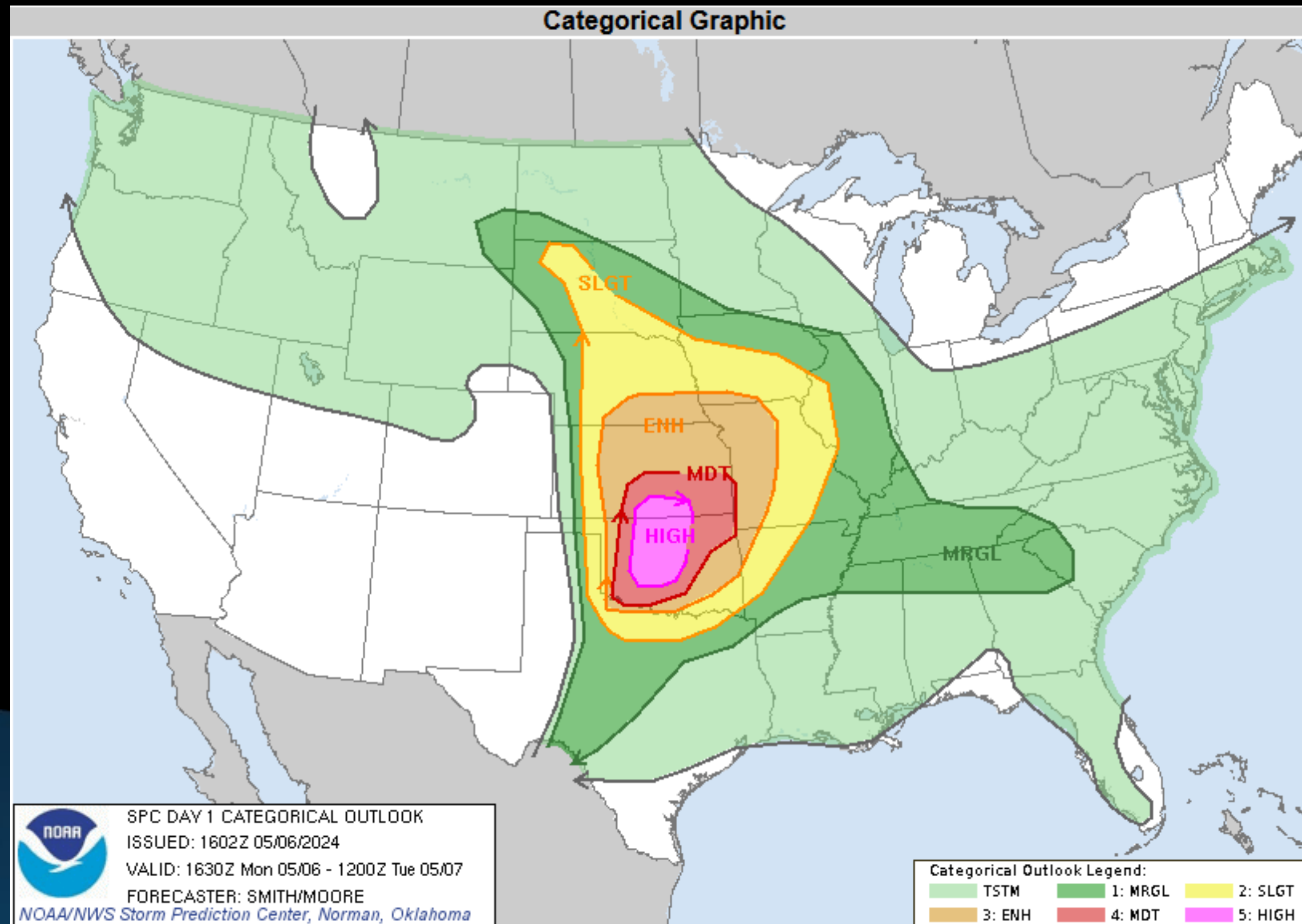
## Risk Categories

### Understanding Severe Thunderstorm Risk Categories

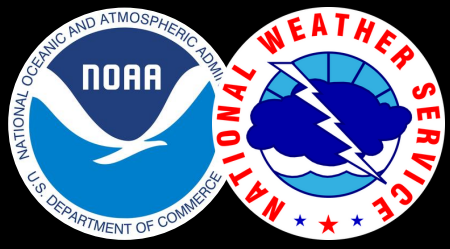
THUNDERSTORMS (no label)	1 - MARGINAL (MRGL)	2 - SLIGHT (SLGT)	3 - ENHANCED (ENH)	4 - MODERATE (MDT)	5 - HIGH (HIGH)
No severe* thunderstorms expected	Isolated severe thunderstorms possible	Scattered severe storms possible	Numerous severe storms possible	Widespread severe storms likely	Widespread severe storms expected
Lightning/flooding threats exist with <u>all</u> thunderstorms	Limited in duration and/or coverage and/or intensity	Short-lived and/or not widespread, isolated intense storms possible	More persistent and/or widespread, a few intense	Long-lived, widespread and intense	Long-lived, very widespread and particularly intense



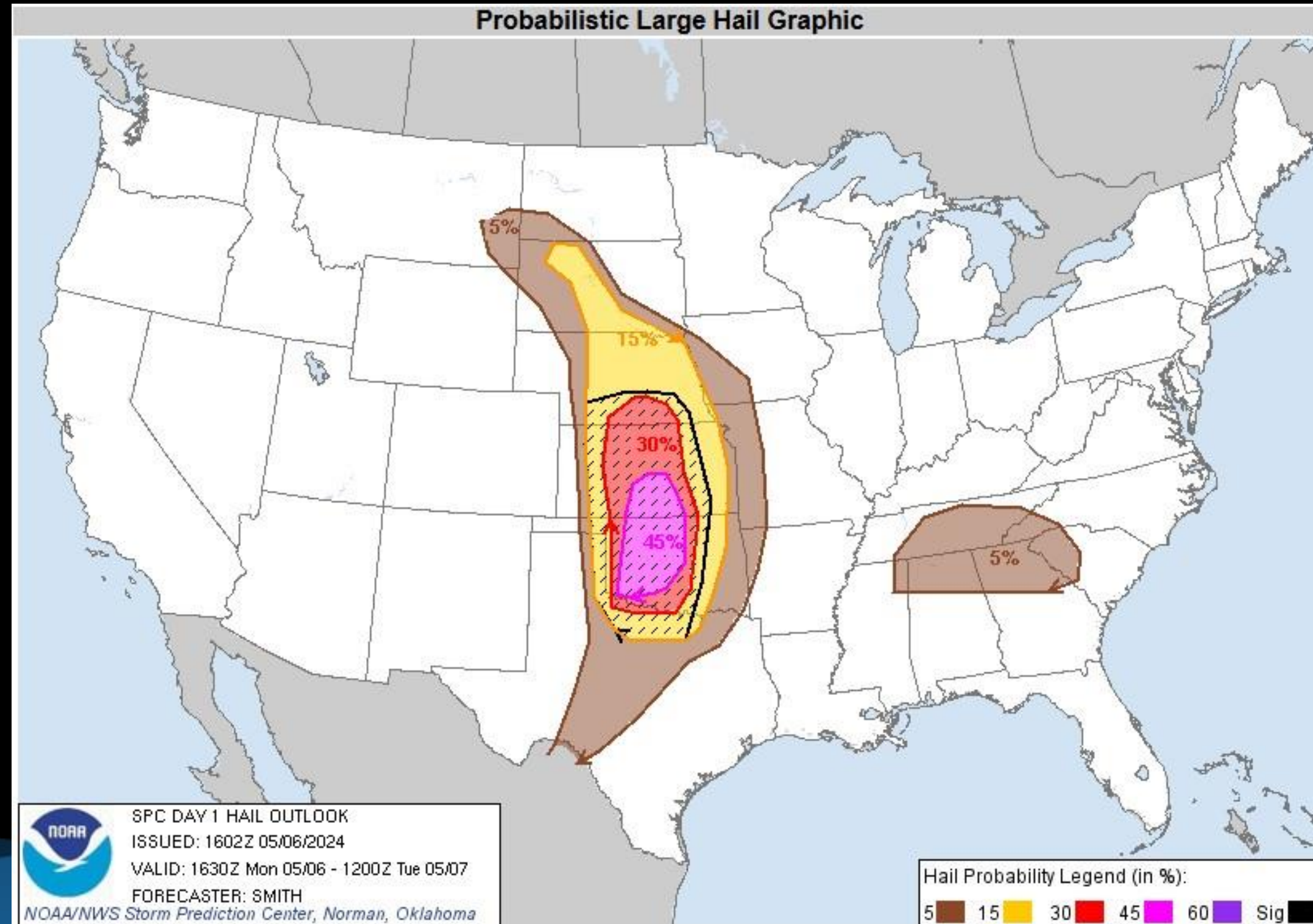
# SPC CONVECTIVE OUTLOOK - CATEGORICAL



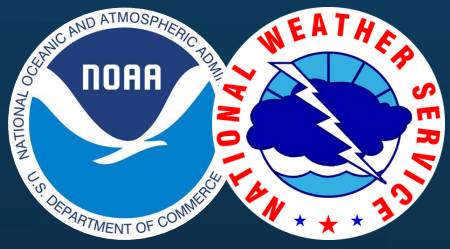




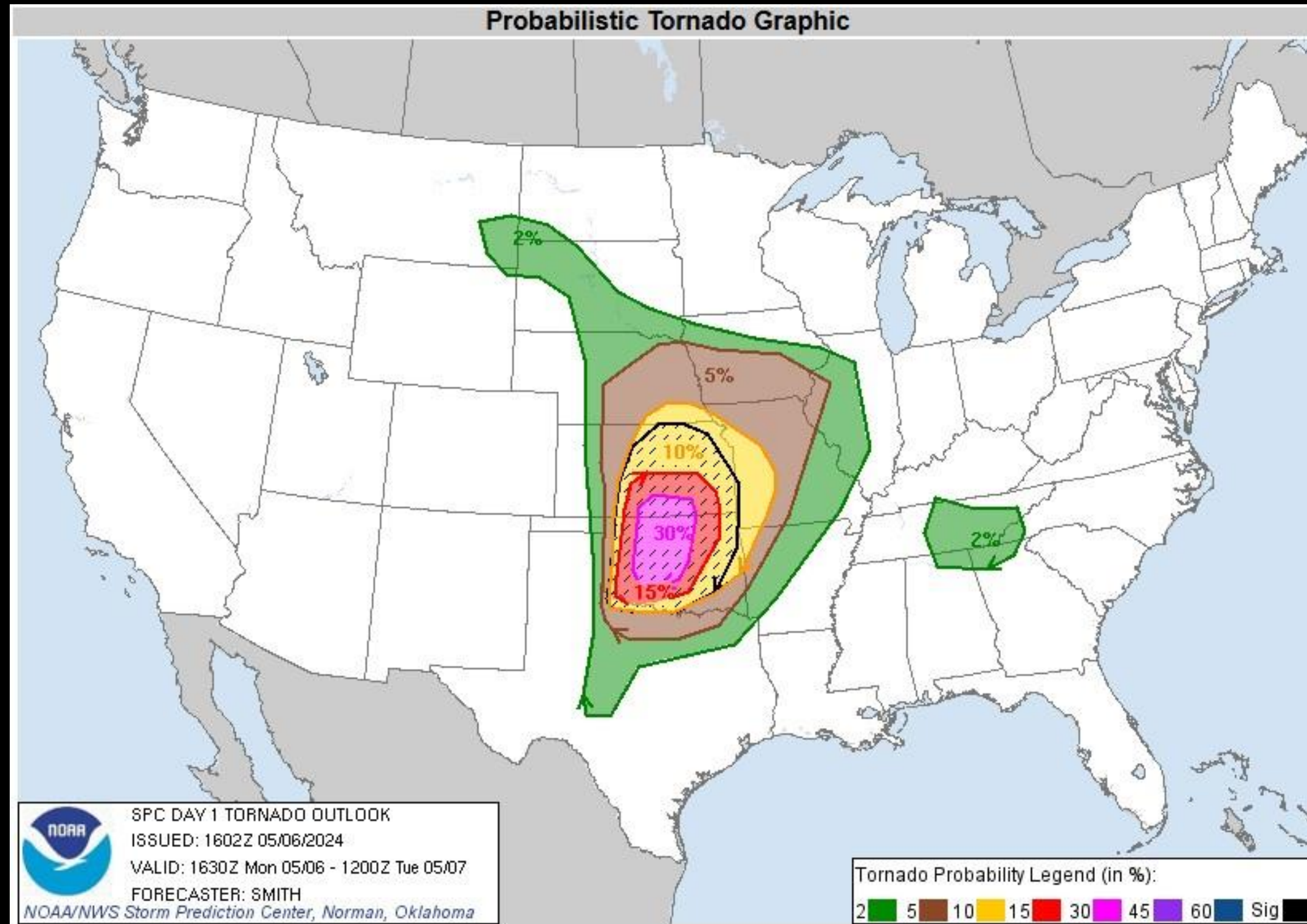
# SPC CONVECTIVE OUTLOOK - HAIL

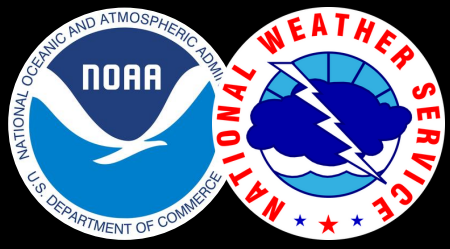




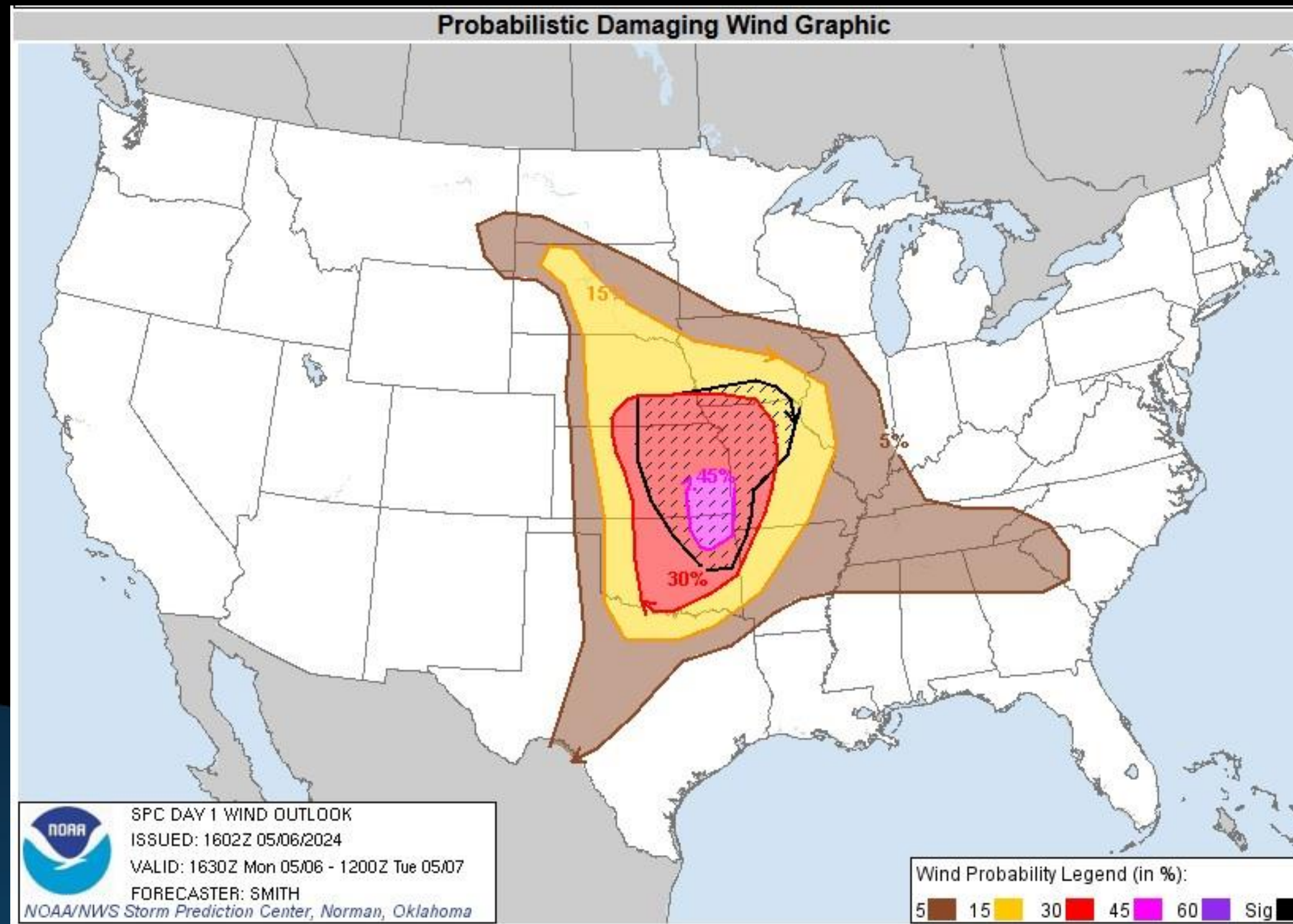


# SPC CONVECTIVE OUTLOOK - TORNADO

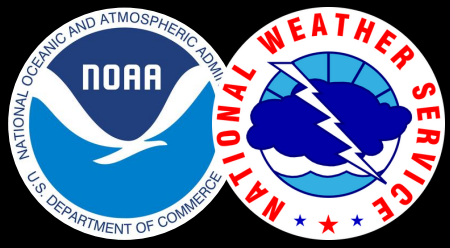




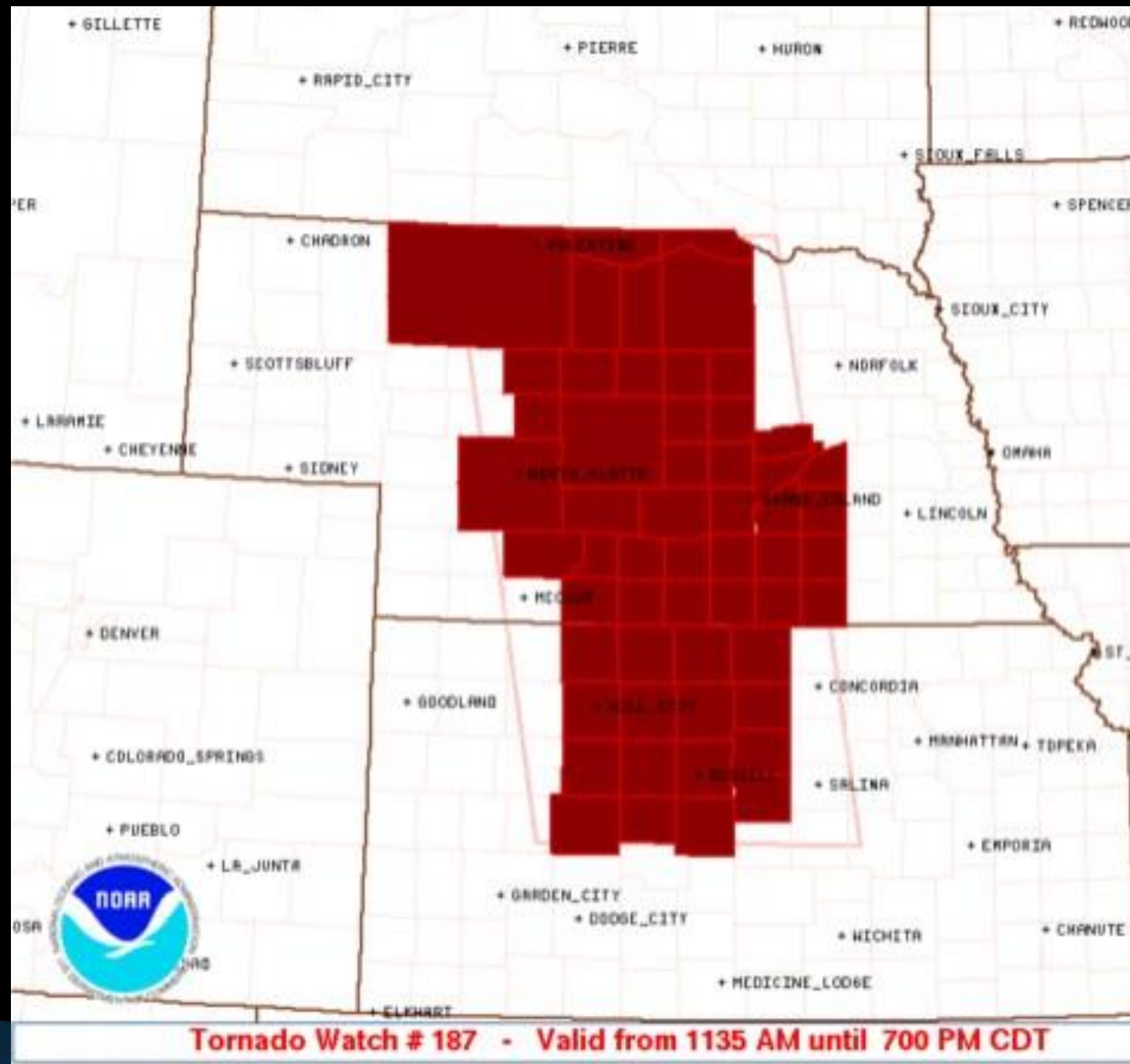
# SPC CONVECTIVE OUTLOOK - WIND







# SPC WATCHES



URGENT - IMMEDIATE BROADCAST REQUESTED  
Tornado Watch Number 187  
NWS Storm Prediction Center Norman OK  
1135 AM CDT Mon May 6 2024

The NWS Storm Prediction Center has issued a

- \* Tornado Watch for portions of  
North-Central Kansas  
Central Nebraska
- \* Effective this Monday morning and evening from 1135 AM until  
700 PM CDT.
- \* Primary threats include...  
A few tornadoes likely with a couple intense tornadoes possible  
Scattered large hail and isolated very large hail events to 2.5  
inches in diameter likely  
Scattered damaging wind gusts to 70 mph likely

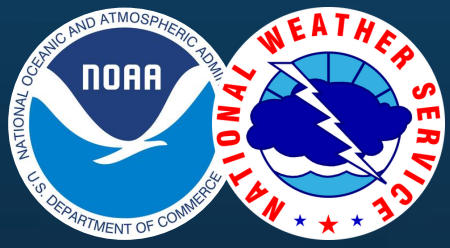
SUMMARY...Scattered to numerous severe thunderstorms are forecast to develop this afternoon across the Watch area. Supercells capable of tornadoes, large to very large hail, and severe gusts are forecast. A strong tornado or two is possible later this afternoon, mainly across portions of north-central Kansas into south-central Nebraska as the environment becomes increasingly favorable for tornadoes.

The tornado watch area is approximately along and 85 statute miles east and west of a line from 30 miles north northeast of Ainsworth NE to 35 miles south of Russell KS. For a complete depiction of the watch see the associated watch outline update (WOU564 KWNS WOU7).

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

REMEMBER...A Tornado Watch means conditions are favorable for tornadoes and severe thunderstorms in and close to the watch area. Persons in these areas should be on the lookout for threatening weather conditions and listen for later statements and possible warnings.





# MAIN MESOANALYSIS PAGE

Access from the  
"Forecast Tools"  
or  
"Mesoanalysis"  
links on SPC  
main page

Select subsector  
of interest, main  
analysis screen  
will appear

NOAA's National Weather Service

## Storm Prediction Center

Site Map News Organizational Chart

Local forecast by "City, St" or "ZIP"  
City, St  Go

**Overview**  
SPC Products  
All SPC Forecasts  
Current Watches  
Meso. Discussions  
Conv. Outlooks  
Fire Wx Forecasts  
RSS Feeds  
New: E-Mail Alerts  
Weather Information  
Storm Reports  
NWS Hazards Map  
Watch/Warning Map  
National RADAR  
Product Archive  
Norman, OK WX  
Research  
Non-op. Products  
Forecast Tools  
Svr. Tstm. Events  
SPC Publications  
SPC-NSSL HWT  
Education & Outreach  
About the SPC  
SPC FAQ  
About Tornadoes  
About Derechos  
WCM Page  
Enh. Fujita Page  
Cool Images  
Our History  
Public Affairs

### SPC Mesoscale Analysis Pages (National Sector Archive | Mobile Version)

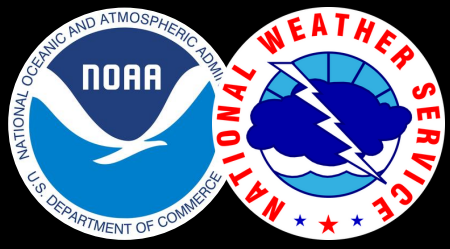
Click [here](#) to view a multimedia introduction of the Mesoanalysis Pages. (5.8MB)

National	NW	SW	N Plns	C Plns	MW	S Plns	NE	EC	SE
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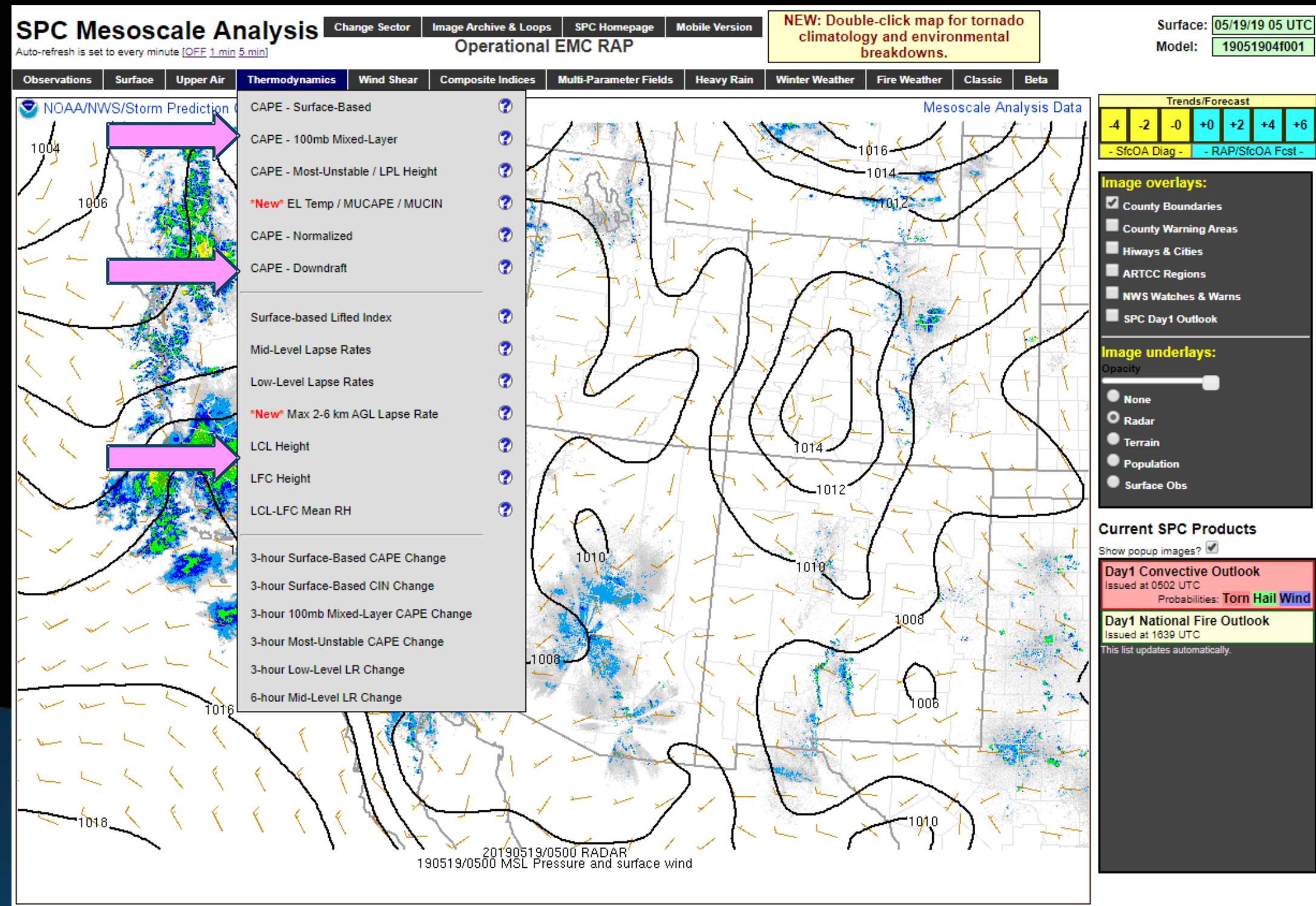
SPC Mesoanalysis Sectors  
1h Composite Radar  
Valid 1754Z-1859Z  
National Weather Service  
Storm Prediction Center  
Norman, Oklahoma

These 10 fixed sectors can be used to see regional gridded mesoanalysis data across the United States. This information is provided by SPC as a way of sharing the latest severe weather diagnostic techniques with local forecasters.

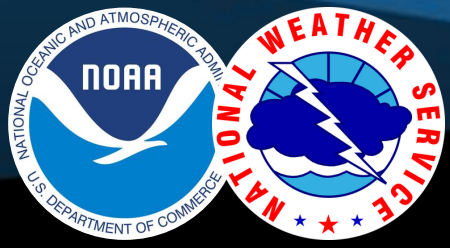
National Weather Service • Since 1870



# DROP-DOWN MENU THERMODYNAMICS

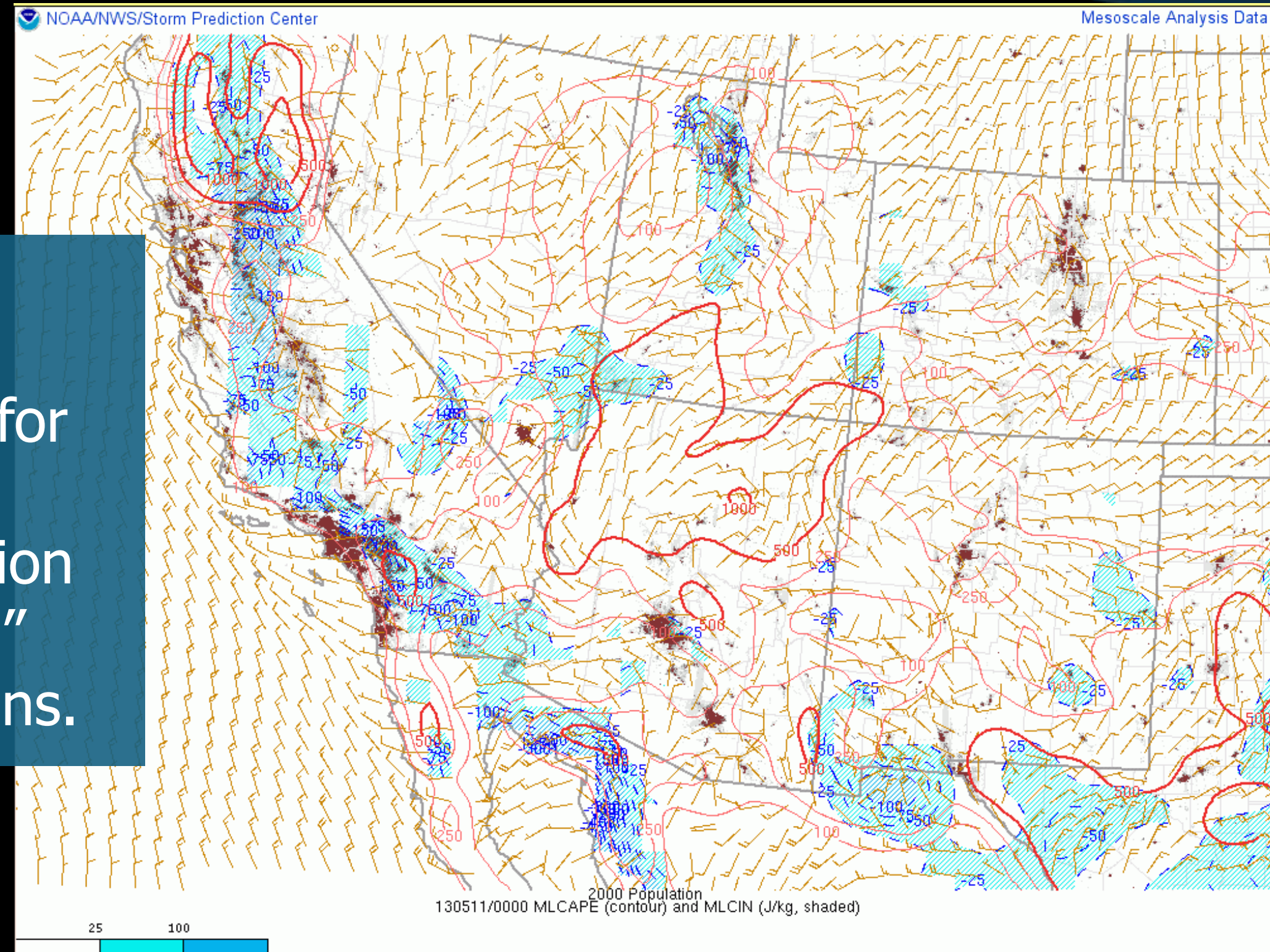




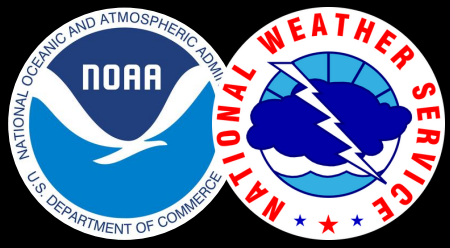


# Mixed-Layer CAPE

Uses conditions averaged over the lowest 2,000 feet for the calculations. Better approximation of our “well mixed” afternoon conditions.

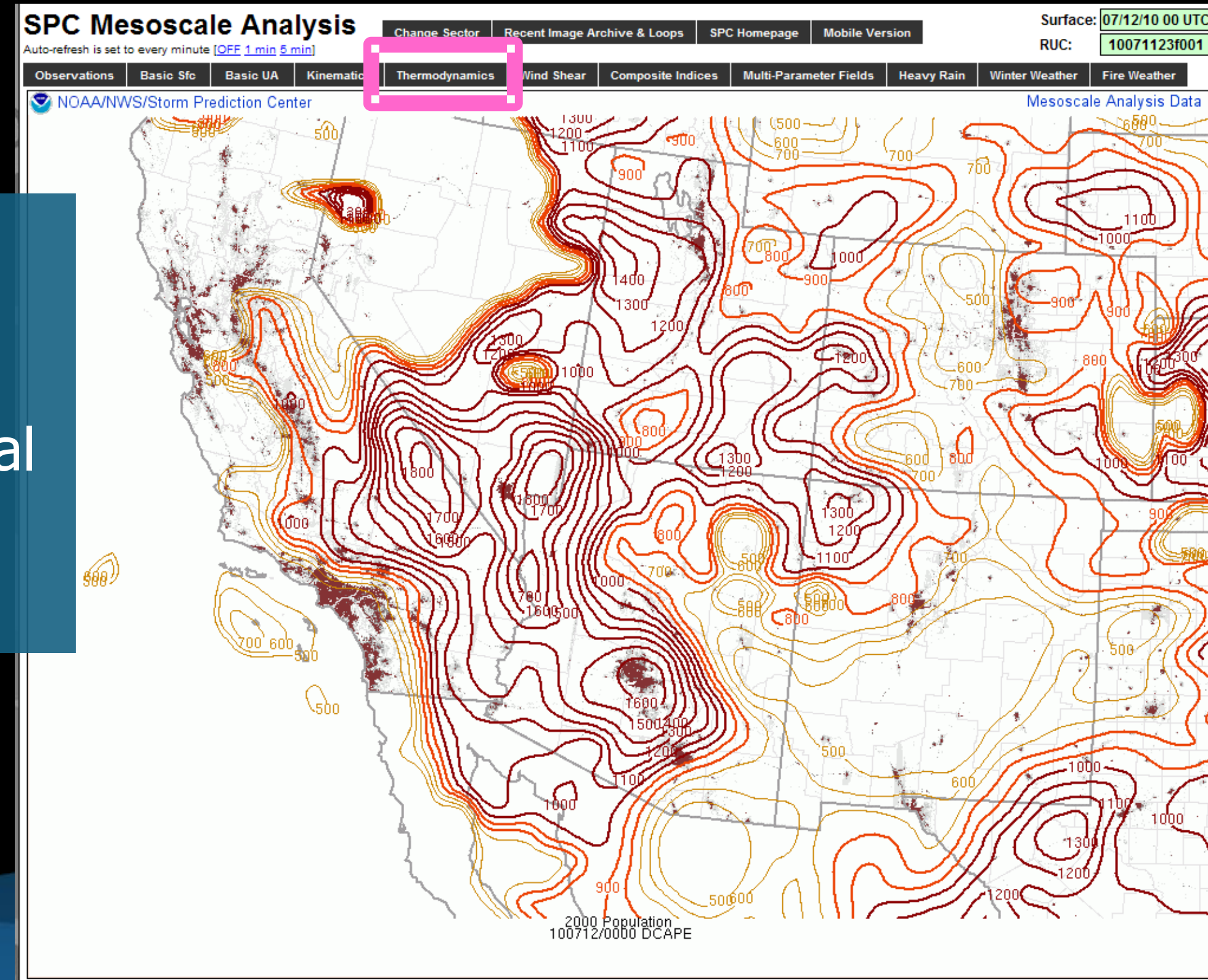




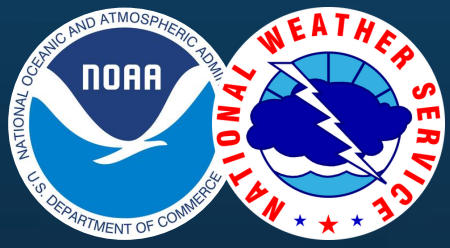


# Downdraft CAPE

Runs the CAPE calculation  
“backwards” to  
estimate potential  
for strong  
downdrafts





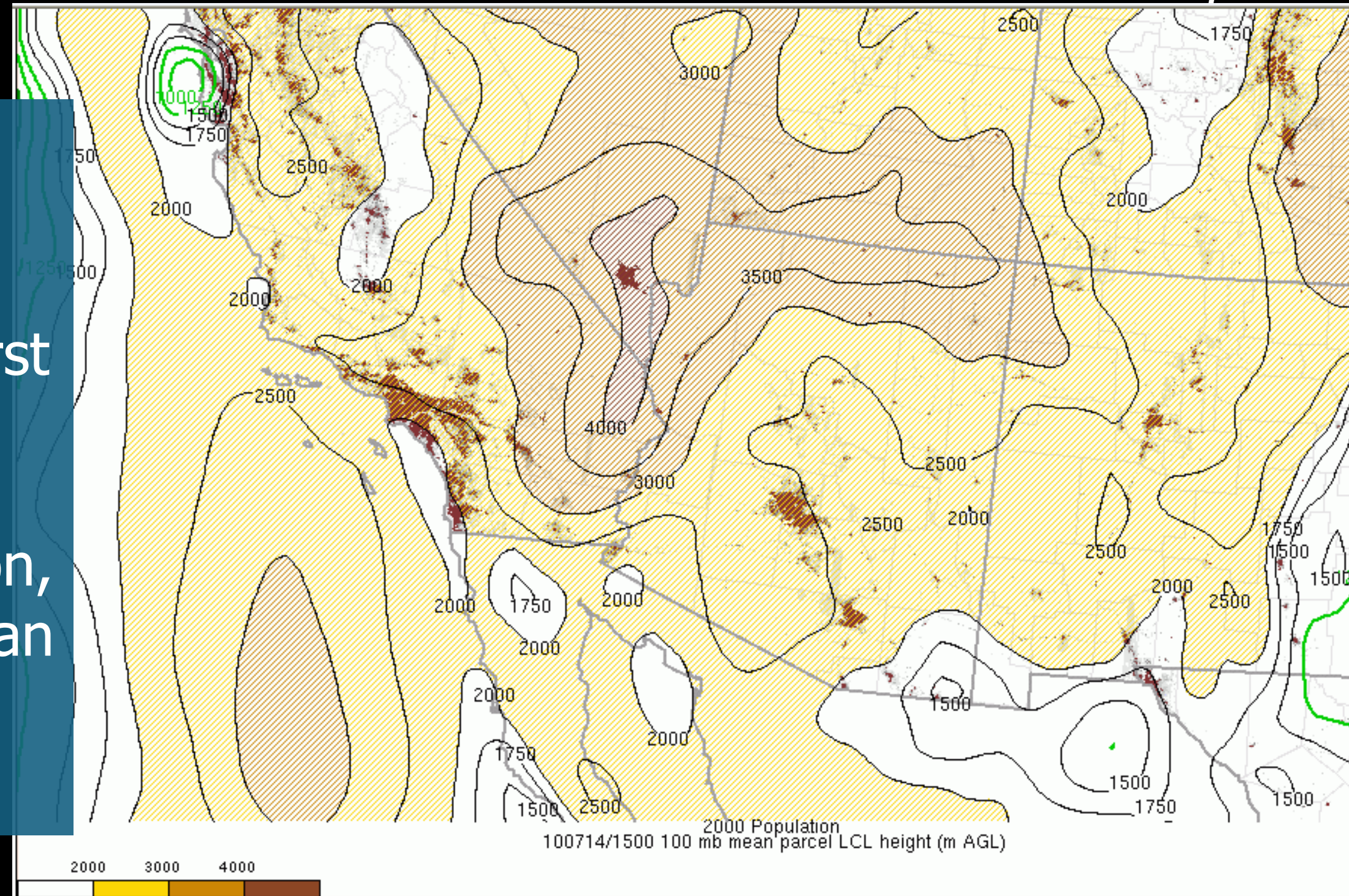


# LCL (Cloud Height)

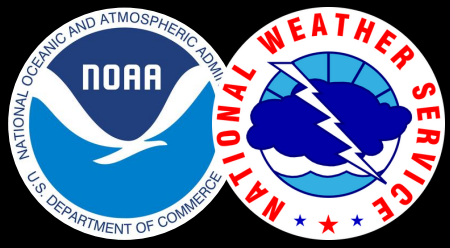
Heights in meters.

Higher cloud bases mean better downburst potential.

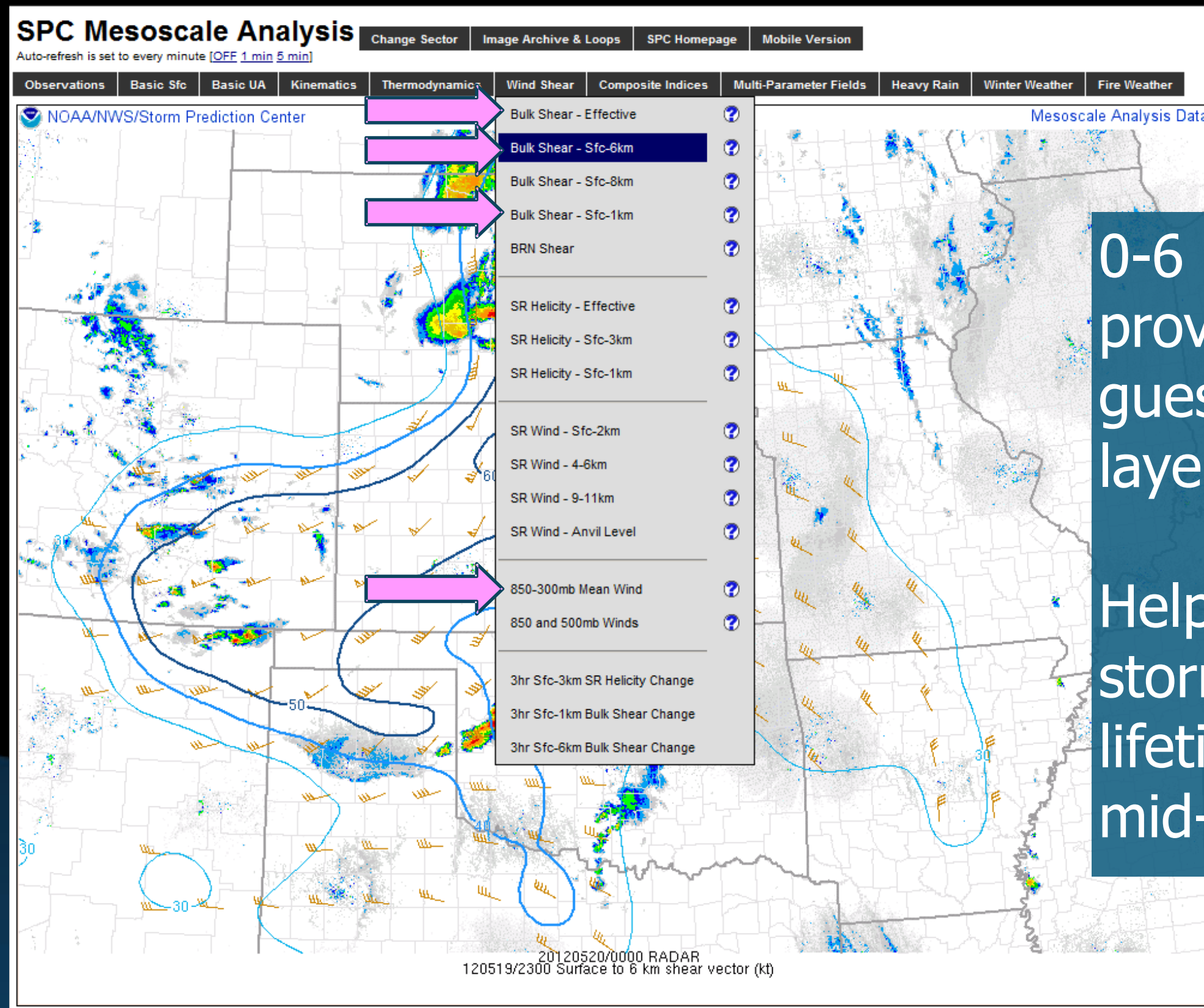
During the cool season, lower cloud heights can be favorable for low-level rotation





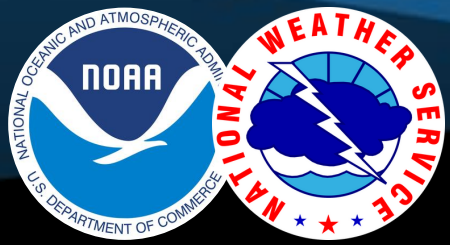


# Wind Shear



0-6 km shear provides first guess of "deep-layer" shear

Helps organize storms, extend lifetime, induce mid-level rotation

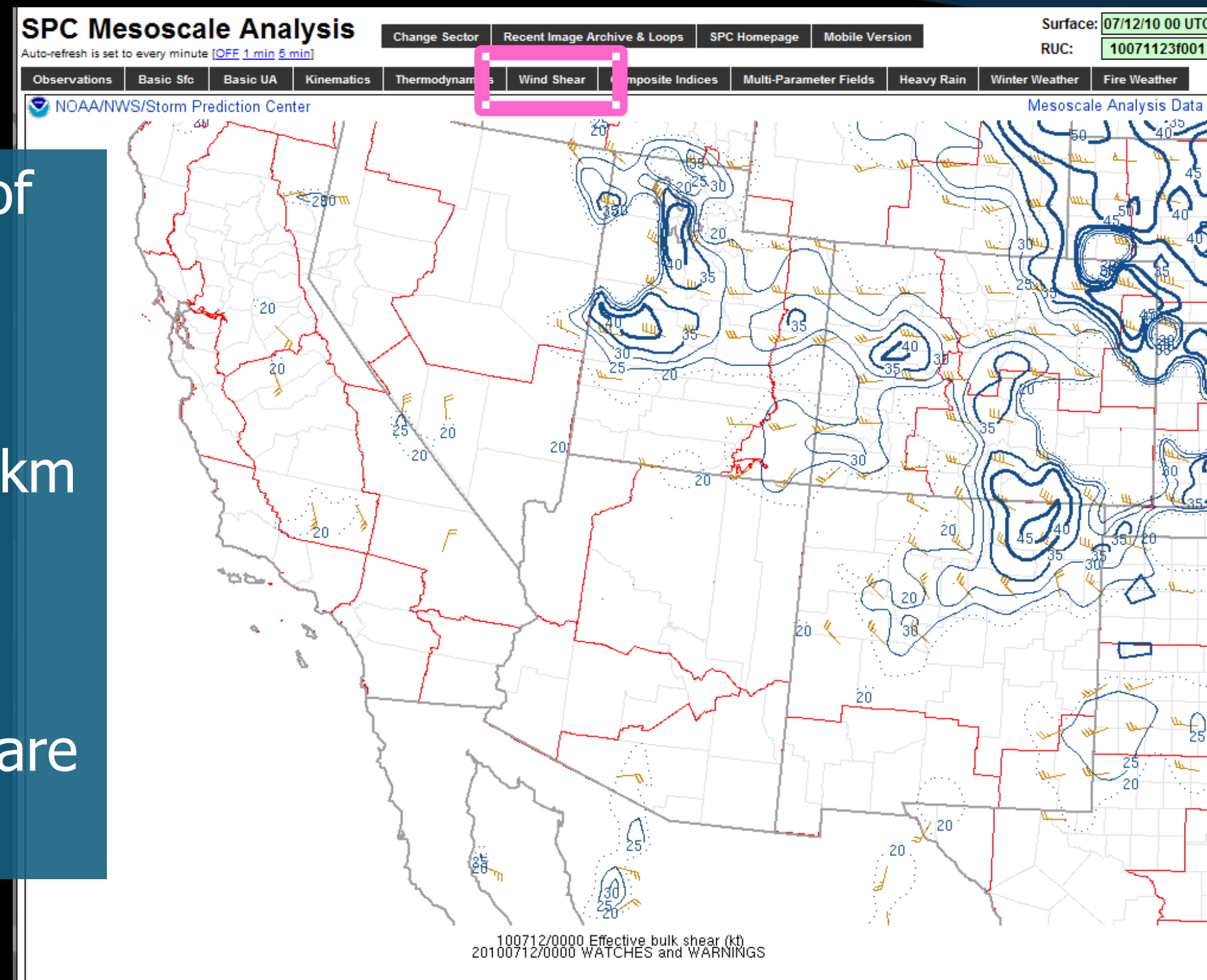


# “Effective” Wind Shear

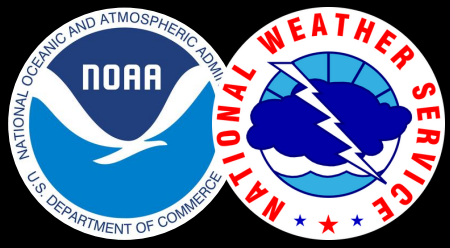
Shear through half of the expected storm height.

A substitute for 0-6 km shear... better for “short” storms

Lower shear values are not plotted on map.

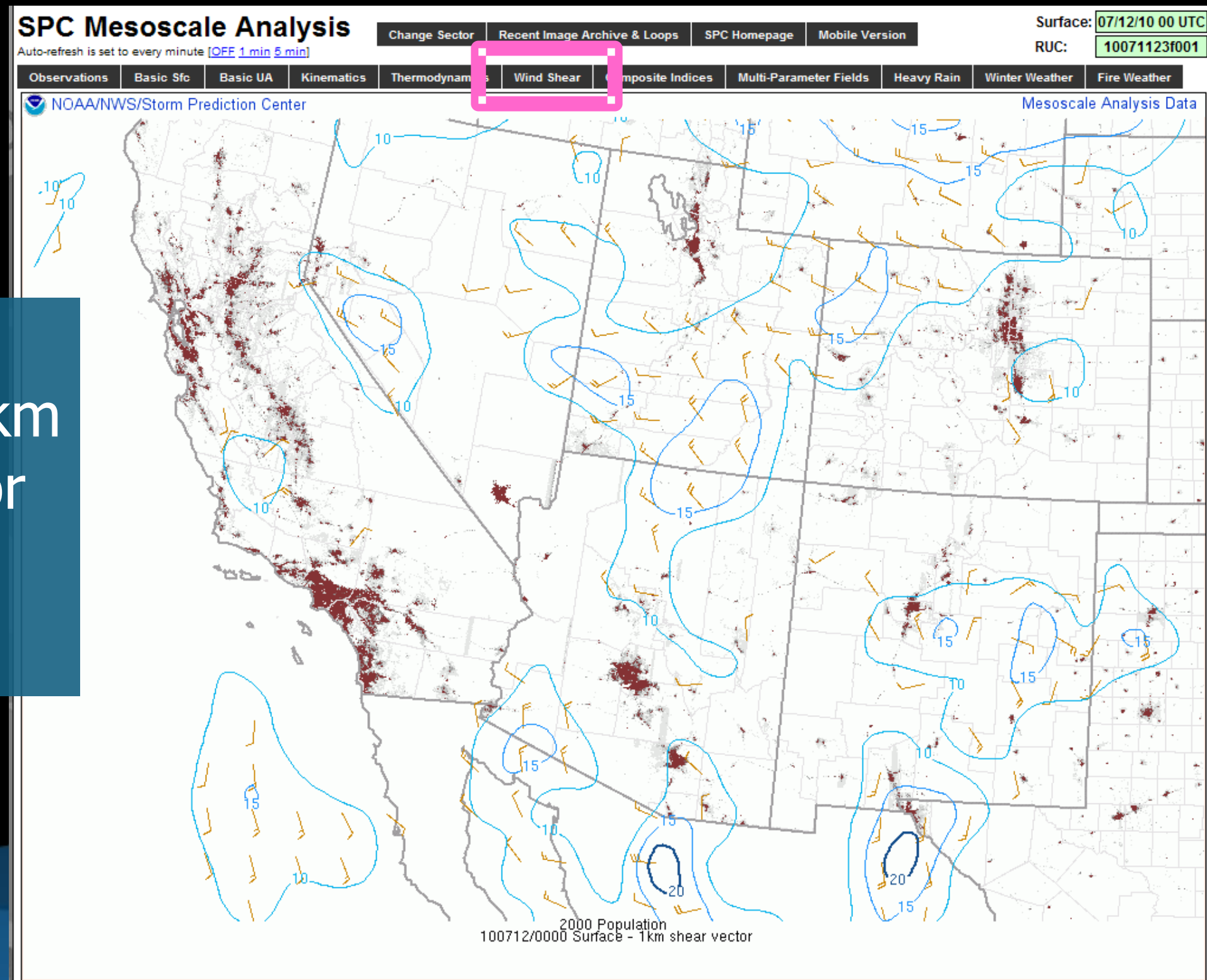


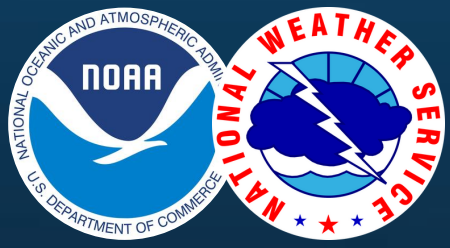




# 0-1 km Wind Shear

During the cool season, strong 0-1 km shear is favorable for low-level mesocyclones



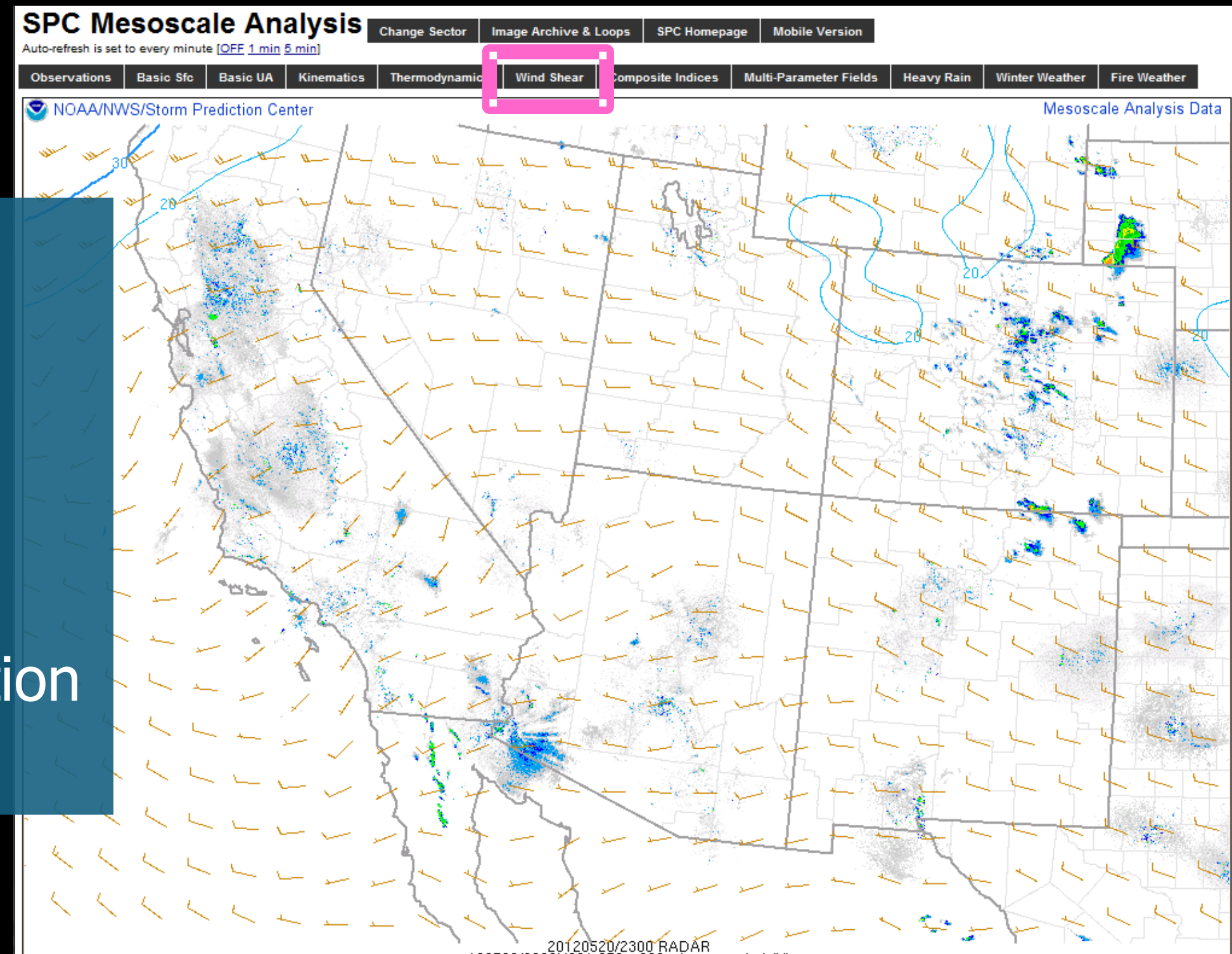


# 850–300 mb Mean Wind

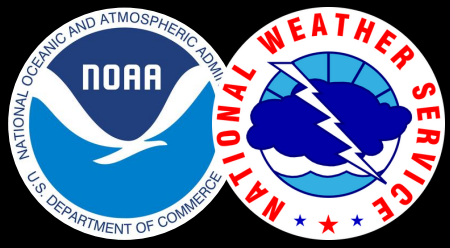
Mean wind through the 5,000–30,000 foot layer

Provides a good “first guess” of storm motion

Does not take propagation into account

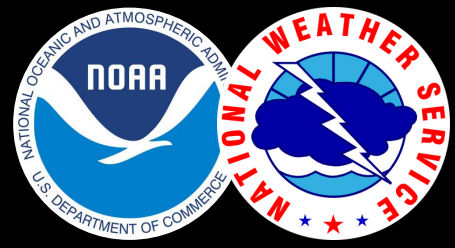






# KEY PARAMETER GUIDELINES

- **CAPE:** At least 250 J/kg; 1000+ for significant updrafts
- **CIN:** -100 J/kg or weaker for “breakable” cap
- **Downdraft CAPE:** 1000 J/kg or stronger for downbursts
- **Deep layer shear (effective or 0-6 km):** 25 knots or greater for organized storms, 35 kts or greater for mid-level rotation (mesocyclones)
- **0-1 km shear (cool season or transition):** 20 knots or greater for low-level rotation (mesocyclones)
- **LCL height (cool season/transition):** < 4000 ft (1200 m) is favorable to hinder the occurrence of overly strong downdrafts that would break up low level circulations.



# PROGRAM OUTLINE

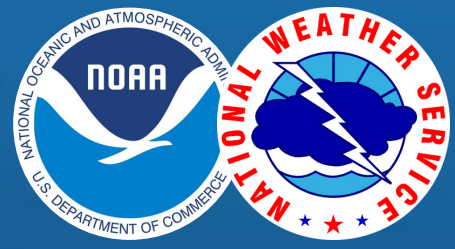
## PART I

- Organized Storm Ingredients
- Storm Classification
- Tornadoes & Land Spouts
- The Monsoon

## PART II

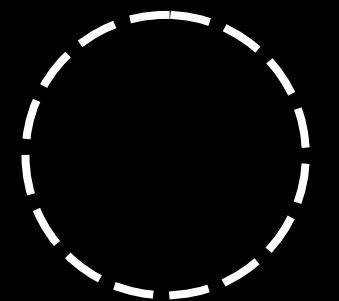
- Mesoanalysis Tools
- Radar Analysis
- Case Studies



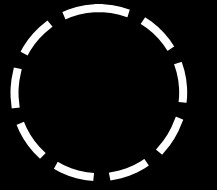


# What is Radar?

- RADAR is **R**Adio **D**etection **A**nd **R**anging
- In use since World War II
- Most efficient means of detecting precipitation
- Current NWS network radar is the Weather Surveillance Radar (WSR) 88D



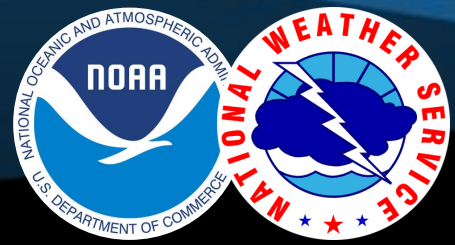
# How Does Radar Work?



- Transmitter sends short burst of radio waves
- Waves travel at the speed of light
- When waves strike a target, a small portion is reflected back to the antenna (Reflectivity)
- System keeps track of direction/distance, plots areas of Reflectivity ("echoes")
- System repeats process about 1,000 times a second!

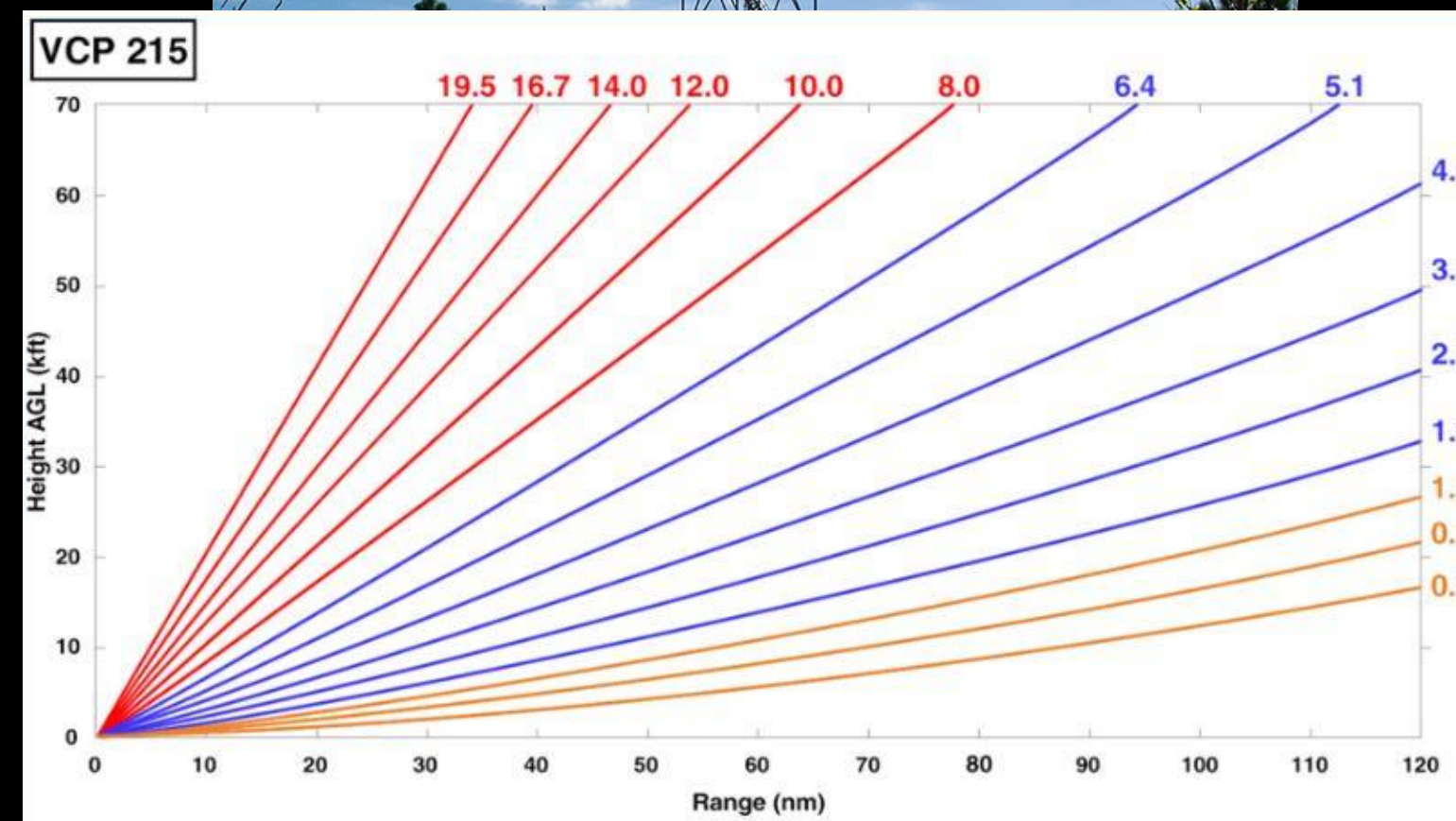


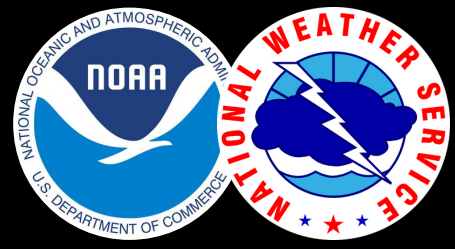




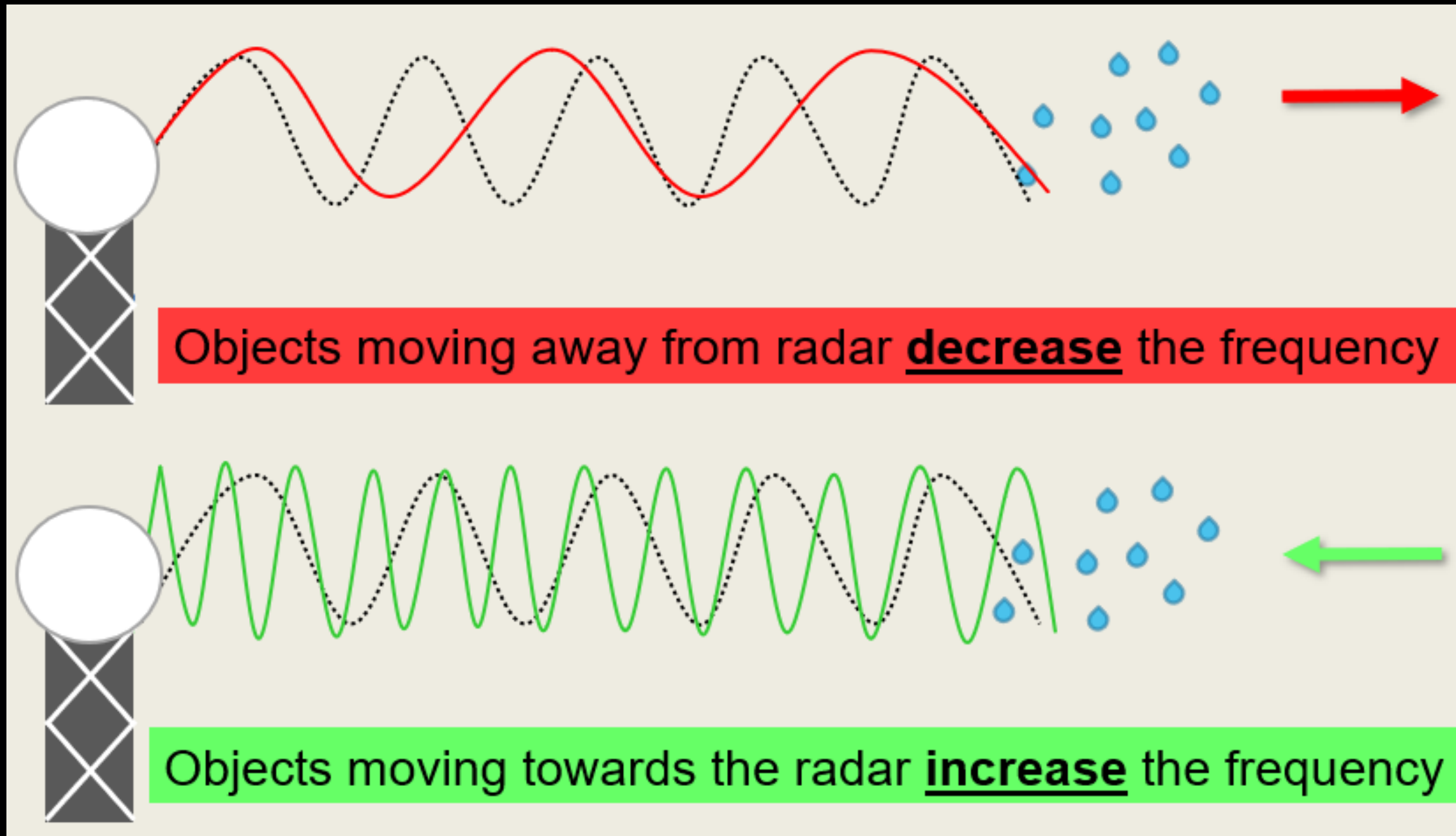
# WSR-88D Overview

- Doppler radar with supporting computer algorithms
- Uses “volume scans” to sample atmosphere
- Base reflectivity and velocity for each elev.
- “Derived products” generated for each volume scan





# WSR-88D Velocity



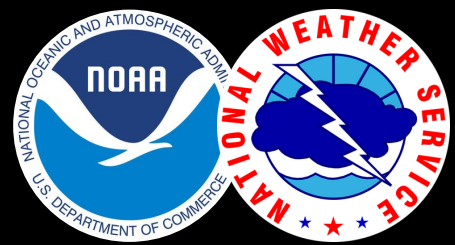


# RADAR Limitations

## Beam Spreading

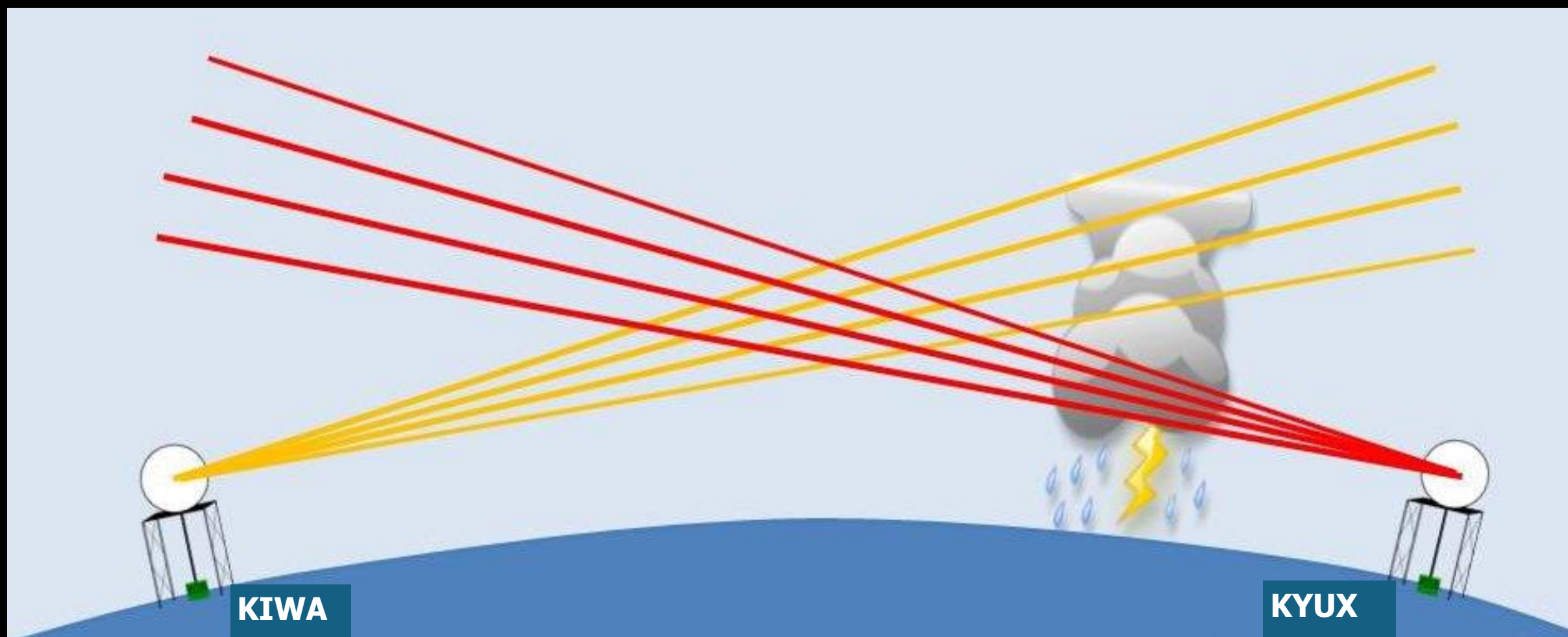


- Width of beam depends on distance from the radar
- Expands ~1,000 feet every 10 miles
- At 60 miles out, beam is 6,000 feet wide
- Affects resolution capability of radar
- Small features easily seen at close range become obscured at long distances



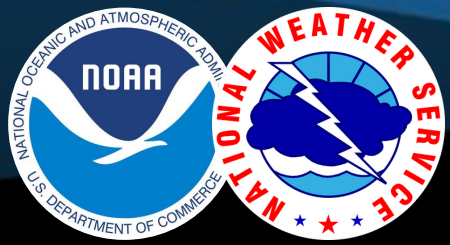
# RADAR Limitations

## Curvature

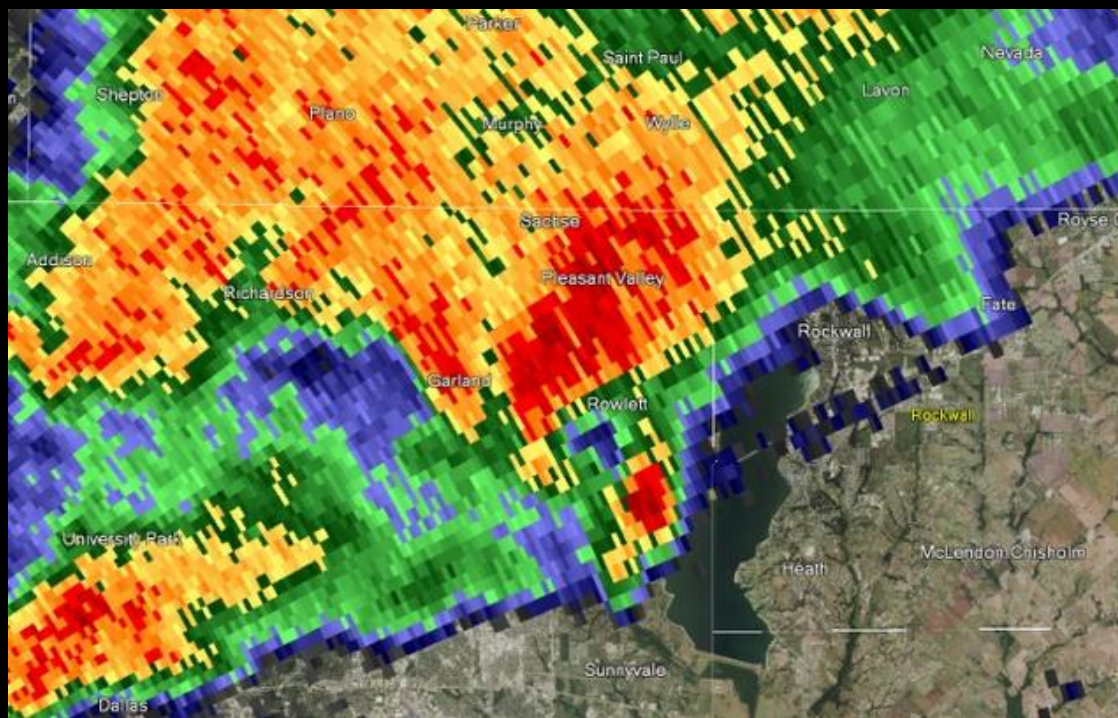


Due to the curvature of the earth, the radar beam will increase in height relative to the ground – meaning only higher and higher hydrometeors will be detected. At increasing distances, low objects become undetectable.





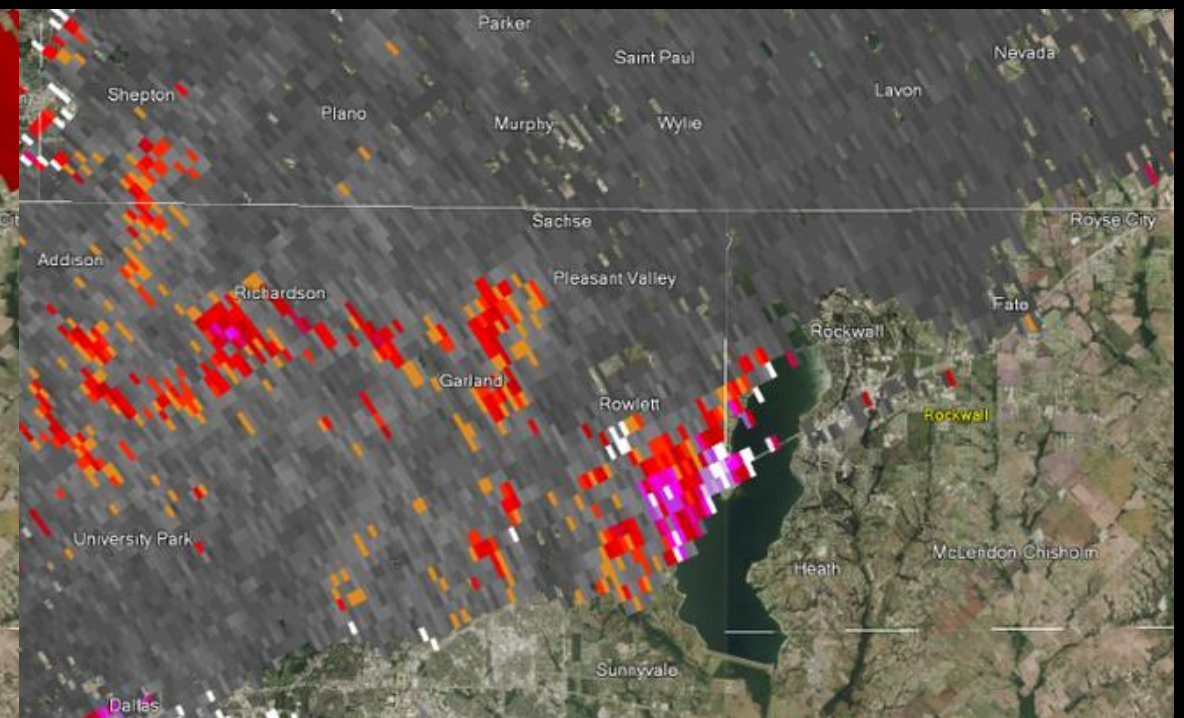
# Classic Radar Products



**Reflectivity**

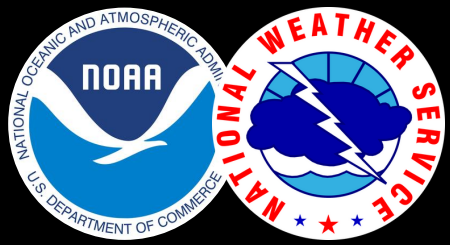


**Velocity**

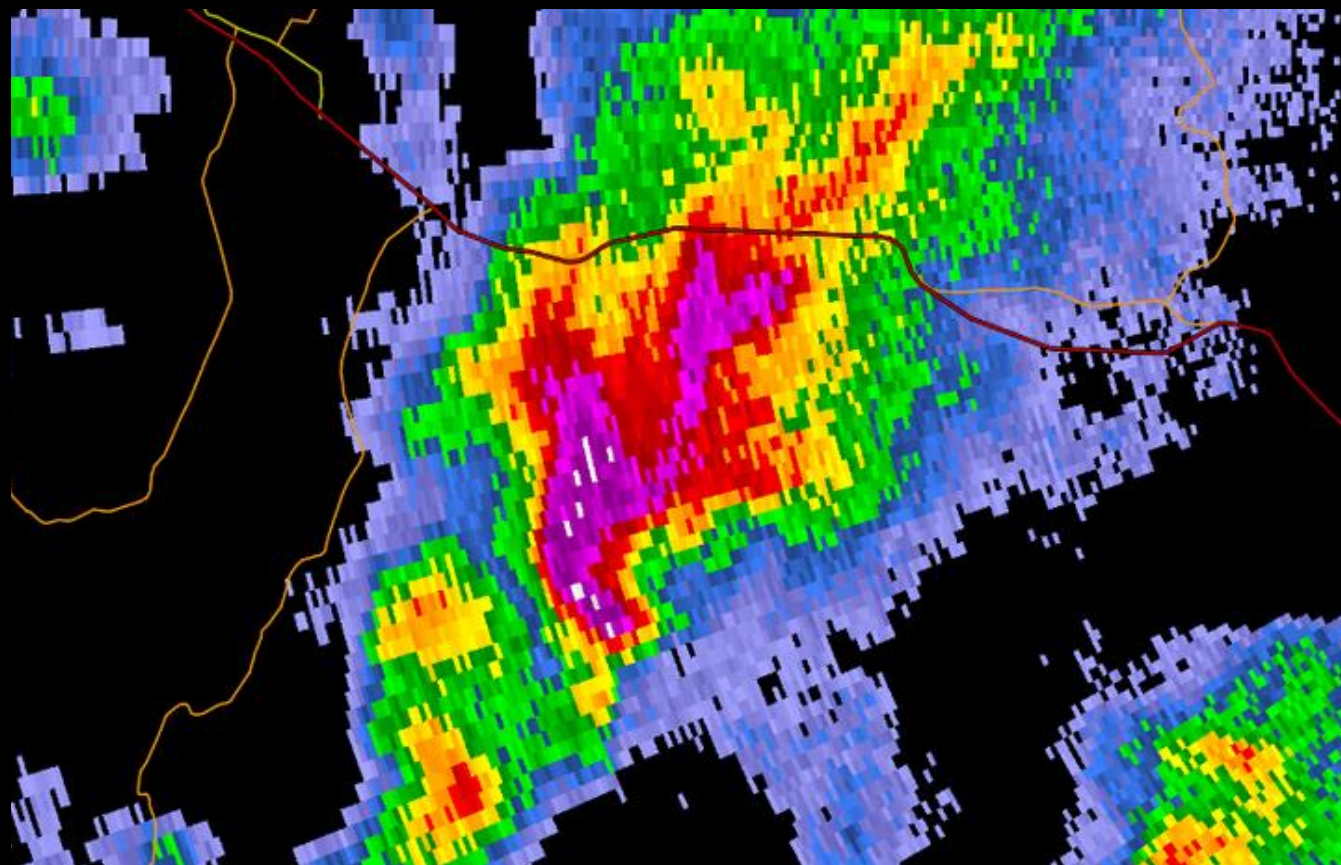


**Spectrum Width**





# Reflectivity: What & How Much



- Measures returned power back to the radar from a target
- Intensity of meteorological target is inferred from the power return
- Larger particles return more energy than smaller ones
- Units of dBZ
- Scale from -35 to +85 dBZ

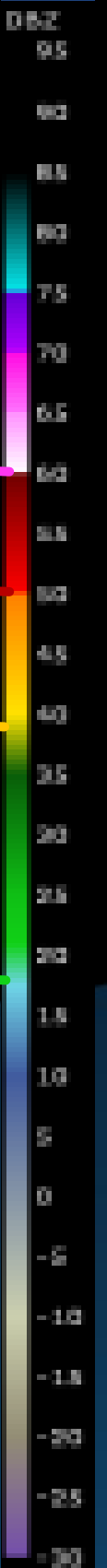
**Extremely Heavy  
or hail**

**Heavy**

**Moderate**

**Light**

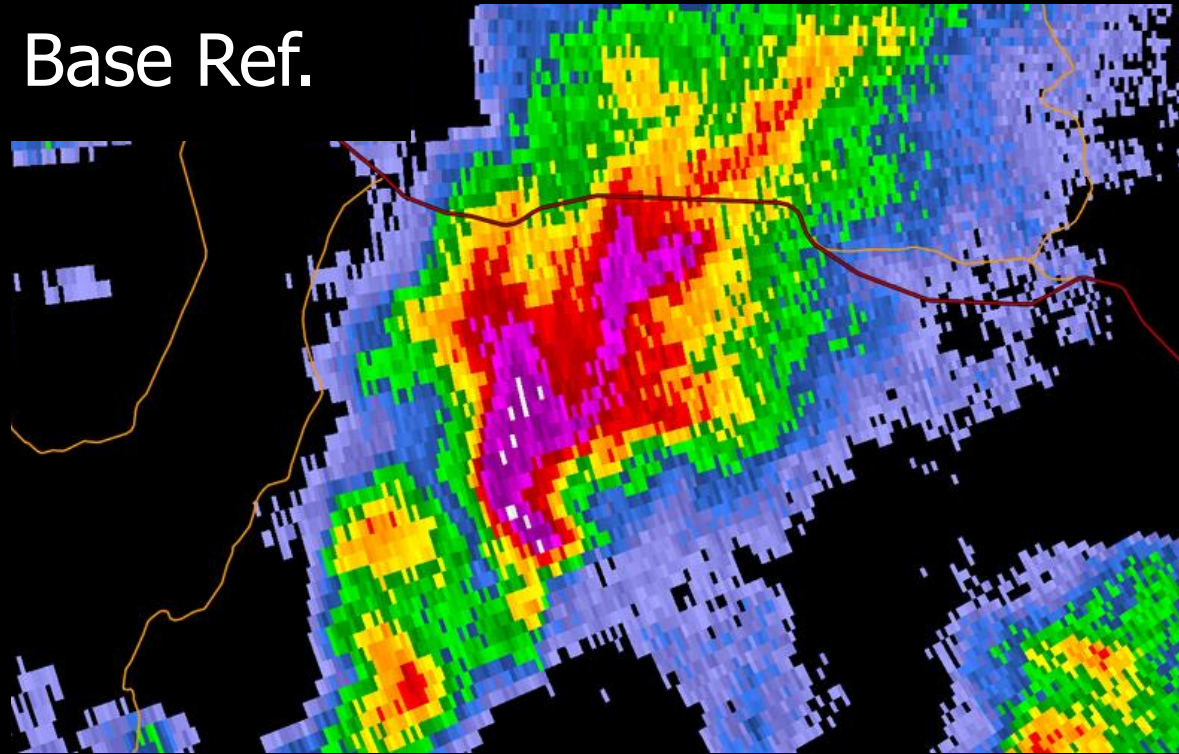
**Extremely  
Light**



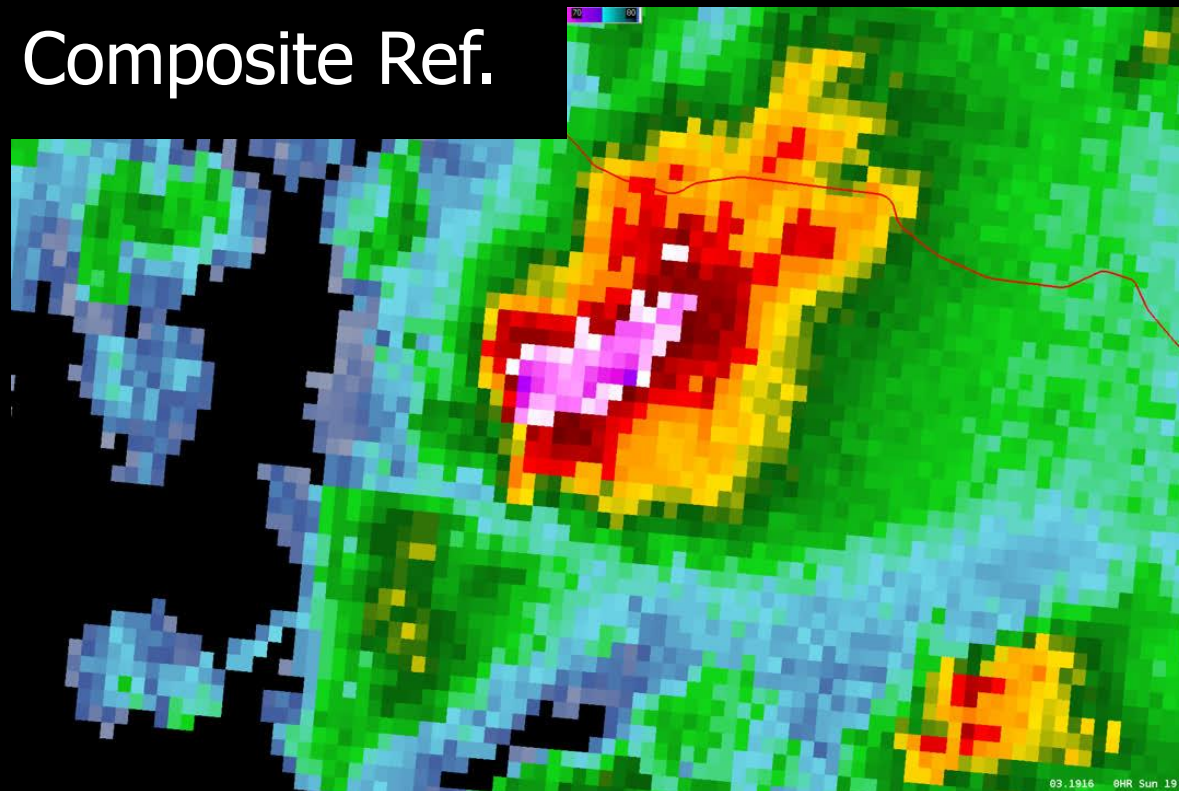


# Base vs. Composite Reflectivity

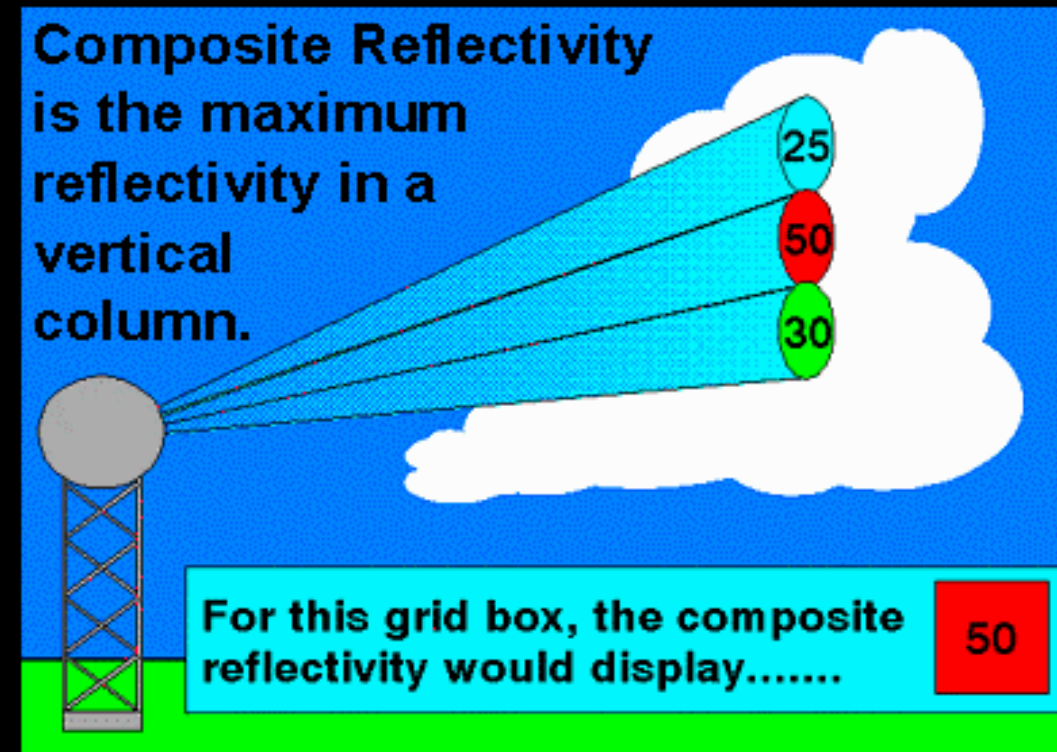
Base Ref.



Composite Ref.

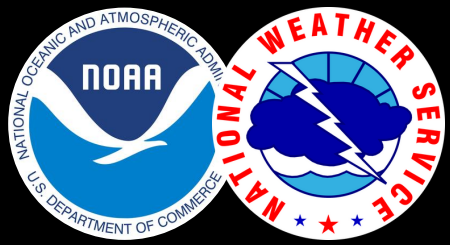


Composite Reflectivity is the maximum reflectivity in a vertical column.



- BR is useful to identify details. Notice the hook echo not seen in Composite Reflectivity!
- CR is useful for large area surveillance – especially when storms are high based.

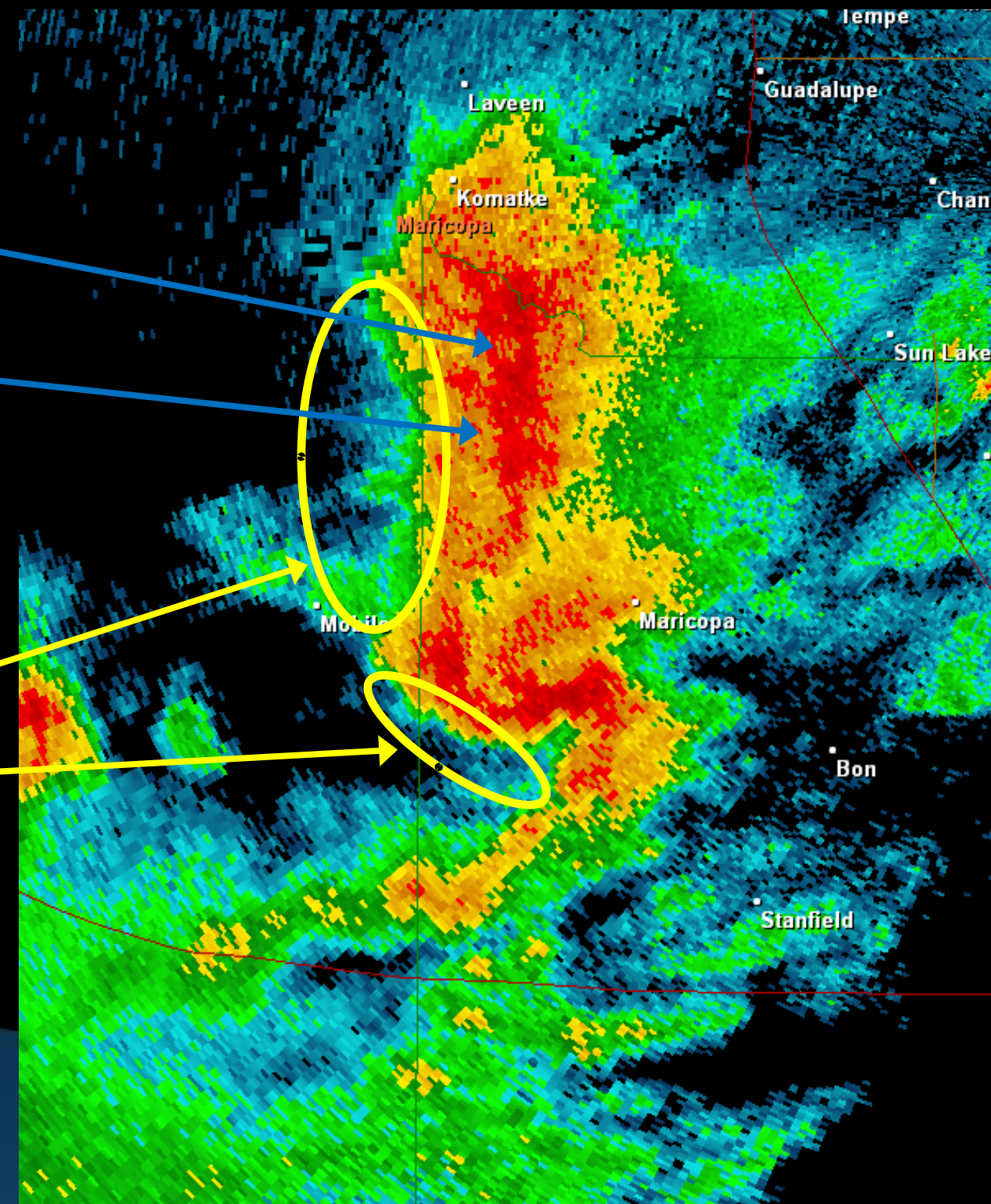




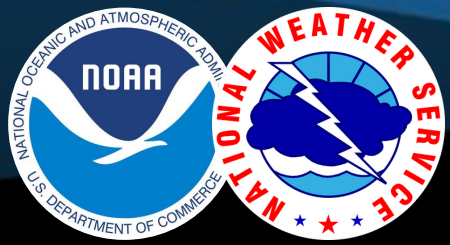
# Radar Applications: Reflectivity

High reflectivity =  
very heavy rain &  
possible hail

Tight reflectivity  
gradient =  
updraft/downdraft  
interface



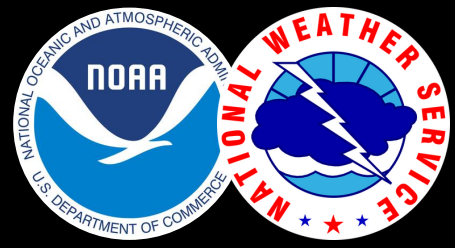




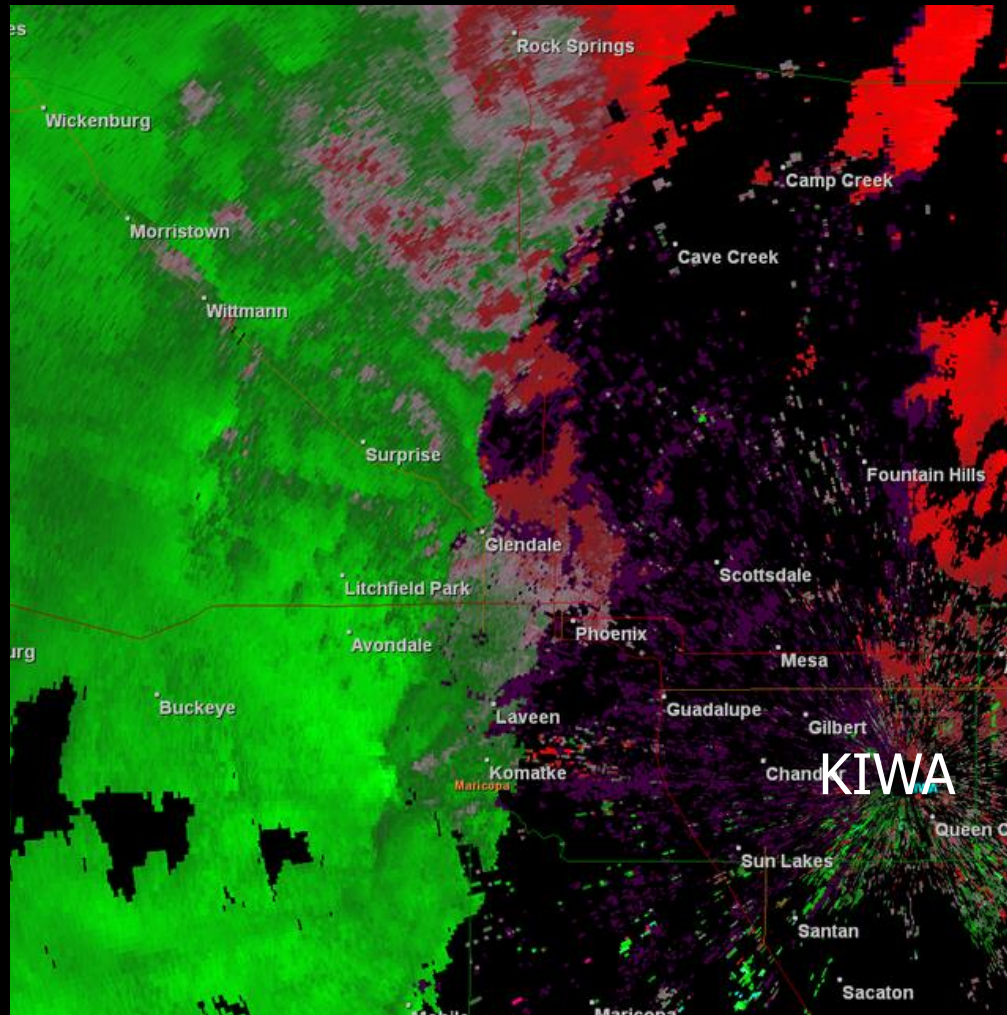
# Radar Applications: Reflectivity



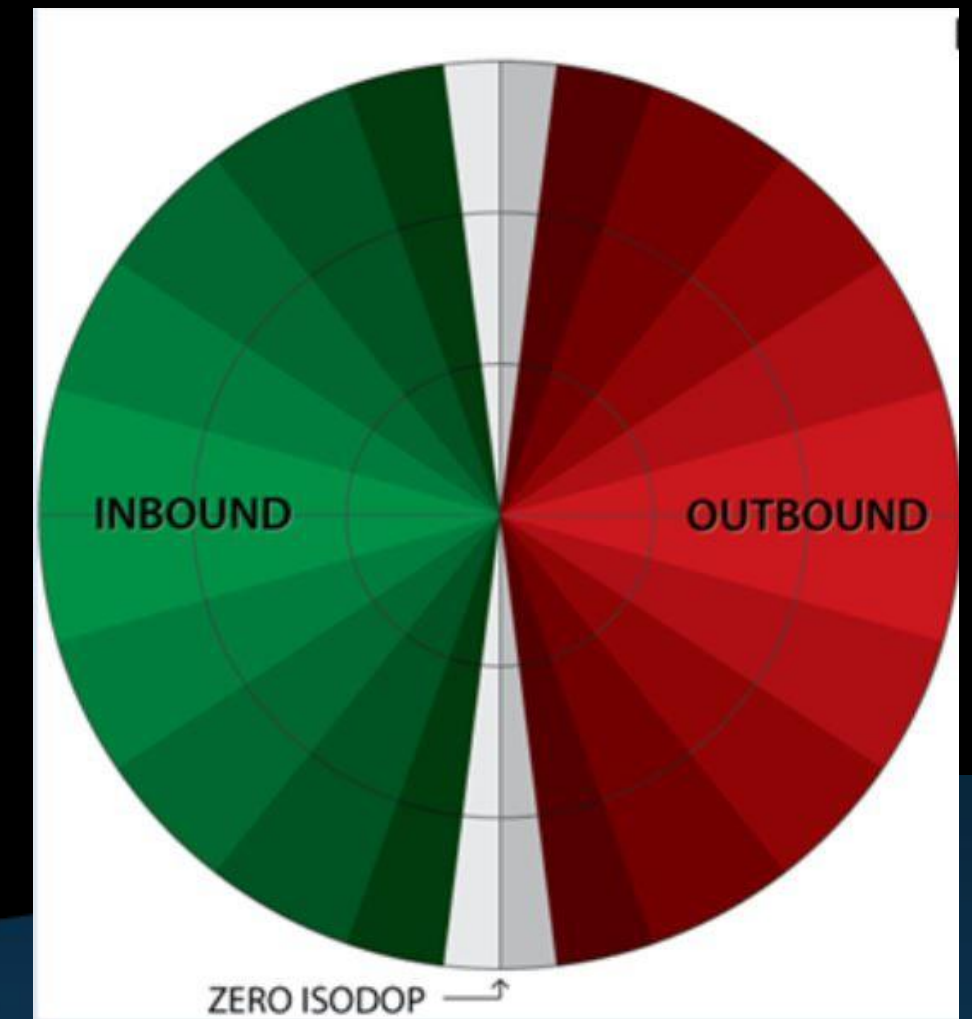




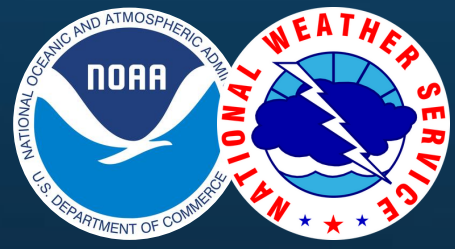
# Velocity: Which Direction & How Fast



- **Radial velocity** is the component of the true velocity that is moving parallel to the beam.
- When the radar beam is perpendicular to the direction of motion, radial velocity will be **zero**.







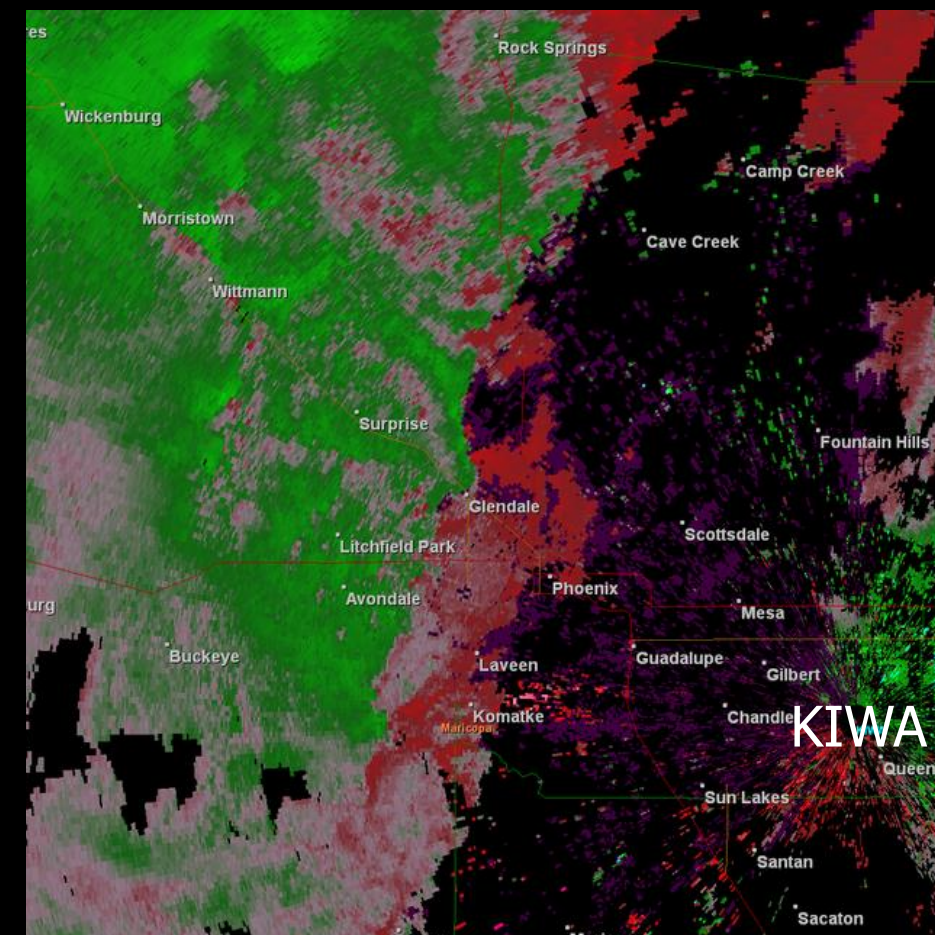
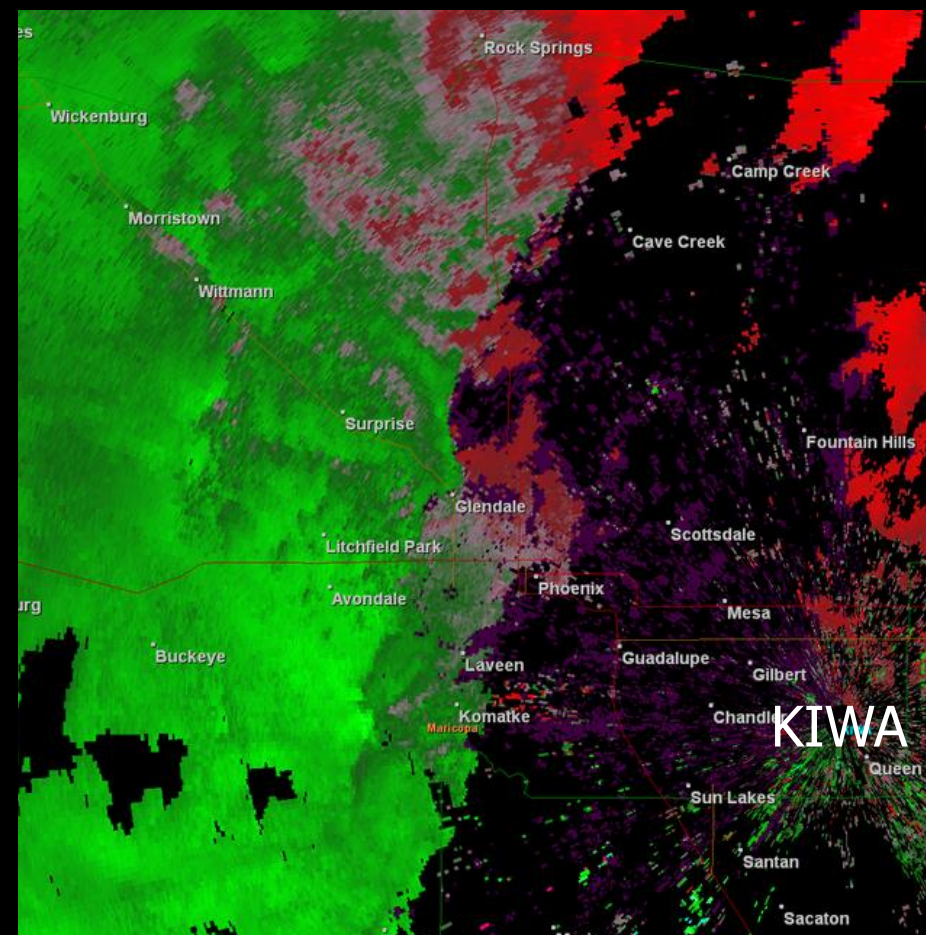
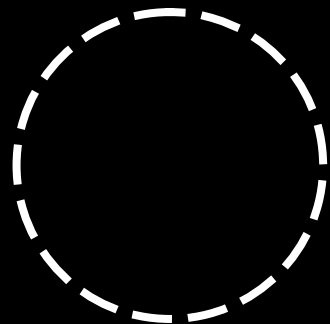
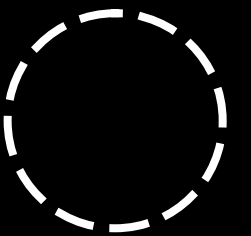
# Base Velocity vs. Storm Relative Velocity

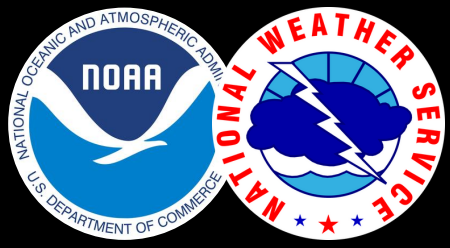
## Base Velocity

- Ground relative
- **Best for estimating straight line wind speeds**
- Can estimate inflow if a storm is close to the radar

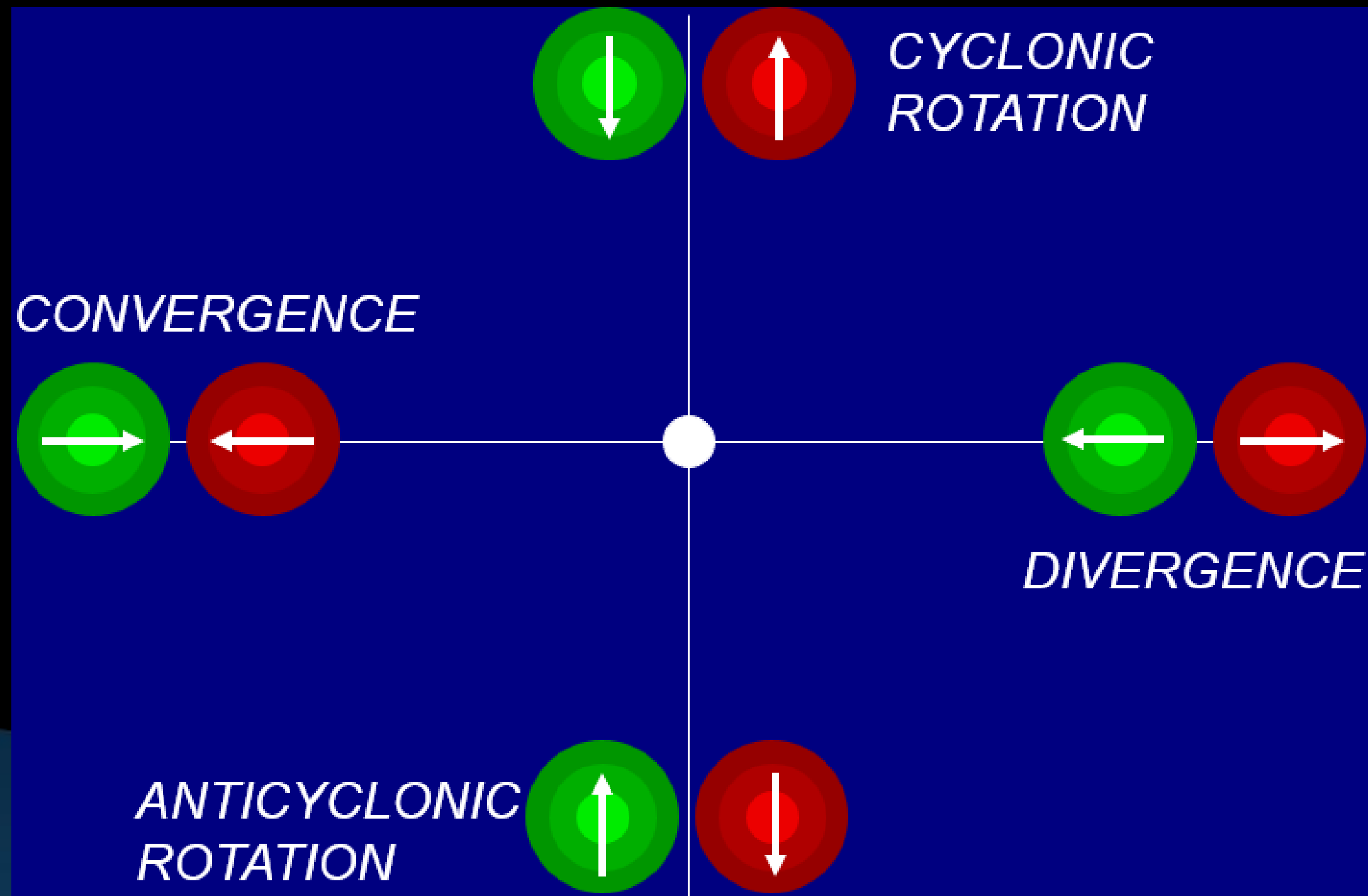
## Storm Relative Velocity

- Storm motion subtracted out
- **Best for identifying rotation**
- Good for convergence/divergence

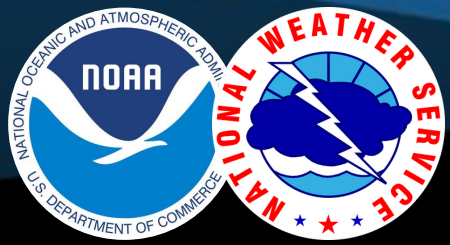




# Radial Velocity Signatures

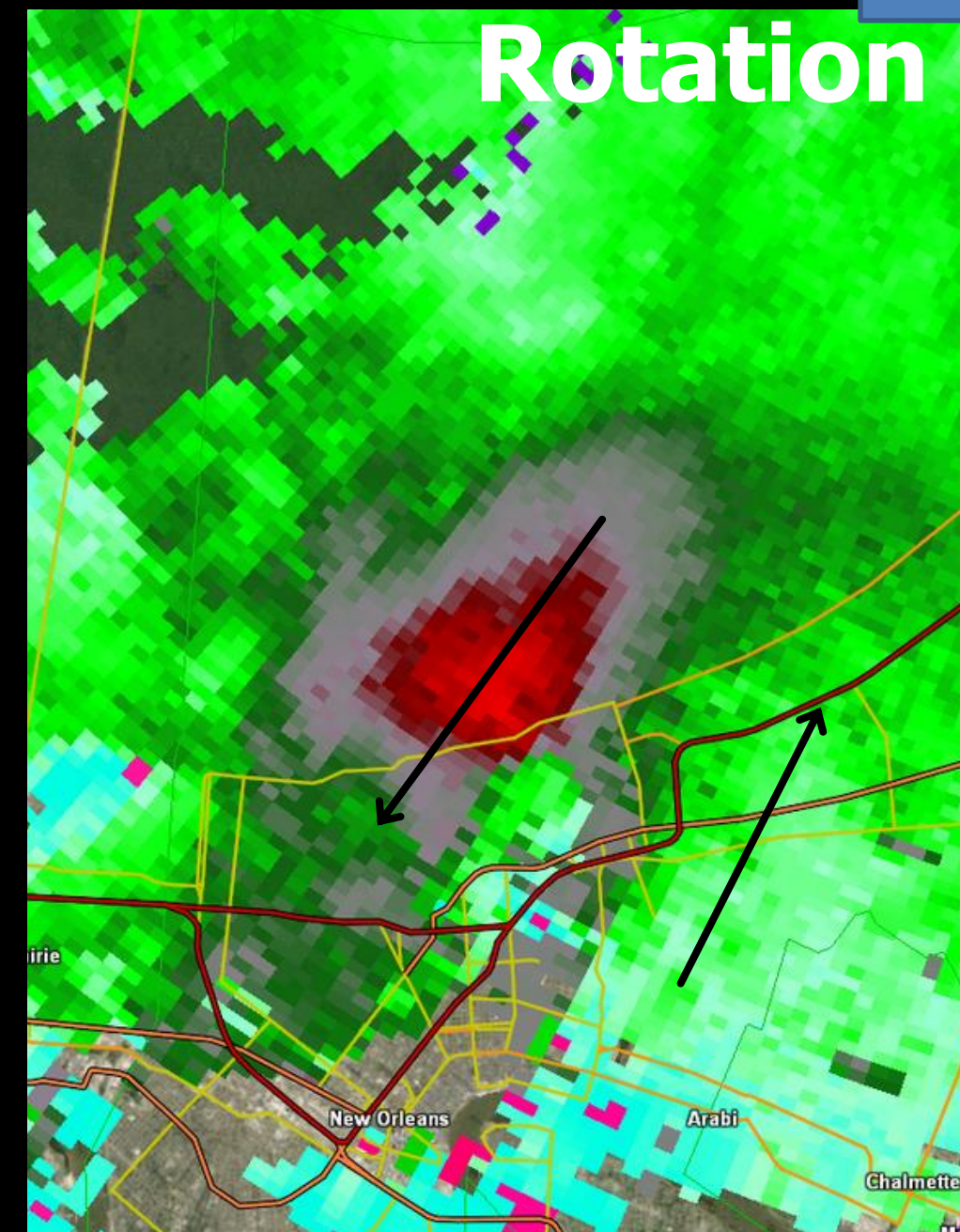
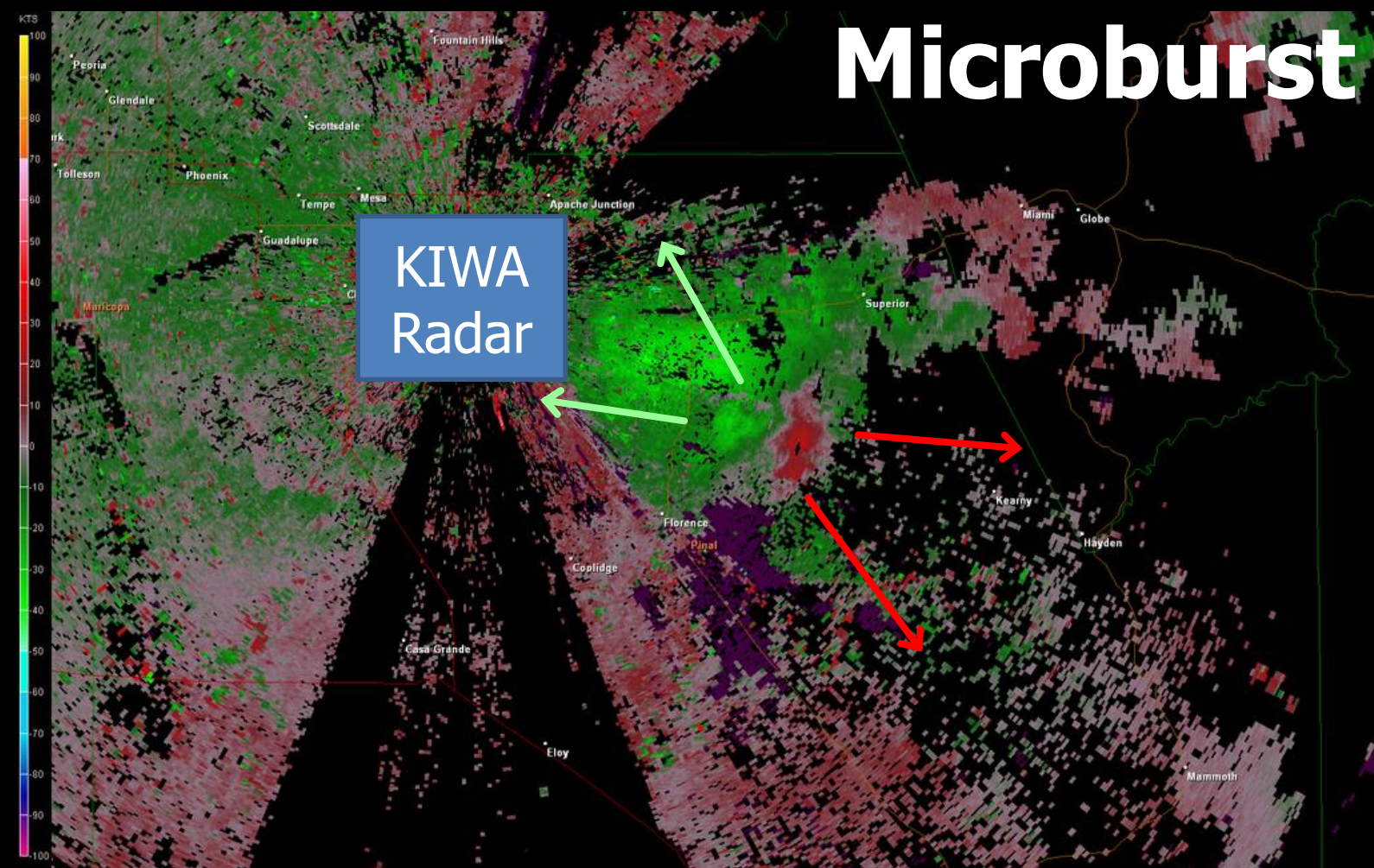






# Velocity Signatures

Radar  
Location





# Spectrum Width: Variability of Motion

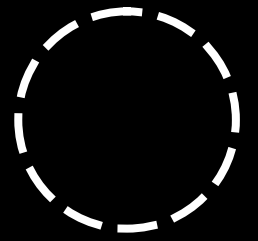
- A measure of how much Doppler velocity varies within a radar bin
- Higher spectrum width means more variation in velocity
- High spectrum width can indicate turbulent motion, but can also highlight data quality issues



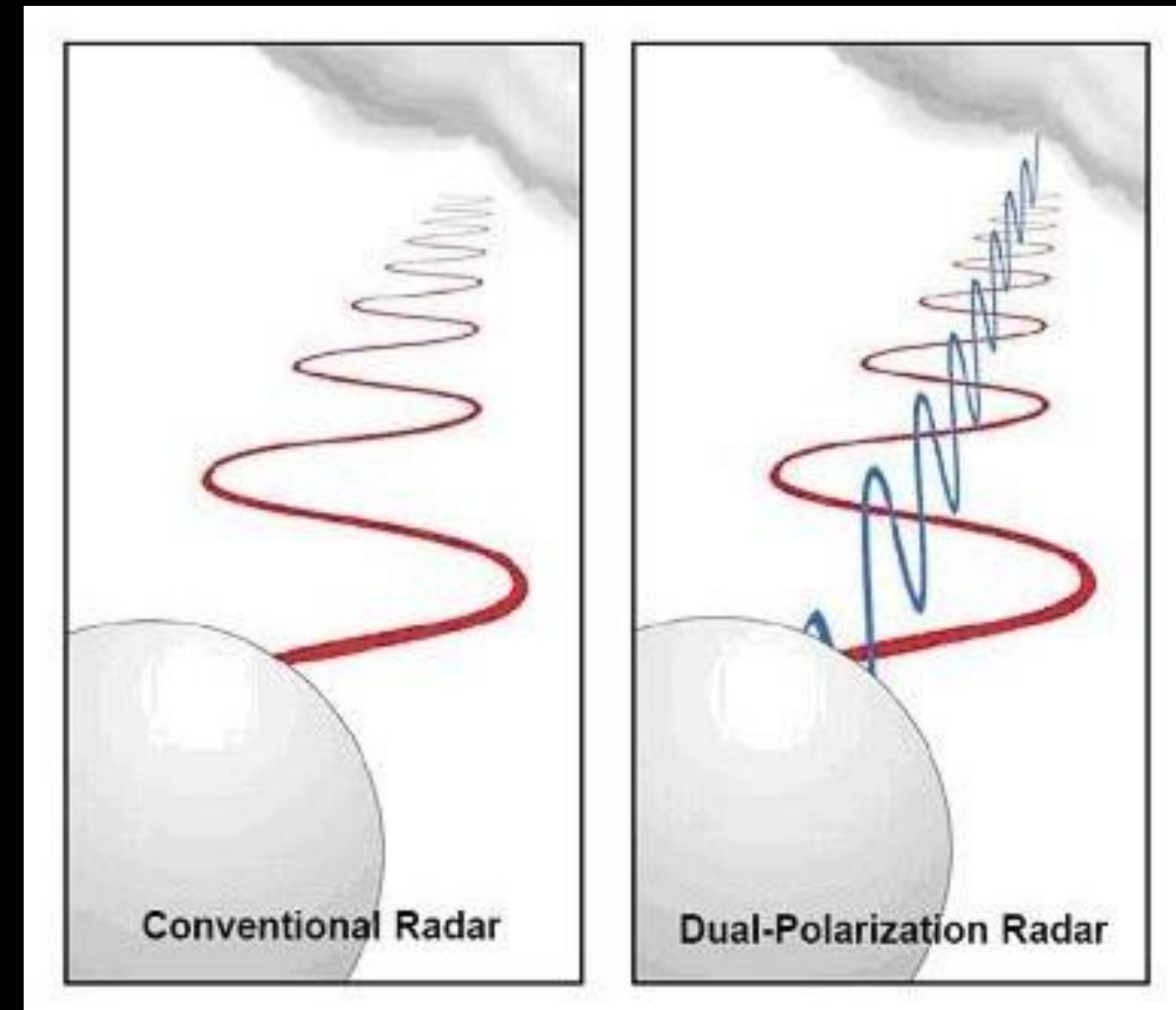
(adapted from Nai et al., 2020)

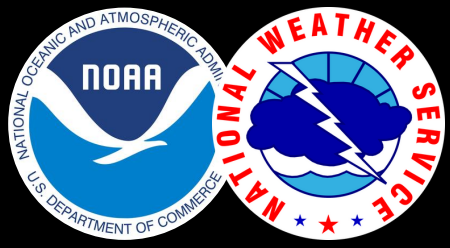


# Dual Polarization



- Conventional radar radio waves “vibrate” in the horizontal
  - Best for detecting “flat” raindrops
- Dual polarization waves “vibrate” in the vertical and the horizontal
  - Detects more details associated with precipitation shape and size

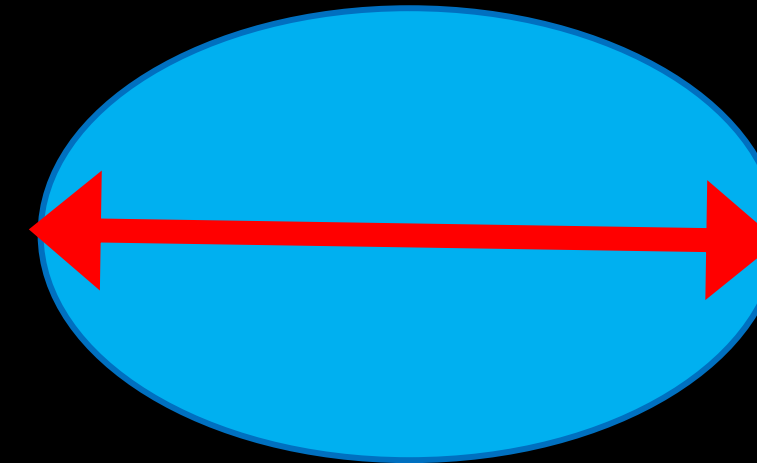




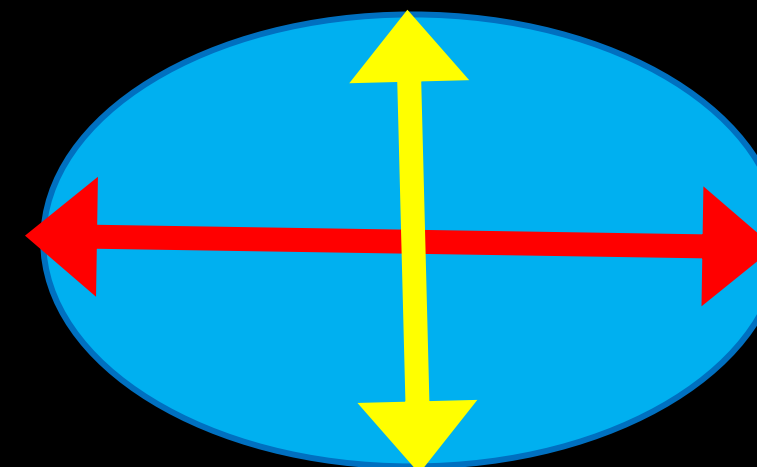
# Dual Polarization



*Reflected Energy → Reflectivity*

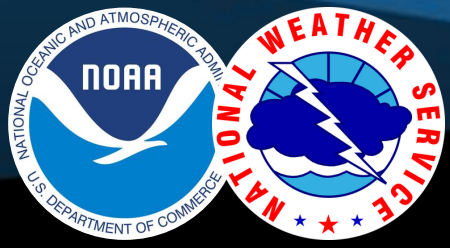


*Bigger the drop, the more energy reflected, the higher the reflectivity.*



*For a big drop, there is more energy reflected in the horizontal than vertical.*





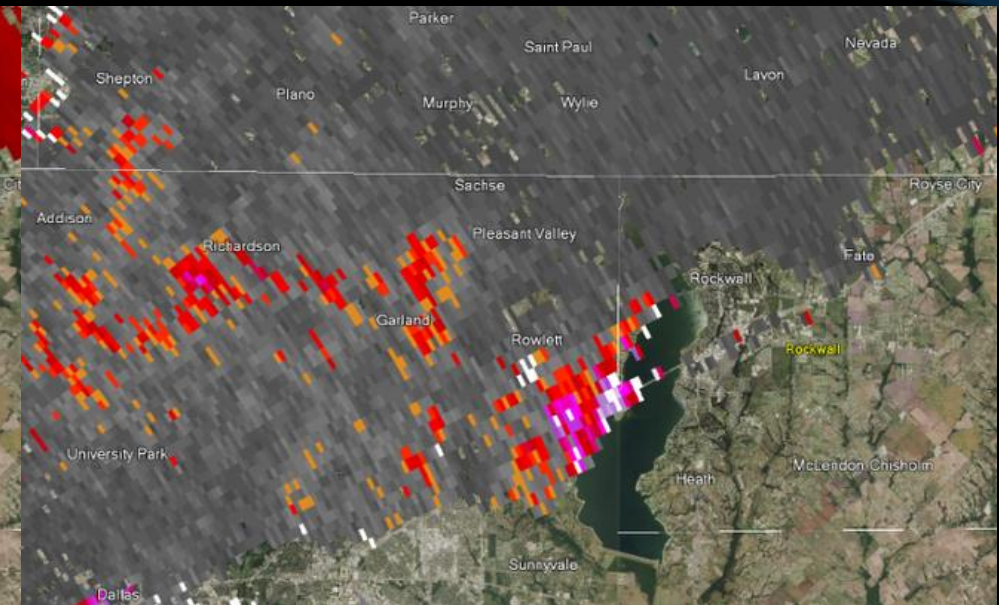
# Dual-Pol Radar Products



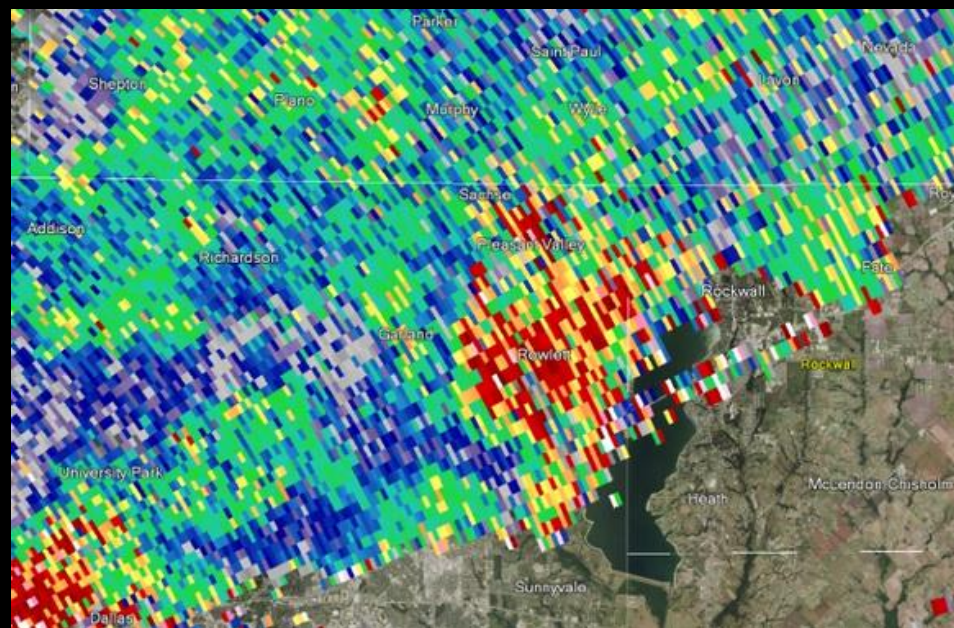
**Reflectivity**



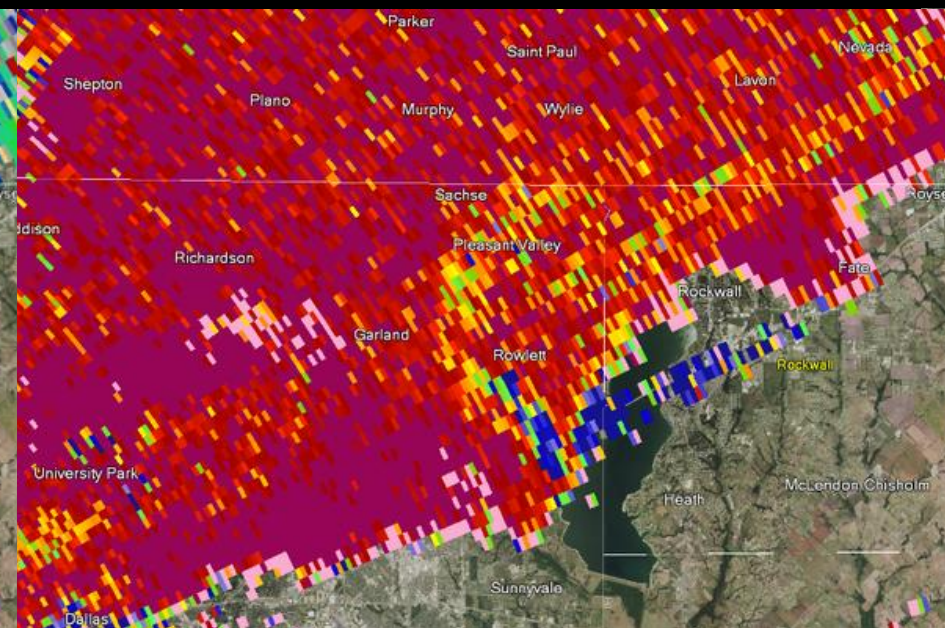
**Velocity**



**Spectrum Width**



**Differential Reflectivity**

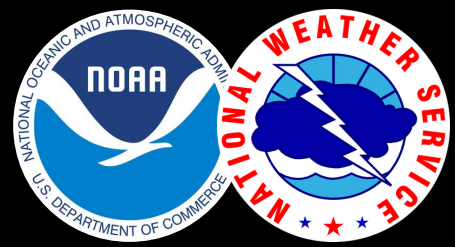


**Correlation Coefficient**



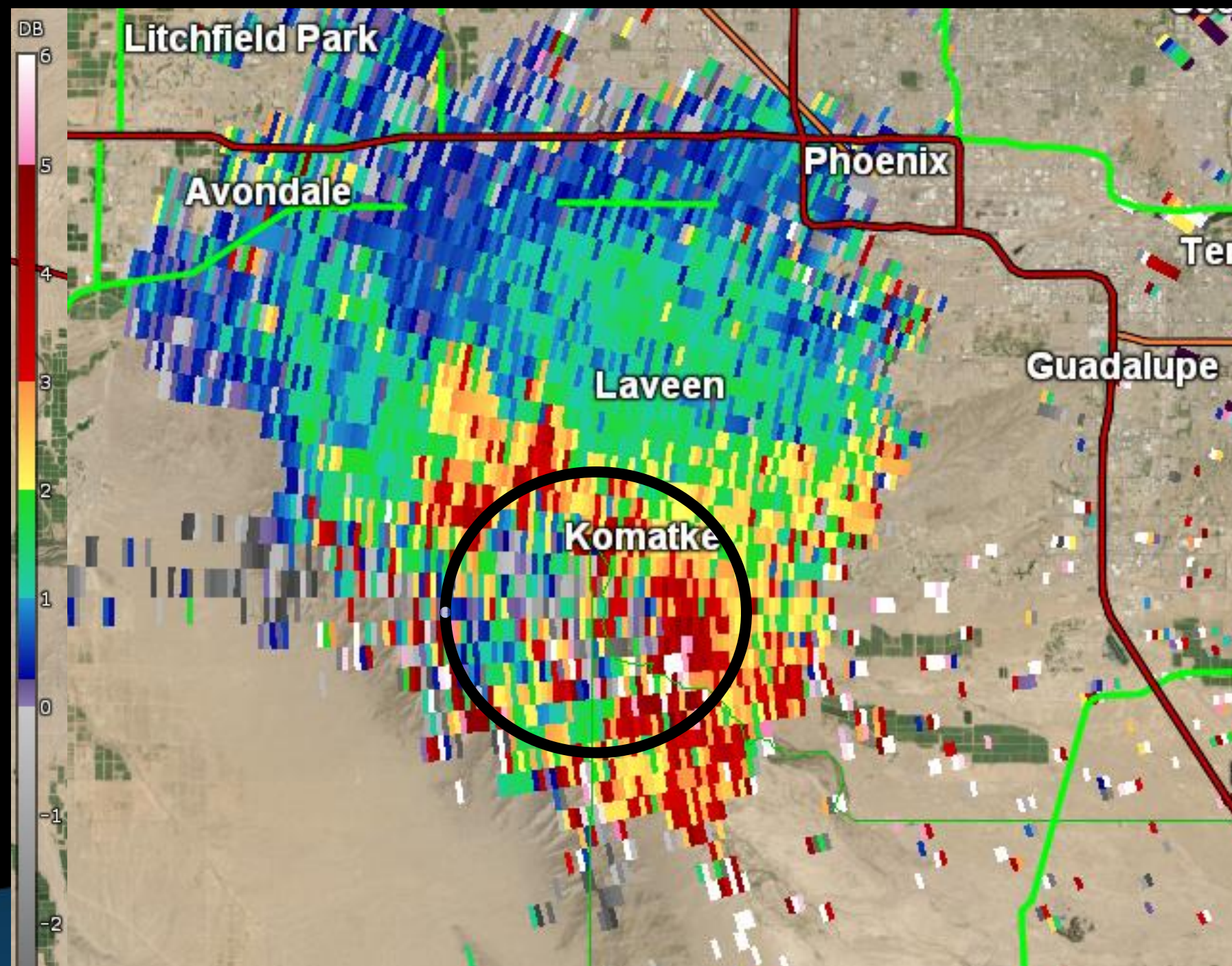
**Specific Differential Phase**



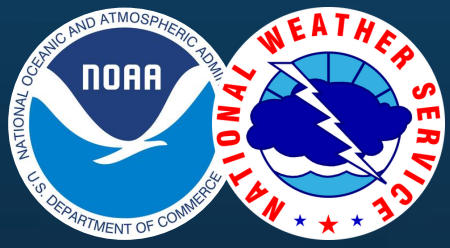


# Differential Reflectivity: What Shape

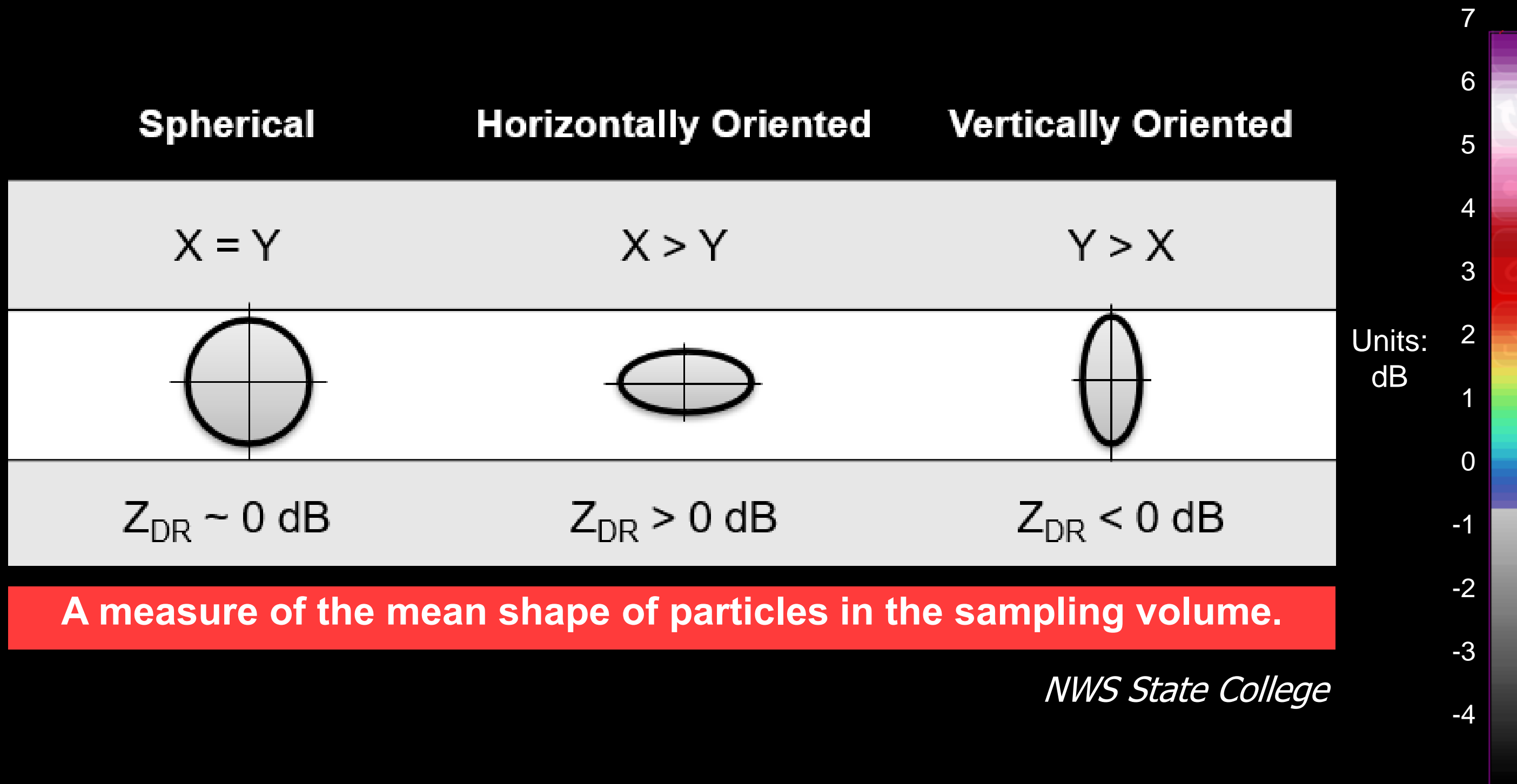
- Compares horizontal energy return to the vertical energy return
- High values are probably big (flat) raindrops
- Low values are either small raindrops or hail

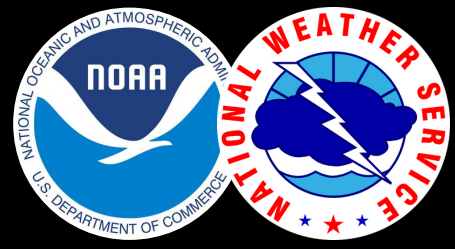






# Differential Reflectivity: What Shape



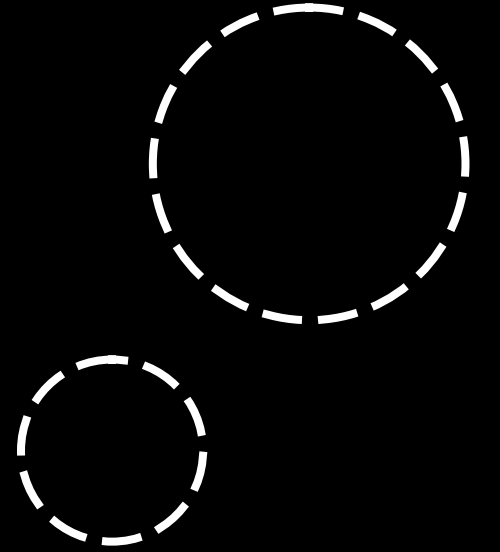


# Differential Reflectivity: What Shape

## Spherical particles



**ZDR = 0 dB**



## Small, non-spherical particles

Those with their major axis aligned in the **horizontal**:



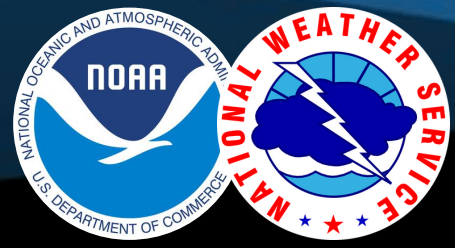
**ZDR > 0 dB**

Those with their major axis aligned in the **vertical**:



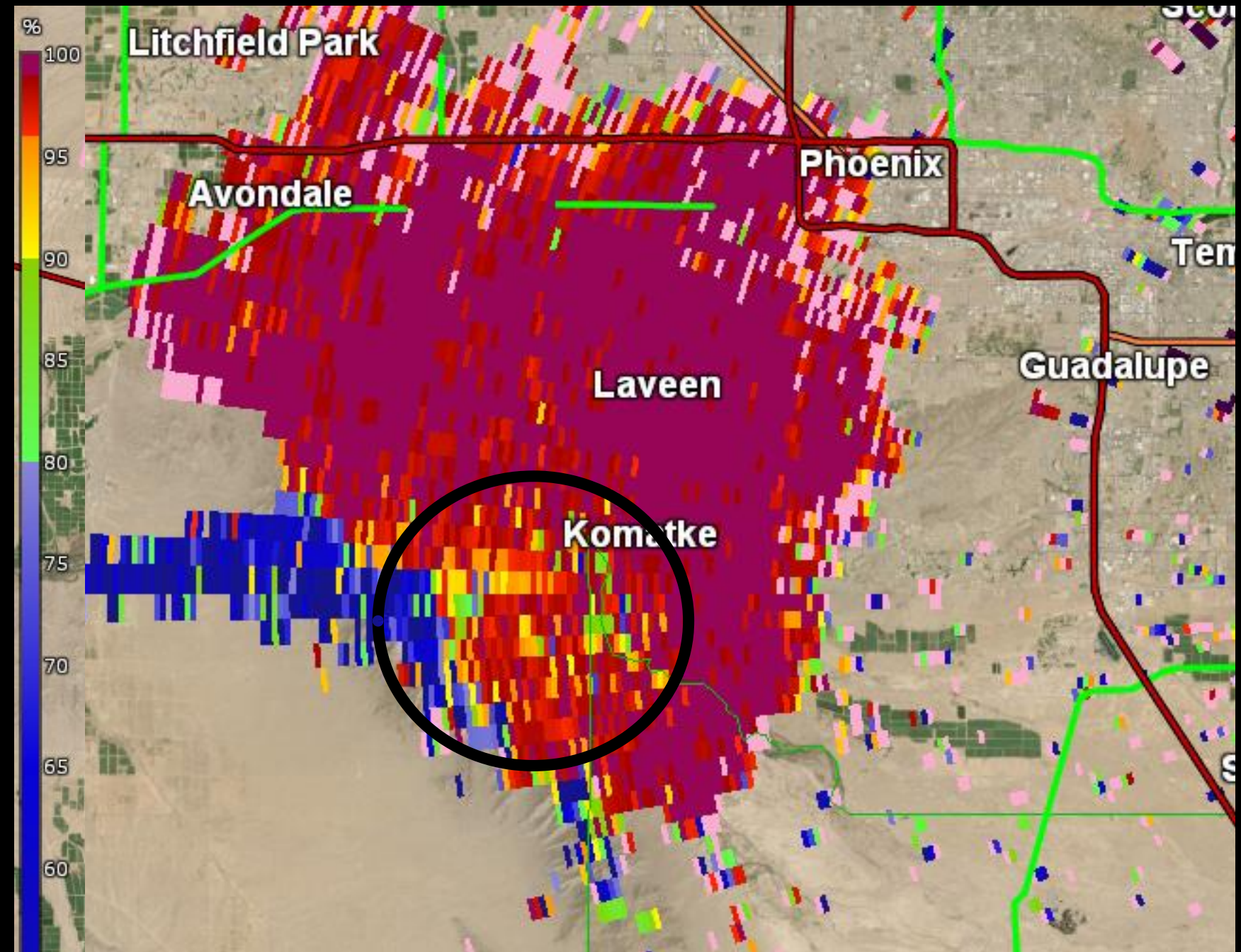
**ZDR < 0 dB**

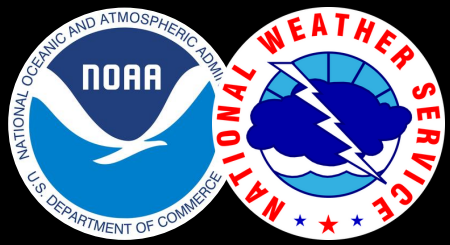




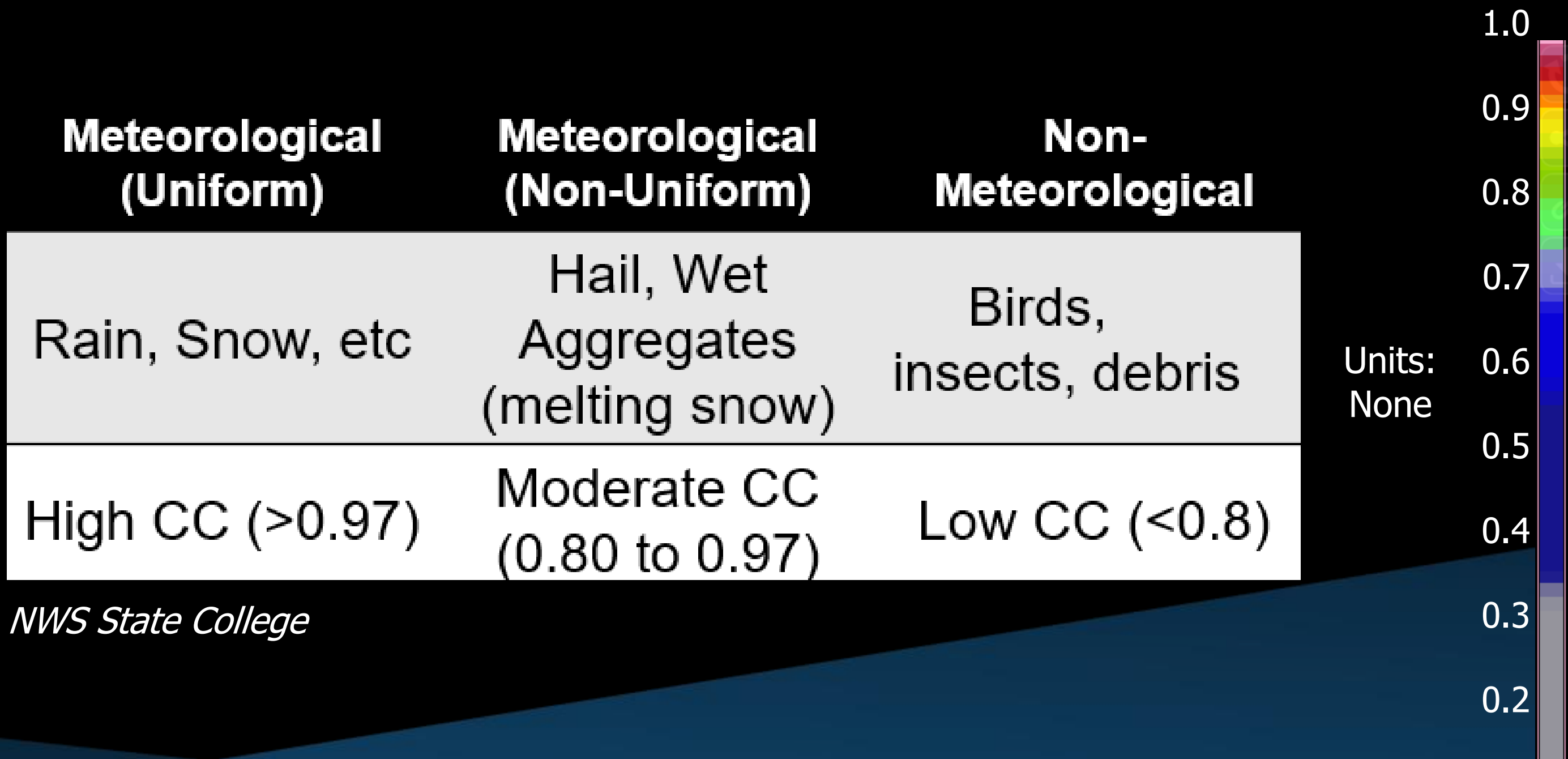
# Correlation Coefficient: How Similar

- Measures how similar precip. particles are
- High values = same type/size of particles
- Lower values = mixed rain/hail, non-weather targets



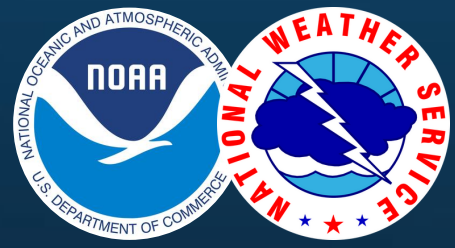


# Correlation Coefficient: How Similar



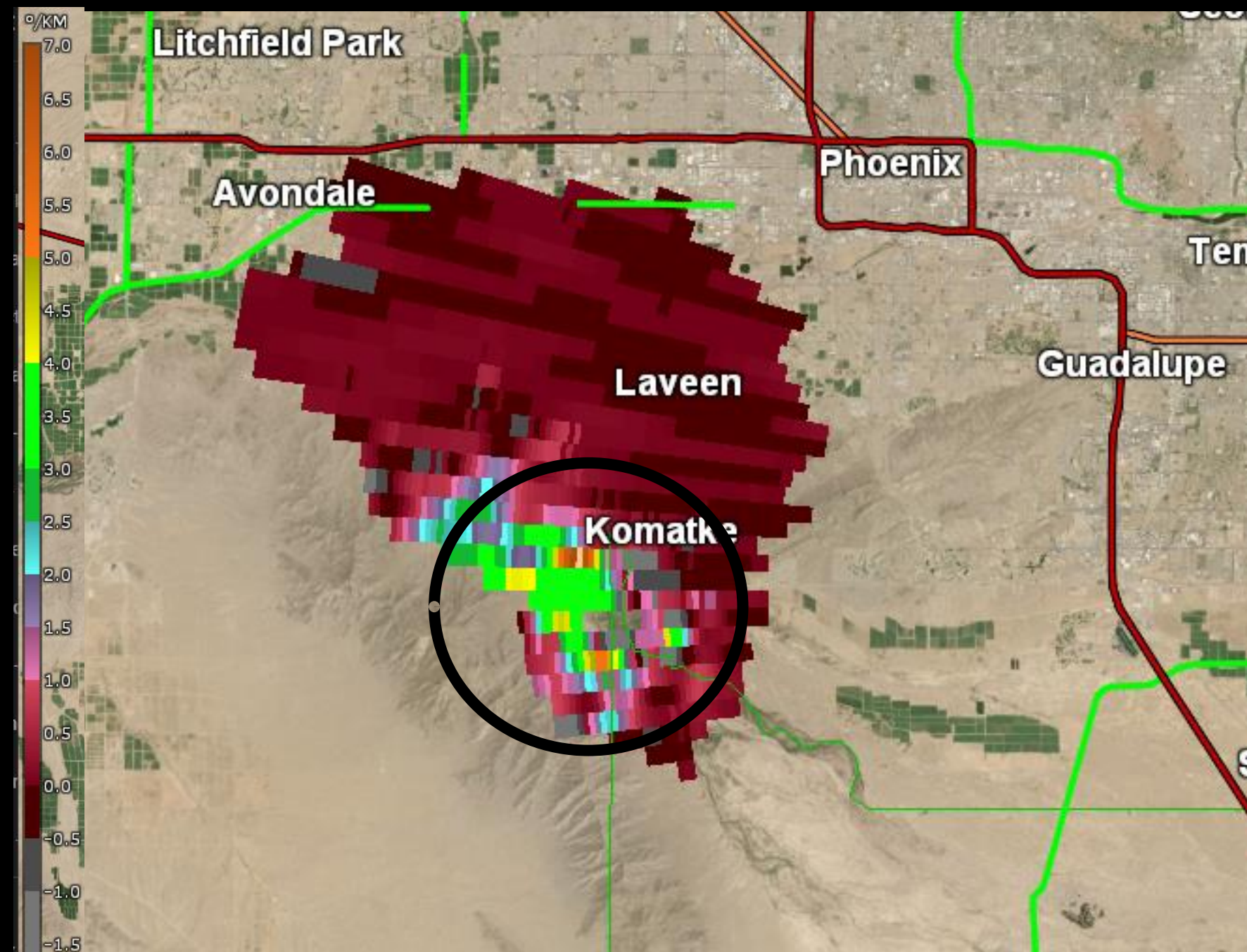
*NWS State College*

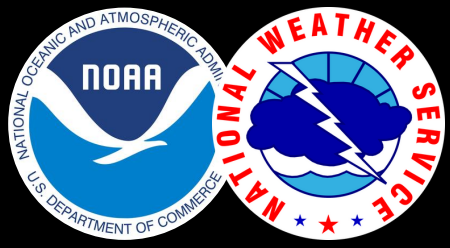




# Specific Differential Phase: How Many

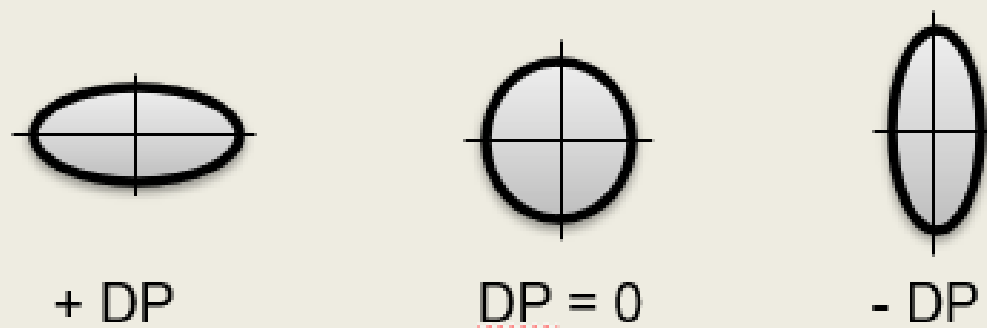
- Measures how the beam changes as it passes through precip.
- Big change = lots of raindrops
- Small change = fewer drops (maybe hail)
- Important for precip. estimates



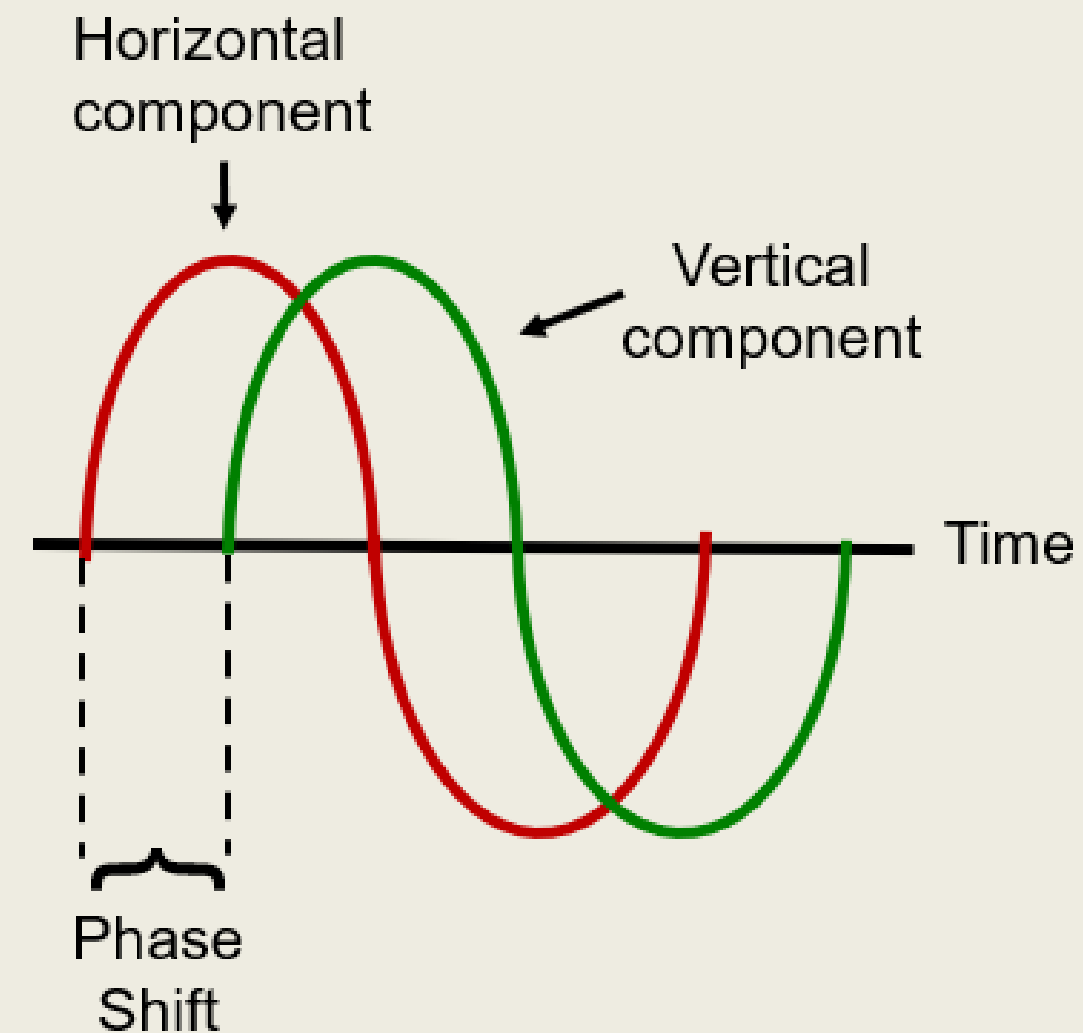
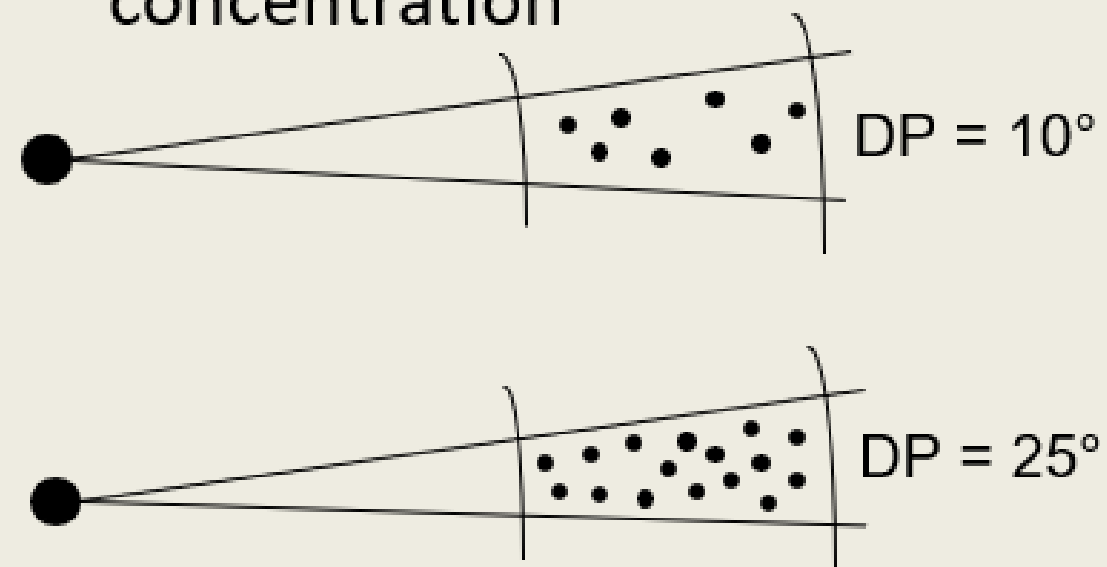


# Specific Differential Phase: Phase Shift

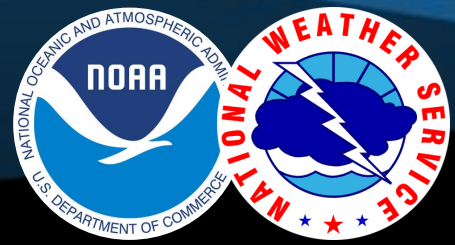
- Dependent on shape (like ZDR)



- Also affected by particle concentration

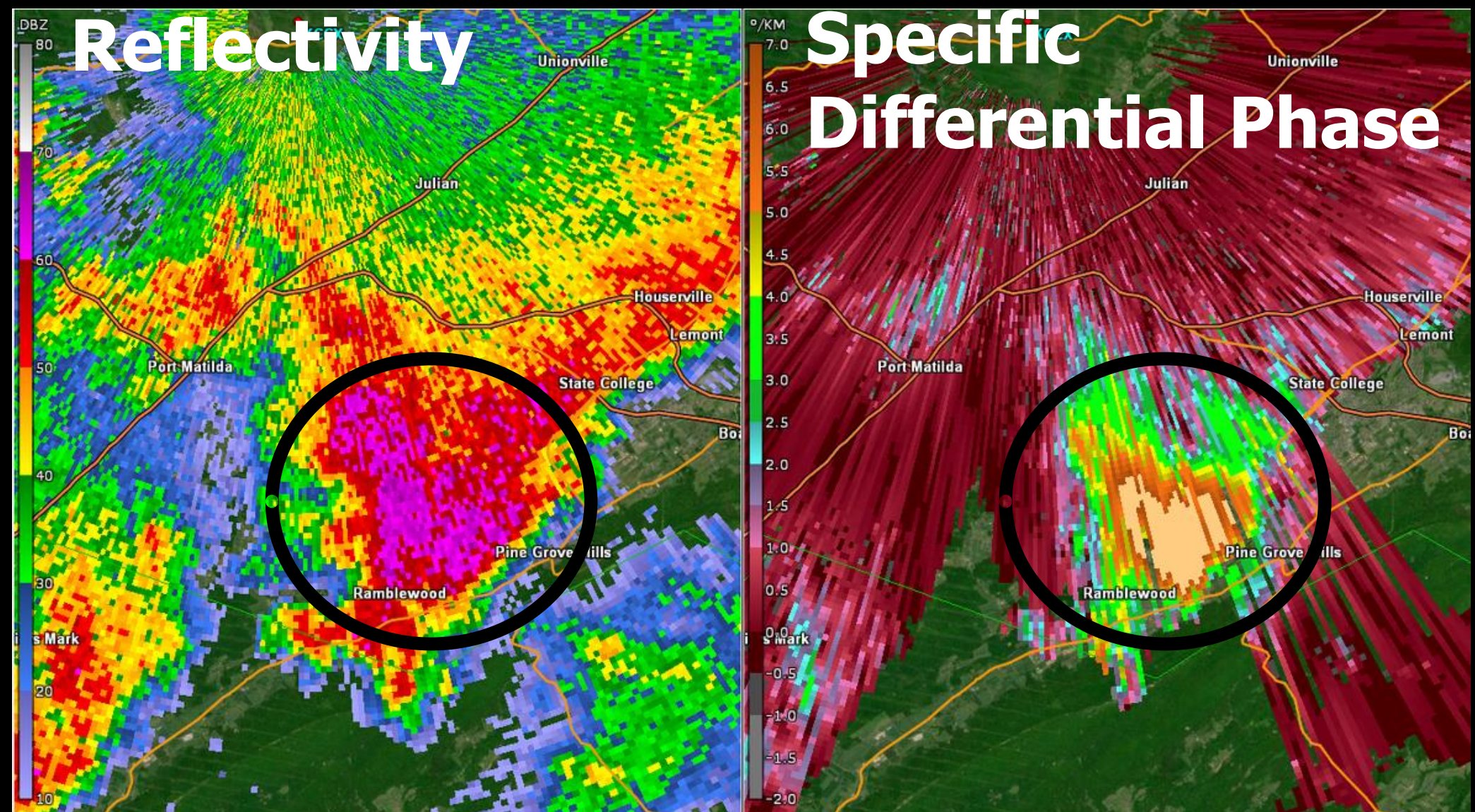




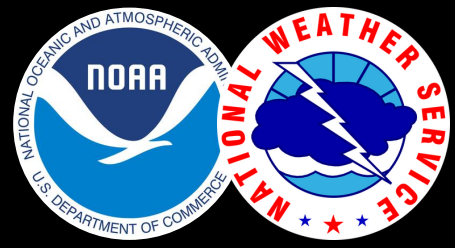


# Specific Differential Phase: Application

Large values of specific differential phase collocated with large values of reflectivity may indicate **very heavy rain** *or* **large amounts of small melting hail**







# PROGRAM OUTLINE

## PART I

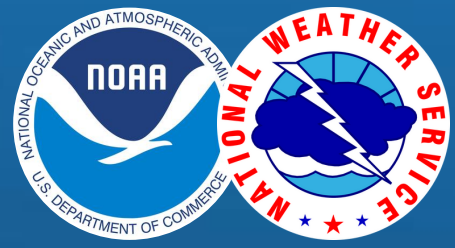
- Organized Storm Ingredients
- Storm Classification
- Tornadoes & Land Spouts
- The Monsoon

## PART II

- Mesoanalysis Tools
- Radar Analysis
- Case Studies

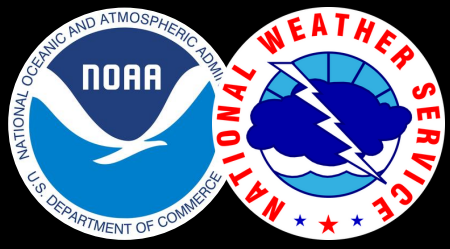






# CASE STUDY #1

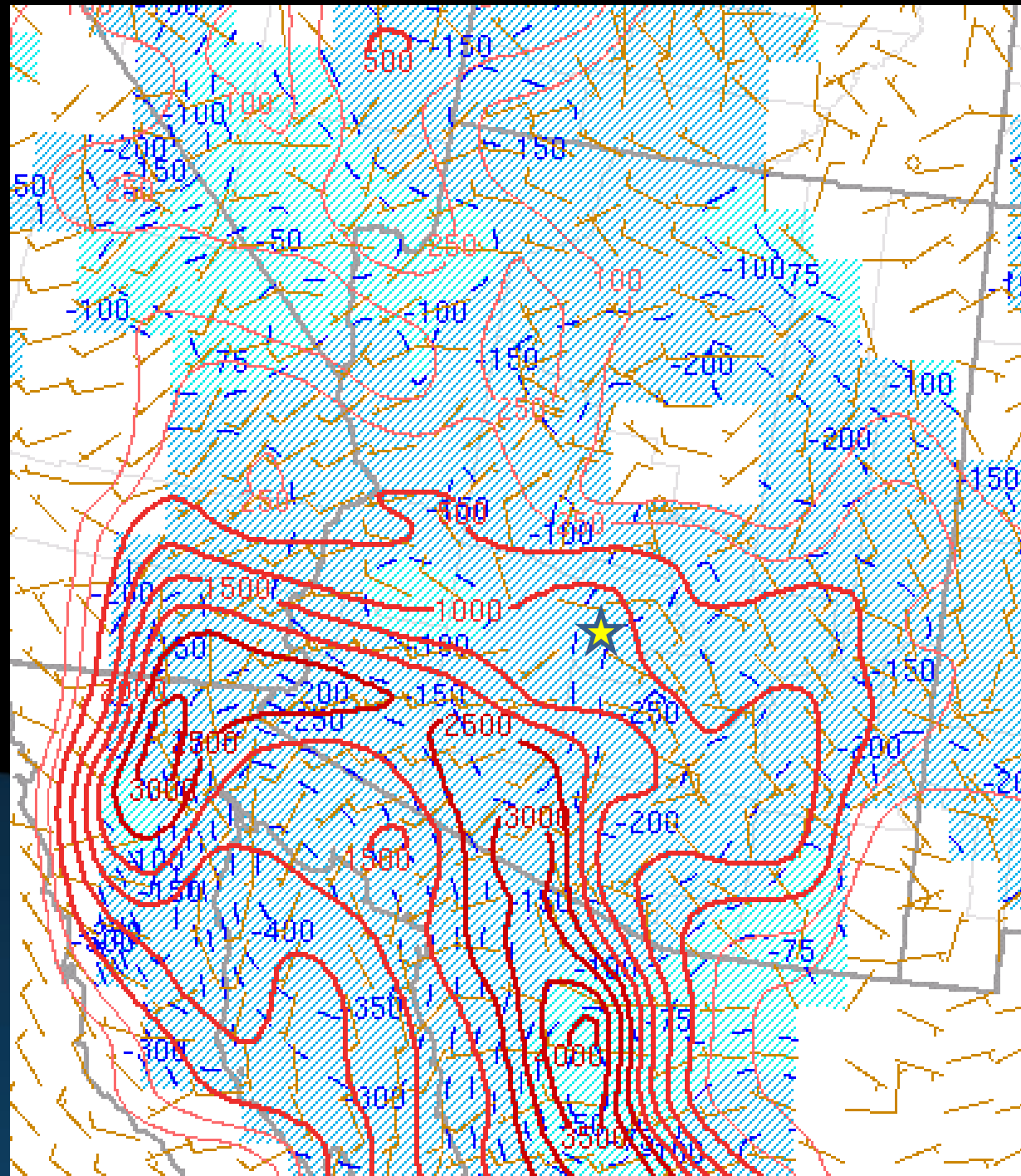
- Moisture/Instability
  - Moderate to high CAPE (1000 to 1500 J/kg MLCAPE)
  - Moderate to high CIN (-150 to -100 J/kg MLCIN)
  - Large DCAPE (1500+ J/kg)
  - Moderate LCL Heights (1000-2000 m)
- Environmental Winds/Shear
  - Weak deep shear (<<25 kts Effective Shear)
  - Weak low level shear (10 kts of 0-1 km shear at most)
  - Weak steering flow (5-10 kts 850mb-300mb)



# Thermodynamics

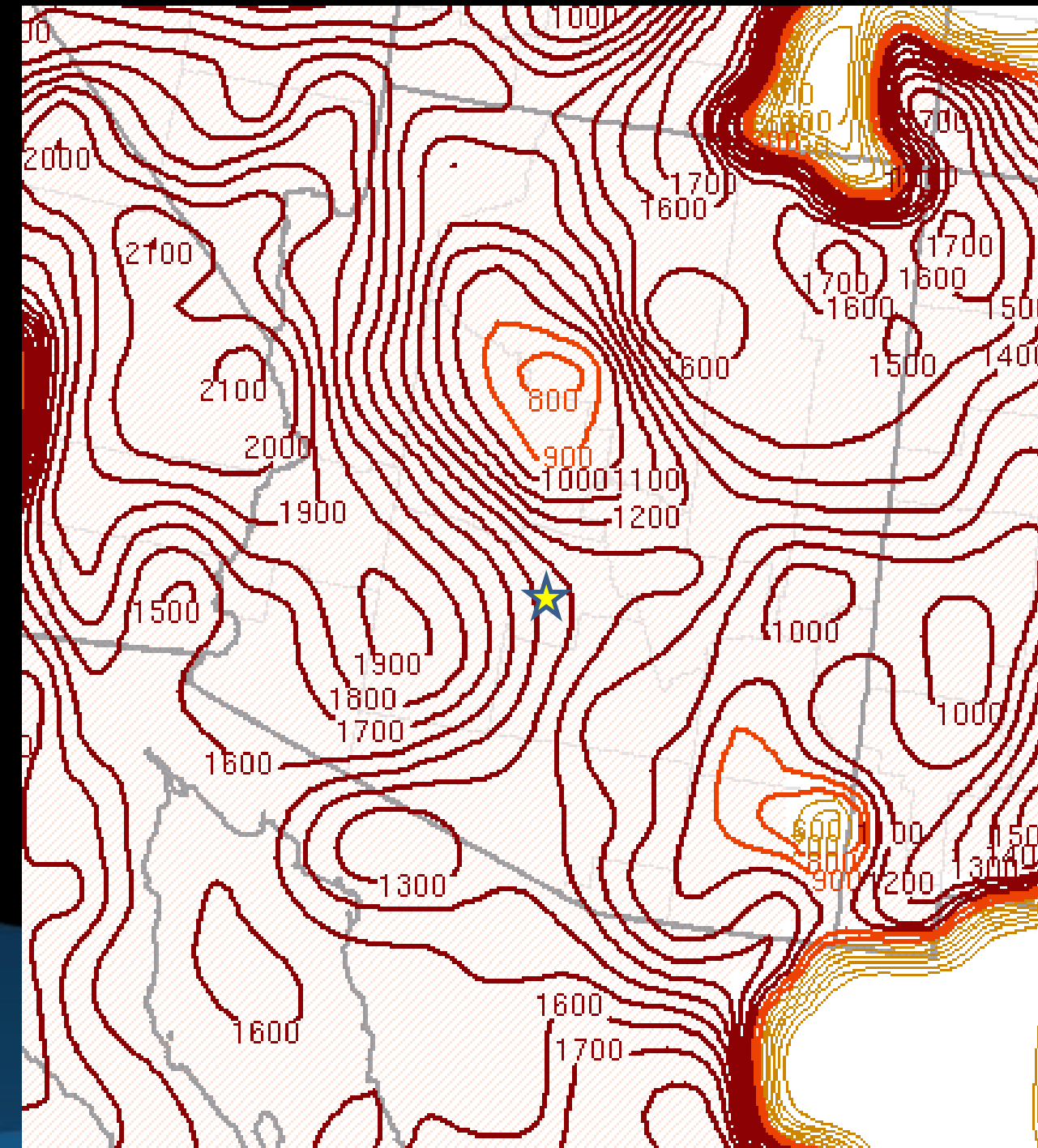
**MLCAPE**

8 PM

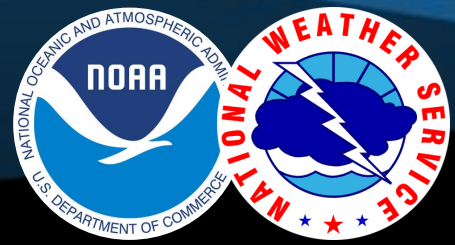


**DCAPE**

8 PM



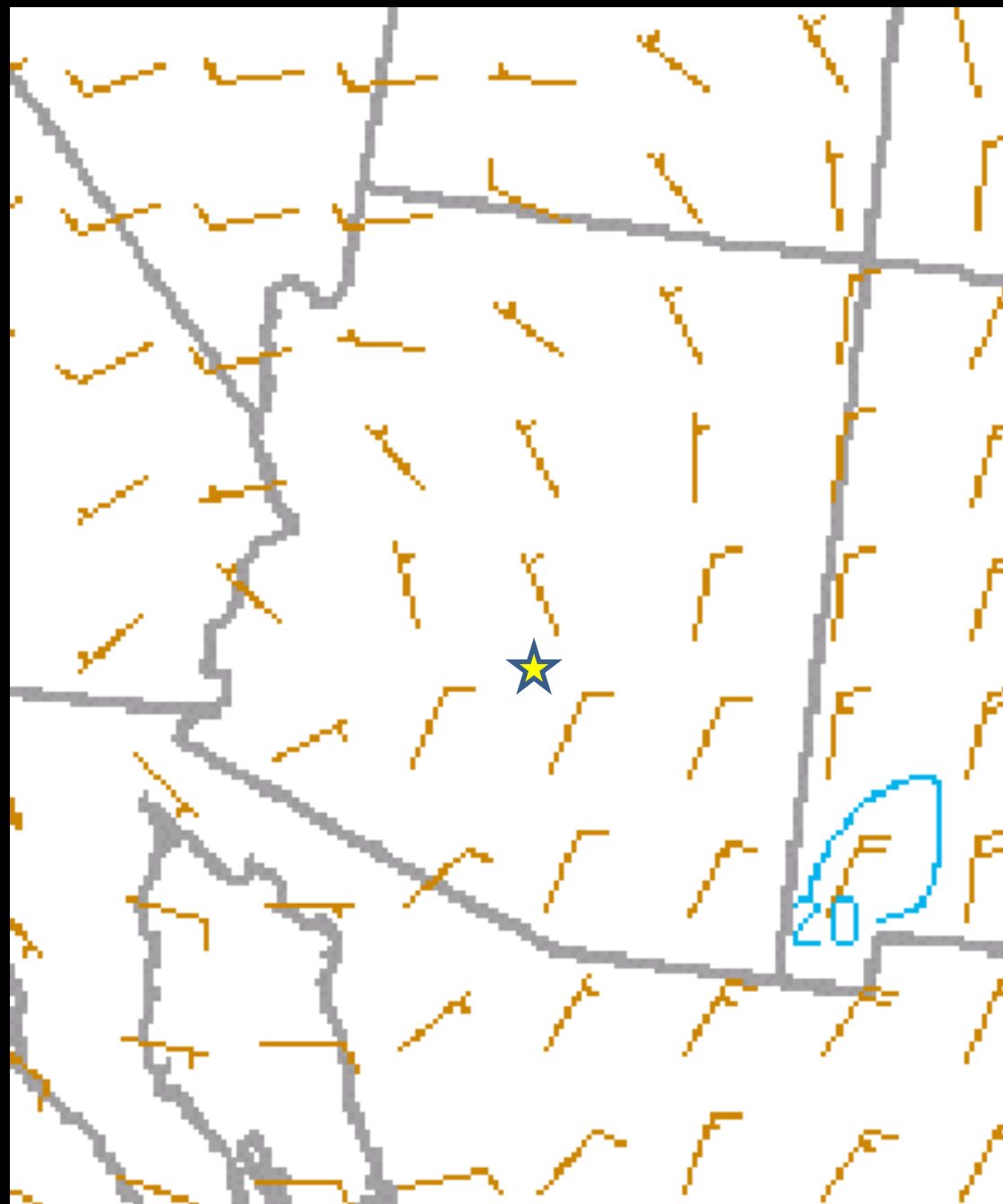


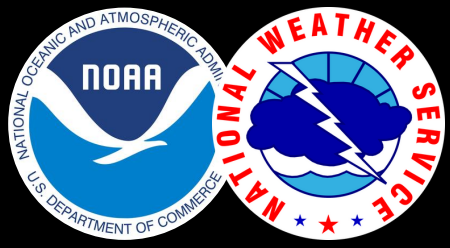


# Kinematics

**850mb - 300mb Average Winds**

**8 PM**

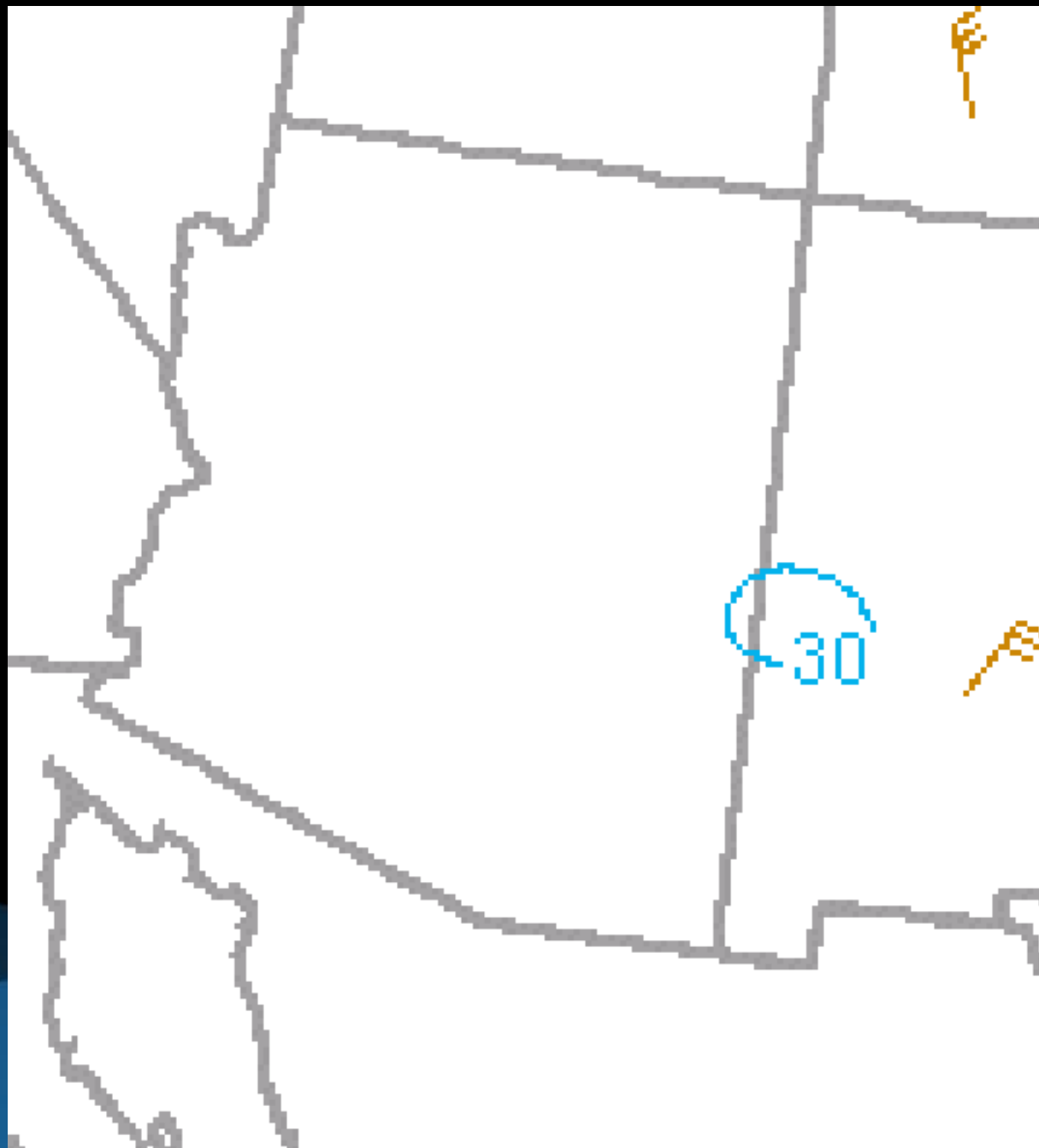




# Kinematics

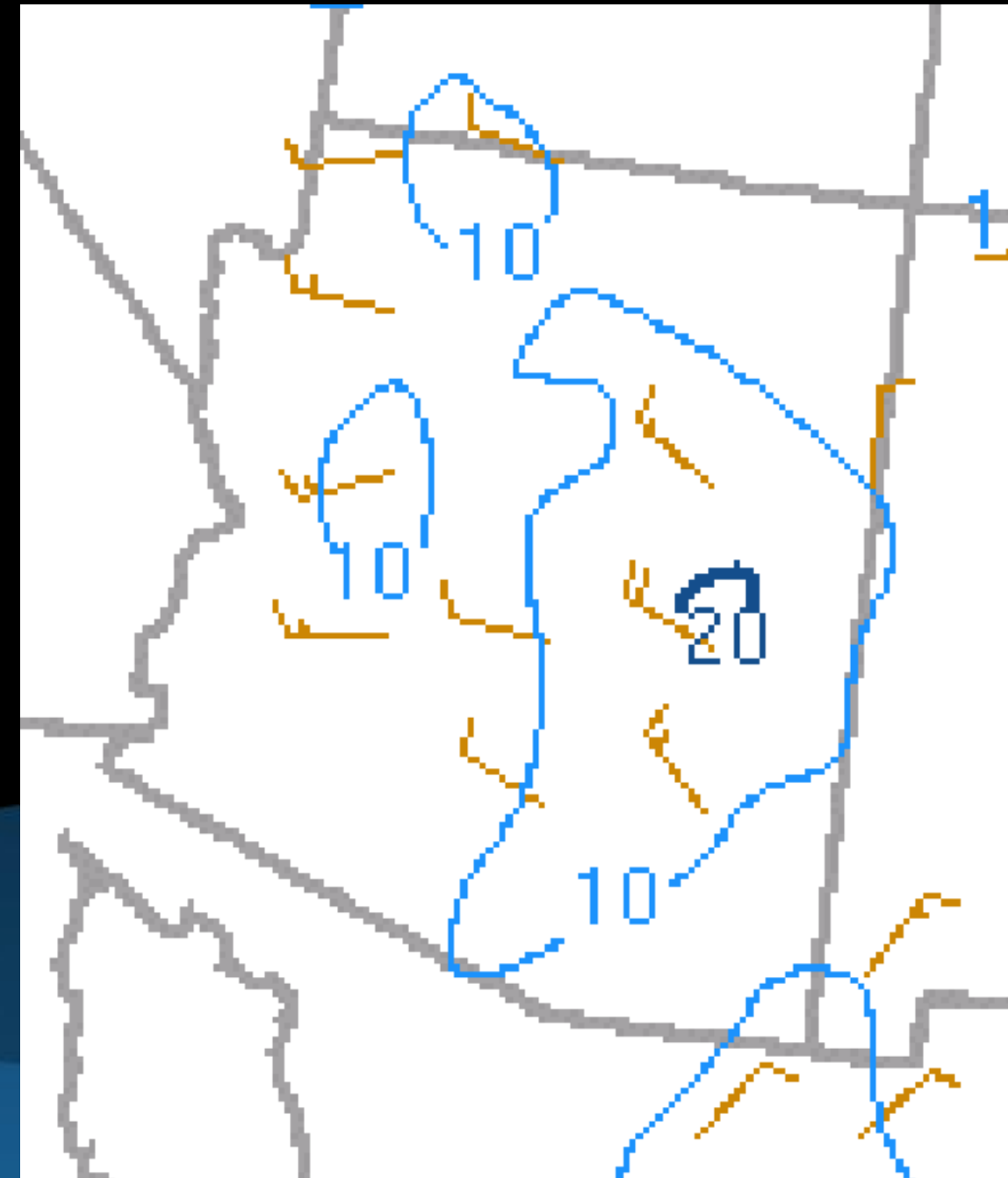
**Effective Shear**

8 PM

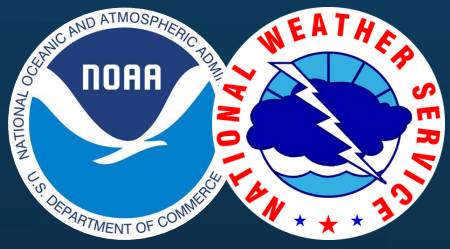


**0-1km Shear**

8 PM





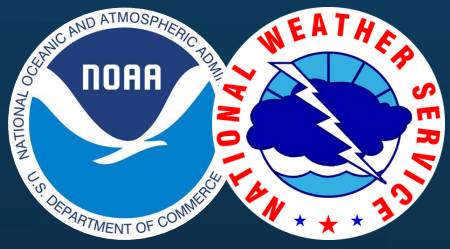


# Reflectivity Loop

## 6:42 PM – 12:22 AM

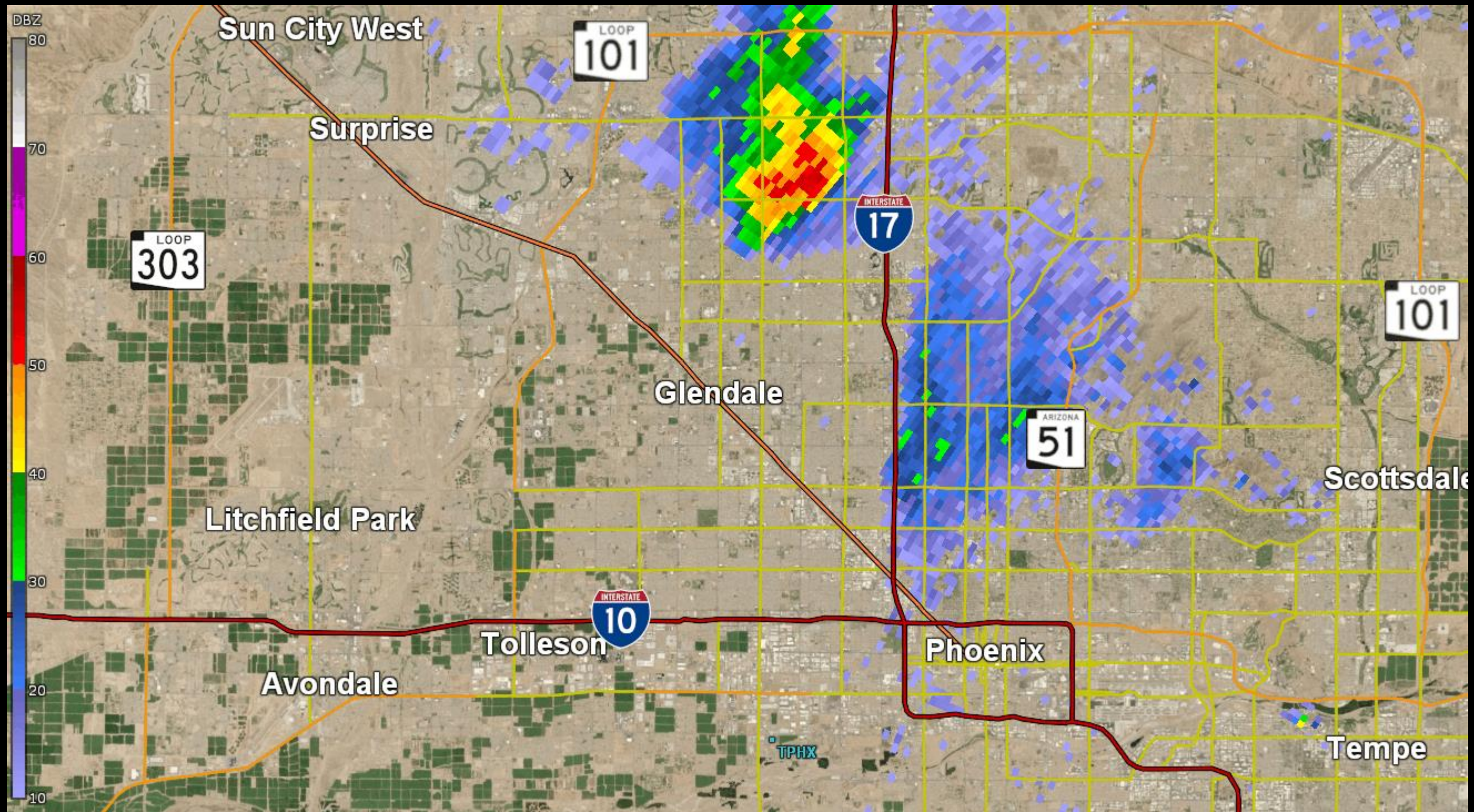




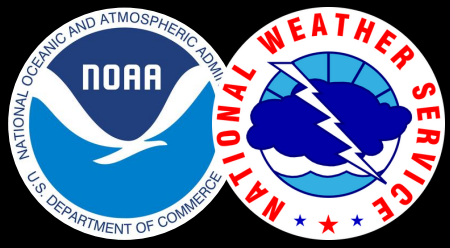


# Reflectivity Loop

## 8:04 PM – 9:13 PM

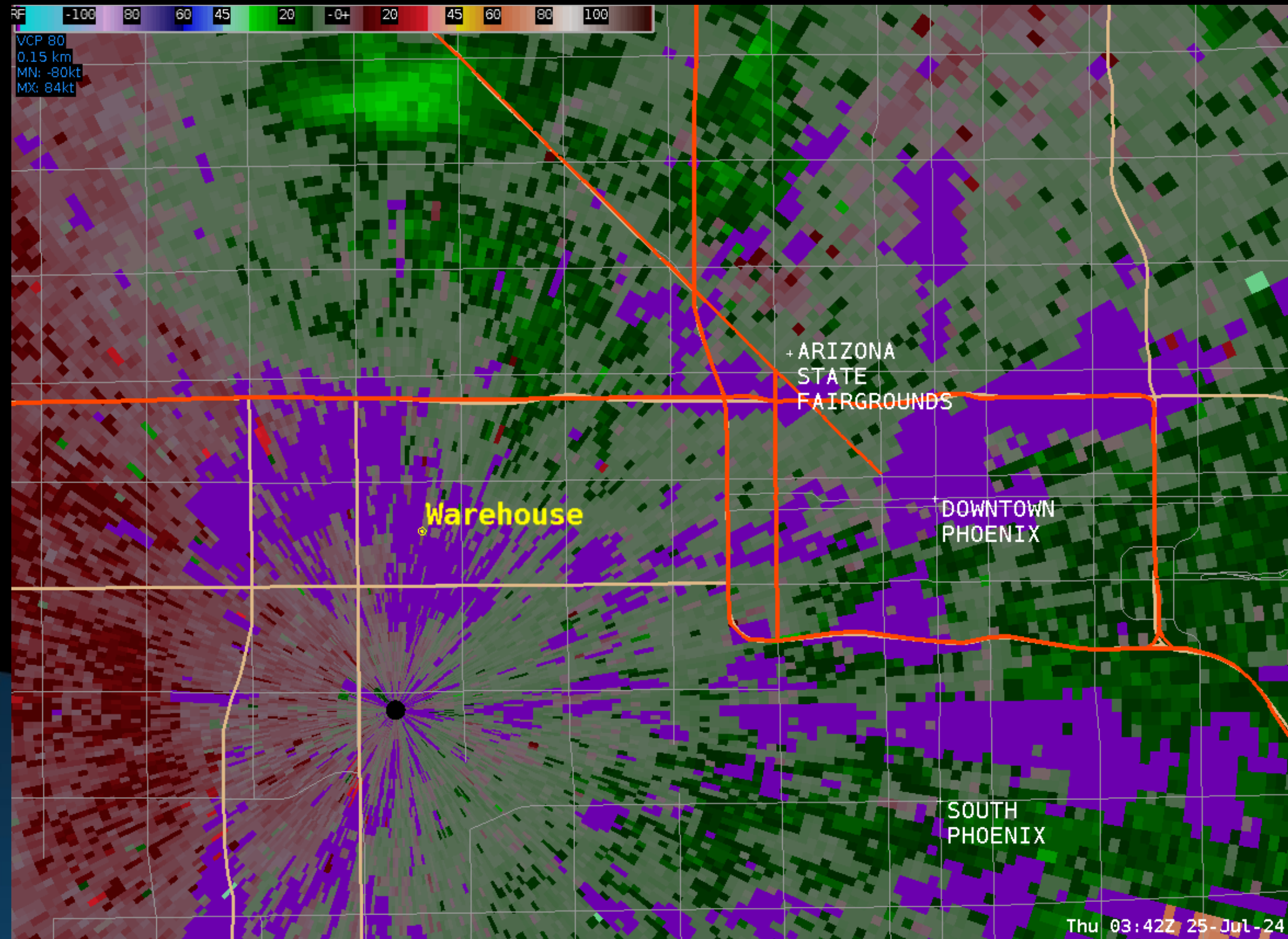




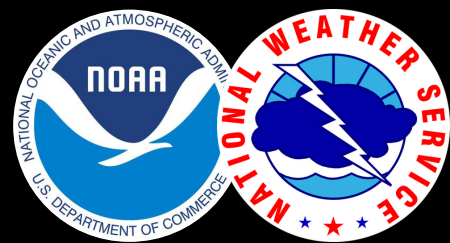


# Base Velocity Loop

## 8:40 PM – 9:30 PM





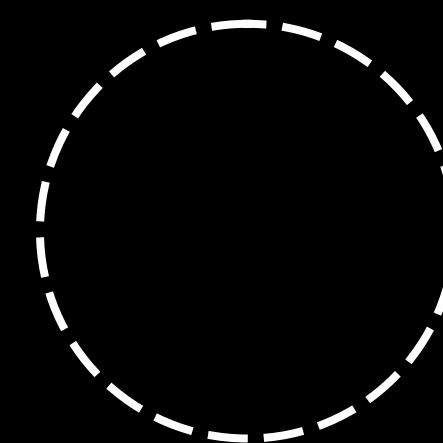
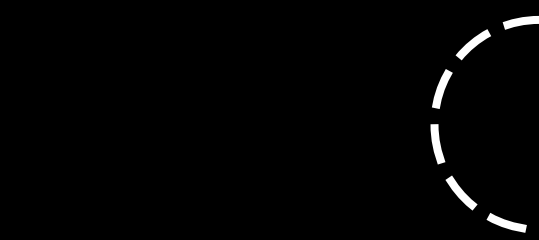
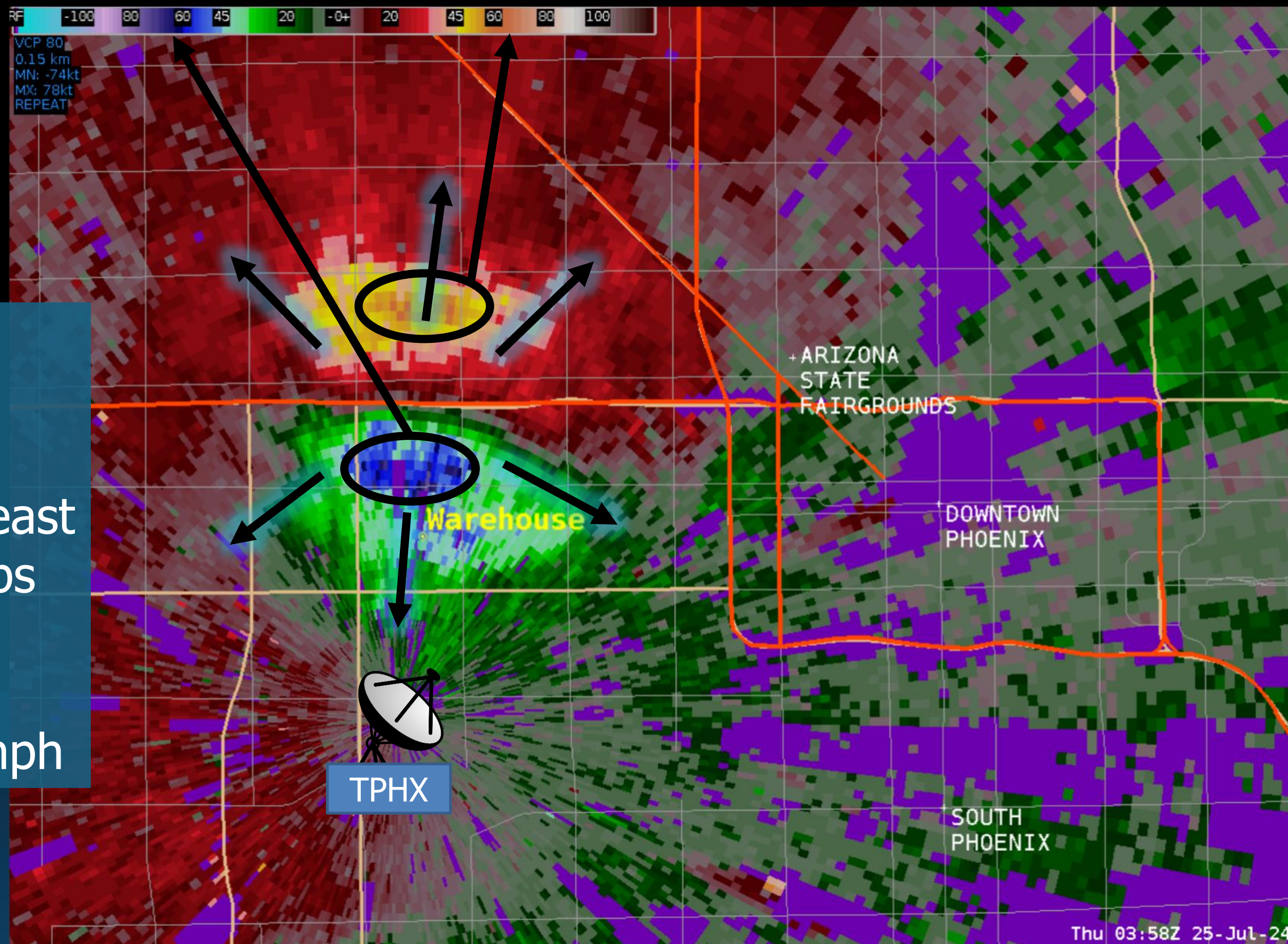


# Base Velocity Image | 8:58 PM

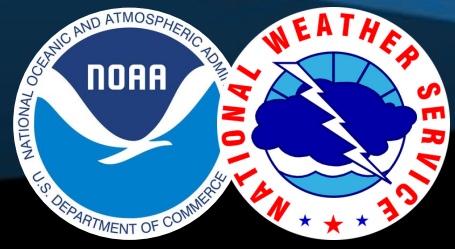


Inbound and  
outbound  
velocities in  
excess of at least  
60 kts, perhaps  
70+ kts

70 kts  $\approx$  80 mph







# 24 July 2024

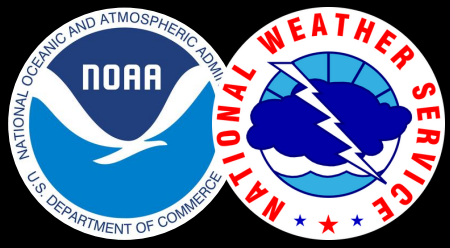


Chris Peloquin



Cindy Kobold

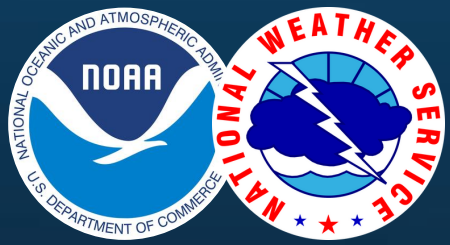




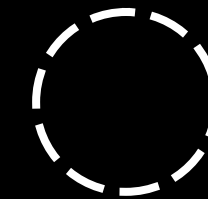
# CASE STUDY #2

- Moisture/Instability
  - Moderate to high CAPE (1000-1500 J/kg MLCAPE)
  - Moderate CIN (-100 to -75 J/kg MLCIN)
  - Moderate DCAPE (800-1000 J/kg)
  - High LCL Heights (1500-2000 m or 5000-6500 ft)
- Environmental Winds/Shear
  - Strong steering flow (20-30 kts 850mb-300mb average wind speed)
  - Strong deep layer shear (~35-40 kts Effective Shear)
  - Moderate low level shear (upwards of 15-20 kts of 0-1 km shear)



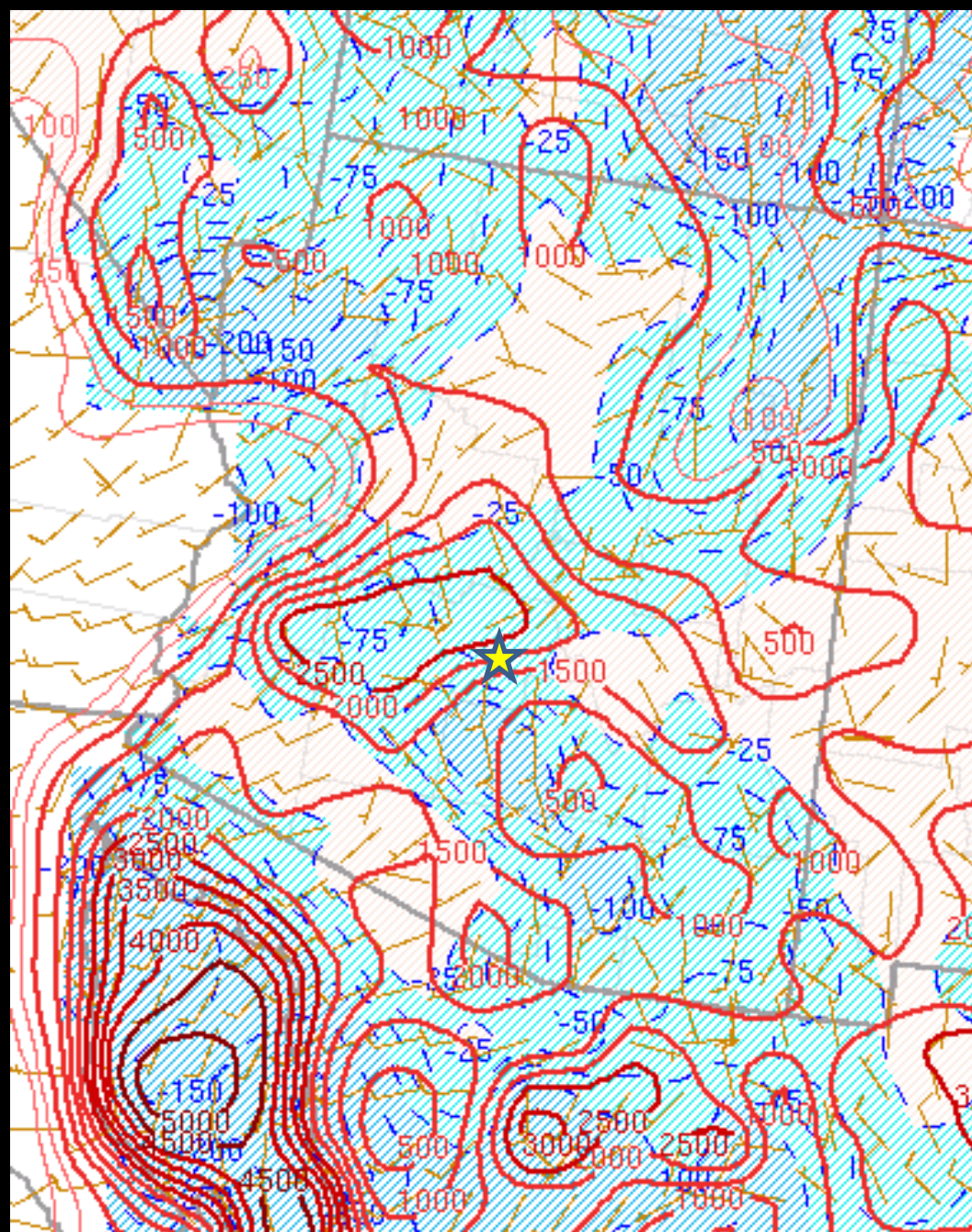


# Thermodynamics



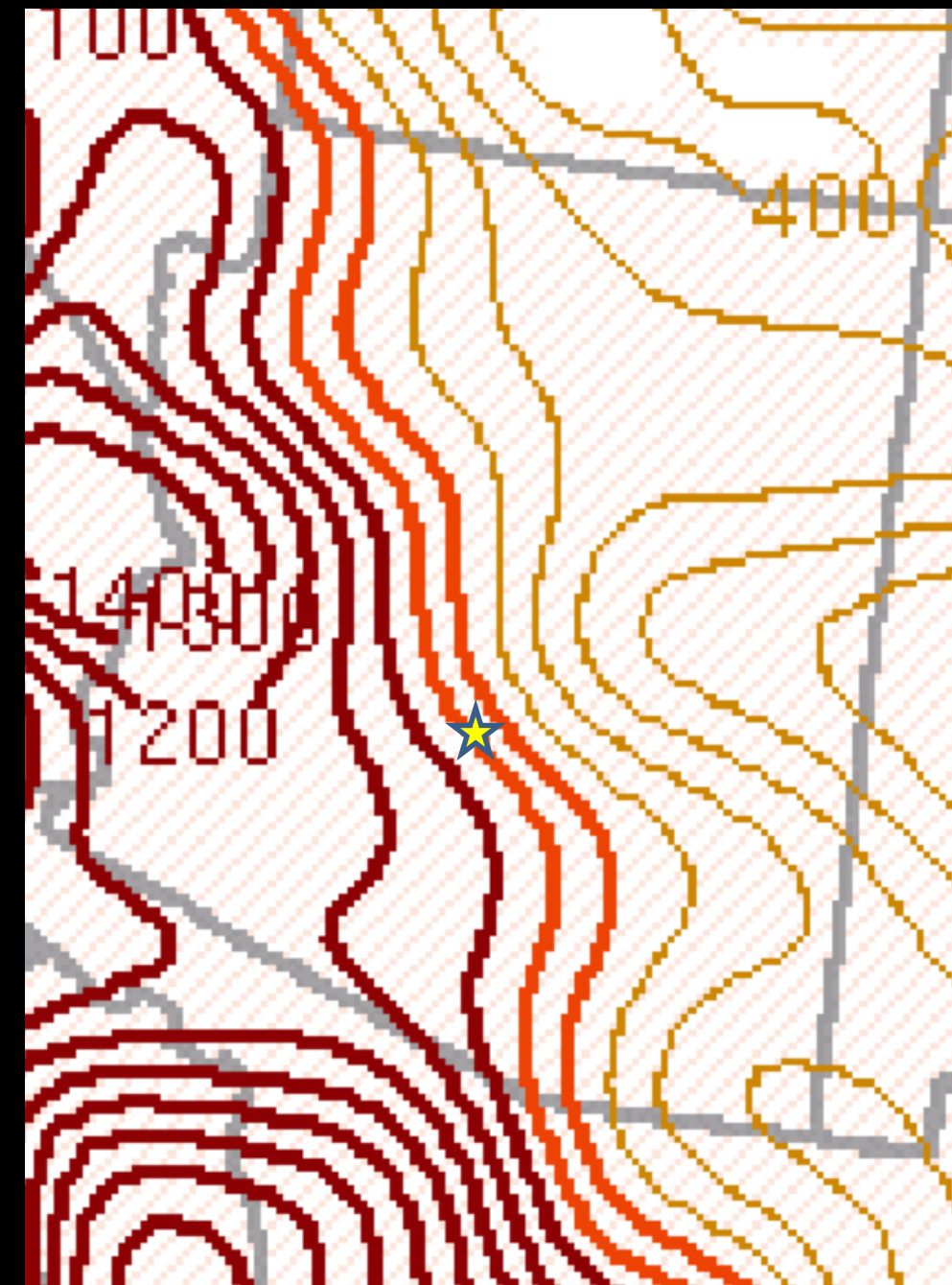
**MLCAPE**

7 PM

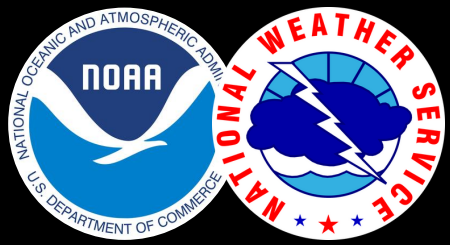


**DCAPE**

7 PM



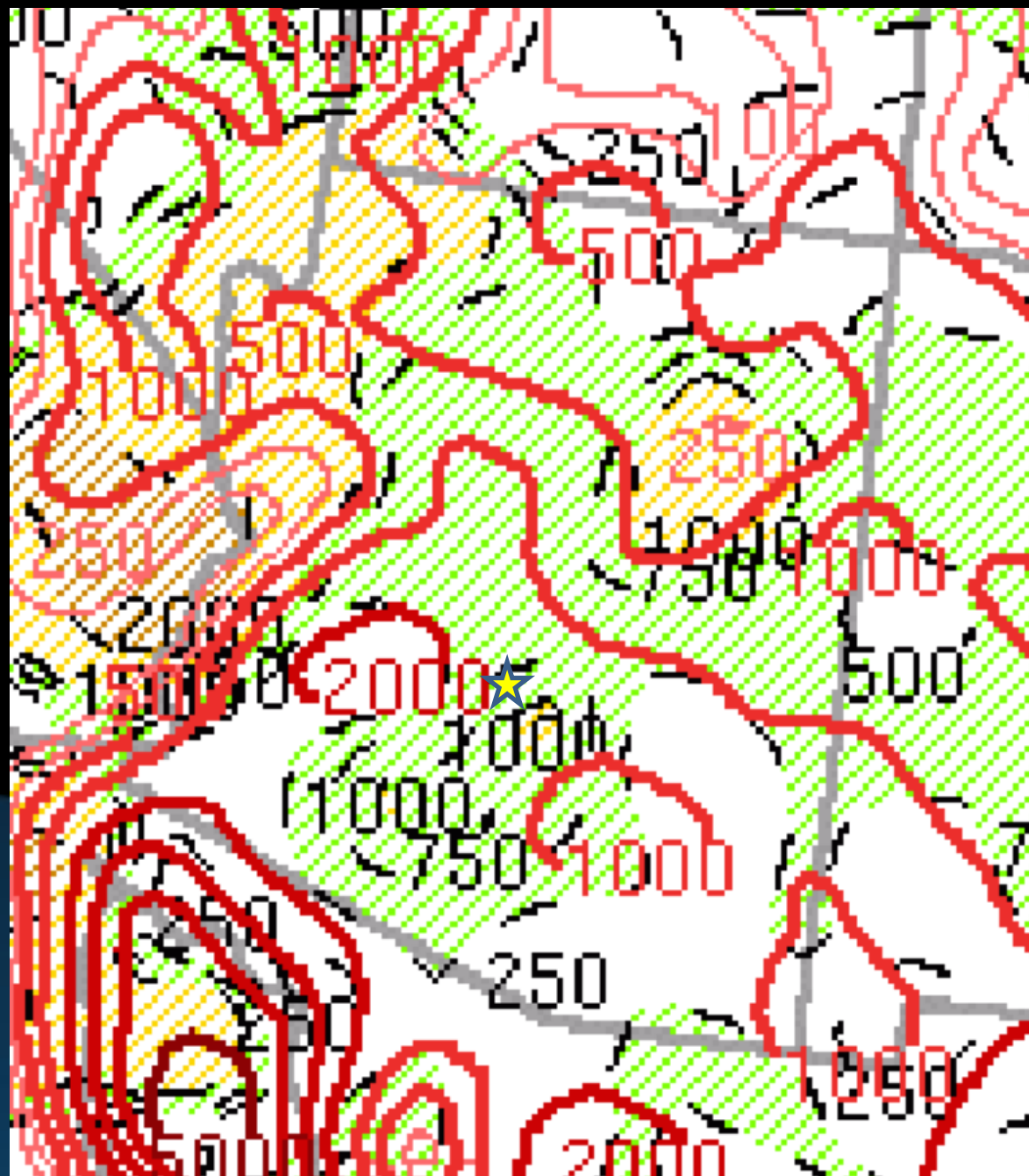




# Thermodynamics

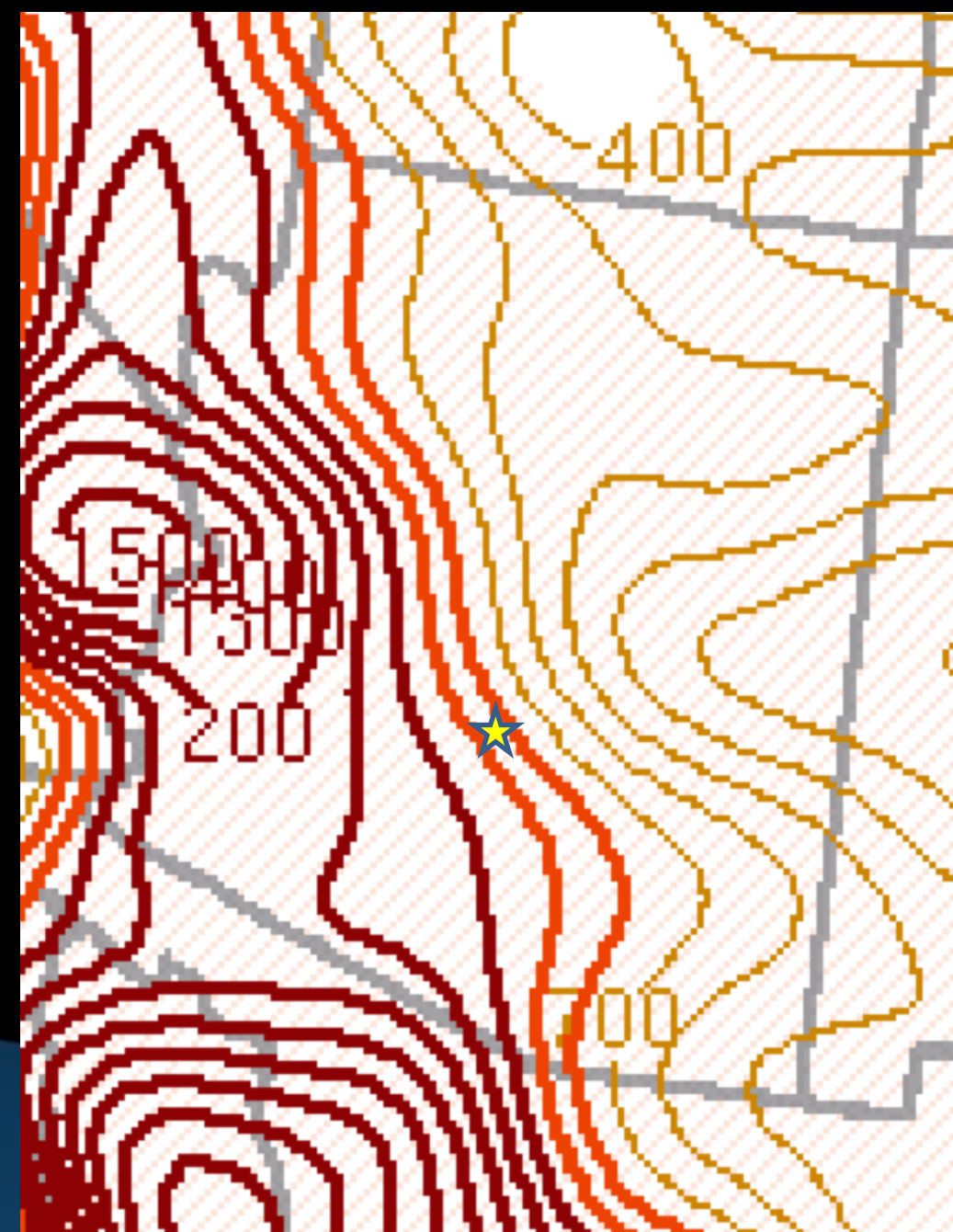
**MUCAPE**

8 PM

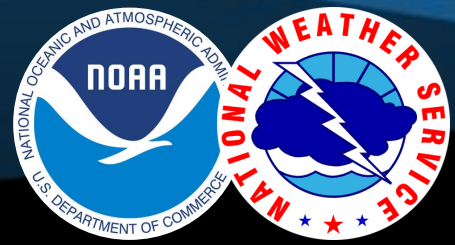


**DCAPE**

8 PM



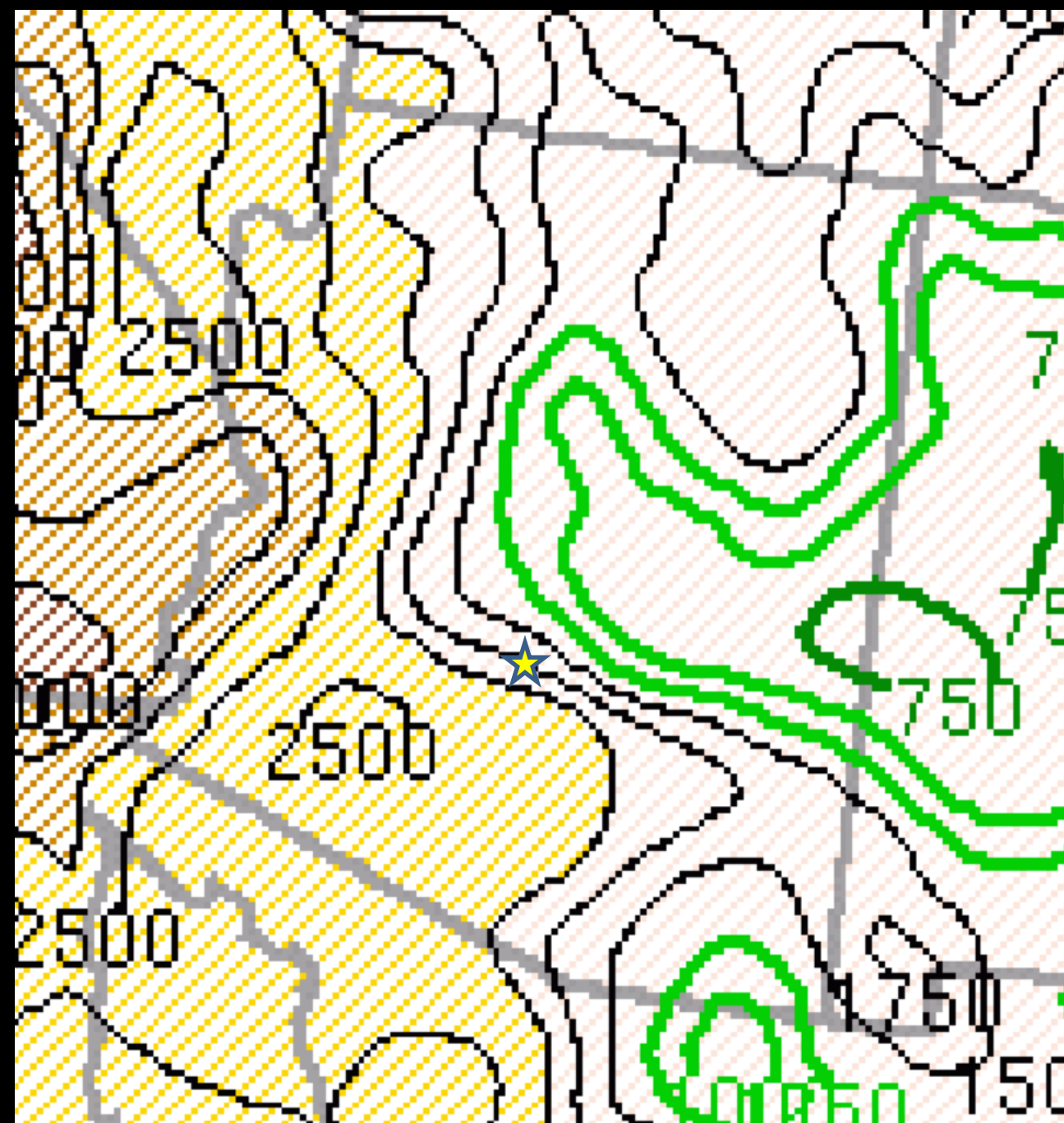


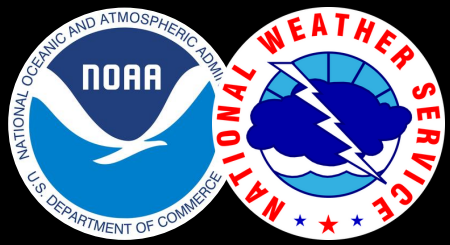


# Thermodynamics

## LCL Height

8 PM

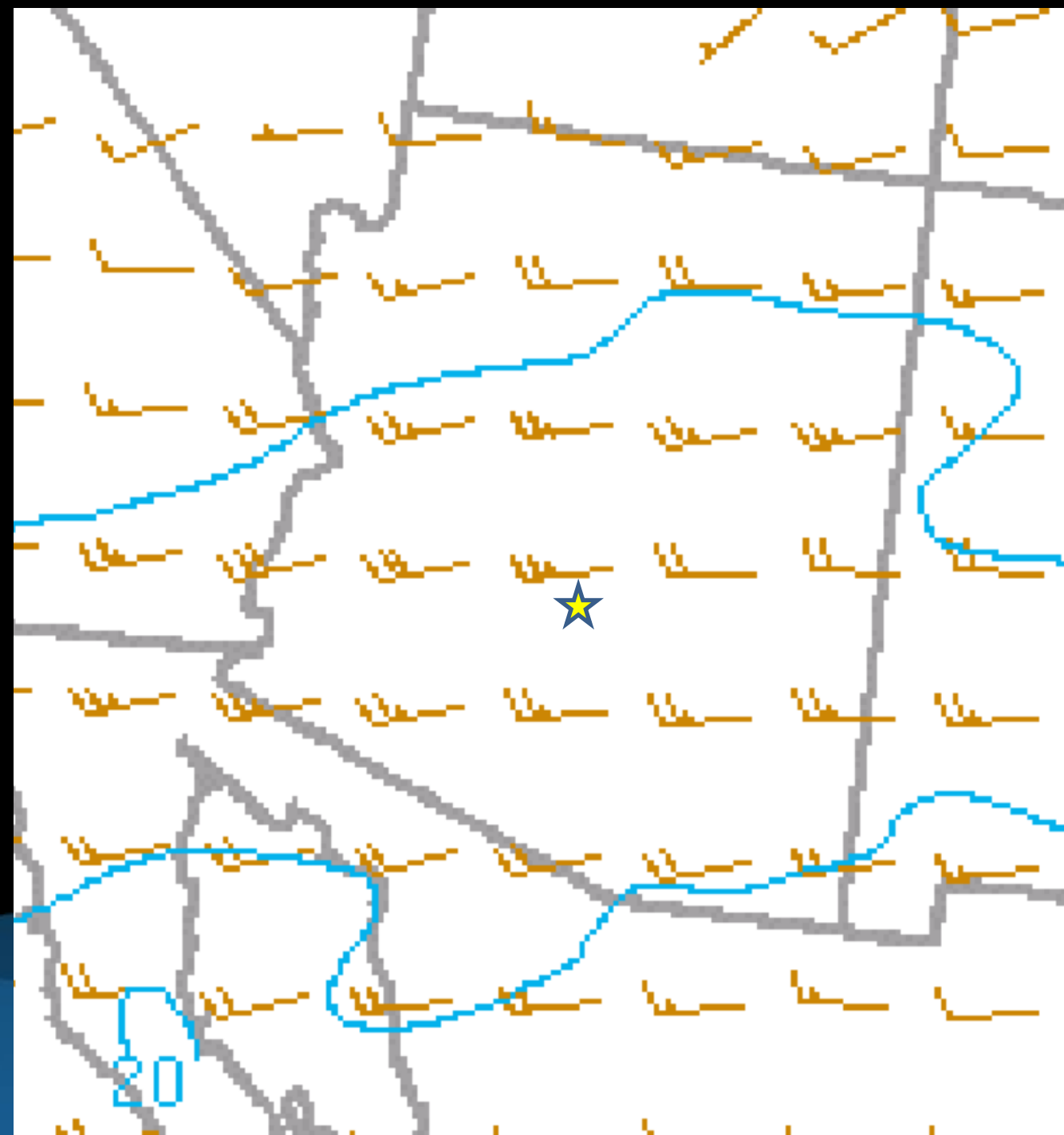




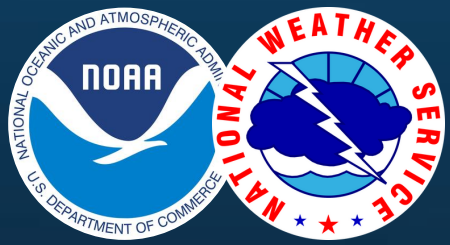
# Kinematics

## 850mb-300mb Average Winds

8 PM



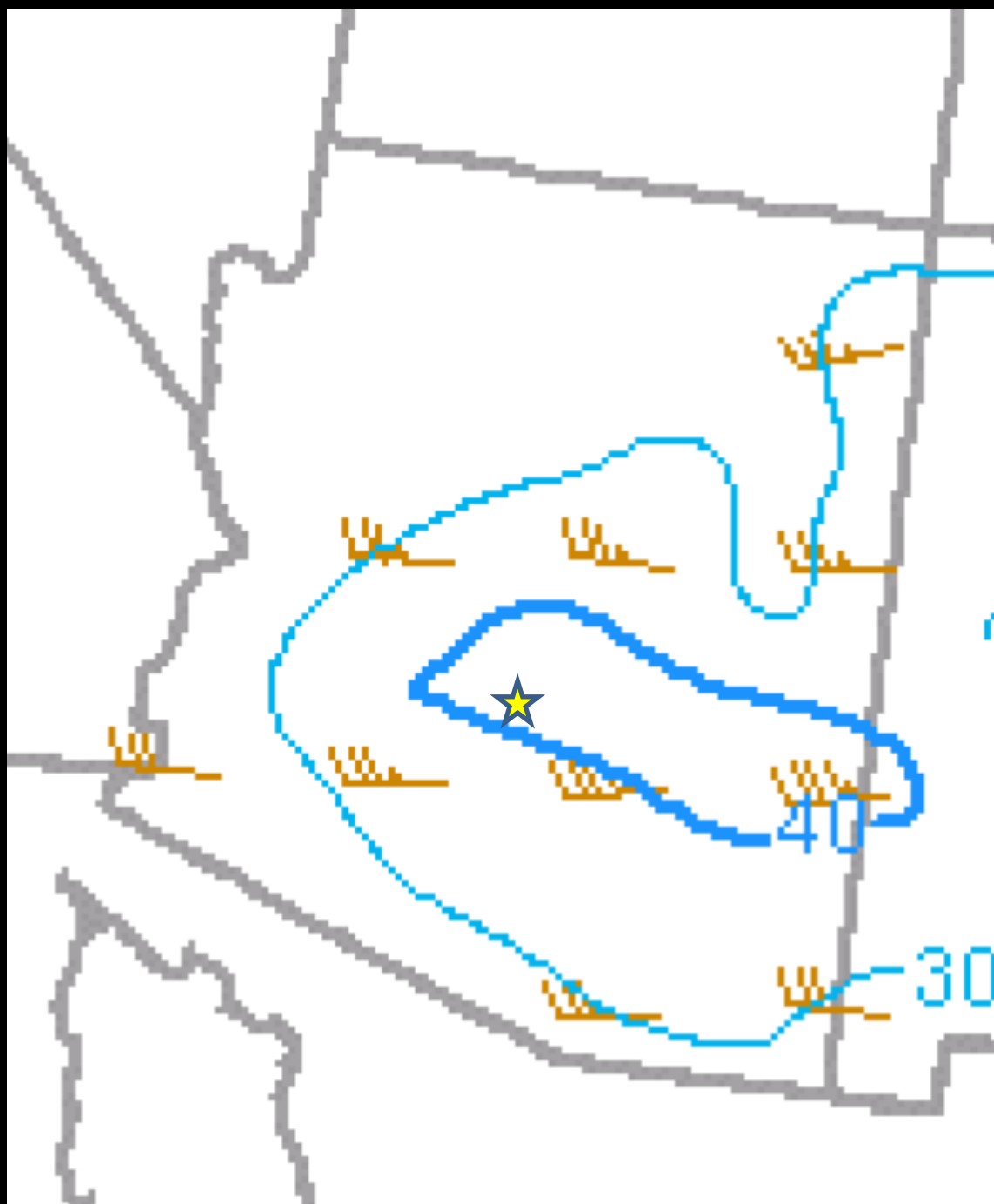




# Kinematics

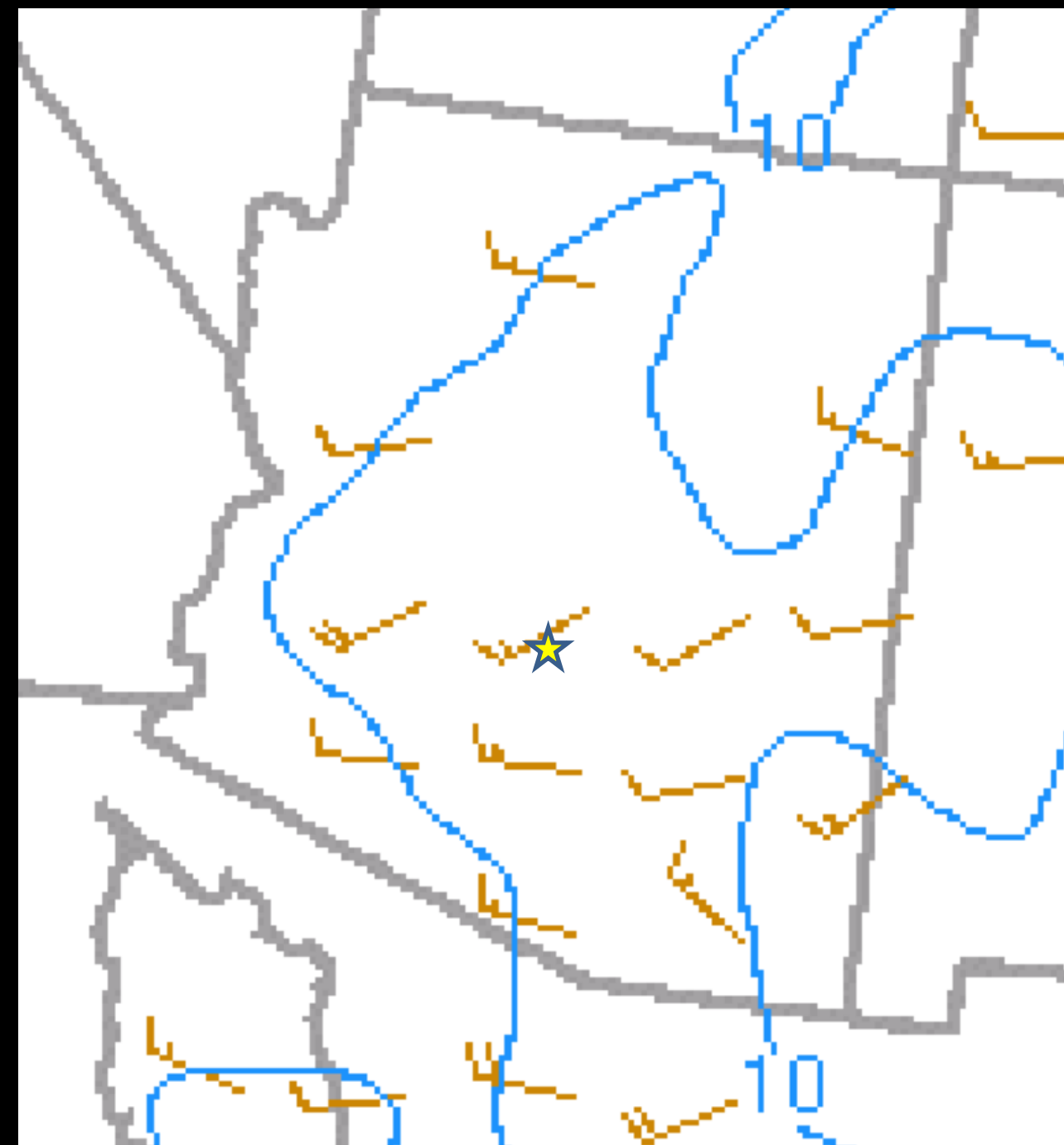
**Effective Shear**

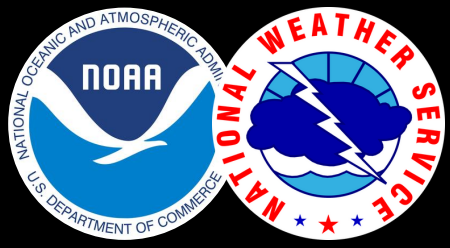
8 PM



**0-1 km Shear**

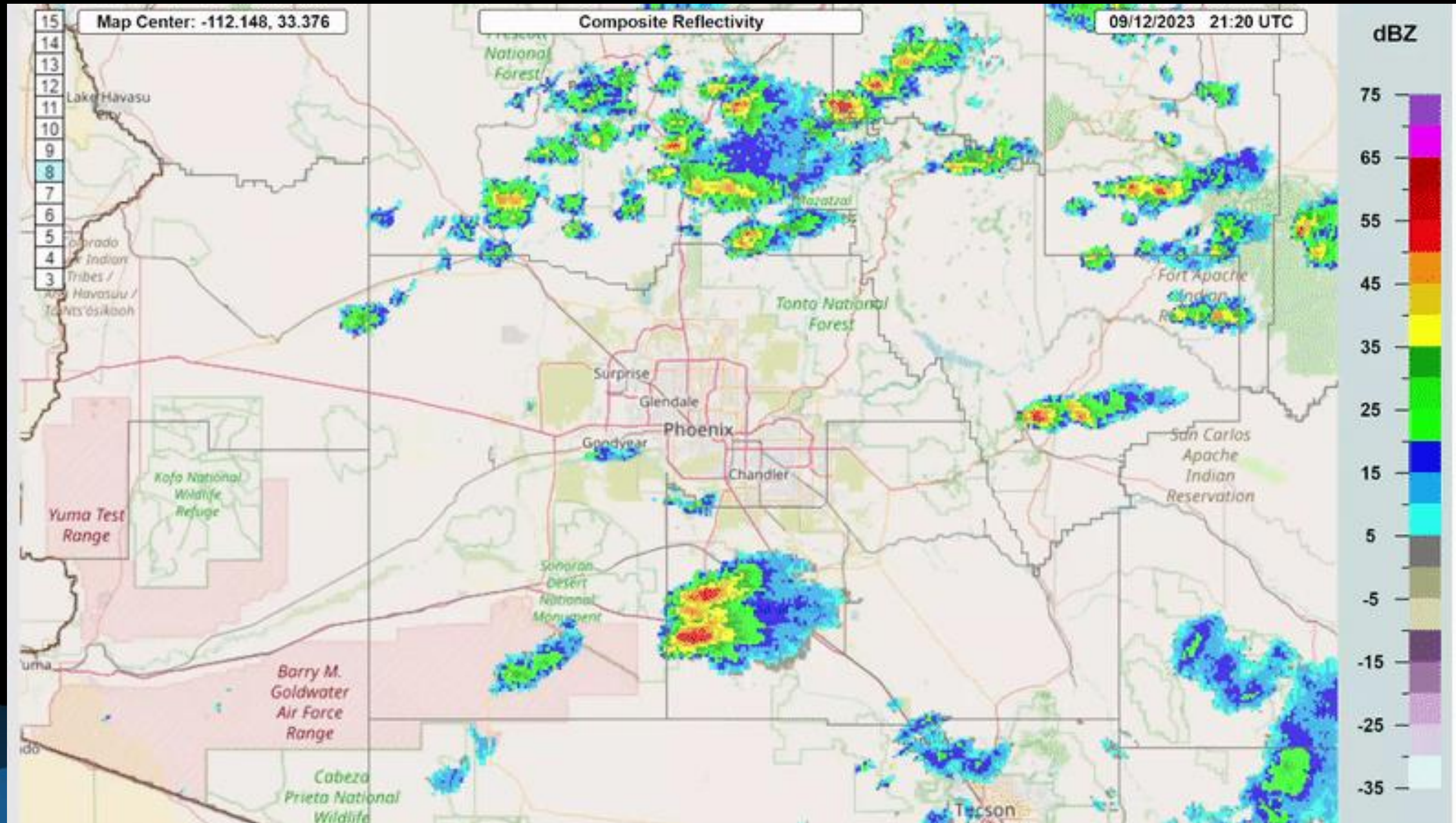
8 PM



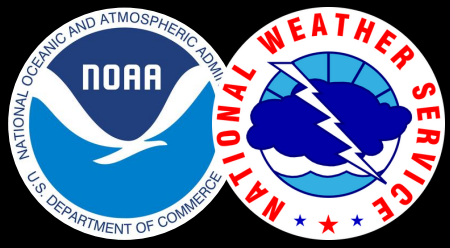


# Reflectivity Loop

2:40 PM - 2:00 AM

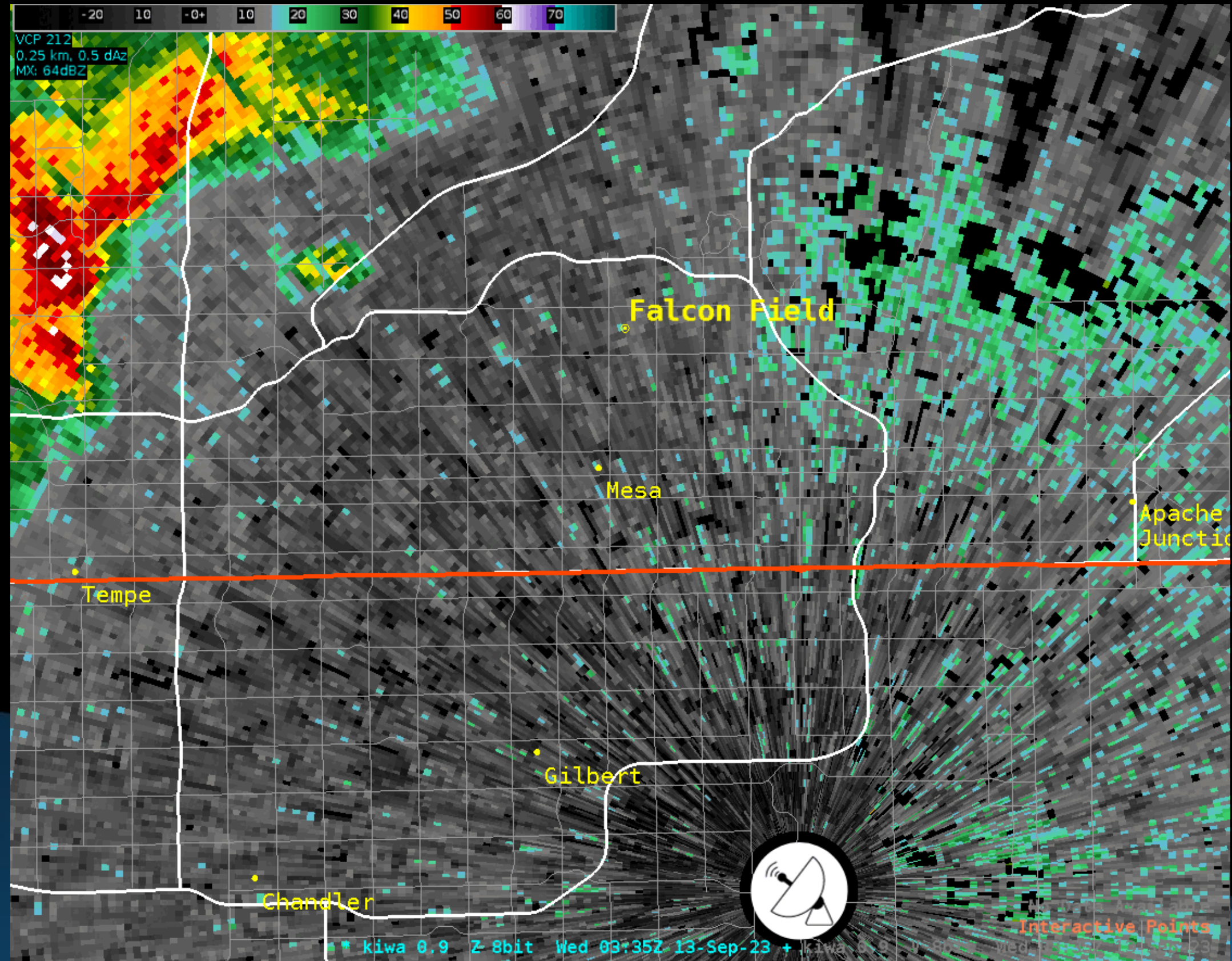




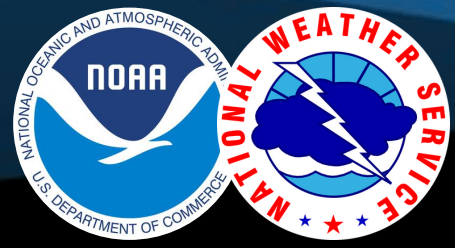


# Reflectivity & Velocity Loops

8:45 PM - 9:23 PM

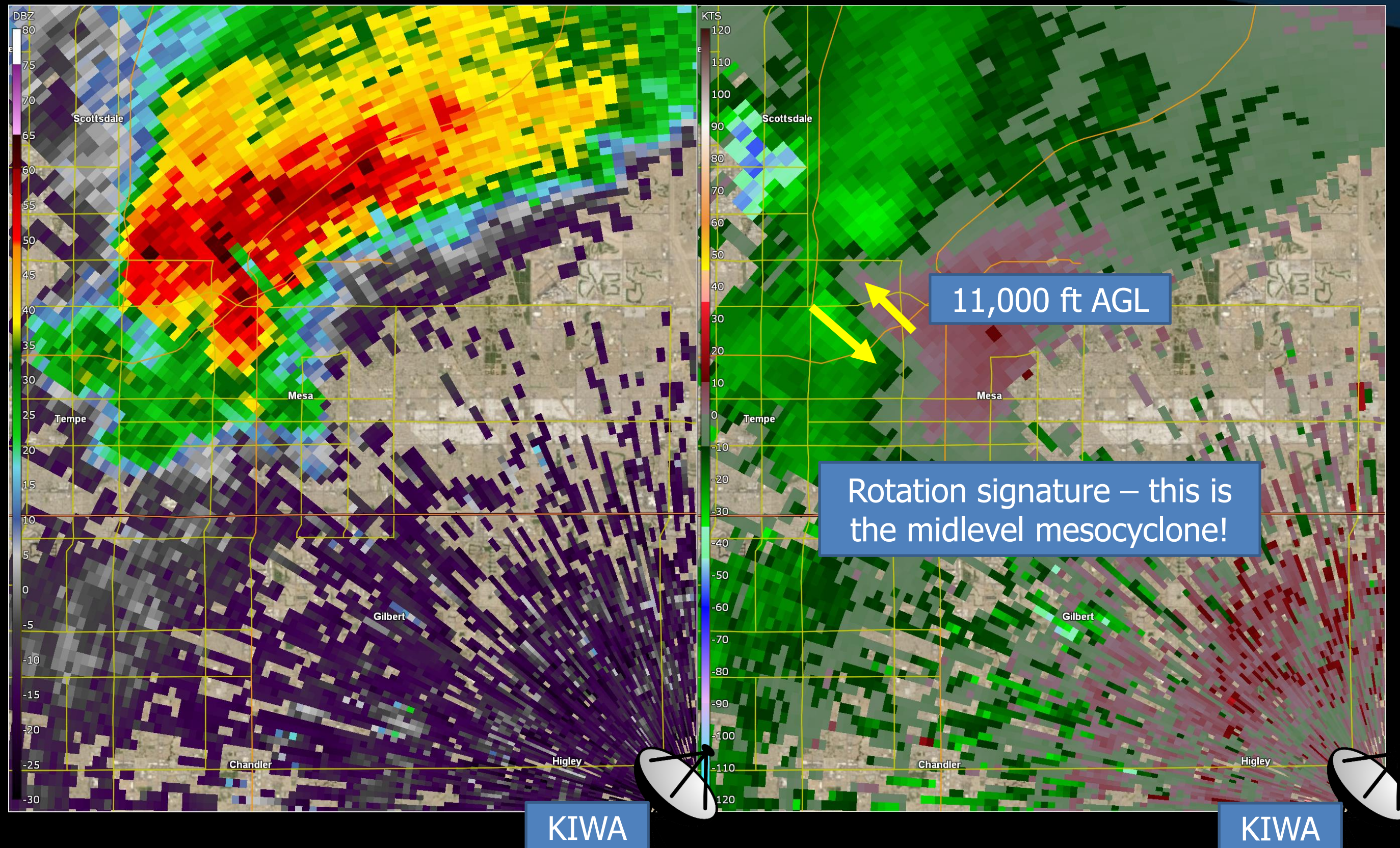




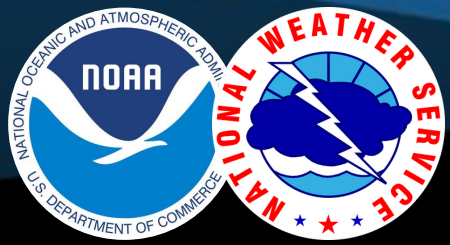


# Reflectivity & Velocity | 8.0 degree tilt

8:40 PM

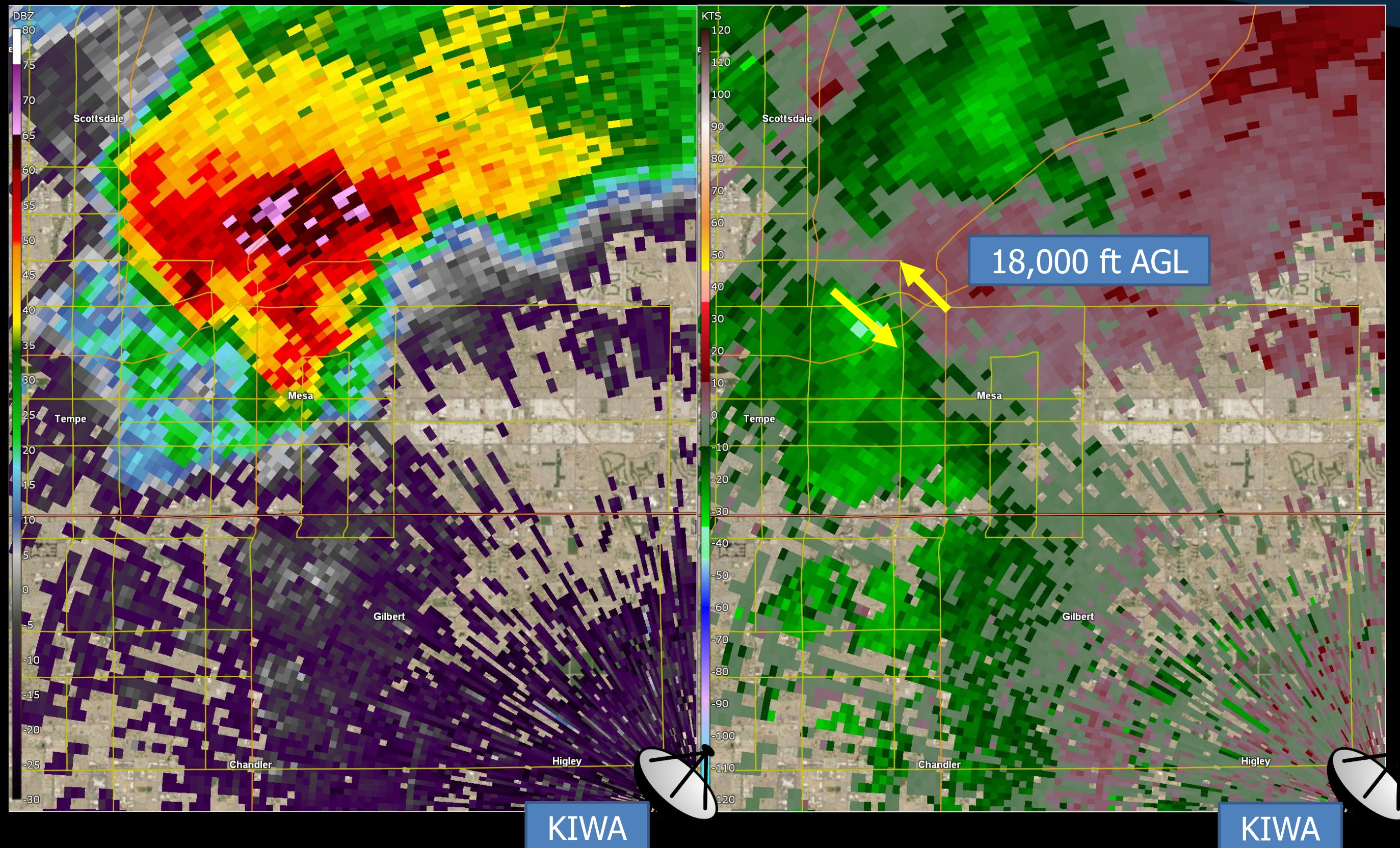




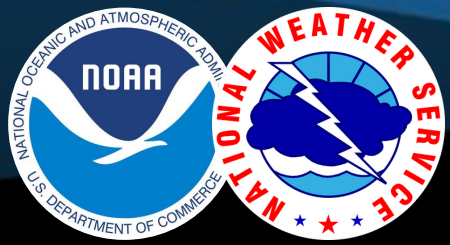


# Reflectivity & Velocity | 124 degree tilt

8:40 PM

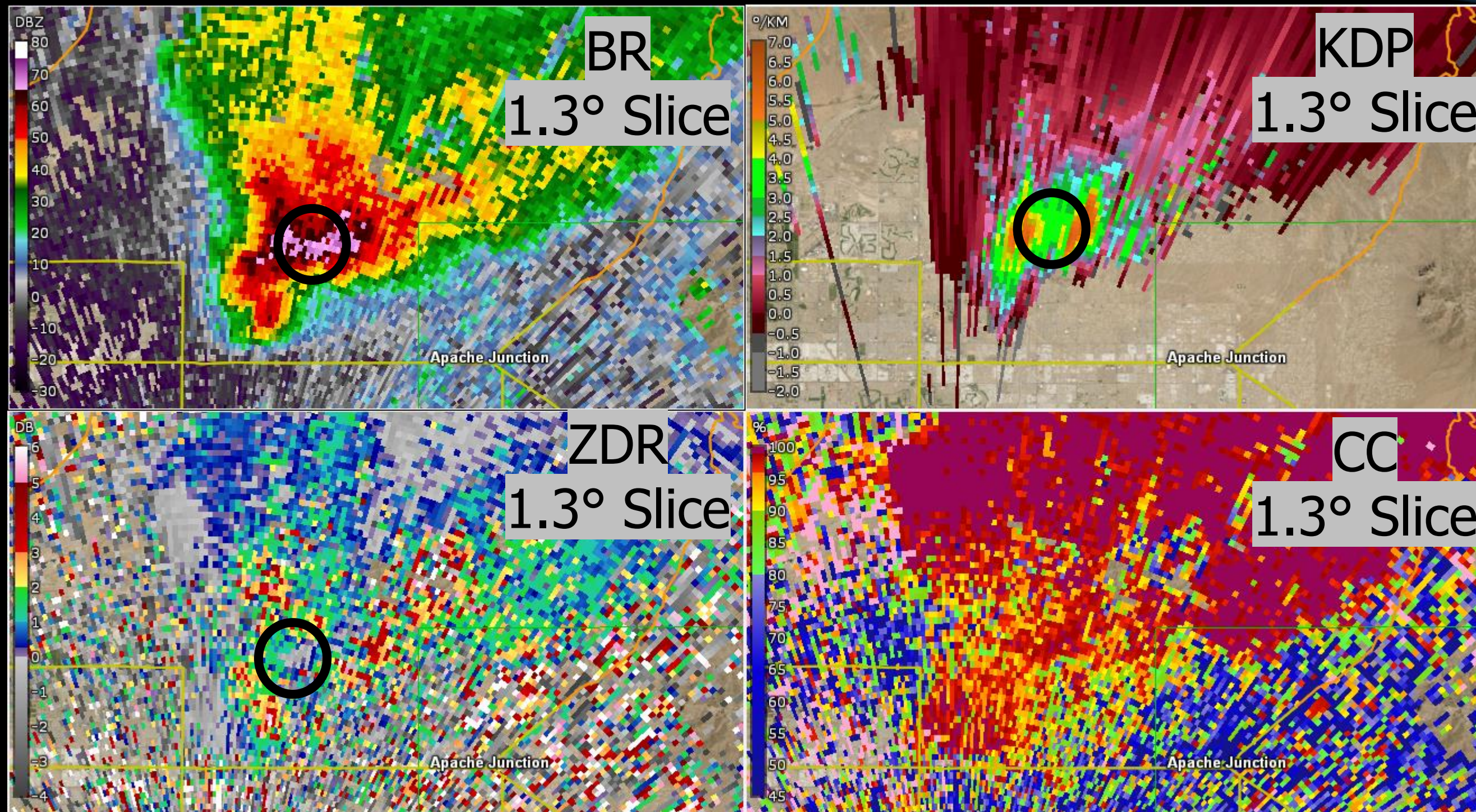






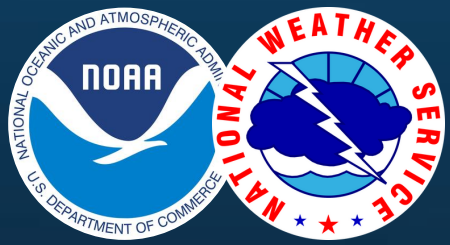
# Dual-pol Data

9:12 PM



Hail signal:  
High BR  
collocated  
with near-  
zero ZDR,  
and modest  
KDP.

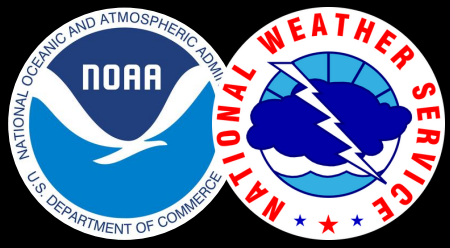




12 September 2023







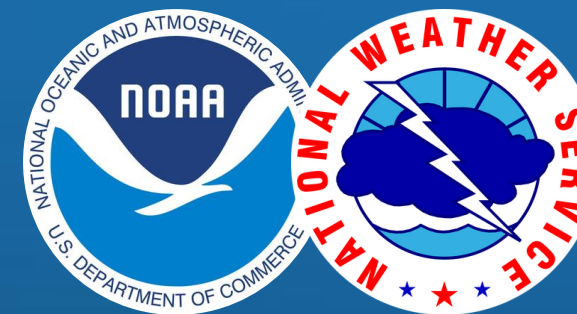
# COURSE SUMMARY

- A delicate balance of environmental ingredients is needed for severe storms
- Understanding these environmental conditions can assist spotter operations
- Anticipation of storm behavior will help with your situational awareness
- Knowledgeable spotters combined with skilled forecasters and proactive EM and media results in the best warning system
- ALWAYS THINK SAFETY FIRST!



# QUESTIONS?

## Contact us



Email: [austin.jamison@noaa.gov](mailto:austin.jamison@noaa.gov)

[www.weather.gov/psr](http://www.weather.gov/psr)

602-275-7418 (Public)