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Winter in the Rockies Can Be Tough Sledding for Pilots!

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Winter’s arrival seems to bring about contrasting opinion. For some, the arrival of winter in the Rockies brings exciting winter recreation opportunities. Snowshoeing through the woods, cross country skiing through a meadow, downhill skiing at one the West’s many iconic resorts, snow machining and the list goes on and on. For others, winter just means cold, icy, windy weather. For pilots, all of these apply with the addition of the rapidly changing and dangerous weather.

Winter brings long lasting and widespread snow storms. These storms can and often do: drastically reduce visibility hiding mountains and mountain tops in clouds and snow, create dangerous icing which can rapidly degrade your airplane’s flight characteristics, quickly cover local runways in snow and ice reducing your plane’s braking ability and create violent turbulence in the form of canyon winds,
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