Severe Weather Ingredients

Material by Tom Galarneau Andrew Lyons

and Rich Thompson

Ingredients for
Organized Severe Thunderstorms

- **Instability (Lapse Rates)**
- **Lift (QG, mesoscale, convective scale)**
- **Moisture (return flow, soil moisture, evapotranspiration)**
- **Vertical wind shear**

Ingredients for Organized Severe Thunderstorms

- Instability (Lapse Rates)
- Lift (QG, mesoscale, convective scale)
- Moisture (return flow, soil moisture, evapotranspiration)

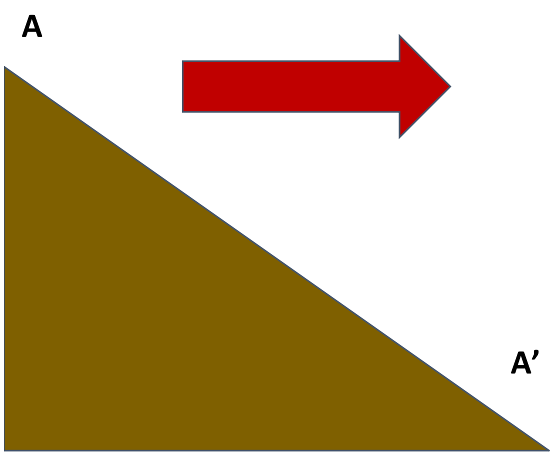
} This lecture

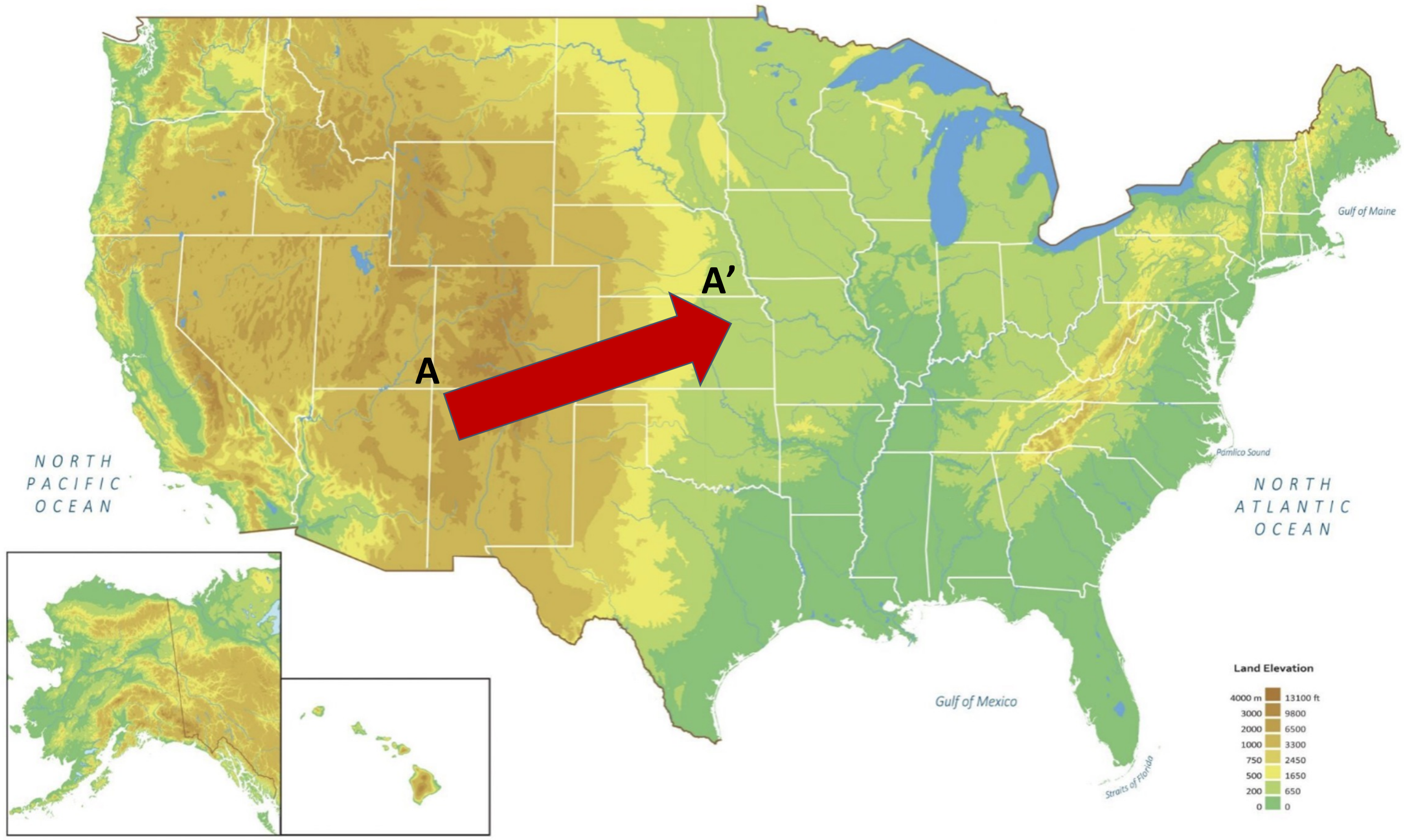
- Vertical wind shear - a separate lecture

Instability: Elevated Mixed Layer (EML)

- **Deep mixed layer forms over Rockies and Sierra Madre in response to surface heating**
- **Stronger heating and/or cooler temperatures aloft results in deeper mixed layer**
- **Mixed layer is advected eastward and becomes elevated east of the Rockies and Sierra Madre (really, east of the dryline)**
- **Differential advection (eastward advection of EML above northward advection of moisture from GoM) created "loaded gun" profile**

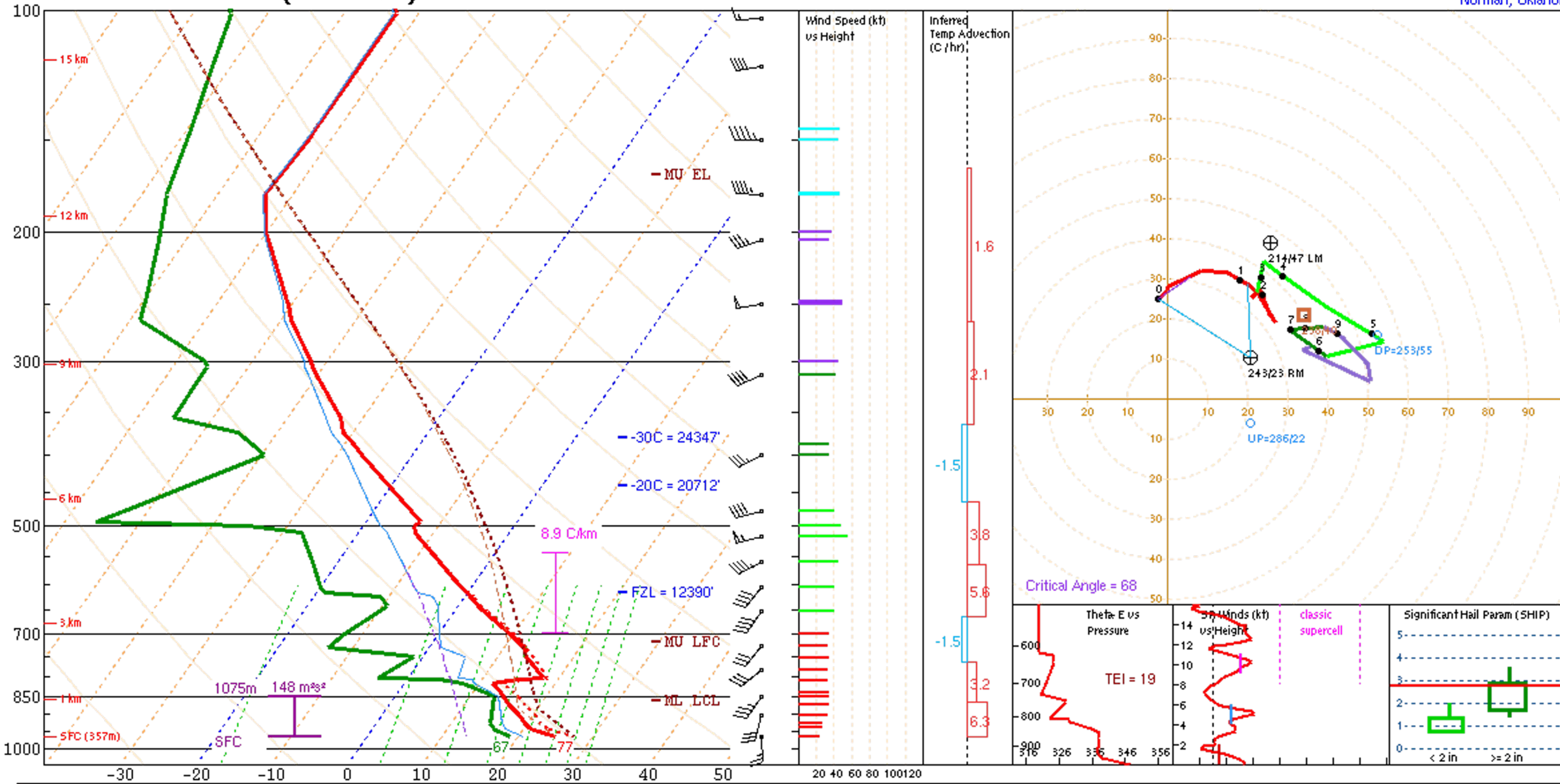
Elevated Mixed Layer (EML) Differential Advection





OUN 220429/1800 (Observed)

NOAA/NWS Storm Prediction Center
Norman, Oklahoma



PARCEL	CAPE	CINH	LCL	LI	LFC	EL
SURFACE	3444	-38	752m	-10	2501m	41986'
MIXED LAYER	1736	-178	952m	-6	3301m	38863'
FCST SURFACE	2376	-102	1306m	-7	2950m	40712'
MU (964 mb)	3444	-38	752m	-10	2501m	41986'

PW = 1.01 in | 3CAPE = 5 J/kg | WBZ = 9225' | WNDG = 0.0
K = 19 | DCAPE = 1284 J/kg | FZL = 12390' | ESP = 0.0
MidRH = 30% | DownT = 56 F | ConvT = 93F | MMP = 0.97
LowRH = 79% | MeanW = 12.3 g/kg | MaxT = 80F | NCAPE = 0.33
SigSevere = 37509 m3/s3

Sfc-3km Agl Lapse Rate = 6.1 C/km
3-6km Agl Lapse Rate = 8.1 C/km
850-500mb Lapse Rate = 6.4 C/km
700-500mb Lapse Rate = 8.6 C/km

Supercell = 9.9
Left Supercell = -1.0
STP (eff layer) = 0.2
STP (fix layer) = 2.2
Sig Hail = 2.7

	SRH(m2/s2)	Shear(kt)	MnWind	SRW
SFC - 1 km	139	21	192/30	141/24
SFC - 3 km	161	26	211/31	163/17
Eff Inflow Layer	148	23	193/30	142/24
SFC - 6 km		42	221/34	184/16
SFC - 8 km		37	223/34	190/15
LCL - EL (Cloud Layer)		48	233/37	216/15
Eff Shear (EBWD)		39	222/34	185/15

BRN Shear = 63 m²/s²
4-6km SR Wind = 247/22 kt

.....Storm Motion Vectors.....
Bunkers Right = 243/23 kt
Bunkers Left = 214/47 kt

Corfidi Downshear = 253/55 kt
Corfidi Upshear = 286/22 kt

1km & 6km AGL Wind Barbs

* * * BEST GUESS PRECIP TYPE * * *
Rain.
Based on sfc temperature of 77.4 F.

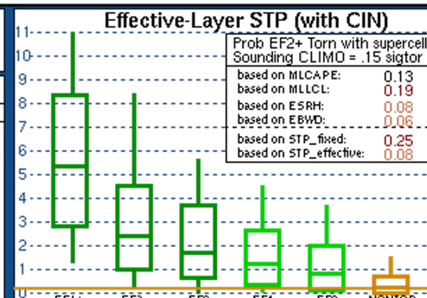
SARS - Sounding Analogs

SUPERCELL	SGFNT HAIL
No Quality Matches	06042500.OUN 3.00 94060500.HON 2.75 90082600.BIS 1.75
(12 loose matches) SARS: 75% TOR	(231 loose matches) SARS: 72% SIG

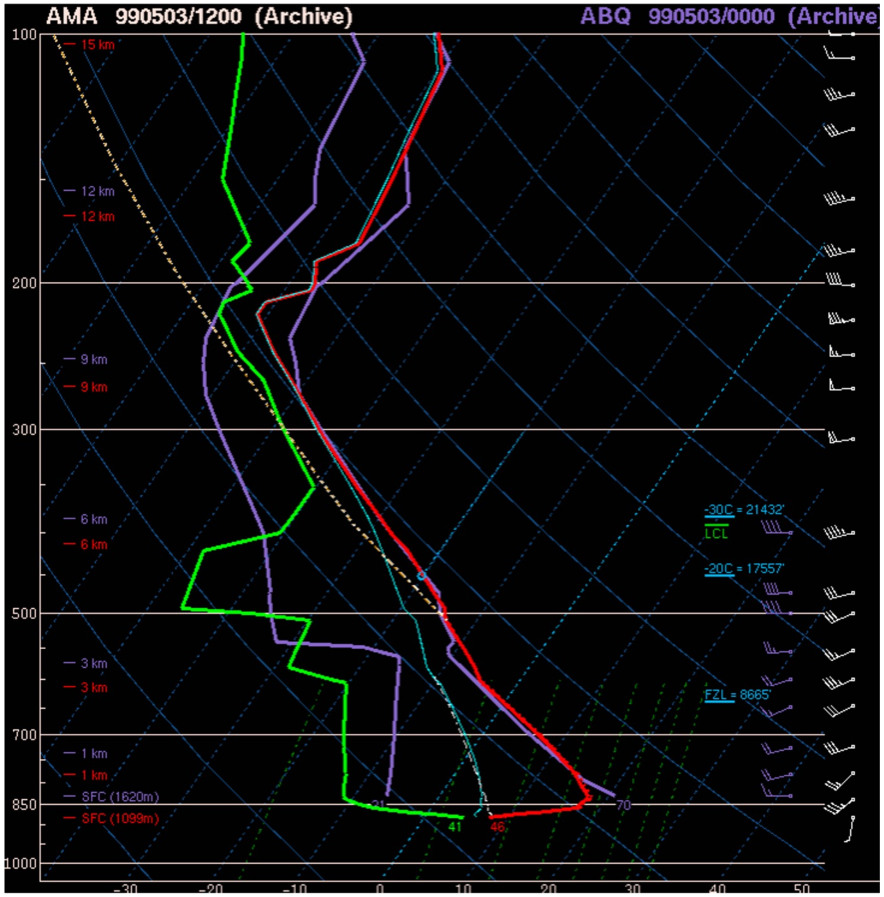
Effective-Layer STP (with CIN)

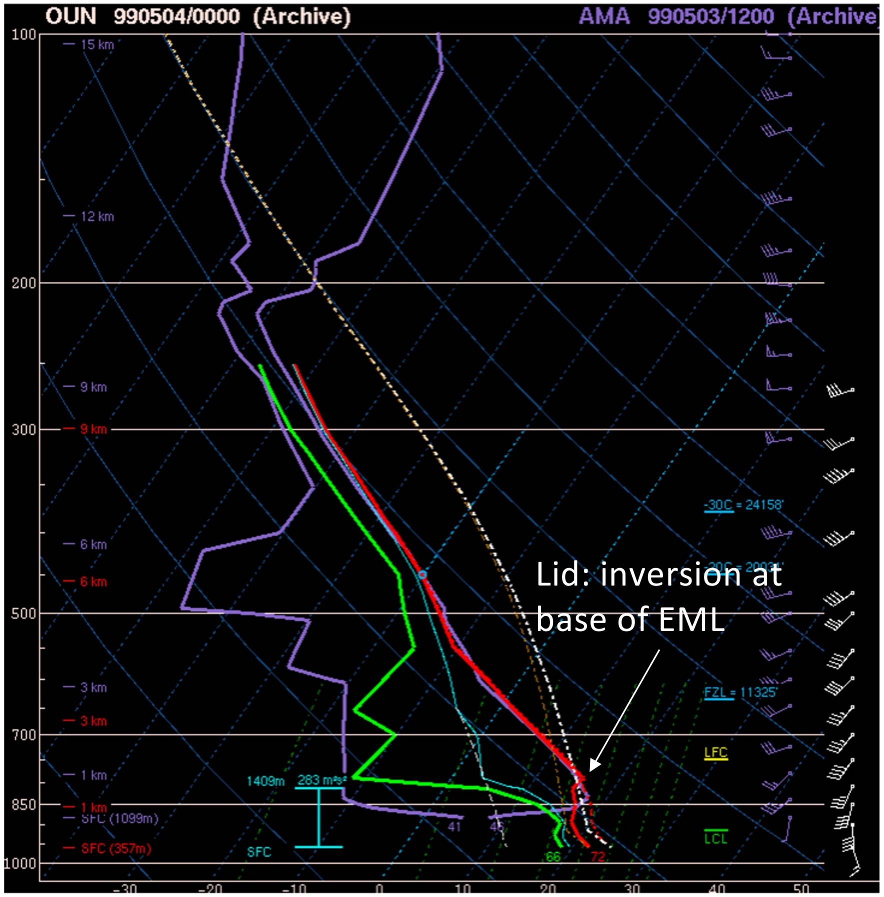
Prob EF2+ Torn with supercell
Sounding CLIMO = .15 sigtor

based on MLCAPE:	0.13
based on MLLCL:	0.19
based on ESRH:	0.08
based on EBWD:	0.06
based on STP_fixed:	0.25
based on STP_effective:	0.08



EML at OUN (0000 UTC 4 May 1999)





Climatology of Lid Occurrence

- Series of papers by Lanicci and Warner (1991)
  - *Weather and Forecasting (*June issue)
- Distribution of maximum surface potential temperature
  - **What is the "normal" dry adiabat value by month over the high terrain of the west?**
  - See their Fig. 6 for April (36-40 C), May (40-44 C), and June (48-52 C)

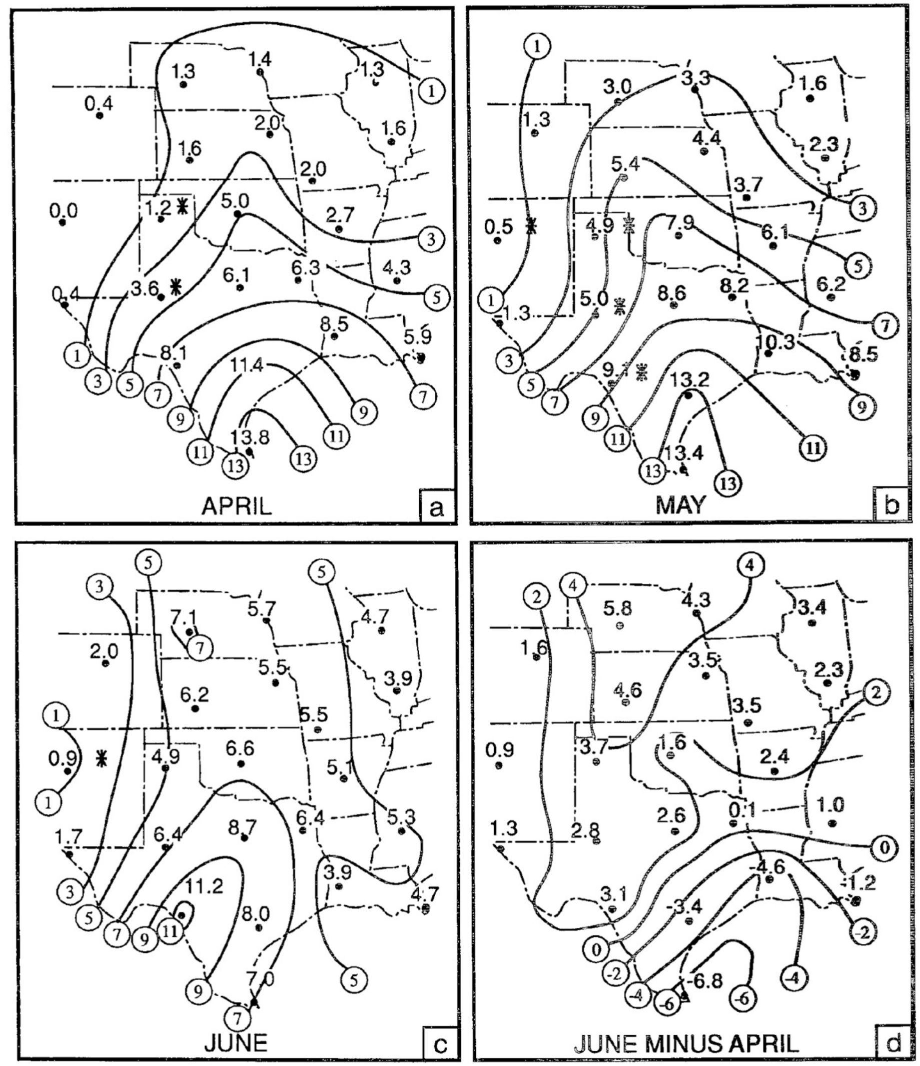


FIG. 5. Mean number of lid days over the region (see text for the definition of a "lid day"). An asterisk (*) next to the station means that the 1200 UTC lid frequency is greater than or equal to twice the 0000 UTC frequency. Charts are shown for a) April, b) May, and c) June. The change in lid days from April to June is shown by the difference field in (d).

Lanicci and Warner (1991)

Climatology of Surface $\boldsymbol{\theta}$

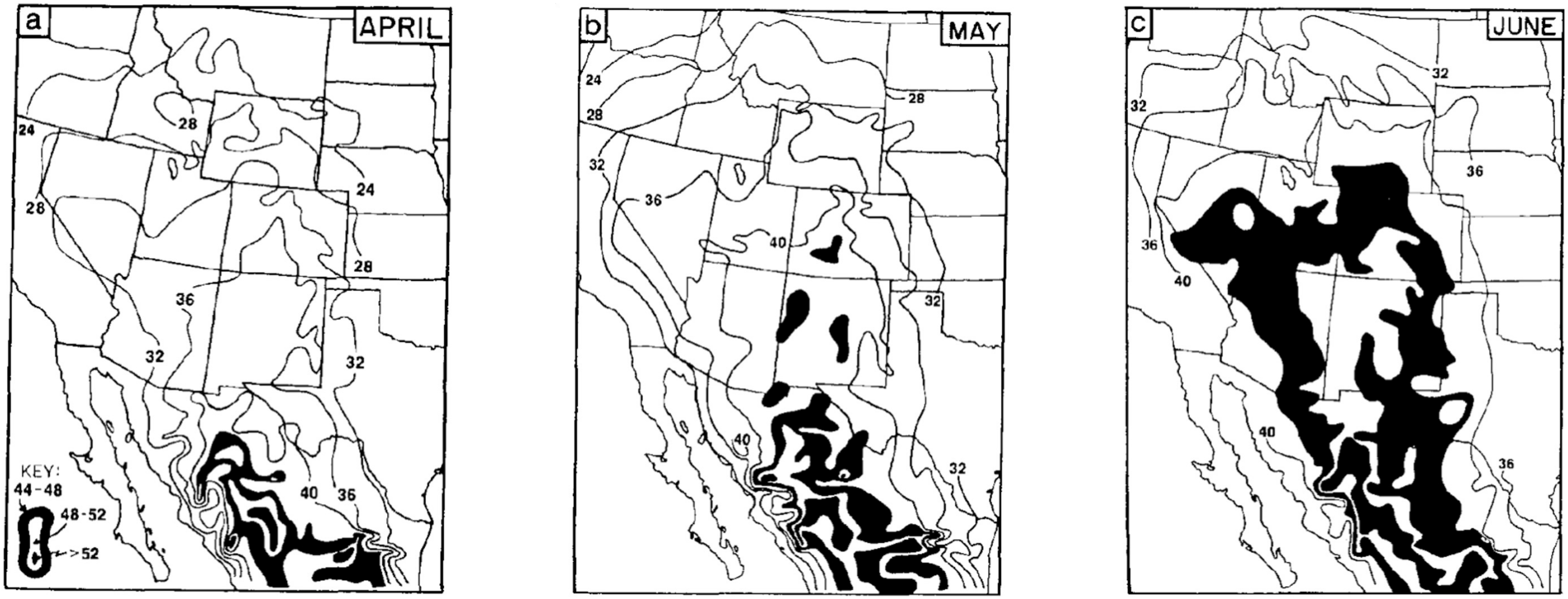
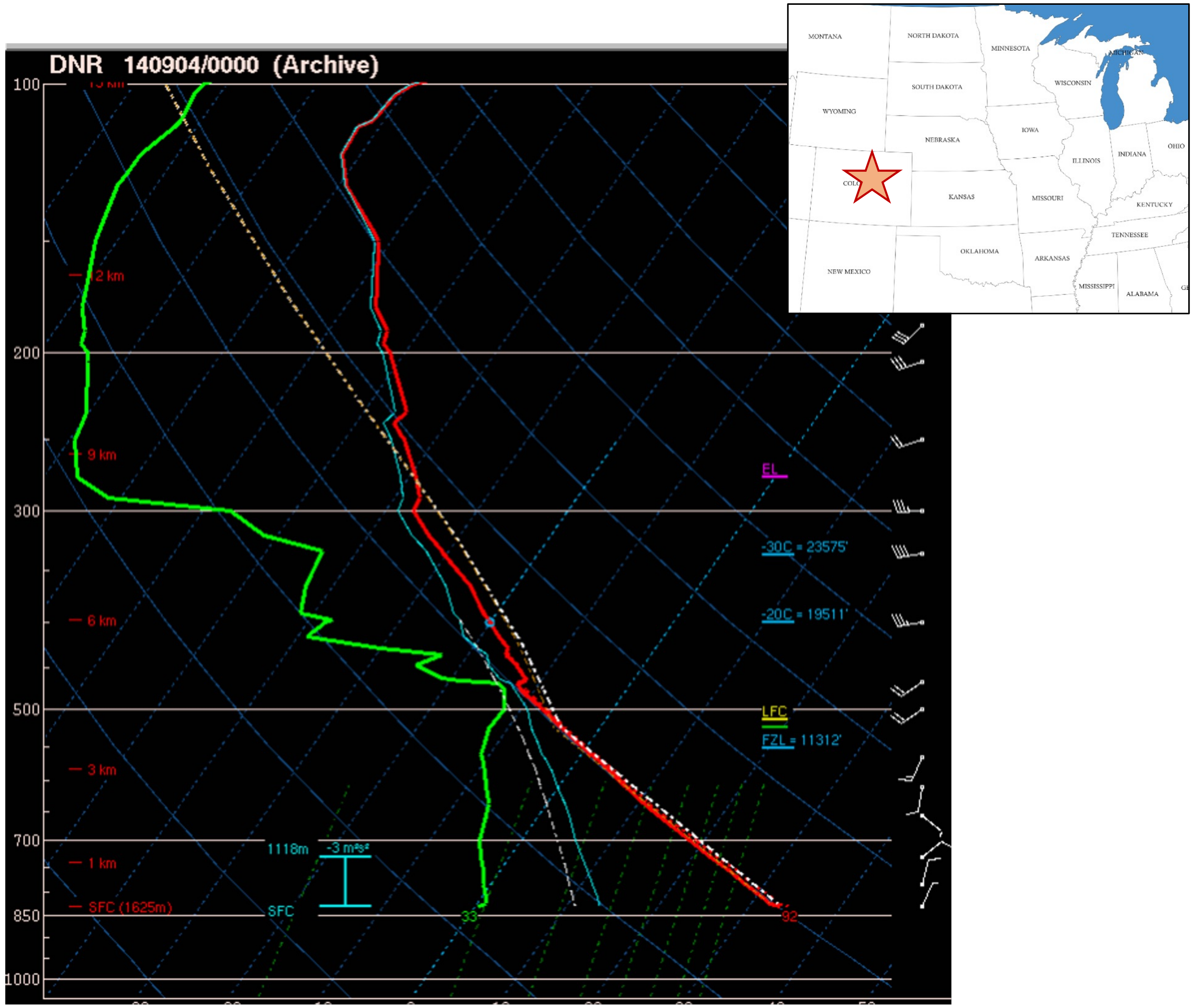
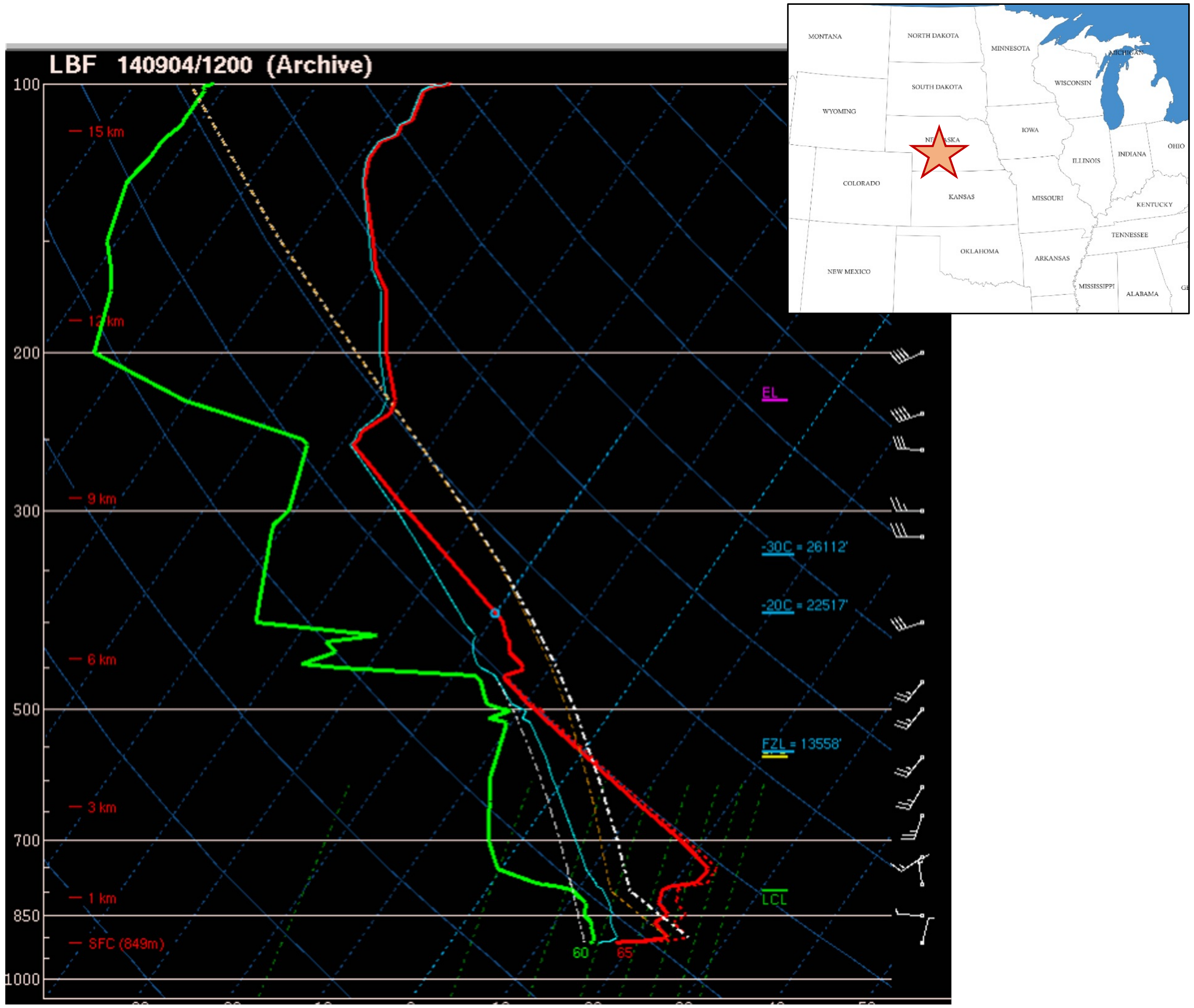


FIG. 6. Climatological mean maximum surface potential temperature analysis (in °C) over northern Mexico and the western U.S. for a) April, b) May, and c) June. Values greater than or equal to 44°C are alternately highlighted in 4°C intervals as shown in the lower left corner of chart (a).

Lanicci and Warner (1991)

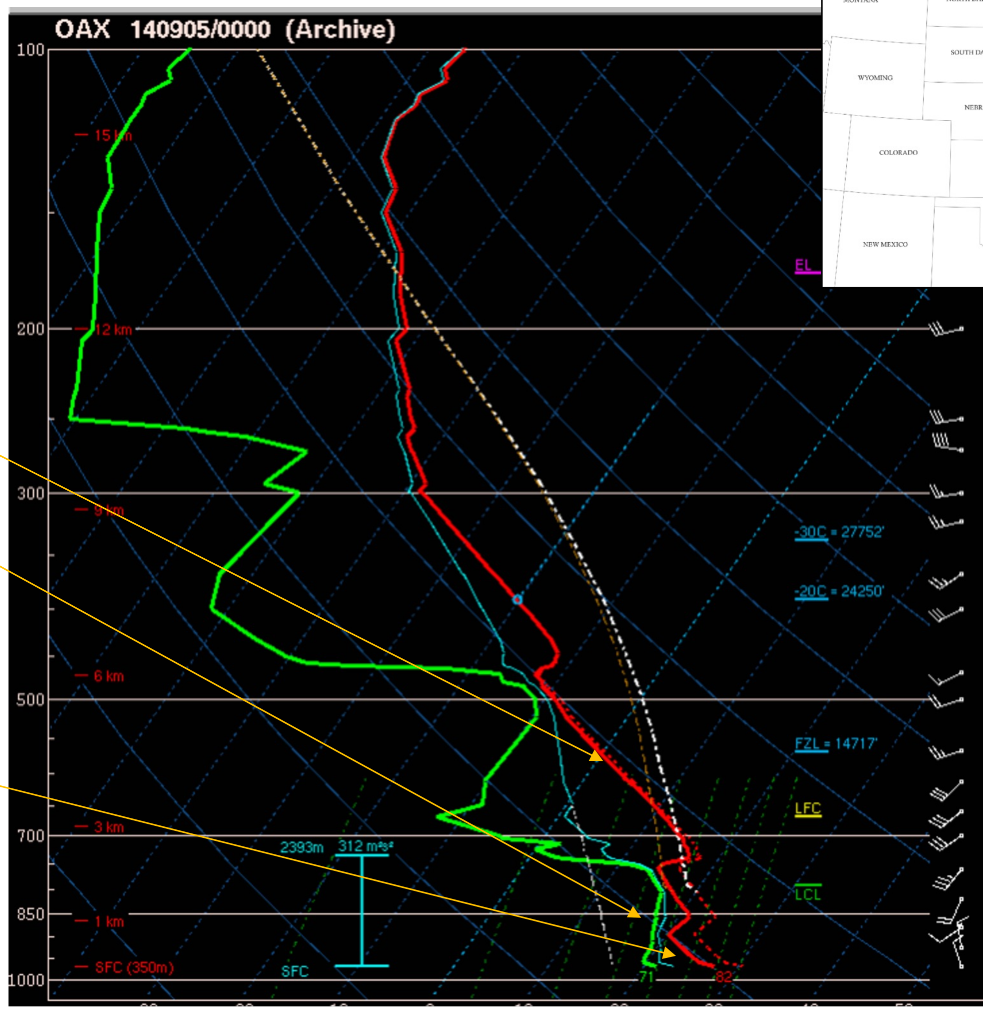


DNR 140904/0000 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (1625m)
1118m
-3 m²s²
SFC
33
92
EL
-30C = 23575'
-20C = 19511'
LFC
FZL = 11312'
MONTANA
NORTH DAKOTA
MINNESOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
WISCONSIN
WYOMING
NEBRASKA
IOWA
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
OHIO
KANSAS
MISSOURI
KENTUCKY
TENNESSEE
OKLAHOMA
ARKANSAS
NEW MEXICO
MISSISSIPPI
ALABAMA

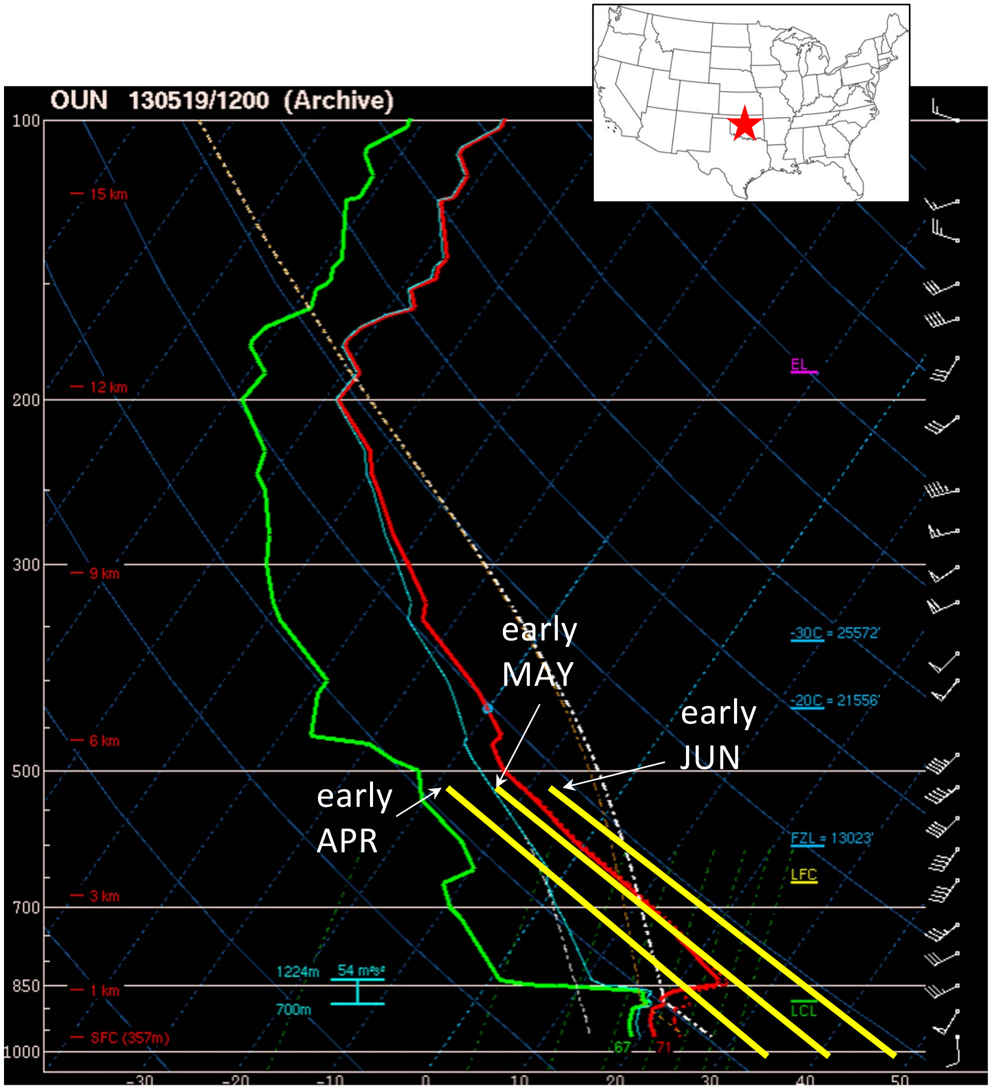


LBF 140904/1200 (Archive)
100
15 km
12 km
200
EL
9 km
300
-30C = 26112'
-20C = 22517'
6 km
500
FZL = 13558'
3 km
700
1 km
LCL
850
SFC (849m)
60
65
1000
MONTANA
NORTH DAKOTA
MINNESOTA
SOUTH DAKOTA
WISCONSIN
WYOMING
IOWA
ILLINOIS
INDIANA
OHIO
COLORADO
KANSAS
MISSOURI
KENTUCKY
TENNESSEE
OKLAHOMA
ARKANSAS
NEW MEXICO
MISSISSIPPI
ALABAMA

- **Lid strength is related to:**
  - **EML θ**
  - **Depth/quality of moisture**
  - **Surface heating and mixing in moist sector**



EML Potential Temperature



- EML θ values 36-40C in April, 40-44C in May, 48-52C in June

- Warmer than normal surface temperatures over Rockies can lead to very warm EML and strong lid (or, cap) in Plains

- Cooler than normal surface temperatures over Rockies might suggest not much EML formation

- EML develops over a few days (like moisture return)

Lift

- **Synoptic-scale lift**
  - 1-10 cm/s for many hours (6 hours � ~2 km ascent (SFC-800 hPa))
  - 6 hours to reach LFC
  - Conditions environment for deep, moist convection over broad area
    - Lapse rate stretching
    - Removal of inhibition
  - Layered clouds in regions of isentropic lift; some elevated storms can form

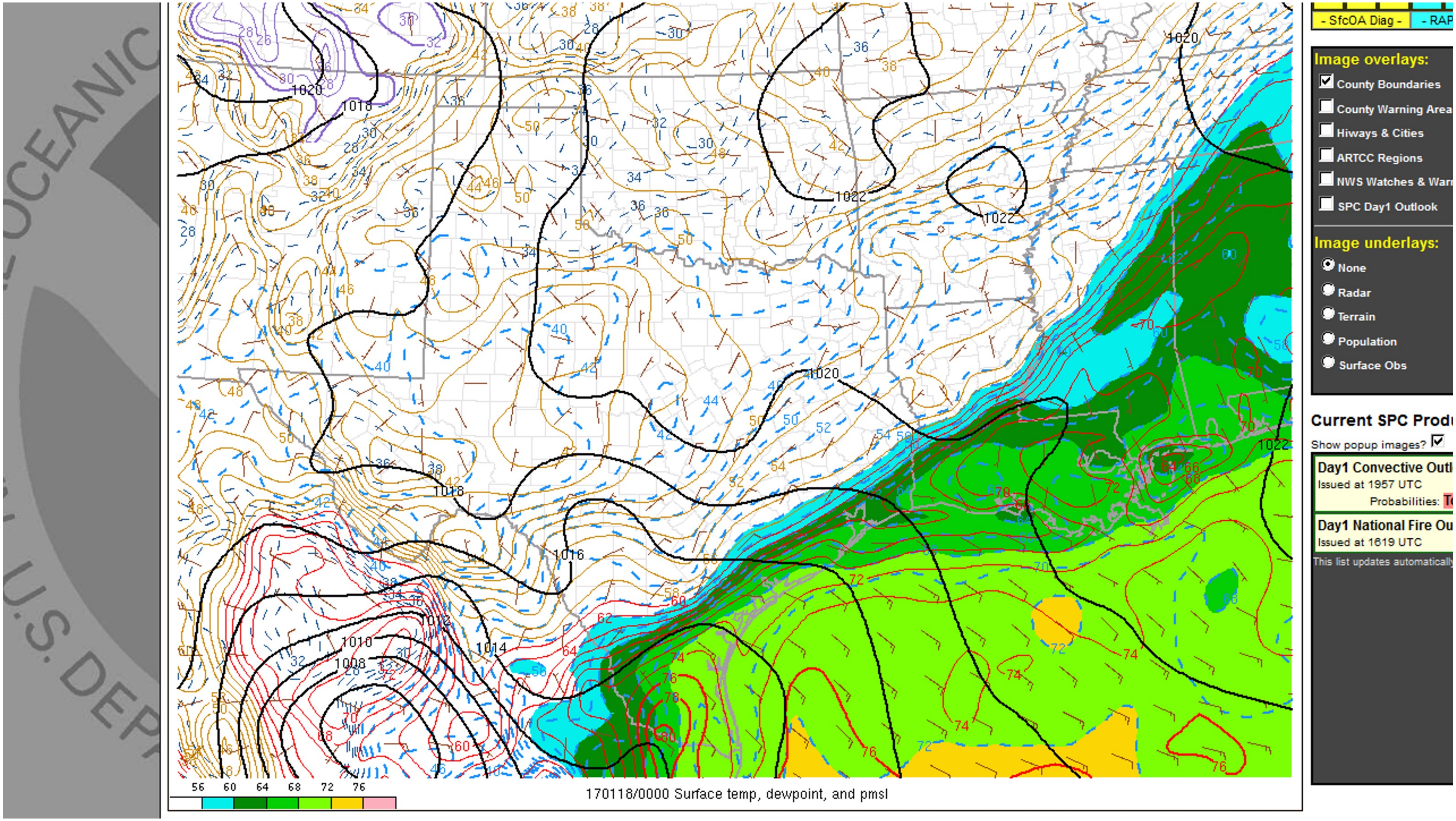
- **Mesoscale lift**
  - 1 m/s for minutes to hours (1 hour � ~3.6 km ascent (SFC-650 hPa))
  - < 1 hour to reach LFC
  - Narrow zones of ascent along boundaries and terrain features
  - Direct initiation of thunderstorms

- **Storm-scale lift**
  - 10 m/s for minutes (15 mins � ~9 km of ascent (SFC-300 hPa))
  - 5 minutes to reach LFC
  - Storm maintenance and propagation (supercells, MCSs, squall lines, etc.)

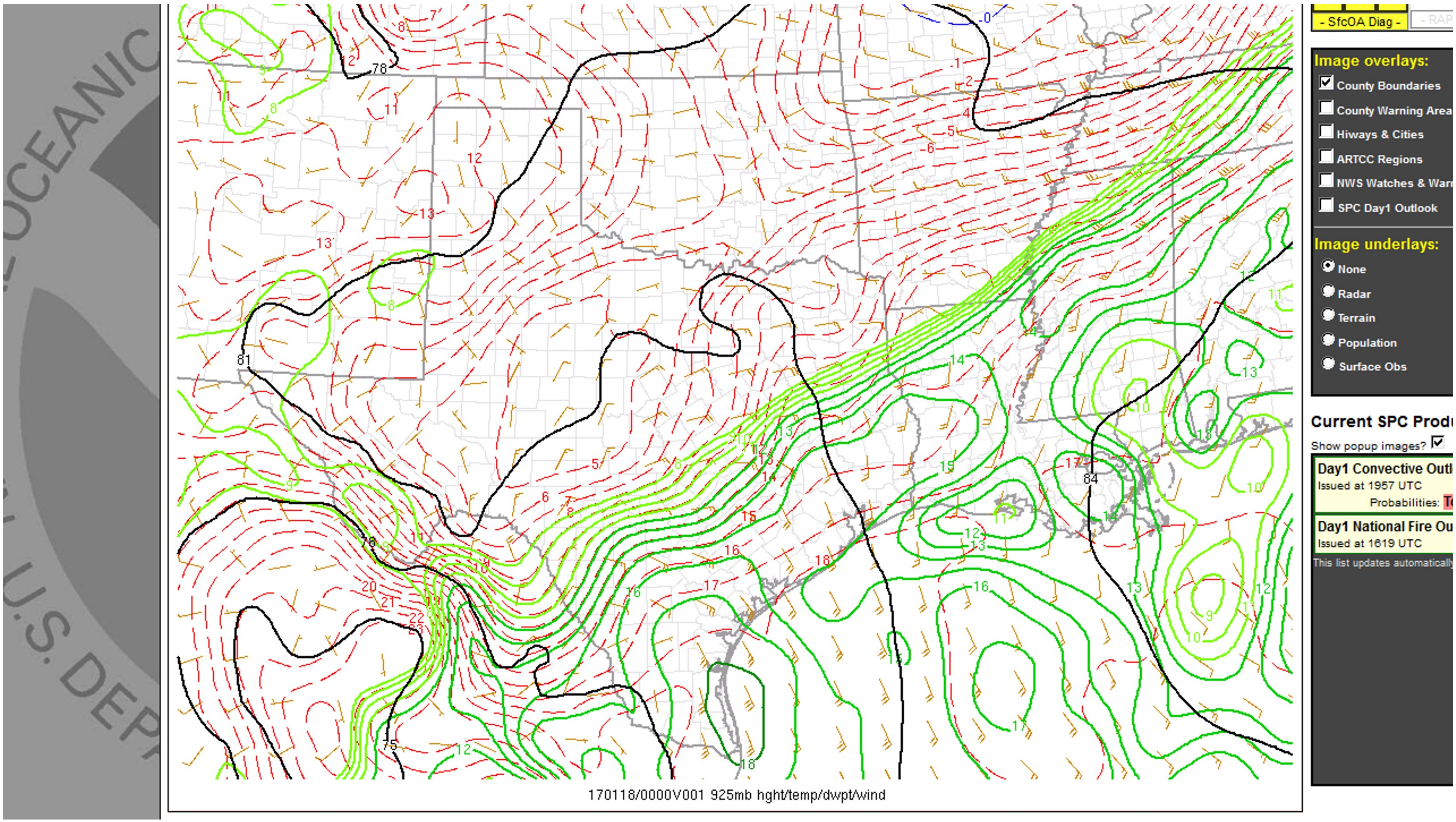
Synoptic-Scale Lift

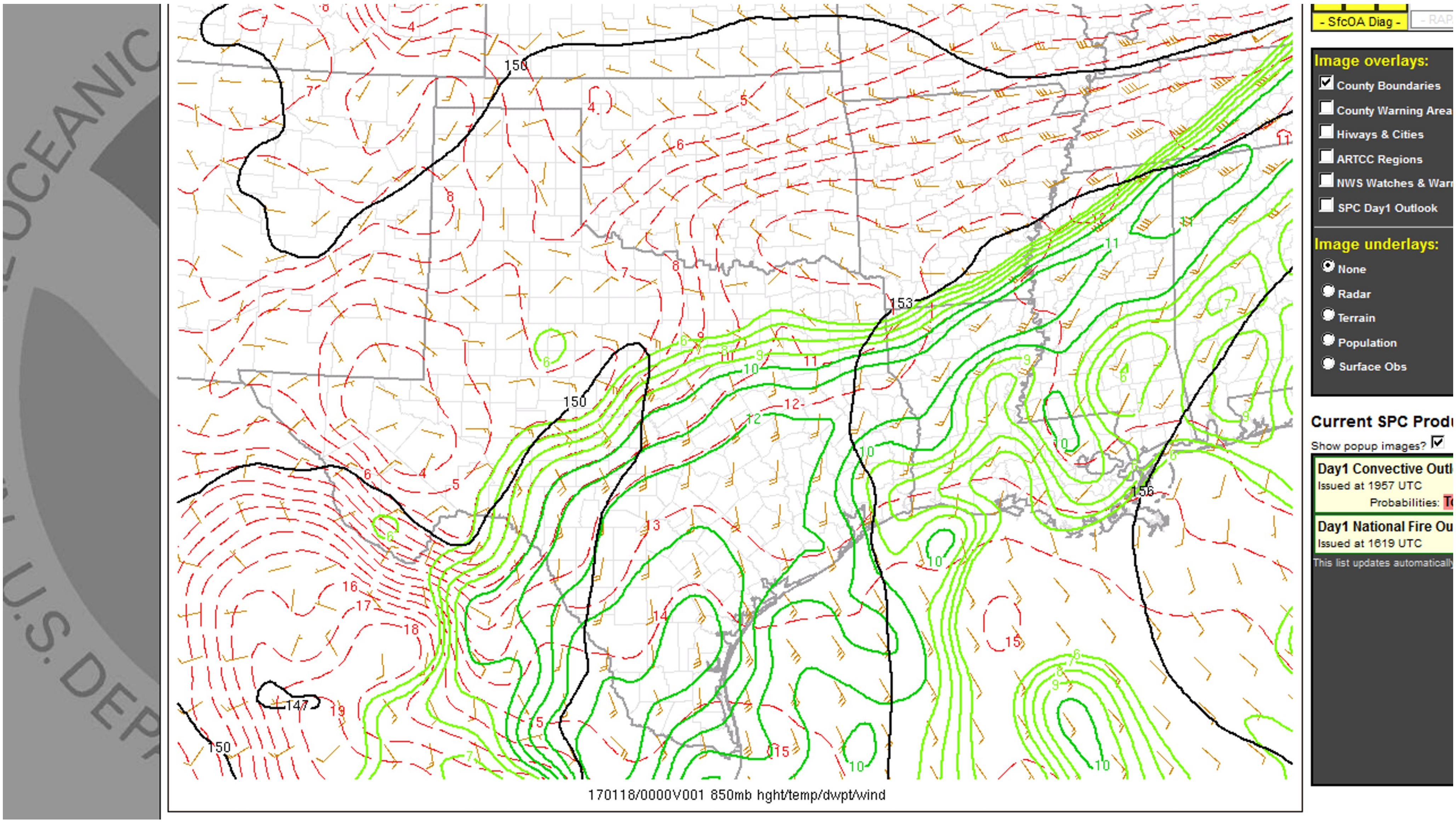
- **QG sources**
  - **Warm advection/isentropic lift and differential vorticity advection**

- **Jet streaks (also QG)**
  - **Straight jet: ascent in right entrance and left exit regions**
  - **Curved jet: ascent downstream and along jet core**



- SfcOA Diag -
- RAP
Image overlays:
County Boundaries
County Warning Area
Hiways & Cities
ARTCC Regions
NWS Watches & Warn
SPC Day1 Outlook
Image underlays:
None
Radar
Terrain
Population
Surface Obs
Current SPC Produ
Show popup images?
Day1 Convective Outl
Issued at 1957 UTC
Probabilities:
Day1 National Fire Ou
Issued at 1619 UTC
This list updates automatically
56 60 64 68 72 76
170118/0000 Surface temp, dewpoint, and pmsl


- SfcOA Diag -
Image overlays:
County Boundaries
County Warning Area
Hiways & Cities
ARTCC Regions
NWS Watches & Warn
SPC Day1 Outlook
Image underlays:
None
Radar
Terrain
Population
Surface Obs
Current SPC Produ
Show popup images?
Day1 Convective Outl
Issued at 1957 UTC
Probabilities:
Day1 National Fire Ou
Issued at 1619 UTC
This list updates automatically
170118/0000V001 925mb hght/temp/dwpt/wind


- SfcOA Diag -
Image overlays:
County Boundaries
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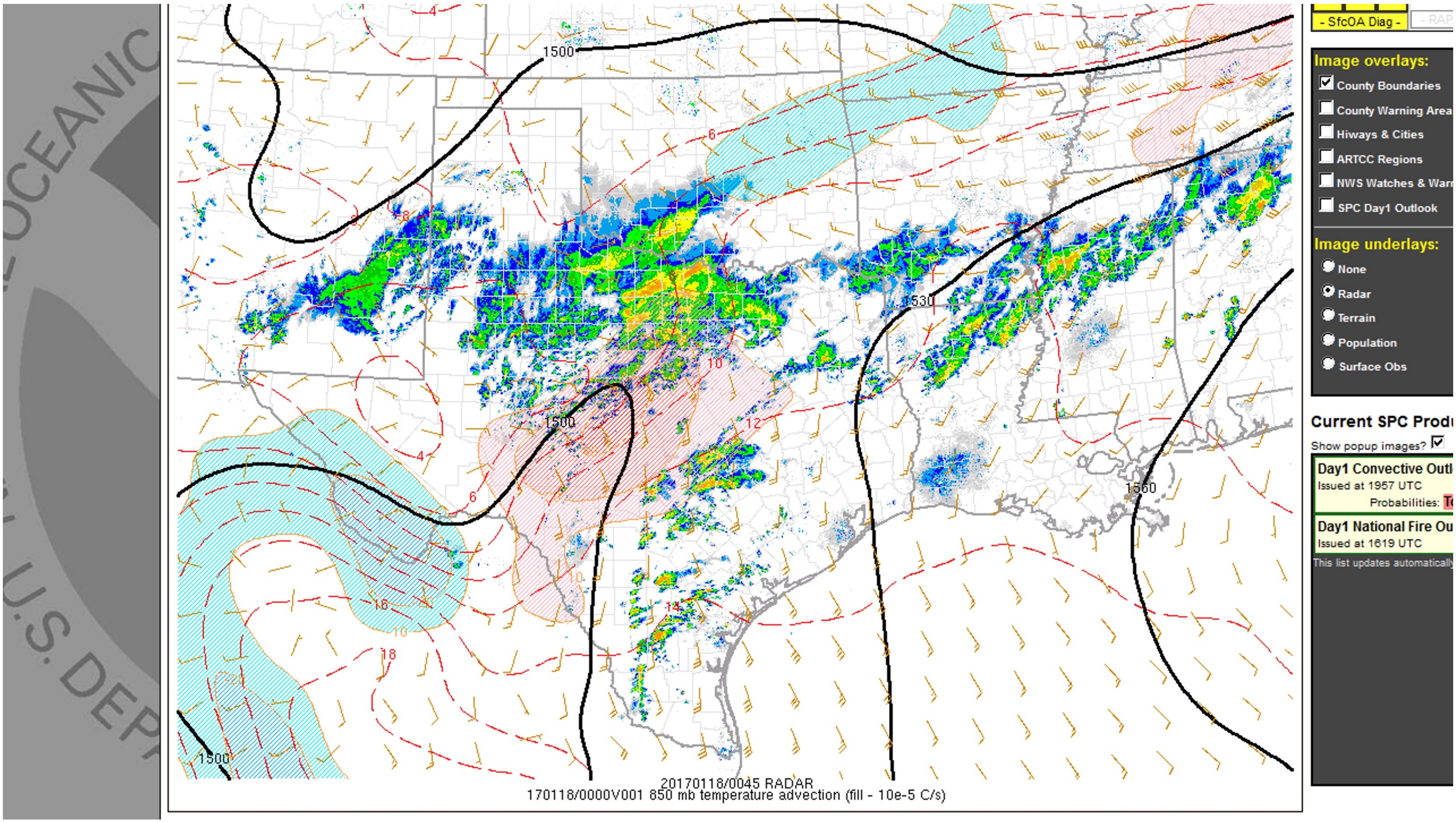
NWS Watches & Warn
SPC Day1 Outlook
Image underlays:
None
Radar
Terrain
Population
Surface Obs
Current SPC Produ
Show popup images?
Day1 Convective Outl
Issued at 1957 UTC
Probabilities:
Day1 National Fire Ou
Issued at 1619 UTC
This list updates automatically
170118/0000V001 850mb hght/temp/dwpt/wind


- SfcOA Diag -
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County Boundaries
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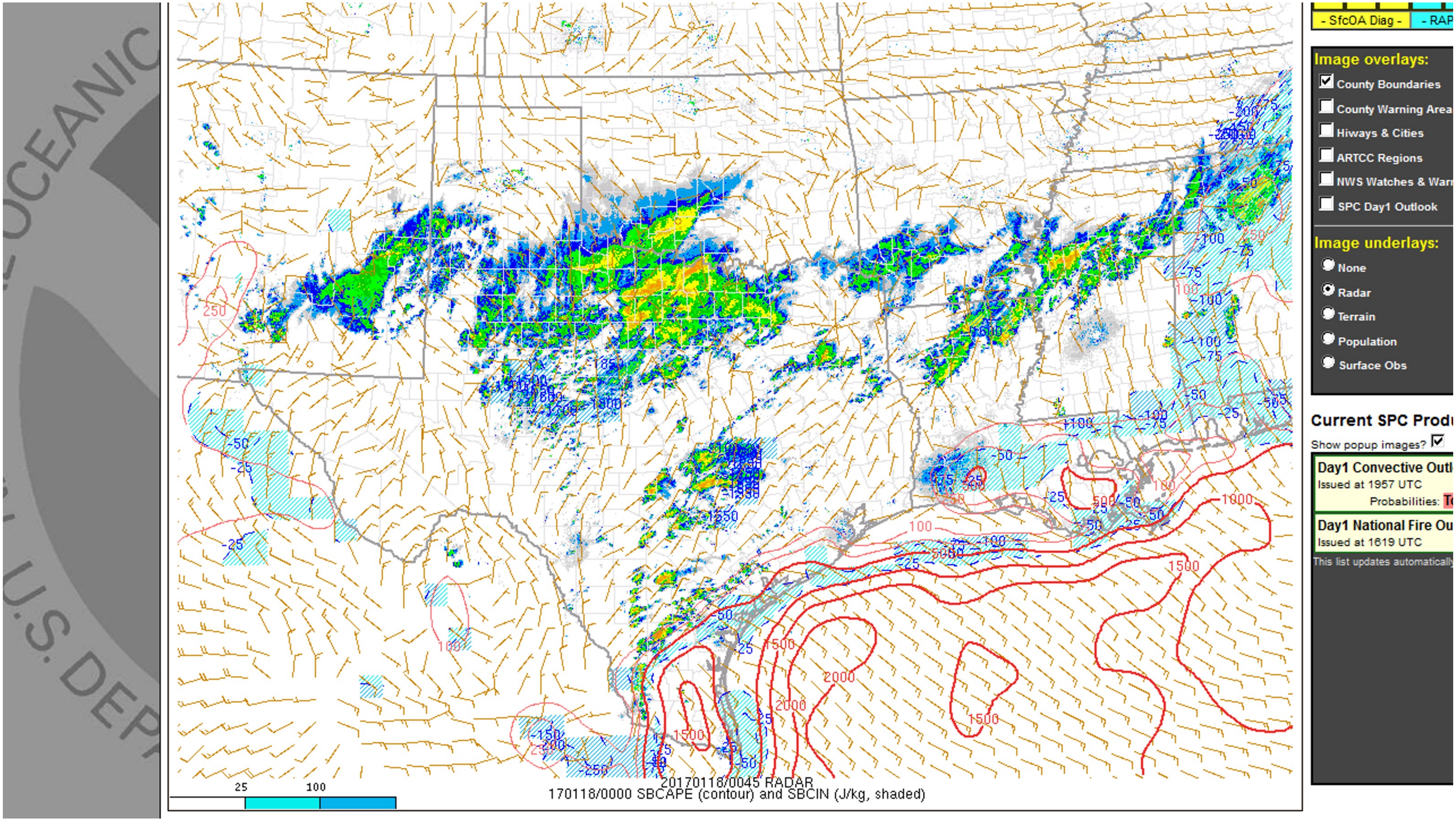
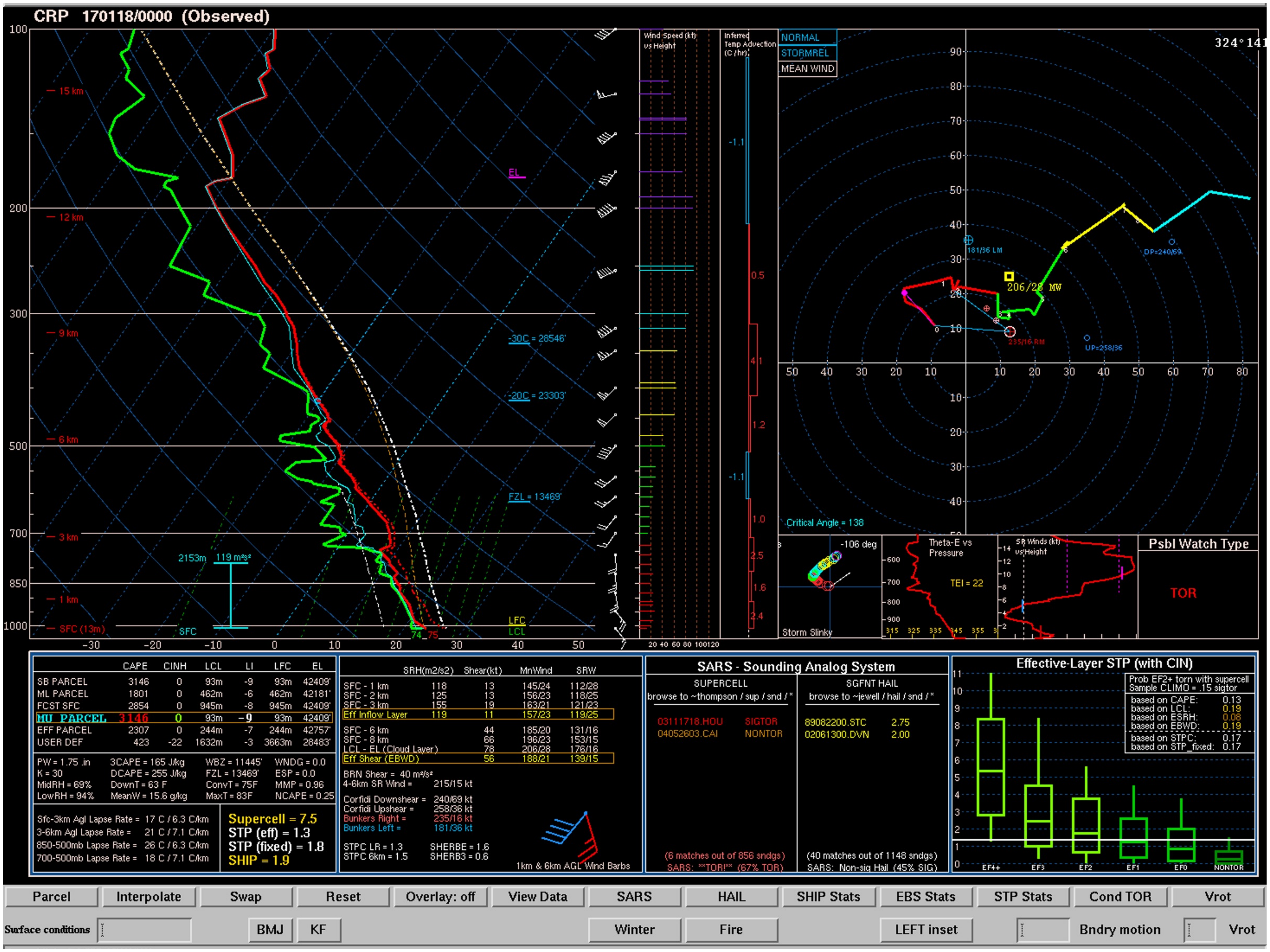
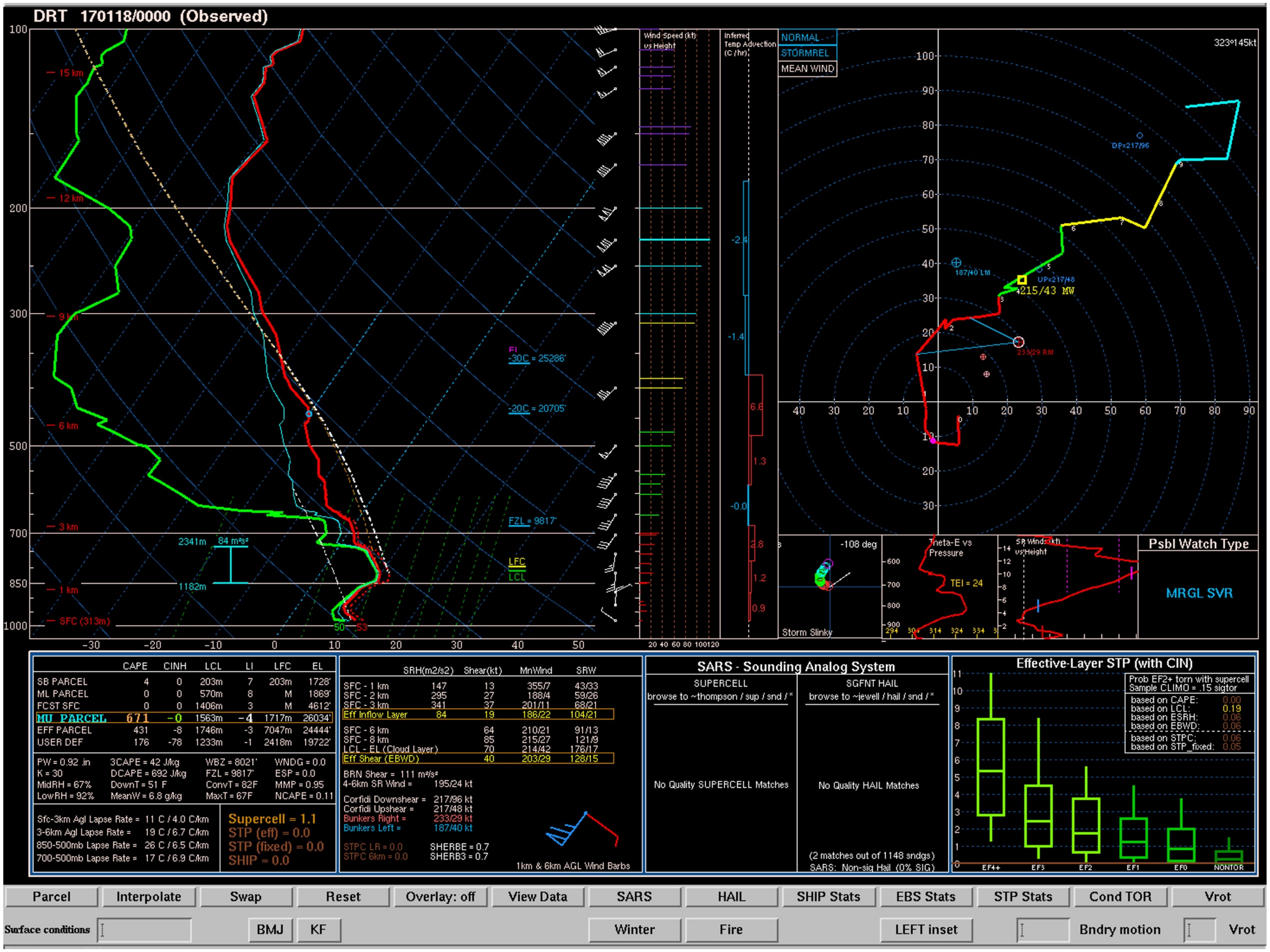
Hiways & Cities
ARTCC Regions
NWS Watches & War
SPC Day1 Outlook
Image underlays:
None
Radar
Terrain
Population
Surface Obs
Current SPC Produ
Show popup images?
Day1 Convective Outl
Issued at 1957 UTC
Probabilities:
Day1 National Fire Ou
Issued at 1619 UTC
This list updates automatically
20170118/0045 RADAR
170118/0000V001 850 mb temperature advection (fill - 10e-5 C/s)


- SfcOA Diag -
- RAP
Image overlays:
County Boundaries
County Warning Area
Hiways & Cities
ARTCC Regions
NWS Watches & War
SPC Day1 Outlook
Image underlays:
None
Radar
Terrain
Population
Surface Obs
Current SPC Produ
Show popup images?
Day1 Convective Outl
Issued at 1957 UTC
Probabilities:
Day1 National Fire Ou
Issued at 1619 UTC
This list updates automatically
25
100
20170118/0045 RADAR
170118/0000 SBCAPE (contour) and SBCIN (J/kg, shaded)


CRP 170118/0000 (Observed)
CAPE CINH LCL LI LFC EL
SB PARCEL 3146 0 93m -9 93m 42409'
ML PARCEL 1801 0 462m -6 462m 42181'
FCST SFC 2854 0 945m -8 945m 42409'
MU PARCEL 3146 0 93m -9 93m 42409'
EFF PARCEL 2307 0 244m -7 244m 42757'
USER DEF 423 -22 1632m -3 3663m 28483'
PW = 1.75 in 3CAPE = 165 J/kg WBZ = 11445' WNDG = 0.0
K = 30 DCAPE = 255 J/kg FZL = 13469' ESP = 0.0
MidRH = 69% DownT = 63 F ConvT = 75F MMP = 0.96
LowRH = 94% MeanW = 15.6 g/kg MaxT = 83F NCAPE = 0.25
Sfc-3km Agl Lapse Rate = 17 C / 6.3 C/km
3-6km Agl Lapse Rate = 21 C / 7.1 C/km
850-500mb Lapse Rate = 26 C / 6.3 C/km
700-500mb Lapse Rate = 18 C / 7.1 C/km
Supercell = 7.5
STP (eff) = 1.3
STP (fixed) = 1.8
SHIP = 1.9
SRH(m2/s2) Shear(kt) MnWind SRW
SFC - 1 km 118 13 145/24 112/28
SFC - 2 km 125 13 156/23 118/25
SFC - 3 km 155 19 163/21 121/23
Eff Inflow Layer 119 11 157/23 119/25
SFC - 6 km 44 185/20 131/16
SFC - 8 km 66 196/23 153/15
LCL - EL (Cloud Layer) 78 206/28 176/16
Eff Shear (EBWD) 56 188/21 139/15
BRN Shear = 40 m²/s²
4-6km SR Wind = 215/15 kt
Corfidi Downshear = 240/69 kt
Corfidi Upshear = 258/36 kt
Bunkers Right = 235/16 kt
Bunkers Left = 181/36 kt
STPC LR = 1.3 SHERBE = 1.6
STPC 6km = 1.5 SHERB3 = 0.6
1km & 6km AGL Wind Barbs
SARS - Sounding Analog System
SUPERCELL
browse to ~thompson / sup / snd / *
03111718.HOU SIGTOR
04052603.CAI NONTOR
(6 matches out of 856 sndgs)
SARS: **TOR** (67% TOR)
SGFNT HAIL
browse to ~jewell / hail / snd / *
89082200.STC 2.75
02061300.DVN 2.00
(40 matches out of 1148 sndgs)
SARS: Non-sig Hail (45% SIG)
Effective-Layer STP (with CIN)
Prob EF2+ torn with supercell
Sample CLIMO = .15 sigtor
based on CAPE: 0.13
based on LCL: 0.19
based on ESRH: 0.08
based on EBWD: 0.19
based on STPC: 0.17
based on STP_fixed: 0.17
EF4+ EF3 EF2 EF1 EF0 NONTOR
Psbl Watch Type
TOR
Critical Angle = 138
Storm Slinky
Theta-E vs Pressure
TEI = 22
SR Winds (kt) vs Height
206/28 MW
NORMAL
STORMREL
MEAN WIND
EL
LFC
LCL
-30C = 28546'
-20C = 23303'
FZL = 13469'
2153m 119 m²/s²
Parcel Interpolate Swap Reset Overlay: off View Data SARS HAIL SHIP Stats EBS Stats STP Stats Cond TOR Vrot
Surface conditions BMJ KF Winter Fire LEFT inset Bndry motion Vrot


DRT 170118/0000 (Observed)
CAPE CINH LCL LI LFC EL
SB PARCEL 4 0 203m 7 203m 1728'
ML PARCEL 0 0 570m 8 M 1869'
FCST SFC 0 0 1406m 3 M 4612'
MU PARCEL 671 -0 1563m -4 1717m 26034'
EFF PARCEL 431 -8 1746m -3 7047m 24444'
USER DEF 176 -78 1233m -1 2418m 19722'
PW = 0.92 in 3CAPE = 42 J/kg WBZ = 8021' WNDG = 0.0
K = 30 DCAPE = 692 J/kg FZL = 9817' ESP = 0.0
MidRH = 67% DownT = 51 F ConvT = 82F MMP = 0.95
LowRH = 92% MeanW = 6.8 g/kg MaxT = 67F NCAPE = 0.11
Sfc-3km Agl Lapse Rate = 11 C / 4.0 C/km
3-6km Agl Lapse Rate = 19 C / 6.7 C/km
850-500mb Lapse Rate = 26 C / 6.5 C/km
700-500mb Lapse Rate = 17 C / 6.9 C/km
Supercell = 1.1
STP (eff) = 0.0
STP (fixed) = 0.0
SHIP = 0.0
SRH(m2/s2) Shear(kt) MnWind SRW
SFC - 1 km 147 13 355/7 43/33
SFC - 2 km 295 27 188/4 59/26
SFC - 3 km 341 37 201/11 68/21
Eff Inflow Layer 84 19 186/22 104/21
SFC - 6 km 64 210/21 91/13
SFC - 8 km 85 215/27 121/9
LCL - EL (Cloud Layer) 70 214/42 176/17
Eff Shear (EBWD) 40 203/29 128/15
BRN Shear = 111 m²/s²
4-6km SR Wind = 195/24 kt
Corfidi Downshear = 217/96 kt
Corfidi Upshear = 217/48 kt
Bunkers Right = 233/29 kt
Bunkers Left = 187/40 kt
STPC LR = 0.0 SHERBE = 0.7
STPC 6km = 0.0 SHERB3 = 0.7
1km & 6km AGL Wind Barbs
SARS - Sounding Analog System
SUPERCELL
browse to ~thompson / sup / snd / *
No Quality SUPERCELL Matches
SGFNT HAIL
browse to ~jewell / hail / snd / *
No Quality HAIL Matches
(2 matches out of 1148 sndgs)
SARS: Non-sig Hail (0% SIG)
Effective-Layer STP (with CIN)
Prob EF2+ torn with supercell
Sample CLIMO = .15 sigtor
based on CAPE: 0.00
based on LCL: 0.19
based on ESRH: 0.06
based on EBWD: 0.06
based on STPC: 0.06
based on STP_fixed: 0.05
EF4+ EF3 EF2 EF1 EF0 NONTOR
Psbl Watch Type
MRGL SVR
Storm Slinky
-108 deg
Theta-E vs Pressure
TEI = 24
SR Wind vs Height
Wind Speed (kt) vs Height
Inferred Temp Advection (C / hr)
NORMAL
STORMREL
MEAN WIND
323/145kt
DP=217/96
UP=217/48
215/43 MW
187/40 LM
233/29 RM
FZL = 9817'
-20C = 20705'
-30C = 25286'
LFC
LCL
2341m 84 m²/s²
1182m
SFC (313m)
Parcel Interpolate Swap Reset Overlay: off View Data SARS HAIL SHIP Stats EBS Stats STP Stats Cond TOR Vrot
Surface conditions BMJ KF Winter Fire LEFT inset Bndry motion Vrot

Synoptic-Scale Lift Summary

- **Gradual ascent over many hours**
  - **Warm advection and differential vorticity advection are primary drivers**

- **Primary role of QG ascent is to precondition environment for convection**
  - **Can also initiate elevated storms in regions of warm advection**
  - **Most surface-based storms are triggered by mesoscale ascent**

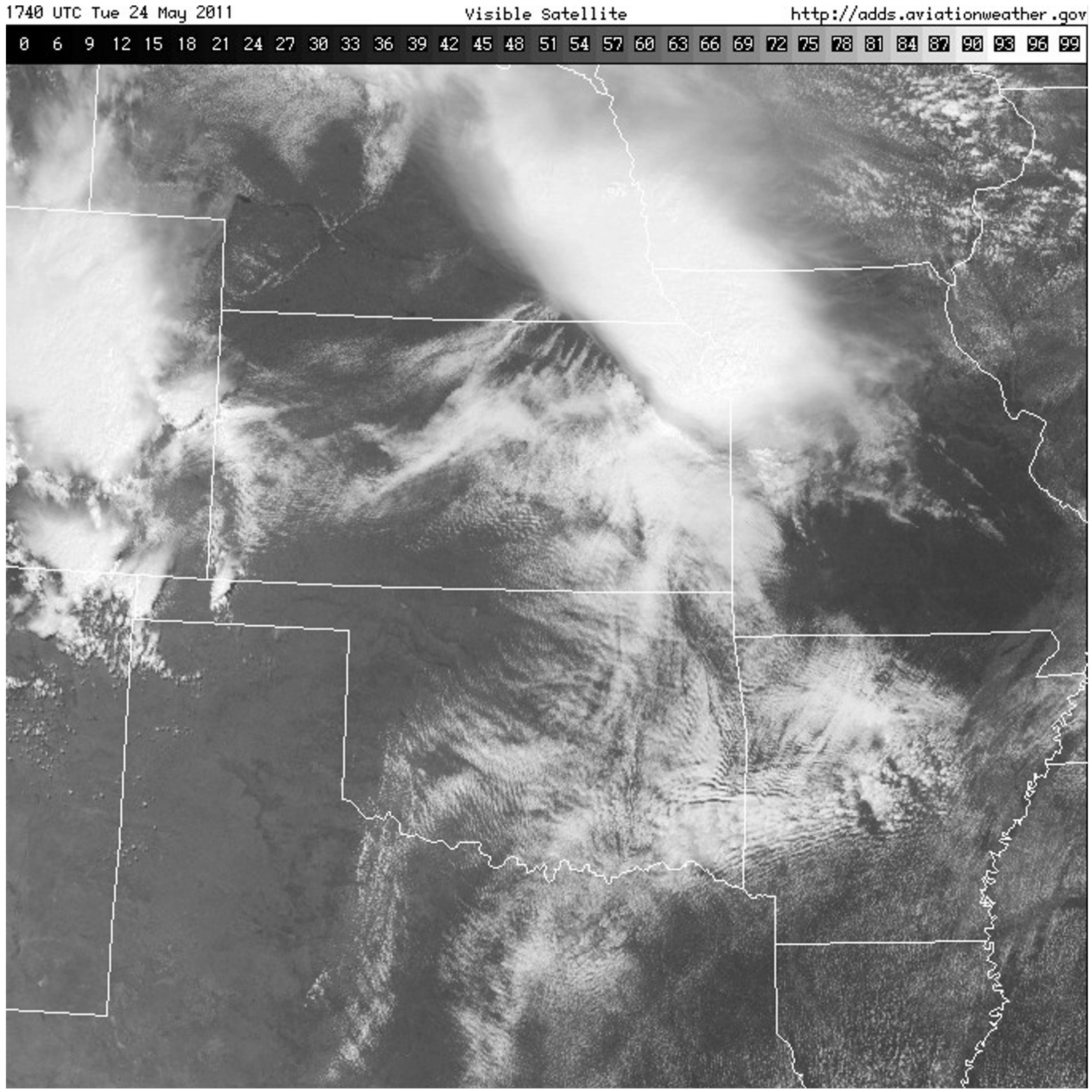
Mesoscale Lift

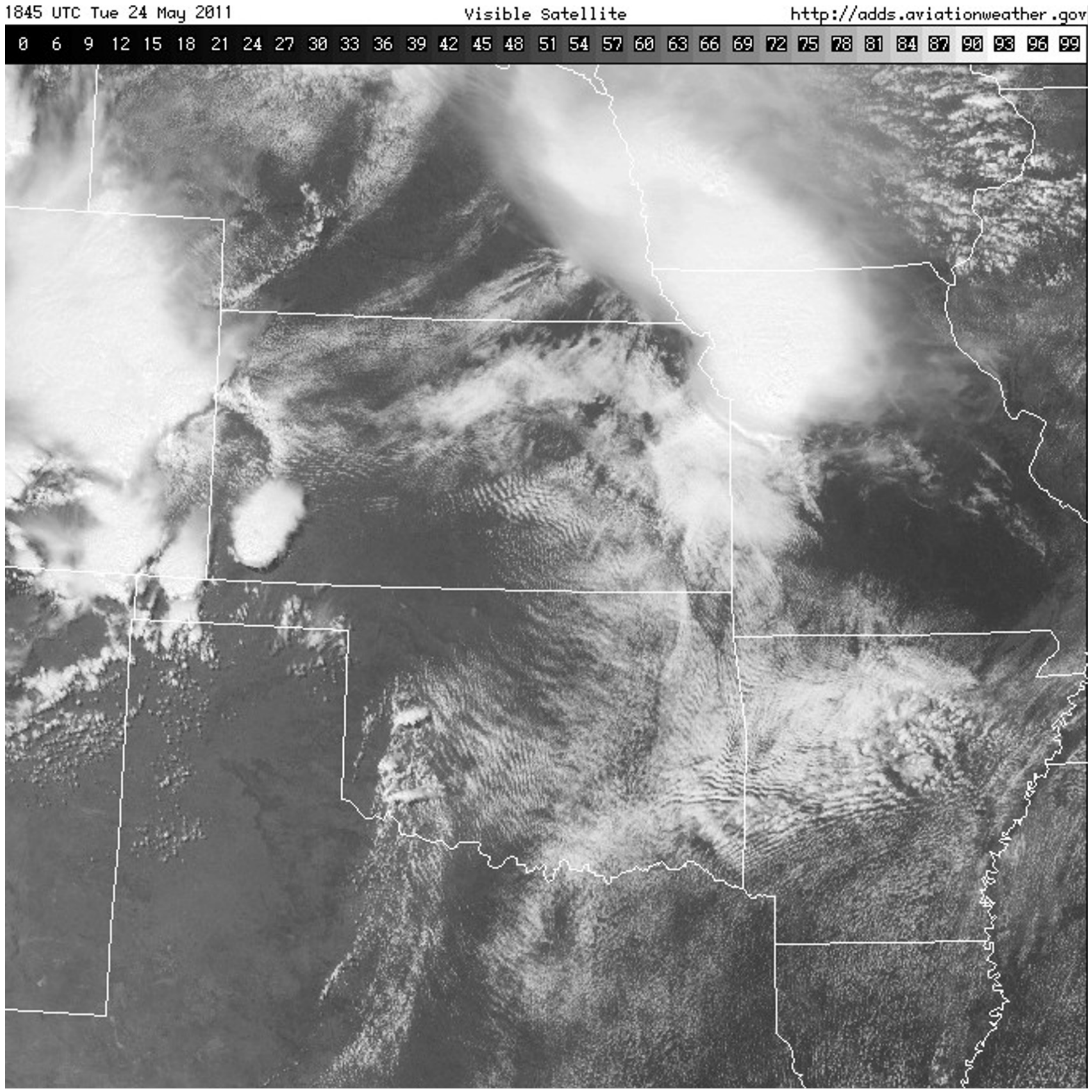
- Focused and narrow zones of lift for minutes to hours

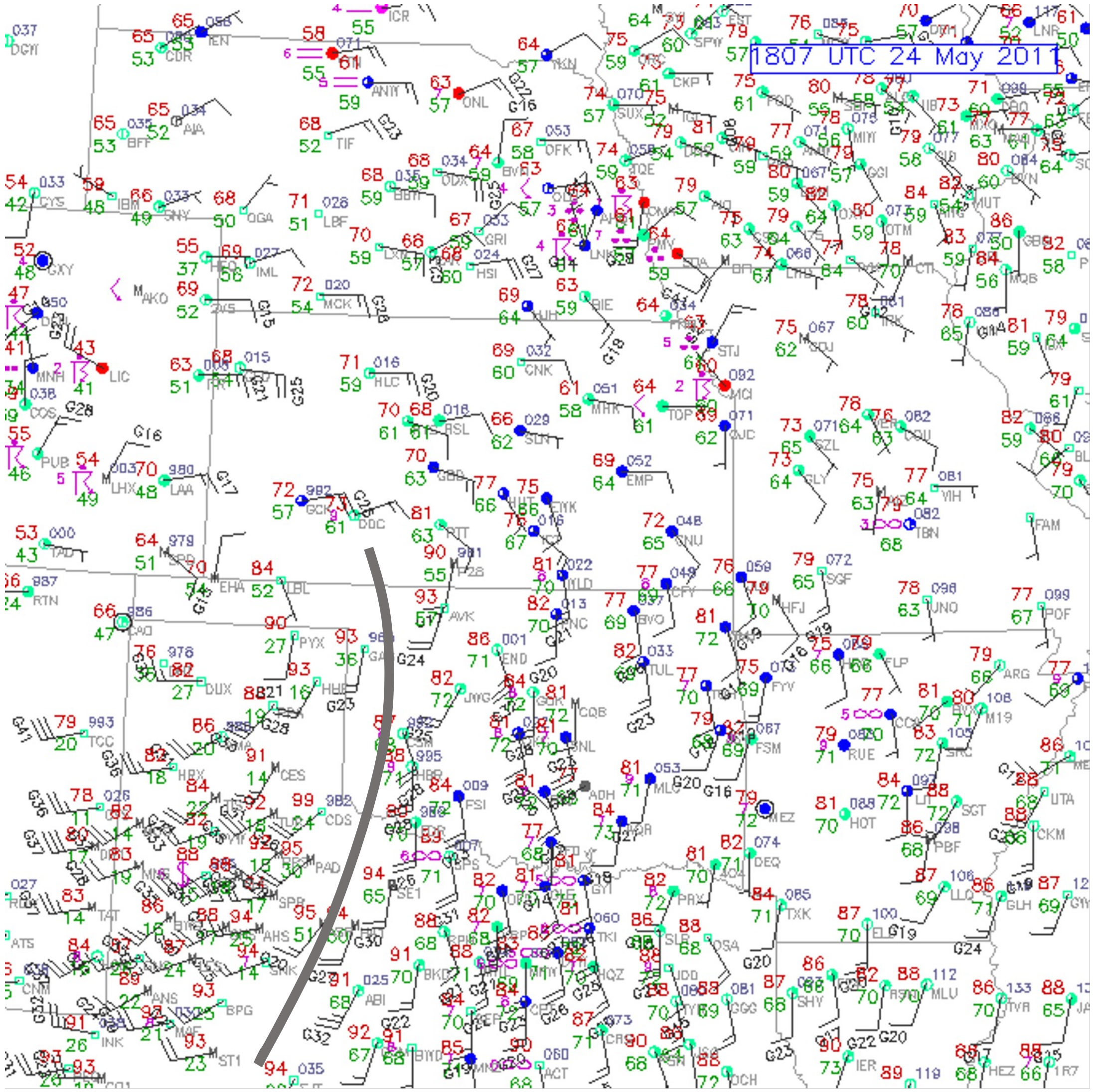
- Fronts
  - Rising on warm side with frontogenesis
  - Isentropic ascent on sloped warm front ("overrunning"); similar to synoptic lift except in focused bands

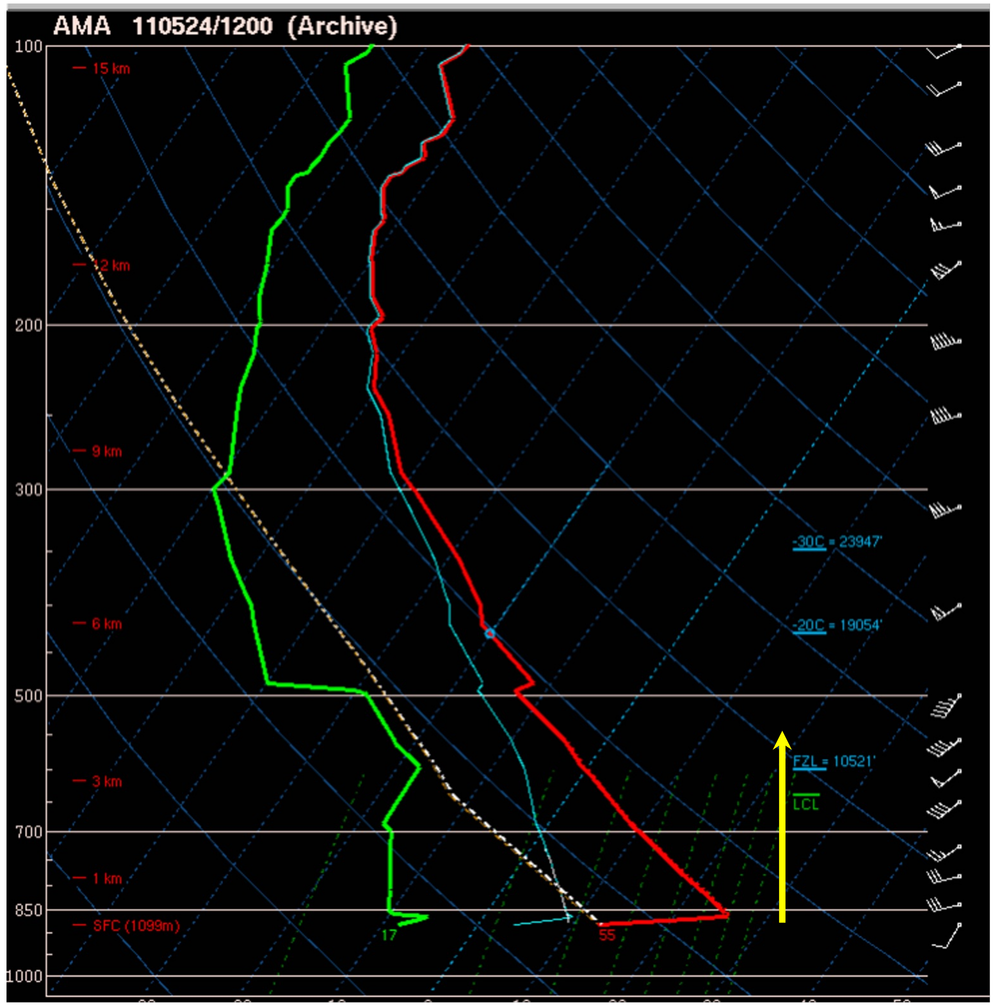
- Outflow boundary
  - Lift is governed by depth/strength of cold pool and low-level vertical wind shear [Rotunno-Klemp-Weisman (RKW) Theory]

- Dryline
  - Lift on dry/hot side due to frontogenesis
  - Lift also governed by depth of mixing west of dryline and depth of moist layer east of dryline

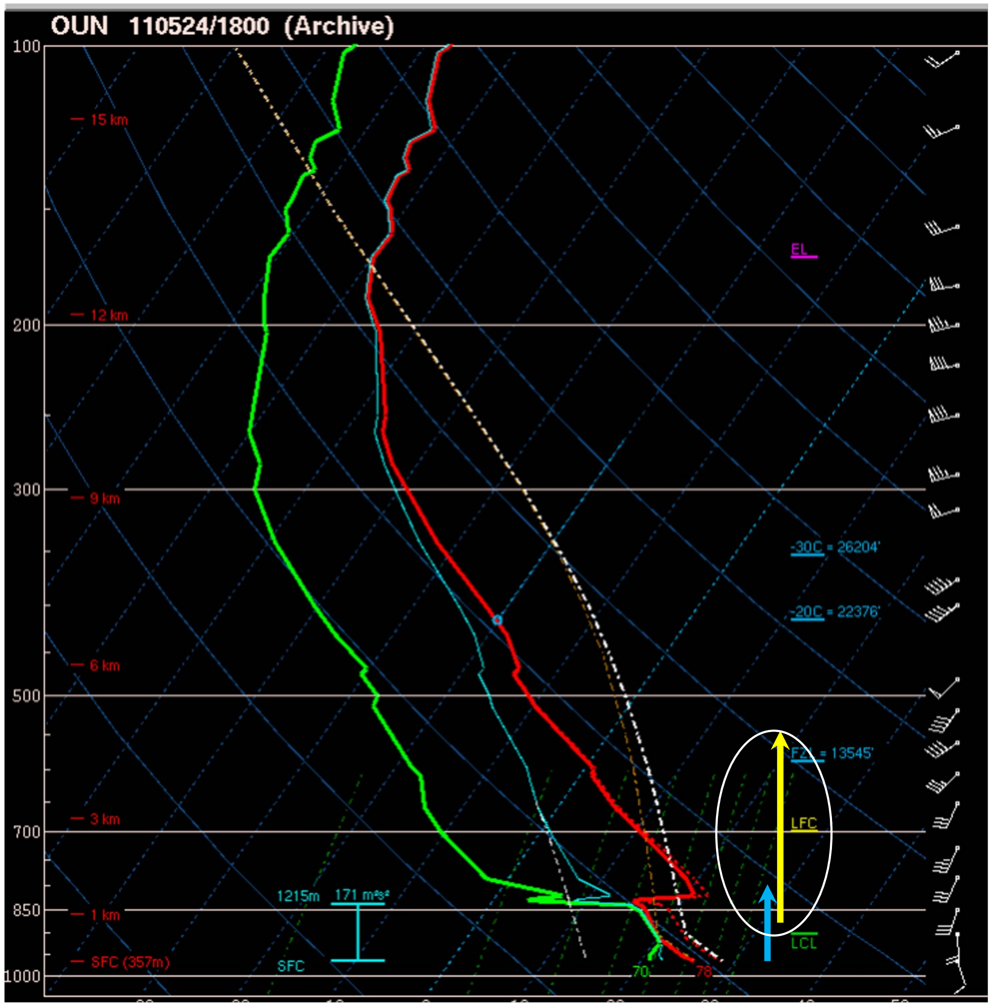

1740 UTC Tue 24 May 2011
Visible Satellite
http://adds.aviationweather.gov
0 6 9 12 15 18 21 24 27 30 33 36 39 42 45 48 51 54 57 60 63 66 69 72 75 78 81 84 87 90 93 96 99

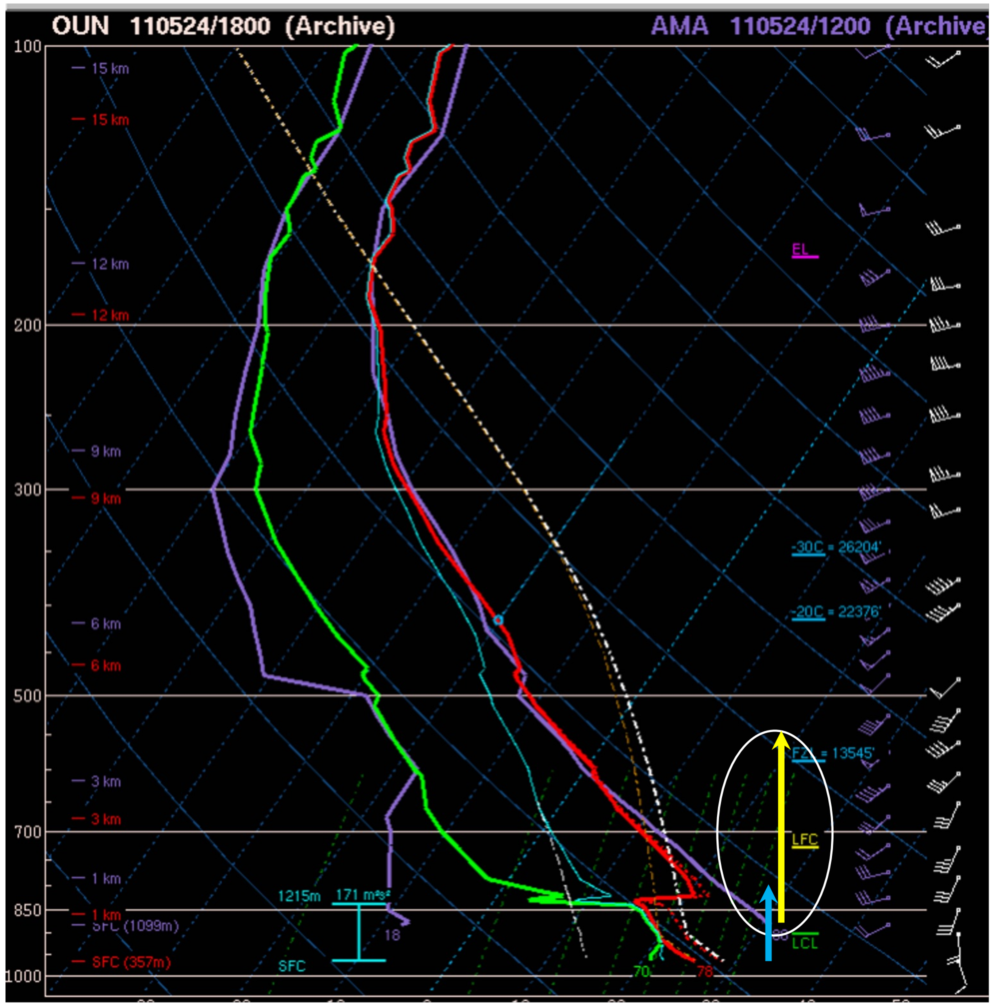

1845 UTC Tue 24 May 2011
Visible Satellite
http://adds.aviationweather.gov
0 6 9 12 15 18 21 24 27 30 33 36 39 42 45 48 51 54 57 60 63 66 69 72 75 78 81 84 87 90 93 96 99

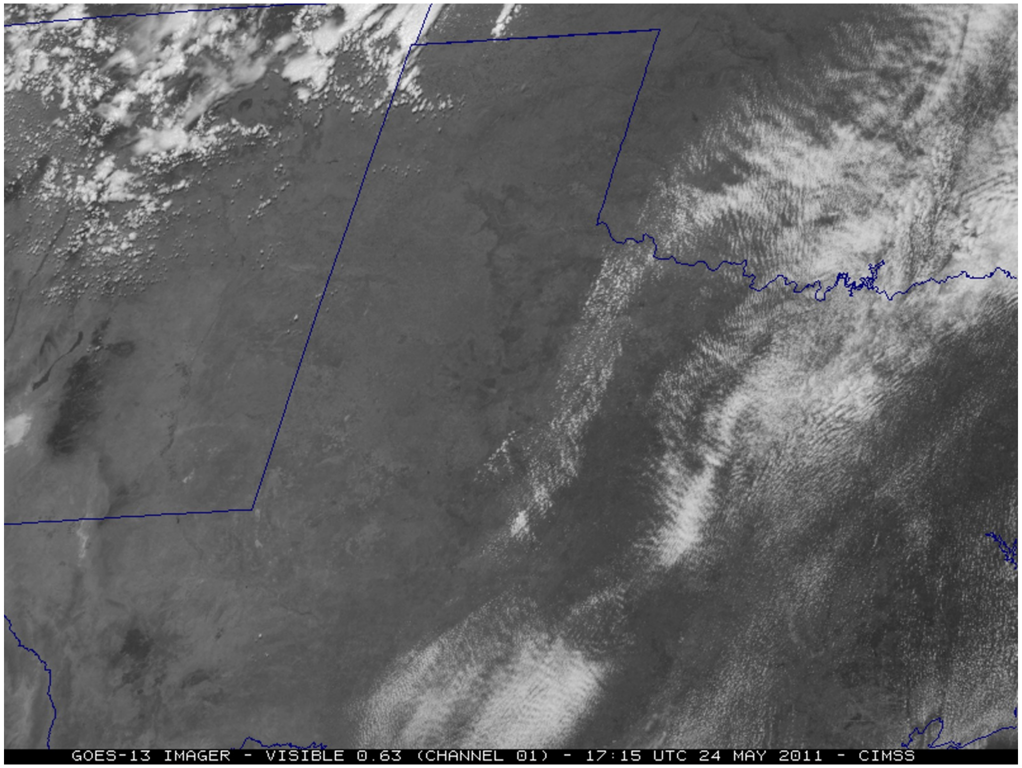

1807 UTC 24 May 2011



AMA 110524/1200 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (1099m)
17
55
-30C = 23947'
-20C = 19054'
FZL = 10521'
LCL


OUN 110524/1800 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (357m)
EL
-30C = 26204'
-20C = 22376'
FZL = 13545'
LFC
LCL
1215m 171 m²/s²
SFC
70
78


OUN 110524/1800 (Archive)
AMA 110524/1200 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (1099m)
SFC (357m)
EL
-30C = 26204'
-20C = 22376'
FZL = 13545'
LFC
LCL
1215m 171 m²s²
SFC
18
70
78


GOES-13 IMAGER - VISIBLE 0.63 (CHANNEL 01) - 17:15 UTC 24 MAY 2011 - CIMSS

Dryline Summary

- **Focused ascent along dryline can be ~1 m/s (~1 hour to reach LFC)**
  - Lift depends on depth of mixing west of dryline
- **Convection initiation linked to the residence time of air in the zone of ascent**
  - Winds above the surface parallel to dryline keeps air in zone of life longer
- **Convection will initiate in points or bands**
  - Usually the mode of initiation for surface-based supercells in central/southern Plains

Moisture

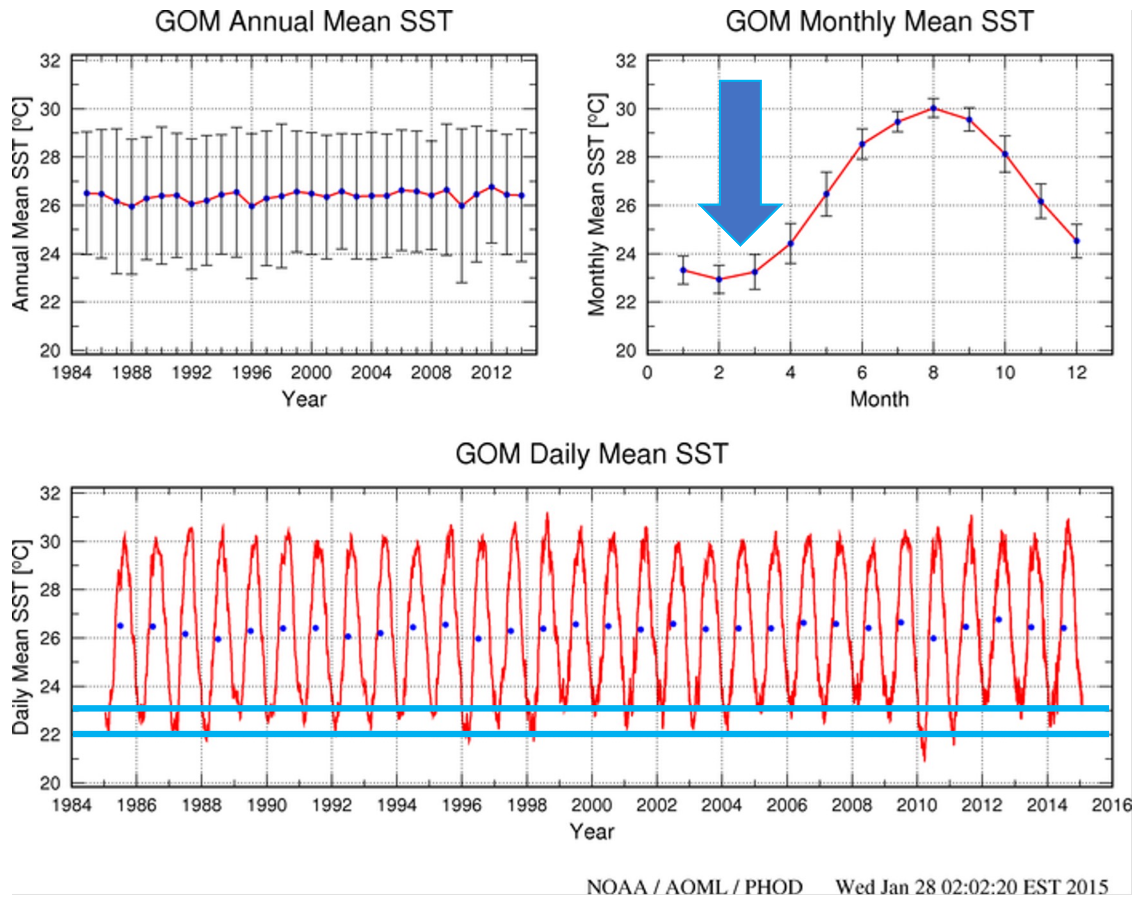
- **Moisture in PBL needs to be large and deep enough for convection**
- **Return flow**
- **Inland vertical mixing/diurnal processes**
- **Evapotranspiration**

Low-level Moisture Return Flow

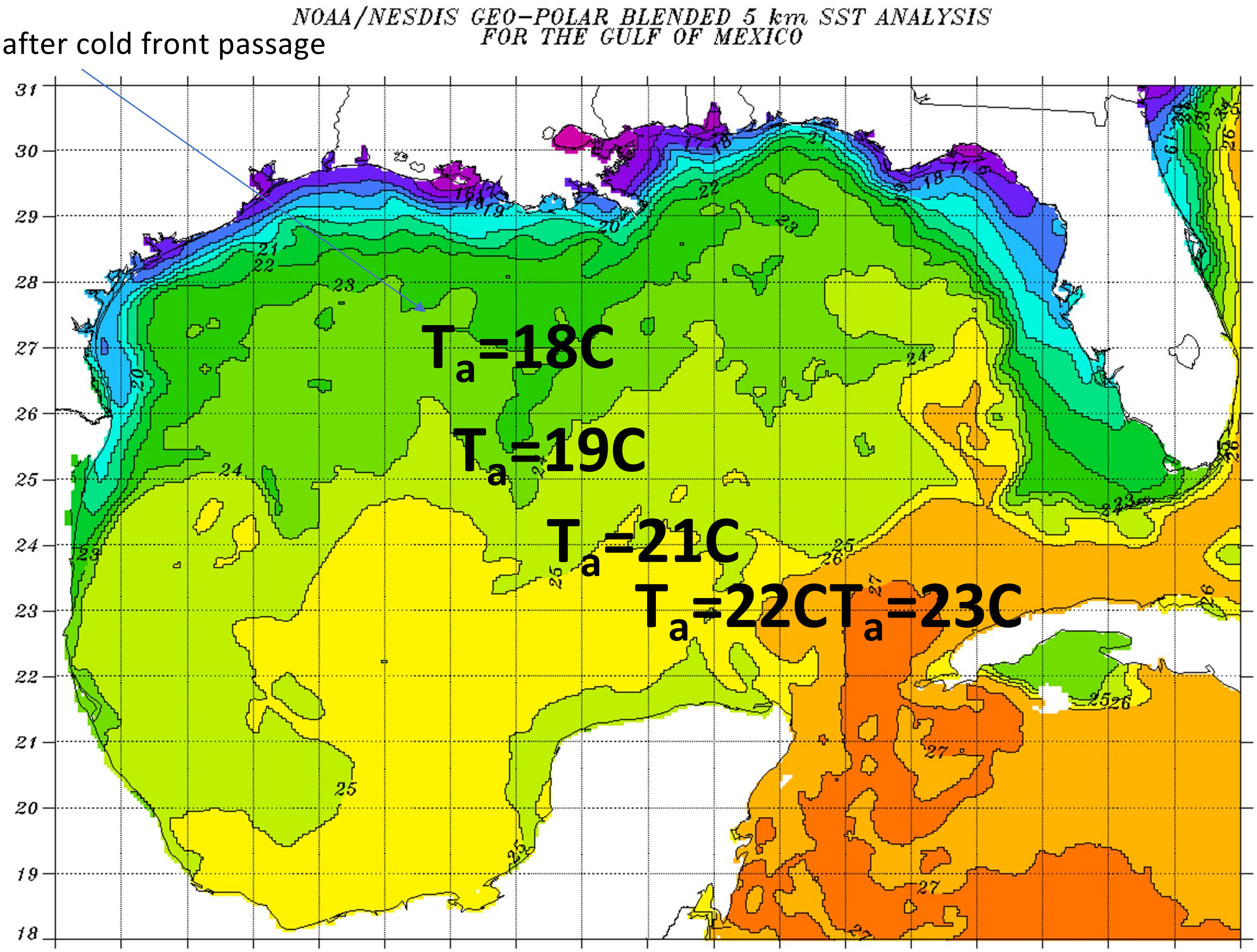
- Key elements include air mass modifications over warmer water and return flow trajectories

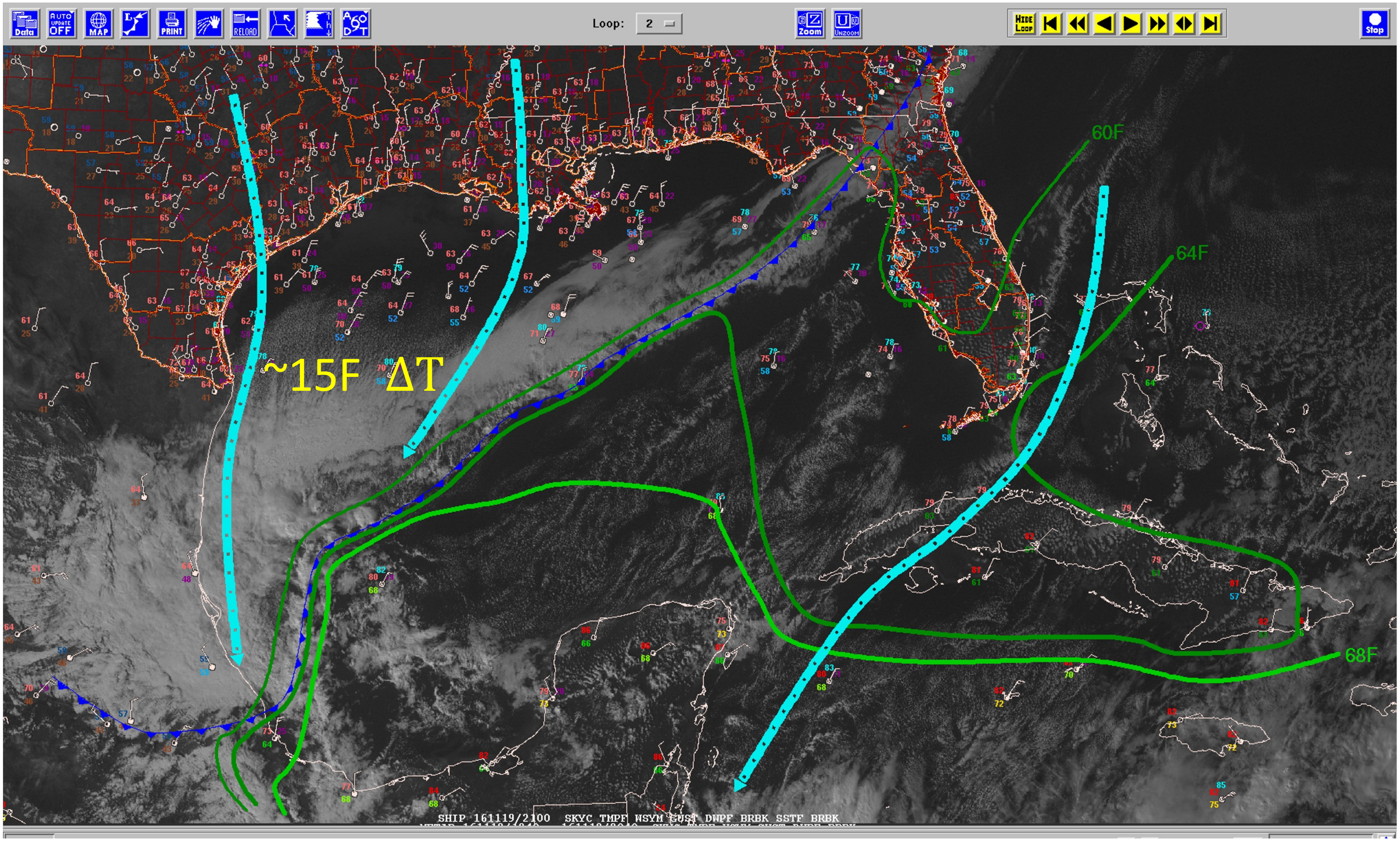
- Air mass modification is a multi-date process

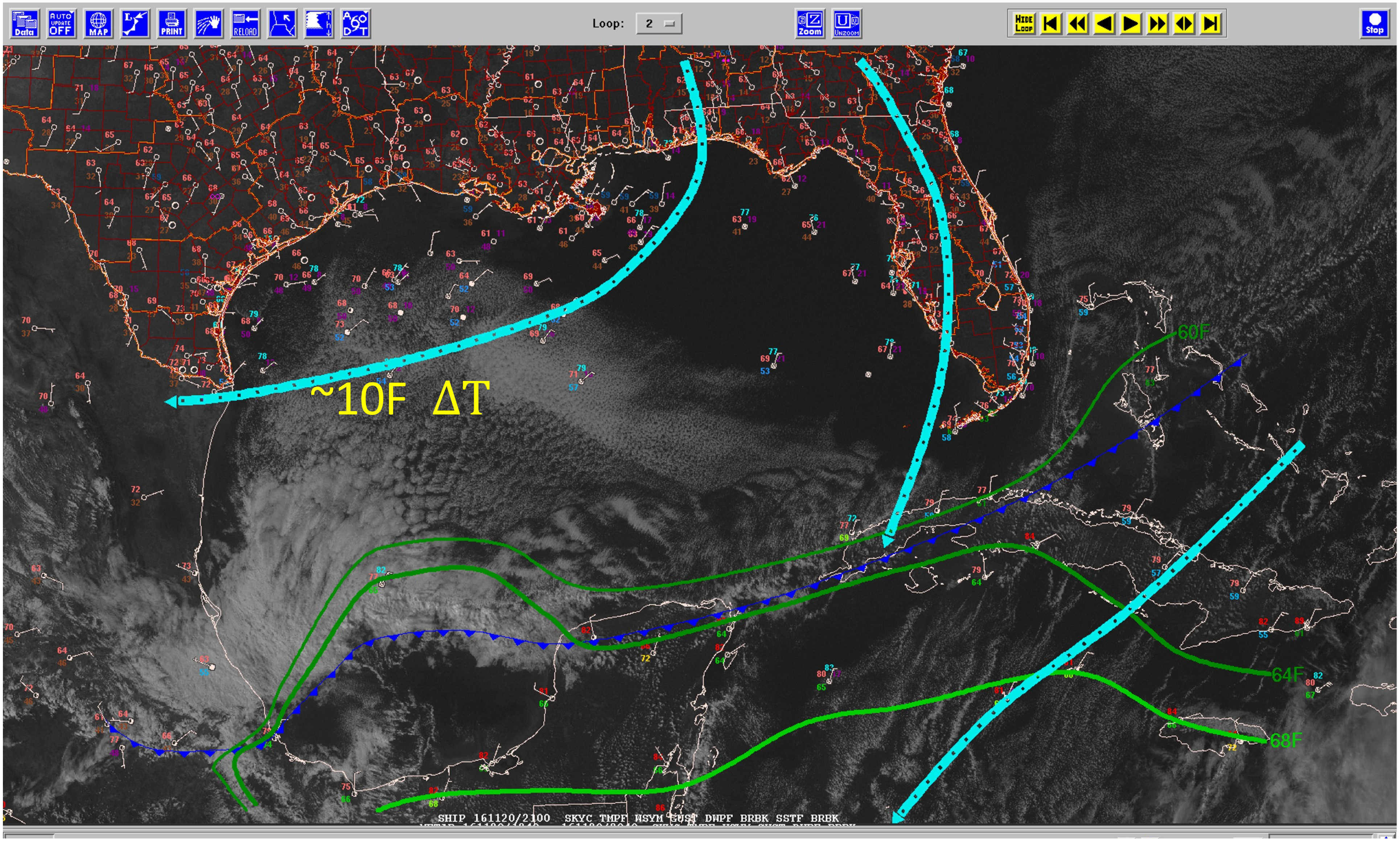
- Ask yourself the following:
  - Where is the air coming from?
  - What are the underlying ocean characteristics?
  - What is the character of the returning moist layer?


GOM Annual Mean SST
Annual Mean SST [ºC]
Year
GOM Monthly Mean SST
Monthly Mean SST [ºC]
Month
GOM Daily Mean SST
Daily Mean SST [ºC]
Year
NOAA / AOML / PHOD Wed Jan 28 02:02:20 EST 2015

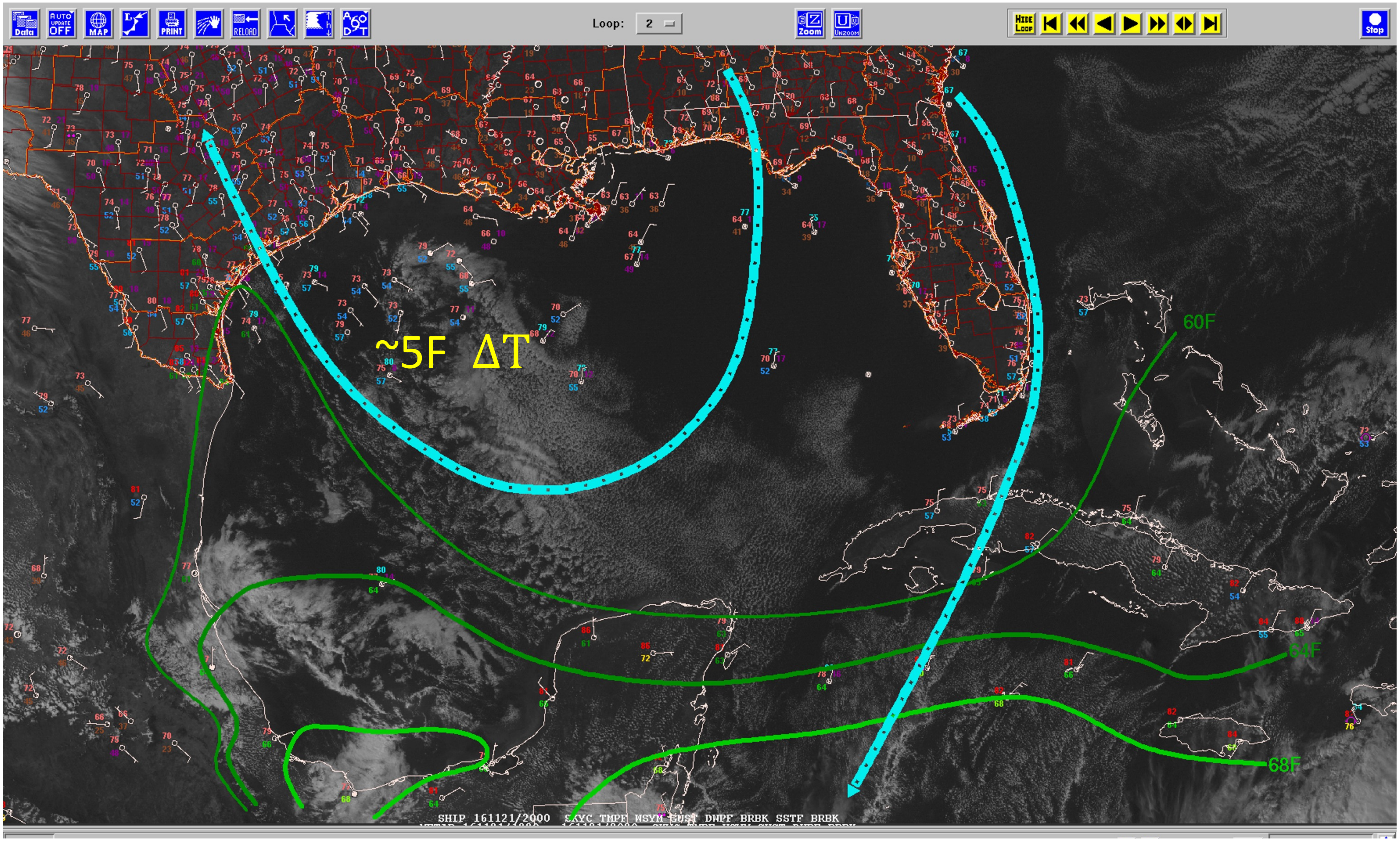
Air temperature after cold front passage

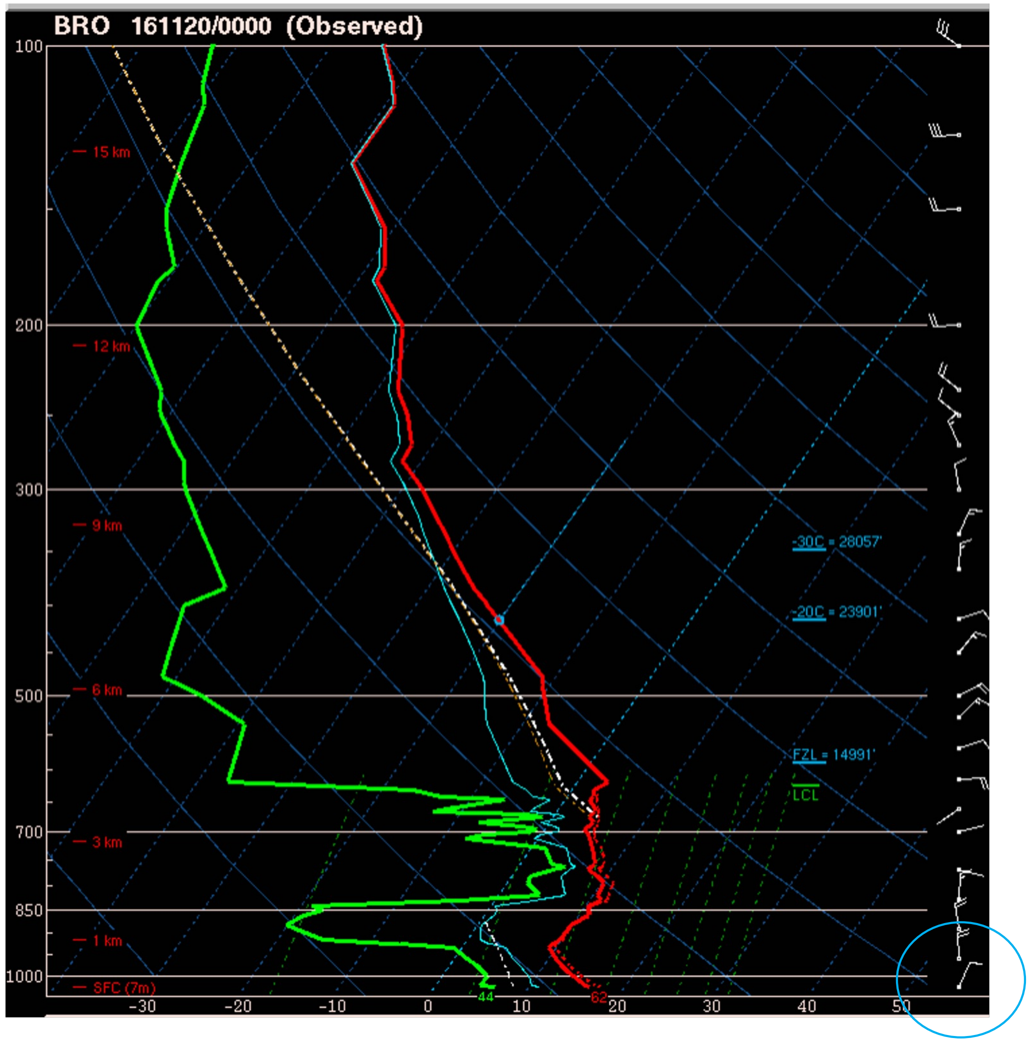


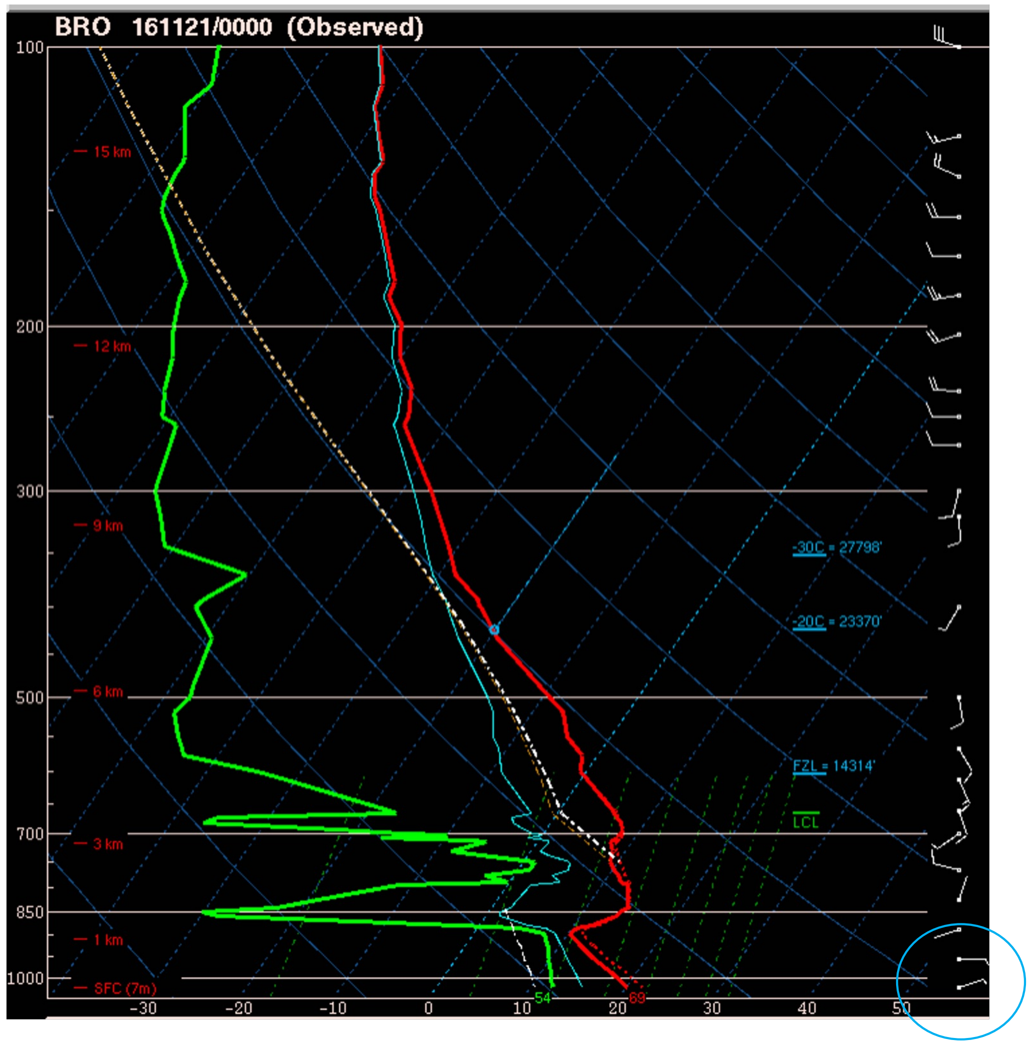

Data
AUTO UPDATE OFF
MAP
PRINT
RELOAD
Loop:
2
Zoom
Unzoom
Stop
~15F ΔT
60F
64F
68F
SHIP 161119/2100 SKYC TMPF WSYM GUST DWPF BRBK SSTF BRBK

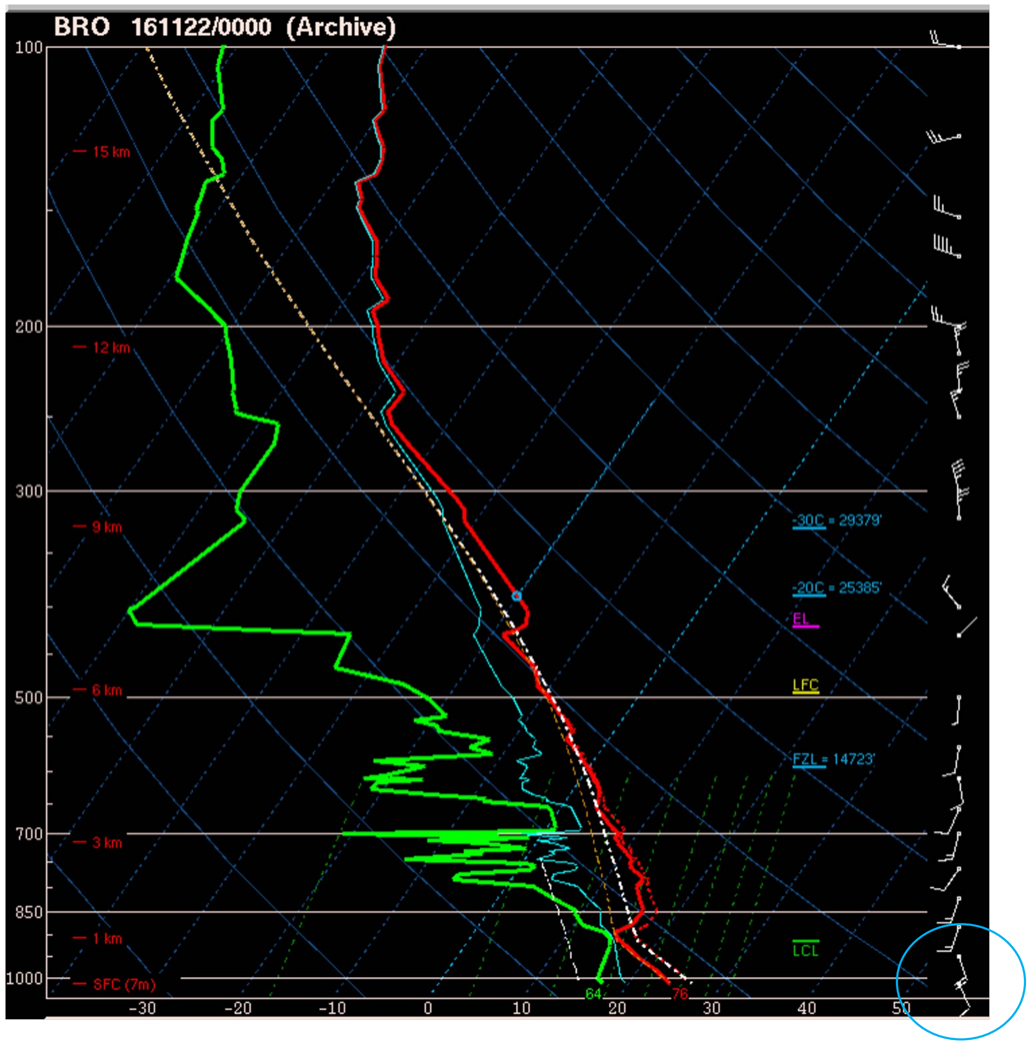


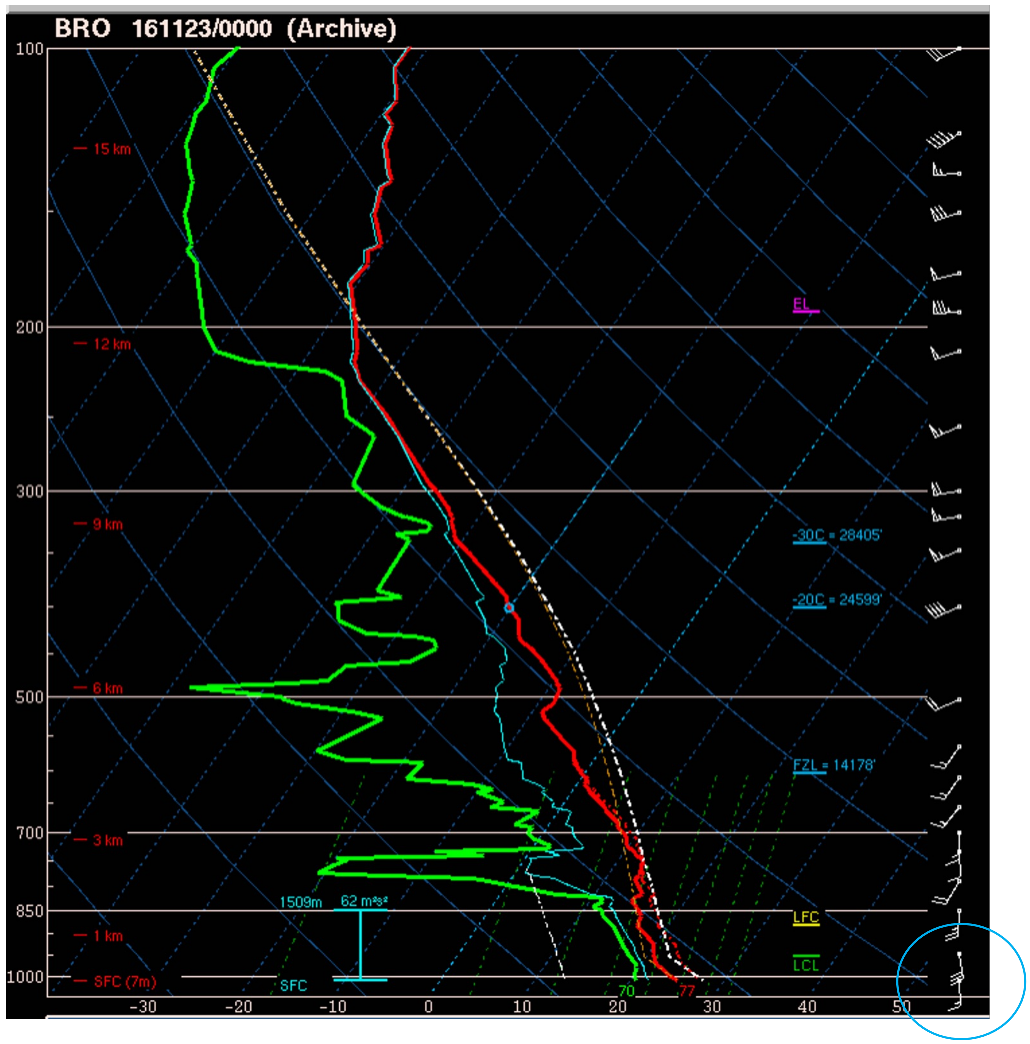
~10F ΔT
60F
64F
68F
Loop: 2
SHIP 161120/2100 SKYC TMPF WSYM GUST DWPF BRBK SSTF BRBK


Loop: 2
Data
AUTO UPDATE OFF
MAP
PRINT
RELOAD
Zoom
Unzoom
Stop
~5F ΔT
60F
64F
68F
SHIP 161121/2000 SKYC TMPF WSYM GUST DWPF BRBK SSTF BRBK


BRO 161120/0000 (Observed)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (7m)
-30C = 28057'
-20C = 23901'
FZL = 14991'
LCL
-30
-20
-10
0
10
20
30
40
50
44
62


BRO 161121/0000 (Observed)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (7m)
-30C = 27798'
-20C = 23370'
FZL = 14314'
LCL
54
68
-30
-20
-10
0
10
20
30
40
50

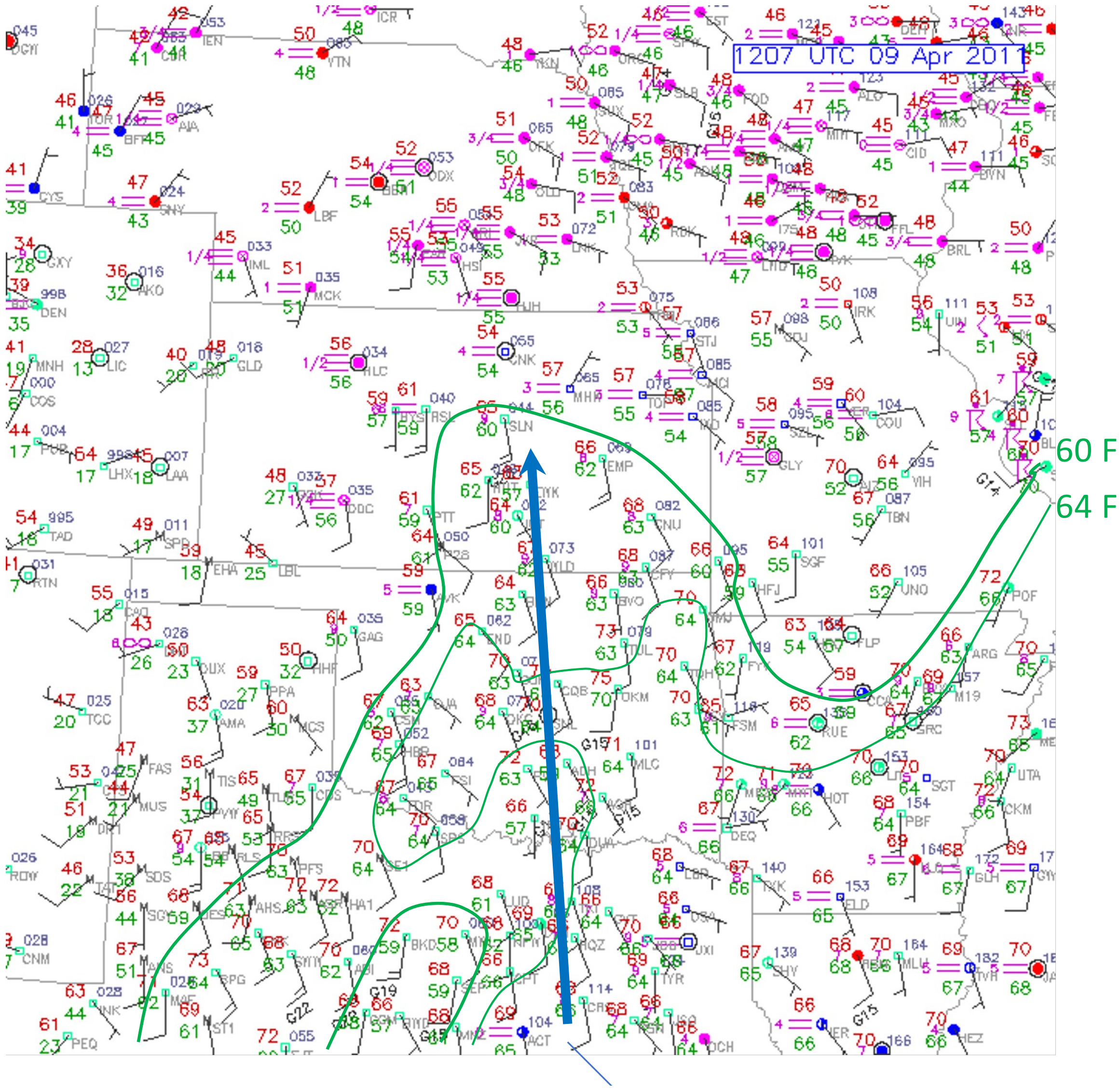

BRO 161122/0000 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (7m)
-30C = 29379'
-20C = 25385'
EL
LFC
FZL = 14723'
LCL
64
76
-30
-20
-10
0
10
20
30
40
50

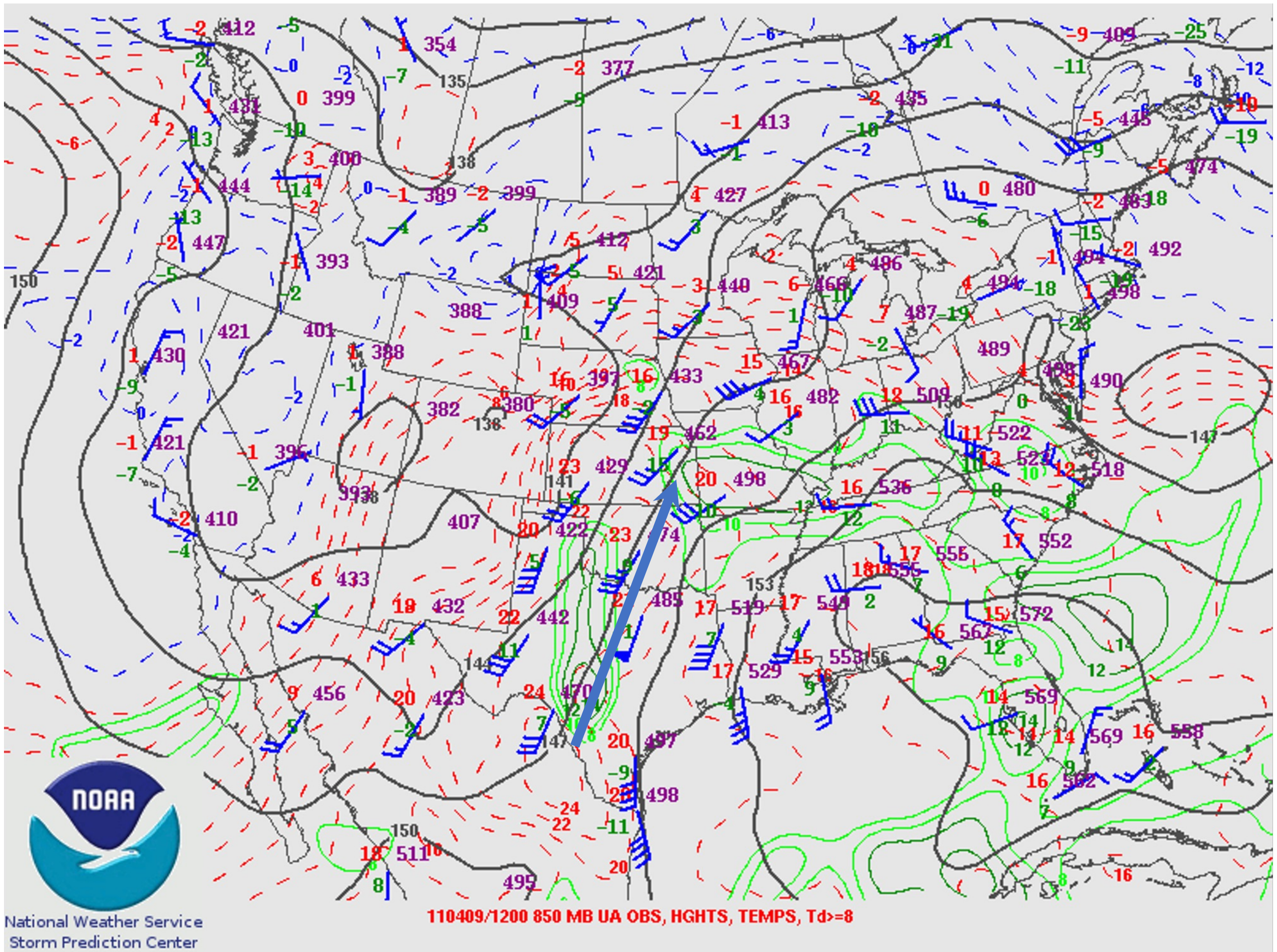

BRO 161123/0000 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (7m)
EL
-30C = 28405'
-20C = 24599'
FZL = 14178'
LFC
LCL
1509m
62 m²s²
SFC
70
77
-30
-20
-10
0
10
20
30
40
50

Inland Vertical Mixing

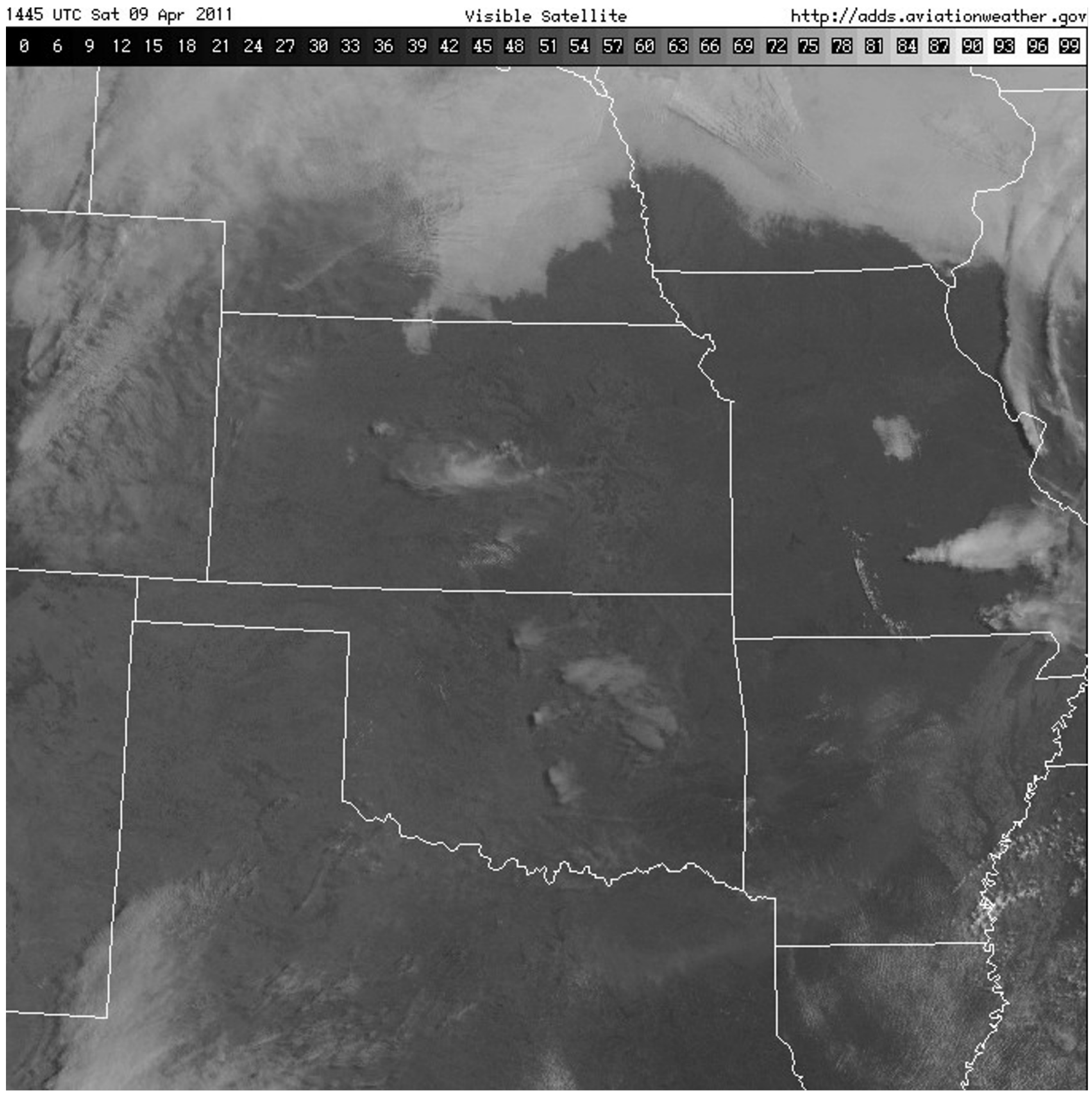
- **Surface moisture can decrease during the daytime when:**
  - **Daytime heating/mixing extends deeper than original moist layer depth**
  - **Moisture advection is not enough to offset mixing**
  - **Compounded by dry soil, little green vegetation, and ongoing drought**

- **Daytime mixing is governed by:**
  - **Vertical moisture structure**
  - **Height and strength of lid/cap**
  - **Upstream moisture sources**
  - **Local moisture sources**


1207 UTC 09 Apr 2011
60 F
64 F



National Weather Service
Storm Prediction Center
110409/1200 850 MB UA OBS, HGHTS, TEMPS, Td>=8



1445 UTC Sat 09 Apr 2011
Visible Satellite
http://adds.aviationweather.gov
0 6 9 12 15 18 21 24 27 30 33 36 39 42 45 48 51 54 57 60 63 66 69 72 75 78 81 84 87 90 93 96 99

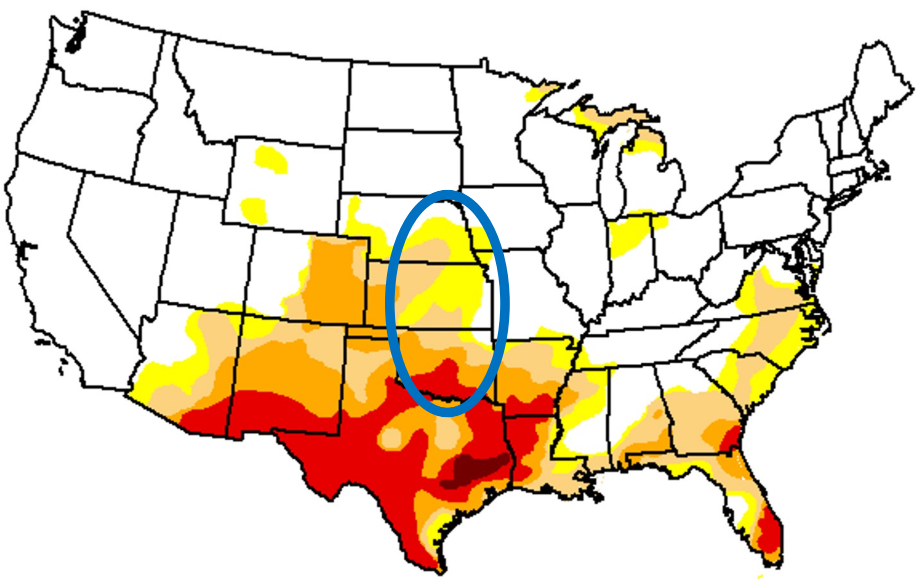
U.S. Drought Monitor

CONUS

April 5, 2011

(Released Thursday, Apr. 7, 2011)

Valid 7 a.m. EST



Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	62.46	37.54	28.75	18.17	8.75	0.42
Last Week *3/29/2011*	61.76	38.24	28.14	18.22	6.41	0.00
3 Months Ago *1/4/2011*	60.50	39.50	21.74	8.50	2.60	0.00
Start of Calendar Year *1/4/2011*	60.50	39.50	21.74	8.50	2.60	0.00
Start of Water Year *9/28/2010*	60.05	39.95	13.16	3.09	0.30	0.00
One Year Ago *4/6/2010*	71.57	28.43	9.10	2.00	0.00	0.00

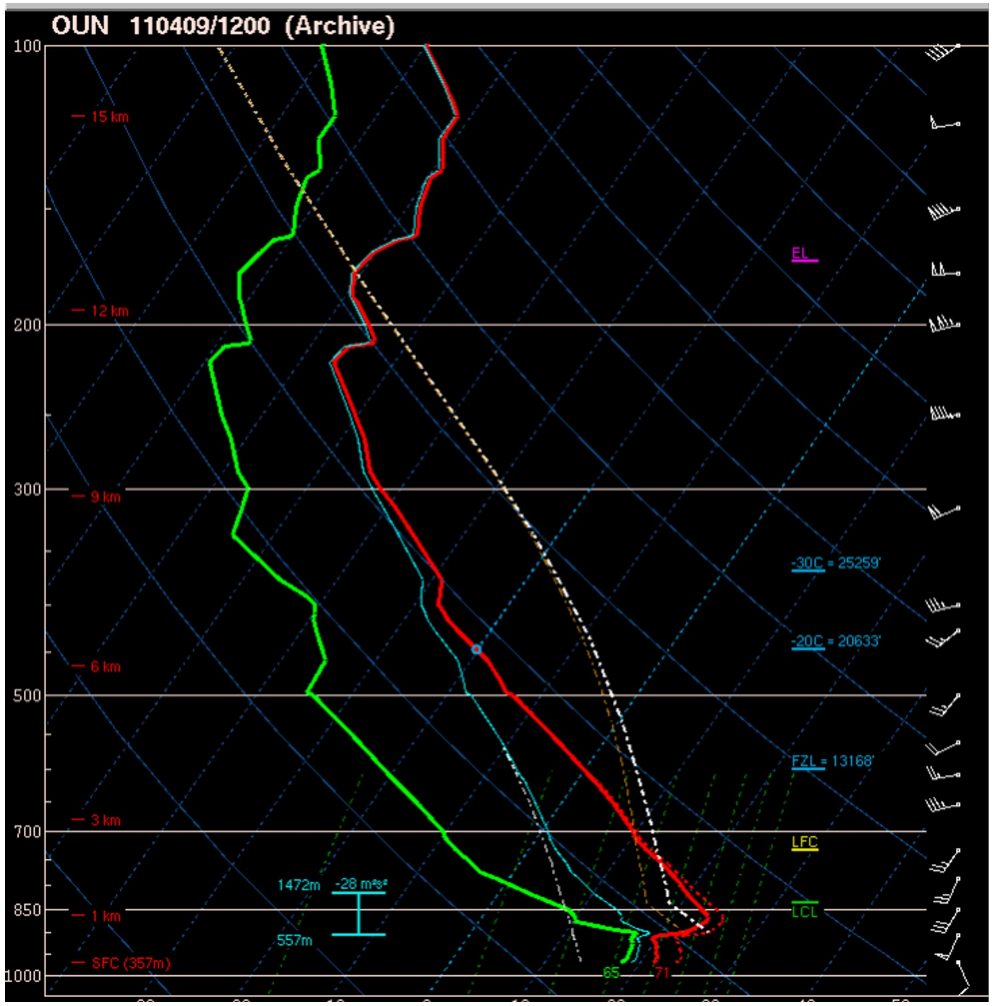
Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

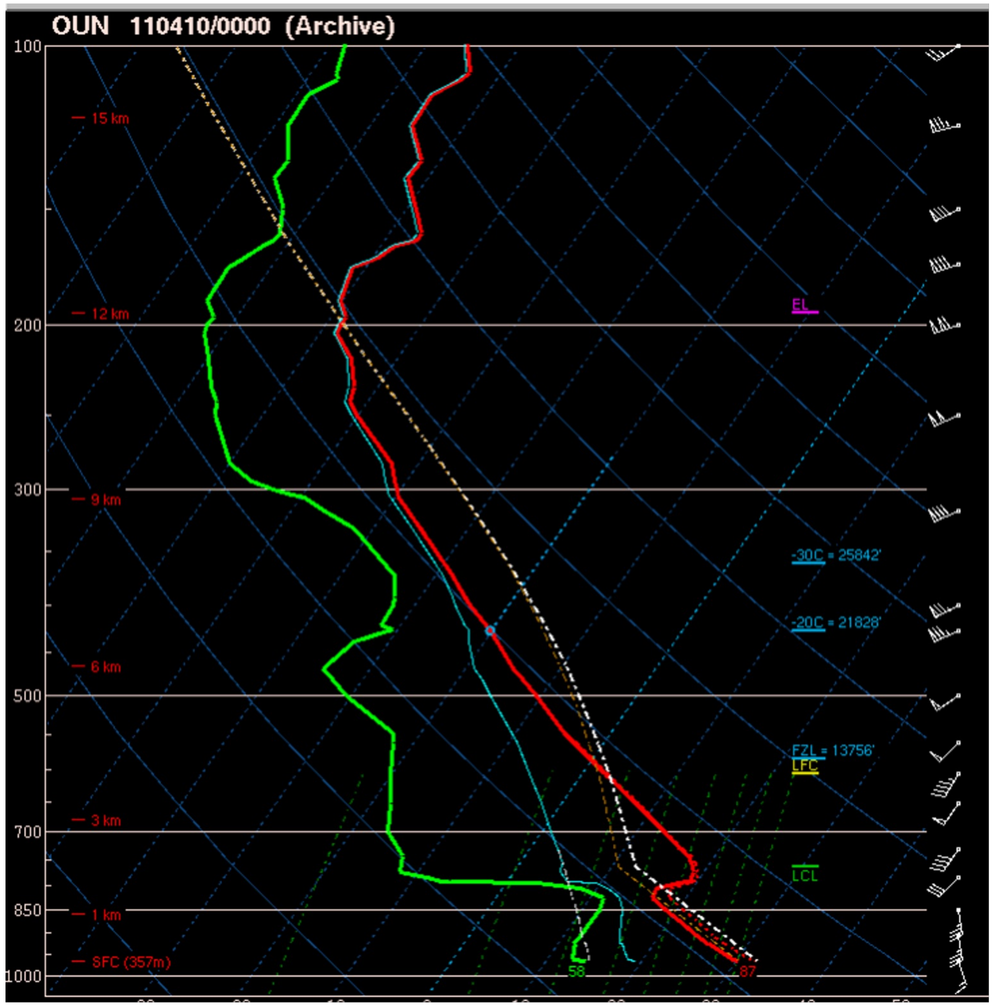
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author(s):
Mark Svoboda
National Drought Mitigation Center

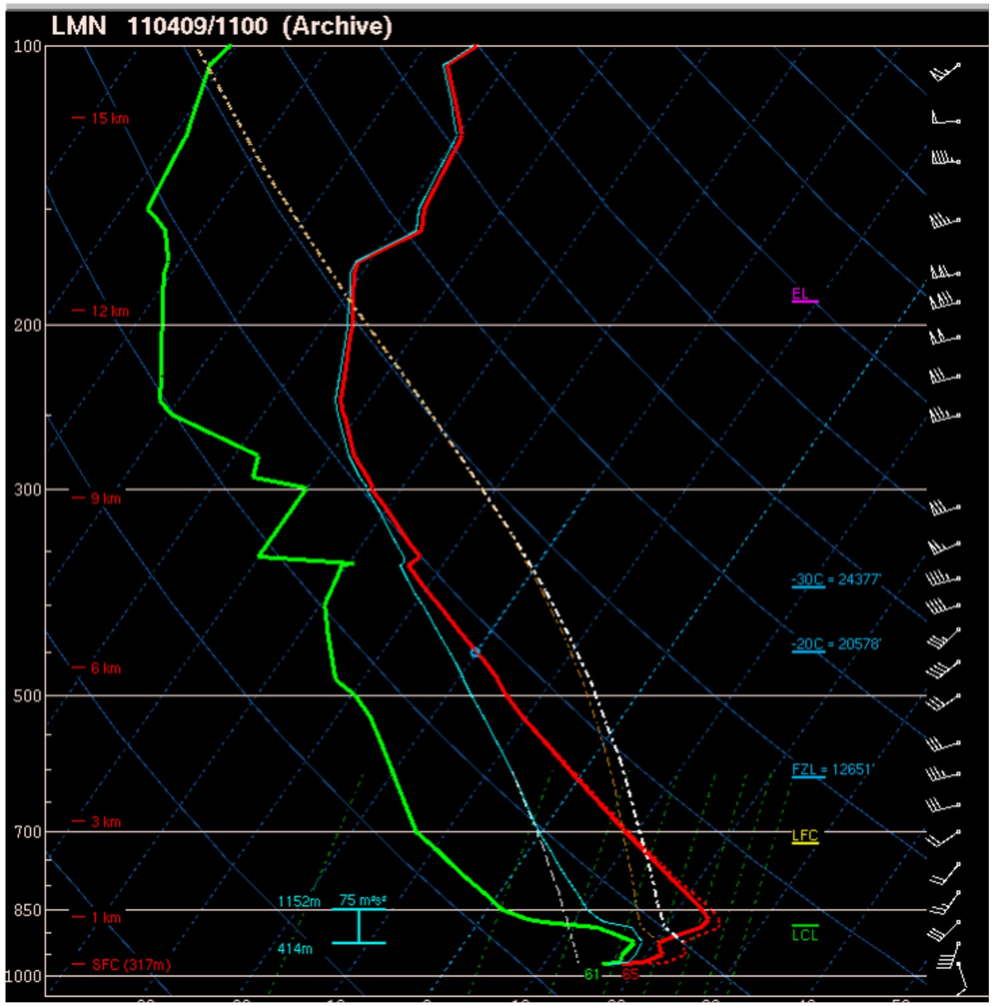
USDA

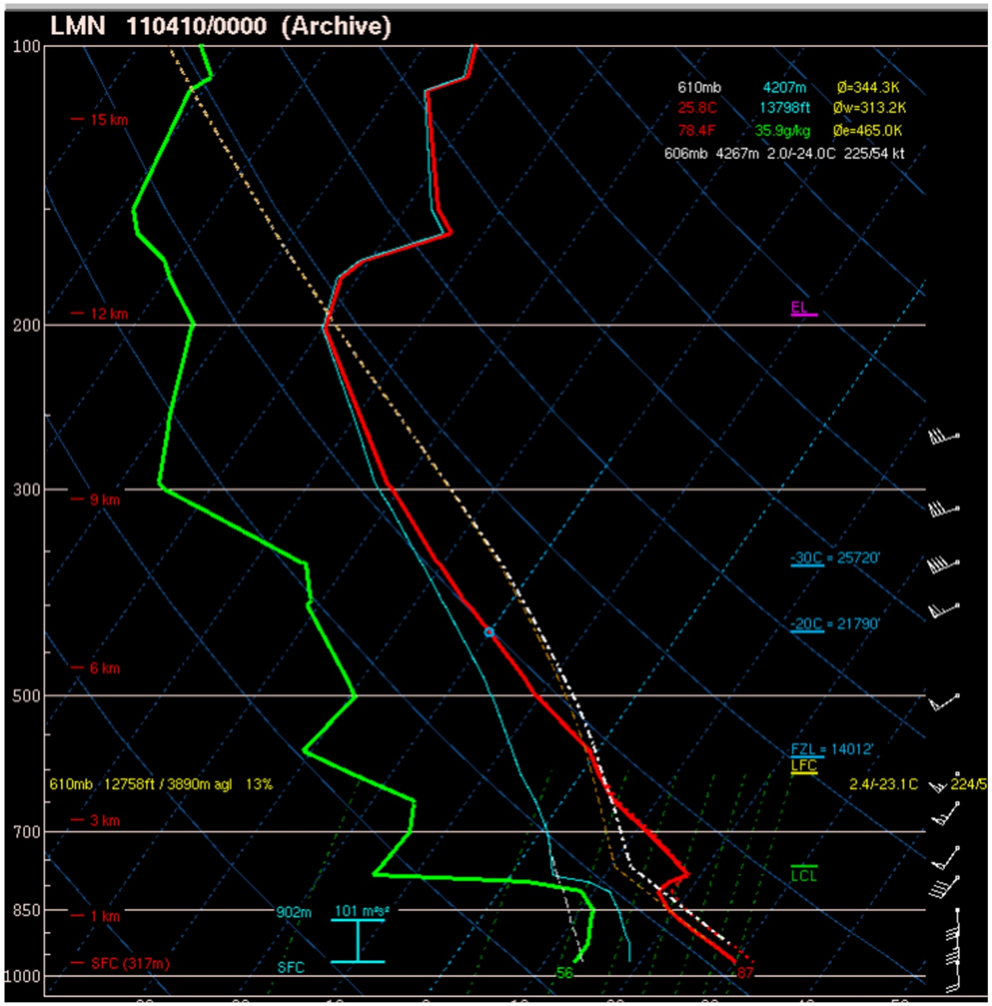


OUN 110409/1200 (Archive)
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (357m)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
EL
-30C = 25259'
-20C = 20633'
FZL = 13168'
LFC
LCL
1472m
-28 m²s²
557m
65
71

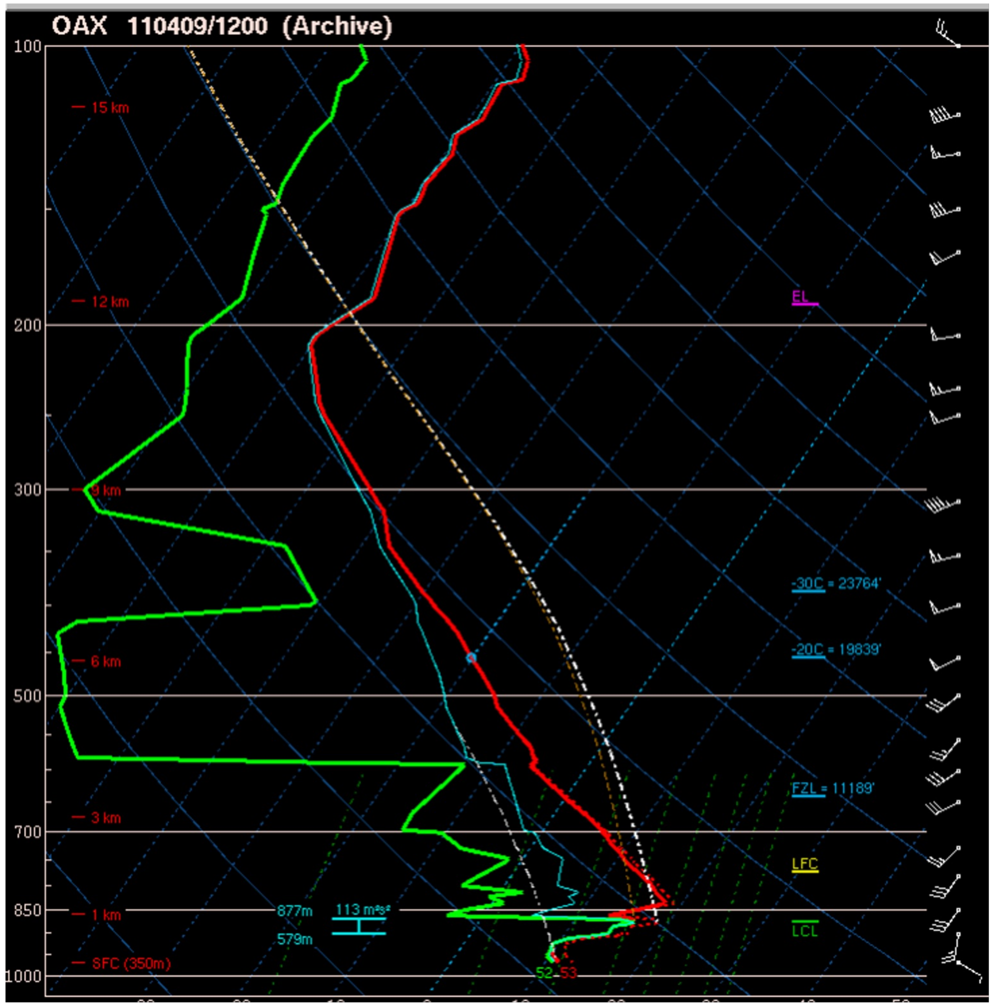


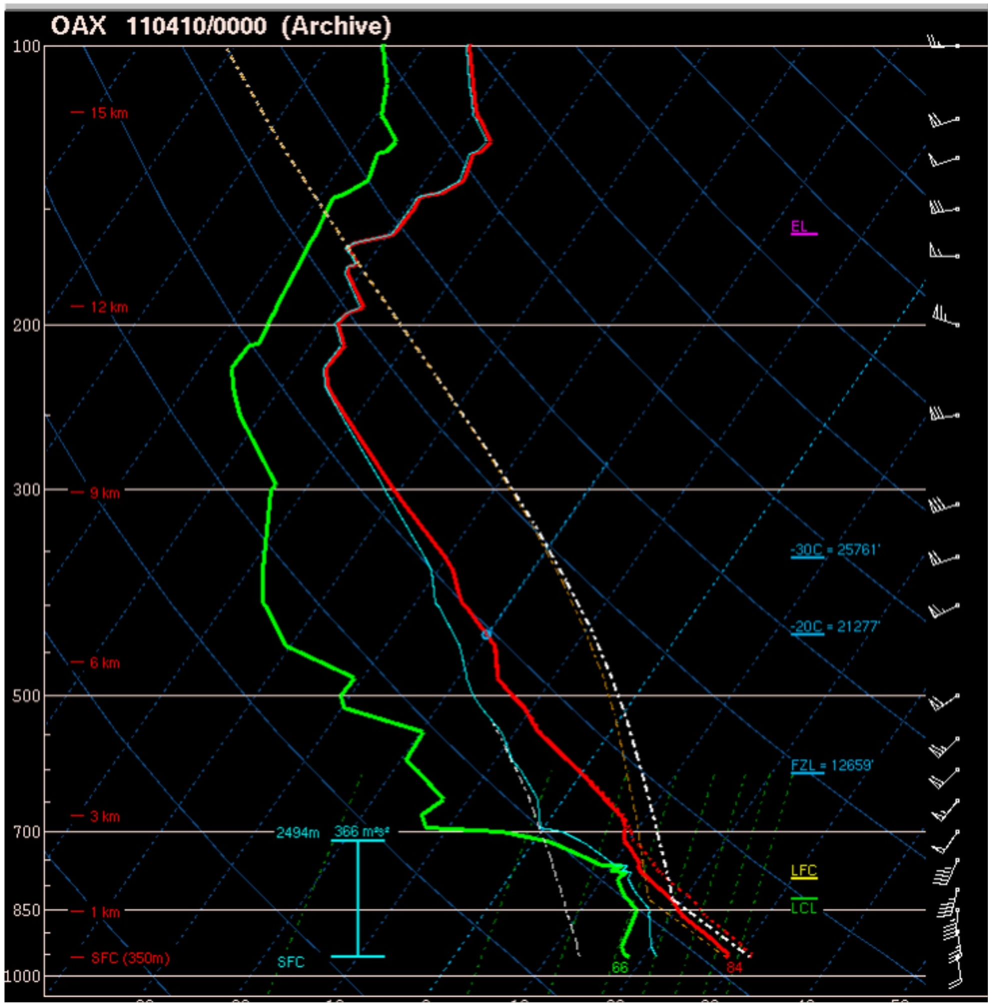
OUN 110410/0000 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (357m)
EL
-30C = 25842'
-20C = 21828'
FZL = 13756'
LFC
LCL
58
87


LMN 110409/1100 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (317m)
EL
-30C = 24377'
-20C = 20578'
FZL = 12651'
LFC
LCL
1152m
75 m²s²
414m
61
65

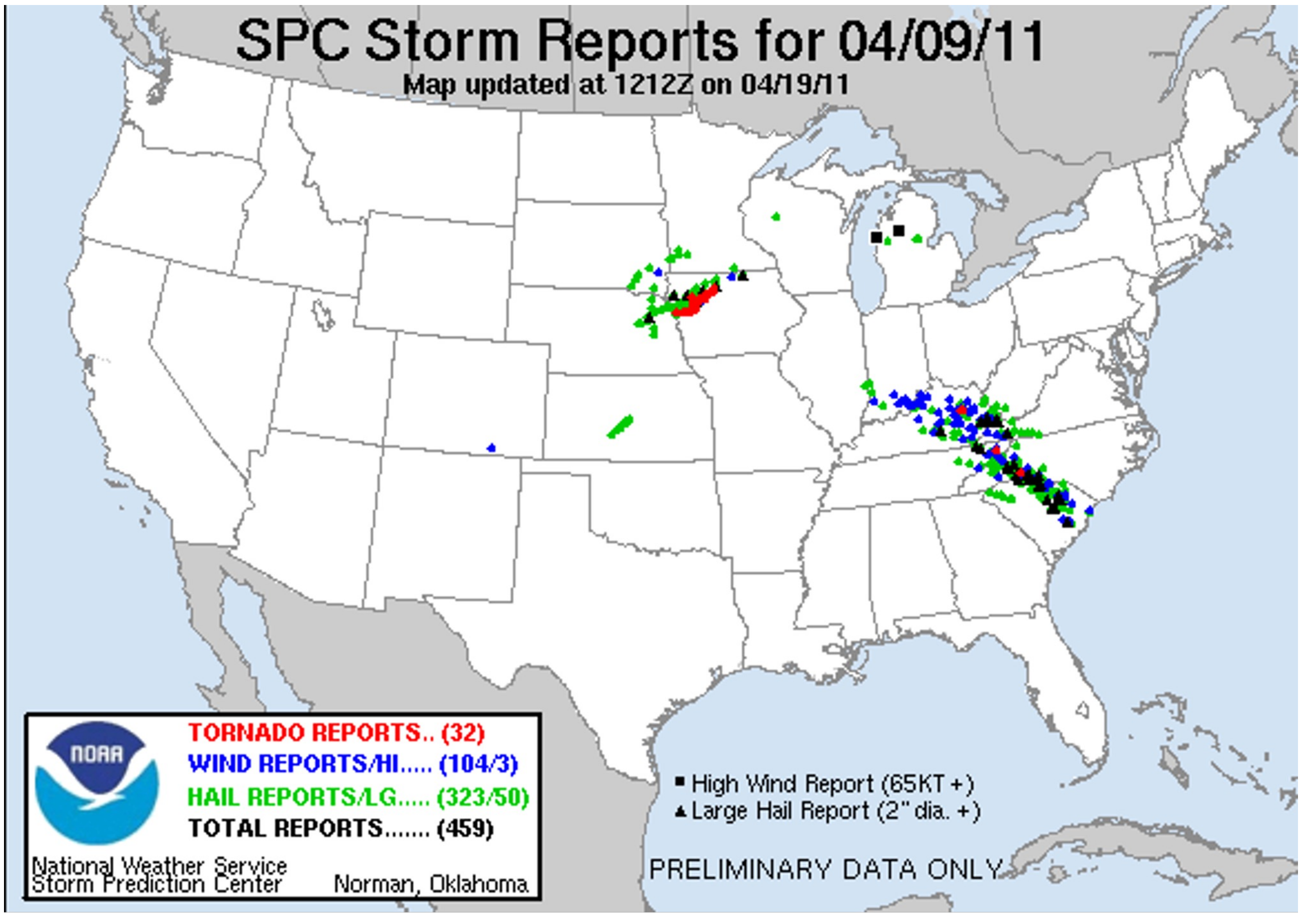


LMN 110410/0000 (Archive)
610mb 4207m Ø=344.3K
25.8C 13798ft Øw=313.2K
78.4F 35.9g/kg Øe=465.0K
606mb 4267m 2.0/-24.0C 225/54 kt
EL
-30C = 25720'
-20C = 21790'
FZL = 14012'
LFC
LCL
610mb 12758ft / 3890m agl 13%
2.4/-23.1C 224/5
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (317m)
902m
101 m²/s²
SFC
56
87
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000


OAX 110409/1200 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (350m)
EL
-30C = 23764'
-20C = 19839'
FZL = 11189'
LFC
LCL
877m
579m
52
53



OAX 110410/0000 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (350m)
EL
-30C = 25761'
-20C = 21277'
FZL = 12659'
LFC
LCL
2494m
366 m²s²
SFC
66
84



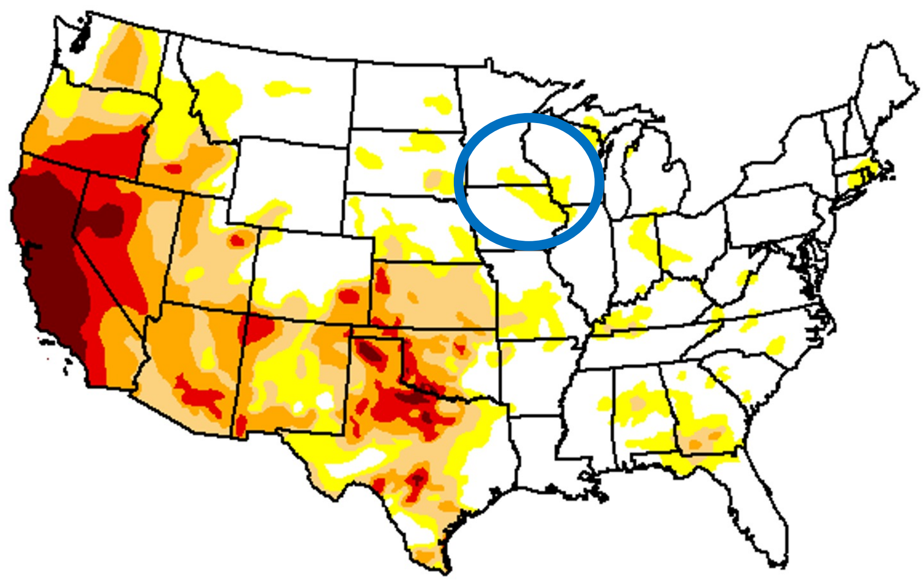
SPC Storm Reports for 04/09/11
Map updated at 1212Z on 04/19/11
NOAA
TORNADO REPORTS.. (32)
WIND REPORTS/HI..... (104/3)
HAIL REPORTS/LG..... (323/50)
TOTAL REPORTS....... (459)
National Weather Service
Storm Prediction Center
Norman, Oklahoma
High Wind Report (65KT+)
Large Hail Report (2" dia. +)
PRELIMINARY DATA ONLY

Evapotranspiration

- **Need moist soil and growing vegetation**
- **Plentiful rain previous 1-2 weeks**
- **Maturing crops (wheat, corn, or canola)**
- **Capped boundary layer to trap moisture; relatively weak winds**
- **Almost always a significant return flow contribution (in addition)**

U.S. Drought Monitor

CONUS



August 19, 2014

(Released Thursday, Aug. 21, 2014)

Valid 8 a.m. EDT

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

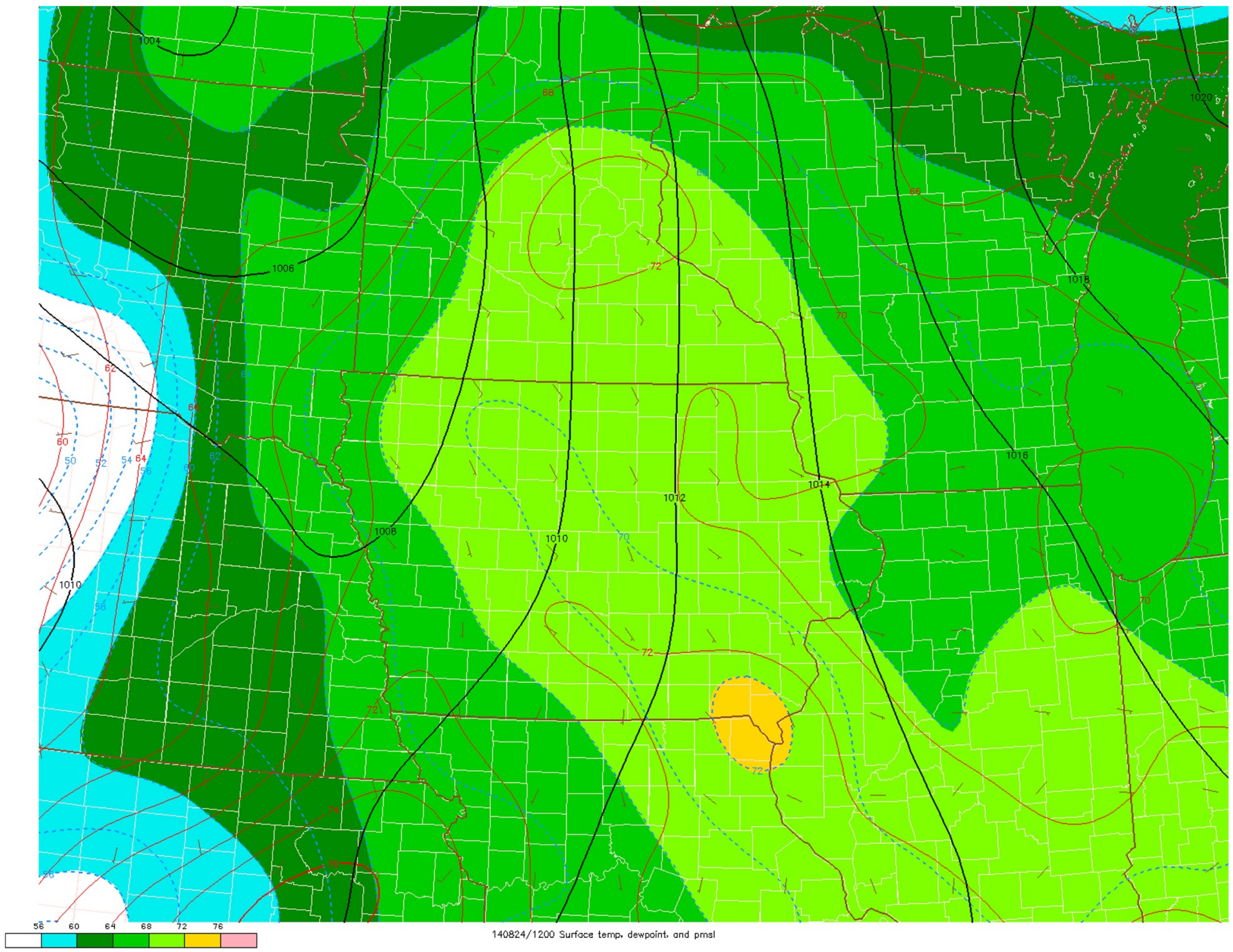
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
Current	51.93	48.07	33.56	21.62	10.12	3.80
Last Week *8/12/2014*	52.81	47.19	33.61	22.03	10.24	3.79
3 Months Ago *5/20/2014*	52.36	47.64	38.12	28.30	14.47	4.99
Start of Calendar Year *12/31/2013*	48.24	51.76	30.95	16.67	3.96	0.37
Start of Water Year *10/1/2013*	39.57	60.43	41.21	20.70	3.06	0.29
One Year Ago *8/20/2013*	40.02	59.98	45.61	32.23	10.54	1.32

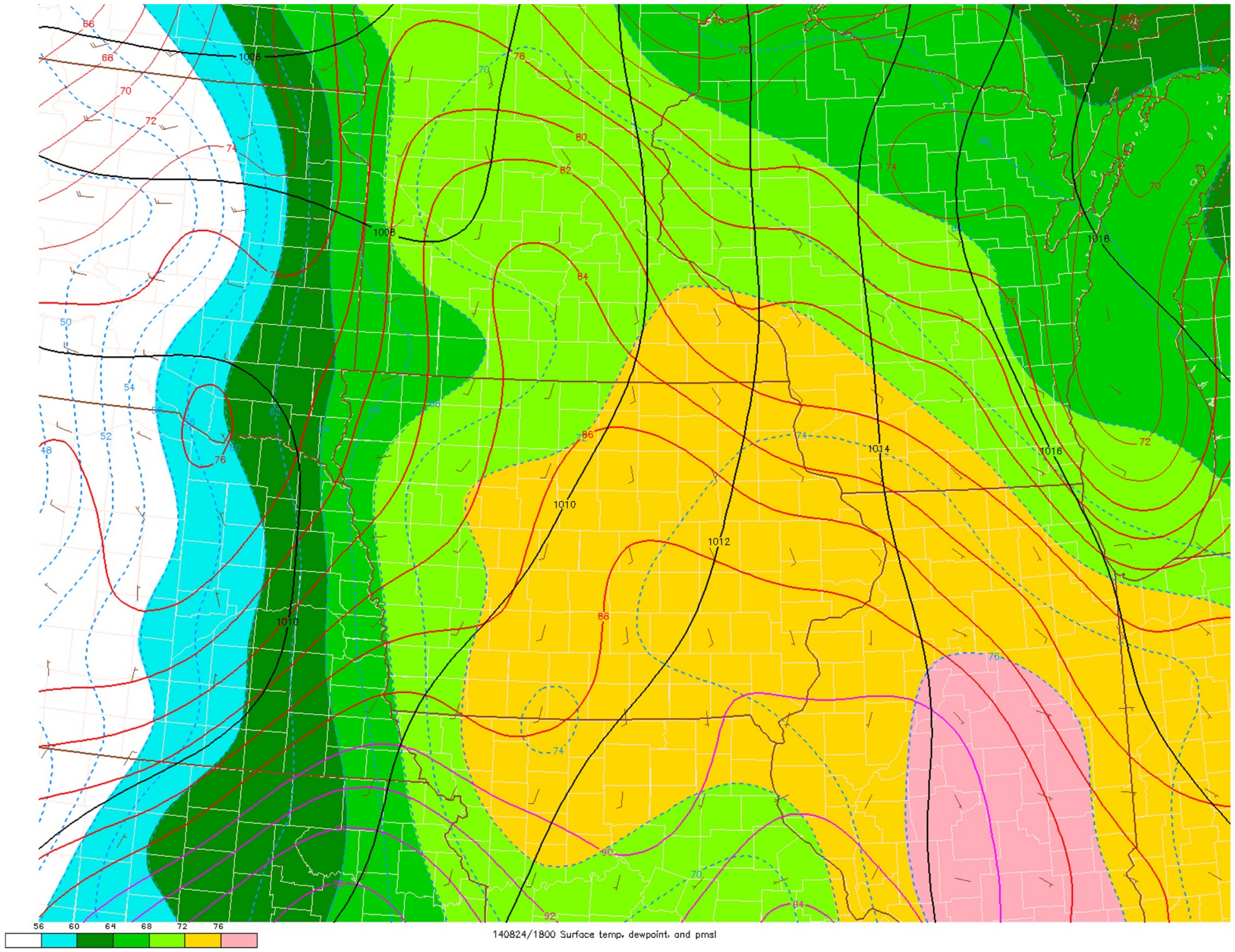
Intensity:

- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

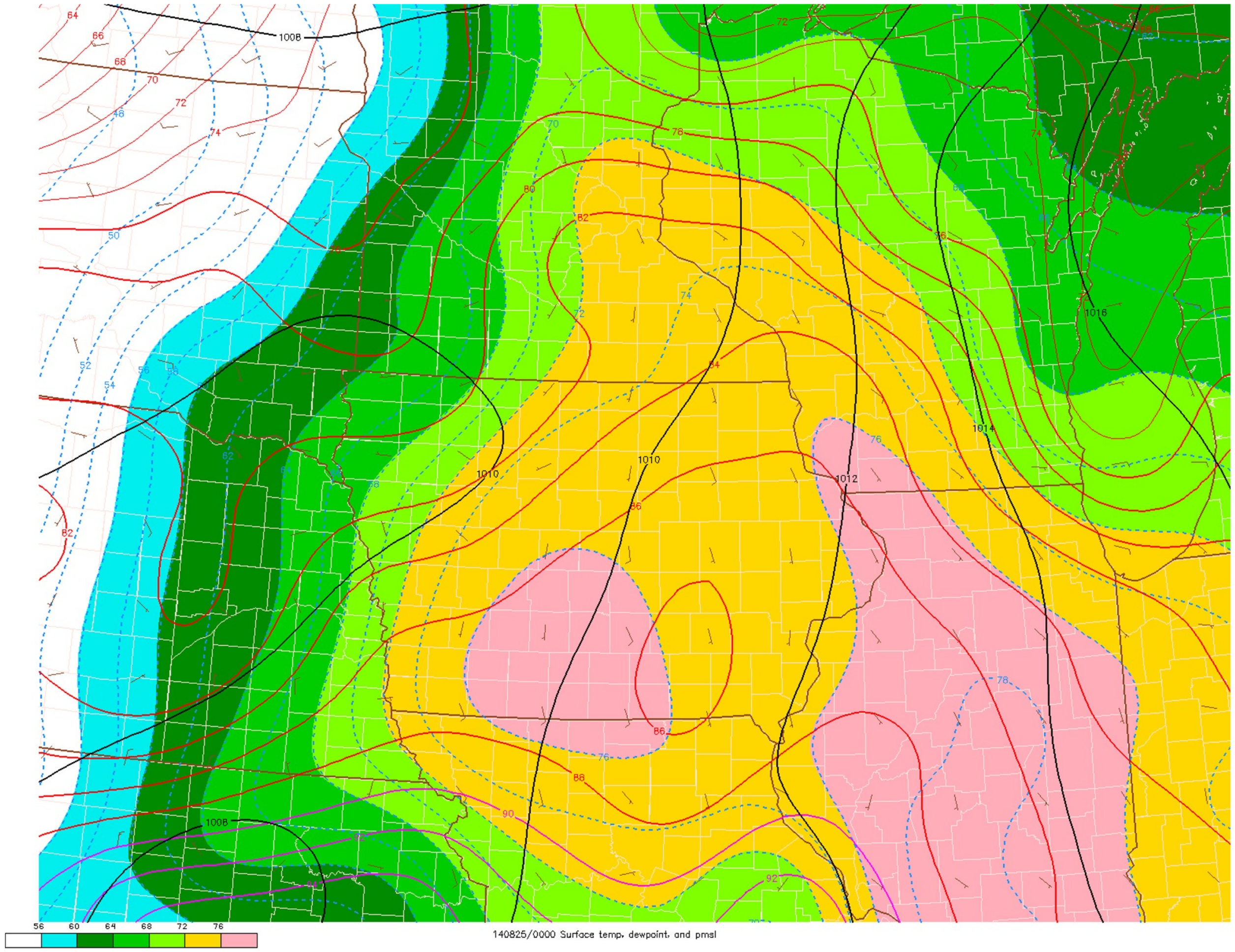
The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author(s):
Richard Tinker
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP

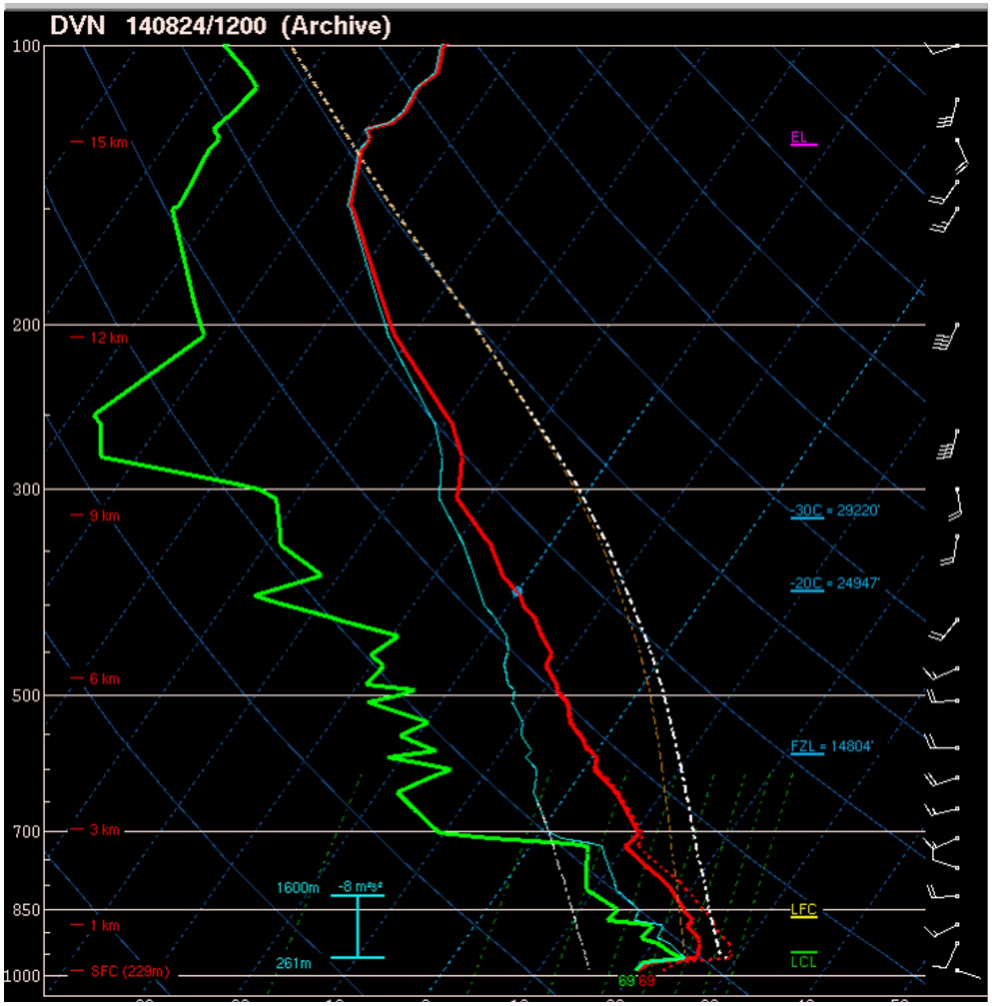

56
60
64
68
72
76
140824/1200 Surface temp, dewpoint, and pmsl



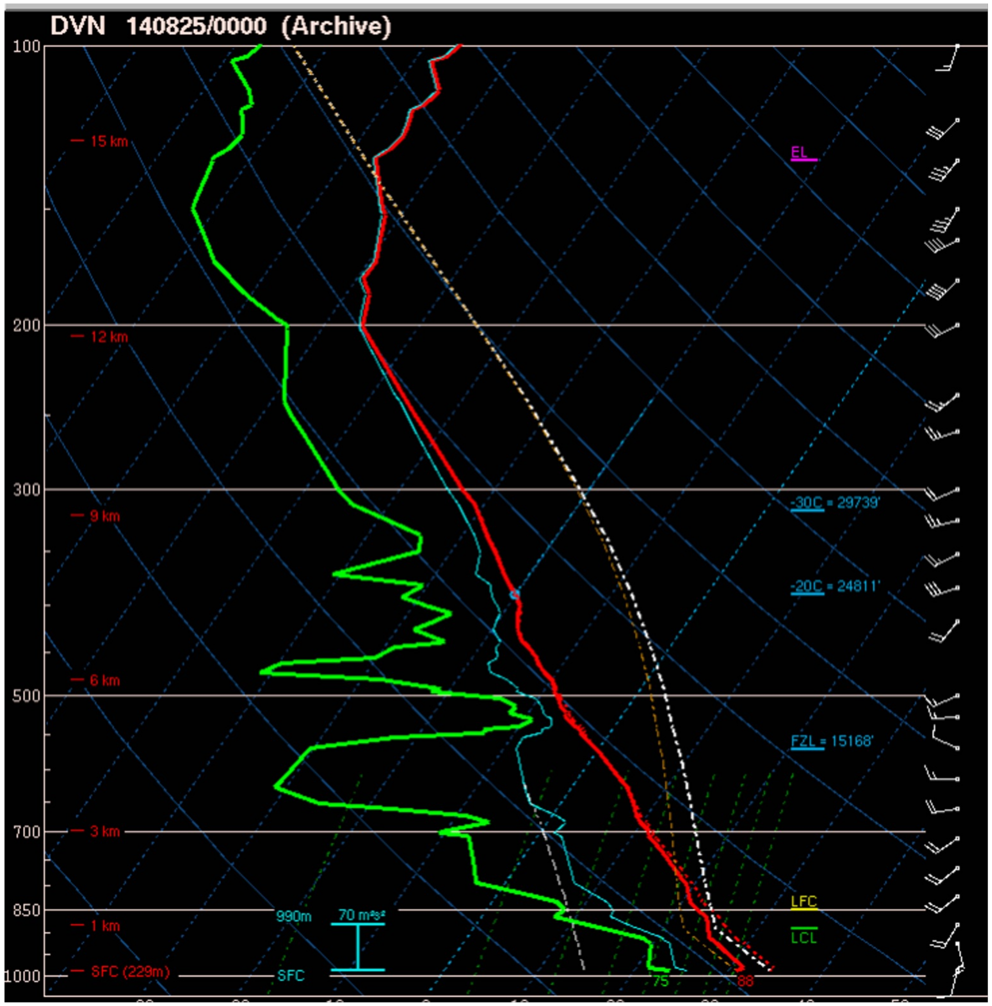
140824/1800 Surface temp, dewpoint, and pmsl



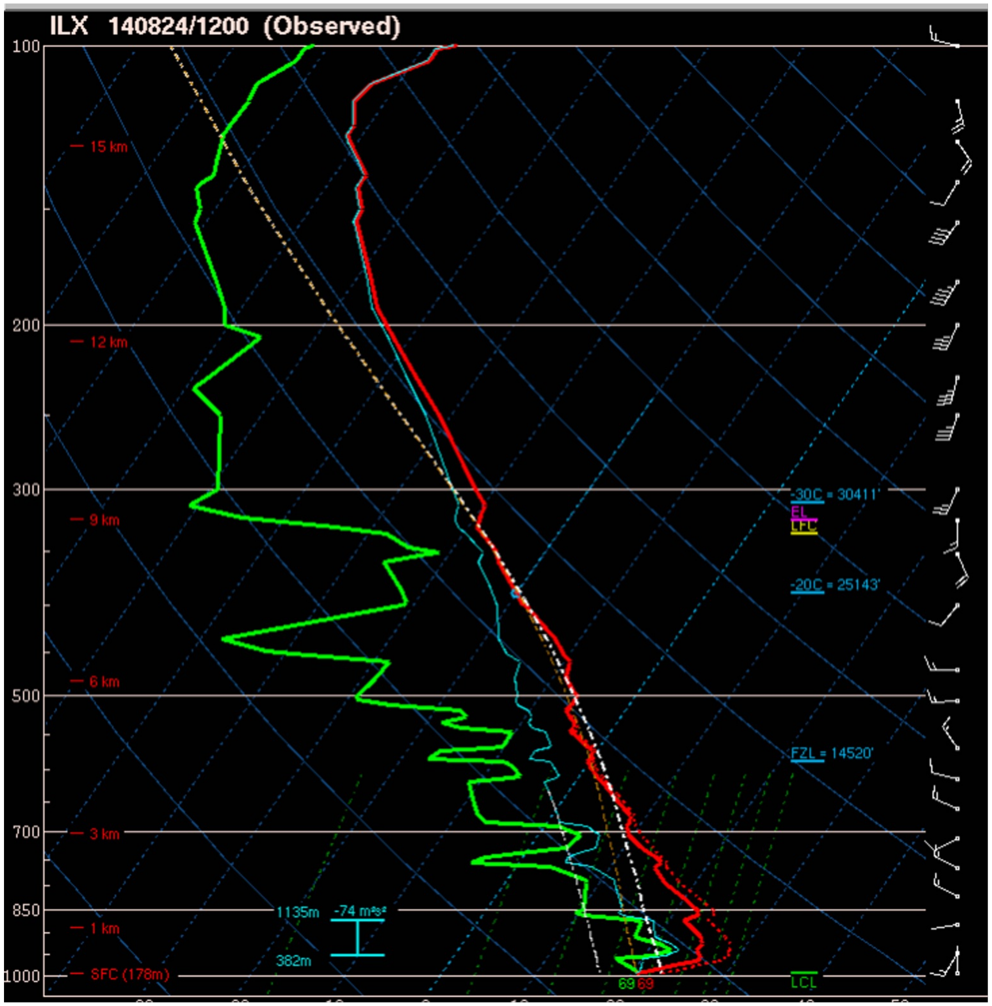
140825/0000 Surface temp, dewpoint, and pmsl



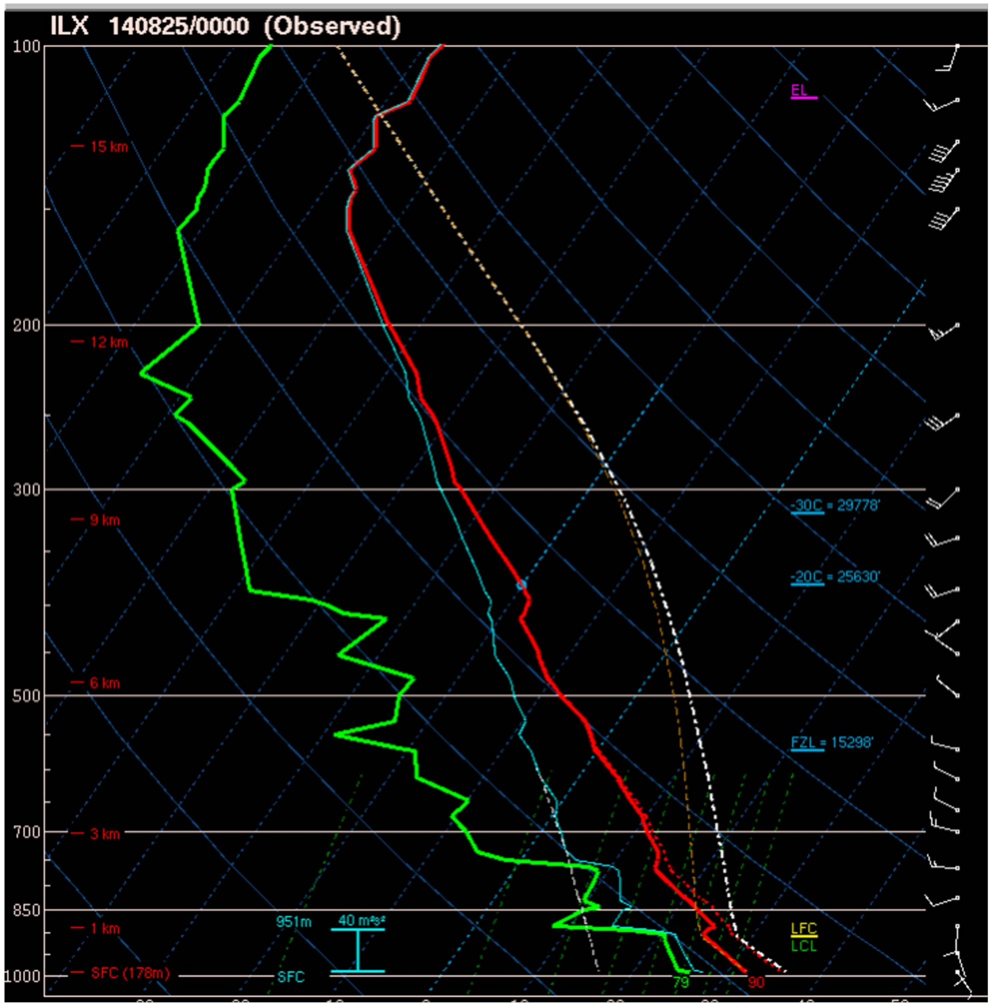
DVN 140824/1200 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (229m)
EL
-30C = 29220'
-20C = 24947'
FZL = 14804'
LFC
LCL
1600m
261m
69
69



DVN 140825/0000 (Archive)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (229m)
990m
70 m²s²
SFC
EL
-30C = 29739'
-20C = 24811'
FZL = 15168'
LFC
LCL
75
88

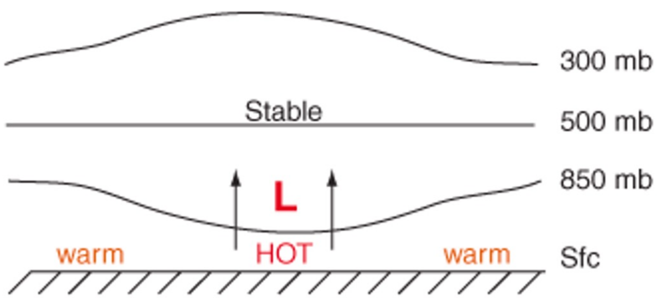


ILX 140824/1200 (Observed)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (178m)
-30C = 30411'
EL
LFC
-20C = 25143'
FZL = 14520'
1135m
-74 m²s²
382m
69
69
LCL

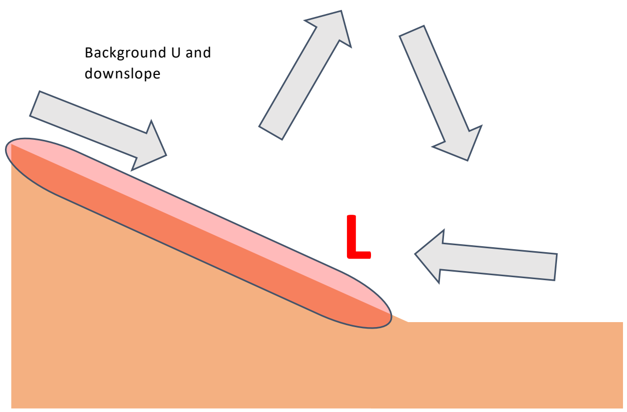

ILX 140825/0000 (Observed)
100
200
300
500
700
850
1000
15 km
12 km
9 km
6 km
3 km
1 km
SFC (178m)
EL
-30C = 29778'
-20C = 25630'
FZL = 15298'
LFC
LCL
951m
40 m²/s²
SFC
79
90

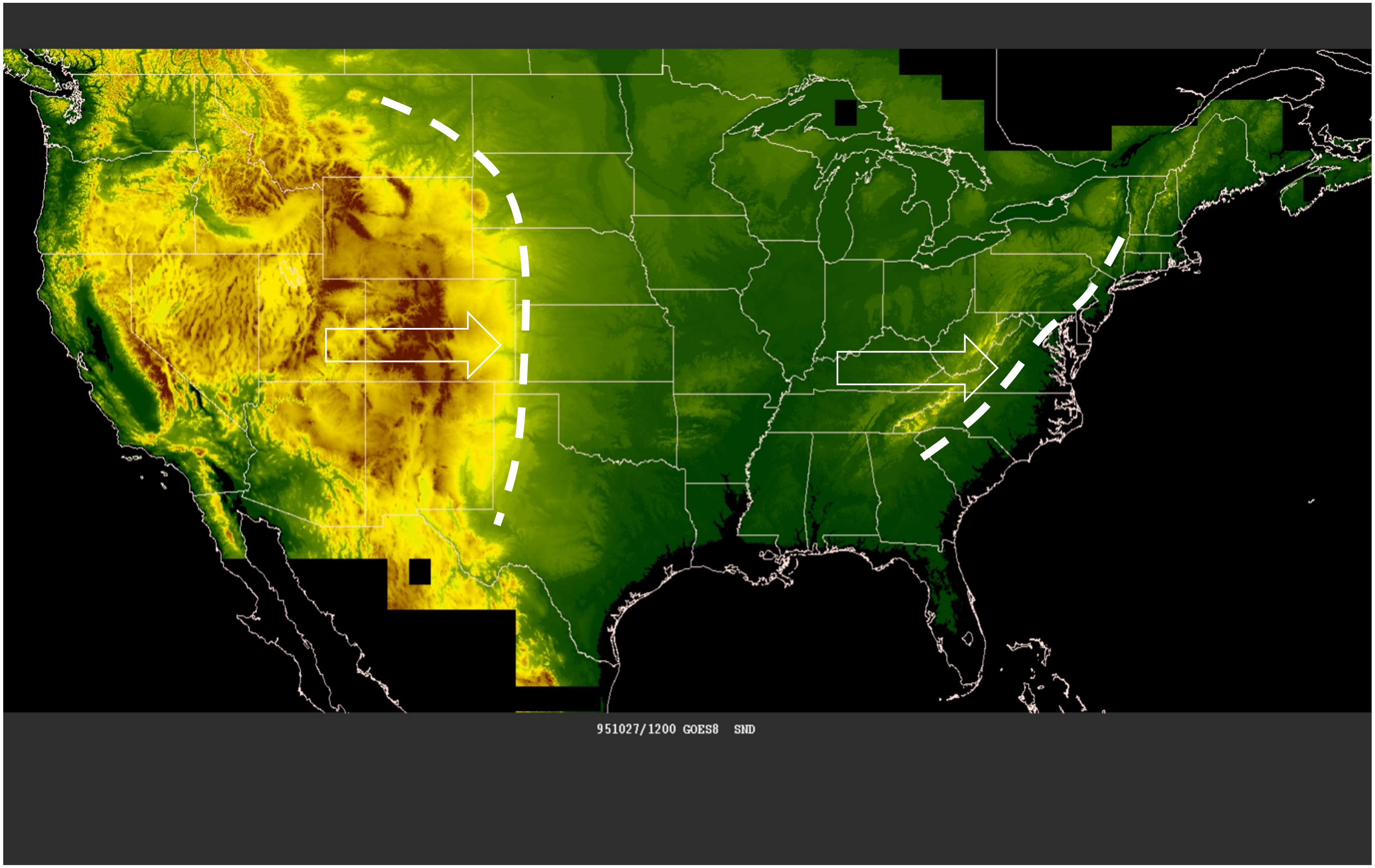
Lee Cyclogenesis

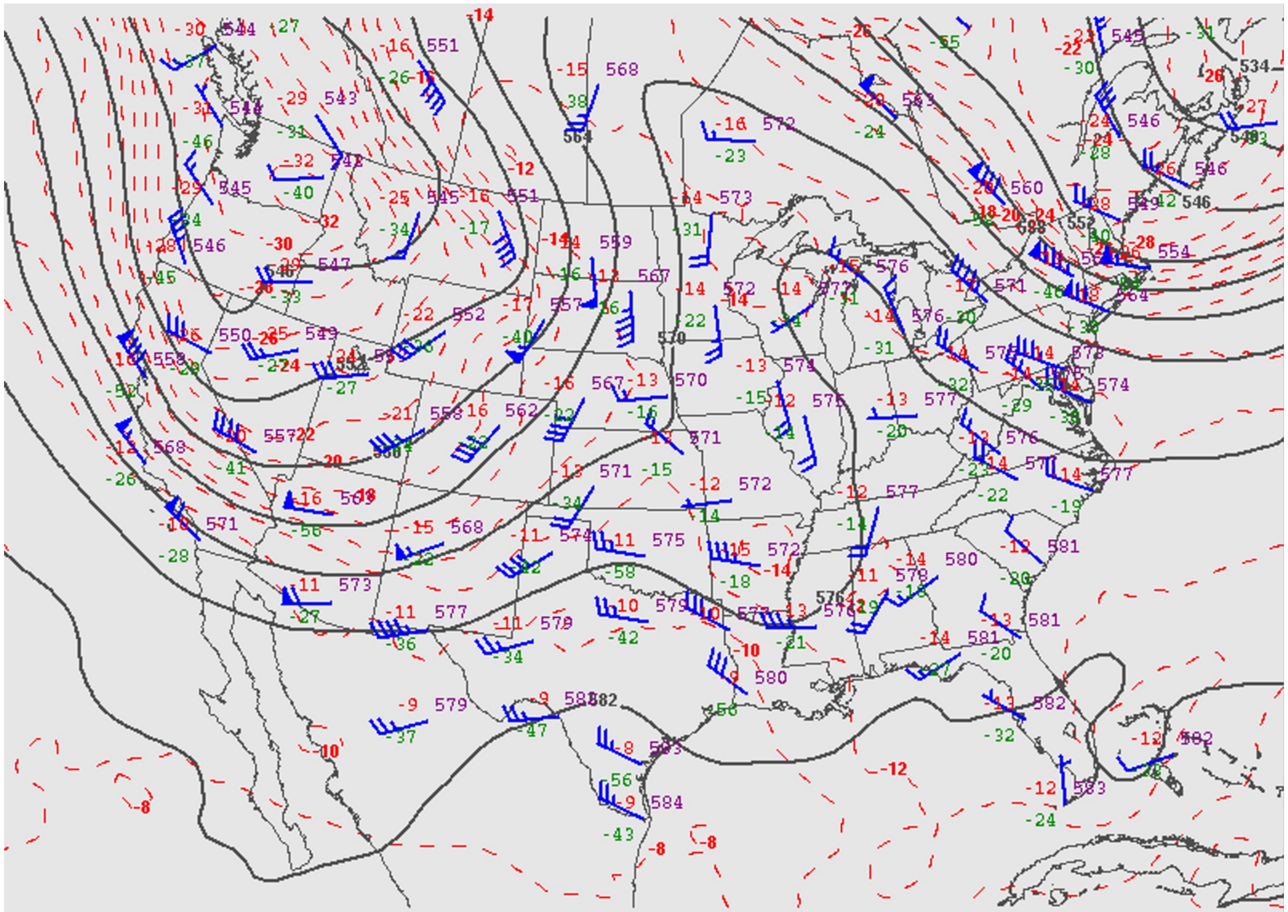
- **Mid-level flow crosses high terrain:**
  - **Subsidence and warming E of mountains**
  - **Stronger diabatic heating across slope results in rising motion from induced katabatic flow. (Frontogenesis)**
  - **Warming of column and rising motion leads to "warm core" low formation**
  - **Strongest pressure falls with strongest flow crosses highest terrain**



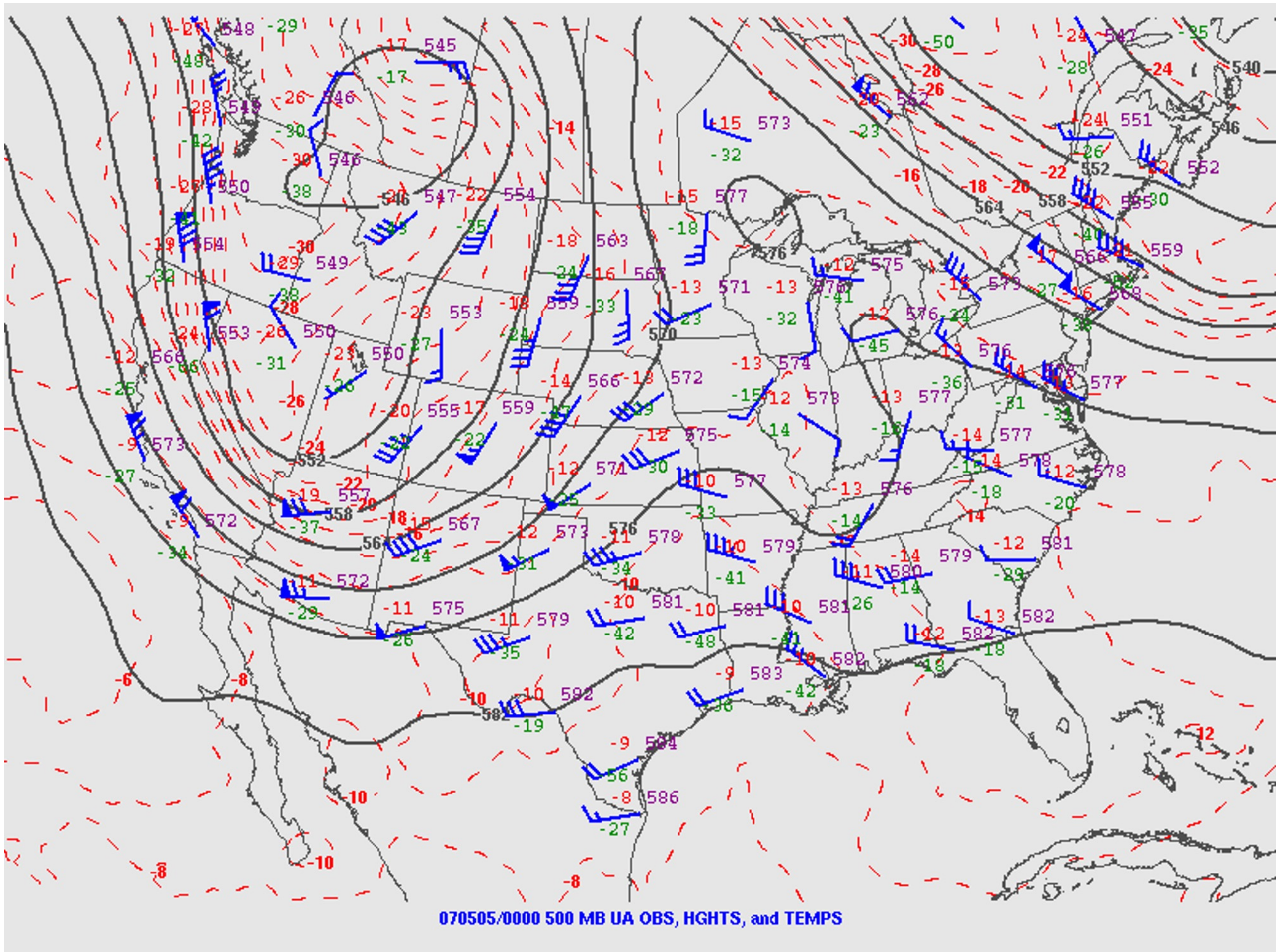
- **The lee trough/cyclone deepens before arrival of strongest Q-G forcing for ascent: (More QG Later)**
  - **Head start on differential advection, "loaded gun" sounding, and veering winds with height**

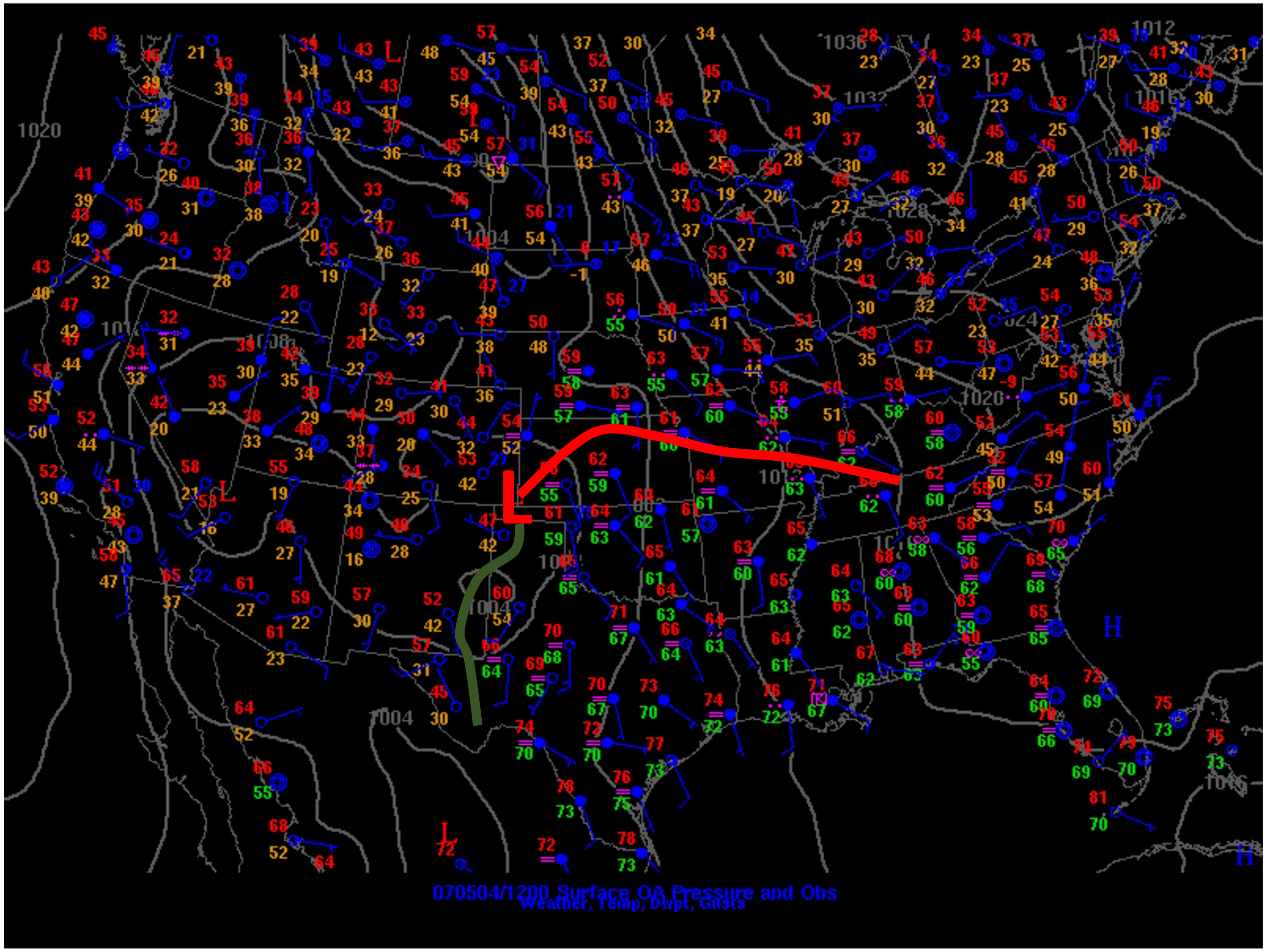


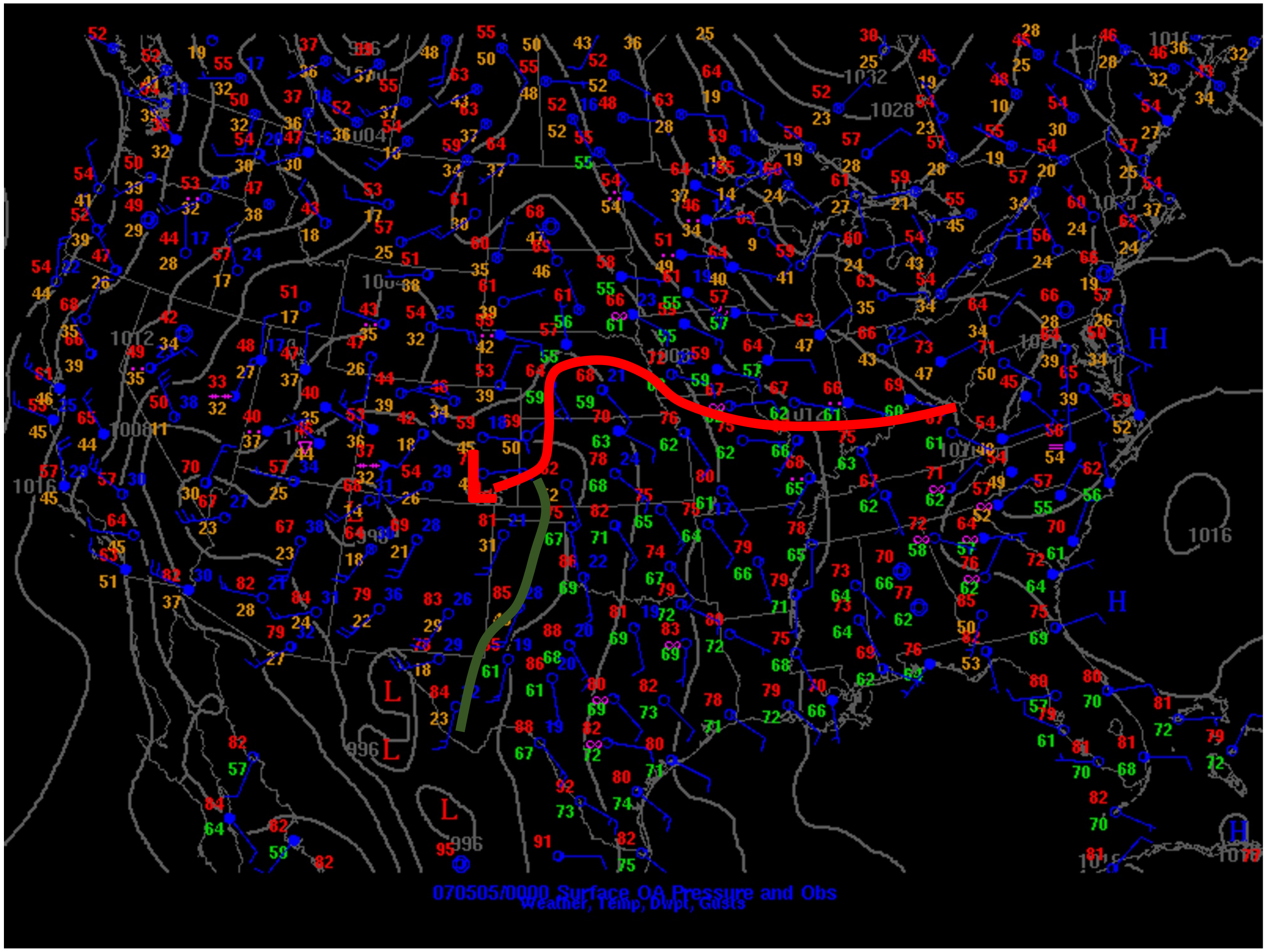

951027/1200 GOES8 SND



070504/1200 500 MB UA OBS, HGHTS, and TEMPS


070505/0000 500 MB UA OBS, HGHTS, and TEMPS

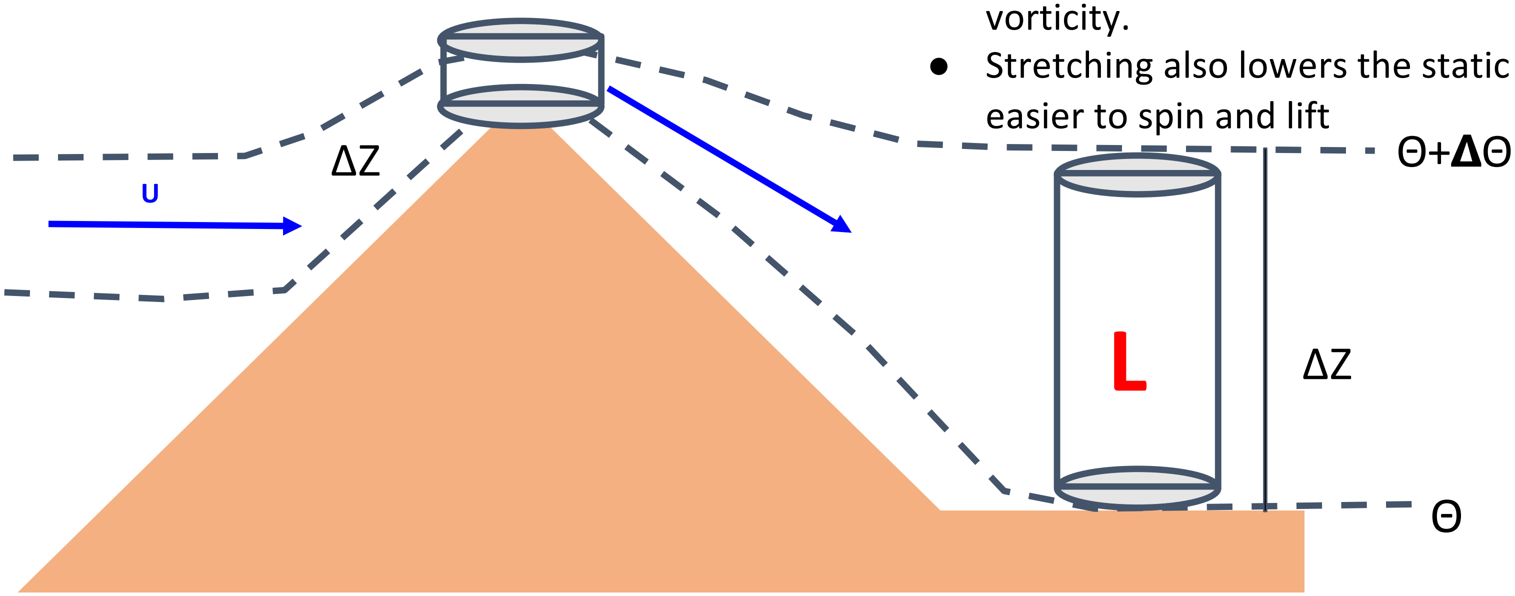

070504/1200 Surface OA Pressure and Obs
Weather, Temp, Dwpt, Gusts


070505/0000 Surface OA Pressure and Obs
Weather, Temp, Dwpt, Gusts

Lee Cyclogenesis PV Framework

$$Pv = \frac{\zeta_{\Theta} + f}{\Delta Z} = \text{const}$$

- Conservation of Potential Vorticity
  - Assumptions:
    - Constant density/stable
    - Adiabatic
    - Frictionless
- Stretching of the column vertically requires an increase in relative vorticity between the theta surfaces inducing positive vorticity.
- Stretching also lowers the static stability of the atmosphere. easier to spin and lift



Nocturnal Low-Level Jet (LLJ)

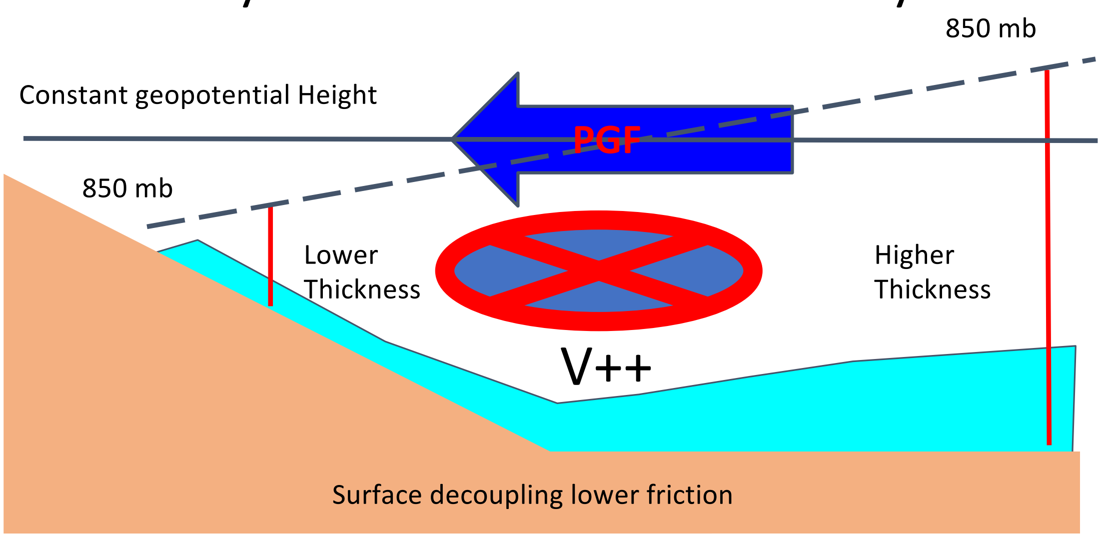
- **Plains often see early nocturnal low-level jet (LLJ) ramp up with lee cyclogenesis**

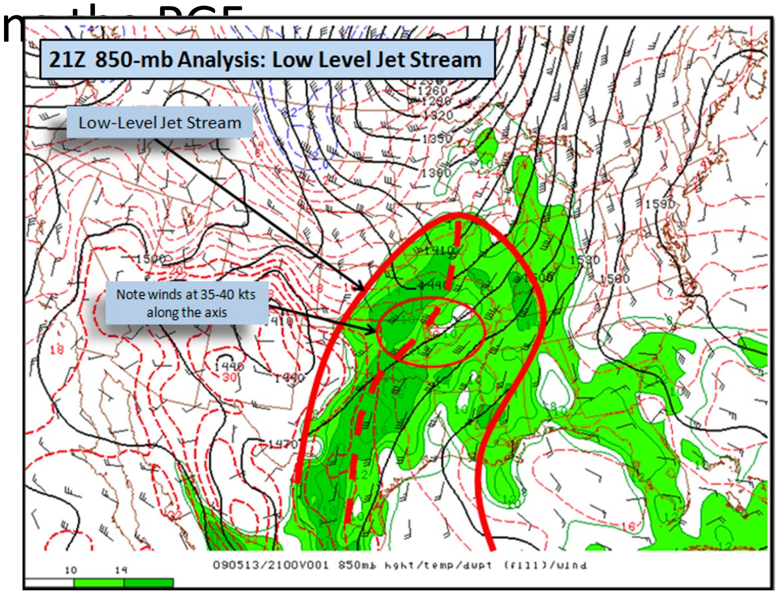
- **Related to two primary factors:**
  - **Boundary-layer decoupling and loss of surface friction ("inertial oscillation")**
  - **Diurnal temperature variations over sloped terrain (thermal wind)**

- **Part of the process that can favor late evening/early overnight tornadoes (with favorable moisture/CAPE)**

Nocturnal Low-Level Jet (LLJ) Formation

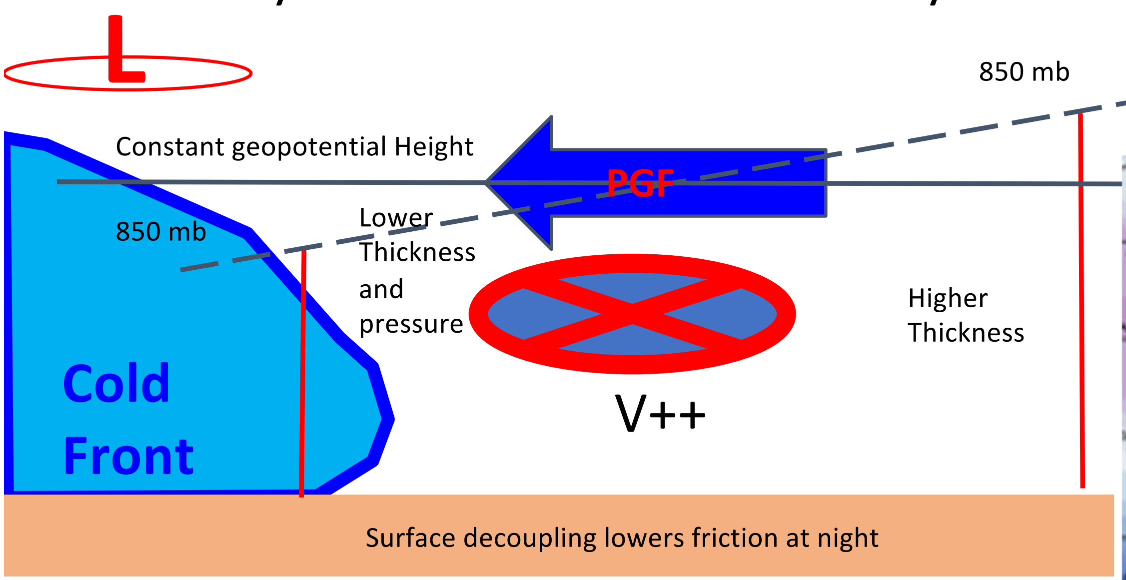
- LLJs form in response to difference in terrain heights, heat fluxes and thickness across pressure surfaces that induces a horizontal Pressure Gradient Force.
- Coriolis forcing turns the momentum northward resulting in an enhanced southerly flow.
- Surface decoupling favors lower friction and acceleration of the jet above the surface
- Lee Cyclones can also enhance it by increasing the PGF.

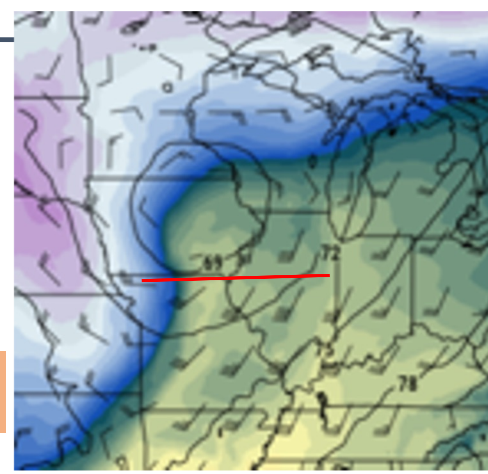


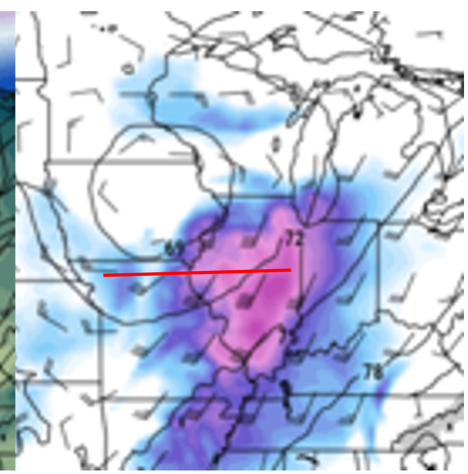


Cyclone induced Low-Level Jet (LLJ) Formation

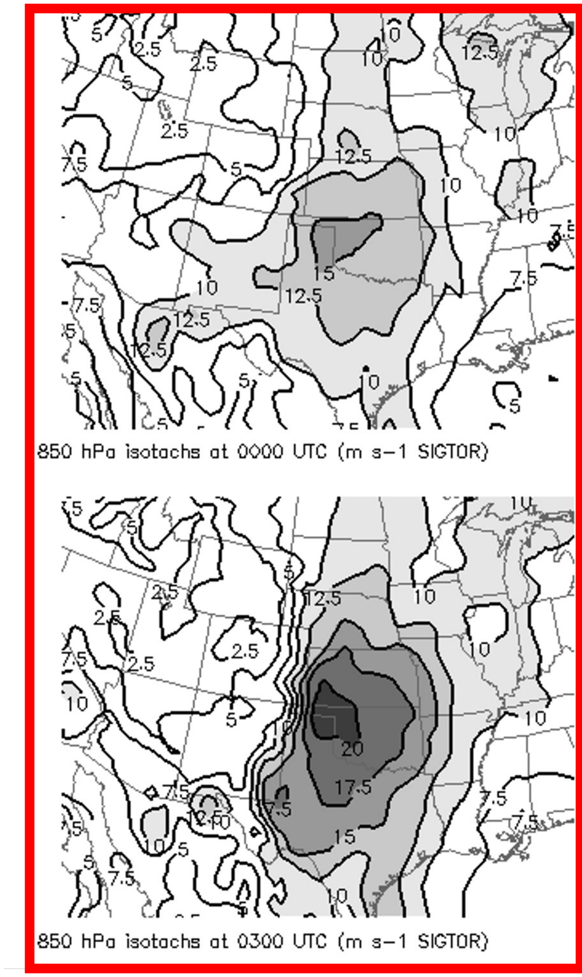
- LLJs form in response to difference in heat fluxes and thickness across pressure surfaces that induces a horizontal Pressure Gradient Force.
- Coriolis forcing turns the momentum northward resulting in an enhanced southerly flow.
- Surface decoupling favors lower friction and acceleration of the jet above the surface
- Lee Cyclones can also enhance it by increasing the PGF.



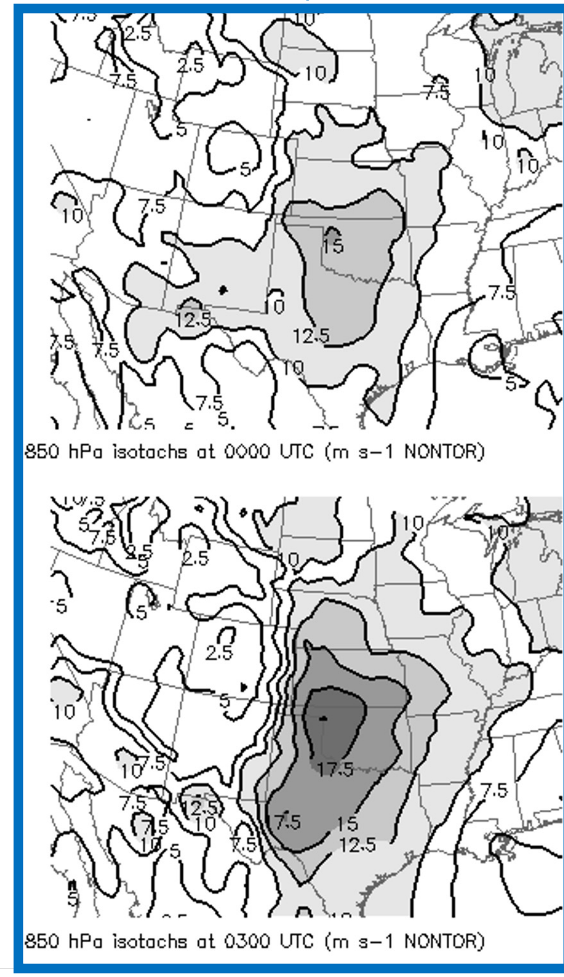




EF2+ supercell events



Nontornadic supercell events



Lee Cyclogenesis Summary

- **Lee cyclogenesis occurs where upper-level flow is perpendicular to terrain features (westerly flow for Rockies)**

- **Lee cyclogenesis more robust with lower static stability**

- **Lee cyclone helps drive low-level moisture return**

- **Nocturnal low-level jet associated with lee cyclone is driven by inertial oscillation and thermal wind increased low-level shear and tornado threat in evening and after dark if adequate CAPE**