

Latest Update on Cutoff Low Wind and Snowfall Event

Updated: 13 March 2024

A mid-level cutoff low is forecast to develop over the southwestern US later today, Wed 13 Mar and remain nearly stationary for several days. This low is expected to result in windy conditions over the Sierra Nevada and in the Sacramento Valley and heavy snowfall/precipitation across the Four Corners region.

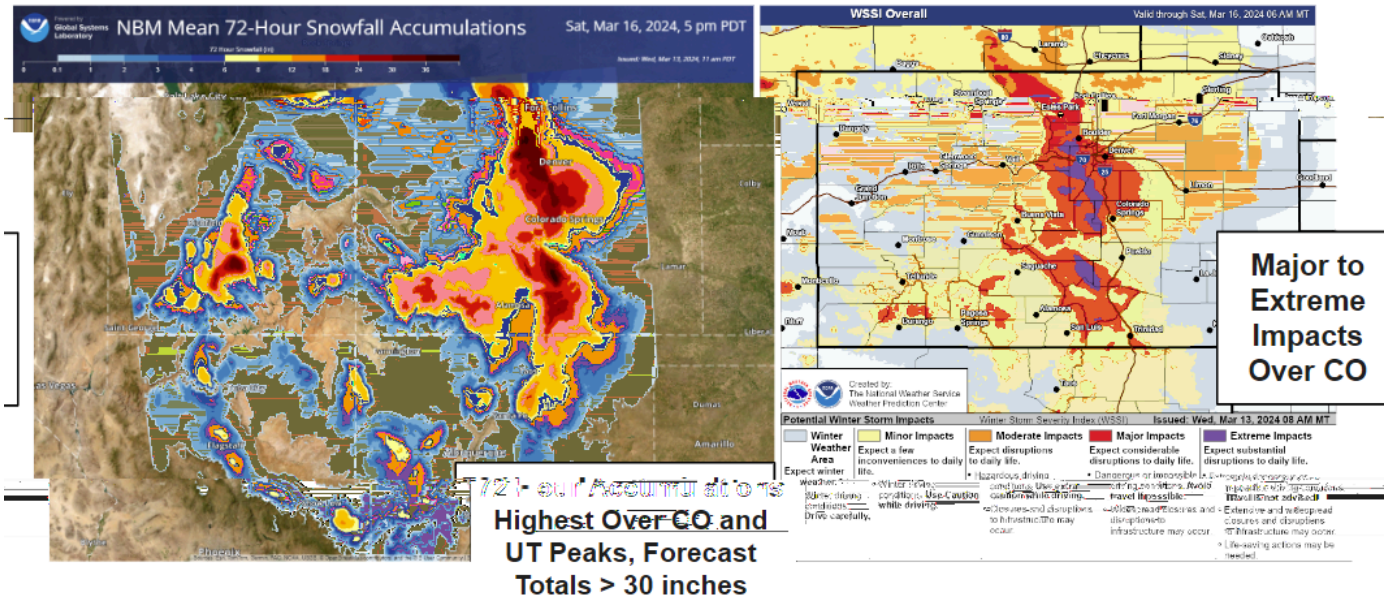
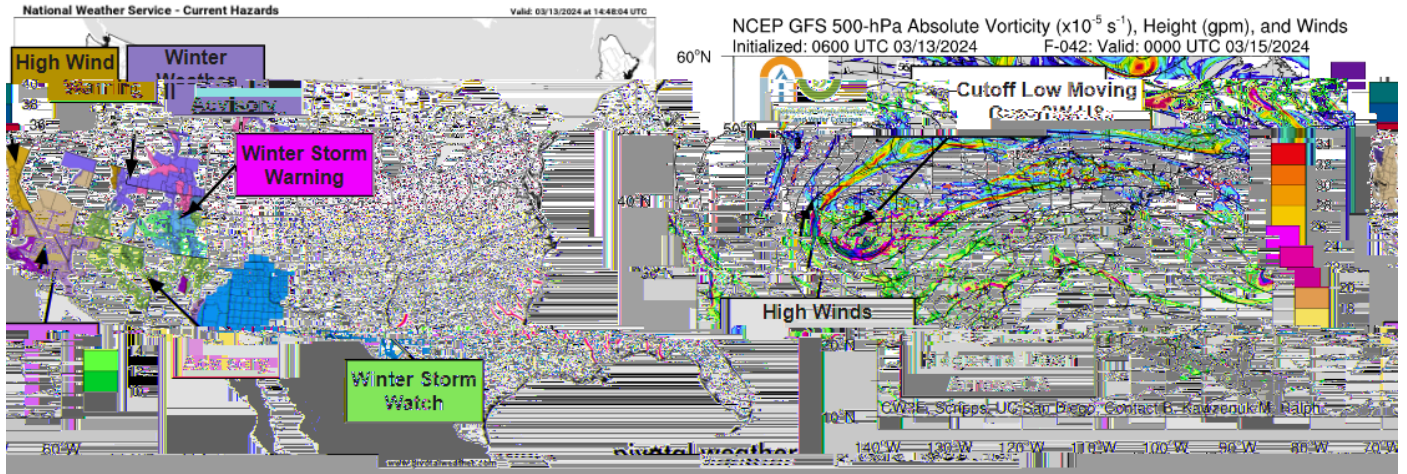
Forecast Highlights:

- A deepening mid-level trough is forecast to develop into a cutoff low over the southwestern US and persist in the region through the weekend.
- The track of the cutoff low will likely create favorable conditions for strong, damaging winds across CA. Northeast winds at 30-45 mph, gusting to 55-70 mph in the Sierra Nevada and 20-30 mph, gusting to 35-45 mph in the Sacramento Valley are expected late Wed 13 Mar through Thu 14 Mar.
- The National Weather Service has issued High Wind Warnings along the Sierra Nevada and Transverse Range. Wind Advisories have been issued for central and southern California and southern Nevada.
- The Weather Prediction Center (WPC) is forecasting at least one inch of precipitation across Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico through the weekend, with precipitation totals greater than 2 inches forecast at higher elevations.
- Heavy snowfall is forecast in the Four Corners region, with the highest totals in the vicinity of the Colorado Front Range, where Winter Storm Warnings have been issued by the NWS
- Snowfall totals for the mountainous regions are forecast to be around 6-12 inches in Utah, 4-8 inches in Arizona, 2-8 inches in New Mexico and 12+ inches in Colorado.
- The National Blend of Models is forecasting mean snowfall totals over the Front Range to exceed 30 inches by midday Sat 16 Mar.
- The WPC's Winter Storm Severity Index is showing potential for extreme impacts over Boulder Mountain in southern Utah and the Front Range and Wet Mountains in Colorado.

Stay alert to official NWS forecasts, watches, and warnings at [weather.gov](https://www.weather.gov) and follow guidance from local emergency management officials

Stay tuned to the CW3E webpage for a full AR Update

National Weather Service WWA and GFS 500-hPa Analysis



Additional Considerations:

- Visit <https://www.cbrfc.noaa.gov/> and <https://cnrfc.noaa.gov/> for specific river and stream forecasts and <https://www.weather.gov/> for point specific watches, warnings, and forecasts.

In-depth AR forecasts products can be found here:

<http://cw3e.ucsd.edu/iwv-and-ivt-forecasts/>

Update by M. Steen

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