



# The Weather Prediction Center's Winter Weather Experiment: Plans for the 14<sup>th</sup> WWE (2023-2024)

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WWE Seminar Series - 5 December 2023





# What is the Winter Weather Experiment?

- Studying winter weather forecasting challenges (e.g. snowfall and mixed precip. events) in retrospective case studies
- Gaining insight into experimental model performance through interactive forecasting activities

Forecast Hour: 06 UTC Wed 08 Nov 2023

Current: EMC RRFSp1

Models ▾

Ensembles & PQPF ▾

Obs, EROs, ARIs and FFGs ▾

HMT and NOAA Websites ▾

External Weather Websites ▾

RUN: 06 UTC Wed 08 Nov 2023

Click and drag slider or click slider to engage arrow keys

[+28] VALID: 10 UTC Thu 09 Nov 2023

EMC RRFSp1 - 1 hr PTYPE

Valid: 20231109 10UTC P-type Init: 20231108-06UTC

Multiple ways to visualize graphics for model/ens surveillance and use in the forecast process

- 1 hr Snowfall
- 3 hr Snowfall
- 6 hr Snowfall
- 24 hr Snowfall
- 1 hr Snow Depth
- Hourly Precipitation Type
- 1 hr Freezing Rain QPF

[REQUIRED] Enter information in each box, then click buttons in this section.

Day:  Username:  24h Snow Max:  48h Snow Max:  Snow Max Pct:  Snow Pct:  Weight:

Press button to get your assigned Model or Ensemble

Get Model/Ensemble

Upload personal file:  (Choose File) (No file chosen)

End Date for Obs (YYYY-MM-ds HH): 2023-11-28-12 (GMT-0500)

Obs hour of: 24 (GMT-0500)

Start Date for Models (YYYY-MM-ds HH): 2023-11-27-06 (GMT-0500)

Model PFR: 19 (GMT-0500)

Set ERO day: 1 (GMT-0500)

Set SFC day: 1 (GMT-0500)

Interactive engagement by creating a forecast and having it verified

# Past WWE Successes

R2O2R

Research



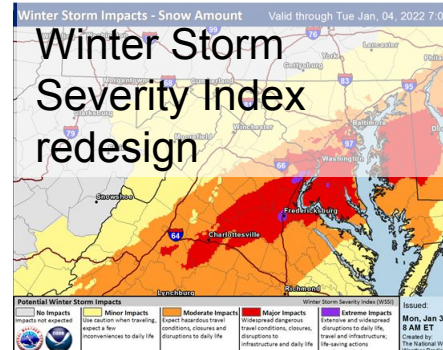
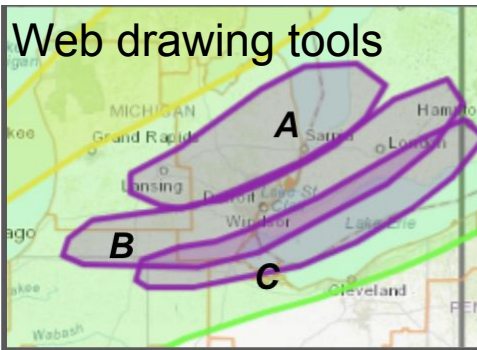
Operations

- Testing of improved snowfall accumulation variables
- Testing of winter specific verification metrics for CAMs
- Enhancements to the National Blend of Models (NBM)
- Testing of fuzzy clustering for ensemble forecast scenarios

mPing  
observations

← Back Winter Weather Impacts

- Downed tree limbs or power lines from snow or ice
- Frozen or burst water pipes
- Roof or structural collapse from snow or ice
- School or business delay or early dismissal
- School or business closure
- Power or internet outage or disruption
- Road closure
- Icy sidewalks, driveways, and/or parking lots
- Snow accumulating only on grass
- Snow accumulating on roads and sidewalks





# WWE: Vision for the next 5 years



- Objective evaluation of CAM freezing rain forecasts against gridded freezing rain analyses (funded project - CIWRO/NSSL)
- Greater discussion of winter weather impacts on forecast messaging (funded project - CIRES, NSSL)
  - Not just amounts but rates and timing can be very important
- Increase the Probabilistic Forecasting focus with the end goal of improved communication
- More involvement from partners to enhance communication

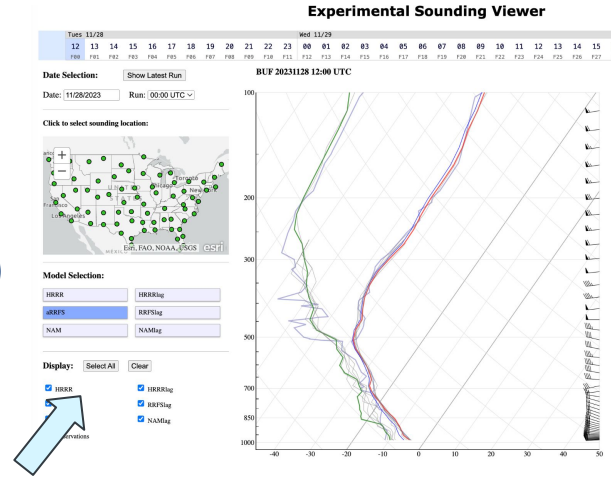




# WWE 2023-2024 Plans - Projects

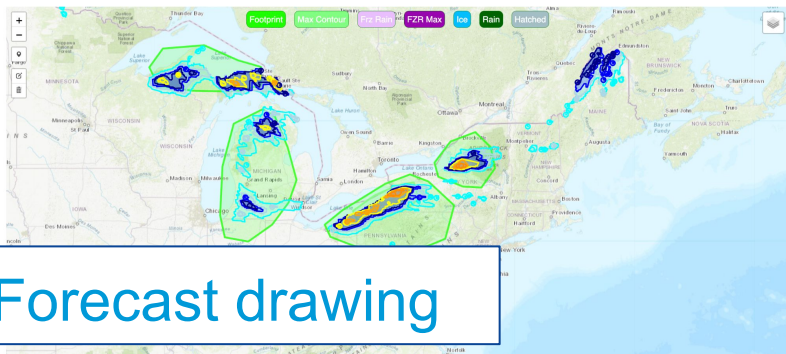
(*italics* = focus groups):

- *Observations: MRMS Freezing Rain analysis - FRANA (CIWRO/NSSL)*
- *Transportation hazards (CIRES/NSSL)*
- **Convection-permitting applications:**
  - Ensemble NWP and ML post-proc (OU CAPS)
  - Machine learning for SLR (Univ. of Utah)
  - Ensemble viz and verification (CIRES/NCAR)
  - RRFS\_A evaluation (EMC)
  - Deterministic and ensemble soundings [may include spectral bin classifier] (HMT)

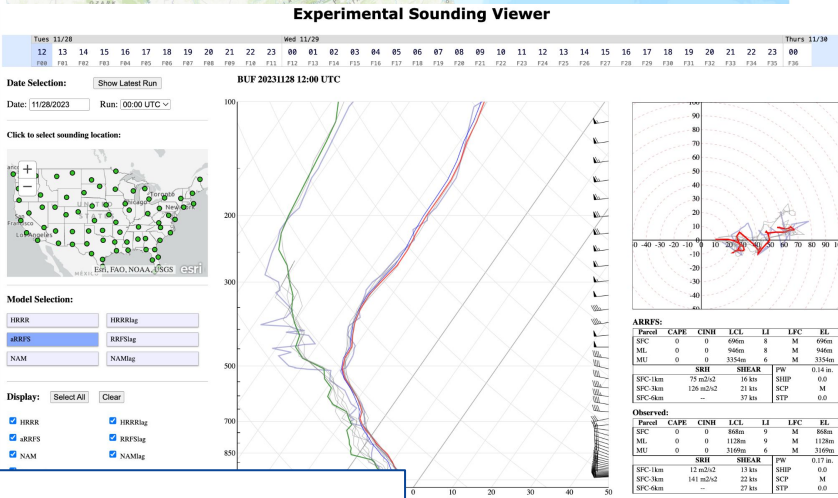




# WWE 2023-2024 Plans - Activities and Tools



## Forecast drawing



## Sounding viewer

Select Case: 24 December 2022 Select Day: Day 1

Select Dataset: NBMv4.1  
Select Variable: Snowfall  
Select Accumulation: 6 Hour

Drag the slider to display timesteps.

Forecast Period Ends: 00Z Sat 24 Dec, 2022

GIS viewer

Forecast Hour

Current: EMC RRFSp1

Models

Ensembles & PQPF

Obs, EROs, ARIs and FFGs

HMT and NOAA Websites

External Weather Websites

Forecast Hour: 06 UTC Wed 08 Nov 2023

Chose Your Parameter: 1 hr PTYPE

QPF

QPF Exceedance of ARI

QPF Duration

Hourly Instantaneous Precipitation Rate

Hourly Max Rain Rate

1 hr Composite Reflectivity

1 hr Reflectivity at 1 km

Hourly Min/Max Updraft

Helicity

Synoptic

Winter Weather

Verification 6 hr QPF

Verification 24 hr QPF

Valid: 20231109 10UTC P-type Int: 20231108-06UTC

1 hr Snowfall  
3 hr Snowfall  
6 hr Snowfall  
24 hr Snowfall  
1 hr Snow Depth  
Hourly Precipitation Type  
1 hr Freeze Rain QPF

Model graphics



# WWE 2023-2024 Plans - Activities and Tools

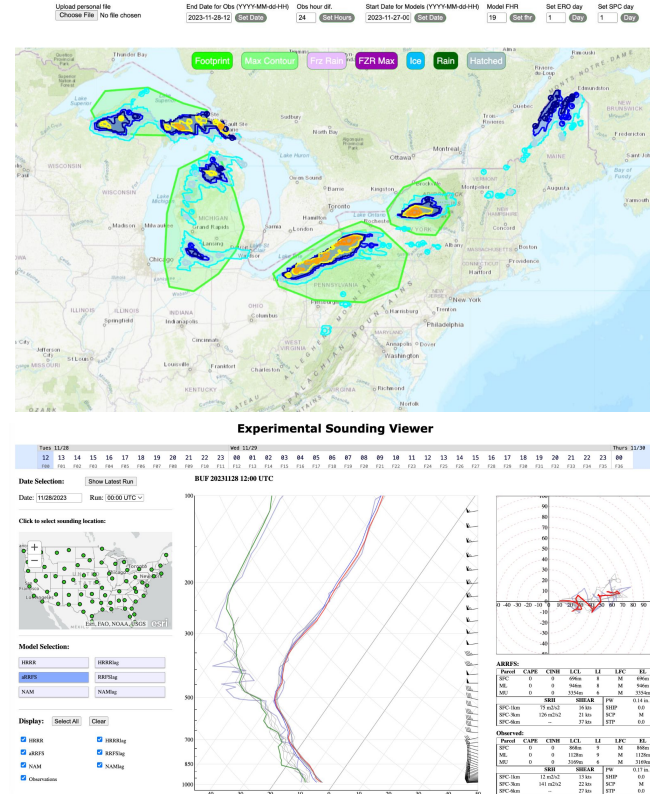


## Forecasting Activities

- **MSTP** (Maximum Snowfall and Timing Product)
  - Predict snowfall and freezing rain extremes for Days 1-3: assess spatial extent, magnitude, timing uncertainty
- **Sounding Viewer Activity**
  - Assess thermodynamic profiles from CAMs for three locations of interest during a case study, predict timing of heavy snowfall, p-type transitions for each location



## Science Seminars (Tue/Thu)





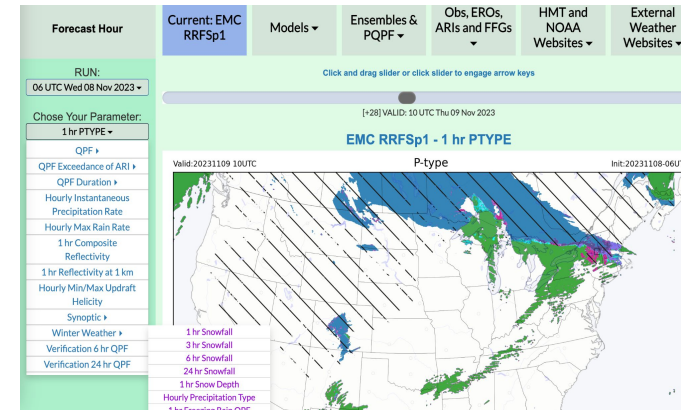
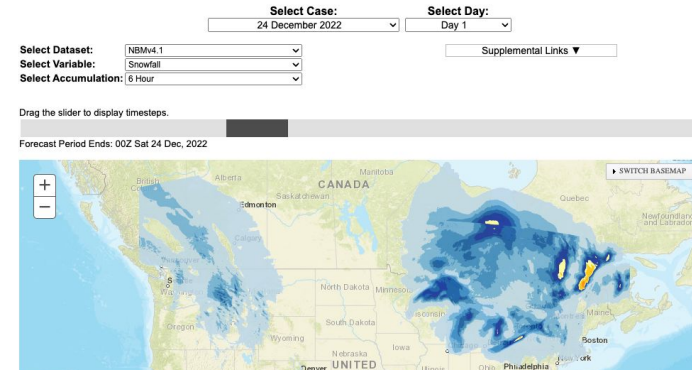


# WWE 2023-2024 Plans - Activities and Tools



## Evaluation/Verification Activities

- **Rapid Refresh Forecast System**
  - Help provide feedback to developers by verifying and evaluating RRFs against current operational models
  - Get forecasting experience with the RRFs, which is planned to become the new CAM ensemble for the NWS, replacing the HREF
- **Machine Learning Products**
  - Can ML methods improve ensemble products and probabilities for snowfall and SLR forecasts?





# WWE 2023-2024 Plans - Activities and Tools



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
9:30 am - Orientation and Introductions	9:30 am - Verification for Case 1	9:30 am - Case 2 sounding activity	9:30 am - Fcst. Brief Case 3	9:30 am - Fcst Brief Case 3
10:30 am - Fcst. Brief Case 1			10 am - Day 3 MSTP activity	10 am - Day 1 MSTP activity
11 am - Day 2 MSTP activity	11:30 am - Case 1 discussion	11:30 am - Verif. for Case 2	11:30 am - Fcst. Brief Case 3	11:30 am - Sounding activity Day 1
12 pm - Lunch	12 pm - Lunch	12 pm - Lunch	12 pm - Lunch	12 pm - Lunch
1 pm - Fcst. Brief Case 1	1 pm - WWE Seminar	1 pm - Verif. for Case 2	1 pm - WWE Seminar	1 pm - Verif. for Case 3
1:30 pm - Day 1 MSTP activity	2 pm - Fcst. Brief Case 2		2 pm - Day 2 MSTP activity	
	2:30 pm - Day 2 MSTP activity			
3 pm - Sounding activity	3:30 pm - Fcst. Brief Day 1	3:30 pm - Case 2 discussion	3:30 pm - Sounding activity Day 2	3 pm - Case 3 discussion
	4 pm - MSTP Day 1			4 pm - General Disc., Closing
5 pm - End	5 pm - End	5 pm - End	5 pm - End	5 pm - End

## Intensive week schedule (draft):

- Planning to forecast and evaluate about 3 cases per intensive week
- For more details, visit: [14th WWE Science and Ops. Plan](#)





# WWE Seminar Series



Seminars will be held at 1 pm ET (1800 UTC) on Google Meet from December to March



Seminar Date	Name	Affiliation	Topic
Tue, December 5, 2023	Massey Bartolini	CIRES/WPC	14th WWE Overview
Thu, December 7, 2023	Daniel Tripp	CIWRO/NSSL	FRANA
Tue, December 12, 2023	Andrew Rosenow	CIWRO/NSSL	MRMS snow rate
Tue, December 19, 2023	Ben Blake	SAIC/EMC	RRFSv1
Thu, January 4, 2024	Justin Minder	Univ. at Albany	WINTRE-MIX
Tue, January 9, 2024	Peter Veals / Jim Steenburgh	Univ. of Utah	Machine learning for SLR
Thu, January 11, 2024	Greg Carbin	WPC	Recent history of WPC Winter Weather Desk
Thu, January 18, 2024	Laura Tomkins / Sandra Yuter	NCSU	Snow banding observations
Tue, January 23, 2024	Keith Brewster	CAPS/OU	RRFS ens. and machine learning snow prods.
Thu, January 25, 2024	Andrew Lyons	SPC	SPC winter program, snow squall research
Tue, February 6, 2024	Josh Kastman	WPC	Winter Storm Severity Index development
Thu, February 8, 2024	Christiane Jablonowski	Univ. of Michigan	RRFS/FVCOM coupling for lake-effect snow
Tue, February 13, 2024	Bruce Veenhuis	WPC	PWPF research
Thu, February 15, 2024	Geoff Manikin	MDL	NBM winter updates
Tue, February 20, 2024	Eric Guillot	NWS HQ	NWS Winter Program
Tue, February 27, 2024	Nick Leonardo / Brian Colle	SBU	Idealized simulations of snow multi-bands
Thu, February 29, 2024	Anna Wilson / Jay Cordeira	CW3E	2022-2023 Western U.S. record snowfall
March schedule TBD			





# WWE Participation

Links:

[HMT Webpage \(realtime graphics\)](#)

[WWE Science and Ops. Plan](#)

Here's how to join us:

- WWE seminar series (December-March): open to all, Google Meet
  - **Tuesdays/Thursdays, 1 pm Eastern**
- Intensive weeks: open to all, virtual (Google Meet), possible in-person (WPC)
  - **Planned dates: weeks of Feb 12 (v), Feb 26 (v), Mar 11 (v, poss. h)**
- Focus groups (FRANA and road hazards): NWS forecasters only
  - **Sessions in February and March, virtual (Google Meet)**
- Longer term:
  - Always open to suggestions for testing of new R2O ideas
  - Pls: look for calls for testbed-related funding proposals

