

Issued 229 am MST Tues. Jan 17, 2012

.DISCUSSION...

LIGHT SNOW WILL BEGIN TODAY WITH SNOWFALL INCREASING OVERNIGHT. A MAJOR WINTER STORM IS TAKING SHAPE FOR ALL OF WESTERN WYOMING FROM WEDNESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY NIGHT WITH THE POTENTIAL FOR ANOTHER STORM TO MOVE IN FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY. THIS SYSTEM LOOKS VERY MOIST WITH GRADUALLY MODERATING TEMPERATURES THROUGH THE EVENT. WINDS WILL INCREASE DRAMATICALLY TONIGHT AND CONTINUE QUITE STRONG THROUGH MOST OF THE EVENT. THE HIGHER MOUNTAINS AND EXPOSED PEAKS WILL LIKELY EXPERIENCE BLIZZARD CONDITIONS OFF AND ON DURING THIS PERIOD. SNOWFALL AMOUNTS WILL EASILY BE 2 TO 3 FEET IN THE TETONS AND SOUTHWEST MOUNTAINS OF YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK WITH 1 TO 2 FEET COMMON IN THE REST OF THE WESTERN MOUNTAINS WITH LOCALIZED AREAS POTENTIALLY RECEIVING OVER 3 FEET IN THE TETONS. THE LOWER ELEVATIONS WILL SEE 9 TO 18 INCHES. EVEN THE VALLEY FLOOR WILL SEE SOUTHWEST WINDS OF 20 TO 35 MPH WITH GUSTS OVER 40 MPH. CONSIDERABLE BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW AND VISIBILITIES BETWEEN ZERO AND ONE QUARTER MILE WILL BE COMMON FROM WEDNESDAY THROUGH THURSDAY. SNOWFALL RATES OVER AN INCH PER HOUR ARE QUITE POSSIBLE...ESPECIALLY WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING AND AGAIN THURSDAY AFTERNOON AND EVENING. MORE HEAVY SNOW IS POSSIBLE LATE FRIDAY NIGHT AND SATURDAY MORNING.

Date					Tues. 1/17					Wed. 1/18					Thurs 1/19							
UTC	9	12	15	18	21	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	0	3	6	9	12	15	18	21	0
MST	2	5	8	11	14	17	20	23	2	5	8	11	14	17	20	23	2	5	8	11	14	17
Max/Min					10				4				15				15				25	
Temp	-3	-3	6	10	6	5	5	5	4	4	12	15	15	17	17	17	17	17	23	25	22	22
Dewpt	-7	-8	-3	-4	1	-2	1	1	1	0	5	7	13	12	14	15	15	14	19	20	19	19
RH	82	78	66	52	79	72	83	83	87	83	73	70	92	80	88	92	92	88	84	81	88	88
Wind dir	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	W	W	W	W	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW	SW
Wind speed	20	20	20	24	26	27	31	34	37	37	35	33	34	34	34	32	29	28	29	28	32	33
Wind gust	31	31	31	36	40	41	47	51	57	57	54	50	51	51	51	51	44	44	41	40	41	47
clouds	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV	OV
clouds (%)	87	87	89	89	94	94	93	93	96	96	99	99	99	99	100	100	99	99	98	98	98	100
POP 12 hrs					60				80				100				100				100	
QPF 12 hrs					0.12				0.22				0.58				0.52				0.68	
Snow 12 hrs					2				3				8				7				10	