

Avalanche, Snow and Weather Briefing

Rich Rogers
20200310

What?

- What is the application?

SH 91 Avalanche path analysis (mm 2.7- mm 7.1)

- What is the forecast area

Buckeye Gulch NTL

- What is the forecast time period

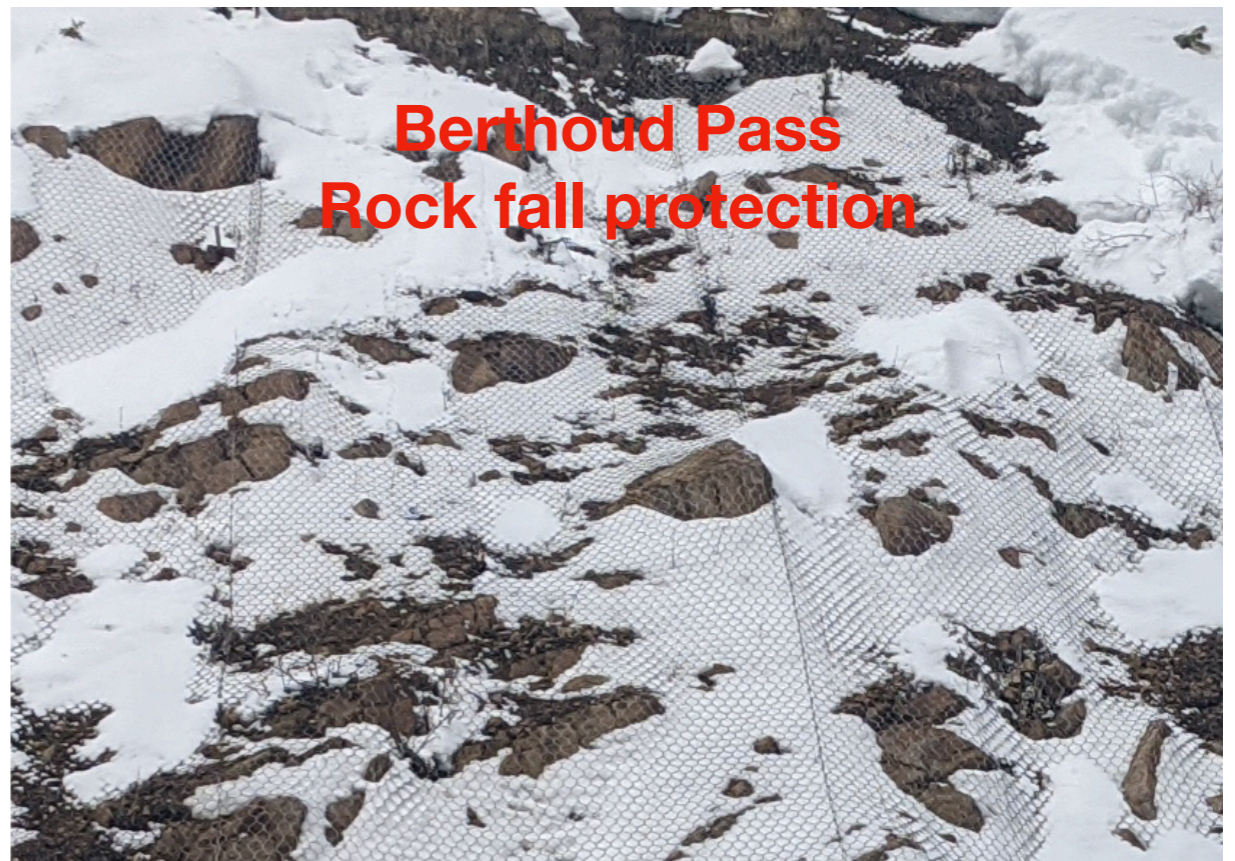
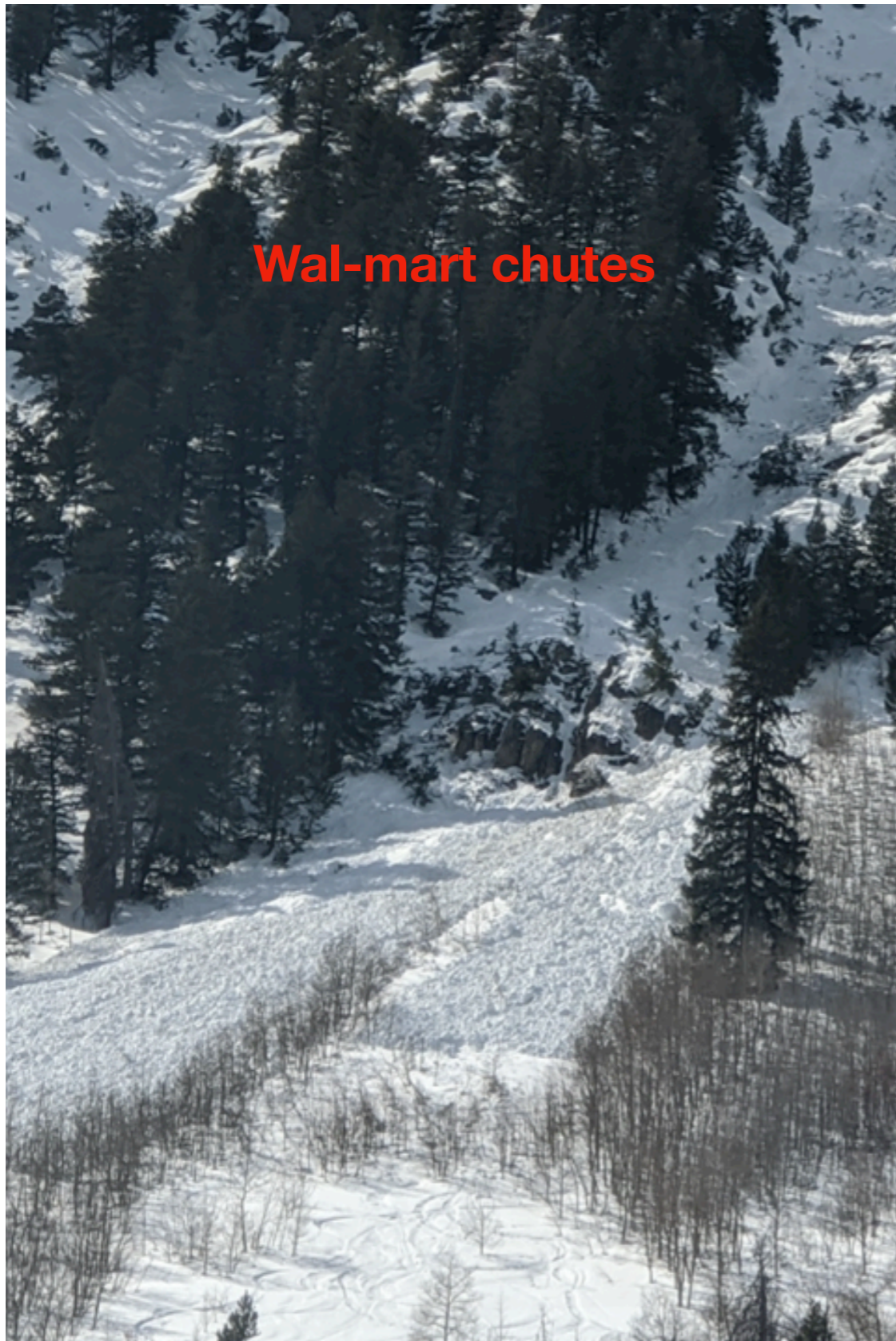
Wednesday 08:00- Thursday 08:00

- What is the element at risk

Pro 2 students and faculty

Avalanche

- Avalanches in forecast area
 - No reported or observed avalanche activity in the last week
- Relevant avalanches from near-neighbors
 - Aspen zone
 - 03/08, 4 WL(type), W, <TL, N, R1, D1-1.5 (Steep but short cut banks, blocked CR for several Hrs)
 - Vail Summit
 - 03/08, “wal-mart chutes”, WS(type), E, <TL, N, R2, D2, steep and rocky(some rock above snow surface)
 - Occurred 03/07 reported 03/09, Berthoud Pass, WL(type), <TL, N, R2, D1, steep and rocky





**Vail Summit field report from 03/09
“chunky debris”, no aspect mentioned**

Aval. Advisory

ATL	LOW	PS	Unlikely	D2	N-E-SE
NTL	LOW	PS	Unlikely	D2	N-E-SE
BTL	LOW	-	-	-	-

Adjacent zones
are at **MOD** Danger
w/ wet problems BTL
And **LOW** NTL and ATL w/
NO specific avalanche
problem

Snowpack

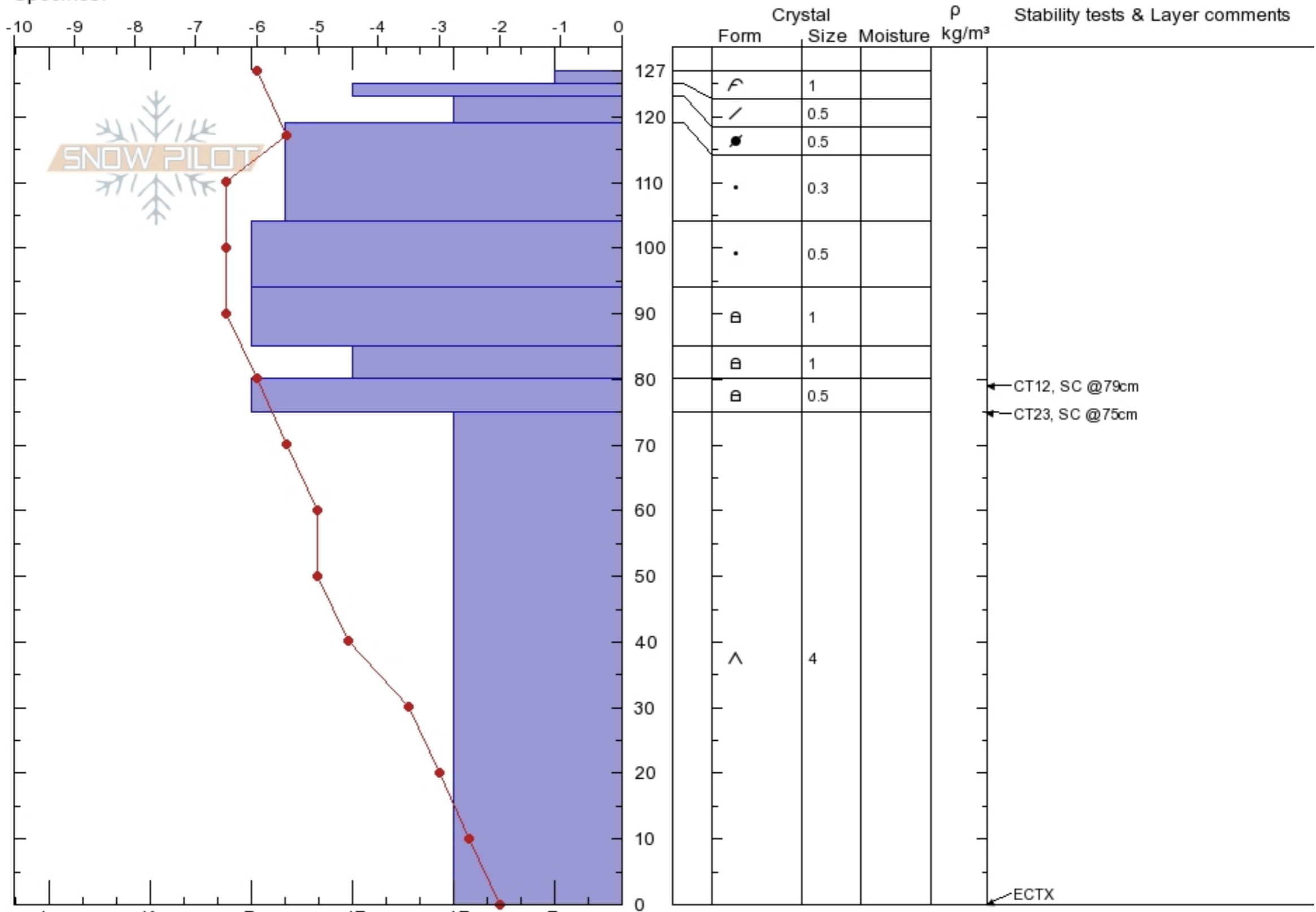
- ATL
 - Firm snow, cold snow, supportive, scoured windward slopes, Thicker snowpack on leeward slopes
- NTL
 - Cooler snow, slightly more supportive with increase in depth on the upper half of Elev. band
- BTL
 - Surprise trap door, shallow, only re-freezing near surface(crusts), E-S-W

R question mark SH 91
 Sawatch
 CO
 Elevation: 11910 ft
 Aspect: 52°
 Specifics:

Rich Rogers
 03/09/2020 - 3:30pm
 Co-ord: 13S 393804W 4354124N
 Slope Angle: 30°
 Wind Loading: yes

Stability: Good
 Air Temperature: -3°C
 Sky Cover: BKN
 Precipitation: NO
 Wind: W Light Breeze

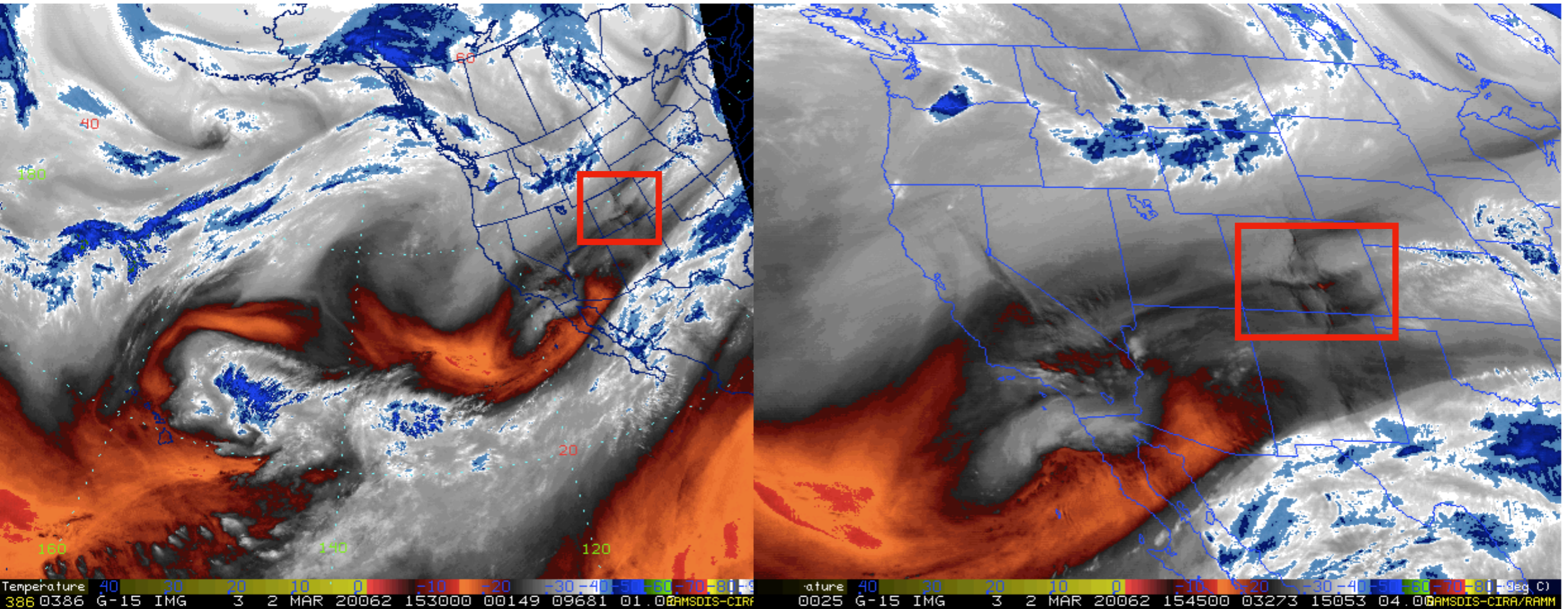
HS:127
 Layer Notes:
 80-75cm: Problematic layer



Notes: Other Observers- G. Benel, E. Mccue, B. Pritchett

Light wind loading

Recent Wx

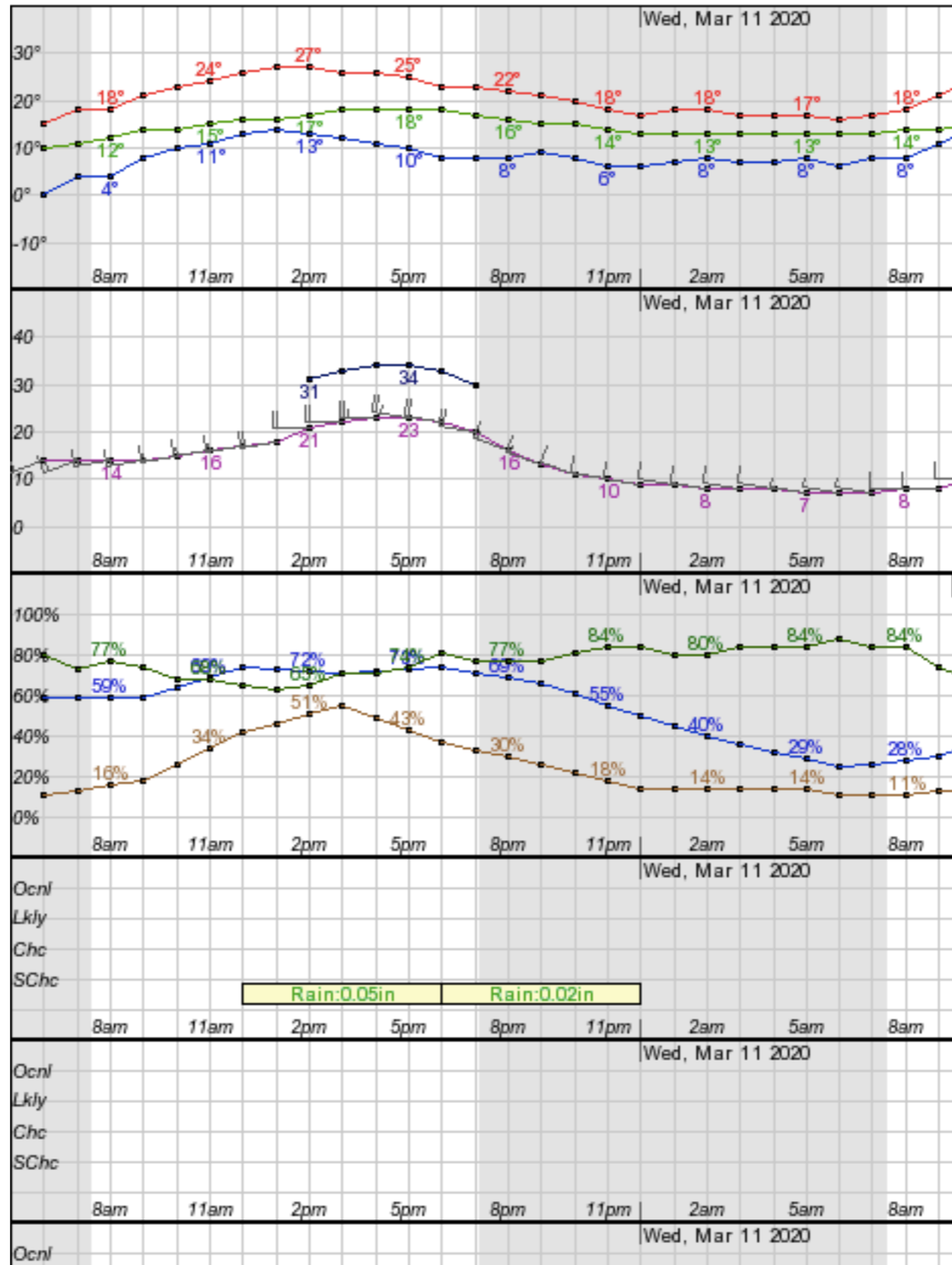


0500: Buena Vista, CO, 7900', OVC(thin clouds over valley puffy clouds over mtns), 26°F, calm

0700: Leadville, 10,000', OVC, 21°F, L, E

Wx Forecast

- Wednesday 0800- Thursday 0800 (NWS point forecast for S Buckeye Gulch/Zion @ 11,900ft)
- Tair staying below freezing
- Winds out of the W @12-24mph, G 35mph
- OVC skies
- Scattered snow/rain showers
- 0-1" snow, < 1/10" of rain



Critical Factors

- Avalanche:
 - Still no recent wet or dry avalanches in forecast area
 - Adjacent zones starting to see small wet avalanches in steep, rocky, BTL, E-S-W
- Snowpack:
 - BTL lacking continuous slab distribution, loose snow lacking cohesion, Breakable crusts
 - Colder snow and more supportive snow surface with increase in Elev.
- Weather:
 - Temp. staying at and below freezing NTL and ATL (27°F @ 11,900ft)
 - W winds will keep windward slopes cold, Leeward slopes should stay cool due to aspect
 - Cloud cover becoming thicker OVC-OB

Plan today

- Investigate Southern Zion path(s)
 - Photos/Video
 - Alpha angle
 - Profile representing SE path
- Additional Ridge top Wx station, winds for loading of start zone
- Safe Travel
- Terrain to avoid steep($>35^\circ$), rocky, shallow snow cover