

## **Product Description Document**

### **WFO Burlington, VT Mountain Recreational Point Forecasts**

#### **Part I – Mission Connection**

Product/Service Description - The WFO Burlington, VT Mountain Recreational Point Forecasts complements the official narrative text recreational forecasts that have long been issued by WFO Burlington, and in similar forms by other WFOs across the country. The web based display leverages the Google Maps interface to allow the user to readily access the specific mountain peak forecasts available. The WFO Burlington Mountain Recreational Forecast program serve a public safety purpose by providing weather forecasts for the highest elevations across the region, which are frequently impacted by severe and life-threatening weather that is not experienced at the lower elevations.

Product Type - Official

Purpose – The purpose of this product is to provide customers of the current narrative format mountain recreational forecasts an option to view higher resolution of key forecast elements for the higher elevation summits that are most commonly the location of a variety of outdoor activities (i.e., hiking, skiing, snowmobiling).

Audience – The audience for this product is any customer or partner with needs for mountain specific detailed forecasts. This includes the general public, as well as emergency officials in support of potential search and rescue missions.

Presentation Format – The forecast is available on a webpage as a combination of a text box popup on a Google Map background.

The URL for this product is: <http://www.weather.gov/btv/mountain/point/>

#### **Part II - Technical Description**

Format and Science Basis – This product uses the WFO gridded data that are created in order to produce the official mountain recreational forecasts that are issued under the product header ALBRECBTV. The gridded data set is a combination data that are available in the official NDFD suite (i.e., weather, cloud cover) and internal-only data (temperature, winds) that are better suited to account for summit conditions occurring on a smaller scale than can be resolved by the current 5km resolution NDFD. The internal data are initially populated using the forecaster's choice of model data, typically from the 850 or 875 mb level. These levels best correspond to the altitude of the majority of the summits. Forecasters then modify these grids as necessary based upon current observations (soundings, VWP data, COOP readings) or suspected model biases. Verification, which began in November 2002, uses the Mount Mansfield COOP (elev.~4200') site for temperatures and RUC analyses soundings for winds near that same level.

Availability – The point data are automatically created within the GFE software and uploaded to the website whenever the official ALBREC BTV product is issued.

Additional Information - Example of WFO Burlington, VT Mountain Point Forecast.

