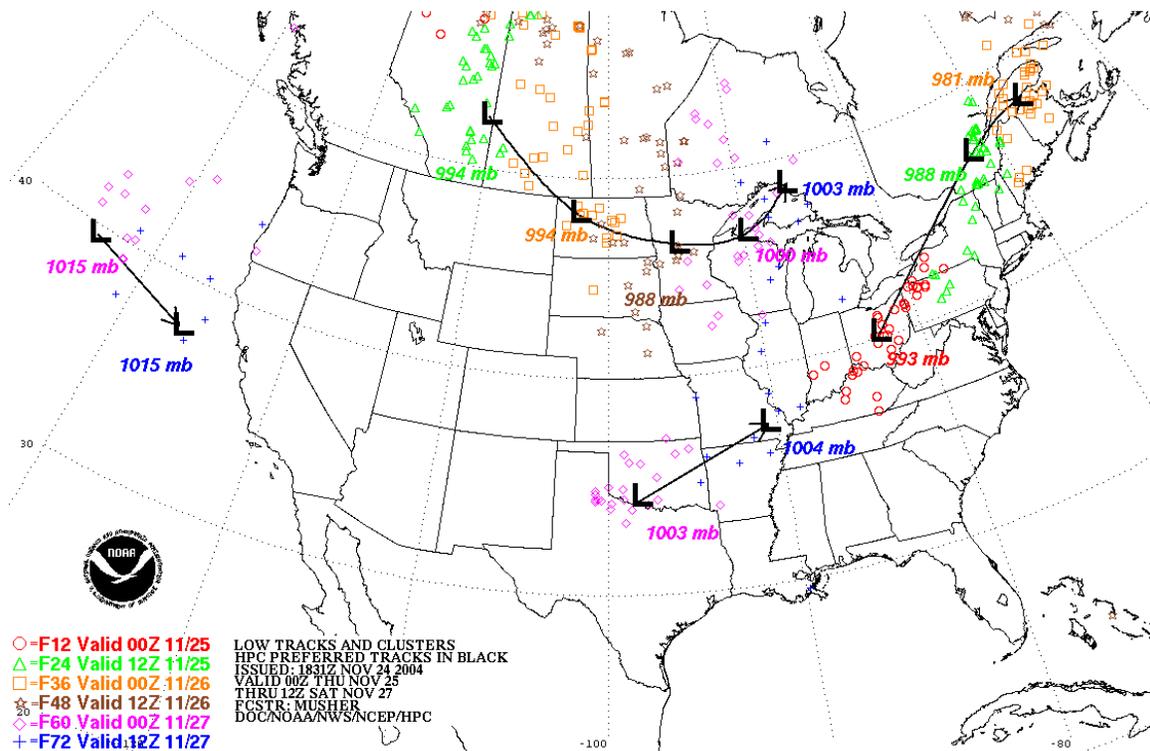


Non Technical Format of the Winter Low Tracks Graphic

Product Description Document (PDD)

Part I – Mission Connection

The National Weather Service (NWS) National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) Winter Weather Desk (WWD) issues a forecast of significant surface low positions twice daily. This graphic is known as the Winter Low Tracks Graphic. The Winter Low Tracks Graphic depicts over the contiguous U.S. (CONUS) the HPC forecast position of significant surface lows in 12 hour increments out to 72 hours. Uncertainty in the HPC forecast low position is depicted by including the forecast low position from model guidance available to the HPC forecaster (see example below).



This graphic is provided to users external to the NWS via HPC's Winter Weather Product page at http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/winter_wx.shtml. Preliminary feedback obtained from NWS external users during winter season 2004-2005 indicated a request to provide the information contained in the above graphic in both its technical format and additionally in a format tailored for non-technical users. The NWS intends to accommodate the request by providing an additional graphic in an experimental non-technical format during the 2005-2006 winter season. As an example the above graphic would be accompanied by the following graphic below.

circle whose diameter at a given valid time is determined by the HPC historical error in low track position. The valid time for the forecast low position is given in Eastern Time.