

Event summary for October 28-31 2009

A strong upper jet over the eastern Pacific and western United States sent energy south-southeastward into the base of the trough near the four corners region on the 28th. A divergent downstream upper pattern emerged over the central Rockies and high plains. This combined with prolonged low level northeasterly upslope flow behind a cold front that slid southward through the plains. Heavy snow aligned within the axis of most favorable upslope flow along the front range of the Rockies from northern Colorado to southeastern Wyoming as the mid/upper system slowly crossed into southern Colorado and northern New Mexico. A surface low organized along the front over the central plains on the 29th and slowly pushed northeastward from Kansas. 1 to 3 foot snow amounts were common from Denver to Cheyenne, with the higher totals across the more favored terrain west of the cities. 1 foot plus totals were also reported over portions of western Nebraska as the system pulled east of the area. Cheyenne set a monthly record for the most snow in October (28 inches) as this storm added to their monthly total.