

Forecast Date: December 12th

Discussion:

Global models are indicating an active period for the subtropical jet stream. What this means for SPI is relatively frequent passages of weather systems. A "system" could be defined as a full blown cold front, or an upper level disturbance that produces weather in the form of clouds or precipitation. Current data suggest systems passing once every 3 to 5 days, on average. The first was this past Tuesday evening (Nov. 24), the second is today (clouds), the next will be Monday (Nov. 30, cold front/rain), another may arrive December 3/4 (clouds, possible precipitation, remaining cool), another may arrive by December 7 (cool front/rain), and one more may arrive by the 12th (clouds, possible precipitation).

Given that we are in a moderate El Nino, with forecasts pointing for this episode to peak in December/January, the prediction for increasing subtropical jet stream activity fits well. At the same time, a mid to high latitude jet stream will continue generally along and north of 40N latitude, generally from northwest to southeast across the eastern half of North America. The combined pattern will favor broad surface high pressure from east of the Rockies to the east coast, with surface low pressure systems developing in the Gulf of Mexico, moving quickly to the northeast.

This pattern favors predominant wind direction from the north through east, with few days of south to southeast winds. Favored quadrant: Northeast (Wind direction from 360 to 090 degrees).

Confidence in pattern and favored winds for the 16 day period: Medium/High.

Forecast:

Disclaimer: Forecasts are for possibilities ***only!*** Confidence will be low or very low, ***only!***

Please note that the fast movement of systems decreases confidence at longer projections for specific expectations. In other words, speeding up or slowing down a particular system just one day could change the wind direction 90 to 180 degrees from forecast.

Wind - Northeast to east wind. <15 mph at 10 meters. <20 mph at 100 meters.

Weather: Chance for rain.

Confidence: **Very Low.**