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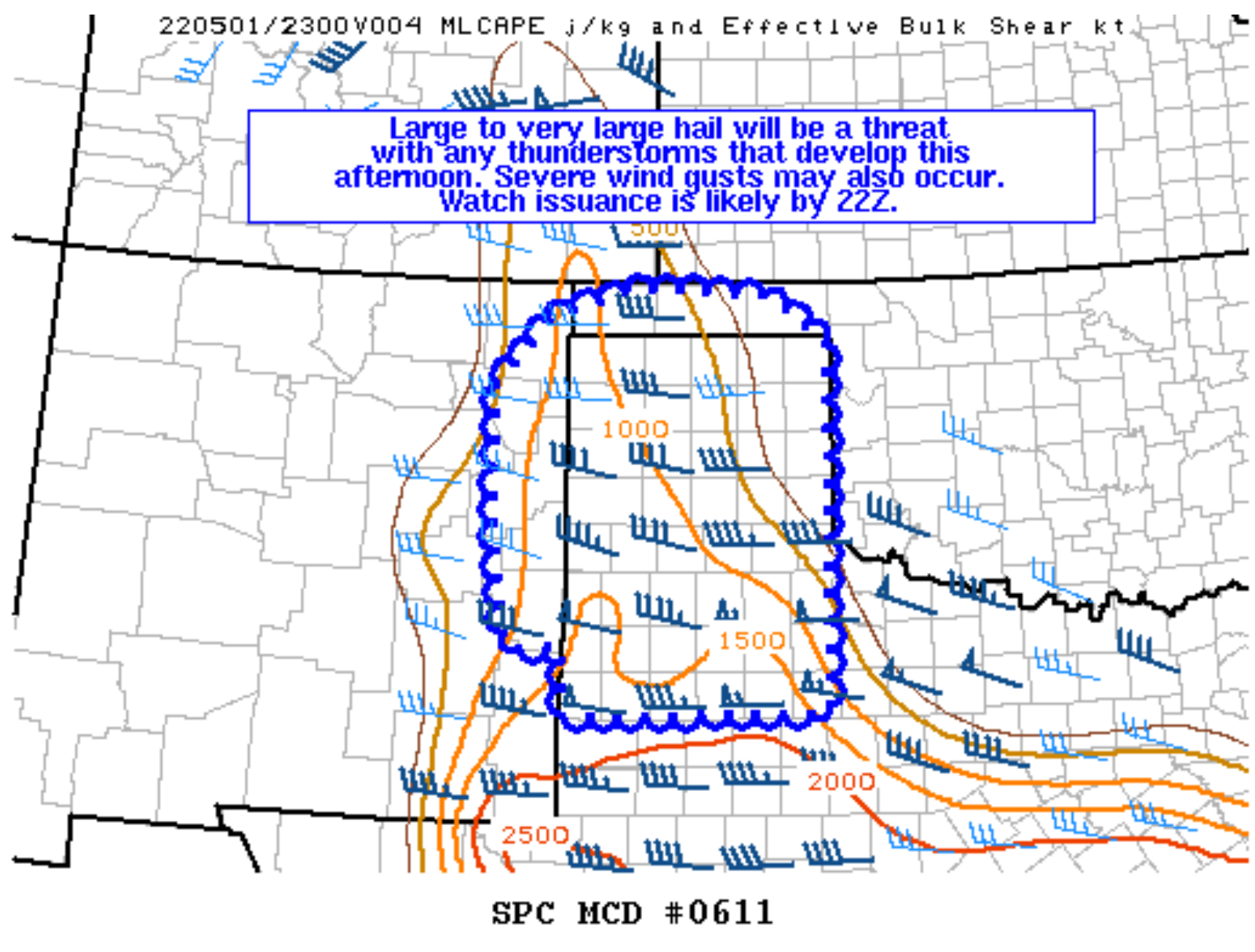
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Mesoscale Discussion 611

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Mesoscale Discussion 0611
NWS Storm Prediction Center Norman OK
0318 PM CDT Sun May 01 2022

Areas affected...Portions of northwest TX into the OK/TX Panhandles and far eastern NM

Concerning...Severe potential...Watch likely

Valid 012018Z - 012215Z

Probability of Watch Issuance...80 percent

SUMMARY...Large to very large hail will be a threat with any thunderstorms that develop this afternoon. Severe wind gusts may also occur. Watch issuance is likely by 22Z (5 PM CDT).

DISCUSSION...Low/mid-level moisture continues to stream northward this afternoon across northwest TX into the OK/TX Panhandles and far eastern NM. Recent VWP from KAMA/KLBB suggest a 20-30 kt southerly low-level jet is aiding this moisture transport. However, surface dewpoints across this region are still rather modest as of 20Z, generally ranging from the low to mid 50s in northwest TX to mid 30s in the OK Panhandle. Still, even with this somewhat limited moisture, steep lapse rates around 7.5-8.0 C/km in the 700-500 mb layer are contributing to around 1000-2000 J/kg of MUCAPE across this region. Around 30-40 kt of southwesterly mid-level flow will foster similar values of deep-layer shear, and updraft organization appears likely with any thunderstorms that can develop this afternoon.

Recent visible satellite imagery shows the cu field gradually becoming more agitated across far eastern NM. Current expectations are for isolated to scattered supercells to develop along/near the NM/TX border over the next couple of hours. This initial activity will probably be slightly elevated and pose mainly a threat for large to very large (2+ inch diameter) hail. It also appears possible that some left-split supercells may develop northeastward from parts of west TX into northwest TX later this afternoon and early evening. These supercells would also pose a threat for isolated very large hail. Given the deeply mixed boundary layer, some severe wind gusts also appear possible through convective downdraft accelerations. The tornado threat is low at the moment this afternoon with the limited low-level moisture in place. However, a couple tornadoes may eventually be possible later this evening as surface dewpoints increase into the upper 50s to low 60s and the low-level jet gradually strengthens. Watch issuance is likely in the next couple of hours as convective initiation becomes increasingly probable.

..Gleason/Hart.. 05/01/2022

...Please see www.spc.noaa.gov for graphic product...

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