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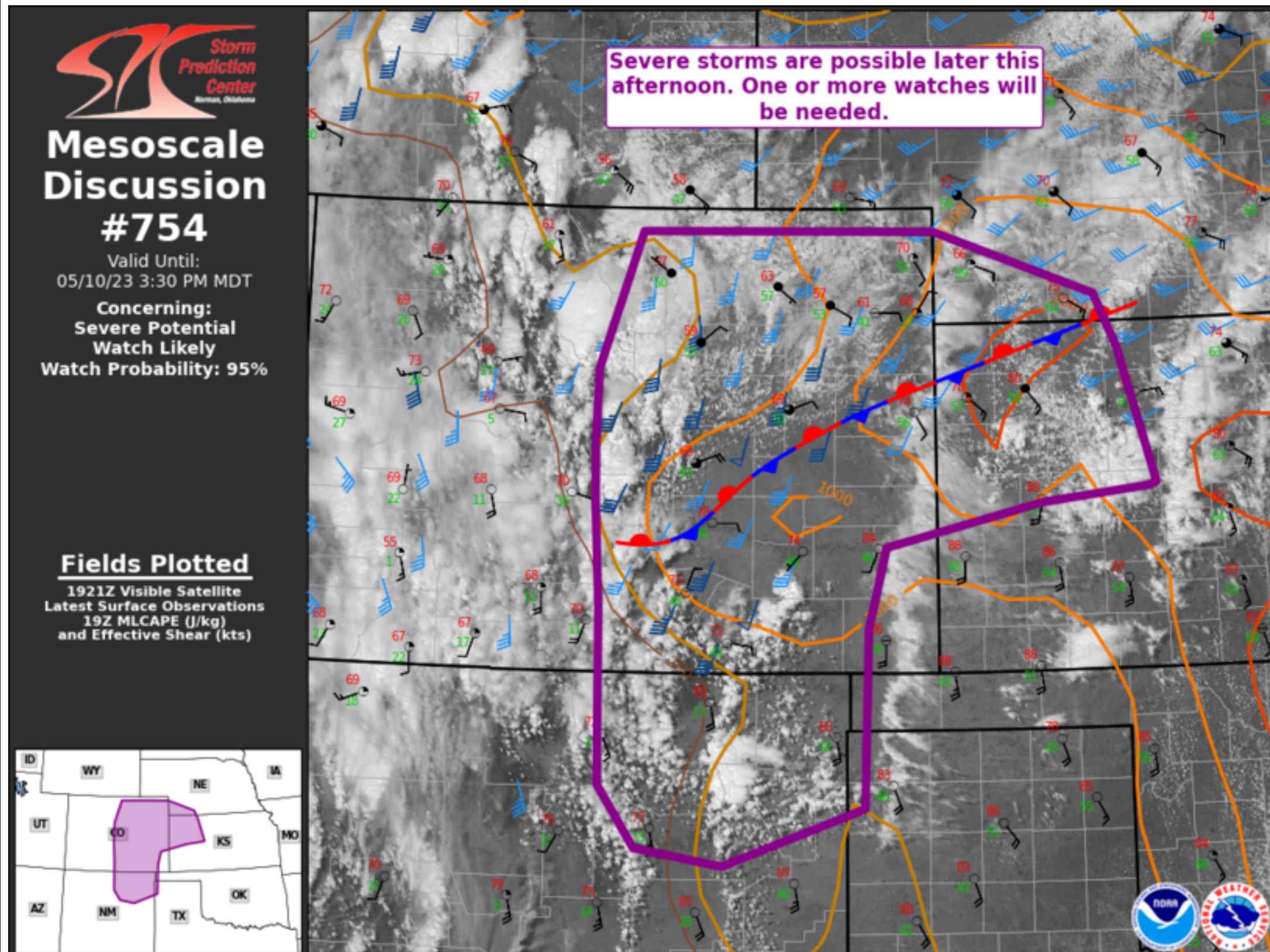
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Mesoscale Discussion 754

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Mesoscale Discussion 0754
NWS Storm Prediction Center Norman OK
0225 PM CDT Wed May 10 2023

Areas affected...CO Front Range into the southern/central High Plains

Concerning...Severe potential...Watch likely

Valid 101925Z - 102130Z

Probability of Watch Issuance...95 percent

SUMMARY...Scattered thunderstorm development is expected later this afternoon. The strongest storms will be capable of large hail, isolated severe wind gusts, and possibly a few tornadoes. One or more watches will likely be needed.

DISCUSSION...Early this afternoon, a nearly stationary front extends from northwest KS southwestward toward southern parts of the CO Front Range. Low-level east/northeasterly flow has advected modest low-level moisture into the Front Range vicinity. Decreasing low-level cloudiness has allowed for some modest heating as well, resulting in the development of moderate buoyancy and decreasing MLCINH. A few storms have already developed across the higher terrain of central CO, with additional development expected this afternoon into the Front Range and southward into parts of south-central/southeast CO, northeast NM, and the western TX/OK Panhandles. Another area of possible development is across northwest KS, where strong heating/mixing south of the boundary may help to initiate storms near the front.

Moderate midlevel southerly flow in advance of an upper trough moving eastward across the southern Rockies is supporting effective shear of 35-50 kt, with higher values noted north of the front where surface winds are backed to a east or northeast direction. As a result, a few organized clusters and/or supercells may develop later this afternoon, with a threat of large hail (possibly in excess of 2 inches in diameter) and isolated severe gusts. Low-level shear/SRH will also be relatively maximized along/north of the surface boundary, where a few tornadoes will be possible as well.

One or more watches are likely to be issued within the next 1-2 hours. Tornado Watch issuance is more likely from east-central/northeast CO into northwest KS/southwest NE, where low-level flow/shear is more favorable. A Severe Thunderstorm Watch may be needed farther south to cover the threat of large hail and potentially severe wind gusts.

..Dean/Guyer.. 05/10/2023

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

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