Summary for Jan 18-22 2010

A series of upper systems embedded within a very strong Pacific jet pushed into the western states. Persistent upper divergent flow and strong deep-layered onshore conditions affected California and surrounding areas as each impulse reached inland. The favorable inflow peaked across California on the 20th, and then focused across the interior Southwest and southern Rockies as the strong southern jet brought subtropical moisture and energy into the region. The heaviest snow occurred across the Sierra, as well as the mountains of Arizona. Flagstaff reported 3 feet of snow, with 4-6 foot reports common in the mountains of Arizona and California. Flooding rains also occurred across the lower terrain with widespread 5 inch plus rain reports through the Southwest.