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An Overview of Summer Convection over Central Alabama

Short-term forecasts of convection during the summer season in the Southeast U.S. is a continual challenge for the NWS Weather Forecast Office in Birmingham (BMX). A brief overview of the summer convection over central Alabama is discussed as part of BMX's 3rd summer project to identify areas likely to have convective initiation in the 2-6 hour time frame. As part of the BMX project, a daily mesoscale analysis is performed using surface observation data, remote sensing data and imagery from radar and satellites, as well as output from the NASA Land Information System. We will review the project activities over the past 2 summers, and talk about the objectives of the 3rd summer. For the 2011 summer our focus was on comparing the experimental short term forecast polygons for convective initiation to official operational forecasts and Climate Data. Some verification results for this 3rd summer will be discussed.