

Aviation Initiatives: Weather Update

Spring General Aviation Association Meeting

April 20, 2021

Tom George

AOPA Alaska Regional Manager



AOPATM

your freedom to

Topics:

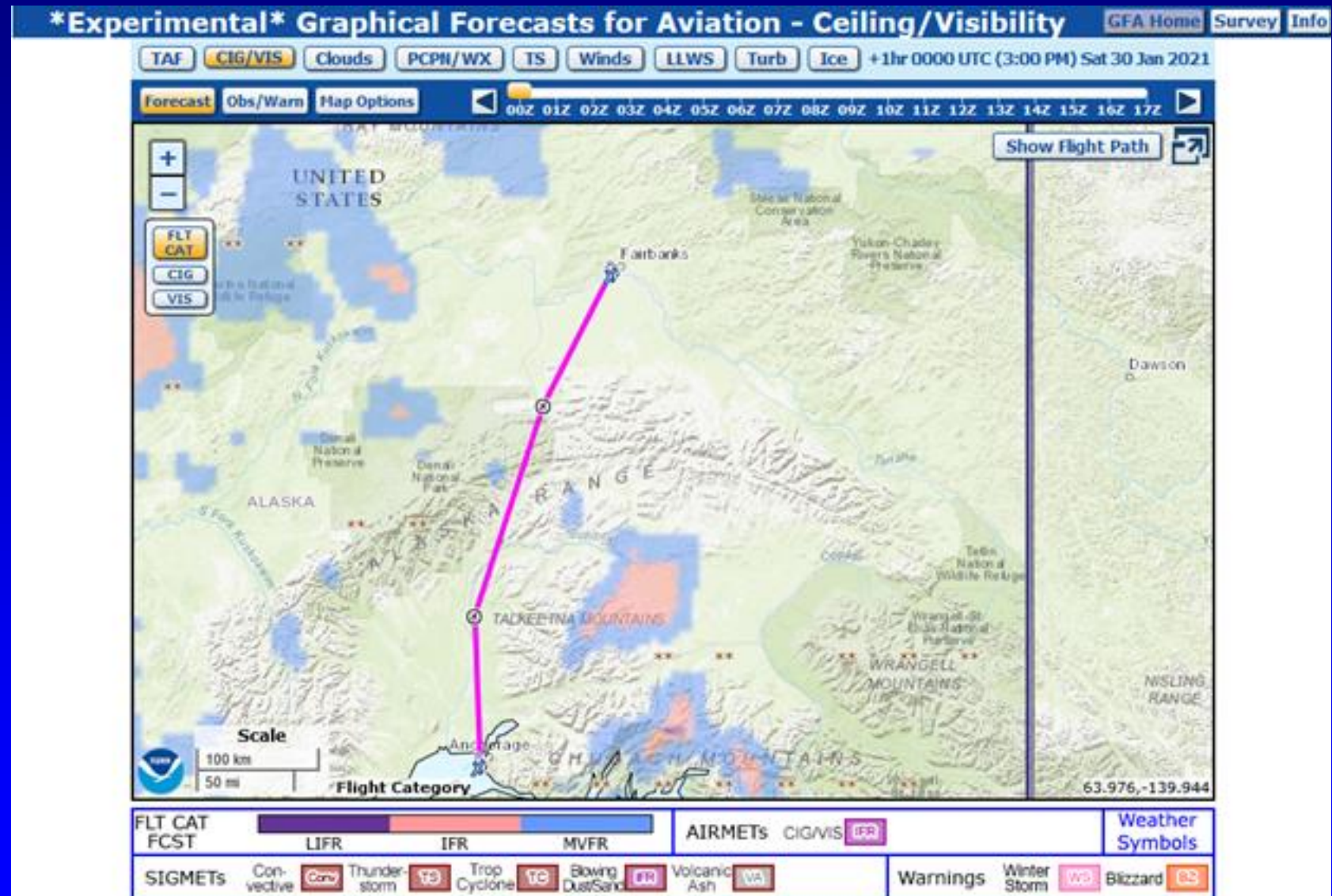
It's all about the weather!

- **Graphic Forecast for Aviation (GFA) --Alaska**
- **Visibility Estimation through Image Analytics (VEIA) from weather cameras**
- **Visual Weather Observing System (VWOS) Demonstration**
- **River Watch**

Experimental GFA for Alaska

- **NWS Graphical Forecasts**

- Available in CONUS since 2017
- Now expanded to Alaska, in testmode
- Look ahead and back in time!



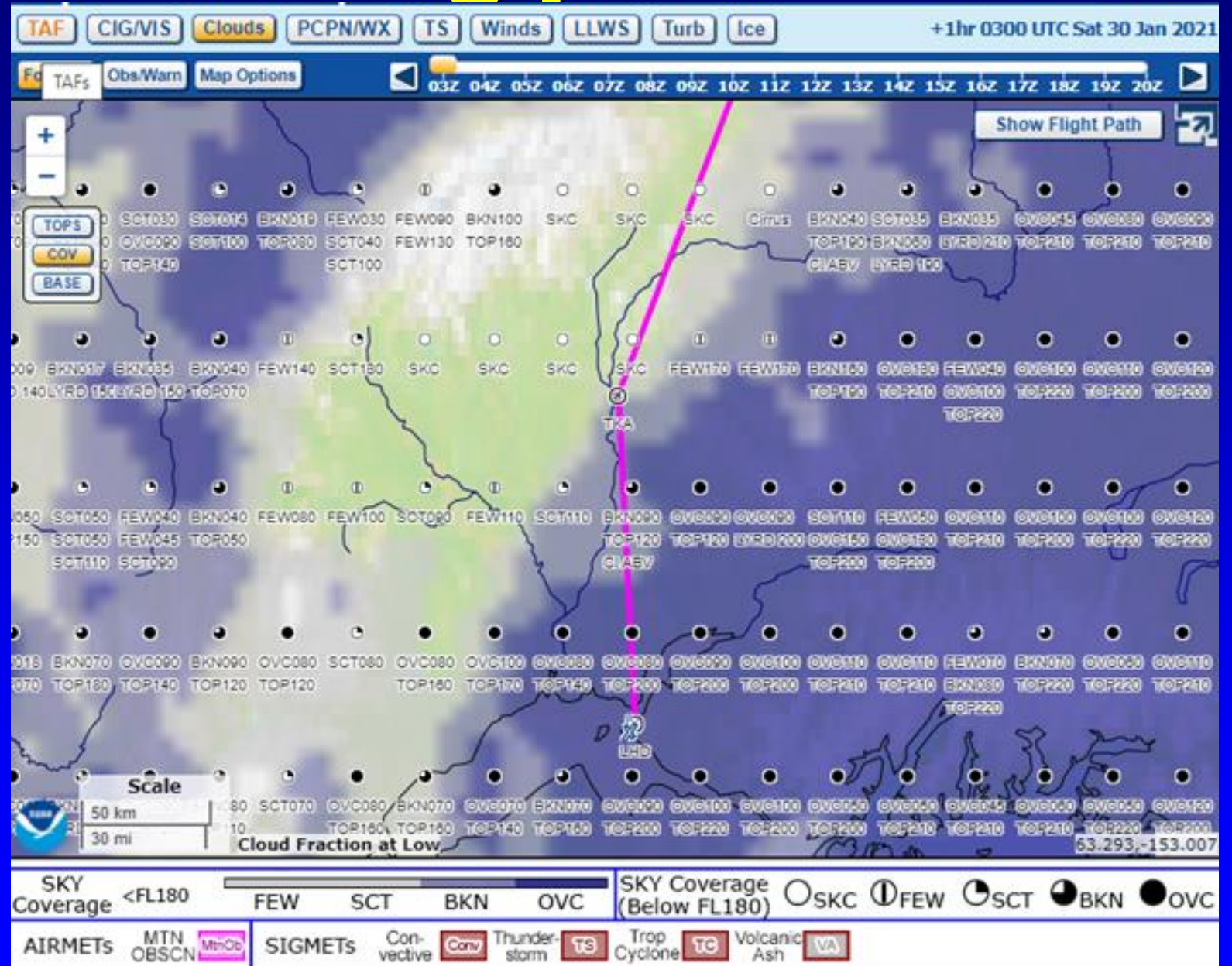
Multiple moving parts...

- **Includes gridded forecasts**

- **Better spatial resolution than current Area Forecast text product**
- **Look ahead 18 hours**



tutorial video



Look back at observations



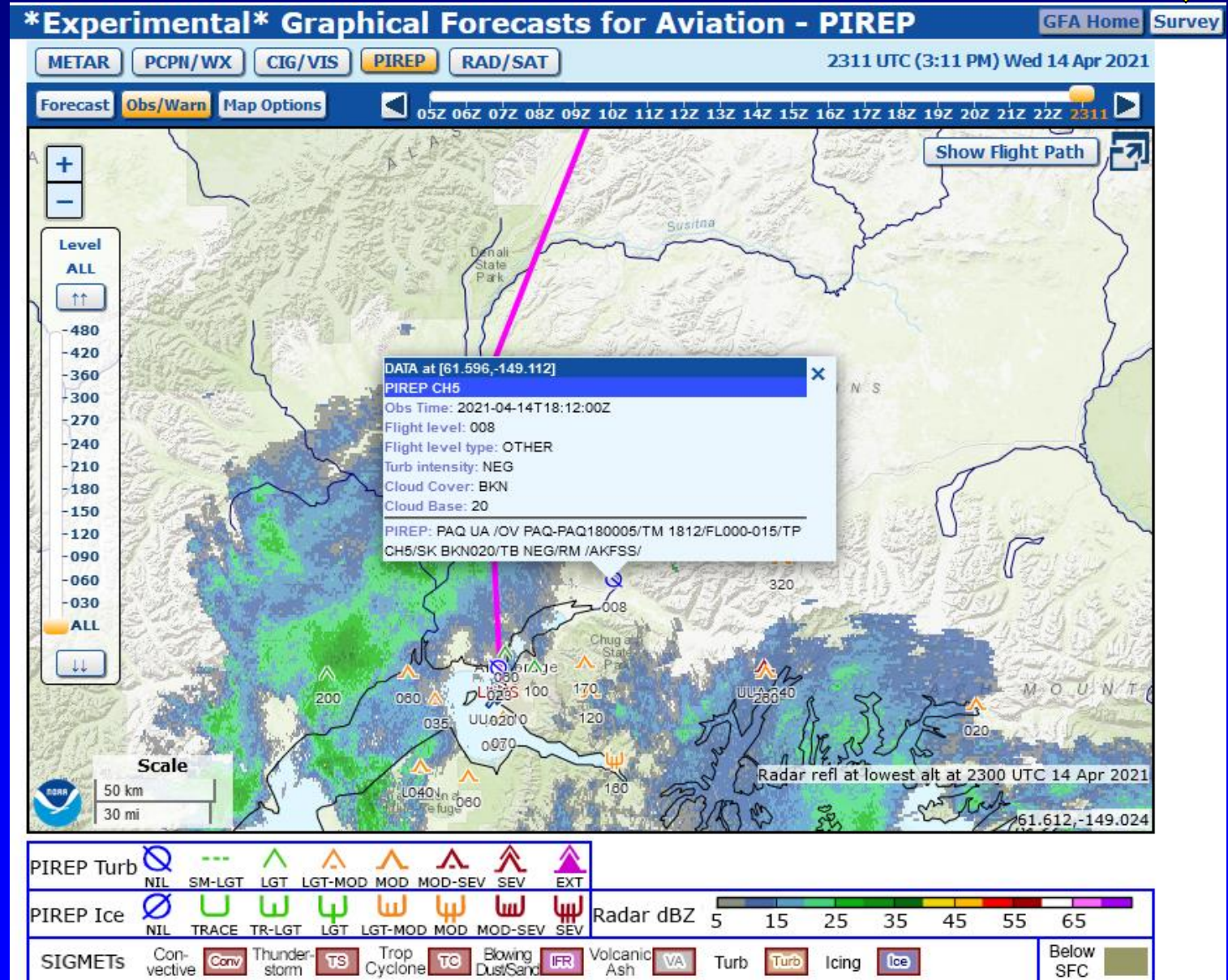
- **Current conditions**

- NexRad
- METARs
- PIREPs can be set to display for up to 12 hours in the past.

- **Please provide feedback!**

- <https://testbed.aviation.weather.gov/gfa>

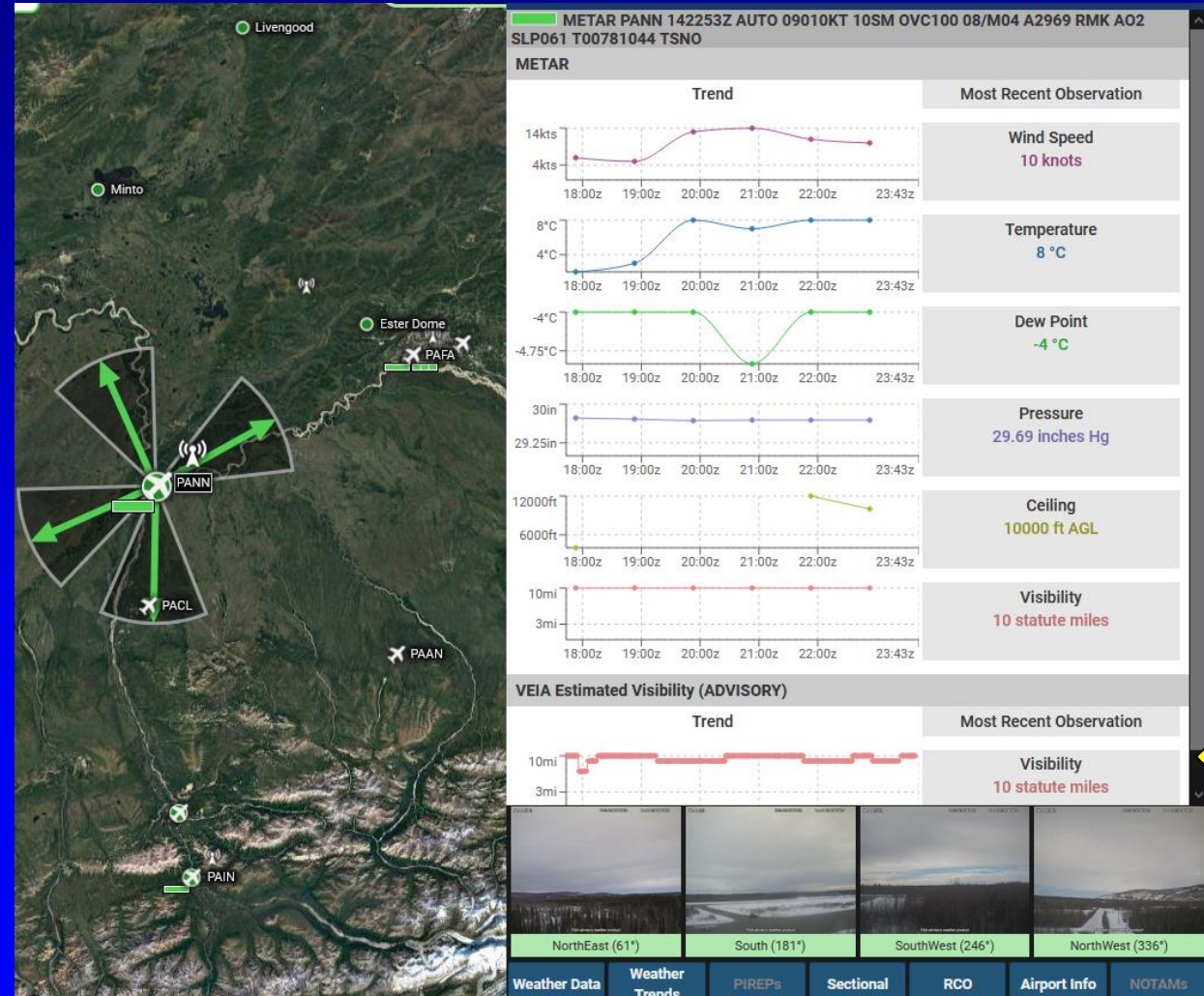
- **More info:**
<https://blog.aopa.org/aopa/2021/02/03/experimental-graphic-aviation-weather-for-alaska/>



Visibility from Weather Cameras

Visibility Estimated from Image Analytics (VEIA)

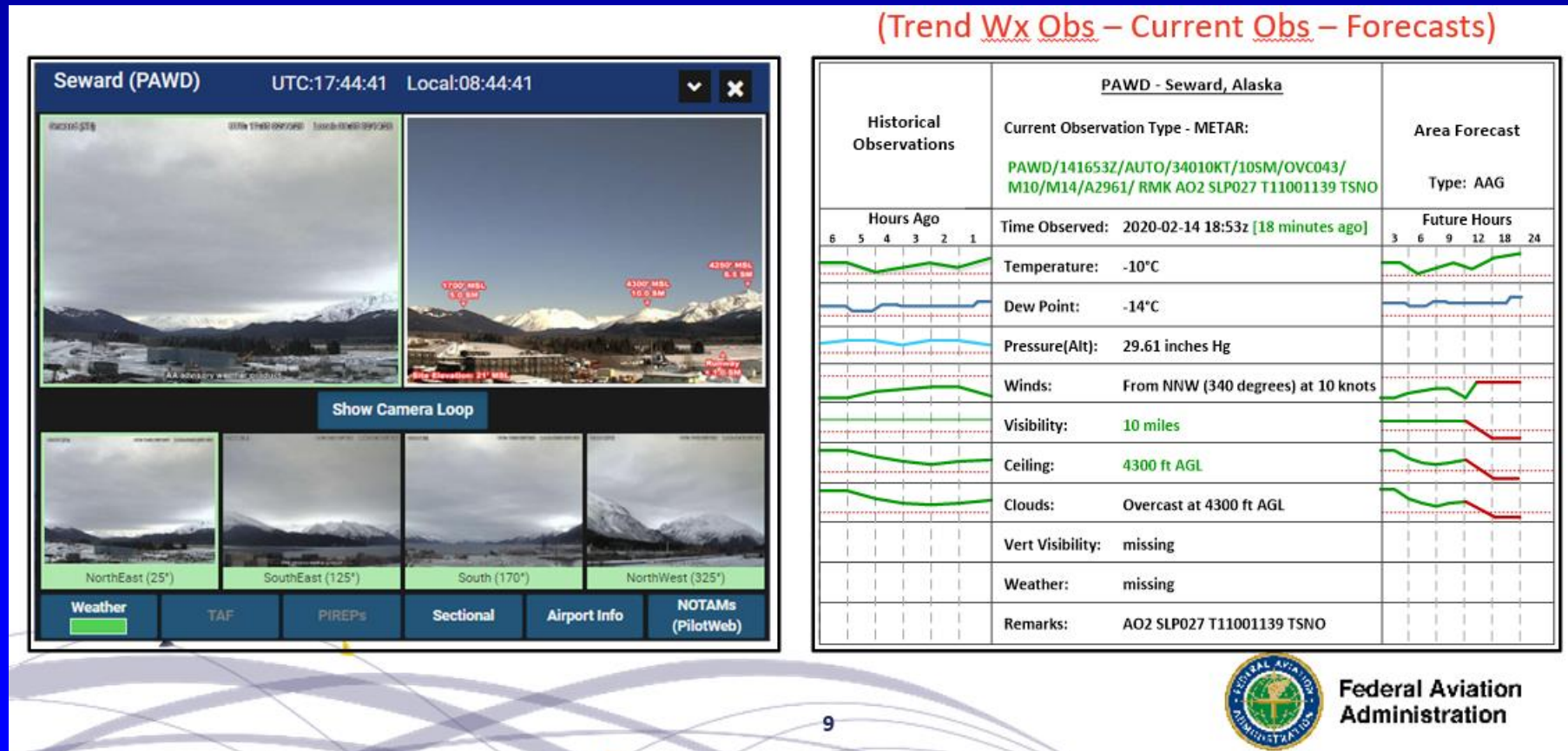
- Experiment using image analysis to estimate visibility
- Assessment under way to evaluate:
 - April-June, 2021
 - Evaluate utility for aviation
- Looking for volunteers
- <https://blog.aopa.org/aopa/2021/04/13/extracting-visibility-from-webcams/>



FAA VWOS Demonstration

Visual Weather Observing System (VWOS)

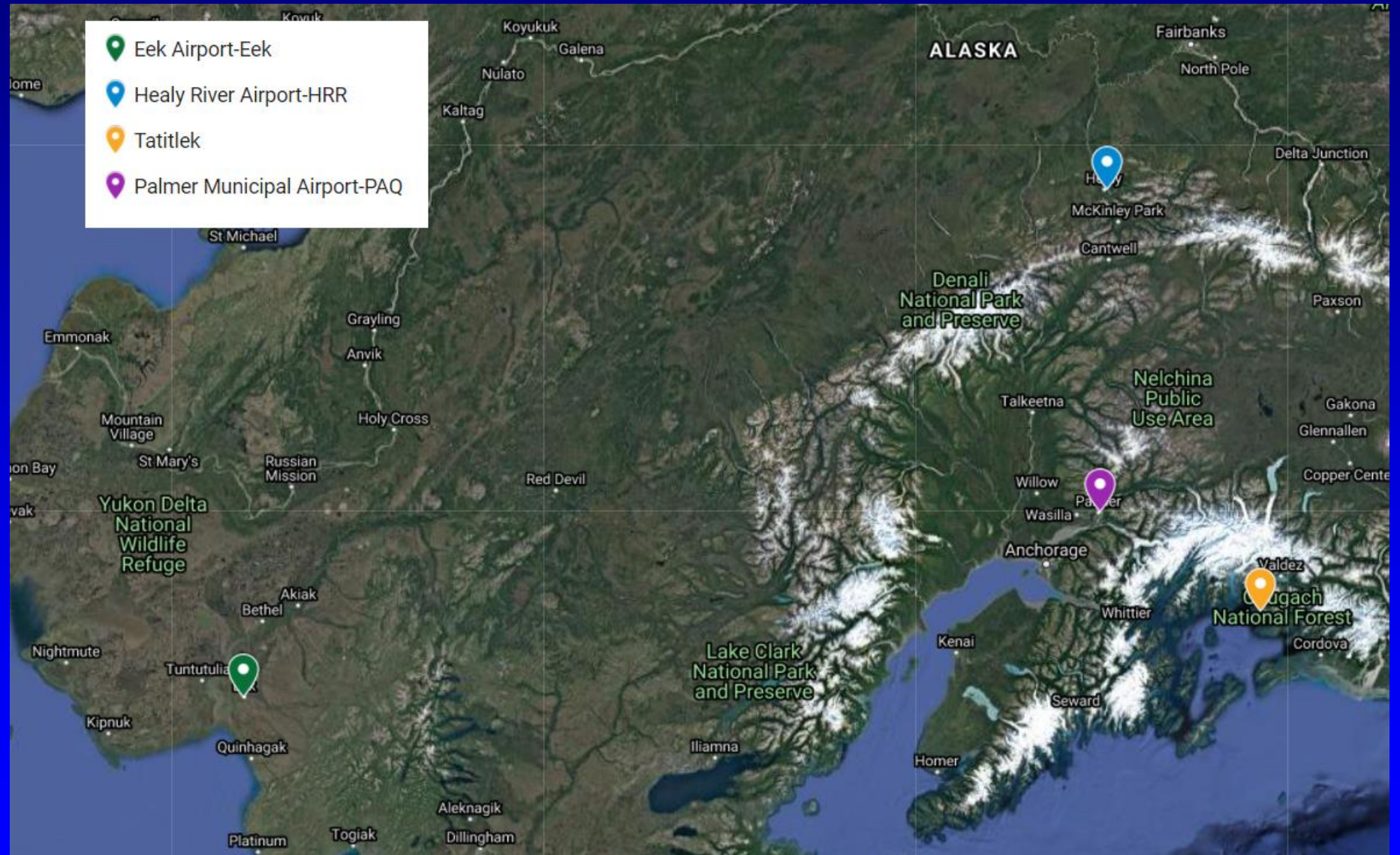
- Uncertified weather system
- Include ceiling and visibility
- Co-located with FAA Weather Cameras
- Validation period ~1 year



Demonstration locations

Initial test sites:

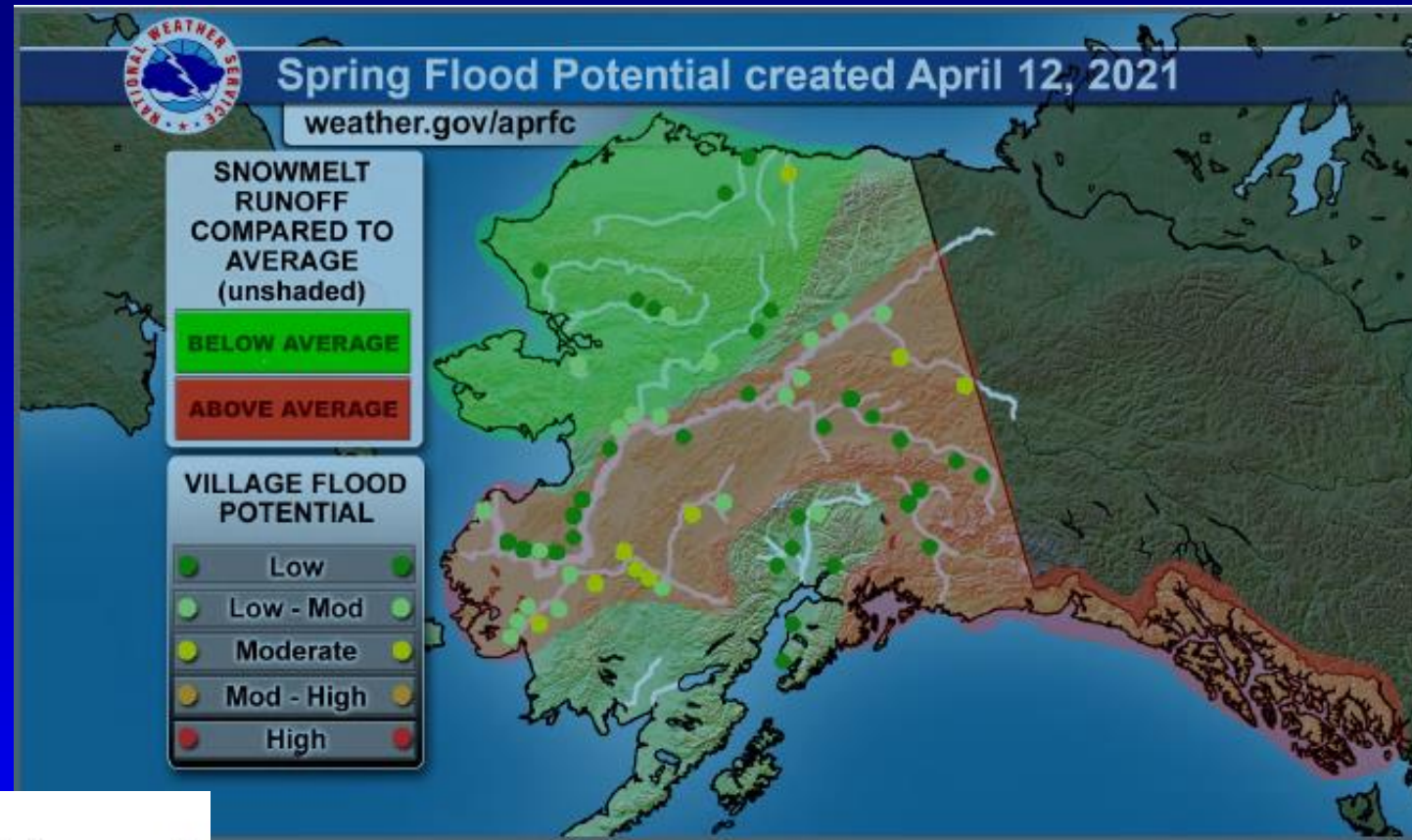
- Palmer
- Eek
- Healy River
- Tatilek





River Watch

- **NWS 2021 outlook anticipates more “mechanical breakup”**
- **Photos emailed to NWS along rivers helps monitor breakup!**



<https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/riverWatchProgram>

<https://blog.aopa.org/aopa/2021/04/19/riverwatch/>

Thank You!