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Public Information Notice 16-40  
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC  
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From: Eli Jacks, Chief, Forecast Services Division

Subject: NWS Hazard Simplification Project Activity #2:  
Collecting Public Comment on a Proposed Consolidation  
and Reformatting of Winter Advisory, and Flooding Watch  
and Advisory Products through December 31, 2016

NWS is requesting comments on the latest stage of its Hazard  
Simplification project (Haz Simp) through December 31, 2016

The purpose of the Haz Simp project is to explore options for  
simplifying and clarifying NWS hazard messaging, with a focus on  
the NWS Watch, Warning and Advisory (WWA) system.

On September 7, NWS announced the availability of a new web page  
for the Haz Simp Project and also released the first in a series  
of public comment opportunities. At that time, we asked for  
comment on two, 4-color maps that are proposed for possible use  
on the NWS Homepage (weather.gov). This survey is now closed and  
we are currently analyzing the results.

NWS now announces a second public comment opportunity; this time  
on a proposal to reduce the number of Watch and Advisory hazard  
messages (also called hazard "products") for flooding and winter  
precipitation. NWS is referring to this product reduction  
proposal as "consolidation." We also propose simplifying the  
format of these products.

Specifically, we are collecting comments on the following  
proposals:

- 1) Options for consolidating the current Flash Flood Watch and  
Flood Watch products into one "Flood Watch" product.
- 2) A proposal to integrate all information in current Flood  
Advisory messages (e.g., Urban and Small Stream, Arroyo and  
Small Stream, Small Stream, and Hydraulic Advisories) into one  
"Flood Advisory" product.

3) Options for combining the three existing winter precipitation Advisory products (Winter Weather, Freezing Rain and Lake Effect Snow Advisories) into one "Winter Weather Advisory" product.

Below are two separate survey links. The first link requests your comments on proposals 1 and 2. The second link requests your comments on proposal 3.

A reformatting and shortening of the messaging products is proposed in all three cases, and both surveys first check your understanding of the "Watch" and "Advisory" terms. Please take either or both surveys according to your level of interest.

Flooding Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CDQXLJR>

Winter Precipitation Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CD2MV88>

HazSimp Website:

<http://www.weather.gov/hazardsimplification/>

For more information, please email:

[hazsimp@noaa.gov](mailto:hazsimp@noaa.gov)

National Public Information Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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