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Public Information Statement 18-30
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1030 AM EDT Fri Oct 12 2018

To: Subscribers:
            -NOAA Weather Wire Service
            -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
            -NOAAPORT
            Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
            Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather
            Services Branch

Subject: Comments Solicited on addition of snow level grids for
            select CONUS WFOs as an experimental element in the
            NDFD through April 30, 2019

Effective October 12, 2018, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time
(UTC), the NWS will provide an experimental Snow Level Grid for
select continental U.S. (CONUS) Weather Forecast Offices(WFOs)
in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD). NWS is seeking
comments on this experimental product through April 30, 2019.

These grids will be available:

- Hourly out to 36 hours from NDFD issuance time
- Every 3 hours out to 72 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1 when new
forecast projections are introduced at 2200 UTC on Day 0
- Every 3 hours out to 84 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1 beginning at
1100 UTC Day 1. These grids will be available year round.

More details on the Experimental Snow Level Grids, including
participating offices, technical description and scientific
basis are available in the Product Description Document:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/Snow_Level_Grid_in_NDFD_PDD
.pdf

These experimental grids will be available from NDFD in the
following standard methods:

-Gridded Binary version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
-Extensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)
-Graphics via Web browser

Users who pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format via the Internet may need to update their procedures and scripts to access this new element.

GRIB2 files:
ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snowlevel.bin

http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snowlevel.bin

Graphics and XML services for the experimental grids will become available within 30 days of the experimental release of the GRIB2 file into the NDFD.

NDFD online graphics:
http://digital.weather.gov/

XML SOAP service:
http://preview.weather.gov/xml/

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:
https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_home

Comments and feedback on these experimental elements are welcome through April 30, 2019, at:

GRIB2 users:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ndfd-grids

Users of XML SOAP service:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=xmlsoap

NDFD online graphics:
http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=gfp

For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:
nws.ndfd@noaa.gov

For technical questions regarding NDFD data please contact:

  David Ruth
  MDL Digital Forecast Services Branch
  National Weather Service Headquarters
  Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
  301-427-9457
  David.Ruth@noaa.gov

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

  Michelle Hawkins,
  Chief, Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch
  National Weather Service Headquarters
  Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
  301-427-9346
  michelle.hawkins@noaa.gov

NWS Public Information Statements are online at:

  https://www.weather.gov/notification

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