

# Upgrade to our NWS Internet Website

On October 4th, the Western Region of the National Weather Service upgraded the Forecast Office public web pages and supporting infrastructure. The Forecast Office web pages incorporate a new standardized look with more options for the user to select site specific forecasts from the digital forecast database. The upgrade also enhances performance during periods of busy weather and improves security.

## New Items with this Change:

1. New URLs for each weather office in the western United States. (See below for more information)
2. New forecast format and display organization of the welcome and forecast pages
3. User selectable, detailed point forecast for your corner of the world from the digital forecast database.
4. Improved download times for data.
5. Forecast display which provide an icon "Forecast at a Glance"; 7 day area worded forecasts; Detailed Point Forecast; Current Conditions; Radar and Satellite Information Links; and additional links.
6. National Weather Service MesoWest mesonet observations, which allows you to view current weather observations from a variety of sources.
7. Improved databases allow easier access to archived data.

As always, your comments are welcome and greatly appreciated.

**Note:** You will have to re-bookmark pages that are deeply embedded within the Forecast Office web site. An example: a data page that is found through using the left hand menu. To re-establish your bookmark, simply access the Forecast Office main page, using the left hand menu, find the page you had previously bookmarked and re-save this new bookmark.

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## National Weather Service URL Changes

The **new links** to our office welcome page are:

<http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/lox>

or

<http://weather.gov/losangeles>

## Questions:

**Why is the primary URL changing?** As part of the transition, the National Weather Service, Western Region, is migrating to a common directory structure that is being adopted by the NWS. In the future, this will allow the regional servers to back each other up and distribute user requests during big storms and hurricanes. We are doing this today for the radar images for each of the hurricane events, but the goal is to expand to all web pages.

**Why do users have to re-save their bookmarks?** Users of our Internet pages **will** have to re-save their bookmarks to the office welcome page. They also **will have** to re-save their bookmarks for any embedded pages (i.e.: second or third level down). The reason is that the underlying directory structure is changing to the new national system.