NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)

TYPE: Experimental Product

DATE: June 08, 2003

EXPERIMENTAL FIRE WEATHER PRESCRIPTION PAGE

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The fire weather prescription web page allows a fire manager to enter prescribed burn weather parameters, and obtain a preliminary forecast for the burn area. If the burn appears to be in prescription, a spot forecast can be requested from the Tucson WFO. The preliminary burn forecast is derived from local digital forecast fields maintained 24/7 at the Tucson WFO.

2. Purpose/Intented Use:

This experimental web page is designed to give fire managers a quick snapshot of weather parameters associated with their burn area. This snapshot will help reduce unnecessary spot forecasts.

3. Audience:

The audience is federal fire managers in southeastern Arizona.

4. Presentation Format:

All interactions occurs via a web page. Weather parameter prescription details are entered via text boxes. Forecast data is displayed in a color coded bar graph format. Green represents weather conditions fall within prescription. Red and blue represent conditions outside of the prescription.

5. Feedback Method:

Most feedback comes from fire manager interactions with WFO personnel. Feedback may also be provided by mail:

Tom Evans or Gary Zell National Weather Service 520 N. Park Avenue - Suite 304 Tucson, AZ 85719 Phone 520-670-5156

E-mail comments or questions can be sent to tom.evans@noaa.gov or gary.zell@noaa.gov.

6. Example/URL: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/tucson/gfe/fwxprescrib.html

Part 2 - Technical

1. Format and Science Basis:

This product was developed to give fire managers an easy method to access preliminary weather conditions without requesting a spot forecast. The underlying digital forecast fields are created via IFPS/GFE. Standard grid editing tools are employed, which are available at every WFO. A 2.5 km resolution is inherent in these data sets.

2. Availability:

This interactive web page is available 24/7. The underlying digital forecast fields are updated a minimum of twice a day, and as conditions merit.

3. Additional Information:

Traditional fire weather forecasts are maintained in the PHXFWFTWC and PHXFWSTWC products, WMO headers FNUS55 KTWC and FNUS75 KTWC respectively.