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Public Information Statement 19-02 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Daniel Roman, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments until April 30, 2023 on Addition of Probabilistic Snow Grids for select Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) as an Experimental Element in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) for the Contiguous United States (CONUS)

Updated to extend comment period through April 30, 2023.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting comments until April 30, 2023 on providing an experimental Probabilistic Snow Grid for select Contiguous United States (CONUS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in the NWS' National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD). These grids became available in February of 2019, and the experimental period has been extended through the 2022-2023 winter season. No changes are being made to the product for this upcoming season.

The grids will show the 10% and 90% exceedance percentiles, representing a Low End Amount (a 90% chance of higher snowfall) and a High End Amount (a 10% chance of higher snowfall) to complement the existing NWS deterministic snowfall forecasts (most likely amount). Grids will be valid for 24-, 48- and 72-hour periods out to 72 hours from 0000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Day 1 beginning with the 2200 UTC issuance. They will be valid for 24-, 48- and 72-hour periods out to 72 hours from 1200 UTC Day 1 beginning with the 1100 UTC issuance. As with deterministic snowfall forecasts in NDFD, the Probabilistic Snow Grids will be updated every 30 minutes.

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

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpProbSnowGrids_NDFD_2022-2023.pdf

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

- Gridded Binary version two (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 (via ftp or https):

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow24e10.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow24e90.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow48e10.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow48e90.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow72e10.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow72e90.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.

The grids will be available for download in GRIB format at:

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/>

Extensible Markup Language (XML) at:

<https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov/xml>

NDFD Map Viewer at:

<https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov>

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_home

Comments and feedback on the proposal to eventually implement these experimental elements at all applicable NWS offices are welcome through April 30, 2023 at:

Probabilistic Snow Grids:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WinterWxProbExp_2022_2023

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, MD
david.ruth@noaa.gov

For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Sarah Perfater, Winter Program Lead
Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch
National Weather Service Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
sarah.perfater@noaa.gov

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