NOUS41 KWBC 161435 AAC
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 22-10 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1035 AM EDT Wed Oct 16 2024

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

From: Stephen W. Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments until May 31, 2025 on Snow Ratio Grids as an Experimental Element in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD)

Updated to extend the comment period through May 31, 2025.

Through May 31, 2025, the NWS will continue soliciting comments on the addition of Snow Ratio Grids as an experimental element in the NDFD.

NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) predict the snow-to-liquid ratio (SLR) averaged over a 6-hour period where the Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) is greater than or equal to one-tenth (0.1) of an inch. This value, defined as the ratio of snow accumulation to its melted liquid equivalent, is used to quantify the consistency of snow, ranging from light and fluffy snow to heavy wet snow, and is therefore important for decision support.

These grids will be available in NDFD every six (6) hours out to 72 hours from 0000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Day 1 when new forecast projections are introduced at 00 UTC on Day 0, and out to 84 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1 beginning at 1100 UTC Day 1.

The Snow Ratio grids represent an average over the 6-hour period and will be available from WFOs located in the contiguous United States (CONUS), Alaska, and Hawaii.

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

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/e32bdde81b851e100d690f67624bcb30

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

The experimental grids will be available for download in gridded binary version two (GRIB2) format via both https: and ftp: from the NWS Telecommunications Gateway FTP (TGFTP) server.

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

For Alaska:
tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/VP.001-003/ds.snowratio.bin

For Hawaii:
tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/VP.001-003/ds.snowratio.bin

Graphics and XML services are available at:

NDFD online graphics:
https://digital.weather.gov and https://graphical.weather.gov/

XML SOAP service:
https://digital.weather.gov/xml

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/mdl/ndfd

Comments and feedback on these experimental elements for eventual implementation across NWS, are welcome through May 31, 2025 at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpSnowRatioGridsinNDFD_2024-2025

For questions regarding this product, please contact:

Eric Guillot
Winter Weather Program Manager
National Weather Service Headquarters
Silver Spring, MD
Email: eric.guillot@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

https://www.weather.gov/notification

NNNN