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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TO PROVIDE NEW RIVER FORECAST SERVICES NEAR TUNICA, MISSISSIPPI

The National Weather Service (NWS) Forecast Office in Memphis, TN and the NWS Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (LMRFC) in Slidell, LA will revise the river forecast services provided for the Tunica, MS area. Beginning August 10, 2020, the river forecast point for the Tunica area will be moved from Tunica River Park to Mhoon Landing.

This change is required due to the upcoming removal of the telemetered river gauge at Tunica River Park. The Mhoon Landing site is approximately 11.5 miles downstream of the River Park gauge. The NWS and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) have conducted studies and analyses to correlate the observations and forecasts between the two sites. The agencies have loaded the new data into their river monitoring and forecasting systems, and will begin feeding the data and onto their websites by August 10.

“The movement of the forecast point from the River Park to the Mhoon Landing site was necessary due to the removal of the River Park gauge,” said Gary Woodall, Warning Coordination Meteorologist for the Memphis NWS Office. “We knew we had to keep providing river services for the Tunica area and to our partners in this important stretch of the river. The Mhoon Landing site will allow us to continue these services well into the future.”

The Memphis forecast office provides all weather services for 55 counties in northern Mississippi, west Tennessee, eastern Arkansas, and the Missouri Bootheel. The office provides hazardous weather services to partners; prepares and disseminates weather forecasts, river and flood forecasts and warnings; issues severe weather watches and warnings to the public; and collects hydro-meteorological data.

The LMRFC prepares river stage forecasts for more than 240 locations along major rivers in the south-central portion of the United States. Covering approximately 220,000 square miles, the center’s area of responsibility includes northern Mississippi. These forecasts are then forwarded to National Weather Service forecast offices throughout its service area for dissemination to the public.

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