

# What's New 2014-15

*National Weather Service*



Baltimore/Washington  
Weather Forecast Office

*Christopher Strong*



# Outline

- **What's New**
- **Other Discussion Topics**



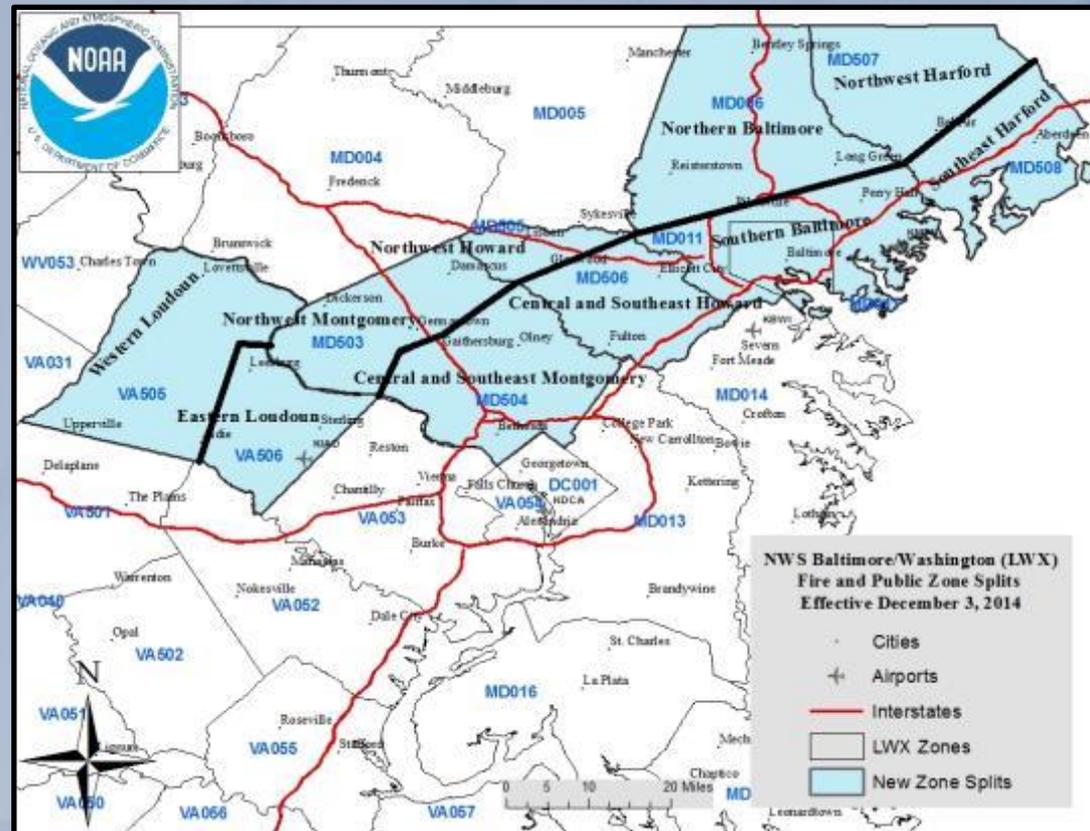
# New for 2014-15 Winter

- **2 New General Forecasters**
  - **Ashley Sears (NWS New York)**
  - **Andrew Snyder (NWS Wilmington OH)**
- **Still down**
  - **1 Senior Forecaster**
  - **1 Entry Level Forecaster (Met Intern)**
  - **1 Electronics Tech**



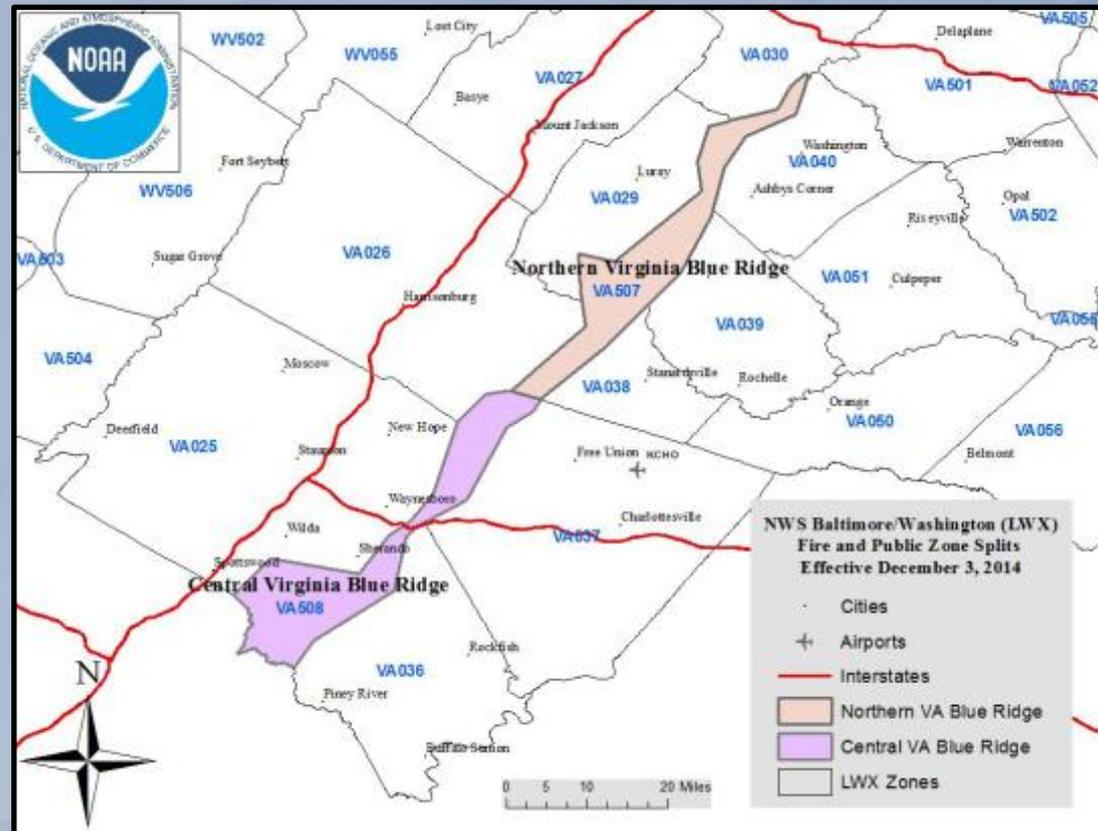
# New for 2014-15 Winter

- More Geographically Precise Warnings
- Central MD - NoVA
- Starting Dec 3rd



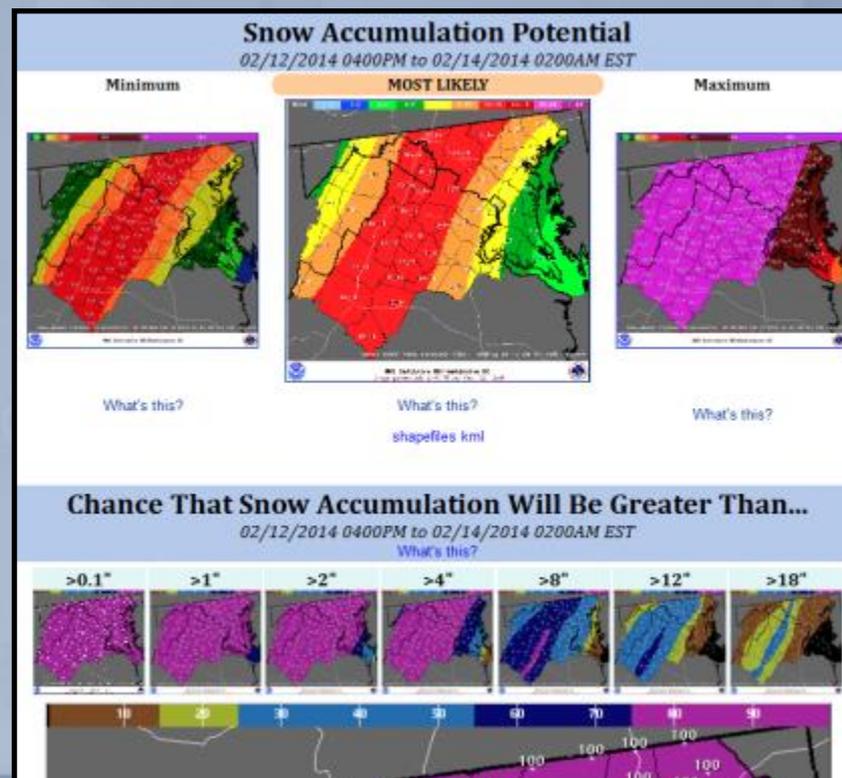
# New for 2014-15 Winter

- More Geographically Precise Warnings
- Blue Ridge
- Starting Dec 3rd



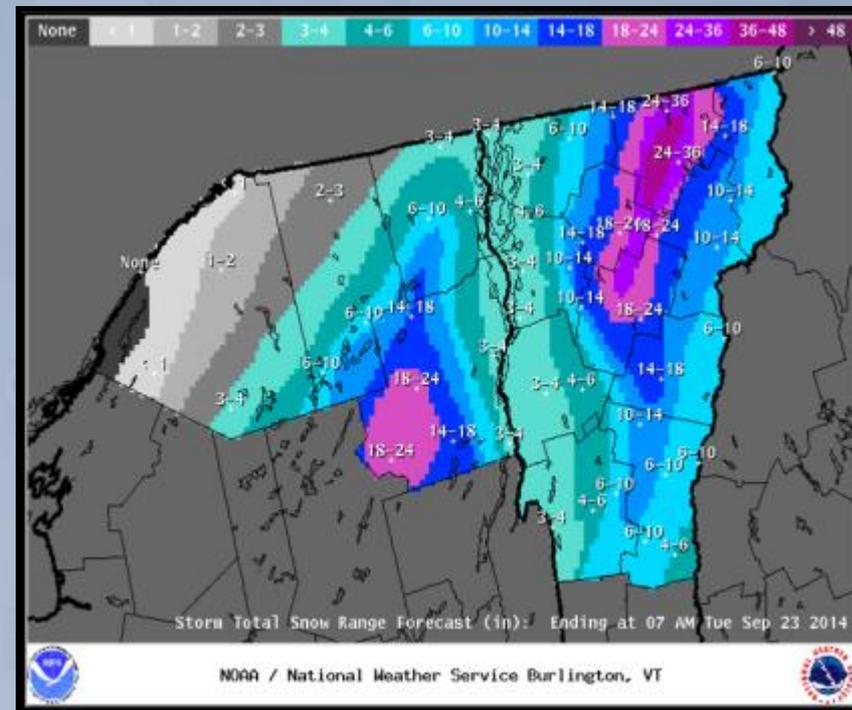
# Winter Probabilistic Expansion

- Successful Test Here Last Winter
- Will Spread Up I-95 This Winter
  - NWS Phili (Mt. Holly)
  - NWS NYC (Upton)
  - NYC Boston (Taunton)



# New Snow Color Curve

- All Across NWS's Eastern Region
- Applies to:
  - Snow Forecast
  - Max/Min
- 13 bins
- 4 base colors



# Variable Message Signs Initiative

- **Problem:**
  - Snow Squalls
  - Road Temps  $<30$
  - Highways
- **Result:**
  - Multi-vehicle pileups



# Variable Message Signs Initiative

- Partnership with DOTs
  - Initially For Snow Squalls
- Message on variable message signs on major highways.
  - Heavy Snow Ahead
  - Icy Roads
- Alerts motorists of dangerous conditions ahead.
- Plan to initiate this winter.



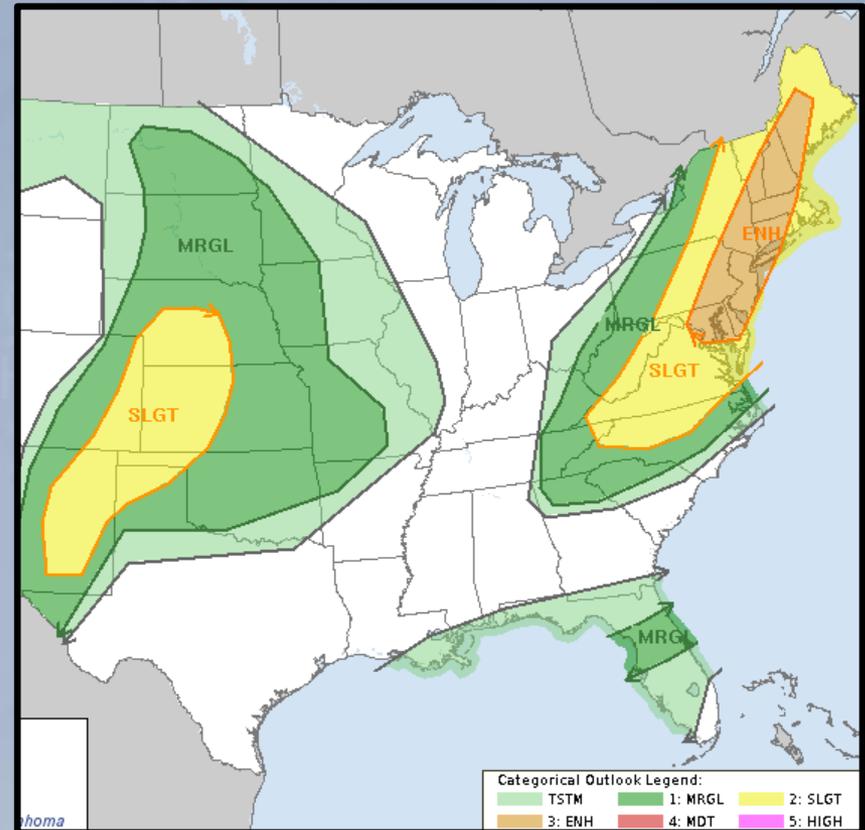
And now  
for something  
completely different...



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# NWS's Storm Prediction Center

- Effective Oct 22<sup>nd</sup>
- 3 tier → 5 tier
- “See Text”
  - Now Mapped
  - Renamed “Marginal
- High-End “Slight” (hatched)
  - Renamed “Enhanced



# Developing WeatherReady

- **Local WeatherReady Recognition**
  - Self-Guided Checklists
  - Hosted on our Website
  - Grass-roots spread of Weather Ready Nation
  - Testing locally with our Pilot Project



Building a Weather-Ready Nation



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# Developing WeatherReady

- **Any level entity:**
  - **Stadium**
  - **Family**
  - **Business**
  - **Parks**
  - **Airports**
  - **Schools**
  - **etc.**



Building a Weather-Ready Nation



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# Developing Weather-Ready

- **Weather Ready Nation Ambassadors**
  - Partner with NWS in spreading important info
  - Available to Media



# Other Discussion Topics



# Not New, but Important

- **SVR's / TOR's**
  - Severe Tstm/Tornado Warnings
- **Updated, Shrunk, Canceled, Expired with SVS's**
  - Severe Weather Statements
- **SVS's Also Contain**
  - New information
    - Spotters/Law Enforcement
    - Radar
    - Media
    - Confirmed Tornado Touchdowns
    - Confirmed Damage



# National Weather Association Conference

- **Next Week**
- **Salt Lake City, UT**
- **Anyone going?**



# Tidal Flooding

- **What does it mean to you?**
- **Ever mention?**
- **Hurricane vs. Nor'easter vs. 'Other'**
  - Any differences?
- **Open Discussion**



# Review of Winter Probabilistic

- <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/lwx/winterdemo>
- **Open Discussion**



# Open Discussion

- **What are your biggest winter challenges?**
- **What have you learned from the government leaders here?**





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