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Service Change Notice  
National Weather Service Denver/Boulder CO  
1238 PM MDT FRI MAY 15 2026

To:  
Family of Services/FOS/ Subscribers...NOAA Weather Wire Service  
/NWS/ Subscribers...Emergency Managers Weather Information Network  
/EMWIN/ Subscribers...NOAAPORT Subscribers...National Weather  
Service /NWS/ Partners And Other Users...and NWS Employees

From:  
Aldis Strautins  
Senior Service Hydrologist  
NWS Denver/Boulder CO

Subject:  
New Forecast Service For:  
South Platte River near Merino in Logan County in Northeast Colorado  
(MRIC2)

Beginning at noon on Wednesday, June 17, 2026, NOAA's National  
Weather Service (NWS) Office in Denver/Boulder, CO will commence the  
provision of new River Forecast Service for one location in its  
service area:

The South Platte River near Merino, Colorado (MRIC2)

The new forecast services at the Merino, CO gauge location (MRIC2)  
will replace the forecast services previously provided by the  
Atwood, CO gauge location (ATWC2), as the Atwood, CO gauge is being  
discontinued. The Merino gauge site is 6 miles upstream of the  
Atwood gauge site. The new river forecast and flood warning  
services, based on data from the Merino gauge will provide flooding  
forecasts for areas upstream of Merino, from the Washington and  
Logan county line downstream through Sterling, to near Iliff. These  
new forecast services have been coordinated with officials in Logan  
County.

At Merino (MRIC2) the following categories have been established:

Action Stage: 9.0 feet  
Flood Stage: 11.5 feet  
Moderate Flood Stage: 13.0 feet  
Major Flood Stage: 14.5 feet.

Forecasts will be issued when water levels are expected to exceed 9  
feet. Advisories will also be issued when water levels are expected  
to exceed 9.0 feet. Flood Warnings will be issued when water levels  
are expected to reach or exceed the Flood Stage level of 11.5 feet.

At noon on June 17th, NWS Denver/Boulder will begin to issue  
hydrologic products as necessary that may include specific river  
forecasts at times of high water. The hydrologic products are listed  
in the following table:

PRODUCT TYPE	WMO HEADER	PRODUCT IDENTIFIER
HYDROLOGIC OUTLOOK	FGUS75 KBOU	MKEESFBOU
FLOOD WATCH	WGUS65 KBOU	DENFFABOU
FLOOD WARNING	WGUS45 KBOU	DENFLWBOU
FLOOD STATEMENT	WGUS85 KBOU	DENFLSBOU
HYDROLOGIC STATEMENT	FGUS85 KBOU	DENRVSBOU
RIVER SUMMARY	SRUS45 KBOU	DENRVABOU

An explicit list of affected products and sample products are posted  
at: [products.weather.gov/viewlist.php](https://products.weather.gov/viewlist.php)

The NWS Location Identifier (NWSLI) for this location is MRIC2.

In addition to the text information detailed above, graphical  
depictions of river and flood information will be available directly  
at the website [www.water.noaa.gov/wfo/bou](https://www.water.noaa.gov/wfo/bou). This can also be found

under the "Rivers and Lakes" option on the main NWS Denver/Boulder web page at: [www.weather.gov/bou/](http://www.weather.gov/bou/).

If you have any questions or comments on this new service, please contact:

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This and other NWS Service Change Notices are available online at:  
<http://www.weather.gov/om/notif.htm>

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Strautins