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From: Jeffrey Craven
 NWS Office of Science and Technology Integration
 Meteorological Development Laboratory

Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Upgrade of Experimental National Blend of Models Guidance through August 31, 2019

The Statistical Modeling Branch (SMB) of the Meteorological Development Laboratory (MDL) is proposing to update the National Blend of Models (NBM) this fall. The NWS is seeking comments on this proposed upgrade through August 31, 2019. If a change is made, a Service Change Notice will be issued at least 30 days prior to the implementation of this upgraded product.

NBM Version 3.2, which is scheduled to be implemented on November 5, 2019, will continue to fill existing product gaps requested by the Aviation, Fire Weather, Water Resources and Marine NWS Service Program offices. A few highlights associated with this upcoming release include:

-Continuing to infuse cutting-edge science advancements in the area of probabilistic quantitative precipitation forecasting (PQPF), especially in the mountainous West, and the addition of calibrated PQPF guidance for the Alaska and Puerto Rico domains.

-Adding various percentile and exceedance thresholds for snowfall and ice amounts (contiguous U.S. (CONUS) and Alaska).

-Adding probabilistic daytime maximum (MaxT) and nighttime minimum percentile (MinT) guidance for the CONUS domain.

-Including uncertainty information in the form of standard deviations for MaxT, MinT, 10 m Wind Speeds, and 10 m Wind Gusts for the CONUS, Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico domains.

-Adding and improving aviation guidance routinely used in daily airport operational planning, including the extension of visibility and ceiling height guidance through 84 hours for Terminal Aerodrome Forecasts (TAFs).

-Adding new weather elements in the NBM text product along with a new probabilistic text message product.

These upgrades should benefit the NWS in its mission towards better Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS).

For those users with a NOAA email account, NBM gridded binary version 2 GRIB2 files can be downloaded from the following location:

<https://veritas.nws.noaa.gov/blend/doc material/NBMAvailability.html>

Otherwise, GRIB2 data can be downloaded from:

CONUS Domain:

<https://sats.nws.noaa.gov/~downloads/nbm/grib2blendv32co>

Alaska Domain:

<https://sats.nws.noaa.gov/~downloads/nbm/grib2blendv32ak>

Hawaii Domain:

<https://sats.nws.noaa.gov/~downloads/nbm/grib2blendv32hi>

Puerto Rico Domain:

<https://sats.nws.noaa.gov/~downloads/nbm/grib2blendv32pr>

Guam Domain:

<https://sats.nws.noaa.gov/~downloads/nbm/grib2blendv32gu>

Oceanic Domain:

<https://sats.nws.noaa.gov/~downloads/nbm/grib2blendv32oc>

Users may find parallel NBM V3.2 text bulletins at:

<https://sats.nws.noaa.gov/~downloads/nbm/bulk-text/>

All or a portion of the NBM text bulletins can be obtained via an interactive graphical user interface (GUI):

<https://sats.nws.noaa.gov/~nbm/nbm text>

A more detailed discussion on the format and timing of the NBM text bulletins can be found here:

<https://www.weather.gov/mdl/nbm textcard v32>

The NWS will evaluate all comments on this NBM upgrade including the new NBM text bulletins to determine whether to proceed with this upgrade.

Questions, comments or requests regarding this implementation should be directed to the contacts below. We will review feedback and decide whether to proceed.

For questions regarding the implementation of NBM guidance, please contact:

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301-427-9456
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or

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A webpage describing the NBM can be found at:

https://w2.weather.gov/mdl/nbm_home

National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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