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Public Information Statement 19-36 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1040 AM EDT Fri Oct 15 2021

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

From: Kimberly McMahon, Acting Chief
Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services

Subject: Soliciting Comments on Experimental Winter Storm
Outlook through May 15, 2022

Updated to extend the comment period through May 15, 2022. No changes have been made to the product for this period.

Through May 15, 2022, the NWS is seeking user feedback on the Experimental Winter Storm Outlook (WSO). The WSO product will alert the public and NWS partners of the timing and location of a significant winter threat. The WSO probabilities will be displayed when there is a greater than 10% chance of exceeding the local WFO watch/warning criteria. The WSO is not a substitute for Winter Storm Watches or Warnings issued by NWS offices.

The public will have access to WSO maps consisting of four individual 24-hour snow and freezing rain outlooks. These outlooks will be issued at 0900 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) and 2100 UTC (one each for Day 1, 2, 3, and 4, with 12 to 12 UTC valid times). The experimental WSO product will be available at:

<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/wwd/wso>

The period of experimental availability will be October 15, 2021 through early May, 2022. Based on the feedback received, NWS will determine whether to make the WSO product operational.

The WSO product is intended to enhance decision support services provided to NWS core partners in emergency management, broadcast/electronic media, and transportation categories as well as the general public.

NWS will evaluate the benefits of using the WSO product to provide information related to hazardous winter weather and as an important tool

for the improvement of NWS Winter Storm Watch consistency and accuracy across the contiguous United States. Please note that, as an experimental product, the amount and content provided may change, and the frequency of content may vary and is not guaranteed.

Users should not rely on the WSO as the primary means of receiving NWS information about hazardous winter weather conditions.

Users should tune to NOAA Weather Radio or local/national media sources for the latest critical information and also to local NWS websites. NWS alerts, watches, and warnings are also available on the NWS official website: <https://www.weather.gov/>

More detailed information about the Experimental Winter Storm Outlook (WSO) project can be found in the NWS Product Description Document (PDD) at the following URL:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpWinterStormOutlook_2021.pdf

Users are encouraged to provide feedback on this experimental service by using the brief survey and comment form available online at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WinterStormOutlook_2021

If you have questions or comments regarding the Experimental Winter Storm Outlook, please contact:

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NWS Public Information Statements are available at:

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

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