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Public Information Statement 19-36 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1030 AM EDT Wed Oct 12 2022

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

From: Daniel Roman, Acting Chief
Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments on Experimental Winter Storm Outlook through May 15, 2023

Updated to extend comment period through May 15, 2023.

Through May 15, 2023, the NWS is seeking user feedback on the experimental Winter Storm Outlook (WSO). The WSO depicts the probability of exceeding Winter Storm Warning criteria for both snow and ice over the next four (4) days for any given location in the contiguous United States (CONUS), thus alerting the public and NWS partners of the timing and location of a significant winter threat. This year, WSO probabilities will be displayed when there is a greater than 10 percent chance of exceeding the modernized, experimental local Weather Forecast Office (WFO) watch/warning snow criteria. The local WFO watch/warning ice criteria remains unchanged. 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 (4) 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). To depict storms that stretch across multiple days, the Weather Prediction Center (WPC) will also produce a maximum probability across all time ranges (Days 1 to 4). 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, 2022 through early May 2023. Feedback received will inform the NWS on the WSO product path to operations.

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

NWS will evaluate the benefits of using the experimental 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 CONUS. 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, and local NWS websites for the latest critical information. NWS alerts, watches, and warnings are also available on the NWS official website:

https://www.weather.gov/

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

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpWinterStormOutlook_2022.pdf

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

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/winterstormoutlook2022-2023

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

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National Public Information Statements are available at:

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

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