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Public Information Statement 20-05 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services
 Branch

Subject: Updated: Experimental Period for the 7-day expansion
 of the National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS)
 forecast product (FWM) Effective March 2, 2020,
 through August 31, 2020

Updated to extend comment period to August 31, 2020, due to
COVID and the potential for peak fire season commentary and
questions.

The NWS is expanding the forecast data string that is routinely
fed into the wildland fire agencies' Weather Information
Management System (WIMS). The current FWM product consists of a
single 24-hour forecast period for select NFDRS stations from
around the United States. Software is now capable of handling
up to 7 days of forecast data strings for input into the
National Fire Danger Rating System. A detailed description of
the weather string information can be found in NWS Instruction
10-401, Section 6.3.4:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01004001curr.pdf>

Beginning March 2, 2020, at 0600 Coordinated Universal Time
(UTC), NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) responsible for
NFDRS forecasts will issue the experimental, expanded seven-day
FWM product.

This product will be issued through the spring 2020 fire season
months and terminate on or around May 31, 2020. At the end of
the experimental time period, a decision will be made whether
or not to make the expanded product operational for NFDRS
forecasting.

A description of the concept of expanded FWM forecast product,
product examples, and requirements explanation can be found at
the following link:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_7DayNFDRS_ExpExpandedPr

[oduct 202 0.pdf](#)

Input on the expanded National Fire Danger Rating forecasts is being sought from the U.S. Forest Service WIMS users, WIMS managers, NFDRS users, and additional users of the FWM product.

Comments may be sent to:

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National Public Information Notices are online at:
<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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