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Public Information Statement 20-57
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Use of the Zone Forecast Product (ZFP)
through August 19, 2020

Comments are being solicited on the use of the ZFP by NWS partners and the public. The NWS is asking for feedback on how the ZFP currently supports decision making processes and what the impact would be to users if this product were terminated.

The ZFP is a text product that provides an overview of the forecast over a county or parish for the next seven days with a brief description for both day and night. This description includes cloud cover, high and low temperatures, wind direction and speed as well as any precipitation or other weather hazard(s). There is greater detail for the next three days and less detail for days 4-7 of the forecast.

There are a number of places within NWS web sites where the ZFP may be accessed. Here are two examples:

<https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?zoneid=MDZ004>
<https://forecast.weather.gov/product.php?issuedby=LWX&product=ZFP&site=lwx>

Below are two alternatives to find the forecast information contained in the ZFP. The Baltimore/Washington Weather Forecast Office (WFO) is used as an example to illustrate these alternatives.

Point Forecast: Clicking on the map on a Weather Forecast Office's (WFO's) homepage (example homepage <https://www.weather.gov/lwx/>) provides a forecast for any specific point for the next seven days. This includes a daytime and nighttime forecast with a greater level of detail in the next three days and less detail for days 4-7 of the forecast. The brief description provides the same weather forecast elements as the ZFP including cloud cover, high and low temperatures, wind direction and speed as well as any precipitation or other weather hazard(s).

This alternative to the ZFP which is for a point forecast is available at the following URL:

<https://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?lon=-77.376708984375&lat=39.42448966085112#.Xpxj7Zl7m71>

User-Defined Area: A user can define the desired forecast area which could include an entire county or parish, or part of a county or parish. Once the user-defined area is created, an area forecast will be generated when the "Get Area Forecast" button is selected below the map. A detailed forecast will appear for the next seven days with a brief description for both daytime and nighttime, which is the same as the ZFP.

This alternative for the ZFP which is for a user-defined area is available at:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/wtf/udaf/area/?site=lwx>

Please send comments and feedback related to the ZFP to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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