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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 20-84
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting comments on the Experimental Avalanche
 Weather Guidance product through April 30, 2021

For the winter of 2019-2020, seven WFOs across the United States issued experimental Snow Avalanche Guidance (SAG) products. See <https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/pdfs/pns18-28avalanche.pdf>

These products provided local avalanche centers with forecast meteorological parameters critical to the centers' forecasts of avalanche conditions and risk. State and local departments of transportation, emergency management, search and rescue operations, commercial entities, recreation areas and backcountry enthusiasts also used the forecasts to better prepare for weather conditions in avalanche-prone areas.

Feedback received on this product has been positive. Comments stated the NWS forecast information provided is critical to avalanche forecasters predicting avalanche stability and threats to life. Users also commented that this product has served as the cornerstone for their forecast efforts.

Beginning on or about December 16, 2020, the NWS is transitioning to the experimental Avalanche Weather Guidance (AVG) product. The new product name better characterizes the meteorological information associated with avalanche formation while not providing avalanche forecasts. The scope of the product is also expanding to include 24 WFOs. This experimental AVG will be available as a text-based product via NWS web pages and other NWS dissemination systems.

The following WFOs will provide experimental AVG products beginning on or about December 16, 2020. Users will need to update their databases to begin receiving these products:

WFO	WMO Header	AWIPS ID
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Albuquerque	FWUS45	KABQ	AVGABQ
Great Falls	FWUS45	KTFX	AVGTFX
Missoula	FWUS45	KMSO	AVGGPI, AVGMSO
Pendelton	FWUS45	KPDT	AVGPDT
Pocatello	FWUS45	KPIH	AVGPIH
Reno	FWUS45	KREV	AVGREV
Riverton	FWUS45	KRIW	AVGRIW
Burlington	FWUS45	KBTV	AVGBTV
Gray	FWUS45	KGYX	AVGGYX
Boulder	FWUS45	KBOU	AVGBOU
Grand Junction	FWUS45	KGJT	AVGGJT
Pueblo	FWUS45	KPUB	AVGPUB
Billings	FWUS45	KBYZ	AVGBYZ
Boise	FWUS45	KBOI	AVGBOI
Elko	FWUS45	KLKN	AVGLKN
Flagstaff	FWUS45	KFGZ	AVGFGZ
Hanford	FWUS45	KHNX	AVGHNX
Las Vegas	FWUS45	KVEF	AVGVEF
Medford	FWUS45	KMFR	AVGMFR
Oxnard	FWUS45	KLOX	AVGLOX
Portland	FWUS45	KPQR	AVGPQR
Salt Lake City	FWUS45	KSLC	AVGSLC
Seattle	FWUS45	KSEW	AVGSEW
Spokane	FWUS45	KOTX	AVGOTX

WFOs Juneau, Fairbanks, and Anchorage will join the experiment at a date to be determined. NWS will send an updated SCN when the date is determined.

For more information, see the Product Description Document for the Experimental AVG:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpAvalancheWeatherGuidance_2020.pdf

The NWS is seeking comments on the Experimental AVG products through April 30, 2021, via the online survey at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpAvalancheWeatherGuidance_2020

After the comment and review period has ended, an assessment will be made to determine the next steps for the AVG products for the 2021-2022 winter season.

If you have questions or comments regarding the experimental Avalanche Weather Guidance, please contact:

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

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