The NWS National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) is seeking public comments through December 18, 2020, on the management of user access of the NCEP Web Services.

As demand for data continues to grow across NCEP websites, we are proposing to put new limits into place to safeguard our web services. The frequency of how often these websites are accessed by the public has created limitations and infrastructure constraints. To add new or upgraded streams of data, there has to be a reduction in the number of connections into our system. The mitigation will reduce the strain on our infrastructure, ensuring a more robust level of service for all users.

For example, a possible mitigation would lower the limit of the number of connections to 60 per minute for a given user accessing any of the websites below. This would be a cumulative limit for any type of data request across any website. A "head" request will count towards the limit the same as a "get" request.

Websites affected, both ftp and https, would include:

nomads.ncep.noaa.gov
ftp.ncep.noaa.gov
www.ftp.ncep.noaa.gov
ftpprd.ncep.noaa.gov
mag.ncep.noaa.gov
mageval.ncep.noaa.gov

This list is not all inclusive. Any direct URLs such as "origin," "or any non-operational URLs such as "dev," "qa," or "preview" will also be impacted.

NCEP will be holding a virtual public forum to discuss this and other mitigation options on December 8, 2020, at 2 pm EST. Please register for the meeting at: https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/6331491940012140301

Please send questions and comments regarding this mitigation plan to:

NCO Implementation and Data Services Branch
Carissa Klemmer, Chief
idp.feedback@noaa.gov

We will review any feedback we receive, and will notify users via a Service Change Notice (SCN) of any operational changes.

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

NNNN