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Public Information Statement 22-10
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Robyn Heffernan, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services
 Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments until April 30, 2022, on the Addition of SnowRatio
 Grids as an Experimental Element in the National Digital Forecast
 Database (NDFD) for Central Region WFOs: Effective February 15, 2022

Effective February 15, 2022, the NWS will begin soliciting comments on the addition of SnowRatio Grids as an experimental element in the NDFD. Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) across the contiguous U.S. (CONUS) predict the snow ratio, or snow-to-liquid ratio (SLR) averaged over a 6-hour period where Quantitative Precipitation Forecasts (QPF) is greater than or equal to one-tenth (0.1) of an inch. This value, defined as the ratio of snow accumulation to its melted liquid equivalent, is often used to quantify the consistency of snow, ranging from light and fluffy snow to heavy wet snow, and is therefore important for decision support.

These grids will be available in NDFD every six (6) hours out to 72 hours from 00:00 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Day 1 when new forecast projections are introduced at 00 UTC on Day 0, and out to 84 hours from 00:00 UTC Day 1 beginning at 11:00 UTC Day 1. The SnowRatio grids represent an average over the six hour period and will be available during the entire year.

More details on the Experimental Snow Ratio Grids, including participating offices, technical description, and scientific basis are available in the Product Description Document:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpSnowRatioGrids_NDFD_2022.pdf

Initially, the Snow Ratio grid will be available for NWS Central Region WFOs, with proposed experimental expansion to WFOs across the NWS in the future if feedback is favorable. These experimental grids will be available from NDFD in the following standard methods:

- Gridded Binary version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)
- Extensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)
- Graphics via Web browser

Users who pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format via the Internet may need to update their procedures and scripts to access this new element.

GRIB2 files are online via https and ftp at:

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snowratio.bin>

Graphics and XML services for the experimental grids will become available within 30 days of the experimental release of the GRIB2 file into the NDFD.

NDFD online graphics:

<https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov/>

XML SOAP service:

<https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov/xml/>

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_home

Comments and feedback on these experimental elements for eventual implementation across NWS, are welcome through April 30, 2022 at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpSnowRatioGrids_NDFD_2022

For questions regarding this product, please contact:

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National's Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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