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

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments until April 30, 2023 on Snow Ratio Grids
 as an Experimental Element in the National Digital Forecast Database
 (NDFD) to Include All Contiguous United States (CONUS) Weather
 Forecast Offices (WFOs), Effective October 4, 2022, and Alaska and
 Honolulu, Hawaii (HI) WFOs on or about November 30, 2022

Updated to expand this experimental product from NWS Central Region Offices to
all CONUS and Outside CONUS (OCONUS) WFOs.

Beginning October 4, 2022 for all CONUS WFOs (November 30, 2022 for Alaska and
Hawaii), the NWS is soliciting comments on the addition of Snow Ratio Grids as
an experimental element in the NDFD for all CONUS and OCONUS WFOs.

WFOs predict the snow ratio, or snow-to-liquid ratio (SLR) averaged over a 6-
hour period where the Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (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
0000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Day 1 when new forecast projections are
introduced at 00 UTC on Day 0, and out to 84 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1 beginning
at 1100 UTC Day 1. The Snow Ratio grids represent an average over the 6-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

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>

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

<https://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/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, 2023 at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDFDSnowRatioGrids2022-2023>

For questions regarding this product, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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