

NOUS41 KWBC 261630
PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 22-55
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1230 PM EDT Fri Aug 26 2022

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information
 -NOAAPort
 Other NWS Partners, Users, and Employees of NWS

From: Daniel Roman, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Public Comment Period for the Transition of the South Central
 Alaska Mountain Forecast from the Recreational Forecast Issued by
 Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Anchorage through September 26,
 2022

WFO Anchorage is soliciting comments and feedback through September 26, 2022 regarding the potential transition of the South Central Alaska Mountain Forecast from the REC to the AVG.

WFO Anchorage currently utilizes the Recreational Forecast product (REC) to provide partners and members of the public weather information for winter-time backcountry conditions for select locations in South Central AK, specifically for snow amounts, winds, and other integral conditions for avalanche potential.

The experimental Avalanche Weather Guidance (AVG) product could be used to replace the REC should it become operational. The AVG would provide more detailed Avalanche weather information and forecasts in 6-hour intervals across more localized areas than the REC. This would result in an improvement over the REC forecast and eliminate the need for it. As the issuing office for both the REC and the AVG, WFO Anchorage is seeking to potentially transition to the new AVG, thereby providing a better product for its user groups.

For an example of a previous Recreational (REC) product:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/rec_forecast_example.pdf

The experimental Avalanche Weather Guidance (AVG) product will look like it does in the example below, but with an additional discussion and graphics included in the product. The site will also include a map of each localized area with graphical versions of the forecast included.

<https://www.weather.gov/afc/avalancheweather>

Link to example Avalanche Weather Guidance (AVG) from WFO Anchorage:

https://www.weather.gov/media/notification/afc_avg.pdf

Please submit comments regarding the transition of the REC to the AVG at:
anchorage.weather@noaa.gov

Additional questions and comments can be directed to:

Noelle Runyan, Meteorologist-in-Charge
Aviva Braun, Warning Coordination Meteorologist
WFO Anchorage, AK
noelle.runyan@noaa.gov

National Service Change notices are available online at:

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

NNNN