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Public Information Statement 26-52 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
955 AM EDT Wed Jul 1 2026

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From: Kathryn Gilbert, Deputy Director
 Weather Prediction Center

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments on Proposed Changes to the Weather
Prediction Center (WPC) National Forecast Chart through July 31, 2026

Updated to change the email address for submitting comments.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting comments on the proposed changes to the WPC National Forecast Chart through July 31, 2026. The existing National Forecast Chart will continue to serve as the official product during the comment period . The WPC National Forecast Charts provide an overview of expected weather for the Contiguous United States (CONUS) for the next three days, with emphasis on certain hazardous and significant weather. The National Forecast Charts summarize forecasts from local forecast offices and several National Centers for Environmental Prediction (NCEP) offices into a unified display, including surface features (highs, lows, and frontal systems), precipitation areas, and hazardous weather such as severe thunderstorms, heavy rainfall, heavy snow, freezing rain, fire weather, and tropical systems.

WPC is proposing to modernize its National Forecast Chart to make it clearer and easier to read. The update transitions these maps to a modern automated system that improves how forecast information is displayed.

Key changes proposed include updated colors and styling chosen to enhance readability and ensure the maps are accessible for users with color vision deficiency. The new chart will automatically pull data directly from local forecasts and several NCEP offices' outlooks. This ensures that the placement of weather types, as well as the color choices used to represent rain, snow, and ice, match and remain entirely consistent with the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) for any given twenty-four hour period. Heavy snow and freezing rain hazard areas will be driven by probabilistic data. Specialized hazard outlooks—such as severe thunderstorms, flash flooding, and critical fire weather—will automatically sync with the latest Outlooks from WPC and the Storm Prediction Center (SPC). The Days 1-3 charts are proposed to be updated twice a day, where currently only the Day 1 chart is updated twice a day.

A description of the proposed changes to the WPC National Forecast Chart, with additional examples, can be found at the following link:

<https://www.wpc.ncep.noaa.gov/NationalForecastChart/NationalForecastChartModernization.pdf>

A description of the WPC National Forecast Chart and product examples can be found at the following link:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/44db16cd3bad8f107235aff764e45aaa

Input on the proposed changes to the WPC National Forecast Chart is being sought from users. Comments can be sent to:

WPC Services
Weather Prediction Center
College Park, MD
Email: public.program@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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