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Public Information Notice
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
1020 AM EST Thu Feb 27 2014

To: Subscribers:
- Family of Services
- NOAA Weather Wire Service
- Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
- NOAAPORT
Other NWS partners and NWS employees

From: Eli Jacks
Chief, Fire and Public Weather Services Branch

Subject: Soliciting Comments until March 28, 2014, on Proposed
Changes to NWS Point Forecast Icons

NWS is accepting comments until March 28, 2014 on proposed changes to the icons we use to depict forecast weather conditions on our Point Forecast web pages.

Below is an example of a current Point Forecast Page for a point near Washington DC. The forecast icons are found just beneath the text "2 Miles ESE Washington DC":

http://forecast.weather.gov/MapClick.php?x=265&y=113&site=lwx&zmx=1&zmy=1&map_x=264.6000061035156&map_y=113.13333129882812#.UvogL7Rn1WQ

These changes are intended to enhance communication of rapidly changing weather conditions, while also highlighting current weather hazards, by:

1. Using a new set of icon images designed to be more visually discernable
2. Changing the current temporal display (only one icon shown for each 12-hour period) to a combination of single and, when appropriate, dual, 6-hourly icons; in this proposal, dual icons would be used only when rapidly changing weather conditions within 12-hour periods dictate their use, and only for the first 4 days of the forecast period
3. Creating new text phrases to be placed underneath the dual icons to describe these changing weather conditions (e.g., "morning sun then afternoon showers"); some of the new phrases under the dual icons would be shortened (e.g., "mostly sunny" becomes "sunny") due to space restrictions; however, complete phrases would remain available via icon mouse over, as with the currently operational Point Forecast pages.

4. Adding yellow, red and orange blocks around the icons to indicate when Watches, Warnings and Advisories (WWAs), respectively, are in effect.

The following link displays sample pairs of current and proposed new sets of icons. These examples have been designed to depict a variety of high-impact weather scenarios. For each pairing, the top row shows how the icons appear today on the Point Forecast pages, while the second row shows how the proposed new set of icons would appear for the same scenario.

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/os/public/icons.pdf>

Please submit comments to the following link:

www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=PNPCI

Partners and users are encouraged to focus on following question in the survey:

- Question 3: Please include comments to let us know what you like about the proposed alternative
- Question 4: Please include comments to let us know what you do not like
- Question 8: Let us know if you support a change to the proposed new icons.

NWS will review and analyze the feedback collected during this comment period and determine whether to implement the proposed changes to the icons. A Public Information Notice will be issued if a decision is made to implement these changes along with a scheduled date for implementation.

A Product Description Document (PDD) is online at:

http://products.weather.gov/PDD/icons_pdd_final_022614%20ver%202.pdf

For more information, please contact:

Eli Jacks
National Weather Service
Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910
Elliott.Jacks@noaa.gov

National Public Information Notices are online at:

<http://www.weather.gov/os/notif.htm>

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