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Public Information Statement, Amended
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
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From: Mary Mullusky
Chief, Water Resources Services Branch

Subject: Amended: Comment period extended until February 29,
2016, for Proposed Expansion of NWS Support for
Multi-Agency Runoff Risk Forecasts

NWS is seeking feedback on the proposed expansion of NWS
Support for Multi-Agency Runoff Risk Forecasts through
February 29, 2016.

NWS's North Central River Forecast Center (NCRFC) has been
exploring usability of NWS river forecast model soil moisture
model output for applications beyond river flood forecasting.
In meeting its hydrologic forecast responsibilities to protect
life and property and to enhance the Nation's economy, the NWS's
River Forecast Centers (RFCs) continuously simulate, in time and
space, moisture within the soil column using the Sacramento Soil
Moisture Accounting model.

The NCRFC was approached by the Wisconsin Department of
Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) to explore
the usability of NWS hydrologic models to stratify the risk of
significant forecast runoff from rain or snowmelt. The
development and implementation of runoff risk forecasts has been
a multi-agency collaborative effort involving many federal and
state agencies and academia. Increased awareness of runoff risk
in nutrient application timing could decrease nutrient
transport, a significant factor in water quality in many
streams, lakes, shallow wells, as well as fueling hypoxic zones
and harmful algal blooms in the Great Lakes, Gulf of Mexico and
other regions around the country. Such a capability has the
potential to enhance the utility of ongoing NOAA efforts to
develop an ecological forecasting capability to address these
and other nutrient-affected issues as well as state- and local-
level nutrient management efforts.

The successful implementation of the runoff risk forecasts in
Wisconsin has generated attention from other states interested

in a similar NWS partnership. The NWS is proposing expansion of support for these multi-agency runoff risk tools in Wisconsin, Minnesota, Michigan and Ohio through federal, state and academic collaboration. Expansion to the remaining Great Lakes states and many other states has been requested following the states mentioned above.

NWS's proposed expansion of support for Runoff Risk Forecasts is expected to further NOAA's collaboration on multi-agency efforts to ensure safe water quality and healthy ecosystems in the nation's streams, lakes and coastal waters. More details about this proposal can be found at

<https://products.weather.gov/PDD/FINAL%20Proposal%20for%20Expansion%20of%20NWS%20Support%20for%20the%20Multi-Agency%20Runoff%20Risk%20Forecast%20v7.pdf>

Comments on this proposed effort by NWS may be provided by February 29, 2016, to:

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Questions about RRAF development efforts may be directed to:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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