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Public Information Statement 18-30  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1030 AM EDT Fri Oct 12 2018

To:           Subscribers:  
              -NOAA Weather Wire Service  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From:        Michelle Hawkins, Chief  
              Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Comments Solicited on Addition of Snow Level Grids for Select  
CONUS WFOs as an Experimental Element in the NDFD through April 30, 2019

Effective October 12, 2018, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the  
NWS will provide an experimental Snow Level Grid for select continental  
U.S. (CONUS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in the National Digital  
Forecast Database (NDFD). NWS is seeking comments on this experimental  
product through April 30, 2019.

These grids will be available:

- Hourly out to 36 hours from NDFD issuance time.
- Every three hours out to 72 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1 when new forecast  
projections are introduced at 2200 UTC on Day 0.
- Every three hours out to 84 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1 beginning at 1100  
UTC Day 1. These grids will be available year round.

More details on the Experimental Snow Level Grids, including participating  
offices, technical description and scientific basis are available in the  
Product Description Document:

[https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/Snow\\_Level\\_Grid\\_in\\_NDFD\\_PDD.pdf](https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/Snow_Level_Grid_in_NDFD_PDD.pdf)

These experimental grids will be available from NDFD in the following  
standard methods:

- Gridded Binary version two (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:

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

<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.01-003/ds.snowlevel.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:

<http://digital.weather.gov/>

XML SOAP service:

<http://preview.weather.gov/xml/>

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

[https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd\\_home](https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_home)

Comments and feedback on these experimental elements are welcome through April 30, 2019, at:

GRIB2 users:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ndfd-grids>

Users of XML SOAP service:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=xmlsoap>

NDFD online graphics:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=gfp>

For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

[nws.ndfd@noaa.gov](mailto:nws.ndfd@noaa.gov)

For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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For questions regarding this notice, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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