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Public Information Statement 19-02  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
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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:  Soliciting Comments until April 30, 2019, on Addition  
          of Probabilistic Snow Grids for select WFOs as an  
          experimental element in NDFD for CONUS

The NWS is soliciting comments until April 30, 2019, on providing an experimental Probabilistic Snow Grid for select the Contiguous U.S.(CONUS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFO) in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD). These grids will be available effective February 26, 2019, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC).

The grids will show the 10 and 90 percent exceedance percentiles, representing a Low End Amount (a 90 percent chance of higher snowfall) and a High End Amount (a 10 percent chance of higher snowfall) to complement the existing NWS deterministic snowfall forecasts (most likely amount). Grids will be valid for 24, 48 and 72-hour periods out to 72 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1 beginning with the 2200 UTC issuance. The grids will be valid for 24, 48 and 72-hour periods out to 72 hours from 1200 UTC Day 1 beginning with the 1100 UTC issuance. As with deterministic snowfall forecasts in NDFD, the Probabilistic Snow Grids will be updated every 30 minutes.

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

[https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD\\_Experimental\\_ProbSnow\\_Grids\\_in\\_NDFD\\_021319.pdf](https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_Experimental_ProbSnow_Grids_in_NDFD_021319.pdf)

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

- Gridded Binary version 2 (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 (via ftp or https) available after February 26, 2019:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow24e10.bin>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow24e90.bin>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow48e10.bin>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow48e90.bin>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow72e10.bin>

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snow72e90.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:

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

XML SOAP service:

<https://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:

Probabilistic Snow Grids:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ProbSnowNDFD>

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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