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Public Information Statement 19-02 Updated  
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD  
1000 AM EST Thu Mar 5 2020

To:           Subscribers:  
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              Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

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

Subject:      Updated:  Soliciting Comments until April 30, 2021 on  
              Addition of Probabilistic Snow Grids for select Weather  
              Forecast Offices (WFOs) as an experimental element in the  
              National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) for the Contiguous  
              United States (CONUS)

Updated to extend comment period through April 30, 2021.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting comments until April 30, 2021 on providing an experimental Probabilistic Snow Grid for select Contiguous United States (CONUS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in the NWS' National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD).  These grids became available February 26, 2019 at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and the experimental period has been extended through the 2020-2021 winter season.

The grids will show the 10% and 90% exceedance percentiles, representing a Low End Amount (a 90% chance of higher snowfall) and a High End Amount (a 10% 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.  They 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):

<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 the proposal to eventually implement these experimental elements at all applicable NWS offices are welcome through April 30, 2021 at:

Probabilistic Snow Grids:

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

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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