NOUS41 KWBC 032059
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Technical Implementation Notice 15-05
National Weather Service Headquarters Washington DC
400 PM EST Tue Feb 3 2015

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From: Andy Rost
Director, National Operational Hydrologic Remote
Sensing Center

Subject: Changes to National Operational Hydrologic Remote
Sensing Center (NOHRSC) interpolation of observed
Snowfall effective March 5, 2015

Effective Thursday, March 5, 2015, at 1200 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), the National Operational Hydrologic Remote Sensing Center (NOHRSC) will change the way its gridded snowfall products are interpolated. These products are currently viewable by connecting to the NOHRSC Interactive Snow Information page at

http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/interactive/html/map.html

and selecting "Int. Total SF (24 hrs)," "Int. Total SF (48 hrs)" or "Int. Total SF (72 hrs)" from the "Select Physical Element" drop-down item.

Currently, the products are generated by interpolating 24-, 48-, and 72-hour accumulations of observed snowfall at point locations, taken primarily from Coop, CoCoRaHS, and NWS spotter reports. The observations are interpolated to a longitude/ latitude grid using a conventional inverse distance-weighted method for analysis times of 00Z, 06Z, 12Z and 18Z each day, at a resolution of 0.00833333 degrees (30 arc sec).

The new method uses a Barnes 2-pass interpolation, which consistently results in a more skillful analysis in terms of both categorical skill scores and continuous measures such as mean absolute error. The new procedure is performed for only 00Z and 12Z at a resolution of 0.04 degrees (144 arc sec).

In addition to web-based interactive map imagery on the NOHRSC Interactive Snow Information page, 24-, 48-, and 72-hour snowfall analyses will be available for download in NetCDF and GRIB2 file formats from the following NOHRSC website:

http://www.nohrsc.noaa.gov/snowfall

For questions regarding these changes, please contact:

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National Technical Implementation Notices are online at:

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

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