New NWS Online Spot Program

Part I – Submit Spot Request
Your National Weather Service produces a wide variety of forecasts around the clock using a database consisting of thousands of forecast points.

Extra meteorological detail can be added to any of these forecast points via a spot forecast.

A spot forecast is a detailed site-specific forecast issued for wildfires, prescribed burns, HAZMAT incidents, search and rescue operations, etc. and are available upon request anytime.

The following presentation details our new online spot program and the process of requesting/receiving a spot forecast.
Two Options On This Page
- Submit Spot Request
- Monitor Spot Forecasts

Since this is a new program, it is encouraged that you contact us after you submit a spot request to ensure we have received it.

When using the new online spot request page in real time, select the Submit Spot Request button to continue.
Establish A Location One Of Two Ways (Option A)

- Enter location in the blue “Enter Location” box using a street address, zip code, city, state, or a latitude & longitude.
- Select the PLOT ADDRESS and your location will show up on the Google Map (next slide).
- You will be able to fine tune the point if its not the exact location you wish.
Establish Location
One Of Two Ways (Option B)

- If you did not have a specific location as in option A, you can “left click” and drag the pointer to a specific location.
- Fine tune your point by zooming in/out on the map until you find the spot you are looking for. You can change the map to Satellite view for more detail.

NOTE – when moving the pointer around on the map, information related to the latitude and longitude will automatically adjust in the blue boxes as well as providing you with the elevation.
Step 2: Select the incident type for the request.

- Now that you have your location set, you can select an incident type.
- Note there are more options to choose from than in the past.
- For this tutorial, we will select Prescribed Fire and click Generate A Spot Request.

Step 3: Proceed to detailed incident request form.

After setting your location and incident type above, click on the 'Generate A Spot Request' button below to proceed to the SPOT request form.
Spot Forecast Request

Spot Forecast Incident Type: Prescribed Fire

Spot Request Contact Information

(*) PROJECT NAME: 

(*) Requesting Agency: 

(*) E-mail address: 

(*) Requesting Official: 

(*) Phone number: 

Contact Person: 

FAX number: 

Reason For Prescribed Fire Spot Request

- Under the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services (USFS, BLM, NPS, USFWS, BIA)
- State, tribal or local fire agency working in coordination with a federal participant in the Interagency Agreement for Meteorological Services.
- Essential to public safety, e.g. due to the proximity of population centers or critical infrastructure.

Spot Request Contact Information

- Boxes shaded in red are required. This page is essentially the same as the previous online spot program.
Location And Supplemental Information

- Boxes shaded in red are required. Location and elevation will already be filled in based on the spot you chose on the map.

- Although nothing is required in the Fire Weather Supplemental Information section any additional information you can add in there will be of value to the spot forecast.
- Check your Deliver Forecast & Forecast Starting times (use pulldowns to change times). (Local time 00:00 = midnight, 12:00 = noon, 18:00 = 6pm)
- NOAA Hysplit Model (tracks where smoke, particulates, chemicals may go over time).
- Remarks box available to provide us with relevant information related to incident.
- Select elements you want forecasted. Can choose by element, day or all periods.
Input any observations and select Submit Request
Once you submit the spot request you will be taken to the NWS Spot Forecast Monitor page.

You will see a pin for the location of the spot.

Note you may see other pins for current/previous spot requests.

Zooming in/out will change which spot requests get shown.

Note the Spot Monitor Legend to the right of the map. The green color indicates your spot request is pending and the NWS is working on the forecast.

Below the map is the spot request you submitted. If you need to change the request or submit an observation you can do so using the links under the Actions column.
Other Functionality

- You can zoom in on the map and click the pin for additional information. You can also click the Permalink for page bookmark and then copy the web address in the browser to share with anyone else that may need information related to the spot.
Completed Forecast

- Pin color will change to red indicating forecast is complete. Click the name of your request in the Active Spot Forecasts section below the map to see the forecast.
The forecast page will show you the data you input for the spot as well as two maps showing the location of the spot request.

Note – to ensure you have received the forecast you will receive a call from the NWS. Or feel free to call if you have any questions related to the forecast.
And here is the forecast related to your spot request.

Please contact us if you have any questions related to the forecast.

The remainder of the forecast will appear on the next slide.
And here is the rest of the forecast related to your spot request.

Again, please contact us if you have any questions related to the forecast.
At the bottom of the forecast is a section for feedback. It is encouraged to leave feedback related to the forecast and/or how the operations fared. It will help us improve our forecasts and services for future spot requests.
Links at the bottom of the page that may be of value to you include:

- **Printer Friendly Version of Forecast** – self explanatory
- **Back to Forecast Monitor** – a link back to the NWS Spot Forecast Monitor page.
- **Copy Info to Spot Request for a New Incident**: takes you to the spot request page to select a location, but has the spot request contact information from your last spot.
- **Copy Info to New Spot Request for this Incident**: keeps location and contact information you entered for this spot to expedite the process of submitting a new spot quicker.
- **Request Immediate Forecast Update**: if forecast is not representative and you need an update. You will be taken to a page that gives you a chance to submit a weather observation if you have one. If not click the “Request Update” button to submit the request for a new spot forecast.
- **Delete Request**: use this link to delete the spot forecast request altogether.
This has been an overview of the new NWS online spot program and the simple steps needed to request/receive a spot forecast. There is additional functionality that we would be more than happy to bring to your attention.