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Public Information Statement 19-02 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1210 PM EDT Fri Oct 20 2023

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From: Stephen W. Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments until April 30, 2024 on Availability 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, 2024.

The National Weather Service (NWS) is soliciting comments until April 30, 2024 on providing experimental Probabilistic Snow Grids for select CONUS WFOs in the NWS NDFD. The experimental period has been extended through the 2023-2024 winter season. No changes are being made to the product for this upcoming season.

The grids 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 are valid for 24-, 48- and 72-hour periods out to 72 hours from 0000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Day 1 beginning with the 2200 UTC issuance. They are 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 are updated every 30 minutes.

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

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/a45f05731be5f990135feb9ce54bcb1b

These experimental grids are 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 retrieve NDFD elements in GRIB2 format may need to update their procedures and scripts to access the files.

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>

Grids access in GRIB format:

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

Extensible Markup Language (XML) access:

<https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov/xml>

NDFD Map Viewer:

<https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov>

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is available online at:

<https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/mdl/ndfd>

Comments and feedback on the proposal to eventually implement these experimental elements at all applicable NWS offices are welcome through April 30, 2024.

Survey for comments/feedback on Probabilistic Snow Grids:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpProbabilisticNDFDSnowGrids_2023-2024

For general questions regarding NDFD data, please email:

nws.ndfd@noaa.gov

For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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