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Public Information Statement 20-05 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Experimental Period for the 7-day Expansion of the
National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) Forecast Product (FWM):
Effective March 2, 2020 through August 31, 2020

Updated to extend comment period to August 31, 2020, due to COVID and the
potential for peak fire season commentary and questions.

The NWS is expanding the forecast data string that is routinely fed into
the wildland fire agencies' Weather Information Management System (WIMS).
The current FWM product consists of a single 24-hour forecast period for
select NFDRS stations from around the United States. Software is now
capable of handling up to seven days of forecast data strings for input
into the National Fire Danger Rating System. A detailed description of
the weather string information can be found in NWS Instruction 10-401,
Section 6.3.4:

<https://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/sym/pd01004001curr.pdf>

Beginning March 2, 2020, at 0600 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), NWS
Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) responsible for NFDRS forecasts will issue
the experimental, expanded seven-day FWM product.

This product will be issued through the spring 2020 fire season months and
terminate on or around May 31, 2020. At the end of the experimental time
period, a decision will be made whether or not to make the expanded
product operational for NFDRS forecasting.

A description of the concept of expanded FWM forecast product, product
examples, and requirements explanation can be found at the following link:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_7DayNFDRS_ExpExpandedProduct_2020.pdf

Input on the expanded National Fire Danger Rating forecasts is being
sought from the U.S. Forest Service WIMS users, WIMS managers, NFDRS
users, and additional users of the FWM product.

Comments may be sent to:

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