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PNSWSH

Public Information Statement 22-10 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
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 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Daniel Roman, Acting Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments until April 30, 2023 on Snow Ratio
Grids as an Experimental Element in the National Digital Forecast Database
(NDFD) to Include All Contiguous United States (CONUS) Weather Forecast
Offices (WFOs): Effective October 4, 2022, and Alaska and Honolulu, Hawaii
(HI) WFOs on or about November 30, 2022

Updated to expand this experimental product from NWS Central Region
Offices to all CONUS and Outside CONUS (OCONUS) WFOs.

Beginning October 4, 2022 for all CONUS WFOs (November 30, 2022 for Alaska
and Hawaii), the NWS is soliciting comments on the addition of Snow Ratio
Grids as an experimental element in the NDFD for all CONUS and OCONUS
WFOs.

WFOs predict the snow ratio, or snow-to-liquid ratio (SLR) averaged over a
6-hour period where the Quantitative Precipitation Forecast (QPF) is
greater than or equal to one-tenth (0.1) of an inch. This value, defined
as the ratio of snow accumulation to its melted liquid equivalent, is
often used to quantify the consistency of snow, ranging from light and
fluffy snow to heavy wet snow, and is therefore important for decision
support.

These grids will be available in NDFD every six (6) hours out to 72 hours
from 0000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Day 1 when new forecast
projections are introduced at 00 UTC on Day 0, and out to 84 hours from
0000 UTC Day 1 beginning at 1100 UTC Day 1. The Snow Ratio grids
represent an average over the 6-hour period and will be available during
the entire year.

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

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpSnowRatioGrids_NDFD_2022.pdf

These experimental grids will be 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 pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format via the Internet may need to update their procedures and scripts to access this new element.

GRIB2 files are online via https and ftp at:

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

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

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

XML SOAP service:

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

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_home

Comments and feedback on these experimental elements for eventual implementation across NWS are welcome through April 30, 2023 at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/NDFDSnowRatioGrids2022-2023>

For questions regarding this product, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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