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Public Information Statement 22-42
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1130 AM EDT Tue Jul 5 2022

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From: Dr. Thomas Graziano
 Director, Office of Water Prediction

Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Experimental Flood Hazard Outlook
(FHO) Product as the Replacement for Significant River Flood
Outlook through December 31, 2022

The NWS is soliciting comments and feedback on the Experimental Flood Hazard Outlook (FHO) through December 31, 2022. The FHO is intended to provide a coordinated inland hydrologic flood graphic for use in regional and national Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) briefings and support broad messaging of flood threat to NWS stakeholders and Federal water partners. These partners include the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The intent of this product is to replace the current Significant River Flood Outlook product when the FHO becomes operational.

This experimental product combines a depiction of current flood conditions based on the latest river level observations with an assessment of flood risk leveraging various sources of NWS water resources forecast information. These sources of information include National Water Model guidance, official River Forecast Center (RFC) deterministic and probabilistic forecasts, and Weather Prediction Center (WPC) excessive rainfall outlooks.

The Experimental FHO will include the following features:

1. The FHO layers will be available as both a GIS service and as a static map.
2. The category names were renamed from Flood Threat, Elevated Flood Threat, and Extreme Flood Threat to Limited Impact, Considerable Impact, and Catastrophic Impact. The Ongoing Flooding category was removed.
3. The timing bins were changed from Days 1-2, Days 3-5 and Days 6-7 to Days 1-3, Days 4-7, and Days 1-7 to more closely represent timing bins at other national centers.
4. The static map has been changed to include insets of all OCONUS locations.
5. Several smaller changes have been made to the title, subtitle, legend, and disclaimer.

This experimental product will be issued daily, typically around 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), and may be increased to twice daily during tropical cyclone events (1130 UTC, 2100 UTC). The graphical depiction of the flood threat with key messages will be made available as an interactive GIS service and a static graphic from the landing page:

<https://www.weather.gov/owp/operations>

More information about the Experimental FHO can be found in the Product Description Document linked below:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_ExpFloodHazardOutlook_2022.pdf

Please provide feedback on the Experimental FHO as a replacement for the current Significant River Flood Outlook, at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpFloodHazardOutlook_2022

If you have additional questions or comments, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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