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From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Experimental Period for the 7-day expansion of the
 National Fire Danger Rating System (NFDRS) forecast product
 (FWM) Effective March 2, 2020 through May 31, 2020

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 7 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:

Heath Hockenberry
Fire Weather Program Leader
National Weather Service
Boise, ID

208-334-9862

heath.hockenberry@noaa.gov

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