

Experimental Western Region Standardized Fire Weather Web Pages

Product Description Document (PDD)

Part I – Mission Connection

a. Product Description – The ability of the NWS to provide digital and graphic fire weather products and services over the internet continues to increase. Concurrently, the need for improved fire weather information on the internet by land management and fire suppression agencies in Western Region (WR) also continues to increase. Multiple federal fire weather user agencies have expressed a need for consistency between WFO fire weather web page layout and for more interactive graphical web pages.

To account for these changes and requests, WR will test consistent and highly interactive fire weather web pages at every WR WFO from August 1, 2008 to June 1, 2009. Because existing fire weather information is bundled and/or presented in new formats, the fire weather web pages are considered a new experimental service.

On August 1, 2008, the experimental web pages will be implemented for user evaluation and can be accessed via the standard “Fire Weather” link from the main WR and WR WFO welcome pages. It should be noted that during this evaluation and comment period, the interagency fire weather page serving additional needs in California will continue: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/sto/cafw/>, and can be accessed directly from the new page.

b. Purpose – Based on customer requests over the past several years, a standardized web page layout is provided that allows quick and easy access to evolving digital fire weather information for all of WR. Consistent web page layout for standard access to critical information such as a spot forecast request is also provided. The experimental page allows local office configuration while maintaining consistent regional layout.

c. Audience – All land management and fire agencies in WR, from the local to the state and federal level. Limited use by emergency management, media and the public is also anticipated.

d. Presentation Format – Access via current NWS web pages. New fire weather web pages will utilize increase dynamic map interfaces with users, similar to the “point and click” forecast options that have been in use across the NWS for several years.

e. Feedback Method – Focused feedback will be obtained via normal fire season interaction between WFOs and their local fire weather users. Feedback will also be available via the standard WFO web comment capability. Functionality of the pages will be adjusted through the test period based on user comments and suggestions. Upon fire agency concurrence, the new fire weather web pages will be made official across WR in June, 2009.

Technical and policy questions and comments on the revised WR fire weather web pages may be addressed to:

NOAA National Weather Service
Attn: Roger Lamoni
Western Region Fire Weather Program Manager
125 South State Street, Room 1235
Salt Lake City, UT 84138

Or via e-mail to: Roger.Lamoni@noaa.gov.

Part II – Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis – This experimental product was developed to provide fire weather users consistent and easy access to WR WFO fire weather forecasts and products, both operational and documented experimental. Users can select and request various products from a clickable GUI. Standard NWS coding requirements are used for this page. It is Section 508 and DOC security compliant.

b. Availability – The WR Fire Weather web pages are available consistently 24/7 as standard NWS web sites. Underlying forecast products are updated according to established procedures.

Main regional URL: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/main.php>

Example WFO URL: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/firewx/?wfo=xxx> , where xxx is any WR WFO ID

c. Additional Information – Information regarding the availability and details of NWS fire weather products and services via the internet is included in all Fire Weather Annual Operating Plans (AOP), produced in WR.