

Western Region Standardized Fire Weather Web Pages
Product Description Document (PDD)

Part I – Mission Connection

a. Product Description – The need for improved fire weather information via the internet by land management and fire suppression agencies in Western Region (WR) is continually increasing. Multiple fire weather user agencies have requested a consistent WFO fire weather web page layout and more interactive graphical web pages to provide critical fire weather information.

To account for these requests, WR tested consistent, interactive, fire weather web pages at every WR WFO from August 1, 2008 to June 1, 2009. Customer comment via a standard web survey, e-mail and face-to-face fire weather meetings was overwhelmingly positive. The pages will be declared operational on November 2, 2009.

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 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 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 also occurs.

d. Presentation Format – Access via current NWS web pages; The fire weather web pages utilize increased dynamic map interfaces with users, including “point and click” forecast options that are in widespread used across NWS web pages.

e. Feedback Method – Focused feedback was obtained via normal fire season interaction between WFOs and their local fire weather users. Feedback was also obtained via standard web page comment capability. Functionality of the pages was adjusted through the test period based on user comments and suggestions. Upon fire agency concurrence, the fire weather web pages will be made official across WR on November 2, 2009.

Technical and policy questions and comments on the 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 product was developed to provide fire weather users consistent and easy access to WR WFO fire weather forecasts and products. 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.