

Experimental National Water Resources Outlook Web Page Product Description Document (PDD)

Part I - Mission Connection

a. Product Description – The Experimental National Water Resources Outlook Web Page provides a single web page for displaying water resources information from all River Forecast Centers (RFC). Water resources information includes expected streamflow conditions for the next 30, 60, and 90 days. A range of flows is provided for each time period. Forecasts of the most likely value are color coded according to percentage of normal streamflow. More specific information for individual forecast points is available by drilling down to points. Gridded information, such as soil moisture and snow water equivalent, may also be provided.

b. Purpose - This web page is designed to provide users a simple, standardized, and web-based interface to access water resources information produced by all RFCs. This webpage will support NOAA's mission goals of serving society's need for weather and water information and supporting the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient, and environmentally sound transportation.

c. Audience - The audience is the public; state, local, and federal water management agencies; emergency managers; and other officials with an interest in water information.

d. Presentation Format - All interactions occur via a web page. The web page provides an interface for the public to access water resources information and streamflow forecasts from all RFCs. From the main webpage map, the user can select and zoom into various geographic "tiles". More detailed forecast information is available by either hovering over particular forecast points or clicking on forecast points. The map includes user customizations such as optional geographic feature displays (including lakes, rivers, boundaries, etc.). Forecast plots follow the convention where forecasts and observed values (volume, flow) are displayed (y axis) as a function of time (x axis).

Part II - Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis - This product is being developed to provide access to various water resource information produced by NWS RFCs. The web page development is based on a set of functional requirements defined by a team with membership from each RFC. It leverages concepts and displays that have been used successfully in the NWS Western Water Supply Web Page, and in fact is being integrated with the Western Water Supply Web Page to provide a seamless suite of water resources

information. The underlying data are ensemble streamflow forecasts produced by each RFC using their current methodologies. The product can be found at <http://wateroutlook.nwrfc.noaa.gov/>.

b. Availability - This interactive web page is available 24/7. The underlying streamflow forecast data are updated by each RFC according to their established schedules and procedures.

c. Additional Information – None.