HPC Today's National Forecast Chart in Spanish

Part 1 – Mission Connection

a. Product Description – The HPC National Forecast Chart provides an overview of today's national weather with an emphasis on hazardous and significant weather. It summarizes forecasts from several NCEP Service Centers including the Storm Prediction Center (for severe thunderstorm and tornado outlooks), the Tropical Prediction Center (for tropical storm and hurricane forecasts), and the Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (for information concerning heavy rainfall, flooding, winter weather, and general weather). This display serves as a good overview of the weather for the current day. This product (in English) receives more than 400,000 hits per day. Many WFOs include this product on their web site. The proposed product is the same graphic, with text in Spanish.

b. Purpose – This chart is intended for use by anyone who needs a non-technical display of the expected weather including the general public, the media, and the emergency management community. It shows the large-scale weather features and associated significant weather. This chart is especially useful to travelers or others needing a big picture forecast. It is not intended to provide detailed local forecasts for any particular area.

The provision of the National Forecast Chart in Spanish fulfills the following important mandates:

1) Executive Order 13166 (August 11, 2000) directs each federal agency to improve access to federal programs and services for persons with limited English proficiency (LEP). The executive order is available at http://www.osec.doc.gov/ocr/executiveorders/eo13166.html . To implement this executive order in DOC, the "LEP Plan for Federally Conducted Programs and Activities To Improve Access to Services for Persons with Limited English Proficiency" was developed and is available online at http://www.osec.doc.gov/ocr/doclepplan2003.pdf . One excerpt from this plan states "DOC's obligation to make accessible to LEP persons information on weather-related events is obvious."

2) NOAA Strategic Plan 2009-2014, Weather and Water Goal, Objective 3: Increase application and accessibility of weather and water information as the foundation for creating and leveraging public (federal, state, local, tribal), private, and academic partnerships.

c. Audience - The target audience includes anyone interested in weather including emergency managers, water management, commercial weather services, the academic community, the agricultural community, and the general public.

d. Presentation Format – A graphic of the Continental U.S. with fronts and weather features including labels describing the features. A copy of the chart is included below.

The Spanish language version is located at:

http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/noaa/sp_noaa.gif

e.   Feedback Method – Comments may be provided via email or by directly
     contracting:

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     (301) 763-8000 ext. 7354
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Part II – Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis – The National Forecast Chart is composed of forecasts
    from several sites. Severe weather outlooks are produced by the Storm Prediction
    Center, tropical storm forecasts are produced by the Tropical Prediction Center,
    and flash flooding and winter weather components are provided by the
    Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC). The fronts, pressure centers, and
    general weather are also produced by the HPC. The component forecasts are
    manually combined into the National Forecast Chart by HPC staff.

b. Product Availability - The National Forecast Chart (both English and Spanish
    versions) are prepared twice daily at the HPC. The initial product is issued by
    1000 UTC (5 a.m. EST), with an update provided at 2200 UTC (5 p.m. EST).   If
    there are significant changes to the forecast, the chart will be updated at other
    times. Valid times of the features displayed in this product vary depending upon
    the particular weather phenomenon of interest and issuance time.   See
    http://www.hpc.ncep.noaa.gov/html/about_Gudes.shtml for detailed information
    regarding the valid times for this product.

c.   Additional Information – None.