

Product Description Document

Northern New England Recreational Point Forecasts

Part I – Mission Connection

Product/Service Description - The Recreational Point Forecasts from WFOs Burlington, VT, Gray, ME, and Caribou, ME complement the official narrative text recreational forecasts that have long been issued by these WFOs, and in similar form by other WFOs across the country. The web based display leverages the ESRI Map interface to allow the user to readily access forecasts for popular mountain peaks, lakes, and coastal areas. The WFO Recreational Forecast program serves a public safety purpose by providing tailored weather forecasts for highly visited locations. This includes the highest elevation mountain summits across the region, which are frequently impacted by severe and life-threatening weather, such as thunderstorms. In addition, detailed lake forecasts provide important wave height forecasts, wind speeds and observed water temperatures. Finally, detailed coastal forecasts such as the SURF forecast provide rip current threats, wave height forecasts, UV index and cold water safety messages.

Product Type - Official

Purpose – The purpose of this product is to provide customers of the current narrative format mountain, lake, and coastal recreational forecasts an option to view higher resolution of key forecast elements for the higher elevation summits, beaches, and bodies of water that are most commonly the location of a variety of outdoor activities (i.e., hiking, skiing, snowmobiling, swimming, boating, kayaking, etc).

Audience – The audience for this product is any customer or partner with needs for specific detailed recreation forecasts. This includes the general public, as well as emergency officials in support of potential search and rescue missions.

Presentation Format – The forecast is available on a webpage as a combination of a text box popup on a ESRI Map background. The URLs for this product are:
<https://www.weather.gov/btv/recreation>, <https://www.weather.gov/gyx/recreation> and <https://www.weather.gov/car/recreation>.

Part II - Technical Description

Format and Science Basis – This product uses the WFO gridded data that are created in order to produce the official recreational forecasts that are issued under the product header XXXRECXXX. The gridded data set is a combination data that are available in the official NDFD suite (i.e., weather, cloud cover) and internal-only data (temperature, winds) that are better suited to account for conditions occurring on a smaller temporal and spatial scale than can be

resolved by the current 2.5 km resolution NDFD (such as mountain summits). The internal data are initially populated using the forecaster's choice of model data and then edited by the forecasters as necessary.

Availability – The point data are automatically created within the GFE software and uploaded to the website whenever the official REC forecast product (xxxRECxxx) is issued.

Additional Information - Example of Recreational Point Forecast.

