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Public Information Statement 21-34
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
320 PM EDT Wed May 26 2021

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From: Dr. Thomas Graziano
 Director, Office of Water Prediction

Subject: Soliciting Comments on the Prototype Flood Hazard Outlook Product through October 31, 2021

The Prototype Flood Hazard Outlook Product is intended to provide a coordinated inland hydrologic flood graphic for use in regional and national Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) briefings and support broad messaging of flood threat to NWS stakeholders and Federal water partners. These partners include the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the United States Geological Survey (USGS). The intent of this prototype product is to eventually replace the current Significant River Flood Outlook product.

The initial prototype combines a depiction of current flood conditions based on the latest river level observations with an assessment of flood risk leveraging various sources of NWS water resources forecast information. These sources of information include National Water Model guidance, official River Forecast Center (RFC) deterministic and probabilistic forecasts, and Weather Prediction Center (WPC) excessive rainfall outlooks. Future iterations of this prototype are expected to include additional sources of water resources forecast information from Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs), RFCs, WPC and the National Water Center (NWC) to characterize the flood risk.

At this time, the prototype Flood Hazard Outlook product is available to NWS core partners via email, NWSChat during landfalling tropical events, and in IDSS briefings as needed. As new techniques to integrate additional sources of deterministic and probabilistic forecasts/guidance are developed and feedback from social scientists and stakeholders is incorporated into the graphical representations, this product is expected to transition into an Experimental product that is broadly available to NWS customers and the public no sooner than December 2021.

More information about the Prototype Flood Hazard Outlook Product can be found in the Product Description Document linked below:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_PrototypeFloodHazardOutlookProduct_2021.pdf

The NWS is accepting comments through October 31, 2021 on the Prototype Flood Hazard Outlook Product as a replacement for the current Significant River Flood Outlook product. Please provide feedback on the Prototype Flood Hazard Outlook Product at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/PrototypeFloodHazardOutlookProduct>

If you have additional questions or comments, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification/>

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