



# Aware

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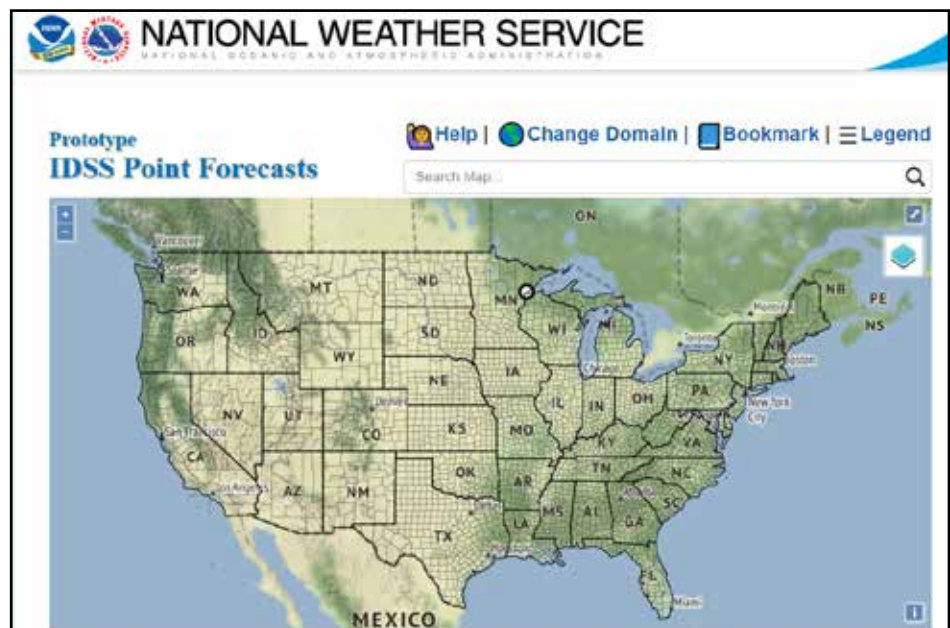
## NWS Consider All New Point Forecast Display for Website, Seeks Comments

By [Doug Young](#) and [Brian Miretzky](#), NWS Analyze, Forecast and Support Office, Silver Spring, MD

NWS has made its [Prototype Point Forecast Display](#) available to users and partners and is asking that you take a look at this proposed new product and if you chose, [provide feedback by May 15, 2020, through our short survey](#). This new tool provides design enhancements to the historically available point-and-click forecast page by adding intuitive graphics to illustrate forecast elements. (The product doesn't work for parts of Alaska but an update scheduled for early June should resolve the issue.)

There are two ways to search for a forecast on the Prototype Point Forecast Display. Either enter your location in the search box in the upper right portion of the page or click on a location in the U.S. base map.

You can zoom into specific areas of the country before clicking to get a local forecast. The webpage offers more help on using this new tool. The page layout includes:



- ◆ Map for selecting the point forecast to display
- ◆ Links to forecast discussions and outlooks
- ◆ List of current weather hazards
- ◆ Summary of maximum and minimum values of selected weather elements for the week ahead.

The map may also display additional layers of weather information. You can bookmark your specific configuration for later reference. The NWS will evaluate all comments during this period and will decide what further changes to make to its web presence in the future. This will include an additional comment and review period.

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## Forecasters Prepare Alaskans for Spring Breakup Flooding

By [Audrey Rubel](#), Physical Scientist, Alaska Region Headquarters, Anchorage, AK

Hydrologists at the [Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center \(APRFC\)](#) are preparing the public and partner agencies for the potential of spring breakup flooding with new covid19 parameters. APRFC will be working with state partners

to define what this year's [River Watch program](#) will look like amid the uncertainty of travel and operations in remote communities.

NWS Anchorage and Fairbanks, AK, Service Hydrologists Celine Van Breukelen and Karen Endres are leading a large outreach effort, engaging Alaska native communities along the state's rivers early and often this year to compensate for restrictions.

High potential for ice jam flooding in Alaska typically requires cooler than average temperatures for most of April, followed by an abrupt transition to warm temperatures in late April to early May. This pattern can flush snowmelt onto river ice. APRFC hydrologists use [Climate Prediction Center](#) outlooks to help determine spring breakup flooding risk.

Analysis of March 1 data indicated a 25 to 75 percent greater than normal snowpack across the Interior, and

the Yukon government reported greater than normal snowpack across the Upper Yukon River Basin. March measurements indicated 50 percent greater than average ice thickness in the upper Yukon River Basin at Eagle, AK.



*River Watch 2019 team view of Tanana River in Alaska at Nenana looking downstream, courtesy NWS Fairbanks, AK*

Every spring, residents of Alaska villages like Eagle on the Yukon River and Bethel on the Kuskokwim River wonder if ice jams will send freezing water into their homes. Ice and snow conditions in 2009, 2012 and 2013 were similar to this year's conditions with major ice jam flooding occurring in 2009 and 2013. [In 2009, multiple rivers flooded](#), most notably the Yukon into Eagle. In 2013, the Yukon River ice jam flood resulted in a federal disaster declaration and combined costs to the state and federal governments of \$80 million.

Hydrologists from the Alaska Region, along with partners, will be working hard to help Alaskans prepare for flooding this spring.

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## Science and Fun at Severe Weather Awareness Day

By [Jonathan Guseman](#), WCM, NWS Jackson, KY

As part of Severe Weather Awareness Week across Kentucky, On March 7, (pre-covid restrictions) NWS Jackson organized its first Severe Weather Awareness Day in eastern Kentucky. A dozen partner organizations joined NWS Jackson, KY, at the East Kentucky Science Center, which graciously hosted the event. The site helped to draw a great crowd. The director of the East Kentucky Science Center, Steve Russo, more than reinforced his role as a Weather-Ready Nation Ambassador by supporting everything from the initial planning to final event cleanup.

Each partnering agency took part in multiple activities including staffing informational booths, exhibits and displays, while also conducting experiments and giving presentations geared toward preparing the community for severe weather. Activity stations included:

- ◆ Demonstrations of a live electric line, offered by AEP, a local electric company
- ◆ Tours of a weather simulator trailer by local emergency management
- ◆ Up close looks at fire department search and rescue trucks and boats

- ◆ Presentations on thunderstorm damage cleanup safety including how to properly use chain saws
- ◆ Programs for children on preparedness and safety from the American Red Cross/Christian Appalachian Project
- ◆ Information on becoming a CoCoRaHS observer
- ◆ Demonstrations of communications between the Paintsville Amateur Radio Club and NWS Jackson during a severe weather event
- ◆ Information about the Kentucky Mesonet stations/equipment from Western Kentucky University
- ◆ Background on how local health-care experts aid severe weather recovery
- ◆ A look at the State Transportation Cabinet’s mobile command center
- ◆ Opportunities to experience broadcasting the weather via a portable green screen by local television affiliate WYMT-Hazard TV



*Before social distancing! NWS booth, which included a tornado machine, a draw for all ages.*

About 160 people took part throughout the day, making this a successful first year of what we hope becomes a long-running event across the eastern reaches of the Bluegrass State!

**Aware**

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