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Public Information Statement 22-10 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
1035 AM EDT Wed Oct 16 2024

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From: Stephen W. Bieda III, Ph.D., Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public, and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Soliciting Comments until May 31, 2025 on Snow Ratio
Grids as an Experimental Element in the National Digital Forecast
Database (NDFD)

Updated to extend the comment period through May 31, 2025.

Through May 31, 2025, the NWS will continue soliciting comments on the
addition of Snow Ratio Grids as an experimental element in the NDFD.

NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) predict the snow-to-liquid ratio
(SLR) averaged over a 6-hour period where the Quantitative Precipitation
Forecast (QPF) is greater than or equal to one-tenth (0.1) of an inch.
This value, defined as the ratio of snow accumulation to its melted
liquid equivalent, is used to quantify the consistency of snow, ranging
from light and fluffy snow to heavy wet snow, and is therefore important
for decision support.

These grids will be available in NDFD every six (6) hours out to 72 hours
from 0000 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) Day 1 when new forecast
projections are introduced at 00 UTC on Day 0, and out to 84 hours from
0000 UTC Day 1 beginning at 1100 UTC Day 1.

The Snow Ratio grids represent an average over the 6-hour period and will
be available from WFOs located in the contiguous United States (CONUS),
Alaska, and Hawaii.

More details on the Experimental Snow Ratio Grids, including a technical
description and scientific basis are available in the Product Description
Document:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/e32bdde81b851e100d690f67624bcb30

These experimental grids will be available from NDFD in the following
standard methods:

- Gridded Binary version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol
(HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP)

- Extensible Markup Language (XML) via Simple Object Access Protocol (SOAP)
- Graphics via Web browser

The experimental grids will be available for download in gridded binary version two (GRIB2) format via both [https:](https://) and [ftp:](ftp://) from the NWS Telecommunications Gateway FTP (TGFTP) server.

For CONUS:

tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snowratio.bin

For Alaska:

tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.alaska/VP.001-003/ds.snowratio.bin

For Hawaii:

tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.hawaii/VP.001-003/ds.snowratio.bin

Graphics and XML services are available at:

NDFD online graphics:

<https://digital.weather.gov> and <https://graphical.weather.gov/>

XML SOAP service:

<https://digital.weather.gov/xml>

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

<https://vlab.noaa.gov/web/mdl/ndfd>

Comments and feedback on these experimental elements for eventual implementation across NWS, are welcome through May 31, 2025 at:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ExpSnowRatioGridsinNDFD_2024-2025

For questions regarding this product, please contact:

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National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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