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Public Information Statement
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From: Mary Mullusky
 Acting Chief, Hydrologic Services Division

Subject: Comment Period on Experimental Forecast of Reference Crop
Evapotranspiration (FRET) for Short Canopy Vegetation through December 5,
2014

Effective November 5, 2014, NWS Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) will begin
providing on an experimental basis three FRET grids for the conterminous
United States (CONUS) in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD).

The following FRET grids will be added to the NDFD on an experimental
basis:

Daily FRET grids for the next seven days
Total Weekly FRET grids for the seven-day period
Daily FRET departure from normal grids

FRET is the expected depth of water (in hundredths of inches) that would
evaporate and transpire from a reference crop under the forecast weather
conditions on a daily and weekly basis over the next seven days. The FRET
is for short crops with an approximate height of 12 cm similar to full
cover grasses.

More details regarding these grids are available in the Product
Description Document in the online catalog of Experimental NWS products
and services at:

https://products.weather.gov/PDD/FRET_PDD.pdf

The FRET grids will be available from NDFD in the following standard
methods:

- Gridded Binary Version two (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

Graphics and XML services for the FRET grids will become available within 30 days of the experimental release of GRIB2 files into the NDFD.

Users who pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format, either via the Internet or via the Family of Services (FOS) server, may need to update their procedures and scripts to access these new elements.

The GRIB2 files for the CONUS sector are available for download at:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.fret.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.fret.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.frettot.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.fretdep.bin>
<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.fretdep.bin>
<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.fret.bin>
<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.fret.bin>
<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.frettot.bin>
<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.fretdep.bin>
<http://weather.noaa.gov/pub/SL.us008001/ST.expr/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.004-007/ds.fretdep.bin>

Within the next 30 days, images of the experimental grids can be viewed online at the following URL:

<http://preview.weather.gov/graphical/>

under the following names:

Daily FRET (ds.fret.bin)

Total Weekly FRET (ds.frettot.bin)

Daily FRET departure from normal (ds.fretdep.bin)

For customers who key on the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) super heading to access NDFD elements, the super headings are:

Geographical Area	Element	WMO Headers
CONUS	Daily FRET	ZEUZ98 KWBN and ZEUZ97 KWBN
CONUS	Total Weekly FRET	ZZUZ97 KWBN
CONUS	FRET Departure from normal	ZLUZ98 KWBN and ZLUZ97 KWBN

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

<http://ndfd.weather.gov/technical.htm>

Comments and feedback on these experimental elements are welcome through December 5, 2014 at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=FRETSCV>

GRIB2 users:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=ndfd-grids>

Users OF XML SOAP service:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=xmlsoap>

NDFD online graphics:

<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=wxmap>

Evapotranspiration Table (ETT) text products composed of daily FRET values for particular locations for the next seven days are also available on an experimental basis at:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/DF.c5/DC.textf/DS.ettax/>

These new elements will remain experimental until NWS assesses feedback and completes a Technical Analysis. At that time, the NWS will determine whether to move these experimental elements to operational status, discontinue them, or revise and extend the experimental feedback period.

If you have any questions, you may contact:

Dan Matusiewicz
Office of Climate, Water and Weather Services
Silver Spring, MD
301-713-0624, x 164
daniel.matusiewicz@noaa.gov

National Public Information Statements are online at:

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

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