

**Enhanced RFW Bullet Format
Product Description Document (PDD)
September 2013**

Part I – Mission Connection

- a. Product Description – The National Weather Service (NWS) has the responsibility to make its weather, water, and climate information widely available in an easy to read format. NWS Directive 10-401 (Products and Services to Support Fire and Other Incidents) provides details on content and format of the Red Flag Warning (RFW), including a requirement that the RFW headline must contain the weather threat, timing, reason for issuance and area affected. Fire weather customers of the NWS have expressed concern that this requirement results in overly long and complex RFW headlines that are difficult to understand. To address these concerns, select NWS offices in Western Region and Southern Region will issue an experimental RFW format for the 2013-14 fire season that moves the weather threat, reason for issuance and affected area from the main headline and into several easy to read bullets immediately below the headline.
- b. Purpose – With the diversity of customers using the RFW and the large number of threats that can occur with an RFW, the headline can become very long and complex. Utilizing the bullet format of the RFW, the headline can be simplified while still providing essential details of the threat within bullets immediately following the headline.
- c. Audience – The target audience for this experimental RFW format include all fire weather and NWS Decision Support Service (DSS) partners and customers, local media and the public.
- d. Presentation Format –The current RFW bullet format can be found in [NWSI 10-401, Fire Weather Services Product Specification](#). The experimental RFW uses a shorter headline containing the valid time of the warning. Bullets immediately following the headline detail the threat and areas impacted in an easy to read format, including counties impacted for those customers unfamiliar with Fire Weather Zones.
- e. Example –

...RED FLAG WARNING IN EFFECT FROM 10 AM THIS MORNING TO MIDNIGHT MDT TONIGHT...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN BILLINGS HAS ISSUED A RED FLAG WARNING...WHICH IS IN EFFECT FROM 10 AM THIS MORNING TO MIDNIGHT MDT TONIGHT.

* IMPACTS: LOW HUMIDITIES...HOT TEMPERATURES...WIND SHIFT WITH A COLD FRONT...AND INCREASING THUNDERSTORM ACTIVITY

WILL CREATE ERRATIC FIRE BEHAVIOR AND NEW FIRE STARTS.

* **AFFECTED AREA:**

IN SOUTH CENTRAL MT FIRE ZONES...124...125...126...127...128.

IN SOUTHEAST MT FIRE ZONES...130.

IN SOUTHEAST MT AND NORTHWEST SD FIRE ZONES...131.

IN NORTH CENTRAL WY FIRE ZONES...274

* **COUNTIES AFFECTED:**

IN SOUTH CENTRAL MT...PARK...MUSSELSHELL...YELLOWSTONE.

IN SOUTHEAST MT...FALLON...CARTER

IN NORTHWEST SD...HARDING

IN NORTH CENTRAL WY...SHERIDAN

- f. Feedback Method – The following participating NWS offices will gather customer feedback on this experimental format from local fire weather and DSS customers throughout the 2013-14 fire season:

Western Region-: WFO BYZ

Southern Region: (WFOs Albuquerque, El Paso, Midland and Lubbock.)

At the end of the comment period, the Experimental RFW format will be evaluated for National Implementation.

Feedback can be provided via electronic survey at the following link:

www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=expbulletedRFW

In addition, formal comments regarding the specifics of the new RFW format can be directed to:

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Part II – Technical Description

- a. Format and Science Basis – The new RFW format will be generated using formatters within the WFOs AWIPS II GHG.
- b. Availability – The product will be disseminated as a standard RFW on an as needed basis.