

National Spot Forecast Webpage Product Description Document (PDD) May 1, 2016

Part 1 - Mission Connection

a. Product Description – The current system for serving National Weather Service (NWS) spot forecasts is outdated and does not meet current user demand. In response to this, a new experimental Spot Forecast Webpage was created.

Effective November 1, 2016, this webpage will be made operational for NWS users across all 50 states. The original NWS Spot Webpages will remain available as an operational backup to the new NWS Spot Forecast Webpage until January 3, 2017. This backup capability is being provided to assure proper Weather Forecast Office (WFO) configuration of the new local spot interfaces, and to provide time for users and WFO to coordinate interface transition through the fire season.

The new NWS Spot Webpage includes service for all hazard incidents such as Hazardous Materials, Search and Rescue, and Marine. This is in addition to the prescribed fire and wildfire options that are available for request.

The new NWS Spot Webpage offers a consolidated web presence. This means that there is one location to request spot forecasts regardless of location or incident type. The associated relational database will direct the spot request to the appropriate NWS Forecast Office to fill the request.

Educational material on the new Experimental Spot Webpage can be found at:

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/fire/docs/New_SPOT_Program_training_external.pptx

b. Purpose - The new NWS Spot Webpage is an upgraded version of the current NWS spot webpages. A Google interface and all hazard service were added.

c. Audience - The audience for the new NWS Spot Webpage is users of weather decision support information including fire managers, emergency managers, and numerous local, state, and federal government agencies.

d. Presentation Format - The new NWS Spot Webpage is a web based system that is hosted by the NWS' National Internet Dissemination System (NIDS).

e. Feedback Method - Feedback can be provide online at the following link:

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

For more information regarding this service, please contact:

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Part II – Technical Description

a. Format and Science - The technical documentation for the new Spot Webpage are available at:

http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/fire/docs/New_SPOT_Program_training_external.pptx

b. Product Availability - Spot forecast data are available for request through the new NWS Spot webpage at: www.weather.gov/spot. The request is filled by the appropriate NWS Weather Forecast Office and disseminated to the user by the same web interface. .

c. Additional Information - All NWS Regions have selected November 1, 2016, as the operational transition date for the new program.