

# Graphical Forecast Table Product Description Document (PDD)

6/05/03

## Part I - Mission Connection

### a. Description of Product - The National Weather Service's (NWS) Graphical Forecast

Table provides a graphical representation of digital/tabular forecasts of maximum temperature, minimum temperature, probability of precipitation, 3- hourly temperatures, dewpoint temperatures, relative humidity, sky condition, wind direction and speed, obstruction to visibility, and precipitation type.

b. Purpose - The Graphical Forecast Table is derived from forecast weather parameters found in the Area Forecast Matrix (AFM). The AFM is primarily intended for use by large volume users of NWS forecast information and for automated retrieval of forecast parameters. This format may be difficult for much of the general public to read and interpret. Therefore, in an effort to support NWS Strategic Plan and its goal to provide graphical weather products, the AFM has been reformatted into a graphical product that is easier to interpret and understand.

c. Intended Audience -The target audience for this graphical product is the general public. The product is available to anyone who has an Internet connection. Since this product is in the public domain, it can be acquired by intermediaries, repackaged, and re-transmitted in accord with standard NWS product use policies. Using advances in computer capabilities, as well as scientific advances to create customer-based products and services, the National Weather Service, through the Graphical Forecast Table, strives toward the following goals:

- provide customers with forecast information that is easy to interpret and understand
- provide timely and readily accessible forecast information
- improve and standardize the graphical presentation format of public weather forecast information

d. Presentation Method - The Graphical Forecast Table is a web based graphical product displayed as a series of tables composed of iconic images and alphanumeric weather forecast data. The product can be found on each Eastern Region WFO Homepage under Graphical Forecast. Eastern Region WFOs can be accessed from the Eastern Region Headquarters Home Page <http://www.erh.noaa.gov>.

e. Feedback Mechanism - We are always seeking to improve our products based on user feedback. An OMB approved form may be used to submit comments about this new product. It is available on or within the web site containing the product.

Technical comments for the Graphical Forecast Table product developer may be addressed to: National Weather Service

Attn: Tom Kriehn

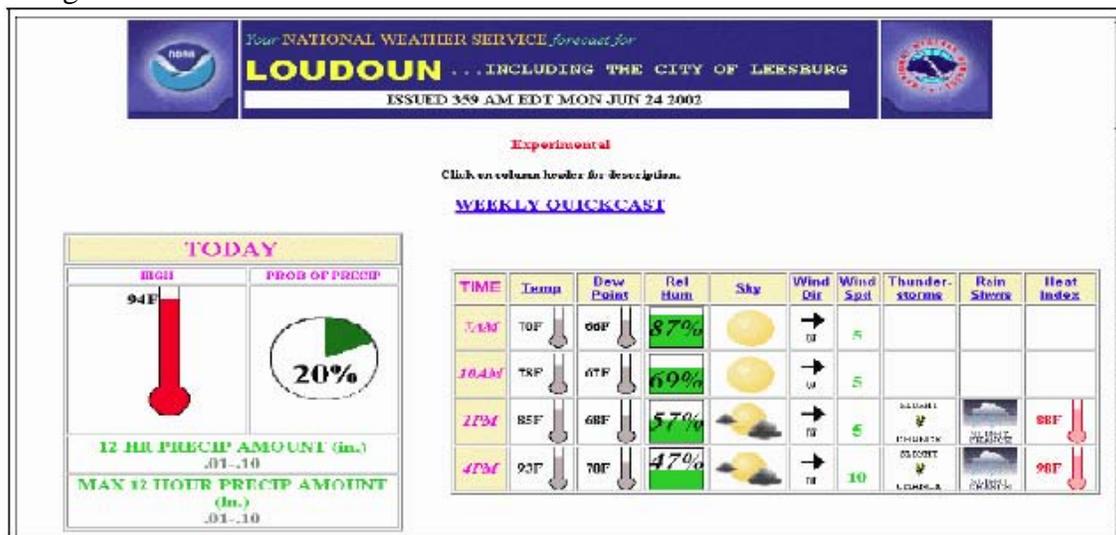
533 Roberts Rd.

Newport, NC 28570 or e-mail comments to:

*thomas.kriehn@noaa.gov*

## Part II - Technical Description

a. Format & Science Basis -The Graphical Forecast Table is composed of forecast information in digital form and iconic images displaying forecast parameters for maximum temperature, minimum temperature, probability of precipitation, 3hourly temperatures, dewpoint temperatures, relative humidity, sky condition, wind direction and speed, obstruction to visibility, and precipitation type. A sample portion of this product is shown in Figure 1.



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**Figure 1.** Graphical Forecast Table. Within the product, links above the parameter columns provide descriptions of the various weather parameters. A link is also available for a “Weekly Quickcast”; a seven day summarization of the forecast in a similar format. Internet links to a realtime Graphical Forecast Table and associated Weekly Quickcast are provided below.

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1          2          3          4          5          6          7          8
12345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890123456789012345678901234567890

Product Format          Description of Entry
FOaaii cccc ddhhmm   (WMO Heading)
AFMxxx               (AWIPS ID)

AREA FORECAST MATRICES (MND - NWS Product Name)
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE city state (Issuing Office)
400 AM EST MON FEB 12 2001 (Issuance Time/Date)

stZ###-###>###-ddhhmm- (UGC Type: Zone) - (Exp. Time)
county st-county st-county st (Included County/State)
400 AM EST MON FEB 12 2001 (Issuance Time/Date)

...HIGH WIND WATCH TUE AFTERNOON... (Headline if applicable)

DATE          MON 02/12/01          TUE 02/13/01          WED 02/14/01
UTC 3HRLY    08 11 14 17 20 23 02 05 08 11 14 17 20 23 02 05 08 11 14 17 20 23
EST 3HRLY    03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18 21 00 03 06 09 12 15 18

MAX/MIN      51      36 38 39      55 56 60      45      49 50 52
TEMP         33 39 45 46 45 43 41 39 41 45 49 50 49 49 50 48 46 47 47 49 47
DEWPT        15 17 20 22 25 29 33 34 36 38 40 42 42 43 44 44 44 46 46 43 39
RH           47 40 36 38 45 57 72 82 82 76 70 73 76 79 79 85 92 96 96 79 73
WIND DIR     NW NW W W SW SW W W S S S S S SW SW S SE SE SE SE
WIND SPD     5 8 8 8 8 8 5 2 10 14 28 36 26 22 10 8 5 2 2 5 8
WIND GUST    22 25 42 56 52 34 20
CLOUDS       OV OV OV OV BK BK SC BK BK BK BK BK OV OV OV OV OV BK BK BK
POP 12HR     10      10      20      70      50
QPF 12HR     0      0      0      .25-.49      .10-.24
MAX QPF      0      0      0      .25-.49      .10-.24
SNOW 12HR    00-00      00-00      00-00
RAIN         S C C L L L L C
OBVIS        K K      F F F F F
WIND CHILL 6HR 30 30
MIN CHILL    24
HIGH WIND    A A

DATE          THU 02/15/01          FRI 02/16/01          SAT 02/17/01          SUN 02/18/01
UTC 6HRLY    05      11 17 23 05      11 17 23 05      11 17 23 05      11 17 23 05
EST 6HRLY    00      06 12 18 00      06 12 18 00      06 12 18 00      06 12 18 00

MAX/MIN      35      46      34      41      24      33      18      30
TEMP         41      39 44 43 40      36 39 34 29      24 29 26 22      19 28 24
DEWPT        38      36 36 38 37      34 34 32 26      22 21 18 16      16 20 21
PWIND DIR    SE      S      SW      NW      N      N      SE      SE
WIND CHAR    LT      LT      LT      LT      BZ      WY      LT      LT
AVG CLOUDS   BK      OV      BK      BK      FW      CL      FW      SC
POP 12HR     30      40      40      30      20      20      40      60
RAIN         C
RAIN SHWRS   C

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**Figure 2.** Area Forecast Matrices Product Prototype.

b. Product Availability - The AFM is routinely issued within 30 minutes of the two mandatory forecast packages produced between 1:30 and 5:30 am/pm local time. However, updates may be issued at any time as conditions warrant. When the AFM is issued, a local application program runs automatically which reformats the AFM into hypertext markup language (HTML). The product is then transmitted automatically to the Internet server hosting the local NWS home page. When displayed with an Internet browser, graphical forecasts for up to seven days in advance can be viewed. These products are compliant with the 1998 Amendment to Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act.

c. Other Details –

(1) The Graphical Forecast Table was created by Carin Goodall, WFO Newport/Morehead City, NC

(2) Refer to NWSI 10-503, WFO Public Weather Forecast Products Specification for a technical description of the Area Forecast Matrices (AFM) product.

