

# **Maps on Demand Product Description Document (PDD) October 1, 2013**

## **Part 1 - Mission Connection**

Product Description - The National Weather Service (NWS) is now providing an experimental forecast display for selected weather forecast elements to provide users the ability to display data from the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) onto a map of the United States. This forecast display is different from current graphic displays of NDFD in that it allows the user to select a custom area as well as provides the addition of pre-generated geographical sectors of the United States.

a. Purpose - The purpose of new display is to provide users with NWS forecast information in a graphical format that can be easily viewed and interpreted by our users. The new display will be extremely useful for decision support as it allows users to create displays of NWS information and hazards and thus provides the capability to communicate this data and/or the associated impacts.

b. Audience - The intended audience includes the public, emergency managers, the media, academia, and other users. In addition, the maps will be used by NWS' National and Regional Operations Centers to collaborate and communicate Decision Support Services to key partners, and to NOAA and NWS senior leadership.

c. Presentation Format - Forecast information is presented on a map of the United States, including for Alaska and Hawaii. Maps feature color contouring with distinct legends as appropriate to the forecast element, as well as numerical value for the element in some cases.

e. Feedback Method - Through March 31, 2014, users may access these maps via a "web widget" in the lower left-hand corner of the NWS National Web Page at: <http://www.weather.gov/>

## **Part II – Technical Description**

a. Format and Science: These "Maps on Demand" will be available in two ways through the experimental period for each of these forecast elements. First, displays will be made available for a selected number of pre-generated geographical sectors via thumbnail maps at the bottom of the page. In addition, users may select their own geographical domains via a user-selectable interface accessible from the "Maps on Demand" page.

b. Product Availability: For this experiment, forecast maps for the following weather elements will be available:

Forecast Snow Amount (every 6 hours and total out to 2 days)

Forecast Ice Accumulation (every 6 hours and total out to 2 days)

Forecast Maximum and Minimum Temperature (out to 2 days)

Forecast Precipitation Amount (every 6 hours and total out to 3 days)

Forecast Probability of Precipitation (every 6 hours)

c. Additional Information - Please contact:

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