

# Experimental New NWS Hazards Map Interface Product Description Document (PDD) February 8, 2011

## Part 1 - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description – An experimental new interactive web map displaying National Weather Service (NWS) hazardous, routine, and observed weather information and forecasts.
- b. Purpose – The operational web-based watch/warning/advisory (w/w/a) map was conceived and implemented nearly a decade ago, and does not take advantage of the capabilities of modern web browsers. Comments recently gathered from key partners in the emergency management and electronic media communities indicate the existing interface is difficult to understand and does not fully meet their needs. This new experimental NWS hazards map interface provides more interactive, easier to understand access to NWS weather information.
- c. Audience – The general public, emergency managers, electronic media, NOAA, and other federal, state, and local government agencies.
- d. Presentation Format – The experimental web map can be accessed at:  
<http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/newmap>.
- e. Feedback Method – Comments will be accepted from 10 February 2011 through 31 May 2011. Comments can be made via the web form at:  
<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=newmap>

The web service may be adjusted during this period to address comments and suggestions, and to correct any problems.

Technical questions regarding this experimental web service may be addressed to:

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## **Part II – Technical Description**

- a. Format and Science Basis – This experimental web service was developed to provide access to NWS routine and hazardous weather information and forecasts via an interactive web-based map that takes advantage of the capabilities of modern web browsers. This experimental web service addresses numerous comments and suggestions about the existing web interface from the public and key partners.

The map displays NWS long-fuse and hydrologic watch, warning, and advisories as three colors: Orange, Red, and Yellow respectively. Tornado Warnings, Severe Thunderstorm Warnings, and Flash Flood Warnings are displayed as Purple, Blue, and Green polygons, respectively. This is a simplification of the 100-plus colors currently displayed on the operational w/w/a map.

The new map can be panned and zoomed by the user similar to many standard online maps. One click on the map brings up a box in which the user can browse the forecasts, current weather observation, recent weather history, and any hazardous weather products valid at that location. Any hazardous weather products (map and text) can be viewed with a second click by the user.

This web service is Section 508 and DOC security compliant.

- b. Availability – This experimental web service is expected to be available consistently 24/7 via standard NWS web services. The underlying forecasts and information are updated according to NWS Directives and Instructions.
- c. Additional Information – Please refer to the documentation online outline [general information](#) and [relevant policies](#) for NWS web services, routine forecasts, and hazardous weather services.