

Product Description Document  
Experimental Mountain Pass Forecast

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description – The Experimental Mountain Pass Forecast allows customers to check the forecast for significant highway passes for the next five days. Passes were chosen for this product based upon the frequency of calls to the WFO concerning weather at the pass and potential for impacts to travelers and commerce. Passes included are Black Butte, Siskiyou, Sexton Summit, Smith Hill, Stage Road and Canyon Creek Summits on Interstate 5; Lake of the Woods and Quartz Mountain Pass on Oregon 140, Hayes Hill on US 199, and Cedar Pass on California 299.
- b. Product Type – Experimental (local)
- c. Purpose - The purpose of this product is to provide our customers and partners with enhanced detail on weather conditions along major travel routes in the Medford CWA. I-5 is the major corridor for traffic North and South on the West Coast, with the passes in the Medford CWA being the predominant weather related choke points for travel on the West Coast.
- d. Audience - The audience is any customer in the WFO forecast area that would like access to enhanced forecast information that could have significant impacts on their travel plans. These forecasts will also be useful for the Department of Transportation for resource planning.
- e. Presentation Format - All forecasts will occur via a web page interface. Data are available in text. Example:

```
BLACK BUTTE SUMMIT-  
LOCATION...CALIFORNIA INTERSTATE 5 NEAR MILEPOST 753  
349 PM PST MON MAR 1 2010
```

```
...WINTER STORM WATCH IN EFFECT FROM TUESDAY EVENING THROUGH  
WEDNESDAY MORNING ABOVE 3000 FEET...
```

```
.TONIGHT...CLOUDY. CHANCE OF RAIN IN THE EVENING...THEN RAIN  
AFTER MIDNIGHT. LOWS 35-37. SOUTH WINDS AROUND 20 MPH EARLY IN  
THE EVENING BECOMING LIGHT. CHANCE OF RAIN 80 PERCENT.
```

```
.TUESDAY...RAIN IN THE MORNING...THEN RAIN AND SNOW IN THE  
AFTERNOON. LITTLE OR NO SNOW ACCUMULATION. HIGHS 37-41. SOUTH  
WINDS AROUND 20 MPH. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION NEAR 100 PERCENT.
```

```
.TUESDAY NIGHT...RAIN AND SNOW SHOWERS IN THE EVENING...THEN SNOW  
SHOWERS AFTER MIDNIGHT. SNOW ACCUMULATION OF 1 TO 2 INCHES. LOWS  
AROUND 30. SOUTH WINDS AROUND 20 MPH IN THE EVENING BECOMING  
LIGHT. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION 80 PERCENT.
```

```
.WEDNESDAY...SNOW SHOWERS. HIGHS 34-41. CHANCE OF SNOW  
80 PERCENT.
```

```
.WEDNESDAY NIGHT...MOSTLY CLOUDY WITH A 20 PERCENT CHANCE OF SNOW  
SHOWERS. LOWS 28-29.
```

```
.THURSDAY...MOSTLY CLOUDY. SLIGHT CHANCE OF SNOW SHOWERS IN THE  
MORNING...THEN SLIGHT CHANCE OF RAIN AND SNOW SHOWERS IN THE
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AFTERNOON AND EVENING. HIGHS 40-44. CHANCE OF PRECIPITATION  
20 PERCENT.

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- f. Feedback Method - We will solicit feedback through e-mail to the WFO Webmaster. Also to assess this experimental product, users of the "Mountain Pass Forecast" are asked to provide feedback via on line to:

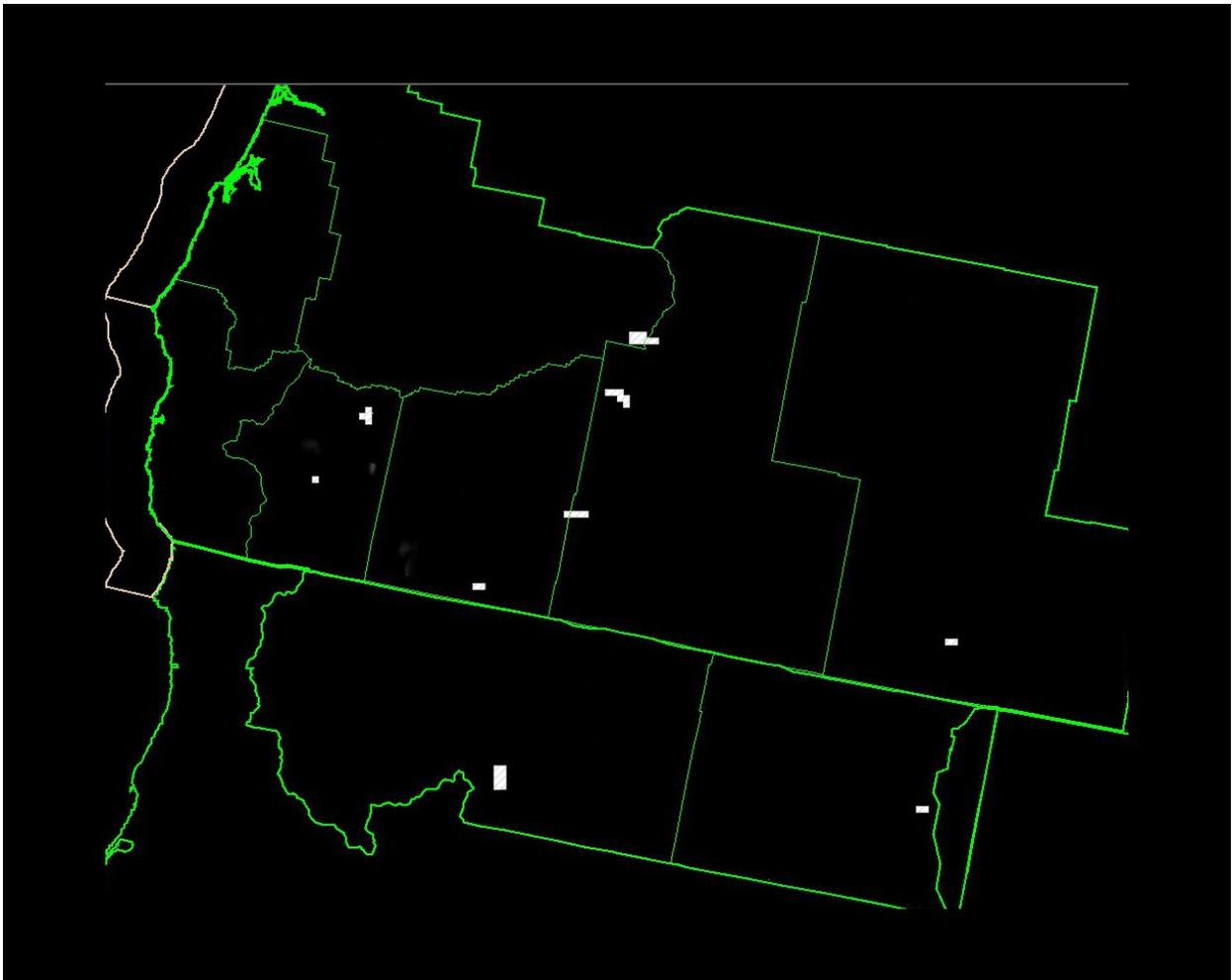
<http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=MPF-mfr>

Written comments may be mailed to: John Lovegrove, MIC National Weather Service 4003 Cirrus Drive Medford, OR 97504

- g. The URL for the forecast is <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/mfr/fcst/pass.php> . A graphic interface will be developed to access the text forecast at a later date.
- h. PDD Approved by Robert Tibi, Acting Western Region Director

## Part II - Technical Description

- a. **Format and Science Basis** - This product is being developed to provide customers and partners detailed weather forecast information at highway passes across the Medford CWA. The data are being pulled from the digital database by a Graphical Forecast Editor forecast formatter and placed in the PDXTVLMFR product. The edit areas used by the formatter are displayed in Figure 1. The formatter is triggered when the forecast grids are transmitted to the NDFD. The text product is not post edited. Elements provided in the forecast include: temperature, sky cover, PoP, wind direction/speed/gust, precipitation and snow amounts, weather and snow level.
- b. **Availability** - The text forecasts will be available 24/7. They will be updated whenever grids are updated and transmitted.
- c. **Additional Information** – These forecasts will benefit anyone making travel plans through our CWA and reduce routine forecast telephone calls for pass weather.



**Figure 1 Mountain Pass Forecast Edit Areas**