Experimental National Water Resources Web Page

Part I - Mission Connection

a. Product Description – The Experimental Water Resources Web Page provides a single web page for displaying water resources information from all River Forecast Centers (RFC). Water resources information includes expected streamflow conditions for next 30, 60, and 90 days. A range of flows are provided for each time period. Forecasts of the most likely value are color coded according to percentage of normal streamflow. More specific information for individual forecast points are available by drilling down to points. Gridded information, such as soil moisture and snow water equivalent may also be provided.

b. Purpose - This web page is designed to provide users a simple, standardized web-based interface to access water resources information produced by all RFCs. This webpage will support NOAA's mission goals of serving society's need for weather and water information and supporting the nation's commerce with information for safe, efficient and environmentally sound transportation.

c. Audience - The audience is the public; state, local, and federal water management agencies; emergency managers; and other officials with an interest in water information.

d. Presentation Format - All interactions occurs via a web page. The web page provides an interface for the public to access water resources information and streamflow forecasts from all RFCs.

The product can be found at http://www.nwrfc.noaa.gov/westernwater/.

From the main webpage map, the user can select and zoom into various geographic "tiles." More detailed forecast information is available by either "mousing over" particular forecast points or clicking on forecast points. The map includes user customizations such as optional geographic feature displays (including lakes, rivers, boundaries, etc.). Forecast plots follow the convention where forecasts and observed values (volume, flow) are displayed (y axis) as a function of time (x axis).

e. Feedback Method – User feedback is a critical part of the NWS assessment of experimental products. The experimental feed back period is from October 1, 2009 through September 30, 2010. Please submit comments and feedback on the experimental National Water Resources Web Page at the following URL:

http://www.weather.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=nwro

Additional comments may be provided to:

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Part II - Technical Description

a. Format and Science Basis - This product is being developed to provide access to various water resource information produced by NWS RFCs. The web page development is based on a set of functional requirements defined by a team with membership from each RFC. It leverages concepts and displays that have been used successfully in the NWS Western Water Supply Web Page, and in fact is being integrated with the Western Water Supply Web Page to provide a seamless suite of water resources information. The underlying data are ensemble streamflow forecasts produced by each RFC using their current methodologies.

b. Availability - This interactive web page is available 24/7. The underlying streamflow forecast data are updated by each RFC according to their established schedules and procedures.

c. Additional Information – None.