

Experimental Fire Weather Planning Forecast (FWF) Text Format

Part I - Mission Connection

- a. Product Description – Due to varied terrain, vegetation and climatology, the Fire Weather Planning Forecast (FWF) in the western U.S. requires forecaster editing following production of draft text from GFE formatters. In the Pacific Northwest, fire weather users and NWS offices in Seattle, WA (SEW), Spokane, WA (OTX), Pendleton, OR (PDT), Portland, OR (PQR) and Medford, OR (MFR) have agreed to test a new format that eases text editing by the NWS forecaster. This experimental FWF text format utilizes left-justified asterisks to begin each line of text. The asterisks help maintain proper word wrapping and indentations in the AWIPS text editor, significantly reducing the amount of time needed to “post edit” the product before dissemination. The format change will be accomplished by adapting the FWF GFE formatter developed by Western Region. The rest of the FWF product is left unchanged. A portion of a sample product is listed below:

```
. TODAY . . .
* SKY/WEATHER . . . . . SUNNY IN THE MORNING . . . BECOMING
  PARTLY CLOUDY IN THE AFTERNOON WITH A SLIGHT CHANCE OF
  SHOWERS.
* LAL . . . . . 1.
* MAX TEMPERATURE . . . . . 62-68 VALLEYS AND 54-62 MOUNTAINS.
* 24 HR TREND . . . . . 1 DEGREE WARMER.
* MIN HUMIDITY . . . . . 30-45 PERCENT.
* 24 HR TREND . . . . . 5 PERCENT DRIER VALLEYS AND 5
  PERCENT
  WETTER MOUNTAINS.
* 20-FOOT WIND . . . . .
* VALLEYS/LWR SLOPES . . . UPSLOPE/UPVALLEY 2 TO 5 MPH.
* RIDGES/UPR SLOPES . . . VARIABLE 2 TO 5 MPH.
* HAINES INDEX . . . . . 2 VERY LOW.
* MIXING HEIGHT . . . . . 3000 FT AGL.
* TRANSPORT WINDS . . . . . WEST 3 TO 7 MPH IN THE MORNING
  SHIFTING TO THE SOUTHWEST IN THE AFTERNOON.
* CWR (> 0.10 IN) . . . . . 0 PERCENT.
```

The FWF is typically updated twice a day during the fire weather season and is disseminated through AWIPS under the product ID NNNFWFXXX where NNN is the node and XXX is the issuing WFO. For example, the product ID for WFO Pendleton, Oregon is PDXFWFPDT. The WMO header for PDT is FNUS56 KPDT. The FWF product can also be found on WFO web pages under the “fire weather” section of the website.

This experimental change has been coordinated with major fire agencies in the Pacific Northwest, including the USFS, the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center and NWSEO.

- b. Product Type – Experimental.
- c. Purpose - The purpose of this experimental change is to substantially reduce the amount of time necessary to post edit the FWF without impacting users of the product. This change will allow more time for customer interaction and decision support activities.
- d. Audience- The primary audience is comprised of fire weather users in Oregon, Washington and the Idaho Panhandle, in particular the Northwest Interagency Coordination Center (NWICC).
- e. Presentation Format – Dissemination will occur through normal NWS channels, including NWS web pages.
- f. Feedback Method - Feedback will be requested by the participating NWS offices via personal contact with local fire agencies, as part of routine fire weather outreach and coordination activities. The period of evaluation will be from May 15, 2011 through November 15, 2011.
- g. Example URLs:

Pendleton
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/total_forecast/getprod.php?wfo=pdt&pil=FWF&sid=pdt

Portland
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/total_forecast/getprod.php?wfo=pqr&pil=FWF&sid=pqr

Medford
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/total_forecast/getprod.php?wfo=pqr&pil=FWF&sid=mfr

Seattle
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/total_forecast/getprod.php?wfo=pqr&pil=FWF&sid=sew

Spokane
http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/total_forecast/getprod.php?wfo=pqr&pil=FWF&sid=otx
- h. PDD Approved by Mark Tew, NWS Western Region Deputy Director

Part II - Technical Description

- a. Format and Science Basis - This experimental text format is being developed to reduce the amount of time needed to manually edit the Fire Weather Planning Forecast (FWF) prior to dissemination. This will allow NWS forecasters more time to focus on activities such as fire weather customer briefings and decision support.

- b. Availability – The FWF is routinely issued twice per day (once in the morning and again in the afternoon) during the fire weather season and updated on an unscheduled basis as conditions warrant.
- c. Additional Information – This experiment is being conducted by WFOs in the NWICC's area of responsibility. Results of this experiment will be utilized to determine if this text format could be adopted on a larger scale.