

# Experimental National Snowfall Analysis Product Description Document (PDD)

## Part 1 – Mission Connection

### 1. Product / Service Description

The National Weather Service (NWS) collects snowfall data from NWS Cooperative Observers (COOP) and from Community Collaborative Rain Hail and Snow Network (CoCoRaHS) observers to support its forecast and warning operations. Individual Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) typically provide snowfall collectives in text (and occasionally in graphical) format for their areas of responsibility. This service provides unified snowfall analysis estimates for the continental US. The service includes an interactive web based map to display the snowfall analysis, as well as the ability to download the information in shape file format.

### 2. Purpose / Intended Use

The snowfall analysis is designed to provide a quick analysis of snowfall which has occurred over the twenty four hour period ending at 7 am local time. The analysis can be used to approximate the amount of snow which occurred in areas outside of the normal reporting network.

### 3. Audience

This service is intended to provide decision support information to a wide range of decision makers including emergency managers, media, and the general public. Anyone with an internet connection will be able to access this service.

### 4. Presentation Format

The snowfall analysis product will be viewed using a web based interactive map, which can be viewed in any commonly available web browser. The interactive map will allow the user to pan and zoom the map to focus in on their area of interest.

The raw data displayed by the map will also be available for download in a shape file format for ingesting into GIS based systems.

### 5. Feedback Method

Feedback and comments on this service can be given via the product survey form. Technical or general comments on this service can also be given via e-mail to [brian.walawender@noaa.gov](mailto:brian.walawender@noaa.gov)

## Part 2 – Technical

### 1. Format and Science Basics

Snowfall reports from COOP and CoCoRaHS observers are objectively analyzed using an inverse distance weighted interpolation technique to create a snowfall analysis graphic in shape file format. The shape file analysis is displayed on the web page via an interactive web based map. The analysis will typically utilize over 3000 reports.

### 2. Availability

This product is generated four times per hour between 8 am CST and 5 pm CST, seven days a week. Over 95% of the data available for the analysis should be processed by 11 am CST.

### 3. Additional Information

The URL for this service is - <http://www.srh.noaa.gov/ridge2/snow/>

### Example

