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Service Change Notice 20-52 Updated
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
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To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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From: Michelle Hawkins, Chief
 Severe, Fire, Public and Winter Weather Services Branch

Subject: Updated: Snow Level Grids for Select CONUS WFOs as an Element in the National Digital Forecast Database Will Become Operational: Effective December 15, 2020

Updated to delay transition to operational status until December 15, 2020.

Effective December 15, 2020, at 1400 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC), NWS will transition the experimental Snow Level Grid for select contiguous U.S. (CONUS) Weather Forecast Offices (WFOs) in the National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) to operational status.

These grids will be available year round:

- Hourly out to 36 hours from NDFD issuance time.
- Every three hours out to 72 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1 when new forecast projections are introduced at 2200 UTC on Day 0.
- Every three hours out to 84 hours from 0000 UTC Day 1 beginning at 1100 UTC Day 1.

More details on the operational Snow Level Grids, including participating offices, technical description, and scientific basis are available in the Product Description Document:

https://nws.weather.gov/products/PDD/PDD_OplSnowLevelGridsinNDFD_2020.pdf

These grids will be available from NDFD in Gridded Binary Version 2 (GRIB2) files via Hypertext Transfer Protocol (HTTP) and File Transfer Protocol (FTP) and as Graphics via the Web.

Users who pull NDFD elements in GRIB2 format via the Internet may need to update their procedures and scripts to access this new element. The first two links below will be available AFTER the effective date of December 15, 2020.

GRIB2 files:

<ftp://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snowlevel.bin>

<http://tgftp.nws.noaa.gov/SL.us008001/ST.opnl/DF.gr2/DC.ndfd/AR.conus/VP.001-003/ds.snowlevel.bin>

NDFD online graphics available now:

<https://digital.mdl.nws.noaa.gov/>

Information on accessing and using NDFD elements is online at:

https://www.weather.gov/mdl/ndfd_home

For technical questions regarding NDFD data, please contact:

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National Service Change Notices are online at:

<https://www.weather.gov/notification>

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