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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HEADQUARTERS WASHINGTON DC
500 PM EST MON MAR 1 2004

TO: FAMILY OF SERVICES /FOS/ SUBSCRIBERS
NOAA WEATHER WIRE SERVICE /NWS/ SUBSCRIBERS
EMERGENCY MANAGERS WEATHER INFORMATION NETWORK /EMWIN/
SUBSCRIBERS
NOAAPORT SUBSCRIBERS
OTHER NWS CUSTOMERS...PARTNERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: JAMES E. LEE
CHIEF...FIRE AND PUBLIC WEATHER SERVICES BRANCH

SUBJECT: AMENDED NOAA/NWS FIRE WEATHER SITE-SPECIFIC FORECAST
POLICY...EFFECTIVE APRIL 1 2004

IN NOVEMBER OF 2003...THE AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL SOCIETY HOSTED AN OPEN FORUM AT THE FIFTH SYMPOSIUM ON FIRE AND FOREST METEOROLOGY IN ORLANDO FLORIDA. THE PURPOSE WAS TO DISCUSS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTOR ROLES IN PROVIDING FIRE WEATHER SITE-SPECIFIC FORECAST SERVICES TO THE STATES AND OTHER NON-FEDERAL ENTITIES...AND THE CURRENT STATUS OF THESE SERVICES.

THE FORUM WAS INSPIRED BY THE RECENT NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES REPORT "FAIR WEATHER: EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS IN WEATHER AND CLIMATE SERVICES" /NATIONAL ACADEMY PRESS...2003/...[HTTP://BOOKS.NAP.EDU/CATALOG/10610.HTML](http://books.nap.edu/catalog/10610.html) /USE LOWER CASE/...WHICH RECOMMENDED THAT ISSUES OF INTEREST TO THE ENTIRE WEATHER AND CLIMATE ENTERPRISE...PARTICULARLY FEDERAL AND STATE GOVERNMENTS...THE PRIVATE SECTOR AND ACADEMIA...BE DISCUSSED OPENLY IN A NEUTRAL FORUM.

AFTER LISTENING TO PARTICIPANTS COMMENTS AND VIEWPOINTS...THE NWS CONCLUDED THAT THE CURRENT NWS POLICY ON PROVIDING SITE-SPECIFIC FORECASTS WAS NOT BEING IMPLEMENTED CONSISTENTLY ACROSS THE AGENCY. THE NWS AGREED TO AMEND THE CURRENT POLICY TO CORRECT THIS SITUATION AND IMPLEMENT THE NEW POLICY BY APRIL 1 2004. THE DRAFT POLICY THE NWS INTENDS TO IMPLEMENT IS LOCATED AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTP://FIRE.BOI.NOAA.GOV/POLICY/SITESPECIFICPOLICY2004.HTM](http://fire.boi.noaa.gov/policy/sitespecificpolicy2004.htm)

YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO SEND ANY SIGNIFICANT COMMENTS BY MARCH 19 2004 TO:

DAVID BILLINGSLEY
NWS FIRE WEATHER PROGRAM MANAGER
BOISE IDAHO
PHONE: 208-334-9824
EMAIL: DAVID.BILLINGSLEY@NOAA.GOV

THE NWS WILL RE-EVALUATE THIS POLICY IN THE FALL AFTER THE 2004 TRADITIONAL FIRE SEASON.

NATIONAL PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENTS ARE ONLINE AT /USE LOWER CASE/:

[HTTPS://WWW.WEATHER.GOV/NOTIFICATION/ARCHIVE](https://www.weather.gov/notification/archive)

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