

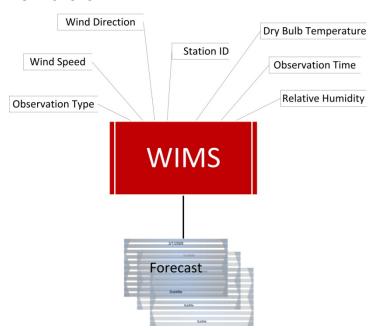
WORKING WITH FORECASTS FCST

This chapter provides the information needed to display, create, and edit forecasts. Only NWS-User access level has permission to create and edit forecasts.

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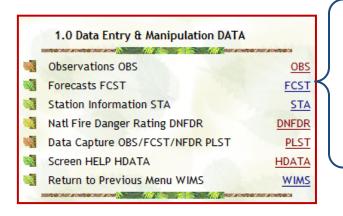
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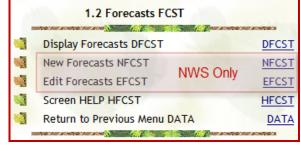
FORECASTS



In support of landscape scale fire weather, the NWS issues a narrative description and forecasts of fire weather parameters. Forecast weather parameters are issued as predicted values for the next day's weather at a RAWS station, or trends for tomorrow based on current day observations. The ultimate product is a point (station) based forecast for producing next-day NFDRS indices.

ORECAST MENU is under the DATA Menu





Non NWS users will see the FCST menu without the NWS tools of NFCST and EFCST.

DISPLAY FORECASTS DFCST menu allows all users to Display Forecasts.

1.2 Forecasts FCST

Display Forecasts DFCST

Screen HELP HFCST

Return to Previous Menu DATA

DATA

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DPFCST - Display point forecasts.

A Point forecast is a site specific weather forecast for a SIG or station.

DTFCST - Display trend forecasts.

A Trend forecast generates point forecasts by trending today's observed weather for stations within a public SIG. Trend forecasts are entered and displayed by Fire Weather Zone (SIG). These types of forecasts apply the specified trend (+/-) to today's observed values to generate a point forecast for tomorrow.

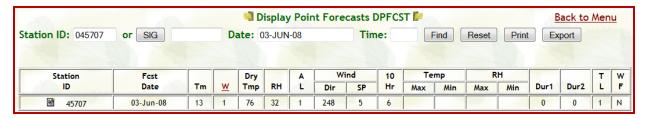
For more information about options available to the NWS-User access level, see "Creating and editing forecasts –for NWS users only," later in this chapter.

DPFCST form



The DPFCST form opens with tomorrow's date in the Date field. The Station ID or SIG fields may contain the last station or SIG used. Enter the Station ID or the SIG and select the **Find** button. To display a point forecast for another date, enter a date or date range in the date field.

Forecasts are not created for all stations for the entire year. If forecasts are needed, contact the NWS.



In the example above, the forecasted weather observations for 1300 on 03-JUN-08 are based on weather observations recorded for the station for 02-JUN-08.

After generating a DPFCST the results can be Printed or Exported by selecting the form buttons. For additional information on Print and Export see Unit xx WIMS Basics.

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DTFCST form

A Trend forecasts does not contain actual forecasted observations but provides trends for the stations in the SIG. Trend Forecasts are limited to public SIGs only and are numbered by the NWS, using the fire weather zones.

In the SIG: field type the public Special Interest Group name, in the Date: field type the forecast date in the Time field, type the forecast time and Click find.



The Display Trend Forecast form redisplays listing the SIG, valid forecast date and time, and other forecast information for that SIG.

In the example below, the query was run for SIG 502. The numbers of the table are not forecasted observations but trends to apply to today's observations to determine an observation output.



Observations from the stations in the SIG will have the following trends for 04-OCT-08 applied to 03-OCT-08 weather data to produce forecasted NFDRS Outputs for 04-OCT-08

- W (SOW) 6 (Showers)
- Dry Bulb down 10
- RH up 32
- Wind Speed up 1
- 10 Hr up 4
- In addition a Fuels Wet Flag-WF is forecasted to be Y

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FORECAST FIELD DEFINITIONS

Field	Description and action to be taken
Station ID: (Station number) -or-	Enter the number of the station you want to displayor-
SIG: (Special Interest Group name) Enter the name of the SIG you want to display.	
Date: (Forecast date)	Enter the forecast date, in the format DD-MMM-YY.
	You may also enter a date range. The default date is tomorrow's date (today's forecast).
Time: (Forecast time)	Using the 24-hour clock, enter the beginning local time of the forecast:
	Code Time Code Time 00 midnight 01 1: 00 am 02 2: 00 am 03 3: 00 am 04 4: 00 am 05 5: 00 am 06 6: 00 am 07 7: 00 am 08 8: 00 am 10 10: 00 am 11 11: 00 am 12 12 noon 13 1: 00 pm 14 2: 00 pm 15 3: 00 pm 16 4: 00 pm 17 5: 00 pm 18 6: 00 pm 19 7: 00 pm 20 8: 00 pm 21 9: 00 pm 22 10: 00 pm

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Field	Description and action to be taken
	23 11: 00 pm. WIMS truncates the time to the hour.
Fcst Date (Forecast date)	Displays the forecast date, in the format DD-MMM-YY.
Tm (Forecast time)	Displays the forecast time to the nearest hour.
W (State of the weather)	Displays the code for the state of the weather: 1 Scattered clouds 2 Broken clouds 3 Overcast 4 Foggy 5 Drizzling 6 Raining 7 Snow/sleet 8 Showering 9 Thunderstorms in progress.
Dry Tmp (Dry bulb temperature)	Displays the forecasted dry bulb temperature in degrees. Fahrenheit or Celsius is specified in the Temperature Code: field in the station catalog.
RH% (Forecasted relative humidity percentile)	Displays the forecasted relative humidity percentile.
AL (Forecasted afternoon's lightning)	Displays the forecasted lightning activity from 1300-2400 hours. Level Code Description 1 No thunderstorms or building cumulus clouds 2 Infrequent lightning, few building cumulus 3 Occasional lightning, scattered cumulus 4 Frequent lightning, cumulus to 1/3 area 5 Frequent and intense lightning, cumulus 6 Common dry lightning, low lightning flash rate, scattered towering cumulus.

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Field	Description and action to be taken		
Wind Dir (Wind direction)	Displays the forecasted wind direction in degrees:		
	Code Wind direction in degree NNE 23 NE 45 ENE 68 E 90 ESE 113 SE 135 SSE 158 S 180 SSW 203 SW 225 WSW 248 W 270 WNW 293 NW 315 NNW 338 N 360 FL 0		
Wind Sp (Wind speed)	Displays the forecasted ten-minute wind speed.		
10 Hr (Ten-hour fuel stick moisture content)	Displays the forecasted ten-hour fuel stick moisture content. This value is rarely entered by NWS forecasters. Instead, WIMS computes the forecasted 10-hr moisture base on forecast weather parameters.		
Temp Max (24-hour forecasted maximum temperature)	Displays the maximum forecasted temperature for the next 24 hours.		
Temp Min (24-hour forecasted minimum temperature)	Displays the minimum forecasted temperature for the next 24 hours.		
RH% Max (Maximum forecasted relative humidity percentile)	Displays the maximum forecasted relative humidity percentile for the next 24 hours.		
RH% Min (Minimum forecasted relative humidity percentile)	Displays the minimum forecasted relative humidity percentile for the next 24 hours.		
Dur1 (first 16 hours of forecasted precipitation)	Displays the forecasted duration of precipitation, in hours, from 1: 00 pm to 5: 00 am (1300 to 0500).		

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Field	Description and action to be taken	
Dur2 (Next 8 hours of forecasted precipitation)	Displays the forecasted duration of precipitation, in hours, from 5: 00 am to 1: 00 pm. (0500 to 1300).	
TL (Today's forecasted lightning)	Displays today's lightning activity level, from midnight to midnight:	
	 Code Description No thunderstorms or building cumulus clouds Infrequent lightning, few building cumulus Occasional lightning, scattered cumulus Frequent lightning, cumulus to 1/3 area Frequent and intense lightning, cumulus common Dry lightning, low lightning flash rate, scattered towering cumulus, with virga. 	
WF (Wet fuels flag)	Displays the forecasted state of the fuel: Y indicates wet fuels N indicates dry fuels. If the state of the weather code (W field) is 5, 6, or 7 the Wet Fuels field is set to "Y." For more information about wet fuel descriptions, see Appendix E, "NFDRS technical reference."	

CREATING AND EDITING FORECASTS-FOR NWS USERS ONLY

If you have NWS-user authorization, you can also:

- enter new point forecasts
- enter new trend forecasts
- edit point forecasts
- edit trend forecasts.

These menu options and FastPaths automatically display on the Forecasts menu if you have the NWS-user authorization. For more information, see Chapter 4, "WIMS basics".

NWS point and trend forecasts are usually received via the NWS-Gateway.

The New Forecasts menu allows you to:

- enter a point forecast
- enter a trend forecast.

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In the Option/ FastPath: field, type NFCST and Click Go.

Remember, you can skip this menu by typing the FastPath command:

NPFCST, to access the Create Point Forecast form

NTFCST, to access the Create Trend Forecast form.



NEW FORECAST NECST MENU

Select NPFCST to enter new Point Forecasts for a station and/or Special Interest Group (SIG). The SIG can either be a private SIG, or the Public Fire Weather Zone SIGs. Point Forecasts can be entered in both Record (single) or Tabular (multiple) formats, depending on what preference is entered in the Profile (ie. REC or TAB). SIG-Input is only available for Tabular-Type forms.

Select NTFCST to enter a Trend Forecast for a Special Interest Group (Public or Private). Trend Forecasts use a station's observations to generate a Point-Forecast for tomorrow. Note: All Point/Trend values are entered in English Units of Measure. Negative trend values are entered by preceding them with a minus-sign ("-"), positive trends are assumed, however, a plus-sign ("+") can also be specified.

NPFCST

The Create Point Forecast form allows the entry of forecasted weather information for:

- a specific station
- all stations within a SIG.

In the FastPath: field, type NPFCST and select Go.



To Enter a Point Forecast

From the Create Point Forecast form:

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- 1 In the Station ID: field, type the number of the station for the point forecast you want to enter and select Setup. or In the SIG: field, type the public Special Interest Group name and select Go.
- 2 In the Date: field, type the forecast date.

The Create Point Forecast form redisplays listing the station or SIG, forecast date, and valid forecast time for that point forecast.

3 Using the preceding field descriptions, enter the new point forecast. Click Save.

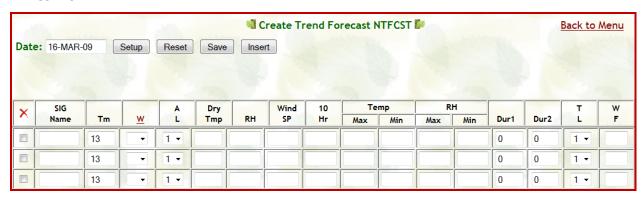
Entering a trend forecast

Trend Forecasts are limited to public SIGs only. Users must have the NWS-User access level to create forecasts.

TO ACCESS THE CREATE TREND FORECAST FORM

In the Option/ FastPath: field, type NTFCST and Click Go.

NTFCST form



To enter a trend forecast

- 1 In the SIG field, type the public Special Interest Group name.
- 2 Using the field descriptions enter the new trend forecast. Select Setup.
- 3 To save the new trend forecast, select Save.

Accessing the Edit Forecast menu

The EDIT FORECASTS menu allows you to:

- edit a point forecast
- edit a trend forecast

You must have the NWS-User access level to edit forecasts.

To access the Edit Forecasts menu

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In the FastPath field, type EFCST and select Go.

Remember, you can skip this menu by typing the FastPath command:

EPFCST to edit existing Point Forecasts. Point Forecasts can be entered through WIMS, ingested through the NWS-Gateway, or generated from a Trend Forecast. This option is available in both Record (single) and Tabular formats, depending on the preference specified in your WIMS-profile (ie. "REC" or "TAB").

ETFCST to edit existing Trend Forecasts entered through the New Trend Forecast option, or ingested through the NWS-Gateway. Edit Trend Forecasts is available in tabular-format only.

Note: All forecast values are in English Units of Measure. Trends can be entered with a plus/minus sign ("+" and "-"). Positive trends will be assumed.

REMEMBER: Edited Trend Forecasts will generate NEW Point Forecasts for every station contained in the SIG (replacing any previous Point Forecasts for that date/time). Use the key to list existing Point/Trend Forecasts.

Editing a point forecast

The Edit Point Forecast form allows you to edit forecasted weather information for:

- a specific station
- all stations within a SIG

In the FastPath field, type EPFCST and select Go.

EPFCST FORM



To edit a point forecast

From the Edit Point Forecast form:

1 In the Station ID: field, type the number of the station, or In the SIG: field, type the Special Interest Group name and select Find.

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- 2 In the Date: field, type the forecast date and select Find.
- 3 In the Valid Time: field, type the forecast time and select Find.

The Edit Point Forecast form redisplays, listing the station or SIG, forecast date, and other forecast information for that point forecast.

4 Edit the Point Forecast and select Save to save changes

Editing a trend forecast

Trend Forecasts are limited to public SIGs only. Users must have the NWS-User access level to edit forecasts.

To access the Edit Trend Forecast form

In the FastPath field, type ETFCST and select Go.



To edit a trend forecast

- 1 In the SIG field, type the Special Interest Group name.
- 2 In the Date field, type the forecast date.
- 3 In the Valid Time field, type the forecast time.
- 4 Select Find.

The Edit Trend Forecast form redisplays listing the SIG, forecast date, and other forecast information for that trend forecast.

- 1 Using the preceding field descriptions edit the values for the trend forecast.
- 2 To save the changes, select Save.

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NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PRODUCTS

National Weather Service Products is accessed from the WIMS Main Menu



The NWS products menu allows users to display:

- Fire Weather Forecasts
- Red Flag Warnings
- Spot Forecasts
- Smoke Management Forecasts
- Various Other Narrative Forecasts.

In the FastPath field, type NWSPROD and select Go.

Remember, you can skip this menu by typing the FastPath command:

- FWFCST to display the Shared File Directory containing Fire Weather Forecasts
- RED FLAG to display the Shared File Directory containing Red Flag warnings
- SPOT to display the Shared File Directory containing spot forecasts
- SMOKE to display the Shared File Directory containing smoke management forecasts
- ONARR to display other narrative forecasts

FIRE WEATHER FORECASTS

A Fire Weather Forecast is issued twice daily by the NWS fire weather forecast office and contains:

- discussion of weather activity for the area
- overall forecast for each zone.
- Fire Weather Forecasts remain in WIMS for three days.

To display Fire Weather Forecasts

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In the FastPath field, type FWFCST and select Go.

The Shared File Directory Listing displays, listing all Fire Weather Forecasts currently available.

Fire Weather Forecast Form

		Display Fire Weath	er Forecasts FWFCST 🎉	Back to	Menu
	File Description:		Find		
	File Type	Name	Short Description	A	В
<u>View</u>	FIRE WX	FNCA52 000001	031409/10:56/TJSJ/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNCA52 000003	031609/07:54/TJSJ/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNCA52 000004	031509/08:10/TJSJ/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNHW50 000002	031609/15:31/PHFO/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Υ	N
View	FIRE WX	FNHW50 000003	031409/15:15/PHFO/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNHW50 000004	031509/15:15/PHFO/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Υ	N
View	FIRE WX	FNHW50 000005	031409/15:20/PHFO/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000001	031609/07:34/KOKX/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Υ	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000002	031609/07:41/KBGM/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000003	031609/07:52/KCLE/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Υ	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000004	031609/07:54/KBUF/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000005	031609/08:18/KRLX/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Υ	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000006	031609/08:29/KRNK/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Υ	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000007	031609/08:50/KAKQ/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000008	031609/09:06/KILN/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000009	031609/09:44/KCTP/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N
View	FIRE WX	FNUS51 000019	031609/14:02/KRNK/FIRE WEATHER FCST	Y	N

To view a forecast, select the "View" hyperlink at the start of the row. Below is an example of a forecast.



Red Flag Warnings

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Red Flag Warnings outline specific areas where the forecasted fire weather conditions show imminent fire danger.

To display Red Flag Warnings

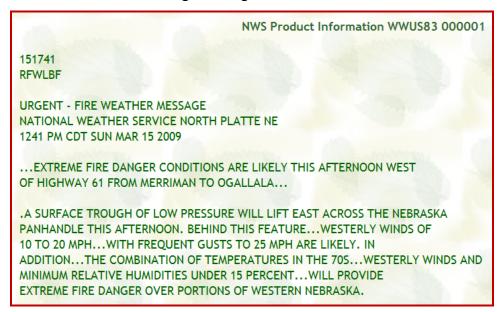
In the FastPath field, type RED FLAG and select Go.

The Shared File Directory Listing displays, listing Red Flag Warnings for today's date and for the previous three days.

Red Flag form

Lanna L	File Description:		Warnings REDFLAG	Back to Menu	
	File Type	Name	Short Description	A	В
View	RED FLAG	WWUS83 000001	031509/17:42/KLBF/RED FLAG WARNING	Y	N
<u>View</u>	RED FLAG	WWUS83 000002	031509/20:12/KLBF/RED FLAG WARNING	Y	N
View	RED FLAG	WWUS83 000003	031509/20:12/KLBF/RED FLAG WARNING	Y	N
<u>View</u>	RED FLAG	WWUS83 000004	031609/01:02/KLBF/RED FLAG WARNING	Y	N
View	RED FLAG	WWUS83 000005	031609/01:03/KLBF/RED FLAG WARNING	Y	N
<u>View</u>	RED FLAG	WWUS83 000006	031609/08:51/KLBF/RED FLAG WARNING	Y	N
View	RED FLAG	WWUS83 000007	031609/08:52/KLBF/RED FLAG WARNING	Y	N
View	RED FLAG	WWUS83 000008	031609/09:04/KGID/RED FLAG WARNING	Y	N

Select View on the Red Flag Warning.



Red Flag Warnings remain in WIMS for three days

Spot Forecasts

Issued by the NWS as requested by the user, Spot Forecasts contain weather information for a specific location and include:

- specific forecast location information
- discussion of weather activity

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overall forecast, forecasted temperature, and forecasted humidity.

WIMS stores spot forecasts from the last three days.

To display Spot Forecasts

In the FastPath field, type SPOT and select Go.

The Shared File Directory Listing displays, listing all Spot Forecasts currently available.

SPOT Form

Lanne	Display SPOT Forecasts SPOT Find			Back to Menu	
	File Type	Name	Short Description	A	В
<u>View</u>	SPOT	FNUS72 000001	031609/09:54/KJAX/SUPPR (SPOT) FCST	Y	N
<u>View</u>	SPOT	FNUS72 000008	031409/11:27/KJAX/SUPPR (SPOT) FCST	Y	N
<u>View</u>	SPOT	FNUS72 000010	031409/15:01/KJAX/SUPPR (SPOT) FCST	Y	N
View	SPOT	FNUS72 000012	031609/20:52/KJAX/SUPPR (SPOT) FCST	Y	N
<u>View</u>	SPOT	FNUS72 000013	031609/22:07/KMLB/SUPPR (SPOT) FCST	Υ	N

NWS Product Information FNUS72 000001 160953 **FWSJAX** SPOT FORECAST FOR JUNIPER SPRINGS 10... USDA FOREST SERVICE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE JACKSONVILLE FL 553 AM EDT MON MAR 16 2009 FORECAST IS BASED ON REQUEST TIME OF 2142 EDT ON MARCH 15. IF CONDITIONS BECOME UNREPRESENTATIVE...CONTACT THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE. .DISCUSSION...SOUTHWEST WINDS WILL INCREASE TO 10 MPH TODAY WITH OCCASIONALLY HIGHER GUSTS. THESE WINDS WILL PRECEDE A COLD FRONT THAT WILL APPROACH SOUTHEAST GEORGIA LATE IN THE DAY. THIS FRONTAL BOUNDARY WILL CONTINUE TO PRESS SOUTHWARD TONIGHT...LIKELY EXITING SOUTH OF THE WILDFIRE EARLY TUESDAY MORNING. A FEW SHOWERS SHOWERS WILL ACCOMPANY THIS FRONTAL BOUNDARY. HIGH PRESSURE WILL THEN GRADUALLY SETTLE INTO NORTHEAST FLORIDA FROM THE NORTH THROUGH MID-WEEK. SUSTAINED NORTHERLY WINDS OF 5 TO 10 MPH ARE FORECAST TUESDAY. THESE WINDS WILL ADVECT DRIER AND COOLER CONDITIONS INTO THE AREA...ALTHOUGH CRITICALLY LOW RH VALUES ARE NOT FORECAST.

Smoke Management Forecasts

Issued by state meteorologists, Smoke Management Forecasts display wind and airflow forecast information for prescribed burn purposes.

You must have the NWS-User access level to enter smoke management forecasts from state meteorologists into WIMS. For more information, see Chapter 4, "WIMS basics."

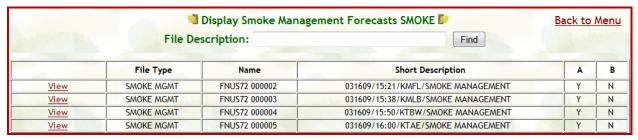
To display Smoke Management Forecasts

In the FastPath field, type SMOKE and select Go.

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The Shared File Directory Listing displays, listing all smoke management forecasts currently available.

SMOKE Form





Other narrative forecasts

Other narrative forecasts include all other forecast information.

To display other narrative forecasts

In the FastPath field, type ONARR and select Go.

The Shared File Directory Listing displays, listing all other narrative forecasts currently available.

ONARR Form



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1	0	
10 Hr	6 ONARR	12
A	other narrative forecasts	12
A	_ display	16
AL	.5 Other Narrative Forecasts	
В	Overcast	
Broken clouds	.5 R	
D	Raining	
Date	RED FLAG	
DPFCST form	Red Flag Warnings	12
Drizzling	dichlay	14
=	RH%	5
Dry bulb temperature	RH% Max	6
Dry Tmp	RH% IVIII	6
DTFCST form		
Dur1	_	
Dur2	7 Scattered clouds	5
E	Showering	
-	SIG	
EPFCST	10 SMOKE	
ETFCST10, 2	1 1	
F	Smoke Management Forecasts	
F	displaying	
Fcst Date	5 Snow/sleet	
Fire Weather Forecasts	SPOT	
display	Spot Forecasts	
Foggy	display	15
Forecast date	State of the weather	
Forecast Menu	Station ID	4
Forecast time		
Forecasted afternoon's lightning	Lemn May	6
Forecasted relative humidity percentile	Lemn Min	6
forecasted wind direction	b Thunderstorms	
FWFCST	12 Time	
L	TL	
-	_ Tm	
Level	5 Trend forecast	
N		
	W	
narrative description	W/ 5	
New Forecasts	8 Wet fuels flag	7
Non NWS users	1 WF	
NWSPROD	12 Wr	
	Wind Sp	ნ