

**October 3, 2019 (Update to Sep 26 and Sep 11 Notices)**

**Notice of WY2020 Updates to NWRFC Ensemble Forecast Products and Services**

The Northwest River Forecast Center has made several exciting updates to our ensemble forecast products and services for WY2020. The summary below is relatively short and to the point and we plan address changes in more detail during upcoming partner meetings and through our water supply webinars:

- The ESP5 flavor has been retired; ESP10 (NWS Official) and ESP0 (our reference) will still be available.
- An experimental ensemble flavor based on our new Hydrologic Ensemble Forecast System (HEFS) will be added. This method takes advantage of a 15-day weather forecast ensemble (the GEFS, with the added benefit of post-processing using the HEFS Meteorological Ensemble Forecast Processor, MEFP). File names and links for this method will be labeled ESPM (for MEFP) in order to maintain consistency with ESP.
- For many years, we summarized ESP products using the exceedance probabilities of 90/70/50/30/10%. For WY2020, we have replaced the 70/30% values with 75/25% to properly represent the interquartile range. Additionally, are providing the minimum and maximum ensemble volumes.
- For all ESP flavors, we updated the period used to force the ensembles. The new period is 1981 through 2019. This change is reflected in the ESP output ensembles. The updated period is aligned with a new gridded calibration set that we are actively using to recalibrate our river models and there are some very compelling science-based reasons for using a more modern record.
- All updates apply to our Water Supply, Natural, and Unadjusted forecast flavors.

**Progress as of Oct 3, 2019:**

- All forecasts are now available on the NWRFC web page (maps, tables, and downloads).

As you might imagine, there was a great deal of work that led to these changes and we tried our best to ensure a smooth rollout. Several small issues were identified after the Oct 1 rollout and we have been busy making corrections, as needed. Please pardon any construction 'dust' during the update period.

Sincerely,

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