

# National Weather Service

## Product Description Document (PDD)

### Experimental Product

#### April 2012

## NWS Web Services Via Wireless Technologies

### Part 1 - Mission Connection

#### 1. Service Description:

NWS is responsible to make its weather, water and climate information widely available to taxpayers using commonly accepted standards and technologies. One of the most widely accepted, available and cost effective means of accomplishing this objective is the use of web services via the internet, and NWS has implemented a corporate-wide HTTP-based web service. This service has allowed users instant access to current NWS information via industry standard web browsers and internet connections. A rapidly evolving technology in the United States today is the ability to access internet content via wireless devices such as smart phones with far more-advanced browsing capabilities than even seen in the recent past.

This product is an experimental redesign of its existing mobile web page, <http://mobile.weather.gov>. The goal of the redesign is to update the look, feel, and functionality of NWS's mobile web presence in order to better take advantage of the capabilities of today's smartphone browser capabilities.

This is done using a set of industry standards like HTML 5 and JavaScript and web pages designed specifically for smart phone screens and capabilities through the help of the open source framework jQuery Mobile. Use of these technologies allows web content to be displayed on the smaller screens with portable smartphones, while enhancing the experience for touch-based devices.

NWS, in the interests of providing public services in the most cost effective manner, will provide wireless web services on an ongoing basis to customers with wireless access. Information within the wireless web service will include watches, warnings, advisories, weather statements, forecasts and observations. This service will be made available on a "pull" basis only, and will not provide services that "push" content to wireless users on any type of schedule or event basis.

#### 2. Purpose/Intended Use:

Providing NWS information in formats suitable for display on wireless devices allows

access of this information to a wide audience in many mobile settings. This service will duplicate content already provided by the NWS, only reformatted for smart phones.

### 3. Audience:

This service is intended to meet a wide range of needs for customers with wireless internet capability. Provision of this service permits access to current NWS weather information from any location with wireless internet service, and could include emergency management, transportation, recreational, commerce and general weather information users.

### 4. Presentation Format:

Selected NWS warning, forecast and observational text products will be reformatted to fit the smaller screens of portable devices, using HTML 5 and JavaScript. The service can be accessed at this addresses:

<http://preview.weather.gov/mobile>

### 5. Feedback Method:

Comments will be accepted from April 10, 2012 to May 10, 2012  
Technical questions may be addressed via e-mail to: [Ronald.C.Jones@noaa.gov](mailto:Ronald.C.Jones@noaa.gov)

Users can also provide feedback with this survey:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/survey/nws-survey.php?code=new-mobile>

or directly to the web master email: [Ronald.C.Jones@noaa.gov](mailto:Ronald.C.Jones@noaa.gov)

## Part 2 – Technical

### 1. Format and Science Basis:

All pages are built using HTML 5 and JavaScript, leveraging the open source jQuery mobile framework. They are built on a foundation of HTML to ensure compatibility with a wide range of web-enabled devices. Most of today's devices interpret CSS and JavaScript, and for those devices, jQuery mobile techniques unobtrusively transform the page into a rich, interactive experience. In addition, accessibility features such as WAI-ARIA are tightly integrated throughout the jQuery mobile framework to provide support for screen readers and other assistive technologies.

### 2. Availability:

This service will be available 24 hours/day, seven days a week by visiting the website [preview.weather.gov/mobile](http://preview.weather.gov/mobile)