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PNSWSH

Service Change Notice 26-13
National Weather Service Headquarters Silver Spring MD
945 AM EST Tue Feb 10 2026

To: Subscribers:
 -NOAA Weather Wire Service
 -Emergency Managers Weather Information Network
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 Other NWS Partners, Users and Employees

From: Kate Abshire
 Team Lead, Water Resources Services Branch

Subject: Experimental Modernized Hydrologic Outlook (ESF) and River Summary (RVA) for Alaska Spring River Ice Breakup will transition to operational status on March 12, 2026.

The National Weather Service (NWS) will transition the experimental modernized Alaska Spring Breakup Hydrologic Outlook (ESF) and Spring Breakup Summary (RVA) to operational status on March 12, 2026. The product will be available in Portable Document Format (PDF) from the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC) web page. These modernized products will contain the same information with the addition of graphics and improved formatting. The existing text-based formats will be maintained to provide a brief synopsis and to direct users to the APRFC web page where the modernized product is posted.

The Alaska Spring Breakup Outlook (ESF) is issued by the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center (APRFC) beginning in March of each year with regular updates through the beginning of the breakup on the large rivers in Alaska. Once larger rivers begin the breakup process, this product transitions to a daily Spring Breakup Summary (RVA) that is issued daily through the end of the active river breakup season. Examples of the modernized, PDF version of the Spring Breakup Outlook (ESF) and the Spring Breakup Summary (RVA) are available here:
<https://www.weather.gov/aprfc/breakupProducts>

Beginning in the Spring of 2024, the Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center issued the PDF versions of both the Spring Breakup Outlook and Spring Breakup Summary. At the end of the experimental time period, a decision was made to make the PDF version of the product operational. The existing text-based formats will be maintained to provide a brief synopsis of the outlook or summary and to direct users to the APRFC web page where the modernized product is posted. A description of the Experimental Modernized Hydrologic Outlook (ESF) and River Summary (RVA) for Alaska Spring River Ice Breakup and product examples can be found at the following links:

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/2a674adf4782b290f6550c03e16d43c9

https://nsdesk.servicenowservices.com/api/g_noa/nwspc/res2/6e67cadf4782b290f6550c03e16d438c

Comments on the Modernized Hydrologic Outlook (ESF) and River Summary (RVA) for Alaska Spring River Ice Breakup may be sent to:

Celine van Breukelen, Hydrologist-In-Charge
Alaska-Pacific River Forecast Center
Anchorage, AK
907-266-5160
Email: celine.vanbreukelen@noaa.gov

National Service Change Notices are online at:

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

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