

**Title:** **Applied Climatology and the Role of NOAA's Regional Climate Centers – partners in the emerging National Climate Services**

**Date/Location:** Tuesday, 21 October 2008; 11:00 – 12:00 ETZ; ([SSMC-3](#), Room #4817, [NCDC/RCC](#) Seminar)

**Speaker(s):** Dr. [Arthur DeGaetano](#) (NOAA Northeast Regional Climate Center, [NOAA-NRCC](#), Cornell University) and Dr. [Ken Kunkel](#) (NOAA Western Regional Climate Center, [NOAA-WRCC](#), Desert Research Institute)

**Abstract:** NOAA's Regional Climate Centers (RCC), with a 20 plus year history, have as their central mission the provision of relevant climate information to address the needs of the countless activities of our nation that are climate-sensitive, particularly those that are regional in nature. They do so by developing a better understanding of the relationship between climate and physical and socio-economic conditions and then developing data sets and informational products to aid in decision-making. Specific examples of these products include climate-based indices of plant disease risk to guide spraying decisions, lawn watering calculators used by water utilities to promote water conservation, products aimed at guiding and enforcing environmental policy, customized data summaries for utilities and wind energy firms, a climate-based index of West Nile Virus risk, and agriculturally-focused soil moisture modeling. The development of these products is supported by integrated data sets, updated continuously, with data from real-time and near-real-time data feeds, other federal data networks and several non-federal mesonets. These combined data sets are easily queried to respond to an array of climate information requests, integrated to enhance the spatial resolution of map-based products used in climate monitoring, and dynamically linked to physical and biological models providing innovative, user-customized web-based decision tools. The six RCCs, housed at major research universities, provide a national network of regional climate information, expertise and applied research. Through their affiliation with the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), their mission has evolved to provide a conduit between NCDC, National Weather Service Field Offices, other federal agencies, state government via interaction with the state climatologists and a diverse clientele of climate decision makers. The centers also leverage their federal support to maintain vigorous applied climate research programs investigating data quality, climate variability, climate impacts and novel uses of climate data in sectorial decision making."

**About the speaker(s):** [Arthur DeGaetano](#) and [Ken Kunkel](#)

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