



NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Western Region Notes

JANUARY 27, 2005

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

Kudos for Excellent Service: Congratulations to all Western Region offices for the excellent services provided over the past several weeks. We have received comments from customers about the great job you're doing.

The following note came from James Kentosh, Manager of Operations and Maintenance at the United Water Conservation District in Santa Paula, California:

"I would like to congratulate the National Weather Service for their excellent predictions before the recent storms and floods. Your forecast on January 5 said of the predicted storm, 'This could potentially be a very large/dangerous hydrologic event...' And it was! When the big rains hit us on January 10, we had all been warned. Our hydrologist was also impressed with your flow predictions in local streams. Good job!"

NWS Supports Oil Spill in Alaska: During the recent oil spill in Alaska's Bering Sea, the National Weather Service supported the clean up operation by sending Larry Van Bussum, of WFO Boise, to provide on-site forecasting services.

The following comments came from R.J. Morris, U.S. Coast Guard Captain:

"All of our operations are weather dependent. Accurate and timely weather information allows the Unified Command to make operational decisions and plan for weather events coming through the area. It is very valuable to us to be able to look ahead a few days and see what preparations we need for safely operating in this remote area. Our NWS Meteorologist has been able to provide us with area specific forecasting by obtaining vessel observations and data from our remote station.

"I have found your NWS support to be valuable to this response. I will certainly make a recommendation to my fellow Federal On-scene Coordinators to consider the benefits of utilizing incident specific NWS support during response activities."



AROUND THE REGION

Photo of the week: Between December 29 and January 11, over 81 inches of snow (6 feet, 9 inches) fell at WFO Reno. Forecasters Brian O'Hara and Gina Beninato seen in this photo (note ear protection from ET shop) dig out from under 4 feet of snow at WFO Reno.



The City of Pendleton Mayor (left) presents Vincent with a City of Pendleton Leadership plaque.

Vincent Papol Receives Pendleton Leadership Award: Congratulations to Vincent Papol (WFO Pendleton) for his participation in the City of Pendleton leadership program.

Vincent satisfactorily completed an eight month course in Leadership Studies. The course included Team Building, History and Culture, Education, Business and Industry, Media Relations, Government, Agriculture, Health Care and Social Services, and Law and Public Safety. The Leadership Program concluded on January 6, 2005 when the City of Pendleton Mayor presented Vincent with a City of Pendleton Leadership Award. The program also provided outreach/exposure for the NWS to our community leaders.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: Our Statement of the Week for this edition comes from WFO Portland, which on Thursday, January 13 issued this Winter Storm Watch, emphasizing a prolonged period of freezing rain and snow, forecast to impact a large area over the coming weekend. This storm produced between ¼ and ½” of ice – great job Portland!

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PORTLAND OR
239 PM PST THU JAN 13 2005

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CENTRAL WILLAMETTE VALLEY-COAST RANGE OF NORTHWEST OREGON-
GREATER PORTLAND METRO AREA-GREATER VANCOUVER AREA-LOWER
COLUMBIA-LOWER COLUMBIA AND I - 5 CORRIDOR IN COWLITZ COUNTY-
NORTHERN OREGON CASCADE FOOTHILLS-NORTHERN OREGON CASCADES-
SOUTH WASHINGTON CASCADE FOOTHILLS-SOUTH WASHINGTON CASCADES-
WESTERN COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE-WILLAPA HILLS-INCLUDING THE CITIES
OF...BATTLE GROUND...CASCADE LOCKS...CASTLE ROCK...COLDWATER RIDGE
VISITORS CENTER...COUGAR...DALLAS...DETROIT...DOWNTOWN PORTLAND...
DOWNTOWN VANCOUVER...FRANCES...GOVERNMENT CAMP...HILLSBORO...
HOOD RIVER...JEWELL...LONGVIEW... MCMINNVILLE...MILL CITY...MOUNT ST.
HELENS...OREGON CITY...SALEM...SANDY...ST. HELENS...STEVENSON...SWEET
HOME...TOUTLE AND VERNONIA
239 PM PST THU JAN 13 2005

...WINTER STORM WATCH IN EFFECT FROM LATE FRIDAY NIGHT TO SUNDAY
AFTERNOON FOR THE CENTRAL WILLAMETTE VALLEY...THE COAST RANGE OF
NORTHWEST OREGON...THE GREATER PORTLAND METRO AREA...THE
GREATER VANCOUVER AREA...THE LOWER COLUMBIA...THE LOWER

COLUMBIA AND I - 5 CORRIDOR IN COWLITZ COUNTY...THE NORTHERN OREGON CASCADE FOOTHILLS...THE NORTHERN OREGON CASCADES...THE SOUTH WASHINGTON CASCADE FOOTHILLS...THE SOUTH WASHINGTON CASCADES...THE WESTERN COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE AND THE WILLAPA HILLS...

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN PORTLAND HAS ISSUED A WINTER STORM WATCH FOR SNOW AND FREEZING RAIN FOR LATE FRIDAY NIGHT THROUGH SATURDAY AND SUNDAY. THE WATCH COVERS THE INLAND PORTIONS OF SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON AND FROM THE COAST RANGE EASTWARD IN NORTHWEST OREGON...FROM THE CENTRAL WILLAMETTE VALLEY NORTH. THIS INCLUDES THE WESTERN COLUMBIA GORGE.

COLD DRY AIR IS FORECAST TO SPREAD THROUGH THE COLUMBIA RIVER GORGE INTO SOUTHWEST WASHINGTON AND NORTHWEST OREGON ON FRIDAY. THEN MOISTURE FROM AN APPROACHING WARMER MOIST PACIFIC WEATHER SYSTEM WILL SPREAD PRECIPITATION INTO THE AREA BEGINNING LATER FRIDAY NIGHT... CONTINUING SATURDAY INTO SUNDAY.

THE PRECIPITATION MAY START AS SNOW FRIDAY NIGHT AND EARLY SATURDAY...WITH LOCALLY AN INCH OR TWO POSSIBLE IN THE LOWER ELEVATIONS...6 INCHES OR MORE IN THE EASTERN GORGE...AND UP TO A FOOT IN THE HIGHER CASCADES. THE PRECIPITATION IS EXPECTED TO THEN CHANGE OVER TO FREEZING RAIN OVER MUCH OF THE LOWER ELEVATIONS WEST OF THE CASCADES ON SATURDAY AS WARMER AIR ALOFT SPREADS OVER THE LOW LEVEL COLD AIR.

THE FREEZING RAIN WILL PROBABLY TRANSITION TO RAIN SUNDAY... THOUGH THE FREEZING RAIN MAY PERSIST IN THE COLUMBIA GORGE AND AREAS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE GORGE.

REMEMBER...A WINTER STORM WATCH MEANS HAZARDOUS WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS SUCH AS HEAVY SNOW...SLEET...FREEZING RAIN AND EXTREME WIND CHILLS ARE FAVORABLE IN AND CLOSE TO THE WATCH AREA IN THE NEXT 48 HOURS...BUT ARE NOT IMMINENT.



WFO Pocatello Forecaster Jack Messick provides information at the Eastern Idaho Ag & Idaho Potato Expo

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WFO Pocatello Supports Eastern Idaho Ag Expo:

WFO Pocatello participated in the 2005 Eastern Idaho Ag Expo and Idaho Potato Conference on January 18-20. The event was held at the Idaho State University football stadium. Situated amidst several large combines and tractors, Pocatello forecasters Greg Kaiser and Jack Messick, Observing Program Leader Gary Wicklund, and

WCM Vernon Preston provided information to as many as 8,000 farmers, ranchers, and agriculture industry businesses. The NWS display included information about gridded (digital) forecasts, with an emphasis on updates to the drought and climate information.



Brig. Gen. D.L. Johnson (right) visits with WFO San Diego Staff, including Forecaster Brandt Maxwell (left) and MIC Jim Purpura (center).

General Johnson and General Kelly Visit WFO

San Diego: Brig. Gen. D. L. Johnson, NWS Director, and Brig. Gen. Jack Kelly, Deputy Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, visited WFO San Diego while attending the American Meteorological Society (AMS) Annual Meeting, January 8-13. The San Diego staff had an opportunity to informally meet and talk with both Gen Johnson and Gen Kelly during their visit, which included updates on the future of NOAA and NWS.

The visit coincided with the AMS “WeatherFest” activities. WFO San Diego helped staff an information booth during the event, and Phil Gonsalves (Met Intern) launched a weather balloon

for the opening ceremony. More than 1,500 people attended this year’s event.



National Association of Independent Crop

Consultants: WFO San Joaquin Valley WCM Dan Gudel participated in the National Association of Independent Crop Consultants annual convention in Universal City, CA. During one of the workshop sessions, Dan gave a presentation on NDFD to an audience of 40 aerial applicators (crop dusters). Among the methods he focused on to access the database was the interactive Weather Planner tool.

HYDROLOGY AND CLIMATE SERVICES DIVISION



WFO Great Falls MIC Steve Brueske (far left) and Coop Program Manager Ed Kurdy (2nd from right), present John Campanius Holm Awards to Ed Somerfeld (2nd from left) and John Stoner (far right).

Coop Observers Receive Awards in Great

Falls: Two Thomas Jefferson and three John Campanius Holm awards were presented to WFO Great Falls Cooperative Observers in a special ceremony held Thursday, January 20 at the Crystal Inn of Great Falls.

Joseph Von Stein of Cascade and Frank Kolar of Raynesford each received the Jefferson Award, the highest award presented to cooperative observers. Joe Vavrosky of Moccasin, John Stoner of Townsend and Ed Somerfeld of Power

were each presented with Holm Awards. The five award winners were interviewed by local newspaper and television media.

Additional presentations were made for length of service awards ranging from 10 years to 45 years.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Advanced Warning Operations Course (AWOC):

Status update on AWOC Progress:

Western Region AWOC IC Completions by WFO

As of January 14, 2005

WFOs

Region	WFO ID	Description	IC Completions
WR	PQR	PORTLAND WFO OREGON	119
WR	BOI	BOISE WFO IDAHO	107
WR	TWC	TUCSON WFO ARIZONA	104
WR	MSO	MISSOULA WFO MONTANA	103
WR	MTR	SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WFO (MONTEREY) CA	88
WR	PDT	PENDLETON WFO OREGON	82
WR	TFX	GREAT FALLS WFO MONTANA	76
WR	FGZ	FLAGSTAFF WFO ARIZONA	74
WR	PSR	PHOENIX WFO ARIZONA	67
WR	LOX	LOS ANGELES WFO (OXNARD) CALIFORNIA	65
WR	EKA	EUREKA WFO CALIFORNIA	62
WR	OTX	SPOKANE WFO WASHINGTON	62
WR	SEW	SEATTLE WFO WASHINGTON	56
WR	REV	RENO WFO NEVADA	54
WR	LKN	ELKO WFO NEVADA	53
WR	MFR	MEDFORD WFO OREGON	52
WR	PIH	POCATELLO WFO IDAHO	50
WR	VEF	LAS VEGAS WFO NEVADA	50
WR	SLC	SALT LAKE CITY WFO UTAH	49
WR	GGW	GLASGOW WFO MONTANA	39
WR	HNX	SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WFO (HANFORD) CALIFORNIA	39
WR	SGX	SAN DIEGO WFO CALIFORNIA	32
WR	BYZ	BILLINGS WFO MONTANA	22
WR	STO	SACRAMENTO WFO CALIFORNIA	15
Total IC Completions for Western Region			1554
Total IC Completions for NWS			7648

There are 6 Instructional Components per person for the AWOC Core series. The offices near the top of the list are making great progress. The statistics are courtesy of the Warning Decision Training Branch.

AWOC Training Deadlines: It is important that offices keep up with the training schedule. In WR, we have broken the two track deadlines up into first and second half of FY05. Completion will be tracked by LMS and reported in the WR Professional Development and Training plan.

March 31, 2005 – Complete Core Track (WFO and CWSUs)
August 31, 2005 – Complete Severe Weather Track (WFO and CWSUs)
August 31, 2005 – Complete Hydrology Core Track (RFC's only)
TBD (probably March, 2006) – Winter Weather Track (WFO and CWSUs)

For more info on AWOC and LMS go to <http://wdtb.noaa.gov/courses/awoc/index.html>.

New WR Technical Memorandum Released - NWS WR-269: A new technical memorandum has been released. *NWS WR-269: The Lewis and Clark Expedition 1803-1806 Weather, Water and Climate* was authored by Vern Preston, Pocatello WFO. Vern culled through the Lewis and Clark Expedition Journals and collated the weather related remarks into a single document. The two part TM was distributed to all WR offices.

New Technical Attachments available on the Web:

04-10 Bias Removal and Model Consensus Forecasts of Maximum and Minimum Temperatures Using the Graphical Forecast Editor. By Jeffrey T. Davis

The full color text can be found at: <http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/wrh/ta.php>

Budget Cuts and New NWS Training Schedule: The budget cuts resulted in a reduction in the number of training courses offered for FY05. Mark Mollner has summarized the new training schedule and affected course assignments into a single document. The training course spreadsheet can be accessed on the WR intranet at: http://ww2.wrh.noaa.gov/ssd/FY05trainingslotsWR_TC.htm

Suspension of COMET Outreach 2005 RFP: Due to budget cuts, the COMET Outreach Program's FY2005 Cooperative Project Request for Proposals (RFP) is being suspended. Funding for Outreach Partners Proposals has also been suspended. For more information, visit the COMET web site at <http://www.comet.ucar.edu/>.

Enhanced IFPS Images on the Web: The IFPS Web images were enhanced on all WR WFO web pages to include fire weather and marine, plus a number of other technical enhancements. This is a joint project between MDL and WR to develop the IFPS image capability where full resolution (2.5km) images are displayed on the WFO web site while maintaining a similar look and feel with the national NDFD web images.

Teletraining Session for February: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) and the Integrated Sensor Training Professional Development Series (ISTPDS) sessions are listed below. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu .

The teletraining calendar is at: <http://www.cira.colostate.edu/ramm/visit/ecal.asp>.

The sessions for February are:

- NEW - Predicting Supercell Motion in Operations (Intermediate, Feb 15, 22)
- Using GOES to Forecast Winter Storms Part 1 and 2 (Intermediate, Feb 2, 3, 16, 17)
- Lightning Meteorology I/II (Feb 23, 24)
- Mesoscale Analysis of Convective Weather Using GOES RSO Imagery (Basic, Feb 28)

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

Eureka Support: Joe Lachacz, Son Nguyen, and Guy Drebing (WFO Eureka) installed narrow band compliant UHF NWR link transmitters for WFO Eureka. The Cold Springs Transmitter was also repaired. The work was completed even with several feet of snow on the ground which made access difficult. Site licenses were also verified and updated.

RRS to ASOS: Kevin Bolton spent a week reviewing the new RRS manuals with several Regional and Headquarters representatives. After spending the week in Kansas City, he flew to Monterey and assisted in troubleshooting a difficult ASOS processor problem.



FET Training Workshop: On January 19-20, the Facility Engineering Technicians Workshop was held at Western Region Headquarters in Salt Lake City.

Vickie Nadolski, Regional Director, kicked off the workshop by giving an update on the budget, discussing effective communications and teamwork, and answered questions.

Other topics included EMRS training (by Sean Wink, Electronics and Facilities Branch Chief), an overview of the Electronics Program (by Joe Lachacz, Electronics Program Manager), a Procurement and Contracting refresher (by Brian Sadler, Administrative Division Chief, and Heidi Nelson, Support Services Specialist), and the WEB Based Facilities Calendar introduction and training (by Dave Nordello, Information Technology Specialist).

AWIPS: The new AWIPS DX servers were installed at WRH this week. Dwight Williams will travel to San Diego in Mid-February to assist with the OB5 installation. San Diego will be the first operational site in the NWS to install OB5. OB4.2 will be installed at WRH the week of January 30, and OB5 will be installed the week of February 6.