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PUBLIC INFORMATION STATEMENT  
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE SEATTLE WA  
1130 AM PST THU DEC 22 2005

...THE 2005 YEAR IN REVIEW FOR WESTERN WASHINGTON WEATHER...

2005 WAS HIGHLIGHTED BY A DROUGHT EARLY IN THE YEAR...THE THIRD MOST TORNADOES ON RECORD IN ONE YEAR AND A RETURN TO MORE NORMAL WEATHER TO FINISH THE YEAR. THERE WERE 3 WEATHER RELATED FATALITIES AND ONE INJURY...ALL OCCURRING IN THE CASCADES. WEATHER RELATED PROPERTY DAMAGES TOTALLED CLOSE TO \$600000 THROUGH OCTOBER WITH TOTALS FROM NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER EVENTS YET TO BE COMPILED. IN ADDITION...THE GOVERNOR DECLARED A STATEWIDE DROUGHT IN MARCH SEEKING \$12 MILLION IN DROUGHT RELIEF.

THE YEAR BEGAN WITH THE REGION IN THE MIDST OF A MILD DRY WINTER SEASON. MOUNTAIN SNOWFALL WAS THE LOWEST SINCE THE WINTER OF 1976-77. ANY HOPE FOR COMPLETE SKI AREA OPENINGS WITH ENOUGH SNOW WERE WASHED AWAY DURING A WARM HEAVY RAIN EVENT DURING M.L. KING WEEKEND. THE Y RAINFALL PRODUCED FLOODING ON 15 RIVERS...4 WITH MAJOR FLOODING.

THE MILD WINTER WAS A RESULT OF A WEAK EL NINO EVENT IN THE EASTERN PACIFIC TROPICAL WATERS. THE WARMER THAN NORMAL SEA SURFACE CONDITIONS IN THOSE TROPICAL WATERS SHIFTED WEATHER PATTERNS AROUND THE WORLD...PRODUCING MILD WEATHER IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST.

BY THE MIDDLE OF THE YEAR...THE EL NINO SUBSIDED AS TROPICAL SEA SURFACE TEMPERATURES RETURNED TO NEAR NORMAL - OR NEUTRAL CONDITIONS. THAT CHANGE RESULTED IN MORE NORMAL WEATHER FOR OUR AREA THROUGH THE END OF THE YEAR. MOUNTAIN SNOWFALL RETURNED BY NOVEMBER AND SKI AREAS HAD EARLY OPENINGS...AROUND THANKSGIVING. EVEN SOME LOWLAND AREAS HAD SNOWFALL IN EARLY DECEMBER.

TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION AMOUNTS RETURNED CLOSER TO AVERAGE... DESPITE A COOL DRY SPELL FROM MID NOVEMBER TO MID DECEMBER. AIR STAGNATION BECAME AN AIR QUALITY ISSUE TWICE DURING THIS LATE FALL PERIOD.

WASHINGTON STATE HAD FIVE TORNADOES...THE THIRD MOST REPORTED IN STATE HISTORY. THIS YEAR FOLLOWED NINE TORNADOES IN 2004...SECOND ONLY TO THE ALL-TIME RECORD OF 14 TORNADOES IN 1997. TWO OF THE FIVE WERE REPORTED IN WESTERN WASHINGTON AND THE OTHER THREE IN YAKIMA COUNTY. ALL WERE SHORT-LIVED AND DID NOT CAUSE ANY FATALITIES OR INJURIES...TYPICAL OF WASHINGTON TORNADOES. WASHINGTON STATE AVERAGES ONE OR TWO TORNADOES EACH YEAR.

ONE PERSON WAS KILLED DURING A SMALL AVALANCHE NEAR SNOQUALMIE PASS IN JANUARY. TWO HIKERS DIED FROM HYPOTHERMIA WHILE CLIMBING MT RAINIER DURING A WINTER STORM IN MAY.

OTHER WEATHER HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDED:

- SEVERAL WIND STORMS DURING THE FALL THAT KNOCKED OUT POWER TO UP TO 40000 CUSTOMERS AND TOPPLED HUNDREDS OF TREES - A LATE SEPTEMBER HEAVY RAIN EVENT THAT DAMAGED TRAILS...BRIDGES AND CAMPGROUNDS IN MT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK
- FREEZING RAIN AND ICY HIGHWAY CONDITIONS IN THE CASCADE PASSES IN MID DECEMBER.

FOR THE YEAR...TEMPERATURES FINISHED THE YEAR BETWEEN 0.5 AND 2.5 DEGREES ABOVE AVERAGE...WHILE PRECIPITATION WAS BETWEEN 2 AND 12

INCHES BELOW NORMAL IN WESTERN WASHINGTON...ALL THANKS TO DRIER MILD WEATHER EARLY IN THE YEAR. TEMPERATURES AND PRECIPITATION WERE BELOW AVERAGE IN NOVEMBER AND DECEMBER...THOUGH THE END OF DECEMBER RETURNED TO MILDER AND WETTER WEATHER.

A LISTING OF SIGNIFICANT 2005 WEATHER EVENTS IN WESTERN WASHINGTON IS GIVEN BELOW...AS WELL AS RECORD TEMPERATURES FOR SELECTED LOCATIONS.

#### SIGNIFICANT EVENTS

##### TORNADOES/WATERSPOUTS/FUNNEL CLOUDS

3/16 - PUGET SOUND - KING COUNTY

A F0 WATERSPOUT TOUCHED DOWN IN PUGET SOUND OFF THE CITY OF SHORELINE. IT WAS ON THE WATER FOR LESS THAN 2 MINUTES WITH NO DAMAGE.

5/18 - 5 MILES WEST OF ARLINGTON - SNOHOMISH COUNTY

A F1 TORNADO TOUCHED DOWN FOR ABOUT A MINUTE NEAR LAKE KI. NO ONE WAS HURT...BUT A SNAPPED CEDAR TREE COLLAPSED ON A CAR PORT AND FELL ON THE ROOF OF A HOME.

6/5 - 3 MILES EAST OF LACEY - THURSTON COUNTY

A FUNNEL CLOUD WAS SPOTTER FOR LESS THAN A MINUTE.

##### LIGHTNING

2/04 - DUVALL - KING COUNTY A LIGHTNING STRIKE CAUSED A SMALL FIRE ON THE ROOF OF A GAS STATION.

9/09 - EVERETT - SNOHOMISH COUNTY

A LIGHTNING STRIKE BLEW A HOLE IN A HOUSE AND DAMAGED WIRING AND ELECTRICAL OUTLETS.

10/01 - EDMONDS - SNOHOMISH COUNTY

3 LIGHTNING STRIKES KNOCKED POWER OUT TO NEARLY 6000 HOMES. ONE STRIKE RUPTURED A NATURAL GAS LINE..STARTING A SMALL FIRE

##### HAIL

5/19 - MONROE - SNOHOMISH COUNTY

HAIL JUST UNDER A HALF INCH DIAMETER PELTED THE GROUND FOR ABOUT 15 MINUTES..DESTROYING ALMOST ALL THE LETTUCE..SPINACH AND MIXED VEGETABLES AT A LOCAL FARM.

6/21 - DARRINGTON - SNOHOMISH COUNTY

SEVERAL TREES WERE DOWNED OVER SR 530 FROM STRONG GUSTY WINDS AND LARGE HAIL OF UNKNOWN DIAMETER WERE REPORTED BY A HIKER EAST OF DARRINGTON DURING A SEVERE THUNDERSTORM.

##### HIGH WINDS

3/20 - MUCH OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 56 MPH CAUSED POWER OUTAGES FOR 35000 HOMES PRIMARILY IN THE NORTH INTERIOR..KITSAP PENINSULA..SOUTHWEST INTERIOR AND CENTRAL COAST. IN ARLINGTON..A TREE FELL ON A MOTOR HOME. US COAST GUARD HAD TO RESCUE SEVERAL STRANDED OR RUNAWAY BOATS IN PUGET SOUND.

9/29 - SNOHOMISH COUNTY

STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 30 MPH KNOCKED OUT POWER TO ABOUT 5000 HOMES. FALLEN TREES ALSO DAMAGED A CAR AND PART OF A HOUSE.

10/30 - EATONVILLE/ALDER LAKE AREA

STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 40 MPH TOPPLED TREES DOWN ONTO HOMES..ROADWAYS AND POWER LINES. SEVERAL THOUSAND HOMES AND BUSINESSES WERE WITHOUT POWER.

11/4 - CLALLAM COUNTY

WINDS OF UP TO 40 MPH KNOCKED OUT POWER TO SEVERAL THOUSAND CUSTOMERS IN THE DIAMOND POINT...SEQUIM AND JOYCE-PIEDMONT AREAS. A NUMBER OF TREES WERE BLOWN DOWN ONTO POWER LINES AND ROADWAYS.

11/5 - WESTERN LEWIS/ EAST THURSTON COUNTIES

STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 57 MPH KNOCKED DOWN OVER 100 TREES...FALLING ON 10 HOMES AND SIX VEHICLES PLUS KNOCKING OUT POWER TO BETWEEN 12000 AND 15000 CUSTOMERS. EARLY DAMAGE ESTIMATES WERE CLOSE TO \$335,000.

11/11 - ISLAND/WESTERN SKAGIT AND WESTERN WHATCOM COUNTIES STRONG WINDS OF UP TO 50 MPH KNOCKED DOWN SEVERAL TREES...POWER LINES AND TEMPORARILY CLOSED SR 9 NEAR LAKE MCMURRAY. ABOUT 250 CUSTOMERS WERE WITHOUT POWER.

12/10 - CENTRAL CASCADE FOOTHILLS

STRONG EASTERLY WINDS FROM THE CASCADES OF UP TO 64 MPH KNOCKED DOZENS OF TREES DOWN AND ABOUT 16000 CUSTOMERS LOST POWER. DAMAGE ESTIMATES WERE NOT YET AVAILABLE.

#### WINTER STORMS

1/06-07 - NORTH INTERIOR AND COAST

HEAVY SNOW FELL ACROSS PARTS OF NORTHERN WESTERN WASHINGTON. 4 TO 6 INCHES FELL IN WESTERN WHATCOM COUNTY WHILE EAST SOUND..FORKS AND ANACORTES GOT ABOUT 4 INCHES. SEQUIM GOT 5 TO 7 INCHES. ABOUT 9000 HOMES LOST POWER DURING THE EVENT.

5/21 - MT RAINIER

TWO MEN DIED FROM HYPOTHERMIA NEAR THE 8000 FOOT LEVEL WHILE CLIMBING THE VOLCANO.

12/1-4 - WESTERN WASHINGTON INTERIOR

SEVERAL SNOWFALL EVENTS OCCURRED DURING THIS PERIOD...PRODUCING AMOUNTS RANGING FROM NO ACCUMULATION TO 6 INCHES. SNOW ACCUMULATION WAS MAINLY CONFINED TO AREAS AWAY FROM PUGET SOUND AND IN HIGHER HILLS.

12/19-20 - CASCADE PASSES

FREEZING RAIN CREATED HAZARDOUS DRIVING CONDITIONS AND TEMPORARILY CLOSED PORTIONS OF I-90.

#### AVALANCHE

1/12 - NEAR SNOQUALMIE PASS

ONE MAN DIED AND ANOTHER WAS INJURED AFTER BEING BURIED IN A SMALL AVALANCHE NEAR ALPENTAL.

11/05 - NEAR MT BAKER

A SNOWBOARDER SURVIVED AN AVALANCHE ON TABLE MOUNTAIN NEAR MT BAKER.

#### FLOODS/HEAVY RAIN/MUDSLIDES

01/17-20 - MUCH OF WESTERN WASHINGTON

FROM 2.5 TO 6 INCHES OF RAIN FELL PRODUCING FLOODING ON 15 RIVERS INCLUDING MAJOR FLOODING ON THE SKOKOMISH...SNOHOMISH.TOLT AND SNOQUALMIE RIVERS. MANY ROADS WERE CLOSED IN GRAYS HARBOR AND SNOHOMISH COUNTIES.

9/29 - MT RAINIER AREA

UP TO 5 INCHES OF RAIN FELL...PRODUCING FLOODING...ROCKFALLS AND SMALL LANDSLIDES AROUND MT RAINIER NATIONAL PARK. MANY BRIDGES AND TRAILS WERE WASHED OUT AND SOME CAMPGROUNDS WERE DAMAGED.

HEAT

5/26-27 - WESTERN WASHINGTON

THE HOTTEST WEATHER OF THE YEAR OCCURRED DURING THIS PERIOD. HIGH TEMPERATURES REACHED INTO THE LOWER 90S IN MANY LOCATIONS AND THE FIRST EVER HEAT ADVISORY WAS ISSUED FOR THE SEATTLE AREA.

RECORD TEMPERATURES SET

SEATTLE-TACOMA AIRPORT

HIGHS	LOWS	PRECIPITATION			
JAN 18	60	FEB 22	30(TIE)	JAN 17	2.39
JAN 19	62			MAR 26	1.51
JAN 23	56(TIE)			MAR 27	0.64(TIE)
MAR 8	67			MAY 18	0.72
APR 22	78(TIE)			MAY 20	0.24
MAY 26	89			JUN 16	0.52
MAY 27	89				
AUG 14	88(TIE)				
DEC 21	56				
DEC 22	56				

OLYMPIA

JAN 18	60	FEB 17	20	JAN 17	2.21
JAN 19	64	FEB 22	21(TIE)	JUN 5	0.54
JAN 21	57	FEB 23	20	SEP 29	1.14
JAN 23	56	DEC 18	13		
JAN 24	56(TIE)				
FEB 24	65				
MAY 26	89				
MAY 27	92				

QUILLAYUTE AIRPORT NEAR FORKS

JAN 19	62	FEB 21	24	JAN 17	4.54
JAN 20	64	SEP 21	34	JAN 22	4.36
JAN 23	59			MAR 20	1.74
JAN 24	55			JUL 5	1.53
JAN 25	57			SEP 29	3.48
FEB 1	57				
FEB 17	57				
FEB 18	56				
FEB 22	61				
FEB 23	62				
MAR 3	61				
MAR 10	61				
APR 22	76				
MAY 25	78				
MAY 26	86				
MAY 27	89				
AUG 25	84				
DEC 21	54(TIE)				

BELLINGHAM INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

JAN 18	58	JAN 14	17	JAN 17	1.45
JAN 19	63	JUL 21	45	APR 11	0.91
JAN 23	60	SEP 6	40	AUG 17	0.64
JAN 24	55			AUG 28	0.66
MAR 3	62			SEP 29	1.06
MAR 10	65				

APR 23 76  
 MAY 26 84  
 MAY 27 83  
 AUG 14 85  
 DEC 21 60(TIE)

HOQUIAM

JAN 19	58	FEB 21	28	JAN 17	2.57
JAN 21	59	SEP 23	38	MAR 20	2.11
FEB 23	64	SEP 24	38	MAR 26	2.10
APR 22	77			APR 15	1.26
MAY 25	82			MAY 10	0.55
MAY 26	89			SEP 29	1.59

STAMPEDE PASS

JAN 24	58	NONE		JAN 17	4.16
JAN 25	47			JAN 18	2.45
FEB 3	55			MAR 29	1.90
FEB 4	45			MAY 9	0.89
FEB 22	46			JUL 8	0.85
FEB 23	48			JUL 22	0.56
FEB 25	55			SEP 29	3.64
FEB 26	51				
MAR 4	52				
MAR 6	58				
MAR 8	61				
MAR 10	61				
MAR 11	63				
MAR 13	57				
APR 21	63				
APR 25	68				
MAY 27	81				
MAY 28	84				
JUL 21	87				
AUG 5	79				

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE FORECAST OFFICE - SEATTLE/SANDPOINT

JAN 17	55	FEB 20	27	JAN 17	1.33
JAN 19	59	FEB 21	31	JAN 19	0.55
JAN 20	64	FEB 22	30	FEB 7	0.66
JAN 22	60	FEB 23	29	MAR 27	1.54
JAN 25	59	APR 12	37	APR 1	0.50
FEB 1	56	JUN 13	48	APR 17	0.42
FEB 24	62	OCT 4	45	MAY 10	0.76
FEB 25	61	OCT 27	37	MAY 19	0.44
MAR 5	61	NOV 27	33(TIE)	JUN 2	0.56
MAR 9	69	NOV 28	29	JUN 8	0.22
MAR 11	66	DEC 1	33	JUN 23	0.45
MAR 15	64	DEC 8	31(TIE)	JUL 9	0.28
APR 21	67	DEC 9	31(TIE)	JUL 23	0.22
APR 23	74	DEC 16	24	SEP 5	0.09
MAY 27	89	DEC 17	29(TIE)	SEP 10	0.35
MAY 28	85			NOV 1	0.72
AUG 15	87			NOV 3	0.45
OCT 21	69			DEC 21	0.67
OCT 22	71				
OCT 25	64				

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN WESTERN WASHINGTON...CONTACT  
 NWS SEATTLE...OR NWS PORTLAND FOR AREAS IN EXTREME SOUTHWEST  
 WASHINGTON ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER. FOR INFORMATION IN EASTERN

WASHINGTON...CONTACT EITHER NWS SPOKANE OR NWS PENDLETON.

BUEHNER/NEHER/GRUB/CUSHMEER

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