



Weather & Water



What is requested? NOAA's Weather and Water Goal requests \$858.6 million in FY 2006, reflecting a net increase of +\$34.3M over the FY 2006 base level. This increase will enable critical activities to directly support a safer, healthier, and economically stronger America through reliable, timely, and accurate weather (including space weather and air quality) and water information.

What are the benefits? NOAA's weather and water services make a tremendous contribution to the Nation's health and economic vitality. For instance, weather warnings protect the public from extreme environmental events while forecasts are essential to weather- and climate-sensitive industries, which account for one-third of the Nation's GDP. As an example of the benefits, during a typical hurricane season NOAA's efforts save the Nation \$3B, and over a three year period a \$200K investment in a heat warning system for Philadelphia saved 118 lives and produced \$468M in benefits. Annually, drought costs the Nation \$6-8B, and floods cost \$5B and cause more than 80 deaths. The U.S. can reap a 12 to 1 return annually for every dollar invested in better water resource forecasting. Key scientific information provided to air quality policy-makers, will allow Texas to save more than \$9B and thousands of jobs by 2010 while still protecting public health.

Why do we need it? Trends such as just-in-time production, globalization, and increased travel amplify the impact weather and water information and services have on the economy. Substantial population and business growth in coastal and arid regions increases the sensitivity to weather and water conditions, as well. This interdependence means weather and water events in one geographic area can have national economic impact.

What will we do? NOAA will continue to provide critical services to the Nation. This includes observing conditions, conducting applied research, making predictions, and disseminating forecasts and information. The FY 2006 funding will also strengthen NOAA's ability to sustain those critical services and to provide crucial enhanced services. Warning improvements include \$9.5M to accelerate NOAA's tsunami detection, warning and mitigation capabilities and expand its scope from the Pacific to the Atlantic and Caribbean. To better deliver all hazards information, \$5.7M is included for NOAA Weather Radio expansion and modernization. NOAA will use \$4M of the funding to develop a nationwide water resources forecasting capability, which will address Ocean Commission recommendations and requests from the Western Governor's Association. NOAA will use \$3M to characterize key processes that contribute to atmospheric particulate matter (PM) pollution, accelerate the expansion of national ozone forecasts, and initiate PM forecasts.

NOAA FY 2006 Budget (\$ in Millions)		
	Current Program	Program Change
ORF	\$747.2	\$23.1
PAC	\$77.1	\$11.2
TOTAL	\$824.3	\$34.3

For additional information please contact:
Dr. Frank Kelly (301) 713-3400 ext. 126