NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
Western Region Notes

August 11, 2005

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE

LIFT Applications: The announcement for the first Western Region LIFT program closed August 1. Thanks to all who applied to the program. We have 50 applications! The following team of five people will evaluate the applications:

Steve Brueske: MIC, Great Falls, chairperson
Betsy Morse: MIC, Sacramento
Bruce Bauck: MIC, Missoula
Eugene Van Cor: NWSEO, Salt Lake City WFO
Kirby Cook: WRH/SSD and member of the first LIFT class

In the first round of evaluations, the team will choose approximately 20-25 people to be interviewed by phone. Following the interviews and calls to references listed in the applications, the team will develop a ranked list of applicants and provide it to the Regional Director. The Regional Director will choose approximately 10-15 applicants. A formal announcement of members of the next LIFT class released in the middle of September.

Good luck to all those who applied!

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: Our Statement of the Week is actually two statements – a Flash Flood Warning issued by WFO Tucson and the follow-up Flash Flood Statement. The warning was issued for Central Pima County (including the Tonohono O'odham Nation) on Tuesday evening, August 2.

During the flash flood event, the forecast staff had to do without their primary source of data. The Tucson WSR-88D was out of service. The staff could view data from surrounding radars, but that provided an incomplete picture, at best. In addition to the surrounding radars, the staff based their warning decisions on satellite imagery, gauge data, and weather spotter reports. This warning had a lead time of at least 40 minutes. The Flash Flood Statement, issued by General Forecaster Gary Zell, highlights two highways on the Tohono O'odham Nation susceptible to problems with low water crossings. The office was notified the following morning about a motorist who decided to brave the flash flooding along highway 86 and was swept away into the fast moving water at least 1,000 feet downstream. This shows how forecasters made maximum use of limited data in a very tough situation, and did an excellent job! The forecast team on duty that evening: Brian Francis (Senior Forecaster), Gary Zell (General Forecaster), Mike Schaffner (Service Hydrologist), Pamela Elslager (Meteorologist Intern), and Hans Hanson (Hydrometeorological Technician).

FFWTWC
AZC019-030515-

BULLETIN - EAS ACTIVATION REQUESTED
FLASH FLOOD WARNING
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TUCSON AZ
720 PM MST TUE AUG 2 2005

THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE IN TUCSON HAS ISSUED A

* FLASH FLOOD WARNING FOR...
  CENTRAL PIMA COUNTY IN SOUTH CENTRAL ARIZONA
  THIS INCLUDES THE CITY OF QUEENS WELL

* UNTIL 1015 PM MST

* AT 720 PM MST...HEAVY RAIN WAS INDICATED BY NATIONAL WEATHER
  SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR FROM SEVERAL THUNDERSTORMS OVER THE
  WARNED AREA.

* LOCATIONS IN THE WARNING INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO SANTA
  ROSA....COVERED WELLS...AND QUEENS WELL.

EXCESSIVE RUNOFF FROM HEAVY RAINFALL WILL CAUSE FLOODING OF SMALL CREEKS AND STREAMS...IF YOU ENCOUNTER PONDED WATER OR A FLOWING WASH...NO NOT ATTEMPT TO CROSS...TURN AROUND. MOTORISTS ALONG HIGHWAY 86 SHOULD USE EXTREME CAUTION WHILE DRIVING.

LAT...LON 3217 11235 3197 11209 3212 11143 3243 11173 3234 11204

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WEATHER.GOV/TUCSON

SCHAFFNER

FLASH FLOOD STATEMENT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE TUCSON AZ
835 PM MST TUE AUG 2 2005

AZC019-030515-
PIMA AZ-
835 PM MST TUE AUG 2 2005

...A FLASH FLOOD WARNING CONTINUES UNTIL 1015 PM MST FOR CENTRAL PIMA COUNTY...

AT 833 PM MST...NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE DOPPLER RADAR CONTINUED TO INDICATE AREAS OF MODERATE RAINFALL OVER PORTIONS OF CENTRAL PIMA COUNTY...IN THE SANTA ROSA AND QUIJOTOA AREAS. RADAR RAINFALL ESTIMATES OF BETWEEN 2 AND 4 INCHES HAVE OCCURRED IN THE WARNING

AREA. THIS RAINFALL WILL IMPACT LOW WATER CROSSINGS ALONG STATE HIGHWAY 86...AS WELL AS ROUTE 15. THEREFORE...A FLASH FLOOD WARNING FOR CENTRAL PIMA COUNTY CONTINUES IN EFFECT UNTIL 1015 PM MST.

LOCATIONS IN THE WARNING INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO QUEENS WELL.

DO NOT DRIVE YOUR VEHICLE INTO AREAS WHERE THE WATER COVERS THE ROADWAY. THE WATER DEPTH MAY BE TOO GREAT TO ALLOW YOUR CAR TO CROSS SAFELY. VEHICLES CAUGHT IN RISING WATER SHOULD BE ABANDONED QUICKLY. MOVE TO HIGHER GROUND.

LAT...LON 3217 11235 3197 11209 3212 11143 3243 11173 3234 11204

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WEATHER.GOV/TUCSON

USGS and NWS Forecasters Team Up for Softball in Tucson: The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and NWS teamed up this year and took third place in the Faculty/Staff Summer Recreational Softball League in Tucson. Each year, the USGS Arizona Water Science Center puts together a summer softball team, known as the "Goats." Since the two groups share a building on the University of Arizona campus in Tucson, the NWS staff is invited to participate. In the past, the "Goats" have been near the middle of the pack, but this year they made it into the semi-finals and came away with third place. The partnership with the USGS, which has been cultivated by Service Hydrologist Mike Schaffner, has always been good, but sharing recreational activities such as this have helped it to grow even stronger.

(L to R) Eric Strem (CNRFC), Jayme Laber (WFO Oxnard), Steven Evanko (Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton), and Joe Dandrea (WFO San Diego)

WR Staff Visits Camp Pendleton: Jayme Laber (WFO Los Angeles/Oxnard Service Hydrologist), Eric Strem (California-Nevada River Forecast Center), and Joe Dandrea (WFO San Diego Hydro Focal Point) spent a morning at MCAS Camp Pendleton assessing the feasibility of adding a forecast point for base personnel on the Santa Margarita River. The Marine Base covers hundreds of square miles in the San Diego Hydrologic service area. Assistant Chief of the Water Resources Dept., Steven Evanko, provided a wealth of information on the history and significant impacts the River has on base, and a tour of the base facilities and the Santa Margarita watershed area. The visit was very productive and will foster better communication and possible NWS Hydrologic services for MCAS Camp Pendleton.

Seattle WCM Visits Canadian Mariners Group: On July 23, Seattle WCM Ted Buehner ventured into British Columbia to address the Pacific Northwest Mainship Owners Group Annual Rendevous at the Sydney Marina. The mix of 50 Canadian and American mariners learned about hazardous Pacific

Northwest marine weather patterns, the NWS's and Environment Canada's mission and operations, the marine warning system, and where to get NWS and Canadian marine weather information.

Pocatello Staff Praised for Wildfire Support: WFO Pocatello staff recently received praise from firefighters in Idaho. The staff provided invaluable support to firefighting efforts in July for the Falls Creek Fire, 8 miles east of May, Idaho, in the Lemhi Mountain Range. Included in the final spot weather forecast request from firefighters, the office received these comments: *"I want to thank the whole bunch of you for your excellent support. You are doing an important part of the job of keeping our (your) firefighters safe! Thanks."*

Glasgow Participates in Montana Fair: NWS Glasgow participated in the northeast Montana Fair on August 6-8 in Glasgow, Montana. The booth highlighted items such as "Why is Marble Size Hail a "No, No?"", heat safety information, local climatology for the last 90 days and year, recent significant weather events, and a hands on area for kids to play with weather related gadgets and experiments.

Although participation to the fair was down a bit this year, many of the weather spotters in the area stopped by to talk to NWS staff members. A weather quiz was also given, and the answers were spread on displays throughout the booth. The question people found most interesting was, "Which state has the largest temperature difference between the record low and the record high?" (Answer: Montana at 187 degrees!)

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Advanced Warning Operations Course (AWOC): It is important that offices keep up with the AWOC training schedule. Completion will be tracked by LMS and reported in the WR Professional Development and Training plan.

August 31, 2005: Complete Severe Weather Track (WFOs and highly recommended for CWSUs)

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

AWOC IC Completions by WFO
Western Region
As Of 1 Aug 2005

Region	WFO ID	Description	IC Completions
WR	PQR	PORTLAND WFO OREGON	188
WR	TFX	GREAT FALLS WFO MONTANA	187
WR	MSO	MISSOULA WFO MONTANA	177

Region	WFO ID	Description	IC Completions
WR	SEW	SEATTLE WFO WASHINGTON	173
WR	OTX	SPOKANE WFO WASHINGTON	169
WR	BOI	BOISE WFO IDAHO	164
WR	TWC	TUCSON WFO ARIZONA	164
WR	LOX	LOS ANGELES WFO (OXNARD) CALIFORNIA	162
WR	STO	SACRAMENTO WFO CALIFORNIA	161
WR	EKA	EUREKA WFO CALIFORNIA	160
WR	FGZ	FLAGSTAFF WFO ARIZONA	159
WR	HNX	SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WFO (HANFORD)CALIFORNIA	158
WR	MTR	SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA WFO (MONTEREY) CA	156
WR	PDT	PENDLETON WFO OREGON	152
WR	BYZ	BILLINGS WFO MONTANA	150
WR	MFR	MEDFORD WFO OREGON	150
WR	PIH	POCATELLO WFO IDAHO	149
WR	SGX	SAN DIEGO WFO CALIFORNIA	145
WR	REV	RENO WFO NEVADA	144
WR	VEF	LAS VEGAS WFO NEVADA	144
WR	GGW	GLASGOW WFO MONTANA	138
WR	SLC	SALT LAKE CITY WFO UTAH	135
WR	LKN	ELKO WFO NEVADA	134
WR	PSR	PHOENIX WFO ARIZONA	130
WR	WRHQ	WR HEADQUARTERS	104
WR	RSA	CALIFORNIA-NEVADA RFC (SACRAMENTO) CA	28
WR	ZOA	FREMONT CWSU CALIFORNIA	26
WR	ZLC	SALT LAKE CITY CWSU UTAH	24
WR	ZLA	PALMDALE CWSU CALIFORNIA	16
WR	PTR	NORTHWEST RFC (PORTLAND) OREGON	6
WR	SLR	COLORADO BASIN RFC (SALT LAKE CITY) UTAH	6

AWOC Winter Weather Track Update: WDTB and 20 winter weather subject matter experts from the NWS, OAR, academic, and broadcast communities meet in Norman last week to begin development of the AWOC Winter Weather Track. This track will contain between 15 and 18 hours of asynchronous instructional content including the 5 hours required for the Winter Weather WES simulations. To add flexibility to the course, instructors will be developing additional optional instructional material that the SOO and students may integrate into the course if they choose. WDTB will be making available to the training community a short (5-minute) web-based overview of next year's Winter Weather AWOC track.

AWIPS Postgres Training Materials: Postgres will replace Informix in AWIPS OB6 this autumn. In preparation for this change the National Weather Service Training Center has been developing Postgres database training materials over the past several months. These materials are;

1. Postgres Documentation/Reference Manuals. If not already received, all WFOs and RFCs should receive these by the middle of August 2005.
2. A Postgres training CD that acts as a Postgres emulator. This will allow local offices to work with Postgres commands. Available by the end of August 2005.
3. An Introduction to Postgres on-line course. This will be available from the NWSTC in September 2005.
4. An Integrating Postgres into AWIPS on-line course is expected in October 2005.
5. A Postgres server with an AWIPS database at the NWSTC. Accessing this server will allow offices to run and test their Postgres scripts with AWIPS data. This server has been purchased by the NWSTC and is being ramped up. No date for field access is available at this time, but the goal is for sometime in late September or early October 2005.

National deployment of AWIPS OB6 is currently scheduled to begin on October 17, 2005. Hence, all WR offices should factor in Postgres training and changeover time for their appropriate AWIPS managers over the next few months.

WR GFE App Server Set-up: WR Mod-Note WR05-005 details the setup and installation of the WR IFPS application server. The IFPS application server is a Dell Precision 470 workstation delivered to each WFO during the Fall of 2004 and is intended as a baseline server for IFPS applications and development specific to Western Region. This is a mandatory mod-note and action for all WR offices. Offices that have already configured their application server will still need to carry out the instructions and actions included in the mod-note. **Completion of the mod note is September 1, 2005. Please note the completion in EMRS.**

The intent behind the GFE Application Server (App Server) is to provide a standardized AWIPS platform for WR applications to run on and improve regional support. The App Server is part of the new WR IFPS management process. Rational for these changes are:

1. Application Configuration management – As the list of WR GFE applications grow, it becomes more important that all offices use the same configuration. The App Server will become the primary home for critical WR applications. This includes GFE applications such as MatchObsAll, MatchGuidance, and the IFPSVerify (or any derivative thereof) software.

   SSD will use Mod Notes and Kick Start CDs to supply installation instructions and load modules that will be based on the App Server hardware configuration. These changes should make it easier for IFPS focal points to install software. Support and trouble shooting also becomes much easier. If problems arise, SSD or a neighboring site can assist in troubleshooting or recovery. With the turnover in IFPS focal points, the MICs have requested additional assistance in this area. This is a logical way to proceed and build expertise across the region.

2. AWIPS performance – AWIPS performance is an issue and will continue to be an issue for several years. AWIPS performance is now routinely tracked at the national and regional levels. WR just completed an effort to identify problem applications and work with each office to

mitigate their impact on operations. To avoid future problems, WR applications should be run on the WR application PC when ever possible.

WR Web Policy Updated: Two documents were sent out:

Content Guidelines for Office Web Sites: This guideline provides a bullet summary of key aspects of DOC, NOAA and NWS web policy. If the office follows these guidelines (checklist), their web page will conform with polices as they are now written. This guideline updates the previous version modified May 12, 2002.

Introduction to WR Standard Web Page and Server Access: This is a short primer for **new** webmasters accessing the web farm.

Hydrologic Research to Operations Meeting: WR is organizing a hydrology research to operations meeting October 4-6. The purpose of the meeting is to build relationships between the research and NWS operations communities to apply current and future research to solve problems in hydrology operations at the RFCs and WFOs. The website for the meeting is: http://www.wrh.noaa.gov/hydroscience. Please contact Kevin Werner (WR/SSD) with any questions.

Recently Released COMET Modules:

- Wave Life Cycle I: Generation
- Creating a Local Climate Product Using Composite Analysis
- Introduction to Ensemble Prediction
- Mesoscale Banded Precipitation
- The Impact of Weather on Air Traffic Management

To access, go to http://www.meted.ucar.edu/

Teletraining Sessions for August: The Virtual Institute for Satellite Integration Training (VISIT) calendar for August is now available. Offices can register for the teletraining sessions by sending email to: visit@comet.ucar.edu. The teletraining calendar is now at: http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ecal.asp

The teletraining planning calendar with other sessions is at: http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/planning.html

The current sessions planned for August are:

- Monitoring Gulf Moisture Return with GOES Imagery (Basic, Aug 17)
- Downscaling Technique by Climate Team (Basic, Aug 11,22,30)
- CPC Extended Range Forecasts by Climate Team (Basic, Aug 9,25)
- CPC Long Range Forecasting by Climate Team (Basic, Aug 10,24)
- CPC Monitoring Products by Climate Team (Basic, Aug 16,23)

Climate Team sessions are intended for climate focal points and are a prerequisite for additional classroom training.

Several recorded VISIT sessions are available via LMS: http://e-learning.doc.gov/coursecatalog/index.cfm. Go to NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE COURSES and search on VISIT.

All previous sessions including those with recorded instructor audio and annotations are available at: http://rammb.cira.colostate.edu/visit/ts.html

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION

WFO Reno Visit: Joe Lachacz and Merri Richmond visited the WFO Reno office. Joe and Merri conducted an inspection of the grounding system of all communications equipment. Merri and Mike Freitas verified a maintenance procedure for the Master III NOAA Weather Radio transmitter. Joe and Robert Cummings reviewed transmitter settings at the office.