NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
FY 2012 BUDGET HIGHLIGHTS

National Weather Service (NWS) requests $988.0M in FY 2012, reflecting a net decrease of $11.9M from the FY 2010 Enacted level. The President's FY 2012 Budget proposes to transfer $15.0M associated with the Climate Prediction Center, the management of the TAO array, and the Cooperative Observer Network Modernization to assist with the formation of the new Climate Service line office. This budget request supports NOAA's efforts to employ cutting-edge technology and to provide weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters and ocean areas, for the protection of life and property, and the enhancement of the national economy.

National Data Buoy Center +$4.0M: Will support the effort to resolve sustainment gaps in the ocean observation capabilities of Coastal Weather Data Buoys (CWB) and Coastal-Marine Automated Network (C-MAN) stations. Decreased data availability has caused large maritime data voids where no meteorological or oceanographic data is routinely sampled. This makes it difficult for NWS forecasters to make accurate and timely marine warnings and forecasts, and to measure the accuracy of their forecasts. The requested increase will provide operations and maintenance funding to support earmarked, damaged, and destroyed buoys, and to comply with new international regulations.

GPS Radiosondes for Upper Air Observations +$5.0M: Will enable acquisition of global positioning system (GPS) radiosondes to launch at all 102 upper air (UA) observing sites. The UA profile data received from GPS radiosondes serve as one of the principal data sources for NWS weather prediction models supporting severe storm, aviation, and marine forecasts and warnings. Radiosonde data are also used by the Department of Homeland Security and the Environmental Protection Agency in modeling the dispersion and mixing of hazardous materials and pollutants that are released into the atmosphere.

NWS FY 2012 Budget Request ($ Millions)

	FY 2010 Enacted	FY 2011 CR	FY 2012 Request	FY 2012 Request vs. FY 2010 Enacted
ORF	$892.1	$882.7	$896.8	$4.7
PAC	$107.7	$107.7	$91.2	($16.5)
OTHER	$0	$0	$0	$0
TOTAL	$999.8	$990.4	$988.0	($11.9)

Next Generation Air Transportation System (NextGen) +$26.9M: To support initial operational deployment of a 4-Dimensional (4-D) Weather Data Cube that will improve access and availability of observed and forecast weather information and enable its integration into an automated air traffic management system. NextGen is a multi-year, multi-agency effort to improve aviation weather services. Federal Aviation Administration records indicate that on average, weather is a factor in 70% of delays, costing roughly $29B. It is estimated that two-thirds of these delays could be avoided with enhanced weather information.

Weather and Climate Supercomputing +$11.0M: To transition NOAA's operational high performance computing (HPC) to a new contract. This new contract will continue regular improvements to weather prediction modeling and also will support on-going Hurricane Forecast Improvement Project (HFIP) modeling activities. The current operational HPC contract expires at the end of FY 2011 and NOAA must convert operations to a newly competed contract utilizing more technologically advanced supercomputing systems. NOAA's weather forecasts are derived from a suite of global to local weather, hydrological, land, coastal, and ocean models which provide the basis of all of NWS' prediction and related service areas.