Roundtable Panel of NOAA Partners
NOAA Stakeholder Forum
Seattle Washington - January 12, 2004
- Abstracts -

Professor Clifford F. Mass
Department of Atmospheric Sciences
University of Washington

Professor Mass, as a NOAA Partner, will describe some of the major joint projects between the University of Washington and the NOAA's National Weather Service and describe the potential of regional weather prediction to revolutionize the National Weather Service. A major thrust of his work is to determine the benefits of high resolution forecasting, improve verification approaches, and to identify and address weaknesses in forecast model physics.

S. Edward Boselly
Road Weather Program Manager
Washington State Department of Transportation

Weather impacts nearly all highway maintenance activities. It also affects highway users' safety and mobility. Consequently maintenance managers and operators, as well as travelers, need accurate and reliable weather information in order to effectively and efficient decisions. In addition, these information users need weather information presented in a user-friendly manner. Over the last five years, the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Washington (UW) developed a capability to gather data from the many networks of weather instrumentation around the State, integrated these data into user-friendly formats, and developed websites for data display. The UW takes numerical weather prediction output and presents the forecast information in a format for easy use and understanding by maintenance personnel. This presentation describes the data displays, high-resolution modeled output, and the integration of other weather information sources. The presentation concludes with comments on additional NOAA data needs.

Glen Woodbury

Director of the Washington State Department of
Emergency Management

Washington State embraces the NWR as an "All Hazard" communications system to warn citizens quickly and effectively. As an active partner with NOAA through the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program, Washington has developed the NOAA Weather Radio Emergency Information Network to provide state and local officials with the capability to address any hazardous situation. The network now covers the coastline of Washington and through a yearly NOAA weather radio campaign; radios are now in key critical facilities, hotel/motels, business and homes.

To further the effectiveness and coverage of this key communication system, Washington Emergency Management Division in partnership with Federal Signal developed the All Hazard Alert Broadcasting (AHAB) Radio system that in concert with the NOAA weather radio provides voice messaging of any hazardous situations in high traffic areas or in areas with no electrical power such as a beachhead. The City of Seattle is now combining these efforts and those of homeland security to demonstrate this concept can, in any hazard, provide rapid and effective warning.

Dr. Nathan Mantua

Assistant Professor of Atmospheric Sciences and Marine Affairs
University of Washington:

The Climate Impacts Group: Piloting Climate Services for the Pacific Northwest.
Since the fall of 1995 the University of Washington's Climate Impacts Group (CIG) has conducted applied interdisciplinary studies aimed at improving the use and utility of NOAA-generated climate information for resource management in the Pacific Northwest. The CIG was the first of NOAA's "regional climate impacts" studies that now include 7 groups participating in NOAA's Regional Integrated Sciences and Applications (RISA) program (http://www.risa.ogp.noaa.gov/).

The CIG research focuses on climate impacts on the water, forest, fishery and coastal resources in the Pacific Northwest. A unique aspect of this program is the strong links between regional stakeholders and CIG research scientists. Examples of CIG's stakeholder interactions include cooperative "climate impacts" studies being done with Idaho's Department of Water Resources, the Portland Water Bureau, Seattle Public Utilities, and NOAA Fisheries. More information on CIG activities is available on their web-site at http://cses.washington.edu

Professor Bill Rogers
Environmental Law
University of Washington

Professor Rogers will discuss recent issues of interest to NOAA and its stakeholders on subjects related to environmental law, law and biology, and oceans and coastal law. Special emphasis will be given to recent Indian Tribe law cases and legal issues dealing with fisheries management in the Pacific Northwest. He will also discuss his recent research interests and work in the subjects of law, biology, human behavior, and especially environmental law in Indian country.