

# NWS Regional and Local Climate Services: The first 8 years

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20<sup>th</sup> CPAS Workshop, Asheville, NC, May 2023

# What did we accomplish?

Quoted from my vitae:

... led the development and implementation of NOAA/NWS operational climate services at field offices nationwide.

Over the course of eight years ... guided the evolution of NWS-wide climate services from just a name to a fully-realized infrastructure including

- standardized field office web pages,
- new web tools and services,
- a trained cadre of regional and field office personnel,
- an operations manual,
- new and productive partnerships,
- a new commitment to stewardship of the climate record,
- and a new local climate forecast product.

# Launching the new Climate Services Division

- Boss clueless but with lots of credibility and connections
- Personal opportunity to have an impact beyond science/research
- Had confidence of and mutual respect with the NWS Director
- Was given ample support in terms of positions and discretionary funding
- Reprogrammed headquarters staff included Berger and Reeves who brought invaluable organizational and procedural savvy, and Leffler who was essential for our data stewardship goals
- New hires included three “stars:” Brewer and Horsfall (Civil Servants) and Timofeyeva (UCAR Fellow)

National Weather Service  
Regional and Local Climate Services

Implementation Plan

August 29, 2003

THE FIVE GOALS OF THE NWS'S CLIMATE SERVICES IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The NWS has set five goals to implement regional and local climate services (Figure 1).

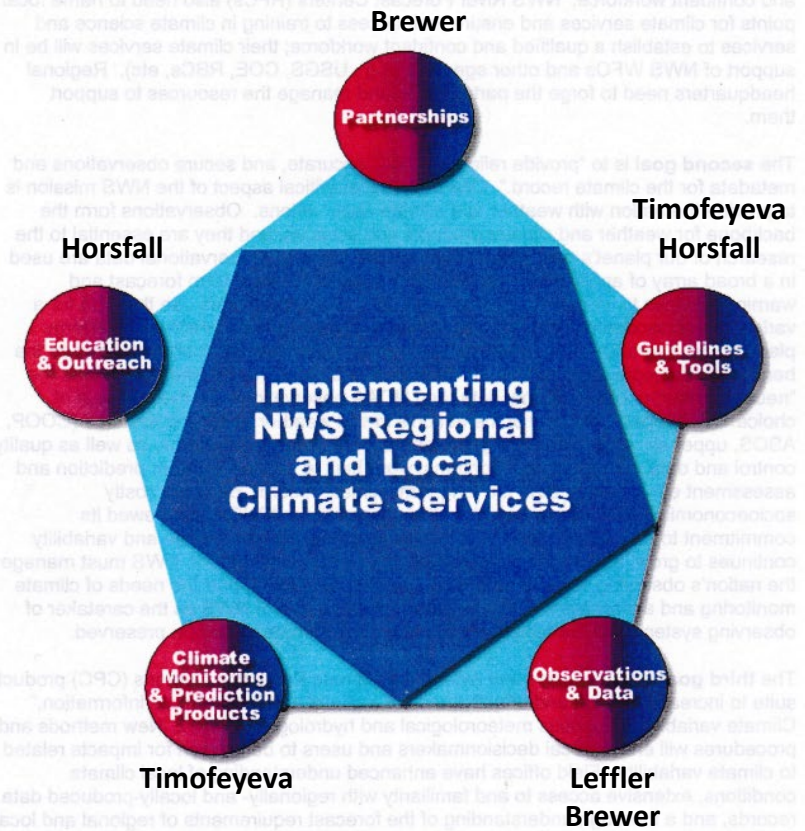
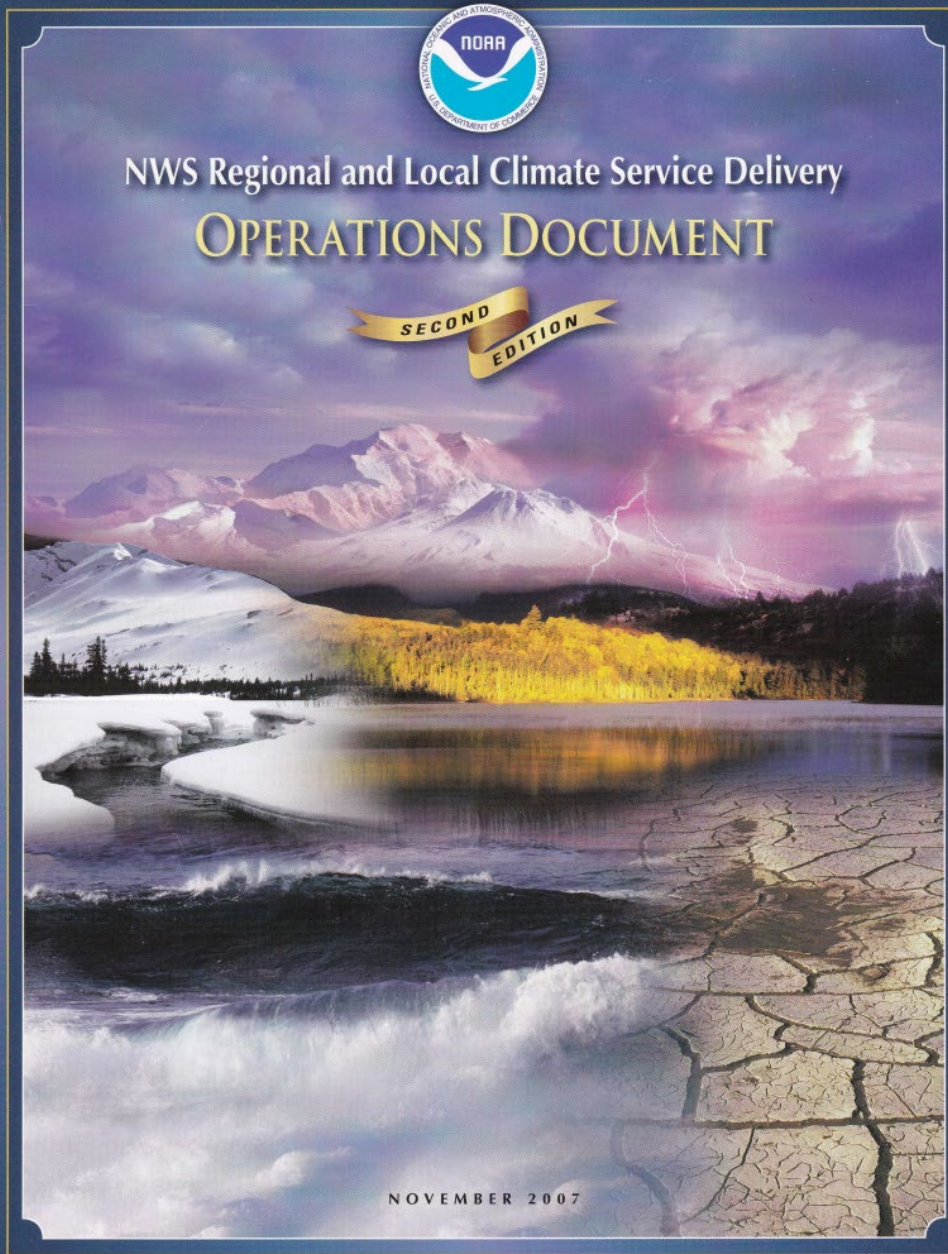


Figure 1

The Five Pillars/Goals of the NWS's Climate Services Implementation Plan





CSD Training - Mozilla Firefox

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http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/csd/Training

## Climate Services

Home News Organization Search  NWS All NOAA Go


**Local forecast by "City, St" or zip code**

**Climate Services Division**

CSD training program is organized as [Professional Development Series in Climate Services](#) developing NOAA NWS staff professional competency in six main areas:

- NOAA Climate Services Infrastructure
- Climate Variability and Change
- NWS CPC Climate Products and Methodologies
- Local Applications of NWS Climate Products and Services
- Climate Services Outreach
- Quality of NOAA Climate Observations

**Training Courses:**



- [Operational Climate Services](#) residence course
- [Climate Variability and Change](#) virtual course

**Distance Learning:**

CSD produces distance learning modules (recorded online presentations, webcasts, webinars, etc.) on various Climate Services topics for self-paced training. To find out more about the distance learning program, [click here](#).

- Climate Training and Education for NWS field staff
  - 30 Distance learning modules
  - 2 Residence Courses



## NOAA CLIMATE DATA STEWARDSHIP: PROGRESS THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

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# Creating a Drought Early Warning System for the 21st Century

The National Integrated Drought Information System



Western Governors' Association • June 2004

**Climate Prediction Assessments Workshop**  
**Research and Applications on Use and Impacts**

**Workshop Proceedings**

Alexandria, VA  
October 28-30, 2002

Hosted by:  
The National Weather Service/Climate Services Division, with  
The NOAA Office of Global Programs and  
The NOAA Climate Observations and Services Program

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- “The purpose of the meeting was to identify new climate applications research, promote interactions between climate-sensitive integrated research and service communities, and assess impacts of climate forecasts on environmental-societal interactions.”



# Missed Opportunities

- Cutting funding to support partnerships, regions and field initiatives
- Failure of Offices of Services and Director to provide qualified leadership in 2008 and 2009 led to loss of momentum and focus in advancing NWS's role in data stewardship (and perhaps otherwise)
- Not allocating a full-time equivalent position in every local office for climate services and failure to even ensure a non-diffuse half-time position at all offices
- Lack of commitment by NCEP to support leveraging and empowering the field for local climate forecasts as required in the implementation plan and envisioned in the Forecast Operations Concept (eg LCAT, etc)



**Goal 3:** Enhance and extend Climate Prediction Center's (CPC) product suite to increase the use and effectiveness of regional and local climate information

*Actions and Planned Implementation Dates:*

NWS Headquarters	NCEP	Regional Headquarters	Local Offices (WFOs)	Local Offices (RFCs)
Provide guidance to regions for conducting regional and local studies* (FY05/Q1)	Provide tools to regions for conducting regional and local studies* (FY05/Q1)	Investigate opportunities for regional and local studies, use guidance and tools to conduct regional studies, and provide guidance and tools to local offices for conducting local studies* (FY05/Q2 - ONGOING)	Investigate opportunities for local studies, and use guidance and tools to conduct studies* (FY05/Q3 - ONGOING)	Investigate opportunities for local studies, and use guidance and tools to conduct studies* (FY05/Q3 - ONGOING)
Facilitate coordination between NCEP and regions in generating techniques to produce local conditional climatologies based on modes of climate variability* (FY05/Q2)	Develop, with regions, techniques for all local offices to use in generating local conditional climatologies based on modes of climate variability* (FY05/Q2)	Support development of techniques for local offices to use in generating local conditional climatologies and, where needed, serve as a testbed for transition to operations* (FY05/Q3)	Develop local conditional climatologies based on modes of climate variability* (FY05/Q4)	Support WFO development of local hydrologic climatologies and coordinate and mosaic local conditional climatologies from WFOs* (FY05/Q4)

*Required Resources:*

- Funding (at all levels) for travel to collaborate in product development
- Staff hours for appropriate personnel (at all levels) for product development and testing

\*Refer to Appendix 2 – "NWS Climate Forecast Operations Concept"

**APPENDIX 2 – NWS Climate Forecast Operations Concept**

