

IDSS PHILOSOPHY COMMENTS (Results of Public Comment/Review on document provided at <a href="http://www.nws.noaa.gov/sp/OWA_IDSS_Philosophy_Material.pdf">http://www.nws.noaa.gov/sp/OWA_IDSS_Philosophy_Material.pdf</a> )		stakeholder type
Comment		
1 I do not anticipate any changes in how the Louisville NWS Office operates. We currently have a nice working relationship with them and they are very helpful during severe weather.  Jack  Jack L. Donovan, Director Georgetown/ Scott County Emergency Management Agency Office of Homeland Security 2200 Cincinnati Pike Georgetown, Kentucky 40324		EM community
2 I value the Monday webinars and any special webinars that Rick Smith hosts. it is vital to my decision making as a head of a school. Thank you.		schools
3 Thanks for the opportunity to provide input. I suggest adding DoD in general and Army (Fort Sill) specifically as core partners and include in list of government partners on page 2.  Fort Sill relies heavily, virtually exclusively, on your products, alerts, and interaction for timely and accurate forecasts and real-time information for Fort Sill and surrounding areas. With a daily population of approximately 23,000, and with all of our civilian employees and over 80% of our Soldiers and Families residing in Lawton and surrounding communities, Fort Sill leadership must make informed decisions related to weather for the protection of our personnel. Decisions may be to shelter in place, early post closure to allow personnel to get home prior to arrival of violent weather, or late opening to allow personnel to look after their families. It is important that dismissal be timely -- early enough to allow for safe travel and preparation of their property and families. Only with the information provided by Norman can leadership make informed and timely decisions.  Jimmy D. Dailey Deputy Chief of Staff Fires Center of Excellence		Other gov't partner
4 I am the Campus Director at Great Plains Tech Center in Lawton. The weather update system has helped our school and everyone connected to be more weather wise. We have nine buildings in Lawton and a campus in Frederick. On most days we will have around 800 people on campus including visitors. I have had positive feedback from the staff when I send out your information to them. Thanks for the help you give us in making decisions that affect our students and staff.  Kirk Mullenix Campus Director/Principal Great Plains Technology Center		schools
5 Just a very short comment concerning school officials, especially those of us who are engaged with Emergency Management or who work closely with local Emergency Managers. I did not see any conversation involving schools, so I am stating my opinion about continued membership with this organization.  School officials are reliant on direct and accurate information relating to weather and other disasters, as we are entrusted to protect our students and staff, not to mention the general public when they come to our schools for shelter or protection from the elements at an outdoor event. I would hate to be excluded from this very necessary and important form of communication concerning our severe weather forecasts and life-saving notifications provided to us through this network of professionals.  Thank you,  Bret Smith Executive Director of Operations Ponca City Public Schools		schools
6 I believe this concept would make a great difference in the planning, community awareness and operational needs for those of us responsible for general public safety. As an Emergency Manager, I have that responsibility. I am responsible for the largest work force in Pottawatomie County as well as the Tribal members and a large part of our community members. When threatening weather is approaching I frequently phone in to the NWS to get updates and storm travel directions. I am also responsible for initiating the outdoor warning sirens for our area. Being able to communicate and having up to the minute weather briefings would help me immensely in determining when to sound the sirens so we don't have several false alarms. We have several events that often have between 2000 to 10,000 participants, some indoors and some outdoors. Having the deep relationships core partners during our larger events would be most helpful in protecting the public. As an Emergency Manager, using the IDSS concept would give me the ability to make a much better decision on public safety.  Thanks  Tim Zientek Citizen Potawatomi Nation Director Emergency Management/Fire/		EM community
7 I would suggest a phone list of all coastal government agencies (local offices) within a given sector. When it is anticipated that dangerous weather is going to impact a specific sector, all the offices in that sector should be notified via telephone. A recording if it saves manpower. Any other type of notification (JDIC etc) is not checked often enough to be effective.  Dep. R. Nichol Harbor Operations		Other gov't partner
8 TWTMC  The products produced by NWS-Tucson are useful and provide officer safety value for Tucson Station Border Patrol agents and specialized units.  Tucson Station Intelligence Unit finds great value in weather forecasts and how they can significantly impact our operations and assets.  V/r,  Joe M. Gonzalez Border Patrol Agent - Intelligence		Other gov't partner
9 First and foremost I must express to all NWS employees our appreciation -- I have been with SJCFR for 26 years and throughout those years NWS has never failed us. Every individual I have ever contacted with NWS has provided us the highest level of service, the most accurate information available and worked with us through some pretty tough weather related situations. I think back to Hurricane Floyd and it was aiming straight for St. Johns County and as I am watching the radar and NWS is on speaker phone providing a briefing to us stating 'St. Johns hang in there, it's going to turn'. I witnessed the turn Floyd made as it took a straight line for Wilmington N.C. sparing St. Johns County.  NWS has always performed and provided services as outlined in the Impact Based Decision Support Services Philosophy document -- you have just given it a name! Thank you for your never ending support of our mutual mission -- Public Safety.  Gia M. Reynolds Communications Coordinator St. Johns County Fire Rescue		EM community

10	<p>I am one of the counties in Georgia that get their weather from Greenville. I would like to see Greenville and Peachtree City somehow on the same page. In other words when Peachtree City puts out a statement for adjoining counties, I believe that Greenville should put something out for our county. We adjoining counties put out weather statements to their public safety agencies and we are sitting here doing nothing, it makes it look like we are unconcerned. Personnel in the field question us constantly on the weather and we have nothing to give them.</p> <p>Lynn Smith   Director  GA-PM Habersham County E-911 Emergency Management</p>	EM community
11	<p>This looks good to me.</p> <p>Amy J Hirsch, AEM</p> <p>Emergency Services Coordinator Deputy Director Warren County Office of Emergency Services</p>	EM community
12	<p>I like the system as it is. I do not know of any changes that would help us in our (City of Ventura, Facilities) decision making process. I work well from emails but we do have staff that a text message would get faster attention it that is a goal of yours.</p> <p>Keith Fowler Public Works Supervisor</p>	Other gov't partner
13	<p>I think this is a great idea. The requests for information from your office has to be enormous. Deciding who gets the information first, so important decisions for that community, can be made by the "core partner" is imperative. I support this effort fully. If there is anything that I can do to help just give me a yell.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>chatham_a_CEMAlogo_042314_signature Matt Bryan, Director Chatham Emergency Management Agency</p>	EM community
14	<p>The Clark County Regional Flood Control District has a close working relationship with our local NWS office that could be categorized as a Core partnership. We have a network of rain gauges, water level sensors, and weather stations located throughout Clark County, NV that are used by multiple agencies, including NWS.</p> <p>We participate in briefings as they pertain to potential flash flooding events, exchange information vis NWSSchat, and are alerted via telephone by the duty forecaster when flood potential exists after business hours. When flash flood watches, warnings, and/or advisories are issued by the local NWS office, our organization disseminates the information to local entities (public works, police, fire rescue, Red Cross, etc.) while determining which ones will be impacted first, and reporting current conditions (e.g. rain gauge near Main St. &amp; First Av. has reported 0.75" of rain in 15 minutes). Any reports of flooding we receive are passed on to emergency responders as well as to NWS.</p> <p>Forecast products our local entities enjoy are daily e-mail briefings, generated 3-5 days in advance when flash flooding potential is first identified. Anticipated rainfall potential with likely locations (text is ok, graphics are better) really help first responders in our community. Probability of precipitation is also useful; and of course, flood watches, warnings, and advisories are critical.</p> <p>I hope this feedback is helpful.</p> <p>Craig McDougall Senior Hydrologist Clark County Regional Flood Control District</p>	Other gov't partner
15	<p>After reading the definition of "core partners," it is not entirely clear to me where state universities and other institutes of higher education fit. For a number of reasons (resident population, high attendance events and needs for decision-making that may be substantially different than local government), I would respectfully request that higher education institutions be specifically included as "core partners" and supported by the IDSS specialized services. Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Gerald Campbell Emergency Manager Florida Gulf Coast University</p>	schools
16	<p>Your efforts are most appreciated. No special thoughts for improvement</p>	Other gov't partner
17	<p>The one comment I would have is to reserve notices of weather alerts to hazardous weather conditions that will actually affect Vermont in a significant way. (Black ice in the morning we can get from the regular weather station) Overuse of these notification systems inures people to the importance of the hazardous weather updates to which public safety and emergency personnel really need to pay attention.</p> <p>Karen B. Horn Director, Public Policy &amp; Advocacy,VLCT</p>	Other gov't partner
18	<p>In Vermont, as in much of New England, we have essentially no county government. Because of this, we often find it difficult to interact within the confines of many federal initiatives designed for county-level government and larger. In viewing the IDSS draft, I am concerned that the number of people that could be identified as "core" and "Deep Core" may either be more than the local field office can effectively serve, or...eligibility could become so limited as to provide "deep core" service to too few emergency managers.</p> <p>The uncomfortable issue in Vermont comes from the fact that local government (250+ towns and cities) make the public safety decisions that could justify "Deep Relationship" qualification. If the next larger governmental entity is identified instead, the numbers are reduced to one (State of VT). If the appropriate level of service for a field office is expected to be one or two "deep relationships", there may not be a problem, but if the expectation is to drill down to those who actually make public safety decisions for the population, there may be an issue.</p> <p>I find the approach to defining your primary partners admirable and have no real solutions to this issue but I would not be serving the country well if I did not point it out.</p> <p>Thanks, Tim</p> <p>Tim Bouton Sr Planner ACRPC</p>	Other gov't partner
19	<p>I have reviewed the information regarding "Impact-Based Decision Support Services Operating Philosophy" in particular the section I copied below.</p> <p>As the Commander of the Albany County Critical Incident Emergency Management Unit I have no suggestion regarding any changes. The philosophy in my opinion is functional and accurate.</p> <p>Lee</p> <p>NWS "core partners" consist of the following three groups of individuals4: 1) Member of the emergency management community. Public safety officials who serve as employees or contract agents of a government agency at the federal5, state, local, tribal, or territorial level and are charged with protecting the public from hazards that are influenced by weather or weather-related events. Occasionally, organizations with large populations which are not formally government agencies employ personnel who routinely exercise authorities similar to the public safety officials described above and should be afforded similar support by NWS. With approval of the next highest management level (e.g., Regional management approval for local WFOs/RFCs or NCEP headquarters for NCEP Centers), NWS offices providing IDSS, may extend support to these organizations. Other members of this community include SKYWARN® Net Control Operators, such as Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) and Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Services (RACES).</p>	EM community

<p>20 After DPS and ADOT are notified the Police/Fire/EMS agencies surrounding the affected area must be advised as well. Surrounding agencies to the affected area will be drawn to the State Highway as supporting 1st Responders. If supporting 1st Responders aren't needed on the State Highway(s), they need to be prepared for similar dust conditions on city and county roadways.</p> <p>Robert Woodhull 9-1-1 Administrator Pinal County Sheriff's Office</p>	EM community
<p>21 The St Johns River Water management District view itself as a Core Partner according to the documents provided. This is based on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are responsible for managing 420,000 acres of land in NE Florida. As such we regularly conduct prescribed burns. Many of those burns are in the urban interface and require precise and accurate fire weather forecasts. We regularly obtain spot weather forecasts from NWS offices that cover our district.</li> <li>2. As a land manager we are also involved in the suppression of wildfires that occur on District lands, we therefore obtain spot weather forecasts to assist in safely suppressing wildfires.</li> <li>3. We have become weather partners with the NWS Jacksonville, so we receive immediate updates if there are significant changes to the fire weather forecast between regularly scheduled forecasts.</li> <li>4. We are involved in Emergency Management through intergovernmental agreements with the State and with the Army Corps of Engineers. Many of the water management decisions we must make incorporate products provided by the NWS. The more specific those products are, the better our decisions are.</li> </ol> <p>If you have any further question, please contact me.</p> <p>I serve as both the Chief of Land Resources and the Emergency Coordinating Officer for the SJRWMD.</p> <p>Steven R. Miller, Chief Bureau of Land Resources St Johns River Water Management District</p>	Other gov't partner
<p>22 Your changes look good to me.</p> <p>Larry J. Miller, Water Systems and Facilities Manager Las Virgenes Municipal Water District</p>	Other gov't partner
<p>23 The IDSS Philosophy Material was reasonable and detailed. The definition of "core partners" was clear and appropriate.</p> <p>The idea of "deep relationship core partners" is a new concept to me. I have some questions – understanding that this is in the first stages of development. Who will make the decisions on who is a "deep relationship" core partner instead of a regular core partner? How will those decisions be made? Will there be required criteria yearly to keep the "deep relationship" status?</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>Therese Cremonte Emergency Manager</p>	EM community
<p>24 Please see the attachment for a letter in support of local weather offices.</p> <p>Rex Gilliland Commander of Operations Coconino County Sheriff's Office</p>	EM community
<p>25 Several years ago I had the opportunity to attend an EMA conference in another state as one of their featured speakers.</p> <p>I was surprised at the differences in how we have done weather events in Central Alabama and that state.</p> <p>Our county was also a test county for program where we worked with NWS-Birmingham and our major sports facilities with respect to forecast on days of major events. Locally, Bryant-Denny stadium, with a seating capacity of 101,821 is the 4th largest stadium in the Southeastern Conference, 7th largest in the US and 8th largest in the World.</p> <p>In addition to the seats inside the stadium, we may have 10,000 or more on the University Quad (Tailgating).</p> <p>The special forecast for the Day of Game are very important.</p> <p>It is not unusual for a number of contacts to be made between NWS-Birmingham and Stadium Command on the day of event if thunderstorms are in the forecast.</p> <p>A few years ago I attended a pilot course for a program related to stadium security and emergency operations. The program was prepared by a program in another state. What we take for granted in our part of Alabama, was new to those presenting the program.</p> <p>Excited to see this moving nationwide.</p> <p>David</p> <p>David K. Hartin, CEM @, MLEM Grants/Training/Logistics Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management Agency</p>	EM community
<p>26 The scope of this project appears to be informative and would be of help to me as an Emergency Management Director.</p> <p>However, I would suggest that the information we receive is in "Plain Language". Some of the data from the NWS has a lot of abbreviations and difficult to decipher in a hurry.</p> <p>Chet</p> <p>Chester J. Nicora, Jr., Director Michael Nicora, Deputy Director Agawam Emergency Management</p>	EM community

<p>27 My comment is that whoever is drafting this is perhaps mischaracterizing the much more outsized importance the Television media has as a 'force multiplier' for the NWS message. I noticed that the 4 point 'criteria' that determines who's a "Deep Relationships" core partner places a premium on government entities.</p> <p>Given that most TV stations are now responsible for the news and weather reports for most local radio stations, and social media distributions... It's perhaps that they more than any other are THE link between the NWS and 'the people'. As a past member of a few different LEPCs and several incidents requiring command and control, I can tell you straight-out that if the media aren't on board and an equal partner there will be more problems than not whenever the masses are involved. The "EM function of schools, hospitals", etc by comparison is a much simpler exercise outside of the extreme outlier cases for which only a minority of cases this document would be used. You could put all of those folks on a single conference call, but all the viewers you cannot.</p> <p>Now, the media need not have "table top exercises" and "on-site visits" in order to feel deeply partnered with the NWS, but there does seem to be a specific desire to particularly rule out Media assistance in messaging. It will not go well if you simply expect the media to exhibit consistency in messaging if they are not considered a partner. The staffs of local Television stations often (admittedly not always) have more experience in both local meteorology and media messaging than the National Weather Service offices, in addition to them being more laser-focused on specific areas compared to the more broader focused NWS offices whose CWAs can potentially include 3-4 TV markets. Also, it is important to note that local TV does not have the burden (or privilege) of being scored for accuracy on the release of warning information. This does not mean that a local TV station will issue warnings of their own, but they will indeed bridge the gap when one nearby NWS office issues a slew of Flash Flood Warnings and a bordering office does not for fear of failing a verification check (and trust me, I've been involved in many exercises and conversations with local NWS staffs over the years-- it happens). Moreover, a certain humility might be appreciated -- once in a blue moon a TV meteorologist identifies something a NWS meteorologist accidentally missed and it leads to saving lives or an increased lead time in preparation. We're not just potential corrupters of decision-making.</p> <p>I do not see how -- at all -- that consultation with local media meteorologists (over NWSChat or otherwise) does not help all feel involved and increase consistent messaging rather than the opposite. Failure to properly value or seek to 'limit' media support will not be a boon to your operation.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>Brandon Butcher Meteorologist - WSAZ</p>	media
<p>28 You need to define what "assured access to unaltered NWS information" is. I'd rather not guess.</p> <p>Our organization, the Central Ohio Severe Weather Network, part of SKYWARN, handles a population of about 2.5+ million residents in our ten county area. It's absolutely imperative that we are able to consult with NWS WFO personnel when severe weather threatens our area. Emergency Management wants to know if we are staffed to provide ground truth data to our WFO. We have asked to be included on weather briefings so that we have a rough idea of event timing. COSWN, along with neighboring SKYWARN sections, currently enjoy a great relationship with the Wilmington, Ohio WFO.</p> <p>It should be noted that COSWN works directly with SKYWARN spotters via amateur radio and helps them understand where storm cells are located so that they can provide for their own safety while in the field. That makes it very important for us to have the latest and best information on a storm particularly if tornadic activity is possible or likely. While you conclude that SKYWARN Spotters are not included as a core partner they do get much of that information via an organization similar to COSWN, albeit second hand.</p> <p>NWS "core partners" Near the end of item #1 the document mentions SKYWARN, ARES and RACES. Each of these organizations are separate in what they do. A better way to make this point is to say this;</p> <p>Other members of this community include SKYWARN Net Control Operator functions. Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES), Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service (RACES) and other groups are included if they perform a Net Control Operator function related to weather events.</p> <p>The key point in your sentence that I called out is SKYWARN Net Control Operators. Its better to call this a function as I've done. Your sentence, as written, calls out the operator but then equates it with different organizations. What is important is whatever group performs the Net Control Operator function, and there could be more groups, should be included in the core partner community.</p> <p>Note that the "S" in ARES and RACES indicates "Service" not "Services". Both groups are sensitive to this typographical error.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>John Montgomery Central Ohio Severe Weather Network - SKYWARN</p>	EM community
<p>29 I really credit the NWS and its on-going proactive posture towards continuous improvement. It is encouraging to see this organization consistently analyzing its internal workings along with soliciting its key stakeholders. The one adjustment/enhancement I would like to see revised has to do with warning thresholds pertaining to high winds, which could include straight line.</p> <p>As warnings are issued we see language indicating 50 mph, 60 mph winds, 70 mph winds, etc. The challenge that comes into play is our warning threshold for public notification (emergency alerts, outdoor warning sirens) is winds at 75 mph or greater based on consult with NWS. It would be most helpful for the weather statements to have a 75+ mph threshold as it then keys in on specific warning language where action is required.</p> <p>Thanks,</p> <p>Andy</p> <p>Andy Burchfield   Director Emergency Management University of Michigan - Division of Public Safety &amp; Security</p>	schools
<p>30 For the last several years, staff here at Will Rogers World Airport has been fortunate enough to be included in the regular and special weather webinars and emails sent out by the Norman NWS office. We have grown very reliant on these sources of information to help us as we make decisions regarding the safety of the traveling public at Will Rogers World Airport. As you can imagine, deciding to evacuate an airport our size is to a decision to be taken lightly. Evacuation and the resulting disruption to local and national airline schedules needs to be done only when it is absolutely necessary. The information we have gleaned over the past years from NWS-Norman has helped us avoid such costly evacuations of the terminal building. On the other side, information from NWS-Norman has been instrumental on those occasions when we decided it was necessary to commence an evacuation in time to shelter our passengers and avoid weather bearing down on the airport.</p> <p>After reading your proposal, I would request you allow facilities such as Will Rogers World Airport to remain "in the loop" with the NWS-Norman office. I would be happy to discuss any of this with you should you wish to have additional insight into our operations. Thank you for your consideration!</p> <p>Jim B. Thrash, C.M. Operations Manager Will Rogers World Airport – KOKC</p>	Other gov't partner

<p>31 Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide feedback regarding the above mentioned topic and related activities being evaluated and performed by the NWS. As Emergency Manager for Oklahoma County (39-1/2 total years in public safety, 19 in EM), I am a staunch supporter of the NWS Office in Norman and of the many critical activities engaged in, provided by, and supported. The staff at this office and in particular Mr. Rick Smith have been tremendous partners for emergency management and related public safety entities in our area.</p> <p>In regard to the proposed IDSS philosophy and the core partner/deep relationship concepts, I find very significant value in the services described and certainly support the concepts and desired impacts. Although we already enjoy an extremely high level of interaction with the Norman NWS Office (and at times the Tulsa Office), the addition of NWS-provided/coordinated Tabletop Exercises with subsequent After-Action activities will add even greater value to the project, particularly for emergency managers and other related partners.</p> <p>I applaud the additional inherent credibility described in the philosophy whereby specific core partners or deep relationship partners are identified and provided with enhanced products and services, to even include on-site support during events or significant incidents or disasters.</p> <p>Thanks again for the opportunity to provide input and if you have any questions or wish to further discuss my comments, please feel free to contact me.</p> <p>David K. Barnes, Director Oklahoma County Office of Emergency Management</p>	EM community
<p>32 The service you provide is used daily in the operations of the Fort Mojave Tribal Police Department. Current weather reports and Doppler Radar feeds greatly assist us in planning special events, search warrants, beach and water patrols, etc. Keep up the strong work.</p> <p>Best Regards,</p> <p>S. O'Hara, Chief of Police Fort Mojave Tribal Police</p>	EM community
<p>33 This is great info. It is very helpful knowing what coming in weather wise. Please continue the great work. Thanks again. Adam..</p> <p>ADAM WIMBERLEY Dist 6 Coarsegold Maintenance Supervisor</p>	Other gov't partner
<p>34 I am very supportive of the IDSS program and planned enhancements. The Los Angeles/Oxnard NOAA NWS staff have been providing this high level of service for the last 10 years to our community. As a Public Safety Leader I have always found the staff at the Los Angeles/Oxnard to be accessible and cooperative in assisting me with information to help me make critical life-saving decisions.</p> <p>I applaud the process you are undertaking to enhance your value to our Nation. I would direct you to the Los Angeles/Oxnard NOAA NWS office as an example of how you might model the future planning to achieve success.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Harbormaster John Higgins Ventura Port District - Harbor Patrol</p>	Other gov't partner
<p>35 The NWS provides a vital service to emergency managers and first responders across the county. Having a NWS representative available to assist during our EOC activations has been extremely helpful to the decision makers in the room. The NWS team is well known and respected across the southern region of Arizona, having real time information briefings has been a tremendous advantage in developing a common operating picture.</p> <p>Thank you for supporting our community.</p> <p>Jeff Guthrie, CEM, MEP Director Pima County Office of Emergency Management</p>	EM community
<p>36 We really appreciate the call for input. Something that you have been doing and should continue to do as part of your Impact-based Decision Support Services is your messaging through social media (especially Twitter and Facebook). Since it seems like 90% of all flash floods occur after hours, social media is the best way to immediately reach not only partners but the public and press. This allows for the prevention of cylos and bottlenecking of information. You sharable graphics of weather updates are also a great way to make information more eye-catching. Creating sharable infographics on certain topics for various presentations or social media will help non-experts grasp information as well.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Beatriz Martinez Public Information Coordinator Regional Flood Control District</p>	Other gov't partner
<p>37 1. Typo: First page, first paragraph: Says "extreme, weather, water and climate events". Should remove comma between "extreme" and "weather" Note also that the matching footnote (footnote 1) needs to have quotes on both sides of the word "Weather" as correctly done for footnote 3. 2. Typo: Last subtitle, page 4 of 6 page document: Subtitle says "How can deep relationships core partners Identified", need to add a "be" between "partners" and "identified" 3. Use of designation of "deep relationships core partners" as a subset of "core partners": Like the idea of levels of access based on needs and differentiating between general public, core group, and an inner core group. However, I find the name "deep relationships core partners" to be an awkward name for this "inner core". While it is descriptive, in regular nomenclature it would be too wordy. Why not try something like "close partners" and "core partners"? Just the idea of less wordiness is best. Lastly it seems the media are almost in their own category, might want to be clearer with that or have another designation for them.</p> <p>Hope these thoughts are useful in some way.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment,</p> <p>Gil Grodzinsky AMS Member and backup emergency SOC operator for GA EPD</p>	EM community
<p>38 I appreciate the information that I have received in the past concerning weather systems that will likely impact our area. We have taken the alerts and information, had discussion and made preparations for any issues that may arise. Thank you! Keep up the good work</p> <p>Rick Lincoln County OEM</p>	EM community

39	<p>I am one of eight Disaster Management Area Coordinators (DMACs) who support the emergency managers employed by the 88 cities of Los Angeles County. I greatly appreciate the services provided by the Oxnard NWS office. The briefings and webinars in advance of weather events have been very helpful, and are well-received by local emergency managers and their community partners.</p> <p>In 2011, seven of the 10 cities in Area C suffered severe damage from a major wind event. When similar conditions have been forecast in the recent past, Eric Boldt and colleagues at the Oxnard office have been very responsive to requests for additional information and spot forecasts.</p> <p>Well in advance and throughout this year's El Nino event, Mark Jackson, Eric Boldt and others from the Oxnard office have personally attended countless emergency management planning meetings to provide detailed briefings. Whenever and whatever we ask, the weather professionals at Oxnard deliver, and they do it in a way that is understandable and interesting.</p> <p>Regarding the NWS Philosophy on IDSS, the document is quite clear overall. It could, however, be enhanced by giving several examples to clarify the difference between core partners and deep relationship core partners. What agencies and/or activities are or would be considered deep relationship core partners, and why? Does it depend upon the size or vulnerability of the population affected, or upon the frequency of interaction? What other factors differentiate the two categories?</p> <p>Thank you for your efforts to improve support for local government emergency managers.</p> <p>John Penido, EMTP, MPA, CFOD Disaster Management Area Coordinator</p>	EM community
40	<p>I have been reading and interpreting local, state and federal documents for 25 years. This is very poorly written. I had to read it numerous times to get an understanding of it. Too long sentences, poor sentence structure, etc. I finally understood the jist of it, but it could have been accomplished in a much better manner. Strange words/terms. "Deep core relationship" ? Better term may have been priority 1 partner.</p> <p>Tammy VanOverbeke Lyon County Emergency Management, director</p>	EM community
41	<p>I think you provide a fine product. I would only have two comments.</p> <p>Reports that contain superfluous language such as walking their dog and observing the sunrise distract from the product.</p> <p>My organization blocks Facebook and as a result, we can't see anything you post there.</p>	Other gov't partner
42	<p>The Impact Decision Support Services (IDSS) have been helpful when planning our District's daily, weekly and on-call operations. The emails are convenient, the information is concise and technical enough to be useful but not too complicated so as to be "technically correct yet totally useless."</p> <p>The emails are easily shared with responsible leadership and strategic shareholders.</p> <p>I would request the Impact Decision Support Services (IDSS) program continue. The updates have become as important as watching the morning newscast which includes the weather forecaste.</p> <p>With Kindest Regards,</p> <p>Steven L. Fordice, General Manager Reclamation District 784</p>	Other gov't partner
43	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I just finished reading your 6 page IDSS philosophy write-up. I could find nothing that I disagree with. Indeed, I had no idea the NWS was so proactive in reaching out to all the various users of its products. However, I did notice there was no mention of Air Quality Management Districts. I would like to highlight some of the ways my agency depends on the NWS and its many products.</p> <p>My agency is a daily consumer of NWS forecasts. As an Air District, weather is often a critical factor in determining whether or not ozone pollution in upwind areas will reach high levels on any given day and whether or not that ozone will be transported into our region. That information is important to me as we provide the local public with a daily AQI forecast and submit our forecast data to Air Now ( <a href="https://www.airnowtech.org/index.cfm">https://www.airnowtech.org/index.cfm</a> ) and post that forecast on our local web page ( <a href="http://myairdistrict.com/index.php/air-quality-info/#aqi-forecast">http://myairdistrict.com/index.php/air-quality-info/#aqi-forecast</a> ).</p> <p>In our world it is hard to discuss real-time air pollution levels and impacts without phrasing it in the context of real-time weather conditions. Air pollution impacts will always be determined by real-time weather conditions, e.g. temperatures, wind speed, wind direction, inversion heights, inversion strengths, barometric pressure, cloud cover, diurnal wind patterns, ground level winds, winds aloft, etc.</p> <p>Additionally, my agency oversees the prescribed fire activities (as they relate to air pollution) in 8 ranger districts within 4 national forests. Any burn decision will be highly dependent on current and forecasted weather conditions. One of the invaluable services provided to the USFS is the "spot forecast". Both my agency and the USFS are highly dependent on the accuracy of those spot forecasts. If the smoke blows the wrong direction or subsides instead of lifts, thousands of residents can be adversely affected.</p> <p>NWS forecasts are highly critical during our annual wildfire season. Yes, California has an annual wildfire season. We have a particulate monitoring network equipped with wind speed, wind direction and temperature sensors dispersed throughout our agency region, but we have no predictive capabilities. The NWS is a valuable resource during such times.</p> <p>Additionally, the decision to allow residential open burning on any given day is primarily a decision based on both current dispersion characteristics in the atmosphere, forecasted winds and temperatures and the resulting perceived fire risks. In many rural areas residential open burning is a daily fact of life and many residents plan their weekends around their burn piles.</p> <p>I'm not sure if these comments should have any influence on your IDSS philosophy. I just wanted to let you know that both State and local air quality agencies make daily decisions regarding a variety of activities based on NWS products.</p> <p>If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.</p>	Other gov't partner
44	<p>We truly appreciate the emails and other services you provide. Being informed about the weather and climate gives Caltrans a great advantage for maintenance, operations, and construction. Very much appreciated.</p> <p>--Willie</p>	Other gov't partner
45	<p>Thank you for the email! Is NWS available to foresee how hot this summer will be in our County? We're revamping our operations plan for cooling centers and the info would be helpful for us.</p> <p>I'd also like to inquire if NWS can assist our County with a strategy in better identifying when we should trigger our cold weather shelters. The data of where our homeless are located, should somehow be matched to the weather data for that location. Is that something NWS could assist us with?</p> <p>On my end, presentations with our partners who support the homeless in projecting summer and winter seasons are very helpful in keeping us informed and prepared. The 1800 for emergency managers is fantastic and the folks who answer are so helpful. The email notifications w pictures are really great also.</p> <p>Trisha Howard County of San Mateo Human Services Agency</p>	Other gov't partner
46	<p>This is the Colusa County Office of Emergency Services at the Colusa County Sheriff's Office. We would like to continue to receive the NWS information in the same manner that we currently enjoy as a General Partner/Public Services.</p>	EM community

47	<p>I am writing on behalf of Schneider Electric, to provide you with comments on the National Weather Service's (NWS) proposed Impact Based Decision Support (IDSS) operating philosophy. While we support many of the goals and objectives in this plan, we are troubled by the fact that while this plan appears to define and limit the IDSS to a well-defined set of users, it does not explicitly state how current NWS activities that exceed these guidelines will be curtailed. Since decision support services are already served by other parts of America's Weather Enterprise, we would like to see this plan define the process by which the NWS will identify IDSS partners, and how (or even if) external input from outside of the NWS will be accommodated. We do not believe that the nation's taxpayer's can or should fund a duplication of IDSS services that this aspect of the plan may present.</p> <p>The specific concerns we have include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Today, some NWS Offices get involved in providing IDSS-like services for public events that are privately or semi-privately run, including sporting events, state fairs and civic festivals, and other events. Schneider Electric and other private weather services have long contracted to provide weather support for such events, and the proposed guidelines appear to preclude this type of involvement. How would the IDSS change what is present NWS practice at some WFO's?</li> <li>· Will State and Local Transportation agencies qualify as Core partners for IDSS? Today, most State Highway Departments contract with private weather services for the provision of road and pavement forecasts. These agencies are always looking to cut costs, and IDSS would seem to provide a mechanism to get services from the NWS that these agencies pay for today. What criteria will the NWS use to determine who qualifies as a core partner?</li> </ul> <p>We would like to see the following additions to the operating philosophy document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The document should include a statement that the list of guidelines that spell out how core partners are determined will be publicly available, as will the list of core partners.</li> <li>2. The process for choosing core partners should include a mechanism for input from the Weather Enterprise, outside of NOAA.</li> <li>3. The document should include a statement that the implementation of IDSS may result in the termination of some services current provide (even if informally) by NWS offices.</li> </ol> <p>We believe that these changes will improve the IDSS, and keep it focused on its main purpose.</p>	private sector
48	<p>The service provided through IDSS is a key factor in our ability to forecast staffing needs and deployment of resources. We serve jurisdictions on the coast of the Pacific Ocean and the heads-up, predictions, and updates are extremely helpful. Your services have made a difference on several occasions when we were able to staff additional personnel which enabled us to mitigate emergencies quickly and effectively. You made us look good.</p>	EM community
49	<p>The Marine Corps Air Ground Combat Center finds NOAA and the NWS' support with their accurate and timely information is extremely useful, our emergency management folks use it to ensure all tenant commands and units training on the installation have notice of all possible inclement weather.</p> <p>Please keep up the great support!</p> <p>J L Sanderson Deputy AC/S G-7 Mission Assurance</p>	Other gov't partner
50	<p>Since we saw this traffic, I have decided to reach out. We wanted to let every at the Las Vegas WFO that we do have a team of USAF Weather Forecaster here on the Fort Irwin. Since at my last assignment we had a very good working relationship with the San Angelo WFO, I would like to take this chance to see if we can build one between Fort Irwin Weather and the Las Vegas WFO.</p>	Other gov't partner
51	<p>The biggest contributions the IDSS can provide decision makers is good weather analysis and decision making recommendations to Incident Commanders operating in the following realms,</p> <p>Air Operations Ground Operations Water Operations (offshore and riverine, may include flashflood and flood operations) Cyber and Radio</p> <p>Weather impacts all of those environments simultaneously. Safe and reliable operations rely heavily on good/updated (to the moment) weather forecasts and analysis for the realm that is relative to the decision maker (decisions can't wait for the four-hour updates). Setting up a (constantly updated) quad chart for each event showing the major impacts of all four quadrants in a simple chart (with quick links embedded in each) is the fastest and quickest way to show in a glance the operator or commander's considerations. You can't put everything in the quad chart, but imbedded links can take the decision maker to (as examples) other products, charts, and tables. Call it the Emergency Services "Decision Dash-Board (D3)" from NOAA. It would show, during a specific incident the weather impacts for each realm. The D3 might also allow for feeds from the field with "just in time/real-time" photos of conditions that Emergency Services subscribers (not the public) could upload.</p> <p>Dr. Robert L. Ditch, Colonel, USAF-Retired, EdD, CEM</p>	Other gov't partner
52	<p>The weather updates and projections are critical for population protection activities by local governments. The briefings, tabletops and other activities support readiness and build relationships. Please continue to staff this level of support.</p> <p>Frannie Edwards San Jose State University</p>	academia
53	<p>First, I applaud you for this initiative - to make the science and data more useful.</p> <p>Second, I would suggest as you attempt to create approaches to focus the NWS data and information - you work to focus that information on data effecting different sectors - ie. wind sheer impacts on cell towers, flooding surges on major highways, extremely high temperatures on electric power lines and transformers. As one who teaches about risk at GWU university and for the military on risk, and through my company to insure energy for critical public functions - and find regional warnings useful but not sufficient for planners and responders in many cases.</p> <p>Third, renewable resource assessment companies that focus their high resolution data for wind generation, solar generation, hydropower generation might be able to add value in alliance with your data - on generation output data as well as resiliency data for those systems -- and dialogue between this NWS effort and their competency and services might be valuable.</p> <p>Fourth, mini-webinars to specialized sectors which can for training and preparation could be invaluable. Let us say we are expecting an extremely abnormal heat wave - a quick webinar for utilities and organizations handling electricity transmission and distribution on timing and aspects of the heat wave on power lines and transformers - so electricity managers and service companies can be better prepared and anticipate situations. Such is true for municipal water systems, cellular towers, electricity infrastructure, etc.</p> <p>My suggestion is fine-tuning information/data/science to discreet sectors so they can be better prepared -- and develop information dissemination approaches that increase operational ability. I have a list of ideas how that can be done, but I am not sure that is appropriate in this input process.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Scott Sklar</p> <p>Scott Sklar President The Stella Group, Ltd.</p>	private sector

<p>54 Excellent informational format, very useful to us at the NCRIC in San Francisco.</p> <p>Robert Silano Intelligence Officer Private and Government Liaison NCRIC</p>	<p>Other gov't partner</p>
<p>55 Thanks for the opportunity to provide feedback. I like the framework and emphasis the proposed NWS changes entail.</p> <p>I support the proposed framework and would ask for consideration of only one item, based on where the NWS is with effort. The pilot program conducted by the NWS on impact forecasting is something I would like to see emphasized and focused on in future efforts, at least for deep core partners. We currently have work in progress from the local side to better feed the NWS with data that can be utilized in impact forecasting (flooding specifically at the moment), and would like to realize the expectation of the local NWS having the time and resources to be able to work with us in completing/implementing/improving the end product(s). This will be an ongoing project as time and technology continue to improve the data we have, and are able to collect at the local level, to improve forecasts that are 'impact predictive' in nature based on geographic/climatological specifics.</p> <p>Thanks again for the opportunity to participate.</p> <p>Sally Bishop, Director Pinellas County Emergency Mgmt.</p>	<p>EM community</p>
<p>56 We are very happy with the reporting information being passed on to us. The reporting has been pretty spot on and reliable. The reporting has allowed us to manage our resources better and provide a level of response comparable to the event. The only change I would suggest is that the precipitation map be extended a little further south to better show the Modesto area.</p> <p>Keep up the good work. Thanks</p> <p>Jack Cooke - WWC Supervisor City of Modesto – Water Quality Control</p>	<p>Other gov't partner</p>
<p>57 As the County's Emergency Management Office, we monitor and activate our outdoor warning sirens, and distribute the warnings through other radio and mass broadcast systems. Having timely, reliable information from National Weather Service is imperative. Over the past few years, the NWS has expanded their services to us with slide decks and conference calls. Taking it to another level and forming a better relationship with the Core Partners is great. Our biggest problem has been the need to have one consistent message after an event so if people question what was done at the time, accurate information is presented.</p> <p>Sarah Stoddard, Chief of Emergency Management, Oakland County Michigan</p>	<p>EM community</p>
<p>58 Good afternoon,</p> <p>I am trying to identify the appropriate point of contact at the National Weather Service (NWS) HQS for the NWS's proposed Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) operating philosophy, the proposal that NWS is looking to adopt to move forward in refining the scope of its products and services to support a Weather-Ready Nation.</p> <p><a href="http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/pns16-12owaidss.htm">http://www.nws.noaa.gov/om/notification/pns16-12owaidss.htm</a> <a href="http://www.nws.noaa.gov/sp/OWA_IDSS_Philosophy_Material.pdf">http://www.nws.noaa.gov/sp/OWA_IDSS_Philosophy_Material.pdf</a></p> <p>My reason for reaching out to the NWS POC is that I work with the 28 Federal Executive Boards (FEBs) and would like to see how the FEBs can assist the NWS on this proposal. Please note that the Atlanta FEB was the first FEB to receive StormReady Supporter status from the NWS. All the of the FEBs have a working relationship with their local NWS office.</p> <p>As background, the FEBs were established by Presidential Directive in 1961 and are a forum for communication and collaboration among Federal agencies outside of Washington, DC. The 28 FEBs throughout the country serve to improve coordination among Federal agencies in their locale. They serve as a resource in the field for communication and collaboration, resulting in effective programs for local Federal communities. The FEBs have three strategic lines of business: Emergency Preparedness, Security and Employee Safety; Workforce Development and Support; and Intergovernmental and Interagency Collaboration and Community Outreach. Membership is comprised of the highest-ranking Federal agency officials in each Board's location. Additional information about the FEB, including the FEB Fiscal Year 2015 Annual Report (<a href="http://feb.gov/FY15_FEB_AnnualReport.pdf">http://feb.gov/FY15_FEB_AnnualReport.pdf</a>) and the FEB Strategic Plan 2013-2017 (<a href="http://feb.gov/FEB_Strategic_Plan_2013-2017_Complete.pdf">http://feb.gov/FEB_Strategic_Plan_2013-2017_Complete.pdf</a>), may be accessed online at <a href="http://www.feb.gov">http://www.feb.gov</a>. Here is the list of the 28 FEB locations - <a href="http://feb.gov/locations.asp">http://feb.gov/locations.asp</a>.</p> <p>As the program lead for the FEB's Emergency Preparedness, Security and Employee Safety line of business, I wanted to share that the FEBs increase emergency preparedness by serving as a local hub for information, planning and coordination, a role they are currently doing by sharing NWS information with local Federal leaders. During an emergency, FEBs provide timely and accurate information to the local Federal communities by communicating with local Federal agency leaders. With support from FEMA, FPS, and GSA, the FEBs host exercises and training workshops that cover scenarios such as active shooter awareness, continuity of operations, cybersecurity, pandemic influenza and terrorism.</p> <p>FEBs use a nationwide web-based emergency notification system called Communicator! NXT to provide up-to-date, accurate, and consistent information to their local Federal agency leaders. Using information provided by the FEB, the local Federal agency leaders make workforce status decisions for their employees. Communicator! NXT provides FEBs the ability to rapidly communicate vital information to key members via voice and email messages delivered to various devices during local emergencies.</p> <p>An FEB provides benefits to its local agencies by building a partnership with stakeholders before the emergency occurs and by providing timely, accurate information to assist local Federal leaders in making operating status workforce decisions. Given a weather-related or unusual situation affecting the FEB geographic area, the FEBs provide up-to-date, accurate and consistent information, such as from the NWS, so local Federal agency leaders can make informed decisions on an operating status decision for their Federal agency employees in those areas. Please note that, unlike the National Capital Region, each local Federal agency head makes workforce status decisions for their agency employees and should report that workforce status decision to their agency Headquarters.</p> <p>I look forward to working with the NWS HQS POC to determine what more the FEBs can do to assist the NWS on its proposed Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) operating philosophy.</p> <p>Respectfully, Kim</p> <p>Kimberly (Moore) Valentine, Program Manager for Emergency Preparedness</p>	<p>Other gov't partner</p>
<p>59 Arizona NWS is very helpful for Arizona Department of Transportation. They are very responsive and helpful to the requests made, however Arizona is a very interesting state, where we have over 100 inches of snow in flagstaff every year which impacts travel on I-40, I-15 and I-17 we have dust and monsoons that impact I-10, I-17 and I-8. The diversity of the weather across our state is very interesting and has a large impact on the transportation infrastructure and the transportation of goods across our country.</p> <p>ADOT gets the weather from Las Vegas, Flagstaff, Phoenix, and Tucson; however there is a large part of the state that is not included.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One suggestion I have is to bring a full time NWS person to sit at the state Traffic Management Center to understand the areas where we have largest impact from weather related accidents, for various times of the year, and work on more inclusive traffic/travel related weather forecasts.</li> <li>- Wildfire impacts are also critical for operations.</li> <li>- Training for the Traffic Management personnel.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Kimberly Campbell, MBA Emergency Manager Arizona Department of Transportation</p>	<p>Other gov't partner</p>



60	<p>I have looked over the NWS Impact-Based Decision Support Services Philosophy document and do not have any suggestions at this time. Thank you for the opportunity to have input.</p> <p>Tracey McGee, Homeland Security Specialist, Oakland County Michigan</p>	EM community
61	<p>IDSS feedback:</p> <p>Having been involved - as a core partner - with three NWS offices during several significant events, I am confident that the articulated IDSS policy is a good idea.</p> <p>The state of Connecticut received on site forecast support during Storm Sandy. This greatly enhanced our response to that incident. In particular, the NWS-Upton deployed forecaster was key to the identification of threatened rail road lines on the Connecticut coast during the storm.</p> <p>The NWS-Taunton office has supplied downwind model outputs for a small fire that occurred during an Alert at Millstone Nuclear Power Station and for a fire that produced a particularly dense cloud of smoke. In each instance, a quick response was helpful in the assessment of the situation.</p> <p>Routine Emergency Management briefings for significant snow events are also greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Annual meetings that bring together state emergency management officials and leaders from the three NWS forecast offices that cover the state of Connecticut, are also greatly appreciated. Face to face meetings are often difficult to arrange and time consuming but they do offer a chance for a direct connection that will facilitate the work of making the public safer with regard to significant weather events.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment.</p> <p>Sylvia M. R. Dake</p> <p>Emergency Management Program Specialist  Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection  Division of Emergency Management and Homeland Security  Radiological Emergency Preparedness/Weather</p>	EM community
62	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on future Weather-Ready Nation support. I am the Director of Clinical Emergency Preparedness at Children's Mercy Hospital in Kansas City. Our "hospital system" consists of a hospital in Missouri, a hospital in KS, three urgent cares, and multiple clinics throughout Kansas and Missouri. Every year weather ranks high on our Hazard Vulnerability Analysis for tornado/severe thunderstorms and tornados. In addition wind and flooding also impact our transport department which consists of helicopter, fixed wing, and ground transport across the United States. We consider the NWS a close partner in helping us to mitigate, prepare, respond, and recover from weather events. We appreciate the personal relationships we have with the NOAA staff in our community. They have attended our emergency preparedness meetings at the hospital and we in turn have sat on educational panels to help new meteorologists better understand how hospitals use weather related information. In many senses hospitals are "first responders" especially during weather events. I realize funding is tight and as you redefine your scope and core partners we (hospitals) would greatly appreciate being considered "core partners" with the NWS. This is a big deal to hospitals. We need the support of NWS and look forward to an even deeper relationship.</p> <p>Thank you for this opportunity to comment and thank you for all you do.</p> <p>Robin</p> <p>Robin Carroll, RD, LD, MS  Director, Clinical Emergency Preparedness  Children's Mercy Hospital</p>	health
63	<p>In general, the philosophy is sound. The determining factor on whether it will meet our needs depends on where we fit in on the "partner" scale. Currently I would say that as a state DOT we receive services somewhere between Core and Deep Relationship. Some concepts of deep relationship that we don't necessarily get now could improve our responses.</p> <p>I would also add that NWS taking a proactive role in direct weather notifications for weather events that are expected to cause more than routine issues is probably the most important service we get. An example is a moderate early fall snow storm with medium winds following a period of heavy rain. The forecaster on the news may not pick up on the potential for downed trees, but our NWS partners usually will see the potential for damage and give us a heads up. In short, NWS is in a unique position to give us information beyond the normal warning criteria, and it is always beneficial.</p> <p>For the record, I'm sure you are all good at what you do, but I think Judy Levan out of your Buffalo, NY office has probably been moving in this "new" direction for several years now. I'd suggest discussing some of the concepts with her to get insight.</p> <p>Thanks,  Eric</p>	Other gov't partner
64	<p>I have reviewed most of the material supplied by our local NWS in Pleasant Hill Missouri.</p> <p>I work for a medical school in KCMO and we will open a second campus in Joplin Missouri in August of 2017. The site of our campus in Joplin is the temporary hospital that was built after the tornado struck Joplin in 2011.</p> <p>Our school just recently signed up with NWS to receive notifications.</p> <p>In addition to handling emergency notifications at our school I also consult the dean on the need to close school for weather related events.</p> <p>The material provided was voluminous and I am no expert on weather but I am in favor of the proposed changes. The proposed model is a better way for me to make decisions. Previously I had to look at different sources for weather information and make an educated guess as to the impact it would have on our campus and our students. The new model is easy for me to understand and really requires no thinking on my part.</p> <p>Jim Herrington  Director of Campus Operations  Kansas City University of Medicine and Biosciences</p>	schools
65	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the National Weather Service Philosophy for Impact-Based Decision Support Services as per your Public Information Notice 16-12.</p> <p>The Merced Irrigation District (MID) significantly relies on the products of the California Nevada River Forecast Center (CNRFC). MID owns and operates New Exchequer Dam located in California's San Joaquin Valley with a storage capacity of 1.02 Million Acre-Feet. CNRFC's forecast products include reservoir inflows, river flows, snow runoff, and QPF. In addition, CNRFC produces statistical analyses including exceedance probabilities and ensemble forecasts. These useful products help MID develop and implement water management decisions such as water allocations, water flow operations, flood control releases, and FERC regulatory minimum flow requirements.</p> <p>As NWS develops Impact-Based Decision Support Services, please consider expanding CNRFC's resources and placing the CNRFC as a high priority center in the WRN and IDSS processes. If I may be of further assistance, please feel free to contact me at (209) 354-2857.</p> <p>Thank you!</p> <p>~~~~~</p> <p>Marco A. Bell, MBA, M.Sc., P.E. View my profile on LinkedIn  Merced Irrigation District  744 W. 20th Street, Merced, CA. 95340</p>	Other gov't partner
66	<p>My hope would be that private sector providers that are serving the same clients as the NWS, and sometimes with more detailed local information, would be considered core partners and "deep relationships" would be established. This could improve communications, and client and public safety, which is our goal.</p> <p>Sincerely,  Jean Vieux</p>	private sector

67	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to review the NWS Impact-Based Decision Support Services Philosophy.</p> <p>As a whole, I thought the document was thoughtfully developed. My only suggestion is to consider clearly identifying institutions of higher education within the definition of the emergency management community.</p> <p>Respectfully, Brittany</p> <p>Brittany Taylor Schaal, CEM, MEP Director of Emergency Management University of Richmond</p>	schools
68	<p>I appreciate the effort to be more responsive and allow input from local stakeholders. Your team in Memphis does an outstanding job of supporting our Emergency Operations Center during critical weather events, planning for special events, and participating in monthly Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) meetings. They have been committed to public education and have demonstrated the flexibility to support a wide array of public safety disciplines in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters.</p> <p>Many of the strategies being discussed are being done. I did not see anything that would adversely impact future collaboration and look forward to seeing how the changes will make us all more efficient.</p> <p>We appreciate the partnerships we have developed and look forward to working together in the future. Thanks again for providing an avenue for input.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Dale Lane, Director Shelby County Office of Preparedness/EMA</p>	EM community
69	<p>*It needs to be considered that partners may have absolutely no idea what their IDSS needs are, whether they are a general, core or "deep" partners, or why it matters. In other words, although NWS appears ready to have the IDSS paradigm shift discussion...the various partner groups may not be.</p> <p>*It needs to be considered that IDSS needs, even within the same organization, may vary widely by organizational role, individual knowledge/skill sets, what an "impact" is, the specific decision context, and even personal preference. It may be impossible to cleanly define partner groups with regard to IDSS.</p> <p>*It needs to be recognized that some partners already have multiple defined means for achieving decision support that might NOT crosswalk well with the NWS perspective on IDSS. For example, wildland fire uses several in-house decision support systems that draw public services data directly from NDFD. For consistency of decision making in wildland fire then, much IDSS information needs to be strictly consistent with public data out of NDFD. For partners that may hear an IDSS brief or get a quick visualization, can they expect data they would pull from NDFD at the same time to match precisely?</p> <p>*What will NWS be doing to train and educate the user (partner) community about IDSS? Decision Support System theory dictates that human decision makers are the absolute priority in DSS, or more confusion could result due to increased complexity. (Ref. Decision Support Systems: In the 21st Century, Second Edition, by George M. Marakas, 2003.)</p> <p>*Any non-standardization in IDSS implementation from office-to-office/region-to-region will create application problems on the customer end. Consistent decision-making practices start with consistent decision support practices.</p> <p>*From my own experience in wildland fire decision support, I really think NWS is going to need permanent liaisons or on-site staffing at critical partner locations to pull this off. There are just so many different kinds of decisions made every day, on various time and spatial scales and for various applications &amp; impacts, that it be difficult to develop some kind of template approach.</p> <p>*I'd strongly recommend hiring some "people persons" and science communicators, instead of just all meteorologists, to accommodate IDSS.</p> <p>Chuck Maxwell Predictive Services Meteorologist Southwest Coordination Center</p>	Other gov't partner
70	<p>The idea is great. It would be nice to be able to obtain point specific Weather forecast.</p> <p>Aaron Freeman, GA CEM Deputy Director/Battalion Chief Gilmer County Public Safety</p>	EM community
71	<p>As an Emergency Management Director, impact based warnings are vital to me. I rely very heavily on the information provided to me by NWS Peachtree City. I am able to share this information with first responders so they are able to make appropriate decisions based upon the vast knowledge of NWS staff. Please feel free to contact me if you need any additional information.</p> <p>Respectfully,</p> <p>Renee Cornelison, Director Cherokee Sheriff's Office Division of Emergency Management</p>	EM community
72	<p>I am very pleased with the service and level of attention we receive from the Flagstaff Office. There are two suggestions I would suggest.</p> <p>One A Program, similar to wildfires, where an NWS meteorologist is embedded in our operations for large events or emergencies.</p> <p>A better emergency management specific website / interface where the discussions and chats (Google Groups would be best) with on duty meteorologists can occur in real time and to larger audiences. This would not require a conference call, but real time two way communications that are archived and readable by different stakeholders.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact me as needed for further clarification/information.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Marc Burdiss CEM, Director NAU Office of Emergency Management</p>	schools

<p>73 Please find our feedback/input regarding the National Weather Services' IDSS philosophy below. Furthermore, please feel free to contact us at 248-858-5300 with any questions or clarifications. Thank you for your time.</p> <p>The Oakland County Homeland Security Division is proud of the strong working relationship we have developed over the years with the employees at the Pontiac/White Lake National Weather Service (NWS). Throughout the years there have been many incidences where we have sought their input and knowledge not only on weather conditions but also for planning and educational purposes.</p> <p>The personnel at the Pontiac/White Lake facility continue to be receptive to requests for training our staff or speaking at some of our meetings with members from local jurisdictions. We have found value in this service as it clarifies any misinformation and provides an authority on the subject. The Oakland County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) has also reached out to the NWS for presentations, which is scheduled for November, along with advising our local jurisdictions about NWS capabilities and support they provide during events.</p> <p>The National Weather Service provides our staff with email information/alerts along with conference calls and webinars regarding approaching severe weather conditions. This information has been extremely useful for our planning and staffing preparedness. We relay this information along to the local jurisdictions that would be affected by the weather to assist them with their preparedness as well. Our agency supports the NWS by hosting multiple "Skywarn" trainings throughout Oakland County on an annual basis. We have received many positive responses and numerous requests for training from our citizens regarding the "Skywarn" program.</p> <p>Additionally, the National Weather Service has also worked with our agency during many special events the county hosts throughout year; such as the Oakland County Fair, Dream Cruise, and Arts, Beats and Eats. Thousands of people attend these events, which necessitates the importance of cooperation between our agency and the NWS so we can be prepared to inform the public of adverse weather conditions. Our relationship we have with the National Weather Service continues to grow and evolve, we looked forward to building upon this partnership and the NWS Impact-Based decision Support Services Philosophy (IDSS) is another step in the right direction.</p> <p>Thank you,  Ted Quisenberry, Bethany Kenney, and Mike Pousak  Emergency Management Coordinator, Oakland County Michigan</p>	EM community
<p>74 Thank you for considering my comments on your services and products.</p> <p>I consider my role to be that of a core partner to NWS, though the population served here is small. I receive IDSS and use the information frequently. I participate in emergency management and planning alongside public safety officials, conduct public outreach, and administer a residential outdoor burn permitting program. I issue the NWS forecast for our location to a voluntary list on a near-daily basis, and modified briefings for our location for advisories/watches/warnings or unusual weather. So the most important services to my position currently are briefings, email alerts, graphics and webinars.</p> <p>Currently, the most critical information for this location is forecasting as it relates to fire danger, and winter driving conditions. I have also reported on El Nino conditions to our council this year; however, this information was from NCEP I think. I have not been aware of any trainings but I would probably make use of webinars on basic topics.</p> <p>Thank you again for your hard work.</p> <p>Emma Ruppell  Bishop Paiute Tribe  Air Quality &amp; Meteorology Specialist</p>	EM community
<p>75 No comments, other than to say it makes perfect sense.</p> <p>Giles Roberts,</p> <p>Emergency Management Specialist  Gwinnett County Office of Emergency Management</p>	EM community
<p>76 I find DSS invaluable in supporting our work with special events here in the Omaha metro area. It provides a credible source of venue-specific forecasts to decision-makers on both a scheduled and on-demand basis. For multi-day events we usually opt for a formal briefing delivered at the same time each day that can be shared at event staff briefings. Between briefings we stay in touch with NWS through NWSSchat and by phone. When weather is particularly threatening OAX sends a meteorologist to work with us on scene. Registering for the service is an easy online process that takes only a minute to complete and a meteorologist follows up as necessary to find answers to any unresolved questions.</p> <p>I'm not sure if this was the kind of feedback you were looking for so feel free to reply if you have any questions. In short, I can't say enough good things about this service!</p> <p>Whitney Shipley, Assistant Director  Douglas County Emergency Management Agency</p>	EM community
<p>77 I've attended a NEMA conference call on the NWS IDSS services and reviewed the Philosophy Material document. Overall, I feel the direction of the IDSS is warranted and necessary to build a Weather Ready Nation. I have a few comments &amp; suggestions below.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>· Identifying the "Deep Relationship" core partners is vital to this project. It's important that these partners in each WFO meet annually or bi-annually in order to establish and modify the collective needs of both groups.</li> <li>· While moving the entire NWS to the IDSS culture is important, I feel having higher trained IDSS "specialists" cross trained in NWS processes and their core partner processes is vital. For example, if the IDSS Specialist is assigned to the State EMA, the NWS Meteorologist should be cross trained in basics of emergency management. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Pennsylvania would be happy to support the IDSS training process by hosting NWS Meteorologists in the State EOC as part of their cross training.</li> </ul> </li> <li>· There should be a primary point of contact for IDSS between NWS and agency for day-to-day operations to continue an open conversation between entities.</li> <li>· When the footprint of the core partner's jurisdiction exceeds the NWS CWA footprint, it's extremely important that the IDSS "specialists" can freely make forecasts and decisions for the core partner, even when the event exceeds the borders of their CWA. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o For example, in Pennsylvania we have 5 offices covering the commonwealth. In theory, a challenge may arise when storms cross CWA's, which in turn means stakeholders have to switch conversations from one WFO to another WFO to get "official" information which can waste time and cause confusion.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>My position of "state meteorologist" was created within the agency to assist state partners by congealing a single weather message for the commonwealth. My success is only possible through my continued building of deep relationships with our five WFO's, who have been exceptionally receptive and easy to work with. I try to ensure the congealed statewide weather message I produce for PEMA, and our state agency partners, lines up as best as possible with NWS.</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to reach out to me if you need any clarification or assistance.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Jeff Jumper  State Meteorologist  Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency</p>	EM community
<p>78 I don't have any recommended changes to your philosophy at this time. I truly appreciate the service that your agency provides.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Kenneth W. Foreman, Chief  Operational Services Division  County of Los Angeles  Department of Beaches and Harbors</p>	Other gov't partner

<p>79 On review of the IDSS Philosophy document I strongly endorse and support this initiative.</p> <p>As the State Transportation Agency in Oregon, responsible for the safety of the traveling public on Oregon Highways, we face very diverse variety and unfortunately severe weather phenomena that impact the state on a regular basis.</p> <p>The concept of the Core and Deep Relationship Core philosophy is a welcome addition to the services and support already offered through the NWS during severe weather impacts.</p> <p>This initiative can only strengthen the strong relationships we now have with our NWS offices, (Portland, Medford and Pendleton, Oregon and Boise Idaho).</p> <p>This initiative will enable us to better prepare and respond to pending and impacting severe weather conditions that impact our state.</p> <p>If there is anything that I can do in support of seeing this proposal move forward please don't hesitate to let me know. Respectfully,</p> <p>Greg Ek-Collins State Emergency Operations Manager Oregon Department of Transportation</p>	Other gov't partner
<p>80 On IDSS, this makes me think what we, Emergency Management should provide the NWS. Our relationship should go both ways. What intel can we provide the NWS before, during and after the incident? In the past we have sent impact statements/situation reports to the NWS Office in State College. I might have missed it, but the IDSS Philosophy doesn't mention intel/information flowing up the chain of command, only out from NWS. Information should flow both ways.</p> <p>Fred Boylstein   Director   Central Area Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency</p>	EM community
<p>81 Nebraska Emergency Management Agency relies heavily on NWS IDSS services as a critical component of our mission to the citizens of Nebraska. The support and engagement we receive from the states NWS members is nothing short of amazing.</p> <p>From providing decision briefings regarding severe weather to assisting with flood monitoring and daily situational reports. Additionally, NWS has a role in the State Emergency Operations Center, both in an real world activation as well as exercises.</p> <p>NWS staff has worked with NEMA staff regarding federal disaster declarations by providing critical information regarding storm events and patterns and how they play into incident period determination and explanation. Without the subject matter expertise of the NWS, I don't believe the state would have been successful in obtaining some declarations.</p> <p>The fact that, as the Operations Manager for NEMA, I can call an individual who I have a relationship with and know I will get the needed information or product is a critical asset to me to be able to provide support to communities throughout the state.</p> <p>Please don't hesitate to contact me if you have anything further regarding the relationship NEMA has with the NWS offices in Nebraska.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Earl Imler Operations Section Manager Nebraska Emergency Management Agency</p>	EM community
<p>82 To Whom it May Concern: I find the IDSS news release link and invaluable tool, it provides the necessary information I need to put out to the people in my agency. The operating philosophy is on target. The partnership is working fantastically. Thanks Mike Riggs</p> <p>Mike Riggs METRO Emergency Management Coordinator</p>	Other gov't partner
<p>83 Other than a few typo/grammatical errors, the definitions and services offered look very well thought out. It appears to be a great tool for prioritization and interagency expectations are clearly defined. This philosophy in written form would serve as a mutual aid agreement as well I believe! Good Job!!</p> <p>-- LaRae B. Dobbs Big Horn County Emergency Management Coordinator</p>	EM community
<p>84 As a Texas Public School District we work very closely with our NWS Service Office in Brownsville, Texas and with Mr. Barry Goldsmith in particular monitoring the weather. We receive the Twitter Feeds, Follow FaceBook, receive other NOAA Notices/Alerts and also use several types of Smart Phone Applications with Alerts/Notices/Radar to insure we are always on top of any developing weather events. We make every effort to keep our Senior Team notified and up to speed on Emergency type weather events that could affect holding school or other school related events but just as important we keep our entire school district informed generally on a daily basis of the weather for the day. Information like UV indexes, Heat Indexes, Air Quality, etc., are very helpful to our Team Members so they can plan activities from sports practices, to ROTC PT training events to UIL Competition to Athletic Contests to Field Trips to Bus / Transportation of Students to Graduation Events.</p> <p>After reading all of the support material I was not completely sure what type of comments you were looking for but I can tell you we are very active in this regard and work very closely with our local Fire Chief and Police Chief on Emergency Planning and Mitigation. We are very active in Hurricane Planning as well and have MOU's with the City of Harlingen and the American Red Cross for shelters and evacuation HUB's.</p> <p>Let me know if you have any questions.</p> <p>Ken Lee Administrator for District Operations Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District</p>	schools
<p>85 I have read the IDSS Philosophy Material. I believe this will be acceptable. I did not see anything that would limit Emergency Management's ability to communicate directly with our regional office. It is important to me to be able to talk directly with the 24/7 staff during a storm event. Thank you. Marilyn Connolly EM Coordinator, Johnson County</p>	EM community
<p>86 As a core partner under the Emergency Management community, I have no reservations towards the implementation of IDSS and associated concepts.</p> <p>r/ Charles Esteves Homeland Security Advisor / Administrator</p>	EM community

<p>87 Overall I like the layout and content of the proposed site. The one thing that is frustrating is that it is difficult to get the current observations for an entire state. If I click on a state map, I find regional observations, but cannot find any area on the site where I can look at all the state observations at one time. If it is available, it is not readily apparent where to find it.</p> <p>Otherwise, I am pleased with the site overall.</p> <p>Stan Blazyk Galveston County Daily News, Galveston.com</p>	media
<p>88 In regards to the Impact Based Decision Support Services (IDSS) program, I offer the following brief comments after reviewing the draft document:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall, I believe this will be a valuable tool for enhancing preparedness and response, especially in regards to public warning.</li> <li>Under "Core Partners" – I believe that in addition to electronic media – that print media should be included as a 4th entity. Issues regarding drought, high heat, extreme cold and tropical storms remnants can be satisfied to some extent – although not immediately – but still can serve a segment of the population for these types of weather events.</li> <li>The concept of the pre-IDSS concept for episodic events is a nice feature. By "events" – does this mean weather events such as the tropical storm or winter storm; or does this mean events such as large public gatherings? We currently utilize the National Weather Service – State College for what I would consider an episodic event for a four-day event that attracts upwards to 150,000 attendees. Their pre-coordination and advisements with County EMA during this event have served to be very beneficial to safeguarding the health and safety of those attending.</li> <li>Regarding Core Partner Services and the subject "Occasional on-site deployments". Not sure what is meant by this as identified as a Partner Service Level. Who deploys? What is deployed? Under what criteria is a deployment conducted?</li> </ol> <p>In closing – thank you for the opportunity to review this program draft.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ronald J. Springer, Executive Director Cambria County Department of Emergency Services</p>	EM community
<p>89 Our Bismarck and Grand Forks Offices of the NWS are great partners. The IDSS program will reinforce the high-level of service we already receive – from support to preparing for potential incidents to more fully understanding weather-related hazards when developing multi-hazard mitigation plans.</p> <p>Kathleen Donahue Individual Assistance Officer, Recovery and Mitigation Planning Officer N.D. Department of Emergency Services</p>	EM community
<p>90 I am concerned that consultants already working with the groups identified as core partners are not included. This could cause friction instead of improving communications and services to those that need it. It might be more helpful to be more inclusive rather than isolating select groups as having "deeper" relationships. Focusing on better services rather than "deep relationships" Could be a much more beneficial philosophy.</p> <p>To follow up on that thought, the private sector relationships do not seem to be taken into consideration. How could the philosophy be improved to recognize, utilize and benefit from the private sector?</p> <p>I just read the submittal on this topic by AccuWeather. It clearly made many of the concerns I shared with you and I would like to register my support of that letter's opposition to the proposed IDSS philosophy.</p> <p>I have read John Snow's comments now too. They are excellent. It helps me see the big picture as I have no policy experience, but can see the potential harmful impacts the proposed philosophy could have on our clients and company.</p>	private sector
<p>91 <a href="#">Comments from NYC EM</a></p>	EM community
<p>92 I have no specific comments, mostly general thoughts.</p> <p>Everything your agency does is wonderful. You partner well, you train well and you inform well.</p> <p>It's best to communicate by pushing information out rather than staff needing to go find the information. Your email blasts are very well received by our county partners.</p> <p>We would like to be involved in more exercise opportunities as severe weather is a constant most communities deal with, whether it's extreme wind, heat, cold, rain, etc.</p> <p>Keep up the great work!!! Thank you for all you do to keep our residents weather ready.</p> <p>Marcelle Indelicato Senior Emergency Planner Office of the Sheriff, Emergency Services Division 50 Glacier Drive, Martinez, CA 94553</p>	EM community
<p>93 <a href="#">INNOVIM comments</a></p>	private sector
<p>94 <a href="#">AccuWeather comments</a></p>	private sector
<p>95 <a href="#">The Weather Company comments</a></p>	private sector
<p>96 <a href="#">University of Oklahoma comments</a></p>	academia
<p>97 The building of a weather ready nation would help in redefining the impact weather extremes would inflict on county services and there communities while decreasing vulnerability's to the public and its providers. Public service has operated in extreme and unfriendly weather conditions to provide service for those in need be it police, fire or ambulance. We work where communities are subject to increasing vulnerabilities from extreme, weather, water, and climate events. With this in mind improved messaging of weather and it extremes would be very beneficial. It would allow for better preparation of not only the community, in such but the services themselves, in such emergencies the community seeks information and direction from there community based provider. There would be the added benefit in stocking stations with equipment and supplies needed for the individual emergency and allow for the establishment of temporary emergency communication systems that support emergency workers without bogging down the main dispatch system. The prepping of stations for safety or provide shelter in place centers to serve the community. A closer relationship to planning ahead in times of extreme conditions would help improve community strengths, save lives and improve the ability to bring a better service to the people to whom we serve.</p> <p>Dale M. Crown National Registered EMT Retired: National Registry Paramedic for Montgomery County Fire / Rescue - USAR / FEMA Damascus Maryland</p>	EM community

<p>I would like to submit comments on the about how the NWS operates in the future, specifically on how you should provide Impact-based Decision Support Services (IDSS) to core weather partners consisting mostly of Emergency Managers, government partners, and media.</p> <p><b>Definitions of Core Partners</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Based on my observations since 1980 in emergency management, and as an IPAWS Alerting Authority through these years, the NWS offices can be inundated by agencies, jurisdictions, media, and public. This rethinking of triaging who needs the information to safeguard life &amp; property-vs-wanting to know what is going on, is an important step, especially since the numbers of NWS offices have reduced through the years. The availability of NWS staff is more competitive to the agencies needing decision-making information.</li> <li>The description of the three groups could be clarified even more as I needed to read the "Philosophy" document to identify specifically were we would fit in. My office would be likely considered a "Deep Relationships core partner services" receiver, as we issue Alert &amp; Warnings, and are the Emergency Operations Center for the entire County.</li> <li>In the description of the three groups, I think the difference between 1) &amp; 2) still need to be refined as many agencies will likely consider themselves eligible for IDSS. This could put a greater burden for local forecast offices to make tough choices. More refined profile matrix or type of selection criteria could help reduce confusion.</li> <li>Does StormReady, Ambassador Weather Ready Nation, or other designation fit into classifications?</li> </ul> <p><b>Definition of Impact-Based Decision Support Services</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Episodic IDSS: A consideration is when in to suspend support to "Recurring" when an incident is occurring, or imminent.</li> <li>Recurring IDSS: This support should be suspended when Episodic IDSS is implemented for an incident.</li> <li>NWS IDSS for the EM community: This is the highest type of IDSS. The descriptions in this paragraph does slim down somewhat the large number of potential agencies requesting/demanding information. The previous definition of Core Partners, used "type of agency or jurisdiction". However, this definition defines a mix of essential facilities (EOC, ICP, etc.), but throws in ESF's that may be within those facilities. May need to isolate to a specific position(s)/ESF within a facility to avoid time spent duplicating information, therefore delaying the "next in line facility or ESF" needing information. If an ESF is not in an essential service site, then maybe even for them they'll need to contact one for information instead of waiting for NWS contact.</li> </ul> <p><b>Concept of a Deep Relationship Philosophy for IDSS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Embedding: I see a prioritizing of the three concepts. Embedding would be similar to the current Fire Weather Forecasters that go a fire ICP, and is most labor consuming. Could see a NWS office trying to choose between requests. A criteria matrix could be developed to rank the requests. Established Multi-Agency Coordination System (MACS) incident rating matrix uses criteria: 1) Life and safety threats, 2) Property/Infrastructure damage threats, 3) Potential for loss and resources issues, 4) Indent complexity and duration.</li> <li>First bullet did not state the top tier core partner "Deep" as this said "any".</li> </ul> <p><b>Concept of a "core service level" for IDSS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This concept would focus NWS staff to what is critical, and when to drop other activities.</li> <li>Agencies and jurisdictions would know what level of service to expect, and if not a priority agency, who is a "deep core".</li> </ul> <p><b>How can deep relationships core partners identified?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I think the "Which Stakeholder" first column, the 1st two bullets are a little weak. The 3rd bullet is stronger.</li> <li>For 2nd column "Categorize", the 4th bullet may be hard to measure.</li> <li>3rd column is very good. This may also show how the "deep partner" is responsible for sharing the NWS information to "core" and "general" category.</li> </ul> <p><b>Specific examples of partner services include:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is very useful to portray what column an agency falls into.</li> </ul> <p><b>Proposed NWS guidance for identifying core partners for IDSS by NWS staff.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This is trying to identify "which" category of core partner does an agency fall into.</li> <li>What "decision making authority"? Should explain type of decisions: protective actions, etc.</li> <li>NWS Nexus needs to bet strengthen still.</li> <li>Unclear about a Deep core partner wanting service for an entity (in writing). Does this mean the Deep partner is asking NWS to add the entity as a Deep Core, for only for this incident, NWS should give the entity information.</li> <li>Criteria between Core and Deep Core. I again think a more understandable set of criteria to separate would help. Though I have reviewed this many times, I think many would not be able to figure it out, unless it comes down to each NWS office having to interpret the criteria, which could have "like-type" agencies be in "Core" from one NWS office, but "Deep Core" from another NWS office.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important move by NWS to ensure the communities are better serviced by the limited staffing of NWS offices.  Michael R. Cockrell  Director of Emergency Operations</p>	EM community
<p>99 <a href="#">AWCIA Comments</a></p>	private sector
<p>100 I wanted to drop you a short note to let you know how critical the services of the National Weather Service – Los Angeles/Oxnard office are for the County of Los Angeles Fire Department. Practically every move we make, from advance planning to daily staffing, from bringing in additional resources (Super Scooper and additional Heavy Lift Helicopters) to opening and closing of our annual fire season, are dependent on the critical data we receive from our partners at NWS.</p> <p>Throughout the fire season and any time we have a significant weather pattern during the non-fire season we hold a daily conference call with all on-duty emergency managers. The first thing that is always discussed on these calls is the expected weather. It cannot be said enough – it predicates everything we do. In addition, the NWS provides expanded services during fires and other significant events. The spot forecast program is well known and is often used for wildland fires. However, we have also used these services during the Aliso Canyon Gas Leak, when searching for lost snowboarders when avalanches were threatening, and for emergencies and other special community events throughout the County.</p> <p>Finally, the Incident Meteorologist are a welcome addition to our Fire Team when we set up a base camp to serve a campaign fire. The Incident Meteorologist immediately becomes a key member of the Intelligence Team and they are expected to provide briefings throughout the duration of the incident. As I have travelled to fires throughout the western states, I have observed other NWS offices that provide similar valuable services to their local fire agencies.</p> <p>As the LA County Fire Department moves forward in challenging times – we just went through our driest five years in recorded history and scores of trees are dying across the landscape – I will say it, "We need our partners at the National Weather Service more than ever!"</p> <p>Thank you for providing this opportunity to provide comments,  John R. Todd  Deputy Chief  Prevention Services Bureau  County of Los Angeles Fire Department</p>	EM community