Preliminary Agenda

Wednesday, September 18, 2002

Registration/Continental Breakfast

Introduction
- Welcome/Objectives
- Keynote
  Deputy Secretary Samuel Bodman, Department of Commerce (Invited)
- Modernization of COOP
- NWS Perspective

NOAA COOP Modernization Proposal and Benefits
- NOAA COOP Modernization Proposal & Benefits
- NCDC Perspective
- USDA COOP Modernization Proposal
- USGS Perspective

Lunch (provided)

NOAA COOP Modernization Proposal and Benefits (continued)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Partnership Options

Panel Discussion: COOP Modernization Data Benefits

Adjourn

Background

This forum provides detailed information about NOAA's proposal to modernize the Cooperative Observer Program (COOP) network and the benefits that will be realized when the plan is implemented. This workshop provides a unique opportunity for NOAA's customers of in situ weather and climate data to interact directly with NOAA technical managers overseeing the planning and implementation of COOP modernization.

The network has been successful in fulfilling its original agriculturally-oriented mission of defining the weather and climate of the United States. However, its data are now needed in near real-time by NOAA and its customers for a myriad of applications.

COOP data are generally unavailable for several months after the observations are taken. The network operates in the same manner as it did when it was first created over 100 years ago; the system uses pencil and paper to record observations, and U.S. mail to communicate data.

Modernization will benefit many sectors of the national economy. It is our hope that the forum will update NOAA's customers on the proposal, provide a mechanism for feedback, and build momentum for implementation of COOP modernization.

Forum Goals

1) Provide customers of NOAA COOP data with detailed information on the proposal for modernizing the COOP network system architecture, including observation instrumentation, data communications, archiving, and quality control.

2) Allow customers direct exchange with NOAA COOP management personnel to provide their input.

Why COOP Modernization?

To provide data from the nation's premier weather and climate observing network in near real time for

- Energy resource management
- Flood and drought monitoring
- Water resource management
- Weather disaster declarations
- Climate change and variability monitoring and research
- Snowfall and snow depth monitoring
- Local temperature and precipitation prediction and verification

Registration and Information

Registration for this forum is online at the COOP Modernization Partners' Forum website:
http://lwf.ncdc.noaa.gov/oa/climate/coop/modernization.html

There is no registration fee, but please complete the online form by September 6, 2002, to register your attendance.

For further information about the COOP Modernization Partners' Forum, please visit the website or contact Robert Leffler at (301) 713-1970 ext. 134 or Robert.Leffler@noaa.gov.

"The rapidly growing commercial demand for COOP data (especially by resource managers, attorneys, insurance companies, and consultants), the growing number of individual users reported by NCDC, and greater use of the COOP data for climatological research have a number of direct implications. Perhaps the most pressing need of the greatest number of users is for faster access to data. . . . . "
National Research Council (*Future of the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network, 1998)*

Hotel and Directions

Doubletree Hotel &
Executive Meeting Center
1750 Rockville Pike
Rockville, MD 20852-1699
Tel: 1-301-468-1100 Fax: 1-301-468-0308
http://www.doubletree.com

From Dulles International (20 miles):
Take the access road to I-495 North. Follow sign for I-270 North. Exit at Montrose Road east. Go to Rockville Pike (Rt. 355) and turn left. The hotel is 3/4 mile ahead on the right.

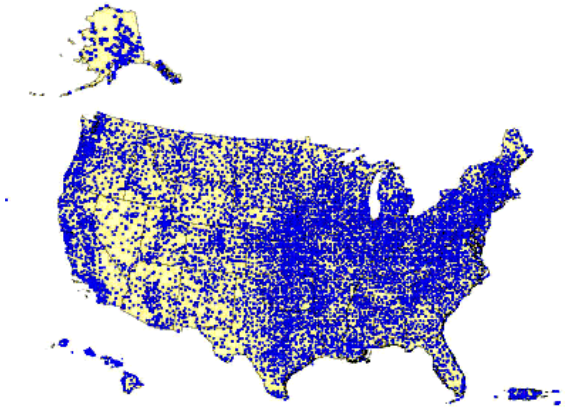
From Reagan National Airport (15 miles):
Take the George Washington Pkwy. north to I-495 North. Continue as above from Dulles.

From Baltimore/Washington International (25 miles):
Go west to I-95 South and follow to I-495 West. Take exit I-270 North and continue as above from Dulles.

Via METRO:
Take the Red Line to Twinbrook. The hotel is one block west of the Metro station on Rockville Pike between Halpine Rd. and Bouic Ave.

COOP Modernization Partners' Forum

Building a National Observing Capability for the Future



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Doubletree Hotel & Executive Meeting Center
Rockville, Maryland

Co-sponsored by:
NWS Office of Climate, Water, and Weather Services
NESDIS National Climatic Data Center
NOAA Climate Observations and Services Program
Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorology