



NWS Summer Partners Meeting

**Data Availability
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Agenda

- NWS Data Sharing Philosophy
- Relevant Statute & Policy
- NOAA/NWS Business Model
- Future Considerations
- Discussion

NWS Data Sharing Philosophy

- Be consistent with statute, including appropriations language
- Be consistent with applicable policy
- Share government data freely within limitations of acquisition agreements or technical capabilities and capacities
- Acquire data (observations, model) when the costs of acquisition are justified by improvements to products or services
- Use and provide data that is quality assured

**Free Exchange of Data Benefits Weather Enterprise -
The Tide Lifts All Boats**

Relevant Policy & Statute

- **WRFA (2017):**

- Authorizes NWS to provide impact based decision support products and services
- Authorizes NOAA to evaluate and pursue opportunities to use commercially available data
“where appropriate, cost-effective, and feasible, obtain commercial weather data from private sector providers”
- Does not require that commercially available data be used in the absence of a sound business case

Relevant Policy & Statute

- **Annual Budget Acts (Appropriations Law):**
 - May direct that NOAA or the NWS acquire specific commercial data
- **Paperwork Reduction Act/OMB Circular A-130:**
 - In general, information created or collected by the government be available on a free, open and equitable basis
 - Does not apply to data purchased by the government

Relevant Policy & Statute

- **NAO 216-112 (2007)**
 -Open and unrestricted dissemination of high quality publically funded information, as appropriate and within resource constraints, is good policy and is the law
 - NOAA will be equitable in dealings with various classes of entities..... will not provide an information service to one entity unless it can also be provided to other entities

Relevant Policy & Statute

- **WMO Resolution 40:**
 - Not legally binding, but a valuable framework
 - Member nations provide on a free and unrestricted basis “essential” products and data necessary for the protection of life and property... particularly those basic data and products required to describe and forecast weather and climate
 - Does not apply to data and products that a member is not legally authorized to share.

NOAA/NWS Business Model

- Our data is free and available at capacities driven by appropriated funding levels
- NOAA Data CRADA provides opportunities for greater access to data and targeted business opportunities for private sector
- We acquire data (observations, model) when the costs of acquisition are justified by improvements to products or services
- We honor restrictions imposed by the providers of commercial data
- We generally do not compete with the private sector in their service to private sector customers

Future Considerations

- **Increasing demand for data**
- **Open collaboration crucial**
 - Private industry and academia drive major advances
 - Nation can benefit from these innovations
 - With growth in capabilities comes need for increased coordination for decisions
- **Evolving NWS role**
 - Impact based decision support in advance of and during weather events; beyond forecasting
 - Maintain service organization role that enables weather enterprise



Discussion