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Interest Statement:

The sociological aspects of warning response have fascinated me from the first Sociology class I took in high school, and again with my college Sociology course. Seeing Dr. Gruntfests' presentation at the Warning Decision Making class in 2001 and again in the National Weather Service's Advanced Warning Operations Course have really shown me how my interests and her ideas can be applied to our hazardous weather operations program here in Glasgow. I have presented at least 3 presentations on severe weather events and the social response to those events. I will also be presenting the July 13, 2005 Bow Echo Event: Event Review and Public Response at the Great Divide Workshop in Great Falls, MT in late October.

My initial goal in my career was to be a Warning Coordination Meteorologist. As a result of working in this position for the last 4 and a half years, I have reanalyzed my goals and priorities. I eventually would like to be a Meteorologist in Charge, but for the time being, I feel the WCM position has the greatest potential for making an impact on public response. I would like to take the things learned from this workshop and bring those ideas to the program managers and the policy and decision makers within the NWS in order to continue our positive reputation and improve our services to our customers even more. I am able to think "outside of the box" and ideas come to me in various ways. I have been extremely lucky to have a region that is willing to hear those ideas, and willing to allow me to implement them. This workshop will be an excellent way to provide information to help new ideas formulate.

Besides working within the NWS and providing input on its different programs with ideas gleaned from this workshop, the aspect I would most like to learn about in this workshop is how to get our safety information out to the public in such a way that it promotes people to be proactive and take the steps they need to get watches and warnings. Also, I would like to see a reduction in the loss of life and property as a result of positive reaction to improved services from our agency. It is extremely frustrating to turn on the national news channels and hear that an SUV or mini-van has been swept downstream and an infant, toddler or child is killed; or when a major storm hits, and the headline in the newspaper was "Storm Hit Without Warning."

I also have been personally touched by a disaster when the Hayman Fire in the summer of 2003 caused my family to be evacuated from their home. My parents nearly lost their house, and have been dealing with the after affects of the fire ever since. Many of my friends and neighbors from growing up lost their homes, or were significantly impacted in some way or another. Having gone through a tragedy such as Hayman gives me a perspective from a general public point of view, rather than a government employee trying to evaluate damages after the fact.

Sociology has fascinated me from the time I learned more about it in high school. My teacher (whom I remain in contact with), had a great way of explaining social reactions and interactions with movies and current events. To this day, certain movies take me right back to that course and have me analyzing what is going on, thanks to a keen interest in the topic and a teacher who was able to get us out of the textbooks and into the real world with our learning.