

Andy Foster

Objective

By attending the Weather and Society Integrated Studies workshop, I hope to better understand weather impacts and services in relation to social science. Understanding gained through the expertise from a variety of disciplines could be implemented to enhance NWS forecast and warning operations, build stronger partnerships with agencies and user groups, and provide more effective weather information to decision makers and the public.

Professional Experience

NOAA National Weather Service Senior Meteorologist

Weather Forecast Office (WFO) Springfield, Missouri October 1998 - Present

- NWS Central Region GIS Team Leader - Strive to make GIS an integral tool to enhance NWS operations and services, and a means of connecting with users and partners.
- NWS Google Earth Training Team - Support the NWS in utilizing Google Earth to integrate weather and societal impact information for the purpose enhancing situational awareness and decision support services.
- Local WFO Public Service Program Leader - Provide the best weather products possible by encouraging innovation, and facilitating outreach initiatives in order to build partnerships. Goals include providing decision makers including emergency management with effective weather information including video web briefings and decision support web pages.
- Local WFO GIS Program Leader – Develop GIS applications and training to support the staff in utilizing GIS as a tool to enhance weather forecast operations and services.
- Flash Flood Risk Analysis Project (FFRAP) Leader – Conduct analysis of flash flooding locations and causes including low water crossings in the Ozarks for the purpose of improving warning detection, support emergency management in flood mitigation and response, improve public response with better flash flood warnings, and promote research through partnerships with Dr. Isabelle Ruin at NCAR, WAS*IS and Missouri State University.
- Lead and participate in outreach initiatives including: NOAA in the Neighborhood program to build partnerships with agencies and organizations, Severe Weather Safety Day at Springfield mall, FFRAP symposiums, Department of Transportation User forums, GIS user group presentations, numerous storm spotter and weather safety presentations, severe and winter weather awareness web pages, online storm spotter modules, emergency management GIS training, etc.
- Forecaster and Warning Operator – Issue routine weather forecast including aviation, fire weather and hydrological, and issue warnings for all weather hazards.
- Awards - Received multiple local Special Act Awards and local Cline Award.

NOAA National Weather Service Journey Forecaster

Weather Forecast Office Medford, Oregon November 1995- October 1998

- Storm Data Program Leader
- Public Products Program Leader
- Forecaster and Warning Operator - Issued routine weather forecast including aviation, fire weather, marine and hydrological, and issued warnings for all weather hazards.
- Outreach – Storm Spotter and weather safety presentations

NOAA National Weather Service Meteorologist Intern

Weather Forecast Office Salt Lake City, Utah February 1995- November 1998

NOAA National Weather Service Meteorologist Intern

Weather Service Office Helena, Montana October 1993 – February 1995

Education

Bachelor of Science Degree in Meteorology at the University of Missouri. 1993

National Weather Service Training Center

- Team Building Training
- Field Management Course

National Weather Service Warning Decision Training Branch

- Warning Decision Making
- Numerous Weather Related COMET training courses

National Independent Study Center leadership and management courses

Missouri State Emergency Management Agency emergency management course series

National Incident Command Courses (IC-100, IC-700)

Local Leadership Development Program

Publications

“Using Virtual Globes to Improve Situational Awareness in the NWS” (12/2008), American Meteorological Society 2009 Conference

“The Application of Virtual Globe Software in Forecast of Low Water Crossings” (12/2008), American Meteorological Society 2009 Conference