

**NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
OPERATIONS RESEARCH AND FACILITIES
FY 2007 OVERVIEW**

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL DATA

(\$ in thousands)

Operations Research and Facilities	FY 2005 ACTUALS	FY 2006 CURRENTLY AVAILABLE	FY 2007 BASE PROGRAM	FY 2007 ESTIMATE	INCREASE / DECREASE
Operations and Research	624,252	661,780	659,202	687,856	28,654
Systems Operation & Maintenance (O&M)	86,737	85,064	86,799	95,590	8,791
TOTAL	710,989	746,844	746,001	783,446	37,445
FTE	4,621	4,597	4,597	4,606	9

For FY 2007, NOAA requests total of \$783,446,000 for the National Weather Service Operations, Research and Facilities (ORF), a net increase of \$37,445,000.

Our Mission

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather, water, and climate forecasts and warnings for the United States, its territories, adjacent waters, and ocean areas for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. NWS data and products form a national information database and infrastructure, which can be used by other governmental agencies, the private sector, the public, and the global community.

Our Vision

NWS is a world-class team of professionals who are working together to provide the best weather, water, and climate information in the world by:

- Producing and delivering information you can trust when you need it
- Incorporating proven advances in science and technology
- Measuring, reporting, and evaluating our performance
- Reducing weather- and water-related fatalities
- Working with others to make the weather, water, and climate enterprise more effective

Our Goals

NWS supports several mission goals in the NOAA strategic plan. These include:

Mission Goal: Understand Climate Variability and Change to Enhance Society's Ability to Plan and Respond

Intraseasonal to interannual climate forecasts will become more accurate and more detailed. Increasing climate expertise at local NWS forecast offices will enhance regional specificity of climate forecasts for local customers and partners. NWS will take advantage of technological advances in climate modeling and will transition the results of research on climate variability into routine operations. Forecasts will describe their inherent uncertainty more carefully, and will be more closely coupled to effects on society and the economy; aiding, for example, emergency managers, farmers, and energy providers with resource allocation decisions. NWS will continue to expand the coverage and capabilities of the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service (AHPS) to translate improved climate predictions into effects on the Nation's fresh water system, hydroelectric power, and flood controls.

NWS recognizes its responsibility to future users of our climatological and oceanographic data we collect. NWS recognizes the importance of gathering quality observations to produce a climate record, and will ensure that climate needs are incorporated into weather and ocean observing systems whenever possible. NWS will invest resources to modernize the Cooperative Observer Program. NWS will do its part to ensure that NOAA customers and partners receive an integrated service that meets their need for information across all time and space scales – whether the information is produced by NWS or another NOAA organization, and whether the initial point of contact is an NWS office or some other NOAA organization.

Goals of NWS Climate activities

- Increased use and effectiveness of climate observations to improve long-range climate, weather, and water predictions.
- Increased use and effectiveness of climate information for decision makers and managers (e.g., for industry, natural resource and water managers, community planners, and public health professionals).
- Increased use of the knowledge of how climate variability and change affect commerce.

Mission Goal: Serve Society's Needs for Weather and Water Information

More and more sectors of the economy recognize the impacts of weather and water on their businesses, and are becoming more sophisticated at using weather and water information to improve performance. Concern for public safety drives NWS to improve the timeliness and accuracy of warnings for all weather-related hazards. To do so, NWS weather and water predictions need to be at the limits of what science, technology, and a highly trained workforce can provide.

NWS is committed to expand these limits by enhancing observing capabilities and by improving data assimilation to effectively use all the relevant data NWS and others collect; by improving collaboration with the research community through creative approaches such as community modeling; by rapidly transforming scientific advances in modeling into improved operational products; by improving the techniques used by our expert forecasters; by making NWS information available quickly, efficiently, and in a useful form (e.g., the National Digital Forecast Database); by including information on forecast uncertainty to help customers make fully informed decisions; by taking advantage of emerging technologies to disseminate this information; and by maintaining an up-to-date technology base and a workforce trained to use all of these tools to maximum effect. However, the entire weather and water enterprise is larger than NWS – today and tomorrow the NWS depends on partners in the private, academic, and public sectors (starting with other line offices within NOAA) to acquire data, conduct research, provide education and training, help disseminate critical environmental information, and provide advice to make best use of NWS information. NWS will work even more closely with existing partners, and will develop new partnerships to achieve greater public and industry satisfaction with our weather and water information and to honor our commitment to excellent customer service.

Goals of NWS Weather and Water activities

- Increased accuracy and amount of lead time for severe weather (by category of storm type, e.g. hurricanes)
- Save lives and property through more accurate and timely severe weather prediction
- Increased satisfaction with and benefits from NOAA information and warning services, as determined by surveys and analysis of emergency managers, first responders, natural resource and water managers, public health professionals, industry, government and the public.
- Increased number of observations obtained and used from partners, both international and domestic.
- Increased number of observations archived, available, and accessible.
- Increased number of new multi-use observing systems deployed.
- Improved effectiveness of NOAA's observing systems.
- Increased number of forecasters trained in the newest techniques.
- Increased volume of forecast and warning information formatted to clarify the uncertainty of an event (e.g., space weather, air quality, water and weather forecasts).
- Improved performance of NOAA's weather and water, air quality, and space weather prediction suite.
- Increased number of favorable scores on public surveys of citizen knowledge about appropriate actions under hazardous weather and water related conditions.
- Increased percentage of the public reporting timely receipt of warnings as measured by public surveys.
- Increased number of communities with plans in place to act on weather warnings and to reduce the impacts of coastal hazards.
- Increased community knowledge of, use of, and satisfaction with NOAA information that supports local air quality monitoring and forecast programs.
- Increased assistance to international partners to improve response capabilities to weather and water predictions.

Mission Goal: Support the Nation's Commerce with Information for Safe, Efficient, and Environmentally Sound Transportation

NWS services are critical to the safe and efficient transportation of people and goods by sea, air and over land. The approximately \$825B per year transportation and public utility sector is almost entirely weather and climate dependent.

NWS will work to provide aviation forecast improvements to help mitigate air traffic delays and reduce weather-related aviation accidents; improve snow precipitation and water forecasting, which affects surface transportation; and improve ocean and wind forecasting, which affects sea-borne transport from the high seas to our coasts and in the Great Lakes. NWS is committed to working with our partners to continue to improve weather information services in support of all modes of transportation.

Goals of NWS Commerce and Transportation activities

- Increased safety and productivity of transportation systems.
- Increased reliability, frequency, and use of marine, aviation, and surface transportation-related observations.
- Increased accuracy and use of weather and marine forecasts to increase efficiency of all land, water and air transportation systems.

Finally, the NWS supports the NOAA Mission Support Goal to Provide Critical Support for NOAA's Mission.

Research and Development Investments

The NOAA FY 2007 Budget estimates for its activities, including research and development programs, are the result of an integrated, requirements-based Planning, Programming, Budgeting, and Execution System (PPBES) that provides the structure to link NOAA's strategic vision with programmatic detail, budget development, and the framework to maximize resources while optimizing capabilities. The PPBES process incorporates the President's Management Agenda and the Office of Science and Technology Policy's Research and Development Investment Criteria (relevance, quality, and performance) for NOAA's R&D programs, and leads to NOAA budget proposals that reflect the R&D investment criteria.

Significant Adjustments-to-Base (ATBs): NOAA requests a net increase of \$24,754,000 and 0 FTE to fund adjustments to base across all accounts in the NWS. With this increase program totals will fund the estimated FY 2007 Federal pay raise of 2.2 percent and annualize the FY 2006 pay raise of 3.1 percent, program totals will also provide inflationary increases for non-labor activities, including service contracts, utilities, field office lease payments, and rent charges from the General Service Administration.

NWS also requests the following transfers between line offices or appropriations for a net change to NOAA of zero.

From Line	Line	To Office	Line	Amount
NWS	Local Warnings and Forecasts	OAR	Competitive Research Program	-3,000,000

- \$3,000,000 is transferred from the Local Warning and Forecasts line to benefit the Oceanic and Atmospheric Research (OAR) Competitive Research Program.

Below are transfers between within the NWS that result in a net change to NWS of zero.

- \$2,291,000 is transferred from the National Tsunami Hazard Mitigation Program to the Strengthen the U.S. Tsunami Warning Network PPA within the Local Warnings and Forecasts line item. This transfer has no net effect on overall NWS or NOAA funding and was done simply to consolidate all NWS Tsunami funding into one PPA.
- \$21,500,000 is transferred from the National Data Buoy Center to the Local Warnings and Forecasts base and Alaska Data Buoy PPAs within the Local Warnings and Forecasts line item. This transfer has no net effect on overall NWS or NOAA funding.
- \$5,800,000 is transferred from the National Hurricane Center to the Central Forecasts Guidance PPA within the Central Forecasts Guidance line item. This transfer has no net effect on overall NWS or NOAA funding.