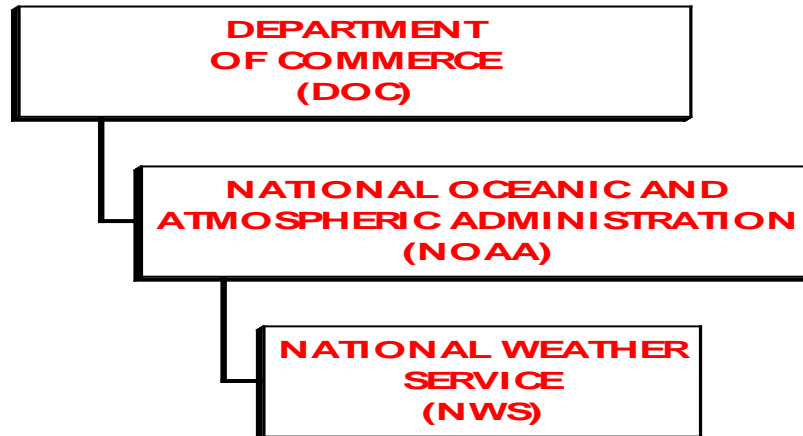




NOAA's NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE Seattle, Washington

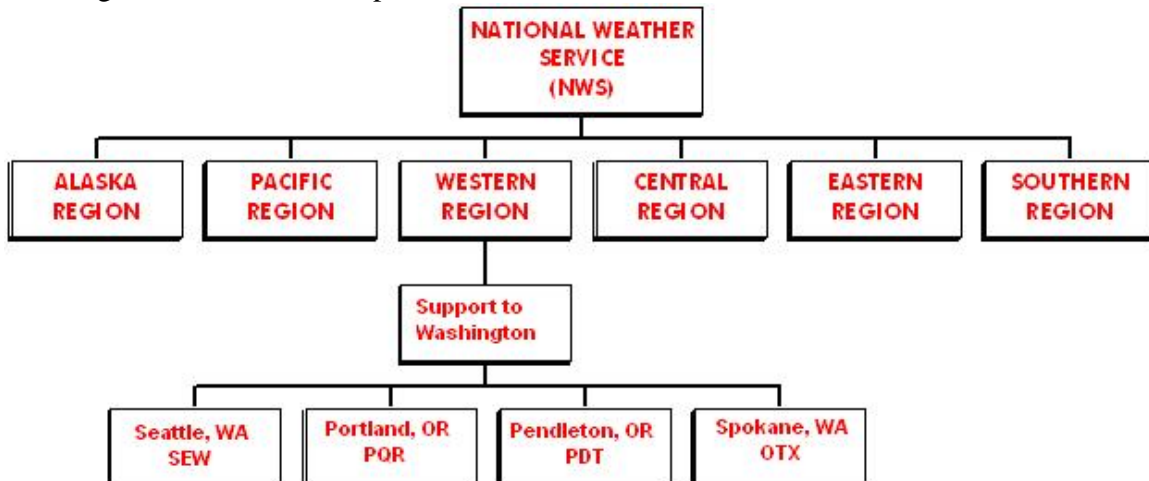
...PROTECTING LIVES AND PROPERTY...

The National Weather Service (NWS) is a federal agency under the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), a part of the Department of Commerce (DOC).



The National Weather Service office located in Seattle, WA is one of 122 forecast offices across the United States, including Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico, and Guam.

The NWS is composed of six regions across the country. Washington is one of eight states within the NWS Western Region. The NWS Warning and Forecast Offices (WFO) that serve Washington include Seattle, Spokane, Pendleton, OR, and Portland, OR.



The staff at the NWS office in Seattle maintains weather surveillance and forecasting responsibility for most of western Washington. ***Our primary mission is to protect life and property, and to enhance the welfare and economy of the Nation.*** We fulfill this mission by

issuing various types of forecasts, watches, warnings and advisories to keep you informed and prepared for the weather. We alert you when damaging or potentially life-threatening weather occurs or is forecast.

ABOUT THE NWS

National History

The weather has always been important in America. Weather records date back to the earliest settlers and became a prominent activity during the 1740-1770s. The National Weather Service was first organized through the Organic Act passed by Congress on February 2, 1870 and signed into law by President Grant on February 9, 1870. The act authorized “the Secretary of War to take observations at military stations and to warn of storms on the Great Lakes and the Atlantic and Gulf coasts.” We began as the Signal Service of the Army. The success of the agency through the years made this group of dedicated weather forecasters and observers one of the more popular and well-known federal agencies. In 1891, we later moved to the Agriculture Department and changed our name to the Weather Bureau. In 1970, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration was organized and again we changed our name to the National Weather Service.

Seattle Weather Records History

The first weather records in the immediate vicinity of Seattle were kept from 1878-1899 by R.M.Hoskinson, a volunteer observer living in Madrone (the present city of Winslow) located on Bainbridge Island, nine miles west of Seattle. The city office was established in August 1890. The city office has been relocated three times since it was established; however all of the locations have been within two blocks of the waterfront. The final location of the city office was in the Federal Office Building at 1st and Marion. Observations at the Federal Building ended in November 1972.

Observations began at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport in November 1944. The airport is currently the official weather records site for the Seattle area. The airport is located six miles south of the Seattle city limits and 14 miles north of Tacoma. It is situated on a low ridge lying between Puget Sound on the west and the Green River Valley on the east with terrain sloping moderately to the shores of Puget Sound.

Since July 1981, the Seattle NWS office has been located at the NOAA campus at Sand Point on Lake Washington. The office had been previously located on Westlake Ave. near Lake Union.

NWS Statistics

Meteorologists and hydrologists analyze weather data gathered by satellites, Doppler weather radar, electronic sensor observation platforms and other data and, when combined with computer models of how the atmosphere will behave in the next week or so, prepare a variety of hydrometeorological forecasts for the general public. Forecast programs serve the severe weather, hydrologic, fire weather, aviation, and marine communities. The primary responsibility of the NWS is to issue and disseminate warnings of hazardous weather and water conditions. Weather products are used by the public and many industries and can be received via newspapers, radio and television, telephone recordings, NOAA Weather Radio,

Internet, and special publications. The NWS operates 24 hours a day, 365 days a year with a total 122 forecast offices and several national centers. Careers with the NWS vary from Meteorologists, Hydro-Meteorological Technicians, and Hydrologists to Computer Programmers and Electronics Technicians. Preferred majors for entry-level positions include Atmospheric Sciences, Computer Sciences, Earth Sciences, Electronics, Geography, Hydrology, Mathematics, Meteorology, and Physics. Special summer internship programs are occasionally available. Job applicants can obtain employment information from a local NWS office or through the US Government Office of Personnel Management.

WFO SEATTLE STAFF

The staff of the National Weather Service in Seattle is here to serve and to protect the people of Western Washington. We look forward to working with our community and learning more about the weather that so greatly affects each of our lives everyday.

Meteorologist in Charge: *Brad Colman*

Warning Coordination Meteorologist: *Ted Buehner*

Science & Operations Officer: *Kirby Cook*

Administrative Assistant: *Robert Slaney*

Electronics Systems Analyst: *Don Price*

Information Technology Officer: *Alan Norwood*

Senior Service Hydrologist: *Brent Bower*

Observations Program Leader: *Art Gaebel*

5 Lead Forecasters

7 General Forecasters including 2 Incident Meteorologists

4 Meteorological Interns/HMTs

4 Electronics Technicians