NOAA Regional Collaboration
Regional Climate Services Workshops

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

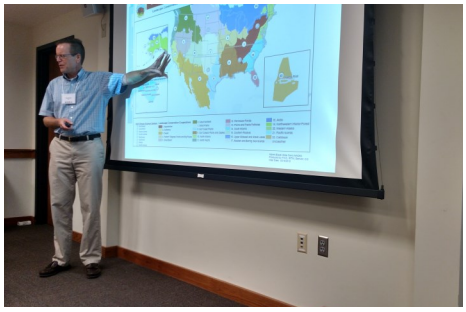
With an ever increasing amount of climate data and information available, ensuring familiarity of existing tools and partnerships which can meet the needs of National Weather Service (NWS) Climate Focal Points is imperative to enhancing delivery of Regional Climate Services throughout the region.

The NOAA Central Region Collaboration Team and the High Plains Regional Climate Center created a workshop tailored for NWS Climate Focal Points and staff knowledgeable of climate services who can participate and collaborate in applied climate research, outreach, and decision support activities.

Initiated in 2015, the workshops provide opportunities to practice skills, build relationships with NOAA and key regional climate partners, as well as connect Climate Focal Points throughout NWS Weather Forecast offices.

SUCCESS AND EXPANSION

Participants provided overwhelmingly positive feedback in 2015 and 2016, which spurred interest across. In order to serve more NWS Weather Forecast Offices, the NOAA Great Lakes Regional Collaboration Team and the Midwestern Regional Climate Center hosted Regional Climate Services Workshops for offices serving the Great Lakes in both 2017 and 2018. A workshop in September 2019 focused on offices serving the state of Kansas was hosted by the NOAA Central Region Collaboration Team.



WORKSHOP COMPONENTS

- An introduction to regional climate services and key partners such as the Central Region Climate Services Directors, Regional Climate Centers, State Climatologists, the National Drought Mitigation Center, Sea Grant, USDA Climate Hubs, and more.
- Hands-on experience with climate data and information tools like ACIS-WS, U.S. Drought Monitor, and the Drought Risk Atlas.
- Field trips to state mesonet sites, instrumentation labs, and U.S. Climate Reference Network (CRN) sites.
- Networking opportunities with colleagues and partners, often resulting in future collaboration activities.

"Being able to network and brainstorm ideas with other climate–savvy folks from across the region, including neighboring offices. Building these relationships is a benefit that will last much longer than the meeting itself."

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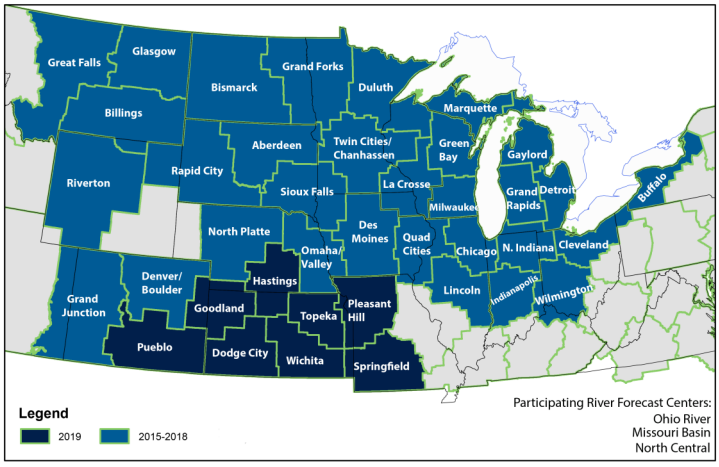

WFO staff working in the area of climate from 39 NWS Weather Forecast Offices and 3 River Forecast Centers participated in Regional Climate Services Workshops from 2015—2019.

WORKSHOHP OBJECTIVES

Regional Climate Services Workshops are hosted to enhance capabilities to provide integrated decision support services related to climate by:

- Delivering a consistent workshop model to support NWS climate decision support services.
- Sharing knowledge of regional climate services, data, and information from NOAA and partners.
- Strengthening connections and increasing collaborative opportunities
- Improving skills through hands-on exercises of climate tools.
- Building relationships through engagement and interaction.

OUTCOMES

- Integrated partner engagement focused on identifying needs and building awareness of climate services available to specific states (Montana, Wisconsin, Ohio, and Kansas).
- The Great Lakes regional node for the U.S. Climate Resilience Toolkit, developed by a climate focal point working group.
- Resources and expertise shared throughout WFOs and enhanced delivery of climate decision support services and partner connections.

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