



Pacific Northwest Weather and Climate Outlook Forum
Dealing with Extreme Events: The Pacific Northwest
April 3-4, 2012 • The Edgewater Hotel, Seattle, Washington

The Pacific Northwest Weather and Climate Outlook Forum is the first in a series of regionally focused summits hosted by WGA and NOAA to bring together leading practitioners and policy makers to address weather and climate risk. Government agencies and the private sector have a long history of responding to weather and climate uncertainty. However, increased population and development, coupled with extreme weather events and long-term climate trends, have exposed significant vulnerabilities that must be addressed. Preparing for weather and climate risk is an emerging and rapidly evolving field; this forum seeks to connect science with decision-making in new and sustainable ways in order to protect our economy and quality of life.

Goals of the Forum:

- Raise awareness among policy makers of the connections between weather and climate and the economy and quality of life in the Pacific Northwest.
- Share current weather and climate forecasts, with a focus on extreme events, in the context of upcoming management decisions.
- Identify specific actions to provide tools, resources, and capacity that states and other resource managers need to respond to weather and climate events.
- Develop a model for Western states to partner with NOAA and other federal agencies in sharing and responding to weather and climate information.

Tuesday, April 3

7:30-9:00 **Breakfast**

9:00-9:30 **Welcome** The Honorable Christine Gregoire, Governor of Washington
Dr. Robert Detrick, Assistant Administrator,
NOAA Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research

9:30-10:30 **What's at Stake? How Extreme Weather and Climate Affect the Pacific Northwest**
Moderator: Governor Christine Gregoire

- Mark Reis, *Managing Director, Sea-Tac International Airport*
- Jim Yost, *Council Member (ID), Northwest Power and Conservation Council*
- Andrew Johnsen, *AVP State Govt. Affairs, Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad*
- Paul Lumley, *Executive Director, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission*
- Mike Kreidler, *Commissioner, Washington State Office of the Insurance Commissioner*

10:30-11:00 **Break & Networking**

- 11:00-12:00 Case study: Great Coastal Gale of 2007**
- Dr. Brad Colman, NOAA National Weather Service, Seattle
 - Liz Anderson, Grays Harbor PUD
 - Wendy Willis, National Policy Consensus Center, Portland State University

- 12:00-1:00 Lunch and Keynote**
John Tubbs, *Deputy Assistant Secretary for Water and Science,*
US Department of the Interior

Afternoon: Connecting Science and Management

What does the science say about long-term temperature and precipitation trends as well as the frequency and magnitude of extreme events in the Pacific Northwest? How are governments, resource managers and businesses using this information to mitigate risk? Do we have the institutions and capacity needed to translate science into resource management?

- 1:00-1:45 Weather and Climate Extremes: A National View and Regional Outlook**
Moderator: Dr. Robert Detrick
- A National View: Dr. Roger Pulwarty, NOAA
 - Seasonal Forecast: Ed O'Lenic, NOAA NWS Climate Prediction Center
 - Streamflow Forecast: Harold Opitz, NOAA NWS Northwest River Forecast Center

- 1:45-2:45 An Inventory of Regional Climate Information Assets**
- Dr. Kelly Redmond, Western Regional Climate Center/Desert Research Institute
 - Dr. Phil Mote, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute/Oregon State University/
Climate Impacts Research Consortium
 - Dr. Gus Bisbal, Northwest Climate Science Center
 - Dr. Stephen Zylstra, USFWS Landscape Conservation Cooperatives
 - Dr. Nate Mantua, University of Washington Climate Impacts Group

- 2:45-3:15 Open Discussion with Audience and Panelists**
Moderator: Dr. Robert Detrick

- 3:15-3:45 Break & Networking**

- 3:45-5:00 Management Responses across Sectors and Boundaries**
- State Adaptation Plan: Richard Whitman,
Natural Resources Advisor to the Governor of Oregon
 - Water Supply & Water Quality: Paul Fleming, *Seattle Public Utilities*
 - Fisheries: Dr. John Stein, NOAA NMFS, *Northwest Fisheries Science Center*
 - Coastal Communities: Patty Snow,
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

- 5:00** Wrap-Up Day 1 and Preview Day 2

- 5:00-7:00 Reception** *The Alki Room, The Edgewater Hotel*

Wednesday, April 4

7:00-8:30 Breakfast

Morning: *Looking to the Future*

Given the projections for extreme weather and climate trends, and the potential impacts to our economy and resources, how can we strengthen our planning, preparation, and response in the Pacific Northwest? This session will engage meeting participants in an interactive discussion.

8:30-9:30 Raising Awareness of Extreme Events

- Emergency Management and Communication:
Jim Mullen, *Director of Emergency Management, Washington*
- Cal-Adapt: A Tool for Climate Communications:
Julia Levin, *Deputy Secretary for Climate Change, California Resources Agency*
- Soliciting citizen photographers to document sea level rise and storm surge:
W. Spencer Reeder, *Senior Manager, Cascadia Consulting Group*

9:30-10:30 Improving Coordination and Response

- Alaska Climate Change Sub-Cabinet and Executive Roundtable:
Larry Hartig, *Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation*
- Howard Hanson Dam:
Hillman Mitchell, *Director, King County Office of Emergency Management, Washington*
- Transboundary Coordination:
Thomas White, *Manager for Science and Adaptation, Climate Action Secretariat, British Columbia Ministry of the Environment*

10:30-11:00 Break & Networking

11:00-12:00 Developing Early Warning Systems

- Water Supply and Early Warning Needs:
Tony Willardson, *Executive Director, Western States Water Council*
- National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS):
Dr. Roger Pulwarty, *Director for NIDIS, NOAA*
- Atmospheric Rivers and Observing Networks:
Dr. Marty Ralph, *Chief, Water Cycle Branch, Physical Sciences, NOAA*

12:00-12:30 Next Steps

- Ted Sturdevant, *Director, Department of Ecology, Washington*
- Dr. Roger Pulwarty, *NOAA*
- Tom Iseman, *WGA*

12:30 Adjourn