

# The Federal Plan for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research

FISCAL YEAR 2008

FEDERAL COORDINATOR  
FOR  
METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES AND SUPPORTING RESEARCH

8455 Colesville Road, Suite 1500  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
301-427-2002

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Editors:

Frank Estis  
Kenneth Barnett



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## PREFACE

Since 1965, the Office of the Federal Coordinator for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research (OFCM) has developed a Federal Plan that articulates the provision of meteorological services and the support for meteorological and related research by agencies of the Federal government. The 2008 Federal Plan provides Congress and the Executive Branch with a comprehensive compilation of proposed programs for fiscal year (FY) 2008 and a review of agency programs in FY 2007. The Federal Plan's narratives, timelines, and schedules are current as of September 2007.

The Federal Plan consists of an Executive Summary, three sections, and Appendices. The Executive Summary, which is written as a concise, stand-alone report, provides a high-level view of the Federal resources dedicated to meteorological programs and the achievements of those programs.

This year's feature article (Section 1) focuses on hydrometeorology, which is the science that combines hydrology and meteorology, with its main emphasis on the atmospheric sector of the hydrological cycle. Hydrometeorological products and services are particularly important to managing water resources, including the growing risks to our water supply, water quality, healthy stream flows, agriculture, and ecosystems. They are also used to design roads, dams, and waterway systems; manage flood plains; plan and conduct emergency management operations when flooding threatens; and ensure the safety and preparedness of activities, ranging from recreation to aviation, construction, and surface transportation system use and management. Many Federal, state, and local agencies collaborate to provide accurate and updated hydrometeorological information which is needed by a broad spectrum of customers. The purpose of this article is to: (a) raise the awareness of hydrometeorological products, services, and supporting research; (b) highlight the hydrometeorological products and services available and the collaborating agencies responsible for the collection, maintenance and operation of the meteorological and hydrological data collection network; and (c) engage the users of this Federal information to ensure we understand their needs.

Section 2 of the Federal Plan summarizes the resources appropriated by Congress for FY 2007 and the resources requested in the President's FY 2008 Budget. Section 3 contains departmental and agency narratives on programs for providing meteorological services and supporting research and development. It also describes relevant research funded by the National Science Foundation.

Appendix A describes the OFCM's coordination, program, and planning activities. Appendix B addresses the World Meteorological Organization's World Weather Program. Appendix C lists the feature articles published in previous Federal Plans. The acronyms and abbreviations used throughout this year's Federal Plan are defined in Appendix D. The inside front cover lists the current members of the Federal and Interdepartmental Committees for Meteorological Services and Supporting Research, which provide guidance and support for OFCM activities. The inside back cover diagrams the infrastructure through which the OFCM performs its coordinating mission.

Samuel P. Williamson  
Federal Coordinator for Meteorological  
Services and Supporting Research



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