



## **REGIONAL CLIMATE CENTER AND REGIONAL INTEGRATED SCIENCES AND ASSESSMENTS (RISA) COLLABORATIONS**

*AN EXAMPLE FROM THE SOUTHERN CLIMATE IMPACTS PLANNING PROGRAM RISA*

### **OVERVIEW OF SCIPP**

The Southern Climate Impacts Planning Program (SCIPP) is one of eleven programs supported through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's RISA program. As part of the RISA network, SCIPP conducts regionally-relevant, stakeholder-driven research aimed at the co-development of decision support and related tools for users. One of the unique aspects of SCIPP is the partnership that forms this program - the state climate office of Oklahoma (Oklahoma Climatological Survey at the University of Oklahoma), the state climate office of Louisiana (Louisiana Office of State Climatology at Louisiana State University), and the NOAA Southern Regional Climate Center at Louisiana State University. This unique relationship provides new opportunities for testing a formalized partnership between state climate offices, a regional climate center, and the stakeholder-driven research aim of a RISA.

### **EXPERIMENTAL PRODUCT TRANSITION**

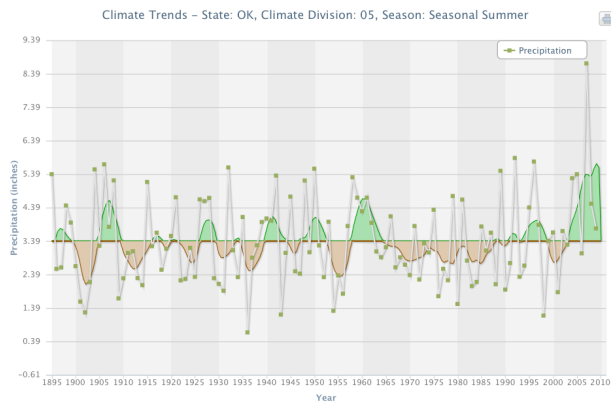
During 2009, SCIPP undertook an effort to experimentally transition a series of different climate information and data products originally developed at the Oklahoma Climatological Survey (OCS) to partners at the Southern Regional Climate Center (SRCC). Goals of these transfers included:

- Producing regional assessment products that could be used for SCIPP engagement activities,
- Enhancing product performance and access to Applied Climate Information System (ACIS) data,
- Improving product functionality and visualization, and
- Expanding availability of the tools to a broader region.

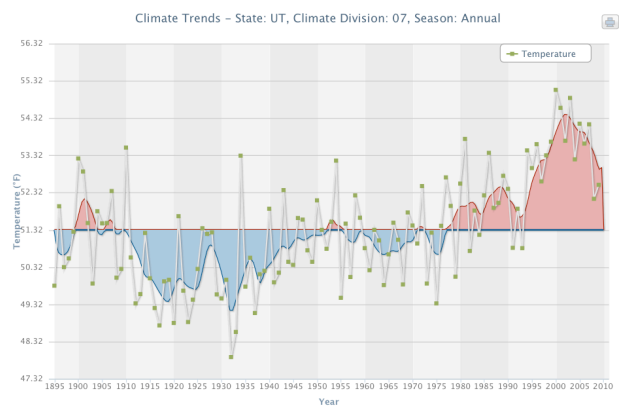
The process of undertaking an experimental product transition from OCS to SRCC through SCIPP has helped to demonstrate the value of these partnerships in improving climate services and product delivery. The example on the following page highlights the transition of one particular product (Climate History Assessment Tool), how the collaboration worked, and benefits realized through the process. As an extension to this transition project, SCIPP is also currently undertaking a customer evaluation of these tools. The tool evaluation is intended to test the regionalization of the tools, examine product utility for a host of different users, and determine new features or adjustments needed.

### **WHAT WAS DEVELOPED**

- Climate history assessment tool (<http://www.southernclimate.org/products/trends.php>)
- Graph of monthly, seasonal or annual precipitation or temperature at a climate division scale
- 5-year weighted running mean to highlight extended periods of wet/dry, hot/cold
- Easy perception of past shifts in climate and places current climate into the historical perspective



Example 1: Precipitation in central Oklahoma during the summer season.



Example 2: Annual temperatures in southeast Utah.

## HOW IT WAS DEVELOPED

- The concept was developed by USDA Agricultural Research Station Grazinglands Research Lab and operationalized by OCS
- It was available only for Oklahoma
- Ability to keep information current was limited
- SCIPP promoted OCS/SRCC collaboration where it was given a regional and national audience
- OCS transferred product code to SRCC where it was updated, integrated with other product code, and linked to ACIS data files that were already managed by SRCC
- SRCC expanded capabilities, including new dynamic “zoom in” feature to more closely examine user-defined time periods
- Product was made operational for entire contiguous United States (based on NCDC climate division monthly files that do not include Alaska or Hawaii)

## BENEFITS TO THE USERS

- OCS experience has shown that graphs convey climate history very effectively – graphs are commonly used by users, customers, and agencies not necessarily in direct contact with OCS
- Transition of product to SRCC has extended capabilities beyond OK to a national audience
- Provides automatically-updated information

## BENEFITS TO THE COLLABORATORS

- OCS does not need to invest limited information-technology resources to maintain the products and can instead focus on direct customer support
- SRCC uses the code base to develop other climate analysis products
- SCIPP now has a high-visibility and tested product that can serve as an entry point in engagement with more users across the Southern U.S.
- RISA made collaboration possible – has high-visibility, tested product

