

Climate Decision Support for Water Resources Management – Some Basics

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Overview

- **Decision support background**
- **Water sector specifics**
- **Promising opportunities**

Decision Support Challenges in General

- **Different “corporate cultures”, values, language in the academic/research sector and in the practitioner sector**
- **Typically little interaction of scientists performing research with practitioners**
- **Loading dock method of information transfer**

Communications 101

- Identify the target audience(s)
- Begin with the audience in mind
- Avoid jargon
- Have a plan



Speaking of Jargon.....

- **Decision support**
- **Research to operations**
- **Climate services**
- **Capacity building**
- **Assessments, vulnerability analyses**

Typically Cited Decision Support Needs

- **Co-production of knowledge**
- **Capacity building, among both practitioners and researchers**
- **Long-term relationship building among practitioners and researchers**
- **Processes for disseminating relevant information**

Typical Water Resources Perspectives

- **Weather/climate applications not a core business function**
- **Typically no disciplinary background in weather/climate**
- **Relevant only to specific sub-sectors**
- **Products & outreach need to be targeted (and no products without outreach)**
- **Large gap between existing products and “usefulness”**



Water Sector Specifics

- **Water sector is (highly) fragmented, not monolithic (e.g. Michael Hanemann)**
- **Size matters**
- **Historically limited usage of climate products**
- **Favors conservative approaches (public safety orientation)**



Who is the “Water Sector” & Why Does it Make a Difference?

- Flood control and floodplain management agencies (ASFPM, NAFSMA, USACE)
- Dam safety management agencies (ASDSO)
- Hydropower utilities (APPA, EPRI)
- Largest water supply wholesalers (USBR, USACE, CDWR)
- Agricultural water supply agencies (NWRA)
- Urban water supply agencies – wholesale and retail (AWWA, AMWA, ASDWA)
- Small public water systems (NRWA)
- End users (especially agricultural)
- Wastewater treatment agencies (ASIWPCA, NACWA)

Back to Communications.....

- **Where is the plan?**
- **Who is the target audience?**
- **Who are the partners?**



Promising Opportunities

- **Federal guidance/leadership on hydromet standards of practice would be useful (e.g. flood frequencies, PMP)**
- **Monitoring & data collection partnerships?**
- **Pilot projects/test beds**

