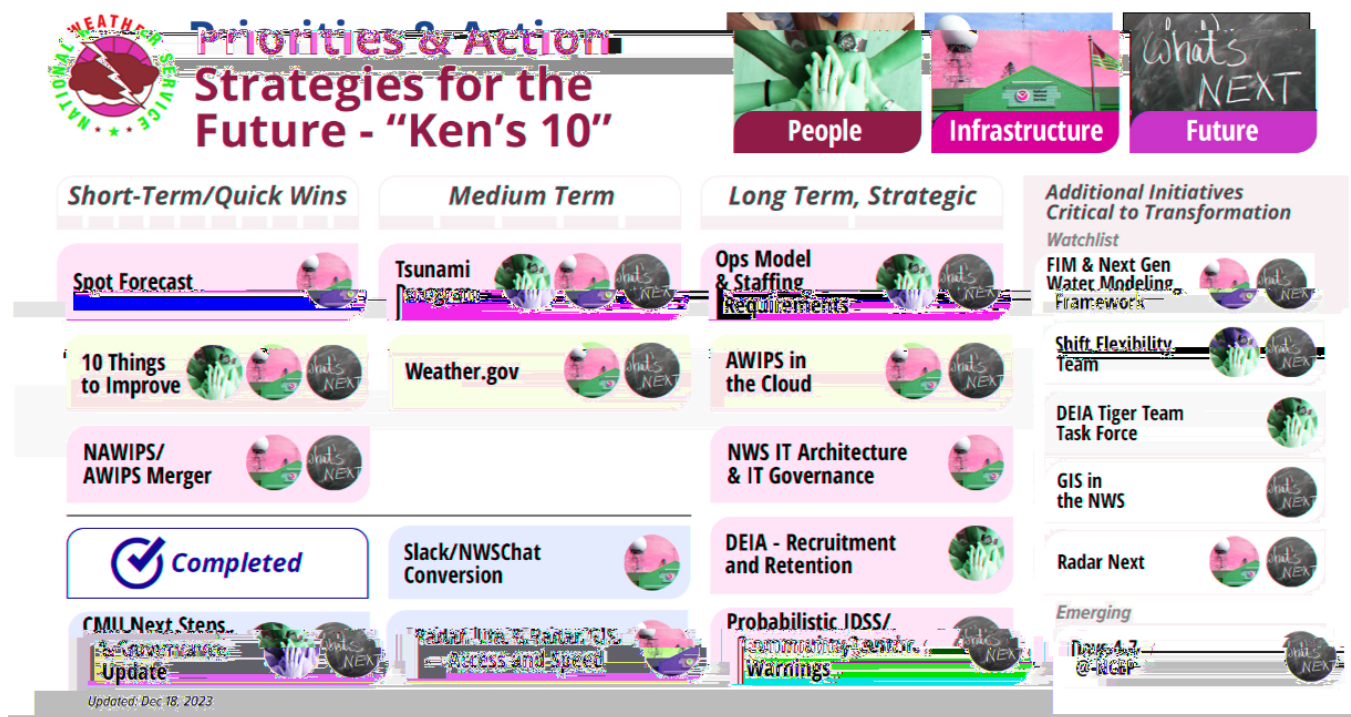


NWS Priorities Reflected in “Ken’s 10”

By: Douglas Hilderbrand, Aware Editor

NWS launched a new website highlighting the Director's 10 priorities and action strategies to ensure the transformation of the agency. Keep up with the latest efforts at the [Ken's 10" website!](#)



Priorities & Action Strategies for the Future - "Ken's 10"

People **Infrastructure** **Future**

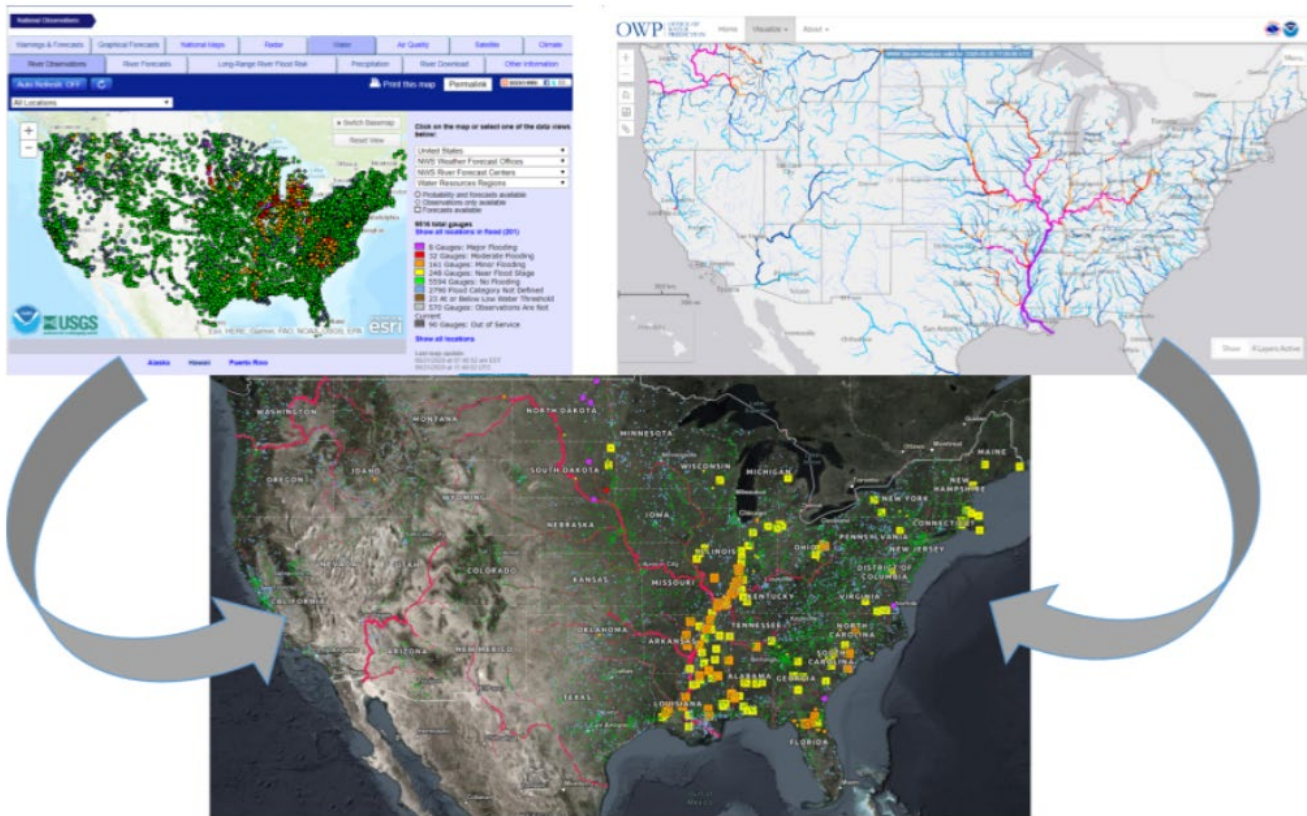
Short-Term/Quick Wins	Medium Term	Long Term, Strategic	Additional Initiatives Critical to Transformation
Spot Forecast	Tsunami	Ops Model & Staffing Requirements	Watchlist FIM & Next Gen Water Modeling Framework
10 Things to Improve	Weather.gov	AWIPS in the Cloud	Shift Flexibility Team
NAWIPS/AWIPS Merger		NWS IT Architecture & IT Governance	DEIA Tiger Team Task Force
Completed	Slack/NWSChat Conversion	DEIA - Recruitment and Retention	GIS in the NWS
CMU Next Steps Update	Future of the Radar/IS Access and Speed	Probabilistic IDSS/Warnings	Radar Next
			Emerging Days 4-7 @ NWS

Updated: Dec 18, 2023

NWS Launches Experimental National Water Prediction Service Website

By: Douglas Hilderbrand, Aware Editor

Access to water data and water prediction services from NOAA's National Weather Service just got easier! The agency has unveiled a new [experimental website](#) called the National Water Prediction Service. This experimental website will act as the gateway to the agency's water data and forecast information. The new site is mobile-friendly, modern, and efficient, and the infrastructure is intuitive and flexible, allowing users to make sound water decisions. The website centralizes data from the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service and the Office of Water Prediction.



NOAA's new one-stop shop website for water prediction services, called National Water Prediction Service, combines, expands and enhances features from two popular websites; the Advanced Hydrologic Prediction Service and the Office of Water Prediction.

A “New View” for Forecasters in Time for Severe and Fire Weather Season

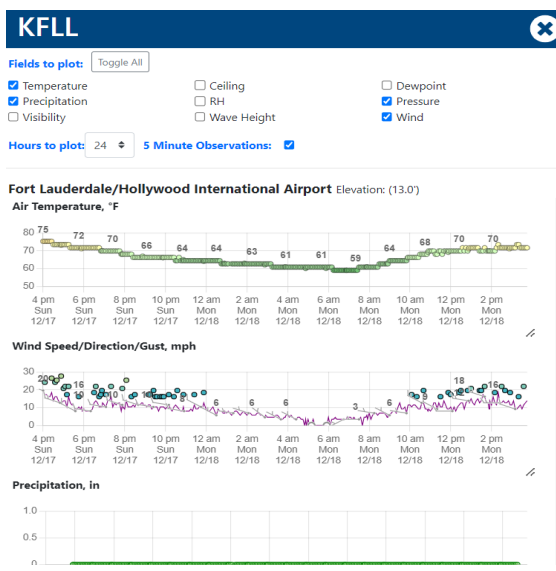
By: Paxton Fell, NWS GIS Meteorologist

Forecasters and core NWS partners across the nation alike will have access to a powerful updated tool just in time for the upcoming severe and fire weather seasons. The NWS Dissemination Team has been working hard to implement impressive updates to the [NWS National GIS Map Viewer \('the Viewer'\)](#). Not only does the Viewer house a wide range of NWS data by theme, but it allows for the overlay of a diverse range of data to help decision makers understand context.

What exactly is the Viewer? The Viewer is a GIS application that hosts the majority of U.S. federally-produced weather data in a GIS format, making it available for easy visualization and interpretation through a small set of geoprocessing tools. It also provides capabilities to display, interrogate, access, and discover data and will easily assimilate this information so that our users and partners familiar with geospatial data and technology can seamlessly access and digest it. The [General](#) and [Water](#) program sites are operational as of October 2022. Experimental program sites also exist for [Tropical](#), [Fire](#), [Severe](#), [Winter](#), [Space](#), [Climate](#), [Aviation](#), and [Marine](#) service areas. These experimental program sites will remain experimental until operational status is approved by the program area subject matter experts and announced as operational in a NWS Service Change Notice.

If you have questions about this powerful tool or suggestions for what you would like to see in the Viewer, reach out to the dissemination team at nws.gisviewer@noaa.gov.

In the last half of 2023, a major upgrade and minor updates (latest v2.2.0) of the 24x7 Viewer were released, which included beneficial updates, bug fixes, dynamic enhancements, and new tools. While a full list of the most recent updates can be found [here](#), the updated Viewer allows for faster data interaction, an advanced time-series surface data widget ('observation widget'), a fire weather sidebar, and advanced control for real-time weather data.

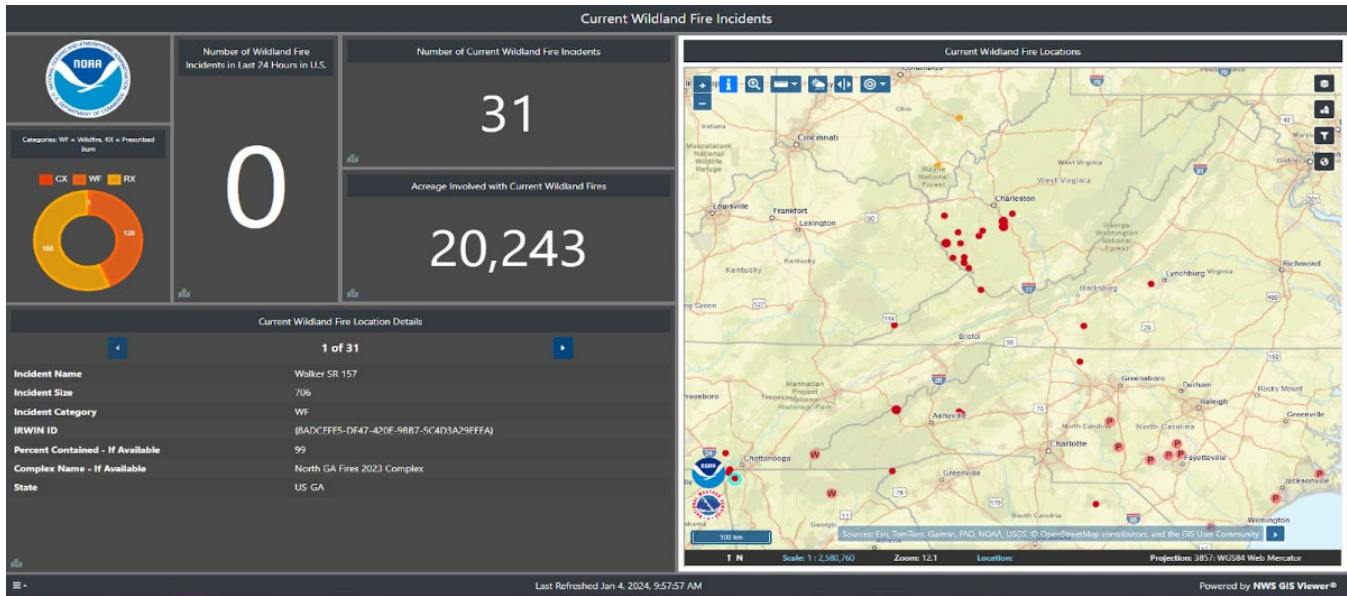


Two powerful new tools of the Viewer that are straightforward for forecasters and partners to utilize and interpret are (1) the observation widget, which is outlined in [this document](#) and a [video tutorial](#), and (2) the fire weather sidebar.

The observation widget activates when the Viewer “Near Real-Time Weather Observations (NOAA)” layer is toggled on. This is a special layer that displays a control panel in the Table of Contents which allows a user to customize how the map layer is viewed; it also allows viewing of time series graphs of weather observation station data. The left-hand image shows an example of the Viewer Observation Time Series Graph.

The fire weather sidebar is an information management tool, which provides insights to geographic information. It is designed to display multiple visualizations in a single view while showcasing data metrics involving fire incidents. This sidebar is available under the “Fire” site page. It allows the user to view fire weather Spot forecasts, NWS-issued fire weather outlooks, fire perimeters, etc.

The graphic below shows an example of the Viewer Fire Weather sidebar.



Staff from House Speaker Mike Johnson’s Office Visits NWS Shreveport

By: NWS Staff

The National Weather Service Office in Shreveport, LA, hosted Kathy Babers, the Community Liaison of the Louisiana 4th Congressional District, on January 9. After introducing Kathy to the staff, Meteorologist-In-Charge **Brad Bryant** led a discussion on current and future NWS initiatives, including the NWS mission and vision and the agency’s focus on enhancing communication with its core partners to build a Weather Ready Nation. The discussion also provided an overview of the county warning area and highlighted some of the recent hazardous weather events, including the June 2023 Derecho event and subsequent record heat, the February 2021 Winter Storms and Arctic Outbreak, and the ongoing Louisiana and Texas drought. The Shreveport team also spoke about the budget challenges NWS is facing for FY24.

Kathy then toured the office before sitting down with Science and Operations Officer **Carly Kovacik** to discuss the use of probabilistic forecasting and messaging to highlight forecast uncertainty and provide enhanced IDSS to core partners ahead of significant weather events. After her introduction to probabilistic forecasting, Kathy was then able to sit down with Senior Meteorologist **Michael Berry**, who introduced her to warning operations. Michael walked

Kathy through the severe weather event from the previous day, utilizing archived NEXRAD radar data to demonstrate how we create and disseminate warnings via WarnGen.

Kathy was very engaged with the staff and operations during her visit and understands the variety of weather hazards that exist within the ArkLaTex Region. NWS Shreveport thanks Kathy for taking the time out of her busy schedule to learn more about our operations.



Science and Operations Officer **Carly Kovacik** demonstrating the use of weather data in AWIPS and how probabilistic forecasting is used to create and publish daily weather forecasts via GFE.



Senior Meteorologist **Michael Berry** walking Kathy through severe weather operations, utilizing archived radar data in GR2 and demonstrating warning creation and dissemination via AWIPS WarnGen.

WARN Task Force Presents at the Emergency Management Association of Ohio Winter Conference

By: Jane Marie Wix, Warning Coordination Meteorologist at WFO Jackson, KY



The Weather Awareness for a Rural Nation (WARN) Task Force was recently invited to speak at the Emergency Management Association of Ohio (EMAO) 2023 Winter Conference, which took place on December 7-8. The group talked about the work they are currently doing to better serve the Amish populations across the country. Ohio has the second-largest Amish population by state (2nd to Pennsylvania), growing by between 1,500 and 2,500 each year.

The group presented on the April 2020 tragic flooding incident in Bath County, KY, that became the catalyst for the WARN program. The presentation provided some insight into the Amish population and culture, as well as ways that the Task Force is working to improve weather communications and education in these communities. The WARN Task Force shared tools and resources via the WARN Amish Toolkit, which many of the emergency managers were very excited to have access to. A recording of their full 2023 NWA presentation can be found [here](#) and is highly recommended.

While the WARN Task Force has given multiple presentations over the past few years, this was the first time that the target audience was all emergency management. WARN is hoping that since many of these Ohio emergency managers are already familiar with and working with their Amish populations, this will become a great partnership for the Task Force moving forward, as well as a way to reach a large number of Amish across the state.

In related WARN news, The Budget Newspaper is a weekly publication based in Ohio which circulates nationally to almost all the Amish and Mennonite communities. In October of 2022, NWS members of the WARN Task Force began supplying weather articles for the newspaper after an invitation from the newspaper's publisher, Milo Miller, who also realized that very little weather information was making it into these communities. The articles primarily focused on weather hazards pertinent to the time of year that they are being published, with a large emphasis on weather safety. These articles have been so popular amongst the readers that the Task Force was requested to start supplying the articles twice a month. Thanks to the EMAO Conference, several other Ohio WCMs were in

attendance and eager to join the expanded effort to create these articles. A big thank you from the WARN Task Force!

The [public facing WARN Amish Toolkit](#) contains documents created by the WARN Task Force. This is a great shared repository of information for working with the Amish that we hope to see grow as more and more NWS offices and emergency management become involved with their local Amish communities.

NWS Austin/San Antonio Visits Local General Aviation Airport

By: NWS Staff

On December 19, Aviation Focal Point **Brandon Gale** and Meteorologist-in-Charge **Pat Vesper** made a trip out to Kerrville, Texas, to visit with Mary Roher, the Airport Manager for the city's airport (KERV). The visit served many purposes, including making better connections with local aviation partners, discussing the impacts from the annual solar eclipse in October, and the anticipated impacts for the upcoming total solar eclipse in April 2024.

During and leading up to the annular solar eclipse in October, NWS Austin/San Antonio and CWSU Houston meteorologists collaborated on a daily Weather Impact Forecast, which is a decision support product designed primarily for decision makers at FAA facilities and local Airport Managers during high impact traffic events. This forecast is meant to highlight weather impacts which may require traffic management initiatives. The goal of the forecasters is to consolidate all the local and regional weather impacts into a brief planning product that conveys a unified message to aviation partners. KERV was one of four local airports that received these forecasts, and Mary provided positive feedback on them and gave her appreciation during the meeting. An additional way to enhance the value of the forecasts was also identified, which may be incorporated into the forecasts for the upcoming total eclipse.



*From left to right: **Brandon Gale** (EWX), **Mary Roher** (KERV), and **Pat Vesper** (EWX) standing in front of the airport's Automated Weather Observing System (AWOS).*

Another local general aviation airport, T82 in Fredericksburg, TX, was also impacted by the annular eclipse in October and is in the direct path of the upcoming total eclipse. A meeting has been scheduled with the Airport Manager for T82 in January to discuss similar topics and further the WFO's support to local aviation partners and customers.

NWS Glasgow Expands Its Knowledge of USACE Fort Peck Dam Hydropower Operations

By: NWS Staff

WFO Glasgow, Montana Meteorologists **Angel Enriquez** and **Jacob Zanker**, as well as Warning Coordination Meteorologist **Scott Rozanski**, met with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) partners at the Fort Peck hydropower facility on December 20. The meeting focused on gaining a deeper understanding of a partner's operations in the WFO Glasgow MT forecast area while also learning how weather forecasts and impactful weather messaging aided our USACE partner's decision making.



*From left to right: **Jacob Zanker, Angel Enriquez, and Scott Rozanski** overlook the release water area from the top of powerhouse #2 during a visit with USACE partners at Fort Peck Dam.*

Hydropower produced at the Fort Peck facilities was approved in 1938 through the Fort Peck Power Act. The site is home to two power houses. Construction on the first power house started in 1941, with shortages of supplies and materials during World War II delaying construction completion until 1951. Construction of the second power house began in 1958 and was completed in 1961. Today, the combined output of both power houses is, on average, about 1.1 billion kilowatt hours a year, enough power to supply a town of 100,000 people.

Fort Peck Dam and Fort Peck Lake are important features in the region. They help to reduce the loss of life and property damage which would result from floods, producing hydropower and water intakes for several local communities. Additionally, Fort Peck Lake reservoir and release water benefits recreation (fishing, boating, and camping), rancher irrigation and commercial navigation.



Aware

NOAA's National Weather Service, Analyze, Forecast and Support Office

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