

The National Weather Service Evolving to Build a Weather-Ready Nation

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What is IDSS?

Impact-Based Decision Support Services

Definition: *The provision of relevant information and interpretative services to enable core partners' decisions when weather, water, or climate has a direct impact on the protection of lives and livelihoods.*

IDSS connects our forecasts and warnings to decision makers on the local, state and federal levels to save lives and property.



Why Are We Evolving our Service?

Three Reasons:

Increased Vulnerability – Extreme Climate, Water, and Weather Events are on the rise and we have Increased Public Vulnerability.

Need /Demand– Our core partners (local, state and federal agencies) need more actionable information beyond the forecast to protect the public. (IDSS!)

Mission Fulfilment – The National Weather Service can't accomplish the service part of its mission without evolving to provide IDSS across all our 11 service areas.

NWS Mission: to provide weather, water, and climate data, forecasts and warnings for the **protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy.**

Genesis of Evolve

- 2011 Tornadoes (Alabama, Joplin, MO)
- Two Congressionally directed Academy studies
- Contracted with McKinsey and Company
- Internal and External Engagement



What Will Evolve Look Like?



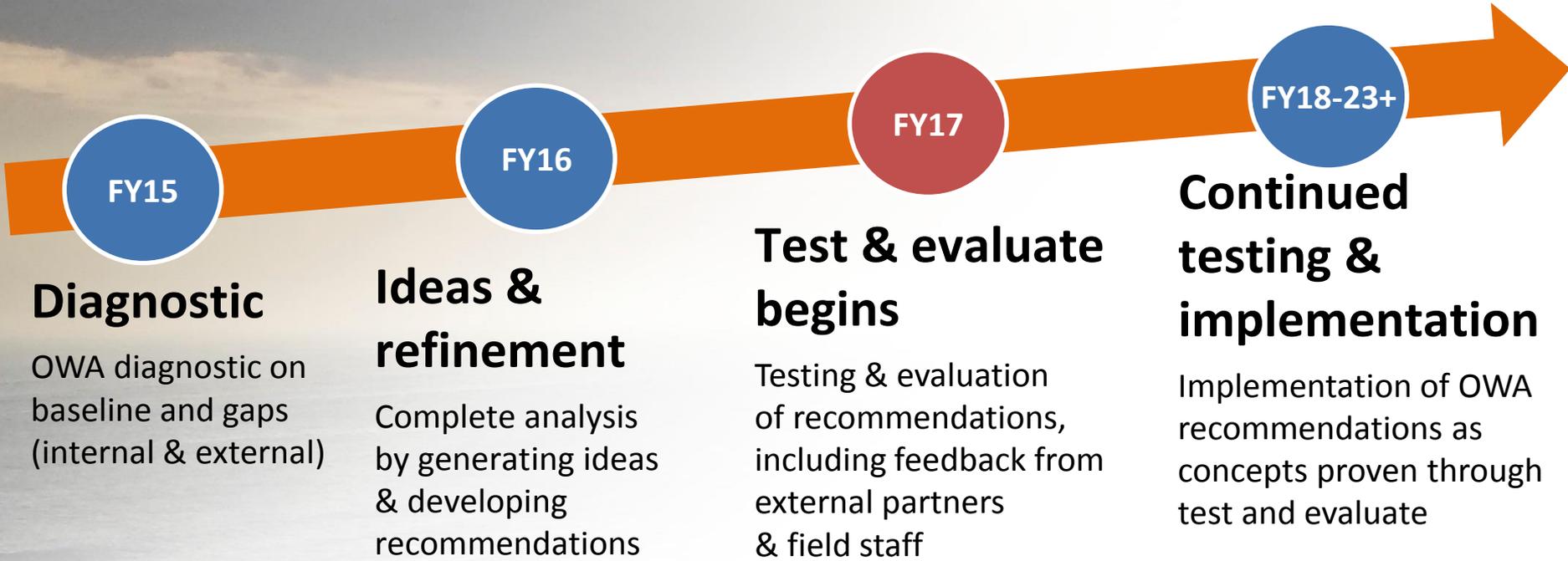
Appreciation for IDSS

“I want to first fully thank the dedicated professionals here at the National Weather Service for providing us with the most updated forecast briefing this afternoon and for their continued hard work as part of the effort to protect lives and property. Folks here are incredibly professional. We rely on them, and they don't let us down. We tremendously appreciate, especially over the holidays, how they're always there and always helpful, doing the best they can to help law enforcement and others.”



Missouri Governor Jay Nixon following the 2015 December Holiday storm and January 2016 Flooding

Operations and Workforce Analysis: Evolve Timeline



FY15

Diagnostic

OWA diagnostic on baseline and gaps (internal & external)

FY16

Ideas & refinement

Complete analysis by generating ideas & developing recommendations

FY17

Test & evaluate begins

Testing & evaluation of recommendations, including feedback from external partners & field staff

FY18-23+

Continued testing & implementation

Implementation of OWA recommendations as concepts proven through test and evaluate

Involve, engage and communicate with internal and external stakeholders throughout

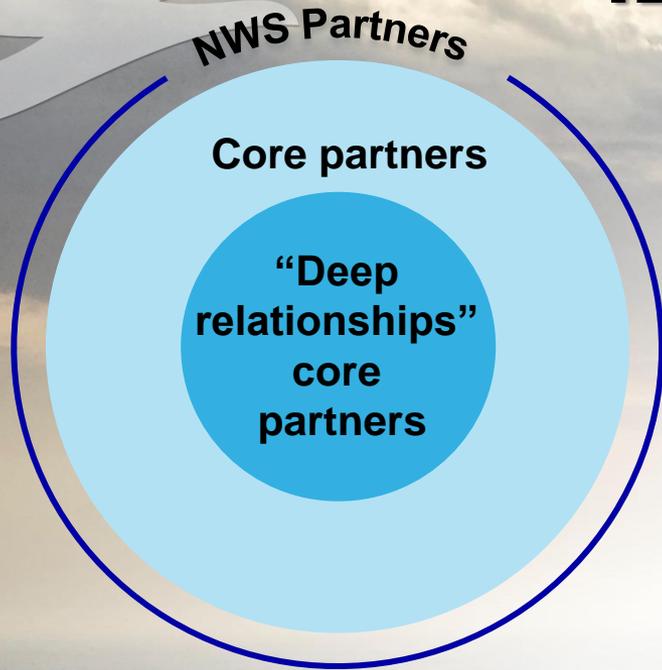
Analysis & Idea Development

Developed by members of NWS Field Offices and Headquarters

Recommendation Review & Decisions

NWS Senior Leadership committee

IDSS Concept



94% of IDSS takes place at the local level

Proposed Policy: NWS Partners that receive IDSS are **involved in the preparation, dissemination, or discussion** involving hazardous weather or other emergency information.

- **IDSS Definition:** The **provision of relevant information** and **interpretative services** to enable **core partners’ decisions** when weather, water, or climate has a **direct impact** on the protection of lives and livelihoods
- **Success depends on:**
 - IDSS focused on core partners and deep relationships with those partners
 - Knowing partner key decision points/thresholds and risk preferences
 - Providing consistent IDSS at national, regional and local levels

Field-Driven Proposals to Unlock Staff Time



Involve, Engage, and Communicate with Internal and External Stakeholders Throughout!

5 Key Ways Forward

We are evolving the National Weather Service by:

- **Better serving partners** by enhancing quality and consistency of IDSS at all levels of the organization, in all current locations because analysis shows 94% of partners are local partners – no office closures
- **Improving effectiveness of forecasting in support of IDSS** through a collaborative process that makes the best use of technology, reduces duplication, and ensures consistency of the forecast
- **Matching workforce to workload** across the organization and **building a healthy organizational structure** to better meet the needs of NWS partners
- **Building a workforce the NWS needs to deliver science-based service:** both through enhancing skills today and hiring for tomorrow
- **Supporting critical science, research, technology and innovation** to best meet the NWS mission



Building a Weather-Ready Nation

Ready, Responsive, Resilient

3608 WRN Ambassadors

Multi-faceted Communication Strategy

Deep Relationships
Core Partners

NWS Providing Impact-Based Decision Support Services (IDSS)

Accurate & Consistent Forecasts/Warnings

Social Science

Fully-Integrated Field Structure through a Collaborative Forecast Process

National Blend of Models: Forecast starting point

One NWS, One Dissemination Network

Observations and Numerical Weather Prediction

Pulling it all together to accomplish our mission and to build a Weather-Ready Nation

Questions

