



Scientific Data Application in NOAA Climate Prediction Center

Matthew Rosencrans, Meteorologist Sudhir Shrestha, Scientific Data Specialist Climate Prediction Center / NCEP

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Matthew.Rosencrans@noaa.gov Sudhir.Shrestha@noaa.gov









- Drought Monitoring/Forecasting and Geospatial Activities
- Working with Scientific Data Formats and Challenges
- Data Interoperability







- The U.S. Drought Monitor Team Relies on Field Observation Feedback from the Local Experts for Impacts Information & "Ground Truth" Listserver (350+ Participants: 2/3 Federal, 1/3 State/Univ.)
- Quantitative Data formats
 - ASCII (CSV, Delimited), XLS, Shape, Gridded Binary (primary), GeoTIFF
- Qualitative Data formats
 - Newstories
 - Impacts (droughtreporter.unl.edu)
- Post-processing
 - Python/esri stack on Windows, C/Perl/SQL on RHEL.



Drought Monitoring







Drought Monitoring



- Soil Moisture Data from NASA
- Gridded binary (float) (convert required)
- NDMC converts to GeoTIFF and makes a PNG for those that don't have access to the code/coders.
- Same data taking up more space
- Vegetation Health Index, Standardized Precipitation Index, and AHPS.





Forecast Model Data



Entirely different process (Grib2 is primary output format)



- Contours of scalar fields
- Breaks at -180, unclosed contours, stair-step



Leveraging ArcGIS for Scientific Data use



- Multiple data formats to follow the standards
- Specific data formats request from the stakeholders (government, public, private).
- Format compatibility and work around to use ArcGIS in the work flow
- Gridded Binary data (eg. Grib, Grib2, netCDF)
- Who is asking for the Data ?



Challenges: Binary to Arc raster, GeoTiff and Kml









- Driving factors
 - Whitehouse Open Data Initiatives to Enhance Government Efficiency and Fuel Economic Growth
 - NOAA Science Advisory Board (SAB) Environmental Information Services Working Group (EISWG) 'Executive Summary'





Why do we want it ?

- Expansion of data use and efficiency and reach out to larger user groups
- Increase/improve accessibility of NOAA data and cross the bridge of data formats
- Encourage Standards that increases the larger pools of the users' with same investment in data / Encourage more expansive format interpreters
- Standards will limit the diversity of data providing scheme and it will create less complexity in the data management with improved implementation.





Challenges and Possibilities:

- Not a perfect one stop solution available for the data discovery and ingest for the multiple formats
 - In the perfect world: we wont have to use several software for the data ingest and manipulation and ArcGIS will be one stop solution
- Moving towards the Web Services
- Best practices and recommendations for interoperable environment







