



THE SNAKE PLAIN WEATHERVANE

National Weather
Service Pocatello, ID

Proudly Serving East
Idaho and The
Central Mountains

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Volume 4, Issue 1

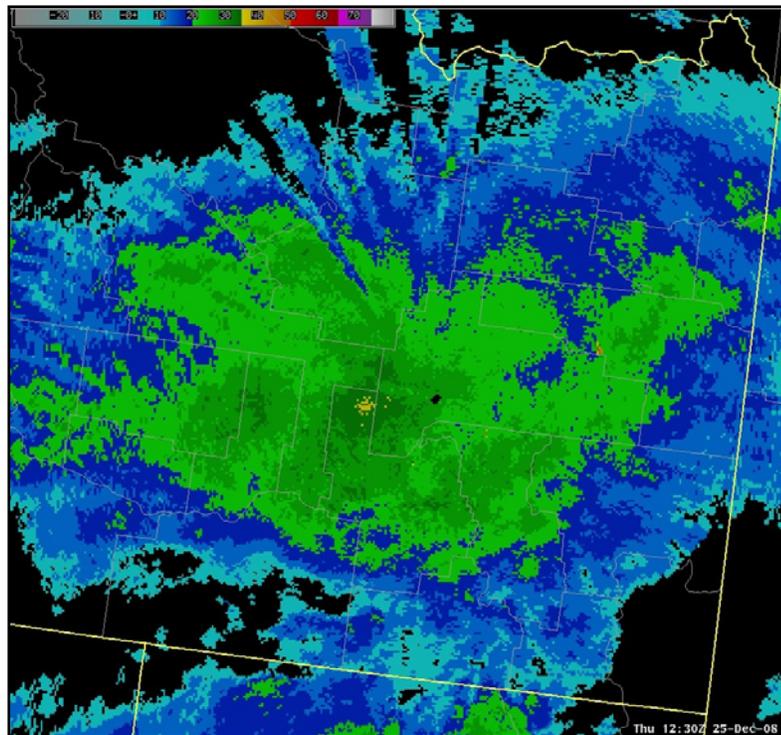
Spring 2009

Christmas 2008: A Storm For Rudolph

By Dean Hazen

Science and Operations Officer

A memorable winter storm hit Southeast Idaho on Christmas Eve and continued into Christmas Day. Blizzard conditions were experienced across the Southern Highlands, Eastern Magic Valley and portions of the Snake River Plain. In fact, forecasters on the midnight shift were unable to leave the Pocatello NWS Office until mid-afternoon due to driving conditions and closure of Interstate 86 between Declo and Pocatello.



Snow on Radar, December 25, 5:30am

This storm produced snow amounts of 3 to 8 inches in the Snake River Plain and amounts ranging from 8 to 39 inches in the mountains of Southeast Idaho. Radar coverage does not show all areas of snow due to terrain blocking and radar beam path.

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Future articles will only be available on-line at www.wrh.noaa.gov/pih

A Near Death Experience

By Stephen J Kunz

Volunteer Cooperative Observer

As maintenance technician for the Bear Lake County Translator District, I am contracted to maintain 20 television transmitters and four FM radio transmitters. This requires periodic trips to a mountain top in southeastern Idaho, called South Hill. During summer, this sight is accessible by four-wheel drive or ATV, but in winter, the sight is only accessible by snowmobile. During the weekend of February 18, 2006, I along with several other snowmobile enthusiasts made several trips to South Hill for the purpose of establishing a trail. This would allow me to retrieve several pieces of equipment that failed during a two-week extreme cold spell of sub zero temperatures.

Having spent part of the weekend repairing the equipment, I decided to return to South Hill, on my own, with the repaired equipment. The weather seemed to have improved by this point. The time required to get to the site from my home is approximately 20 minutes on a snowmobile. I had a cell phone and felt very safe in my planned ascent.

Light snow was falling as I left home at 11am Tuesday, February 21. I visited with two neighbors when leaving the community of Bern. Visibility was quite difficult, which made me strain to see the trail that had previously been established. I felt very safe and secure having made the trip on many occasions. My wife is the postmaster of a small community post office and I planned to call her when I got to the top of the hill.



Stephen Kunz

At the halfway point, the trail enters a steep and narrow hollow. On one side of the trail are many serviceberry bushes on a side hill and on the other side of the trail is a wash filled with chokecherry trees. I have named this hollow Grouse Hollow since it is home to numerous grouse, but this day the sight of grouse would have been welcomed compared to what I encountered.

Rounding the bend and approaching an incline, I was startled by a moose jumping up from its bed approximately 50 feet in front of me. I immediately stopped the snowmobile, thinking the moose would turn away and wander off the trail. Needless to say, it did neither, and looked defiantly straight at me. Thinking the noise of the snowmobile engine might be making the big beast angry, I shut the engine off. This did not help the situation and I wondered how long I would have to sit there waiting for him to move. The moose did not have antlers at the time, but the fact he had recently dropped them was visible.

I thought perhaps making noise and waving my arms would encourage him to turn and leave the trail, but I was wrong. This action seemed to make the hair stand high on his shoulders and neck and in a split second he was headed down the trail toward me. I remember saying aloud, "This is it!!" I figured my life was going to end in a brutal manner, in a way I had never planned. I glanced to my right and noticed the closest serviceberry bush near me as I bailed off the snowmobile and struggled in the waist-deep snow to get behind the bush.

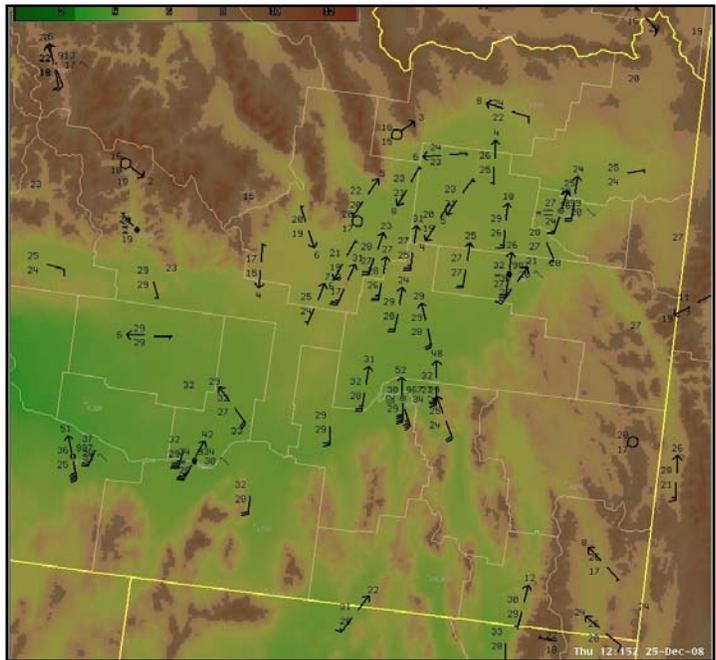
The moose was there in an instant, looking at me through the bush and then looking at the snowmobile, wondering which he should attack first. I stood motionless feeling every heart beat since the helmet I had on felt exceptionally tight. In one giant motion, the moose lunged at the bush to get to me. In doing so he had to leave

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In addition to snow, sustained winds of 35 to 45 mph and gusts of 45 to 60 mph were reported in the Snake River Plain and Southern Highlands. These strong gusty winds produced large snow drifts and extremely poor visibility. Extended closure of Interstates 84 and 86 and numerous state and US Highways resulted in severely restricted travel. In addition, numerous vehicle slide-offs were reported.

This storm was well advertised by the Pocatello NWS office with winter storm warnings posted for all of Southeast Idaho about a day and a half prior to the storm. Warnings for the Southern Highlands and portions of the Snake River Plain were upgraded to blizzard warnings on Christmas Eve.



Surface Wind, December 25, 5:30am

What's The Weather Story? The Weather Story!

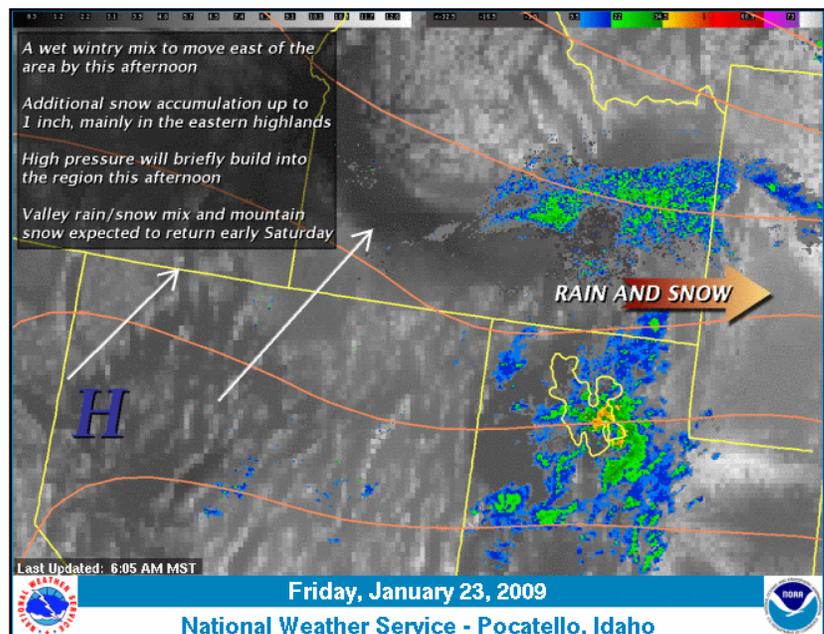
By Rick Dittmann

Meteorologist-In-Charge

Have you noticed it? We have a really nice graphic we are posting every day to our Web Page (www.weather.gov/pocatello). It is called the Weather Story. If pictures are worth a thousand words, we figure we're saving thousands of words. Here is a look at the Weather Story for January 23rd, 2009. On this day we woke up to snow in the Snake River Plain. Pocatello received about one inch while Idaho Falls saw five.

As you can tell, we place text along with our image to help better explain what the main weather concern for the day is. Sometimes we will show you a satellite image, or a radar image or the jet stream or whatever we think best describes the forecast concern of the day. And sometimes we will even post more than one graphic to help further clarify more complicated weather scenarios.

We hope you like this new product. Look for additional graphics from our office soon.



A Weather Tale

By Evan Tibbott

Volunteer Cooperative Observer

Following my honorable discharge from the Air Force at Malmstrom AFB in Great Falls, Montana, I had jockeyed for jobs that would enable me to stay in the West. I spent two seasons as a Forest Service Fire Lookout on the Lewis and Clark National Forest of Montana and the Clearwater of northern Idaho, as well as another season as an assistant fireman on the Lolo National Forest in Montana. While working in the logging woods as a timber scaler on the Clearwater in northern Idaho, wet weather had temporarily closed down logging operations and I had two weeks off. With the break near Thanksgiving, I decided to head over to Great Falls and visit one of the men I had served with.

When I arrived, Don and two others had planned an elk hunting trip into the Little Belt Mountains southeast of Great Falls. During our time off from duties, he, I and several others had skied at Kings Hill (now Showdown Ski Area). The next morning, we headed out with two pickups. I carried no firearms. But, the jeep would come in handy. Later that afternoon, we reached our campsite on a partially barren mountaintop at about 8,000 feet. Parking the pickups back to back, we used the tailgates for a camp kitchen. The weather was mild with the temperature in the thirties. There was a high cloud cover. So, we used what remained of the afternoon in setting up for dinner. With dark settling in early, we turned in for a long night's sleep. The atmosphere was clear enough that we could see the lights of Great Falls some sixty miles to the northwest.

We all arose early. After breakfast, Don, Fritz and Brian headed into the forest down off the mountain-crest for the day. I decided to remain in the general vicinity of the mountaintop and do some exploring. When I looked out toward Great Falls, something had caught my eye that seemed out of place, far to the northwest. Where the city should have been, appeared to be dark smoke or smog. But why, in this season, and so extensive? I stared at it for some time as I walked around and tried to figure what it was. As the morning wore on, it seemed to be getting closer and lighter in appearance. Then, I could see fingers of it advancing up through narrow draws and coulees. Together with the experience that I had gained as a weather observer on the northern plains for two years and my curiosity, I realized that I was witnessing the silent, stealthy advance of an arctic air mass bearing down across the plains, its vapor condensing as the land gradually rises to the south and the air is forced upward. By early afternoon, it had advanced to the base of the mountain. I knew what was coming and how life-threatening it could be. Lacking a compass bearing, I headed by direct reckoning toward the campsite. As soon as I had done so, the cold air wrapped the mountain in its icy fog and the trees were frosted over in less than twenty minutes. The day had changed rapidly and I remained in camp, the others gradually finding their way back by late afternoon.

As so often happens in the sequence of events with the passage of one of these fronts, snow gradually developed and the wind picked up. It is a kind of cold that is seldom experienced in other parts of the country and has a way of creeping in and intensifying. On the plains, it is often accompanied by what seem to be clear skies, with little or no definite cloud structure while a fine, dry snow is falling. On one occasion, the transition was so abrupt at the base that snow literally formed along the ground, like spindrift, while the skies overhead were a clear, light blue. After the cold wedge of air becomes established, depending to a certain extent on its thickness, the air may be very calm and filled with tiny, sparkling ice crystals. Beautiful weather to be out, often without a hat in subzero cold. But, watch each others ears. It stings. The slightest breeze can cause frost-bite.

NWS Meteorologist Completes Writing of Epic Book

By Vernon Preston

Warning Coordination Meteorologist

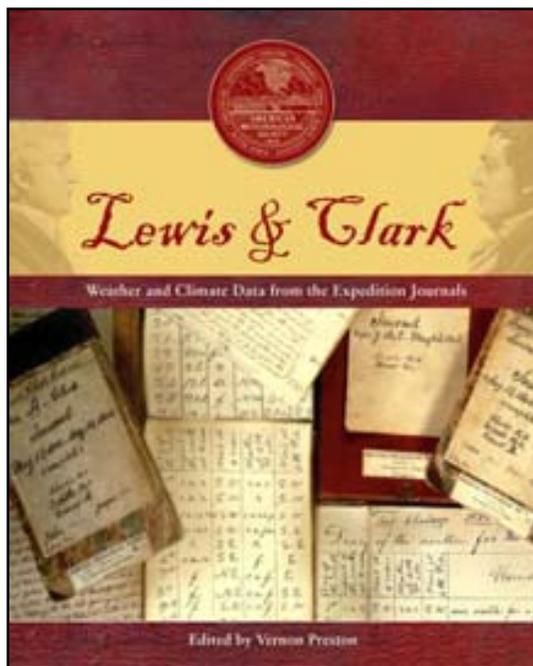
National Weather Service Pocatello WCM Vernon Preston marked the bicentennial anniversary of the Lewis and Clark Expedition (1803-1806) by compiling the weather and climate data from various expedition journals. This compilation has been published through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and for the public through the American Meteorological Society (AMS). He has been the keynote speaker at various conferences and workshops on his findings and is the first presenter this year at the American Meteorological Society's Annual Meetings Historical Symposium.

Vern's synopsis of his writing:

Lewis & Clark – Weather and Climate Data from the Expedition Journals (1803-1806)

The first scientific records of weather and climate in the western United States were collected during the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803 to 1806 as they traversed uncharted territory between St. Louis, Missouri and the Pacific Ocean. Various expedition members recorded daily weather observations and information on climatic regimes through detailed descriptions of flora and fauna in the Narrative Journals. In addition, Lewis and Clark kept a separate Weather Diary with daily observations of temperature, wind, weather conditions, and river levels. The recently released American Meteorological Society Historical Monograph provides a comprehensive summary of the data collection and weather-related challenges that threatened their safety and nearly derailed the Corps of Discovery's mission. "Lewis and Clark" is a compelling read for weather and history buffs, and a key resource for scientists researching climate history.

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Vernon Preston at the Governor's Preparedness Conference highlighting the Lewis and Clark expedition

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American Meteorological Society Books announcement:

LEWIS & CLARK: WEATHER AND CLIMATE DATA FROM THE EXPEDITION JOURNALS

Vernon Preston, Ed.

© 2007, 544 pages hardcover ISBN 13: 978-1-878220-75-2

“Lewis and Clark’s pioneering weather observations add another small piece to the climate puzzle, serving as an overarching link between early nineteenth-century climate data and our efforts to model climate change today.”

—Terrence R. Nathan, Atmospheric Science Program University of California, Davis

“The easy-to-use format makes this a great reference or a great read cover to cover.”

—Tanja Fransen, Warning Coordination Meteorologist, NWS

From a bitterly cold winter in South Dakota at the last mapped outpost in a largely unexplored territory, to an 18-mile portage around roaring falls and a race over the Rockies to beat the fall snow, the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1803–06 experienced a wide range of weather and climate—and systematically recorded their data as they went.

This collection of data from their journals is organized by date and includes descriptions of where the expedition was in their 4,162-mile journey as they experienced the weather and climate. Also included are explanations of their data recording procedures, articles about the importance of this first-of-its-kind meteorological undertaking, and color photographs of the Lewis and Clark Trail.

Watersheds

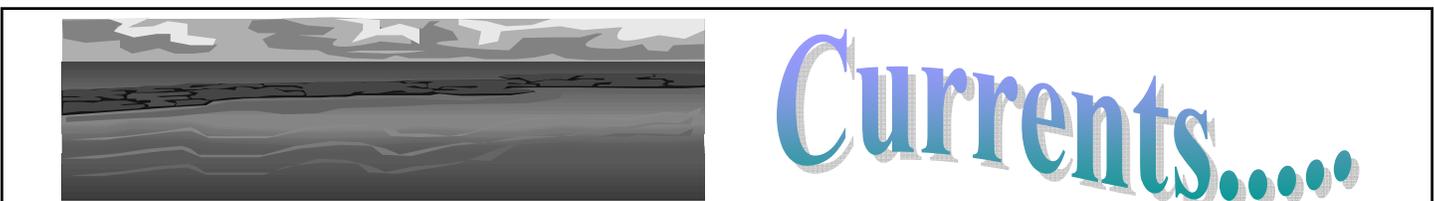
By Sherrie Hebert

Everywhere you go, you are in a watershed. What is a watershed? Simply put, it is the area of land that catches rain and snow. The precipitation then drains or seeps into a marsh, stream, river, lake or groundwater. Which watershed holds your home? There are likely a number of answers to that question. If you live near City Creek in Pocatello, you would be correct in saying the City Creek Watershed. Then again, you would be correct in saying you live in the Portneuf River Watershed, the Snake River Watershed, even the Columbia River Watershed. The reason being is that watersheds are nearly always part of a larger watershed.

Why is your watershed important? Because everything that goes into it affects the watershed and you. For this reason, it is extremely important to keep our watersheds clean and healthy as we are the stewards. To learn how you can be a good steward for your watershed, below are some web sites to get you rolling.

EPA Watersheds: www.epa.gov/owow/watershed

Watershed Basics: www.watershedatlas.org/fs_indexwater.html



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the stability of the snowmobile trail and his front hooves would become buried in the deep snow and branches of the serviceberry bush. This would cause him to lose his balance and back up and lunge at me again. The hair on his shoulders and neck was standing straight in the air and his giant brown eyes were staring straight at me. Each time he lunged toward me I was wishing I had a weapon. I even thought of hitting him with my snowmobile helmet since he was that close. The thought of my family having to have a closed casket at my funeral viewing made me decide to leave my helmet on and use it to protect my face. I saw my life flash before me in slow motion. The faces of my children and grandchildren became very plain images. I saw my wife and wondered whether I had told her I loved her that morning as she left for work, but remembered I had kissed her goodbye.

Not knowing how long this stand off was going to last, I decided to move my hand toward my cell phone in an inside pocket. In doing so, I loosened two snaps of my coat and unzipped the inside pocket. Either the sound of the zipper or the fact the moose had decided I wasn't a threat encouraged him to take several steps away from me. He was moving slowly toward the wash, containing the chokecherry trees. I thought he would not leave the comfort of the packed trail and wander into the four-foot deep snow. He had turned away from me several previous times, but always seemed to come back and lunge toward me. This time seemed different, since he kept taking more steps slowly away from me.

I looked at the distance from me to the snowmobile and from the moose to the snowmobile and realized, if he made two more steps away I must take a chance and head for the snowmobile. I didn't know whether the machine would start on the first pull. I had been traveling full speed up the trail, prior to coming to a stop and a hot snowmobile sometimes may not restart easily.

I looked at my watch and one hour and ten minutes had passed since I left the two ranch hands. Being half way to the site I calculated one hour had passed since encountering the moose. I hoped the machine had cooled enough and I finally decided to make my move. I reached the machine and pulled the starter rope. The engine fired. Hearing the sound of the machine, and noticing my movements, the moose started to come back my way. I hit the throttle hard and was able to pass him as he made his way back onto the trail. I continued full speed passed him, looking back briefly and noticed he was standing where the machine was earlier parked.

It took but a few minutes for me to reach the top of the hill and the security of the transmitter building. Shaking from the experience, I had just encountered, I fumbled with my cell phone and called a friend, Gene Johnson. I told him what had happened and I needed him to contact someone who could come to my rescue with a weapon. I knew I had to go through the same hollow when I departed and I did not want to relive the moose experience. Within a few minutes my friend replied, he had contacted the local conservation officer, Blake Phillips, but the officer needed directions. I called my son-in-law, Chad Higley, at his workplace. He is an experienced snowmobile enthusiast, and he said he would assist the officer, and another friend, Virgil Johnson. What seemed like an eternity had passed before I heard the welcomed sound of their machines. While waiting for the rescuers, I completed the necessary repairs at the site. After a brief discussion, we headed off the hill and down the trail.

Cautiously, we approached Grouse Hollow. We could see the moose slightly off the trail and we sped passed him. My son-in-law and the other men indicated the moose had made advances toward them, when they came to my rescue. The moose did likewise when we passed him this time. The conservation officer did not see the need to destroy the animal, since we were safely leaving the area.

I have learned several lessons from this experience. Always respect a moose in the wild, appreciate the fact the Creator made serviceberry bushes, and I now carry a weapon for protection.

Meet Pocatello's Newest Forecaster

By Dan Valle

Lead Forecaster

In July of 2008, we at the National Weather Service (NWS) in Pocatello received our newest forecaster, Kerry Hanko. I recently sat down with Kerry and asked her a few questions.

Dan: Where were you born and where did you grow up?

Kerry: I was born and raised in Oak Park, Illinois, a suburb bordering Chicago's West Side. After my mother moved to western Pennsylvania when I was 10, I spent my summers with her.

Dan: What got you interested in the weather?

Kerry: Some of my earliest memories are of sitting on the front porch with my dad watching for thunderstorms whenever the National Weather Service would issue a watch or a warning. My first thought of becoming a meteorologist occurred after seeing the devastation in the wake of the F-5 Plainfield, Illinois tornado in 1990. Two years later while I was glued to the television set watching Hurricane Andrew coverage, a friend suggested I become a meteorologist when I grow up. I really liked the idea of saving lives, so it was settled.

Dan: Where did you go to college?

Kerry: I got my bachelor's degree in meteorology from Northland College in Ashland, Wisconsin. It is a very small private school of 700 students located on the shores of Lake Superior. The emphasis of the school is environmental sciences, which appealed to me, as well as its small class sizes. Our meteorology professor, Dr. Wilson, called all of his students his children and was available to help us at all hours. While there, I also acquired a minor in Physics and Computer Information Systems. I was 2 credits away from an art minor too!

Dan: Where was your first forecasting job?

Kerry: I started my career at a private weather company called WeatherBank, Inc in Oklahoma City in 2002. I worked there for a little over 2 years and had some good opportunities to go tornado chasing in the area on my days off.

Dan: When did you get into the NWS?

Kerry: My first experience working with the NWS was during my senior year in college, as a student volunteer at the Duluth, Minnesota office. Twice a week I drove 1.5 hours (usually in the snow) to the office to shadow the forecasters for 2 hours, and then drove back. Gas for my car was paid by students in my dorm who would ask me to bring back orders from Taco Bell. I was hired as a paid meteorological intern with the NWS in Juneau, Alaska in July 2004. After two years I was promoted to a forecaster posi-



Kerry Hanko

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tion within the office. I transferred to the Pocatello office last July.

Dan: Please tell us about your family.

Kerry: My husband Ryan and I were married in August 2004 at Devil's Lake State Park in Baraboo, Wisconsin, which was also the site of our first date four years earlier. Our son, River, was born on March 2, 2007 during the first blizzard to hit Juneau in 25 years.

Dan: Any good stories?

Kerry: Living in Oklahoma afforded me many exciting opportunities to go storm chasing on my days off from work. Having friends who are on the job forecasting weather, always gave my chasing groups an edge in finding tornadoes and keeping a safe distance from the storm. However, the tables turned one spring when tornadoes decided to chase me two days in a row.

It so happened that my in-laws were visiting from Wisconsin and I took them to visit the Oklahoma City Bombing memorial. Shortly after we arrived, I received a call on my cell phone from a coworker of mine who informed me a thunderstorm which potentially had a tornado was headed directly for our location. Low and behold, the sky grew ominously green as soon as I hung up the phone. We quickly ran to the car and headed back to my apartment. We didn't get far before golf-ball sized hail began falling and traffic completely stopped. There we sat waiting for the hail to pass, ready to jump in a nearby ditch if the tornado arrived; fortunately it did not.

The very next day, severe weather was again expected in Oklahoma City, but this time we decided to postpone our outing until later in the day after the expected storms. While watching television in my apartment, the local programming was interrupted with live broadcast of a confirmed tornado that was approaching the city. As the scene unfolded every local station showed the projected track of the tornado heading directly over my apartment building. We waited nervously as we watched and the storm seemed imminent. As instructed, I made everyone pad themselves with clothing and we dragged the mattress into our only interior room, the bathroom. Just as everyone was hunkered down, my husband calls out, "it turned south!" We were slammed with such heavy sideways rain that our entryway on the second floor was flooded with an inch of rain blowing under the front door. The tornado, which caused heavy damage at a local commuter airport, passed a few blocks to our south.

My in-laws vowed to never visit us again in Oklahoma City after that vacation.

Forecasting in the Last Frontier

**By Kerry Hanko
Forecaster**

The Juneau office is responsible for forecasting for the chain of islands known as the Alaska Panhandle, as well as the eastern half of the Gulf of Alaska. To put it in perspective, the land area is about the size of Florida with a marine area about the size of New Mexico. Southeast Alaska is comprised of temperate rainforest with average precipitation amounts ranging from around 40 inches to well over 200 inches at sea level. What surprises people the most is that the temperature is very moderate across the region, with winter temperatures rarely dropping below zero degrees Fahrenheit. The relatively mild temperatures are thanks to the Gulf of Alaska waters which stay above freezing and the coastal mountain ranges to the east, which block cold Cana-

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dian air. With the addition of frequent cloud cover, the temperature hovers right around 32 degrees day and night in the winter and rarely does the temperature rise into the 70s in the summer.

Why does the area get so much precipitation? The Alaskan Panhandle is located at the crossroads of clashing air-masses. To the north and east, dry air over interior Alaska and the Yukon heats rapidly in the summertime and drops well below zero in the cold, dark winter. To the west, the immense Gulf of Alaska is very slow to warm and cool and provides copious moisture for storm systems to tap. These atmospheric temperature differences steer storms frequently into the panhandle with great intensity. Add to this, the steep and varied terrain throughout Southeast Alaska which provides additional lift to fuel precipitation and you have one of the northern-most rainforests in the world. On average, Juneau receives rain or snow 250 days out of the year.

While the entire Alaskan Panhandle only has 70,000 residents, millions of people visit the area yearly. Cruise ships ferry passengers to the hundreds of islands in the summer, while professional fisherman navigate the channels in the often harsh fall and winter storms. Very few locals have road access connecting them outside of their villages. For most, transportation means a small boat or a floatplane. Accordingly, the weather plays a huge role in day-to-day life. I will never forget taking a phone call from one co-op observer in a remote town pleading with me to send dry weather because the airplane which brings the town its groceries had been unable to arrive for nearly two weeks due to a series of strong storms.



Eldred Rock Lighthouse, Alaska. Photo Taken by Kerry Hanko

The terrain poses a huge challenge when forecasting in Southeast Alaska. With wind direction being driven by the terrain, every valley, channel and inlet sees its own unique weather. Just within the city boundaries of Juneau, the amount of average precipitation varies drastically. Downtown Juneau receives 160% more precipitation than the average, while the airport, only a few miles away, records only 70% of the average. The large differences are due to the proximity to steep terrain which blocks or intensifies precipitation. Interestingly enough, despite receiving more precipitation, Downtown Juneau reports the least snowfall in the area thanks to

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the steep terrain blocking cold air from arriving from the north. The snowiest winter on record occurred for many locations during the winter of 2006 to 2007. Juneau received nearly 200 inches of snow, while just 10 miles away in Annex Creek, also located at sea level, well over 400 inches fell. Forecasting snowfall amounts was particularly challenging given the rugged terrain and with winter temperatures frequently hovering right around freezing. A single degree of temperature change could make or break a forecast.

Remoteness also posed a major forecast challenge. Being a region with much less population infrastructure, reliable weather observations can be as much as 100 miles apart. Many of these observation sites are powered by solar energy and run out of power during the dark and stormy winter months. The only radar in the area is located on a remote island in the Gulf which also gets battered by winter storms. With mountains blocking the radar beam, the radar coverage is limited to a 180 degree arc over the Gulf while land areas remain mostly uncovered by the radar. Often being the first location to be hit by a storm also leads to some uncertainty with very few observations upstream of the area.

While challenging, forecasting in Alaska was also a very rewarding experience. I learned a lot from my years in the Last Frontier and have become a better forecaster because of it. After four years of living in a rainforest, however, I am definitely happy to see much more sunshine in eastern Idaho.

Coming Soon: eSpotter

By John Keyes
Forecaster

The National Weather Service in Pocatello will soon be introducing another way for you to send us storm reports. “eSpotter” is an online program developed by the National Weather Service to “facilitate the submission of spotter reports online. The system is being developed to enhance and increase timely & accurate online spotter reporting and communications between spotters and their local weather forecast office.” While we prefer that you call us with your reports, especially if it is life-threatening, this system works great if it is more convenient for you to send reports. It also serves as a good method to provide delayed and/or non-critical reports to our office.

The only downside to the program is that you do have to sign up and be “officially” accepted into the program by our office. However, the signup is FREE!!!

When you get signed up to the program, you will be sent a link to the “eSpotter” home page. When you log into the system, you will get your very own “eSpotter” webpage.

You will have access to a separate page where you will be able to create your reports to send our way. (It even has a separate form for you to send us “winter weather reports”). The report forms are very easy to understand and fill out. Once you have the report filled out, simply hit the “Submit Report” button and everything is done.

Example of eSpotter User Page

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We will receive an alarm on our workstations at the office, letting us know that your report has been received at NWS Pocatello. Other things you will have access to from the National Weather Service include local radar data, satellite images and a look at what’s going on around the region and the rest of the United States!

Another neat thing about “eSpotter” is that we can ALERT YOU when we need your help and information. We can send out messages ranging anywhere from a single spotter to all of eastern Idaho, telling you when, where and what type of severe weather is expected.

Also, if you are an emergency manager, we can send vital information to get your county and people ready for what is coming down the pike!

There is even a brief online introduction to eSpotter and the various pages you have access to on the website. It is available BEFORE or AFTER you sign up.

If you would like to sign up, you can go to: <http://espotter.weather.gov> and click on the “Request Access” link on the left hand side of the page. You are not required to input the date and location of any spotter training you have received, but it would be nice to know that information. For default location, please input your Spotter ID number AND your city (if you are currently a spotter for WFO Pocatello). If you are an emergency manager, please input a Spotter ID number (if you have one), the county and city where your EM operations are based out of. If you cannot remember your ID, please call the office and we will give that information to you for these purposes. For affiliated agency, please list “NWS Spotter” if you are just a spotter. If you are an EM, please list the county you are affiliated with and “NWS Spotter” if you are already one.

If you have any questions, please contact John Keyes or Vern Preston at NWS Pocatello for more information.

Example of a Severe Weather Report Form

Message Color Coding Key		
	Action Message - Immediate Attention Requested	
	Information Message Only - No Response Needed	

MESSAGES FOR YOU (you@youremailaddress.com)		
COUNTY WIDE MESSAGES (Bannock)		
COUNTY WARNING AREA WIDE MESSAGES (PIH)		
01/23/2009 10:03 MST (17:03 UTC)	ACTION REQUESTED	TEST!!!! Severe weather is likely in eastern Idaho today. Hail, damaging winds in excess of 70mph and isolated tornadoes are expected between Noon and 6pm. If you see severe weather, please report it to WFO Pocatello as soon as possible. TEST!!!!

Example of Messages in eSpotter

The NWS Staff

Meteorologist-In-Charge	Rick Dittmann
Administrative Support Assistant	Karrie Schmidt
Science and Operations Officer	Dean Hazen
Warning Coordination Meteorologist	Vern Preston
Electronic Systems Analyst	Rick Stork
Observation Program Leader	Gary Wicklund
Information Technology Officer	Matt Williamson
Service Hydrologist	Position Soon To Be Filled
Lead Forecasters	Dawn Harmon
	Jeff Hedges
	Mike Huston
	Bob Survick
	Dan Valle
General Forecasters	Kerry Hanko
	Greg Kaiser
	John Keyes
	Jack Messick
	Tom Renwick
Meteorological Intern	Travis Wyatt
Hydrometeorological Technicians	Paul Angel
	Dave Phelps
Electronic Technicians	Rich Denning
	Bryan Tilly