

NOAA Global Systems Laboratory

# User-Driven Decision Support

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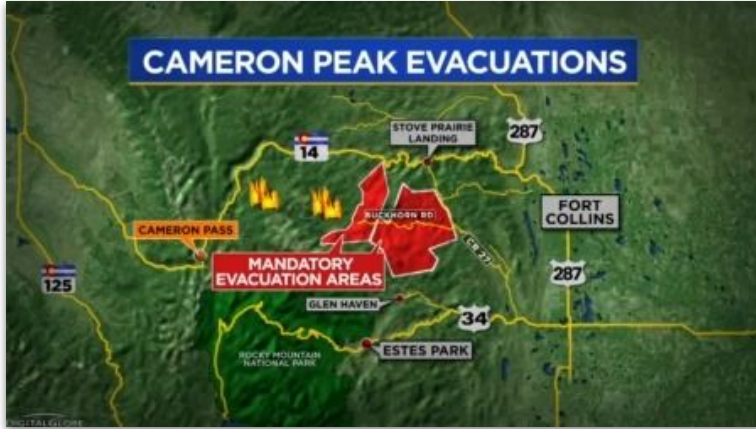
**SMEs:** Daniel Nietfeld, Darrel Kingfield,  
Kevin Manross, Ken Fenton, Mike Kraus

Decision Support





# What does Decision Support Look Like?

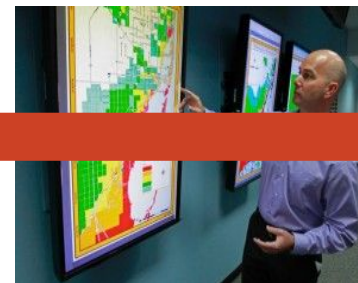
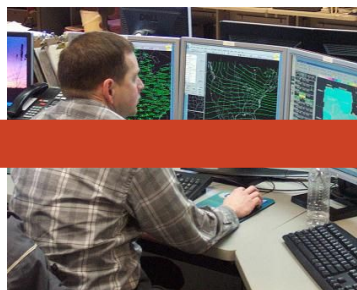
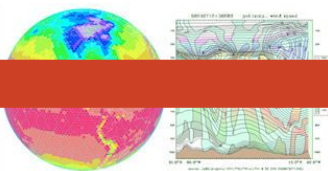
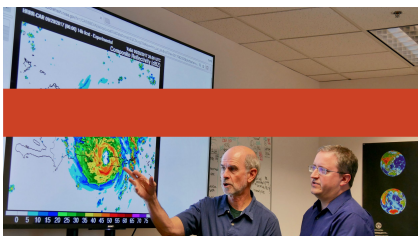


# Meaningful Forecast Information

Model development  
producing forecast  
output

Operational  
Forecasters using and  
communicating the  
forecast model output

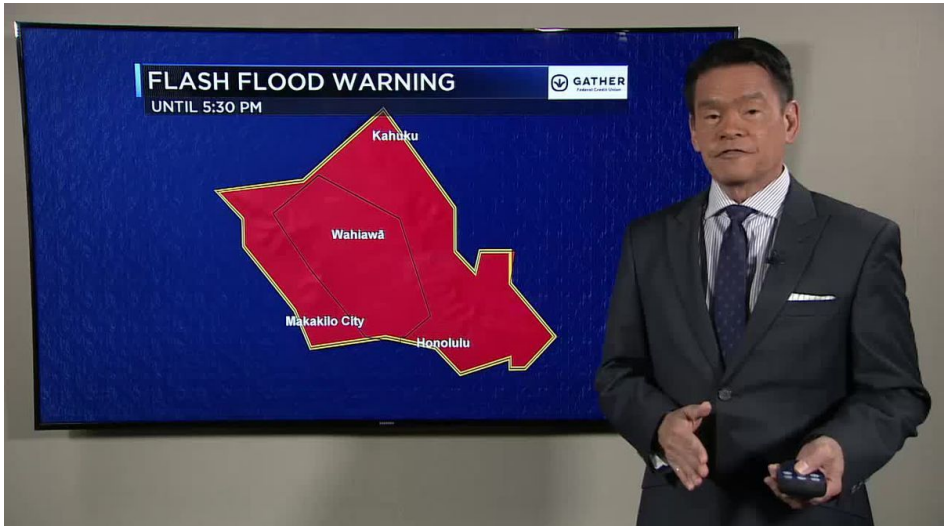
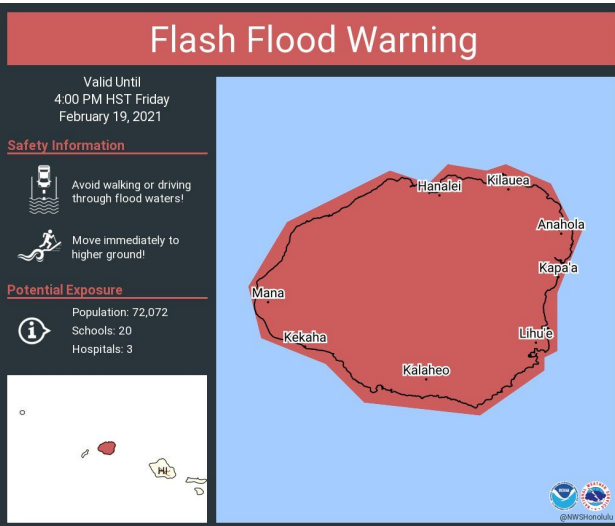
Core Partners making  
decisions based on the  
weather information  
provided



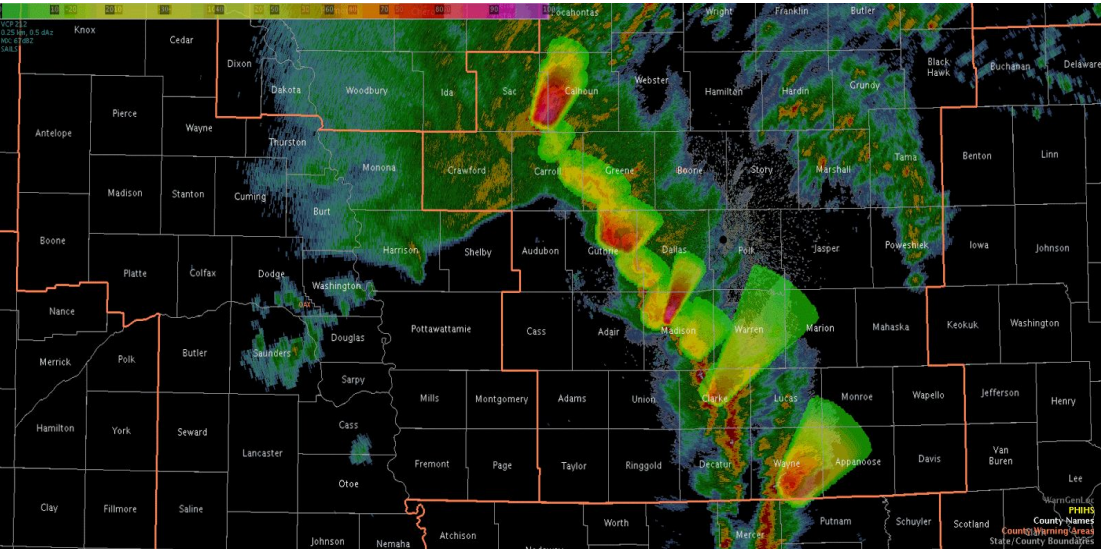
GSL Grand Scientific Challenge: *“Providing actionable environmental information through the delivery of global to storm-scale predictions and innovative decision support capabilities to serve society”*



# Modernizing Warnings and Watches

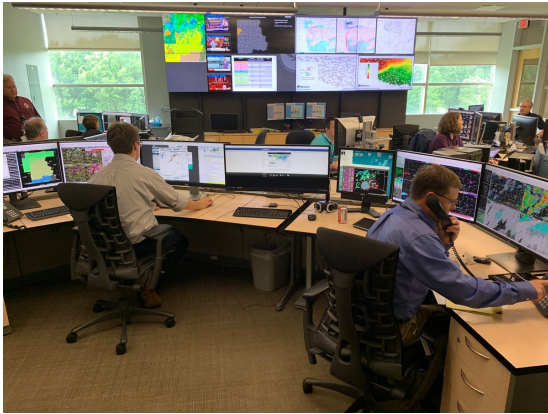
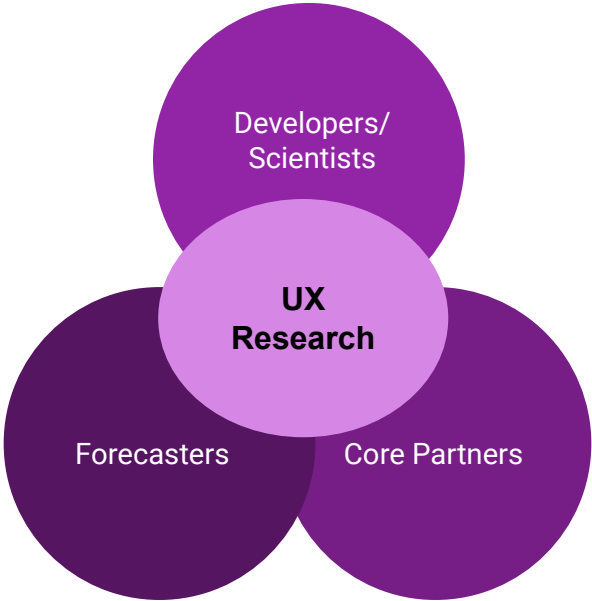
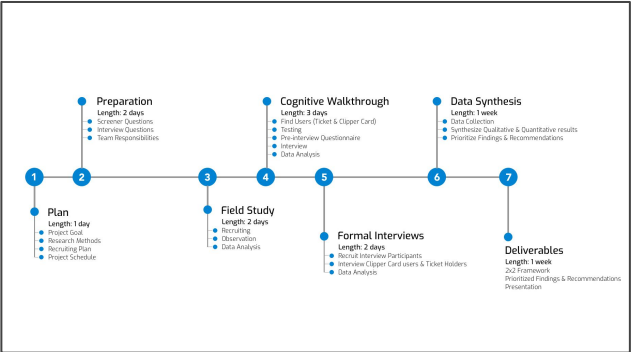


## Hazard Services



# User Experience (UX) Research

*Understanding information needs to influence designs*





# Social Science Research



## User Community

## Operational Forecast Community

## Research & Development Community



Incident Commanders/  
Emergency Managers







Meteorologists/  
Forecasters

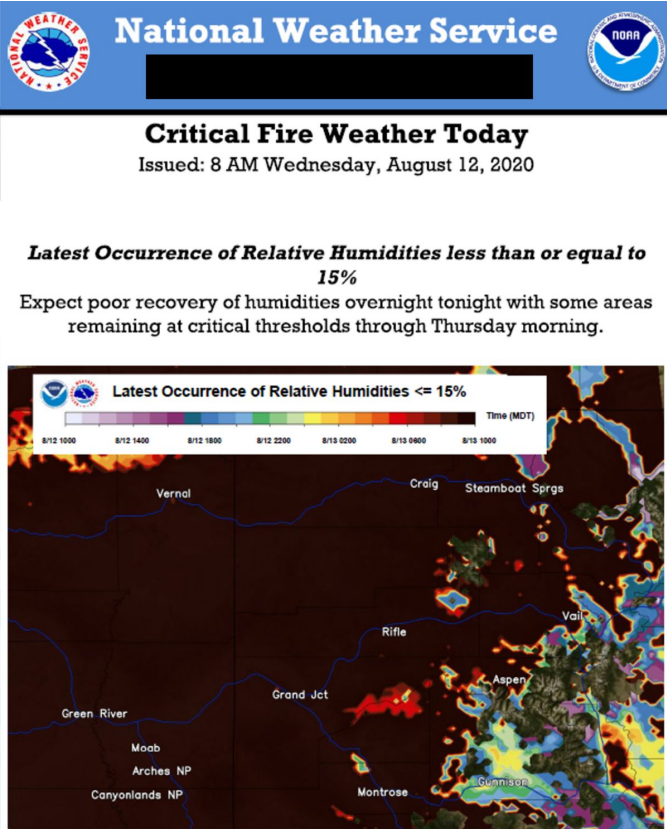






GSL  
Tools &  
Applications &  
Information

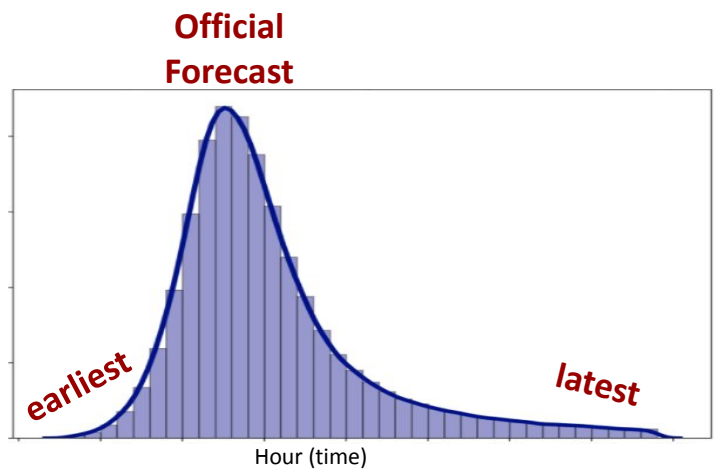
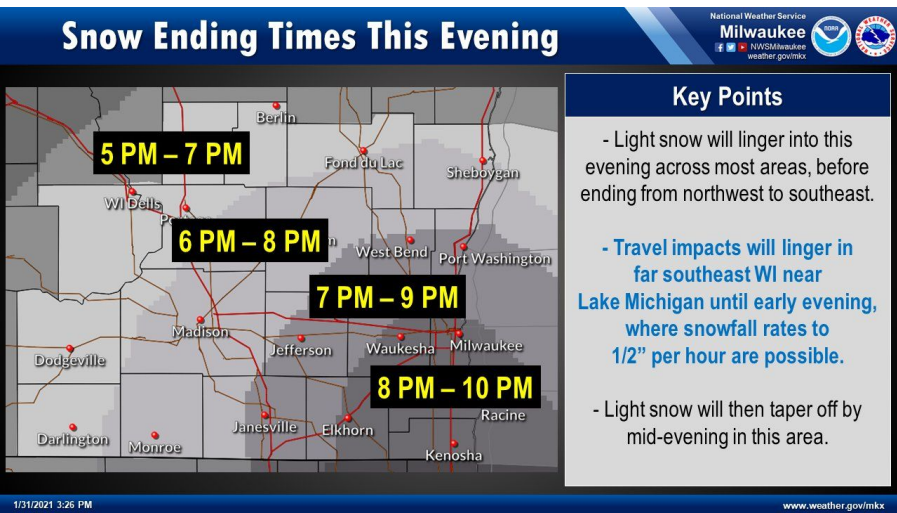




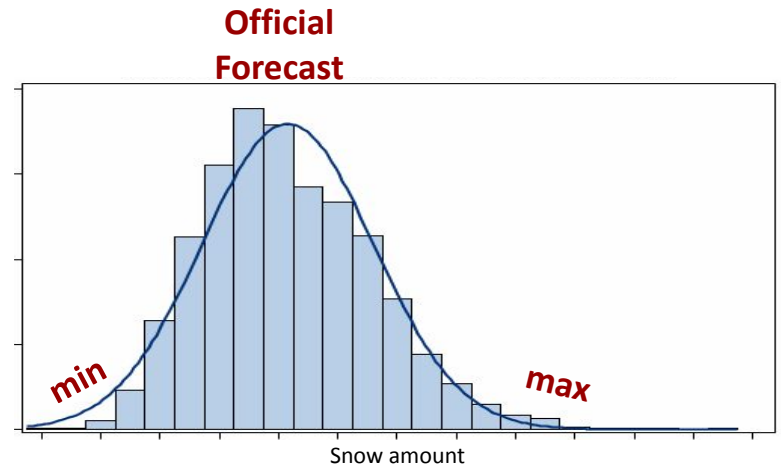
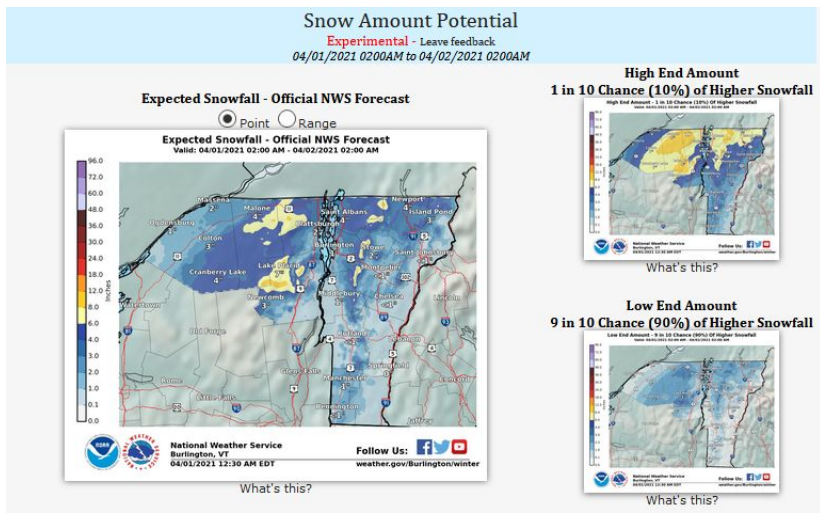
Actual NWS Fire Weather Briefing Graphic derived from timing uncertainty research

# Uncertainty and Ranges of Possibilities

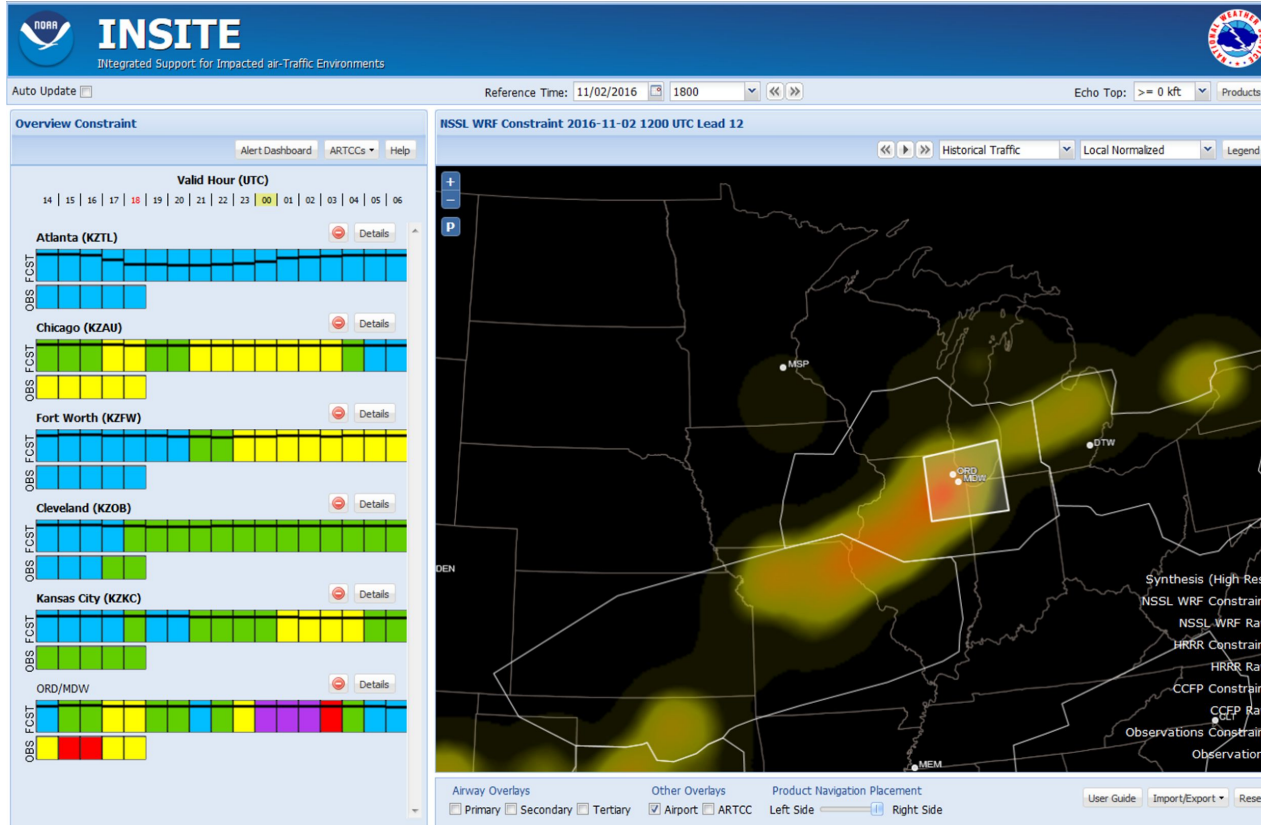
## Timing Uncertainty



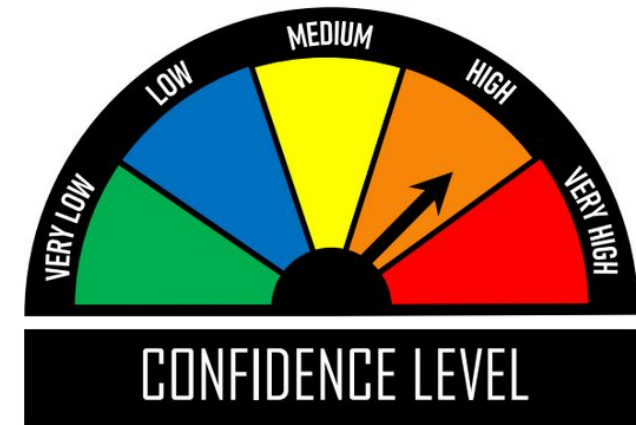
## Magnitude Uncertainty



# “How Confident Are You That This Will Happen?”



- Automated verification for forecast calibration and confidence
- Verification can influence forecasters' confidence!

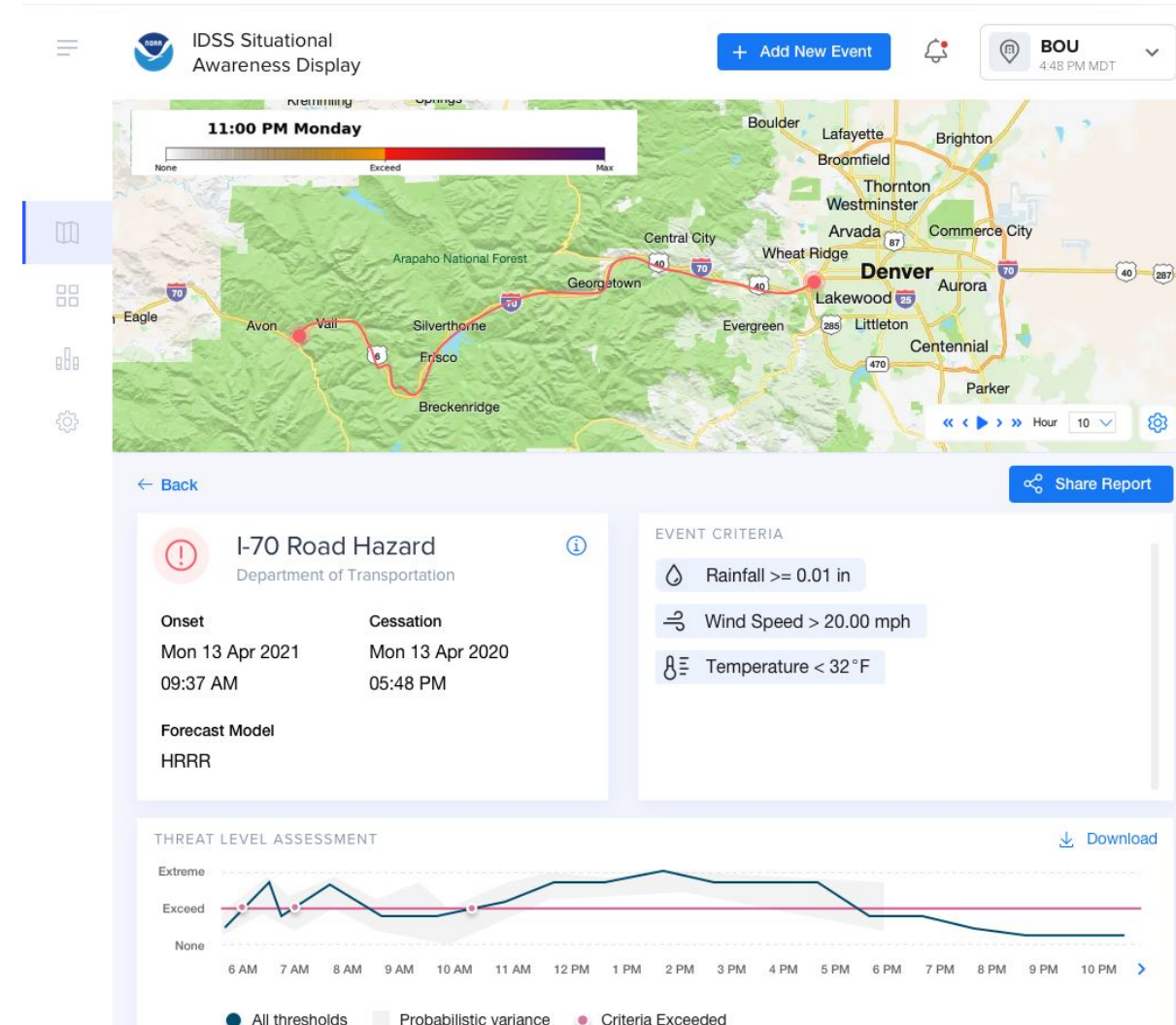


One of the first applications to quantify confidence based on past performance of forecast sources.



# The IDSS Engine Project

- User Information Needs
  - Forecasters
  - Decision-Making Partners
- Ranges of solutions
  - Timing
  - Magnitude
  - Worst Case Scenarios
- Confidence
- Probabilities
- Data Mining
- Verification

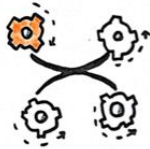


# Extensible, Scalable, Flexible Development

## IDSS Engine

Informing decision makers and forecasters by automating event-based risk monitoring

### MICROSERVICE ARCHITECTURE



- Extensible and scalable
- Platform agnostic
- Easy maintenance and upgrades

### USER-CENTERED DESIGN



- Prioritizes clear graphics and usability
- User feedback early and often
- Focus on accessibility and inclusive design

### DATA ACCESS



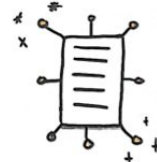
- Easily add new data streams
- Separates data acquisition from processing
- Extensible and supports multiple formats

### RISK PROCESSOR



- Supports compound events
- Weather and non-weather inputs
- Approximates onset and cessation ranges

### CONTENT RECOMMENDATIONS



- Enables multiple communication channels
- Customizable templates
- Suggests data-based content and graphics

### VERIFICATION



- Builds historical baselines of performance
- Quantifies confidence
- Stratifies by location, timing, and criteria



# Importance of GSL's Decision Support Activities

Decision Support is what gives **meaning** to forecasts.

Forecasters “***connect forecasts and warnings to decisions made,***” and they “***emphasize expert interpretation, consultation, and communication of forecasts and their impacts***”

(NWS Strategic Plan 2019, Objectives 1.1 & 1.2, p. 7)



# Summary of Decision Support Activities

## Performance

- Weekly Program Mgmt activities with internal teams, end users, and funding entities
- Ingenuity to utilize cloud resources for development and evaluation activities
- Steady growth trend in funding and associated team development/hiring activities

## Quality

- NOAA's NWS relies on GSL's software for it's highest priority, mission-critical warning products and services
- NWS has shifted these development efforts more towards GSL recently
- Numerous other entities seek GSL's applications

## Relevance

- Embracing and inclusion of social science research to foster societal benefits
- Focus on DSS as aligned with NWS's focus on DSS
- Engagement with forecasters, end users, and broader DSS community



NOAA Global Systems Laboratory

# Summary: Decision Support

## SME Panel Members:

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Global Systems Laboratory

Decision Support

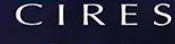




# Thank you!



## Global Systems Laboratory

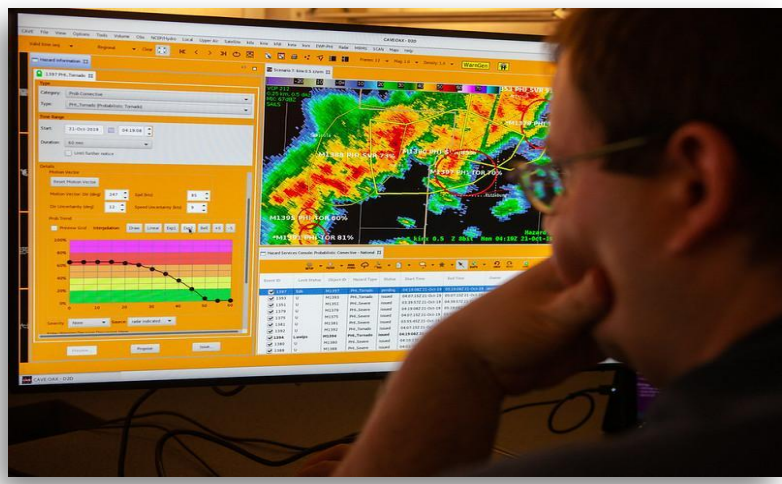
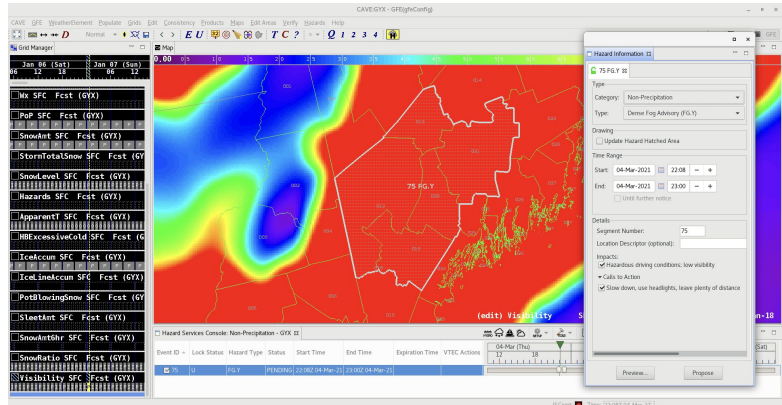





# Revolutionizing Decision Support



## New Hazardous Weather Warning Tools



## Decision Support Research



**NWS Sioux Falls**  
@NWSSiouxFalls

Here is our forecast for when places will see the first inch of snowfall tomorrow. Why does this matter? As snow begins to accumulate, roads can quickly become slippery leading to an increased risk of accidents.



7:06 PM · Dec 28, 2020 · Twitter Web App

## Delivering Information to Decision Makers with Cutting Edge Science and Technologies

