Northwest River Forecast Center
Steve King
2011 Water Supply Web Product

LEGACY
Official Water Supply Forecast
Legacy Regression + Coordination

SWS
New Statistical Water Supply
Batch Run
Unpublished

ESP
Ensemble Streamflow Procedure
Hydrologic Model Approach
2012 Water Supply Web Product

ESP - OFFICIAL
- Published weekly, throughout year (at a minimum)
- Not formally coordinated

LEGACY
- Run in raw/batch mode
- Unpublished
- Serves as internal guidance and as backup, if needed

SWS
- Run in raw/batch mode
- Unpublished
- Likely to replace LEGACY role in 2013
Motivation for Change

NWS has huge investment in CHPS (Community Hydrologic Prediction System) and its techniques (ESP).

- NWRFC future is in advancing CHPS/ESP where we see huge potential to improve our overall forecasting skill (including water supply).

Other federal agencies have mature regression models; there is no need to duplicate that effort.

- Multiple models are useful for user community.
- NWRFC is funding research to investigate multi-model approach to forecasting.

From a resource point of view, maintaining multiple models is a challenge.

- NWRFC wants to focus efforts on making primary technology the best it can be.
Implications for Customers

ESP numbers are not formally coordinated.
• Forecasts will reflect model output

The release schedule and definitions will change.
• The NWRFC will discontinue the Final/Early Bird/Mid Month
• ESP Published weekly throughout year (usually Tuesdays)
• NWRFC reserves the right to update at any time
• Daily ESP releases are a consideration

LEGACY Text products (summary and contingency) will be discontinued and possibly replaced with ESP equivalents.

Network of water supply locations maybe reduced or changed (should have little impact on major points).

Likely changes to NWS/NRCS Westwide publication.
Potential Enhancements

- 0, 3, and 10 day QPF
- Incorporation of climate signals
- Research into doing a better job accounting for model uncertainty
- Research into developing tools to help select best multi-model forecast.
Questions?