

PRELIMINARY DATA ON REPORTED WEATHER
MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. FOR 1981

Mason T. Charak RD-2
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Rockville, MD 20852

INTRODUCTION

All nonfederally sponsored attempts to modify the weather must be reported to the Secretary of Commerce in compliance with Public Law 92-205 enacted in 1971. Responsibility for administering the reporting program was delegated by the Secretary to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) a year later. Relevant Federal agencies agreed to report their weather modification activities to NOAA in 1973. Consequently, the reporting program provides a unique source of information on weather modification projects undertaken in the United States and its territories. Timely reporting of activities supplies information that can be used to assess the possibility of harm to persons, property, or the environment, or of interference with Federal or other research projects. The data are also used to show the trends in weather modification activity over the years and around the country.

The reporting procedures include the submittal of Initial, Interim, and Final Reports covering weather modification activities for individual target areas. An Initial Report is required at least 10 days prior to the start of the activity. Interim Reports are required for those projects active on January 1 of each year and must be filed within 45 days after completion of the weather modification activity or project. A weather modification activity is considered active until a Final Report is filed with NOAA.

Requests for copies of the reporting law, reporting procedures, the reporting forms, and information on the reporting program should be directed to:

Atmospheric Programs Office, RD-2
Office of Research and Development
NOAA
6010 Executive Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20852
Tel. (301) 443-8108

PRELIMINARY DATA FOR 1981

The preliminary data include weather modification activities reported to NOAA from January 1 through December 18, 1981. For comparison, these data are listed in Table 1 with data for 1977, a year of peak activity since the reporting program began in 1973, and with data for 1980. Data for 1973-1980 are contained in a "Summary of Weather Modification Activities Reported in 1980", published by NOAA in May 1981. This report is available from the address given in the introduction.

Table 2 lists the States with modification activities and the total target areas for such activities. California maintained its distinction for having the largest number of projects in each year since inception of the reporting program.

TABLE 1. Weather modification activity data for 1977, 1980, and 1981.

	<u>1977</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>
Activities	90	49	47
Nonfederal activities	79	40	39
Federally sponsored activities	11	9	8
Commercial modifiers	17	18	14
University operators	2	3	5
Federal operators	2	2	1
Water district sponsors	7	15	12
Community sponsors	25	4	8
Utility sponsors	3	3	4
State sponsors	6	8	4
States with activities	23	20	18
Total target area (mi ²)	270,690	119,333	97,905

Table 2. States with weather modification activities.

	<u>Activities</u>	<u>Area (mi²)</u>
Alaska	3	103
California	12	22,224
Colorado	2	2,600
Florida	1	5,000
Idaho	5	1,032
Kansas	1	10,815
Louisiana	1	1,295
Nebraska	1	1,152
Nevada	5	7,161
New York	1	100
North Dakota	3	13,586
Oklahoma	5	3,950
Oregon	1	10
South Dakota	1	2,682
Texas	1	3,500
Utah	3	20,010
Washington	3	595
Wyoming	3	1,090
	52*	97,905

*Four projects were conducted in adjoining States and crossed State boundaries.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The preliminary data on weather modification activities for 1981 show a distinct decrease from the data for 1977 and 1980. Reductions are apparent in the number of activities, commercial modifiers, Federally sponsored activities, States with activities, and in total target area. On the other hand, increases are evident in the number of university operators and utility sponsors.