

PRELIMINARY DATA ON REPORTED WEATHER
MODIFICATION ACTIVITIES IN THE U.S. FOR CY 1982

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INTRODUCTION

Public Law 92-205, enacted in 1971, requires that all nonfederally sponsored attempts to modify the weather be reported to the Secretary of Commerce. Responsibility for administering the reporting program was delegated by the Secretary to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). In 1973 Federal agencies agreed to report their weather modification activities to NOAA. Since then the reporting program files have become 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 by February 15. Final reports must be submitted 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.

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

Program Development and Coordination Office
Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research
NOAA
6010 Executive Blvd.
Rockville, MD 20852
Tel. (301) 443-8108

ANALYSIS

Preliminary analyses of the weather modification reporting data for 1982 indicate that 1) the number and scope of activities continue to decrease from 1977, the year of greatest activity since the reporting program began and 2) most of the activities reported in 1982 were continuations of the activities reported in 1981. Table 1 provides a breakdown of weather modification operators and sponsors for CY 1981 and 1982 and shows a decrease in activities from 46 to 40. Thirty-four of the 40 activities reported in 1982 were continuations of activities reported in 1981.

Table 2 lists the states with modification activities and the total area targeted for weather modification in each of the states. California with 12 projects again had the greatest number of projects and the largest total target area. Two states with activities in 1981, Nebraska and New York, reported none in 1982. No new states were added to the list. The total target area for all 16 states with activities in 1982 was only slightly less than the total reported in 1981.

Twenty-nine of the 40 activities reported in 1982 had precipitation augmentation as their principal objective. Four of them had two purposes - rain increase and hail alleviation. Of the remaining 11 activities, 6 were cold fog or stratus dissipation projects and 5 were for research purposes.

Table 1. Weather modification data for 1981 and 1982

	1981	1982
Activities	46	40
Nonfederal activities	38	35
Federally sponsored activities	8	5
Commercial modifiers	14	16
University operators	4	4
Federal operators	1	2
Water district sponsors	11	10
Community sponsors	7	7
Utility sponsors	4	4
State sponsors	4	4
States with activities	18	16
Total target area (mi ²)	81,986	81,342

Table 2. States with weather modification activities.

	Activities	Area (m ²)
Alaska	3	103
California	12	25,810
Colorado	2	4,700
Florida	1	50
Idaho	4	453
Kansas	1	9,071
Louisiana	1	1,295
Nevada	5	7,161
North Dakota	2	12,193
Oklahoma	3	2,524
Oregon	1	10
South Dakota	1	2,682
Texas	1	3,500
Utah	4	10,810
Washington	1	50
Wyoming	2	930
	44*	81,342

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