

“Recent and emerging science and applications relating to precipitation and atmospheric rivers in the Western U.S. – Findings from NOAA’s Hydrometeorology Testbed”

By Dr. F. Martin (Marty) Ralph

NOAA/OAR/Physical Sciences Division, Boulder, Colorado

Abstract

The presentation will provide an overview of a number of recent studies that have explored Western U.S. precipitation processes. These projects have addressed the underlying physical mechanisms that generate precipitation, assessed how well current forecasting performs in extreme events, developed improved monitoring capabilities and explored the impacts of changing climate. This overview will be followed by highlights of recent analyses related to atmospheric rivers from NOAA’s Hydrometeorology Testbed (HMT), the CalWater experiment and the Winter Storms and Pacific Atmospheric Rivers (WISPAR) demonstration project that used the NASA Global Hawk aircraft in early 2011.