A Cloud Seeding Pilot Project in the Jemez y Sangre Area -More Water Now

Presentation by Sigmund Silber ssilber1@juno.com

Projected Population Growth



Developing Gap Between Supply and Demand



2060 Deficit by Watershed





Project Goals

- Enhanced Precipitation
- Usable Water
- Low Cost Water
- Community Support

Jemez Seeding 1968 - 1972

- Seeding periods selected at random
- 13% Increase in precip for seeded areas and sessions
- Potential increase of 30% with full seeding
- Some indication of downwind increases in precipitation

Cloud Seeding in Southeast New Mexico



Seeding in Texas



Most Western States are Seeding



Why Cloud Seeding is Needed

- Inefficient rain/snow processes
- Man has modified rain/snow processes
- Targeted precipitation is very usable

Inefficient rain/snow Processes

- Supercooled water may not precipitate
- Droplets too numerous and too small
- Updrafts not powerful enough for cloud to grow

Precipitation Inefficiencies -Graphic



Precipitation Inefficiencies

- 20% of moisture ends up in clouds as droplets
- 30% of the available droplets precipitate. This is only 6% of the available moisture (30% of 20%)
- Goal of Cloud Seeding is to up the 30% to 35% and possibly increase the 20%

Cloud Seeding Solution

- Seeding agent to start supercooled water crystallizing
- Hygroscopic agents to stimulate collisions and coalescence
- Water crystallization releases heat fueling updrafts



Seeding Agent Delivery Strategies



Ground-based Generator



Ground-Based Flare Tree



January 21st/22nd 2004 Workshop

- 13 Experts participated in the program
- 84 Attendees
- Consensus to proceed with pilot program

FOR MORE INFO...

Proceedings of Jan 22nd/23rd 2004 Workshop

Two Illustrative Scenarios

Acres Seeded	Seasonal Precip	Acre-Feet of Precip	10% Increase	15% Increase
100,000	14 Inches	116,667	11,667	17,500
200,000	10 Inches	200,000	20,000	30,000

Preliminary Economic Analysis 20,000 AFY of Water

	Stream Runoff	Aquifer Recharge	ET	Total
Percentage	60%	15%	25%	100%
Acre Feet	12,000	3,000	5,000	20,000
Value AFY	\$500	\$500	0	\$375
Value or Replacement Cost	\$6MM	\$1.5MM	\$0	\$7.5MM

Additional Hard to Quantify Benefits

- Additional precipitation at lower elevations
- Additional precipitation east of target area in the Sangres
- Recreational and tourism value of snow
- Fire suppression value of additional precipitation
- Benefits to wildlife and vegetation

Comparisons re Cost of Water

- Cloud seeding water at \$25 AFY
- Aamodt water at \$1,200 AFY (includes delivery to your house)
- SJC water at \$1,200 AFY
- Santa Fe City Water at \$1,300 AFY
- Desal water at \$1,500 AFY FOB Willard.
- Perrier water at XXXX AFY

Schedule: Optimistic Case

- Cloud Inventory Summer 2004
- Cloud in-situ measurements Nov/Dec 2004
- Legislature Appropriation Jan/Feb 2005
- Funds Available July 2005
- Seeding Begins November 2005

Schedule Slower Case

- Legislature Appropriation Jan/Feb 2005
- Funds Available July 2005
- Cloud Inventory Summer 2005
- Cloud in-situ measurements Nov/Dec 2005 or Jan - March 2006
- Seeding Begins November 2006

Factors Determining Rate of Progress

- Ability to fund Pre-seeding Analysis in 2004
- Federal Support/but not an EIS
- State Legislative Support
- Broad support from stakeholders
- Creation of Regional Organization /Coalition to Conduct Cloud Seeding
- Possible tie in with Aamodt Settlement

Proposed Pre-seeding Analysis

- Confirm that project is feasible: this part of analysis is state-wide
- Begin design of cloud seeding project
- Advance the start date of any project by accomplishing this work in 2004
- Cost approximately \$95,000
- Need private sector and city/county participation

Components of Pre-seeding Analysis

- Historical Cloud Inventory
- In-Cloud Measurements
- Modeling of Seeding Operations

Satellite Icing Imagery



Satellite Imagery with More Resolution



Possible Sangres in-cloud Flight Path



More Sangres Flight Paths





Possible Jemez in-cloud Flight Path



More Jemez Flight Paths





The Plane...The Plane



Modeling Objectives

- Plan the in-Cloud Flights
- Position ground based silver iodide burners: Is there positioning that will be effective?
- Identify additional targets other than the standard high-elevation areas

Possible Funding Sources

- Private Sector
 - Cities and Counties
- State of NM
- Public Sector
 - Agencies
 - Aamodt
 - EPA Fines

Areas Above 9000 Feet



Possible Winter Seeding Target Area



Role of Assessment

- To know what additional precipitation was produced
- To provide confidence to the public that public funds were well spent
- To assure the scientific community that the project made scientific sense
- To allow year after year improvement in seeding approach

Target and Control Evaluation Method



Random Cloud Seeding Evaluation Method

VARIABLE	SEEDED	CONTROL	INCREASE (%)
Lifetime (min)	120	80	36
Area (km sq.)	69	56	36
Volume (km cu.)	286	246	30
Top height (km)	9.6	9.2	11
Max dBz	48	45	4
Top height of max dBz (km)	4.9	5.5	-11
Volume above 6km (km cu.)	104	87	30
Precip. Flux (m cu./s)	320	205	62
Precip. Mass (kton)	1909	978	86

Achieving Assessment Quality

- Needs to be independent of seeding operator
- Needs to be defined prior to seeding beginning
- Should include physical as well as statistical methods

Organizing to Get a Pilot Project Going

JyS Water Planning Councill

New and Expanded Water Technologies Committee New Mexico Weather Modification Association

Moving on to Other Projects

Technical Advisory Group (TAG) Funding and Operations Committee (F&O)

Citizens Advisory Group (CAG)