

# Climate Monitoring & Forecast Talks

**MOTIVATION:** An improved understanding of what various monitoring and forecast products represent, how they are made, and how they should be interpreted should lead to better informed decision making.

- Describe the strengths and limitations of a number of NOAA operational and research forecast and monitoring products.
- Characterize uncertainty and provide insights into the limits of predictability.
- Introduce research forecast and monitoring products while clarifying the relationship to operational counter parts.
- Use end-user guidance on needs for climate forecast and monitoring products in developing research priorities

# Climate Monitoring Products

[http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert\\_assessment/](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/expert_assessment/)

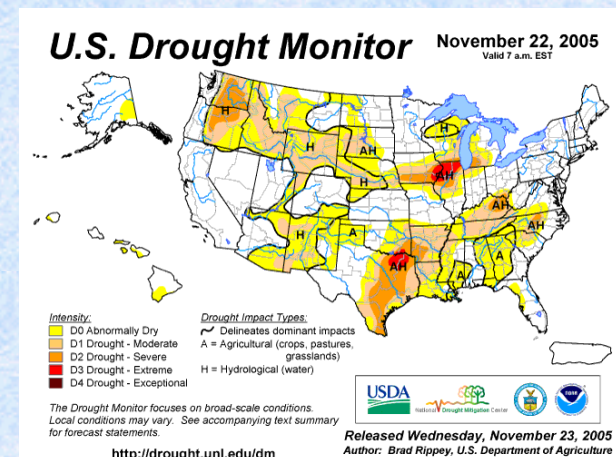
Hazards Assessment

ENSO Assessment Weekly Update

Drought Assessment  
(Drought Monitor and Drought Outlook)

Degree Day Assessment

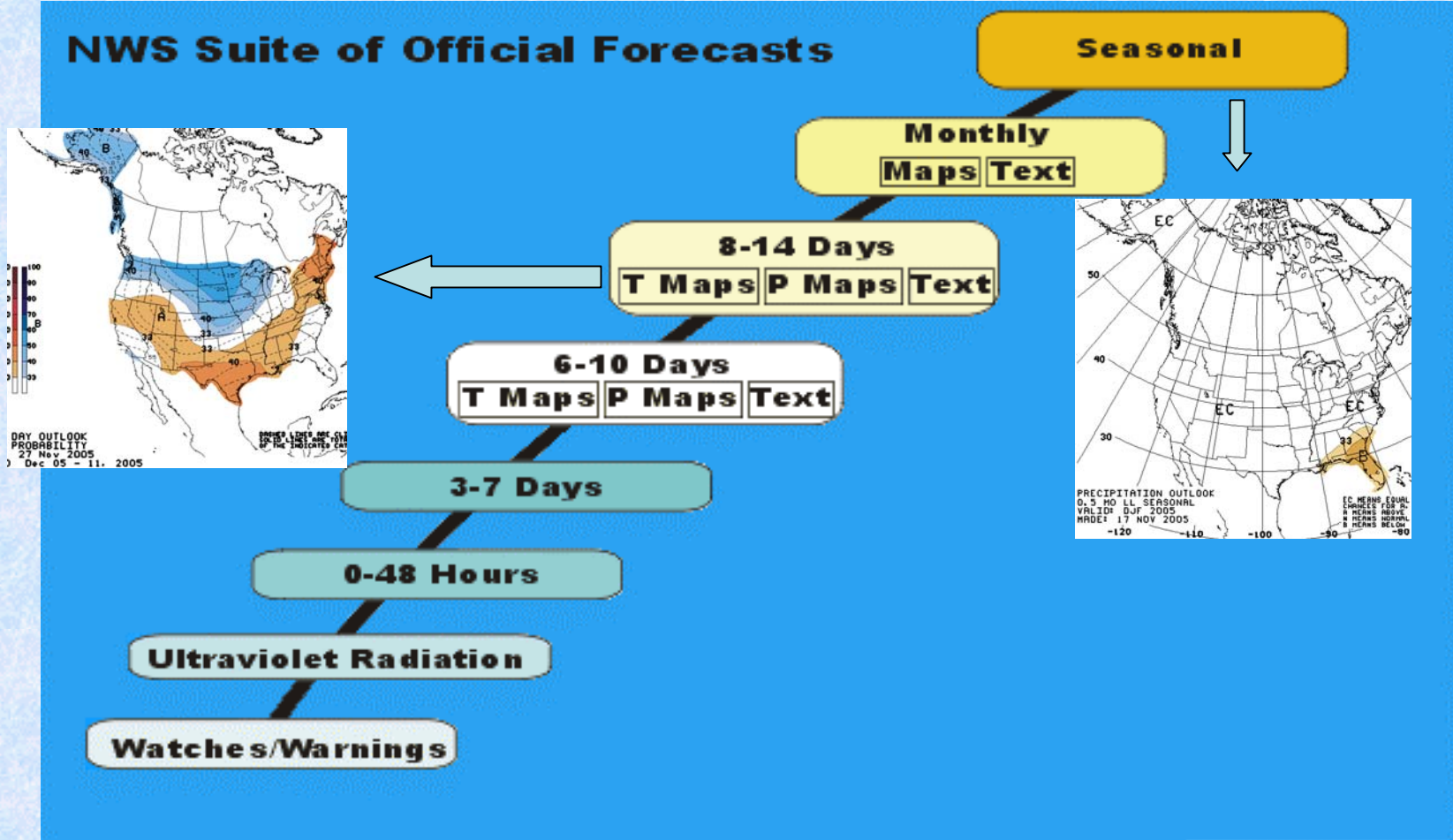
Climate Assessments



# Operational Climate Forecasts

*conservative, broad scale, measured response to changes*

## NWS Suite of Official Forecasts



|                         |                   |                  |   |                       |                       |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| U.S. Hazards Assessment | Base-Period Means | Wind Chill Index | Monthly & Seasonal SST Forecasts Nino 3.4 | Official SST Forecast | SST Base-Period Means |
|-------------------------|-------------------|------------------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|

<http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/forecasts/>

# ***Critical Insights to Keep in Mind***

- ***Vast majority of the strengths, limitations and uncertainties that will be discussed are not forecast or monitoring product specific, but are shared regardless of the source.***

***NOAA, USGS, NASA, universities, private sector, fortune tellers, snake oil salesmen, or even the great and powerful Oz***

- ***"I canna change the laws of physics, Captain!"***  
***-Montgomery Scott, Chief Engineer, USS Enterprise***

- ***"It's tough to make predictions, especially about the future."***  
***-Yogi Berra, Emeritus Scholar, NY Yankees***