

# INTERMOUNTAIN WEST CLIMATE SUMMARY



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## The New NOAA Climate Web Portal (www.climate.gov)

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In February, NOAA announced the creation of a climate web portal (<http://www.climate.gov>), which will serve as an information clearinghouse for climate data, research, products, and tools to help stakeholders better understand the state of climate science and also apply the science to decision-making and planning (Figure 1). The development of this portal coincides with the February 8 announcement by Department of Commerce and NOAA, proposing to establish a NOAA Climate Service. For more information about the NOAA Climate Service, see the ‘Announcements’ section in the March 2010 IWCS.

The climate portal will bring together all climate-related NOAA based datasets, products, and research in efforts to serve as the operational extension of the NOAA Climate Service. In its initial stage of devel-

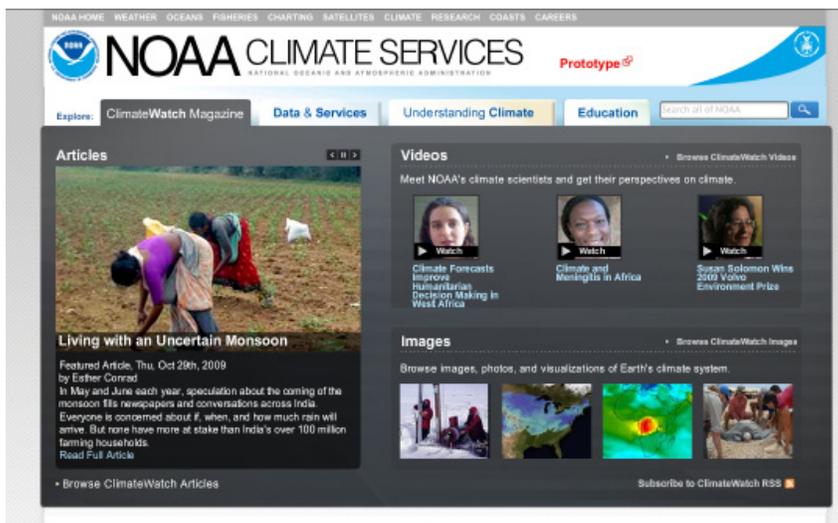
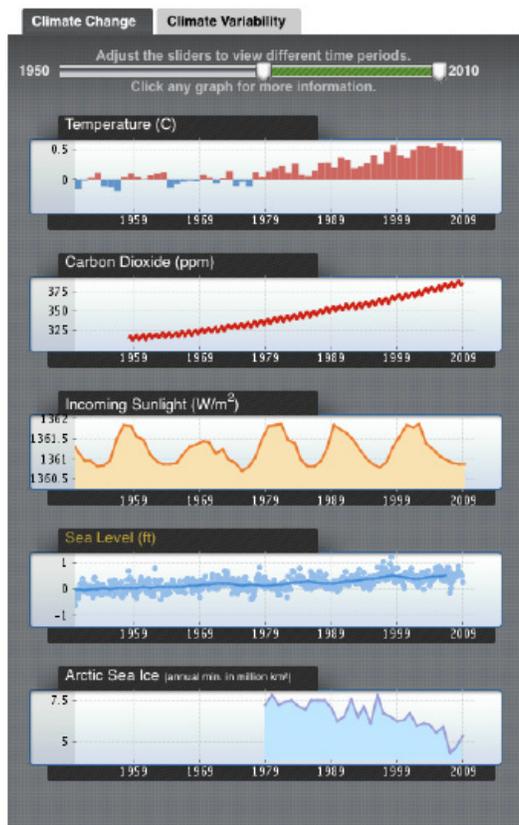


Figure 1: The NOAA climate web portal is the operational extension of the proposed NOAA Climate Service, with content organized under four main tabs.

### Global Climate Dashboard



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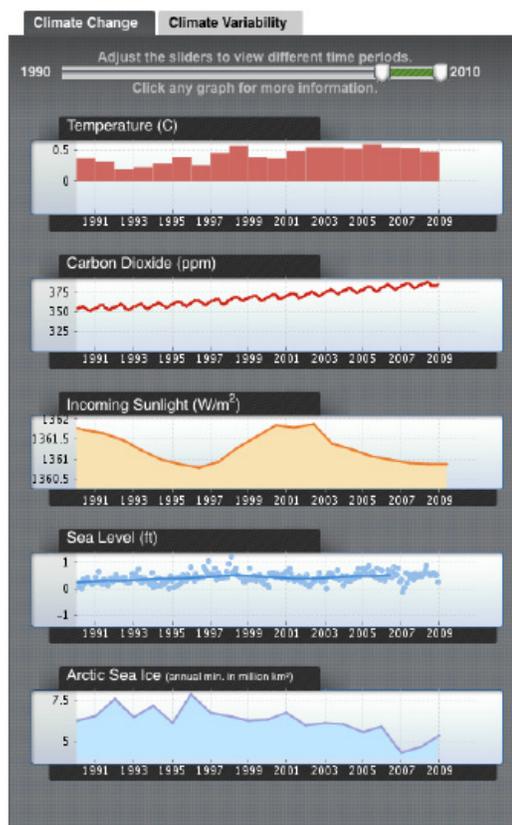


Figure 2 & 3: The global “climate dashboard” allows users to view a customized time period for various global climate parameters. Figure 2 shows conditions from 1950-2009, and Figure 3 shows conditions from 1990-2009.



**Summary of the content, information, and products available under each of the four NOAA Climate Services homepage tabs:**

**Climate Watch Magazine** directs users to articles, images, and videos highlighting pertinent NOAA climate-related research and work. Current featured articles include “Short-term Cooling on a Warming Planet”, “Reconstructing Weather to Predict Climate”, and “CSI: NOAA Climate Scene Investigators”. This last article describes work by a NOAA team, led by WWA affiliate Marty Hoerling, which investigates the specific climate dynamics that caused particular weather and climate events, such as the winter 2009-2010 snowstorms in the mid-Atlantic region (<http://www.climatewatch.noaa.gov/2009/articles/csi-noaa-climate-scene-investigators>).

**Data & Services** organizes climate datasets and products into sub-sections based on three time scales (past, present, and predictions), cross-referenced with webpages dedicated to local and regional partners and information, a comprehensive data library, and a “Climate & You” sub-section which caters data and information to each sector: agriculture, ecosystems, energy, health, society, transportation, and water (Figure 4). The data library walks users through a catalog of data and resources based on categories defined by the region, variable or process being measured, and time scale.

**Understanding Climate** features a collection of climate assessment reports, fact sheets, and upcoming events aimed to provide an overview of global climate processes and the impacts of climate on human activities. One-page fact sheets provide an easy-to-understand overview of the state of the science for topics including Drought and Carbon Monitoring.

**Education** provides teaching resources, professional development opportunities, and multimedia resources to improve the climate literacy of users and their students. Registration information for upcoming seminars and educational opportunities can be accessed under the professional development section.

opment, the portal highlights products and datasets from the National Climatic Data Center (NCDC), Coastal Services Center (CSC), and the Climate Prediction Center (CPC). Existing web locations (URLs) for NOAA data and products will remain intact, but will be linked to the [climate.gov](http://climate.gov) portal.

The portal guides users through information and products spanning all NOAA web-based resources by allowing users to select from broad topics, then narrowing down to resources that meet specific user needs. The portal content is organized under four primary tabs on the homepage (see *sidebar*, above). A global “climate dashboard” on the homepage features temperature, carbon dioxide levels, incoming sunlight, sea level, and Arctic sea ice graphs, and allows users to customize graphs based on a selected time period range (Figures 2 & 3). Additional information about the NOAA Climate Service and the climate portal can be found by clicking on the ‘Prototype’ link on the homepage.

The portal is in its initial stages of development, and more content will be added in coming months. Comments about content and organization of the climate portal can be sent to NOAA by clicking on the ‘Contacts & FAQ’ link at the bottom right-hand corner of the homepage. We encourage IWCS readers to provide feedback to NOAA on how the [climate.gov](http://climate.gov) website might be expanded and improved to support their information needs, for example, by allowing easier access to existing NOAA products.

The screenshot shows the NOAA Climate Services website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with tabs for 'ClimateWatch Magazine', 'Data & Services', 'Understanding Climate', and 'Education'. The 'Data & Services' tab is currently selected. Below the navigation bar, there is a search bar and a 'Prototype' link. The main content area is divided into several sections. On the left, there is a sidebar with a 'Climate & You' section containing links for Coastal, International, Agriculture, Ecosystems, Energy, Health, Water, Society, and Transportation. The 'Water' link is highlighted. The main content area features a 'Water & Climate Overview' section with a sub-section for 'Water'. This section includes a 'Data Stories' section with a short description of NOAA data products and services, a 'Data Set' section with a list of NOAA data products and services, and an 'Additional Resources' section with links to 'Water Fact Sheet' and 'Climate Change Impacts - Water'. There are also 'Key Points' listed below the 'Data Stories' section.

Figure 4: Clicking on the homepage tab ‘Data & Services’ and ‘Climate & You’ makes available a collection of climate resources by sector. Resources available within the ‘Water’ sector include ‘Data Stories’: short descriptions of NOAA products and data that are useful in water supply decision-making and planning.

