

National Weather Service Caribou Hosts First Annual Spring Customer/Partner Meeting



Meteorologist Mal Walker Discusses Decision Support With the Group

On Wednesday, May 12th 2010, the National Weather Service office in Caribou, ME hosted its first annual Spring Customer/Partner Meeting. The meeting brought together customers and partners both in person and through a webinar. Customers and partners were from a wide array of agencies including county/state emergency management, Acadia National Park, Maine state and local Department of Transportation, town management, and local utility companies. The event coincided with the office's seasonal staff training.

The theme of the meeting focused on past, present, and future National Weather Service decision support services. In particular it was stressed that decision support is not only available for atmospheric events, but for man-made events such as HAZMAT, oil spills, and large events. The group was taught that decision support doesn't just happen during and after an event, but that it involves building relationships, mutual understanding, and streamlined response strategies before hazards strike. Part of the discussion revolved around decision support materials provided during the winter of 2009/2010 with action items defined for future improvements.

After the meeting participants did their best to judge several pots of chili that had been prepared by staff members and partners alike. National Weather Service Caribou plans to make this an annual event.