A. PAIIF 2011 Cover Page

Title: Storm of the Century: Documenting the 1993 Superstorm

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Proposal Example

Line Office: NWS

Amount Requested: $11,500

Match Amount: $2,000

Approximate value of in-kind services in dollars: $0

List of Partners:
National Climatic Data Center (NCDC)
National Weather Service Offices (across the region affected by the superstorm)

B. Abstract:

The Superstorm of 1993 affected lives from Central America to Canada. The storm moved over the eastern half of the U.S. spawning record snow fall amounts, deadly tornadoes, and hurricane force winds. The tremendous strength of this storm has been featured in numerous scientific studies, but the human aspect has largely gone undocumented.

The main goal of this project is to record the oral histories of National Weather Service employees who forecasted the event, emergency response personnel on shift during and immediately after the event, community leaders, and recovery workers who led the clean-up effort in the hardest hit areas, and residents still living in the areas that were most affected. A wealth of photographs and video were taken during and after this event but most are still in VHS and film format. As part of this project we will digitize these important assets so that they can be preserved for future use and they will be made available to the public via the web.

C. Project Description

C1. How does this project preserve, protect, or enhance historic NOAA properties or heritage assets?

This project's main goal is to capture and preserve priceless first hand interviews with people affected by the 1993 Superstorm. This storm closed airports from Halifax, Nova Scotia to Atlanta, Georgia. Historic snowfall amounts were documented, record low temperatures for the southern U.S. were reported, hurricane force winds were recorded and 11 tornadoes which were responsible for 5 fatalities were confirmed. Every one of these epic conditions was witnessed and experienced. It is essential that these first hand reports be recorded and archived for future generations.

We have compiled a list of more than 30 persons of interest for initial interviews. Many of these interviews can be done over the phone using voice recording technology. However, I would like to do several of the interviews in person so that the emotions of those being interviewed can add to the story via a video recording. These interviews will be transcribed, and then both the audio/video version and the text version will be made available in an online archive.

The interns at the NWS office will help scan in the photos we have collected from the event. We have close to 500 photos and several boxes of slides and developed film. The slides and film will also be digitized and archived. Some of the more dramatic pictures will be made available on the website.

C2. How does this project incorporate unique local or regional cultural heritage?

Many people experienced this dramatic weather episode. A multitude of meteorological events transpired along the eastern third of the U.S. as a result of this one storm system. The experiences of one town during this storm were likely very different from another town one state away. In addition to the geographic differences in storm impact, the effects felt by many localities were well beyond climate normals. The unprecedented severity of tornadoes and winter weather in the southeast U.S. and heavy snowfall and strong winds from Alabama to Maine caused millions in damage, froze air and ground transportation, and caused power outages, the effects of which lasted for many days. Personal accounts will be documented which detail the sometimes heroic efforts of both individuals and emergency management personnel as they overcome the unique and unrivaled challenges faced during the storm. The responses and reactions of those who normally would not encounter such extreme winter conditions, especially in the Southeast, will be highlighted. Dialogue of meteorologists will also document their interpretation of the storm's evolution and its significance.

C3. What partnerships within NOAA and outside of NOAA does this project facilitate?

I will be forming relationships with a multitude of associates as I conduct interviews for this project. I will be working with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) through several of their field offices, including interviews with government officials and the emergency responders during and after the event. I will also be working with National Weather Service offices located within the area affected by the Superstorm. I hope to speak with several members of the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) who were working during the airport closures inflicted by this storm. Finally, I intend to interview members of the general public

about their experiences as well as the local on-air news personalities that covered some of the more extreme weather conditions.

C4. How does this project incorporate education and outreach?

A website dedicated to providing information about this historic weather event will be created. It will provide some of the scientific information broken down into terms the general public can understand. However, the main point of the site will be to make available the interviews and photos collected during this project.

C5. Who is the intended audience for the end result of this project?

The general public, weather enthusiasts, and educators looking for interesting and engaging material to help get their students interested in the weather. Emergency coordinators may also find use from the lessons learned in handling such extraordinary weather events.

C6. How many people could this project potentially reach once completed?

This project will be done in a way that anyone who is interested in the weather will be able to benefit from the information. A link to the website will be made available from our home page which anyone can access. We will also post updates to our Facebook and Twitter pages to continually drive those who are interested back to the website as new material is made available.

C7. Once this project is completed, what do you see as the next step (furthering preservation efforts, continued outreach opportunities, etc)?

I hope to continue conducting interviews and making them available online. My list of potential interviews will likely grow as I speak with the initial list of interviewees. In the future I would like to see the website become interactive and provide visitors the opportunity to post their own accounts during or after the storm. I also plan to request that if anyone has any photos or video from the event that they submit them to me so that I can add them to the archive and possibly display them on the site if given permission.

D. Schedule Outline

May 2010:
Purchase camera and equipment, editing software, voice recording hardware for the phone, and a scanner.

Early September 2010:
VHS to digital format conversion completed

December 2010:
Photos, film, and slides digitization completed AND initial phone interviews completed

February 2011:
Website live (video and audio interviews posted as they are available)

April 2011:
Initial list of in person interviews completed

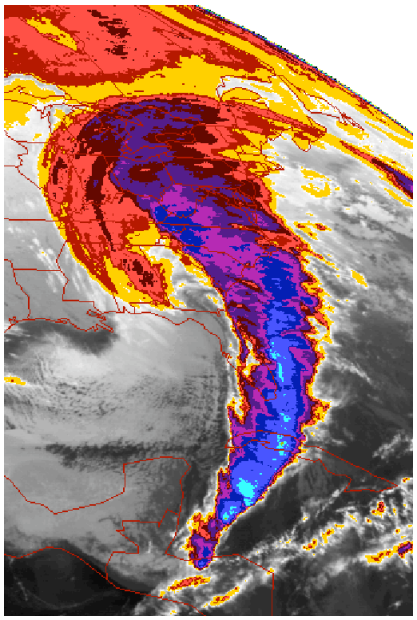
June 2011:
All components of the proposed project completed

E. Budget

Item	Cost	Purchase Mechanism
Phone Plan for interviews (for 1 year)	$2000	Contract
Voice recorder equipment for phone	$300	Purchase Card
Video Camera and associated equipment	$450	Purchase Card
Video Editing Software	$150	Purchase Card
VHS to digital format conversion	$2500	Contract
Scanner	$150	Purchase Card
Digitization of film and slides	$600	Contract
Travel	$5350	Thru AdTrav – Direct pay

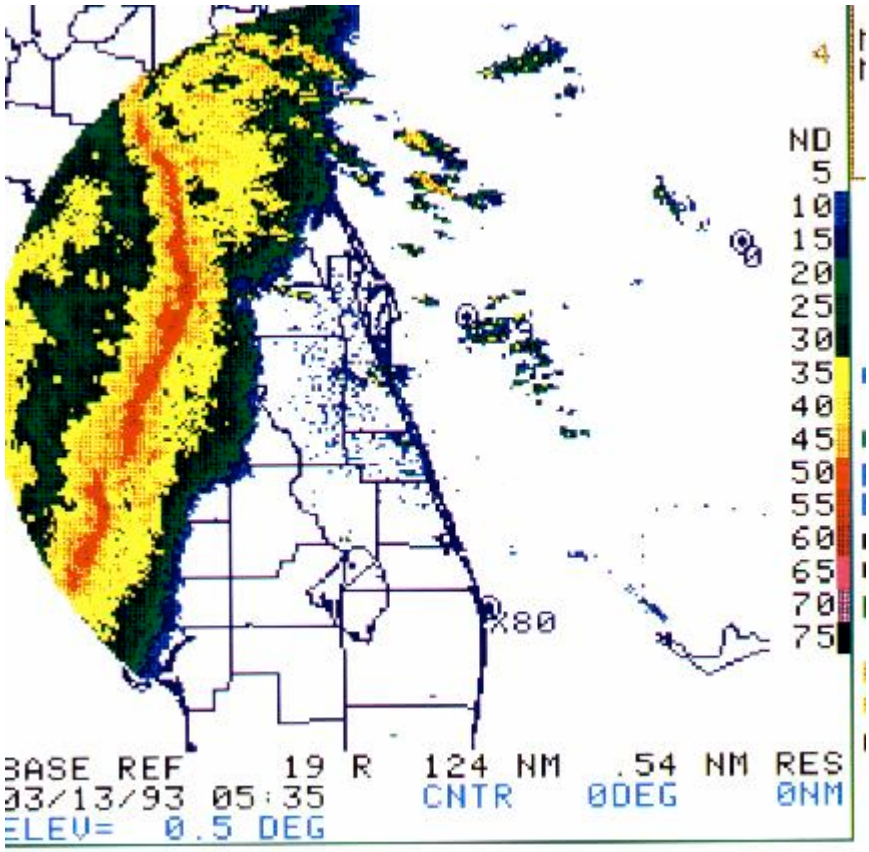
Total: $11,500

F. Photos or Diagrams



An enhanced satellite image of the storm at its peak

Snow in Asheville, NC downed trees and blanketed the city on March 13, 1993



Radar imagery of the derecho that moved through Florida, spawning 11 tornadoes and resulting in 5 fatalities.

G. Letters of Support
Attached (2)

H. Supervisor Signature
Attached (1)