**Nevada State Climate Office**

**ARSCO Report for 2008**

The Nevada State Climate Office (NVSCO) was established under Nevada Revised Statute 396.595 with the mission of maintaining descriptions of information on the climate in the state including atmospheric conditions and levels of precipitation.

**Activities:** During 2008 the NVSCO was occupied with drought analysis and preparations for a disaster declaration for regions of the state. The 2007-2008 snow pack in both the Sierra Nevada and the Lower Colorado Basin was inadequate to alleviate the drought conditions that have persisted for the past three years in Nevada. All seventeen counties in Nevada reported severe drought impacts and the agricultural areas of the state were hard hit by the lack of water for forage crops and for livestock. Working with Director of the Nevada Department of Agriculture the NVSCO was the lead agent in drought analysis and provided the Governor’s staff with a portfolio of observational data and climate analysis with which the state compiled a compelling case for federal disaster status for fourteen counties in the state. The Governor’s request for federal disaster assistance was approved by the FDA in early 2009.

(see:<http://www.fsa.usda.gov/FSA/newsReleases?area=newsroom&subject=landing&topic=edn&newstype=ednewsrel&type=detail&item=ed_20090126_rel_1408.html>).

NVSCO personnel were also active in the Nevada Hazard Mitigation Planning Subcommittee during 2008. The committee was busy with implementation activities throughout the year including the review of a number of proposals for projects to fulfill the mission of the Hazard Mitigation Subcommittee.

Personnel from the NVSCO also produced a number of referred research articles that were published during 2008-2009. This includes a pair of articles in the Journal of Hydrometeorology that investigate flooding in lee-side basins of the Sierra Nevada. Presentation of this research was also well received at numerous conferences over the past year.

**Changes:** The NVSCO has undergone substantial changes in organizational structure during 2008. The state climatologist who was previously funded at 50% to run the office has moved to a full-time faculty position in the Department of Geography at the University of Nevada. The Office is in the process of hiring an Assistant State Climatologist who will take over much of the day-to-day responsibilities for the Office. Dr. Jeffrey Underwood will remain in the role of Nevada State Climatologist but will operate in a directory role and spend the majority of his time as a research and teaching professor in the Departments of Geography and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Nevada.

The NVSCO webpage is undergoing a complete overhaul. The new and very much improved website will make its debut in late May 2009.