



United States Department of the Interior



NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pacific West Region
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Box 50165
Room 6-226
Honolulu, Hawaii 96850-0053

IN REPLY REFER TO:

January 22, 2007

Subject: Pacific Island Climate Maps

Oregon State University's PRISM Group (formerly the Spatial Climate Analysis Service; SCAS), in collaboration with the National Park Service (NPS), Inventory and Monitoring Program; is pleased to announce the completion and public release of digital maps products for 1971-2000 mean monthly and annual: minimum and maximum temperature, mean dew point, and total precipitation. These products encompass the following regions:

- Hawaiian Islands (from Niihau in the northwest to Hawaii in the southeast),
- Guam,
- Northern Mariana Islands (Saipan, Tinian, and Rota),
- Palau,
- American Samoa (Tutuila and the Manua Islands), and
- Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae and Pohnpei).

To obtain complete data sets, visit one of the websites listed below (they provide identical versions of these products using different interfaces).

<http://mistral.ocs.orst.edu/www/mapserv/pacisl>

<http://www.ocs.orst.edu/prism/products/pacisl.phtml>

<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/pacn/inventories/climate.cfm>

These products are available without charge. Both the Oregon State University PRISM Group and National Park Service however, have applicable terms of use (disclaimers):

<http://www.ocs.orst.edu/prism/terms.phtml> and <http://www.nps.gov/gis/liability.htm>. Gridded and polygon data, tabular and graphical data retrieved from the map server, and all other data may be freely reproduced and distributed for non-commercial purposes. When referring to the data, the source should be clearly stated, and include at a minimum, name, URL, and date of data creation, for example:

"PRISM Group, Oregon State University and Pacific Island Network, Inventory and Monitoring Program, National Park Service; <http://www.ocs.orst.edu/prism/products/pacisl.phtml>, created 1 Dec. 2006".

The PRISM (Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model, <http://www.ocs.orst.edu/prism/>) climate mapping system was used to generate these products. This mapping system integrates existing climate station data with scientific understanding of general climate processes and local climate features. These climate maps feature a 15-arc second (approximately 450 meter) grid size resolution for the Hawaiian Islands, and 3-sec (approximately 90 meter) grid resolution for all other islands. A reasonable effort has been made to include all islands associated with each island group. However, some islands of small size or very little elevation relief may not be included.

The National Park Service, Inventory and Monitoring Program, Pacific Island Network (<http://science.nature.nps.gov/im/units/pacn/>) provided funding and support for this climate mapping effort. The Pacific Island Network is one of 32 National Park Service Inventory & Monitoring networks of national parks linked by geography and shared natural resource characteristics. The inventory and





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monitoring program's five goals are: 1) Establish natural resource inventory and monitoring as a standard practice throughout the National Park system that transcends traditional program, activity, and funding boundaries; 2) Inventory the natural resources and park ecosystems under National Park Service stewardship to determine their nature and status; 3) Monitor park ecosystems to better understand their dynamic nature and condition and to provide reference points for comparisons with other, altered environments; 4) Integrate natural resource inventory and monitoring information into National Park Service planning, management, and decision making; and 5) Share National Park Service accomplishments and information with other natural resource organizations and form partnerships for attaining common goals and objectives.

If you have additional questions or comments, please contact:

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A sample illustration of mean annual precipitation from Tutuila (American Samoa). Such illustrations along with in-depth analyses can be generated using the climate atlas data and a geographic information system (GIS). Averaging period is 1971-2000. Grid resolution is 3 arc-seconds (~90 m).

