Automated Weather Systems- The User Perspective

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ASOS/AWOS

• Overall, no complaints from members on either system

• No accidents/incidents where ASOS/AWOS have been a casual factor that we’re aware of

• Need to be looking at opportunity where other types of surface observations are available, federal or non federal

• Weather cameras/non certified systems
Weather Cameras

Alaska FAA Weather Camera Program

- Near real-time weather information to pilots
- Sometimes co-located with AWOS units
- Efforts being made to place cameras in mountain passes which lack other observations
Compare current to clear day image
Video Loop provides trend information.
Added value of the camera...

AWOS at the time: **PAIN AP 3 1636Z CLR 10 46 43 00000 998**
Alaska Weather Camera

Benefits:
- Improved weather situational awareness
- Aid pilots in making better decisions
- Fills gaps where no other weather data is available

Limitations:
- Daytime only information

Future:
- Need research to evaluate low-light or thermal sensors
- Consider human factors of data presentation
Low cost technology

- As Alaskan NWS observers (A-PAID) are being replaced, we need to explore options that provide critical access to surface weather

- While understanding that the FAA and NWS are working together on options, regardless of if it is certified or non-certified, any enchantment is a safety plus

- Weather data must be distributed to users via all normal weather delivery modes
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