


Introduction to Weather Modification

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Dr. David J. Delene ([News](#))
([orcid 0000-0002-3733-6021](#))



Research Professor ([University Page](#))

[University of North Dakota](#) ([Directory](#), [Faculty Success](#))

[John D. Odegard School of Aerospace Sciences](#)




[Atmospheric Sciences Department](#) ([Wiki](#), [Gallery](#))


[Clifford Hall](#) 420, [4149 University Avenue](#)

Grand Forks, North Dakota 58202-9006 ([VCard](#))

 Email delene@aero.und.edu ([Public Key](#))

 [Mobile](#) 507-533-5363  Office 701-777-4847 

 Department 701-777-2184  Fax 701-777-5032 

 [Skype](#) User Name: [david.delene](#)

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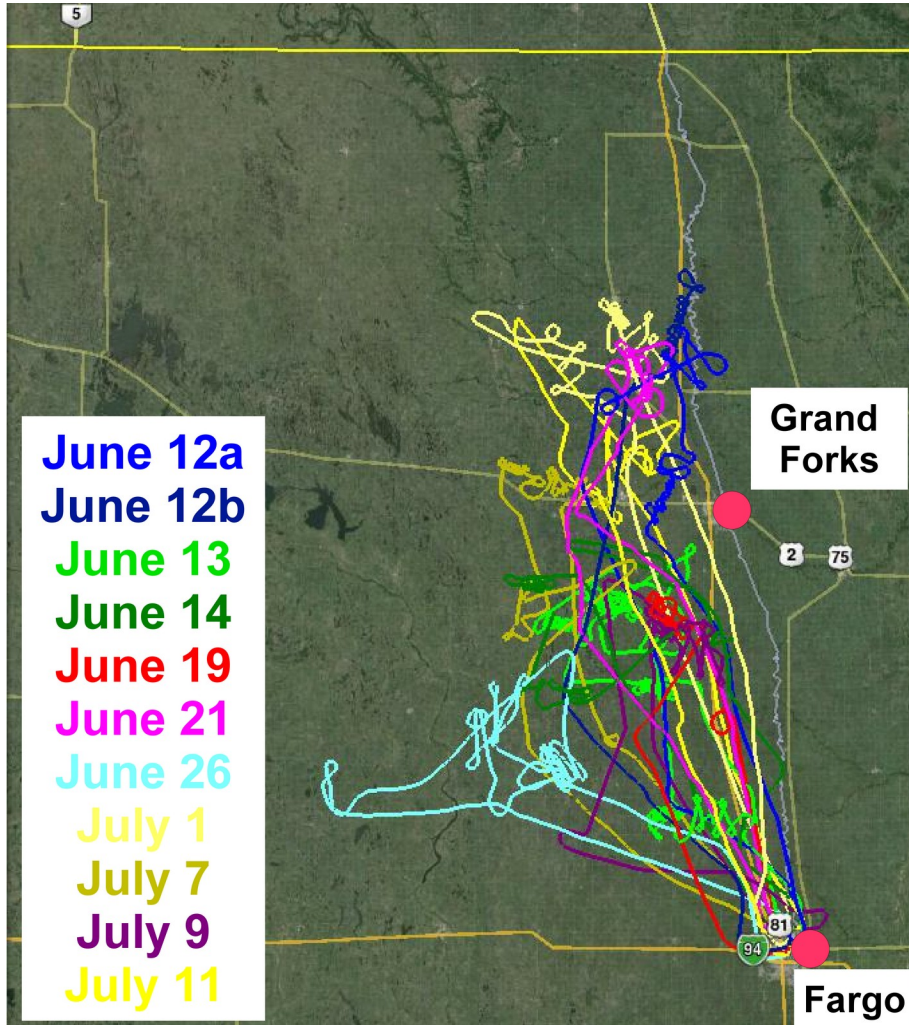
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Dr. David J. Delene, Research Professor

Atmospheric Sciences Department, University of North Dakota

Field Projects and Scientific Publications



THE JOURNAL OF

Weather Modification

VOLUME 44 APRIL 2012 WEATHER MODIFICATION ASSOCIATION



Light at the end of the tunnel – April 2011

Weather Modification Association

*Promoting research, development and understanding of
weather modification for beneficial uses*

Start of Weather Modification Research

- Experiments during World War II built on aircraft icing work at General Electric.
- Aircraft icing experiments directed by Irving Langmuir.
- Additional group involved Vincent Schaefer and Bernard Vonnegut.



Wilson Hunter, the Head of the Icing Research Section is shown demonstrating the dangerous icing of the propellers of a P-39 after a wind tunnel test. General Arnold (left) and George Lewis (far left).

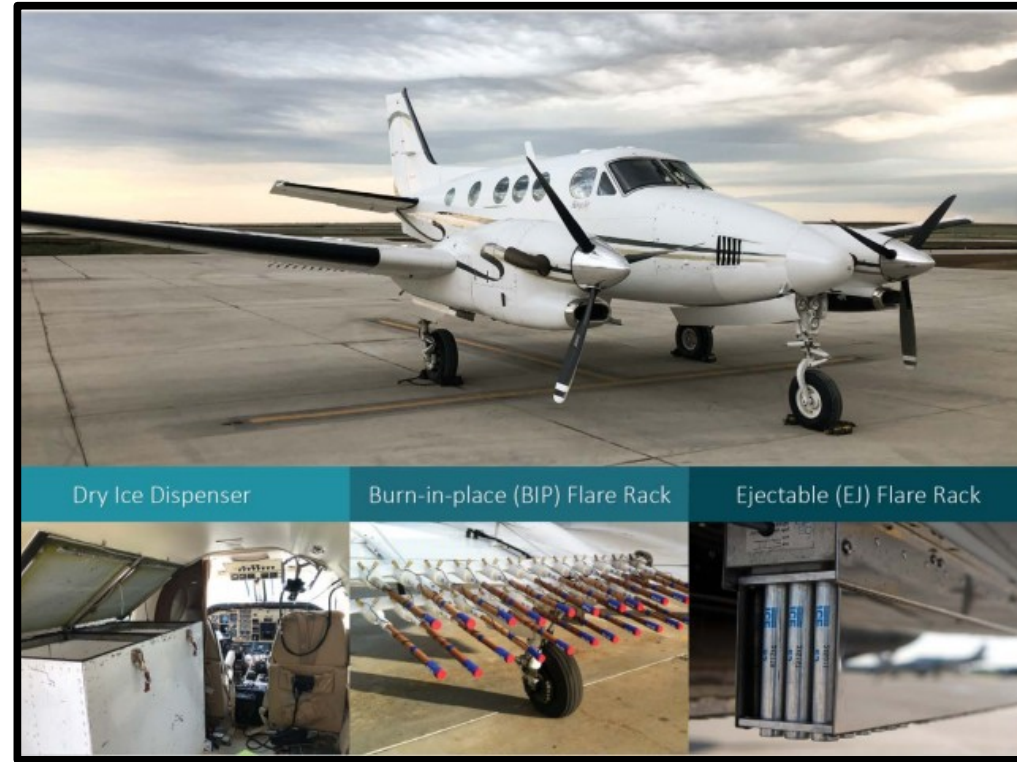
Weather Modification Class Goals

- To learn the theoretical basis for weather modification.
- To learn how cloud weather modification projects are established and conducted
- To learn how to effectively participate in operational programs.



Extent of the Weather Modification

- History of Weather Modification
- Critical Thinking & Legal Aspects
- Environmental Concern
- Sociological Issues
- Economic Impacts
- Unintended Weather Modification
- Statistical Evaluations
- Atmospheric Aerosols
- Atmospheric Water Vapor
- Particle Nucleation
- Droplet Growth
- Ice Crystal Growth



Extent of the Weather Modification

- Basic Clouds and Cloud Formation
- Precipitation Processes
- Cloud Dynamics
- Conceptual Models
- Precipitation Conceptual Models
- Hail Suppression Conceptual Models
- Cloud Modification Project Model
- Seeding Materials, Dry Ice as Seeding Agent
- Seeding Agent Dispersal: Equipment and Methods
- Radar for Weather Modification
- Weather Forecasting and SkewT Basics



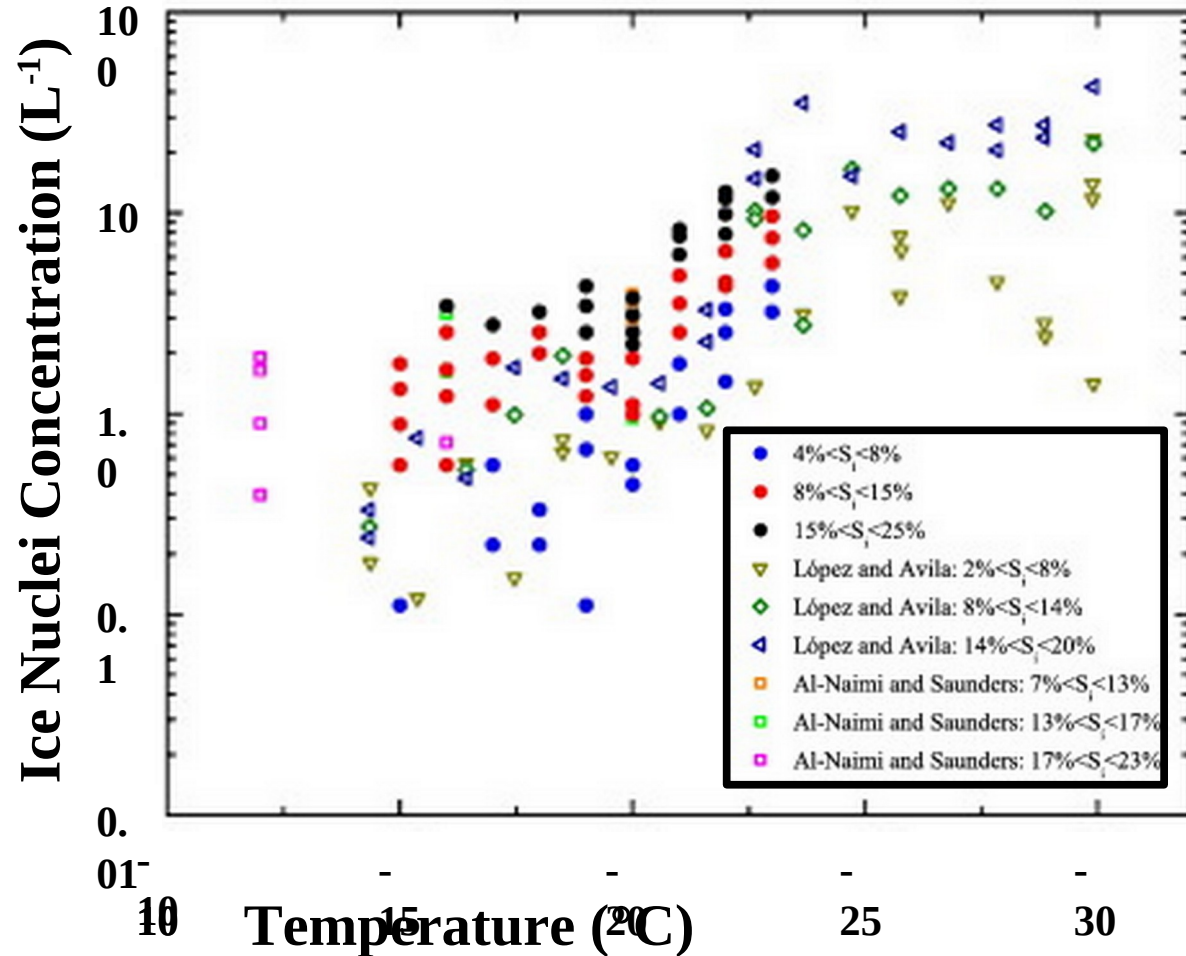
Extent of the Weather Modification

- Record Keeping and iPARS
- Daily Operations
- Opportunity Recognition
- Flight Safety
- North Dakota Cloud Modification Internship Program
- Case Example: Put All Together



Glaciogenic (Silver Iodine) Cloud Seeding

- Effectiveness is often measured by “threshold temperature”.
- Threshold temperature is when 1 in 10,000 produce an ice crystal.
- Different substances have different threshold temperatures ranging from about -5 to -40 °C.
- Silver Iodine (AgI) threshold temperature is -5 °C.



Hygroscopic Cloud Seeding

Condensation from
Vapor

Coagulation of
Aerosols

Mechanical
Generation

Wind Blown Dust
Sea Spray
Volcano
Plant Particles

Coagulation

Rainout
And
Washout

Sedimentation

.002 .01 .1 1 2 10 100

Particle Diameter [μm]

Transient Nuclei or
Aitken Nuclei Range

Accumulation
Range

Mechanically Generated
Aerosol Range

Fine Particles

Coarse Particles

- Few number of large sized atmospheric particles.

Snowfall Enhancement

WINTER CLOUD SEEDING WITH SILVER IODIDE

1
CLOUD
Air flows over the mountain forming a cloud that may contain supercooled liquid water

2
RELEASE
Silver iodide particles are released by an aircraft or ground based generator

3
DISPERSION
Silver iodide particles reach the targeted cloud

4
ICE
The silver iodide forms ice crystals

5
SNOW
The ice crystals grow at the expense of supercooled water and become large enough to fall and create snow

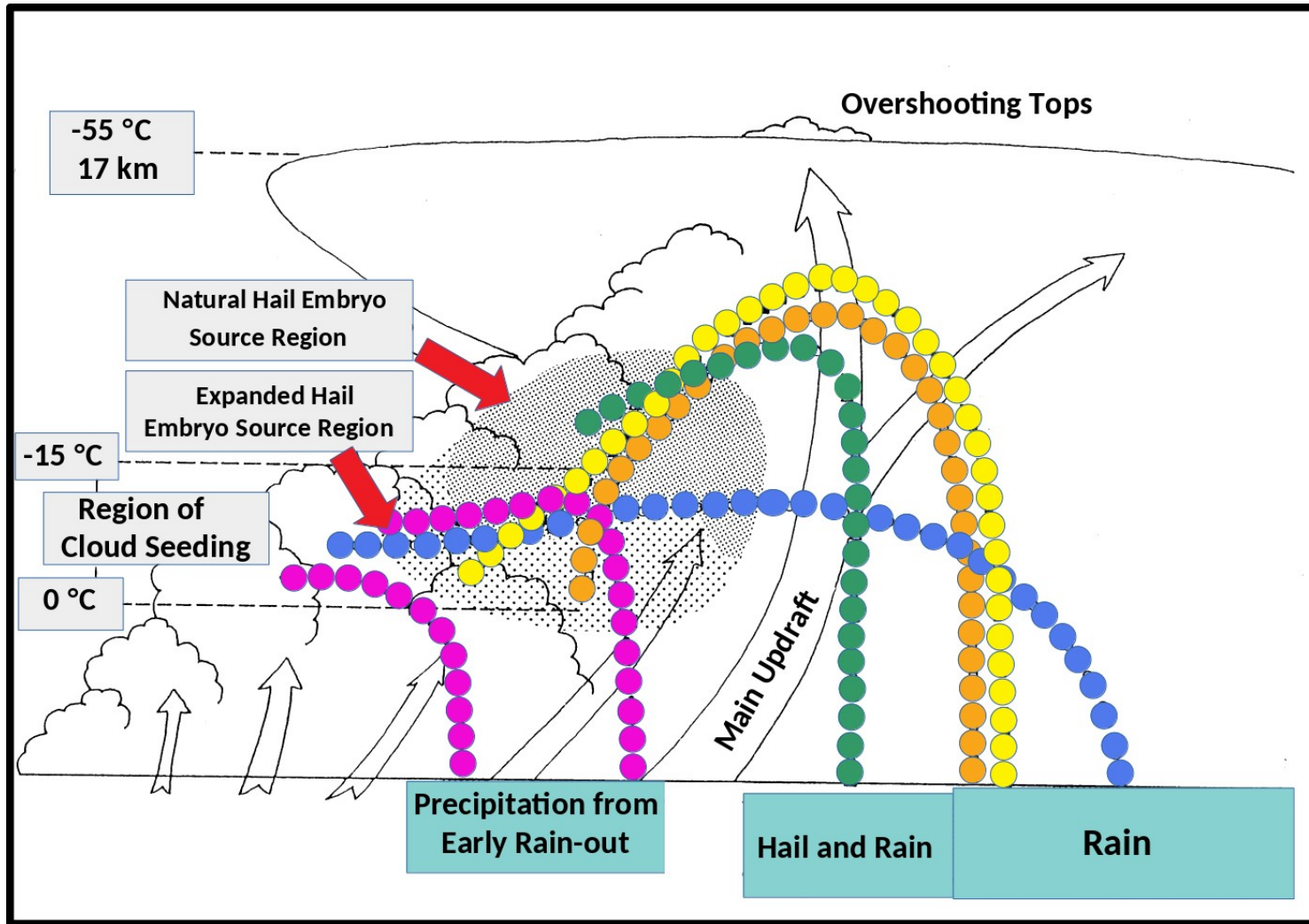
Air Flow

Precipitation Augmentation

- Enhancing the cold rain process through addition of ice particles.
- Enhancing the warm rain process by addition of giant Cloud Condensation Nuclei (CCN).
- Increasing the cloud depth by release of latent heat of fusion.
- Promoting the merger of small clouds into larger clouds through release of latent heat of fusion.



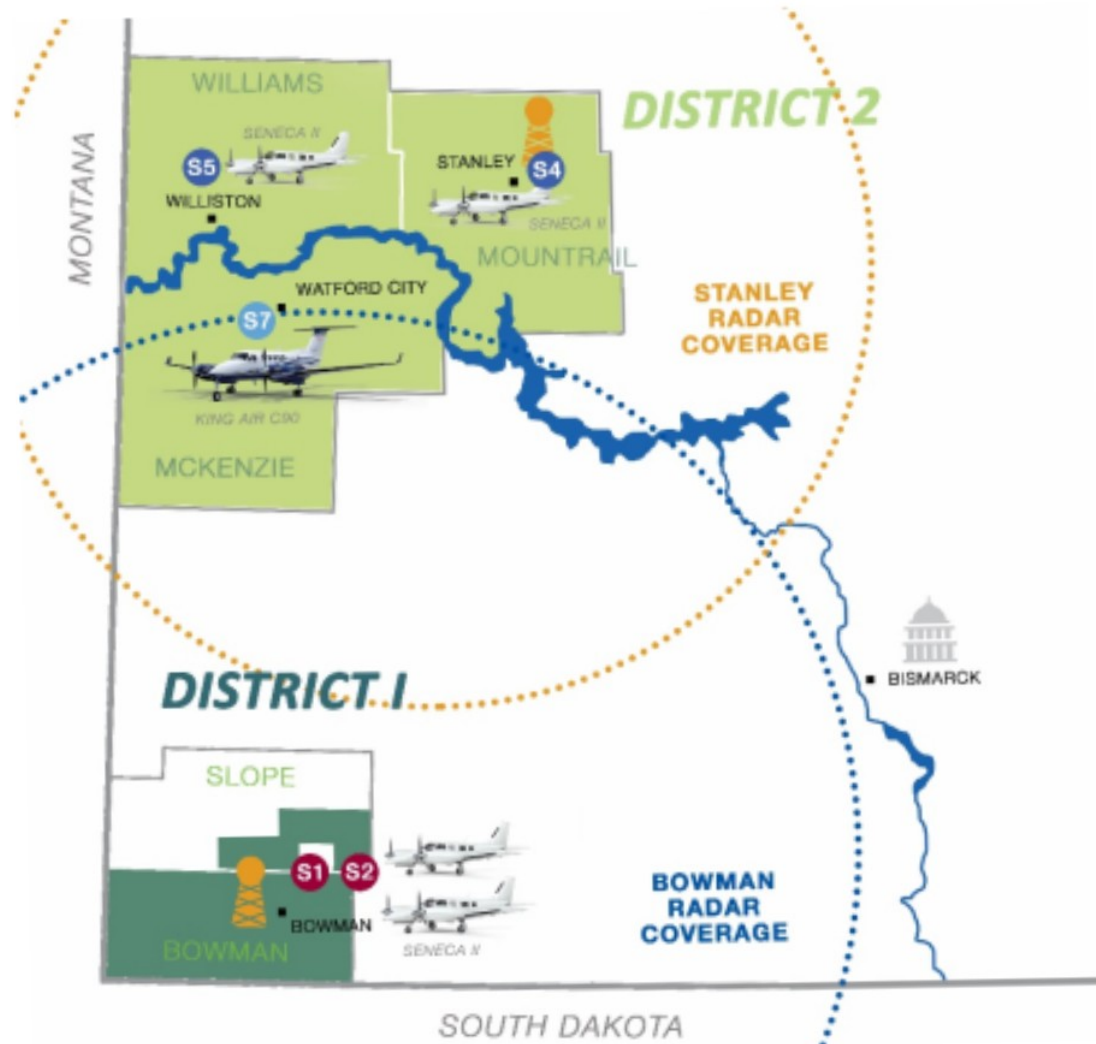
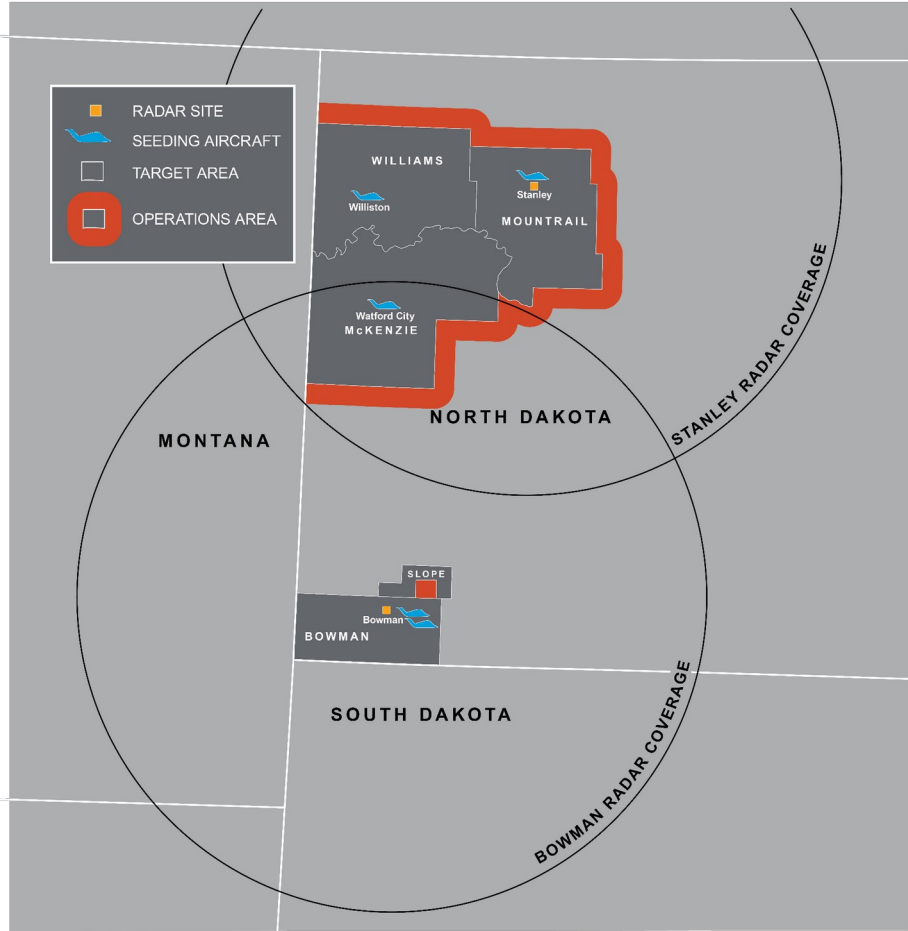
Hail Suppression Conceptual Models



- Natural Hail Trajectory
- Beneficial Competition
- Early Rain-out
- Trajectory Lowering
- Promotion of Coalescence

Current North Dakota Cloud Modification Program

- Program started in 1977.



North Dakota Cloud Modification Program Internship

- Students have the opportunity to be project meteorological interns.
- UND students can obtain co-pilot internships due to our MOU.
- 400+ student pilots have participated in the internship program.



Weather Modification Operational Program

