Fourth National Climate Assessment: 
*Process & Progress on the Public Draft*

David Reidmiller

*Director, National Climate Assessment*

11 October 2017
Roughly a year ago...

### U.S. Global Change Research Program

**Fourth National Climate Assessment**

**Director:** David Nordtvedt  
**2012 - 2015**

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**Moving Forward with NCA4 – What’s New?**

- Planned release in late 2018
- Led by a Federal Working Committee
- Authoring model, developed with NCA4 (as administrative agency), with each chapter having a Federal Coordinating lead author (USA) and other lead or co-lead Chapter Coordinators (U.S. Government offices)
- Sustaining Assessment Framework, and process
- Climate Science Special Report (and others) to provide scientific foundation
- Regional chapters will be given more depth treatment in NCA4

**Chapter Leadership Roles**

- Federal Coordinating lead Authors (USA) coordinate with each other to ensure consistent and complete assessments throughout the assessment and focus one on one with Chapter leads
- CDL serves as “technical integrator”
- Regional Chapter Leads (RCL) are non-federal experts who assist and direct regional assessments and ensure that the context and questions of the assessment (National priorities) provide the foundations for the development of each regional chapter
- RCL serves as “technical integrator”

**How to Contribute to NCA4**

- Interested in being an Author?
  - Chapter teams are still being formed. Please contact Dr. Karr for information on how to participate or get involved.
- Submit Technical Reports
  - Deadline January 31, 2017. Invitations can be submitted at [contributing.globalchange.gov](http://contributing.globalchange.gov)
- Be a Reviewer
  - Look for opportunities to contribute through the Reviewer Network
- Join/Follow NCA4
  - NCA4 participants can find the NCA on a linked address through the USGCRP’s website.

**Roughly a year ago...**

- "To seek the Nation and the world the understanding, assess, predict and respond to the human-induced and natural process of global change."

**Roughly a year ago...**

- USGCRP began as a Presidential Initiative in 1989.
- "We must come to grips with the complexity and global dimensions of human induced and natural processes of change."  
- "To seek the Nation and the world the understanding, assess, predict and respond to the human-induced and natural process of global change."

**National Climate Assessment: GCRA (1990), Section 106**

- A legally mandated and strategic effort to study the climate of the United States.
- "It...is... sought to..."  
- "It...is... sought to..."

**Sustaining Assessments: Topical Reports and Special Assessments**

- Climate Science Special Report (and others)
- Kilimanjaro Report (April 2015)
- Food Security Assessment (January 2015)

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National Climate Assessment (NCA)

GCRA (1990), Section 106:

Not less frequently than every 4 years ... shall prepare and submit to the President and Congress an assessment which:

- Integrates, evaluates, and interprets the findings ... and discusses the scientific uncertainties associated with such findings

- Analyzes the effects of global change on the natural environment, agriculture, energy production and use, land and water resources, transportation, human health and welfare, human social systems, and biological diversity

- Analyzes current trends in global change, both human-induced and natural, and projects major trends for the subsequent 25 to 100 years.
NCA4: A two-volume effort

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NCA4 Vol. I: Climate Science Special Report

• Scheduled for final release in early November
• Underwent six rounds of review, including by the public and an expert panel of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
• Provides an updated, detailed analysis of the findings of how climate change is affecting the weather and climate across the United States
  • Written for those with strong technical awareness
  • Executive summary written for the informed public
• Provides foundational information and projections for climate change, including extremes, to improve end-to-end consistency in sectoral, regional, and resilience analyses for NCA4 Volume II
  • Risk-based framing when possible
  • Provide scenarios and datasets for use in impacts analyses
NCA4 Vol. II: *Climate Change Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the U.S.*

- Analyzes the effects of global change, described in NCA4 Vol. I (*Climate Science Special Report*), on sectors and regions of the United States
- Policy relevant, but not policy prescriptive

**NCA4 Vol. II:**

- Is a technical, scientific assessment of climate change-related impacts, risks, and adaptation
- Assesses a range of potential impacts, helping decision makers better identify risks that could be avoided or reduced
- Places a strong emphasis on regional information
- Uses case studies to provide additional context and opportunities to showcase community success stories
**Processes and guidance developed by the Steering Committee**

**Chapter leadership recruited**

**Full Chapter Author teams named**

**Author teams scoped, interviewed, and assigned to chapter outlines**

**Feb-Mar:** Engagement activities and author team teleconferences

**Apr:** Author meeting

**Jan-Jun:** Drafting and public engagement

**Jun-Aug:** NOAA, TSU review of First Order Draft and author response

**Aug-Oct:** Interagency review of Second Order Draft and author response

**Nov-Mar 2018:** Public comment period and National Academies review of Third Order Draft and author response

**Mar:** Author meeting

**Apr-May:** Interagency review of Fourth Order Draft and author response

**Jun-Aug:** Final interagency reviews of Fifth Order Draft

**Sep-Dec:** Layout and production of Final Report

**Dec+:** Release and public engagement

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**Schedule is subject to change**

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**U.S. Global Change Research Program**
NCA4 Vol. II: Public engagement

• Public feedback on the draft prospectus helped shape overall content and direction of NCA4

• A call for author nominations helped ensure a range of expertise was included in the writing process

• Technical inputs were solicited through a public call, giving individuals an opportunity to include relevant literature (peer reviewed and grey)

• A series of Regional Engagement Workshops and sector-specific webinars reached more than 1000 stakeholders, ensuring more relevant, useable chapter content

• A call for Review Editors provides an important layer of external, independent validation that authors responded to external comments

➢ In Fall 2017, stakeholders will have an opportunity to provide public comment on the Third Order Draft of NCA4
COMING SOON: Public Comment

- Scheduled to begin in **early November** and run **through January**
- Visit [https://review.globalchange.gov/](https://review.globalchange.gov/)
- Authors are **required to provide a written response** to every submitted comment
  - Chapter-specific Review Editors to serve as quality control
Thank you!

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(202) 419-3470

www.globalchange.gov/nca4