

Climate Adaptation Science and Policy in the Biden-Harris Administration

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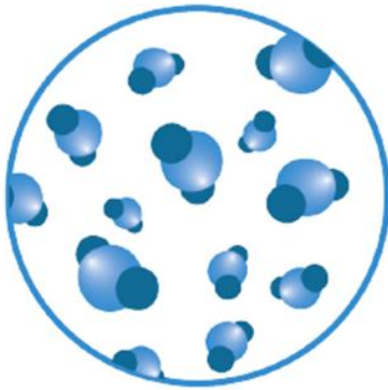
Office of Science and
Technology Policy



Photo credit: Lloyd Whitman

RAPID CHANGES TO EARTH'S CLIMATE

CO₂
concentration



Highest
in at least
2 million years

Sea level
rise



Fastest rates
in at least
3000 years

Arctic sea ice
area



Lowest level
in at least
1000 years

Glaciers
retreat



Unprecedented
in at least
2000 years

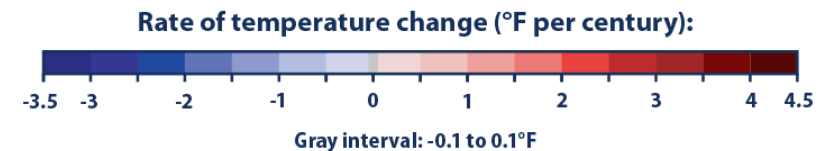
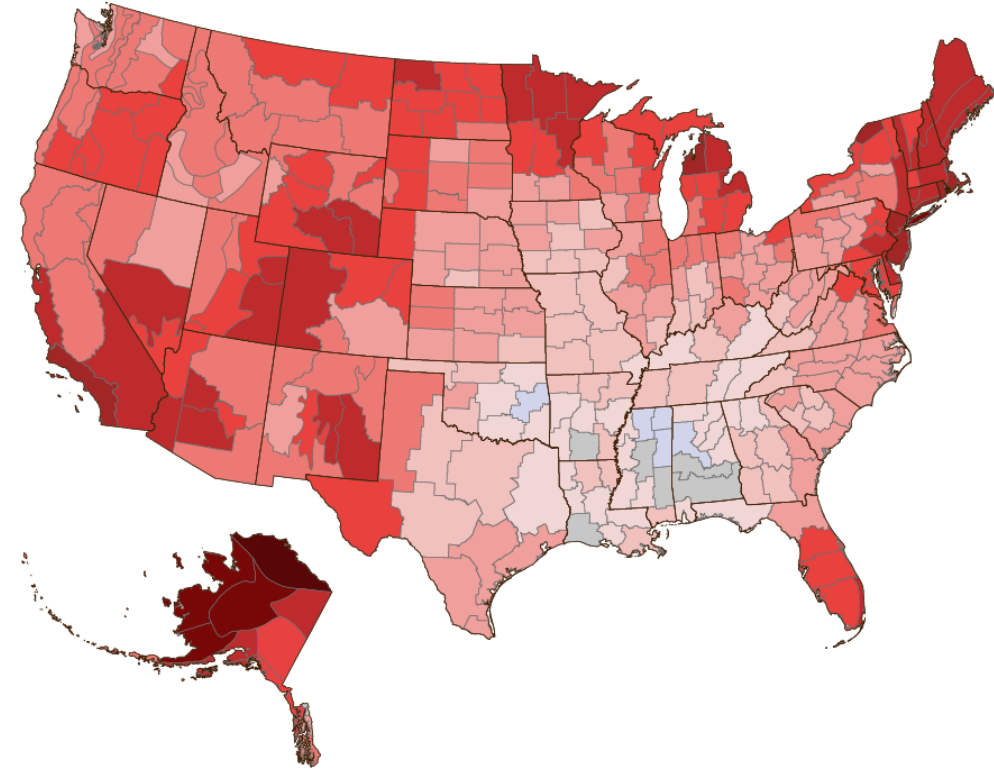


IPCC, 2021

A CHANGING CLIMATE AFFECTS US ALL

- Temperatures are rising across the United States.
- Heat waves have become more frequent, and cold waves have become less frequent.
- Annual average temperatures will continue to rise.

Rate of Temperature Change in the United States, 1901–2020



THE CHOICES WE MAKE NOW MATTER

- **Mitigation:** reducing emissions of greenhouse gases (or removing carbon dioxide from the atmosphere)
- **Adaptation:** reducing risks from today's changed climate and preparing for future impacts
- Future impacts and risks from climate change are directly tied to decisions made in the present



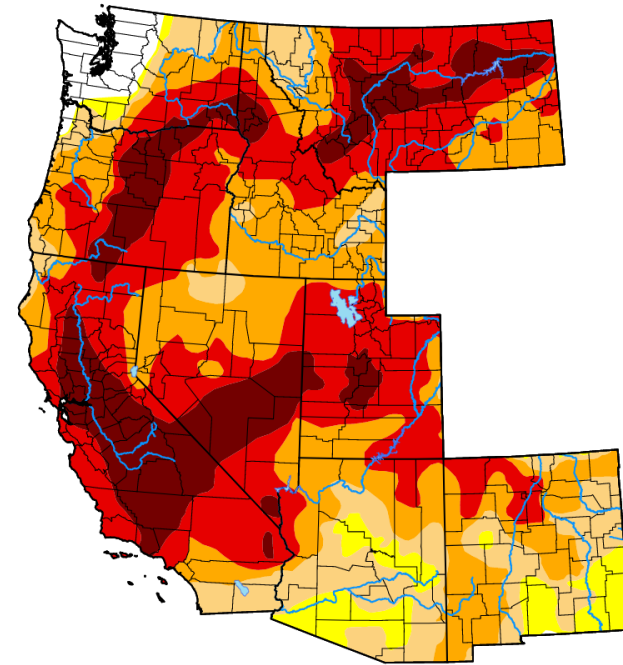
FEDERAL ADAPTATION LANDSCAPE

- Integrating resilience into Federal agency efforts
- Providing funding/incentives
- Addressing current and emerging climate-related hazards
- Advancing usable science to inform adaptation decisions



TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS

- Executive Order 14008
 - Ambitious actions to reduce emissions and enhance resilience
 - <https://www.whitehouse.gov/climate/>



Drought conditions Nov. 19, 2021 from U.S. Drought Monitor

ENHANCING ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

- Increasing the resilience of Federal agency facilities, procurement, and acquisitions through climate action plans (under EO 14008); agency plans released in October 2021

<https://www.sustainability.gov/adaptation/>

- Major investments in resilience through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act
- Integrating resilience as a focus for the WH environmental justice; advancing Justice40



ADDRESSING CURRENT AND EMERGING HAZARDS

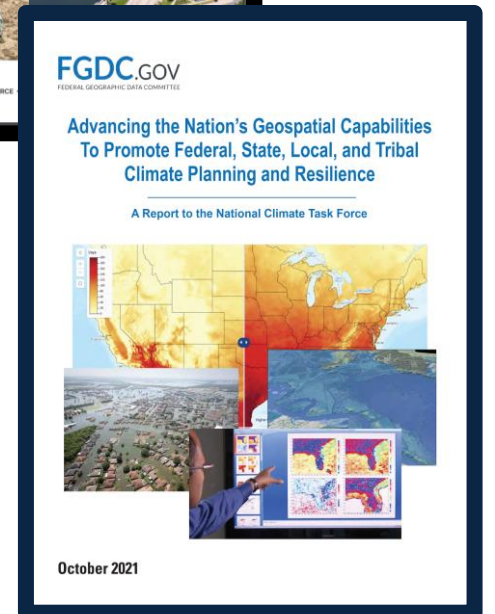
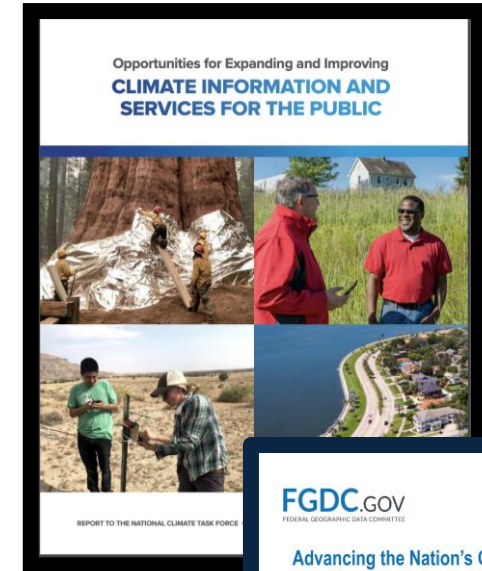
National Climate Task Force Working Groups:

- Wildfire Resilience
- Coastal Resilience
- Extreme Heat Resilience
- Drought Resilience
- Flood Resilience



ADVANCING ACTIONABLE CLIMATE INFORMATION

- OSTP, NOAA, and FEMA report on climate information and services
- Federal Geographic Data Committee report on geospatial data and mapping tools



ADVANCING ACTIONABLE CLIMATE INFORMATION

- Founded by law in 1990, USGCRP is a consortium of 13 Federal agencies mandated to advance understanding, assessment, prediction, and response to global change
 - Coordinates research
 - Informs decisions
 - Oversees the National Climate Assessment
 - Supports international efforts
 - U.S. participation in international assessments (e.g. IPCC, Arctic Council)
 - International secretariats (Future Earth, START, WCRP)



PRIORITIES FOR FIFTH NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT (NCA5)

- Advance the Conversation
- Make it Accessible to a Broad Audience
- Be Creative in Communication
- Make it About People
- Ensure it is Useful and Usable

Importantly, ensure that the NCA is inclusive and representative in participation and engagement.



NCA5 UPDATE

- Public comment on the Draft Prospectus
- Call for author nominations and technical inputs
- Chapter leadership selection
- Author team selection
- Development of Zero Order Drafts
- Public engagement – just completed 34 workshops; thousands of people participated
- Ongoing call for technical inputs: <https://www.globalchange.gov/nca5>



For updates, sign up for the [USGCRP newsletter](#) and follow us on Twitter @usgcrp



LOOKING TO A RESILIENT FUTURE

- Ensuring that Federal Government programs and investments are resilient to climate change
- Adaptive management of natural resources
- Enhancing the climate resilience of infrastructure
- Ensuring that Americans have access to usable climate science information
- Taking action to reduce emissions, to limit what we need to adapt to



Thank you!

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