

Sustained Assessment in the US Southwest

Benét Duncan
CSTPR Noontime Seminar
October 18, 2017



Alex Proimos, Wikimedia Commons



Pedro Ramirez, Jr., USFWS



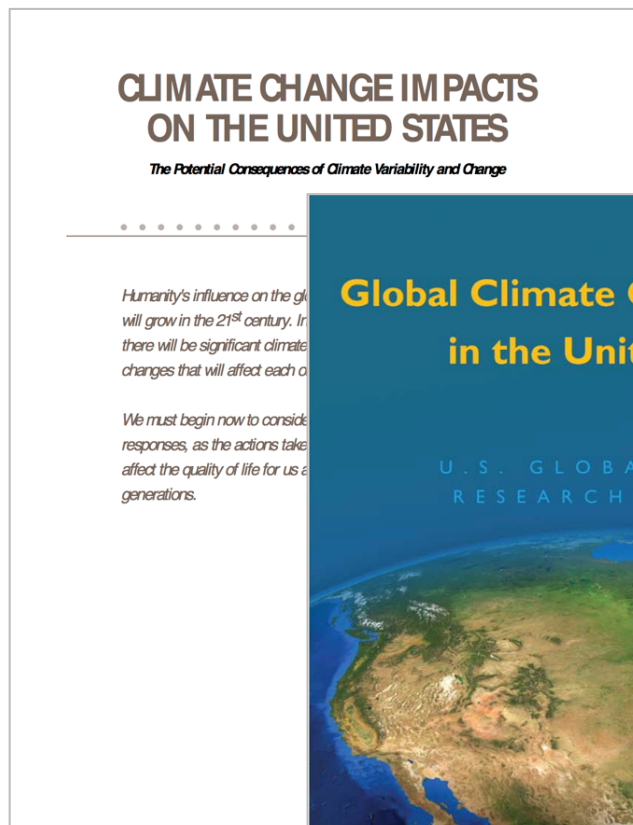
Scott Bauer, USDA ARS



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Sustained Assessment: A brief history

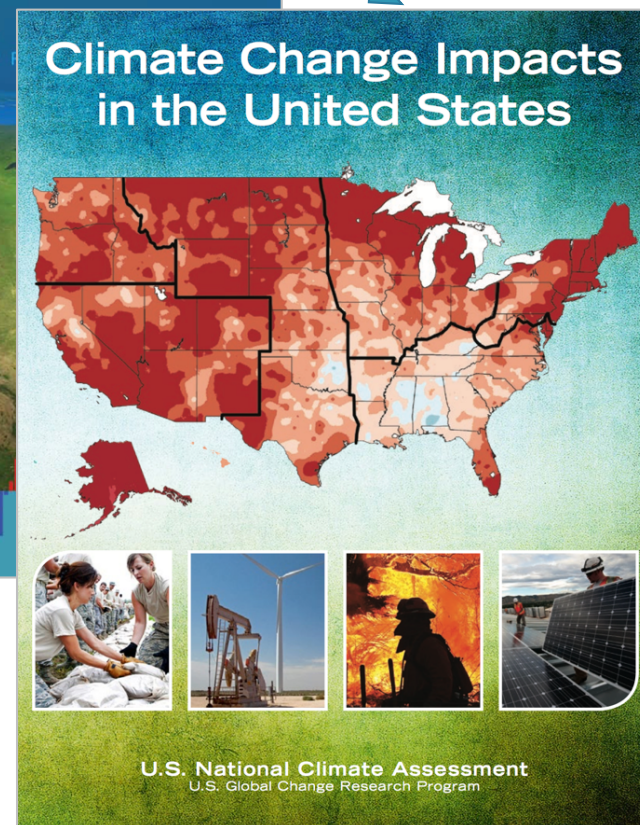
*The National
Climate
Assessment
(NCA):
foundational
information but
very resource
intensive
+
Mandated by law*



NCA1 (2000)



NCA2 (2009)



NCA3 (2013)

Sustained Assessment: A brief history

NCA1: 6 years to produce the 1st US National Climate Assessment



Sustained Assessment: A brief history

NCA2: 9(!!) years to produce the 2nd US National Climate Assessment

USGCRP
identified 5
research goals
for NCA2



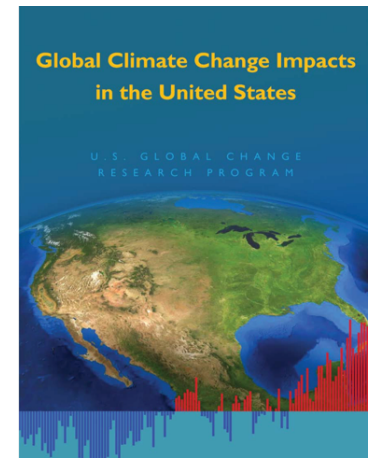
Experts
produced 21
Synthesis &
Assessment
Products
grouped under
strategic goals



2007 lawsuit:
SAPs don't
provide a
comprehensive
national
evaluation of
impacts



Synthesis NCA
report
developed by
31-member
committee &
released in 2009



Sustained Assessment: A brief history

NCA3: 3 years to produce the 3rd US National Climate Assessment

Third National Climate Assessment Report Process

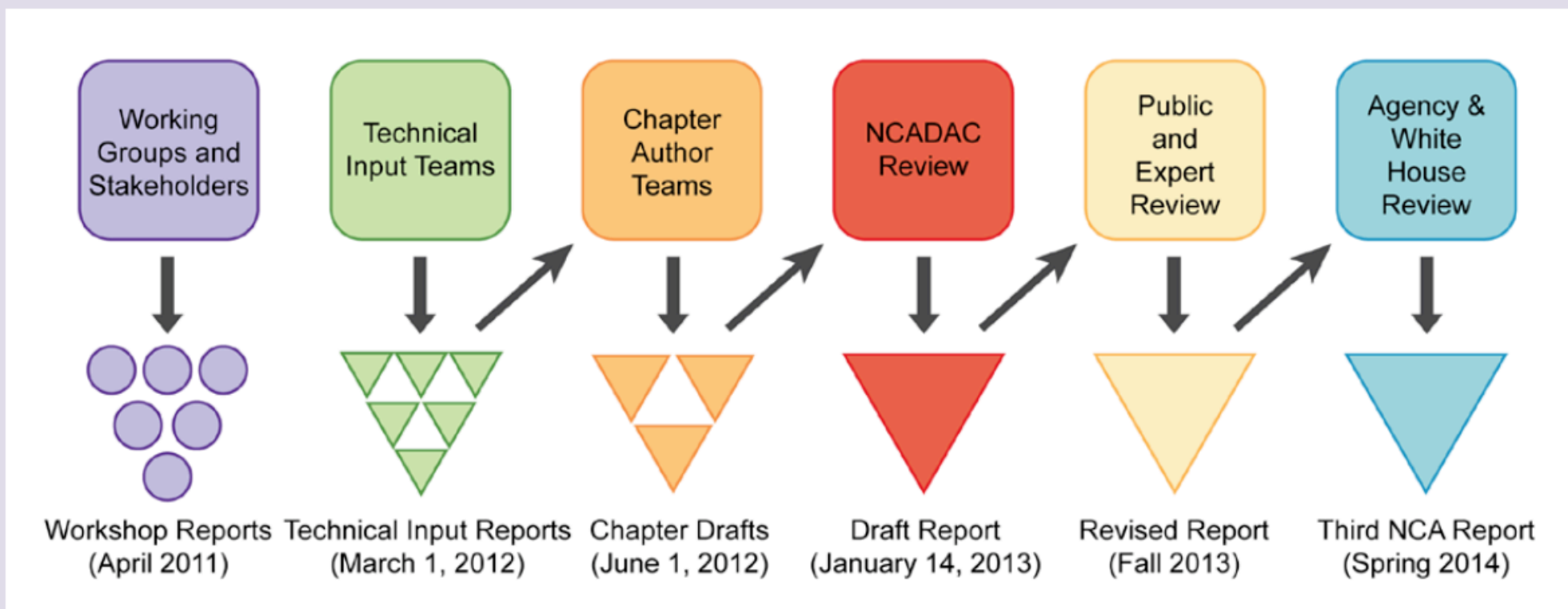


Figure 2. This graphic illustrates the activities and products that were developed during the Third NCA report development process.

Sustained Assessment: A brief history

NCA3: Challenges & recommendations for sustained assessment

Challenges of the NCA:

- A burden for authors
- Scale of information
- Timeliness
- Engagement

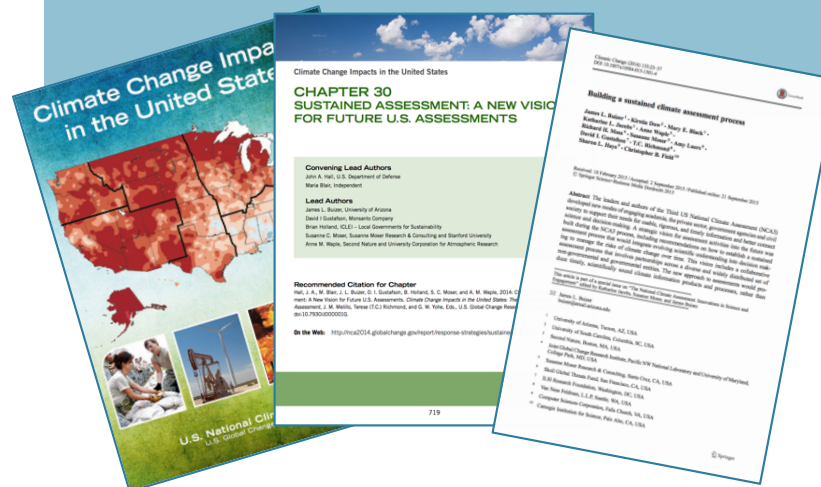
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NCA3: Challenges & recommendations for sustained assessment

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What is Sustained Assessment?
An ongoing process of engagement and collaboration



Sustained Assessment: A brief history

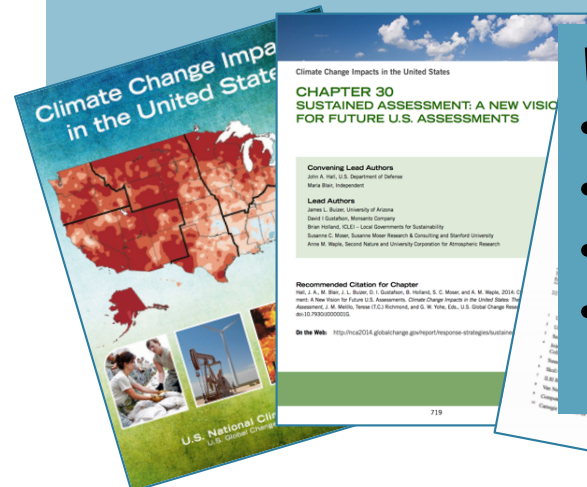
NCA3: Challenges & recommendations for sustained assessment

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An ongoing process of
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What can it do to help?

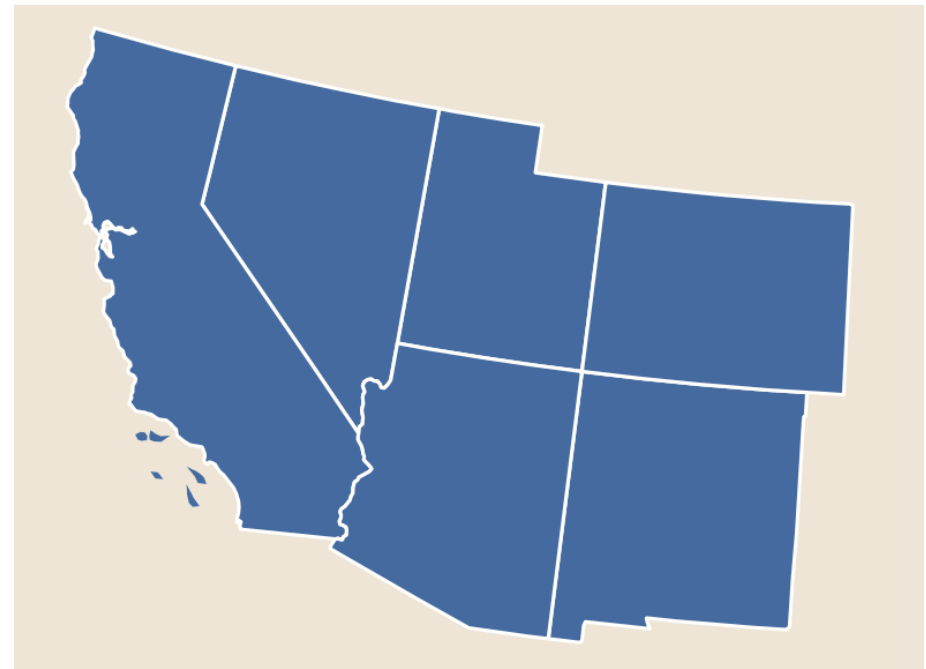
- Leverage existing work
- Increase efficiency
- Build a network
- Foundation of useful knowledge

Sustained Assessment in the Southwest

Goals of this project

Develop recommendations for a sustained assessment process in the southwest that:

- Harnesses existing knowledge & capacity
- Grows & strengthens relationships
- Builds a regional sustained assessment network
- Better meets regional information needs
- Complements work for the NCA



Sustained Assessment in the Southwest

The game plan:

Lay the
Groundwork

- Define project: goals & plan
- Narrow scope: identify sectors
- Develop hypothesis: what is a useful assessment?
- Identify climate service providers

Sustained Assessment in the Southwest

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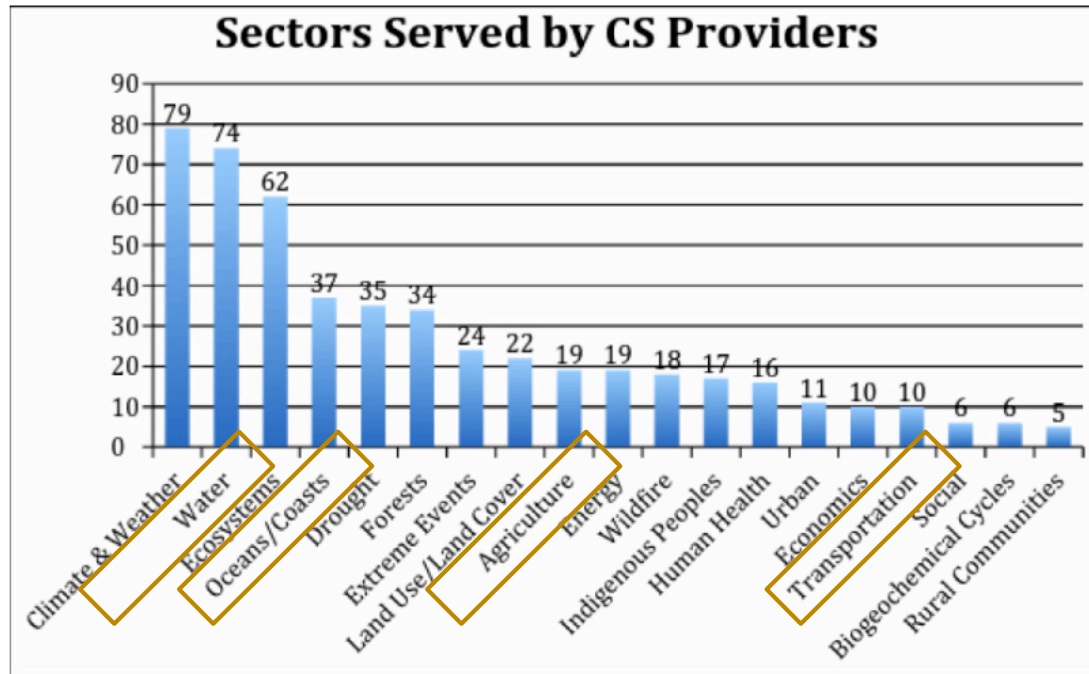


Figure 4. Sectors Served by Providers (From Meadow et al, 2016)

NOAA WESTERN REGION

CLIMATE SERVICE PROVIDERS DATABASE DEVELOPMENT AND PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

Alison Meadow
Elizabeth McNie
John Berggren
Rachel Norton

Ben McMahan
Gigi Owen
Lynn Rae



Sustained Assessment in the Southwest

The game plan:

Lay the Groundwork

- Define project: goals & plan
- Narrow scope: identify sectors
- **Develop hypothesis: what is a useful assessment?**
- Identify climate service providers

Hypothesized characteristics of a “useful” climate assessment:

1. Guided by needs of information users
2. Co-produced
3. Usable, timely, and relevant products and outcomes
4. Financial and institutional support

Sustained Assessment in the Southwest

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NOAA Western Region Climate Service Providers Database

Looking for expert assistance on climate issues but unsure where to start? The Climate Services Provider Database is a directory of climate service providers in the Western U.S. You can search the site for the type of information or service you're seeking, such as workshops, decision support tools, vulnerability assessments, training and education, etc. You can also search by geographic area or sector served to find which provider(s) serve that area. Once you find a match, please visit the provider's website or contact them directly for more information.

INSTRUCTIONS: Select one or more search types and the desired criteria for each. Click on the maps to limit the search to the selected states. The results will automatically update as the criteria are changed. Click on the organization titles in the resulting list to see more details about each entry. For more information about how the search works, click [?](#).

Search Options [?](#)

- sectors served:**
- | | | | | |
|---|---|--|---|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> climate & weather | <input type="checkbox"/> drought | <input type="checkbox"/> economics | <input type="checkbox"/> ecosystems |
| <input type="checkbox"/> forests | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> oceans/coasts | <input type="checkbox"/> land use/land cover | <input type="checkbox"/> energy | <input type="checkbox"/> urban |
| <input type="checkbox"/> extreme events | <input type="checkbox"/> indigenous peoples | <input type="checkbox"/> human health | <input type="checkbox"/> other | <input type="checkbox"/> rural communities |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> water | <input type="checkbox"/> wildfire | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> transportation | <input type="checkbox"/> social vulnerability | <input type="checkbox"/> biogeochemical cycles |

provider types: 0 criteria selected [review options ...](#) [select all provider types](#) [unselect all provider types](#)

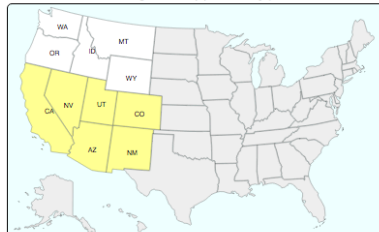
scales served: 0 criteria selected [review options ...](#) [select all scales](#) [unselect all scales](#)

services provided: 0 criteria selected [review options ...](#) [select all services](#) [unselect all services](#)

stakeholders: 0 criteria selected [review options ...](#) [select all stakeholders](#) [unselect all stakeholders](#)

states:

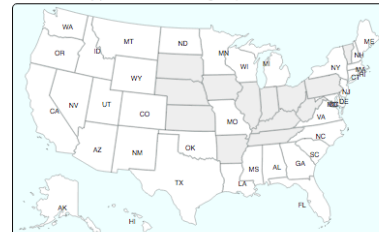
Western Region state(s) served by providers:



[select region](#)

[clear selections](#)

State(s) where Western Region providers are based:



[select all](#)

[clear selections](#)

Search Results

80 providers match the search criteria:

Sustained Assessment in the Southwest

The game plan:

Lay the Groundwork

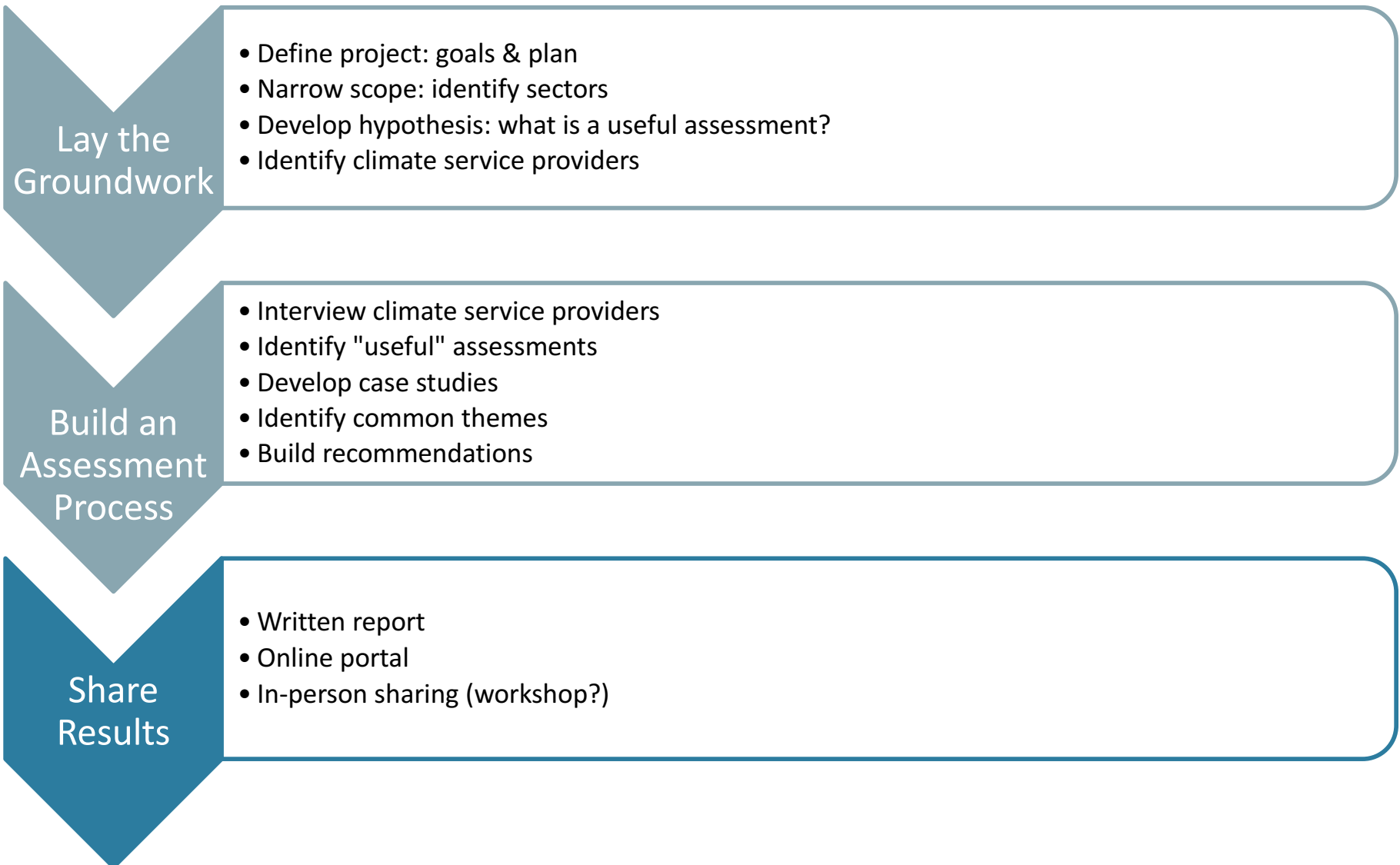
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Build an Assessment Process

- Interview climate service providers
- Identify "useful" assessments
- **Develop case studies**
- Identify common themes
- Build recommendations

Sustained Assessment in the Southwest

The game plan:

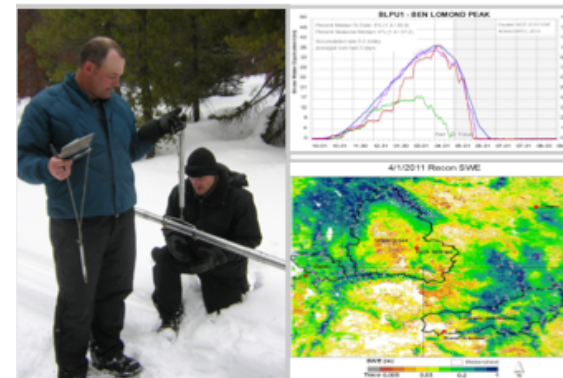
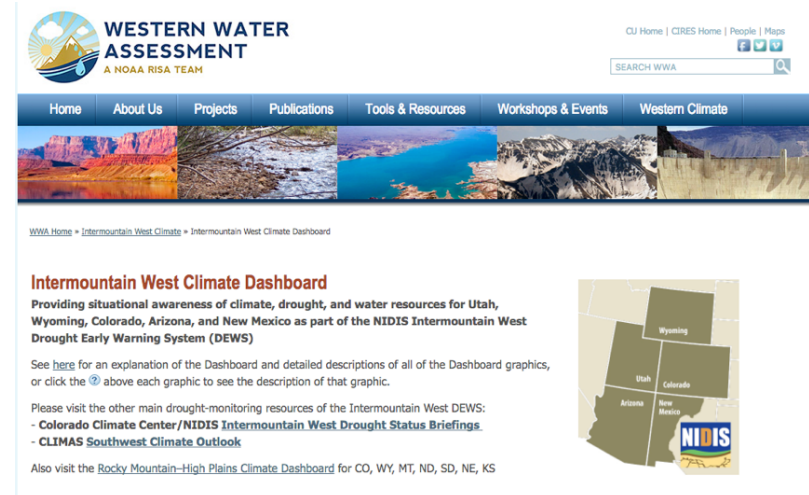
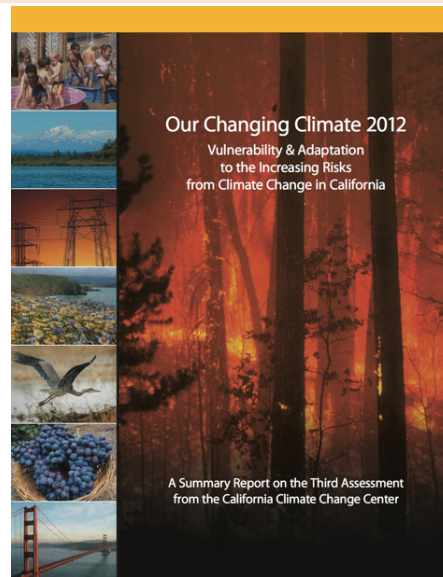
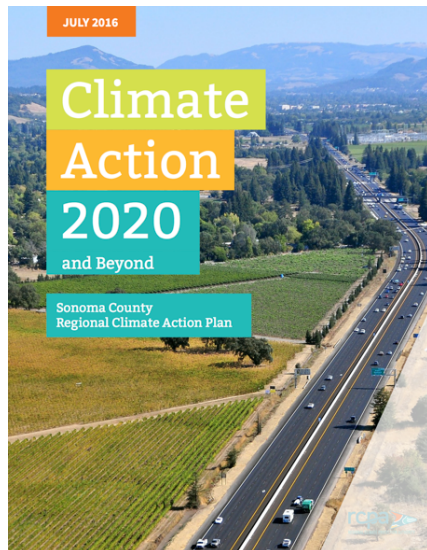


Key Challenges

Challenge 1:

What *is* a sustained assessment?

Does it need to focus on assessments in the traditional sense?



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Challenge 2:

Range of expectations for inputs and expected uses for outcomes

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Challenge 3:

Selecting and evaluating case studies

Key Challenges

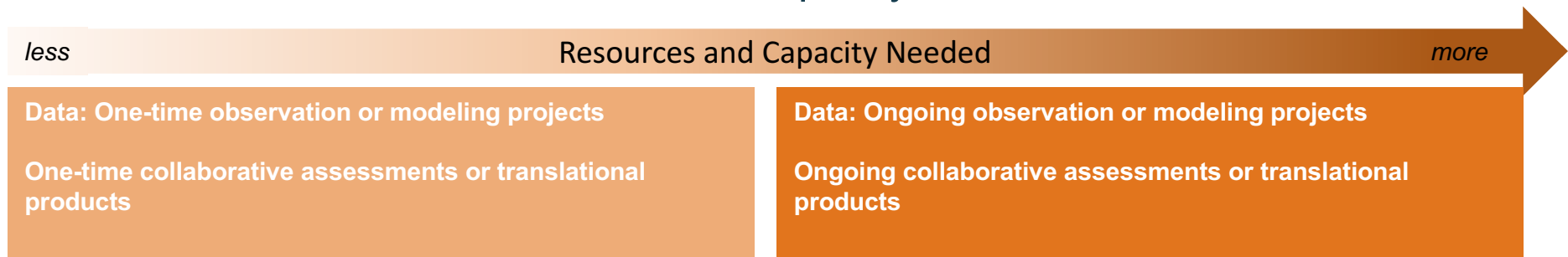
Challenge 3:

Selecting and evaluating case studies

Key Challenges

Challenge 3: selecting & evaluating case studies

Potential selection criteria: resources & capacity needed



Other potential selection criteria:

- Spatial scale of decision making
- Provider type
- Degree of synthesis
- Target audience: other researchers, intermediaries, end users
- Access to information produced

Summary

- Traditional assessments have some challenges
- Sustained assessment can help address those challenges

BUT

like everything with assessment, it's complicated!

Thank you!

Suggestions? Thoughts?
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