



National Nature Assessment

DOE BER Advisory Committee

April 20, 2023





National Nature Assessment

Nature is critical to our economy and our lives.

U.S. Global Change Research Program was charged in a 2022 Earth Day Executive Order to conduct the first-ever National Nature Assessment by 2026



Framing the First NNA

- Use-inspired assessment
- Definition of nature
- Relevant knowledge



Credit: Marsh and Coneflower USFWS,
Tree lined street, simonrumi, Kite NPS/Janice Wei

The National Nature Assessment

SCOPE

Assess the status, observed trends, and future projections of U.S. lands, waters, wildlife, biodiversity and ecosystems and the benefits they provide, including connections to the economy, public health, equity, climate mitigation and adaptation, and national security.

PRINCIPLES

- Authoritative, credible, timely, and concise
- Compliant with relevant laws and policies
- Policy relevant but not policy prescriptive
- Transparent, accurate and reproducible with well-documented methods
- Inclusive
- Use- inspired
- Accessible to the widest possible audience

Credit: USFS/ R. Lehman

Developing an Assessment Approach

What process will we use to create a National Nature Assessment that follows the principles of a use-inspired, inclusive assessment?



Collaboration

- Request for information
 - Request for Information closed March 31
 - Tribal Consultation through May 13
- More opportunities to come



Credit: Marsh and Coneflower USFWS,
Tree lined street, simonrumi, Kite NPS/Janice Wei

Public Collaboration & Tribal Consultation

- 8 Public collaboration sessions, + 10 planned (5 in-person)
- 3 Tribal Consultation sessions (2 in-person)

Examples of Venues for Communication & Engagement

- Ecological Society of America
- North America Congress on Conservation Biology
- American Society of Civil Engineers
- Alaska Forum on the Environment
- A Community of Ecosystem Services
- G20 Global Land Initiative
- GreenBiz Verge 22
- Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History
- Oklahoma State University

Credit: NPS/ Jacob W. Frank

Subset of Recommendations from Public Comment

- Follow a co-production approach across all assessment phases
- Engage users through trusted networks
- Use a variety of engagement methods
- Honor Indigenous Knowledge and rights
- Reflect lived experiences



Credit: NPS/ Jacob W. Frank

Proposed Method Selection & Analysis Phase

Assessment & Bridging Knowledge Approach

- Create multiple roles for Federal and non-Federal contributors to produce the NNA together
- Support all contributors to work together to agree on methods, conduct analyses, and create products.
- Provide guidance and training on respectful collaboration across knowledge systems.
- Ensure free, prior and informed consent for any information gathered from Indigenous Knowledge holders or local communities.
- Engage with the public and Tribal nations beyond the group of contributors, seeking opinions and input on a draft(s) of the National Nature Assessment products.
- Following USGCRP policies and relevant laws, the Federal Steering Committee and USGCRP leadership will retain the authority to make final decisions on the analyses conducted.

Next Steps

- Iterate based on Federal feedback, public comment and Tribal input
- Draft Prospectus, including the assessment approach, this summer



Road Ahead

- Expect prospectus for public comment in July – August 2023
- Look forward to continued engagement!
- For more information, reach out to Phil Levin (plevin@usgcrp.gov)

Credit: NPS/ Jacob W. Frank

Thank You



Credit: NOAA