

Instructions for Peer Review of U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP) Synthesis and  
Assessment Product (SAP) 4.2 Thresholds of Climate Change on Ecosystems  
Jan 3, 2008

Thank you for agreeing to participate in the review of CCSP SAP 4.2 Thresholds of Climate Change on Ecosystems. Your review of the document is very much appreciated and vital to ensure the quality of the final report.

**A. The Review**

We ask that you use the following questions as a guide in your review:

- Are the scope and intent of the synthesis and assessment product clearly described in the report? Are all aspects of this charge fully addressed? Do the authors go beyond this charge or their expertise?
- Are the conclusions and recommendations adequately supported by evidence, analysis, and argument?
- Are uncertainties or incompleteness in the evidence explicitly recognized?
- Are the data and analyses handled completely?
- Are the report's exposition and organization effective?
- Is the report fair and appropriately balanced? Is the tone impartial and devoid of special pleading?
- Are any of the report's findings based on value judgments or the collective opinions of the authors? If so, is this acknowledged, and are scientifically defensible reasons given for reaching those judgments?
- Does the executive summary concisely and accurately describe the key findings and recommendations? Is it consistent with the other sections of the report?
- What other significant improvements, if any, might be made in the report?

Note that the peer review draft has gone through an initial copy edit, but not a more detailed layout edit. As such you may find some typos, grammatical errors and graphics that need higher resolution. Please do not focus on these errors during your review as they will be cleaned up by USGS technical editors in the next draft. Instead, please focus on the science and conclusions in the report as they relate to the questions above and the specifics you deem worthy of note. In addition to pointing out what you think is wrong with this SAP, the authors would greatly benefit from hearing from you on points you think they got right! And of course any additions to the document to clarify points will be greatly appreciated.

Please prepare your review using word processing software such as Microsoft Word. The document will be made available to you electronically as well as a hard copy Fedexed to you. As a reminder, the complete set of expert reviews will be made publicly available. However, individual comments will not be attributed to individual reviewers. In addition, reviewers will be identified for the document as a whole, not by chapter.

## **B. Additional items:**

1) Because your identity and credentials as a reviewer will be made publicly available, we ask that you prepare a short biographical paragraph citing the credentials qualifying you as a reviewer of this report; this will ensure that the paragraph appears according to your preferences. An example biographical paragraph is included below for your reference. You may include your bio when you submit your COI/CV or you may include it with your completed review.

### **Sample Bio**

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Dr. Doe received his B.A. degree in Physics and Mathematics from Luther College in 1968 and his Ph.D. in Solid State Physics from the State University in 1973. He is Professor of Atmospheric Science in the Department of Geological and Atmospheric Sciences and Professor of Agricultural Meteorology in the Department of Agronomy at State University. His research involves regional climate modeling with emphasis on plant-soil-atmosphere interactions. He has approximately 150 publications and conference presentations relating to atmospheric modeling and measurements at the regional and micro-scale. He is co-director of the Project to Intercompare Model Simulations (PIMS), an international consortium of modelers seeking to advance the quality of regional modeling, and chair of the Working Group of the Water Modelers Panel of the International Climate Research Organization, which promotes regional climate modeling for the purpose of better understanding water and energy cycles.