

**National Nature
Assessment
RFI: Framing the
National Nature
Assessment
OSTP/USGCRP**

ECOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AMERICA

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Notices**

OFFICE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY

AGENCY: Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP).

ACTION: Notice of REQUEST FOR INFORMATION.

**DATES: Responses are due by March 31, 2023. Responses will be
considered throughout the comment period, as they are received.**

ESA Action Team

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Public Affairs Office

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Public Affairs Committee

Summary Reminders

- Respond to the **RFI** at the [US Global Change Research Program website](#) as individual, private scientist or with colleagues by **March 31**
- Submit comments through the [ESA form](#) for possible inclusion in ESA's formal response due by **Jan. 23, 2023**
- Additional information based on Dr. Heather Tallis (Asst. Sec. for Biodiversity and Conservation and Acting co-director of the NNA, OSTP) webinar recording at <https://www.esa.org/esablog/2022/05/09/the-national-nature-assessment-nature-based-solutions-and-natural-capital-accounts/>

National Nature Assessment (NNA).

- USGCRP (under the auspices of the Office of Science and Technology Policy – OSTP) is committed to conducting a National Nature Assessment on April 8, 2022, under the authority of the Global Change Research Act of 1990.
- President Biden reinforced and elevated the importance of this assessment to a matter of national policy by calling for it in Executive Order 14072 on Strengthening the Nation's Forests, Communities and Local Economies (April 22, 2022).

<https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2022/04/27/2022-09138/strengtheningthe-nations-forests-communities-and-local-economies>

What the NNA is intended to provide

- The NNA will assess the status, observed trends, and future projections of America'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.
- The NNA considers nature in US states, marine areas (exclusive economic zone), territories, Native or Indigenous lands and waters, and other affiliated areas (as appropriate), as well as its significant interactions with global changes.

What the RFI is asking for

- Questions related to how to structure the NNA
- Questions To Inform a Definition of Nature
- Questions To Inform Identification of Relevant Knowledge Sources

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Questions or Comments

Questions related to how to structure the NNA

1. Assessments can be tailored to inform a wide range of audiences. Who are the key audiences for, or users of, the NNA? Who should find the information that the NNA provides useful?
2. USGCRP understands that creation of a use-inspired assessment will require ongoing engagement with the potential users of the NNA.
 - a. What engagement processes should be used so that the audiences identified above are best able to participate in the development process?
 - b. What forms or formats of engagement (e.g., in-person town hall meetings, virtual conversations, community workshops, social media events, calls for stories or art) are likely to help USGCRP meet its principle of inclusivity and best inform the assessment?

3. Use-inspired assessments are tailored to their intended use.

- a. What decisions should the NNA help inform, and what information is needed for those decisions?
- b. What needs can the assessment fill, and how should information be provided to fill them?

4. The scope of the NNA includes assessment of the observed trends and future projections of nature and the benefits it provides to people. Given this:

- a. How far back in time should the NNA explore observed trends, and why?
- b. What kinds of questions about the future should the NNA aim to answer? How far into the future should projections extend, and why?
- c. What types of future scenarios would best support the recommended uses (e.g., quantitative time series, directional changes, stories)?

5. Assessments can create a wide variety of products that help users access, understand and use the information that is provided.

- a. What kinds of products can best communicate the findings of the NNA?
- b. How would you like to use the findings of the NNA?

6. Past assessments have used various approaches to organizing findings.

- a. Given that the scope of the NNA is quite broad, how should information in the assessment be organized?
- b. What format would best match the ways you think the NNA should be used?

Questions To Inform a Definition of Nature

7. What does nature mean to you?

8. What should the definition of nature used in the NNA be sure to address or include, and why?

9. What should the definition of nature used in the NNA be sure to leave out or exclude, and why?

11. There are many ongoing assessments, and existing quantitative and qualitative data and knowledge that relate to the many aspects of nature and the wide range of benefits the NNA is charged to assess.

a. What existing assessments and knowledge efforts should the NNA draw from to provide a comprehensive view of the status, observed trends and future projections of nature and its benefits in the United States, and why?

b. How can USGCRP best engage with local communities to incorporate their lived experiences into the NNA?

c. What existing datasets, knowledge sources, information or stories should USGCRP draw from in creating the NNA, and why?

d. How should the NNA be designed to add value beyond what these existing efforts and sources already provide?

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Questions or comments

**For More Information
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