The report highlighted in this brochure summarizes the science of climate change and the impacts of climate change on the United States, now and in the future. It focuses on climate change impacts on U.S. regions and various aspects of society and the economy such as energy, water, agriculture, and health. It is an authoritative scientific report written in plain language, with the goal of better informing public and private decision making at all levels.

The full report, along with highlights and other information can be found at: www.globalchange.gov/usimpacts
Forests

Forest growth is generally projected to increase in much of the East, but decrease in much of the West as water becomes even scarcer. Major shifts in species are expected, such as maple-beech-birch forests being replaced by oak-hickory in the Northeast. Insect infestations and wildfires are projected to increase as warming progresses.

Responding to Climate Change

Responses to climate change fall into two major categories. “Mitigation” focuses on reducing emissions of heat-trapping gases or increasing their uptake to reduce the amount and speed of climate change. “Adaptation” refers to changes made to better respond to present or future climate conditions in order to reduce harm or take advantage of opportunities. Both are necessary elements of a comprehensive response strategy.