Comments on USGCRP Introduction and Overview

1	Written Public Comments on the
2	Strategic Plan for the U.S. Climate Change Science Program
3	USGCRP Introduction and Overview (pp 55-57)
4	Comments Submitted 11 November 2002 through 18 January 2003
5	Collation dated 21 January 2003
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7	Page 55: USGCRP Overview: First Overview Comment: The USGCRP has arrived at a
8	point where it must consider scale as a central aspect in its organization and management.
9	While atmospheric composition and climate variability and change have heretofore been
10	dealt with as global issues; water, carbon, land use and land cover, and ecosystems are far
11	more regional in their specification and their significance. With the current focus on
12	aerosols and particulate pollution and on more spatially specific (i.e. regional) climate
13	predictions, even atmospheric composition and climate variability and change now have
14 15	more a regional context. The CCSP should therefore consider global change as the result of coupled regional and global systems for both scientific and management/outreach
16	reasons. Considering global change as a multi-scale phenomenon leads the CCSP toward
17	cooperation and partnerships with regions and states which will support much more
18	rigorous development of adaptation, if not mitigation, strategies.
19	CALIFORNIA RESOURCES AGENCY
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21	Page 55: USGCRP Introduction
22	Many observers (including this author, who was an expert reviewer) have documented
23	the biases and politicization that afflicted the last "National Assessment Report" of the
24	USGCRP. Critical to any discussion of the USGCRP's future is a frank acknowledgment
25	of the failure of the previous National Assessment procedure to attain either consensus or
26	dispassion, and a discussion of oversight and safeguard procedures that would
27	permanently prevent such an occurrence. Given the scale of documented bias, and the
28	distortion that the National Assessment Report inflicted on policymaking, the
29 30	composition of an oversight committee should be codified and in place before the
31	USGCRP is allowed to publish more than an informational brochure. KENNETH GREEN, FRASER INSTITUTE
32	REINETH GREEN, FRASER INSTITUTE
33	Page 55, lines 5-6: The Global Change Research Act also calls for assessments, and in
34	fact includes assess as a component of research in its text.
35	MICHAEL MACCRACKEN, LLNL (RETIRED)
36	(112 11112)
37	Page 55, line 7: The research also provides the basis for doing sound scientific
38	assessments—that in turn hopefully support sound decision-making. It is a bit misleading
39	to imply that sound science is the major basis for national and international decision-
40	making.
41	MICHAEL MACCRACKEN, LLNL (RETIRED)
12	
43 4.4	Page 55, lines 11-13: The point was also to get integrated assessments, and the law
14 15	requires these.
45 46	MICHAEL MACCRACKEN, LLNL (RETIRED)
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Page 55, line 26: For clarity it would help if there were an indication that each of the

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2	topics is covered in a separate chapter.
3	MICHAEL MACCRACKEN, LLNL (RETIRED)
4	WHETHED WITCHNEIN, BEINE (RETIRED)
5	Page 56 line 32. Global Carbon Cycle, Need to link the N and P cycles as all are part of
6	one another, N2O is not considered. Impacts on water bodies are as much by P and N
7	compounds as are Carbon inputs. N & P help drive the carbon cycle and they seem to be
8	lost.
9	SOIL SCIENCE, GLASENER
10	
11	Page 56, last paragraph, line 33. insert the word "Spatial" in front of variability. I assume
12	that spatial variability is what is intended rather than temporal variability.
13	
14	I find the first and second paragraph on page 90 to be vague. It badly needs some
15	examples for clarification. For example, it states in paragraph two that "The combination
16	of climate and land use change may have profound effects on the habitability of the
17	planet in more significant ways than either acting alone". In order for this to be a
18	believable statement, it would help greatly if an example were given.
19	SOIL SCIENCE, KISSEL
20	
21	Page 57 - It needs noted that the main way science goes forward is through interactions of
22	individual scientists, not institutions.
23	RONALD STOUFFER, GFDL/NOAA
24	
25	Page 57, Line 2-3: Specific Comment [page 57, line 2-3]. A second potential of hyper-
26	spectral imaging is the detection of "how natural and human-induced changes affect the
27	functioning of ecosystems at a range of spatial and temporal ranges". These changes
28	include impacts of water supply on agricultural systems.
29	OSMOND, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
30	
31	Page 57, line 15: Indicating that there are or will be regional and sectoral assessments
32	without mentioning the National Assessment process is really inappropriate. That effort,
33	which helped to get such studies going, should be referenced and lessons from its efforts
34	mentioned.
35	MICHAEL MACCRACKEN, LLNL (RETIRED)
36	
37	Page 57, line 22ff: There needs to be a paragraph added here referring to chapters 13 and
38	15.
39	MICHAEL MACCRACKEN, LLNL (RETIRED)
40	