

# Multisector Dynamics (MSD) and Complex, Adaptive Systems

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Office of Science**

**Office of Biological & Environmental Research  
*Climate and Environmental Sciences Division***

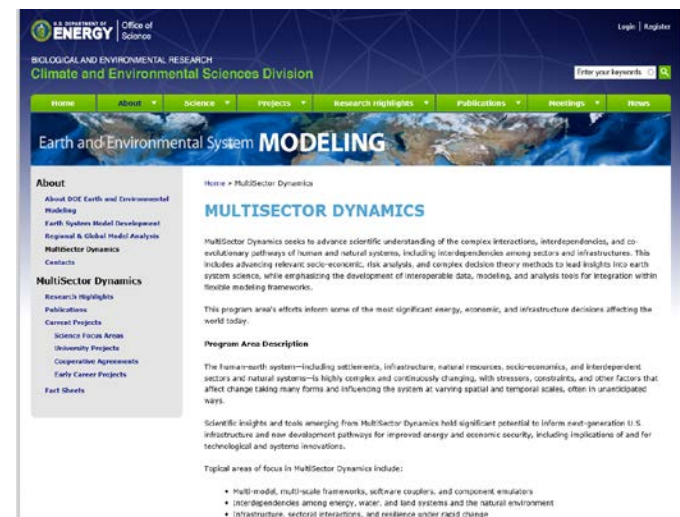
**Annual Meeting  
November 2019**

## Program Goal

**Explore the complex interactions and potential co-evolutionary pathways within the integrated human-Earth system, including natural, engineered, and socioeconomic systems and sectors.**

With relevance for:

- **energy sector and multisector analyses** (global, national, regional, and sub-regional);
- next-generation, **resilient infrastructure**;
- **geographic regions in transition**;
- economic development and **sustainability**;
- multi-stressor **risk and hazards analysis** and more...



# Context

## ➤ Program Alignment

### Atmospheric Science

- ★ Atmospheric Radiation Measurement User Facility
- Atmospheric System Research

### Earth and Environmental Systems Modeling

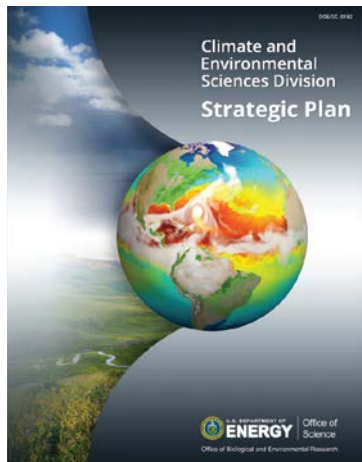
- Earth System Model Development
- Regional and Global Model Analysis
- Multisector Dynamics

### Environmental System Science

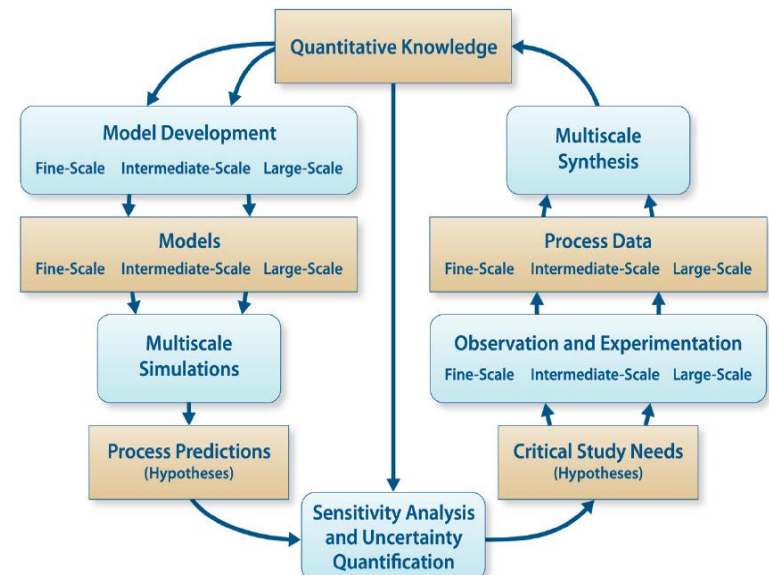
- Terrestrial Ecosystem Science
- Subsurface Biogeochemical Research
- ★ Environmental Molecular Sciences Laboratory

Data Management

## ➤ Strategic Plan Alignment

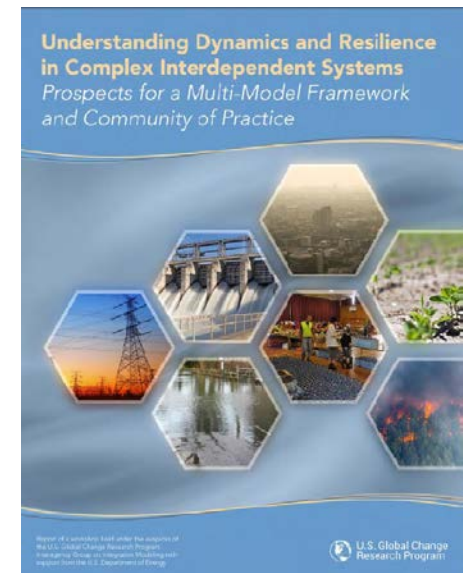


1. Integrated Water Cycle
2. Biogeochemistry
3. High Latitudes
4. Drivers & Response in the Earth System
5. Data-Model Integration



# History

- **1990s-2009** - pioneering work focused on the contributions of anthropogenic and natural forcings in climate system evolution under a broad range of development scenarios.
- **2009-2016** - a notable pivot with focus on human and natural systems responses to climate (impacts, adaptations, vulnerabilities), including feedbacks, aligned with a 2009 community workshop report.
- **2016 – present** - a significant transition to the present focus on Multisector Dynamics, catalyzed by a DOE sponsored interagency workshop and report on *dynamics and resilience in complex, adaptive systems*.



## Major scientific questions/challenges

1. **Forces and Patterns.** What combination of factors, varying by geographies, contribute most significantly to ***patterns of development in transregional, regional, and sub-regional landscape evolutions***, including interactions and interdependencies among natural and built environments and human processes and systems?
2. **Stabilities and Instabilities.** What are the characteristics of interacting natural and built environments and human processes that lead to ***stabilities and instabilities*** across systems, sectors, and scales, and what roles do strong interdependencies, feedbacks, and compounding influences and stressors play?
3. **Foresight.** How might development patterns, stabilities, instabilities, and ***systems resilience*** evolve within multisector, multi-scale landscapes as a result of ***future forces, stressors, and disturbances...*** and what pathways, characteristics, and risk profiles may emerge from ***both gradual and abrupt transitions?***



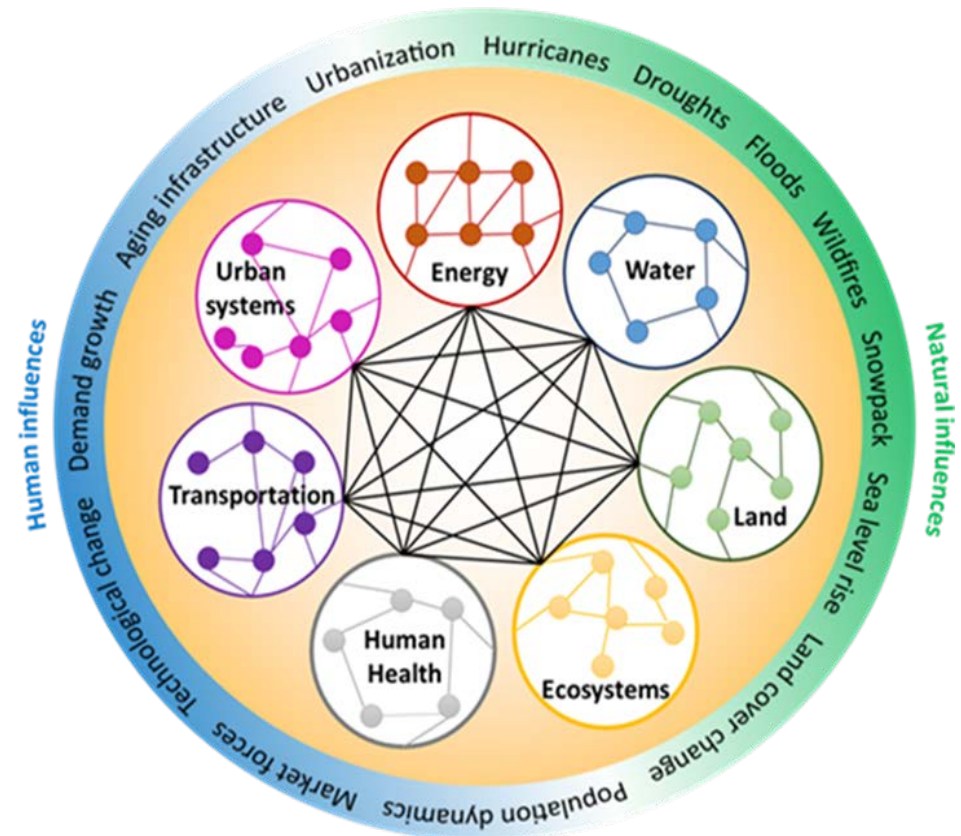
# Most notable change ....

Global/Regional

Regional/Sub-regional



Edmonds, et.al.



Hejazi, et.al.

# National Lab SFAs/ and Projects and University Collaborative Agreements

1. Integrated Multi-sector,  
Multi-scale Modeling (IM3)



SFA PI: Jennie Rice

2. Integrated Human Earth  
Systems Dynamics (IHESD)



SFA PI: Mohamad Hejazi

3. Integrated Coastal Modeling  
(ICOM)\*



PI: Ian Kraucunas

4. Interdisciplinary Research for  
Arctic Coastal Environments  
(InterFACE)\*



PI: Joel Rowland

5. Program on Coupled Human  
Earth Systems (PCHES)



CA PI: John Weyant/Karen  
Fisher-Vanden/Rob Nicholas

6. Integrated Global Systems  
Modeling (IGSM)



CA PI: Ron Prinn /John Reilly

7. HyperFACETS\*



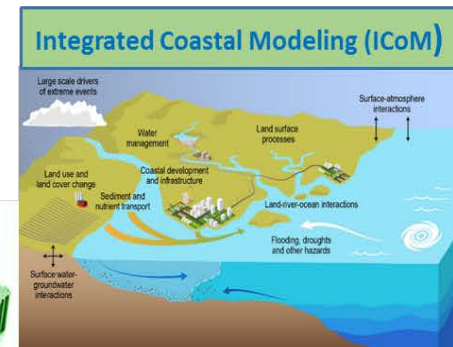
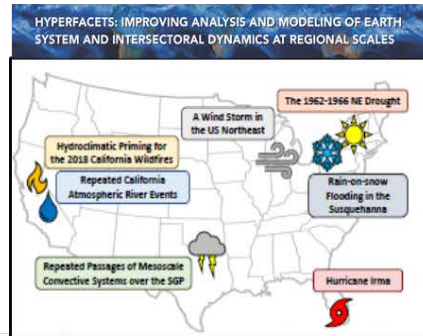
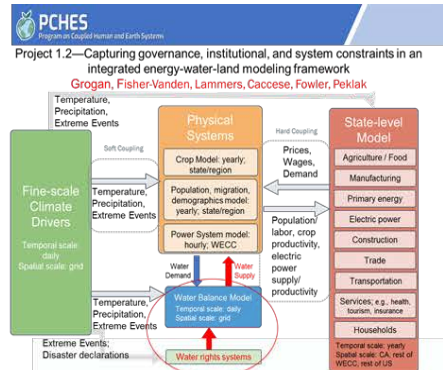
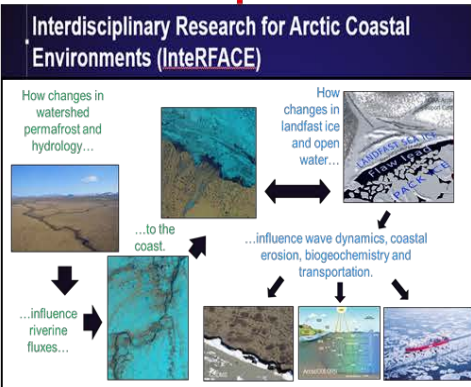
CA PI: Paul Ullrich

\* Collaborative program funding

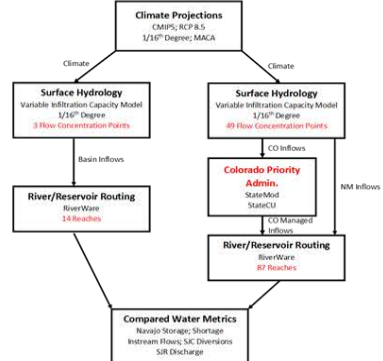
## Partners (examples):



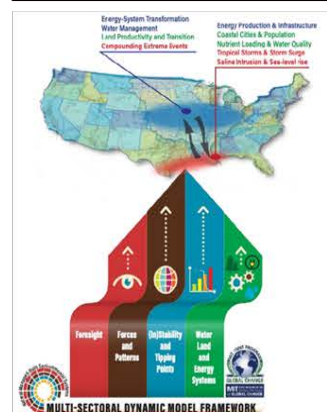
# A growing set of topics...and geographies...of interest



San Juan River Basin

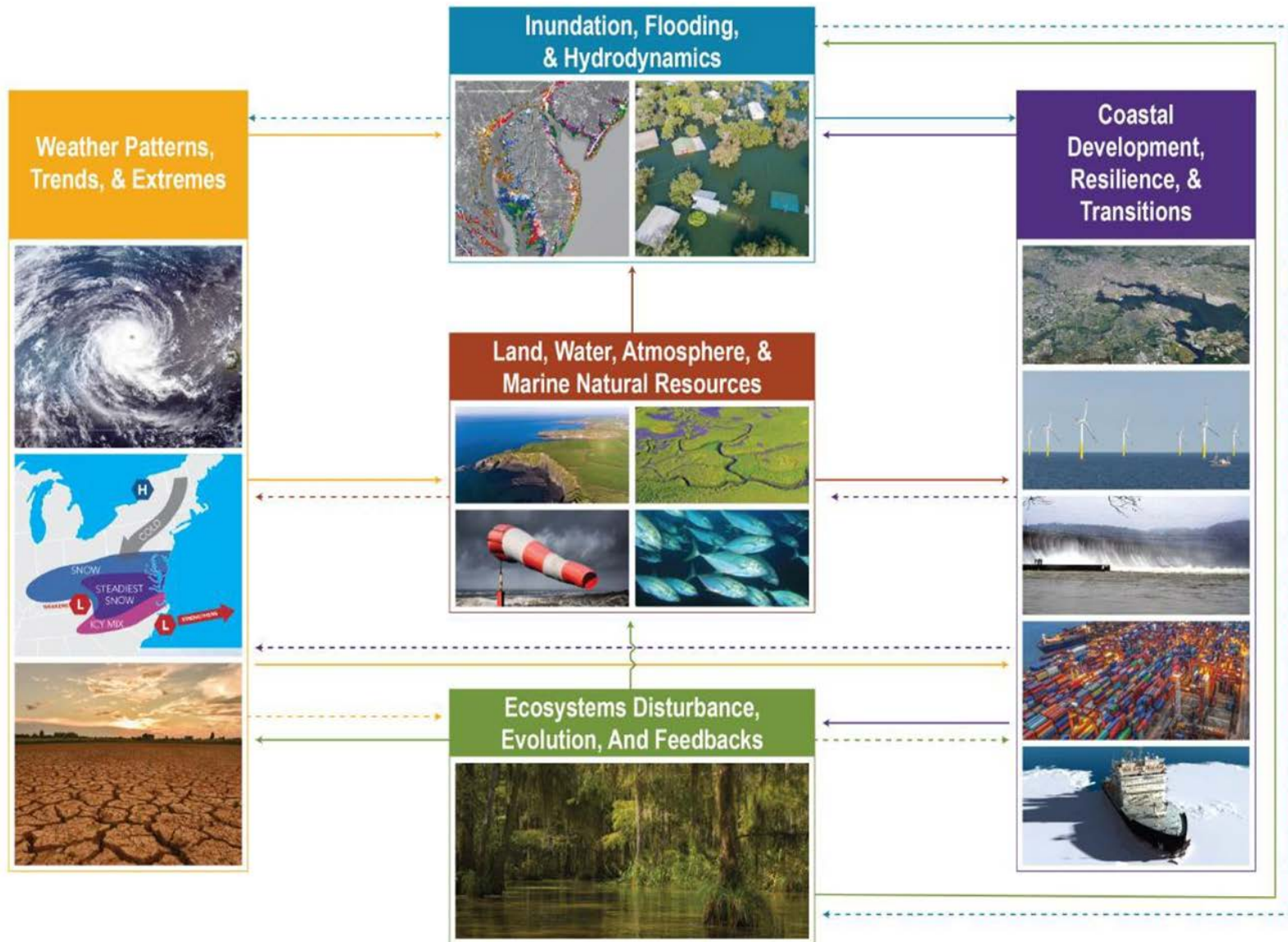


## Sectoral Interactions, Stressors, and Tipping Points





# And a growing set of “convergent” topics and communities



# Exploring new approaches to managing convergence: ICoM example

## CROSS-CUTTING

Long-term changes in flooding, drought, hypoxia, and other coastal hazards

Impacts of urbanization, development, and other land use changes on coastal systems

### RGMA

Large-scale drivers of  
storms, droughts, and other  
extreme events

Influence of surface-  
atmosphere interactions on  
extreme events

Influence of land surface  
process on land-atmosphere  
interactions

### MSD

Interactions between  
coastal development,  
critical infrastructure, and  
natural systems

Probabilistic natural hazard  
characterization

Ability of adaptation to  
reduce risk or enhance  
resilience

### ESMD

Earth system drivers of  
coastal flooding

Land-river-ocean  
interactions affecting  
coastal salinity gradients

Controls on fate and  
transport of sediment and  
nutrients

### SBR

Influence of surface  
water – groundwater  
interactions and lateral  
flow on coastal flooding

## Future directions

- **Functional, collaborative community-of-practice and working group structure**
- **Hierarchical frameworks** and use-inspired tools (emulators, sensitivity research, etc.)
- **Distributed science mechanisms** (i.e., open source models, software couplers, interoperability, modular methods, community data and computation)
- **Complexity theory and science** (networks, collective behavior, evolution and adaptation, pattern formation, systems theory, machine learning, etc.)
- **Scenario methods and development** with implications for uncertainty framing/analysis, complex storylines, modeling experiments, and more.
- **Model resolution and fit-for-purpose process details** across spatial and temporal scales (e.g., energy, water, land, economics, population, land use, technology)
- **Significant coupled systems behaviors**, such as found among energy water and land systems, and non-linear responses, e.g., induced by extremes



## Final thoughts

- **MSD community-of-practice**...a very big deal!
- **Teaming**...incentives for actions, not words
- **MSD – LIVE**...a community data/code repository, portal, and more
- **Interagency Integrated Hydro-Terrestrial Modeling (IHTM)** and three Priority Water Challenges
  - Hypoxia, Excess Nutrients and Harmful Algal Blooms
  - Water Availability in the Western United States
  - Extreme Water Hazards
- **Upcoming Town Halls** at American Geophysical Union (Coasts and Arctic) and one planned for AMS on integrative models
- **Major SFA renewal proposals** (and review) for IHESD...and IM3 underway.