

Biennial Report Volume 1-13



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BIENNIAL REPORT VOLUME 1-13

RareBooksClub. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 88 pages. Original publisher: Washington, D. C. : U. S. Climate Change Science Program, 2009 OCLC Number: (OCoLC)299039011 Subject: Biotic communities -- Environmental aspects -- Forecasting. Excerpt: . . . Thresholds of Climate Change in Ecosystems Lead Authors: Daniel b. Fagre, USGS; Colleen W. Charles, USGS. Y Authors: Craig D. Allen, USGS; Charles birkeland, USGS-University R of Hawaii; F. Stuart Chapin, III, University of Alaska; Peter M. Groffman, A Institute of Ecosystem Studies; Glenn R. Guntenspergen, USGS; Alan K. M Knapp, Colorado State University; A. David McGuire, USGS-University M of Alaska; Patrick J. Mulholland, Oak Ridge National Laboratory; Debra U P. C. Peters, USDA Agricultural Research Service; Daniel D. Roby, S USGS-Oregon State University; George Sugihara, Scripps Institute of E Oceanography and University of California at San Diego. V Contributing Authors: brandon bestelmeyer, Jornada basin LTER; Julio I L. betancourt, USGS; Jeffrey E. Herrick, Jornada basin ECUTLTER ES. 1. INTRODUCTION X As defined in this assessment, an ecological E threshold is the point at which there is an abrupt change in an ecosystem quality, property, or phenomenon, or where small changes in one or more external conditions produce large and persistent responses in an ecosystem. Ecological thresh-olds occur when external factors, positive feedbacks, or nonlinear instabilities in a system cause changes to propagate in a domino-like fashion that are potentially irreversible. Once an ecological threshold is crossed, the ecosystem in question is not likely to return to its previous state. Over the past three decades, climate change has become a recognized driver of ecosystem change. Changes in phenology, or shifts of species, and increases in such disturbances as wildland fires are all examples of ecosystem-scale responses to a warming biosphere. Much ecosystems research fo-cuses on enhancing understanding of...

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