
Adam B. Smith

Climate Risk Expert | Hazard Economist | Data-Driven Risk Strategist

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Professional Summary

Accomplished climate risk analyst with over a decade of experience at NOAA leading high-impact work on extreme weather and climate disasters.

Expert in quantifying physical and financial risk across sectors, advising on resilience strategies, and developing geospatial and socioeconomic datasets to inform risk transfer decisions.

Proven track record of translating complex scientific data into actionable intelligence for policy, media, and financial sectors. Expert in public-private collaboration, global standards, and extreme weather and climate analysis and reporting.

Professional Experience

Senior Scientist – Climate Risk & Hazard Analytics

NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI)

December 2004 – May 2025 | Asheville, NC

Risk Analysis & Monitoring

- Designed and led the internationally recognized **U.S. Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters program**, referenced widely in **insurance reporting, loss modeling and risk disclosures**.
- Created and maintained a **comprehensive hazard database** with detailed monetary impact data from 1980–2024, including **hundreds of the costliest events** - capturing the full spectrum of insured and uninsured losses for sixteen distinct asset classes.
- Developed advanced [**multi-hazard risk county and Census tract mapping tools**](#), in collaboration with **FEMA's NRI and Census SVI data**, aiding catastrophe exposure analysis and underwriting decisions.

Cross-Sector Collaboration

- Smith provided leadership for the NOAA Industry Proving Ground (IPG) projects seeking to incorporate hazard information needs and product enhancements requested by the private Re/insurance sector.

- Smith was the NOAA Federal lead for **four** simultaneous projects driven by industry recommendation (i.e., **U.S. Storm Events Database enhancement, U.S. sub-billion-dollar disaster framework, the Event Footprint Catalogue**).
- NOAA subject-matter expert (SME) for:
 - **White House OSTP's Hazards & Natural Accounting** initiative—bridging NOAA, USGS, BEA data to track disaster costs and adaptation/mitigation investments.
 - **International Sendai Framework risk data integration**, aligning with UN standards on socioeconomic loss attribution.
 - **World Meteorological Organization - Hazard Cataloguing (CHE) project**, developing global standards for hazard classification—aligned with insurance industry modeling practices.

Communications & External Engagement

- Frequent media spokesperson—conducted over **sixty interviews/year** with outlets like CNN, NPR, Bloomberg, *The Weather Channel*, and *NY Times*, delivering climate risk insights to public and private sector audiences.
- Delivered briefings to stakeholders including:
 - **American Bar Association, Moody's Analytics, FEMA Regions, Insurance Industry Forums**
 - **Insurance and Finance Industry Presentations and [Interviews](#), AMS and Natural Hazards Conferences, TED talks, and others**

Strategic Partnerships

- Built and maintained trusted relationships with:
 - **Insurance & Reinsurance industry analysts**, helping quantify and communicate risk.
 - Federal partners like **CDC, Census, FEMA**, and private-sector teams such as Verisk/PCS, Munich Re, Gallagher Re
 -
- Work and data products cited in:
 - **5th National Climate Assessment, Congressional Testimony, U.S. Senate, Insurance & ESG reports, and FEMA's National Risk Index.**

Upcoming Research:

1 – **Redevelop / reimagine the [U.S. Billion-dollar weather and climate disaster](#) website** with its many research tools, summaries and reports.

2 – **Author monthly or quarterly U.S. reports** highlighting weather extremes, disaster events, costs, impacts in relation to other historical anomalies, trends, and socioeconomic context. A

report might be 10-15 pages in length. Perhaps also develop quarterly state and regional U.S. report

3 – **Present the quarterly reports and latest research results** to media (print, radio, television), at industry conferences, academic panels, podcast interviews, etc.

4 – **Complete and integrate additional research-to-operation projects:**

- Part A: Calculate county-level damage costs estimates for key asset classes -- residential, commercial, automotive, public infrastructure, agriculture -- by specific event.

- Part B: Complete reanalysis for all U.S. disaster events (1980-2025) down to \$100 million level for seven peril types. This will capture the spatial and temporal frequency of the smaller and medium impact events.

- Part C: Examine the change in frequency, intensity and cost at state and regional levels for historic compound hazards.

Select Publications & Reports

- **2016-2024 U.S. [Billion-Dollar Disasters Annual Reports](#)** – *climate.gov*
- Contributor – NOAA **State of the Climate Reports (2011-2024); Fourth and Fifth National Climate Assessments**
- Numerous briefings and datasets supporting **risk quantification, catastrophe analytics, and resilience planning.**
- Co-authored climate impact book on: [Evaluating Climate Change Impacts](#) (2021)
- See select publications here: [Adam SMITH | Physical Scientist / Applied Climatologist | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Washington, D.C. | NOAA | National Centers for Environmental Information | Research profile](#)