

1. The main point of this article is that people are more likely to believe an idea that is easily understood. This means the idea is simple and clear, without caveats. Unfortunately, complex systems like our climate are not simple, so the scientific data is also complex and not easily understood. When scientists discuss climate change they use conservative language, simplifying data with reservation in order to maintain the integrity of the science. Using scientific data in this way makes it hard for people to understand, and it makes it easier to cast doubt on a theory by pointing out mitigating words and what appears to be uncertainty. Politicians who oppose climate change policy have used this to disrupt the hegemony of scientific positivism. By making confident, simple attacks on scientific claims questioning the authority of scientists, they create an alternative reality which is easier for people to understand.

Some points on climate policy

- Humans like confidence
 - In most things
 - IE the senator who boldly asserts is more memorable than the one that painstakingly explains
 - This is a problem because most climate policy needs to be painstakingly explained
 - As there is lots of evidence behind it
- Why denialism works
 - Political action can be defined as convincing people what path has to be taken and you are the person to lead them down that path.
 - Which is why it is easier to convince people of the right option when the right option is very simple to explain (see climate change denial)
 - The more consistent and easy to understand narrative you have, the more likely people are to understand and agree with your opinion.
 - “Climate change cant be happening because it snows”
 - “The drought is over because it rained”
 - “The earth is flat because I have never left Nebraska and never will”
- The IPCC (2015)
 - A study in 2015 analyzed the language used in the report and found that the language used in the IPCC report was complex and cautious as compared to a report trying to convince people that climate change was not occurring c
 - In the analysis it was determined that the other report was better able to convey a narrative with fewer conditions to it
 - This gave it a rhetorical advantage as, the IPCC was writing as a scientific report as the other report was writing for purely political ones.

1. Why Good Politics And Good Climate Science Don't Mix

- Confidence doesn't equal competence. But our brains tend to assume it does. And that can create big problems when scientific evidence collides with political rhetoric.
- Denialism has an advantage
- It is easier for someone to understand and process something when it is presented in a simple way
- People believe you
- scientists and advocates of climate change action often sacrifice smoothness of narrative and ease of processing in favor of nuance and accuracy
- The more political and easier to understand the more its convincing
- If it sounds scientific it automatically starts questions about what if's or but's
- people use to decide, on a gut level, if something is true
- Having our own believes
- political leadership matters

This article points out the psychological side of climate change science. It is harder to convince people of something that they understand less of. In politics, there is an emphasis on persuasion; appearing relatable and trustworthy. This comes with ease when the point being defended is one of denial. Simply denying the fact that climate change exists, based on evidence that is easy to understand (in our current political climate, 'evidence' may consist of **something like**: "It's cold outside this winter, therefore climate change is not real"). Stances such as this, which are easy to get behind are the ones that are more likely to convince people. In contrast to the other side which is made up of scientific evidence and statistics which are much harder to understand to the public eye. The article illustrates this challenge between scientific data and climate policy. It begs the question if anything will ever be accomplished on this issue. With people like Trump, this scientific evidence will never make any sense nor have any meaning, so how must people be convinced?

I find it is a very difficult line to manage between accurately portraying the depth of an issue via scientific communication, and also keeping it simple so that the point is better understood

Wildfires

Floods

Tropical Storms

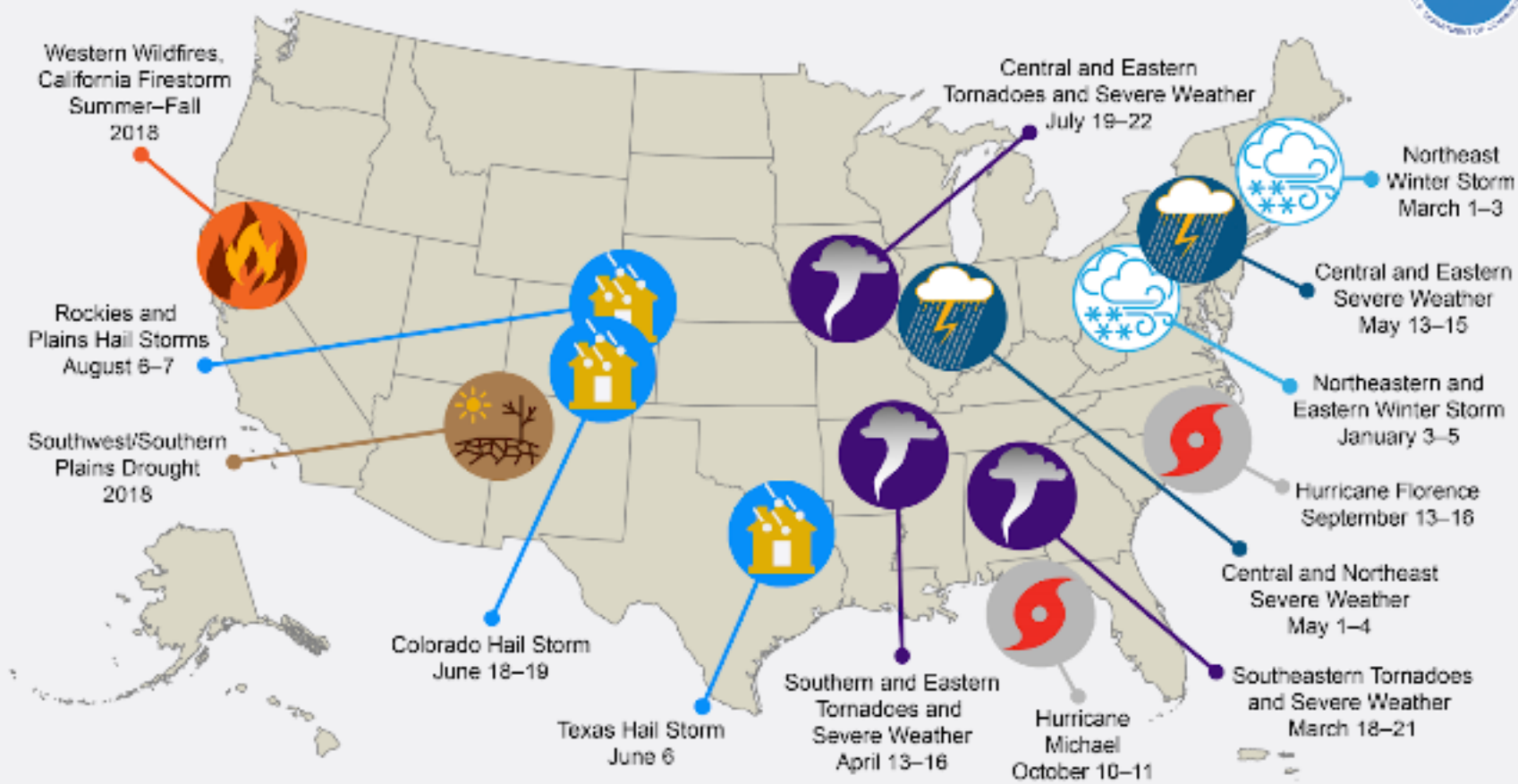
Loss of Sea Ice

Extreme Weather

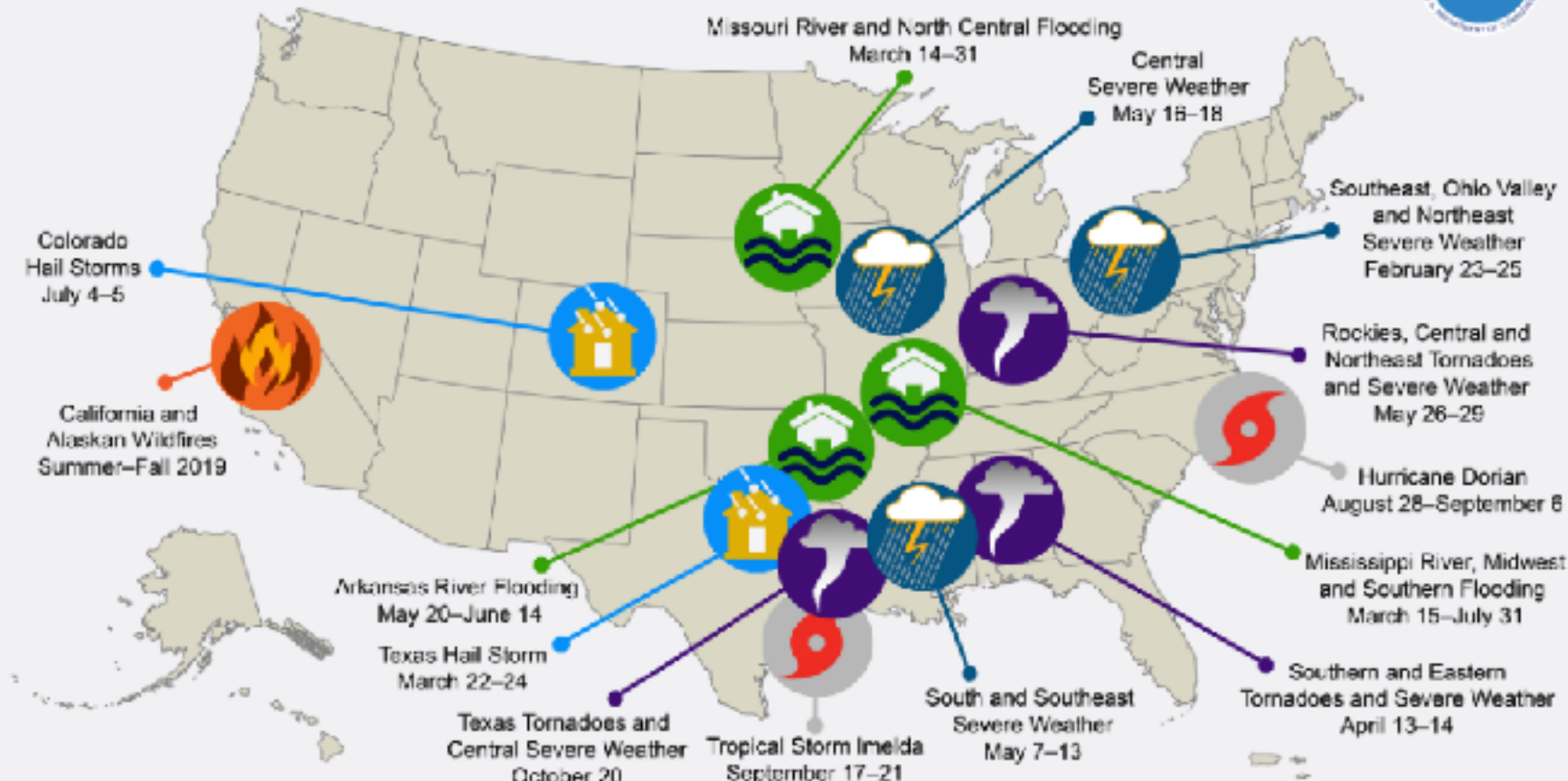
Global Average Temperatures

Billion Dollar Insurance Loss Weather Events

U.S. 2018 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



U.S. 2019 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 14 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States during 2019.

