

Subject: Public comment on proposed dismantling of NCAR

Date: March 13, 2026 at 4:55:48 PM EDT

To: NSF_NCAR@nsf.gov

Dear NSF,

I have been an atmosphere-ocean scientist working in the United States for decades. Amongst my work, I have made major contributions to understanding the causes and predictability of major North American droughts.

All of my work has relied to greater or lesser extent on the incredible services to the research community that NCAR provides.

NCAR provides the entire US (and global) research community with the ability to conduct experiments with ocean and atmosphere models. Such model experimentation, together with validation against observations, allowed us to unravel the mystery of major North American droughts.

NCAR also serves a vast amount of ocean, atmosphere and land data to the research community that is indispensable.

NCAR staff are utterly dedicated to helping the research community become successful ocean-atmosphere scientists - our students and postdocs learn from them how to use NCAR models to test hypotheses.

No other country in the world has an institution like NCAR and they are envious that we have NCAR. NCAR is a major reason why the US is currently the world leader in ocean-atmosphere research.

No one in our community - no one - has been suggesting NCAR should be broken up or dismantled.

Instead we feel that it should instead be invested in so that it can even better serve the national research community at a time when we are facing more and more extreme weather.

The ability of the US to retain world leadership in atmosphere and ocean sciences, and develop the ability to predict, plan for and adapt to, damaging weather depends on a fully functioning and integrated NCAR.

Dismantling NCAR would be a disaster for the research community and also for the US people as it would become a nation less able to predict and plan for extreme weather.

Richard Seager

Fellow of the American Meteorological Society
Fellow of the American Geophysical Union
Recipient of the AMS Charney Medal 2024.

Richard Seager
Ewing Lamont Research Professor
Earth Institute Faculty
Lamont Doherty Earth Observatory of Columbia University