

Risking civilization for profit, ideology and ego.



**By Paul Krugman**

Opinion Columnist

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The Trump administration is, it goes without saying, deeply anti-science. In fact, it's anti-objective reality. But its control of the government remains limited; it didn't extend far enough to prevent the release of the latest National Climate Assessment, which details current and expected future impacts of global warming on the United States.

True, the report was released on Black Friday, clearly in the hope that it would get lost in the shuffle. The good news is that the ploy didn't work.

The assessment basically confirms, with a great deal of additional detail, what anyone following climate science already knew: Climate change poses a major threat to the nation, and some of its adverse effects are already being felt. For example, the report, written before the latest California disaster, highlights the growing risks of wildfire in the Southwest; global warming, not failure to rake the leaves, is why the fires are getting ever bigger and more dangerous.

But the Trump administration and its allies in Congress will, of course, ignore this analysis. Denying climate change, no matter what the evidence, has become a core Republican principle. And it's worth trying to understand both how that happened and the sheer depravity involved in being a denialist at this point.

WAIT, ISN'T DEPRAVITY TOO STRONG A TERM? AREN'T PEOPLE ALLOWED TO DISAGREE WITH CONVENTIONAL WISDOM, EVEN IF THAT WISDOM IS SUPPORTED BY OVERWHELMING SCIENTIFIC CONSENSUS?

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