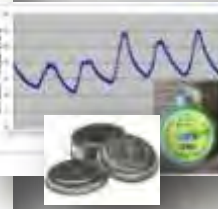
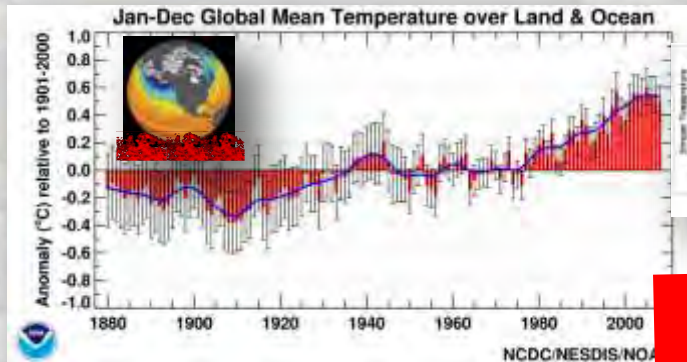
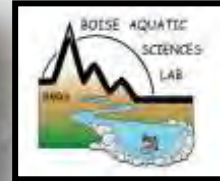


# Climate Change & The Future of Isolated Trout Populations:

Can the PNW bull trout experience inform CRCT conservation?

Dan Isaak, US Forest Service





## General outline:

- 1) 21<sup>st</sup>-Century model predictions for Rocky Mountain trout
- 2) 20<sup>th</sup>-Century observed patterns in climate & trout populations
- 3) Better spatial data to assist decision making. (the BIG DATA approach, the local monitoring approach)
- 4) Key future uncertainties (resolvable & not)



# Parallel Structure to New Overview Paper...

## Feature:

### FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The Past as Prelude to the Future for Understanding 21st-Century Climate Effects on Rocky Mountain Trout

Isaak, ... Roberts, ... Fausch. 2012.  
*Fisheries* 37: 542-556.

Five case history areas

Two conservation species





**Vs**



**Extensive**

**Habitat fragmentation?**

**Moderate**

**No**

**Fluvial fish?**

**Yes**

**Spring**

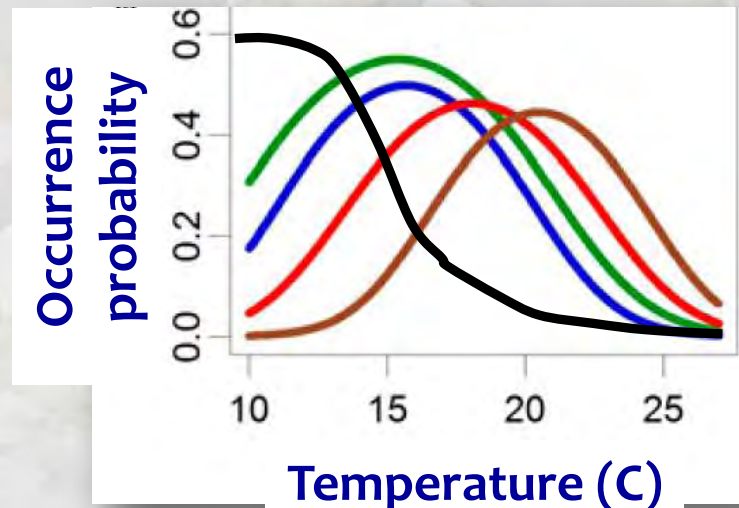
**Spawning period?**

**Fall**

**Wide**

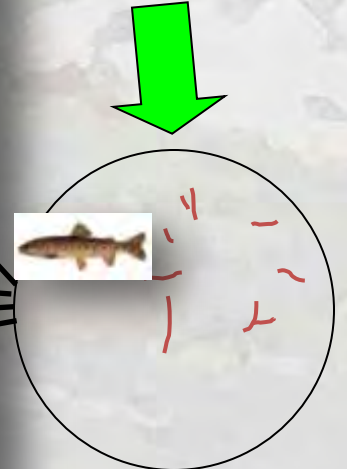
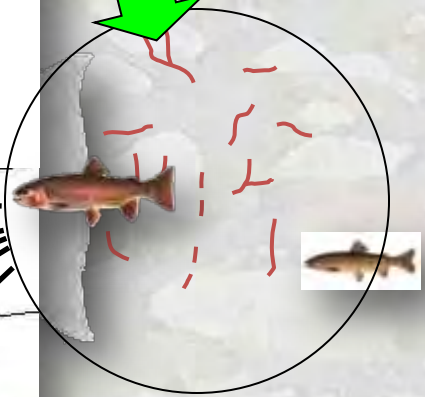
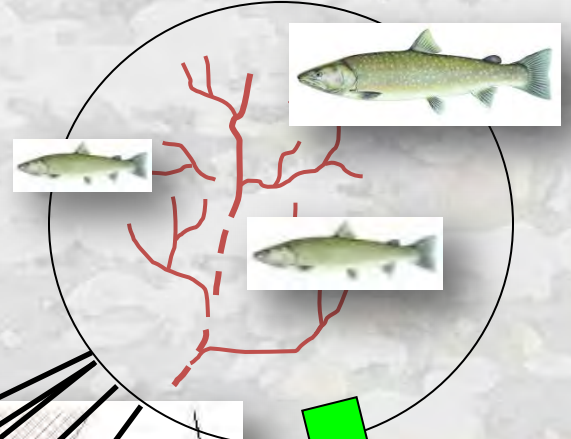
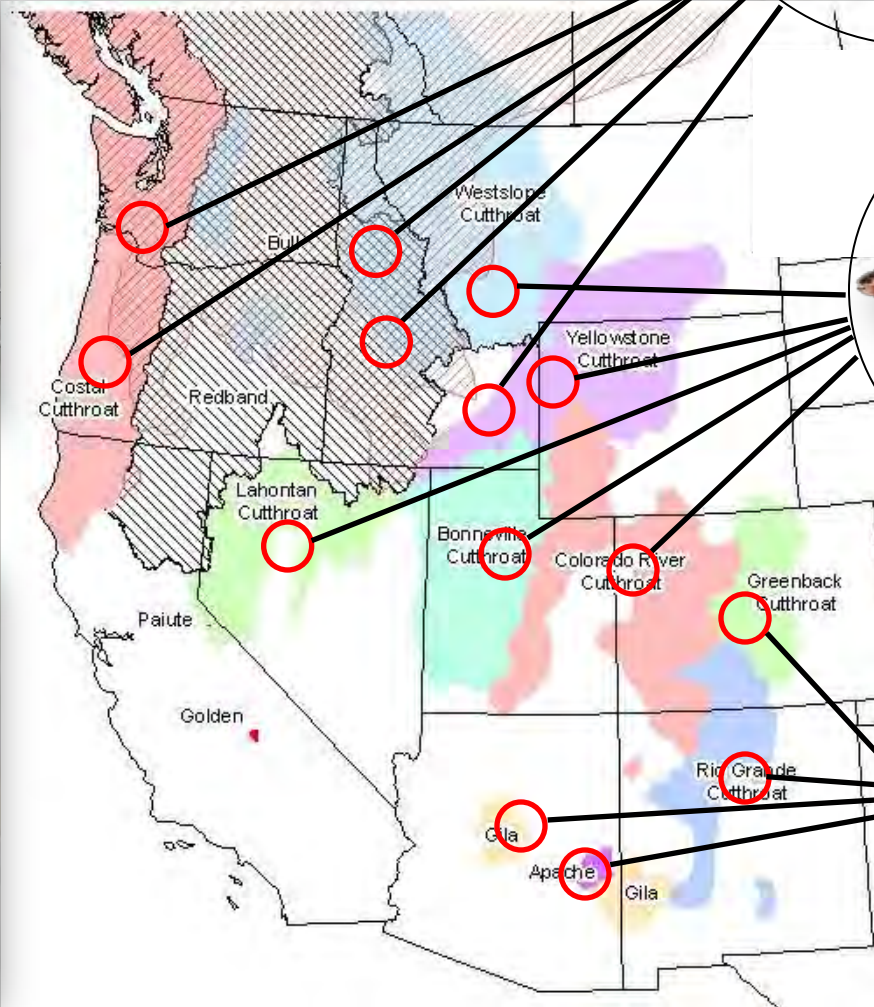
**Thermal niche?**

**Narrow**





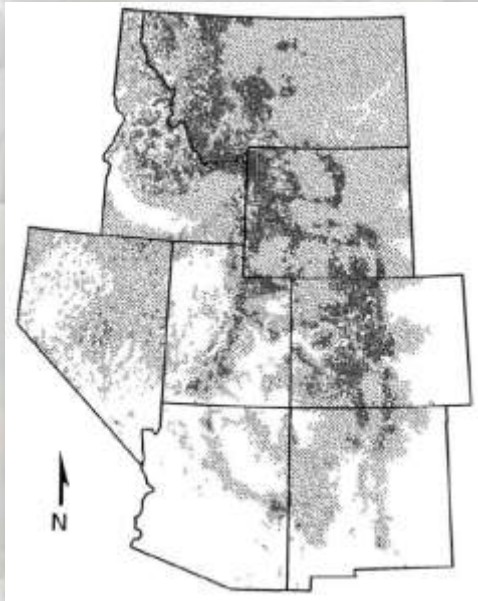
# Natural Gradient in Habitat Size & Fragmentation



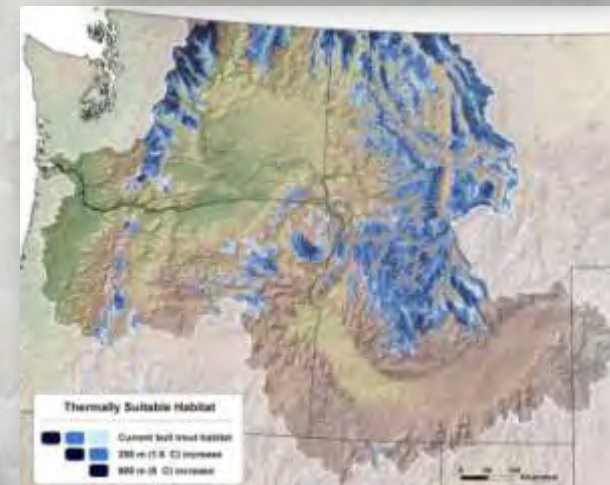
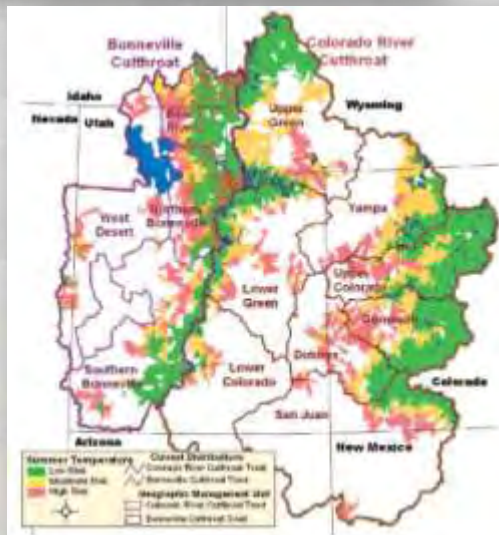
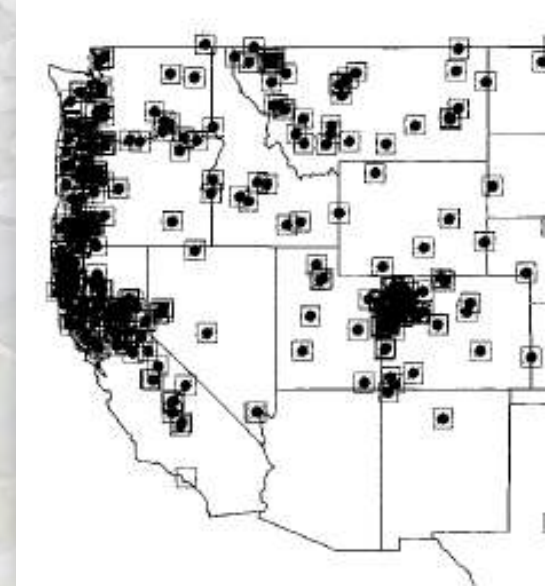


# Bioclimate Models for Trout

## Rockies are model central!



Eaton & Schaller 1996  
 Keleher & Rahel 1996  
 Rahel et al. 1996  
 Mohseni et al. 2003  
 Flebbe et al. 2006  
 Rieman et al. 2007  
 Kennedy et al. 2008  
 Williams et al. 2009



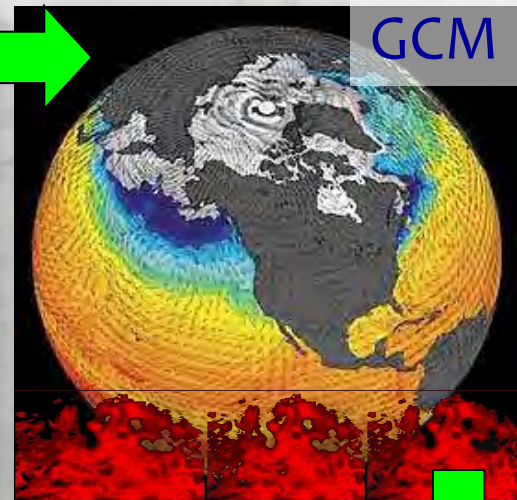
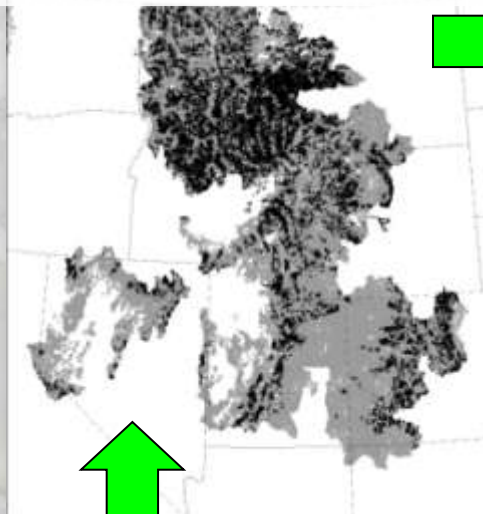


# Most Recent Trout Climate Assessment

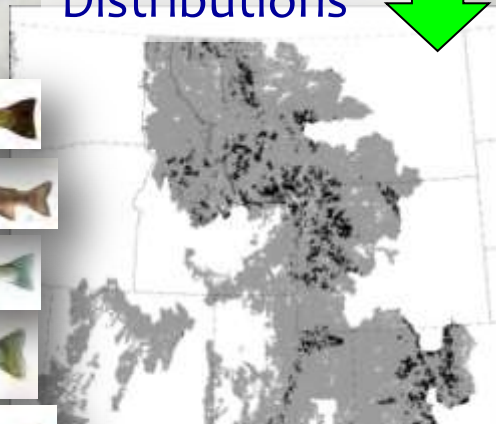
Fish survey database  
~10,000 sites



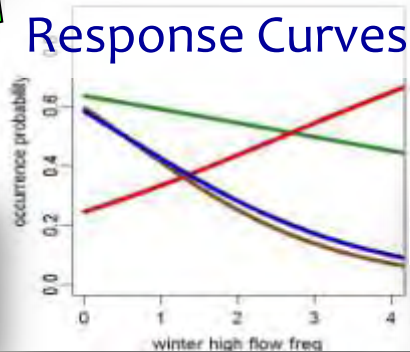
Historic Distributions



Future A1B  
Distributions



Species-Specific  
Habitat  
Response Curves

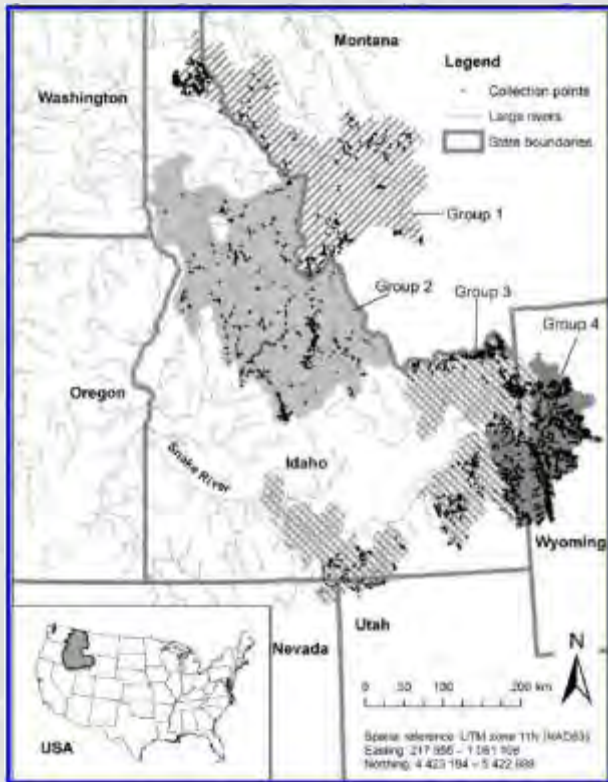


Wenger et al. 2011. *PNAS* 108:14175-14180

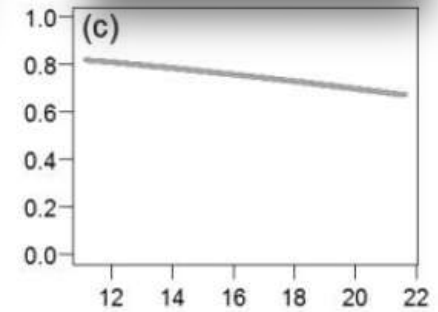
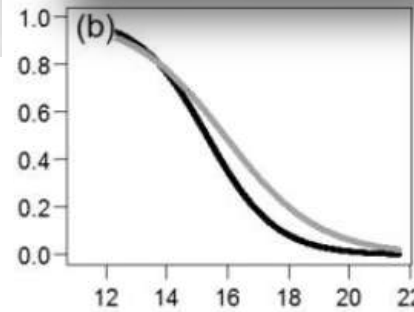
~50% reduction by  
2080 under A1B

# Mechanisms of Inter-specific Variation in Climate Response

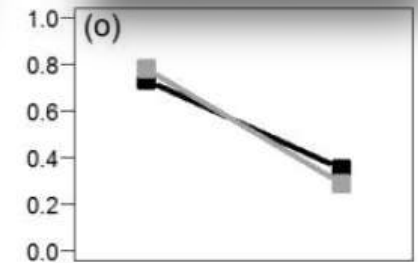
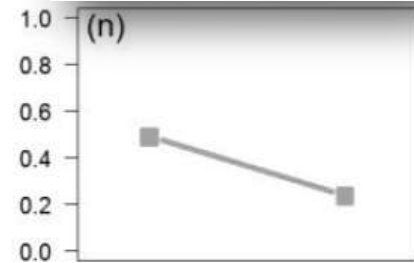
Fish survey  
database 4,165 sites



Probability of Occurrence



Summer air temperature (C)



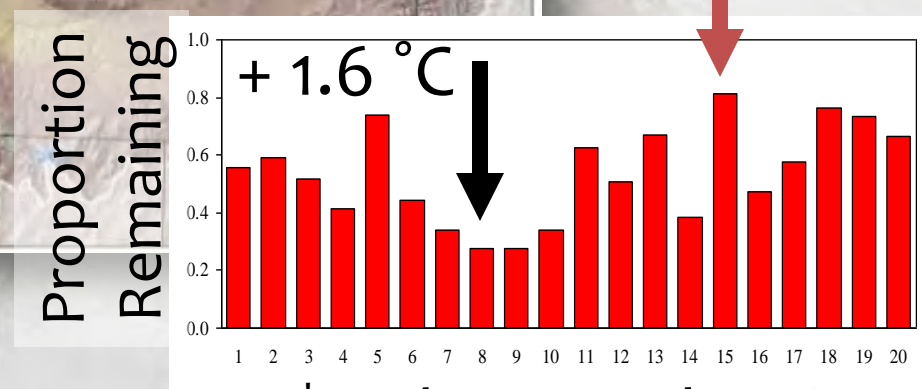
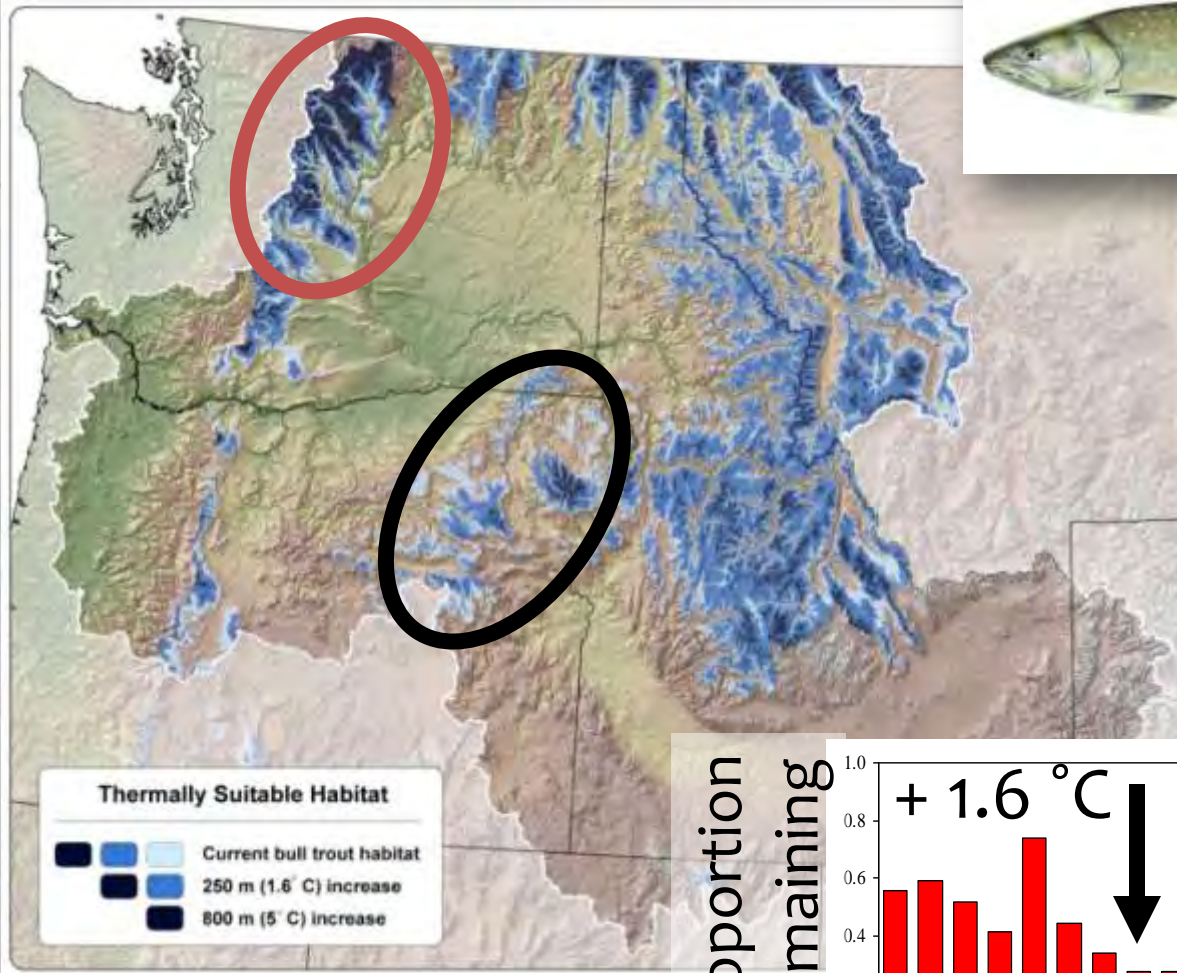
No ■ Yes

Brook trout occurrence?





# Context Matters: Spatial Variation in Habitat Loss

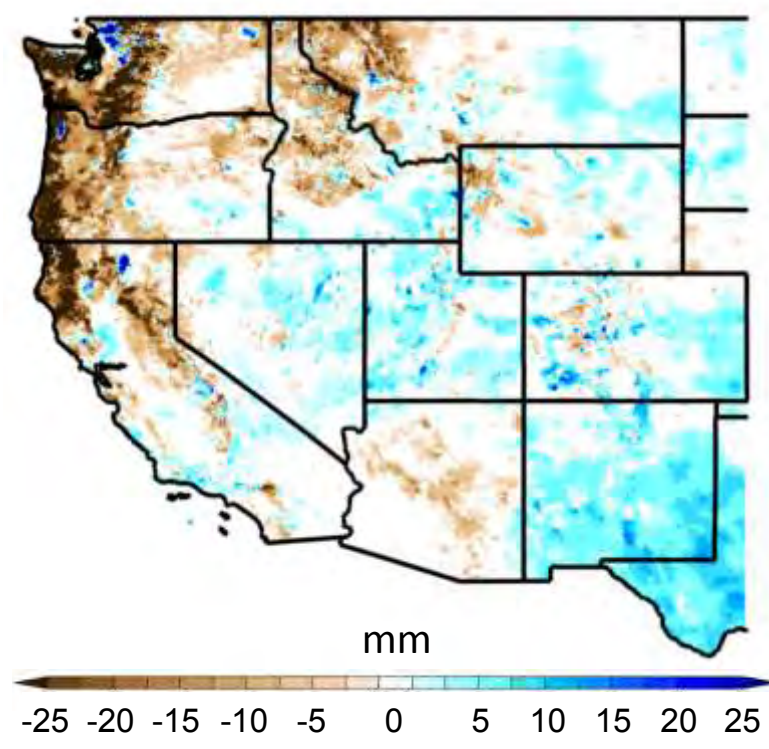


Rieman et al. 2007. *TAFS* 136:1552-1565

3<sup>rd</sup> Code HUC Subregion

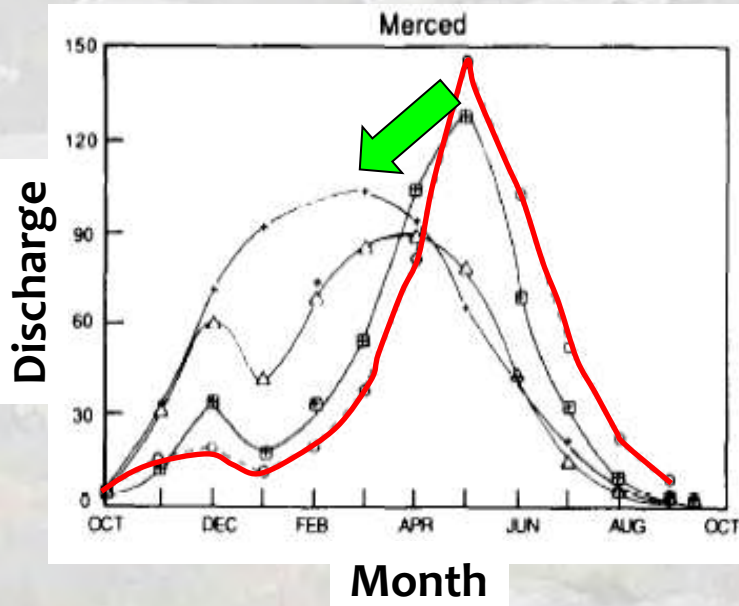
C

-4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4  
**Precipitation**

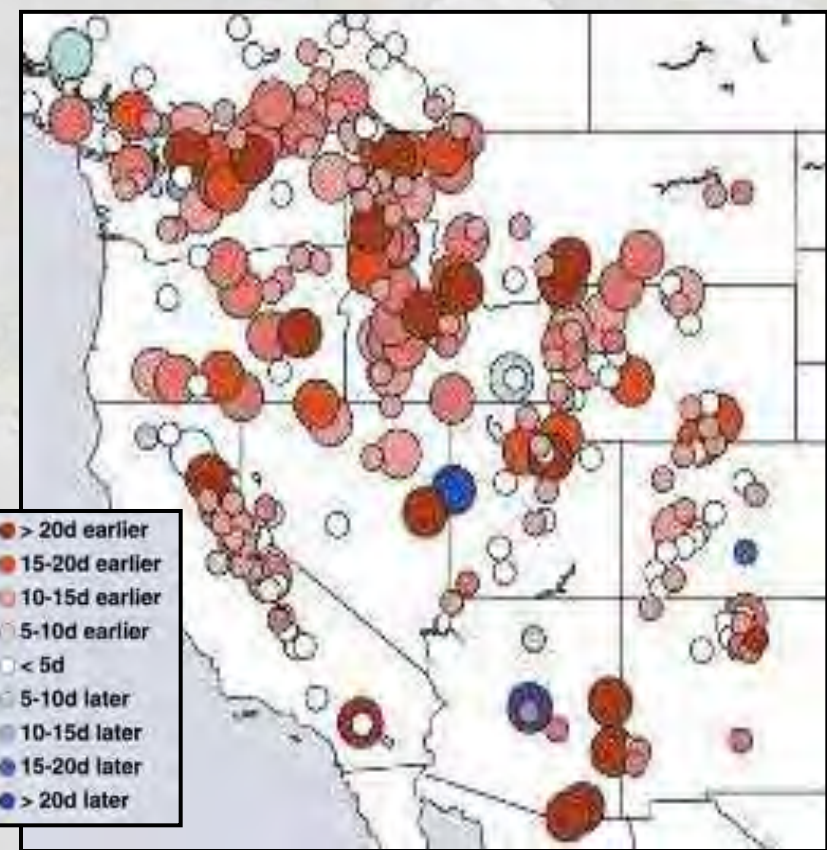




# Observed Trends in Runoff Timing (1948-2000)



Earlier snowmelt  
& river runoff



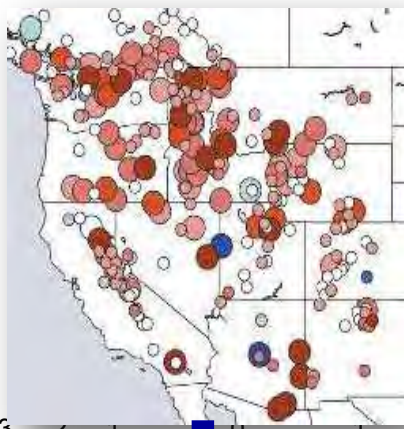
Stewart et al. 2005



# Runoff Interaction with

b)

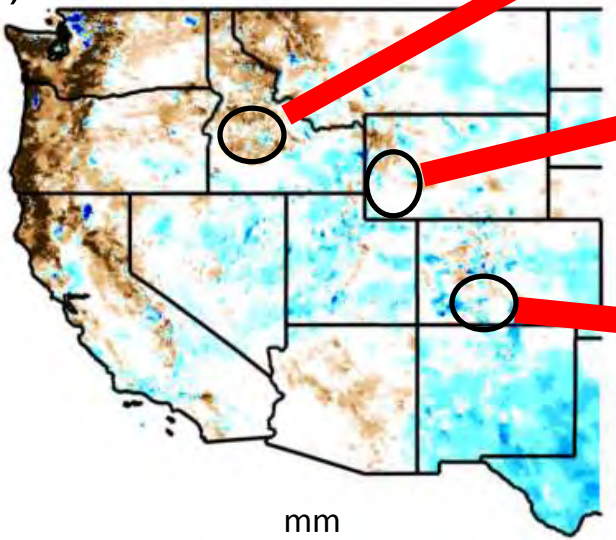
ds  
lows



-4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4



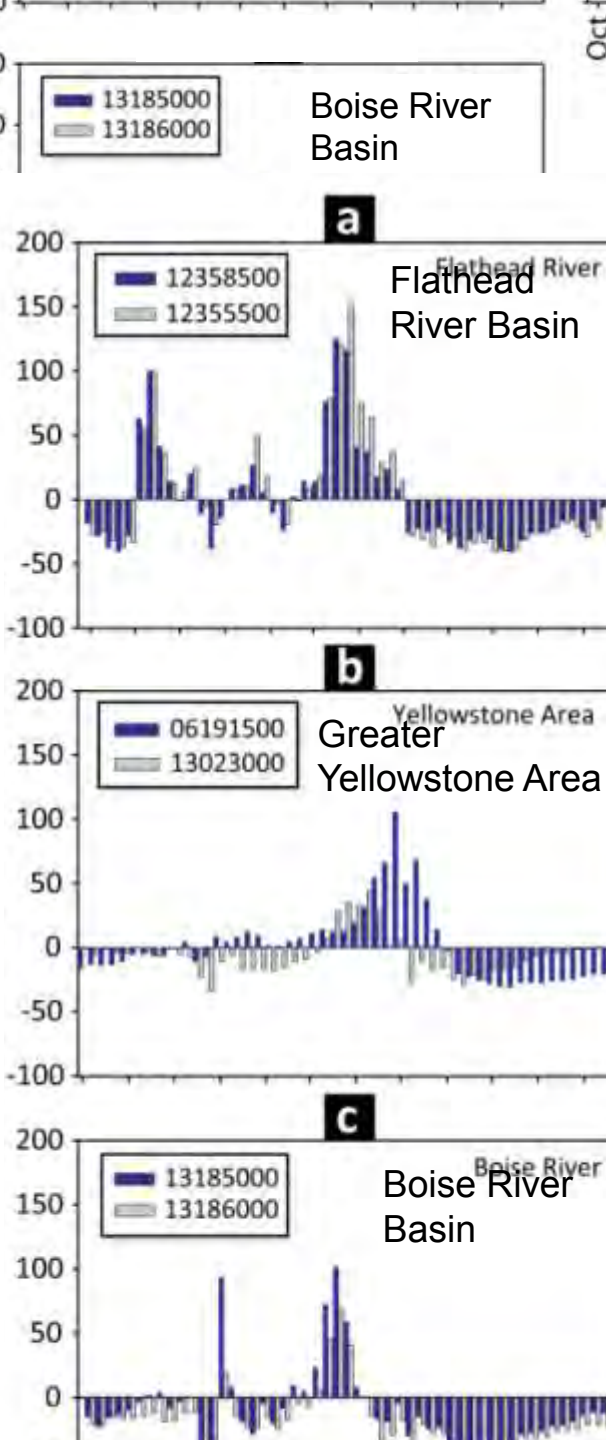
c)



-25 -20 -15 -10 -5 0 5 10 15 20 25

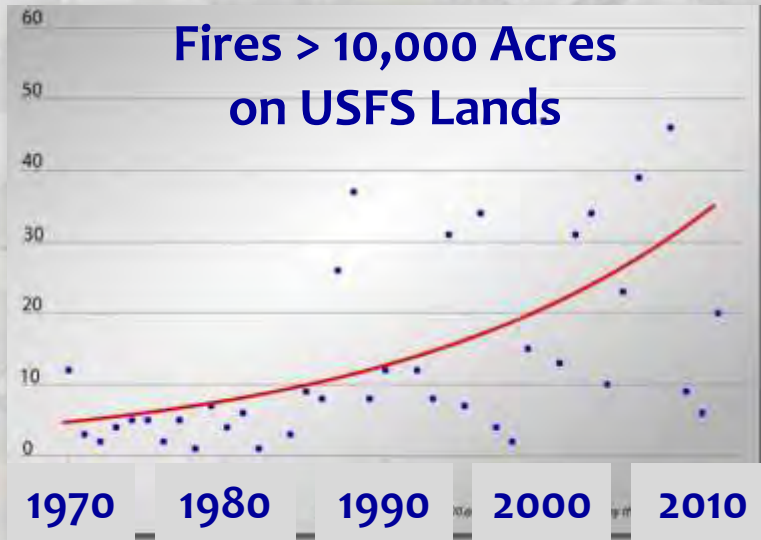
% change

% Change in Stream Discharge

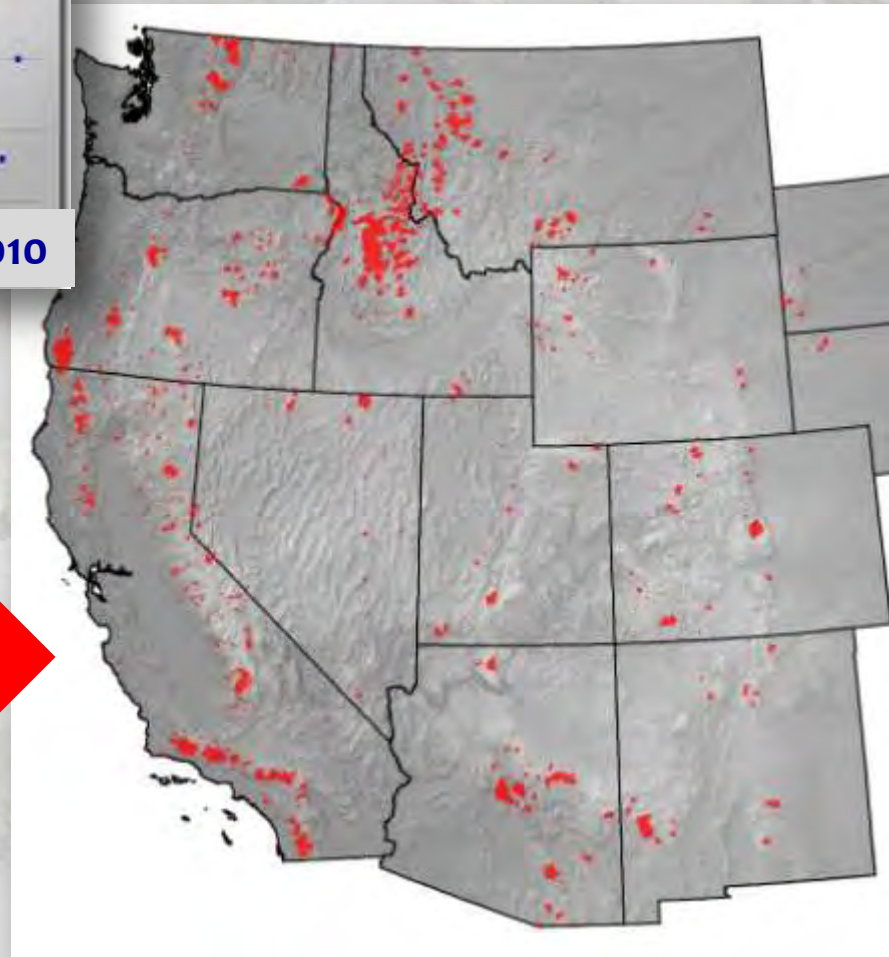




# Wildfires Increasing Westwide



**Fires from 2001 - 2007  
on USFS Lands**



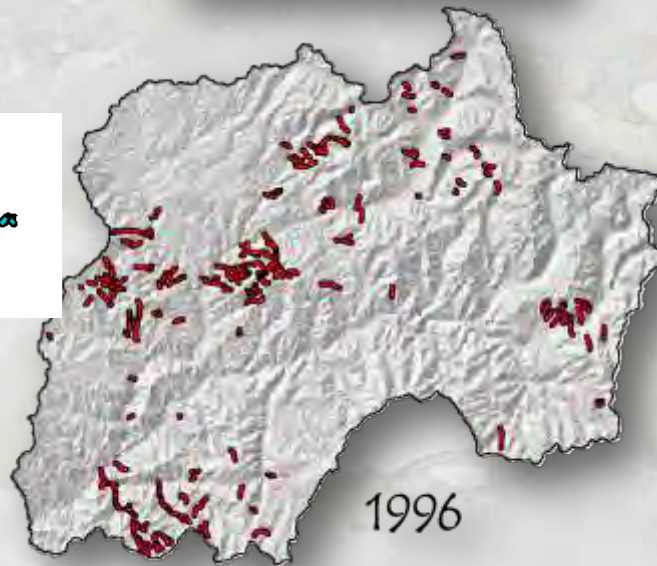


# Sediment Regimes

## Fire & Disturbance



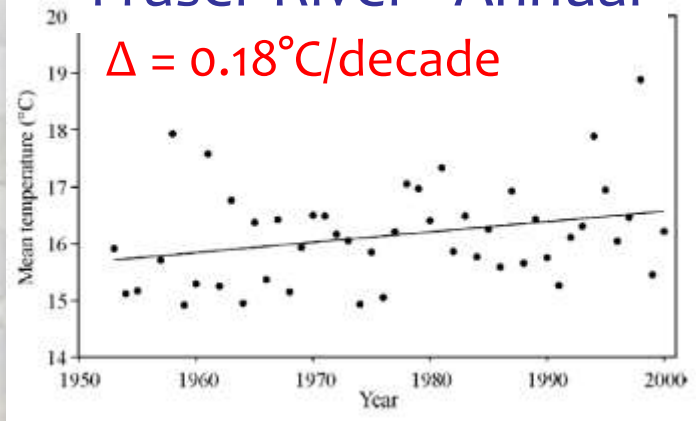
Burned & debris flow



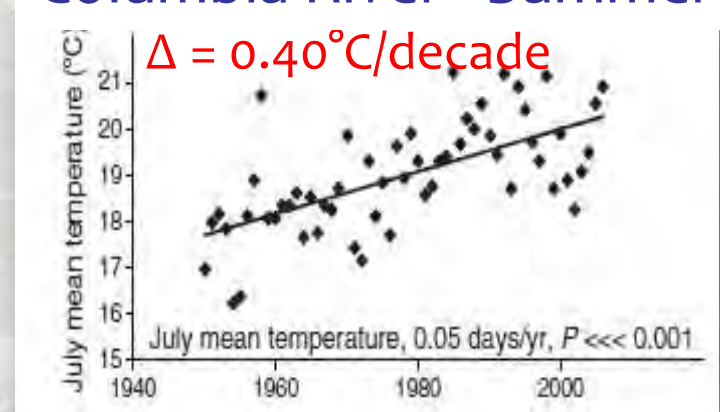


# Temperature Trends In Northwest Rivers

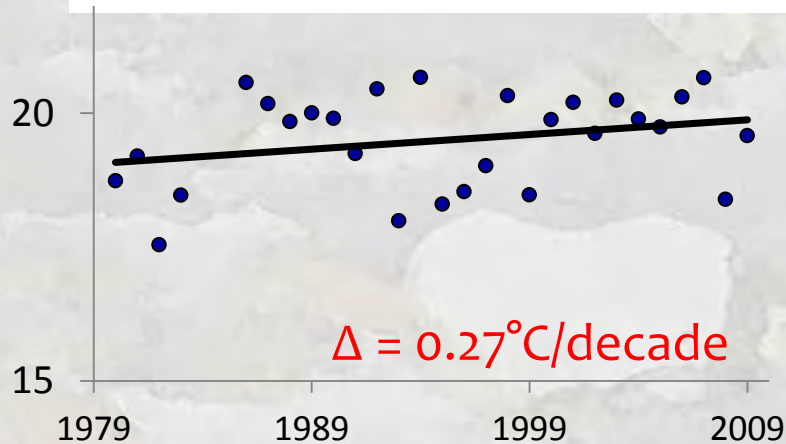
## Fraser River - Annual



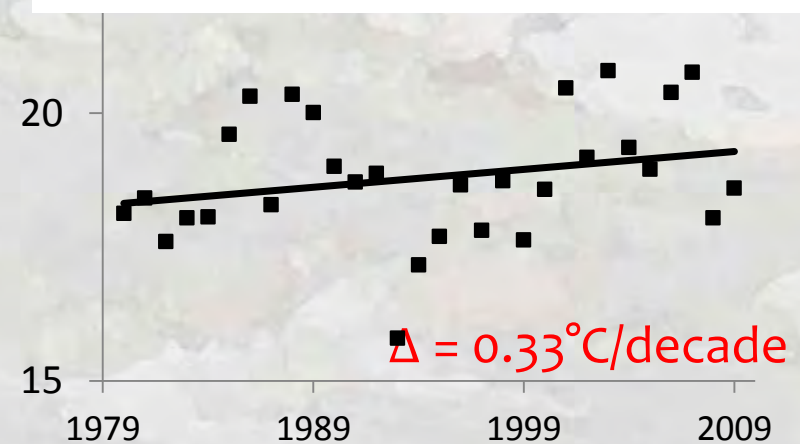
## Columbia River - Summer



## Snake River, ID - Summer



## Missouri River, MT - Summer



# Factors Confounding Stream Warming = Urbanization + Reservoirs

## Rising stream and river temperatures in the United States

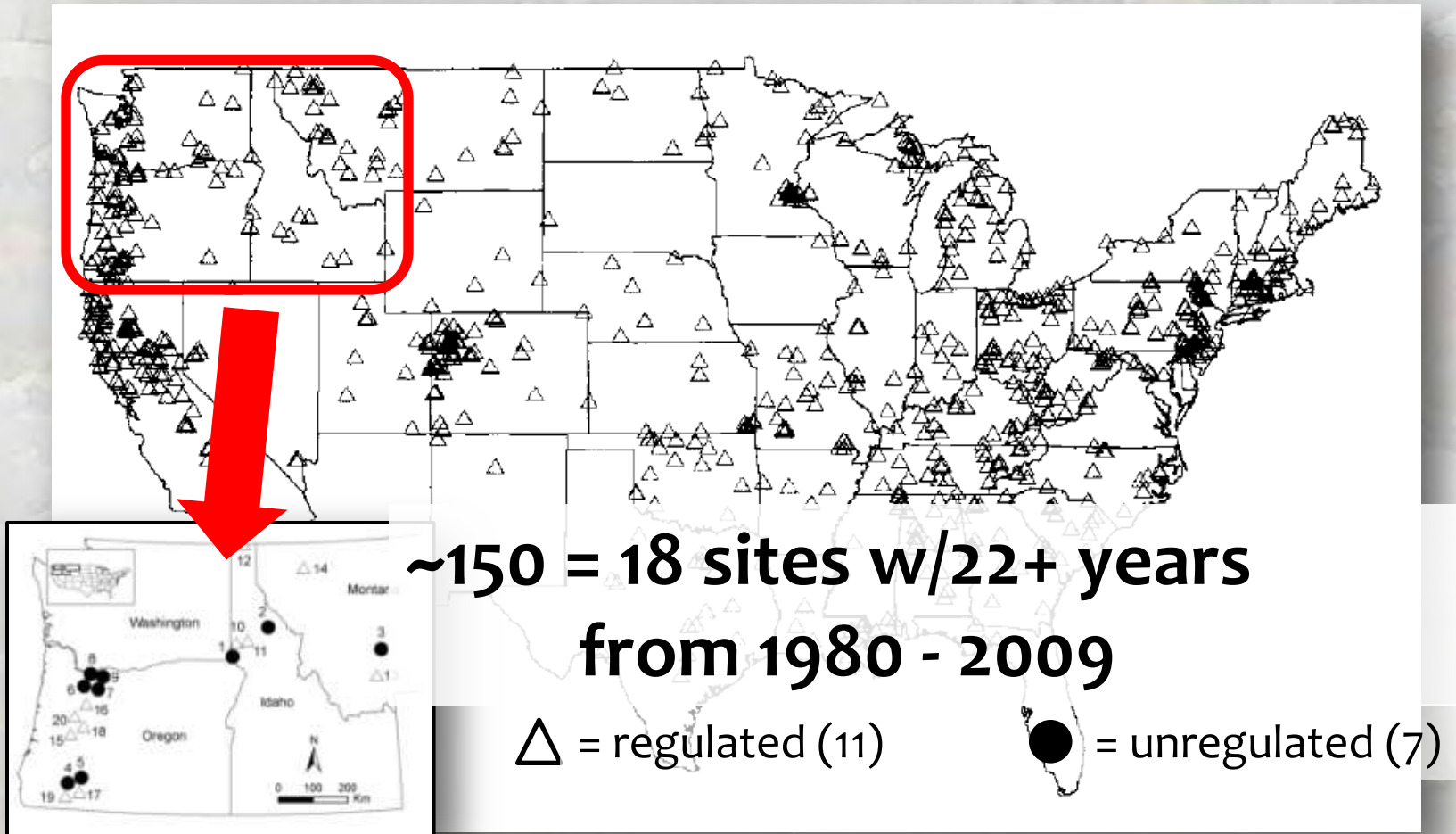
Sujay S Kaushal<sup>1\*</sup>, Gene E Likens<sup>2</sup>, Norbert A Jaworski<sup>3</sup>, Michael L Pace<sup>2†</sup>, Ashley M Sides<sup>1</sup>, David Seekell<sup>4</sup>,  
Kenneth T Belt<sup>5</sup>, David H Secor<sup>1</sup>, and Rebecca L Wingate<sup>1</sup>





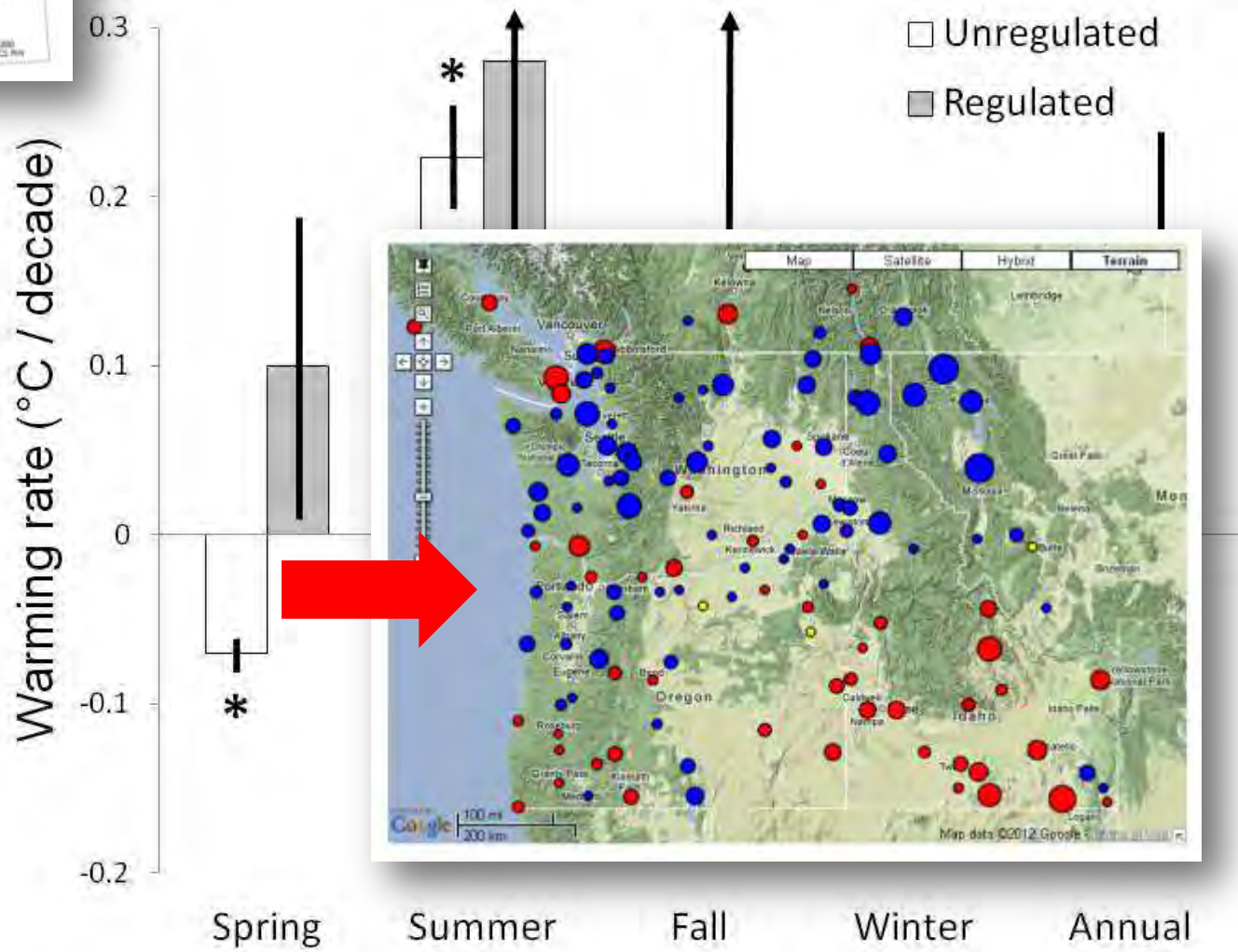
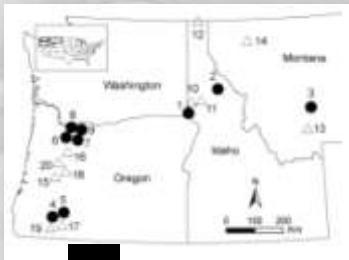
# Are There “Pristine” Sites with Long-term Data to Serve as Climate Sentinels?

764 USGS gages have some temperature data



USGS NWIS Database (<http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>)

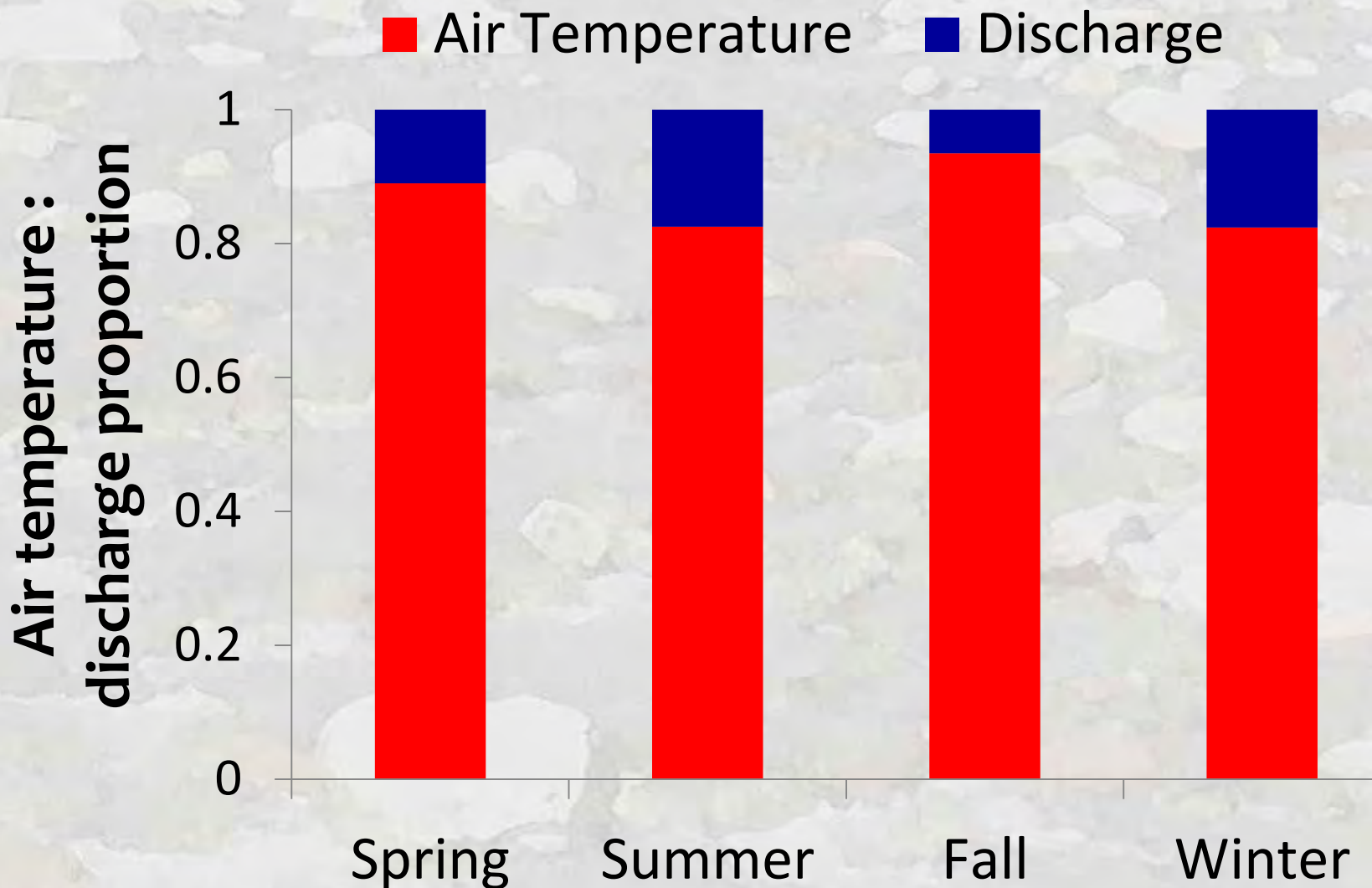
# Seasonal Trends In Northwest Stream Temperatures (1980-2009)



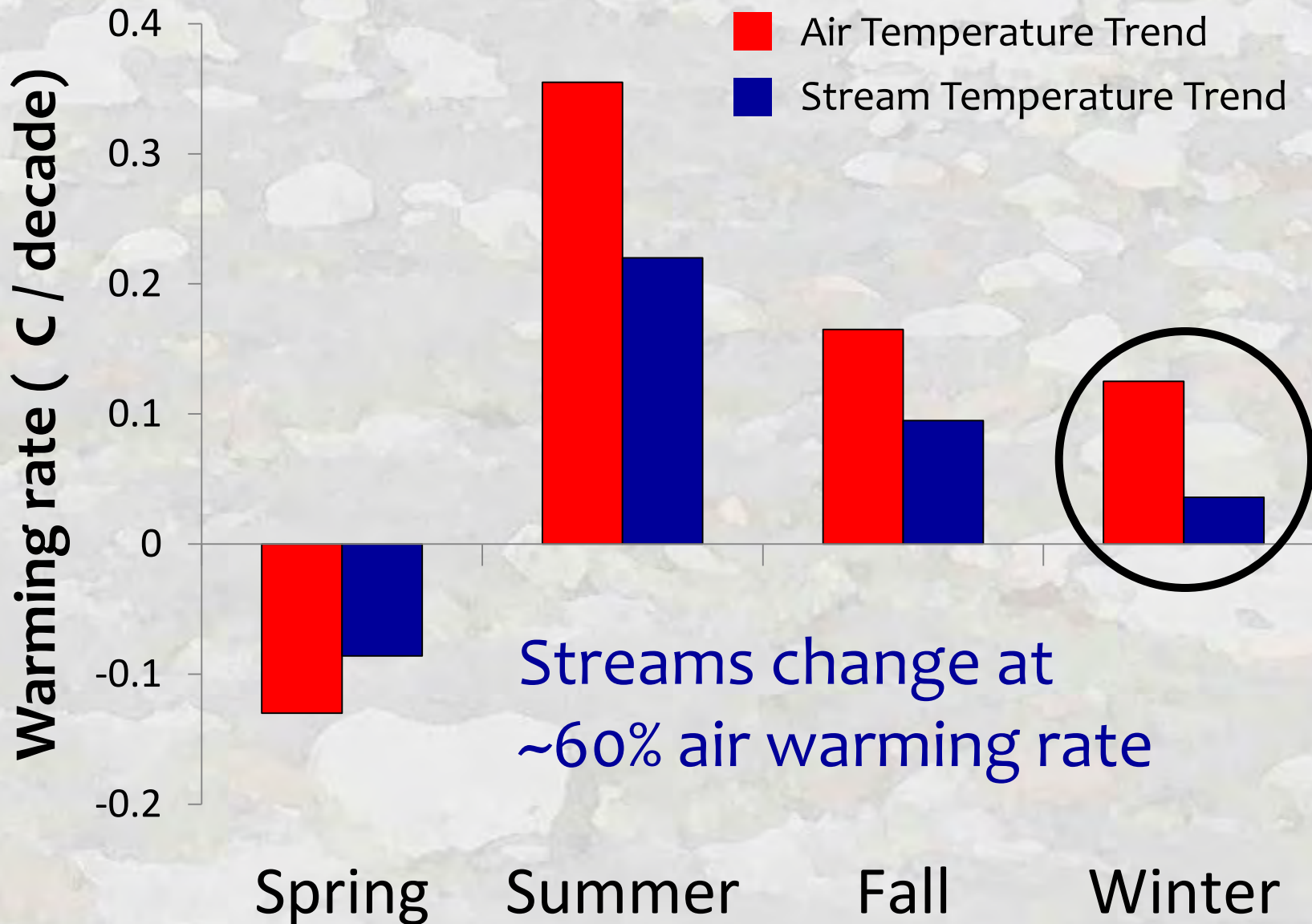


# What's causing it?

## Attribution of Stream Warming Trends



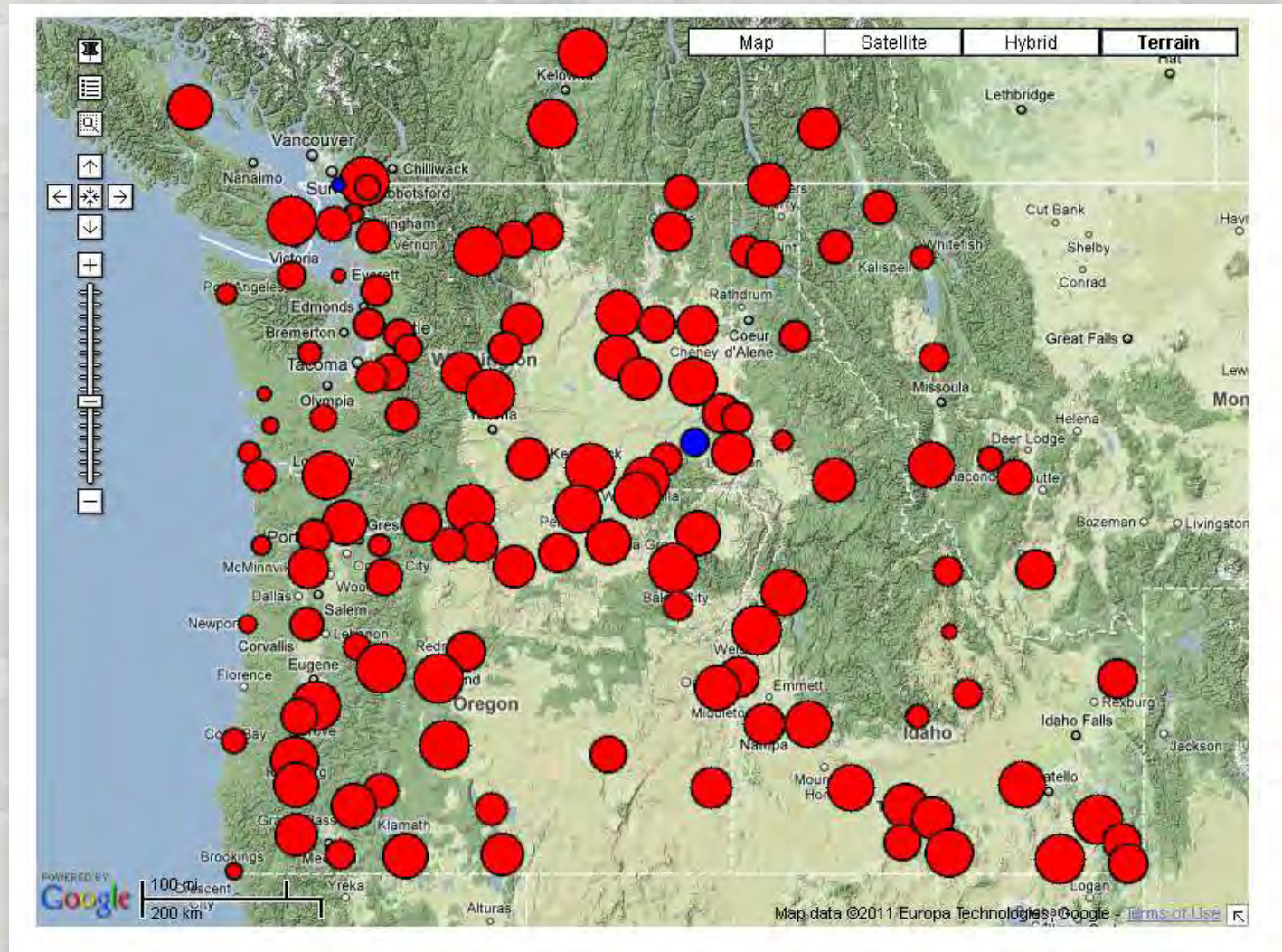
# Streams are Tracking Air Temperatures





# Air Trends as Stream Temperature Surrogates?

## Mean **Summer** Air Temp Trends (1980 – 2009)



OWSC Climate Tool map

<http://www.climate.washington.edu/trendanalysis/>



# Air Trends as Stream Temperature Surrogates?



United States Historical Climatology Network

Select a state from the pulldown list and click "Map Sites" to show its stations on the

<http://cdiac.ornl.gov/epubs/ndp/ushcn/ushcn.html>



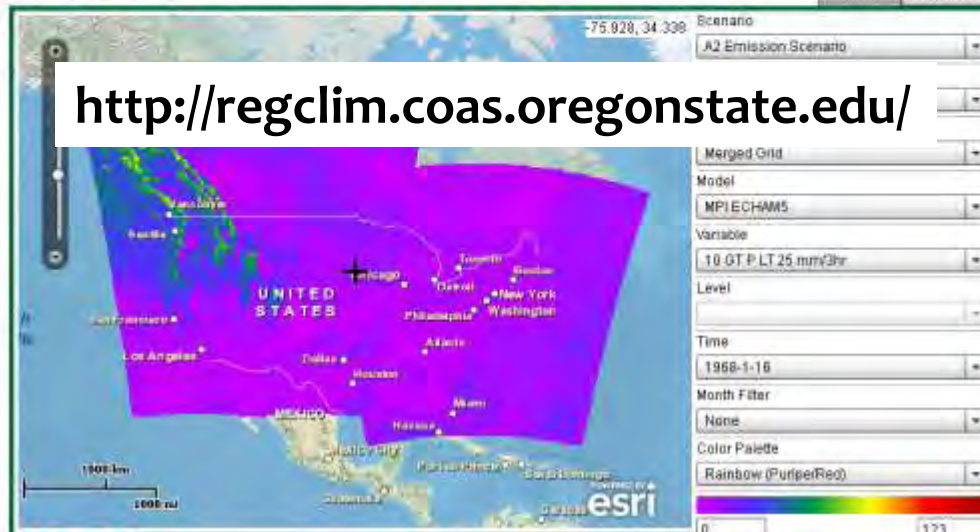
Regional Climate Downscaling

Home Dynamical Downscaling Visualization Data Access Teaching Examples Publications and Use FAQ



Regional Climate Downscaling

<http://regclim.coas.oregonstate.edu/>

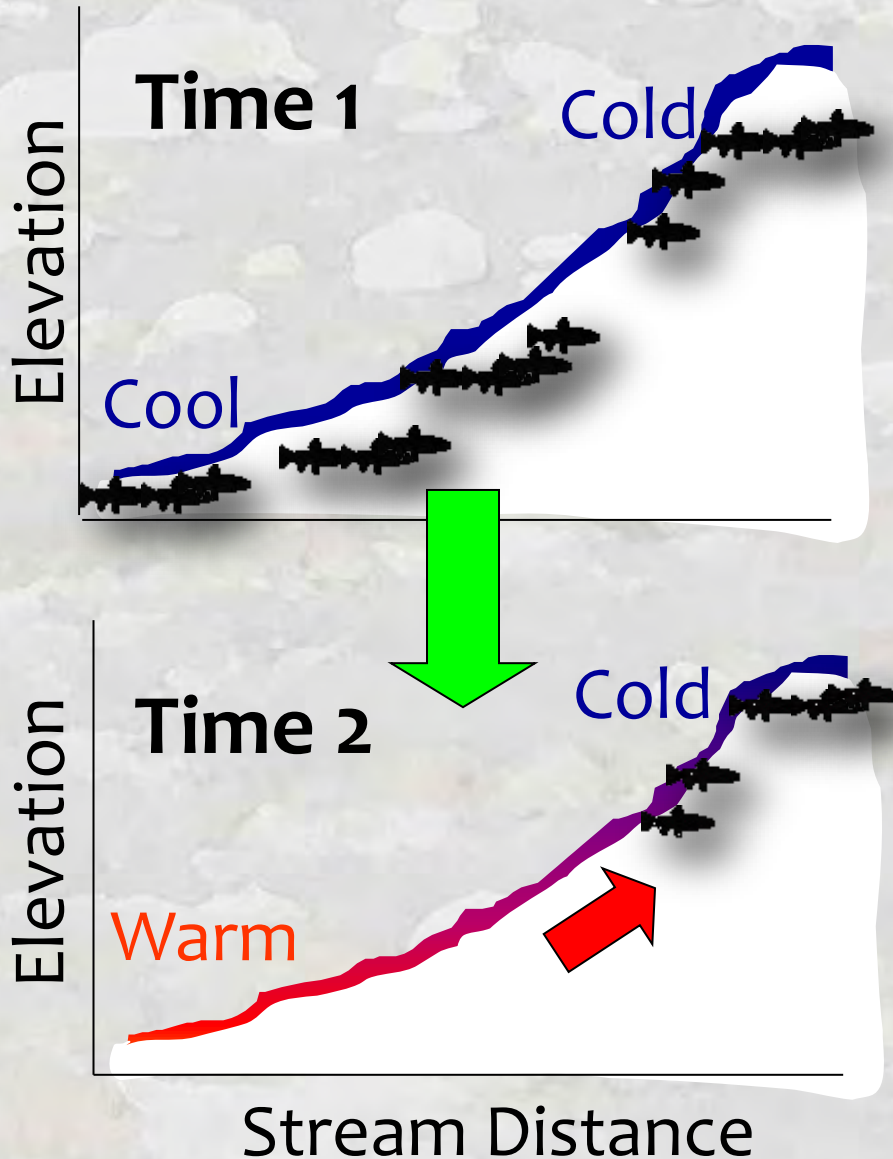


OWSC Climate Tool n

[http](http://)



# How Are Trout Populations Responding?



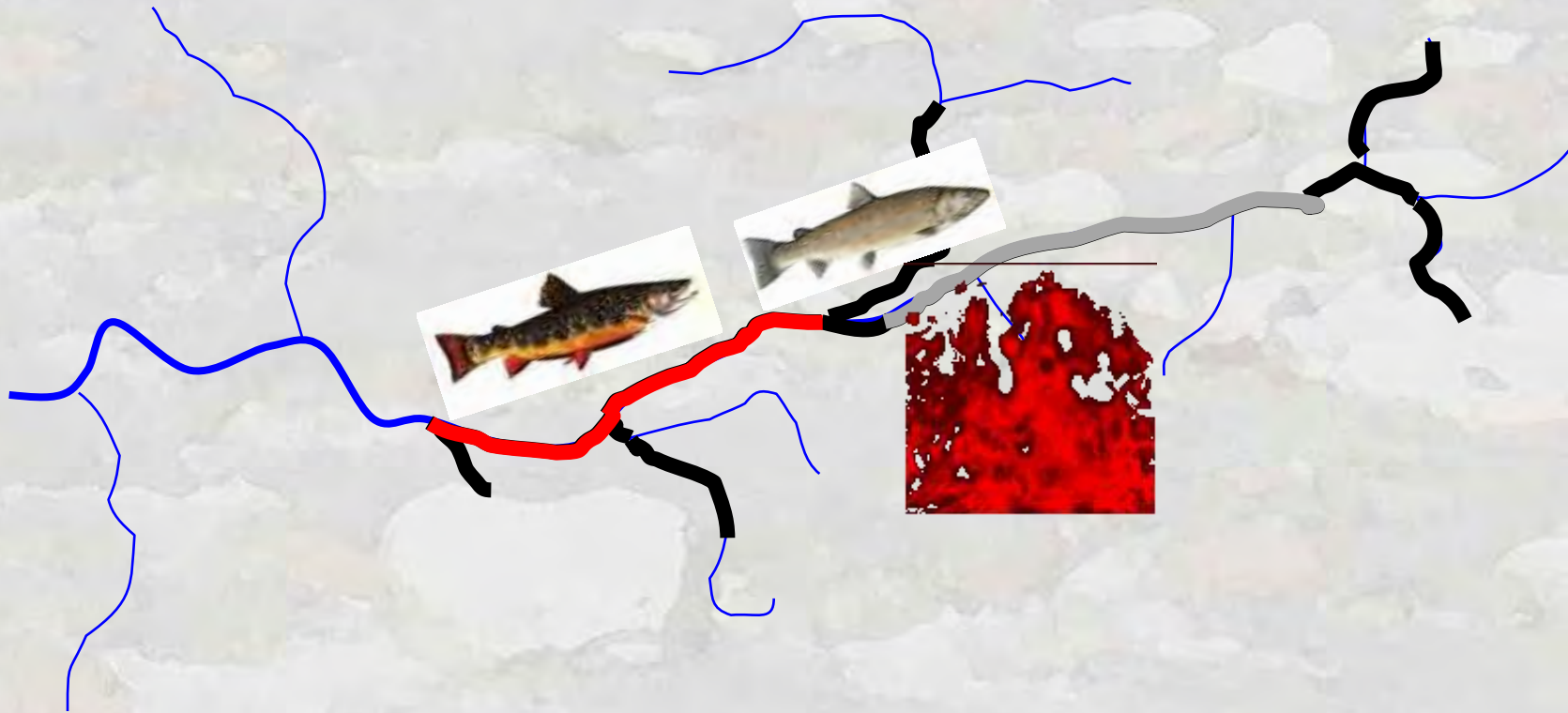
Average distribution shift  
across taxa =  
6.1 km/decade poleward OR  
6.1 m/decade higher

Parmesan and Yohe. 2003.  
*Nature* 421:37-42.



# The Bull Trout Vise

Warmer temperatures  
Reduced summer flows  
Fire & debris flows  
Winter flooding  
Non-native invasions





# The Bull Trout Vise

Warmer temperatures 

Reduced summer flows  ?

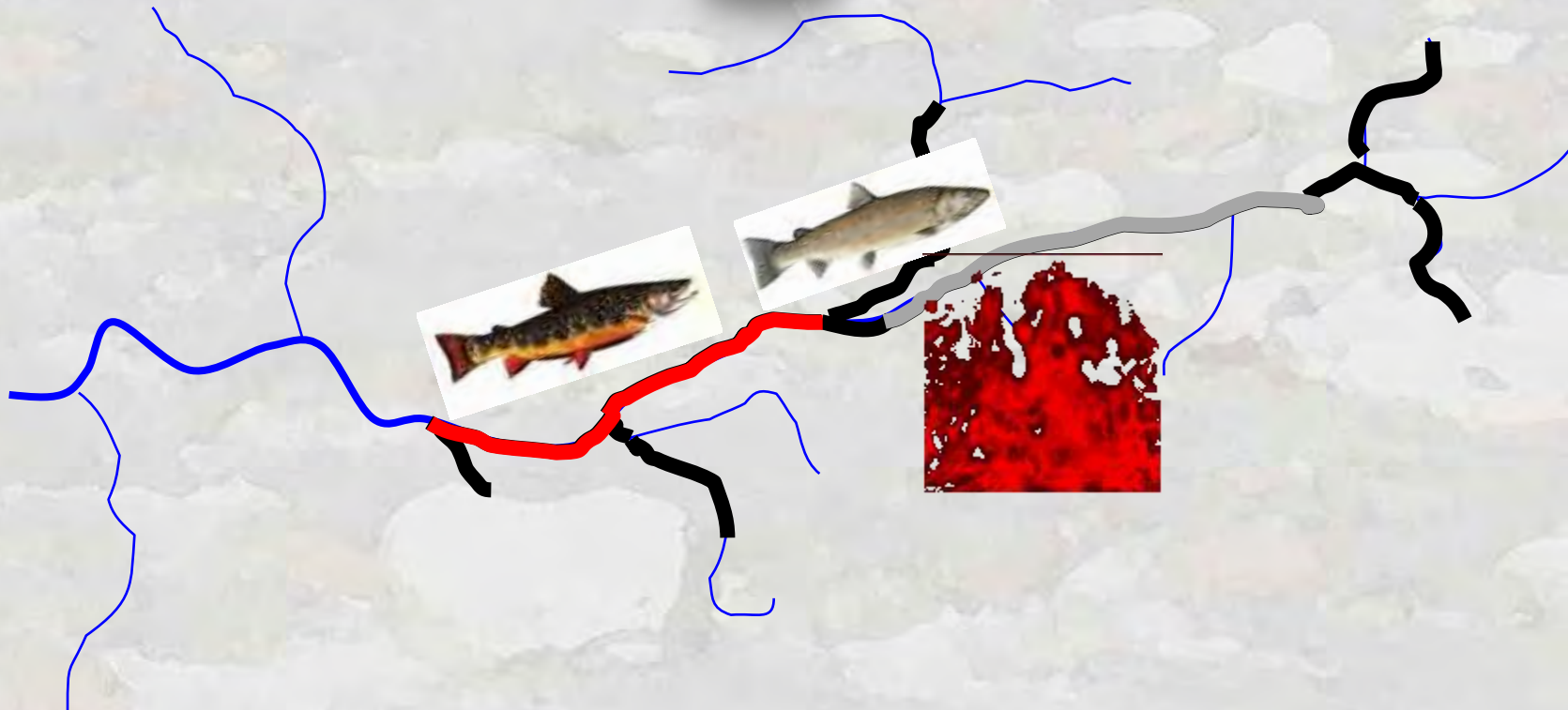
Fire & debris flows  !

Winter flooding

Non-native invasions  !



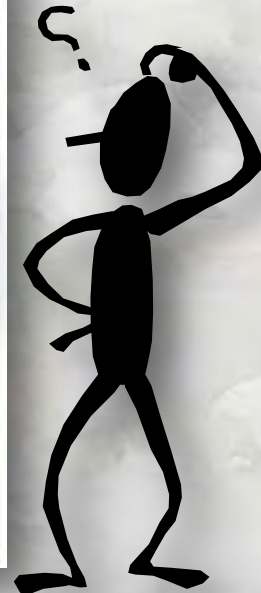
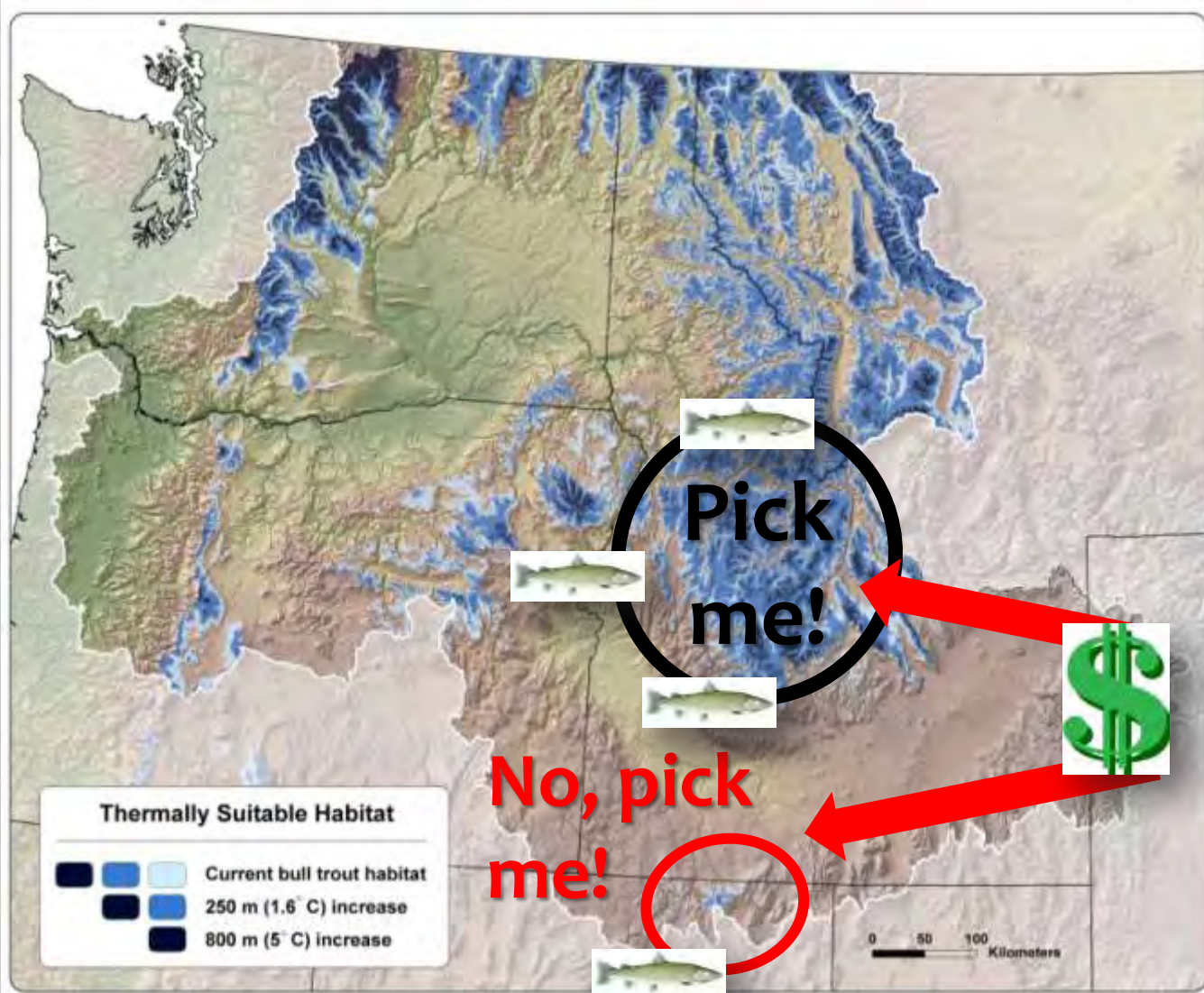
## CRCT Vise?





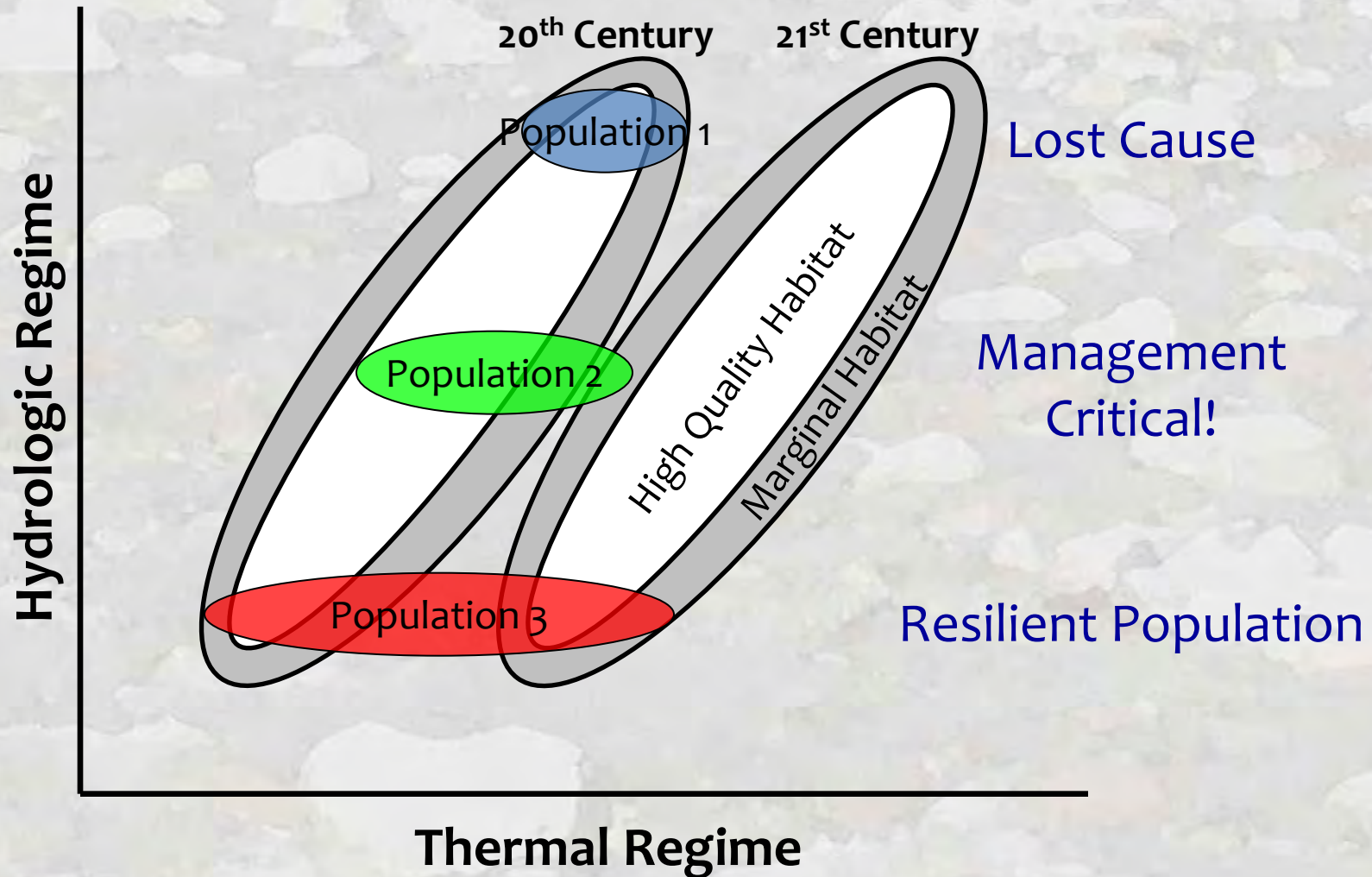
# Lots of Uncertainties...

Where should scarce resources be spent?

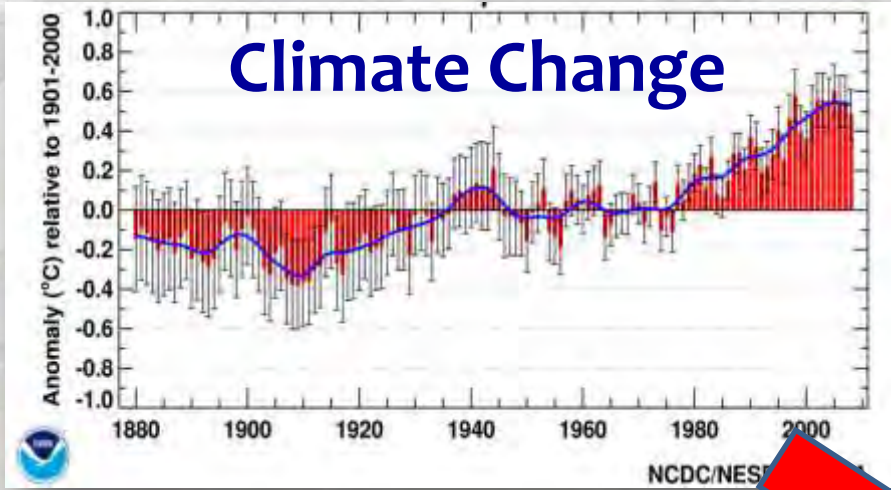




# Where Can We Make a Difference?



# More Pressure, Fewer Resources



Urbanization & Population Growth



Shrinking Budgets

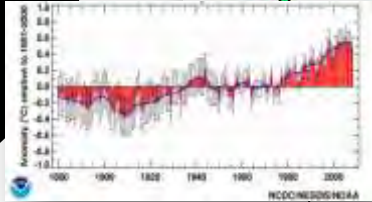
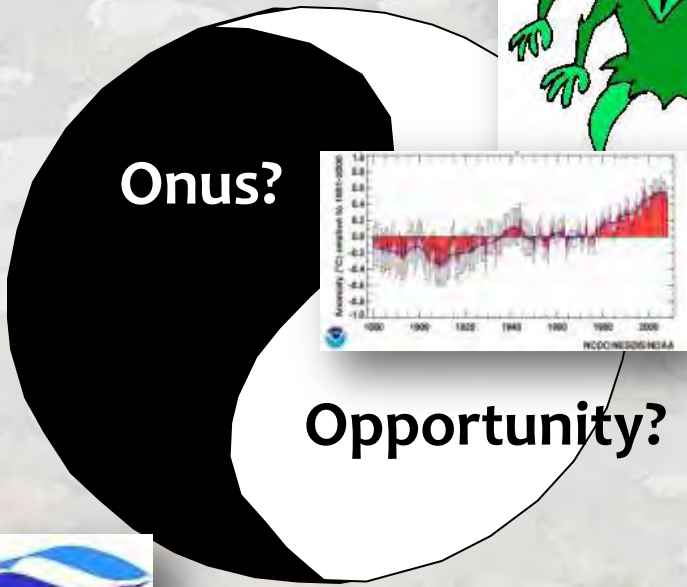


Need to do more with less



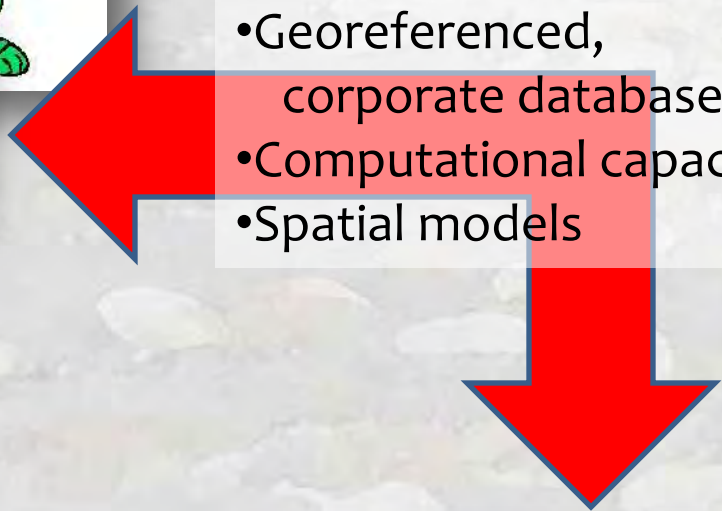


# Climate Boogeyman



## Analytical Capacity

- Remote sensing/GIS
- Georeferenced, corporate databases
- Computational capacity
- Spatial models



## More Collaboration

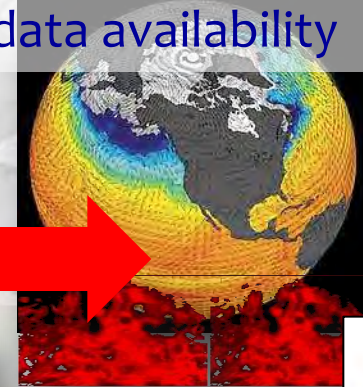


# Geospatial Tools for Accurate Regional Scale Stream Models

Remote Sensing



Climate, weather, GCM data availability



Small sensors



GIS / Computing Capacity



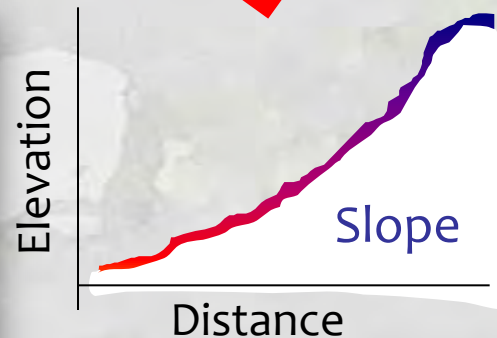
Visualization Tools



Nationally Consistent Hydrocoverages like USGS NHD+



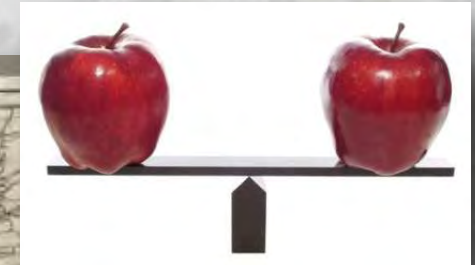
Elevation





# Accurate Spatial Information (a.k.a. “Maps”) Can Reduce Uncertainty

Maps are powerful tools, especially if they’re “smart”



Still catching up to Lewis & Clarke 200 years later...

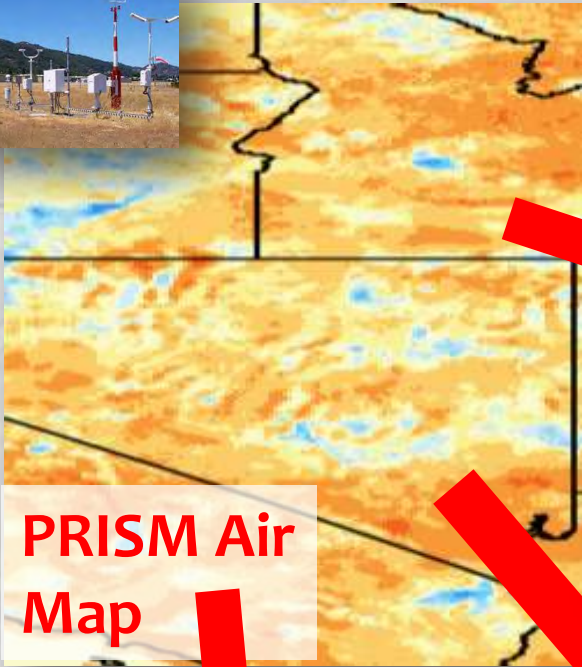


# BioClimatic Assessments

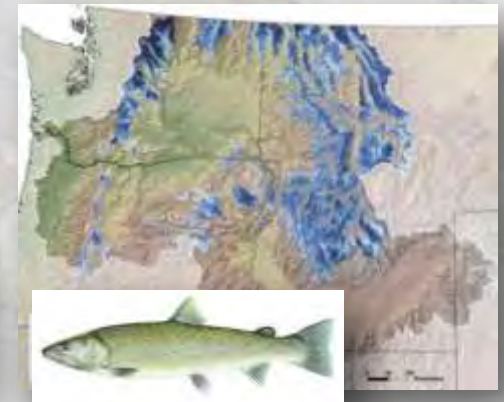
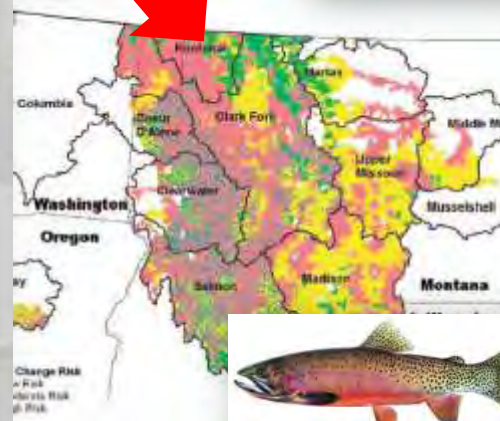
## No stream temperature component

### Air Temperatures...

- Meisner 1988, 1990
- Eaton & Schaller 1996
- Keleher & Rahel 1996
- Rahel et al. 1996
- Mohseni et al. 2003
- Flebbe et al. 2006
- Rieman et al. 2007
- Kennedy et al. 2008
- Williams et al. 2009
- Wenger et al. 2011
- Almodovar et al. 2011
- Etc.

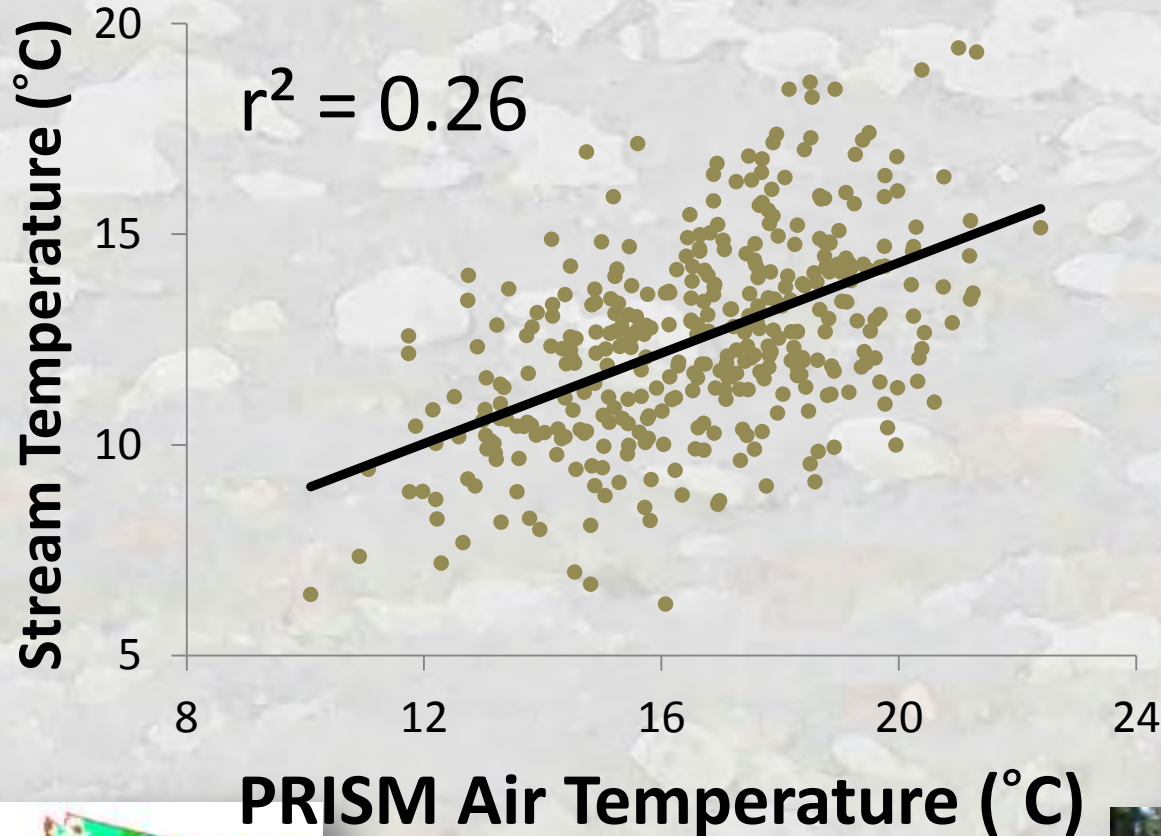


PRISM Air Map

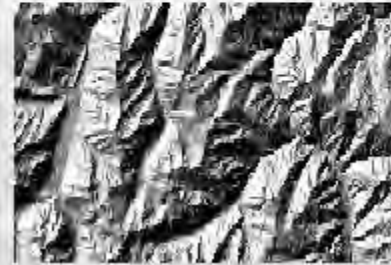




# Air Temp $\neq$ Stream Temp



Complex topography



Glaciation



Groundwater buffering



Riparian differences





# NorWeST: A Regional Stream Temperature Database & Model for High-Resolution Climate Vulnerability Assessments

Dan Isaak, Seth Wenger<sup>1</sup>, Erin Peterson<sup>2</sup>, Jay Ver Hoef<sup>3</sup> Charlie Luce, Steve Hostetler<sup>4</sup>, Jason Dunham<sup>4</sup>, Jeff Kershner<sup>4</sup>, Brett Roper, Dave Nagel, Dona Horan, Gwynne Chandler, Sharon Parkes, Sherry Wollrab

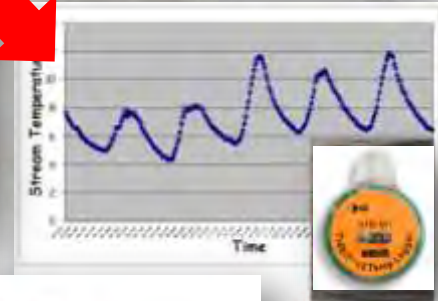
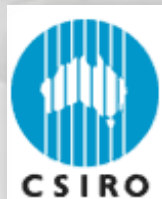
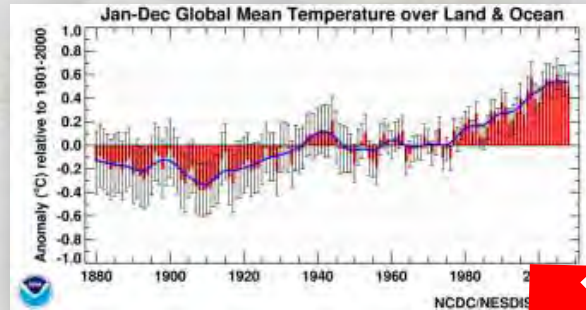
U.S. Forest Service

<sup>1</sup>Trout Unlimited

<sup>2</sup>CSIRO

<sup>3</sup>NOAA

<sup>4</sup>USGS





# Lots of Temperature Data Out There...



## Stealth Sensor Network

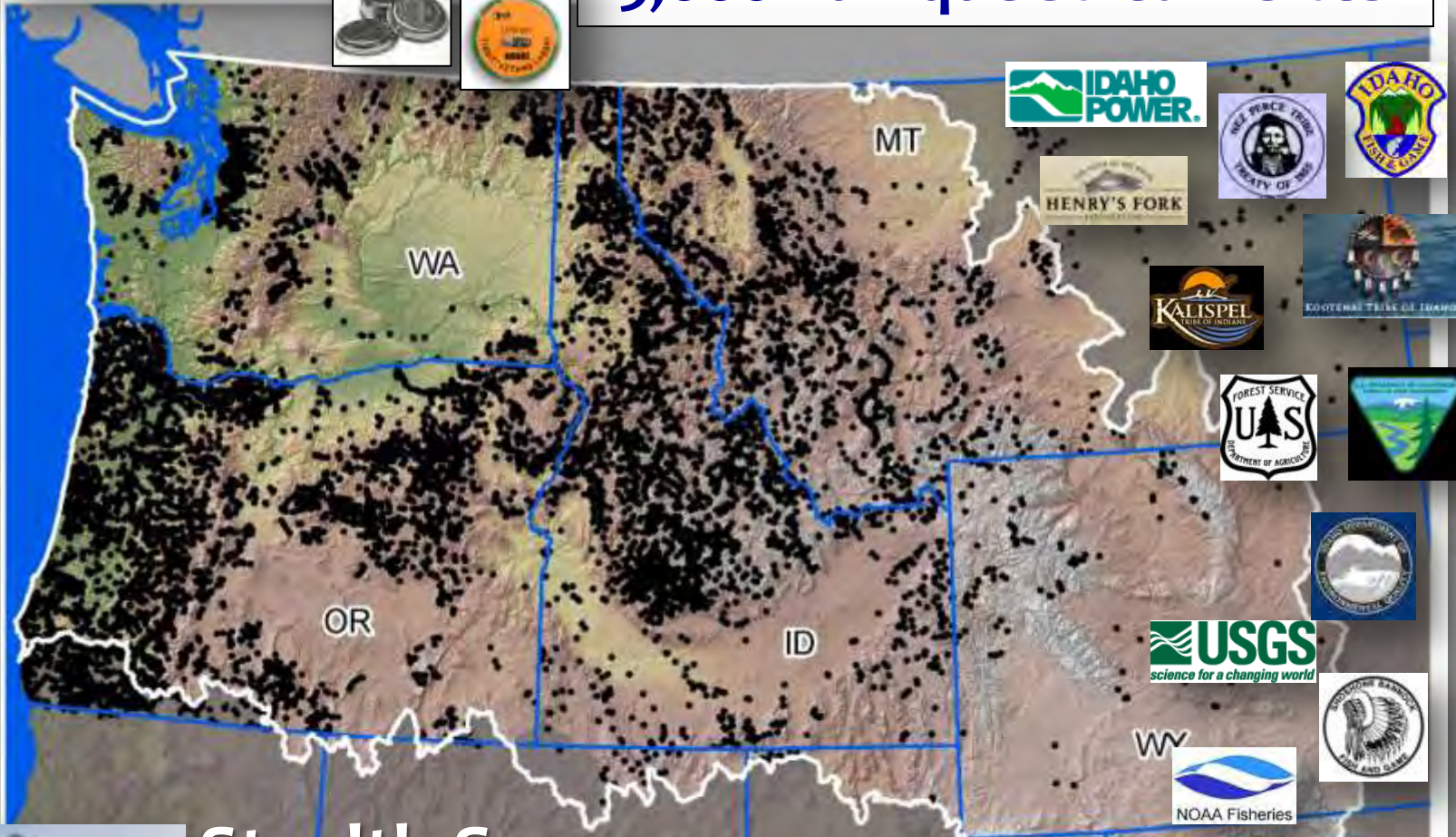




# NorWeST

Stream Temp

45,000,000+ hourly records  
45,000+ summers measured  
15,000+ unique stream sites



## Stealth Sensor Network

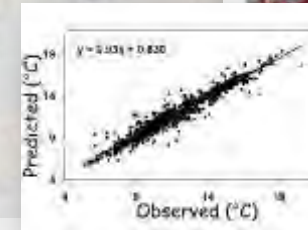
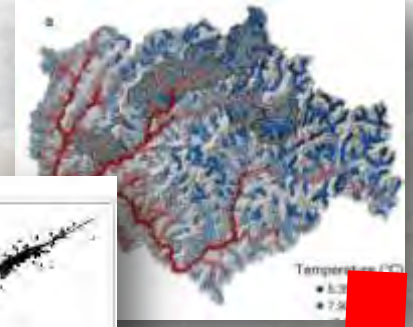
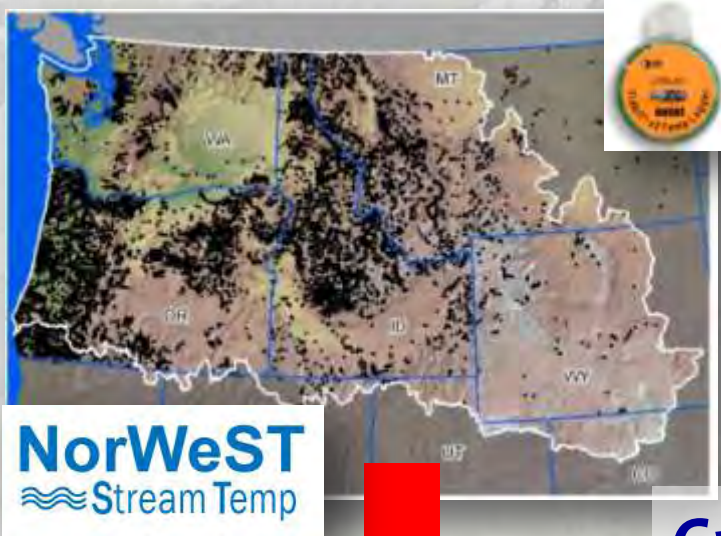
60+ agencies  
350,000 stream km





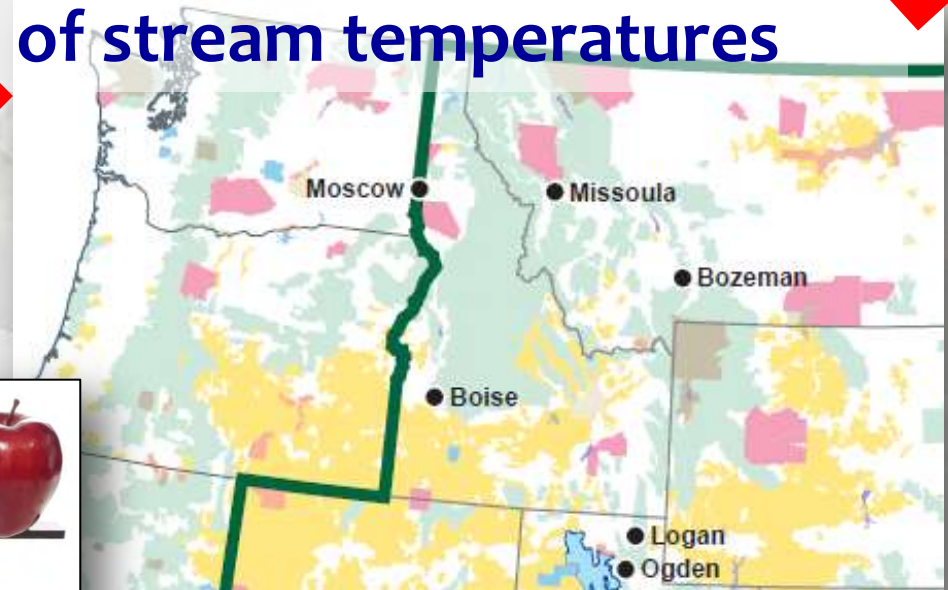
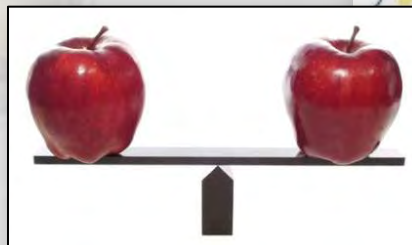
# Regional Temperature Model

Accurate temperature models



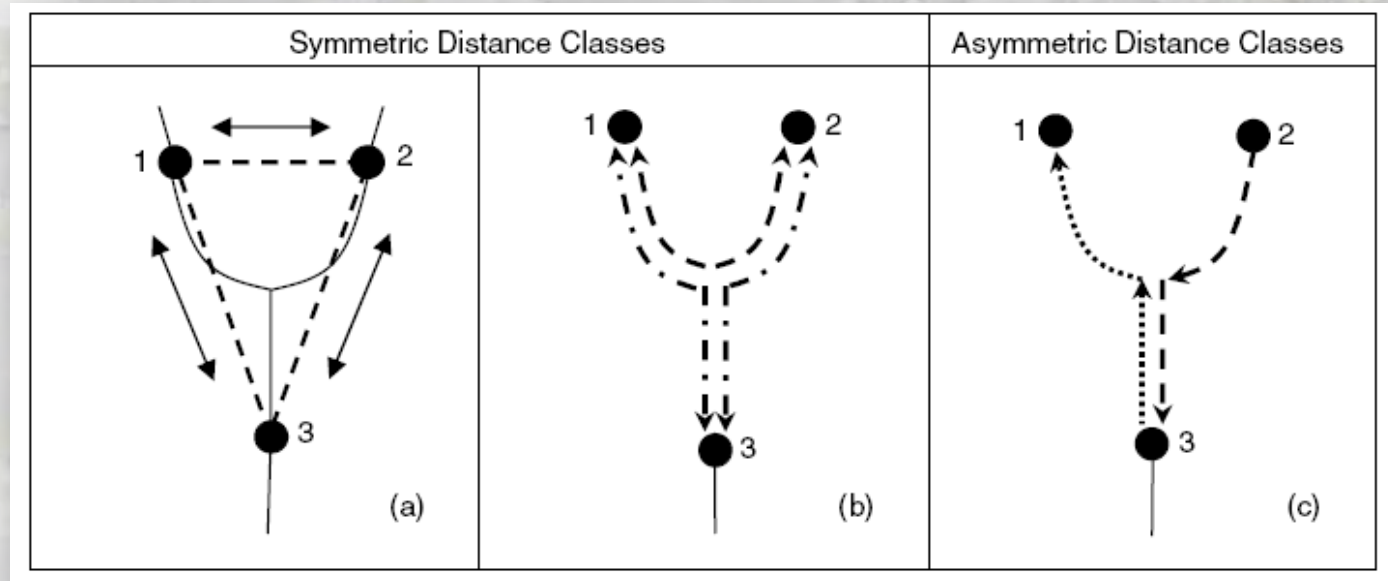
Cross-jurisdictional “maps” of stream temperatures

Consistent datum for strategic assessments across 350,000 stream kilometers



# Spatial Statistical Stream Models

Valid means of interpolation between sample locations on networks... finally!



## Advantages:

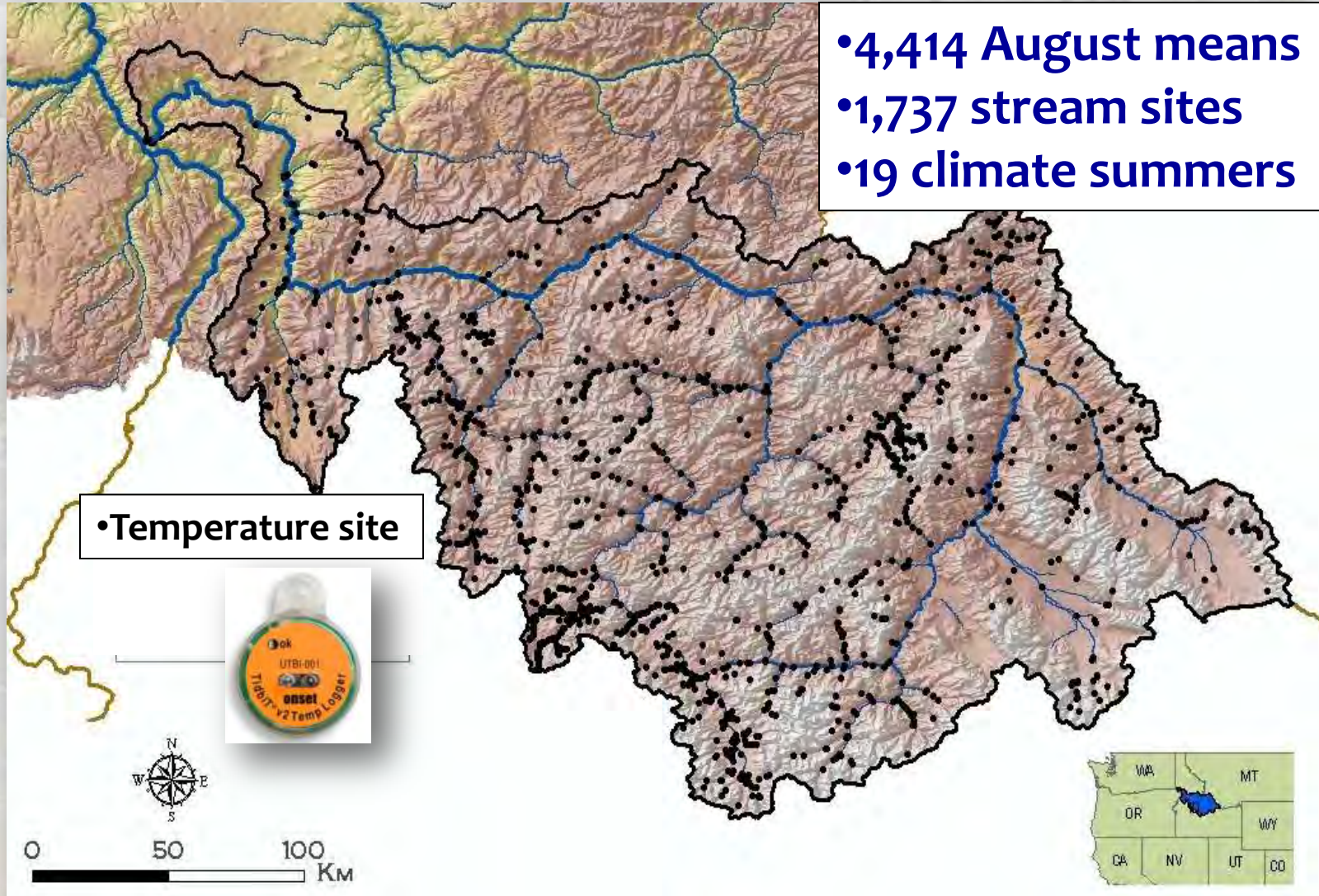
- Flexible & valid covariance structures that accommodate network topology & autocorrelation
- Much improved predictive ability & parameter estimates relative to non-spatial models



# Example: Salmon River Basin

## Data extracted from NorWeST

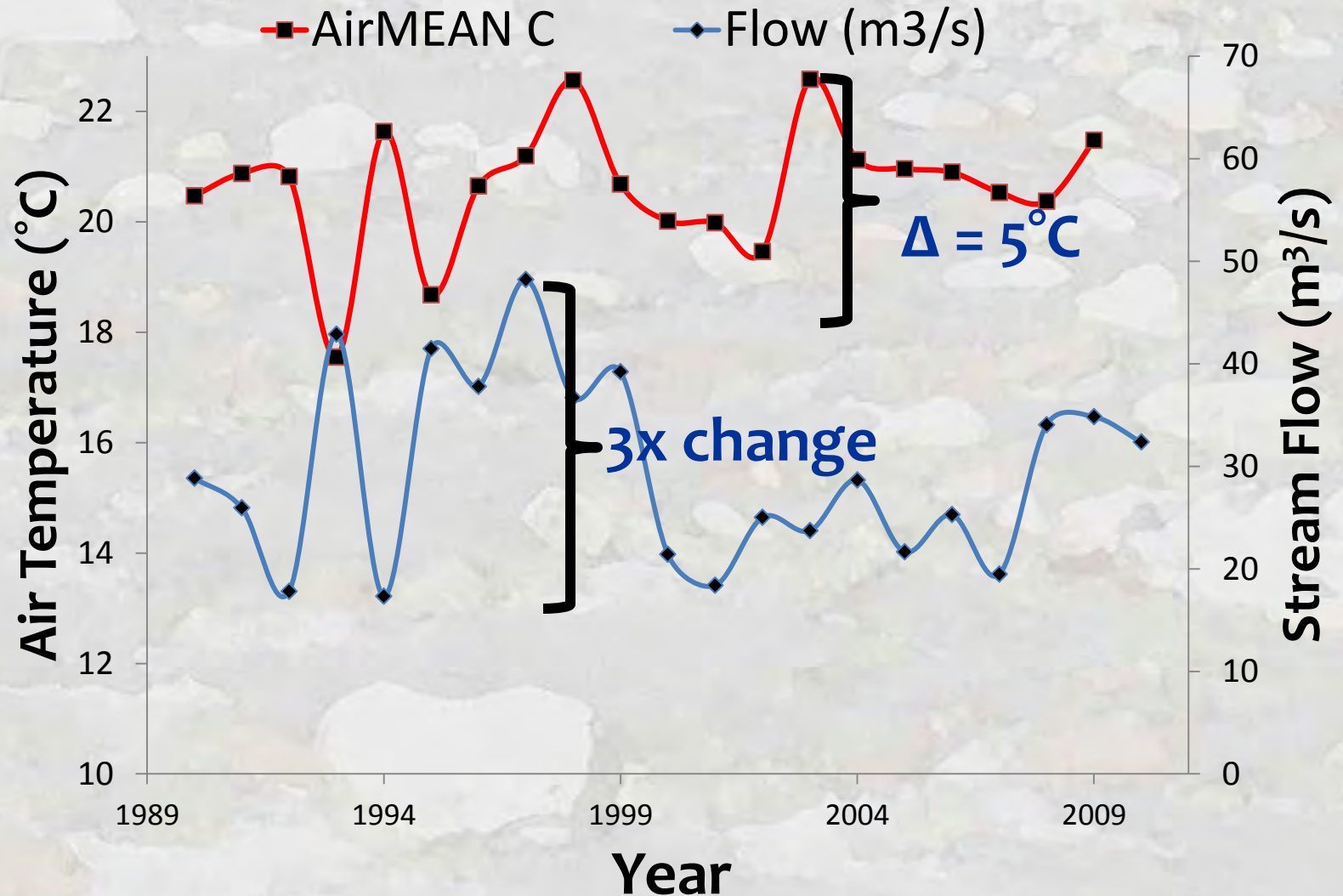
- 4,414 August means
- 1,737 stream sites
- 19 climate summers





# Climatic Variability in Historical Record

Extreme years include late 21<sup>st</sup>-Century “averages”





# Salmon River Temperature Model

**n = 4,414**

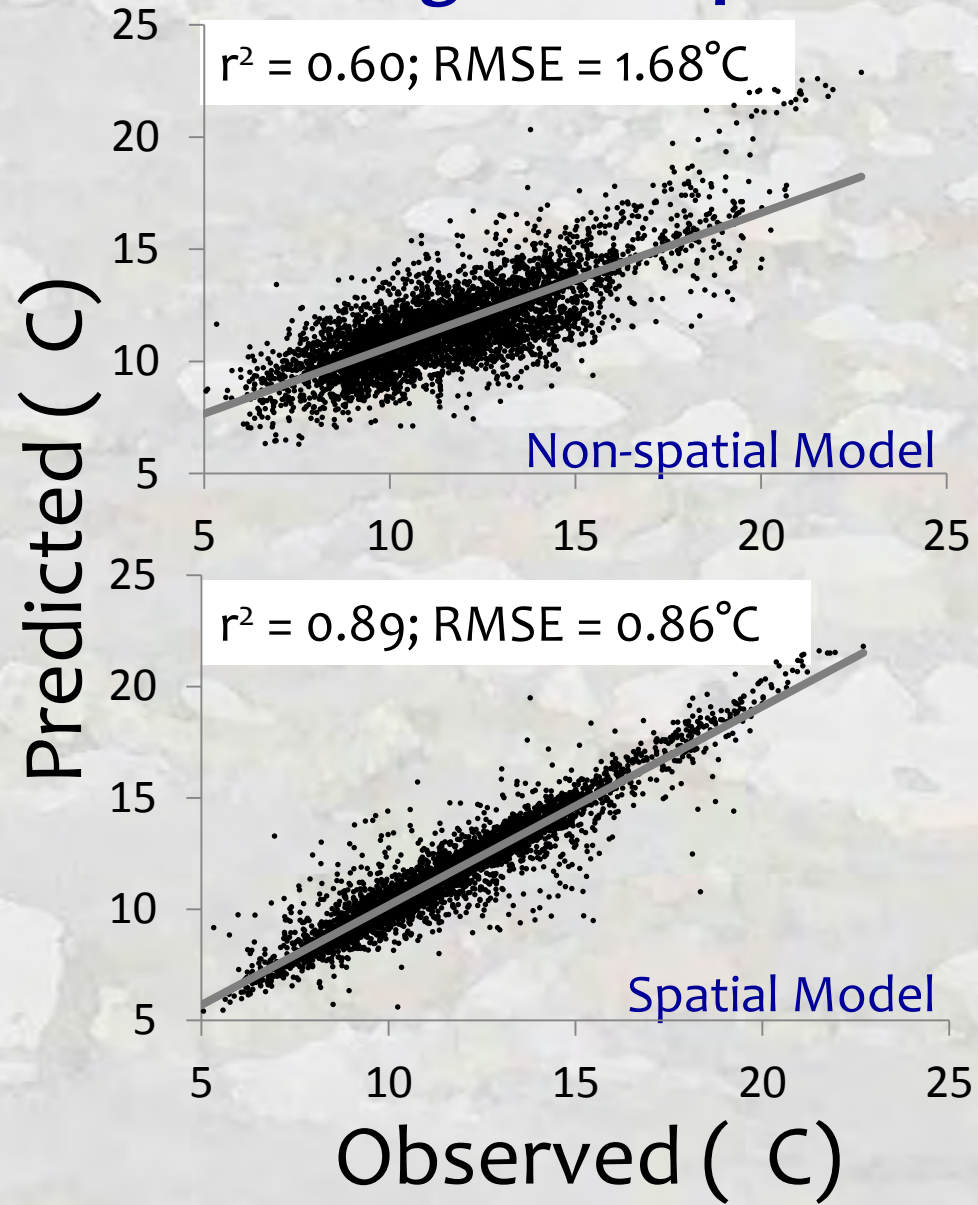
## Covariate Predictors

1. Elevation (m)
2. Canopy (%)
3. Stream slope (%)
4. Ave Precipitation (mm)
5. Latitude (km)
6. Lakes upstream (%)
7. Glaciers upstream (%)
8. Baseflow Index
9. Watershed size (km<sup>2</sup>)
10. Discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s)\*
11. Air Temperature (°C)#

\* = USGS gage data

# = NCEP RegCM3 reanalysis

## Mean August Temperature



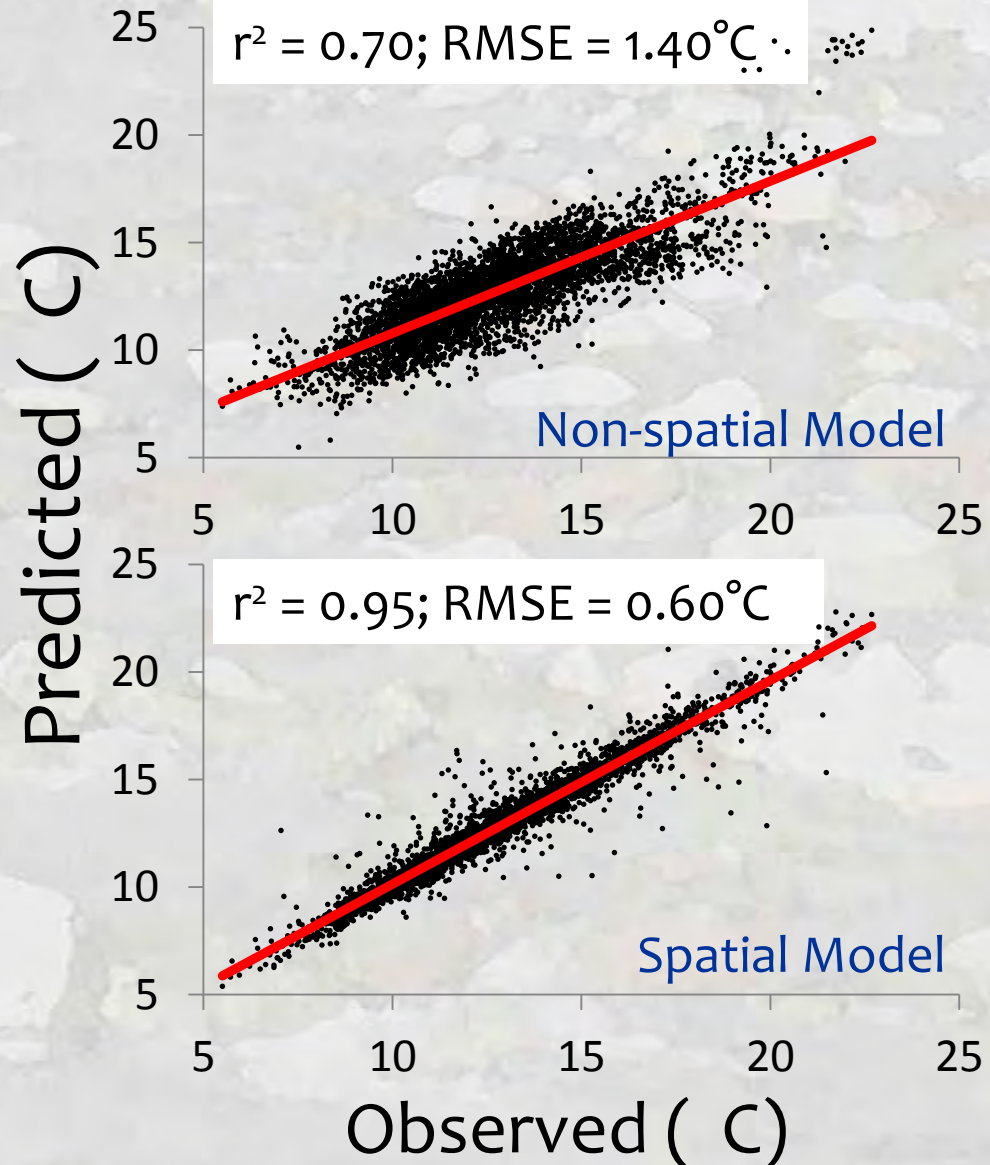
# Clearwater River Temp Model

**n = 4,487**

## Covariate Predictors

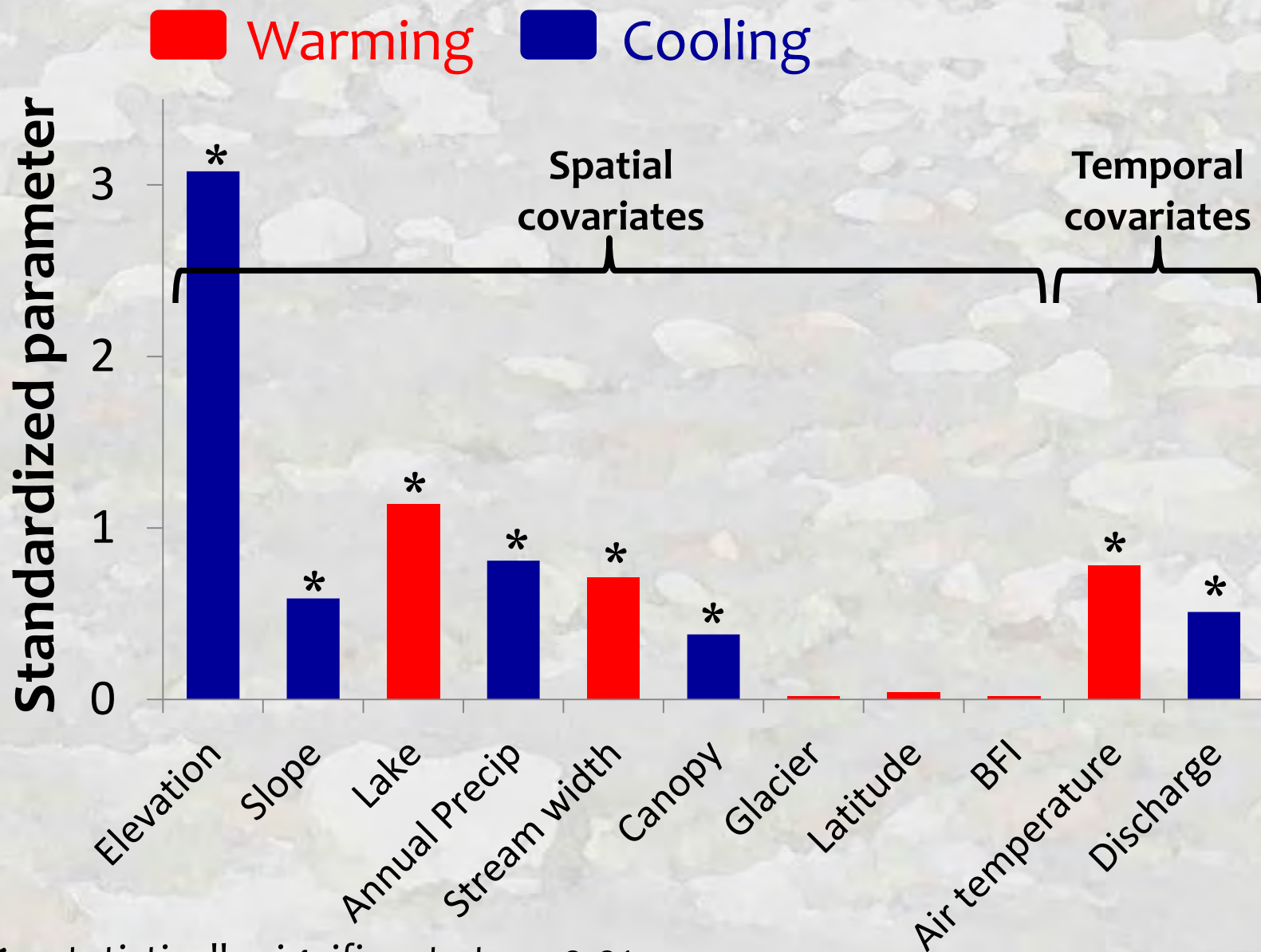
1. Elevation (m)
2. Canopy (%)
3. Stream slope (%)
4. Ave Precipitation (mm)
5. Latitude (km)
6. Lakes upstream (%)
7. Glaciers upstream (%)
8. Baseflow Index
9. Watershed size (km<sup>2</sup>)
10. Discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/s)
11. Air Temperature (°C)

## Mean August Temperature



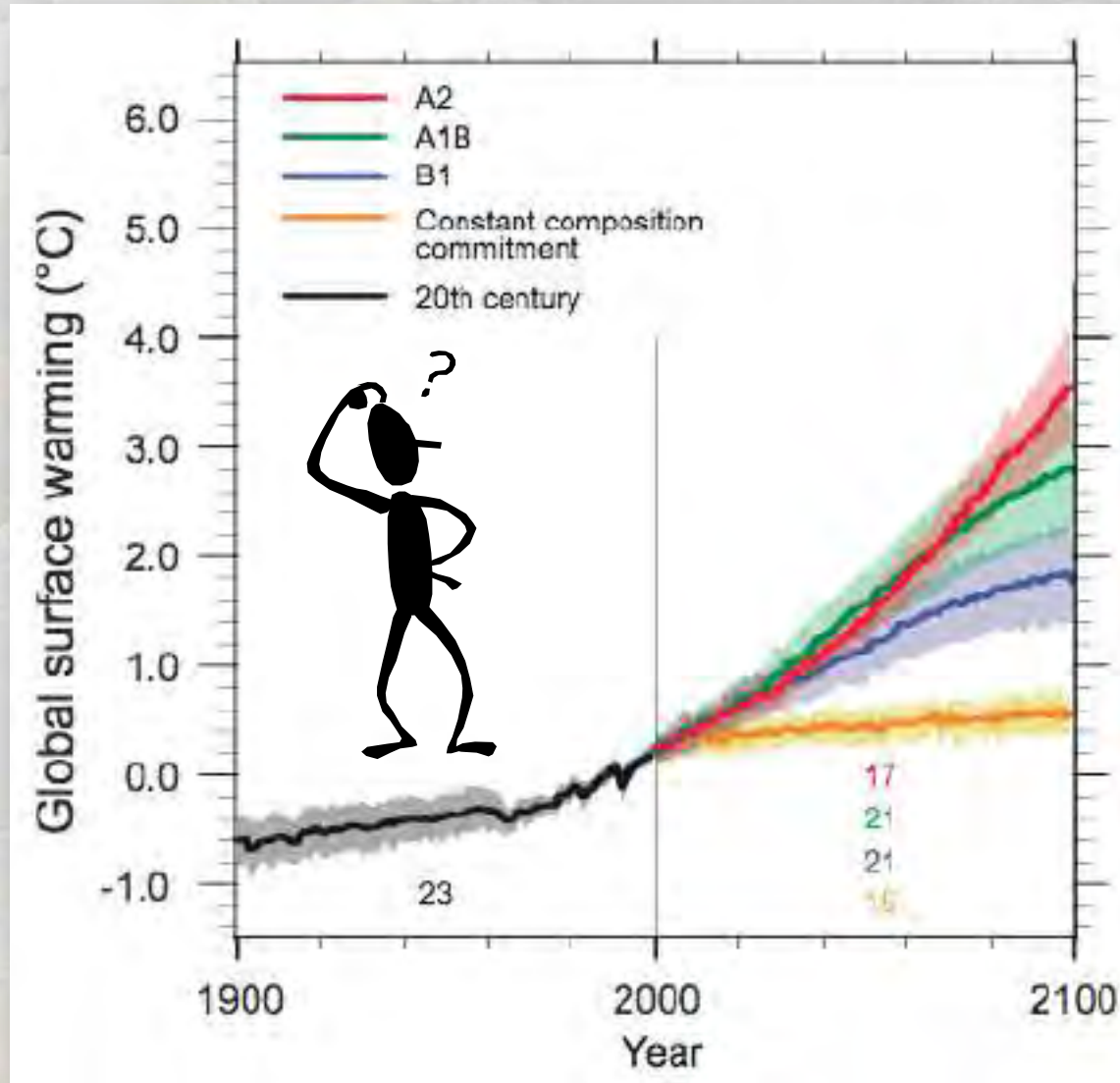


# Relative Effects of Predictors



# Climate Scenario Maps

Many possibilities once model exists...



Adjust air & discharge values to represent scenarios

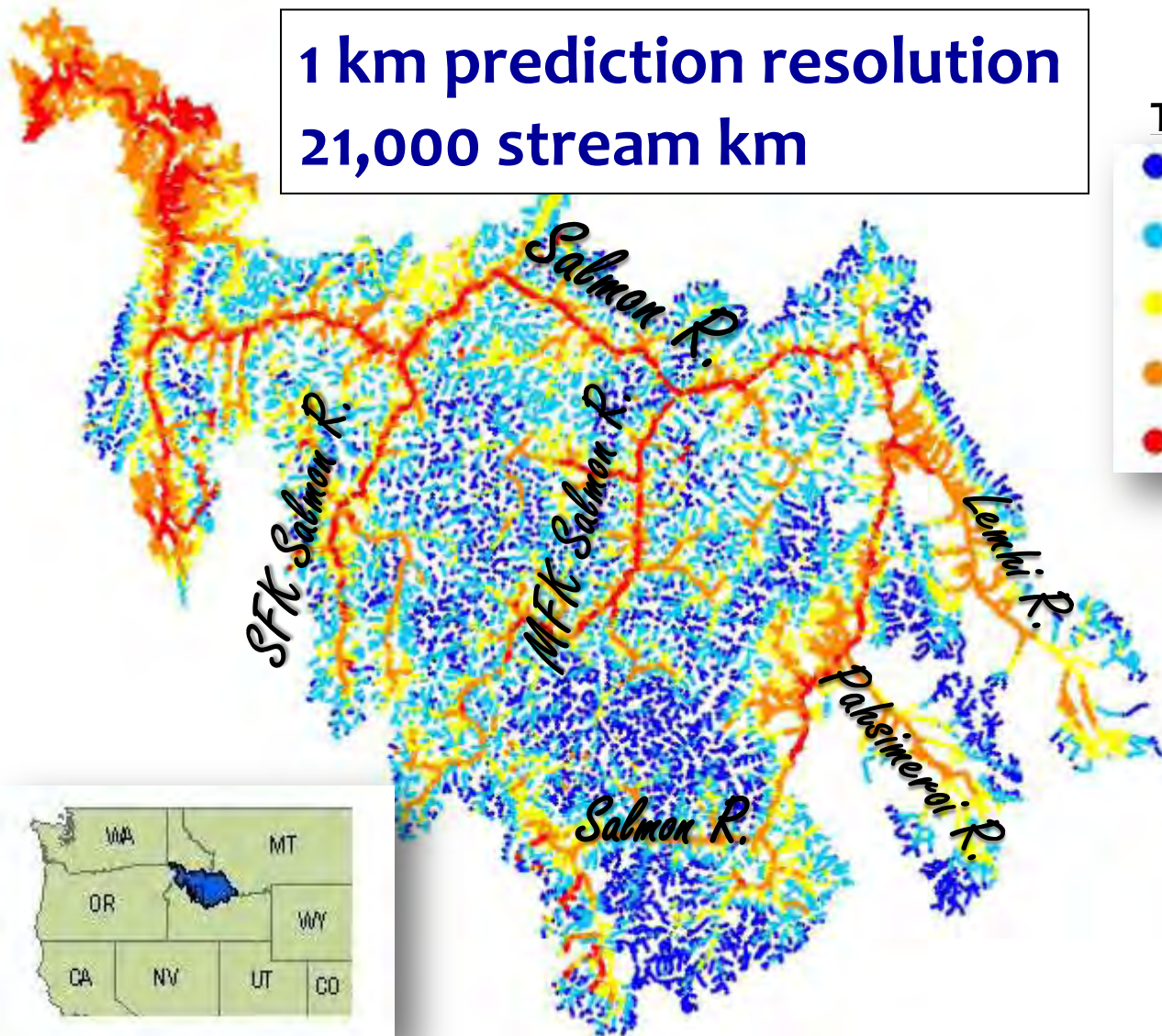
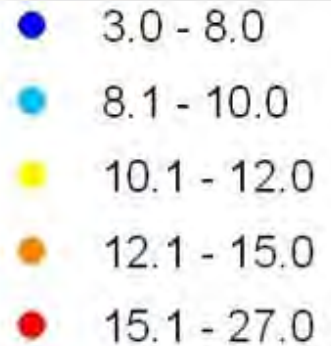


# Salmon River Temperature Map

2002-2011 mean August stream temperatures

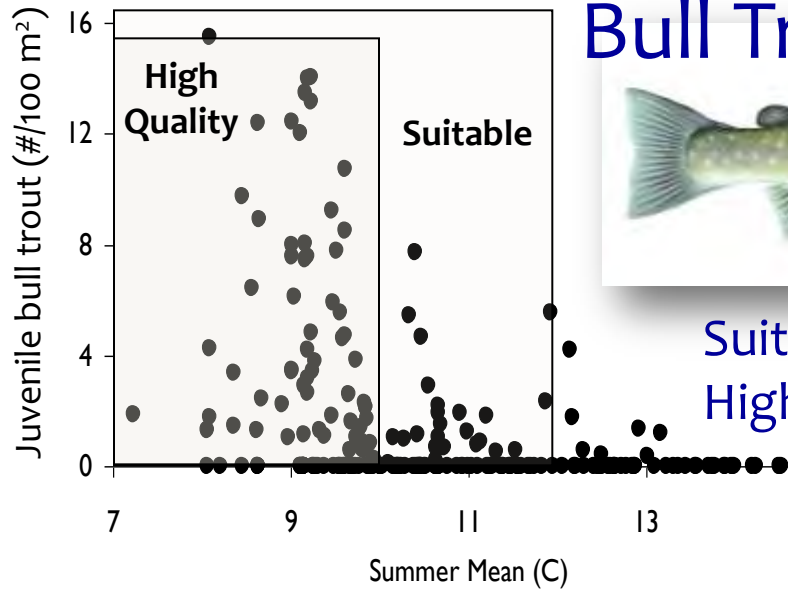
1 km prediction resolution  
21,000 stream km

## Temperature



# Effects on Thermal Habitat

Define using thermal criteria



## Bull Trout

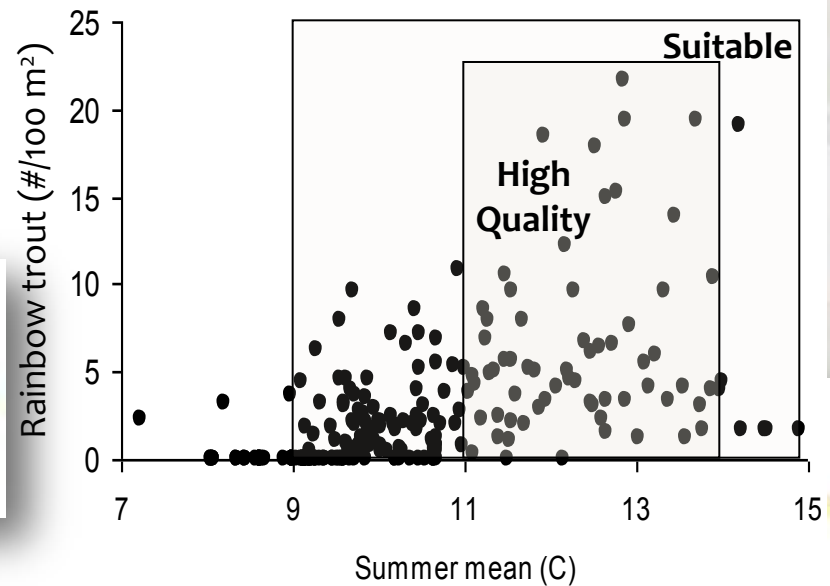


Suitable habitat < 12.0°C  
High-quality habitat < 10.0°C

## Rainbow Trout



Suitable habitat = > 9.0°C  
High-quality habitat = 11.0-14.0°C

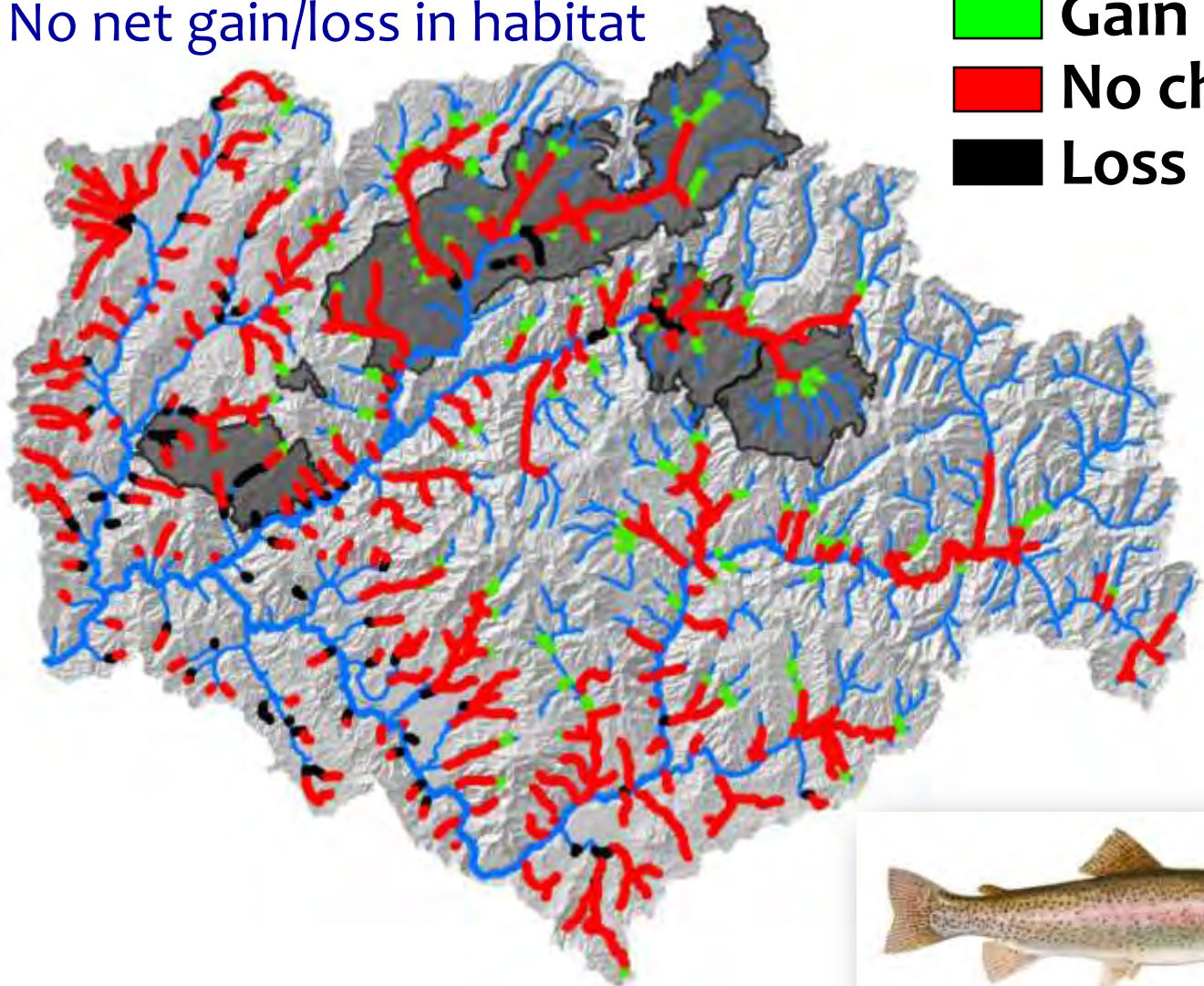




# Historic Climate Change Effects on Rainbow Habitat (1993-2006)

No net gain/loss in habitat

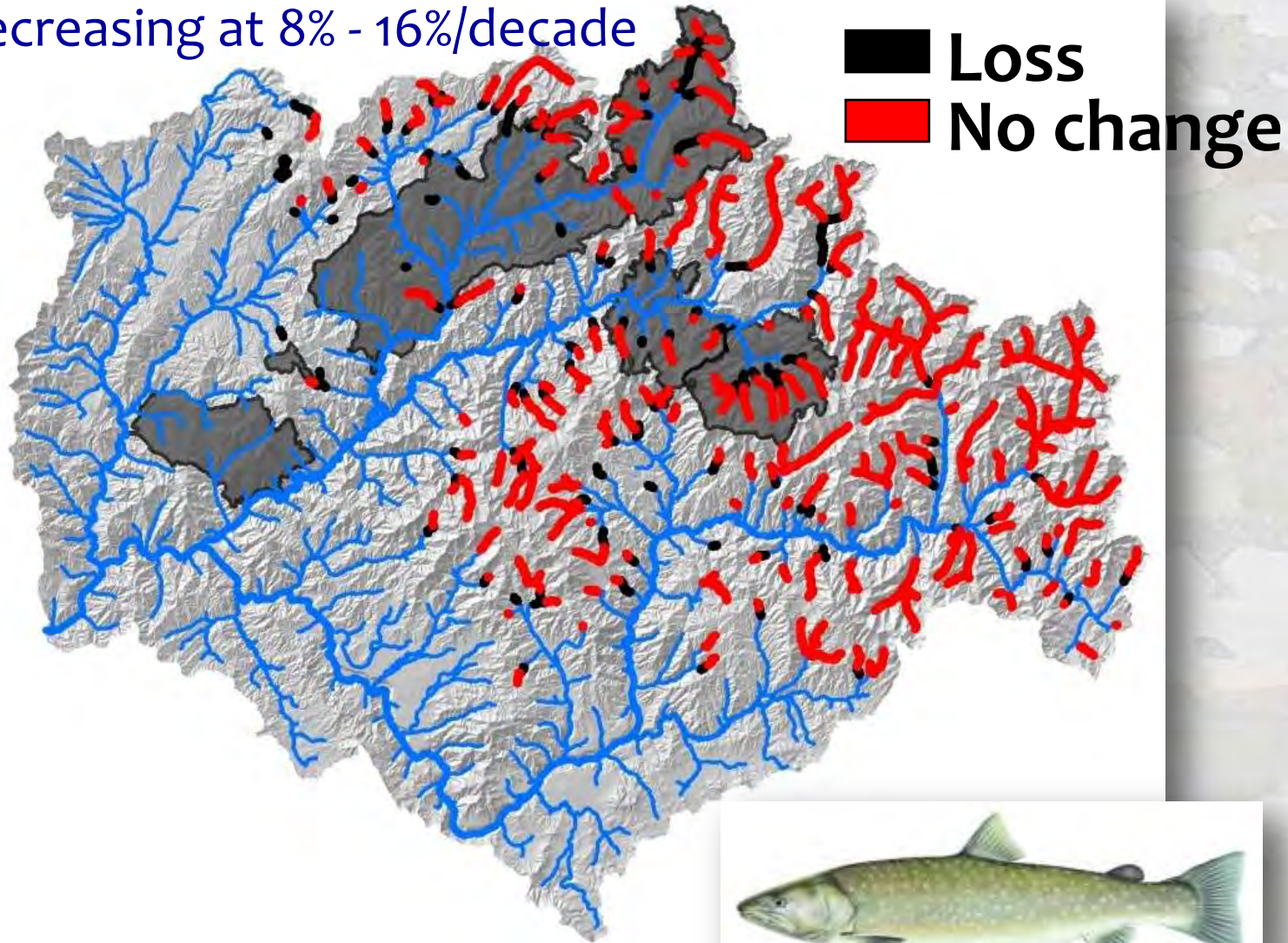
-  Gain
-  No change
-  Loss





# Historic Climate Change Effects on Bull Trout Habitat (1993-2006)

Decreasing at 8% - 16%/decade



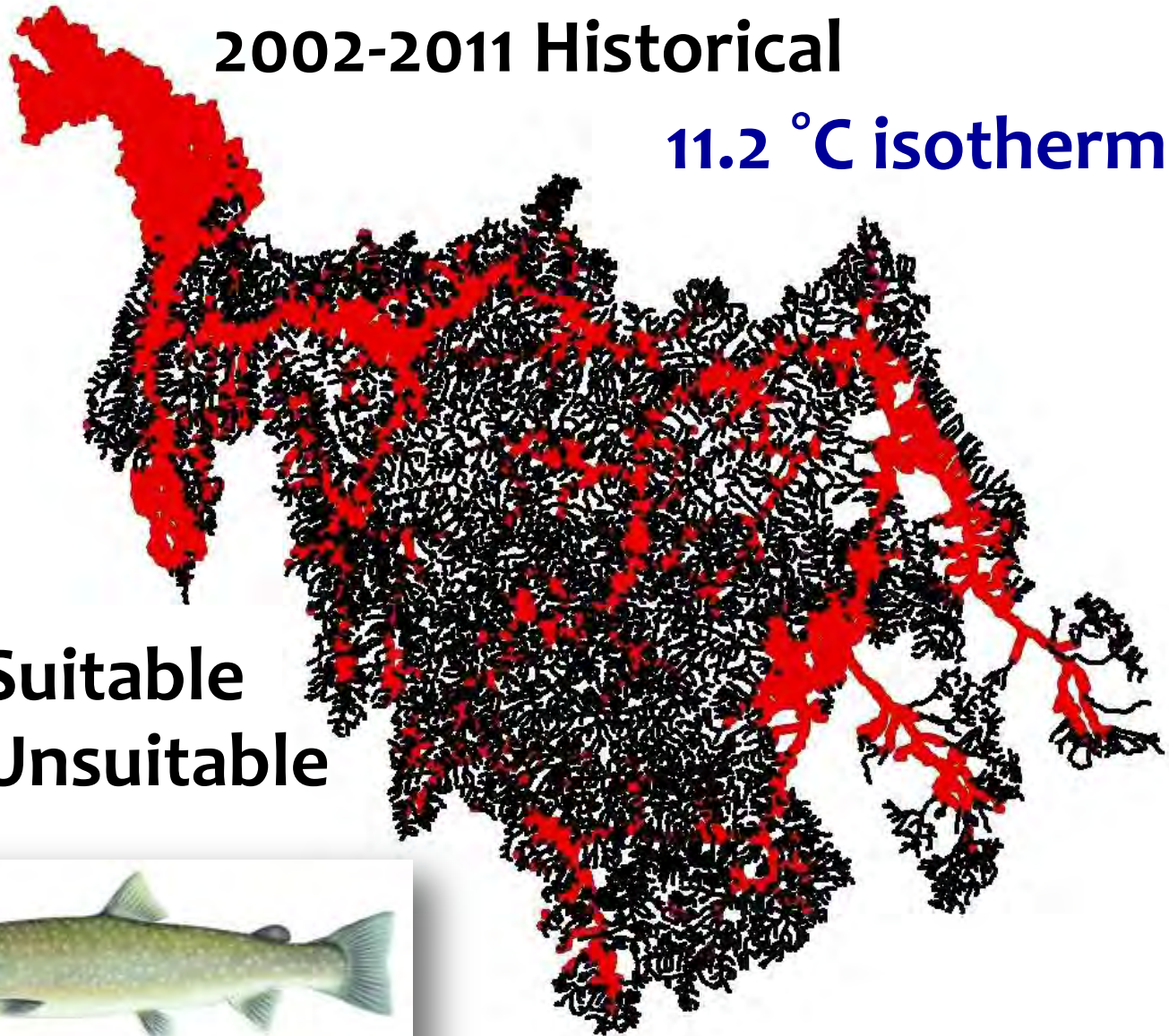


# Salmon River Bull Trout Habitats

2002-2011 Historical

11.2 °C isotherm

■ Suitable  
■ Unsuitable



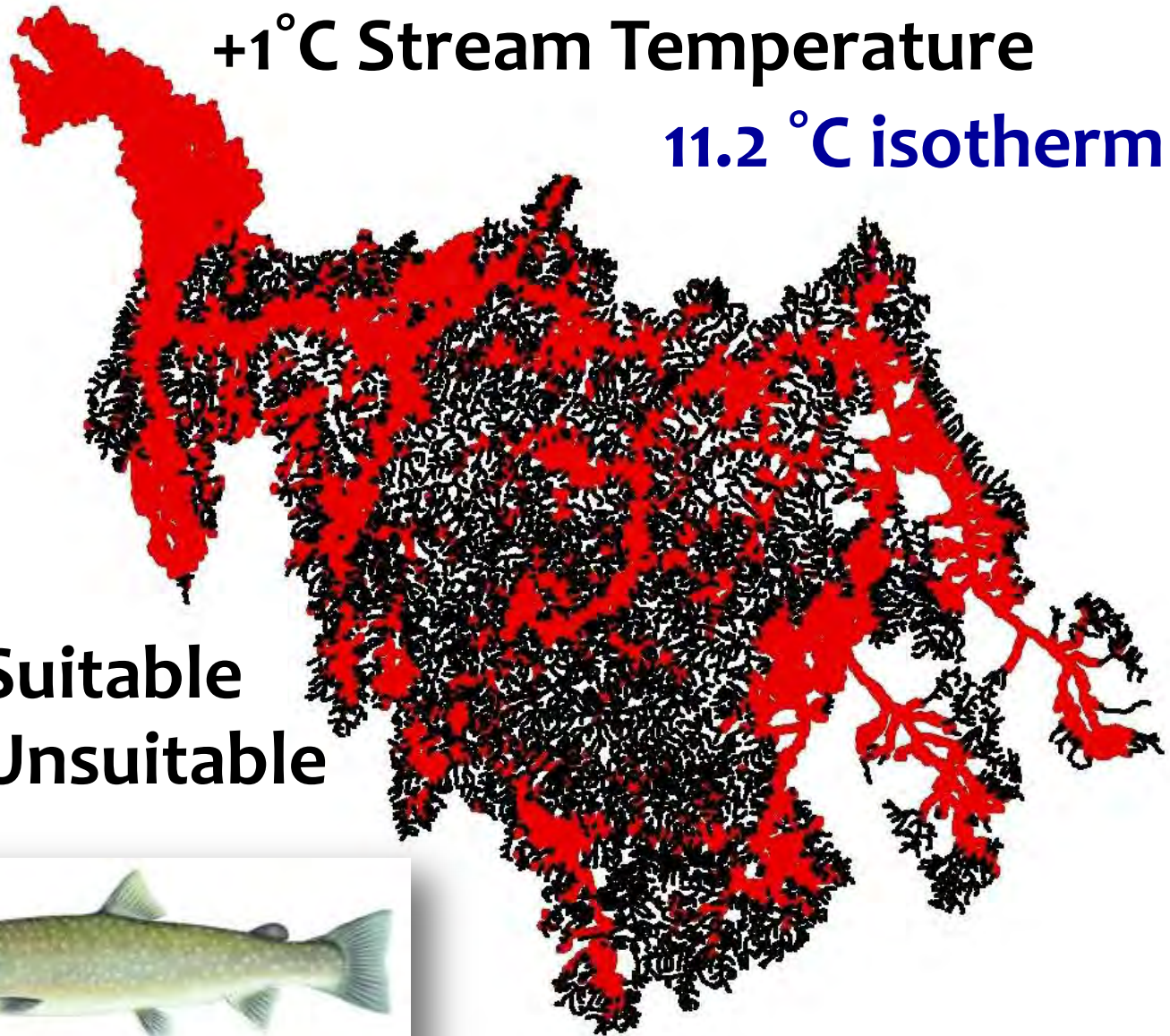


# Salmon River Bull Trout Habitats

+1°C Stream Temperature

11.2 °C isotherm

■ Suitable  
■ Unsuitable



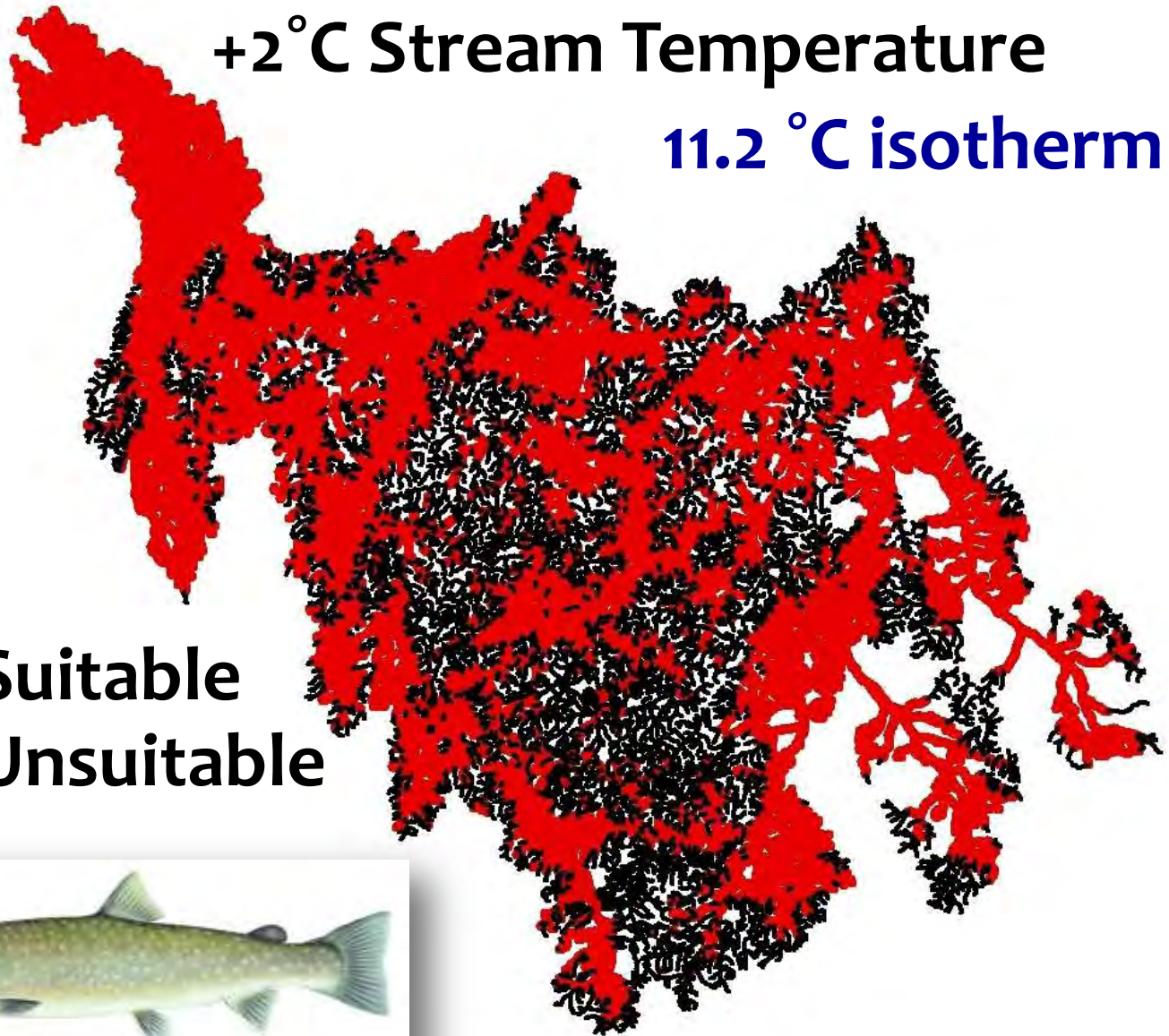


# Salmon River Bull Trout Habitats

+2°C Stream Temperature

11.2 °C isotherm

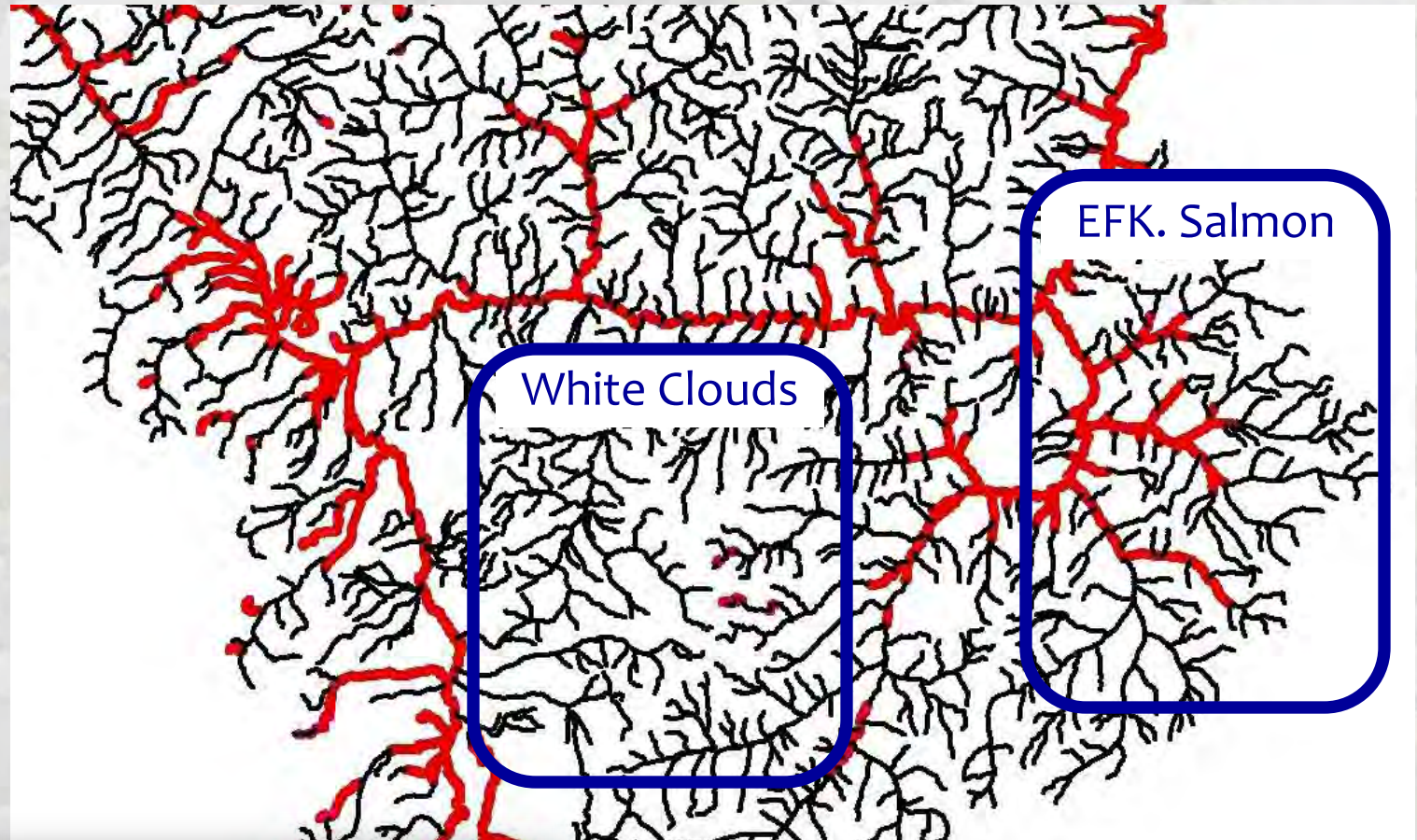
■ Suitable  
■ Unsuitable





# Spatial Variation in Habitat Loss

## 2002-2011 historical scenario



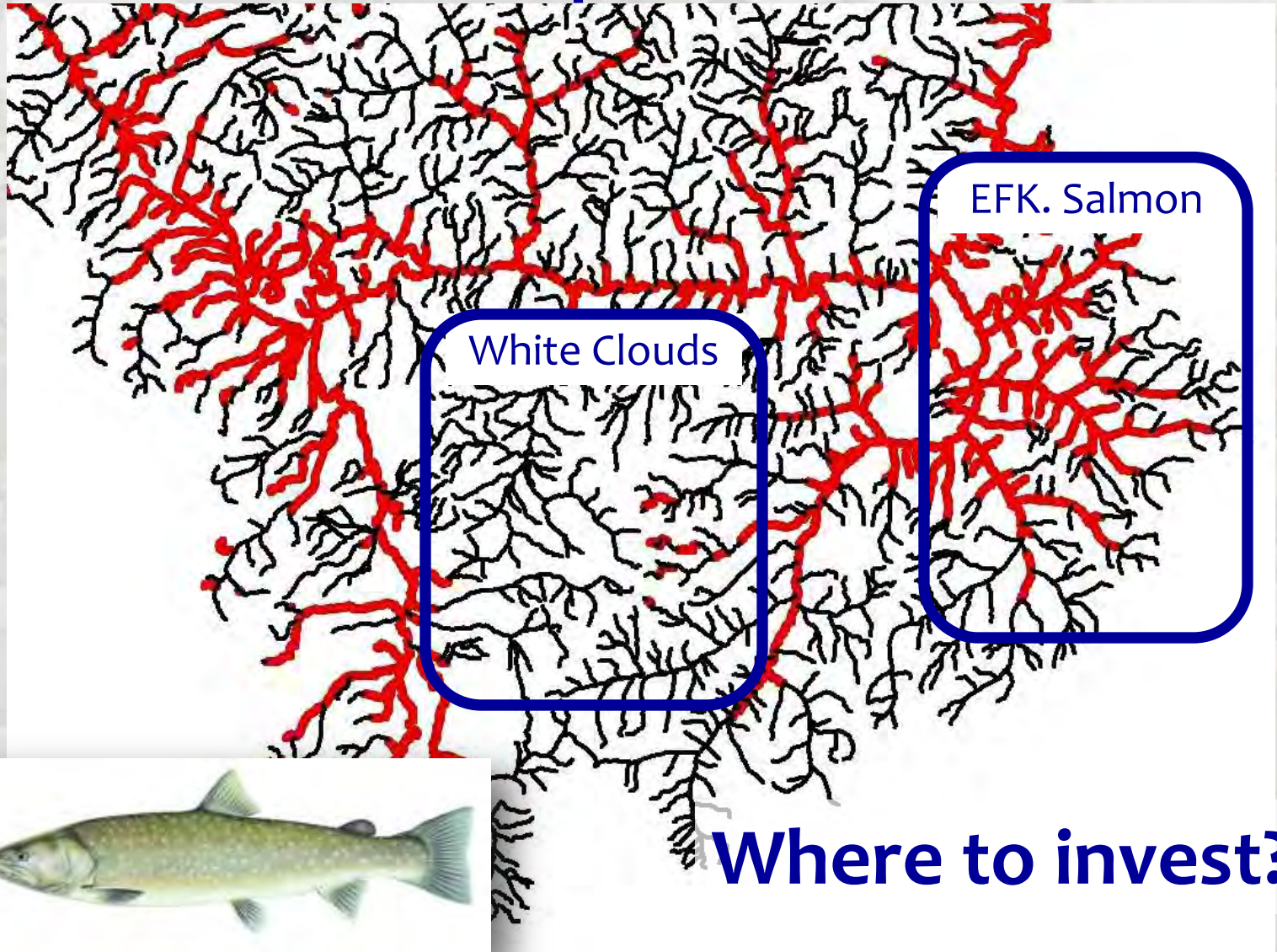
**Where to invest?**





# Spatial Variation in Habitat Loss

## +1°C stream temperature scenario

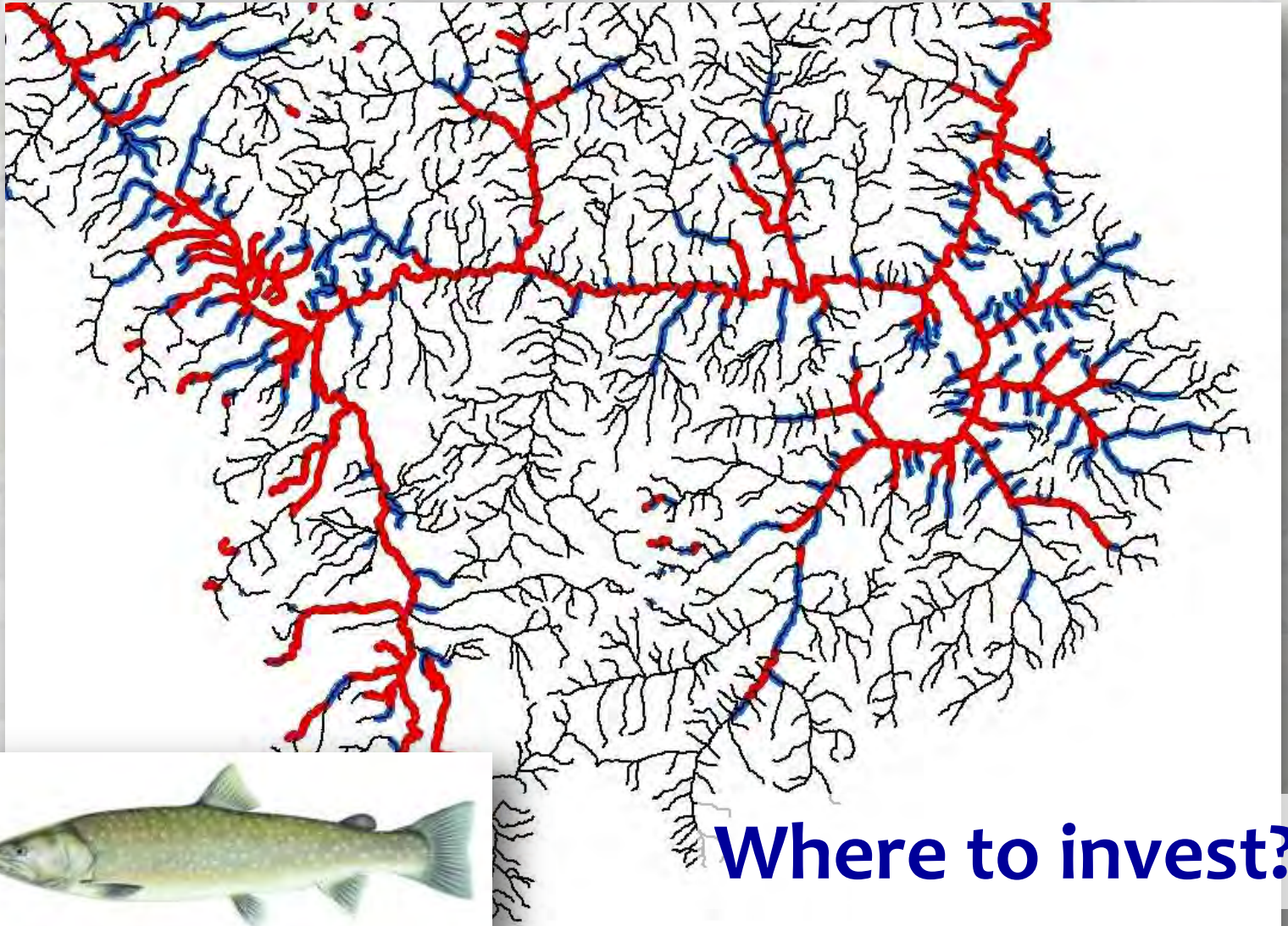


**Where to invest?**



# Difference Map Shows Vulnerable Habitats

## +1°C stream temperature scenario

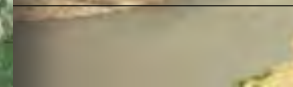
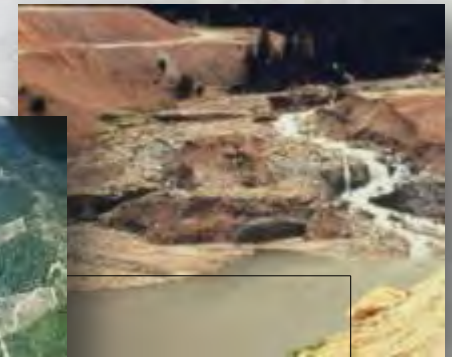




# Where Should Restoration Efforts Occur?

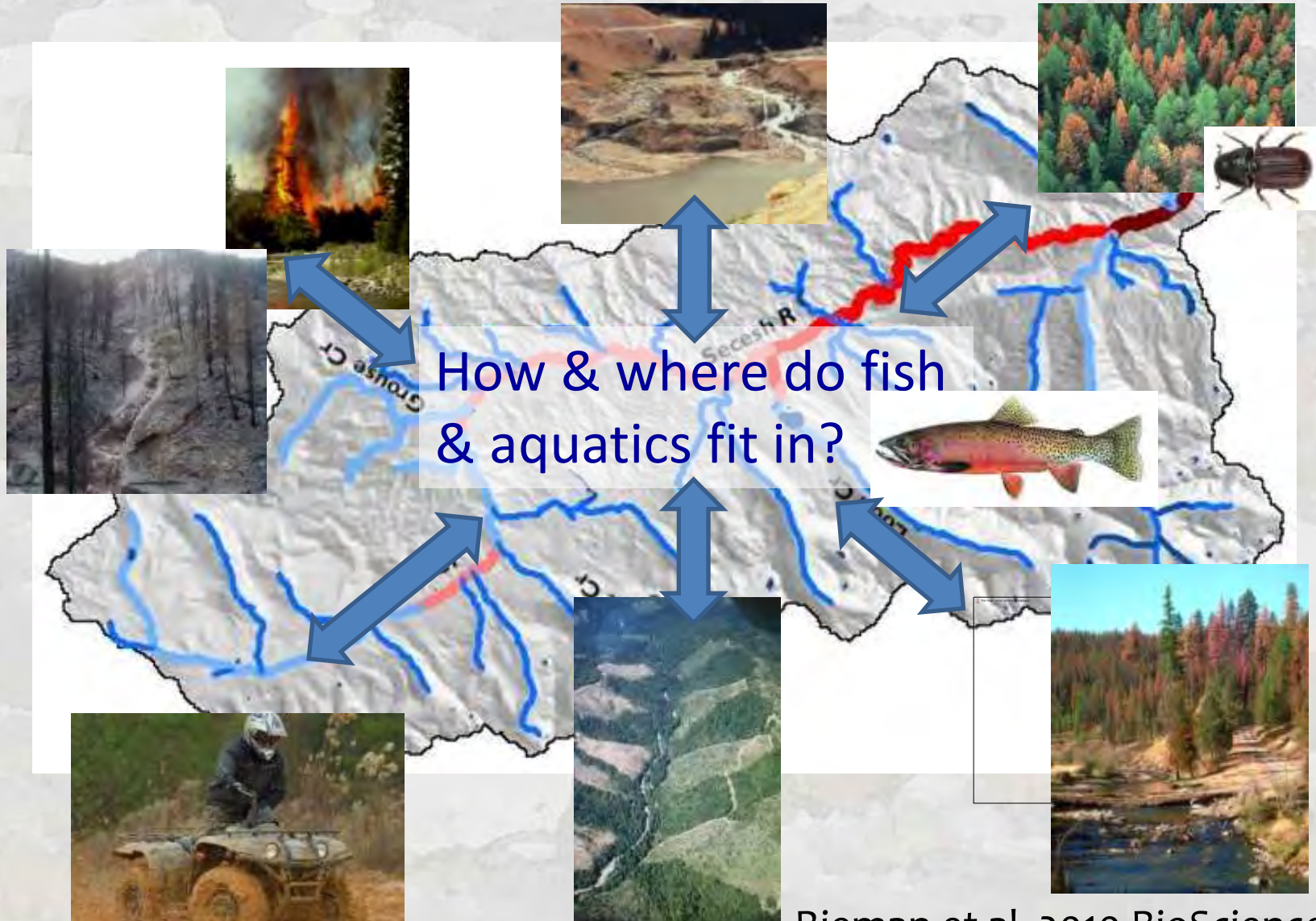
## Need to be Tactically & Strategically Smart

- Maintaining/restoring flow
- Maintaining/restoring riparian
- Restoring channel form/function





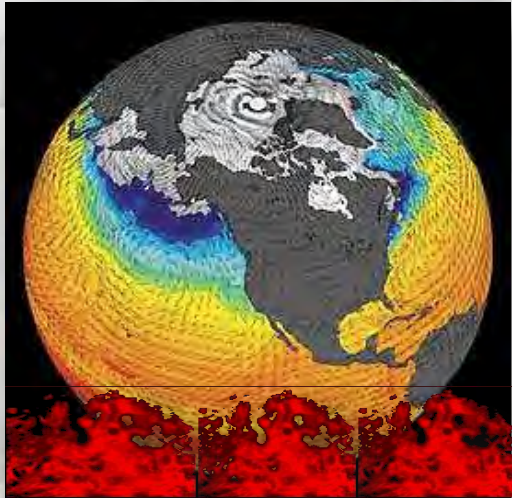
# Continuous Resource Maps Will Facilitate Terrestrial-Aquatic Integration





# Big Leap of Faith

GCM



Management  
Decisions

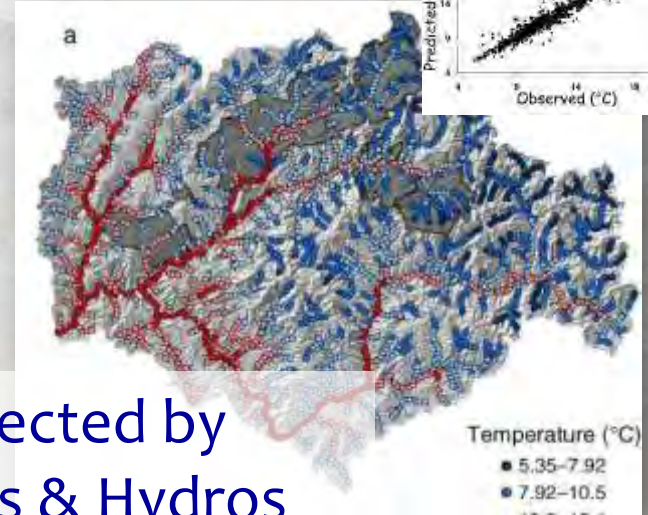
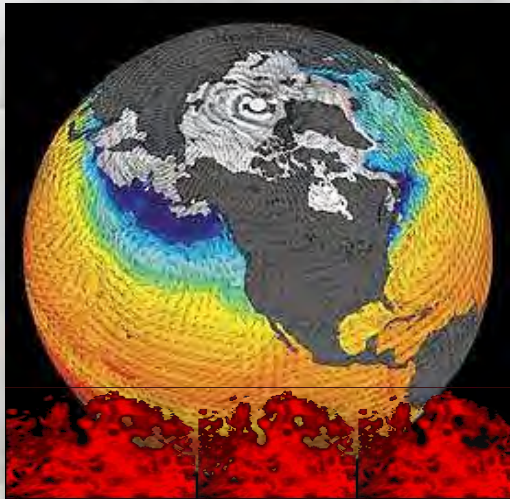




# Models Developed from Everyone's Data

## Coordinated Management Response

GCM



Data Collected by  
Local Bios & Hydros



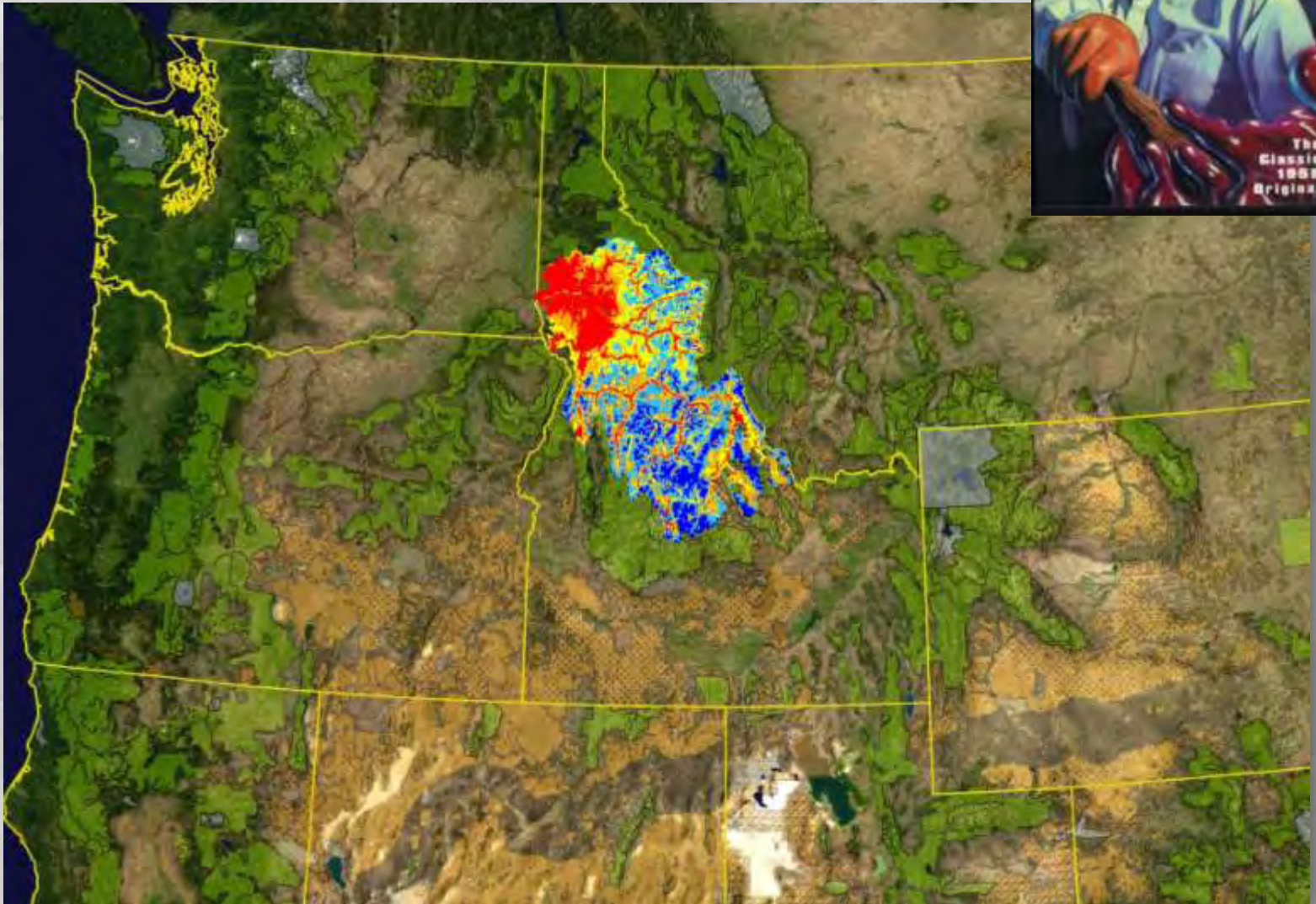
Management  
Decisions





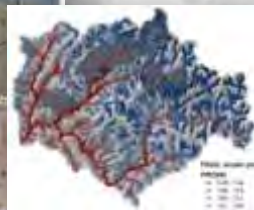
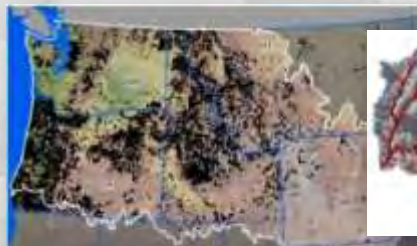
# NorWeST Blob Growing...

8,888 summers of data swallowed so far...





# NorWeST Temperature model timelines (~3<sup>rd</sup> code HUCs)



**NorWeST**  
Stream Temp

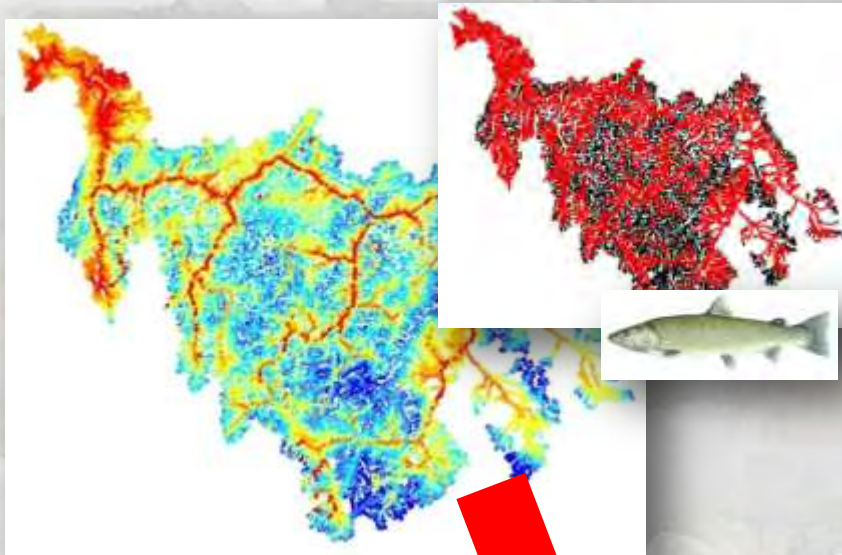




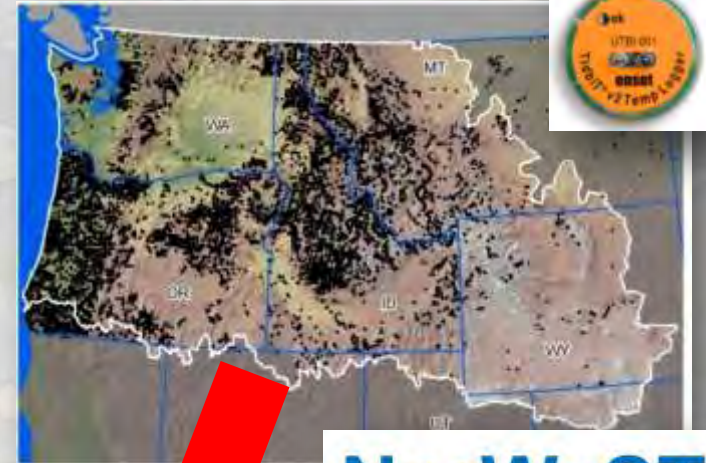
# NorWeST Website Coming...

Launch scheduled this winter

GIS maps of climate scenarios



Temperature Data



Boise Laboratory  
Stream Temperature  
Modeling & Monitoring

Rocky Mountain Research Station home > Science Program Areas > Air, Water, and Soils > Boise Lab Stream Temperature Modeling and Monitoring

Stream Temperature Modeling and Monitoring

The Page: [Home](#) | [About Us](#) | [Contact Us](#) | [Privacy Policy](#) | [Terms of Use](#) | [Site Map](#)

**NorWeST**  
Stream Temp

Website for Distribution




# More Precise Bioclimatic Assessments

**USGS**  
United States Geological Survey  
Assessing and Reporting Ecosystem Services

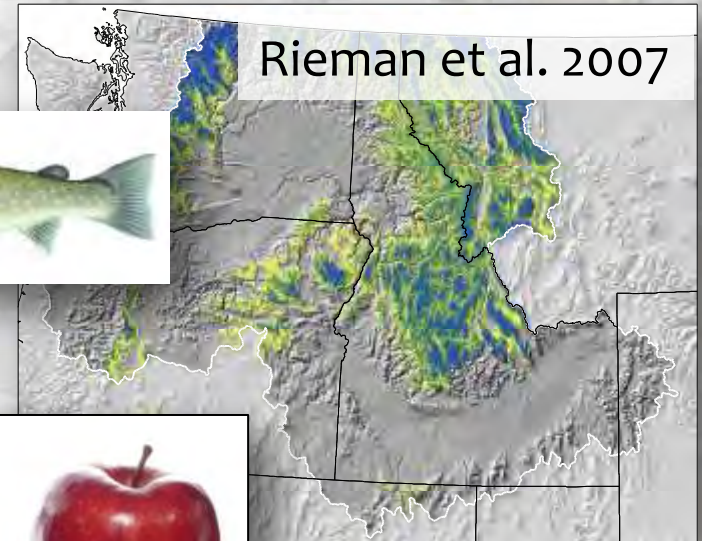
Range-wide climate vulnerability assessment for bull trout in the conterminous United States

"Judging by one criterion it is Extinct!"

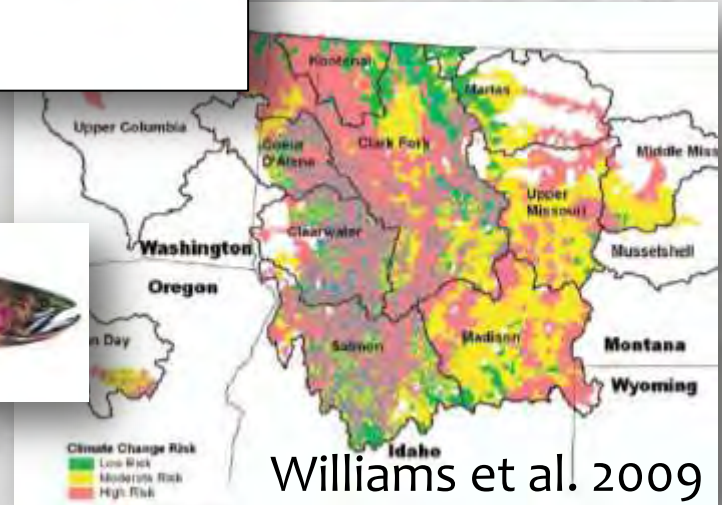
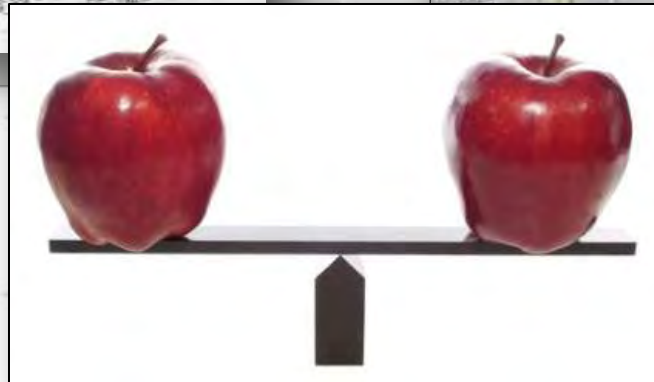
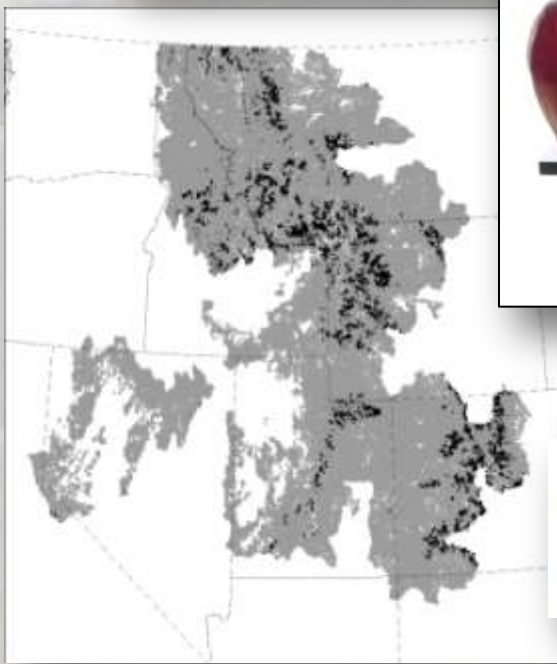
"But judging by an alive and healthy!"



Dunham et al., In prep.



Rieman et al. 2007



Williams et al. 2009

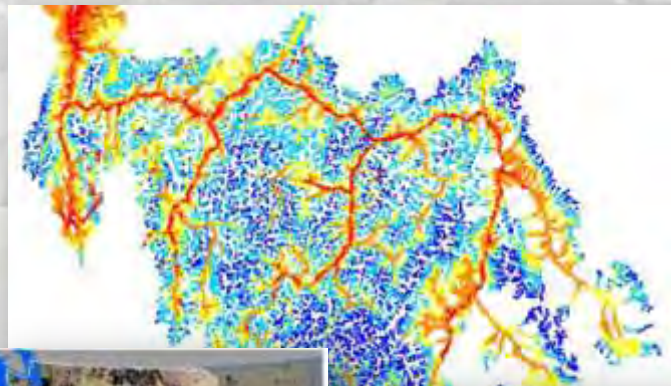
Wenger et al. 2011. PNAS.





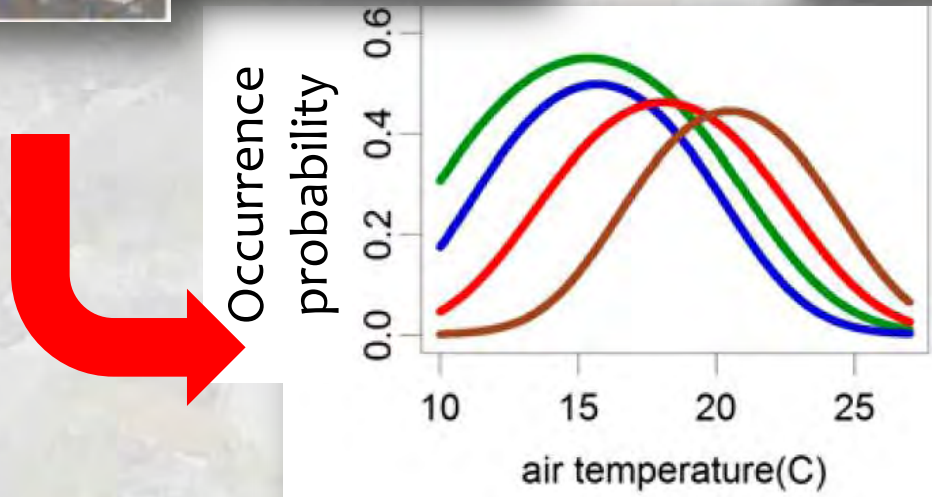
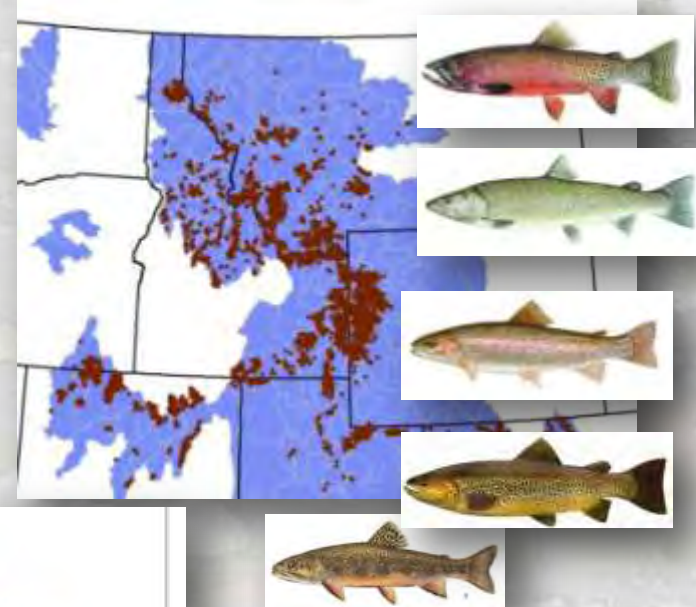
# Consistent Thermal Niche Definitions

Stream temperature maps



**NorWeST**  
Stream Temp

Regional fish survey  
databases (n = 10,000)



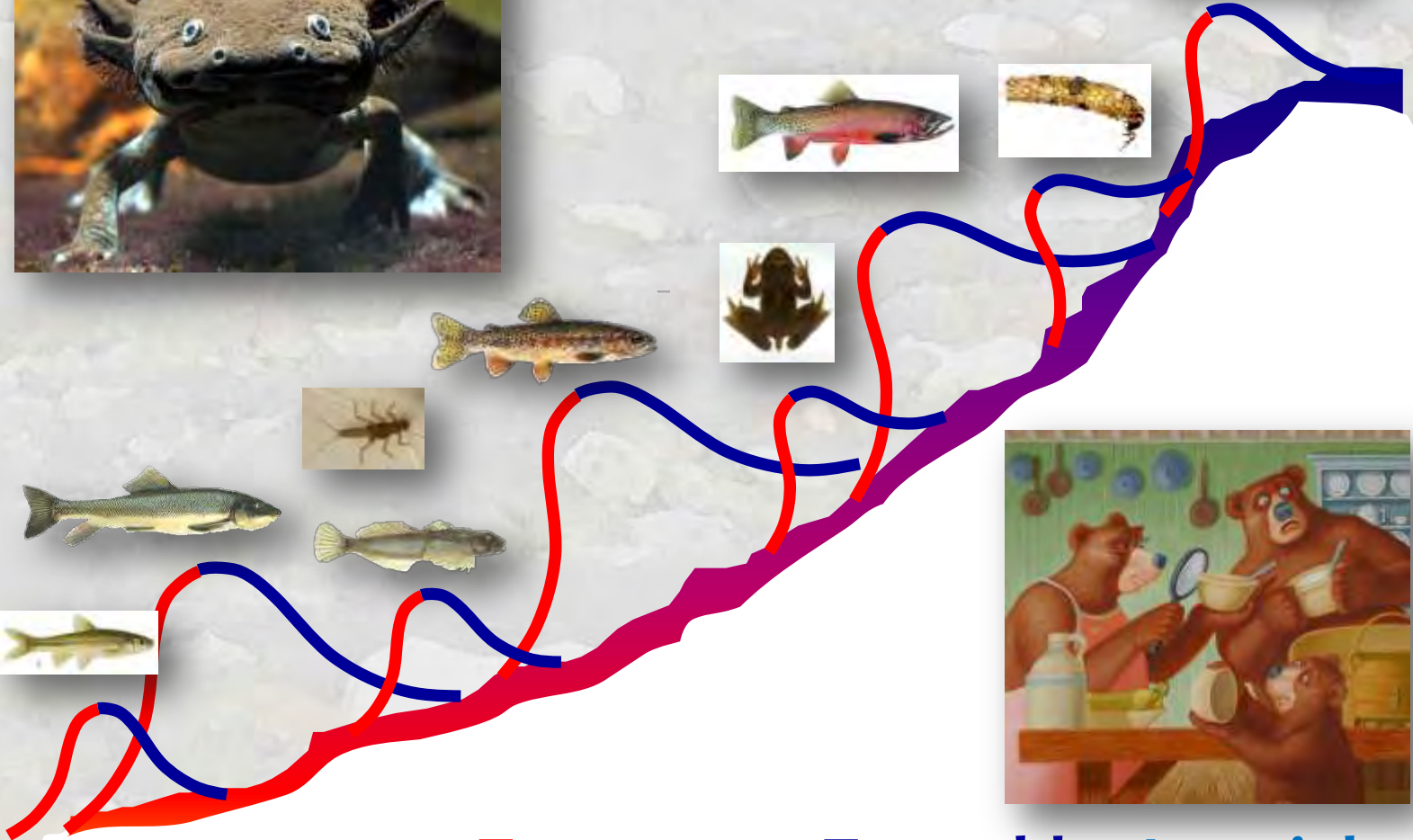
Wenger et al. 2011a. *PNAS* **108**:14175-14180

Wenger et al. 2011b. *CJFAS* **68**:988-1008; Wenger et al., *In Preparation*



# Generalizable to All Stream Biotas

Just need georeferenced biological survey data



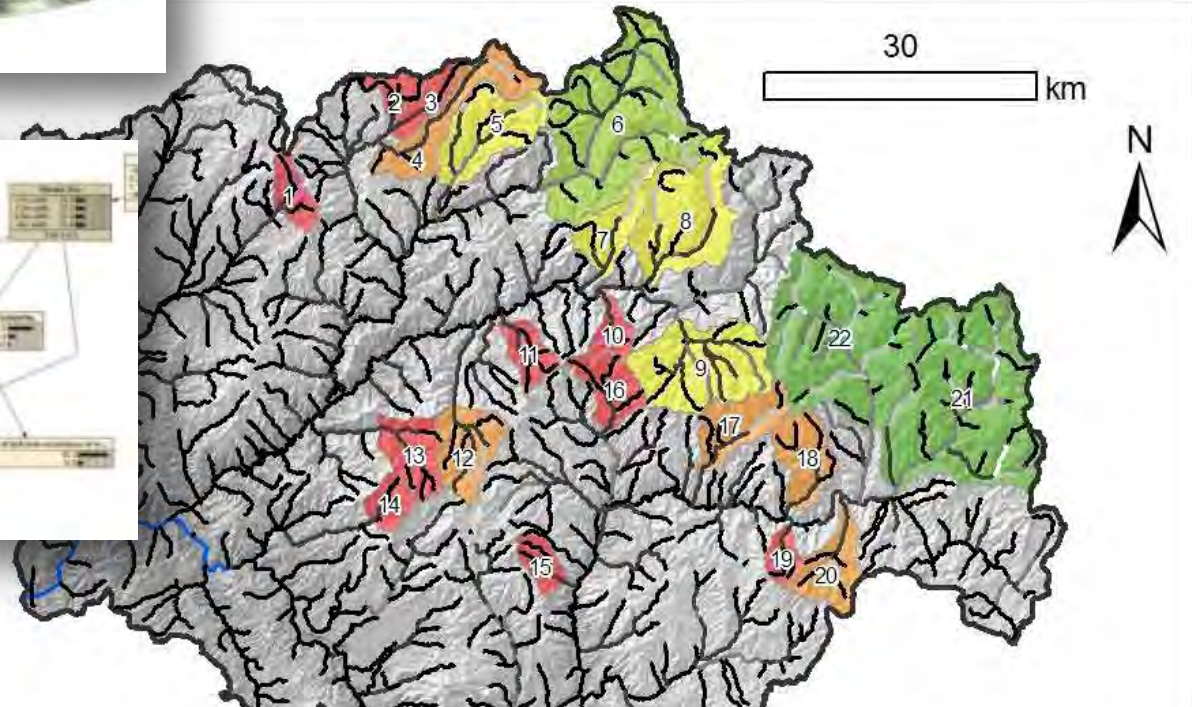
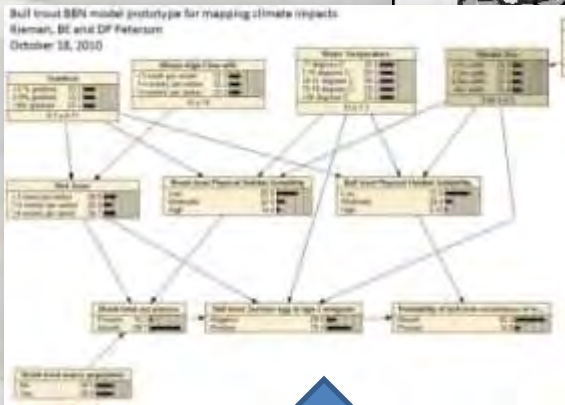
Too warm... Too cold... Just right



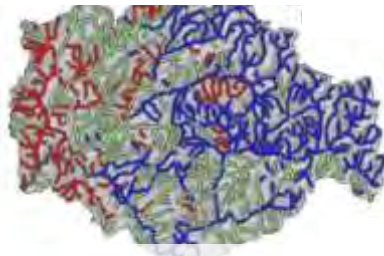


# Bull Trout Climate Decision Support Tool

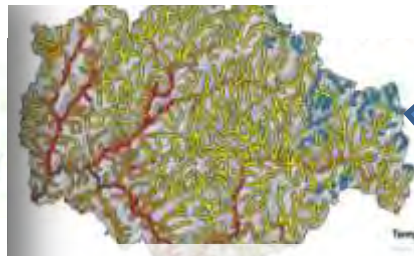
Tool runs on regionally consistent data layers



## Downscaled Stream Scenarios

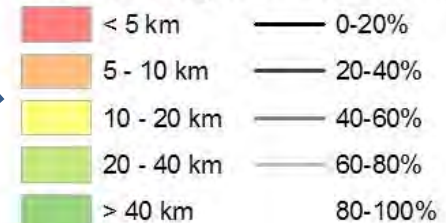


Streamflow



Stream Temperature

Habitat Length Occurrence Prob.

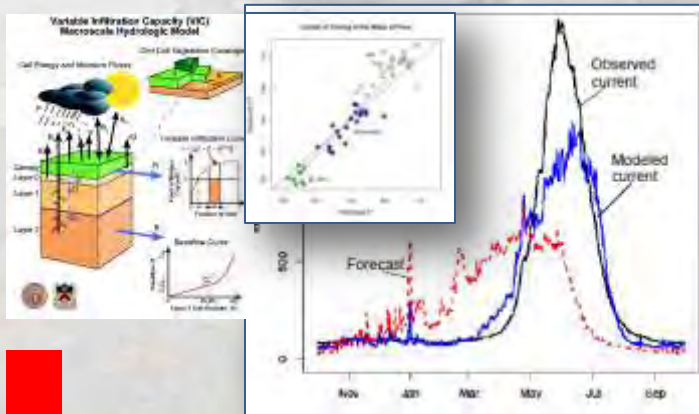




# Western U.S. Flow Metrics Webpage

Website: [http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/modeled\\_stream\\_flow\\_metrics.shtml](http://www.fs.fed.us/rm/boise/AWAE/projects/modeled_stream_flow_metrics.shtml)

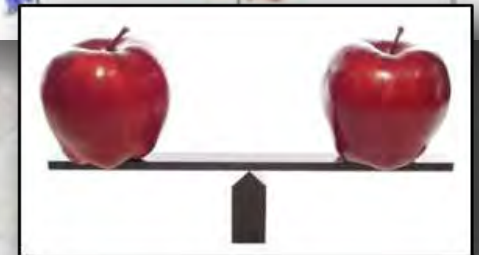
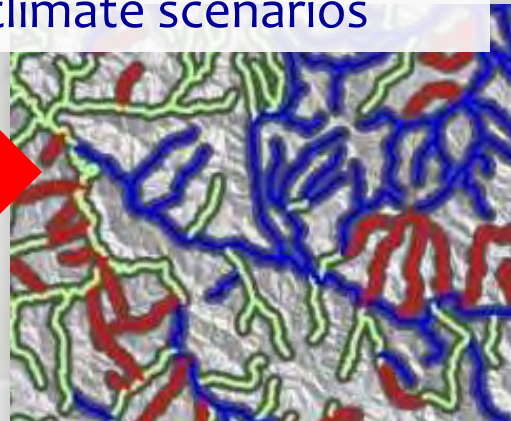
## VIC Modeled Flow Metrics



...for the western U.S.



NHD+ stream segments  
& climate scenarios



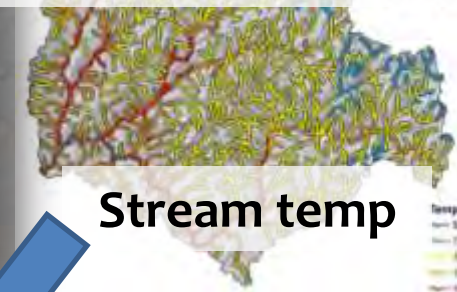


# Structured Decision Making



Management  
Priorities

## Downscaled Climate Scenarios



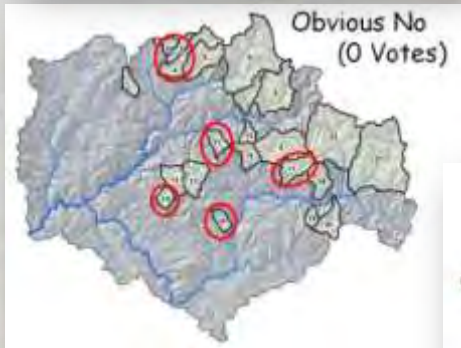
Yes



Maybe?

BBN Decision  
Support Tool

No



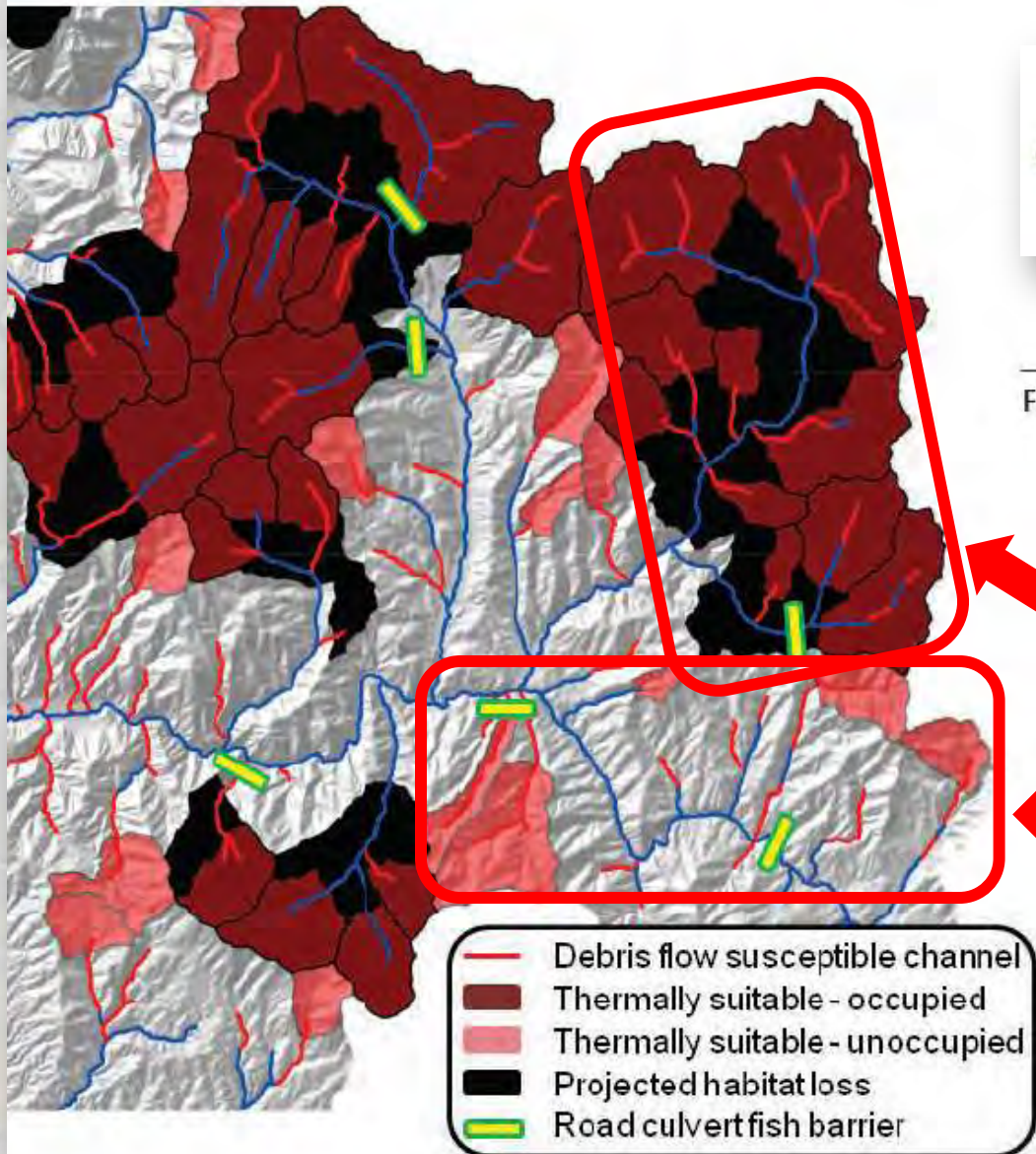
Spatial Data  
Layers





# High Resolution Information

## Landscape Specific Conditions



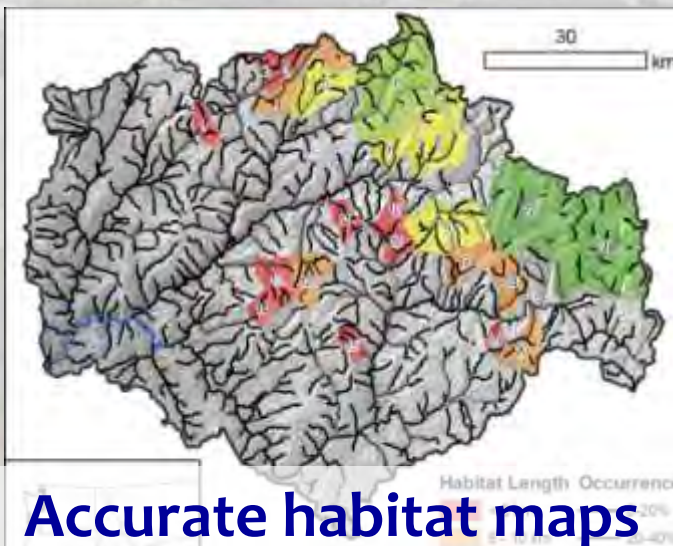
Invest here

Not here



# Efficient Biological Monitoring

## Distributional status & trend



Accurate habitat maps  
from stream models

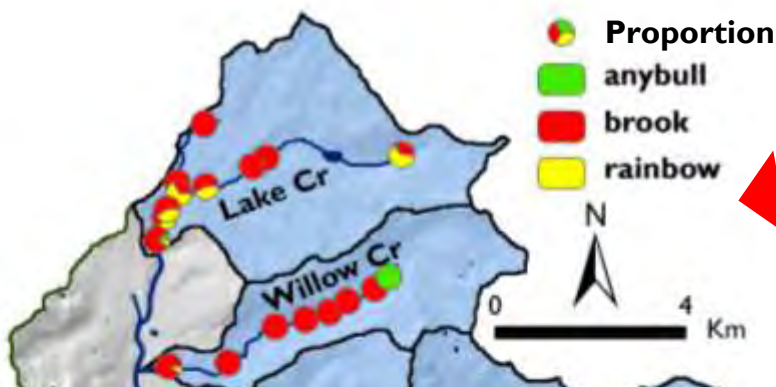
=

Map



Probabilistic sample  
(i.e., EMAP GRTS)

Precise, representative sample



Biological  
survey





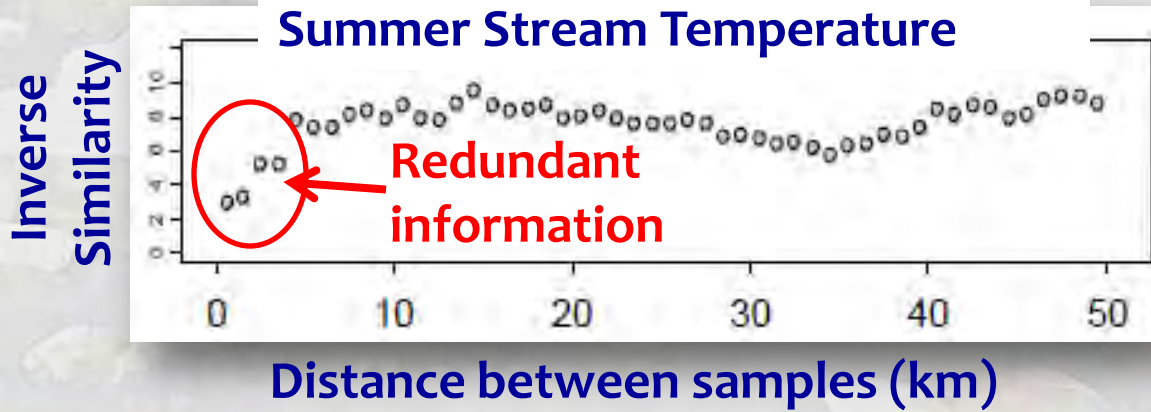
# Regionally Consistent Framework

## Bull trout status & trend monitoring

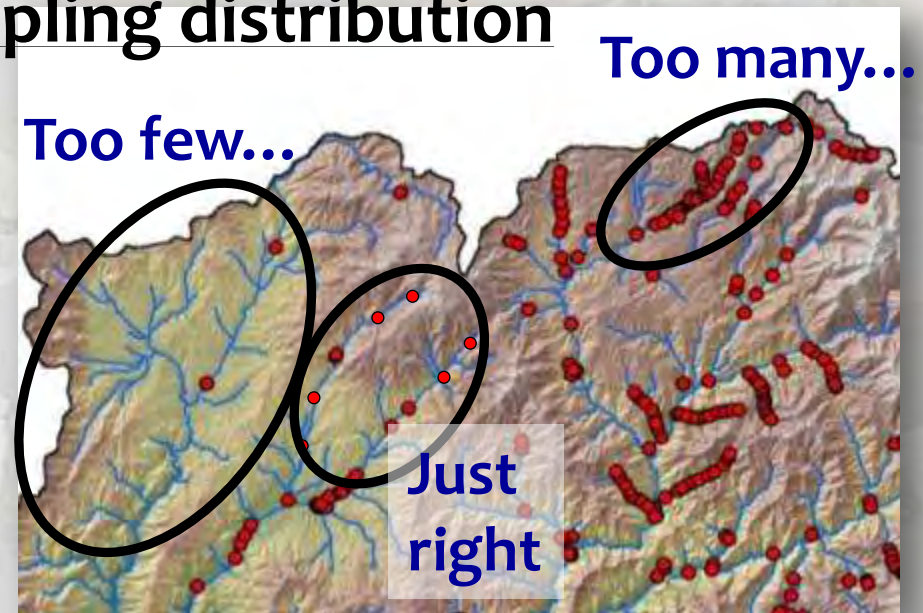




# More Efficient Temperature Monitoring



## Sampling distribution





# Real-time Access to Stream Spatial Data Anytime, Anywhere

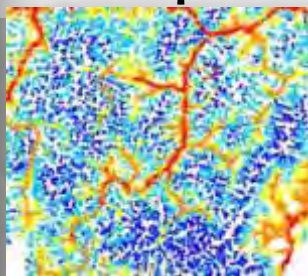
## Smartphones as field computers



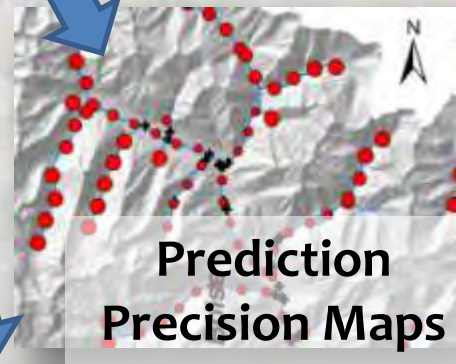
**ArcGIS app**



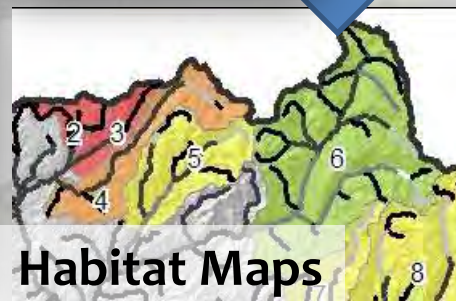
**Temperature  
Maps**



**Prediction  
Precision Maps**



**Habitat Maps**



**GoogleMaps**





# First “Killer Apps” but more coming...

## 1<sup>st</sup> Generation Apps



Tip of the  
Iceberg

## In the Pipeline...

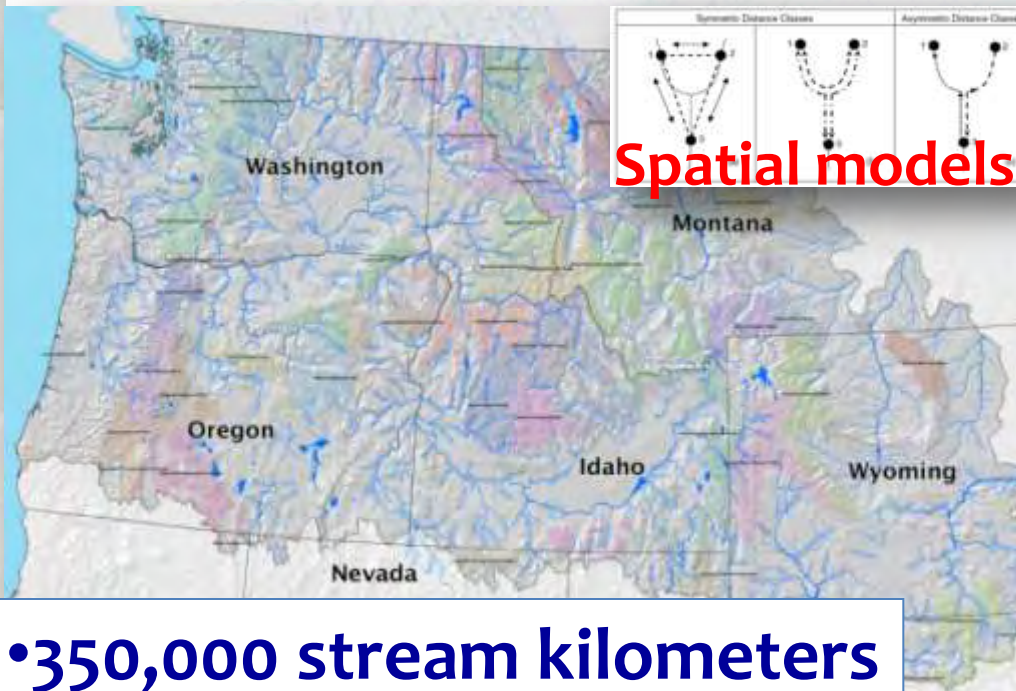
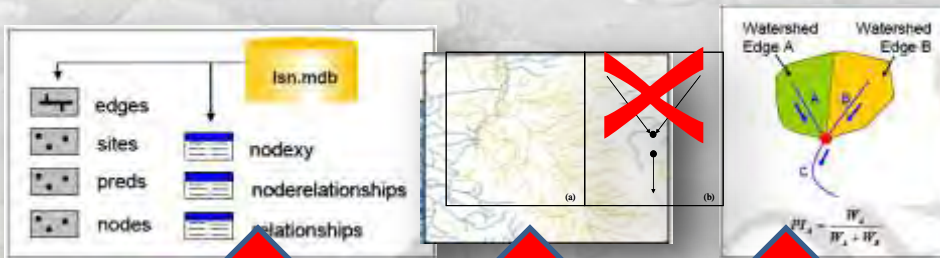
- “Block-kriging” of stream-scale population estimates
- Optimized monitoring designs for biological & water quality parameters
- Improved fish distribution maps & models
- Precise thermal niche definitions for trout
- Improved climate vulnerability assessments





# An InterNet for Stream Data

## GIS infrastructure now exists...



Spatial models



**1G LCC**  
Accurate &  
consistent scaling  
of information

•350,000 stream kilometers

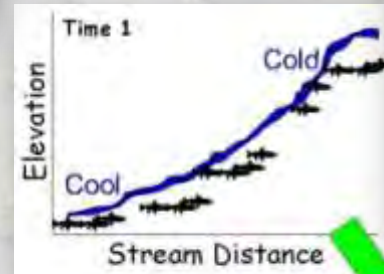
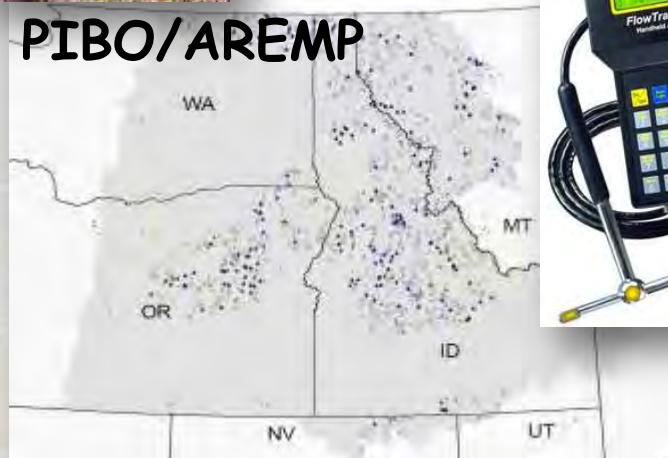




# Big Data Powers Big Models... but Local Monitoring is Where it All Starts



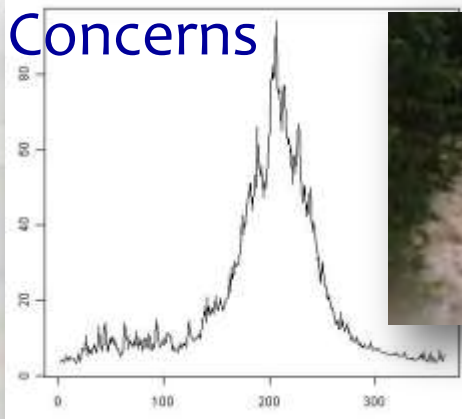
PIBO/AREMP





# Easy Method for Full Year Monitoring Underwater Epoxy Protocol

Annual Flooding  
Concerns



Underwater epoxy



\$130 = 5 years of data

Data retrieved  
from underwater



Sensors or PVC housings  
glued to large boulders





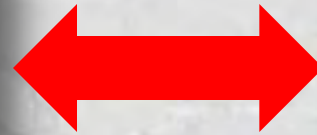
# Big Boulders & Small Sensors



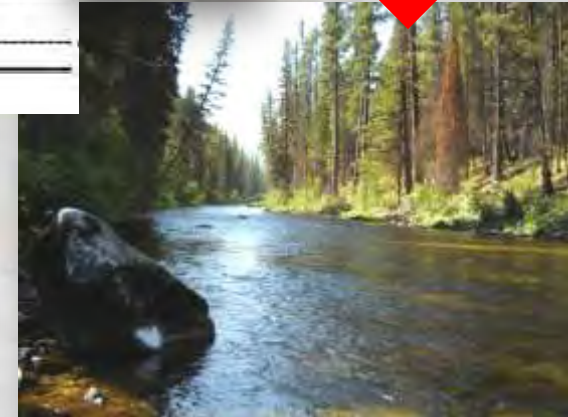
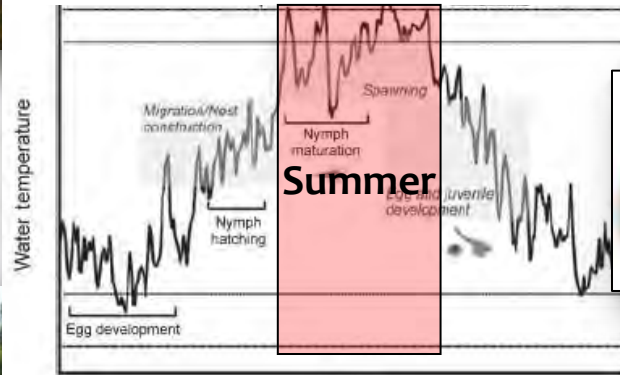
Bridge pilings, roadbed riprap...



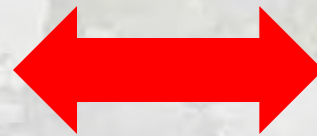
# Significant Monitoring Gap: Full Year Temperatures from Unregulated Rivers



Annual Temperature Cycle

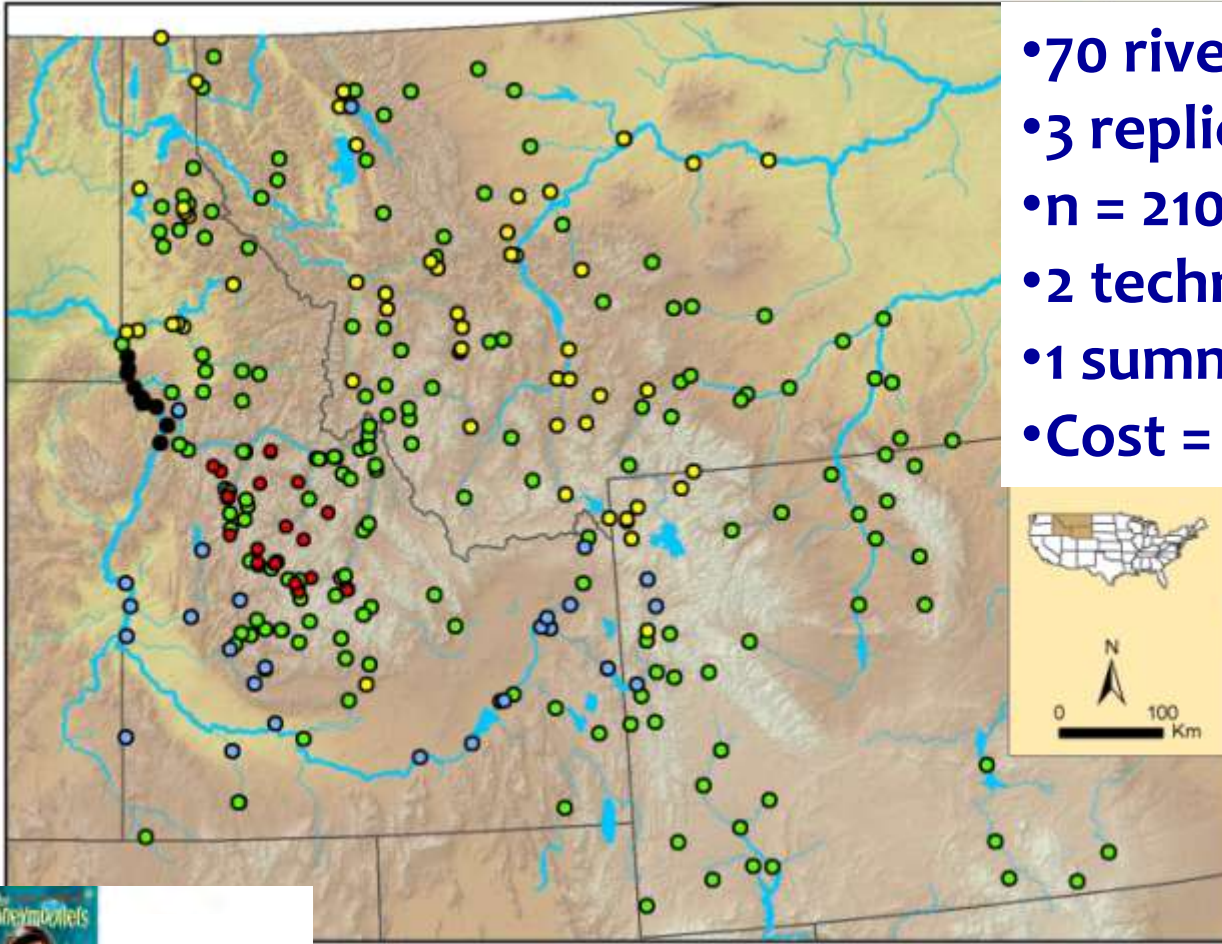


Time





# NoRRTN: Northern Rockies River Temperature Network



- 70 rivers;
- 3 replicates/river;
- n = 210 sites;
- 2 technicians;
- 1 summer of work;
- Cost = \$50,000;



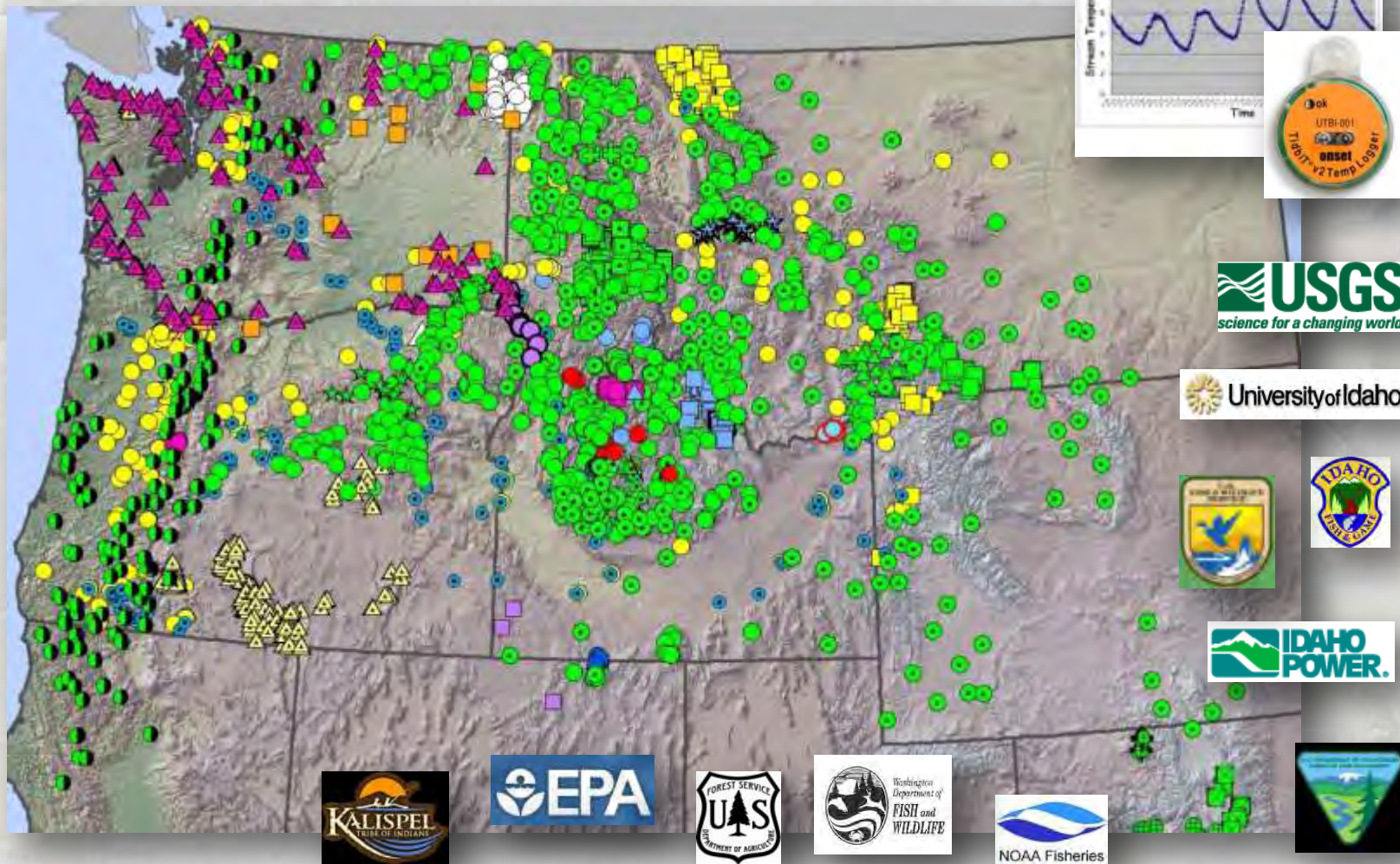
← Also Norton





# Full Year Stream Temperature Monitoring Becoming Popular...

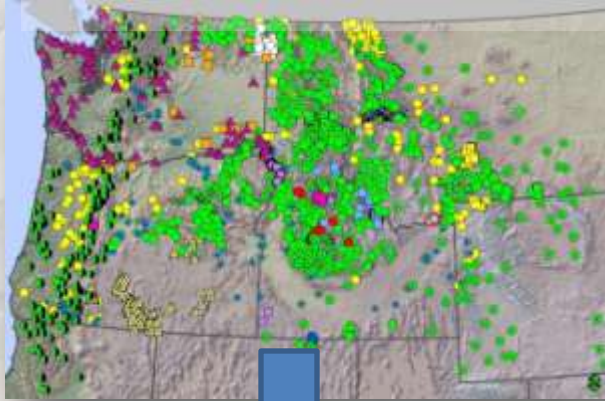
2,761 Current full-year monitoring sites  
~500 New deployments last year





# A GoogleMap Tool for Dynamic Queries of Temperature Monitoring Sites

## Regional Sensor Network



### Site Information

- Stream name
- Data steward contact information
- Agency
- Site Initiation Date



### Query Individual Sites

**Montana Annual Stream Temperature Points available**

Stream Temperature Points available by Agency

2/02/2011

52 views - Public

Created on Feb 2, Updated 13 hours ago

By

Rate this map - Write a comment

- **Adair Creek**  
Thermograph Location: Adair Creek Contact: Clint Muhfeld - cmuhfeld@usgs.gov (406-888-7926) USGS, NOROCK.
- **Agassiz Creek**  
Thermograph Location: Agassiz Creek Contact: Clint Muhfeld - cmuhfeld@usgs.gov (406-888-7926) USGS, NOROCK.
- **Alakala Creek**  
Thermograph Location: Alakala Creek Contact: Clint Muhfeld - cmuhfeld@usgs.gov (406-888-7926) USGS, NOROCK.

**Cottonwood-Clyde Park- Creek**

Updated 2 days ago

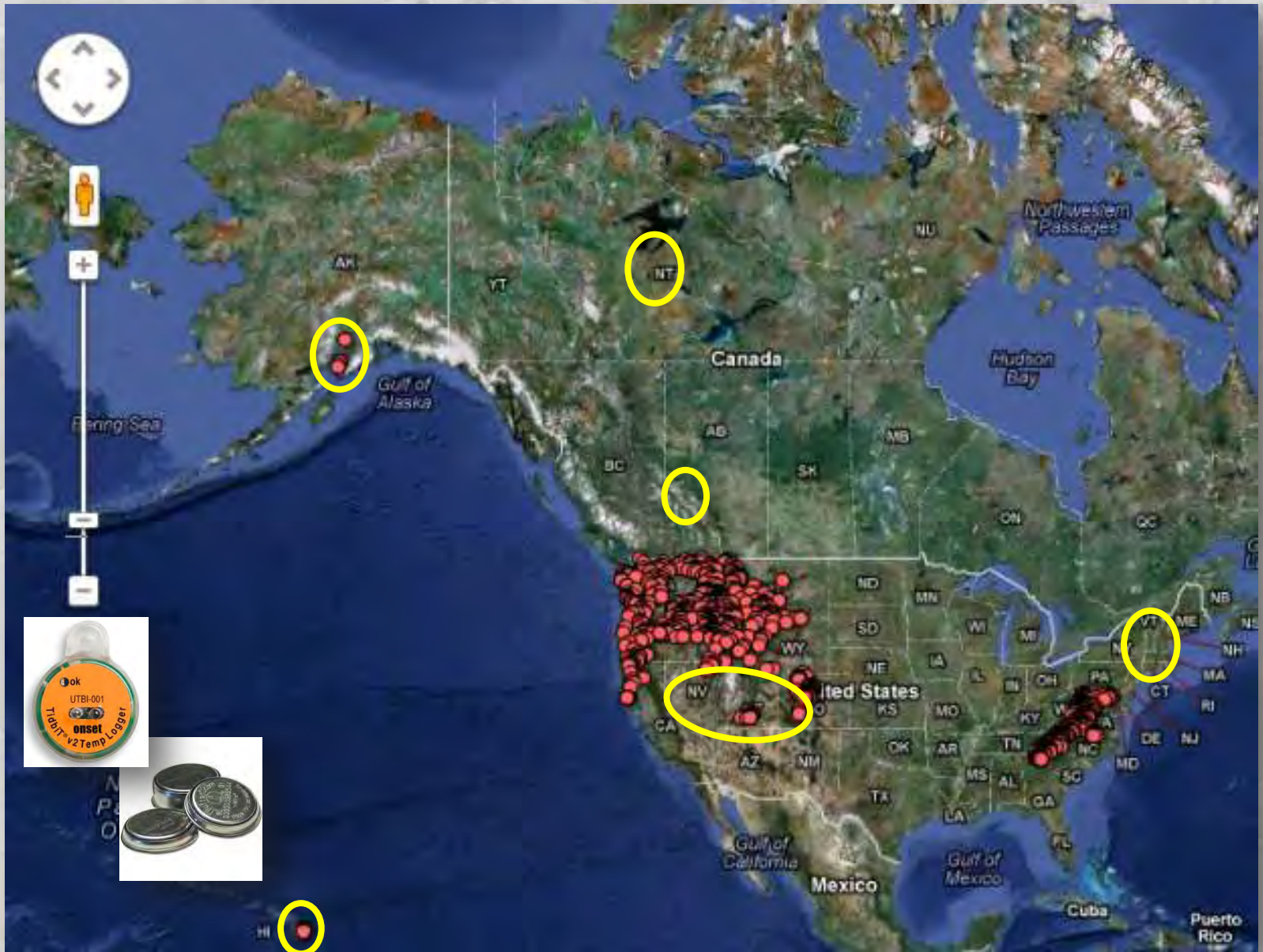
Thermograph Location: Cottonwood-Clyde Park- Creek  
Contact: Robert Al-Chokhachy - ral-chokhachy@usgs.gov (406-994-7842)  
USGS, NOROCK

Directions Search nearby more

1 of 2 nearby results Next >



# Continental Monitoring Network Emerging





# Monitoring Sites in CRCT Range



Mike Golden  
Matt Grove  
Kelly Larkin-McKim  
Rick Henderson  
Andrew Briebart  
Gwynne Chandler

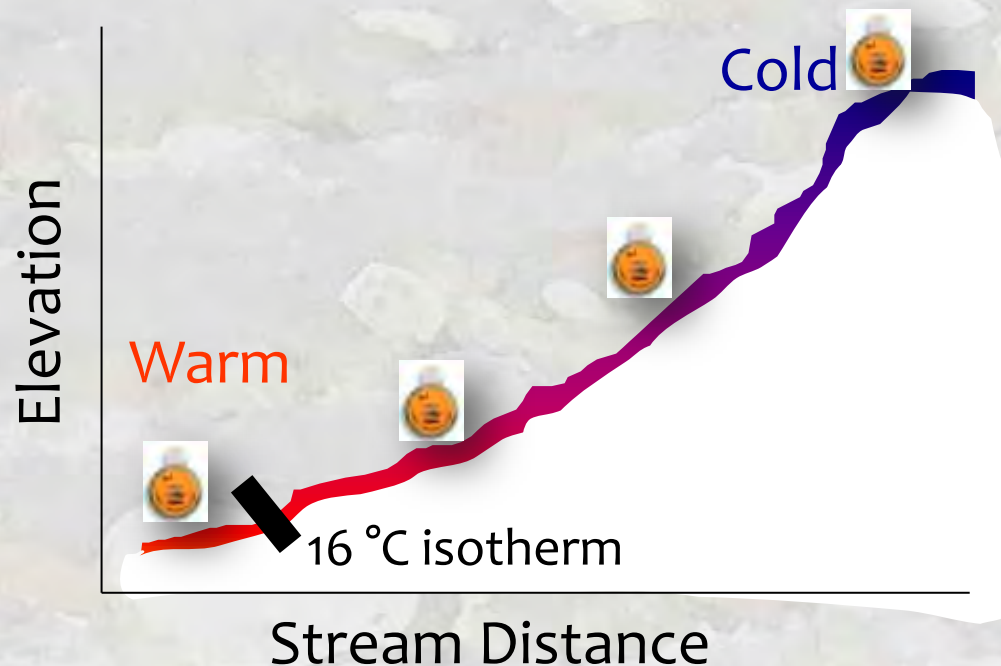




# Stream-Specific Climate Change Scenarios

## Calculation of Stream Isotherm Shifts

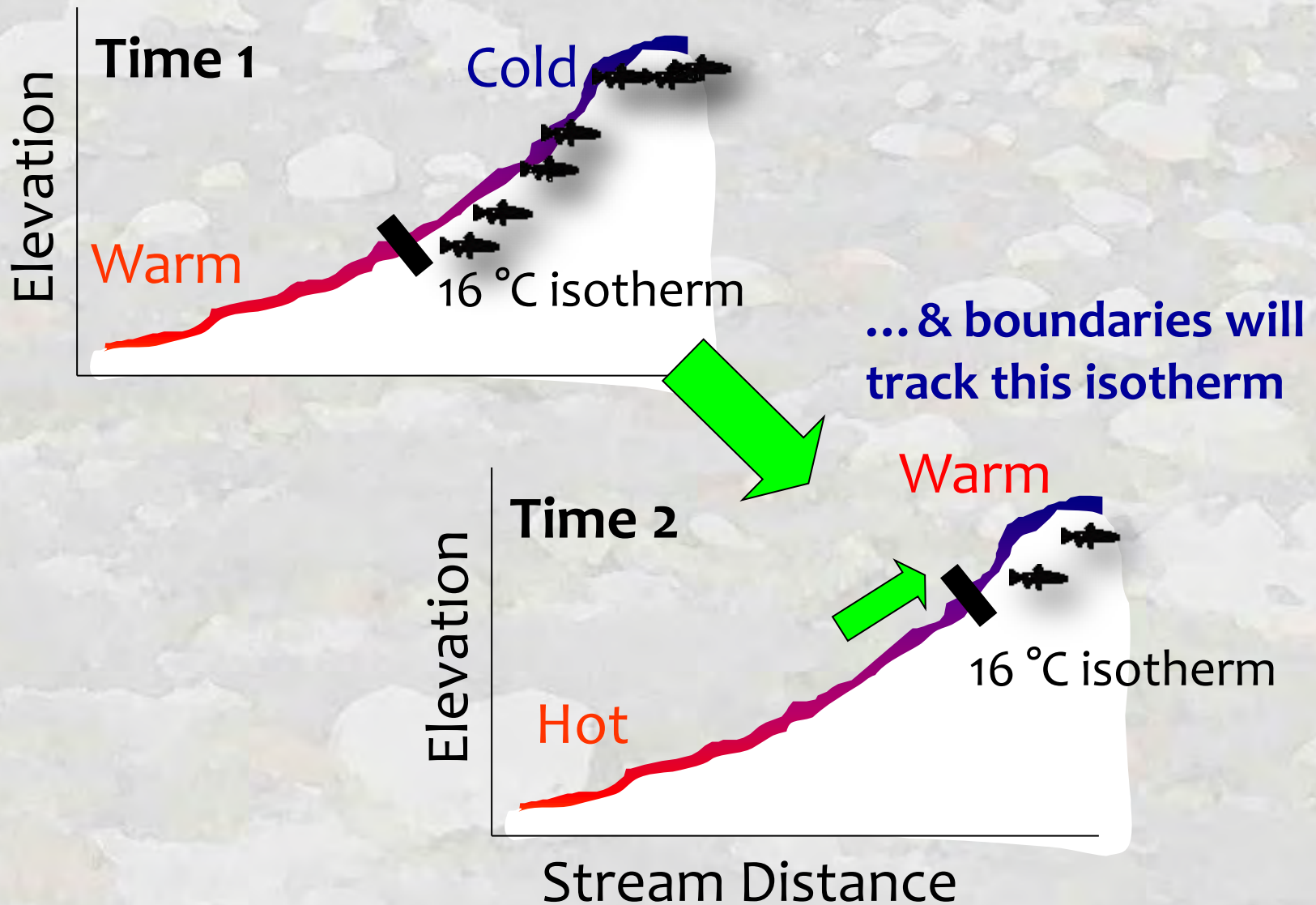
- 1) Stream temperature lapse rate ( $^{\circ}\text{C} / 100 \text{ m}$ )
- 2) Long-term stream warming rate ( $^{\circ}\text{C} / \text{decade}$ )
- 3) Stream slope (degrees)
- 4) Stream sinuosity





# Key BioClimate Model Assumption:

Critical isotherm delimits species boundary...



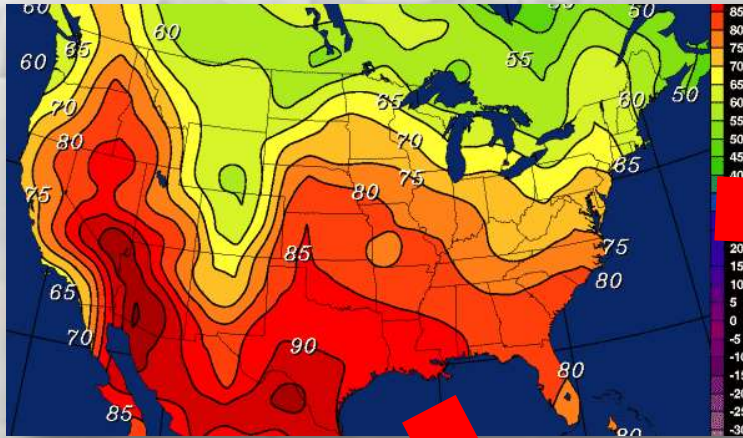


# What is an Isotherm?

## How does it apply to streams?

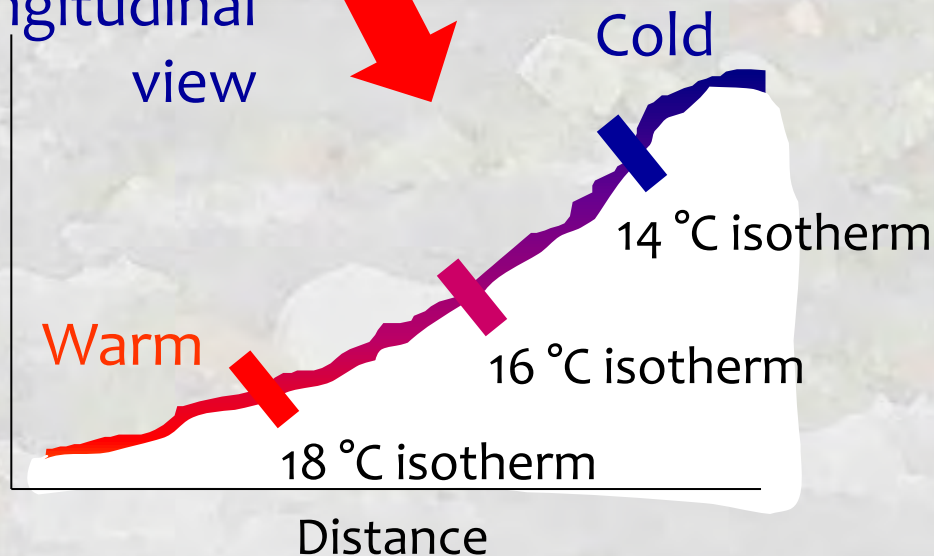
Isotherm = Line connecting locations with equal temperatures

Stream plan view



Longitudinal view

Elevation



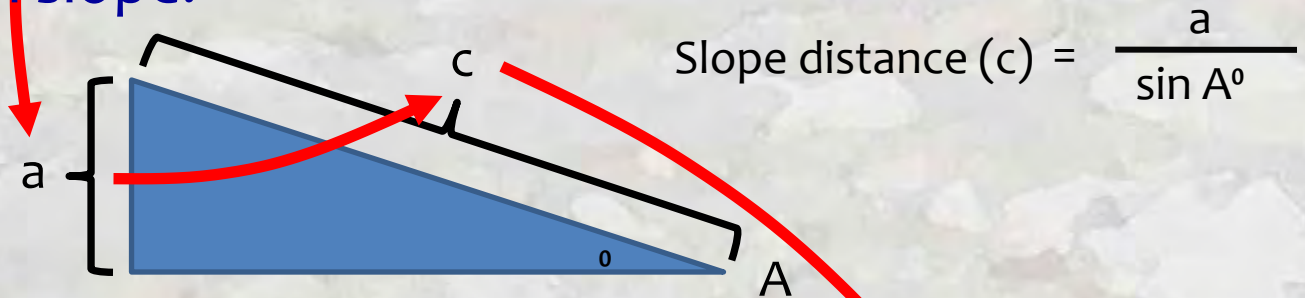


# A Use for High School Trigonometry!

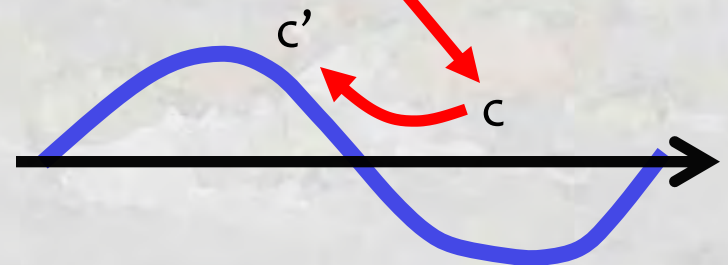
Step 1. Calculate vertical displacement for a given stream lapse rate and long-term warming rate.

$$\text{Displacement (a)} = \frac{\text{Warming rate}}{\text{Lapse rate}} = \frac{0.2^{\circ}\text{C/decade}}{0.4^{\circ}\text{C/100m}} = +50\text{m/decade}$$

Step 2. Translate displacement to distance along stream of a given slope.



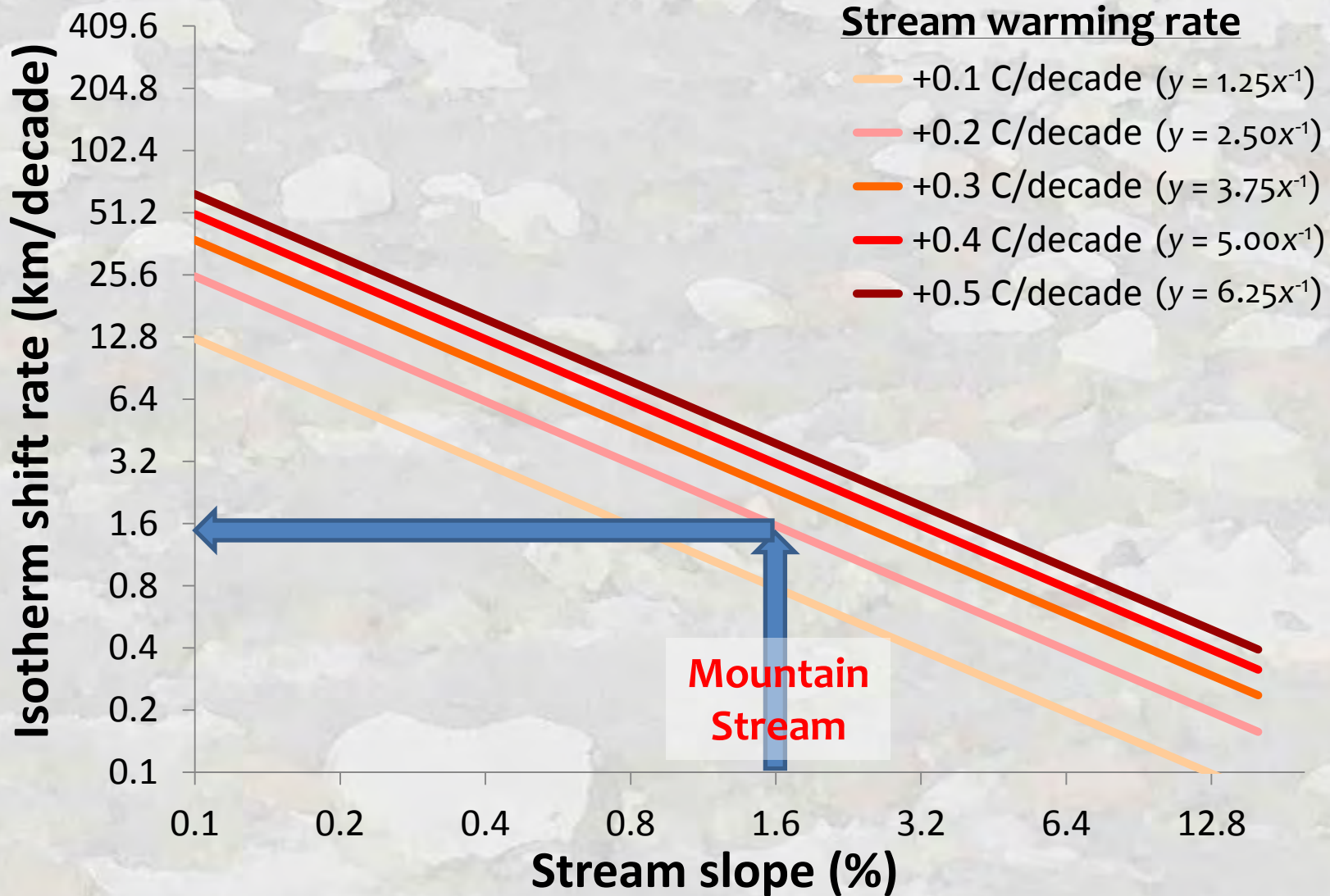
Step 3. Multiply slope distance by stream sinuosity ratio in meandering streams.





# Isotherm Shift Rate Curves

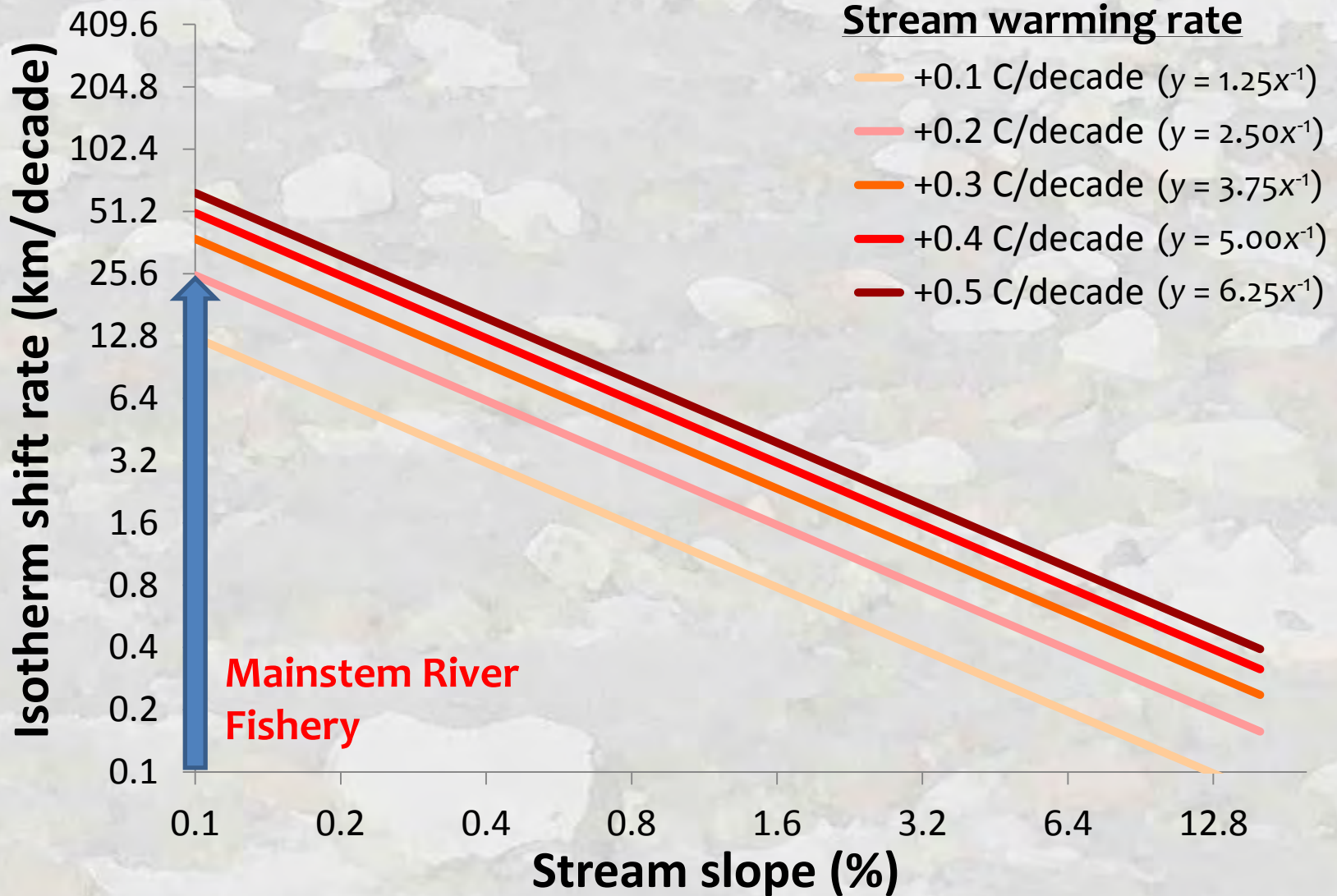
Stream lapse rate =  $0.8\text{ }^{\circ}\text{C} / 100\text{ m}$





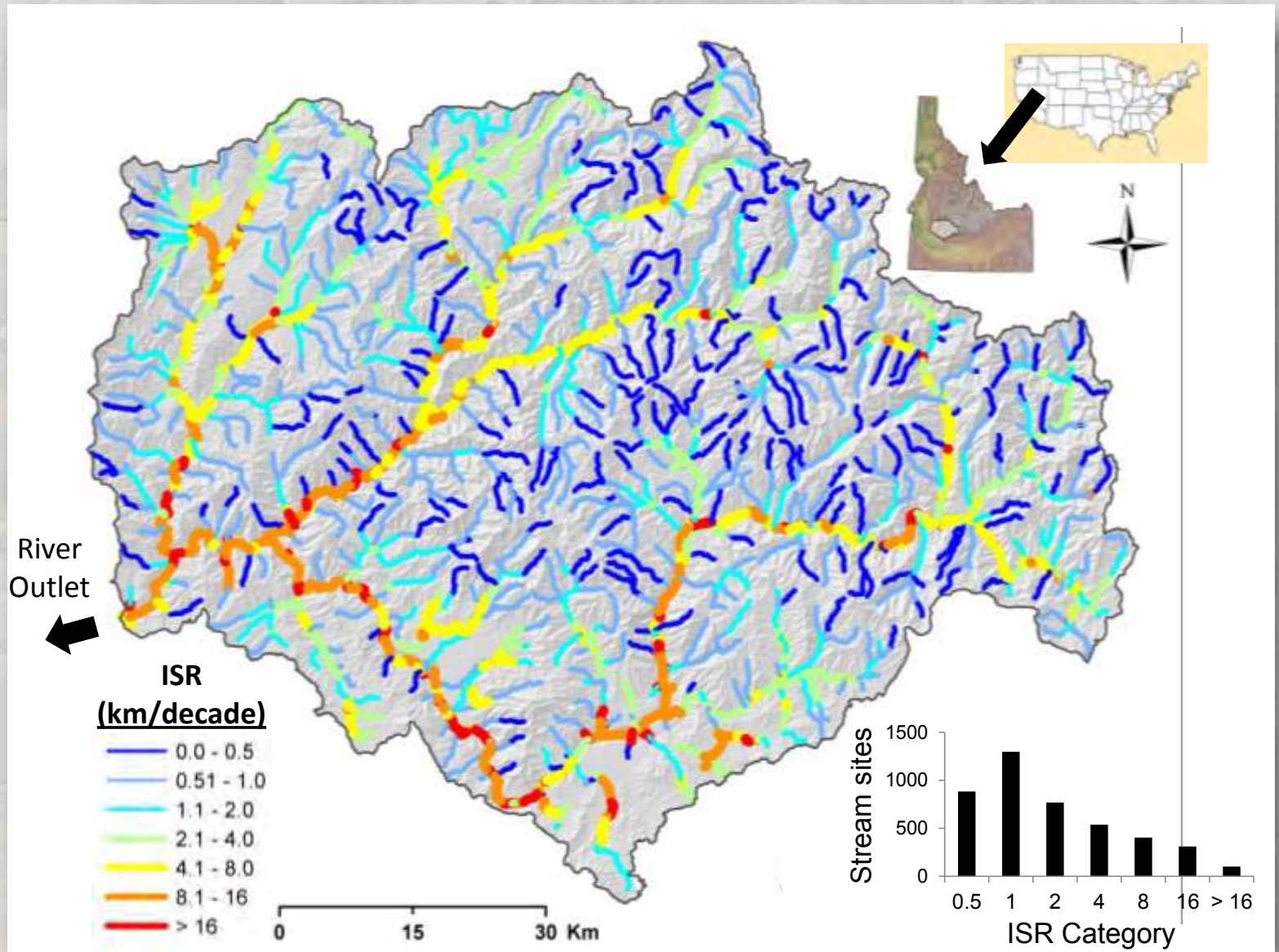
# Isotherm Shift Rate Curves

Stream lapse rate = 0.8 °C / 100 m





# River Network Climate Velocity Map

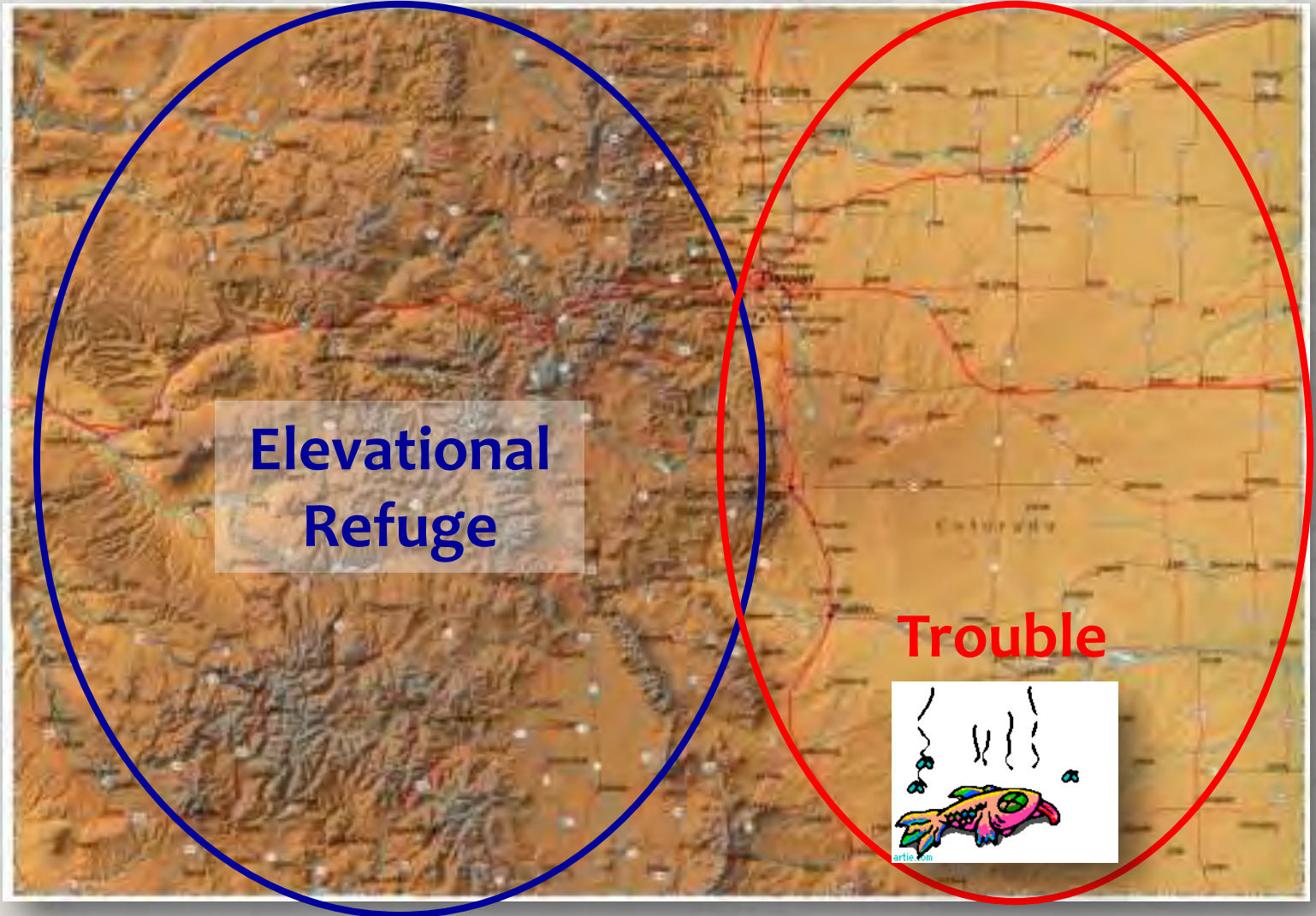


sensu Loarie et al. 2009. *Nature* 462:1052-1055.



# If It's Steep, It Will Slow the Creep...

Topography will be our Frien-emy



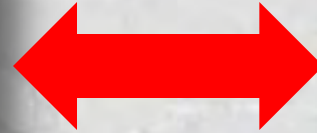
Elevational  
Refuge

Trouble





# Mainstem Fisheries Will See First & Most Pronounced Thermal Impacts

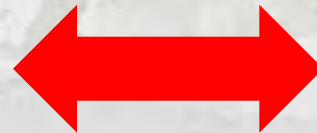
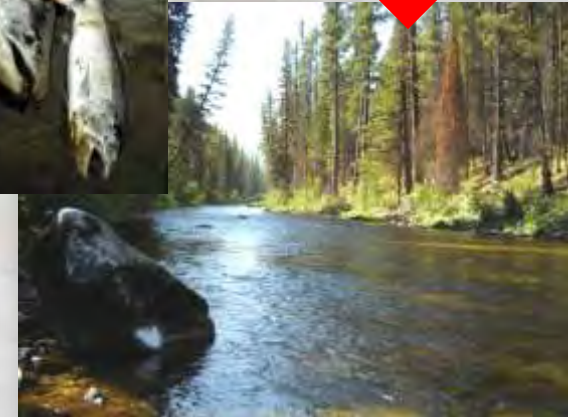
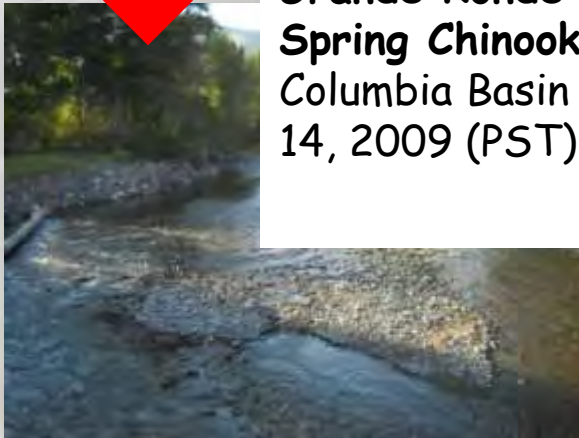


Low Flows Prompt Fishing Closure On Upper Beaverhead River And Reduced Limits On Clark Canyon Reservoir

Wednesday, September 29, 2004  
Fishing



**High Water Temperature In Grande Ronde Kills 239 Adult Spring Chinook**  
Columbia Basin Bulletin, August 14, 2009 (PST)

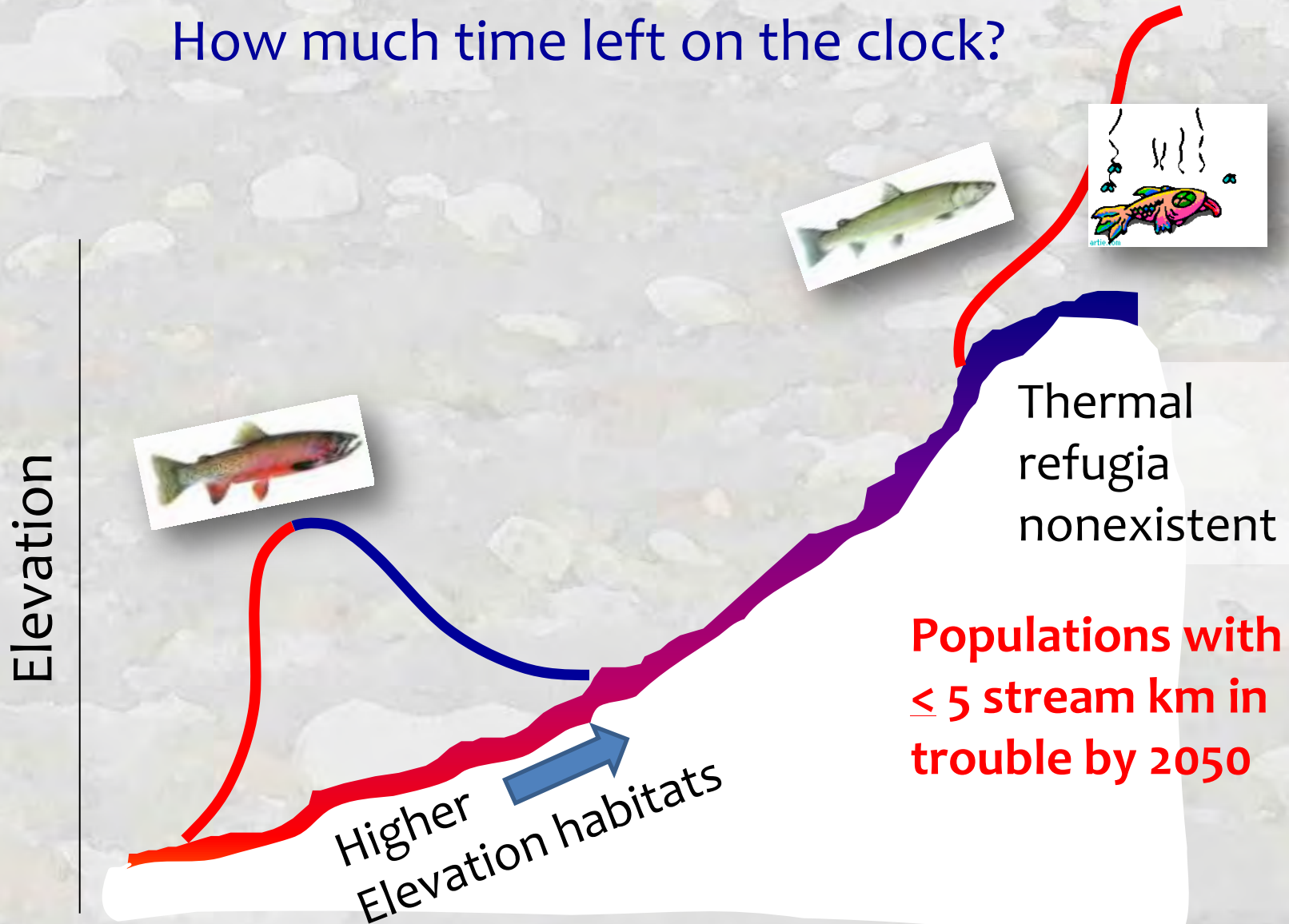




# Headwater Populations

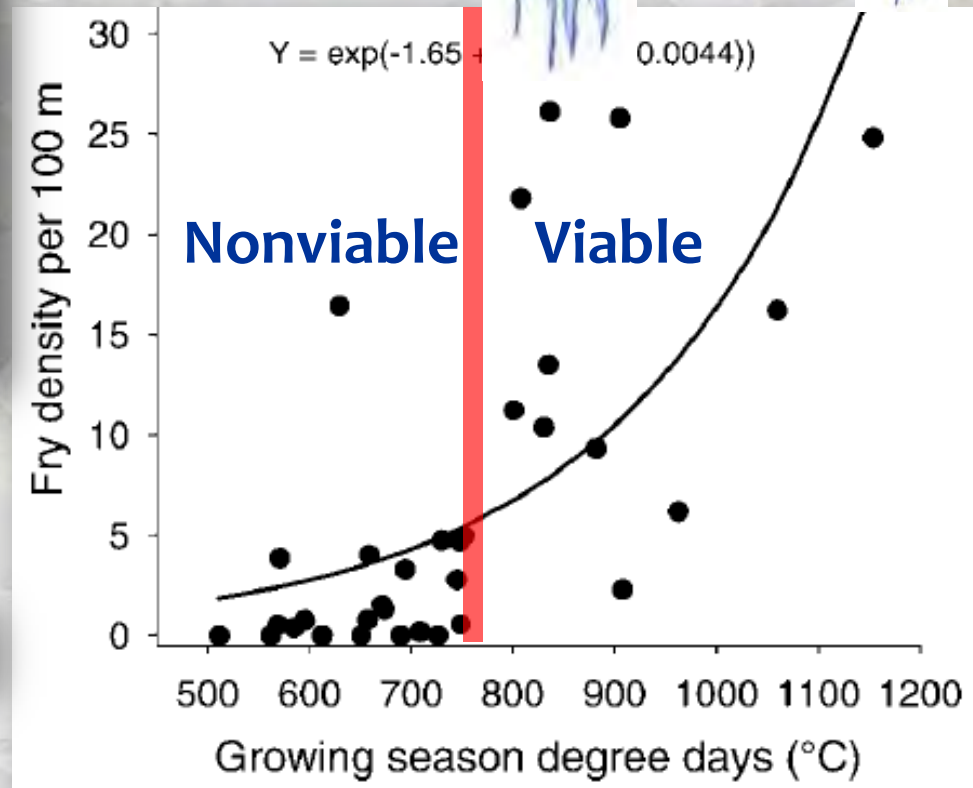
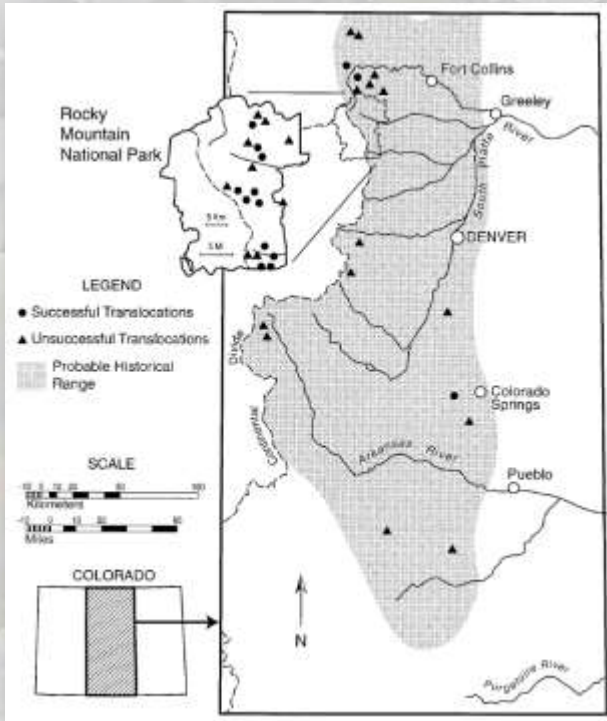
Is it a problem?

How much time left on the clock?





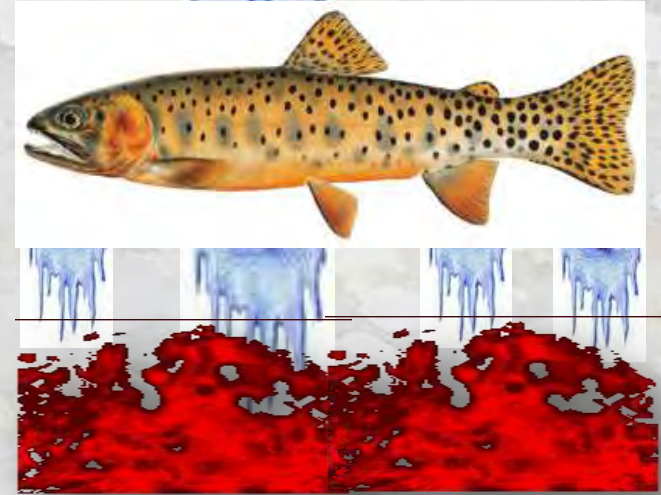
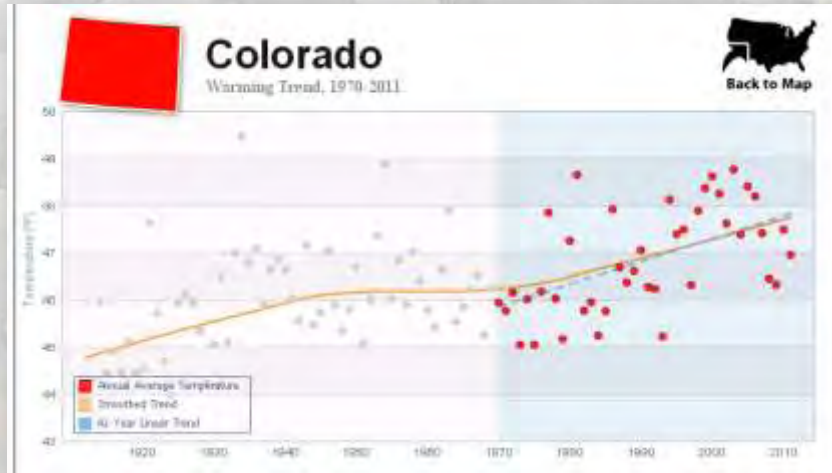
# CRCT Habitats Often Too Cold...





# ... But Now Are Slowly Thawing...

+0.26 °C/decade from 1970-2011



Air warming 0.26 °C/ decade ~

a) stream warming 0.15 °C/decade ~

0.5 - 1 km/decade isotherm shift in 1% - 5% slopes

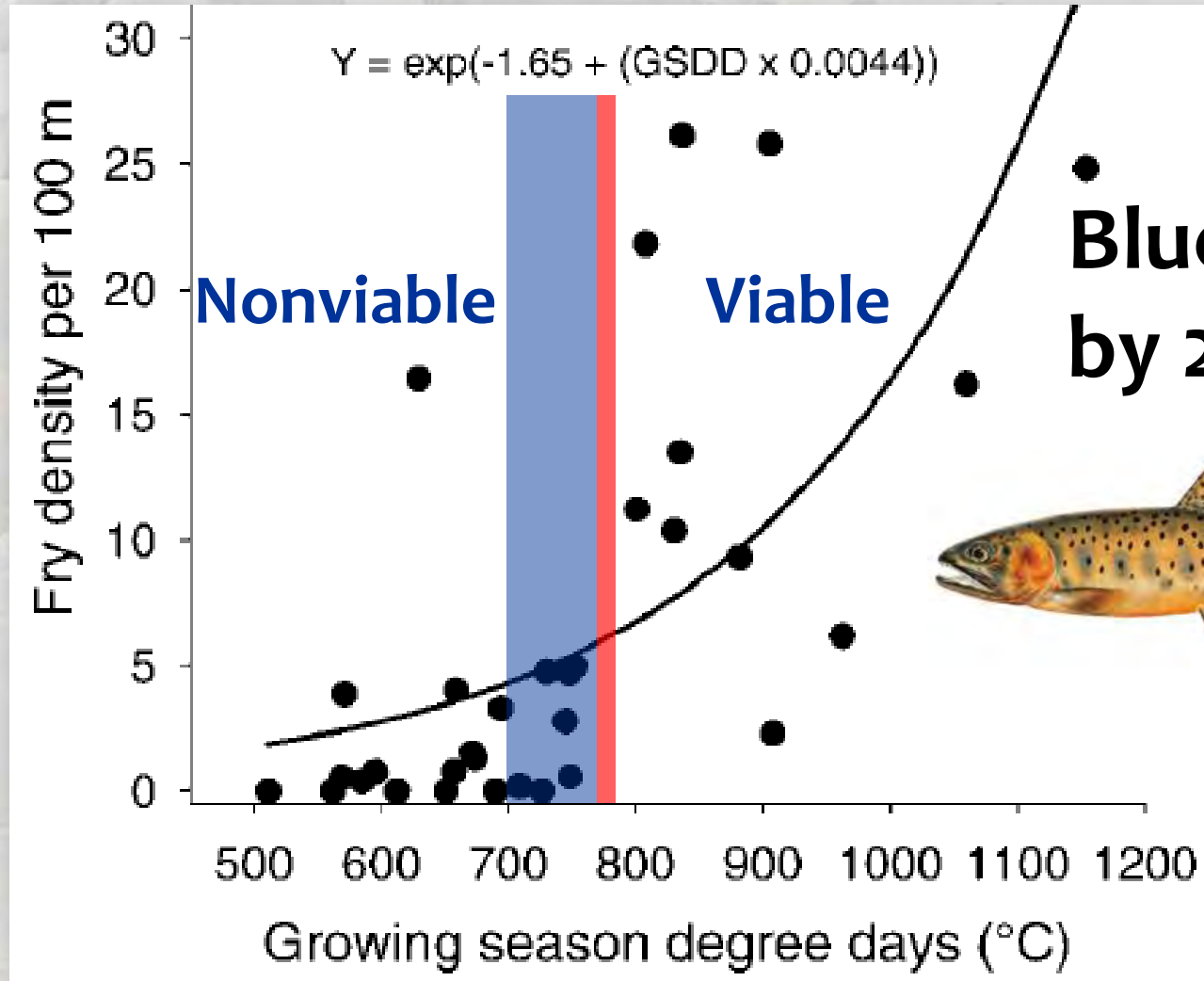
b) stream warming 0.15 °C/decade ~

+20 degree days/decade ~

+80 degree days by 2050.



# ... & New Habitats Will Come Online



• **Blue = new  
by 2050?...**





# Sensor Technology for Stream Discharge

Traditional technique =  
labor intensive & expensive



Portable Doppler  
Velocimeter



Pressure Transducers



New discharge sensors =  
new possibilities



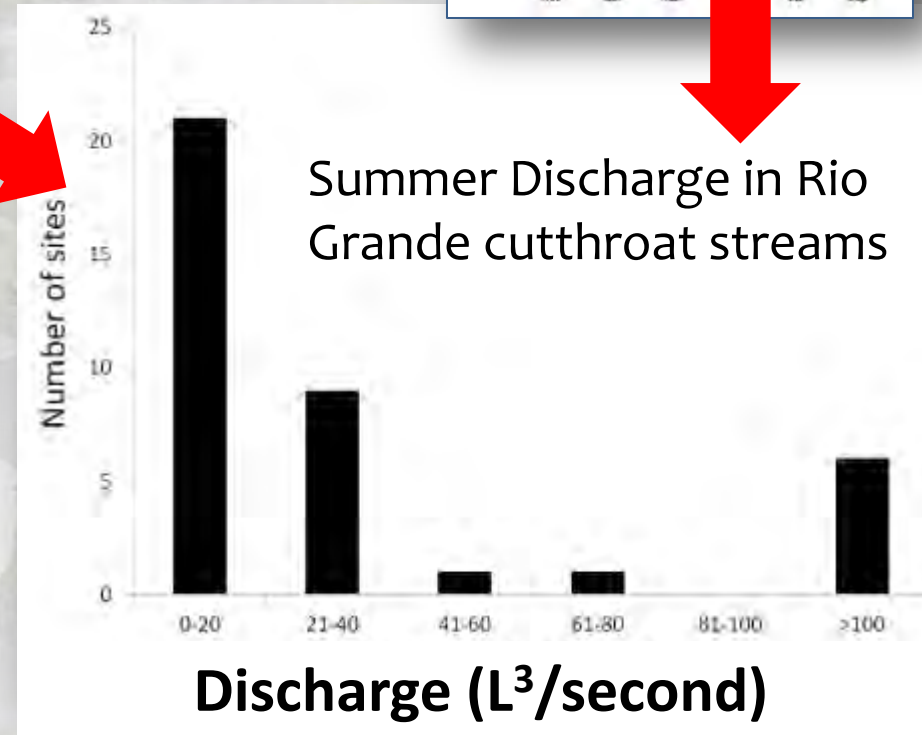
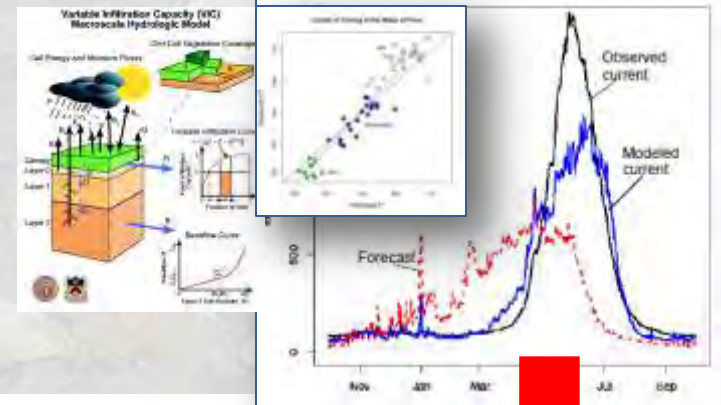
# Hydrologic Models for Tiny Streams?

Why model it if it can be directly measured?



Andrew Todd, unpublished

VIC Flow Model





# Year 1 Measurement = Habitat Size

## Upper Green River CRCT Populations

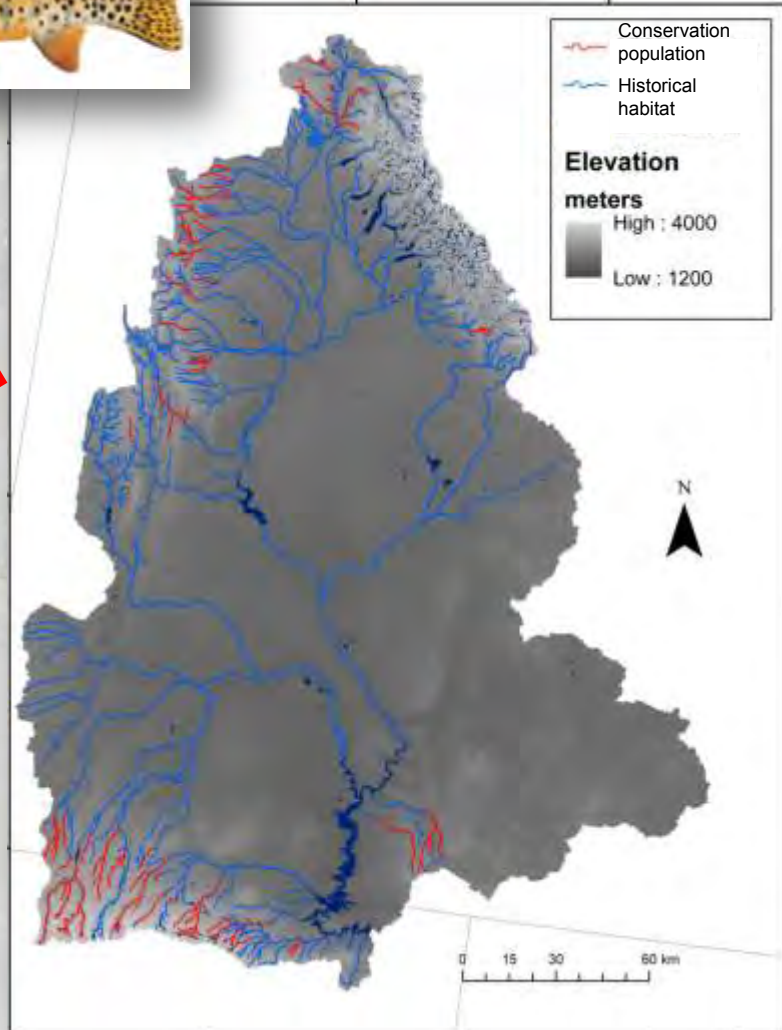
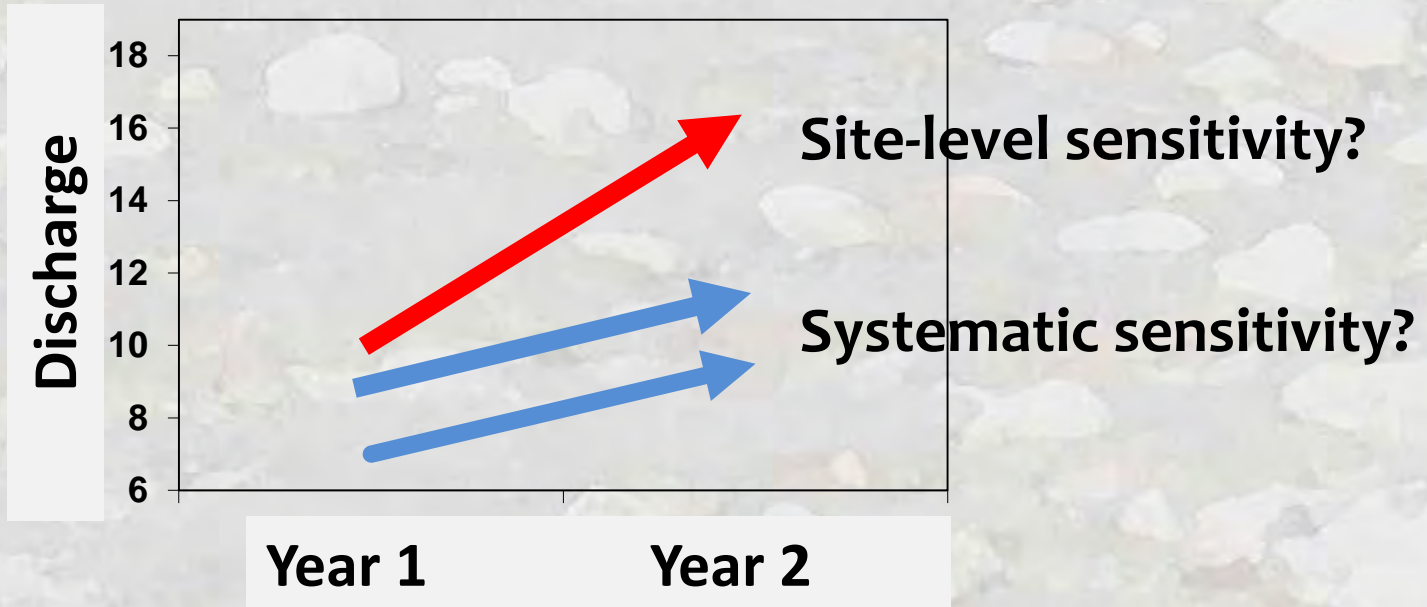


Figure from James Roberts

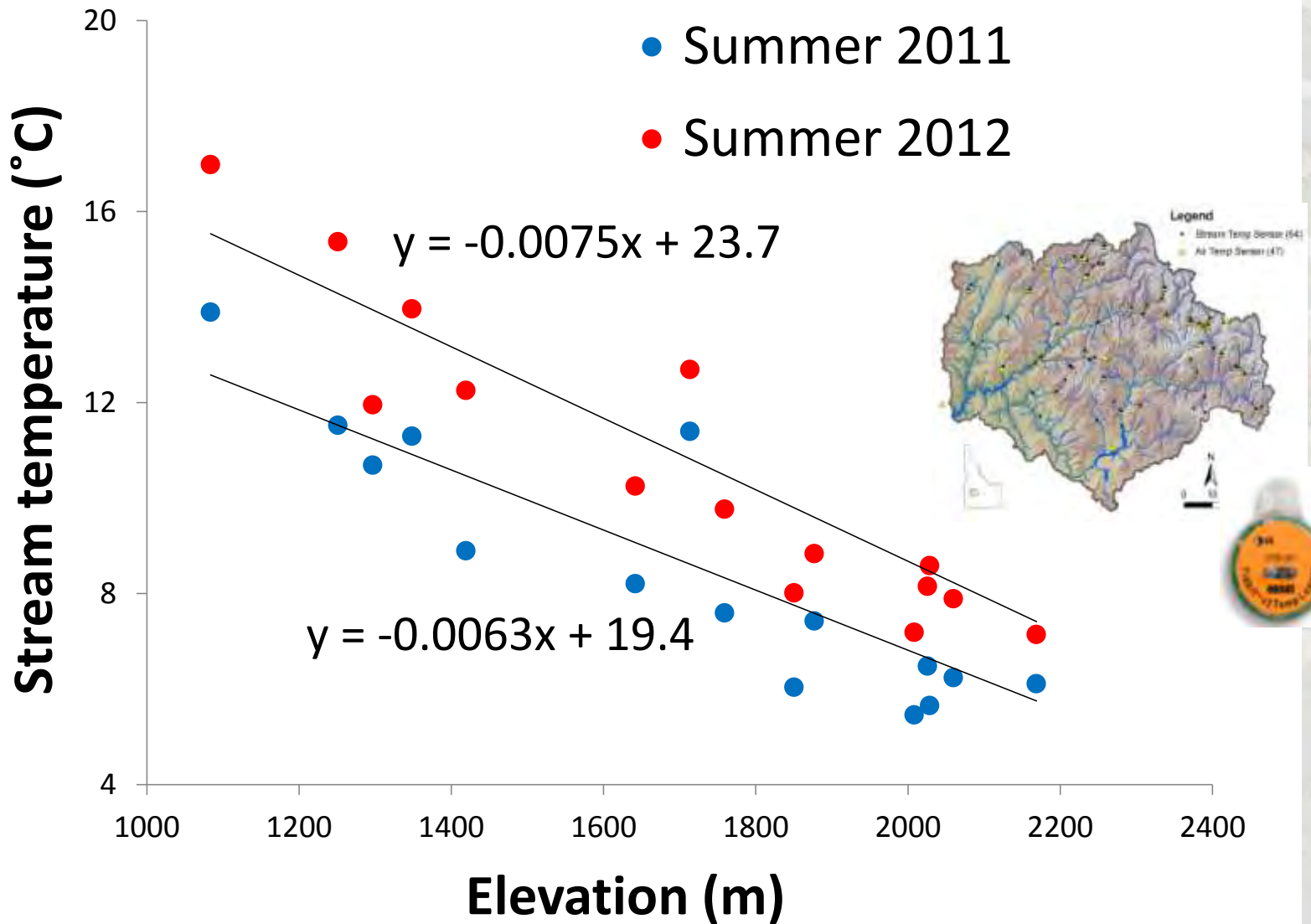


# Year 2 Measurement minus Year 1 Measurement = Climate Sensitivity





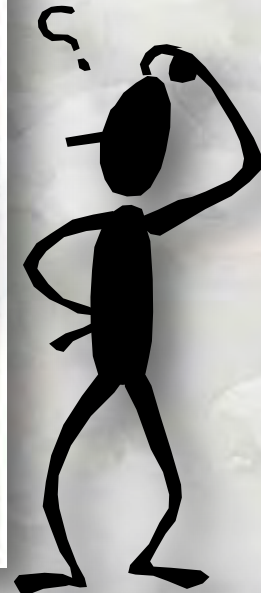
# Year 2 Measurement minus Year 1 Measurement = Climate Sensitivity





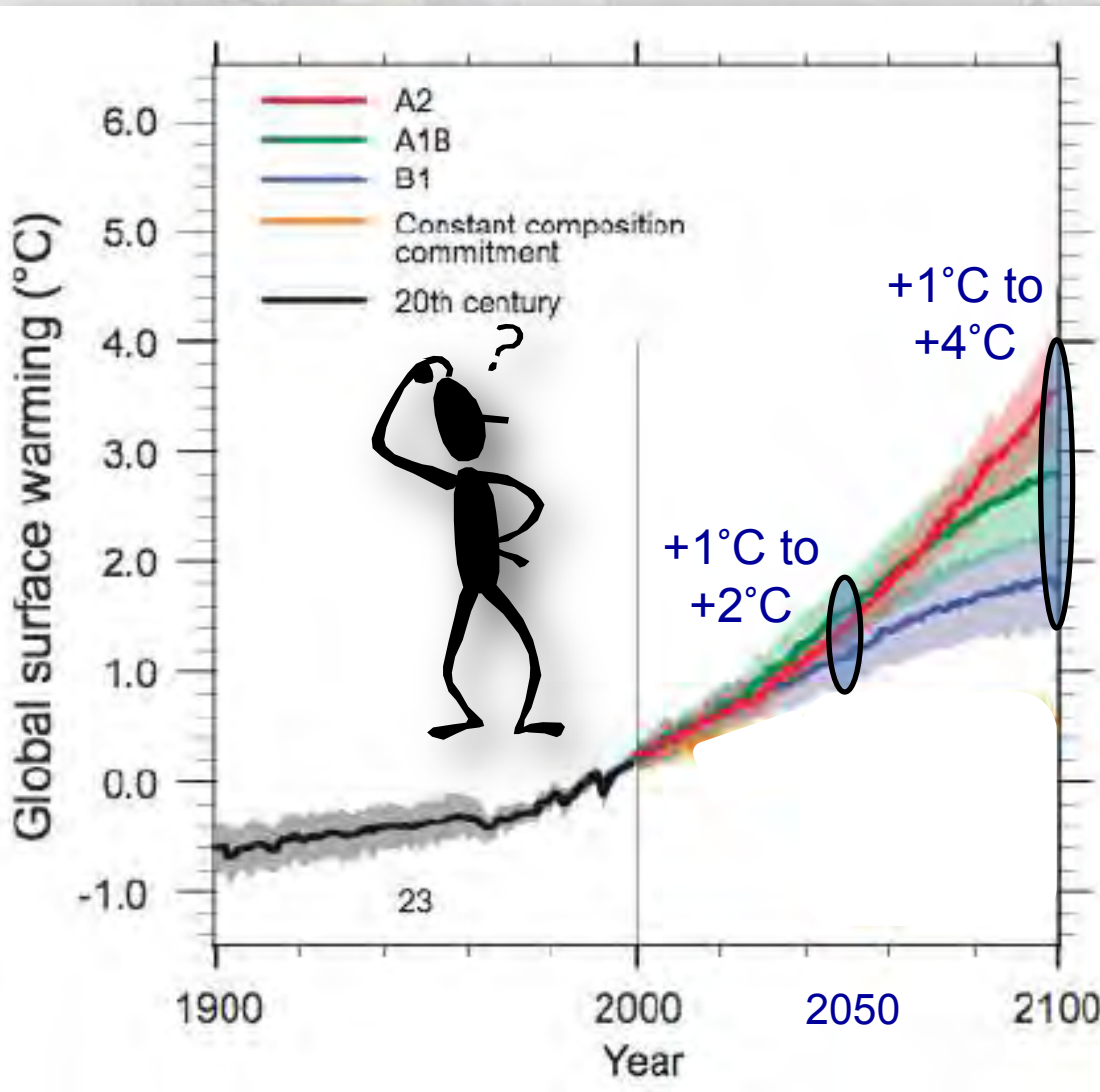
# Much Can Be Done to Inform This Question

## Where should scarce resources be spent?



# Significant Unknowns:

Where Do We Level Off (+1C, +3C, etc.)  
& When Do We Get There?



A2?

A1B?

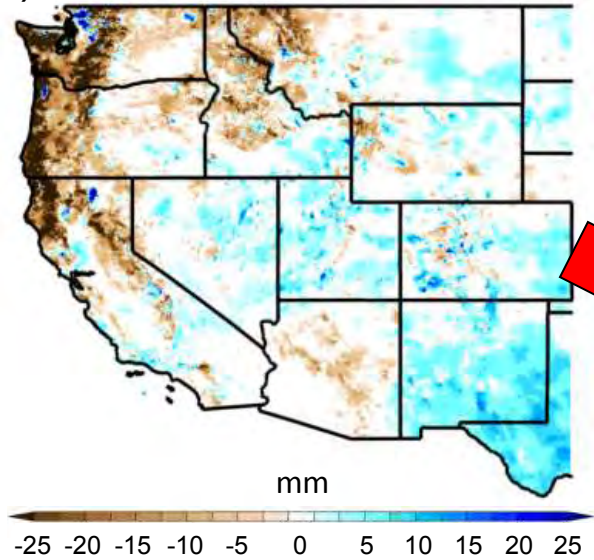
B1?



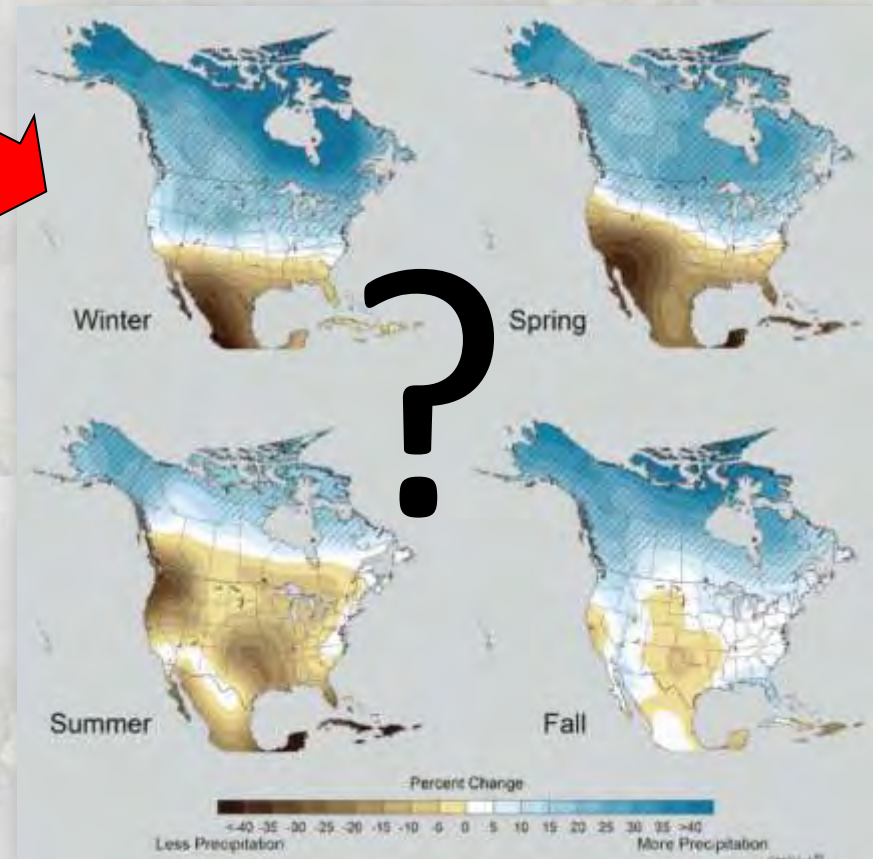
**HOW:**

**Wetter or Drier?**

C  
-4 -3 -2 -1 0 1 2 3 4  
**Precipitation trends (1950-2009)**  
c)

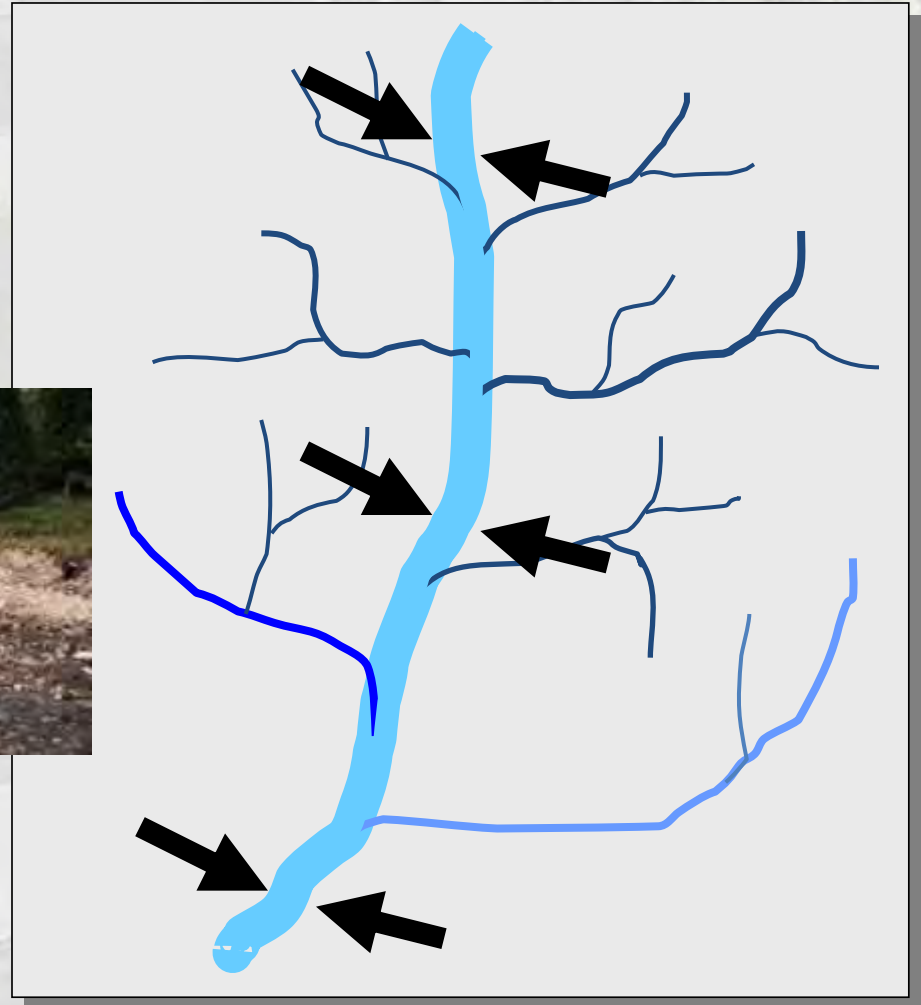


**Future trends (2080-2099)?**



**Past may not be a prelude in this case...**

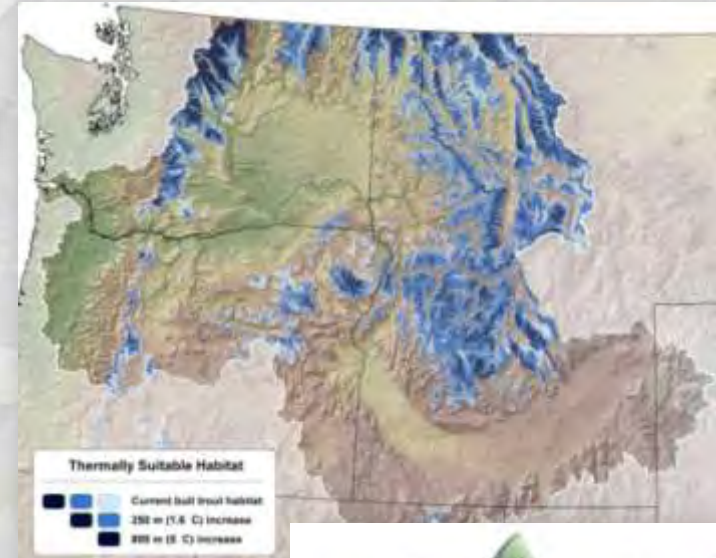
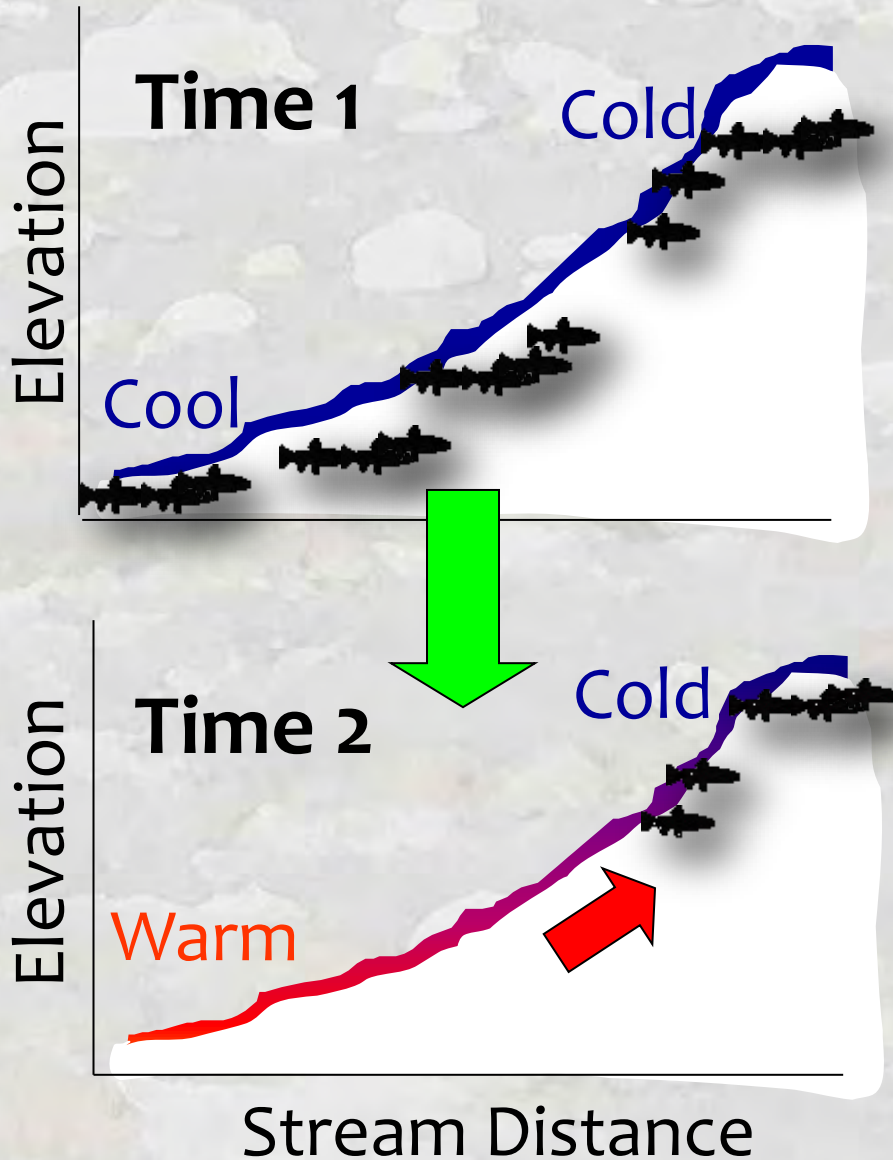
# Precipitation Declines = Habitat Reductions / Loss?





# Significant Unknowns:

## How Fast Are Fish Distributions Shifting?

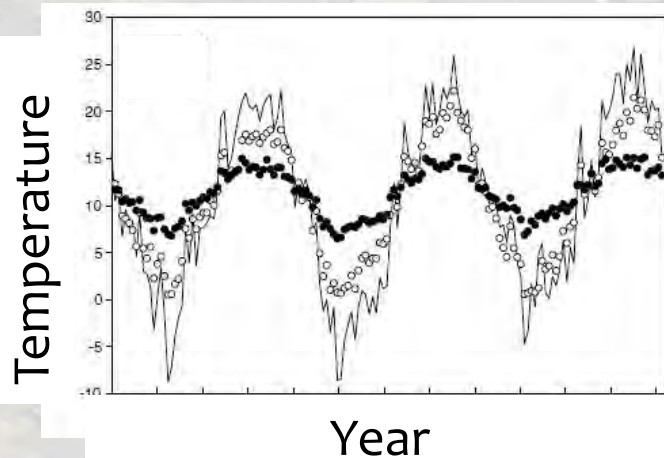


Average distribution shift  
across taxa =  
6.1 km/decade poleward OR  
6.1 m/decade higher

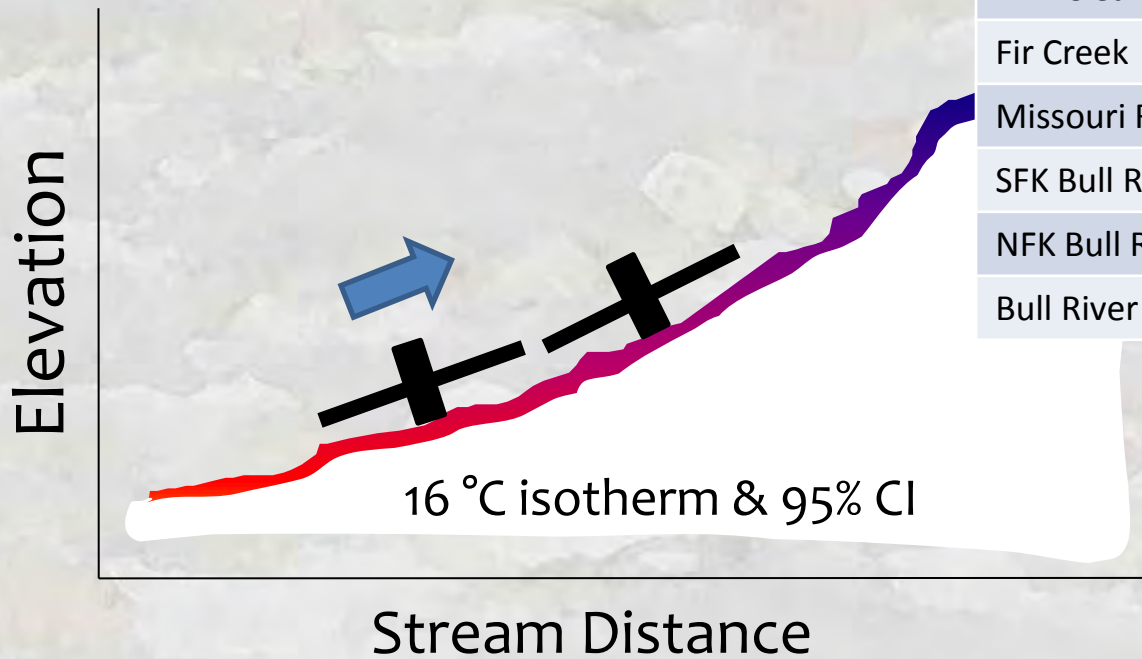
Parmesan and Yohe. 2003.  
*Nature* 421:37-42.

# Power Analysis for Trend Detection

How long does monitoring have to occur?



Streams differ in thermal variation which masks warming trend



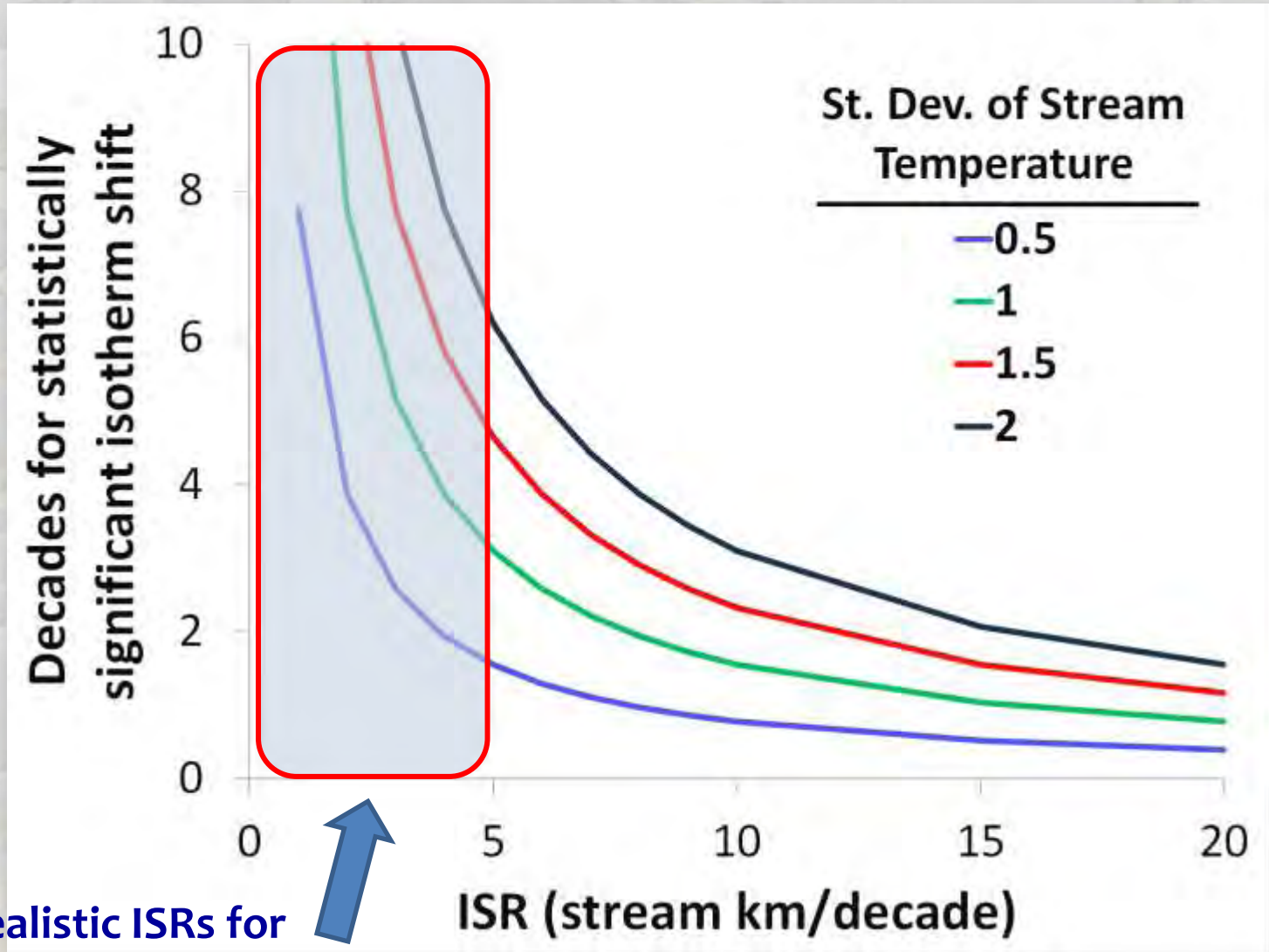
Stream	Summer SD	Annual SD
NFK Clearwater	1.41	0.70
Fir Creek	0.82	0.51
Missouri R.	1.17	0.64
SFK Bull River	0.86	0.55
NFK Bull River	0.36	0.44
Bull River	0.82	0.58

Isaak et al. 2012.  
*Climatic Change*



# Power Curves for Isotherm Shifts

2 – 6 decades for statistically significant changes



Realistic ISRs for  
1% channels

# Empirical Evidence in the Short-Term

## Resample historical sites along stream profiles



ALTITUDINAL DISTRIBUTION OF BROWN TROUT AND OTHER FISHES IN A HEADWATER TRIBUTARY OF THE SOUTH PLATTE RIVER, COLORADO

ROBERT E. VINCENT AND WILLIAM H. MILLER<sup>1</sup>

*Colorado Cooperative Fishery Unit, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado 80521*

(MS received August 9, 1968; accepted March 10, 1969)

### Mountain-Great Plains Stream: Biotic Zonation and Additive Patterns of Community Change

FRANK J. RAHEL

*Department of Zoology and Physiology, University of Wyoming  
Laramie, Wyoming 82071, USA*

*Transactions of the American Fisheries Society 120:319-332, 1991*

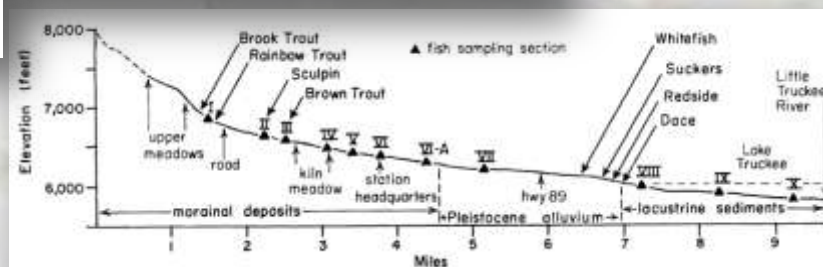
Species	Site number and elevation (m)									
	1 2,234	2 2,030	3 2,015	4 1,591	5 1,559	6 1,524	7 1,510	8 1,490	9 1,470	10 1,423
	<b>Upstream species</b>									
(1) Brook trout	100	79	72	6						
(2) Brown trout		21	24	+	+	+				2
	<b>Species showing an additive pattern</b>									
(1) White sucker		4	42	34	13	26	51	35	39	
(2) Longnose dace			23	18	52	6		33	12	
(3) Longnose sucker			2	19	12	13	1	1	3	
(4) Creek chub				27	27	20	6	47	28	24
(5) Saad shiner						1	12	+	14	
(6) Bigmouth shiner							6	+	4	
(7) Fathead minnow							8		+	
(8) Common shiner									+	
(9) Brassy minnow									+	

## DISTRIBUTION AND ABUNDANCE OF FISHES IN SAGEHEN CREEK, CALIFORNIA

RICHARD GARD, School of Forestry and Conservation, University of California, Berkeley 94720<sup>1</sup>

GLENN A. FLITTNER, Bureau of Marine Sciences, California State University, San Diego 92100

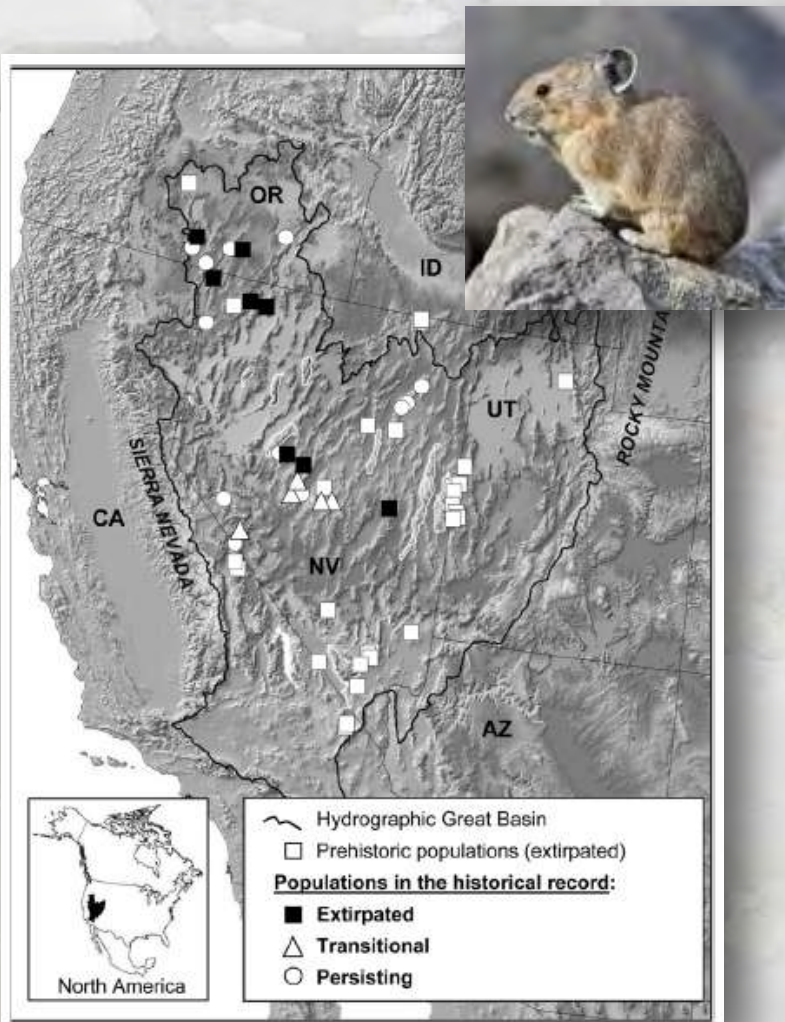
*J. Wildl. Manage.* 38(2):1974



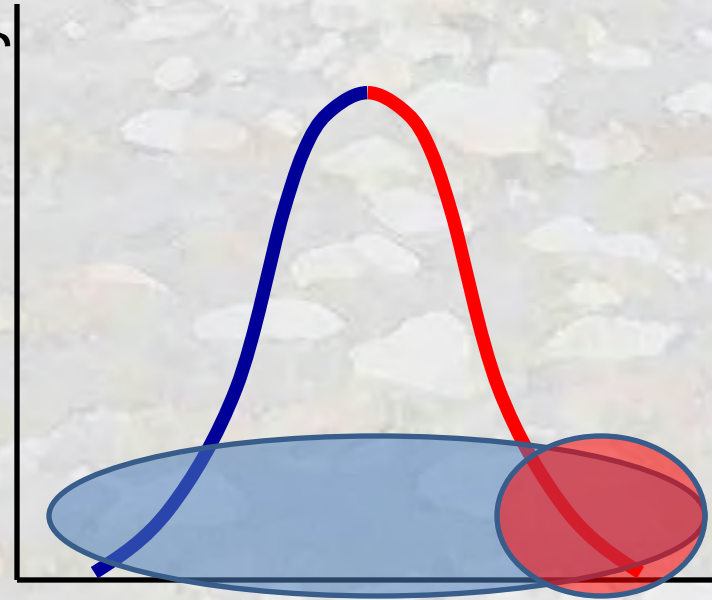


# Broad Distributional Resurveys

Assess site extirpation/colonization frequencies relative to temperature



Thermal Suitability



Temperature

$t_1$   $t_2$

1  $\rightarrow$  0

Site occupancy



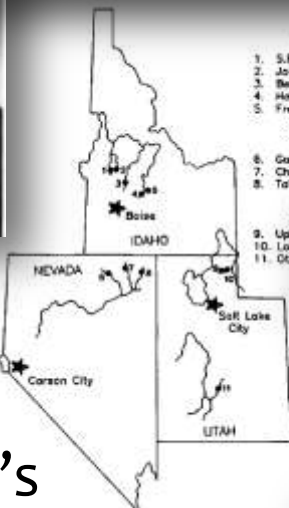
# Broad Distributional Resurveys

Assess site extirpation/colonization frequencies relative to temperature

United States Department of Agriculture  
Forest Service  
Inermountain Research Station  
General Technical Report INT-341  
February 1968

## Density and Biomass of Trout and Char in Western Streams

RELATIONSHIPS AMONG STREAM ORDER, FISH POPULATIONS, AND AQUATIC GEOMORPHOLOGY IN AN IDAHO RIVER DRAINAGE



Platts  
70's/80's

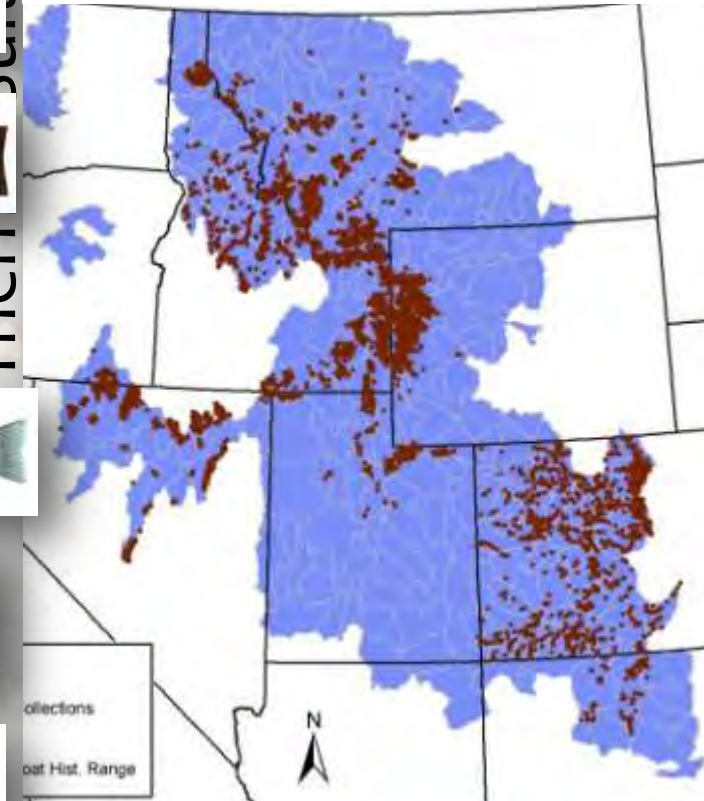
Bjornn  
1960's/70's



Beever et al. 2005, 2010

Thermal Susceptibility

Fish survey database  
~10,000 sites

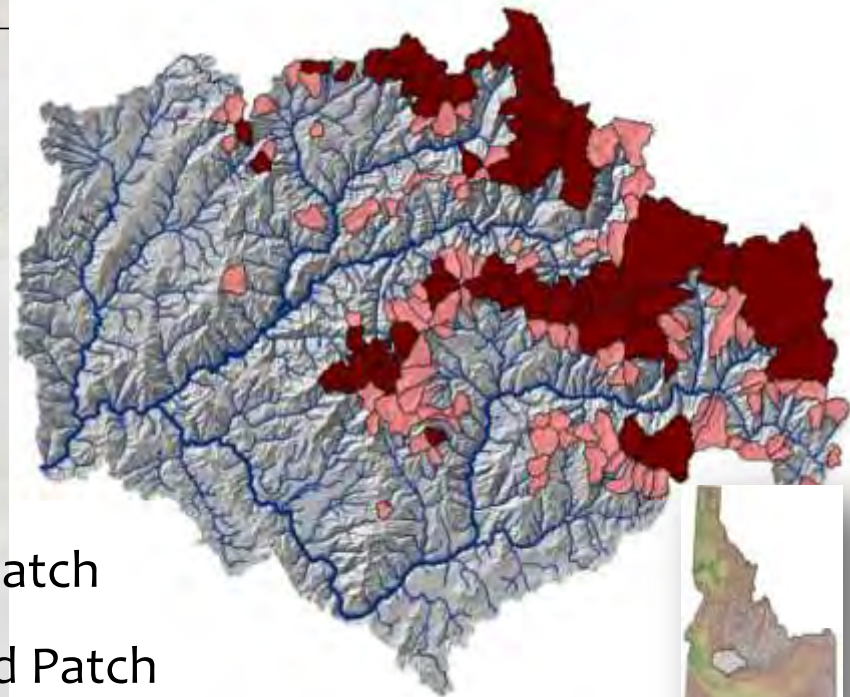
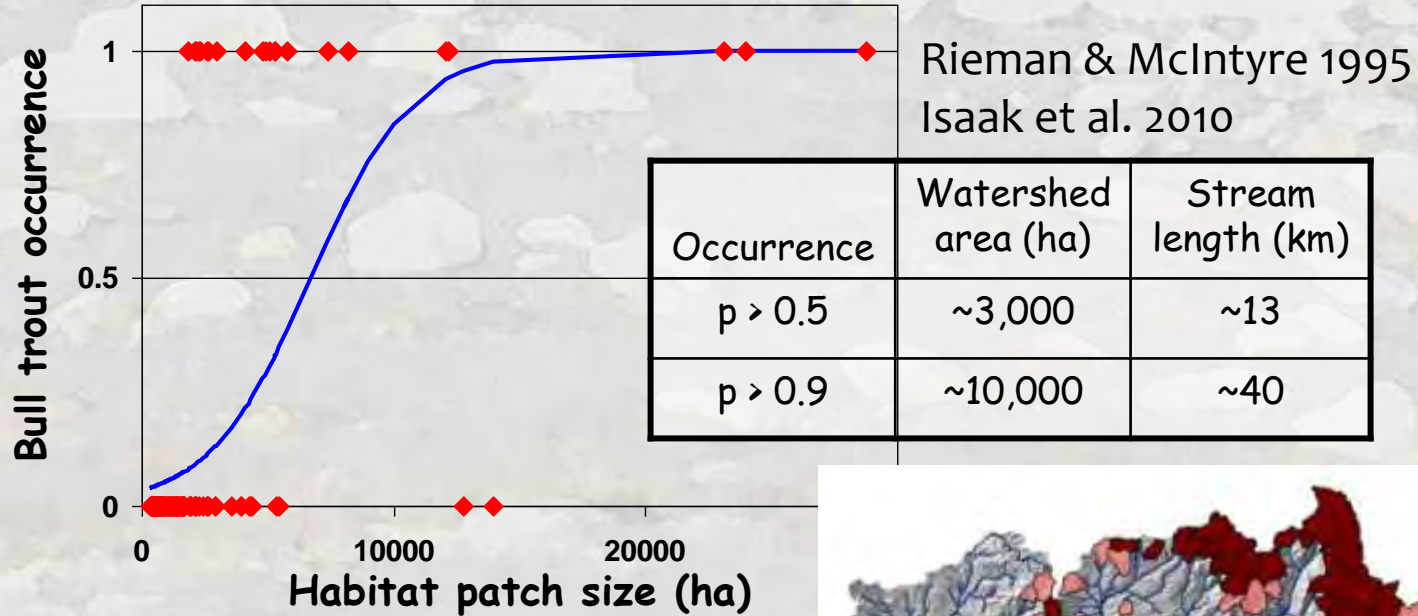



Wenger et al. 2011. PNAS



# Significant Unknowns:

## How Much Habitat is Needed to Persist?



 Occupied Patch

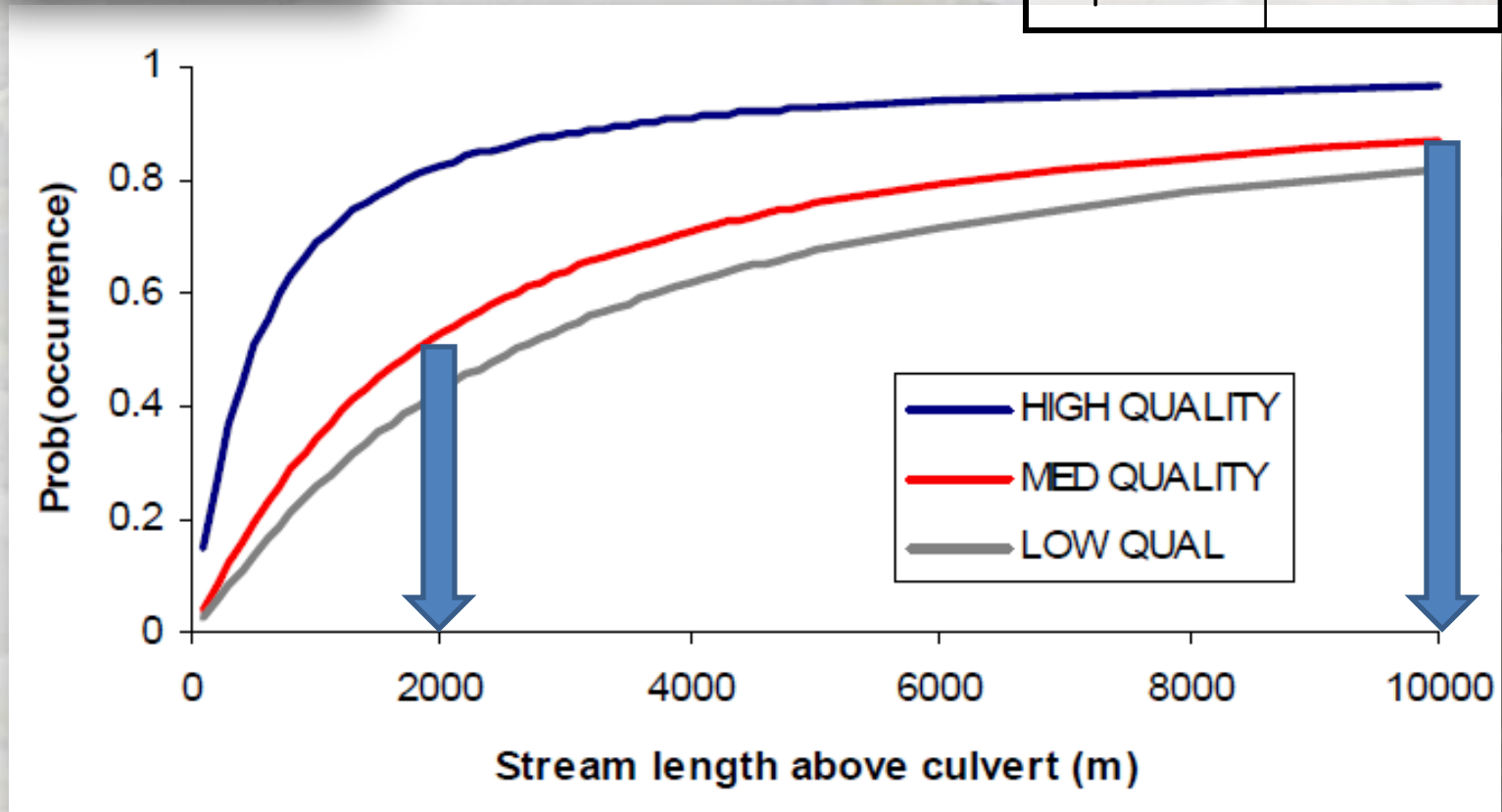
 Unoccupied Patch

# How Much Habitat is Needed to Persist?



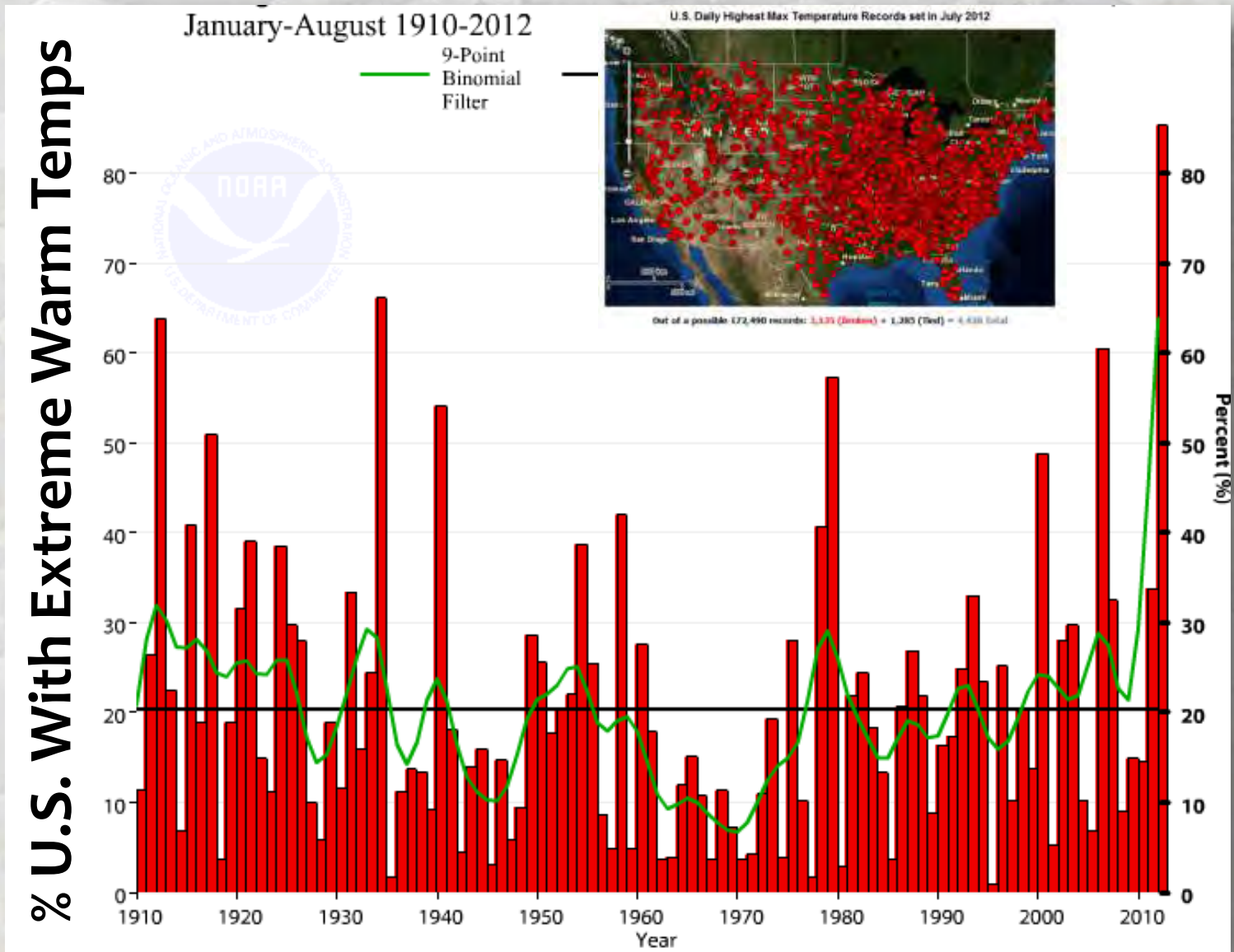
Westslope  
cutthroat trout

Occurrence	Stream length (km)
$p > 0.5$	~2
$p > 0.9$	~10

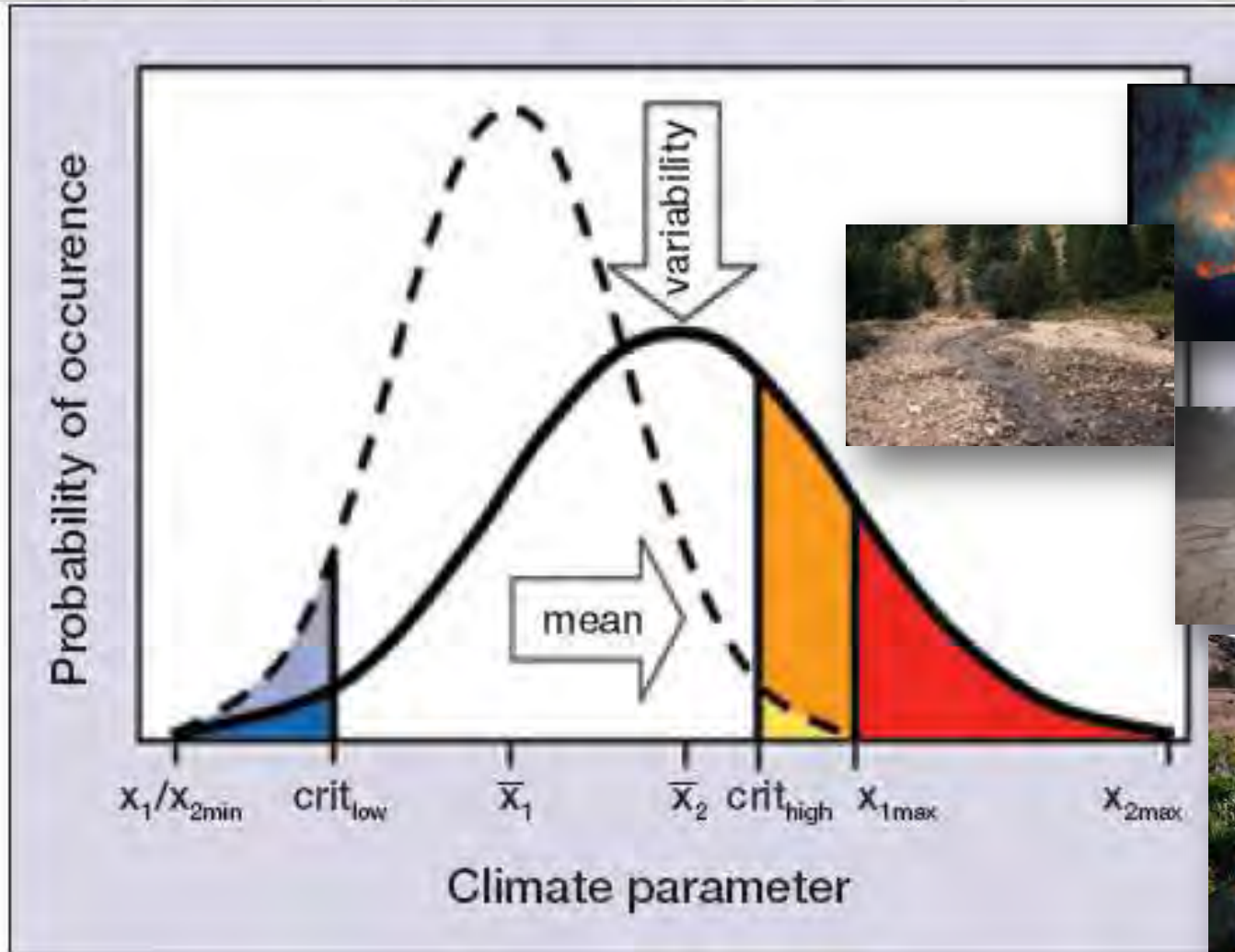




# Extremes May Become More Extreme...

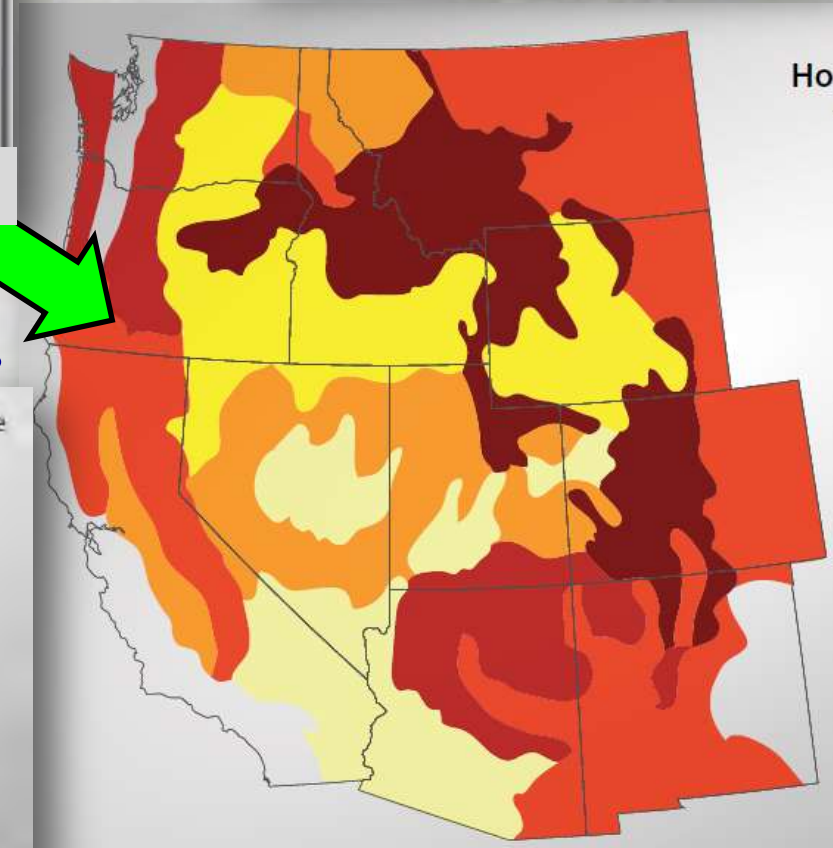
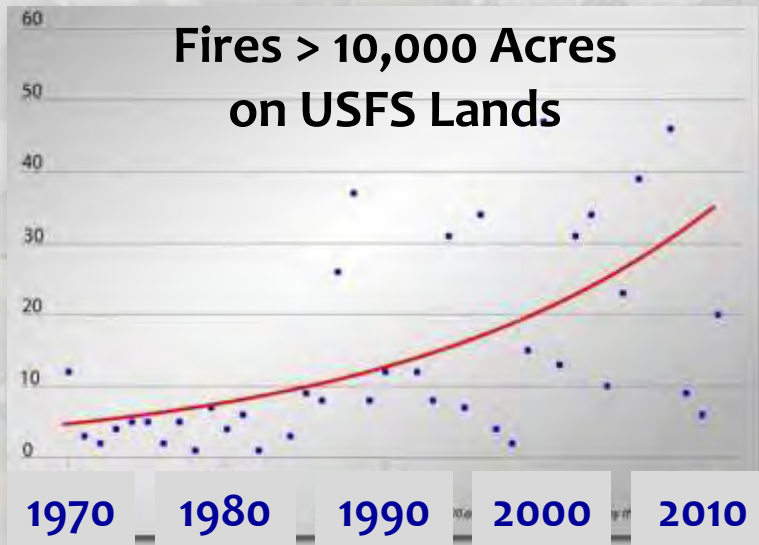


# Number of Climatic “Events” May Increase Dramatically





# More & Bigger Wildfires



# Can “Bombproof” Habitats Be Developed?

## Feature:

### FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

#### Native Fish Conservation Areas: A Vision for Large-Scale Conservation of Native Fish Communities

Jack E. Williams, Richard N. Williams, Russell E. Thurow, Leah Elwell, David P. Philipp, Fred A. Harris, Jeffrey L. Kershner, Patrick J. Martinez, Dirk Miller, Gordon H. Reeves, Christopher A. Frissell, and James R. Sedell



**Fisheries** • VOL 36 NO 6 • JUNE 2011 • [WWW.FISHERIES.ORG](http://WWW.FISHERIES.ORG)





# Can “Bombproof” Habitats Be Developed?

A



**Largest Plus Nearest...**

B

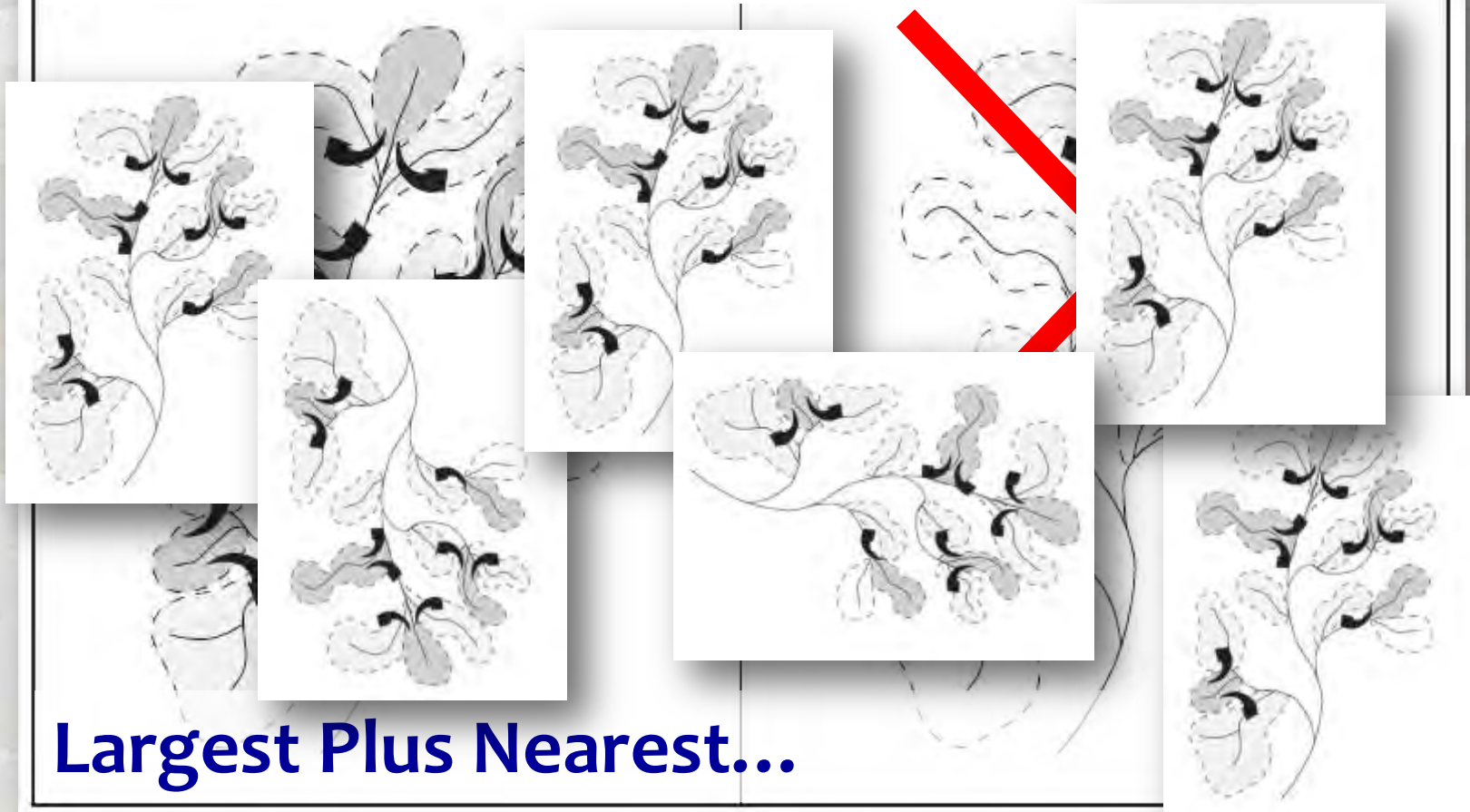


The Past as Prelude to the Future for Understanding  
21st-Century Climate Effects on Rocky Mountain Trout

Isaak, ... Roberts, ... Fausch. 2012. *Fisheries* 37: 542-556.

# Can “Bombproof” Habitats Be Developed?

**& Replicate Across As Many Areas as Possible**



**Largest Plus Nearest...**

The Past as Prelude to the Future for Understanding  
21st-Century Climate Effects on Rocky Mountain Trout

Isaak, ... Roberts, ... Fausch. 2012. *Fisheries* 37: 542-556.

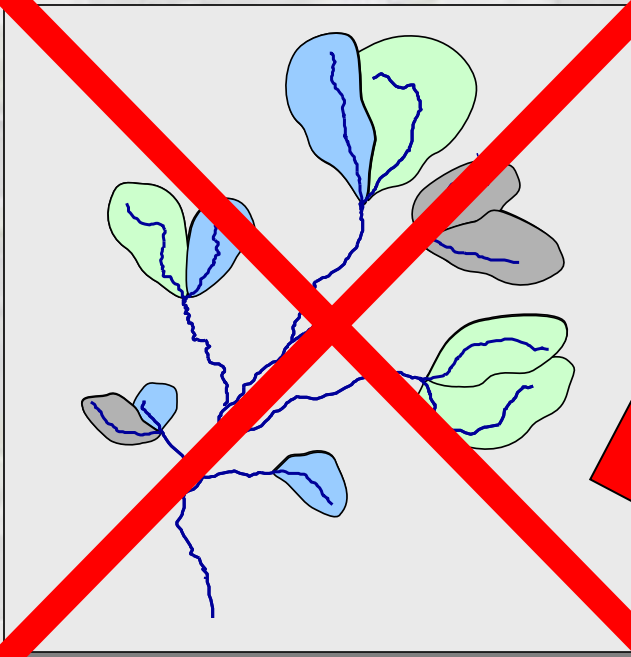




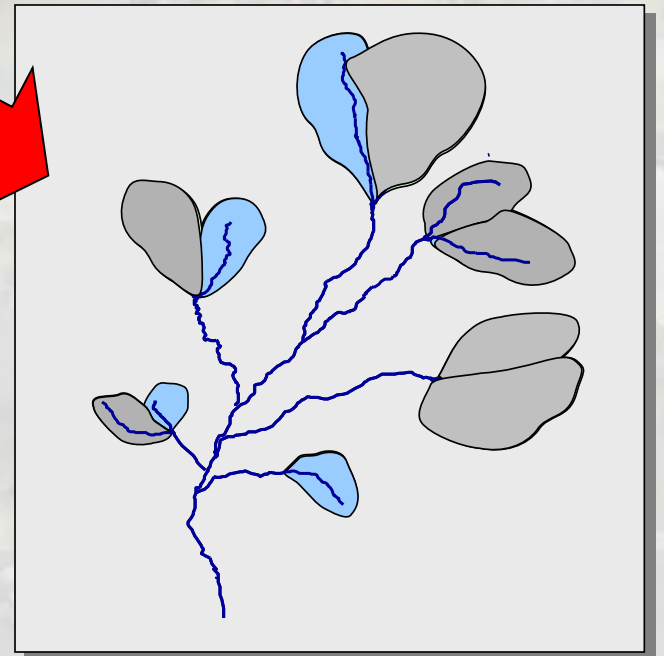
# Significant Unknowns:

Can We Adjust Our Mindsets to the New Paradigm?

Dynamic Equilibrium



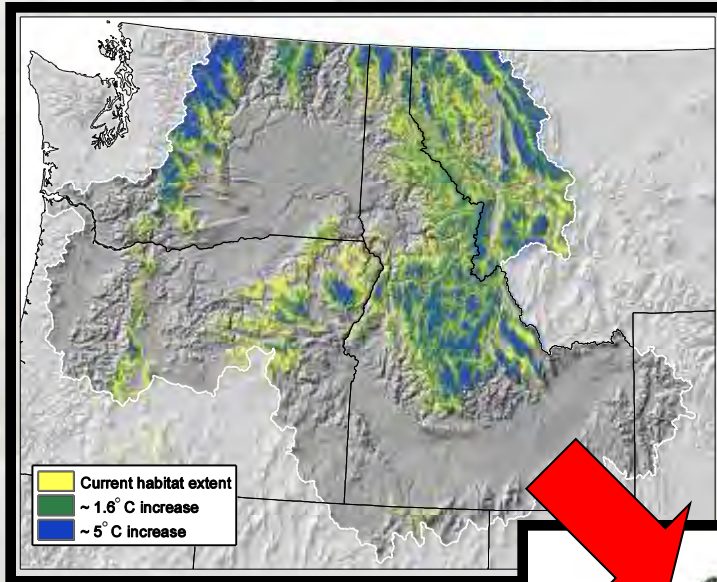
Dynamic Dis-Equilibrium



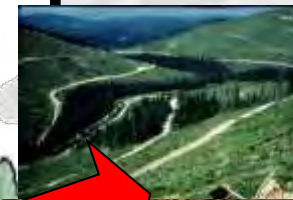
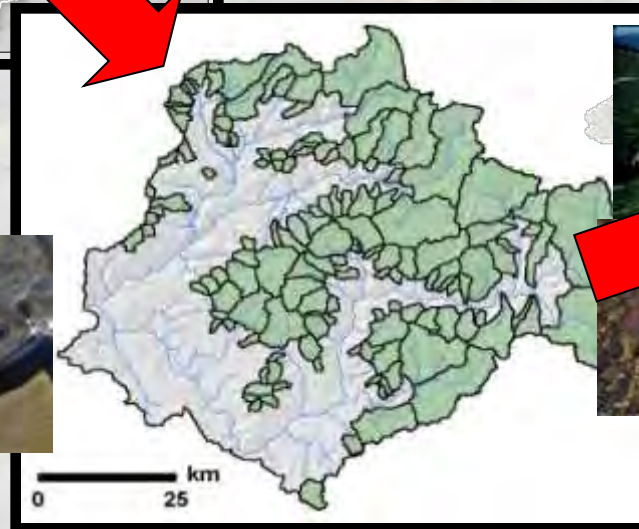
# Focus Efforts Where We Make a Difference

Do the Smartest Things in the Smartest Places

## Regional Bioclimatic Context

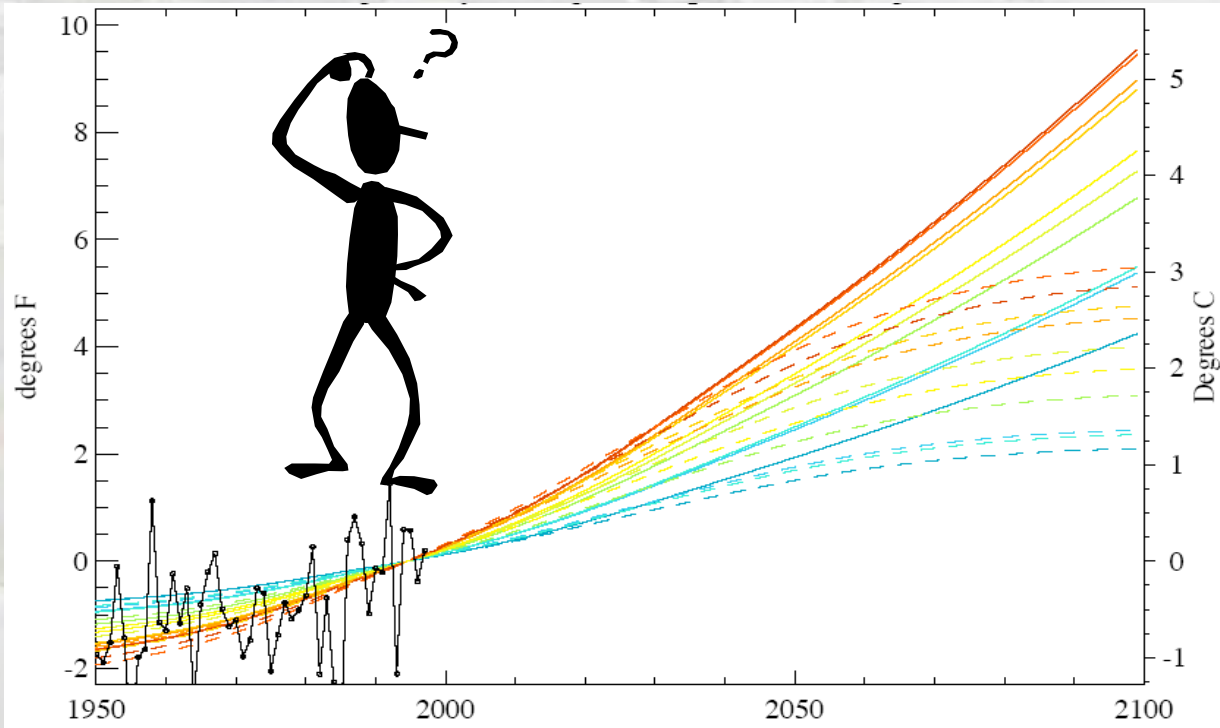


Linked to Landscape Level Models that Inform Local Actions



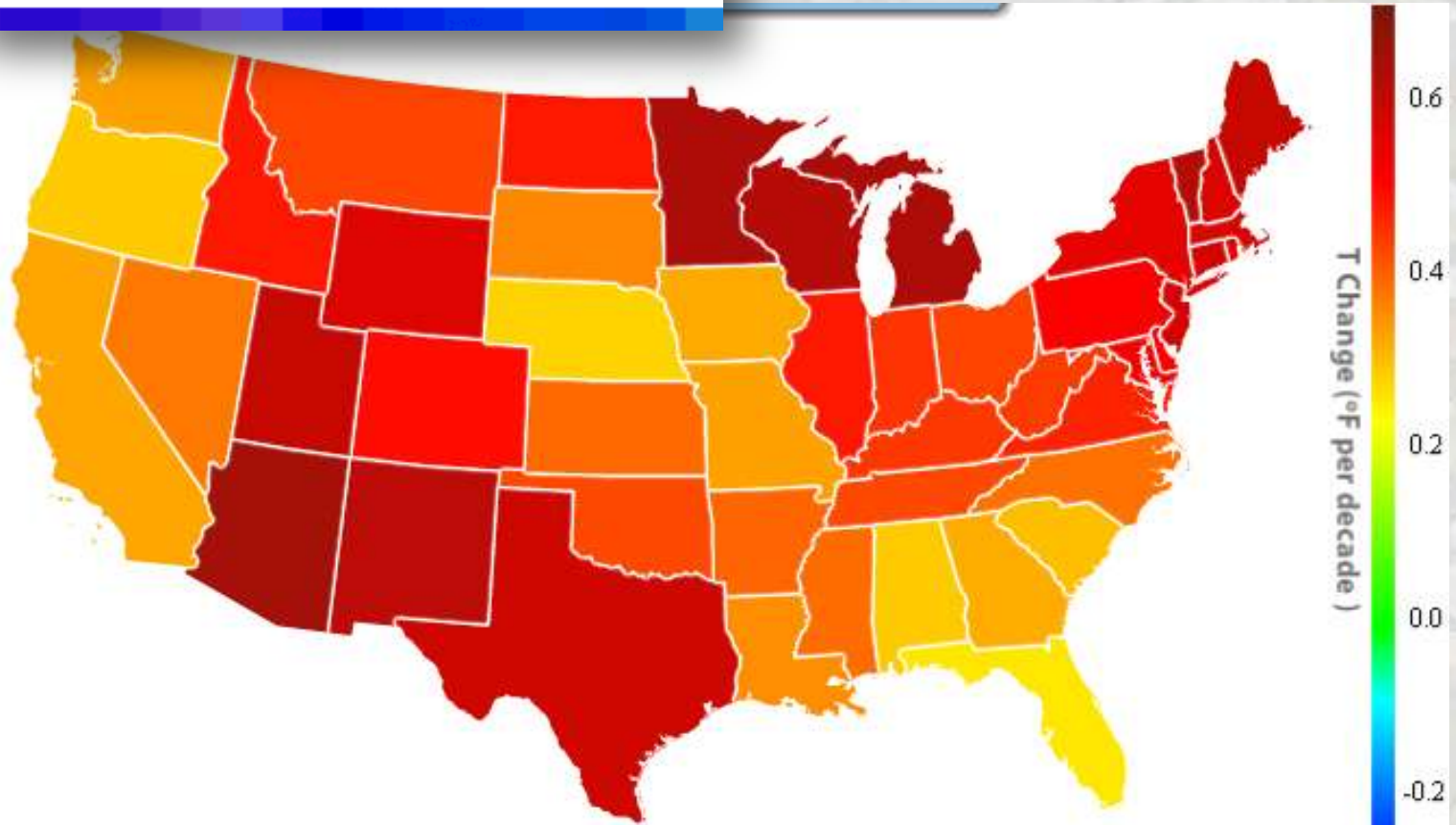


# The Sooner We Act, The Bigger The Impact



# Air Temperature Warming Rates in US (1970 – 2011)...

CLIMATE  CENTRAL

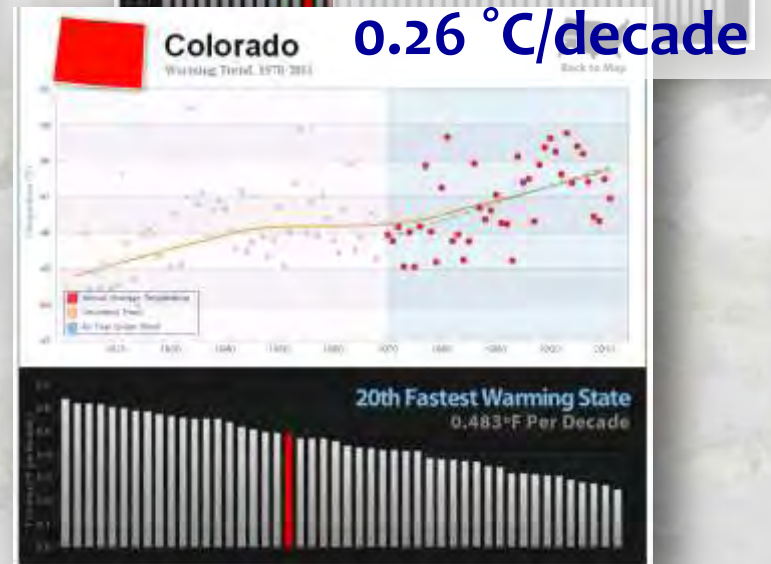
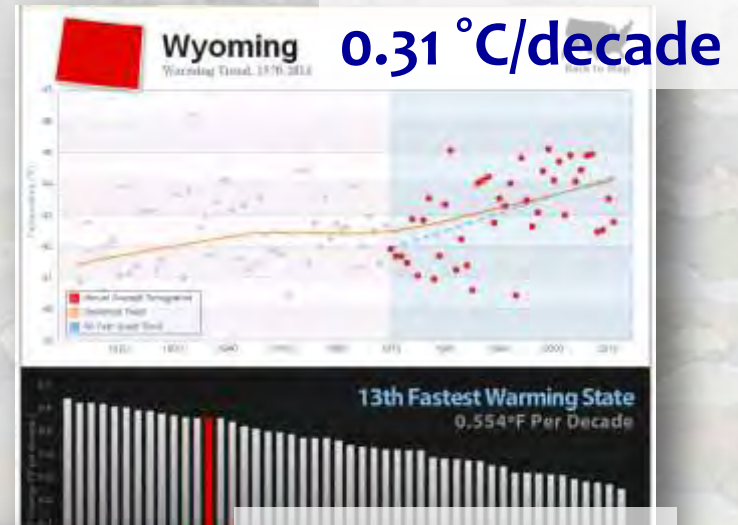
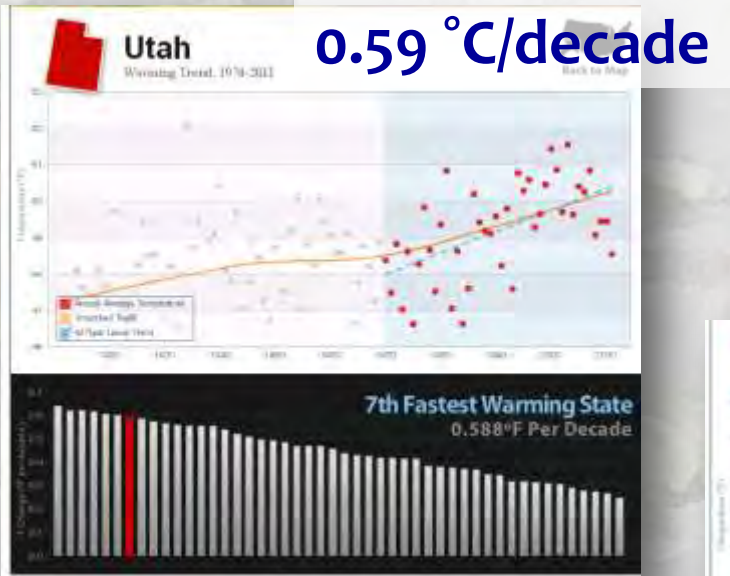


<http://www.climatecentral.org/news/the-heat-is-on/>

“Heat is on report” Tebaldi 2012



# Air Temperature Warming Rates in CO/WY/UT (1970 – 2011)...

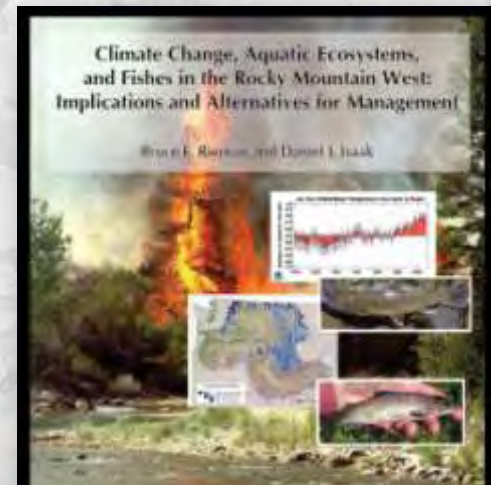


# Relevant Publications...

FEATURE  
Socio-economics

## The Past as Prelude to the Future for Understanding 21st-Century Climate Effects on Rocky Mountain Trout

Isaak, ... Roberts, ... Fausch. 2012.  
*Fisheries* **37**: 542-556.



- 1) **What is changing** in the climate and related physical processes that may influence aquatic species and their habitats?
- 2) **What are the implications** for fish populations, aquatic communities and related conservation values?
- 3) **What can we do about it?**

Predicting isotherm  
shifts in streams...

## Global Change Biology

Global Change Biology (2012), doi: 10.1111/gcb.12075 (Online at <http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1111/9781111291365/2486.ncoq.pdf>)

## Stream isotherm shifts from climate change and implications for distributions of ectothermic organisms

DANIEL J. ISAAK\* AND BRUCE E. RIEMAN†

\*U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Boise Aquatic Sciences Laboratory, 322 E. Front St., Suite 401, Boise, Idaho †U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station (retired), P.O. Box 1541, Seeley Lake, MT

Rieman & Isaak  
2010. USFS  
Report.

Isaak & Rieman. 2012. *Global Change Biology* **19**, doi: 12073



# Stream Temperature Publications...

## Stream Temperature Modeling Approach...

*Ecological Applications*, 20(5), 2010, pp. 1350–1371  
© 2010 by the Ecological Society of America

Effects of climate change and wildfire on stream temperatures and salmonid thermal habitat in a mountain river network

DANIEL J. ISAAK,<sup>1,3</sup> CHARLES H. LUCE,<sup>1</sup> BRUCE E. RIEMAN,<sup>1</sup> DAVID E. NAGEL,<sup>1</sup> ERIN E. PETERSON,<sup>2</sup> DONA L. HORAN,<sup>1</sup> SHARON PARKES,<sup>1</sup> AND GWYNNE L. CHANDLER<sup>1</sup>

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## Regional Stream Temperature Trends...

*Climate change effects on stream and river temperatures across the northwest U.S. from 1980–2009 and implications for salmonid fishes*

**D. J. Isaak, S. Wollrab, G. Chandler**

## Climatic Change

An Interdisciplinary, International Journal Devoted to the Description, Causes and Implications of Climatic Change

Co-Editors: MICHAEL OPPENHEIMER  
GARY VORLE

## Epoxy field test and validation work ...

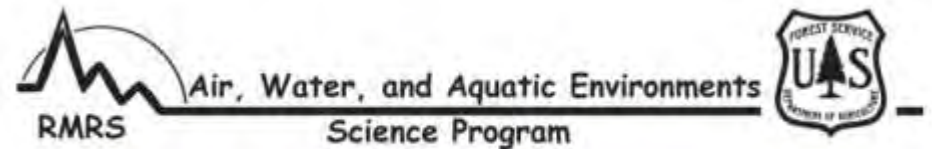
### An Evaluation of Underwater Epoxies to Permanently Install Temperature Sensors in Mountain Streams

Daniel J. Isaak\* and Dona L. Horan

U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, B  
322 East Front Street, Suite 401, Boise, Idaho 83702, US



## Epoxy “How-to” protocol...



### A Simple Method Using Underwater Epoxy to Permanently Install Temperature Sensors in Mountain Streams

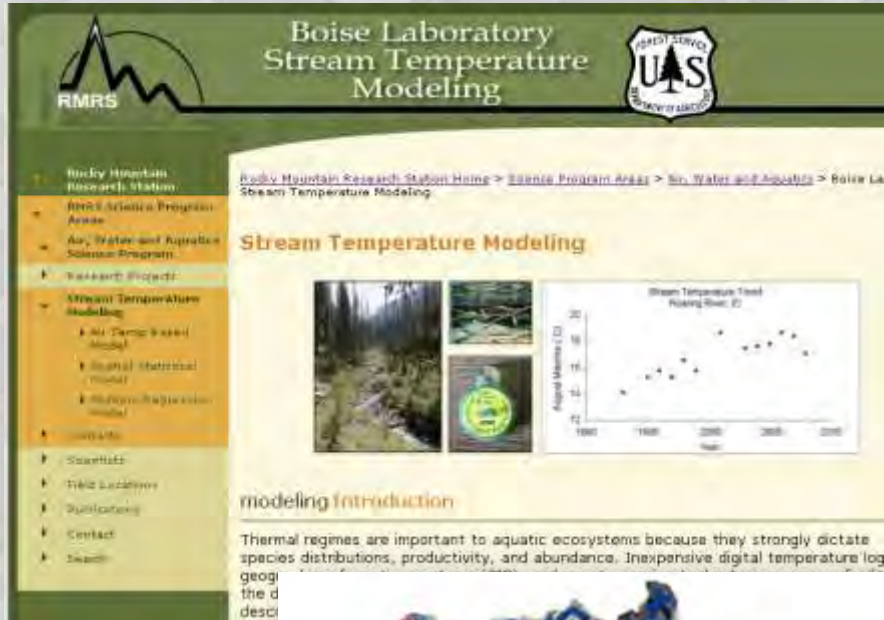
(Version 3.12; updated 2/02/2012)

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and Sherry Wollrab ([sherrywollrab@fs.fed.us](mailto:sherrywollrab@fs.fed.us))



# Stream Temperature Website

Google “ Forest Service Stream Temperature”



Boise Laboratory Stream Temperature Modeling

Rocky Mountain Research Station Home > Science Program Areas > Air, Water and Aquatic Science Program > Boise Lab > Stream Temperature Modeling

### Stream Temperature Modeling

modeling Introduction

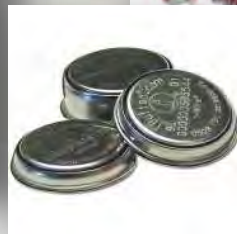
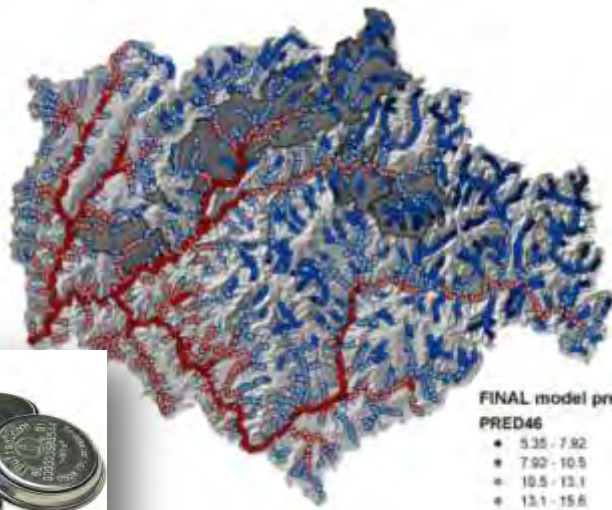
Thermal regimes are important to aquatic ecosystems because they strongly dictate species distributions, productivity, and abundance. Inexpensive digital temperature loggers...

- Stream temperature publications & project descriptions & recent talks

- Protocols for temperature data collection & demonstration videos

- Processing macro for temperature data

- Dynamic GoogleMap showing current temperature monitoring sites







The End