# Recent Research Toward Understanding Spatial, Temporal, and Climatic Variation in Stream Temperatures Across the Northwest US

Dan Isaak, Charlie Luce, Brett Roper, Zack Holden, Dona Horan, Gwynne Chandler, Sherry Wollrab

#### **U.S.** Forest Service









# **Global Trends in Air Temperatures**

## +0.6 °C during 20<sup>th</sup> Century



## Valuable Resources & Potential Conflicts...

#### **Climate Boogeyman**



#### **Recreational Fisheries**

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)



#### Land Use & Water Development

### **ESA Listed Species**







# Urbanization + Reservoirs + Climate Change = Warming Rivers & Streams 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>



Kaushal et al. 2010. Frontiers in Ecology & the Environment

# **Regional Trends In Northwest Rivers**





Snake River, ID - Summer



Missouri River, MT - Summer



# 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)

# Regression Models for Trend Reconstruction Air temp & discharge as predictors of interannual change

Aodel control for:	R <sup>2</sup>	RMSE S	ignificant	1
PDO/ENSO cycles		( ) "		- 12
Missing data	0.68	0.37	No	a server
Inconsistent start/stop dates	0.79	0.32	No	
& monitoring periods	0.85 0.85	0.35 0.32	Yes No	Rare
	0.89	0.26	No	
Good	0.84	0.33	No	
Accurac	0.83	0.32	No	80.0

#### Stream site

# Multiple regression equation

Spring period

- 1. Snake River Near Anatone, WA
- 2. North Fork Clearwater River, ID
- 3. Missouri River, MT
- 6. South Fork Bull Run River, OR
- 7. Fir Creek, OR
- 8. North Fork Bull Run River, OR
- 9. Bull Run River, OR

AirDischarge $y=3.43+0.588^{a}(air \ ^{\circ}C) - 0.00013(m^{3}/s)$  $y=1.48+0.548^{a}(air \ ^{\circ}C) - 0.00373(m^{3}/s)$  $y=7.05+0.583^{a}(air \ ^{\circ}C) - 0.00499^{a}(m^{3}/s)$  $y=1.01+0.716^{a}(air \ ^{\circ}C) - 0.183^{a}(m^{3}/s)$  $y=0.0139+0.701^{a}(air \ ^{\circ}C) - 0.313(m^{3}/s)$  $y=0.768+0.710^{a}(air \ ^{\circ}C) - 0.307^{a}(m^{3}/s)$  $y=-0.276+0.810^{a}(air \ ^{\circ}C) - 0.0392(m^{3}/s)$ 



Isaak et al. 2011. Climatic Change 113:499-524.

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



# Attribution of Stream Warming Trends Long-term trend ~ environmental signal



# **Attribution of Stream Warming Trends** Long-term trend ~ environmental signal

Air Temperature Discharge



Spring Summer Fall Winter

# Unregulated Rivers as Significant Monitoring GAP



## **Easy Method for Full Year Monitoring Underwater Epoxy Protocol Annual Flooding**



**Underwater** epoxy



## \$130 = 5 years of data

Data retrieved

from underwater

Detti bali

Sensors or PVC housings glued to large boulders

Isaak & Horan 2011. NAJFM 31:134-137

# NoRRTN: Northern Rockies River Temperature Network



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



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



Show search optime

#### Google maps

#### Get Directions My Maps

Montana Annual Stream Temperature nts available w.fs.fed.us/rm/boise(A)WAE/projects

Save to My Mar



m Temperature Points available by Agency

2/02/2011 63 views - Public Created on Fiels 2 - Updated 13 hours ago

Rate this map - Write a comment

#### Adair Creek

Thermograph Location: Adair Creek Contact: Clint Muhifeld - cmuhifeld@usgs.gov (406-868-7926) USGS, NOROCK

#### Agassiz Creek

Thermograph Location: Agassiz Creek Contact: Clint Muhlfeld - cmuhlfeld@usgs.gov (406-866-7926) US65, NOROCK

#### Akokala Creek

Thermograph Location: Akokala Creek Contact: Clint Muhifeid - cmuhifeld@usgs.gov (405-866-7925) USGS NOROCK

#### **Query Individual Sites**

RSS Kiew in Google Earth Cottonwood-Clyde Park. Creek Updated 2 days ago Thermograph Location: Cottonwood-Clyde Park- Creek Contact: Robert Al-Chokhachy - rai-chokhachy@usgs.gov (406-994-7842) USGS, NOROCK Directions: Search nearby: more + 1 of 2 nearby results Next >

# **Continental Monitoring Network Emerging**



# Dense Air & Stream Sensor Arrays for Microclimate Models



#### Zack Holden, USFS, Region 1

## **Spatial Variation in Temperature Changes**



# **Regional 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.



# Spatial Air Pattern ≠ Stream Temp





WA

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

CO

MT

## \$100,000 project cost ~ \$10,000,000 value

# **Regional Temperature Model**



#### Accurate temperature

models



## **Cross-jurisdictional "maps"**

### of stream temperatures

Consistent datum for strategic assessments across 350,000 stream kilometers

**Stream Temp** 

Moscow • Missoula • Boise • Dogan

# Spatial Statistical Stream Models Valid means of estimation on networks



Advantages: •Flexible & valid covariance structures that accommodate network topology & autocorrelation

•Much improved predictive ability & parameter estimates relative to non spatial models

Ver Hoef et al. 2006; Peterson & Ver Hoef 2010; Ver Hoef & Peterson 2010

# Example: Salmon River Basin Data extracted from NorWeST

## •60,000 ha basin •21,000 stream km

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

•Temperature site





# Climatic Variability in Historical Record Extreme years include mid 21<sup>st</sup>-Century "averages"



# Salmon River Temperature Model

15

10

5

5

10

#### n = 4,414

#### **Covariate Predictors**

Elevation (m)
 Canopy (%)
 Stream slope (%)
 Ave Precipitation (mm)
 Latitude (km)
 Lakes upstream (%)
 Glaciers upstream (%)
 Baseflow Index
 Watershed size (km²)
 Discharge (m³/s)
 Air Temperature (°C)



15

**Observed** 

Isaak et al. 2010. Eco. Apps. 20:1350-1371

25

**Spatial Model** 

20





# Climate Scenario Maps Many possibilities once model exists...



Adjust air temp & discharge values to represent scenarios

# **Salmon River Bull Trout Habitats**



# **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

# NorWeST Blob Growing... 8,888 summers of data swallowed so far...



# Supporting Research...

#### 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. RIPMAN,<sup>1</sup> DAVID E. NAGEL,<sup>1</sup> ERIN E. PETIRSON,<sup>2</sup> DONA L. HORAN,<sup>1</sup> SHARON PARKES,<sup>1</sup> AND GWYNNE L. CHANDLER<sup>1</sup>

<sup>4</sup>U.S. Forest Service, Rocky Mountain Research Station, Boise Aquatic Sciences Laboratory, 322 E. From Street, Suite 401, Boia, Idaho 83702 USA
<sup>5</sup>Communicable Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), Divition of Mathematical and Information Sciences, IndustrialRY, Queersland, Autoralia

#### 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-6500 GRV VOIE

#### 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)

> Dan Isaak (<u>disaak@fs.fed.us</u>), Dona Horan (<u>dhoran@fs.fed.us</u>), and Sherry Wollrab (<u>sherrywollrab@fs.fed.us</u>)

## **Resources – Stream Temperature Website** Google "Forest Service Stream Temperature"



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Rocky Mountain Research Station Home > <u>Science Program Areas</u> > <u>Air, Water and Aquatics</u> > Boise La Stream Temperature Modeling

#### **Stream Temperature Modeling**



#### modeling Introduction

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Field Locations

Publications

Search

nsel

Really Science Program

Air, Water and Aquation Science Pringram Research Pringets Mean Temperature

Multiple Regissyon

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



• 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