Carbon, climate, and forests: How the land links the past, present, and future

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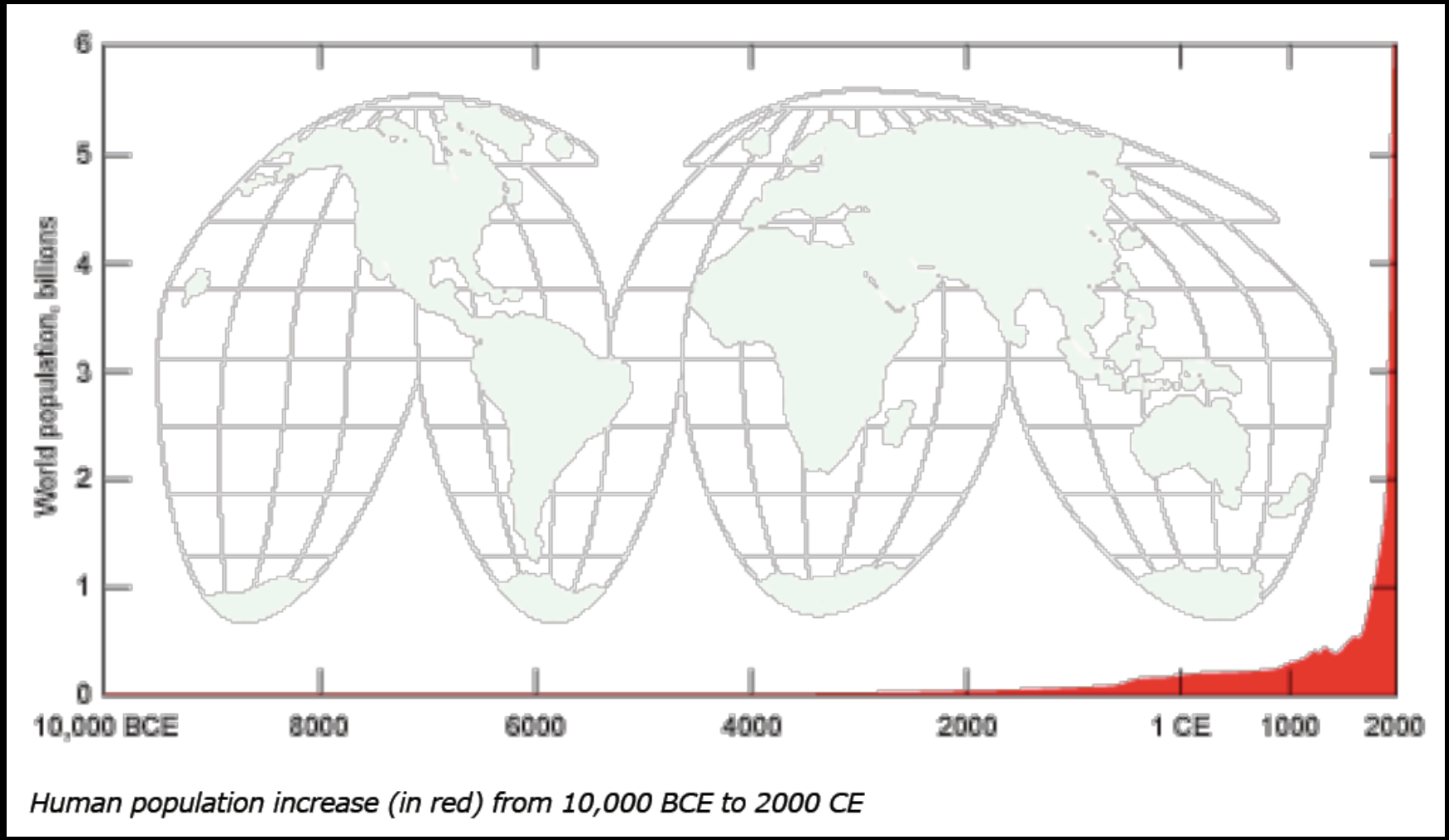
Acknowledge

- My lab: Jonathan Thom (scientist), Malgorzata Golub (PhD), Ke Xu (PhD), Tommy Jasmin (MS/scientist), Sean DuBois (MS), Dong Hua (postdoc), Ben Sulman (postdoc), Justin Bagley (postdoc)
- Collaborators: Penn State, U Illinois, U Minnesota, Boston U, CalTech, NOAA
- Funding: NSF, DOE
- Hosts: Sarah Paquette, Cody Martin, CMN and SDI!

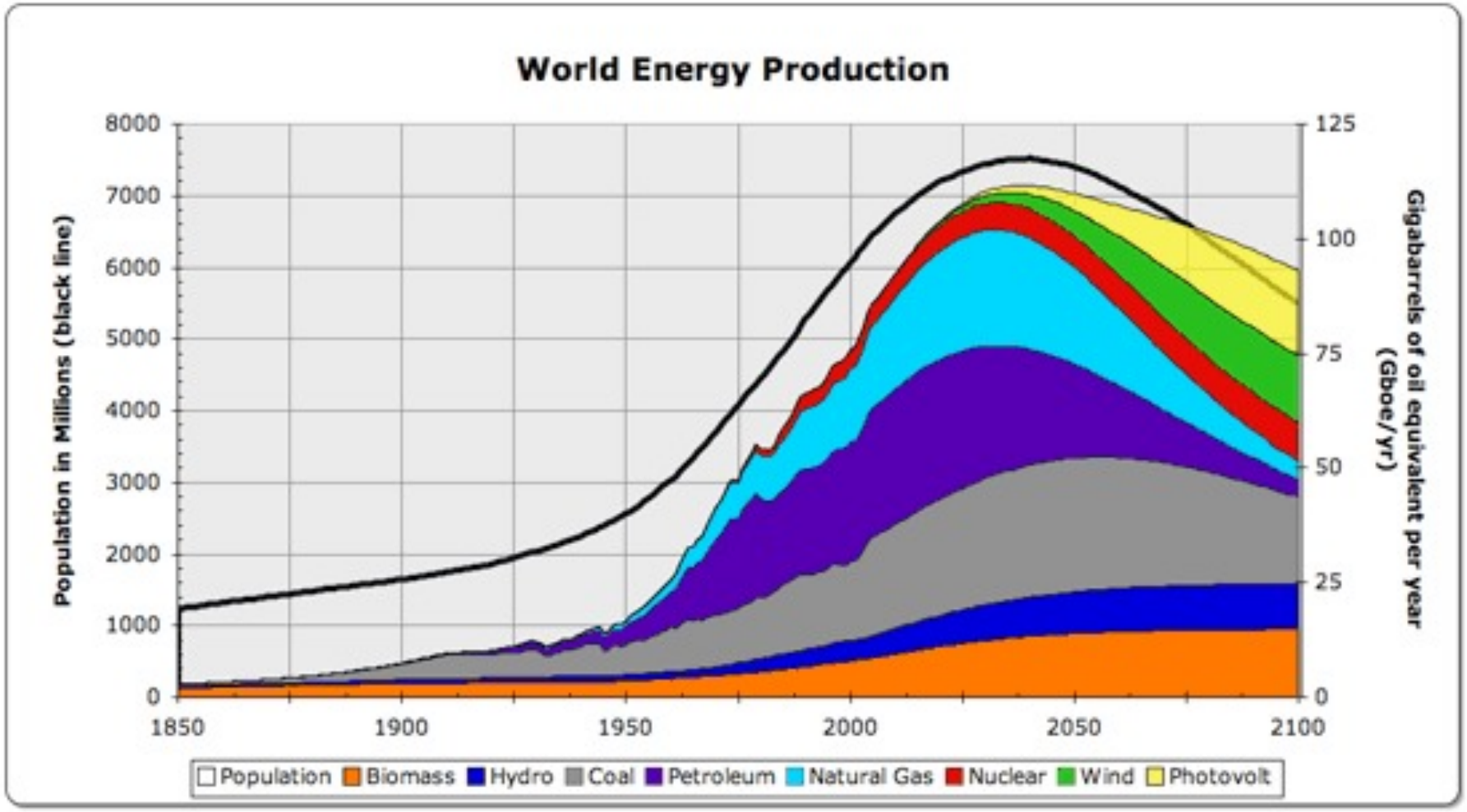
LAZY
BUT

Willow Creek - NetCam SC IR - Thu Sep 20 11:31:17 2012
Temperature: 36.0 °C internal, 9.0 °C outside
RH: 0%, Pressure: 944.0 millibars
Exposure: 400

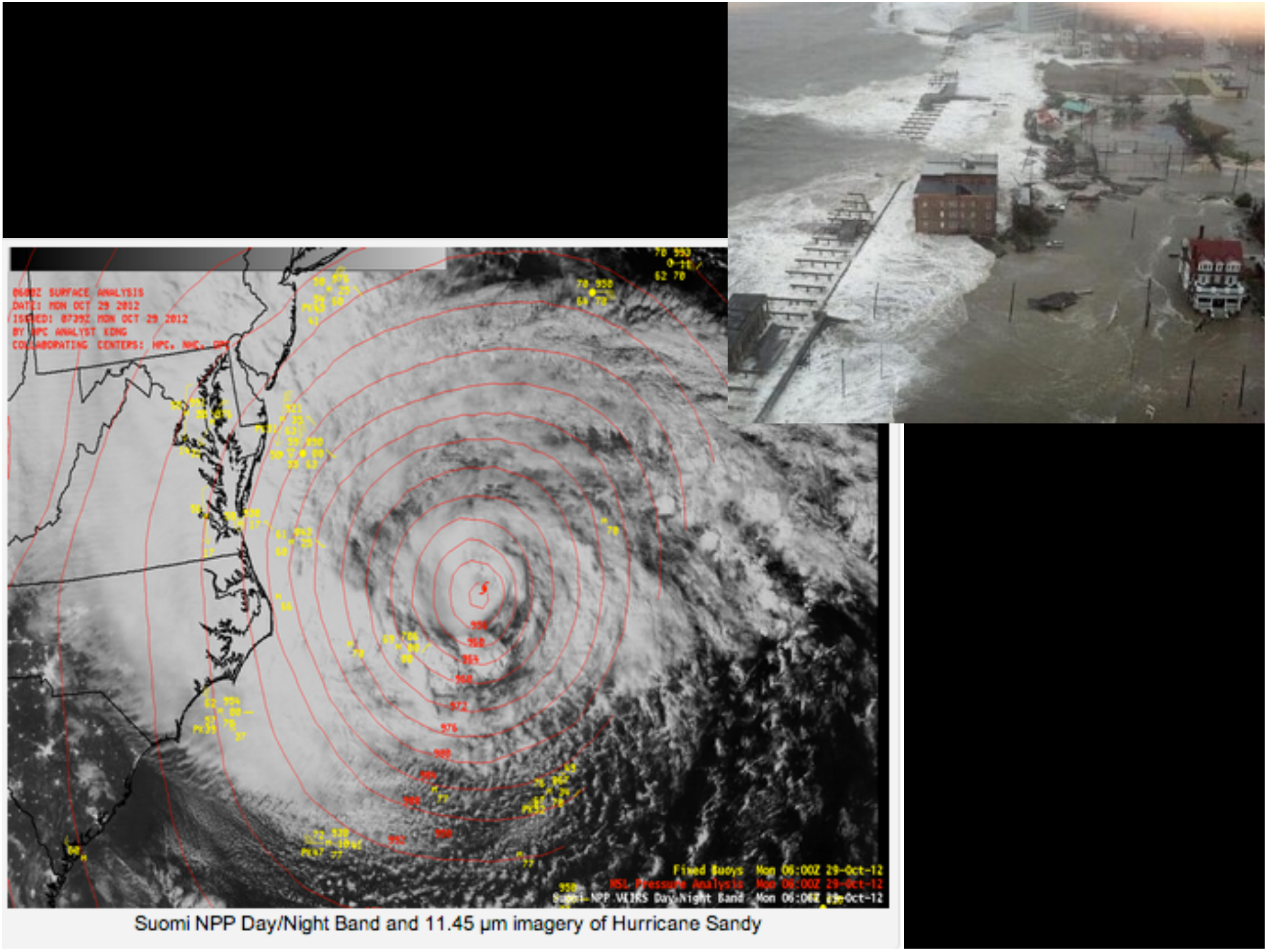


Human population increase (in red) from 10,000 BCE to 2000 CE

- Source: UCAR Quarterly, Summer 2007



http://www.iceuls.com/_photo/b.jpg



Suomi NPP Day/Night Band and 11.45 μm imagery of Hurricane Sandy

CARBON

Atmospheric CO_2 at Mauna Loa Observatory

Scripps Institution of Oceanography
NOAA Earth System Research Laboratory

PARTS PER MILLION

400
380
360
340
320

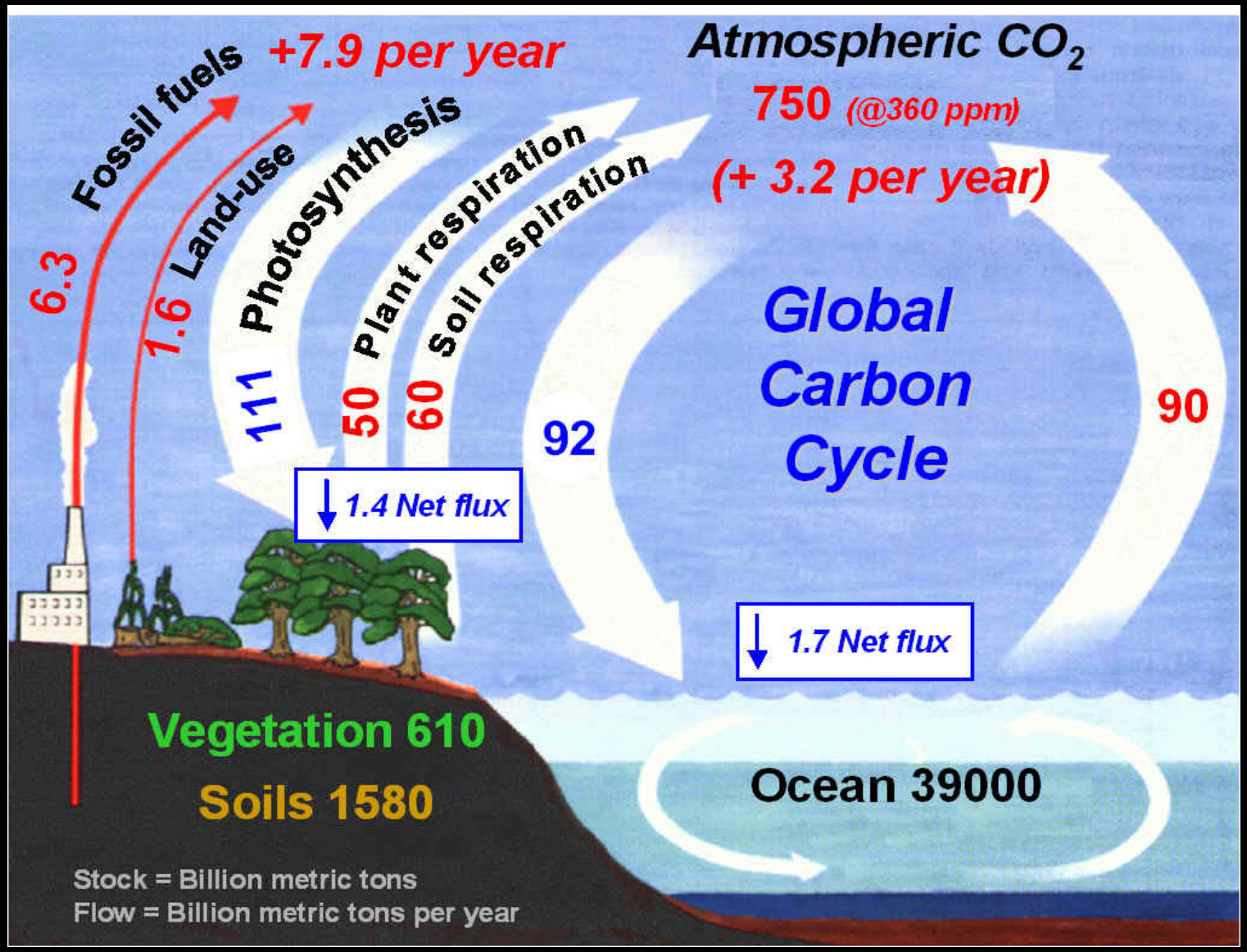
1960
1970
1980
1990
2000
2010

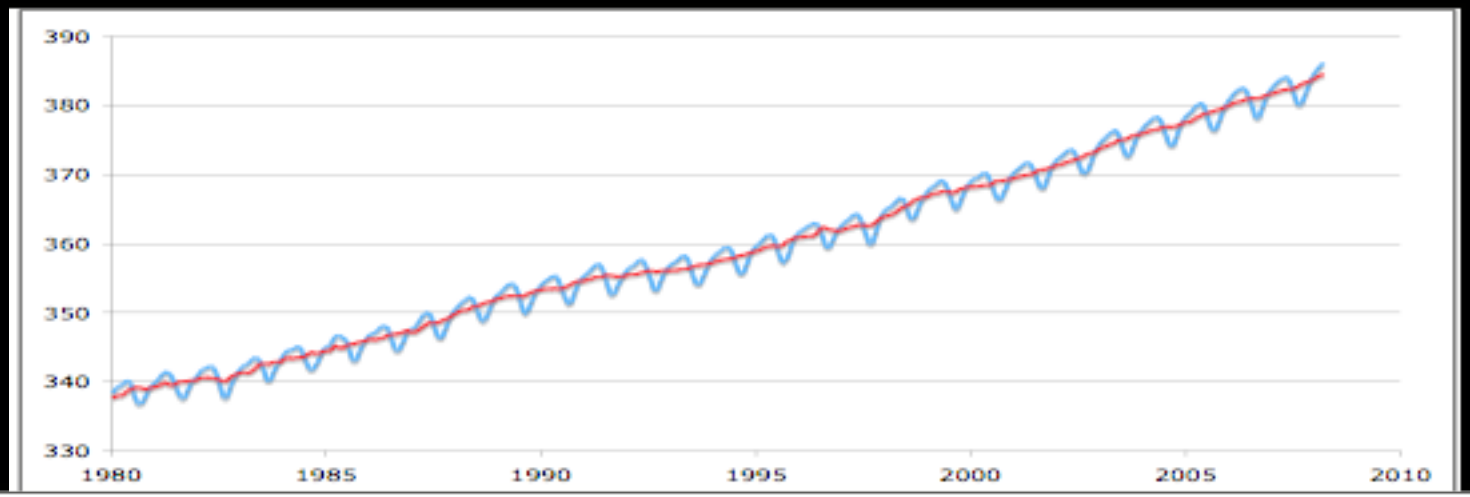
YEAR

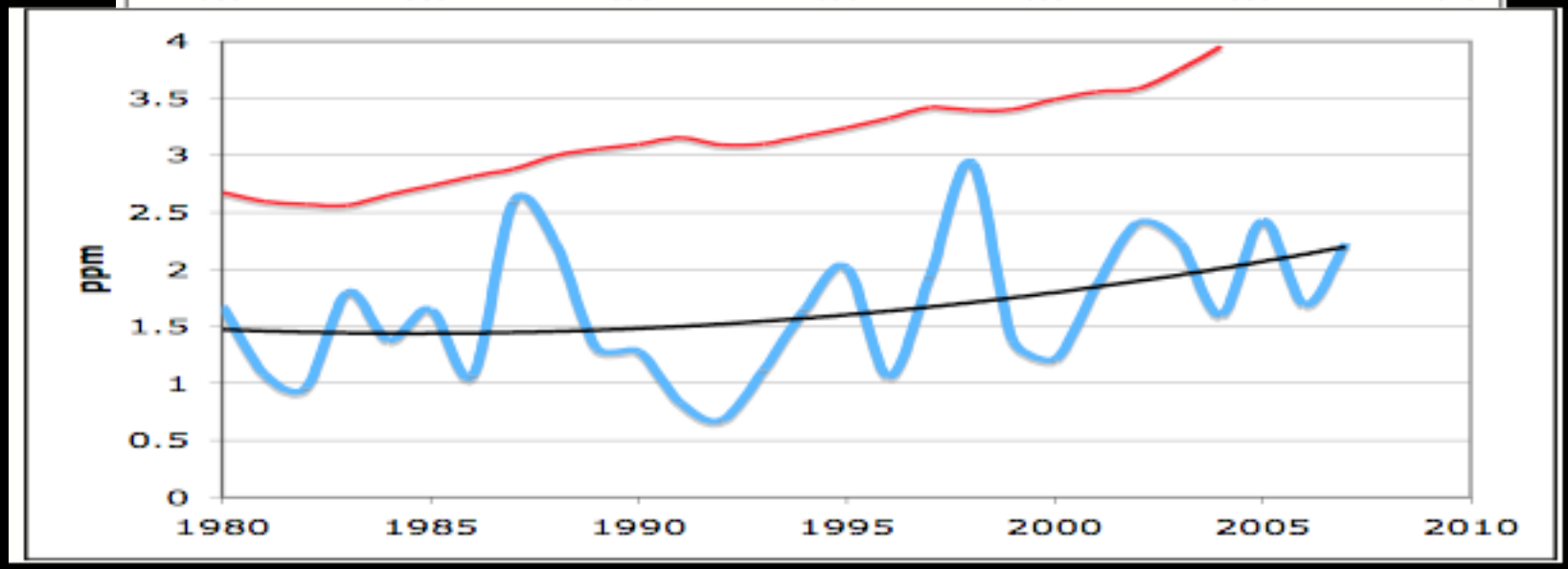
October 2012

Let's Play a Game!

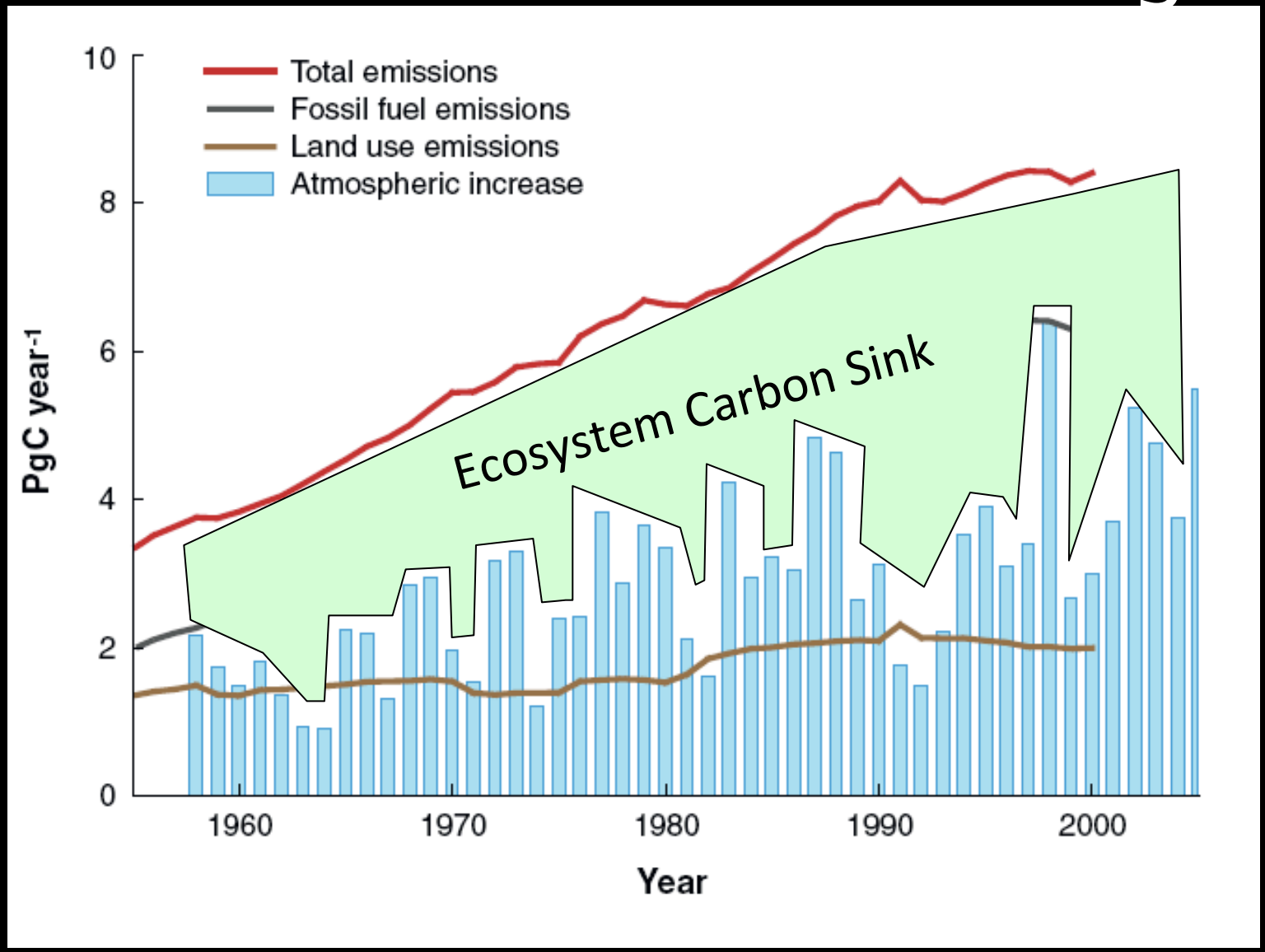
- Red = 1 GTC of fossil fuel carbon
- Blue = 10 GTC non-fossil carbon
- White = 100 GTC Carbon
- Dark Blue = 1000 GTC Carbon
- 1 GTC = Gigaton of Carbon = Billion metric tons = 2,200,000,000,000 pounds


Fossil fuels
+7.9 per year
Atmospheric CO_2
750 (@360 ppm)
(+ 3.2 per year)
6.3
1.6
Land-use
Photosynthesis
111
Plant respiration
50
Soil respiration
60
92
90
Global Carbon Cycle
1.4 Net flux
1.7 Net flux
Vegetation 610
Soils 1580
Ocean 39000
Stock = Billion metric tons
Flow = Billion metric tons per year


390
380
370
360
350
340
330
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010

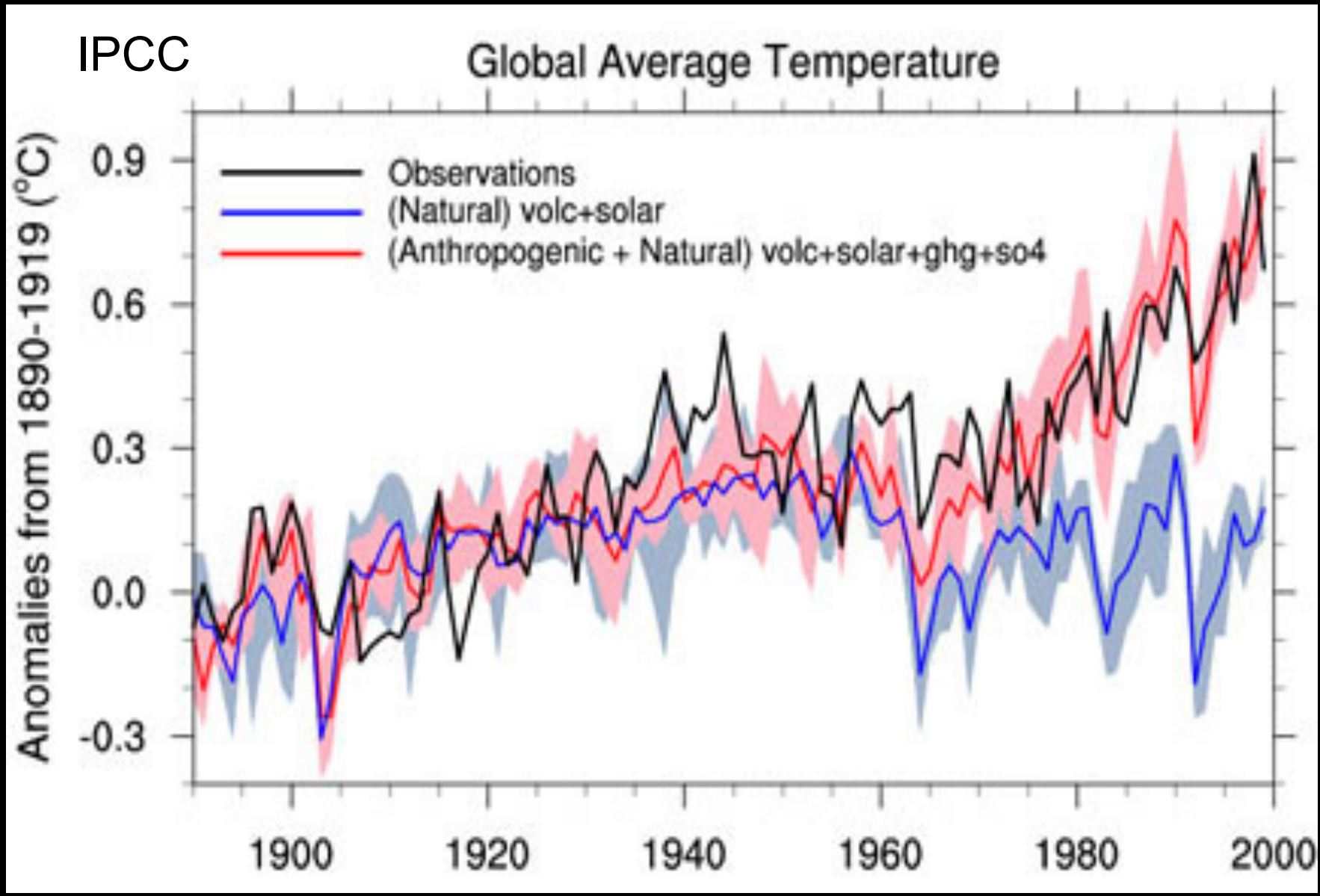

ppm
4
3.5
3
2.5
2
1.5
1
0.5
0
1980
1985
1990
1995
2000
2005
2010

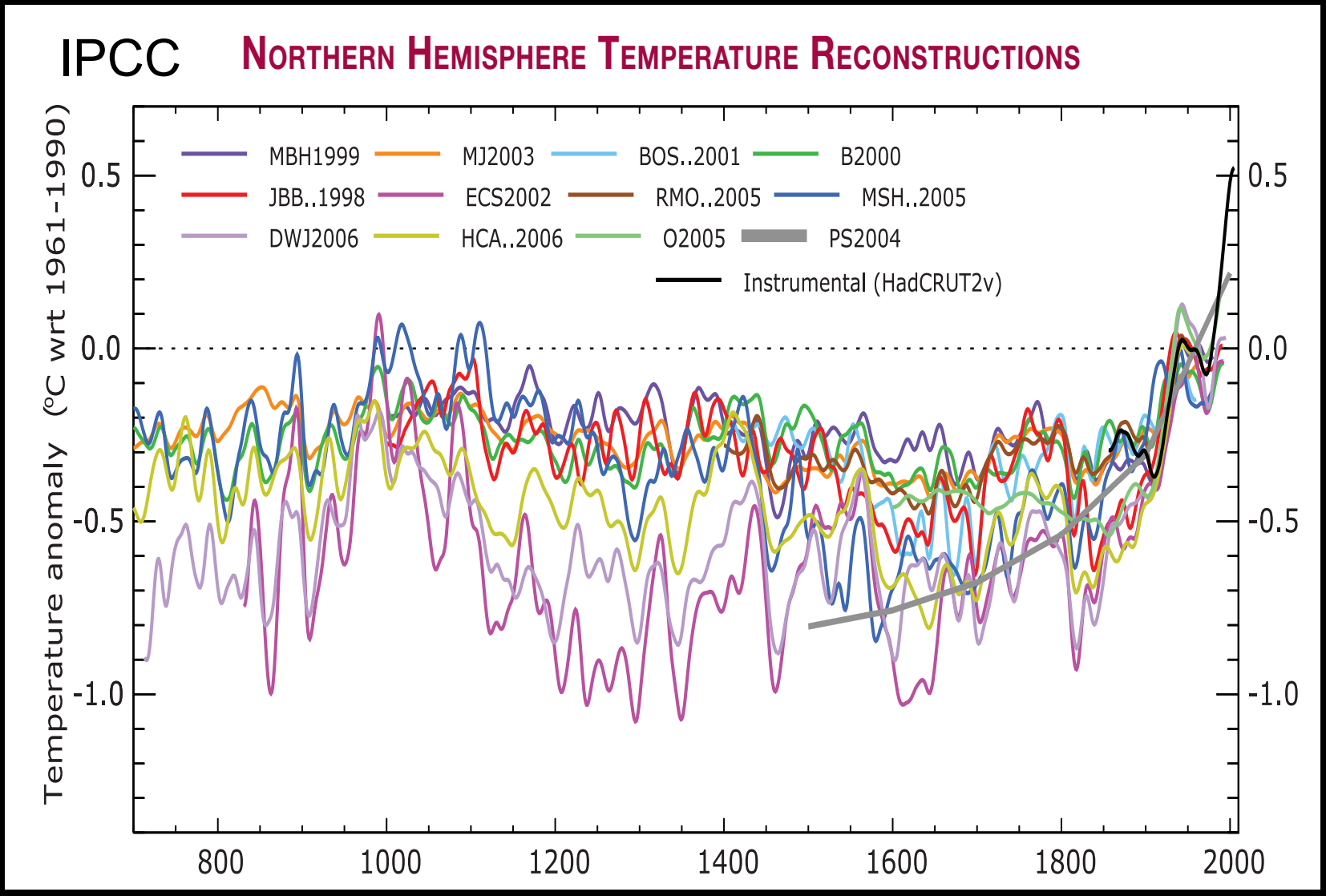
Where Is The Carbon Going?

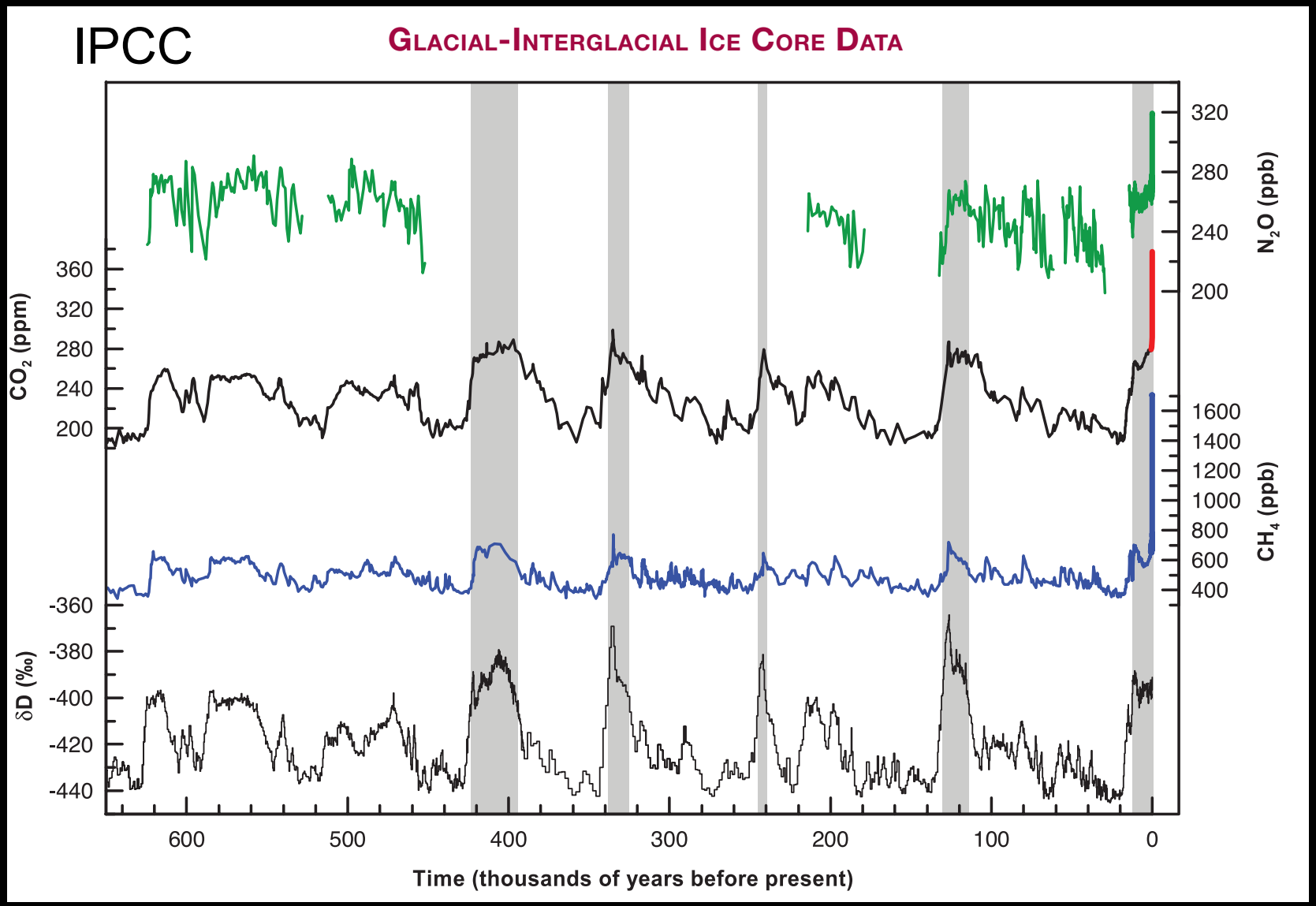


Houghton et al. (2007)

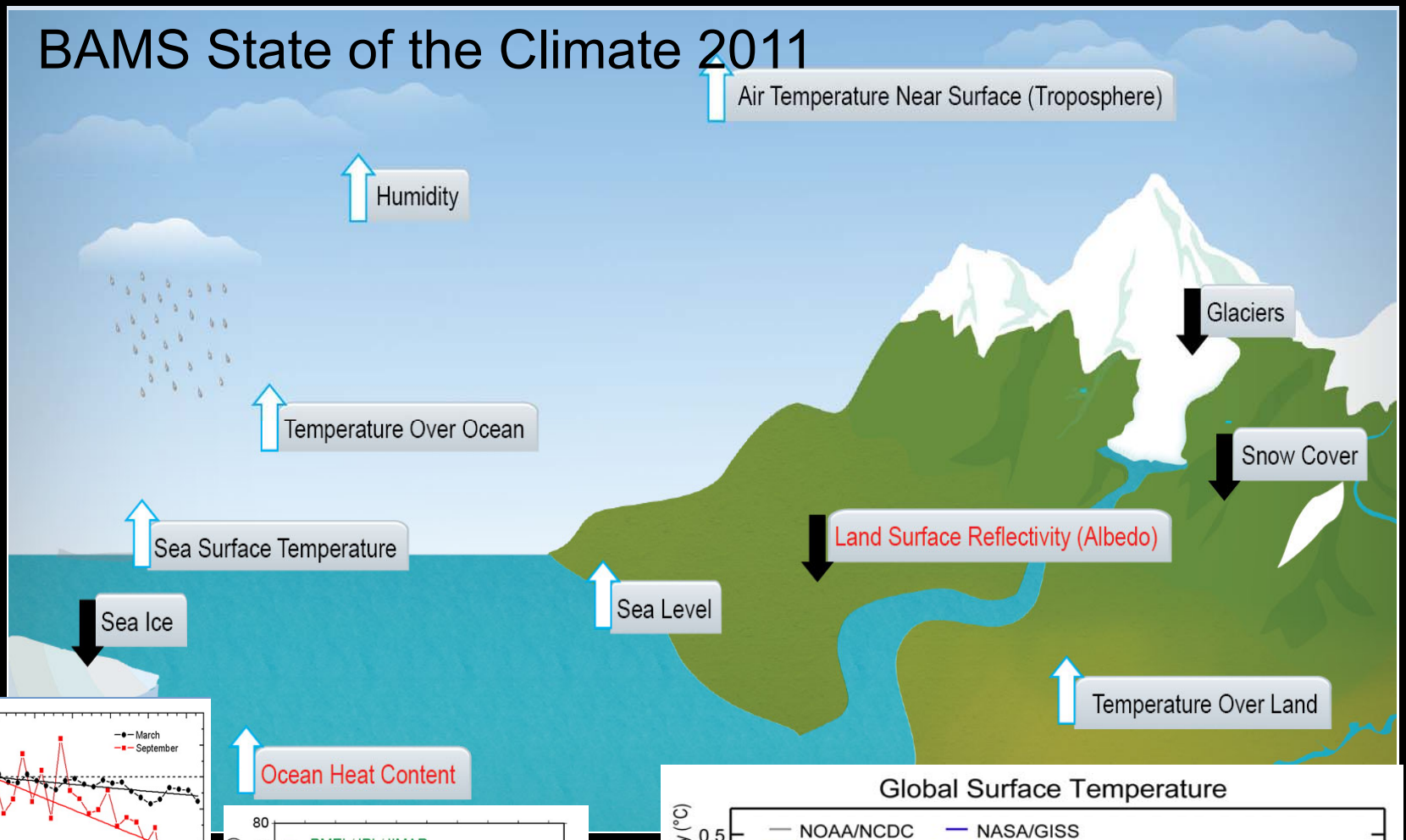
CLIMATE

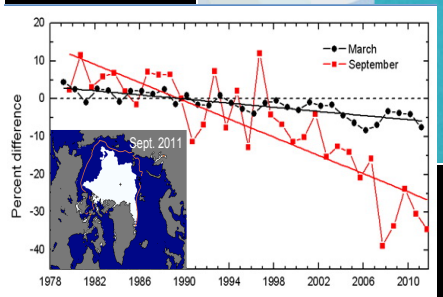

IPCC
Global Average Temperature
Observations
(Natural) volc+solar
(Anthropogenic + Natural) volc+solar+ghg+so4
Anomalies from 1890-1919 (°C)
0.9
0.6
0.3
0.0
-0.3
1900
1920
1940
1960
1980
2000


IPCC
NORTHERN HEMISPHERE TEMPERATURE RECONSTRUCTIONS
MBH1999
MJ2003
BOS..2001
B2000
JBB..1998
ECS2002
RMO..2005
MSH..2005
DWJ2006
HCA..2006
O2005
PS2004
Instrumental (HadCRUT2v)
Temperature anomaly (°C wrt 1961-1990)
0.5
0.0
-0.5
-1.0
800
1000
1200
1400
1600
1800
2000


IPCC
Glacial-Interglacial Ice Core Data
CO2 (ppm)
360
320
280
240
200
δD (‰)
-360
-380
-400
-420
-440
N2O (ppb)
320
280
240
200
CH4 (ppb)
1600
1400
1200
1000
800
600
400
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
Time (thousands of years before present)

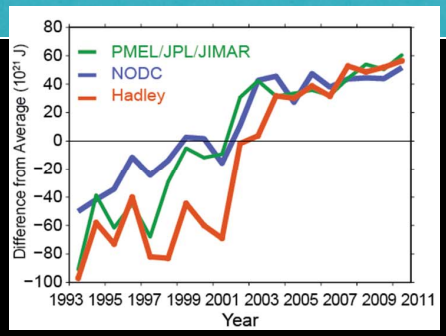
BAMS State of the Climate 2011

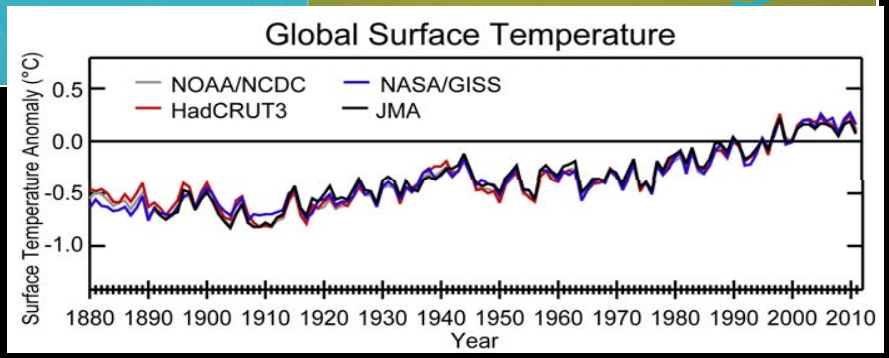




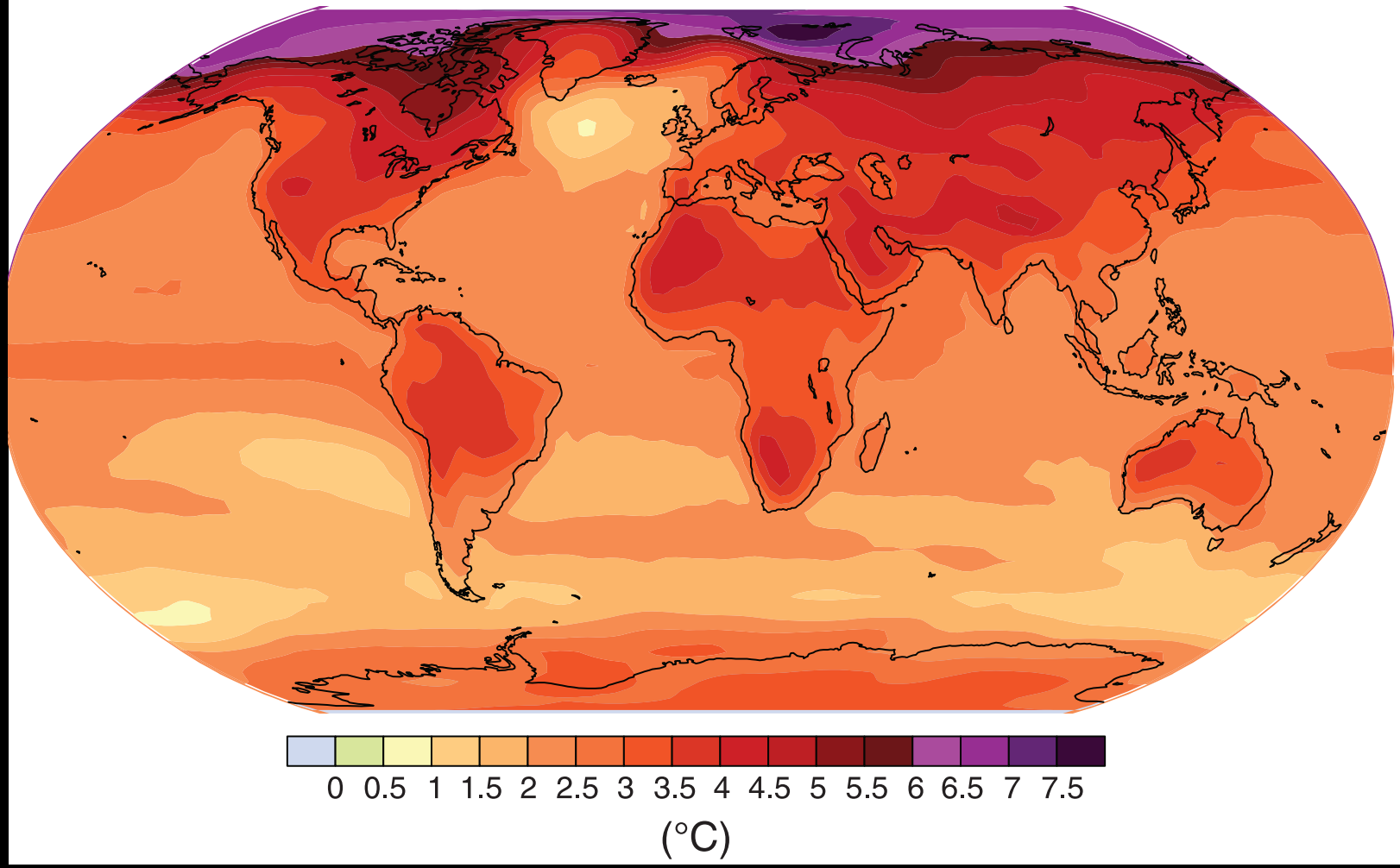
March: when maximum ice extent occurs

September: when minimum ice extent occurs



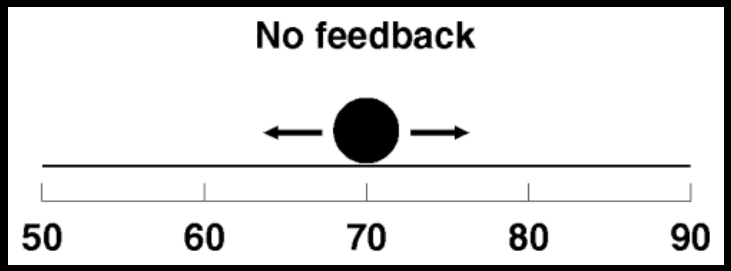


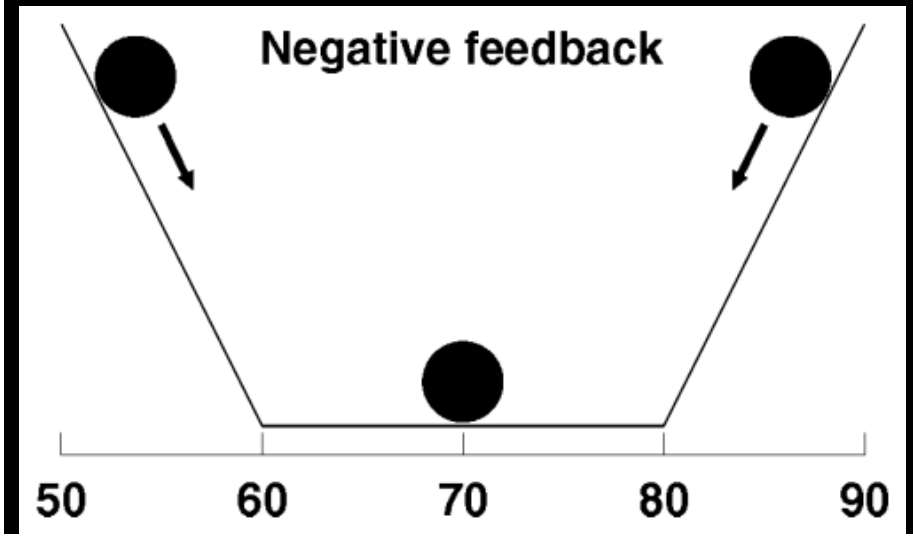
Geographical pattern of surface warming

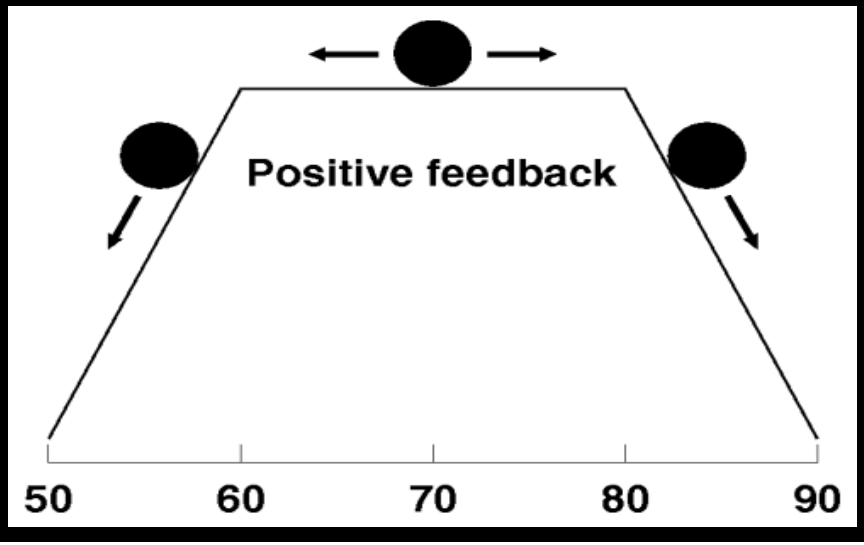


2090 (IPCC 4th Assessment)

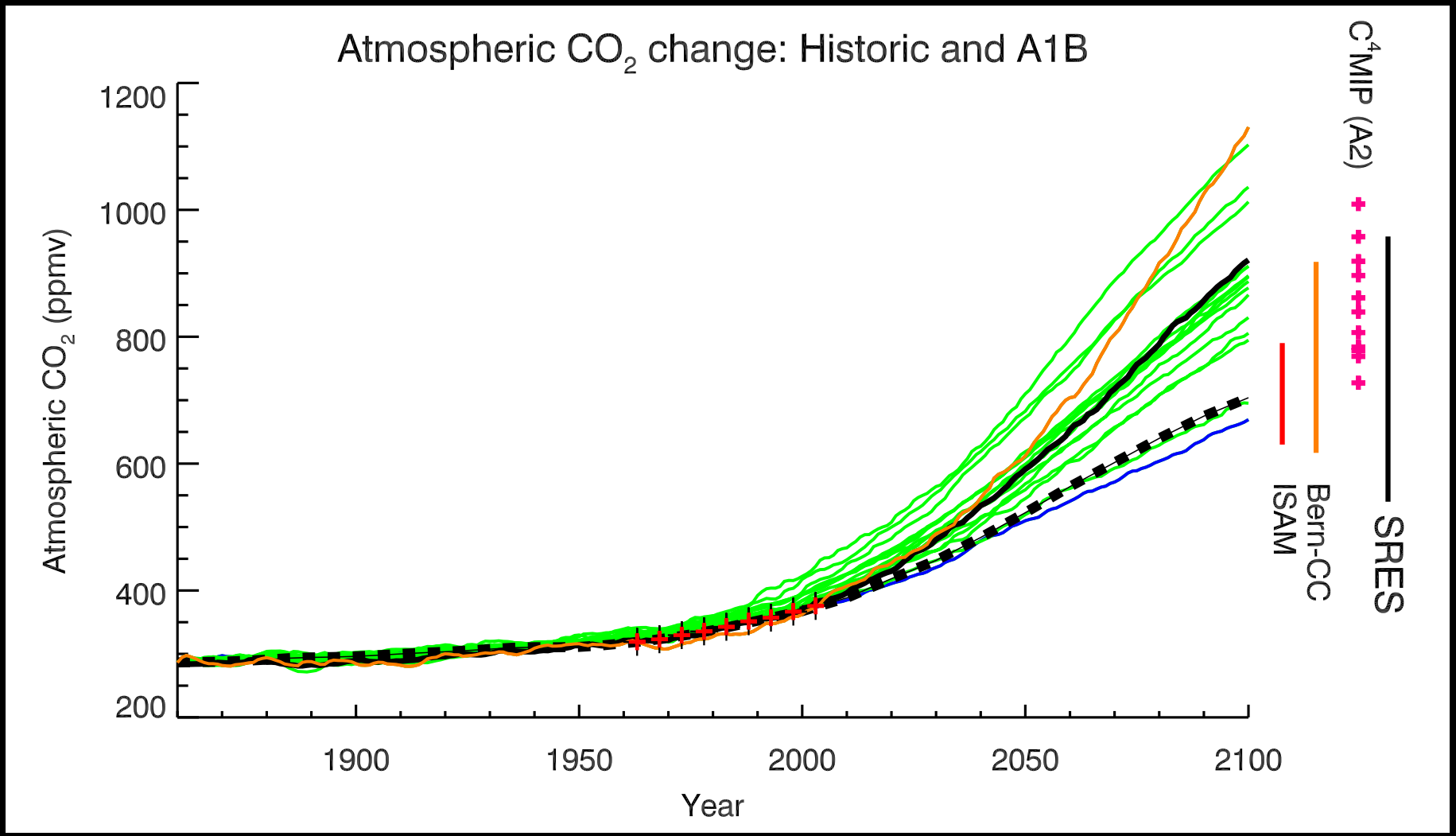
- Climate changes with:
  - A change in forcing (sun strength, Earth's orbit, volcano frequency, greenhouse gases)
  - Is amplified by positive feedbacks







The carbon cycle feedback is large and hard to predict



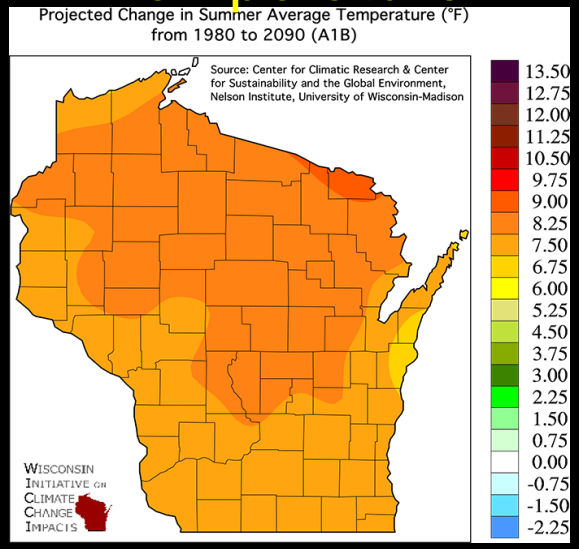
Booth et al., 2012

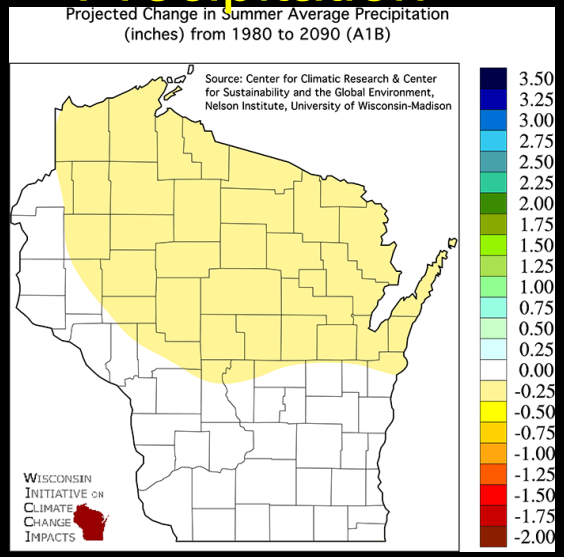
Locally: Warmer winters, drier summers

Temperature

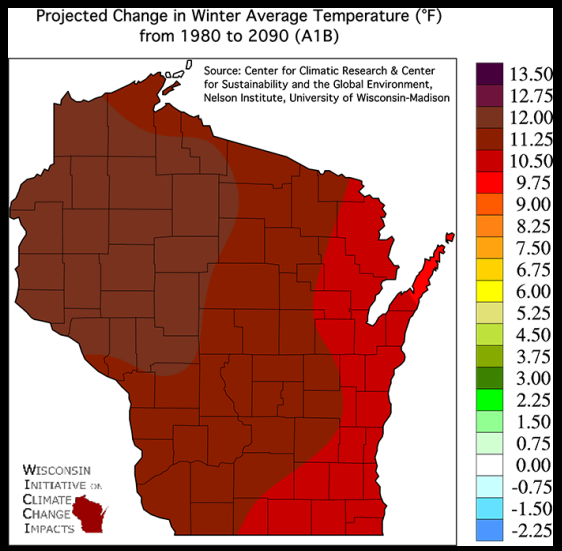
Precipitation

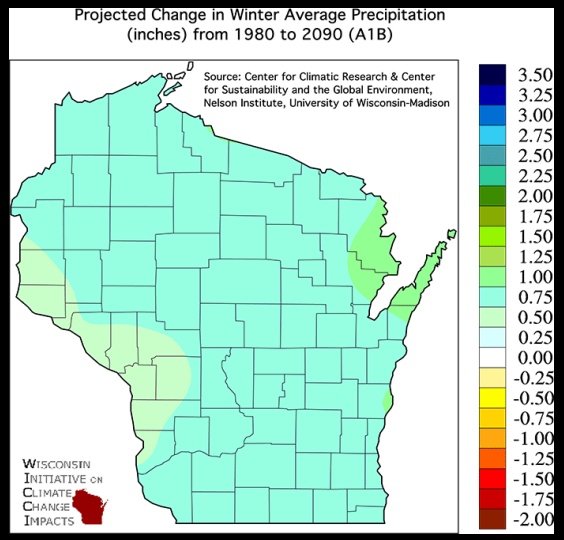
Summer





Winter





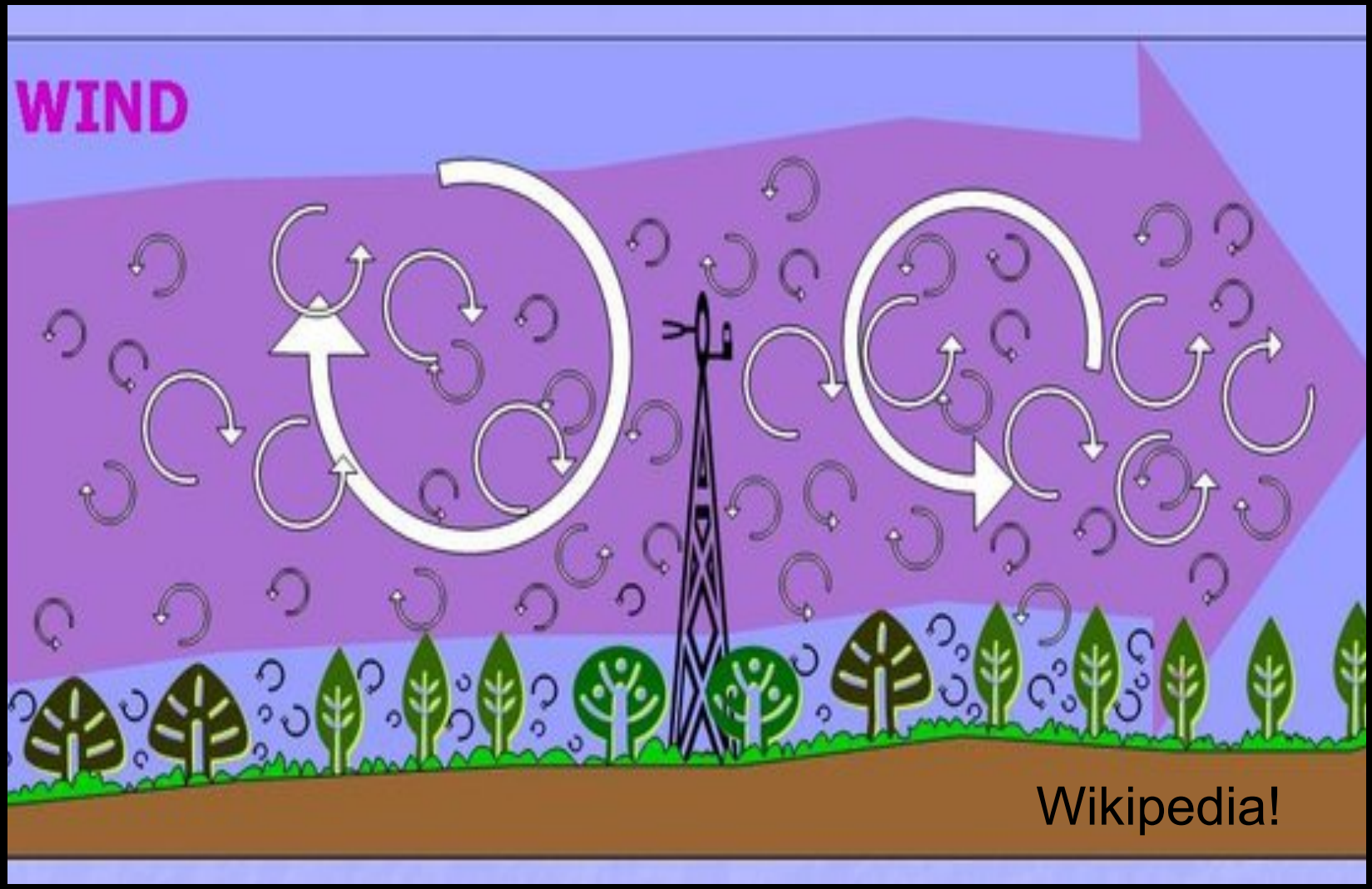
http://www.wicci.wisc.edu/

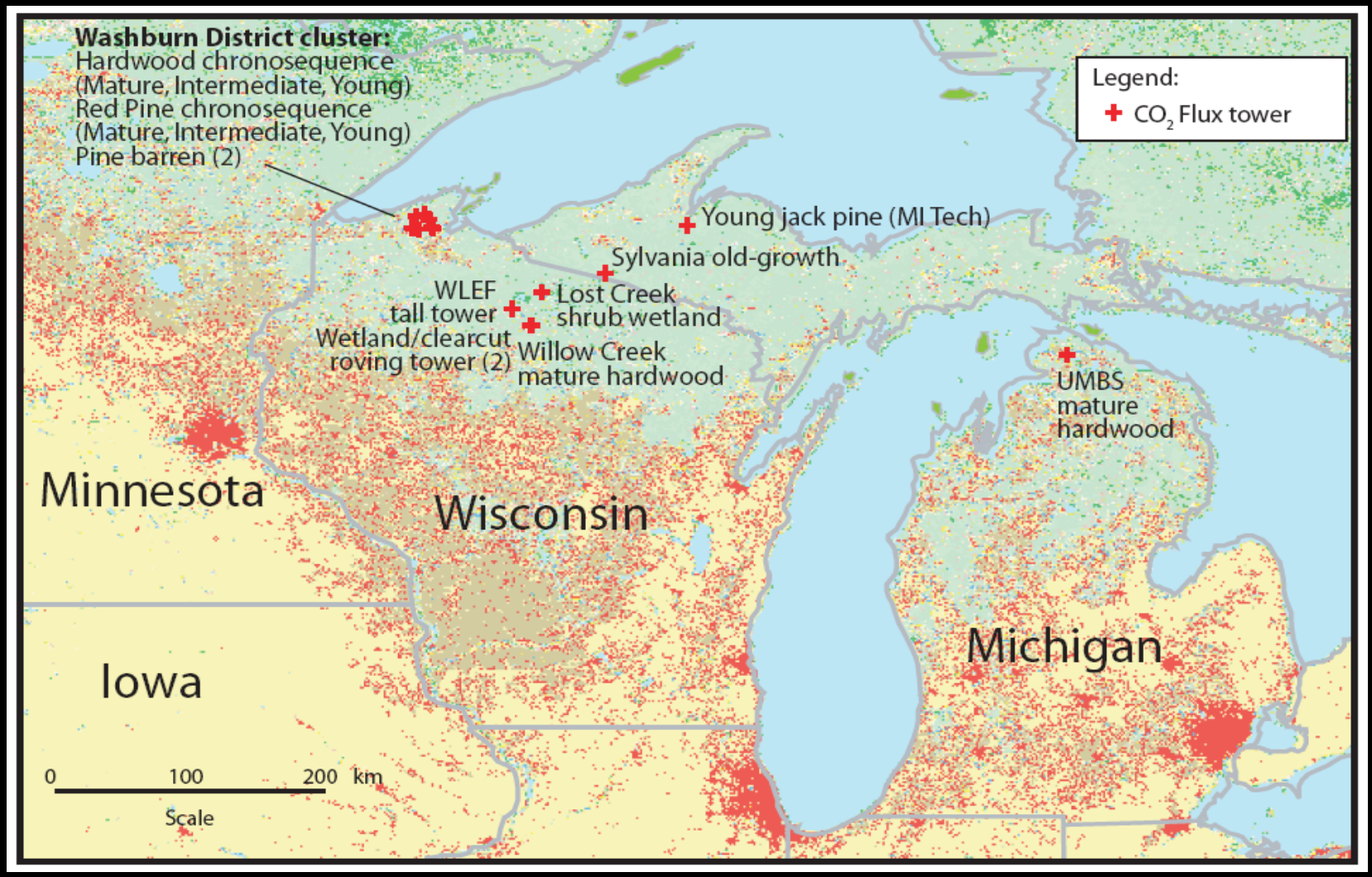
FORESTS

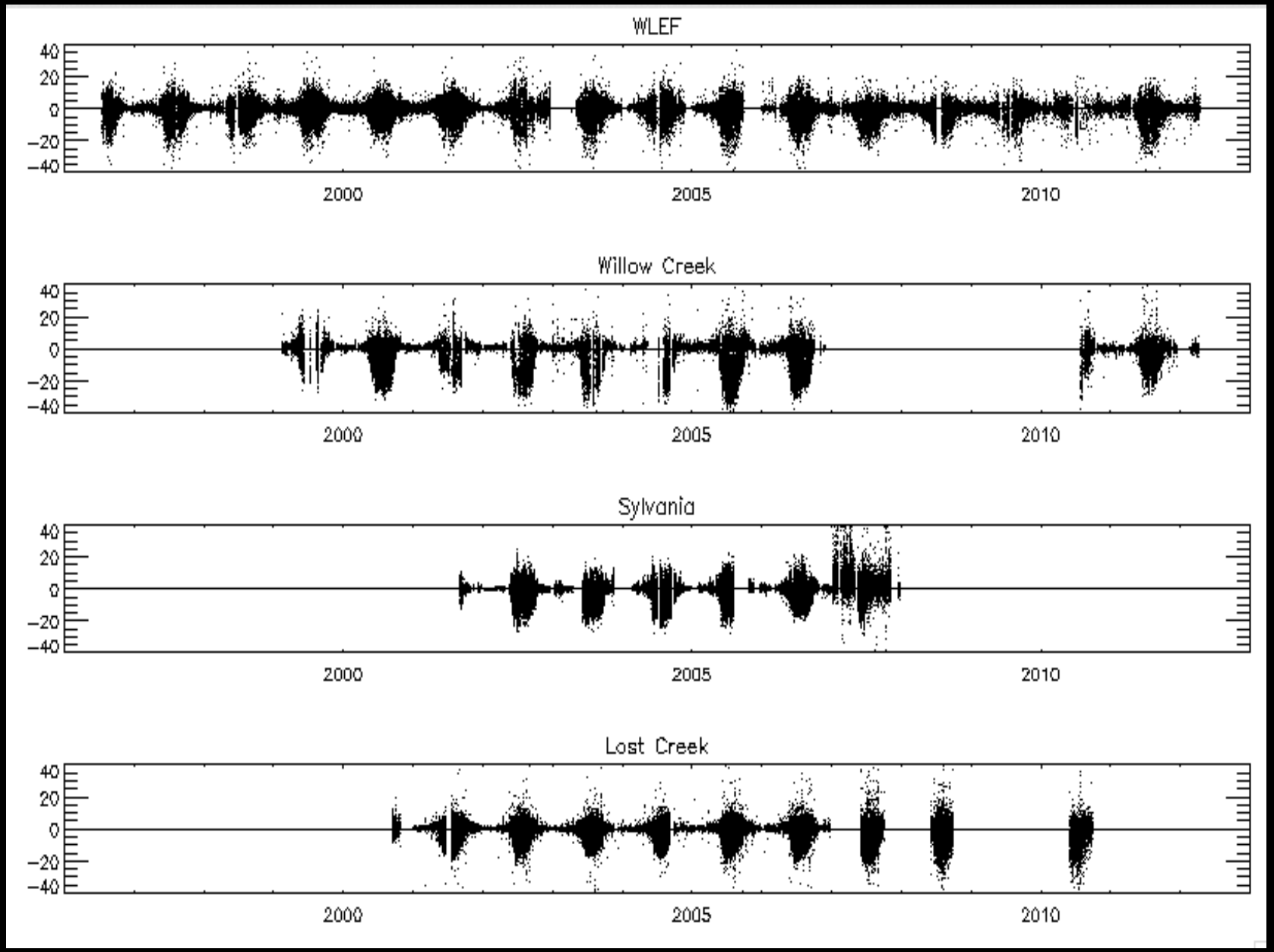
For-CLIMATE: Forest and Climate
Leaders In Menominee And The Environment

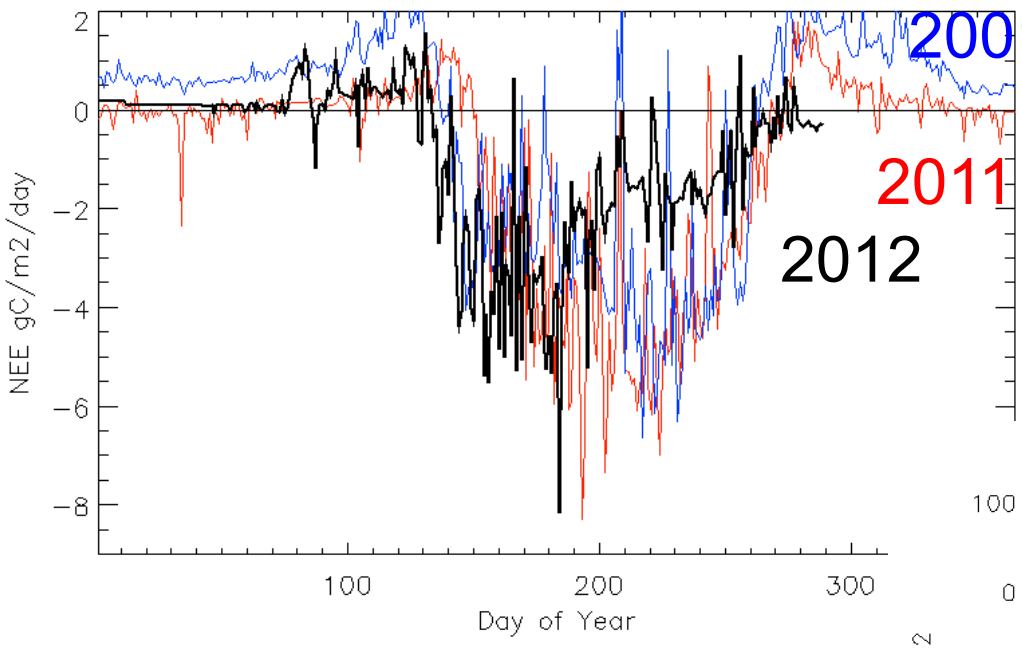
- Global change science research involves:
  - Analysis of observations of air, water, land, humans over space and time
  - Lab and field experiments of these quantities
  - Theory and math about the physics, chemistry, biology, geology, and economics of the Earth System
  - Computational simulation of various Earth system models to test hypotheses against observations
  - Synthesis, communication, and application of findings from all of the above
- All require:
  - good questions, precise observations, and working in diverse teams!

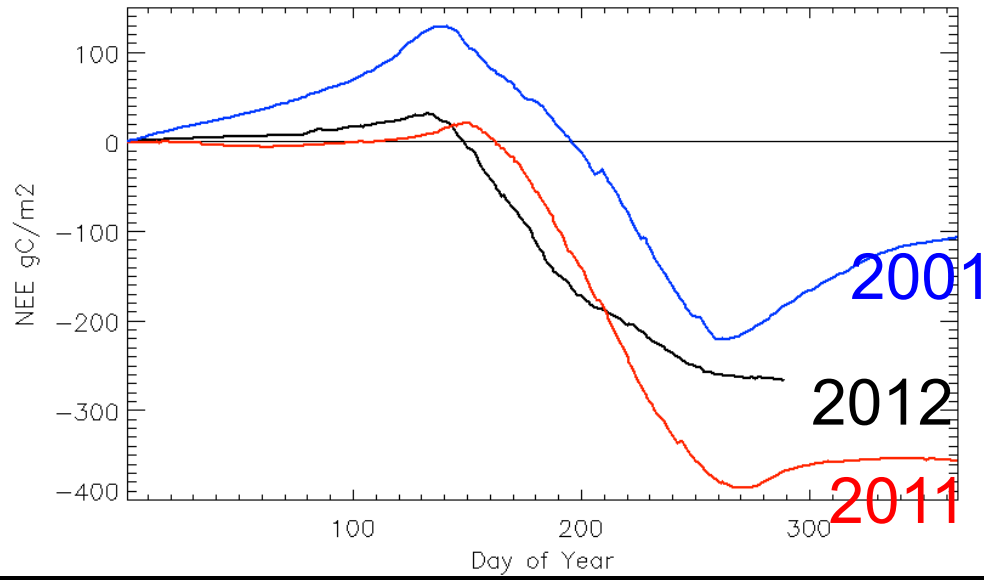
WS 3153

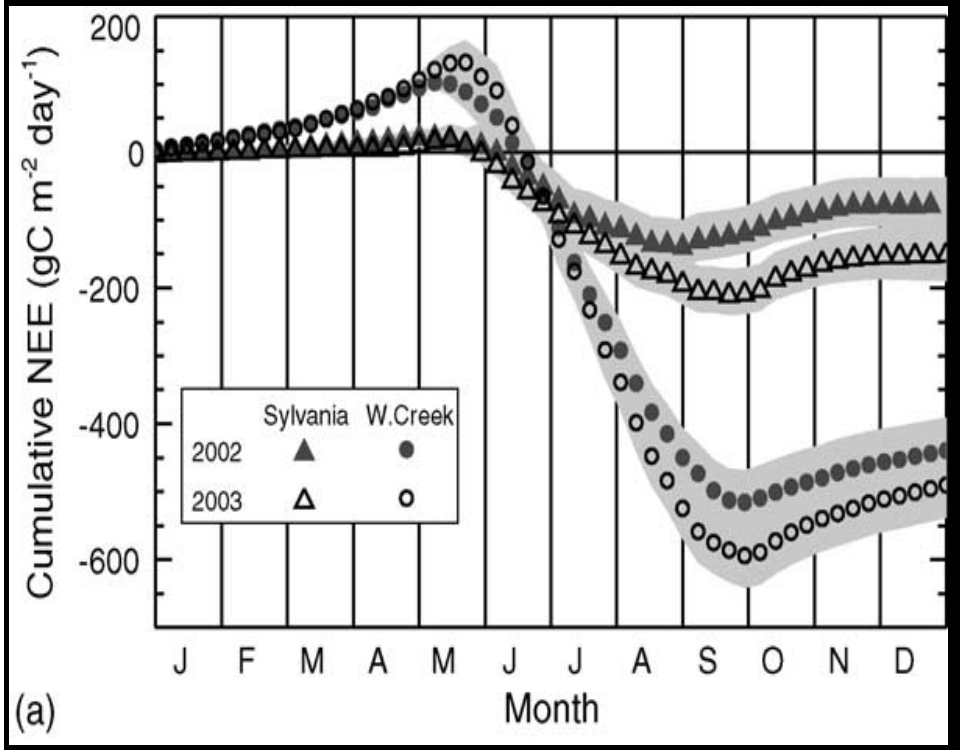

WIND
Wikipedia!

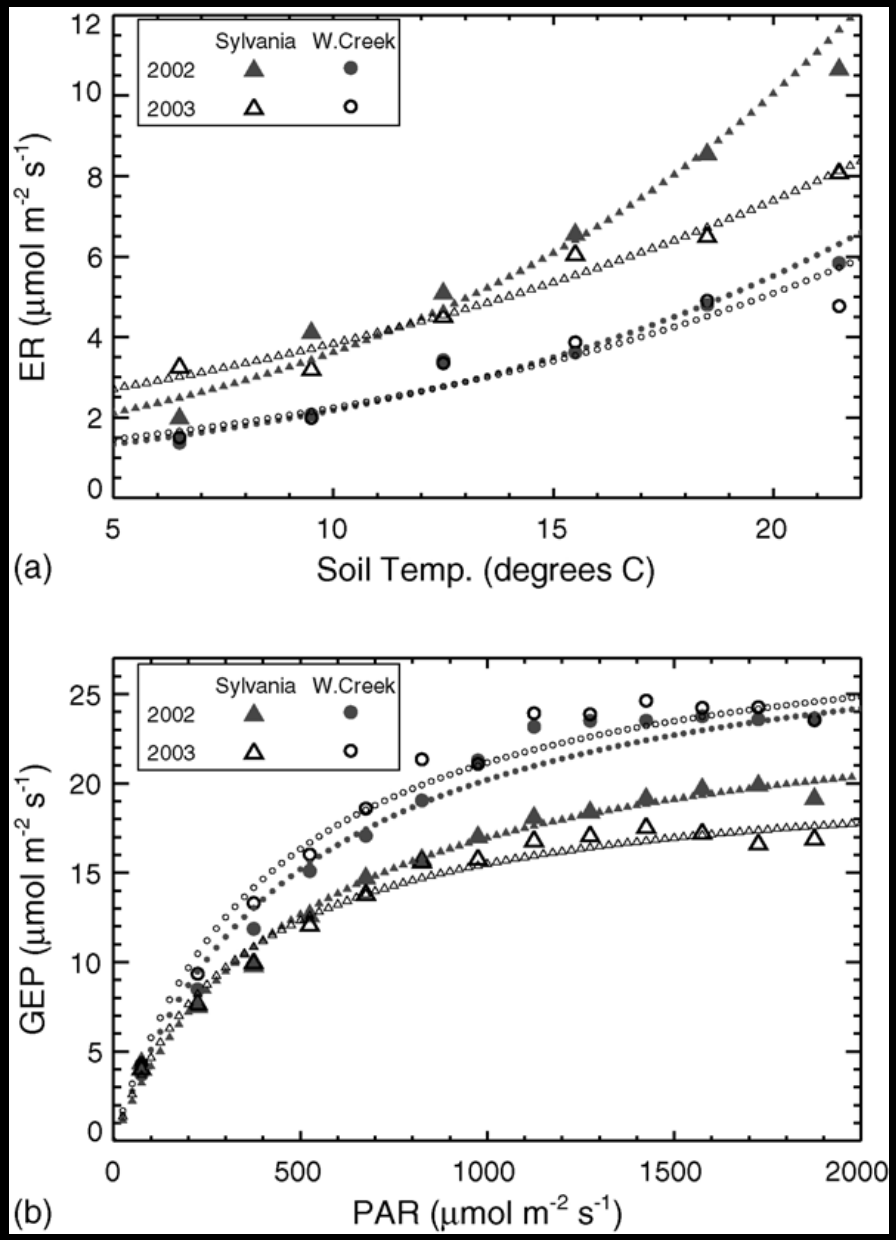

Washburn District cluster:
Hardwood chronosequence
(Mature, Intermediate, Young)
Red Pine chronosequence
(Mature, Intermediate, Young)
Pine barren (2)
Legend:
CO2 Flux tower
Young jack pine (MI Tech)
Sylvania old-growth
WLEF
tall tower
Lost Creek
shrub wetland
Wetland/clearcut
roving tower (2)
Willow Creek
mature hardwood
UMBS
mature
hardwood
Minnesota
Wisconsin
Michigan
Iowa
0
100
200 km
Scale


WLEF
40
20
0
−20
−40
2000
2005
2010
Willow Creek
40
20
0
−20
−40
2000
2005
2010
Sylvania
40
20
0
−20
−40
2000
2005
2010
Lost Creek
40
20
0
−20
−40
2000
2005
2010

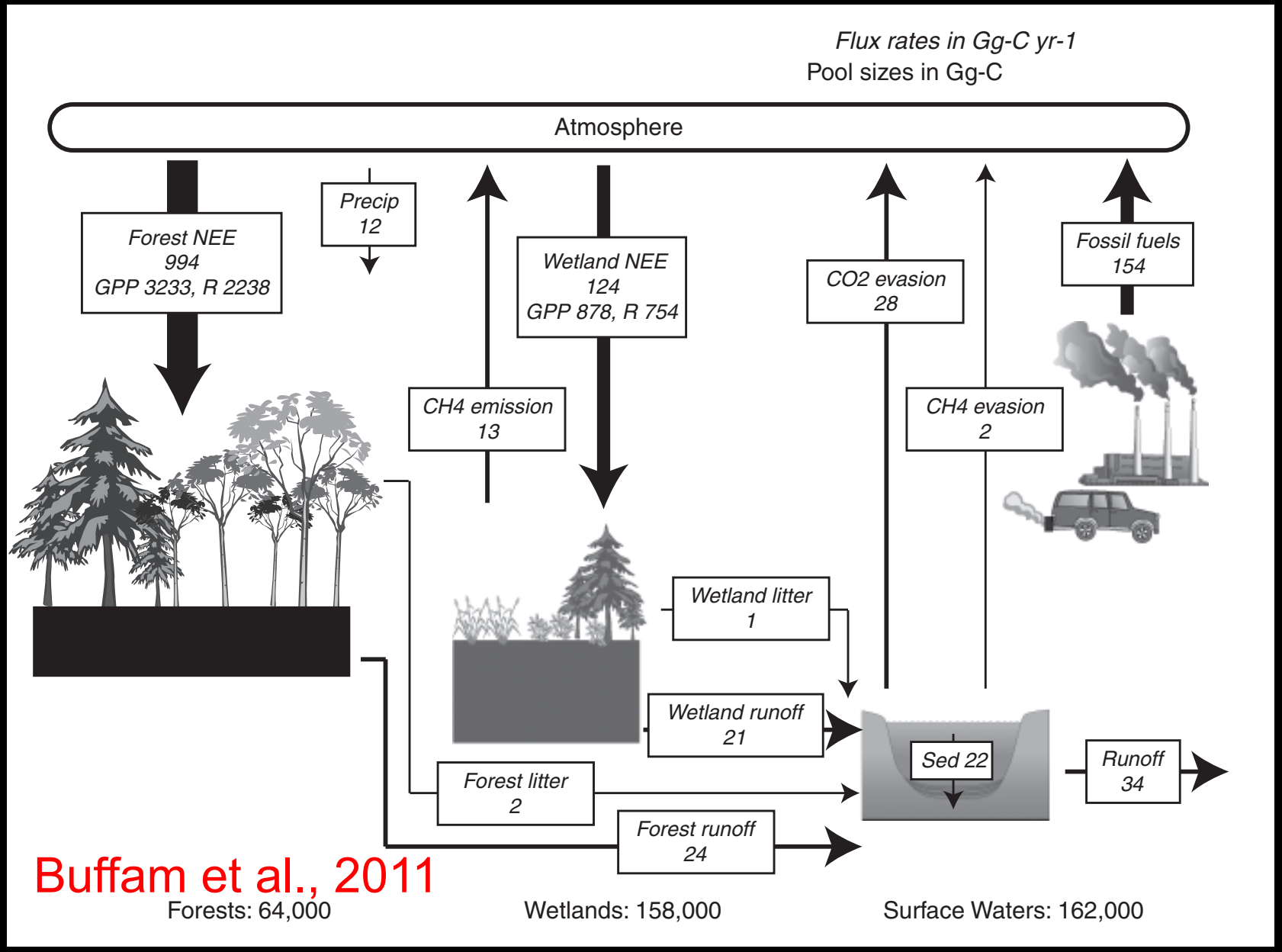

2001
2011
2012
NEE gC/m2/day
2
0
−2
−4
−6
−8
100
200
300
Day of Year


2001
2012
2011
NEE gC/m2
100
0
−100
−200
−300
−400
100
200
300
Day of Year





Desai et al., 2006


Flux rates in Gg-C yr-1
Pool sizes in Gg-C
Atmosphere
Forest NEE
994
GPP 3233, R 2238
Precip
12
Wetland NEE
124
GPP 878, R 754
CO2 evasion
28
Fossil fuels
154
CH4 emission
13
CH4 evasion
2
Wetland litter
1
Wetland runoff
21
Sed 22
Runoff
34
Forest litter
2
Forest runoff
24
Buffam et al., 2011
Forests: 64,000
Wetlands: 158,000
Surface Waters: 162,000

Big Questions About Our Forests

- PAST: How has the legacy of land management influence the trajectory of carbon uptake?
- FUTURE: What changes to the land should we expect to see with warmer, wetter winters and drier summers for this area?
- PRESENT: How might we manage the land to mitigate future climate change and how do we adapt our relationship with land to sustain forest production, biodiversity, recreation, culture?

We need smart people

- Menominee have managed forests in a sustainable way for a long time – what lessons can the rest of society learn here?
- What do the Menominee need to know about climate change but don't know today?
- How do we best train future scientists, engineers, foresters, teachers to gain and apply wisdom about sustainability in face of global change?

Waewaunen!