

# Understanding and Using Climate-Adaptation-Related Spatial Data in Regional Conservation Planning

<https://adaptwest.databasin.org>

Carlos Carroll, Klamath Center for Conservation Research



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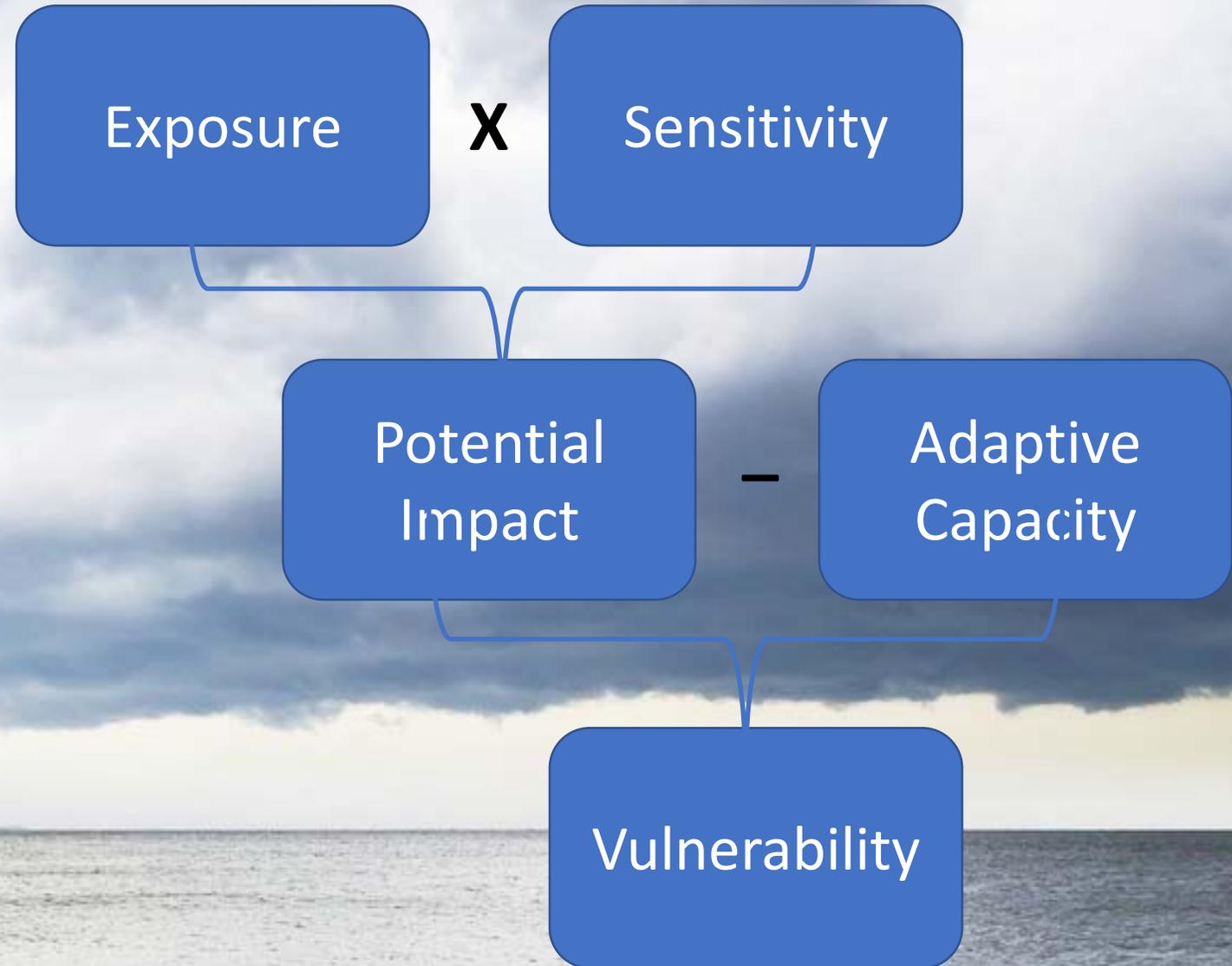
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# Assessing and Addressing Landscape-Level Vulnerability to Climate Change

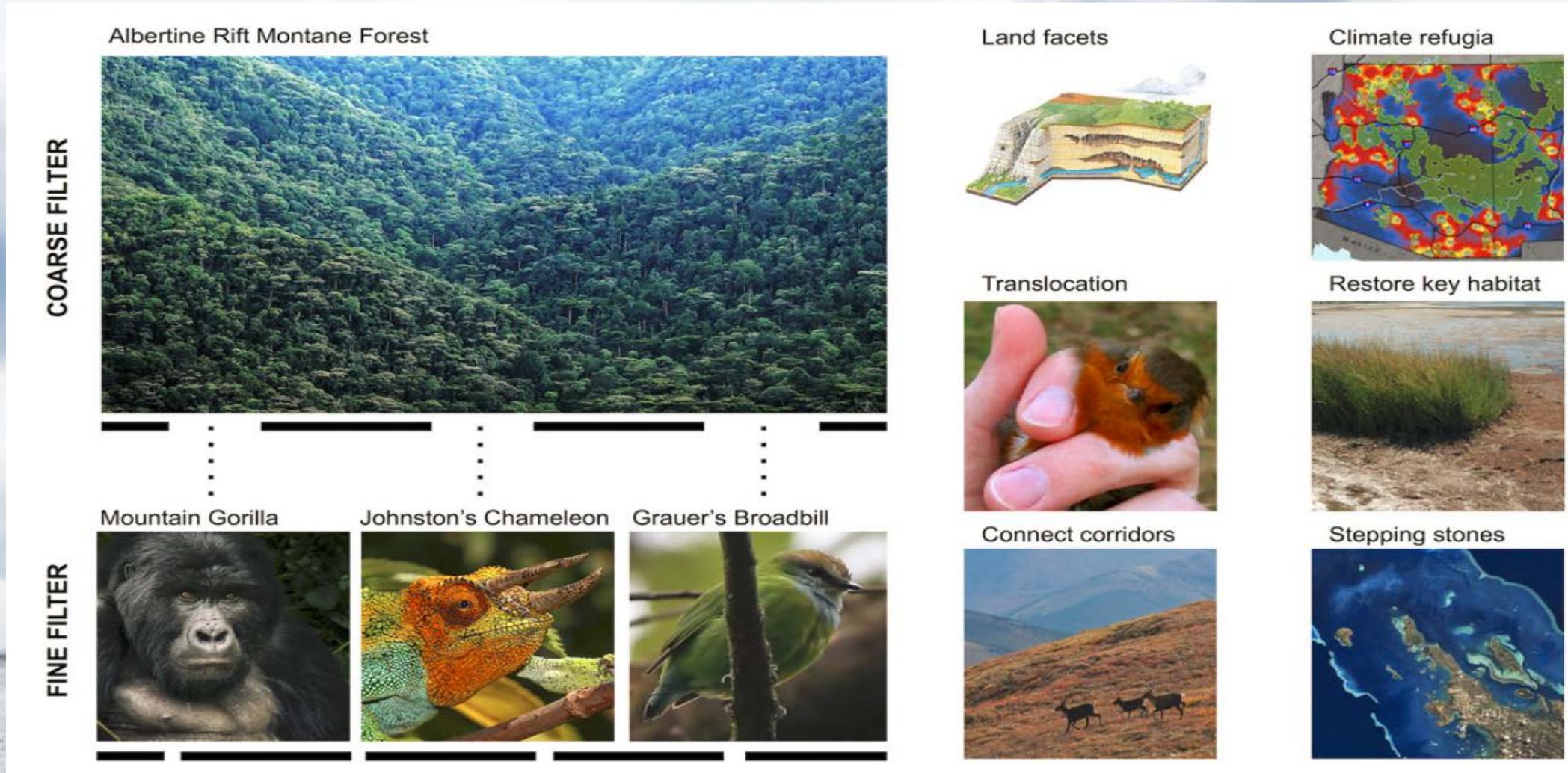
The ultimate goal of landscape-level conservation planning under climate change is to facilitate persistence of species and ecosystem processes by increasing the adaptive capacity of landscapes and regions.

The ESAC framework, developed by the IPCC ([McCarthy et al. 2001](#)), proposes that climate Exposure and Sensitivity interact and are mediated by Adaptive Capacity, resulting in the degree of Vulnerability of the system to climate change.

Most of the data considered here are measures of climate **exposure**. Data, such as the location of climate refugia for individual species, which incorporates information on a species' climatic tolerances or niche, also addresses climate **sensitivity**. The ultimate goal of providing such information to planners is to support conservation management that, by protecting key areas identified by the data, increases the **adaptive capacity** of the landscape and its ability to support native species and ecosystems into the future.



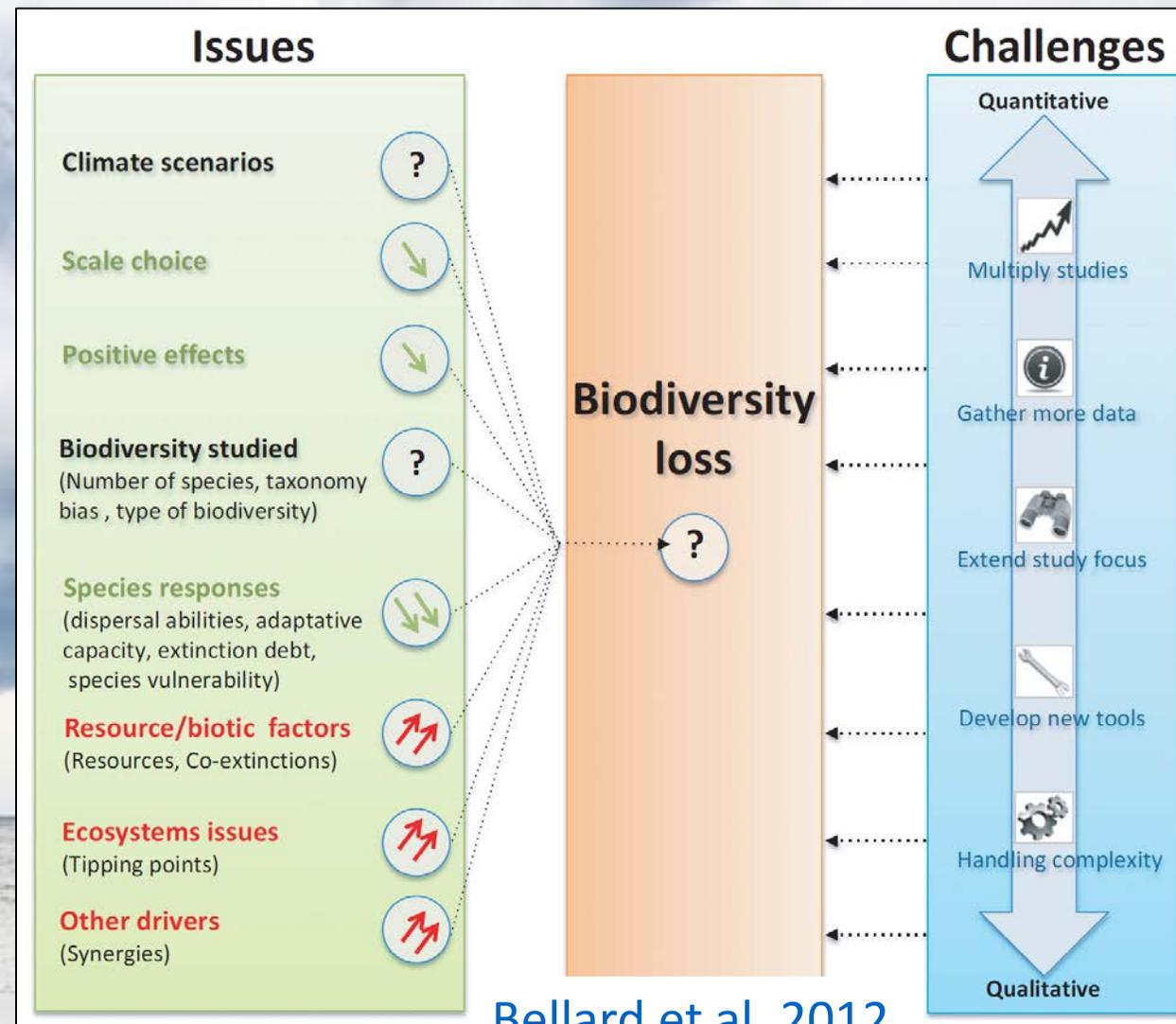
# A diversity of conservation strategies are needed to address climate change adaptation challenges



# Making sense of diverse metrics and linking them to ecological processes

## Three key issues:

- Spatial scale
- Coarse- vs. fine-filter metrics
- Diverse ways in which climate change exposure influences biodiversity



[Bellard et al. 2012](#)

# Issue 1: What spatial scale(s) are relevant?: Macro-scale and micro-scale metrics can be complementary

**TABLE 2** Spatial scale of the physical and ecological factors related to refugia value and adaptive capacity, and their influence on alternative metrics

		Diversity					Climatic velocity	Biotic velocity
		Elevational	HLI	Ecotype	Facet	Climate		
Cold air pooling	100 m							
Water accumulation								
Variation in insolation with aspect			×					
Temperature lapse rate with elevation		×		×	×		×	×
Orographic lift and rain shadow	1 km			×		×	×	×
Climatic thresholds driving ecotype transitions				×				×
Soil/geologic transitions					×			
Coastal proximity/maritime effects	10 km					×	×	×
Current broad-scale circulation patterns						×	×	×
Future shifts in circulation patterns							×	×
Latitudinal variation in insolation						×	×	×
Biogeographic barriers	>100 km							×

[Carroll et al. 2017](#)

# Issue 2: How much species-specific information is needed?

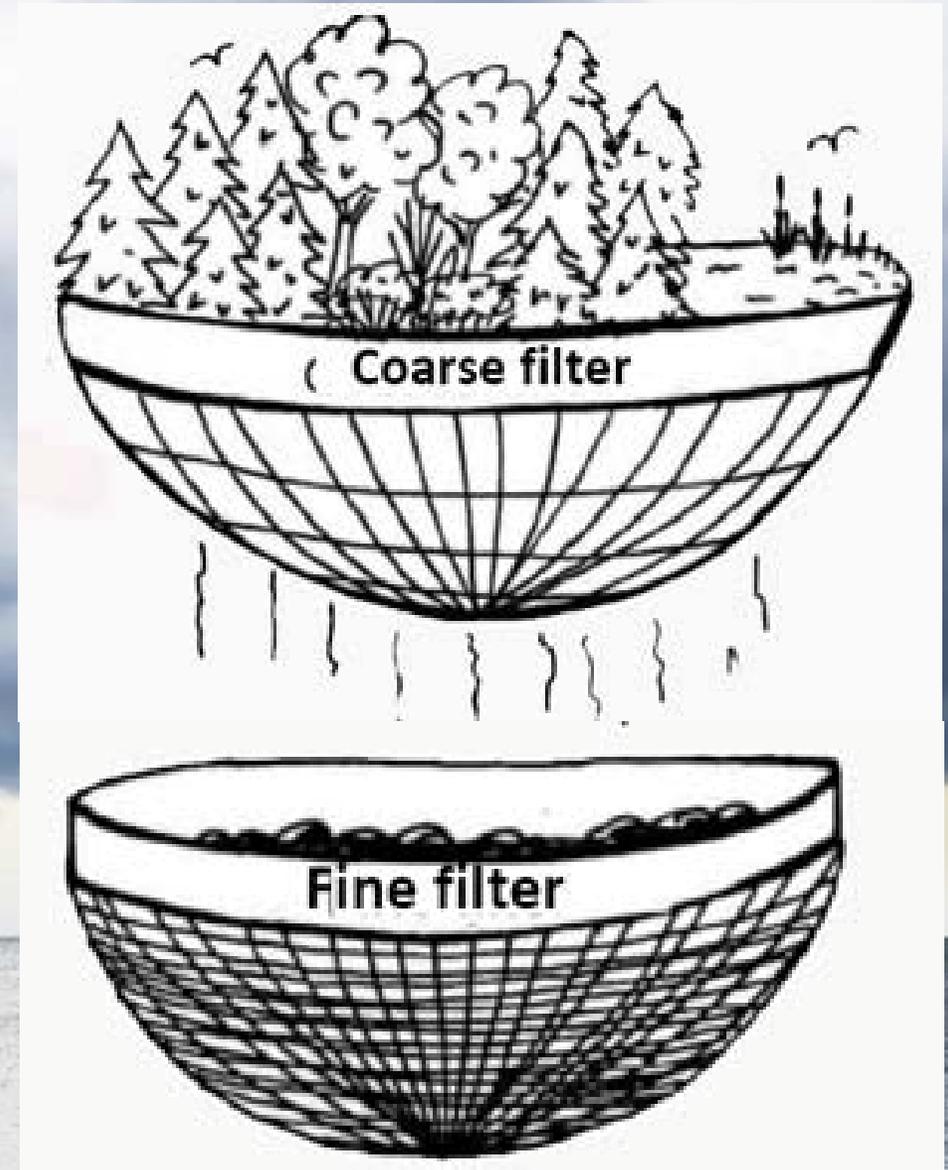
## Coarse-filter vs. fine-filter metrics

### Why use coarse-filter targets?

Lack of information about most species.

### Why use fine-filter targets?

Coarse-filter surrogates imperfectly protect individual species  
([Noss 1987](#)).



Anh. N.Y. Acad. Sci. ISSN 0077-8923

ANNALS OF THE NEW YORK ACADEMY OF SCIENCES  
Issue: *The Year in Ecology and Conservation Biology*

### Fine- and coarse-filter conservation strategies in a time of climate change

[Tingley et al. 2014](#)

Morgan W. Tingley,<sup>1</sup> Emily S. Darling,<sup>2</sup> and David S. Wilcove<sup>1,3</sup>

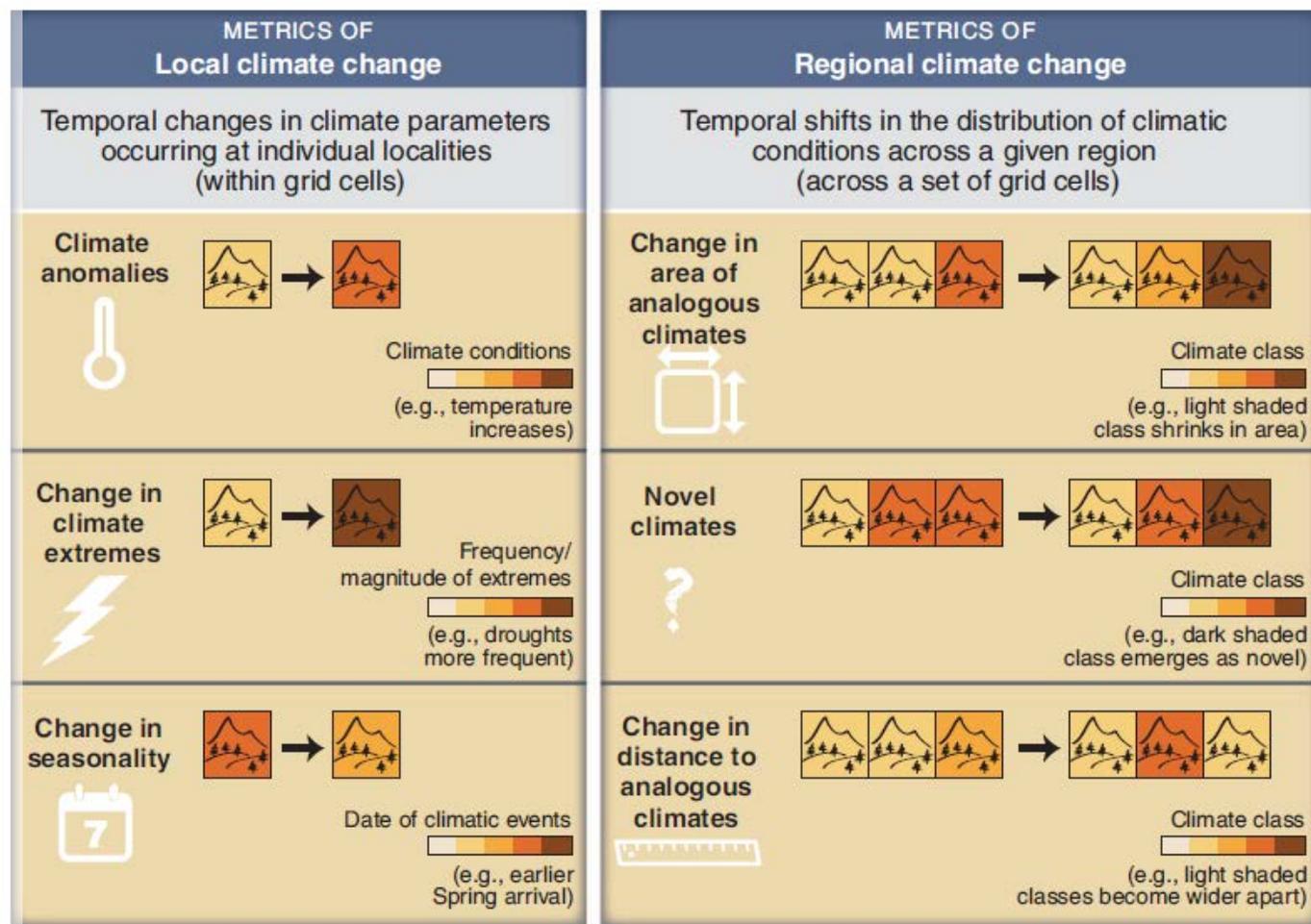
<sup>1</sup>Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey. <sup>2</sup>Biology Department, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina. <sup>3</sup>Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Princeton University, Princeton, New Jersey

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# Issue 3: Multiple dimensions of climate change exposure create diverse stressors by which climate change influences biodiversity

AdaptWest data represent multiple dimensions of climate exposure, but is primarily

- **Macro-scale**
- **Coarse-filter** (with some fine-filter, species-specific data layers).



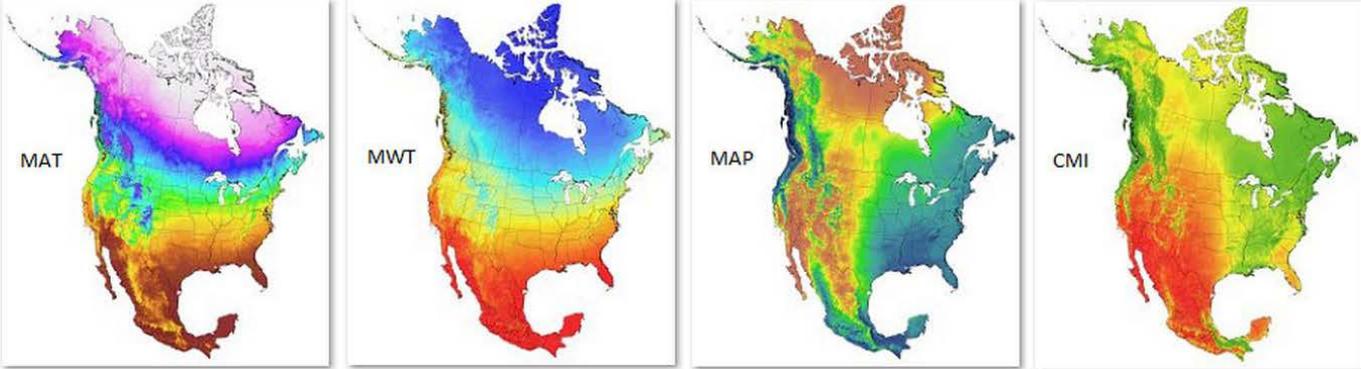
# AdaptWest provides downscaled data on current and projected future climate developed via the ClimateNA software

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ADAPTWEST | CURRENT AND PROJECTED CLIMATE DATA FOR NORTH AMERICA (CLIMATENA)

## Current and projected climate data for North America (ClimateNA)

This dataset was created by Diana Stralberg, Xianli Wang, and Andreas Hamann. It is based on the Parameter Regression of Independent Slopes Model (PRISM) interpolation method for current climate, and the Coupled Model Intercomparison Project phase 3 (CMIP3) database corresponding to the 4th IPCC Assessment Report for future projections. The thumbnails below are images of mean annual temperature (MAT), mean winter temperature with inversions in northern mountain valleys (MWT), mean annual precipitation with leeward rainshadows (MAP), and Hogg's climate moisture index (CMI):



The figure consists of four side-by-side maps of North America, each representing a different climate variable. From left to right: 1. MAT (Mean Annual Temperature) shows a color gradient from purple in the north to red in the south. 2. MWT (Mean Winter Temperature with inversions) shows a similar gradient but with a distinct blue/purple area in the northern mountain regions. 3. MAP (Mean Annual Precipitation with leeward rainshadows) shows a gradient from blue in the west to red in the east. 4. CMI (Hogg's climate moisture index) shows a gradient from green in the west to red in the east.

RESEARCH ARTICLE

### Locally Downscaled and Spatially Customizable Climate Data for Historical and Future Periods for North America

Tongli Wang<sup>1\*</sup>, Andreas Hamann<sup>2</sup>, Dave Spittlehouse<sup>3</sup>, Carlos Carroll<sup>4</sup>

[Wang et al. 2016, PLOS ONE](#)

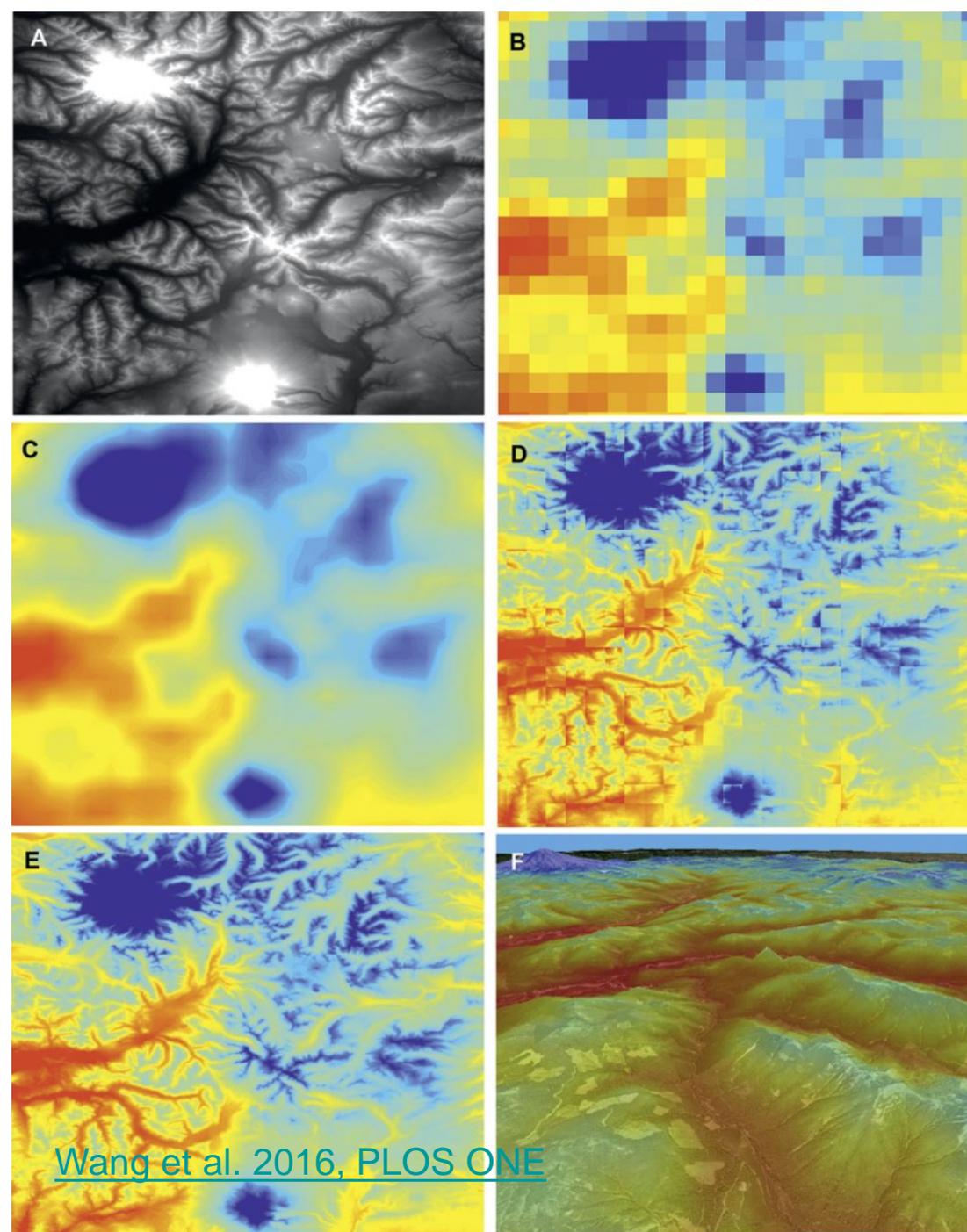
These [downscaled data](#) are then the source of most AdaptWest climate exposure metrics

# Understanding the strengths and limitations of [ClimateNA](#)'s statistical downscaling approach

Dynamic local downscaling using:

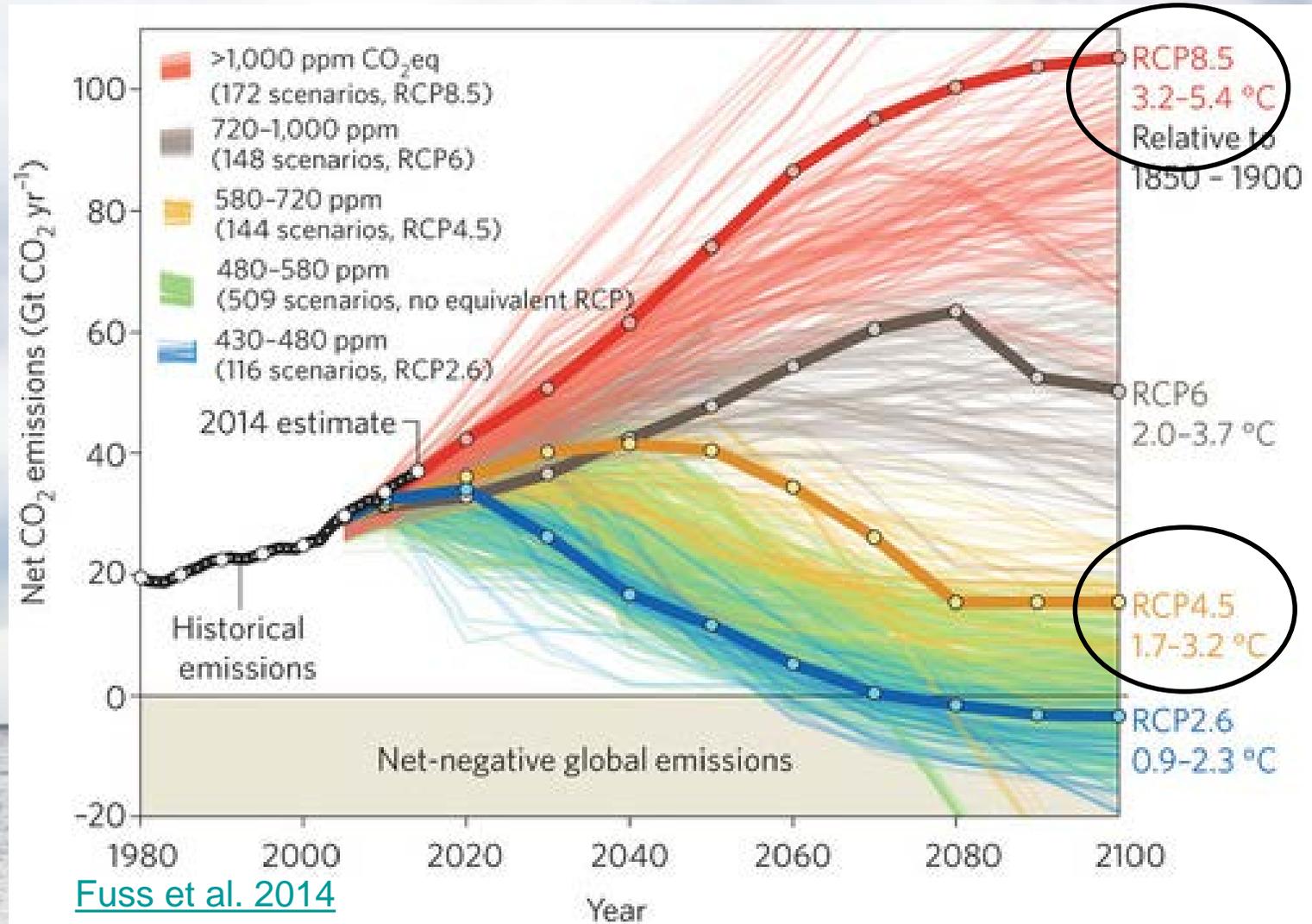
- Local regression of elevation on PRISM current climate base layer;
- Addition of downscaled GCM projections to base layer as anomalies (delta method).

Also calculates [bioclimatic variables](#).



# AdaptWest includes future projections for 2050s and 2080s

## 2 CMIP5 RCPs x 8 GCMs + Ensemble



# Building on initial climate projections: Bioclimatic variables and principal components analysis (PCA)

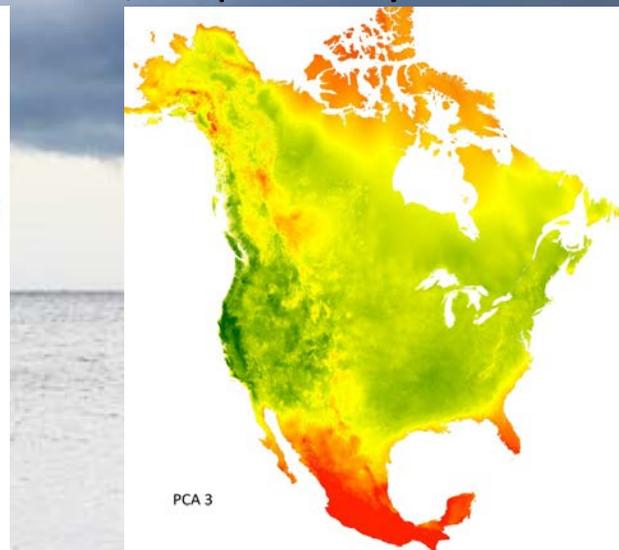
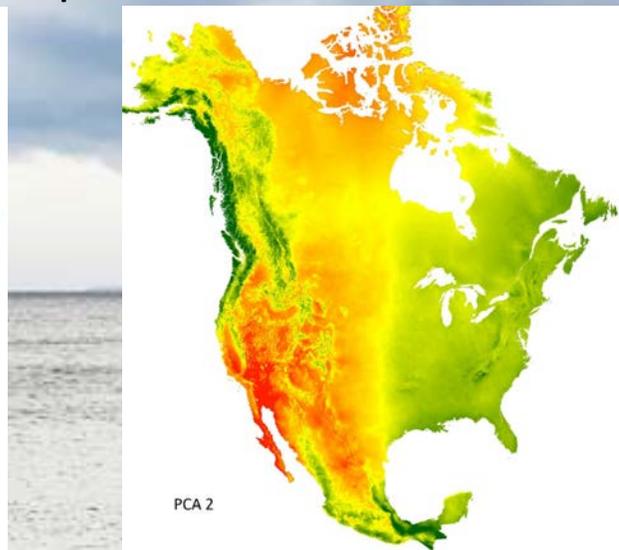
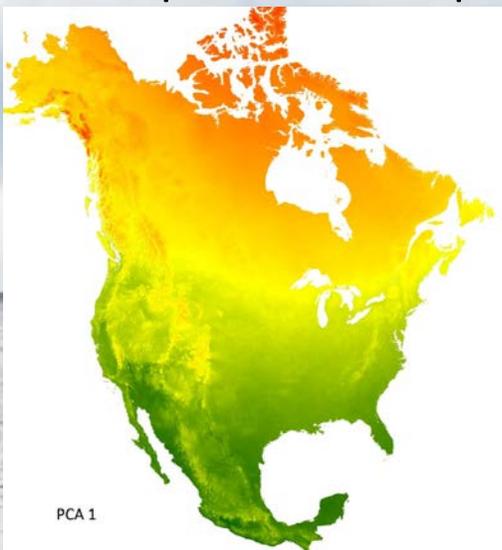
Temperature shifts are only one dimension of climate change. Most climate exposure metrics provided on the AdaptWest site are measured in terms of multivariate climate characteristics, via a principal components analysis (PCA) of [11 biologically-relevant temperature and precipitation variables](#). PCA provides multivariate representation of climate change while retaining the low dimensionality that facilitates development of computationally-complex metrics such as climatic velocity.

What do the PCA results represent?

Annual temperature dominates the first PCA axis (PCA1).

Annual precipitation dominates PCA2.

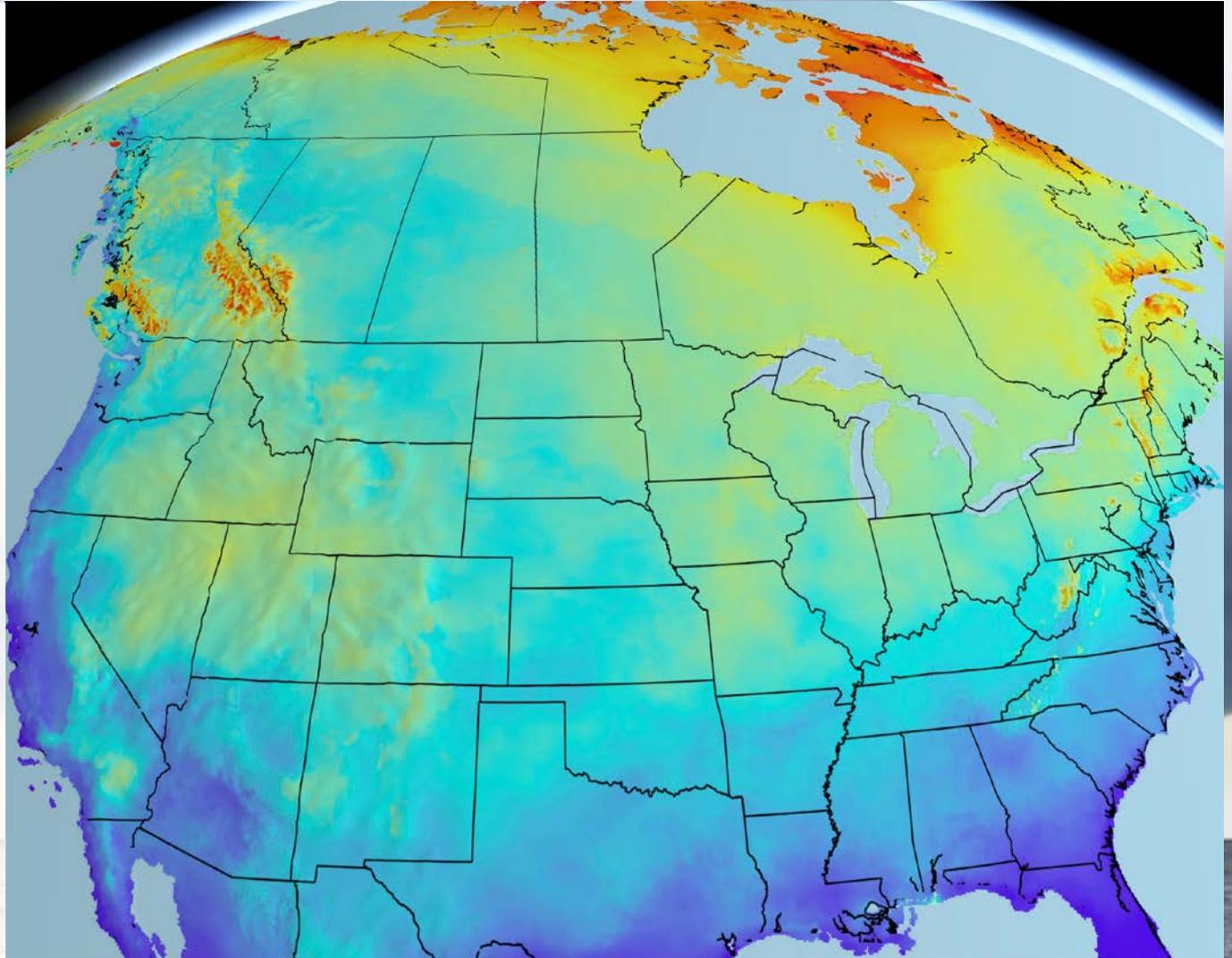
Seasonality of temperature and precipitation dominate PCA3 & PCA4, respectively.



# Climatic dissimilarity

The most fundamental measure of exposure to climate change is **climate dissimilarity**, i.e., how different will the future climate at a location be from its current climate? When measured in terms of mean annual temperature, we see the well-known pattern of more rapid warming (amplification of the pace of climate change) at high latitudes.

The map on the right shows the pace of climate change in multivariate climate space (PCA1 and PCA2). As in almost all of the maps in this presentation, areas with lower values (less change) are shown in blue, and those with higher values in orange and red. The pattern of rapid warming at high latitudes is evident. Rapid change in alpine areas of the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Coast is caused by changes in both temperature and precipitation.

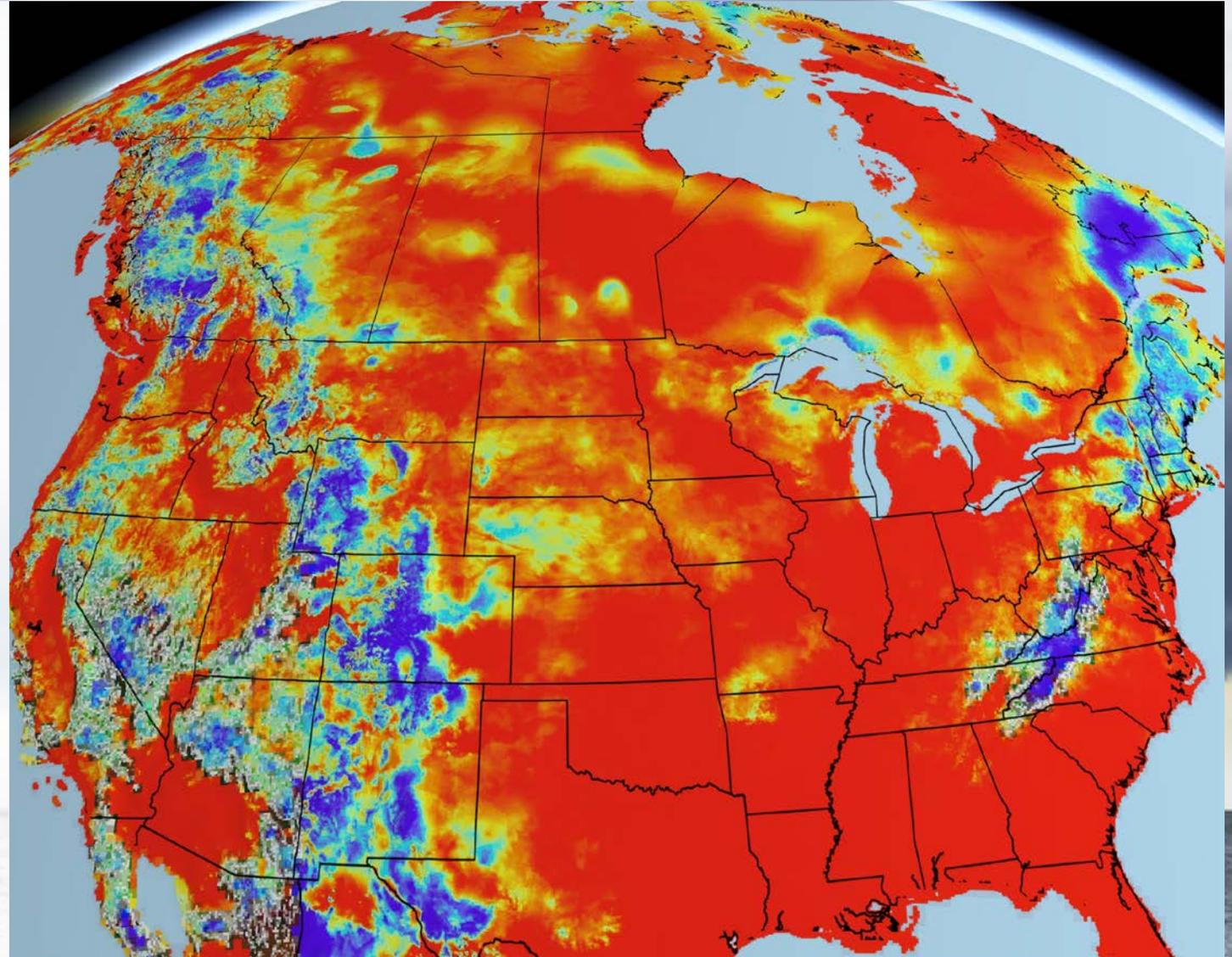


# Relative climatic dissimilarity

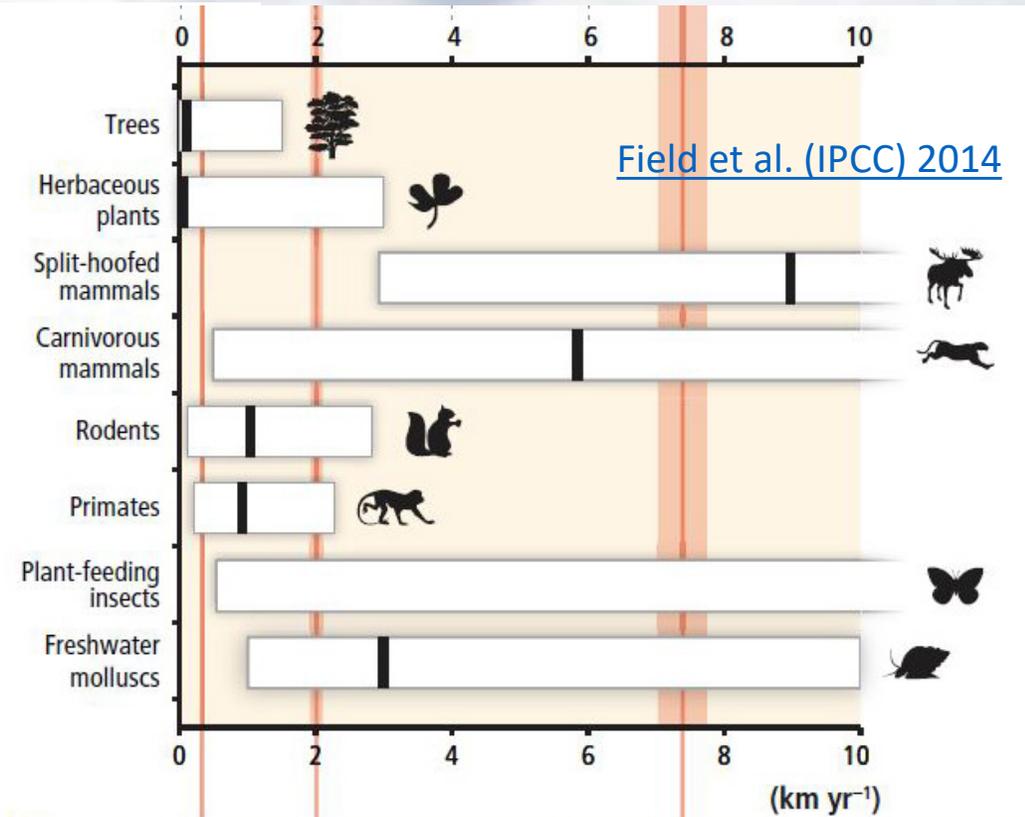
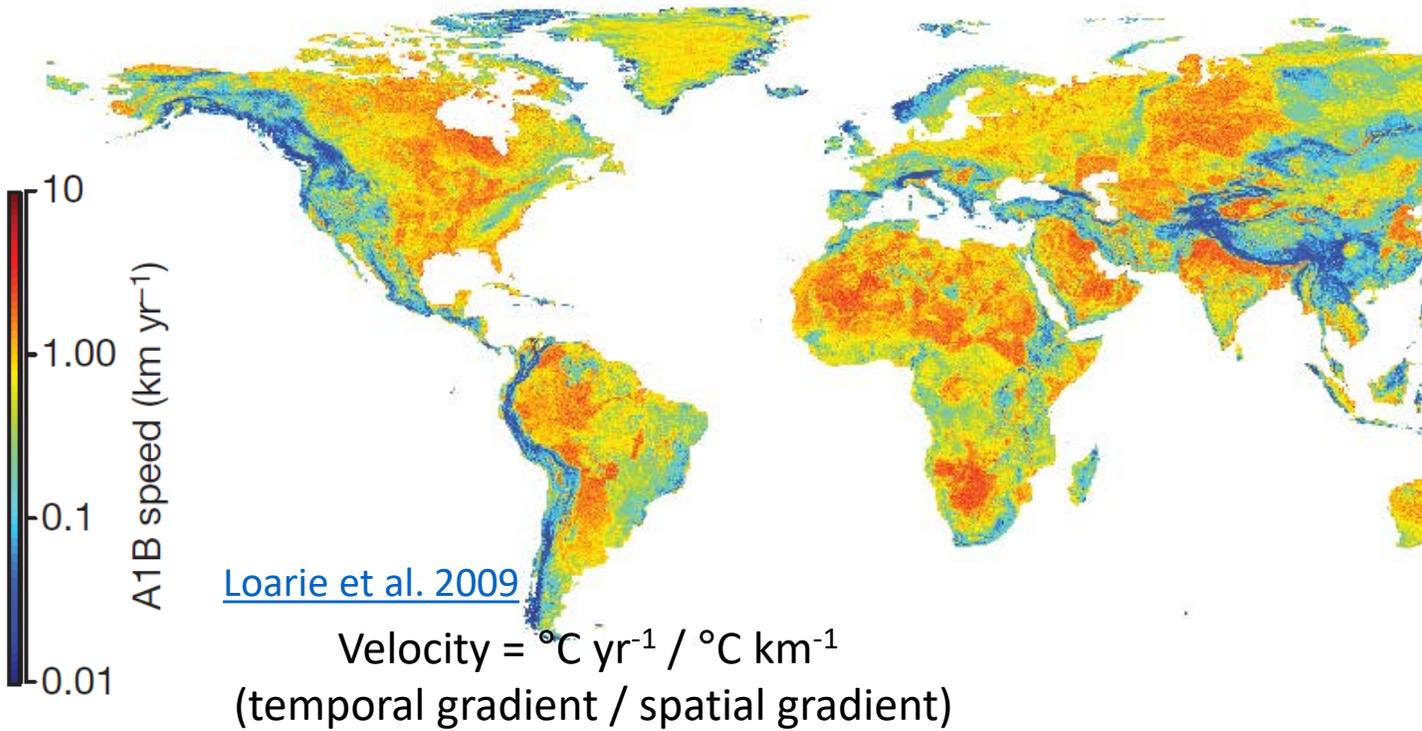
**Climate dissimilarity**, although the most basic climate exposure metric, has complex aspects. Recent studies have proposed that in addition to the **absolute** magnitude of dissimilarity between current and future climates at a location, it is also relevant to understand how that dissimilarity compares to the year-to-year (interannual) variation in climate at that location in the recent past. If the biota in an area was adapted to large interannual climate variations, it might be less sensitive to future climate change.

The map on the right shows data on relative climatic dissimilarity developed by [Mahony et al. 2017](#). As in the previous map, low values are in blue and high values in orange/red. Montane areas experience high interannual climate variation and thus have lower **relative dissimilarity**. Conversely, because areas of the southeastern US now experience low climate variability between years, they will in the future experience relatively low **absolute dissimilarity** but high **relative dissimilarity**. Relative dissimilarity does not show the strong pattern of increasing values at high latitudes that was evident in the previous map.

Absolute and relative dissimilarity describe different aspects of climate exposure and should be seen as complementary.

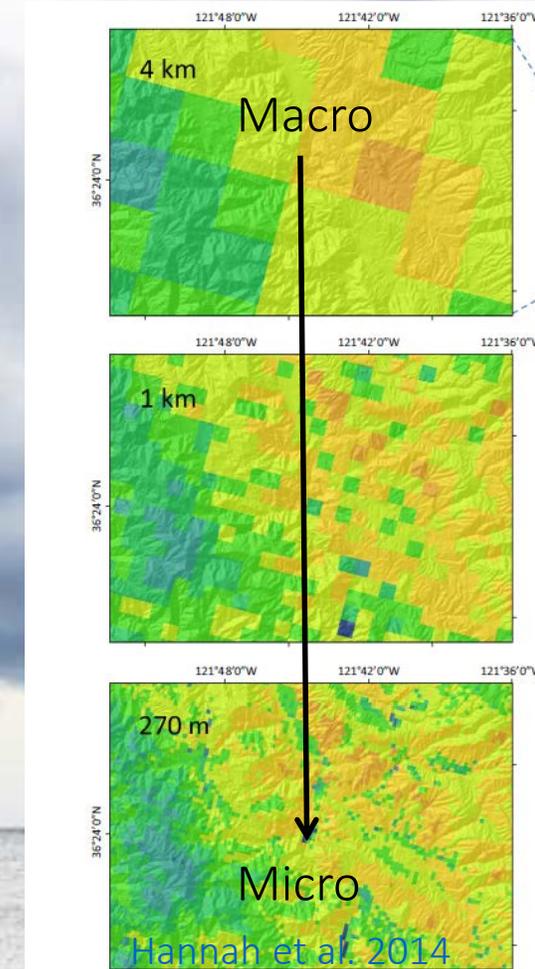
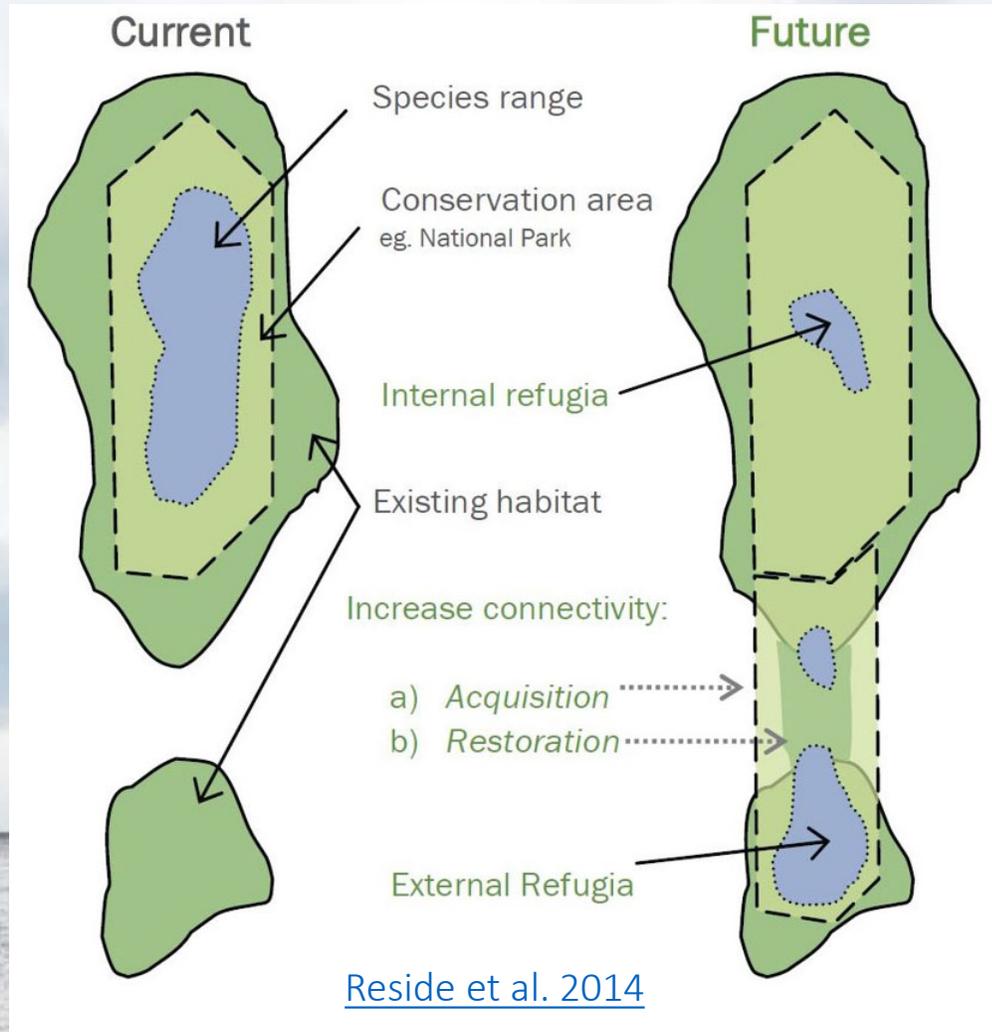


# Climate velocity is the speed that an organism needs to travel to keep pace with climate



A species can track climate if climate velocity is less than its potential dispersal rate.

# Climate refugia (areas of species persistence during climate change) are areas of “low enough” velocity

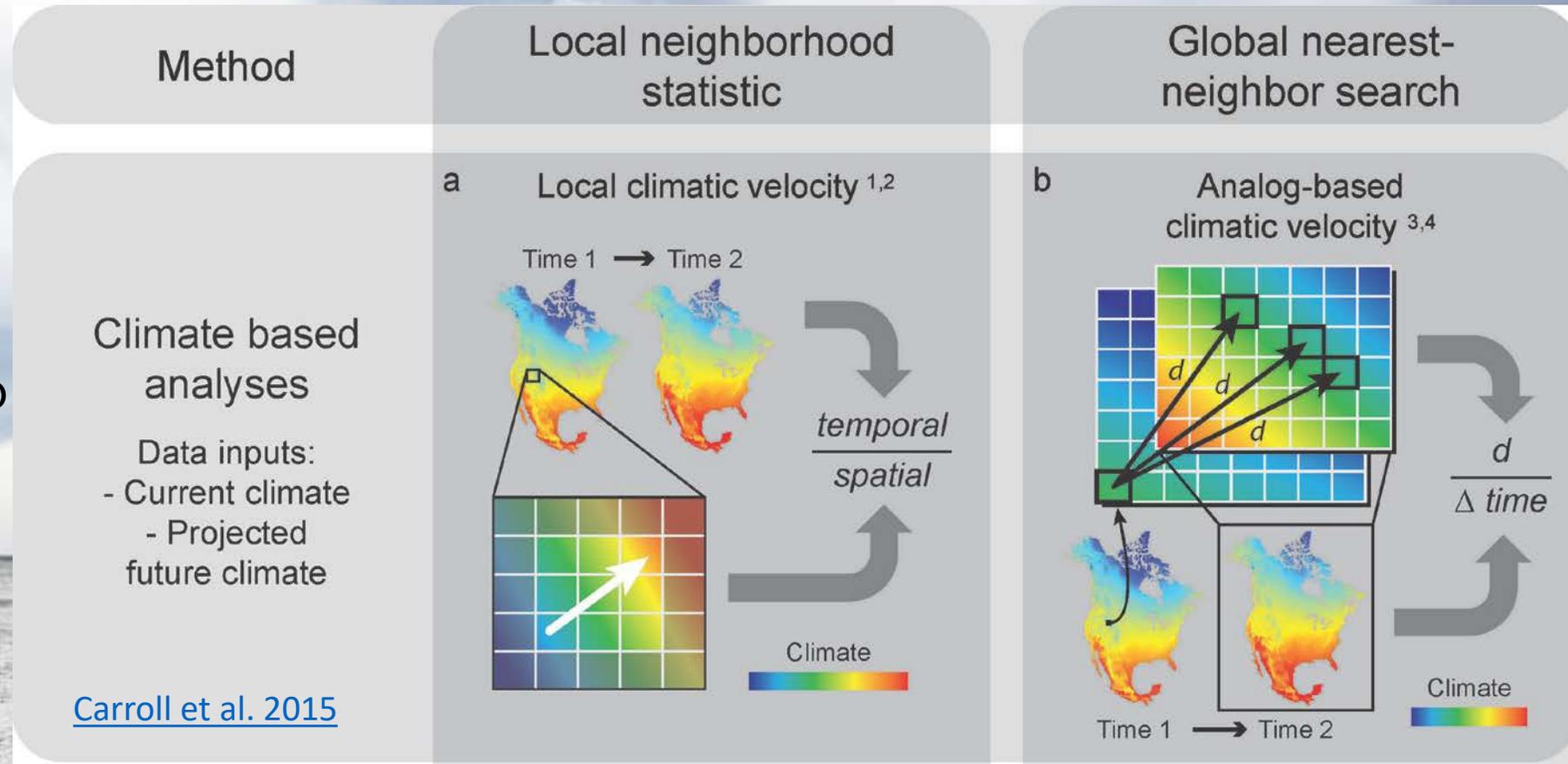


# Analog-based climatic velocity

To calculate analog-based **climatic velocity**, climate is categorized into types, and the straight-line distance is measured between a site and the nearest site with the same climate type in a different time period.

Influenced by processes at several scales

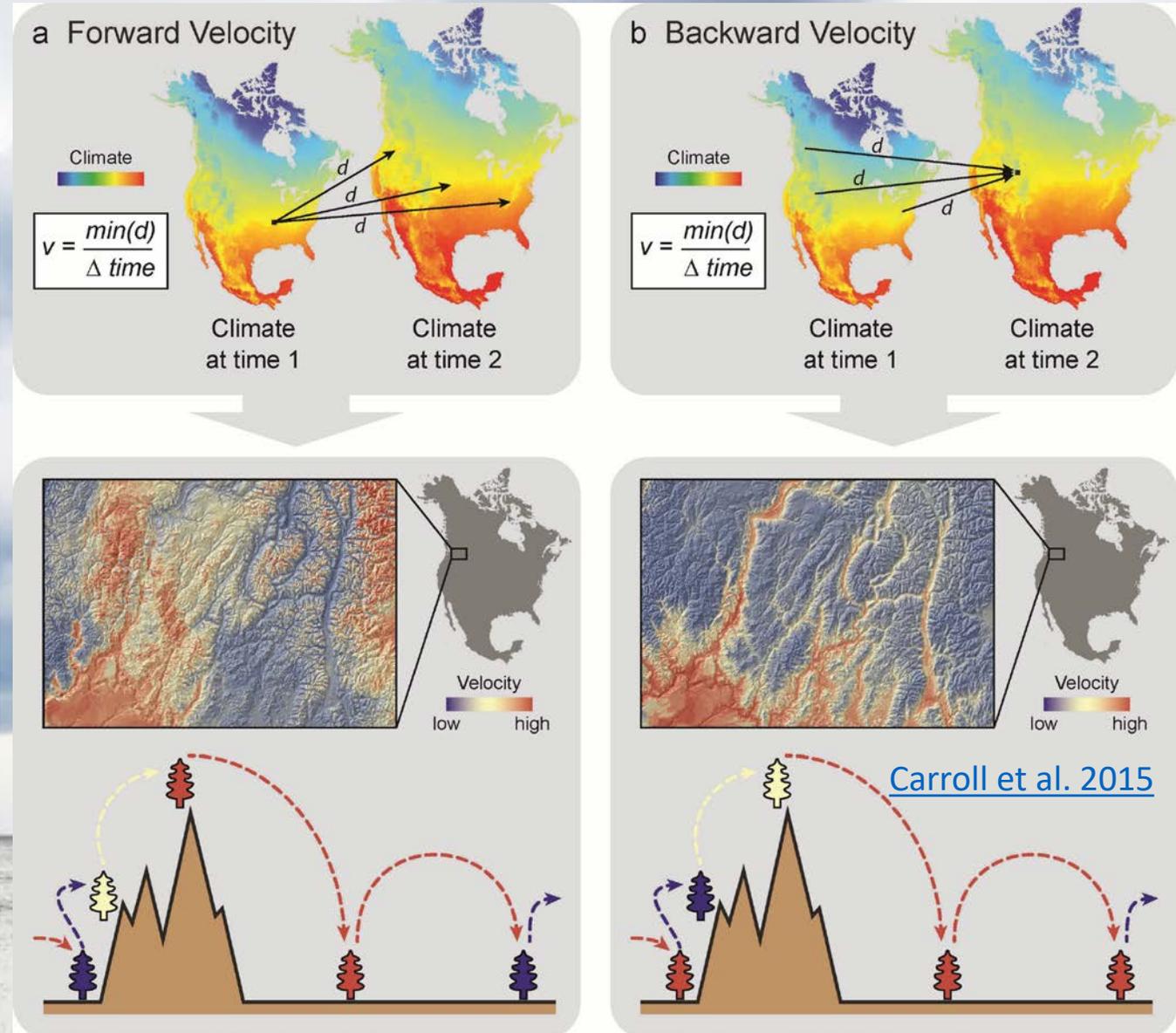
- Local topography
- Regional topographic position
- Location on continent
- Location in relationship to global climate circulation patterns



# Forward vs. backward climatic velocity

**Forward climatic velocity** measures the straight-line distance between a site's current climate type and the nearest site with the same climate type under future climates. This represents the rate at which an organism currently at a location must move to find future suitable climate.

**Backward climatic velocity** measures the straight-line distance between a site's future climate type and the nearest site with the same climate type under current climates. This represents the rate at which organisms adapted to a location's future climate will need to move to colonize that location.

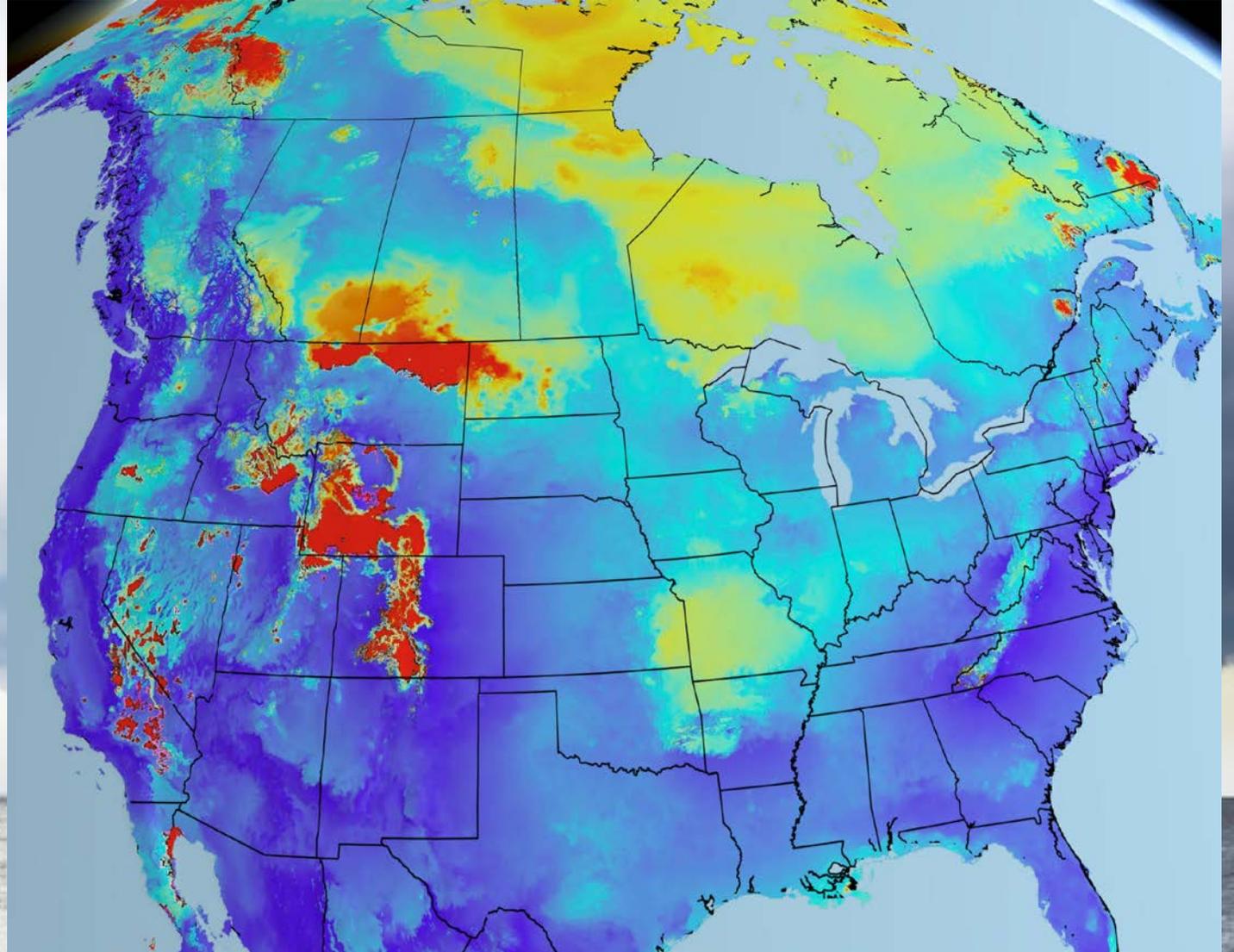


# Forward climatic velocity

**Forward climatic velocity** provides information on the ability of resident species and ecosystems to persist regionally.

Forward velocity will often be high in alpine areas because reaching the nearest analogous future climate may require dispersal to distant higher elevation mountaintops.

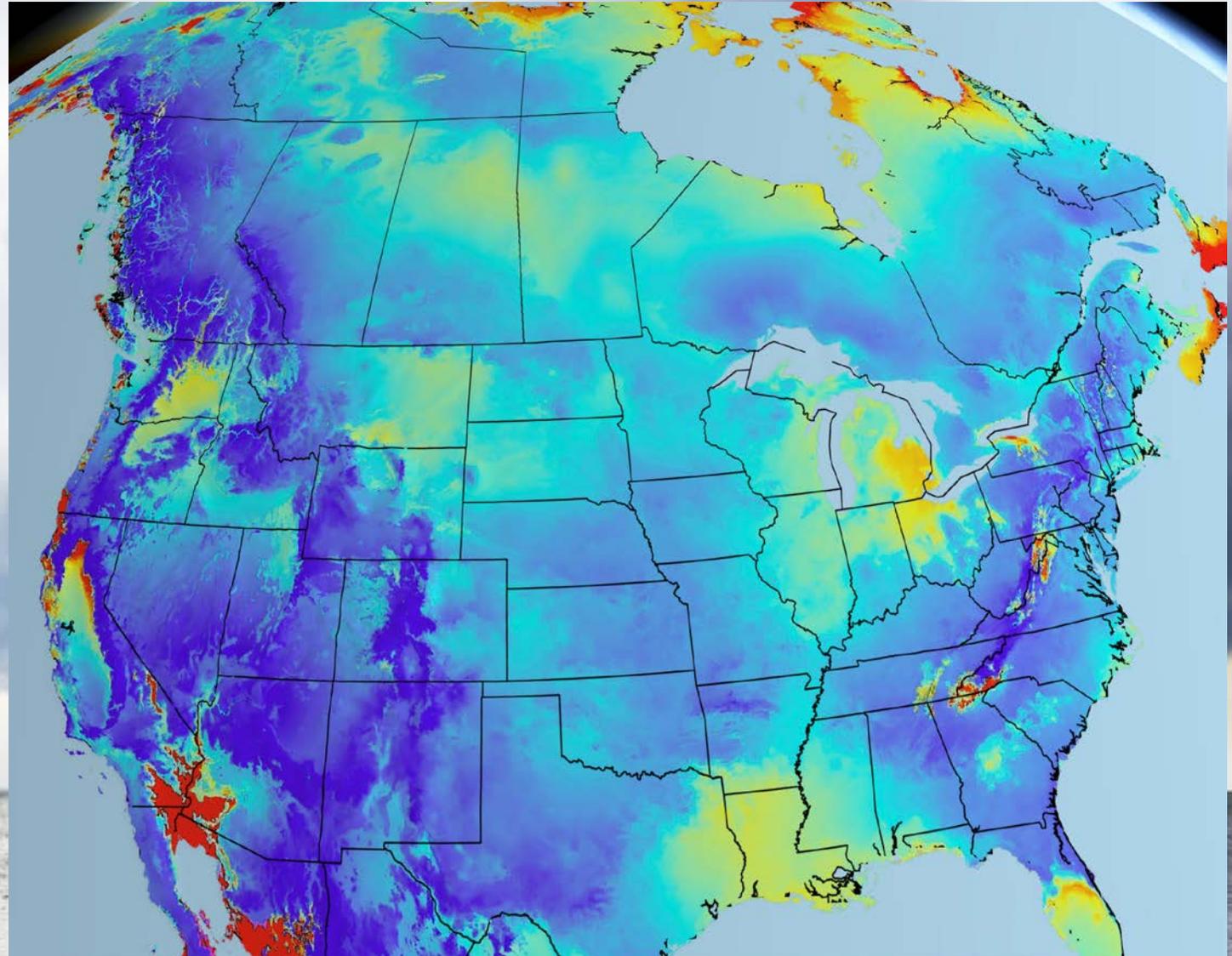
Data available [here](#).



# Backward climatic velocity

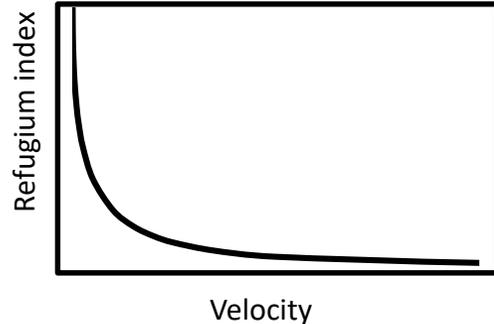
**Backward velocity** represents the distance and rate at which organisms adapted to a location's future climate will need to move to reach that location, and reflects a location's ability to serve as a refugium for species and ecosystems.

Backward velocity (data available [here](#)) is generally low in alpine areas, because adapted organisms can reach the site from nearby downslope locations. Values are often high in valley bottom habitat because organisms must travel longer distances to colonize these locally new habitat conditions.

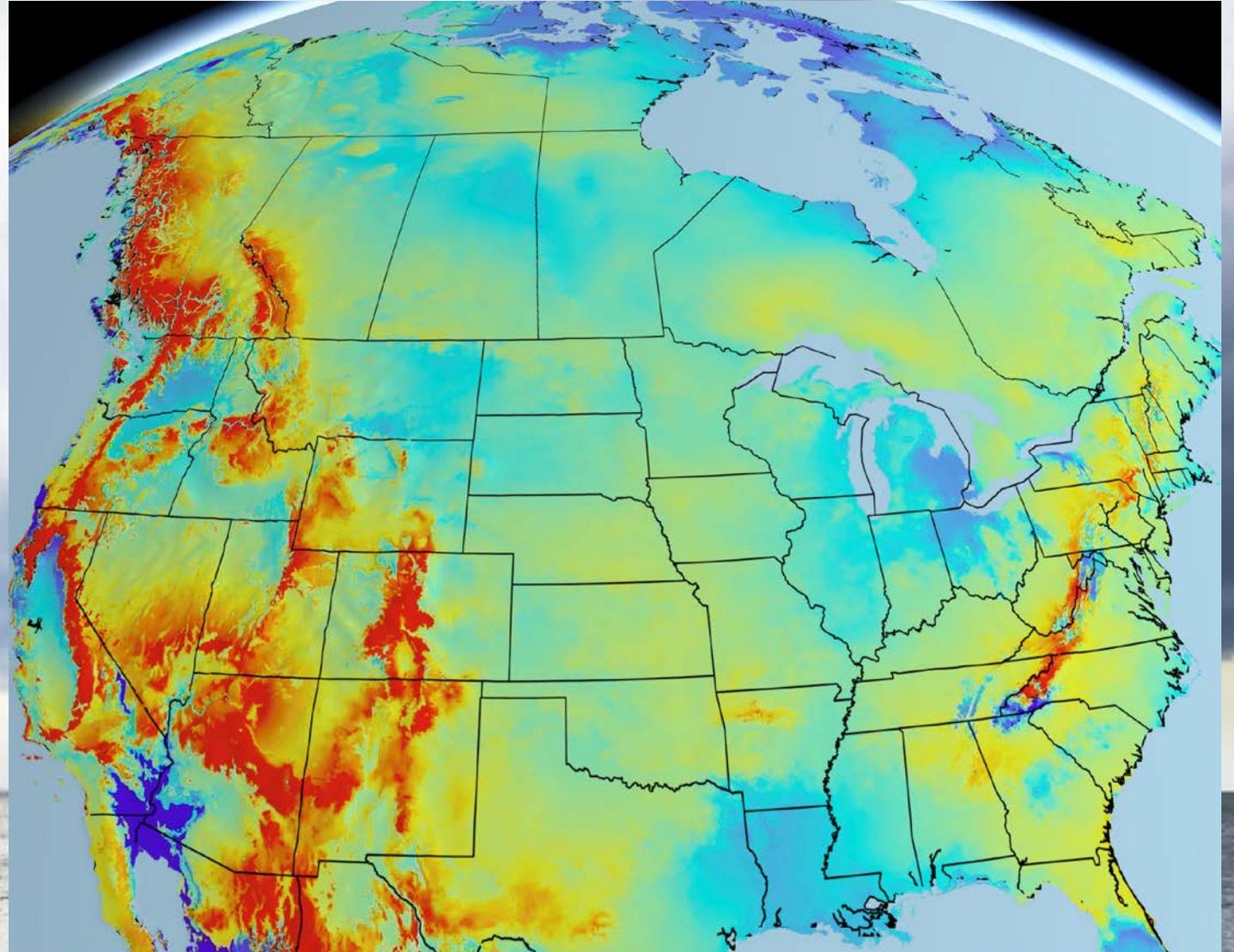


# Climatic-velocity-based refugia

Areas with low backward climatic velocity will have higher values as refugia, so we transform velocity values to a [refugia index](#) by multiplying the log transformation of velocity by negative 1. A log transformation is used because we are most interested in variation in the index at relatively low velocity values.

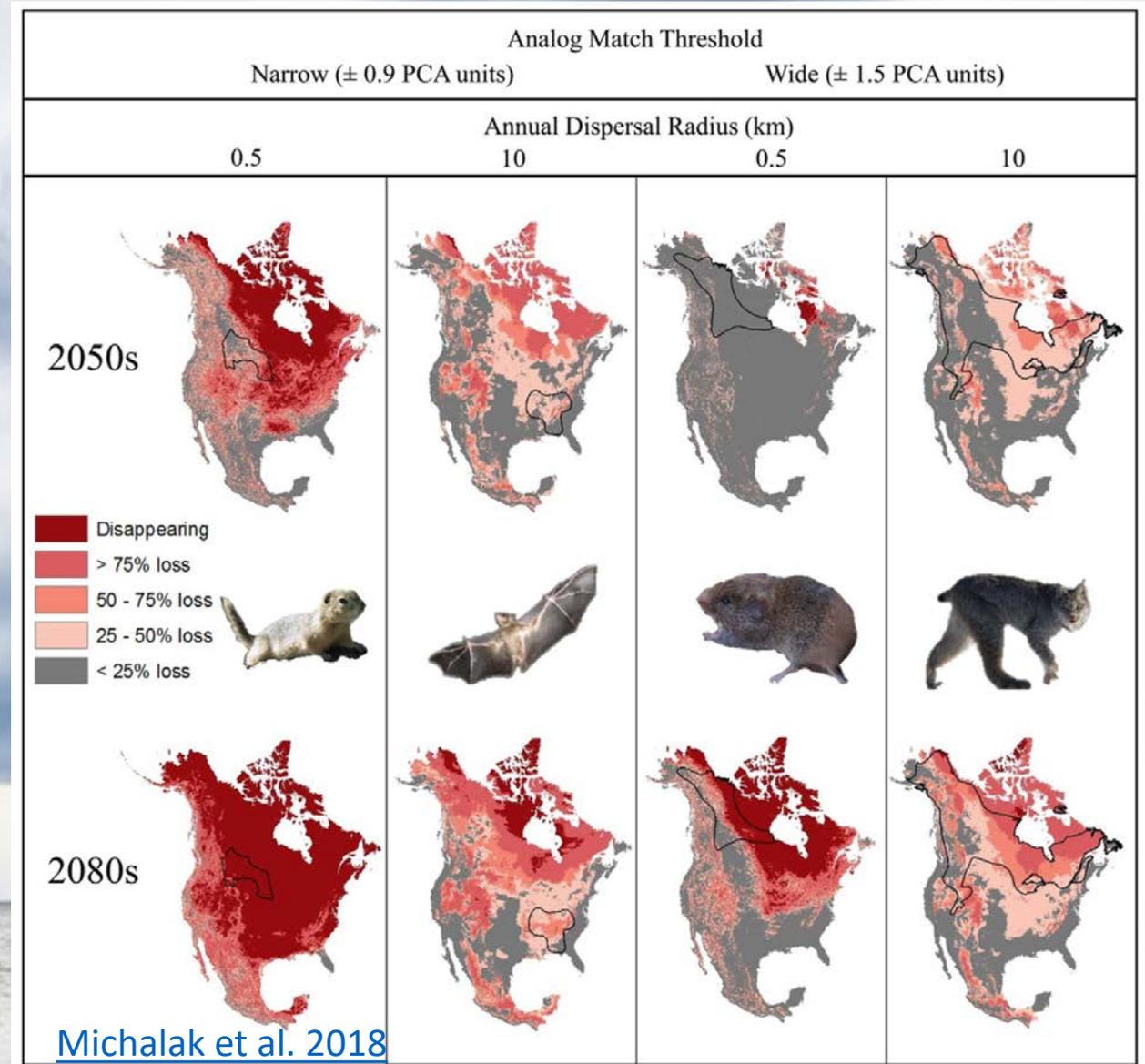


Carroll et al. 2017, Stralberg et al. 2018



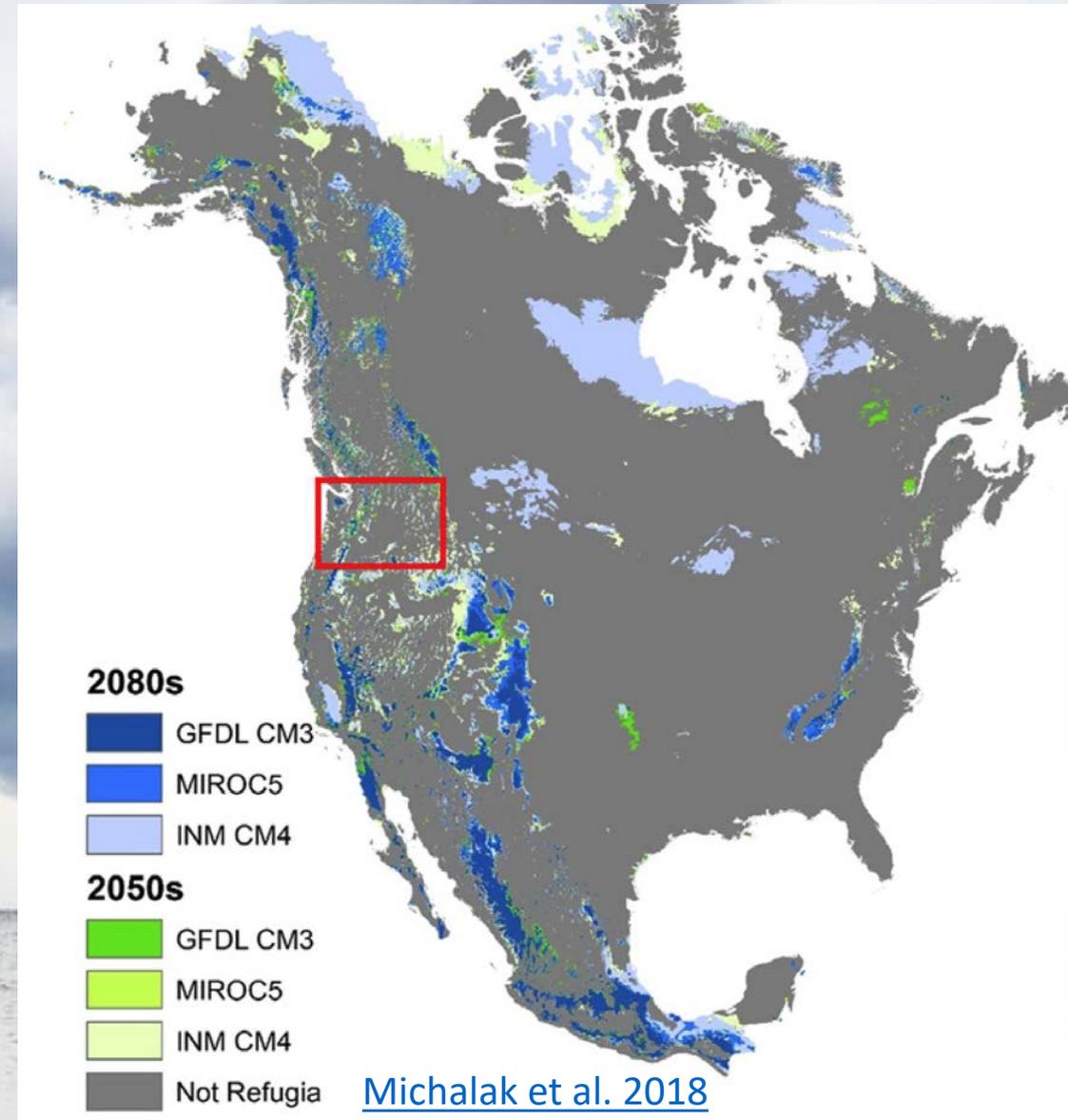
# Coarse-filter refugia informed by ecological parameters

[Michalak et al. 2018](#) used biologically derived thresholds to define climate types based on average climate niche widths for a large group of species. The study also limited the maximum distance at which matching climate types could occur to be considered in refugia calculations, based on dispersal rates for 4 example species types.



# Coarse-filter refugia informed by ecological parameters

Refugia extent varied depending on the analog threshold, dispersal distance, and climate projection. However, in all cases refugia were concentrated at high elevations and in topographically complex regions. This is an example of a hybrid approach using coarse-filter methods that are informed by fine-filter information summarized from groups of species. Data are available [here](#).

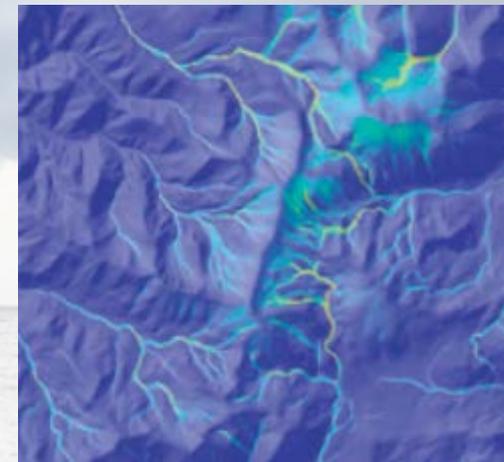
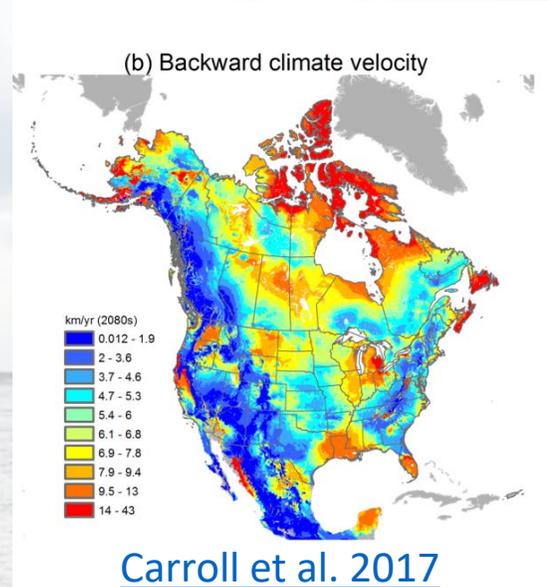


# Refugia (areas of species persistence under climate change) span a range of spatial scales

Refugia characteristics

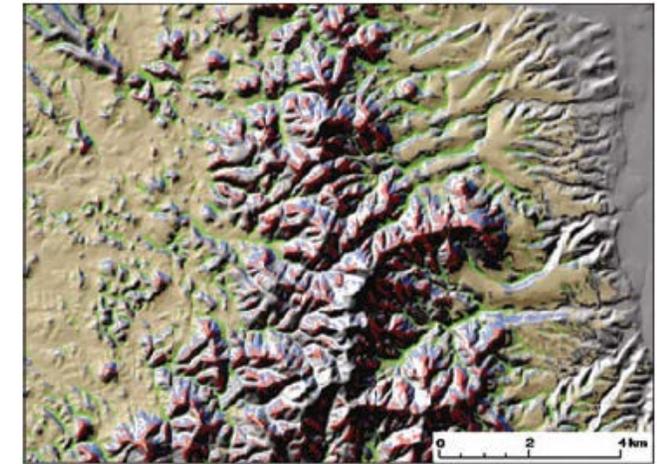
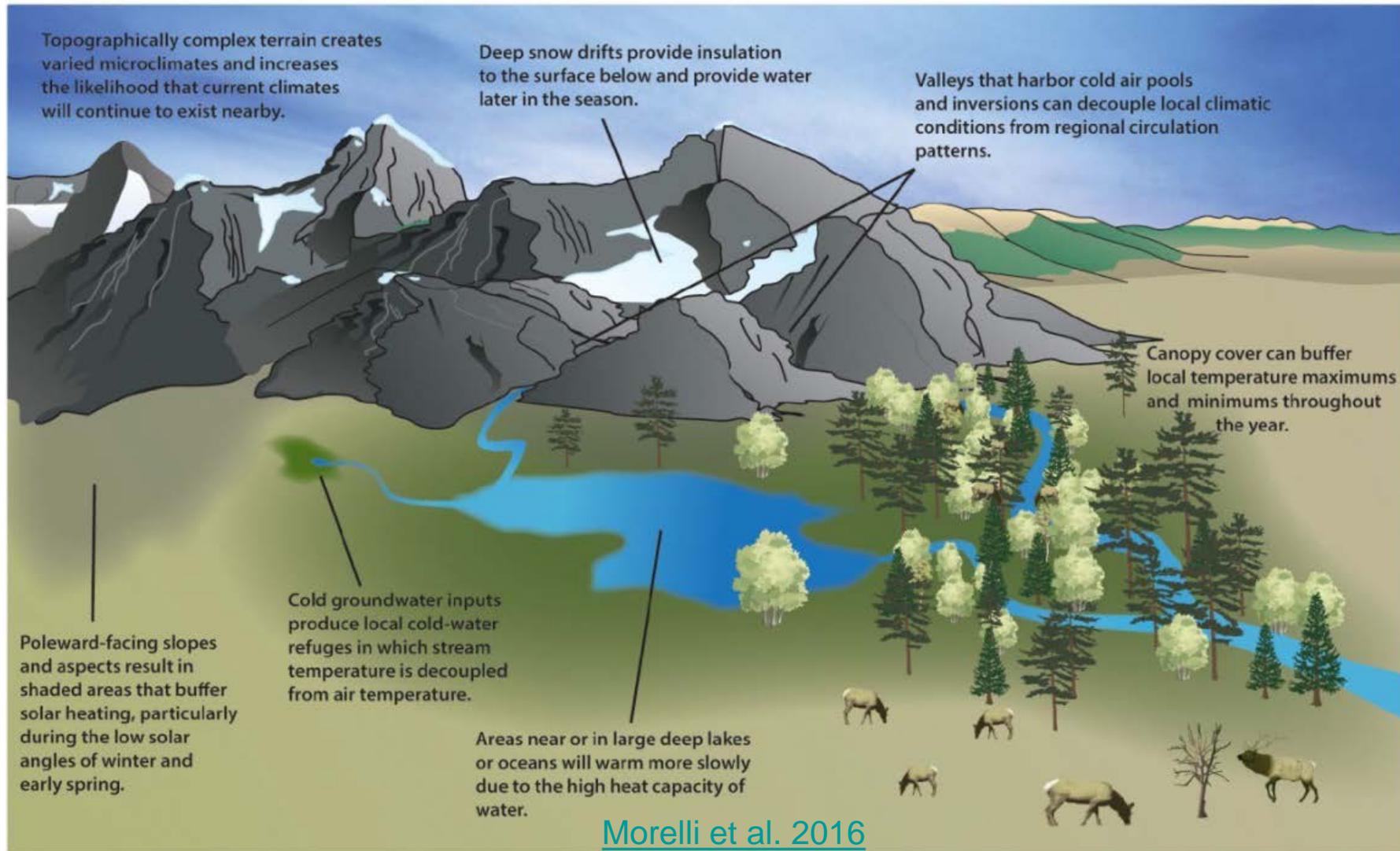
Macro-scale  
In-situ or Ex-situ  
Long-term

Micro-scale  
In-situ  
Transitional



[Dobrowski 2011](#)

# Micro-scale climate refugia driven by terrain-related factors

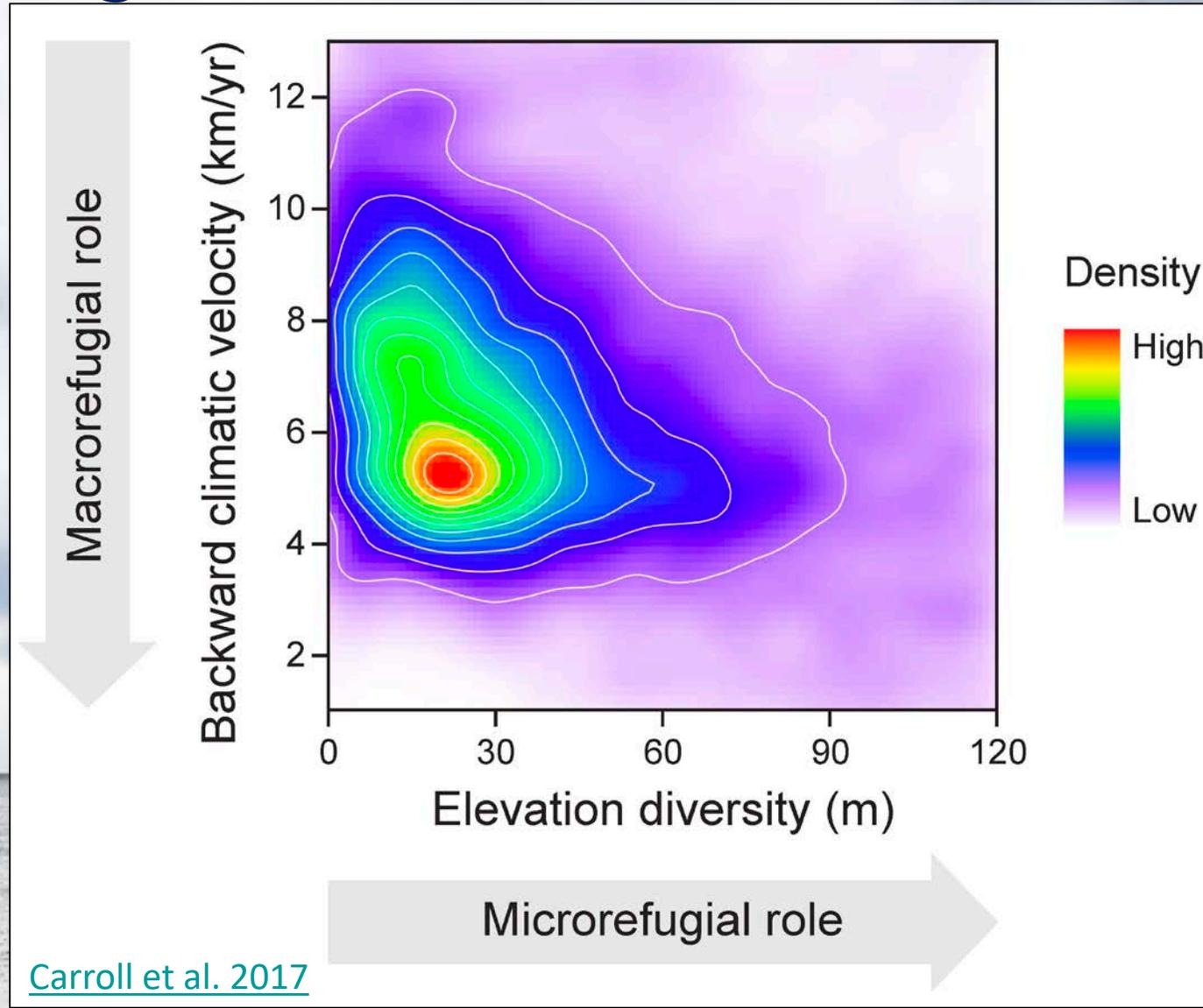


Low-elevation, gentle canyons    Low-elevation, gentle, mid-insolation slopes  
Mid-elevation, steep ridges    Steep, low-insolation slopes

[Beier and Brost 2010](#)



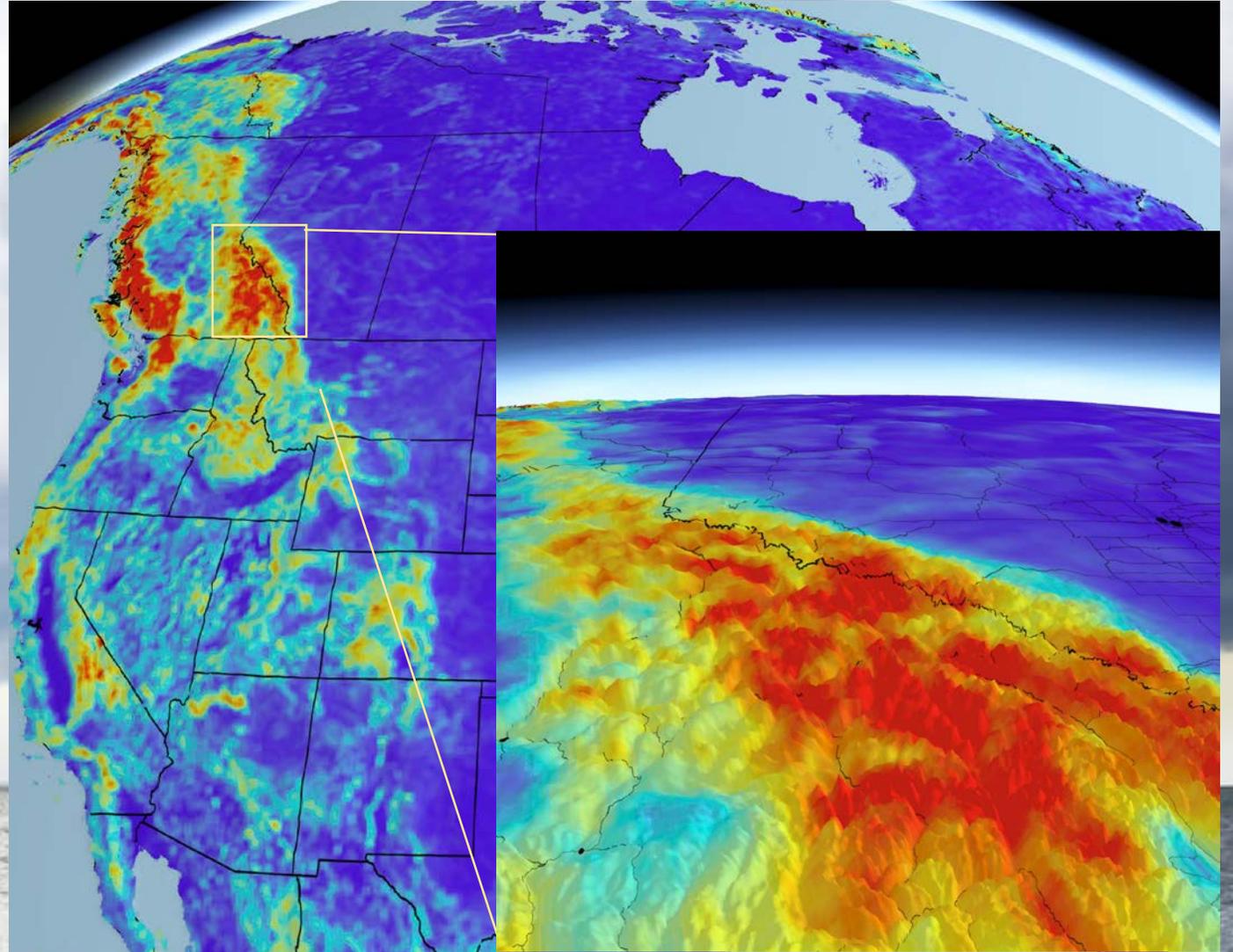
Microrefugia occur both within and outside of macro-refugia (areas of lowest climate velocity)



# Topographic and environmental diversity as a proxy for microrefugia

Species distributions, communities, ecosystems, and broader patterns of biodiversity are known to be influenced by abiotic drivers such as soils, geology, and topography.

Topographic diversity (**topodiversity**) data are useful for identifying areas where a heterogeneous physical environment (e.g., steep elevation gradients or diverse aspects) increases the likelihood that species will be able to find nearby suitable habitat as climate changes. Data available [here](#).



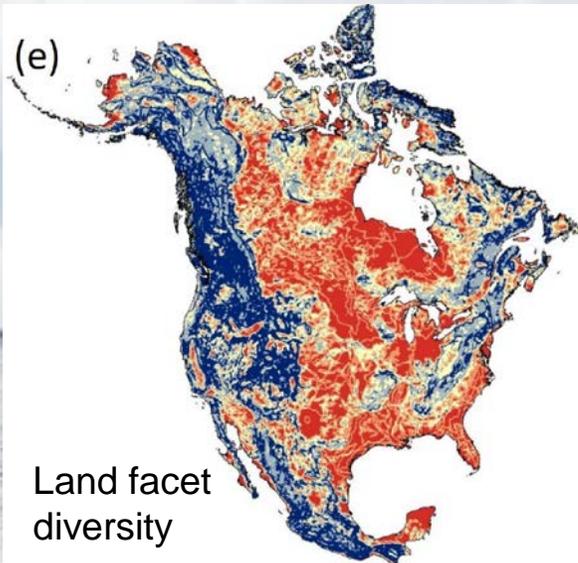
Topodiversity

# Land facets and topofacets

Land facets are habitat types derived from soils and topography data. The “Conserving Nature’s Stage” or “Enduring Features” approach seeks to protect a diversity of physical habitat types in order to foster a diversity of biota in the future

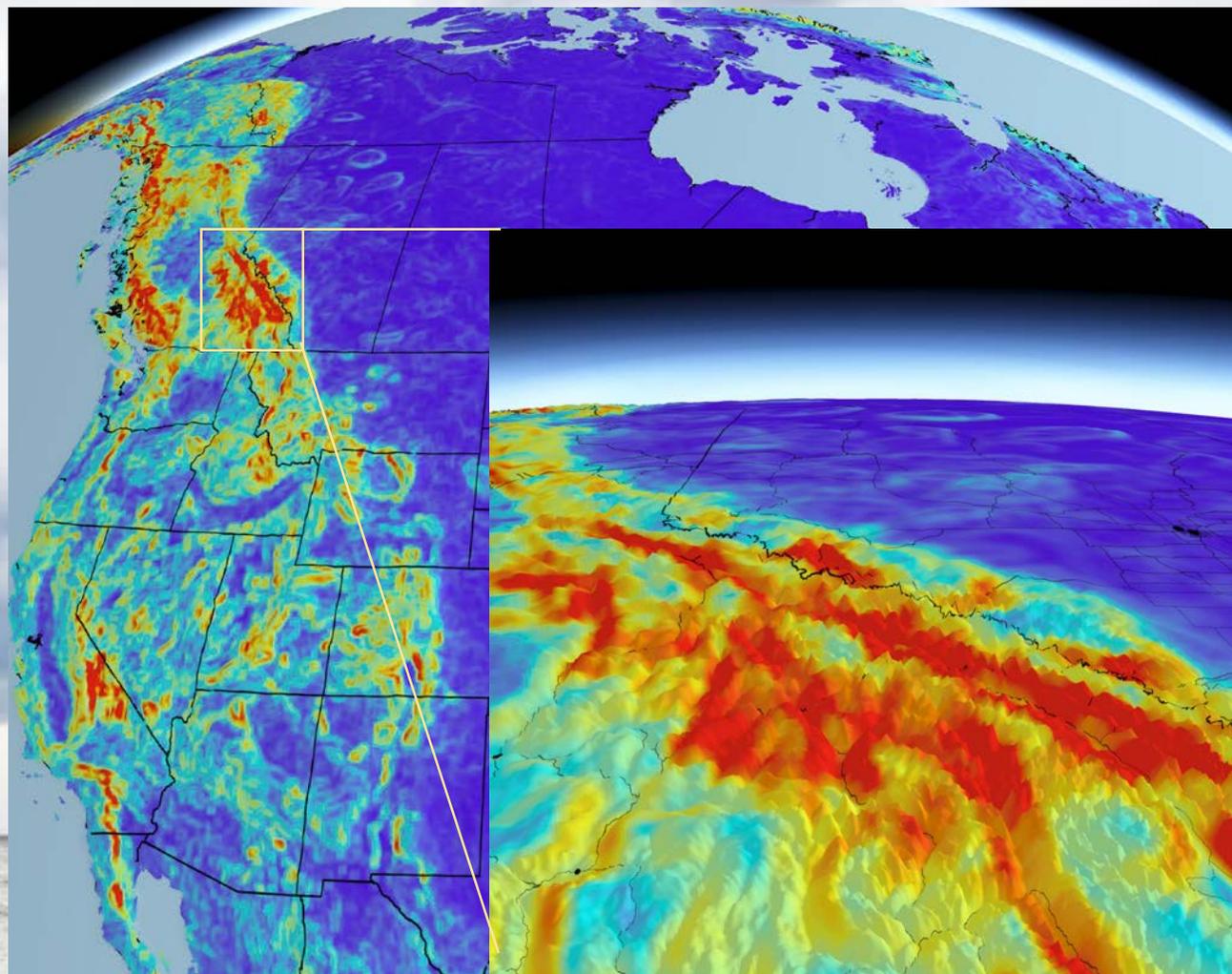
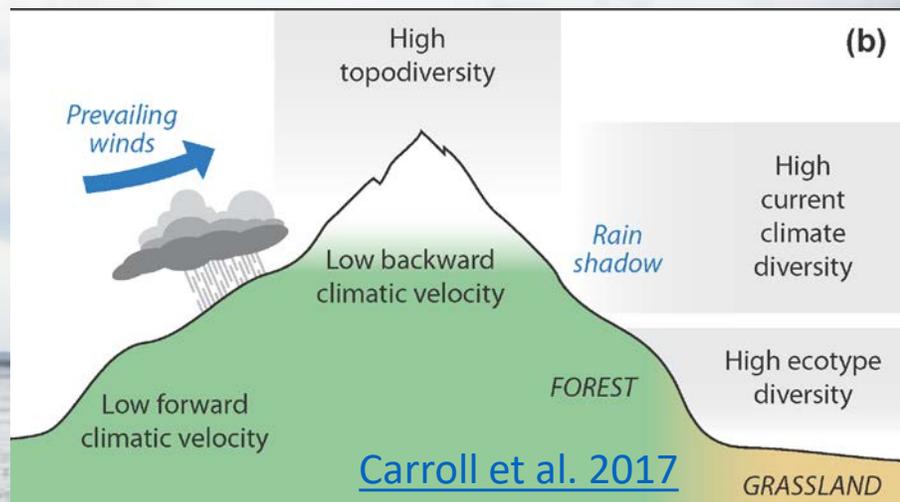
AdaptWest facet data for North America at 100m resolution (data available [here](#)) are based on landform, heatload index, and elevation (topofacets) with the addition of soils and geologic data for landfacets.

Facet-based environmental diversity metrics (data available [here](#)) show the number of facet types within a spatial neighborhood, via the Gini-Simpson diversity index.



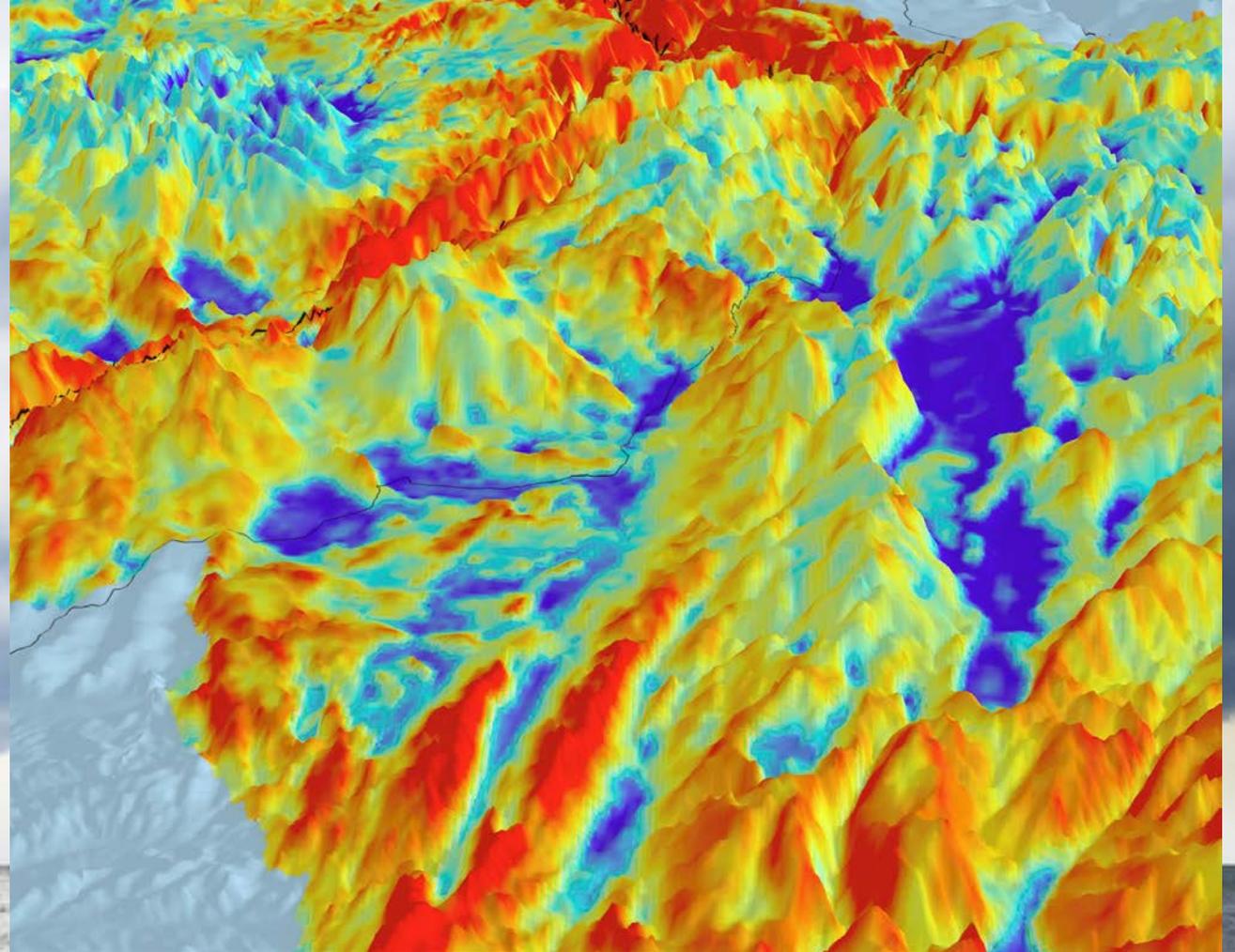
# Climatic environmental diversity

Local **climatic diversity** additionally highlights areas (such as in the southwest US) with strong precipitation gradients (rainshadows) and other effects from global circulation systems. These gradients are extrapolated from the network of local weather observation data based on ClimateNA's local regression functions and PRISM modeling of the influence of terrain on climate. Thus, in contrast to topodiversity, climatic diversity is influenced by both macro- and micro-scale factors. Data available [here](#).



# Fine-scale modeling of microclimate

Even when high-resolution topographic data are available for downscaling of climate projections, the regression models used by ClimateNA and PRISM cannot fully capture the complex microclimatic patterns that determine the location of microrefugia. Researchers at the University of Montana ([Oyler et al. 2016](#), [Dobrowski 2010](#)) have developed more complex statistical models to predict microrefugia location. Additionally, as higher-resolution remotely-sensed land surface temperature data become available, it will be more feasible to directly map microrefugia.



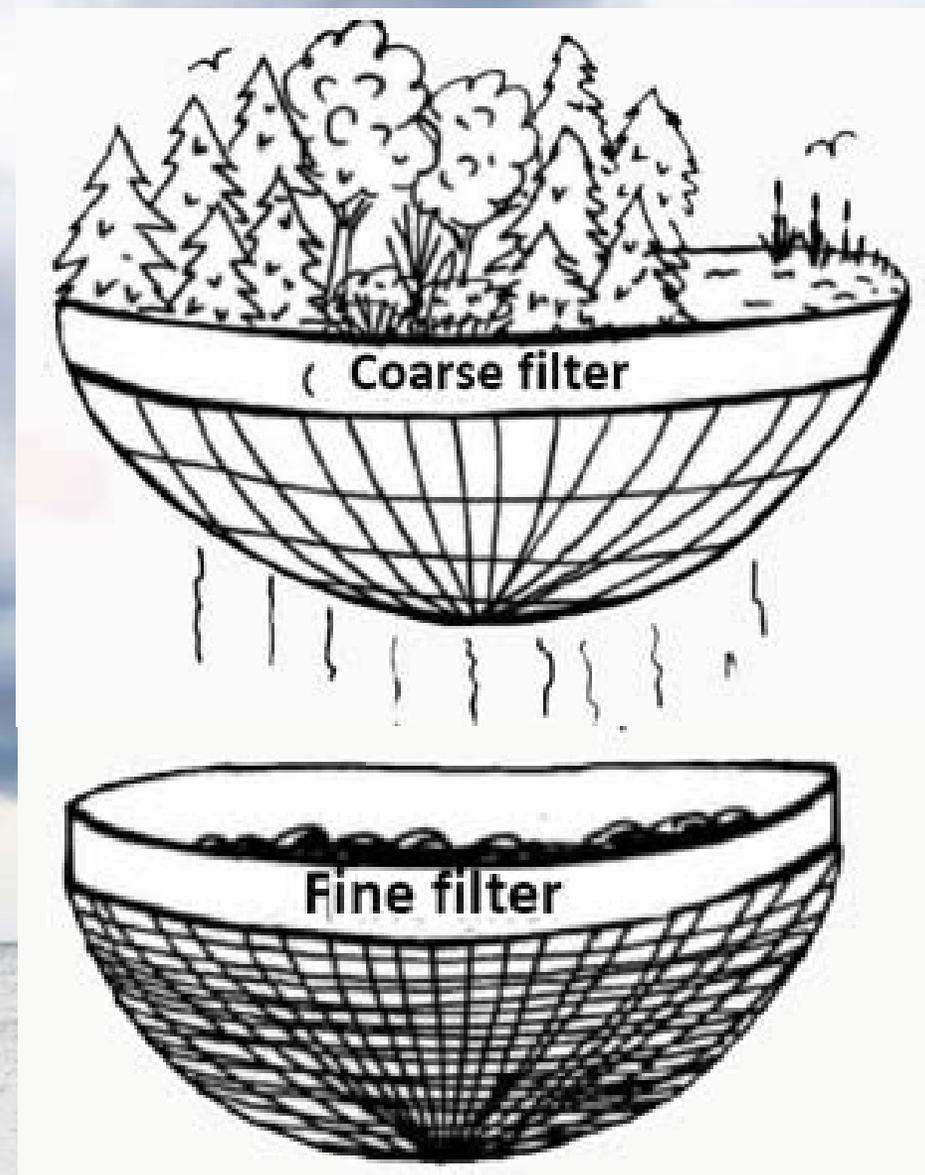
# Coarse-filter and fine-filter metrics

## Why use coarse-filter targets?

Lack of information  
about most species

## Why use fine-filter targets?

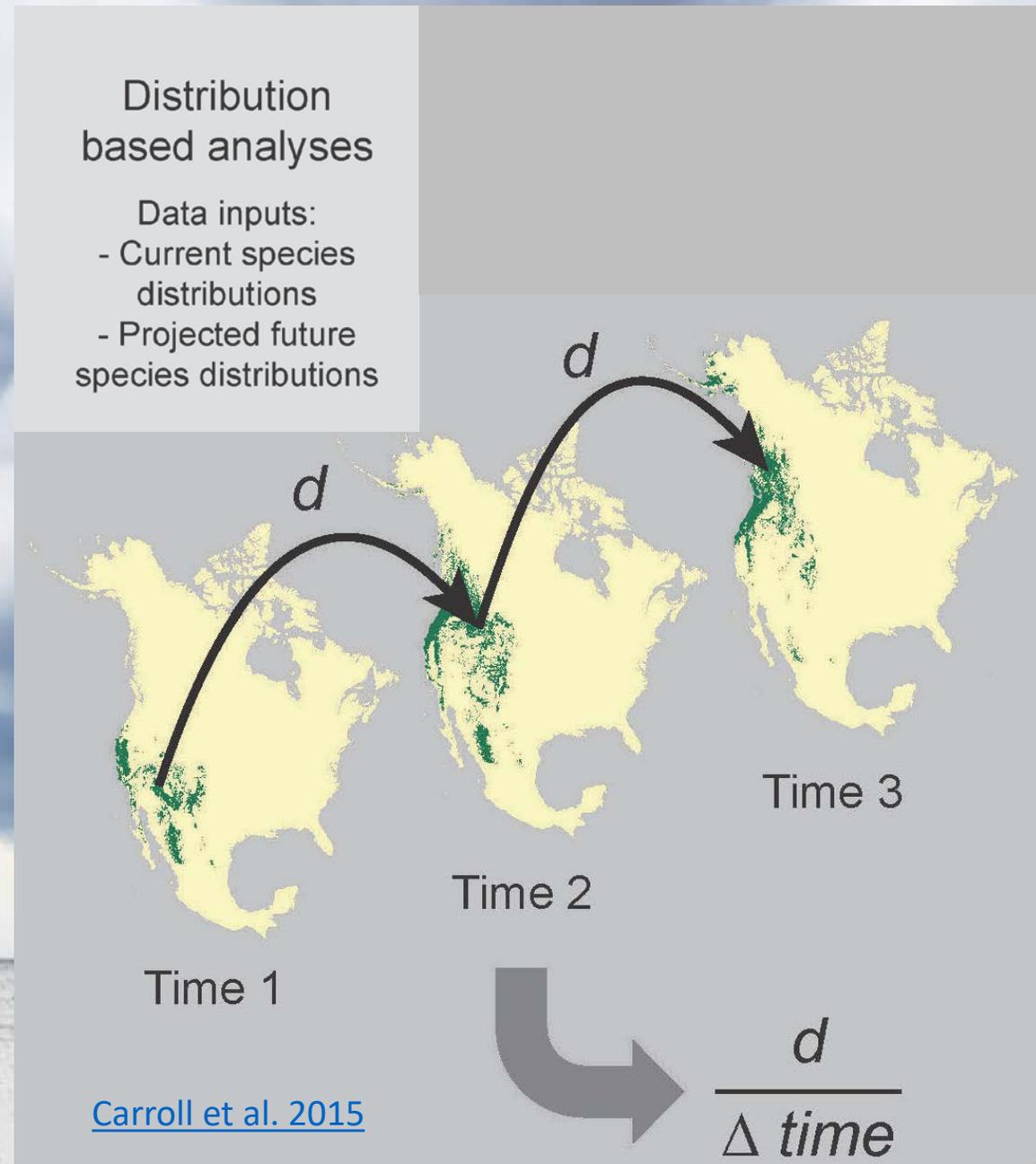
Coarse-filter surrogates  
imperfectly protect  
individual species



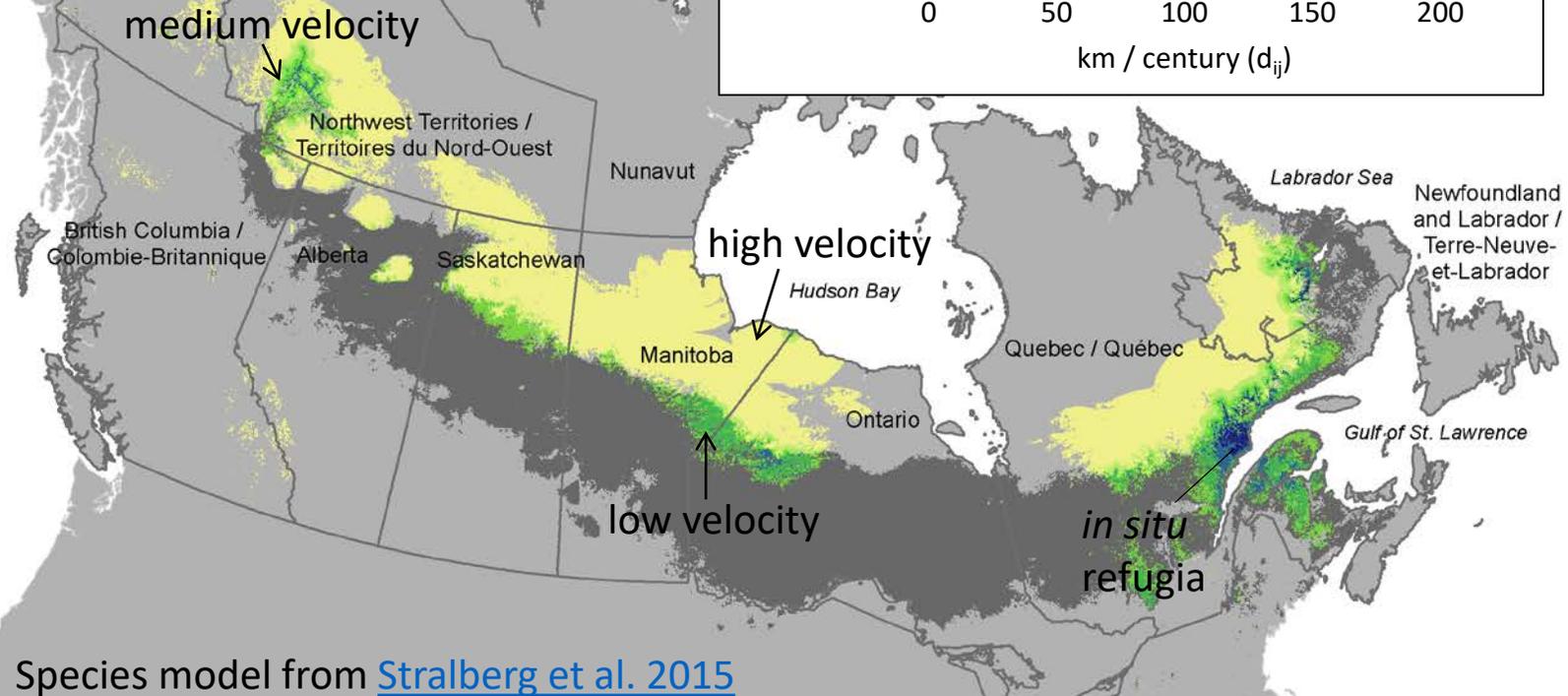
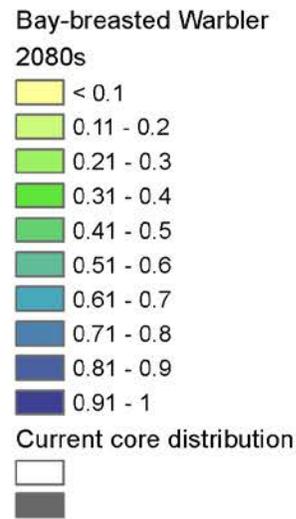
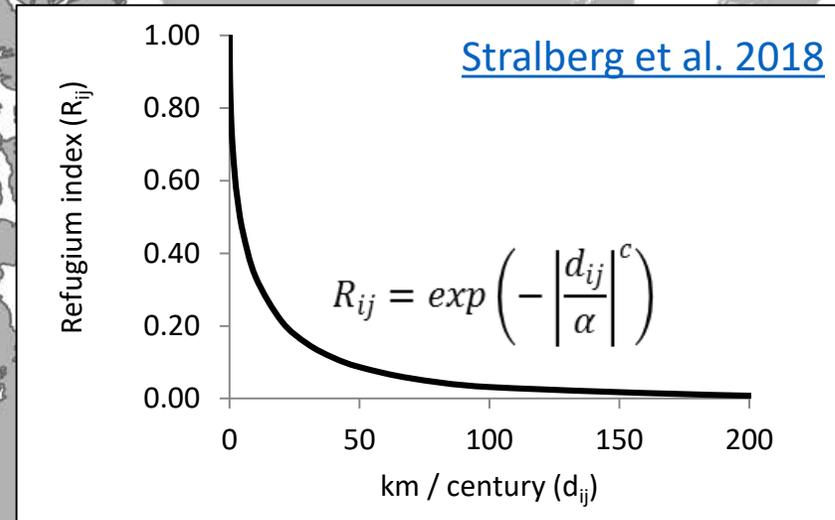
# Biotic velocity

**Biotic velocity** is a metric that combines data from climate projections with data on the distributions of individual species. Climatic niche models based on correlations between species distributions and current climatic conditions are then projected forward to predict distribution under future climates. Biotic velocity represents the distance between a site and the nearest site projected to be climatically suitable for the species under future projected climates.

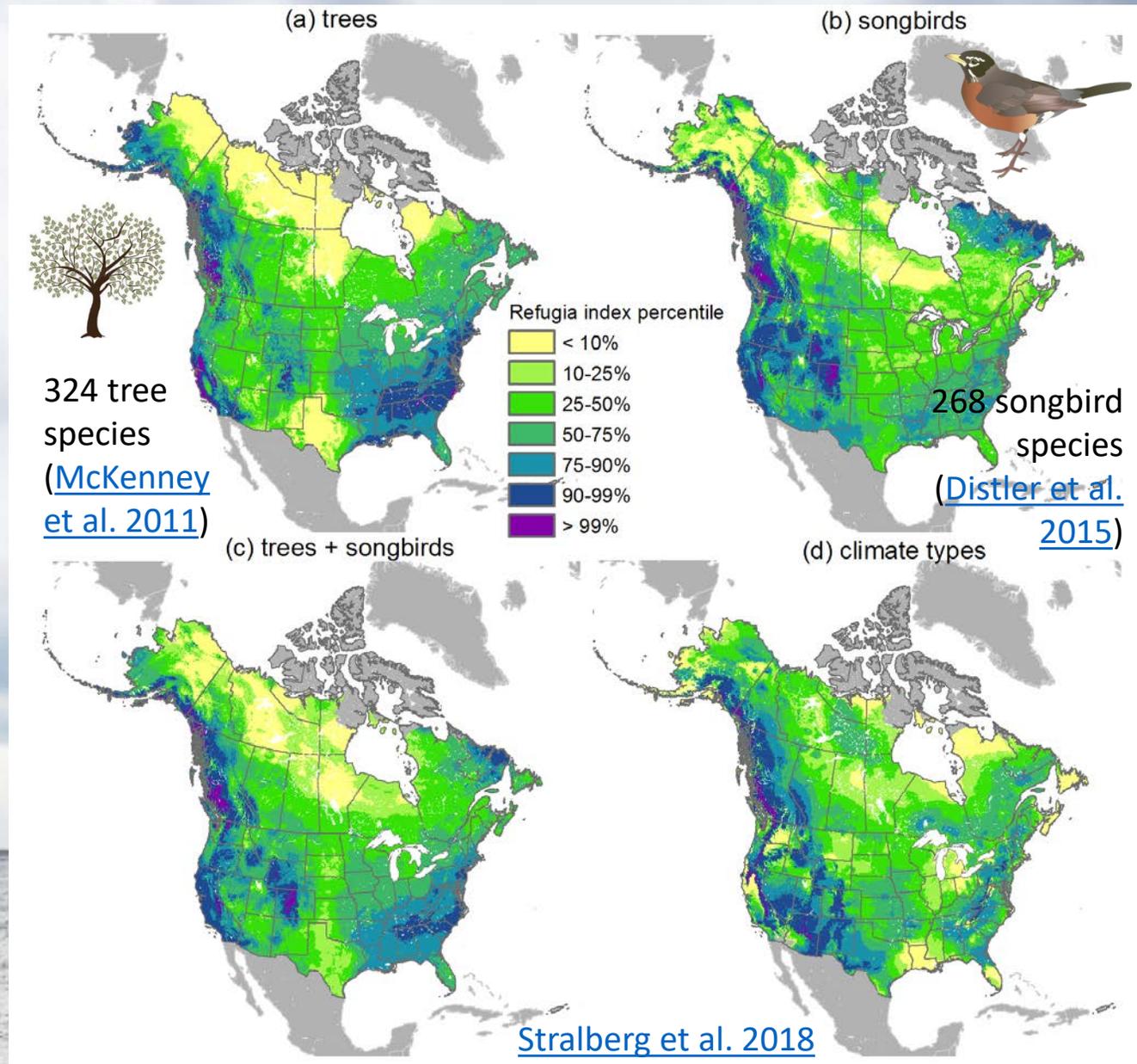
Biotic velocities provide a lower estimate of migration requirements than does climatic velocity because the metric assumes local populations can adapt to any climatic conditions found within the full range of the species current distribution. The metric can be reported on a per-species basis or averaged across a taxa group.



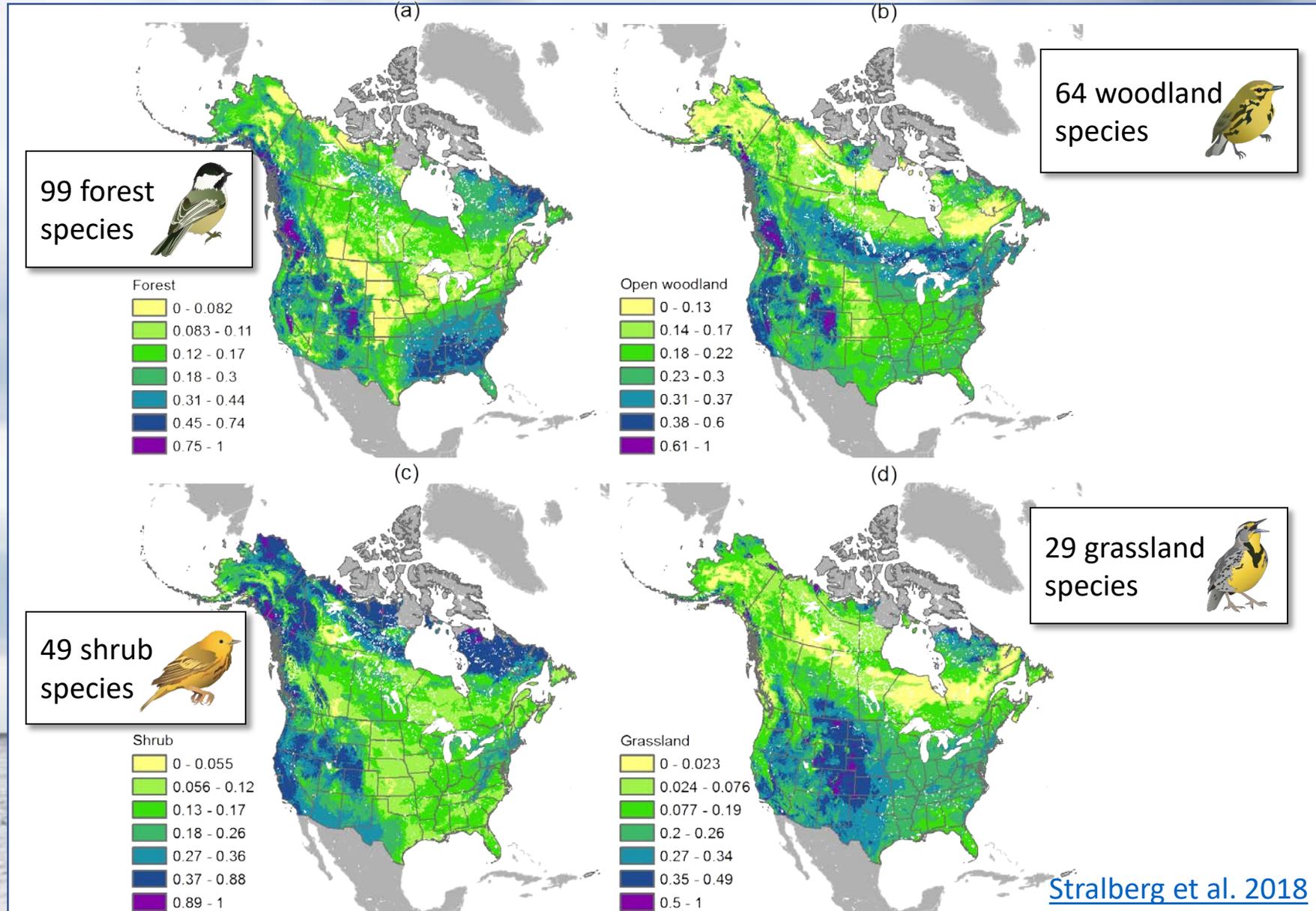
# Backward biotic velocity provides a species-specific refugia index



# Refugia locations vary between trees and songbirds



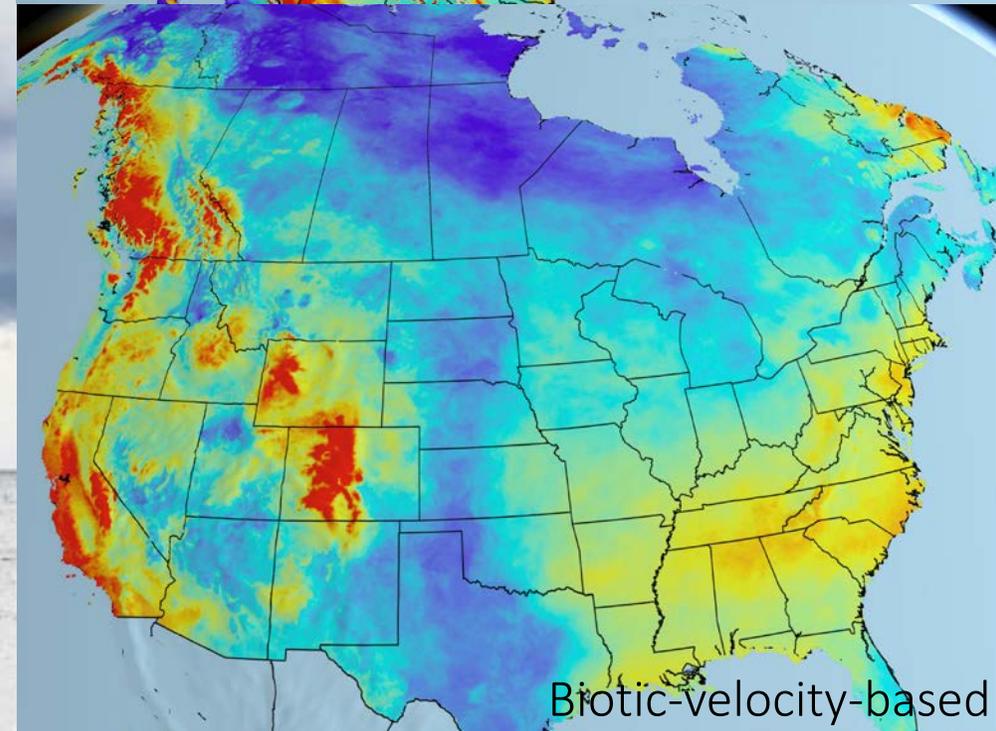
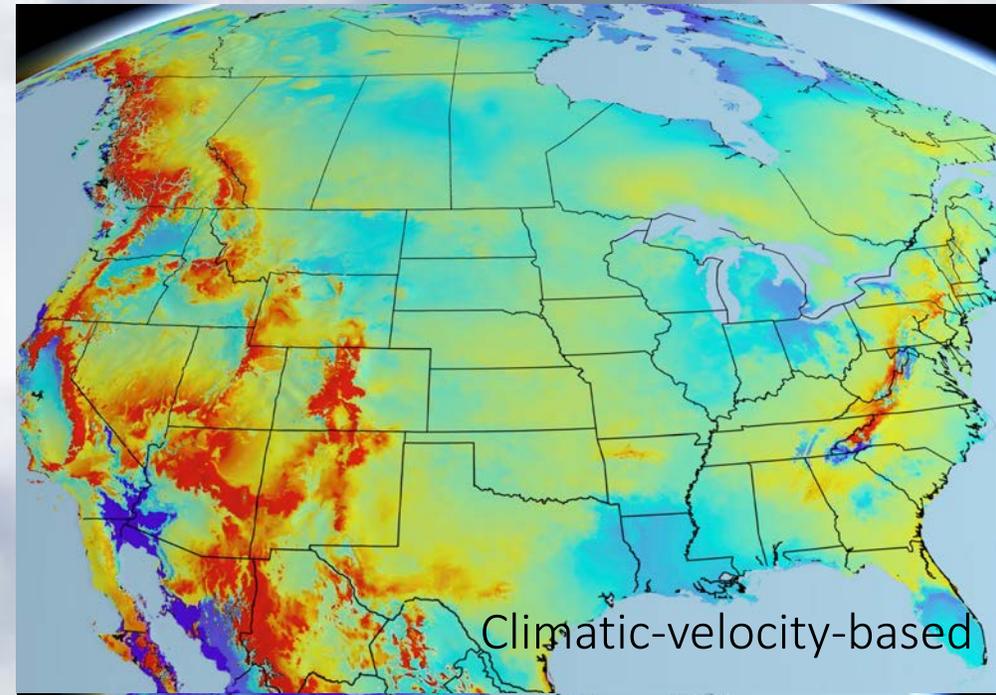
# And between different songbird habitat groups



# Climatic- vs biotic-velocity-based refugia

When compared to refugia defined by low climatic velocity, biotic velocity highlights the influence of biogeographic factors (including past refugia locations) which have made certain regions, such as California and the southern Appalachians, more biodiverse than expected based on climate alone.

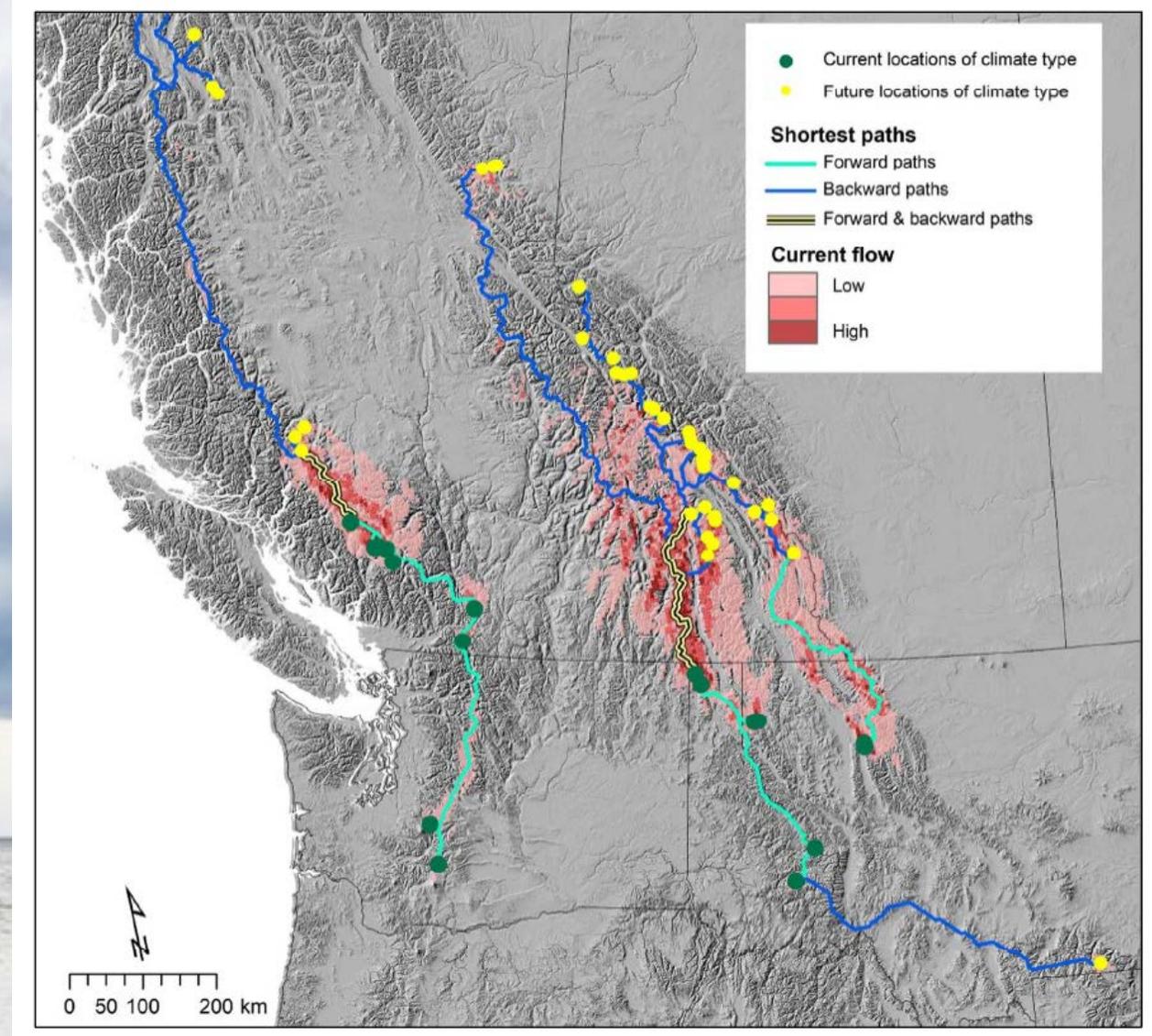
Biotic-velocity-based refugia vary depending on the species considered. They are shown here as based on the 592 songbird and tree species analyzed in [Stralberg et al. 2018](#).



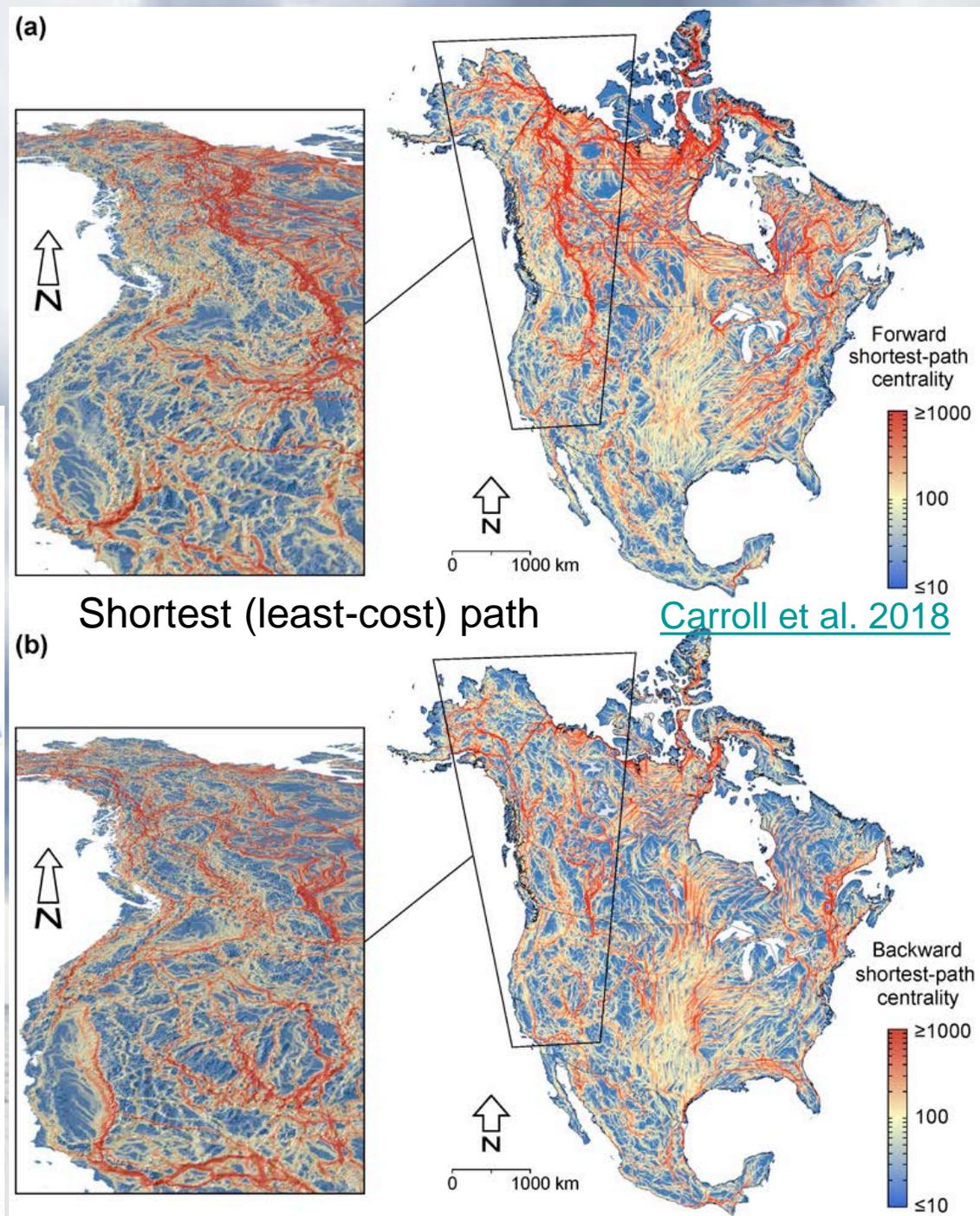
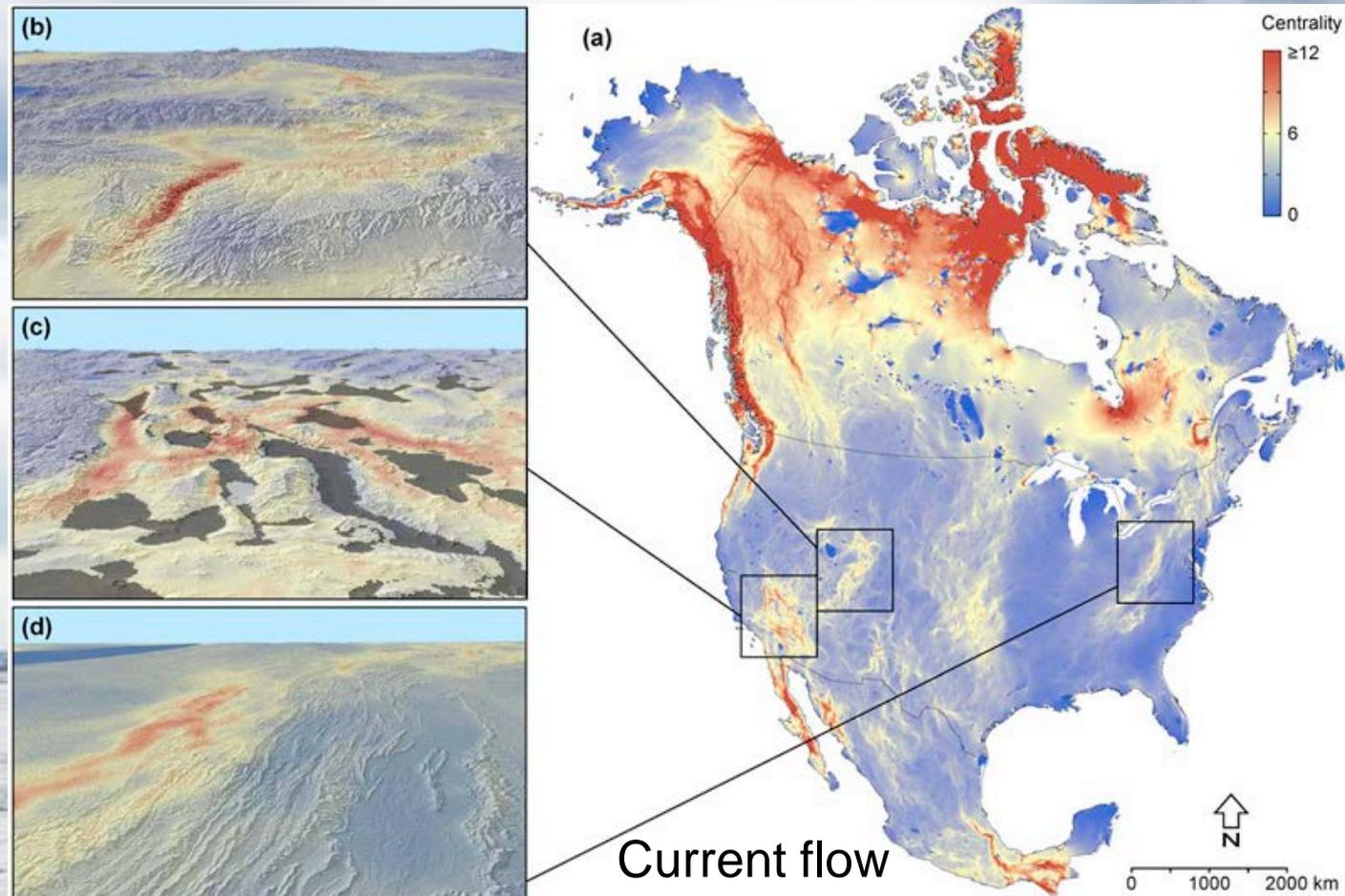
# Climatic connectivity - protecting areas needed for movement in response to climate change

The persistence of many species under climate change will depend on areas that facilitate dispersal to newly climatically suitable habitat. Climate connectivity areas are distinct from refugia and thus poorly captured by many existing conservation strategies.

[Carroll et al. 2018](#) used *centrality* metrics to identify areas where many potential dispersal paths overlap.



# Several methods exist for identifying climate corridors



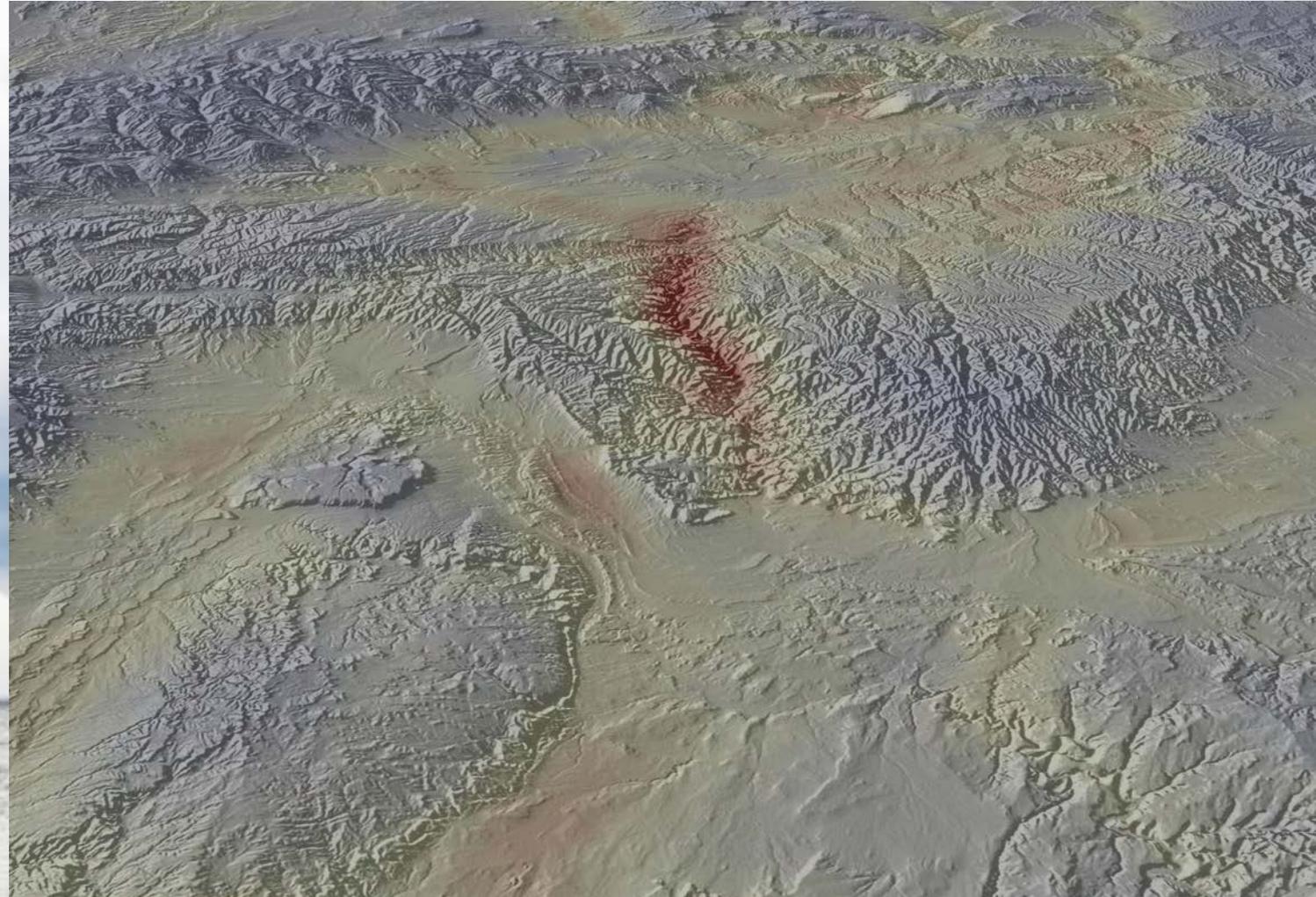
# Broad-scale topography and climate influence connectivity paths

Dispersal paths are often funneled by topography into north-south trending passes and valley systems, such as the pass on the right in northern Utah.

Climate connectivity paths also tend to avoid areas of novel and disappearing climates.

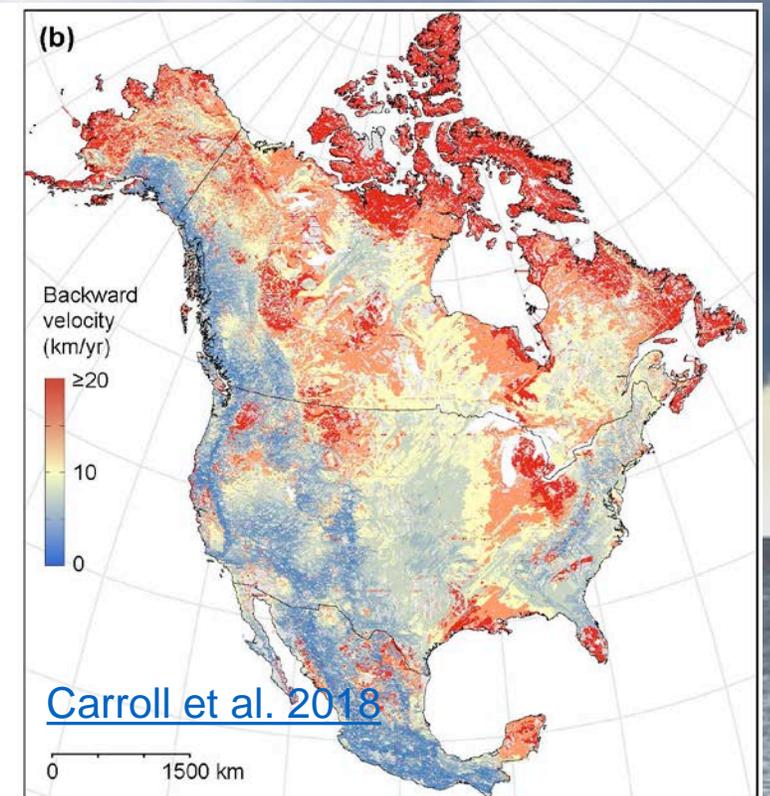
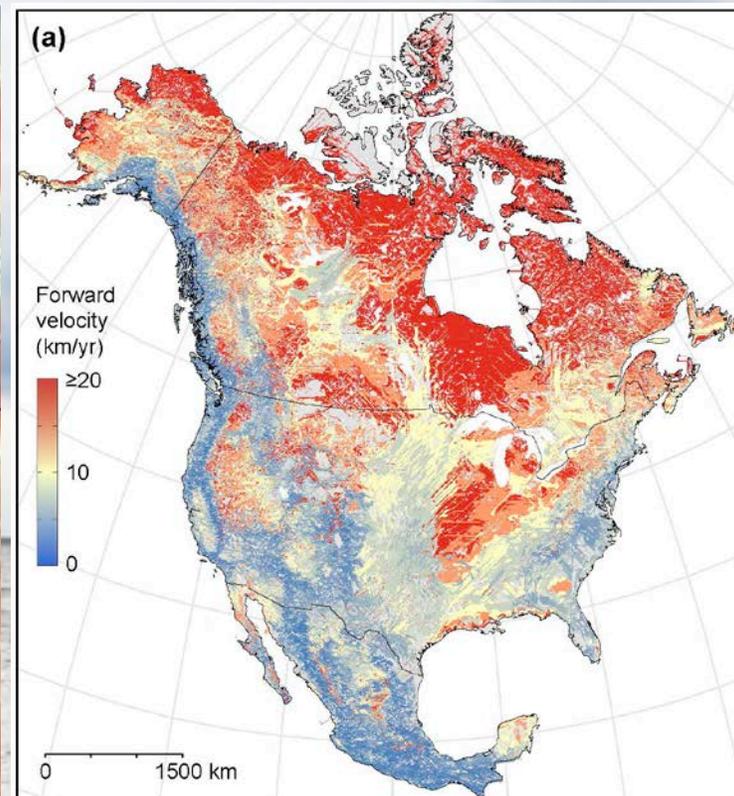
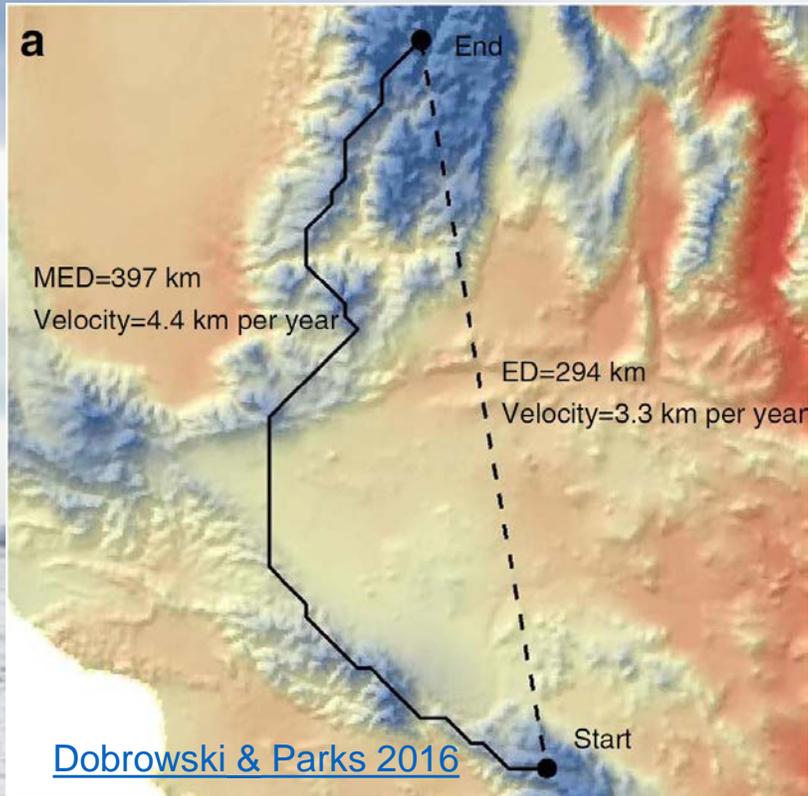
Human landuses may further constrain the ability of species to disperse through these areas.

Data available [here](#).



# Least-cost-path-based climate velocity

Dispersal routes between current climate types and where those climates will occur in the future will rarely be straight-line paths, as is assumed when measuring standard climatic velocity. Because organisms will need to avoid hostile climates, these routes will often be circuitous. [Dobrowski and Parks 2016](#) developed a more realistic measure of climatic velocity that is based on this circuitous route rather than a straight-line path ([data here](#)).

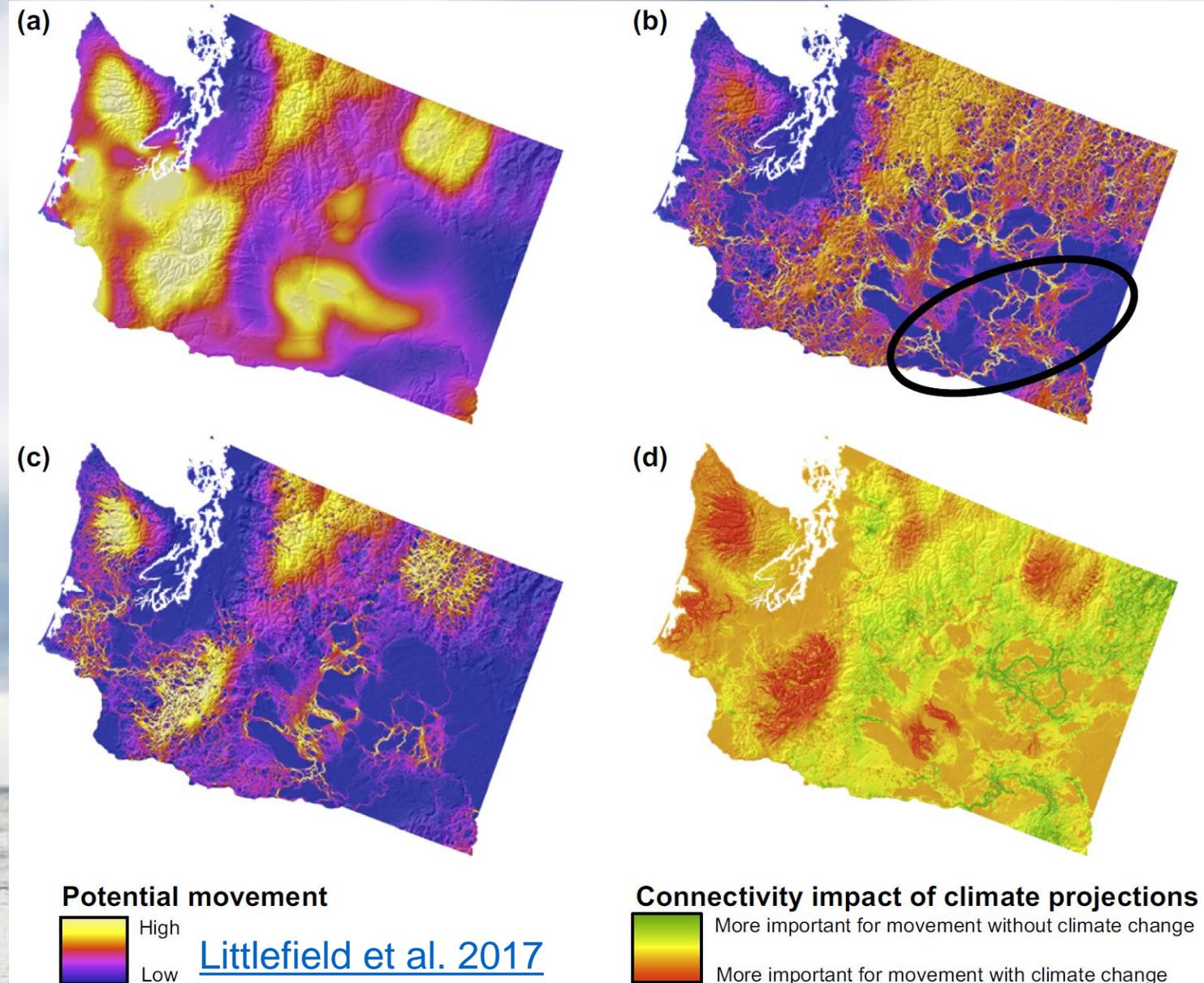


# An alternative approach for mapping climate connectivity areas

[Littlefield et al. 2017](#) built on the work of [Michalak et al. 2018](#) (discussed [above](#)) to define climate connectivity areas. In contrast to the centrality-based approach, this method limits dispersal distance based on ecological information, but increases climate type width to better reflect a “typical” species’ niche.

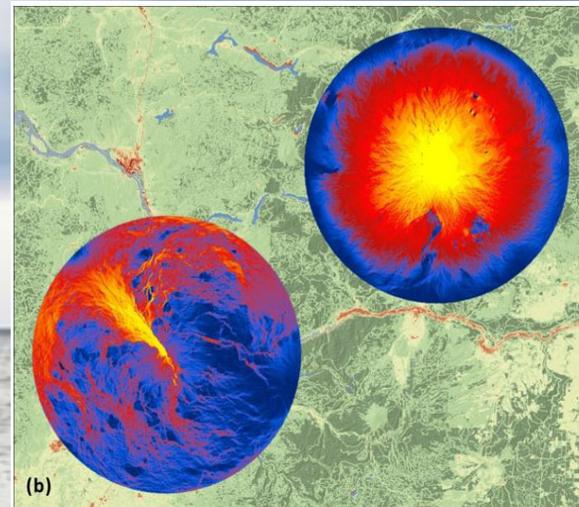
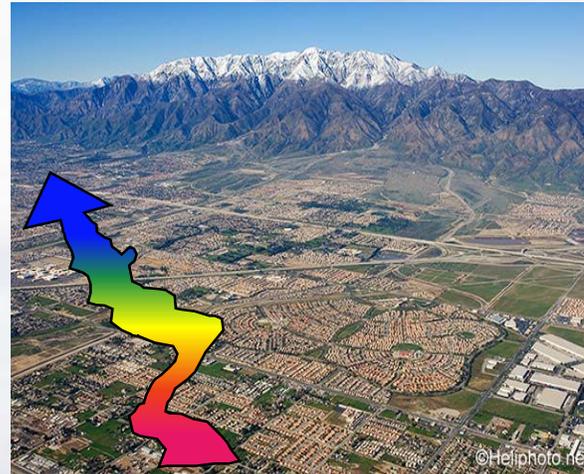
The results however are similar in demonstrating that consideration of climate change alters priorities for connectivity conservation.

Data available [here](#).



# Climate connectivity software in development

The Omniscape software developed for use in [Littlefield et al. 2017](#) is available in [beta stage code](#), but is being further developed by researchers collaborating with The Nature Conservancy and Google.



Low High

Conservation Biology

Contributed Paper

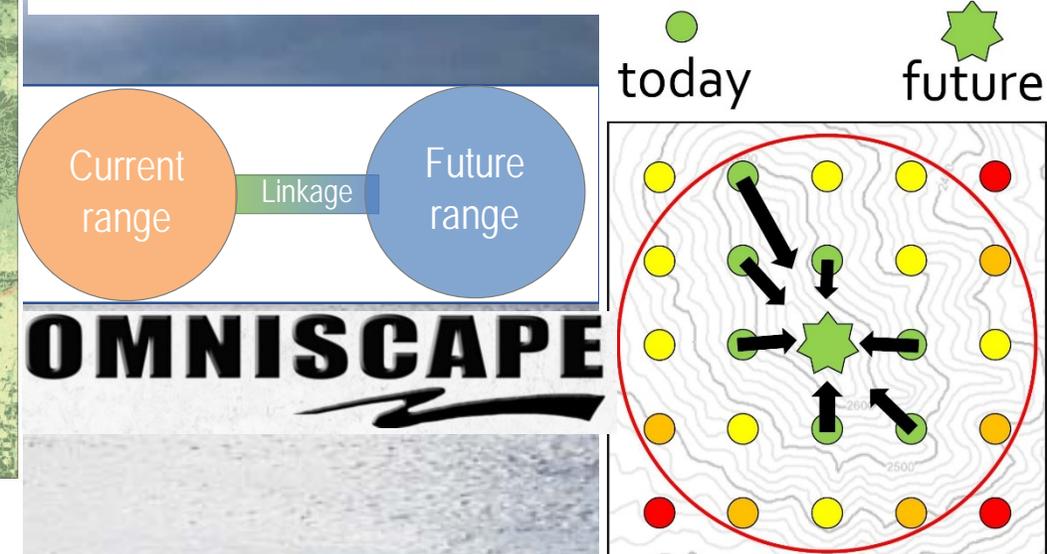
## Connecting today's climates to future climate analogs to facilitate movement of species under climate change

Caitlin E. Littlefield <sup>1\*</sup>, Brad H. McRae, <sup>2</sup> Julia L. Michalak, <sup>1</sup> Joshua J. Lawler, <sup>1</sup> and Carlos Carroll <sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>School of Environmental and Forest Sciences, University of Washington, Box 352100, Seattle, WA 98195, U.S.A.

<sup>2</sup>The Nature Conservancy, North America Region, 117 E Mountain Ave, Suite 201, Fort Collins, CO 80524, U.S.A.

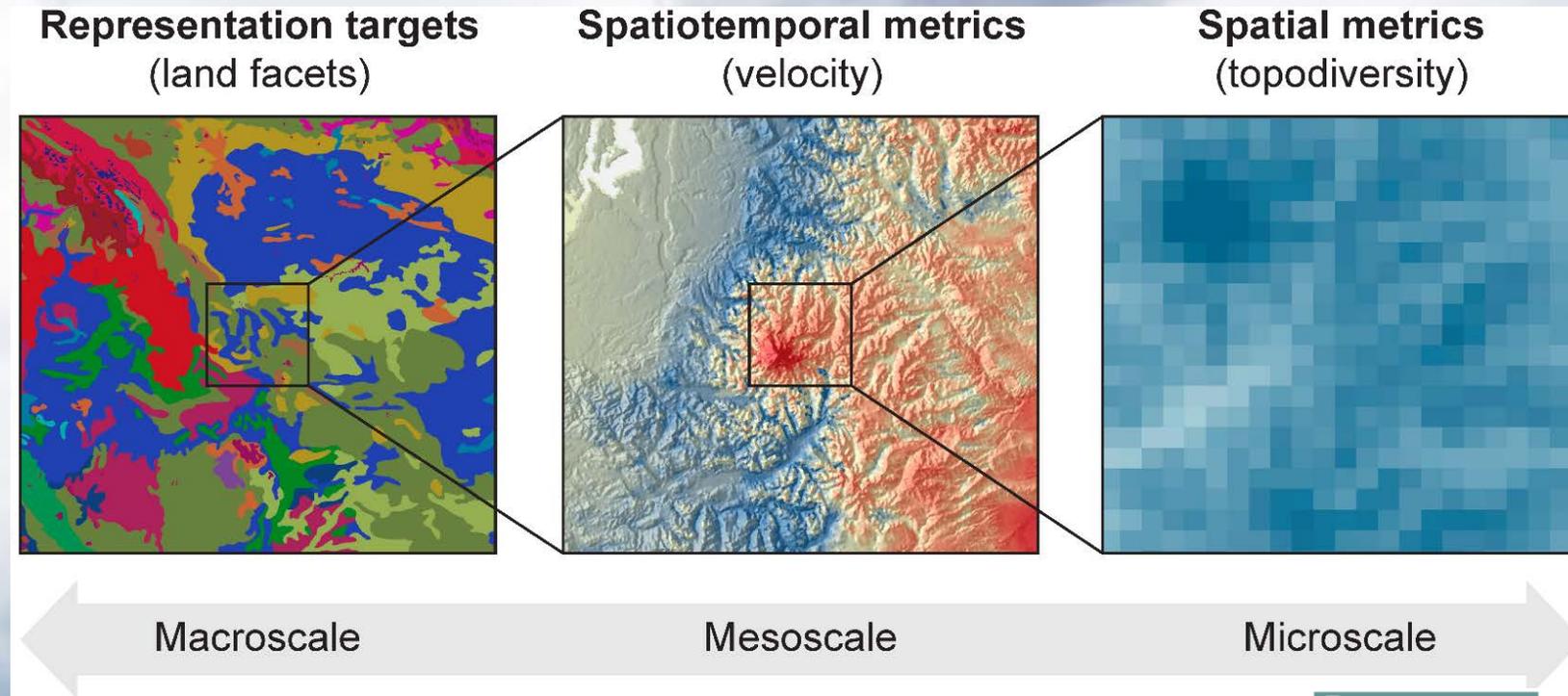
<sup>3</sup>Klamath Center for Conservation Research, Box 104, Orleans, CA 95556, U.S.A.



# Integrating metrics across spatial scales

The wide variety of climate exposure and refugia metrics can seem confusing. However, there are several ways to integrate information from diverse metrics.

Coarse-resolution velocity metrics can be combined with fine-resolution diversity metrics in order to leverage the respective strengths of the two groups of metrics as tools for identification of potential macro- and microrefugia that in combination help maximize both transient and long-term resilience to climate change.



PRIMARY RESEARCH ARTICLE

WILEY Global Change Biology

Scale-dependent complementarity of climatic velocity and environmental diversity for identifying priority areas for conservation under climate change

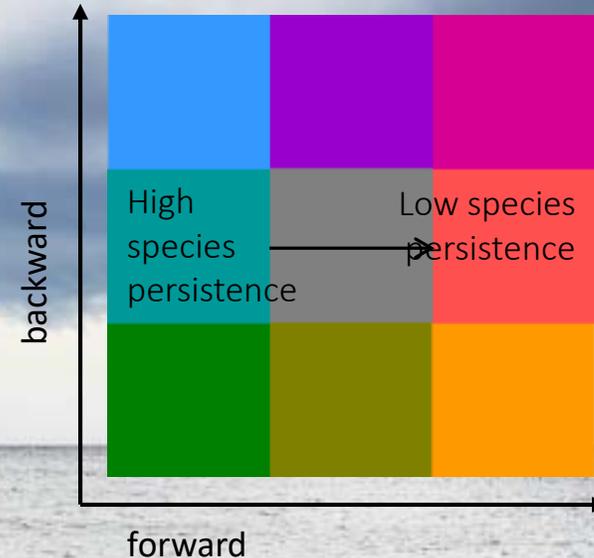
Carlos Carroll<sup>1</sup> | David R. Roberts<sup>2</sup> | Julia L. Michalak<sup>3</sup> | Joshua J. Lawler<sup>3</sup> | Scott E. Nielsen<sup>4</sup> | Diana Stralberg<sup>4</sup> | Andreas Hamann<sup>4</sup> | Brad H. Mcrae<sup>5</sup> | Tongli Wang<sup>6</sup>

[Carroll et al. 2017](#)

# Integrating multiple metrics at the same scale: Velocity-based vulnerability assessment

Climatic velocity metrics can inform:

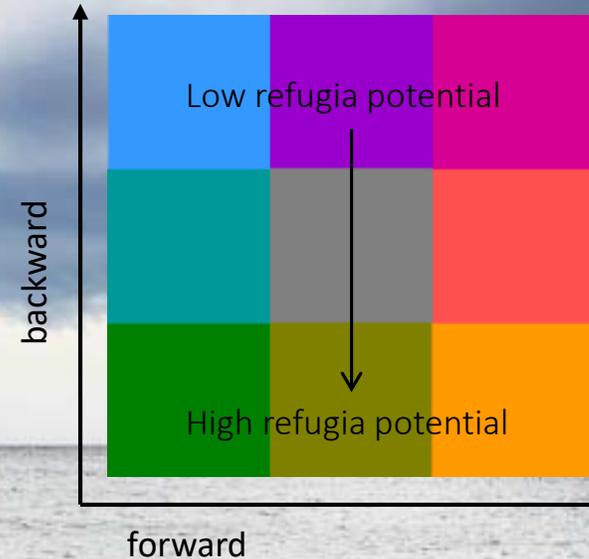
- Ability of resident species and ecosystems to persist locally or regionally
- Locations of climatic refugia for species and ecosystems
- Likely degree of community turnover / displacement



# Integrating multiple metrics: Velocity-based vulnerability assessment

Velocity metrics can inform:

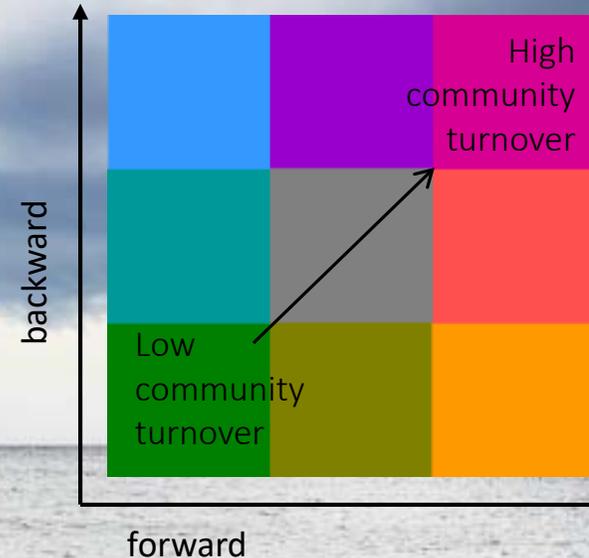
- Ability of resident species and ecosystems to persist locally or regionally
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# Integrating multiple metrics: Velocity-based vulnerability assessment

Velocity metrics can inform:

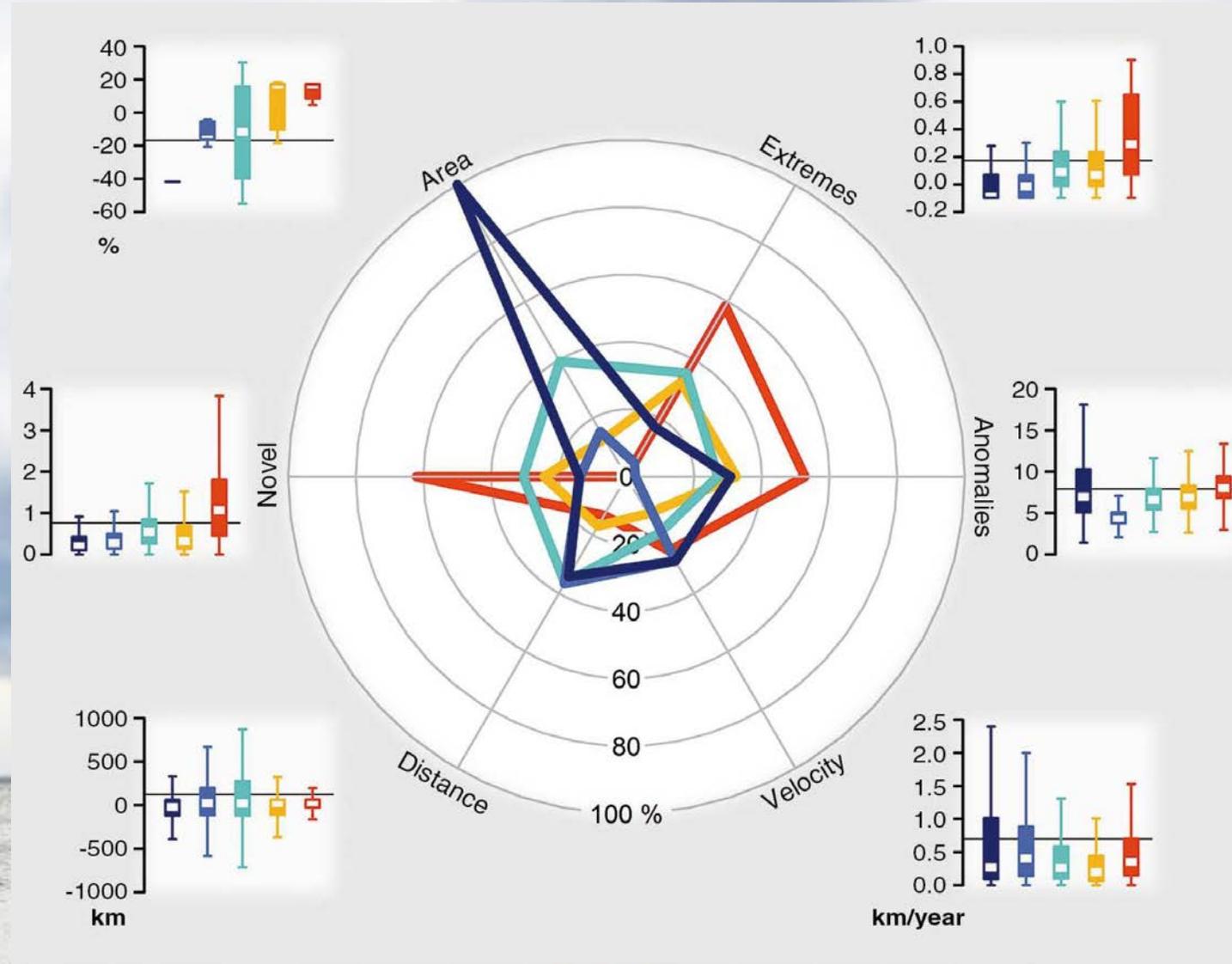
- Ability of resident species and ecosystems to persist locally or regionally
- Locations of climatic refugia for species and ecosystems
- Likely degree of community turnover / displacement



# Integrating multiple metrics: The “fingerprint” of climate exposure

[Garcia et al. 2014](#) developed the concept of using a star plot to show the varying magnitudes of different climate metrics.

A star plot provides a compact way to communicate contrasts between the intensity of different climate exposure stressors in a region.

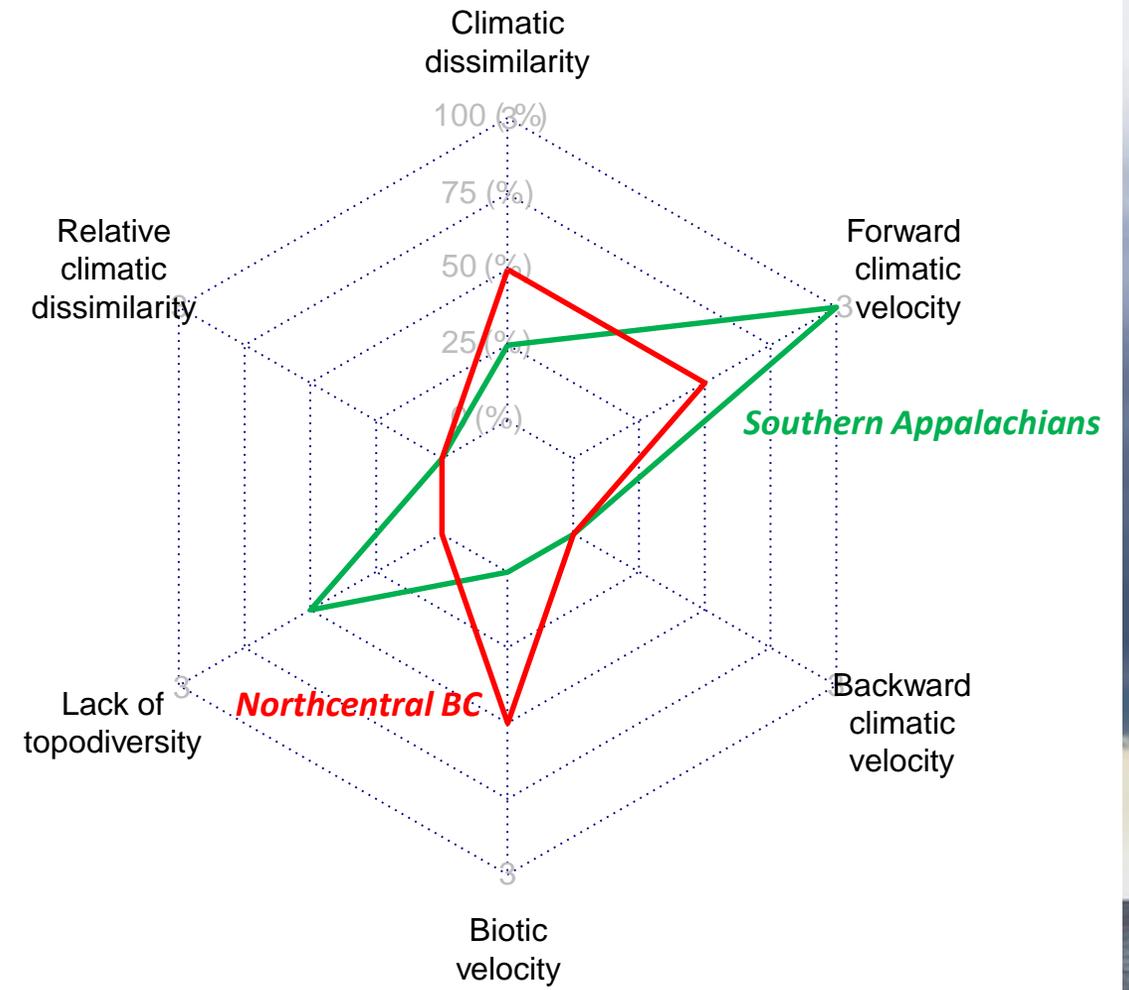


# Example of climate exposure fingerprint analysis: Southern Appalachians

Characterized by high endemism.  
Alpine areas showing high tree mortality due to non-native insect.



## Climate exposure fingerprint



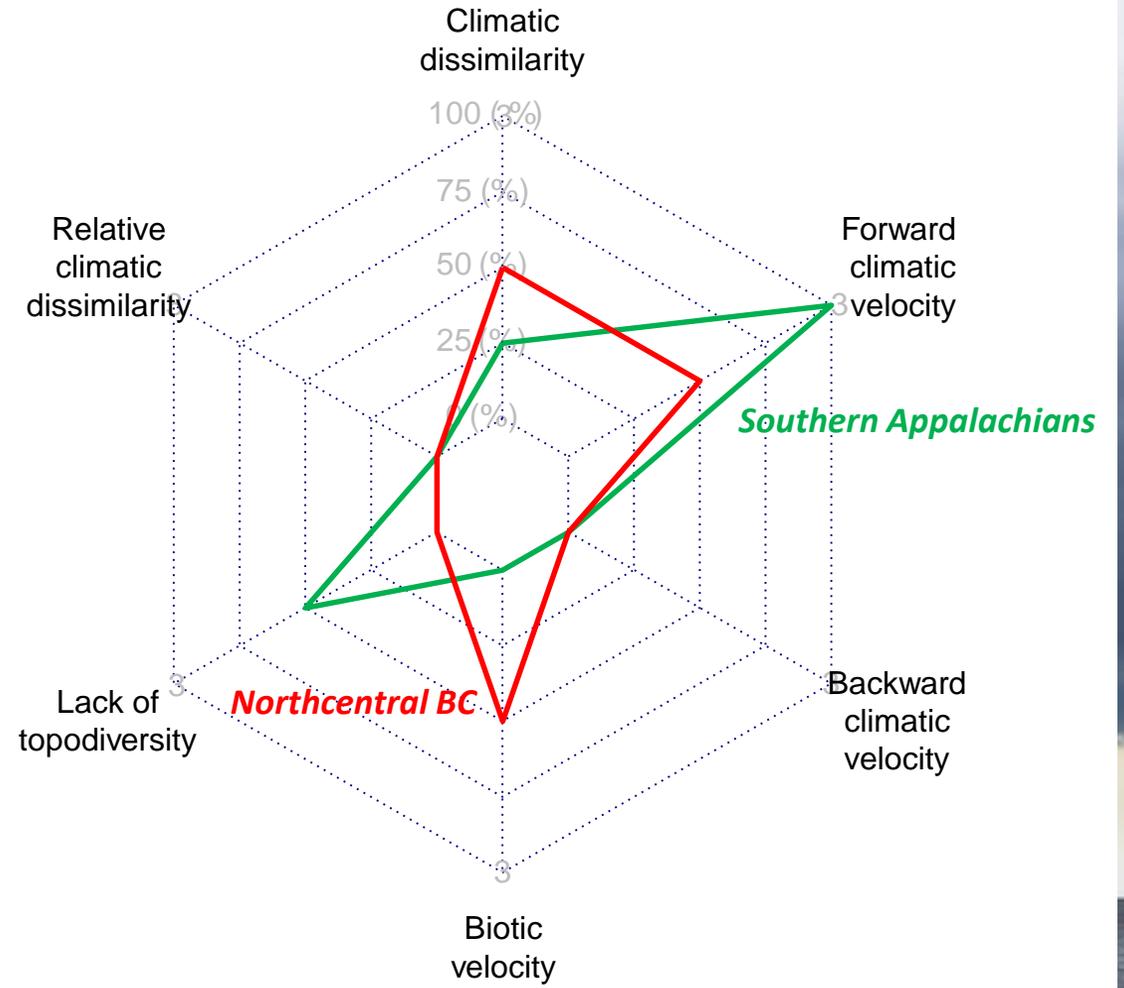
# Example of climate exposure fingerprint analysis: Northcentral BC

High microrefugia potential due to complex topography.

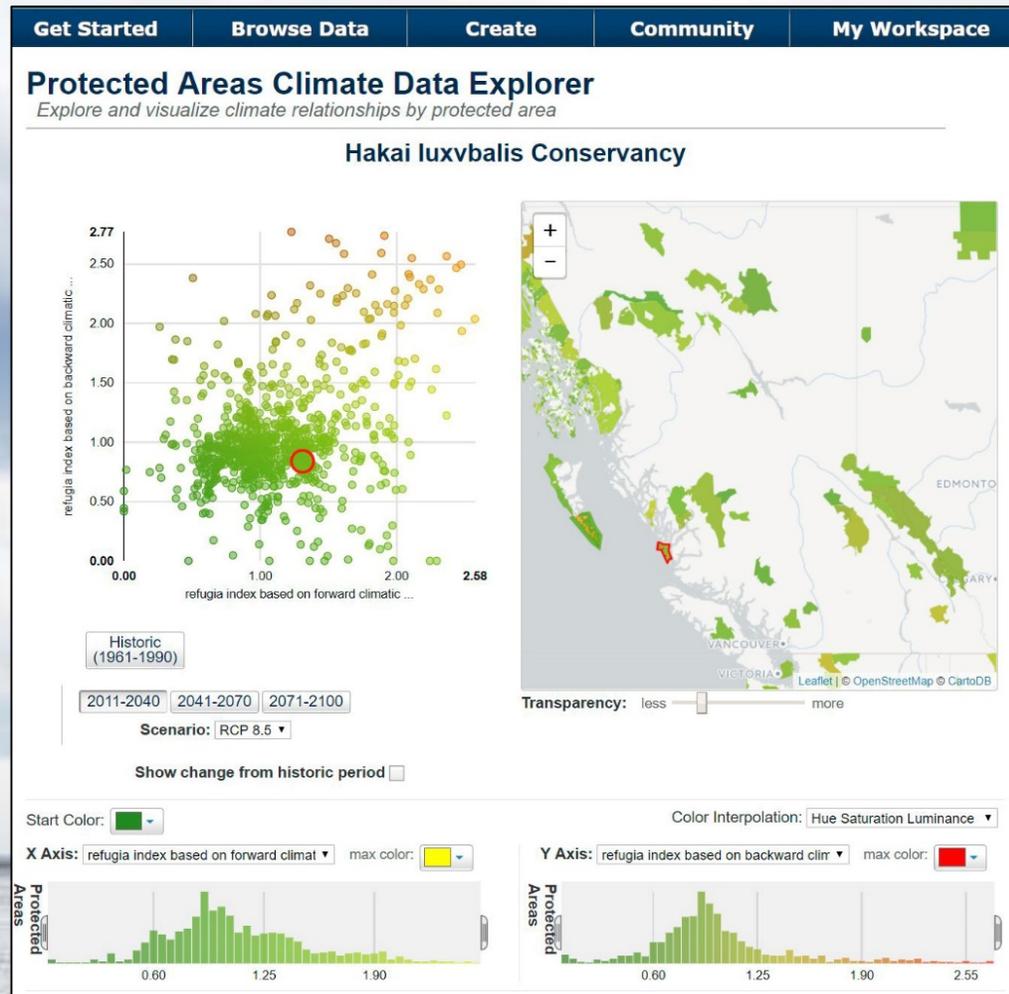
High absolute but low relative climatic dissimilarity.



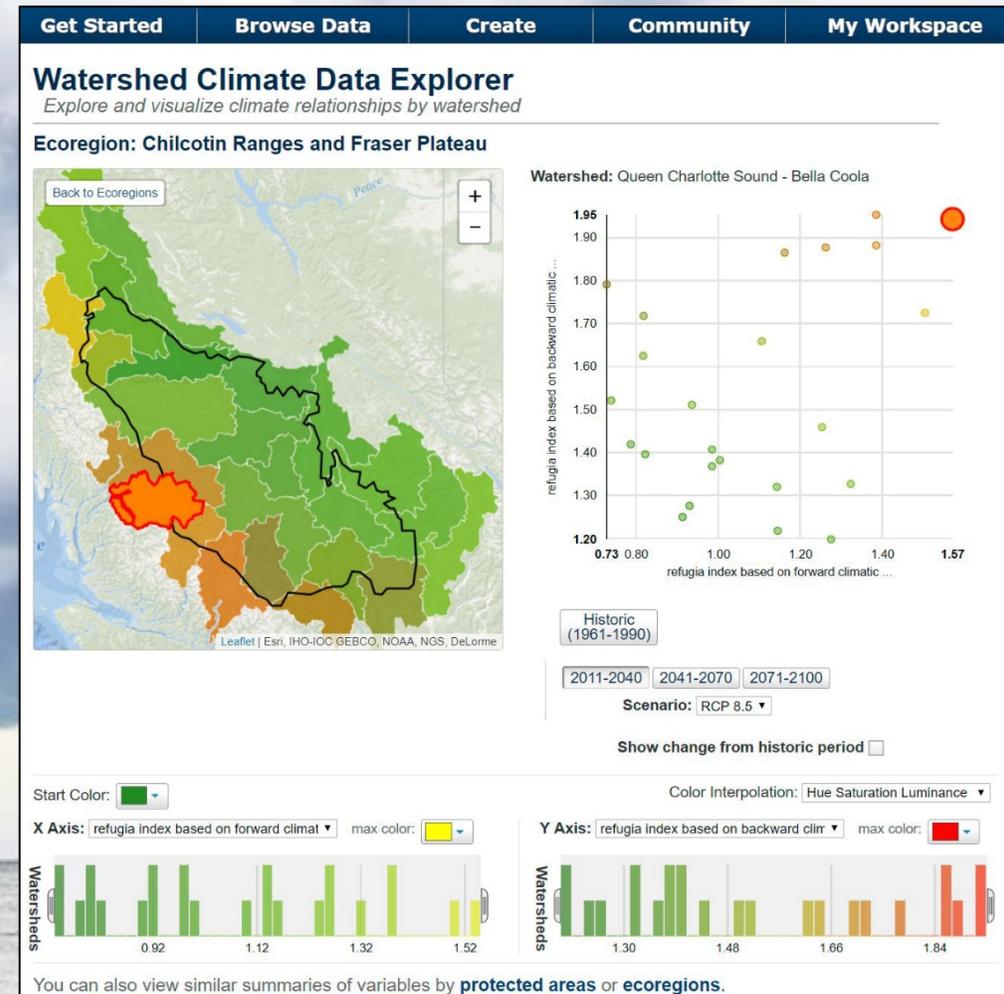
## Climate exposure fingerprint



# Integrating multiple metrics: AdaptWest's interactive data viewers



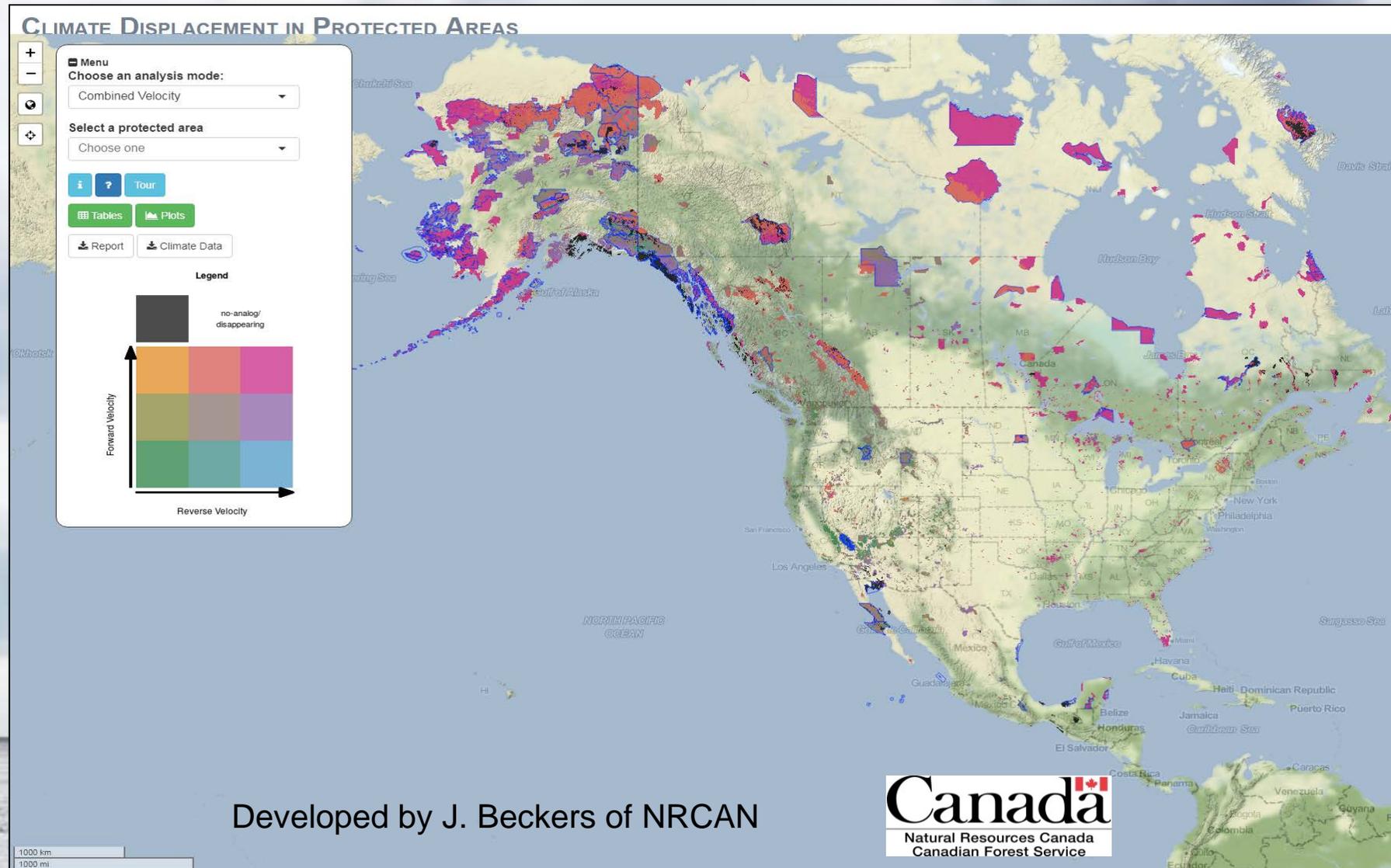
[Link to viewer](#)



[Link to viewer](#)

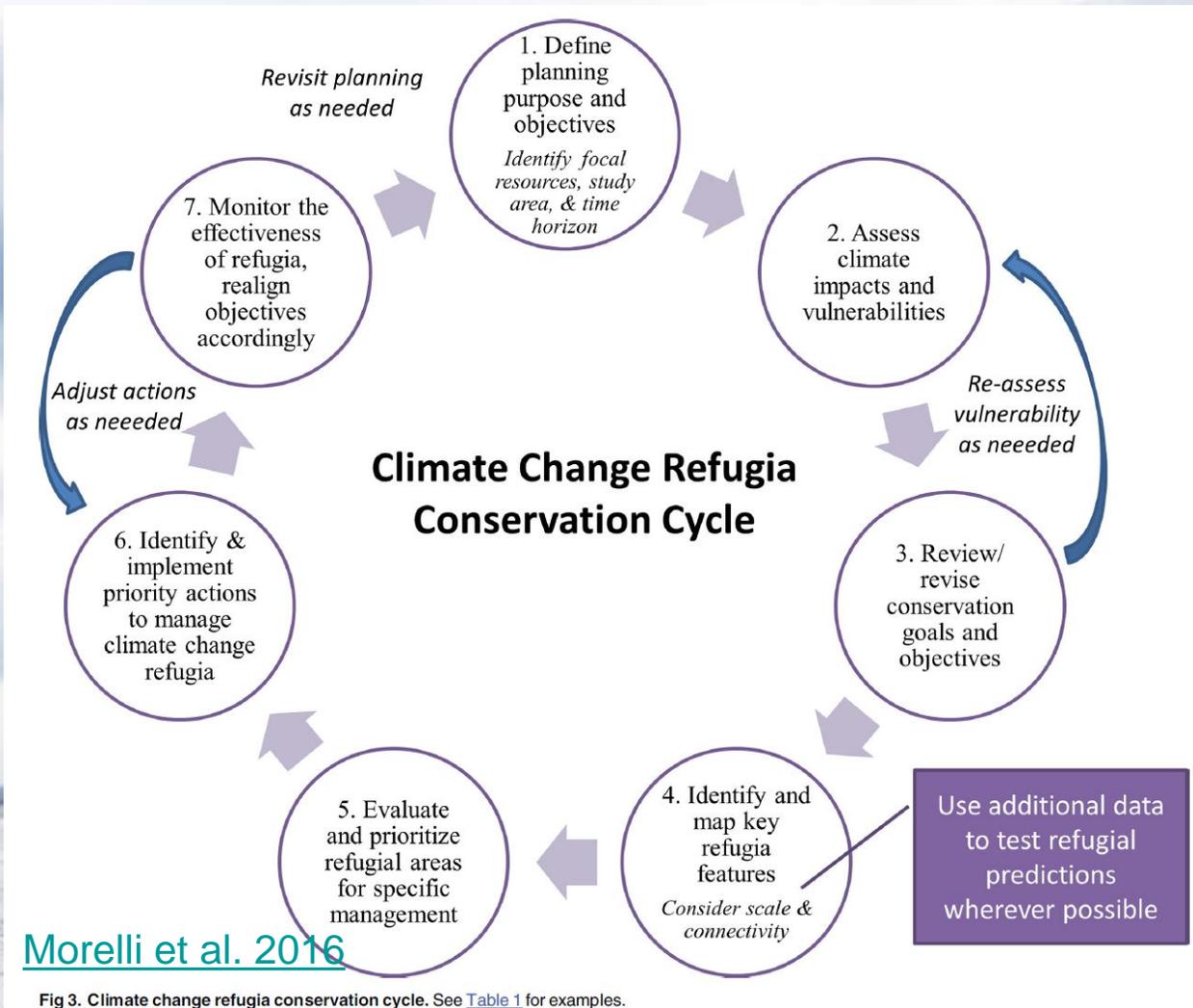
# Integrating multiple metrics:

AdaptWest Shiny app generates reports for individual protected areas



[Link to app](#)

# Case studies: Incorporating information into the planning process



Morelli et al. 2016

Fig 3. Climate change refugia conservation cycle. See Table 1 for examples.



# Three types of applications

## Prioritization

Vulnerability assessment  
(sites or species)

Management  
strategies

### 1. Where are the priority areas to secure biodiversity conservation objectives?



Sites that will stop extinction  
Sites are the last samples of ecosystems  
Sites that are still functionally intact  
Sites that are critical for ecosystem services

### 2. What are the core threats at these sites?



What is the scope and severity of current and future threatening processes at these sites?  
Threats include land and sea transformation, disease, overexploitation, invasive species, climate change, pollution, system modification, agriculture, urbanization etc

### 3. What are the area-based actions that will achieve long-term conservation outcomes?



Integrate risks, objectives and feasibility assessments of what will likely lead to best outcomes  
Activities will range from creating strict protected areas, community and indigenous conservation areas, payment for ecosystem arrangements etc to doing nothing different.

# Key principles of biodiversity conservation

1. Protect species at risk
2. Represent ecosystem diversity
3. Conserve remaining wilderness
4. **Ensure connectivity and resilience**
5. **Preserve climate refugia**

Coristine et al. 2018

 DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1139/facets-2017-0102>

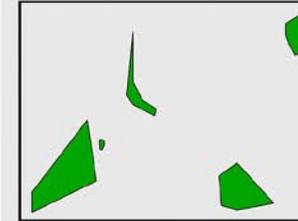
Informing Canada's commitment to biodiversity conservation: A science-based framework to help guide protected areas designation through Target 1 and beyond

Published Online: 14 May 2018 | Views : 2313

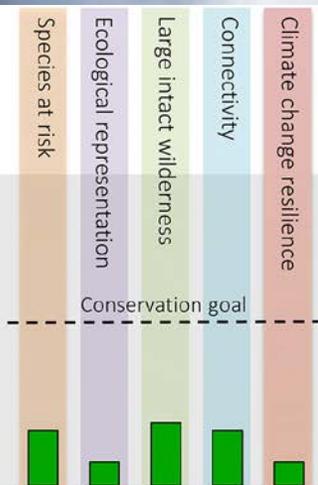
Laura E. Coristine , Aerin L. Jacob, Richard Schuster, Sarah P. Otto, Nancy E. Baron, Nathan J. Bennett, Sarah Joy Bittick, Cody Dey, Brett Favaro, Adam Ford, Linda Nowlan, Diane Orihel, Wendy J. Palen, Jean L. Polfus, David S. Shiffman, Oscar Venter, Stephen Woodley, ... [\(show fewer authors\)](#)

## Tools and processes for protected areas planning

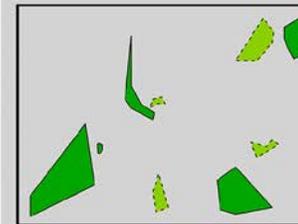
Assess conservation deficit



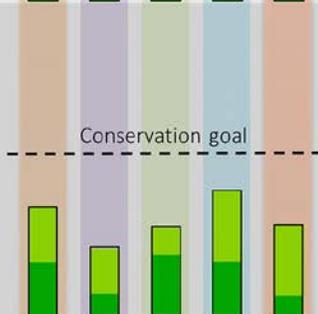
Gap analyses  
Spatial analyses (GIS)



Identify candidate sites



Spatial analyses (GIS)  
Spatial statistics



Consider human dimensions and governance



Immediacy of threats

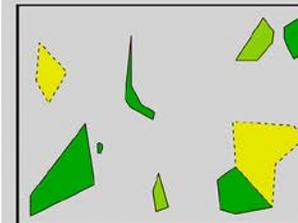


Opportunity-cost

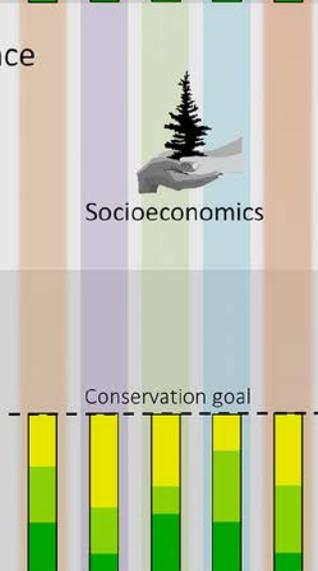


Socioeconomics

Develop new protected areas

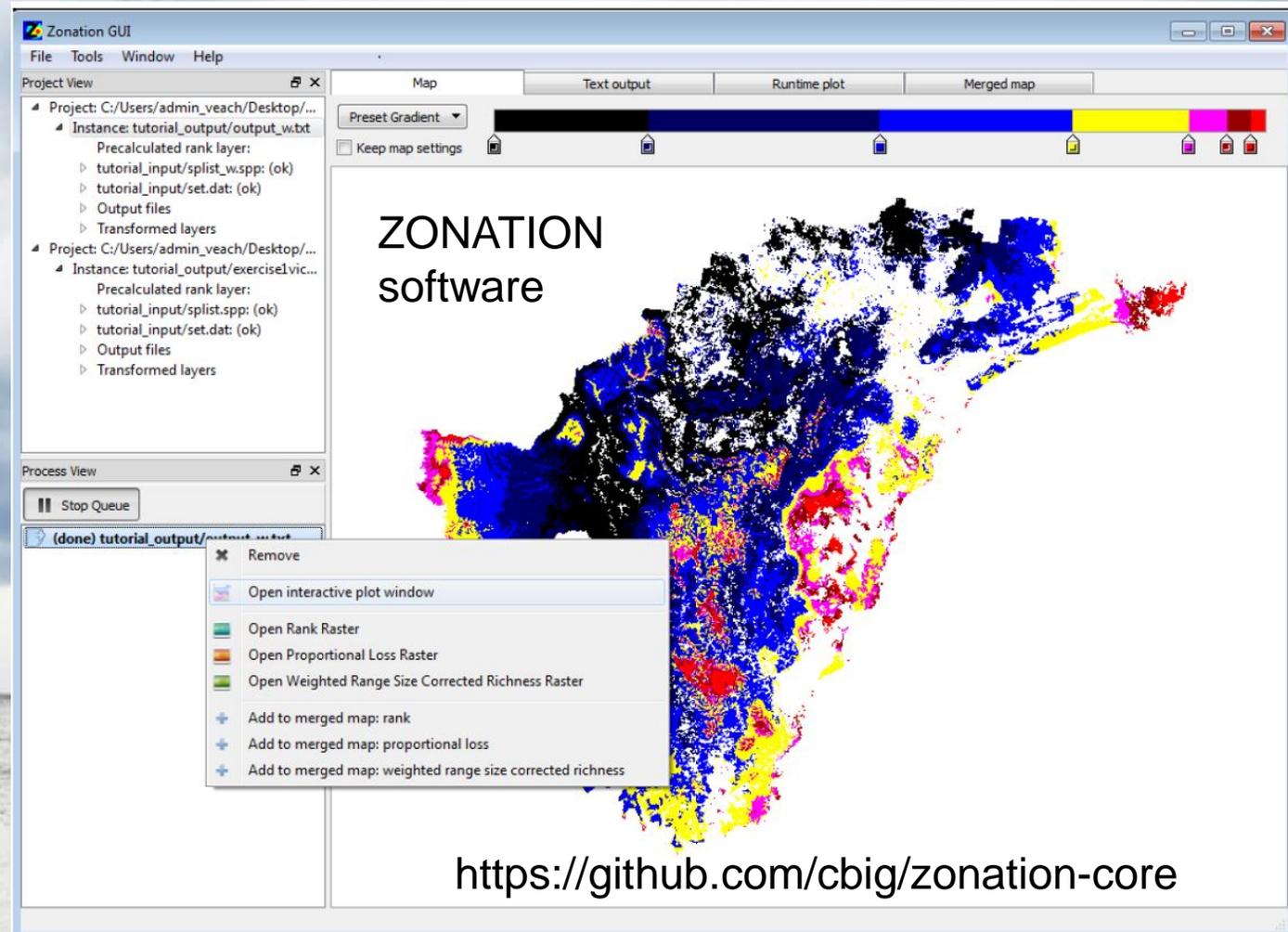


Tools for systematic conservation planning  
Stakeholder input  
Governance type



# Prioritization based on multiple conservation metrics requires systematic conservation planning tools

Such tools and software are based on the principle of **complementarity**; a measure of the extent to which an area contributes unrepresented features to an existing area or set of areas.



# Canada's Target 1 Process



Pathway to Canada Target 1  
En route vers l'objectif 1 du Canada

## CANADA'S CONSERVATION VISION: A REPORT OF THE NATIONAL ADVISORY PANEL

MARCH 23, 2018



### Recommendation 37

We recommend ..an objective of completing **networks** of well-connected protected areas and OECMs that **contain climate change refugia.**

### Recommendation 14

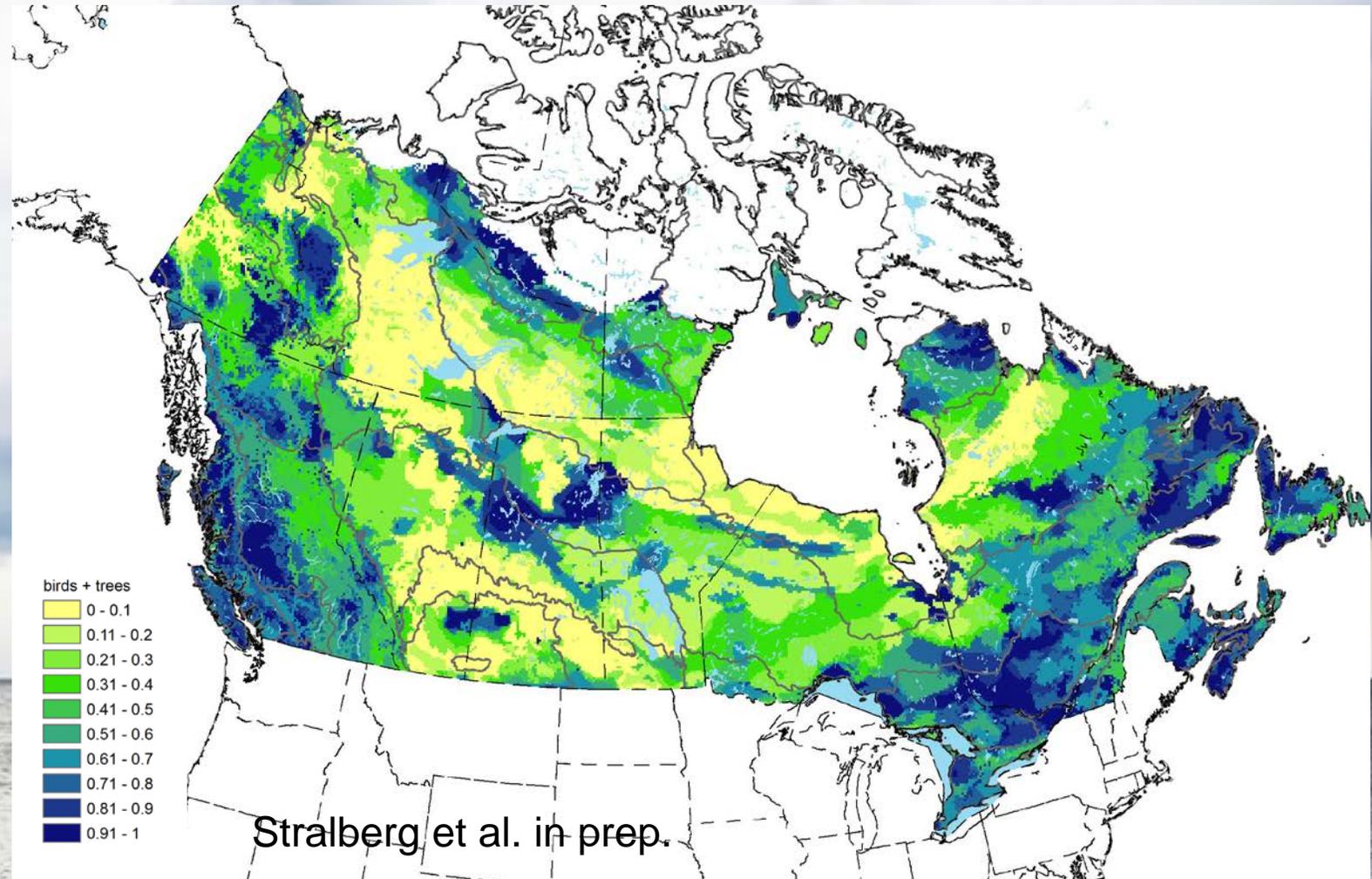
We recommend that the federal government lead the development, by 2020, of a nationwide **ecological connectivity strategy** [that will] **...reflect climate change considerations.**

### Recommendation 10

We recommend...**a gap analysis**..to inform the identification of future protected areas and OECMs needed to fulfill the **representation, connectivity, and key areas for biodiversity** elements of Aichi Target 11-Canada Target 1...

# Canada's Target 1 Process: Protect 17% of the terrestrial landscape

Zonation results based on complementarity between refugia for >600 songbird and tree species. These types of results can form one of several types of information which assists in Canada's Target 1 prioritization process.



# Three types of applications

Prioritization

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(sites or species)

Management  
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What is the scope and severity of current and future threatening processes at these sites?  
Threats include land and sea transformation, disease, overexploitation, invasive species, climate change, pollution, system modification, agriculture, urbanization etc

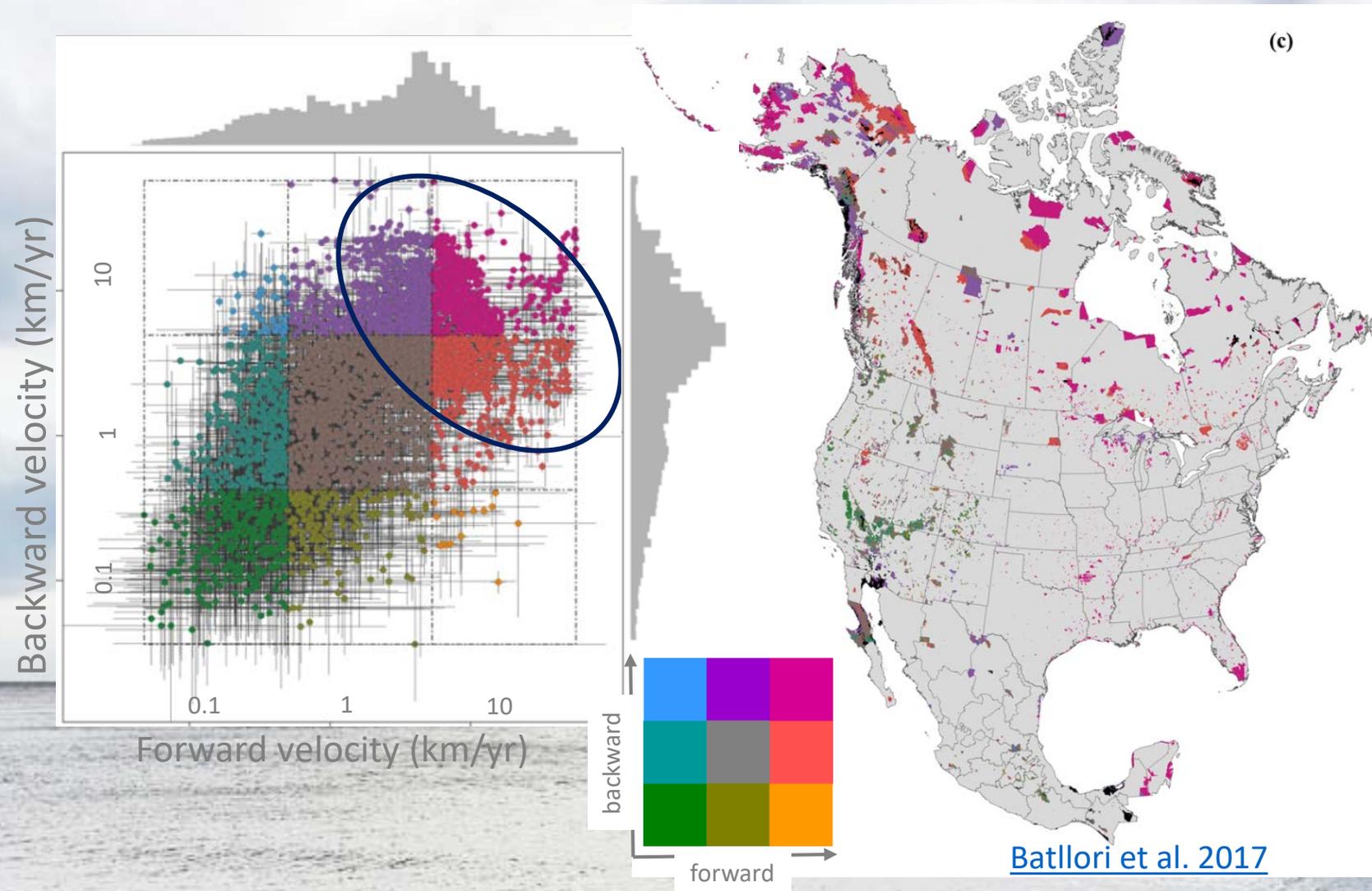
## 3. What are the area-based actions that will achieve long-term conservation outcomes?



Integrate risks, objectives and feasibility assessments of what will likely lead to best outcomes  
Activities will range from creating strict protected areas, community and indigenous conservation areas, payment for ecosystem services etc

[Watson & Venter 2017](#) do nothing different.

# Majority of North America's protected area network exposed to very high rates of climate displacement



# Three types of applications

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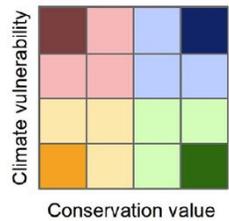
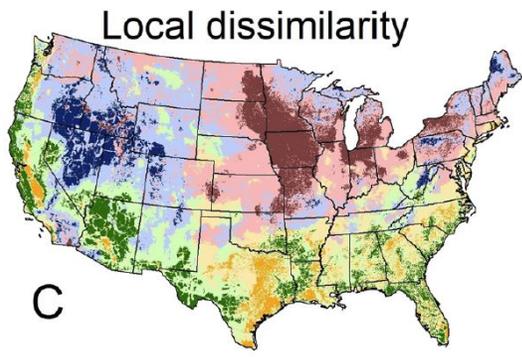
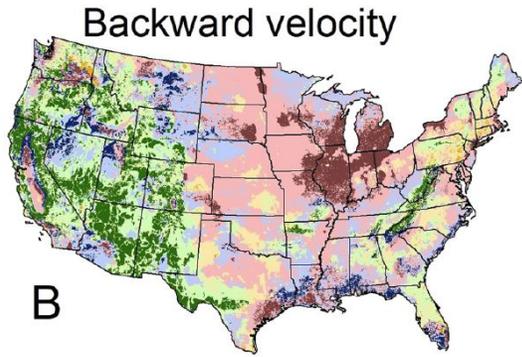
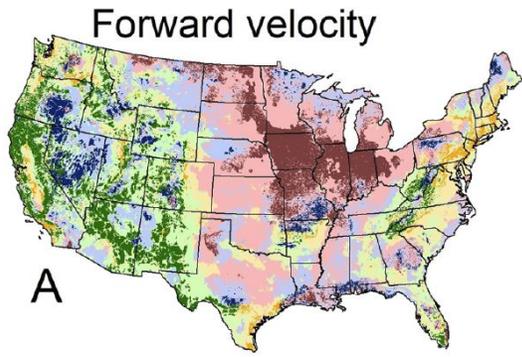
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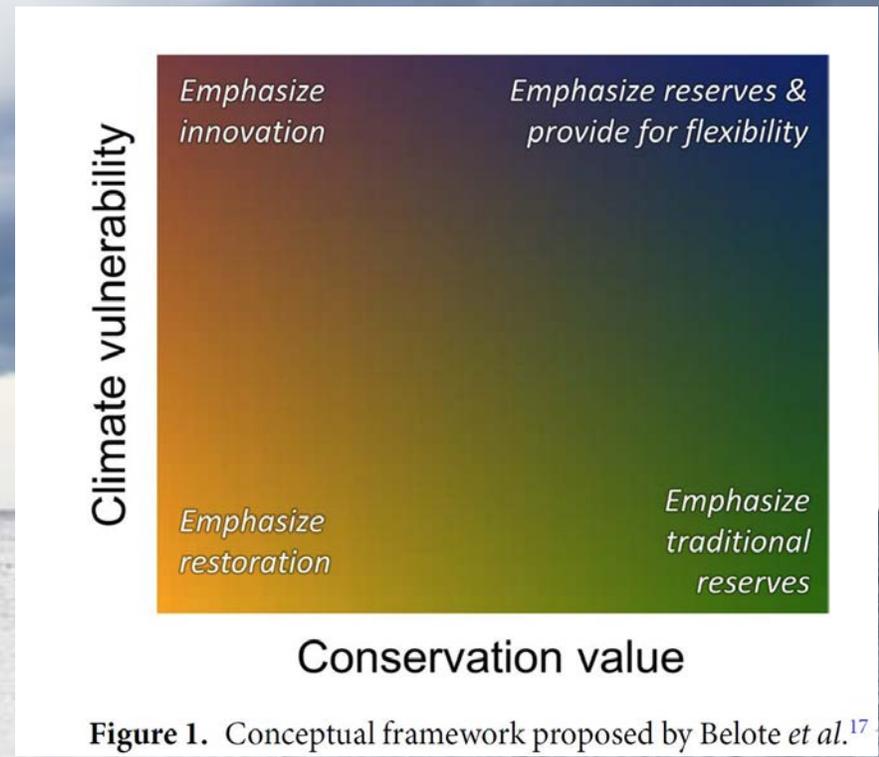
Integrate risks, objectives and feasibility assessments of what will likely lead to best outcomes  
Activities will range from creating strict protected areas, community and indigenous conservation areas, payment for ecosystem services to doing nothing different.

# Evaluation of the US National Wilderness System

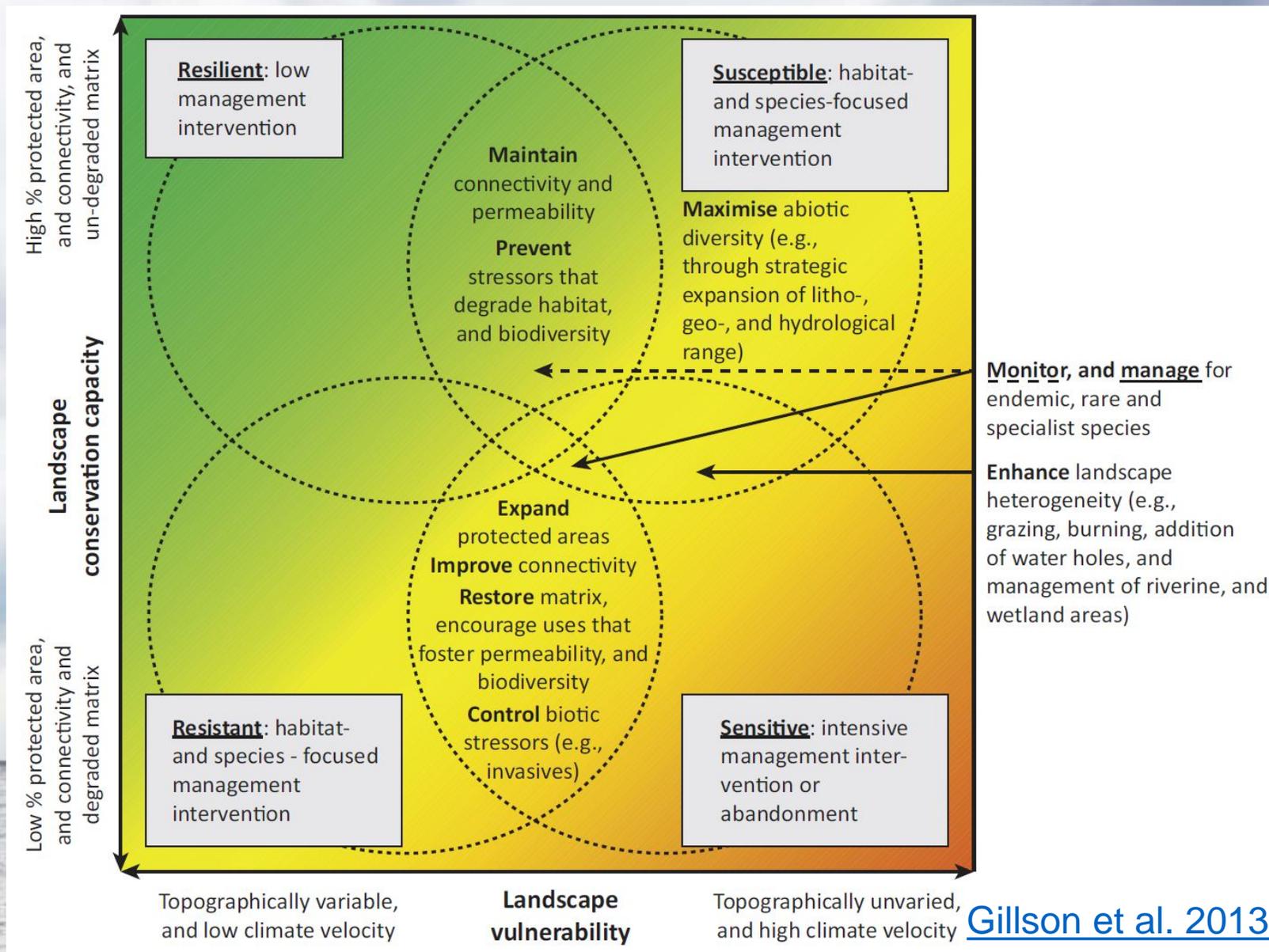
Belote and colleagues with The Wilderness Society (a US-based NGO) have evaluated existing and proposed wilderness areas based on a) their conservation value in terms of "traditional" objectives (i.e., to what extent an area contributes to creating an ecologically representative and connected network, etc.) and b) climate vulnerability. they propose alternative management foci depending on where an area falls on these 2 axes. Data available [here](#). See also [Belote et al. 2017b](#) and [Belote et al. 2018](#).



[Belote et al. 2017](#)

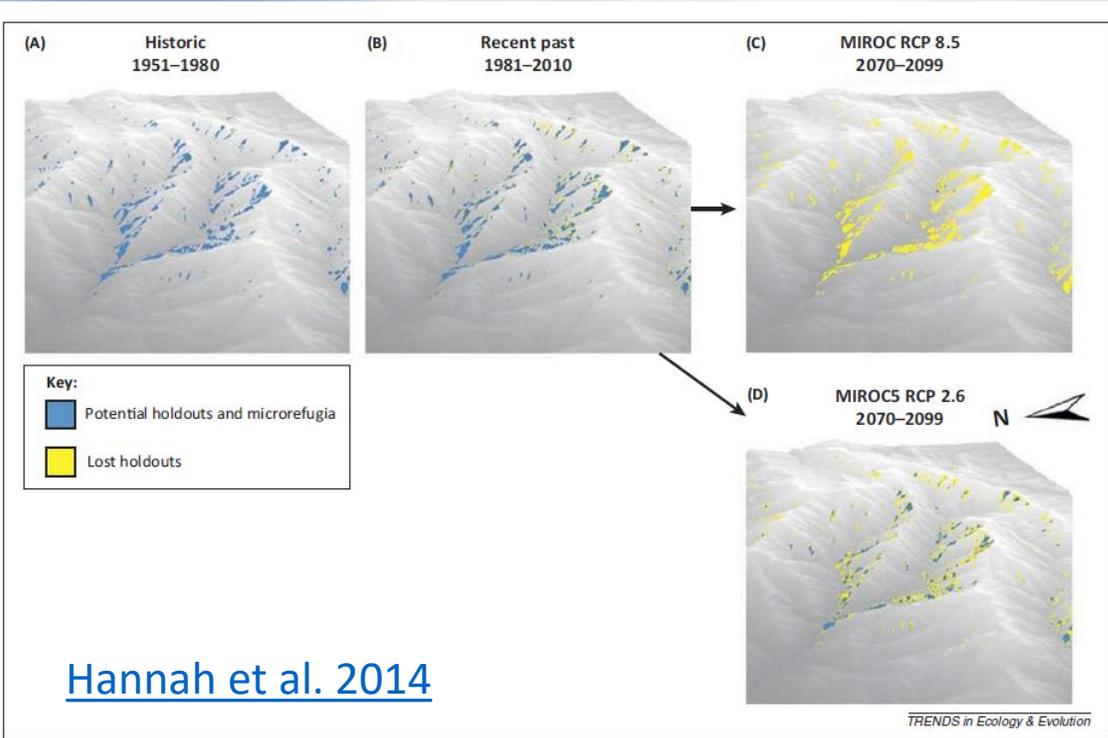


# A similar system categorizes management approaches based on an area's conservation value and vulnerability



# The time horizon for planning

## Long-term refugia vs stepping-stone habitat

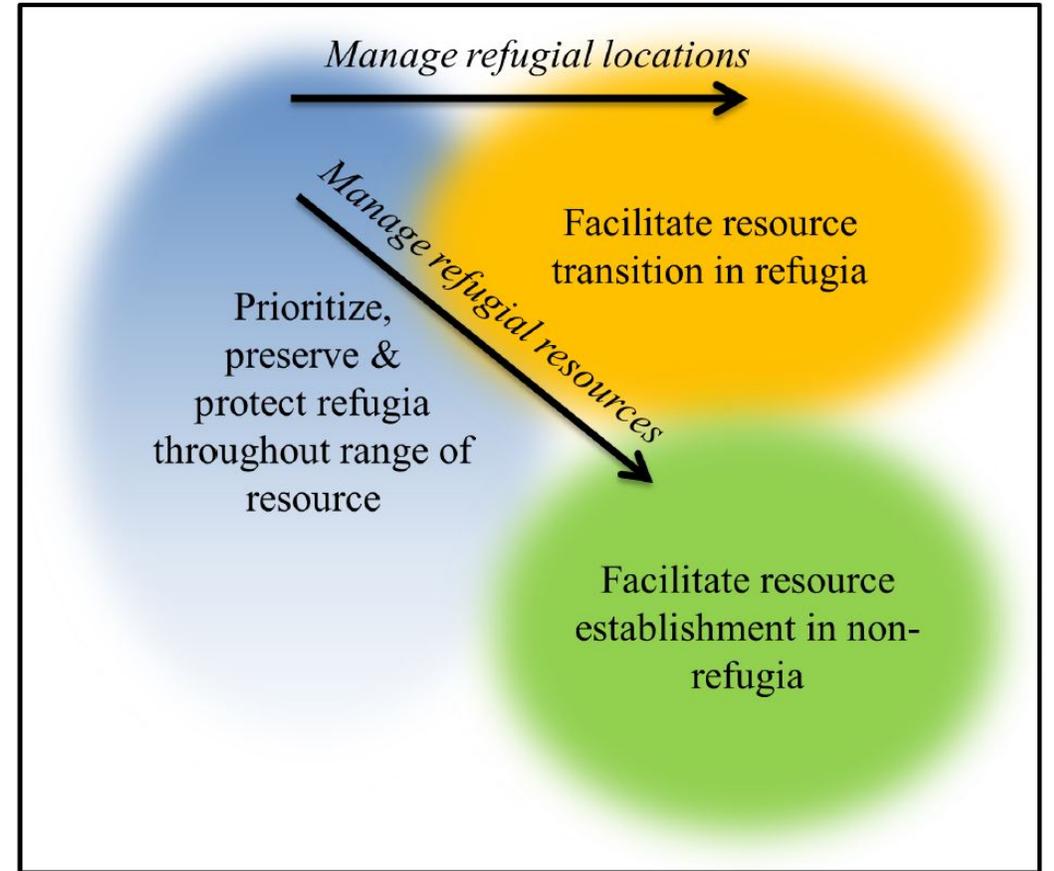


[Hannah et al. 2014](#)

High / clear  
refugium

Refugial strength

Low / general  
range of  
resource



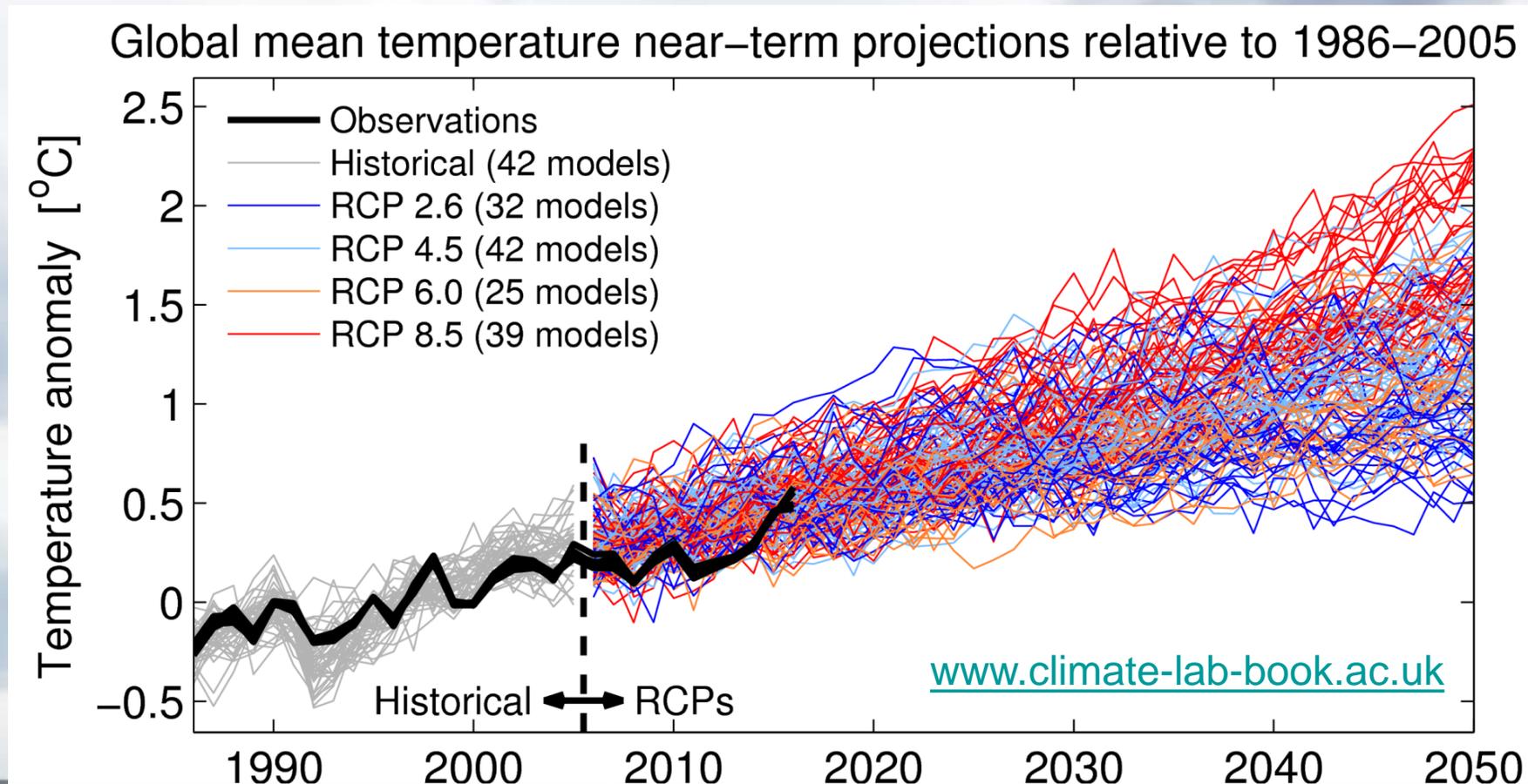
Present

2100, or beyond

[Morelli et al. 2016](#)

Temporal scale

# How do we plan for an uncertain future?



Climate model projections vary between models and emissions scenarios

# Applying different management strategies under uncertainty

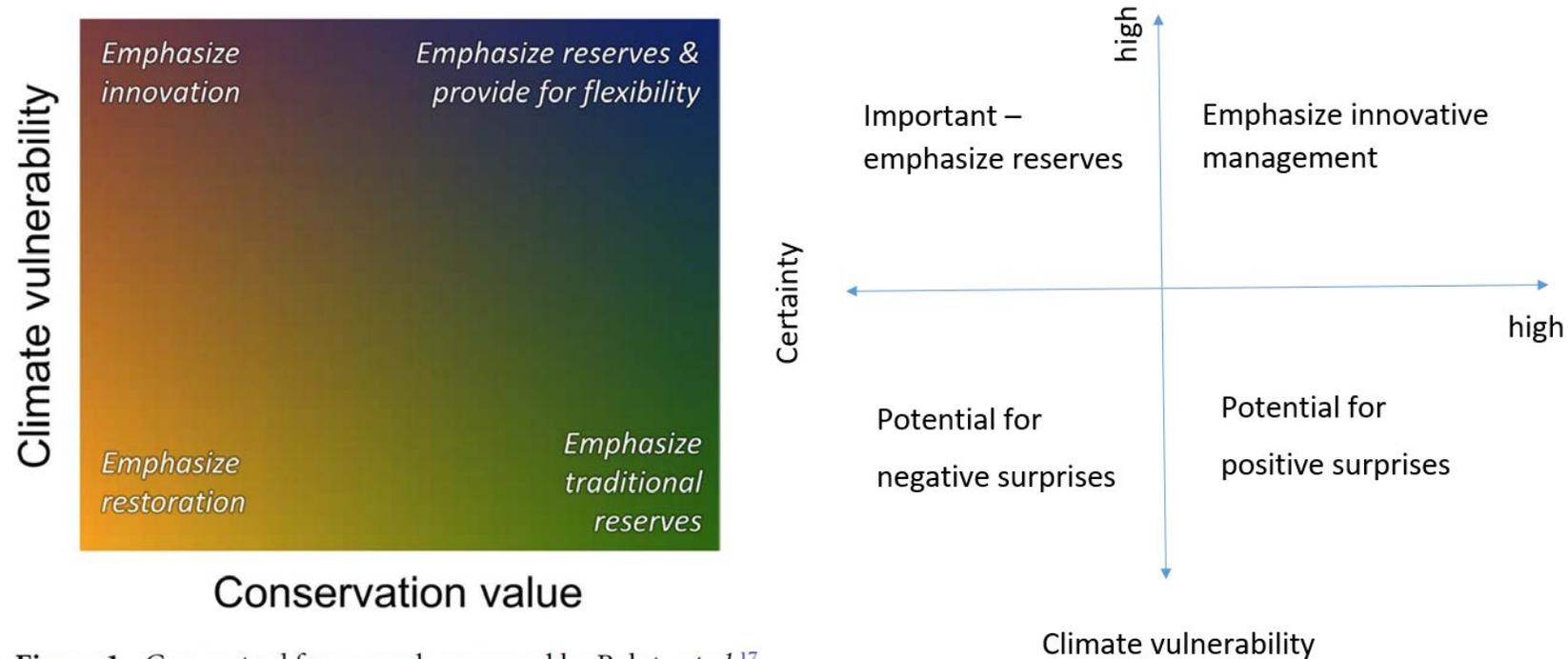


Figure 1. Conceptual framework proposed by Belote *et al.*<sup>17</sup>.

	Low value		High value	
	Low uncertainty	High uncertainty	Low uncertainty	High uncertainty
High vulnerability	Emphasize innovation	Emphasize innovation and prepare for surprises	Emphasize reserves and provide for management flexibility	Emphasize reserves and plan for experimental approach
Low vulnerability	Emphasize restoration	Emphasize restoration and prepare for surprises	Emphasize traditional reserves	Emphasize reserves and provide for management flexibility

# Placing the data in context

- What does each type of data tell us?
- Do different datasets suggest similar or contrasting priorities?
- Qualitative insights on processes are as important as what specific places are identified.



## Welcome to the AdaptWest Climate Adaptation Data Portal!

AdaptWest is a spatial database designed to help land management agencies and other organizations implement strategies that promote resilience, protect biodiversity, and conserve and enhance the adaptation potential of natural systems in the face of a changing climate.

### Climate Data



- Climate Data - North America
- Velocity Data - North America
- Refugia Data - North America
- Exposure-Distance-Based Velocity Data
- Water Balance Data - United States

### Species Data



- Velocity Data - Western Hemisphere
- Tree and Bird Refugia - US and Canada

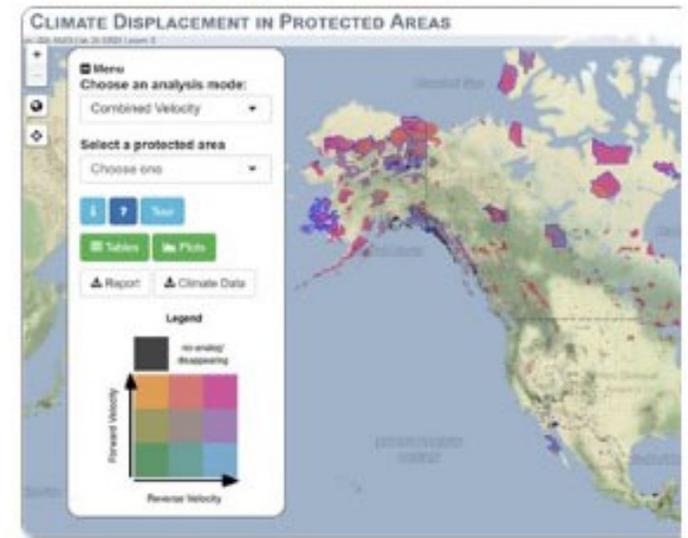
### Connectivity and Other Data



- Priority Areas - Western North America
- Wildland Conservation Values

<http://adaptwest.databasin.org>

### Climate Displacement Explorer



Explore and summarize current and



Explore and summarize current and

Generate maps and reports on climate

# The AdaptWest Project team

- Carlos Carroll, Klamath Center for Conservation Research
- Diana Stralberg, University of Alberta
- Scott Nielsen, University of Alberta
- Andreas Hamann, University of Alberta
- Dave Roberts, University of Alberta
- Josh Lawler, University of Washington
- Julia Michalak, University of Washington
- Caitlin Littlefield, University of Washington

Other collaborators: Travis Belote (TWS), Sean Parks (USDA FS), Solomon Dobrowski (UM), Marc Parisien and Justin Beckers (NRCAN).

Sponsored by:



## For more information:

- Visit <http://adaptwest.databasin.org>
- Follow [@adaptwest](https://twitter.com/adaptwest) on Twitter for updates on newly available data and webinars
- Contact via email: carlos (at) klamathconservation.org

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