

# Functionally Assembled Terrestrial Ecosystem Simulator (FATES)

Next-generation modeling with vegetation demography

Charlie Koven, Rosie Fisher, Ryan Knox, Jacquelyn Shuman, Adrianna Foster,  
and FATES team



**NGEE-TROPICS**  
NEXT-GENERATION ECOSYSTEM EXPERIMENTS-TROPICS

*Jacquelyn Shuman,*

*Climate and Global Dynamics, Project Scientist*

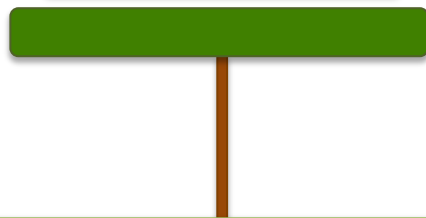
**CESM LMWG**  
**June 14, 2022**



# Ecological processes in land surface models

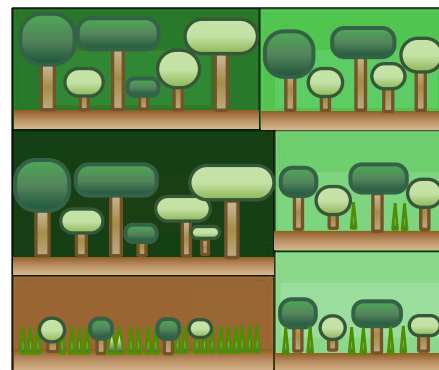
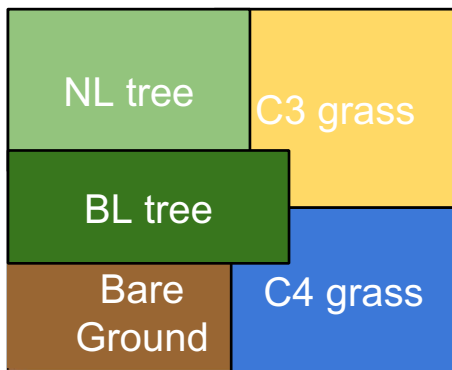
CLM

Big Leaf

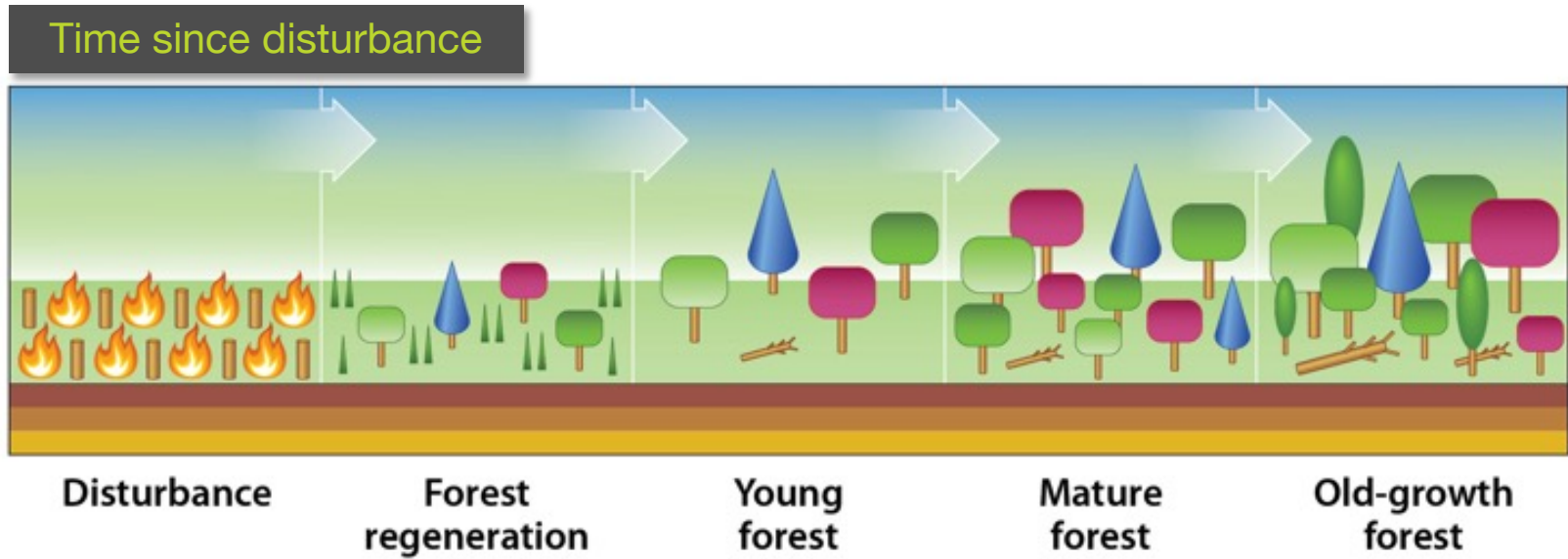


FATES

Cohort Model

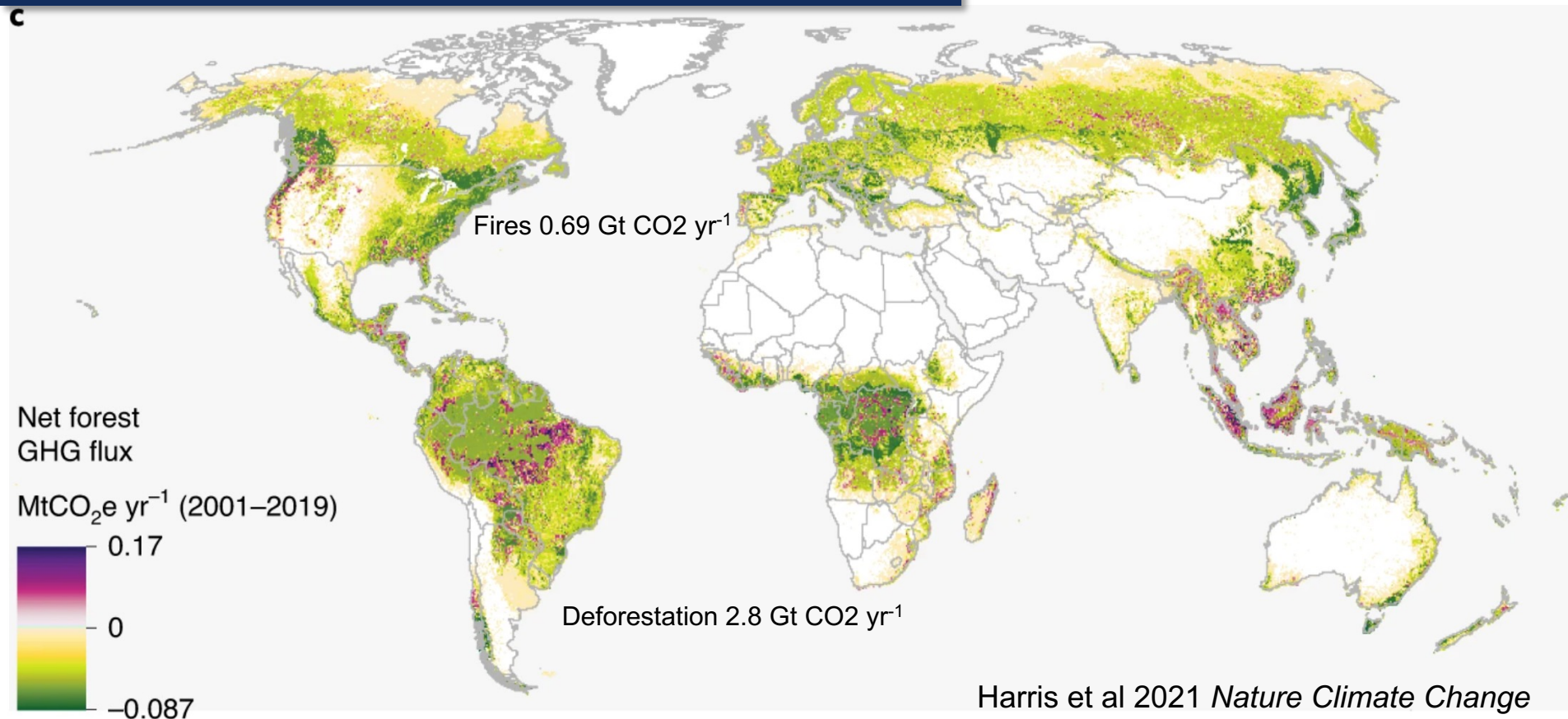


# FATES has variability



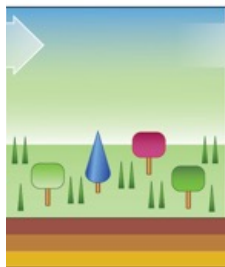
# Forest degradation drives emissions

c

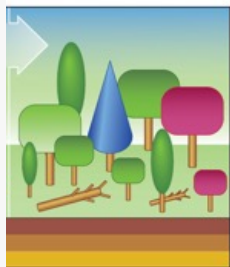


Harris et al 2021 *Nature Climate Change*

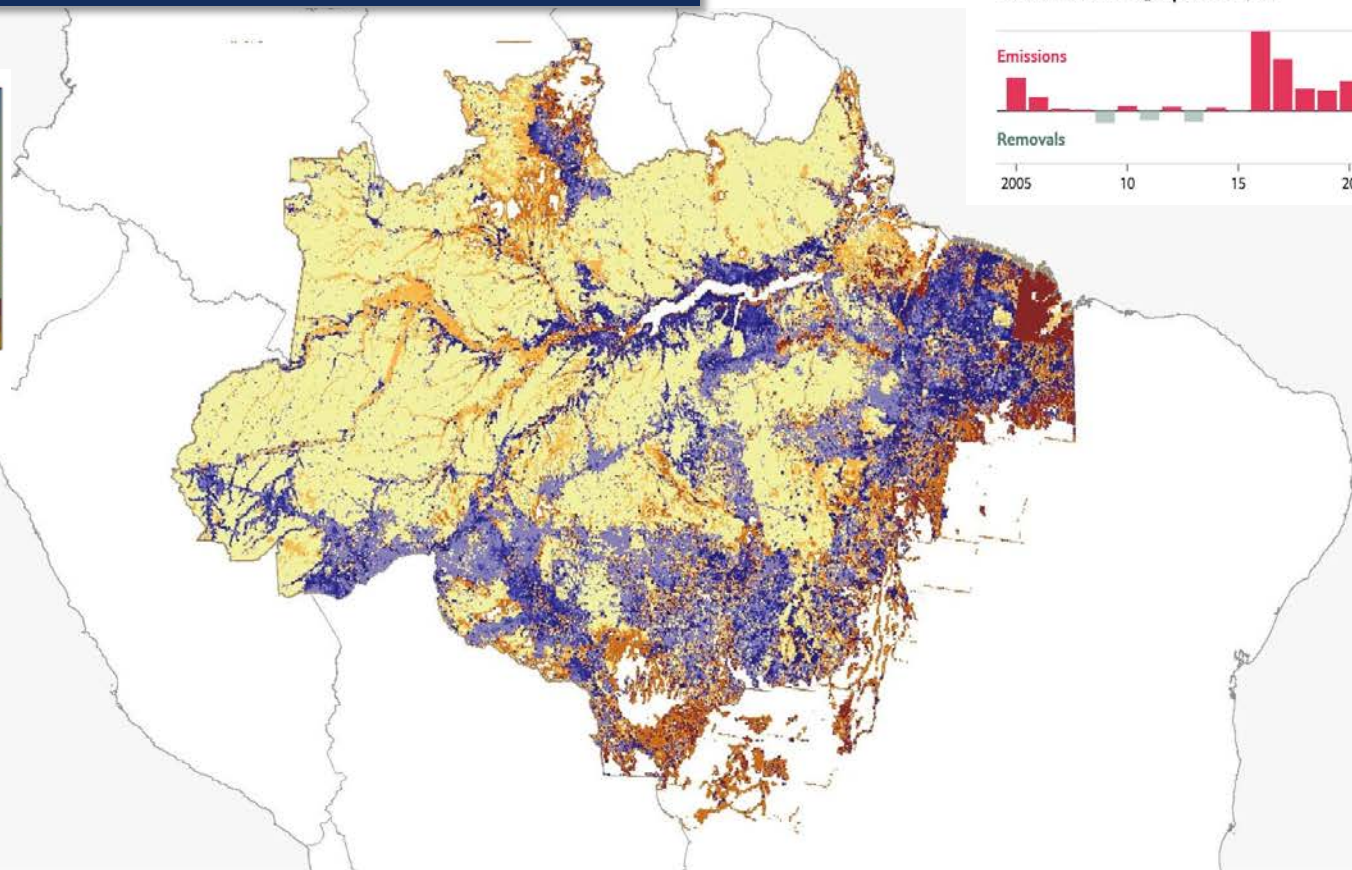
# Forest degradation drives emissions



Forest regeneration

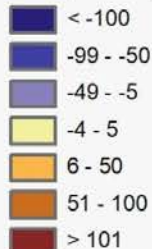


Old-growth forest

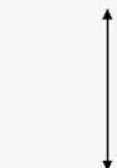


## Net flux percent change

GFW (standard) vs. PRODES

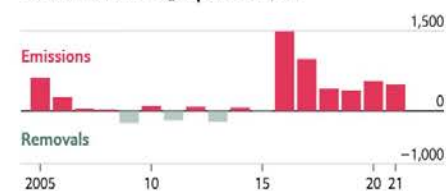


Sensitivity analysis is stronger sink/weaker source



Sensitivity analysis is weaker sink/stronger source

## Net tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, bn



# Increased productivity and altered structure

Positive NDVI<sub>max</sub> trend

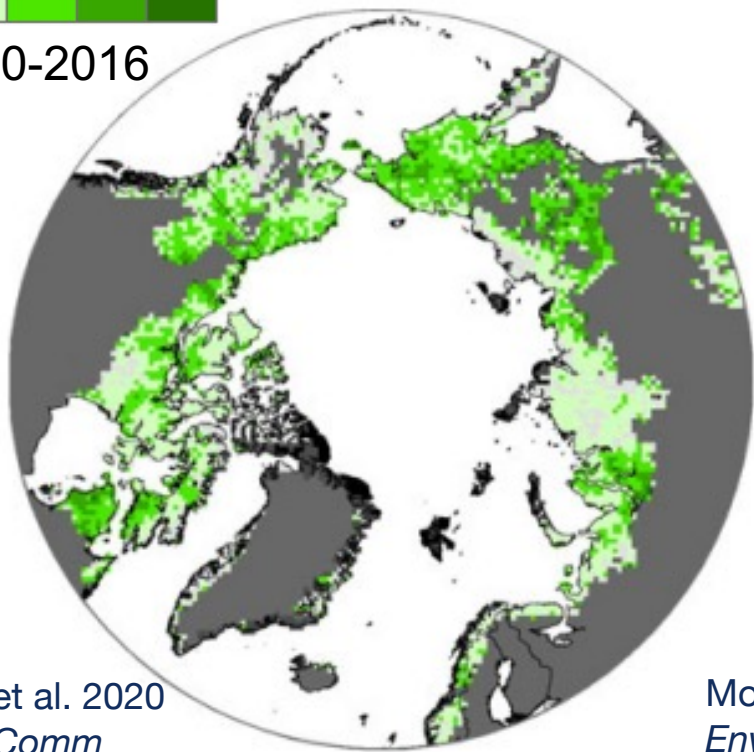
NDVI trend

% of sampling sites

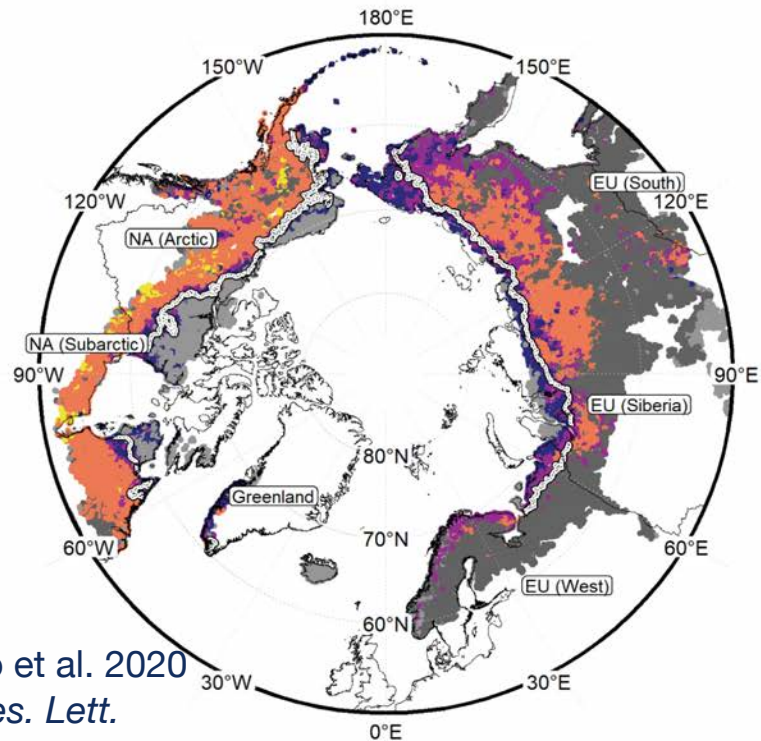
0 5 25 50 75 100



2000-2016



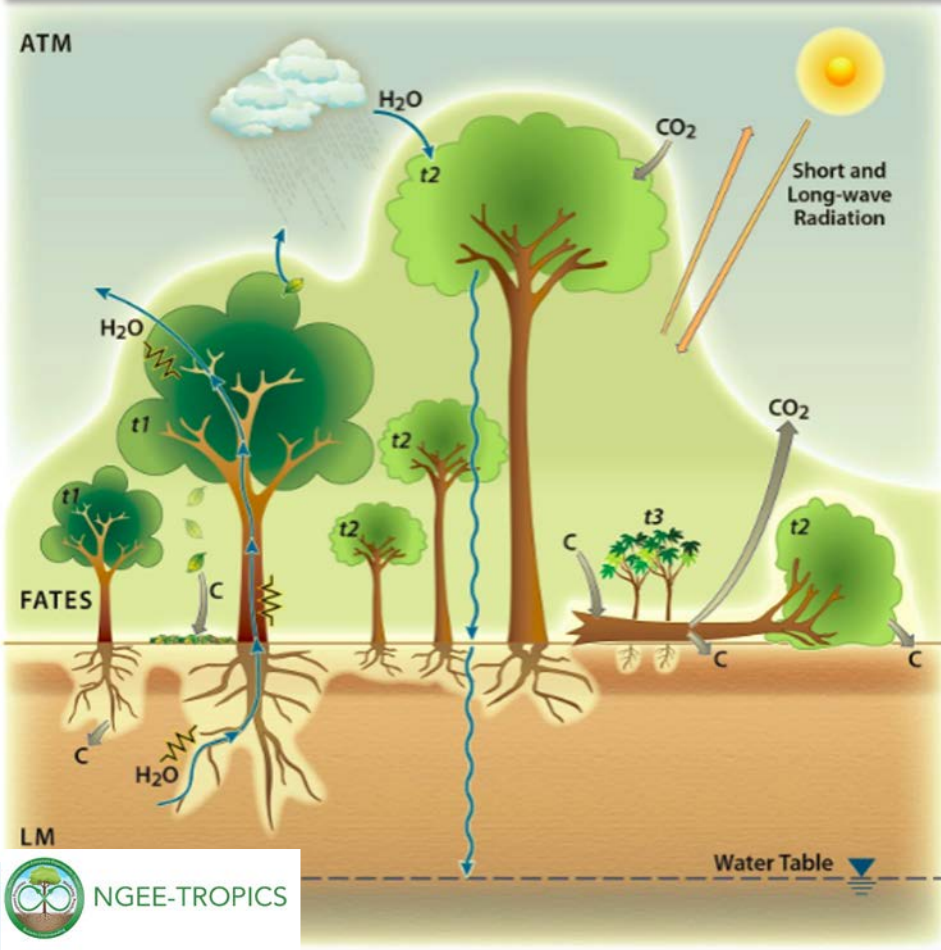
Tundra Taiga Ecotone (TTE)



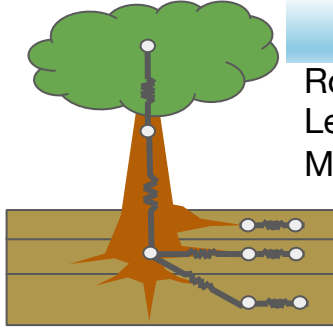
Berner et al. 2020  
*Nature Comm*

Montesano et al. 2020  
*Environ. Res. Lett.*

# Instances where structure is essential



- Hydrodynamics (FATES-Hydro)
  - Need path length, rooting depth, with size
  - Need canopy position to determine atmospheric demand
- Nutrients (PARTEH)
  - N fixation only makes energetic sense early in succession
  - Allometric growth necessary for nutrient budgets
- Fire (SPITFIRE module)
  - Fire impacts on canopy structure, which affects fire behavior
  - Tree-grass coexistence in fire regions is along successional or vertical gradients
- Snow
  - Snow covers short vegetation but not taller vegetation



## Plant Hydraulics

Root layers and plant-size root depth  
 Leaf humidity, stomata set transpiration  
 Mass balance at root nodes

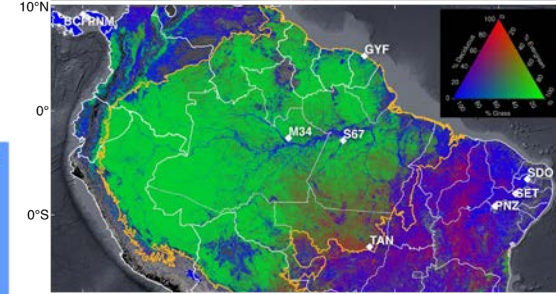
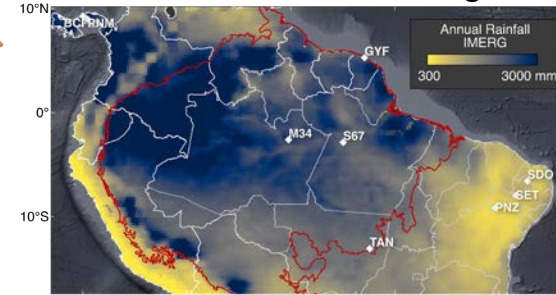


## Fire

Live fuel moisture  
 Crown fire

## Deciduous Phenology

Forest resilience to drought



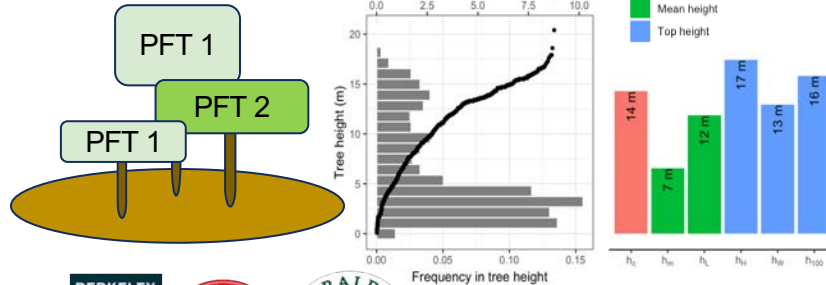
Data from DeFries et al. (2000) GCB  
 Figure credit Marcos Longo, LBNL

## User Interface

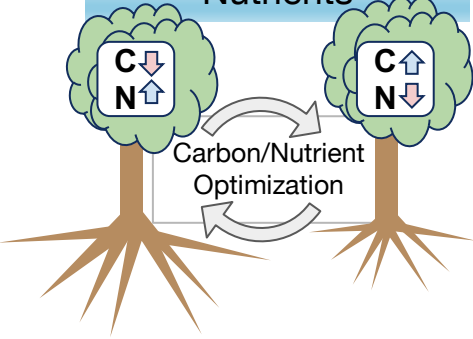
Tutorial in jupyter  
 User's guide  
 Technical document



## Canopy turbulence for mixed vegetation



## Nutrients



## Moss

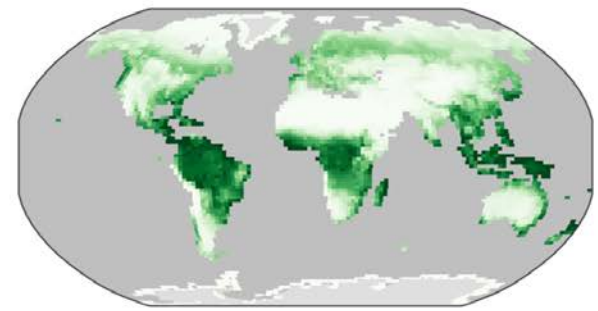
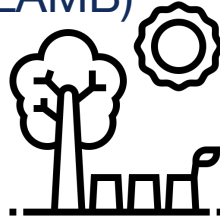




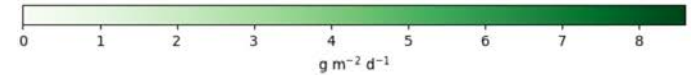


## Global

- Reduced Complexity modes
- Diagnostic testing (ILAMB)
- Land use harvest



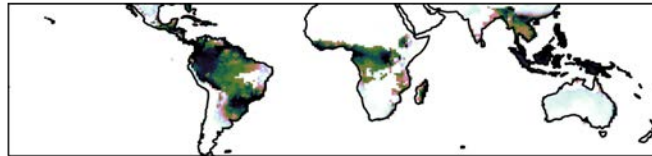
FATES-SP mean GPP



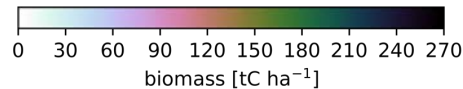
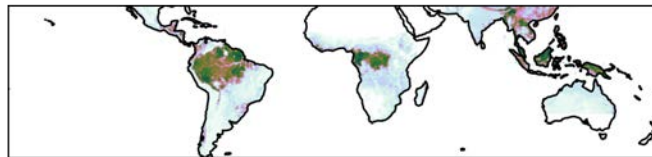
## Regional

- FATES captures dynamic biogeography and biomass
- Fire feedbacks determine plant survival
- Critical for tropics simulation
- Testing in California (LBNL)

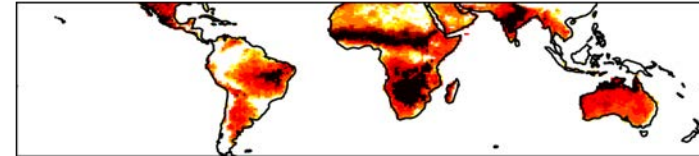
FATES AGB Mean



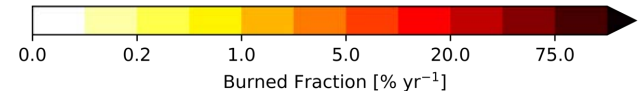
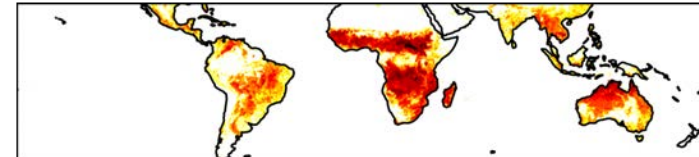
Saatchi Obs Mean



FATES Mean



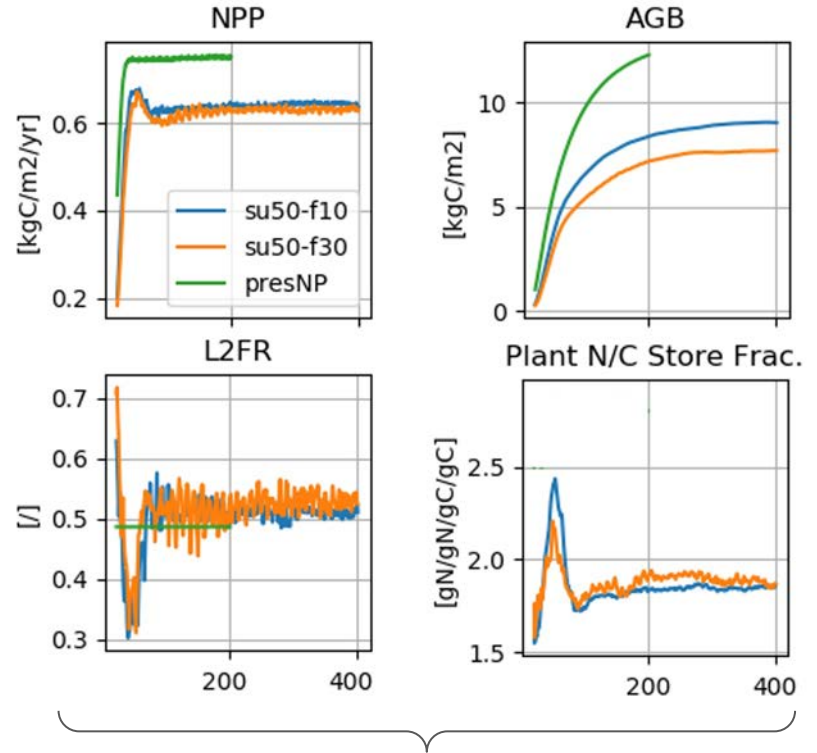
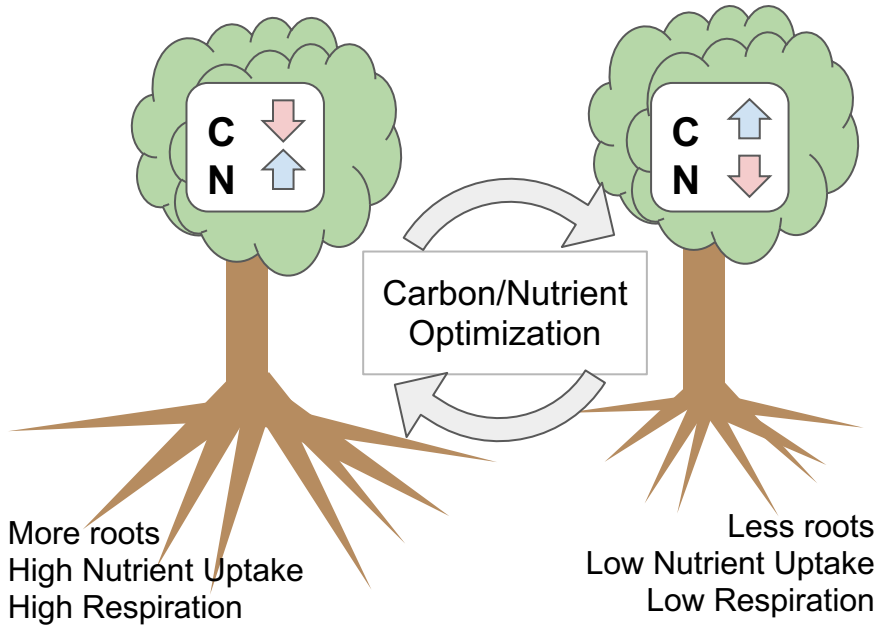
GFED4.1s



# Model Development Updates: Nutrient Dynamics

Ryan Knox

Core V2 Concept:  
 Introducing “costs” to nutrient uptake  
 via dynamic fine-root optimization

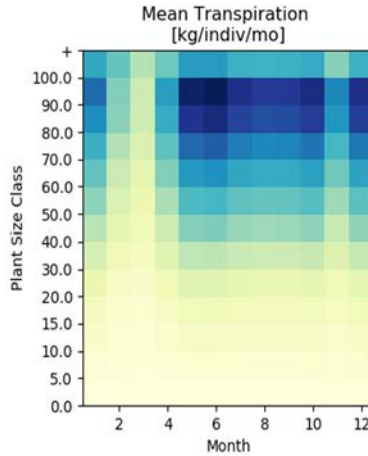
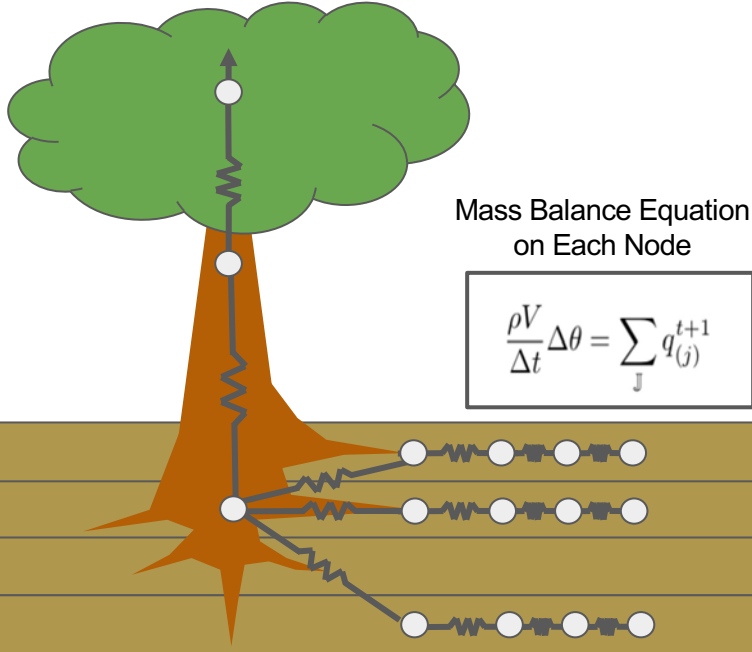


Sensitivity experiment at **Barro-Colorado Island Panama**

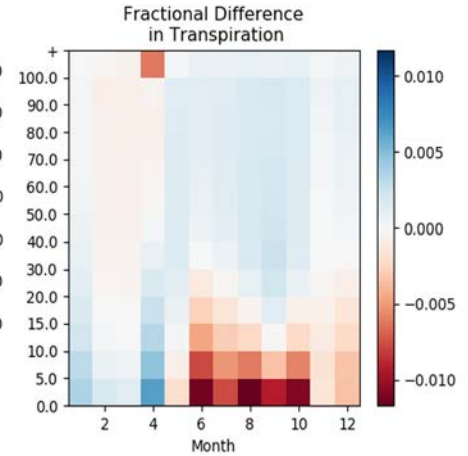
# Model Development Updates: Plant Hydraulics

Yilin Fang, Junyan Ding

Comparing the default “1D” sequential solver versus a “2D” Newton Solver



1D Result



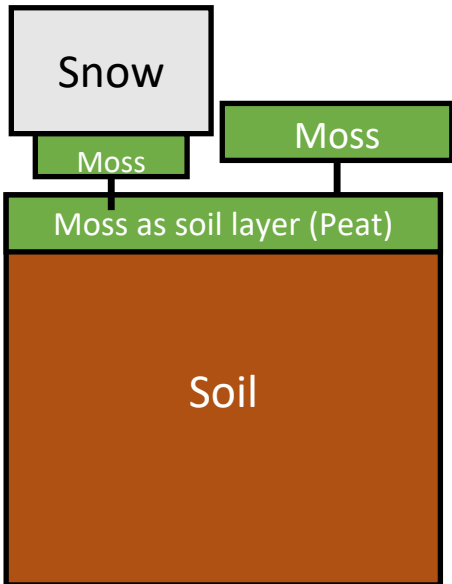
(2D-1D)/abs(1D) Result

Up to ~1000 cohorts per grid-cell!

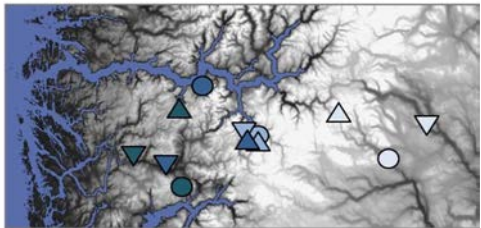
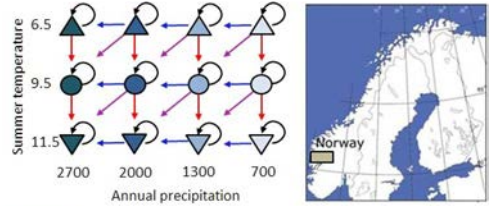
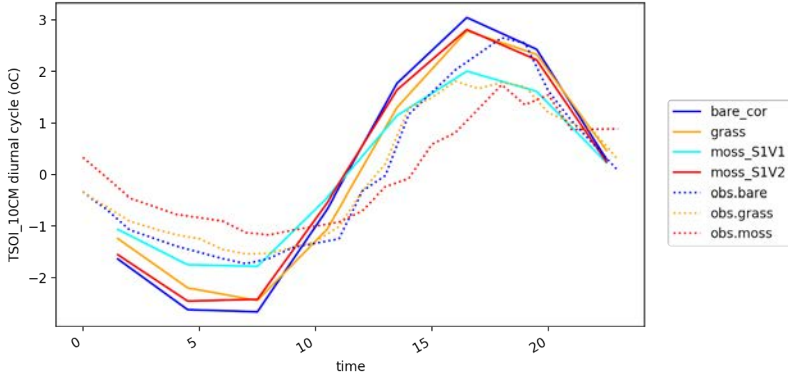
- Variable resolution fine-root layering
- Updated pressure-volume & pressure-conductance
- Plant size-specific rooting depth
- Leaf stomatal humidity controls on transpiration

# Representing moss as a mixture of soil and vegetation in CTSM-FATES

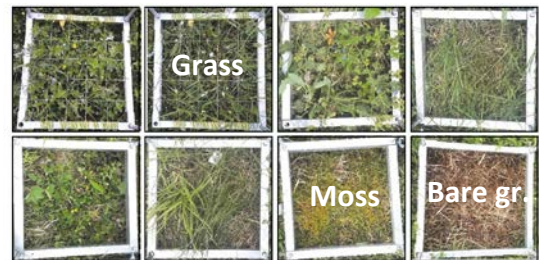
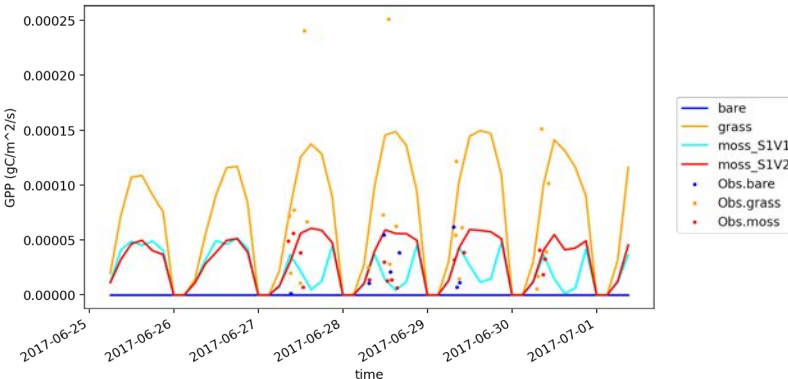
Hui Tang, Kjetil Aas, Sonya Geange et al.



Moss reduces diurnal cycle of soil temperature



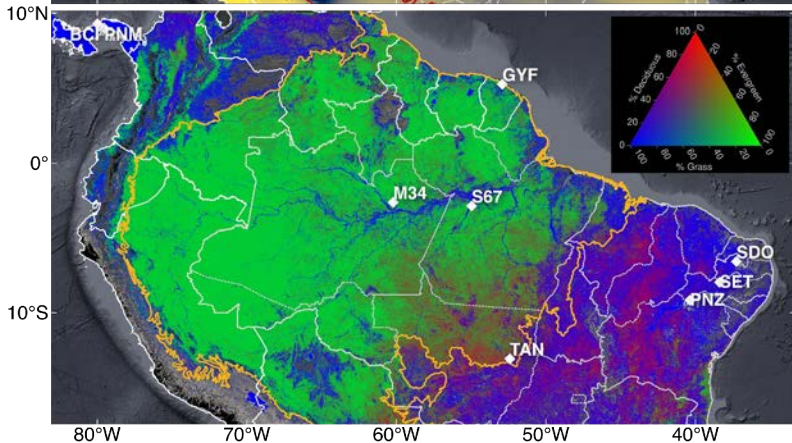
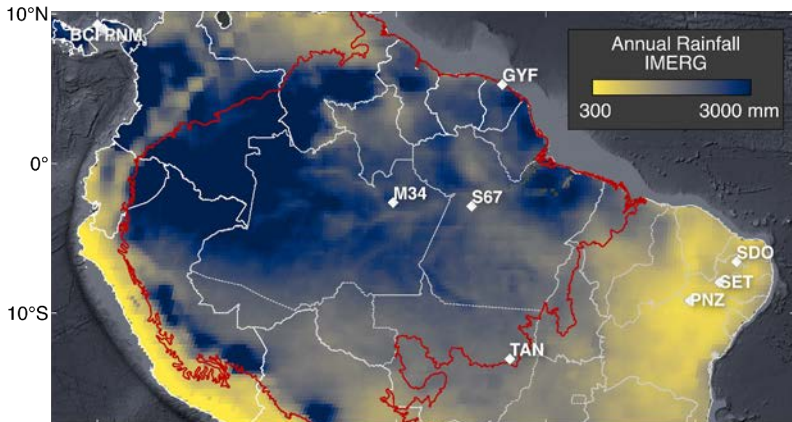
Moss has lower GPP than grass



Observation data from Vandvik et al., Sci. Data. 2022 (in revision)

# Drought-deciduous phenology in FATES

Marcos Longo



- ### Goals
- Represent dominance/coexistence of evergreen and deciduous trees across rainfall gradients in the tropics
  - Investigate how deciduousness may increase forest resilience to hotter droughts.

### Model developments



# Deciduous allocation strategy increase survivorship in dry forests

Marcos Longo



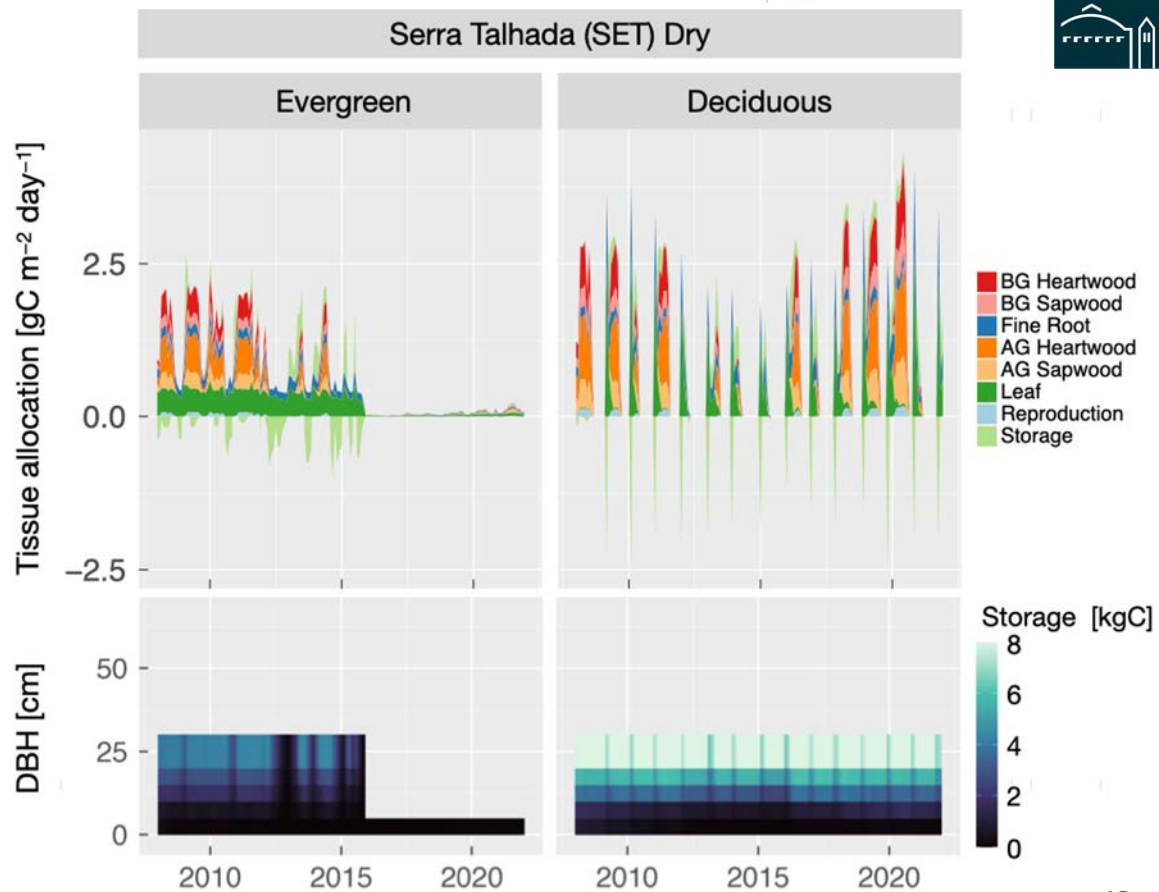
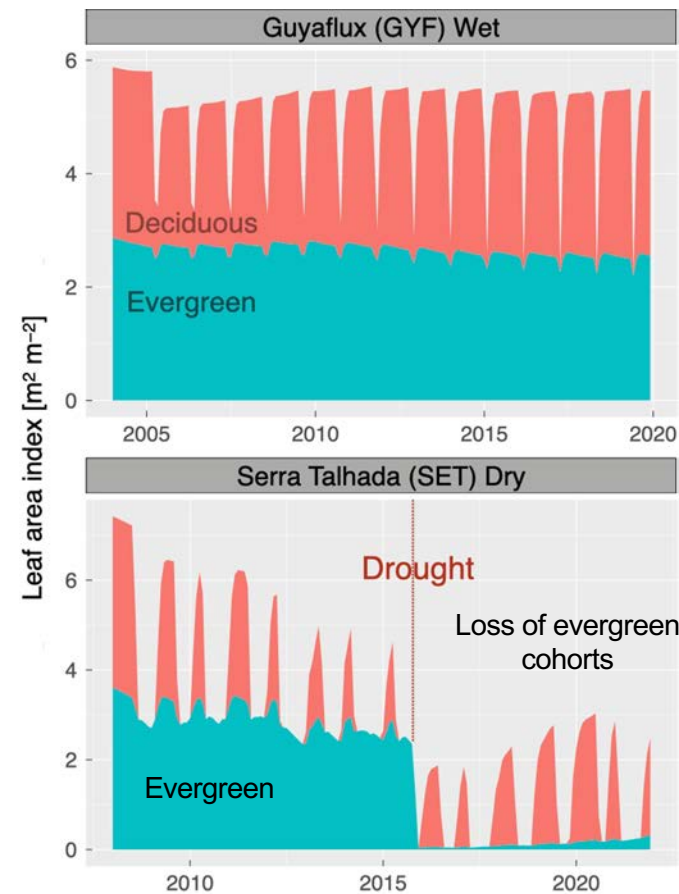
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF  
**ENERGY**

Office of  
Science



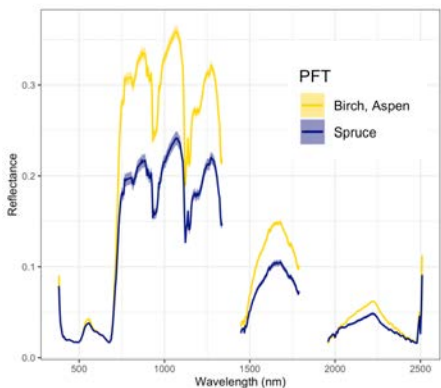
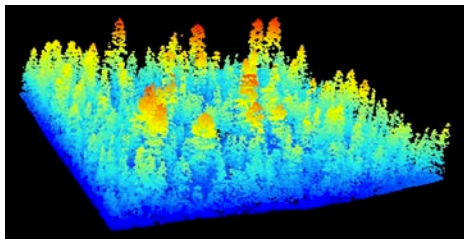
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BERKELEY  
LAB



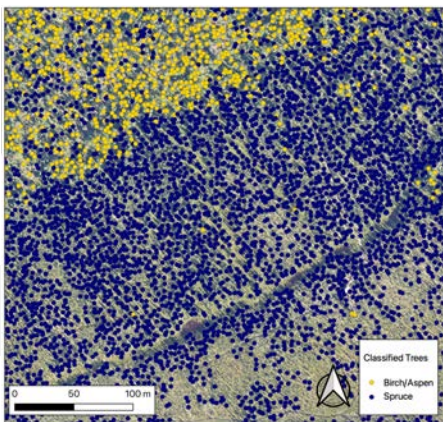
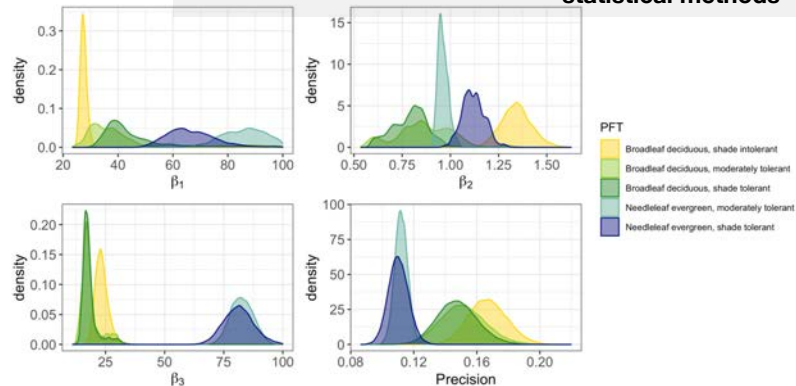
# FATES single-point simulations at NEON sites

Adrianna Foster

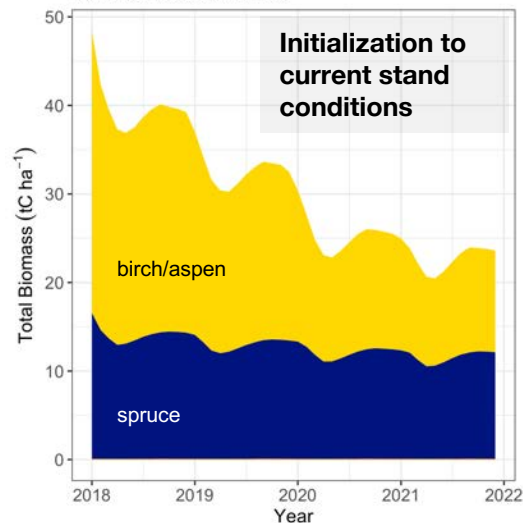


Leveraging NEON aerial LiDAR and hyperspectral imagery

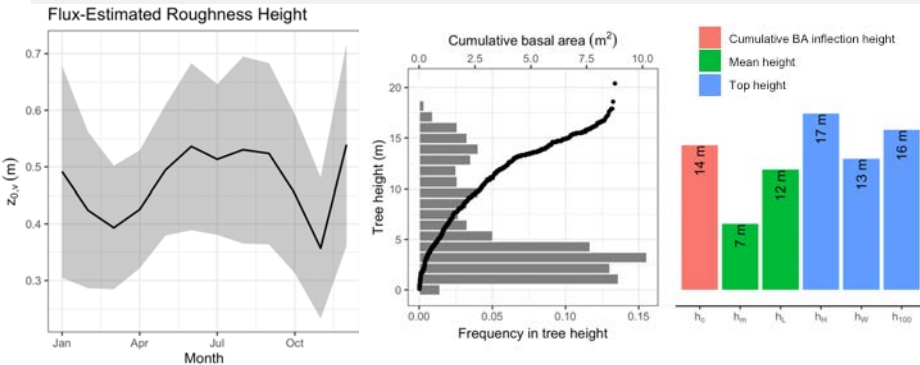
## Parameter calibration & uncertainty using Bayesian statistical methods



Bonanza Creek, Alaska



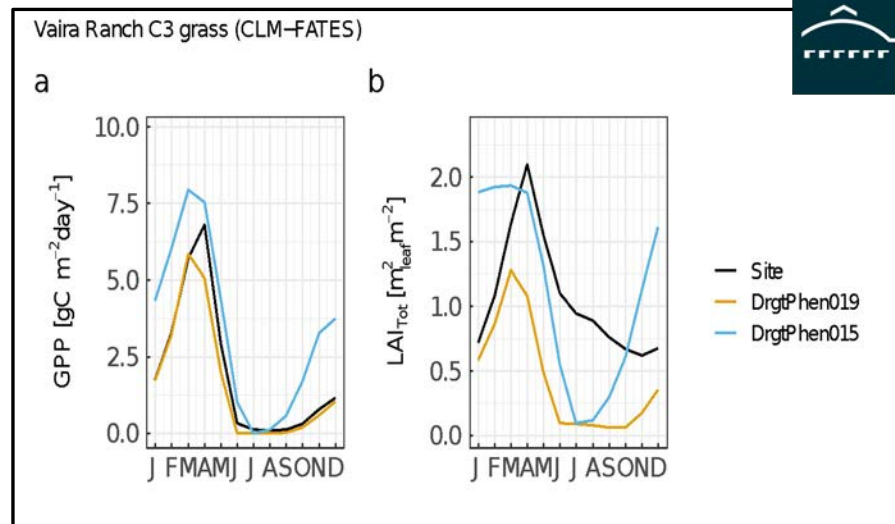
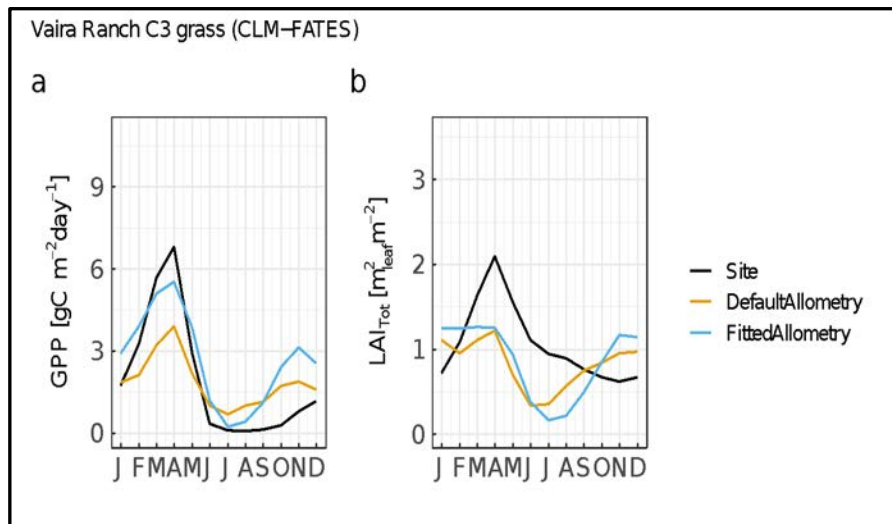
## Investigating roughness and canopy height parameterizations



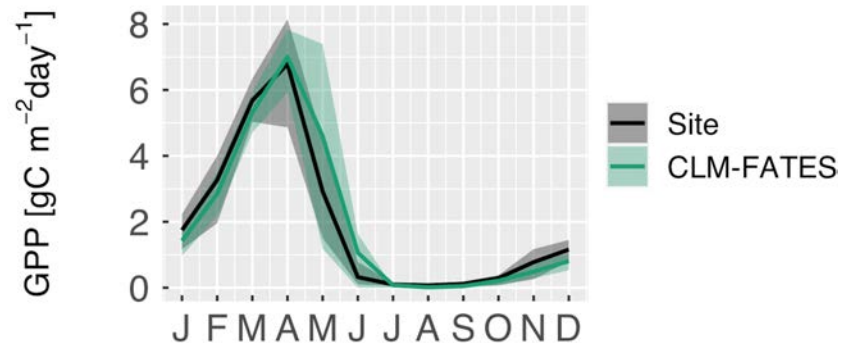


# Allometry and phenology important for grassland productivity and structure

Xiulin Gao, Charlie Koven, Lara Kueppers



Grass allometry  
experiment





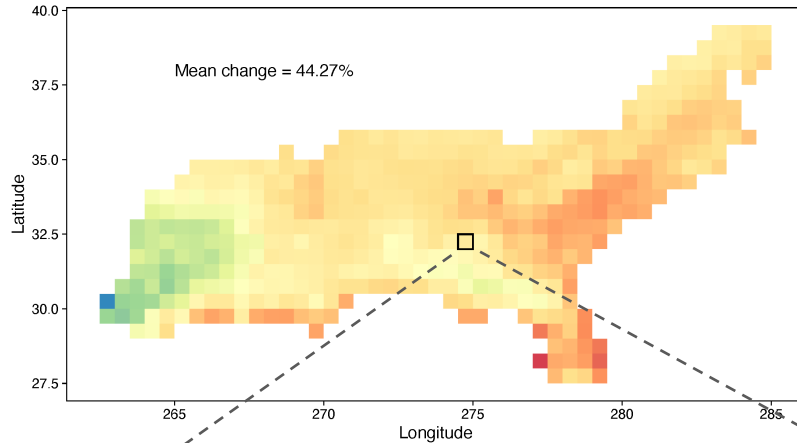
# Forest Management Practices under Future Climate with CLM-FATES

Joshua M. Rady [jmrady@vt.edu](mailto:jmrady@vt.edu)



VIRGINIA TECH™

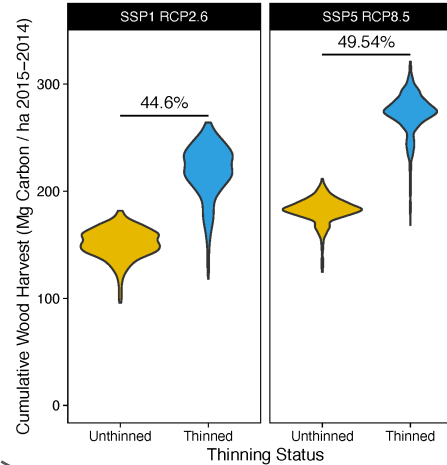
SE United States (SSP1 RCP2.6)



% Change in Cumulative Harvest (2015-2090)

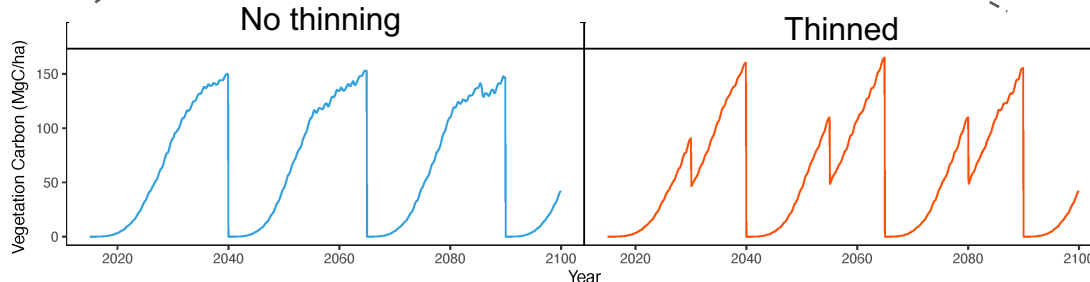
30 40 50

Thinning Effect on Wood Harvest



Thinning Status

Unthinned Thinned



<https://joshuarady.github.io/VegetationManagement/>

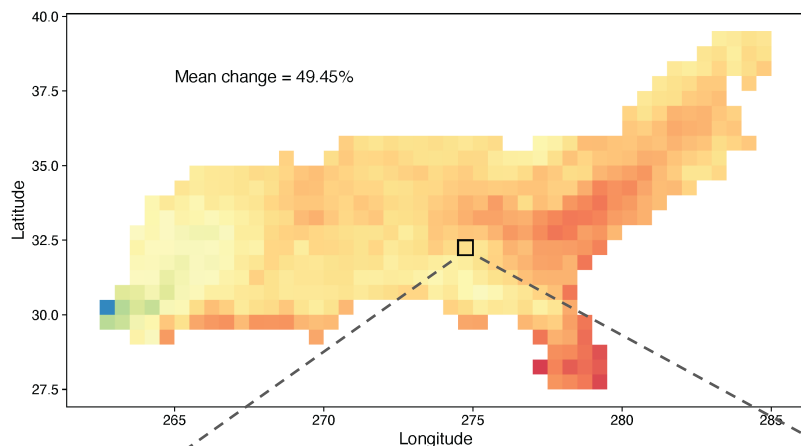
# Forest Management Practices under Future Climate with CLM-FATES

Joshua M. Rady [jmrady@vt.edu](mailto:jmrady@vt.edu)



VIRGINIA TECH™

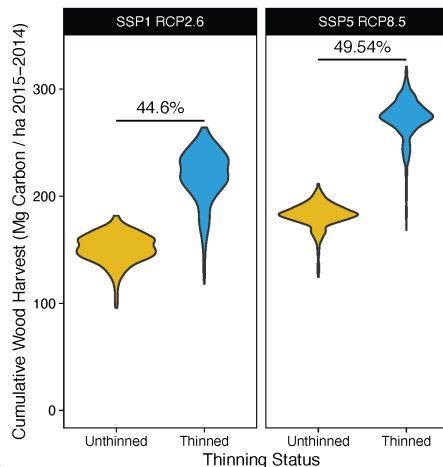
### SE United States (SSP5 RCP8.5)



% Change in Cumulative Harvest (2015-2090)

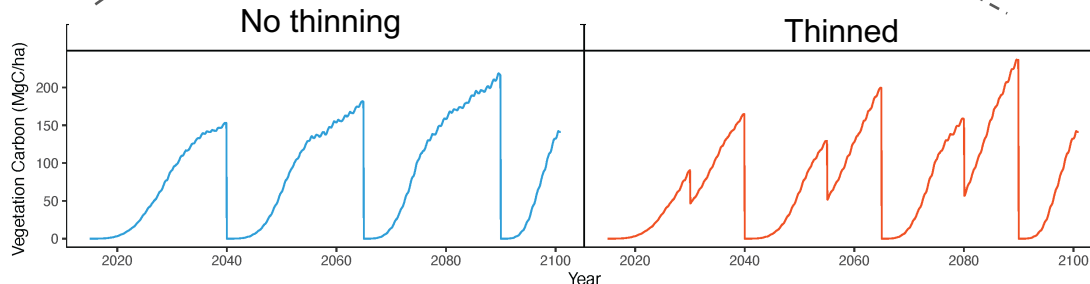
40 45 50 55

### Thinning Effect on Wood Harvest



Thinning Status

Unthinned Thinned



<https://joshuarady.github.io/VegetationManagement/>

# Simulating environmentally sensitive tree recruitment in vegetation demographic models

Adam Hanbury-Brown, Tom Powell, Joe Wright, Helene Muller-Landau, Lara Kueppers

## The Tree Recruitment Scheme (TRS) represents:

- size-dependent reproductive allocation
- moisture- and light-sensitive seedling emergence, mortality, and transition to the sapling size classes
- is compatible with existing VDM model infrastructure

**Result:** TRS improves the magnitude and rank order of PFT-specific recruitment at BCI compared to existing VDMs (Fig 1)

**Takeaway:** TRS is well-positioned to improve predictions of future forest functional composition and distribution

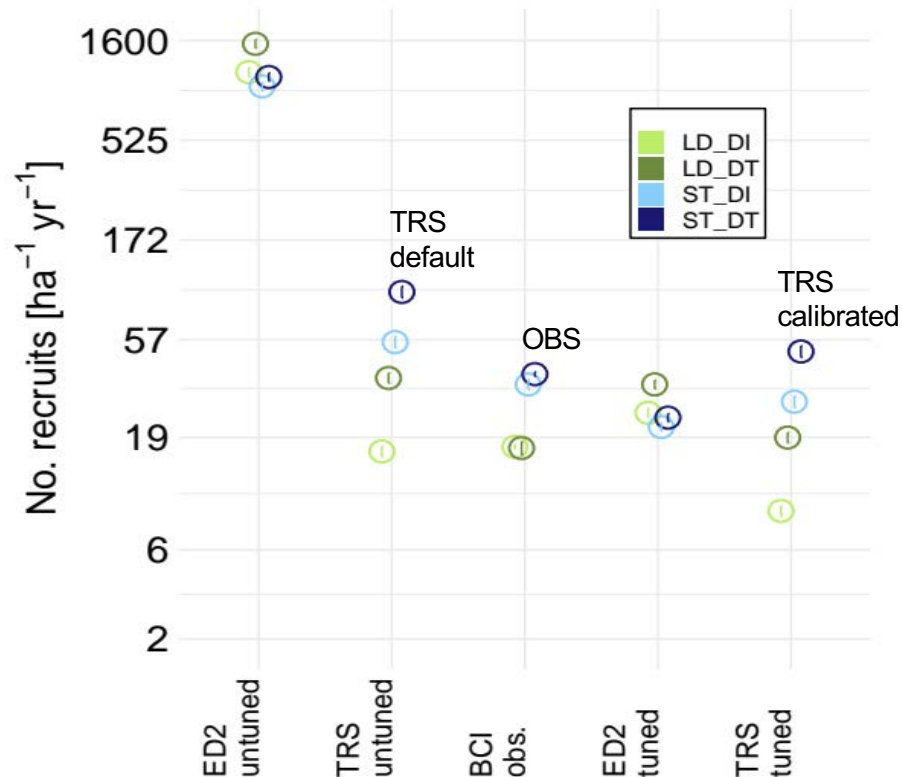


Fig 1. Recruitment (at 1-cm dbh) for 4 PFTs at BCI (center) compared with model predictions under 20 yr of observed meteorology (2008–2014 recycled).

# FATES code and information

<https://github.com/NGEET/fates/wiki>

Home  
Gregory Lemieux edited this page on Mar 10 · 24 revisions

## The Functionally Assembled Terrestrial Ecosystem Simulator (FATES)

This repository houses the development of the Functionally Assembled Terrestrial Ecosystem Simulator (FATES). FATES is a numerical terrestrial ecosystem model. The funding for this project is supported by Department of Energy's Next Generation Ecosystem Experiment - Tropics (NGEE-T) project. The conceptual design is based off of the original Ecosystem Demography model (ED, Moorcroft et al. 2001, Hurtt et al. 2002, Fisher et al. 2015). This model is designed so that it works as a library that can be called from a selection of driver models including Earth System Models (ESM) such as

Documentation  
FATES technical documentation  
FATES User's Guide

Technical Documentation  
&  
User's Guide

Tutorial materials

Welcome to the 2022 CTSM mini-tutorial

JupyterBook [passing](#)

license [9BT](#) Made with [Jupyter](#) Last commit [last Saturday](#) [Contributors](#) [1](#)

The materials and notebooks in this tutorial is published as a Jupyter book [here](#).

This repository includes materials for the Community Terrestrial Systems Model (CTSM) Spring 2022 mini-tutorial ([link to agenda and resources](#)).

These tutorials are designed as an introduction to running the Community Terrestrial Systems Model (CTSM). We will go through three configurations that include running a:

1. Supported NEON tower site,
2. Global FATES-SP simulation, and
3. Generic single point simulation.

We'll also learn how to:

# Acknowledgment

A portion of this research was supported as part of the Next Generation Ecosystem Experiments-Tropics, funded by the U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Science, Office of Biological and Environmental Research.

## Thank You! Questions?

Contact details:

Jacquelyn Shuman [jkshuman@ucar.edu](mailto:jkshuman@ucar.edu)



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