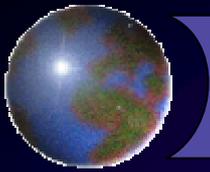


# *Overlooked Issues in the Climate Change Debate*

Professor Roger A. Pielke Sr.  
Colorado State University

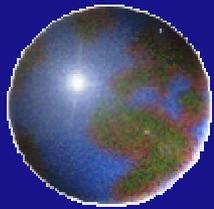
Presented at Sertoma Club, Loveland, CO  
June 30, 2004



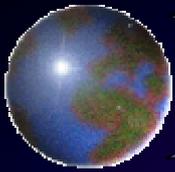
# *Policy Statement on Climate Variability and Change by the American Association of State Climatologists*

1. Past climate is a useful guide to the future - Assessing past climate conditions provides a very effective analysis tool to assess societal and environmental vulnerability to future climate, regardless of the extent the future climate is altered by human activity. Our current and future vulnerability, however, will be different than in the past, even if climate were not to change, because society and the environment change as well. Decision makers need assessments of how climate vulnerability has changed.
2. Climate prediction is complex with many uncertainties. The AASC recognizes climate prediction is an extremely difficult undertaking. For time scales of a decade or more, understanding the empirical accuracy of such predictions - called "verification" - is simply impossible, since we have to wait a decade or longer to assess the accuracy of the forecasts.

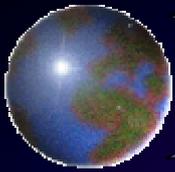
Available at: <http://ccc.atmos.colostate.edu/policystatement.php>



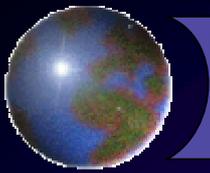
# *Views of Climate Change Science*



- Climate change including regional impacts can be skillfully predicted by knowledge of the concentration of well-mixed greenhouse gases.
- Surface temperatures are the most appropriate metric to assess “global warming.”
- The global average temperature provides a useful assessment of climate.
- The surface temperature data has been adequately homogenized in the regional scale using adjustments such as time of observations, instrument changes, and urbanizations.
- Arctic sea-ice cover and Northern Hemisphere snow cover are continuously diminishing in areal coverage.



- The atmospheric hydrological cycle is accelerating.
- The earth's atmosphere is warmer today than it was in 1979 when accurate global satellite coverage became available.
- The GCM models have skillfully predicted the evolution of the earth's atmospheric temperature since 1979.
- We understand climate change and can introduce policies to prevent our "dangerous intervention in the climate system."
- The IPCC and U.S. National Assessment document a clear scientific understanding of the human disturbance of the climate system.



# The Observer

## Now the Pentagon Tells Bush: Climate Change Will Destroy Us

Secret report warns of rioting and nuclear war; Britain will be 'Siberian' in less than 20 years; Threat to the world is greater than terrorism.

Mark Townsend and Paul Harris in New York  
Sunday February 22, 2004  
The Observer

Climate change over the next 20 years could result in a global catastrophe costing millions of lives in wars and natural disasters....

<http://observer.guardian.co.uk/international/story/0,6903,1153513,00.html>

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Sport Review Magazine Screen Travel Cash Letters Food

**International**

**Now the Pentagon tells Bush: climate change will destroy us**

- Secret report warns of rioting and nuclear war
- Britain will be 'Siberian' in less than 20 years
- Threat to the world is greater than terrorism

**Mark Townsend and Paul Harris in New York**  
Sunday February 22, 2004  
[The Observer](#)

Climate change over the next 20 years could result in a global catastrophe costing millions of lives in wars and natural disasters..

**Online**  
For the latest internet news [click here](#)

A secret report, suppressed by US defence chiefs and obtained by The Observer, warns that major European cities will be sunk beneath rising seas as Britain is plunged into a 'Siberian' climate by 2020. Nuclear conflict, mega-droughts, famine and widespread rioting will erupt across the world.

The document predicts that abrupt climate change could bring the planet to the edge of anarchy as countries develop a nuclear threat to defend and secure dwindling food, water and energy supplies. The threat to global stability vastly eclipses that of terrorism, say the few experts privy to its contents.

'Disruption and conflict will be endemic features of life,' concludes the Pentagon analysis. 'Once again, warfare would define human life.'

The findings will prove humiliating to the Bush administration, which has repeatedly denied that climate change even exists. Experts said that they will also make unsettling reading for a President who has insisted national defence is a priority.

The report was commissioned by influential Pentagon defence adviser Andrew Marshall, who has held considerable sway on US military thinking over the past three decades. He was the man behind a sweeping recent review aimed at transforming the American military under Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld.

Climate change 'should be elevated beyond a scientific debate

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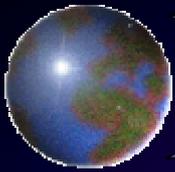
# *The Lack of Spatial Representativeness of Surface Temperature*

From Davey, C.A., and R.A. Pielke Sr., 2004: Microclimate exposures of surface-based weather stations - implications for the assessment of long-term temperature trends. Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc., submitted.

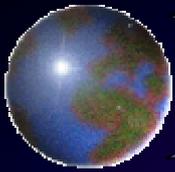
<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-274.pdf>

Hanamean, J.R. Jr., R.A. Pielke Sr., C.L. Castro, D.S. Ojima, B.C. Reed, and Z. Gao, 2003: Vegetation impacts on maximum and minimum temperatures in northeast Colorado. Meteorological Applications, 10, 203-215.

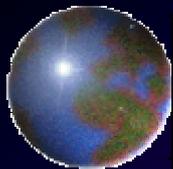
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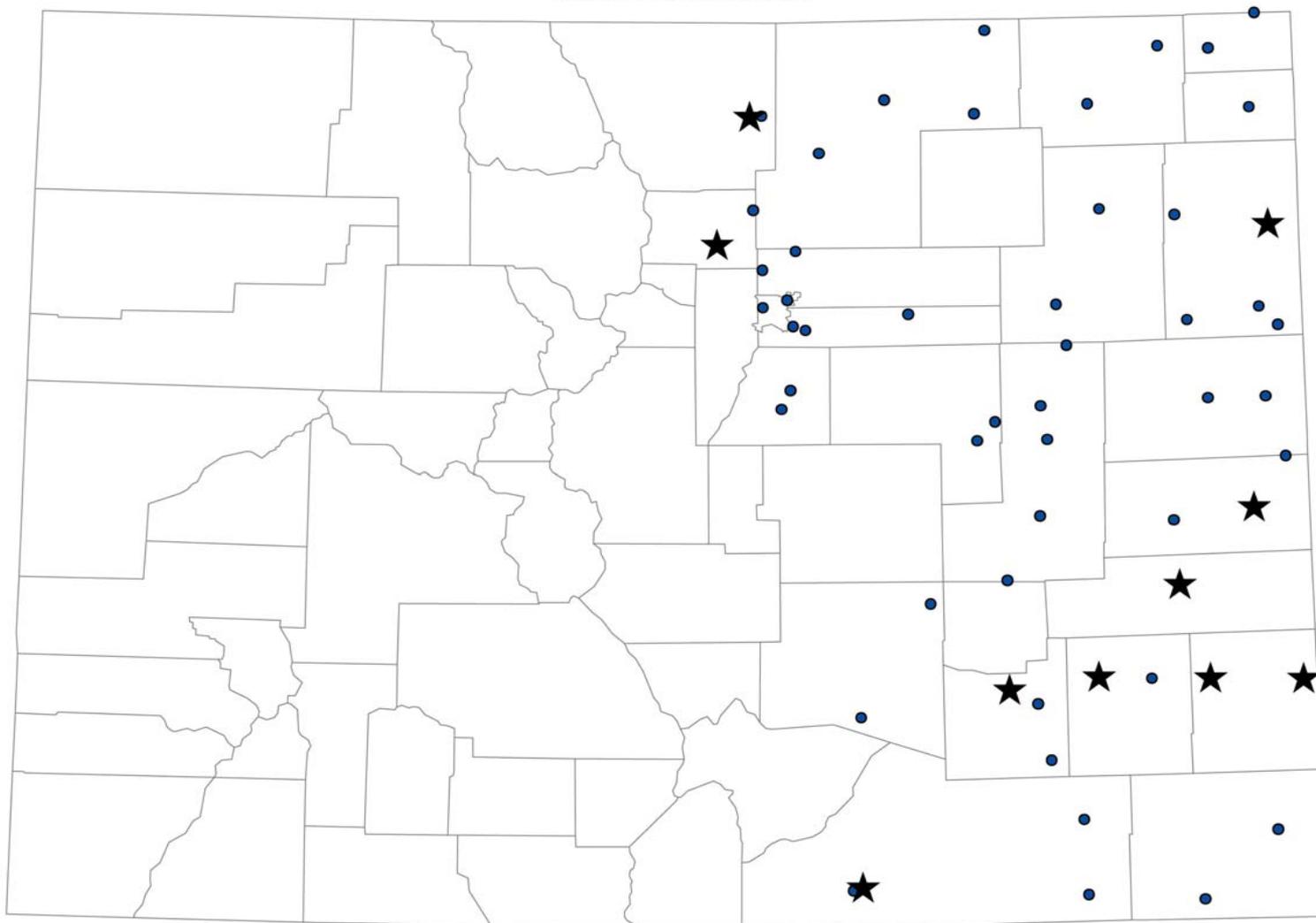
Maximum-minimum temperature sensor (MMTS) installation near Lindon, Colorado.



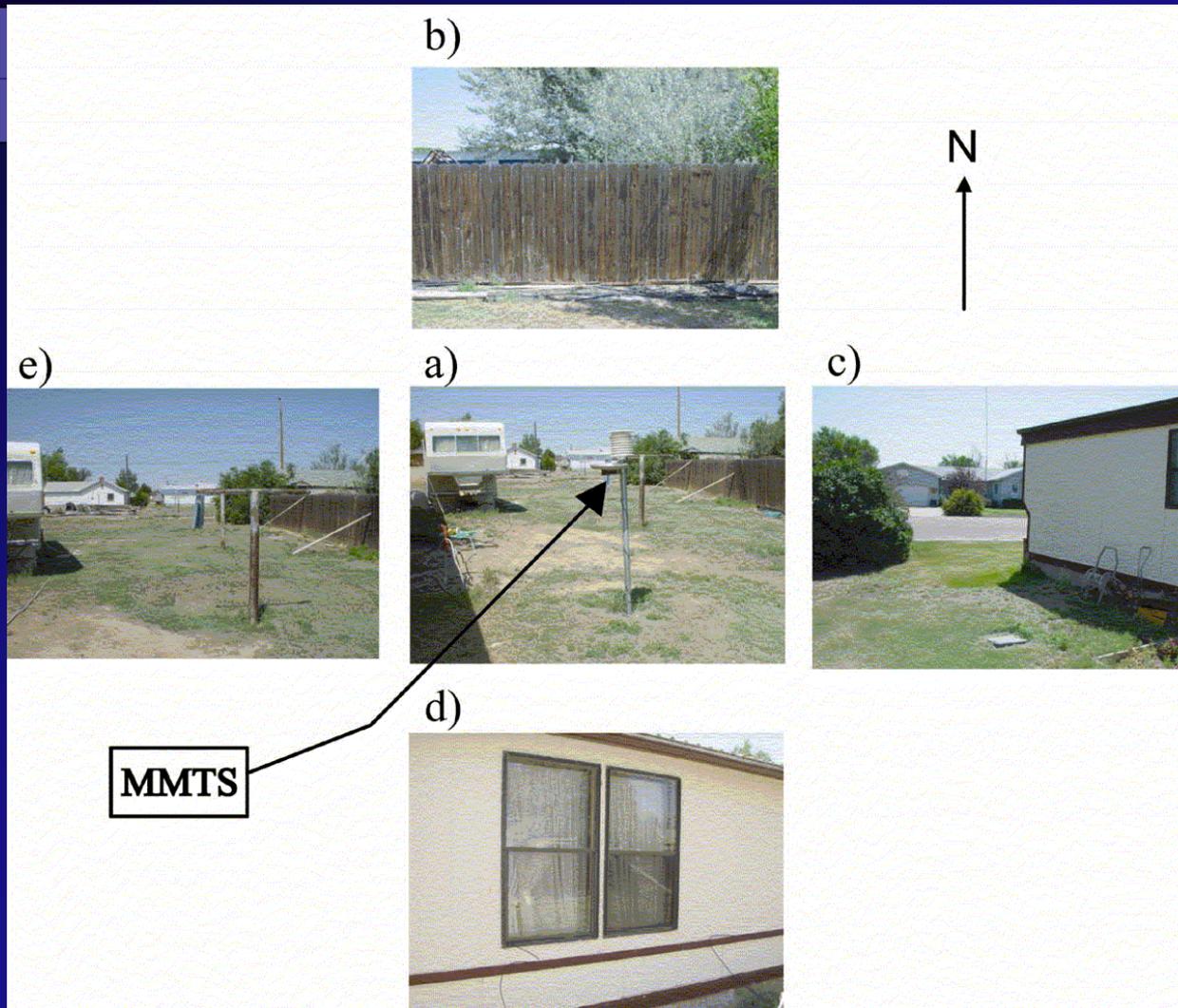
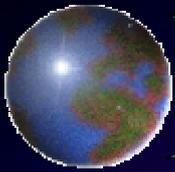
MMTS installation near John Martin Reservoir, Colorado.



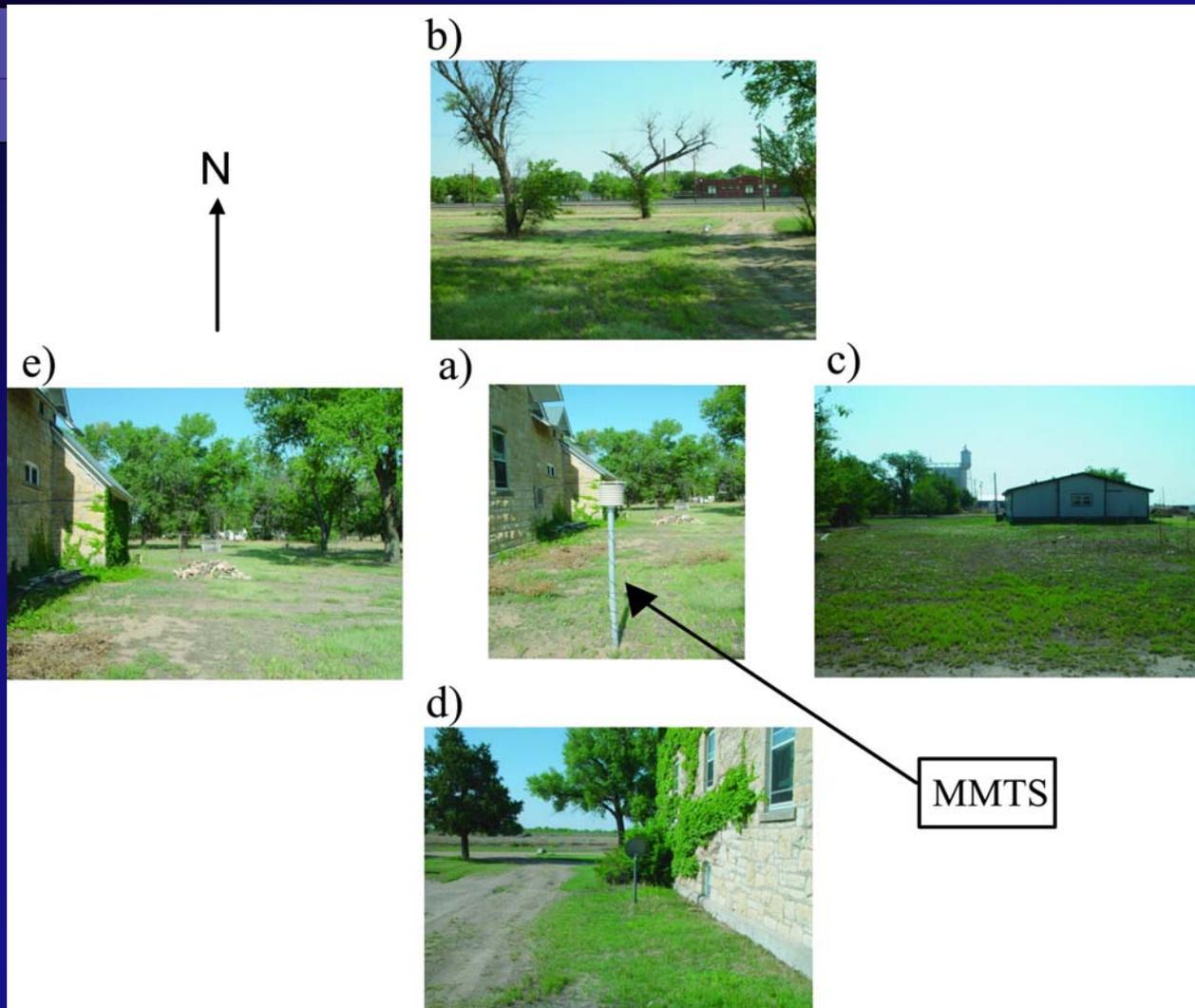
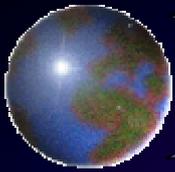
# COLORADO



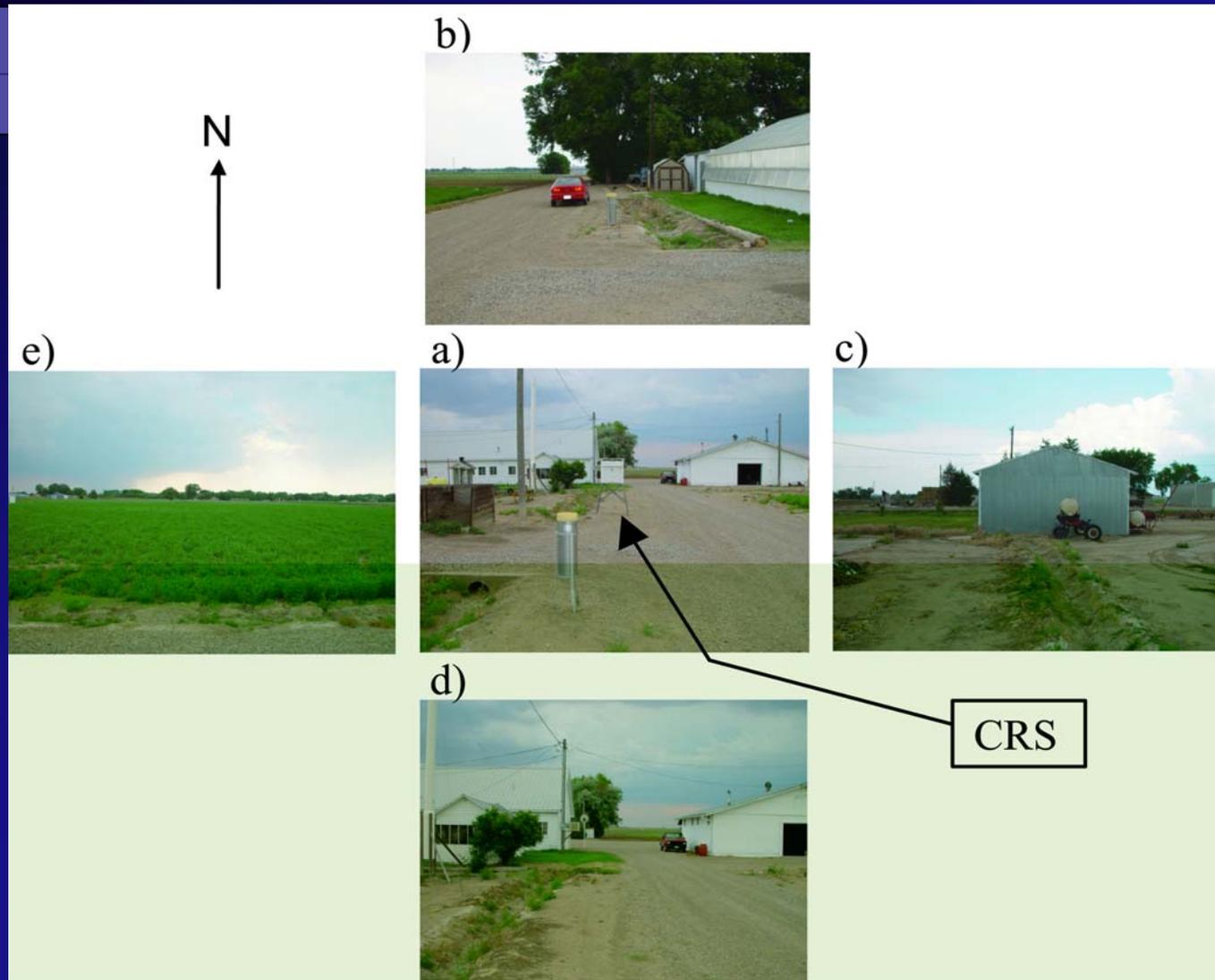
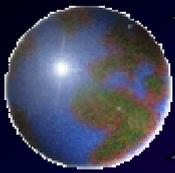
Map of study region, showing all surveyed COOP sites. The USHCN sites are indicated by stars. The following photos are for HCN sites.



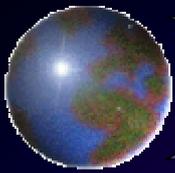
Photographs of the temperature sensor exposure characteristics of the NWS COOP station at Eads, CO. Panel a) shows the temperature sensor, while panels b)-e) illustrate the exposures viewed from the temperature sensor looking N, E, S, and W, respectively.



Photographs of the temperature sensor exposure characteristics of the NWS COOP station at Holly, CO. Panel a) shows the temperature sensor, while panels b)-e) illustrate the exposures viewed from the temperature sensor looking N, E, S, and W, respectively.



Photographs of the temperature sensor exposure characteristics for the NWS COOP station near Rocky Ford, Colorado. Panel a) shows the temperature sensor, while panels b)-e) illustrate the exposures viewed from the temperature sensor looking N, E, S, and W, respectively. (CRS-Cotton Region Shelter)



b)



e)



a)



c)

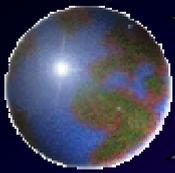


d)



CRS

Photographs of the temperature sensor exposure characteristics of the NWS COOP station at Trinidad, CO. Panel a) shows the temperature sensor, while panels b)-e) illustrate the exposures viewed from the sensor looking N, E, S, and W, respectively.



b)



e)



a)



c)

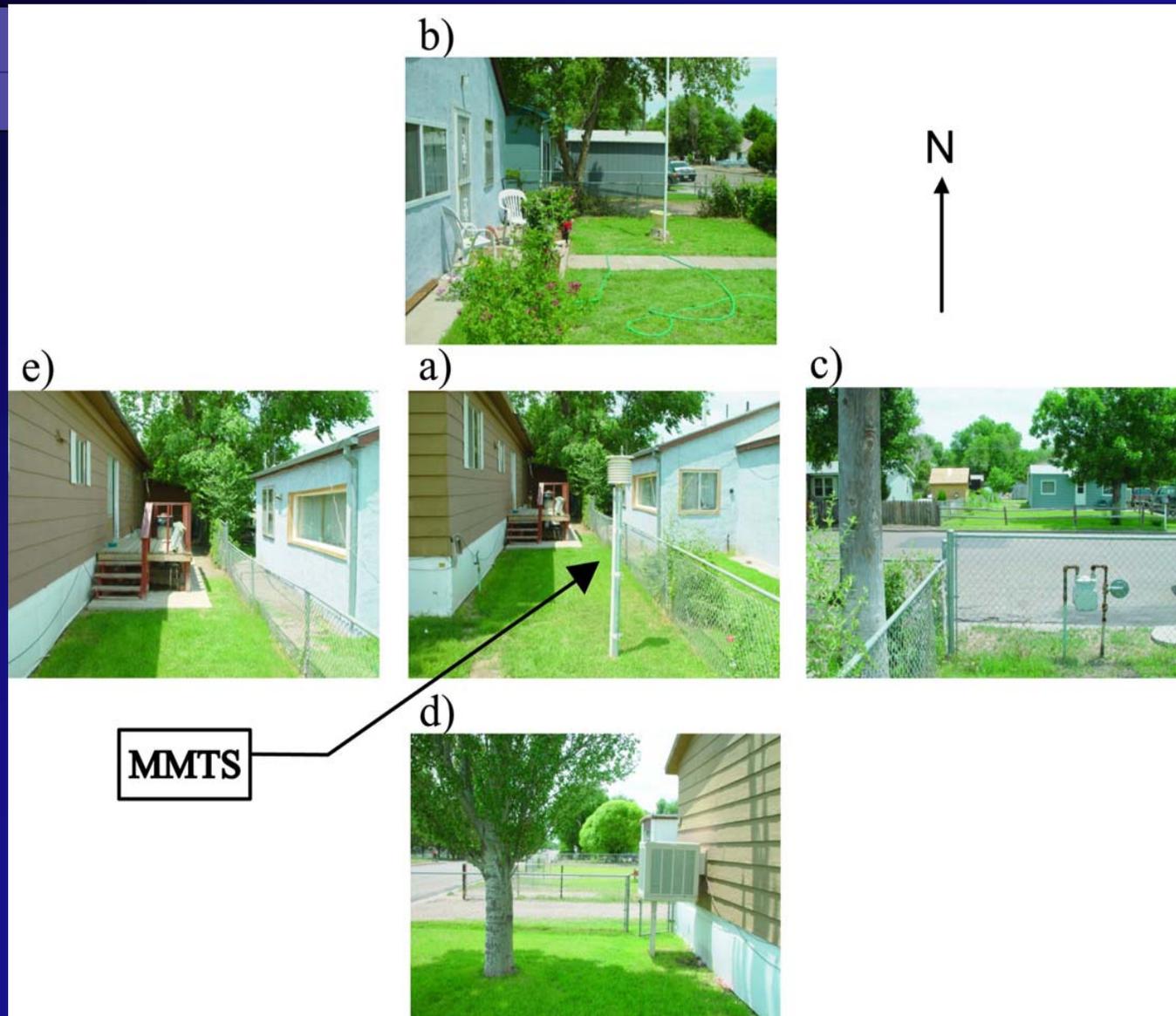
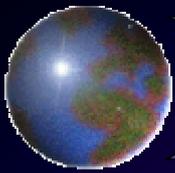


d)

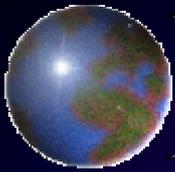
CRS



Photographs of the temperature sensor exposure characteristics of the NWS COOP station at Cheyenne Wells, CO. Panel a) shows the temperature sensor, while panels b)-e) illustrate the exposures viewed from the sensor looking N, E, S, and W, respectively.



Photographs of the temperature sensor exposure characteristics of the NWS COOP station at Lamar, CO. Panel a) shows the temperature sensor, while panels b)-e) illustrate the exposures viewed from the sensor looking N, E, S, and W, respectively.



b)



e)



a)



c)

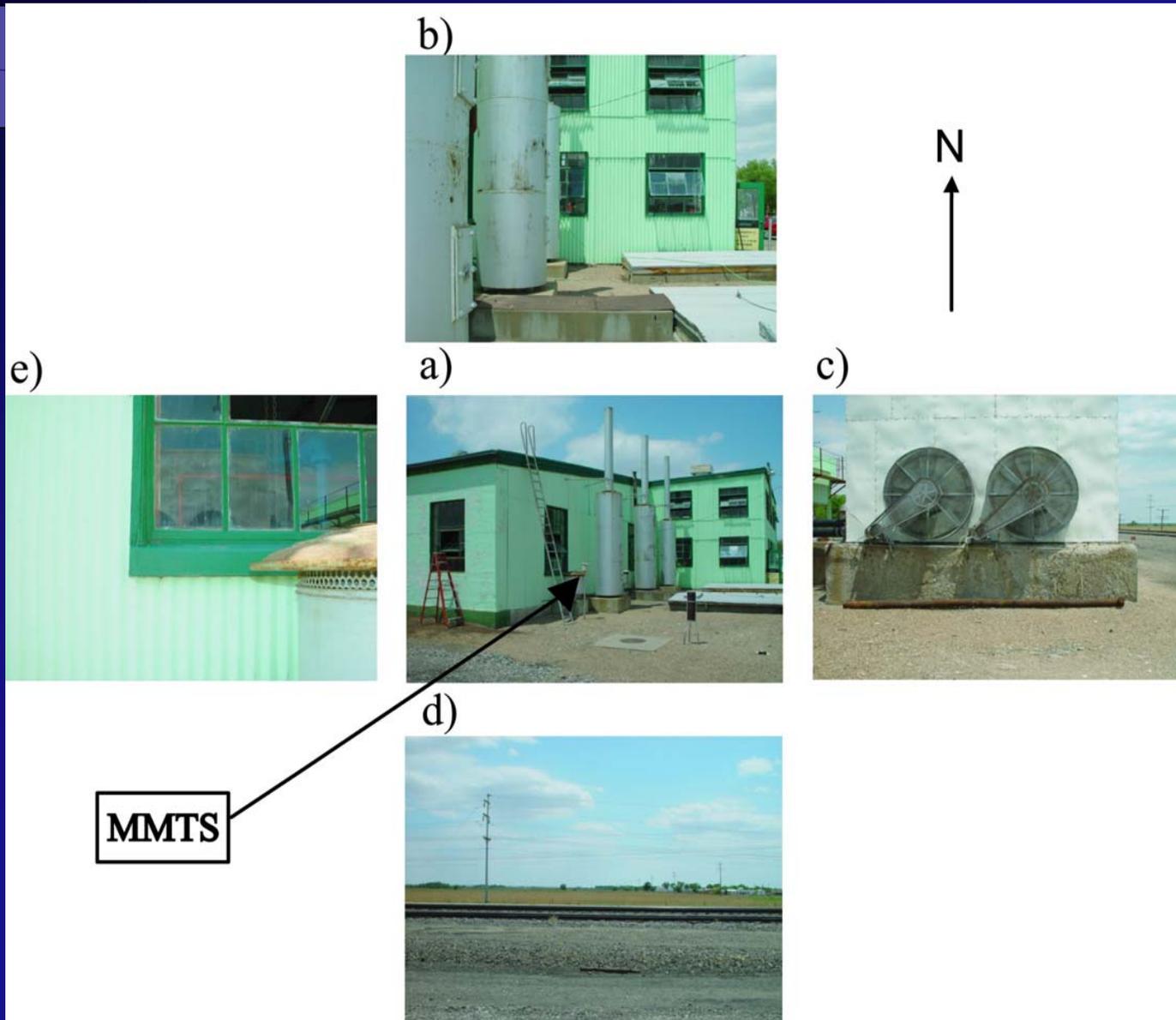
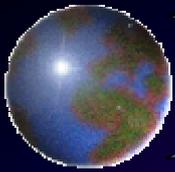


d)

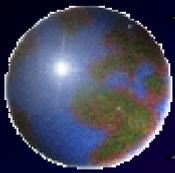


MMTS

Photographs of the temperature sensor exposure characteristics of the NWS COOP station at Wray, CO. Panel a) shows the temperature sensor, while panels b)-e) illustrate the exposures viewed from the sensor looking N, E, S, and W, respectively.



Photographs of the temperature sensor exposure characteristics of the NWS COOP station at Las Animas, CO. Panel a) shows the temperature sensor, while panels b)-e) illustrate the exposures viewed from the sensor looking N, E, S, and W, respectively.



Northeast view



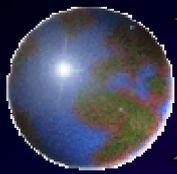
Close up of sensor location

Fort Morgan site showing images of the cardinal directions from the sensor (from Hanamean et al. 2003)

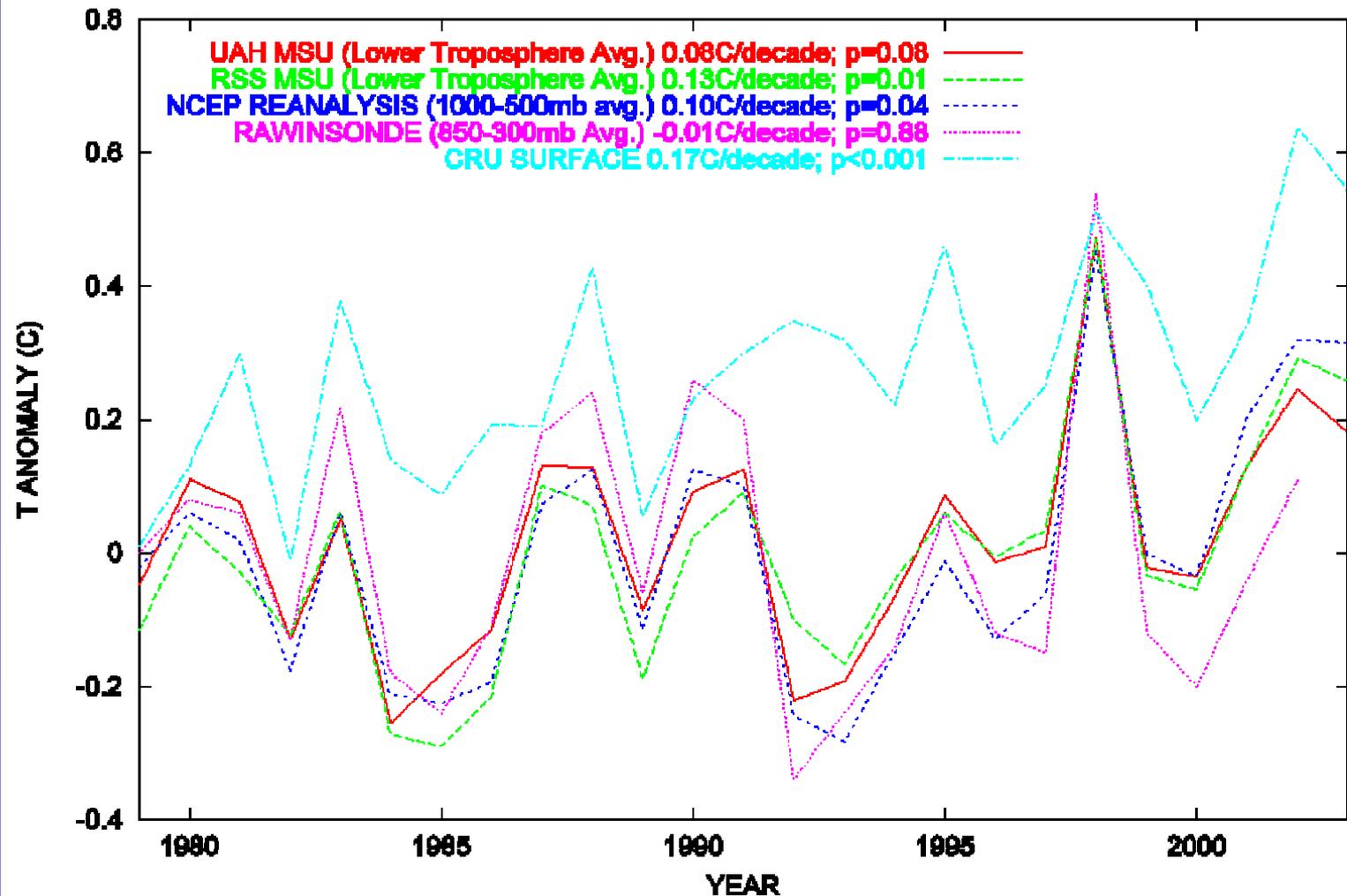
# *GCM Models Have Not Yet Succeeded In Skillfully Predicting 1980-2000 Global Climate*

Chase, T.N., R.A. Pielke Sr., B. Herman, and X. Zeng, 2004: Likelihood of rapidly increasing surface temperatures unaccompanied by strong warming in the free troposphere. *Climate Res.*, 25, 185-190.

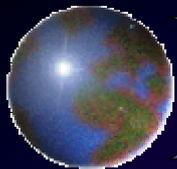
<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-271.pdf>



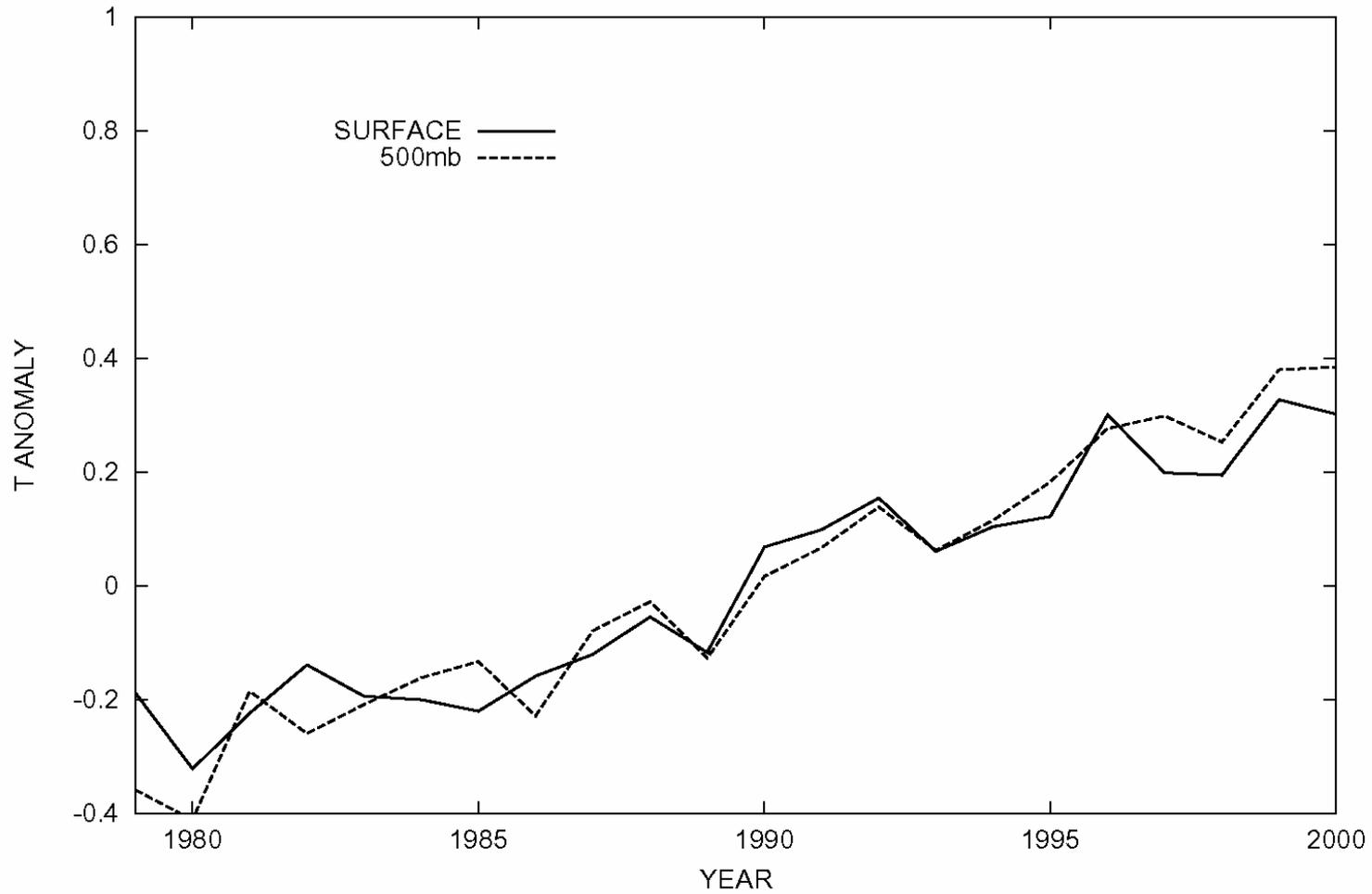
### TROPOSPHERIC OBSERVATIONS: GLOBAL TEMPERATURE ANOMALY



Courtesy of Thomas N. Chase, University of Colorado, Boulder.



CGCM2: GLOBAL TEMPERATURE ANOMALY

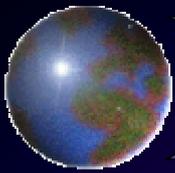


# *The Lack of Warming in the Arctic Troposphere*

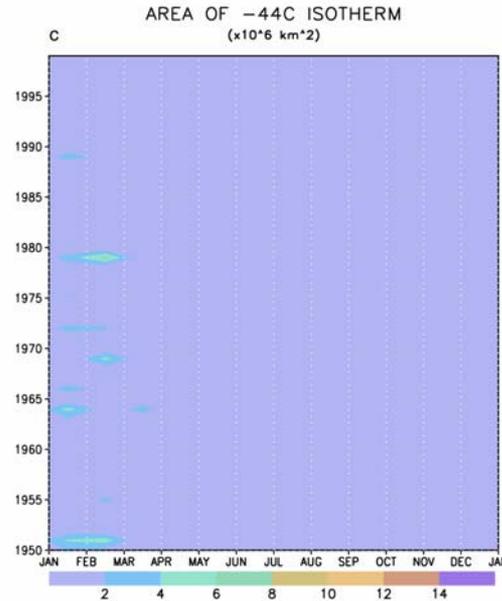
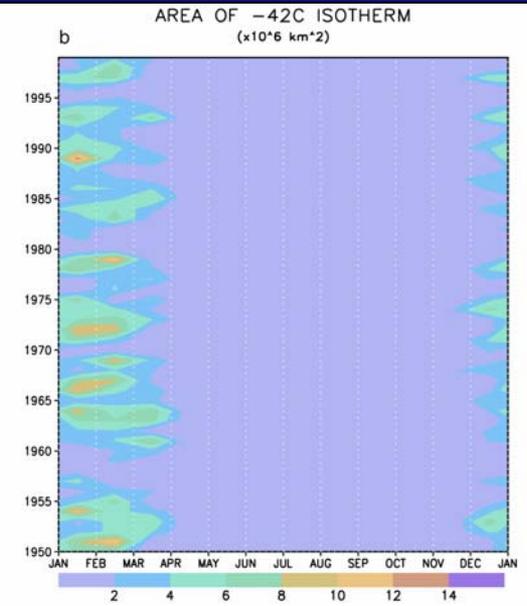
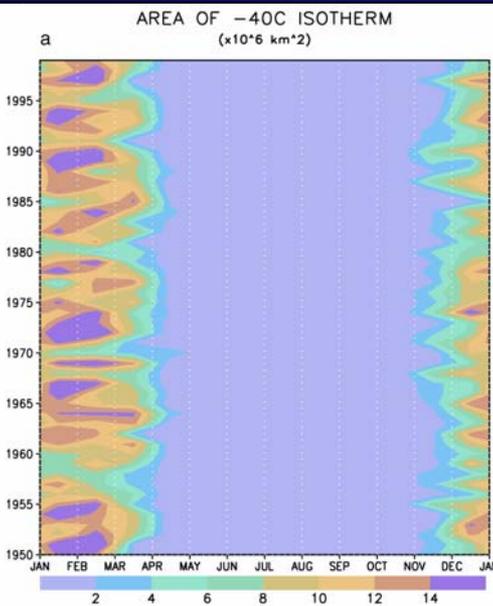
From Chase, T.N., B. Herman, R.A. Pielke Sr., X. Zeng, and M. Leuthold, 2002: A proposed mechanism for the regulation of minimum midtropospheric temperatures in the Arctic. *J. Geophys. Res.*, 107(D14), 10.10291/ 2001JD001425.

<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-246.pdf>

[http://www.atmo.arizona.edu/gifs/500mb\\_t.gif](http://www.atmo.arizona.edu/gifs/500mb_t.gif)



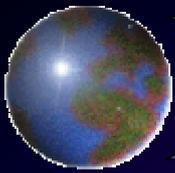
Reanalysis monthly-averaged area enclosed by indicated isotherm during the period 1950-1998 north of 60°N. (a) -40°C isotherm, (b) -42°C isotherm, and (c) -44°C isotherm.



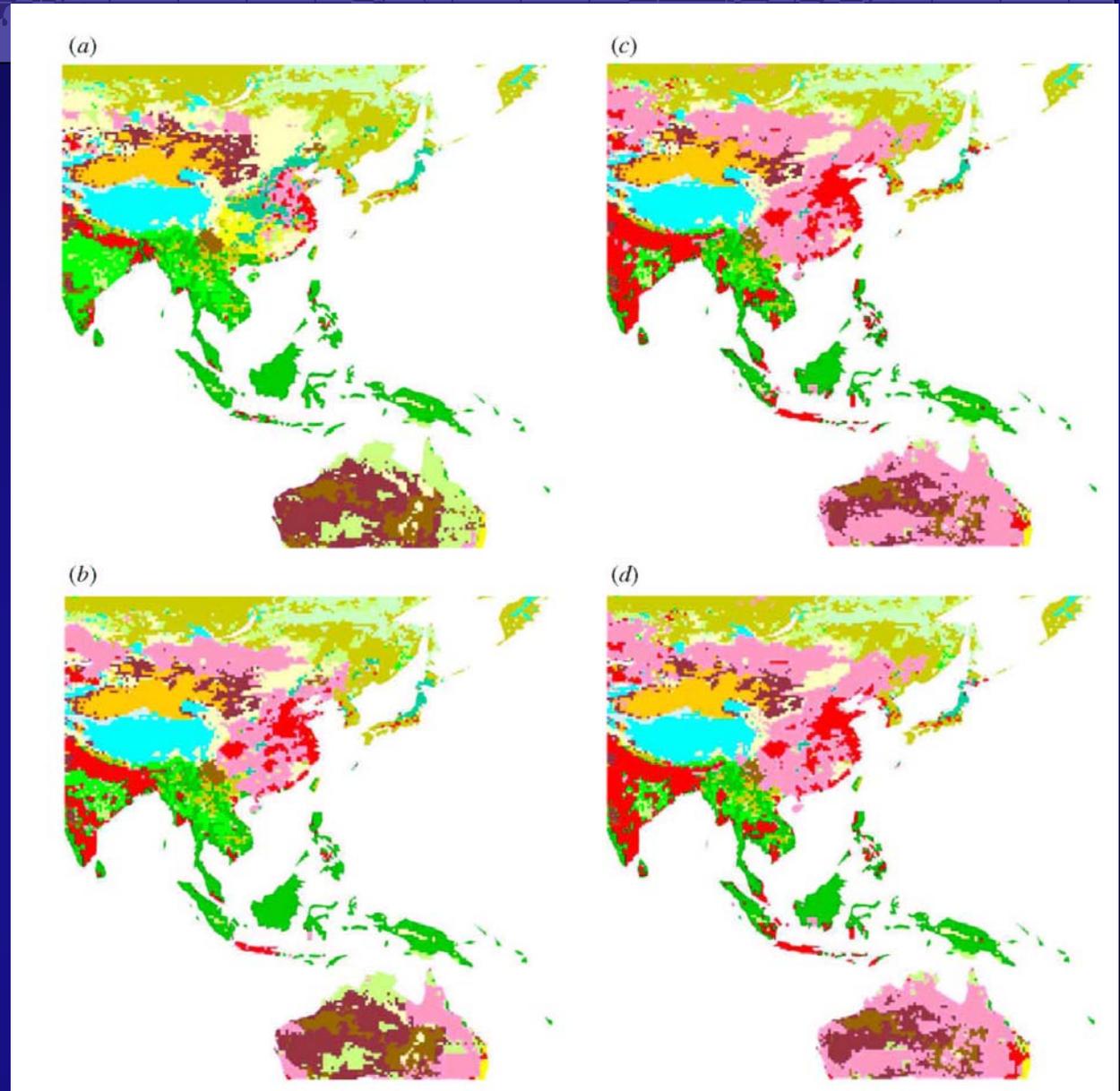
# *The Global Spatial Redistribution of Energy by Human-Caused Landscape Change*

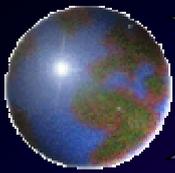
From Pielke Sr., R.A., G. Marland, R.A. Betts, T.N. Chase, J.L. Eastman, J.O. Niles, D. Niyogi, and S. Running, 2002: The influence of land-use change and landscape dynamics on the climate system- relevance to climate change policy beyond the radiative effect of greenhouse gases. *Phil. Trans. A. Special Theme Issue*, 360, 1705-1719.

<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-258.pdf>



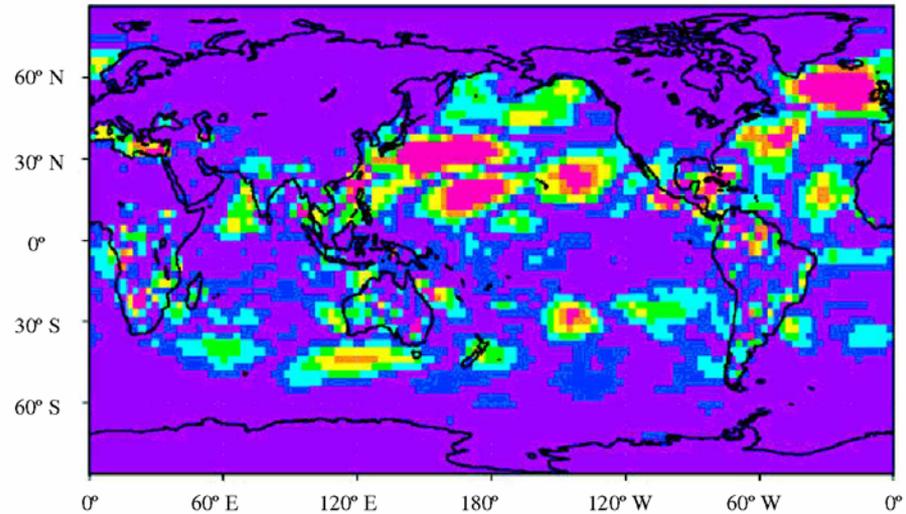
Examples of land-use change from (a) 1700, (b) 1900, (c) 1970, and (d) 1990. The human-disturbed landscape includes intensive cropland (red) and marginal cropland used for grazing (pink). Other landscape includes tropical evergreen forest and deciduous forest (dark green), savannah (light green), grassland and steppe (yellow), open shrubland (maroon), temperate deciduous forest (blue), temperate needleleaf evergreen forest (light yellow) and hot desert (orange). Note the expansion of cropland and grazed land between 1700 and 1900. (Reproduced with permission from Klein Goldewijk 2001.)



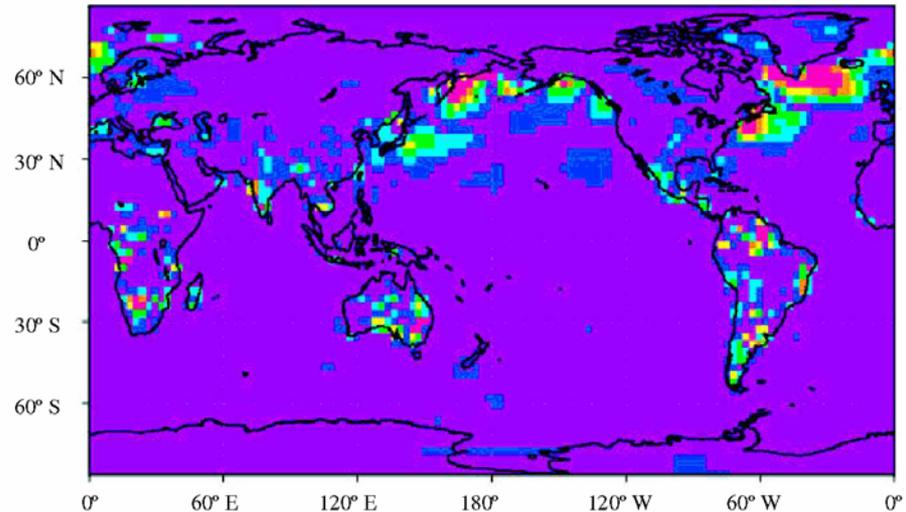


The ten-year average absolute-value change in surface latent turbulent heat flux in  $W\ m^{-2}$  worldwide as a result of the land-use changes for (a) January, and (b) July. (Adapted from Chase et al. 2000.)

(a)



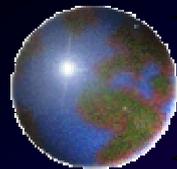
(b)



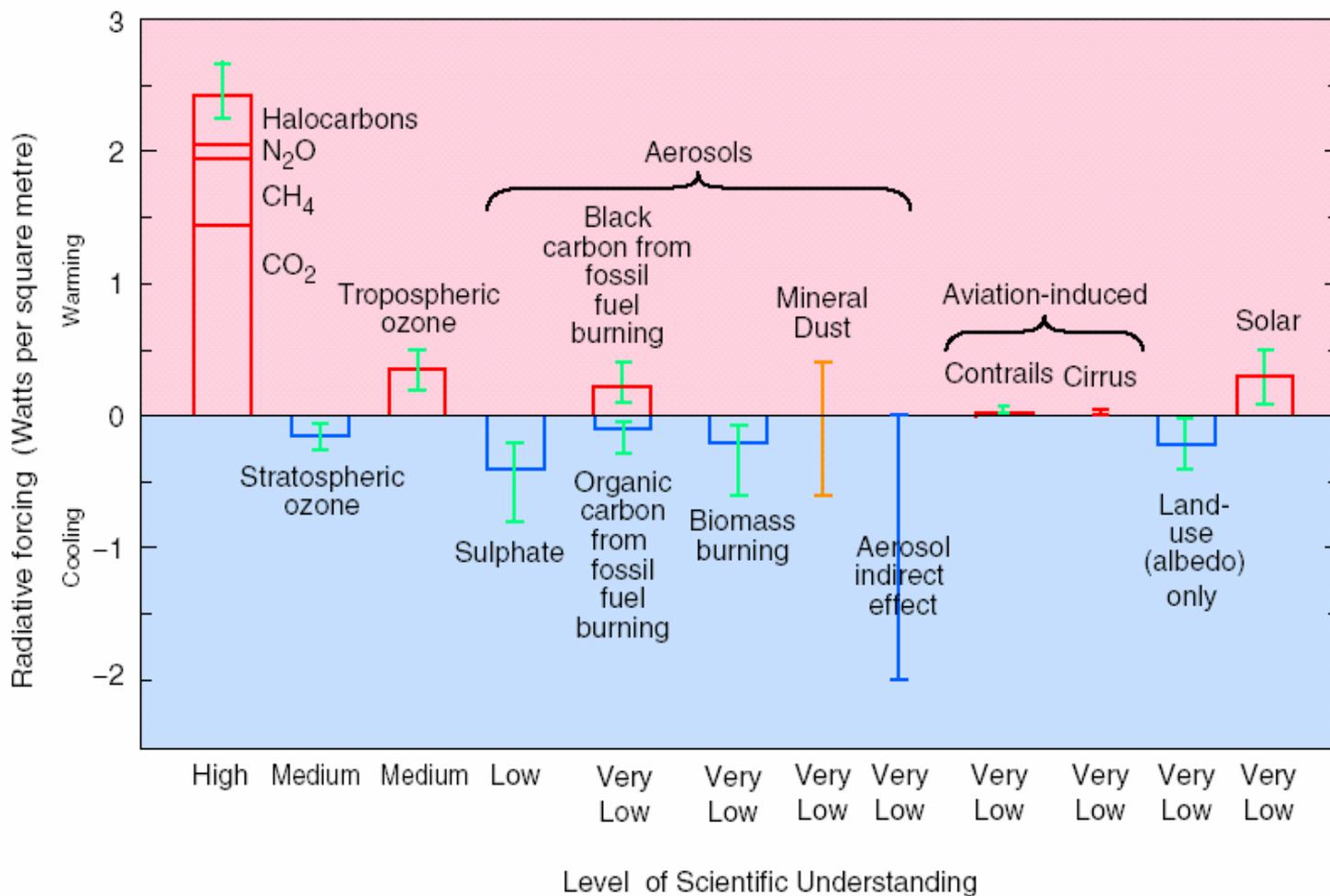
*The Adoption of a More  
Appropriate Metric to Monitor  
“Global Warming (or Cooling)”*

Pielke Sr., R.A., 2003: Heat storage within the earth system. *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, 84, 331-335.

<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-247.pdf>



## The global mean radiative forcing of the climate system for the year 2000, relative to 1750



Estimate of actual climate system heat change from the early 1950s-1995 is 0.3 Watts per meter squared (Pielke 2003) based on ocean heat storage changes (Levitus et al. 2000). Figure from Houghton et al. Eds., 2001: Summary for Policymakers: <http://www.ipcc.ch>



# 6

## *Climate as an Initial Value Problem*

Pielke, R.A. Sr., 2002: Overlooked issues in the U.S. National Climate and IPCC assessments. *Climatic Change*, 52, 1-11.

<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-225.pdf>

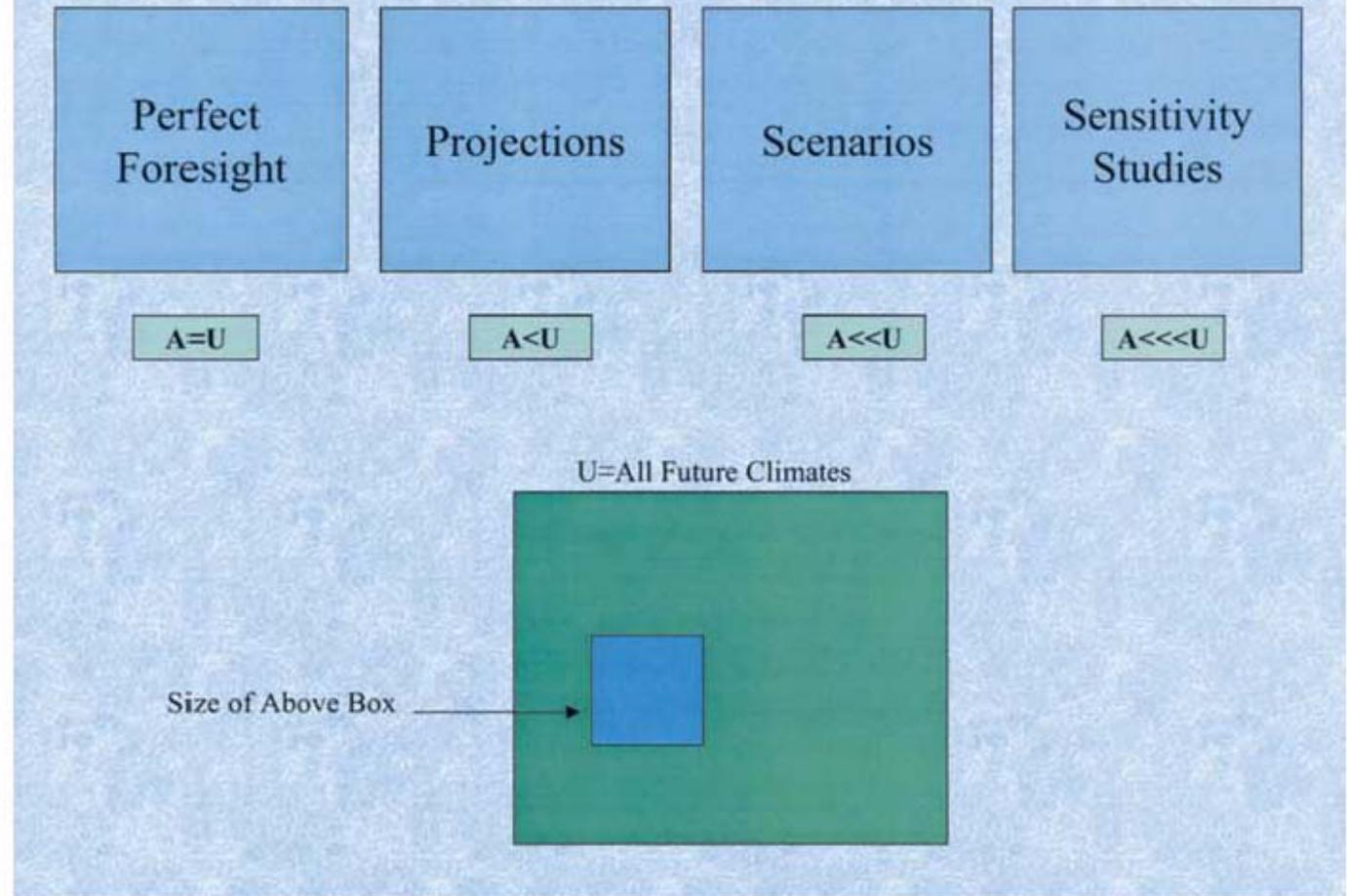
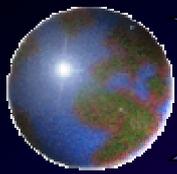
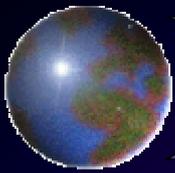


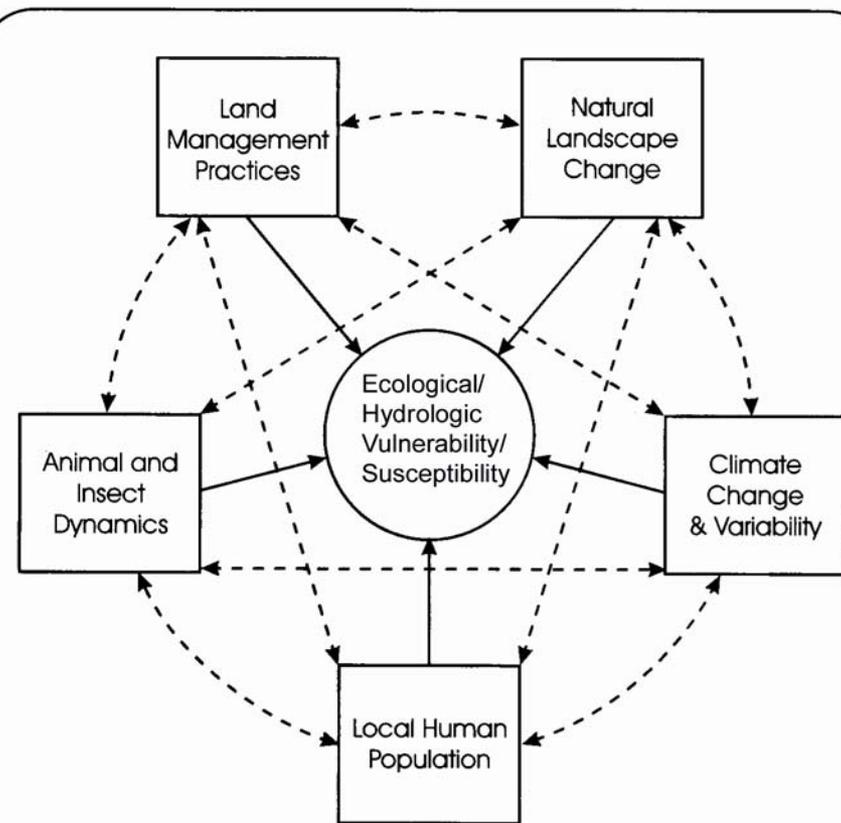
Figure 6. Schematic of different classes of prediction. The size of the box labeled 'U' represents the range of future climate, while the box labeled 'A' indicates the relative subset of possible future climate that are estimated using the different classes of prediction. (adapted from Pielke Sr., 2001)

From: Pielke, R.A. Sr., 2002: Overlooked issues in the U.S. National Climate and IPCC assessments. *Climatic Change*, 52, 1-11.

<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-225.pdf>



\* Note that more appropriately, it is weather change and variability



Predictability requires:

- the adequate quantitative understanding of these interactions
- that the feedbacks are not substantially nonlinear.

7a

# *Regional Land-Use Change Effects on Climate in the Winter*

Marshall, C.H. Jr., R.A. Pielke Sr., and L.T. Steyaert, 2003: Crop freezes and land-use change. *Nature*, 426, 29-30.

<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-277.pdf>

Marshall, C.H., R.A. Pielke Sr., and L.T. Steyaert, 2004: Has the conversion of natural wetlands to agricultural land increased the incidence and severity of damaging freezes in south Florida? *Mon. Wea. Rev.*, submitted.

<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-281.pdf>

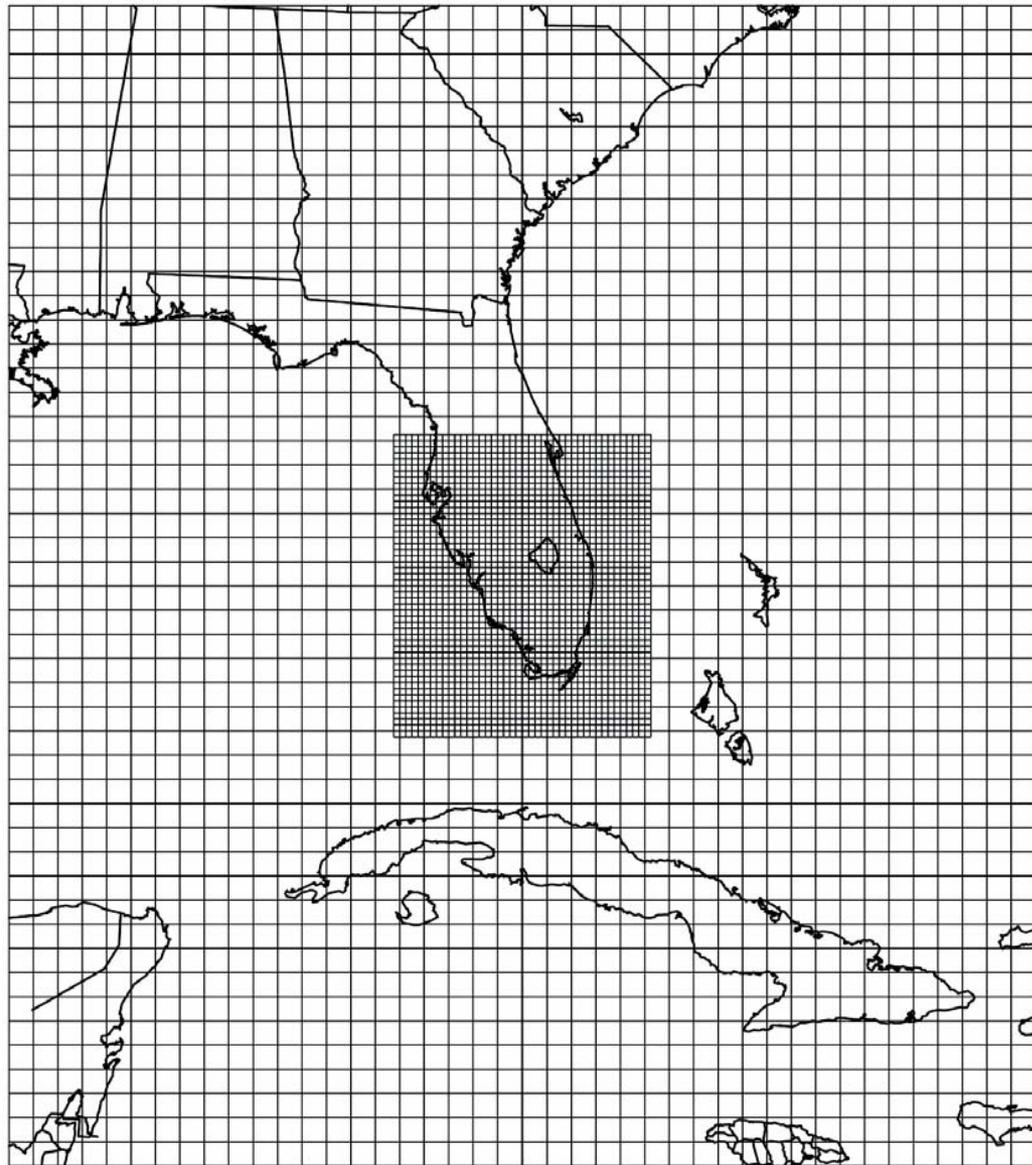
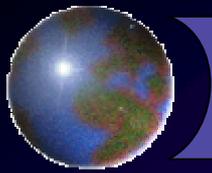
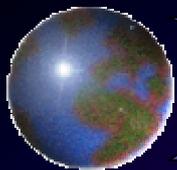
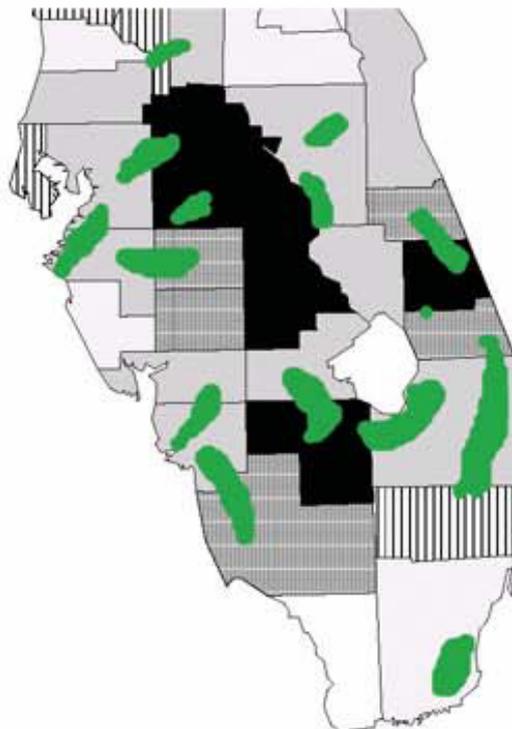


Fig. 2. Outer and inner grid configurations for RAMS domain centered on south Florida.



Principle areas of  
winter fresh vegetables



### Number of Citrus Trees by County

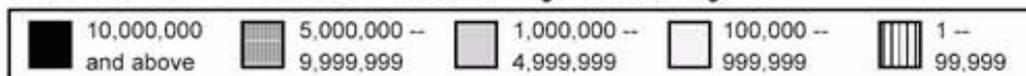
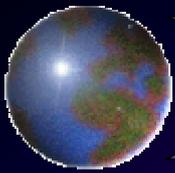


Fig. 1. Number of citrus trees per county and principle areas of winter fresh vegetable production. Figure adapted from Florida Agriculture Facts Directory 2002.



# Observed Minimum Temp (°C) 19970119

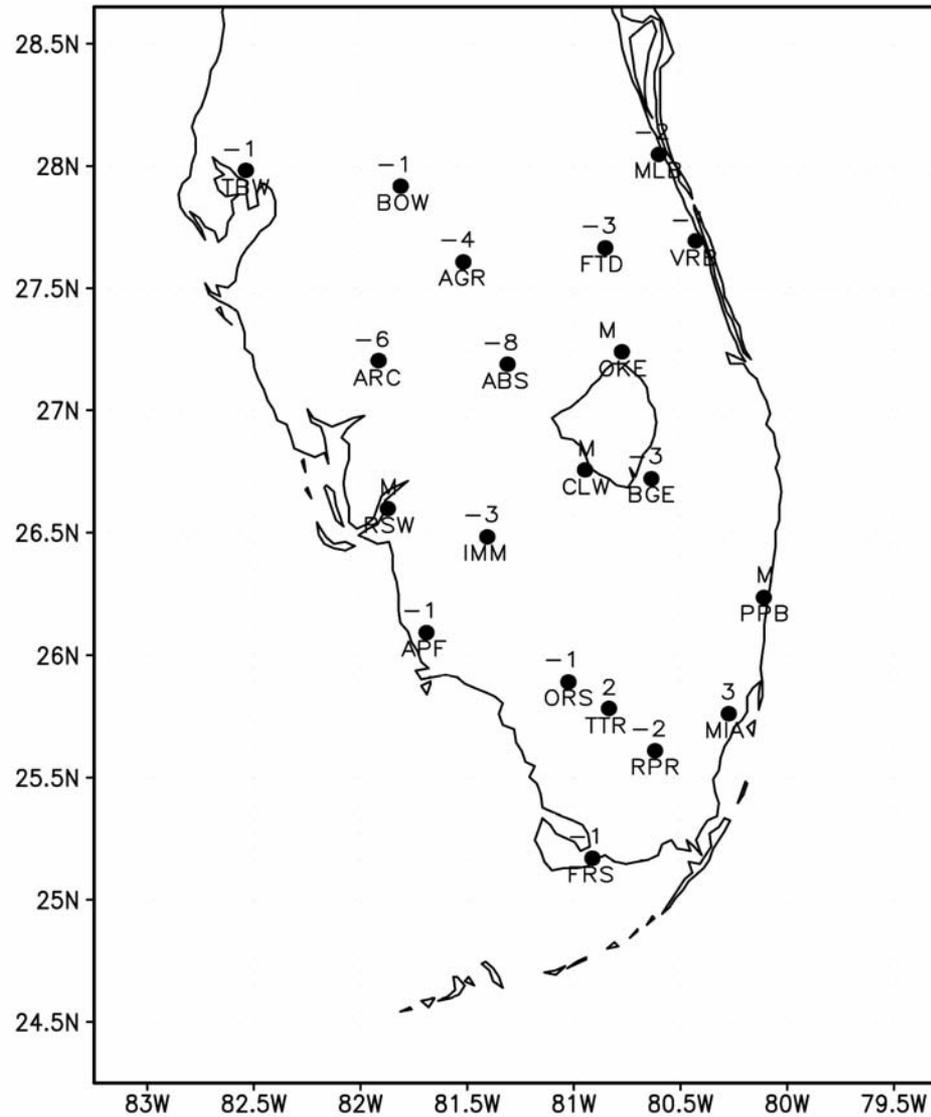
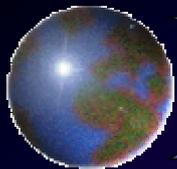
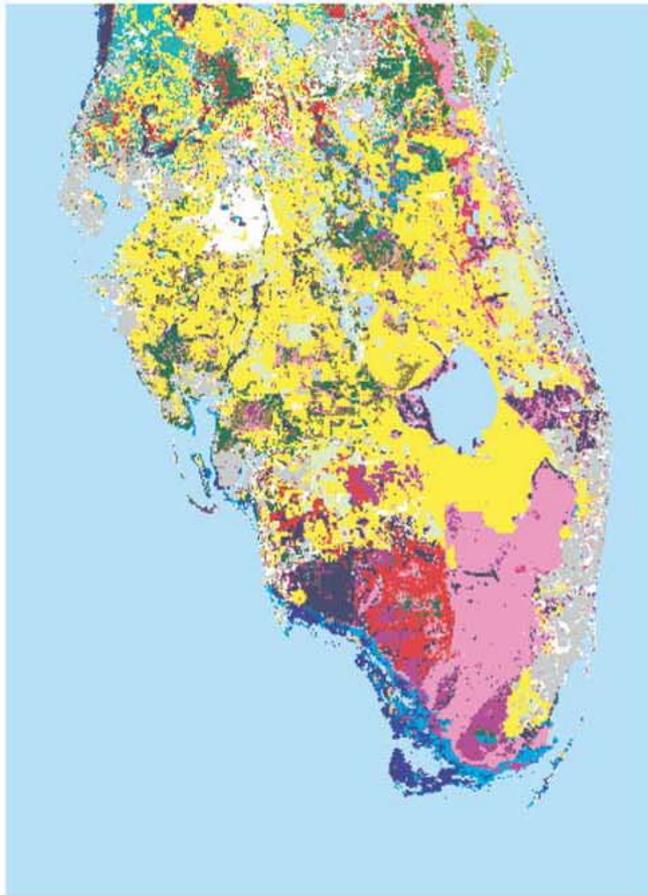
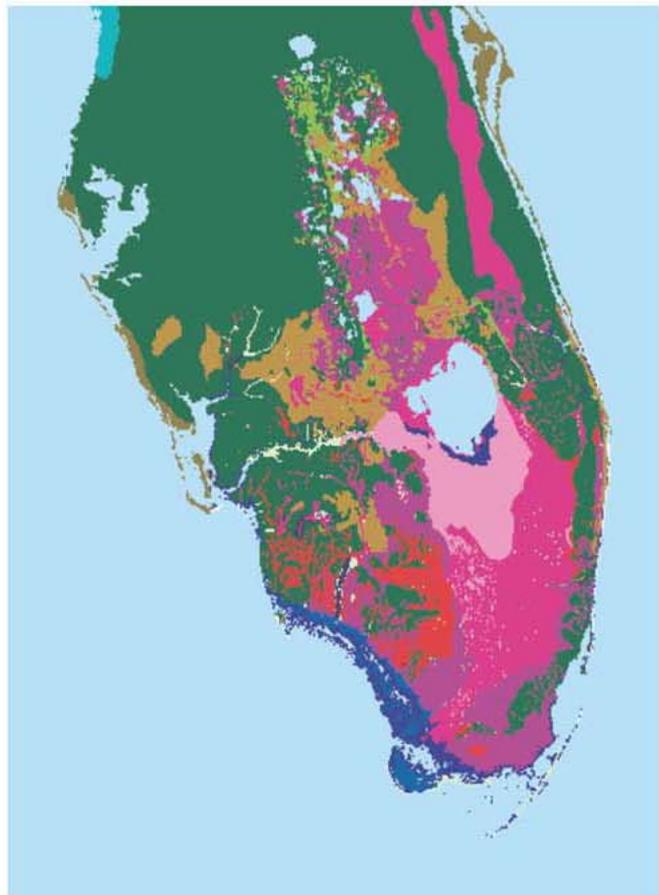


Fig. 2. Observations of minimum temperature from the National Weather Service Cooperative Observer Network on the morning of January 19, 1997.



Pre-1900s

1993



-  Open Water
-  EvGrn NL Tree
-  Decid BL Tree
-  EvGrn BL Tree
-  Grasses
-  Shrubs
-  Mixed Woodland
-  Crop/Mixed Farming
-  Slough, Bog, or Marsh
-  Urban/Roads, Rock, Sand
-  Saw Grass/Other Marshes
-  EvGrn Shrub Wetland
-  Mangroves
-  Decid NL/Swamp (Cypress)
-  Wet Prairie Marsh
-  Mixed Residential
-  Woody Wetlands
-  Saltwater Marsh

Fig. 3. U.S. Geological Survey land cover classes for pre-1900s natural conditions (left) and 1993 land use patterns.

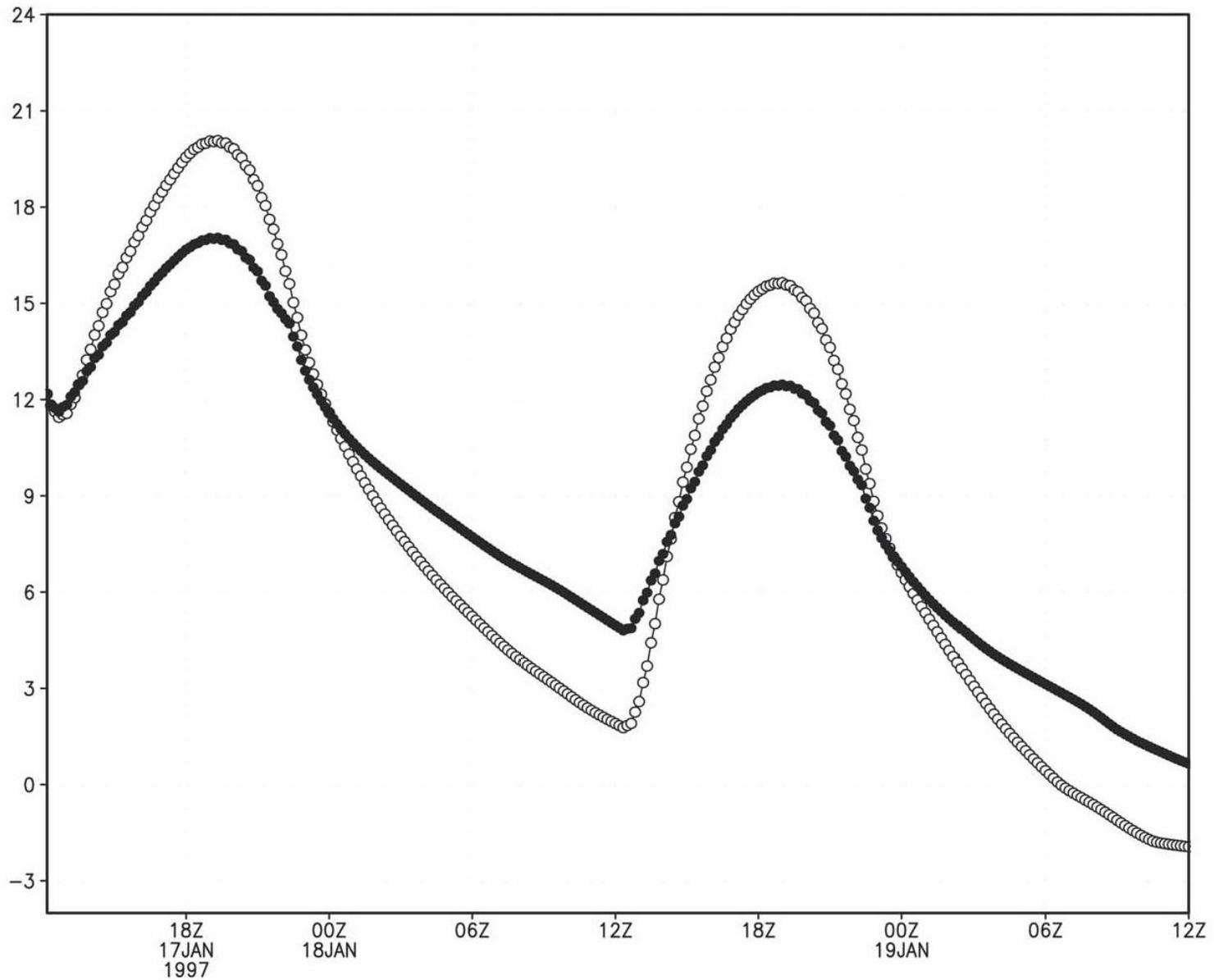
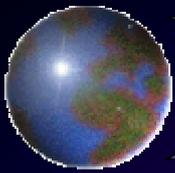


Fig. 7. Time series of 2 meter temperature for a model grid point located just south of Lake Okeechobee for the pre-1900s land cover scenario (filled circles) and the 1993 land cover scenario (open circles).

# *Regional Land-Use Change Effects on Climate in the Summer*

Marshall, C.H. Jr., R.A. Pielke Sr., L.T. Steyaert, and D.A. Willard, 2004: The impact of anthropogenic land cover change on warm season sensible weather and sea-breeze convection over the Florida peninsula. *Mon. Wea Rev.*, 132, 28-52.

<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-272.pdf>

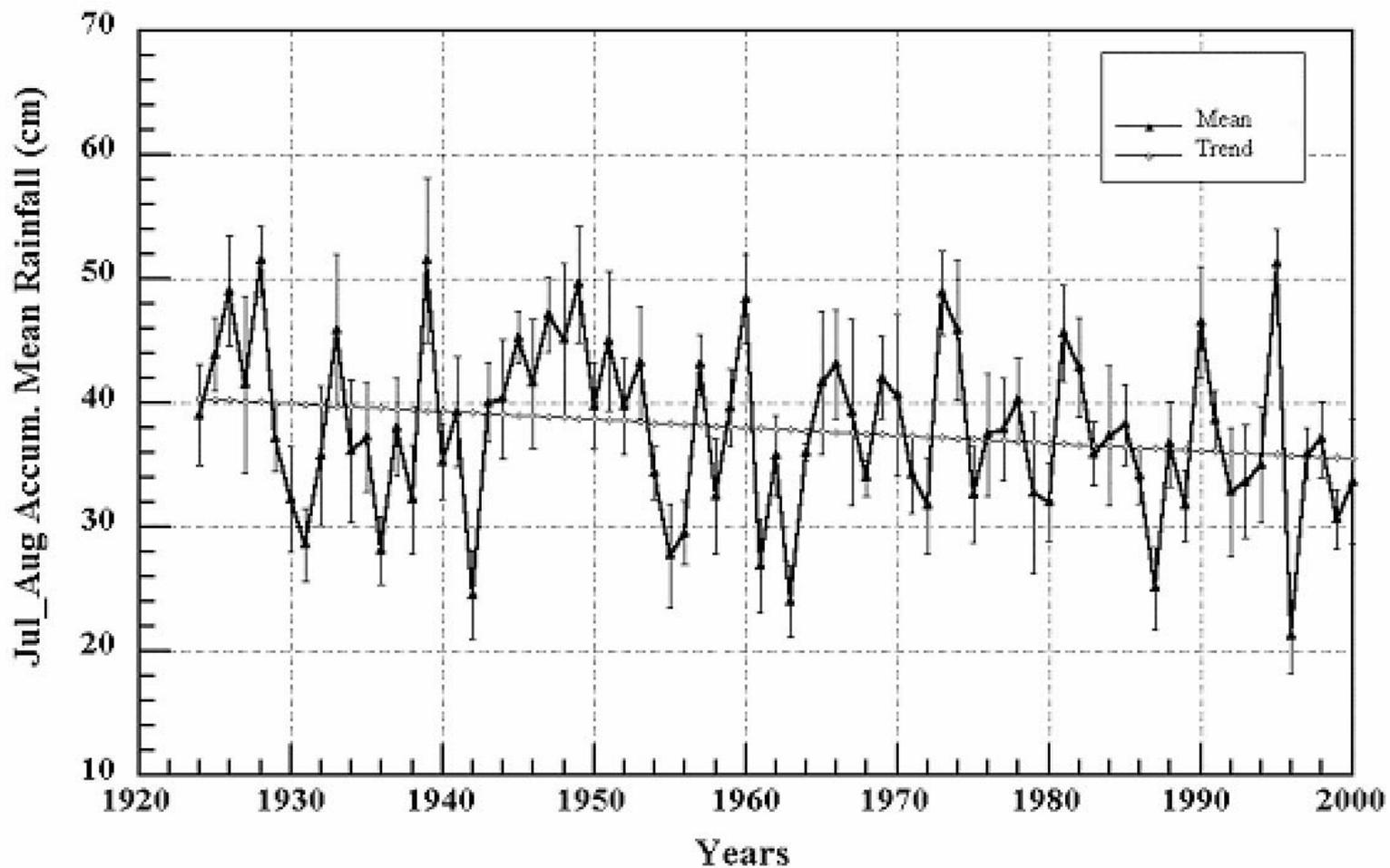
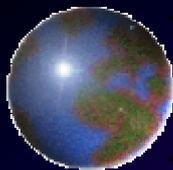
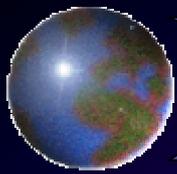


FIG. 25. Regional average time series of accumulated convective rainfall (cm) from 1924 to 2000, with corresponding trend based on linear regression of all July-August amounts. The vertical bars overlain on the raw time series indicate the value of the standard error of the July-August regional mean.



# Max and Min Temp Trends

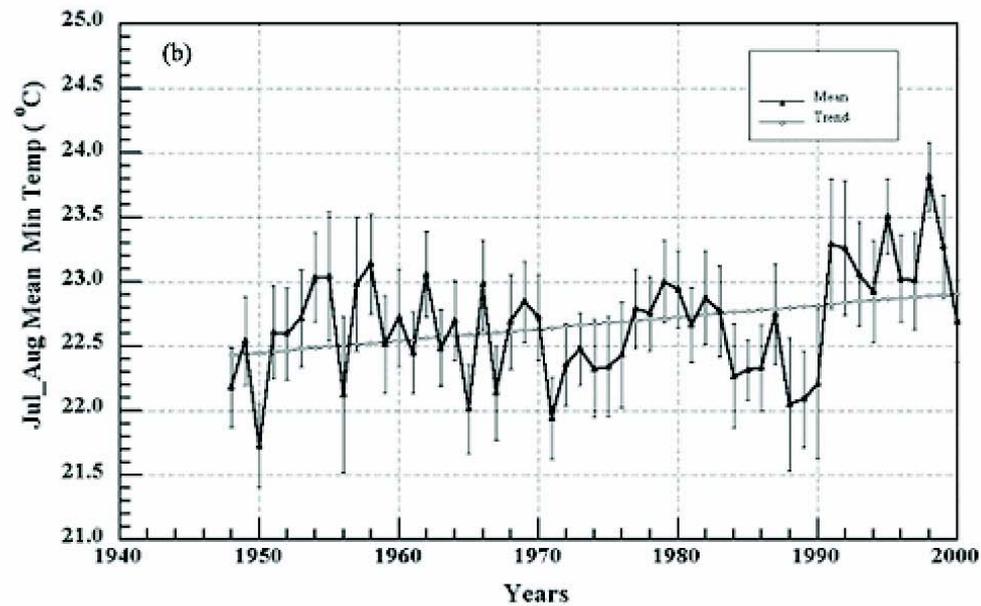
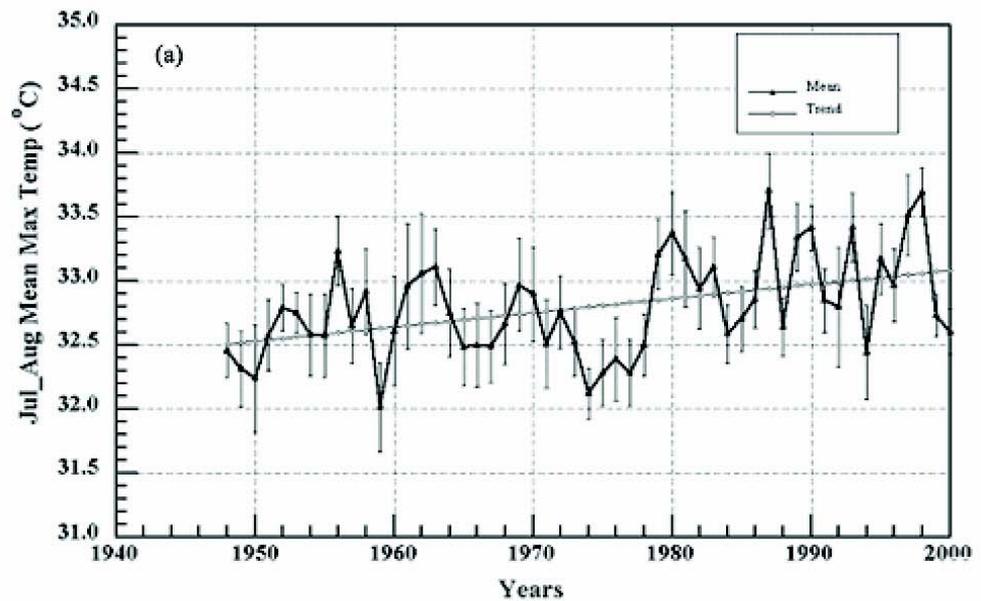
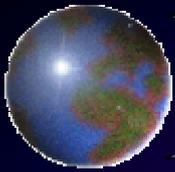


FIG. 26. Same as in Figure 25, except for daily (a) maximum and (b) minimum shelter-level temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )



# 1989

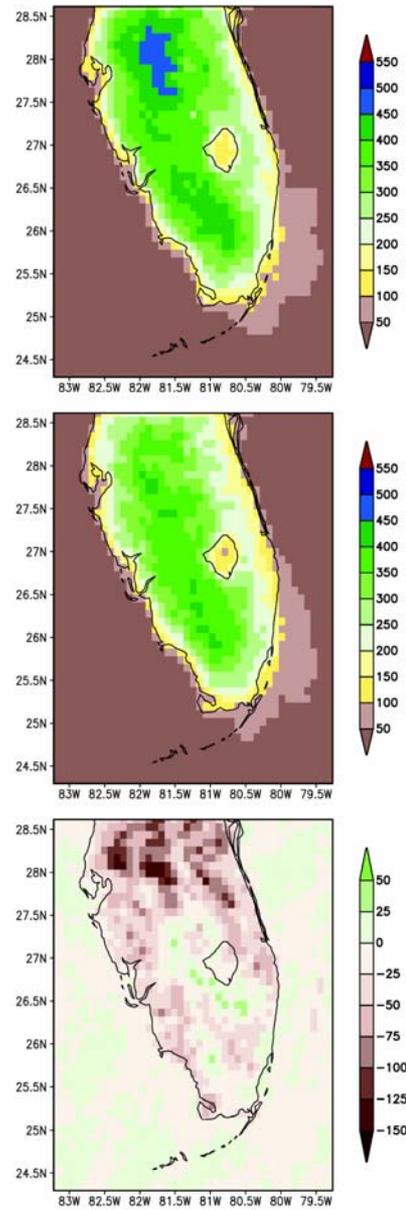
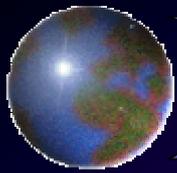


FIG. 5. Same as in Figure 4, except for July-August 1989.



# 1989

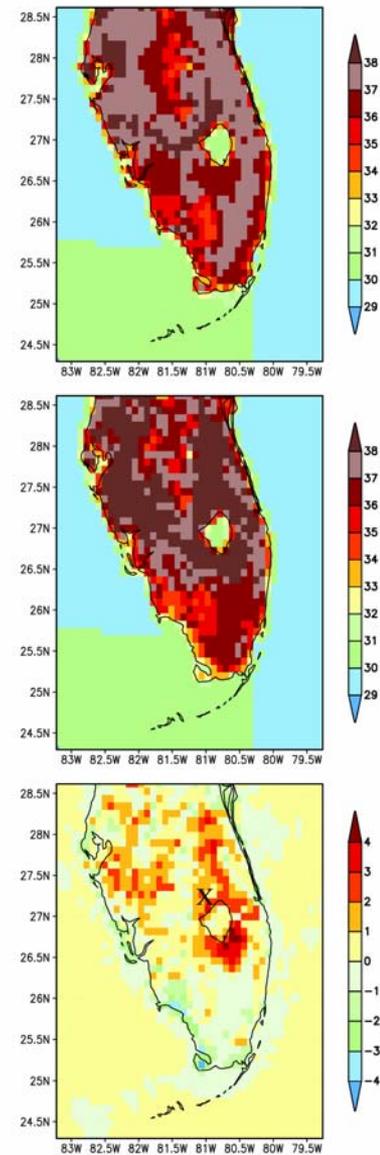
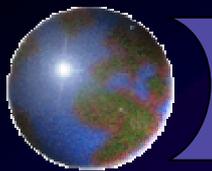


FIG. 13. Two-month average of the daily maximum shelter-level temperature from the model simulations of July-August 1989 with pre-1900s land cover (top), 1993 land use (middle), and the difference field for the two (bottom panel; 1993 minus pre-1900s case).

# *Arctic Sea Ice and Northern Hemispheric Snow-Cover Changes*

Pielke Sr., R.A., G.E. Liston, W.L. Chapman, and D.A. Robinson, 2004: Actual and insolation-weighted Northern Hemisphere snow cover and sea ice -- 1974-2002. Climate Dynamics, in press.

<http://blue.atmos.colostate.edu/publications/pdf/R-256.pdf>



## Projected Sea Ice Changes (from Vinnikov et al. 1999, Science, 286, 1934-1937).

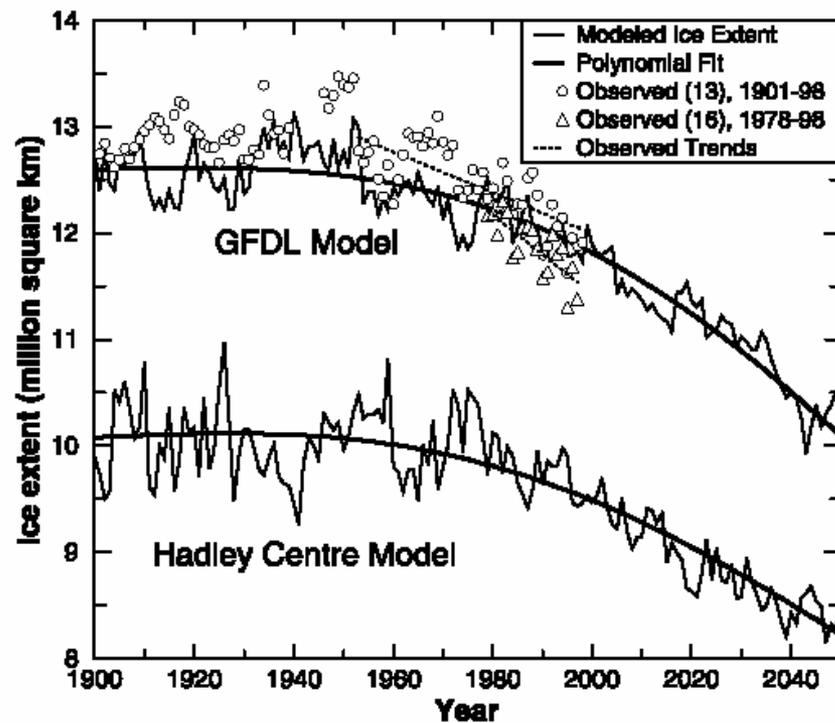
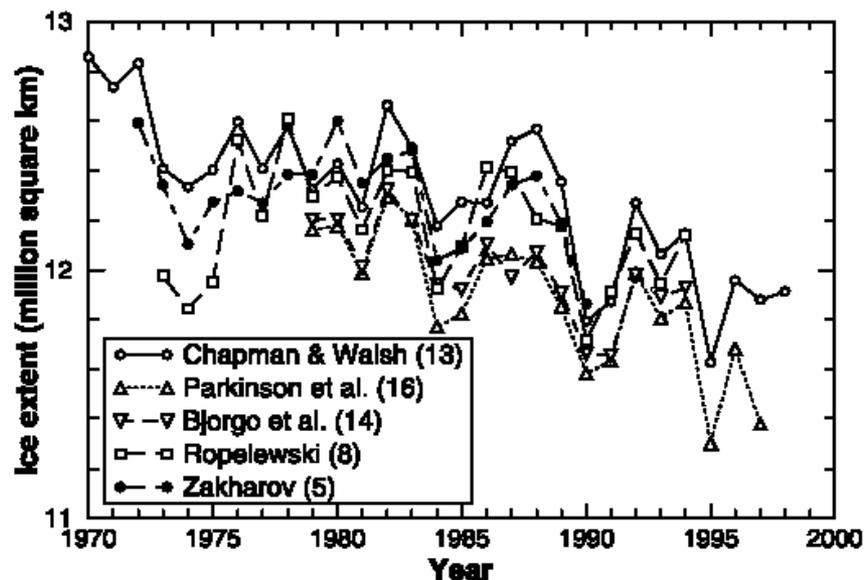
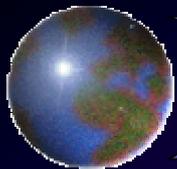


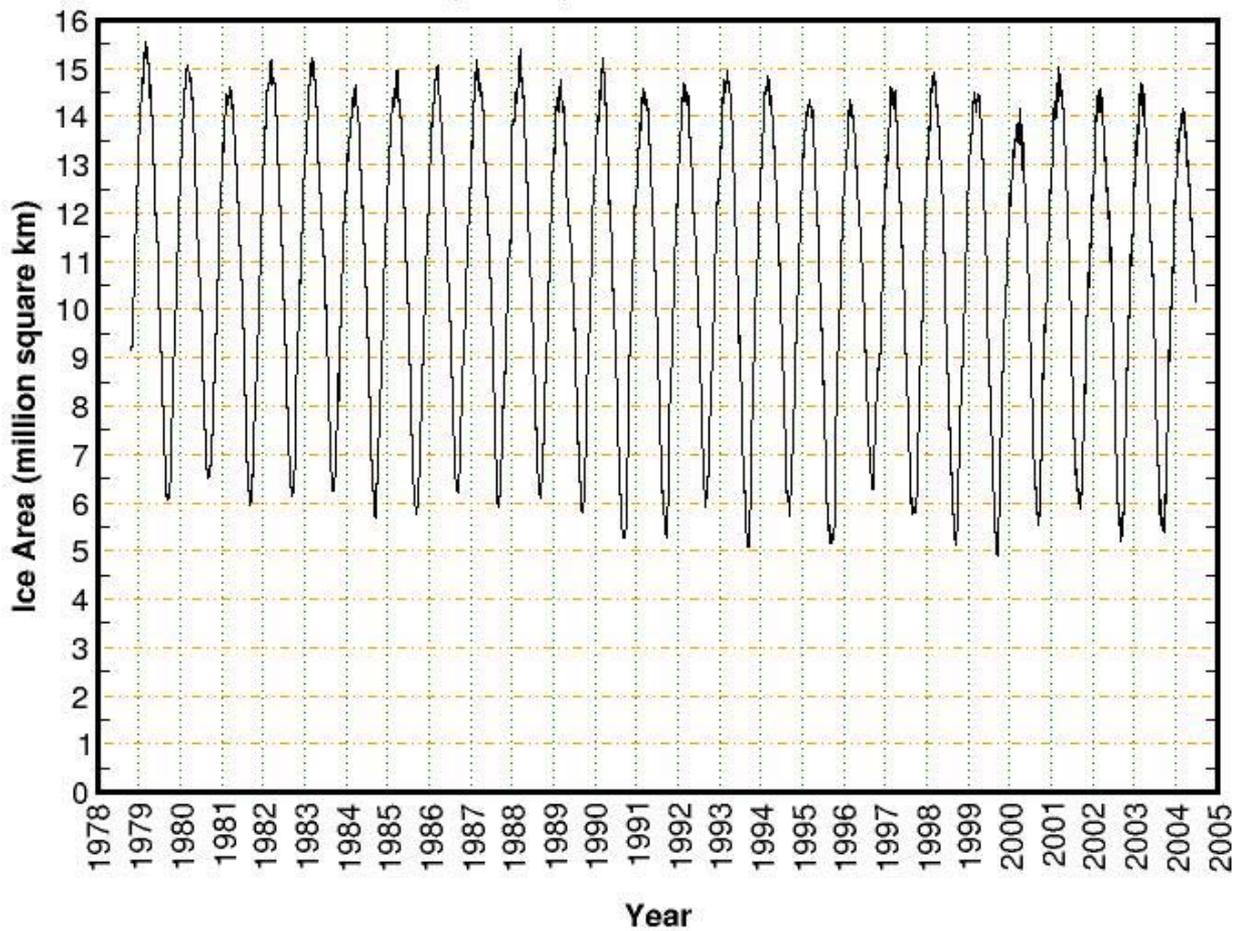
Fig. 1 (left). Observed decrease of NH sea ice extent during the past 25 years.

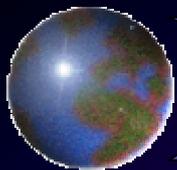
Fig. 2 (right). Observed and modeled variations of annual averages of NH sea ice extent. Observed data for 1901–98 are from Chapman and Walsh (13). Observed data for 1978–98 are from Parkinson et al. (16). The modeled sea ice extents are from the GFDL and Hadley Centre climate model runs forced by observed CO<sub>2</sub> and aerosols. Modeled data for ~250 years are smoothed by polynomials of degree 10 to estimate nonlinear trends caused by a change of external radiative forcing.



## Northern Hemisphere Sea Ice Area

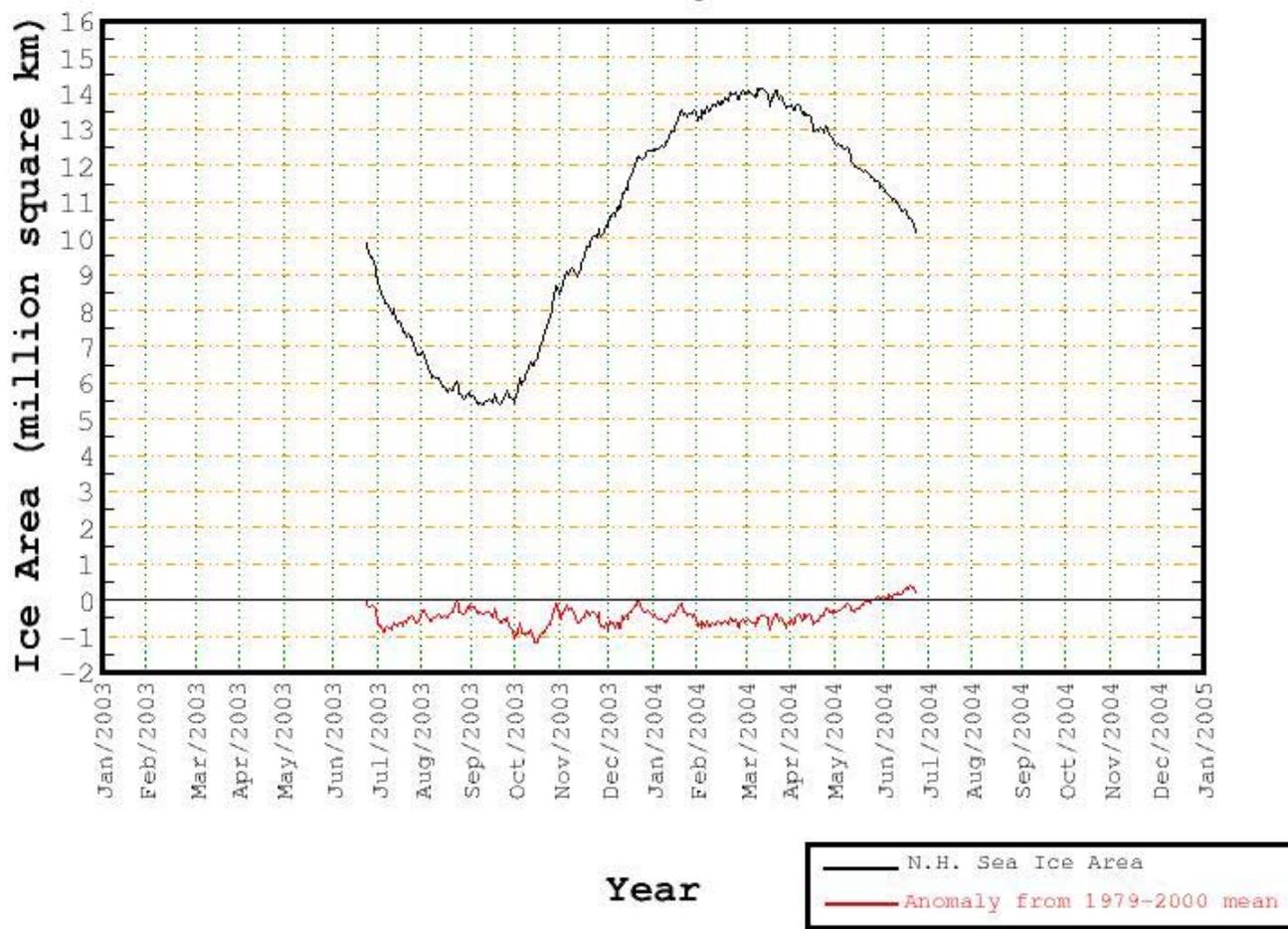
Data provided by NSIDC: NASA SMMR and SSM/I

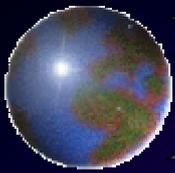




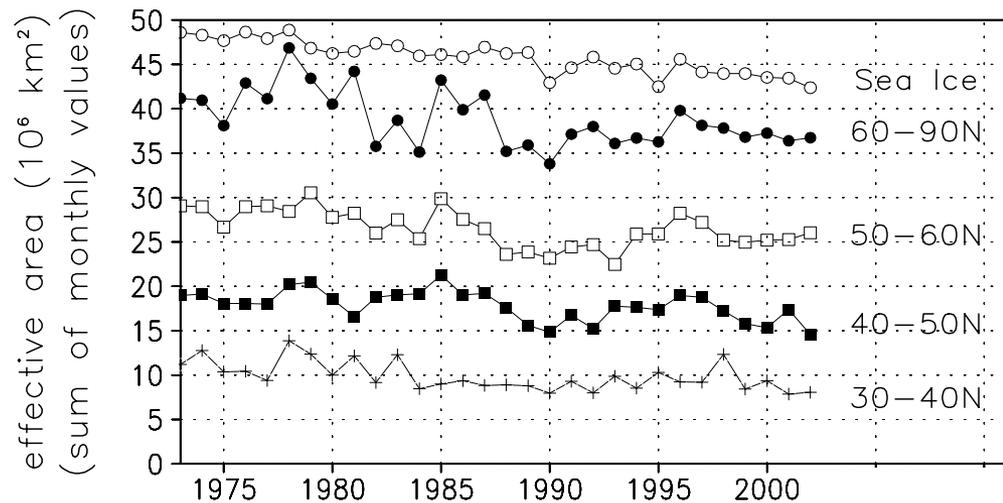
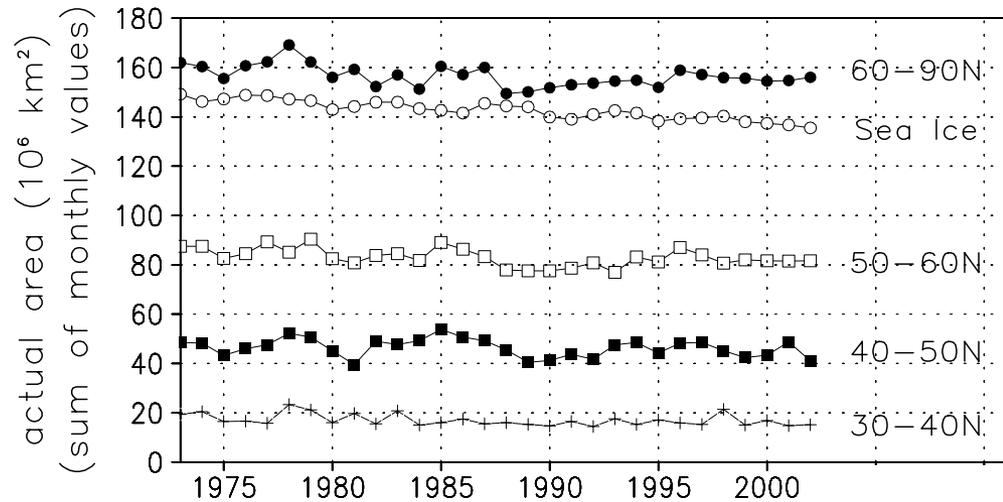
## Current Northern Hemisphere Sea Ice Area

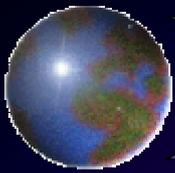
recent 365 days shown



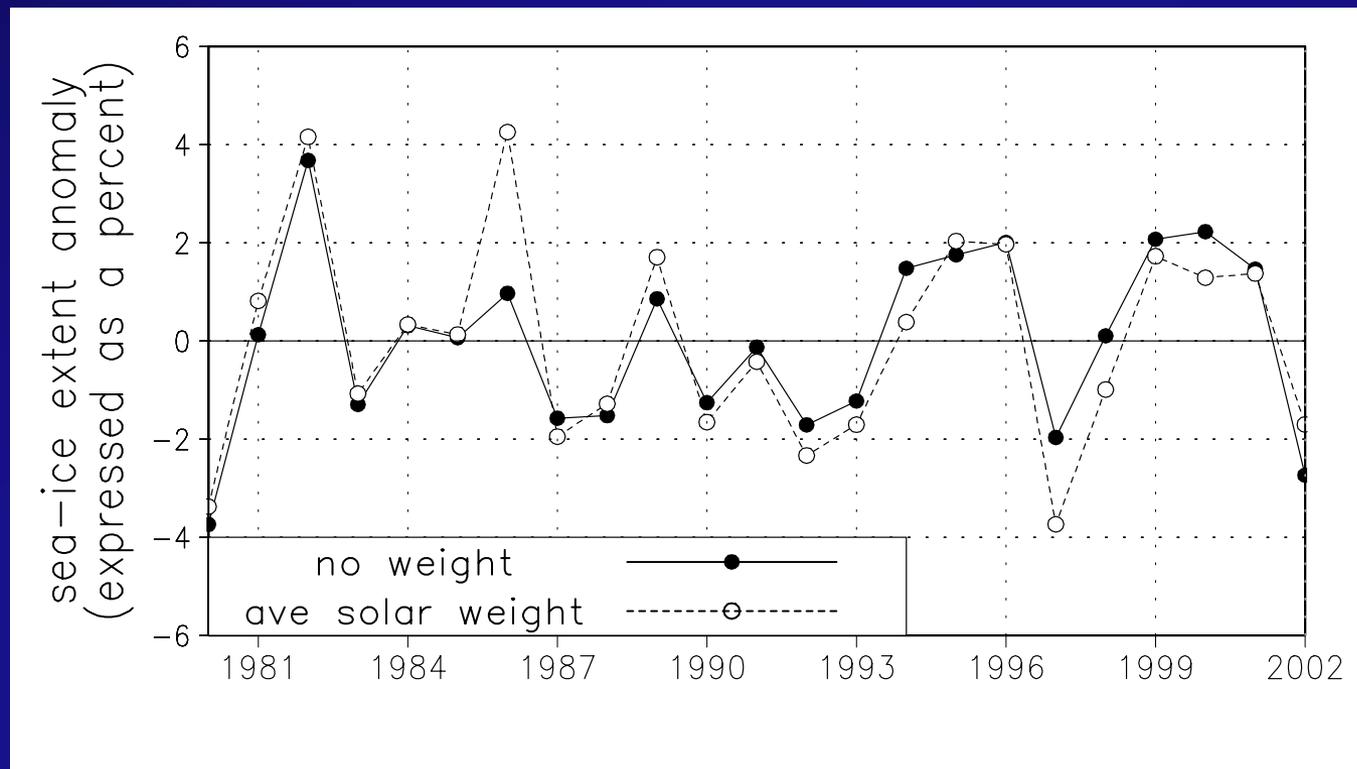


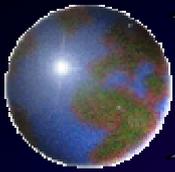
Actual and insolation-weighted values with Arctic sea ice and snow (60-90°N) included together.





Antarctic annual averaged sea-ice extent, 1980-2002, for the cases of no weighting and average daily solar weighting. Plotted are the values minus the 23-year mean, with that quantity divided by the mean.



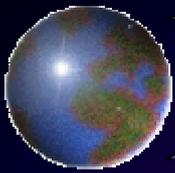


# CONCLUSION

The earth's climate system and human disturbance of the climate system is more complicated and multi-dimensional than commonly assumed. This may make skillful prediction of the future climate impossible!

There is a new direction emerging....

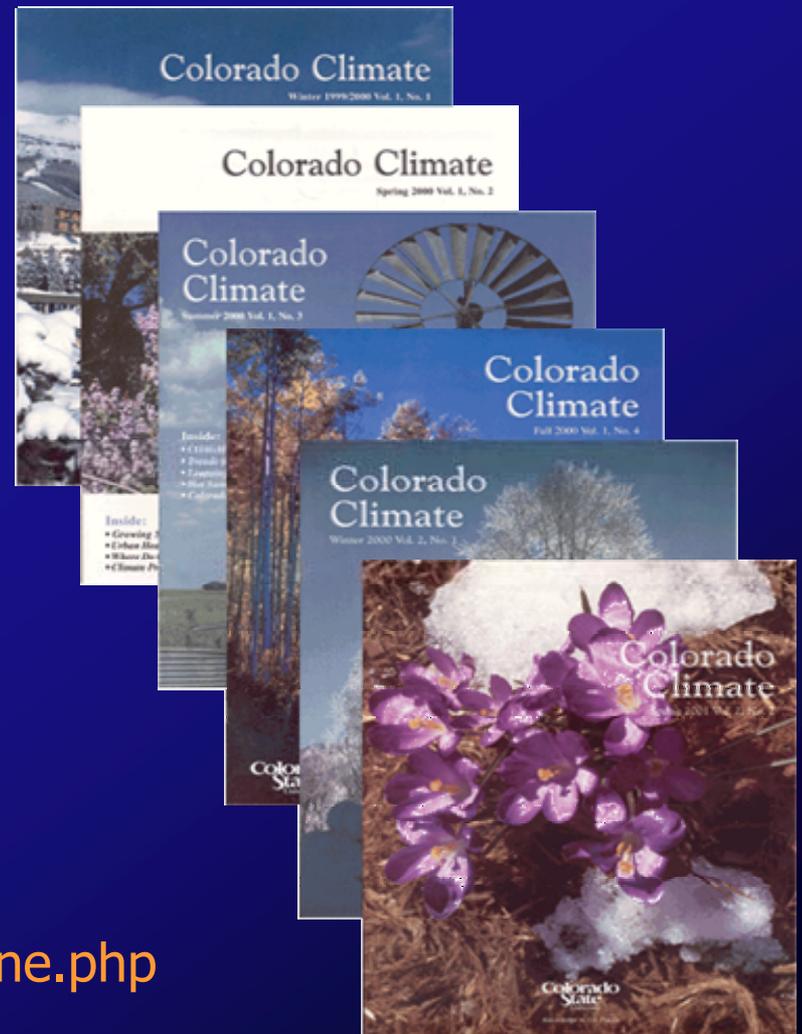
Kabat, P., M. Claussen, P.A. Dirmeyer, J.H.C. Gash, L. Bravo de Guenni, M. Meybeck, R.A. Pielke Sr., C.J. Vorosmarty, R.W.A. Hutjes, and S. Lutkemeier, Editors, 2004: *Vegetation, water, humans and the climate: A new perspective on an interactive system*. Global Change - The IGBP Series, Springer, in press.

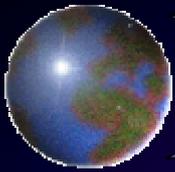


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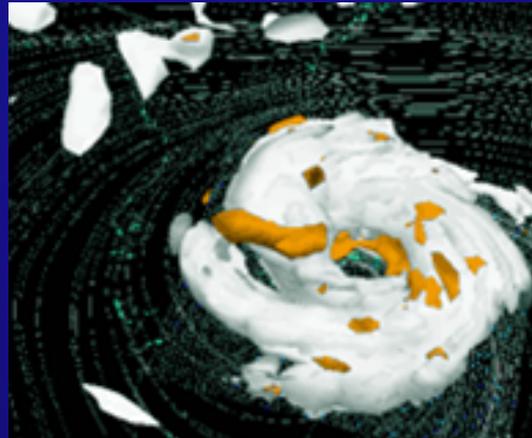
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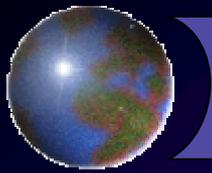
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