



# PCHES

Program on Coupled Human and Earth Systems

Karen Fisher-Vanden  
Pennsylvania State University

EESM PI Meeting  
August 8, 2024

# Program on Coupled Human and Earth Systems (PCHES)

**PCHES** is university-based integrated research team:

- Supported by the US Department of Energy's Office of Science (Office of Biological and Environmental Research, Multi-Sector Dynamics Program) since 2010
- ~20 investigators, ~10 post-docs, and ~15 grad students from 9 research institutions
- Multidisciplinary: economists, engineers, earth system scientists, hydrologists, statisticians, computer scientists.



Cornell University.



## DIRECTORS



**Karen Fisher-Vanden**  
Penn State, PI



**Robert Nicholas**  
Penn State



**John Weyant**  
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## SENIOR PERSONNEL



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**Sheila Olmstead**  
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**Wolfram Schlenker**  
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**Vivek Srikrishnan**  
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**Ryan Sriver**  
University of Illinois



**Ian Sue Wing**  
Boston University



**Mort Webster**  
Penn State



**Douglas Wrenn**  
Penn State





# The PCHES Team



# Program on Coupled Human and Earth Systems (PCHES)

**Goal:** To create new, state-of-the-art, integrated modeling tools and methods to capture

- cascading and compound stressors in interdependent systems;
- multi-scale and multi-sector dynamics; and
- risk and response behaviors.

## Funded Research Projects:

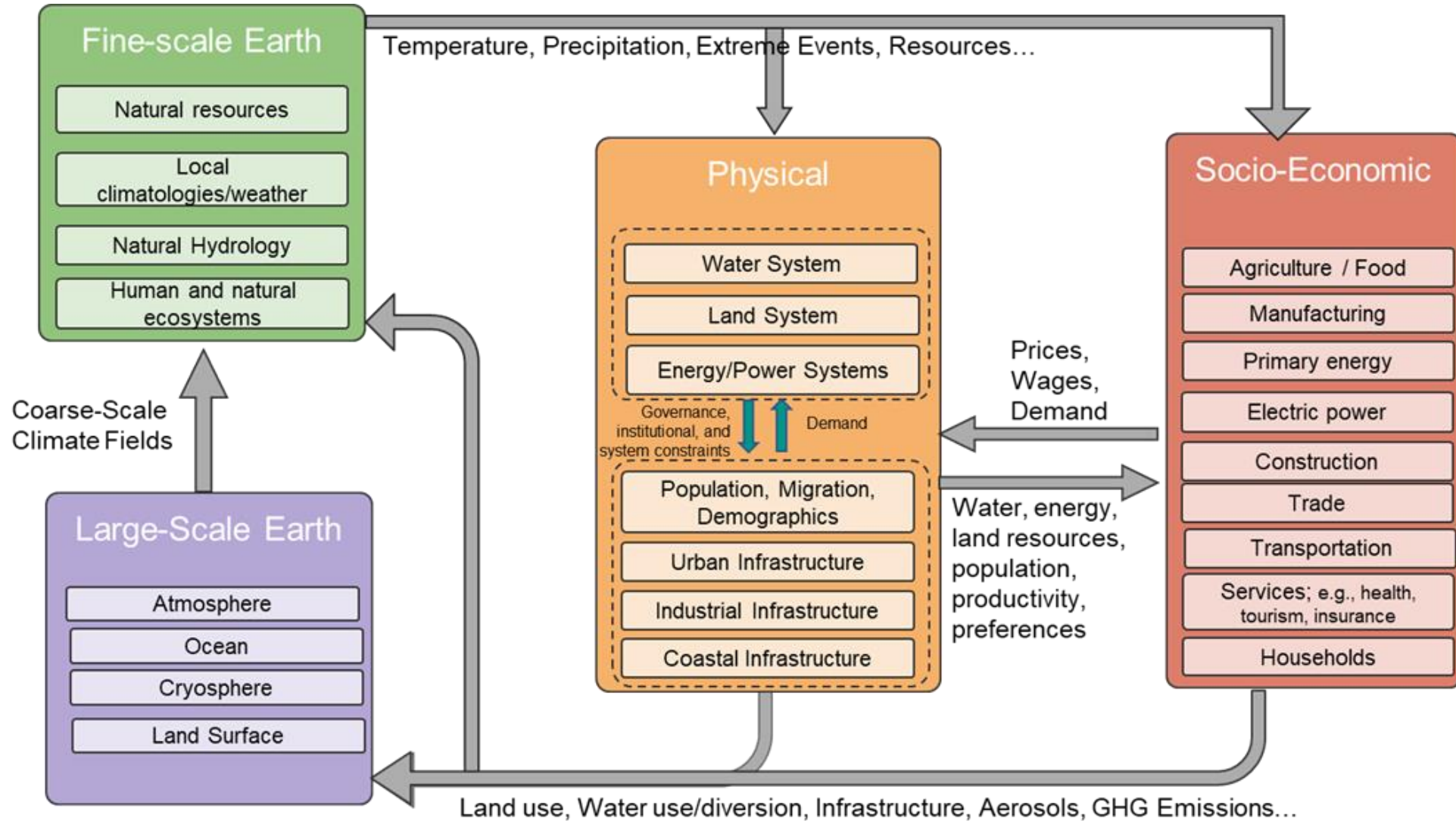
- **PCHES-IAMDDI** (2010-2018): focused on analysis and diagnostics of integrated assessment modeling systems
- **PCHES-FRAME** (2016-2024): focused on innovations in the development of MSD modeling frameworks
- **PCHES-ADAPT** (2021-2026): focused on understanding adaptive response behaviors accounting for interconnected system feedbacks



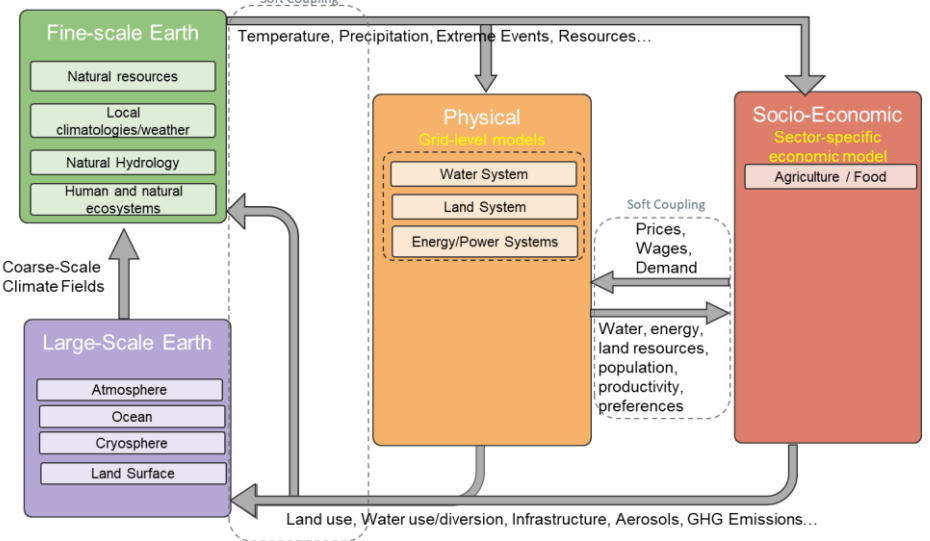
Cornell University.



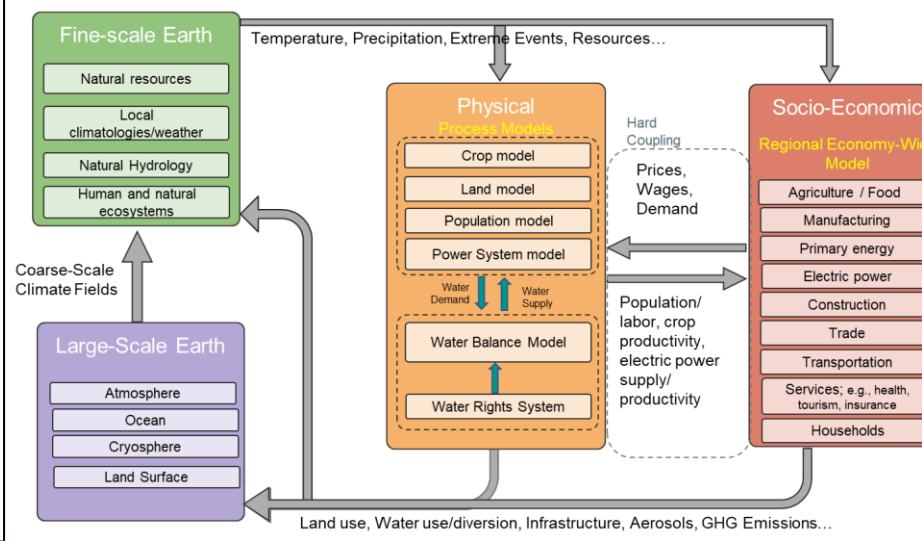
# PCHES-FRAME: Integrated Framework to Capture the Propagation of Impacts and Risk across Sectors, Regions, and Time



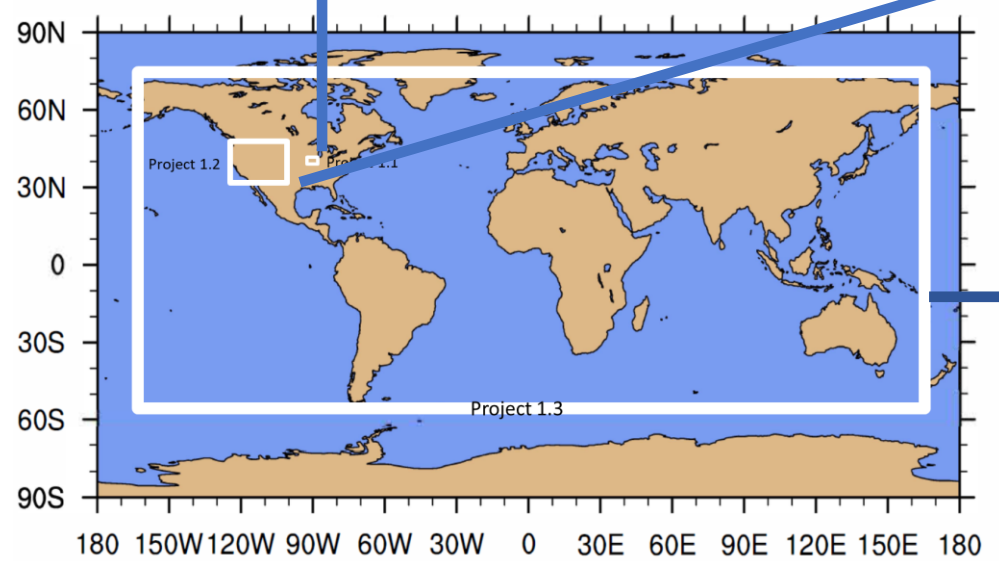
### Project 1.1—Gridded modeling of integrated energy-water-land systems dynamics



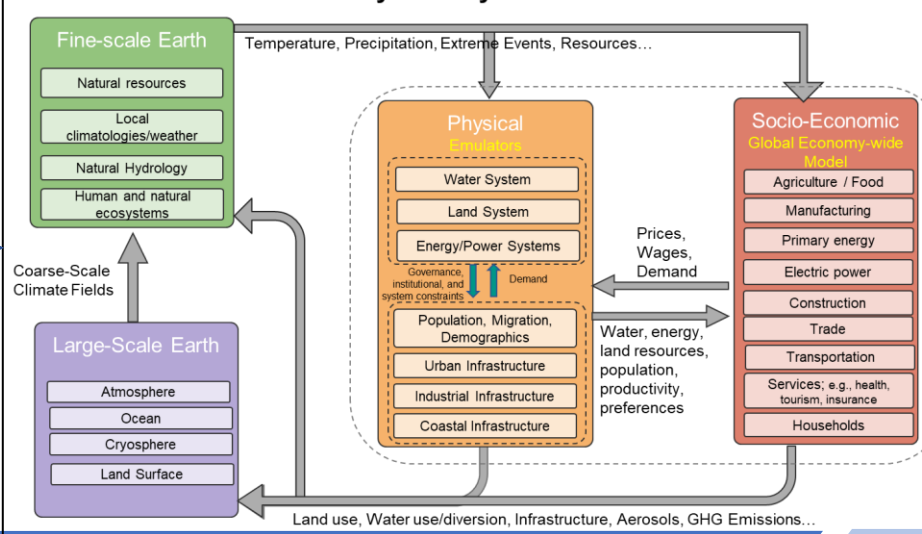
### Project 1.2—Capturing governance, institutional, and system constraints in an integrated energy-water-land modeling framework



# PCHES-FRAME



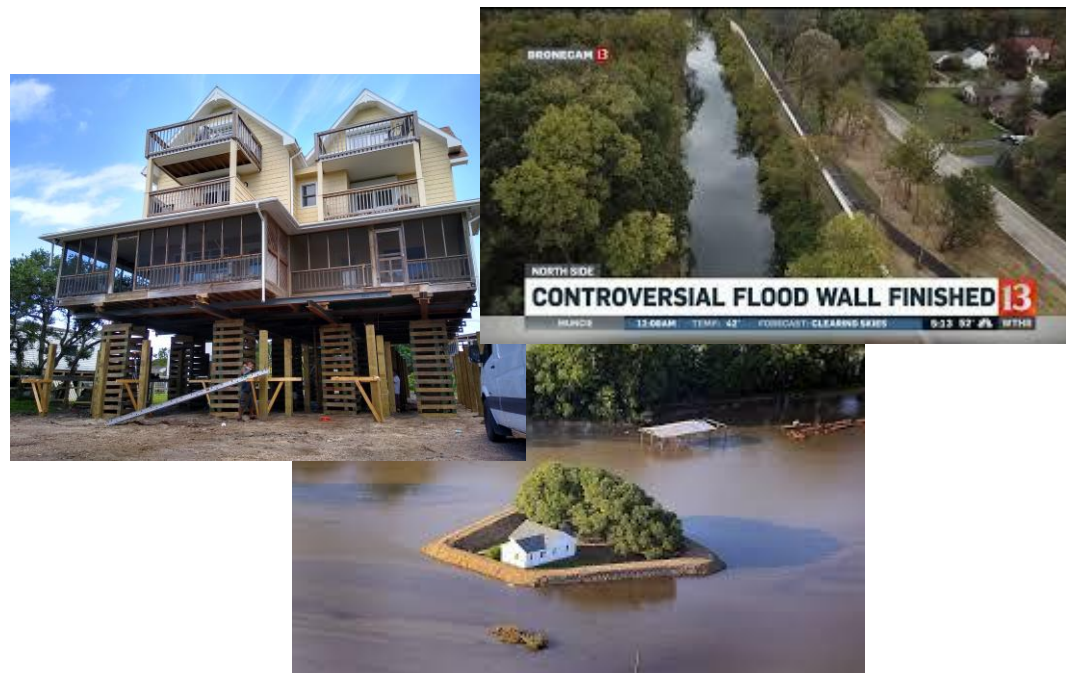
### Project 1.3—Global Modeling of Integrated Energy-Water-Land System Dynamics



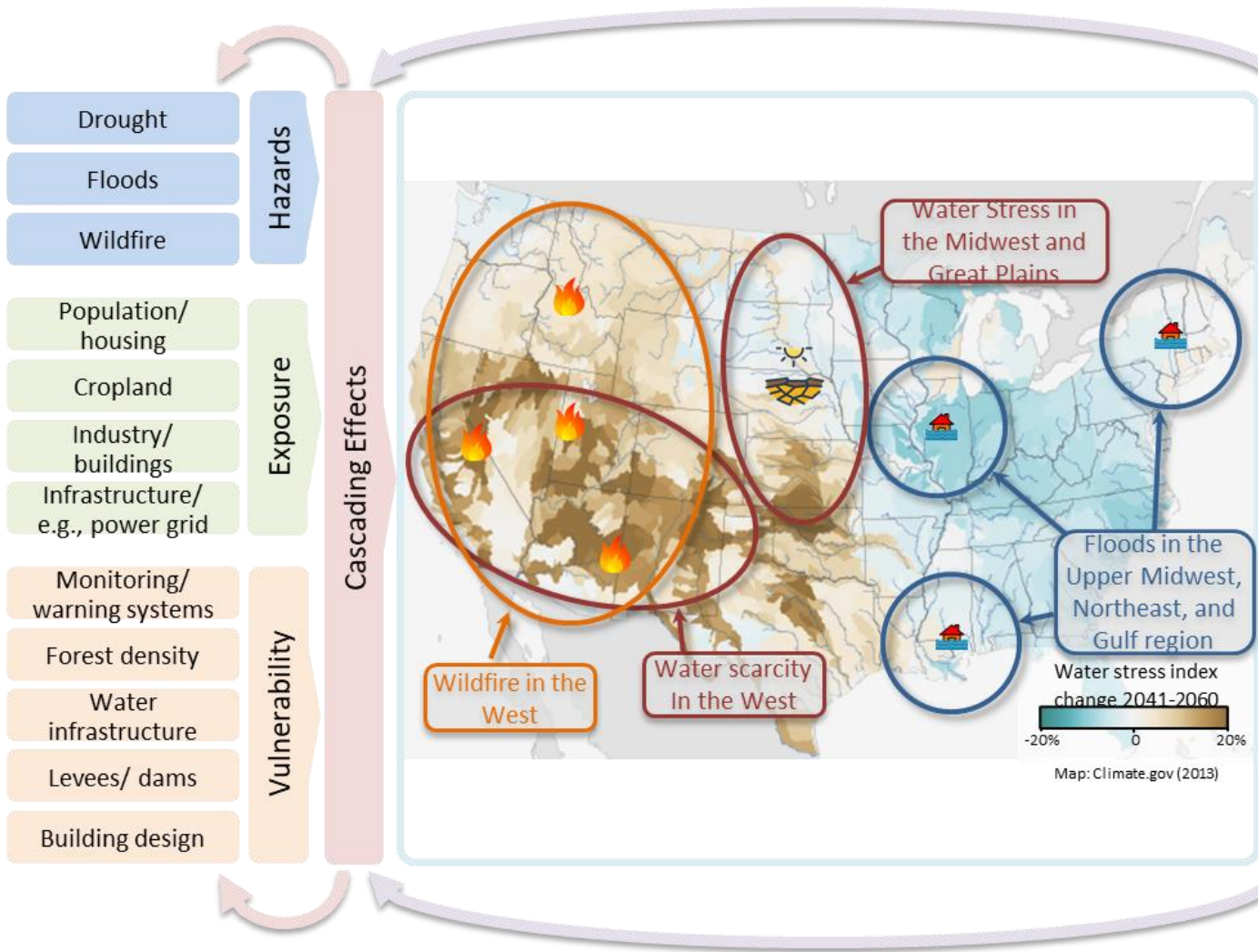
# PCHES-ADAPT: research questions

1. How does the propagation of hazards through the interconnected system affect the exposure and vulnerability of populations and physical systems?
2. How do populations and physical systems respond to these risks and how do these responses feed back to the interconnected system?

To address these questions, we will employ external/leveraged capabilities with new and enhanced frameworks, tools, and methods.







- Adaptive Measures (Choices and Actions)**
- Public adaptation responses; e.g.,*
- Public safety power shutoffs
  - Subsurface drainage
  - New dams/reservoirs
  - Infrastructure reinforcement
  - Inter-basin water transfers
- Private adaptation responses; e.g.,*
- Building reinforcement/modifications
  - Migration
  - Groundwater extraction
  - Insurance
- Economy/Regulation; e.g.,*
- Building regulation/restrictions
  - Water rights market
  - Trade
  - Water use restrictions

# PCHES-ADAPT: visual project overview

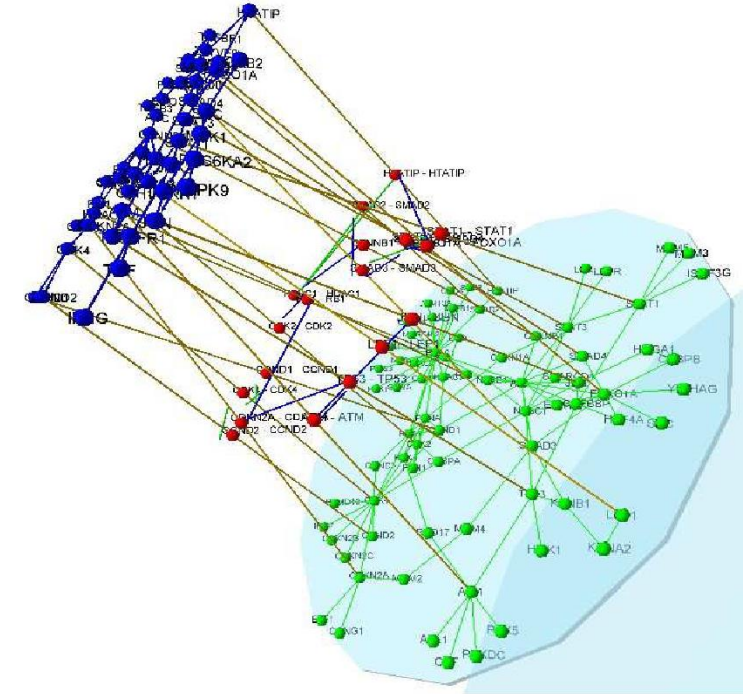
# Characterizing the propagation of impacts and risk over sectors, space, and time

## Key Science Questions:

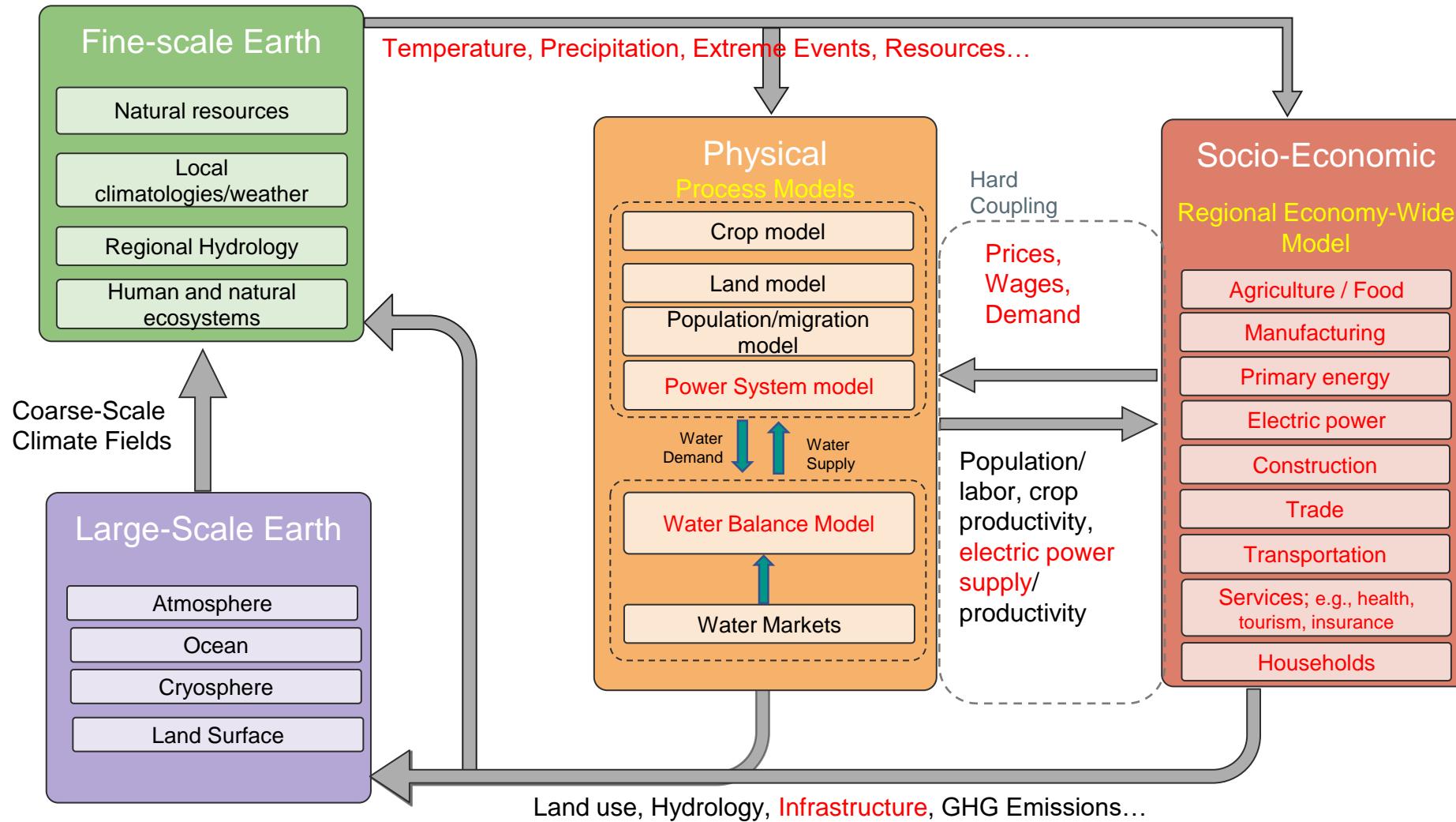
- 1) What are the necessary spatial/temporal resolutions in each subsystem model?
- 2) What feedbacks between systems are important to capture?
- 3) How does risk and uncertainty propagate across systems ?

## Our “Mental Model”:

- Overlapping and Interacting Networks of Natural and Human Systems
- Each System has Distinct Spatial and Temporal Variability
- “Impacts” occur when these patterns converge at specific locations/times







# Overlapping and Interacting Networks: Atmosphere, Hydrology, Power, Economy

Webster, M., K. Fisher-Vanden, V. Kumar, R. Lammers, J. Perla, "Integrated hydrological, power system and economic modeling of climate impacts on electricity demand and cost." *Nature Energy*, Jan 2022.

Atmosphere  
(diffuse network)

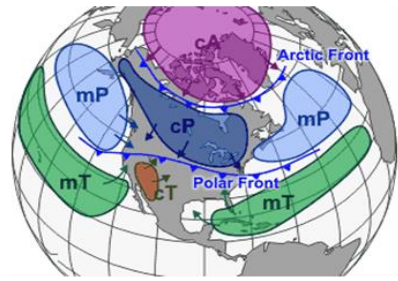


Image source: wikipedia.org

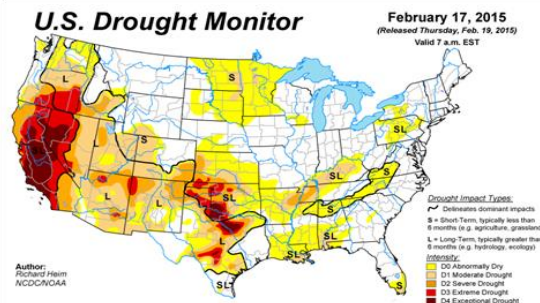
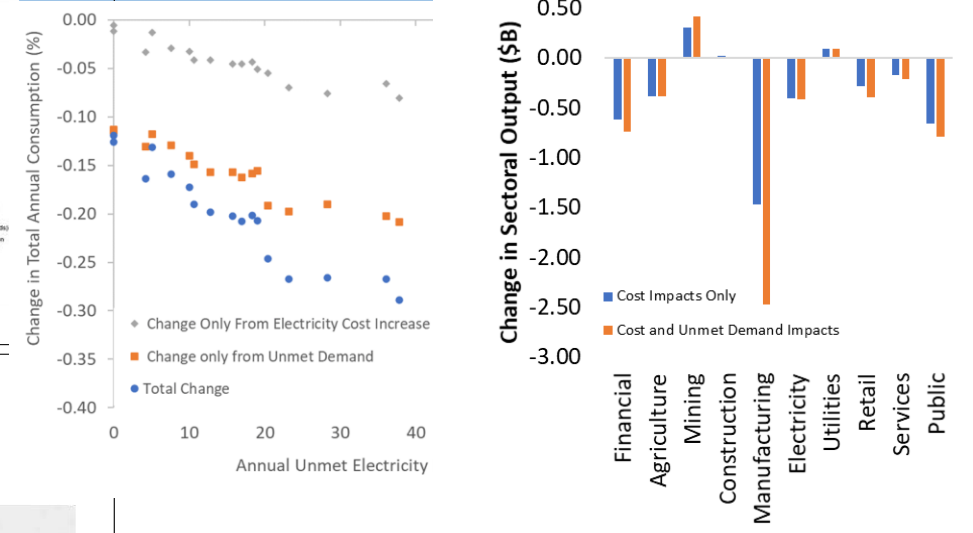
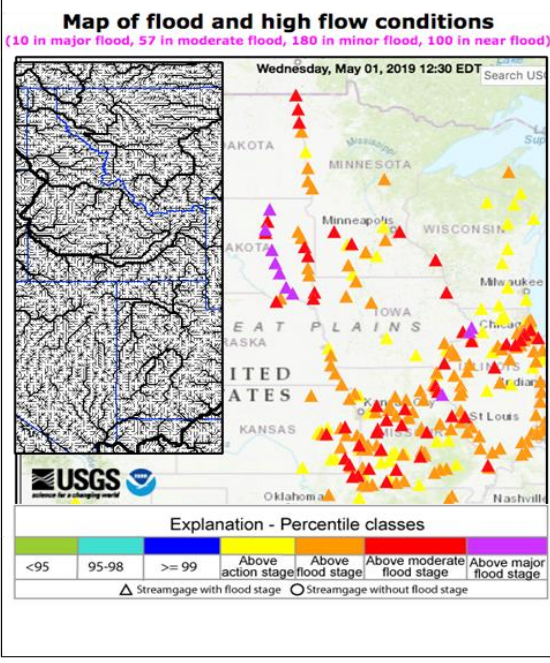


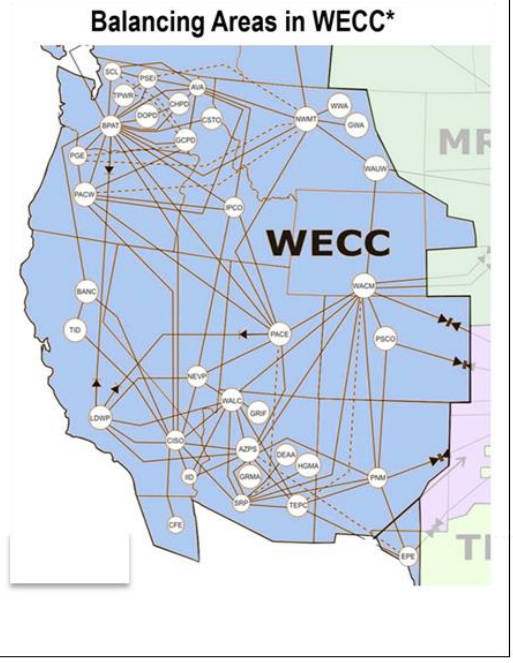
Image source: droughtmonitor.unl.edu



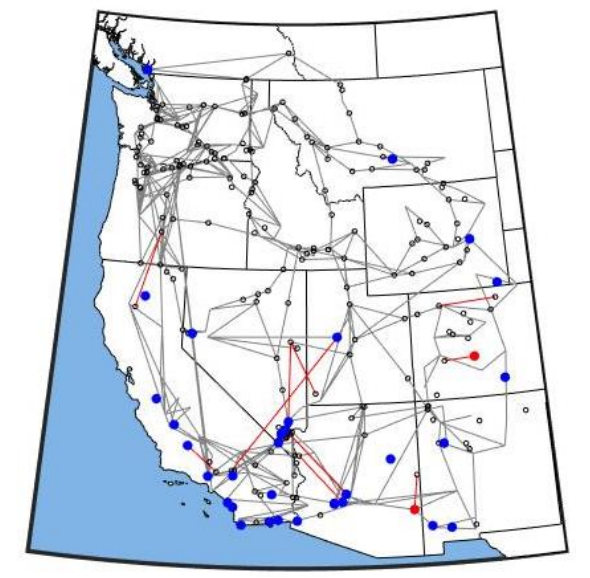
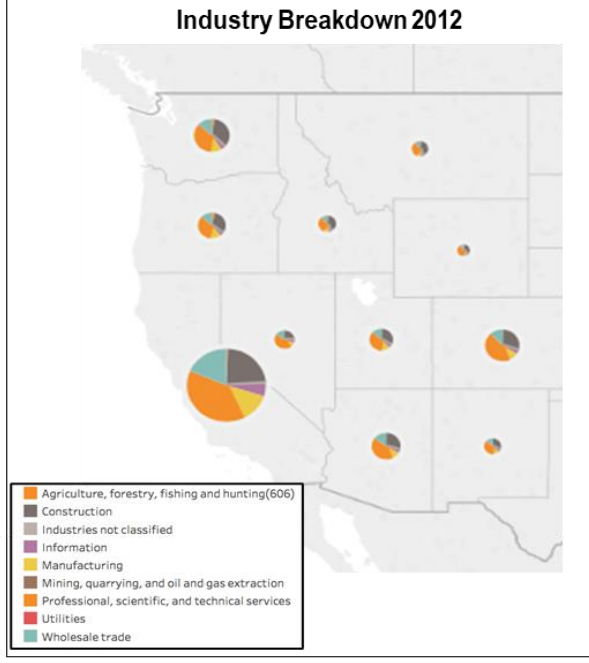
Drainage Basins  
(River network)



Electricity Power  
(Power network)



Regional Sectors  
(Economic network)





# PCHES @ 2024 EESM PI MEETING

## Water Cycle and Hydroclimate

- “Transdisciplinary collaborations for sustainable management of an Invisible Resource,” **Lidiia Iavorivska**, Poster (MSD)
- “Combined climate and hydrologic uncertainties shape projections of future soil moisture extremes,” **Ryan Sriver**, Poster (MSD)

## Energy, Water, and Land System Transition

- “How does crop production adapt with groundwater restrictions in the West?” **Femeena Pandara Valappil**, Oral Presentation (MSD)
- “Statistical Learning Applied to Climate-Water-Energy Impacts Scenarios,” **Mort Webster**, Oral Presentation (MSD)
- “Economic Impact on Residents from Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPSs),” **Tiemeng Ma**, Poster (MSD)
- “Testing the conditional skill of a hydro-economics model system for food, land, and water sustainability research,” **Shan Zuidema**, Poster (MSD)

## Extreme Events

- “Wildfire Risk and Home Prices: The Case of California Building Codes,” **Edouard Mensah**, Poster (MSD)
- “Relationship between mid-latitude temperature distributions and meridional wind variability,” **Keiko Kircher**, Poster (MSD)

## Model Uncertainties, Model Biases, and Fit-for-Purpose

- “Probabilistic Downscaling for Flood Hazard Models,” **Samantha Roth**, Oral Presentation (MSD)
- “Combined climate and hydrologic uncertainties shape projections of future soil moisture extremes,” **Ryan Sriver**, Oral Presentation (MSD)
- “US western physical wildfire risk variability and projections in statistically downscaled and bias-corrected climate model ensembles,” **Theo Avila**, Poster (MSD)

# PCHES Synergies with Meeting Sessions

## Methodology Sessions:

- (1) Metrics, Benchmarks and Credibility of model output and data for science and end users
- (2) Innovative and Emerging technologies: ML/AI, Digital Earth, Exascale and Quantum Computing, advanced software infrastructures
- (3) Methods in Model Integration, Hierarchical Modeling, Model Complexity

## Topical Sessions:

- (1) Coastal
- (2) Impacts, Tipping Points and Systems Responses and Resilience
- (3) Modes of Variability and Teleconnections, Trends
- (4) Strengthening EESM Integrated Modeling Framework – Towards a Digital Earth



# PCHES Accomplishments

- ~130 publications since 2012. Many in the top journals shown on the right
- ~45 dissertations and master theses
- ~15 PCHES students/post-doc alums now early and mid-career faculty
- Best student paper awards
- Nobel Prize in Economic Sciences awarded to PCHES alum, William Nordhaus in 2018



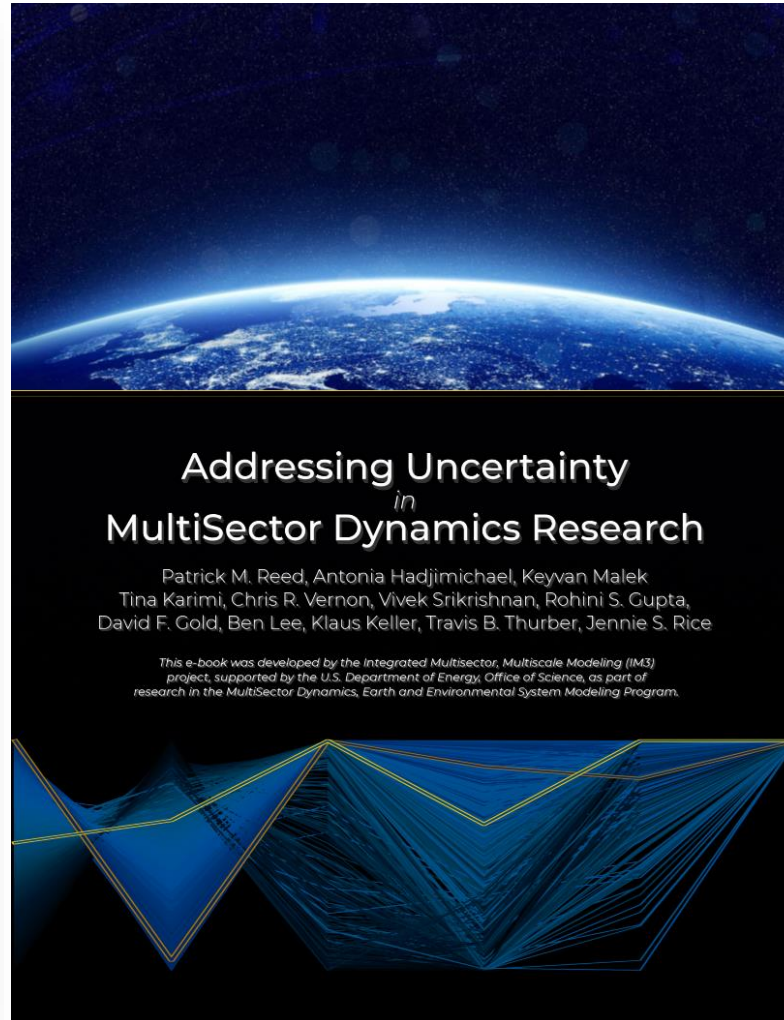
# PCHES and the MSD Community of Practice

## MULTISECTOR DYNAMICS

Scientific Challenges  
and a Research  
Vision for 2030



<https://multisectordynamics.org/vision>



<https://uc-ebook.org/>

## Earth's Future

Review Article | [Open Access](#) | | |

### Uncertainty Analysis in Multi-Sector Systems: Considerations for Risk Analysis, Projection, and Planning for Complex Systems

Vivek Srikrishnan ✉, David C. Lafferty, Tony E. Wong, Jonathan R. Lamontagne, Julianne D. Quinn, Sanjib Sharma, Nusrat J. Molla, Jonathan D. Herman, Ryan L. Sriver, Jennifer F. Morris, Ben Seiyon Lee

First published: 13 August 2022 | <https://doi.org/10.1029/2021EF002644> | Citations: 1

PCHES-funded co-authors of:

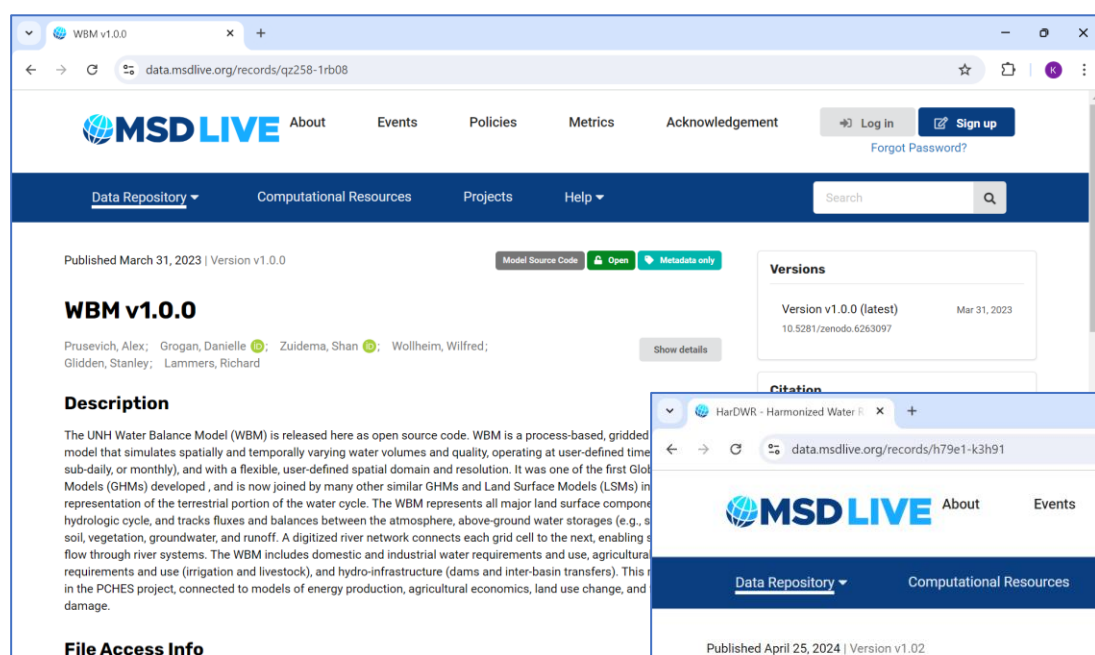
- MSD CoP Vision Report
- MSD Uncertainty Characterization e-book

Leadership in:

- MSD Scientific Steering Group
- Uncertainty Characterization and Quantification MSD Working Group



PCHES is an active contributor to open access platforms like **MSD-Live**, a flexible and scalable data and code management system combined with an advanced computing platform



WBM v1.0.0

Published March 31, 2023 | Version v1.0.0

Model Source Code Open Metadata only

Versions

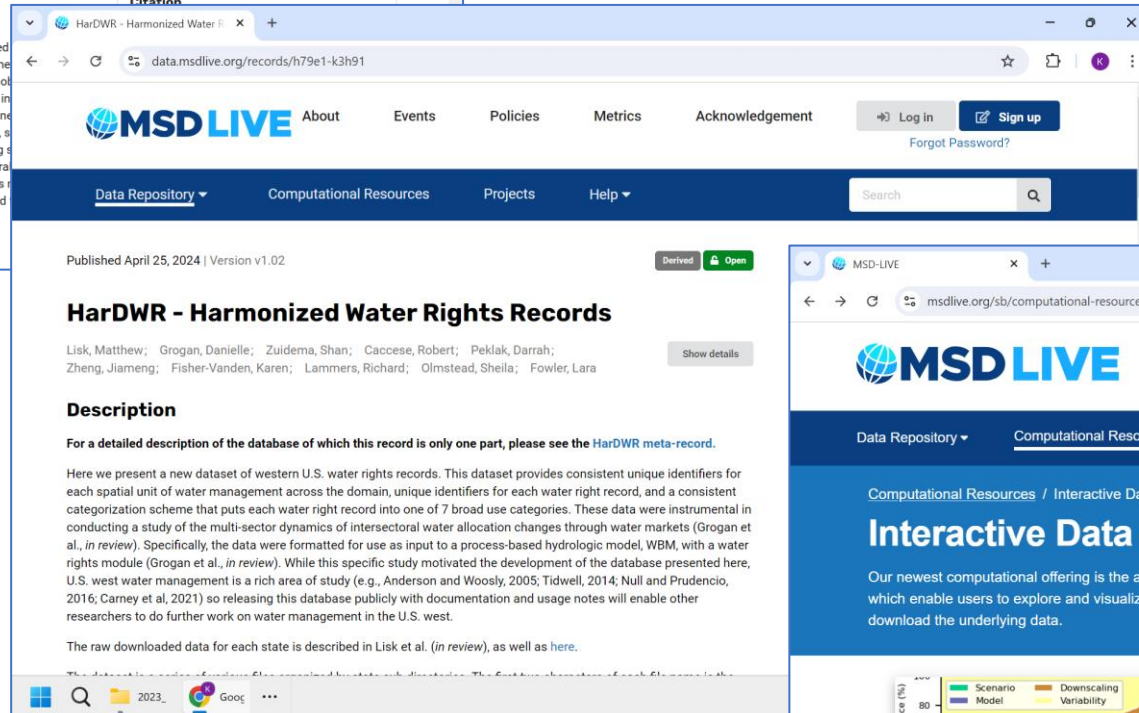
Version	Published
Version v1.0.0 (latest)	Mar 31, 2023
10.5281/zenodo.6263097	

Prusevich, Alex; Grogan, Danielle; Zuidema, Shan; Wollheim, Wilfried; Glidden, Stanley; Lammers, Richard

**Description**

The UNH Water Balance Model (WBM) is released here as open source code. WBM is a process-based, gridded model that simulates spatially and temporally varying water volumes and quality, operating at user-defined time sub-daily, or monthly), and with a flexible, user-defined spatial domain and resolution. It was one of the first Global Models (GHMs) developed, and is now joined by many other similar GHMs and Land Surface Models (LSMs) in representation of the terrestrial portion of the water cycle. The WBM represents all major land surface components of the hydrologic cycle, and tracks fluxes and balances between the atmosphere, above-ground water storages (e.g., soil, vegetation, groundwater, and runoff. A digitized river network connects each grid cell to the next, enabling flow through river systems. The WBM includes domestic and industrial water requirements and use, agricultural requirements and use (irrigation and livestock), and hydro-infrastructure (dams and inter-basin transfers). This is part of the PCHES project, connected to models of energy production, agricultural economics, land use change, and damage.

**File Access Info**



HardWR - Harmonized Water Rights Records

Published April 25, 2024 | Version v1.02

Derived Open

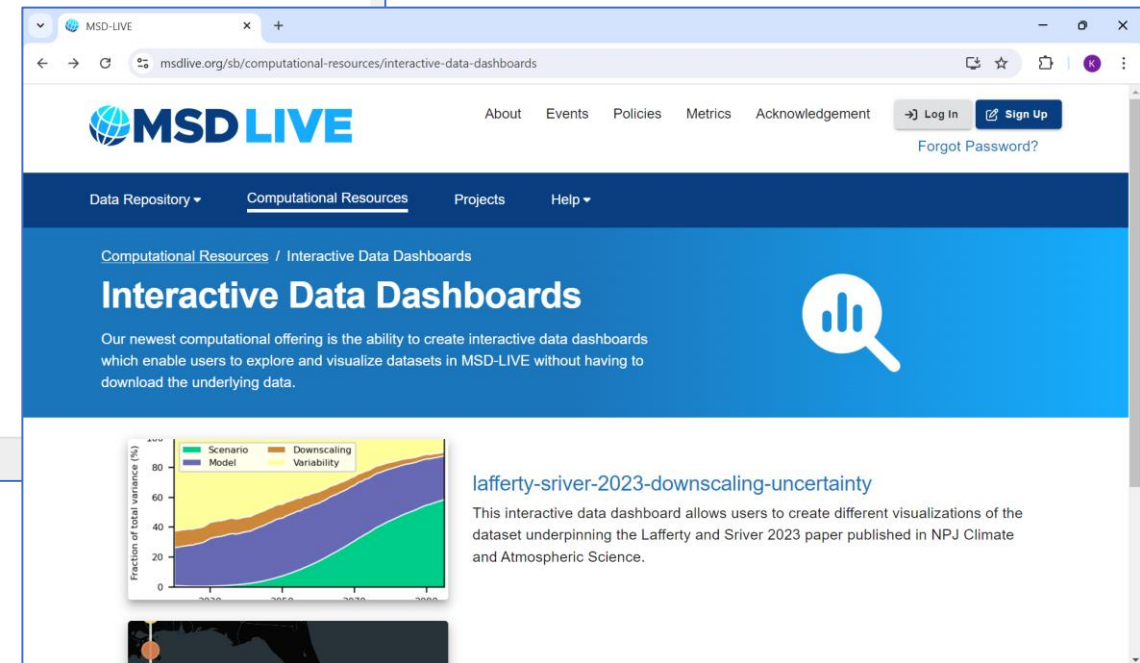
Lisk, Matthew; Grogan, Danielle; Zuidema, Shan; Caccese, Robert; Peklak, Darrah; Zheng, Jiameng; Fisher-Vanden, Karen; Lammers, Richard; Olmstead, Sheila; Fowler, Lara

**Description**

For a detailed description of the database of which this record is only one part, please see the [HardWR meta-record](#).

Here we present a new dataset of western U.S. water rights records. This dataset provides consistent unique identifiers for each spatial unit of water management across the domain, unique identifiers for each water right record, and a consistent categorization scheme that puts each water right record into one of 7 broad use categories. These data were instrumental in conducting a study of the multi-sector dynamics of intersectoral water allocation changes through water markets (Grogan et al., *in review*). Specifically, the data were formatted for use as input to a process-based hydrologic model, WBM, with a water rights module (Grogan et al., *in review*). While this specific study motivated the development of the database presented here, U.S. west water management is a rich area of study (e.g., Anderson and Woosly, 2005; Tidwell, 2014; Null and Prudencio, 2016; Carney et al, 2021) so releasing this database publicly with documentation and usage notes will enable other researchers to do further work on water management in the U.S. west.

The raw downloaded data for each state is described in Lisk et al. (*in review*), as well as [here](#).

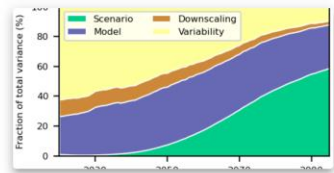


MSD-LIVE

Computational Resources / Interactive Data Dashboards

## Interactive Data Dashboards

Our newest computational offering is the ability to create interactive data dashboards which enable users to explore and visualize datasets in MSD-LIVE without having to download the underlying data.



lafferty-sriver-2023-downscaling-uncertainty

This interactive data dashboard allows users to create different visualizations of the dataset underpinning the Lafferty and Sriver 2023 paper published in NPJ Climate and Atmospheric Science.



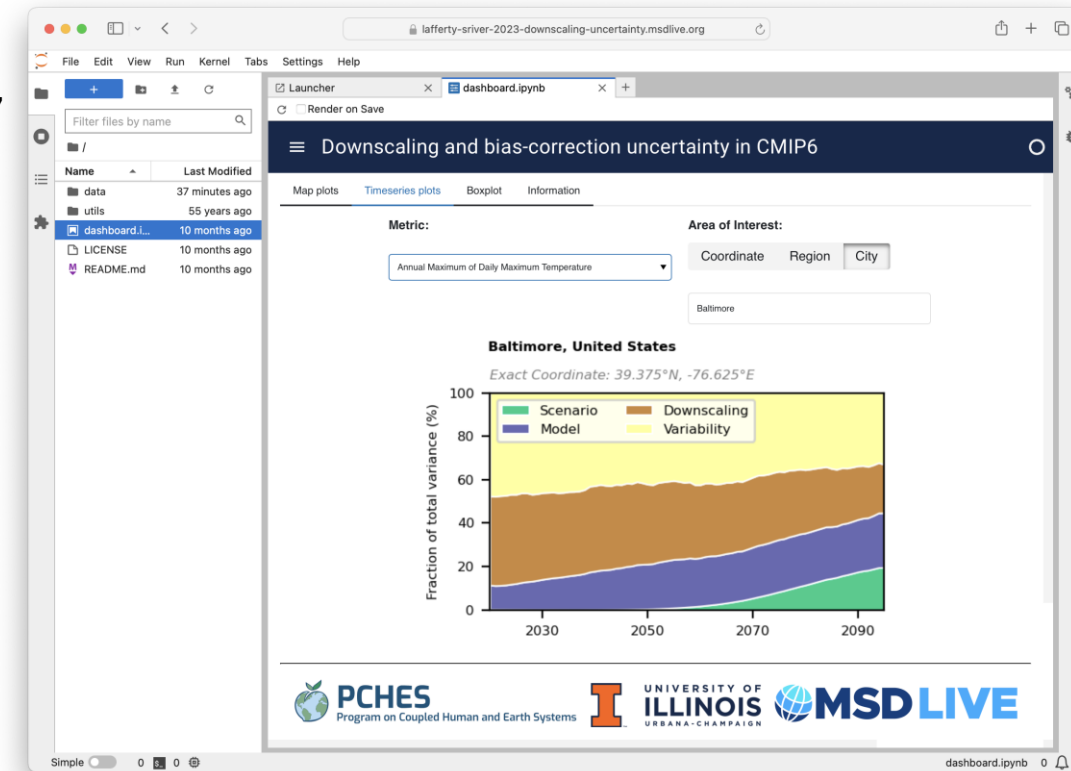
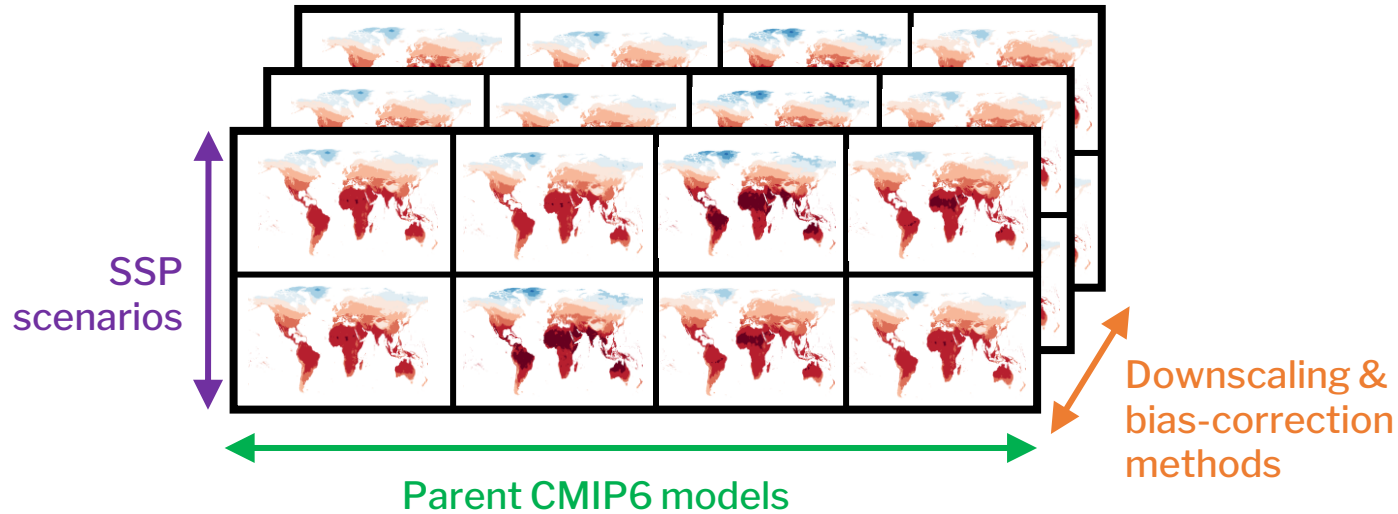


# How do climate model uncertainties affect hazard characterization for MSD systems?

David Lafferty and Ryan Sriver, University of Illinois

Lafferty, D. C., & Sriver, R. L. (2023). Downscaling and bias-correction contribute considerable uncertainty to local climate projections in CMIP6. *npj Climate and Atmospheric Science*, 6(1), 1–13. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41612-023-00486-0>

1. Utilize Earth system model ensembles and downscaled data products
2. Focus on hazard metrics relevant to case studies: **wildfire risk, extreme heat, drought**, etc.
3. Create workflows to quantify climate hazard uncertainty across different models, scenarios, ensembles, and downscaling methods




Partition total uncertainty using a simple variance decomposition approach...

- Model uncertainty: variance across **models**, averaged over **SSPs** and **downscaling methods**
- Downscaling uncertainty: variance across **downscaling methods**, averaged over **SSPs** and **models**
- Scenario uncertainty: variance across **SSPs** of the **multi-model, multi-downscaling method** mean
- Internal variability: variance arising from the chaotic nature of the Earth system



Browser: pches.psu.edu


PCHEs PROJECTS PARTICIPANTS RESEARCH NEWS EVENTS SEARCH CONTACT



**PCHEs**  
Program on Coupled Human and Earth Systems


The Program on Coupled Human and Earth Systems (PCHEs) is a transdisciplinary research consortium of nine leading universities. Funded under the U.S. Department of Energy's **MultiSector Dynamics (MSD) program**, the PCHEs team focuses on driving innovations in modeling and analysis of multisector, multiscale land, energy, water, and infrastructure systems to advance understanding of complex risk and response behaviors.

**PRESS RELEASE ON PCHEs-ADAPT PROJECT LAUNCH**




**Penn State-led team awarded \$17M to study climate risk and adaptation strategies**  
*Penn State News*  
19 October 2021

**SPOTLIGHT ON RESEARCH**



**Harmonized Database of Western U.S. Water Rights (HarDWR) v.1**  
Lisk, MD, DS Grogan, S Zuidema, J Zheng, R Caccese, D Peklak, K Fisher-Vanden, RB Lammers, SM Olmstead and L Fowler  
*Scientific Data*  
June 2024




**Non-linear relationships between daily temperature extremes and US agricultural yields uncovered by global gridded meteorological datasets**  
Hogan, D and W Schlenker  
*Nat. Commun.*  
May 2024

**People of PCHEs**  
*Edouard Mensah*  
26 February 2024

Edouard is a Postdoc in the Department of Agricultural Economics, Sociology, and Education at Penn State. His research focuses on the microeconomic aspects of human responses to natural disasters. [full story »](#)


**Featured News**



**Economics propelling population shifts in spite of climate-driven risks**  
A new study by PCHEs researcher Doug Wrenn finds that people are willing to live in locations where there is a greater risk of climate-driven extreme weather and natural disasters if it brings an increase to their overall economic well-being.


Browser: pches.psu.edu

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**PCHEs**  
Program on Coupled Human and Earth Systems


## Publications




2024 **PCHEs-FRAME**  
**The distributional impact of FEMA's community rating system**  
Brent, DA, Y Ren and DH Wrenn  
*Agric. Resour. Econ. Rev.*




2024 **PCHEs-FRAME** **PCHEs-ADAPT**  
**Linkages between riverine flooding risk and economic damage over the continental United States**  
Cisneros-Pineda, A, J Liu, D Grogan and T Hertel  
*Nat. Hazards*




2024 **PCHEs-FRAME** **PCHEs-ADAPT**  
**Global projections of heat exposure of older adults**  
Falcetta, G, E De Cian, I Sue Wing and D Carr  
*Nat. Commun.*



2024 **PCHEs-FRAME**  
**Non-linear relationships between daily temperature extremes and US agricultural yields uncovered by global gridded meteorological datasets**  
Hogan, D and W Schlenker  
*Nat. Commun.*



2024 **PCHEs-FRAME** **PCHEs-ADAPT**  
**What drives uncertainty surrounding riverine flood risks?**  
Hosseini-Shakib, I, A Alipour, B Seiyon Lee, V Srikrishnan, RE Nicholas, K Keller and S Sharma  
*J. Hydrol.*



2024 **PCHEs-IAMDDI** **PCHEs-FRAME**  
**Harmonized Database of Western U.S. Water Rights (HarDWR) v.1**  
Lisk, MD, DS Grogan, S Zuidema, J Zheng, R Caccese, D Peklak, K Fisher-Vanden, RB Lammers, SM Olmstead and L Fowler  
*Scientific Data*