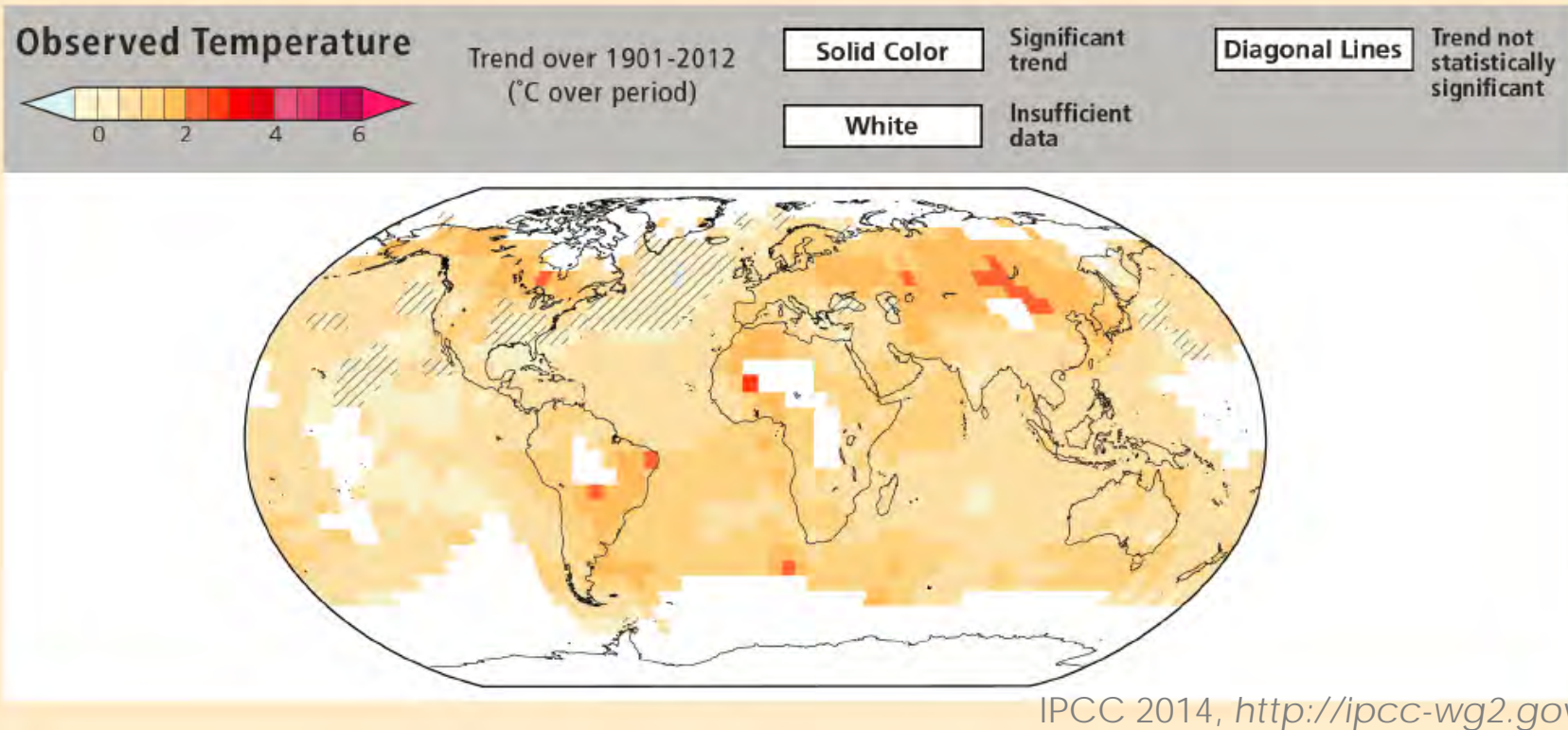


Climate-Related Risks for Western Forests

Michael Case, University of Washington

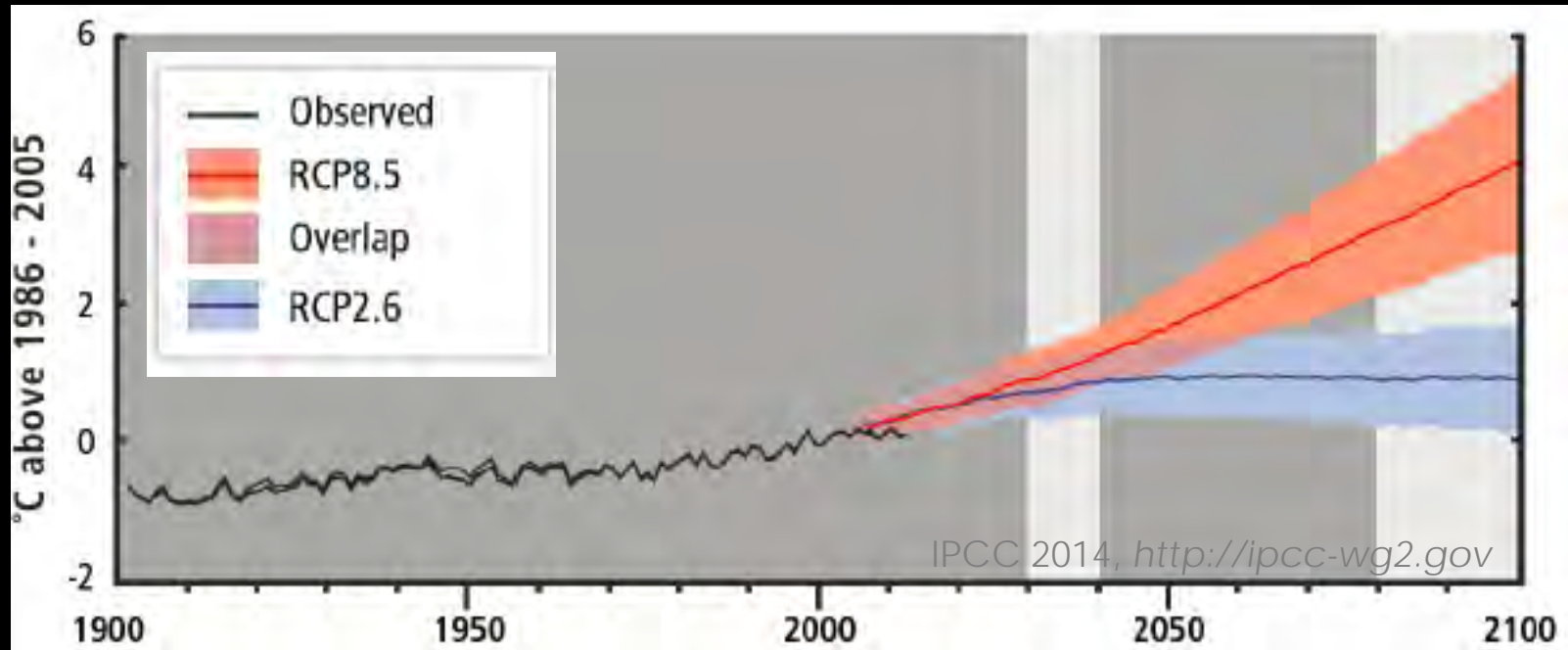
April 29, 2014

Temperature

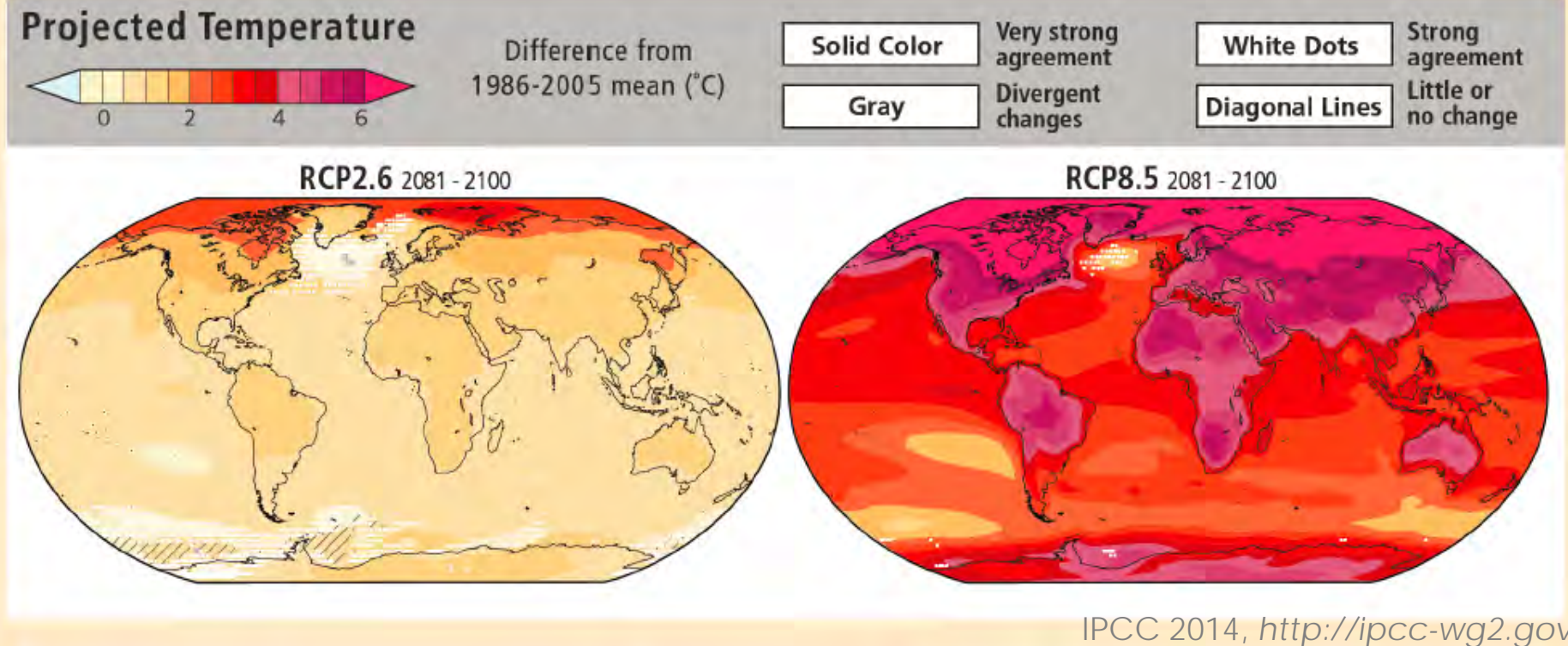


- Longer frost free season
- More frequent night-time heat wave events
- Declining spring snowpack

Future Projections



Future Temperature



IPCC 2014, <http://ipcc-wg2.gov>

- ~3°C (6°F) increase in PNW by 2050
- More extreme heat events
- Continued loss of snowpack

Future Precipitation

Projected Precipitation



Difference from
1986-2005 mean (%)

Solid Color

Very strong
agreement

White Dots

Strong
agreement

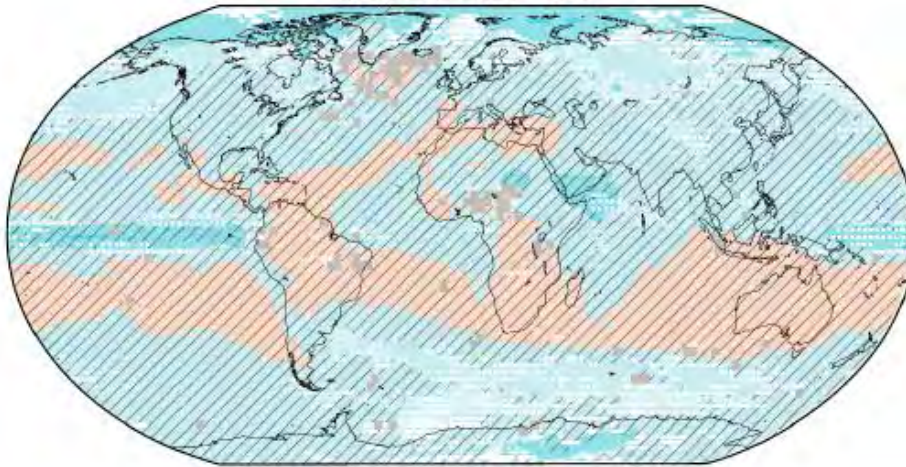
Gray

Divergent
changes

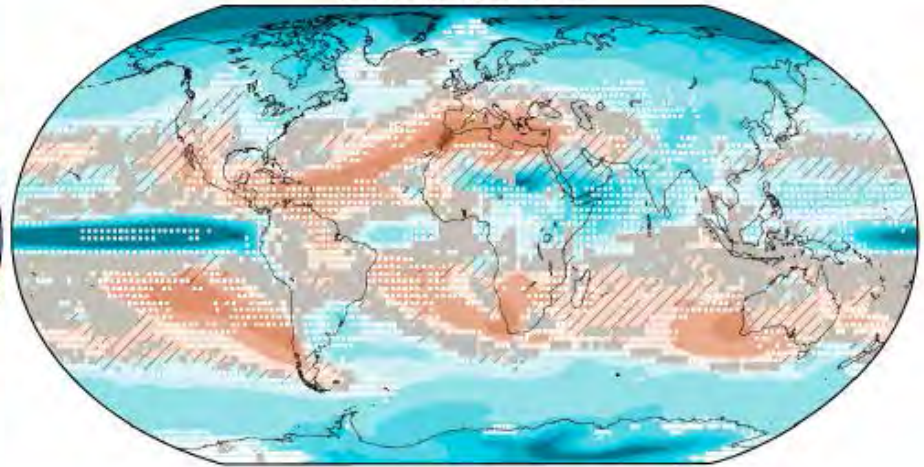
Diagonal Lines

Little or
no change

RCP2.6 2081 - 2100



RCP8.5 2081 - 2100



IPCC 2014, <http://ipcc-wg2.gov>

- Drier summers in PNW
- Wetter winter, spring, and fall
- Increase heavy rainfall events



Establishment
Growth
Distribution
Disturbances

Direct effects



- Warmer temperatures - increase productivity?
- Drier summers and wetter winter, spring, fall
- Increased CO₂

Indirect effects



- Fire – area burned is projected to increase
- Disease – dwarf mistletoe, *Armillaria*, alder canker, swiss needle cast increase
- Insects – increase then decrease in mt. pine beetle
- Decrease in productivity, carbon sequestration?
- Others effects?

Assess Vulnerability

- Sensitivity
- Exposure
- Adaptive capacity

Why?

- Priority setting
- Developing adaptation strategies

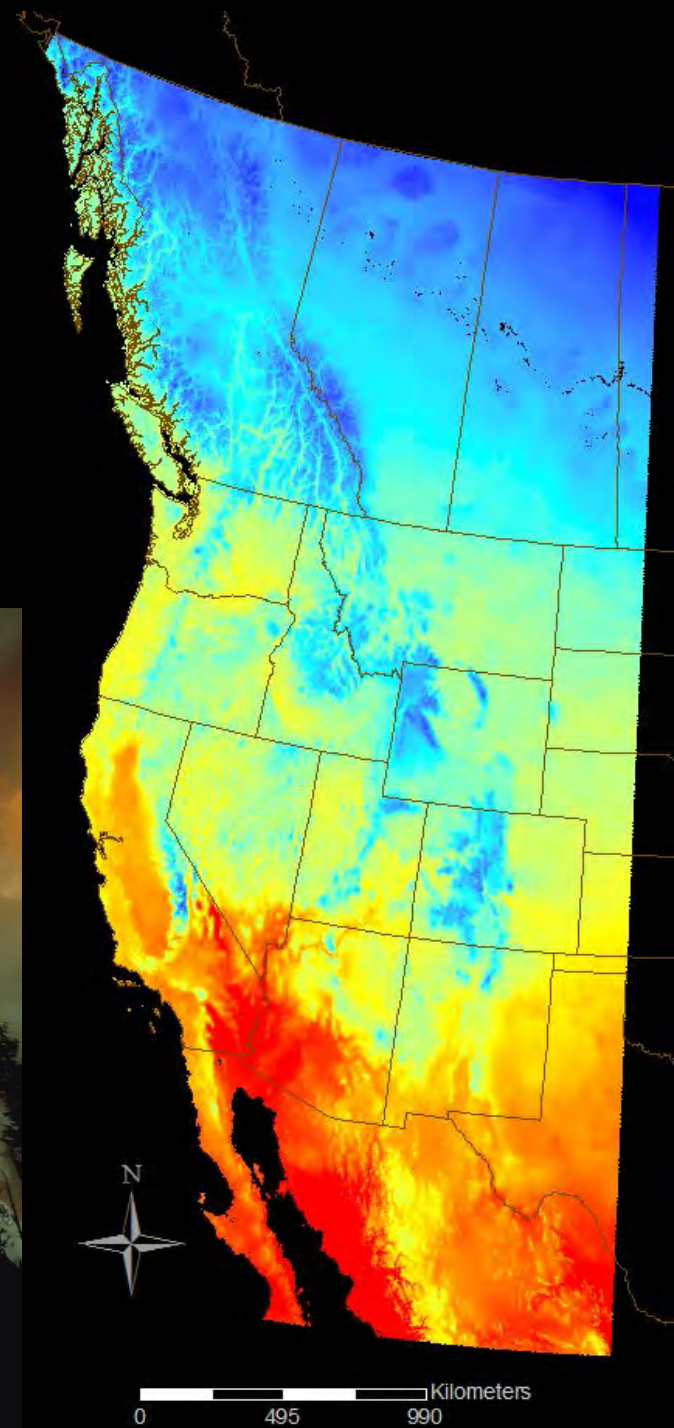


Sensitivity

- Physiological factors
- Dispersal abilities
- Reproductive abilities
- Interspecific dependencies
- Disturbance regimes
- Interacting non-climatic stressors



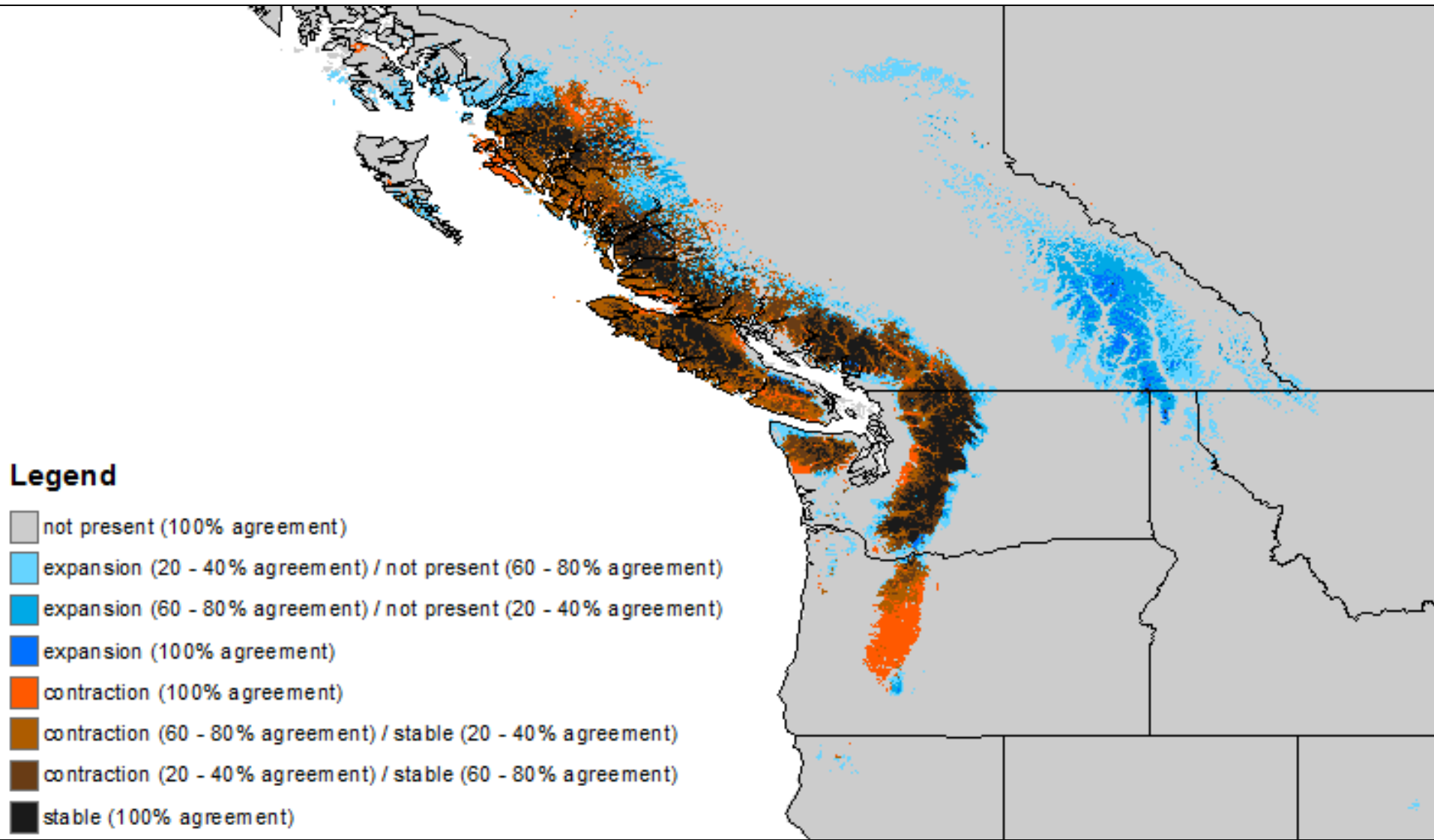
Exposure



Adaptive Capacity



Future projections for Pacific silver fir (ensemble for 5 GCMs)





Remove other threats

Restore habitat

Restore natural disturbance regimes

Promote evolutionary potential

Assisted migration





Michael Case
mcase@uw.edu

