



A National Citizen Science Network



Caleb Slemmons & Sandra Henderson,
National Ecological Observatory Network



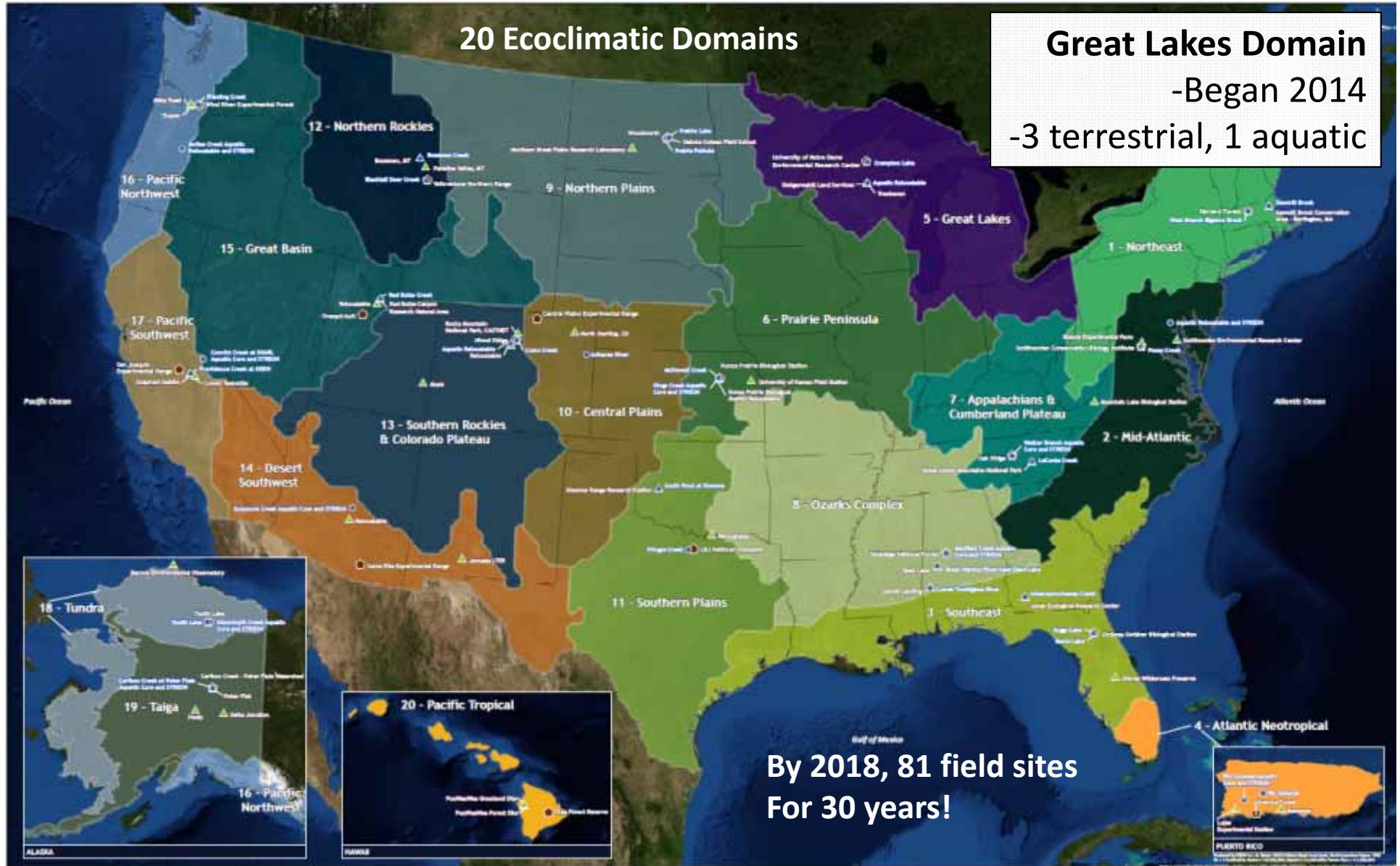
Overview

Project BudBurst
Timing is everything!

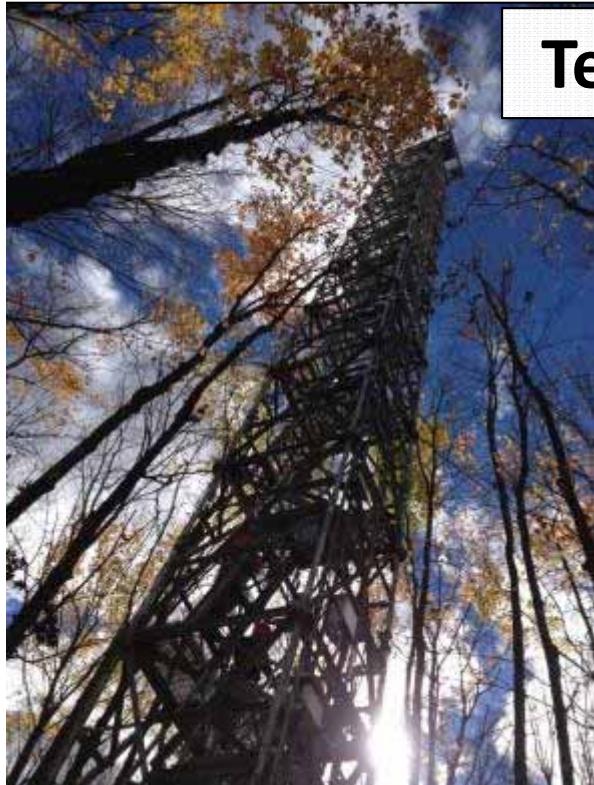
- NEON Overview
- NEON Education & Outreach
- Project BudBurst
- Partnerships, Additional Resources & Season Spotter



A Continental Scale Observatory



Network of automated sensors



Instrumented
in 2014



Terrestrial Instrument System

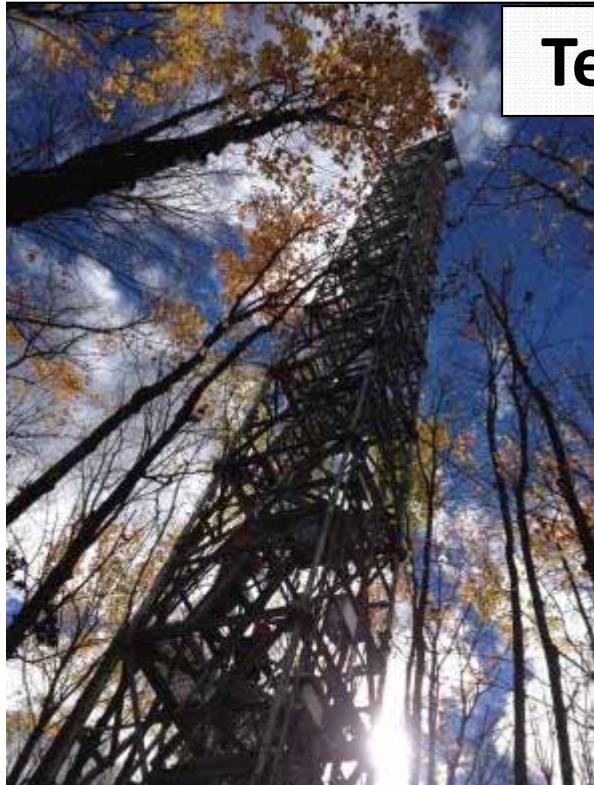


Airborne Observatory



Aquatic Instruments

Network of automated sensors



Instrumented
in 2014



Terrestrial Instrument System

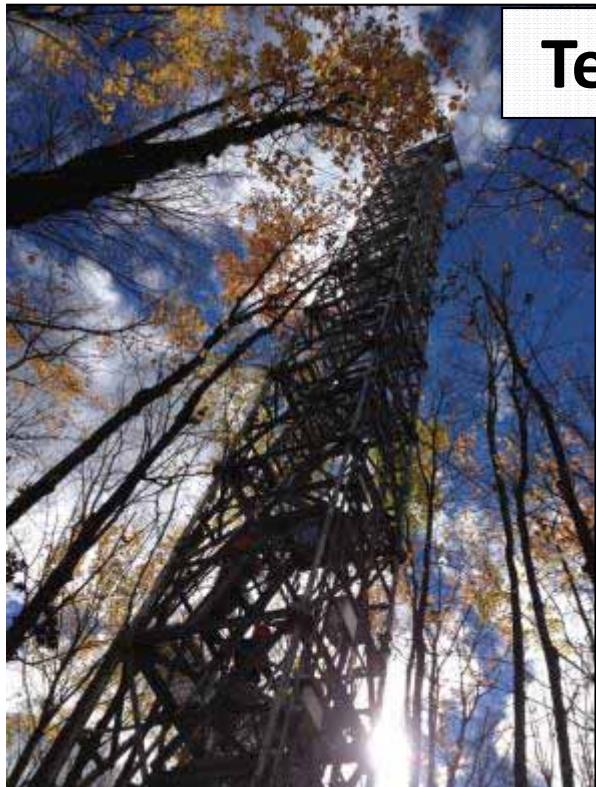


Airborne Observatory

First GL Flight 2016!



Network of automated sensors



Instrumented
in 2014



Terrestrial Instrument System



Airborne Observatory

First GL Flight 2016!

Planned for Fall, 2016



Aquatic Instruments

And on the ground sampling...

Sentinel taxa

Mosquitoes
Phenology
Diversity
Abundance
Pathogens



Ticks
Pathogens



Small mammals



Diversity
Abundance
Pathogens

Ground beetles
Diversity
Abundance

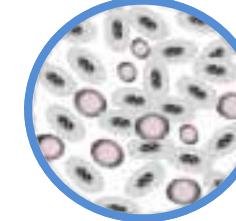


Birds
Diversity
Abundance

Plants
Phenology
Diversity
Abundance
Productivity & Biomass



Terrestrial Observatory

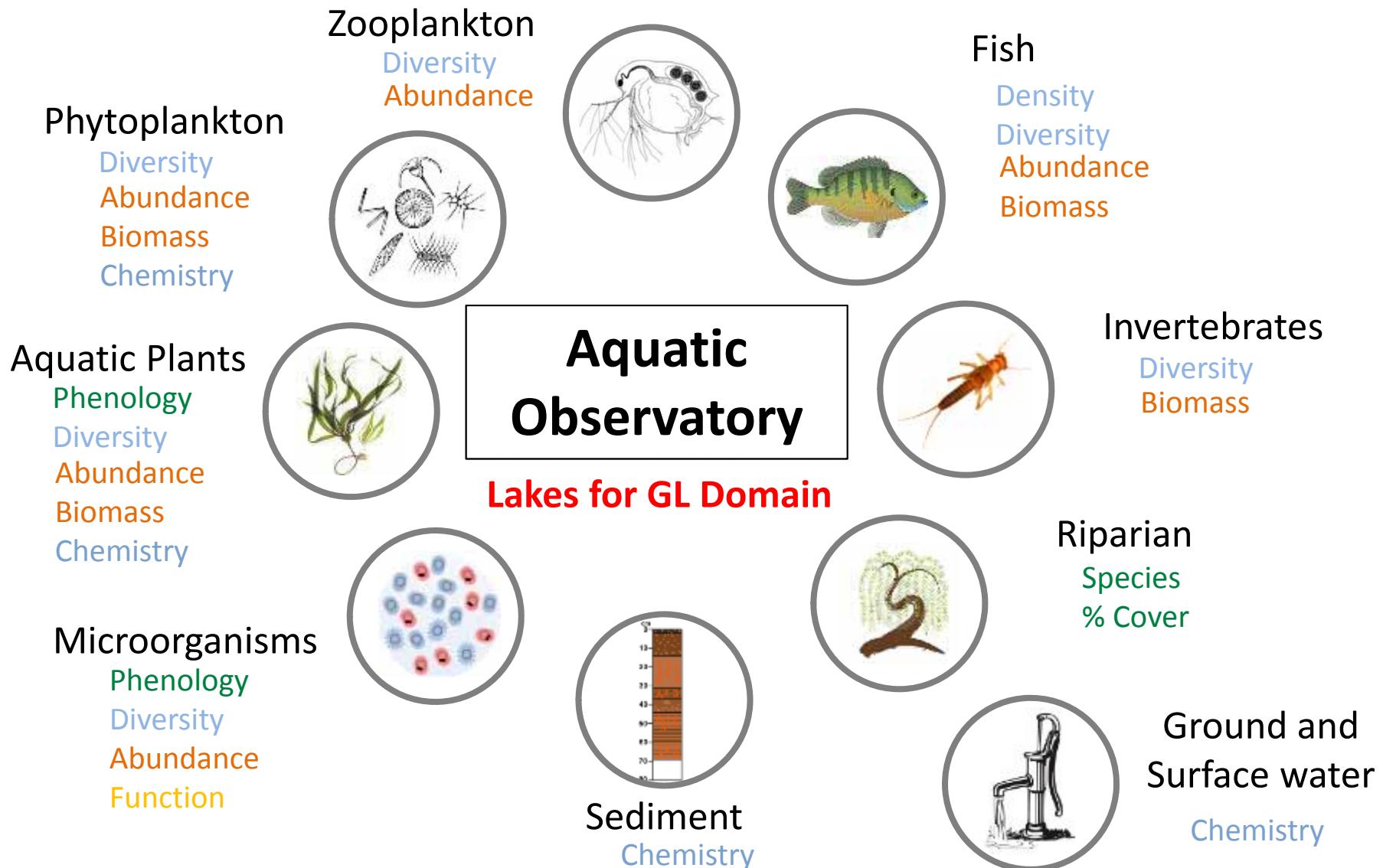


Soil microbes
Phenology
Diversity
Abundance
Function



Biogeochemistry
Pools/fluxes:
Soils, plants, ground water

And “on the water” sampling...



NEON as a resource...



NEON was designed to enable understanding and forecasting the effects of ***climate change***, ***land use change***, and ***invasive species*** on continental-scale ecology by providing:



- Physical Infrastructure
- Information Infrastructure
 - Data is free and will be publically available

AND

- Educational resources: Programs and tools for engaging communities in scientific discovery

Project BudBurst:

Project BudBurst
Timing is everything!

a plant phenology citizen science program



- ✓ Started in 2007
- ✓ Co-managed by NEON and Chicago Botanic Garden

- ✓ Individuals from all walks of life
- ✓ Participants from all 50 US states
- ✓ Easy to contribute, numerous partners (USFWS, NPS, gardens etc.)

What is phenology?

Phenology: science that measures timing of life cycle events (*phenophases*)

Scientists who study phenology are interested in the timing of biological events as they relate to changes in season and climate.

Aldo Leopold – tracked phenology from 1938-'48



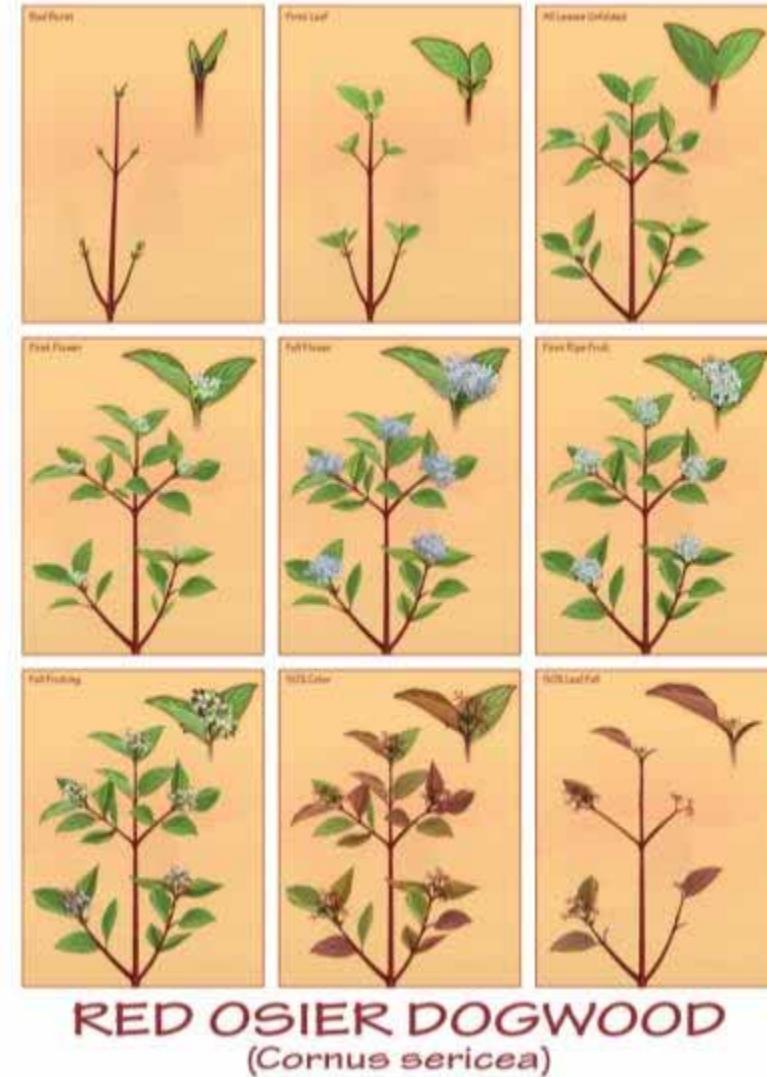
Photos courtesy of Wikipedia Commons, Paul Alaback,, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service

Phenophase Example

Project BudBurst
Timing is everything!

Phenophases of Red osier dogwood through the seasons

- ✓ A **phenophase** is a distinct event in the life cycle of a plant or animal
- ✓ Each stage is an example of a phenophase



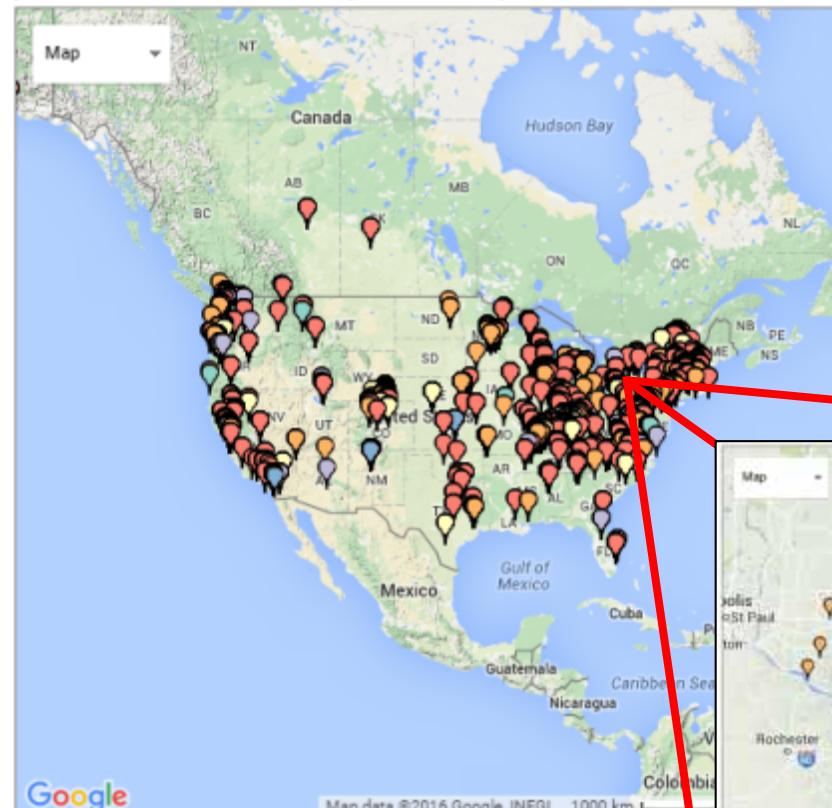
A National Network of Citizen Science:

Project BudBurst
Timing is everything!

Online and Mobile Access



Legend:
Yellow = Wildflowers and Herbs
Blue = Evergreen Trees and Shrubs
Red = Deciduous Trees and Shrubs
Green = Basic (Other)
Purple = Grasses
Orange = Conifers



Over 17K records for 2015
(417 from Wisconsin)



Observe

Observe a plant in your community.



Record

Record your observation on a Single Report or Regular Report form.



Submit

Submit your observation on www.budburst.org

Register, then learn

Project BudBurst
Timing is everything!

neon Citizen Science | Sponsored by the National Science Foundation Welcome Guest! **Register/Login**

Project BudBurst Timing is Everything!

People watching plants Contributing to research Join Project BudBurst

About Observing Plants Partners Education Science Data My BudBurst

BudBurst > Home

Welcome to Project BudBurst!

Every plant tells a story about changing climates. We are a national network of citizen scientists monitoring plants as the seasons change. Join us!

1 Register Online Create a My BudBurst account.

2 Learn How to Observe Find out what to look for when making observations.

3 Select a Plant Next, choose a place to observe.

4 Go Outside and Observe Now the fun part! Print a report form, go outside, and observe your plant.

5 Report Sign in to your My BudBurst account to submit your observation. It's that easy!

Latest News • 2015 Web Updates

Recent Reports

- Flowers (Early) on Jan 19 California poppy in Los Altos Hills, CA Submitted by Denver Botanic on Jan 20
- 50% Leaf Fall on Oct 29 Forsythia in Denver, CO Submitted by Denver Botanic on Jan 17
- 50% Color on Oct 29 Forsythia in Denver, CO Submitted by Denver Botanic on Jan 17
- All Leaves Unfolded on Apr 25 Forsythia in Denver, CO Submitted by Denver Botanic on Jan 17
- First Leaf on Apr 17 Forsythia in Denver, CO Submitted by Denver Botanic on Jan 17
- 50% Leaf Fall on Oct 22 Red elder dogwood in Denver, CO Submitted by Denver Botanic on Jan 17

Facebook Twitter YouTube Newsletter Signup

Project BudBurst Timing is Everything! Welcome Guest! **Register/Login**

Welcome to the Project BudBurst Community!

By registering with us, you can save your observers, location(s) and plants that you are monitoring throughout the year and for coming years. This lets allows you to report the phenological changes as they occur each week!

If you are under the age of 13, you must have your parent, guardian or teacher register for you. Please read our privacy policy.

* = required fields

Project BudBurst Registration

*First Name: _____
*Last Name: _____
*City: _____
*State: Select _____
Zip Code: _____
*Email: _____
You will be asked to verify this email address by entering a verification code that will be sent to it.
I am at least 13 years of age: Educator accounts allow formal and informal educators to register classroom sites and create student reporter accounts:

You will use a login and password of your choosing to access your account.

2 Learn How to Observe Find out what to look for when making observations.

Select a plant...make observations

The screenshot shows the Project BudBurst website's 'Plants to Observe' page. At the top, there's a banner with two people in a forest setting. Below the banner, the main navigation menu includes 'About', 'Observing Plants', 'Partners', 'Education', 'Science', 'Data', and 'My BudBurst'. A red arrow points from the 'Observing Plants' link to the 'Regular vs Single Reports' comparison chart on the right.

Plants to Observe

There are over 250 plants on the Project BudBurst master list. Use the search and browse tools below to find downloadable report forms for making Regular and Single Reports for these plants. If your plant isn't on our list, you'll be directed to generic report forms to guide your observing. Once you have your report form, you are ready to make observations of your plant! Need help? Email us at budburstinfo@neoninc.org.

Browse Project BudBurst Plants

[Top 10 Plants](#) [Browse By State](#) [Browse All Species](#)

Browse Project BudBurst Plant Groups

Search Project BudBurst Plants

Search for your plant by common or scientific name:
Enter plant name

Common Name:
Scientific Name:
Plant Group:

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE?
Regular vs Single REPORTS

Regular Reports **vs** **Single Reports**

Regular Reports

Record specific dates throughout the year when your plant first has leaves, flowers and fruit.

Single Reports

Record observations of the leafing, flowering and fruiting stage(s) that best describes your plant at that moment.

Time commitment

Many observations thru the seasons

Time commitment

15 minutes/one-time observation

Select a plant to track year round

This year, I monitored an Apple Tree:

- First leaf: Apr 14
- First flower: May 1
- First fruit: Jul 22
- 50% Leaf color: Sep 10

Select a plant to observe once

Today, I observed that the Apple tree had:

Regular or Single Reports

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Apple		<i>Malus pumila</i>	
Bud Burst	Full Flower	First Leaf	Full Flower
			
Get your photo published! Share your photos of a great picture of your plant! Email your image to submit@budburst.org .	Date when the protective scales covering the bud are at least 2x transparent. Leaves need to be reported completely (that) and the leaf stem or base must be visible (you might need to bend the leaf back to see this). Fully leaves can be quite small and round when they open up for first leaf, often within a few days of the buds opening.	First Ripe Fruit	Date when the first fruits become fully ripe or seeds drop naturally from the plant (at 2 or more branches). Plopping is often indicated by a change in the fruit's color or by drying and splitting open. Typically this is a bright red color and with soft flesh, but may be yellow or other colors depending on the variety.
All Leaves Unfolded	Full Fruiting	50% Color	50% Leaf Fall
			
Date when at least 80% of the growing leaf buds have reached the first leaf stage.	Date when half or more branches have fully ripe fruit or the seeds are dropping naturally from the plant. If fruits are in clusters or stalks, then record date of first fruit that is ripe or at least half of the cluster.	Date when half or more of the branches have leaves which have started to change color.	Date when at least half of the leaves have fallen off the tree or shrub. Apple tend to persist late. They often fall off at once in a strong fall storm.



Single Report Deciduous Trees & Shrubs	
About your plant	
Common Plant Name*	Latitude*
Scientific Name (if known)	Longitude*
Site Name (a unique name of your choosing)	City*
State*	Zip
# Required fields	
What is your plant doing now? (Check the most applicable option in each category below.)	
Leaves unfolding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No leaves <input type="checkbox"/> Early: Only a few leaves have unfolded from the buds (less than 5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Middle: Many leaves have unfolded from the buds <input type="checkbox"/> Late: Most leaves are fully unfolded (over 95%) 	Leaves changing color <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No leaves have changed color <input type="checkbox"/> Early: Only a few leaves have changed color (less than 5%) <input type="checkbox"/> Middle: Many leaves have changed color <input type="checkbox"/> Late: Most leaves have changed color (over 95%)
Flowers <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No flowers or pollen <input type="checkbox"/> Early: Only a few flowers have emerged (less than 5%) or pollen is just starting to disperse <input type="checkbox"/> Middle: Many flowers have emerged or a lot of pollen is falling <input type="checkbox"/> Late: Most flowers have wilted or fallen off (over 95%) or most pollen has fallen 	Fruit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> No ripe fruits <input type="checkbox"/> Early: Only a few ripe fruits are visible (less than 5% are ripe) <input type="checkbox"/> Middle: Many fruits are ripe <input type="checkbox"/> Late: Most fruits or seeds have been dispersed from plant (over 95%)
Participating in Project BudBurst <ul style="list-style-type: none">  Observe: Observe a plant in your community.  Record: Record your observation on a single-report form.  Submit: Submit your observation on www.budburst.org. 	
Single Report forms are used to make observations of what one plant is doing on one specific day. Remember to report your data at www.budburst.org . Questions? Email us at budburst@neonscience.org .	
Project BudBurst Timing is everything!	
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Report observations

Project BudBurst
Timing is everything!

Project BudBurst Timing is Everything!

Register your plants. Submit observations here. Your MyBudBurst space.

About Observing Plants Partners Education Science Data My BudBurst

BudBurst > My BudBurst > Submit Regular Reports > Location

Enter Regular Reports - Register a Site

MyBudBurst Site - Where are you monitoring your plant(s)?

Site Location

Map Tool
Find your latitude and longitude by:

- entering the address of your site location into the search box below (i.e. 1685 38th St, Boulder, CO 80301 or City Park, Denver, Colorado)
- OR-
- zooming in and clicking on the map to mark your location.

Search For: presque isle, wi Search ?

Describe Your Site
You can have more than one plant species at the same site.

*Site Name (A unique name of your choosing)
PI Park

Use the map tool to determine latitude and longitude (measured at the center of your site).

*Latitude (decimal degrees, i.e. 40.01647)
46.245698

*Longitude (decimal degrees, i.e. -105.24557)
-89.737315

*City:
Presque Isle

*State:
Wisconsin

Zip code:
54657

Describe the irrigation at this site
Select

Describe the shading at this site
Select

A red arrow points from the 'Describe Your Site' section of the left screenshot to the 'Enter Regular Report - Observation' section of the right screenshot.

06-2011 Citizen Science Sponsored by the National Science Foundation

Welcome ecalifornia Logout

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About Observing Plants Partners Education Science Data My BudBurst

BudBurst > My BudBurst > Submit Regular Reports > Observation

Enter Regular Report - Observation

MyBudBurst Site: PI Park
MyBudBurst Plant: Chokeberry
MyBudBurst Plant Group: Deciduous Trees and Shrubs

WHEN DID YOU OBSERVE?

Bed Burst: 2011-06-20
First Leaf: 2011-06-20

(Note that first leaf can be a consistency, measured from the bud until leaf elongates. Leaves need to be measured completely (All) and the last leaf.)

All Leaves Unfolded: 2011-06-20

Last corner of leaf 50% of the growing leaf area. When measuring the final leaf stage.

First Flower: 2011-06-20

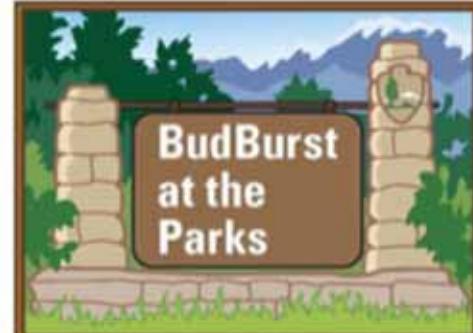
Last the first flower and fully open. When measuring the final flower stage.



Then submit!

Partner Power!

Project BudBurst
Timing is everything!



- ✓ Trempealeau NWR,
- ✓ Community Partners – Mequon Nature Preserve & Riveredge Nature Center (Saukville, WI)



These observations matter!

Project BudBurst
Timing is everything!

At the interface of science and education, Citizen Science...



**All data available
through website
(2007-'15)**

**Over 23k
participants to date**

- Makes science real by providing authentic research experiences
- Advances scientific learning through hands-on learning
- Can promote a sense of 'ownership' of plants/data

Scientific Application

Project BudBurst
Timing is everything!

OPEN ACCESS freely available online

PLOS ONE

Predicting the Timing of Cherry Blossoms in Washington, DC and Mid-Atlantic States in Response to Climate Change

Uran Chung^{1,3}, Liz Mack¹, Jin I. Yun², Soo-Hyung Kim^{1*}

¹Center for Urban Horticulture, School of Forest Resources, College of the Environment, University of Washington, Seattle, Washington, United States of America

²Department of Ecosystem Engineering, Kyung Hee University, Yongin, Korea, ³National Center for Agro-Meteorology, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

Abstract

Cherry blossoms, an icon of spring, are celebrated in many cultures of the temperate region. For its sensitivity to winter and early spring temperature, cherry blossom timing can be used as an indicator of climate change. Using historical climate and phenology records, we applied a process-based phenology model for temperate deciduous trees to predict peak bloom dates (PBD) of flowering cherry trees (*Prunus × pendula* 'Yoshino' and *Prunus serrulata* 'Yayazan') in the Tidal Basin, Washington, DC and the surrounding Mid-Atlantic States in response to climate change. We parameterized the model with observed PBD data from 1991 to 2010. The calibrated model was tested against independent datasets of the past PBD data from 1991 to 1970 in the Tidal Basin and more recent PBD data from other locations (e.g., Seattle, WA). The model performance against these independent data was satisfactory (Yoshino: $r^2 = 0.57$, RMSE = 0.5 days; $\text{bias} = -0.9$ days and Yayazan: $r^2 = 0.76$, RMSE = 0.5 days; $\text{bias} = -2.0$ days). We then applied the model to forecast future PBD for the region using downscaled climate projections based on IPCC's A1B and A2 emissions scenarios. Our results indicate that PBD at the Tidal Basin are likely to be accelerated by an average of five days by 2050s and 10 days by 2080s for these cultivars under a mid-range (A1B) emissions scenario projected by ECHAM5 general circulation model. The acceleration is likely to be much greater (13 days for 2050s and 29 days for 2080s) under a higher (A2) emissions scenario projected by CGCM2 general circulation model. Our results demonstrate the potential impacts of climate change on the timing of cherry blossoms and illustrate the utility of a simple process-based phenology model for developing adaptation strategies to climate change in horticulture, conservation planning, restoration and other related disciplines.

Chung U, Chung L, Mack J, Yun J, Kim SH (2011) Predicting the Timing of Cherry Blossoms in Washington, DC and Mid-Atlantic States in Response to Climate Change. PLoS ONE 6(10): e24748. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0024748

Editorial: Jeffrey A. Harvey, Netherlands Institute of Horticulture

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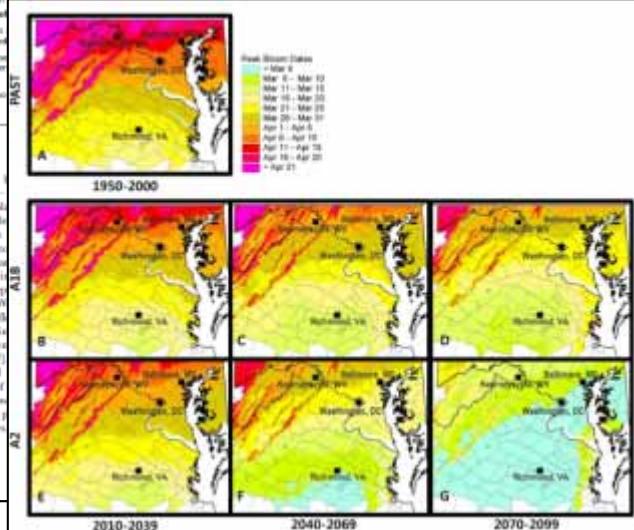
Funding: This work was supported by Cooperative Research Development Program, Ministry of Science and Technology, Republic of Korea. The funders had no role in study design, data collection and analysis, decision to publish, or preparation of the manuscript.

Competing interests: The authors have declared that no competing interests exist.

Introduction

Warming associated with climate change has alter ecosystem processes including phenology, vegetation development [1,2]. The phenology of plants to changes in temperature. During the past decades shifts in tree phenology have been reported in regional scale, which are likely to be a consequence of climate. For example, Mynott et al. [3] and Parham demonstrated that the growing season of tree leaf class in the past 40 years. Richardson et al. [3] report increase of 2.3 days in temperate deciduous in WI area, 89 of 100 plant species surveyed, including 8 trees, exhibited a significant advance of 8.5 days in over the 30 years from 1970 to 1999 [8]. It has been these trends will continue into the 21st century [7], changes in phenology will have a substantial reproduction, distribution and productivity of coincidence of ecosystem processes, such as flow emergence of pollinators, is disrupted [8]. Some species become less resistant to environmental challenges.

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REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS

The phenology of plant invasions: a community ecology perspective

Elizabeth M. Kelkovič¹ and Elsa E. Cleland²

Community ecologists have long recognized the importance of phenology (the timing of periodic life-history events) in structuring communities. Phenological differences between exotic and native species may contribute to the success of invaders, yet a general theory for how phenology may shape invasions has not been developed. Shifts toward longer growing seasons, tracked by plant and animal species worldwide, highlight the need for this analysis. The concurrent availability of extensive citizen-science and long-term datasets has created tremendous opportunities to test the relationship between phenology and invasion. Here we (1) extend major theories within community and invasion biology to include phenology, (2) develop a predictive framework to test these theories, and (3) outline available data resources to test predictions. By creating an integrated framework, we show how new analyses of long-term datasets could advance the fields of community ecology and invasion biology, while developing novel strategies for invasive species management. Although we focus here on terrestrial plants, our framework has clear extensions to animal communities and aquatic ecosystems as well.

Front Ecol Evol 2011; 9(1): 287–294. doi:10.3389/fenevo.00013 (published online 22 Sep 2010)

The study of plant phenology—the timing of periodic events, such as leaf budburst and flowering—is fundamental to plant and ecosystem ecology. In the 1800s, Henry David Thoreau kept dozens of notebooks on the flowering of herbs and forbs in Concord, Massachusetts (Miller-Rushing and Primack 2001), wherein—during the early 1900s—John Muir described the phenology of pines in California's Yosemite Valley (Muir 1917). In the years since, research has shown that the timing of these events is adaptive (Vittor 2007), limits species ranges (Chaine and Beaupain 2000), and plays a species coexistence (Fargione and Tilman 2004). Phenology has acquired increasing attention in recent years, because it is a major indicator of climate change (Fitter and Fitter 2002; Cleland et al. 2007; Sherry et al. 2007), promoting the development of new, geographically extensive databases (Mooney et al. 2009), in addition to previously available long-term records (Menzel 2003).

Phenology may also play an important role in the success of invasive plant species, which may increase under projected climate-change and disturbance regimes (Field et al. 2007). Many theories that attempt to explain how certain species are able to establish and spread suggest that exotic species possess unique characteristics—when compared with those of native species in their introduced community—that give them a competitive edge (Caldwell and Lovett Doust 2002). In particular, the phenology of a plant species may be tied to maximum phenological overlap to plot competition: each year, leaf budburst and senescence strongly correlate with the beginning or end, respectively, of a plant's acquisition of soil and light resources and the time when those species are at greatest risk of herbivory. Likewise, the period of flowering determines when many species compete for pollinators. Phenology must therefore be considered when developing management strategies that explain and reduce new species invasions.

Here, we show how plant and exotic species coexist and how management strategies can be used to reduce new species invasions. We focus mainly on the USA, however, our findings apply to other countries where similar patterns of climate change are occurring. We first describe the phenology of plant invasions, then introduce a community ecology perspective on plant invasions. Finally, we discuss how phenology may contribute to the success of invasions and how phenology may be used to predict and manage invasions.

Biology of plant invasions

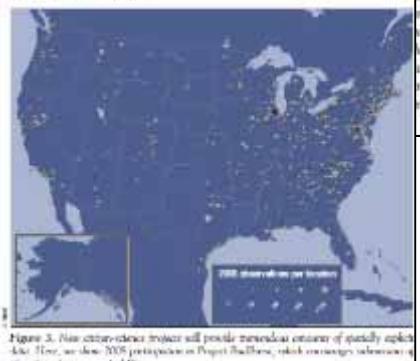


Figure 2. Non-native species will provide increased diversity of species-rich sites. Here, we show 20% participation in Project BudBurst, which encourages submission of long-term data across the US.

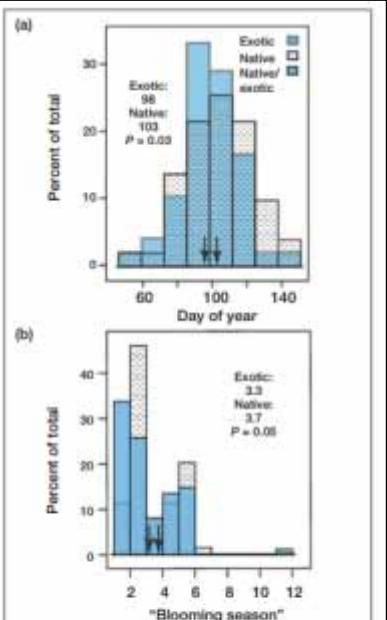


Figure 3. Non-native species will provide increased diversity of species-rich sites. Here, we show 20% participation in Project BudBurst, which encourages submission of long-term data across the US.

Season Spotter



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Welcome cslimmons! Logout

PhenoCam & Project BudBurst™

What can be learned from Cameras on the landscape
Trees sharing seasons

About Observing Plants Partners Education Science Data My BudBurst

BudBurst > Education > PhenoCam

The PhenoCam Network and Season Spotter

What is PhenoCam? Science Behind Seasons Classify Images

The PhenoCam Network uses digital cameras to take continual pictures of different landscapes including forests, grasslands, and croplands

A collaboration between Harvard University, NEON Inc., Boston University, Washington University, and University of New Hampshire

SEASON SPOTTER
Your help is needed to classify images from the PhenoCam Network.



SEASON SPOTTER IMAGE MARKING

RESEARCH CLASSIFY FAQ TALK MORE INFO

BLOG ANSWER QUESTIONS

Draw a shape containing most of the leaves for a single tree. Do this for 3 trees. (You can do more trees if you want to.) If you can't identify individual trees, click Next.

Trees with BROAD leaves 0 drawn

Trees with NEEDLE leaves 3 drawn

Need some help with this task?

Back Next

Willow Creek Tower Phenocam in Northern WI

A collaboration between Harvard University, NEON Inc., Boston University, Washington University, and University of New Hampshire

A phenocam network



US Phenocam Network

- 2 types, classifications & image marking
- Chat section to interact w/researchers
- “Need some help” tips and location for each image

- Uses Zooniverse platform for crowdsourcing
- Very simple, **no registration required** (though ~75% of classifications are from registered users)
- Minimal time commitment

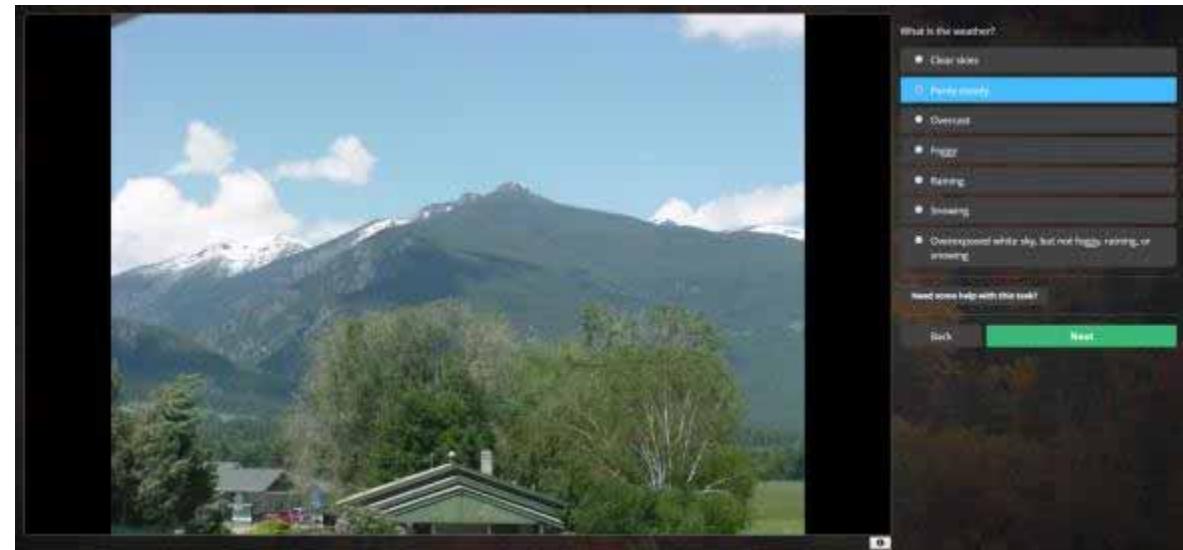


Image classification for Bitter Root Valley, Montana

A phenocam network

- Over 105K classifications and ~7K participants (in 8 months!)
- Possible synergies with PBB, value added



Application

REVIEWS REVIEWS REVIEWS

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Using phenocams to monitor our changing Earth: toward a global phenocam network

Tim B Brown^{1*}, Kevin R Hultine², Heidi Steltzer³, Ellen G Denyer⁴, Michael W Denslow⁵, Joel Granados⁶, Sandra Henderson⁷, David Moore⁸, Shin Nagai⁹, Michael SanClemente¹⁰, Arturo Sánchez-Azofeifa¹¹, Oliver Sonnentag¹², David Tzik¹³, and Andrew D Richardson¹⁴

Rapid changes to the biosphere are altering ecological processes worldwide. Developing informed policies for mitigating the impacts of environmental change requires an exponential increase in the quantity, diversity, and resolution of field-collected data, which, in turn, necessitates greater reliance on innovative technologies to monitor ecological processes across local to global scales. Automated digital time-lapse cameras – “phenocams” – can monitor vegetation status and environmental changes over long periods of time. Phenocams are ideal for documenting changes in phenology, snow cover, fire frequency, and other disturbance events. However, effective monitoring of global environmental change with phenocams requires adoption of data standards. New continental-scale ecological research networks, such as the US National Ecological Observatory Network (NEON) and the European Union’s Integrated Carbon Observation System (ICOS), can serve as templates for developing rigorous data standards and extending the utility of phenocam data through standardized ground-truthing. Open-source tools for analysis, visualization, and collaboration will make phenocam data more widely usable.

Front Ecol Environ 2016; 14(2): 84–93, doi:10.1002/fee.1222

Understanding and adapting to global environmental change is one of the major challenges of the 21st century. Among the most visible outcomes of alterations in environmental properties and processes are shifts in

In a nutshell

- Automated digital time-lapse cameras (phenocams) are powerful tools for recording and understanding ecological responses to global environmental change
- Documenting such changes in the environment is critical for informed decision making and to reduce or counteract negative outcomes
- Advances in digital imaging, computing, and networking technologies provide new opportunities for phenological monitoring, and the availability of low-cost, easy-to-use camera hardware brings the goal of developing a global environmental monitoring network within reach of many researchers
- Standardization of practices and metadata recording will improve the utility of phenocams and facilitate their integration with other monitoring methods

phenology (the seasonal activity of plants and animals). Climate-driven changes in plant phenology, for instance, can have ecosystem-wide impacts, ranging from altered carbon budgets and productivity (Ciais et al. 2013) to effects on pollinators (Bellard et al. 2012) and crop yields (Lobell et al. 2011). However, quantifying such changes over large areas at appropriate timescales is challenging, even with satellite remote-sensing products.

Repeat photography has been used to detect and document changing landscapes since the earliest days of photography. Collections of photographs acquired from fixed locations have largely framed our understanding of global change processes, including desertification, glacial retreat, and alterations in land cover and land use (Webb 2010). Until recently, ground-based collection of time-series image data over long periods was expensive and technically challenging, but advancements in imaging and communication technologies are enabling continuous, widespread monitoring of the environment.

As high-quality, low-cost digital cameras have become more widely available, interest in applying these tools to ecological studies has expanded. “Near-surface remote sensing” utilizes data from automated ground-based sensors to augment conventional remote-sensing data, and to help bridge the gap between satellite monitoring and traditional

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