

# Lecture 4: Scenario Planning

April 19, 2022

# Lecture Objectives

- Planning under uncertainty
- The limits of predictions
- Strategic foresight and scenario planning
- Case study: Snohomish basins 2060
- Lessons learned

# Planning for What Future(s)



# Key Questions

1. What are major trajectories and key uncertainties that will affect the urban resilience over the next 50 years?
2. What impacts, feedbacks, thresholds and critical transitions may emerge from their interactions?
3. How might alternative future scenarios affect social well-being, economic assets, and ecosystem services?
4. How can we identify robust strategies to reduce vulnerabilities and increase resilience to maintain these conditions, assets and services in the long term?

# Change emerges from complex interactions among multiple uncertain drivers



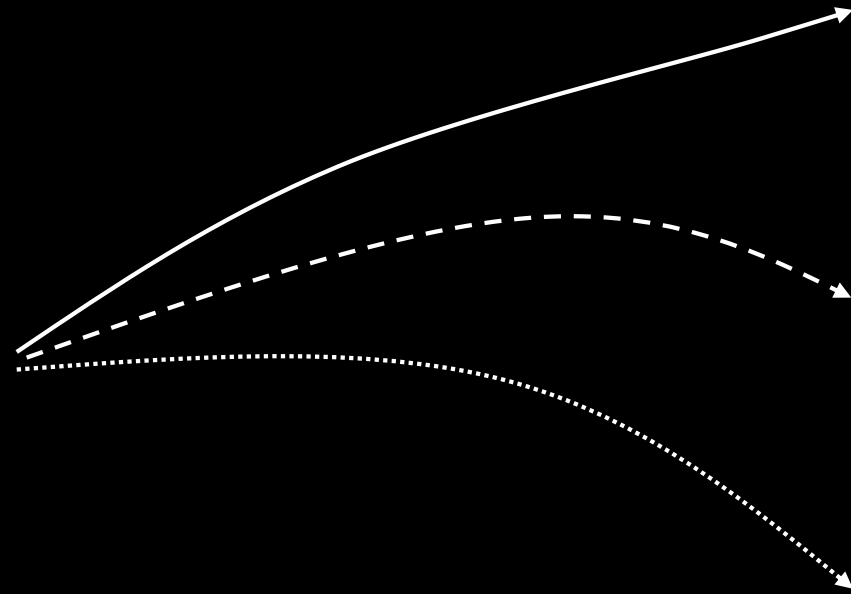
# Uncertain Trajectories: Climate Change

Today

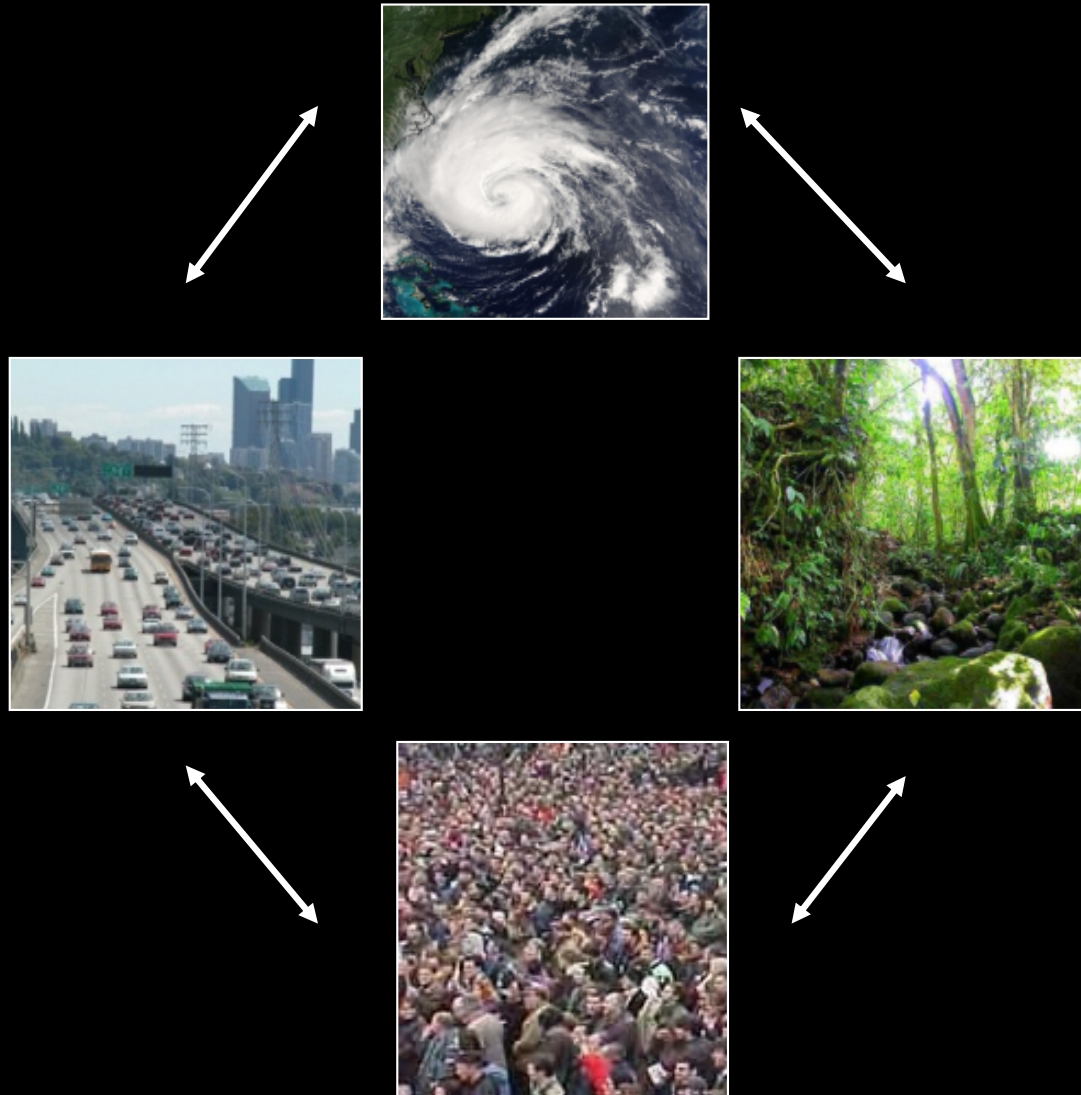


# Uncertain Trajectories: Transportation

Today



# Trajectories are interconnected





# Types of Change

<b>Change</b>	<b>Type of Change</b>	<b>Example</b>
gradual or incremental	predictable	gradual responses to trends in ecological and human drivers.
random events	unpredictable	increasing variability of climate or technological innovations.
regime shifts	change to a different set of dominant feedbacks	critical points in land use change for maintaining ecosystem function.
transformations	change to a fundamentally new system and rule sets	new management institution or regulation

# Alternative Future Approaches

Scenario planning

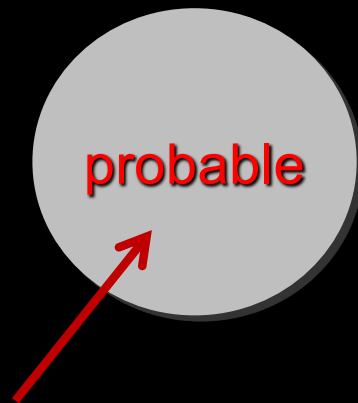


*how do they differ?*

Visioning

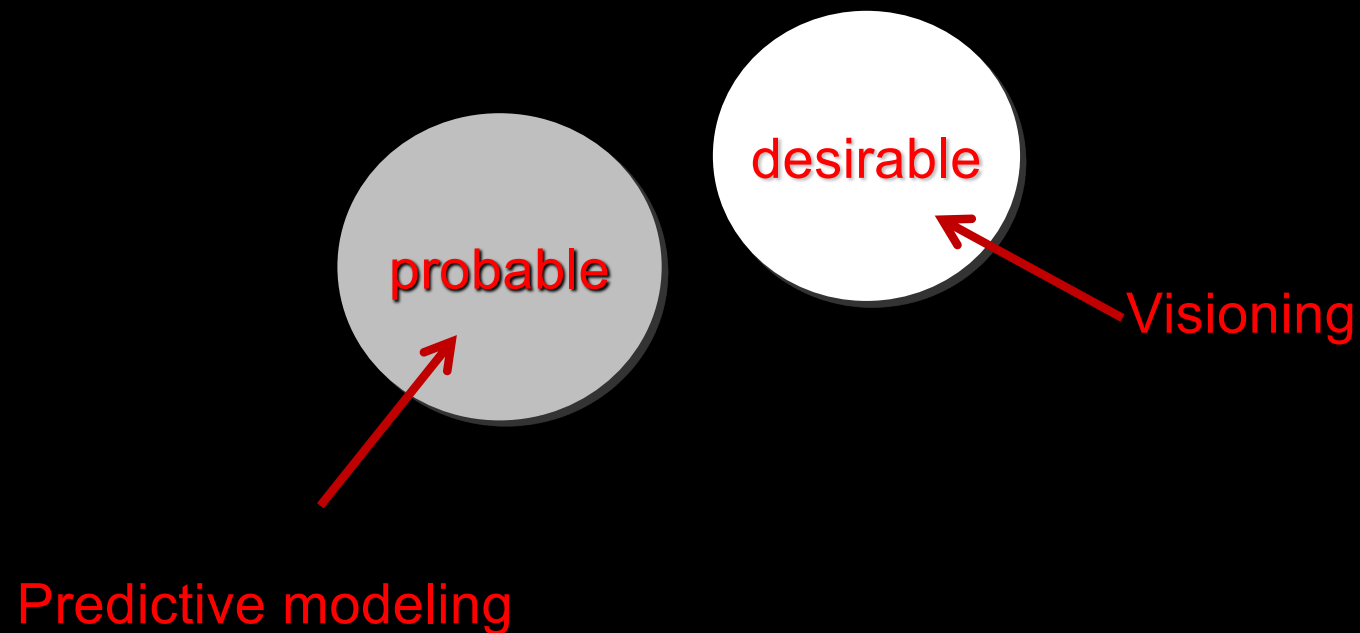
Predictive modeling

# Alternative Future Approaches

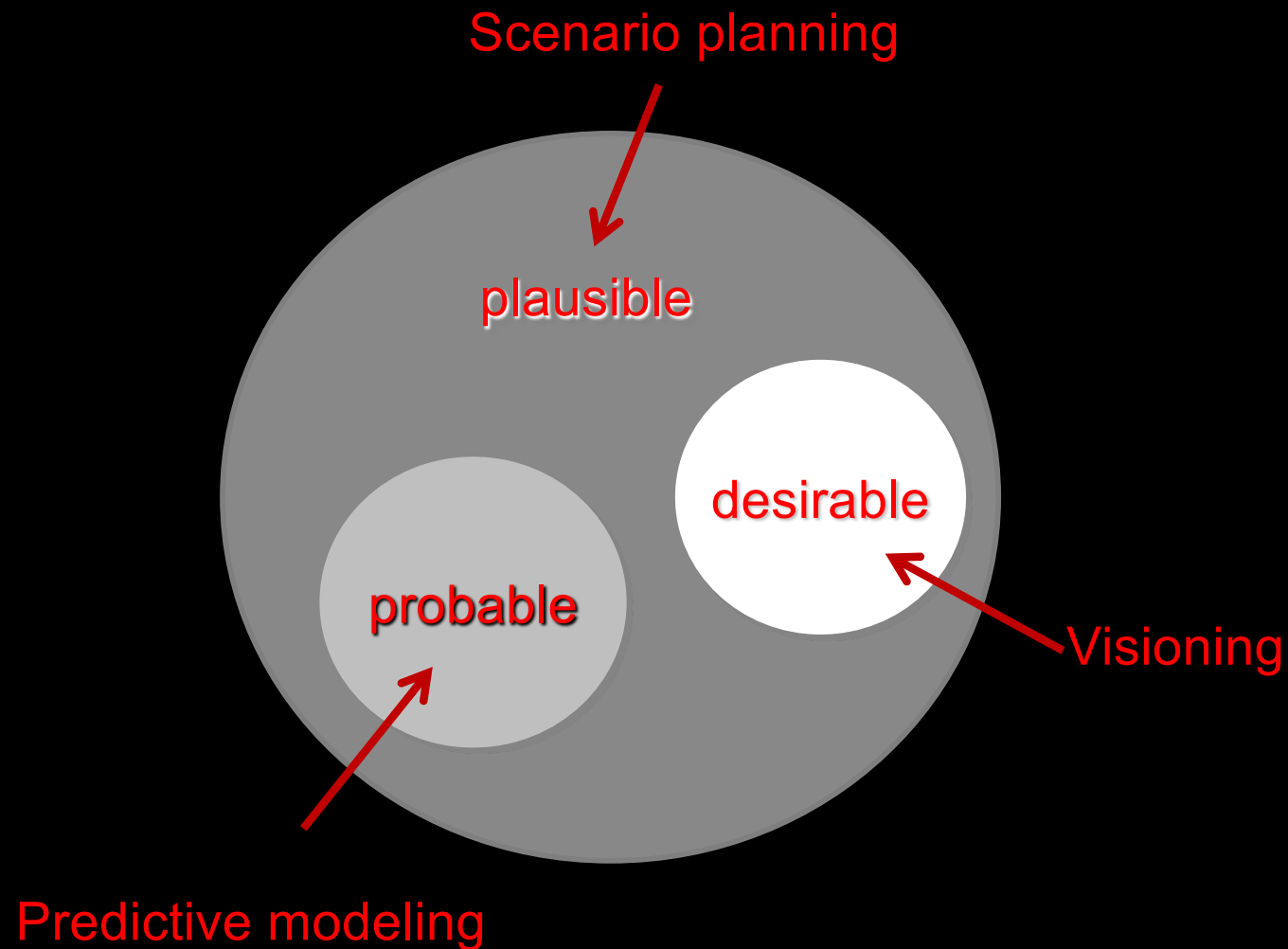


Predictive modeling

# Alternative Future Approaches



# Alternative Future Approaches



# Futures Approaches

<b>Futures</b>	<b>Forces</b>	<b>Thinking</b>	<b>Techniques</b>
<b>Visions</b> <i>preferable</i>	Choices Images	Visionary Normative	Visioning Planning
<b>Extrapolations</b> <i>probable</i>	Constants Trends	Definite Probabilistic	Historical Extrapolation
<b>Scenarios</b> <i>plausible</i>	Uncertainty Discontinuities	Complexity Imaginative	Scenarios Simulation

Imagine Seattle 50 years from now...

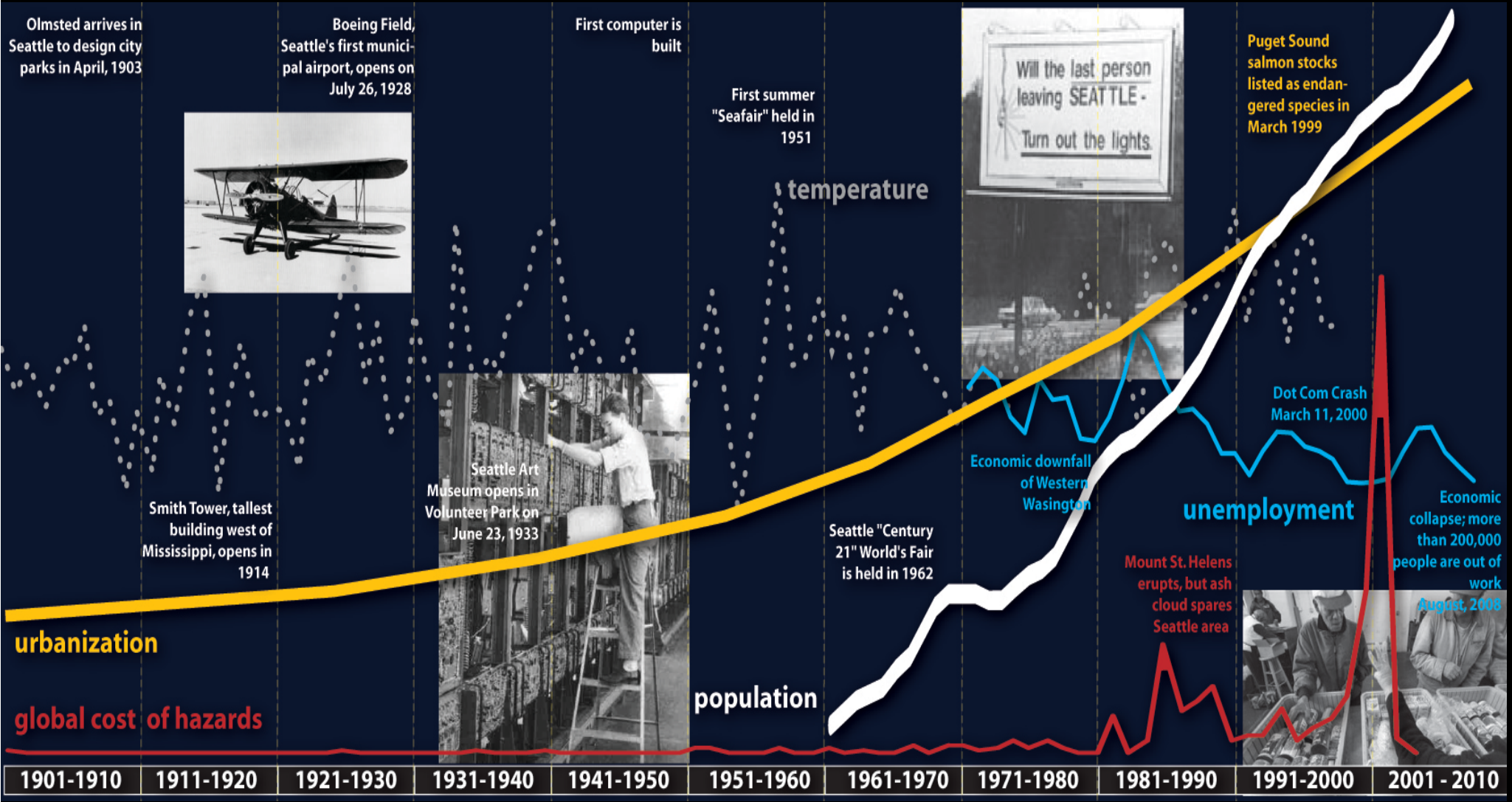


# Uncertainty and Surprise

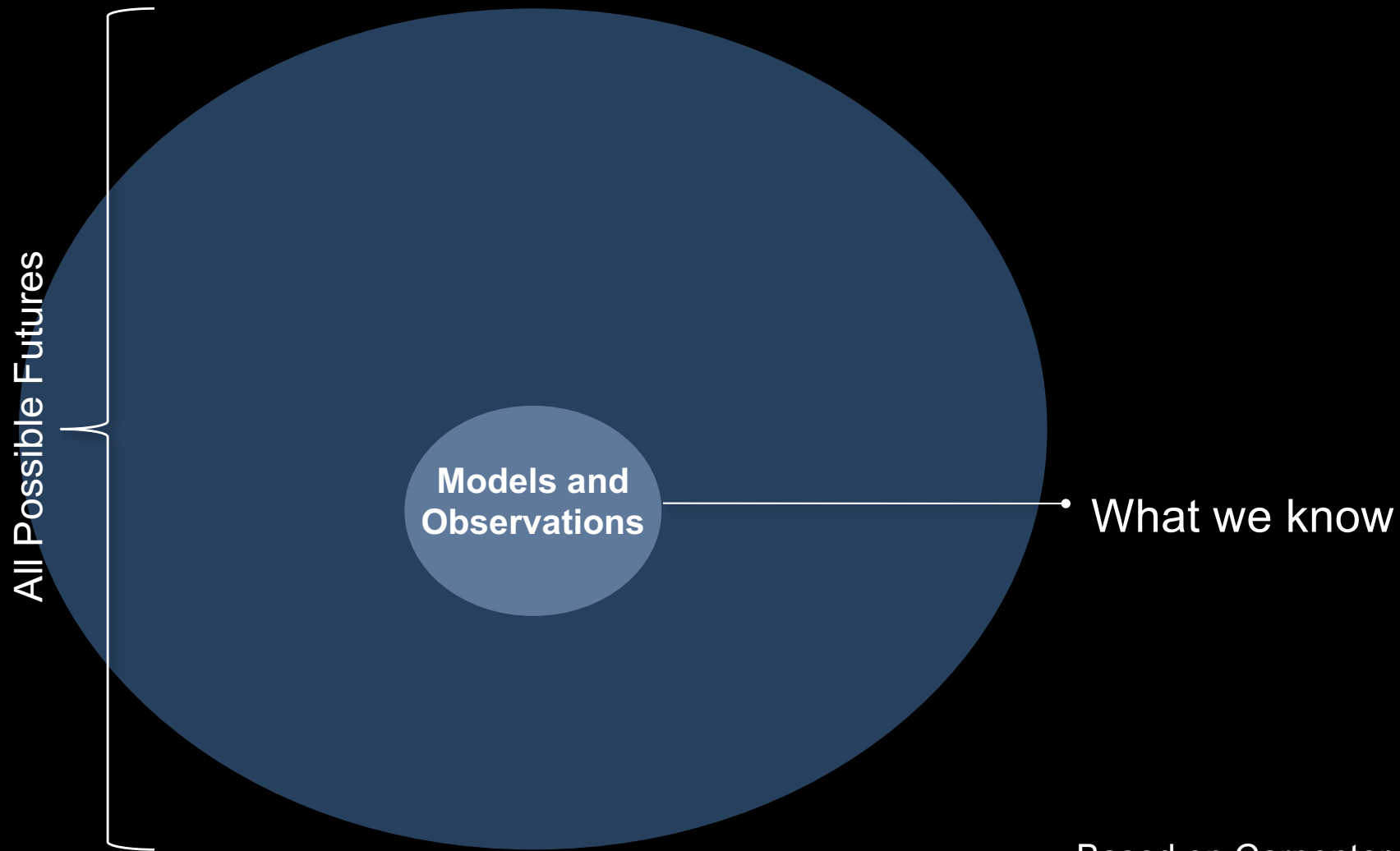




# How the past can bias our view of the future

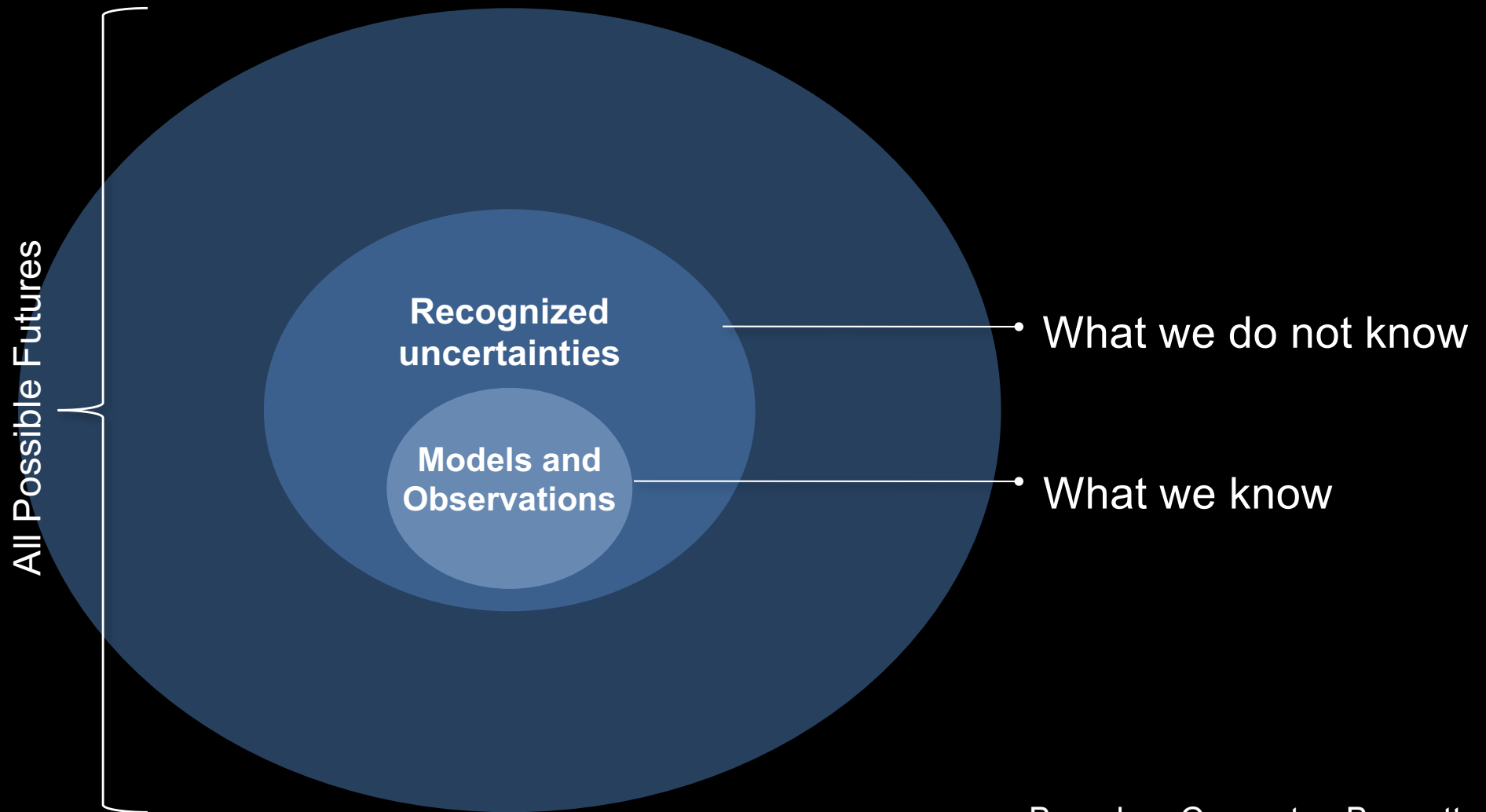


# Predictability and Uncertainty



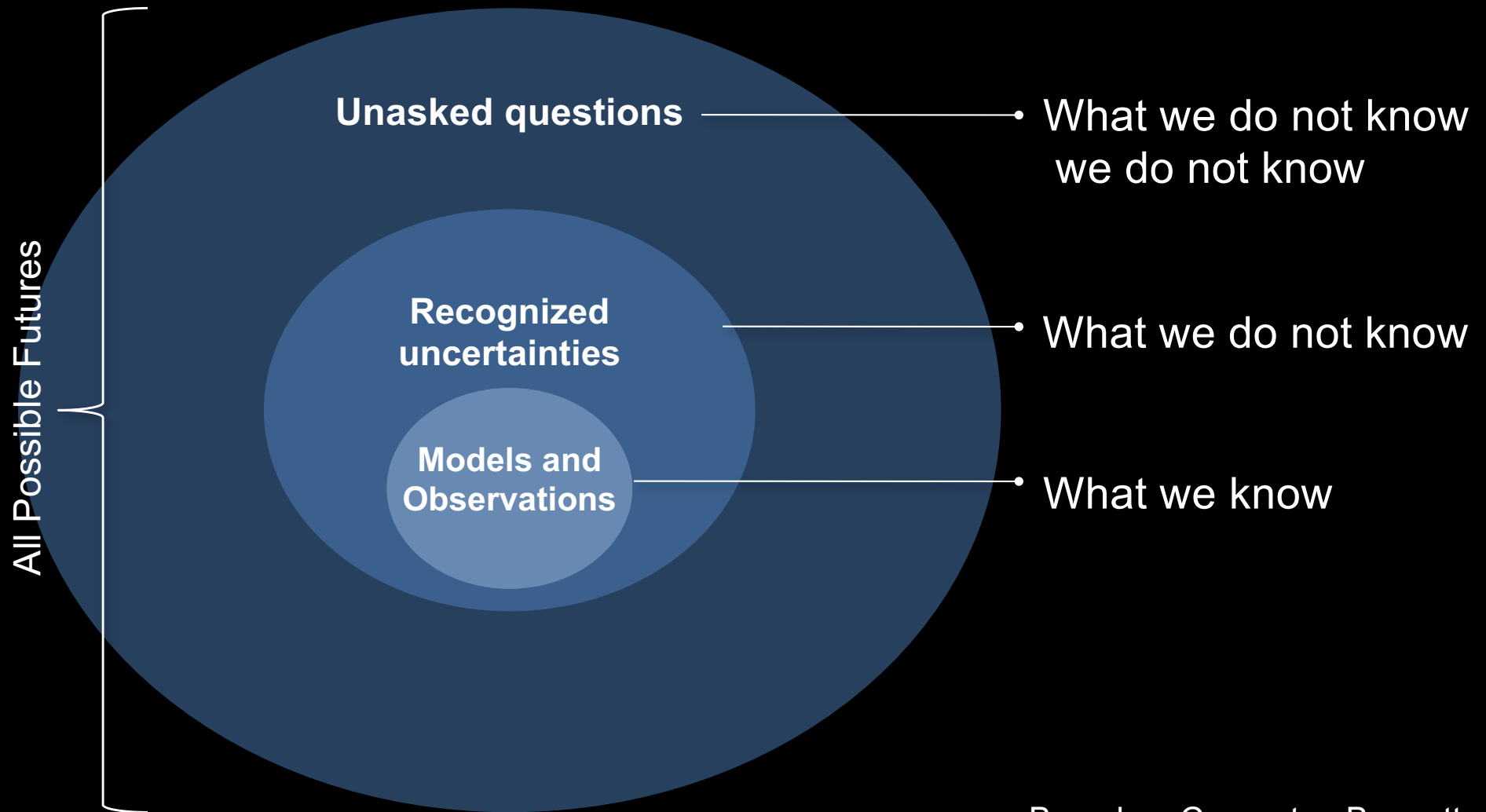
Based on Carpenter, Bennett  
& Peterson, 2006.

# Predictability and Uncertainty



Based on Carpenter, Bennett & Peterson, 2006.

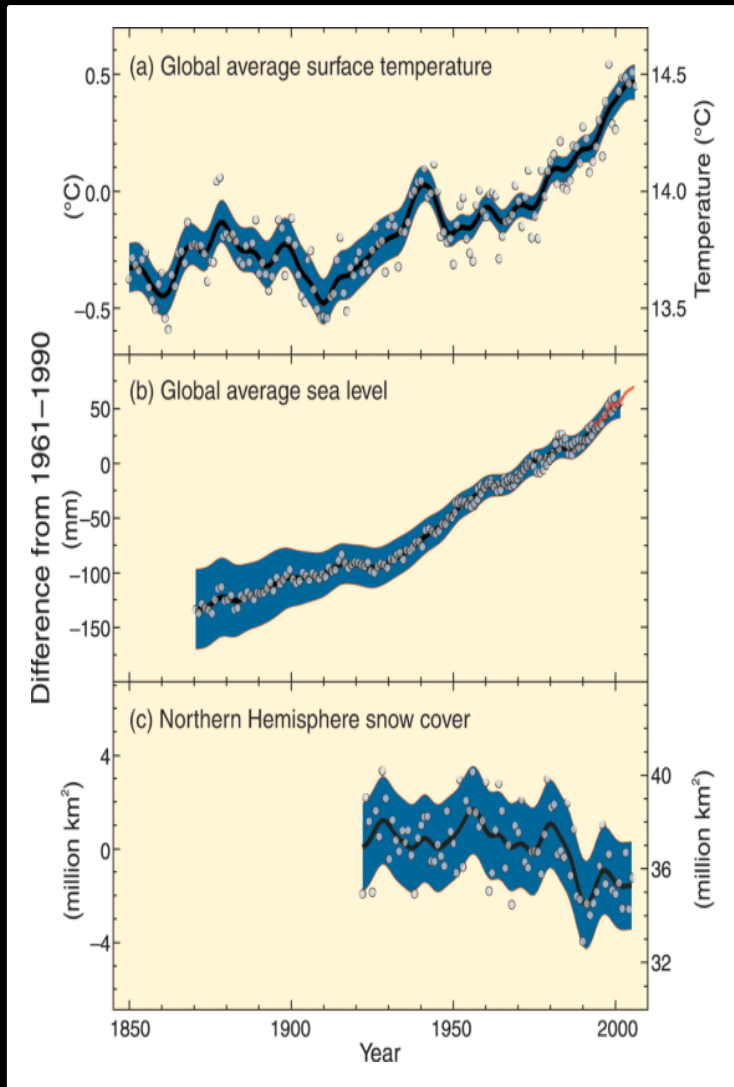
# Predictability and Uncertainty



Based on Carpenter, Bennett & Peterson, 2006.

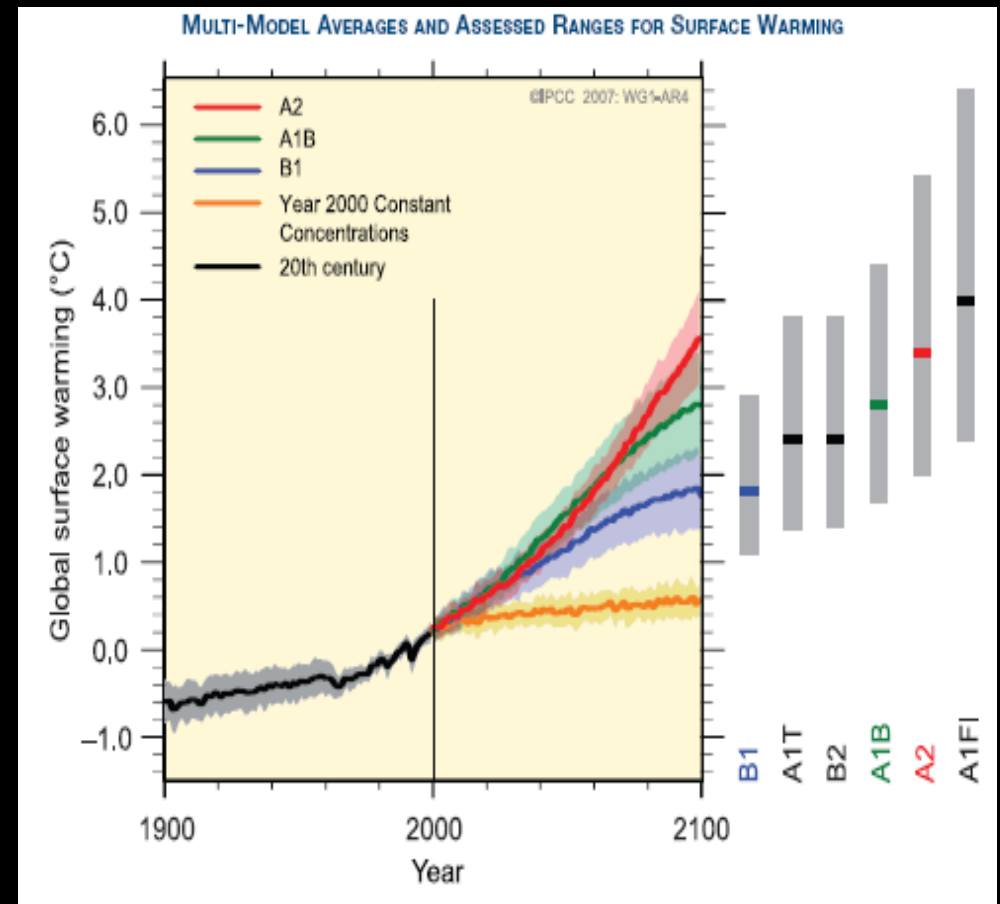
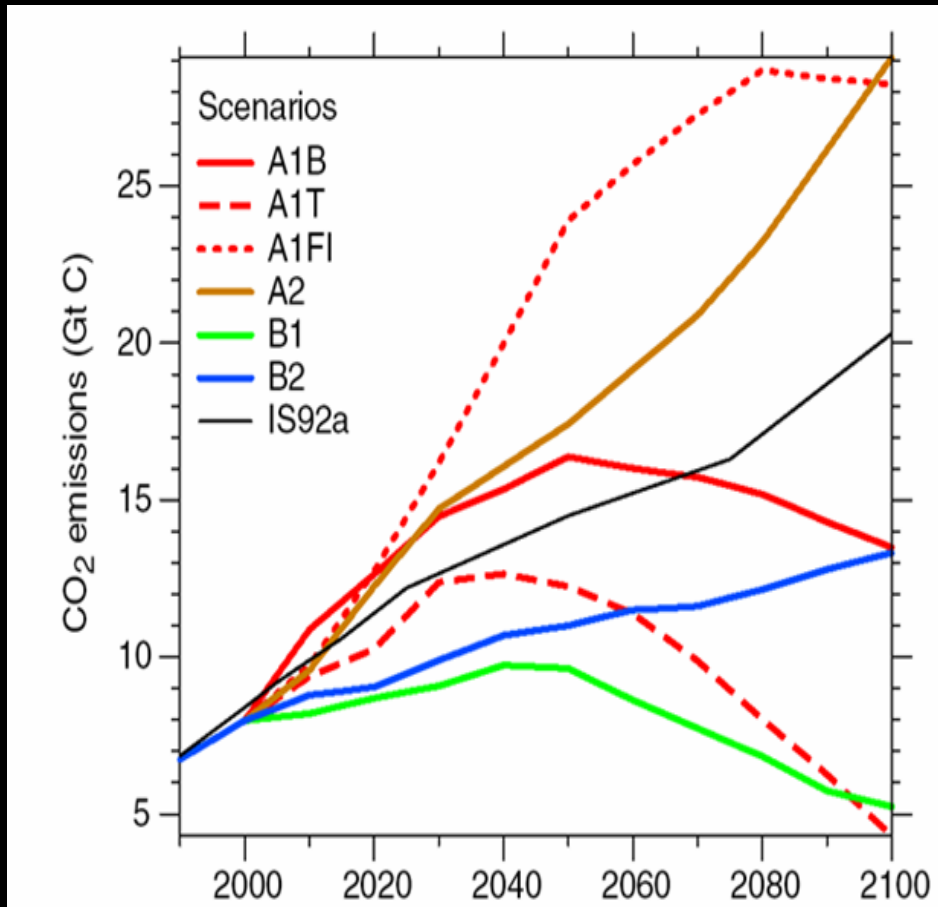
# What we know: Observations

IPCC, 2007



- Human actions since the industrial age have contributed significant atmospheric emissions leading to changes in the global climate pattern.
- Instrumental observations over the past 157 years show that temperatures at the surface have risen globally, with important regional variations.
- The scientific community agrees that climatic variations will increase in magnitude and fluctuation over the next century.

# What we predict: Models



IPCC 2007

# What we do not know: Accounted uncertainty

Scenario	Population	Economy	Environment	Equity	Technology	Globalisation	Climate
A1FI							
A1B							
A1T							
B1							
A2							
B2							

What factors control the risks associated with climate change?

What are the computable uncertainties?

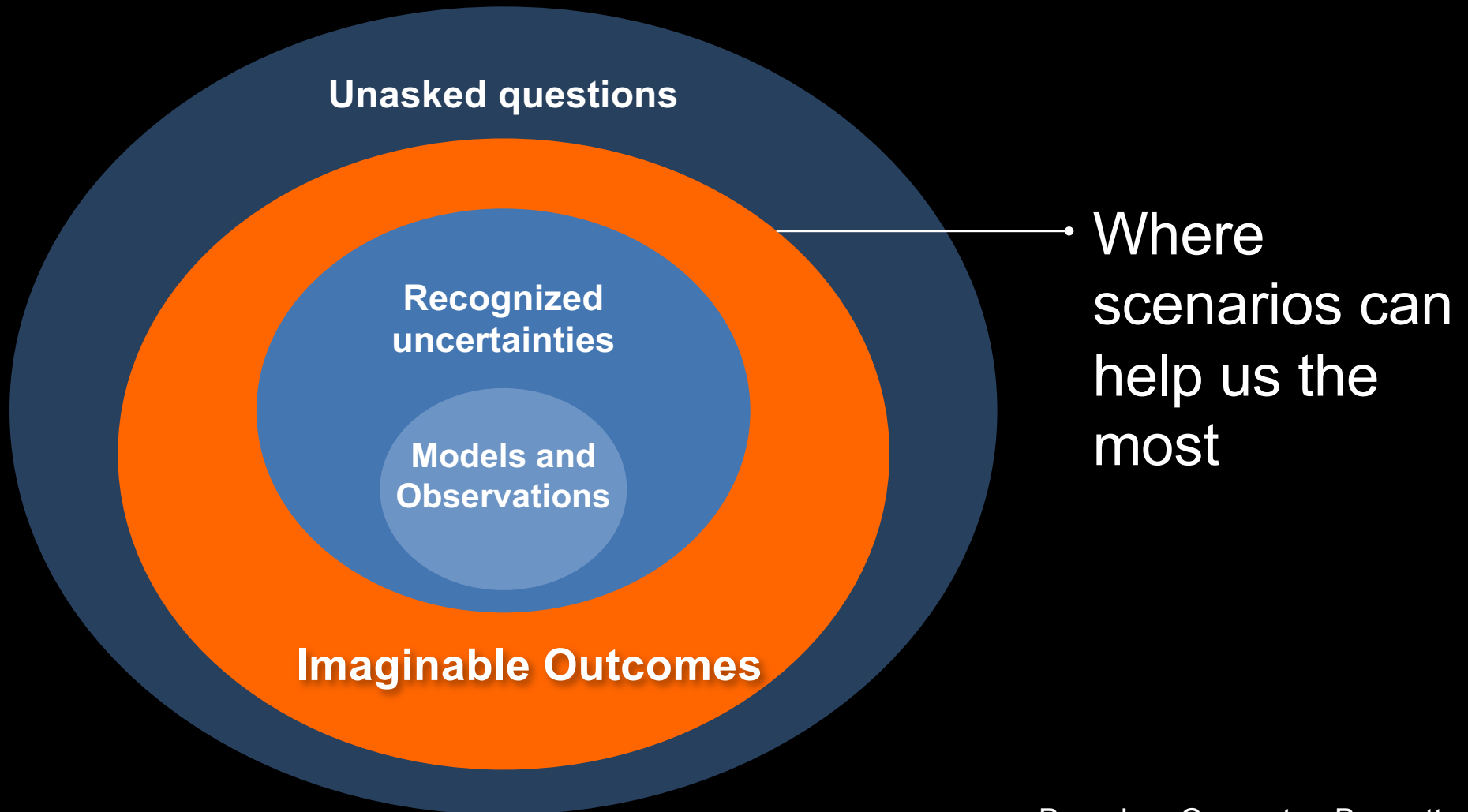
*"...we do not know, over the longer term, how the oceanic biological system in the southwest Pacific will be influenced by the interaction of ENSO events with the overall warming trend..."*

IPCC, 2007

# What we do not know, we do not know: *Unasked questions*

- What lies beyond our predictions and models?
- What synergistic outcomes have we not anticipated?
- Which critical thresholds have we ignored?
- How can the future surprise us?

# What we can imagine based on our best available information

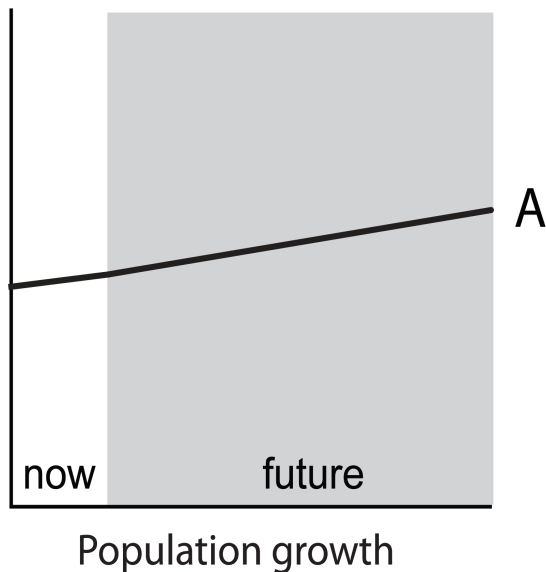


Based on Carpenter, Bennett & Peterson, 2006.

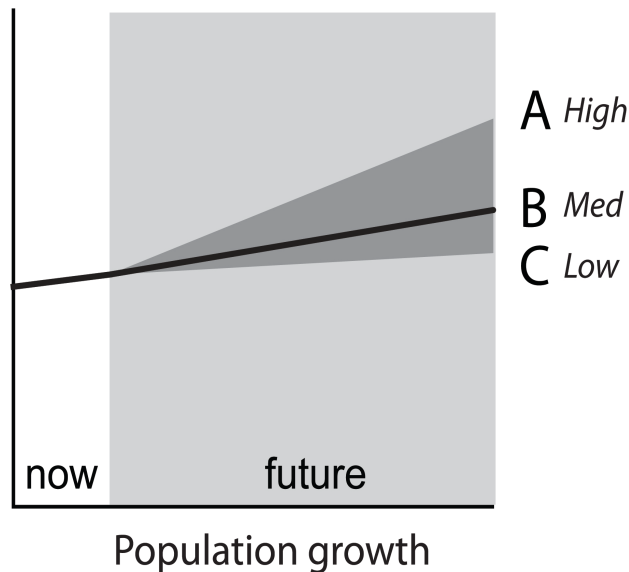
# How Scenarios Work

- **Multiple Drivers:** Scenarios explore the interaction between significant uncertain drivers

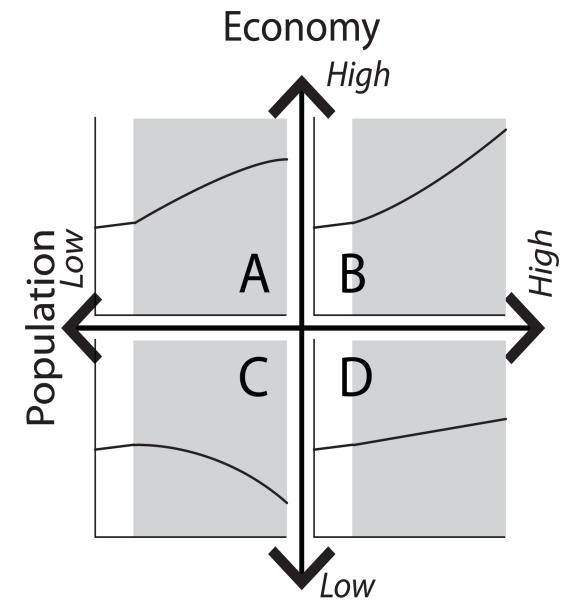
Singular Prediction



One Variable



Multiple Drivers



# Scenarios

- Scenarios are hypotheses of alternative futures that highlight the *risks and opportunities*.
- Scenarios focus on interactions among uncertain drivers and expand the assumptions of predictive models.
- Scenarios direct our attention towards the most relevant uncertainty dimensions.
- Scenarios ask: How robust are alternative strategies under plausible future conditions

# Why Scenarios

- **Complexity** of coupled human-natural systems (heterogeneity, non-linearity and emergent properties) make them highly unpredictable.
- **Limited knowledge** many of the processes underlying climate change are still poorly understood, further limiting the predictability of system response
- **Reflexivity** we must incorporate an understanding of reflexive human decision-making and behavior into the evaluation of the strategies.
- **Uncertainty** increases the further out we look

# Redefining the Question

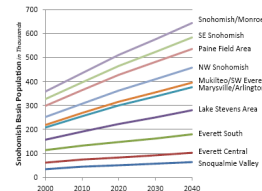
How can we minimize uncertainty about future changes to select the most optimal strategies?

# Redefining the Question

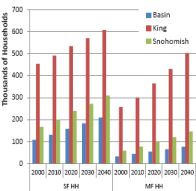
How can we minimize uncertainty about future changes to select the most optimal strategies?

How can we characterize uncertainty about future changes to inform the choice of the most robust strategies?

### Population Growth / Decade

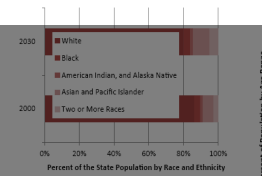


### Household Growth



PSRC 2004 trends are based on declining rates of growth in both King and Snohomish Counties. By 2040, the growth rate was 9% in King and 21% in Snohomish County between 2000-2010, the rate is forecasted to decrease to 2.5% and 12%, respectively, between 2010-2040. If 2000-2010 trends were extended linearly to 2040, the Basin could be forecasted for an additional 350,000 people in the Basin (2010-2040)

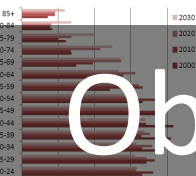
### Ethnicity and Race in WA



In 2000, the median age in the State was 35. By 2030, the median age is forecasted to rise to 38. In 2000, 19% of the population was school aged (5-17). By 2030, only 16.7% of the population will be school aged. However, there will be over 300,000 more students in the system. In 2000, 11% of the State population was of retirement age. By 2030, an additional 1 million people will be of retirement age (65+), one fifth of the total population.

### Demography published data

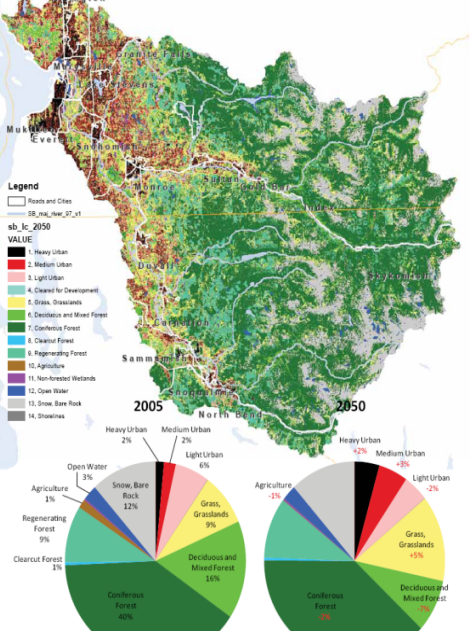
### Age Structure in Washington State



In 2010, the Basin's population represented ~6.5% of the State's population. If growth trends in the Basin remained fairly consistent with the State's growth trends, the Basin can be forecasted to grow by an additional 20,000 students and 65,000 retirees by 2030.

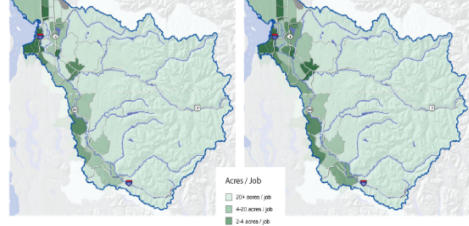
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### Basin Land Cover 2050

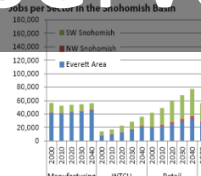
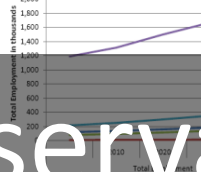


### Land Cover Change published data

### Employment Density



### Total Number of Jobs in the Snohomish Basin



### Economy forecast data

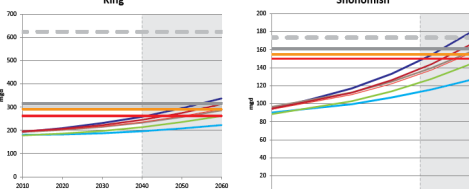
### Employment Trends

Between 2010 and 2040 the King and Snohomish Counties are forecasted to grow by an additional 530,000 jobs and 180,000 jobs, respectively.

The majority of these jobs will be within the financial, professional, business and educational services sectors (FRES). The Basin is forecasted to increase by an additional 350,000 jobs between 2010 and 2040, 35% of these additional jobs are forecasted for the King County portion of the Basin during the 2010-2040 period. The majority of these jobs are forecasted for the King County portion of the Basin during the 2010-2040 period.

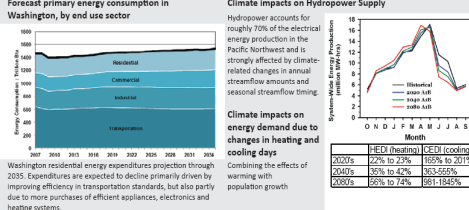
New PSRC 2004 trends were updated in 2010. Since the release of the forecasts, important changes in underlying planning assumptions and growth have occurred, an updated release is planned for Spring 2012.

### Water Supply and Demand



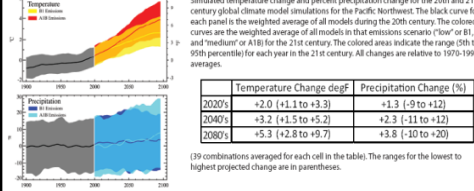
Three sets of alternative demand scenarios were run by the Water Supply Forum: Population growth was forecasted using low population (3.5% below current PSRC baseline, per decade) and high growth (4% above baseline, per decade) for households and population. The forecast also included a 2.5% below baseline, per decade, above baseline employment growth. Weather Forecast utilized historic temperature and precipitation data for forecast alternative future weather parameters. Hot-dry conditions had 4% hotter temperatures and 38% less precipitation than average. Cool and wet had 5% cooler than average and 28% wetter than average weather. The projected impacts of climate change utilize the A2 and B1 SRES emissions scenarios. With A2 representing the warmest (PSL) scenario and B1 representing the warm (G3) scenario. Changes to existing supply were explored. Included in the above diagrams are current water rights in addition to demand, supply was explored. The total amount of supply is depicted by the streamflow, with less runoff in late spring and early summer months, which have traditionally marked the reservoir refill period of the region's supply reservoirs. As with demand, the warm scenario represents SRES emissions scenario B1 while the warmest scenario represents A2. The above graphic does not represent new planned or proposed projects which will increase water supply in each County.

### Energy Supply and Demand



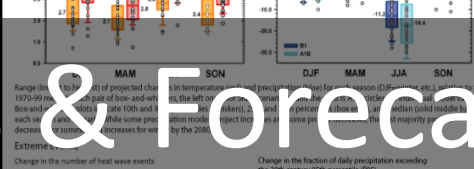
### Infrastructure published data

### Simulation of Annual Changes in Temperature and Precipitation



Year	Temperature Change degF	Precipitation Change (%)
2000's	+2.0 (+1.1 to +3.3)	+1.3 (-9 to +12)
2040's	+3.2 (+1.5 to +5.2)	+2.3 (-11 to +12)
2080's	+5.3 (+2.8 to +9.7)	+3.8 (-10 to +20)

(13) combinations averaged for each cell in the table; The ranges for the lowest to highest projected change are in parentheses.

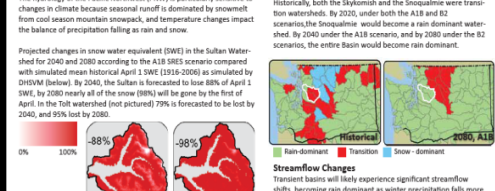


Range for the 13th of projected change for each season (DJF, MAM, JJA, SON) for each year (2000's, 2040's, 2080's) is shown on the left. Each box plot represents the 10th to 90th percentile range for each year. The boxes represent the 25th to 75th percentile range for each year. The whiskers represent the 10th to 90th percentile range for each year. The dots represent the 5th and 95th percentile range for each year.

A heat wave is an episode of three or more days where the daily heat index (HUMIDEX) exceeds 32°C. The CCSM3-WRF shows considerable increase in heat waves in the lowlands of western Washington. An increase reflects that a greater percentage of precipitation occurs during extreme precipitation events. Both models show increases, with CCSM3-WRF showing considerably more change.

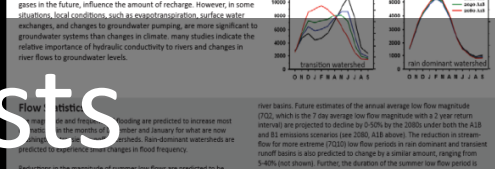
### Climate forecast data

### Snowpack Loss (SWE)



The hydrology of the Pacific Northwest (PNW) is particularly sensitive to changes in climate because seasonal runoff is dominated by snowmelt from cool mountain snowpack, and temperature changes impact the balance of precipitation falling as rain and snow.

Projected changes in snow water equivalent (SWE) in the Sultan Watershed for 2040 and 2080 according to the A1B SRES scenario compared with simulated mean historical April 1 SWE (1936-2006) as simulated by DHWM (below). By 2040, the Sultan is forecasted to lose 88% of April 1 SWE, by 2080 nearly all of the snow (98%) will be gone by the first of April in the Sultan watershed (not pictured). 70% is forecasted to be lost by 2040, and 95% lost by 2080.

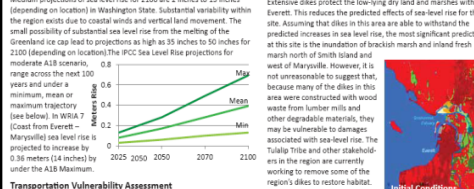


The literature review indicates that a wide range of groundwater impacts could result from climate change. Some studies indicate negative impacts to groundwater recharge related to climate change, while other studies predict increased groundwater recharge. In general, results suggest that changes in precipitation, caused by different emissions of greenhouse gases in the future, influence the amount of recharge. However, in some situations, local conditions, such as evapotranspiration, surface water recharge, and changes in groundwater pumping, are more significant to groundwater systems than changes in climate. Many studies indicate the relative importance of hydraulic conductivity to rivers and changes in river flows to groundwater levels.

Flow historic: Future estimates of the annual average low flow magnitude (Q2), which is the 7 day average low flow magnitude with a 2 year return interval, are projected to decrease by 20-50% by the 2080's under both the A1B and B1 emissions scenarios (see 2080, A1B above). The reduction in streamflow for more extreme (Q2) low flow periods is even more dramatic and present near basin is also predicted to change by a similar amount, ranging from 5-40% (not shown). Further, the duration of the summer low flow period is projected to increase significantly.

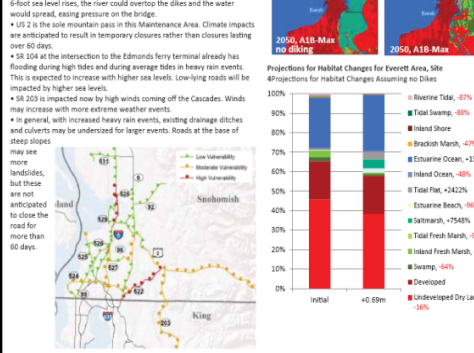
### Hydrology forecast data

### Pacific NW Sea Level Rise



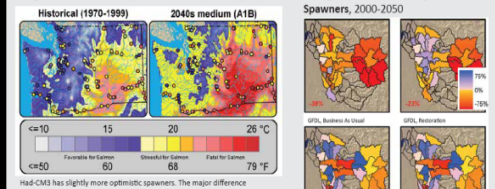
Medium projections of sea level rise for 2100 are 3 inches to 13 inches (depending on location) in Washington State. Substantial variability within the region exists due to coastal winds and vertical land movement. The small possibility of substantial sea level rise from the melting of the Greenland ice cap leads to projections as high as 33 inches to 50 inches for 2100 (depending on location). The IPCC Sea Level Rise projections for moderate A1B scenario, 0.8 m (2.6 ft) by 2100. The IPCC Sea Level Rise projections for moderate A1B scenario, 0.8 m (2.6 ft) by 2100. The IPCC Sea Level Rise projections for moderate A1B scenario, 0.8 m (2.6 ft) by 2100.

### Habitat Vulnerability Assessment



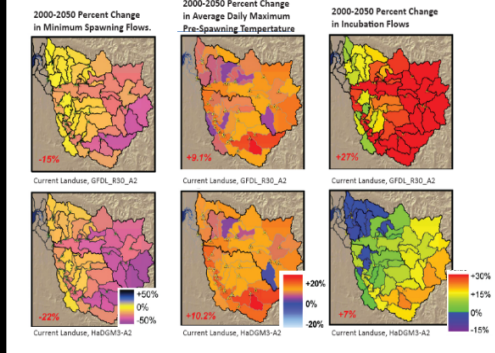
### Sea Level Rise forecast data

### Aug. Mean Surface Air + Maximum Stream Temperature



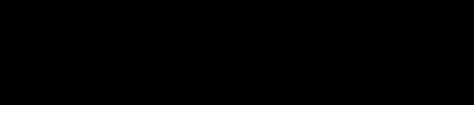
Had-CM3 has slightly more optimistic spawners. The major difference between the two models lies in the seasonal variability of precipitation. GFDL has a big decrease in summer and fall and big increases in Winter, while Hadley is more even across the year. Despite model uncertainty impacts on freshwater salmon are consistently negative. Restoration efforts can offset some of these impacts, more so under the GFDL model.

### Change in Mean Returning Chinook Spawners, 2000-2050

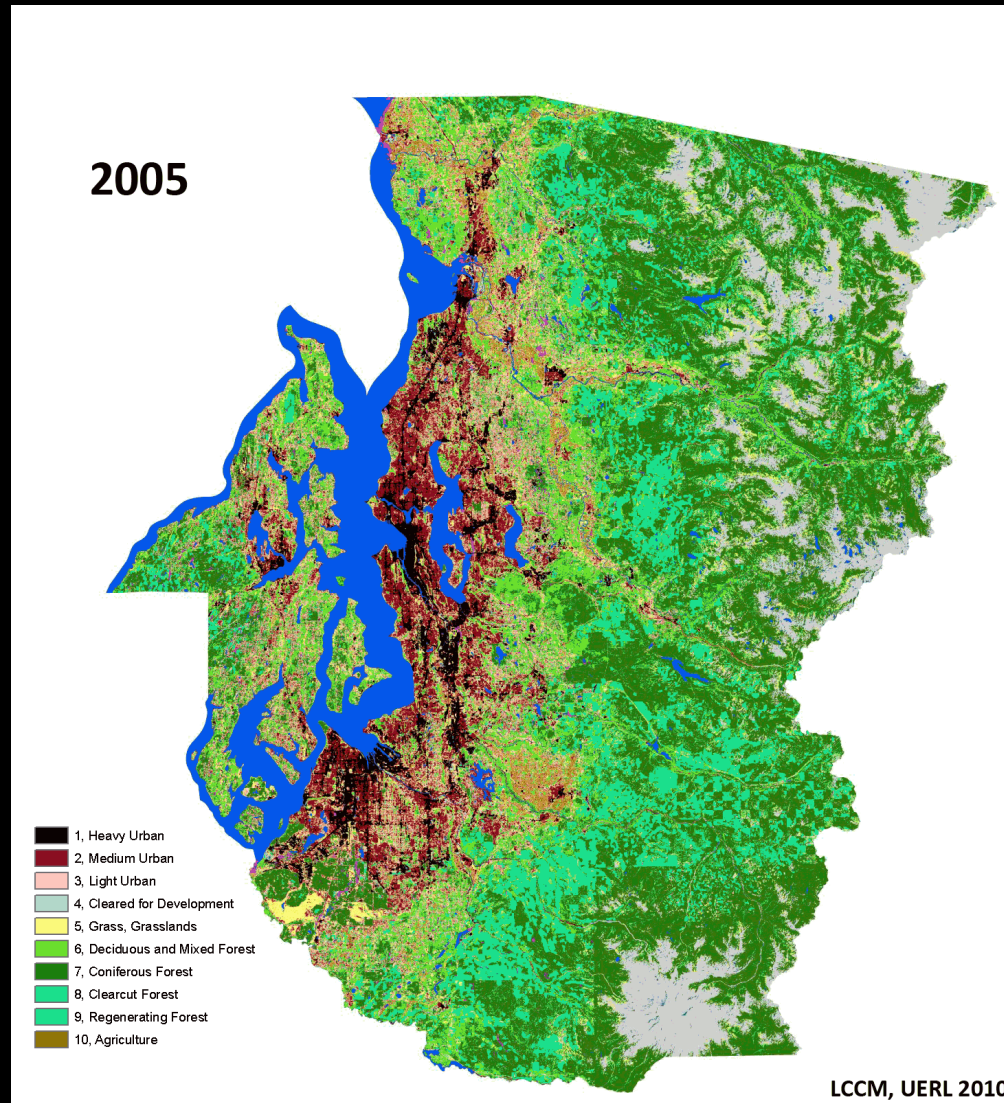


### Salmon forecast data

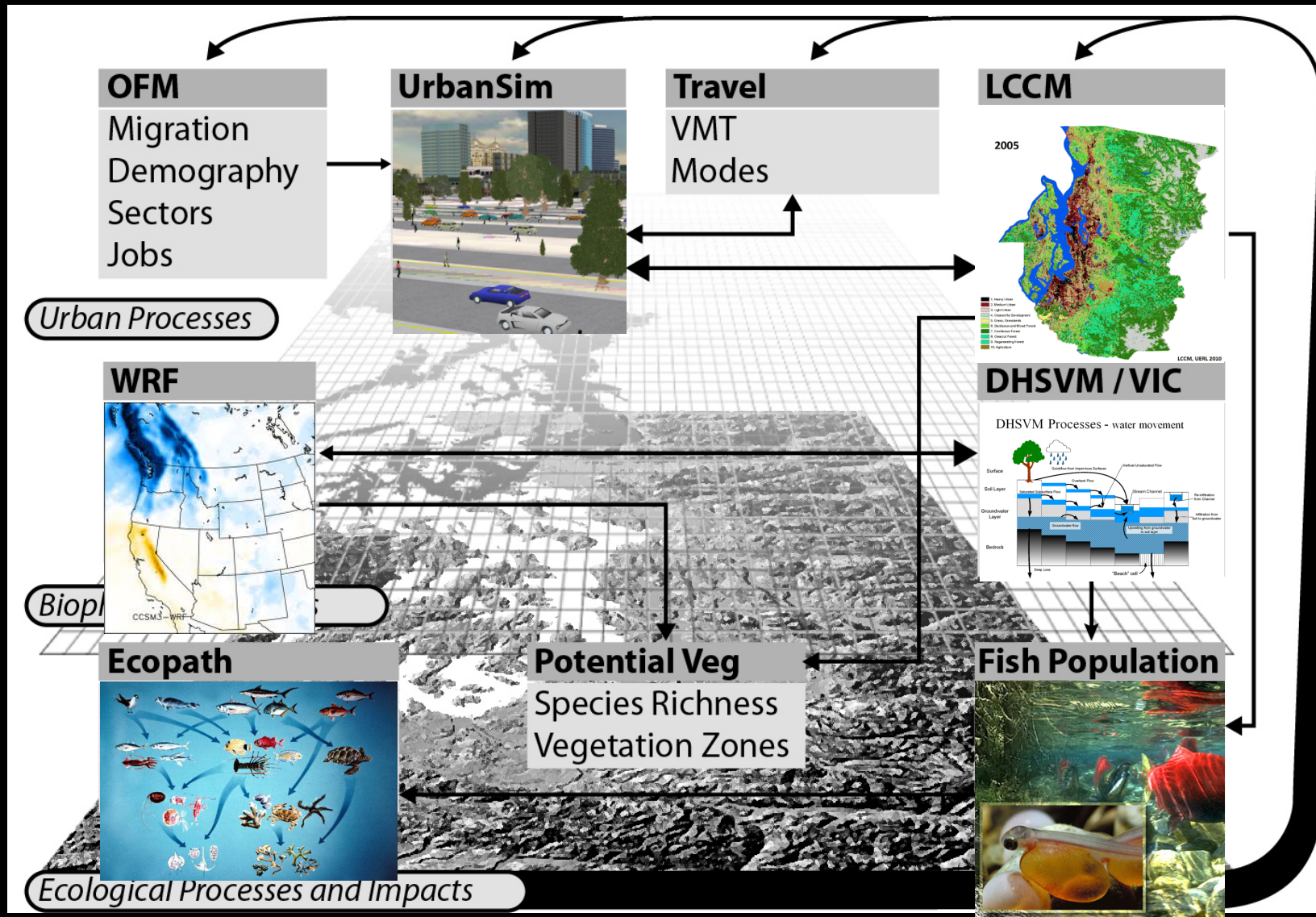
### Results of Hydrologic Model on Key Salmon Survival Limiting Factors



# Land Cover Change Model

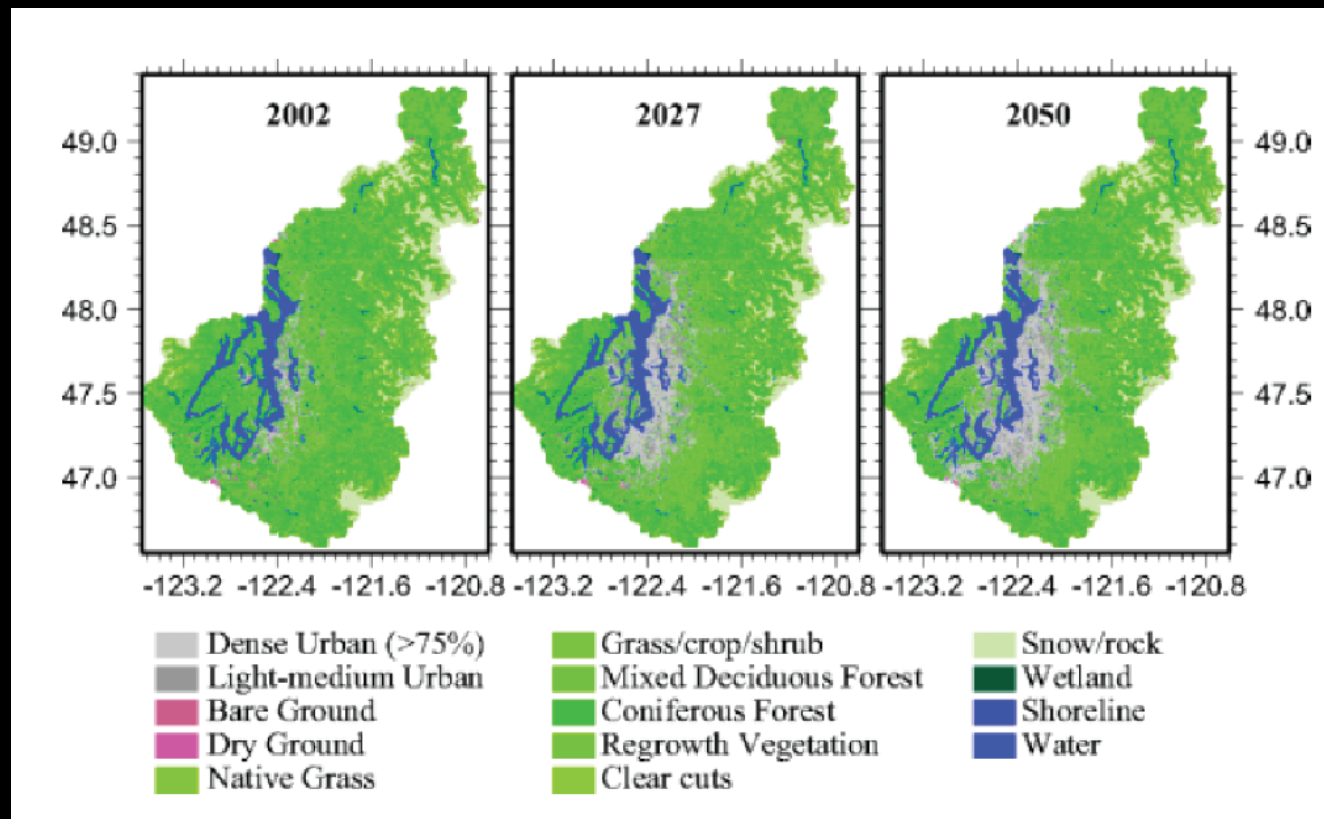


# Integrated Geo-Spatial Models



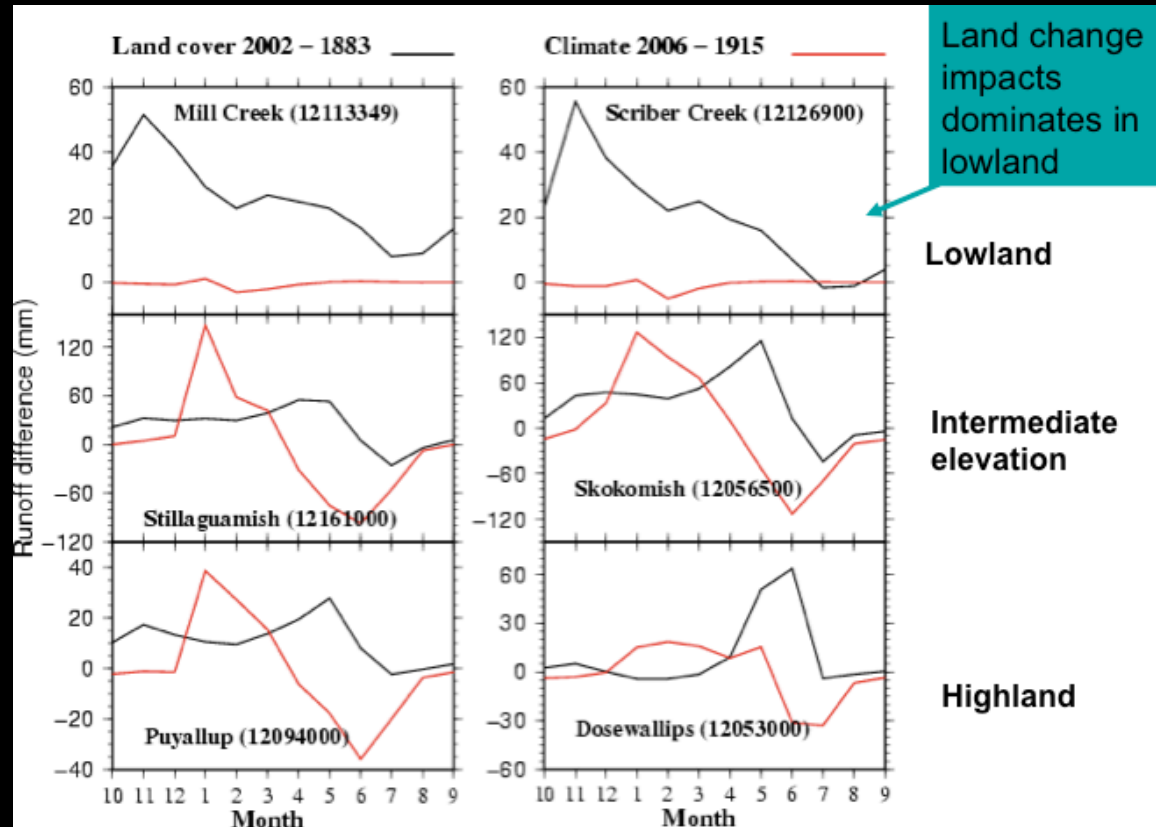
# Effects of mid-twenty-first century climate and land cover change on the hydrology of the Puget Sound basin, Washington

*Cuo, L., Lettenmaier, D.P., Alberti, M., Richey, J.E. 2011.*



Land Cover maps for 2002, projected land cover in 2027, and constructed 2050 land cover.

# Land cover change Impacts dominate in urbanizing lowlands

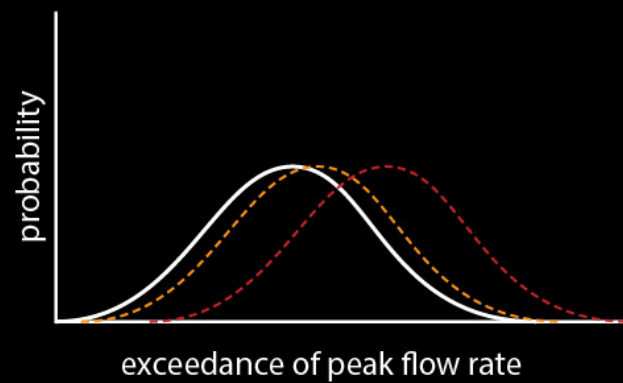
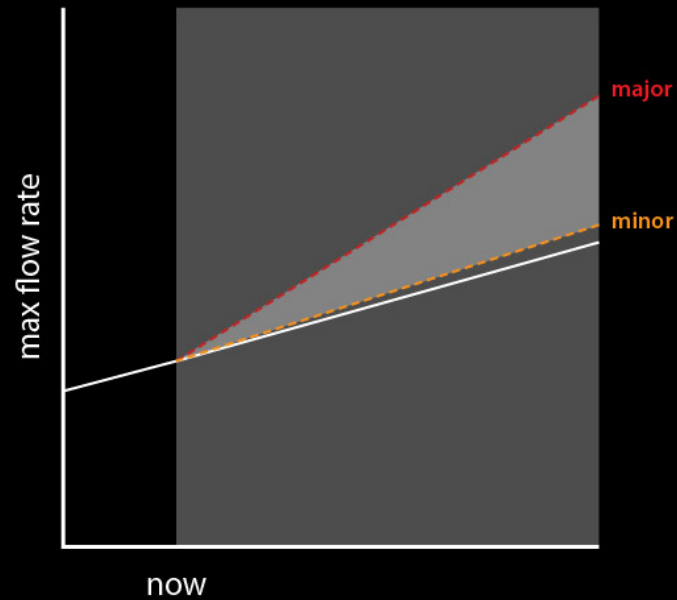


Cuo, L., Lettenmaier, D.P., Alberti, M., Richey, J.E. 2011.

# Predictive Models under Uncertainty

single driver

climate change

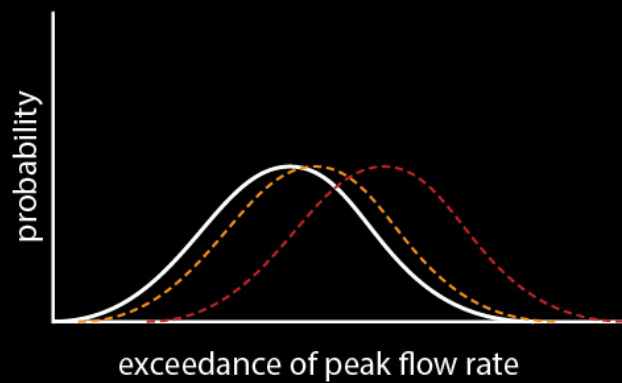
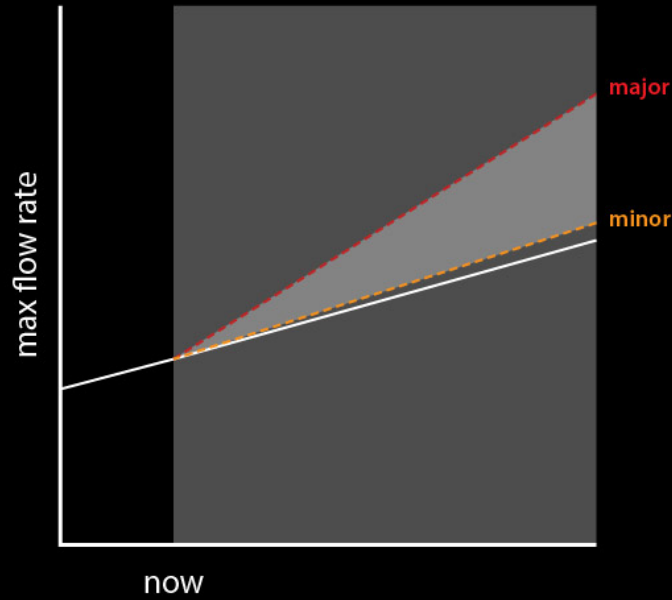


# Predictive Models under Uncertainty

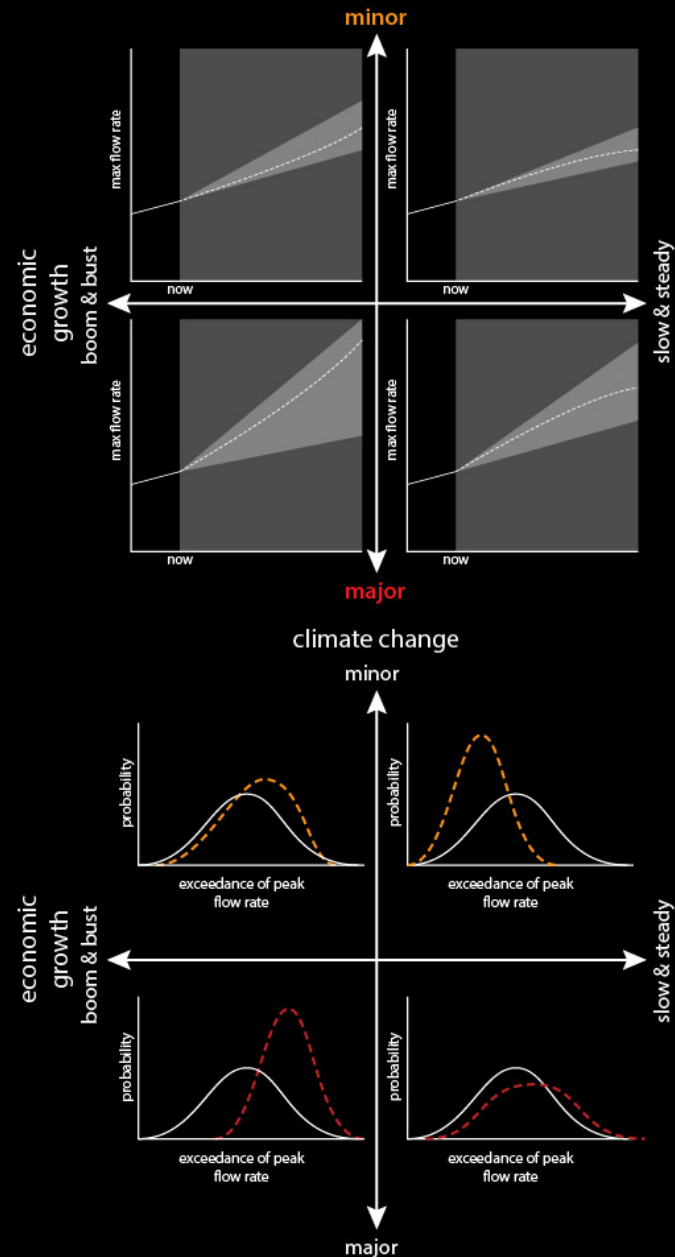
single driver

multiple drivers

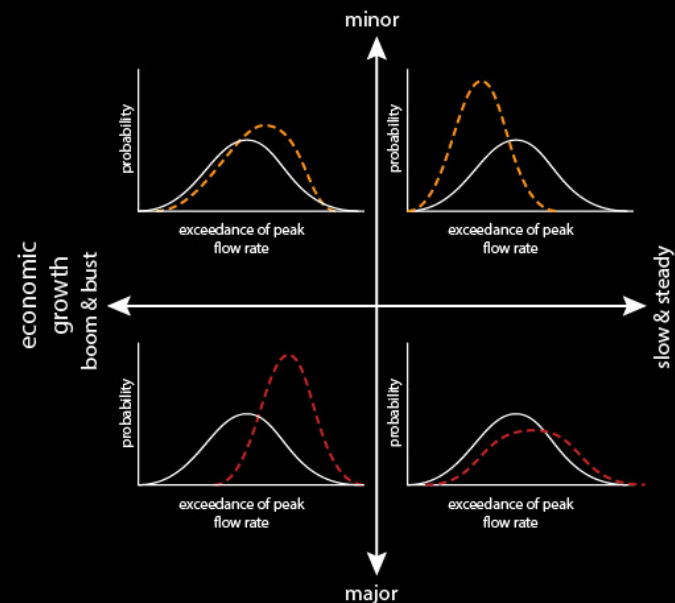
climate change

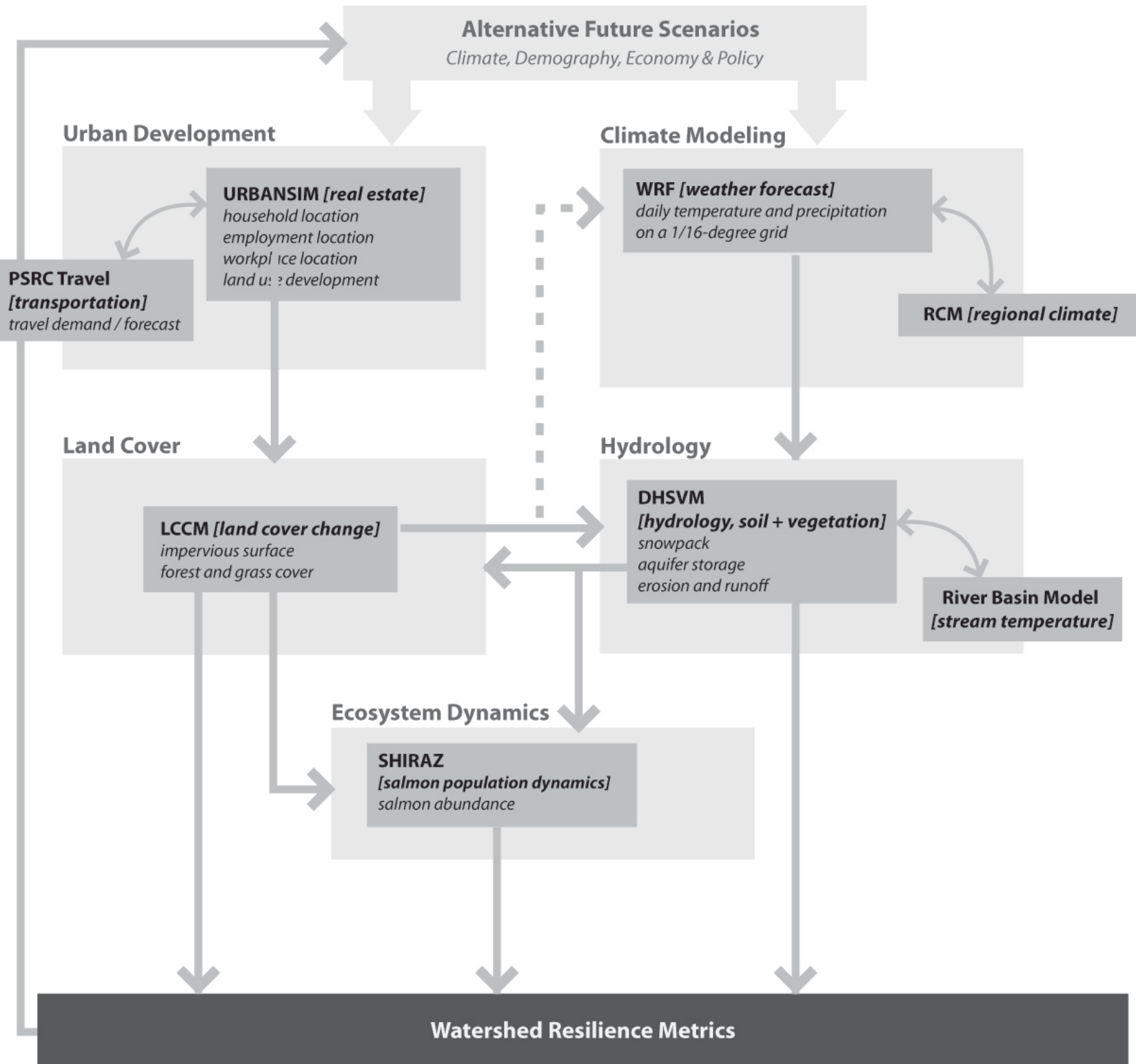


climate change



climate change





**Alternative Future Scenarios**

*Climate, Demography, Economy & Policy*

**Urban Development**

**URBANSIM [real estate]**

*household location  
employment location  
workplace location  
land use development*

**PSRC Travel [transportation]**

*travel demand / forecast*

**Climate Modeling**

**WRF [weather forecast]**

*daily temperature and precipitation  
on a 1/16-degree grid*

**RCM [regional climate]**

**Land Cover**

**LCCM [land cover change]**

*impervious surface  
forest and grass cover*

**Hydrology**

**DHSVM [hydrology, soil + vegetation]**

*snowpack  
aquifer storage  
erosion and runoff*

**River Basin Model [stream temperature]**

**Ecosystem Dynamics**

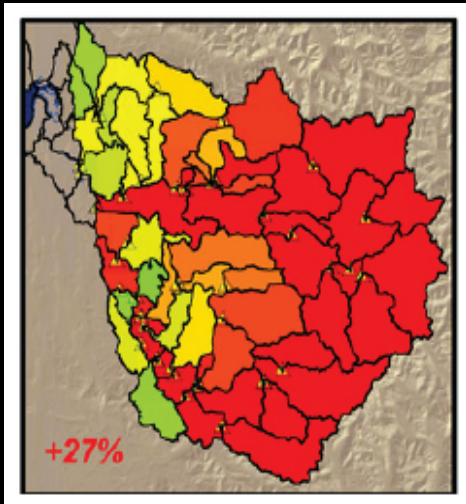
**SHIRAZ**

*[salmon population dynamics]  
salmon abundance*

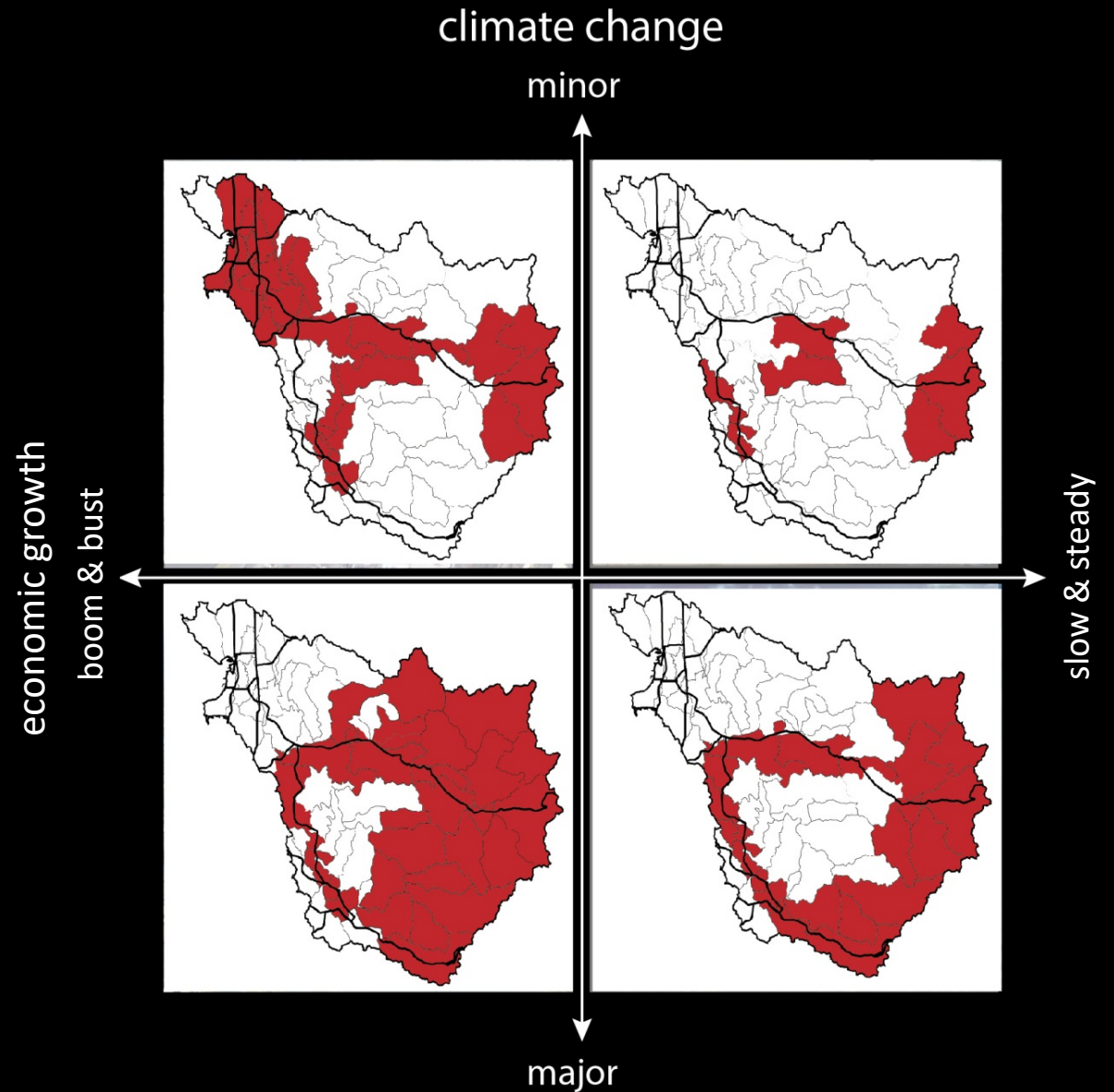
**Watershed Resilience Metrics**

# scenarios

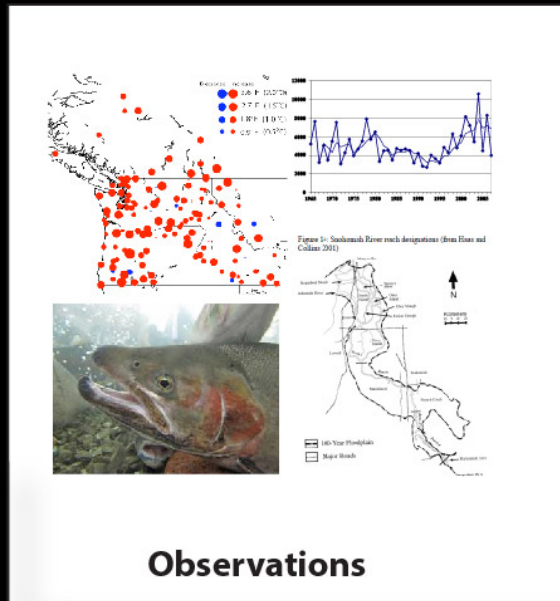
## Incubation Peak Flows



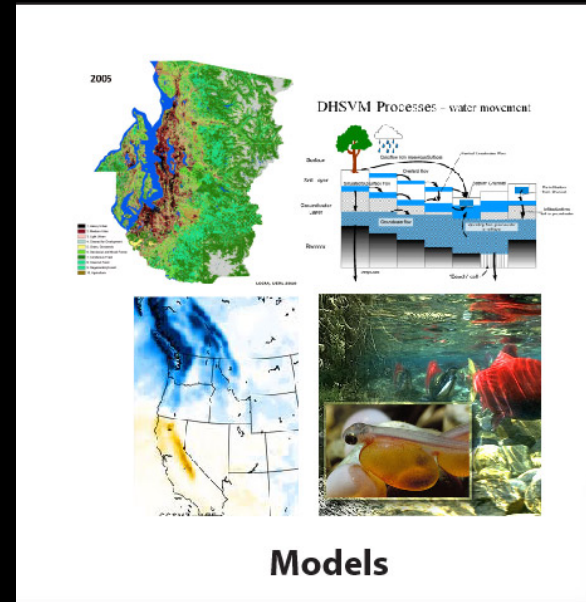
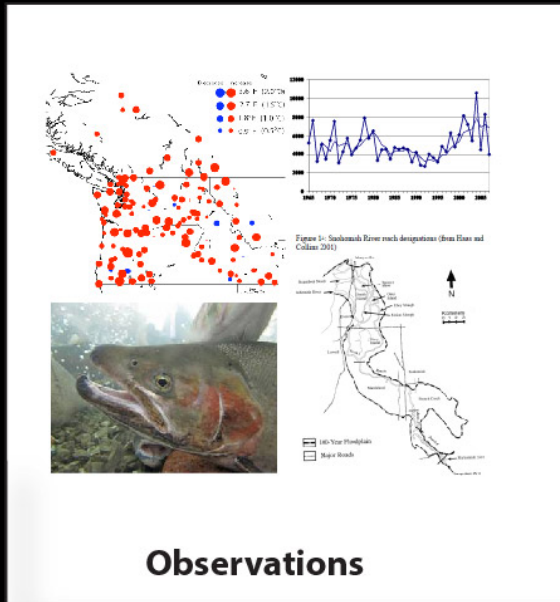
J. Battin *et al.* Climate Impacts on Salmon Recovery in the Snohomish River Basin



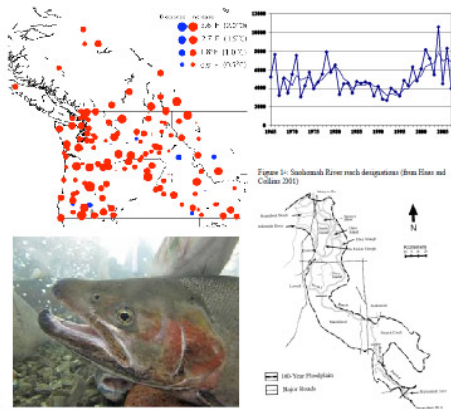
# Linking Observations, Models and Scenarios



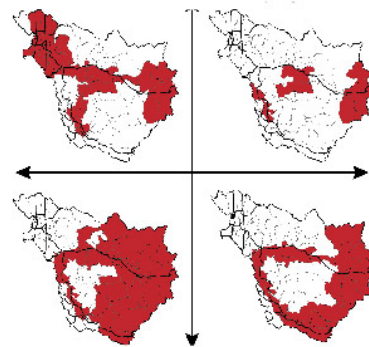
# Linking Observations, Models and Scenarios



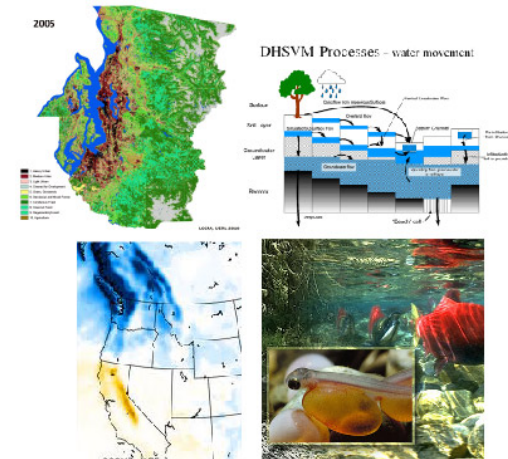
# Linking Observations, Models and Scenarios



**Observations**

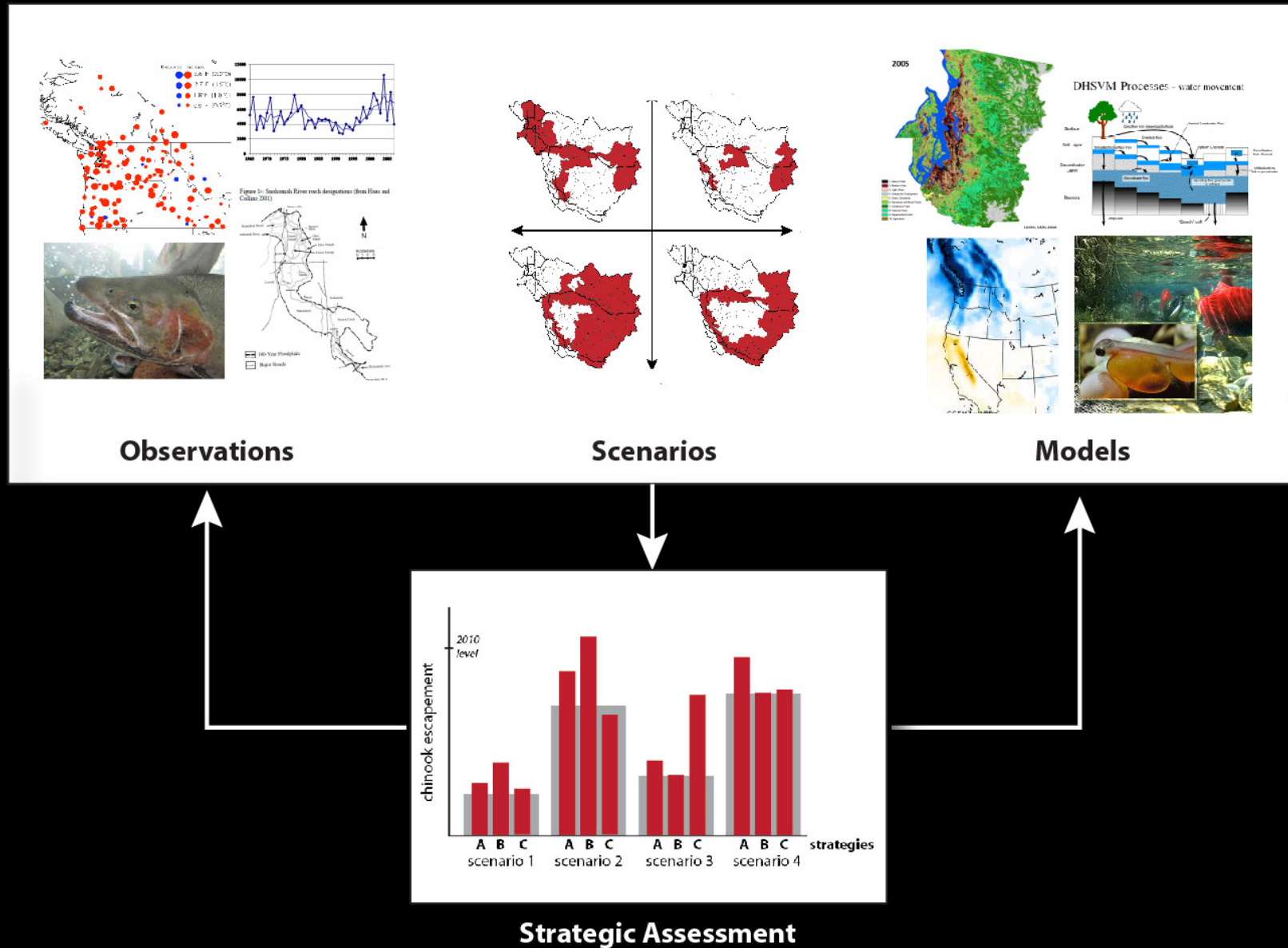


**Scenarios**

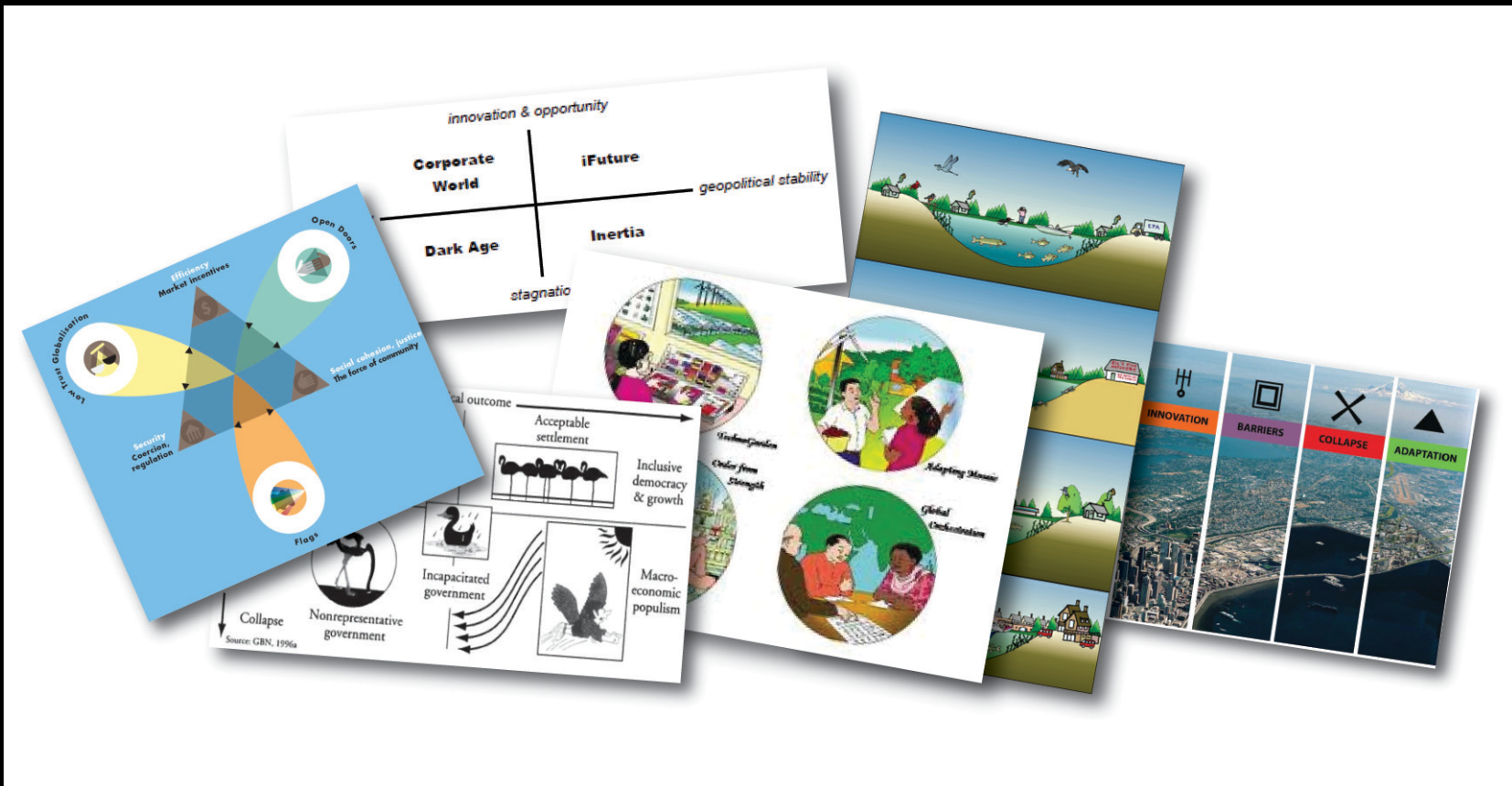


**Models**

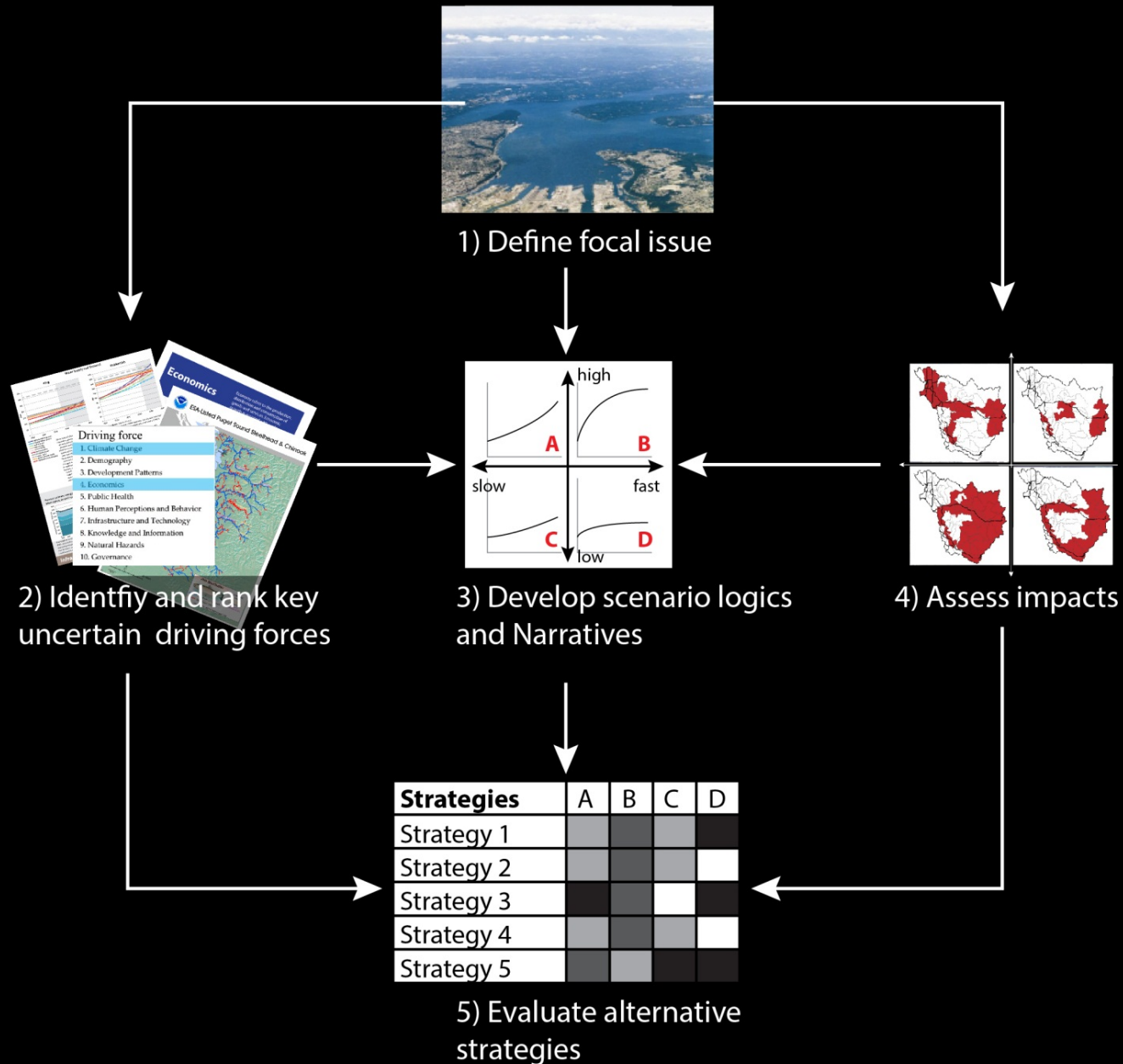
# Linking Observations, Models and Scenarios



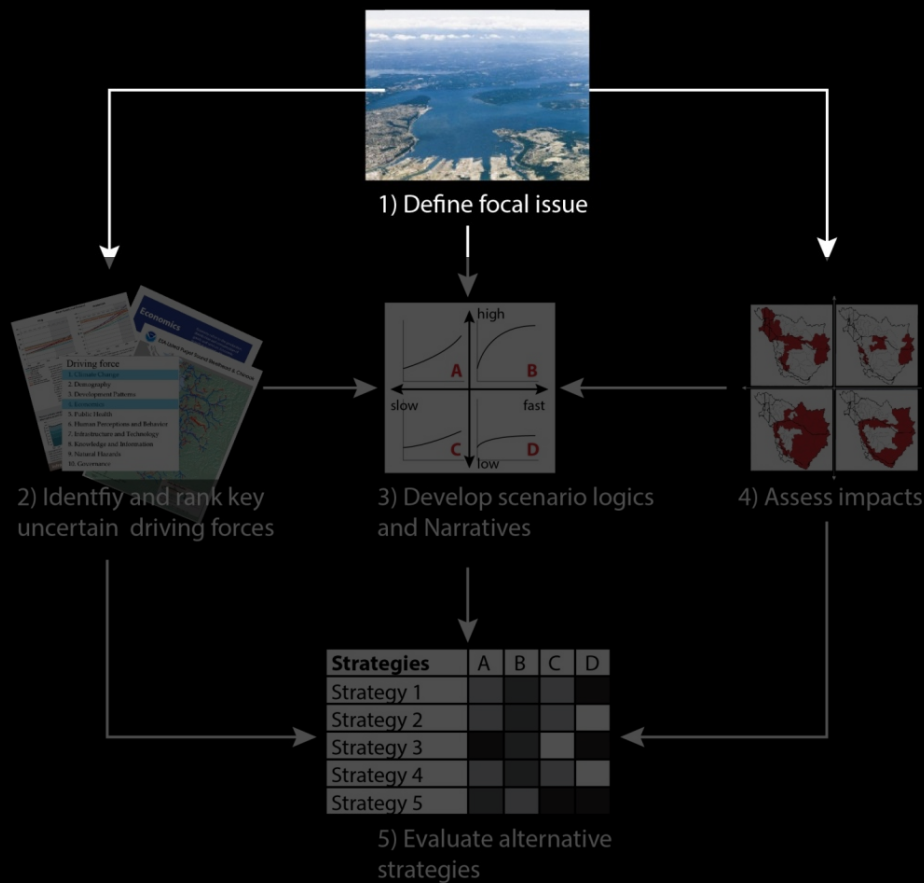
# How do scenarios work?



# Key elements of scenario planning



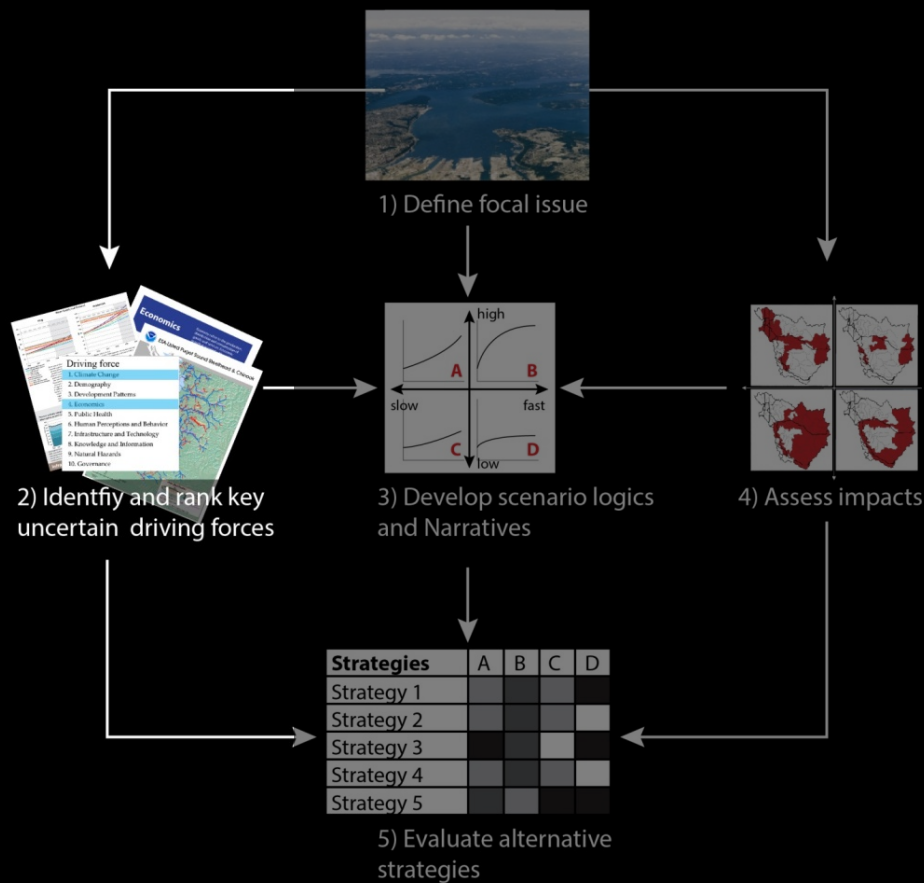
# Key elements of scenario planning



## 1. Define focal issue

- Data and observations
- Historical documents
- Expert knowledge
- Conceptual models

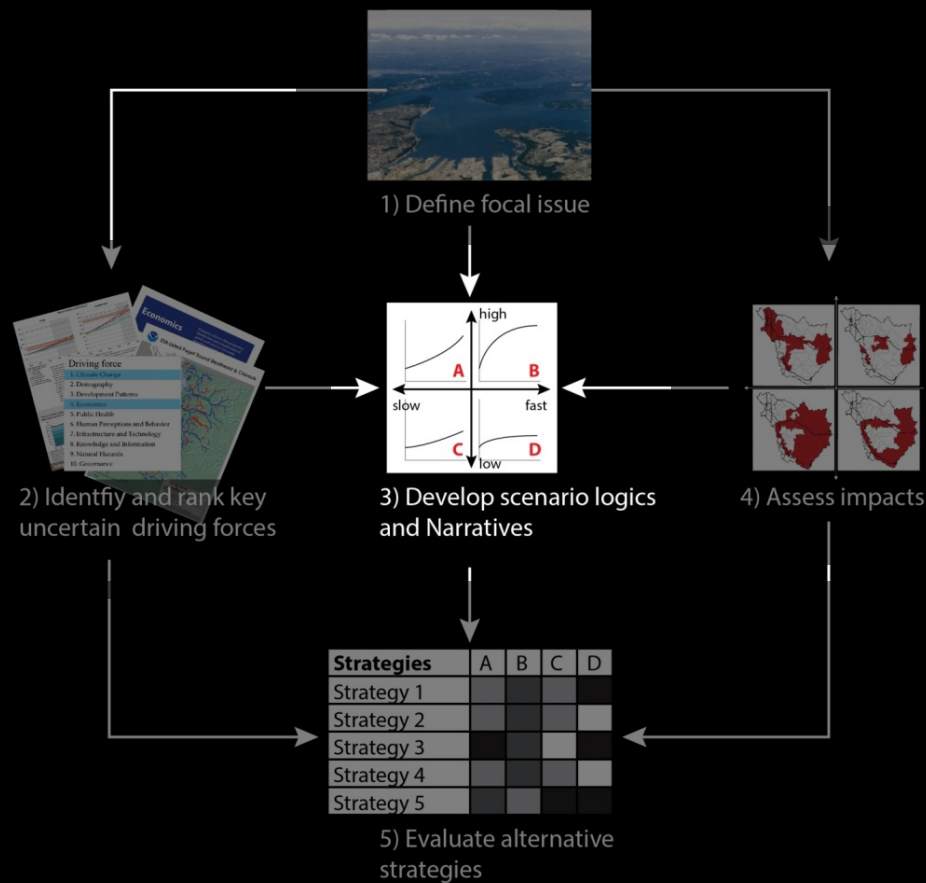
# Key elements of scenario planning



## 2. Identify and rank driving forces

- Identify key driving force
- Rank their importance
- Rank their uncertainty
- Select most important & uncertain

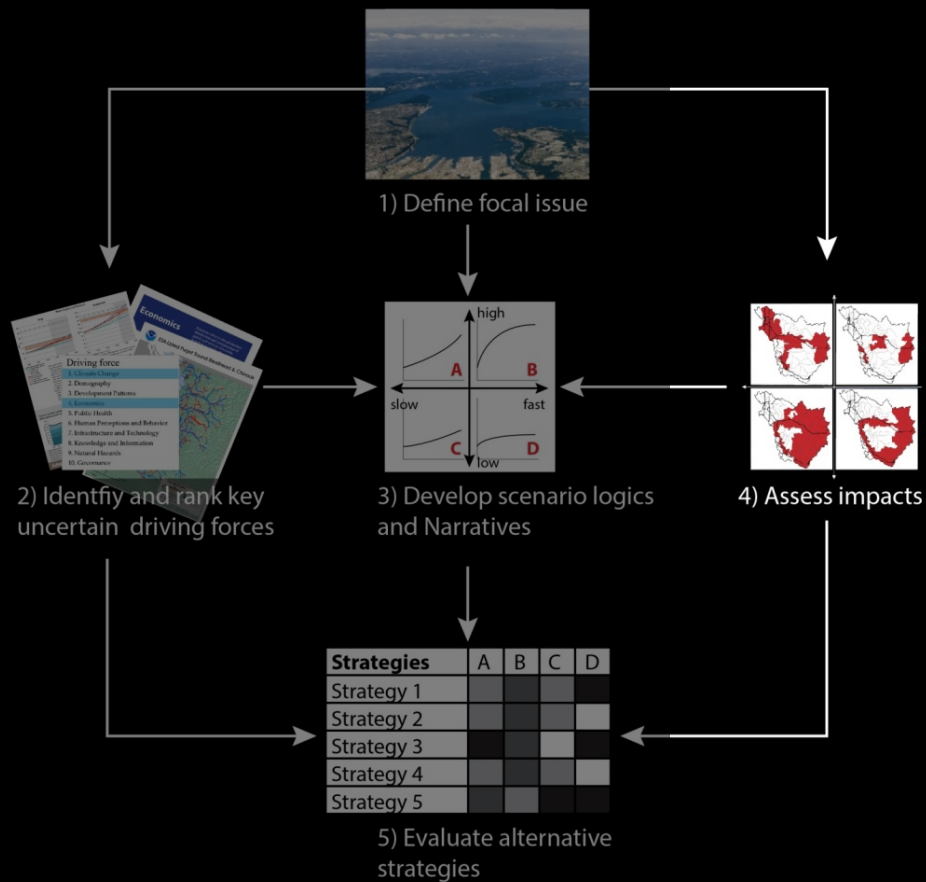
# Key elements of scenario planning



## 3. Develop scenario logics and narratives

- Selected driving forces create the frames for scenario logics
- Participants develop the story lines and narratives

# Key elements of scenario planning

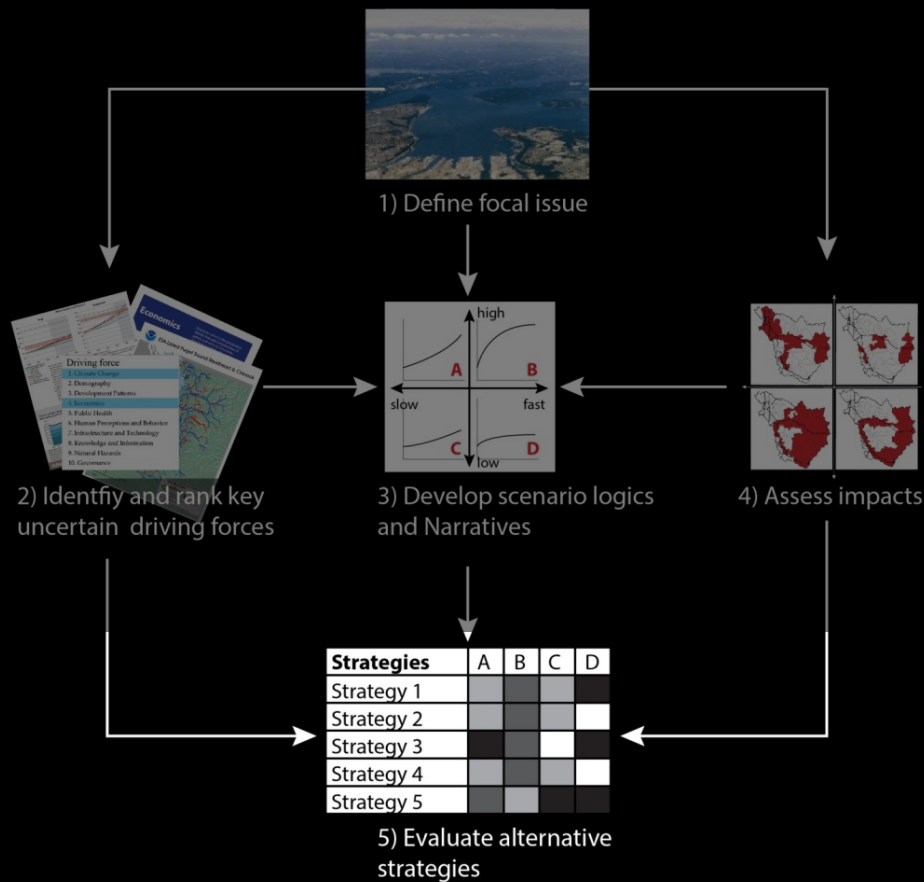


## 4. Assess Impacts

- Identify indicators
- Apply predictive models
- Assess impact of future conditions

# Key elements of scenario planning

## 5. Evaluate alternative strategies



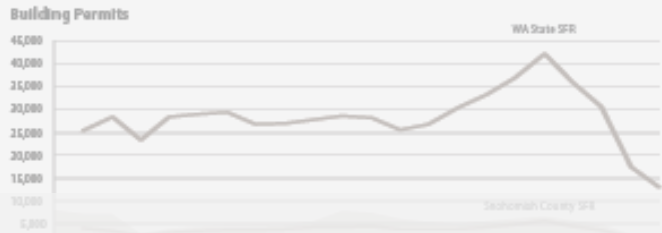
- Use indicators to evaluate alternative strategies (their efficacy and robustness) under alternative scenarios.



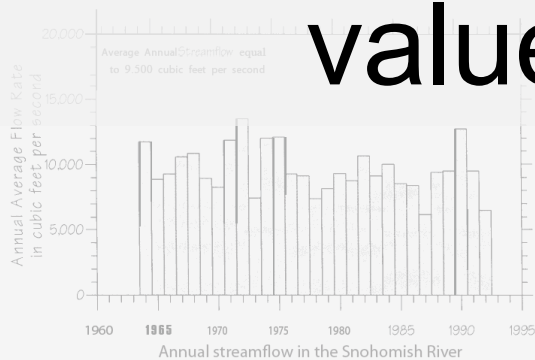
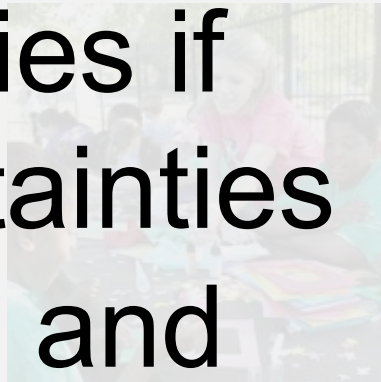
# **Snohomish Basin Scenarios**

*support critical decisions that aim to maintain ecosystem service provision in the Snohomish Basin out to 2060 despite irreducible future uncertainty*





How might we change  
our strategies if  
critical uncertainties  
shift trends and  
values?



**trends**

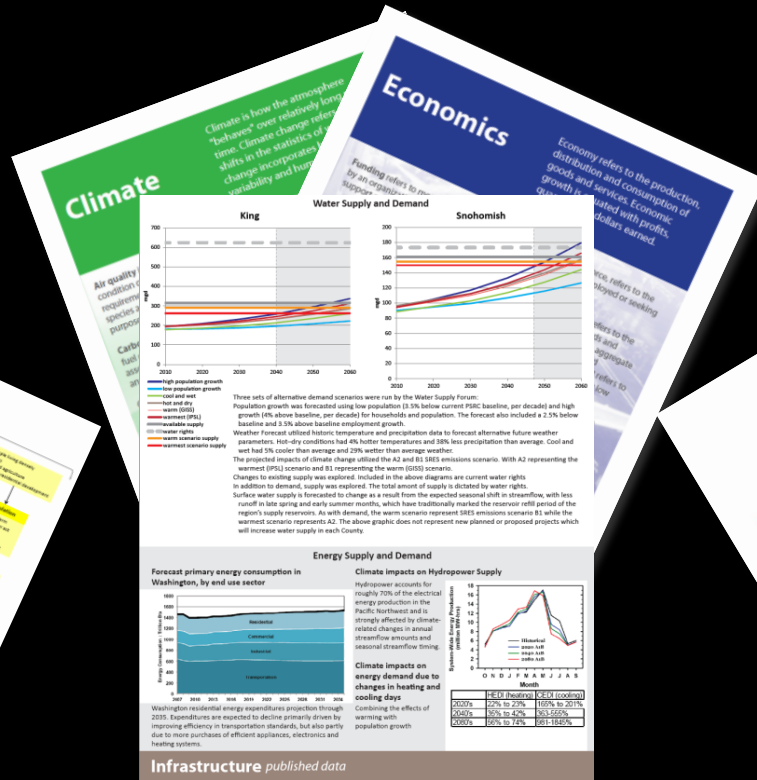
**value**

**strategies**

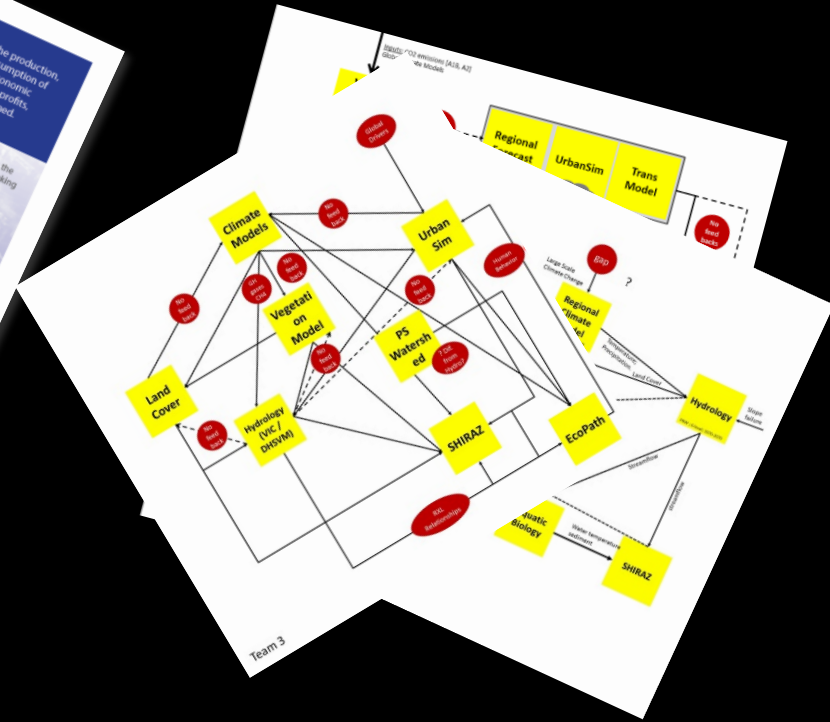
# Scenario Development



conceptual models



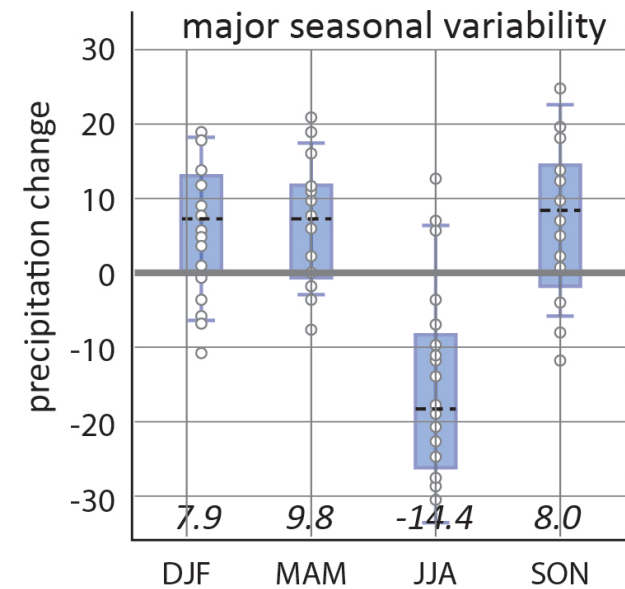
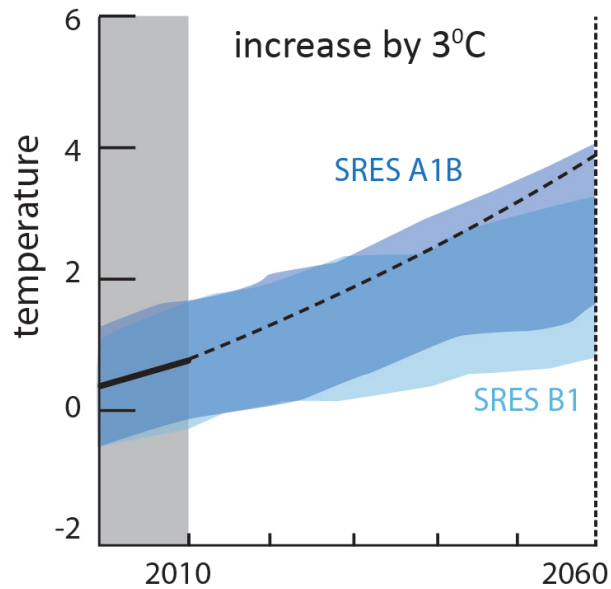
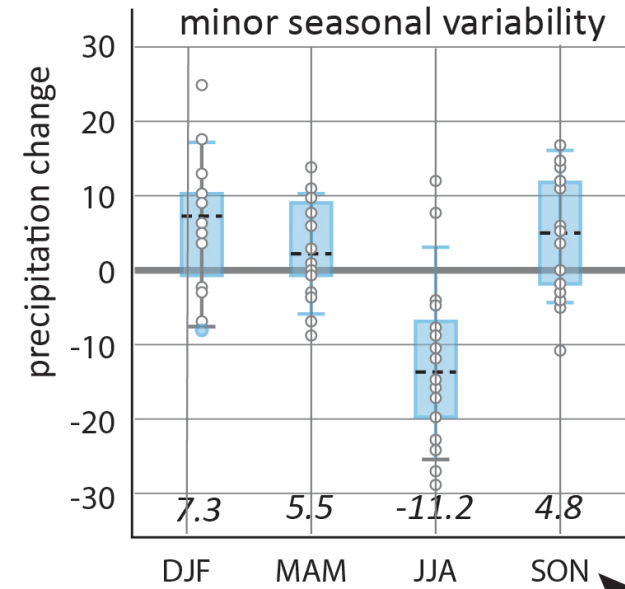
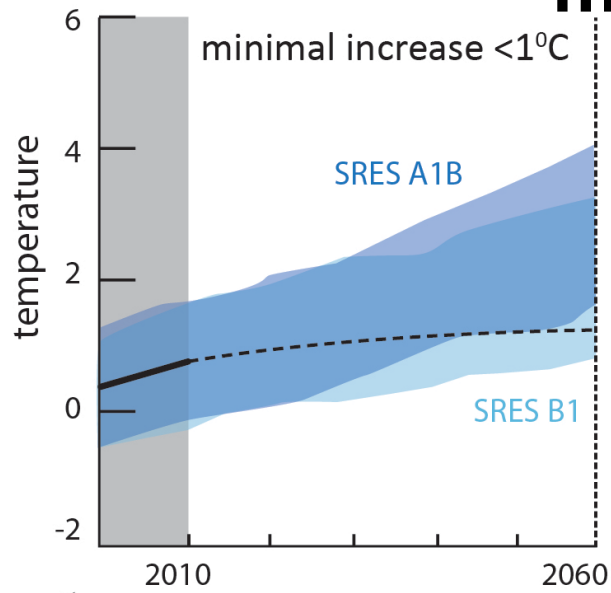
driving forces



predictive models

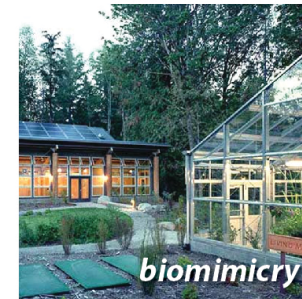
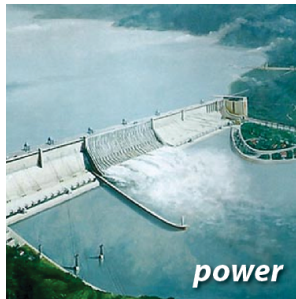
# CLIMATE CHANGE

minor



major

# SOCIAL VALUES



## mastery

master and change the world, to assert control, bend it to our will, and exploit it in order to further personal or group interests  
*ambition, success, control, competence*

## harmony

accept the world as it is, trying to fit in rather than to change or exploit it  
*peace, interdependence, equity, environmental protection*

## **ACCELERATE**

*our ingenuity and ambition supports unprecedented prosperity at a great price to our environment.*

*minor*

## **SMALL**

*a local environmental ethic adapts to a long-term economic recession.*

*mastery*

## **RESISTANCE**

*extreme climate challenges are countered by powerful human actions.*

*harmony*

## **METAMORPHOSIS**

*we embrace change through experimentation and upfront investments.*

*major*



## **ACCELERATE**

- Accelerated economic growth & wealth accretion
- Accelerated technological innovation & implementation
- Accelerated development with limited regulation
- Minor climate impacts
- Accelerated resource depletion and control



## **SMALL**

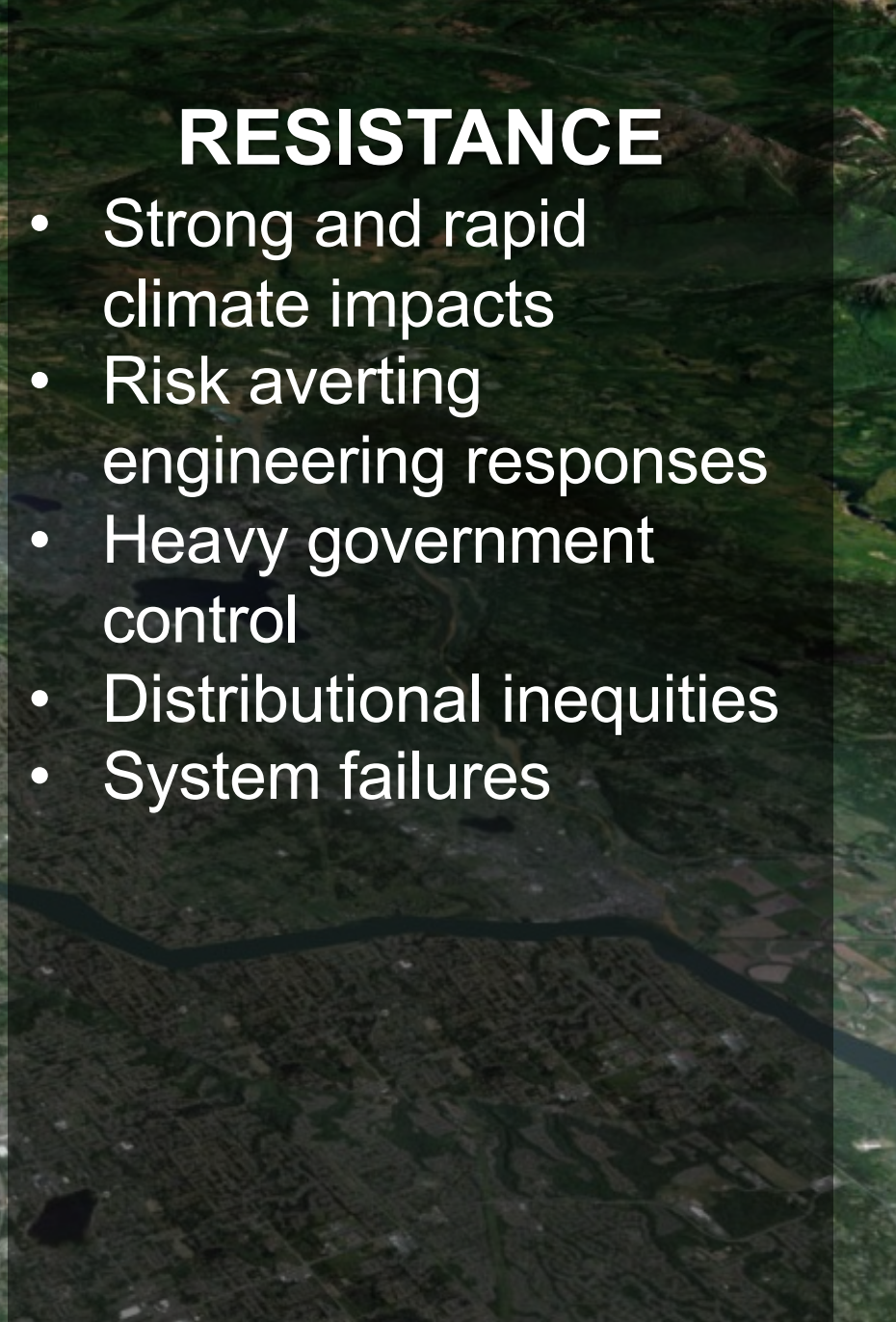
- Long term economic recession
- Minor climate change
- Shift in power to many small entities
- Environmental / land focus
- Few investment opportunities





## **RESISTANCE**

- Strong and rapid climate impacts
- Risk averting engineering responses
- Heavy government control
- Distributional inequities
- System failures



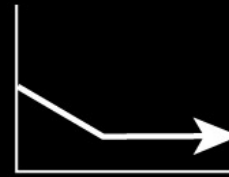
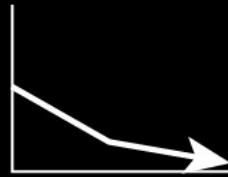
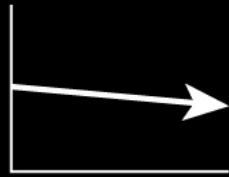
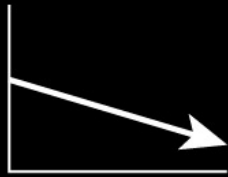


## **METAMORPHOSIS**

- Significant climate impacts
- Prioritization of equitable, flexible and natural capital investments
- High initial investments and initial error rate
- Networked & coordinated governance structure
- Diverse and stable growth

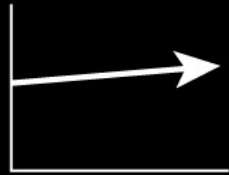
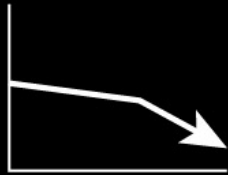


water quantity



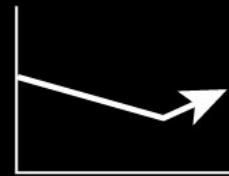
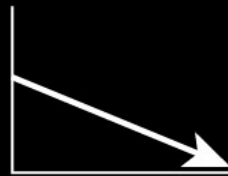
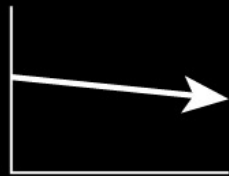
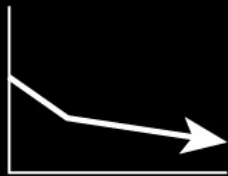
**in-stream summer flows:**  
influenced by *withdrawals (demand and technology), climate change (timing) and urbanization patterns*

water quality



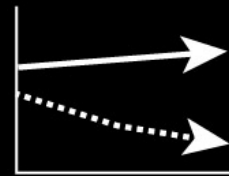
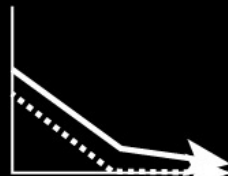
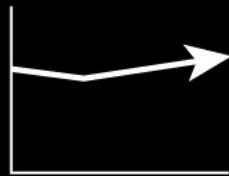
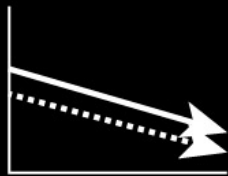
**stream temperature:**  
influenced by *climate (temperature change), impervious surface and riparian buffers*

habitat diversity



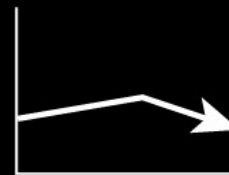
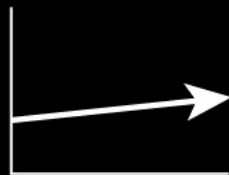
**habitat extent by EcoRegion**  
*land cover change (extend and form), habitat protection (values and investments), climate change (extreme events - pest / fire)*

species diversity



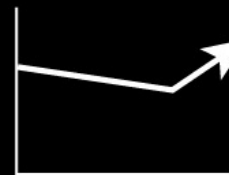
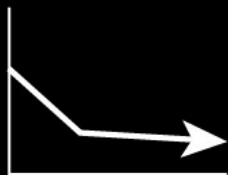
**salmon viability:**  
*stream alterations (hardening), runoff (toxicity) and streamflow fluctuations (see in stream flows)*

carbon fluxes



**terrestrial carbon stocks**  
*urban development (forest conversion), land management, biogeochemical cycles (inputs and climate cycle)*

carbon stocks



**carbon emissions:**  
*urban development (extent and form), regulations and innovations, climate change*

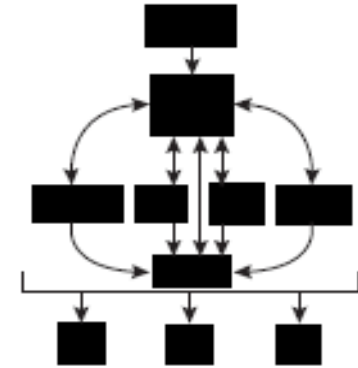
# Lessons Learned



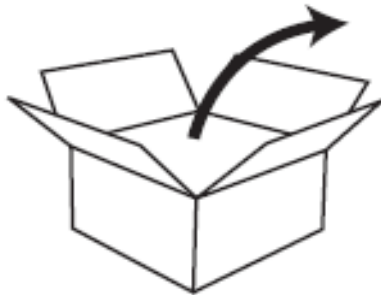
**Shift Focus to Resilience**



**Redefine Decision Context**



**Integrate Predictive Models**



**Highlight Risks and Opportunities**



**Illuminate Warning Signals**

	✓	✓	✓	✓

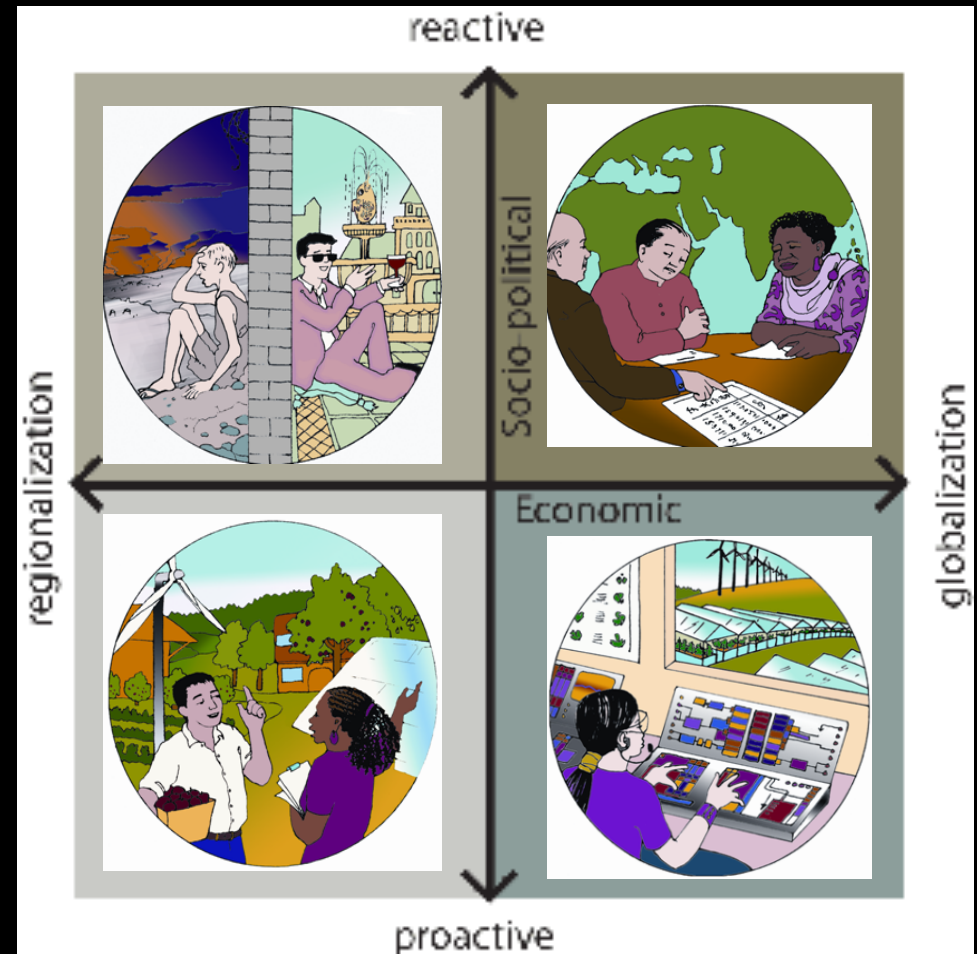
**Identify Robust Strategies**

# Yahara 2070



# MEA Scenarios

- Four scenarios based on Socio-political and Economic Drivers.
  - [TL] Order from Strength
  - [TR] Global Orchestration
  - [BL] Adapting Mosaic
  - [BR] Techno Garden



# Take Home Messages

- Complexity and uncertainty make long term predictions of social and ecological impacts highly unpredictable
- Observations from the past are not sufficient to make reliable predictions about the future
- Unpredictable transitions associated with environmental change are expected to become more common in shaping the future
- Scenario planning provides a systematic framework to explore plausible futures and assess potential risks
- **SUMMARY:** By using scenarios, we will be able to develop more robust adaptation strategies for reducing vulnerability and increasing resilience in the face of irreducible uncertainties.