

1 **The Effects of Global Change upon United States Air Quality**

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## 19 **Abstract**

20 To understand more fully the effects of global changes on ambient  
21 concentrations of ozone and particulate matter with aerodynamic diameter smaller than  
22 2.5  $\mu\text{m}$  ( $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ) in the US, we conducted a comprehensive modeling effort to evaluate  
23 explicitly the effects of changes in climate, biogenic emissions, land use, and  
24 global/regional anthropogenic emissions on ozone and  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  concentrations and  
25 composition. Results from the ECHAM5 global climate model driven with the A1B  
26 emission scenario from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) were  
27 downscaled using the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) model to provide  
28 regional meteorological fields. We developed air quality simulations using the  
29 Community Multiscale Air Quality Model (CMAQ) chemical transport model for two  
30 nested domains with 220 km and 36 km horizontal grid cell resolution for a semi-  
31 hemispheric domain and a continental United States (US) domain, respectively. The  
32 semi-hemispheric domain was used to evaluate the impact of projected Asian emissions  
33 changes on US air quality. WRF meteorological fields were used to calculate current  
34 (2000s) and future (2050s) biogenic emissions using the Model of Emissions of Gases  
35 and Aerosols from Nature (MEGAN). For the semi-hemispheric domain CMAQ  
36 simulations, present-day global emissions inventories were used and projected to the  
37 2050s based on the IPCC A1B scenario. Regional anthropogenic emissions were  
38 obtained from the US Environmental Protection Agency National Emission Inventory  
39 2002 (EPA NEI2002) and projected to the future using the MARKet ALlocation  
40 (MARKAL) energy system model assuming a business as usual scenario that extends

41 current decade emission regulations through 2050. Our results suggest that daily  
42 maximum 8 hour average ozone (DM8O) concentrations will increase in a range  
43 between 2 to 12 ppb across most of the continental US, with the highest increase in the  
44 South, Central, and Midwest regions of the US, due to increases in temperature,  
45 enhanced biogenic emissions, and changes in land use. The effects of these factors are  
46 only partially offset by reductions in DM8O associated with decreasing US  
47 anthropogenic emissions. Increases in PM<sub>2.5</sub> levels between 2 and 4  $\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  in the  
48 Northeast, Southeast, and South regions are mostly a result of enhanced biogenic  
49 emissions and land use changes. Little change in PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the Central, Northwest, and  
50 Southwest regions was found, even when PM precursors are reduced with regulatory  
51 curtailment. Changes in temperature, relative humidity, and boundary conditions shift  
52 the composition but do not alter overall PM<sub>2.5</sub> mass concentrations.

## 53 **1. Introduction**

54           Despite extensive efforts to reduce anthropogenic emissions, air pollution  
55 continues to be a public health issue in the United States (EPA, 2010). Elevated  
56 concentrations of pollutants in the troposphere, such as ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and particulate  
57 matter (PM), degrade air quality and have been associated with, among other things,  
58 increasing human respiratory diseases in urban areas (WHO, 2005) and low birth  
59 weights across the world (Dadvand et al., 2012).

60           High concentrations of tropospheric ozone and particulate matter with  
61 aerodynamic diameter smaller than 2.5 μm (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) are caused by a combination of  
62 adverse meteorological conditions and the atmospheric emissions of their primary  
63 precursors. While regulatory controls are expected to reduce emissions of many  
64 pollutants in the United States (US) in the future, the negative effects of global climate  
65 change may offset the positive effects of such reductions. Furthermore, global  
66 emissions of greenhouse gases and other pollutant precursors are projected to increase  
67 (IPCC, 2007). Moreover, recent research has provided evidence of increasing long-  
68 range transport of ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> precursors from Asia and their influence over the  
69 western US. (Lelieveld and Dentener, 2000; Wuebbles et al., 2007; Zhang et al., 2010;  
70 Ambrose et al., 2011; WMO, 2012).

71           In the United States, regulations and technological changes in the transportation  
72 and energy sectors are projected to reduce regional atmospheric pollutants in the future  
73 (Loughlin et al., 2011). However, the interplay between climate change, increasing

74 global emissions, and intercontinental transport pose challenges that air quality  
75 managers will have to address in order to maintain regional air quality standards  
76 (Ravishankara et al., 2012). To provide a foundation for building effective management  
77 strategies and public policies in a changing global environment, modeling approaches  
78 that link global changes with regional air quality are required. The general approach has  
79 been to use output from general circulation models (GCMs) to drive regional climate  
80 models (RCMs) and regional or global chemical transport models (CTMs/GTMs; Giorgi  
81 and Meleux, 2007; Jacob and Winner, 2009).

82 This downscaling approach has been used in a variety of studies in Europe,  
83 Canada, and Asia (e.g., Liao et al., 2006; Langner et al., 2005; Forkel and Knoche,  
84 2006; Meleux et al., 2007; Kunkel et al., 2007; Lin et al., 2008; Spracklen et al., 2009;  
85 Kelly et al., 2012). These investigations based the global emissions on future  
86 anthropogenic emissions scenarios developed from the Intergovernmental Panel on  
87 Climate Change (IPCC) assessment reports. Despite the differences in emission  
88 scenarios, modeling framework and future climate realizations, increases in ozone  
89 concentrations on the order of 2 to 10 ppb were consistently predicted from these  
90 studies as a result of climate change alone. By contrast, there is little consistency  
91 among the model predictions of climate change effects on particulate matter (PM)  
92 (Jacob et al, 2009; Dawson et al., 2013).

93 In the US, a combined effort between the EPA and the academic community  
94 resulted in a set of modeling studies that adopted a variety of modeling methods  
95 (Hogrefe et al., 2004; Leung and Gustafson, 2005; Liang et al., 2006; Steiner et al.,

96 2006; Tagaris et al., 2007; Liao et al., 2006 Tao et al., 2007; Huang et al., 2007, 2008;  
97 Nolte et al., 2008; Wu et al, 2008a, 2008b; Chen et al, 2009b; Avise et al., 2009). These  
98 US investigations based their current and future climate realizations on the results of  
99 GCMs using the various IPCC emissions scenarios (IPCC, 2007). In some of the  
100 studies, the global climate realizations were subsequently downscaled to a higher  
101 resolution using the PSU (Pennsylvania State University)/NCAR (National Center for  
102 Atmospheric Research) Mesoscale Model version 5 (MM5; Grell et al., 1994) to  
103 horizontal resolutions that ranged from 90 km to 36 km. Many of these studies based  
104 their analysis on the effects of climate change on summer air quality in the Continental  
105 US (CONUS). In summary, despite the differences in modeling elements, all studies  
106 found an increase in daily maximum summer ozone concentrations on the order of 2 to  
107 8 ppb for the simulated CONUS domain (Weaver et al., 2009), but with regional  
108 variations. In contrast, PM concentrations showed changes between  $\pm 0.1\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  to  $\pm$   
109  $1\mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , with little consistency between studies, including the sign of the differences  
110 (Jacob and Winner, 2009).

111 It is important to note that variations between modeling frameworks did result in  
112 very diverse regional patterns of key weather drivers for ozone and PM formation. Thus,  
113 while most of the studies mentioned above found an average increase in ozone  
114 concentrations for the simulated domains, reductions or insignificant changes in certain  
115 regions of the domain were also simulated. Generally, temperature and solar radiation  
116 reaching the surface were the major meteorological drivers for regional ozone  
117 concentrations. For PM concentrations, most of the studies found a direct link between

118 changes in precipitation and relative humidity and changes in PM concentrations (Liao  
119 et al., 2006; Unger et al., 2006; Racherla and Adams 2006, Tagaris et al., 2007; Avise  
120 et al., 2009; Chen et al., 2009b). Nevertheless, the direct impacts of changes in  
121 meteorological conditions are not the only factors of change for ozone and PM  
122 concentrations. Changes in emissions of biogenic volatile organic compounds (BVOCs),  
123 due to climate and landcover change, and the treatment of isoprene nitrates in the  
124 chemical mechanism were found to be a key factor in the regional variability of ozone  
125 and PM, particularly in areas of the southeastern US (Jacob and Winner, 2009; Weaver  
126 et al., 2009).

127 In this work, we present a continuation of the work described by Avise et al.  
128 (2009) and Chen et al. (2009a,b), who downscaled the Parallel Climate Model (PCM;  
129 Washington et al., 2000) and MOZART (Model for OZone And Related chemical  
130 Tracers; Horowitz, 2006) global model output for the A2 IPCC scenario using MM5 and  
131 the Community Multi-scale Air Quality Model (CMAQ; Byun and Schere, 2006) to  
132 simulate current and future air quality in the US. For this update, we implemented a  
133 semi-hemispheric domain for the Weather Research and Forecasting (WRF) mesoscale  
134 meteorological model (<http://www.wrf-model.org>) and CMAQ simulations in lieu of using  
135 MOZART output for chemical boundary conditions for our CONUS CMAQ simulations.  
136 We used the ECHAM5 global climate model (Roeckner et al., 1999, 2003) output for the  
137 A1B scenario to drive these simulations for two decadal periods; the current decade  
138 from 1995–2004 and the future decade 2045–2054. In presenting our results, we follow  
139 the attribution approach described in Avise et al. (2009), where the separate and

140 combined effects of changes in climate, US anthropogenic emissions, global  
141 anthropogenic emissions and biogenic emissions due to changes in regional  
142 meteorology and land use are investigated. Ideally, this framework should include  
143 feedback from changes in atmospheric chemistry to the climate system (Raes et al.,  
144 2010). However, due to the computational requirements of an on-line approach, we did  
145 not incorporate feedback between the atmospheric chemistry and transport simulations  
146 from the CTM to the RCM. Furthermore, despite the observed sensitivity of tropospheric  
147 ozone to regional emissions and global burden of methane (Zhang et al., 2011; Fiore et  
148 al., 2008; Wu et al., 2008a; Nolte et al., 2008; Fiore et al., 2006), in this work, we do not  
149 address the potential contribution of methane.

150 In Section 2, we provide an overview of the modeling framework and emissions  
151 scenarios. Evaluation of the model performance for the climate simulations and results  
152 of the changes in meteorological fields are presented in Section 3. Assessment of air  
153 quality changes and the individual and combined effects from changes in model  
154 components are presented in Section 4. Finally, we present a summary of the results  
155 and conclusions in Section 5.

## 156 **2. Methodology**

### 157 **2.1 General Framework**

158 Results from the global climate model ECHAM5 under the IPCC Special Report  
159 on Emissions Scenarios (SRES) A1B scenario (Nakicenovic et al., 2000) were  
160 downscaled using the WRF model separately to a semi-hemispheric (S-HEM) 220 km

161 domain and nested CONUS domains of 108 km (not shown) and 36 km (Figure 1). Due  
162 to computational limitations, only five representative summers for the present (1995 to  
163 2004) and the future (2045 to 2054) decades were selected. Ranked in terms of their  
164 average maximum temperature of the year, the summers of the warmest and coldest  
165 years, as well as the second, fifth and seventh warmest years in each decade were  
166 treated to represent the present and future climate conditions for each decade. These  
167 five representative summers (June-July-August; with May as a spin-up period) for the  
168 present and future periods were processed with the Meteorology-Chemistry Interface  
169 Processor v3.4.1 (MCIP; Otte and Pleim, 2010) for the S-HEM and 36 km CONUS  
170 domains. Meteorological fields generated from MCIP for both domains were used to  
171 estimate biogenic emissions using the Model of Emissions of Gases and Aerosols from  
172 Nature v2.04 (MEGANv2.04; Guenther et al., 2006) and to calculate the temporal  
173 profiles within the Sparse Matrix Operator Kernel Emissions (SMOKE) v2.7  
174 (<http://www.smoke-model.org>). With the elements described above, a framework to  
175 perform air quality simulations using the Community Multiscale Air Quality Model  
176 (CMAQ v4.7; Foley et al., 2010) was created. The overall schematic for the modeling  
177 system is shown in Figure 2.

## 178 **2.2 Climate and Meteorology**

179 The regional weather model WRF includes advanced representations of land-  
180 surface dynamics and cloud microphysics to simulate complex interactions between  
181 atmospheric processes and the land surface characteristics. Detailed descriptions of  
182 WRF can be found at <http://wrf-model.org> and a discussion of its range of regional

183 climate modeling applications can be found in Leung et al. (2006). In this experiment,  
184 WRF was used to downscale the ECHAM5 output for both the S-HEM and 108/36 km  
185 CONUS domains. The model was applied with 31 vertical levels and a vertical  
186 resolution of ~ 40 – 100 m throughout the boundary layer with the model top fixed at 50  
187 mb. Details of the model setup and a discussion of the results are reported by Salathé  
188 et al. (2010), Zhang et al. (2009, 2012), and Dulière (2011, 2013).

### 189 **2.3 Current and Future Biogenic Emissions and Land Use Changes**

190 The MEGANv2.04 biogenic emission model (Guenther et al., 2006, Sakulyanontvittaya  
191 et al., 2008) was used to estimate current and future biogenic VOC and soil NO<sub>x</sub>  
192 emissions based on the WRF meteorology with current and future estimates of land use  
193 and land cover. For the current decade, the default MEGANv2.04 land cover and  
194 emission factor data (Guenther et al., 2012) were used. For the future decade, cropland  
195 distributions were estimated by combining three datasets: the IMAGE 2100 global  
196 cropland extent dataset, (Zuidema et al., 1994), the SAGE maximum cultivable land  
197 dataset (Ramankutty et al., 2002), and the MODIS-derived current cropland data (as  
198 used in MEGANv2 and described in Guenther et al., 2006). The IMAGE 2100 dataset  
199 was created from the output of a land cover model, which forms part of a sub-system of  
200 the IMAGE 2.0 model of global climate change (Alcamo, 1994). The SAGE cultivable  
201 dataset was created using a 1992 global cropland dataset (Ramankutty and Foley,  
202 1998) modified by characterizing limitations to crop growth based on both climatic and  
203 soil properties. The future global cropland extent distribution was generated by  
204 analyzing predicted changes in agriculture on a continent-by-continent basis (using the

205 IMAGE data). These changes were then applied to the MODIS based cropland map  
206 (used for present day MEGAN simulations) using the SAGE maximum cultivable  
207 dataset as an upper limit to cropland extent. The resulting landcover data has  
208 considerably lower cropland fraction than the original IMAGE data, which likely  
209 overestimates future cropland area by not considering whether a location is cultivable.

210 In addition to generating a future crop cover dataset to simulate potential  
211 biogenic VOC emissions using MEGAN, future datasets representing several other  
212 MEGAN driving variables were developed. These included geo-gridded potential future  
213 plant functional type (PFT)-specific emission factor (EF) maps for isoprene and terpene  
214 compounds, as well as future-extent maps of four non-crop PFTs: broadleaf trees,  
215 needle-leaf trees, shrubs, and grasses. For regions outside of the US, the non-crop PFT  
216 distributions were generated by reducing the current extent of each non-crop PFT map  
217 by an amount that would appropriately offset the predicted cropland expansion for a  
218 given continent. For the US, future non-crop PFT maps were generated using the  
219 Mapped Atmosphere-Plant-Soil System (MAPSS) model output  
220 (<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/corvallis/mdr/mapss/>; Neilson, 1995), based on three GCM  
221 future scenarios. Present-day MAPSS physiognomic vegetation classes were  
222 associated with current PFT fractional coverage estimates by dividing the US into sub-  
223 regions and by averaging existing (MODIS-derived) geospatially explicit PFT data within  
224 each sub-region as a function of MAPSS class. Sub-regions were created based on  
225 Ecological Regions of North America (<http://www.epa.gov/wed/pages/ecoregions.htm> ).  
226 After every current MAPSS class had been assigned PFT-specific fractional coverage

227 estimates, future PFT cover was determined by re-classifying future distribution maps  
228 for the three MAPSS datasets using the fractional PFT cover estimates for each  
229 MAPSS class (within each ecological region), and averaging the three resultant future  
230 datasets into a single estimate of future cover for each PFT.

231 For the eastern US, future isoprene and monoterpene PFT-specific EF maps  
232 were constructed using changes in tree species composition predicted by the USDA  
233 'Climate Change Tree Atlas' (CCTA, <http://nrs.fs.fed.us/atlas/tree/>). The CCTA data was  
234 based on the average of three GCMs, which represented the most conservative  
235 emissions scenarios available.

236 Using existing speciated EF data (Guenther, 2013), we applied anticipated  
237 changes in the average species composition of each PFT to generate species-weighted  
238 PFT-specific EF maps on a state-by-state basis (the CCTA data is organized by state).  
239 As data was lacking on predicted species-level changes for areas outside the eastern  
240 US, we did not attempt to alter EF maps outside the eastern US.

## 241 **2.4 Anthropogenic Emissions**

242 For S-HEM domain CMAQ simulations, global emissions of ozone precursors  
243 from anthropogenic, natural, and biomass burning sources were estimated for the  
244 period 1990-2000 (applied to 1995-2004) using the POET emission inventory (Granier  
245 et al., 2005). Non-US anthropogenic emissions (containing 15 sectors) were projected  
246 based on national activity data and emission factors. Gridded maps (e.g. population  
247 maps) were applied to spatially distribute the emissions within a country. The global

248 emission inventory for black and organic carbon (BC and OC respectively) was obtained  
249 from Bond et al. (2004), which uses emission factors on the basis of fuel type and  
250 economic sectors alone. The Bond et al. (2004) inventory includes emissions from fossil  
251 fuels, biofuels, open burning of biomass, and urban waste. Considering combinations of  
252 fuel, combustion type, and emission controls, as well as their prevalence on a regional  
253 basis covers the dependence of emissions on combustion practices.

254 Global emissions for the year 2000 from the POET, MEGAN, and Bond et al.  
255 (2004) inventories were combined, and the 16 gas-phase POET and MEGAN species,  
256 along with the OC and BC species were adapted to the SAPRC99 (Carter 1990, 2000)  
257 chemical mechanism. Diurnal patterns were developed and applied to the gridded  
258 emission inventories and processed using SMOKE. For the future decade hemispheric  
259 domain simulations, current decade emissions were projected to the year 2050 based  
260 on the IPCC A1B emission scenario.

261 For the 36-km CONUS current decade CMAQ simulations, US anthropogenic  
262 emissions were developed using the 2002 National Emission Inventory. The Emission  
263 Scenario Projection (ESP) methodology, version 1.0 (Loughlin et al., 2011), was applied  
264 to project future decade US anthropogenic emissions. A primary component of ESP 1.0  
265 is the MARKet Allocation (MARKAL) energy system model (Loulou et al., 2004).  
266 MARKAL is an energy system optimization model that characterizes scenarios of the  
267 evolution of an energy system over time. In this context, the energy system extends  
268 from obtaining primary energy sources, through their transformation to useful forms, to  
269 the variety of technologies (e.g., classes of light-duty personal vehicles, heat pumps, or

270 gas furnaces) that meet “end-use” energy demands (e.g., projected vehicle miles  
271 traveled, space heating). Within ESP 1.0, the MARKAL is used to develop multiplicative  
272 factors that grow energy-related emissions from a base year to a future year.  
273 Surrogates, such as projected population growth or industrial growth, are used to  
274 develop non-energy-related growth factors. The resulting factors were used within  
275 SMOKE to develop a future decade inventory from the 2002 NEI inventory.

276 For the work presented here, the EPAUS9r06v1.3 database (Shay et al., 2006)  
277 was used with MARKAL to develop growth factors for NO<sub>x</sub>, SO<sub>2</sub> and PM<sub>10</sub>. The PM<sub>10</sub>  
278 growth factors were also applied to PM<sub>2.5</sub> and the CO<sub>2</sub> factors were used as a surrogate  
279 for energy system CO, NH<sub>3</sub>, VOC, HCl and chlorine. Non-combustion industrial  
280 emission growth factors were developed from projections of economic growth. The  
281 resulting energy and non-energy factors were then used within SMOKE to multiply  
282 emissions from the 2002 National Emissions Inventory (NEI) to 2050.

283 EPAUS9r06v1.3 originally was calibrated to mimic the fuel use projections of the  
284 U.S. Energy Information Administration’s 2006 Annual Energy Outlook (AEO06; U.S.  
285 DOE, 2008). Energy demands were adjusted to account for population growth  
286 consistent with the A1B storyline. The results reflect business as usual assumptions  
287 about future environmental and energy regulations as of 2006. Thus, while electric  
288 sector emissions are capped to capture the effects of the Clean Air Interstate Rule  
289 (CAIR; US EPA, 2005), the impacts of increases in natural gas availability, the recent  
290 economic downturn, and the relatively new 54.5 Corporate Average Vehicle Efficiency  
291 (CAFÉ) standard (US CFR, 2011) are not reflected. More recent versions of the

292 MARKAL database reflect these factors, expanded pollutant coverage, and refined  
293 emission factors (U.S. EPA, 2013). The ESP 1.0, including the MARKAL database  
294 EPAUS9rv1.3 was selected here to maintain compatibility with previous and ongoing  
295 activities.

296         After SMOKE was used to develop a 2050 inventory, the differences between the  
297 base year and future-year inventories were summarized at the pollutant and regional  
298 level, as shown in Figure 3. Using the ESP1.0 methodology, emissions of NO<sub>x</sub> and SO<sub>2</sub>  
299 are projected to decrease between 16% in the South and Southwest to 35% in the  
300 Northeast and Northwest. On the other hand, emissions of pollutants that were not  
301 captured endogenously in MARKAL, such as carbon monoxide (CO), volatile organic  
302 compounds (excluding methane; NMVOCs) and ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>) are projected to  
303 increase in nearly all regions across the CONUS domain. The largest increase of CO is  
304 projected in the Midwest with a 70% increase combined with an increase of about 20%  
305 of NMVOC. The smallest increase of CO is projected for the South; however, the same  
306 region was projected to increase NMVOC by about 12%. The smallest increase (3%) of  
307 PM is projected in the central region, which also has a 34% increase in NMVOC.

## 308 **2.5 Air Quality Simulations**

309         The CMAQ model version 4.7.1 was employed to simulate the potential impact of  
310 climate change on surface ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> over the CONUS at 36 km horizontal grid  
311 spacing and covering 18 vertical layers from the surface up to 100 mb. The model  
312 configuration included the use of the SAPRC99 chemical mechanism and version 5 of  
313 the aerosol module.

314 Using the framework components described above, a matrix of CMAQ  
315 simulations that included changes in predicted meteorological conditions and potential  
316 emission scenarios was constructed (Table 1). For each set of simulations shown in  
317 Table 1, five representative summers were modeled. Simulation 0 represents the base  
318 case simulation, where all model inputs are set to current decade conditions.  
319 Simulation 1 is used to investigate the impact of climate change alone; where all model  
320 inputs are set to current decade conditions except for meteorology (biogenic emissions  
321 are not allowed to change with the future climate for this case). Simulation 2 is the  
322 same as Simulation 1, except that biogenic emissions are allowed to change with the  
323 future climate, and in Simulation 3 future land use is also incorporated into the biogenic  
324 emission estimates. Simulation 4 is used to investigate the impact of future decade US  
325 anthropogenic emissions, where all inputs are set to current decade levels except for  
326 US anthropogenic emissions. The impact of future global emissions is investigated in  
327 Simulation 5, and Simulation 6 represents the combined impacts of Simulations 1-5.

## 328 **2.6 Evaluation of Model Performance**

329 To aid in summarizing model results, the 36 km domain was divided  
330 geographically into 7 regions (Figure 3, lower right). Since the WRF simulations used to  
331 drive CMAQ are based on a climate realization rather than reanalysis data, a direct  
332 comparison between the modeled output and observations cannot be made. Instead,  
333 the frequency distributions of simulated and observed values are compared. For the  
334 simulated meteorological fields, daily maximum temperature, and daily precipitation are  
335 compared against a decade of summer observations (1995 to 2004) from the United

336 States Historical Climatological Network (US-HCN; [http://cdiac.ornl.gov/ftp/ushcn\\_daily/](http://cdiac.ornl.gov/ftp/ushcn_daily/);  
337 Karl et al., 1990) in Figure 4. The model distributions of temperature and precipitation  
338 agree reasonably well with the observations, and provide a good representation of the  
339 regional variability of precipitation and temperature. Except for the Northwest and  
340 Southwest regions, the observed mean and maximum temperatures are slightly over  
341 predicted. However, for all analyzed regions the model successfully simulates the  
342 seasonal trend of summer temperatures, showing the observed increase in mean  
343 temperature from June to July and subsequent decrease in mean temperature from July  
344 to August (not shown).

345         The modeled daily maximum 8 hr ozone concentrations (DM8O) from the five  
346 representative summers (Figure 5) from the current decade CMAQ simulations  
347 (Simulation 0 in Table 1) were compared to the range of observations from the AIRNow  
348 network (<http://airnow.gov/>). As seen in Figure 5, DM8O tends to be over-estimated in  
349 regions where temperature maxima is also over predicted, such as the South, Midwest,  
350 Southeast and Northeast. Except for the less populated Central region, DM8O shows a  
351 bias that ranges between +10 ppb (+15%) and +25 ppb (+37%) across the domain. This  
352 is consistent with previous climate downscaled results by Tagaris et al. (2007), who  
353 found a bias of +15% and with Avise et al. (2009) who found regional biases as high as  
354 +39%. Despite the bias, results from the modeling framework presented here have been  
355 shown to accurately represent the correlation between ozone and temperature at rural  
356 CASTNET sites throughout the US (Avise et al., 2012).

357 Simulations for the current decade show a mean DM8O of  $66 \pm 20$  ppb (standard  
358 deviation between simulated DM8O for the five summers), while the observed average  
359 at the AIRNow sites was  $53 \pm 19$  ppb. Simulations successfully captured the enhanced  
360 DM8O concentrations over the major urban areas and regions with high biogenic  
361 sources (Figure 10, top). Variability of the simulated DM8O concentrations between  
362 summers is on the order of 10% (not shown) in highly populated areas and down to 1%  
363 in less populated areas, with the greatest variability found in the Northeast region.

364 Simulated concentrations of current decade  $PM_{2.5}$  ( $PM_{2.5}$  with no water content,  
365 unless otherwise specified) show a five summer average of  $5.6 \pm 0.7 \mu g m^{-3}$ , compared  
366 to  $14.3 \pm 9.2 \mu g m^{-3}$  observed at the Speciation Trends Network (STN; US EPA, 2000).  
367 Simulated  $PM_{2.5}$  show the highest concentrations occurring inland of coastal regions  
368 and throughout the Northeast and Southeast (Figure 11, top).

369 In general, the model underestimates the concentrations of  $PM_{2.5}$  across most  
370 regions by between 25% in the Midwest to more than 50% in the Central region.  
371 Underestimation of  $PM_{2.5}$  in CMAQ has been documented as a result of several factors  
372 including an underprediction of  $SO_4^{2-}$ , a lack of windblown dust emissions, and an  
373 underestimation of Secondary Organic Aerosol (SOA) formation (Carlton et al., 2010;  
374 Foley et al., 2010; Appel et al., 2012; Luo et al., 2011). In our study, when comparing to  
375 the STN data, we found an underestimation of all species, including  $SO_4^{2-}$  and total  
376 carbon (Organic Carbon + Elemental [Black] Carbon), except for the un-speciated  $PM_{2.5}$   
377 species (also known as PM "other"). Nevertheless, when comparing the average  
378 fractional composition we found a slight overestimation of the  $SO_4^{2-}$  fraction for most

379 regions (Figure 6, top panel). Most regions were also found to underestimate the  $\text{NO}_3^-$   
380 and  $\text{NH}_4^+$  fractions. Low concentrations of  $\text{NH}_4^+$  relative to  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  result in a sulfate-rich  
381 system, where aerosols are dominated by aqueous phase  $\text{HSO}_4^-$  and  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and have  
382 lower concentrations of  $(\text{NH}_4)_2\text{SO}_4$  and  $\text{NH}_4\text{NO}_3$  (Fountoukis and Nenes, 2007; Kim et  
383 al., 1993; Sienfield and Pandis, 2006). Further discussion of the response of the  
384 inorganic aerosol system to global changes is provided in Section 3.4.

385         When compared to STN data (Figure 6, top panel), we found a large  
386 underestimation of the fraction of organic carbon in all regions, while the unspecified  
387 fraction was over-predicted. The unspecified fraction in CMAQ is composed of all the  
388 non-carbon atoms associated with the OC fraction, unspecified direct  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  emissions,  
389 and other trace species (Foley et al., 2010). The underprediction in OC reflects the  
390 uncertainties in precursor sources and the SOA formation mechanisms which have  
391 been previously documented (e.g., Carlton et al., 2010; Foley et al., 2010).

392         Speciated  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  model performance using mean fractional error (MFE) and mean  
393 fractional bias (MFB) statistics for the major  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  components as suggested by Boylan  
394 and Russell (2006) was performed (Figure 6, middle and bottom panels). The majority  
395 of the speciated components show MFE and MFB within the criteria threshold for most  
396 regions. Furthermore, the model performance was within these guidelines for  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  in  
397 four of the seven regions, and only in the Central region did the model not meet these  
398 guidelines. Similarly,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$ ,  $\text{NO}_3^-$ ,  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and unspecified fractions meet the benchmark  
399 thresholds for model performance in most regions. In terms of the unspecified fraction,  
400 the better model performance in most regions is due to the heavy contribution to the

401 total mass of the PM<sub>2.5</sub>. For the SO<sub>4</sub><sup>2-</sup>-NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup>-NH<sub>4</sub><sup>+</sup> system, the values for the MFE and  
402 MFB indicate that the model performed sufficiently well in responding to the conditions  
403 that drive inorganic aerosol formation. These values increase the confidence about the  
404 response to global changes in the system. In the case of OC and EC, poor model  
405 performance was found, with concentrations largely underpredicted for all regions.

### 406 **3. Results and Discussion**

#### 407 **3.1 Projected Changes in Meteorology**

408 Projected changes in selected meteorological parameters are shown in Figure 7.  
409 Except for some minor cooling along the Pacific coast, mean summer temperature  
410 across the continental US is projected to increase between 0.5 and 4°C (Figure 7a).  
411 This increase falls within the lower bound of the warming predicted by the ensemble of  
412 20 GCM's under the A1B emission scenario described by Christensen et al., (2007), but  
413 differs in the regional variability due to the higher resolution of our simulations. When  
414 compared to similar studies of equal resolution using a GCM (e.g. Goddard Institute for  
415 Space Studies, GISS II) driven by the A1B IPCC emission scenario and downscaled  
416 with MM5 to 36-km resolution, our simulated temperatures show higher temperature  
417 differences between future and current decades (Leung and Gustafson, 2005; Tagaris  
418 et al., 2007). Furthermore, Tagaris et al. (2007) and Leung and Gustafson (2005)  
419 predicted an average increase between 1 and 3 °C for most of the domain, and  
420 temperature reductions in the border states of the Central and South regions.  
421 Nevertheless, despite the differences in physical parameterizations contained in the  
422 GCMs and the driving IPCC emission scenarios that were used, similar temperature

423 differences (2 to 4 °C) between our study and previous investigations were simulated for  
424 the Northeast and Southeast regions (Leung and Gustaffson, 2005; Tagaris et al., 2007;  
425 Avise et al., 2009).

426         Projected changes in precipitation across the US vary depending on the region.  
427 With the exception of the Northwest and the northern boundary of the Central region,  
428 summertime precipitation is projected to decrease between -10% and -80%. The largest  
429 decrease is projected in the Southwest region. Our results show greater precipitation  
430 reductions than those presented in Christensen et al., (2007) who predicted between a -  
431 5 to -15% decreases in the South and Southwest regions. Also, previous investigations  
432 agreed with our predicted mean precipitation reductions across the domain (Figure 7c).  
433 In the Northwest, the modeled increase in precipitation is also consistent with Leung  
434 and Gustafson (2005), who projected an increase in precipitation throughout the  
435 Northwest region. In contrast, the Southeast and Northeast regions show disparities in  
436 the magnitude and the sign of the change in precipitation. While our simulations predict  
437 a reduction in precipitation between -10 to -20%, the ensemble of 20 GCM's predicted  
438 an increase between 5 to 10% across the same regions. The disparity may be a result  
439 of the differences in resolution and parameterization schemes between our study and  
440 those used for the 20 GCM's.

441         Projected increases in solar radiation reaching the ground also vary by region. A  
442 decrease in solar radiation in the Northwest that extends to the northern boundaries of  
443 the Central regions is simulated. Small changes in the Southwest, South and Midwest  
444 are also predicted, with the largest increase experienced in the Northeast and

445 Southeast regions (Figure 7b). Similar results for the Northeast regions are reported for  
446 previous investigations (Leung and Gustafson, 2005; Tagaris et al., 2007, and Avise et  
447 al., 2009). However, these same investigations had higher reductions at the border  
448 between the Central and South regions.

449 Changes in relative humidity are shown in Figure 7d. Relative humidity is  
450 predicted to decrease in most of the domain except for the regions where decreases in  
451 solar radiation were projected. The greater decrease in relative humidity occurs in the  
452 Southwest and Central regions of the domain, and the largest increase is observed in  
453 the Northwest region.

### 454 **3.2 Changes in Biogenic Emissions**

455 The only region that is projected to have reduced total BVOC emissions is the  
456 Northwest, where, despite the increase in monoterpenes, a 7% reduction in isoprene  
457 (Figure 3) is simulated. The reduction in isoprene emissions is a result of the decrease  
458 in temperatures in areas where the higher emissions are encountered (Figure 7).

459 Furthermore, despite having the biggest increase in monoterpenes in the Central  
460 and South regions, the larger increase in isoprene for the Midwest, followed by the  
461 Northeast, Southeast, South, Central and Southwest regions, drives the increase in total  
462 BVOC. The increase in BVOC ranges between 17% and 45%. Previous investigations  
463 (Liao et al., 2006, Nolte et al., 2008) show the greatest increase in BVOC emissions in  
464 the Southeast region (10-50%). Similarly, Leung and Gustafson (2005) predicted the

465 greatest increase in BVOC in the Southeast, but did not show any significant changes in  
466 the Northwest region.

467 Average summertime isoprene emissions over five summers of simulation for  
468 each decade are shown in Figure 8a. As expected, isoprene emissions occur at  
469 relatively high rates (>50 metric tons/day) in the eastern US and at much lower rates in  
470 the western US (<10 metric tons/day). When the emissions are projected to future  
471 climate conditions with current land use distributions, isoprene emissions are projected  
472 to increase across the domain (average increase of about 30%; Figure 8b) with the  
473 most noticeable increases occurring in the Northeast and Southeast regions. However,  
474 when future climate is combined with future land use, there are still increases in the  
475 eastern US, but the spatial extent of the increase is reduced, reflecting the expansion of  
476 low isoprene-emitting croplands into regions of high isoprene-emitting deciduous  
477 forests. In this case, the domain-average increase was approximately 12% of current  
478 decade emissions, compared with a 25% increase when changes in land use are not  
479 included (Figure 9a). Thus, future expansion of cropland and subsequent reduction of  
480 broadleaf forested lands are projected to lessen the overall increase in US isoprene  
481 emissions that result from a warmer climate. Future monoterpene emission estimates  
482 increase because of higher across the domain. Since the version of MEGAN used in  
483 this work does not include the suppression of isoprene emissions due to elevated  
484 concentrations of CO<sub>2</sub> (Rosenstiel et al., 2003; Heald et al., 2009), the future estimates  
485 in this study are likely to be an upper bound on isoprene emissions, and it is likely that  
486 future isoprene emissions will be lower than predicted by this work. Monoterpene

487 emissions from US landscapes are not expected to be suppressed by increasing CO<sub>2</sub>  
488 and so are not impacted by omitting this process.

489         When the future decade meteorology is combined with future land use (Figure  
490 9b), an increase of over 100% of current decade monoterpene emissions is predicted.  
491 The growth is most noticeable in the Central, South and Midwest regions. Also, an  
492 overall increase between 25% and 50% for the Western and Eastern regions is  
493 predicted. This limited increase is primarily driven by the projected changes in land use  
494 predicted for those regions.

### 495 **3.3 Effects of Global Changes upon Ozone Concentrations**

496         Results for how the various global changes affect DM8O are summarized in  
497 Table 2 and Figure 10. Simulations for the future decade (Simulation 6) show higher  
498 DM8O across the domain than the current decade simulation (Simulation 0) with a  
499 domain average of  $51 \pm 10$  ppb. In general, increases in DM8O are due to growing  
500 global anthropogenic emissions and climate change, while decreasing US emissions  
501 reduce DM8O. Changes in biogenic emissions as a result of a changing climate and  
502 land use have less of an influence on DM8O; the influence can be either positive or  
503 negative depending on the region. These various factors are discussed in the following  
504 sections.

#### 505 **3.3.1 Contributions from Changes in Global and Regional Anthropogenic** 506 **Emissions**

507         The effects of increased long-range transport of emissions from Asia and Mexico  
508 are shown in Figure 10f. The changes in chemical boundary conditions (the difference

509 between Simulations 0 and 5 in Table 1) increase DM8O between 2 to 6 ppb across the  
510 CONUS domain. The general west-to-east gradient of the change in DM8O reflects  
511 intercontinental transport of ozone and its precursors from the west. The greatest  
512 impact is predicted in the South (6 ppb) and Southwest (4 ppb) regions. These results  
513 are consistent with Avise et al., (2009) who showed increases between 3 and 6 ppb of  
514 DM8O across the domain, with the greatest increase in the Southwest and South  
515 regions. The effects of future global emissions and intercontinental transport of ozone  
516 precursors in the continental US have also been investigated by Hogrefe et al. (2004),  
517 who predicted an increase of 5 ppb in the Northeast region under the A2 IPCC emission  
518 scenario.

519 Changes in regional US emissions of ozone precursors (difference between  
520 Simulations 0 and 4) reduce DM8O concentrations between 2 and 15 ppb across the  
521 domain. Larger reductions are observed in the Northeast (-15 ppb) and Southwest (-10  
522 ppb) regions (Figure 10e). Similar results are shown in Nolte et al., (2008) and Tagaris  
523 et al., (2007) despite a difference in the magnitude of projected emissions reductions.  
524 Tagaris et al., (2007) simulated similar ozone reductions (about 9%), with a higher  
525 nationwide reduction of 51% in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and a slight increase (about 2%) in VOC  
526 emissions from A1B projections based on the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) emission  
527 inventory. Nolte et al., (2008) showed a decrease in ozone across the domain (-12 to -  
528 16 ppb) as a result of projected reductions of 45% for NO<sub>x</sub> and 21% for VOC emissions  
529 from the NEI 2002, following the A1B IPCC emission scenario. In contrast, our future  
530 simulations included a 21% reduction in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions and a slight increase (about

531 2%) in VOC emissions. Avise et al., (2009) predicted an average contribution of +3 ppb  
532 across the domain as a result of projecting the NEI 1999 (NEI-1999) with the Economic  
533 Growth Analysis System (EGAS) and the A2 IPCC emission scenario; increasing  
534 emissions by 5% for NO<sub>x</sub> and 50% for VOCs in the future.

### 535 **3.3.2 Contributions from Changes in Meteorological Fields**

536 Figure 10d shows the difference between simulations that include changes in  
537 meteorological conditions (without the effect of biogenic emissions or land use) and the  
538 current decade base case (Simulations 0 and 1). The greater reductions in DM8O  
539 concentrations resulted from an increase in cloud cover, and a reduction in  
540 photochemistry due to lower solar radiation reaching the ground (Figure 10b), similar to  
541 the results of Jacob and Winner, 2009. Nevertheless, increases in DM8O  
542 concentrations were projected (+5 ppb) because increases in temperature had a greater  
543 impact on the ozone chemistry; this is particularly evident in the Midwest, Northeast and  
544 Southeast regions.

### 545 **3.3.3 Contributions from Changes in Biogenic Emissions and Future Land Use**

546 When biogenic emissions are allowed to change with the future meteorology, an  
547 average increase of DM8O with respect to the current decade base case simulations is  
548 predicted (Simulations 0 and 3). Increases of as much as 7 ppb in DM8O  
549 concentrations are mainly predicted in areas with substantial biogenic sources (Figure  
550 10c). Similar results are shown by Leung and Gustafson (2005) and Tagaris et al.  
551 (2007), both predicted an increase of DM8O above 5 ppb in the east coast. Simulated  
552 reductions between 2 to 4 ppb of DM8O in the coastal areas of the western regions are  
553 probably due to cooler temperatures and increased cloud cover. Minor changes in

554 DM8O concentrations are shown over the Southwest and Northwest regions. This is in  
555 agreement with Avise et al. (2009) and Leung and Gustafson (2005) who predicted  
556 reductions in DM8O concentrations from 1 to 4 ppb in the western regions, while  
557 Tagaris et al. (2007) also predicted similar reductions in ozone in the Central and  
558 Midwest regions. The disparities between this investigation and Avise et al. (2009) are  
559 reasonable due to the different climate realizations used (A2 vs. A1B; Storyline in  
560 scenario A2 consider higher emissions of CO<sub>2</sub> by 2050 than the scenario A1B).  
561 However, the difference in geographical features of ozone changes with Leung and  
562 Gustafson (2005) and Tagaris et al. (2007) suggests that the source of disparities  
563 resides in both the climate realization and the methods used to estimate emissions from  
564 biogenic sources.

565         When the results from Simulation 2 are compared to the climate-only simulations  
566 (Simulation 1, Fig. 10b), our results suggest that changes in the meteorological fields  
567 are the main driver of DM8O enhancement in Simulations 2 and 3 (Fig. 10 c and d)  
568 across the domain. The change in biogenic emissions leads to an increase in the VOC  
569 to NO<sub>x</sub> ratio relative to the climate-only (Simulation 1). This decrease between the  
570 Simulation 2 and Simulation 1 in our simulated DM8O suggests that the effect of  
571 sequestration of ozone precursors by the biogenic VOCs is predominant over the effect  
572 of recycling of isoprene nitrates considered in SAPRC99. A similar effect was reported  
573 by Xie, et al. (2012), who simulated an increase of 2 ppb of ozone when sequestration  
574 by isoprene nitrates was reduced in the chemical mechanism. Furthermore, when land  
575 use changes are included along with biogenic emissions (Simulation 3), the increase in

576 VOC to NO<sub>x</sub> ratio is reduced and less depletion in DM8O is simulated, thus, higher  
577 concentrations of DM8O than the Simulation 2 are also observed. This lower VOC to  
578 NO<sub>x</sub> ratio is due to the increase in soil NO associated with the land use change from  
579 natural vegetation to cropland.

### 580 **3.3.4 Contributions from Combined Global Change to Future Changes in DM8O** 581 **Concentrations**

582 When the combined global changes are considered (Simulation 6), DM8O is  
583 projected to increase in nearly all regions except along the western and eastern  
584 coastlines and inland areas of those regions. Increases of DM8O between 4 to 12 ppb  
585 in the South, Central and Midwest regions are shown along with reductions of 4 ppb in  
586 parts of the Southwest and Northwest regions (Figure 10g). The increase in DM8O is  
587 mostly due to an increase in global emissions of ozone precursors from the semi-  
588 hemispheric domain (Figure 10f). The other contributing factors to increasing DM8O are  
589 a combination of changed meteorology (Figure 10b) and higher BVOC emissions (with  
590 current and future land use; Figure 10c,d). Reductions in DM8O in the urban areas  
591 resulted generally from reductions in ozone precursors from regional anthropogenic  
592 sources (Figure 10e). However, in the western regions, lower DM8O are the result of a  
593 combination of favorable meteorological conditions (e.g. reduction in temperature and  
594 solar radiation reaching the ground) and reductions in regional ozone precursors.

### 595 **3.4 Effects of Global Changes upon PM<sub>2.5</sub> Concentrations**

596 Results for how the various global changes affect PM<sub>2.5</sub> composition and  
597 concentrations are summarized in Tables 3-5 and Figure 11. Overall, reductions in US  
598 anthropogenic emissions have the largest impact on PM<sub>2.5</sub>, with a reduction in

599 concentration in all regions. Changes in global emissions generally lead to increases in  
600  $PM_{2.5}$  in the western US, while changes in the climate and biogenic emissions can lead  
601 to both increases and decreases in  $PM_{2.5}$  depending on the region.

### 602 **3.4.1 Contribution to $PM_{2.5}$ Concentrations from Changes in Global and Regional** 603 **Anthropogenic Emissions**

604 Due to the relatively short atmospheric lifetime of PM, the effects from long-range  
605 transport and increasing Asian emissions on US  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations are relatively  
606 small in comparison to the current decade  $PM_{2.5}$  concentrations (Figure 11f). Similar  
607 results are shown in Avise et al. (2009), who predicted a change of less than  $1 \mu\text{gm}^{-3}$  as  
608 a result of changes in future chemical boundary conditions. However, when the  
609 chemical composition is analyzed, simulations show an increase in aerosol nitrate ( $\text{NO}_3^-$   
610 ) in the Northwest, South, and Southwest regions (Table 2) as a result of increased  $\text{NO}_x$   
611 emissions from Asia and Mexico. In contrast, Avise et al. (2009) predicted no change in  
612  $\text{NO}_3^-$  for the same regions. Furthermore, Avise et al. (2009) showed higher  
613 concentrations (by 7% to 25%) of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  for the same regions resulting from higher  
614 global  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions. Changes in global anthropogenic emissions cause reductions in  
615 SOA in the Southwest, Central, South, and Southeast regions and an increase in the  
616 Northwest, Midwest and Northeast Regions (Table 4). However, the simulated changes  
617 in SOA are very small and the variation is probably due to small differences in modeled  
618 OH radical concentrations.

619 In the US, reductions in regional  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions from regulatory  
620 curtailment result in a significant reduction of  $PM_{2.5}$  in urban areas. The greatest  
621 decrease, between 4 to  $6 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$ , is found in the Midwest and Northeast regions (Figure

622 11e). Similar results are shown in Tagaris et al. (2007), who predicted a decrease of  
623 23% as a result of decreasing emissions. In contrast, Avise et al. (2009) predicted an  
624 average increase of  $3 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  across the domain as a result of increasing  $\text{NO}_x$  and  $\text{SO}_2$   
625 from anthropogenic sources. Concentrations of SOA show an insignificant change as a  
626 result of changes in anthropogenic emissions in the US. Similar to the scenario that  
627 included changes in global anthropogenic emissions, these changes in SOA  
628 concentrations are the result of small variations in the oxidant concentrations (Table 4).

629 In terms of the inorganic  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ , reductions in  $\text{SO}_2$  and  $\text{NO}_x$  emissions in the US  
630 result in less than 5% decrease in  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  in most regions except for the Northwest and  
631 Southwest, for which a slight increase of 1.5% is predicted (Table 3). Due to higher  
632 emissions of  $\text{NH}_3$ , more sulfate aerosol is likely to be present in the form of ammonium  
633 sulfate. When compared to Tagaris et al. (2007), our investigation shows a lower  
634 reduction in  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations as a result of smaller reduction in  $\text{SO}_2$  emissions from  
635 anthropogenic sources.

### 636 **3.4.2 Contribution to $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ concentrations from global climate change alone**

637 Despite the effect of precipitation on PM loading, as it washes out the precursors  
638 and the existing PM from the atmosphere (Seinfeld and Pandis, 2006), the effect of  
639 climate change alone (with no change to biogenic emissions) on total  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$   
640 concentrations over land is insignificant (Figure 11b). However, the change in  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$   
641 composition due to climate change is highly variable and depends on changes in  
642 temperature, relative humidity and precipitation. Increases in reaction rate constants of  
643  $\text{SO}_2$  and higher oxidant concentrations from increased temperature and solar insolation

644 lead to an increase in aerosol sulfate formed and thus are correlated with changes in  
645  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  concentrations (Dawson et al., 2007). Relative humidity and temperature affect  
646 the thermodynamic equilibrium of  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}\text{-NH}_4^+\text{-NO}_3^-$ , especially the partitioning of  $\text{HNO}_3$   
647 between the gas and particulate phases.

648 For all regions, except for the Northwest, sulfate concentrations are predicted to  
649 increase by 3-8%. This change in concentrations is consistent with decreased  
650 precipitation, which reduces wet deposition. Increases in temperature and solar  
651 insolation, which increase radical production rates, increases the oxidation of  $\text{SO}_2$  to  
652 produce aerosol sulfate. The same increase in temperature leads to nitrate being more  
653 volatile and thus decreases aerosol nitrate concentrations in all regions where sulfate  
654 concentrations are predicted to increase. An exception is in the Southwest, where  
655 sulfate, nitrate, and ammonium are all predicted to increase, likely due to the effect of a  
656 substantial decrease in precipitation (>60%). For the same regions where  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  is  
657 projected to increase, higher concentrations of radicals also lead to higher oxidation of  
658 VOC, thus increasing SOA concentrations in the same regions.

659 Reduced relative humidity in addition to an increase in temperature leads to  
660 decreased partitioning of ammonia to ammonium aerosol. This reduction is observed in  
661 most of the domain, except for the Northwest region and the northern boundary of the  
662 Central region where relative humidity is predicted to increase.

663 While increasing precipitation is generally associated with decreasing  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ ,  
664 results here for the urban and coastal areas in the Northwest and Southwest showed a

665 small increase in  $PM_{2.5}$  despite an increase in precipitation (Figure 11b). This suggests  
666 the effects of slightly colder temperature and higher relative humidity in this region,  
667 leading to an enhanced formation of  $(NH_4)NO_3$  (Table 3). Higher concentrations of  
668  $(NH_4)NO_3$ , in addition to higher concentrations of SOA (Table 4), appear to dominate  
669 over the effect of precipitation.

### 670 **3.4.3 Contribution to $PM_{2.5}$ concentrations from changes in biogenic emissions** 671 **and future land use**

672 Simulations that consider projected climate change as well as the associated  
673 change in biogenic emissions (Simulation 2) show an increase in  $PM_{2.5}$  between 0.5  
674 and  $2 \mu g m^{-3}$ . These changes are mainly reflected in areas with high biogenic sources  
675 (Figures 11c and 11d). When the effects of future land use are considered (Simulation  
676 3), an increase in the geographical extent of  $PM_{2.5}$  is observed in comparison to the  
677 climate and biogenic emissions case, and higher increases (up to  $2 \mu g m^{-3}$ ) of  $PM_{2.5}$  are  
678 predicted in parts of the Midwest, South and Northeast regions. This is primarily due to  
679 the increase in emissions of sesquiterpenes and monoterpenes (Figure 9b), leading to  
680 more SOA being formed.

681 In terms of the inorganic components of  $PM_{2.5}$ , the effect of climate change is still  
682 the predominant factor for the change in  $SO_4^{2-}$  concentrations across the domain (Table  
683 3). The increase in  $SO_4^{2-}$  is less in comparison to the climate-only case due to the  
684 competition between BVOC and  $SO_2$  for the availability of OH, which is an oxidant for  
685 both. Additionally, more pronounced decreases in  $NO_3^-$  are observed in the South,  
686 Northeast and Southwest than in the climate-only simulation. This is mainly due to the  
687 formation of organic nitrates in the presence of increased VOC, leading to a reduction in

688 the formation of  $\text{HNO}_3$  (not shown) that can condense to form aerosol  $\text{NO}_3^-$ . In contrast,  
689 the Southwest and Northwest regions experience an increase in  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$   
690 concentrations in the same amount as the climate-only case, which suggests that  
691 changes in both species are mostly driven by the changes in the meteorological fields.

692 SOA concentrations are predicted to increase as a result of higher emissions of  
693 BVOC across the domain. Furthermore, when climate change and biogenic emissions  
694 are combined with future land use, concentrations of SOA are predicted to increase up  
695 to 121% in the Central region and up to 188% in the Southeast due to increased  
696 monoterpene, and sesquiterpene emissions (not shown).

#### 697 **3.4.4 Changes in Precursors and $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ Concentrations from the Combined Global** 698 **Changes**

699 Table 5 shows the summary of changes to  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  as a result of the individual and  
700 combined global changes presented above. The differences in  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  between the future  
701 decade and current decade base case are greater in the eastern half of the US  
702 compared to the western half. In the eastern half of the US, the largest increases in  
703  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  occur in the Southeast (with the exception of Florida, which shows a decrease),  
704 while the Northeast region exhibits the largest decrease. Our results show that the 0.5  
705 to  $2 \mu\text{g m}^{-3}$  increase in  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  in the Southeast region is dominated by higher  
706 concentrations of SOA due to increased biogenic emissions as a result of climate  
707 change (Figure 11c) and changes in land use (Figure 11d; Table 4). Table 3 indicates  
708 that with the exception of the Northwest region, which experienced a reduction in  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$   
709 due to decreased temperature, regions with a predicted decrease in inorganic  $\text{PM}_{2.5}$  are  
710 dominated by reductions in  $\text{NH}_4^+$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$ . These reductions in inorganic aerosol

711 concentrations result from the combined effects of changes in weather patterns and  
712 reductions in regional anthropogenic precursors.

#### 713 **4. Conclusions**

714 We have investigated the individual and combined contributions of factors that  
715 impact US air quality by dynamically downscaling future climate projections using the  
716 WRF model and using the regional chemical transport model CMAQ version 4.7.1.  
717 Decreases in future US anthropogenic ozone and PM<sub>2.5</sub> precursor emissions are the  
718 only consistently positive influences (reduced concentrations) on air quality in the US.  
719 However, in the case of ozone, that effect is offset by 1) changes in long range transport  
720 and increasing Asian and Mexican emissions, which have a negative impact on air  
721 quality across the domain; 2) climate changes (namely, increased temperatures and  
722 solar radiation) which increase ozone concentrations in the Central, South, Midwest,  
723 and East regions of the domain; and 3) increases in US BVOC emissions which also  
724 increase ozone concentrations in regions with high biogenic emissions.

725 In the case of the overall concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, our results indicate that only  
726 the effects of increasing biogenic emissions have a negative impact on air quality by  
727 increasing PM<sub>2.5</sub> concentrations. In terms of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> composition, we show a  
728 regionally dependent mixture of inorganic aerosols and SOA. For the case of the  
729 Southeast, our findings indicate that increases in BVOC will result in higher  
730 concentrations of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. This effect extends to the Midwest and Northeast regions due  
731 to changes in land use. Furthermore, meteorological changes or regulatory curtailment,

732 as incorporated in these simulations do not offset the increasing concentrations of SOA.  
733 On the contrary, synergistic effects of changes in meteorological parameters and  
734 emission reductions will shift the composition of the inorganic fraction of PM<sub>2.5</sub> in the  
735 western US. However, an increase of NO<sub>3</sub><sup>-</sup> and SOA in the urban areas of the coastal  
736 regions of the Northwest and Southwest leads to an increase in PM<sub>2.5</sub> in those regions,  
737 apparently off-setting decreases due to increased precipitation and temperature, and  
738 reduced anthropogenic emissions.

739 In conclusion, this study suggests that the efforts to improve air quality through  
740 low emission technologies and public policy will have a major effect in heavily populated  
741 areas. However, higher global anthropogenic emissions, a warmer future world and the  
742 effects of these changes on emissions from biogenic sources will undermine those  
743 efforts. Consequently, additional measures will be necessary to improve air quality in  
744 the US.

745 Much of the modeling components used for this research carry different levels of  
746 complexity and have reached diverse stages of development, thus, subsequent  
747 research intended so asses the effect of climate change and future regional emissions  
748 upon air quality would benefit from newer versions of the emission inventories (e.g.  
749 2011); updated assumptions on the US emission projections (e.g. New versions of  
750 MARKAL with the use of the ESP 2.0 methodology); newer versions of MEGAN that  
751 takes into account the isoprene emission suppression due to CO<sub>2</sub> concentrations and;  
752 the inclusion of emissions from wildfires and the consequent effect upon air quality.

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Table 1. List of simulations to assess the effect of global climate changes upon air quality in the United States

	Climate	Biogenic Emissions		Anthropogenic Emissions	
		Climate	Land Use	US	Global
<b>0</b>	Current	Current	Current	Current	Current
<b>1</b>	<b>Future</b>	Current	Current	Current	Current
<b>2</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Future</b>	Current	Current	Current
<b>3</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Future</b>	Current	Current
<b>4</b>	Current	Current	Current	<b>Future</b>	Current
<b>5</b>	Current	Current	Current	Current	<b>Future</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Future</b>	<b>Future</b>

Table 2. Regional effects upon DM8O for each change and the combined effects. + indicates an increase in concentrations, - indicates a decrease in concentrations, ~ indicates neither increase nor decrease, +/- indicates nonhomogeneous increase or decrease.

	Boundary Conditions	US emissions	Climate	BVOC	Combined Effects
Northwest	+	-	-	+/-	+
Southwest	+	-	+/-	+/-	+/-
Central	+	-	+	+/-	+
South	+	-	+	+/-	+
Midwest	+	-	+	+/-	+
Northeast	+	-	+	+/-	+
Southeast	+	-	+	+	+/-

Table 3. Percent change in the aerosol  $\text{NH}_4^+$ ,  $\text{SO}_4^{2-}$  and  $\text{NO}_3^-$  between each future scenario and the current decade base case.

Region	Boundary Conditions	US emissions	BVOC	BVOC Future Land Use	Climate	Combined
$\text{NH}_4^+$						
Northwest	-18.8	2.3	4.9	5.3	7.7	-10
Southwest	-10.6	3.0	10.1	11.1	11.7	3.5
Central	-18.7	0.2	5.4	7.5	3.1	-9.4
South	-12.4	0.6	-20.5	-17.2	-23.1	-28.8
Midwest	-20.5	-0.9	-8.1	-3.4	-13.4	-26
Northeast	-14.2	-0.3	-11.4	-8.1	-13.3	-24.8
Southeast	-12.3	1.3	-10.1	-7.6	-10.5	-19.2
$\text{SO}_4^{2-}$						
Northwest	-4.8	1.5	-16.3	-16.2	-10.4	-18.5
Southwest	-2.1	1.5	-0.1	-0.4	4.2	-0.4
Central	-1.3	-1.4	1.3	2.7	7.7	-0.7
South	-2.1	-1.1	2.8	4.4	3.3	0.9
Midwest	-0.8	-4.9	2.0	6.8	7.9	0.9
Northeast	-0.8	-2.8	2.4	4.5	7.9	0.4
Southeast	-2.2	-1.7	4.5	6	7.1	1.8
$\text{NO}_3^-$						
Northwest	10.9	-10.5	13.2	10.5	13.3	5.2
Southwest	9	-16.9	8	8.8	8.0	-1.8
Central	-5.6	-3.5	-1.2	-1.2	-16.1	-12.6
South	16.2	-2.7	-24.5	-23.5	-20.3	-14.2
Midwest	1.7	0.8	-42.7	-39.6	-47.7	-45.0
Northeast	4.7	-20.2	-16.3	-18.5	-8.6	-29.8
Southeast	9.7	-8.7	-14.0	-18.0	-11.5	-17

Table 4 Percent change of secondary organic aerosol and primary organic carbon between each future scenario and the current decade base case.

<b>Region</b>	<b>Boundary Conditions</b>	<b>US emissions</b>	<b>BVOC</b>	<b>BVOC Future Land Use</b>	<b>Climate</b>	<b>Combined</b>
SOA						
Northwest	0.3	0.1	19.8	29.8	12.0	30.6
Southwest	-1.0	-1.3	39.3	44.4	5.6	42.5
Central	-0.8	-0.4	55.8	121.6	12.6	118.6
South	-0.4	-1.3	83.3	151.6	5.4	149.5
Midwest	0.0	-2.4	65.9	164.8	13.9	166.7
Northeast	0.1	-2.4	73.7	141.6	14.8	137.1
Southeast	-0.1	-2.3	102.4	188.0	11.5	182.8

Table 5. Regional effect upon PM<sub>2.5</sub> from each change and the combined effects. + indicates an increase in concentrations, - indicates a decrease in concentrations, ~ indicates neither increase nor decrease, +/- indicates non homogeneous increase or decrease.

	Boundary Conditions	US emissions	Climate	BVOC	Combined Effects
Northwest	~	-/+	+	-	+
Southwest	~	-/+	+	~	+/-
Central	~	~	~	+	+/-
South	~	-/+	~	+	+/-
Midwest	~	-	~	+	+/-
Northeast	~	-	~	+	+
Southeast	~	-	+/-	+	+

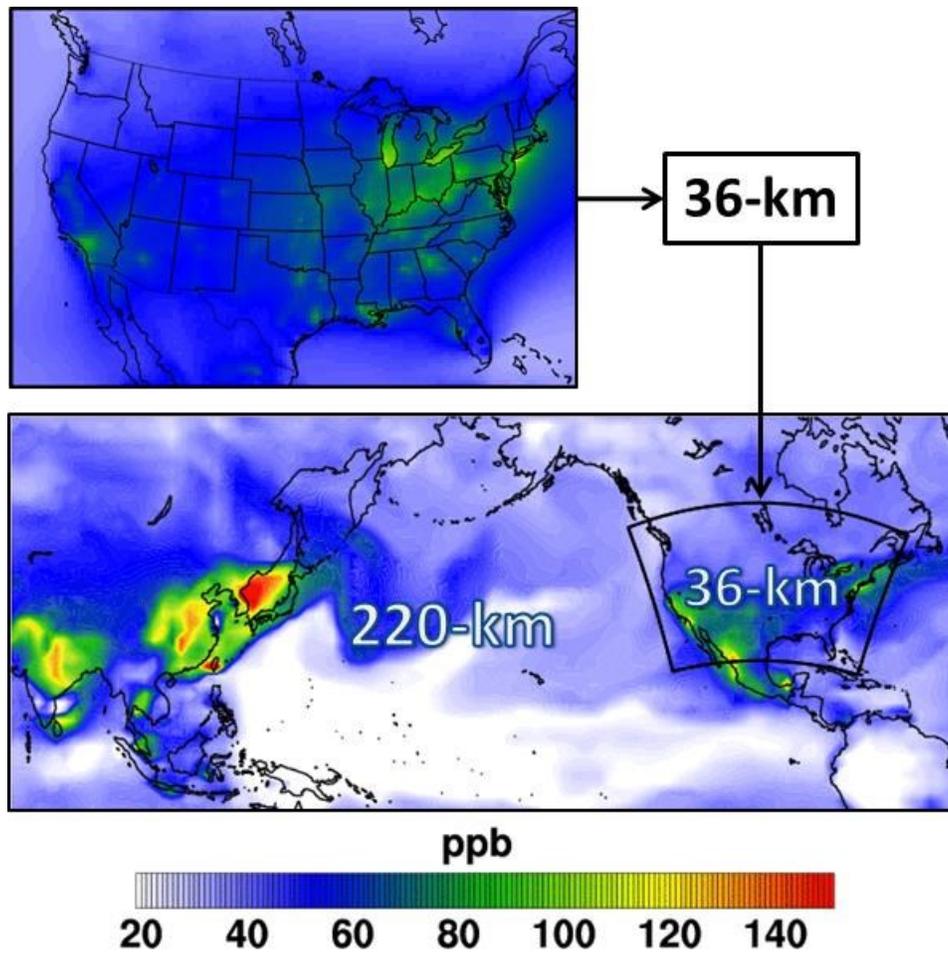


Figure 1. Projected future DM8O concentrations used to show the CMAQ modeling domains at 36 and 220 km resolutions. The 36 km modeling domain was nested inside the 220 km domain.

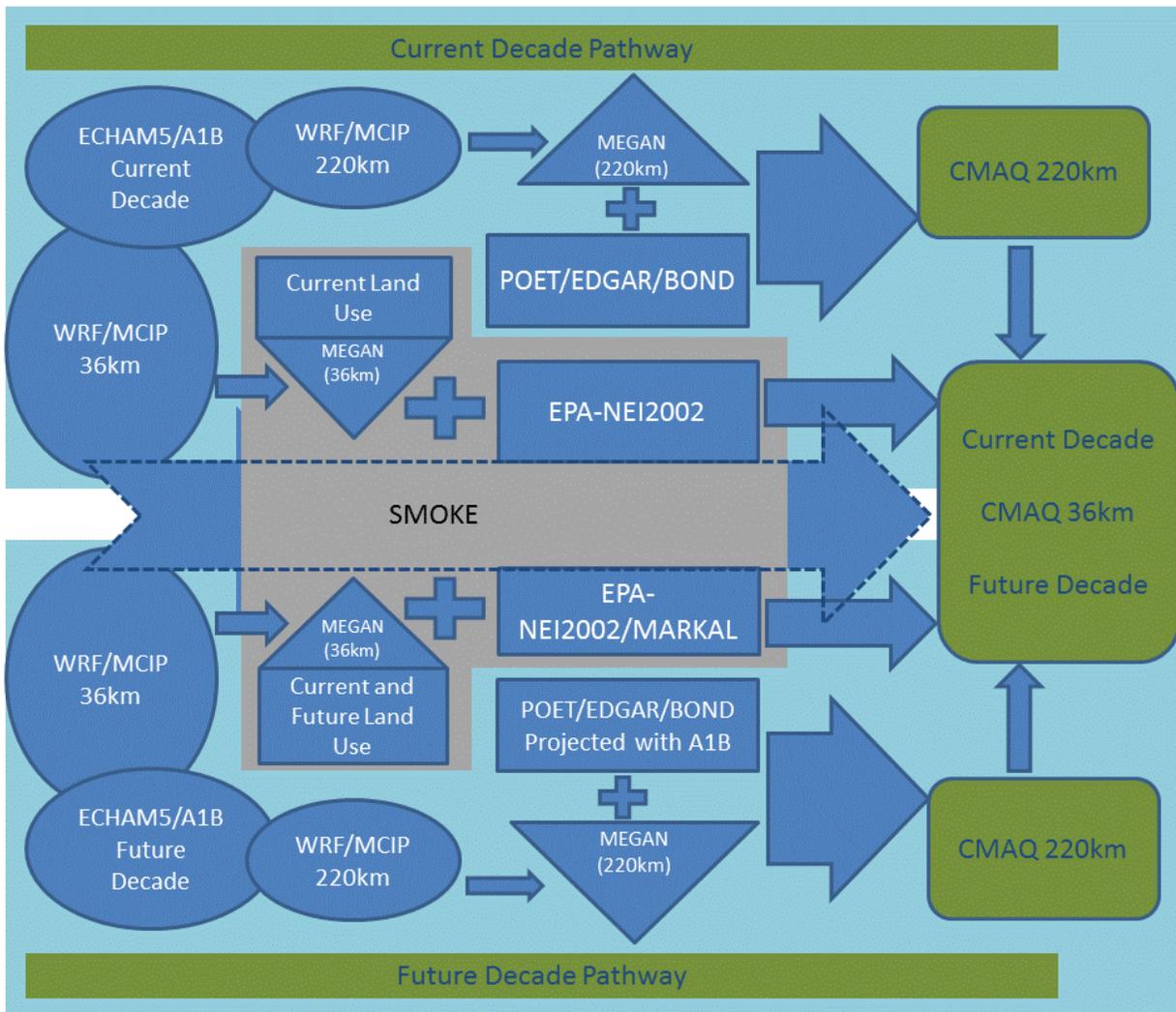


Figure 2. Schematic of the modeling framework.

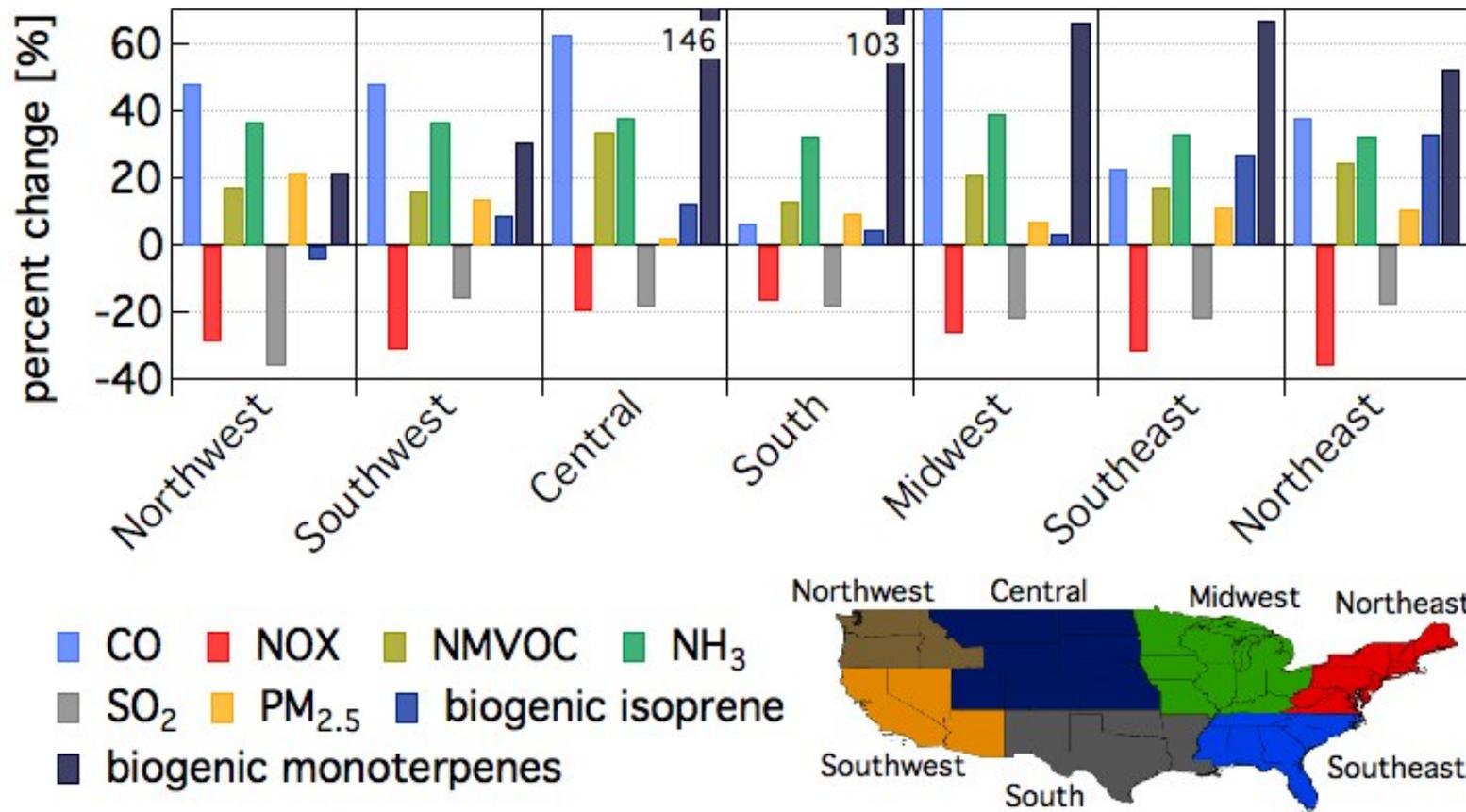


Figure 3. Summary of regional changes in US anthropogenic and biogenic emissions from future decade land use.

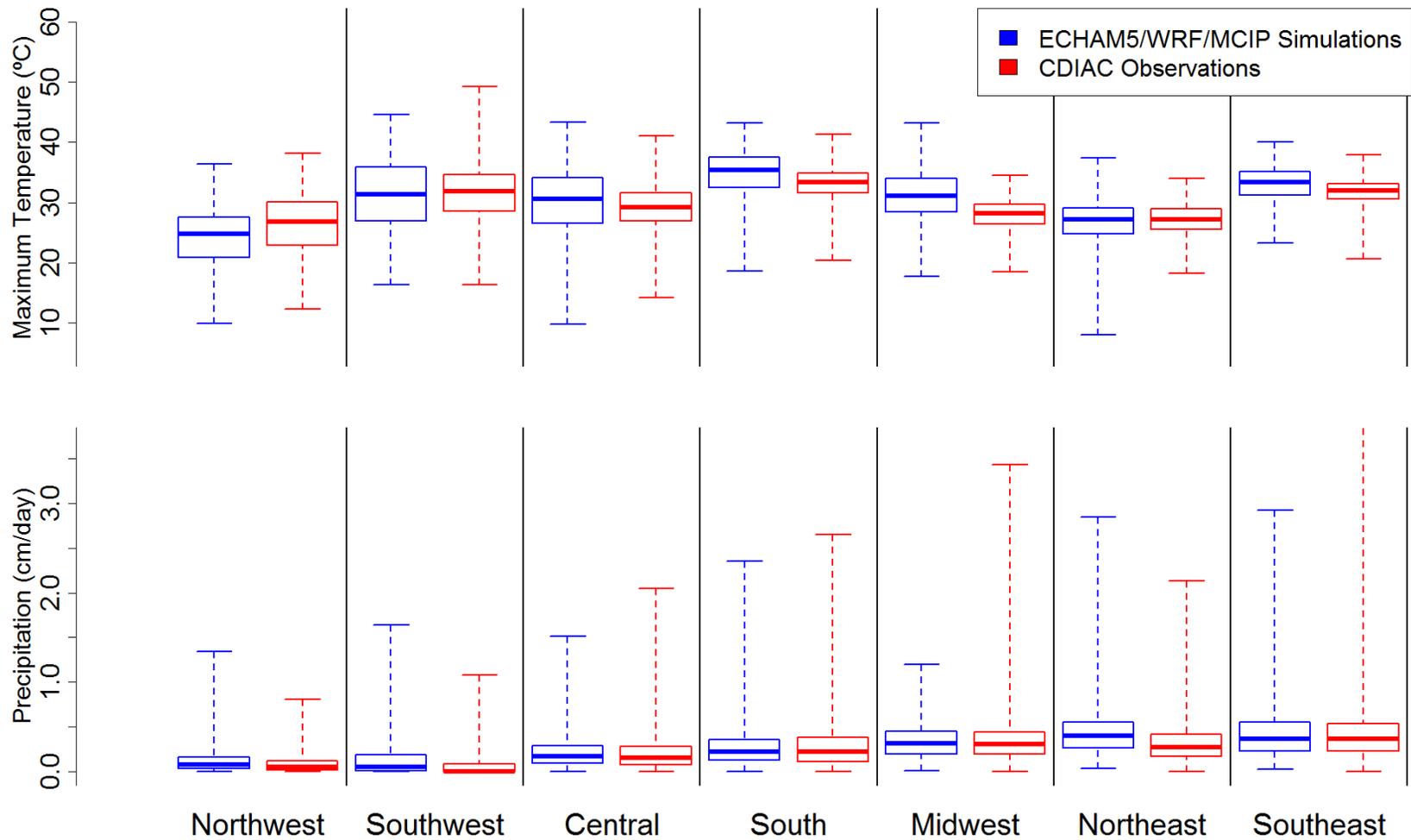


Figure 4. Comparison of modeled and observed seasonal-mean meteorological variables by region: maximum daily temperatures (top); and precipitation rates (bottom). Each box-and-whisker indicates median, 25% and 75% quartiles, maximums and minimums of the values across all sites within each region.

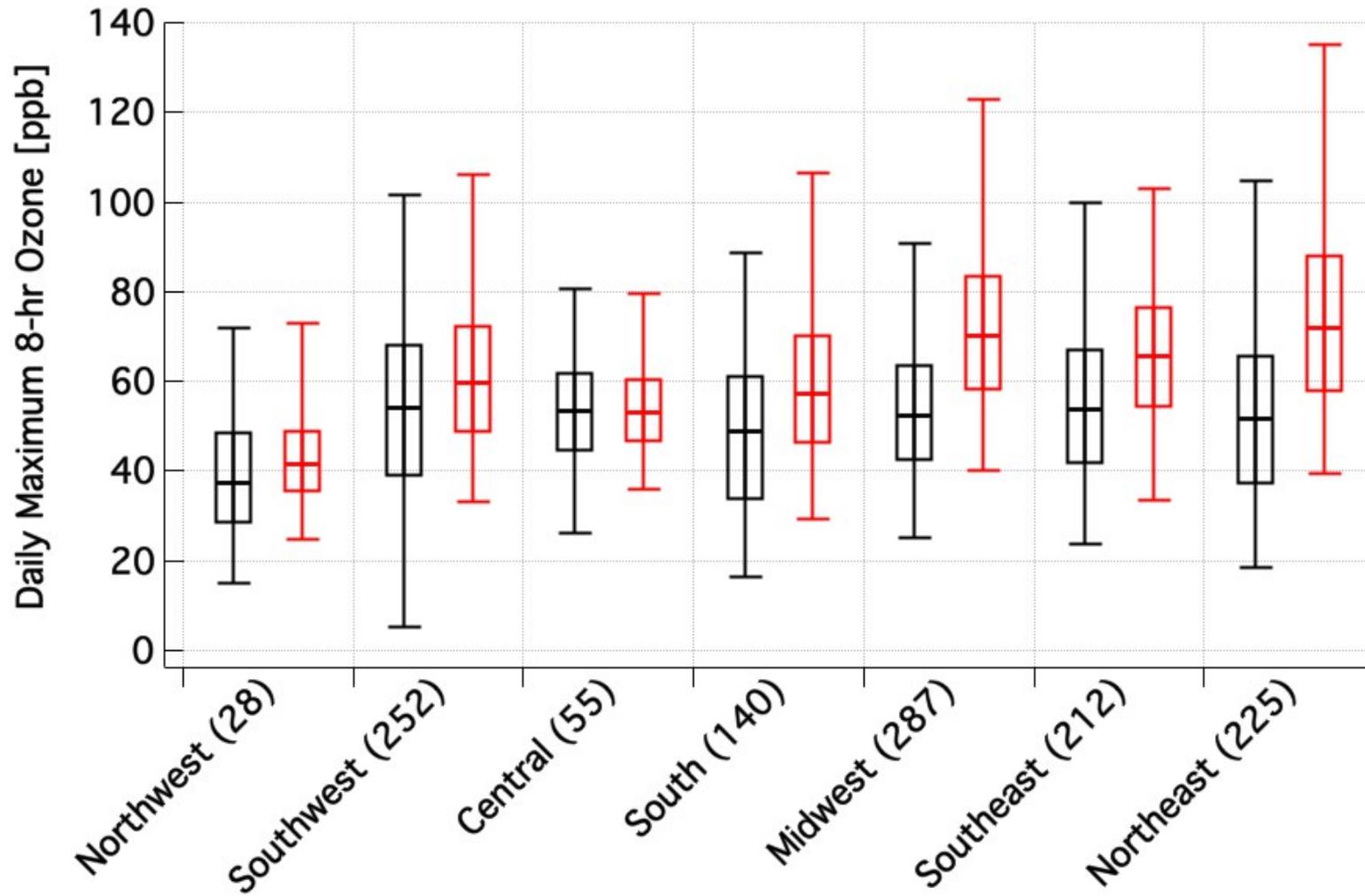


Figure 5. 2nd, 25th, 50th, 75th, 98th percentiles of observed (black) vs modeled (red) values of DM8O for each region. The number of monitoring stations per region is shown in parenthesis.

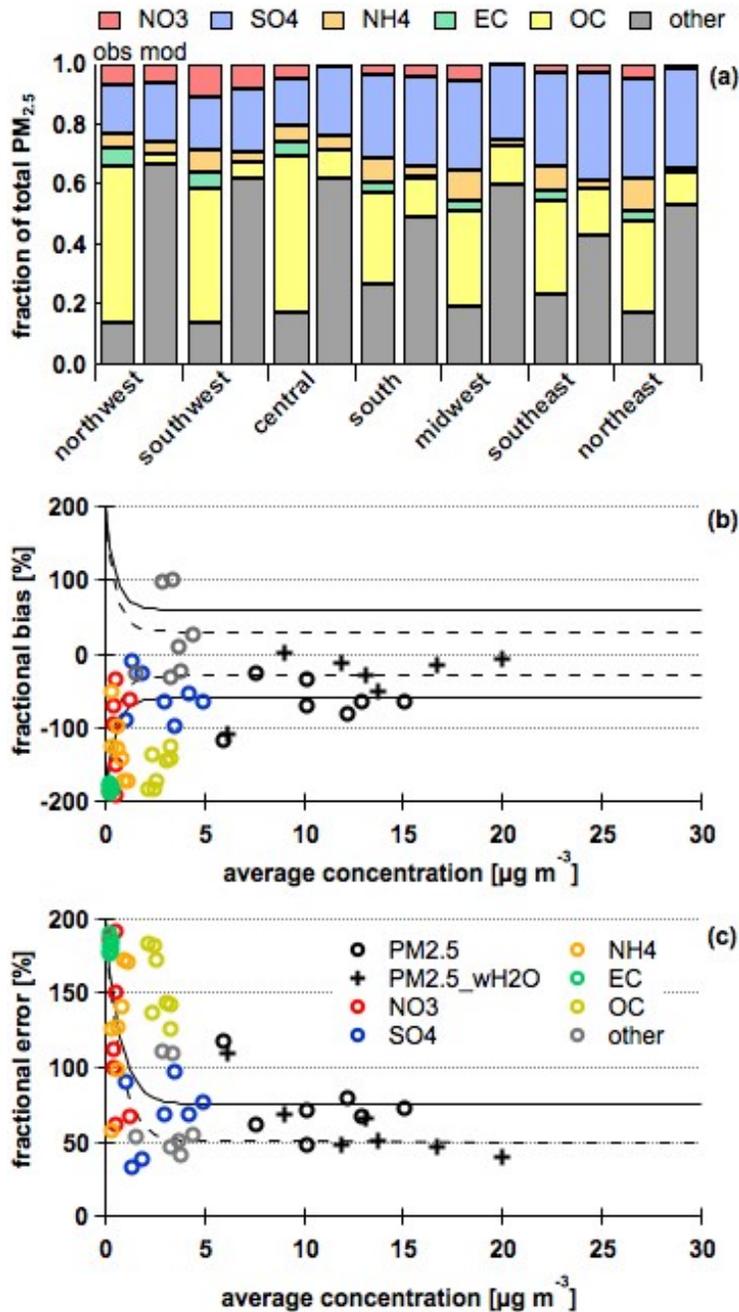


Figure 6. (Top Panel) Fraction from observed (left) and simulated current decade (right) PM<sub>2.5</sub> for each geographic region; (Middle Panel) Fractional bias goal (dashed lines) and criteria (solid lines) thresholds given in the EPA model performance guidance for the simulated PM<sub>2.5</sub> species; (Bottom Panel) Fractional error goal (dashed line) and criteria (solid line) given in the EPA model performance guidance for the simulated PM<sub>2.5</sub> species. Each point represents the “decade” average of the species 24hr average in each geographic region from figure 3.

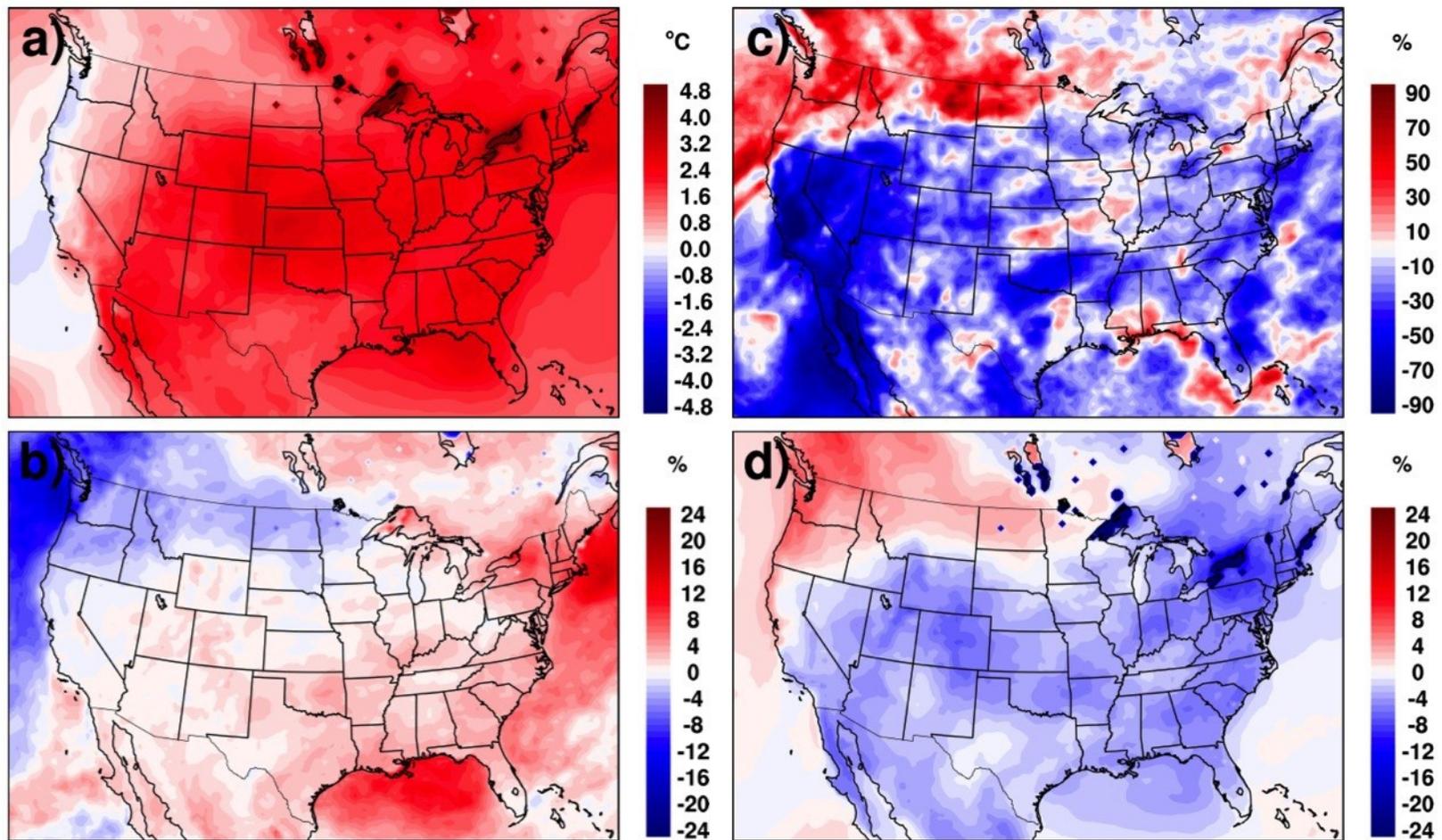


Figure 7 Projected changes in summertime meteorological fields (future decade - current decade): a) changes in 2-m temperature ( $^{\circ}\text{C}$ ); b) percent change in solar radiation reaching the ground; c) percent change in precipitation; d) change in relative humidity.

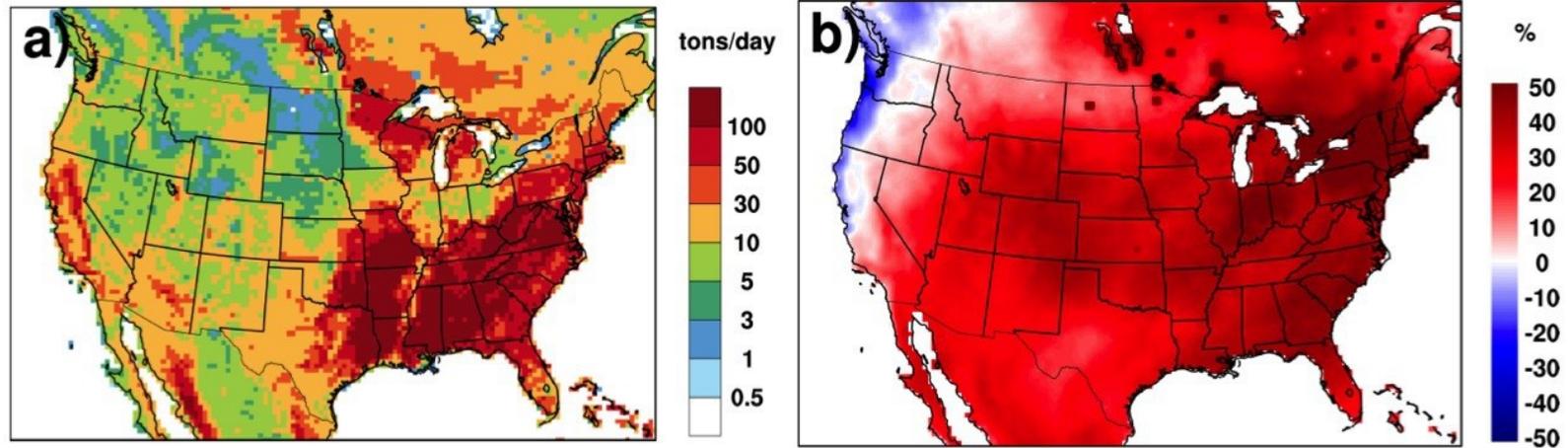


Figure 8. a) Current decade summertime isoprene emissions, and b) percent change induced by climate on future summertime isoprene emissions with current decade land use.

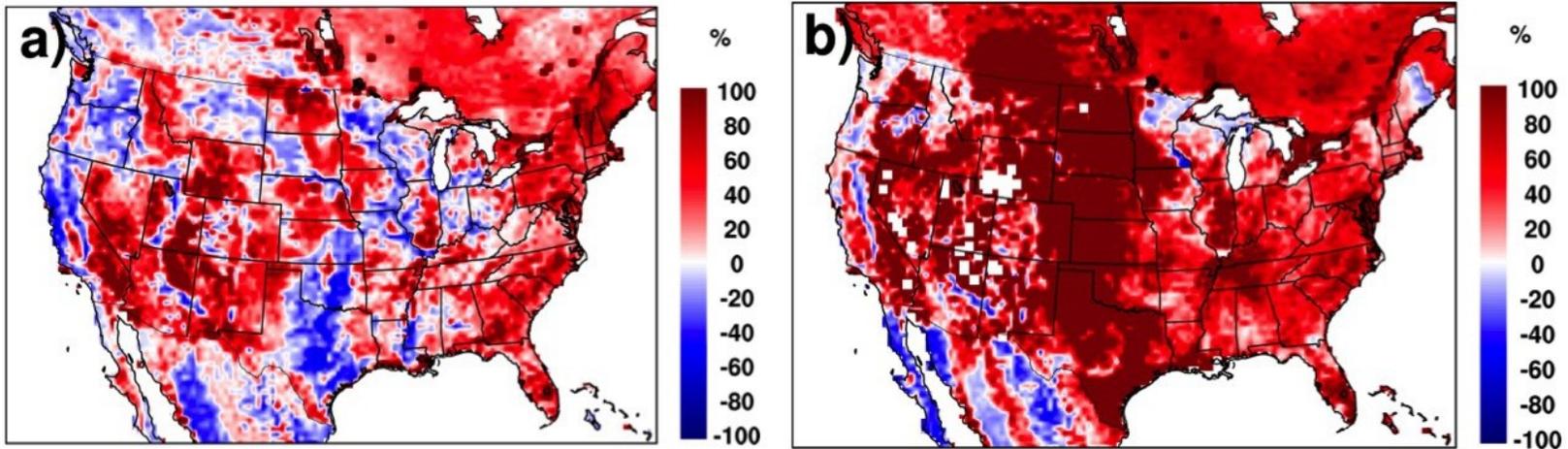


Figure 9. Percent change between future and current decade summertime emissions for future climate and land use for a) isoprene and b) monoterpene.

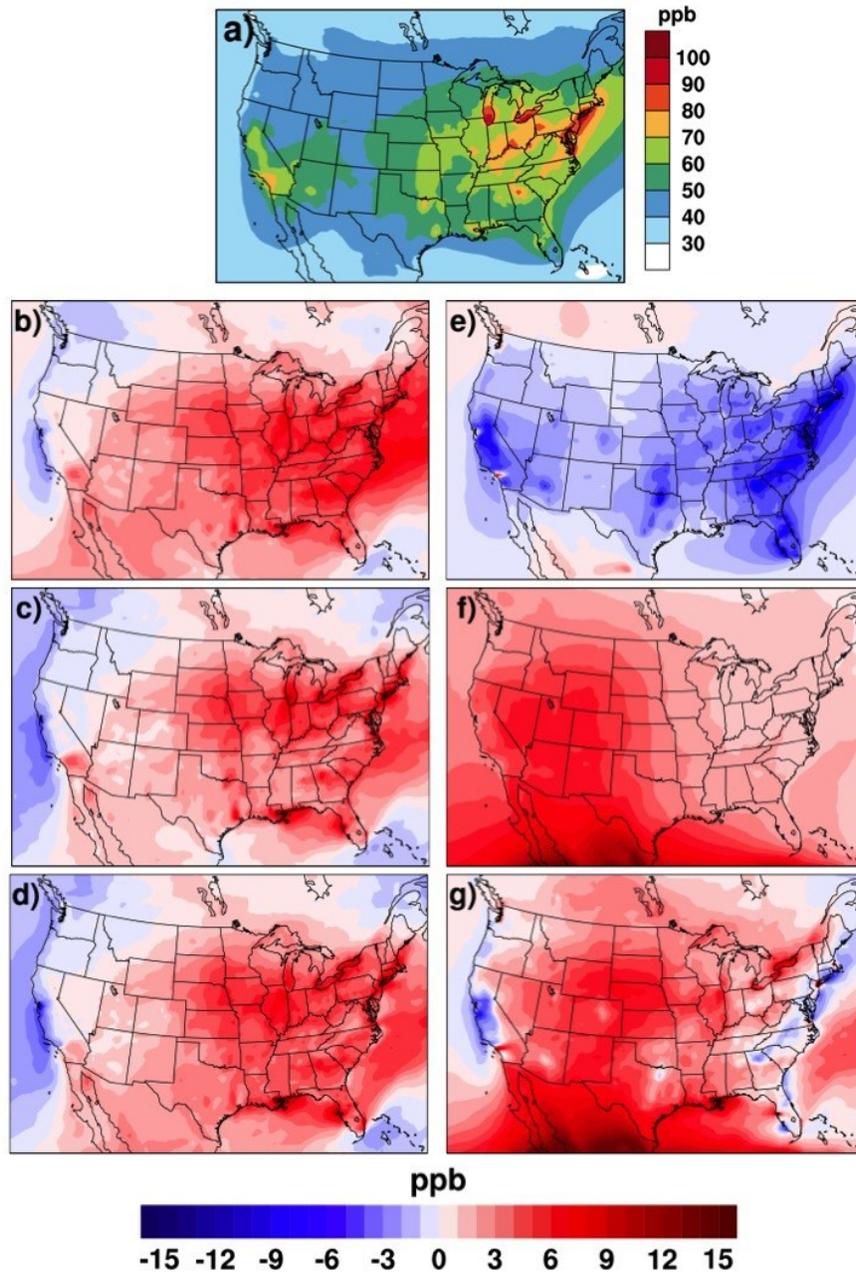


Figure 10. a) Current decade base case daily maximum 8-hour ozone average concentrations for five summers in the 2000s; spatial distribution and regional effect on maximum 8-hour ozone due to: b) changes in meteorology (Simulation 1); c) changes in meteorology and biogenic emissions (Simulation 2); d) changes in meteorology, biogenic emissions, and land use (Simulation 3); e) changes in US anthropogenic emissions (Simulation 4); f) changes in global anthropogenic emissions (Simulation 5); and g) all the changes above combined (Simulation 6).

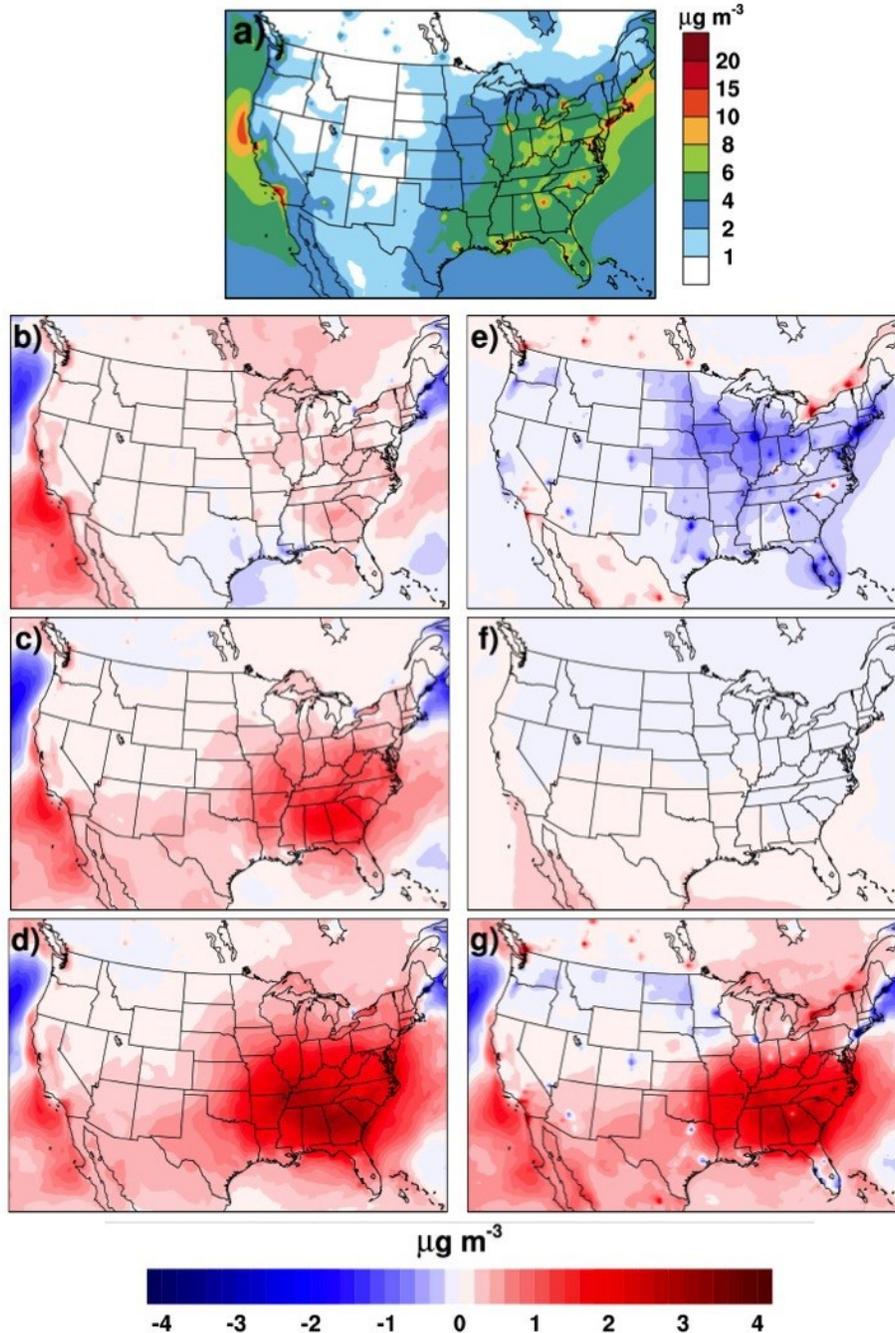


Figure 11. a) Current decade base case PM<sub>2.5</sub> average concentrations for five summers in the 2000s; spatial distribution and regional effect on PM<sub>2.5</sub> due to: b) changes in meteorology (Simulation 1); c) changes in meteorology and biogenic emissions (Simulation 2); d) changes in meteorology, biogenic emissions, and land use (Simulation 3); e) changes in US anthropogenic emissions (Simulation 4); f) changes in global anthropogenic emissions (Simulation 5); and g) all the changes above combined (Simulation 6).