

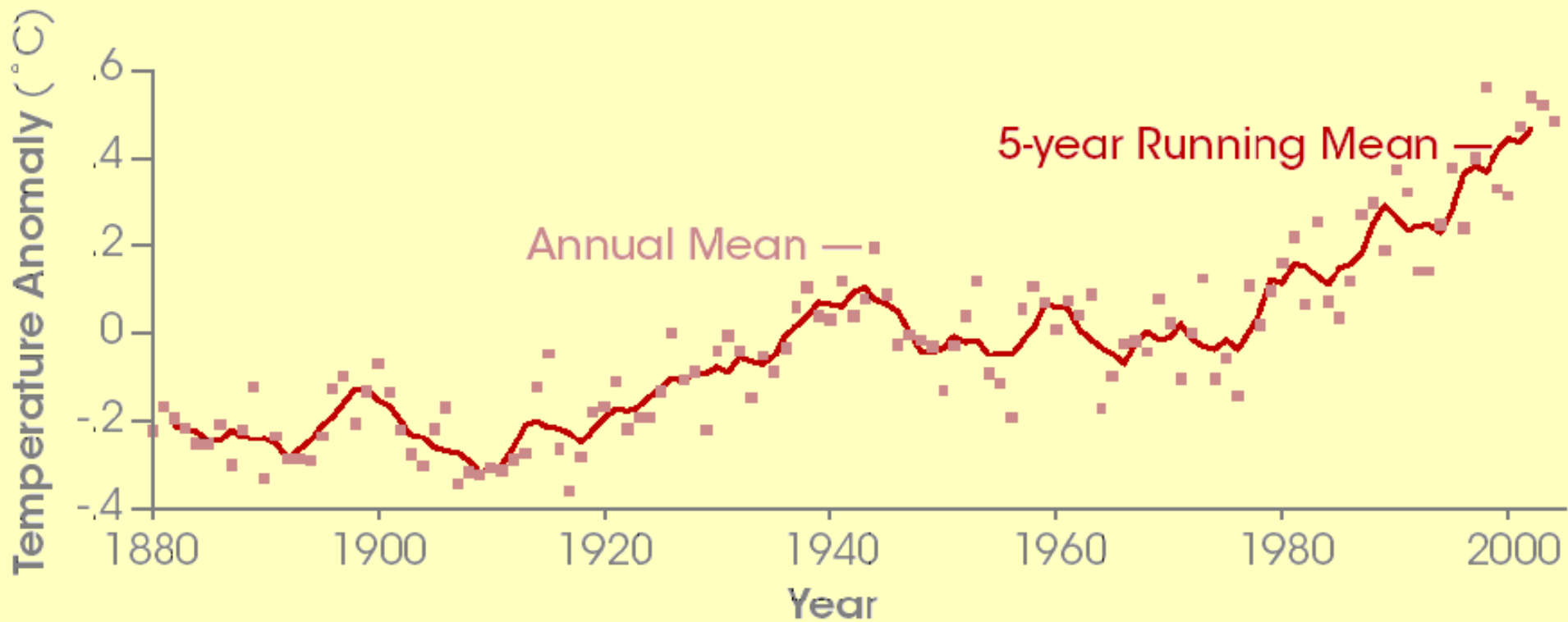
What's With the Weather? The Controversy of Climate Change

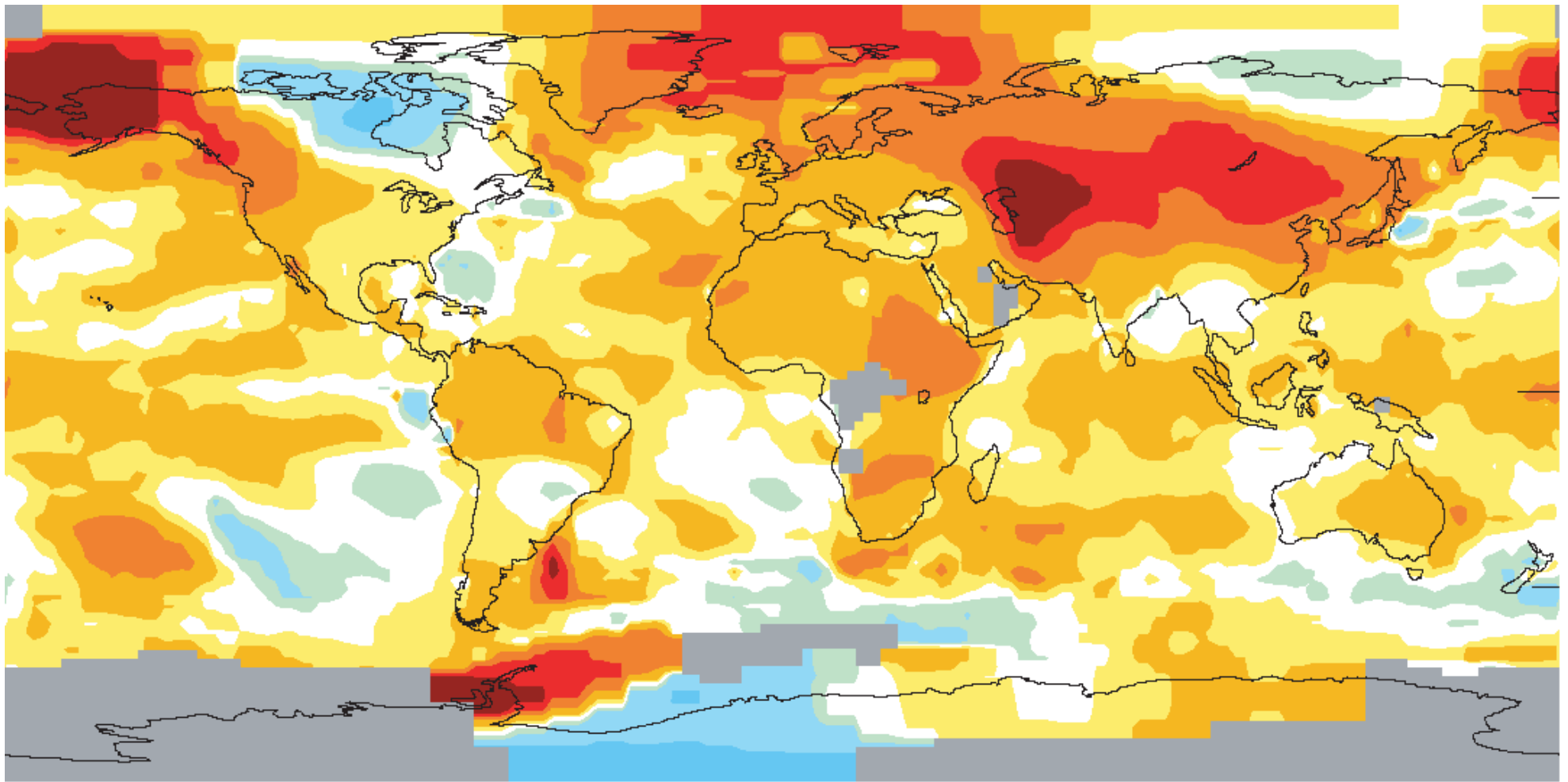
Dave Sauchyn
Prairie Adaptation Research
Collaborative
University of Regina



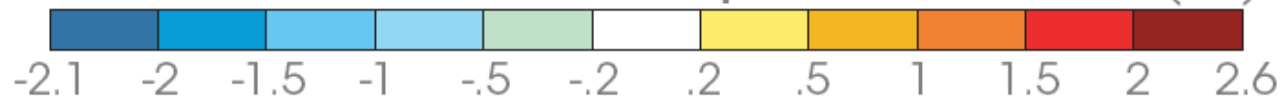
QUEST: North Conference, March 4 & 5, 2005, Winnipeg



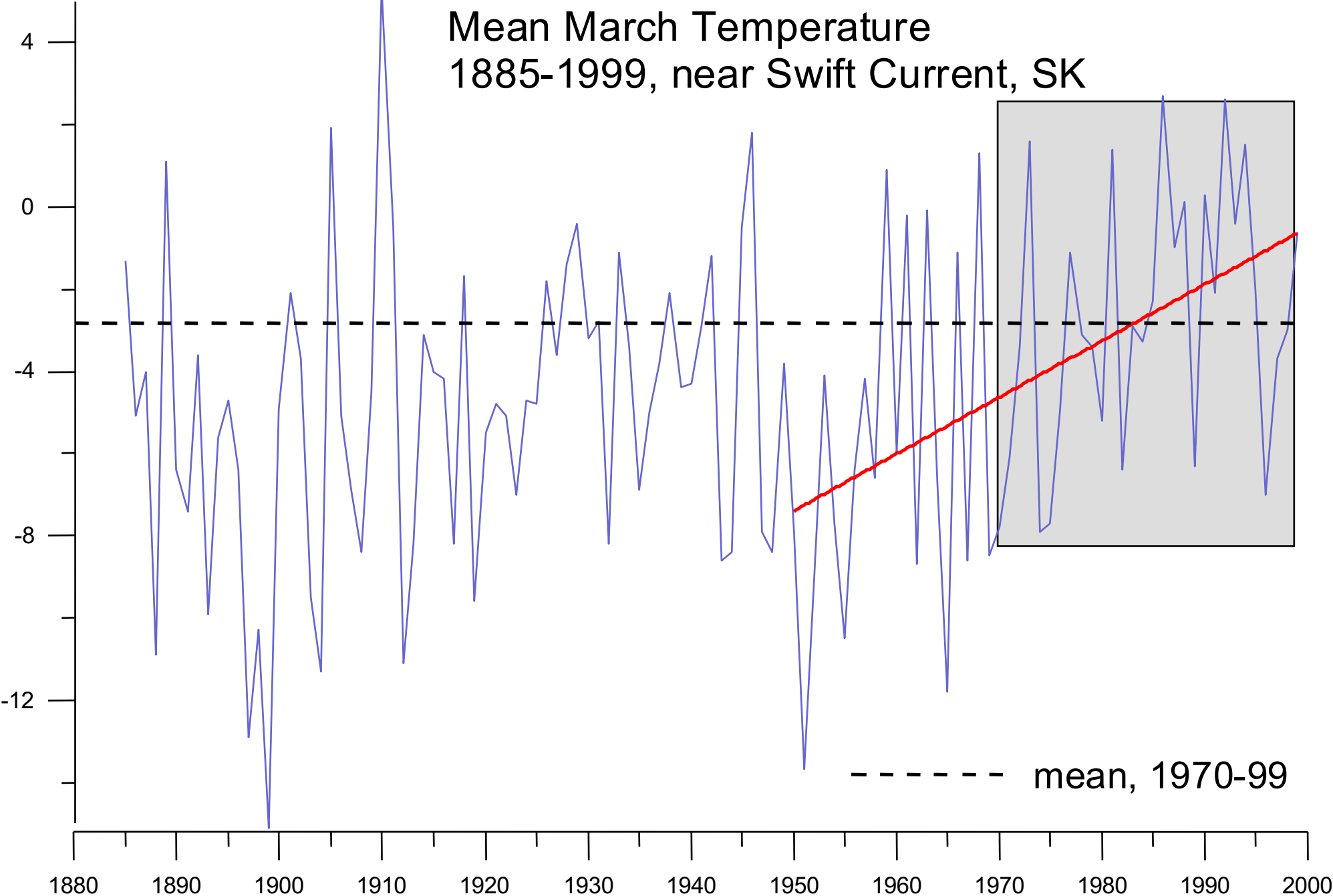




2004 Annual Mean Surface Temperature Anomalies (°C)



Mean March Temperature 1885-1999, near Swift Current, SK



Lawson (2003) Trends in Winter Extreme Minimum Temperatures on the Canadian Prairies

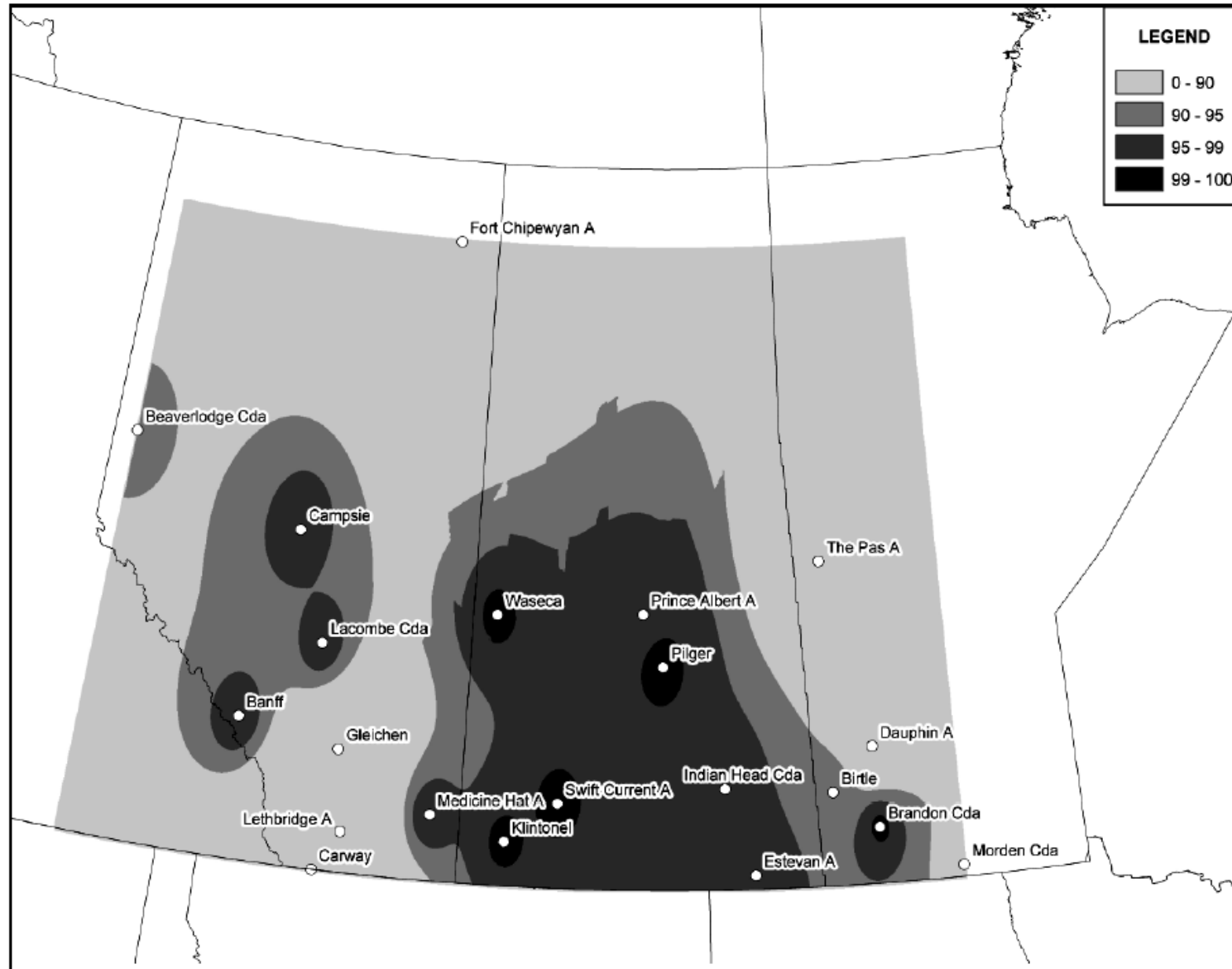
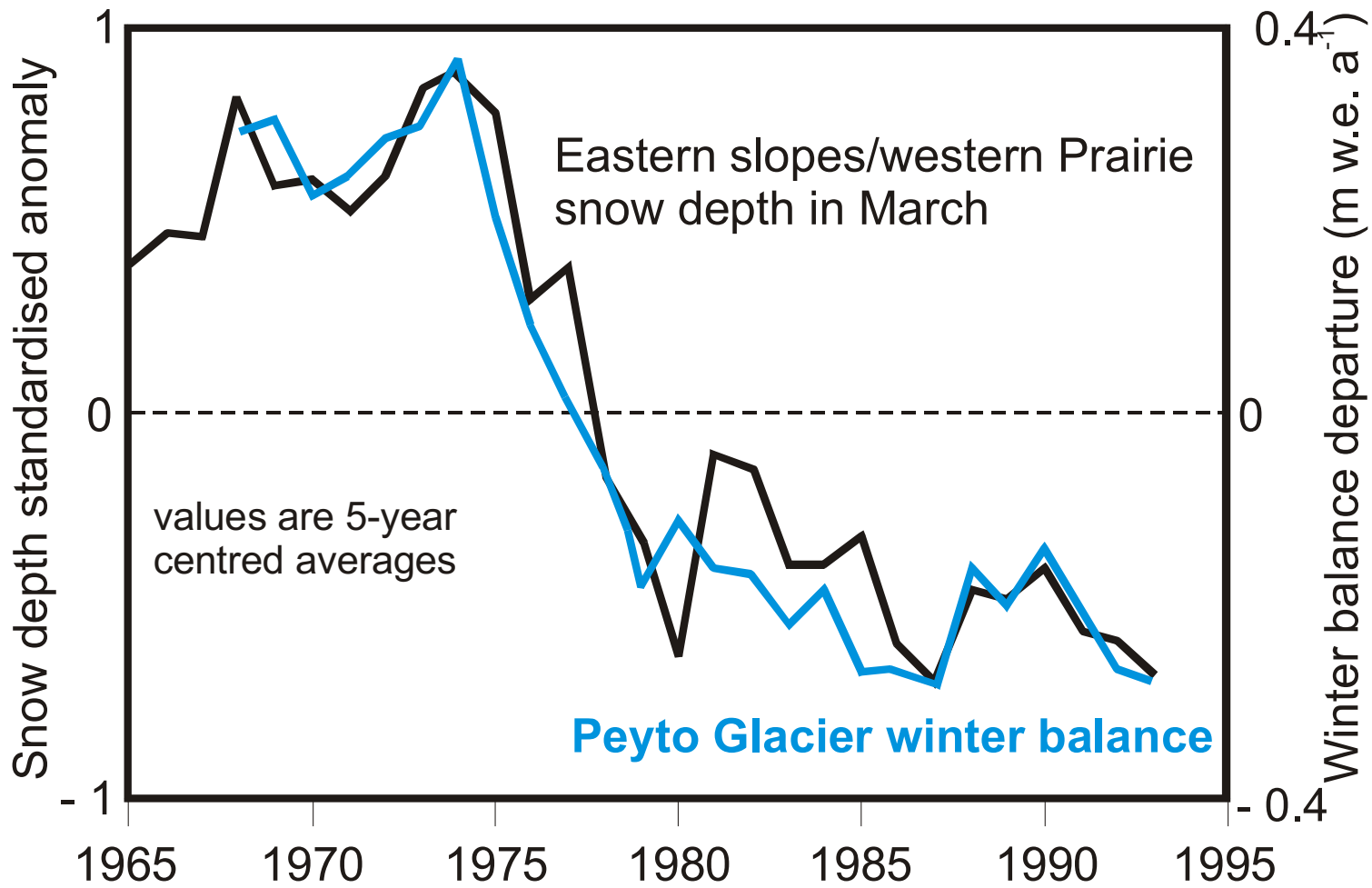
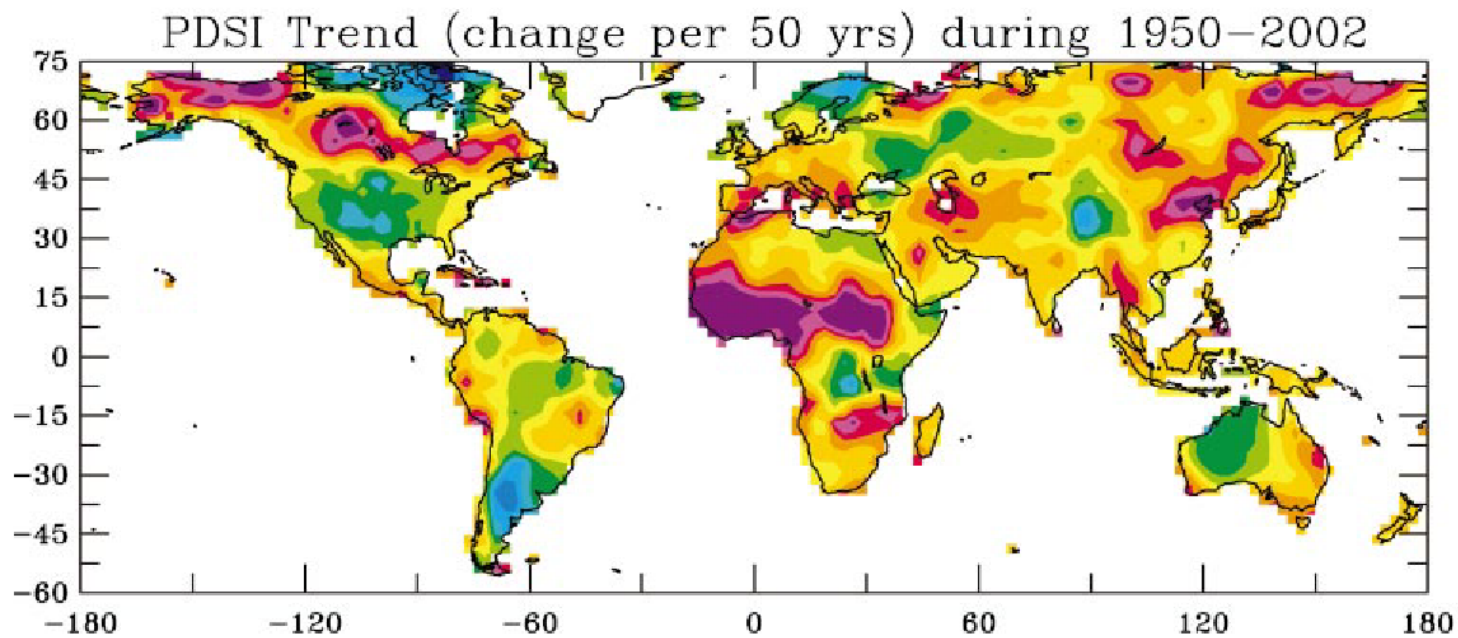


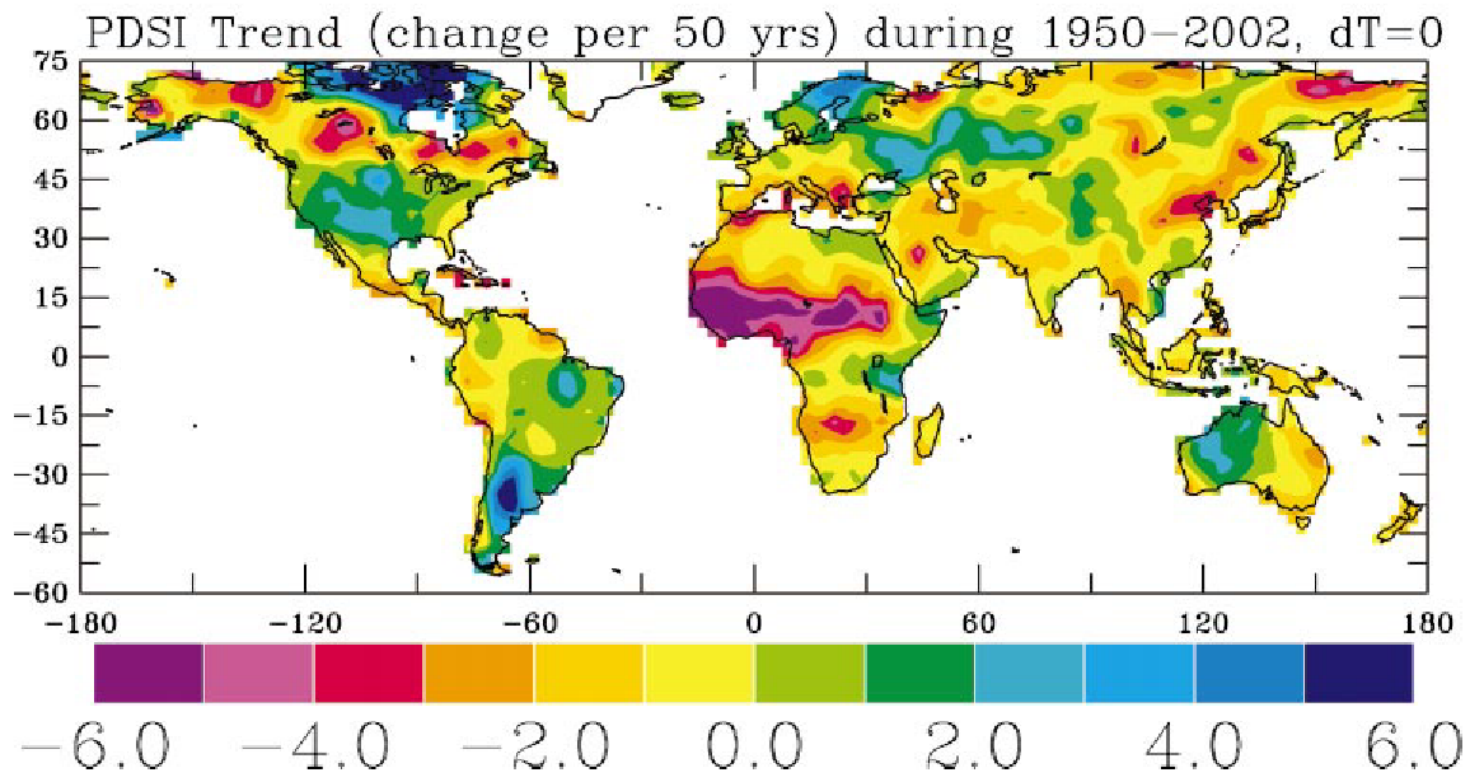
Fig. 3 January trend significance (%).

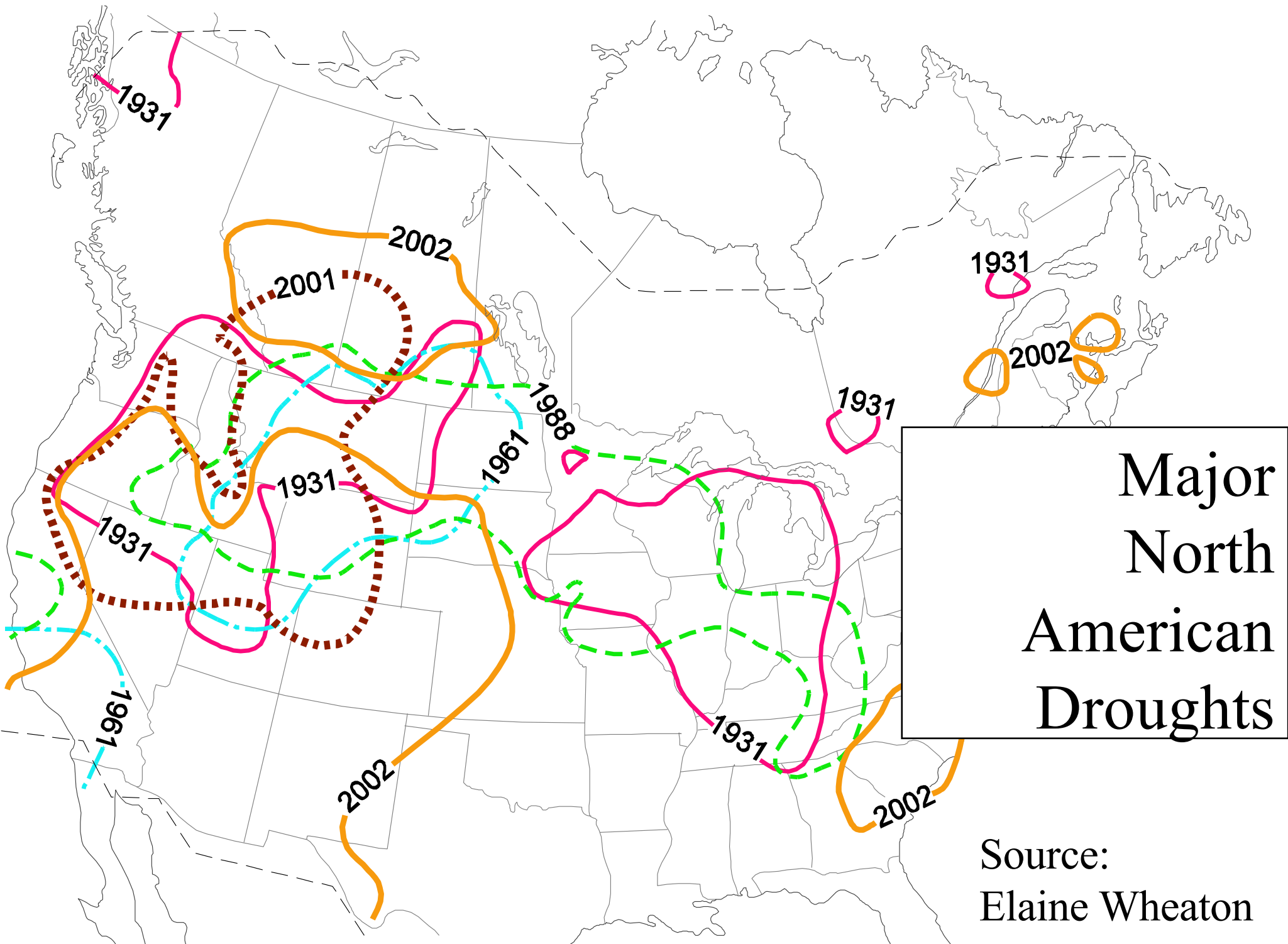




Dai, Trenberth
and Qian (2004)

“increasing risk
of droughts as
anthropogenic
global warming
progresses”





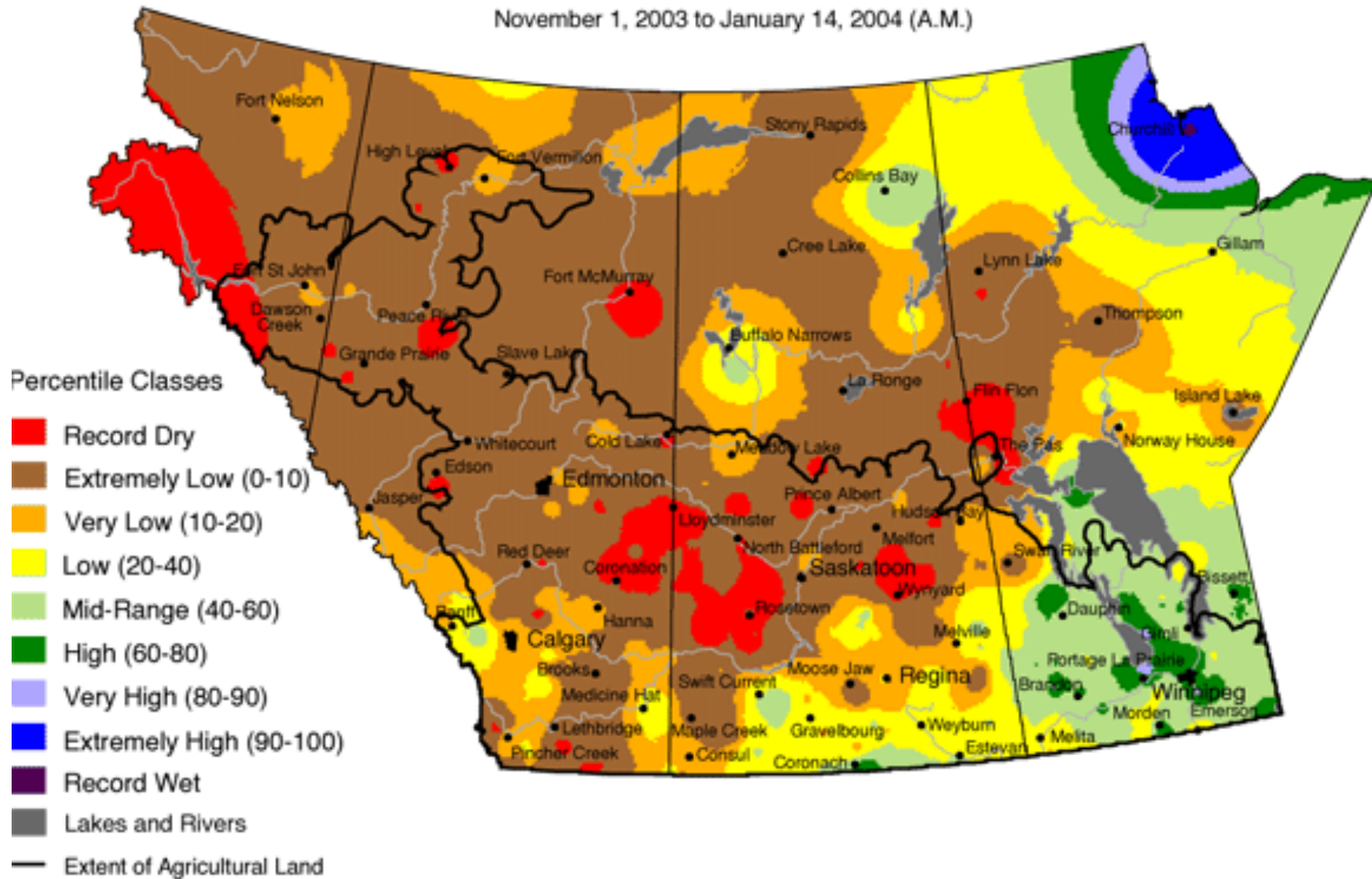
**Major
North
American
Droughts**

Source:
Elaine Wheaton

Palmer Drought Severity Index of -3 and less— Summer – JJA Data : Skinner 2003

Current Precipitation Compared to Historical Distribution

November 1, 2003 to January 14, 2004 (A.M.)



Prepared by PFRA (Prairie Farm Rehabilitation Administration) using data from the Timely Climate Monitoring Network and the many federal and provincial agencies and volunteers that support it.

Near Outlook, Saskatchewan, May 2, 2002



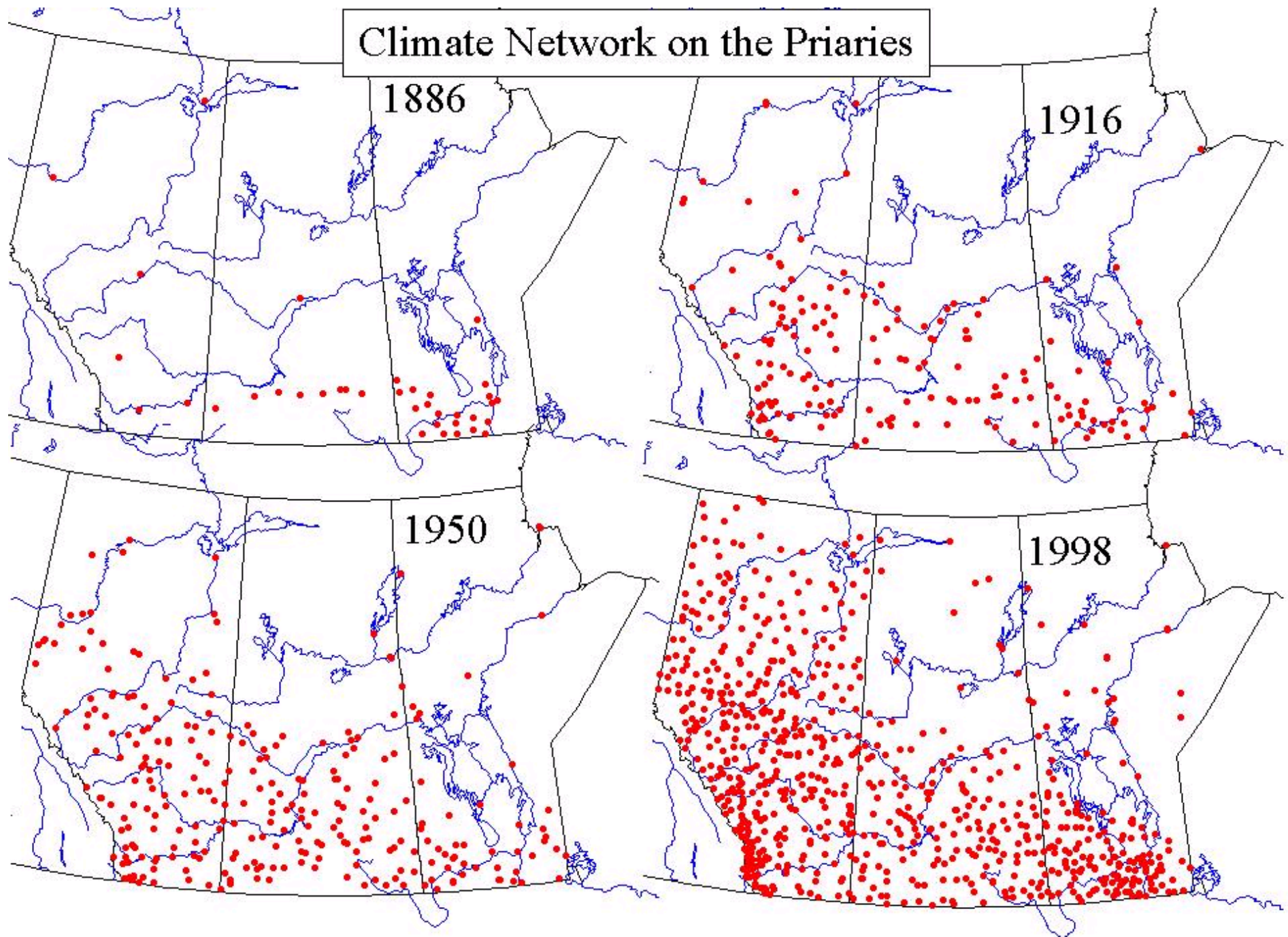
Saskatoon (1908-2002)

<i>1-yr</i>	<i>2-yrs</i>	<i>3-yrs</i>
2001	2001-02	2000-02
1952	2000-01	1951-53
1987	1987-88	1987-89
1960	1952-3	1999-01
1941	1964-65	1986-88

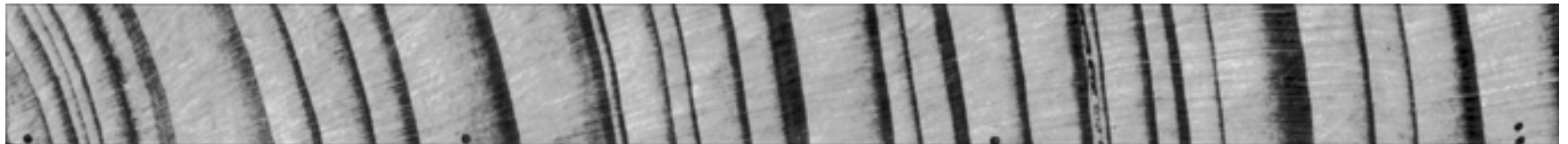
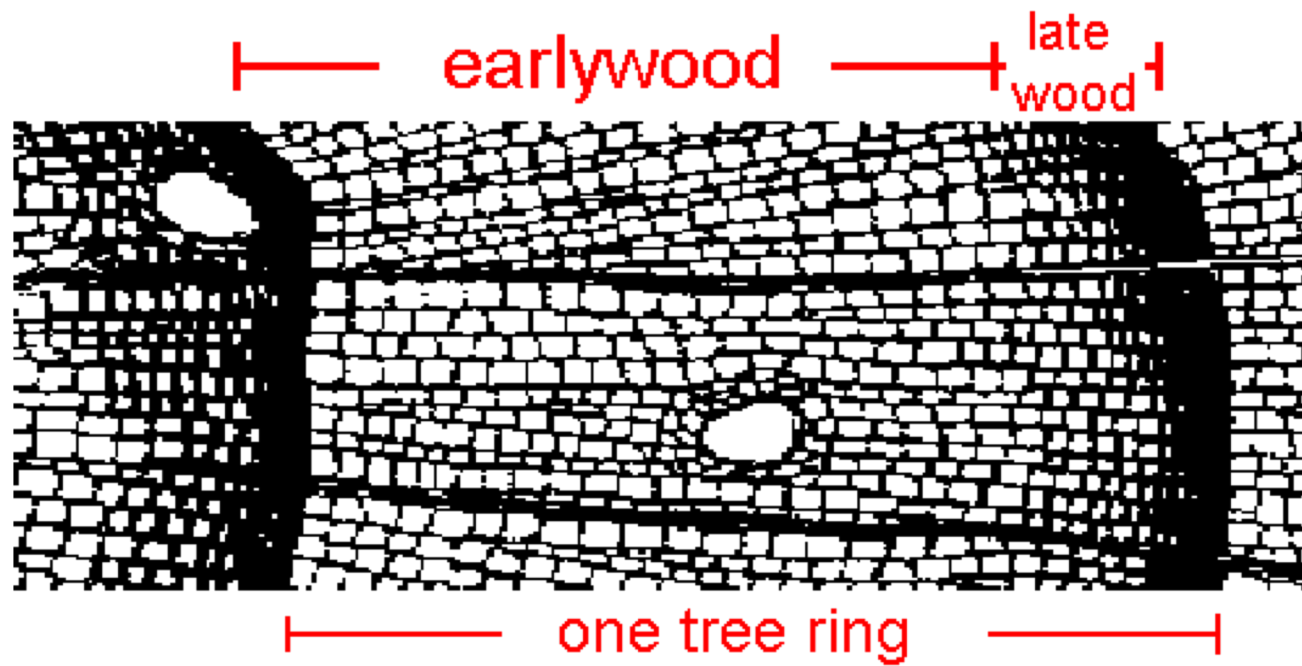
Edmonton (1883-2002)

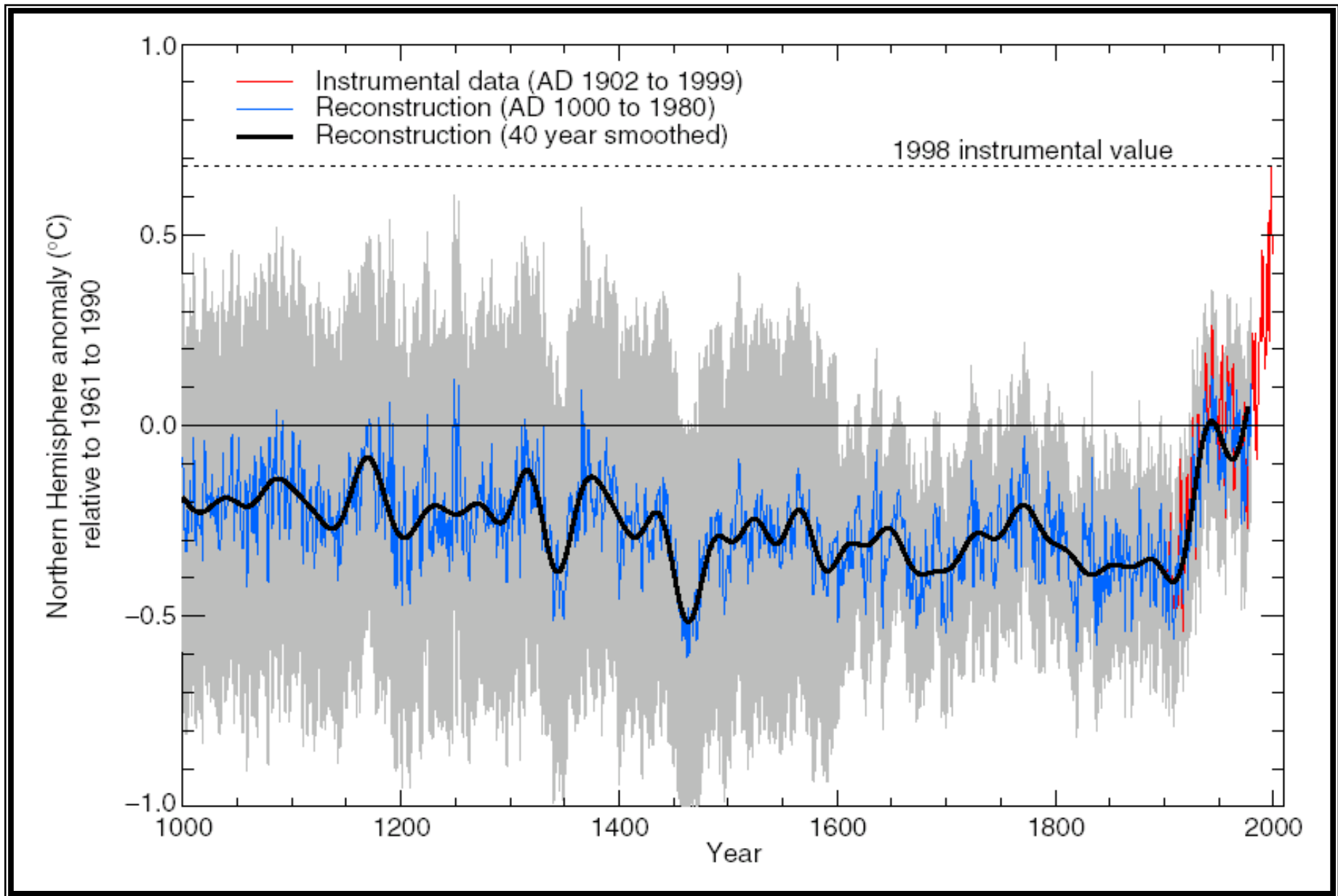
<i>1-yr</i>	<i>2-yrs</i>	<i>3-yrs</i>
1889	2001-02	1883-85
1883	1883-84	1896-98
2002	1897-98	1887-89
1898	1886-87	1885-87
1961	1949-50	2000-02

Climate Network on the Priaries



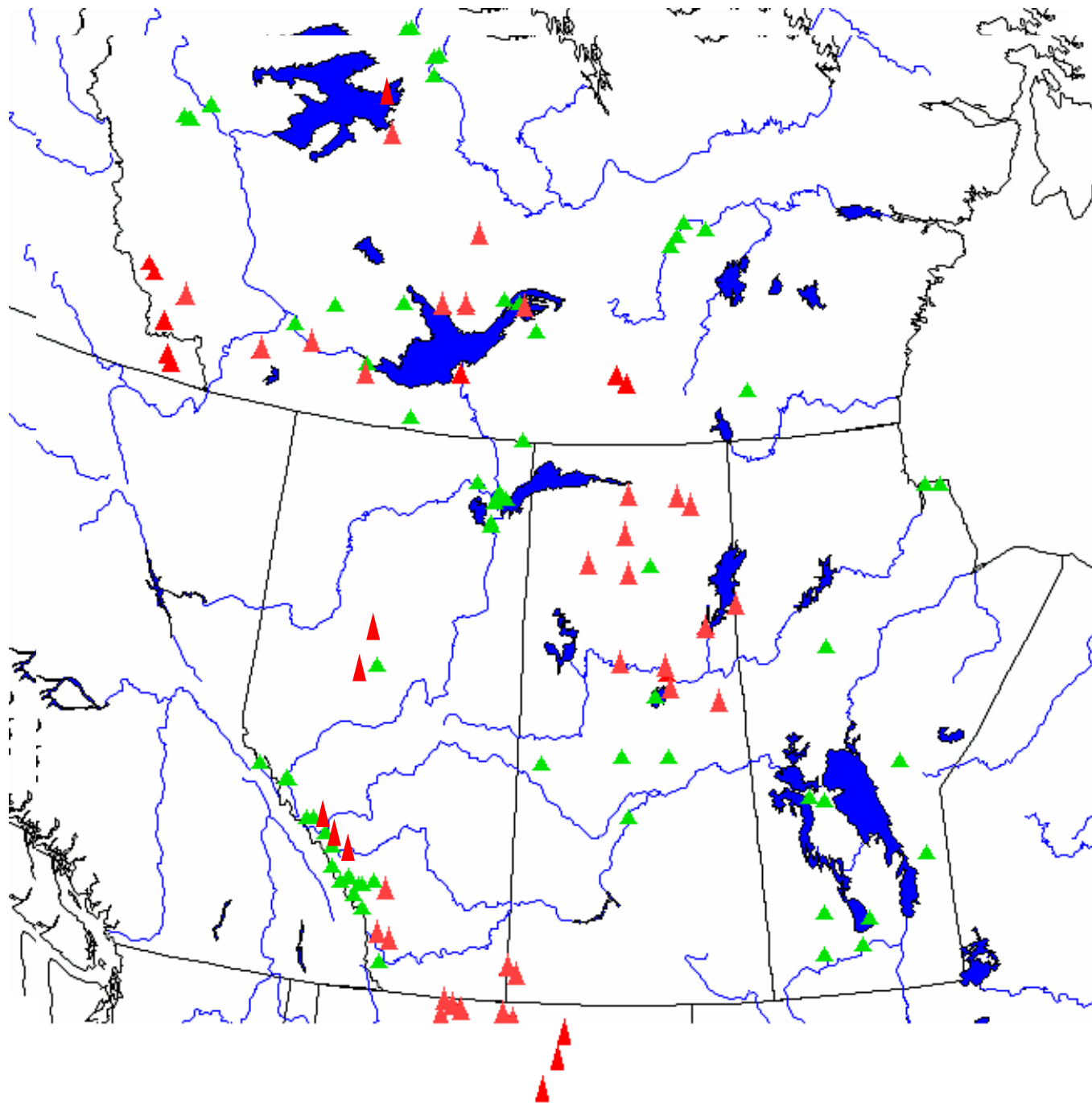
Ron Hopkinson, MSC



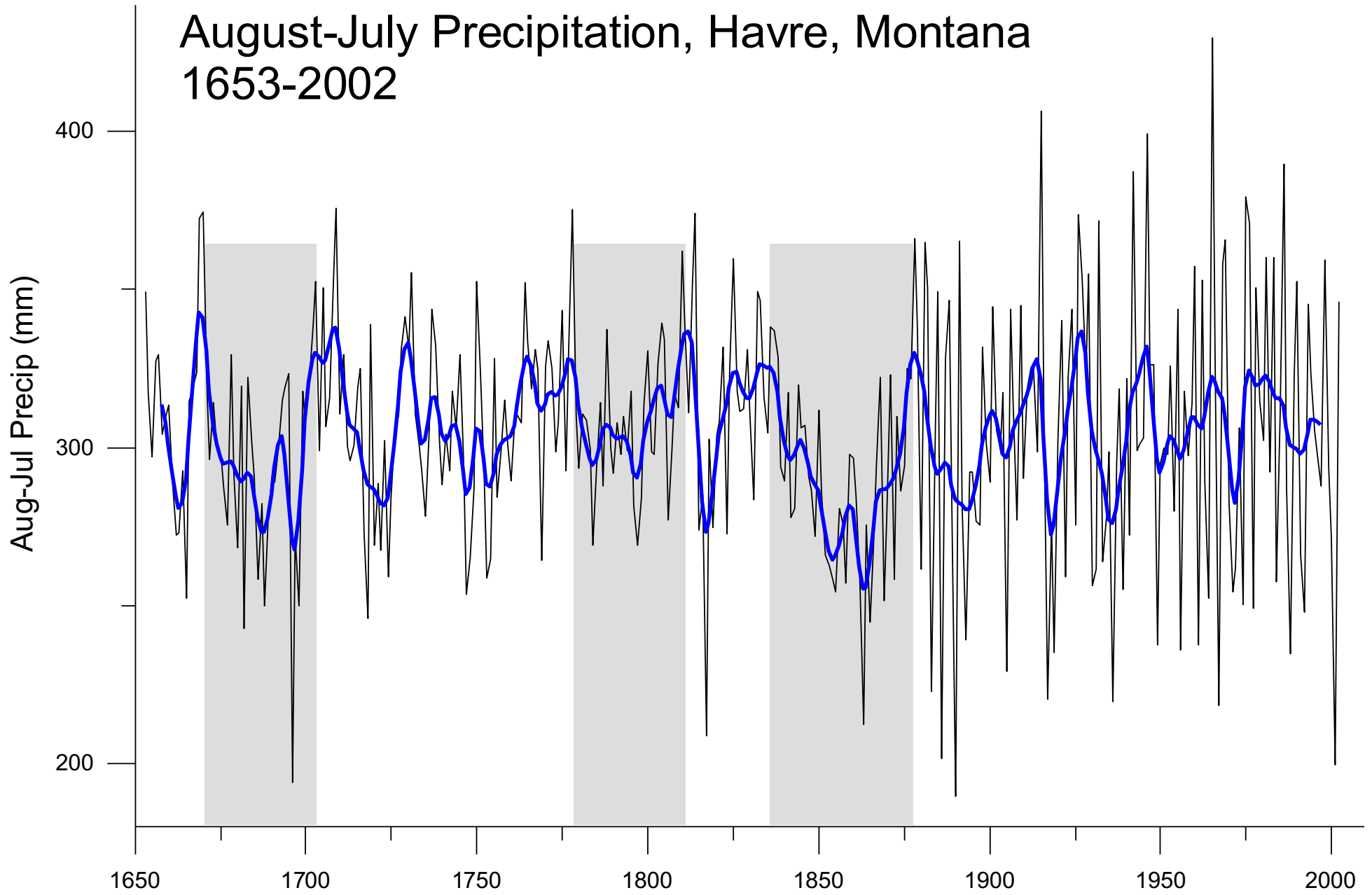


Mann, *et al.*, 1999

Tree-Ring Chronologies



August-July Precipitation, Havre, Montana 1653-2002



Fort Edmonton – HBC Archives

At Edmonton House, a large fire burned “all around us” on April 27th (1796) and burned on both sides of the river. On May 7th, **light canoes** arrived at from Buckingham House **damaged from the shallow water**. **Timber** intended to be used at Edmonton House **could not be sent** to the post **“for want of water” in the North Saskatchewan River**. On May 2nd, William Tomison wrote to James Swain that **furs could not be moved as, “there being no water in the river.”** (Johnson 1967: 33-39, 57)

In 1800 “Fine weather” continued into April at Edmonton House. On April 18th, James Bird repeated his observation that the poor trade with both the Slave and Southern Indians was the result of “the amazing warmness of the winter” diminishing both the bison hunt and creating a “want of beaver.” Bird reported “clear weather except for the smoke which almost obscures the sun. The country all round is on fire.” On June 15th, he noted that **the “amazing shallowness of the water” prevented the shipment of considerable goods** from York Factory (Johnson 1967: 240-248)

*This large belt of country embraces districts, some of which are valuable for the purposes of the agriculturalist, while others **will for ever be comparatively useless**. ... The least valuable portion of the prairie country has an extent of about 80,000 square miles, and is that lying along the southern branch of the Saskatchewan, and southward from thence to the boundary line, ...*

CAPT^N. JOHN PALLISER,
London, July 8, **1860**

