

Point-by-Point Response to reviews, Shuman et al., **cp-2017-35**

The text below provides our submitted responses to the reviews as well as bullets listing the changes made to the manuscript.

The manuscript with the changes highlighted using 'Track Changes' follows.

Reviewer #1

The reviewer provides several insightful points that we will use to improve the manuscript. As context, we would summarize our findings as evidence that long-term (millennial) hydroclimate trends affected North America during the Common Era, but that these trends were potentially small compared to both interannual variation and Holocene-length trends. The records and attendant spatial patterns are noisy because the signals of these trends and other centennial variations are small compared to the sensitivity of many archives used to study Holocene-scale variations. The points relate to three themes raised by the reviewer:

Regions and regional patterns: We agree that the spatial patterns do not consistently express strong spatial coherence. We, therefore, propose revisions to the text that explain the basis for the a priori regional assignments as well as additional discussion of the limitations of our dataset, which could produce noisy patterns (see also response to comment by S. St. George).

The regions were identified before our analysis as described by in a PAGES workshop report by McKay (2014, p. 100): "Based on the dominant airmasses, ecology, and the availability of proxy data throughout the continent, the group developed initial spatial targets for subcontinental... reconstructions." However, the distribution of data led to further divisions of the mid-continent and southern plains as well as the northeast and southeast US to ensure that geographically disparate locations were not averaged together; these decisions were guided by previously-published modern climatological pattern analyses (Mock, 1996) before analysis of the paleoclimate trends.

We propose to revise our text to more clearly explain the basis for the regions in section 2.1.1. We propose to insert the text along the lines of the following after the first sentence of section 2.1.1.:

"The nine regions were determined before we compiled the data considered here (McKay, 2014), and were based on the level 1 ecoregions of North America (Commission for Environmental Cooperation Working Group, 1997) and major patterns of covariance within modern climate data (Mock, 1996). Where spatial outliers existed separate from the main cluster of data within a region (e.g., data from Florida versus the northeast U.S.; northern versus southern Great Plains), we split our initial regions to ensure suitable representation of the data in our analysis. We used these designations to ask whether distinct trends were recognizable

among commonly recognized regions and whether any trends have parallels to patterns of climate variation observed at finer time scales, such as north-south anti-phased moisture variability along the western margin of North America (Cayan, 1996; Wise and Dannenberg, 2014).”

- **We added the proposed text.**

In this way, we saw the analysis as related to modern climate patterns, although not as explicitly as raised by the reviewer. We propose to expand the Discussion section 4.1 to address potential parallels to historic patterns of variability within the noisy spatial patterns reconstructed by our analysis.

- **We have added text in Discussion section 4.1 to draw parallels to historic patterns. Please see p. 12, lines 6-20.**

We understand the questions about the PCAs for each region, but would clarify that the analyses served to help us examine intra-regional coherency as well as inter-regional correlation. Figure 2 shows both the temporal and spatial dimensions of patterns regardless of our regional designations, whereas Figure 5 attempts to assess how much variance is shared (based on PCs) among records within each region. Therefore, in section 2.2.3, we proposed to add:

“The PCA-by-region analysis was conducted to evaluate the strength of any signals within each region, rather than simply calculating mean trends, and to assess potential correlations or shared signals across geographically distinct regions. The EOF analysis evaluates the latter from the perspective of the whole dataset.”

- **Added the proposed text.**

Trends in the calibrated datasets: The reviewer raises an excellent point about the power of the calibrated datasets. We included Figure 7 [now Fig. 8] as a means to demonstrate that the primary signal in these data is the dominant wetting trend. Unfortunately, these records are spatially clustered (primarily from the northeast U.S.) and may not be representative of the whole. Previous and forthcoming work has shown that no distinct differences exist between the pollen-inferred precipitation changes and P-E changes estimated from lake volume changes (Marlon et al., 2016; Marsicek et al., 2013). We propose to add these points to the text where suitable.

- **Related text was added on p. 8 between lines 8 and 17 in section 3.6.**

Criteria for data inclusion and overall goals: We had intended this manuscript to focus on the patterns observed in archives that are used to study Holocene-scale climate variations, and thus provide a bridge between the excellent work with dendroclimate records and studies of the whole interglacial. Therefore, we focused on archives that act as low-pass filters on paleoclimate changes. We agree that many different archives from tree rings to lake sediments may retain low-frequency signals or that such signals could derive from the characteristics of high-frequency events, and that the inclusion of some annually layered records appears to create an inconsistent application of criteria regarding what data were examined.

We should clarify, however, that our primary goal was to determine the signals captured by the types of records used to study the Holocene. We admit that we did not make this aim clear, but propose changing our title to emphasize this aspect of the study (see also our response to Review #2). This goal inherently led us to include ice cores, especially because they represent nearly direct measurements of past precipitation. Tree ring records have been the dominant source of past hydroclimate information over the Common Era, and in many ways, our analysis was intended not as a critique of that excellent work, but rather as a complement intended to ask: what patterns of change are recorded by “everything else”?

- **We have revised the text in the Introduction, particularly in the third paragraph to make our goals and data selection clear.**
- **We have also changed the title to help clarify the focus.**

Specific comments:

P. 3 Line 16 – We agree that we need to standardize the wording for clarity about hydroclimate versus hydrologic changes, and replace the word “calibrate” in this particular line with “interpreted to represent a specific climate variable.”

- **We have tried to use the term, hydroclimate, as consistently as possible.**

P. 5 Line 25 – We will provide a sentence clarifying the application of SSA to missing values.

- **We have added explanatory text to the end of section 2.2.1.**

P. 6 Line 14 – As noted above, we propose to clarify about the regions. PCA was not applied where only one or two sites exist. Only the regions shown in Fig. 5 with >10 records were analyzed. We will add text to explain this point.

- **Added relevant text as two new sentences at the end of section 2.2.3.**

P. 6 Line 18 – “Interferences” was a typo and should be “inferences”.

- **Corrected the spelling.**

P. 7, Line 2 – We will rephrase to ensure that the references to the clusters in Figure 2 are clear. The suggestion to refer to them by color seems like it may be useful.

- **In section 3.1 we have cited the color used to indicate each cluster in Figure 2.**

P. 7, Line 5 – We can see the trend that the reviewer mentions and will try to describe it. However, the primary feature identified as a deviation for the mean in the EOF is the Medieval Anomaly. The EOF contrasts the early portion of these records with the Medieval Period, but we agree that a background trend also exists because the records never return fully to their previous values and instead the scores hover around the mean since ca 1600 CE. As noted, the trend here may be more evident if we standardize the axes in the figure.

- **We revised the second paragraph of section 3.1 and standardized the axes in the figure.**

P.10, Line 14 – This point is quite useful and we will add several sentences here that address a) relevant modern or historic patterns and b) other local factors (such as elevation) that may have contributed.

- **We added several lines about comparisons to other patterns and sources of heterogeneity to the second paragraph of section 3.1.**

P. 11-12, Section 4.3 – In re-reading the text, we agree with the reviewer that this section is an ideal place to insert some more explicit comparison to modern patterns and to discuss the millennial-scale differences observed in each region (and how those differences may related to important processes or climate dynamics). We focused on the Pacific Northwest versus the Southwest because, here, in these two regions, we found the strongest case for a parallel to modern patterns caused by shifts in the position of the jet stream. However, coherent patterns elsewhere, especially in Central America and the northeast U.S. deserve further discussion. We can build upon work within these areas by previous studies of this interval (e.g., Hodell et al., 2005; Marlon et al., 2016). Likewise the PCAs and EOFs detect important differences between millennia in the mid-continent where we can draw on several decades of paleohydrologic work (e.g., Fritz et al., 2000) and analyses of historic droughts and floods (e.g., Schubert et al., 2004).

- **We have added paragraphs summarizing changes in central America and the northeast U.S.**

Table 1 – Where possible, we will obtain additional information about the age control of the various records.

- **We have provided URLs to the data within the NOAA Paleoclimate Data Center.**

Figure 1 – We can improve upon the figure design for clarity. The regional PCAs were excluded, as mentioned above, for regions with few records.

- **Figure 1 has been re-plotted for clarity.**

Figure 2 – The suggestions are good ones and will try to implement them.

- **We standardized the axes and used a different map projection to improve Fig. 2**

Figure 4 – We can add histograms of values to go with each map.

- **This is now Fig. 5 and we have added the histograms as suggested as well as North America Drought Atlas reconstructions for comparison.**



Reviewer #2

The reviewer raises three good points, which we would propose to address through revision.

Comparison to tree-ring reconstructions: Both reviews as well as St. George's comment highlight that the comparison is the obvious one to make. We struggled with this topic in designing the manuscript. Therefore, we propose to 1) clarify our goals for the paper, including by changing the title, and 2) include and discuss a comparison with patterns in the North American drought atlas.

In the first case, as noted in our response to review 1, we intended to evaluate the patterns that exist as recorded by data other than the excellent dendroclimatic record. We intended such an analysis to focus on patterns at multi-centennial to millennial scales, in part, as a way to place the Common Era in the context of the whole of the Holocene. We, therefore, propose changing our title to read: "Placing the Common Era in a Holocene Context: Millennial-to-centennial patterns and trends in the hydroclimate of North America over the past 2000 years."

- **We have revised the title.**

Not all of the available data were suitable for providing a Holocene context (because of limited time depth), but the dataset was aimed at methods and archives that could capture the relevant variations. They represent the methods used to study Holocene and even Pleistocene changes – and a useful question is whether they have the sensitivity to always record climate variation within just two millennia or less as tree rings can clearly do. New methods in dendroclimatology certainly preserve many low-frequency patterns, but these methods have not been applied to all reconstructions and only cover certain regions. Including the high number of tree-ring chronologies would have also dominated the patterns in our analysis for some areas and prevented an independent perspective afforded by the other (Holocene-scale) data types.

- **We have revised the Introduction to make related points.**

Therefore, we aimed to be independent of this major data source (dendroclimate data), but we agree, it begs then for comparison. So, toward, the second proposed revision, we can include maps of PDSI anomalies from the North American Drought Atlas (NADA) as a point of comparison in Fig. 4 [Now Fig. 5]. Our preliminary assessment indicates a poor correlation, but we agree even a mismatch is worthy of more discussion: why does it exist? We would propose to revise our text to discuss the potential reasons.

- **In the revised Fig. 5, we have added the NADA results for comparison.**

We would add text similar to the following as a new sub-section in the Discussion (section 4):

- **We have added the following text as proposed as a new section at the end of the Discussion.**

“Differences between the patterns in our dataset and the NADA may exist for several reasons. First, contrasts may exist between the way our dataset retains signals of annual-to-decadal variations (clearly preserved in the dendroclimate record) and those of multi-century and longer variations. For example slow sediment dynamics or forest tree longevity may prove resilient to annual variations, but readily responsive to change over centuries. Different map patterns could arise, therefore, because NADA likely emphasizes interannual variation, even when smoothed over centuries, whereas other datasets may emphasize the effects of centennial and longer changes. The differences would represent different patterns in the averages of high-frequency variability versus the patterns in low-frequency trends.

Furthermore, our dataset may lack a consistent ability to detect either annual-decadal variability or multi-century trends in a limited 2000-yr window because of the interaction of taphonomic process (e.g., sediment mixing) and the small magnitudes of the low-frequency trends. The datasets may well be noisy relative to weak low-frequency signals. As we noted in the Introduction, the magnitudes of the trends in many records are small over even 2000 yrs (Fig. 7) when compared to many reconstruction uncertainties. The low signal-to-noise ratio may also apply to the dendroclimate data at multi-century to millennial scales, and without long observational datasets available for validation, it is difficult to assess.

A third related explanation for mismatches could be that dendroclimatic reconstructions of variables such as the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) may differ from the hydroclimate variables represented by our data (e.g., net snow accumulation in ice cores; P-ET that drives lake-level changes). We do recognize some clusters of coherent anomalies (e.g., clusters of opposite sign anomalies in the Pacific Northwest versus the U.S. Southwest in Fig. 4), which would at first pass, suggest real signal and thus, in part, require explanations that involve differences in the time scale (explanation 1) or controlling variable (explanation 3) recorded by the two different datasets. More work is needed to test the various explanations.”

Overall, we agree that lessons probably lie hidden within even mismatched patterns and that we should show the comparison.

Selection of time windows: We would propose to add text to section 2.2.1 that clarifies that we used 100-yr bins as a simple approach to focusing on trends that were longer than a century. Some data do have the ability to assess finer patterns of variation, but we will clarify that our focus was on the low-frequency aspects of the records. Additionally, our focus on the last 2000 years was intended to align with the goals of PAGES 2k. Other timeframes may have been chosen to maximize the available data, but 2000 yrs was also a useful contrast with Holocene trends, which we intended as a focus of the manuscript. Similar to the suggestion about sub-setting the data, we split our data into 2ka and Holocene length groups to examine,

first, the dominant patterns (if any) over the last 2 ka in these types of records and, then, how these patterns compared with those that extend through the Holocene.

- **We added a sentence about 100-yr bins at the end of the first paragraph of section 2.1.1.**
- **We have provided a new figure showing the data split by archive type and added a description of these trends as a new paragraph at the end of section 3.1.1.**

Our maps contrasting the two millennia were designed with two points in mind, which we would propose to clarify. First, what were the spatial patterns of the long-term trends represented by the EOFs and PCs? Second, were differences observed when we contrast the Medieval and Little Ice Age periods a function of the long trends? However, the reviewer raises useful points and caveats.

- **We have added a related sentence to section 2.2.4.**

Data Groups: The point about evaluating the data by type is a good one and we would propose to include a figure showing the mean patterns or PCAs by proxy. Breaking the data apart in this way may help elucidate the causes of different patterns in our dataset and NADA.

- **As noted above, we added a related revised figure and text in section 3.1.1.**

Short comments by Scott St. George

Response 1:

Thank you to the review team for their suggestions. We agree to lodge the specified datasets with a public repository, as indicated in the "data availability" section.

Response 2:

We agree that all of the datasets involved have both strengths and limitations. We propose to add brief discussions of limitations to sections 2.1.2-2.1.5 where we describe the different archives used in our analysis. We appreciate the reference to the Huybers et al. paper. It is a good point that "low frequency" variation in systems with autoregressive memories of various durations can arise both from low frequency and high frequency climate forcing, and that it is not always clear which factor (or their interaction) is important for a given record.

- **We have revised the third paragraph of the Introduction to explicitly mention weaknesses of the data that we examined here.**
- **We have added a sentence about the contributions of low and high frequency changes, and autoregressive memories, in the Introduction, fourth paragraph.**

We had not intended our comments or analysis as a critique of dendroclimate records, but we can see that our wording did not fully clarify our intention to evaluate the patterns in the types of data normally used to study long-term changes extending through the Holocene. Please see our related responses to the two reviews and our proposed title revision: "Placing the Common Era in a Holocene Context: Millennial-to-centennial patterns and trends in the hydroclimate of North America over the past 2000 years."

- **We reduced some of our discussion of the limitations of dendroclimate records in the Abstract and Introduction.**
- **We have modified the title as proposed and shifted the Introduction to focus on the comparison to Holocene trends.**

Placing the Common Era in a Holocene Context: Millennial-to-centennial patterns and trends in the hydroclimate of North America over the past 2000 years

5 Bryan N. Shuman¹, Cody Routson², Nicholas McKay², Sherilyn Fritz³, Darrell Kaufman², Matthew E. Kirby⁴, Connor Nolan⁵, Gregory T. Pederson⁶, and Jeannine-Marie St-Jacques⁷

¹ Roy J. Shlemon Center for Quaternary Studies, Department of Geology and Geophysics, University of Wyoming, Laramie, Wyoming, 82071, USA

² School of Earth Sciences & Environmental Sustainability, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, Arizona, 86011, USA

10 ³ Department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences, University of Nebraska, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68588, USA

⁴ Department of Geological Sciences, California State University, Fullerton, Fullerton, California 92834, USA

⁵ Department of Geosciences, University of Arizona, Arizona, 85721, USA

⁶ Northern Rocky Mountain Science Center, U.S. Geological Survey, Bozeman, Montana, 59715, USA

⁷ Department of Geography, Planning and Environment, Concordia University, Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8, Canada

15

Correspondence to: Bryan N. Shuman (bshuman@uwyo.edu)

Abstract. A synthesis of 93 hydrologic records from across North and Central America, and adjacent tropical and Arctic islands, reveals centennial to millennial trends in the regional hydroclimates of the Common Era (CE; past 2000 years). The hydrological records derive from materials stored in lakes, bogs, caves, and ice from extant glaciers, which have the continuity through time to preserve low-frequency (>100 year) climate signals that may extend deeper into the Holocene. The most common pattern, represented in 46 (49%) of the records, indicates that the centuries before 1000 CE were drier than the centuries since that time. Principal components analysis indicates that millennial-scale trends represent the dominant pattern of variance in the southwest U.S., northeast U.S., the mid-continent, Pacific Northwest, the Arctic, and the tropics, although not all records within a region show the same direction of change. The Pacific Northwest and the southernmost tier of the tropical sites tended to dry toward present, as many other areas became wetter than before. In twenty-two records (24%), the Medieval period (800-1300 CE) was drier than the Little Ice Age (1400-1900 CE), but in many cases the difference was part of the longer millennial-scale trend, and, in 25 records (27%), the Medieval period represented a pluvial (wet) phase. Where quantitative records permitted a comparison, we found that centennial-scale fluctuations over the Common Era represented changes of 3-7% of the modern inter-annual range of variability in precipitation, but the accumulation of these long-term trends over the entirety of the Holocene caused recent centuries to be significantly wetter, on average, than most of the past 11,000 years.

Bryan Shuman 10/9/2017 2:16 PM

Deleted: not be well represented by other shorter-lived archives, such as tree-ring chronologies

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 11:58 AM

Deleted: and

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 11:58 AM

Deleted: T

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 11:58 AM

Deleted: indicate that

1 Introduction

5 Hydroclimate extremes characterize the Common Era (CE; the past two millennia) across North America (Cook et al., 2007; Woodhouse and Overpeck, 1998) and [other parts of](#) the Northern Hemisphere (Ljungqvist et al., 2016). [Wet](#) and dry conditions shifted at annual to multi-decadal scales (Fye et al., 2003; Pederson et al., 2011; Woodhouse et al., 2009), with notable periods of “mega-drought.” [Mega-droughts are](#) defined by severe moisture reductions lasting for multiple decades and covering large areas of the continent (Cook et al., 2004, 2010; Stahle et al., 2000). The Medieval period (800-1300 CE), in particular, included several decades-long droughts that have been widely analyzed to assess the underlying mechanisms (Coats et al., 2014; Cook et al., 2004; Herweijer et al., 2007; Meko, 2007; Routson et al., 2016a; Seager et al., 2007a), although earlier portions of the Common Era may have been at least as dry (Routson et al., 2011). Throughout this interval, the observed hydroclimate changes had important consequences for people, landscapes, and ecosystems (Heusser et al., 2015; Jones and Schwitalla, 2008; Mason et al., 2004). As a result, the Common Era provides a useful baseline for considering future hydroclimatic changes and their impacts (Cook et al., 2015; Seager et al., 2007b).

Little is known, however, about the low-frequency trends that lasted for centuries or longer and slowly altered the hydroclimate of North America during the Common Era. [Low-frequency trends may arise from externally forced trends extending throughout much of the Holocene as well as additional millennial to centennial variations.](#) Trends persisting for centuries to millennia were probably small compared to inter-annual variability and may have fallen within the uncertainties of reconstructions at annual scales (e.g., a 0.01 mm/yr multi-century trend in effective precipitation at Mina Lake, Minnesota over the past >800 years; St. Jacques et al., 2008, 2015). However, small changes that are imperceptible at annual scales can substantially affect hydrologic baselines when they accumulate over time scales of >100 years, reaching magnitudes at millennial scales equivalent to historic droughts, such as the 1930s Dust Bowl (Shuman et al., 2010).

Tree-ring records have generated rich insight into annual to centennial-scale climate variability, but, with the exception of a small number of chronologies comprised of long-lived individual series, most do not thoroughly preserve evidence of low-frequency (>100 year) changes (Ault et al., 2013; Cook et al., 1995; Sheppard et al., 1997). [New methods have improved the extraction of low-frequency signals \(Cook et al., 2010\), but a comparison of low-frequency changes during the Common Era and earlier portions of the Holocene requires focusing on different types of records that extend further in time than most tree ring chronologies. The spatial coverage of long tree ring chronologies also differs from other sources of information.](#) [Materials that have accumulated in lakes, bogs and caves, and ice stored in extant glaciers, can be used to evaluate centennial or longer trends, even if they often lack annual-scale age control or resolution \(Marlon et al., 2016\). The strength of these longer-lived archives resides in the continuous, multi-millennial time series; they have been studied in regions, like the northeastern U.S., where tree ring records may only be viable for a few hundred years.](#)

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 11:59 AM

Deleted: The patterns of

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 11:59 AM

Deleted: w

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 9:05 AM

Deleted: ,

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:15 PM

Deleted: Instead,

Bryan Shuman 10/9/2017 10:02 AM

Deleted: m

Bryan Shuman 10/9/2017 10:03 AM

Deleted: that circumvent issues, such as those associated with the short individual series lengths inherent to most tree-ring records (Cook et al., 1995).

Weaknesses often derive from lack of annual-scale age control and sample resolution, which can further limit calibration in time against observed time series of historic hydroclimate changes (although calibration of 100-1000 year signals is difficult anyway because of the absence of long historic records). These limitations have not, however, prevented many records from revealing a rich record of low-frequency climate changes during the Holocene, which have often been corroborated by data from multiple sites and methods (e.g., Hodeell et al., 2005b; Marlon et al., 2017; Shuman and Marsicek, 2016). We focus on these approaches to place Common Era trends and events in a Holocene context. Because the hydroclimate sensitivities involved may also differ from those of tree rings, new insights into data interpretation may ultimately arise from comparison with dendroclimatic reconstructions, such as the North America Drought Atlas (Cook et al., 2013, 2010).

Here, we present a dataset of 93 records of hydroclimate change during the Common Era in North America, Central America, and the adjacent islands from the tropics to the Arctic (Fig. 1). All the records are published and span >1000 years. Many approach decadal-scale resolution, but they all have a mean resolution of at least one sample per century. The records represent a wide range of different physical, biotic, and geochemical variables. Because they derive from multiple archives and measurable variables, they record different characteristics of local hydrological changes and yield a diverse matrix of information about factors ranging from lake levels and soil moisture to evaporation (Table 1). Some may be sensitive to the frequency of annual events (e.g., droughts), but others represent long-term mean conditions via autoregressive processes such as groundwater integration times. Annual precipitation has been inferred from 14 fossil pollen records (15% of the records), but most other records (58 or 62%) have been interpreted to preserve evidence of changes in effective moisture (precipitation minus evaporation). Twenty-five records (27%) provide calibrated reconstructions of hydroclimatic variables (e.g., millimeters of precipitation), but most represent relative indices of hydrologic change. To simplify treatment of this diverse data matrix, we discuss the patterns in the data in terms of relative changes from wet to dry conditions, broadly defined.

We use this dataset to identify the major trends, if any, that characterize the hydroclimate of North America over the past two millennia. Using data binned by century, we evaluate the patterns associated with commonly referenced periods, such as the Medieval Climate Anomaly (MCA) from 800–1300 CE (1150–650 BP) and the Little Ice Age (LIA) from 1400–1900 CE (550–50 BP), but we also describe other first-order hydroclimate trends represented by the data. In doing so, we assess evidence for major regional contrasts that may represent important circulation patterns or dynamics (e.g., Mock, 1996; Shinker and Bartlein, 2010; Wise and Dannenberg, 2014), and, where possible, we consider the magnitude of Common Era trends in the context of the Holocene.

Bryan Shuman 10/9/2017 10:29 AM
Deleted: Therefore,
Bryan Shuman 10/9/2017 10:29 AM
Deleted: t

2. Data and Methods

2.1. Dataset

2.1.1 Overview

5 The 93 lake, bog, cave, and glacial records span nine different regions of North and Central America, Greenland, and the Caribbean islands, with variable spatial densities of sites among regions (Fig. 1, Table 1). [The nine regions were determined before we compiled the data considered here \(McKay, 2014\), and were based on the level 1 ecoregions of North America \(Commission for Environmental Cooperation Working Group, 1997\) and major patterns of covariance within modern climate data \(Mock, 1996\). Where spatial outliers existed separate from the main cluster of data within a region \(e.g., data from Florida versus the northeast U.S.; northern versus southern Great Plains\), we split our initial regions to ensure suitable representation of the data in our analysis. We used these designations to ask whether distinct trends were recognizable among commonly recognized regions and whether any trends have parallels to patterns of climate variation observed at finer time scales, such as north-south anti-phased moisture variability along the western margin of North America \(Cayan, 1996; Wise and Dannenberg, 2014\). To facilitate comparison of centennial and longer trends, we calculated mean values for each record per century.](#)

15 Most of the records have been [interpreted to represent](#) a specific hydrologic variable, such as annual precipitation, lake or bog water depth, lake salinity, snow accumulation rate, or represent a geochemical index related to hydrology, such as oxygen and carbon stable isotope concentrations or other elemental ratios reflective of evaporative concentration of ions in soil or lake water. We have [omitted](#) any fossil datasets (e.g., pollen or diatom percentages) [comprised only of](#) relative or qualitative indices, and only 9 out of 93 records represent relative indices based on sedimentological properties [related to processes](#) such as runoff or dust deposition. In two cases, Deep Pond, Massachusetts and Castor Lake, Washington, we included two reconstructions based on different independent analyses or cores, but most sites are represented by a single time series. To focus on multi-century trends in the mean hydroclimate, we also have [excluded](#) sedimentary records of extreme events, such as hurricanes or floods (Donnelly et al., 2015; Munoz et al., 2015).

25 We compiled the data from publically available sources and solicited additional published records from the original authors. Many of the records derive from NOAA's Paleoclimatology database (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/data-access/paleoclimatology-data/datasets>) [where our dataset can also be accessed \(https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/22732\).](#)

2.1.2. Lake datasets: biotic, geochemical, sedimentological

30 The vast majority of records (77%) come from lake sediments, which are available from all regions except the southern Plains and southeastern U.S. (Fig. 1, Table 1). These records represent a range of different approaches to hydrologic

Bryan Shuman 10/6/2017 1:30 PM
Deleted: calibrated to

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 9:43 AM
Deleted: not included

Gregory Pederson 10/18/2017 10:16 AM
Deleted: as

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 9:43 AM
Deleted: that record phenomena,

Gregory Pederson 10/18/2017 10:18 AM
Deleted: not included

reconstruction. Fossil pollen data have been used to infer past precipitation changes, and we include published reconstructions where they are site specific rather than regional averages (e.g., Gajewski, 1988). Likewise, we also include records of paleolimnological status inferred from transfer functions applied to fossil diatoms and other microfossil assemblages. These inferences include variables sensitive to moisture balance, such as water salinity and water depth (e.g.,

5 Laird et al., 1996; Schmieder et al., 2011).

In addition to the biotic records, we include sedimentological datasets, which typically are used to infer changes in lake depth (Fig. 1). In some cases, the sedimentological data have been converted to quantitative estimates of lake level (e.g., Pribyl and Shuman, 2014), which, in a subset of these records, have been used to calculate changes in precipitation minus evaporation (e.g., Marsicek et al., 2013). In others, the data provide a relative index of lake status. In a few cases, lake sedimentology has also been used as a relative measure of precipitation-related run-off and aeolian activity (Dean, 1997; Kirby et al., 2010; Routson et al., 2016b).

15 Finally, we include geochemical records, focusing on the original authors' interpretation of the analyses. The geochemical records range from sulfur concentrations in lake sediments indicative of evaporative concentration and associated water-level change (Hodell et al., 2001) to Mg/Ca and oxygen isotope analyses of lake carbonates indicative of evaporative losses from the lakes (Tian et al., 2006; Yu and Ito, 1999). Oxygen isotope datasets from lakes also have been used to infer changes in precipitation seasonality or source (e.g., importance of the local snowpack versus direct precipitation)(e.g., Anderson, 2011; Steinman et al., 2012). Other compounding factors also influence these records (Anderson et al., 2016; Steinman and Abbott, 2013), but most of the lake sediment isotope records have been used as relative indices of high versus low effective moisture. However, to focus on the patterns of local hydrologic changes, we excluded records thought to have been dominated by local temperature effects or large-scale circulation changes rather than their local hydrologic effects (e.g., Anderson et al., 2005).

2.1.3 Peat sequences

25 In raised ombrotrophic bogs in Minnesota, Michigan, Maine, and Quebec, variability in precipitation and evaporation changes the surface wetness of the bog and, thus, the water-table depth, which influences the community composition of testate amoebae (Booth, 2010). Like biotic indicators from lake sediments, testate amoebae leave identifiable remains, which can be used along with extensive networks of modern samples to reconstruct past water-table depths (Booth, 2008). Water-table-depth reconstructions are often detrended to minimize the influence of autogenic bog processes and to emphasize decadal-to-centennial-scale events, attributable to climate rather than wetland evolution (Booth, 2010). Other evidence of hydrologic change can be derived from peatlands, but only calibrated estimates of water table depth from testate amoebae records are included here.

2.1.4 Speleothems and other cave deposits

Sediments and carbonate speleothems from caves also preserve oxygen and carbon isotopes, and trace-element chemistry (Mg/Ca, Sr/Ca), which can be used to infer past hydroclimates. In our data compilation, we include eight of these records from Central America and scattered sites at latitudes <math><42^\circ</math> N in North America. Like oxygen isotopes from lake sediments, many different processes can affect these records, but we followed the interpretations of the original publications.

2.1.5 Glacier ice

We include four annual ice-layer-accumulation records from the Greenland ice sheet (Meese et al., 1994; Andersen et al., 2006). These cores were dated by counting annual layers as determined from visual stratigraphy, laser light scattering from dust, chemistry, and electrical conductivity, with cross-checking using known volcanic eruptions. These accumulation records were then corrected for densification and ice-layer thinning due to ice flow, and we use them as direct measure of past precipitation.

2.2. Statistical Analyses

2.2.1 Binning, normalization and infilling

To compare the time series from these disparate sources, we averaged them into discrete bins and standardized them over the Common Era. The bins were calculated for each record at 100-yr intervals, averaging all the points within each century. Binning emphasizes long trends and removes age-uncertain sub-centennial variations from each record. We standardized each binned record over the 2000-year interval of the Common Era, or the entire length of the record if shorter than the analysis period. To do so, we subtracted each record's mean and divided by its standard deviation to calculate z-scores. Bins with missing data were infilled for cluster and empirical orthogonal function and principal components (EOF/PCA) analyses using singular spectrum analysis (SSA) to estimate the values of missing data (Ghil et al., 2002). [SSA is commonly used to iteratively infill dataset gaps by relying on the spatiotemporal covariance within the dataset. This methodology is well suited for infilling gaps in bins with no observations, but is not well suited for extrapolation. Missing bins were infilled with SSA using a 5-bin \(500yr\) moving window.](#)

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 9:03 AM

Deleted: Missing bins were infilled with SSA using a 5-bin (500yr) moving window.

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 9:02 AM

Deleted: This methodology is well suited for filling gaps in bins with no observations.

2.2.2 Cluster analyses

Hierarchical cluster analysis (HCA) was used to organize the records into a binary tree that subdivides groups of records with similar temporal patterns (Bar-Joseph et al., 2001; Eisen et al., 1998). Cluster analysis has been widely applied in paleoecology to divide samples into stratigraphic zones (Grimm, 1987), but we use HCA to group paleoclimate datasets by their dominant temporal patterns (e.g., Kaufman et al., 2016). The HCA and associated heat map was computed with the clustergram.m program in Matlab, using Euclidian pairwise distances between records for clustering and average linkages for the dendrogram. The composites were then generated by averaging the binned time series from each cluster. The 95% bootstrap confidence intervals on the composites were generated over 500 replicates of sampling-with-replacement from the records contributing to each cluster (Boos, 2003).

2.2.3 EOF/PCA

Principal component analysis (PCA) and empirical orthogonal function (EOF) analysis were used to characterize the dominant modes of variability in the North American hydroclimate dataset, as well as to characterize regional patterns of variability. The PCA was conducted on regional subsets of sites, based on regions represented by polygons in Figure 1, and was applied using base functions in R (R Core Development Team, 2009). [The PCA-by-region analysis was conducted to evaluate the strength of any signals within each region with >10 records, rather than simply calculating mean trends, and to assess potential correlations or shared signals across geographically distinct regions. The EOF analysis evaluates the latter from the perspective of the whole dataset.](#)

2.2.4 Epoch difference and trend analyses

Epoch differences were used to map broad-scale changes in the hydrological inferences between time periods. We used this method to examine two pairs of time periods: 1) the MCA 800–1300 CE minus the LIA 1400-1900 CE, and 2) the second millennium (1000-2000 CE) minus the first millennium (1-1000 CE). [The latter analysis of the difference between the two millennia was designed to evaluate the spatial patterns of any long-term trends and to assess whether any of the MCA-LIA differences were a function of longer trends. We compare the epoch differences with those calculated using the North American Drought Atlas \(Cook and Krusic 2008\).](#) Additionally, we fit generalized linear models to records that have been calibrated to provide quantitative hydroclimate time series to determine the magnitude of trends over the Common Era. The models were fit to binned data while accounting for correlation in the error terms using a first-order autoregressive model in the nlme package in R (Pinheiro et al., 2017).

Bryan Shuman 10/6/2017 1:34 PM

Deleted: ter

3. Results

3.1 Temporal patterns

A heat map shows the individual records and their departures from the mean of the Common Era (Fig. 2A). Cluster analyses of these data identify three major groups that differ in their long-term trends (Fig. 2B-D). The averaged time series of the records (n = 25) included in the first of the clusters, indicated in green in Figure 2, indicates wet conditions from 800-1500 CE (including during the MCA) followed by drying to present (Fig. 2B). The wet phases at individual sites varied in time, but most often occurred from 800-1200 CE (green in Fig. 2A, top). This cluster primarily includes sites in the Great Lakes region, the northeastern U.S., and adjacent areas (Fig. 2E). Because few data exist for some regions, such as the southeast U.S. (Fig. 1), the absence of any patterns may be a function of data availability.

The second cluster, shown in blue in Figure 2, includes records (n = 22) that are distinguished for showing pronounced evidence of drought from 900-1300 CE during the MCA (Fig. 2C). Many of these data also have long-term drying trends toward present and indicate wet conditions early in the Common Era before 500 CE, which are not repeated after the MCA (Fig. 2A). Overall, the sites that comprise this cluster are broadly distributed. It includes the majority of records in the Arctic and boreal Canada, but these patterns are also characteristic of a few sites in western North America (Fig. 2F).

The third cluster, which is marked as red in Figure 2, includes sites with a prevailing trend from dry to wet over the Common Era (Fig. 2D). Excluding the detrended bog records, which by definition cannot capture millennial-scale changes, this cluster represents 53% (46 of 87 records) of our dataset. The 46 records include the majority of records in the northeast U.S., the mid-continent, the Rocky Mountains, and the Yucatan Peninsula, as well as along the western margin of North America (Fig. 2G).

Breaking out the data by archive type further reveals that the lake records, which dominate the dataset, have a mean moistening trend over the Common Era equal to approximately 1 standard deviation (Fig. 3). The means of other archives represent fewer records, and thus, retain similar magnitude (1 standard deviation) variations at centennial scales. Despite these short-lived variations, often-studied periods such as the MCA and LIA are not distinct in most of the mean time series. Instead, ice cores (representing Greenland) and speleothems (dominantly representing western North America and central America) record mean drying trends also equaling about 0.5-1 standard deviations (Fig. 3).

3.2 EOF results

The pattern and interpretation of the first EOF indicates that overall millennial-scale trends, particularly those amplified by a transition at ca. 900-1200 CE, explain the largest amount of coherent variance in the data (Fig. 4A-B). This pattern is similar to that of the third cluster. The first EOF loads positively and most strongly at sites in the northeast U.S., the western mid-continent, the western margin of North America, and the Yucatan Peninsula. It also loads negatively in many regions (Fig.

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:27 PM
Deleted: one

Bryan Shuman 10/6/2017 1:59 PM
Deleted: blue

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:28 PM
Deleted: A

Bryan Shuman 10/6/2017 1:54 PM
Deleted: have weak or no long-term trends but that

Bryan Shuman 10/6/2017 1:52 PM
Deleted: A sub-set

Bryan Shuman 10/6/2017 1:51 PM
Deleted: also

Bryan Shuman 10/6/2017 1:52 PM
Deleted: s

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:01 AM
Deleted: Fig. 3

4A), but few individual records show strong drying trends to present (Fig. 2A), and the weak or negative loadings appear to primarily indicate records with little or no trend. Proportionally, however, the variance explained by EOF 1 is small (29.4%).

The second EOF emphasizes contrasts between ca. 1000 CE and the last few centuries, and accounts for 18.1% of variance in the data (Fig. 4C-D). Like clusters 1 and 2, EOF 2 highlights the Medieval-age anomalies in the records, but they neither dominate the variability within the dataset nor are they consistently of the same sign. The EOF loads negatively (dry at ca. 1000 CE and wet today) across large areas of western and tropical North America, whereas positive loadings (wet at ca. 1000 CE and dry today) appear most commonly in the northeast U.S. and in Greenland, consistent with the pattern of sites that comprise cluster 1 (Fig. 2B).

The third EOF is the only other EOF to explain >10% of the variance (11.8% explained, Fig. 4E-F), and it highlights sites where the 19th and 20th centuries contrast with earlier periods (like the first cluster in Fig. 2A). It loads most heavily and positively (dry today, wet LIA) in the northeast U.S., central Rocky Mountains, and Central America and has negative loadings (wet today, dry LIA) across northwestern North America from Washington to Alaska and Manitoba (Fig. 4E).

Overall, the total variance explained by the first three EOFs (59.3%) is slightly more than half, which indicates that no one pattern consistently dominates the dataset. Thus, more than half of the variance attributable to these dominant EOFs is associated with synoptic-scale trends (EOF 1), but nearly half of the total variation also can be attributed to site-specific changes and heterogeneity within regions (Fig. 2A).

3.3 Epoch differences

A map of the differences between the mean z-scores for the LIA (1400-1900 CE) and the MCA (800-1300 CE) highlights the extent of low-frequency drying during the MCA (Fig. 5A), which is not consistently the same as the patterns of individual annual to multi-decadal droughts during the same time (Herweijer et al., 2007). Red symbols on the map represent a dry MCA: sites with higher z-scores (wetter) during the LIA than during the MCA. Reduced moisture during the MCA extended from southern California through the central Rocky Mountains to areas of the mid-continent (Fig. 5A). Dry conditions also affected the northeast U.S. and Yucatan, but the difference between 800-1300 CE and 1400-1900 CE at many sites simply reflects the millennial-scale wetting trend over the Common Era (Fig. 2D). Blue symbols indicate that some areas, such as in the Pacific Northwest, were also wet during the MCA (Fig. 5A).

A map contrasting the first and second millennia CE (Fig. 5B) shares many features of the LIA-MCA difference map and the patterns of EOF 1, which emphasize the long-term trends (Fig. 4A-B). Red symbols indicate where the first millennium CE was drier than the second, and blue symbols show the reverse (where the mean z-scores for the second millennium CE were higher, wetter, than those for the first millennium). A wetter first millennium CE was most prominent in the Pacific Northwest and in southern Central America (blue, Fig. 5B), whereas the first millennium was drier over portions of the Yucatan, California, the Rocky Mountains, the mid-continent, and the northeast U.S. (red, Fig. 5B).

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:01 AM
Deleted: Fig. 3

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:01 AM
Deleted: Fig. 3

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:01 AM
Deleted: Fig. 3

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 4

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 4

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 4

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:01 AM
Deleted: Fig. 3

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 4

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 4

The greatest difference between the epoch difference maps (Fig. 5A versus Fig. 5B) exists in the mid-continent and Rocky Mountains. Histograms of the total numbers of wet and dry sites both skew positively (toward wet conditions in the more recent intervals), but the LIA-MCA is skewed more toward a dry MCA than the millennial difference, which includes a larger proportion of sites recording a wet first millennium (Fig. 5B, inset). Many anomalies also cluster more coherently (e.g., in the Pacific Northwest) in the LIA-MCA difference map (Fig. 5A) than the millennial difference map (Fig. 5B).

The patterns are not consistently well correlated with the millennial mean differences in Palmer Drought Severity Index derived from the North American Drought Atlas dendroclimatic dataset (Fig. 5). The best agreement exists in western North America where both datasets show that the MCA was wetter than the LIA in much of the Pacific Northwest, but drier than the LIA across the southwest (Fig. 5A). Agreement is poor, however, in mid-continent and eastern areas. The agreement is also low when comparing the mean of the two millennia (Fig. 5B).

3.4 Regional correlations and contrasts

Time series of first principal component (PC) scores, derived from the records within each region in Fig. 1, indicate that similar long-term changes affected multiple regions (Fig. 6). In particular, many regional PC scores represent large differences between the two millennia and show evidence of a rapid transition at ca. 1000 CE. These differences in time explain about a third of the variance in most regions (27-41%, Fig. 6).

The regional scores are correlated (absolute magnitude of $r > 0.55$, $p \leq 0.01$), but in most cases, the correlations only represent long-term autocorrelated trends. Based on the maps (Fig. 5) and loadings, the changes represented by the correlated scores generally trended in the opposite direction in the Pacific Northwest, the Arctic and parts of the tropics compared to the other regions. The Pacific Northwest tended to become drier toward present as large portions of the Southwest, northeast U.S., and the mid-continent became wetter than during the first millennium CE (Fig. 5B). Generalized least squares models including a first-order autoregressive term indicate that the PC scores only correlate significantly between the Southwest and two other regions, the northeast U.S. (slope, $\beta = 0.68 \pm 0.13$, $p = 0.0001$) and the Pacific Northwest ($\beta = 0.38 \pm 0.14$, $p = 0.0193$). The differences among the geographic regions also parallel the geographic biases in the different archive types (Fig. 3).

3.5 Holocene context

A subset of Common Era records extends at least 6000 years into the Holocene and has a similar geographic distribution as the overall Common Era dataset. The Holocene records indicate that the dominant wetting trend over the past 2000 years began early in the Holocene (Fig. 7). Maps reveal that individual regions, such as portions of northwestern and tropical North America, did not always follow the mean pattern, but the Holocene-length records facilitate comparisons of the mean trends for both time scales (Fig. 7A). On average, the Holocene-long records ($n = 36$) show a long-term increase in

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 5

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 5

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 4

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 4

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 6

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 6

moisture leading to the Common Era (Fig. 7B). The period from 1000-1500 CE, specifically, was the wettest of the Holocene based on this set of data. By contrast, the average z-scores were 5 standard deviations below the mean of the Common Era during the early Holocene.

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 6

5 3.6 Magnitudes of change

Moisture-balance changes inferred from past lake levels, pollen-inferred annual precipitation, and ice accumulation rates provide constraints on the magnitudes of the low-frequency hydroclimate changes. Such data are [spatially clustered and as such may not be representative of the whole continent](#). However, where they exist, they reveal the magnitude of the fluctuations described above (Fig. 8). Overall, the reconstructions indicate changes equivalent to net changes in precipitation on the order of 0-100 mm over the Common Era. Negative trends (red, Fig. 8A) are uncommon in this subset of the records and have smaller magnitudes than the positive trends (blue, Fig. 8A). Consequently, the inferred rates of change before 1500 CE (before potential land use effects on the pollen records) equal -0.01 to +0.07 mm/yr (Fig. 8B).

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 4:33 PM
Deleted: not widespread

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 4:34 PM
Deleted: , but

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 7

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 7

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 7

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM
Deleted: Fig. 7

In the northeast U.S., where the greatest density of quantitative records exists, the lake-level and pollen records indicate an increase in annual effective precipitation of 25-50 mm, about 2-5% of mean annual precipitation in the region today, since the early part of the first millennium CE (Gajewski, 1988; Marsicek et al., 2013; Newby et al., 2014). [No distinct differences exist between the pollen-inferred precipitation changes and changes estimated from lake levels](#) (Marlon et al., 2017; Marsicek et al., 2013). Trends range from having magnitudes similar to those in northeast to no significant trends in pollen-inferred precipitation reconstructions from the Great Lakes region (Gajewski, 1988; St. Jacques et al., 2008). In the Rocky Mountains, lake-level reconstructions from Wyoming also indicate an increase of ~20 mm (4%) since 100 CE, when conditions were approximately as dry as during the MCA (Pribyl and Shuman, 2014). The changes in the northeast U.S. and Wyoming equal about 3-7% of the range of inter-annual variability in annual precipitation, as represented by climate division data since 1948 CE (NCDC, 1994). Trends in Greenland ice core accumulation rates have magnitudes near zero; the largest and most significant trend equals -0.005 ± 0.002 mm/yr ($p = 0.07$) at GRIP (Andersen et al., 2006).

4. Discussion

25 4.1 Prominent low-frequency patterns

Multi-century fluctuations and trends appear to be important features of the hydroclimatic history of North America during the Common Era. The causes and consequences of these low-frequency (centennial to millennial scale) hydrologic changes need to be considered as part of the full spectrum of changes during recent millennia, in addition to the annual to multi-decadal variability that has been the focus of other syntheses of Common Era climate patterns (Ault et al., 2013). An overall trend from dry to wet dominates >50% of the records (Fig. 2) and is evident in the first EOF, which explains 29.4% of the variance in the available dataset of 93 records (Fig. 4A-B). Additional multi-century patterns, represented by clusters 1-2 and

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:01 AM
Deleted: Fig. 3

EOFs 2-3, also express coherence across sets of records and multiple regions and indicate that long wet periods were as frequently recorded as prolonged dry intervals, such as the MCA (Fig. 2A-B). Overall, periods like the MCA were not unusual, because hydroclimate fluctuations created periods that were both wetter and drier than present, although few centuries appear to have been as wet as the 20th century.

5 | The spatial heterogeneity in the temporal patterns (Fig. 4-6) may represent real sub-regional complexity of hydroclimate, consistent with the variability associated with historic hydroclimatic changes (Cook et al., 2007; Dai et al., 1998; Groisman and Easterling, 1994). For example, maps of EOF1 (Fig. 4A) and the epoch differences (Fig. 5) highlight a contrast between the Pacific Northwest and much of the southwest and mid-continent as well as other areas such as the northern Yucatan peninsula and the northeast U.S. The clustering of anomalies in western North America is well defined for
10 | the LIA-MCA difference maps (Fig. 5A) and has parallels in latitudinal shifts in moisture anomalies at annual to decadal scales, such as associated with changes in Pacific sea-surface temperature patterns today (Dettinger et al., 1998; Wise, 2010, 2016). The LIA-MCA pattern includes some similarities to maps of the frequency of drought during the Dust Bowl era from 1924-1943 CE, which included low frequencies of drought in the Pacific Northwest when drought was frequent in other regions (McCabe et al., 2004). Likewise, the “Terminal Classic Drought” in the Yucatan from ca. 700-1100 CE may include
15 | both low-frequency trends and frequent decadal-scale events (Hodell et al., 2005b; Lachniet et al., 2012; Medina-Elizalde et al., 2010), but the limited spatial extent of the drought signal (Fig. 5) corresponds closely to the focused area of well-correlated precipitation in the Yucatan today (Medina-Elizalde et al., 2010). Additional heterogeneity evident in the maps may represent spatial complexity in hydroclimatic variables, such as the ratio of actual to potential evapotranspiration, the seasonal timing of maximum precipitation, and magnitude of monthly-scale changes in precipitation, which today can
20 | include major differences across distances of ~100 km particularly through interactions with factors like topography (Shinker, 2010; Shinker and Bartlein, 2010).

Non-hydroclimatic influences on the proxy records and site-level factors also may explain much of the 40.7% of the variance unattributed to EOFs 1-3, and these influences are also likely embedded in the first three EOFs as well. Differences among archives, such as their sensitivities to annual versus seasonal hydroclimate, also may explain why Medieval drying
25 | from 900-1300 CE (1150-650 BP) can appear in one sub-set of records from a given region (Fig. 2C), while long trends from dry to wet dominate another sub-set from the same area (Fig. 2D). One potential implication is that long-term trends (>100-1000 years) affected more of North America than is apparent from our dataset, but some archives (e.g., detrended bog records) do not preserve such signals. Some records may act as stringent low-pass filters (e.g., sedimentary records of lake-level change; Newby et al., 2014), but others may be better suited to recording discrete events (e.g., bogs in the northeast
30 | U.S.; Booth et al., 2006). Local hydrological factors may also be important for creating differences from site to site, or counter-intuitive shifts in variables like oxygen isotopes, particularly in lakes, even when a region experiences an extreme drought (Donovan et al., 2002; Fritz et al., 2000; Plank and Shuman, 2009).

Furthermore, the climate signals were weak relative to our ability to reconstruct them. When considered over the entire Holocene, the data show pronounced trends in hydroclimate that far exceed those of the Common Era (Fig. 7), but, at

Gregory Pederson 10/18/2017 10:47 AM

Deleted: the

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:01 AM

Deleted: Fig. 3

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 10:01 AM

Deleted: 5

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM

Deleted: Fig. 6

the scale of individual millennia or centuries such as those of the last 2000 years, the signal-to-noise ratio in many records may be relatively low. For example, independent lake-level and pollen-derived estimates of Common Era changes can correlate closely (Marlon et al., 2017; Marsicek et al., 2013), but the root mean squared error of pollen-inferred annual precipitation equals ~165 mm compared to trends of <50 mm over 2000 years (Fig. 8).

The small magnitudes of past hydroclimate fluctuations reveal, however, the unusual character of the changes taking place in some regions today. For example, in Massachusetts in the northeast U.S., multiple pollen and lake-level datasets indicate that effective annual precipitation increased by <50 mm over 2000 years or <0.025 mm/yr (Fig. 8B)(Marsicek et al., 2013). By comparison, annual precipitation in that area has increased by 2.7 mm/yr since 1948 CE (NCDC, 1994; Pederson et al., 2013). More generally, annual precipitation increases of 13% over southern Canada and 4% over the U.S. during the 20th century (Groisman and Easterling, 1994) could represent at least an order-of-magnitude amplification of the regional trends of <5% during the entire Common Era (Fig. 8). Additional work is required, however, to thoroughly compare the magnitudes and rates of past and ongoing trends.

4.2 Medieval drying and low-frequency records

Our data confirm that during the MCA, average moisture decreased over large areas of North America (Fig. 2C, 6). However, at many sites, the MCA was drier than the LIA or other more recent periods, simply because of the long-term trend, such that earlier periods tended to be drier than later periods (e.g., the red cluster 3 in Fig. 2D; EOF 1, Fig. 4A-B). As a result, the dry periods in the early portions of some dendroclimatic records that extend back <1000 years might capture only part of a trend that would have extended further back in time (e.g., Pederson et al., 2013). Comparison of the epoch difference maps for the MCA-LIA (Fig. 5A) and the first-second millennia (Fig. 5B) highlights that MCA drying (red circles in Fig. 5A) was more coherent and extensive in the mid-continent and southwest U.S. than the mean aridity of the first millennium (red circles in Fig. 5B). Indeed, many mid-continent and southwestern records indicate that the first millennium was wetter than the second (blue circles in Fig. 5B). Thus, the mid-continent best expresses a distinct MCA dry anomaly (blue cluster 2 in Fig. 2C,F), but also evidence of millennial-scale moistening (the red cluster 3 in Fig. 2D, G).

The 25 records included in cluster 1 (green, Figure 2B) also indicate that unusually wet conditions characterized some regions during the MCA (Fig. 2A-B), which is consistent with several multi-decadal pluvials in dendroclimatic reconstructions in western North America (Routson et al., 2016a). Furthermore, long drying trends in regions, such as the Pacific Northwest, resulted in a LIA that was drier than the MCA (Fig. 5-6). However, in the northeast U.S., where many records fall into cluster 1 (Fig. 2E), the pollen assemblages that provide much of the evidence for the inferred drying since the MCA are influenced by land use since ca. 1600 CE and should be interpreted cautiously (Fuller et al., 1998; Marsicek et al., 2013; St. Jacques et al., 2015; Webb et al., 1993). The importance of ragweed (*Ambrosia*) and other herb pollen in the upper portions of these records result in modern analogs that derive from drier prairie regions, which may explain why pollen-inferred precipitation reconstructions deviate significantly from lake-level reconstructions (within cluster 3, Fig. 2D)

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:20 PM

Deleted: 6

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM

Deleted: Fig. 7

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM

Deleted: Fig. 7

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM

Deleted: Fig. 7

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:01 AM

Deleted: Fig. 3

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM

Deleted: Fig. 4

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 10:01 AM

Deleted: 5

only during the LIA (Marsicek et al., 2013). If so, the land-use effects on the pollen-derived reconstructions may artificially truncate multi-millennial moistening trends otherwise found in the northeast U.S. (Fig. 2G). Nonetheless, anomalously wet regional conditions during the MCA highlight the complex nature of hydroclimate during this interval in general.

5 4.3 Differences between the first and second millennia

The long trends apparent in our dataset typically indicate that the mean state of the first and second millennia differed (Fig. 5B) and that low-frequency trends differed between regions (Fig. 6). These contrasts have parallels to those observed in instrumental and dendroclimatic data, particularly in the western U.S. where the Pacific Northwest and southwest U.S. often exhibit anti-phased moisture anomalies, because of factors, such as tropical and northern Pacific sea-surface temperatures, which can influence the position of the jet stream (Dettinger et al., 1998; Routson et al., 2016a; Wise, 2010, 2016). As noted above, the contrast between the Pacific Northwest and the southwest U.S. bears similarities to patterns of historic drought (Cook et al., 2007; McCabe et al., 2004). The differences could indicate a tendency for storms to follow more southern tracks since 1000 CE than before, which resulted in general drying of the Northwest, likely due to a reduction in precipitation rather than a negative evapotranspiration-driven effect from temperature (PAGES 2k Consortium, 2013; Trouet et al., 2013; Wahl et al., 2012).

Central America represents another region with coherent signals of millennial change. Evidence of drought from ca. 700-1100 CE during the “Terminal Classic Drought” is evident in the Yucatan (Hodell et al., 2005b; Lachniet et al., 2012; Medina-Elizalde et al., 2010) and contributes to the difference between millennia captured by the third cluster of records (red in Fig. 2), but some records from the Yucatan also exhibit an increase in mean moisture levels from the first to second millennium beyond the specific droughts (Curtis et al., 1996). The pattern contrasts with the direction of change further south in Guatemala, Nicaragua, and Panama where lake and speleothem oxygen isotope records indicate that moisture levels fell from the first to second millennium (Fig. 5)(Curtis et al., 1998; Lachniet, 2004; Rosenmeier et al., 2002; Stansell et al., 2013). The pattern provides support for a zonal shift in tropical precipitation across the region, although at least portions of the Yucatan also became drier than before during the LIA (Hodell et al., 2005a). The changes could have resulted from factors such as the temporal evolution of the El Nino-Southern Oscillation (ENSO), dynamical processes over the Atlantic, or changes in the latitudinal temperature gradient that influenced the position of the American monsoon or inter-tropical convergence zone.

The northeast U.S. and adjacent Canada represent a third region where coherent millennial differences exist among records (Fig. 5). Many pollen and lake-level records indicate that the region became increasingly wet over the last 2000 years (Marlon et al., 2017; Marsicek et al., 2013; Newby et al., 2014). Regional cooling may play an important role (Shuman and Marsicek, 2016), and if so, different regional patterns could have resulted from different processes. Combinations of atmospheric circulation or dynamical changes, such as zonal precipitation shifts, may have been important in western North

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM

Deleted: Fig. 4

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM

Deleted: Fig. 5

[America and central America, while the influence of direct energy budget changes on factors like evaporation or snowmelt could have influenced patterns in other regions like the northeast U.S.](#)

Placed in the context of the Holocene (Fig. 7), the difference between moisture levels of the two millennia of the Common Era is modest and consistent with longer-term multi-millennial trends. Changes in global forcing, such as slow changes in seasonal insolation and greenhouse gases, can explain many of the Holocene-scale trends (Shuman and Marsicek, 2016). [Climate models run with mid-Holocene \(4050 BCE or 6000 YBP\) forcing simulate extensive drying; thus, like empirical data, the models indicate moistening towards the present, which was caused by dynamical responses of the atmosphere to seasonal insolation change, sea-surface conditions in the tropical Pacific and Atlantic, and surface-atmosphere feedbacks](#) (Diffenbaugh et al., 2006; Harrison et al., 2003; Shin et al., 2006). Because of the responses to external forcing, the Common Era and especially the second millennium CE stand out as the wettest periods of the Holocene over much of North America, despite the decadal “mega-droughts” that occasionally punctuated the persistence of the relatively wet conditions. Understanding how the multi-centennially trends, which are expressed weakly at annual scales, interacted with such extremes at decadal scales warrants further investigation.

4.4 Comparison with dendroclimate records

The patterns here differ from those in the North American Drought Atlas (NADA, Cook and Krusic 2008), although the MCA-LIA patterns in western North America correspond closely (Fig. 5A). The differences elsewhere, and with regard to the longer-term millennial mean differences (Fig. 5B), may exist for several reasons. First, contrasts may exist between the way our dataset retains signals of annual-to-decadal variations (clearly preserved in the dendroclimate record) and those of multi-century and longer variations. For example slow sediment dynamics or forest tree longevity may prove resilient to annual variations, but readily responsive to change over centuries. Different map patterns could arise, therefore, because the 2008 version of the NADA (used in Fig. 5) likely emphasizes interannual variation, even when smoothed over centuries, whereas other datasets may emphasize the effects of centennial and longer changes. The differences would represent different patterns in the averages of high-frequency variability versus the patterns in low-frequency trends.

Furthermore, our dataset may lack a consistent ability to detect either annual-decadal variability or multi-century trends in a limited 2000-yr window because of the interaction of taphonomic process (e.g., sediment mixing) and the small magnitudes of the low-frequency trends. Some datasets may well be noisy relative to weak low-frequency signals. As we noted in the introduction, the magnitudes of the trends in many records are small over even 2000 yrs (Fig. 8) when compared to many reconstruction uncertainties. The low signal-to-noise ratio may also apply to the dendroclimate data at multi-century to millennial scales, and without long observational datasets available for validation, it is difficult to assess.

A third related explanation for mismatches could be that dendroclimatic reconstructions of variables such as the Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) may differ from the hydroclimate variables represented by our data (e.g., net snow accumulation in ice cores; P-ET that drives lake-level changes). We do recognize some clusters of coherent anomalies (e.g.,

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:02 AM

Deleted: Fig. 6

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 9:47 AM

Deleted: Climate models run with mid-Holocene (4050 BCE or 6000 YBP) forcings simulate extensive drying, which must have been followed by moistening towards the present, because of dynamical responses of the atmosphere to seasonal insolation change, sea-surface conditions in the tropical Pacific and Atlantic, and surface-atmosphere feedbacks

Bryan Shuman 10/6/2017 9:54 PM

Formatted: Heading 3

Bryan Shuman 9/29/2017 5:05 PM

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0.5"

Gregory Pederson 10/18/2017 11:04 AM

Deleted: I

clusters of opposite sign anomalies in the Pacific Northwest versus the U.S. Southwest in Fig. 5), which would at first pass, suggest real signal and thus, in part, require explanations that involve differences in the time scale (explanation 1) or controlling variable (explanation 3) recorded by the two different datasets. More work is needed to test the various explanations.

5 5. Conclusions

Hydrologic reconstructions from across North and Central America, and adjacent islands, indicate that the hydroclimates of the first and second millennia CE differed significantly. Many regions, such as the northeast U.S., the mid-continent, the Rocky Mountains, the western margin of North America, and the northern Yucatan Peninsula experienced an overall wetting trend over the Common Era. Not all portions of North America experienced this trend, however, and the Pacific Northwest and the southern tropics, in particular, were characterized by drying toward present. In many areas, the changes continue trends that persisted for millennia during the Holocene, and the patterns may indicate the continuation of long-term, low-frequency responses of Hadley circulation, the position and influence of the subtropical high systems, and the major westerly storm tracks to orbital and greenhouse gas forcing (Braconnot et al., 2007; Harrison et al., 2003).

The millennial-scale trends equal changes of <5% in annual precipitation over the Common Era and only 3-7% of the historic range of inter-annual precipitation variability. However, they represent trends that allowed the Common Era to become the wettest portion of the Holocene in many areas. Multi-decade “mega-droughts” of the MCA were associated with low-frequency (>100-yr) departures from more recent wet conditions, but the low moisture levels of the MCA were commonly part of the long-term trends that made early periods drier than later portions of the Common Era. Now, however, increases in precipitation in many portions of North America have substantially accelerated the long-term trends.

20 Data availability

Note to editor/reviewers: 43 datasets used in this study have not previously been archived. We are currently facilitating the transfer of the original data from the data generators to NOAA Paleoclimatology. Each dataset will receive a unique URL, which will be added to Table 1 prior to the final acceptance of this paper. At that time, we will also transfer the output time series to NOAA. We will contact the editor as soon as the final datasets have been archived.

(1) Input data used for the analysis: Table 1 includes the persistent online identifiers for the 93 original datasets used in this synthesis, which are available through the World Data Service (NOAA Paleoclimatology) or other public repositories. In addition, an online landing page has been created at NOAA Paleoclimatology (<https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/22732>) where all datasets are available as LiPD files and Matlab and R serializations.

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 9:40 AM

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0"

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:36 PM

Formatted: Font:Not Bold

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:36 PM

Formatted: Font:Not Bold

(2) Output time series: The 100-year binned raw and standardized data for each proxy record, and the regional averages are available at the NOAA Paleoclimatology URL listed above. These enable future users to test different standardization approaches and to compare our composites with subsequent studies.

5

Author contributions:

All of the authors contributed to data compilation, study design, data interpretation, and manuscript preparation. NM, DK, and BS coordinated the workshops that facilitated the project. CR and NM processed the dataset and, with BS, conducted the final statistical analyses and generated figures and tables. BS led the manuscript writing.

10

Competing Interests:

The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

Acknowledgements: We thank the U.S. Geological Survey Powell Center for Analysis and synthesis, Past Global Changes (PAGES), and the University of Wyoming Roy J. Shlemon Center for Quaternary Studies for supporting the working group meetings. NSF award 1602105 to DK, CR and NM supported the analyses. We also thank all data contributors and the participants of the Powell Center working group meetings that lead to the project, including J. Cole, A. Viau, J. Rodsill, D. Willard, K. Anchukaitis, S. St. George, E. Cook, F. Jaume-Santero, and H. Beltrami, as well as J. Marsicek. Any use of trade, firm, or product names is for descriptive purposes only and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

20

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:36 PM

Formatted: Indent: First line: 0"

Bryan Shuman 10/13/2017 9:40 AM

Deleted: Data availability: -

... [1]

References

- [Andresen, C. S., Björck, S., Bennike, O., and Bond, G.: Holocene climate changes in southern Greenland: evidence from lake sediments, *Journal of Quaternary Science*, 19, 783-795, 2004. DOI: 10.1002/jqs.886](#)
- 5 Andersen, K. K., Ditlevsen, P. D., Rasmussen, S. O., Clausen, H. B., Vinther, B. M., Johnsen, S. J. and Steffensen, J. P.: Retrieving a common accumulation record from Greenland ice cores for the past 1800 years, *Journal of Geophysical Research*, 111(D15), doi:10.1029/2005JD006765, 2006.
- Anderson, L.: Holocene record of precipitation seasonality from lake calcite $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ in the central Rocky Mountains, United States, *Geology*, 39(3), 211–214, doi:10.1130/g31575.1, 2011.
- 10 Anderson, L.: Rocky Mountain hydroclimate: Holocene variability and the role of insolation, ENSO, and the North American Monsoon, *Global and Planetary Change*, 92–93, 198–208, doi:10.1016/j.gloplacha.2012.05.012, 2012.
- Anderson, L., Abbott, M. B., Finney, B. P. and Burns, S. J.: Regional atmospheric circulation change in the North Pacific during the Holocene inferred from lacustrine carbonate oxygen isotopes, Yukon Territory, Canada, *Quaternary Research*, 64(1), 21–35, 2005.
- 15 Anderson, L., Abbott, M. B., Finney, B. P. and Burns, S. J.: Late Holocene moisture balance variability in the southwest Yukon Territory, Canada, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 26(1–2), 130–141, 2007.
- Anderson, L., Berkelhammer, M. and Mast, M. A.: Isotopes in North American Rocky Mountain Snowpack 1993–2014, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 131, Part B, 262–273, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2015.03.023, 2016.
- 20 Anderson, N. J., Liversidge, A. C., McGowan, S. and Jones, M. D.: Lake and catchment response to Holocene environmental change: spatial variability along a climate gradient in southwest Greenland, *Journal of Paleolimnology*, 48(1), 209–222, doi:10.1007/s10933-012-9616-3, 2012.
- Andresen, C. S., Björck, S., Bennike, O. and Bond, G.: Holocene climate changes in southern Greenland: evidence from lake sediments, *Journal of Quaternary Science*, 19(8), 783–795, doi:10.1002/jqs.886, 2004.
- 25 Asmerom, Y., Polyak, V. J., Rasmussen, J. B. T., Burns, S. J. and Lachniet, M.: Multidecadal to multicentury scale collapses of Northern Hemisphere monsoons over the past millennium, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 110(24), 9651–9656, doi:10.1073/pnas.1214870110, 2013.
- Ault, T. R., Cole, J. E., Overpeck, J. T., Pederson, G. T., George, S. S., Otto-Bliesner, B., Woodhouse, C. A. and Deser, C.: The continuum of hydroclimate variability in western North America during the last millennium, *Journal of Climate*, 26(16), 5863–5878, 2013.
- 30 Bar-Joseph, Z., Gifford, D. K. and Jaakkola, T. S.: Fast optimal leaf ordering for hierarchical clustering, *Bioinformatics*, 17 (supplement 1), S22–S29, doi:10.1093/bioinformatics/17.suppl_1.S22, 2001.
- Benson, L., Kashgarian, M., Rye, R., Lund, S., Paillet, F., Smoot, J., Kester, C., Mensing, S., Meko, D. and Lindström, S.: Holocene multidecadal and multicentennial droughts affecting Northern California and Nevada, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 21(4–6), 659–682, 2002.
- 35 Booth, R. K.: Testate amoebae as proxies for mean annual water-table depth in Sphagnum-dominated peatlands of North America, *J. Quaternary Sci.*, 23(1), 43–57, doi:10.1002/jqs.1114, 2008.

Booth, R. K.: Testing the climate sensitivity of peat-based paleoclimate reconstructions in mid-continental North America, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 29(5–6), 720–731, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2009.11.018, 2010.

Booth, R. K., Notaro, M., Jackson, S. T. and Kutzbach, J. E.: Widespread drought episodes in the western Great Lakes region during the past 2000 year: Geological extent and potential mechanisms, *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 242, 415–427, 2006.

Booth, R. K., Jackson, S. T., Sousa, V. A., Sullivan, M. E., Minckley, T. A. and Clifford, M. J.: Multi-decadal drought and amplified moisture variability drove rapid forest community change in a humid region, *Ecology*, 93(2), doi:10.1890/11-1068.1, 2012.

Braconnot, P., Otto-Bliesner, B., Harrison, S., Joussaume, S., Peterchmitt, J. Y., Abe-Ouchi, A., Crucifix, M., Driesschaert, E., Fichefet, T., Hewitt, C. D., Kageyama, M., Kitoh, A., Larnac, A., Loutre, M. F., Marti, O., Merkel, U., Ramstein, G., Valdes, P., Weber, S. L., Yu, Y. and Zhao, Y.: Results of PMIP2 coupled simulations of the Mid-Holocene and Last Glacial Maximum - Part I: experiments and large-scale features, *Clim. Past*, 3(2), 261–277, doi:10.5194/cp-3-261-2007, 2007.

Buhay, W. M., Simpson, S., Thorleifson, H., Lewis, M., King, J., Telka, A., Wilkinson, P., Babb, J., Timsic, S. and Bailey, D.: A 1000-year record of dry conditions in the eastern Canadian prairies reconstructed from oxygen and carbon isotope measurements on Lake Winnipeg sediment organics, *Journal of Quaternary Science*, 24(5), doi:10.1002/jqs.1293, 2009.

[Cayan, D. R.: Interannual climate variability and snowpack in the western United States, *Journal of Climate*, 9, 928–948, 1996.](#)

Chipman, M. L., Clarke, G. H., Clegg, B. F., Gregory-Eaves, I. and Hu, F. S.: A 2000 year record of climatic change at Ogoke Lake, southwest Alaska, *Journal of Paleolimnology*, 41(1), doi:10.1007/s10933-008-9257-8, 2008.

Clegg, B. F. and Hu, F. S.: An oxygen-isotope record of Holocene climate change in the south-central Brooks Range, Alaska, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 29(7–8), doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2009.12.009, 2010.

Clifford, M. J. and Booth, R. K.: Increased probability of fire during late Holocene droughts in northern New England, *Climatic Change*, 119(3–4), 693–704, doi:10.1007/s10584-013-0771-y, 2013.

Coats, S., Smerdon, J. E., Cook, B. I. and Seager, R.: Are simulated megadroughts in the North American Southwest forced?, *J. Climate*, 28(1), 124–142, doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-14-00071.1, 2014.

[Commission for Environmental Cooperation Working Group: Ecological Regions of North America - toward a common perspective, Commission for Environmental Cooperation, Montreal, Canada. \[online\] Available from: <http://www3.cec.org/islandora/en/item/1701-ecological-regions-north-america-toward-common-perspective/> \(Accessed 6 September 2017\), 1997.](#)

Cook, B. I., Ault, T. R. and Smerdon, J. E.: Unprecedented 21st century drought risk in the American Southwest and Central Plains, *Science Advances*, 1(1), e1400082, doi:10.1126/sciadv.1400082, 2015.

[Cook, B. I., Smerdon, J. E., Seager, R. and Cook, E. R.: Pan-continental droughts in North America over the last millennium, *J. Climate*, 27\(1\), 383–397, doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-13-00100.1, 2013.](#)

[Cook, E.R., Krusic, P.J., North American summer PDSI reconstructions, version 2a. IGBP PAGES/World Data Center for Paleoclimatology Data Contribution Series 46, 2008.](#)

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:19 AM
Formatted: Normal

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:11 PM
Formatted: Normal

- Cook, E. R., Briffa, K. R., Meko, D. M., Graybill, D. A. and Funkhouser, G.: The “segment length curse” in long tree-ring chronology development for paleoclimatic studies, *The Holocene*, 5, 229–237, 1995.
- 5 Cook, E. R., Woodhouse, C., Eakin, C. M., Meko, D. M. and Stahle, D. W.: Long-term aridity changes in the Western United States, *Science*, 306, 1015, 2004.
- Cook, E. R., Seager, R., Cane, M. A. and Stahle, D. W.: North American drought: Reconstructions, causes, and consequences, *Earth-Science Reviews*, 81(1–2), 93–134, 2007.
- 10 Cook, E. R., Seager, R., Heim, R. R., Vose, R. S., Herweijer, C. and Woodhouse, C.: Megadroughts in North America: placing IPCC projections of hydroclimatic change in a long-term palaeoclimate context, *J. Quaternary Sci.*, 25(1), 48–61, doi:10.1002/jqs.1303, 2010.
- Cumming, B. F., Laird, K. R., Bennett, J., Smol, J. P. and Salomon, A. K.: Persistent millennial-scale shifts in moisture regimes in western Canada during the past six millennia, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*, 99, 16117–16121, 2002.
- 15 Curtis, J. H., Hodell, D. A. and Brenner, M.: Climate variability on the Yucatan Peninsula (Mexico) during the past 3500 years, and implications for Maya cultural evolution, *Quaternary Research*, 46(1), doi:10.1006/qres.1996.0042, 1996.
- Curtis, J. H., Brenner, M., Hodell, D. A., Balsler, R. A., Islebe, G. A. and Hooghiemstra, H.: A multi-proxy study of Holocene environmental change in the Maya Lowlands of Peten, Guatemala, *Journal of Paleolimnology*, 19(2), 139–159, doi:10.1023/A:1007968508262, 1998.
- 20 Cuven, S., Francus, P. and Lamoureux, S.: Mid to Late Holocene hydroclimatic and geochemical records from the varved sediments of East Lake, Cape Bounty, Canadian High Arctic, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 30(19–20), doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2011.05.019, 2011.
- Dai, A., Trenberth, K. E. and Karl, T. R.: Global variations in droughts and wet spells: 1990–1995, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 25, 3367–3370, 1998.
- 25 Dean, W. E.: Rates, timing, and cyclicity of Holocene eolian activity in north-central United States; evidence from varved lake sediments, *Geology*, 25(4), 331–334, 1997.
- Dean, W. E., Bradbury, J. P., Anderson, R. Y., Bader, L. R. and Dieterich-Rurup, K.: A high-resolution record of climatic change in Elk Lake, Minnesota for the last 1500 Years, U.S. Geological Survey report, 1994.
- Dettinger, M. D., Cayan, D. R., Diaz, H. F. and Meko, D. M.: North-south precipitation patterns in western North American on interannual-to-decadal time scales, *Journal of Climate*, 11, 3095–3111, 1998.
- 30 Diffenbaugh, N. S., Ashfaq, M., Shuman, B., Williams, J. W. and Bartlein, P. J.: Summer aridity in the United States: Response to mid-Holocene changes in insolation and sea surface temperature, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 33, L22712, 2006.
- 35 Donnelly, J. P., Hawkes, A. D., Lane, P., MacDonald, D., Shuman, B. N., Toomey, M. R., van Hengstum, P. J. and Woodruff, J. D.: Climate forcing of unprecedented intense-hurricane activity in the last 2000 years, *Earth’s Future*, 3(2), 49–65, doi:10.1002/2014EF000274, 2015.

[Donovan, J. J., Smith, A. J., Panek, V. A., Engstrom, D. R. and Ito, E.: Climate-driven hydrologic transients in lake sediment records: calibration of groundwater conditions using 20th century drought, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 21, 605–624, 2002.](#)

Eisen, M. B., Spellman, P. T., Brown, P. O. and Botstein, D.: Cluster analysis and display of genome-wide expression patterns, *PNAS*, 95(25), 14863–14868, 1998.

- 5 Ersek, V., Clark, P. U., Mix, A. C., Cheng, H. and Lawrence Edwards, R.: Holocene winter climate variability in mid-latitude western North America, *Nature Communications*, 3, 1219, doi:10.1038/ncomms2222, 2012.

Finney, B. P., Bigelow, N. H., Barber, V. A. and Edwards, M. E.: Holocene climate change and carbon cycling in a groundwater-fed, boreal forest lake: Dune Lake, Alaska, *Journal of Paleolimnology*, 48(1), 43–54, doi:10.1007/s10933-012-9617-2, 2012.

- 10 Fritz, S. C., Ito, E., Yu, Z., Laird, K. R. and Engstrom, D.: Hydrologic variation in the northern Great Plains during the last two millennia, *Quaternary Research*, 53, 175–184, 2000.

Fuller, T. L., Foster, D. R., McLachlan, T. S. and Drake, N.: Impact of human activity on regional forest composition and dynamics in central New England, *Ecosystems*, 1(1), 76–95, 1998.

- 15 Fye, F. K., Stahle, D. W. and Cook, E. R.: Paleoclimatic analogs to twentieth-century moisture regimes across the United States, *Bull. Amer. Meteor. Soc.*, 84(7), 901–909, doi:10.1175/BAMS-84-7-901, 2003.

Gajewski, K.: Late Holocene climate changes in eastern North America estimated from pollen data, *Quaternary Research*, 29, 255–262, 1988.

- 20 Ghil, M., Allen, M. R., Dettinger, M. D., Ide, K., Kondrashov, D., Mann, M. E., Robertson, A. W., Saunders, A., Tian, Y., Varadi, F. and Yiou, P.: Advanced spectral methods for climatic time series, *Rev. Geophys.*, 40(1), 1003, doi:10.1029/2000RG000092, 2002.

Grimm, E. C.: CONISS: a FORTRAN 77 program for stratigraphically constrained cluster analysis by the method of incremental sum of squares, *Computers & Geosciences*, 13(1), 13–35, doi:10.1016/0098-3004(87)90022-7, 1987.

Groisman, P. Y. and Easterling, D. R.: Variability and trends of total precipitation and snowfall over the United States and Canada, *J. Climate*, 7(1), 184–205, doi:10.1175/1520-0442(1994)007<0184:VATOTP>2.0.CO;2, 1994.

- 25 Harrison, S. P., Kutzbach, J. E., Liu, Z., Bartlein, P. J., Otto-Bliesner, B., Muhs, D., Prentice, I. C. and Thompson, R. S.: Mid-Holocene climates of the Americas: a dynamical response to changed seasonality, *Climate Dynamics*, 20, 663–688, 2003.

Herweijer, C., Seager, R., Cook, E. R. and Emile-Geay, J.: North American droughts of the last millennium from a gridded network of tree-ring data, *J. Climate*, 20(7), 1353–1376, doi:10.1175/JCLI4042.1, 2007.

- 30 Heusser, L. E., Hendy, I. L. and Barron, J. A.: Vegetation response to southern California drought during the Medieval Climate Anomaly and early Little Ice Age (AD 800–1600), *Quaternary International*, 387, 23–35, doi:10.1016/j.quaint.2014.09.032, 2015.

- 35 Hiner, C. A., Kirby, M. E., Bonuso, N., Patterson, W. P., Palermo, J. and Silveira, E.: Late Holocene hydroclimatic variability linked to Pacific forcing: evidence from Abbott Lake, coastal central California, *Journal of Paleolimnology*, 56(4), doi:10.1007/s10933-016-9912-4, 2016.

- Hodell, D. A., Curtis, J. H., Jones, G. A., Higuera-Gundy, A., Brenner, M., Binford, M. W. and Dorsey, K. T.: Reconstruction of Caribbean climate change over the past 10,500 years, *Nature*, 352(6338), 790–793, doi:10.1038/352790a0, 1991.
- 5 Hodell, D. A., Brenner, M., Curtis, J. H. and Guilderson, T.: Solar forcing of drought frequency in the Maya lowlands, *Science*, 292, 1367–1370, 2001.
- [Hodell, D. A., Brenner, M., Curtis, J. H., Medina-González, R., Ildefonso-Chan Can, E., Albornaz-Pat, A. and Guilderson, T. P.: Climate change on the Yucatan Peninsula during the Little Ice Age, *Quaternary Research*, 63\(2\), doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2004.11.004, 2005a.](#)
- 10 [Hodell, D. A., Brenner, M. and Curtis, J. H.: Terminal Classic drought in the northern Maya lowlands inferred from multiple sediment cores in Lake Chichancanab \(Mexico\), *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 24, 1413–1427, 2005b.](#)
- Hodell, D. A., Curtis, J. H., and Brenner, M.: Possible role of climate in the collapse of classic Maya civilization, *Nature*, 375, 391–394, 1995.
- Jones, T. L. and Schwitalla, A.: Archaeological perspectives on the effects of medieval drought in prehistoric California, *Quaternary International*, 188(1), 41–58, doi:10.1016/j.quaint.2007.07.007, 2008.
- 15 Kaufman, D. S., Axford, Y. L., Henderson, A. C. G., McKay, N. P., Oswald, W. W., Saenger, C., Anderson, R. S., Bailey, H. L., Clegg, B., Gajewski, K., Hu, F. S., Jones, M. C., Massa, C., Routson, C. C., Werner, A., Wooller, M. J. and Yu, Z.: Holocene climate changes in eastern Beringia (NW North America) – A systematic review of multi-proxy evidence, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 147, 312–339, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2015.10.021, 2016.
- 20 Kennett, D. J., Breitenbach, S. F. M., Aquino, V. V., Asmerom, Y., Awe, J., Baldini, J. U. L., Bartlein, P., Culleton, B. J., Ebert, C., Jazwa, C., Macri, M. J., Marwan, N., Polyak, V., Prufer, K. M., Ridley, H. E., Sodemann, H., Winterhalder, B. and Haug, G. H.: Development and disintegration of Maya political systems in response to climate change, *Science*, 338(6108), 788–791, doi:10.1126/science.1226299, 2012.
- Kirby, M. E., Lund, S. P., Patterson, W. P., Anderson, M. A., Bird, B. W., Ivanovici, L., Monarrez, P. and Nielsen, S.: A Holocene record of Pacific Decadal Oscillation (PDO)-related hydrologic variability in Southern California (Lake Elsinore, CA), *J Paleolimnol*, 44(3), 819–839, doi:10.1007/s10933-010-9454-0, 2010.
- 25 Kirby, M. E., Zimmerman, S. R. H., Patterson, W. P. and Rivera, J. J.: A 9170-year record of decadal-to-multi-centennial scale pluvial episodes from the coastal Southwest United States: a role for atmospheric rivers?, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 46, 57–65, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2012.05.008, 2012.
- Kirby, M. E., Feakins, S. J., Hiner, C. A., Fantozzi, J., Zimmerman, S. R. H., Dingemans, T. and Mensing, S. A.: Tropical Pacific forcing of Late-Holocene hydrologic variability in the coastal southwest United States, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 102, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2014.08.005, 2014.
- 30 Lachniet, M. S., Burns, S. J., Piperno, D. R., Asmerom, Y., Polyak, V. J., Moy, C. M. and Christenson, K.: A 1500-year El Niño/Southern Oscillation and rainfall history for the Isthmus of Panama from speleothem calcite, *J. Geophys. Res.*, 109(D20), D20117, doi:10.1029/2004JD004694, 2004.
- 35 Lachniet, M. S., Bernal, J. P., Asmerom, Y., Polyak, V. and Piperno, D.: A 2400 yr Mesoamerican rainfall reconstruction links climate and cultural change, *Geology*, 40(3), 259–262, doi:10.1130/G32471.1, 2012.

Laird, K. R., Fritz, S. C., Maasch, K. A. and Cumming, B. F.: Greater drought intensity and frequency before 1200 A.D. in the Northern Great Plains, *Nature*, 384, 552–554, 1996.

5 Laird, K. R., Cumming, B. F., Wunsam, S., Rusak, J. A., Oglesby, R. J. F. S. C. and Leavitt, P. R.: Lake sediments record large-scale shifts in moisture regimes across the northern prairies of North America during the past two millennia, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States of America*, 100, 2483–2488, 2003.

Laird, K. R., Haig, H. A., Ma, S., Kingsbury, M. V., Brown, T. A., Lewis, C. F. M., Oglesby, R. J. and Cumming, B. F.: Expanded spatial extent of the Medieval Climate Anomaly revealed in lake-sediment records across the boreal region in northwest Ontario, *Global Change Biology*, 18(9), 2869–2881, doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2012.02740.x, 2012.

10 Lane, C. S., Horn, S. P., Mora, C. I. and Orvis, K. H.: Late-Holocene paleoenvironmental change at mid-elevation on the Caribbean slope of the Cordillera Central, Dominican Republic: a multi-site, multi-proxy analysis, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 28(23–24), doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2009.04.013, 2009.

Ljungqvist, F. C., Krusic, P. J., Sundqvist, H. S., Zorita, E., Brattström, G. and Frank, D.: Northern Hemisphere hydroclimate variability over the past twelve centuries, *Nature*, 532(7597), 94–98, doi:10.1038/nature17418, 2016.

15 Loisel, J. and Garneau, M.: Late Holocene paleoecohydrology and carbon accumulation estimates from two boreal peat bogs in eastern Canada: Potential and limits of multi-proxy archives, *Palaeogeography, Palaeoclimatology, Palaeoecology*, 291(3–4), doi:10.1016/j.palaeo.2010.03.020, 2010.

Lundeen, Z., Brunelle, A., Burns, S. J., Polyak, V. and Asmerom, Y.: A speleothem record of Holocene paleoclimate from the northern Wasatch Mountains, southeast Idaho, USA, *Quaternary International*, 310(21–22), 83–95, doi:10.1016/j.quaint.2013.03.018, 2013.

20 Mann, D. H., Heiser, P. A. and Finney, B. P.: Holocene history of the Great Kobuk Sand Dunes, Northwestern Alaska, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 21(4–6), 709–731, doi:10.1016/S0277-3791(01)00120-2, 2002.

25 Marlon, J. R., Pederson, N., Nolan, C., Goring, S., Shuman, B., Booth, R., Bartlein, P. J., Berke, M. A., Clifford, M., Cook, E., Dieffenbacher-Krall, A., Dietze, M. C., Hessler, A., Hubeny, J. B., Jackson, S. T., Marsicek, J., McLachlan, J., Mock, C. J., Moore, D. J. P., Nichols, J., Robertson, A., Schaefer, K., Trouet, V., Umbanhowar, C., Williams, J. W. and Yu, Z.: Climatic history of the northeastern United States during the past 3000 years, *Clim. Past*, 13, 1355–1379, doi:10.5194/cp-13-1355-2017, 2017.

Marsicek, J. P., Shuman, B., Brewer, S., Foster, D. R. and Oswald, W. W.: Moisture and temperature changes associated with the mid-Holocene *Tsuga* decline in the northeastern United States, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 80, 129–142, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2013.09.001, 2013.

30 Mason, J. A., Swinehart, J. B., Goble, T. J. and Loope, D. B.: Late Holocene dune activity linked to hydrological drought, Nebraska Sand Hills, USA, *The Holocene*, 14, 209–217, 2004.

McCabe, G. J., Palecki, M. A. and Betancourt, J. L.: Pacific and Atlantic Ocean influences on multidecadal drought frequency in the United States, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 101(12), 4136–4141, doi:10.1073/pnas.0306738101, 2004.

35 McKay, N. P.: A novel multiproxy approach: the PAGES North America 2k working group., *PAGES magazine*, 22, 100, 2014.

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:21 PM

Deleted: Discuss., 2016,

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:22 PM

Deleted: 1–38

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:22 PM

Deleted: 10.5194/cp-2016-104

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:21 PM

Deleted: 2016

Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 12:22 PM

Formatted: English (US)

- Medina-Elizalde, M., Burns, S. J., Lea, D. W., Asmerom, Y., von Gunten, L., Polyak, V., Vuille, M. and Karmalkar, A.: High resolution stalagmite climate record from the Yucatán Peninsula spanning the Maya terminal classic period, *Earth and Planetary Science Letters*, 298(1–2), 2992–3112, doi:10.1016/j.epsl.2010.08.016, 2010.
- 5 Meese, D. A., Gow, A. J., Grootes, P., Mayewski, P. A. and others: The accumulation record from the GISP2 core as an indicator of climate change throughout the Holocene, *Science*, Washington, 266(5191), 1680, 1994.
- Meko, D. M., C. A. Woodhouse, C. A. Baisan, T. Knight, J. J. Lukas, M. K. Hughes, M. W. Salzer: Medieval drought in the upper Colorado River Basin, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 34, L10705, doi:10.1029/2007GL029988, 2007.
- 10 Michels, A., Laird, K. R., Wilson, S. E., Thomson, D., Leavitt, P. R., Oglesby, R. J. and Cumming, B. F.: Multidecadal to millennial-scale shifts in drought conditions on the Canadian prairies over the past six millennia: implications for future drought assessment, *Global Change Biology*, 13(7), doi:10.1111/j.1365-2486.2007.01367.x, 2007.
- Mock, C. J.: Climatic controls and spatial variations of precipitation in the western United States, *Journal of Climate*, 9, 1111, 1996.
- Munoz, S. E., Gruley, K. E., Massie, A., Fike, D. A., Schroeder, S. and Williams, J. W.: Cahokia's emergence and decline coincided with shifts of flood frequency on the Mississippi River, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science of the United States of America*, 112(20), 6319–6324, doi:10.1073/pnas.1501904112, 2015.
- 15 NCDC: Time bias corrected divisional temperature-precipitation-drought index. Documentation for dataset TD-9640, DBMB, NCDC, NOAA, Federal Building, 37 Battery Park Ave. Asheville, NC 28801-2733, Asheville, NC 28801-2733., 1994.
- Neil, K., Gajewski, K. and Betts, M.: Human-ecosystem interactions in relation to Holocene environmental change in Port Joli Harbour, southwestern Nova Scotia, Canada, *Quaternary Research*, 81(2), doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2014.01.001, 2014.
- 20 Nelson, D. B., Abbott, M. B., Steinman, B., Polissar, P. J., Stansell, N. D., Ortiz, J. D., Rosenmeier, M. F., Finney, B. P. and Riedel, J.: Drought variability in the Pacific Northwest from a 6,000-yr lake sediment record, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 108(10), 3870–3875, doi:10.1073/pnas.1009194108, 2011.
- 25 Newby, P., Shuman, B., Donnelly, J. P., Karnauskas, K. B. and Marsicek, J. P.: Centennial-to-Millennial Hydrologic Trends and Variability along the North Atlantic Coast, U.S.A., during the Holocene, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 41, doi:10.1002/2014GL060183, 2014.
- Newby, P. E., Donnelly, J. P., Shuman, B. N. and MacDonald, D.: Evidence of centennial-scale drought from southeastern Massachusetts during the Pleistocene/Holocene transition, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 28(17–18), 1675–1692, 2009.
- 30 Newby, P. E., Shuman, B. N., Donnelly, J. P. and MacDonald, D.: Repeated century-scale droughts over the past 13,000 yrs near the Hudson River watershed, USA, *Quaternary Research*, 75(3), 523–530, 2011.
- PAGES 2k Consortium: Continental-scale temperature variability during the past two millennia, *Nature Geoscience*, 6, 339–346, doi:10.1038/NGEO1797, 2013.
- 35 Pederson, G. T., Gray, S. T., Woodhouse, C. A., Betancourt, J. L., Fagre, D. B., Littell, J. S., Watson, E., Luckman, B. H. and Graumlich, L. J.: The unusual nature of recent snowpack declines in the North American cordillera, *Science*, 333(6040), 332–335, doi:10.1126/science.1201570, 2011.

- Pederson, N., Bell, A. R., Cook, E. R., Lall, U., Devineni, N., Seager, R., Eggleston, K. and Vranes, K. P.: Is an epic pluvial masking the water insecurity of the greater New York City region?, *Journal of Climate*, 26(4), 1339–1354, doi:10.1175/JCLI-D-11-00723.1, 2013.
- 5 Peros, M. C. and Gajewski, K.: Pollen-based reconstructions of late Holocene climate from the central and western Canadian Arctic, *Journal of Paleolimnology*, 41(1), doi:10.1007/s10933-008-9256-9, 2008.
- Perren, B. B., Anderson, N. J., Douglas, M. S. V. and Fritz, S. C.: The influence of temperature, moisture, and eolian activity on Holocene lake development in West Greenland, *Journal of Paleolimnology*, 48(1), 223–239, doi:10.1007/s10933-012-9613-6, 2012.
- 10 Pinheiro, J. C., Bates, D., DebRoy, S., Sarkar, D. and R Core Team: nlme: Linear and Nonlinear Mixed Effects Models. R package version 3.1-131., 2017.
- [Plank, C. and Shuman, B.: Drought-driven changes in lake areas and their effects on the surface energy balance of Minnesota's lake-dotted landscape, *J. Climate*, 22\(15\), 4055–4065, 2009.](#)
- Polk, J. S., van Beynen, P., Asmerom, Y. and Polyak, V. J.: Reconstructing past climates using carbon isotopes from fulvic acids in cave sediments, *Chemical Geology*, 360–361, doi:10.1016/j.chemgeo.2013.09.022, 2013.
- 15 Pribyl, P. and Shuman, B. N.: A computational approach to Quaternary lake-level reconstruction applied in the central Rocky Mountains, Wyoming, USA, *Quaternary Research*, 82(1), 249–259, doi:10.1016/j.yqres.2014.01.012, 2014.
- R Core Development Team: R: A language and environment for statistical computing, R Foundation for Statistical Computing, Vienna, Austria. [online] Available from: <http://www.R-project.org>, 2009.
- 20 [Rosenmeier, M. F., Hodell, D. A., Brenner, M., Curtis, J. H. and Guilderson, T. P.: A 4000-Year lacustrine record of environmental change in the Southern Maya Lowlands, Petén, Guatemala, *Quaternary Research*, 57\(2\), 183–190, doi:10.1006/qres.2001.2305, 2002.](#)
- Routson, C. C., Woodhouse, C. A. and Overpeck, J. T.: Second century megadrought in the Rio Grande headwaters, Colorado: How unusual was medieval drought?, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 38(22), L22703, doi:10.1029/2011GL050015, 2011.
- 25 Routson, C. C., Woodhouse, C. A., Overpeck, J. T., Betancourt, J. L. and McKay, N. P.: Teleconnected ocean forcing of Western North American droughts and pluvials during the last millennium, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 146, 238–250, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2016.06.017, 2016a.
- Routson, C. C., Overpeck, J. T., Woodhouse, C. A. and Kenney, W. F.: Three millennia of southwestern North American dustiness and future implications, *PLOS ONE*, 11(2), e0149573, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0149573, 2016b.
- 30 Schmieder, J., Fritz, S. C., Swinehart, J. B., Shinneman, A. L. C., Wolfe, A. P., Miller, G., Daniels, N., Jacobs, K. C. and Grimm, E. C.: A regional-scale climate reconstruction of the last 4000 years from lakes in the Nebraska Sand Hills, USA, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 30(13–14), 1797–1812, doi:10.1016/j.quascirev.2011.04.011, 2011.
- Seager, R., Graham, N., Herweijer, C., Gordon, A. L., Kushnir, Y. and Cook, E.: Blueprints for Medieval hydroclimate, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 26(19–21), 2322–2336, 2007a.
- 35 Seager, R., Ting, M., Held, I., Kushnir, Y., Lu, J., Vecchi, G., Huang, H.-P., Harnik, N., Leetmaa, A., Lau, N.-C., Li, C., Velez, J. and Naik, N.: Model projections of an imminent transition to a more arid climate in southwestern North America, *Science*, 316(5828), 1181–1184, doi:10.1126/science.1139601, 2007b.

[Shapley, M.D., Ito, E., Donovan, J.J. Lateglacial and Holocene hydroclimate inferred from a groundwater flow-through lake, Northern Rocky Mountains, USA. *The Holocene* 19, 523-535, 2009. doi: 10.1177/0959683609104029](#)

Sheppard, P. R., Holmes, R. L. and Graumlich, L. J.: The “many fragments curse:” A special case of the segment length curse., *Tree-Ring Bulletin*, 54, 1–9, 1997.

- 5 Shin, S.-I., Sardeshmukh, P. D., Webb, R. S., Oglesby, R. J. and Barsugli, J. J.: Understanding the mid-Holocene climate, *Journal of Climate*, 19(12), 2801–2817, 2006.

[Shinker, J. J.: Visualizing spatial heterogeneity of western U.S. climate variability. *Earth Interact.* 14\(10\), 1–15. doi:10.1175/2010EI323.1, 2010.](#)

- 10 Shinker, J. J. and Bartlein, P. J.: Spatial variations of effective moisture in the western United States, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 37(2), L02701, doi:10.1029/2009GL041387, 2010.

Shuman, B., Pribyl, P., Minckley, T. A. and Shinker, J. J.: Rapid hydrologic shifts and prolonged droughts in Rocky Mountain headwaters during the Holocene, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 37(6), L06701, doi:10.1029/2009gl042196, 2010.

Shuman, B. N. and Marsicek, J. P.: The structure of Holocene climate change in mid-latitude North America, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 141, 38–51, 2016.

- 15 Shuman, B. N., Henderson, A. K., Colman, S. M., Stone, J. R., Fritz, S. C., Stevens, L. R., Power, M. J. and Whitlock, C.: Holocene lake-level trends in the Rocky Mountains, U.S.A., *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 28, 1861–1879, 2009a.

Shuman, B. N., Henderson, A. K., Plank, C., Stefanova, I. and Ziegler, S. S.: Woodland-to-forest transition during prolonged drought in Minnesota after ca. AD 1300, *Ecology*, 90(10), 2792–2807, doi:10.1890/08-0985.1, 2009b.

- 20 Shuman, B. N., Carter, G. E., Hougardy, D. D., Powers, K. and Shinker, J. J.: A north–south moisture dipole at multi century scales in the Central and Southern Rocky Mountains during the late Holocene, *Rocky Mountain Geology*, 49(1), 17–33, 2014.

Springer, G. S., Rowe, H. D., Hardt, B., Edwards, R. L. and Cheng, H.: Solar forcing of Holocene droughts in a stalagmite record from West Virginia in east-central North America, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 35(17), L17703, doi:10.1029/2008GL034971, 2008.

- 25 St. Jacques, J.-M., Cumming, B. F. and Smol, J. P.: A 900-year pollen-inferred temperature and effective moisture record from varved Lake Mina, west-central Minnesota, USA, *Quaternary Science Reviews*, 27(7–8), 781–796, 2008.

St. Jacques, J.-M. S., Cumming, B. F., Sauchyn, D. J. and Smol, J. P.: The bias and signal attenuation present in conventional pollen-based climate reconstructions as assessed by early climate data from Minnesota, USA, *PLOS ONE*, 10(1), e0113806, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0113806, 2015.

- 30 Stahle, D. W., Cook, E. R., Cleaveland, M. K., Therrell, M. D., Meko, D. M., Grissino-Mayer, H. D. and Watson, E.: Tree-ring data document 16th century megadrought over North America, *EOS*, 81, 121–125, 2000.

[Stansell, N. D., Steinman, B. A., Abbott, M. B., Rubinov, M. and Roman-Lacayo, M.: Lacustrine stable isotope record of precipitation changes in Nicaragua during the Little Ice Age and Medieval Climate Anomaly. *Geology*, 41\(2\), 151–154. doi:10.1130/G33736.1, 2013.](#)

- Steinman, B. A. and Abbott, M. B.: Isotopic and hydrologic responses of small, closed lakes to climate variability: Hydroclimate reconstructions from lake sediment oxygen isotope records and mass balance models, *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*, 105(0), 342–359, doi:10.1016/j.gca.2012.11.027, 2013.
- Steinman, B. A., Abbott, M. B., Mann, M. E., Stansell, N. D. and Finney, B. P.: 1,500 year quantitative reconstruction of winter precipitation in the Pacific Northwest, *PNAS*, 109(29), 11619–11623, doi:10.1073/pnas.1201083109, 2012.
- Stevens, L. R. and Dean, W. E.: Geochemical evidence for hydroclimatic variability over the last 2460 years from Crevice Lake in Yellowstone National Park, USA, *Quaternary International*, 188(1), 139–148, doi:10.1016/j.quaint.2007.11.012, 2008.
- Stevens, L. R., Stone, J. R., Campbell, J. and Fritz, S. C.: A 2200-yr record of hydrologic variability from Foy Lake, Montana, USA, inferred from diatom and geochemical data, *Quaternary Research*, 65(2), 264–274, 2006.
- Tian, J., Nelson, D. M. and Hu, F. S.: Possible linkages of late-Holocene drought in the North American midcontinent to Pacific Decadal Oscillation and solar activity, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 33, L23702, doi:10.1029/2006GL028169, 2006.
- Trouet, V., Diaz, H. F., Wahl, E. R., Viau, A. E., Graham, R., Graham, N. and Cook, E. R.: A 1500-year reconstruction of annual mean temperature for temperate North America on decadal-to-multidecadal time scales, *Environ. Res. Lett.*, 8(2), 24008, doi:10.1088/1748-9326/8/2/024008, 2013.
- Wahl, E. R., Diaz, H. F. and Ohlwein, C.: A pollen-based reconstruction of summer temperature in central North America and implications for circulation patterns during medieval times, *Global and Planetary Change*, 84, 66–74, 2012.
- Webb, R. S., Anderson, K. H. and Webb, T.: Pollen response-surface estimates of late-Quaternary changes in the moisture balance of the northeastern United States, *Quaternary Research*, 40(2), 213–227, 1993.
- Wise, E. K.: Spatiotemporal variability of the precipitation dipole transition zone in the western United States, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 37(7), L07706, doi:10.1029/2009gl042193, 2010.
- Wise, E. K.: Five centuries of U.S. West Coast drought: Occurrence, spatial distribution, and associated atmospheric circulation patterns, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 43(9), 2016GL068487, doi:10.1002/2016GL068487, 2016.
- Wise, E. K. and Dannenberg, M. P.: Persistence of pressure patterns over North America and the North Pacific since AD 1500, *Nature Communications*, 5, 4912, doi:10.1038/ncomms5912, 2014.
- Wolfe, B. B., Edwards, T. W. D., Hall, R. I. and Johnston, J. W.: A 5200-year record of freshwater availability for regions in western North America fed by high-elevation runoff, *Geophysical Research Letters*, 38(11), doi:10.1029/2011GL047599, 2011.
- Woodhouse, C. and Overpeck, J.: 2000 years of drought variability in the central United States, *Bulletin of American Meteorological Society*, 79, 2693, 1998.
- Woodhouse, C. A., Russell, J. L. and Cook, E. R.: Two modes of North American drought from instrumental and paleoclimatic data, *Journal of Climate*, 22(16), 4336–4347, doi:10.1175/2009JCLI2705.1, 2009.
- Yu, Z. and Ito, E.: Possible solar forcing of century-scale drought frequency in the northern Great Plains, *Geology*, 27, 263, 1999.

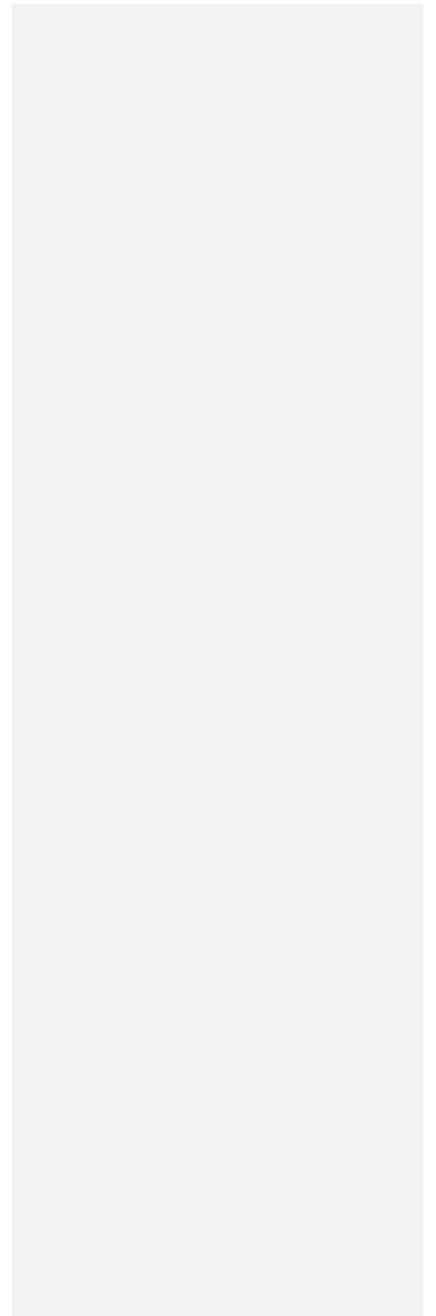


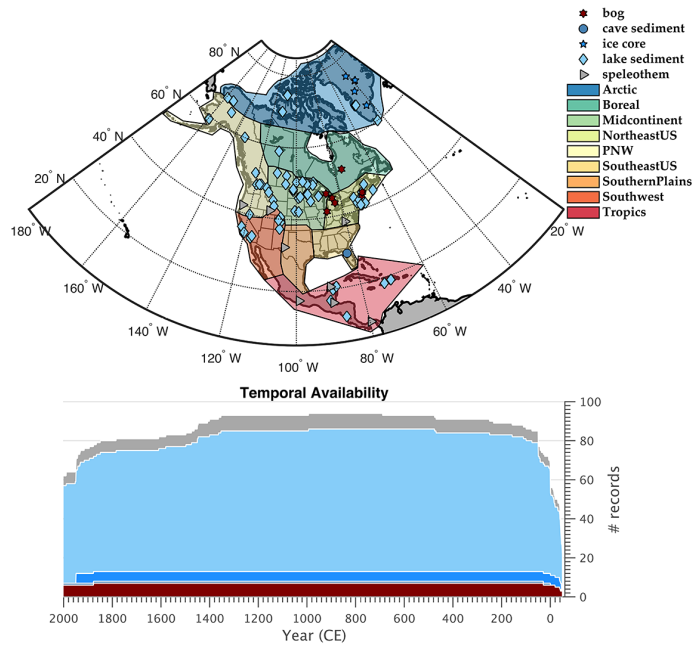
Table 1. Hydroclimate record data including latitude (Lat), longitude (Long), and elevation (Elev). Records sensitive to annual precipitation (P) and effective moisture (P-E) are indicated as are records that have been calibrated to provide quantitative reconstructions (Cal). Sign refers to whether the variable has a positive or negative relationship to the hydroclimate inference (e.g., to effective moisture).

Site name	Political unit	Lat (°)	Long (°)	Elev (m)	Archive	Variable	Sign	P	P-E	Cal	Reference	Original data URL
Abbott Lake	California	36.23	-121.48	286	lake	particle size	+				Hiner et al., 2016)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/22586
Basin Pond	Maine	44.46	-70.05	132	lake	pollen	+	X		X	Gajewski (1988)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/6221
Bat Cave	New Mexico	32.2	-104.4	1300	speleothem	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	-		X		Asmerom et al. (2013)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Beaver Lake	Nebraska	42.46	-100.67	905	lake	diatom	+		X		Schmieder et al. (2011)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Berry Pond	Massachusetts	42.51	-73.32	631	lake	pollen	+	X		X	Marsicek et al. (2013)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Big Lake	British Columbia	51.67	-121.45	1030	lake	diatom	+		X		Cumming et al. (2002)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Bison Lake	Colorado	39.76	-107.35	3255	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-				Anderson (2011)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/10749
Blood Pond	Massachusetts	42.08	-71.96	214	lake	pollen	+	X		X	Marsicek et al. (2013)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/6207
Buckeye Creek Cave	West Virginia	37.98	-80.4	600	speleothem	Sr/Ca	-				Springer et al. (2008)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/8640
Bufflehead Pond	Minnesota	44.99	-93.54	515	lake	stratigraphy	-		X		Shuman et al. (2009b)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Castor Lake	Washington	48.54	-119.56	594	lake	reflectance	-		X		Nelson et al. (2011)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/10310
Castor Lake	Washington	48.54	-119.56	594	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-		X		Steinman et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13174
Chauvin Lake	Alberta	52.68	-110.1	625	lake	diatom	-		X		Laird et al. (2003)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Chilibrillo Cave	Panama	9.2	-79.7	60	speleothem	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-		X		Lachniet et al. (2004)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/5430
Clear Pond	New York	43.74	-74.2	587	lake	pollen	+	X		X	Gajewski (1988)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Coldwater Lake	North Dakota	46.01	-99.08	594	lake	diatom	-		X		Fritz et al. (2000)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Conroy Lake	Maine	46.29	-67.88	136	lake	pollen	+	X		X	Gajewski (1988)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/6221
Crevice Lake	Montana	45	-110.58	1713	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-		X		Stevens and Dean (2008)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Davis Pond	Massachusetts	42.14	-73.41	214	lake	stratigraphy	-		X	X	Newby et al. (2011)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/16094
Deep Pond	Massachusetts	41.56	-70.64	23	lake	pollen	+	X		X	Marsicek et al. (2013)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/16095
Deep Pond	Massachusetts	41.56	-70.64	23	lake	stratigraphy	-		X	X	Marsicek et al. (2013)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/16095
Dixie Lake	Ontario	49.83	-93.95	398	lake	diatom	+		X		Laird et al. (2012)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Dune Lake	Alaska	64.42	-149.9	134	lake	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	-		X		Finney et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13076
DYE3	Greenland	65.18	-43.83	2479	ice	accumulation	+	X		X	Andersen et al. (2006)	http://www.iceandclimate.nbi.ku.dk/data/Andersen_etal_2006_Annual_Accumulation_22Mar2011.txt
East Lake	Nunavut	74.53	-109.32	5	lake	varve	+				Cuven et al. (2011)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/11936
ELA Lake 239	Ontario	49.67	-93.73	386	lake	diatom	+		X		Laird et al. (2012)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo

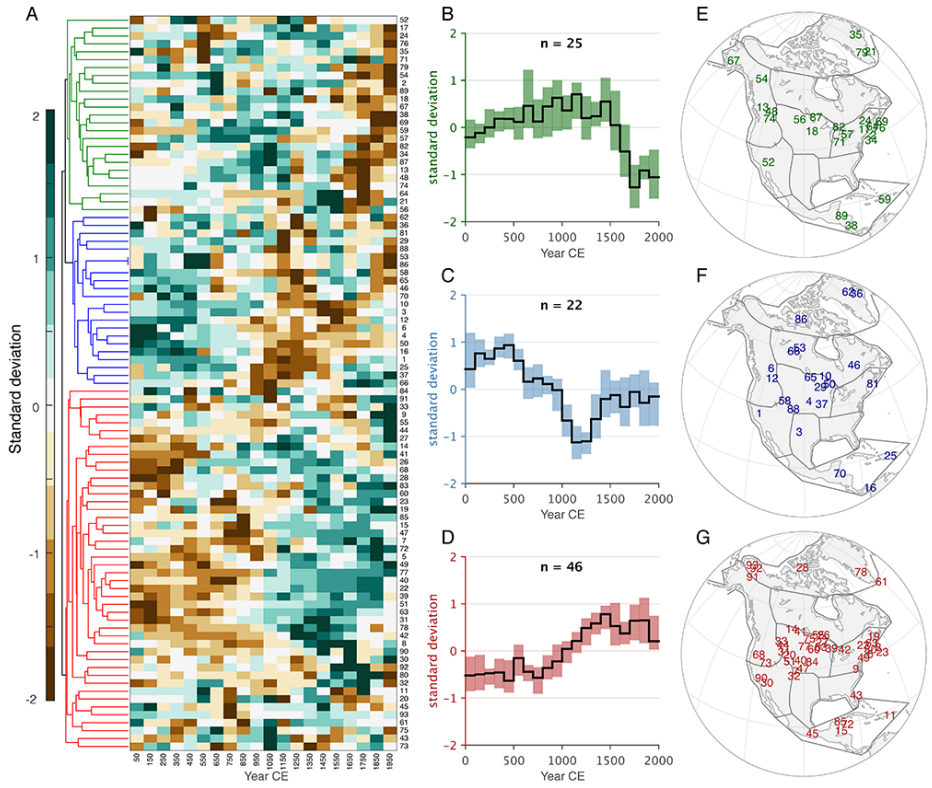
ELA Lake 442	Ontario	49.77	-93.82	411	lake	diatom	+	X	Laird et al. (2012)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo	
Elk Lake	Minnesota	47.11	-95.13	457	lake	geochemical	-	X	Dean et al. (1994)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/5473	
Emerald Lake	Colorado	39.15	-106.41	3053	lake	stratigraphy	-	X	Shuman et al. (2014)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo	
Fish Lake	Colorado	37.25	-106.68	3718	lake	composite	-		Routson et al. (2016b)	https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0149573	
Foy Lake	Montana	48.17	-114.35	1006	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X	Stevens et al. (2006)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo	
Fresh Pond	Rhode Island	41.16	-71.58	28	lake	pollen	+	X	X	Marsicek et al. (2013)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Gall Lake	Ontario	50.23	-91.45	365	lake	diatoms	+	X		Laird et al. (2012)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
GISP2	Greenland	72.6	-38.5	3209	ice	accumulation	+	X	X	Meese et al. (1994)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/2475
GRIP	Greenland	72.58	-37.64	3237	ice	accumulation	+	X	X	Andersen et al. (2006)	http://www.iceandclimate.nbi.ku.dk/data/Andersen_etal_2006_Annual_Accumulation_22Mar2011.txt
Hells Kitchen Lake	Wisconsin	46.19	-89.7	502	lake	pollen	+	X	X	Gajewski (1988)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/6221
Hidden Lake	Colorado	40.51	-106.61	2708	lake	stratigraphy	-	X		Shuman et al. (2009a)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Humboldt Lake	Saskatchewan	52.13	-105.1	552	lake	diatom	-	X		Laird et al. (2003)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Irwin Smith Bog	Michigan	45.03	-83.62	223	bog	testate amoeba	-	X		Booth et al. (2012)	https://doi.org/10.6084/m9.figshare.c.3304365.v1
Jenning Cave	Florida	29.2	-82.2	30	cave	lipid $\delta^{13}\text{C}$	-			Polk et al. (2013)	https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chemgeo.2013.09.022
Jones Lake	Montana	47.05	-113.14	1248	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X		Shapely et al. 2009	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Juxtlahuaca Cave	Guerrero	17.4	-99.2	934	speleothem	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-			Lachniet et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/12972
Lac le Caron	Quebec	52.28	-75.83	248	bog	testate amoeba	+	X		Loisel and Garneau (2010)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Lago El Gancho	Nicaragua	11.9	-85.92	44	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X		Stansell et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13195
Laguna de Felipe	Dominican Republic	18.8	-70.88	1005	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X		Lane et al. (2009)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Lake Chichancanab	Quintana Roo	19.83	-88.75	15	lake	sulphur	-	X		Hodell (1995)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/5483
Lake Elsinore	California	33.67	-117.35	379	lake	particle size	+			Kirby et al. (2010)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/12200
Lake Miragoane	Nippes	18.4	-73.05	14	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X		Hodell et al. (1991)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Lake of the Woods	Wyoming	43.48	-109.89	2820	lake	stratigraphy	-	X	X	Pribyl and Shuman (2014)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/16096
Lake Peten-Itza	Peten	16.92	-89.83	110	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X		Curtis et al. (1998)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/5482
Lake Punta Laguna	Yucatan	20.63	-87.62	14	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X		Curtis et al. (1996)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/5484
Lake Winnipeg	Manitoba	50.57	-96.83	217	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X		Buhay et al. (2009)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Lime Lake	Washington	48.87	-117.34	780	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	+	X	X	Steinman et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13174
Little Pond Royalston	Massachusetts	42.68	-72.19	302	lake	pollen	+	X	X	Marsicek et al. (2013)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Little Raleigh	Ontario	49.45	-91.89	457	lake	diatom	+	X		Laird et al. (2012)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo

Little Windy Hill	Wyoming	43.48	-109.89	2821	lake	stratigraphy	-	X	X	Pribyl and Shuman (2014)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/16096
Lower Bear Lake	California	34.25	-116.91	2059	lake	C/N	+			Kirby et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13215
Marcella Lake	Yukon Territory	60.07	-133.81	749	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-			Anderson et al. (2007)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/6066
MB01	Nunavut	69.81	-112.08	290	lake	pollen	+	X	X	Peros and Gajewski (2008)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/6200
Meekin Lake	Ontario	49.82	-94.77	353	lake	diatom	+	X		Laird et al. (2012)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Minden Bog	Michigan	43.61	-82.83	240	bog	testate amoeba	-	X		Booth et al. (2012)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Minnetonka Cave	Idaho	42.09	-111.52	2347	speleothem	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	+			Lundeen et al. (2013)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Moon Lake (ND)	North Dakota	46.32	-98.16	444	lake	diatom	-	X		Laird et al. (1996)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/5476
N14	Greenland	59.98	-44.18	101	lake	BSi	+			Andresen et al. (2004)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
New Long Pond	Massachusetts	41.85	-70.68	29	lake	stratigraphy	-	X	X	Newby et al. (2009)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
NGRIP	Greenland	75.1	-42.32	2922	ice	accumulation	+	X	X	Andersen et al. (2006)	http://www.iceandclimate.nbi.ku.dk/data/Andersen_etal_2006_Annual_Accumulation_22Mar2011.txt
No Bottom Lake	Nantucket	41.29	-70.11	8	lake	pollen	+	X	X	Marsicek et al. (2013)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Nora Lake	Manitoba	50.47	-99.94	638	lake	diatom	-	X		Laird et al. (2003)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
North Pond (Athabasca)	Alberta	58.8	-110.71	213	lake	C/N	+			Wolfe et al. (2011)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Ongoke Lake	Alaska	59.25	-159.42	75	lake	diatom	+	X		Chipman et al. (2008)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/6194
Oregon Caves	Oregon	42.08	-123.42	1390	speleothem	$\delta^{13}\text{C}$	+			Ersek et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13543
Oro Lake	Saskatchewan	49.78	-105.33	686	lake	diatom	-	X		Michels et al. (2007)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Path Lake	Nova Scotia	43.87	-64.93	15	lake	pollen	+	X	X	Neil et al. (2014)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/19120
Pinhook Lake	Indiana	41.61	-86.85	259	bog	testate amoeba	-	X		Booth et al. (2012)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Pyramid Lake	California	40.02	-119.56	1157	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X		Benson et al. (2002)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/5472
Renner Lake	Washington	48.78	-118.19	754	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X		Steinman et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13174
Rice Lake	North Dakota	48.01	-101.53	620	lake	Mg/Ca	-	X		Yu and Ito (1999)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/5478
Rogers Lake	Connecticut	41.21	-72.17	12	lake	pollen	+	X	X	Marsicek et al. (2013)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Round Lake	Nebraska	48.42	-101.5	1064	lake	diatom	+	X		Schmieder et al. (2011)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Saco Bog	Maine	43.55	-70.46	45	bog	testate amoeba	-	X		Clifford and Booth (2013)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
Sidney Bog	Maine	44.39	-69.78	91	bog	testate amoeba	-	X		Clifford and Booth (2013)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
South Rhody Bog	Michigan	46.56	-86.07	290	bog	testate amoeba	-	X		Booth et al. (2012)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo
SS1381	Greenland	67.01	-51.1	196	lake	mineral	+	X		Anderson et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13115

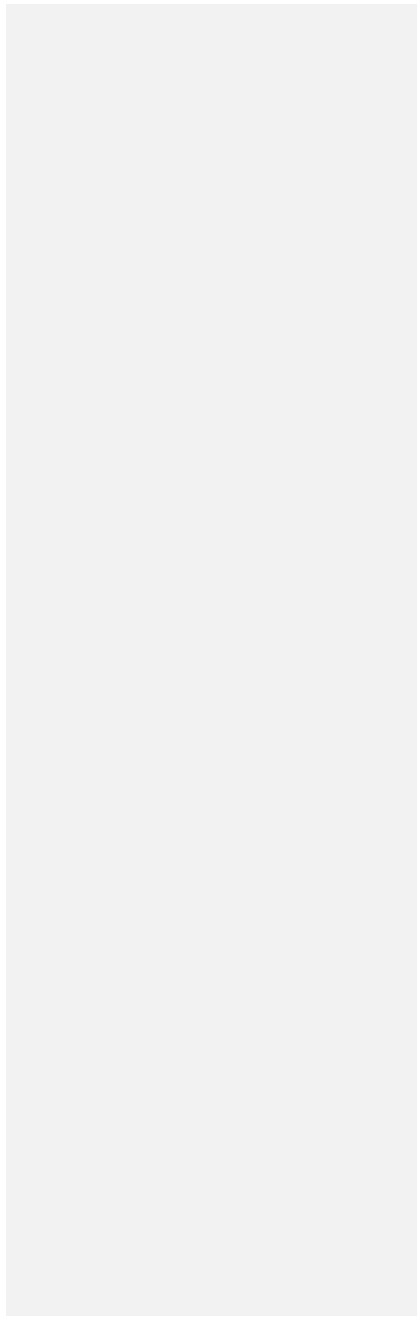
SS16	Greenland	66.91	-50.46	477	lake	diatom	+	X	Perren et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13116	
Steel Lake	Minnesota	46.97	-94.68	415	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X	Tian et al. (2006)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/8647	
Swan Lake	Nebraska	42.16	-99.03	702	lake	diatom	+	X	Schmieder et al. (2011)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo	
Takahula Lake	Alaska	67.35	-153.67	275	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X	Clegg and Hu (2010)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/8663	
Tzabnah Cave	Yucatan	20.75	-89.47	20	speleothem	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X	Medina-Elizalde et al. (2010)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/9791	
Victoria Island	Nunavut	69.8	-112.06	290	lake	pollen	+	X	X	Peros and Gajewski (2008)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/6200
Wolverine Lake	Alaska	67.1	-158.91	85	lake	accumulation	-	X	Mann et al. (2002)	URL pending from NOAA-paleo	
Yellow Lake	Colorado	39.65	-107.35	3170	lake	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-		Anderson (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13120	
Yok Balum Cave	Toledo	16.21	-89.07	366	speleothem	$\delta^{18}\text{O}$	-	X	Kennett et al. (2012)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/13519	
Zaca Lake	California	34.78	-120.04	737	lake	particle size	+		Kirby et al. (2014)	https://www.ncdc.noaa.gov/paleo/study/15634	

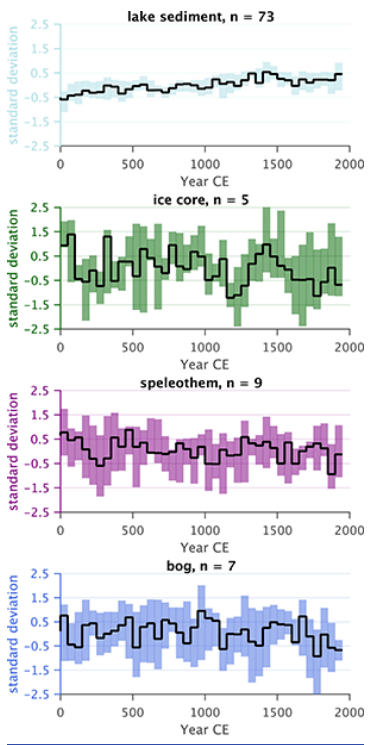


5 Figure 1: Temporal and spatial distribution of the North American paleo-hydroclimate records used in this study. Top: geographical distribution by archive type indicated by symbol colors and shapes. The differently colored areas on the map delimit the regions used for principal components analyses (e.g., PNW, Pacific Northwest). Bottom: The temporal distribution of records in the dataset. Colors correspond to the archive types in the map.



5 Figure 2: A) Heat map, cluster analysis, and dendrogram of the standardized hydroclimate records used in this study. The clustering shows the dominant groups of temporal patterns represented by the hydroclimate records. B-D) Average composites of the respective colored clusters in panel A. The shading shows the 95% bootstrap confidence intervals with 500 iterations. E-F) The spatial distribution of records in each cluster; numbers correspond with those in panel A.





5

Figure 3: Mean z-score time series for each archive type that contains >1 record.

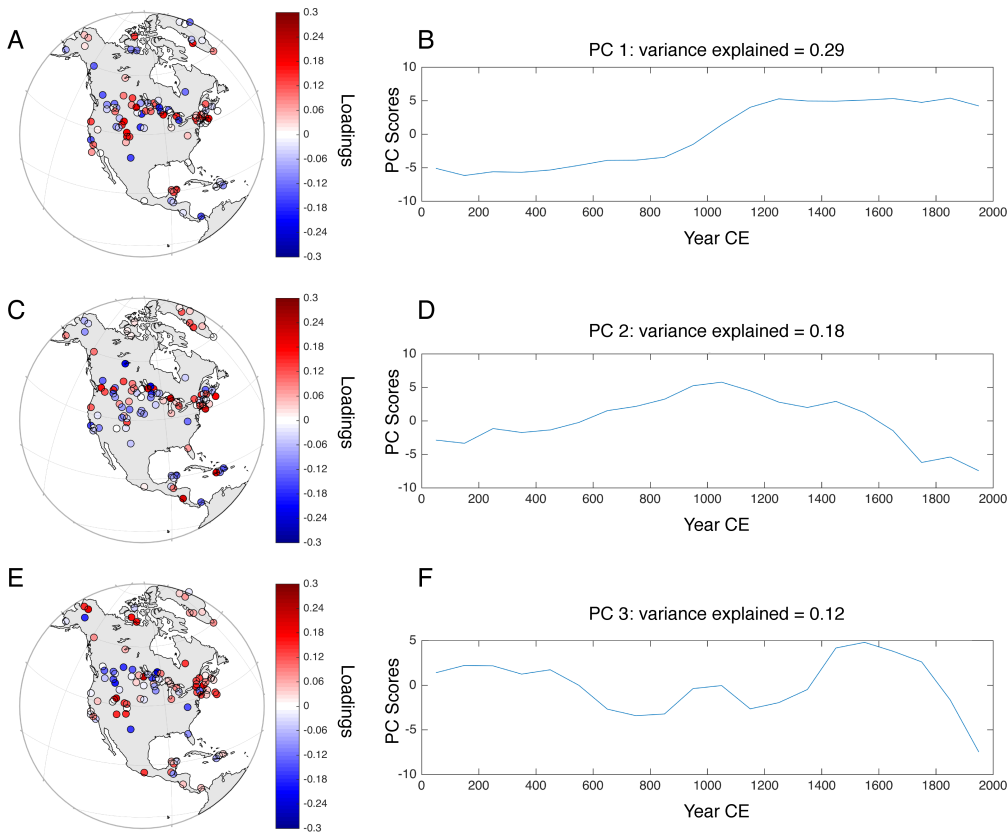
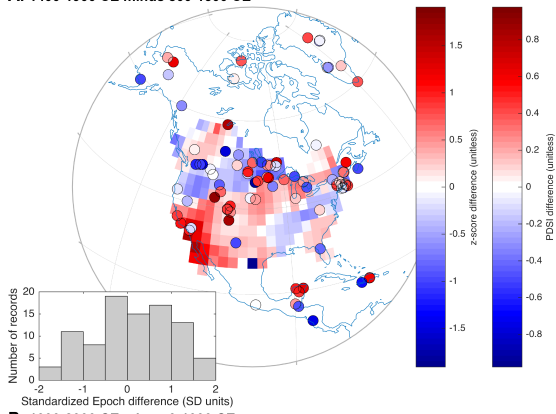


Figure 4: Results of empirical orthogonal function analysis (EOF) of the North American hydroclimate dataset showing (left) loadings associated with the first EOF, and (right) the average time series for each EOF.

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:03 AM
Deleted: 3

A. 1400-1900 CE minus 800-1300 CE



B. 1000-2000 CE minus 0-1000 CE

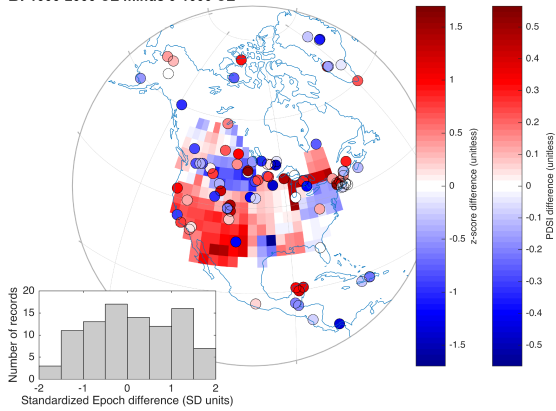


Figure 5: Epoch differences showing A) the average of the Little Ice Age (1400-1900 CE) minus the average of the medieval climate anomaly (800-1300 CE), and B) the average standardized value (SD) of the second millennium (1000-2000 CE) minus the average of the first millennium (0-1000 CE). Red symbols indicate that the older interval (epoch) was drier than the younger interval; blue symbols indicate the opposite. Circles show the datasets used here for comparison with the gridded North America Drought Atlas Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) differences (Cook and Krusic, 2008); the right scale bar applies to the PDSI data. Histograms below show the total distribution of differences for each epoch from the dataset presented in this paper; both are skewed positively toward the older interval being drier than the younger interval.

- Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 4:31 PM
Formatted: Caption
- Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:03 AM
Deleted: 4
- Bryan Shuman 10/12/2017 3:21 PM
Deleted: the average standardized value (SD) of the second millennium (1000-2000 CE) minus the average of the first millennium (0-1000 CE), and B)
- Bryan Shuman 10/27/2017 4:31 PM
Deleted: -

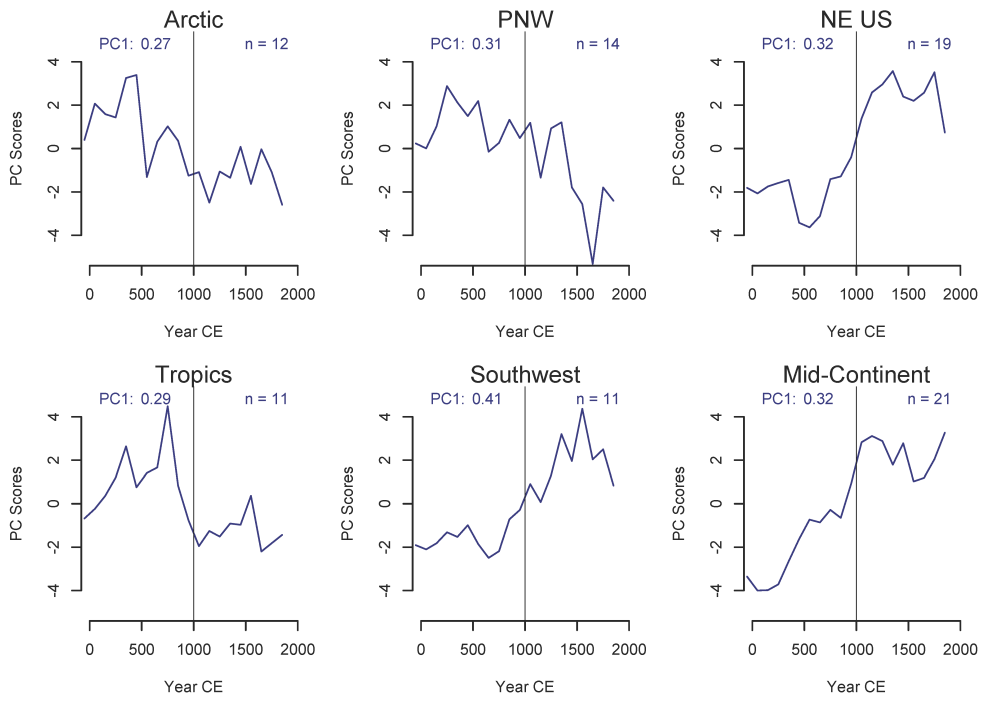
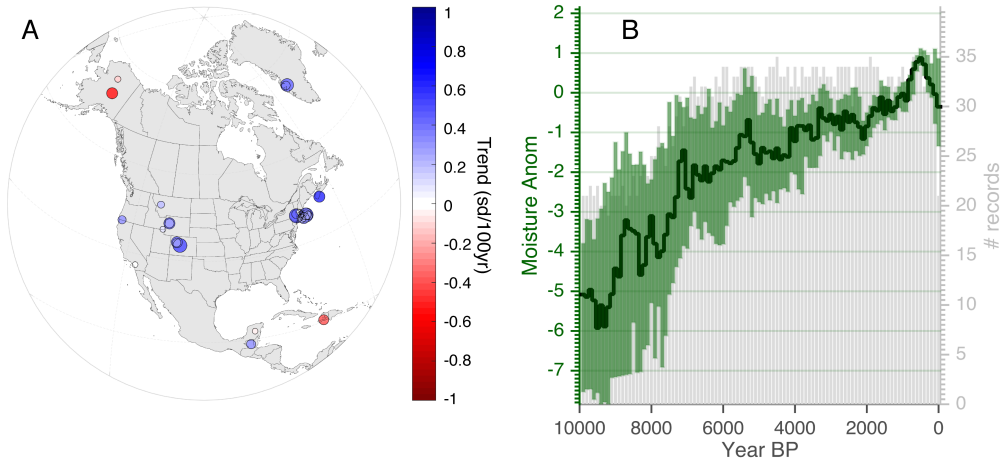


Figure 6 Regional principal components analysis (PCA) scores showing the dominant modes of variability in six North American hydroclimate regions delineated in Figure 1. Numbers on the left represent the fraction of the variance explained by PC1 in each region. Vertical lines mark 1000 CE.

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:12 AM
Deleted: 5



5 | Figure 2: Holocene context including records that extend 6000 years or longer in the North American hydroclimate dataset. A: Maps of Holocene-length trends. Blue colors show wetting trends, red colors show drying trends and the size of the symbol reflects the magnitude of the trend. B: The median Holocene composite of the z-scores of the Common Era records (Fig. 1), with 95% bootstrapped confidence intervals. Units represent standard deviations from the mean of the Common Era. Grey bars show the number of available records through time.

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:12 AM
Deleted: 6

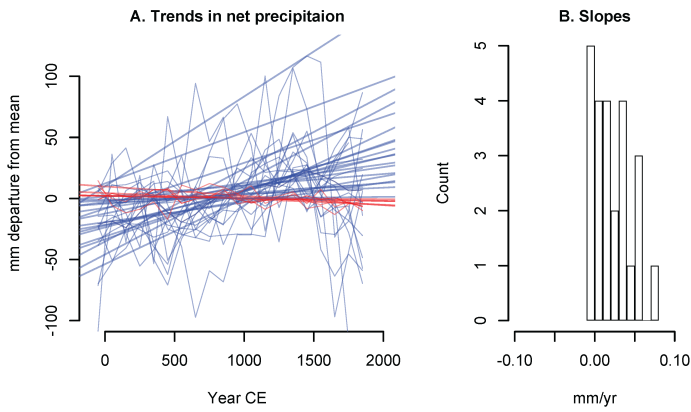
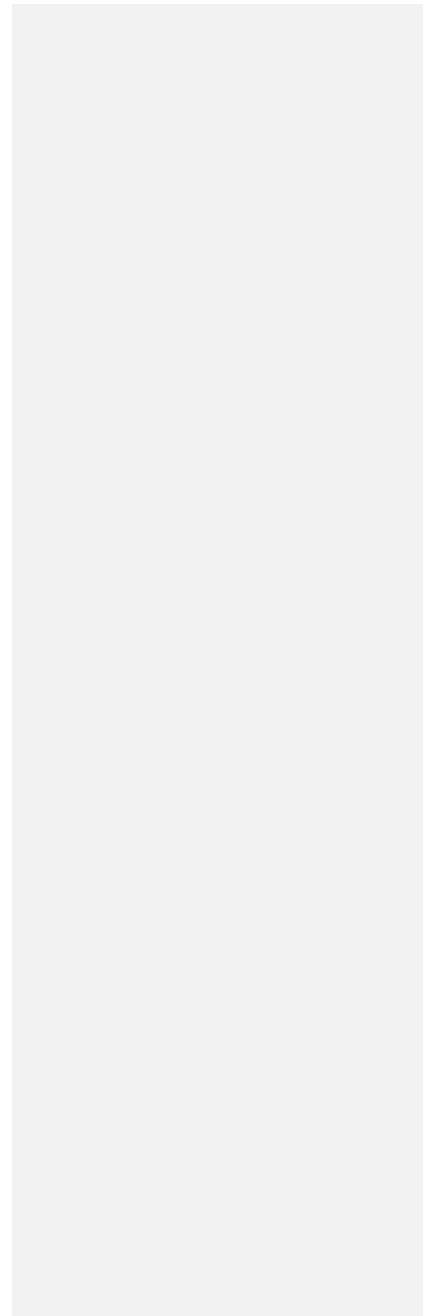


Figure 8: Time series and trends of all quantitative records presented as mm departures from their mean over the Common Era. Net precipitation is used here to include pollen-inferred annual precipitation, precipitation minus evapotranspiration changes estimated from lake levels, and ice core accumulation rates (calibrated records in Table 1). Blue time series indicate those with positive linear trends from 1-1500 CE; red time series have negative linear trends. Trend lines in A were fit using generalized linear models with a first-order autoregressive term. The slopes of the models appear as a histogram in B.

Bryan Shuman 10/10/2017 10:12 AM

Deleted: 7



Data availability:

(1) Input data used for the analysis: Upon publication, we will include data citations to the original data. If the data are not currently archived, then we will generate text files to archive in the NOAA Paleoclimatology database. The files contain the full data time series and important metadata.

(2) Output time series: Through the NOAA Paleoclimate database, we will also archive a spreadsheet with the 100-year binned raw data for each record and one with the standardized 100-year binned data, along with the regional averages. This will enable future users to try different standardization approaches and also to compare our composites with subsequent studies.

