Multi-year Predictions of Snow Water Equivalent over North America in Global and Regional Climate Models

Rachel R. McCrary¹, Linda O. Mearns¹, Mimi Hughes², Sebastien Biner³, Melissa Bukovsky¹

¹ National Center for Atmospheric Research (CISL & RAL)
² National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (PSD)
³ Ouranos, Climate Science



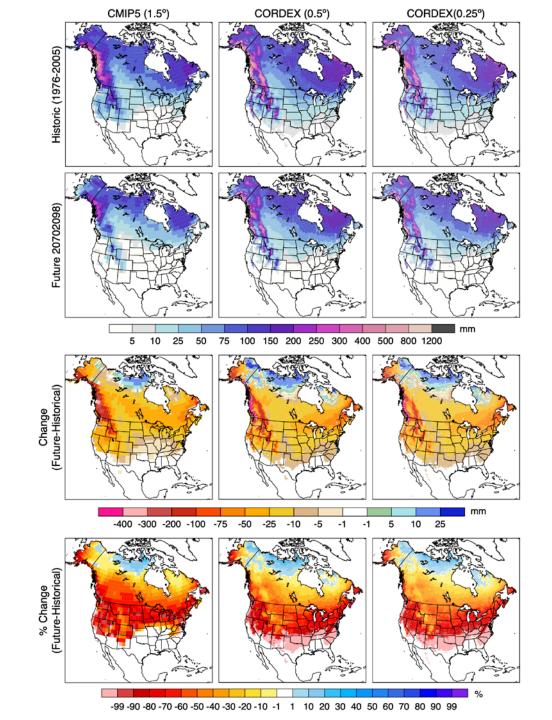




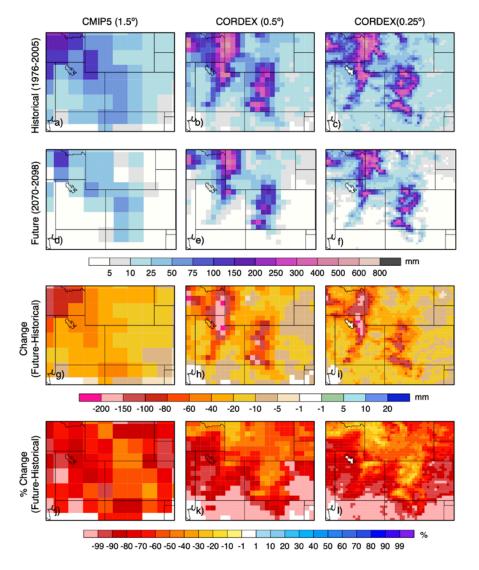
	CRCM5-U	CRCM5-O	WRF	CanRCM4	HIRHAM
HadGEM2-ES			50/25 (km)		
CanESM2	44º/22º	-/22°		44º/22º	
CNRM-CM5		-/22°			
MPI-ESM-LR	44º/22º	-/22°	50/25 (km)		
MPI-ESM-MR	44%/22%	-/22°			
EC-EARTH					44º/-
GFDL-ESM2M			50/25 (km)		

- All simulations of the future follow RCP8.5
- Historic Period: 1976-2005
- Future Period: 2070-2098
- Full CMIP5 : 16 models.
- Driving CMIP5: 6 models.
- ~0.5° CORDEX: 8 models.
- ~0.25° CORDEX: 11 models.

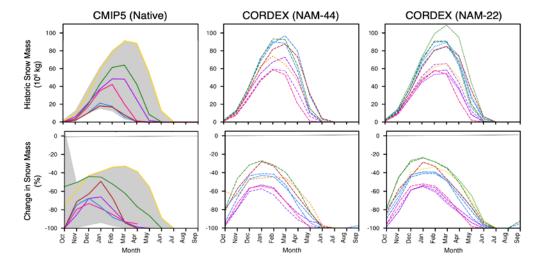
Note: RCMs are very wet and have large positive SWE biases



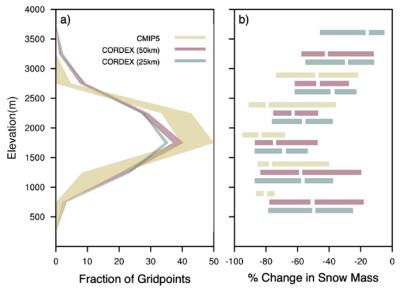
A Closer Look: US Intermountain West



Snow on mountains becomes more distinct with increasing resolution



• Higher elevation mountains -> reduced loses for the domain as many points remain below freezing.



- CMIP5 models oversample low and mid elevations.
- SWE losses are reduced with elevation.