

# Integration of Airborne Aerosol Prediction Systems and Vegetation Phenology to Track Pollen for Asthma Alerts in Public Health Decision Support Systems

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# Moscow Birch Pollen





# Pollen Release



# Pollen per cone

Sonora	472,000 pollen grains/cone
Dallas	402,000 pollen grains/cone
San Marcos	374,000 pollen grains/cone
Junction	363,000 pollen grains/cone





## Cone and pollen production for representative trees

	Cones/tree	Total pollen potential
Santa Fe - LCP	52,808	$1.53 \times 10^{10}$
Santa Fe - HCP	646,496	$1.87 \times 10^{11}$
Jemez Springs - HCP	269,946	$7.83 \times 10^{10}$

## Summary Statistics for 2010 and 2011 *Juniperus pinchotii* pollen seasons at source

Location	Average daily concentration Pollen grains/m <sup>3</sup>	Peak daily concentration Pollen grains/m <sup>3</sup>	Date of peak	Peak hourly concentration Pollen grains/m <sup>3</sup>	Time of peak hour	Date of peak hour
<b>2010</b>						
Erick, OK	337	5,563	25-Oct	15,898	10:00 AM	25-Oct
Sonora, TX	286	3,019	25-Oct	12,152	10:00 AM	25-Oct
San Angelo, TX	653	5,542	1-Nov	10,195	Noon	1-Nov
<b>2011</b>						
Erick, OK	12	214	16-Oct	800	10:00 AM	16-Oct
Sonora, TX	64	428	26-Oct	2,422	10:00 AM	31-Oct
San Angelo, TX	60	493	26-Oct	2,747	4:00 AM	26-Oct
Quanah, TX	22	190	19-Oct	703	8:00 PM	19-Oct



# Influence of preseason meteorological variables for *Juniperus ashei*

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- ▶ **Start date**

- ▶ Significantly correlated with mean monthly temperature in December ( $r = 0.467$ ,  $p = 0.038$ ) and November rainfall ( $r = 0.468$ ,  $p = 0.038$ )

- ▶ **Cumulative Season Total (CST)**

- ▶ Significantly correlated with mean maximum temperature in December ( $r = 0.4740$ ,  $p = 0.035$ )



Correlation of average daily *Juniperus* pollen concentration with meteorological variables from 1987 to 2006

Meteorological Variable	Main season r
Max daily temperature	0.607***
Min daily temperature	0.371***
Mean daily temperature	0.546***
Rainfall	-0.143***
Rainfall (1 day lag)	-0.164***
Rainfall (2 day lag)	-0.069
RH	-0.282***
Mean wind speed	0.117**
Sunshine	0.257***

\* p < 0.05

\*\* p < 0.01

\*\*\* p < 0.001



Multiple regression model for main season pollen concentration and meteorological variables

R <sup>2</sup>	Meteorological variable	Beta value	p
0.379			<0.001
	Max daily temperature	0.583	<0.001
	Rainfall	-0.071	0.014
	Rainfall (1 day lag)	-0.064	0.027
	Mean wind speed	0.033	0.253



## Multiple Regression Model for Start Date and Preseason Meteorological Variables

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R <sup>2</sup>	Meteorological variable	Beta value	p
0.736			<0.003
	November rain	0.795	0.001
	December mean T	0.566	0.004
	January rain	0.559	0.009
	October rain	-0.500	0.016
	November mean T	0.502	0.032
	August rain	0.316	0.104





## Multiple Regression Model for CST and Preseason Meteorological Variables

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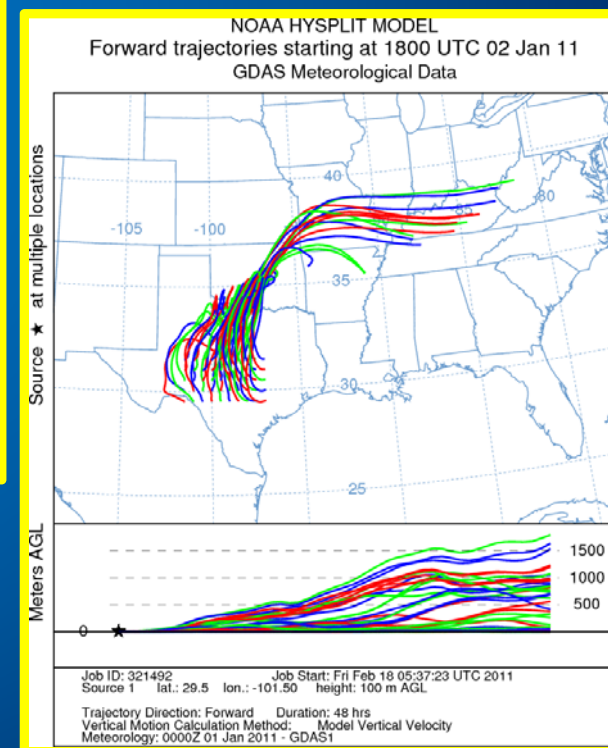
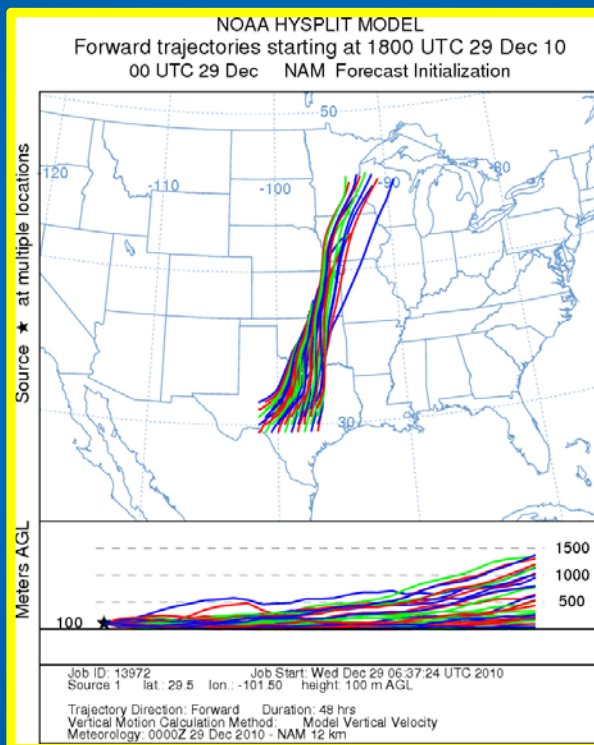
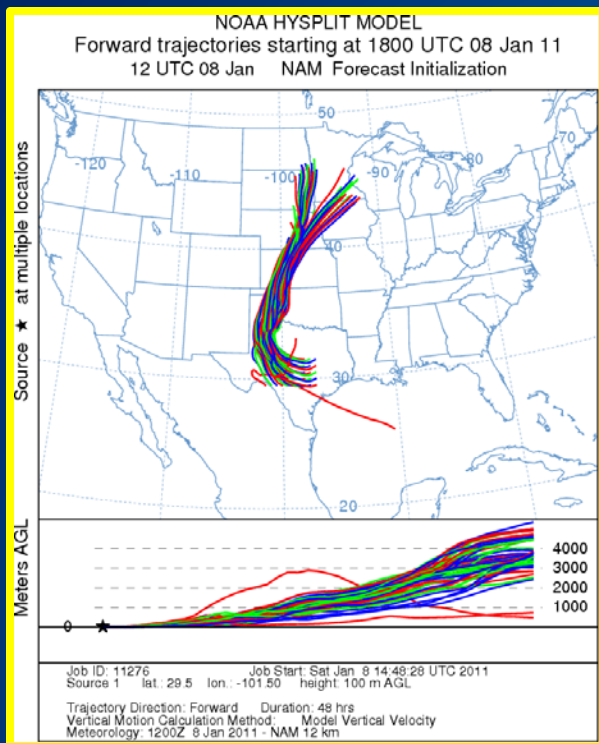
R <sup>2</sup>	Meteorological variable	Beta value	p
0.639			<0.019
	December maximum T	0.754	0.002
	June rain	0.469	0.021
	December rain	-0.384	0.045
	January mean T	-0.237	0.211
	September rain	-0.285	0.148
	January rain	-0.208	0.262



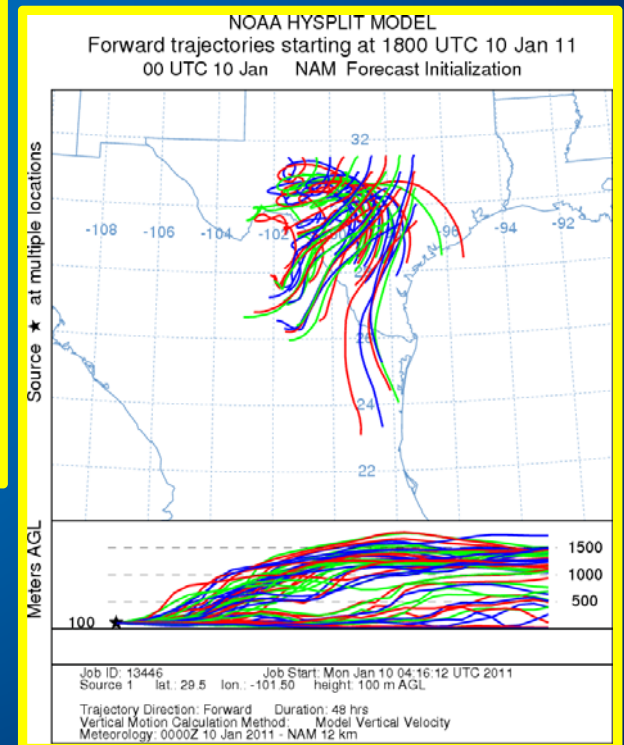
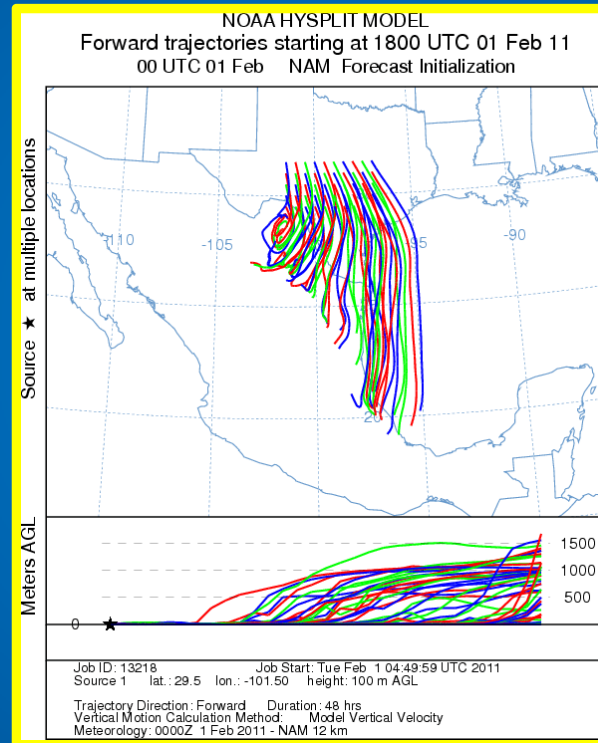
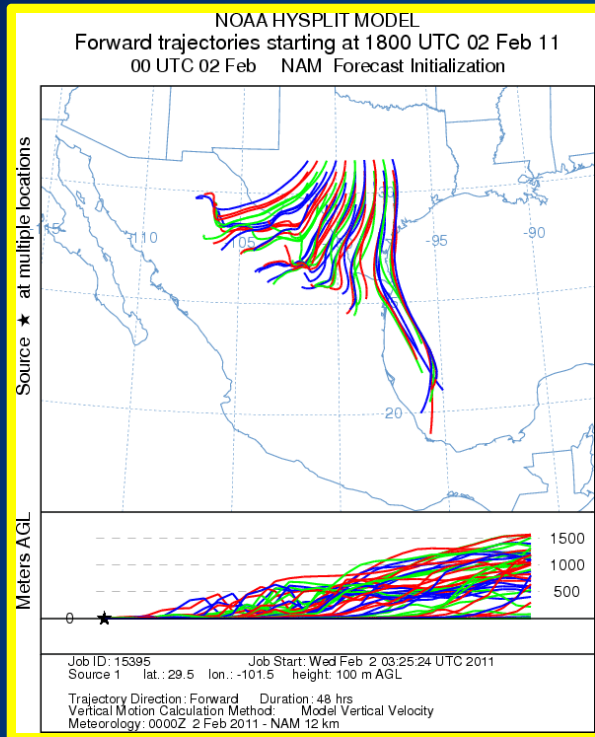
# Red Cedar Encroachment

- Oklahoma has 17 million acres of prairie, shrub land, cross timbers forests and other forests
- 1950: 1.5 million acres with cedar problems
- 1985: 3.5 million acres with cedar problems
- 1994: 6.3 million acres with 50 trees/acre and 2.5 million acres with 250 trees/acre - 37% loss of native ecosystems
- 2001: 8.0 million acres with 50 trees/acre and 5.0 million acres with 250 trees/acre - this represented a 47% loss of native ecosystems
- 2013 projection: 12.6 million acres with 50 trees/acre and 8.00 million with 250 trees/acre

# Northerly Flow

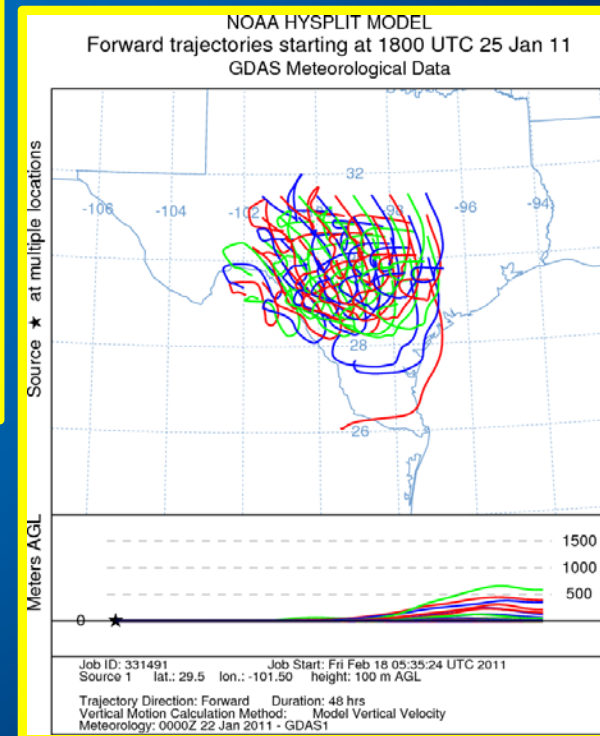
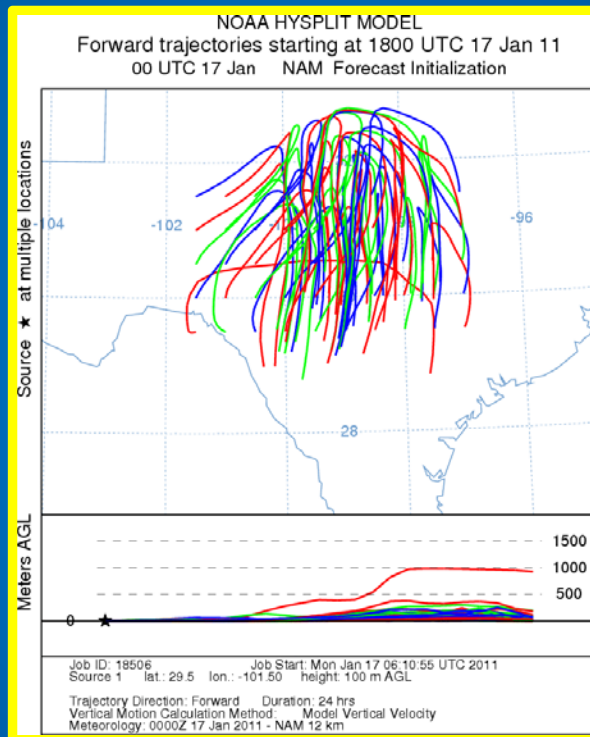
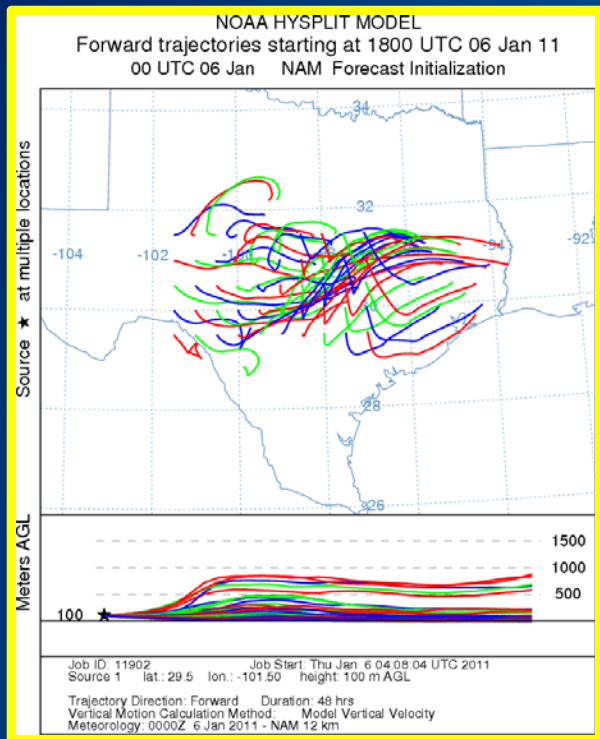


# Southerly Flow



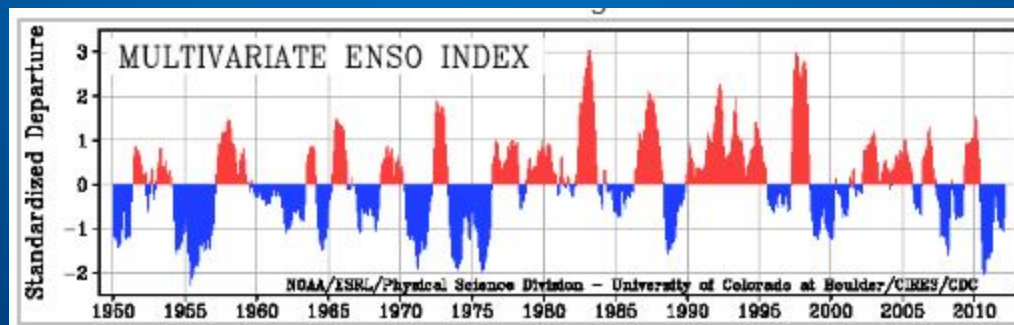


# Within Texas



## Trajectory Wind Directions

	Southerly	Northerly	Within TX	Other
<b>2007 to 2008 Pollen Year</b>				
	17%	54%	24%	5%
<b>2008 to 2009 Pollen Year</b>				
	12%	68%	7%	12%
<b>2009 to 2010 Pollen Year</b>				
	31%	50%	7%	11%
<b>2010 to 2011 Pollen Year</b>				
	26%	41%	30%	4%
<b>2011 to 2012 Pollen Year</b>				
	18%	54%	16%	13%



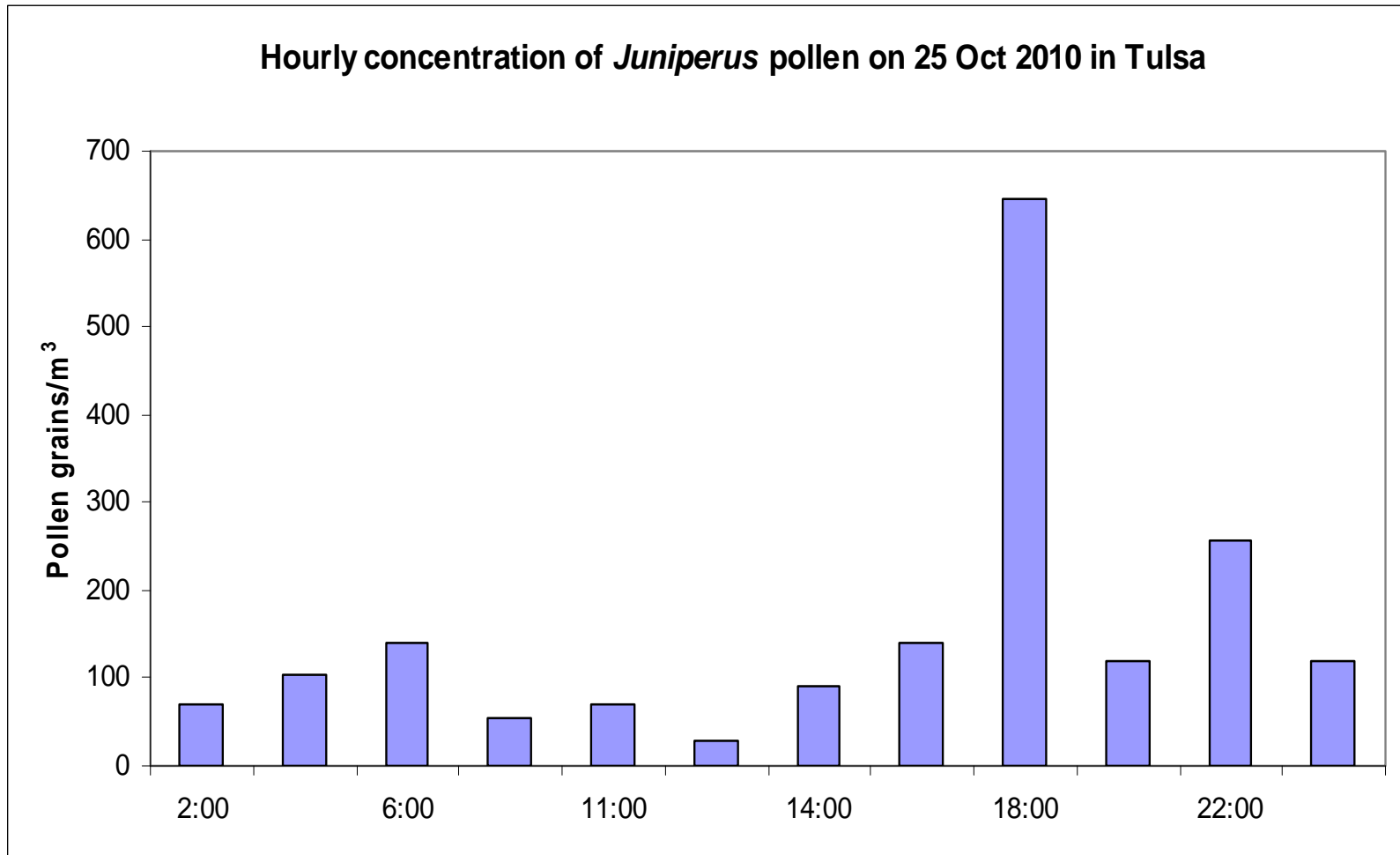
# Incursion of *J. ashei* Pollen into Tulsa

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- ▶ Each winter since 1980 *J. ashei* pollen has been registered by our Tulsa air samplers
  - ▶ Levetin and Buck, Annals of Allergy, 1986.
  - ▶ Levetin, Aerobiologia, 1998
  - ▶ Rogers and Levetin, Int J Biometeorol, 1998
  - ▶ Van de Water and Levetin, Grana, 2001
  - ▶ Van de Water et al, Int J Biometeorol, 2003
- ▶ Pollen recorded on 48% of the days in Dec and Jan (range 11% to 79%)
- ▶ Concentrations typically low; however, “*Very High*” concentrations have been registered on several occasions (based on National Allergy Bureau level of very high >1500 pollen grains/m<sup>3</sup>)

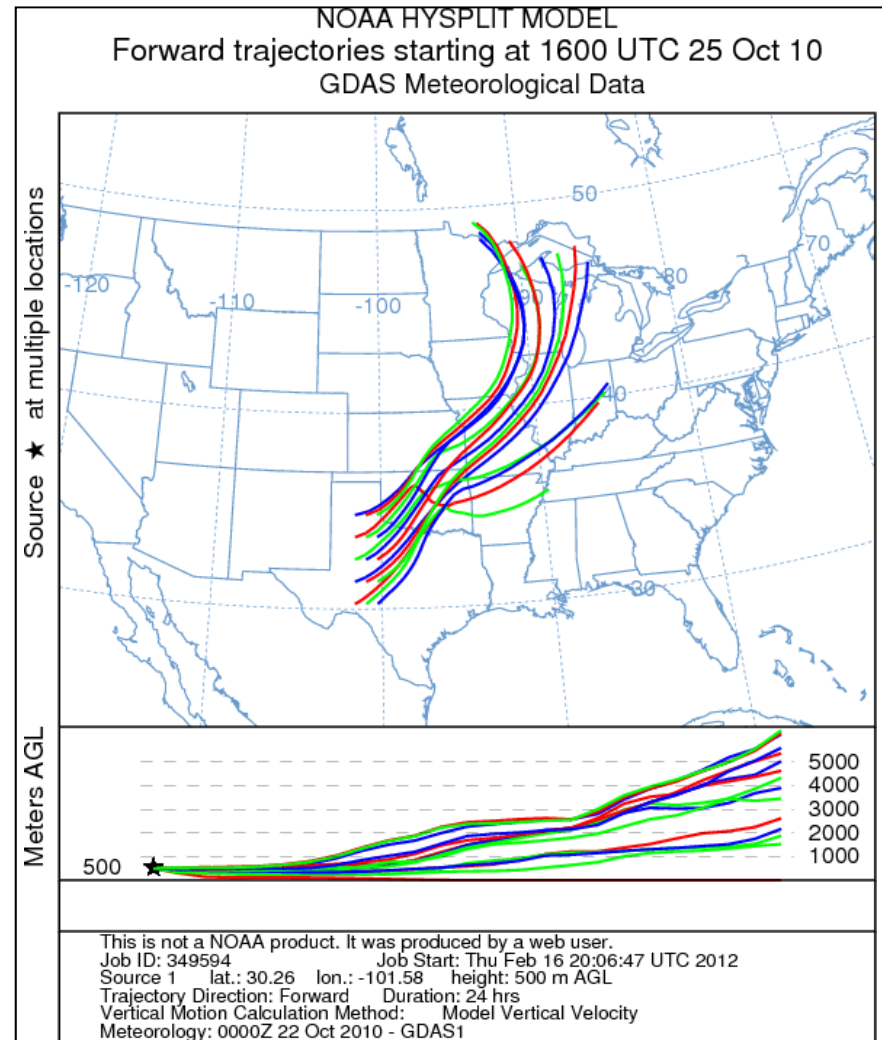
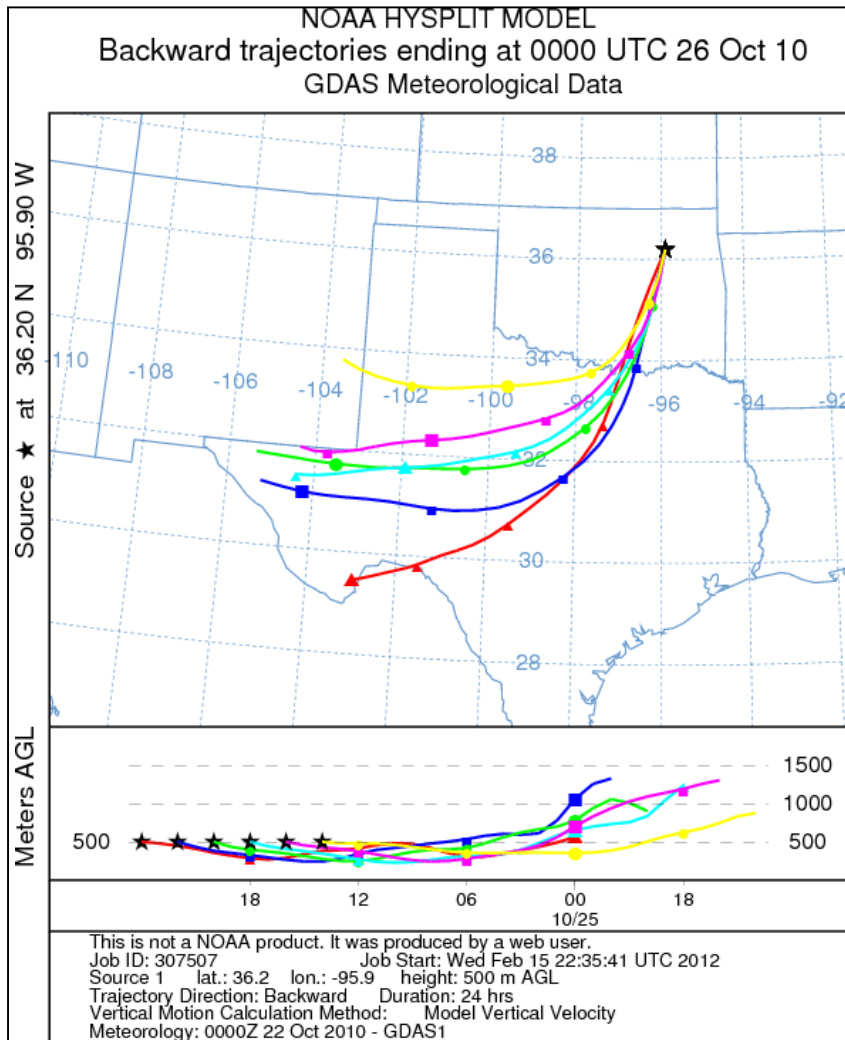


25 Oct 2010 incursion of *Juniperus* pollen into the Tulsa atmosphere with a average daily concentration of 106 pollen/m<sup>3</sup>

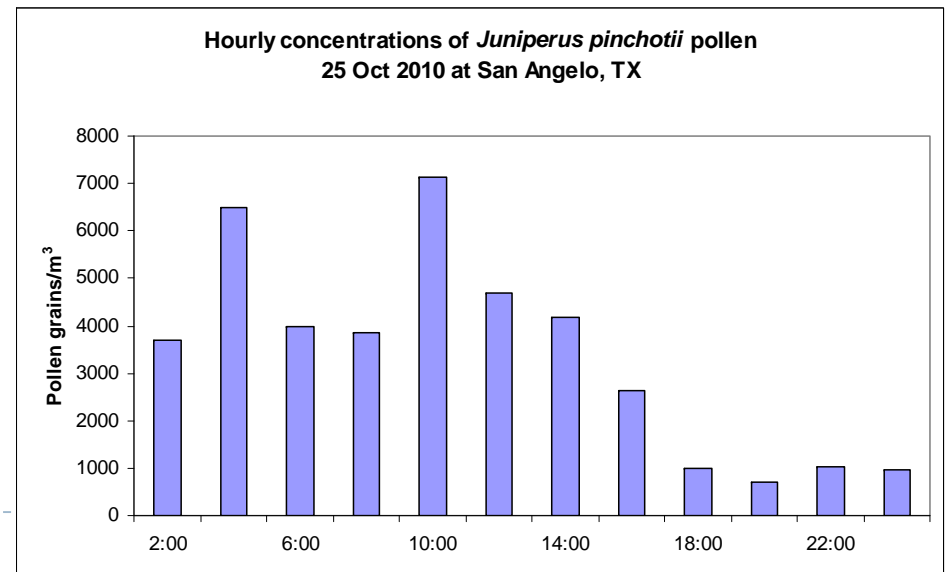
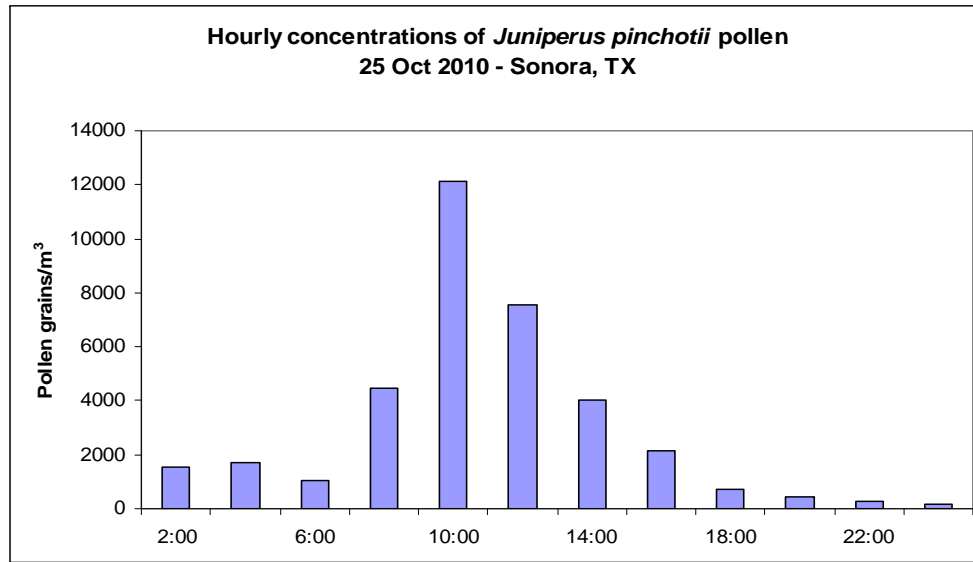


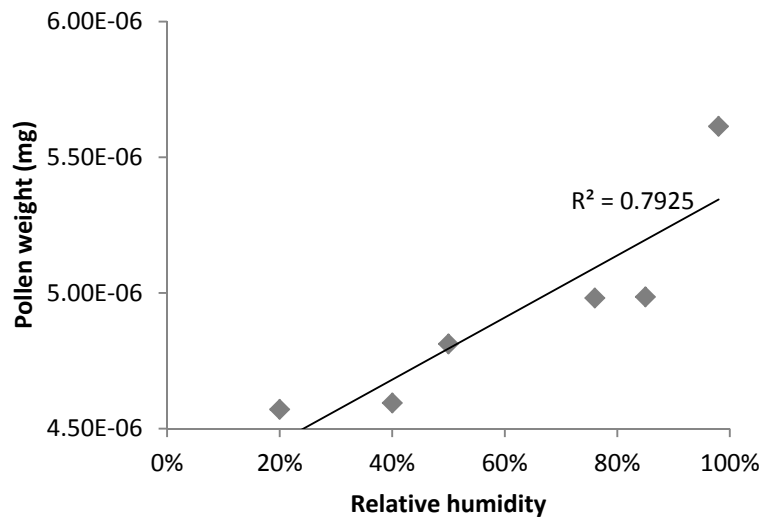


# Trajectory analysis indicates the pollen originated in southwest Texas approximately 8 hours earlier



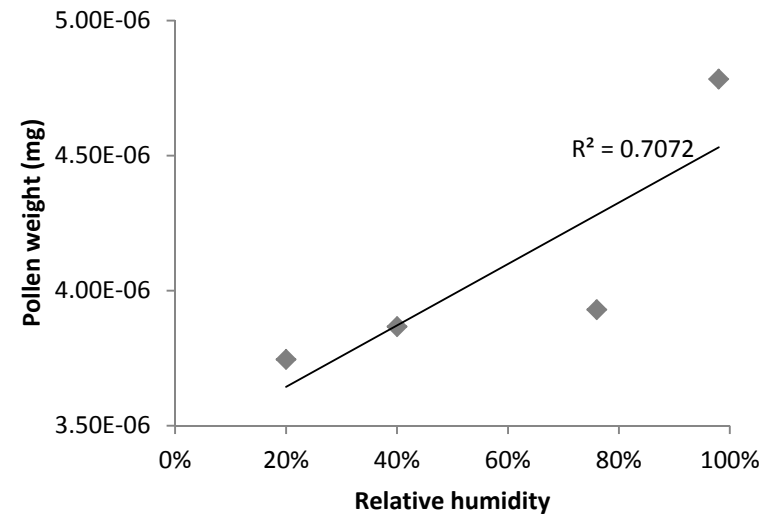
# *Juniperus pinchotii* concentrations at Sonora and San Angelo confirm the trajectory model





Estimated weight per pollen grain (*J. monosperma*) after 2 hrs across the range of relative humidity levels at 20° C

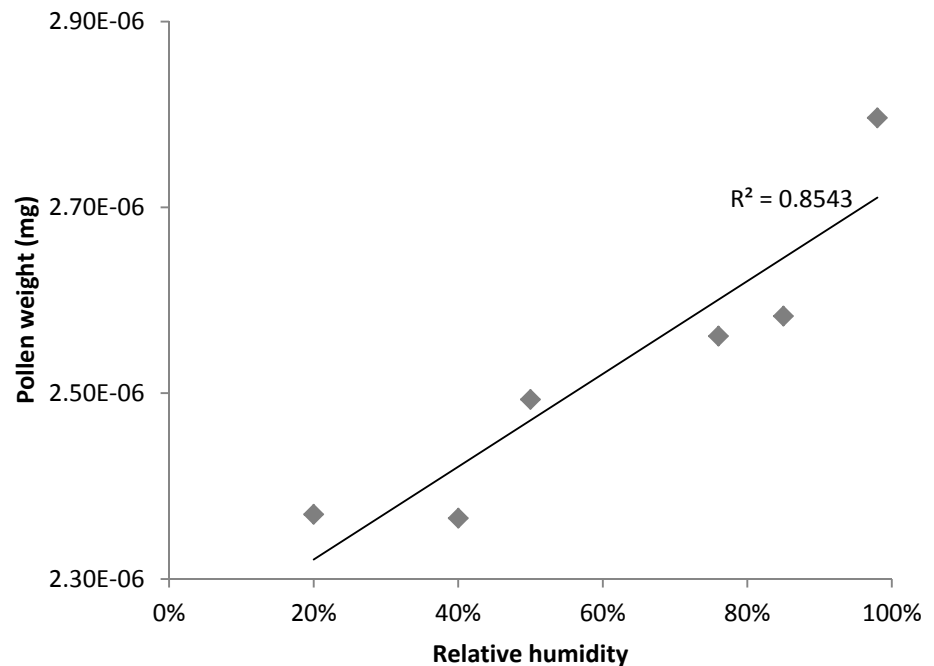
While *J. monosperma* and *J. pinchotii* were larger in size, their percent weight gain was similar to that of *J. ashei*.



Estimated weight per pollen grain (*J. pinchotii*) after 2 hrs across the range of relative humidity levels at 20° C

# Hygroscopic Weight Gain of *Juniperus* Pollen

- *Juniperus ashei*, *J. monosperma*, and *J. pinchotii* were dusted on greased slides and exposed to a range of temperatures and humidity levels and weighed at 2 hrs and 6 hrs.
- *J. ashei* was weighed at temperatures 4° C, 15° C, and 20° C at relative humidity levels; 20%, 40%, 50%, 75%, 86%, 97%.
- Weight was not significantly affected by temperature or time.









# Pollen release potential Source Map/Mask

(PRPSM\_of\_  $J_i$ ) of a Juniper species “ $i$ ” is calculated as:

$$\mathbf{PRPSM\_of\_J_i = T_i \times M_i \times H_i \times C_i \times P_i}$$

Where

$T_i$  = Number of  $J_i$  trees

$M_i$  = Male/Female ratio of  $J_i$

$H_i$  = HCP\_LCP/All ratio for  $J_i$

$C_i$  = Cones per  $J_i$  tree

$P_i$  = Pollens per cone for  $J_i$

The number of trees of a Juniper species “ $i$ ” per grid cell is calculated as

$$\mathbf{T_i = GAP_i \times MODIS \times TC}$$

Where

$GAP_i$  = Fraction of  $J_i$  at 1 km grid (range 0-1)

MODIS = MODIS derived percent tree cover per 1 km<sup>2</sup> grid cell (in fraction, range 0-1)

TC = Tree count or number of trees.

# Ground truth (transect data)

**(a) Male to Female ratio**

**(b) HCP\_LCP to All ratio**

- ❖ 0 – Only enough cones to determine gender
- ❖ 1 – Low Cone Production (LCP) tree
- ❖ 2 – High Cone Production (HCP) tree

**(c) Cones per tree**

**(d) Pollens per cone**

**(d) Age**

**(Height & edge effect)**



# Juniper Species and Pollination Season

- ❖ **Juniper Ashei ( $J_a$ )** is mostly found to be distributed over Texas and Oklahoma and pollinates during **December to January**. Thus, the dispersion of juniper pollens during December-January is mostly restricted to  $J_a$  type..
- ❖ **Juniper Pinchotti ( $J_p$ )** is mostly distributed over Texas and pollinated during **late September-November**. Thus, the dispersion of juniper pollens during this period is mostly restricted to  $J_p$  type.
- ❖ **Juniper monosperma ( $J_m$ ) and Juniper scopulorum ( $J_s$ )** are prevalent in New Mexico and pollinates during **March-May** period. Thus, the dispersion of juniper pollens during this period is mostly restricted to  $J_m$  and  $J_s$  type.



## Field data

- Juniper Ashei
- Juniper Pinchotii
- Juniper monosperma and scopulorum

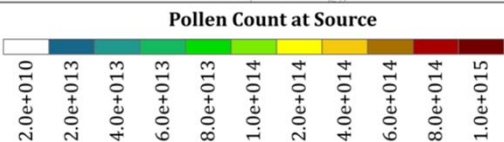
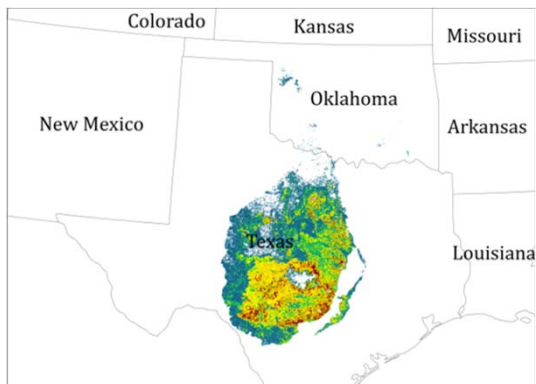
## Information Needed (to update mask):

For all sampling sites:

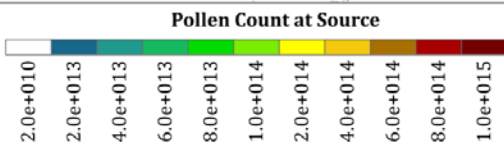
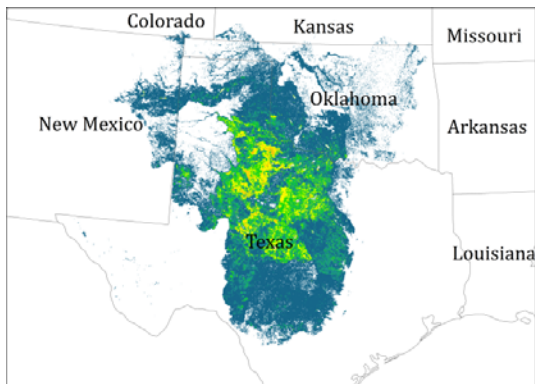
- **HCP/LCP/0**
- Male/Female ratio
- **Number of trees (tree density)**
- Number of cones
- Pollens/cone

Pollen Source Mask (PREAM)

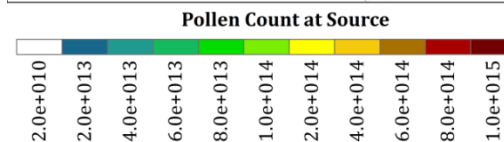
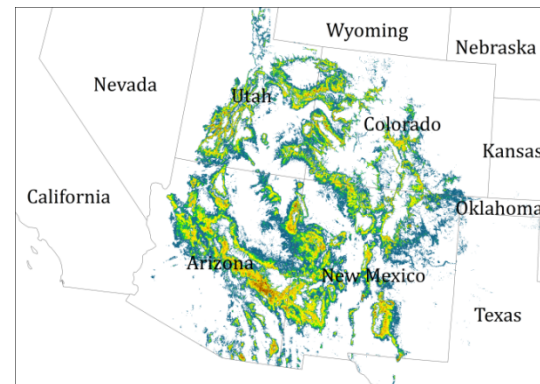
### Juniper Asheii *December to January*



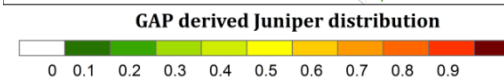
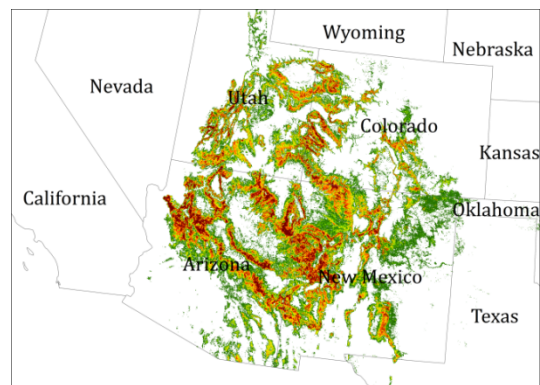
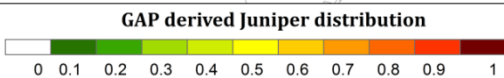
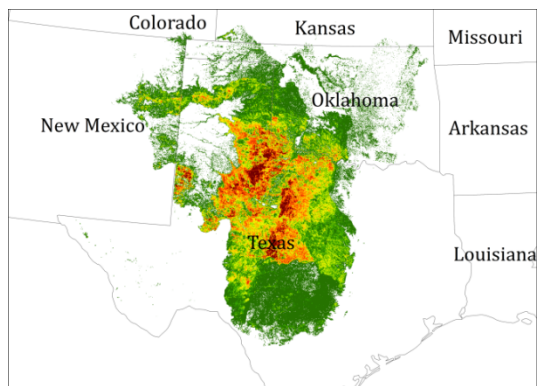
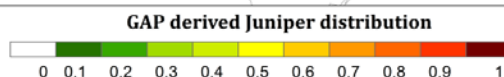
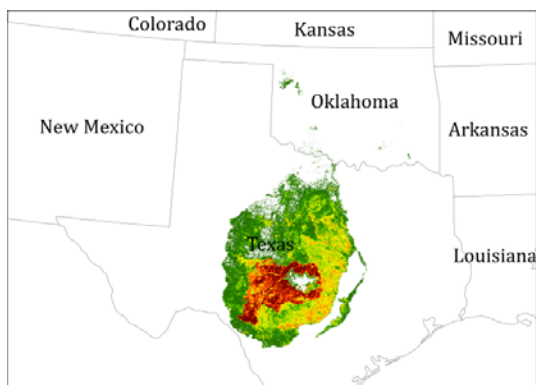
### Juniper Pinchotii *late September-November*



### Juniper Monosperma & Scopulorum *March-May*



GAP derived distribution



Spatial resolution: ~1 km (990 m)

# PREAM

**Pollen Plume Simulation for Juniper Emissions  
For the period 15 December 2009 – 1 January 2010**

*Run by Slobodan Nickovic, September 2012*

## Atmosphere Model Setup

*Model horizontal domain: Southwest US*

*Model resolution: ~40 km*

*Simulation period:*

15 December 2009 – 1 January 2010

*Boundary conditions: 1 degree global forecasts used to refresh*

- initial conditions every 24 hours
- boundary conditions every 6 hours



# PREAM

**Pollen Plume Simulation for Juniper Emissions  
For the period 15 December 2009 – 1 January 2010**

## *PREAM – Pollen Regional Atmospheric Model*

*Derived from* DREAM (dust), modified to simulate pollen

- 4 particles bins
- PREAM is online driven by the NCEP/ETA

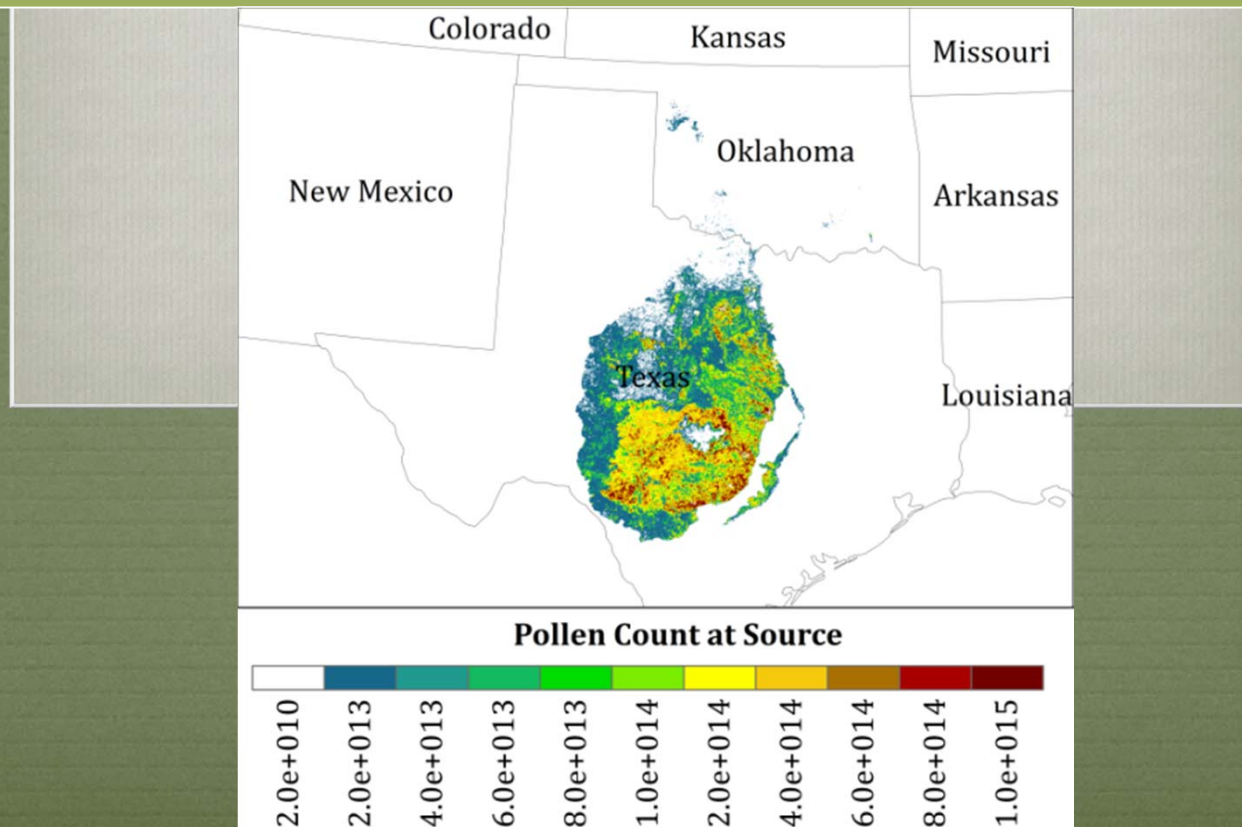
### *Emission:*

- Viscous-sublayer parameterization
- Emission dependent on friction velocity

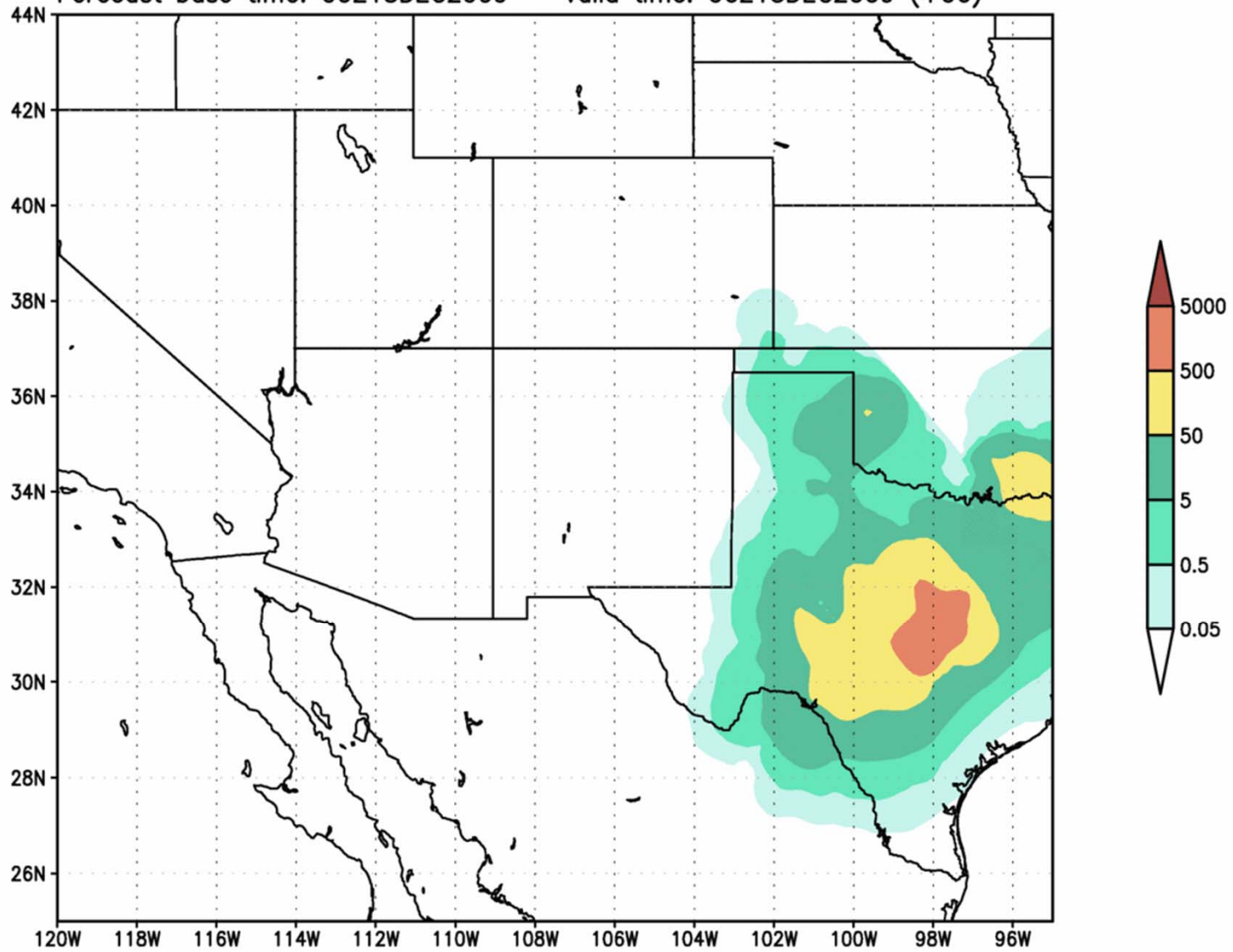


## The PREAM 15 December 2009– 1 January 2010 Run

- “cold start” used for the very first day
- simulated 3D concentration from the previous day is the initial condition for the next day simulation

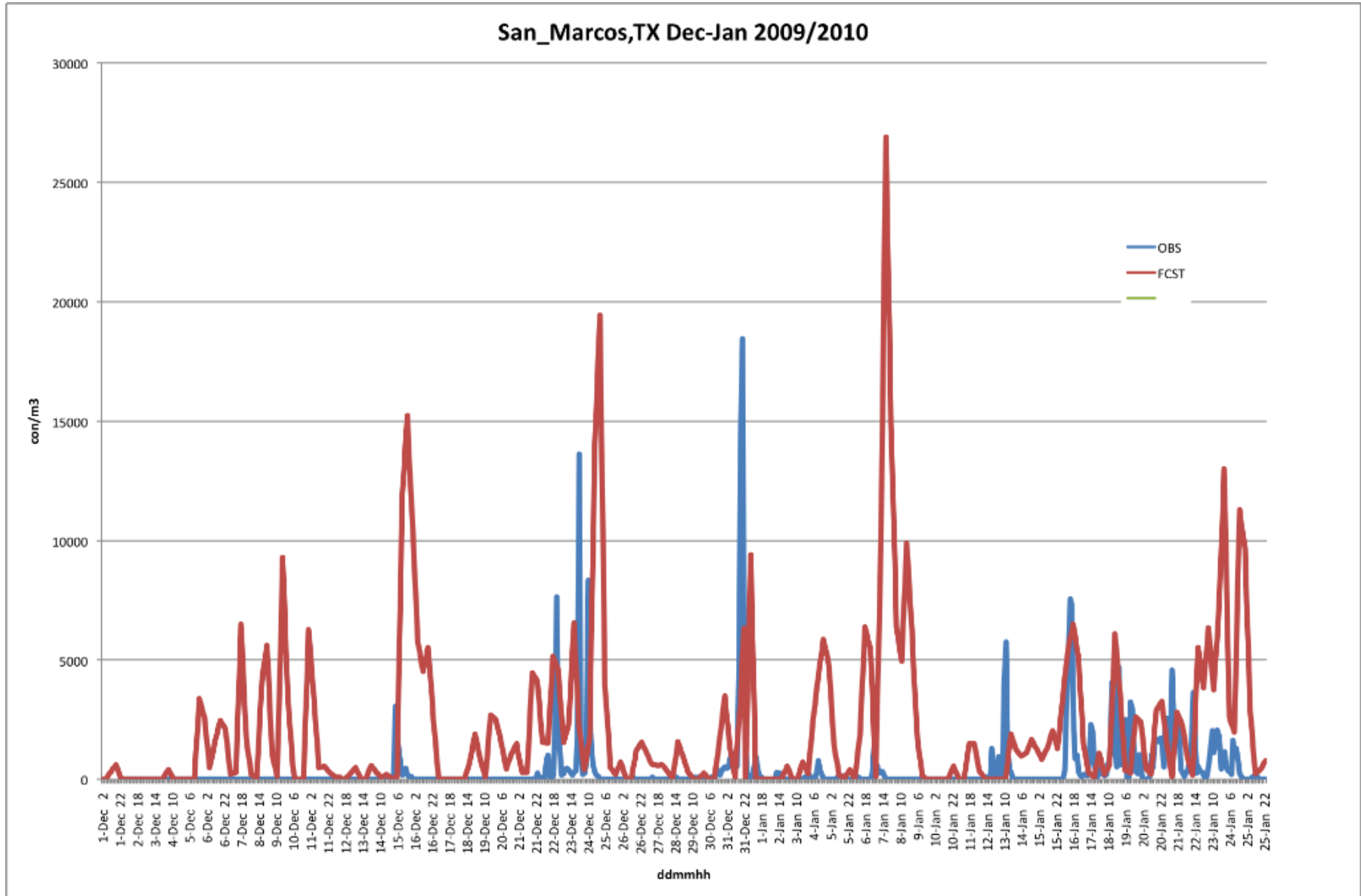


PREAM: Surface pollen concentration (#grains/m<sup>3</sup>)  
Forecast base time: 00Z15DEC2009    valid time: 06Z15DEC2009 (+06)



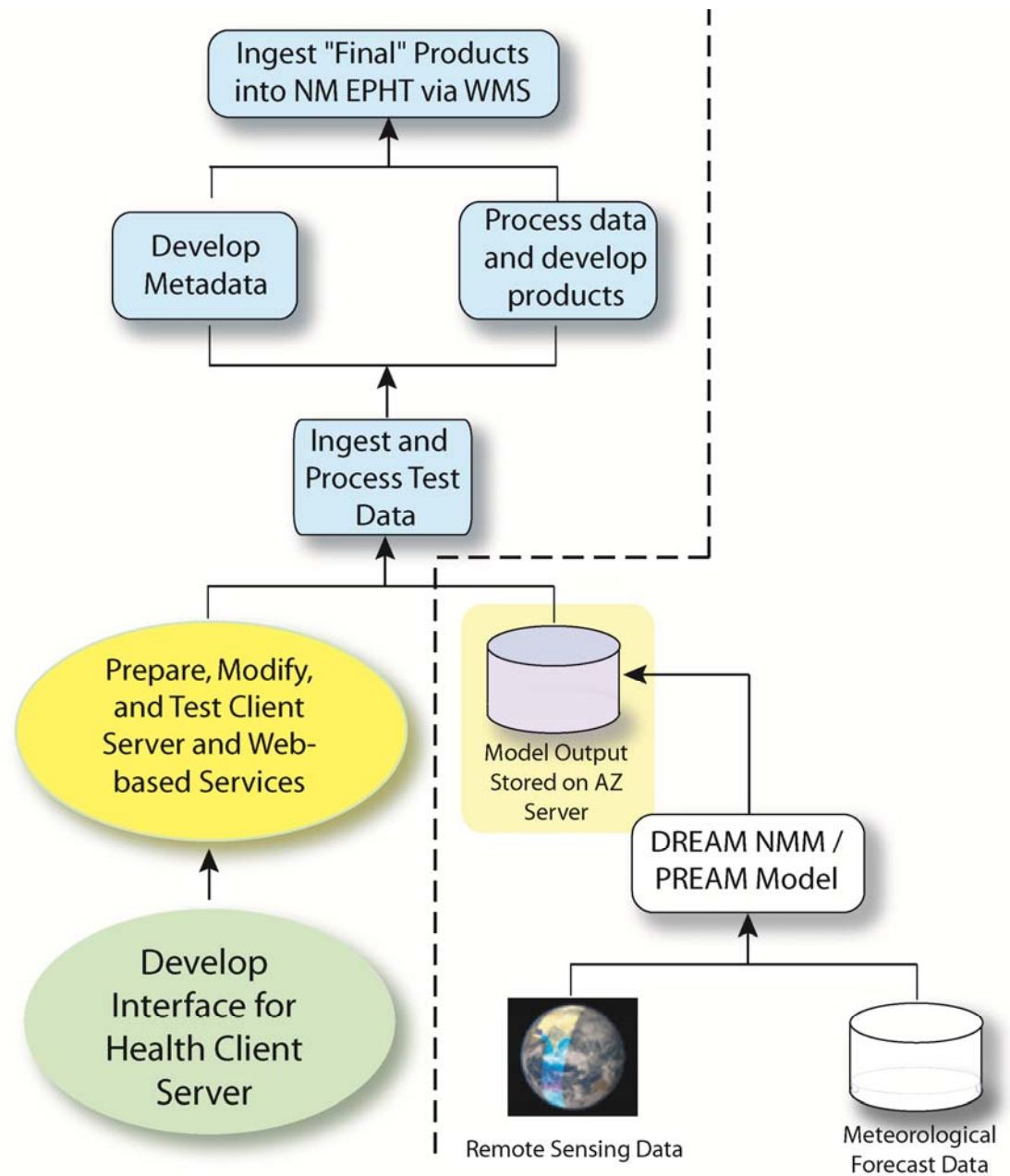
# Model Validation ( Juniper pollen count/ m<sup>2</sup> )

Observed Forecast



## Status of Transitioning Pollen Data Into NM EPHT

- Progress in year 1 (green oval):
  - Prepare interface for health client server
  - Prepare server for pollen data output
- Test server functions: (yellow oval):
  - Dependent upon receiving sample data from modeling team
- Activities for out years: (blue boxes)





# Post-processing Workflow

Acquire Pollen Forecast Output Files (.txt)

```
Dream-pollen fct:06.03.2006.  
conc*1.e+18 time 6 12 18 24  
45.00 -127.00 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000  
45.00 -126.75 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000  
45.00 -126.50 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000  
45.00 -126.25 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000  
45.00 -126.00 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000  
45.00 -125.75 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000 -9999.000  
  
44.25 -121.75 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000  
44.25 -121.50 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000  
44.25 -121.25 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000  
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44.25 -120.75 0.000 0.000 0.000 0.000
```

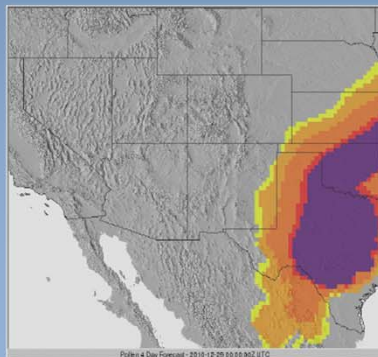
PREAM Post-Processing Script

1. Read text file contents into Python lists while parsing hourly columns into separate data structures.
2. Convert Python lists into Python numPy Arrays.
3. Reconfigure numPy array into correct array dimensions.
4. Apply multiplication factor to each grid value. Export to GeoTiff using GDAL libraries.
6. Write records to GStoRE geospatial database and enable WMS, WCS services.

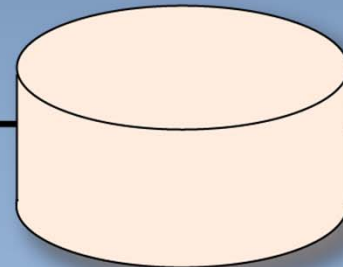
Store GeoTiffs on File System

```
-rw-r--r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060216_06.tif  
-rw-r--r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060216_12.tif  
-rw-r--r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060216_18.tif  
-rw-r--r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060216_24.tif  
-rw-r--r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060217_06.tif  
-rw-r--r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060217_12.tif  
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-rw-r--r-- 1 bhudspeth bhudspeth 13643 2012-03-21 15:16 20060217_24.tif  
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```

WMS / WCS Services

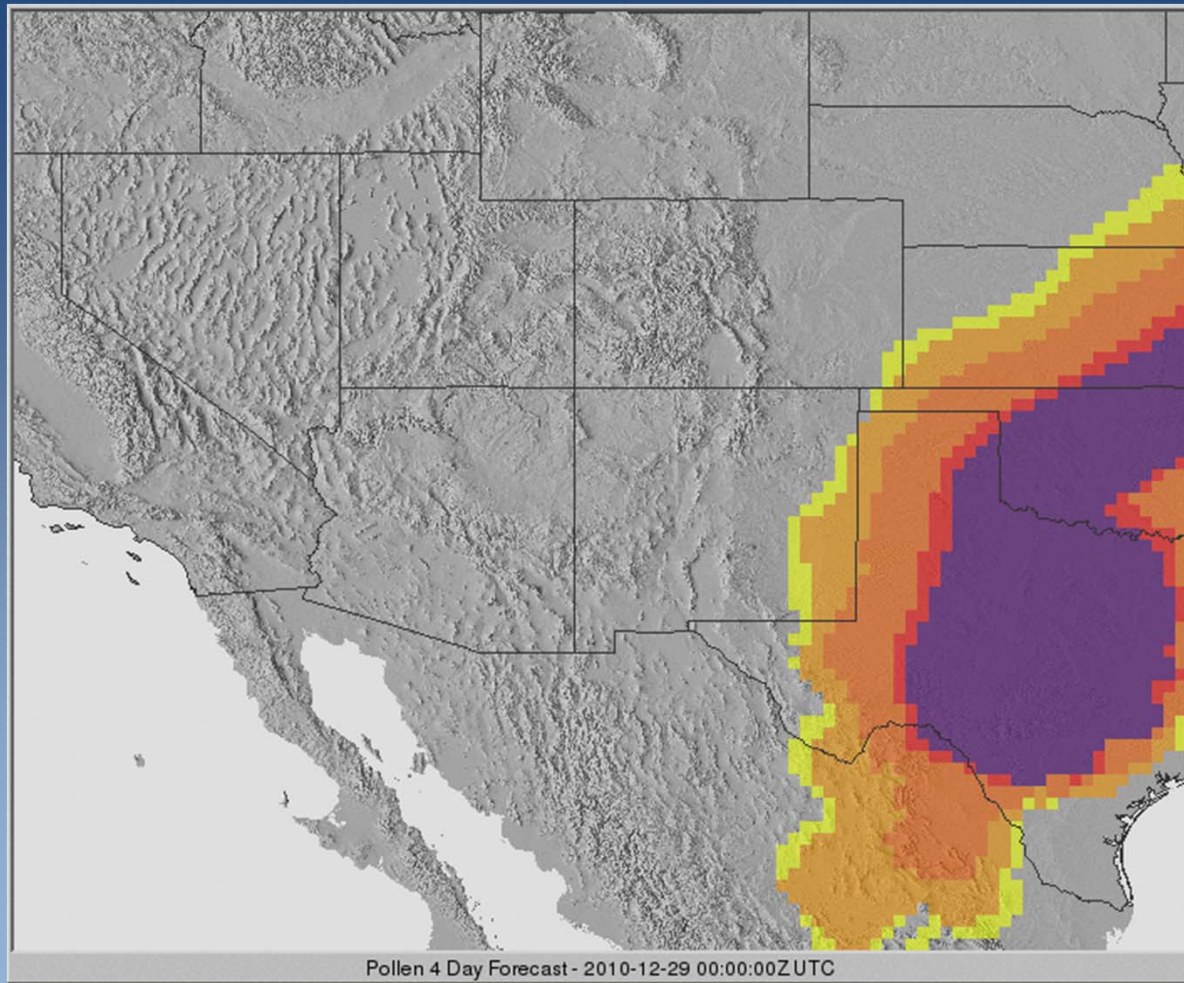


GStoRE Spatial Database



Newport, Rhode Island Sep 18-20, 2012

# Sample Animation for *Juniperus ashei* (Dec 29, 2010 to Jan 1, 2011)



Newport, Rhode Island Sep 18-20, 2012

## Clinical Findings: Chronic Lung Disease Exacerbation

### Symptoms (Reported by Patient)



Productive Cough?  Yes  No Nasal Discharge?  Yes  No

Sore Throat?  Yes  No Wheezing?  Yes  No

Underlying Lung Disease (Asthma/COPD)?  Yes  No

### Clinical Signs (from Physical Examination)



Temp(C)  < 37.0  37.0 - 37.9  38.0 - 38.9  39.0 - 39.9

Predominant Lung Findings  Rales  Wheezing  Bilateral  Unilateral

Skin Rash?  Yes  No Oral Lesions?  Yes  No

Lymphadenopathy?  Yes  No  Diffuse  Localized

Splenomegaly?  Yes  No Hepatomegaly?  Yes  No

### Laboratory and X-Ray Data



WBC Count:  < 5,000  5,000 - 10,000  10,001 - 15,000  > 15,000

Platelet Ct.  < 50,000  50,000 - 100,000  100,001 - 150,000  > 150,000

Chest X-Ray:  Normal  Abnormal

Infiltrate  Hyperinflation  Cardiomegaly  Effusion

O2 Sat. (Room Air)  Normal  Abnormal

Help

Cancel

Submit Report





western columbine  
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### What is phenology?

Phenology refers to recurring plant and animal life cycle stages, or phenophases, such as leafing and flowering, maturation of agricultural plants, emergence of insects, and migration of birds. Many of these events are sensitive to climatic variation and change, and are simple to observe and record. As an USA-NPN observer, you can help scientists identify and understand environmental trends so we can better adapt to climate change.

[Why is phenology important?](#)

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