



Supplement of

Trends and spatial shifts in lightning fires and smoke concentrations in response to 21st century climate over the national forests and parks of the western United States

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Fig. S1. Flowchart of modeling setup.



Fig. S2. Changes in monthly mean temperature, precipitation and lightning density averaged over the fire season in the western U.S. for the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios. The top row shows changes between the present day and 2050, and the bottom row shows changes between the present day and 2100. Temperature and precipitation are from GISS-E2-R for the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios, with five years representing each time period. Lightning density is calculated using the GISS convective mass flux following the empirical parameterization of *Magi* [2015]. The fire season is July, August, and September.





Fig. S3. Map of the National Forest and Park fraction.

28 Evaluation of LPJ-LMfire fire emissions

29 We first evaluate the lightning-caused wildfire emissions from LPJ-LMfire over the 30 National Forests in the western U.S. by comparing with the Global Fire Emissions Database 31 (GFED4s) emissions over the same regions (Fig. S4). Lightning is the dominant fire source over 32 the western U.S. forests, allowing a reasonable comparison between the two emission inventories 33 over the forest areas in the West. The total fire-season dry matter burned (DM) over National 34 Forests and Parks from LPJ-LMfire is 22.11 Tg for July-August-September (JAS), comparable to 35 that from GFED4s (19.89 Tg), providing confidence in the LPJ-LMfire representation of fires 36 without active suppression. GFED4s shows greater DM over northern Washington, Idaho, and 37 northern California than LPJ-LMfire but overall the spatial mismatches are not large.

38 We then validate the carbonaceous fine particulate matter ($PM_{2,5}$; BC+OC) generated by 39 GEOS-Chem in a simulation with the combined emissions (LPJ-LMfire over the National Forests 40 and Parks and GFED4s elsewhere) during JAS. Simulated BC and OC also include contributions 41 from non-fire sources, such as fossil fuel combustion from transportation, industry, and power 42 plants. We compare the GEOS-Chem results against ground-based measurements from the 43 Interagency Monitoring of Protected Visual Environments (IMPROVE) network in the western 44 U.S. We find that GEOS-Chem generally reproduces the IMPROVE observations, with elevated 45 concentrations (~3.0-5.0 µg m⁻³) over the northern states and in California (Fig. S5). The finer-46 resolution simulation provides more detailed distributions of fire activity in the western U.S., 47 which are of greater utility to environmental managers. In JAS, large amounts of smoke PM are 48 transported from Canada, as implied by some IMPROVE observations in Idaho and Montana. 49 GFED4s includes the smoke from these Canadian fires, as reflected by elevated smoke PM in the 50 northeast corner of the domain in the GEOS-Chem results. Results in RCP8.5 for the present-day

are similar to those under RCP4.5 (not shown). We also compare 5-year fire-season averages of smoke PM in each grid cell in the western U.S. from GEOS-Chem against those from IMPROVE observations (Fig. S6). The GEOS-Chem simulation with combined emissions generally reproduces smoke PM within an uncertainty of 50%.

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Fig. S4. Present-day (2011-2015) fire-season averaged lightning-caused dry matter burned (DM)
over the national forests and parks in the western U.S. for LPJ RCP4.5 and GFED4s. Value are
the total fire-season DM over the national forests and parks in the two inventories. The fire
season is July, August, and September. White spaces indicate areas outside the national forests
and parks.

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Fig. S5. Fire-season averaged smoke PM. Circles represent ground-based observations from the
IMPROVE network. The colored background is from GEOS-Chem simulations at 0.5° x 0.625°
and 4° x 5° spatial resolutions for the present-day (2011-2015) using the combined fire emissions
from LPJ-LMfire over the national forests and parks and GFED4s over other regions. The fire
season is July, August, and September.



Fig. S6. BC+OC concentrations simulated with the present-day combined fire emissions from
LPJ RCP4.5 (over National Forests) and GFED4s (over other regions) compared to those from
IMPROVE observations. Each dot represents the 5-year fire-season average of concentrations in
each grid square (with the resolution of 4° x 5°) across the western U.S. The blue line is the fitted
line using reduced major axis (RMA) regression between the GEOS-Chem simulations and those
from IMPROVE. The grey line denotes the 1:1 line.





Fig. S7. Simulated changes in living biomass for the three most dominant plant functional types over the national forests and parks in the western U.S. for the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios. The top row shows changes between the present day and 2050, and the bottom row shows changes between the present day and 2100. Results are from LPJ-LMfire, with five years representing each time period. The fire season is July, August, and September. White spaces indicate areas outside the national forests and parks.





Fig. S8. Simulated changes in monthly mean lightning-caused DM averaged over the fire season
over the national forests and parks in California for the RCP4.5 and RCP8.5 scenarios. The top
row shows changes in DM between the present day and 2050, and the bottom row shows
changes between the present day and 2100. Results are from LPJ-LMfire for the RCP4.5 and
RCP8.5 scenarios, with five years representing each time period. The fire season is July, August,
and September. Bold orange lines mark the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada (SN). White spaces
indicate areas outside the national forests and parks.

Table S1. Reclassification of LPJ-LMfire PFTs.

LPJ-LMfire (9 pfts)	GEOS-Chem (6 pfts)
Tropical broadleaf evergreen	Tropical forest
Tropical broadleaf raingreen	Tropical forest
Temperate needleleaf evergreen	Temperate forest
Temperate broadleaf evergreen	Temperate forest
Temperate broadleaf summergreen	Temperate forest
Boreal needleleaf evergreen	Boreal forest
Boreal summergreen	Boreal forest
C ₃ grass	Crop, pasture
C ₄ grass	50% -> savanna, grassland, shrubland; 50% -> crop, pasture