



## GEM3 Overview of Project Mission, Goals and Framework

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**GEM3**  
Genes by Environment  
Modeling · Mechanisms · Mapping

# Vision:

**WHO:** Leaders in collaborative & inclusive research

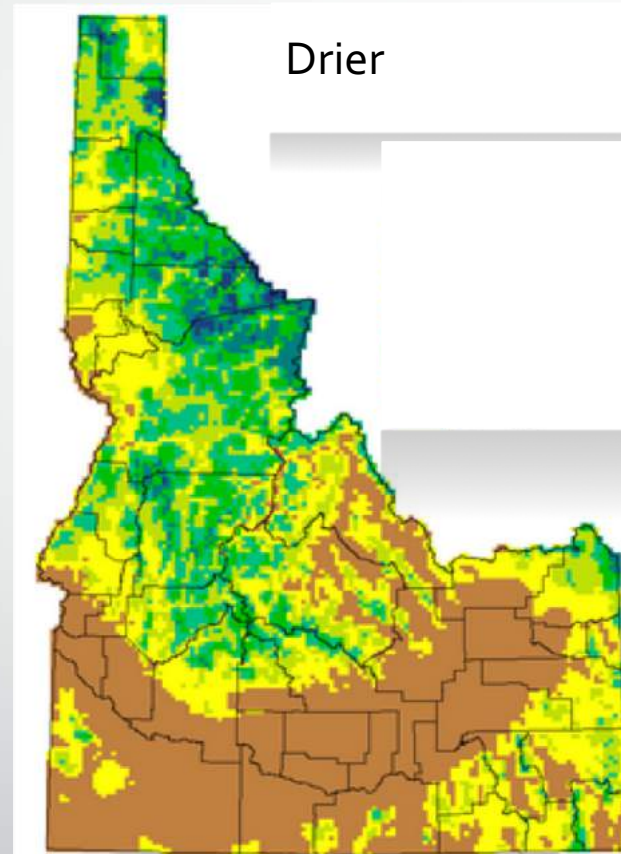
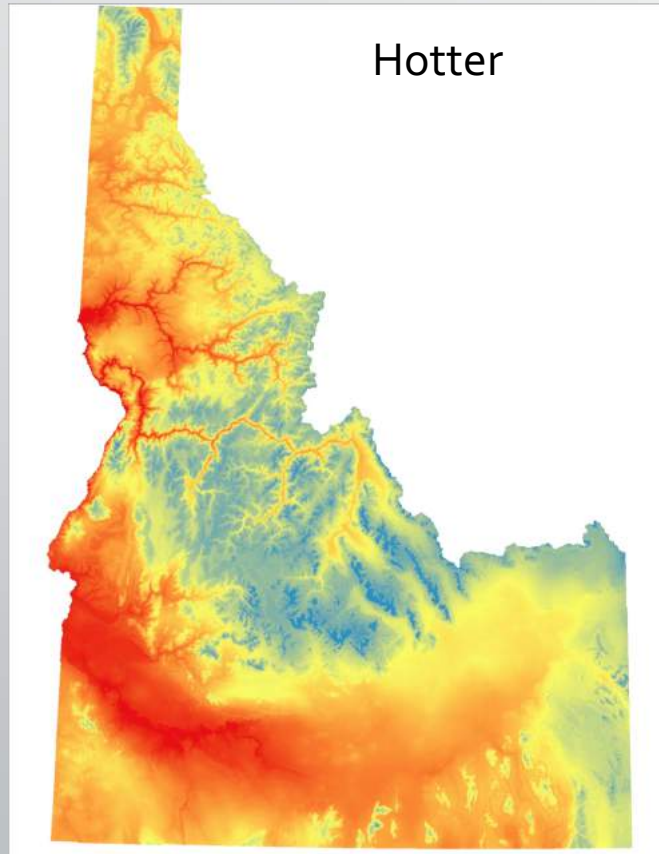
**WHAT:** To discover and predict how plants, animals, and people interact & adapt to environmental change

**WHY:** Sustainable management of natural resources

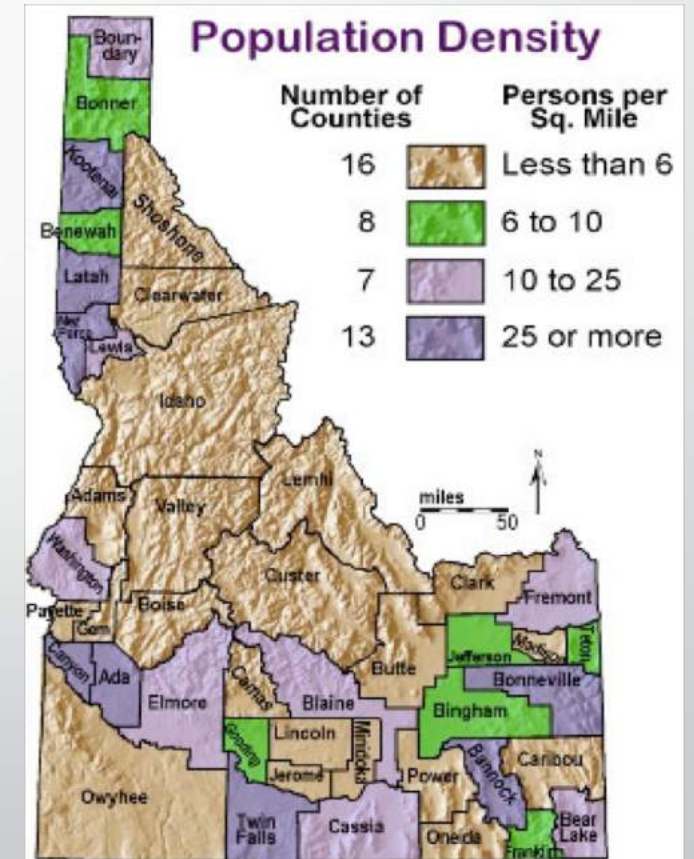
# Mission:

Discover fundamental knowledge of genetic mechanisms that inform evidence-based management of natural resources.

# WHY: Sustainable management of natural resources



<http://www.nezperceswcd.org>

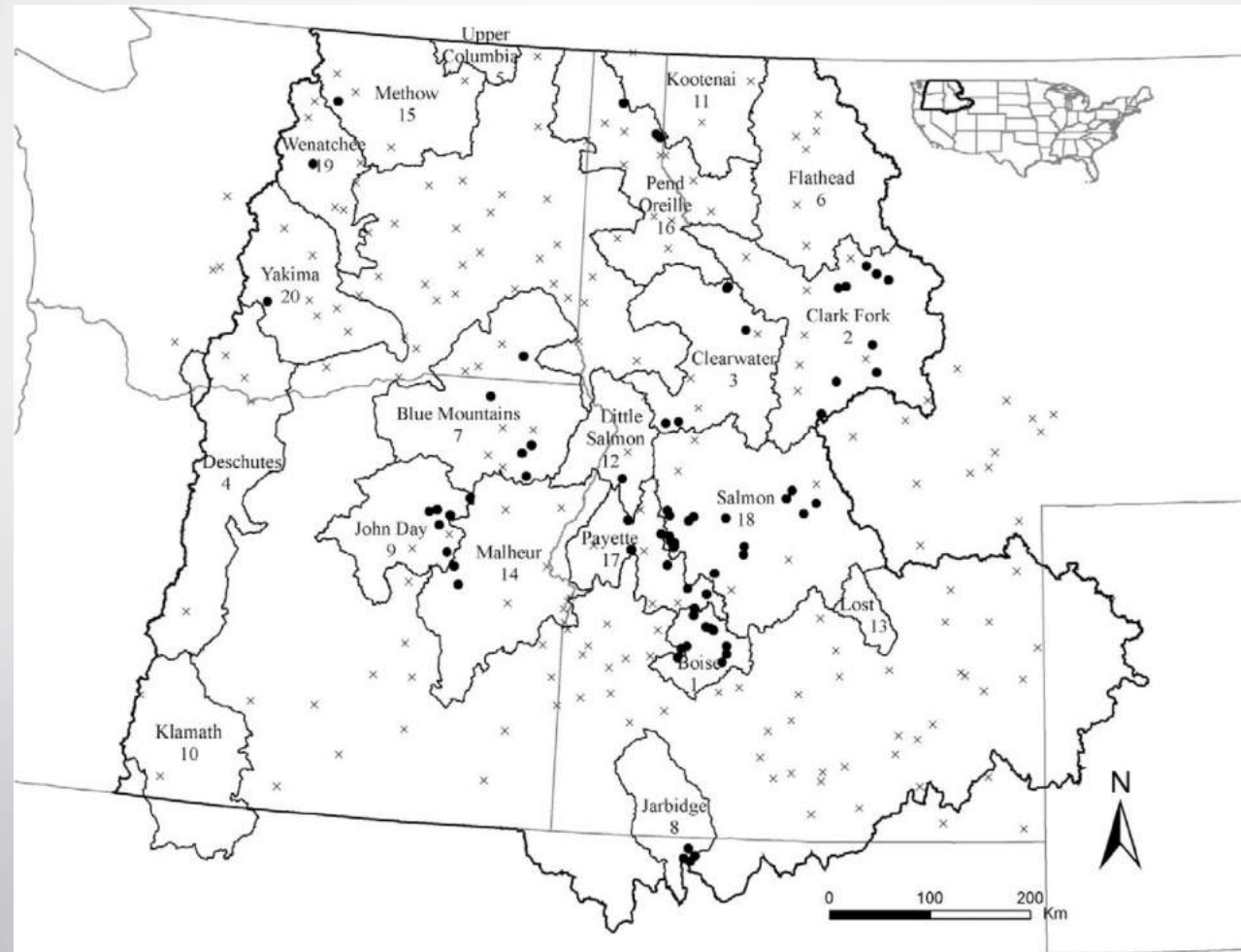


<http://www.netstate.com>

# Agencies use models to predict future distribution but these models do not consider the adaptive capacity of populations

## Bull trout example:

Bull trout populations in Idaho, Washington and Montana

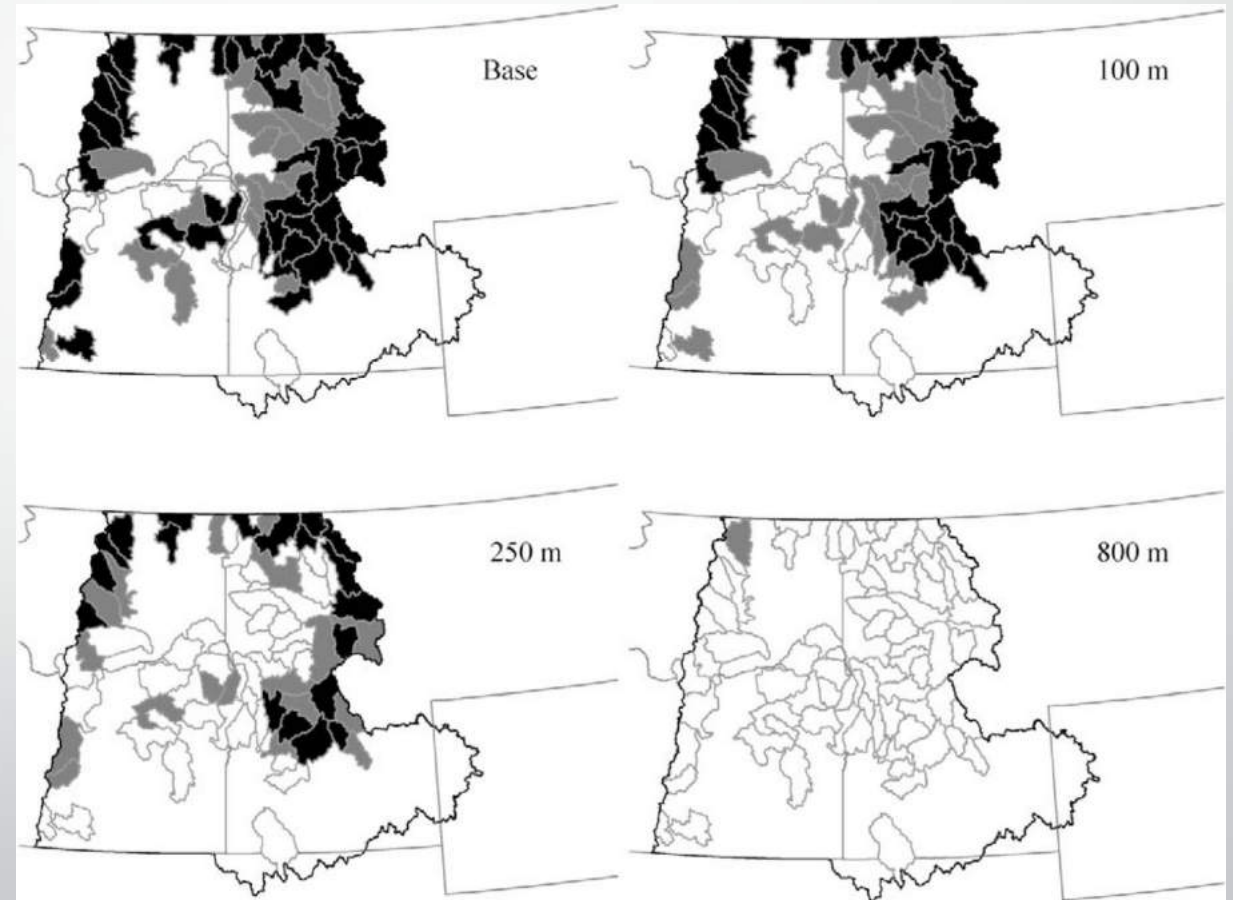




# Predicted bull trout distribution with climate change (warming) - habitat will shrink.

As water temperature increases, fish move to higher elevations

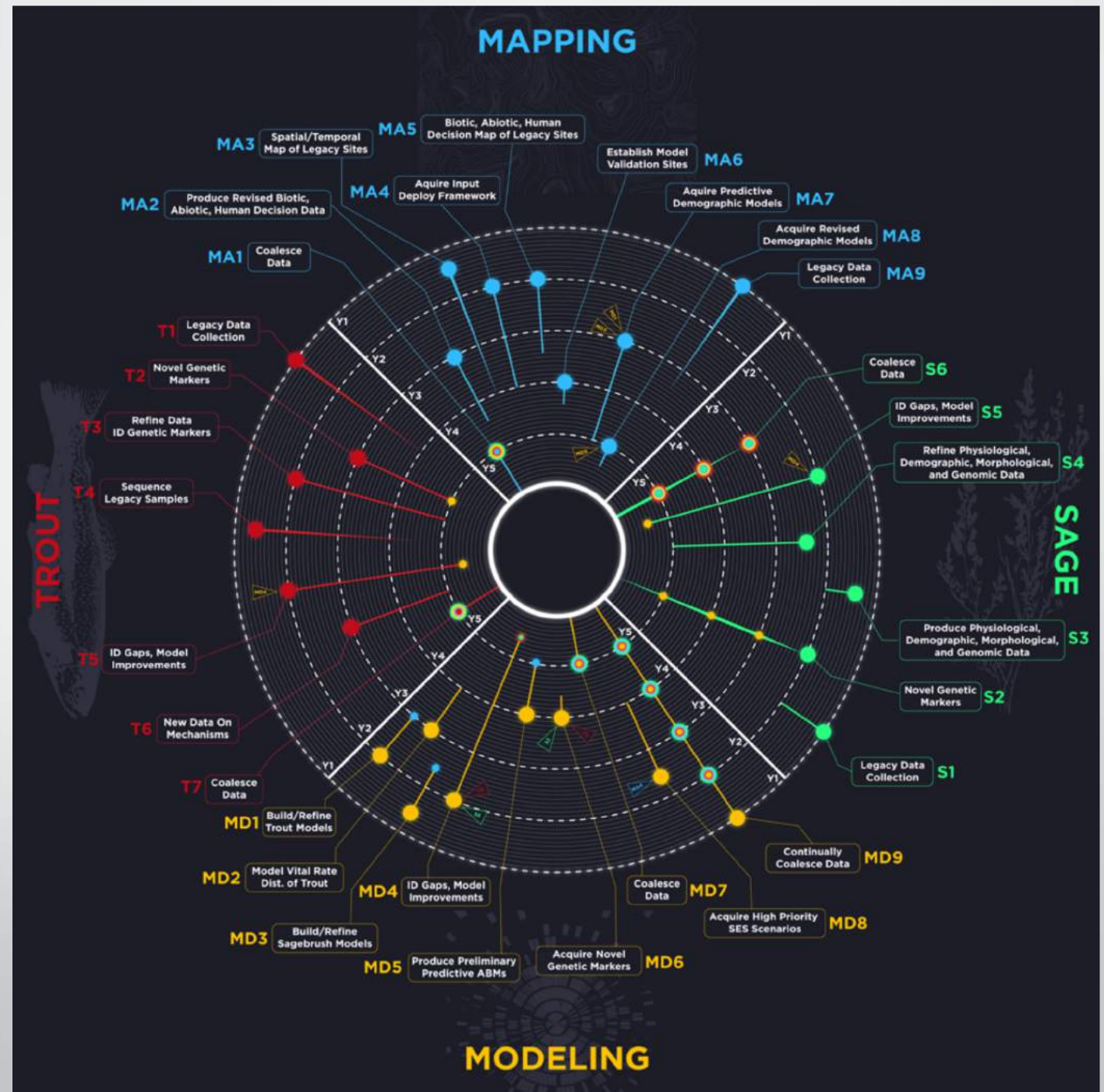
This reduces distribution and abundance



# **Our project will predict species distribution using agent-based models**

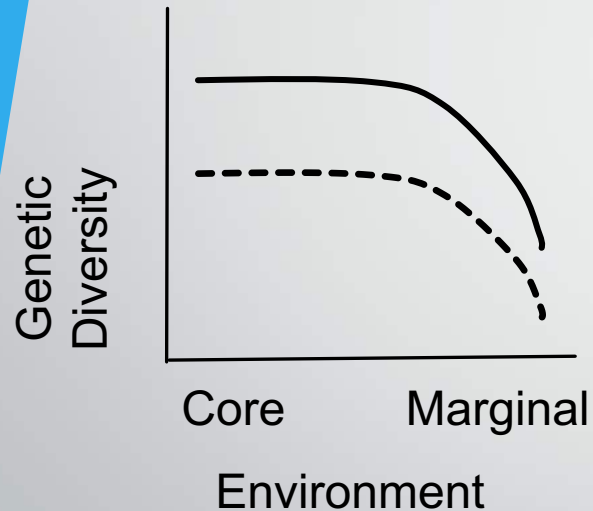
- **Agent-based models include factors that dictate demography**
  - **Food abundance that controls growth and abundance**
  - **Water temperature (upper summer temperature)**
  - **Emigration opportunity (connectivity in landscapes)**
  - **Genotype x environment predictions**
  - **Genetic diversity of populations**
- **These factors are interactive and vary across landscapes**

Diagram of GEM3 showing three research activities, when they occur and how they are inter-related



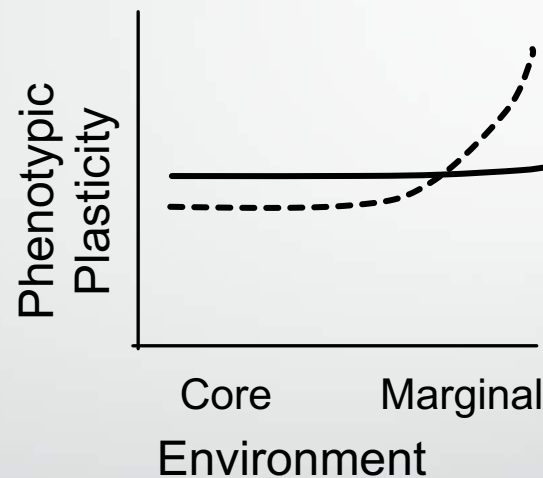
# Genotype x Environment x Phenotype mechanisms

**Genetic diversity outcomes**



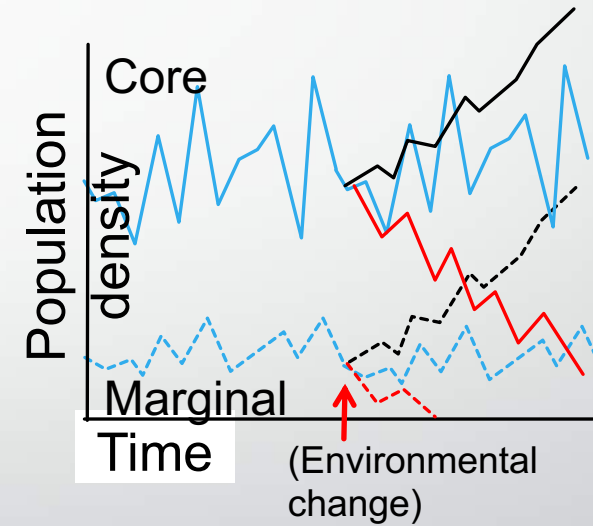
(solid line = large population  
dashed line = small population)

**Phenotypic plasticity outcomes**



(solid line = high genetic diversity population  
dashed line = low genetic diversity population)

**Expected Adaptive Capacity Outcomes**

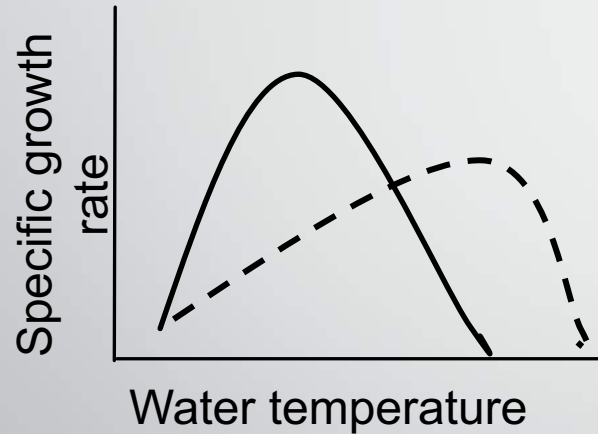


(blue = environment unchanged  
black = favorable changes  
red = unfavorable changes)



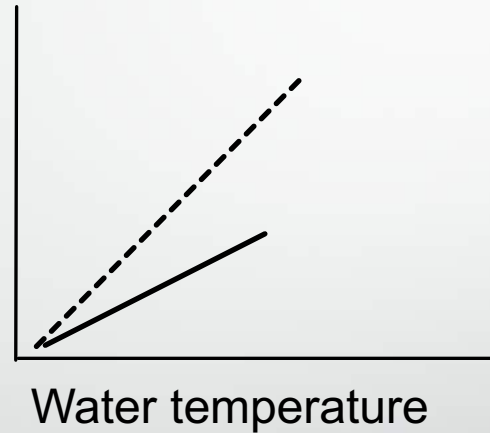
# Examples of genotype x environment mechanisms – trout common garden studies

## Predicted growth



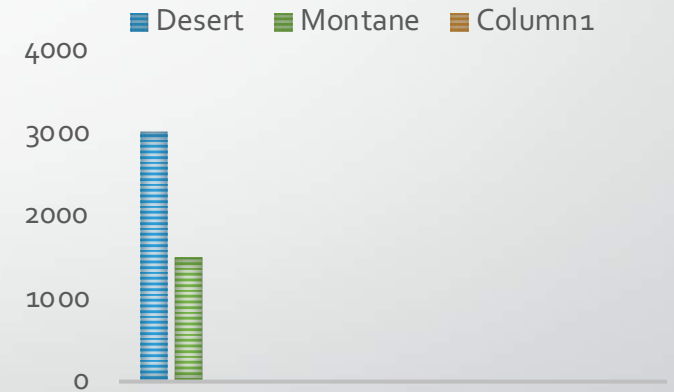
solid line = Montane population  
dashed line = Desert population

## Predicted weight at given age



solid line = Montane population  
dashed line = Desert population

## FECUNDITY



# Why did we chose redband trout?

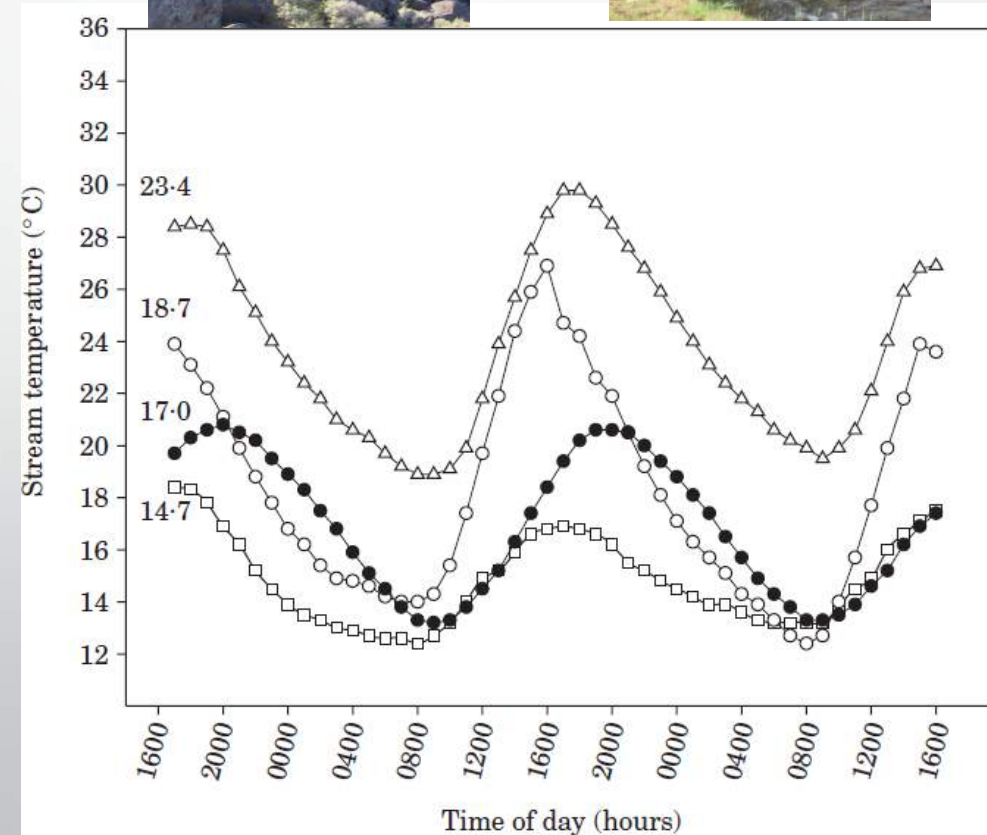
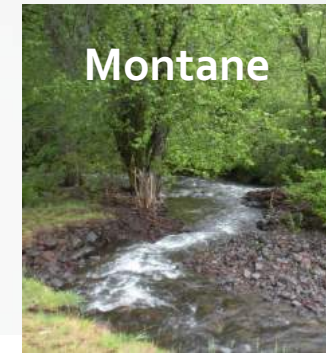
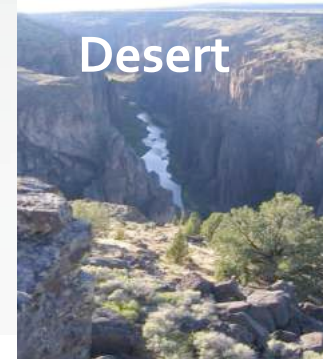
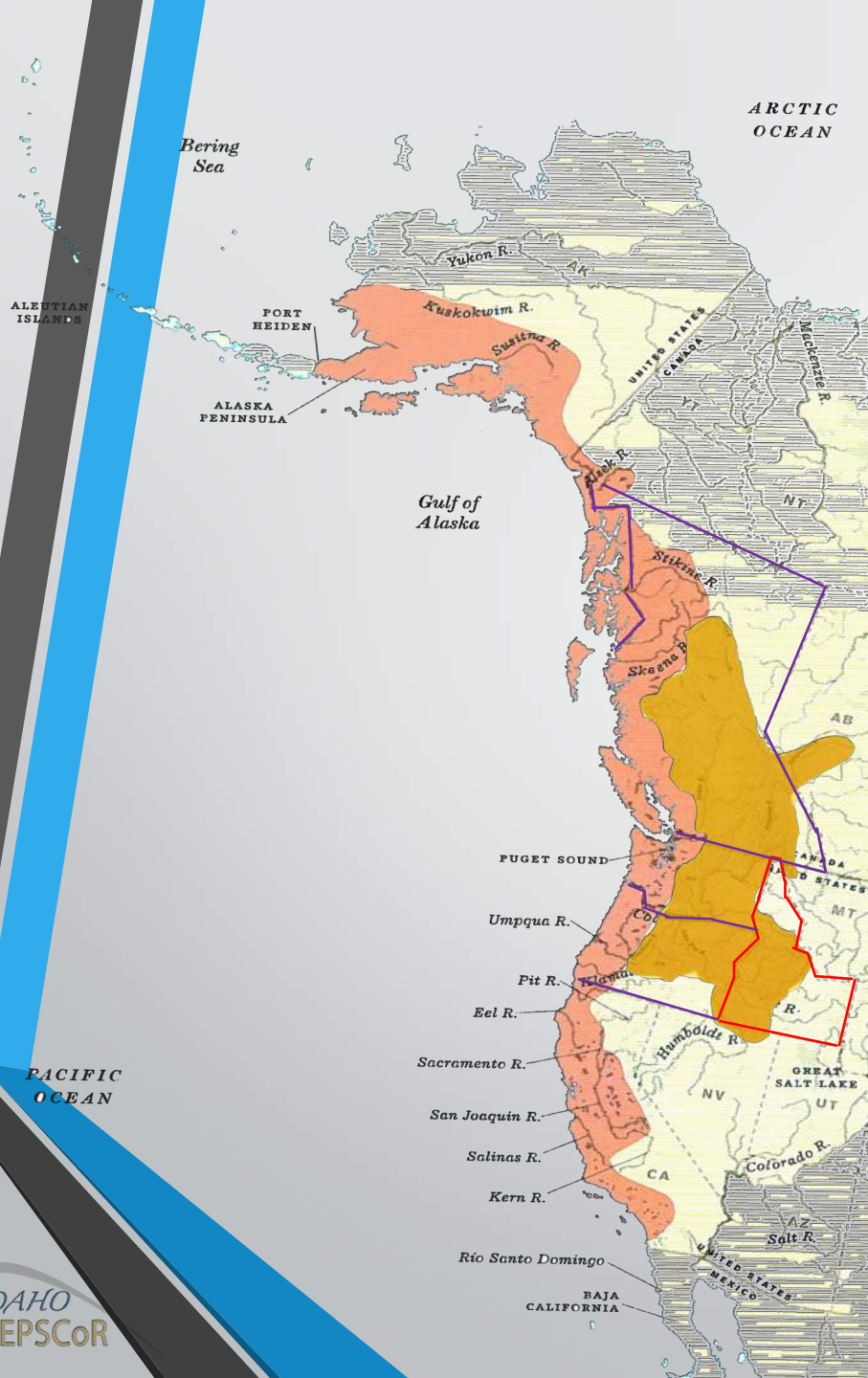


# Native Trout Species in Idaho

- **Bull trout (*Salvelinus confluentus*)**
  - Habitat is cold, mountain watersheds – areas not influenced much by human activities
  - Populations difficult to access
  - Federally protected species that limits population sampling
  - Genome not sequenced
- **Cutthroat trout (*Oncorhynchus clarki*)**
  - Two major subspecies: westslope and Yellowstone
  - Hybridize with rainbow trout
  - Genome not sequenced
- **Redband trout (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)**
  - Widely distributed, some geographically and reproductively isolated
  - Found in extreme habitats
  - Exist in varying landscapes affected by human activities
  - Populations characterized in past using microsatellites
  - Genome sequenced



# Redband trout as a model species

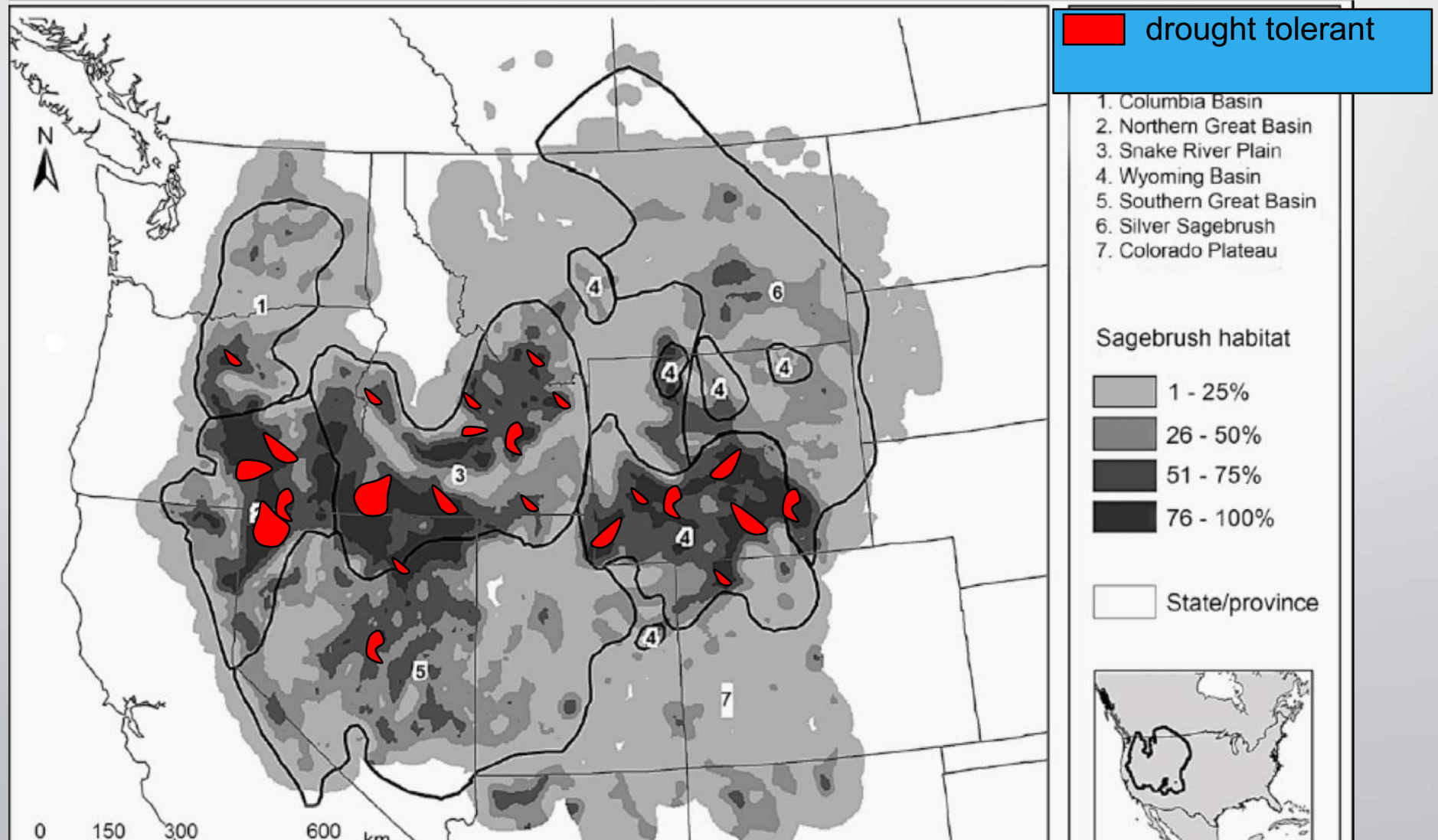




# Advantages of using redband trout

- **Access to legacy tissue samples to re-analyze (sequence)**
  - Available from partner agencies and entities
  - Archived samples go back decades, providing a temporal perspective
- **Population distribution crosses landscapes – enables SES**
  - 47% on private land, 45% on federal land and 8% in protected areas
- **Populations are accessible and not threatened or endangered**
- **Isolated populations exist in extreme environments ranging from cold to very warm water temperatures**
- **We can build on recent research on temperature tolerance of different populations (CRITFC)**

# WHAT: our project will predict and monitor climate-adapted populations of sagebrush



# Why did we chose sagebrush?

<https://idrange.org/>  
Hylet & Launchbaugh, UI

Pacific  
Bunchgrass



Sagebrush

Sagebrush Grassland

Salt Desert  
Shrubland

Juniper  
Woodland

Rangelands



# GAP: Agencies collect unknown genotypes of plants and monitor success but generally do not consider the adaptive capacity of populations

## Soda Fire rehab to cost BLM over \$56M

By DANIELLE WILEY dwiley@idahopress.com Oct 10, 2015





# 'Warranted but precluded'

DECISION OFFERS ENCOURAGEMENT, CONCERNS FOR INDUSTRY,  
CONSERVATIONISTS

## Idaho Task Force Tackles Sage Grouse Issues

**Big fire season further threat to Nevada's sage grouse habitat**

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# Habitat loss means Washington sage grouse in trouble

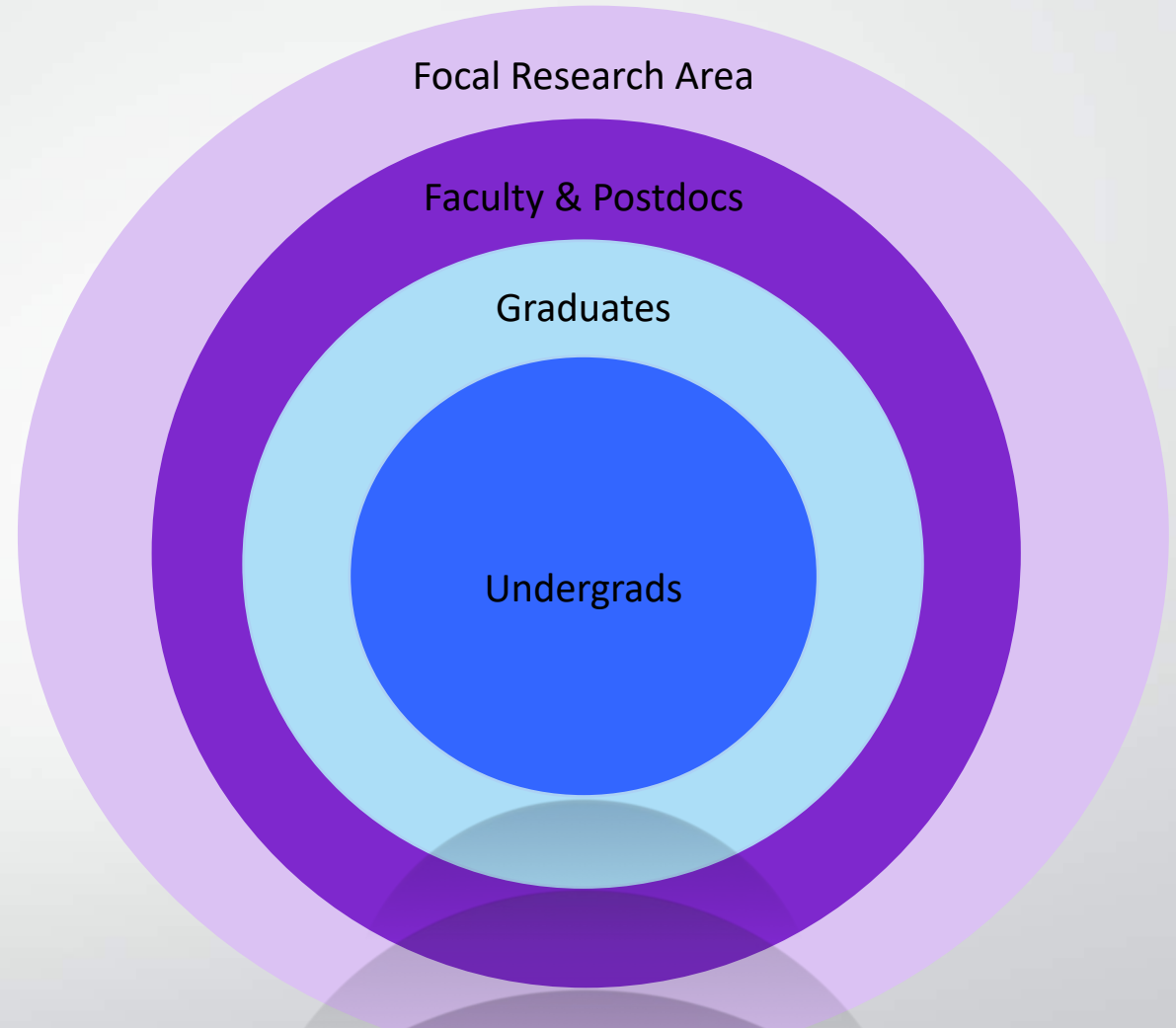
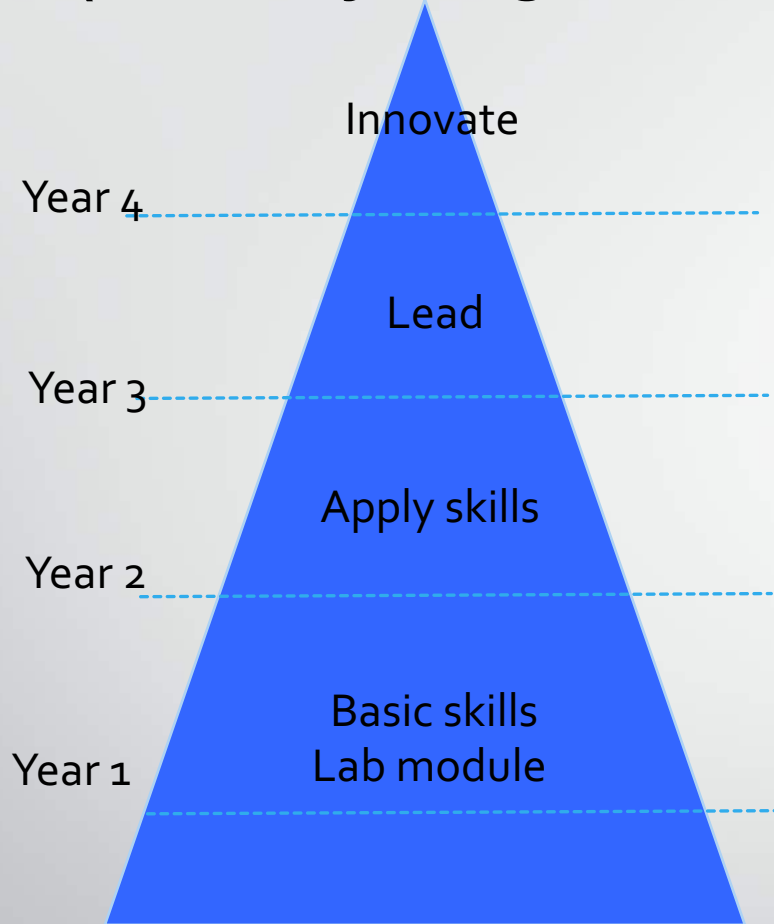
# Advantages of using sagebrush

- **Access to legacy demographic data (growth, survival, recruitment)**
  - Available from partner agencies and entities
  - Common gardens and land treatments (fires, reseeding) go back decades, providing a temporal perspective
- **Population distribution crosses landscapes – enables SES**
- **Populations are accessible and not threatened or endangered**
- **Isolated populations exist in extreme environments ranging from cold/wet to very warm/dry temperatures**
- **We can build on research on environmental tolerance of different populations within gardens (USFS, USGS)**

# WHO: Leaders in collaborative & inclusive research



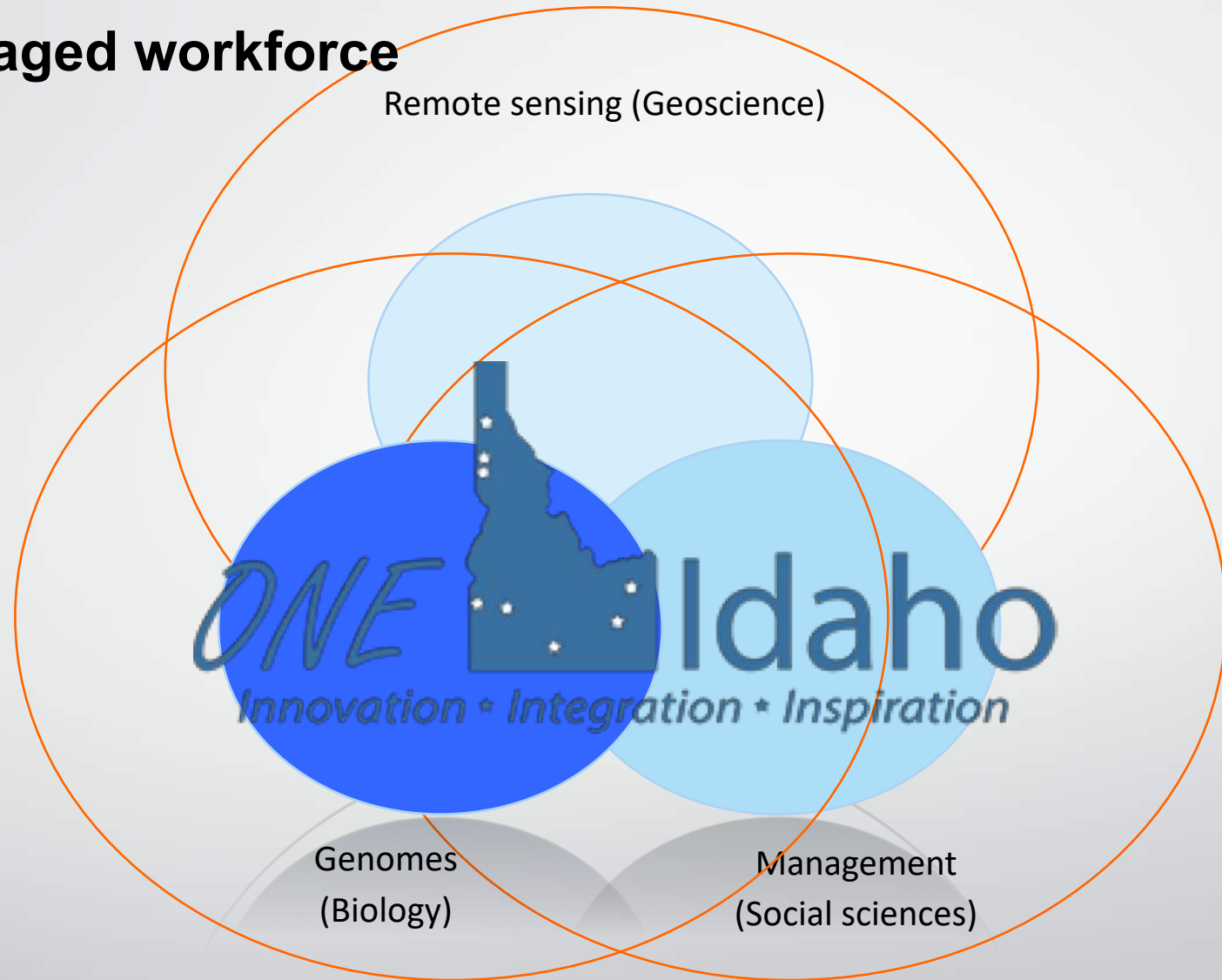
## HOW: Engaged workforce (Vertically Integrated Projects)



Students participate longitudinally and are nested within a scientific community



## HOW: Engaged workforce

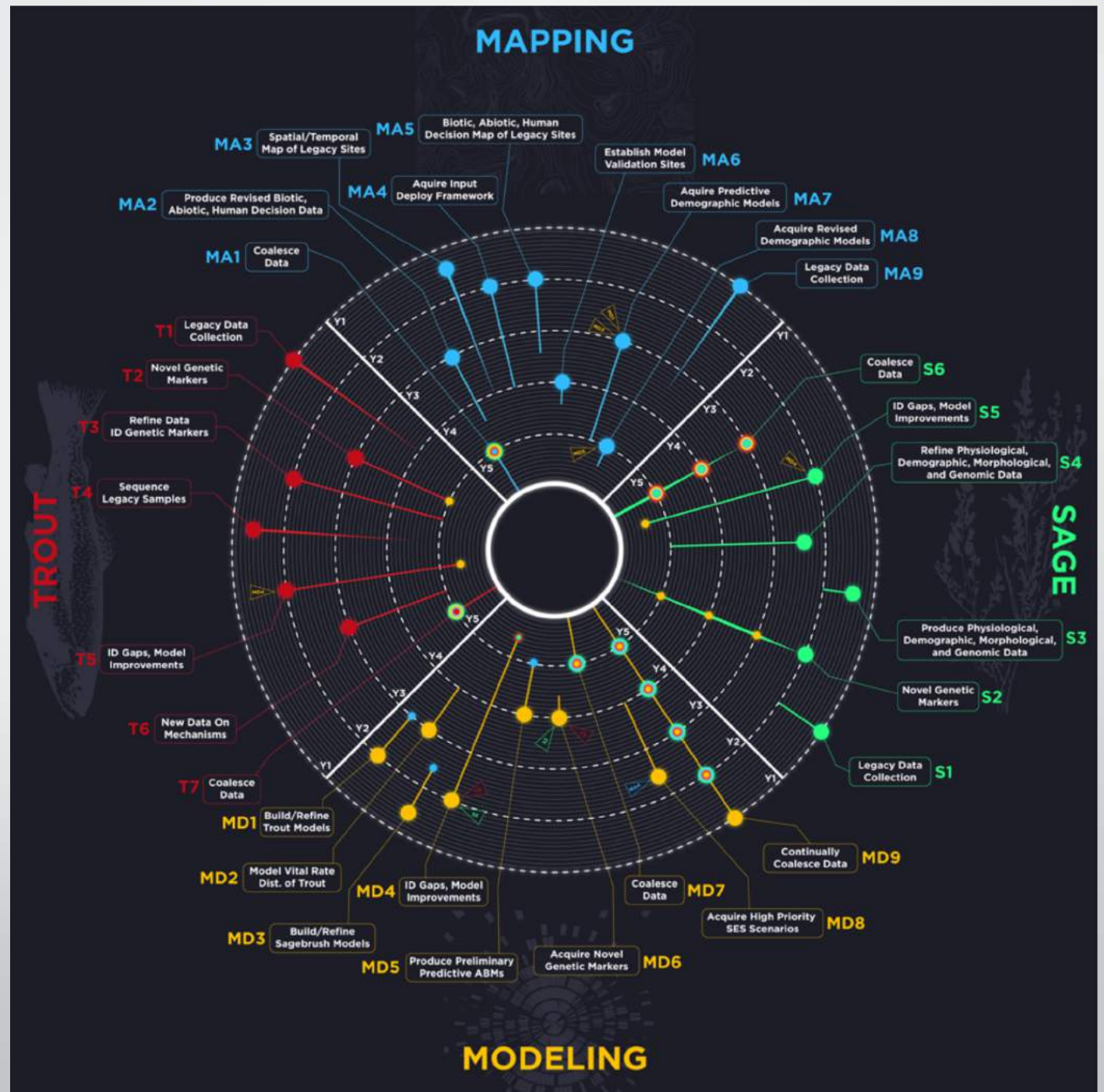


Teams interact with other teams to promote trans-disciplinary opportunity and expand career networks for students.

# HOW

Integration of  
three research  
activities:

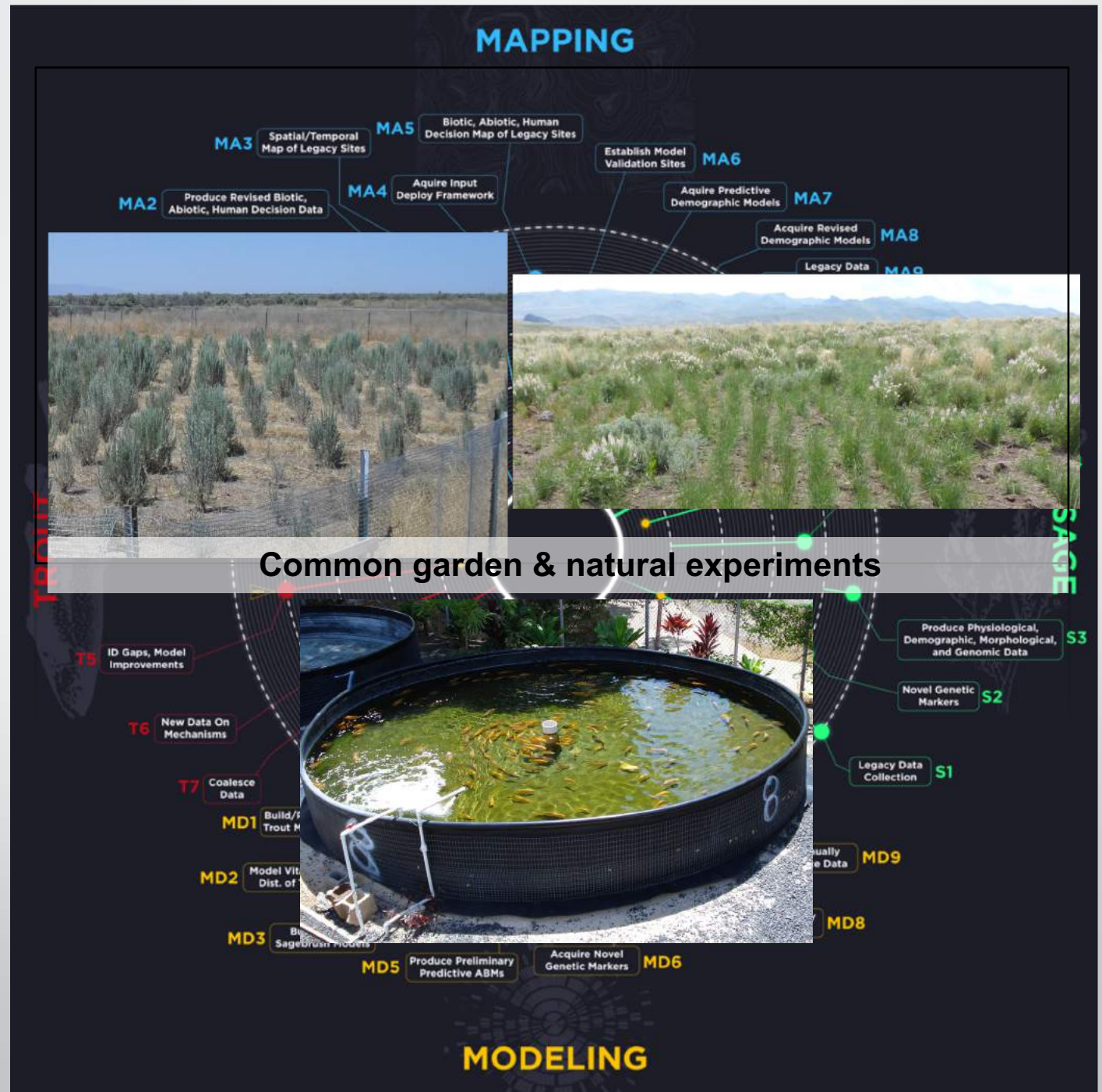
Mechanisms  
Modeling  
Mapping



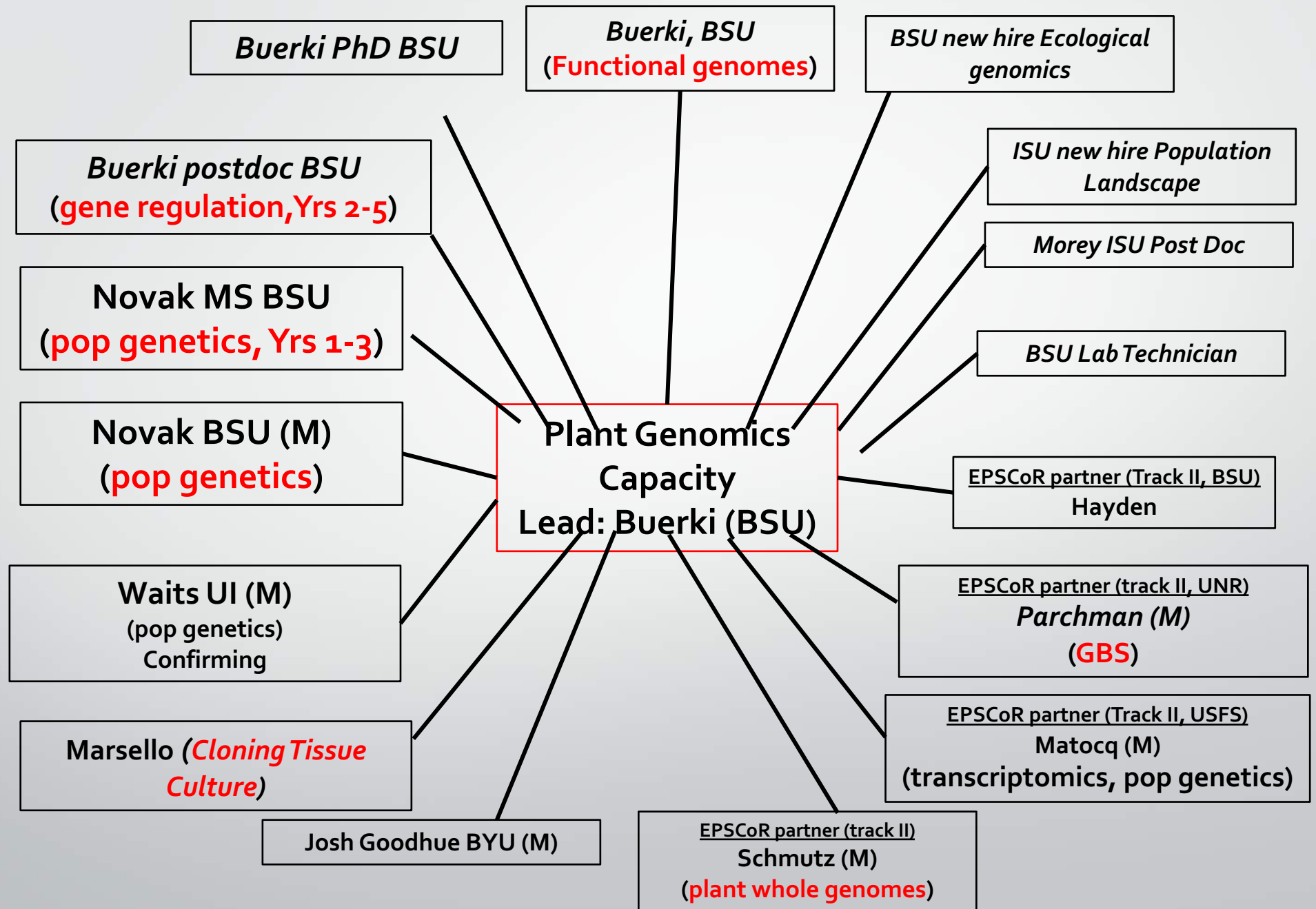
# HOW

Integration of  
three research  
activities:

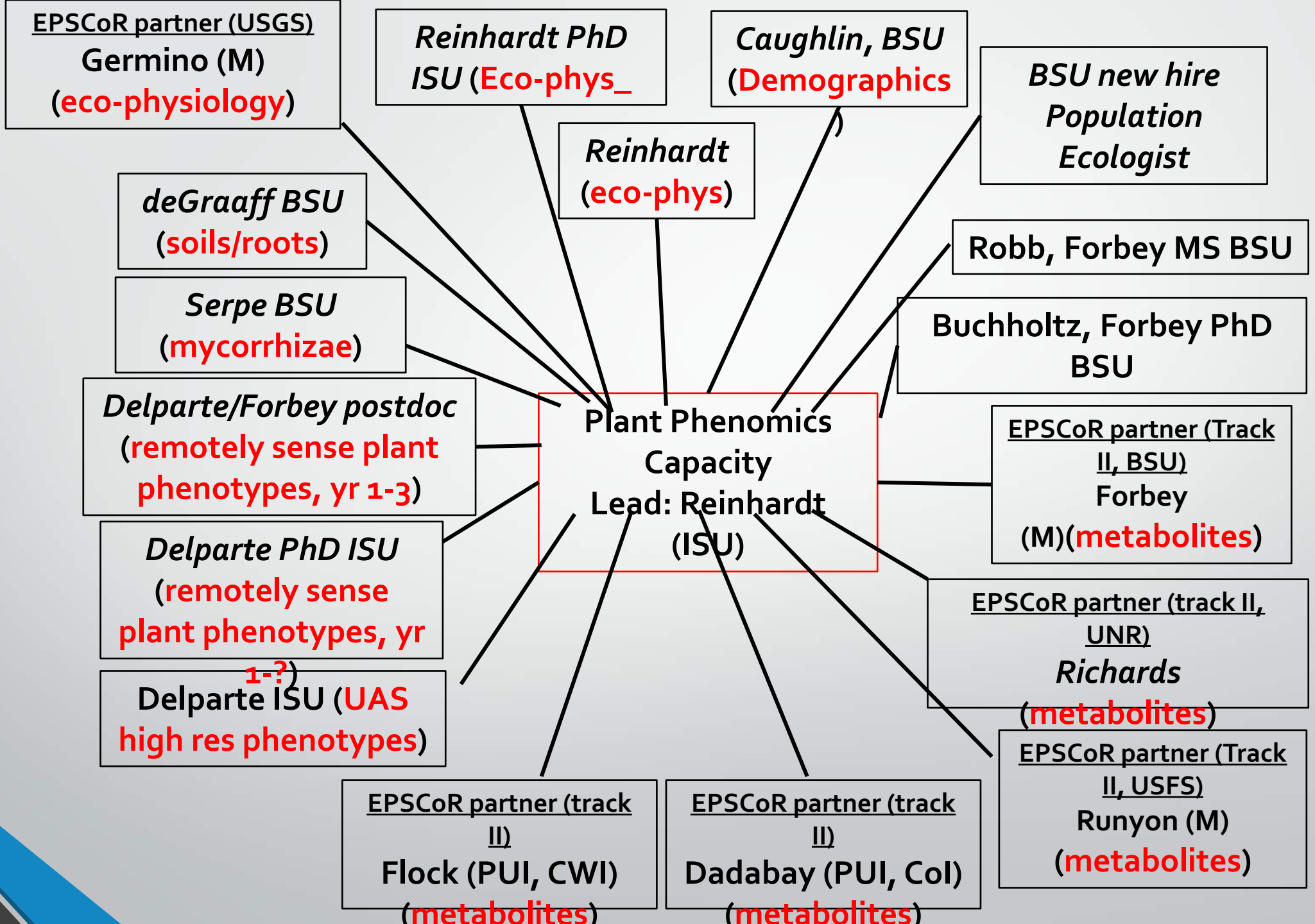
Mechanisms  
(genomes to  
phenomes) in  
controlled  
environments







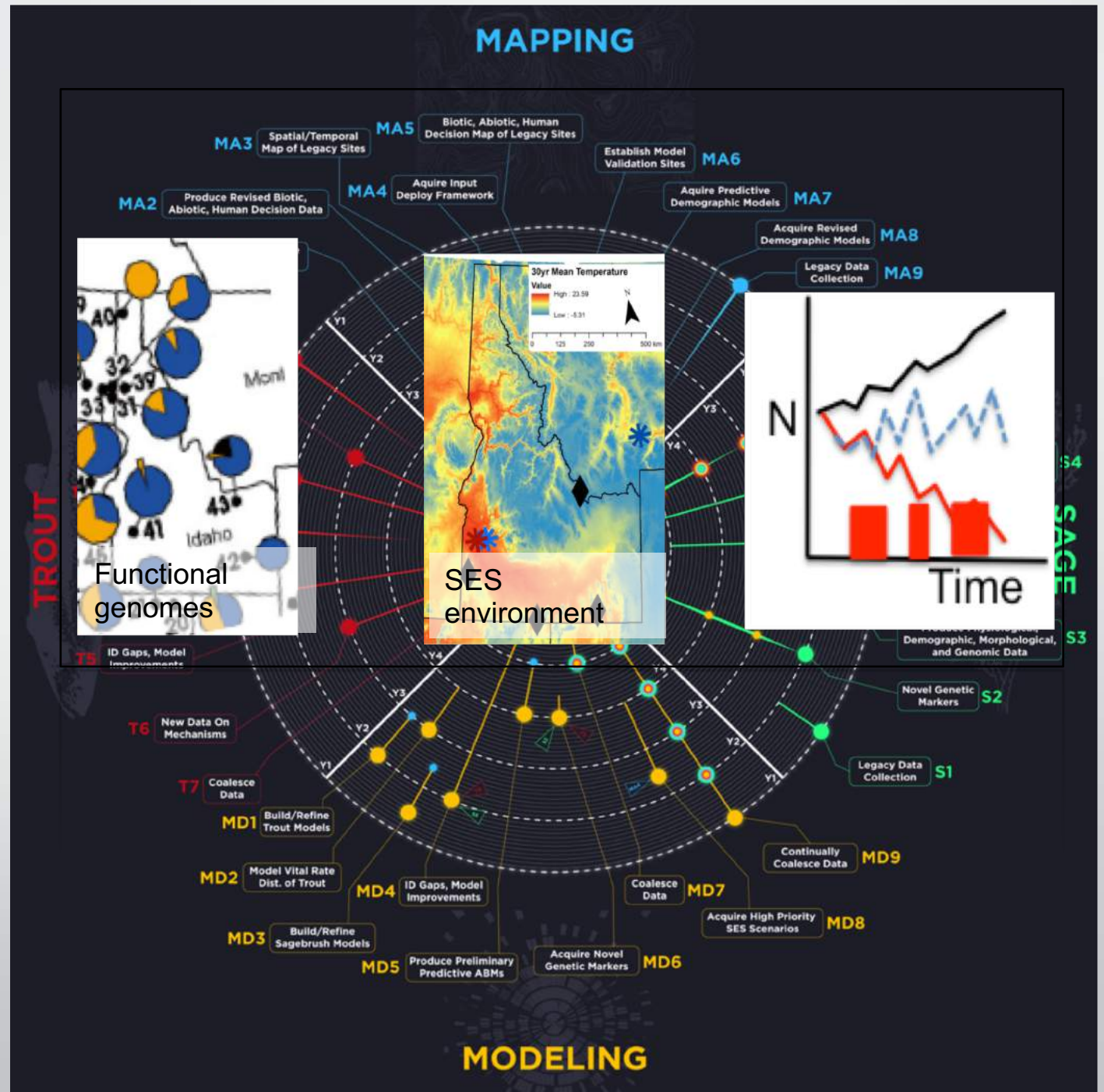


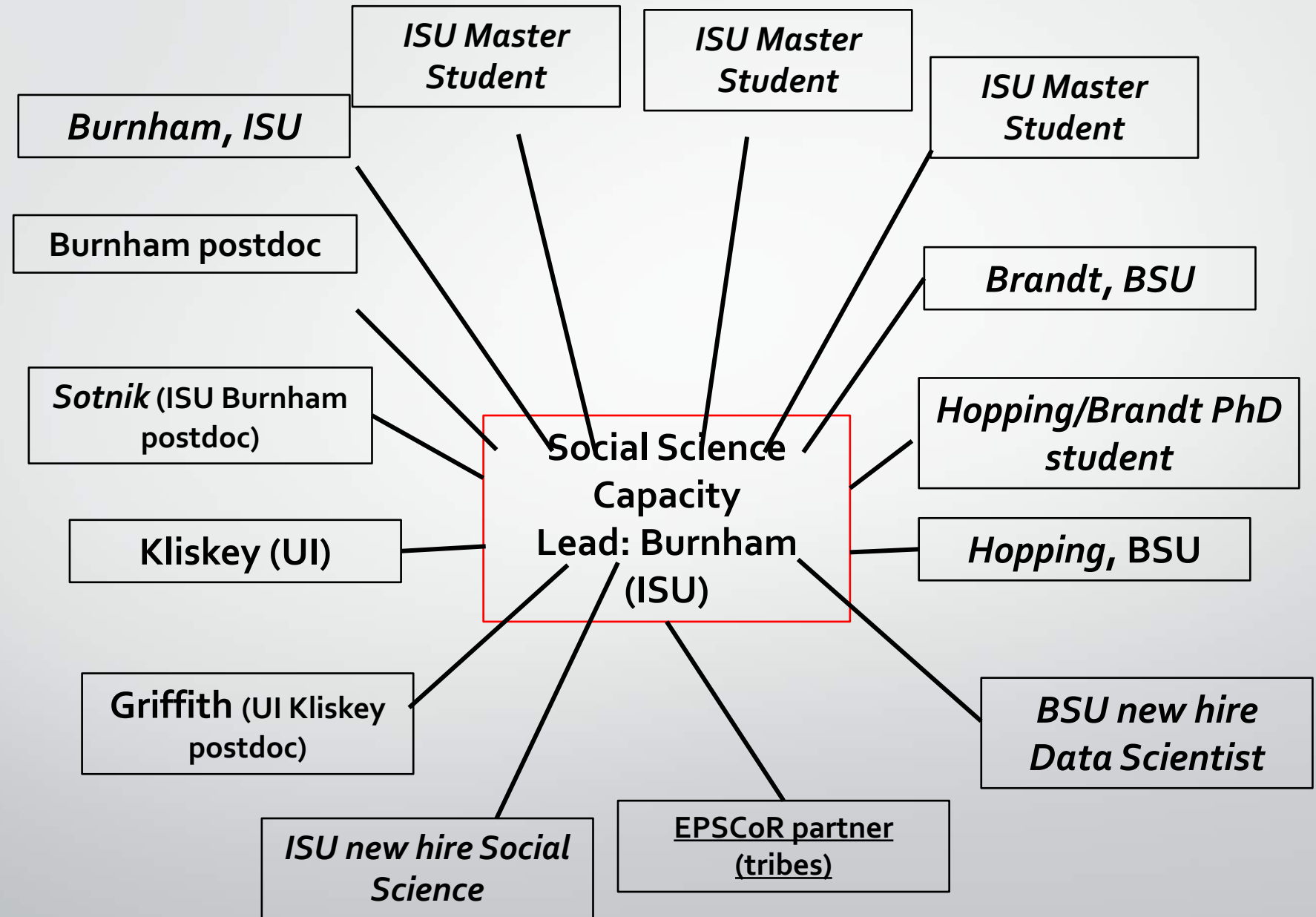


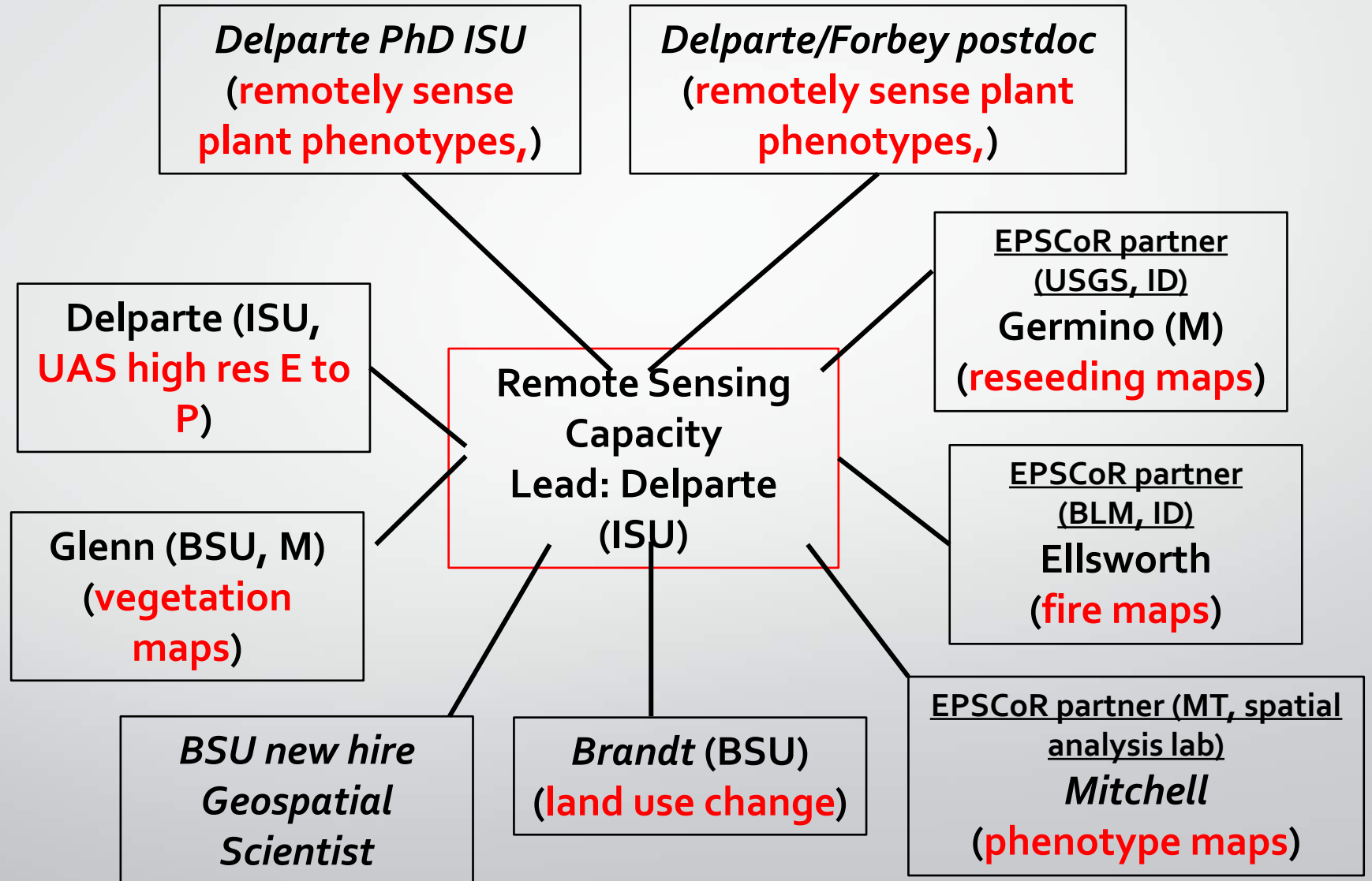
# HOW

Integration of three research activities:

Mapping and Monitoring phenotypes relative to G x SEM





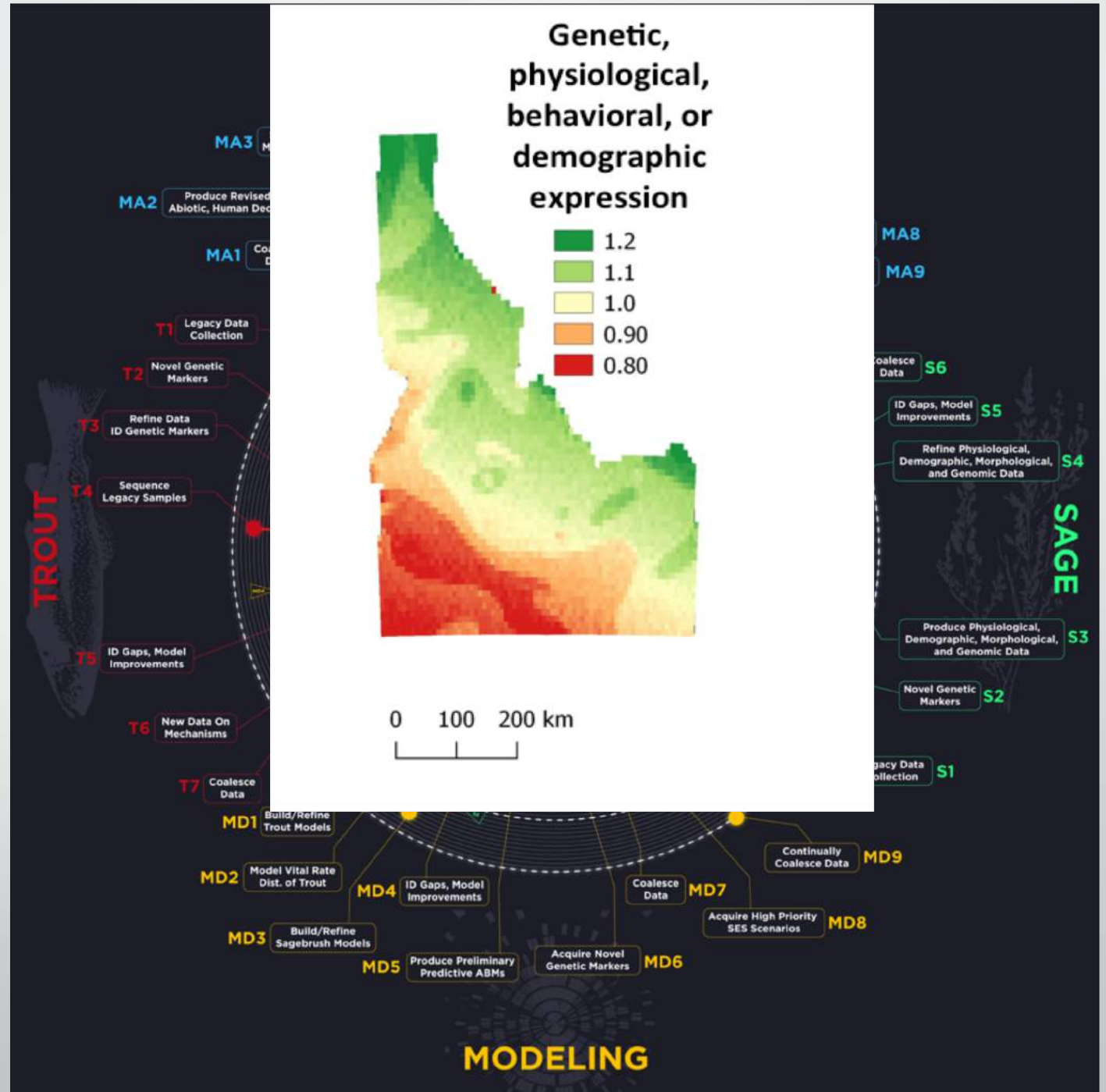


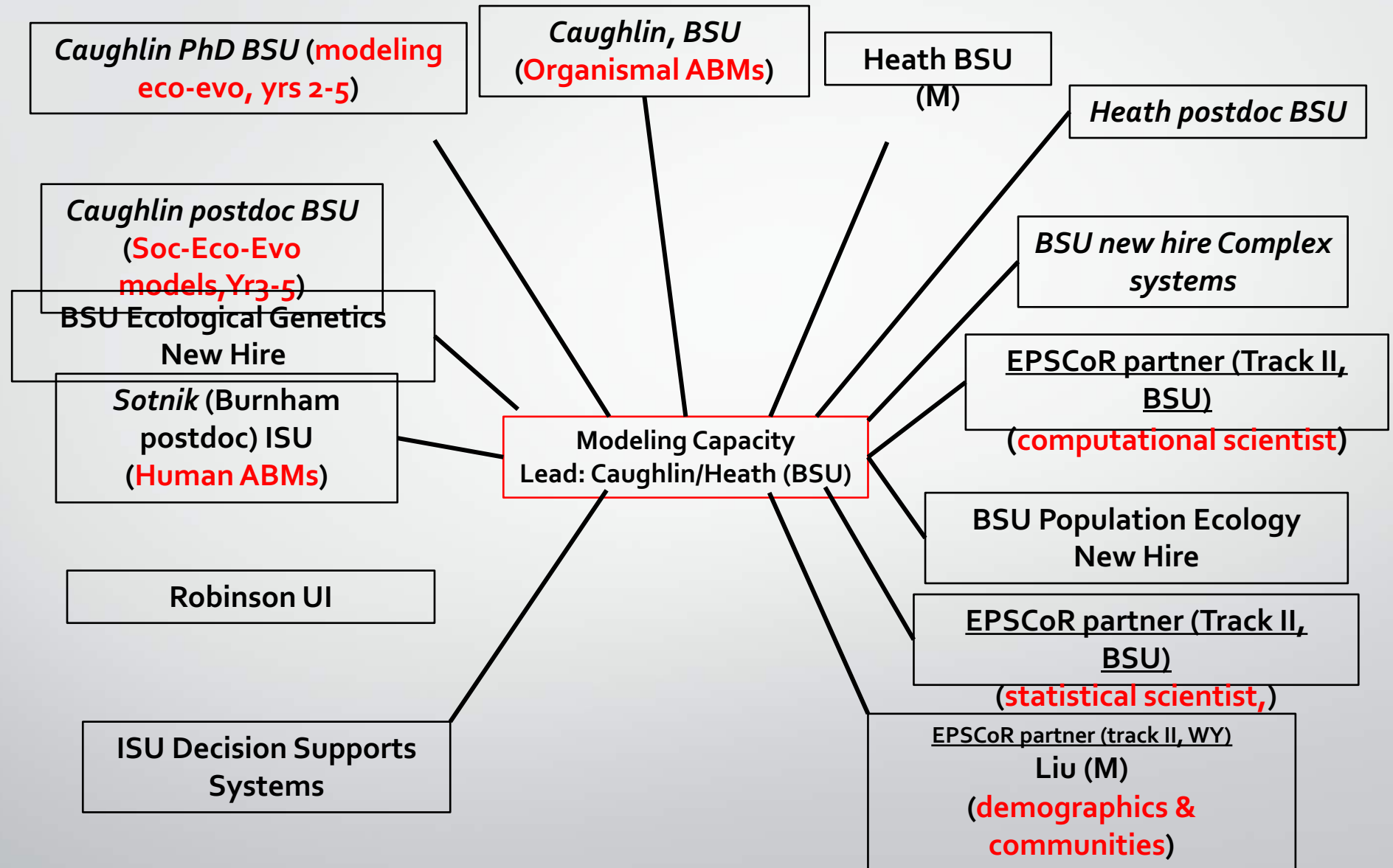


# HOW

Integration of  
three research  
activities:

Mechanistic data  
used in  
Modeling





# Homework for all: Connect expertise and outputs (poster session)





# Homework for partners:

1. What you think you can bring to vision
2. What you want GEM<sub>3</sub> to bring to you

