



Utilizing predictive models to evaluate the  
distribution & ecology of *Bacillus anthracis* in  
North America and Central Asia

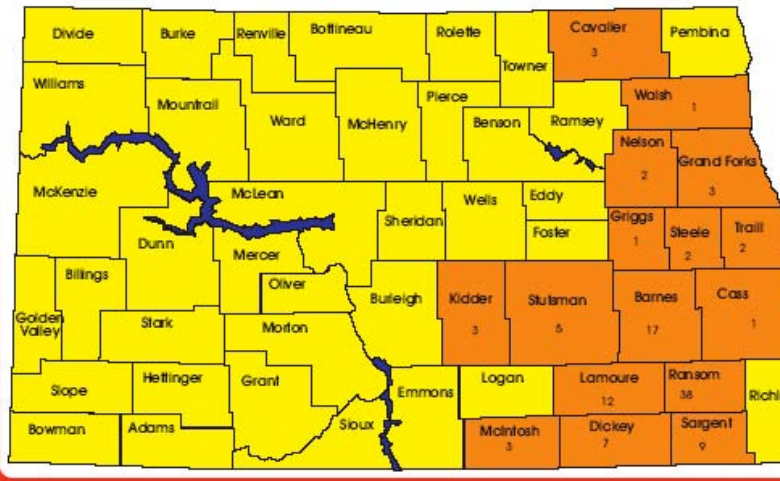
**Jason K. Blackburn, Yerlan Pazilov, Larissa  
Luknova, Yerlan Sansyzbayev, David Rogers,  
& Martin Hugh-Jones**

# WHY USE GIS AND PREDICTIVE MODELING FOR DISEASES?



# All too often ONLY county-level mapping is done.

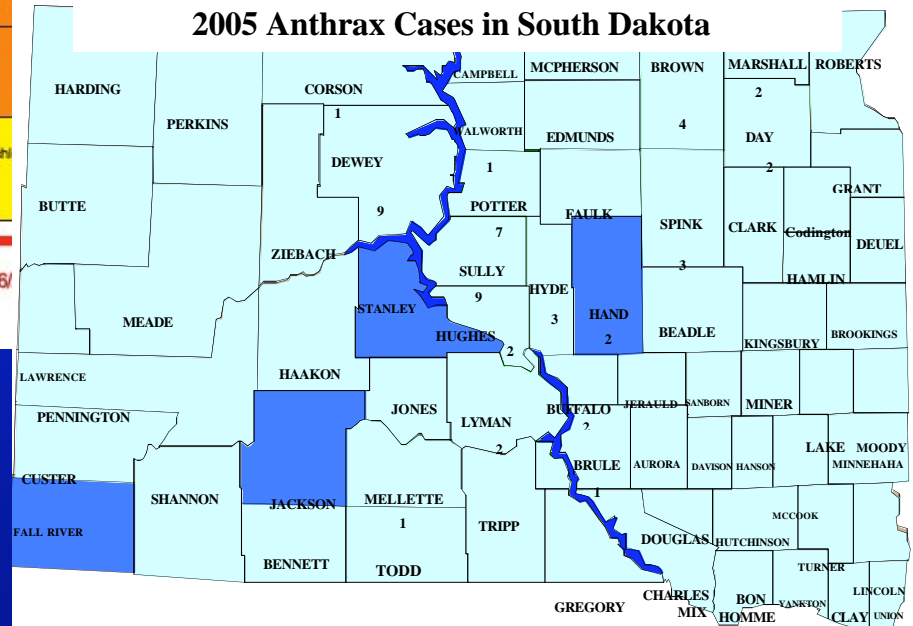
North Dakota Department of Agriculture  
2005 Anthrax Cases



Total Cases - 109  
Total Counties - 16

As of 10/26/05

2005 Anthrax Cases in South Dakota



Green = Positive Counties

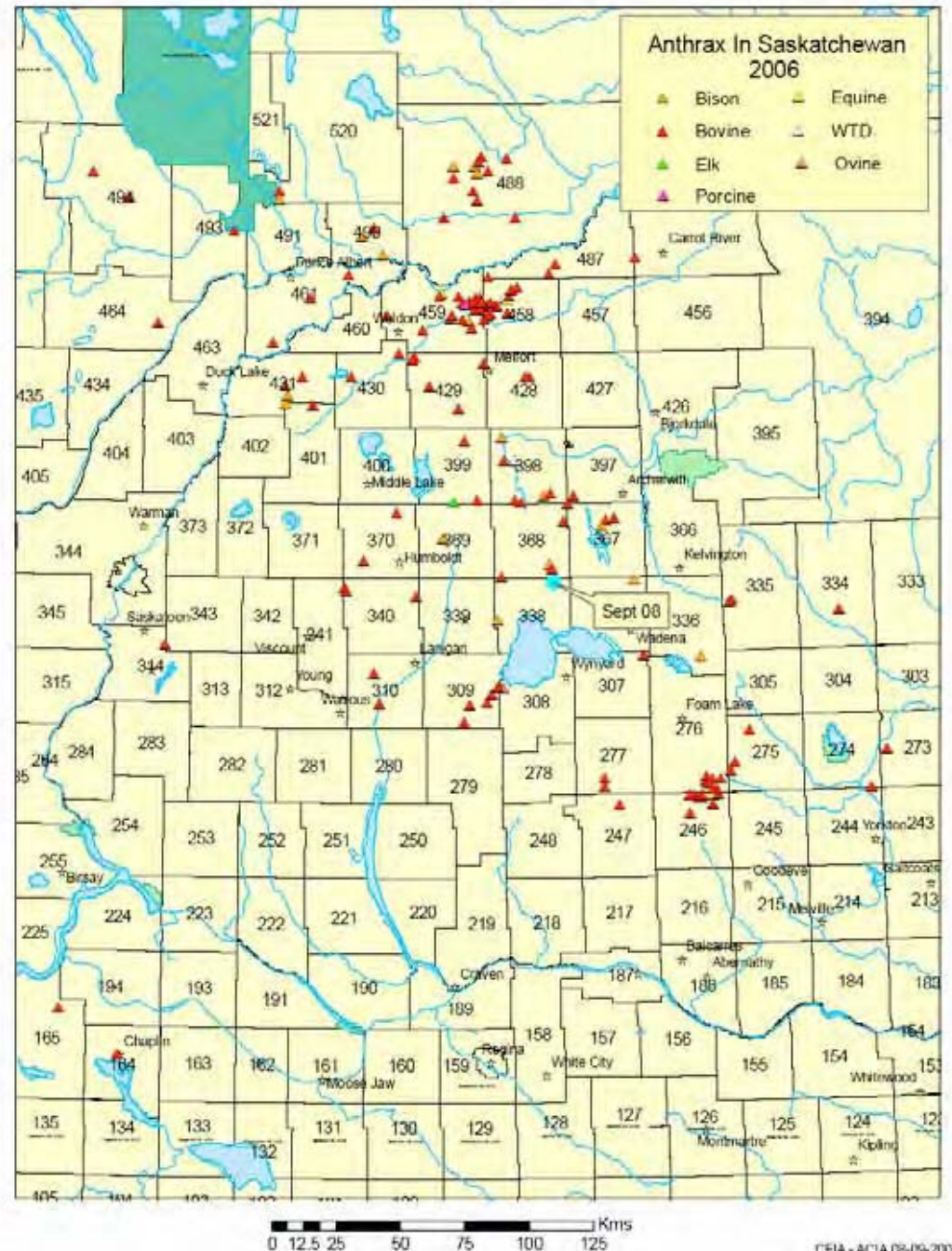
51 Confirmed Cases as of August 26, 2005

# Saskatchewan 2006

This epidemic started on 26<sup>th</sup> June and finally stopped in mid-September by when 153 farms had been affected and 800 deaths of which 493 were of cattle and 254 bison.

The outbreaks in Manitoba and Minnesota had stopped in late August.

We need to run with this GIS opportunity.



# Ecological Niche Modeling for Predicting Geographic Distributions

Ecology

Geography



McNyset & Blackburn (2006)

# Ecological Niche Modeling for Predicting Geographic Distributions

Ecology

Ecological variables



GARP

Geography



Distributional Points

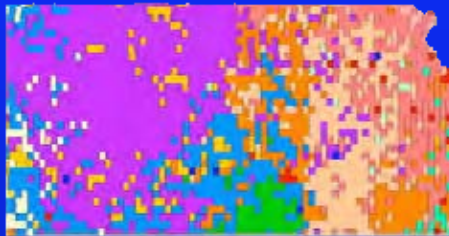




# Ecological Niche Modeling for Predicting Geographic Distributions

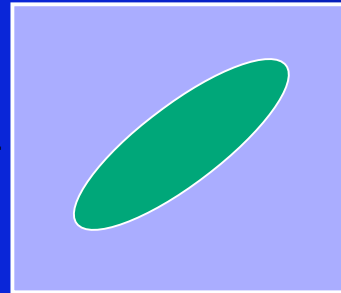
Ecology

Ecological variables



Ecological niche model

Temperature



Precipitation



GARP

Geography



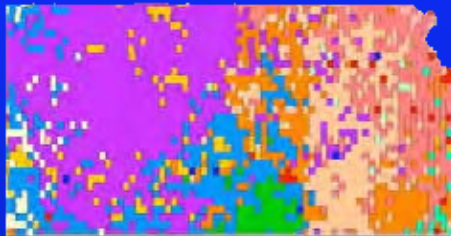
Distributional Points



# Distributional Modeling for Predicting Geographic Distributions

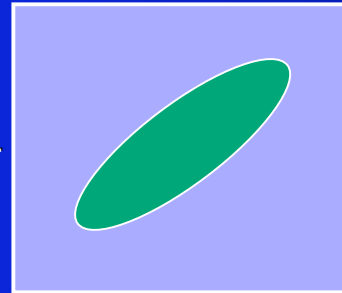
Ecology

Ecological variables



Multivariate Statistical Model

Temperature



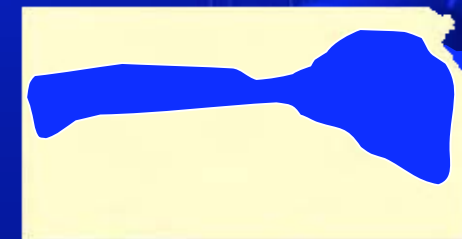
Precipitation

Map probabilities onto geography

Geography



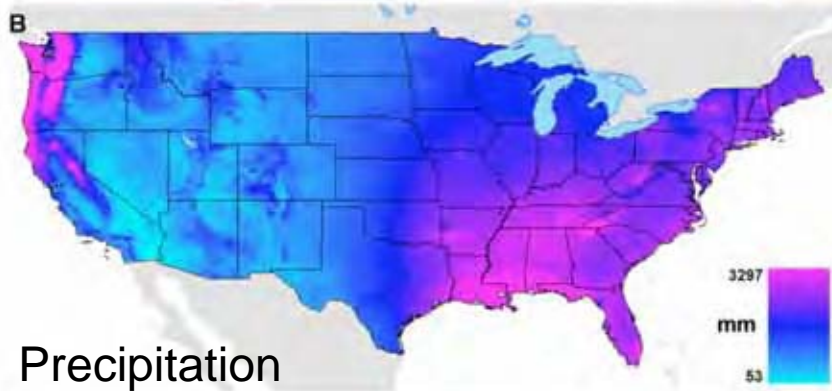
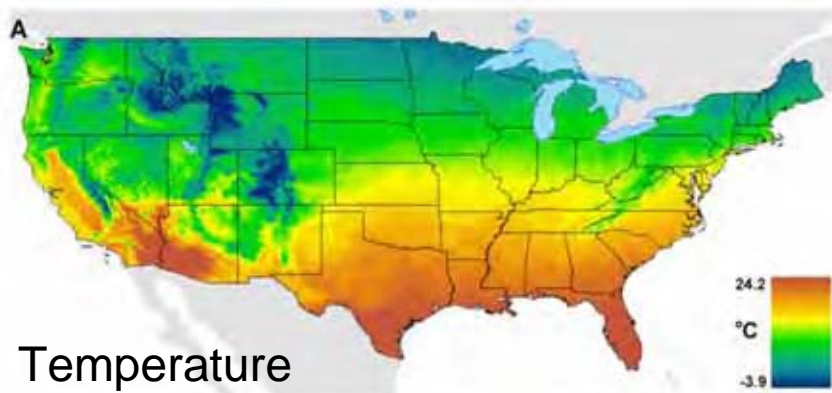
Distributional Points

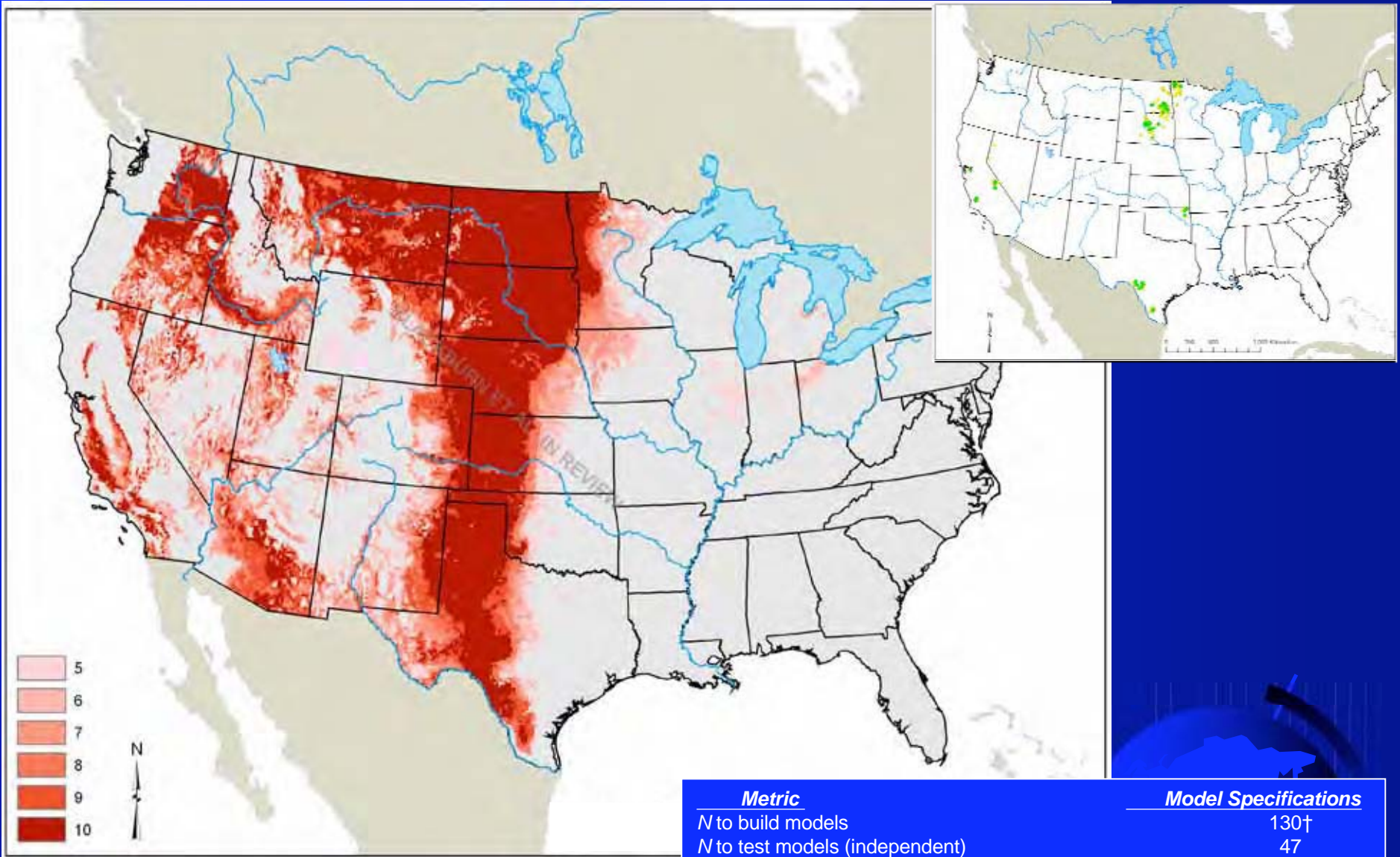


Distributional Prediction



# Develop a “hypervolume” from Remotely Sensed data sets *ECOLOGICAL SPACE (and) GEOGRAPHIC SPACE*





<u>Metric</u>	<u>Model Specifications</u>
<i>N</i> to build models	130†
<i>N</i> to test models (independent)	47
Total Omission	6.8%
Average Omission	23.2%
Total Commission	66.5%
Average Commission	41.6%
<u>AUC</u>	<u>0.7916*‡</u>

†*N* was divided into 50% training / 50% testing at each model iteration  
 \**z*=10.503 (*p*<0.01), ‡SE = 0.0394



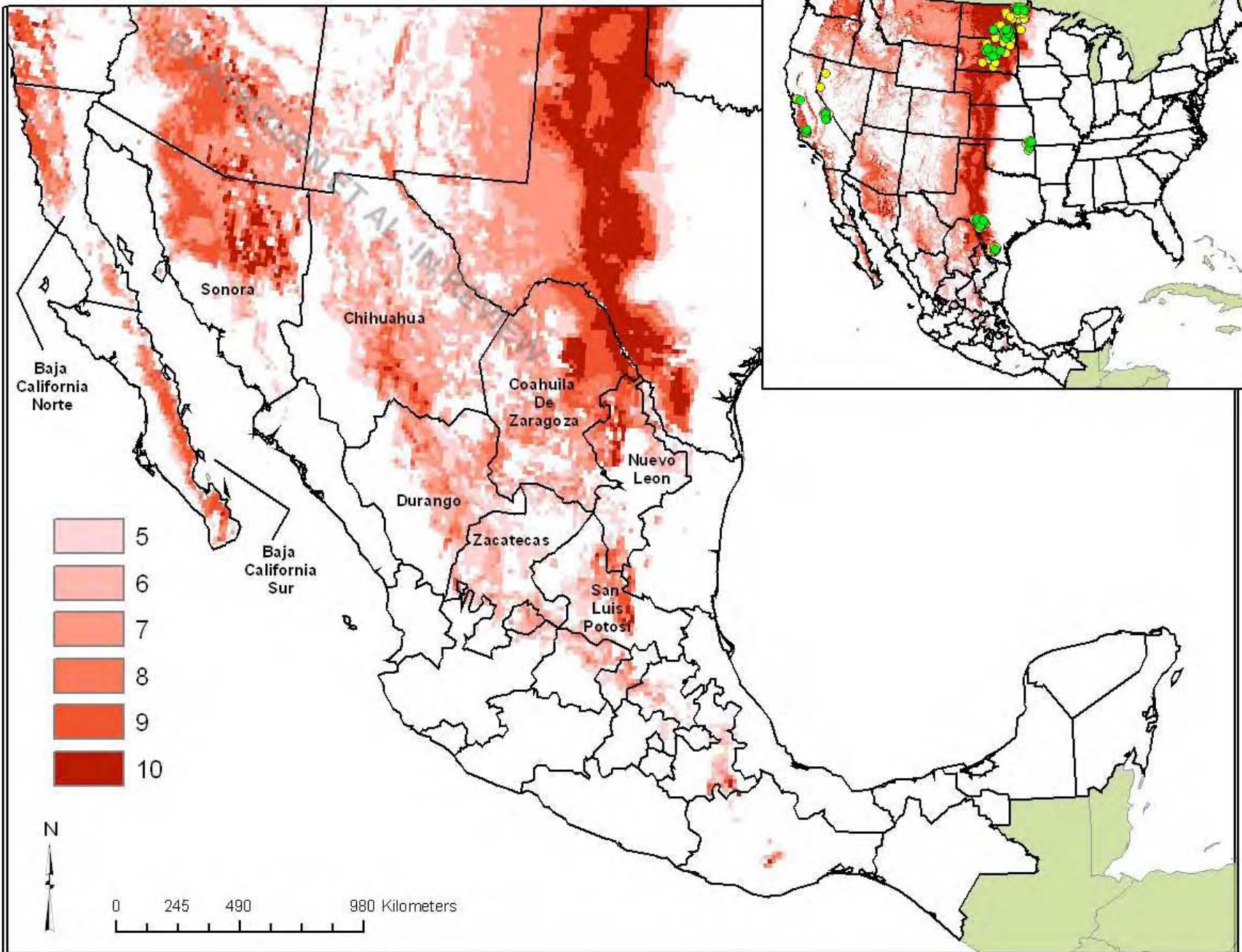
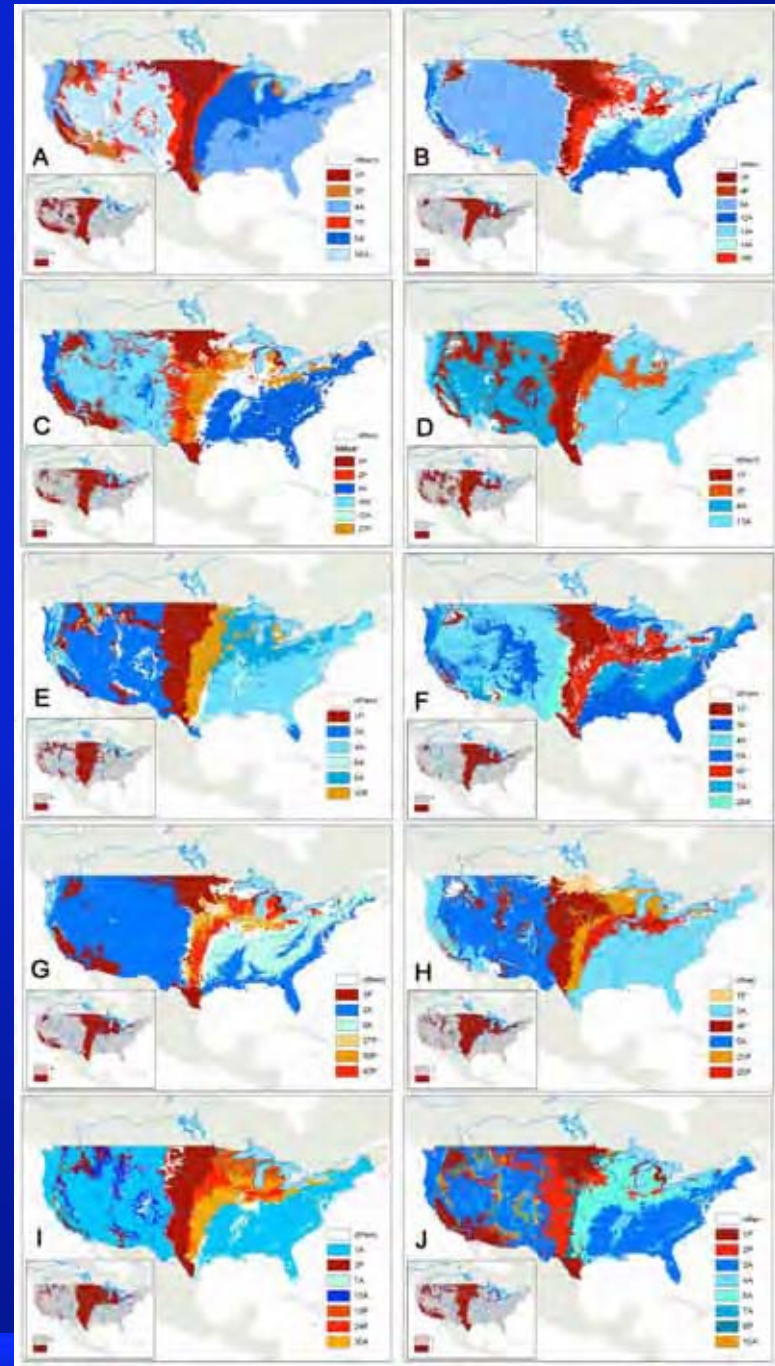


Figure to the right illustrates the conservative nature of rule-sets across a 10-model best subset. The red and orange rules define predicted presence of *B. anthracis*. Notice the high agreement of presence rules across models.





Despite opportunity for heterogeneity and the high number of possibilities:

- **GARP IS CONSERVATIVE FOR ANTHRAX;**

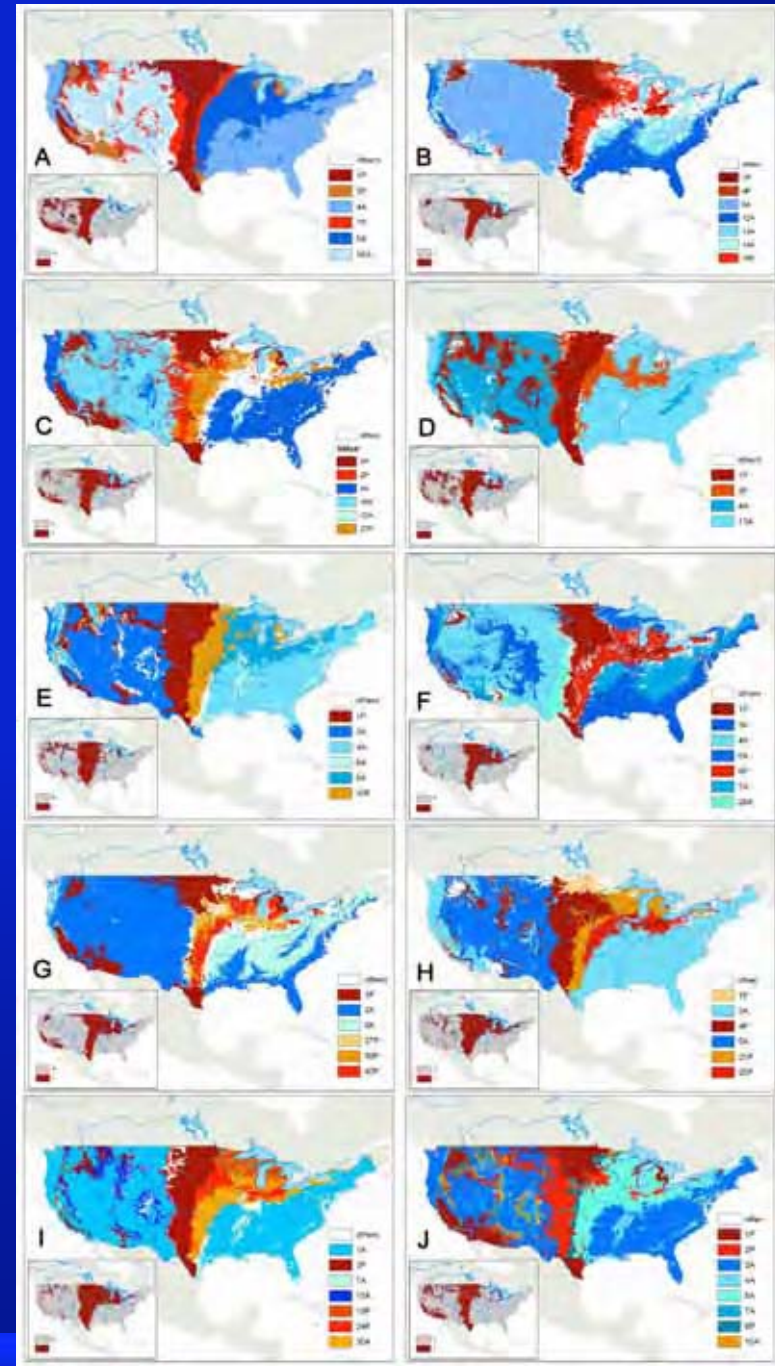
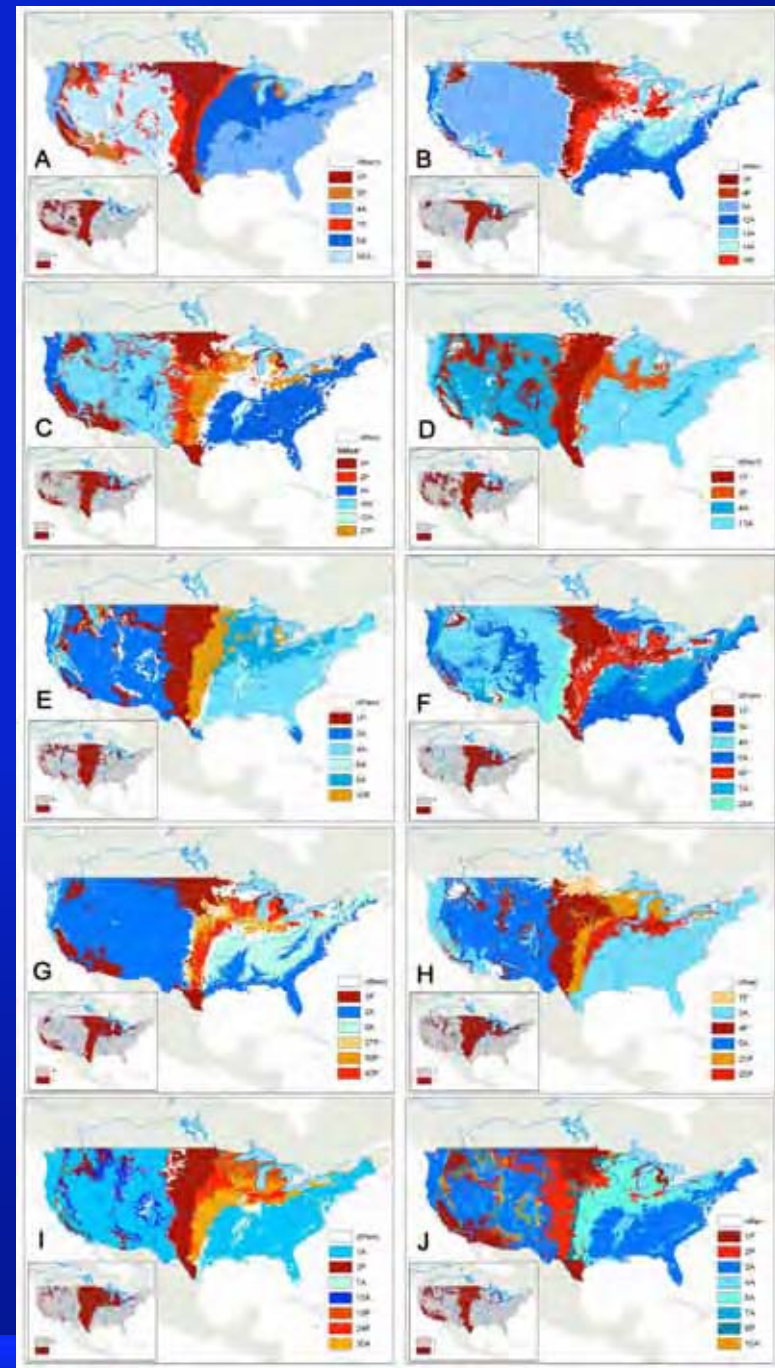


Figure to the right illustrates the conservative nature of rule-sets across a 10-model best subset. The red and orange rules define predicted presence of *B. anthracis*. Notice the high agreement of presence rules across models.

Despite opportunity for heterogeneity and the high number of possibilities:

- **GARP IS CONSERVATIVE FOR ANTHRAX;**
- Rules are dominated by range rules supporting the evolutionary ecology definition of the niche as representing the mean phenotype of the population (Holt and Gaines 1992);

Figure to the right illustrates the conservative nature of rule-sets across a 10-model best subset. The red and orange rules define predicted presence of *B. anthracis*. Notice the high agreement of presence rules across models.





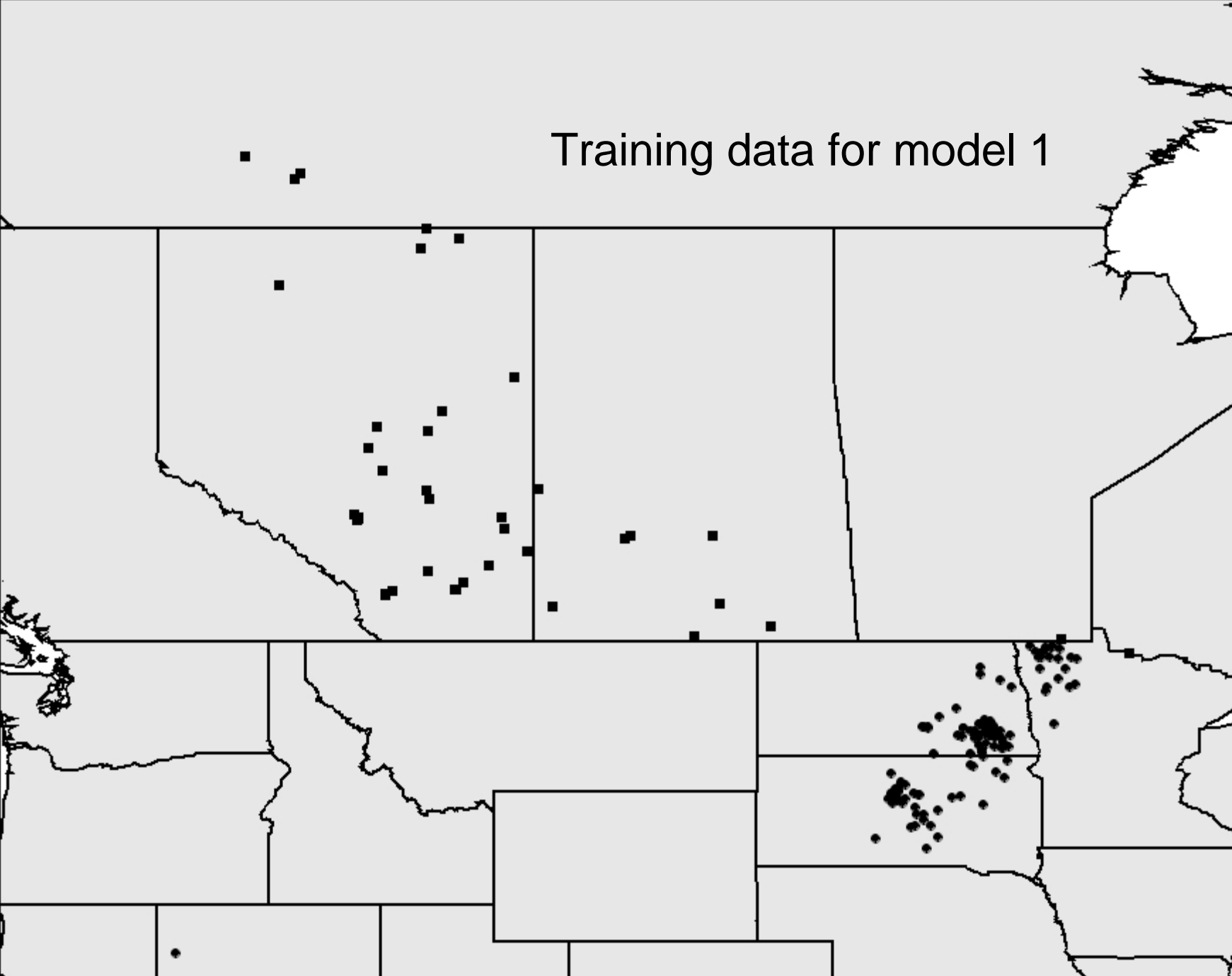
# DISCUSSION (North American Models)



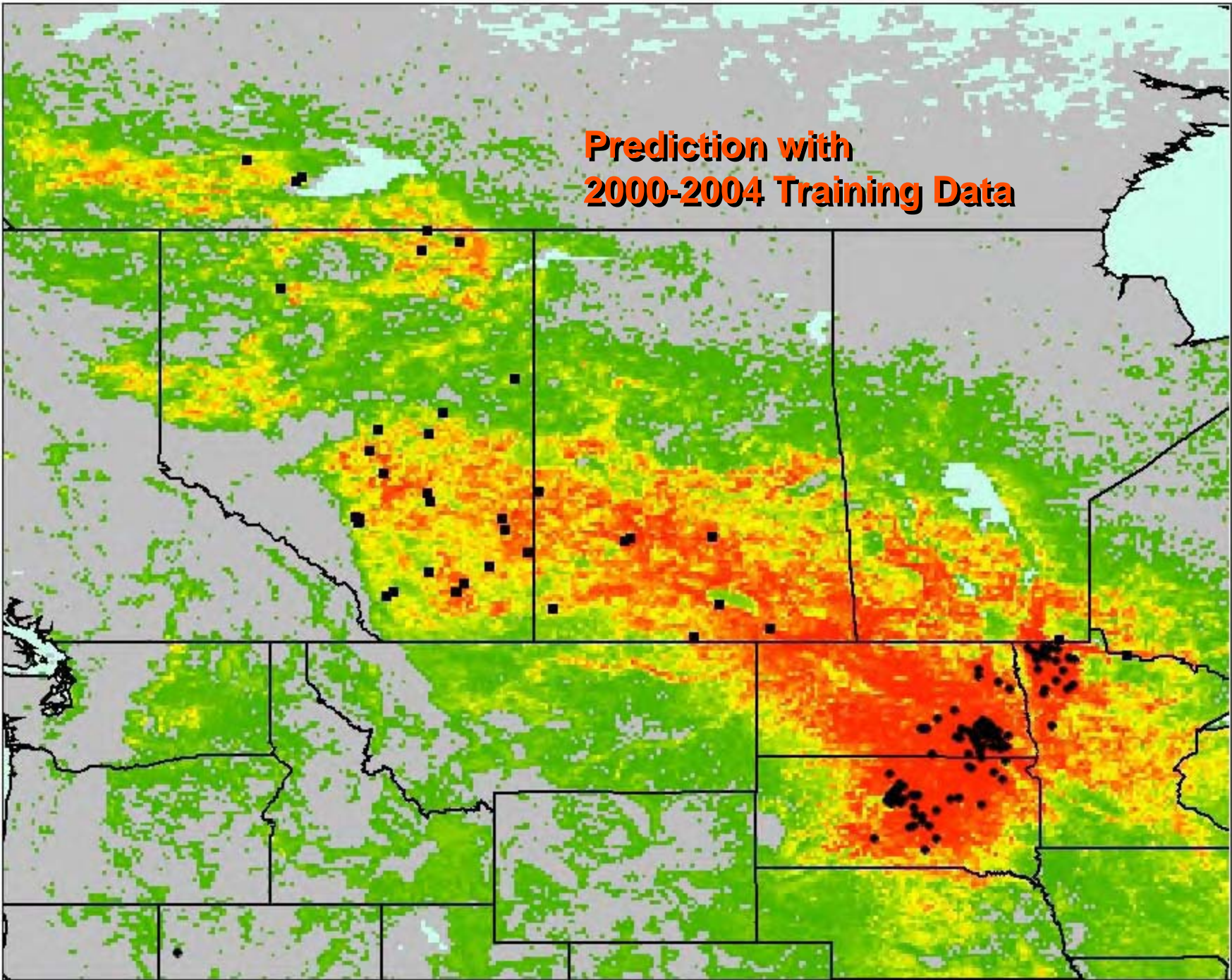
# PRELIMINARY MODELING IN CANADA



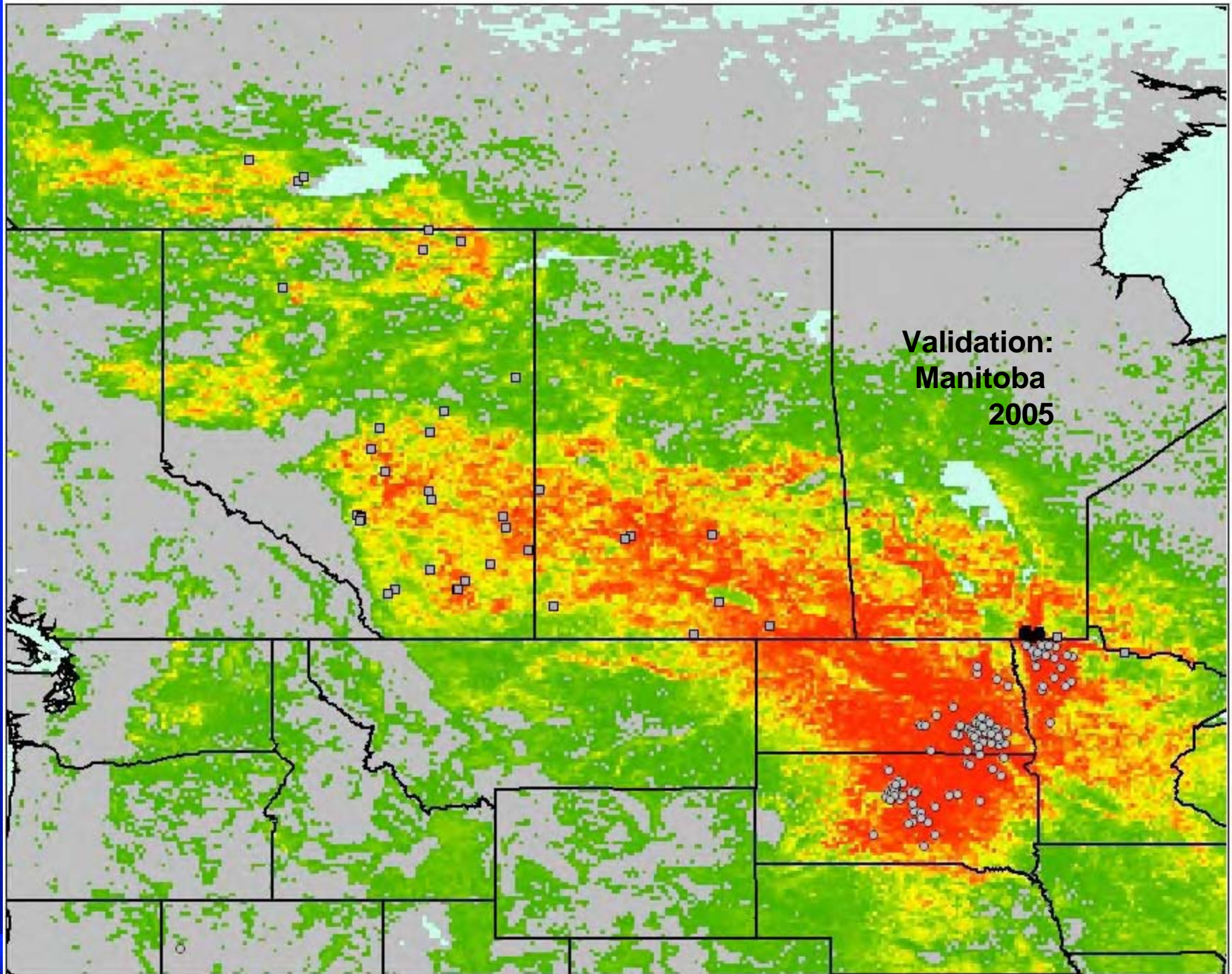
# Training data for model 1



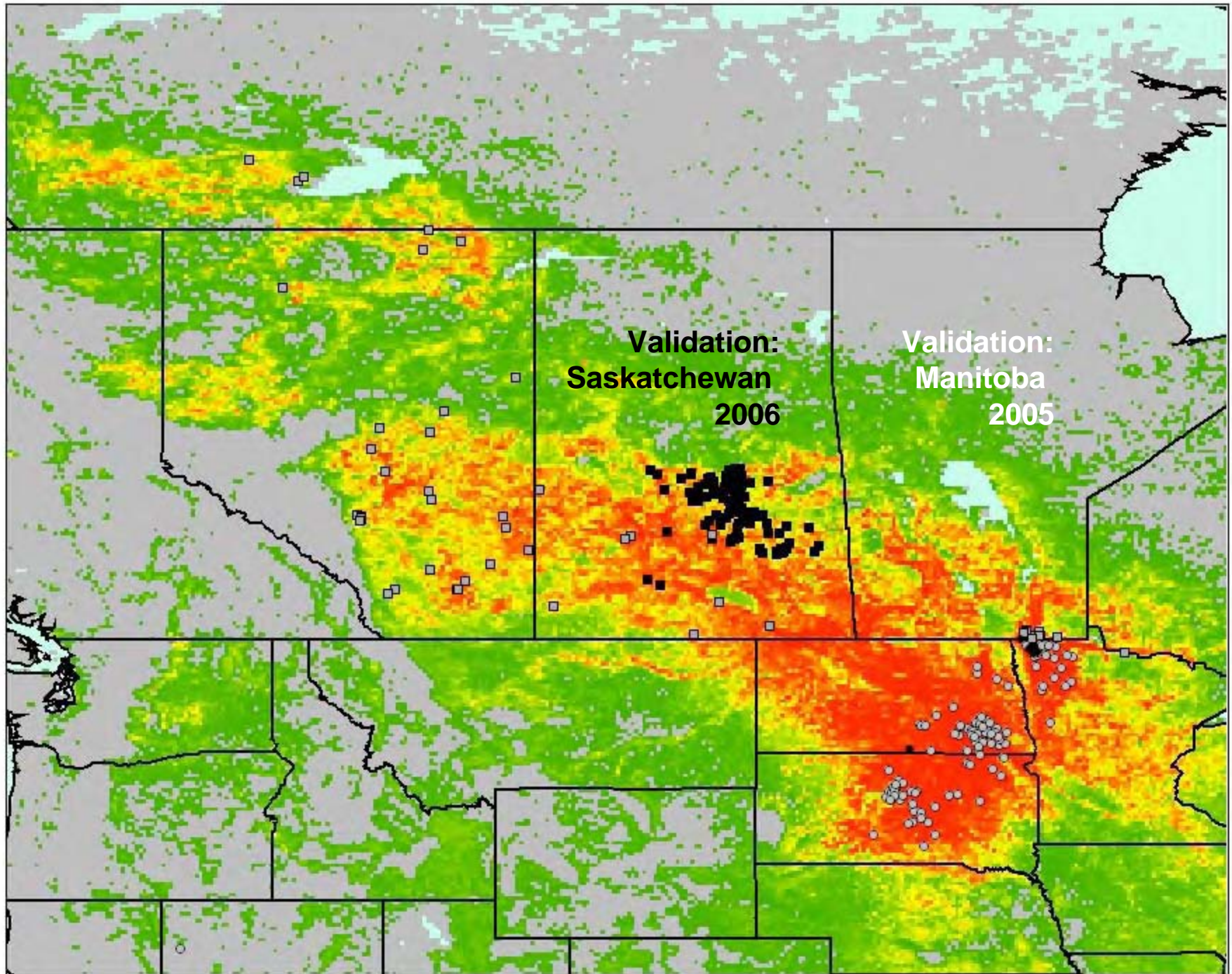
**Prediction with  
2000-2004 Training Data**









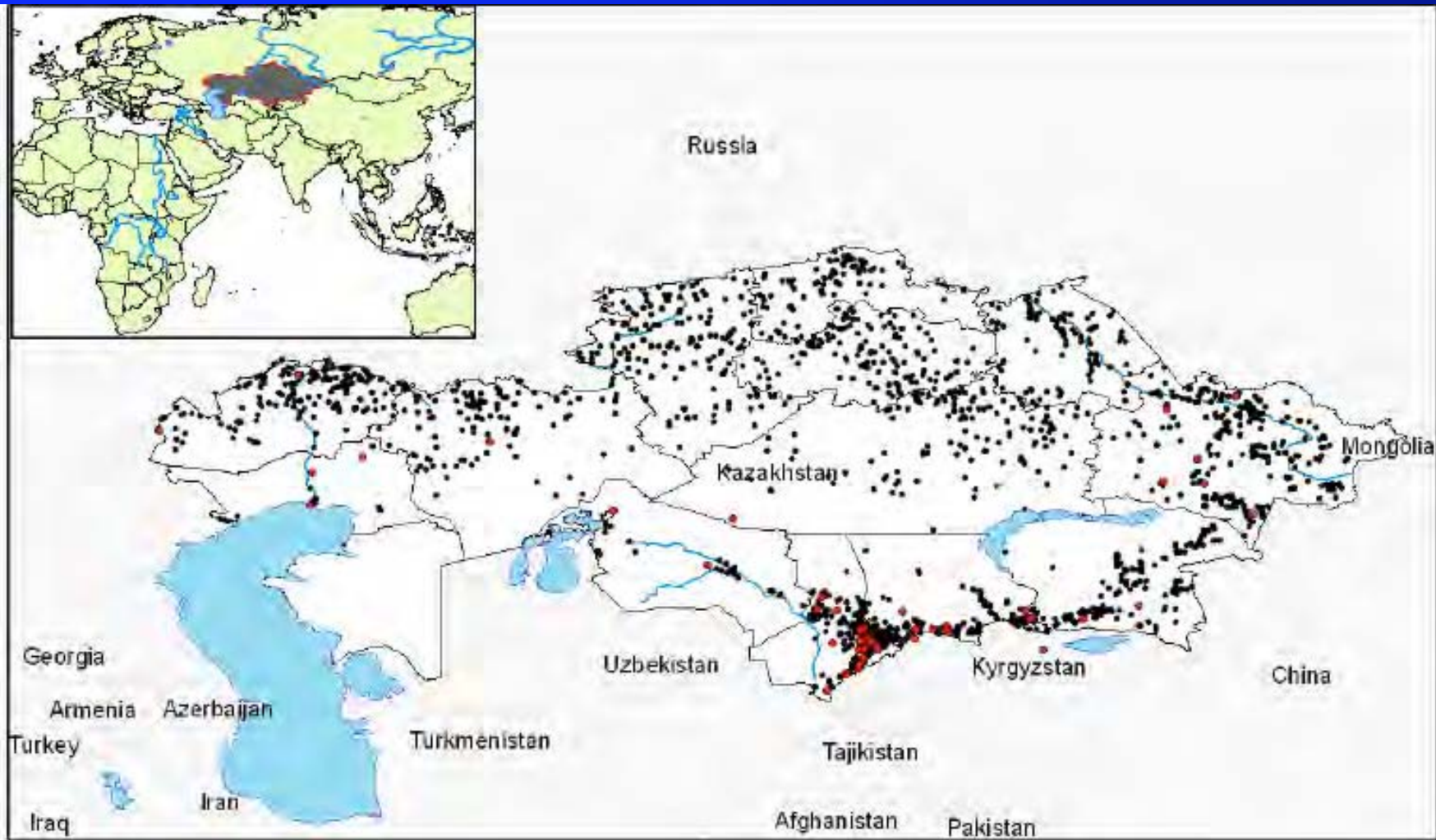




# PRELIMINARY MODELING IN CENTRAL ASIA



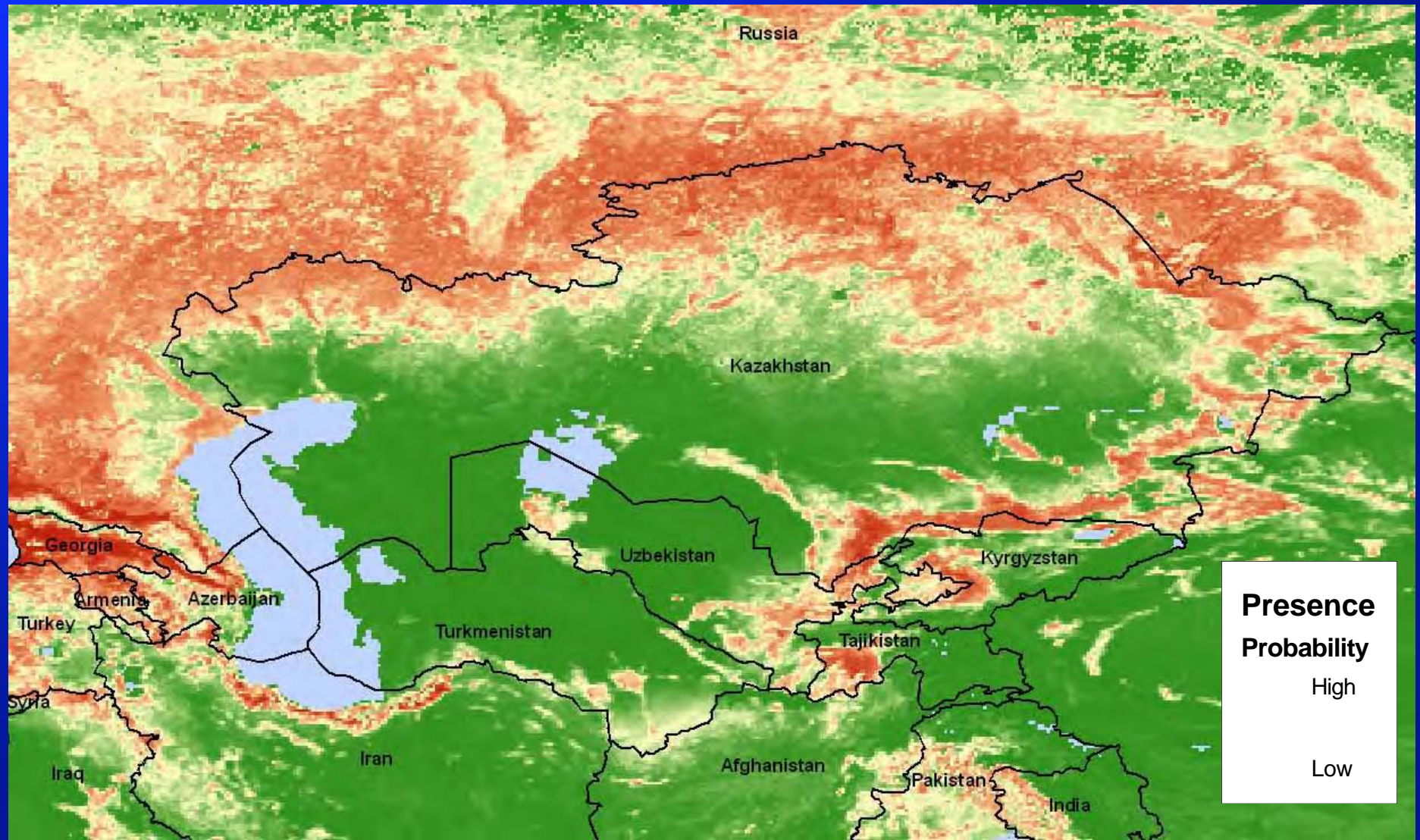
# Kazakhstan now maintains a real-time GIS of anthrax outbreaks



Aikimbayev et al. *In preparation*

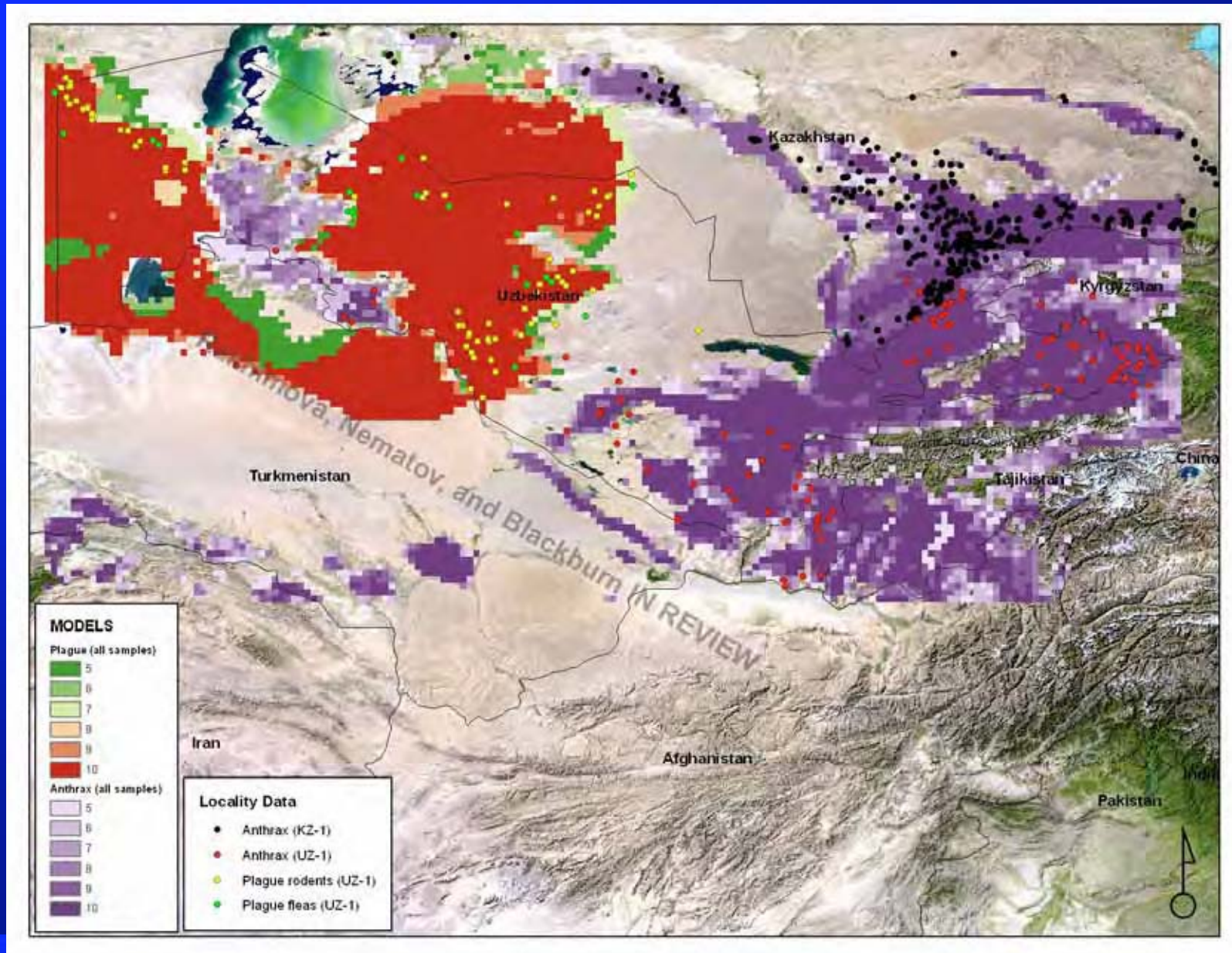


# TALA MODEL OF CENTRAL ASIA



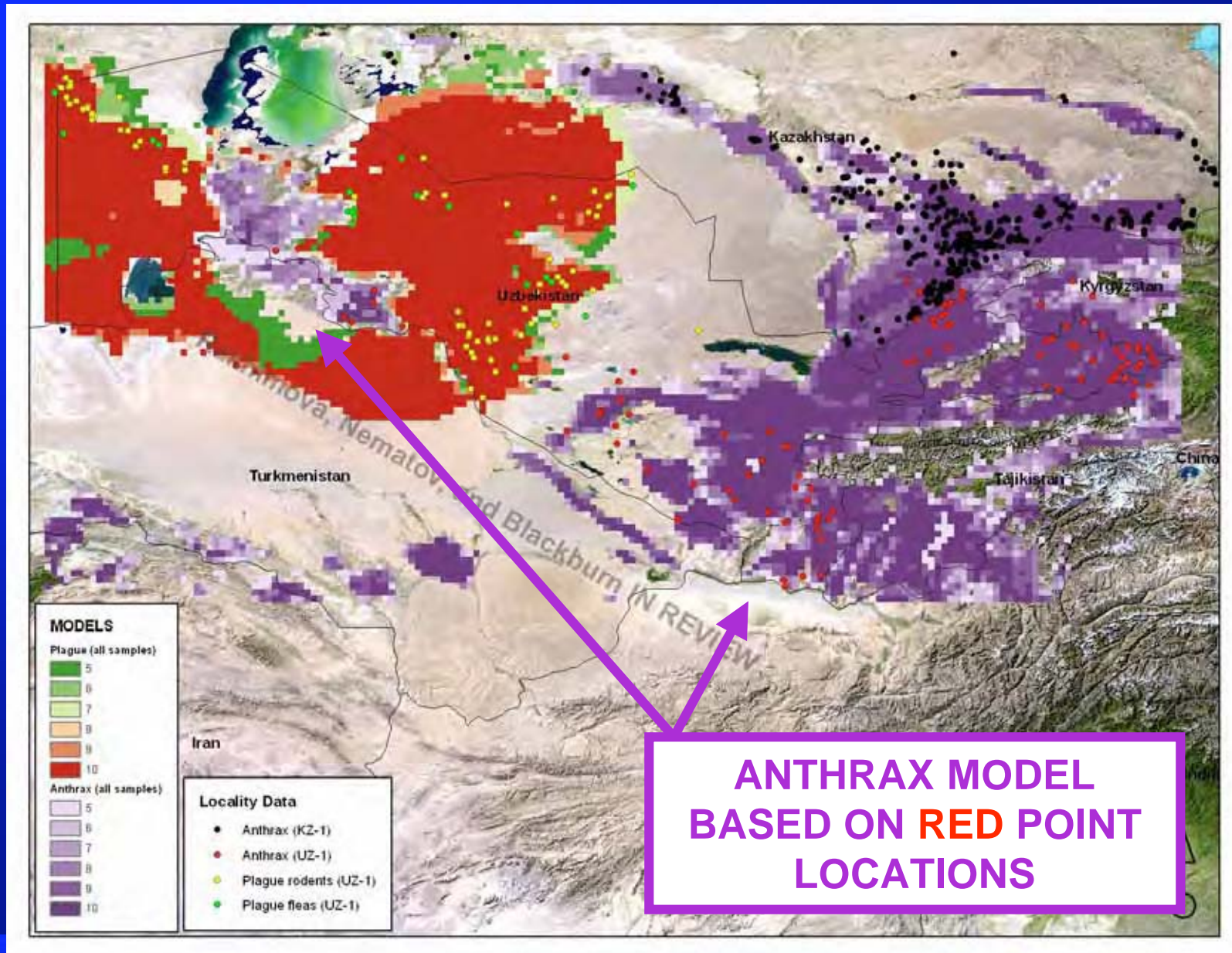


# GARP MODEL FOR PLAGUE & ANTHRAX IN UZBEKISTAN



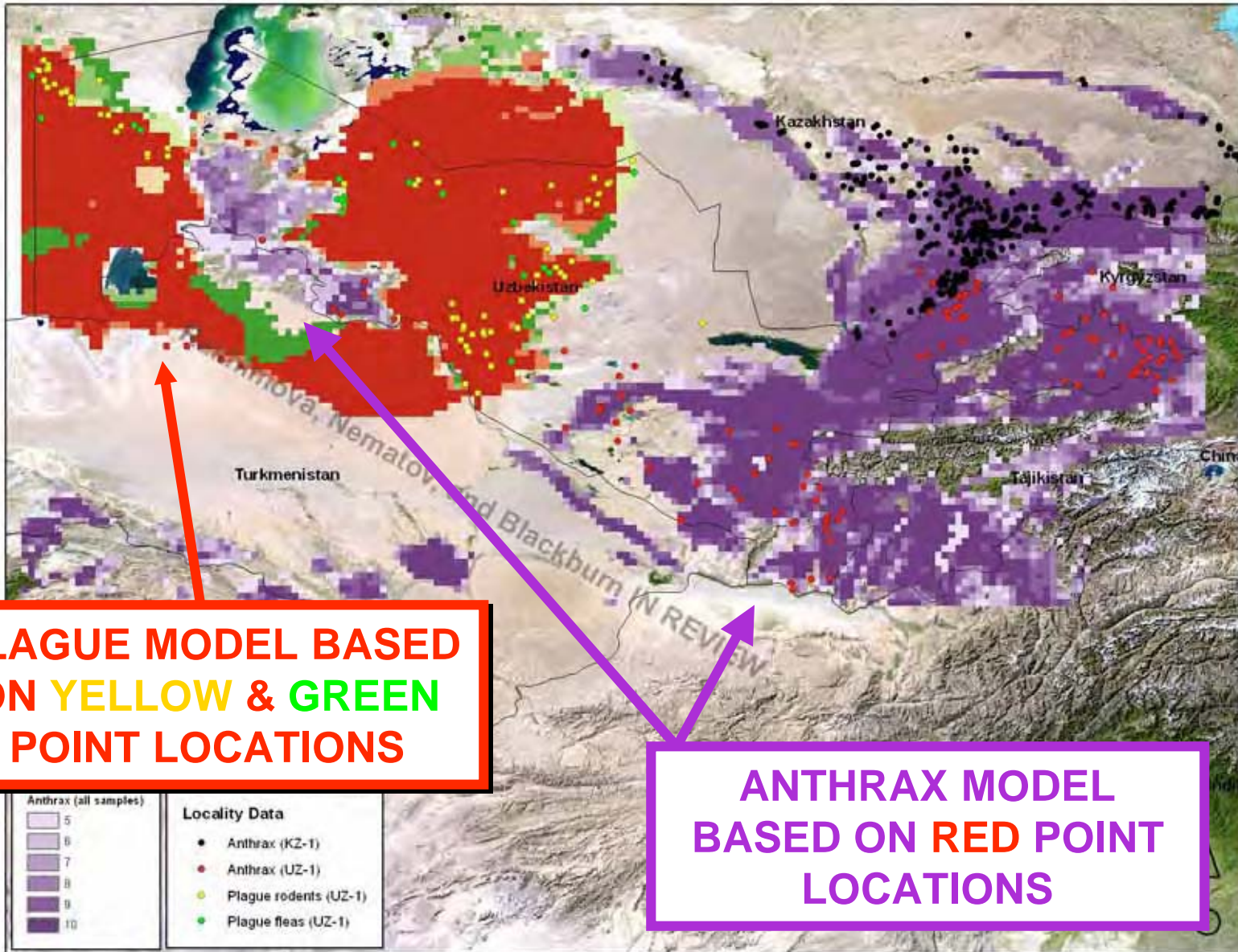


# GARP MODEL FOR PLAGUE & ANTHRAX IN UZBEKISTAN



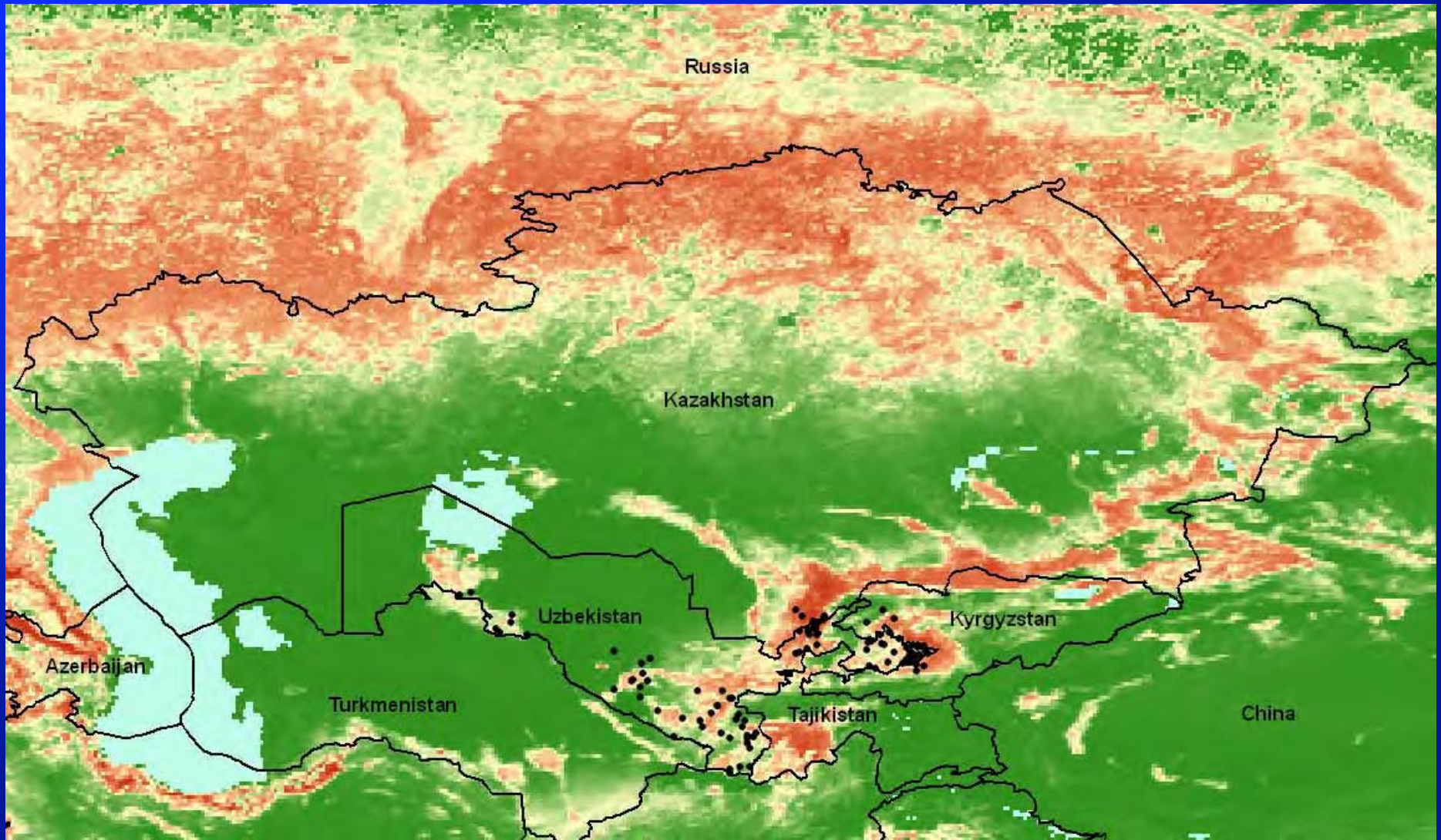


# GARP MODEL FOR PLAGUE & ANTHRAX IN UZBEKISTAN



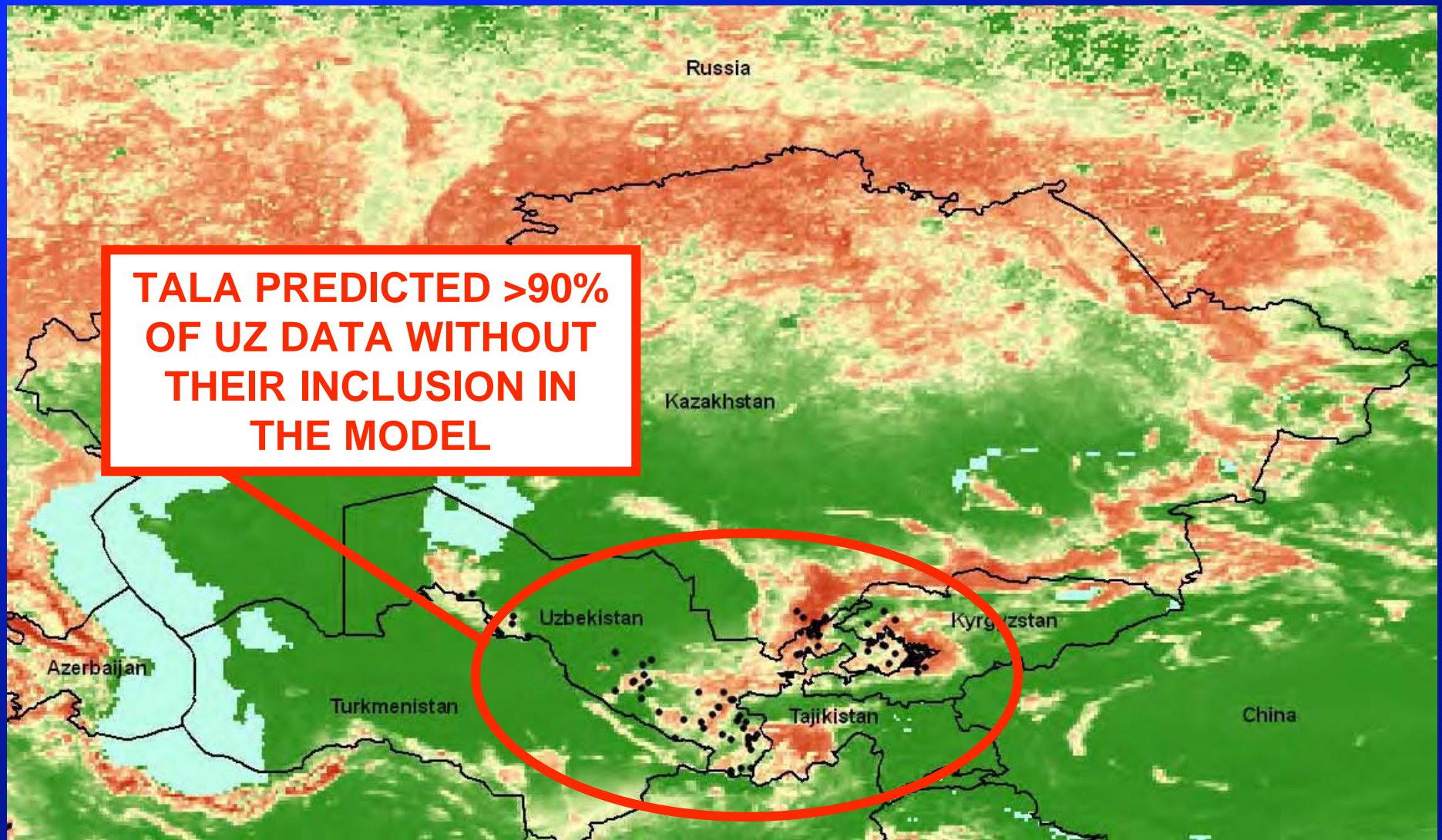


# DO THE MODELS WORK?



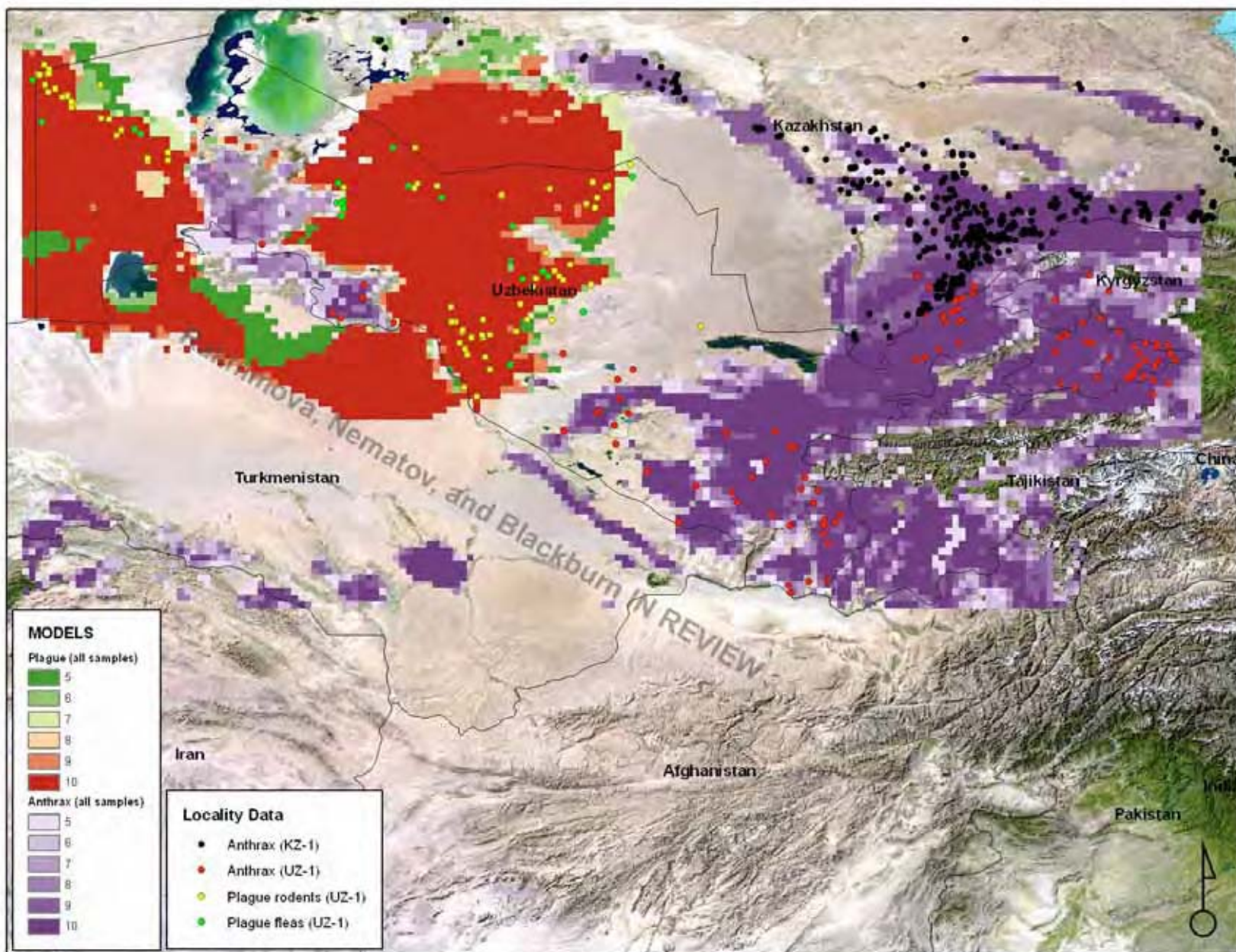


# DO THE MODELS WORK?





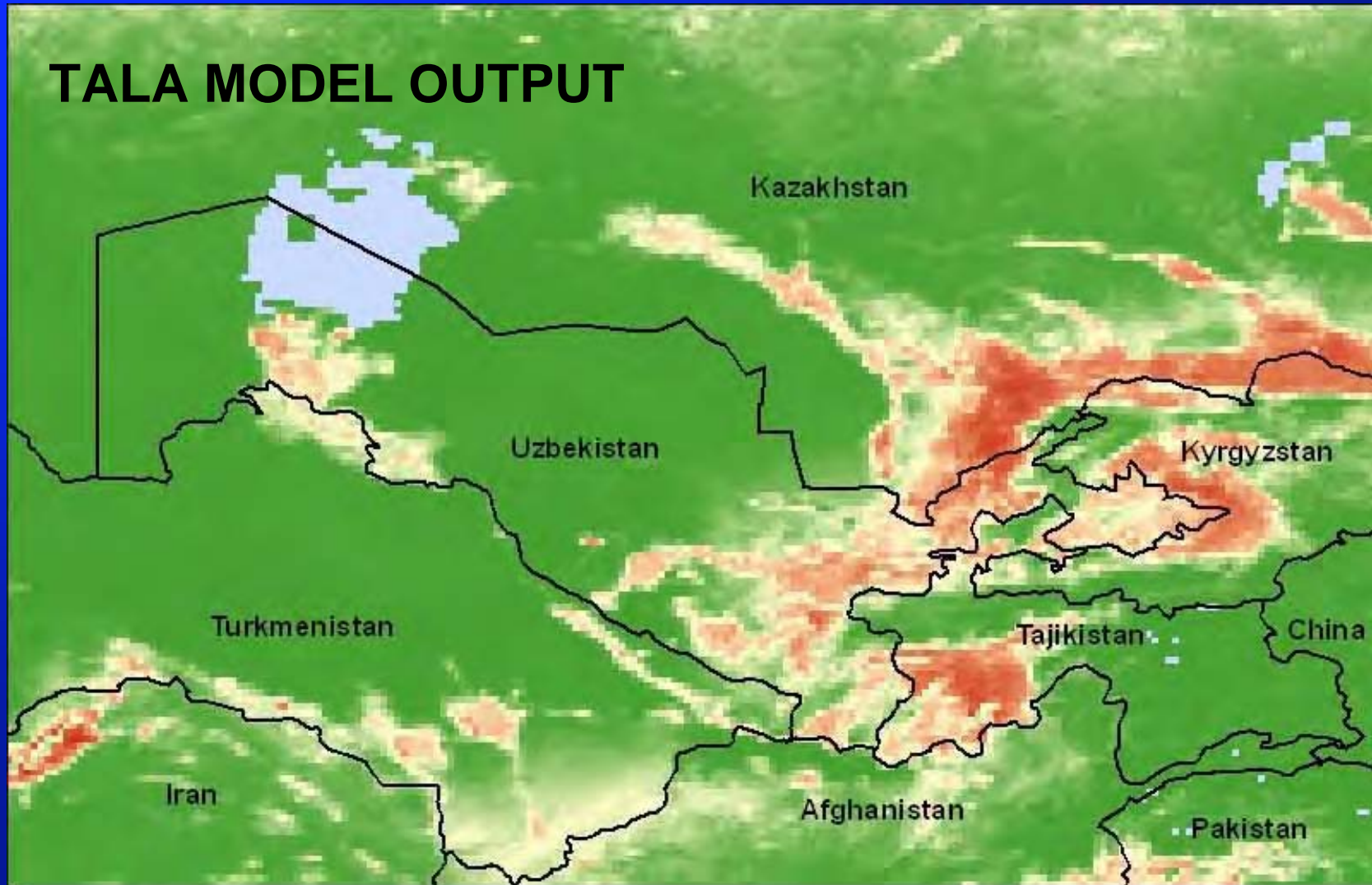
# DO THE MODELS WORK?





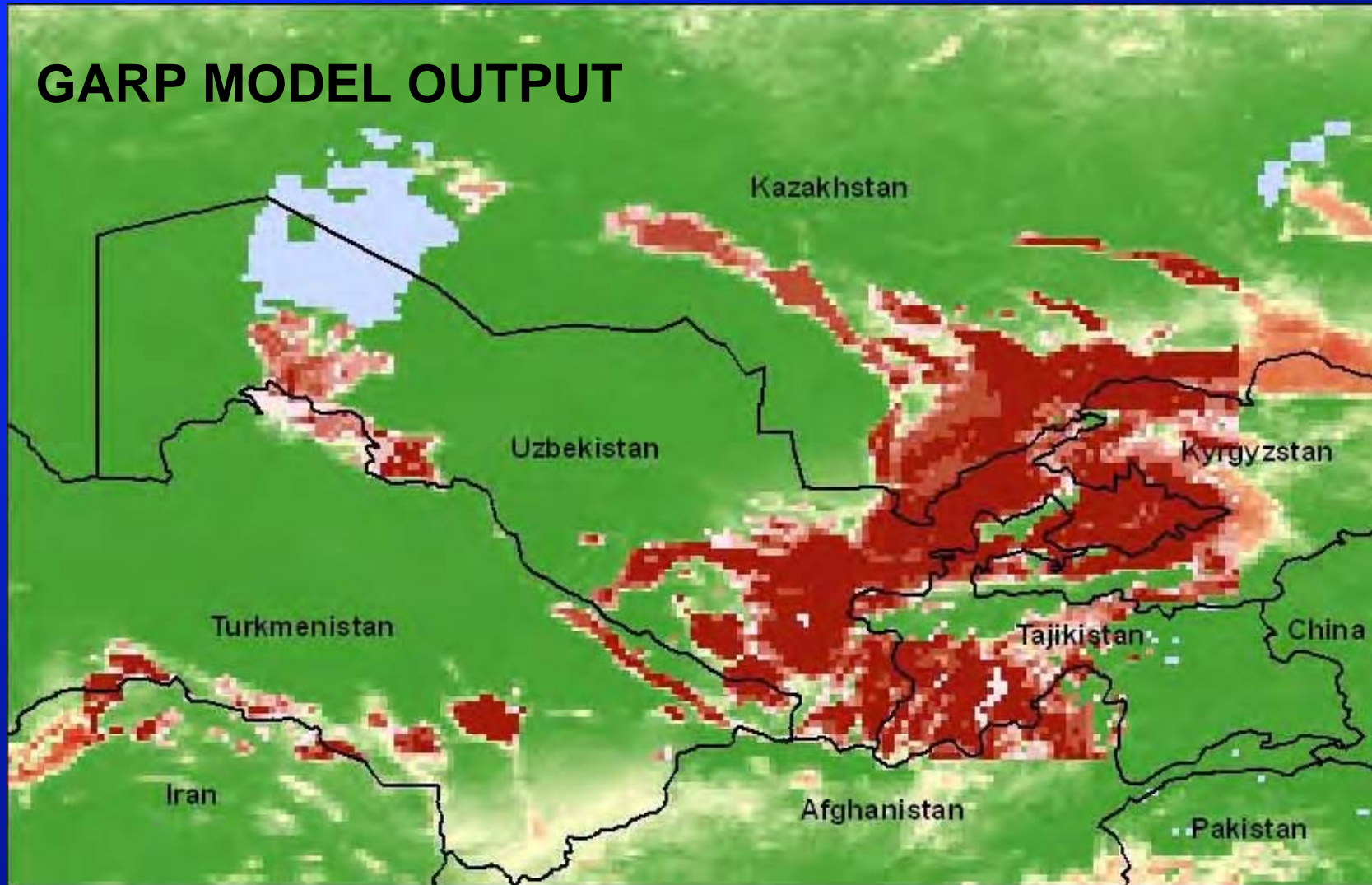


# DO THE MODELS AGREE?





# DO THE MODELS AGREE?





# WHY USE PREDICTIVE MODELING FOR ANTHRAX?





**GRP 19, Grand Detour**

31. 8. 2001 13:46



# Can you pick out the Bison herd?



18. 8. 2000 GRP 5

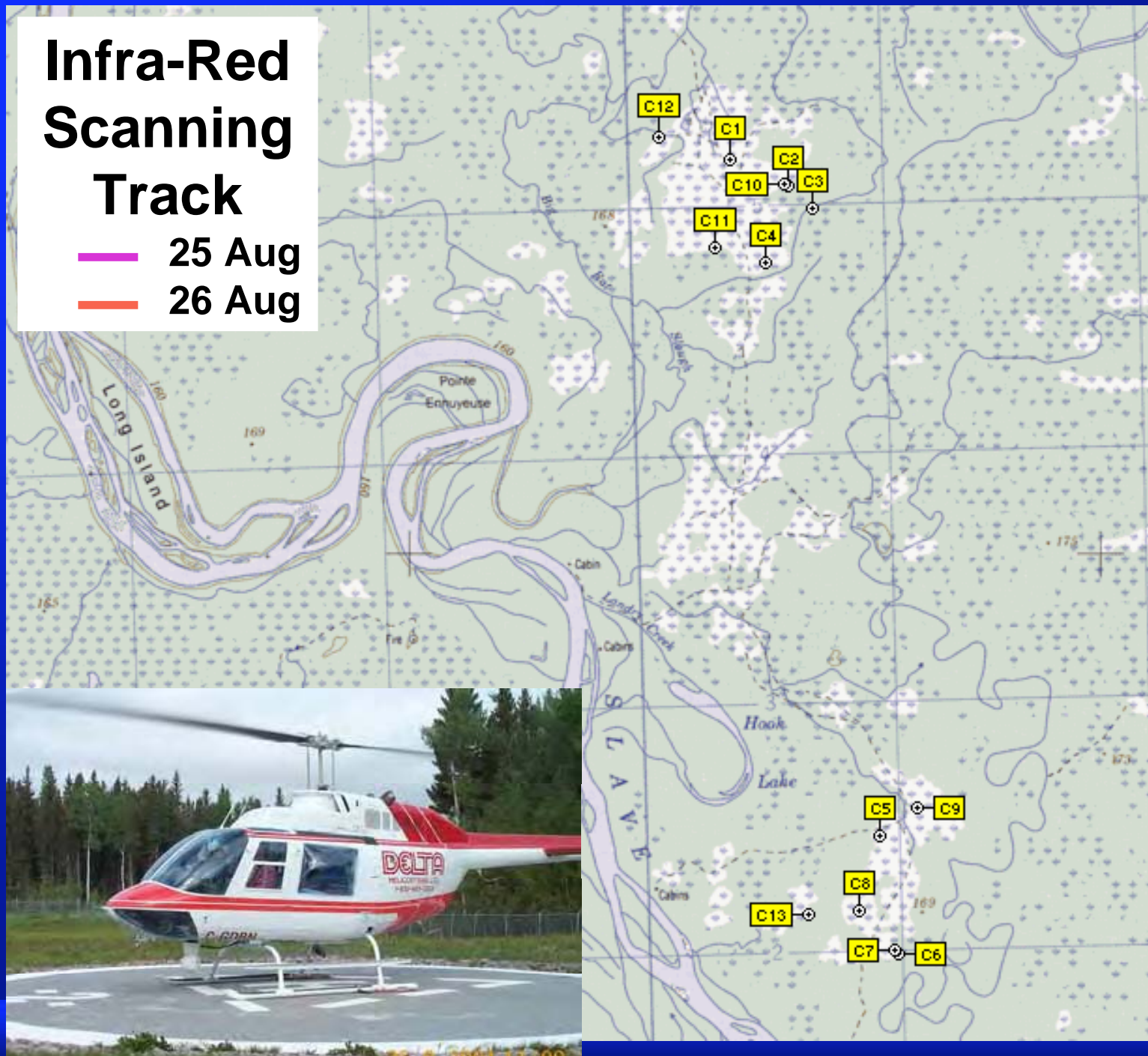


And now?



# Infra-Red Scanning Track

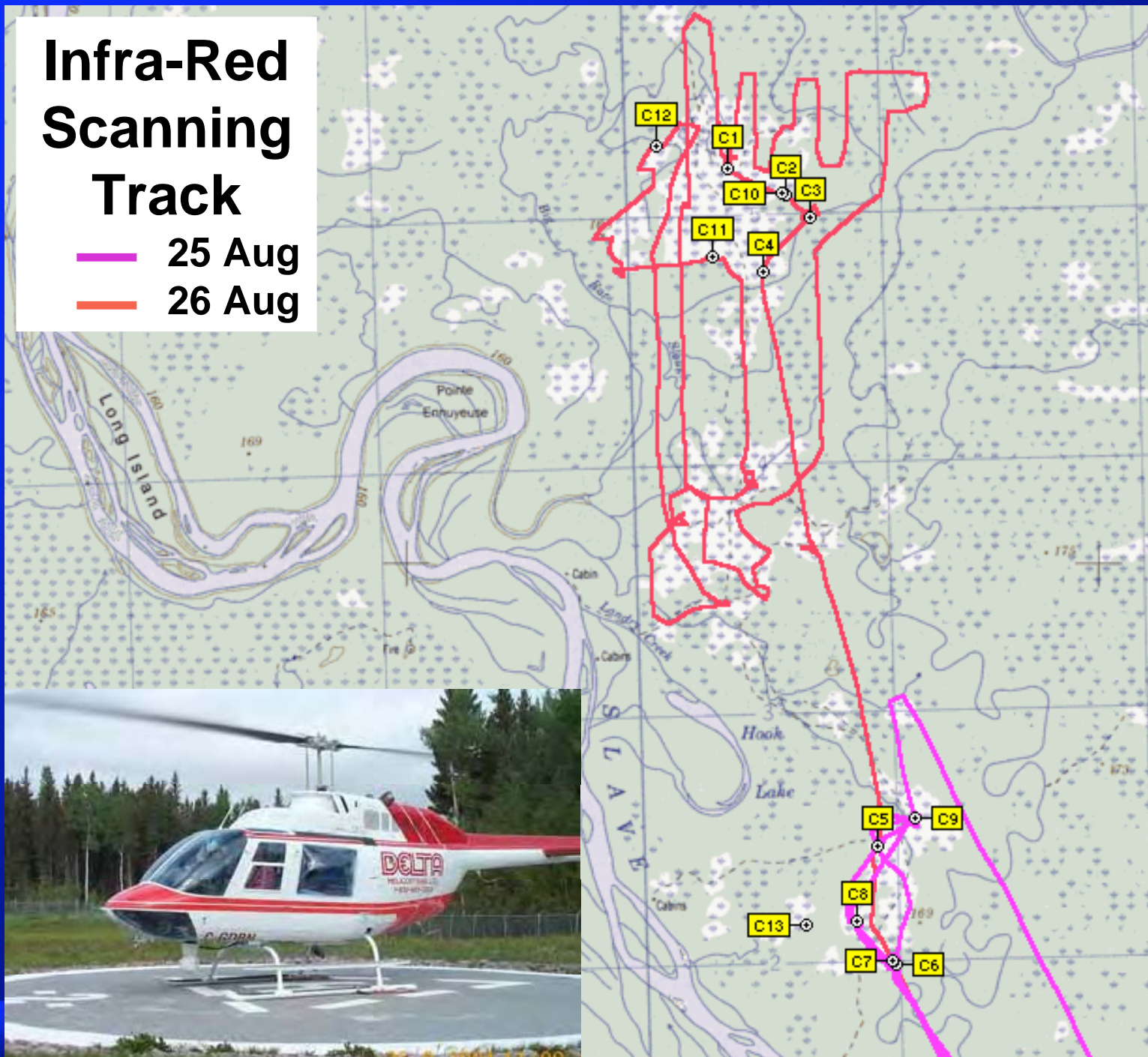
— 25 Aug  
— 26 Aug





# Infra-Red Scanning Track

- 25 Aug
- 26 Aug





**There is a dead wood bison in this view.**



18. 8. 2000 CARC 01





18. 8. 2000 13:00

CARC 03

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

**Special thanks Dr. Shahlo Rakhimova (CPQMHI, Tashkent), Dr. A. Nematov (CPQMHI, Tashkent), Dr. Alim Aikimbayev (KSCQZD, Almaty), Dr. Andrew Curtis (LSU WHOCC), Dr. Simon Hay (Oxford University), Mr. T. Andrew Joyner (LSU WHOCC), Ms. Sarah Hinman (LSU WHOCC), Ms. Caroline Silverstein (CRDF), Ms. Sarah Stevenson (CRDF), Dr. James Bartholomew (SAIC), Dr. Gavin Braunstein (DTRA)**

**The research described in this abstract was made possible in part by financial support provided by the U.S. Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) under the project KZ-1 and administered by U.S. Civilian Research and Development Foundation.**





