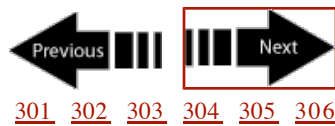
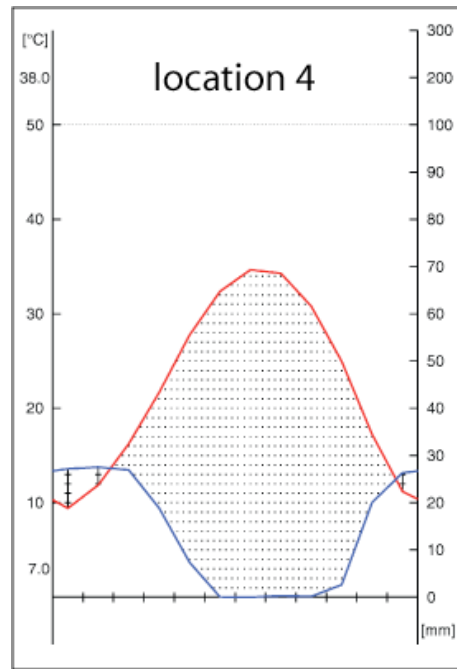
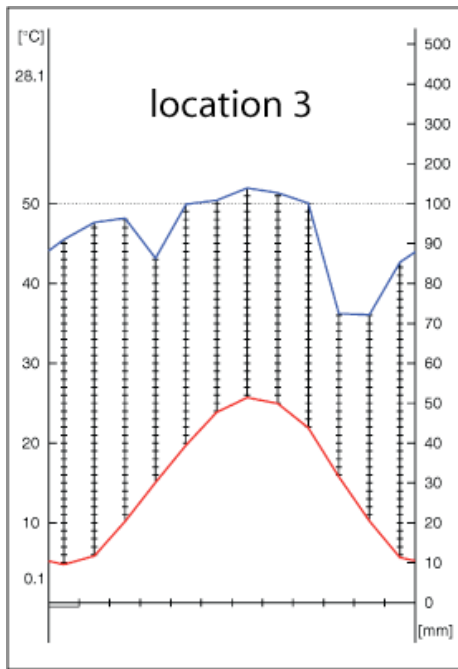
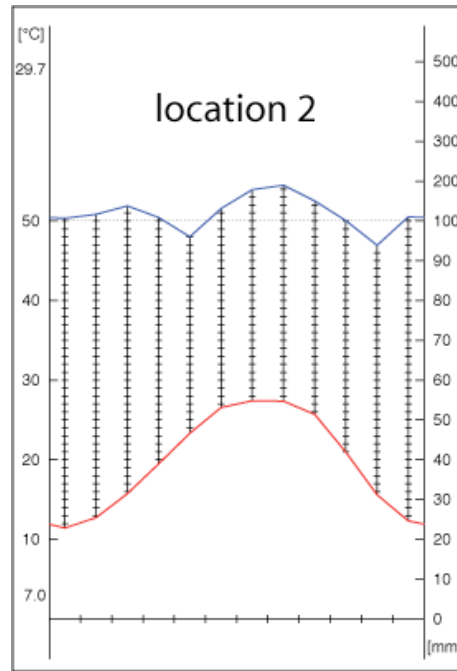
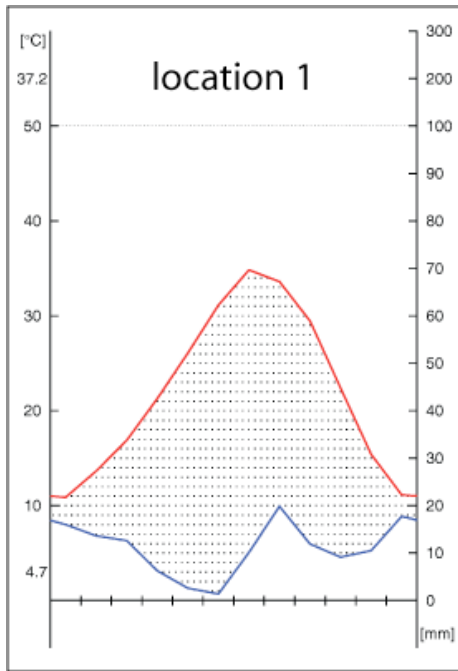


Wesley Weatherley is the teenage grandson of Wanda Weatherley, heading off in Fall 2007 to college at the prestigious University of Utah. He grew up around [Oakley, Utah](#), where he enjoyed the [4th of July Rodeo](#) held every year. This past summer he really upset his mother by telling her that he wanted some excitement in his life, so he was going to visit “Bagdad” before heading off to college. Well, his mother was extremely upset and “spitting bullets”, even though she is a staunch Republican. Then, after a few hours, she realized her son was talking about “Bagdad” and not “Baghdad”. Needless to say, Wesley was rather busy in August visiting all of the locations named “Bagdad” in the USA. In fact, he found 10 different locations across the USA (he used this new fangled map program from [GOOGLE](#)).

At each location, Wesley did several things: (a) collected leaves from the dominant vegetation and (b) described the vegetation at each location. At night in his hotel room, Wesley logged onto the Internet and visited the famous plant ecologist Helmut Leith’s website [“Climate Diagram World Atlas”](#).

When he returned to [Wanship](#) a few weeks ago, he left me these data and told me he would get back to analyzing them during the Fall Semester break. I couldn’t wait for him and so I went and worked out his travels myself. My, my, my, did he ever put on the miles! That boy sure did see some interesting vegetation; I can’t wait for the slide show.





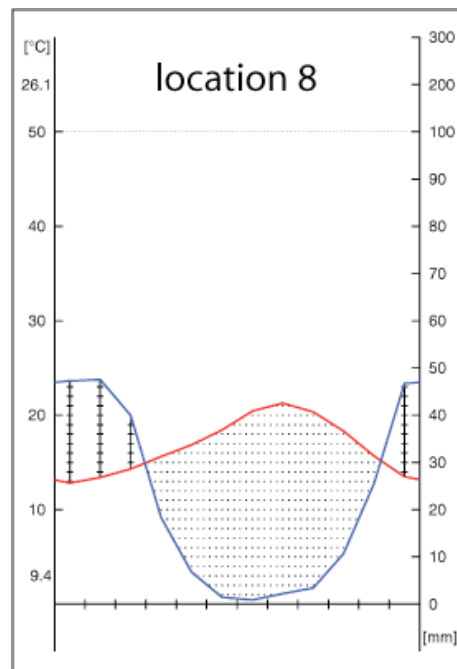
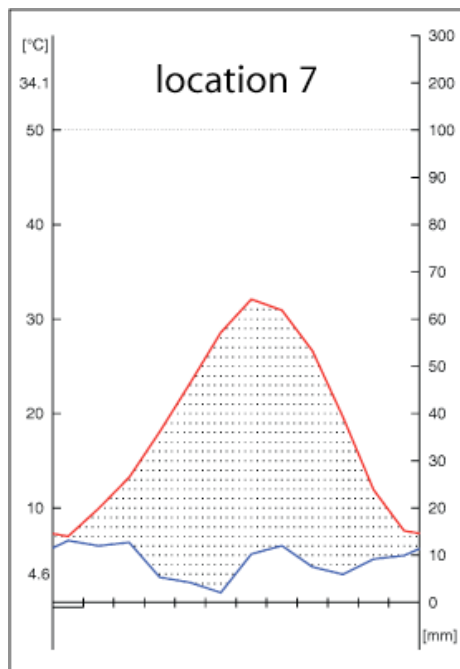
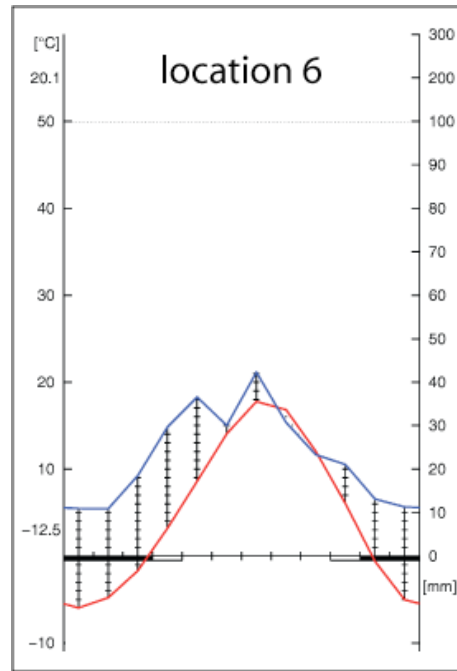
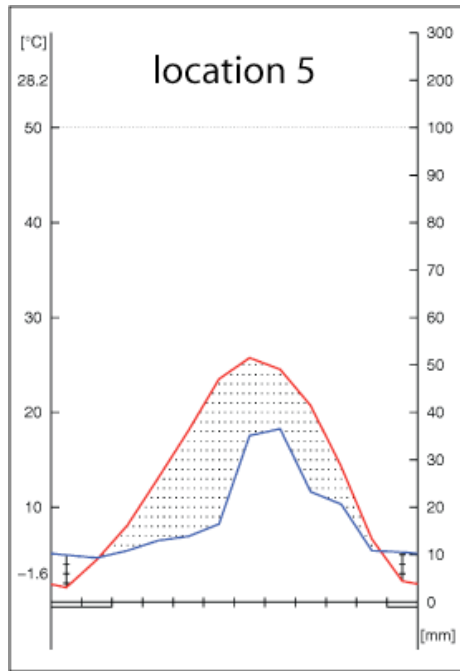
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The Presidents of the Universities in the Mountain West Conference are truly visionary. A year ago they decided to support an intra-conference, 2-week class where undergraduate students would visit and study the native vegetation located immediately around the campuses at each of the universities. I (Wanda Weatherley from the University of Utah) took my class on this field trip last summer; we really enjoyed the opportunity to get around the Intermountain West. Below are some of my loosely organized notes. On the attached pages are climate diagrams for these locations.

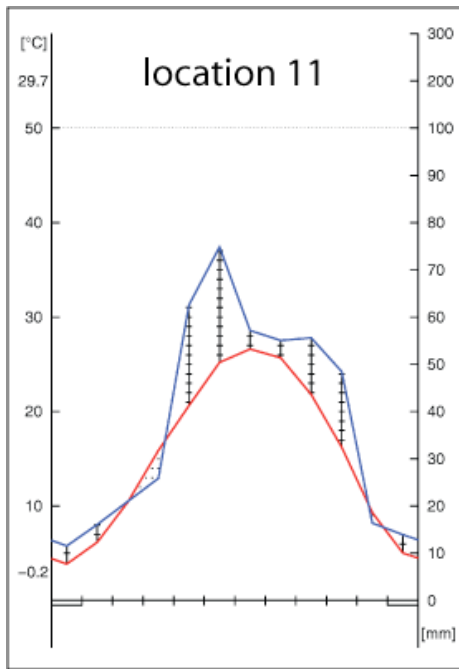
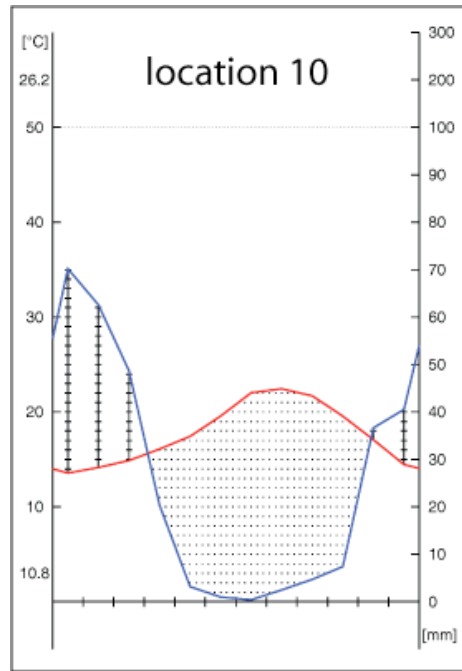
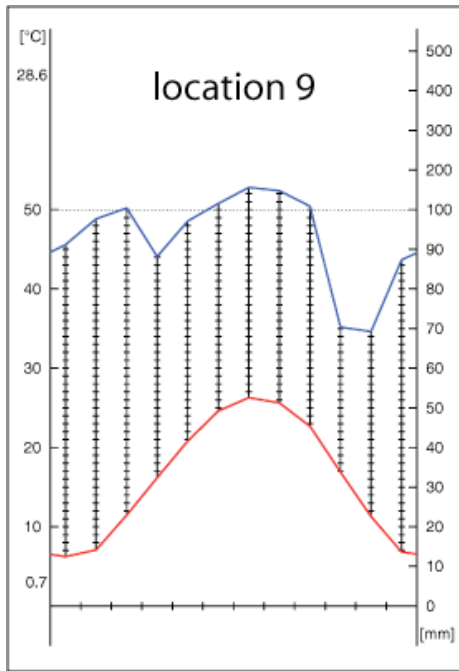
- this field site was just out of town and was characterized by a high preponderance of C<sub>4</sub> grasses, mixed with evergreen shrubs; *Bouteloua* was a common grass species; phreatophytes were common in the riparian regions; a number of cacti that were 30-80 cm tall were seen as we drove down the back roads
- this field site was just out of town was characterized by a high preponderance of evergreen shrubs; plant densities were low, with plants occupying about 10% of the landscape surface; some remnants of inactive grasses were visible, but this was obviously not the season for active grass growth; cacti were not seen as we drove down the back roads
- the field station with this university was located about 10-20 miles out of town along an elevational landscape that stretched from grassland through montane forest (just as I imagined the sites around Utah and BYU appeared before these areas became so urbanized); it was clear from the active and abundant C<sub>4</sub> grasses that this lower habitat was characteristic of the region; *Bouteloua* was a common grass species here; *Artemisia tridentata* was also occasionally seen at the lower elevations; the vegetation at the upper elevation limits of the field site was interesting, because the trees (*Pinus ponderosa*) were adapted to persist through periodic ground fires



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In July 2006, Wanda Weatherley had the privilege of being able to provide advice to Utah's governor about the impacts of climate change on vegetation in the Wasatch Mountains. As the governor's background is in business, not science, Wanda spent some very productive time discussing vegetation gradients, plant distributions, and distinguishing among vegetation types. In particular, she talked about upper vegetation limits, discussing:

- constraints on upper limits of plant distribution and how anticipated climate changes might impact tree distributions
- constraints on the distributions of riparian trees and how anticipated climate changes might impact tree distributions
- importance of precipitation amounts and the importance of summer versus winter rains on the distribution of trees, such as in the Wasatch Mountains versus the Uinta Mountains

We are fortunate to have such a sharp governor, who is very concerned about the impacts of climate change on life, economy, and the outdoor opportunities in Utah. In fact, Wanda was very impressed that he could instantly distinguish between alpine tundra and arctic tundra and also between boreal forests and temperate forests. It must be that he had Ehleringer's Plant ecology class sometime in the past.

