We again thank the reviewer and editor for their constructive comments and we address their various concerns below.

Response to Editor

The revised manuscript represents an improvement, but there are a few important points raised by the Referee that are necessary before recommending that the present manuscript be published in Biogeosciences. In addition to the comments by the Referee, Please consider ways to make figures 3-7 more informative

In revision we did originally amend the figures, we removed the grey banding that represented the drought period and instead added a second y-axis to show rainfall (or lack thereof) during the summer of 2003. This should make it clearer to the reader when trying to interpret the down-regulation of fluxes in responses to water stress. We have experimented with many alternative ways to present the information in the figures, but ultimately it is complicated as we are attempting to show six different lines. In revision we have now changed the "no drought" line to a "dash-dot" black line. This removes the two shades of blue in figures 3-7. We have also added information describing the different simulations to the figure captions, e.g. "*Simulations show the control (CTRL) and the three parameterisations, which represent a spectrum of behaviour ranging from high to low drought sensitivity (based on Zhou et al. 2013; 2014), and the tested methods to obtain a weighted estimate of soil water potential (Ψ_S) across CABLE's soil layers (M1-M3). M1 uses a root-biomass weighted soil water content converted to Ψ_S, M2 calculates Ψ_S by integrated soil water content over the top 1.7m of the soil, and M3 is calculated using a dynamic weight across soil layers*."

and please note carefully in the Discussion and Conclusions that the number of sites explored somewhat limits the generality of the findings with an eye toward future research.

We have incorporated the Editor's suggestion about the limitations of our study into our existing discussion text that broadly addressed this point:

"Our work thus underlines a need to move beyond models that implement drought sensitivity through a single PFT parameterisation. ***Although we only compared vegetation at five sites,***

it has been widely shown that species originating from different hydroclimates vary in their drought sensitivities (Choat et al. 2012; Limousin et al. 2013; Zhou et al. 2014; Mitchell et al., 2014; Mencuccini et al. 2015) and our results indicate that these differing sensitivities at the plant level are also important at the ecosystem scale*. It is, of course, challenging to implement such a continuum of sensitivities in a global vegetation model. In this study, we used a simple site-specific approach in which we selected three sets of model parameters from a meta-analysis by Zhou et al. (2013; 2014), allowing us to characterise a range of plant responses to drought.* ***The approach we tested in this paper could not be directly implemented in global vegetation models****: these models would require a more sophisticated approach that relates drought sensitivity to the climate of each pixel. One potential solution would be to develop an empirical correlation between drought sensitivity and a long-term moisture index (e.g. the ratio of mean precipitation to the equilibrium evapotranspiration; Cramer and Prentice, 1988; Gallego-Sala et al. 2010). Previous studies have demonstrated the feasibility of linking model parameters that determine plant water use strategy to such a moisture index in global simulations (Wang et al. 2014; De Kauwe et al. 2015). Such an approach would requires a concerted effort to collate appropriate data, as there are few compilations to date of traits related to drought sensitivity (but see Manzoni et al. 2011; Zhou et al. 2013). Another, more challenging, alternative, would be to develop optimization hypotheses that can predict vegetation drought sensitivity from climate (e.g. Manzoni et al. 2014)."*

Please draft a short letter outlining any changes made, after which I will not hesitate to recommend that the improved manuscript be published.

Response to Reviewer

The paper is much improved and most of the criticisms in the reviews have been dealt with effectively. I have one remaining issue with the results: Table 4 and 5 are crucial here. Results are discussed on l. 1080 onwards, so there should be further references to these tables in this paragraph.

All the numbers listed to support model improvement come directly from tables 4 and 5, we now make this clearer by referring to both tables throughout the results.

The authors argue from their 5 site analysis that there is a trend towards better RMSE and NSE from "high" to "low" parameters, matching the mesic to xeric shift. I can see this for LE (table 4). However, this trend is not clear in GPP (table 5), where a 'medium' parameter set works for 4 out of 5 sites. So the results are suggestive, but not as conclusive as the authors argue. I think the discussion needs to address this issue directly.

We largely agree with the reviewer's summary of the GPP result, which does not disagree with the text we wrote. However, by summarising that the medium sensitivity worked best at 4/5 sites, it ignores the fact that at the most mesic end, the low sensitivity worked best (Espirra) and the most mesic end (Tharandt), the high sensitivity (RMSE = 2.23 g C m^{-2} d^{-1}) was very similar to the best performing medium sensitivity (RMSE = 2.12 g C m^{-2} d^{-1}). Nevertheless, we now add the following text to the discussion: "*Whilst this characterisation of the transition of drought sensitivities was largely consistent for both water and carbon fluxes, it is notable for the two most mesic sites, a medium rather than a high drought sensitivity performed best for carbon fluxes. There are a number of possible explanations; however, as the relationships tested are not site-specific it is hard to be conclusive as to the exact cause. Nevertheless, it does suggest that the parameterisation of the high drought sensitivity may be too sensitive at mesic sites, which will need further investigation.*"

Table 4 and 5: currently their captions are too short; further details are required -explain all the columns (e.g. high, medium, low); explain that sites are in order from mesic to xeric; three significant figures would be sufficient for each data column. People rarely read an entire paper, but will glance at figures and tables, so clear metadata are required.

We thank the reviewer for this suggestion and have improved table captions accordingly, for example:

"*Table 4: Summary statistics of modelled and observed latent heat (LE) at the five FLUXNET sites during the main drought period (1st of June – 31st August, 2003). The results of the three parameterisations, which represent a spectrum of behaviour, ranging from high to low drought sensitivity, are shown for the three tested approaches (M1-M3) to obtain a weighted estimate of soil water potential (Ψ_S) across CABLE's soil layers. M1 uses a root-biomass weighted soil water content converted to Ψ_S, M2 calculates Ψ_S by integrated soil water content over the top 1.7m of the soil, and M3 is calculated using a dynamic weighting across soil layers. Sites have been ordered to show a mesic-xeric transition between sites (Tharandt to Espirra). For each site the best performing model simulation has been highlighted in bold.*"

I cannot find Table 2 referenced in the text.

Table 2 is referred to in the methods: "*To assess the performance of the CABLE model both with and without the new drought scheme, we selected a gradient of five forested Fluxnet (http://www.fluxdata.org/) sites across Europe (Table 2) from those available through the Protocol for the Analysis of Land Surface models (PALS; pals.unsw.edu.au; Abramowitz, 2012).*"

Do land surface models need to include differential plant species responses to drought? Examining model predictions across a mesic-xeric gradient in Europe.

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Abstract

Future climate change has the potential to increase drought in many regions of the globe, making it essential that land surface models (LSMs) used in coupled climate models, realistically capture the drought responses of vegetation. Recent data syntheses show that drought sensitivity varies considerably among plants from different climate zones, but state-of-the-art LSMs currently assume the same drought sensitivity for all vegetation. We tested whether variable drought sensitivities are needed to explain the observed large-scale patterns of drought impact on the carbon, water and energy fluxes. We implemented data-driven drought sensitivities in the Community Atmosphere Biosphere Land Exchange (CABLE) LSM and evaluated alternative sensitivities across a latitudinal gradient in Europe during the 2003 heatwave. The model predicted an overly abrupt onset of drought unless average soil water potential was calculated with dynamic weighting across soil layers. We found that high drought sensitivity at the most mesic sites, and low drought sensitivity at the most xeric sites, was necessary to accurately model responses during drought. Our results indicate that LSMs will over-estimate drought impacts in drier climates unless different sensitivity of vegetation to drought is taken into account.

1 Introduction

Changes in regional precipitation patterns with climate change are highly uncertain (Sillmann et al. 2014), but are widely expected to result in a change in the frequency, duration and severity of drought events (Allen et al. 2010). Drought is broadly defined, but for plants is a marked deficit of moisture in the root zone which results from a period of low rainfall and/or increased atmospheric demand for evapotranspiration. Recently, a series of high-profile drought events (Ciais et al. 2005; Fensham et al. 2009; Phillips et al. 2009; Lewis et al. 2011) and associated tree mortality (Breshears et al. 2005; van Mantgem et al. 2009; Peng et al. 2011; Anderegg et al. 2013), have occurred across the globe and these events have led to debate as to whether incidence of drought are increasing (Allen et al. 2010; Dai et al. 2013, but see Sheffield et al. 2012). Drought and any ensuing vegetation mortality events have the potential to change land ecosystems from a sink to source (Lewis et al. 2011), and the dominant mechanisms governing the ecosystem responses to drought can vary from reducing stomatal conductance (Xu and Baldocchi, 2003) to increasing tree mortality (Lewis et al. 2011) and changing community species composition (Nepstad et al. 2007).

Our ability to model drought effect on vegetation function (carbon and water fluxes) is currently limited (Galbraith et al. 2010; Egea et al. 2011; Powell et al. 2013). Remarkably, given the importance of correctly capturing drought impacts on carbon and water fluxes, land surface models (LSMs) designed for use in climate models have rarely been benchmarked against extreme drought events. Mahfouf et al. (1996) compared summertime crop transpiration from 14 land surface schemes, finding that only half of the models fell within the uncertainty range of the observations. They attributed differences among models to the various schemes used by models to represent transpiration processes (e.g. soil water stress function, different number of soil layers) and variability in the initial soil water content at the start of the growing season which relates to variability in the way bare soil evaporation and drainage are represented among different models. Galbraith et al. (2010) showed that a set of dynamic global vegetation models (DGVMs) were unable to capture the 20–30% reduction in biomass due to drought during a set of throughfall exclusion experiments in the Amazon. Galbraith et al. (2010) attributed model variability during drought to: changes in autotrophic respiration (which was not supported by the data), model insensitivity to observed leaf area reductions, and the use of different empirical functions to down-regulate productivity during

water stress. The models differed both in terms of time-scale of the application of this function (sub-diurnal vs. daily) and whether it was used to down-regulate net photosynthesis or the maximum rate of Rubisco activity, V_{cmax}. Similarly, Powell et al. (2013) demonstrated that a group of five models were unable to predict drought-induced reductions in aboveground biomass (~20%) in two large-scale Amazon experiments. Gerten et al. (2008) compared the effect of adjusting precipitation regimes on simulated net primary productivity (NPP) by four ecosystem models across a range of hydroclimates. They found a consistent direction of change (in terms of NPP) with different scenarios across models but found that the seasonal evolution of soil moisture differed among the models.

In order for models to better capture realistic responses during drought, they need to draw more closely on experimental data (see Chaves et al. 1993 for a review). One key observation is that there is a continuum of species responses to soil moisture deficit, ranging from isohydric (stomata close rapidly during drought, maintaining a minimum leaf water potential, Ψ_l) to anisohydric (stomata remain open during drought, which allows Ψ_l to decrease) hydraulic strategies (Tardieu and Simonneau, 1998; Klein, 2014). These differences are widely observed and are thought to be important in determining resilience to drought (McDowell et al. 2008; Mitchell et al. 2013; Garcia-Forner et al. 2015). Many traits, including hydraulic conductivity, resistance to cavitation, turgor loss point, stomatal regulation and rooting depth, contribute to these differences. Systematic differences in the response of leaf gas exchange to soil moisture potential have been observed among species originating from different hydroclimates (Zhou et al. 2013), with species from mesic environments showing stronger stomatal sensitivity to drought than species from xeric environments. Currently, these environmental gradients in species behaviour are not captured in LSMs, which typically assume static plant functional type (PFT) parameterisations. This is in part because historically the data required to describe these attributes have not been available at the global scale, but also due to the necessity of simplification required to run global climate model simulations. Species with a PFT are assumed to have similar or identical sensitivities to drought. Such an approach ignores experimental evidence of the range of sensitivities to drought among species (Choat et al. 2012; Limousin et al. 2013; Zhou et al. 2014; Mitchell et al., 2014; Mencuccini et al. 2015). For example, Turner et al. (1984) found contrasting responses in leaf water potential to increasing vapour pressure deficit, ranging from isohydric

235 to anisohydric, among a group of woody and herbaceous species. Similarly, Zhou et al. (2014)
236 found that in a dry-down experiment, European sapling species originating from more mesic
237 environments were more sensitive to water stress (more rapid reduction of photosynthesis and
238 stomatal conductance) than species from more xeric regions. However, it is not known
239 whether observed differences in the response to soil moisture deficit among species are
240 important in determining fluxes at large scales.

241

242 In this study we test whether differences in species' responses to drought are needed to
243 capture drought responses on a continental scale. We built on recent changes to the stomatal
244 conductance (g_s) scheme (De Kauwe et al. 2015) within the Community Atmosphere
245 Biosphere Land Exchange (CABLE) LSM (Wang et al. 2011), by implementing a new
246 formulation for drought impacts based on plant ecophysiological studies for 31 species (Zhou
247 et al. 2013; 2014). We obtained three parameterisations for drought response from these
248 studies, characterising low, medium and high sensitivities to drought. We then applied
249 CABLE to simulate responses to an extreme meteorological event, the European 2003
250 heatwave, at five eddy covariance sites covering a latitudinal gradient, transitioning from
251 mesic sites at the northern extreme to xeric at the southern sites. Observations show that there
252 was a significant impact of drought on ecosystem fluxes at these sites (Ciais et al. 2005; Schär
253 et al. 2005). We note that models have been applied to simulate drought effects on
254 productivity (net primary production) and leaf area at individual sites (Ciais et al. 2005;
255 Fischer et al. 2007; Granier et al. 2007; Reichstein et al. 2007) but have not been used to
256 examine whether alternative parameterisations are needed to capture drought responses across
257 sites. We therefore tested how well CABLE was able to simulate the impact of drought on
258 carbon and water fluxes at these sites using alternative parameterisations for drought
259 sensitivity. We hypothesised that drought sensitivity would increase as sites transitioned from
260 xeric to mesic. We hypothesised that trees at more mesic sites, with a greater abundance of
261 available water than at xeric sites, would be more vulnerable to shorter duration droughts, and
262 thus have higher drought sensitivity (or lower resistance to drought). Therefore, accounting
263 for this latitudinal gradient in drought sensitivity would improve the performance of CABLE.

2 Methods

2.1 Model description

CABLE represents the vegetation using a single layer, two-leaf canopy model separated into sunlit and shaded leaves (Wang and Leuning, 1998), with a detailed treatment of within canopy turbulence (Raupach 1994; Raupach et al. 1997). Soil water and heat conduction is numerically integrated over six discrete soil layers following the Richards equation and up to three layers of snow can accumulate on the soil surface. A complete description can be found in Kowalczyk et al. (2006) and Wang et al. (2011). CABLE has been used extensively for both offline (Abramowitz et al. 2008; Wang et al. 2011; De Kauwe et al. 2015) and coupled simulations (Cruz et al. 2010; Pitman et al. 2011; Mao et al. 2011; Lorenz et al. 2014) within the Australian Community Climate Earth System Simulator (ACCESS, see http://www.accessimulator.org.au; Kowalczyk et al. 2013); a fully coupled earth system model. The source code can be accessed after registration at https://trac.nci.org.au/trac/cable.

2.2 Representing drought stress within CABLE.

We build on the work by De Kauwe et al. (2015), who introduced a new g_s scheme into CABLE. In this scheme, stomata are assumed to behave optimally; that is, stomata are regulated to maximise carbon gain whilst simultaneously minimising water loss, over short time periods (i.e. a day) (Cowan and Farquhar, 1977) leading to the following formulation of g_s (Medlyn et al. 2011)

$$g_s = g_0 + 1.6\left(1 + \frac{g_1}{\sqrt{D}}\right)\frac{A}{C_s} \quad (1)$$

where A is the net assimilation rate (μmol m^{-2} s^{-1}), C_s (μmol mol^{-1}) and D (kPa) are the CO_2 concentration and the vapour pressure deficit at the leaf surface, respectively, and g_0 (mol m^{-2} s^{-1}), and g_1 are fitted constants representing the residual stomatal conductance when A reaches zero, and the slope of the sensitivity of g_s to A, respectively. The model was parameterised for different PFTs using data from Lin et al. (2015) (see De Kauwe et al. 2015).

In the standard version of CABLE, drought stress is implemented as an empirical scalar (β) that depends on soil moisture content, weighted by the fraction of roots in each of CABLE's six soil layers:

$$\beta = \sum_{i=1}^{n} f_{root,i} \frac{\theta_i - \theta_w}{\theta_{fc} - \theta_w};\ \beta \in [0,1] \quad (2)$$

where θ_i is the volumetric soil moisture content ($m^3\ m^{-3}$) in soil layer i, θ_w is the wilting point ($m^3\ m^{-3}$), θ_{fc} is the field capacity ($m^3\ m^{-3}$) and $f_{root,i}$ is the fraction of root mass in soil layer i. The six soil layers in CABLE have depths 0.022 m, 0.058 m, 0.154 m, 0.409 m, 1.085 m and 2.872 m. The factor β is assumed to limit the slope of the relationship between stomatal conductance (g_s, mol $m^{-2}\ s^{-1}$; Leuning 1995) by acting as a modifier on the parameter g_1.

In this study, we introduced a new expression for drought sensitivity of gas exchange, based on the work of Zhou et al. (2013, 2014). In this model, both g_1 and the photosynthetic parameters V_{cmax} and J_{max} are assumed to be sensitive to pre-dawn leaf water potential, but this sensitivity varies across species. There is considerable evidence that both g1 and V_{cmax} are sensitive to soil moisture (Keenan et al. 2009; Egea et al. 2011; Flexas et al. 2012; Zhou et al. 2013). There is also widespread evidence that plants are more directly respond to water potential rather than water content (Comstock and Mencuccini 1998; Verhoef and Egea, 2014).

Zhou et al. (2013) extended the optimal stomatal model of Medlyn et al. (2011) by fitting an exponential function to relate g_1 to pre-dawn leaf water potential (Ψ_{pd}):

$$g_1 = g_{1wet} \times \exp(b\Psi_{pd}) \quad (3)$$

where g_{1wet} is fitted parameter representing plant water use under well watered conditions (i.e. when $\Psi_{pd} = 0$) and b is a fitted parameter representing the sensitivity of g_1 to Ψ_{pd}. Species with different water use strategies can by hypothesised to differ in not only their g_1 parameter under well-watered conditions, g_{1wet} (see Lin et al. 2015), but also with the sensitivity to Ψ_{pd}, b. Zhou et al. (2013) also advanced a non-stomatal limitation to the photosynthetic biochemistry, which describes the apparent effect of water stress on V_{cmax}:

$$V_{cmax} = V_{cmax,wet} \frac{1 + \exp(S_f \Psi_f)}{1 + \exp(S_f (\Psi_f - \Psi_{pd}))} \quad (4)$$

where $V_{cmax,wet}$ is the V_{cmax} value in well watered conditions, S_f is a sensitivity parameter describing the steepness of the decline with water stress, Ψ_f is the water potential at which Ψ_{pd} decreases to half of its maximum value. As with g_1, it is hypothesised that in the same way species vary in their V_{cmax} values in well-watered conditions ($V_{cmax,wet}$), they would also differ in their sensitivity of down-regulated V_{cmax} with water stress (Zhou et al. 2014). In CABLE, as there is a constant ratio between the parameters J_{max} and V_{cmax}, the parameter J_{max} is similarly reduced by drought.

To implement Eq. (6) in CABLE we first had to convert soil moisture content (θ) to pre-dawn leaf water potential (Ψ_{pd}). We did so by assuming that overnight Ψ_{pd} and Ψ_S equilibrate before sunrise, thus ignoring any night-time transpiration (Dawson et al. 2007). Following Campbell (1974), we related θ to Ψ_S in each soil layer by:

$$\Psi_{S,i} = \Psi_e \left(\frac{\theta_i}{\theta_{sat}}\right)^{-k} \quad (5)$$

where Ψ_e is the air entry water potential (MPa) and k (unitless) is an empirical coefficient which is related to the soil texture. Values for Ψ_e and b are taken from CABLE's standard lookup table following Clapp and Hornberger (1978). We then needed to obtain a representative weighted estimate of Ψ_S across CABLE's soil layers. We tested three potential approaches for weighting in this paper:

(i) Using the root-biomass weighted θ and converting this to Ψ_S using Eq. (8), hereafter denoted M1. Such an approach is often favoured by models, following experimental evidence that plants preferentially access regions in the root zone where water is most freely available (Green and Clotheir 1995; Huang et al. 1997).

(ii) Taking the integrated θ over the top 5 soil layers (1.7 m depth) and converting this to Ψ_S using Eq. (8), hereafter denoted M2. This method assumes the plant effectively has access to an entire "bucket" of soil water. This approach is often favoured by "simpler" forest productivity models (e.g. Landsberg and Waring, 1997).

(iii) Weighting the average Ψ_S for each of the six soil layers by the weighted soil-to-root conductance to water uptake of each layer, following Williams et al. (1996; 2001), hereafter denoted M3. The total conductance term depends the combination of a soil component (R_s) and a root component (R_r). R_s is defined as (Gardner, 1960):

$$R_s = \frac{\ln\left(\frac{r_s}{r_r}\right)}{2\pi l_r D G_{soil}} \quad (6)$$

where r_s is the mean distance between roots (m), r_r is the fine root radius (m), D is the depth of the soil layer, G_{soil} is the soil conductivity (mmol m^{-1} s^{-1} MPa^{-1}) which depends on soil texture and soil water content, l_r is the fine root density (mm^{-3}). R_r is defined as:

$$R_r = \frac{R_r^*}{FD} \quad (7)$$

where R_r^* is the root resistivity (MPa s g $mmol^{-1}$), F is the root biomass per unit volume (g m^{-3}). This method weights Ψ_S to the upper soil layers when the soil is wet, but shifts towards layer lowers as the soil dries, due to the lower soil hydraulic conductance (e.g. Duursma et al. 2011).

2.3 Model simulations

During 2003, Europe experienced an anomalously dry summer, amplified by a combination of a preceding dry spring and high summer temperatures (Ciais et al. 2005; Schär et al. 2005). Summer temperatures were recorded to have exceeded the 30-year June-July-August (JJA) average by 3°C (Schär et al. 2005). Consequently we choose to focus our model comparisons on this period, in particular the period between June and September 2003.

At each of the five Fluxnet sites we ran three sets of simulations:

- A control simulation ("CTRL"), representing CABLE version 2.0.1.
- Three simulations to explore the new drought model using a "high" (*Quercus robur*), "medium" (*Quercus ilex*) and "low" (*Cedrus atlantica*) sensitivity to soil moisture.

366 Parameter values were obtained from the meta-analysis by Zhou et al. (2013; 2014)
367 and are given in Table 1. For each of these simulations we also tested the three
368 different methods of obtaining Ψ_S as described above.
369 - A "no drought" simulation in which any transpired water was returned to the soil. By
370 comparing this simulation with either the control or any of the new drought model
371 simulations (high, medium, low), a guide to the magnitude of the drought should be
372 apparent.
373

374 Model parameters were not calibrated to match site characteristics; instead default PFT
375 parameters were used for each site. Although CABLE has the ability to simulate full carbon,
376 nitrogen and phosphorus biogeochemical cycling, this feature was not activated for this study,
377 instead only the carbon and water cycle were simulated. For all simulations, leaf area index
378 (LAI) was prescribed using CABLE's gridded monthly LAI climatology derived from
379 Moderate-resolution Imaging Spectroradiometer (MODIS) LAI data (Knyazikhin et al. 1998;
380 1999) and the g_s scheme following Medlyn et al. (2011; see De Kauwe et al. 2015) was used
381 throughout. All model simulations were spun-up by repeating the meteorological forcing site
382 data until soil moisture and soil temperatures reached equilibrium (as we were ignoring the
383 full biogeochemical cycling in these simulations).

384

385 **2.4 Datasets used**

386 To assess the performance of the CABLE model both with and without the new drought
387 scheme, we selected a gradient of five forested Fluxnet (http://www.fluxdata.org/) sites across
388 Europe (Table 2) from those available through the Protocol for the Analysis of Land Surface
389 models (PALS; pals.unsw.edu.au; Abramowitz, 2012). These data have previously been pre-
390 processed and quality controlled for use within the LSM community. Consequently, all site-
391 years had near complete observations of key meteorological drivers (as opposed to significant
392 gap-filled periods).

393

394 Model simulations were compared to measured latent heat and flux-derived gross primary
395 productivity (GPP) at each of the FLUXNET sites. Flux-derived GPP estimates are calculated

from the measured net ecosystem exchange (NEE) of carbon between the atmosphere and the vegetation/soil, and the modelled ecosystem respiration (R_{eco}), where GPP is calculated as NEE + R_{eco}.

3 Results

Severity of the 2003 drought

Table 3 summarises summer differences in rainfall, air temperature, GPP and LE between 2002 and 2003 across the five sites covering the latitudinal gradient from mesic to xeric sites across Europe. Whilst the impact of the 2003 heatwave varied between sites, every site was warmer and drier in 2003. Similarly, GPP was lower at every site except Espirra, and LE was lower at three of the sites (Hesse, Roccarespampani and Castelporziano) in 2003 than in 2002.

Simulated fluxes during drought from the standard model

Figure 1 shows a site-scale comparison between standard CABLE (CTRL) transpiration (E), flux derived GPP, and the observed LE at the five sites. Table 4 and 5 shows a series of summary statistics (Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE), Nash-Sutcliffe efficiency (NSE), Pearsons's correlation coefficient (r) between modelled and observed GPP and LE. An indication of the severity of the drought can be obtained by comparing the difference between the "No drought" and the CTRL simulation.

For the two more mesic sites (Tharandt and Hesse), the CTRL simulation generally matched the trajectory of the observed LE, but displayed systematic periods of over-estimation (i.e. under-estimated the drought effect). By contrast, in the three more xeric sites (Roccarespampani, Castelporziano and Espirra), the reverse was true: the CTRL simulations descended into drought stress much more quickly than the observed fluxes. This rapid drought progression was particularly evident around day of year 155 at the Roccarespampani site. Across all sites, agreement with observed LE fluxes was generally poor (RMSE = 21.25 W m^{-2} to 38 W m^{-2}; NSE = –8.95 to 0.15). This outcome is partly a result of the high soil evaporation around mid-spring, which results in CABLE simulating very large LE fluxes during this period.

At Tharandt, Hesse and Roccarespampani, simulated GPP systematically underestimated the flux-derived peak GPP, particularly evident before day of year 180. Transitioning to the more xeric sites (Roccarespampani, Castelporziano and Espirra), simulated GPP was apparently too

sensitive to water stress, contributing to a poor agreement with flux-derived data (RMSE = 2.22 g C m^{-2} to 3.03 g C m^{-2}; NSE = –2.67 to 0.42).

Theoretical behaviour of new drought scheme

We now consider the implementation of the new drought model and the three sensitivity parameterisations. Figure 2a shows how leaf-level photosynthesis is predicted to decline (using Eqs. 3 and 4) in the new drought model with increasing water stress (more negative Ψ_S). The different sensitivities to drought are clearly visible, with the three parameterisations representing a spectrum of behaviour ranging from high to low drought sensitivity. Figures 2b and c show how the new drought model compares to the standard CABLE (CTRL; using Eq. 2) model on a sandy and clay soil type. The CTRL model is seen to most closely match the high sensitivity simulation on a sandy soil, but it predicts an earlier descent into drought stress. By contrast on the clay soil, the new medium and high sensitivity simulations encompass the predictions from the CTRL model. The new drought model and parameterisations afford a more flexible sensitivity to the down-regulation of photosynthesis with drought, which is particularly evident in the low sensitivity simulation.

Impact of new drought scheme on modelled LE

Figures 3–7 show the same site comparisons as Fig. 1, but with the addition of the new drought model and the three different ways (M1-3) in which Ψ_S can be averaged over the soil profile. Across all sites it is clear that using M1, the new drought model behaves in much the same way as the CTRL simulation. The explanation is that weighting Ψ_S by the fraction of roots in each layer, results in water being principally extracted from the top three shallow layers (Supplementary figures S1–S5). Consequently, small changes in θ result in a rapid decline in Ψ_S (owing to the non-linear relationship between θ and Ψ_S, Fig. 1), which causes an unrealistically abrupt shutdown of transpiration. M2 showed a greater separation between the three sensitivity parameterisations than method one. The greater separation is most evident at the xeric sites; the model performs particularly well at Espirra (LE RMSE < 16 W m^{-2} vs. CTRL RMSE = 35.31 W m^{-2}) and to a lesser extent at Castelporziano (LE low sensitivity RMSE = 19.72 W m^{-2} vs. CTRL RMSE = 31.76 W m^{-2}) (Table 4). Nevertheless, at the two mesic sites, the model completely underestimates the size of the drought, as a result of

using a large soil water bucket (1.7 m) to calculate Ψ_S. M3 in combination with the new drought model generally performed the best across all the sites, as it allows CABLE to simulate a more gradual reduction of fluxes during drought. At Roccarespampani a medium drought sensitivity performed best at reproducing the observed LE (CTRL RMSE = 38.0 W m^{-2} vs. 18.27 W m^{-2}), whilst at Espirra (CTRL RMSE = 35.31 W m^{-2} vs. 15.40 W m^{-2}) the low sensitivity performed best (Table 4). At Castelporziano, both low (CTRL RMSE = 31.76 W m^{-2} vs. 20.41 W m^{-2}) and medium sensitivity (LE RMSE = 20.47 W m^{-2}) performed well (Table 4). In contrast, at the two mesic sites, a high drought sensitivity performed best, although at both Hesse (LE CTRL RMSE = 21.25 W m^{-2} vs. 25.90 W m^{-2}) and Tharandt (LE CTRL RMSE = 28.5 W m^{-2} vs. 28.82 W m^{-2}), the new drought model performed marginally worse than the CTRL (Table 4).

Impact of new drought scheme on modelled GPP

At the more xeric sites, there were noticeable improvements in simulated GPP during the drought period (Figures 3–7). Similar to the LE result, across all sites M3 worked best (Table 5): using a medium drought sensitivity at both Roccarespampani (CTRL RMSE = 2.49 g C m^{-2} d^{-1} vs. 1.73 g C m^{-2} d^{-1}) and Castelporziano (CTRL RMSE = 2.22 g C m^{-2} d^{-1} vs. 0.95 g C m^{-2} d^{-1}), and a low sensitivity at Espirra (CTRL RMSE = 3.03 g C m^{-2} d^{-1} vs. 1.43 g C m^{-2} d^{-1}). At the mesic end of the gradient, a medium sensitivity at Hesse (CTRL RMSE = 2.85 g C m^{-2} d^{-1} vs. 2.71 g C m^{-2} d^{-1}) and a medium or high sensitivity at Tharandt worked best; although using either sensitivity performed slightly worse than the CTRL (CTRL RMSE = 2.06 g C m^{-2} d^{-1} vs. >= 2.23 g C m^{-2} d^{-1}) (Table 5).

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4 Discussion

Experimental data suggest that plants exhibit a continuum of drought sensitivities, with species originating in more mesic environments showing higher sensitivity than species from more xeric environments (Bahari et al. 1985; Reich and Hinckley, 1989; Ni and Pallardy, 1991; Zhou et al. 2014). We investigated whether variable drought sensitivity improves the ability of the CABLE LSM to reproduce observed drought impacts across a latitudinal gradient. We found that, at the mesic sites, a high drought sensitivity was required; moving southwards towards more xeric sites, the sensitivity parameterisation transitioned to a medium and finally to a low drought sensitivity. Whilst this characterisation of the transition of drought sensitivities was largely consistent for both water and carbon fluxes, it is notable for the two most mesic sites, a medium rather than a high drought sensitivity performed best for carbon fluxes. There are a number of possible explanations; however, as the relationships tested are not site-specific it is hard to be conclusive as to the exact cause. Nevertheless, it does suggest that the parameterisation of the high drought sensitivity may be too sensitive at mesic sites, which will need further investigation. This work demonstrates the importance of understanding how plant traits vary with climate across the landscape. However, our analysis also highlighted the importance of identifying which soil layers matter most to the plant: our results depended strongly on how we weighted soil moisture availability through the profile.

Weighting soil moisture availability

Commonly, empirical dependences of gas exchange on soil moisture content or potential (Eqns 3, 4) are estimated from pot experiments (e.g. Zhou et al. 2013; 2014), in which it is fair to assume that the soil moisture content is relatively uniform and fully explored by roots. In contrast, soil moisture content and rooting depth in the field typically have strong vertical profiles. Thus, to implement such equations in a land surface model requires that we specify how to weight the soil layers to obtain a representative value of whole-profile θ or Ψ_S. In this study we tested three potential implementations. Our first approach was to weight each layer by root biomass. Evidence suggests that plants preferentially access regions in the root zone where water is most freely available (Green and Clotheir 1995; Huang et al. 1997). Hence, many models follow this approach: for example, the original version of CABLE weighted soil moisture content by root biomass (Eqn 2) while the Community Land Model (CLM)

estimates a water stress factor based on a root-weighted Ψ_S, using a PFT-defined minimum and maximum water potential (Oleson et al. 2013). However, we found that this approach performed poorly. We observed an 'on-off' behaviour in response to drought, which occurs because the behaviour of the model is driven by the top soil layers, whose total soil moisture content is relatively small and root biomass is relatively high, and can be depleted rapidly, leading to a sudden onset of severe drought. Many other LSMs show this abrupt effect of drought (Egea et al., 2011; Powell et al., 2013). Powell et al. (2013) found that four models (CLM version 3.5, Integrated BIosphere Simulator version 2.6.4 (IBIS), Joint UK Land Environment Simulator version 2.1 (JULES), and Simple Biosphere model version 3 (SiB3)) implement abrupt transitions of this kind. We also found that with this weighting of soil layers, there was little effect of variable drought sensitivity: the depletion of soil moisture content of the top layers is so rapid that there is little difference between low and high sensitivities to drought. Such an outcome suggests that there is little adaptive significance of drought sensitivity, which seems unlikely. A further implication of using a root-weighted function to calculate Ψ_S is that two distinctly different scenarios, a soil that has been very wet but experienced a short dry period, allowing the topsoil to dry, and a soil that has had a prolonged period of drought but experienced a recent rainfall event, would have similar impacts on gas exchange. Again, this outcome seems unlikely.

We tested a second implementation in which soil moisture potential was calculated from the moisture content of the entire rooting zone (top five soil layers = 1.7 m). Such an approach is commonly used in forest productivity models (e.g. Landsberg and Waring, 1997). However, this approach severely underestimates drought impacts because the moisture content of the total soil profile is so large, meaning that it is rarely depleted enough to impact on gas exchange.

In reality, plant water uptake shifts lower in the profile as soil dries out (e.g. Duursma et al. 2011). Thus, in our third implementation, we tested an approach in which the weighting of soil layers moves downwards as drought progresses. This approach is effectively similar to that used by the soil–plant–atmosphere (SPA) model (Williams et al. 1996; 2001), in which soil layers are weighted by their soil-to-root conductance, which declines as the moisture

content declines. Of the three approaches we tested, this method performed best, allowing CABLE to replicate the observations across the latitudinal mesic to xeric gradient. This dynamic weighting of Ψ_S may partially explain previous good performance by SPA in other model inter-comparisons focussed on drought (e.g. Powell et al. 2013). Recently, Bonan et al. (2014) tested the suitability of using a model that considers optimal stomatal behaviour and plant hydraulics (SPA; Williams et al. 1996) for earth system modelling, and demonstrated marked improvement over the standard model during periods of drought stress. We thus suggest that models using a soil moisture stress function to simulate drought effects on gas exchange should consider a dynamic approach to weighting the contribution of different soil layers.

We note that this issue is related to another long-standing problem for LSMs: that of determining the vertical distribution of root water uptake (e.g. Feddes et al., 2001; Federer et al., 2003; Kleidon and Heimann, 1998, 2000). In the standard version of CABLE, water uptake from each soil layer initially depends on the fraction of root biomass in each layer, but moves downwards during drought as the upper layers are depleted. It is possible that changes to the weighting of soil moisture in determining drought sensitivity should also be accompanied by changes to the distribution of root water uptake, but we did not explore this option here. Li et al. (2012) previously tested an alternative dynamic root water uptake function (Lai and Katul, 2000) in CABLE, but found little improvement in predicted LE during seasonal droughts without also considering a mechanism for hydraulic redistribution. Further work should evaluate models not only against LE fluxes, but also against measurements of soil moisture profiles. Many experimental sites now routinely install multiple soil moisture sensors (e.g. direct gravimetric sampling, neutron probes, time domain reflectometry), which provide accurate insight into root water extraction and hydraulic redistribution, even down to considerable depths (>4 m). These data have thus far been underutilised for model improvement, but should be a priority for reducing the uncertainty in soil moisture dynamics.

Incorporating different sensitivities to drought

593 Using the third and best method to calculate overall Ψ_s, we found that varying drought
594 sensitivity across sites enabled the model to better capture drought effects across the
595 mesic/xeric gradient, with a high drought sensitivity implied in mesic sites and a low drought
596 sensitivity implied in xeric sites. These results should not be surprising, given the increasing
597 amount of experimental evidence suggesting that drought sensitivity varies among species
598 and across climates (e.g. Engelbrecht and Kursar, 2003; Engelbrecht et al. 2007; Skelton et al.
599 2015). In contrast to these data, most LSMs assume a single parameterisation for drought
600 sensitivity, which is typically based on mesic vegetation. Our results suggest that such a
601 parameterisation is very likely to overstate the impacts of drought on both carbon and water
602 fluxes in drier regions.
603
604 Our work thus underlines a need to move beyond models that implement drought sensitivity
605 through a single PFT parameterisation. Although we only compared vegetation at five sites, it
606 has been widely shown that species originating from different hydroclimates vary in their
607 drought sensitivities (Choat et al. 2012; Limousin et al. 2013; Zhou et al. 2014; Mitchell et al.,
608 2014; Mencuccini et al. 2015) and our results indicate that these differing sensitivities at the
609 plant level are also important at the ecosystem scale. It is, of course, challenging to implement
610 such a continuum of sensitivities in a global vegetation model. In this study, we used a simple
611 site-specific approach in which we selected three sets of model parameters from a meta-
612 analysis by Zhou et al. (2013; 2014), allowing us to characterise a range of plant responses to
613 drought. The approach we tested in this paper could not be directly implemented in global
614 vegetation models: these models would require a more sophisticated approach that relates
615 drought sensitivity to the climate of each pixel. One potential solution would be to develop an
616 empirical correlation between drought sensitivity and a long-term moisture index (e.g. the
617 ratio of mean precipitation to the equilibrium evapotranspiration; Cramer and Prentice, 1988;
618 Gallego-Sala et al. 2010). Previous studies have demonstrated the feasibility of linking model
619 parameters that determine plant water use strategy to such a moisture index in global
620 simulations (Wang et al. 2014; De Kauwe et al. 2015). Such an approach would requires a
621 concerted effort to collate appropriate data, as there are few compilations to date of traits
622 related to drought sensitivity (but see Manzoni et al. 2011; Zhou et al. 2013). Another, more
623 challenging, alternative, would be to develop optimization hypotheses that can predict
624 vegetation drought sensitivity from climate (e.g. Manzoni et al. 2014).

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631 *Further model uncertainties*

632 Whilst this work advances the ability of LSMs to simulate drought, it does not address all
633 processes needed to correctly capture drought impacts. Other issues to consider include: (i)
634 rooting depth; (ii) leaf shedding; (iii) soil evaporation; and (iv) soil heterogeneity, among
635 others.

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637 Here we have assumed that all sites had the soil depth (4.6 m), with rooting depth distributed
638 exponential through the profile, as is commonly used in LSMs. However, this assumption
639 may be incorrect. Access to water by deep roots could be a potential alternative explanation
640 for the low drought sensitivity that we inferred at the southernmost (xeric) site, Espirra. Here
641 the dominant species is not native to the region, but rather a plantation of blue gum
642 (*Eucalyptus globulus*), a species that is generally found to have high, not low, drought
643 sensitivity (White 1996; Mitchell et al. 2014). Many eucalypts have a deep rooting strategy
644 (Fabiao et al. 1987), suggesting a possible alternative explanation for drought tolerance at this
645 site. More in-depth study of fluxes and soil moisture patterns at this site would be needed to
646 determine the role of rooting depth.

647

648 During droughts, plants are often observed to shed their leaves. This is a self-regulatory
649 mechanism to reduce water losses (Tyree et al. 1993; Jonasson et al. 1997; Bréda et al. 2006).
650 During the 2003 heatwave at Hesse, an early reduction of approximately 1.7 m^2 m^{-2} was
651 observed. Similarly, at Brasschaat there was a observed reduction of 0.8 m^2 m^{-2} and at
652 Tharandt needle-litter was increased during September until November, with LAI estimated to
653 be 0.9 m^2 m^{-2} lower (Bréda et al. 2006; Granier et al. 2007). In contrast, models typically fix
654 turnover rates for leaves and as such this feedback is largely absent from models. During
655 periods of water stress, models do simulate an indirect reduction in LAI via down-regulated
656 net primary productivity, but this feedback is much slower than is commonly observed. Not
657 accounting for this canopy-scale feedback will result in models over-estimating carbon and
658 water fluxes and thus losses in θ during drought.

659

660 Existing models also disagree as to the mechanism by which to down-regulate productivity
661 during periods of water stress (De Kauwe et al. 2013). In the standard version of CABLE,
662 only the slope of the relationship between g_s and A is reduced by water stress. The SPA model
663 behaves similarly. In contrast, JULES (Clark et al. 2011) and the Sheffield Dynamic Global
664 Vegetation Model (SDGVM; Woodward and Lomas, 2004), down-regulate the
665 photosynthetic capacity via the biochemical parameters V_{cmax} and J_{max} (maximum electron
666 transport rate). Here, we assumed that water stress affects both the slope of g_s-A and the
667 biochemical parameters V_{cmax} and J_{max}, supported by results from Zhou et al. (2013, 2014).
668 We did not evaluate this assumption against the eddy flux data. However, previous studies
669 have also suggested that both effects are needed to explain responses of fluxes during drought
670 (Keenan et al. 2010).

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672 Finally, although models do have the capacity to simulate vertical variations in θ, they do not
673 always represent horizontal sub-grid scale variability. This assumption is likely to contribute
674 to the abruptness of modelled transitions from well-watered to completely down-regulated
675 carbon and water fluxes. Earlier work by Entekhabi and Eagleson (1989), and models such as
676 the variable infiltration capacity (VIC) model (Liang et al. 1994), and most recently Decker
677 2015 (submitted) have attempted to address this issue by employing statistical distributions to
678 approximate horizontal spatial heterogeneity in soil moisture (see also Crow and Wood,
679 2002). These parsimonious approaches typically require few parameters, making them
680 attractive in the LSM context and potentially suitable for modelling ecosystem and
681 hydrological responses to drought (Luo et al. 2013).

682

683 *Testing models against extreme events*

684 In conclusion, we have used a model evaluation against flux measurements during a large-
685 scale heatwave event to make significant progress in modelling of drought impacts. While
686 model evaluation against data is now commonplace (Prentice et al. 2015) and has recently
687 been extended to formal benchmarking, particularly in the land surface community
688 (Abramowitz, 2005; Best et al. 2015), many of these benchmarking indicators are based on
689 seasonal or annual outputs and thus miss the opportunity to examine model performance
690 during extreme events. Model projections under future climate change require good

691 mechanistic representations of the impacts of extreme events. However, responses to extreme
692 events are rarely evaluated and there is therefore an urgent need to orient model testing to
693 periods of extremes. To that end, precipitation manipulation experiments (e.g. Nepstad et al.
694 2002; Hanson et al. 2003; Pangle et al. 2012) represent a good example of a currently under-
695 exploited avenue (but see Fisher et al. 2007; Powell et al. 2013) that could be used for model
696 evaluation and/or benchmarking (Smith et al. 2014). However, we urge that these exercises do
697 not focus solely on overall model performance, but also test the realism of individual model
698 assumptions (Medlyn et al. 2015).
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Figure Captions

Figure 1: A comparison of the observed (OBS) and modelled (CTRL) Latent Heat (LE) and transpiration (E) at five Fluxnet sites during 2003. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation.

Figure 2: Modelled impact of drought on the assimilation rate (A), shown as (a) a function of volumetric soil moisture content (θ) and (b) soil water potential (Ψ_S) for a sand and clay soil.

Figure 3: A comparison of the observed (OBS) and modelled latent Heat (LE), transpiration (E) and gross primary productivity (GPP) at the Tharandt site during 2003. Simulations show the control (CTRL) and the three parameterisations that represent a spectrum of behaviour ranging from a high to low drought sensitivity, and the tested methods to obtain a weighted estimate of soil water potential (Ψ_S) across CABLE's soil layers (M1-M3). M1 uses a root-biomass weighted soil water content converted to Ψ_S, M2 calculates Ψ_S by integrated soil water content over the top 1.7m of the soil, and M3 is calculated using a dynamic weight across soil layers. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation and the grey bars show daily rainfall.

Figure 4: A comparison of the observed (OBS) and modelled latent Heat (LE), transpiration (E) and gross primary productivity (GPP) at the Hesse site during 2003. Simulations show the control (CTRL) and the three parameterisations that represent a spectrum of behaviour ranging from a high to low drought sensitivity, and the tested methods to obtain a weighted estimate of soil water potential (Ψ_S) across CABLE's soil layers (M1-M3). M1 uses a root-biomass weighted soil water content converted to Ψ_S, M2 calculates Ψ_S by integrated soil water content over the top 1.7m of the soil, and M3 is calculated using a dynamic weight across soil layers. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation and the grey bars show daily rainfall.

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Figure 5: A comparison of the observed (OBS) and modelled latent Heat (LE), transpiration (E) and gross primary productivity (GPP) at the Roccarespampani site during 2003. Simulations show the control (CTRL) and the three parameterisations that represent a spectrum of behaviour ranging from a high to low drought sensitivity, and the tested methods to obtain a weighted estimate of soil water potential (Ψ_S) across CABLE's soil layers (M1-M3). M1 uses a root-biomass weighted soil water content converted to Ψ_S, M2 calculates Ψ_S by integrated soil water content over the top 1.7m of the soil, and M3 is calculated using a dynamic weight across soil layers. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation and the grey bars show daily rainfall.

Figure 6: A comparison of the observed (OBS) and modelled latent Heat (LE), transpiration (E) and gross primary productivity (GPP) at the Castelporziano site during 2003. Simulations show the control (CTRL) and the three parameterisations that represent a spectrum of behaviour ranging from a high to low drought sensitivity, and the tested methods to obtain a weighted estimate of soil water potential (Ψ_S) across CABLE's soil layers (M1-M3). M1 uses a root-biomass weighted soil water content converted to Ψ_S, M2 calculates Ψ_S by integrated soil water content over the top 1.7m of the soil, and M3 is calculated using a dynamic weight across soil layers. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation and the grey bars show daily rainfall.

Figure 7: A comparison of the observed (OBS) and modelled latent Heat (LE), transpiration (E) and gross primary productivity (GPP) at the Espirra site during 2003. Simulations show the control (CTRL) and the three parameterisations that represent a spectrum of behaviour ranging from a high to low drought sensitivity, and the tested methods to obtain a weighted estimate of soil water potential (Ψ_S) across CABLE's soil layers (M1-M3). M1 uses a root-biomass weighted soil water content converted to Ψ_S, M2 calculates Ψ_S by integrated soil water content over the top 1.7m of the soil, and M3 is calculated using a dynamic weight across soil layers. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation and the grey bars show daily rainfall.

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Deleted: A comparison of the observed (OBS) and modelled latent Heat (LE) and transpiration (E) at the Castelporziano Fluxnet site during 2003. Simulations show the control (CTRL) and the three drought sensitivities to drought (high, medium, low) based on Zhou et al. (2013; 2014) and three different methods to calculate soil water potential (Ψ_S). The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation.

Martin De Kauwe 5/12/2015 10:03 AM
Deleted: A comparison of the observed (OBS) and modelled latent Heat (LE) and transpiration (E) at the Espirra site during 2003. Simulations show the control (CTRL) and the three drought sensitivities to drought (high, medium, low) based on Zhou et al. (2013; 2014) and three different methods to calculate soil water potential (Ψ_S). The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation.

Supplementary Figure 1: Simulated soil water content of each of CABLE's six layers for the control (CTRL), and three drought sensitivities (high, medium, low) based on Zhou et al. (2013; 2014) at the Tharandt site. The grey shading highlights the heatwave period between the 1st of June and the 31st of August. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation.

Supplementary Figure 2: Simulated soil water content of each of CABLE's six layers for the control (CTRL), and three drought sensitivities (high, medium, low) based on Zhou et al. (2013; 2014) at the Hesse site. The grey shading highlights the heatwave period between the 1st of June and the 31st of August. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation.

Supplementary Figure 3: Simulated soil water content of each of CABLE's six layers for the control (CTRL), and three drought sensitivities (high, medium, low) based on Zhou et al. (2013; 2014) at the Roccarespampani site. The grey shading highlights the heatwave period between the 1st of June and the 31st of August. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation.

Supplementary Figure 4: Simulated soil water content of each of CABLE's six layers for the control (CTRL), and three drought sensitivities (high, medium, low) based on Zhou et al. (2013; 2014) at the Castelporziano site. The grey shading highlights the heatwave period between the 1st of June and the 31st of August. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving window to aid visualisation.

Supplementary Figure 5: Simulated soil water content of each of CABLE's six layers for the control (CTRL), and three drought sensitivities (high, medium, low) based on Zhou et al. (2013; 2014) at the Espirra site. The grey shading highlights the heatwave period between the 1st of June and the 31st of August. The data have been smoothed with a 5-day moving

window to aid visualisation.

Table 1. Baseline parameter values used to represent the three sensitivities: "high" (*Quercus robur*), "medium" (*Quercus ilex*) and "low" (*Cedrus atlantica*) to drought stress. Paramater values are taken from Zhou et al. (2013; 2014).

Sensitivity	b	S_f	Ψ_f
High	1.55	6.0	–0.53
Medium	0.82	1.9	–1.85
Low	0.46	5.28	–2.31

Table 2: Summary of flux tower sites.

Site	PFT	Dominant species	Latitude	Longitude	Country	Sand/Silt/Clay Fraction
Tharandt	ENF	*Picea abies*	50°58' N	13°34' E	Germany	0.37/0.33/0.3
Hesse	DBF	*Fagus sylvatica*	48°40' N	7°05' E	France	0.37/0.33/0.3
Roccarespampani	DBF	*Quercus cerris*	42°24' N	11°55' E	Italy	0.6/0.2/0.2
Castelporziano	EBF	*Quercus ilex*	41°42' N	12°22' E	Italy	0.6/0.2/0.2
Espirra	EBF	*Eucalyptus globulus*	38°38' N	8°36' W	Portugal	0.37/0.33/0.3

1396 Table 3: Mean change in climate and fluxes between 2002 and 2003 covering the period
1397 between June and September.

Site	Precipitation (mm month^{-1})	Air temperature (° C)	GPP (g C m^{-2} month^{-1})	LE (W m^{-2})
Tharandt	-115.57	1.45	-38.45	0.52
Hesse	-49.20	2.98	-123.38	-11.90
Roccarespampani	-87.36	2.18	-71.94	-6.17
Castelporziano	-20.31	4.57	-49.73	-6.47
Espirra	-14.45	1.77	28.46	22.83

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Table 4: Summary statistics of modelled and observed latent heat (LE) at the five FLUXNET sites during the main drought period (1st of June – 31st August, 2003). The results of the three parameterisations, which represent a spectrum of behaviour, ranging from high to low drought sensitivity, are shown for the three tested approaches (M1-M3) to obtain a weighted estimate of soil water potential (Ψ_S) across CABLE's soil layers. M1 uses a root-biomass weighted soil water content converted to Ψ_S, M2 calculates Ψ_S by integrated soil water content over the top 1.7m of the soil, and M3 is calculated using a dynamic weighting across soil layers. Sites have been ordered to show a mesic-xeric transition between sites (Tharandt to Espirra). For each site the best performing model simulation has been highlighted in bold.

Site	Ψ_S Method	Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE; W m^{-2})				Nash-Sutcliffe efficiency (NSE)				Pearsons's correlation coefficient (r)			
		CTRL	High	Medium	Low	CTRL	High	Medium	Low	CTRL	High	Medium	Low
Tharandt	M1	21.25	24.64;	26.57	29.55	-0.70	-1.28	-1.65	-2.28	0.69	**0.73**	**0.73**	0.70
	M2		34.59	36.20	36.97		-3.50	-3.93	-4.14		0.58	0.56	0.55
	M3		**25.90**	29.39	32.26		**-1.52**	-2.25	-2.94		0.72	0.67	0.63
Hesse	M1	28.50	36.22	41.59	51.49	0.15	-0.37	-0.81	-1.77	0.68	0.66	0.74	0.79
	M2		52.60	59.87	63.46		-1.89	-2.75	-3.21		0.80	0.75	0.71
	M3		**28.82**	45.32	56.46		**0.13**	-1.15	-2.33		0.79	**0.84**	0.77
Roccarespampani	M1	38.00	48.41	40.98	34.27	-0.34	-1.17	-0.55	-0.09	0.67	0.52	0.67;	0.81
	M2		31.62	22.81	26.81		0.08	0.52	0.34		0.83	0.84;	0.79
	M3		45.12	**18.27**	29.50		-0.88	**0.69**	0.20		0.67	**0.85**	0.81
Castelporziano	M1	31.76	38.77	40.54	40.40	-8.95	-13.82	-15.21	-15.10	0.18	-0.08	0.01	0.06
	M2		31.04	27.19	**19.72**		-8.50	-6.29	**-2.84**		0.47	0.54	0.57
	M3		39.17	20.47	20.41		-14.40;	-3.13	-3.11		-0.02	0.55	**0.61**

Espirra	M1	35.31	41.52	40.97	33.87	-3.35	-5.02;	-4.86	-3.01;	0.42	0.32	0.59	0.70
	M2		15.58	**13.82**	**13.84**		0.15;	**0.33**	**0.33**;		**0.77**	**0.74**	0.73
	M3		41.01	20.41	15.40		-4.81	-0.45	0.17		0.57	0.53	0.55

Table 5: Summary statistics of modelled and flux derived gross primary productivity (GPP) at the five FLUXNET sites during the main drought period (1st of June – 31st August, 2003). The results of the three parameterisations, which represent a spectrum of behaviour, ranging from high to low drought sensitivity, are shown for the three tested approaches (M1-M3) to obtain a weighted estimate of soil water potential (Ψ_S) across CABLE's soil layers. M1 uses a root-biomass weighted soil water content converted to Ψ_S, M2 calculates Ψ_S by integrated soil water content over the top 1.7m of the soil, and M3 is calculated using a dynamic weighting across soil layers. Sites have been ordered to show a mesic-xeric transition between sites (Tharandt to Espirra). For each site the best performing model simulation has been highlighted in bold.

Site	Ψ_S Method	Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE; g C m^{-2} d^{-1})				Nash-Sutcliffe efficiency (NSE)				Pearsons's correlation coefficient (r)			
		CTRL	High	Medium	Low	CTRL	High	Medium	Low	CTRL	High	Medium	Low
Tharandt	M1	2.06	2.27	**2.07**	2.10	0.33	0.19	**0.33**	0.31	0.80	**0.71**	0.66	0.61
	M2		2.25	2.29	2.30		0.20	0.18	0.17		0.52	0.51	0.50
	M3		2.23	2.12	2.20		0.22	0.30	0.25		0.66	0.59	0.55
Hesse	M1	2.85	3.57	**2.48**	2.94	0.48	0.18	**0.60**	0.44	0.79	0.78	0.78	0.71
	M2		2.65	3.22	3.47		0.55	0.33	0.22		0.75	0.67	0.62
	M3		3.51	2.71	3.24		0.21	0.53	0.32		**0.83**	0.75	0.66
Roccarespampani	M1	2.49	3.70	2.69	2.38	0.42	-0.28	0.32	0.47	0.85	0.64	0.82	0.87
	M2		2,12	**1.47**	2.84		0.58	**0.80**	0.24		**0.92**	0.91	0.87
	M3		3.74	1.73	3.08		-0.31	0.72	0.11		0.84	0.91	0.85
Castelporziano	M1	2.22	3.46	3.64	3.76	-2.16	-6.71	-7.51	-8.08	0.55	-0.18	0.07	0.13
	M2		2.65;	1.84	1.22		-3.52	-1.17	0.04		0.63	0.63	**0.81**
	M3		3.71	**0.95**	1.46		-7.82	**0.42**	-0.37		0.05	**0.81**	0.84
Espirra	M1	3.03	4.39	4.33	3.72	-2.67	-6.72	-6.51	-4.55	0.74	0.58	0.53	0.67

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	M2	1.92	1.46	**1.34**	-0.48	0.14	**0.28**	0.80	**0.81**	**0.81**
	M3	4.70	2.01	1.43	-7.84	-0.62	0.18	0.34	0.74	0.78

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Figure 1

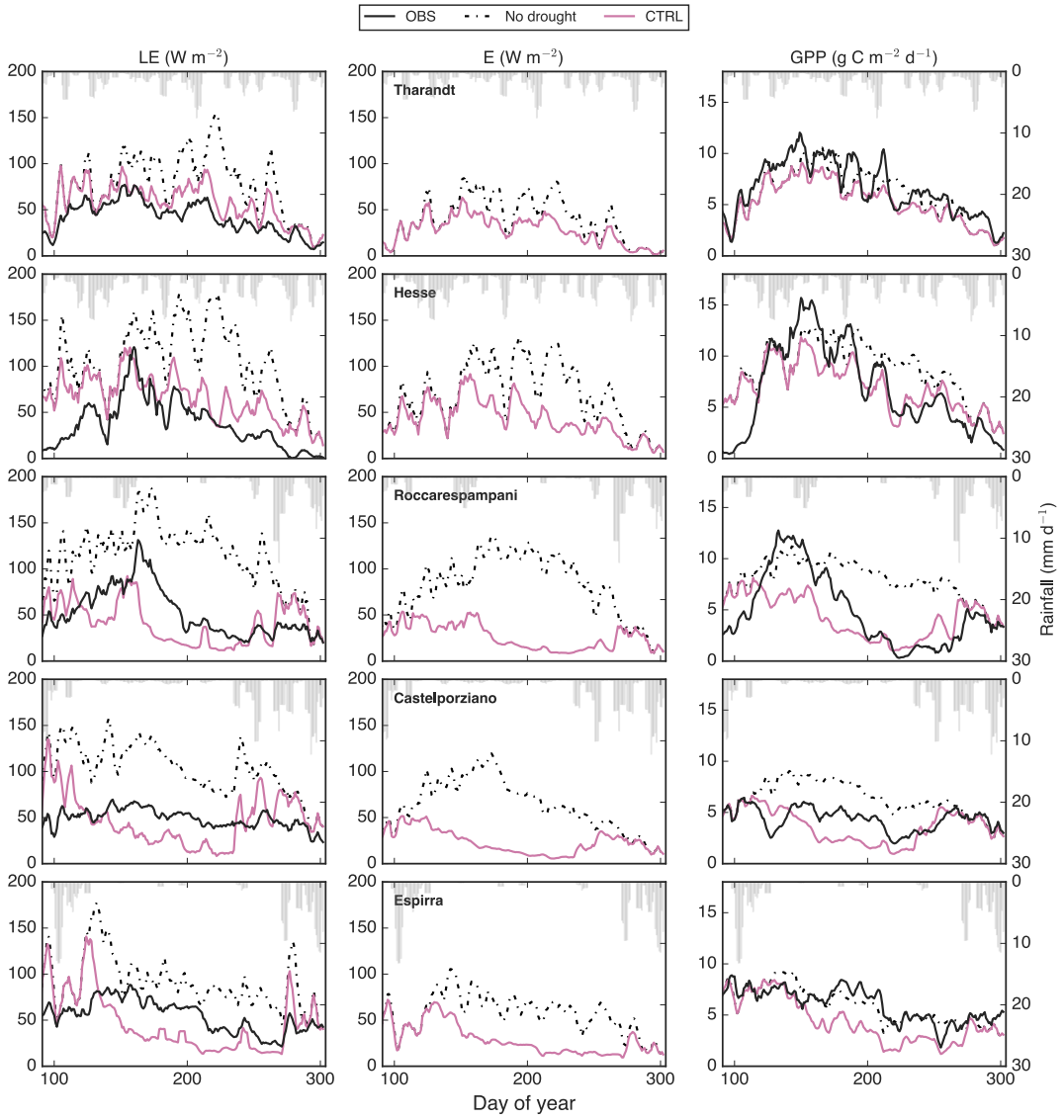

OBS
No drought
CTRL
LE (W m^{-2})
E (W m^{-2})
GPP (g C m^{-2} d^{-1})
Tharandt
Hesse
Roccarespampani
Castelporziano
Espirra
Rainfall (mm d^{-1})
Day of year

Figure 2

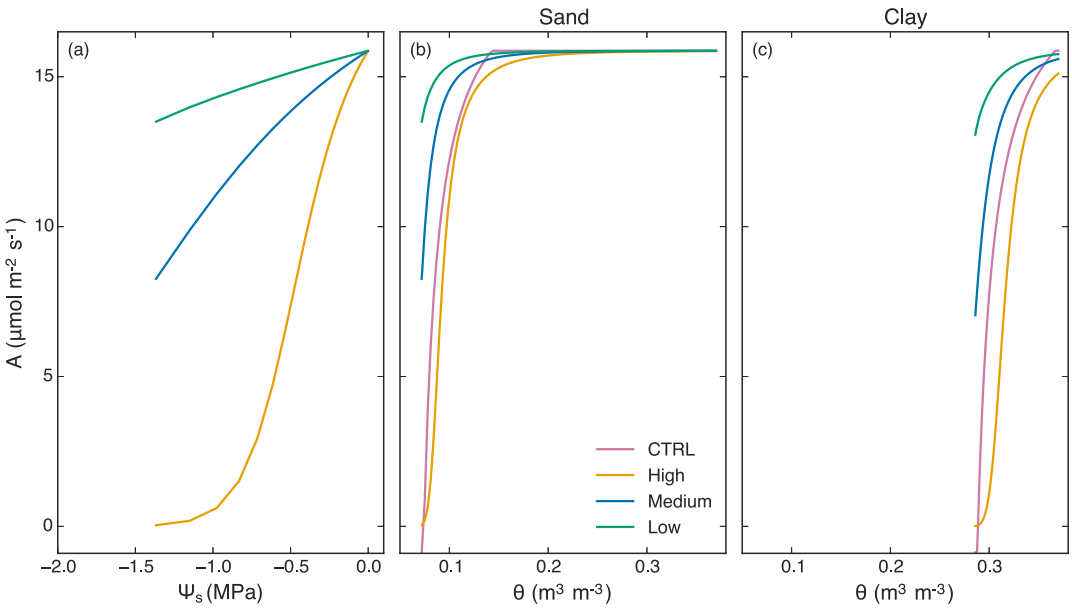

Sand
Clay
(a)
(b)
(c)
A (µmol m-2 s-1)
15
10
5
0
−2.0
−1.5
−1.0
−0.5
0.0
Ψs (MPa)
0.1
0.2
0.3
θ (m3 m-3)
CTRL
High
Medium
Low

Figure 3

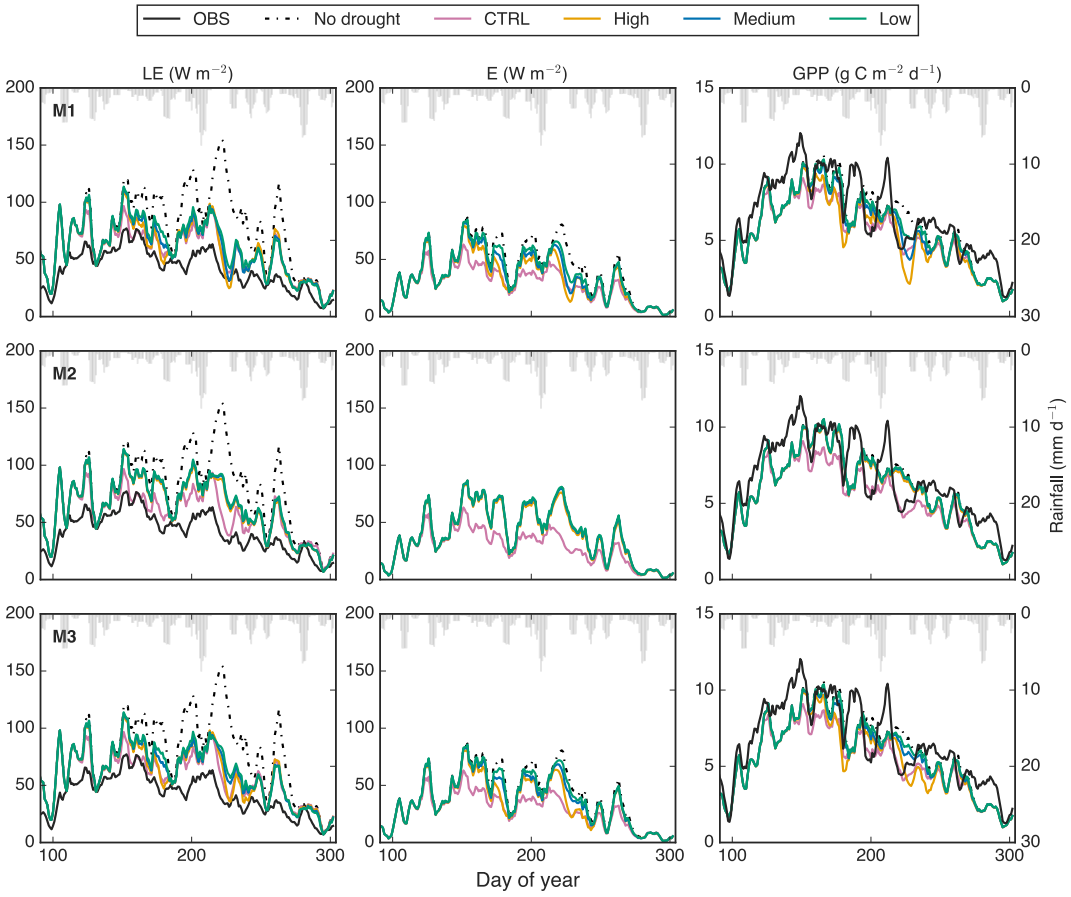

OBS
No drought
CTRL
High
Medium
Low
LE (W m^{-2})
E (W m^{-2})
GPP (g C m^{-2} d^{-1})
M1
M2
M3
Rainfall (mm d^{-1})
Day of year

Figure 4

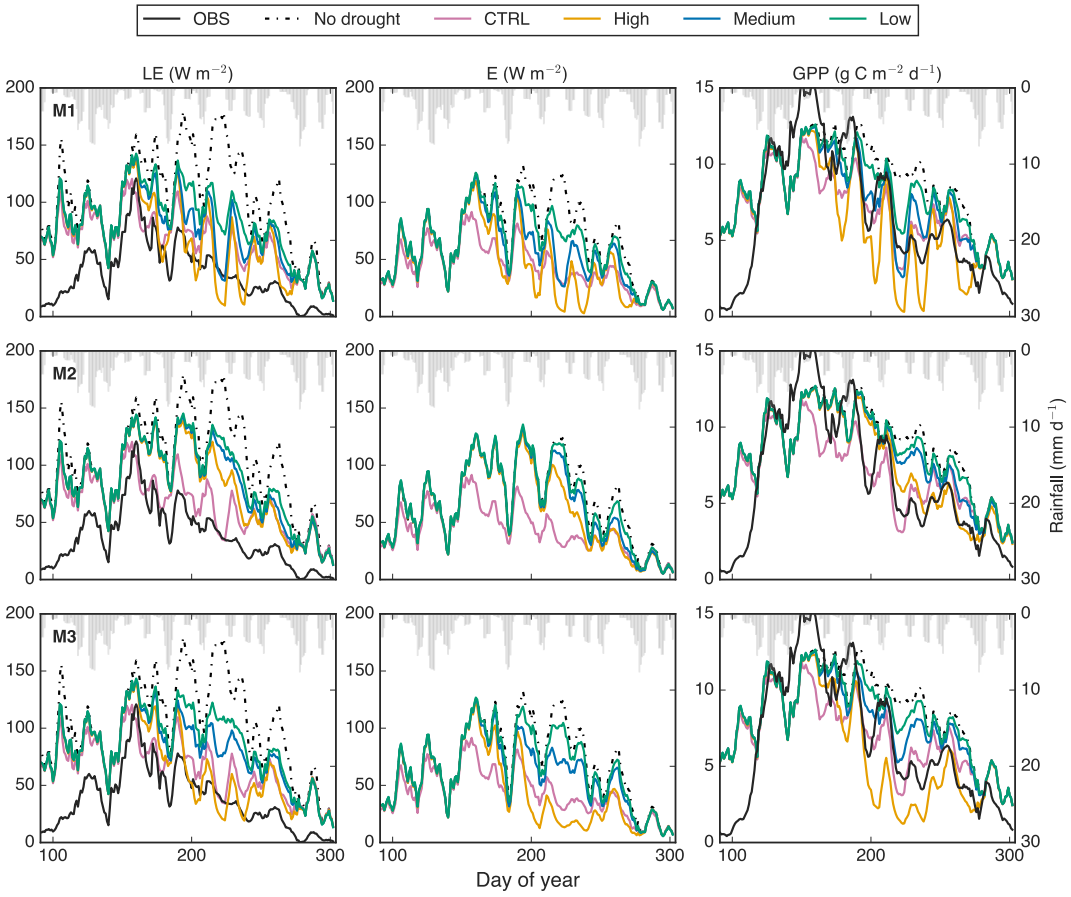

OBS
No drought
CTRL
High
Medium
Low
LE (W m^{-2})
E (W m^{-2})
GPP (g C m^{-2} d^{-1})
M1
M2
M3
Rainfall (mm d^{-1})
Day of year

Figure 5

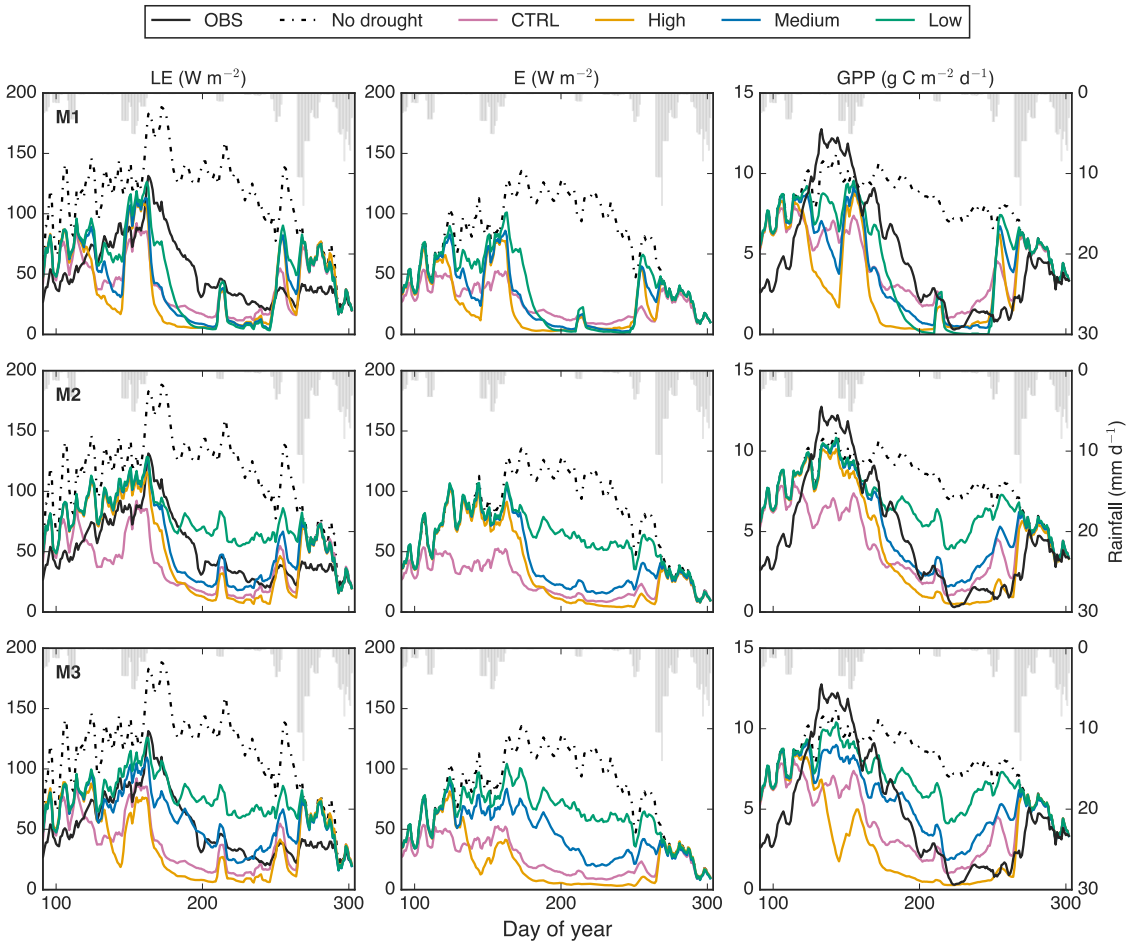

OBS
No drought
CTRL
High
Medium
Low
LE (W m^{-2})
E (W m^{-2})
GPP (g C m^{-2} d^{-1})
M1
M2
M3
Rainfall (mm d^{-1})
Day of year

Figure 6

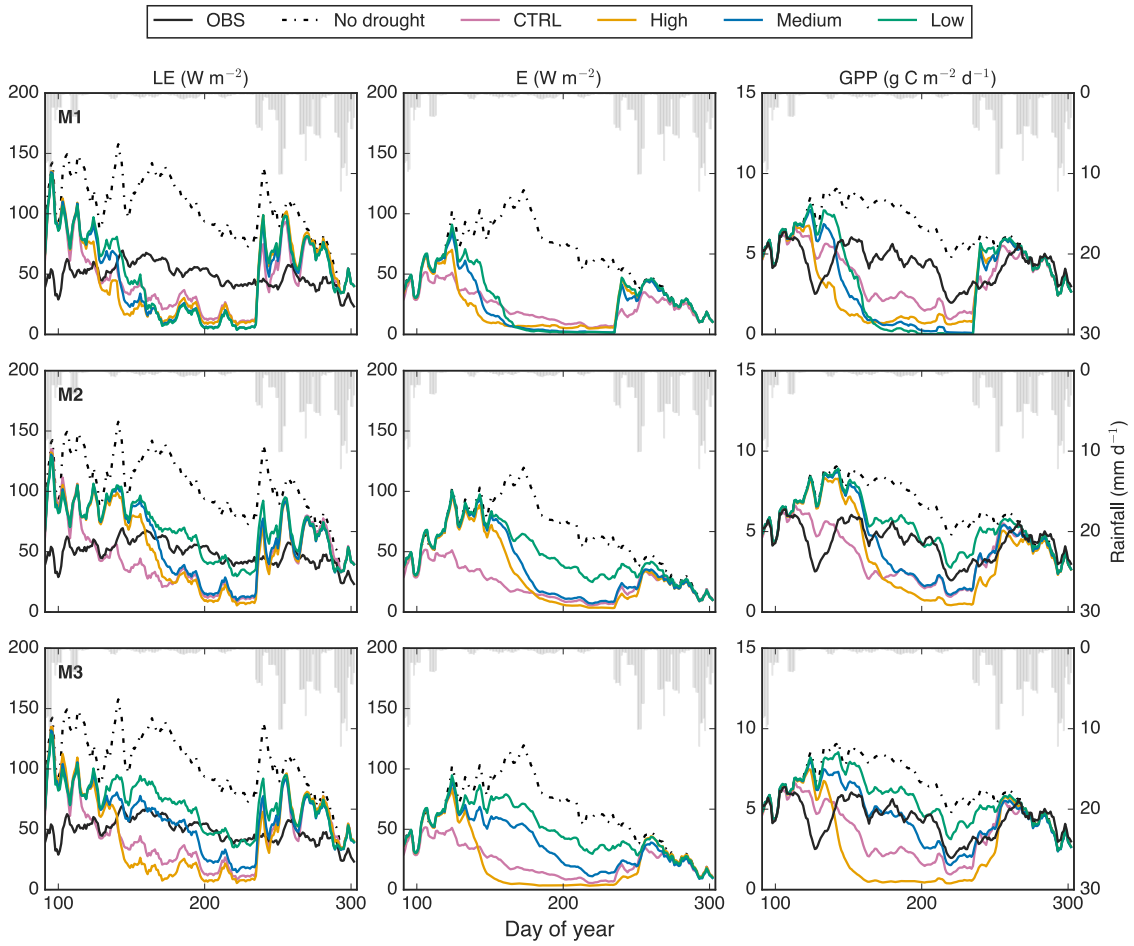

OBS
No drought
CTRL
High
Medium
Low
LE (W m^{-2})
E (W m^{-2})
GPP (g C m^{-2} d^{-1})
M1
M2
M3
Rainfall (mm d^{-1})
Day of year

Figure 7

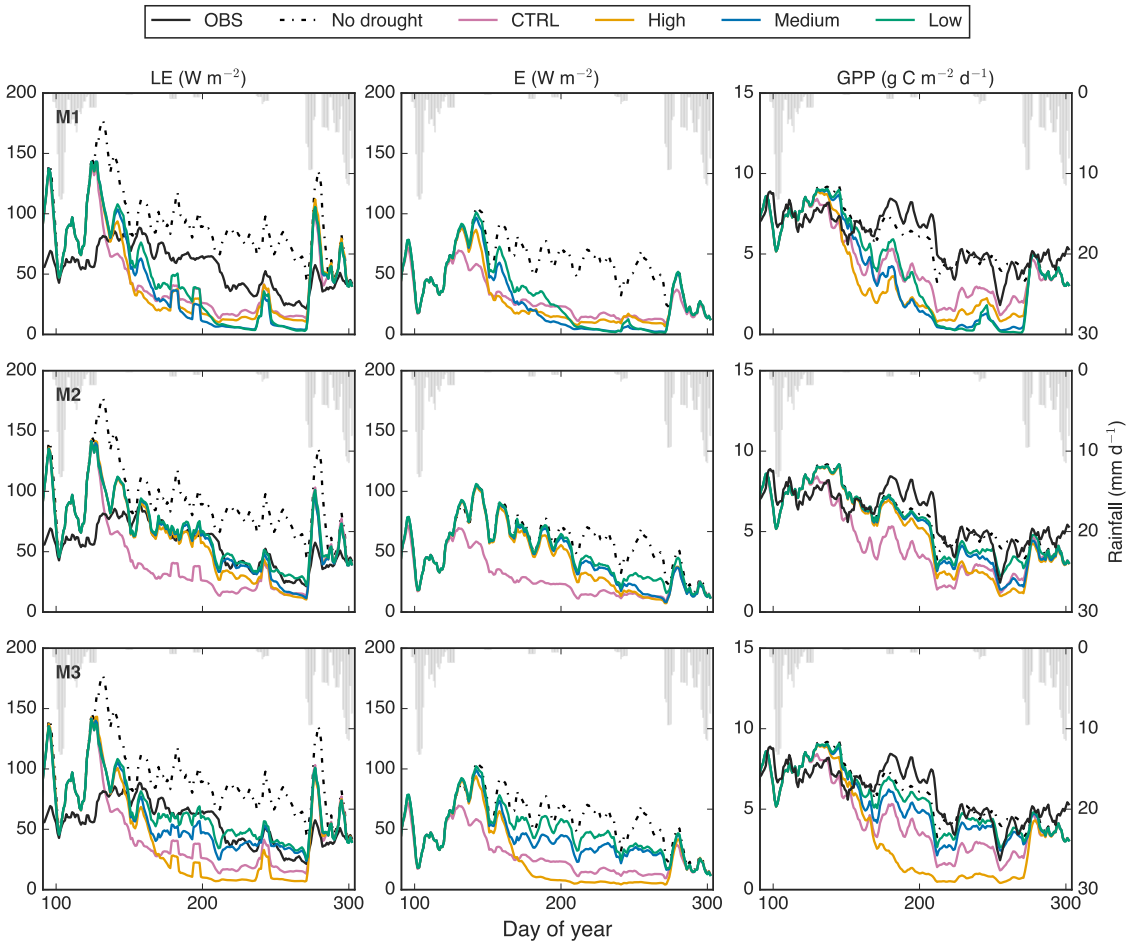

OBS
No drought
CTRL
High
Medium
Low
LE (W m^{-2})
E (W m^{-2})
GPP (g C m^{-2} d^{-1})
M1
M2
M3
Rainfall (mm d^{-1})
Day of year

Figure S1

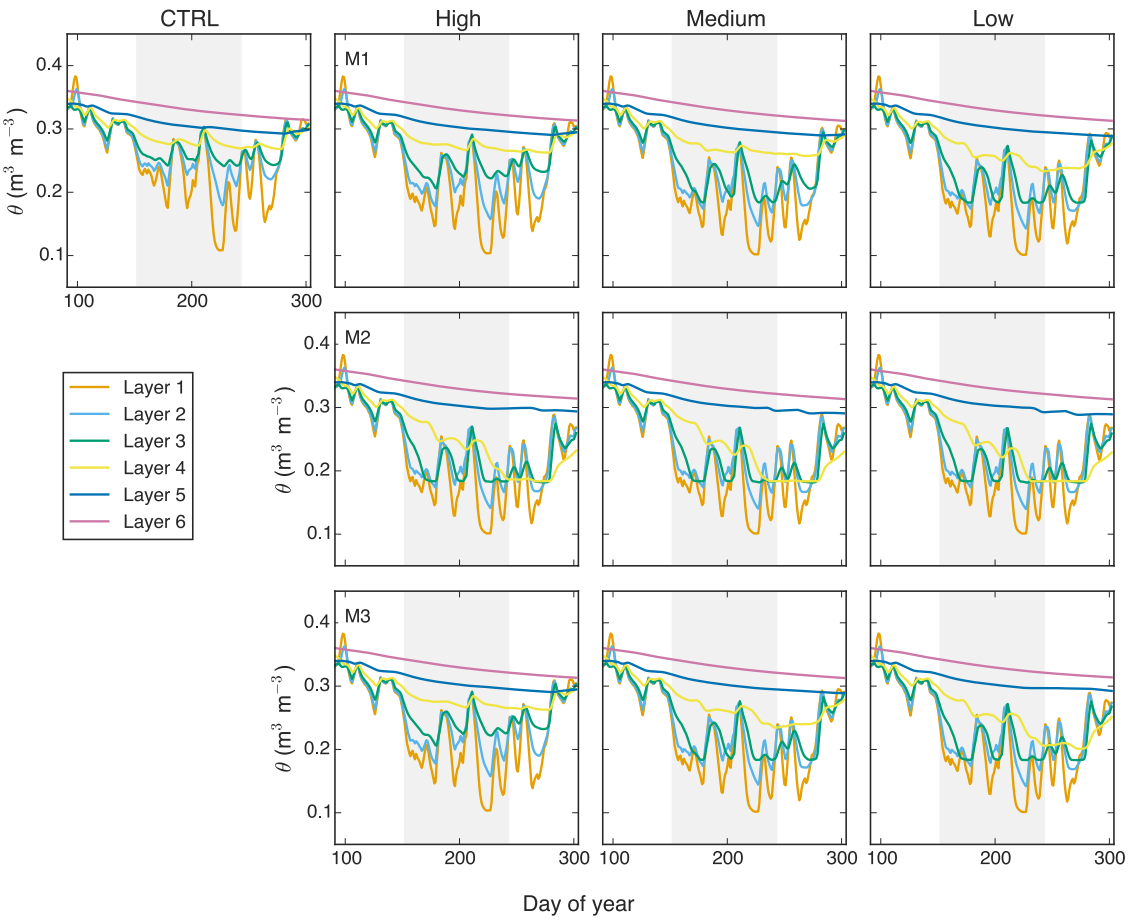

CTRL
High
Medium
Low
M1
M2
M3
θ (m³ m⁻³)
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
100
200
300
Layer 1
Layer 2
Layer 3
Layer 4
Layer 5
Layer 6
Day of year

Figure S2

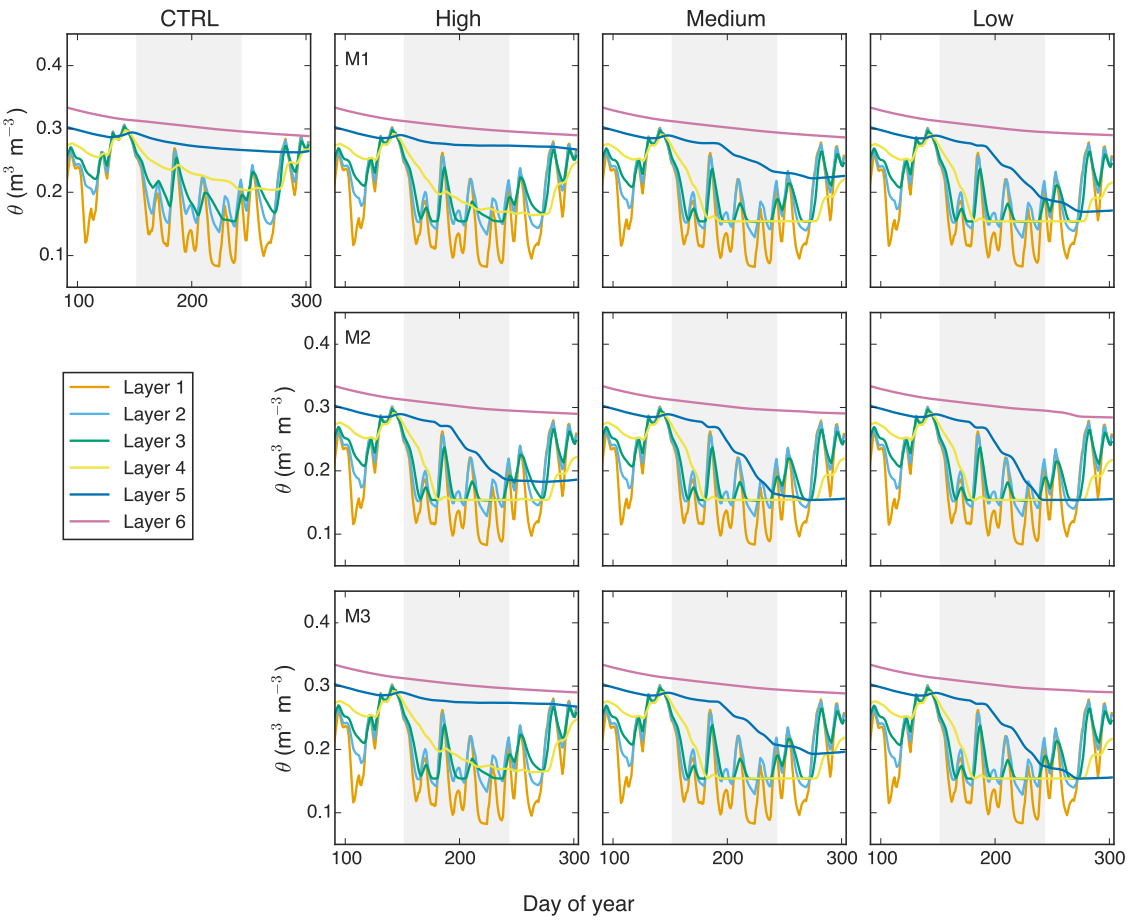

CTRL
High
Medium
Low
M1
M2
M3
θ (m³ m⁻³)
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
100
200
300
Layer 1
Layer 2
Layer 3
Layer 4
Layer 5
Layer 6
Day of year

Figure S3

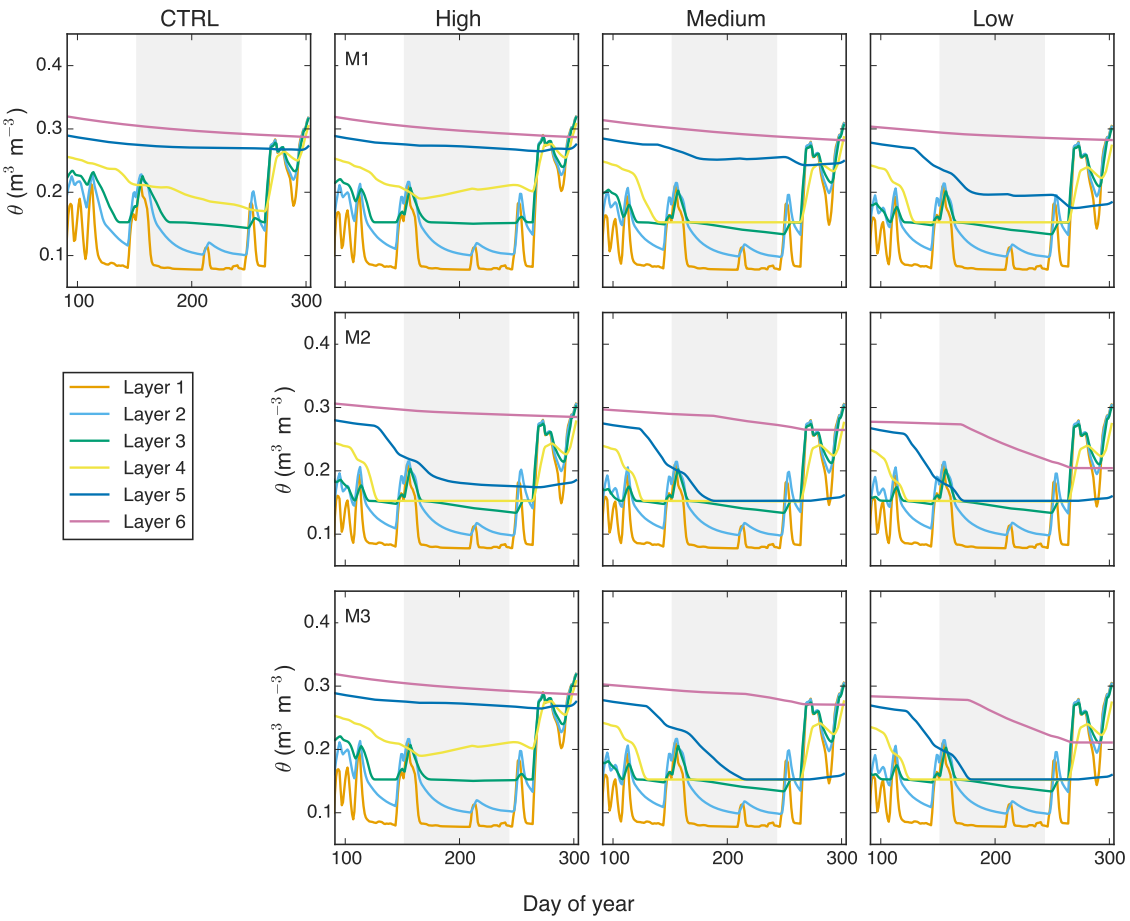

CTRL
High
Medium
Low
M1
M2
M3
θ (m³ m⁻³)
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
100
200
300
Layer 1
Layer 2
Layer 3
Layer 4
Layer 5
Layer 6
Day of year

Figure S4

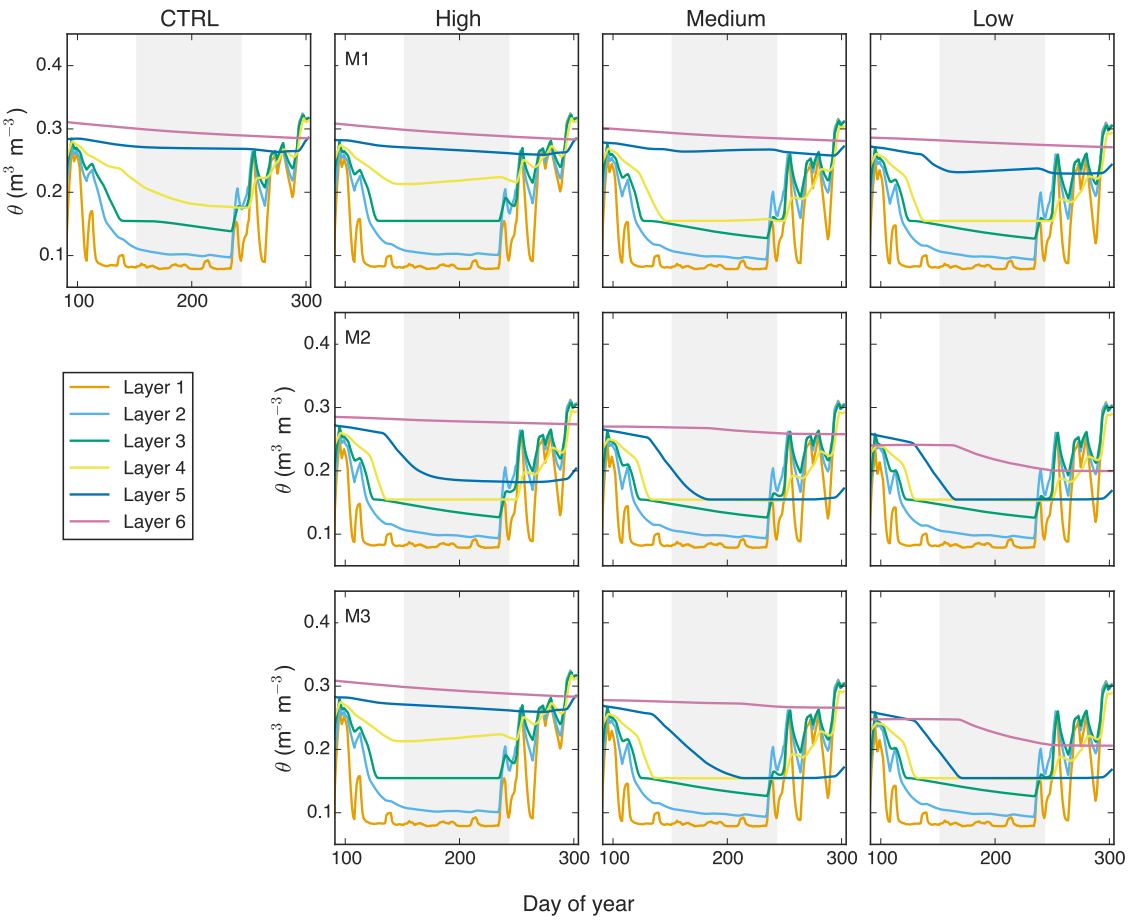
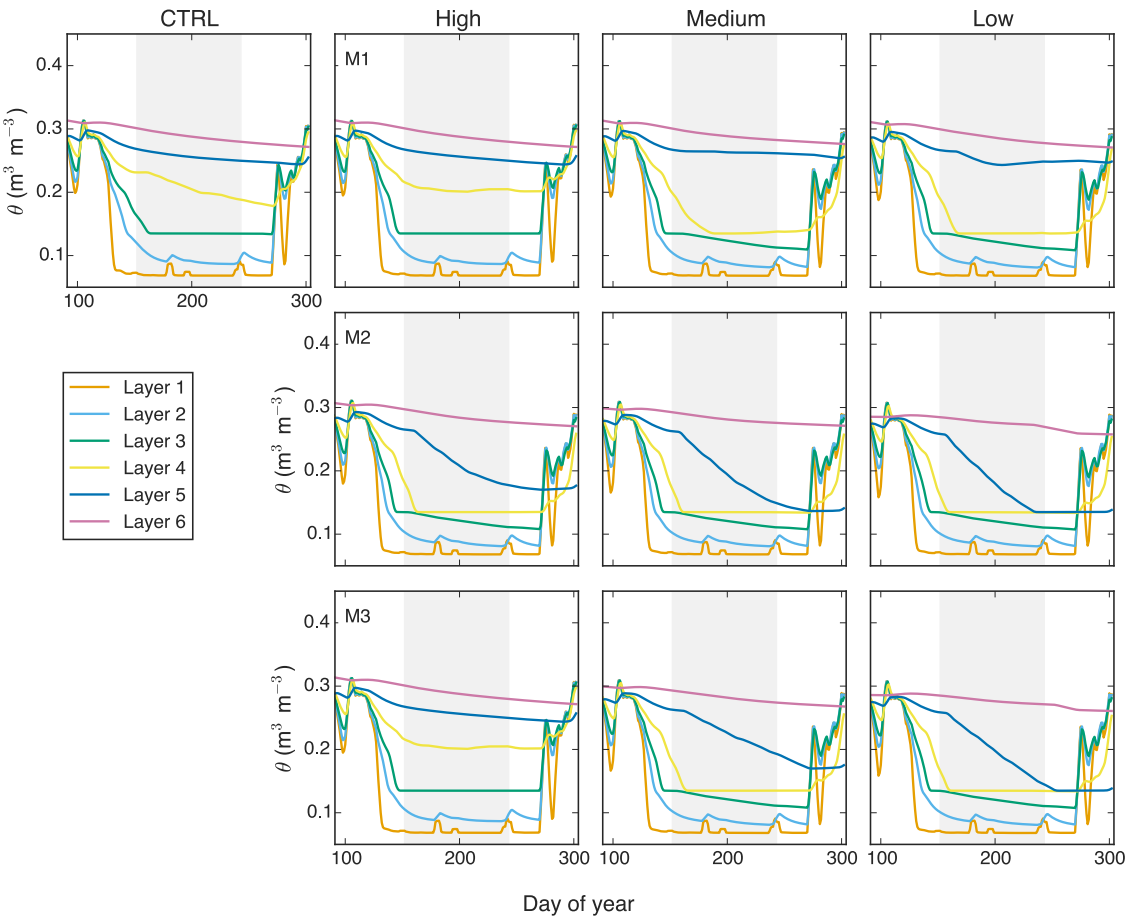

CTRL
High
Medium
Low
M1
M2
M3
θ (m³ m⁻³)
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
100
200
300
Layer 1
Layer 2
Layer 3
Layer 4
Layer 5
Layer 6
Day of year

Figure S5


CTRL
High
Medium
Low
M1
M2
M3
θ (m³ m⁻³)
0.4
0.3
0.2
0.1
100
200
300
Layer 1
Layer 2
Layer 3
Layer 4
Layer 5
Layer 6
Day of year