| Topic Area | Scenario Ideas from November 2018 Advisory Meeting | Research Team Responses (Can we model it in INFEWS?) | Themes |
|---------------|--|--|---|
| | Extremes of too much or too little water – e.g. effects of five years of drought in a row | Yes | Extremes & Risk |
| Climate | Increase in weather variability | Yes | Extremes & Risk |
| | Climate impacts on timing and abundance of water | Yes | Extremes & Risk |
| | Climate impacts on water quality – harmful algal blooms, reduction in dilution of pollution | Outside project scope | |
| | Effect of changes in precipitation intensity, e.g. effects on erosion, fate and transport of chemicals. | Outside project scope | |
| Population | Some comments that current land use system won't change significantly and to include current land use planning laws in scenarios; other comments that increasing population could lead to major changes in land use planning laws | The November 2019 draft of the Business As Usual scenario assumes current land use policies remain in effect through 2070 Alternative scenarios could relax or ignore current land use policies - with advisory group guidance about the underlying assumptions driving land use change. | Extremes |
| | Interest in exploring small city growth, especially along the I-5 corridor | We are working on identifying smaller UGBs that would fit this idea, and hope to get feedback on this today. | |
| | End member scenario that represents an extreme - like growth without urban growth boundaries | Yes, this is possible - with guidance about the underlying assumptions driving land use change (i.e. build anywhere? create new cities? expand exisiting cities without regard to policies about UGB expansion?) | Extremes |
| | Effect of urbanization on agriculture | Will track urban expansion into ag land in scenarios. | Tradeoffs |
| | Effect on streamflow of cities using more of the water; many cities not currently using all of their rights | Unlikely; urban water demand not a focus in this project | |
| | Available management strategies mentioned: selective cutting, thinning, and mowing | Yes. We are also interested in various forest treatments and the effect of wildfire and snowpack accumulation/ablation. | Adaptation - Policy |
| ≥ | Vary assumptions based on private timber lands vs. public multi-objective management lands | Yes. Independent scenarios can be developed to investigate this. | Adapation - Policy |
| snow | Pressures to increase harvest from federal lands | Yes. Initial results are available on the forest management and snow poster. | Adapation - Policy |
| Forests & sr | Represent diversity and intensity of wildfire and the role of slope orientation | We are planning to include a wildfire model that produces landcover change and hope to include varying wildfire intensities. | |
| | "How much storage would it take to replace lost snowpack?" | That's a good question with a complicated answer. It depends on the availability of water from storms and the usage of the water in the reservoirs. If we could accurately predict both of those, then we could develop a theoretical reservoir volume. A significant challenge is using the reservoirs we already have to perform the tasks of storing water, reducing flood risk, and maintaining environmental flows. | |
| | Interest in exploring links between fire, water quality, and drinking water source areas | No, we are not able to address water quality at this time | Tradeoffs |
| | End member scenario that represents an extreme | TBD, for example could model high adoption or no adoption | Extremes |
| | New crops or shift timing of planting/growing existing crops | Yes, possibly | Tradeoffs |
| | Benefits of increasing irrigation efficiency (reduce costs) before adding new technology such as agrivoltaics | Yes, possible | Resource conservation |
| Agriculture | Explore factors that influence agrivoltaic placement including esthetics, distance from residential areas, crop choice, potential impact to birds/wildlife/key habitat, overall farm plans, access and maintenance, farm size, transmission lines, benefits of clustering systems, and land use laws | We can model some of these, but not all yet. | Tradeoffs; Policy |
| | Crops that might be compatible with agrivoltaics – Christmas trees, greenhouses, nursery ornamentals, container crops. Other crops of interest: turnips, radishes, sugar beets, quinoa, hemp, pulses, grapes Unexpected decisions about land/water use/crop choice; e.g. not driven by financial considerations | Selected crops for "business as usual" scenario are: Grass and seed, Hay, Berries (blueberries), Hazelnuts, Wheat, Hemp, Table veggies (beans, tomatoes,) Hard to forsee, likely not possible | |
| | Factors that influence capital investments, timelines, risk | No capacity yet | Risk reduction |
| | Role of crop choice in wet/dry year and ag/energy offsets - not all crops benefit from wet years or suffer from dry years | Maybe in related UNC research, but not in INFEWS model at this time | Risk reduction |
| | Factors that influence crop choice such as new technology, value added processing | Outside of project scope | Adapation - Technology |
| | Role of water storage poinds associated with agrivoltaics - effects on groundwater recharge | Outside of project scope | |
| Energy | Energy prices – e.g. influence of low gas prices | Yes, could consider low/high natural gas prices, low/high renewable capacity | Tradeoffs; Extremes |
| | Effect of wildfire (CA/local) on electric grid and power market | Outside of project scope; part of UNC related projects | |
| | effect of smoke on solar production | Outside of project scope | |
| | Smart grids | Outside of project scope | Adaptation - Technology |
| | Explore "energy imbalance opportunities, integrated device potential, and demand side management" | Outside of project scope | |
| | Alternative energy storage mechanisms (water heaters, storage pumping, urban ice/heat buildings) | Outside of project scope | Adaptation - Technology |
| Reservoirs | Represent recommendations from the Willamette Basin Review; explore questions raised by the recent USACE/OWRD process to reallocate stored water in federal reservoirs, e.g. alternative rule curves | The model is capable of modeling alternative rule curves as well as shortfall scenarios. Would need to ID specific rule curves or shortfalls for scenarios. | Adaptation - Policy |
| | "Reallocation is based on 1.6 MAF of storage – what if shortfalls occur repeatedly? Is storage assumption unrealistic?" | Possible to run scenario with repeat dry years | Extremes |
| | "What amount of additional storage (be it natural [like forests/beavers] or infrastructural) would be needed given changing climate to (1) Serve instream flows at current levels, (2) Increase flows to meet or come closer to meeting ISWRs [Instream Water Rights]?" | "Futurecast" runs of the model would indicate the levels of additional storage needed to meet instream flows under projected climate change scenarios. Future projections generated by the model will indicate shortfalls in fulfilling instream (and out-of-stream) rights; modeling of alternative scenarios (e.g., alternative reservoir rule curves) can explore means of addressing these shortfalls. | Tradeoffs; Adaptation - Policy |
| | Identify priorities for water infrastructure (for example increase water storage) | Outside of project scope | |
| Water Law | Interest in representing instream flow rights in scenarios, including this comment, "What would the impacts be of modeling a circumstance where all existing instream flows would receive a priority (be "met" or close to this)? What uses would be curtailed and to what degree to serve this "build-out" of instream rights?" | | Habitat; Adaptation - Policy |
| | Request to model conservation scenarios – for example where "1) municipalities continue to get more efficient; 2) irrigation at 1 ac-ft per acre vs. 2.5 ac-ft per acre". | It should be possible to model increased municipal and agricultural efficiency, though the particulars would be key, so muncipal efficiency would need to be particularly characterized (along the lines of the acre-foot efficiency specified for irrigation here). | Resource Conservation; Adapation - Technology, Policy |
| | Scenarios with increased minimum flows via mechanisms such as water markets Tribal rights and unadjudicated water rights, "Uncertainty exists around volume for tribal water rights. Can that be added as an interaction?" | The model is capable of looking a different mechanisms for increasing minimum flows (e.g., alternative rule curves), though some mechanisms such as water markets fall outside the scope of the model Tribal and unadjudicated rights are too uncertain to be accurately modeled, though the model can determine reduced flows at a given location given assumptions about reductions in upstream flows, or that more senior rights downstream of that point take priority; the key to such modeling would be determining the amounts and locations of the surrogate tribal and/or unadjudicated rights to model. | , |
| | Water market trade options or similar to incentivize wise/sustainable use | Unfortunately, outside of project scope | |
| | "One water" approaches that incentivize conservation/healthy floodplains | Outside of project scope | |