



Creating a research network for studying herbivory in northern and alpine environments

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Background and rationale

why?

Changes in plant and herbivore communities can alter the **dynamics** of northern and alpine ecosystems and their ability to respond to changes.

Ecological responses to global changes show wide regional variability, so we need **coordinated efforts**.

what?

We propose to create an **interaction-focused research network** to investigate the role of herbivores in changing northern and alpine ecosystems.

where?

The aim of the network is to cover as many **tundra-like** places as we can, either high up (alpine) or far North (arctic)...

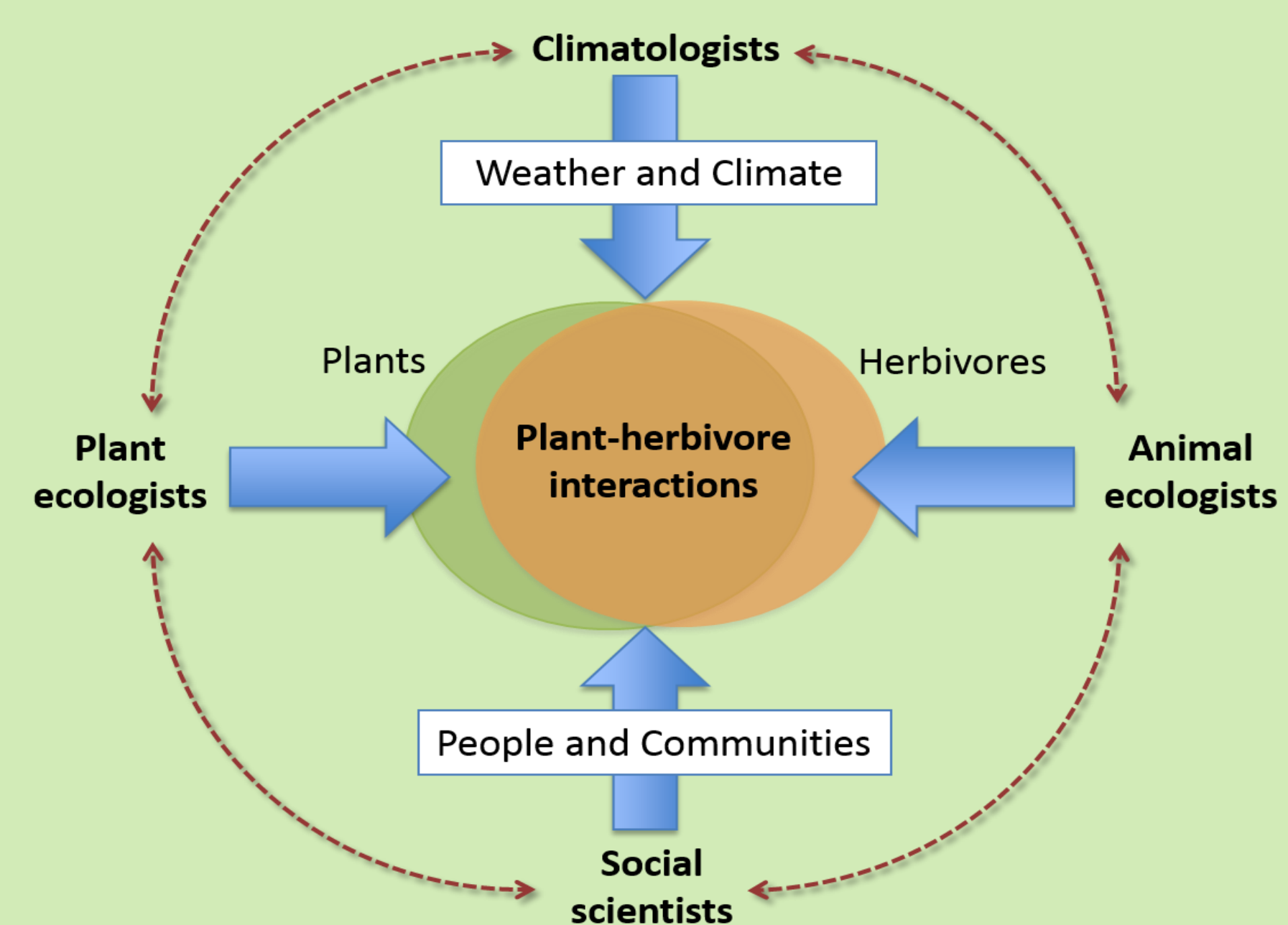
who?

The network will bring together researchers from arctic and alpine regions, interested in understanding the complexity and variability of responses of tundra ecosystems to herbivory and climate change

Aims of the network

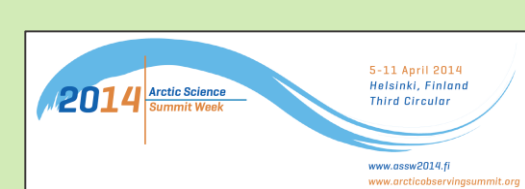
- ✓ understand the role of plant-herbivore interactions in northern and alpine systems
- ✓ foster collaborations within and across disciplines
- ✓ facilitate multi-site comparisons
- ✓ develop common experimental protocols
- ✓ synthesize existing data

Topics for collaboration



Changes in plant and herbivore communities can drive the responses of northern and alpine ecosystems to global changes. These changes can be mediated by **other drivers**, like cryosphere feedbacks, human management or biotic interactions, and affect social, cultural and economic interactions with **people** living in these environments. We need to address these questions across different sites, at different spatial scales and from different perspectives.

How this all got started...



September 2013

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Workshop: 'Herbivory in changing northern and alpine environments'
Helsinki, Apr 9, 2014

...sounds exciting?

Please contact us!

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