



Supplementary information

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Regime shift in secondary inorganic aerosol formation and nitrogen deposition in the rural United States

In the format provided by the
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Supplementary Texts

Supplementary Text 1. Relationships between emissions and observed concentrations.

Results of orthogonal distance regressions (ODR) between annual mean concentrations and emissions for the five regions are shown in Extended Data Fig. 3. Trends and correlations for 2011 – 2015 and 2016 – 2020 were also examined separately (Supplementary Table 4 and Extended Data Fig. 3a). The slope for $\text{SO}_2 - c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ varied significantly from 2011 – 2015 to 2016 – 2020 in the Western US, likely because the region experienced more cross-border transport and wildfires¹. Wildfire contribution to SO_2 emissions in the Western US increased from 3 – 14% between 2011 – 2015 to 5 – 30% between 2016 – 2020². The Northeastern US has a high slope, likely because SO_2 emissions in the region were already low, and the region benefited from upwind SO_2 emission reductions in the Midwestern US. In fact, $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ in the Northeastern US correlated better with SO_2 emissions from the Midwestern US. Accounting for this, the regression slopes for all regions except for the Western US are relatively consistent and in agreement with previous studies for $\text{SO}_2 - c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ regressions³. This highlights the importance of regional transport and makes the case for cross-region efforts to mitigate $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ precursors. The effectiveness of SO_2 emission abatement on $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ reduction could decrease as reductions in SO_2 and NO_x emissions continue because of enhanced SO_2 oxidation as the acidity of aerosols and fog and cloud droplets lowered⁴⁻⁶. However, this effect is more pronounced in winter and colder regions, where sulfate containing SIA may not be as important as NH_4NO_3 .

Extended Data Fig. 3b shows that $\text{NO}_x - c_{\text{NO}_3^-}$ slopes were comparable in the Western, Midwestern, and Northeastern US but were low in the Central and Southeastern US. There have been discussions about the discrepancies between bottom-up and top-down NO_x emission estimates in the US, which has been most apparent in the Central and Southeastern US⁷. The low $\text{NO}_x - c_{\text{NO}_3^-}$ slopes could result from real-world NO_x emission reductions being lower than EPA estimates in these regions⁷. Jiang et al. found that in the Central US, the decrease in power plant emissions of NO_x slowed after 2011⁷. Satellite observations

indicate that the unexpected slowdown of NO_x emission reduction in the Southeastern US is linked to enhanced oil and natural gas activities^{8,9}. c_{NO₃^T} responses to NO_x emission reductions may change dramatically as NO_x emission decreases. It was recently shown that the NO_x-to-NO₃^T oxidation rate can be evaluated using the NO_x-volatile organic compounds (VOC) framework for ozone (O₃) formation¹⁰. Certain regions could be NO₃^T limited for NH₄NO₃ formation but NO_x-saturated for NO₃^T formation at the same time¹⁰. Controlling VOC in this case would be the best strategy to reduce NH₄NO₃ formation initially. However, similar to the O₃ control strategy, as NO_x emission reduces, the chemical regime would become NO_x limited, and controlling NO_x becomes the most effective strategy in reducing NO₃^T formation.

Supplementary Text 2. Reactive nitrogen deposition trends.

To better illustrate changes in N_r deposition, we investigated changes of N_r deposition near and away from NH₃ emission hotspots utilizing the Total Deposition Estimates Using the Measurement Model Fusion (TDep MMF) data^{11,12}. The TDep MMF combines wet deposition observations from the National Trends Network (NTN), ambient air monitoring data from CASTNET, and simulations from the EPA's Air Quality Time Series (EQUATES) project^{2,13}. EQUATES includes 2002 - 2019 air quality modeling using the Community Multiscale Air Quality (CMAQ) modeling system (v5.3.2) for the CONUS domain using a 12 km horizontal grid spacing^{13,14}. The Air Pollutant Emissions Trends Data shown in Fig. 1 are consistent with the EQUATES emissions¹⁵. The CMAQ simulations in EQUATES consider the bidirectional exchange of NH₃ for fertilizer emissions using the Environmental Policy Integrated Climate (EPIC) Model¹⁶. For species measured by CASTNET (HNO₃, SO₄²⁻, NO₃⁻, and NH₄⁺), the TDep MMF estimates dry deposition using observed concentrations and CMAQ modeled deposition velocities^{11,12}. NH₃ observations from AMoN were used to evaluate CMAQ simulations but were not included in the deposition estimates¹¹. The TDep MMF wet deposition estimates were calculated from the annual precipitation-weighted concentrations from NTN and a modified version of the annual precipitation estimates obtained from the PRISM Climate Group¹¹. We did not include organic N_r deposition when calculating total N_r because of the large uncertainty¹⁷.

Dividing the CONUS into four zones (<50 km, 50 - 150 km, 150 - 300 km, and >300 km), we analyze the trends of annual N_r total deposition and N_r deposition components based on the TDep MMF between 2010 and 2019 (Fig. 3 and Supplementary Fig. 7). The areas of the 95th percentile of NH₃ emission rates across the U.S. based on the 2017 EQUATES NH₃ emissions² are considered NH₃ emission hotspots, except for sporadic locations with just one 12 km × 12 km grid. Figure 3a shows the contours of the four zones. The trends, slopes (m), intercepts (b), and relative change rate ($m_r = m/b$) are determined using the Mann-Kendall test and the Theil-Sen regression ($p<0.05$)¹⁸. Despite the reductions in NO₃^T deposition, N_r total deposition showed statistically significant increasing trends only in areas within 150

km of a NH₃ emission hotspot between 2010 and 2019 because of the rapid increases in NH₄^T deposition. Because of the rapid growths of NH₄^T dry deposition, the relative increasing rates in NH₄^T deposition were faster than increases in NH₃ emissions in the corresponding zones. This corroborates our aerosol thermodynamic analysis that indicates increased N_r deposition near NH₃ hotspots.

The zones and trends change significantly when NH₃ hotspots identified by satellite observations are used to define the zones (Supplementary Fig. 8), highlighting the uncertainty of NH₄^T deposition from the TDep MMF data. These hotspots are defined as the areas of the 95th percentile of NH₃ column amounts across the US. Extended Data Fig. 6 compares the 2017 EQUATES NH₃ emissions and a high-resolution (~2 km) annual NH₃ column map derived from Infrared Atmospheric Sounding Interferometer (IASI, v2.2R) observations from 2008 – 2017¹⁹. The EQUATES emission hotspots in the Central and Southeastern US are not identified by the satellite map. Consequently, areas far away (>300 km) from a satellite hotspot encompass several EQUATES emission hotspots and have the fastest relative increasing rate of NH₄^T total deposition based on the TDep MMF data (Supplementary Fig. 8). The significant differences show the uncertainties of current NH₄^T deposition estimates and highlight the need for more NH₃ concentration and flux observations. More observations are needed in these areas in the Central and Southeastern US, where emission and satellite hotspots show the largest discrepancy but only a few AMoN sites are available.

Supplementary Text 3. The chemical regime of SIA formation and inorganic N_r deposition.

SIA response to a reduction in $c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$ is highly sensitive to the SIA formation regime. When NH_4^T exists fully as gaseous NH_3 , reducing $c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$ decreases c_{NH_3} but not c_{SIA} (NH_4^T -insensitive). When NH_4^T is limited relative to H_2SO_4 and partitions fully to the aerosol, reducing $c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$ removes particulate NH_4^+ and the reduction in c_{SIA} (Δc_{SIA}) is equivalent to the $c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$ removed ($\Delta c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$). When NH_4^T exceeds H_2SO_4 , ammonium nitrate (NH_4NO_3) can form via reaction of NH_3 and HNO_3 . The extent of NH_4NO_3 formation depends on the product of NH_3 and HNO_3 concentrations and on environmental conditions. Increased NH_4NO_3 formation occurs at lower temperature and higher relative humidity. Reducing NH_4^T in this regime can also remove HNO_3 from the aerosol, producing a multiplier effect because NH_4^+ and NO_3^- are removed together, leading to a $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$ of as much as 4.4²⁰. Overall, NH_4^T partitions between NH_3g and particulate NH_4^+ as it neutralizes SO_4^{2-} and NO_3^- , with the partitioning dependent on aerosol composition (including $c_{\text{NO}_3^T}$, $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$, and c_{NVC} that can also neutralize sulfate and nitrate), temperature, and relative humidity. Therefore, $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$ is highly condition-dependent and can change with the size of reduction of any precursor.

We use ISOROPIA II to simulate Δc_{SIA} with three reduction levels (10%, 40%, and 70%) for each precursor from 2011-2020 (Supplementary Fig. 9 – 11). The sensitivities of c_{SIA} to precursor reductions are calculated as the ratios between changes in Δc_{SIA} and corresponding changes in precursor concentrations (Δc_p). $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$ generally varies more from low to high reduction levels (orange areas in Extended Data Fig. 7) than $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ and $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{NO}_3^T}$ (blue and green areas in Extended Data Fig. 7, respectively). Note that $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ would decrease significantly leading to larger variations than $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$ with a 70% reduction in $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ in the Western and Central US because of substantial increases in $c_{\text{NO}_3^-}$ in aerosols needed to balance NVCs. The delicate balance between sulfate and NVCs also leads to the large uncertainty of $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ in the Western US (Supplementary Table 14). The

large variability of $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{NH}_4^{\text{T}}}$ highlights the importance of accurately determining SIA formation regime when evaluating the effectiveness of NH₃ control.

The SIA formation regime is also evaluated using aerosol property-based regime diagrams. Extended Data Fig. 8 illustrates the chemical regime changes and associated impacts on SIA formation and N_r deposition. In summer, warm conditions favor the formation of (NH₄)₂SO₄, and the “1:2 line” indicates the condition that two molecules of NH₄⁺ explicitly balance one molecule of SO₄²⁻ to form (NH₄)₂SO₄ with no NH_{3g}. From 2011 to 2020, mean conditions in all RPOs started above the line and moved further away from the line (Extended Fig. 8a – e), indicating that $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$ was the limiting factor. It also shows that there were ample amounts of NH₄^T, and the importance of NH₄NO₃ formation has increased between 2011-2022, even in the summer.

The chemical regime of NH₄NO₃ formation depends not only on $c_{\text{NH}_4^{\text{T}}}$ and $c_{\text{NO}_3^{\text{T}}}$ but also on T, RH, $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$, c_{NVC} . Rather than using $c_{\text{NH}_4^{\text{T}}}$ and $c_{\text{NO}_3^{\text{T}}}$ to determine the chemical regime of NH₄NO₃ formation, we use the chemical and deposition regime definition developed by Nenes et al. (2020)^{20,21} in this study, and a brief overview is provided here. Because of the semi-volatile nature of NH₄NO₃, both NH₄^T and NO₃^T remain partially in the gas phase. The sensitivity of c_{SIA} to changes in $c_{\text{NO}_3^{\text{T}}}$ is proportional to the changes in $c_{\text{NO}_3^-}$:

$$\frac{\partial c_{\text{SIA}}}{\partial c_{\text{NO}_3^{\text{T}}}} = \zeta \frac{\partial c_{\text{NO}_3^-}}{\partial c_{\text{NO}_3^{\text{T}}}} = \zeta \varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-} \quad (\text{S1})$$

where $\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-}$ is the fraction of NO₃^T that partitions into aerosols. For NH₄NO₃ aerosol, $\zeta = \frac{80}{62} \approx 1.29$.

Similarly, the sensitivity of c_{SIA} to changes in $c_{\text{NH}_4^{\text{T}}}$ can be expressed as:

$$\frac{\partial c_{\text{SIA}}}{\partial c_{\text{NH}_4^{\text{T}}}} = \lambda \frac{\partial c_{\text{NH}_4^+}}{\partial c_{\text{NH}_4^{\text{T}}}} = \lambda \varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+} \quad (\text{S2})$$

where $\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ is the fraction of NH₄^T that partitions into aerosols. For NH₄NO₃ aerosol, $\lambda = \frac{80}{17} \approx 4.4$.

Similarly, deposition of NO_3^{T} and NH_4^{T} can be expressed using $\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-}$ and $\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+}$, respectively, as:

$$F_{\text{NO}_3^{\text{T}}} = \frac{v_g c_{\text{HNO}_3g}}{\mu_{\text{HNO}_3g}} + \frac{v_p c_{\text{NO}_3^-}}{\mu_{\text{NO}_3^-}} = v_p(k + (1 - k)\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-})c_{\text{NO}_3^{\text{T}}}/\mu_{\text{NO}_3^-} \quad (\text{S3})$$

$$F_{\text{NH}_4^{\text{T}}} = v_g/\mu_{\text{NH}_3g} + v_p c_{\text{NH}_4^+}/\mu_{\text{NH}_4^+} = v_p(k + (1 - k)\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+})c_{\text{NH}_4^{\text{T}}}/\mu_{\text{NH}_4^+} \quad (\text{S4})$$

where v_g and v_p are the gas- and particulate-phase deposition velocities, respectively, and $k = v_g/v_p$. k is of the order around 10^{21} .

Nenes et al. (2020)²⁰ showed that $\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-}$ and $\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ can be expressed as

$$\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-} = \frac{\Psi \text{ AWC}}{10^{-\text{pH}} + \Psi \text{ AWC}}, \Psi = \frac{RTK_{n1}H_{\text{HNO}_3}}{\gamma_{\text{H}^+}\gamma_{\text{NO}_3^-}} \quad (\text{S5})$$

$$\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+} = \frac{\Phi 10^{-\text{pH}} \text{ AWC}}{1 + 10^{-\text{pH}} \Phi \text{ AWC}}, \Phi = \frac{\gamma_{\text{H}^+}}{\gamma_{\text{NH}_4^+}} \frac{H_{\text{NH}_3}}{K_a} RT \quad (\text{S6})$$

where H_{HNO_3} , K_{n1} , R , γ_{H^+} , $\gamma_{\text{NO}_3^-}$ are the Henry's law coefficient of HNO_3 , acid dissociation constant of HNO_3 , the universal gas constant, the single-ion activity of H^+ and NO_3^- , respectively; and H_{NH_3} and K_a are the Henry's law and dissociation constants for NH_3 , respectively; and $\gamma_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ is the single-ion activity coefficient for NH_4^+ .

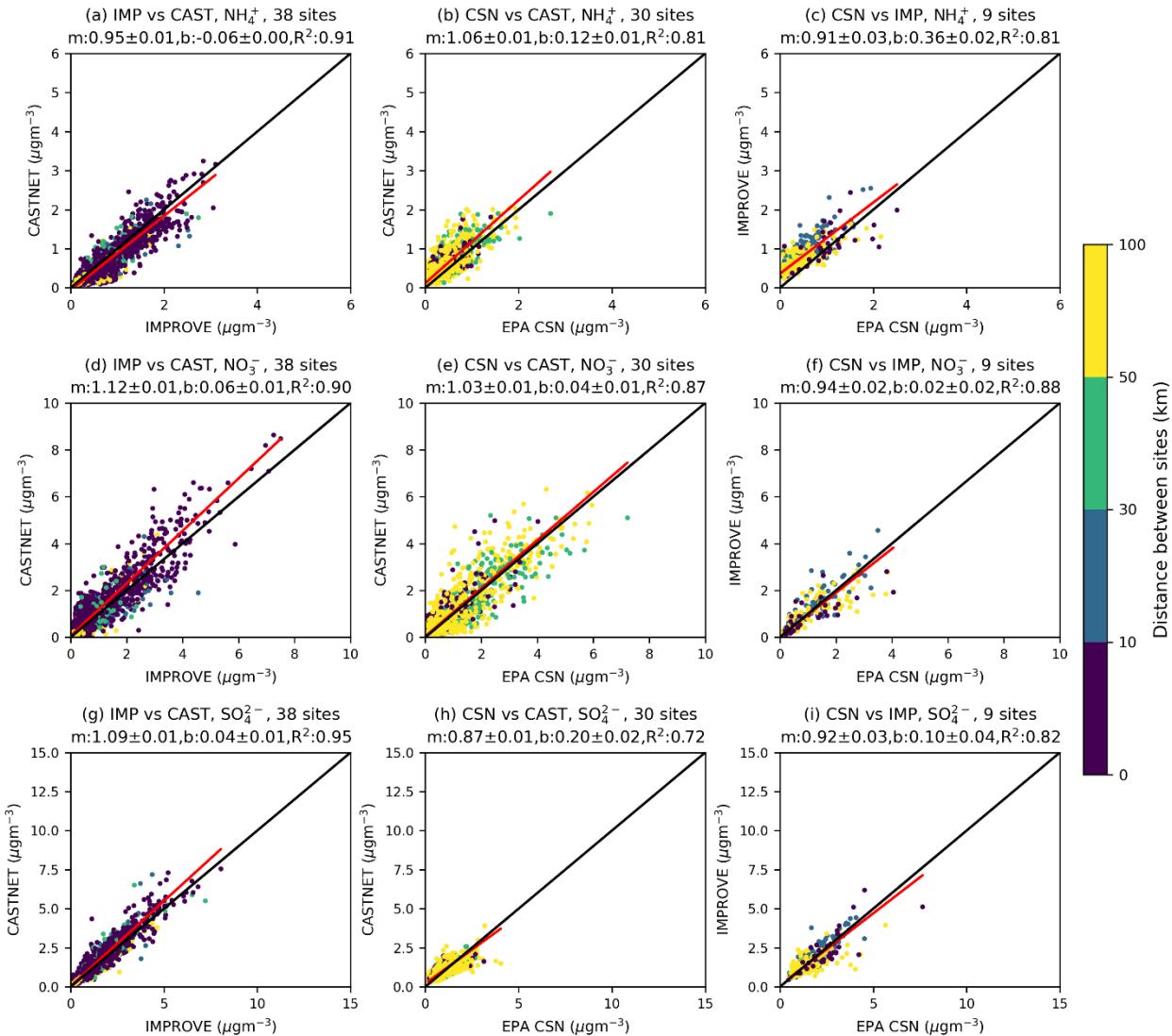
Defining critical fractions of $\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-}$ and $\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ as α and β , respectively, it is said that the aerosol is sensitive to NH_4^{T} or NO_3^{T} , when $\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-} > \alpha$ or $\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+} > \beta$. The relationship is opposite for NO_3^{T} and NH_4^{T} deposition. The deposition is considered fast, when $\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-} < \alpha$ or $\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+} < \beta$. Based on Eq. (10) and (11), the critical pH that determines NO_3^{T} and NH_4^{T} sensitive regime can be derived as:

$$\text{pH}' = -\log\left(\frac{1 - \alpha}{\alpha} \Psi \text{ AWC}\right) \quad (\text{S7})$$

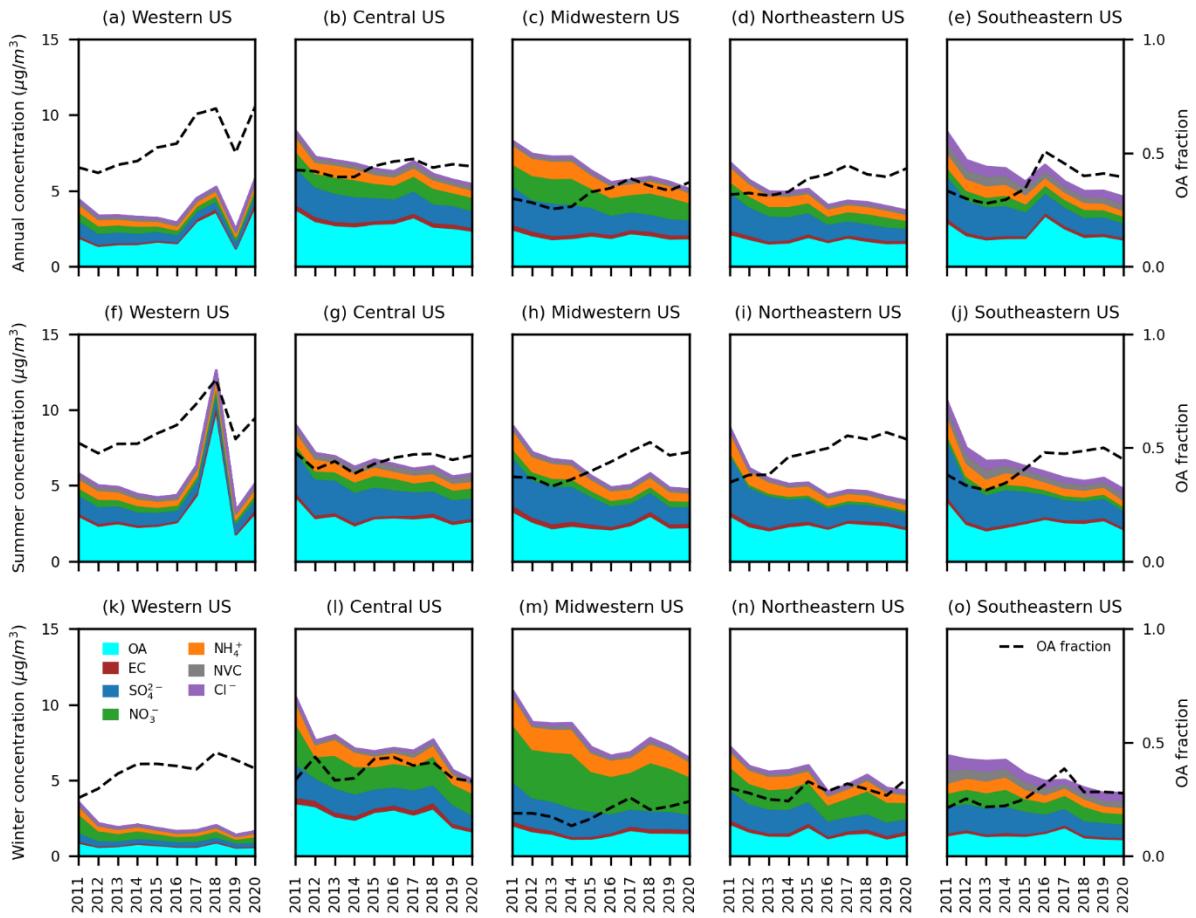
$$\text{pH}'' = \log\left(\frac{1 - \beta}{\beta} \Phi \text{ AWC}\right) \quad (\text{S8})$$

To show a balanced picture for both SIA formation and N_r deposition, α and β are both set to 0.5, which divides the aerosol pH and AWC domain the four regimes listed in Extended Data Fig. 8f - o. However, even with this approach, there are still intra-annual variabilities of the chemical regime boundaries, highlighting the strong dependence of NH₄NO₃ formation on ambient conditions. Chemical regimes in all RPOs generally shifted towards regimes I and II, where SIA formation is less sensitive to NH₄^T and NH₄^T deposits as fast as NH₃. In 2020, only MANE-VU and SESARM remained sensitive to both NH₄^T and NO₃^T reductions (Regime III) during the winter but were also approaching the boundaries.

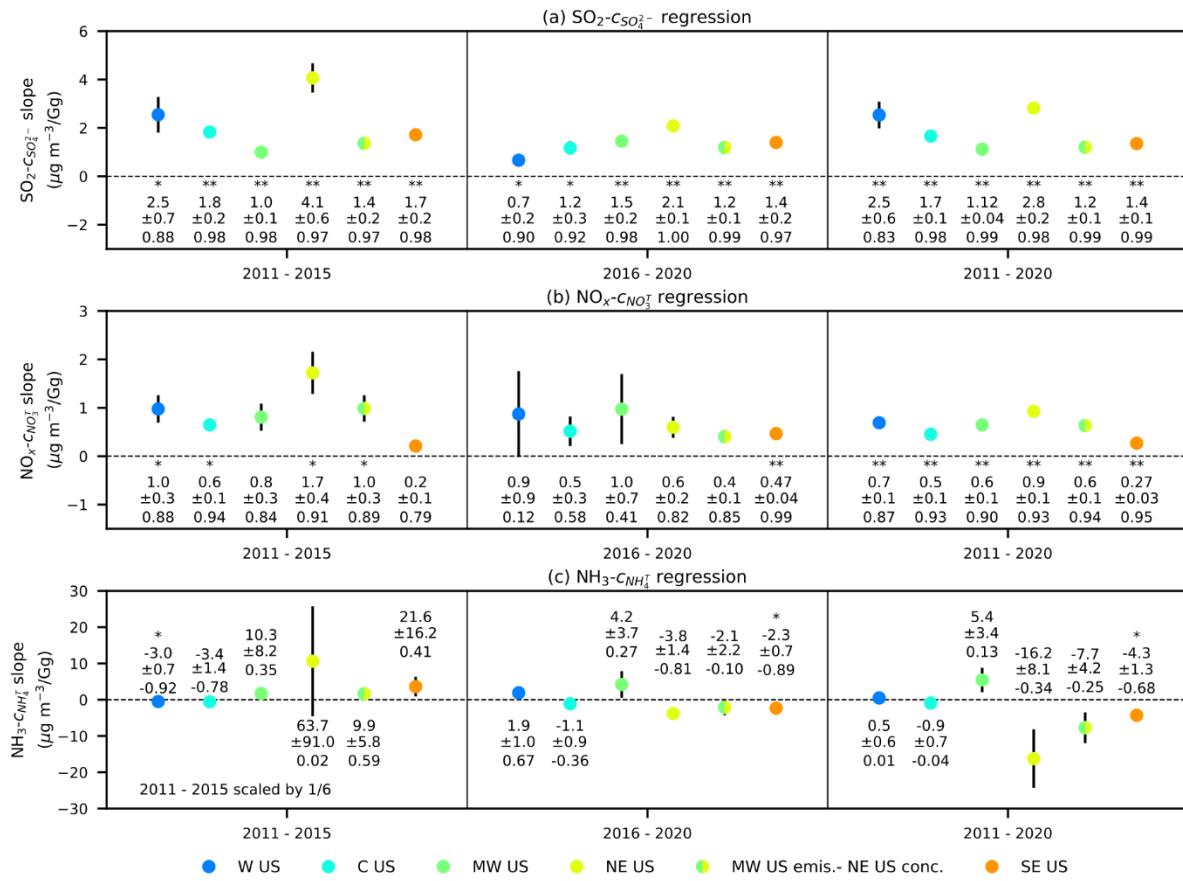
Supplementary Figures



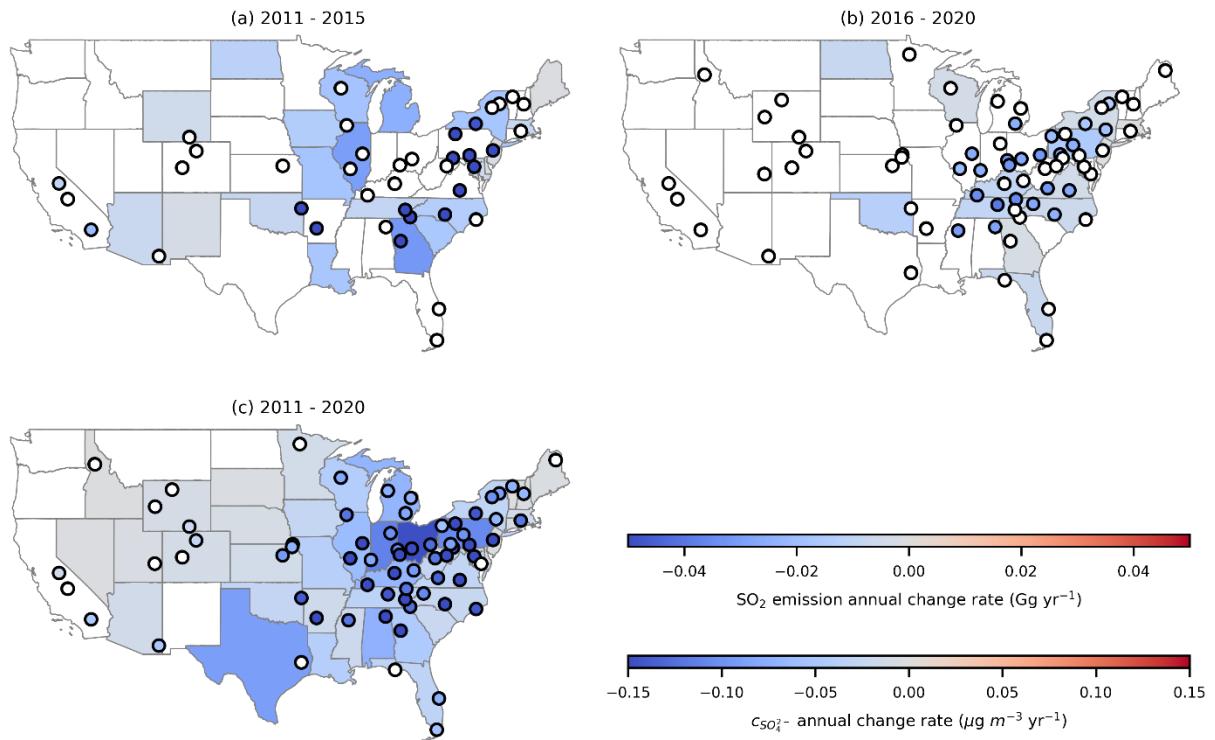
Supplementary Figure 1. Intercomparison of weekly integrated $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$, $c_{\text{NO}_3^-}$, and $c_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ observations from CASTNET, IMPROVE, and EPA CSN networks. Data points are colored by distances between the sites. Red lines show the orthogonal distance regression results, and the slopes, the offsets, and the determination coefficients (R^2) are listed below panel titles. Black lines show the 1:1 line. The uncertainties of the slopes and the offsets are the 95% confidence intervals (CI; mean ± 1.96 standard deviation (SD)). The numbers of samples are listed in Supplementary Table 8.



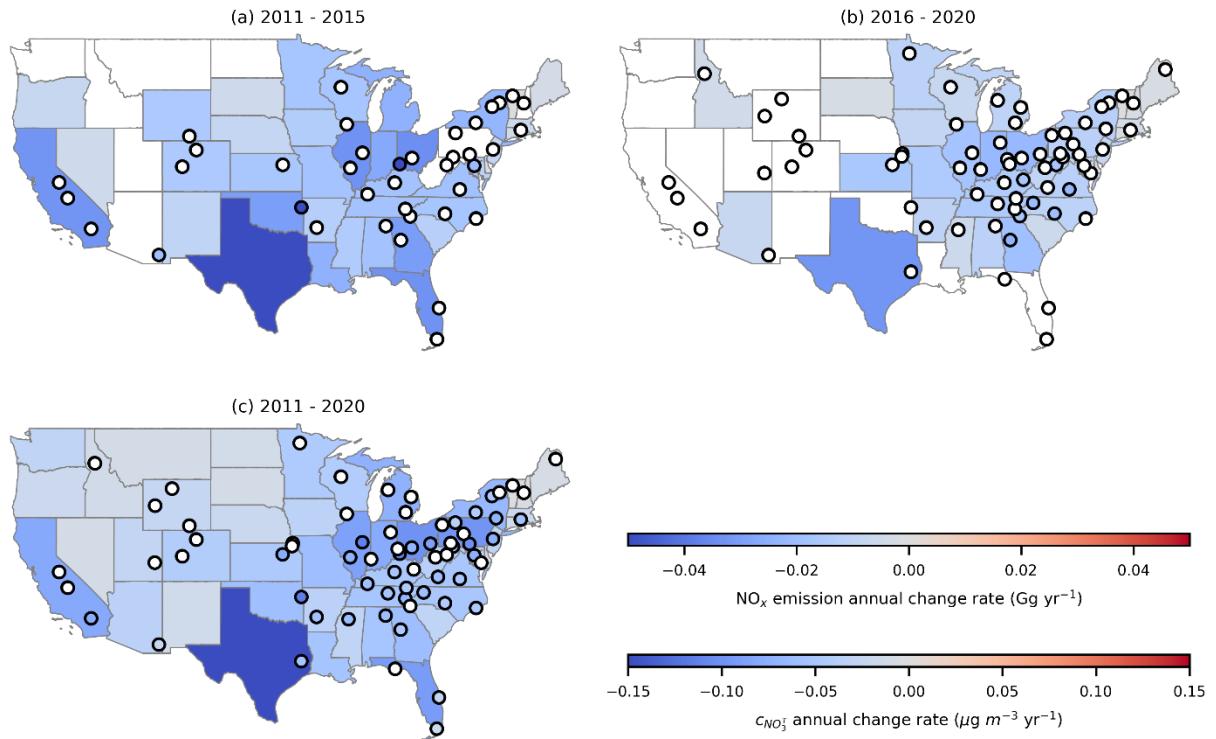
Supplementary Figure 2. Mean annual, summer, and winter PM_{2.5} composition observed at IMPROVE and CSN sites with collocated observations. Cyan, brown, blue, green, orange, grey, and purple areas are organic aerosols (OA; calculated as 1.8 times the total organic carbon measured on the quartz filter), elemental carbon (EC), sulfate (SO₄²⁻), nitrate (NO₃⁻), ammonium (NH₄⁺), non-volatile cations (NVC), and chloride (Cl⁻), respectively. Black dashed lines show relative mass contributions of OA to PM_{2.5}.



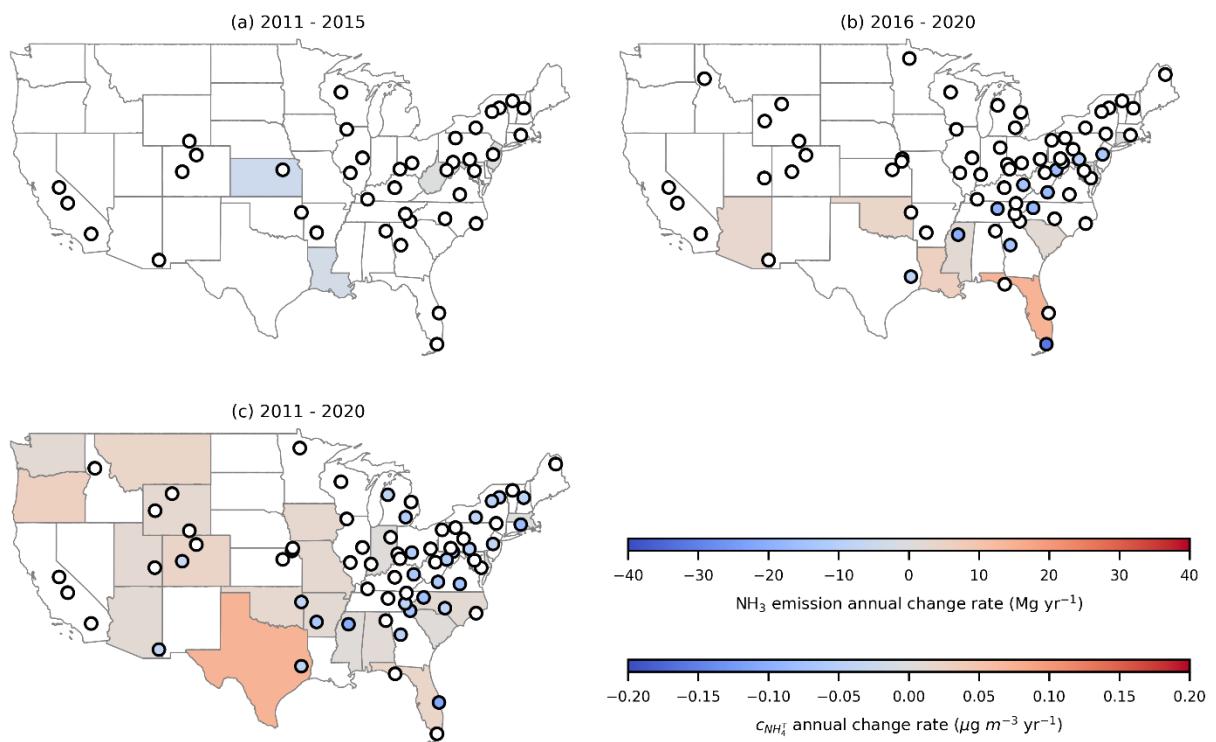
Supplementary Figure 3. Relationships between emissions and regional mean concentrations observed at long-term sites. Panels (a – c) present the orthogonal distance regression slopes of (a) SO_2 emission- $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$, (b) NO_x emissions- $c_{\text{NO}_3^{\cdot}}$, and (c) NH_3 emission- $c_{\text{NH}_4^{\cdot}}$ regressions for 2011 – 2015, 2016 – 2020, and 2011 – 2020 with observations from long-term sites only. Long-term sites are the ones established before 2015. “W US”, “C US”, “MW US”, “NE US”, “SE US” stand for the Western, Central, Midwestern, Northeastern, Southeastern US, respectively. Regional mean concentrations are used in the regressions, and the sample sizes for each region are 5, 5, and 10 for 2011 – 2015, 2016 – 2020, and 2011 – 2020, respectively. “*” or “**” indicate the regression has a $p < 0.05$ or < 0.01 , respectively. The error bars show uncertainties of the regression slopes (95% CI; calculated as ± 1.96 standard deviation (SD)). The numbers below are the slopes (mean values), the uncertainties (± 1.96 SD), and the Pearson correlation coefficients, respectively. To illustrate NH_3 - $c_{\text{NH}_4^{\cdot}}$ correlation results for 2011 – 2015 in panel (c), they are scaled by 1/6.



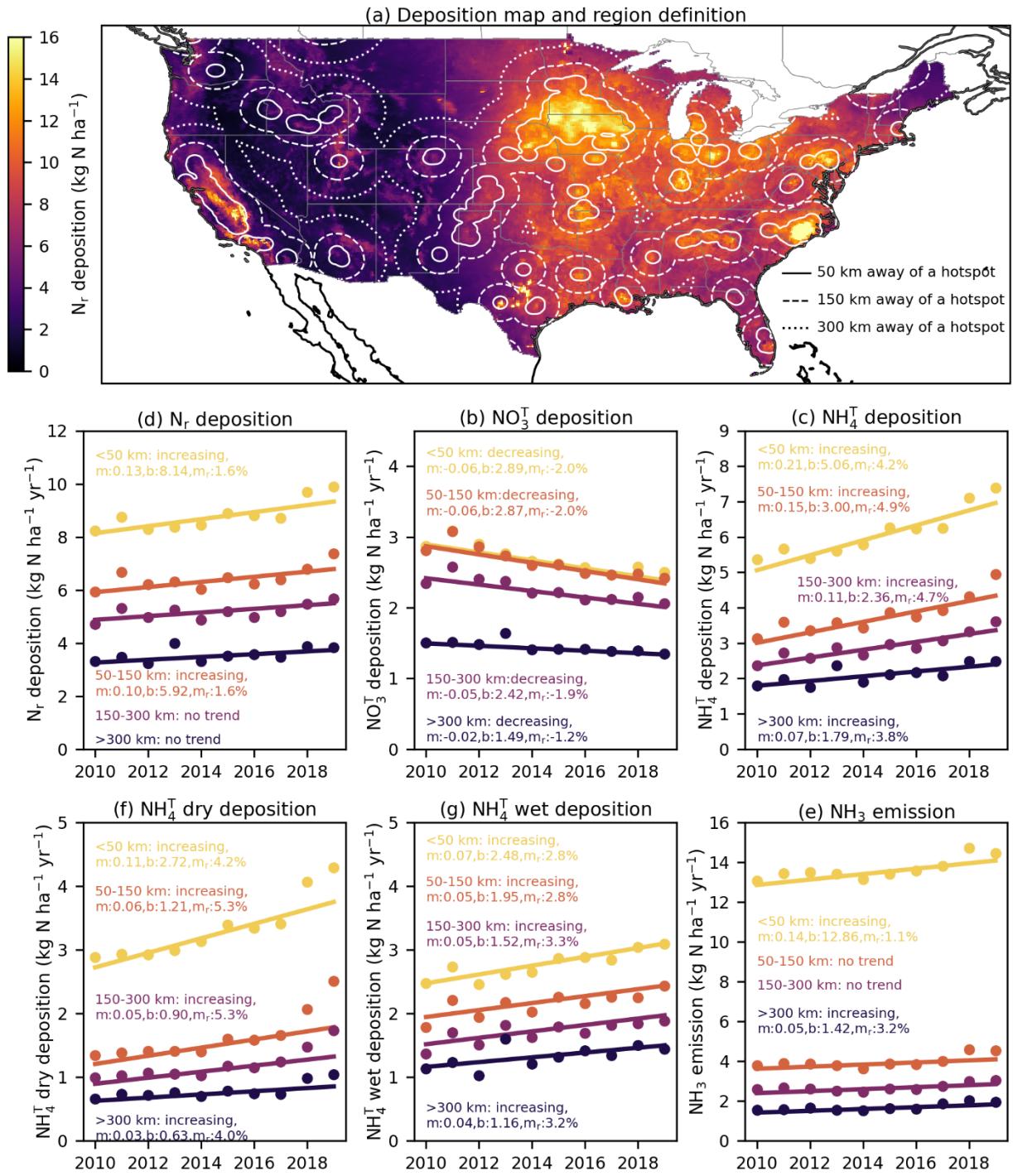
Supplementary Figure 4. SO₂ emission and c_{SO₄²⁻} trends. Emission and concentration trends are derived from Theil-Sen regressions of 5-, 5-, and 10-years data for the periods of 2011 – 2015, 2016 – 2020, and 2011 – 2020 (sample size = 5, 5, and 10), respectively. Emission trends for the states and sites are shown by state color and circle color, respectively. The regions with p<0.05 from the Mann-Kendall (MK) test are white. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



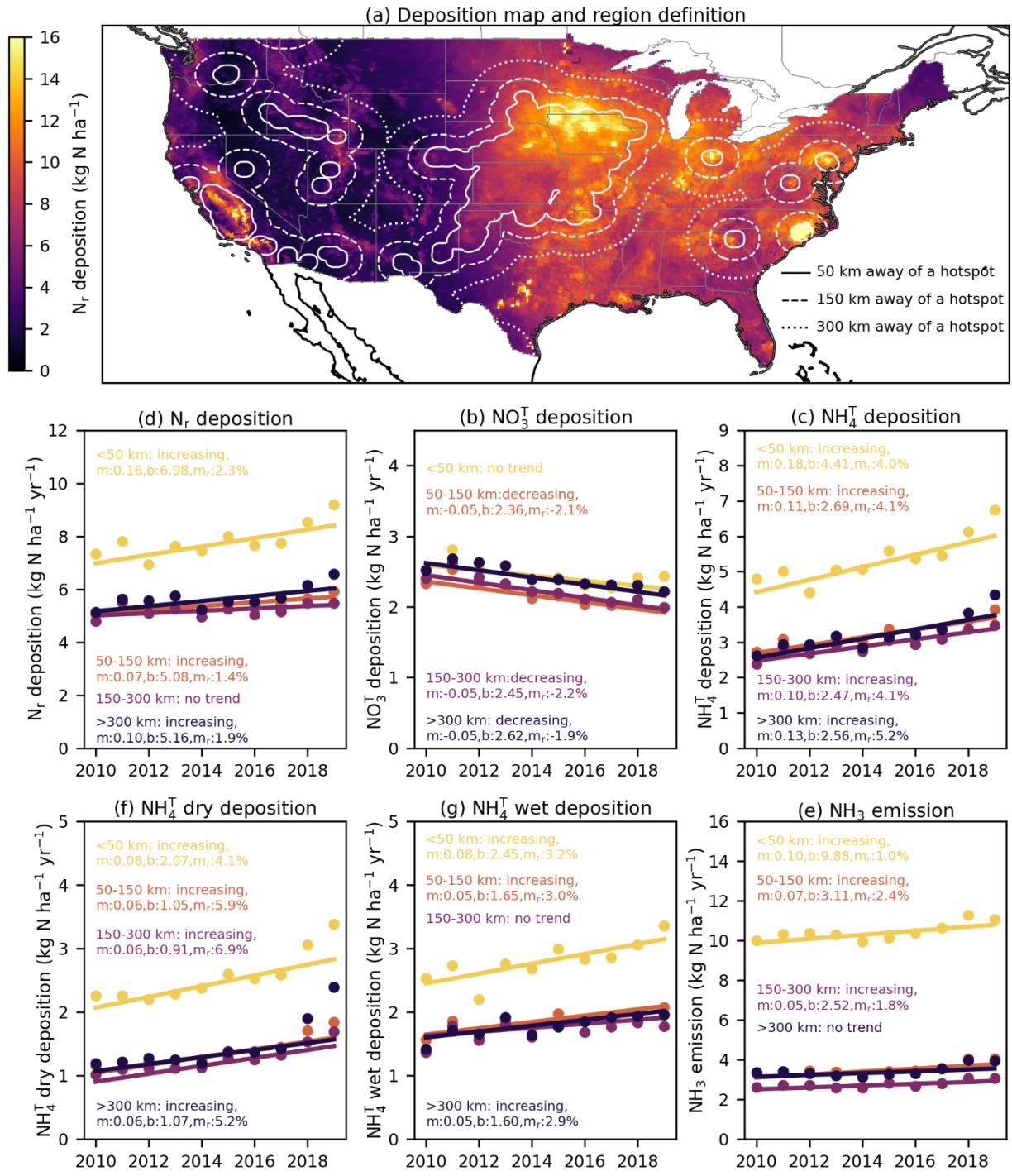
Supplementary Figure 5. NO_x emission and c_{NO_3} trends. Emission and concentration trends are derived from Theil-Sen regressions of 5-, 5-, and 10-years data for the periods of 2011 – 2015, 2016 – 2020, and 2011 – 2020 (sample size = 5, 5, and 10), respectively. Emission trends for the states and sites are shown by state color and circle color, respectively. The regions with $p < 0.05$ from the Mann-Kendall (MK) test are white. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



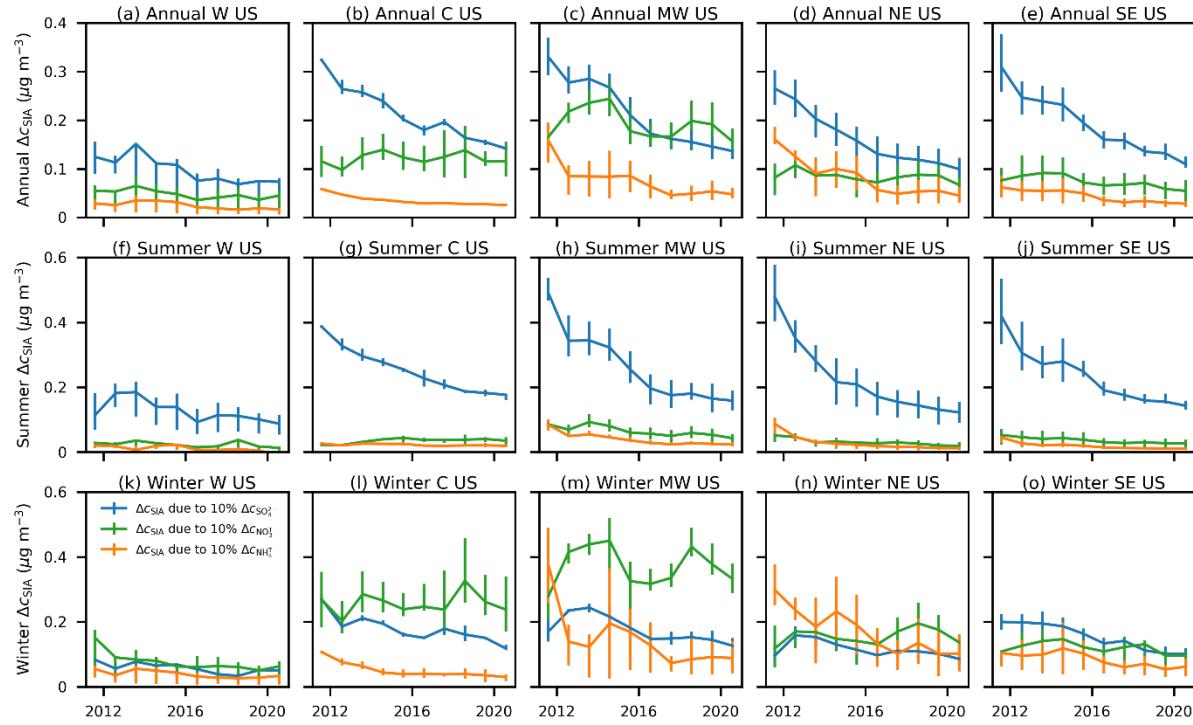
Supplementary Figure 6. NH_3 emission and $c_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ trends. Emission and concentration trends are derived from Theil-Sen regressions of 5-, 5-, and 10-years data for the periods of 2011 – 2015, 2016 – 2020, and 2011 – 2020 (sample size = 5, 5, and 10), respectively. Emission trends for the states and sites are shown by state color and circle color, respectively. The regions with $p < 0.05$ from the Mann-Kendall (MK) test are white. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



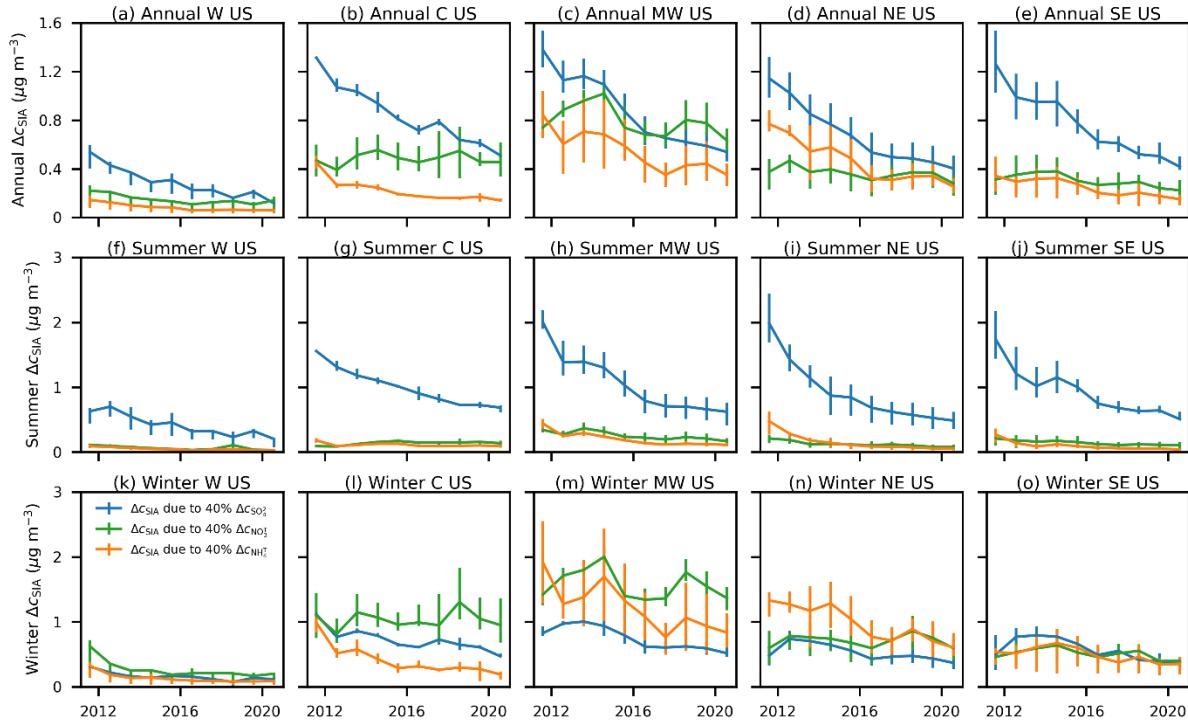
Supplementary Figure 7. Trend analysis of total reactive nitrogen deposition. Panel (a) shows the average annual total reactive nitrogen (N_r) deposition in the US between 2010 and 2019. Solid, dashed, and dotted lines show the boundaries of the areas within 50 km, 150 km, and 300 km of an NH_3 emission hotspot. The base map is from Natural Earth. Panels (b - g) show trends of total N_r deposition, total NO_3^T deposition, total NH_4^T deposition, dry NH_4^T deposition, and wet NH_4^T deposition, and NH_3 emissions, respectively. Yellow, orange, purple, and blue dots are average deposition rates in the areas <50 km, 50 - 150 km, 150 - 300 km, and >300 km from an NH_3 emission hotspot, respectively. NH_3 emission hotspots are defined as the areas of the 95th or high NH_3 emission rates in 2017 in the Contiguous US². The trends and relative annual change rates are determined using the Mann-Kendall test and Theil-Sen regression with a sample size of 10^{22} . Trends with $p < 0.05$ are considered statistically significant.



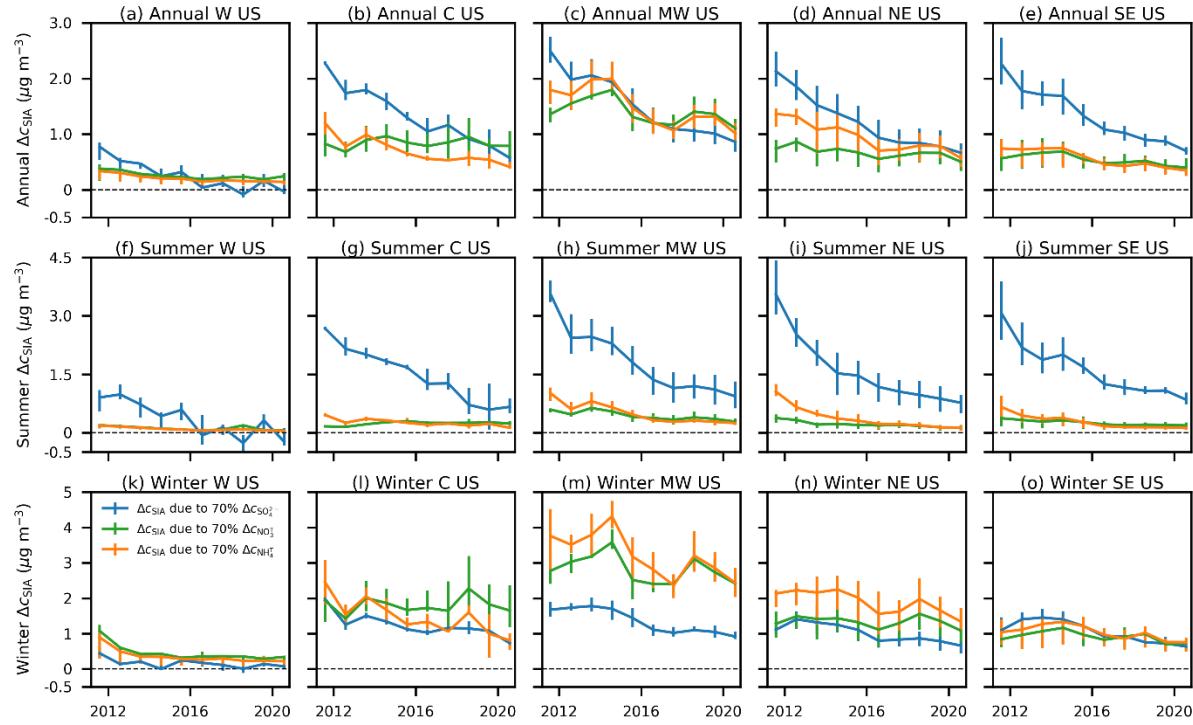
Supplementary Figure 8. Same as Supplementary Fig. 7 but regions are defined using satellite NH_3 hotspots. The trends and relative annual change rates are determined using the Mann-Kendall test and Theil-Sen regression with a sample size of 10^{22} . The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



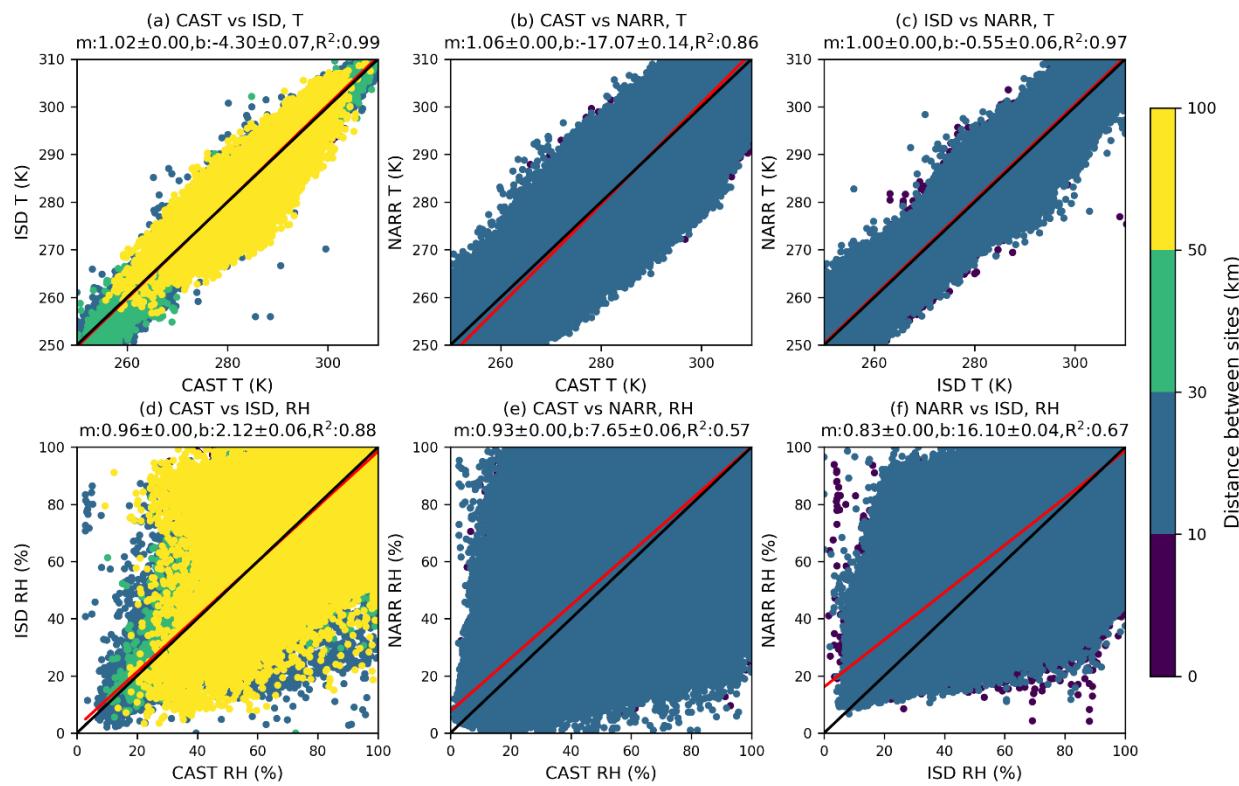
Supplementary Figure 9. Regional means of annual, summer, and winter c_{SIA} changes (Δc_{SIA}) due to 10% precursor reductions levels from 2011 to 2020. Blue, green, and orange solid lines in panels show Δc_{SIA} due to 10% reductions in $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$, $c_{\text{NO}_3^-}$, and $c_{\text{NH}_4^+}$, respectively. The vertical bars show the regional 25th and 75th percentiles of Δc_{SIA} within a region. “W US”, “C US”, “MW US”, “NE US”, “SE US” stand for the Western, Central, Midwestern, Northeastern, Southeastern US, respectively. The numbers of samples used to calculate the mean values for each region are listed in Supplementary Table 2.



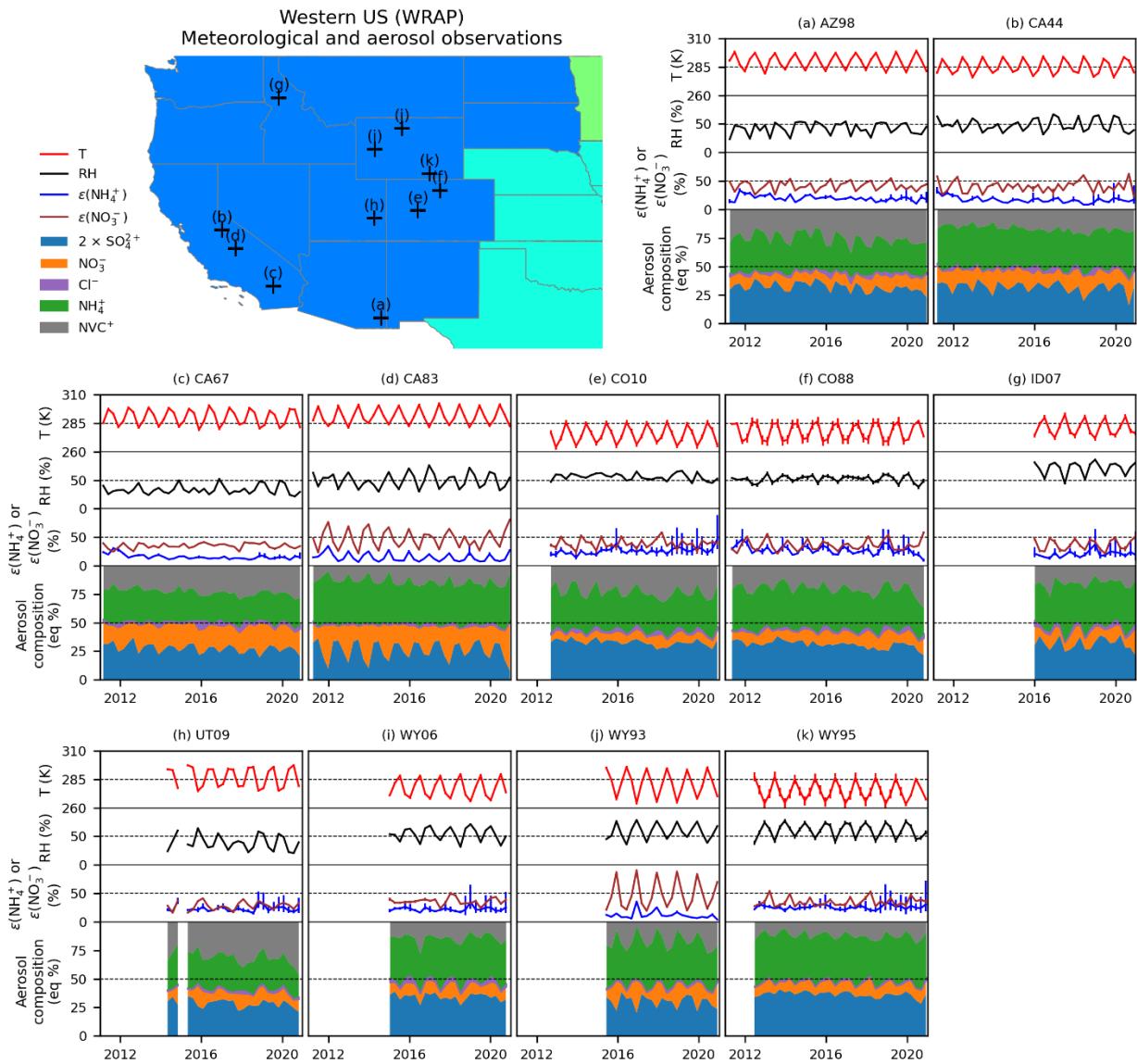
Supplementary Figure 10. Regional means of annual, summer, and winter c_{SIA} changes (Δc_{SIA}) due to 40% precursor reductions levels from 2011 to 2020. Blue, green, and orange solid lines in panels show Δc_{SIA} due to 40% reductions in $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$, $c_{\text{NO}_3^-}$, and $c_{\text{NH}_4^+}$, respectively. The vertical bars show the 25th and the 75th percentiles of Δc_{SIA} within a region. “W US”, “C US”, “MW US”, “NE US”, “SE US” stand for the Western, Central, Midwestern, Northeastern, Southeastern US, respectively. The numbers of samples used to calculate the mean values for each region are listed in Supplementary Table 2.



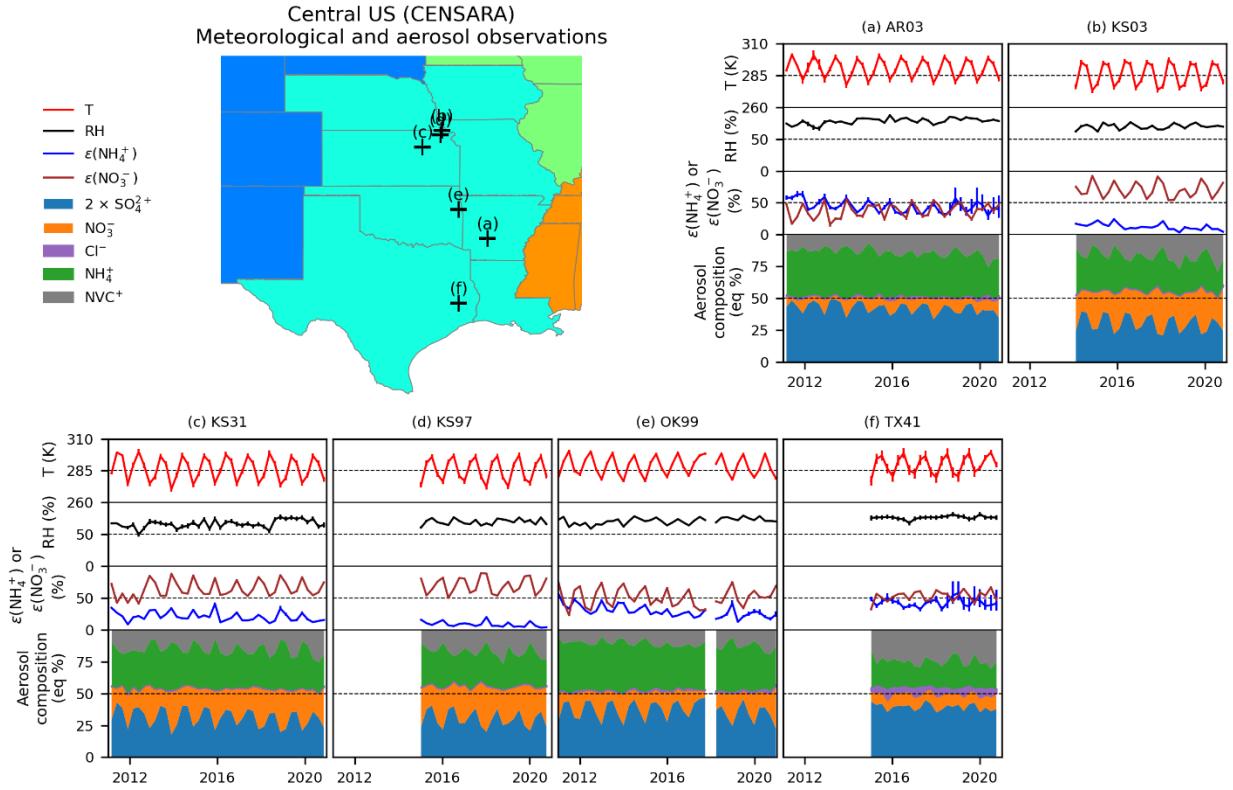
Supplementary Figure 11. Regional means of annual, summer, and winter c_{SIA} changes (Δc_{SIA}) due to 70% precursor reductions levels from 2011 to 2020. Blue, green, and orange solid lines in panels show Δc_{SIA} due to 40% reductions in $c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$, $c_{\text{NO}_3^-}$, and $c_{\text{NH}_4^+}$, respectively. The vertical bars show the 25th and 75th percentiles of Δc_{SIA} within a region. “W US”, “C US”, “MW US”, “NE US”, “SE US” stand for the Western, Central, Midwestern, Northeastern, Southeastern US, respectively. The numbers of samples used to calculate the mean values for each region are listed in Supplementary Table 2.



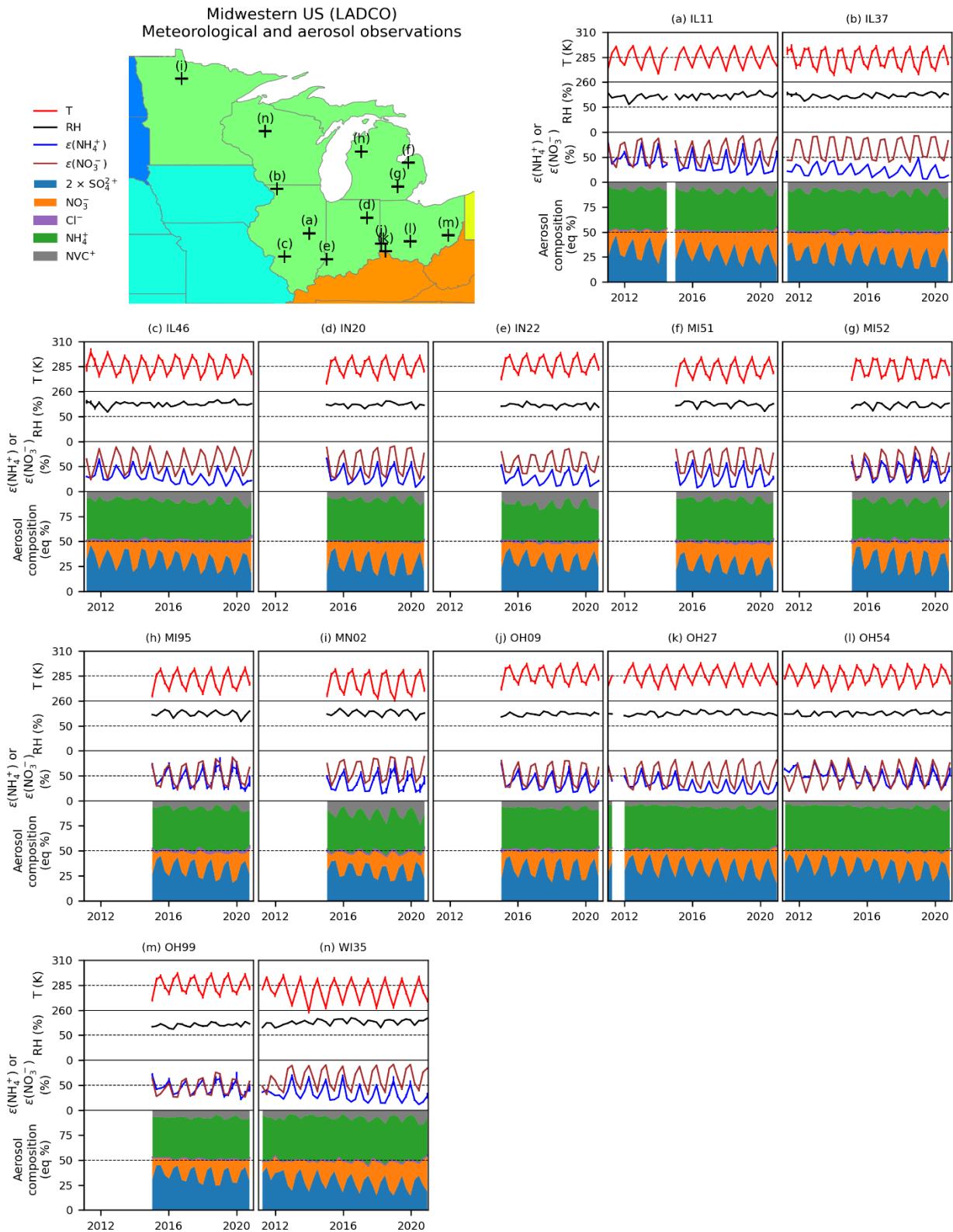
Supplementary Figure 12. Intercomparison of biweekly averaged T and RH observations from CASTNET, ISD, and NARR datasets. Data points are colored by distances between the sites. Red lines show the orthogonal distance regression results, and the slopes, offsets, and determination coefficients (R^2) are listed below panel titles. Black lines show the 1:1 line. The uncertainties of the slopes and the offsets are the 95% confidence intervals (CI; ± 1.96 (SD)). The numbers of samples are listed in Supplementary Table 8.



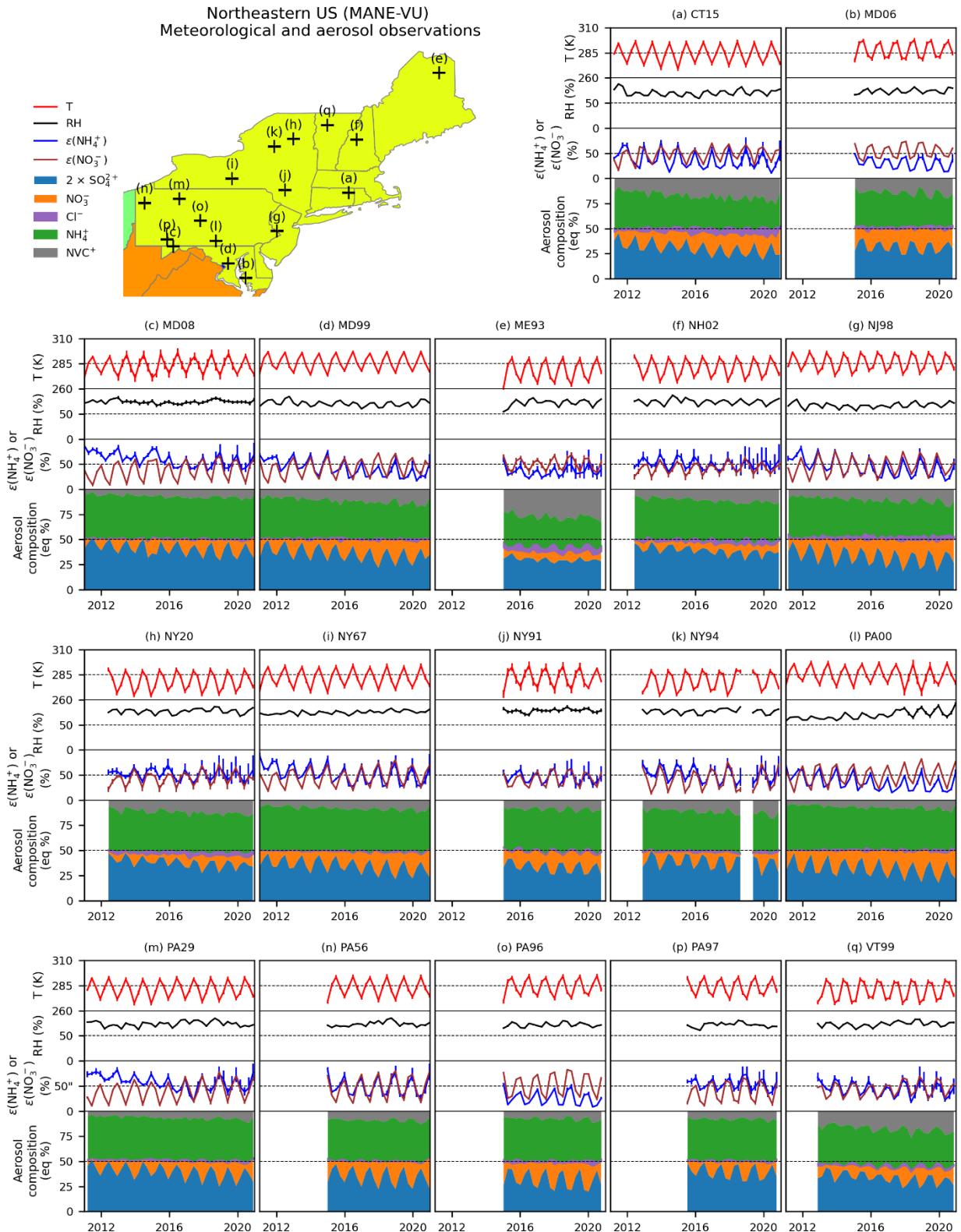
Supplementary Figure 13. T, RH, $\epsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ and $\epsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-}$, and aerosol composition from sites within the Western US (WRAP). Aerosol composition is calculated using ion-equivalent concentrations to reflect aerosol charge balance. Lines and bars in the top panels represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



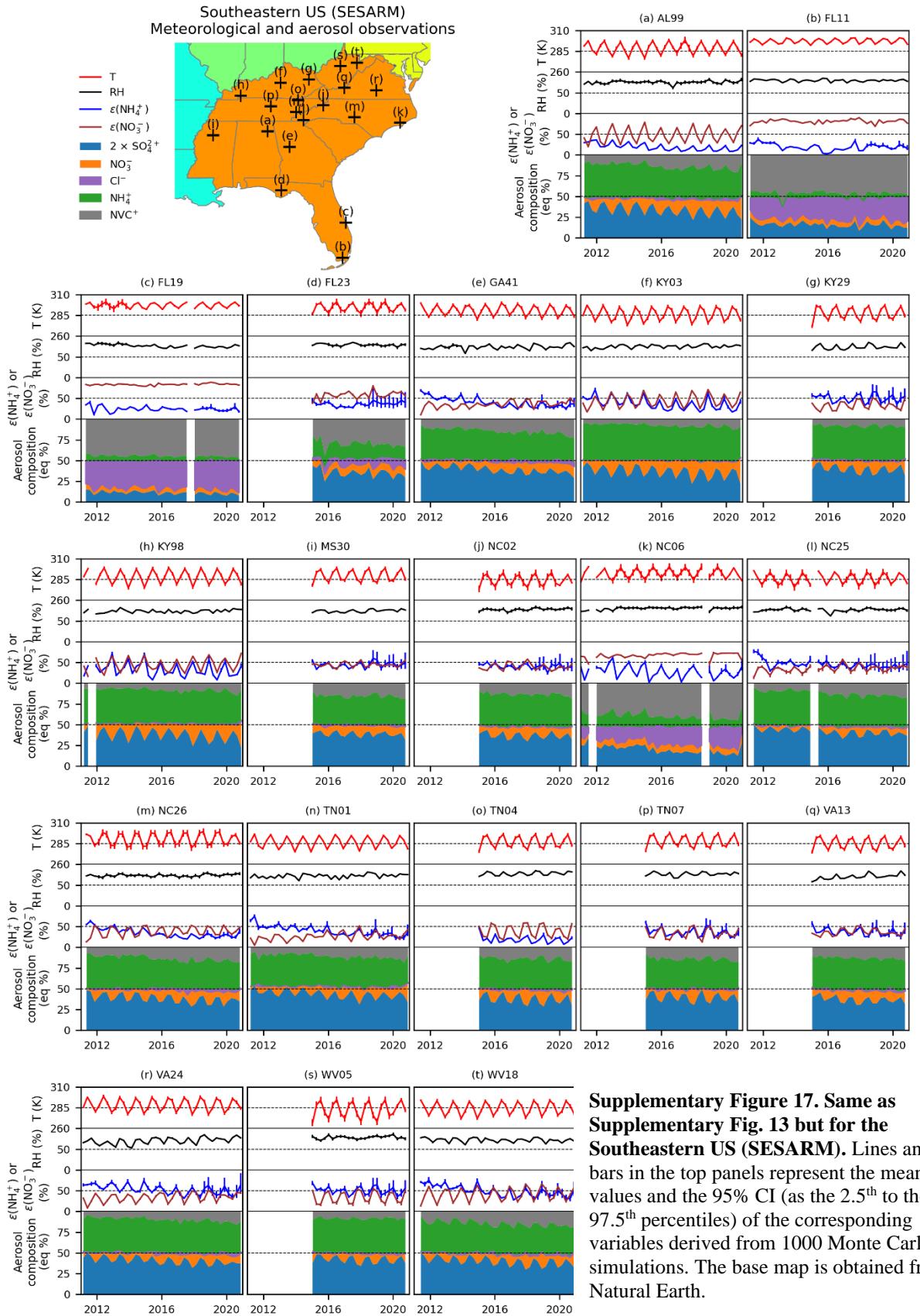
Supplementary Figure 14. Same as Supplementary Fig. 13 but for the Central US (CENSARA). Lines and bars in the top panels represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



Supplementary Figure 15. Same as Supplementary Fig. 13 but for the Midwestern US (LADCO). Lines and bars in the top panels represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.

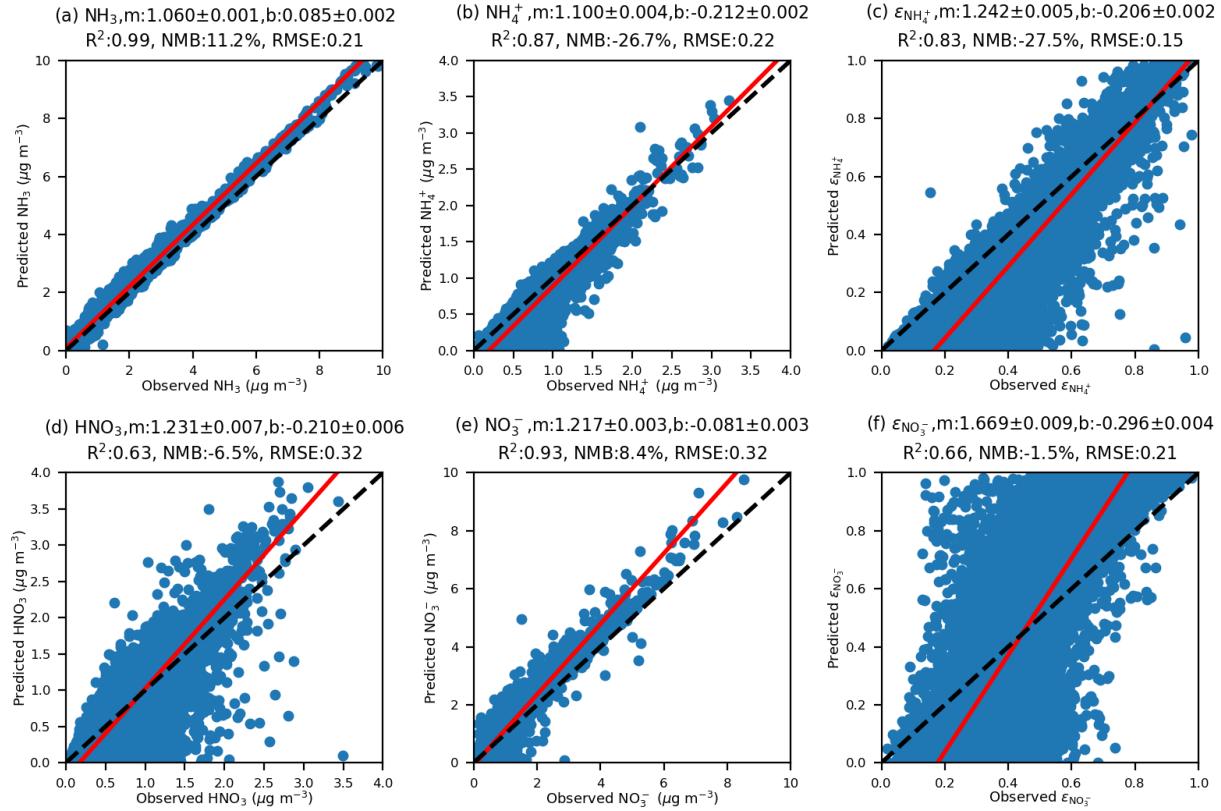


Supplementary Figure 16. Same as Supplementary Fig. 13 but for the Northeastern US (MANE-VU). Lines and bars in the top panels represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



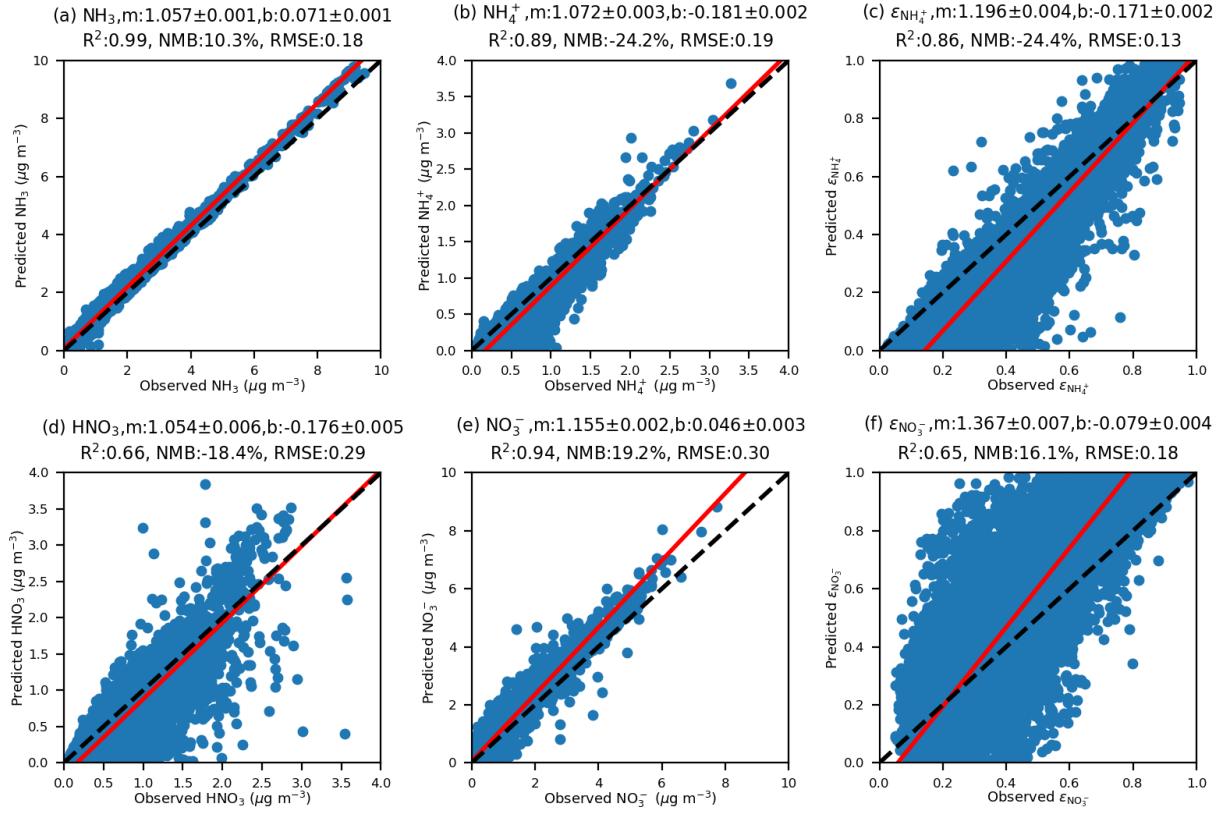
Supplementary Figure 17. Same as Supplementary Fig. 13 but for the Southeastern US (SESARM). Lines and bars in the top panels represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.

Case 3: CASTNET&AMoN for chem (raw NVC)
CASTNET&ISD&NARR for met, TS=2w, dist<50 km, n=13813

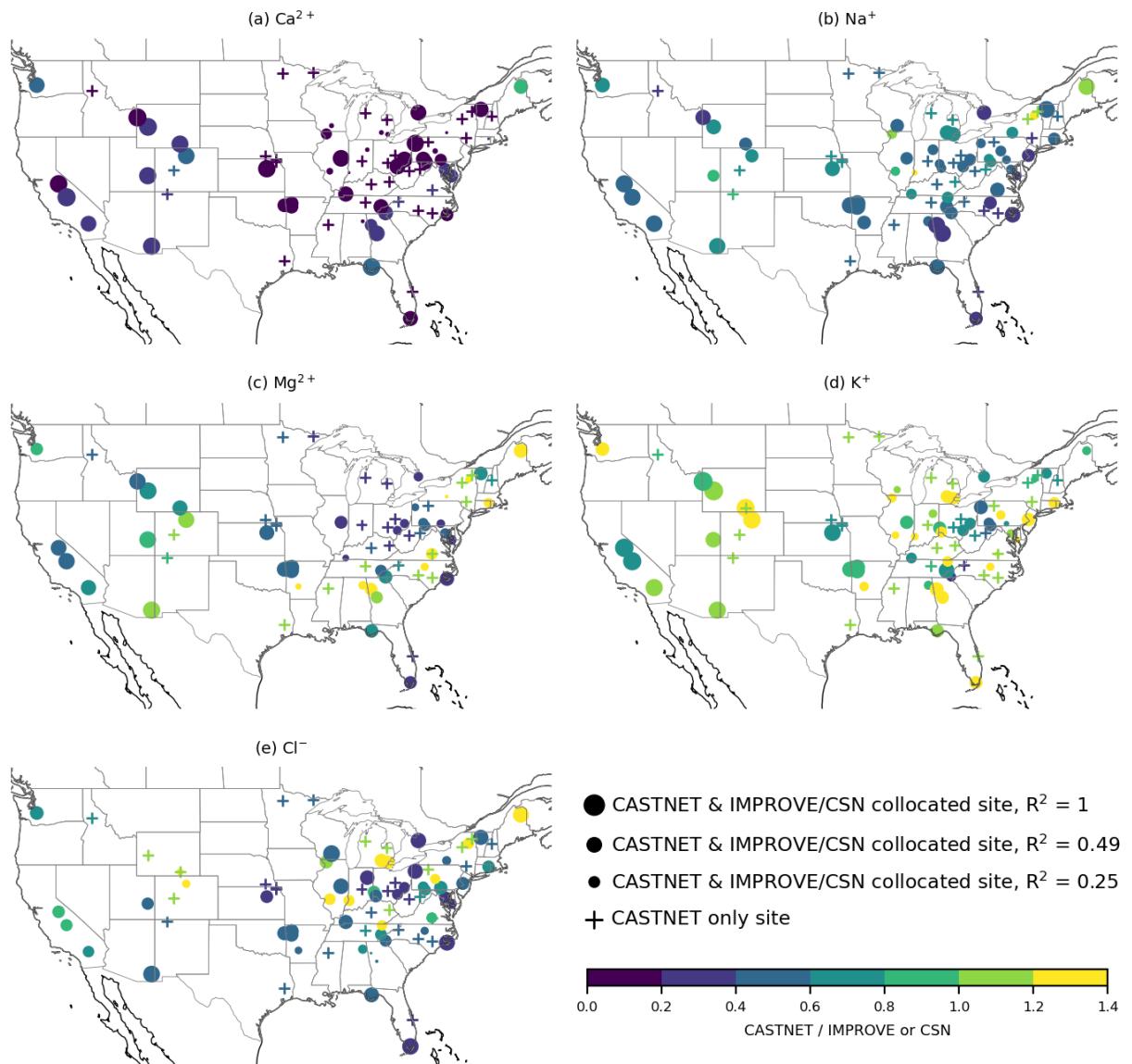


Supplementary Figure 18. Observed and ISORROPIA-II (Case 3) simulated (a) c_{NH_3} , (b) $c_{\text{NH}_4^+}$, (c) c_{HNO_3} (d) $c_{\text{NO}_3^-}$, (e) $\epsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-}$, and (f) $\epsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+}$. Inputs of the ISSORROPIA simulations are described in Supplementary Table 3. Red lines show orthogonal distance regression results (prediction = m·observation + b), and corresponding regression parameters and evaluation statistics (determination coefficient (R^2), normalized mean bias (NMB), and root mean square error (RMSE)) are shown in panel titles. The slope and offset uncertainties are the 95% CI of the regression ($\pm 1.96\text{SD}$). Black dashed lines show the 1:1 line. The number of samples is 13813 for all panels.

Case 4: CASTNET&AMoN for chem (raw NVC)
CASTNET&ISD&NARR for met, TS=3h, dist<50 km, n=13813

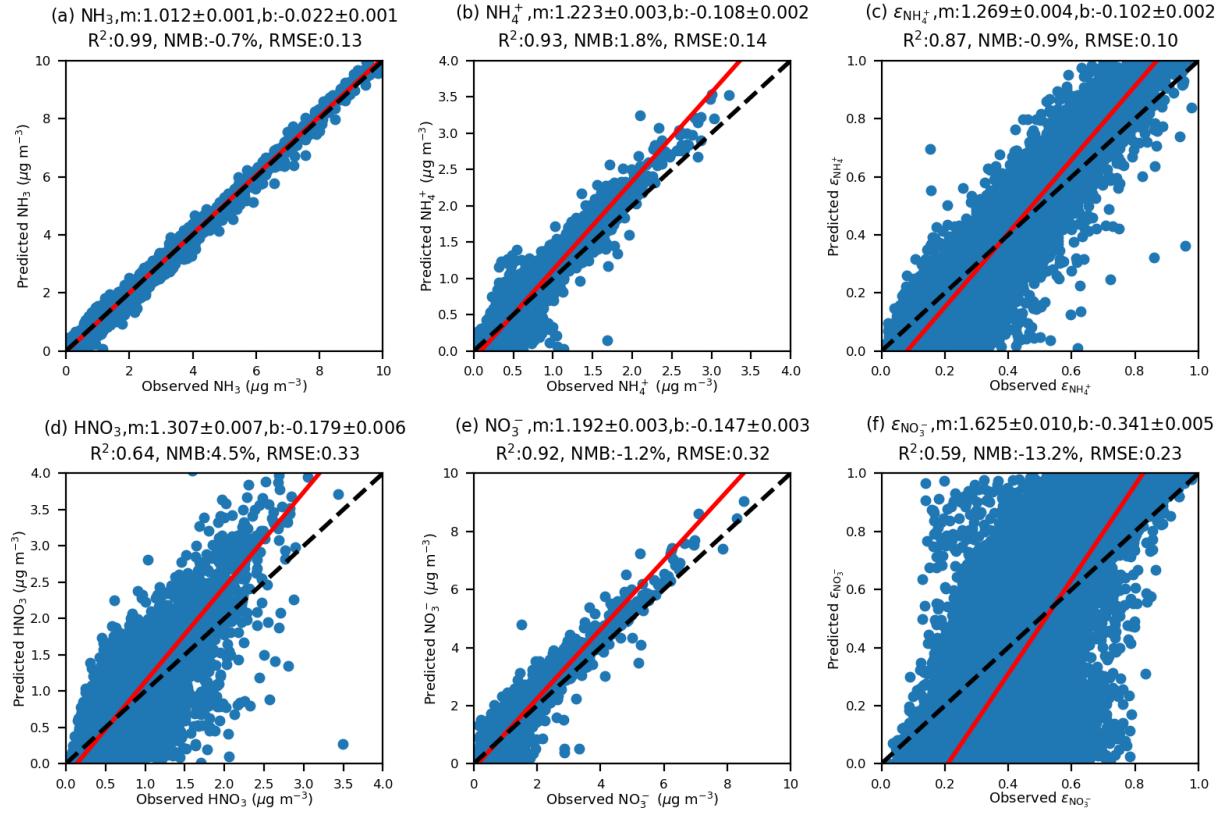


Supplementary Figure 19. Same as Supplementary Fig. 18 but for Case 4. The slope and offset uncertainties are the 95% CI of the regression ($\pm 1.96\text{SD}$). Black dashed lines show the 1:1 line. The number of samples is 13813 for all panels.



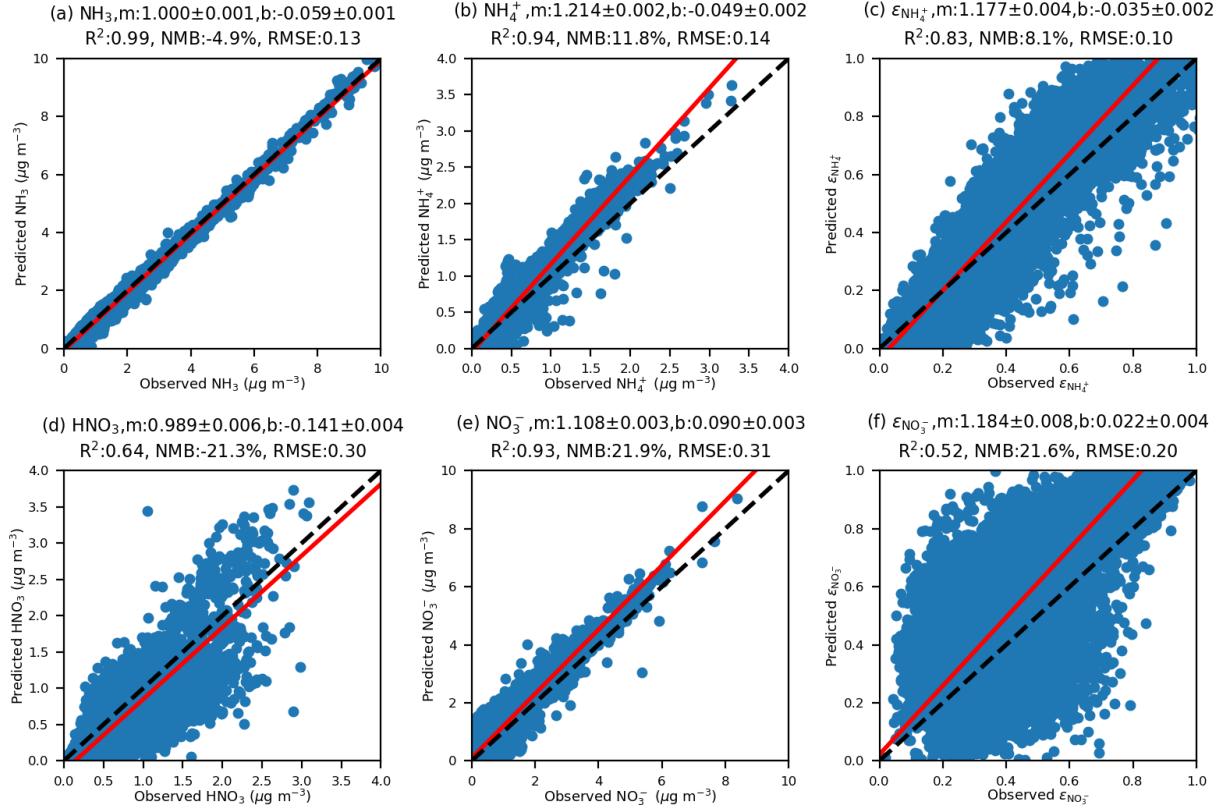
Supplementary Figure 20. Ratios of CASTNET and IMPROVE/EPA CSN NVC and Cl^- observations (circles) and interpolated values for sites without IMPROVE/EPA CSN sites (crosses). Sizes of the circle represent the determination coefficient (R^2). The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.

Case 5: CASTNET&AMoN for chem (scaled NVC)
CASTNET&ISD&NARR for met, TS=2w, dist<50 km, n=13813



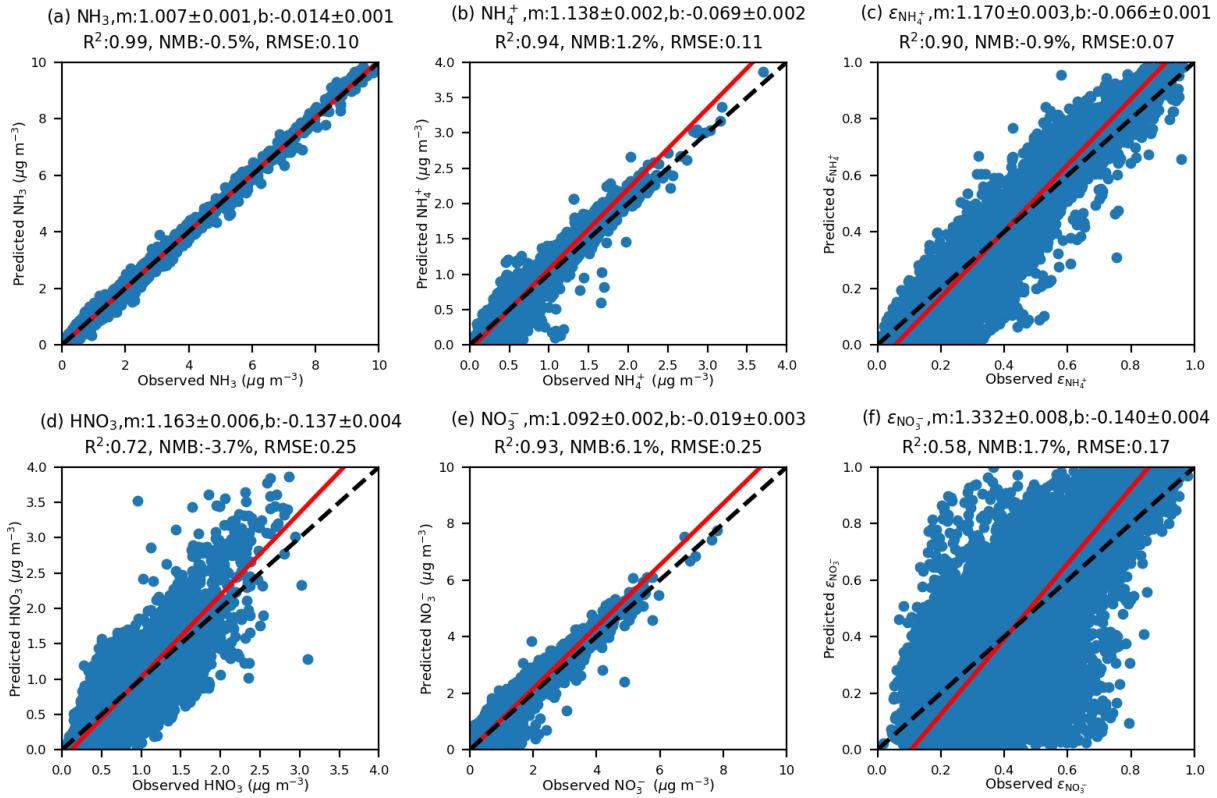
Supplementary Figure 21. Same as Supplementary Fig. 18 but for Case 5. The slope and offset uncertainties are the 95% CI of the regression ($\pm 1.96\text{SD}$). Black dashed lines show the 1:1 line. The number of samples is 13813 for all panels.

Case 6: CASTNET&AMoN for chem (scaled NVC, HPBL diel pattern)
 CASTNET&ISD&NARR for met, TS=3h, dist<50 km, n=13813



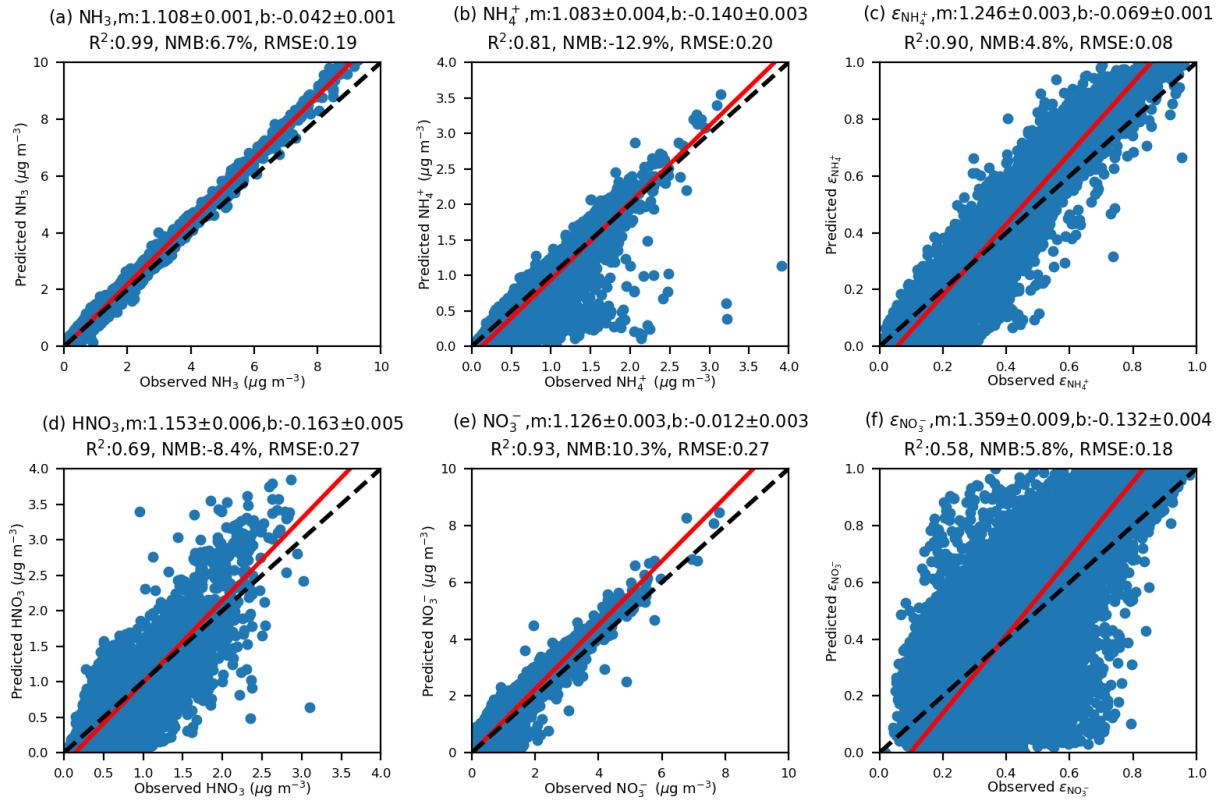
Supplementary Figure 22. Same as Supplementary Fig. 18 but for Case 6. The slope and offset uncertainties are the 95% CI of the regression ($\pm 1.96\text{SD}$). Black dashed lines show the 1:1 line. The number of samples is 13813 for all panels.

Case 7: CASTNET&AMoN for chem (scaled NVC, NH_4^+ diel pattern)
 CASTNET&ISD&NARR for met, TS=3h, dist<50 km, n=13813



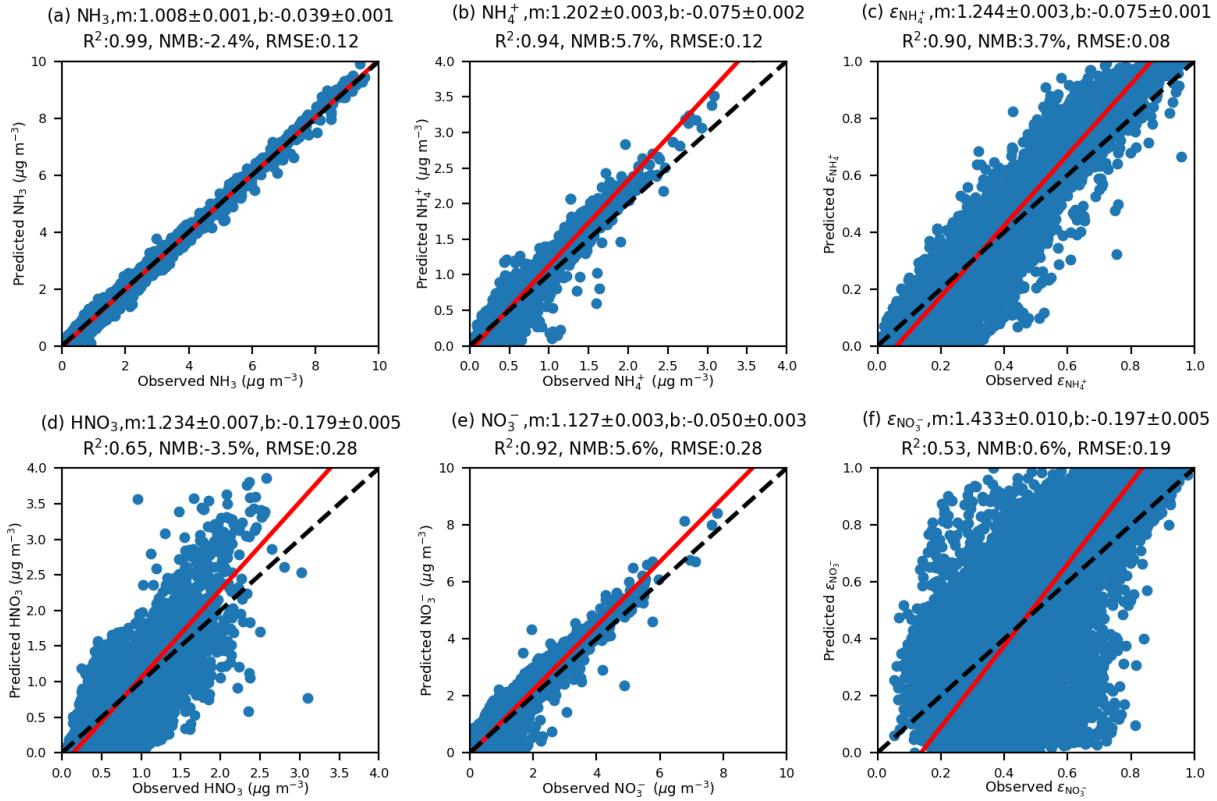
Supplementary Figure 23. Same as Supplementary Fig. 18 but for Case 7. The slope and offset uncertainties are the 95% CI of the regression ($\pm 1.96\text{SD}$). Black dashed lines show the 1:1 line. The number of samples is 13813 for all panels.

Case 8: CASTNET&AMoN for chem (scaled NVC, increase NH_3 by 10%)
 CASTNET&ISD&NARR for met, TS=3h, dist<50 km, n=13813

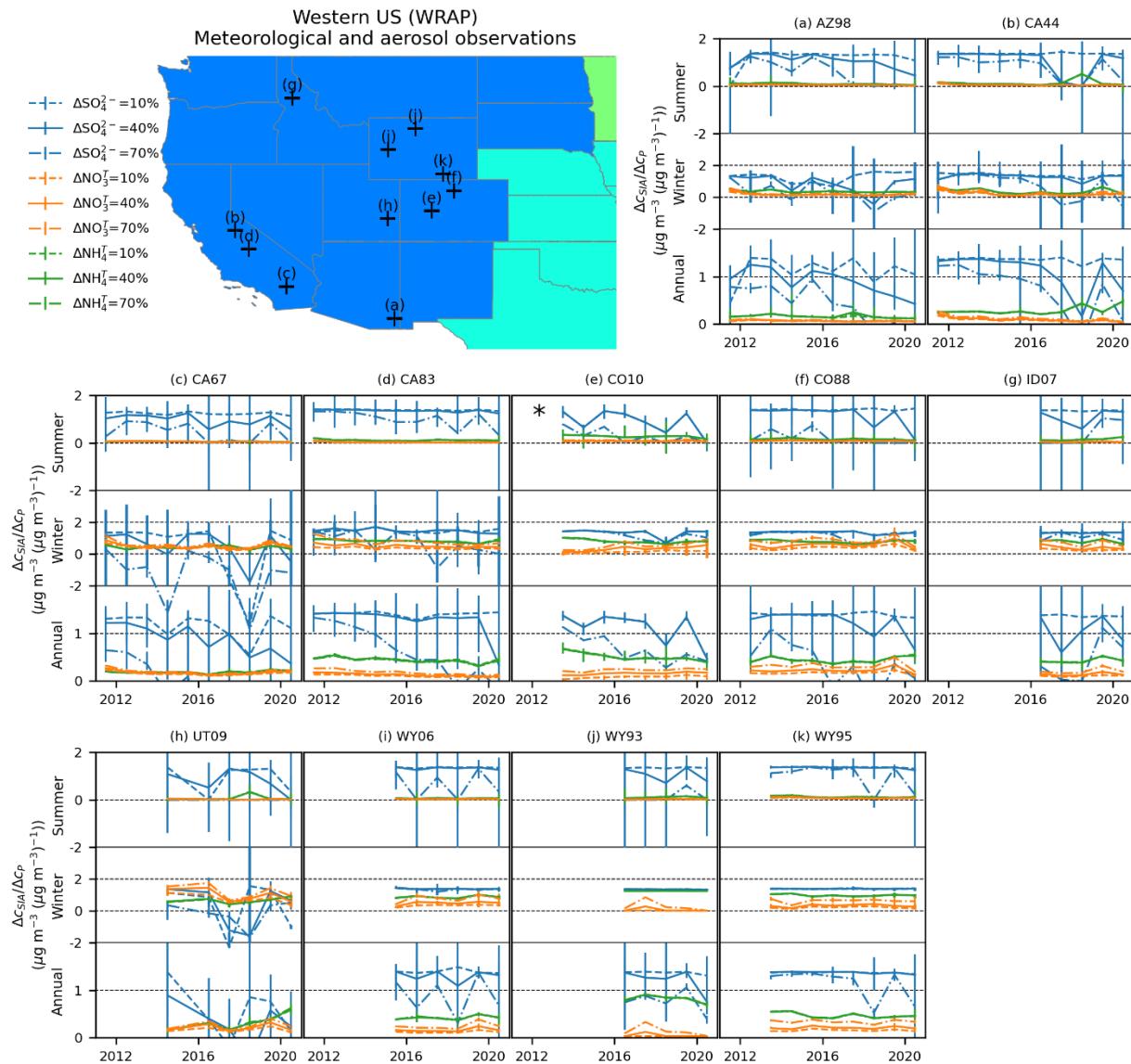


Supplementary Figure 24. Same as Supplementary Fig. 18 but for Case 8. The slope and offset uncertainties are the 95% CI of the regression ($\pm 1.96\text{SD}$). Black dashed lines show the 1:1 line. The number of samples is 13813 for all panels.

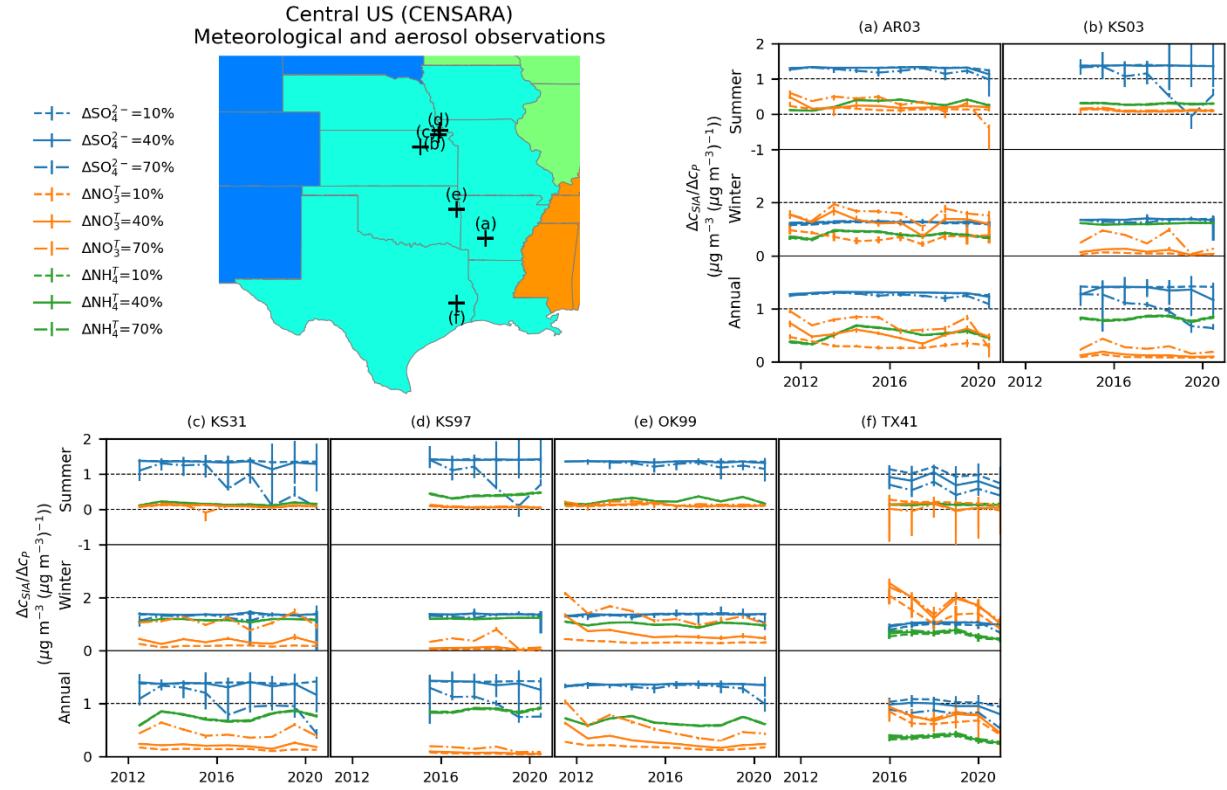
Case 9: CASTNET&AMoN for chem (scaled NVC, decrease $\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-}$ by 10%)
 CASTNET&ISD&NARR for met, TS=3h, dist<50 km, n=13813



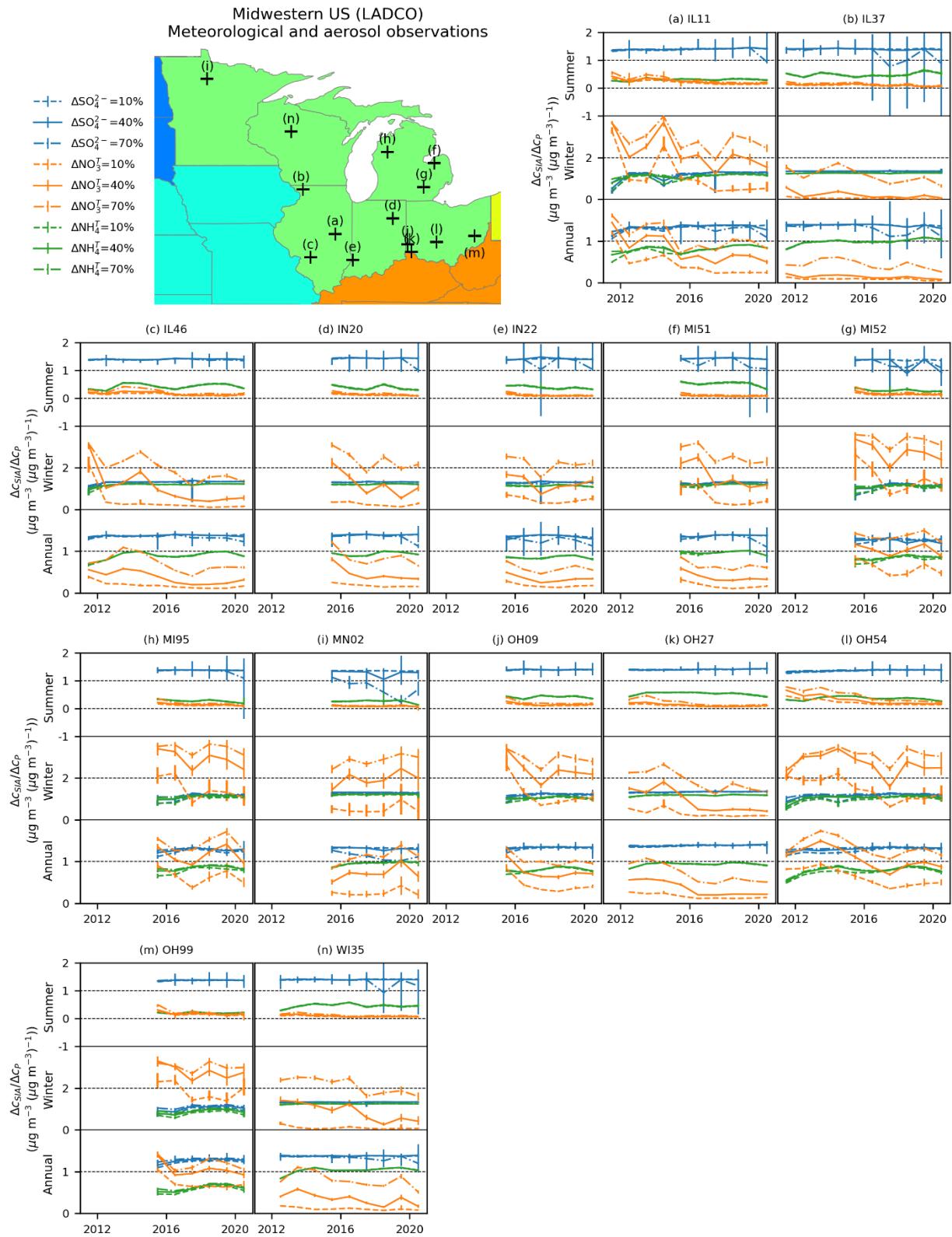
Supplementary Figure 25. Same as Supplementary Fig. 18 but for Case 9. The slope and offset uncertainties are the 95% CI of the regression ($\pm 1.96\text{SD}$). Black dashed lines show the 1:1 line. The number of samples is 13813 for all panels.



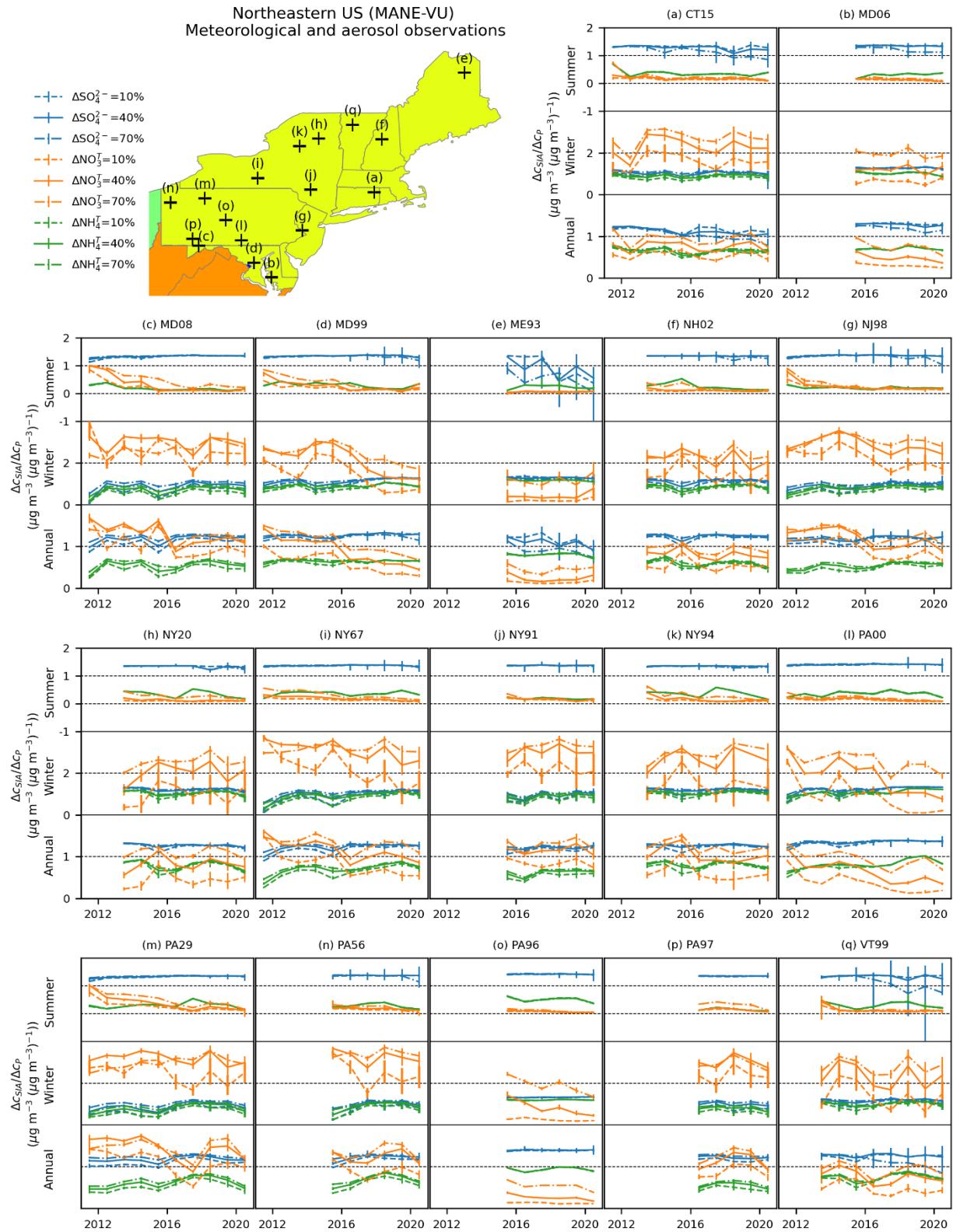
Supplementary Figure 26. Simulated $\Delta c_{SIA}/\Delta c_{SO_4^{2-}}$, $\Delta c_{SIA}/\Delta c_{NO_3^T}$, and $\Delta c_{SIA}/\Delta c_{NH_4^T}$ from sites within the Western US (WRAP). Lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 500 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



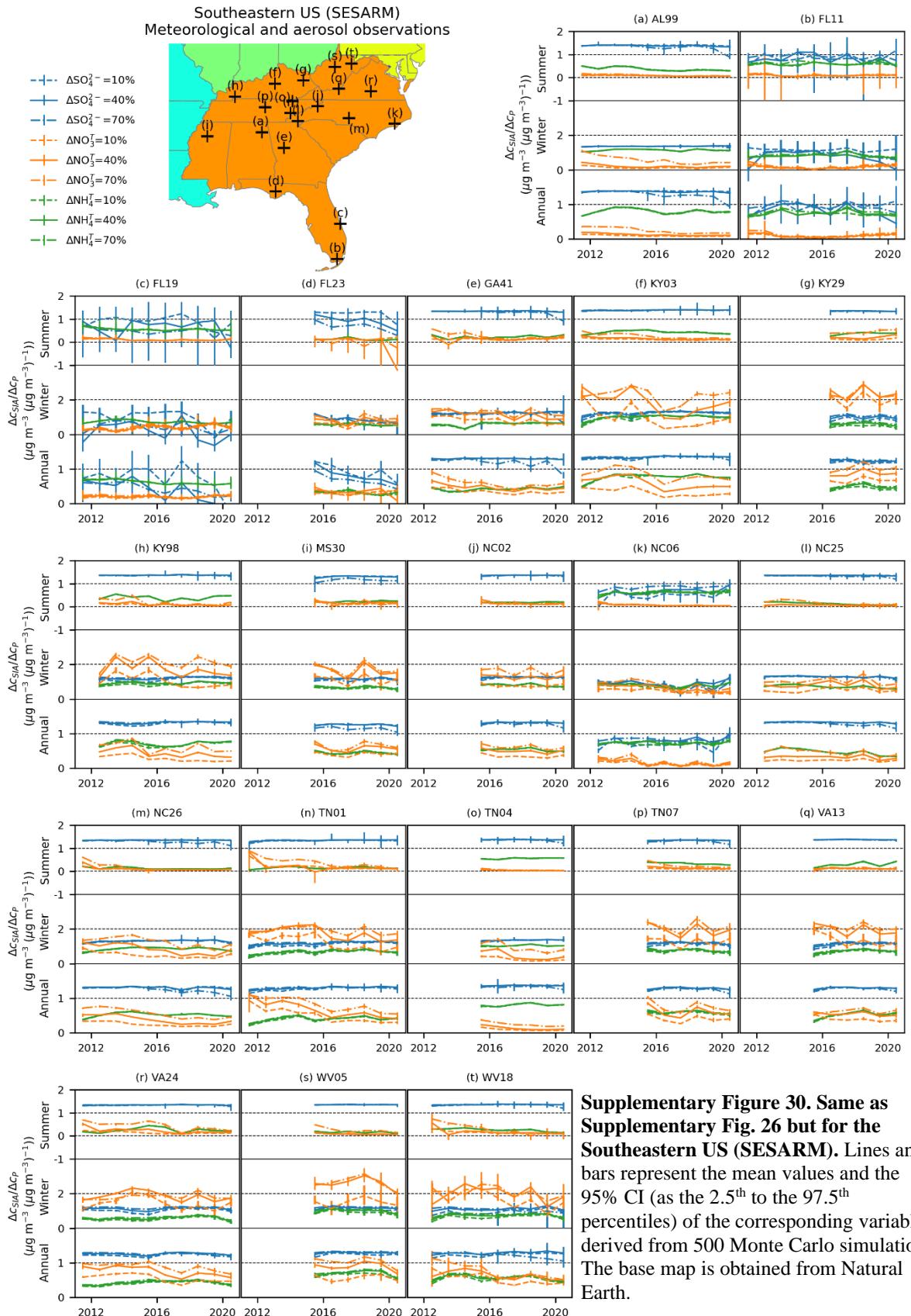
Supplementary Figure 27. Same as Supplementary Fig. 26 but for the Central US (CENSARA). Lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 500 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



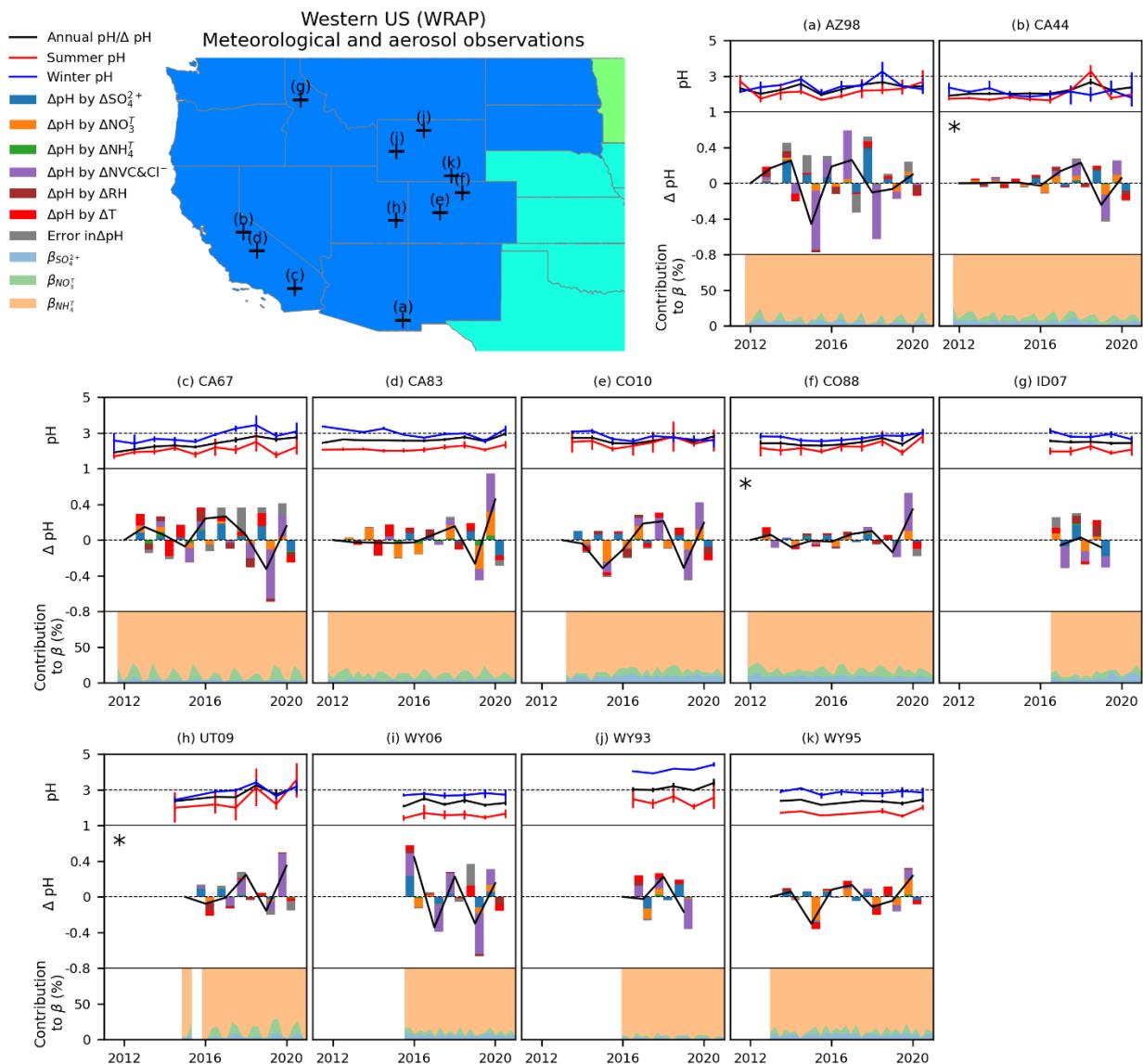
Supplementary Figure 28. Same as Supplementary Fig. 26 but for the Midwestern US (LADCO). Lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 500 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



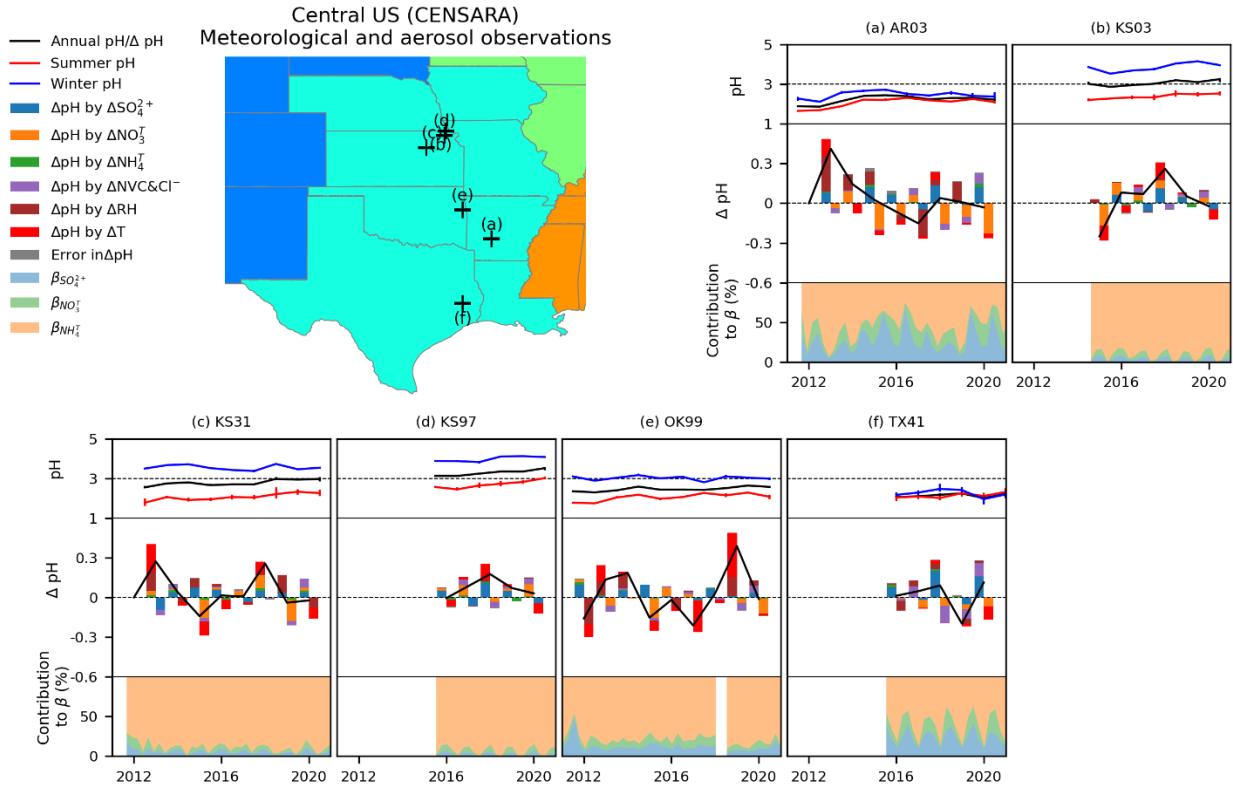
Supplementary Figure 29. Same as Supplementary Fig. 26 but for the Northeastern US (MANE-VU). Lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 500 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



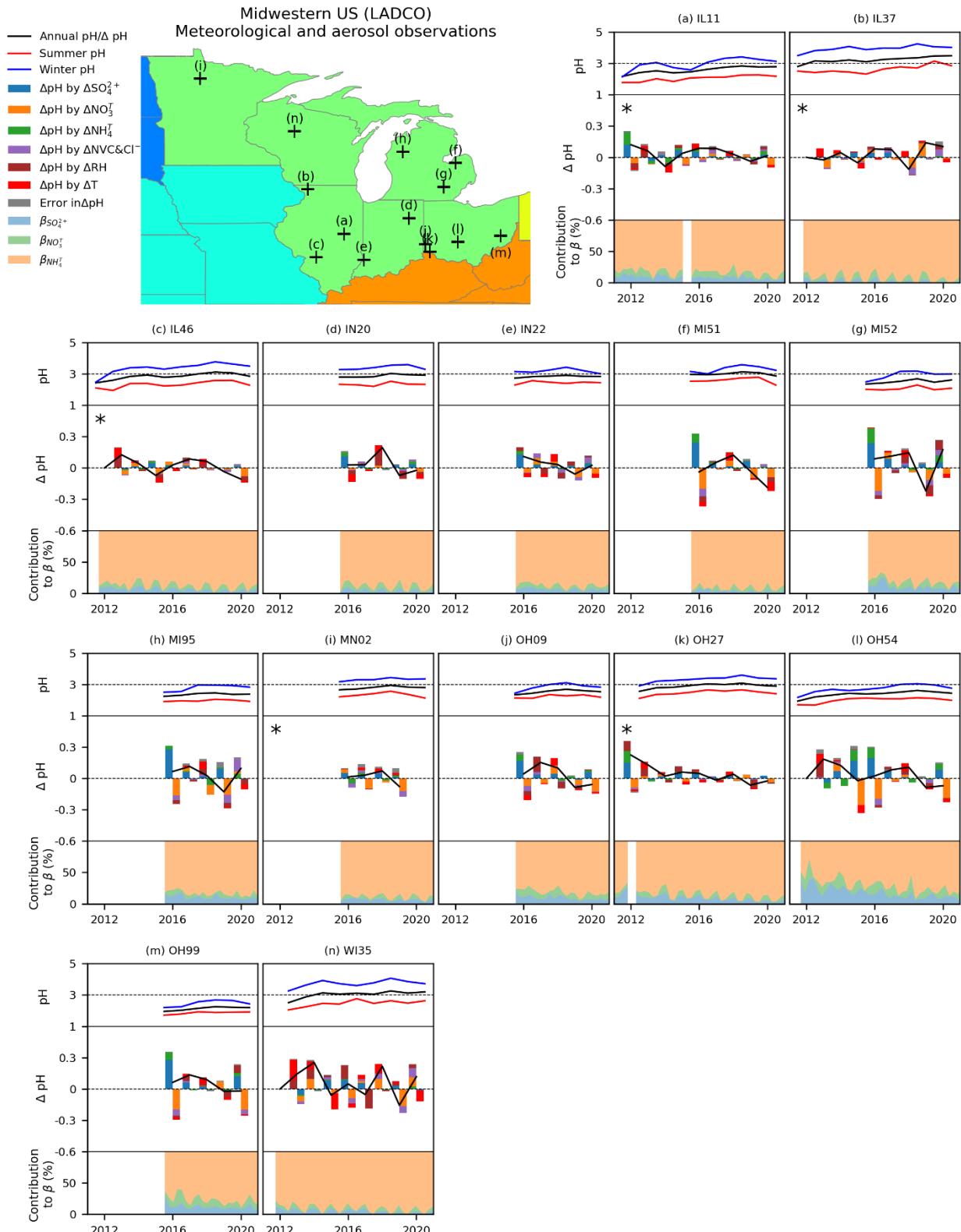
Supplementary Figure 30. Same as Supplementary Fig. 26 but for the Southeastern US (SESARM). Lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 500 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



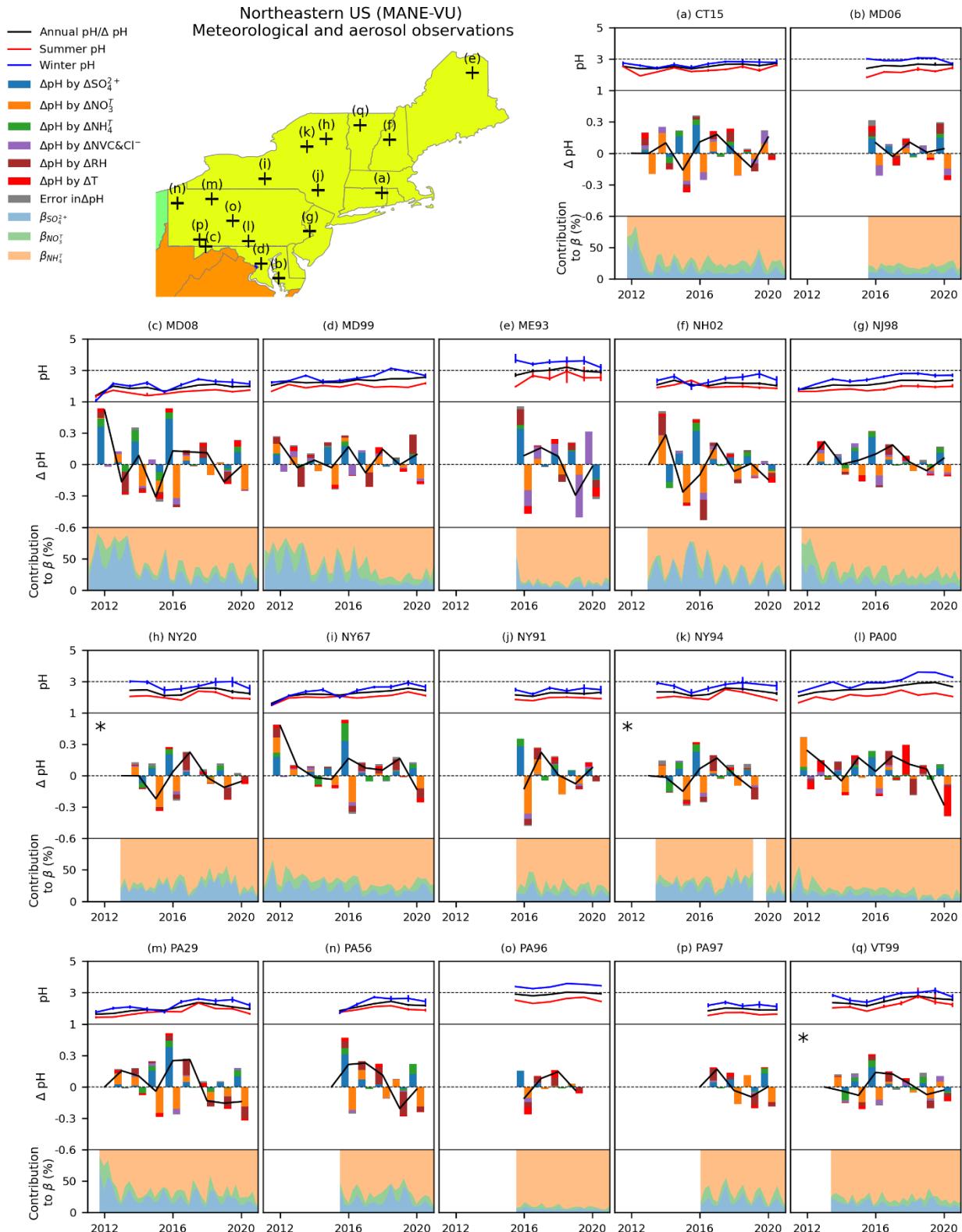
Supplementary Figure 31. ISORROPIA-II Simulated aerosol acidity related properties from sites within the Western US (WRAP). The top panels of each site plot show annual, summer, and winter pH, and lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The middle panels show ΔpH caused by changes in SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^{T} , NH_4^{T} , non-volatile ions and Cl^- , relative humidity (RH), temperature, and errors of the multivariable Taylor series method. The bottom panels show buffering capacities of SO_4^{2-} , NO_3^{T} , and NH_4^{T} . Vertical bars in the top panels are the 95% CI (as the 2.5th and the 97.5th percentiles) of the corresponding variables derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. “*” indicates that ΔpH values are scaled by 0.5 to be fitted in the panel. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



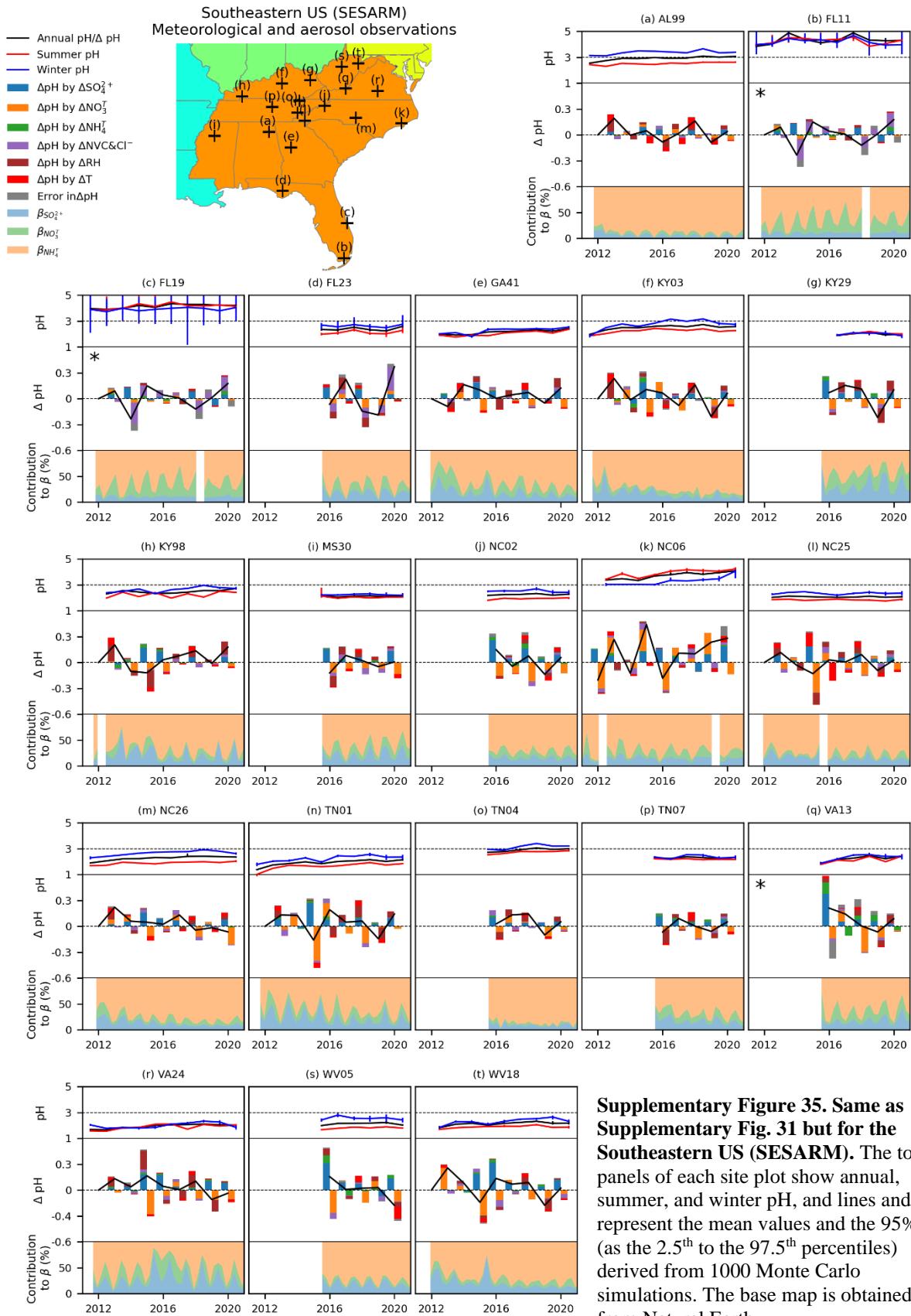
Supplementary Figure 32. Same as Supplementary Fig. 31 but for the Central US (CENSARA). The top panels of each site plot show annual, summer, and winter pH, and lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



Supplementary Figure 33. Same as Supplementary Fig. 31 but for the Midwestern US (LADCO). The top panels of each site plot show annual, summer, and winter pH, and lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



Supplementary Figure 34. Same as Supplementary Fig. 31 but for the Northeastern US (MANE-VU). The top panels of each site plot show annual, summer, and winter pH, and lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.



Supplementary Figure 35. Same as Supplementary Fig. 31 but for the Southeastern US (SESARM). The top panels of each site plot show annual, summer, and winter pH, and lines and bars represent the mean values and the 95% CI (as the 2.5th to the 97.5th percentiles) derived from 1000 Monte Carlo simulations. The base map is obtained from Natural Earth.

OH99	CAST(QAK172,0.0)	IMP(QUCI1,0.0) CSN(540511002,51.6)	ISD(724286-93824,47.2) NARR(14.3)	A	2015-01	N.A.
OK99	CAST(CHE185,0.0)	IMP(STIL1,0.0) CSN(400019009,0.0)	ISD(722199-53956,36.0) NARR(15.1)	A	2007-10	N.A.
PA00	CAST(ARE128,0.0)	N.A.	ISD(722826-93762,23.7) NARR(13.2)	A	2009-10	N.A.
PA29	CAST(KEF112,0.1)	N.A.	ISD(725266-04751,25.1) NARR(7.1)	F	2011-03	N.A.
PA56	CAST(MKG113,0.2)	N.A.	ISD(725104-04843,22.9) NARR(8.5)	F	2014-12	N.A.
PA96	CAST(PSU106,0.0)	N.A.	ISD(725128-54739,15.9) NARR(5.4)	A	2015-01	N.A.
PA97	CAST(LRL117,0.1)	IMP(FRRE1,37.5) CSN(240230002,37.5)	ISD(725127-04726,50.9) NARR(10.8)	F	2015-07	N.A.
TN01	CAST(GRS420,0.2)	IMP(GRSM1,0.1)	ISD(720259-63844,65.8) NARR(20.8)	F	2011-03	N.A.
TN04	CAST(SPD111,0.1)	CSN(470931020,50.3)	ISD(720353-63875,17.6) NARR(12.6)	A	2015-01	N.A.
TN07	CAST(ESP127,0.1)	N.A.	ISD(723274-00372,18.3) NARR(14.0)	F	2015-01	N.A.
TX41	CAST(ALC188,40.5)	N.A.	ISD(725021-99999,50.0) NARR(13.4)	Unk	2015-01	N.A.
UT09	CAST(CAN407,0.0)	IMP(CANY1,0.0)	ISD(999999-53004,96.5) NARR(15.5)	D	2014-05	N.A.
VA13	CAST(VPH120,0.1)	N.A.	ISD(724125-03859,57.2) NARR(12.9)	A	2015-01	N.A.
VA24	CAST(PED108,0.1)	CSN(510870014,91.2)	ISD(724017-03707,24.4) NARR(8.4)	F	2011-03	N.A.
VT99	CAST(UND002,0.0)	IMP(PMRF1,0.0) CSN(500070007,0.0)	ISD(726114-54771,20.2) NARR(11.8)	F	2012-11	N.A.
WI06	CAST(STK138,96.0)	CSN(550270001,80.7)	ISD(720656-99999,11.7) NARR(17.9)	A	2019-02	N.A.
WI35	CAST(PRK134,0.0)	CSN(551198001,0.1)	ISD(726417-54911,25.9) NARR(2.8)	A	2011-03	N.A.
WV05	CAST(CDR119,0.0)	CSN(540390011,87.0)	ISD(720366-63879,27.3) NARR(2.4)	F	2015-01	N.A.
WV18	CAST(PAR107,0.1)	N.A.	ISD(724170-13729,27.8) NARR(7.5)	F	2011-06	N.A.
WY06	CAST(PND165,0.8)	IMP(BOLA1,15.1)	ISD(720522-00443,69.3) NARR(15.3)	F	2015-01	N.A.
WY92	CAST(YEL408,96.8)	IMP(YELL2,96.8)	ISD(726664-94173,93.9) NARR(10.7)	A	2019-10	N.A.
WY93	CAST(BAS601,0.0)	N.A.	ISD(726667-24048,26.6) NARR(15.6)	P	2015-06	N.A.
WY95	CAST(CNT169,0.8)	IMP(MOZI1,98.9)	NARR(20.4)	F	2012-06	N.A.

^a Land types: “A”=Agricultural; “F”=Forest; “OR”=Open range; “D”=Desert; “M”=Marsh; “P”=Prairie; and “Unk”=Unknown.

Supplementary Table 2. Region definition, information, and sites within each region. Mean [5th, 95th percentiles] population densities and emission rates in the regions and near the sites, and annual number of biweekly samples within each region are listed. Sites are named after AMoN IDs. Population (2015) and emission (2017) data are obtained from the Gridded Population of the World, Version 4 (GPWv4, ~30 km×30 km)²⁸ and EPA's Air Quality Time Series Project Data(EQUATES, 12 km × 12 km)².

Region	RPO	Sites	Regional mean population density (pop, persons km ⁻²) and emission rates (ton km ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	Mean population density (pop, persons km ⁻²) and emission rates (ton km ⁻² yr ⁻¹) within 50 km of the sites	Year	Number of samples ¹
Western US	Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP)	AZ98, CA44, CA67, CA83, CO10, CO88, ID07, UT09, WY06, WY93, WY95	Pop: 32.6 [3×10 ⁻³ , 51.6] SO ₂ : 0.11 [2×10 ⁻⁶ , 0.15] NO _x : 0.55 [3×10 ⁻⁴ , 2.00] NH ₃ : 0.36 [1×10 ⁻² , 1.33]	Pop: 27.6 [3×10 ⁻³ , 73.3] SO ₂ : 0.06 [6×10 ⁻⁶ , 0.16] NO _x : 0.41 [1×10 ⁻⁴ , 1.63] NH ₃ : 0.45 [6×10 ⁻³ , 0.96]	2011	97
					2012	156
					2013	182
					2014	200
					2015	239
					2016	279
					2017	288
					2018	286
					2019	278
					2020	279
Central US	Central States Air Resource Agencies (CENSARA)	AR03, KS03, KS31, KS97, OK99, TX41	Pop: 33.2 [0.03, 99.2] SO ₂ : 0.45 [6×10 ⁻⁵ , 0.35] NO _x : 1.19 [0.02, 4.10] NH ₃ : 0.81 [0.05, 2.53]	Pop: 18.7 [3×10 ⁻³ , 73.3] SO ₂ : 0.15 [4×10 ⁻³ , 0.34] NO _x : 0.95 [0.10, 2.68] NH ₃ : 0.73 [0.12, 1.82]	2011	64
					2012	79
					2013	71
					2014	102
					2015	156
					2016	156
					2017	150
					2018	150
					2019	146
					2020	151
Midwestern US	Lake Michigan Air Directors Consortium (LADCO)	IL11, IL37, IL46, IN20, IN22, MI51, MI52, MI95, MN02, OH09, OH27, OH54, OH99, WI35	Pop: 66.3 [0.3, 292.3] SO ₂ : 0.43 [4×10 ⁻⁴ , 0.39] NO _x : 1.56 [0.04, 6.11] NH ₃ : 0.73 [0.02, 2.13]	Pop: 82.9 [0.5, 488.7] SO ₂ : 0.73 [4×10 ⁻⁴ , 0.44] NO _x : 2.03 [0.03, 8.79] NH ₃ : 0.65 [0.03, 1.58]	2011	116
					2012	157
					2013	156
					2014	149
					2015	356
					2016	364
					2017	365
					2018	362
					2019	364
					2020	363
Northeastern US	Mid-Atlantic/Northeast Visibility Union (MANE-VU)	CT15, MD06, MD08, MD99, ME93, NH02, NJ98, NY20, NY67, NY91, NY94, PA00, PA29, PA56, PA96, PA97, VT99	Pop: 159.3 [0.2, 689.5] SO ₂ : 0.30 [4×10 ⁻⁴ , 0.53] NO _x : 1.93 [0.02, 7.92] NH ₃ : 0.35 [0.02, 1.13]	Pop: 141.2 [0.1, 746.4] SO ₂ : 0.21 [3×10 ⁻⁴ , 0.36] NO _x : 1.83 [0.03, 8.61] NH ₃ : 0.32 [0.02, 1.05]	2011	164
					2012	228
					2013	285
					2014	285
					2015	421
					2016	442
					2017	433
					2018	435
					2019	433
					2020	441
Southeastern US	Southeastern Air Pollution Control Agencies (SESARM)	AL99, FL19, FL23, GA41, KY03, KY29, KY98, MS30, NC02, NC06, NC25, NC26, TN01, TN04, TN07, VA13, VA24, WV05, WV18	Pop: 78.1 [0.6, 375.3] SO ₂ : 0.42 [2×10 ⁻³ , 0.32] NO _x : 1.64 [0.07, 6.60] NH ₃ : 0.63 [0.08, 1.78]	Pop: 59.2 [0.7, 236.7] SO ₂ : 0.21 [9×10 ⁻⁴ , 0.21] NO _x : 1.22 [0.07, 4.29] NH ₃ : 0.85 [0.06, 2.80]	2011	208
					2012	316
					2013	303
					2014	304
					2015	498
					2016	519
					2017	503
					2018	503
					2019	513
					2020	520

Supplementary Table 4. Region trends derived from Theil-Sen regressions and Mann-Kendall tests. Trends of observed concentrations (c), aerosol composition (f), pH, partitionings of NH_4^+ and NO_3^- ($\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+}$ and $\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-}$), and $\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_p$ ($p=\text{SO}_4^{2-}$, NO_3^{T} , NH_4^{T}). “*” and “**” indicate the trends are $p<0.05$ and $p<0.01$, respectively. The annual changing rates are the median annual changing rate of the sites within a region. “W US”, “C US”, “MW US”, “NE US”, “SE US” stand for the Western, Central, Midwestern, Northeastern, Southeastern US, respectively. Annual changing rates are normalized to the first values of the period. Long-term sites refer to the sites with data for 2011 – 2020. Trend analyses for 2011 – 2020 using data from all sites and long-term sites are consistent.

		All sites (n=41), 2011 – 2015		All sites (n=68), 2015 – 2020		All sites (n=68), 2011 – 2020		Long-term sites (n=41), 2011 – 2020	
Species	Region	Trend	Annual rate (% yr ⁻¹)	Trend	Annual rate (% yr ⁻¹)	Trend	Annual rate (% yr ⁻¹)	Trend	Annual rate (% yr ⁻¹)
$c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$	W US	decreasing**	-6.9%	no trend	-0.2%	decreasing**	-3.6%	decreasing**	-3.6%
	C US	decreasing**	-6.8%	decreasing**	-5.7%	decreasing**	-5.3%	decreasing**	-5.4%
	MW US	decreasing**	-4.3%	decreasing**	-5.1%	decreasing**	-6.2%	decreasing**	-6.4%
	NE US	decreasing**	-7.8%	decreasing**	-5.3%	decreasing**	-6.7%	decreasing**	-6.8%
	SE US	decreasing**	-5.8%	decreasing**	-6.8%	decreasing**	-5.9%	decreasing**	-5.7%
$c_{\text{NO}_3^{\text{T}}}$	W US	no trend	-3.7%	no trend	0.3%	decreasing**	-1.9%	decreasing**	-2.0%
	C US	no trend	-7.4%	decreasing*	-3.1%	decreasing**	-3.8%	decreasing**	-3.8%
	MW US	no trend	0.0%	decreasing*	-1.2%	decreasing**	-2.3%	decreasing**	-2.4%
	W US	no trend	-1.5%	decreasing*	-1.5%	decreasing**	-3.1%	decreasing**	-3.1%
	SE US	no trend	-1.2%	decreasing**	-5.2%	decreasing**	-3.2%	decreasing**	-3.1%
$c_{\text{NH}_4^{\text{T}}}$	W US	increasing*	6.4%	no trend	0.4%	no trend	-1.2%	no trend	-1.2%
	C US	no trend	1.7%	no trend	-1.7%	decreasing**	-1.6%	decreasing**	-1.5%
	MW US	no trend	1.2%	decreasing**	-2.4%	decreasing**	-1.2%	no trend	-0.7%
	W US	no trend	1.6%	decreasing**	-3.5%	decreasing**	-3.4%	decreasing**	-3.4%
	SE US	no trend	-0.5%	decreasing**	-6.3%	decreasing**	-3.7%	decreasing**	-3.3%
$c_{\text{NVC}} (\text{as Na}^+)$	W US	no trend	-0.4%	no trend	2.0%	no trend	-0.3%	no trend	0.0%
	C US	no trend	-4.5%	no trend	-2.0%	decreasing*	-1.8%	decreasing*	-2.0%
	MW US	no trend	1.2%	no trend	-0.8%	decreasing**	-1.6%	decreasing**	-1.4%
	W US	increasing**	4.9%	no trend	0.4%	decreasing**	-0.6%	decreasing*	-0.6%
	SE US	decreasing*	-4.0%	decreasing**	-3.3%	decreasing**	-1.7%	decreasing**	-1.4%
c_{Cl^-}	W US	no trend	-2.7%	no trend	-0.3%	no trend	0.5%	no trend	0.6%
	C US	no trend	-0.6%	no trend	2.8%	no trend	-0.2%	no trend	-0.2%
	MW US	increasing**	10.1%	no trend	-0.3%	no trend	-0.8%	no trend	-0.5%
	W US	increasing**	11.7%	increasing**	2.3%	no trend	0.9%	no trend	1.0%
	SE US	decreasing*	-7.6%	no trend	0.1%	no trend	0.2%	no trend	0.6%
$f_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$	W US	no trend	-1.3%	decreasing**	-1.5%	decreasing**	-1.3%	decreasing**	-1.4%
	C US	no trend	-0.5%	decreasing**	-2.1%	decreasing**	-1.4%	decreasing**	-1.3%
	MW US	decreasing*	-1.8%	decreasing**	-2.1%	decreasing**	-2.7%	decreasing**	-2.5%
	W US	decreasing**	-2.1%	decreasing**	-1.7%	decreasing**	-2.4%	decreasing**	-2.5%
	SE US	decreasing**	-1.5%	decreasing**	-1.5%	decreasing**	-2.2%	decreasing**	-2.2%
$f_{\text{NO}_3^-}$	W US	increasing**	5.0%	no trend	0.5%	increasing**	1.4%	increasing**	1.3%
	C US	increasing*	3.6%	increasing**	2.1%	increasing**	2.3%	increasing**	2.3%
	MW US	no trend	2.7%	increasing**	2.7%	increasing**	3.6%	increasing**	3.5%
	W US	increasing**	7.1%	increasing**	2.6%	increasing**	4.3%	increasing**	4.5%
	SE US	increasing**	5.4%	no trend	1.0%	increasing**	4.2%	increasing**	4.5%
$f_{\text{NH}_4^+}$	W US	decreasing**	-1.9%	no trend	0.2%	decreasing**	-1.3%	decreasing**	-1.4%
	C US	no trend	0.1%	no trend	-1.1%	decreasing**	-1.5%	decreasing**	-1.4%
	MW US	no trend	-0.5%	decreasing*	-0.5%	decreasing**	-0.7%	decreasing**	-0.7%
	W US	decreasing**	-1.6%	decreasing**	-0.9%	decreasing**	-1.3%	decreasing**	-1.3%
	SE US	no trend	-0.1%	decreasing**	-1.3%	decreasing**	-1.7%	decreasing**	-1.8%
f_{NVC}	W US	no trend	2.8%	no trend	0.2%	increasing**	2.8%	increasing**	2.8%
	C US	no trend	-1.4%	increasing*	2.5%	increasing**	3.3%	increasing**	3.3%
	MW US	no trend	1.3%	increasing**	3.1%	increasing**	3.9%	increasing**	4.1%
	W US	increasing**	8.6%	increasing**	3.9%	increasing**	5.2%	increasing**	5.3%
	SE US	no trend	0.4%	increasing**	3.0%	increasing**	4.3%	increasing**	4.4%
f_{Cl^-}	W US	no trend	0.6%	no trend	-1.7%	increasing**	3.5%	increasing**	3.6%
	C US	no trend	5.4%	increasing*	3.8%	increasing**	3.4%	increasing**	3.4%

	MW US	increasing**	6.8%	increasing**	2.7%	increasing**	4.0%	increasing**	4.3%
	W US	increasing**	12.0%	increasing**	6.0%	increasing**	6.0%	increasing**	6.1%
	SE US	no trend	-5.7%	increasing**	5.7%	increasing**	4.5%	increasing**	4.5%
pH	W US	increasing*	3.5%	no trend	1.9%	increasing**	1.5%	increasing**	1.6%
	C US	increasing*	6.0%	increasing*	1.4%	increasing**	1.2%	increasing**	1.1%
	MW US	increasing**	4.9%	increasing*	0.8%	increasing**	1.8%	increasing**	2.1%
	W US	increasing*	3.6%	no trend	0.6%	increasing**	1.7%	increasing**	1.8%
	SE US	increasing**	4.9%	no trend	0.5%	increasing**	1.6%	increasing**	1.7%
$\varepsilon_{\text{NH}_4^+}$	W US	decreasing**	-9.5%	no trend	0.2%	decreasing**	-1.9%	decreasing**	-2.0%
	C US	no trend	-7.7%	no trend	-1.4%	decreasing**	-3.9%	decreasing**	-3.9%
	MW US	no trend	-2.1%	no trend	-0.9%	decreasing**	-3.5%	decreasing**	-3.8%
	W US	decreasing**	-7.1%	no trend	-0.4%	decreasing**	-3.2%	decreasing**	-3.3%
	SE US	decreasing**	-5.8%	no trend	-1.2%	decreasing**	-3.7%	decreasing**	-4.2%
$\varepsilon_{\text{NO}_3^-}$	W US	no trend	0.9%	no trend	1.0%	increasing**	0.7%	increasing**	0.6%
	C US	increasing*	3.9%	increasing**	1.6%	increasing**	1.2%	increasing*	1.1%
	MW US	increasing*	4.2%	increasing**	2.0%	increasing**	1.4%	increasing**	1.0%
	W US	increasing**	6.3%	increasing*	1.6%	increasing**	2.1%	increasing**	2.2%
	SE US	increasing**	5.1%	increasing*	1.0%	increasing**	1.8%	increasing**	1.9%
$\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{SO}_4^{2-}}$	W US	no trend	-0.8%	decreasing**	-5.9%	decreasing**	-3.5%	decreasing**	-3.7%
	C US	no trend	0.8%	decreasing**	-0.8%	decreasing*	-0.2%	no trend	-0.2%
	MW US	no trend	0.2%	no trend	-0.2%	increasing**	0.2%	increasing**	0.2%
	W US	no trend	0.3%	decreasing**	-0.6%	no trend	0.2%	no trend	0.2%
	SE US	no trend	0.4%	decreasing**	-0.5%	no trend	-0.1%	no trend	0.0%
$\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{NO}_3^T}$	W US	no trend	0.4%	no trend	2.3%	no trend	-0.6%	no trend	-0.7%
	C US	no trend	11.5%	no trend	0.1%	no trend	0.1%	no trend	0.3%
	MW US	increasing**	9.3%	increasing**	1.3%	increasing**	1.2%	increasing**	1.3%
	W US	increasing**	8.4%	no trend	0.4%	increasing*	1.0%	increasing*	1.2%
	SE US	increasing**	8.9%	no trend	0.1%	no trend	-0.1%	no trend	-0.2%
$\Delta c_{\text{SIA}}/\Delta c_{\text{NH}_4^T}$	W US	decreasing**	-9.3%	no trend	0.2%	decreasing**	-2.4%	decreasing**	-2.8%
	C US	no trend	-5.8%	no trend	-1.6%	decreasing**	-2.6%	decreasing**	-3.6%
	MW US	no trend	1.3%	no trend	-0.6%	decreasing**	-5.2%	decreasing**	-6.2%
	W US	no trend	-0.3%	no trend	0.5%	decreasing**	-3.6%	decreasing**	-3.6%
	SE US	no trend	-0.8%	no trend	0.4%	decreasing**	-4.0%	decreasing**	-4.1%

Supplementary Table 5. Literature review of studies that compared effectiveness of SO₂, NO_x, and NH₃ emission abatements on PM_{2.5} reduction.

Notes:						
Studies in green clearly stated that controlling NH ₃ is the most effective way to reduce PM _{2.5} in the regions investigated in certain seasons.						
Studies in yellow indicated that controlling NH ₃ is more effective than controlling SO ₂ or NO _x in certain regions and certain years.						
Studies in red clearly stated that controlling SO ₂ or NO _x is more effective than controlling NH ₃ in the regions investigated in certain seasons.						
Authors (year)	Method	Year analyzed	Region	Species to control/most important species	Sectors to control	Comments
Pinder and Adams (2007) ²⁹	Chemical transport model and cost analyses	2002	LADCO	NH ₃ in winter and SO ₂ in summer	Power, industry, transportation, and agriculture	Ammonia control technologies are more cost-effective than controls on SO ₂ and NO _x sources at reducing PM _{2.5} in winter.
Tsimipidi et al. (2007) ³⁰	Chemical transport model	2001 - 2002	Eastern US	SO ₂ in summer and NH ₃ in winter	N.A.	A uniform 50% reduction in SO ₂ emissions was predicted to produce an average decrease of PM _{2.5} concentrations by 26% during July but only 6% during January. A 50% reduction of NH ₃ emissions leads to an average 4 and 9% decrease in PM _{2.5} in July and January, respectively.
Schiferl et al. (2014) ³¹	In-situ observation and Chemical transport model	2010	Southern California and Central Valley, CA	NH ₃	N.A.	The simulations suggested that more than half of the inorganic PM _{2.5} throughout California was produced because of anthropogenic NH ₃ emissions.
Lee et al. (2015) ³²	Adjoint Chemical transport model and cost analyses	2005	Global	SO ₂	N.A.	The authors found a 10% decrease in SO ₂ emissions was the most effective source to control for reducing PM _{2.5} -related premature mortality, but regional exceptions were large.
			North America	NH ₃	N.A.	For North America, NH ₃ had the stronger impacts on PM _{2.5} related premature mortality than SO ₂ , NO _x , black carbon, and organic matter.
Lelieveld et al. (2015) ³³	Chemical transport model	2010	CONUS	SO ₂ and NH ₃	Power, transportation, agriculture, industry, residential/commercial	The study analyzed premature mortality on a global scale. Power generation, agriculture, and land traffic contributed to 31%, 29%, and 21% of premature mortality in the CONUS.
Bauer et al. (2016) ³⁴	Climate model coupled with aerosol microphysical scheme	2010	CONUS	NH ₃	Agriculture	NH ₃ contributed significantly to aerosol formation in the eastern US.
		2100	CONUS	NO _x	Combustion sources	Under a future scenario, with doubled emission of agricultural ammonia but lower combustion emission, surface nitrate aerosol concentration will decrease to a level where "agricultural" PM _{2.5} would no longer be the dominating contribution.
Guo et al. (2018) ³⁵	Thermodynamic analyses based on in-situ observations	2010 summer	Southeastern U.S. (Centreville, VA)	SO ₂	N.A.	Control NO _x was not effective because it only contributed 4% to sulfate-nitrate-ammonium aerosols.
		2015 winter	Northeastern US	NH ₃	N.A.	PM response to NO ₃ ⁻ and SO ₄ ²⁻ reductions were equal in 2015 winter.
		2010 summer	Pasadena, CA	NH ₃	N.A.	Effectiveness of NO ₃ ⁻ reduction followed closely to that of NH ₄ ⁺ reduction.
Gu et al. (2021) ³⁶	Chemical transport model and cost analyses	1990-2013	Global	NH ₃	Agriculture	Benefit-to-cost ratios of NH ₃ and NO _x mitigation (50% reduction) were about 5 and 0.5, respectively, in 2013.
			North America	NH ₃	Agriculture	Benefit-to-cost ratios of NH ₃ and NO _x mitigation (50% reduction) were about 20 and <1, respectively, in 2013.
Henze et al. (2009) ³⁷	Adjoint chemical transport model	2001-2002	CONUS	Vary by location and season	Power, industry, transportation, agricultural, commercial/residential	U.S. SO ₂ surface and stack emissions contributed around 30% of inorganic PM _{2.5} concentrations in 2001 - 2002. NH ₃ anthropogenic emissions contributed 20% of inorganic PM _{2.5} concentrations in 2001-2002. PM _{2.5} showed the strongest response to anthropogenic NH ₃ emissions in the mid-west US.
Fann et al. (2009) ³⁸	Reduce-formed air quality model	2015	CONUS	Organic matter	Power, transportation, and industry	Reducing mobile NH ₃ emissions have a larger benefit (\$/ton) in terms of PM _{2.5} reduction than reducing SO ₂ , NO _x controls.
Holt et al. (2015) ³⁹	Chemical transport model	2005	CONUS	NH ₃	N.A.	NH ₃ was most sensitive in the eastern U.S. 2005.
		2012	CONUS	SO ₂ and NO _x	N.A.	NH ₃ sensitivity decreased because of NO _x and SO ₂ reductions.
Heo et al. (2016) ⁴⁰	Reduced-form quality model	2005	CONUS	Primary PM _{2.5}	Power, transportation,	Social costs were \$330 billion, \$320 billion, \$210 billion, and \$160 billion for primary

					agriculture, and industry	$\text{PM}_{2.5}$, SO_2 , NO_x , and NH_3 , respectively, in 2005. Emission-weighted costs were \$88000 - 130000/t $\text{PM}_{2.5}$, \$14000 - 24000/t SO_2 , \$3800 - 14000/t NO_x , and \$23000 - 66000/t NH_3 .
Dedoussi et al. (2020) ⁴¹	Chemical transport model analysis	2005	CONUS	Primary $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	Power, industry, transportation, and commercial/residential	Premature deaths attributed to NO_x , SO_2 , NH_3 , and primary $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ were 30000, 21000, 14400, and 34800, respectively, in 2005. These estimates include health impacts of $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and ozone. The authors did not specifically analyze agriculture sector.
		2011	CONUS	Primary $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	Power, industry, transportation, and commercial/residential	Premature deaths attributed to primary NO_x , SO_2 , NH_3 , and primary $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ were 28600, 9900, 16700, and 31000, respectively, in 2011.
		2018	CONUS	Primary $\text{PM}_{2.5}$	Power, industry, transportation, and commercial/residential	Premature deaths attributed to primary NO_x , SO_2 , NH_3 , and primary $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ were 19600, 4300, 17400, and 30200, respectively, in 2018.
Stanier et al. (2012) ⁴²	Composition analysis	2008 - 2009	LADCO	NO_x	N.A.	Gas ratio was calculated and indicate the region was NO_x limited for NH_4NO_3 formation.
Brewer and Moore (2009) ⁴³	Composition and chemical transport model analyses	2002 and 2018	WRAP and SESARM	SO_2 and NO_x	Power and transportation	SO_2 emission reductions from electric generation units were most effective way to reduce visibility impairment in the two regions.
Chen et al. (2014) ⁴⁴	Chemical transport model analysis	2007, 2019	San Joaquin Valley, CA	Primary $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and NO_x	N.A.	50% reductions of primary $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ and NO_x emissions in SJV could lead to 27% and 24% decreases in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$. 50% reductions of NH_3 only could lead to 4% decrease in $\text{PM}_{2.5}$.
Cheng and Li (2019) ⁴⁵	Thermodynamic analysis based on in-situ observations	2002-2004	North Carolina	SO_2 and NO_x	N.A.	North Carolina was determined to be NH_3 -rich. $\text{PM}_{2.5}$ was insensitive to total NH_4^+ .

Supplementary Table 6. Annual and December NH₃ emissions in 2017 in different regions from all sources and agricultural sources. Ammonia emissions are obtained from the EQUATES project².

NH ₃ Emissions (ton km ⁻² yr ⁻¹)	All sources		Agricultural sources	
	Annual	December	Annual	December
Western US	0.36	0.13	0.25	0.10
Central US	0.81	0.31	0.64	0.23
Midwestern US	0.73	0.25	0.55	0.20
Northeastern US	0.35	0.18	0.24	0.08
Southeastern US	0.63	0.34	0.44	0.18

Supplementary Table 7. Potential biases, precisions, and detection limits of observations from different monitoring networks.

Species	Network	Temporal resolution	Bias	Precision	Detection limit	Note
NH ₄ ⁺	CASTNET	Weekly	0	3%	0.5 µg filter ⁻¹	Detection limits for concentration measurements (µg m ⁻³) are calculated as filter detection limits (µg filter ⁻¹) divided by flow volume. Precision of Na ⁺ , K ⁺ , Mg ²⁺ , Ca ²⁺ are increased to 100% to capture the uncertainties introduced by scaling raw CASTNET observations.
Na ⁺	CASTNET	Weekly	0	100%	0.125 µg filter ⁻¹	
K ⁺	CASTNET	Weekly	0	100%	0.15 µg filter ⁻¹	
Mg ²⁺	CASTNET	Weekly	0	100%	0.075 µg filter ⁻¹	
Ca ²⁺	CASTNET	Weekly	0	100%	0.15 µg filter ⁻¹	
SO ₄ ²⁻	CASTNET	Weekly	0	3%	1.0 µg filter ⁻¹	
NO ₃ ⁻	CASTNET	Weekly	-10%	5%	0.2 µg filter ⁻¹	
Cl ⁻	CASTNET	Weekly	0	50%	0.5 µg filter ⁻¹	
HNO ₃	CASTNET	Weekly	10%	5%	0.2 µg filter ⁻¹	
NH ₃	AMoN	Biweekly	-10%	5%	<6/2018: 0.047 mg L ⁻¹ ; 2018/6-12: 0.119 mg L ⁻¹ ; 2019: 0.104 mg L ⁻¹ ; 2020: 0.083 mg L ⁻¹ .	To derive the detection limit of NH ₃ concentration (µg m ⁻³), the solution detection limit is scaled by the ratio of the reported gas concentration (µg m ⁻³) to the reported solution concentration (mg L ⁻¹).
T	CASTNET	Hourly	0	1 °C	NA	ISD and NARR precisions are determined based on the intercomparison of meteorological observations.
	ISD	Hourly	0	2 °C	NA	
	NARR	Every three hours	0	4 °C	NA	
RH	CASTNET	Hourly	0	5%	NA	
	ISD	Hourly	0	8%	NA	
	NARR	Every three hours	0	18%	NA	

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