### **1** Supplementary Information

## 2 1. Data

3 Since 1994, a large-scale ground inventory has been conducted on numerous permanent sample

- 4 plots established on the forested areas across the boreal region of Alaska. Inventory crew
- 5 collected size (DBH and percentage cover) and status of all the plant species including tree,
- 6 shrub, herbaceous vascular, and non-vascular species on an annual basis (1). The Alaska boreal
- 7 forest, the largest forest component of the Alaska landscape, is characteristic of some of the most
- 8 severe climatic conditions in the world with short growing seasons. Soil parent materials vary
- 9 greatly from alluvial, loess, glacial, and lacustrine deposits to various bedrock types, with
- 10 discontinuous permafrost present throughout the region. The sample area, stretching over
- 11  $300,000 \text{ km}^2$  from Fairbanks, AK in the north to the Kenai Peninsula in the south and the
- 12 International Boundary in the east (Fig. S1), represents a wide range of species composition and
- 13 physiographic conditions. A set of permanent sample plots were used to capture the dynamics of
- 14 283 coexisting plant species in the region (**Table S1**).
- 15 The fixed-size permanent sample plots, each square in shape and 0.04 ha in size, were re-
- 16 measured with a 5-year interval. The attributes measured include diameter at breast height,
- 17 height, tree status, the percentage cover of non-tree species, elevation, percentage slope,
- 18 thickness of organic horizons, and number of snags. The number of Picea glauca individuals in
- 19 comparative relationship to the total number of trees on a plot was calculated to represent the
- 20 sampling effect, as *Picea glauca* has the highest individual ANPP among all the tree species that
- 21 almost doubles the second highest species (*Betula neoalaskana*) (Fig. S2). In addition, two time
- indicators  $(T_1, T_2)$  were introduced to represent from which inventory a particular observation
- 23 was made. From the 603 established permanent sample plots, 440 were selected for this study
- because they have been measured at least twice and have not experienced any crown fire or
- 25 logging between two consecutive inventories.
- For individual trees, we calculated the above-ground net primary productivity (ANPP) using the following equation:

28 
$$ANPP_{ijk} = (V_{2,ijk} - V_{1,ijk})/(y_2 - y_1),$$
 (M.1)

- 29 where the ANPP of the *k*th tree in species *i* on plot *j* is average annual increment in above-
- 30 ground biomass (AGB) of that tree from year  $y_1$  to  $y_2$ .  $V_1$  and  $V_2$  represent AGB of that tree at
- 31 year  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ , respectively, calculated from its measured DBH using the species-specific
- 32 biomass equations developed for the Alaska boreal forest(2). ANPP is zero for a tree that died
- between year  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ . ANPP is the part of NPP that occurs aboveground and is composed of
- 34 wood and foliage productivity, whereas root growth represents belowground productivity, which
- 35 is extremely difficult to measure and contributes to ecosystem services, such as carbon storage,
- 36 but not to harvested fiber. ANPP of trees was selected as the response variable of our spatio-

- 1 temporal model, as it is more routinely measured and represents wood production, a surrogate for 2
- economically important fiber production.
- 3 The total tree ANPP of a community (TNPP) was then calculated using the following equation:

4 
$$TNPP_j = \left(\sum_i \sum_k V_{2,j} - \sum_i \sum_k V_{1,j} + \sum_i \sum_k IG_j + \sum_i \sum_k MT_j\right) / (y_2 - y_1),$$
 (M.2)

5 where  $\Sigma \Sigma V_{2,j}$  and  $\Sigma \Sigma V_{1,j}$  represent total AGB of trees on plot j that were alive at year  $y_2$  and  $y_1$ ,

- 6 and  $\Sigma\Sigma IG_i$  and  $\Sigma\Sigma MT_i$  are respectively total AGB of ingrowth and mortality on plot *j* between 7 year  $y_1$  and  $y_2$ .
- 8 The AGB of shrub, herbaceous vascular, and non-vascular species was calculated based on the
- 9 observed percentage cover and average height of that species using the species-specific biomass
- equations calibrated for interior Alaska(3). On average, tree species accounts for most of the total 10
- 11 AGB, whereas shrub, herbaceous vascular, and non-vascular species accounts for less than 10
- 12 percent of the total AGB (Fig. S3).

13 In our empirical analysis, the authors relied upon two *measures of biodiversity*, which are widely 14 used in both ecological and economic research:

15 Shannon index, *H*, which measures biodiversity with an entropic approach:

16 
$$H_{j} = -\sum_{i=1}^{n} \frac{V_{ij}}{V_{j}} \ln\left(\frac{V_{ij}}{V_{j}}\right), \qquad (M.3)$$

17 where  $V_{ij}$  presents the live aboveground biomass of species *i* on plot *j*, and  $V_j$  the total live 18 aboveground biomass of Plot *j*.

19 Simpson index, D. The same index known as the Herfindahl-Hirschman index (HHI) is a 20 measure of diversity widely used in competition law, antitrust, and management:

21 
$$D_j = 1 - \sum_{i=1}^n \left(\frac{V_{ij}}{V_j}\right)^2$$
. (M.4)

#### 22 2. The Spatio-Temporal Model

23 In investigating the empirical relationship between biodiversity and ANPP, the authors elected to

- develop a regression-based spatio-temporal model to account for spatial autocorrelation which 24
- 25 has been found prevalent in attributes of the Alaska boreal forest, such as stand basal area, tree 26 diversity, and forest productivity (4). Failing to account for such correlation in space will render
- 27 model outputs less reliable (5). Although an alternate statistical approach, namely structural
- 28 equation modeling (SEM), has been employed in ecology for the testing of causal relationship in
- 29 complex datasets, spatial autocorrelation violates basic SEM assumptions and remains difficult
- 30 to model in a SEM framework (6). Furthermore, computational constraints of existing SEM

- 1 software have limited applicability of SEM on this study because our dataset consisted of tree
- 2 records from 40,526 spatially explicit locations.
- 3 Autocorrelation in both space and time were accounted for in our model to avoid biased or
- 4 inconsistent coefficient estimates and significance levels. Spatial autocorrelation in above-
- 5 ground net primary productivity was estimated using a nonparametric spatial covariance function.
- 6 This method incorporates a smoothing spline to measure the correlation between values (in our
- 7 case ANPP) from pairs of samples over a continuous function of the distance separating samples,
- 8 without assuming any functional form *a priori*. However, because of the large size (over 40,000
- 9 entries) of our spatially explicit dataset, it was not feasible to estimate spatial autocorrelation
- 10 based upon the entire dataset due to computational constraints. To this end, a bootstrap
- 11 approach(7) was used to quantify the spatial covariance function. We iteratively and randomly
- 12 selected approximately 10% of the data, and then repeated this procedure 500 times. From this
- 13 distribution of 500 replicated estimates of the spatial covariance function, the mean was
- 14 determined and 95% confidence intervals were estimated as the 0.025% and 0.975% quantiles of
- 15 the distribution(7).
- 16 Across the 500 replications, the mean number of sampling locations selected (from the 40,526
- 17 locations) per iteration was 4056, and ranged from 3838 to 4216. The authors detected spatial
- 18 correlation in ANPP (Fig. S4), and estimated a mean local spatial autocorrelation (the correlation
- 19 as the spatial distance between pairs of sample ANPP values approaches 0) of 0.09 and a range
- 20 of spatial dependence (the lag distance at which spatial autocorrelation approaches 0) of ~10 km.
- 21 Moreover, the functional form of the spatial covariance function over lag distance suggested that
- 22 the use of spherical model would be the most appropriate one to use as an error term when
- assessing the significance of potential explanatory variables on ANPP.
- 24 To avoid compromised type-I error rates and severe artifacts associated with common model
- 25 selection procedures, hierarchical partitioning (HP) was used here to evaluate the goodness-of-fit
- 26 of all the possible combinations of explanatory variables in determining the average independent
- 27 contribution of each variable(8). The threshold value of independent contribution was set at 8
- 28 percent, the average value with 12 explanatory variables (**Table S2**). Diversity variables and
- 29 time indicators were always present in the model, regardless of their independent contribution.
- 30 HP was conducted with the hier.part package of the R program. Total aboveground biomass, V,
- 31 the number of snags, *S*, and the frequency of *Picea glauca*, *P*, were selected as control variables
- 32 as each of them has an independent contribution to the individual ANPP no less than 8 percent
- 33 (Fig. S5). Biodiversity  $\omega(s)$  was represented in this model by the full quadratic forms of Shannon
- index, *H*, and Simpson index, *D*, both of which provide a continuous measure of biodiversity.
- 35 The following spatio-temporal model was developed to examine the effect of biodiversity on
- 36 individual plant productivity (ANPP model):

37 
$$ANPP_{iik}(\mathbf{s},\omega) = \alpha_0 + \alpha_1 \cdot \omega(\mathbf{s}) + \alpha_2 \cdot T_1(\mathbf{s}) + \alpha_3 \cdot T_2(\mathbf{s}) + \boldsymbol{\beta} \cdot \mathbf{z}(\mathbf{s}) + \varepsilon_i(\mathbf{s}), \qquad (M.5)$$

- 1 where  $\mathbf{s} = (\lambda, \varphi)' \in \mathfrak{D} \subset IR^2$  represents the geographic location of a plot *j* within the Alaska
- 2 boreal region  $\mathfrak{D}$ . In this specification, individual ANPP at geographic location **s** is a linear
- 3 function of the biodiversity of the same plot, the temporal indicators  $T_1$  and  $T_2$ , and the vector of
- 4 control variables z.  $\varepsilon_i(s)$  is a spatially autocorrelated residual term best described as a spherical
- 5 variogram  $2\varsigma$  model with intrinsic stationarity and isotropic covariance.  $\alpha_0$ ,  $\alpha_1$ ,  $\alpha_2$ ,  $\alpha_3$ ,  $\beta$ , and  $\varsigma$  are
- 6 parameters to be estimated with generalized least squares (GLS). The two time indicators  $(T_1, T_2)$
- 7 were introduced to the model to account for potential factors of ANPP that are not controlled for
- 8 by the explanatory variables in this model, such as the temporal difference in sample plot
- 9 locations.
- 10 Due to computational constraints, a bootstrap approach was used to obtain model coefficients
- 11 and predicts. The authors iteratively and randomly selected approximately 1% of the data from
- 12 the entire dataset, obtained GLS estimates, log-likelihood, and predictions across the full
- 13 observed range of each biodiversity measure for the sensitivity analysis, and then repeated this
- 14 procedure 1,000 times. From the distribution of 1,000 replicated estimates and predicts of the
- 15 model, the mean and 95% confidence intervals were determined.
- 16 Estimates and goodness-of-fit of the spatio-temporal model are summarized in **Table S3**. All the
- 17 coefficients are significant at the 5 percent level. The signs of total aboveground biomass, V, and
- 18 the frequency of *Picea glauca*, *P*, are consistently positive, indicating an expected positive effect
- 19 of total biomass and sampling effect on individual tree ANPP. The negative signs of the number
- of snags, S, and the two temporal indicators  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  are also consistent. The two goodness-of-
- 21 fit measures Akaike information criterion (AIC) and Bayesian information criterion (BIC) were
- calculated based on the average log-likelihood values of all the bootstrap iterations, the number
- 23 of coefficients, and the total number of observations. The present spatio-temporal models were
- able to capture an interaction in space and time, as the negative coefficients of  $T_1$  and  $T_2$  indicate
- a declining trend of ANPP over time, which is likely caused by the fact that most plots in the
- third and fourth inventories are centered around Fairbanks, AK, where the sites are in general
- 27 less productive.
- 28

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- 2 Fig. S1 Geographic distribution of the 440 permanent sample plots and their relative
- 3 location within the State of Alaska (inset). All the plots have been measured at least twice with
- 4 an interval of 5 years, 280 have been measured in 3 inventories, and 65 in 4 inventories, making
- 5 a total of 785 plot observations.



- 2 Fig. S2 Total net primary productivity (TNPP) (primary axis) and average individual
- 3 ANPP (secondary axis) by tree species with standard error bars.



2 Fig. S3 Total above-ground biomass (AGB) by species and plant type with standard error

3 bars.

4



- 2 Fig. S4 Mean (solid line) and 95% confidence intervals (dashed lines) of the nonparametric
- 3 spatial covariance function, showing local spatial autocorrelation in values of above-ground net
- 4 primary productivity, and a range of spatial dependence of ~10 km.





- Fig. S5 Independent contribution of biodiversity measures (blue wedges) and control variables (red wedges) to the goodness-of-fit of individual ANPP. 2
- 3

1 Table S1 | List of plant species. A total of 283 coexisting plant species studied in this paper are

categorized into nine general functional groups—tree, shrub, forb, grass and rush, sedge, fern,
lichen, moss, and liverwort.

			Tree				
1	Betula kenaica	5	Larix laricina	9	Populus trichocarpa		
2	Betula neoalaskana	6	Picea mariana	10	Tsuga mertensiana		
3	Betula papyrifera	7	Populus tremuloides	11	Picea lutz		
4	Picea glauca	8	Populus balsamifera				
Shrub							
1	Alnus tenuifolia	19	Ledum palustre	37	Salix arctica		
2	Alnus viridis (crispa)	20	Linnaea borealis	38	Salix bebbiana		
3	Amelanchier alnifolia	21	Menziesia ferruginea	39	Salix myrtillifolia		
4	Andromeda polifolia	22	Oplopanax horridus	40	Salix phylicfolia		
5	Arctostaphlos rubra	23	Oxvcoccus microcarpus	41	Salix pulchra		
6	Arctostaphlos uva-ursi	24	Potentilla fruticosa	42	Salix reticulata		
7	Betula glandulosa	25	Potentilla palustris	43	Salix species		
8	Betula nana	26	Rhododendron lapponicum	44	Sambucus racemosa		
9	Cassiope tetragona	27	Ribes glandulosom	45	Shepherdia canadensis		
10	Chamaedaphne calvculata	28	Ribes hudsonianum	46	Sorbus scopulina		
11	Drvas integrifolia	29	Ribes lacustre	47	Spiraea Beauverdiana		
12	Drvas octopetala	30	Ribes triste	48	Vaccinium caespitosum		
13	Empetrum nigrum	31	Rosa acicularis	49	Vaccinium ovalifolium		
14	Juniperus horizontalis	32	Rosa nutkana	50	Vaccinium oxycoccos		
15	Juniperus scopulorum	33	Rubus arcticus	51	Vaccinium uliginosum		
16	Juniperus communis	34	Rubus chamaemorus	52	Vaccinium vitis-idaea		
17	Ledum glandulosum	35	Rubus idaeus	53	Viburnum edule		
18	Ledum groenlandicum	36	Rubus pedatus				
	Ū.	Her	baceous Vascular—Forb				
1	Achillea borealis	41	Eauisetum arvense	81	Polygonum alaskanum		
2	Aconitum delphinifolium	42	Equisetum pratense	82	Polemonium boreale		
3	Actaea rubra	43	Equisetum scirpoides	83	Polemonium pulcherrimum		
4	Allium schoenoprasum	44	Equisetum svlvaticum	84	Polvgonum viviparum		
5	Anemone canadensis	45	Fragaria virginiana	85	Primula incana		
6	Anemone multifida	46	Galium boreale	86	Primula tschuktschorum		
7	Anemone parviflora	47	Galium triforum	87	Pulsatilla patens		
8	Anenome richardsonii	48	Gentiana propinqua	88	Pyrola asarifolia		
9	Angelica lucida	49	Geocaulon lividum	89	Pyrola chlorantha		
10	Antennaria pulcherrima	50	Geranium erianthum	90	Pyrola grandiflora		
11	Arabis holboellii	51	Goodyera repens	91	Pyrola minor		
12	Arnica alpina	52	Hedysarum alpinum	92	Ranunculus gmelini		
13	Arnica Lessingii	53	Heracleum lanatum	93	Ranunculus lapponicus		
14	Artemisia Tilesii	54	Hieracium triste	94	Ranunculus nivalis		
15	Aster alpinus	55	Iris setosa	95	Ranunculus reptans		
16	Astragalus americanus	56	Lathyrus palustris	96	Rumex arcticus		
17	Aster junciformis	57	Listera cordata	97	Sanguisorba officinalis		
18	Aster sibiricus	58	Lupinus arcticus	98	Sanguisorba stipulata		
19	Astragalus umbellatus	59	Lycopodium alpinum	99	Saussurea angustifolia		
20	Boschniakia rossica	60	Lycopodium annotinum	100	Senecio lugens		
21	Boykinia richardsonii	61	Lycopodium clavatum	101	Senecio triangaris		
22	Bupleurum triradiatum	62	Lycopodium complanatum	102	Senecio vulgaris		
23	Calypso bulbosa	63	Mertensia paniculata	103	Smilacina stellata		
24	Campanula lasiocarpa	64	Mimulus guttatus	104	Solidago decumbens		
25	Campanula rotundifolia	65	Moehringia lateriflora	105	Solidago multiradiata		
26	Castilleja caudata	66	Monesus uniflora	106	Spiranthes Romanzoffiana		
27	Cassiope tetragona	67	Orthilia secunda	107	Stellaria crassifolia		
28	Castilleja unalaschcensis	68	Osmorhiza depauperata	108	Stellaria longifolia		
29	Chamerion angustifolium	69	Oxytropis campestris	109	Stellaria media		
30	Circaea alpina	70	Parnassia palustris	110	Streptopus amplexifolius		
31	Cnidium cnidiifolium	71	Pedicularis capitata	111	Taraxacum officinale		
32	Corydalis aurea	72	Pedicularis labradorica	112	Thalictrum alpinum		
33	Corydalis pauciflora	73	Pedicularis Langsdorffii	113	Thalictrum sparsiflorum		
34	Cornus canadensis	74	Pedicularis verticillata	114	Trientalis europaea		
35	Corallorrhiza trifida	75	Petasites frigidus	115	Valeriana capitata		
36	Cypripedium passerinum	76	Petasites hyperboreus	116	Veratrum viride		
5/	Delphinium brachycentrum	77	Petasites sagittatus	117	viola epipsila		
38	Delphinium glaucum	78	Platanthera hyperborea	118	viola palustris		
39	Dodecatheon frigidum	79	Platanthera obtusata	119	Zygadenus elegans		

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7 Certraia tilesii 24 Cladonia sauamosa 41 Peltigera malacea									
8 Cirriphllum cirrosum 25 Cladina stellarus 42 Peltigera neopolydacty	a								
9 Cladonia bellidiflora 26 Cladonia uncialis 43 Peltigera polydactyla									
10         Cladonia botrytes         27         Dactylina arctica         44         Peltigera venosa									
11Cladonia cariosa28Evernia mesomorpha45Platismatia glauca									
12 Cladonia cenotea 29 Hypogymnia physodes 46 Rhytidium rugosum									
13Cladonia chlorophaea30Lobaria linita47Stereocaulon alpinum									
14 Cladonia coccifera 31 Lobaria pulmonaria 48 Stereocaulon species									
15 Cladonia coniocraea 32 Masonhalea richardsonii 49 Usnia subfloridana									
16Cladonia cornuta33Nephroma arcticum50unknown lichen									
17 Cladonia crispata 34 Nephroma expallidum									
Non-Vascular—Moss									
1         Aulacomnium palustre         9         Hylocomium splendens         17         Ptilium crista-castrens	\$								
2 Aulacommium turgidum 10 Hypnum subimponens 18 Rhizomnium glabrescen	S								
3 Brachythecium salebrosum 11 Philontis fontana 19 Sphagnum species									
4 Campylium stellatum 12 Plagiomnium medium 20 Splachnum luteum									
5 Climacium dendroides 13 Pleurozium schreberi 21 Thuidium abietinum									
6 Dicranum species 14 Polytrichum commune 22 Timmia ausstriaca									
7 Drepanocladus uncinatus 15 Polytrichum juniperinum 23 Tomenthypnum nitens									
8 Hedwigia ciliata 16 Polytrichum piliferum 24 unknown moss									
Non-Vascular—Liverwort									
1         Lepidozia reptans         2         Lophozia ventricosa         3         Marchantia polymorph	ı								

v al labic	Definition	Unit	Mean	Std.	Min.	Max.
Response va	ariables					
ÂNPP <sub>ijk</sub>	Aboveground net primary productivity of the <i>k</i> th tree of plot <i>j</i> and species <i>i</i> (individual-level ANPP)	$10^3$ g·ha <sup>-1</sup> ·y <sup>-1</sup>	31.84	49.81	-1811.58	1583.14
Biodiversity	measures					
N <sub>i</sub>	Richness of all the plant species of plot j		18.93	4.90	1.00	39.00
$H_i$	Shannon index		0.56	0.32	0.00	1.31
$D_i$	Simpson index/HHI		0.30	0.20	0.00	0.69
Control var	iables					
V	Total AGB biomass at the previous inventory (5 years before current inventory)	$10^3 \mathrm{g} \cdot \mathrm{ha}^{-1}$	103014.48	48421.98	3330.30	343300.47
E	Plot elevation obtained from GPS unit	m	110.15	68.48	5.37	292.10
L	Percentage slope of a plot		11.50	14.37	0.00	77.00
0	Thickness of all surface organic horizons	cm	11.83	10.69	1.27	109.22
SN	Number of snags		18.72	19.79	0.00	119.00
Р	Number of <i>Picea glauca</i> individuals in comparative relationship to the total number of trees on a plot		0.37	0.34	0.00	1.00
Temporal v	ariables					
$T_{I}$	First time indicator that takes the value 1 if current inventory is the <i>third</i> inventory and 0 if otherwise		0.33	0.47	0.00	1.00
$T_2$	Second time indicator that takes the value 1 if current inventory is the <i>fourth</i> inventory and 0 if otherwise		0.08	0.28	0.00	1.00
Geographic	coordinates					
λ	Easting of UTM coordinates	10 <sup>6</sup> m	0.52	0.10	0.34	0.66
arphi	Northing of UTM coordinates	10 <sup>6</sup> m	6.94	0.17	6.66	7.24

# 1 Table S2 | Definition, unit, and summary statistics of the variables used in this study.

# 1 Table S3 | Estimates and goodness-of-fit of the spatio-temporal model supporting N–E.

2 Initial explanatory variables were selected with HP, and parameters were estimated using GLS.

3 Biodiversity variables and their significance levels were in shade.

Shannon Index			Simpson Index/HHI			
Var	Coef	95% C.I.	Var	Coef	95% C.I.	
const	12.34	(11.66, 13.02)	const	13.25	(12.63, 13.86)	
Н	10.51	(8.80, 12.22)	D	16.10	(13.11, 19.09)	
$H^2$	-3.87	(-5.32, -2.42)	$D^2$	-8.27	(-13.06, -3.47)	
V	0.00015	(0.00015, 0.00016)	V	0.00015	(0.00014, 0.00015)	
SN	-0.20	(-0.21, -0.19)	SN	-0.20	(-0.21, -0.20)	
Р	15.19	(14.64, 15.73)	Р	15.05	(14.51, 15.59)	
$T_{I}$	-2.05	(-2.40, -1.71)	$T_{I}$	-2.06	(-2.41, -1.72)	
$T_2$	-5.63	(-6.15, -5.10)	$T_2$	-5.69	(-6.21, -5.17)	
AIC	4259.10		AIC	4260.24		
BIC	4358.65		BIC	4359.79		
n	470513		п	470513		

4 *const*: constant

5 AIC: Akaike information criterion

6 BIC: Bayesian information criterion

7 *n*: number of observations that is used in the bootstrap simulation

8

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