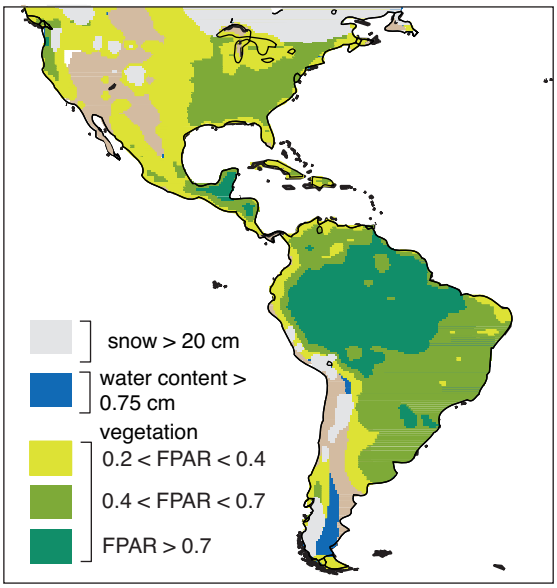


**Figure 7.** Annual mean distribution of snow, soil moisture, and vegetation over North and South America. The soil moisture is characterized by model water content in the topmost 7 cm of soil. Vegetation is documented by the satellite-derived fraction of photosynthetically active radiation absorbed by the green vegetation canopy (FPAR). Snow depth derived from surface observations.