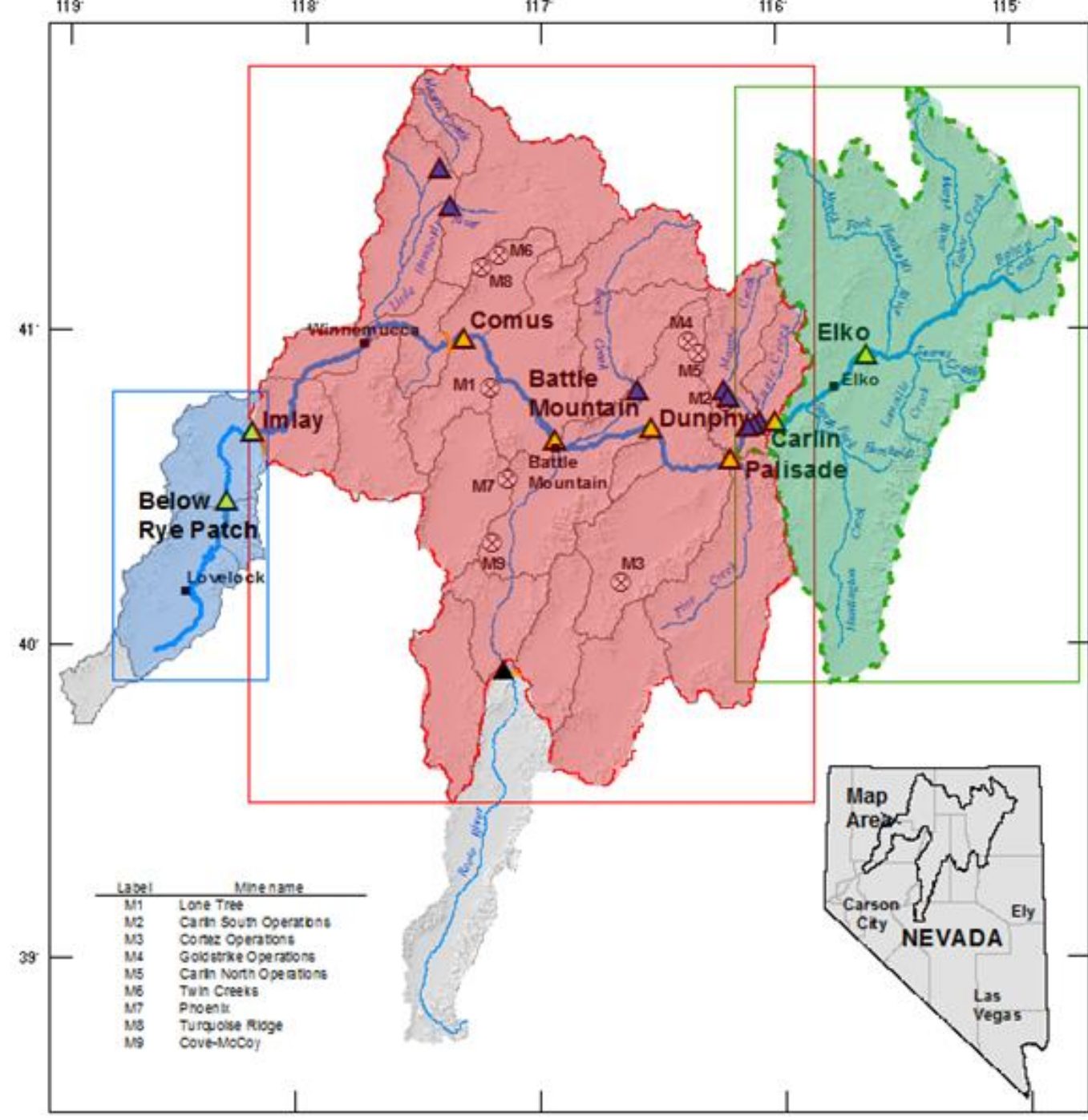


# HUMBOLDT RIVER REGION MODELING UPDATE

February 4, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

DEPARTMENT OF  
**CONSERVATION &  
NATURAL RESOURCES**



# Humboldt River Region Modeling Update - Outline

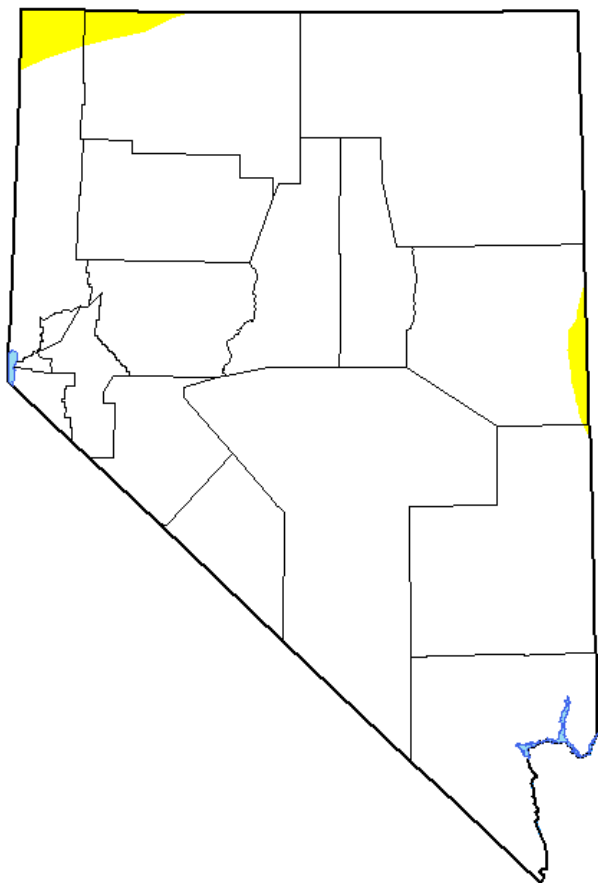
- Intro
- Water Supply Forecast
- Regionwide ET Analysis
- Model output and Demonstrative Tools to Implement and Apply Results
  - Capture Concepts
  - Upper Basin Model
  - Middle Basin Model
  - Lower Basin Model
- 10 Min Break
- Draft Order Management Approach
- Recap/Next Steps
- Q & A

# Water Supply Forecast

NDWR

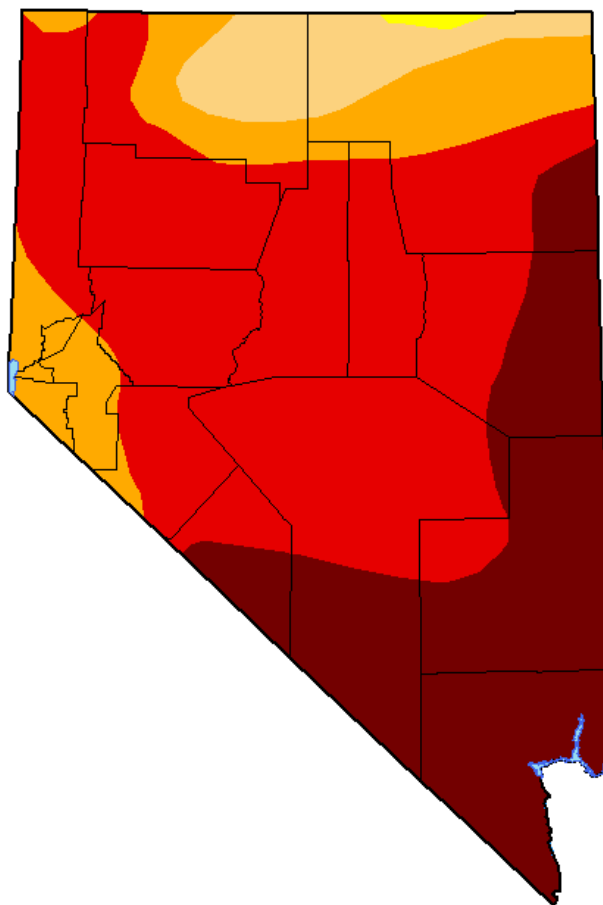
January 7, 2020

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Nevada**



January 26, 2021

**U.S. Drought Monitor  
Nevada**



**January 26, 2021**  
(Released Thursday, Jan. 28, 2021)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

*Drought Conditions (Percent Area)*

	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	0.00	100.00	99.71	93.07	79.58	28.98
<b>Last Week</b> <i>01-19-2021</i>	0.00	100.00	99.71	91.24	72.56	23.68
<b>3 Months Ago</b> <i>10-27-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.36	79.66	58.20	5.80
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> <i>12-29-2020</i>	0.00	100.00	99.71	91.18	72.49	23.68
<b>Start of Water Year</b> <i>09-29-2020</i>	0.44	99.56	97.13	79.39	51.41	5.80
<b>One Year Ago</b> <i>01-28-2020</i>	95.91	4.09	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Intensity:

- None
- D0 Abnormally Dry
- D1 Moderate Drought
- D2 Severe Drought
- D3 Extreme Drought
- D4 Exceptional Drought

*The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>*

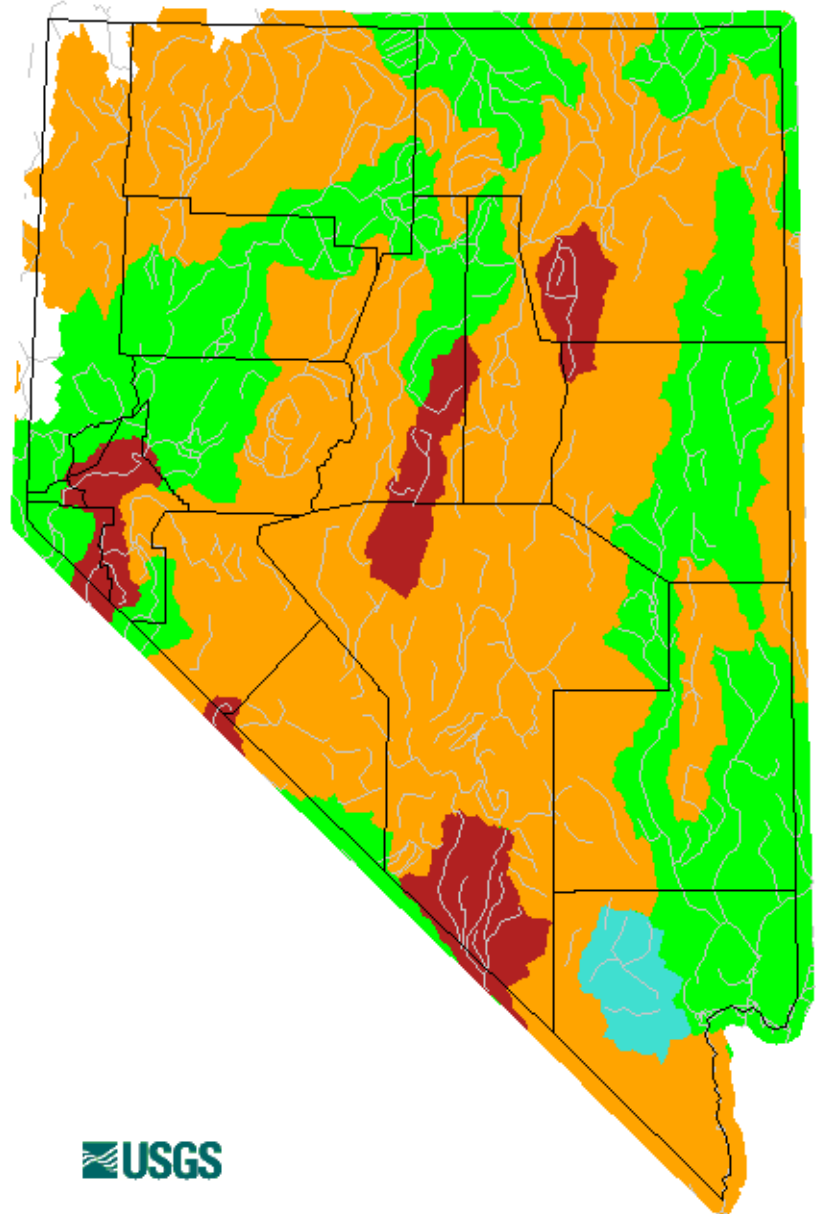
Author:

Richard Tinker  
CPC/NOAA/NWS/NCEP



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

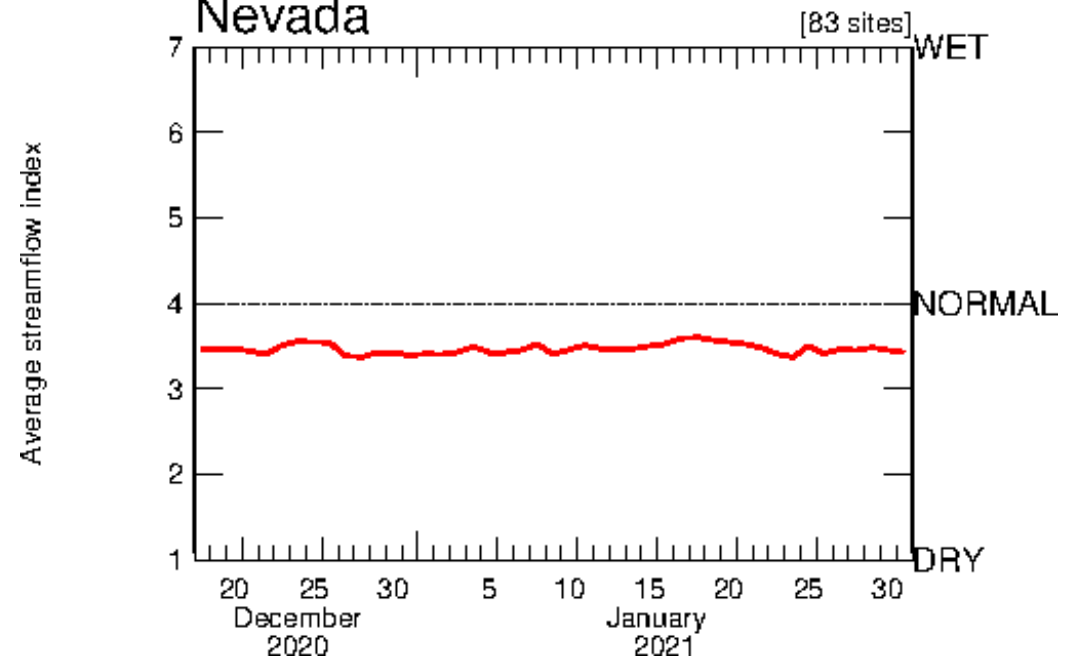
Sunday, January 31, 2021



Explanation - Percentile classes							
Low	<10	10-24	25-75	76-90	>90	High	No Data
	Much below normal	Below normal	Normal	Above normal	Much above normal		

### Last 45 Days

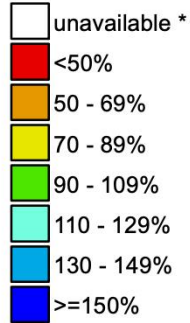
### Nevada



# Nevada/California SNOTEL Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation % of Normal

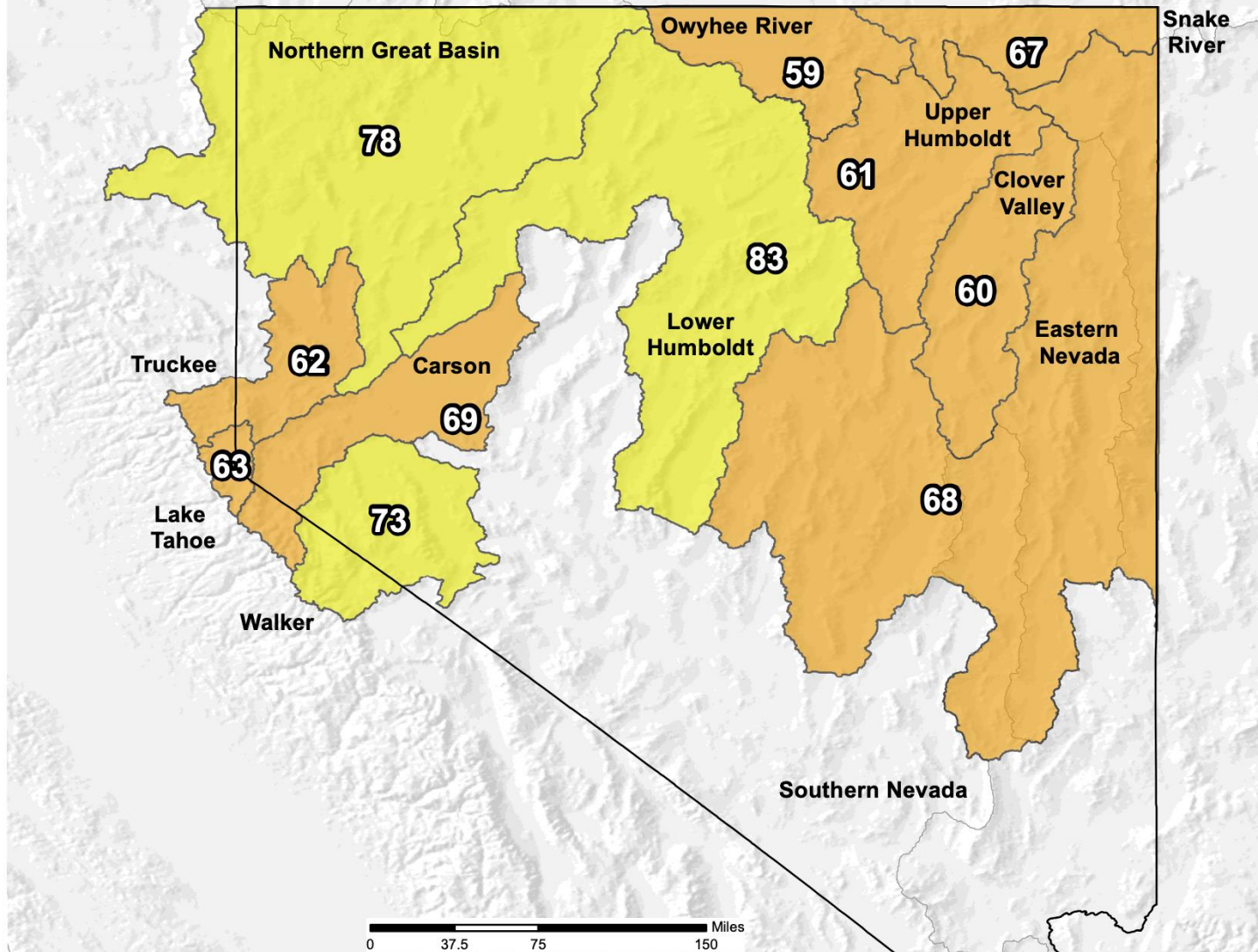
Feb 02, 2021

Water Year (Oct 1) to Date Precipitation Basin-wide Percent of 1981-2010 Average



\* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

Provisional data subject to revision



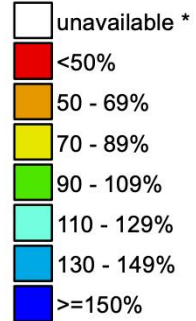
The water year to date precipitation percent of normal represents the accumulated precipitation found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:  
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

# Nevada/California SNOTEL Current Snow Water Equivalent (SWE) % of Normal

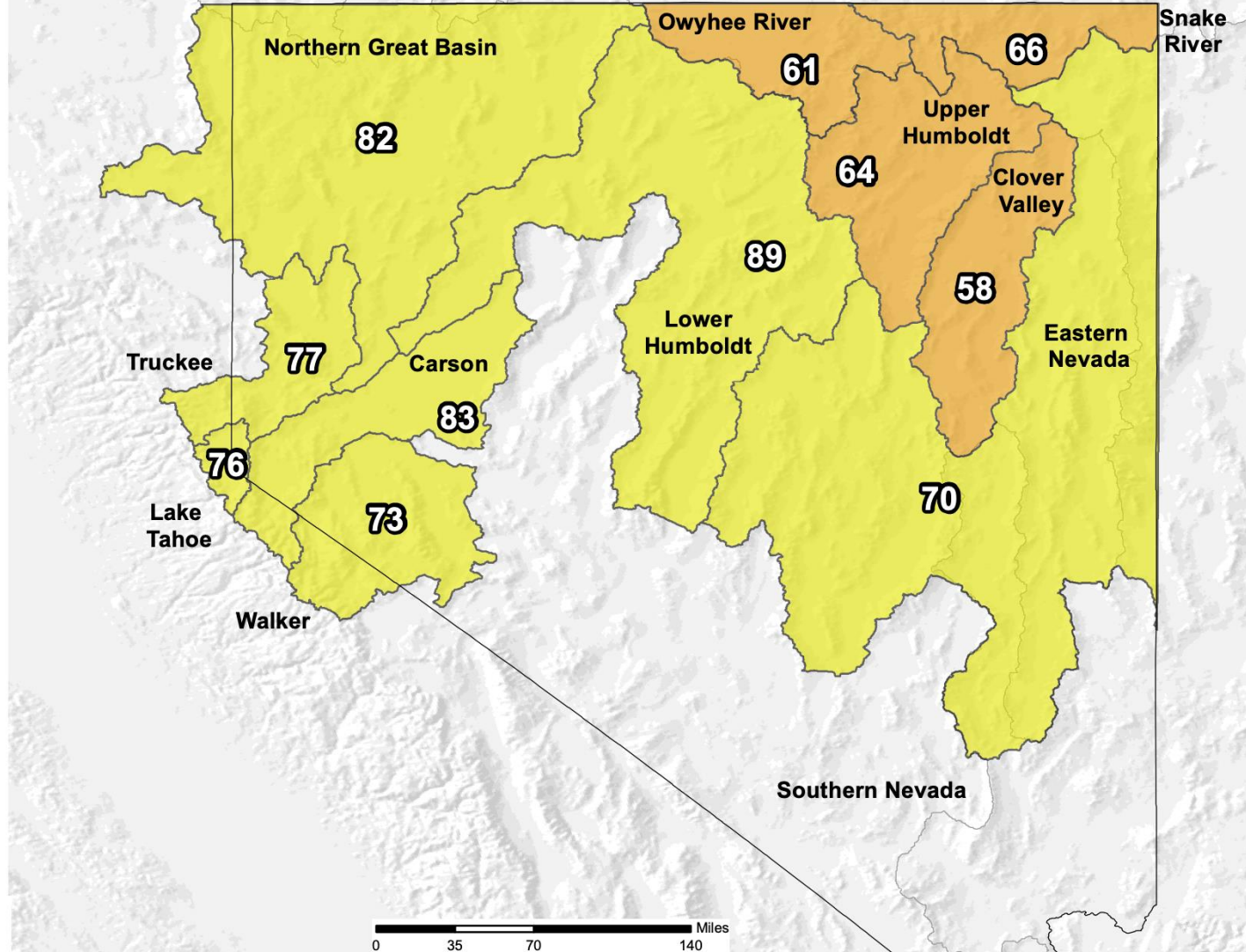
Feb 02, 2021

Current Snow Water Equivalent Basin-wide Percent of 1981-2010 Median



\* Data unavailable at time of posting or measurement is not representative at this time of year

Provisional data subject to revision



The current snow water equivalent percent of normal represents the snow water equivalent found at selected SNOTEL sites in or near the basin compared to the average value for those sites on this day. Data based on the first reading of the day (typically 00:00).

Prepared by:  
USDA/NRCS National Water and Climate Center  
Portland, Oregon  
<http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov>

# SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT IN UPPER HUMBOLDT

Reset Range

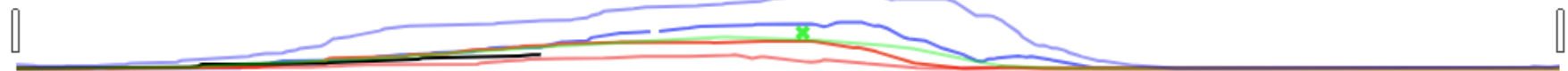
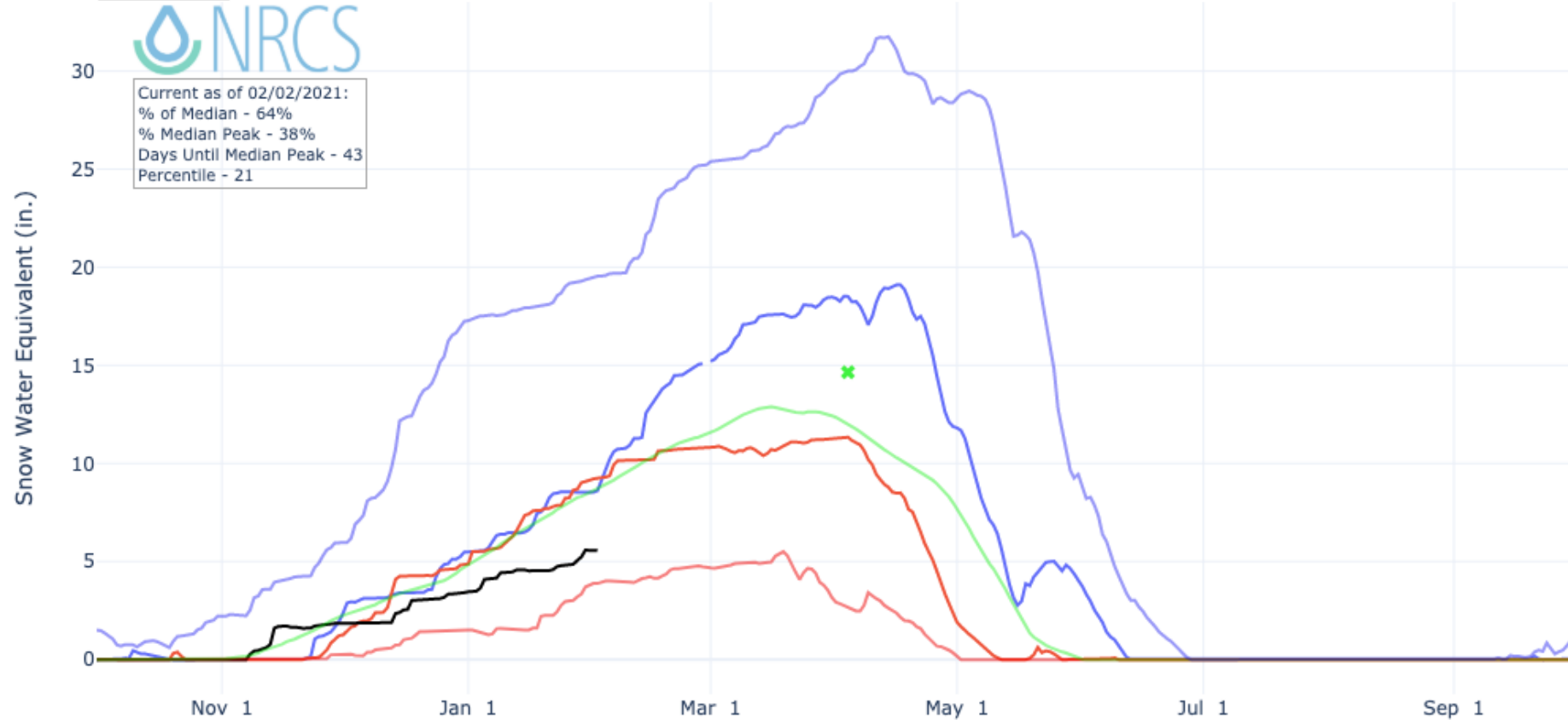
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List



Current as of 02/02/2021:  
 % of Median - 64%  
 % Median Peak - 38%  
 Days Until Median Peak - 43  
 Percentile - 21

- ✖ Median Peak SWE
- Max
- - - Median (POR)
- Median ('81-'10)
- Min
- Stats. Shading
- 2021 (9 sites)
- 2020 (9 sites)
- 2019 (9 sites)
- 2018 (9 sites)
- 2017 (9 sites)
- 2016 (9 sites)
- 2015 (9 sites)
- 2014 (9 sites)
- 2013 (9 sites)
- 2012 (9 sites)
- 2011 (9 sites)
- 2010 (9 sites)
- 2009 (9 sites)
- 2008 (9 sites)
- 2007 (9 sites)
- 2006 (9 sites)
- 2005 (9 sites)



Statistical shading breaks at 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th Percentiles.  
 For more information visit: [30 year normals calculation description](#).



# SNOW WATER EQUIVALENT PROJECTIONS IN UPPER HUMBOLDT

Reset Range

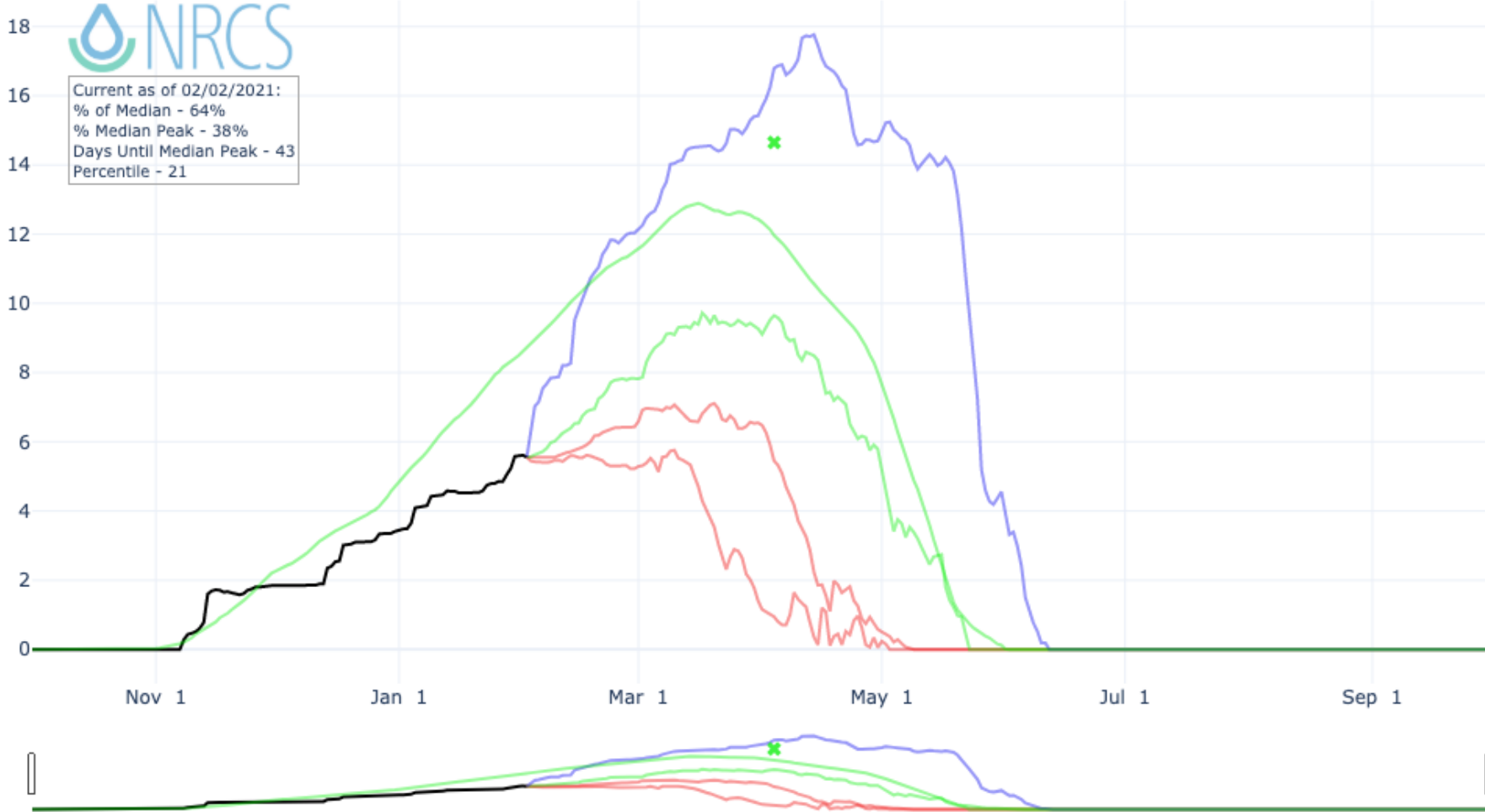
[Link to data: CSV / JSON](#)

Station List



Current as of 02/02/2021:  
 % of Median - 64%  
 % Median Peak - 38%  
 Days Until Median Peak - 43  
 Percentile - 21

Snow Water Equivalent (in.)



- ✱ Median Peak SWE
- Median (POR)
- Median ('81-'10)
- Stats. Shading
- Max Proj
- 90% Proj
- 70% Proj
- 50% Proj
- 30% Proj
- 10% Proj
- Min Proj
- 2021 (9 sites)
- 2020 (9 sites)
- 2019 (9 sites)
- 2018 (9 sites)
- 2017 (9 sites)
- 2016 (9 sites)
- 2015 (9 sites)
- 2014 (9 sites)
- 2013 (9 sites)
- 2012 (9 sites)
- 2011 (9 sites)
- 2010 (9 sites)

Statistical shading breaks at 10th, 30th, 50th, 70th, and 90th Percentiles.  
 For more information visit: [30 year normals calculation description.](#)

# JAN 1, 2021: NRCS Rye Patch Reservoir Storage Comparison

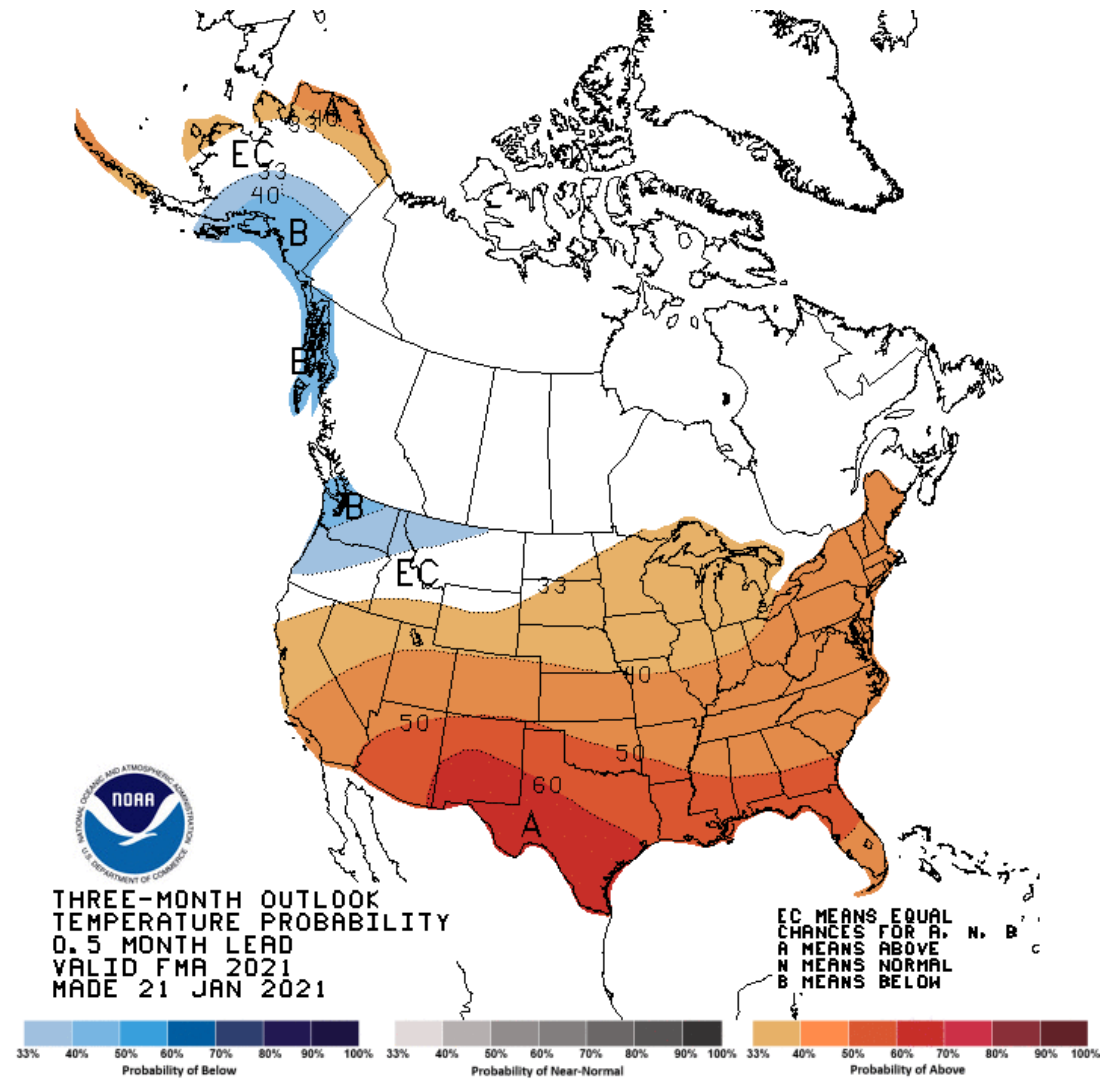
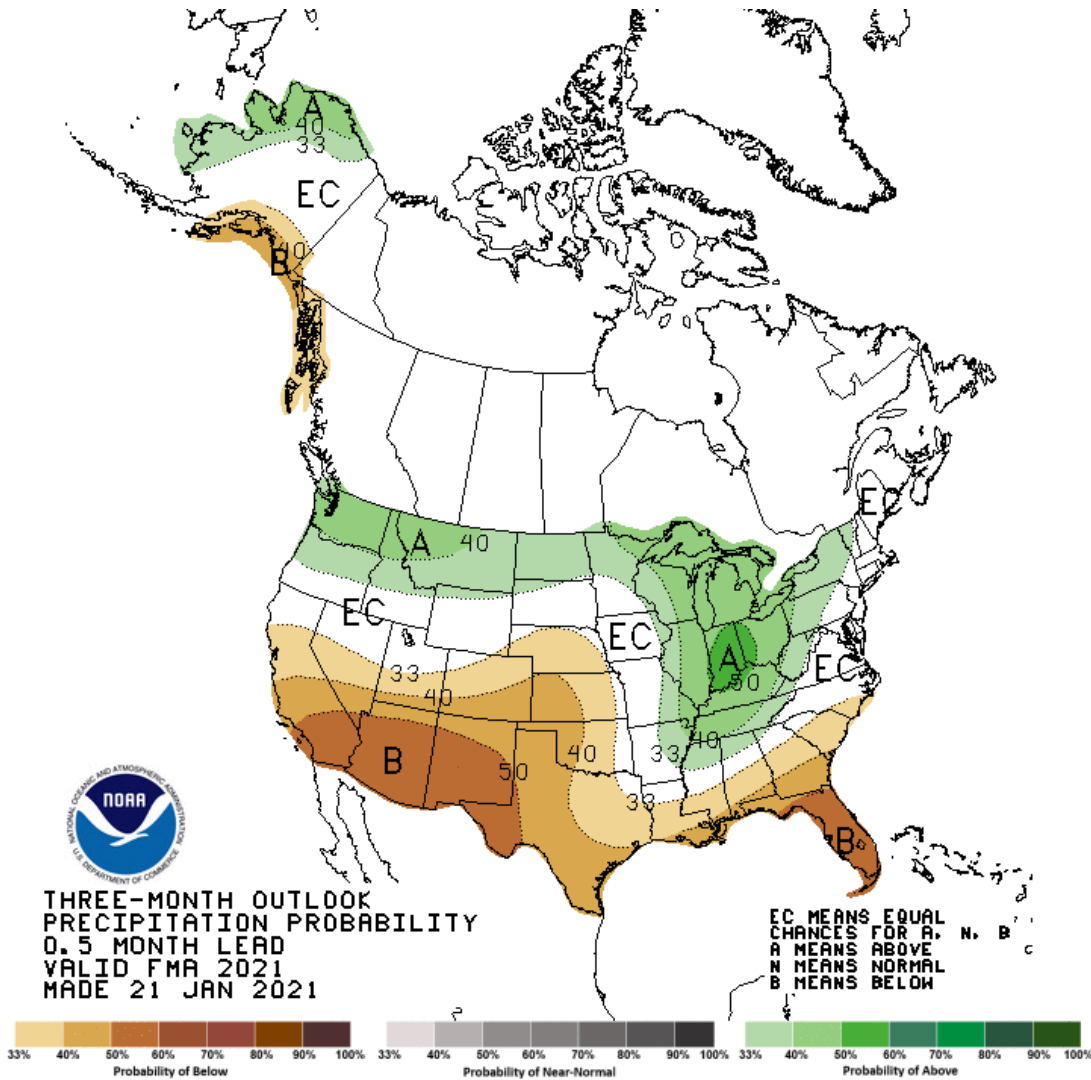
Rye Patch Reservoir			
Current		Last Year	Average
KAF	% of Capacity	KAF	KAF
62.2	32	175.4	69.2

Reservoir Storage Summary for the end of December 2020

# 3 – Month Outlook

## Precipitation

## Temperature



# Resources

National Weather Service

<https://www.weather.gov>

NRCS

<https://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/snow>

Great Basin Weather and Climate Dashboard

<https://gbdash.dri.edu>

USGS WaterWatch

<https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php>

# Regionwide ET Study

DRI

# Quantifying Groundwater ET across Humboldt River Region

Justin Huntington  
February 4, 2021  
DRI

# Groundwater Discharge via Evapotranspiration

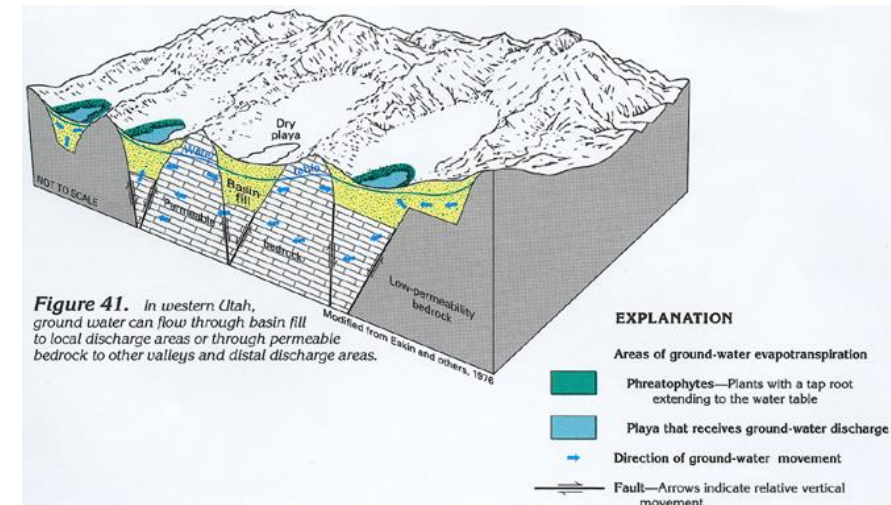
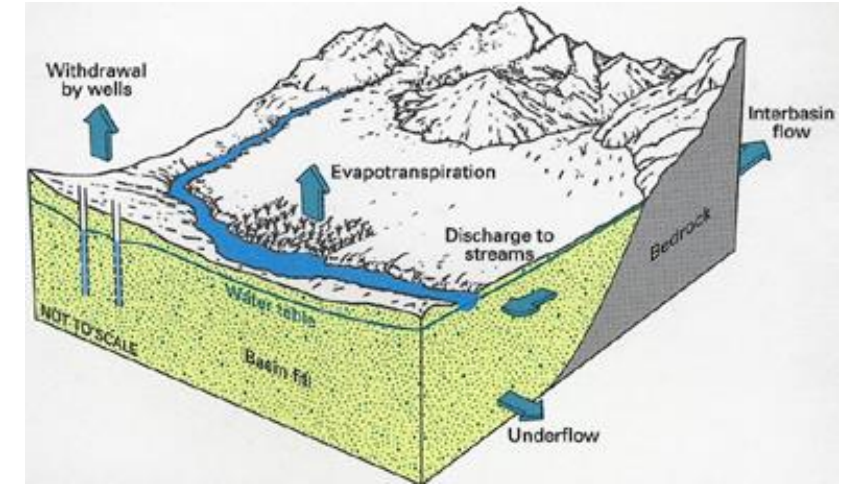
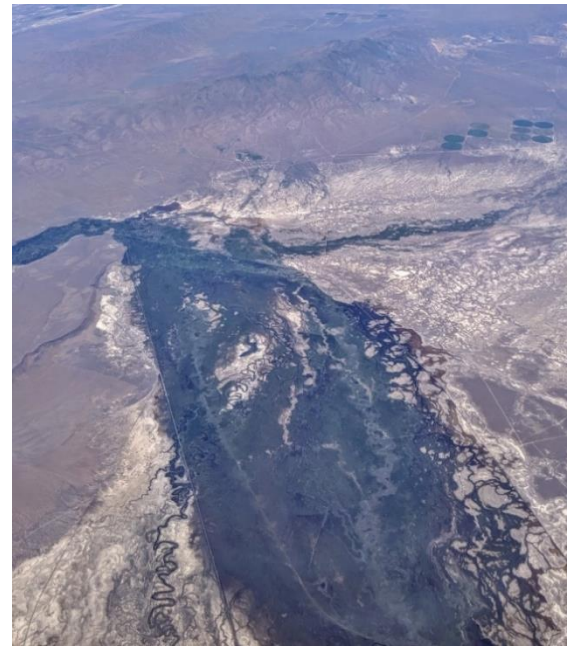


Paradise Valley, NV

# Groundwater Discharge via Evapotranspiration

- Objective

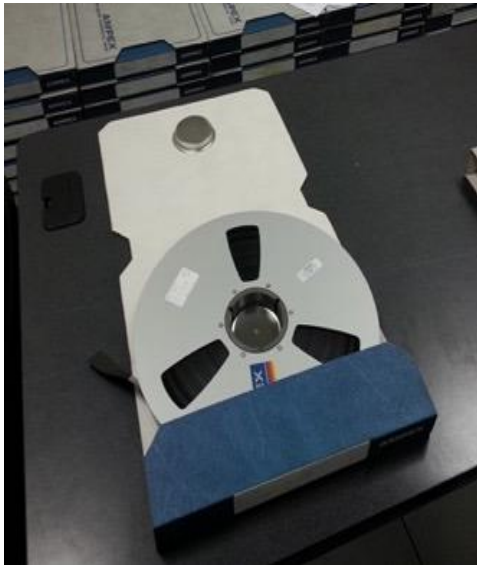
- Delineate areas where phreatophytes discharge groundwater through the process of evapotranspiration
- Use best available science to estimate the rates of groundwater evapotranspiration (ET<sub>g</sub>) from phreatophyte vegetation
- Summarize and compare to previous studies, and provide results to USGS and DRI groundwater modeling groups to use for calibration of groundwater models



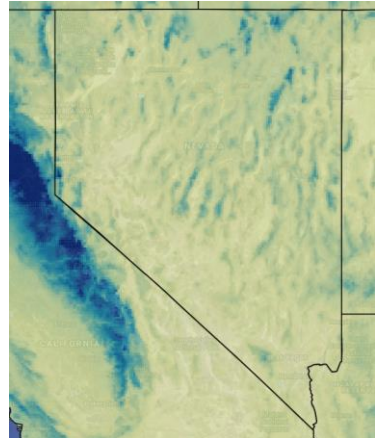


# Satellite and Climate Data

1971-1984

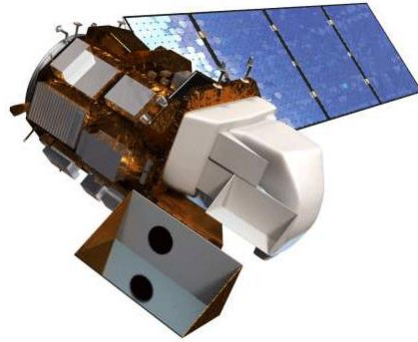


1985-2020



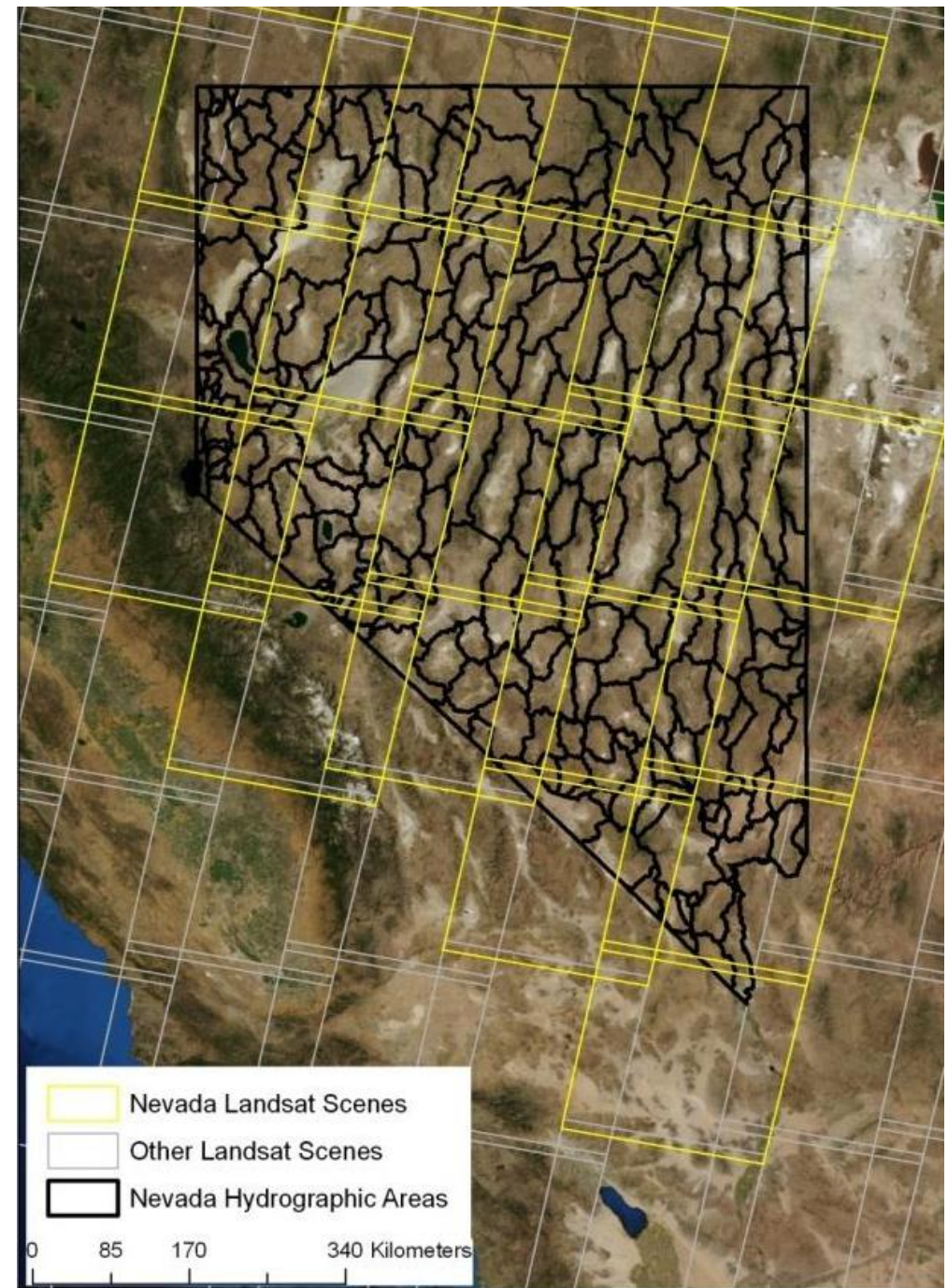
# Geospatial Data

- Previous phreatophyte boundaries, aerial imagery, Landsat imagery, digital elevation models, soils data, wells and water levels, field surveys of phreatophytes
- Landsat satellite imagery to compute vegetation indices
  - 1985-2015, summer period
- gridMET weather data for estimating precipitation and evaporative demand
  - Solar radiation, temperature, humidity, and wind speed

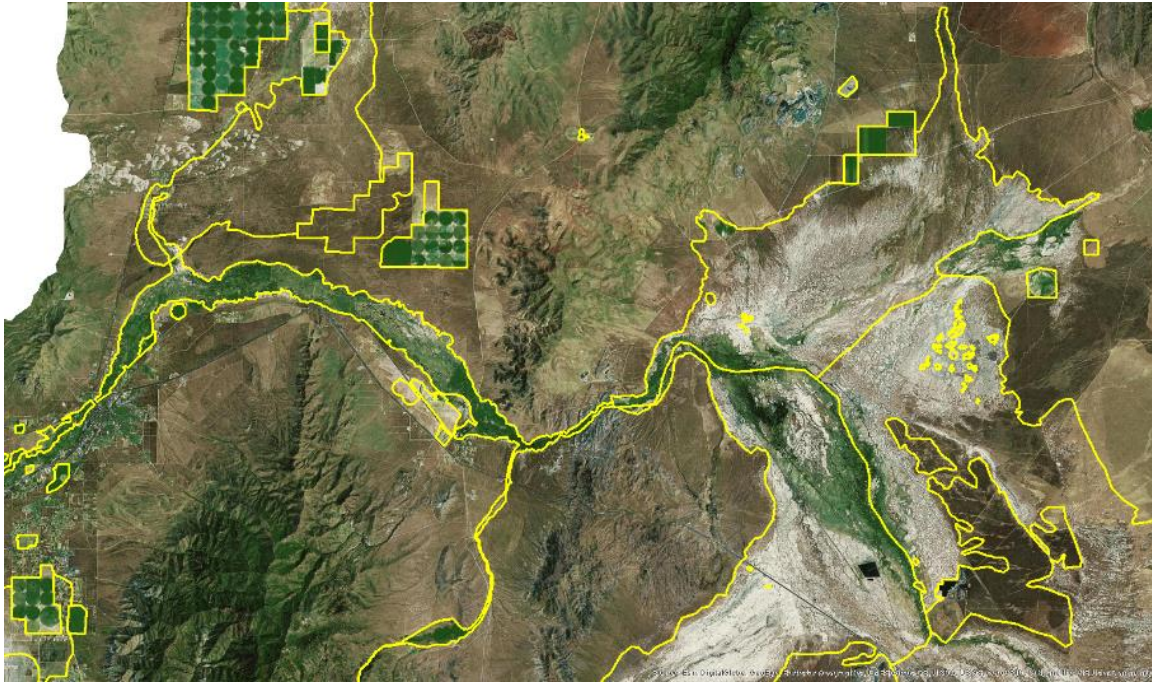
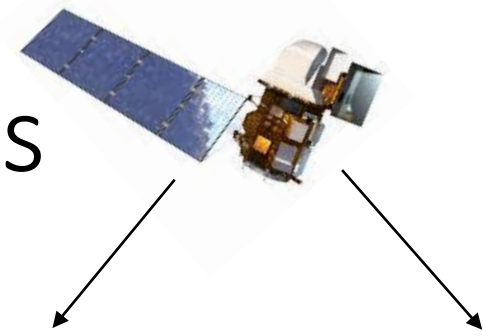


Landsat

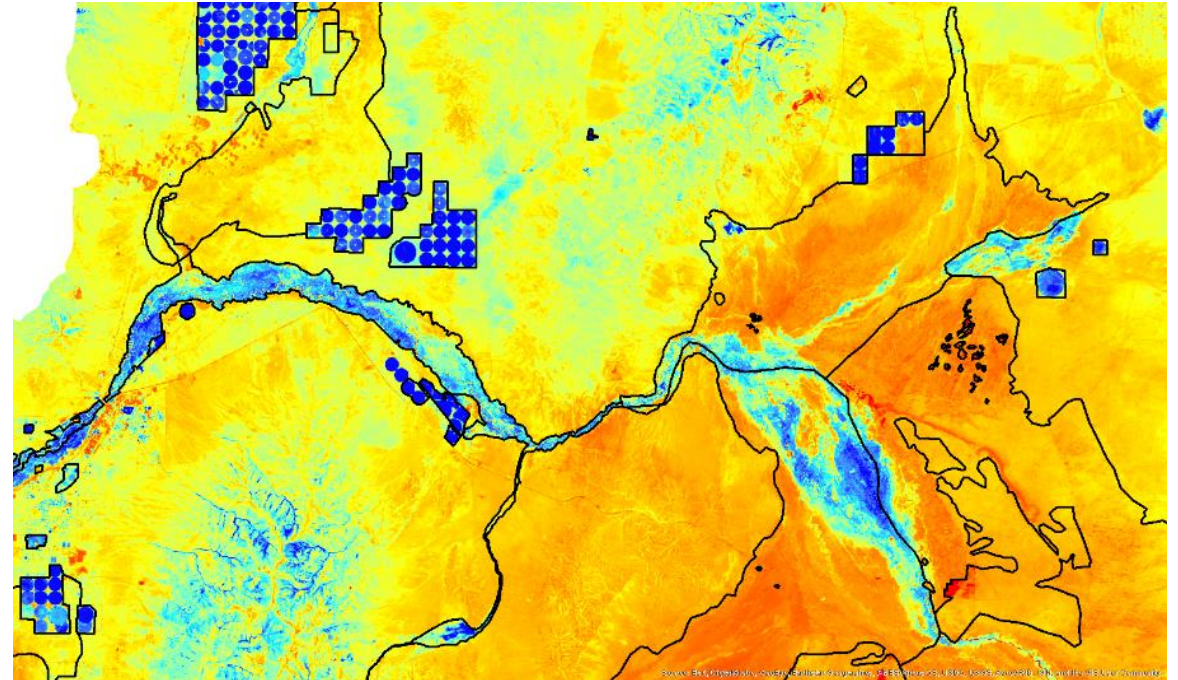
MODIS



# Groundwater Discharge Boundaries

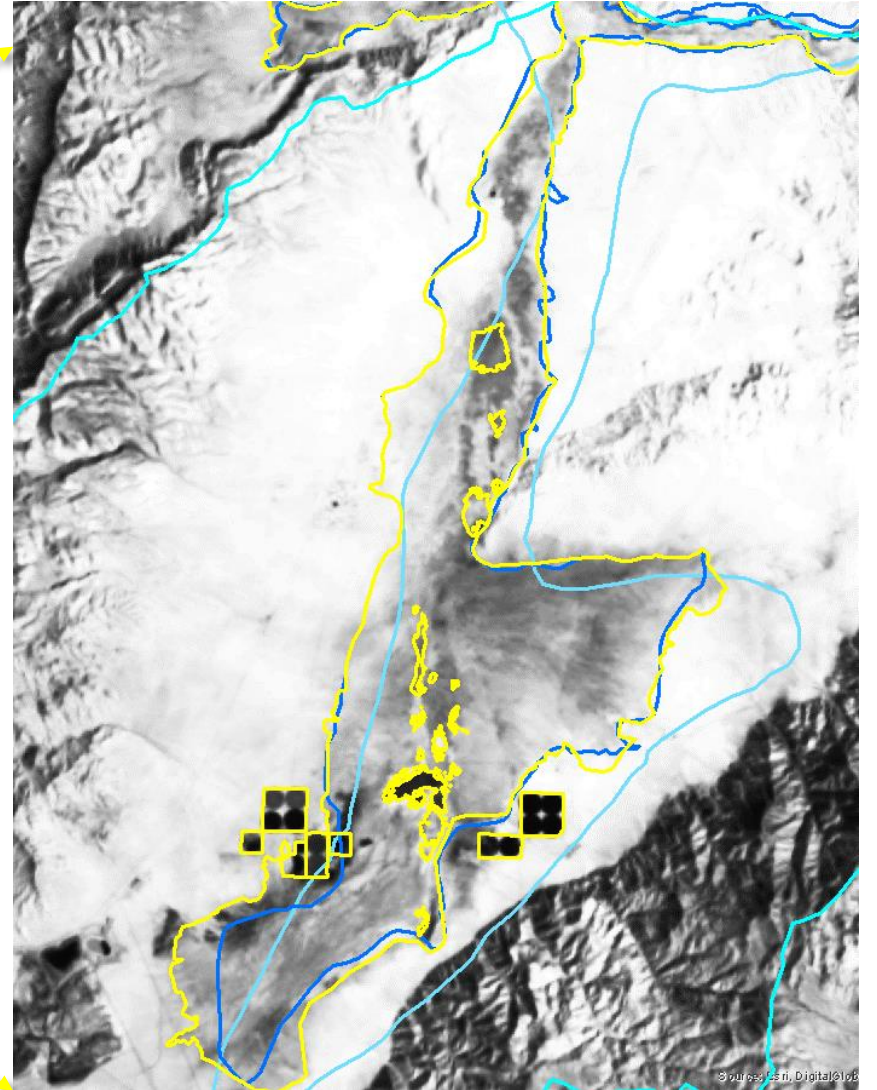
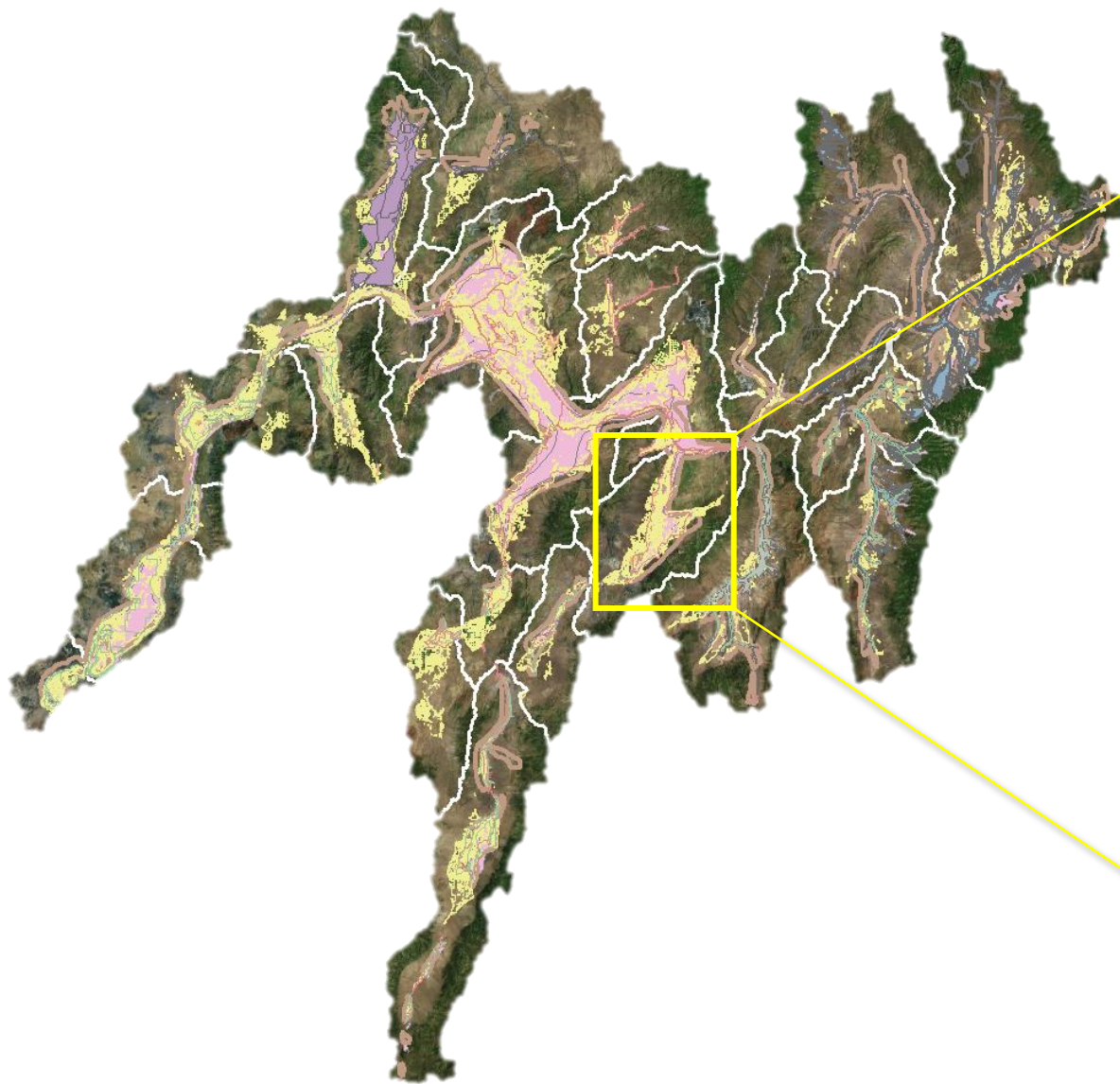


True Color NAIP Imagery



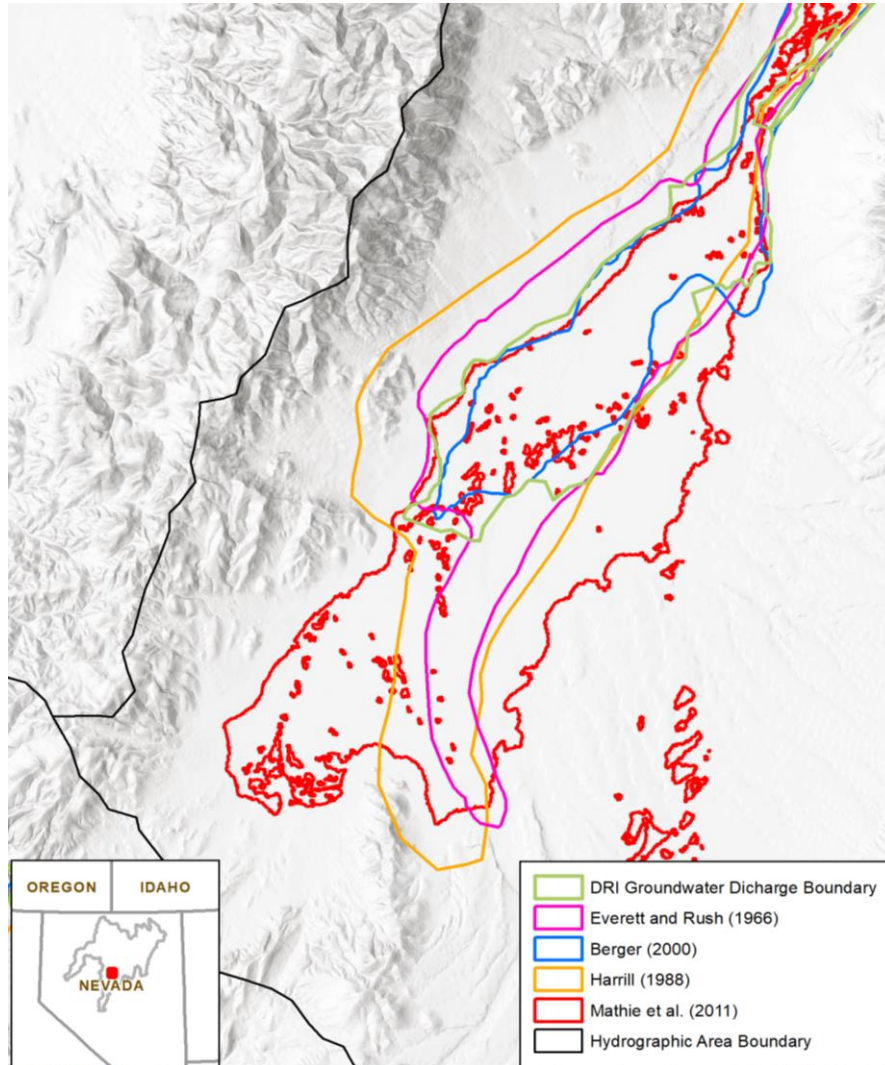
Vegetation Index (30m)

# Groundwater Discharge Boundaries

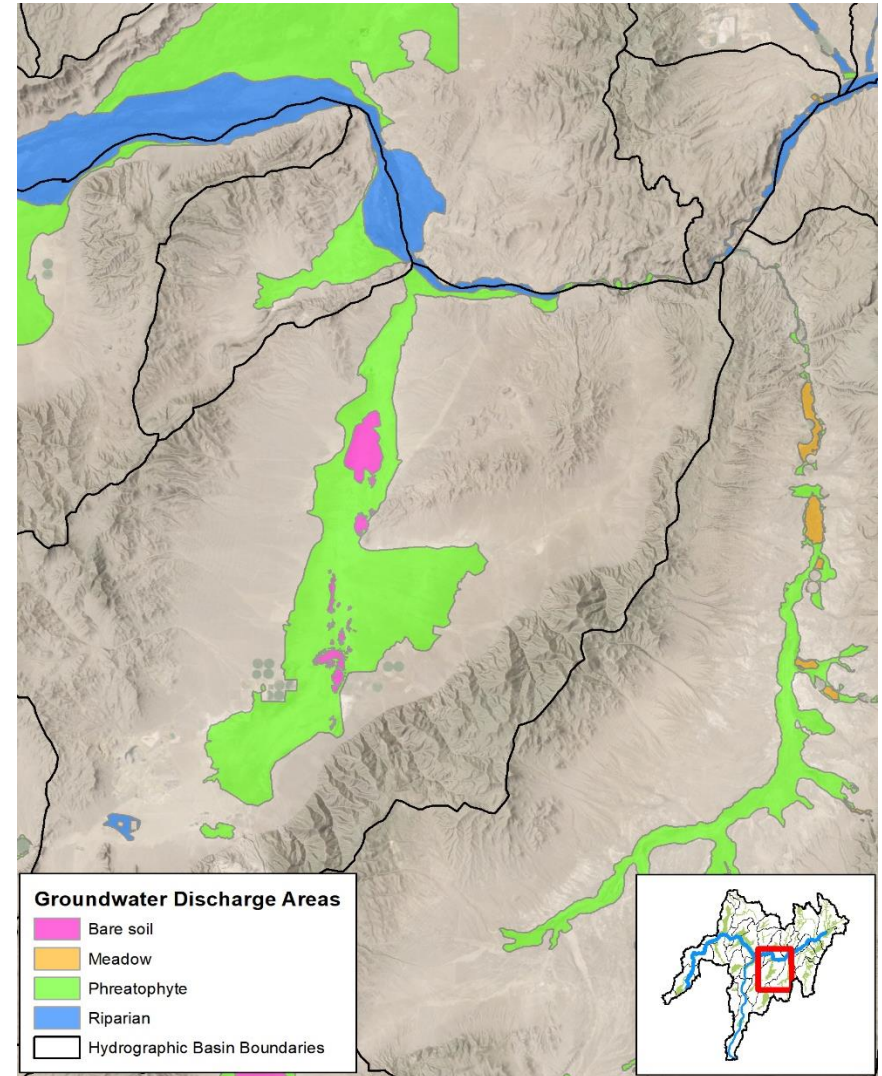


Surface Temperature - Crescent Valley

# Groundwater Discharge Boundaries



Carico Lake Valley

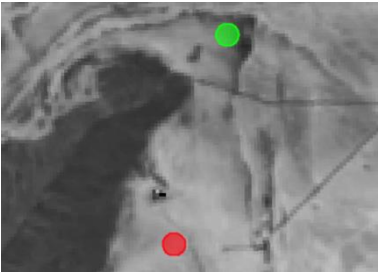


Crescent and Pine Valley Areas

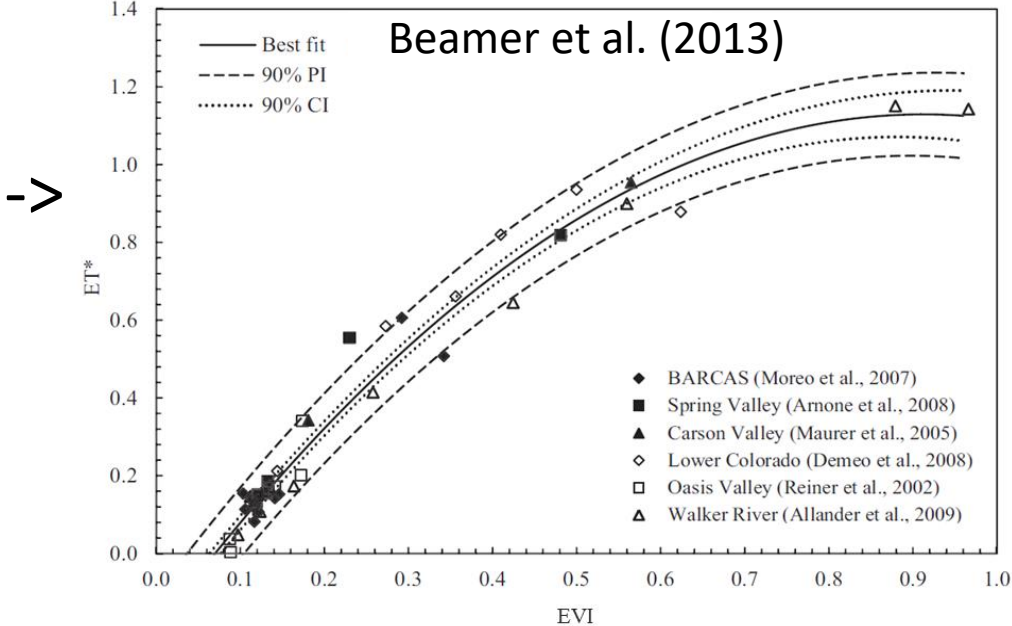
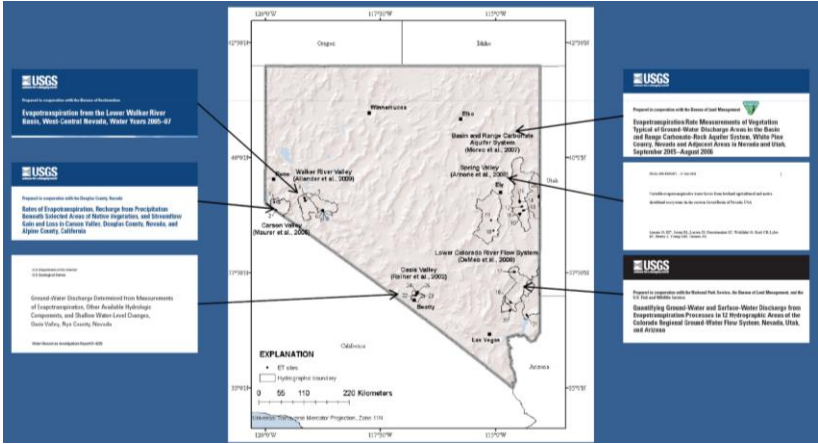
# Landsat and Climate -> ETg



Moreo et al (2007)



+

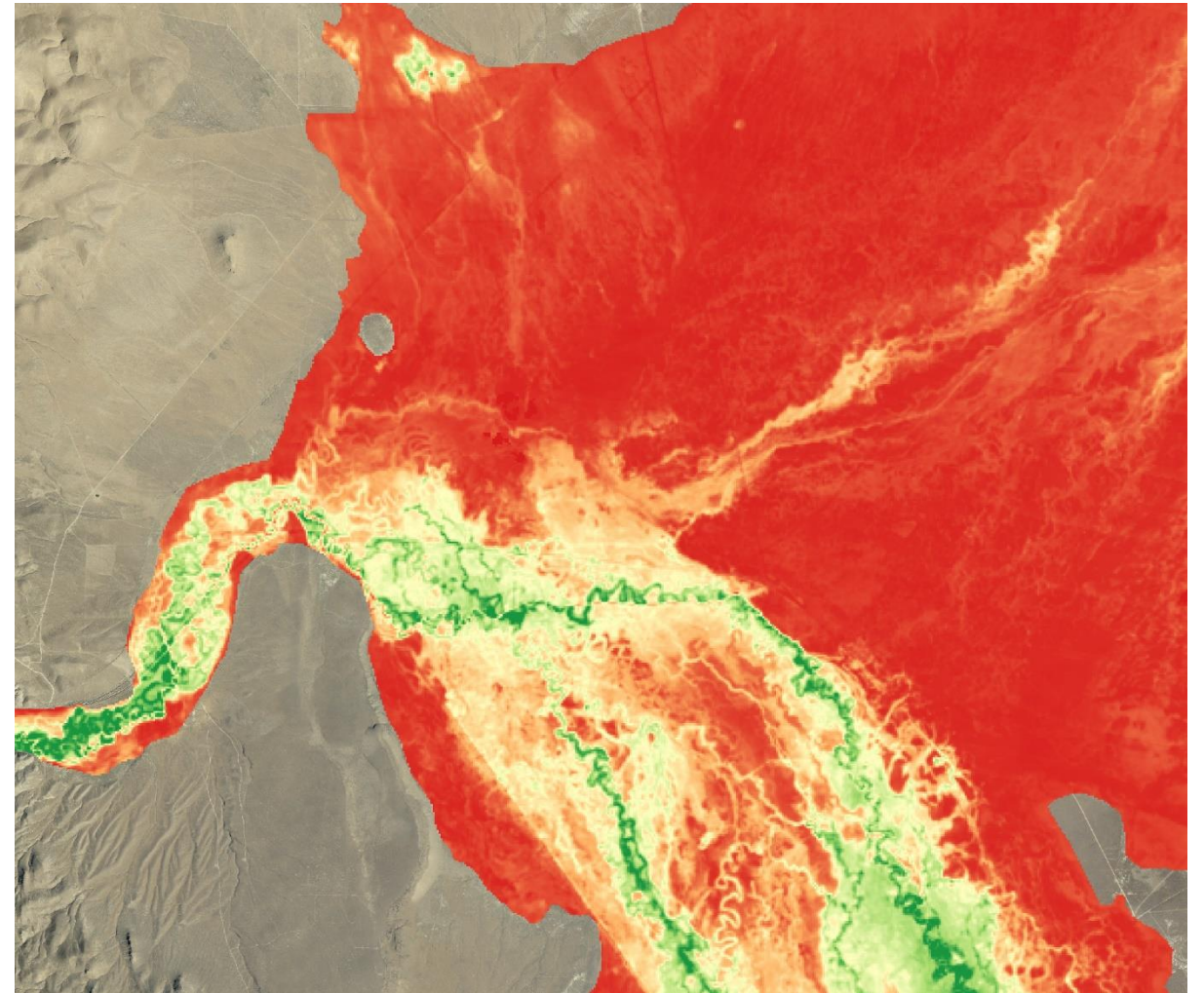
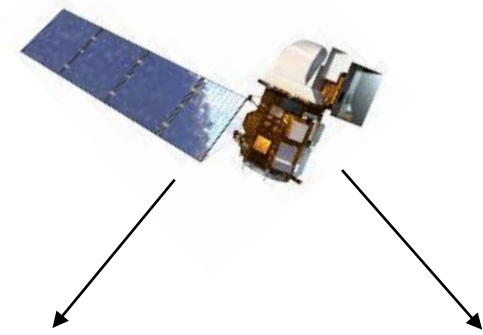
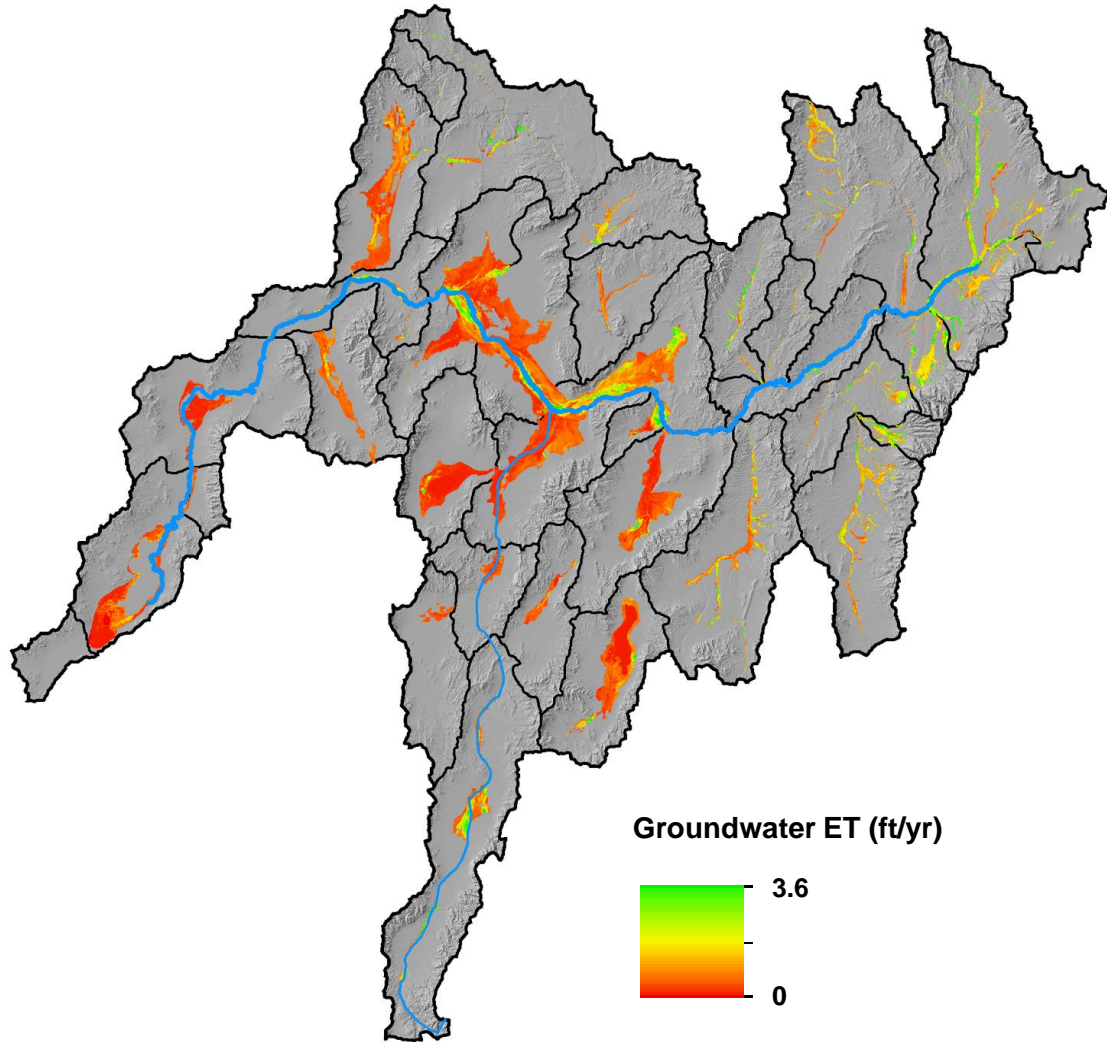


$$ET^* = \frac{ET - PPT}{ET_0 - PPT}$$

$$ET^* = \beta_0 + \beta_1 EVI + \beta_2 EVI^2$$

$$Rate\ of\ ET_g\ (ft/yr) = (ET_0 - PPT) * ET^*$$

# Groundwater ET Distribution



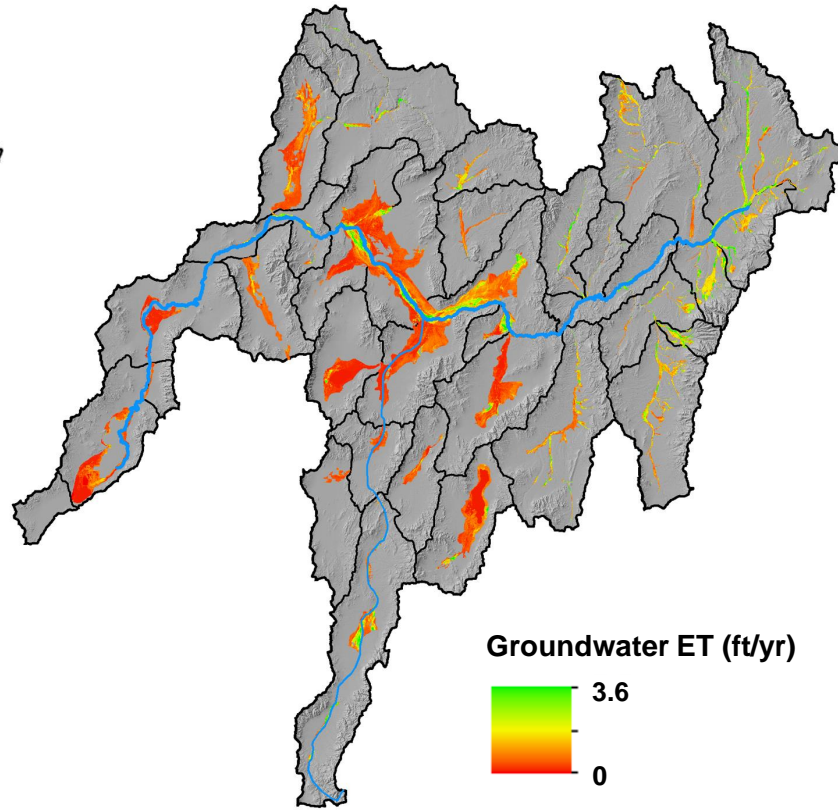
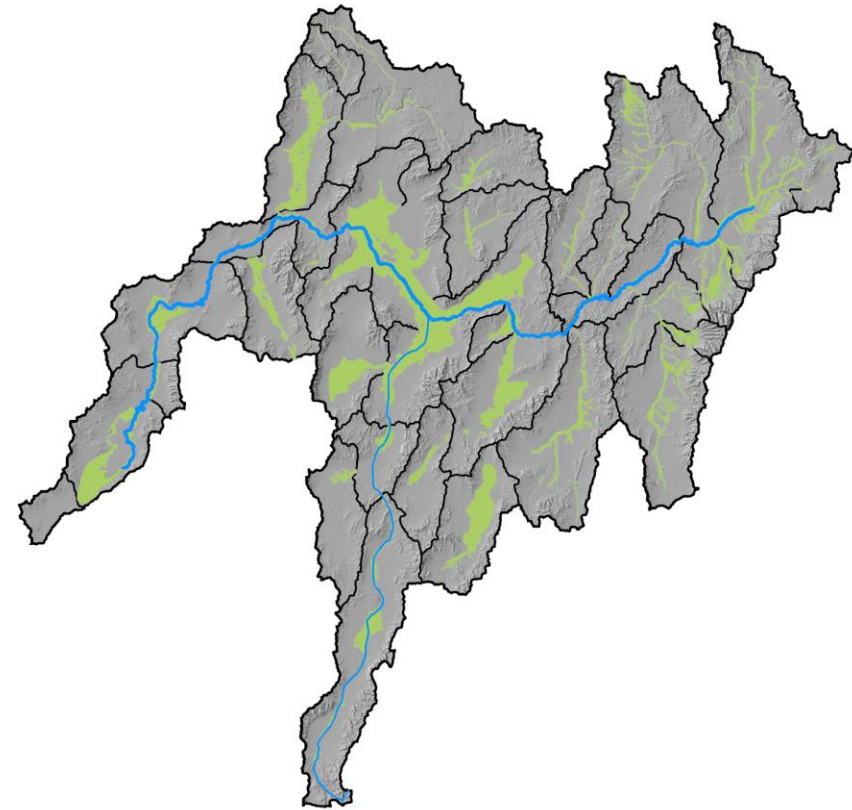
Kelley Creek Area, Clovers Area, and Pumpnickel Valley

# Evapotranspiration Discharge

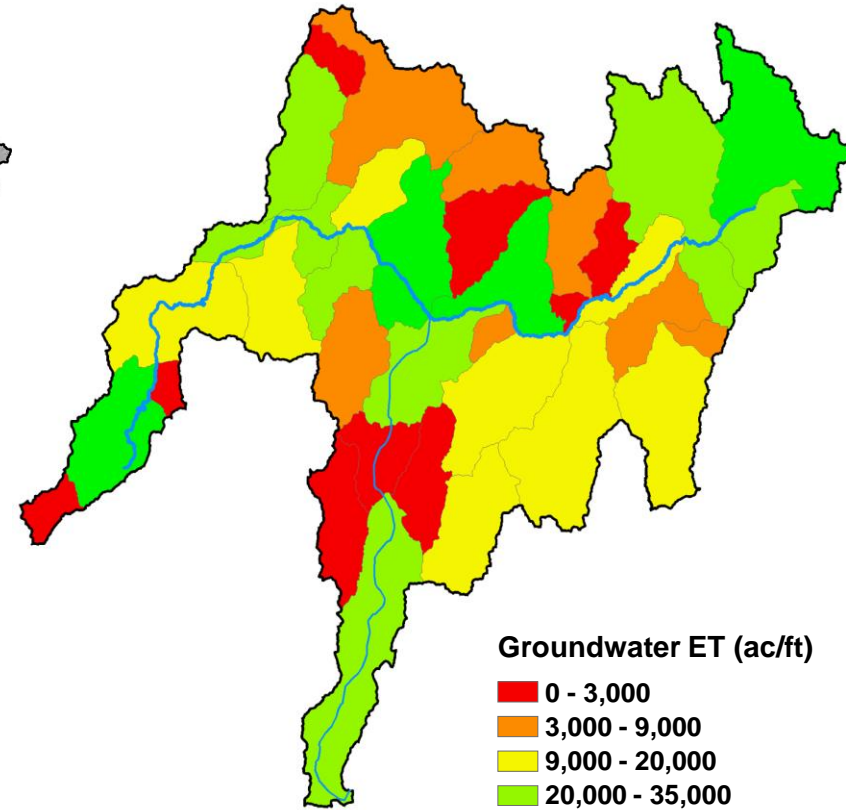
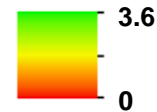
Potential areas of GW discharge

Groundwater ET

Groundwater ET



Groundwater ET (ft/yr)



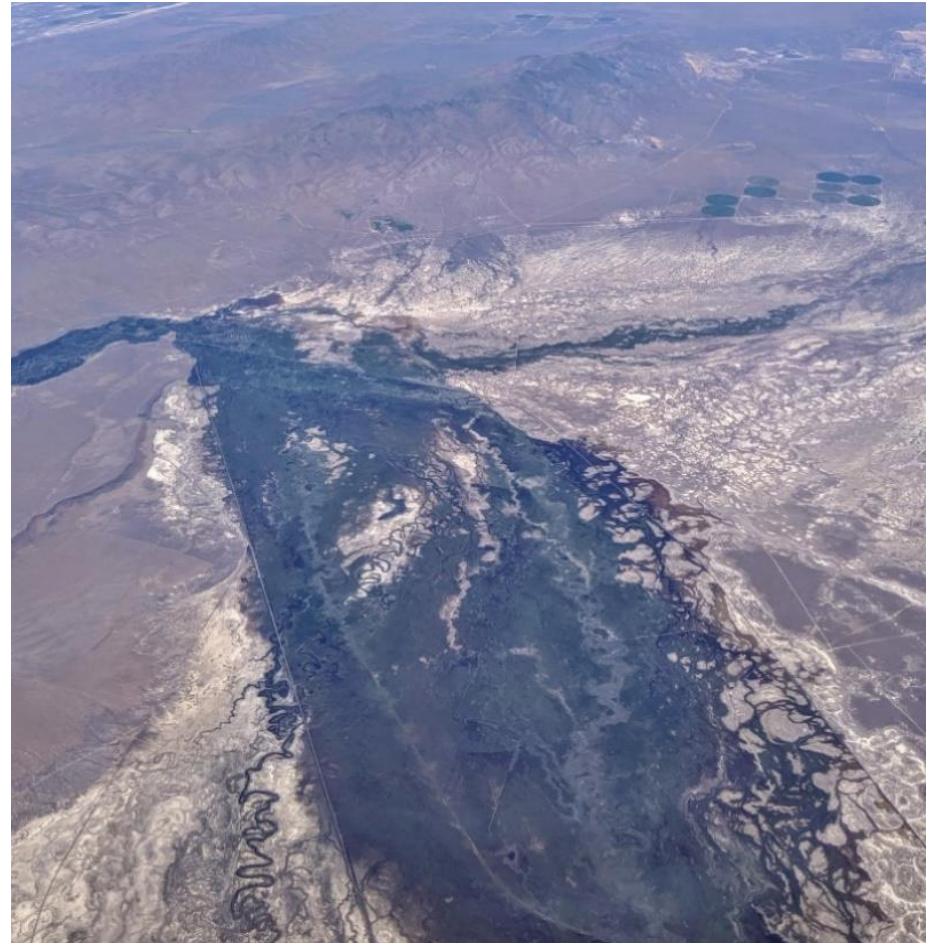
Groundwater ET (ac/ft)





# Summary

- Delineated and revised groundwater discharge areas
- Use a combination of satellite and gridded climate data to estimate median ETg from phreatophyte vegetation from 1985-2015
- Summarize and compare to previous studies, and provided results to USGS and DRI groundwater modeling groups
- Developing geodatabase and report that will be publicly available on a DRI website in April 2021



# Stream Capture Concepts

USGS

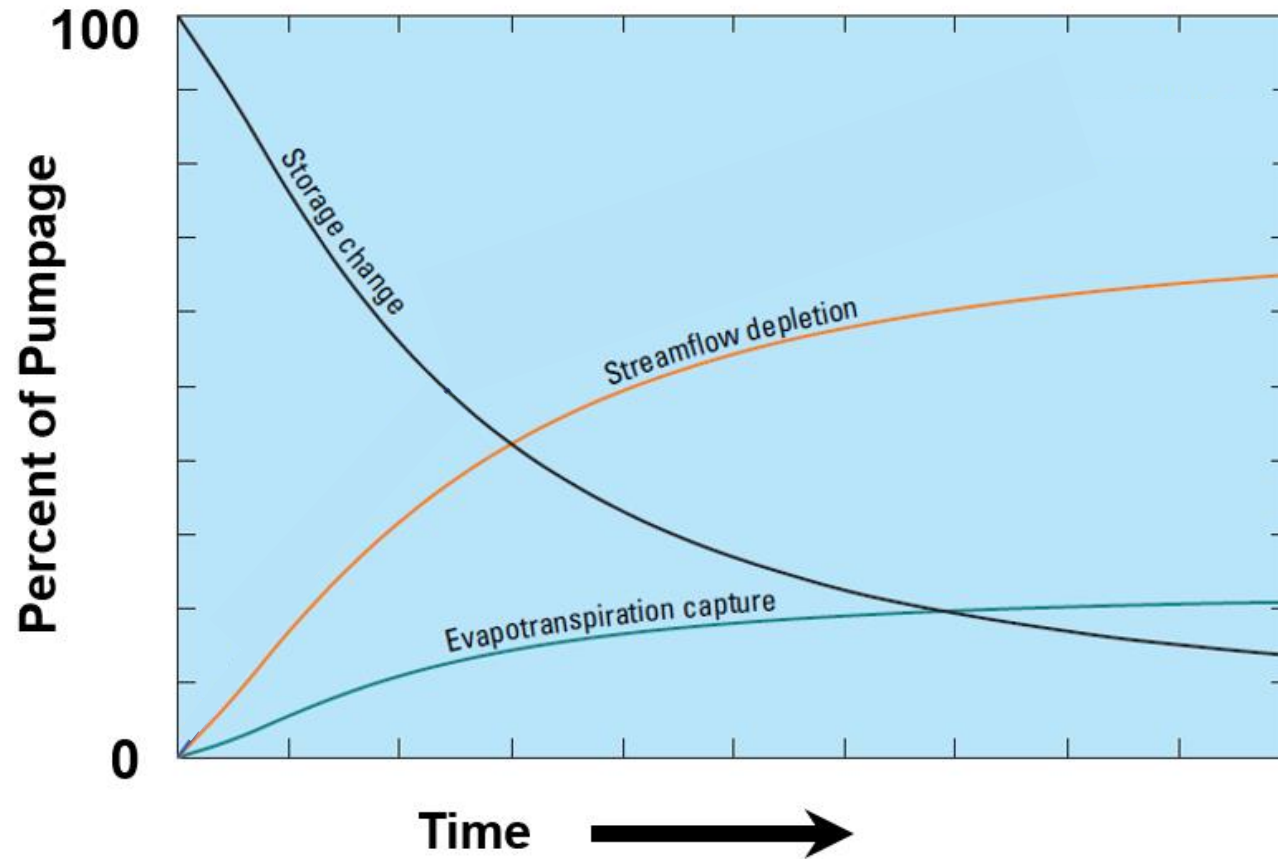
**Stream capture and capture maps:  
Stakeholder meeting**

**Update 2021-02-04**

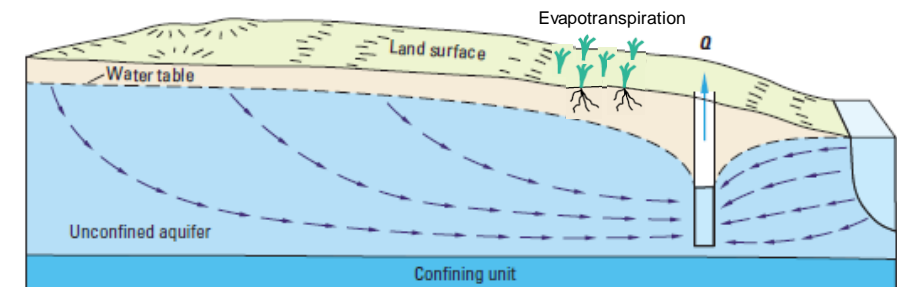
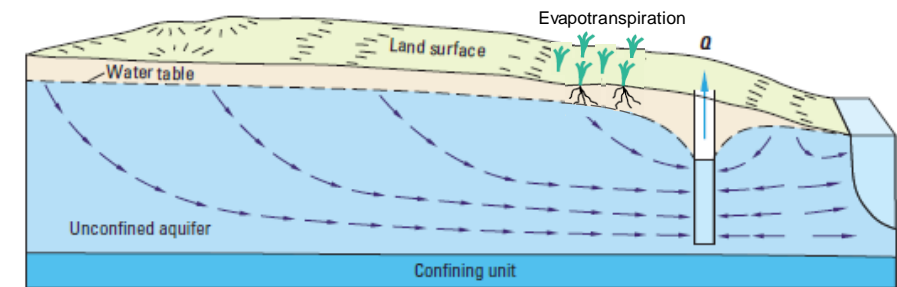
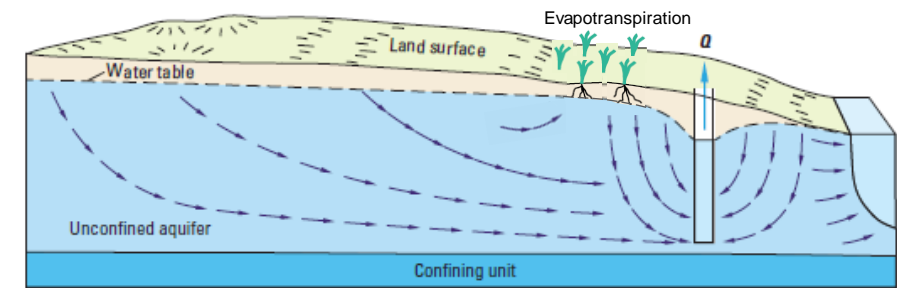
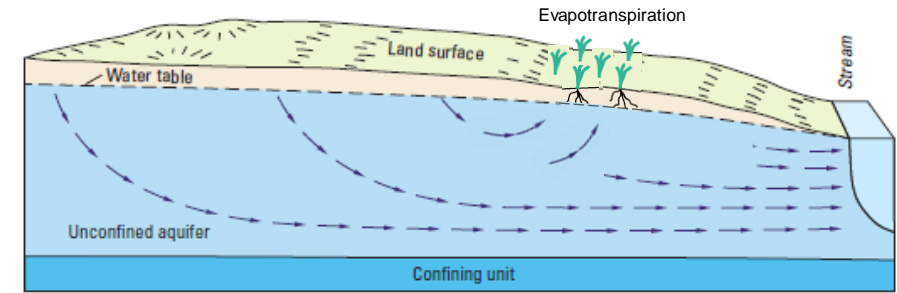
**USGS NVWSC**

# What is stream capture?

Reduction in streamflow caused by a pumping well.



**Stream Capture = Streamflow Depletion**



# How to interpret Capture Maps

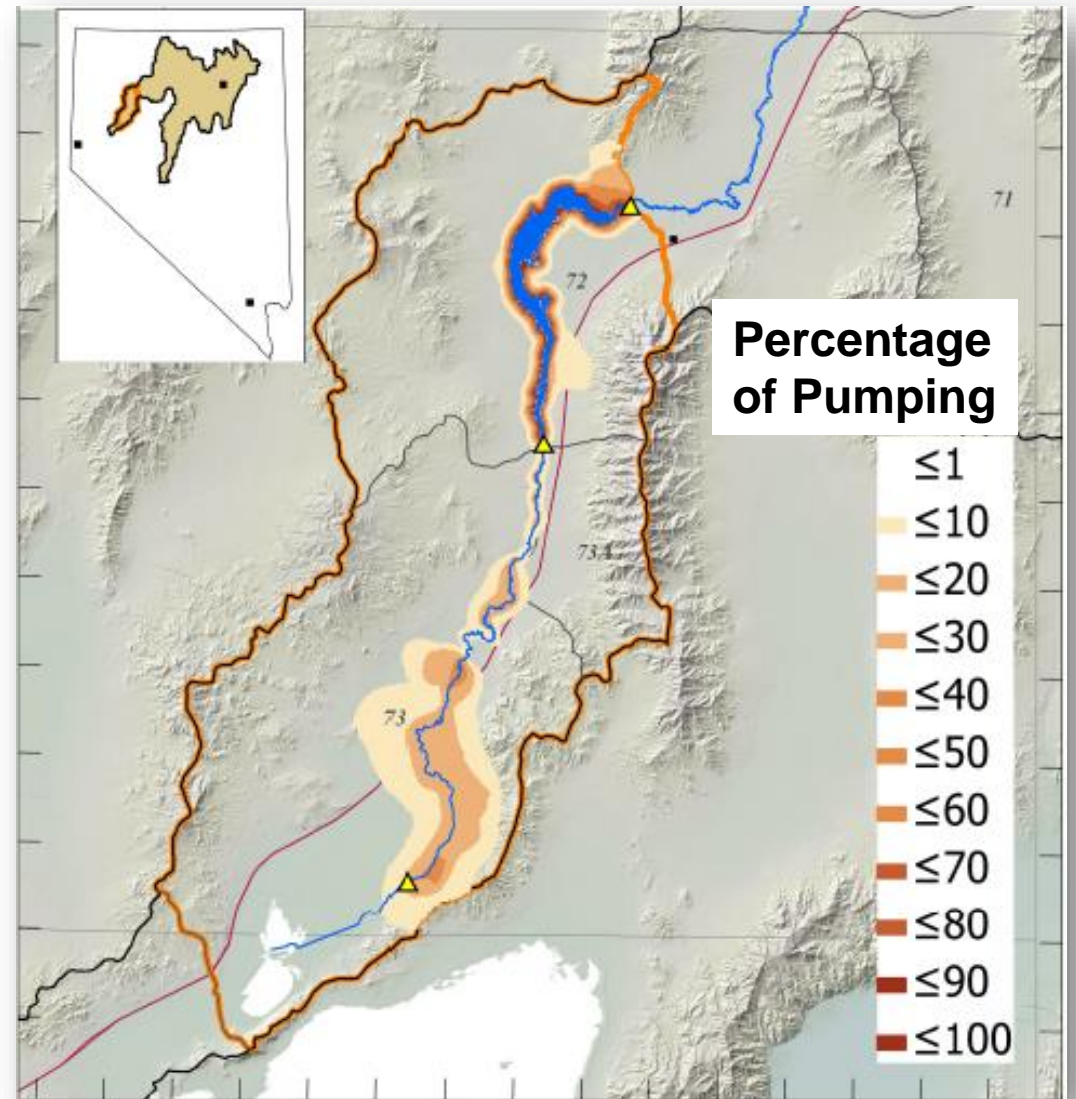
Capture maps represent the 'hypothetical' stream depletion from a well in any given location for a given duration of pumping.

Generally expressed as percentage of pumping.

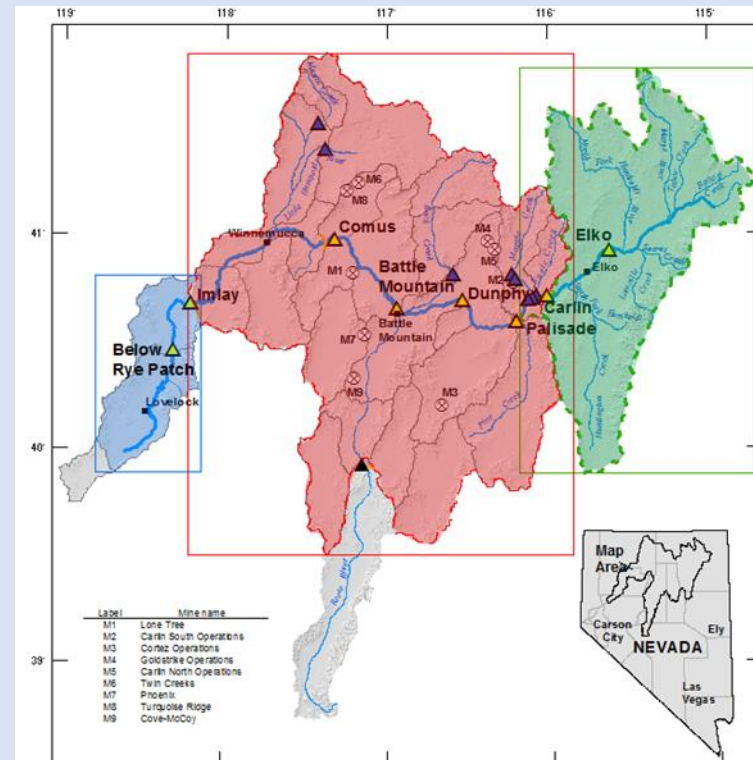
Darker colors indicate higher capture.

Lighter colors indicate lower capture.

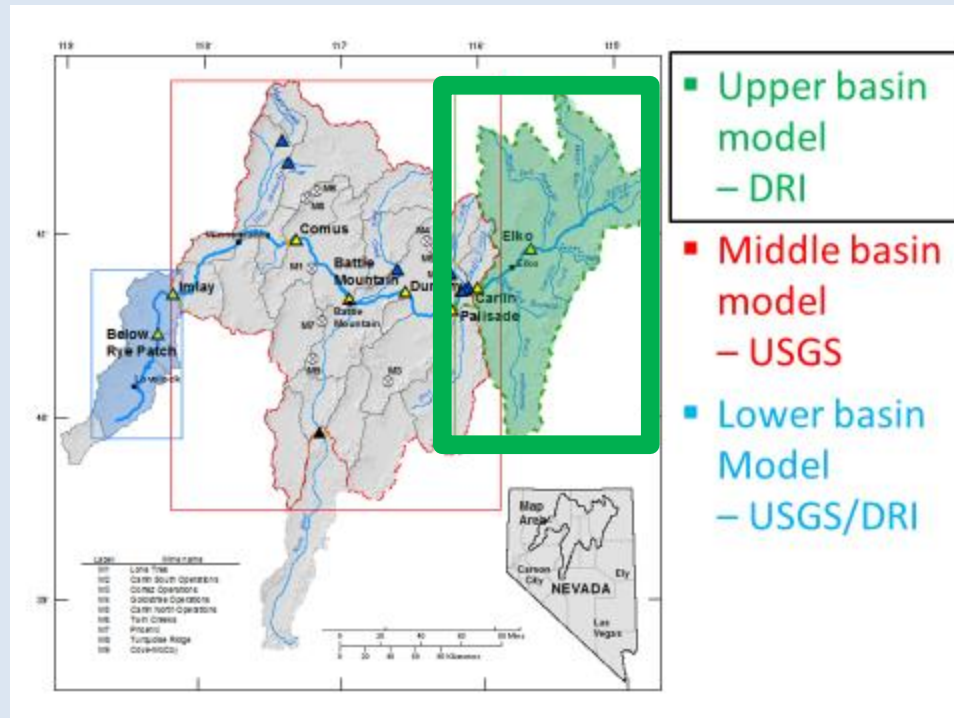
Preview of Lower Humboldt Capture map – 10 years of pumping



# Model Results



# Upper Humboldt River Basin Model



DRI

# Upper Humboldt Basin Groundwater Modeling Update

Rosemary WH Carroll  
February 4, 2021  
DRI



# Outline

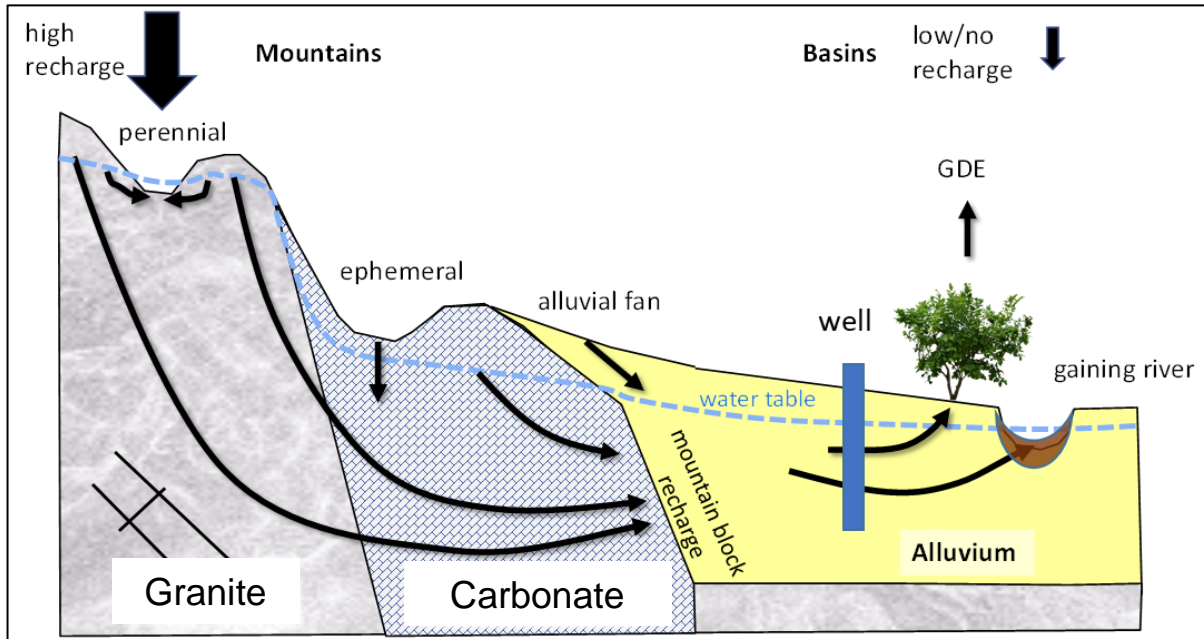
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- Conceptual Model
- Upper Basin Modeled Characteristics
- Historic Capture (1960-2016)
- Capture Analysis
- Concluding Remarks



# Conceptual Model

Pre-Groundwater Development (<1960)



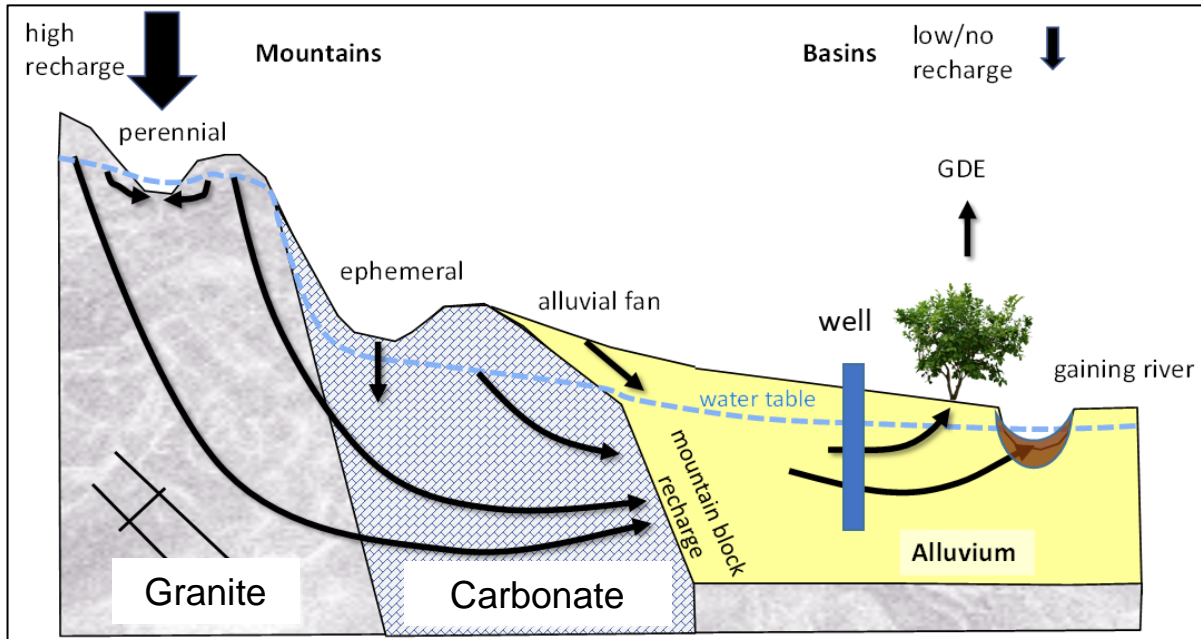
Gradients  
Elevation  
Geology

←  
Low Storage  
Low permeability (K)  
High drainage network

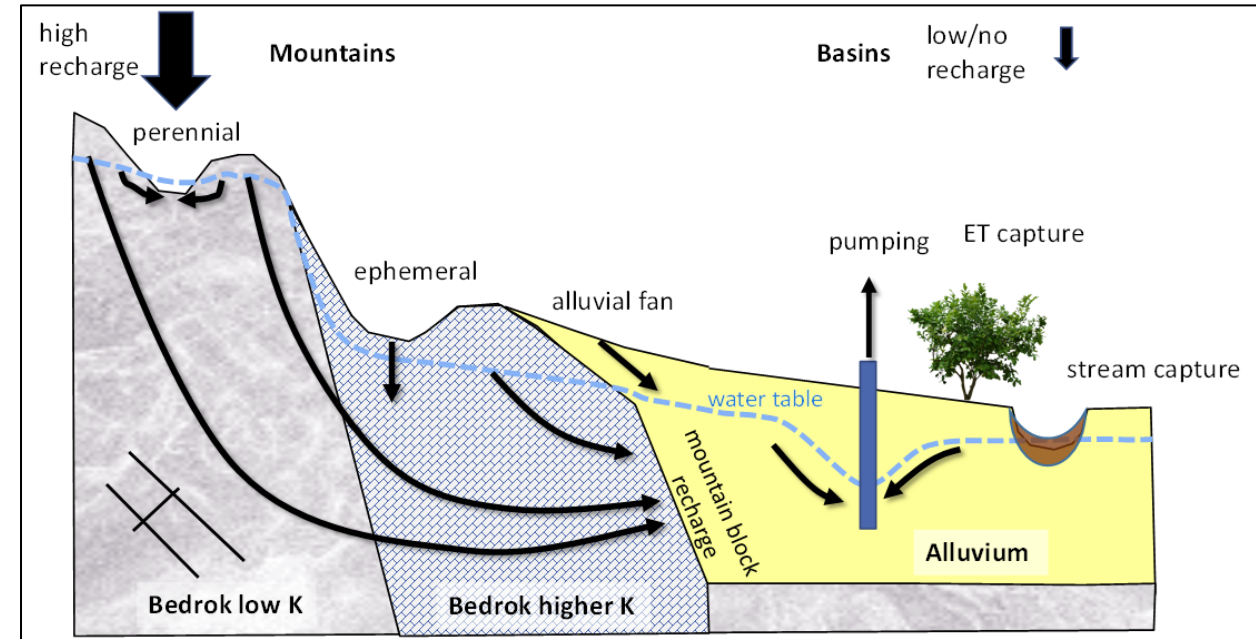
→  
High Storage  
High permeability  
Low drainage network

# Conceptual Model

Pre-Groundwater Development (<1960)



Historical Period (1960-2016)



Gradients  
Elevation  
Geology

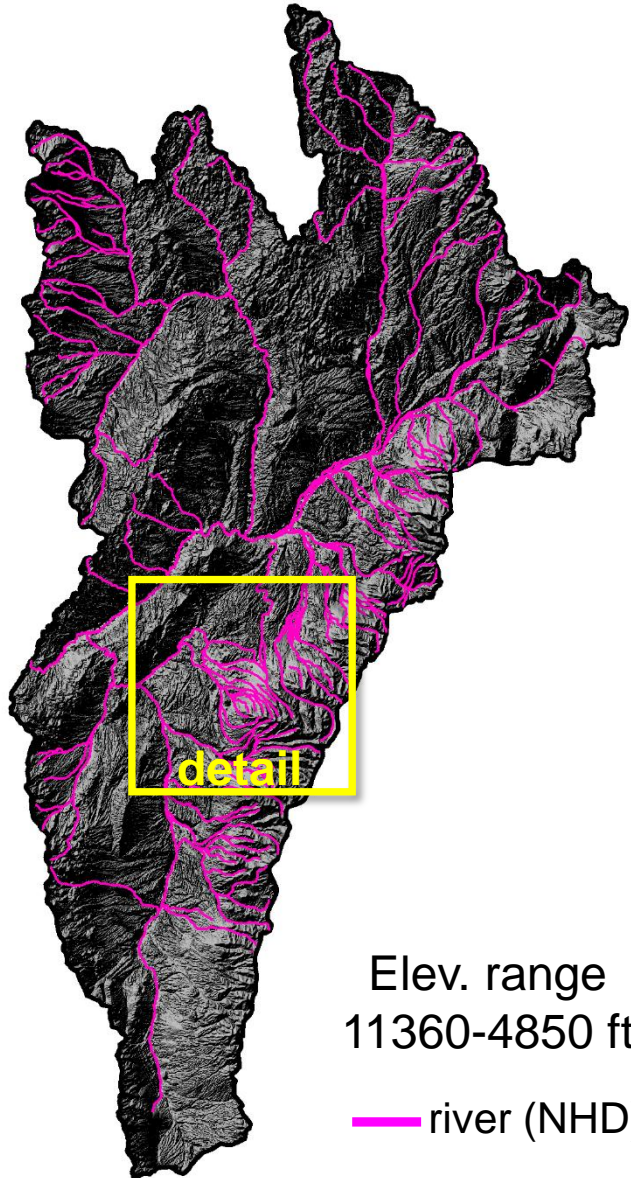
←  
Low Storage  
Low permeability (K)  
High drainage network

→  
High Storage  
High permeability  
Low drainage network

## Stream Capture Controls:

- Close to river = higher capture
- Higher storage = lower capture
- Higher permeability = higher capture
- Higher drainage network = higher capture
- Higher streambed conductance = higher capture

Basin area = 4323 mi<sup>2</sup>

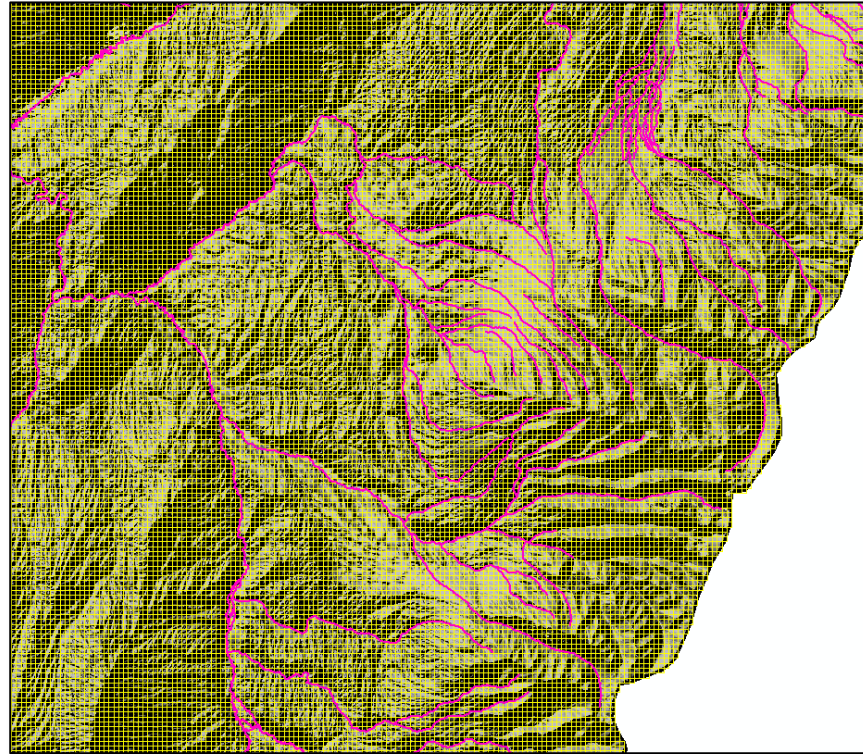


Elev. range  
11360-4850 ft

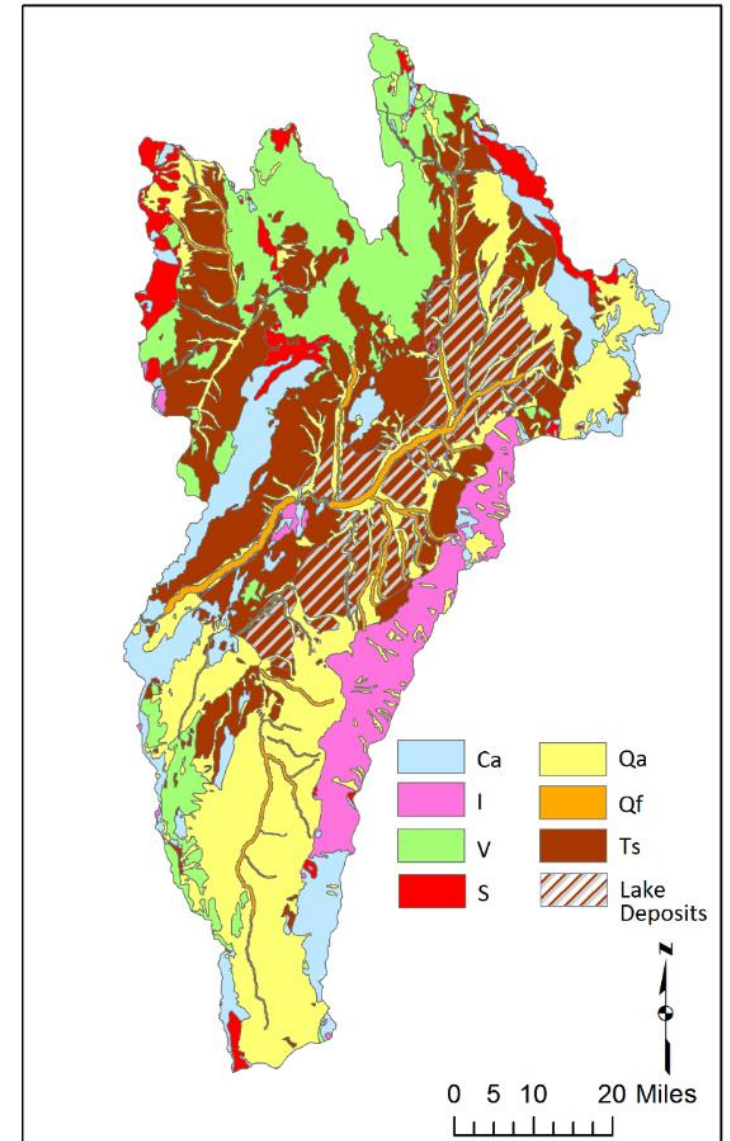
— river (NHD)

0 10 20 Miles

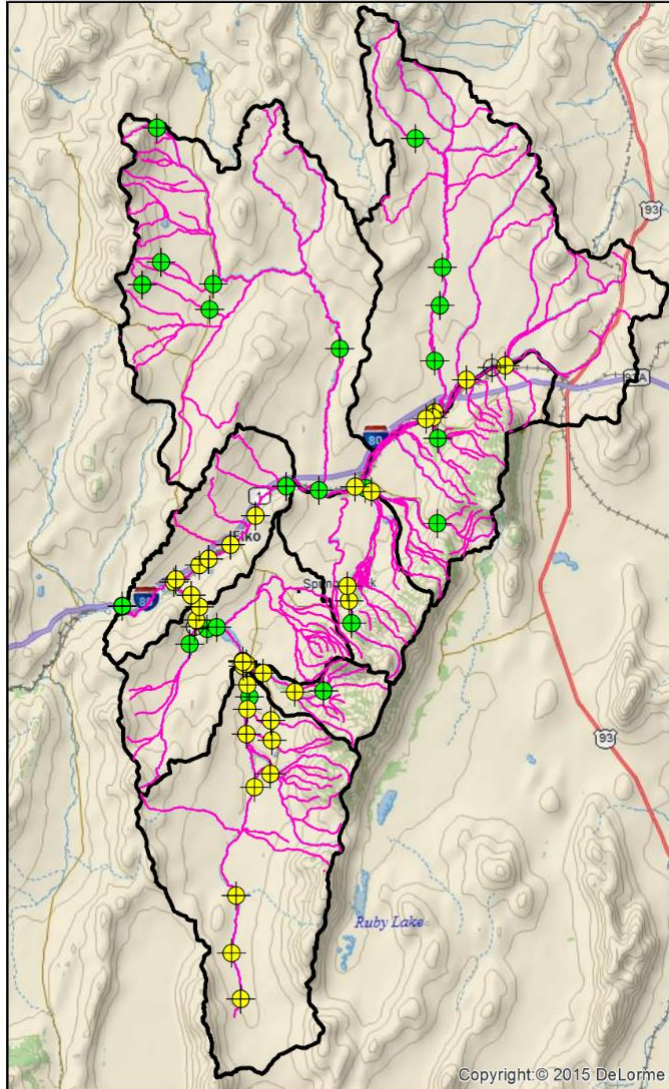
# Model Characteristics



- Cells 900 ft x 900 ft: ~half a million active cells
- Three model layers:
  - Layer 1 = 300 ft



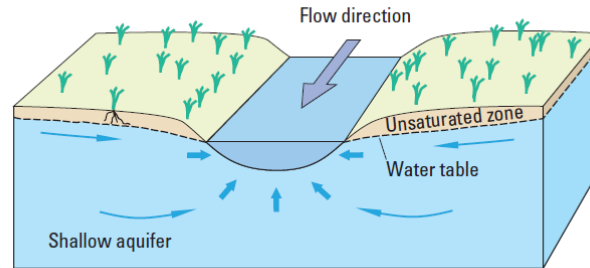
# Rivers



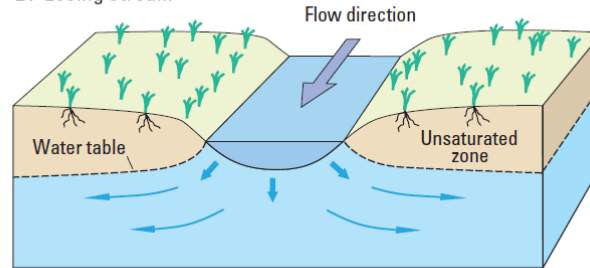
USGS Seepage Sites  
 USGS Stream Gauge

0 5 10 20 Miles

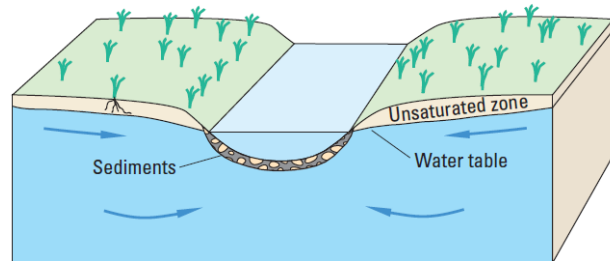
A. Gaining stream



B. Losing stream



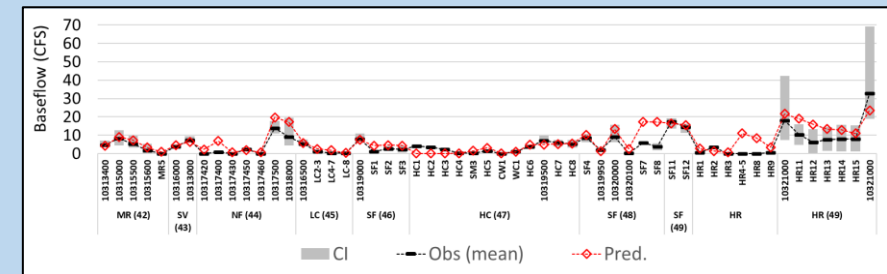
C. conductance



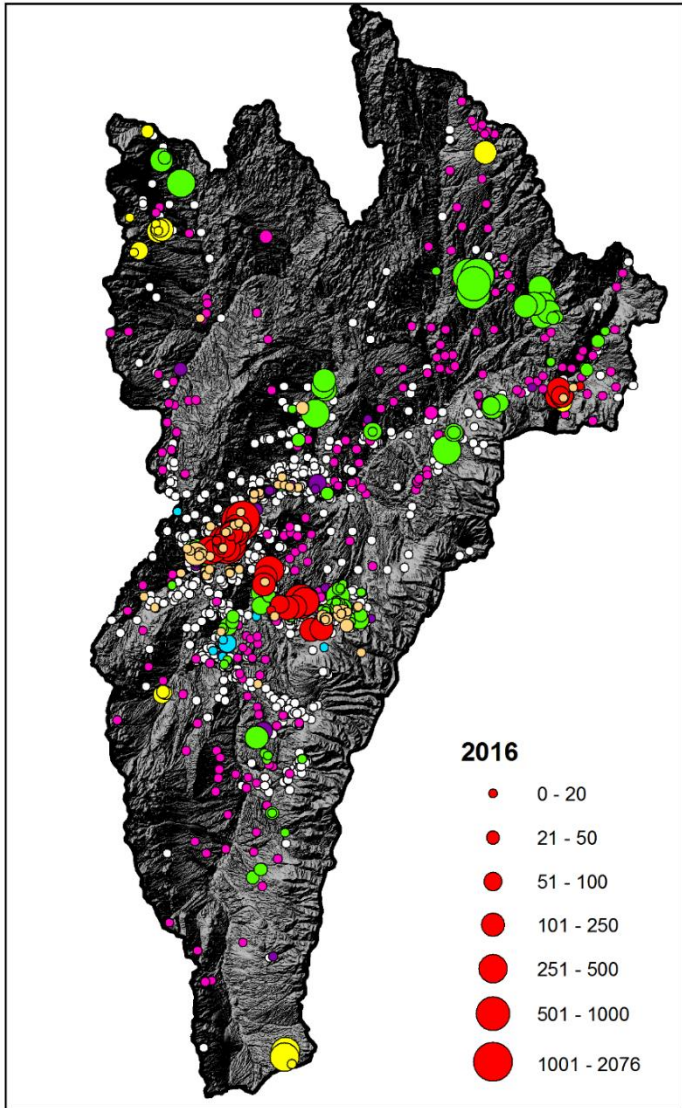
Stream with streambed and streambank sediments less permeable than surrounding aquifer sediments.

Barlow and Leake, 2012

- Simulate baseflow only.
- No seasonality.
- Allow gaining and losing based on water table elevation.
- Model does not allow for ephemeral conditions.
- Riverbed conductance adjusted to match observed streamflow
- Riverbed conductance is important to estimated stream capture.



COM ENV MINE MUNI QMUNI  
 IRR STOCK DOM

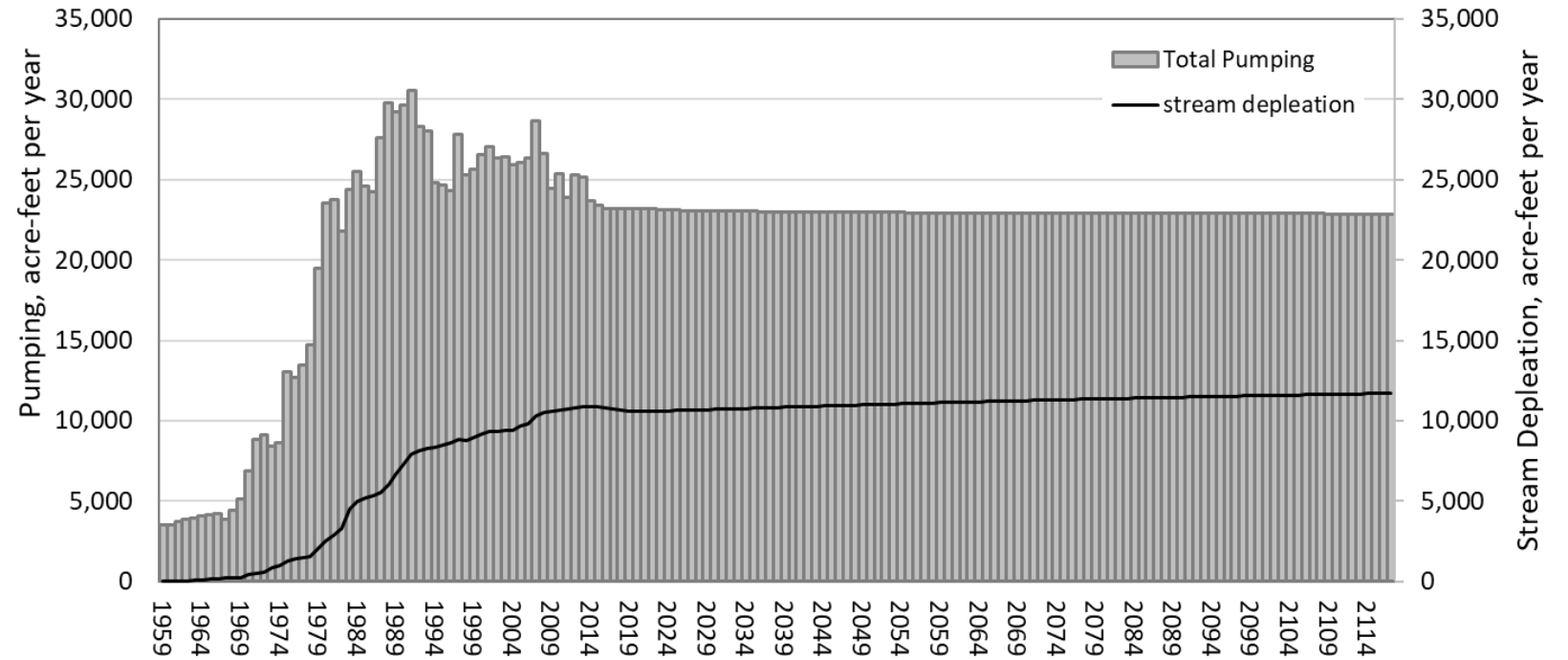


**2016**  
 • 0 - 20  
 • 21 - 50  
 • 51 - 100  
 • 101 - 250  
 • 251 - 500  
 • 501 - 1000  
 • 1001 - 2076

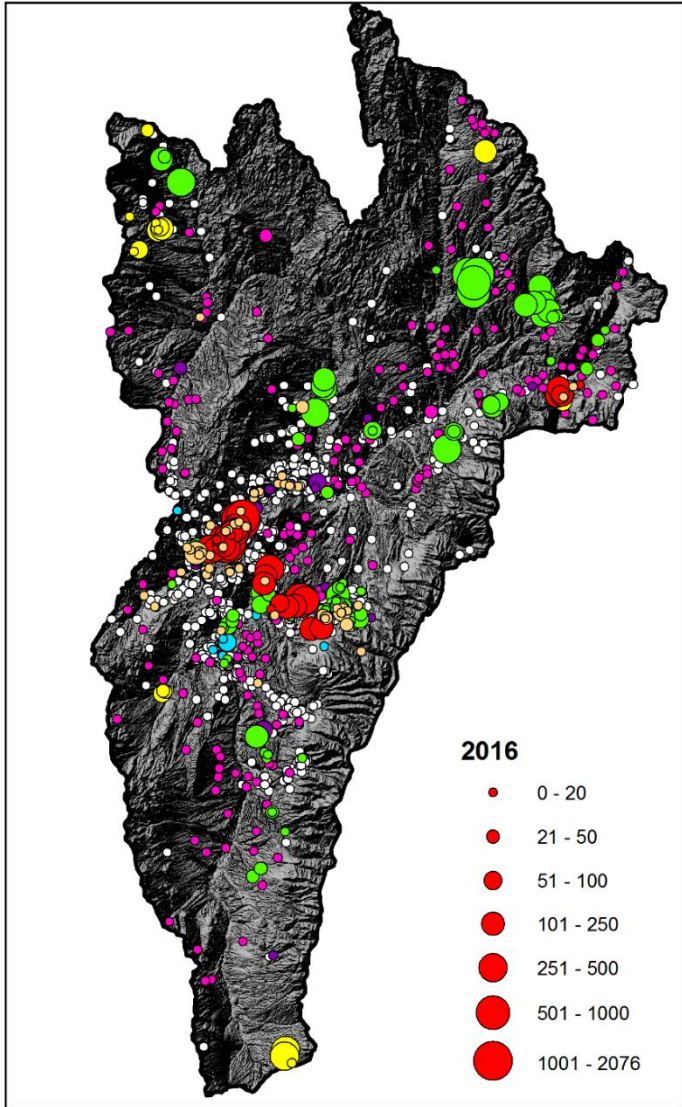
0 10 20 Miles

# Historical Capture 1960-2016

## Forecast/Baseline: 2017-2116

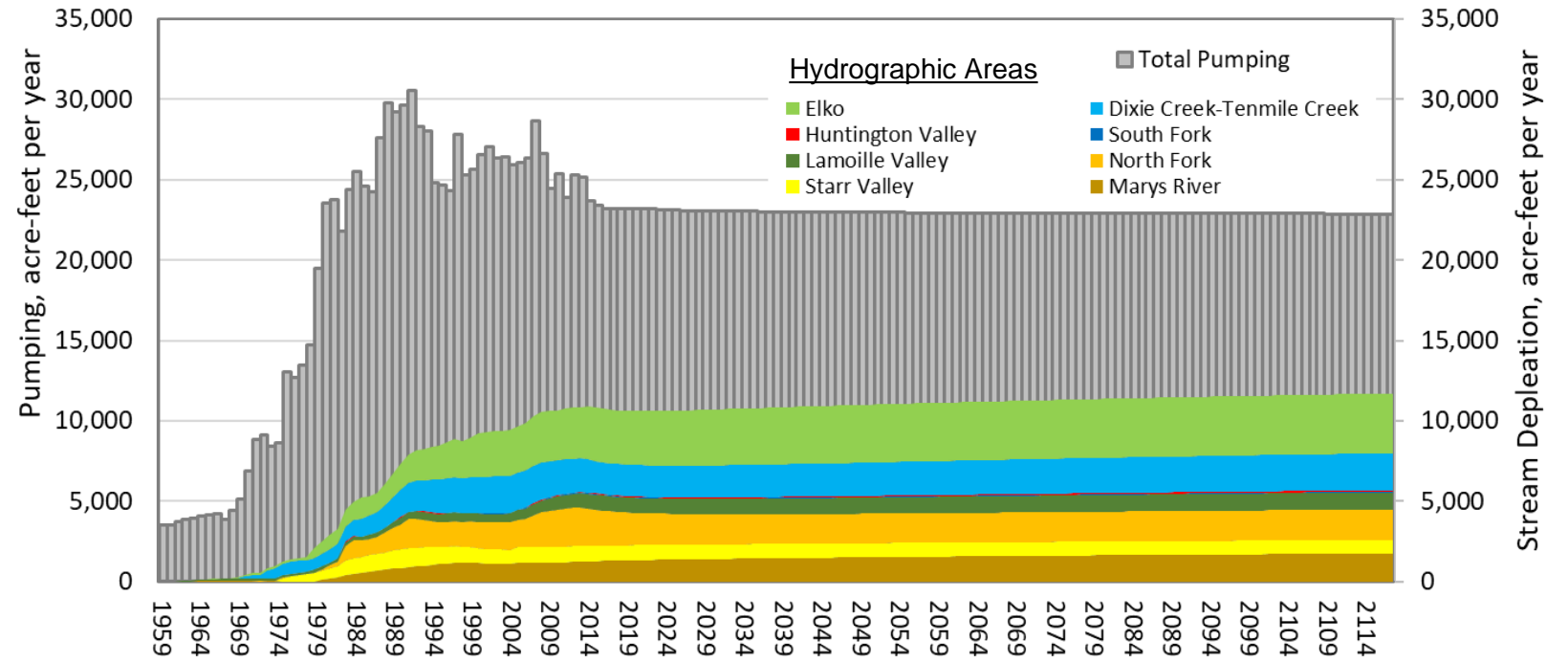


COM ENV MINE MUNI QMUNI  
 IRR STOCK DOM

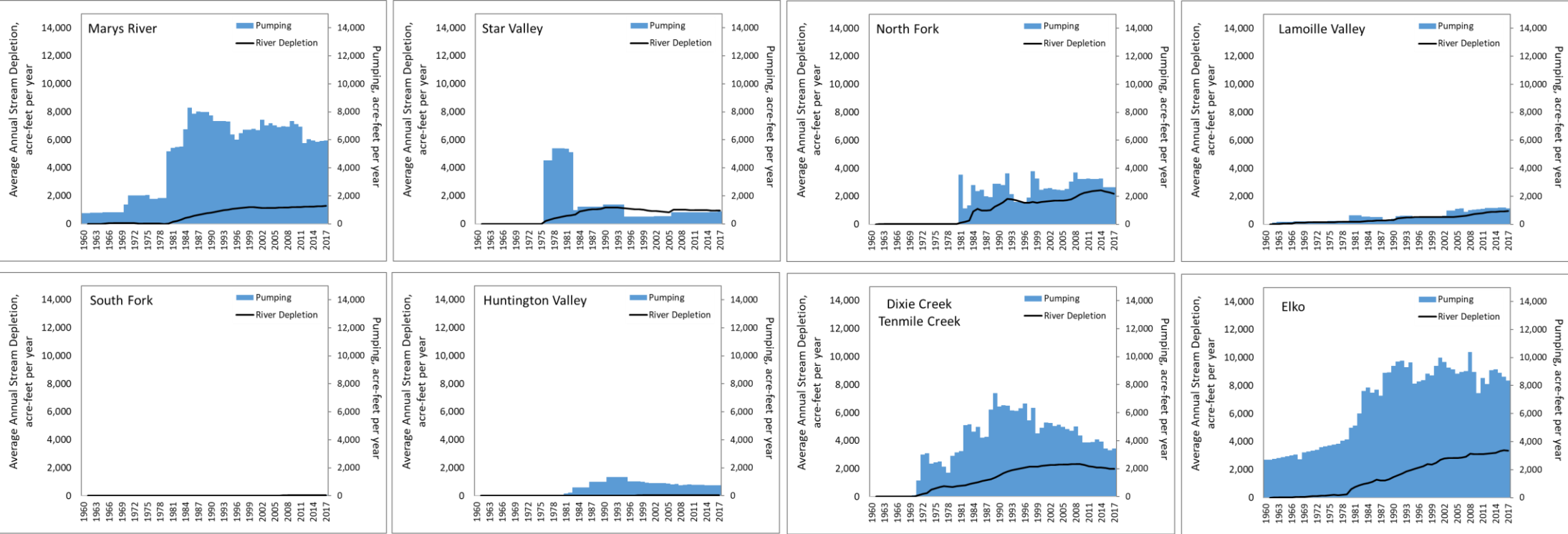


# Historical Capture 1960-2016

## Forecast/Baseline: 2017-2116

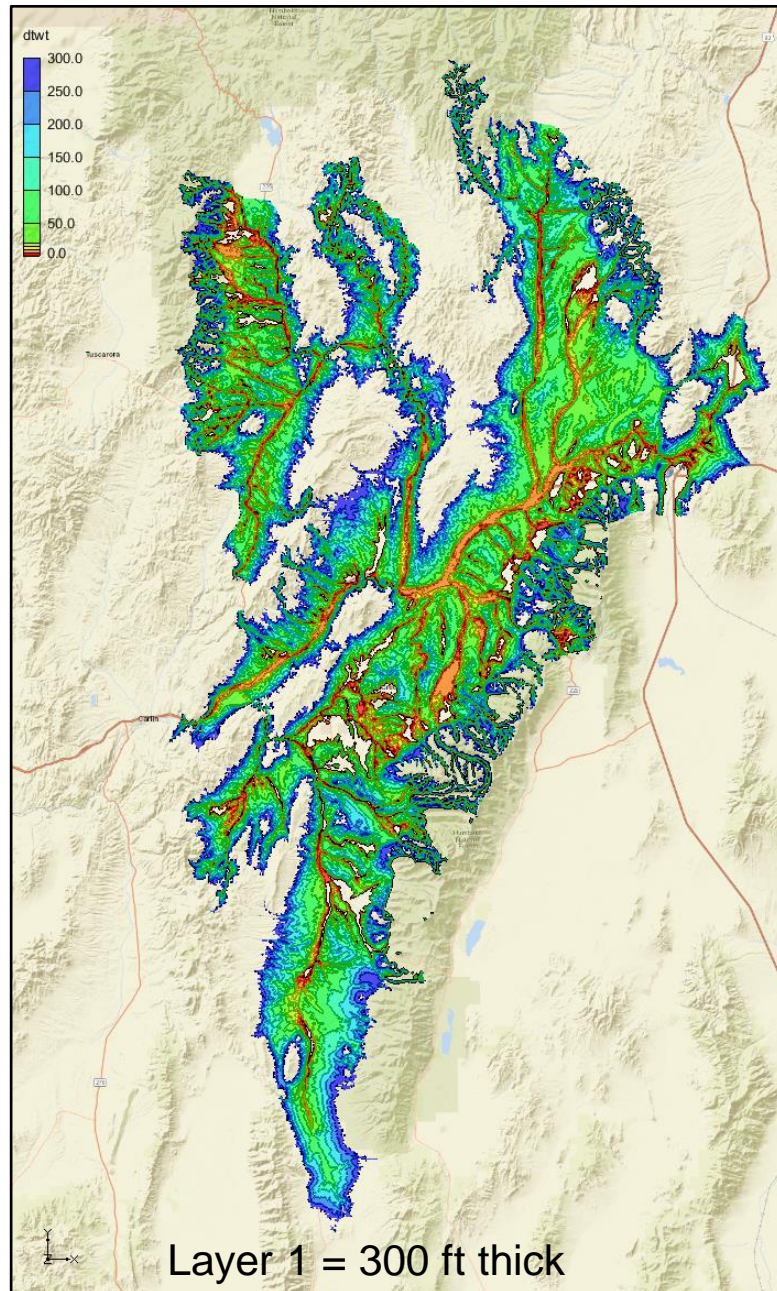


# Sub-basin Historical Capture



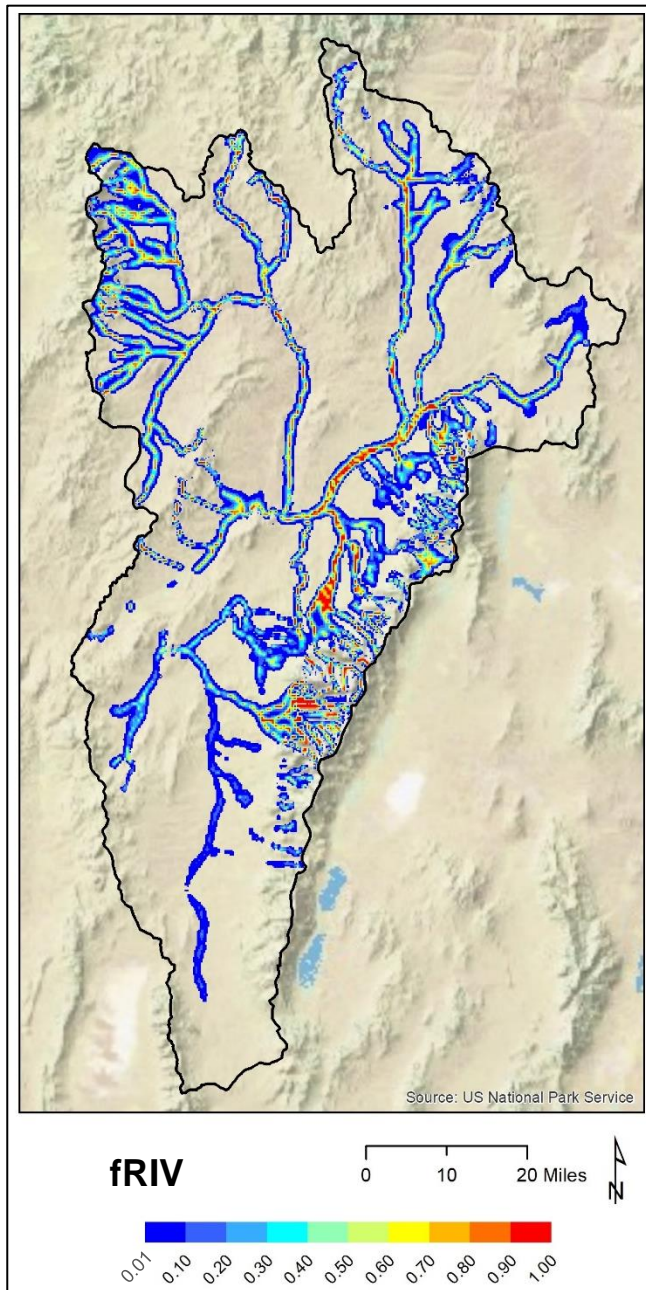


## Layer 1: Depth to Water Table



# Capture Analysis

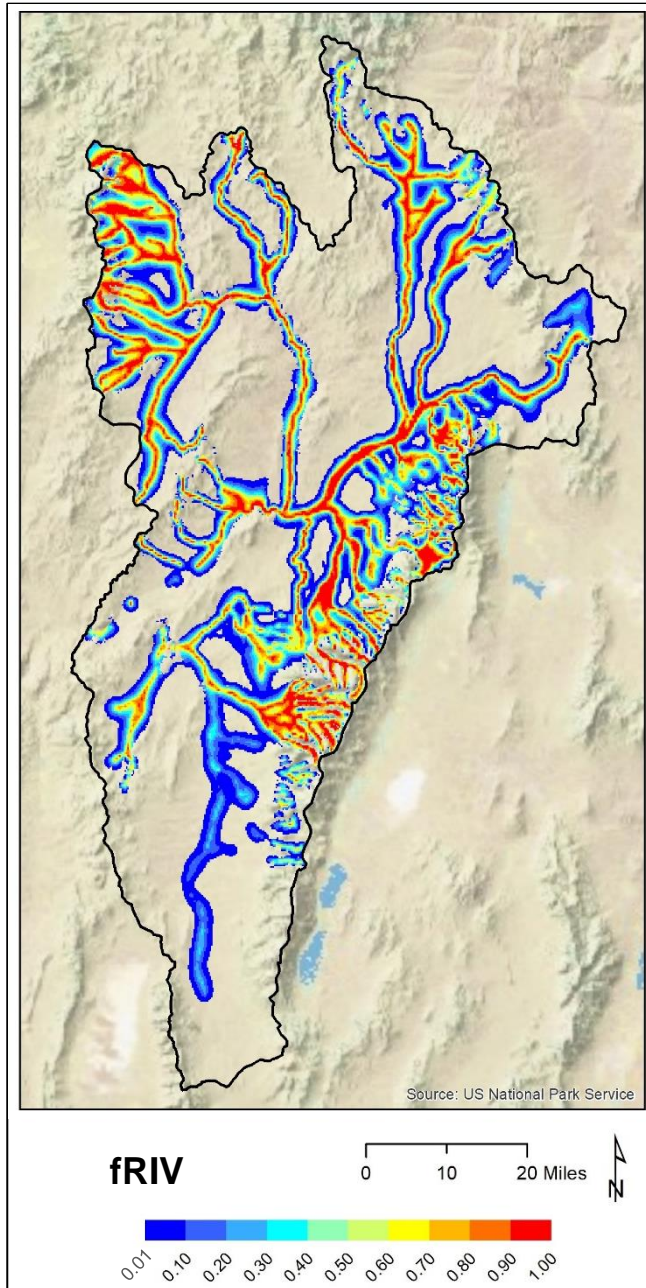
- Run the 2016 pumping for 100 years into the future (baseline)
- Run baseline with additional hypothetical pumping in one location for 100 years at 50 AFY.
- Assess fraction of water in the hypothetical well over time that is derived from the river (fRIV).
- Not all model cells are active (water table is too low). These are excluded from the analysis.
- The model is very large, so we run the experiment for every other cell and interpolate.



# Capture Analysis

Year 1

- Stream capture to satisfy hypothetical pumping is limited to river corridors.



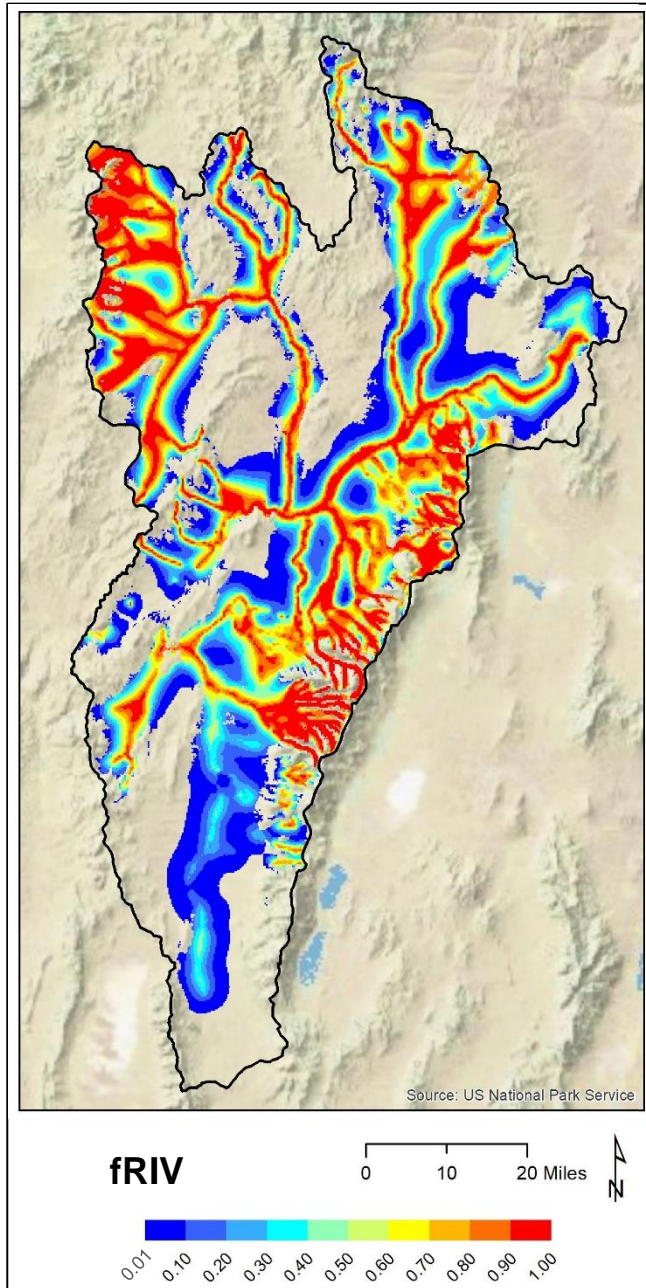
# Capture Analysis

## Year 1

- Stream capture to satisfy hypothetical pumping is limited to river corridors.

## Year 10

- Stream capture is expanding away from the river but there is spatial variability.
- Stream capture fractions in the headwater mountains is large.



# Capture Analysis

## Year 1

- Stream capture to satisfy hypothetical pumping is limited to river corridors.

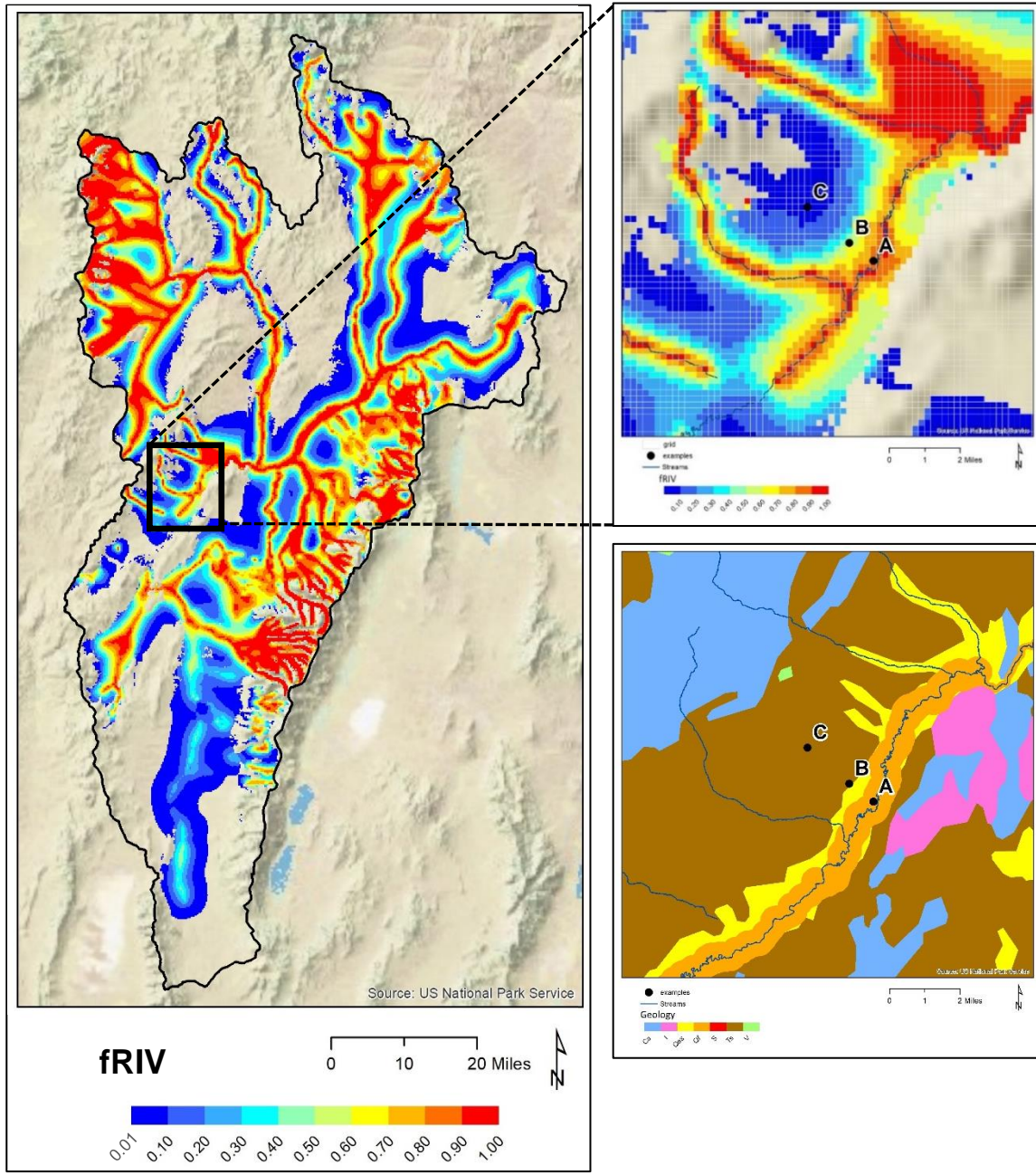
## Year 10

- Stream capture is expanding away from the river but there is spatial variability.
- Stream capture fractions in the headwater mountains is large.

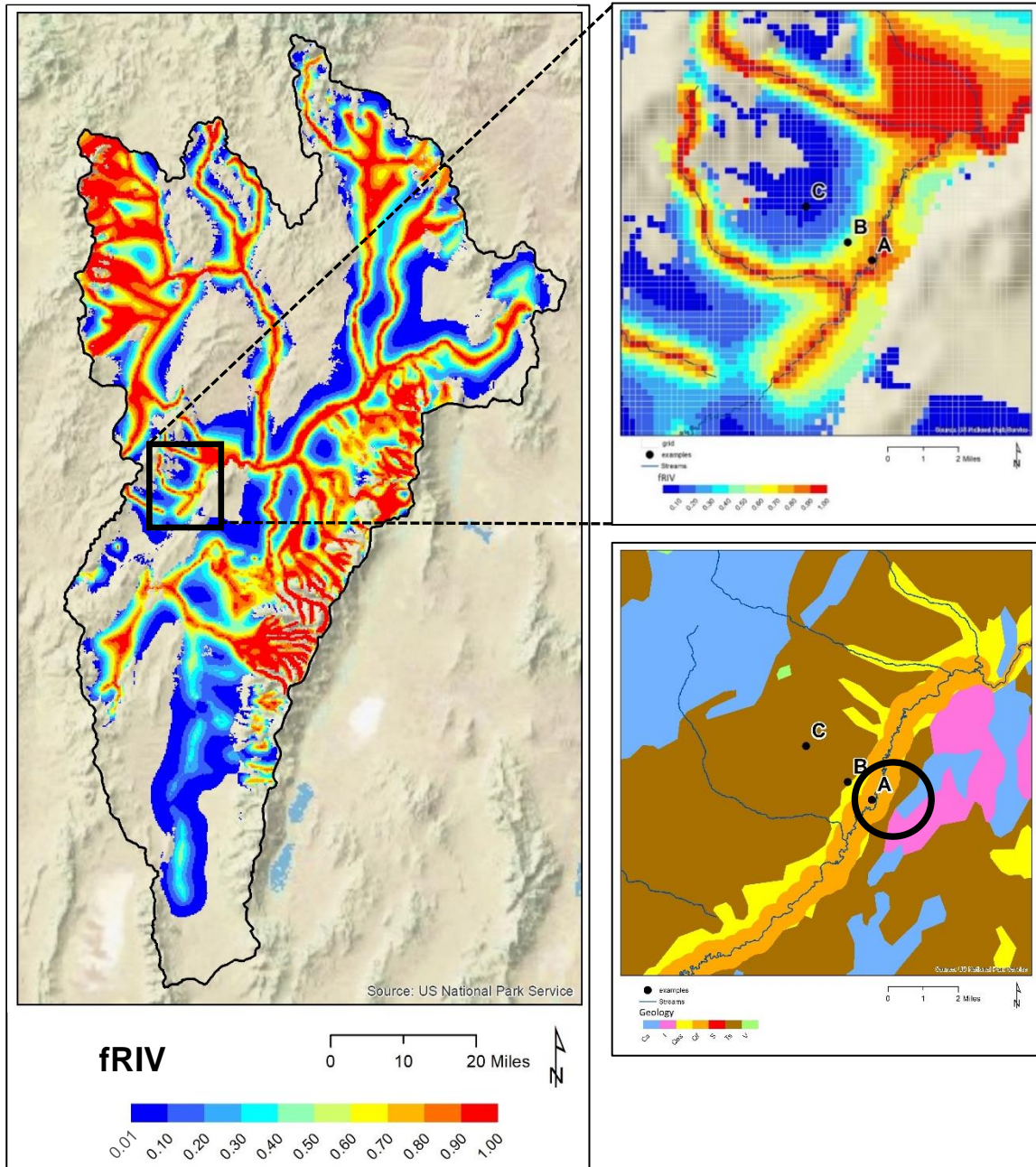
## Year 50

- Stream capture continues to expand away from the river. Spatial variability still exists.
- Stream capture fractions merge in system headwaters and their alluvial fans.

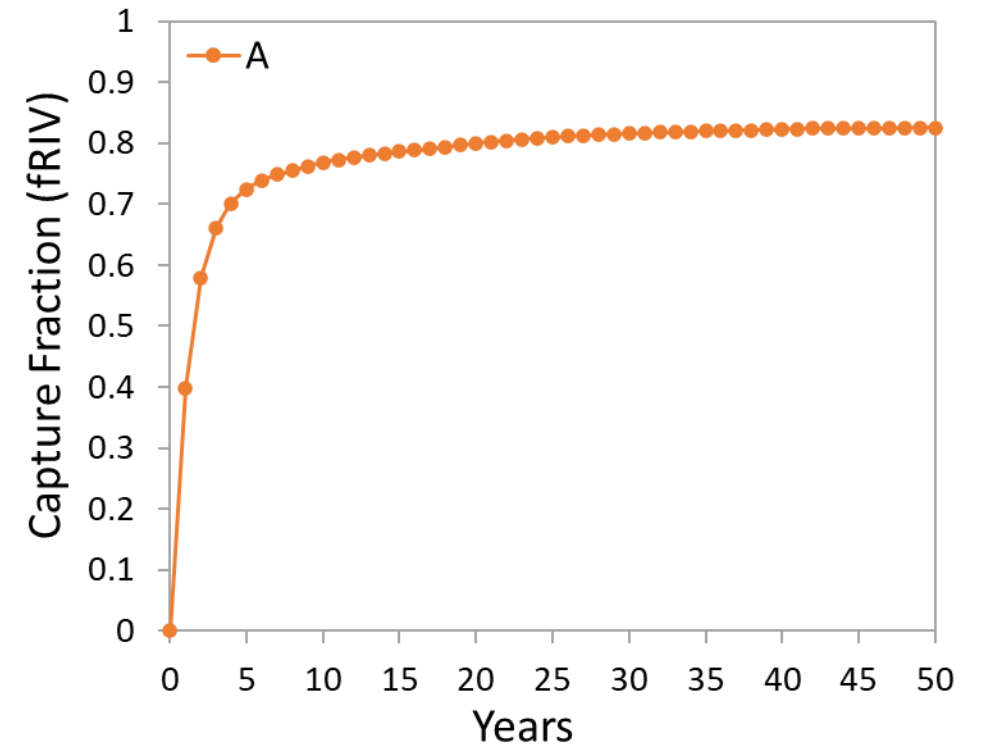
# Controls on River Capture



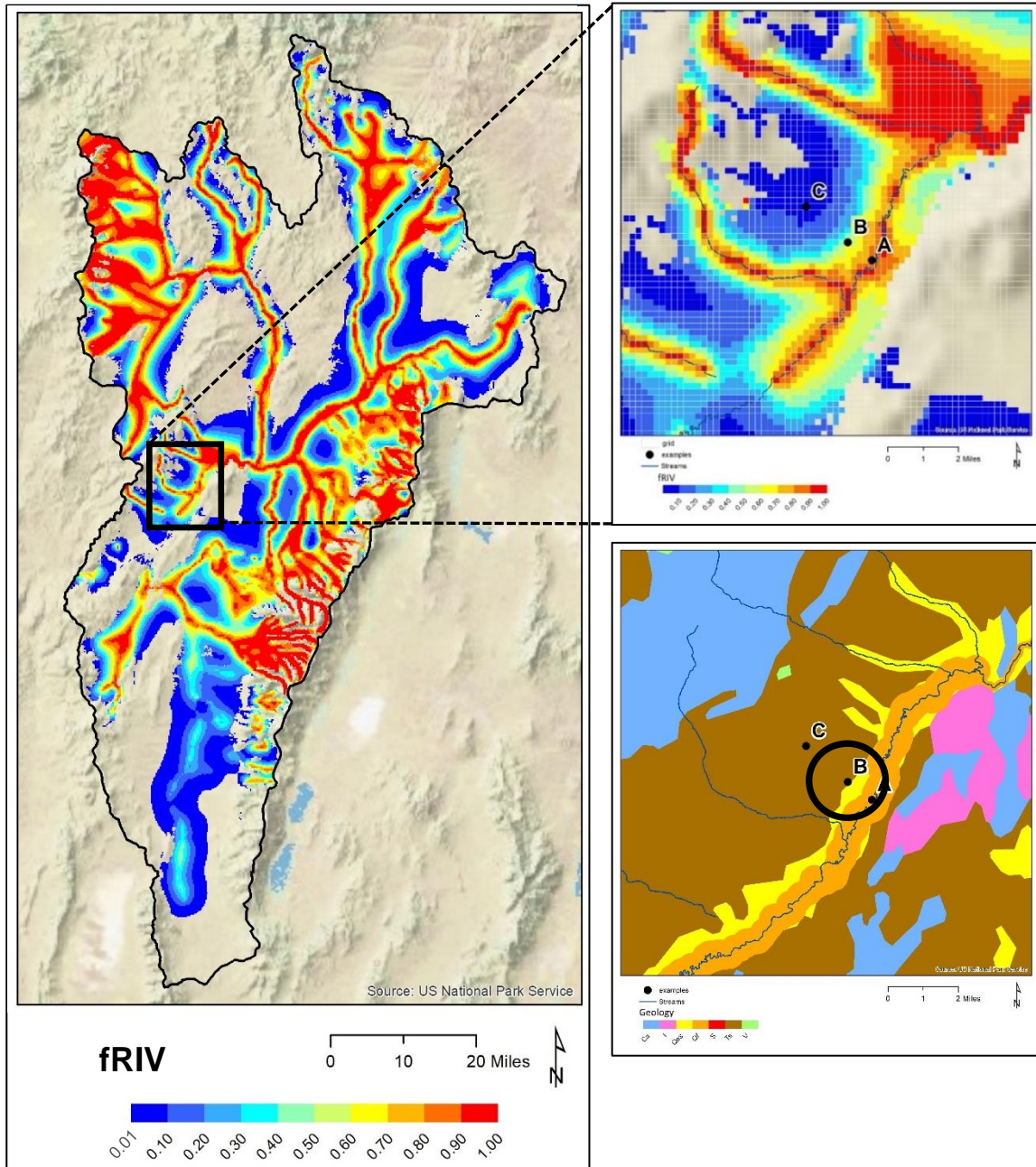
# Controls on River Capture



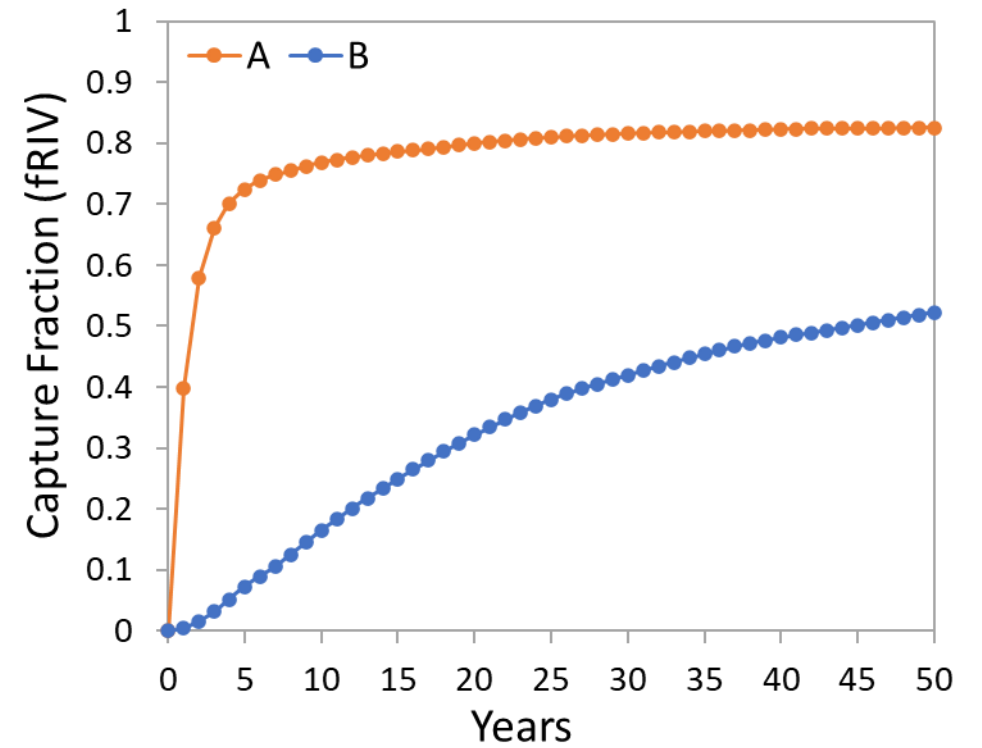
A: large amount of capture occurs quickly



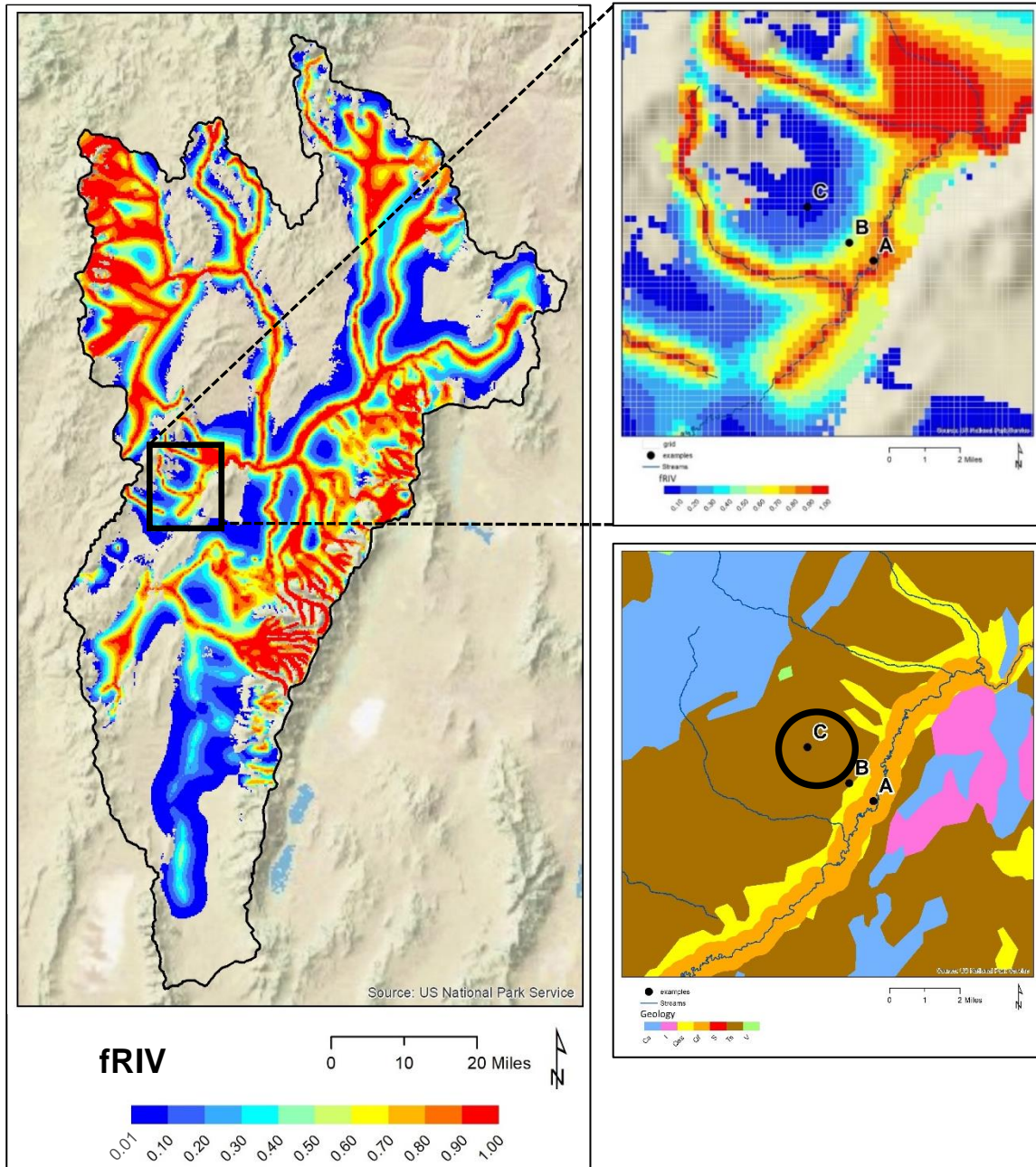
# Controls on River Capture



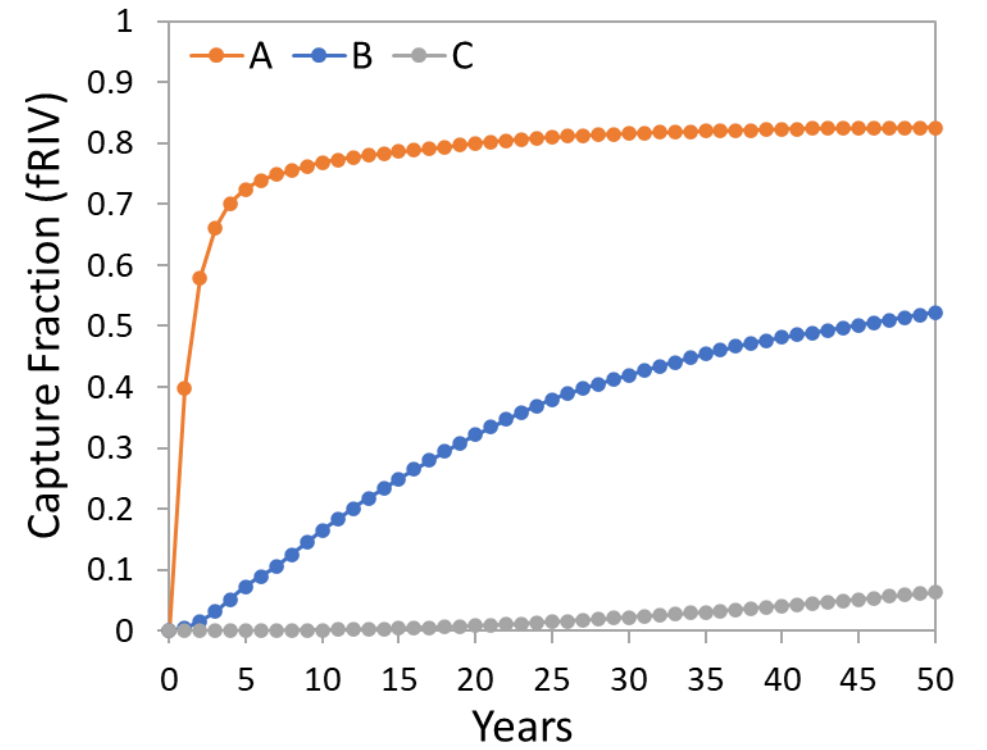
A: large amount of capture occurs quickly  
 B: Capture amount is lower and delayed.



# Controls on River Capture

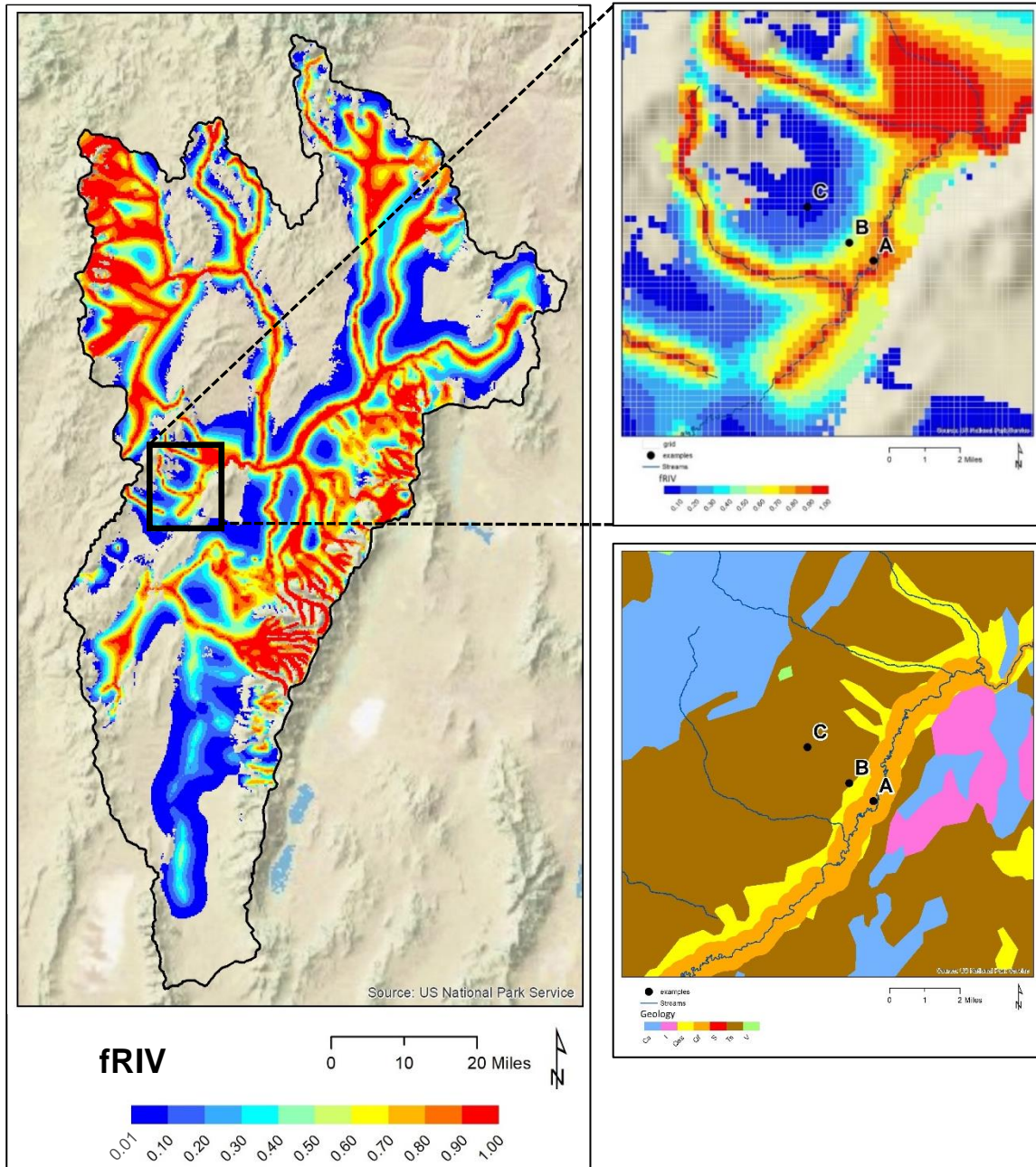


- A: large amount of capture occurs quickly
- B: Capture amount is lower and delayed.
- C: Capture is small and more delayed.





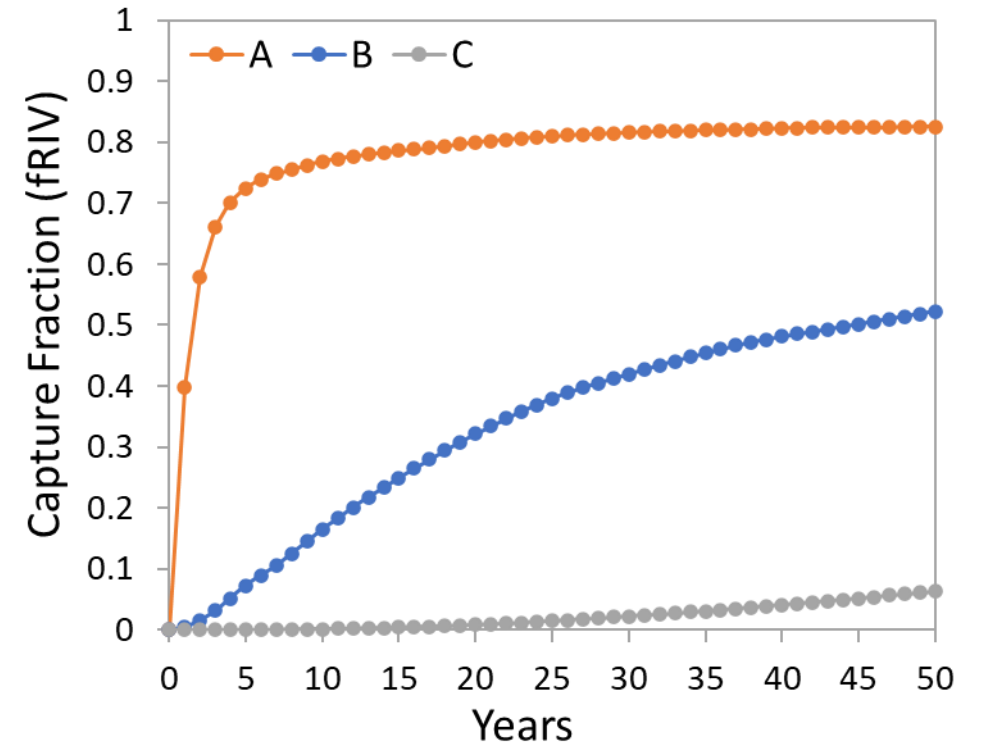
# Controls on River Capture



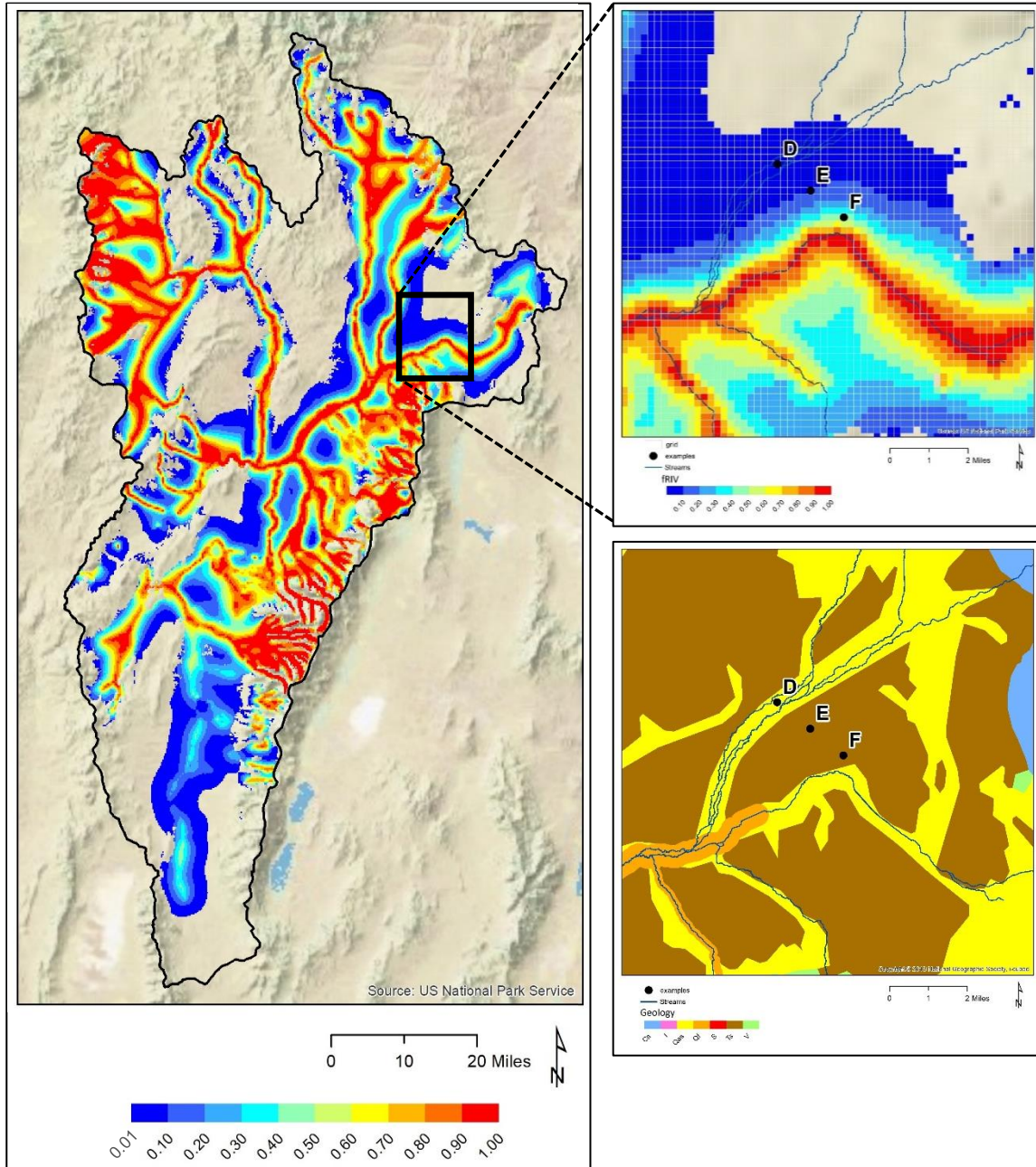
- A: large amount of capture occurs quickly
- B: Capture amount is lower and delayed.
- C: Capture is small and more delayed.

Controlling Factor(s)

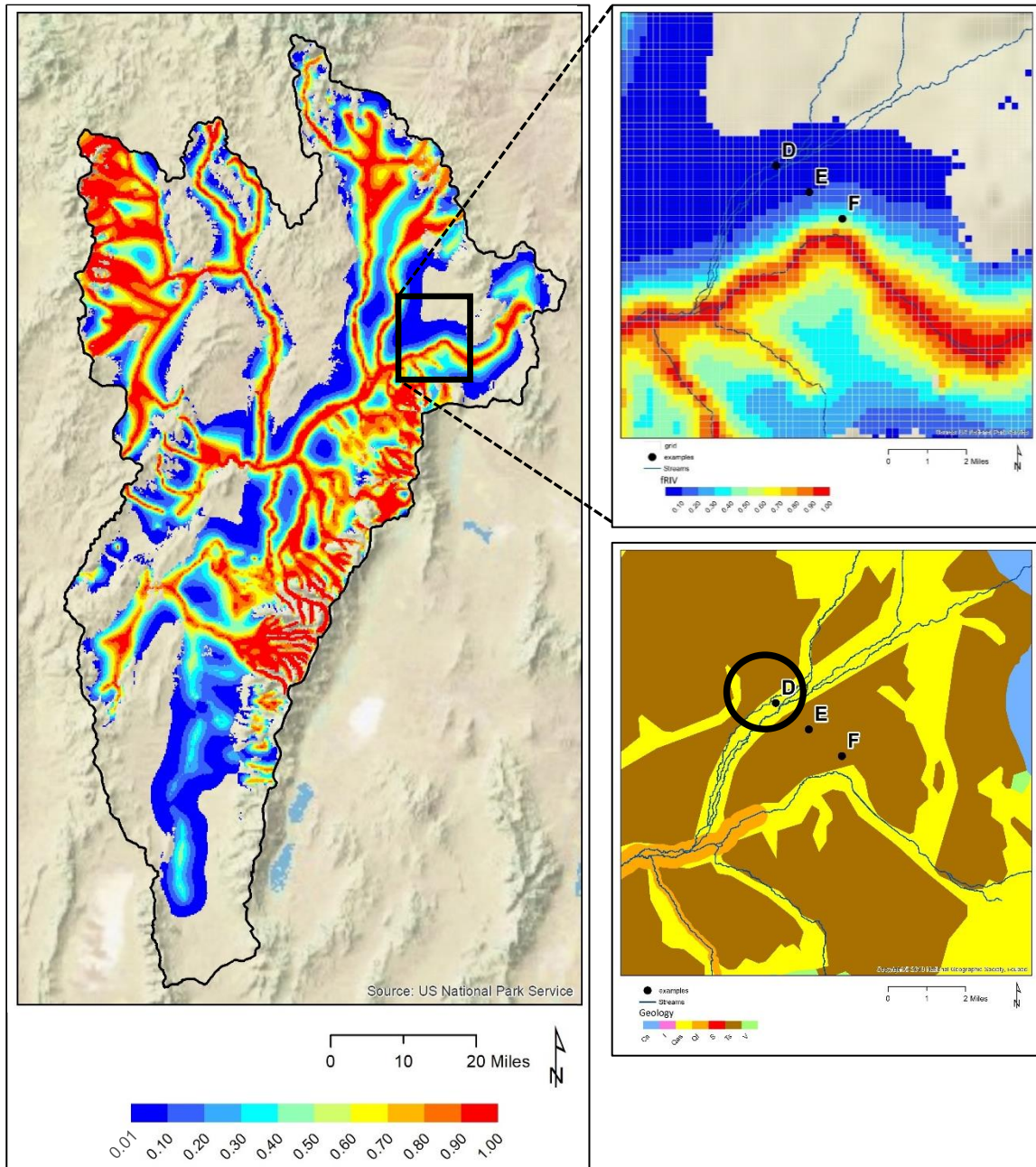
- Distance from River



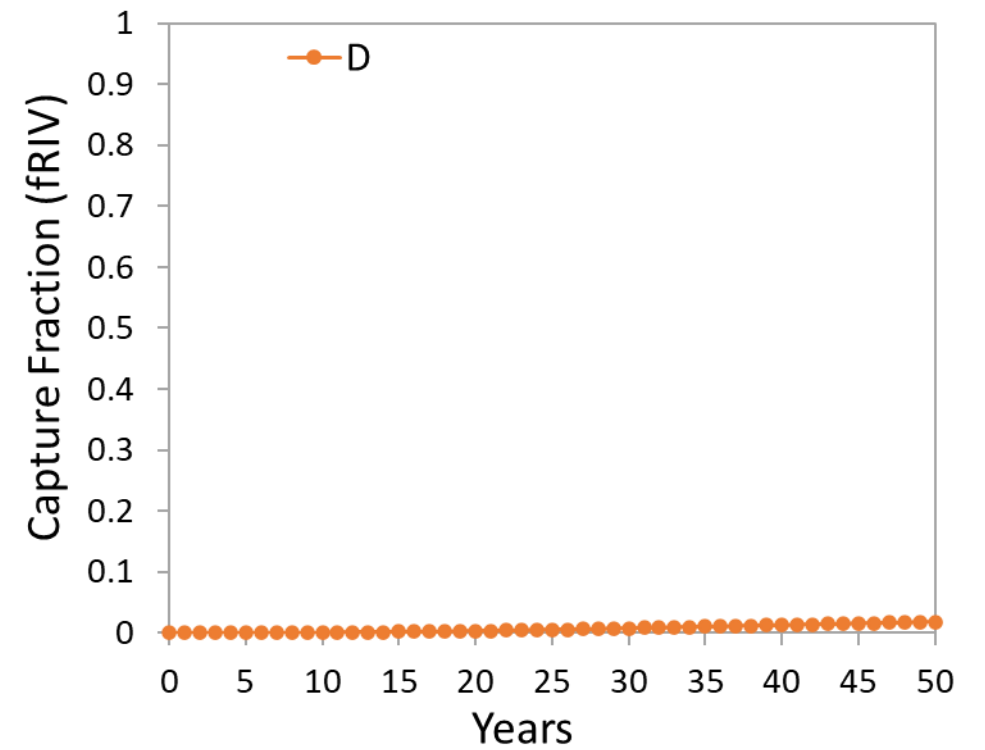
# Controls on River Capture



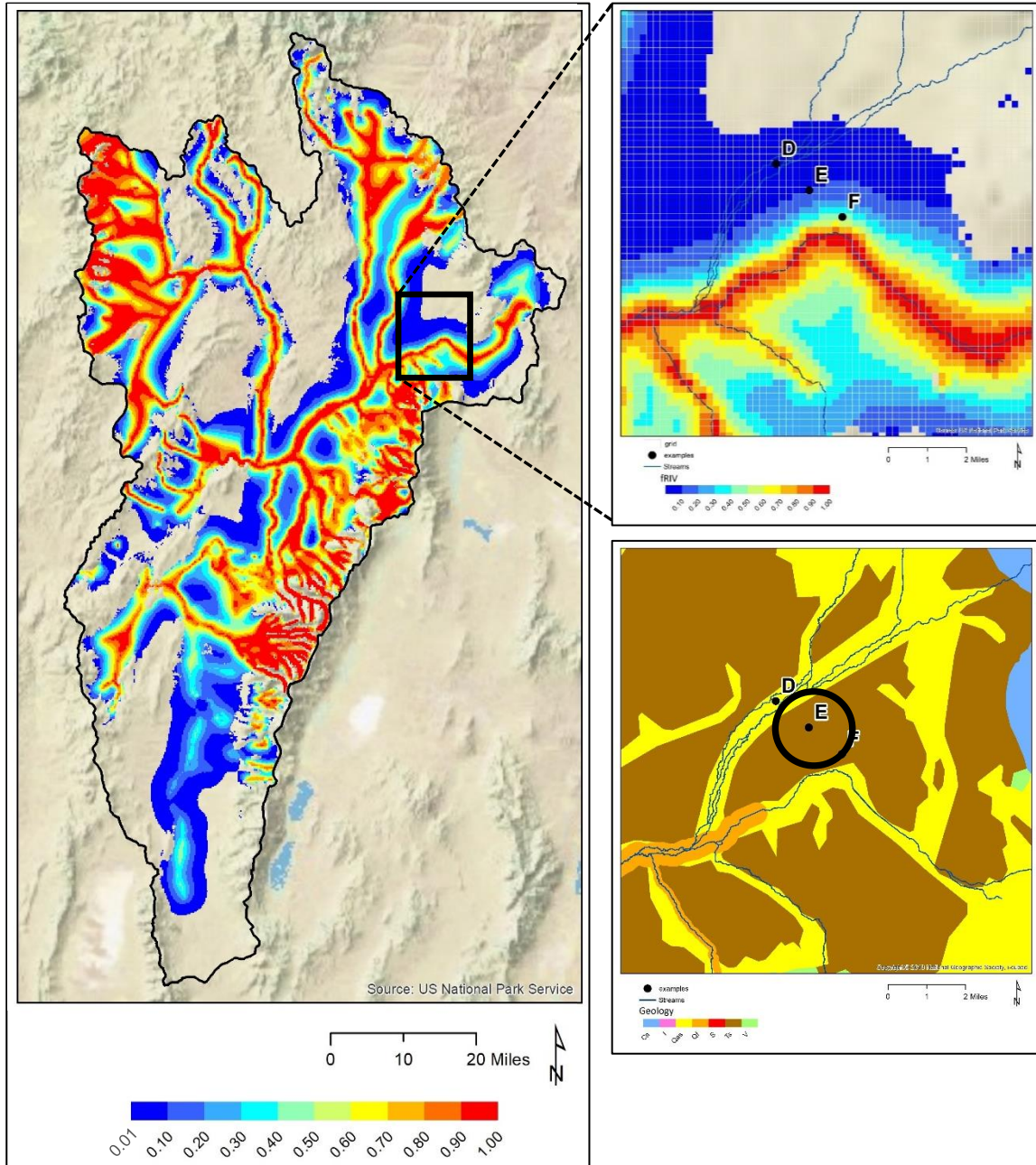
# Controls on River Capture



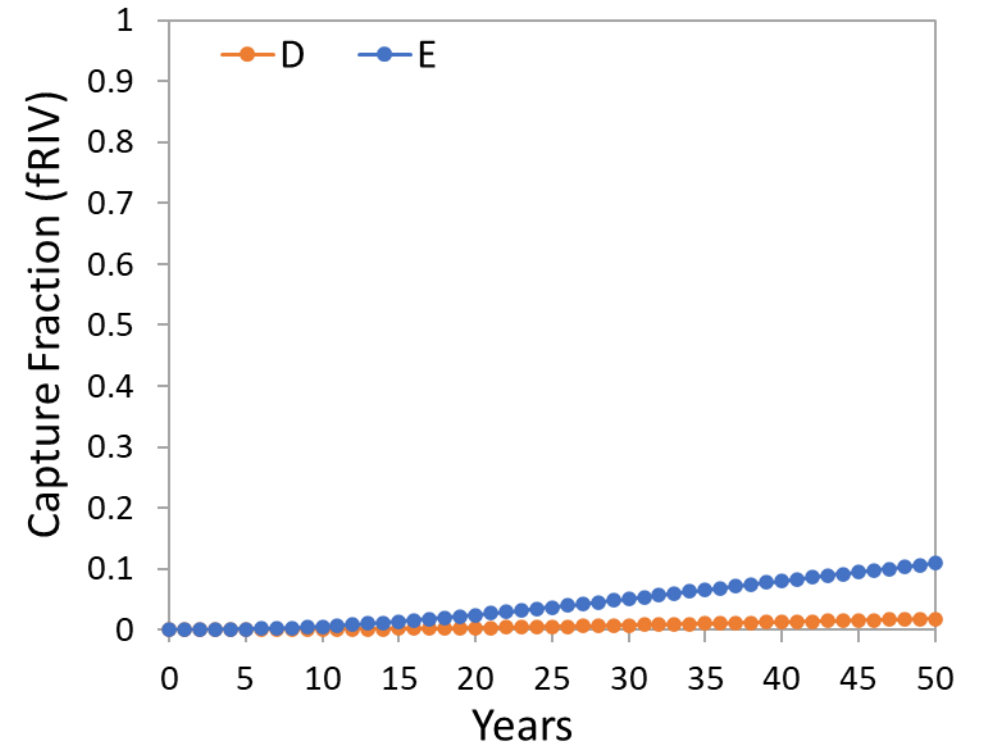
D: Limited river capture.



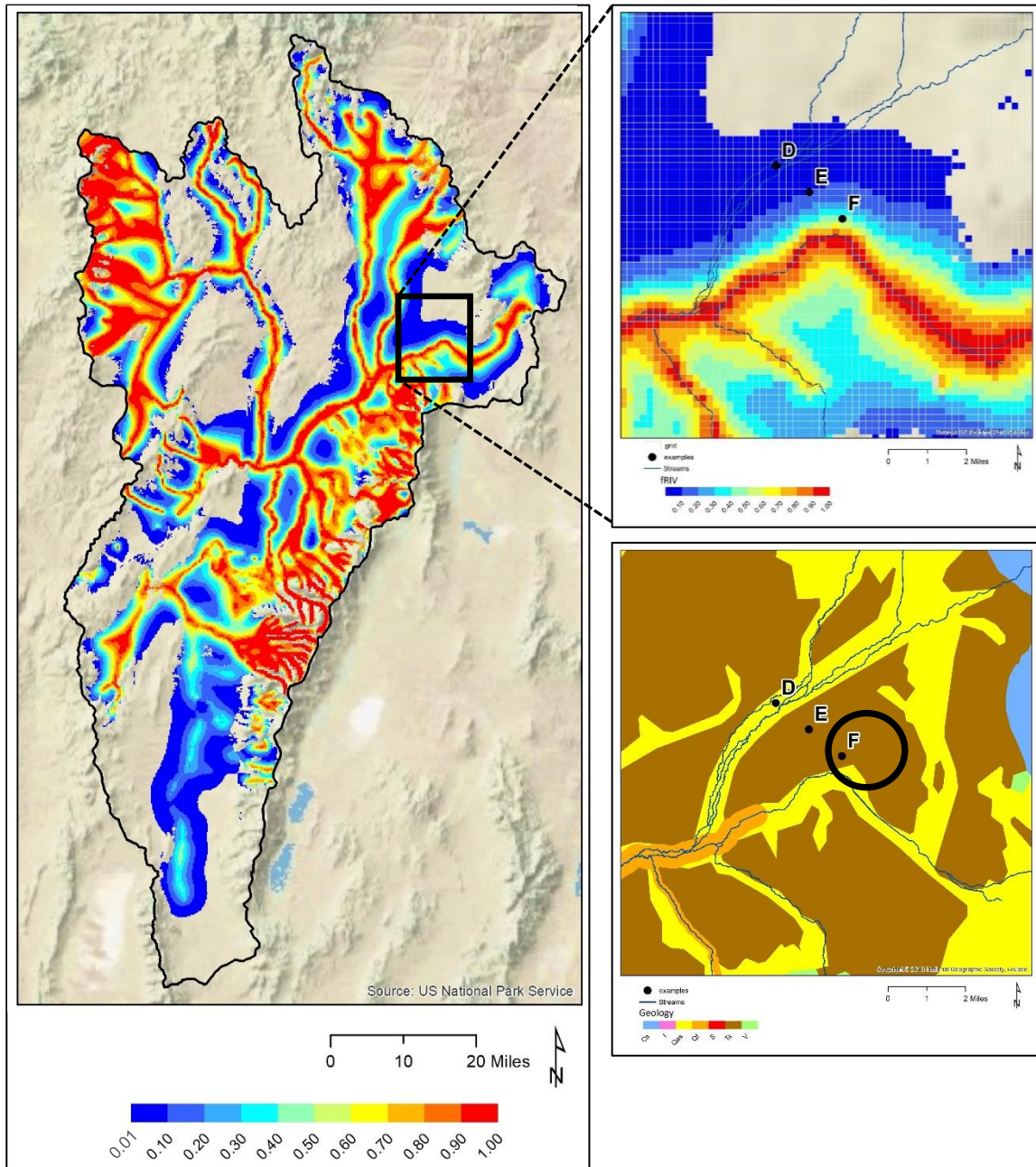
# Controls on River Capture



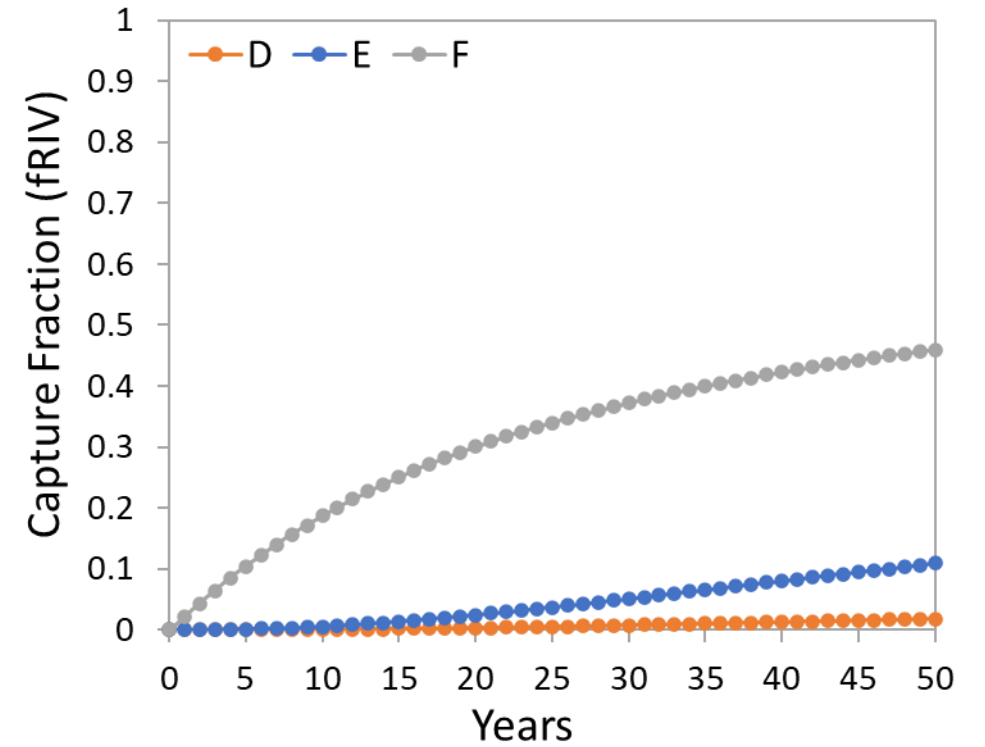
D: Limited river capture.  
 E: Capture increases but still low & delayed.



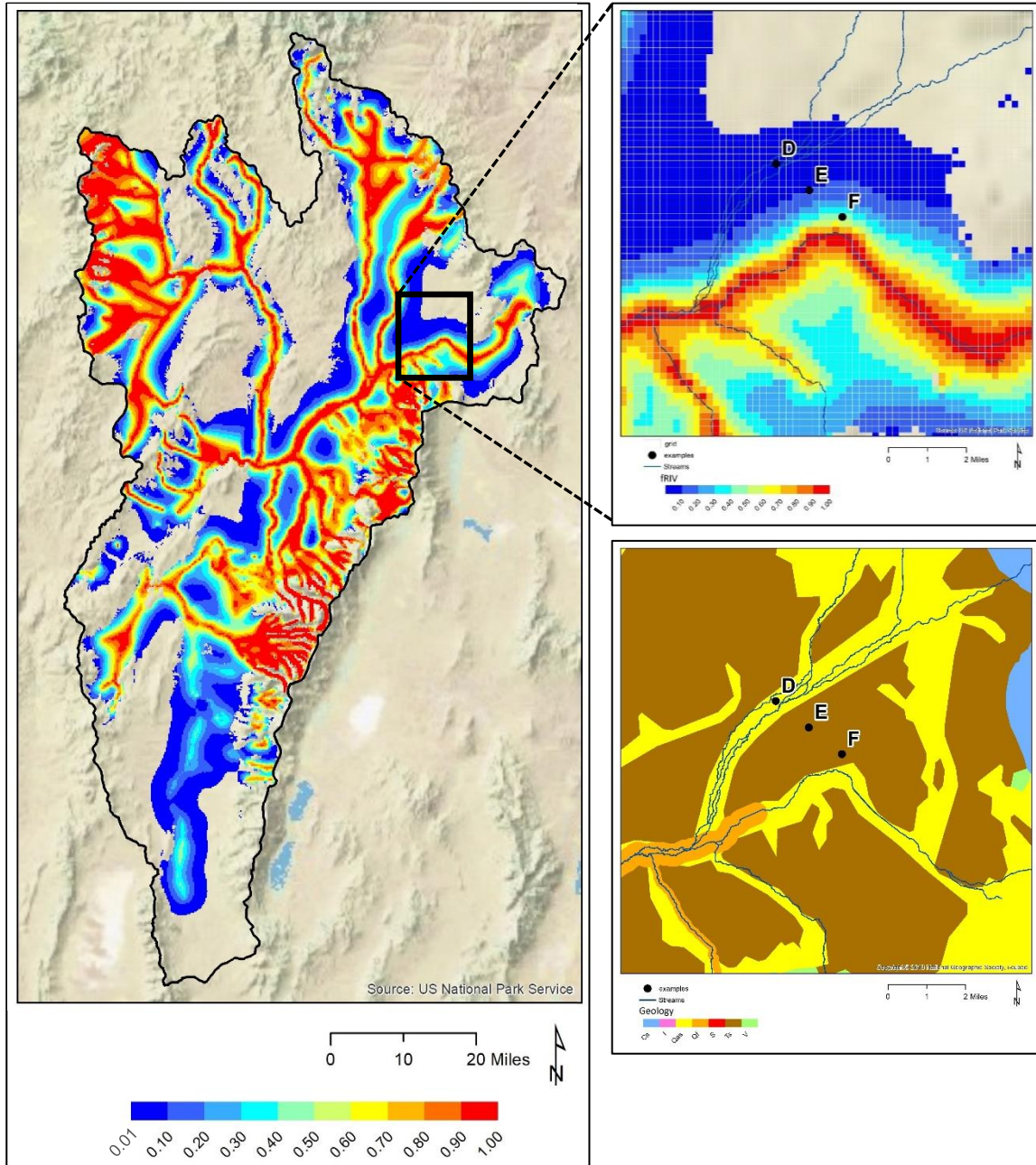
# Controls on River Capture



- D: Limited river capture.
- E: Capture increases but still low & delayed.
- F: Capture much larger and less delayed.



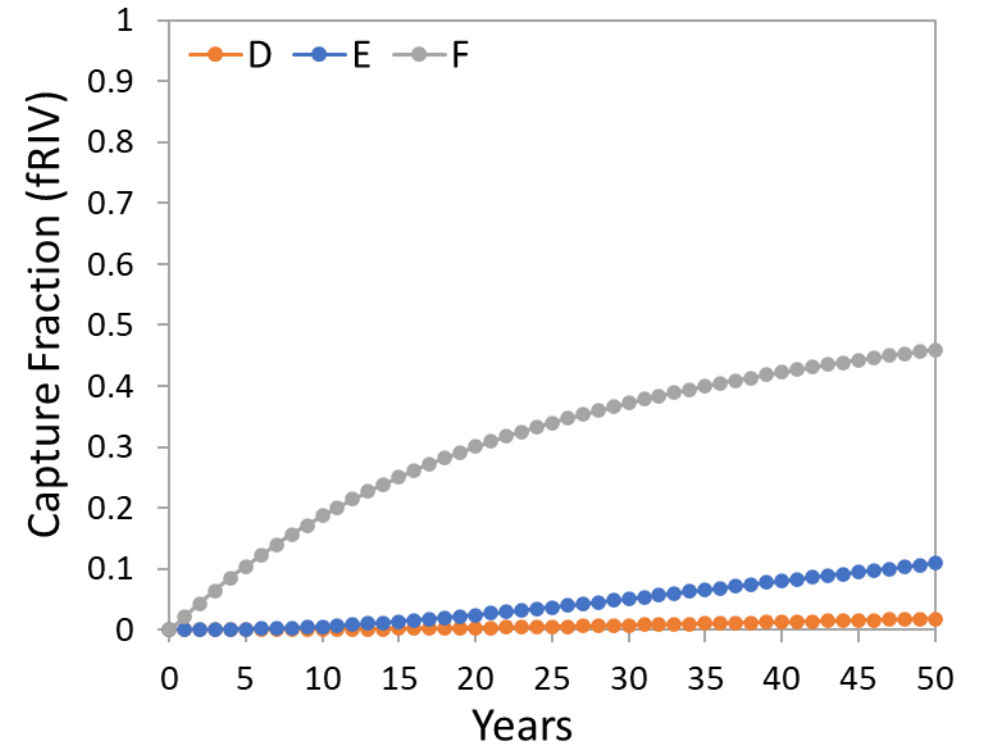
# Controls on River Capture



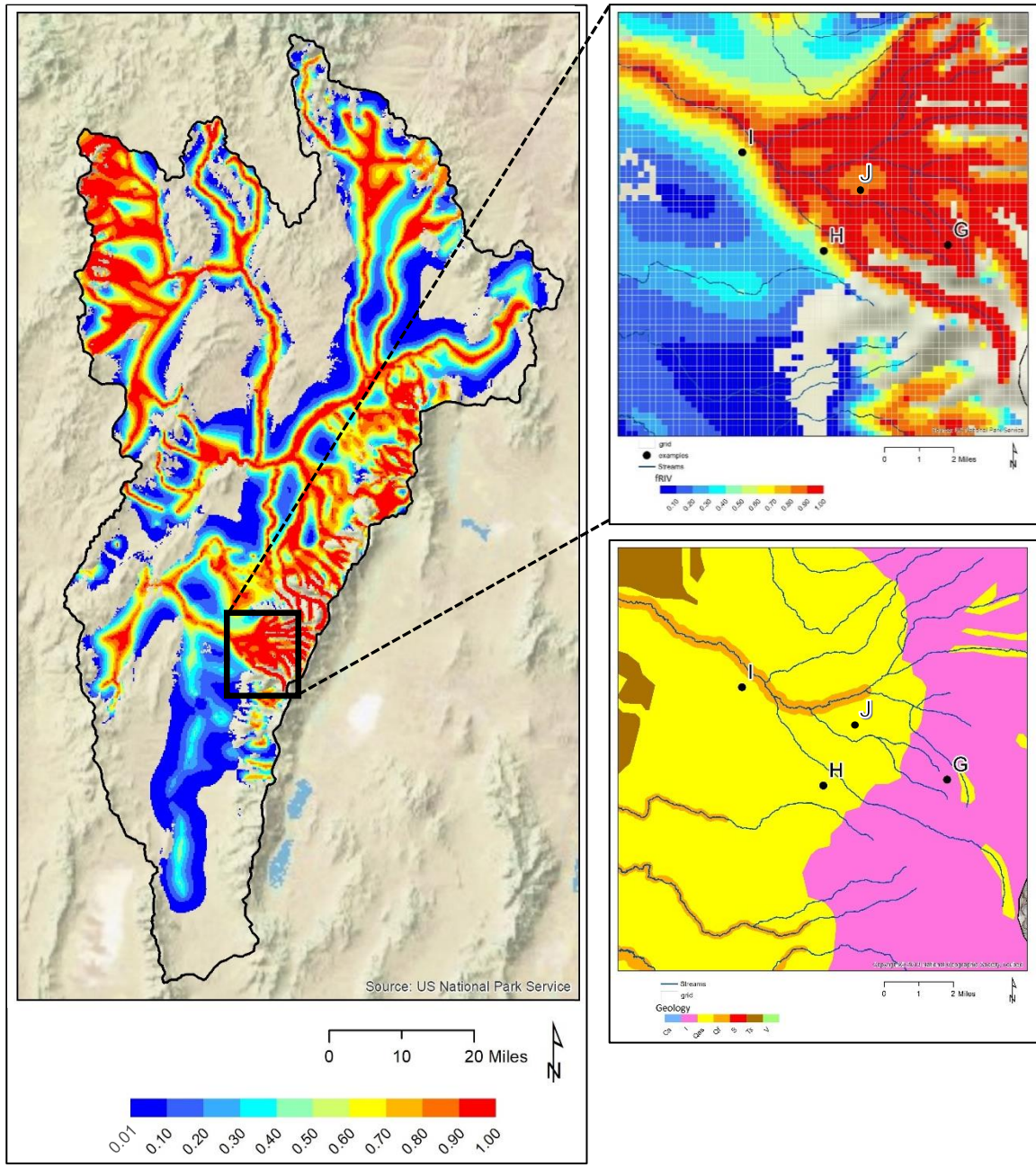
- D: Limited river capture.
- E: Capture increases but still low & delayed.
- F: Capture much larger and less delayed.

## Controlling Factor(s)

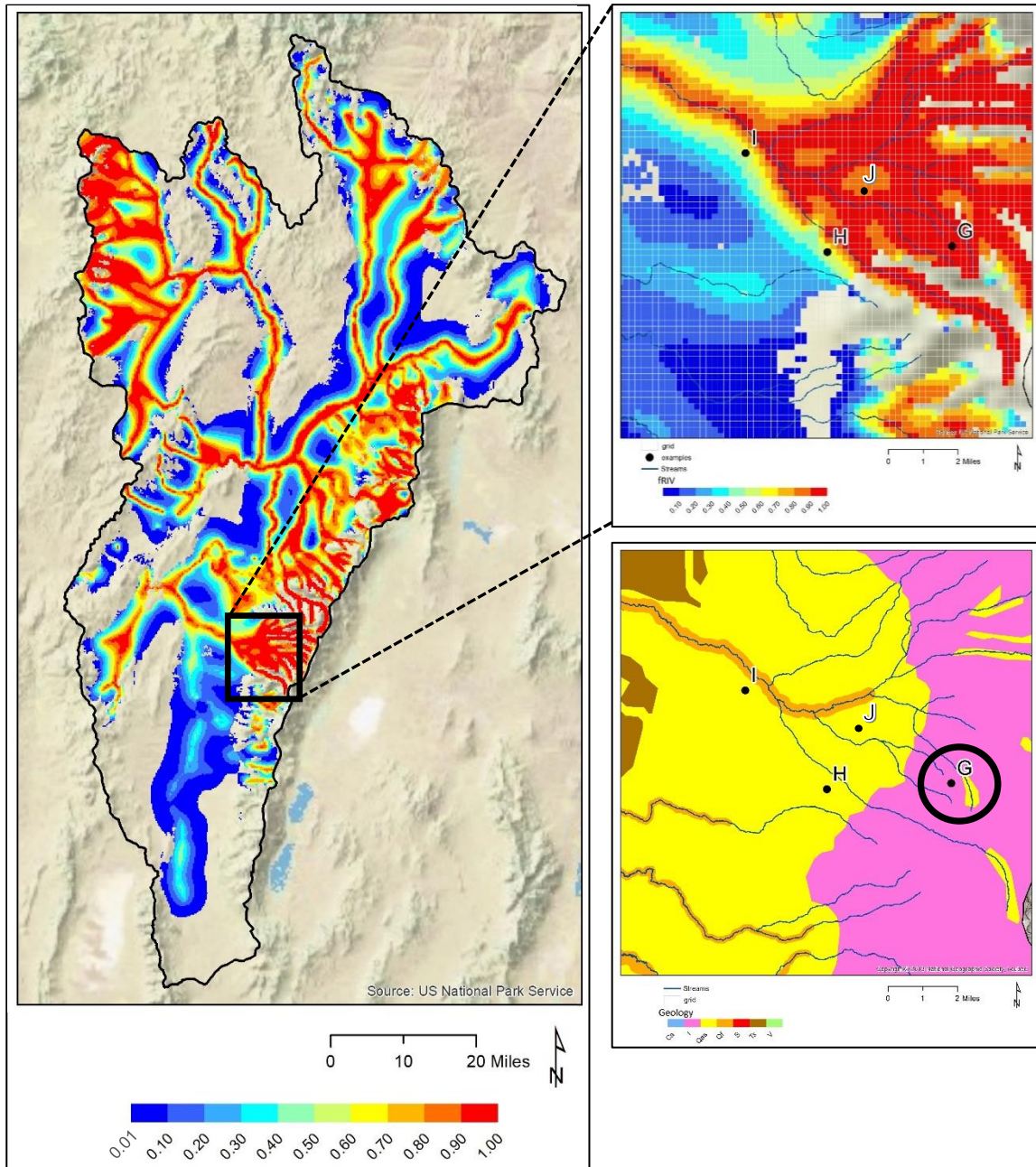
- Riverbed conductance
- Distance from River



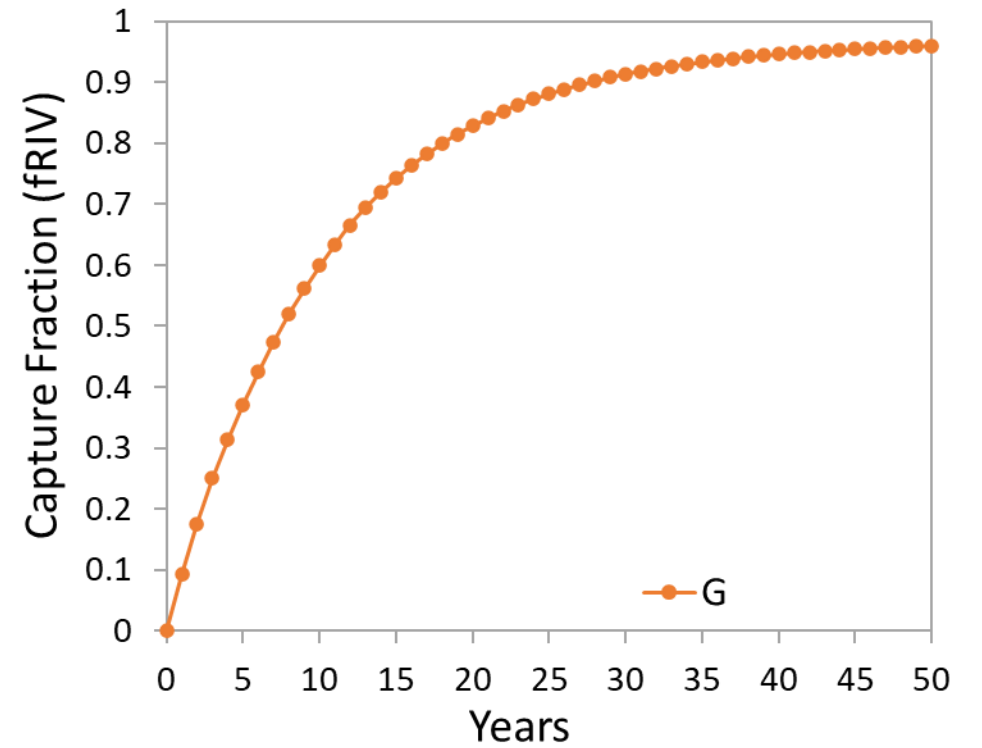
# Controls on River Capture



# Controls on River Capture

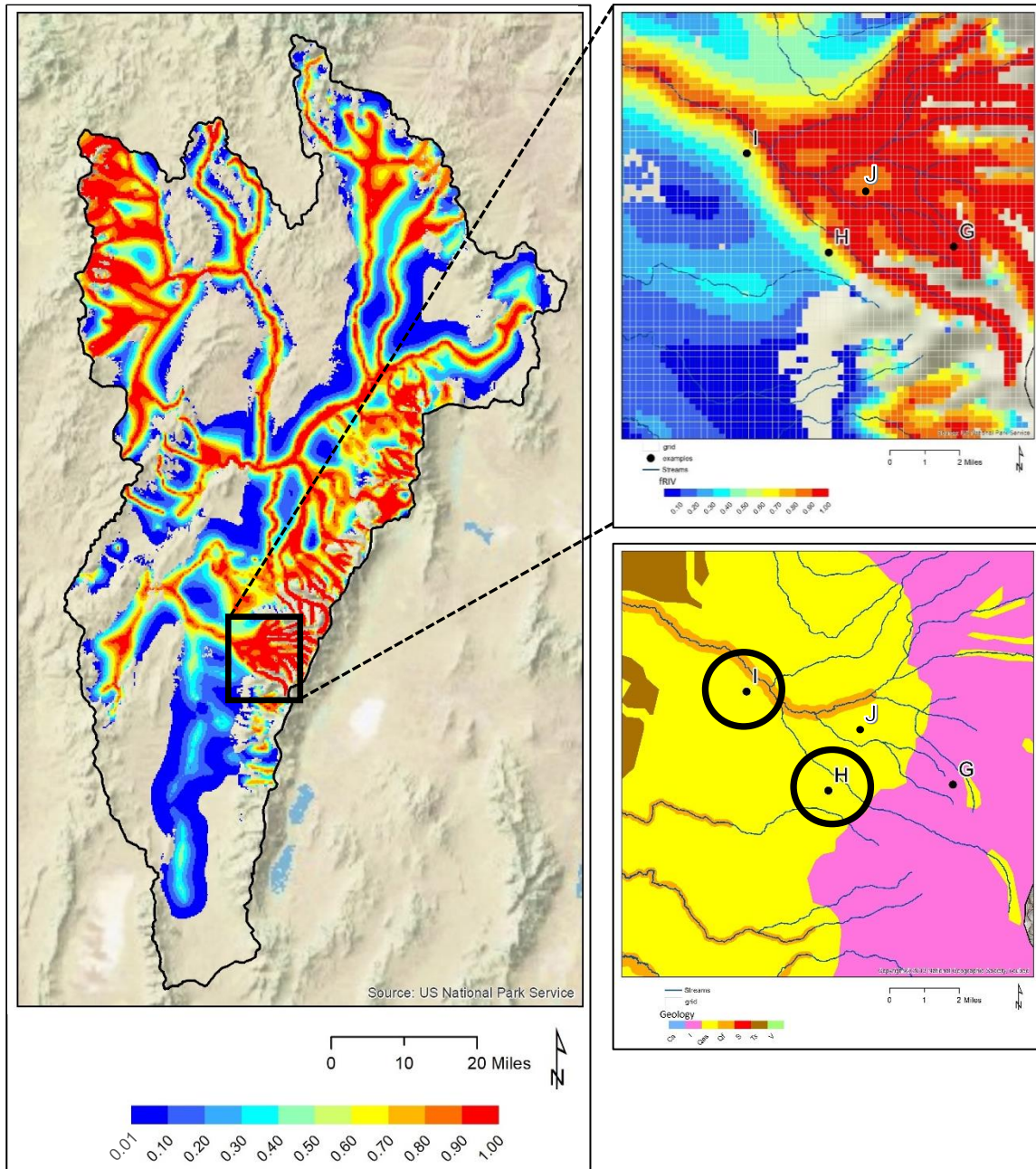


G: High capture, but slightly delayed

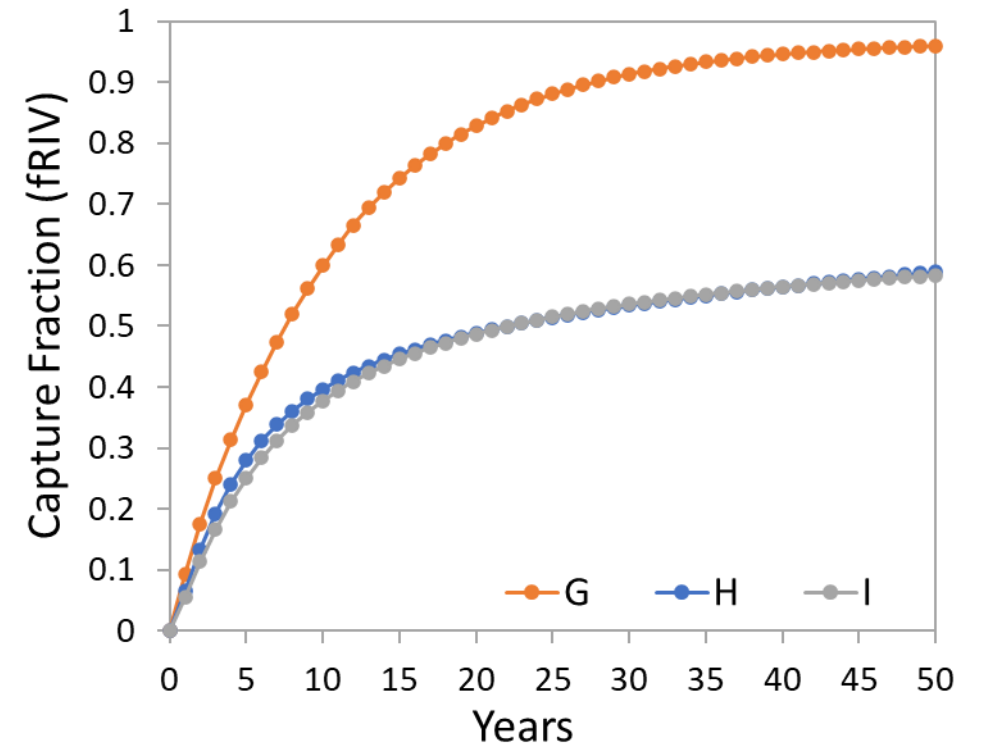




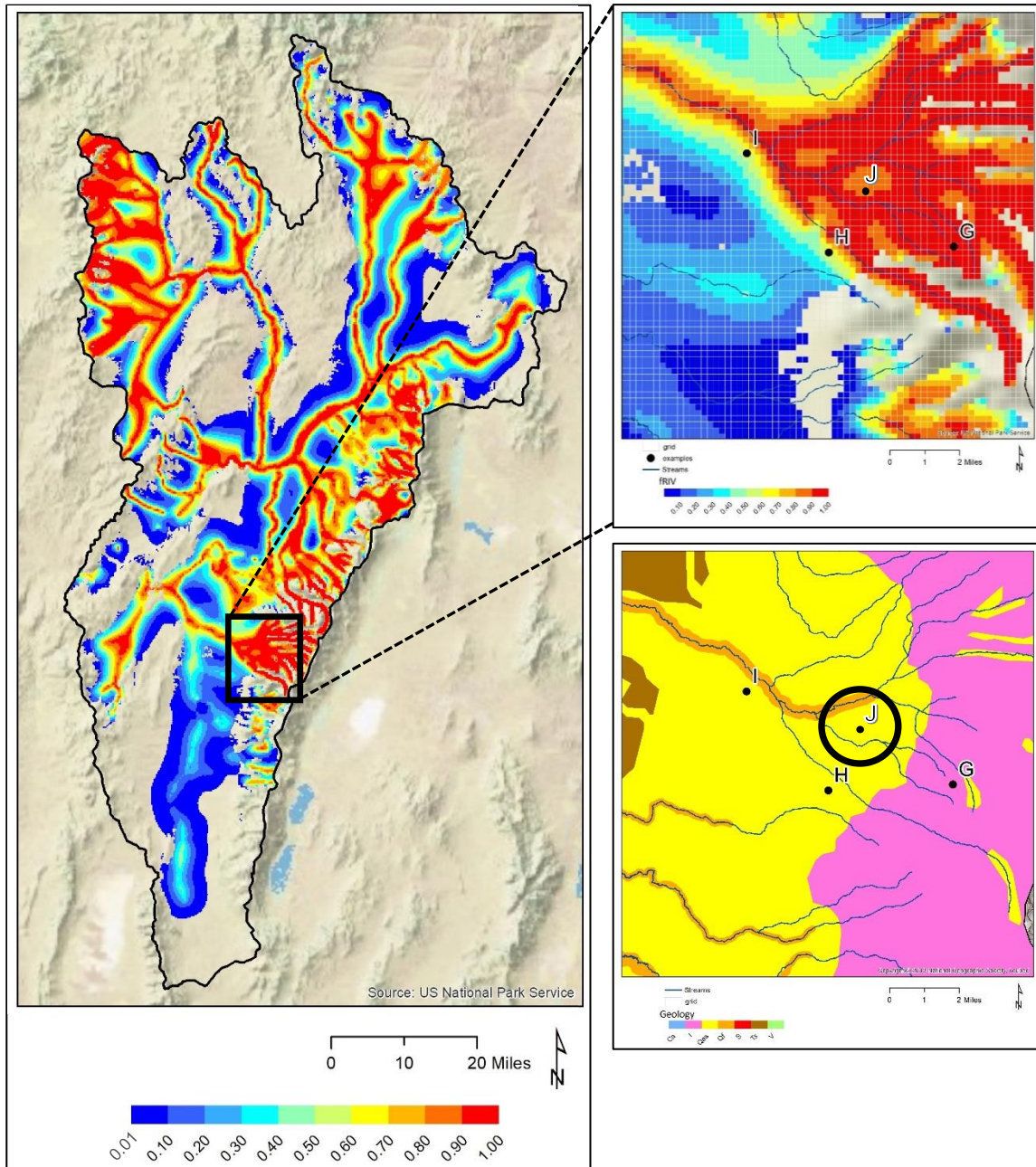
# Controls on River Capture



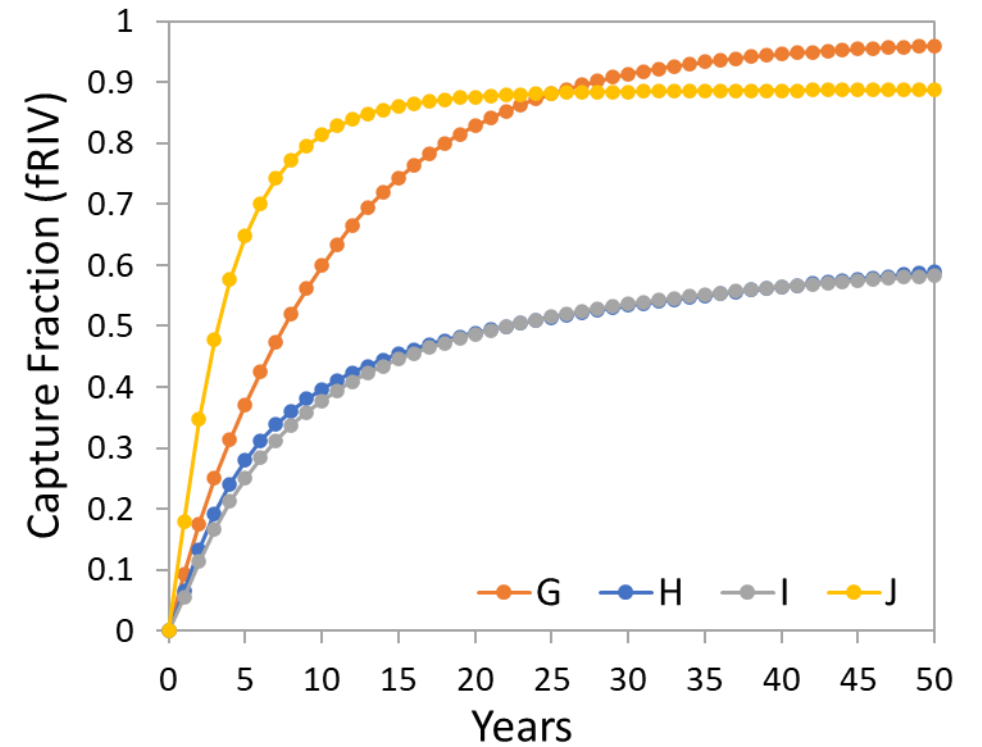
G: High capture, but slightly delayed  
 H: Capture is much lower  
 I: Similar to location H



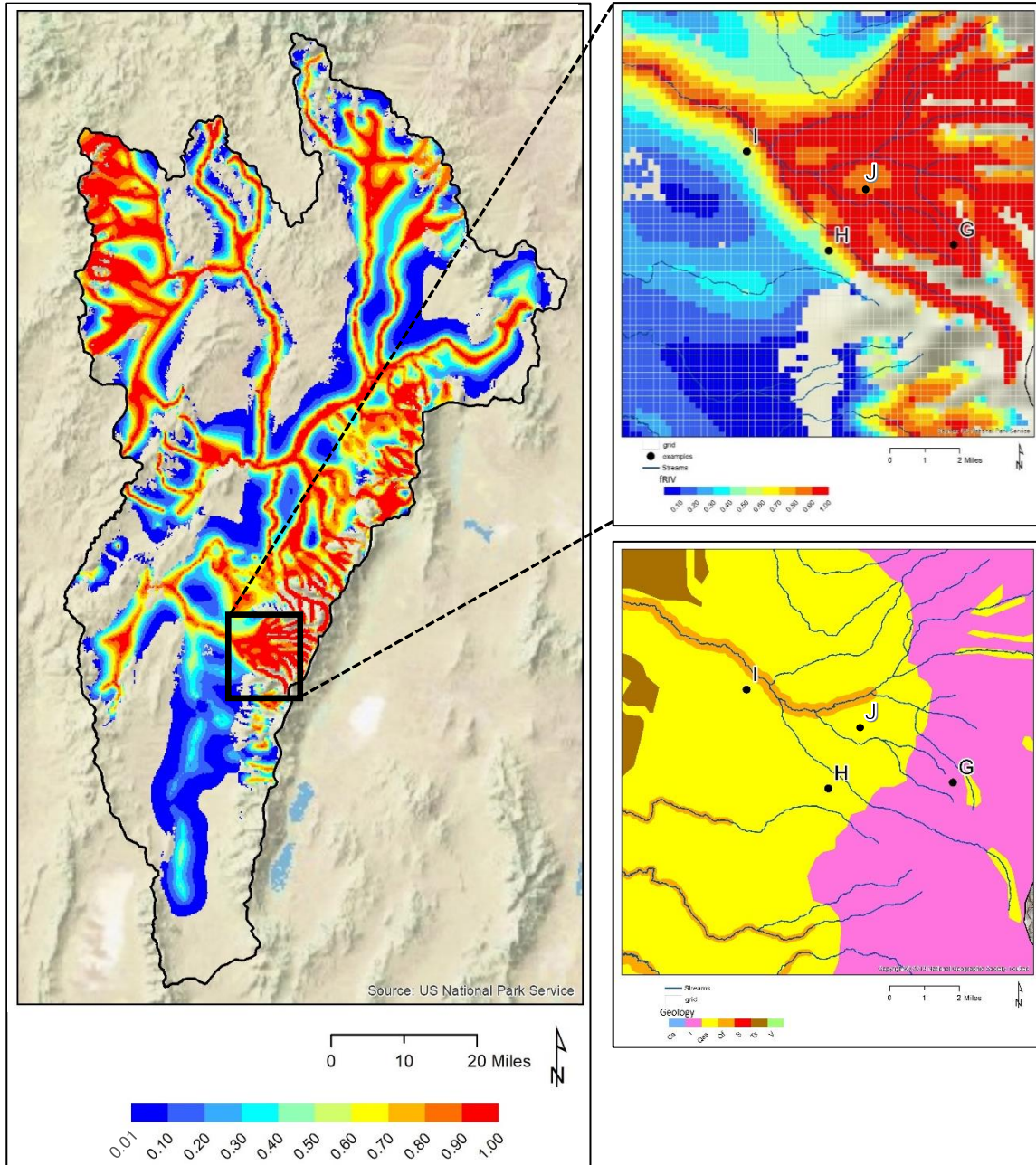
# Controls on River Capture



- G: High capture, but slightly delayed
- H: Capture is much lower
- I: Similar to location H
- J: Higher capture early, lower capture later



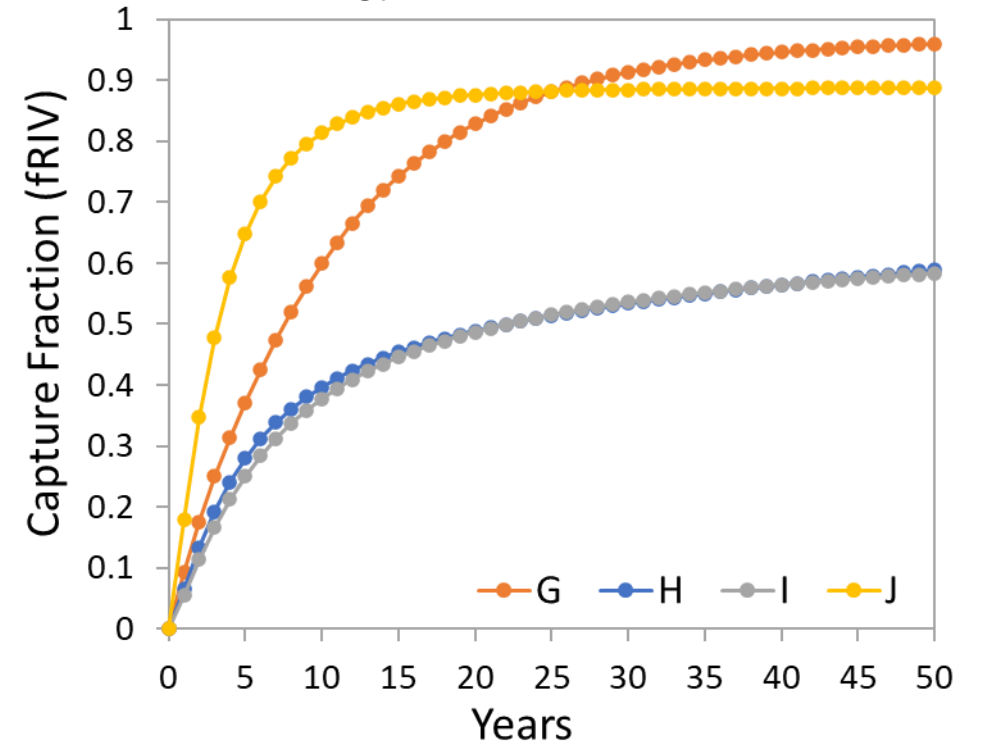
# Controls on River Capture



- G: High capture, but slightly delayed
- H: Capture is much lower
- I: Similar to location H
- J: Higher capture early, lower capture later

## Controlling Factor(s)

- Riverbed conductance
- River network density
- Geology



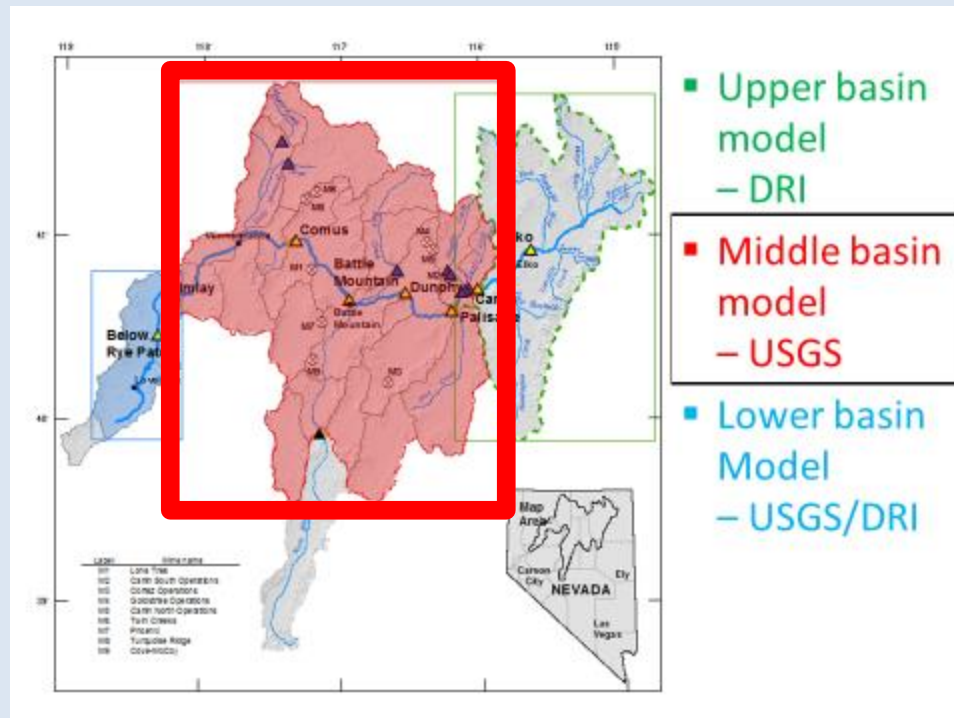
# Concluding Remarks

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- The Upper Humboldt Model extends over a large and complex geographic area with large gradient in elevation/recharge, geology, river characteristics.
- There are simplifying assumptions to allow the model to be more computationally efficient but still emulate observed data (technical report).
- River capture in the valleys:
  - Distance from river is a primary control.
  - Riverbed conductance is also important
- River capture in the headwaters:
  - Larger and more expansive than valleys
  - Dense river network
  - Low storage in bedrock units
  - Perennial streams
  - Riverbed conductance is also important



# Middle Humboldt River Basin Model



USGS

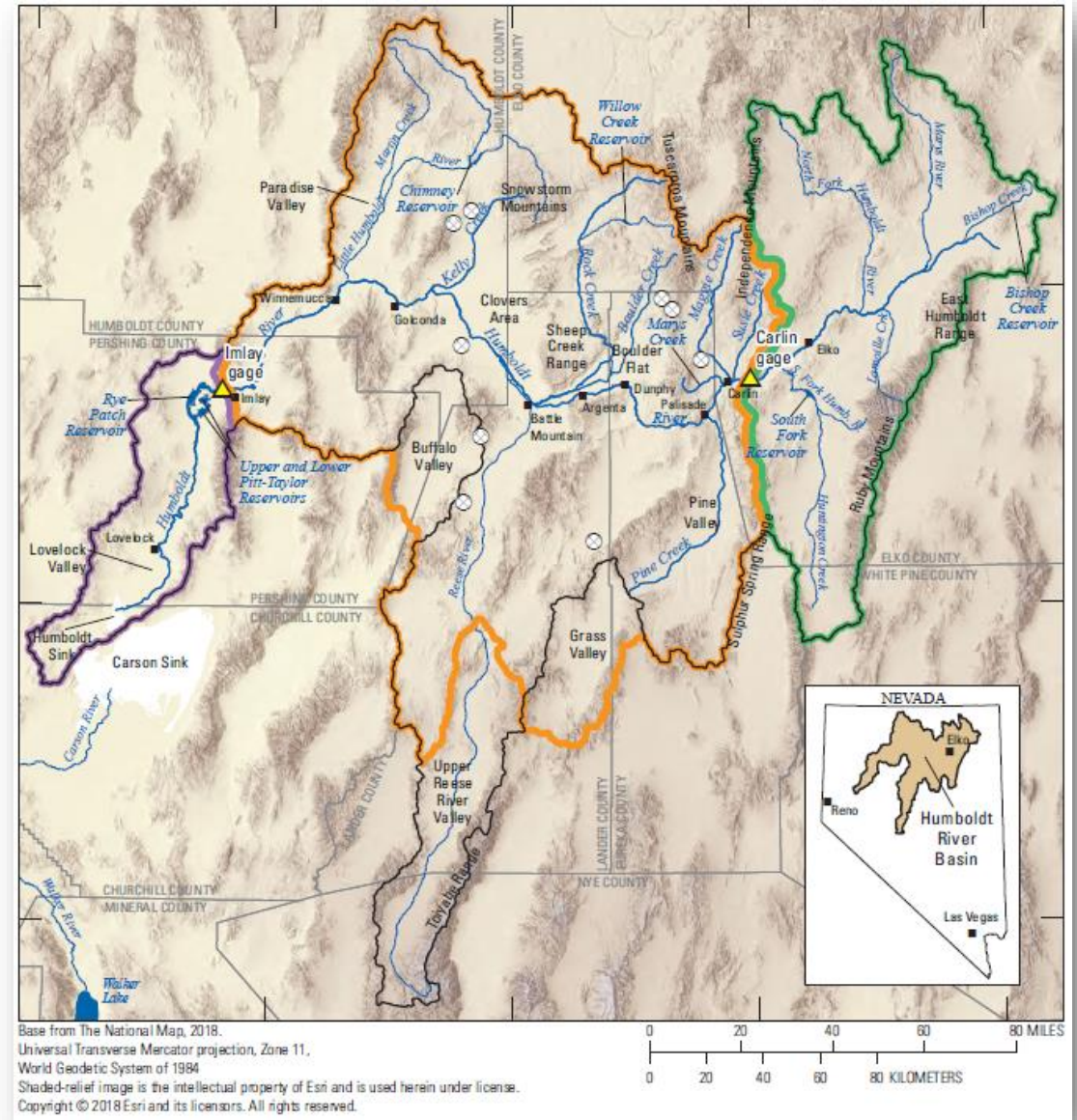
# Middle Humboldt Capture Model

Middle Humboldt Team:  
**Kyle Davis, William Eldridge,  
Kip Allander, Justin Mayers**

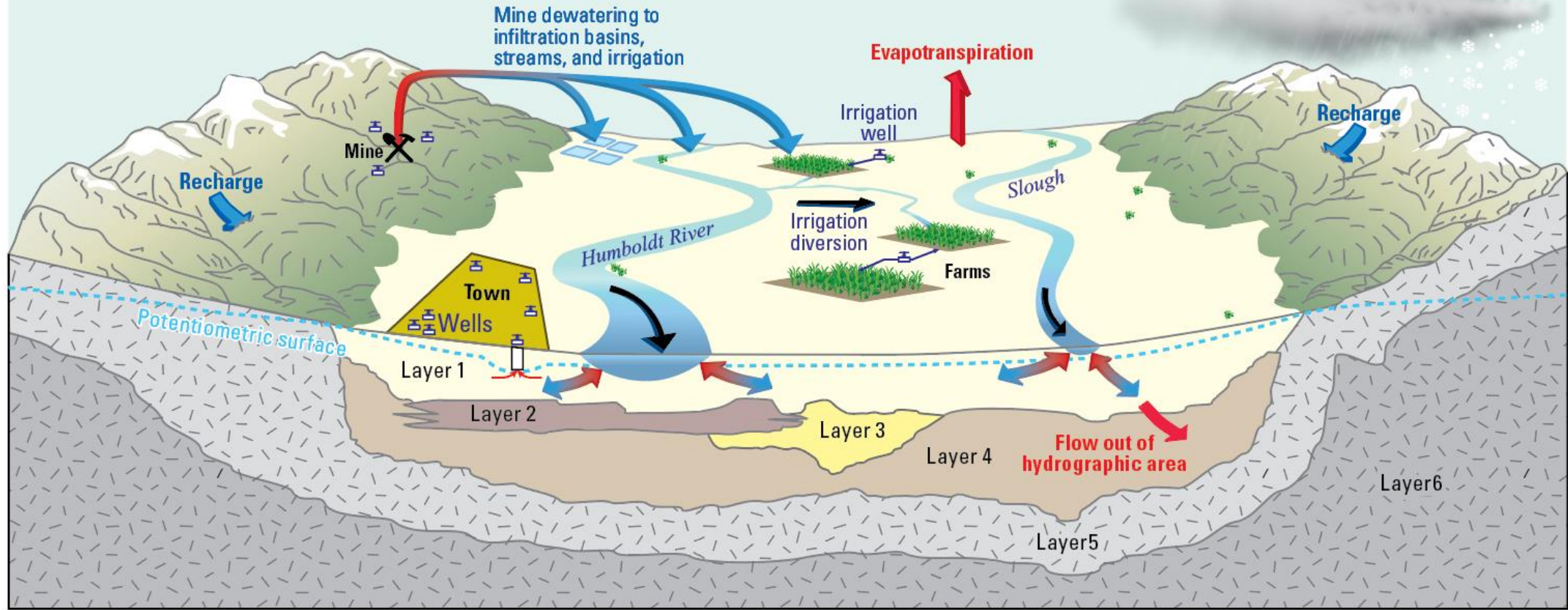
**USGS, Nevada Water Science Center**

**Humboldt Stakeholder Meeting:  
February 4, 2021**





**\* All model results are provisional and subject to change\***





# Humboldt River depletion conceptual model

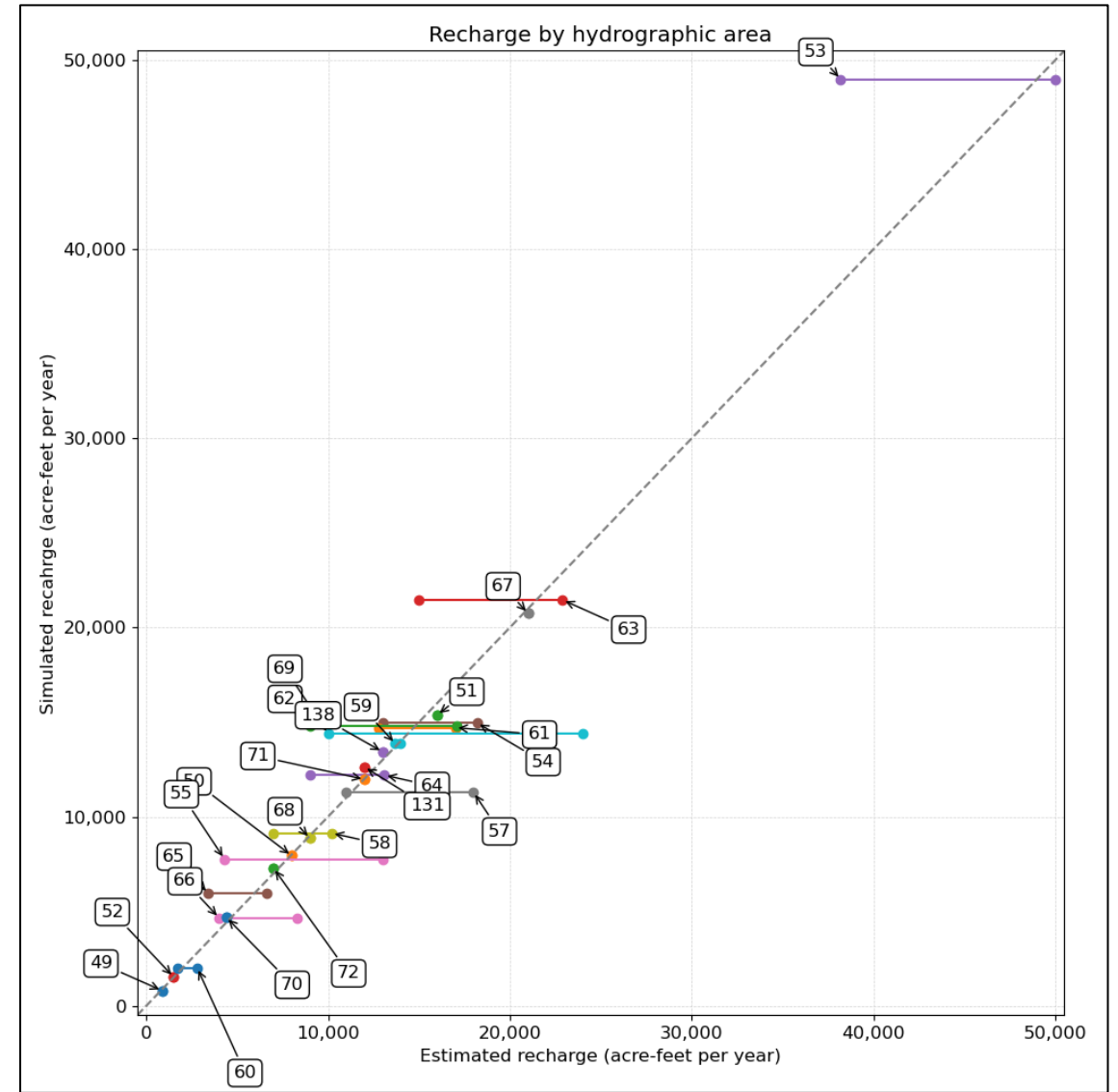
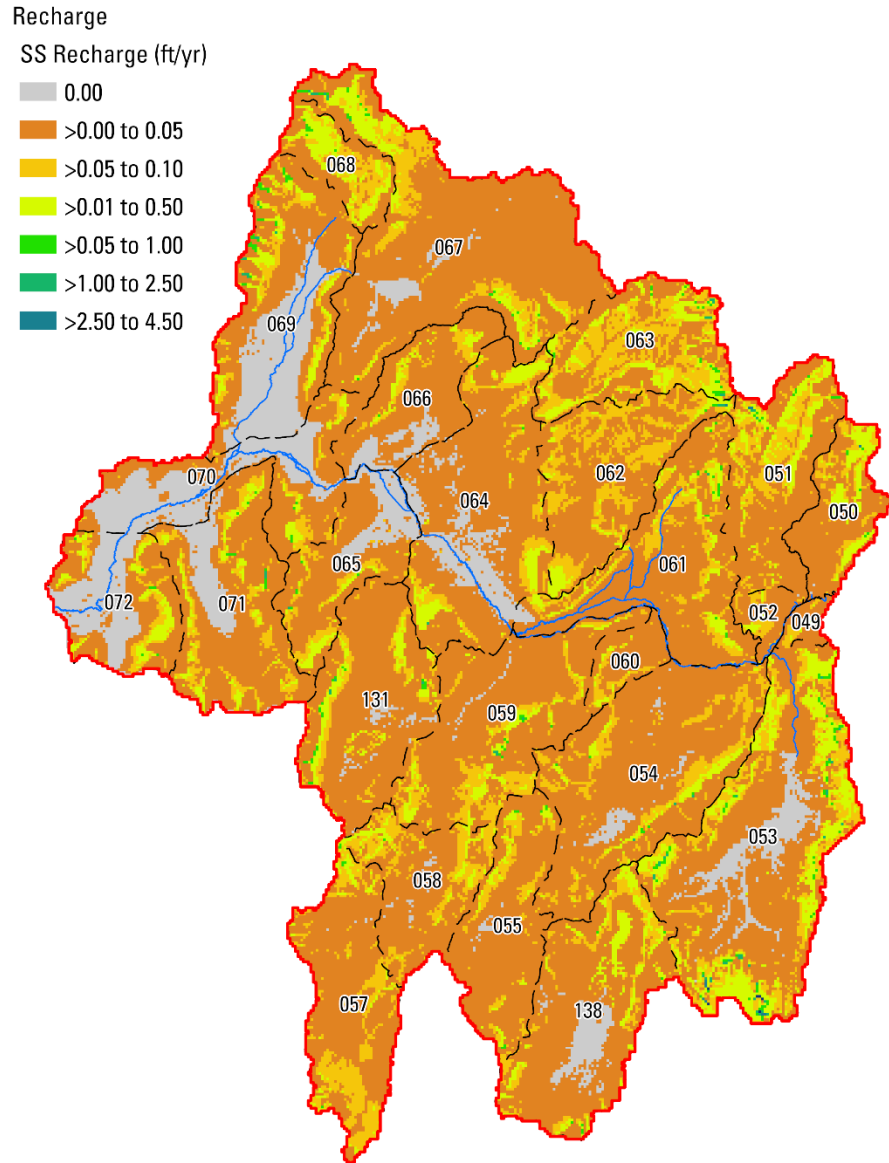


## EXPLANATION

-  **Layer 1: Basin fill deposits**—playa, valley floor, alluvial slope, fluvial deposits (thickness 25 to 50 feet)
-  **Layer 2: Clay layer below layer 1** (thickness 10 to 130 feet)
-  **Layer 3: Lower basin fill**—valley floor, fluvial deposits (thickness up to 400 feet)
-  **Layer 4: Older basin fill**—Tertiary fine-grain semi-consolidated sediments (thickness up to 1,000 feet)

-  **Layer 5: Upper hard rock**—clastic sedimentary, carbonate and mixture, intrusive, metamorphic, clastic sandstones (thickness 1,200 feet)
-  **Layer 6: Lower hard rock**—clastic sedimentary, carbonate and mixture, intrusive, metamorphic, clastic sandstones (thickness variable ~1,800 feet)
-  **Groundwater inflow**
-  **Groundwater outflow**
-  **Surface water flow direction**

# Recharge distribution and results by HA





# Evapotranspiration distribution and results by HA

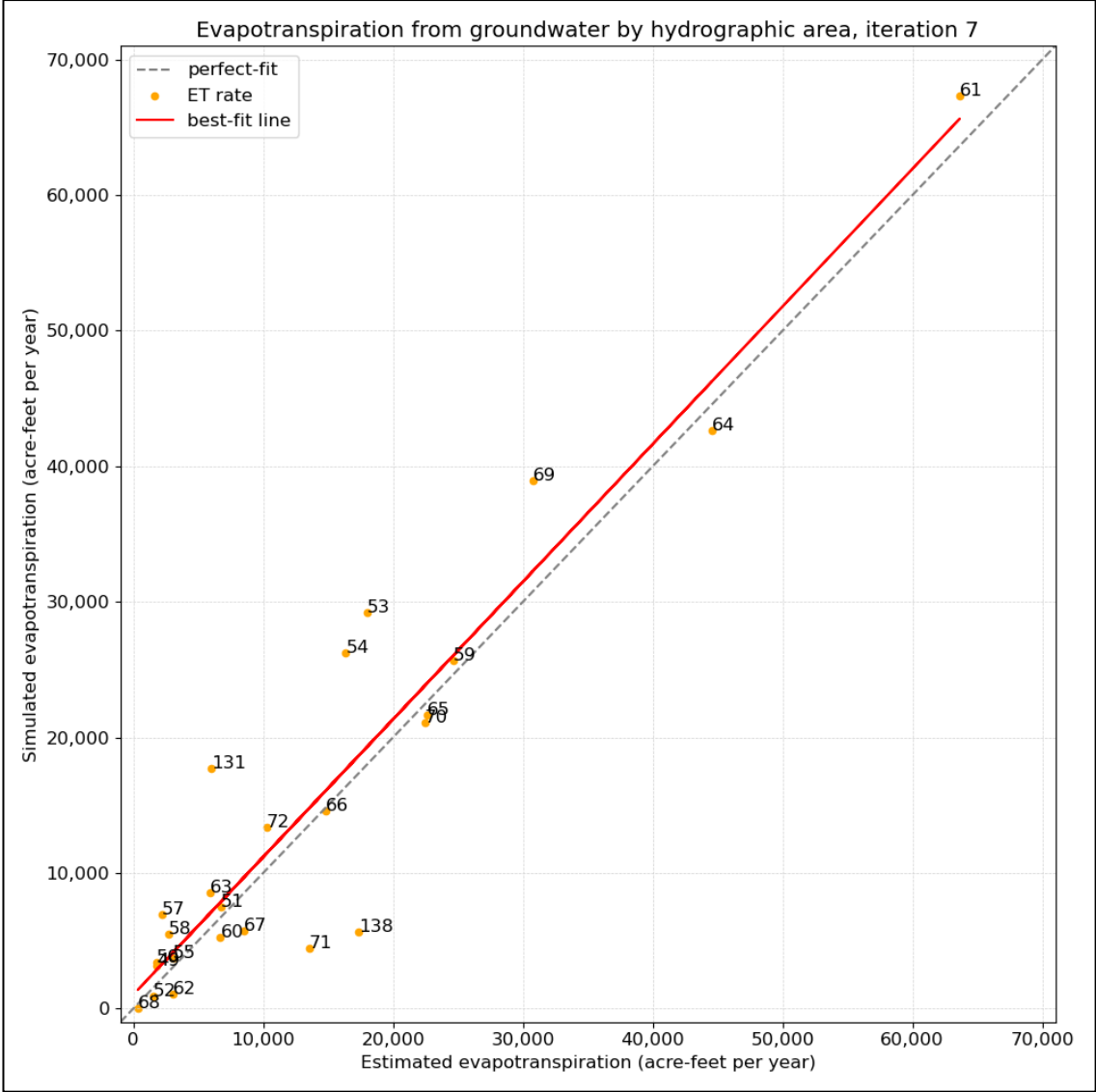
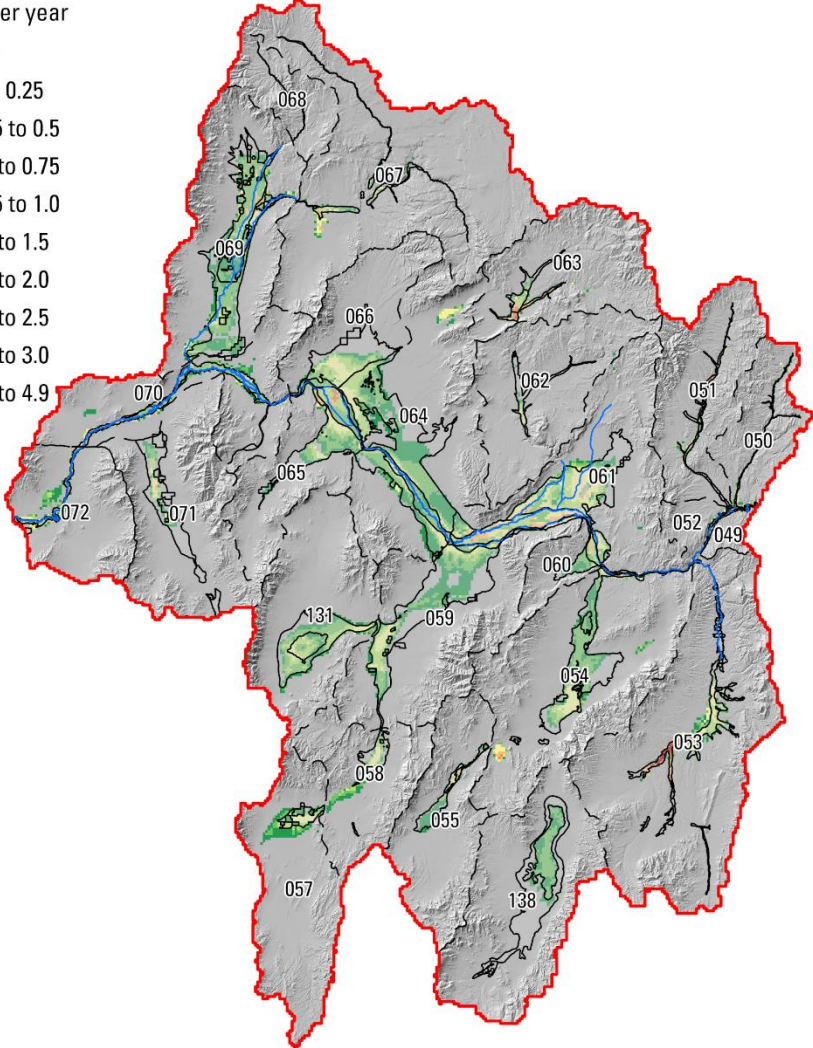
Evapotranspiration

□ DRI area of evapotranspiration

Evapotranspiration from groundwater

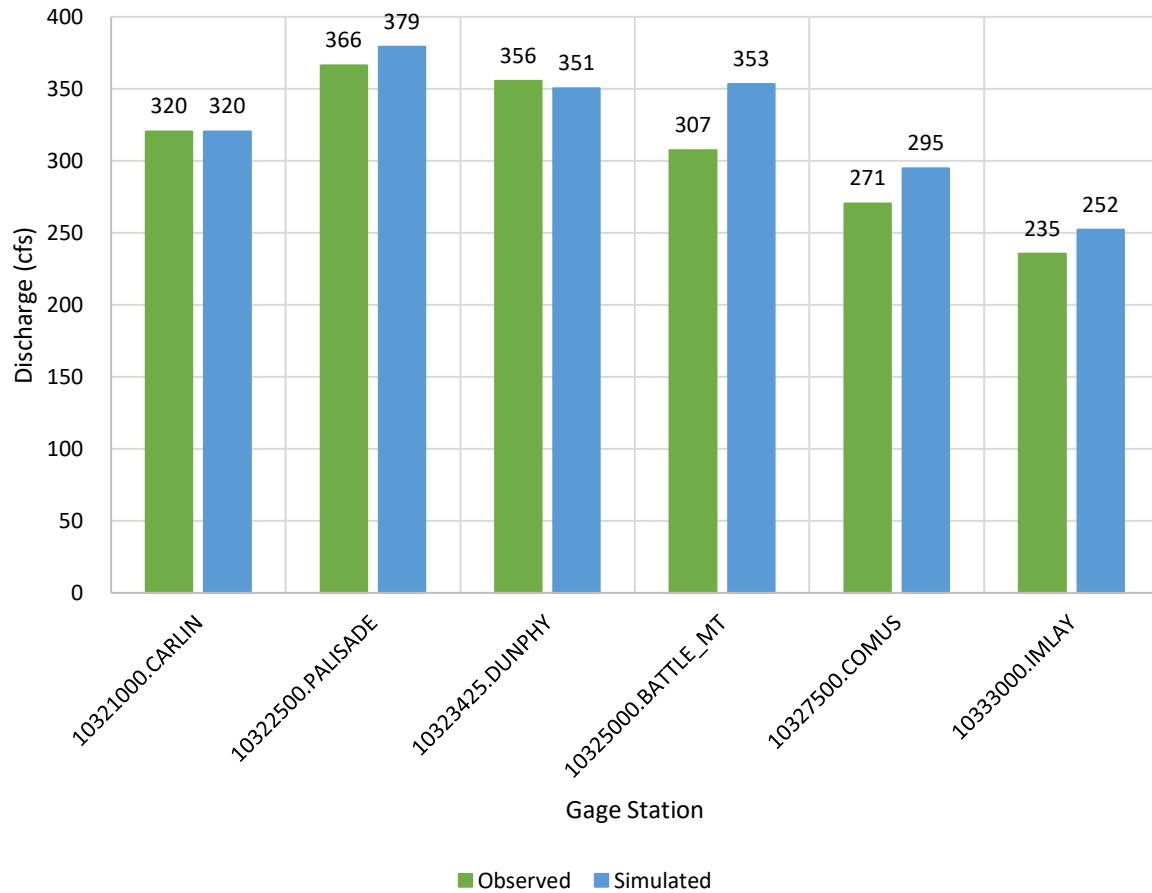
in feet per year

- ≤ 0
- 0 to 0.25
- 0.25 to 0.5
- 0.5 to 0.75
- 0.75 to 1.0
- 1.0 to 1.5
- 1.5 to 2.0
- 2.0 to 2.5
- 2.5 to 3.0
- 3.0 to 4.9

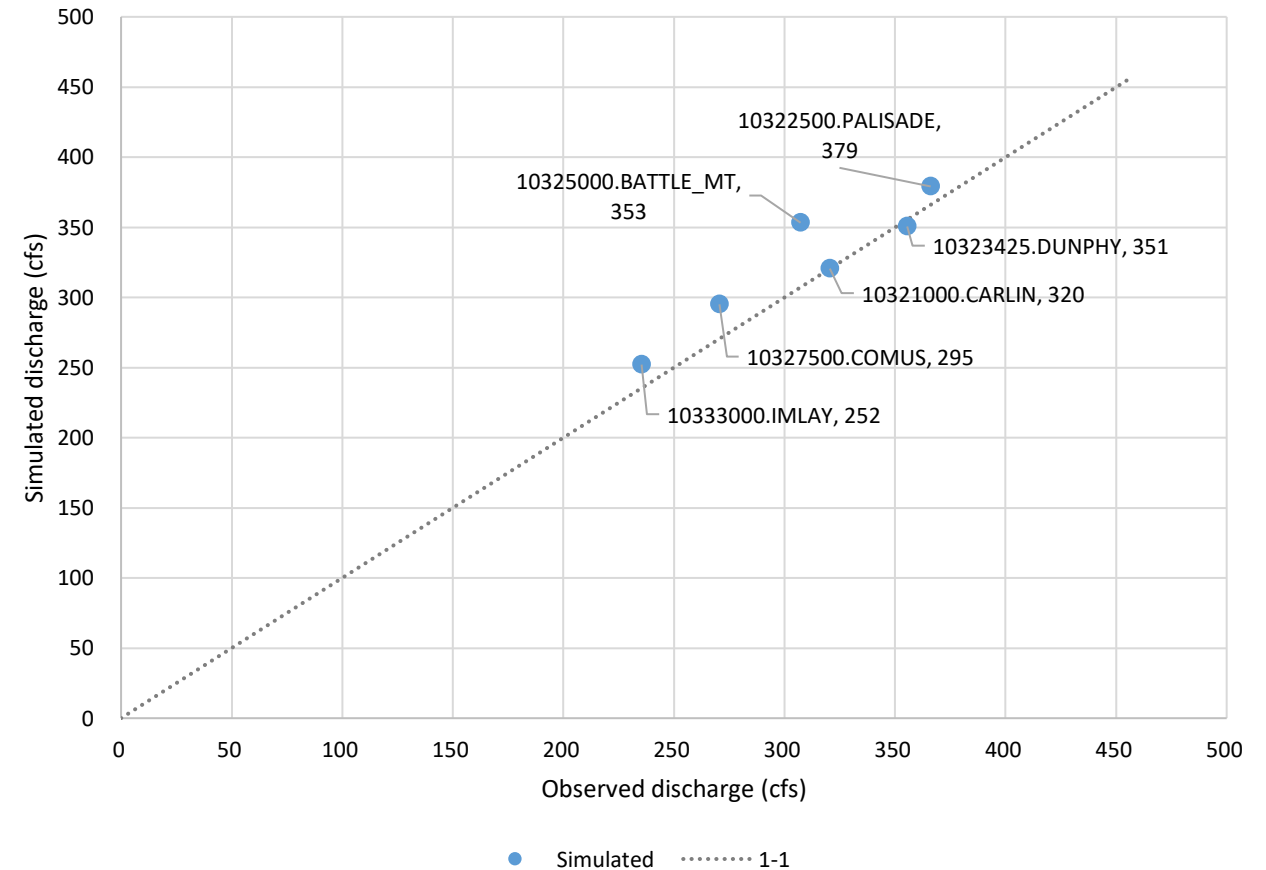


# Average streamflow 1945 -1958 for each gage

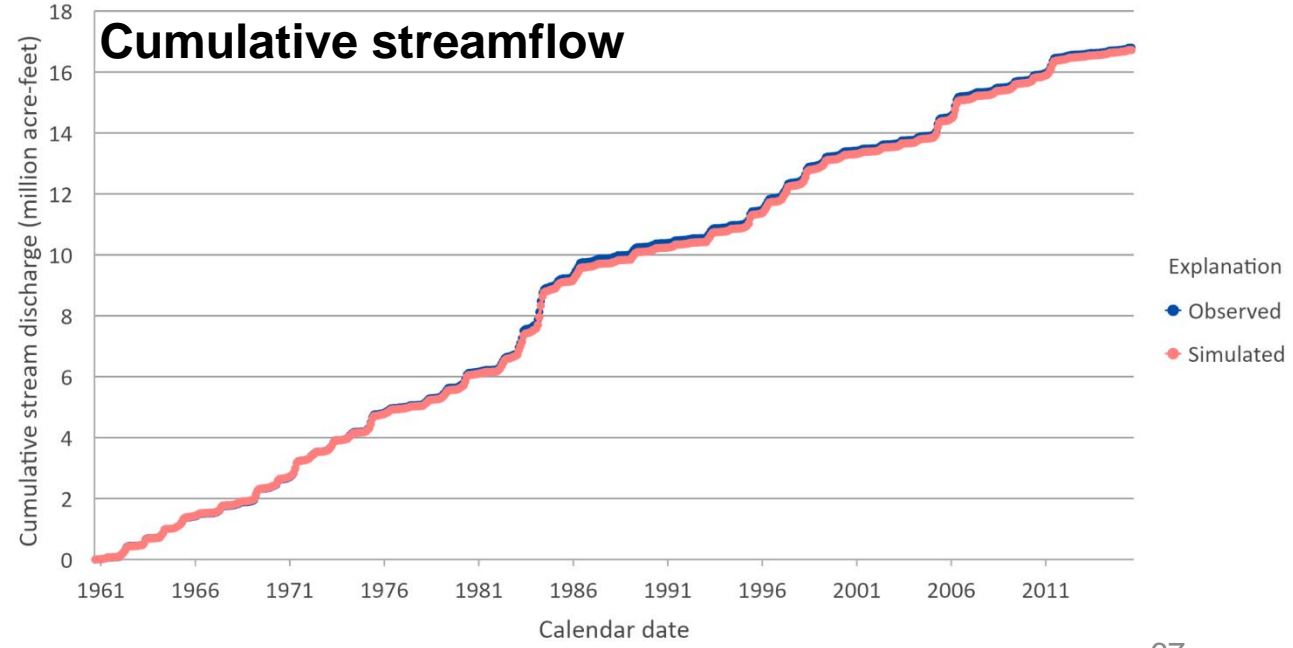
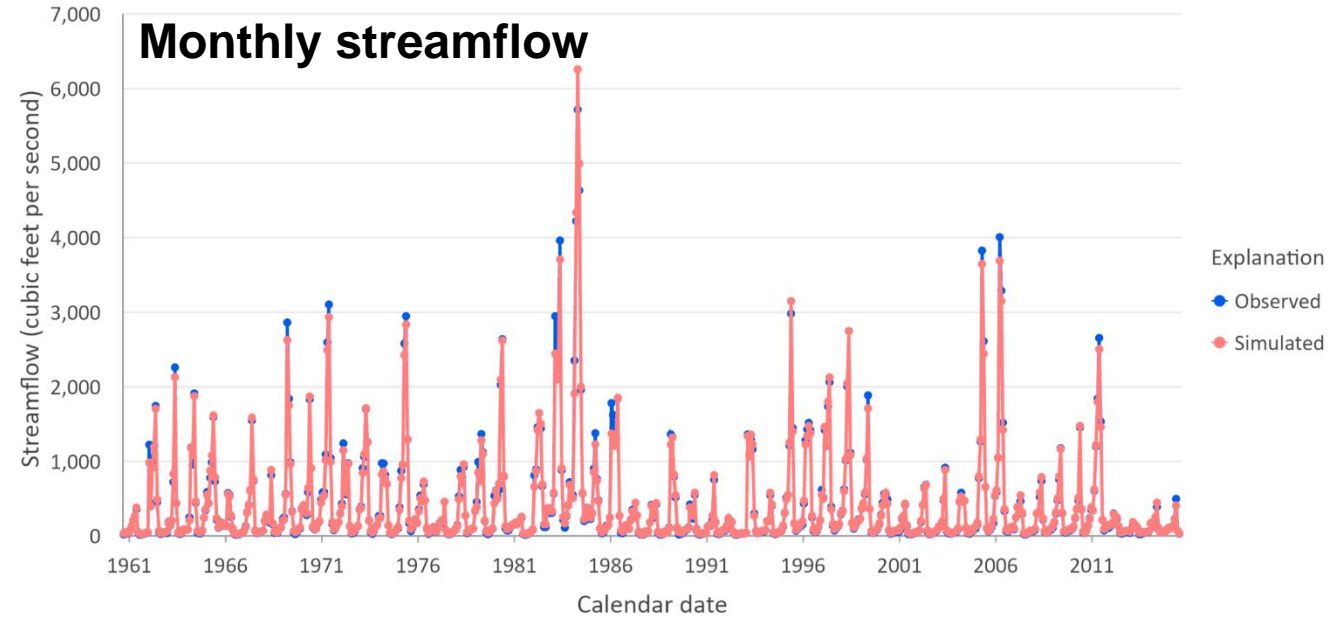
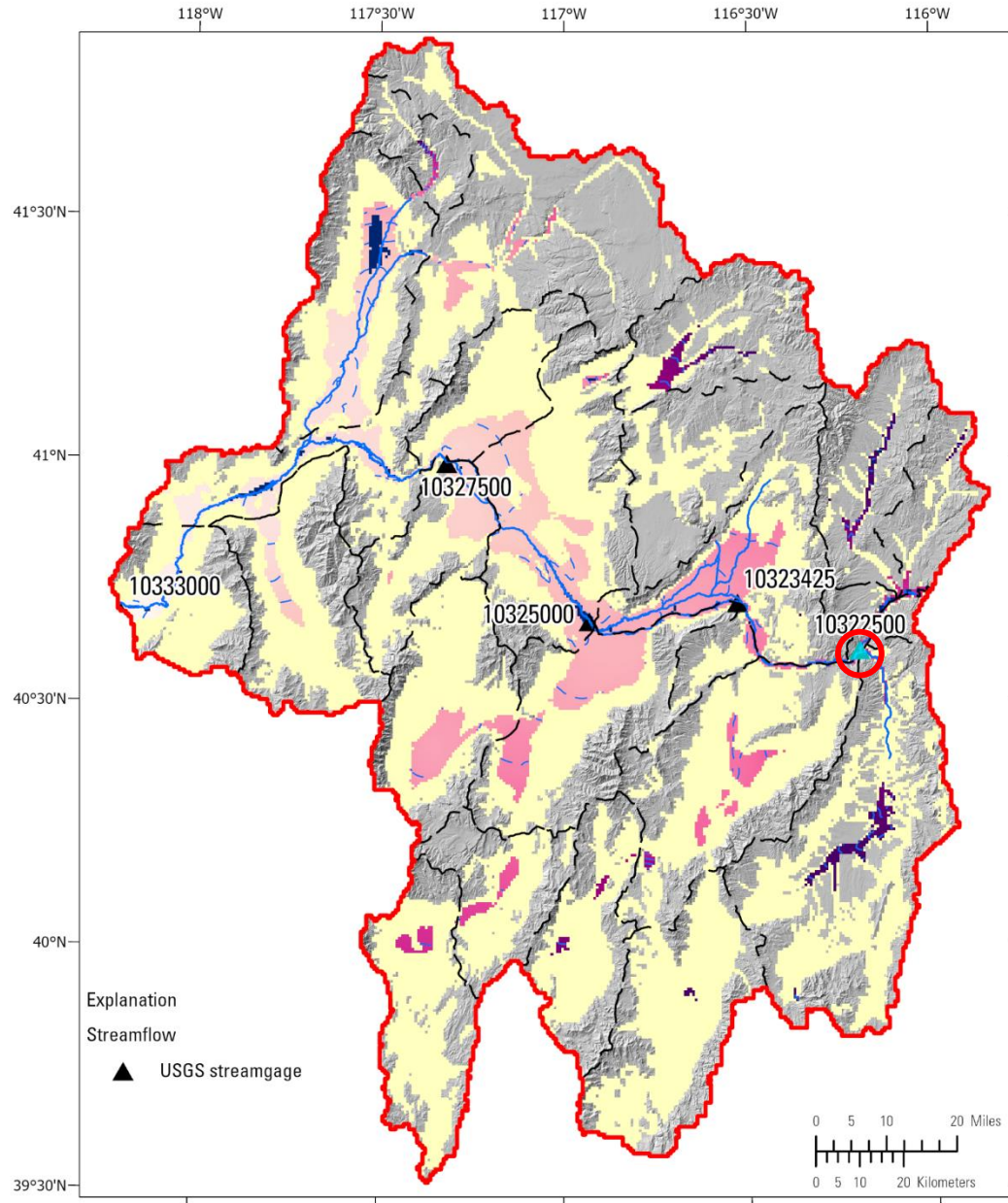
## Humboldt River Flow



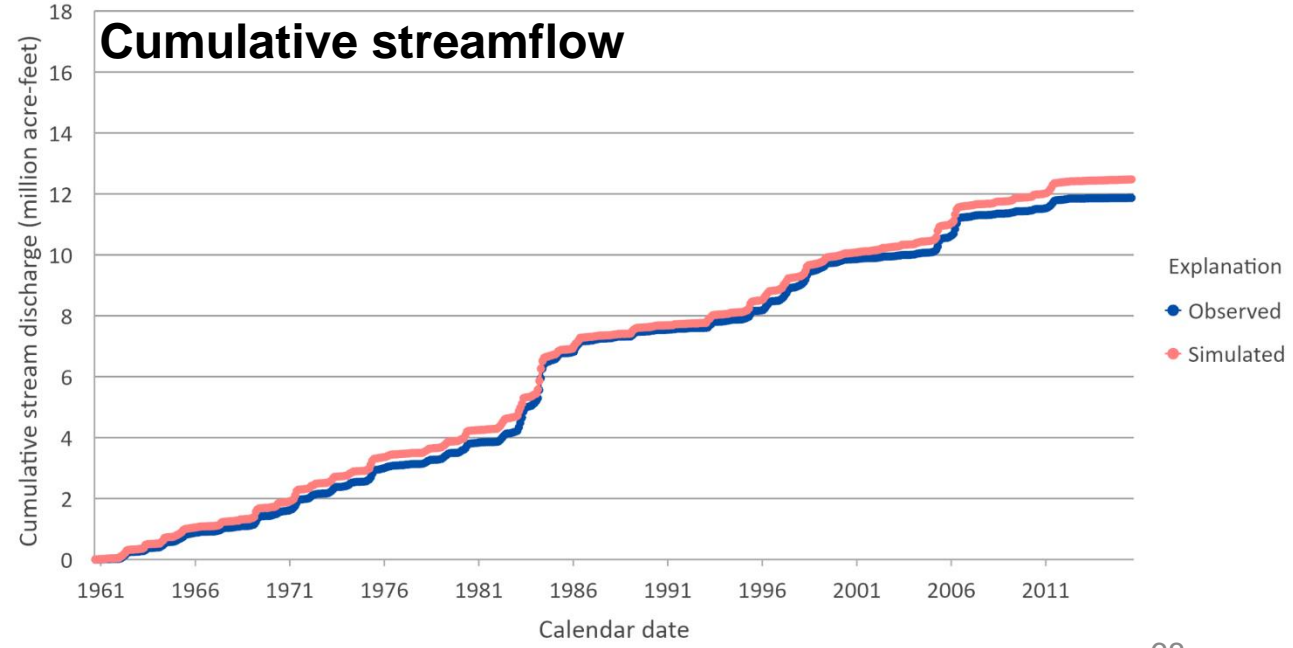
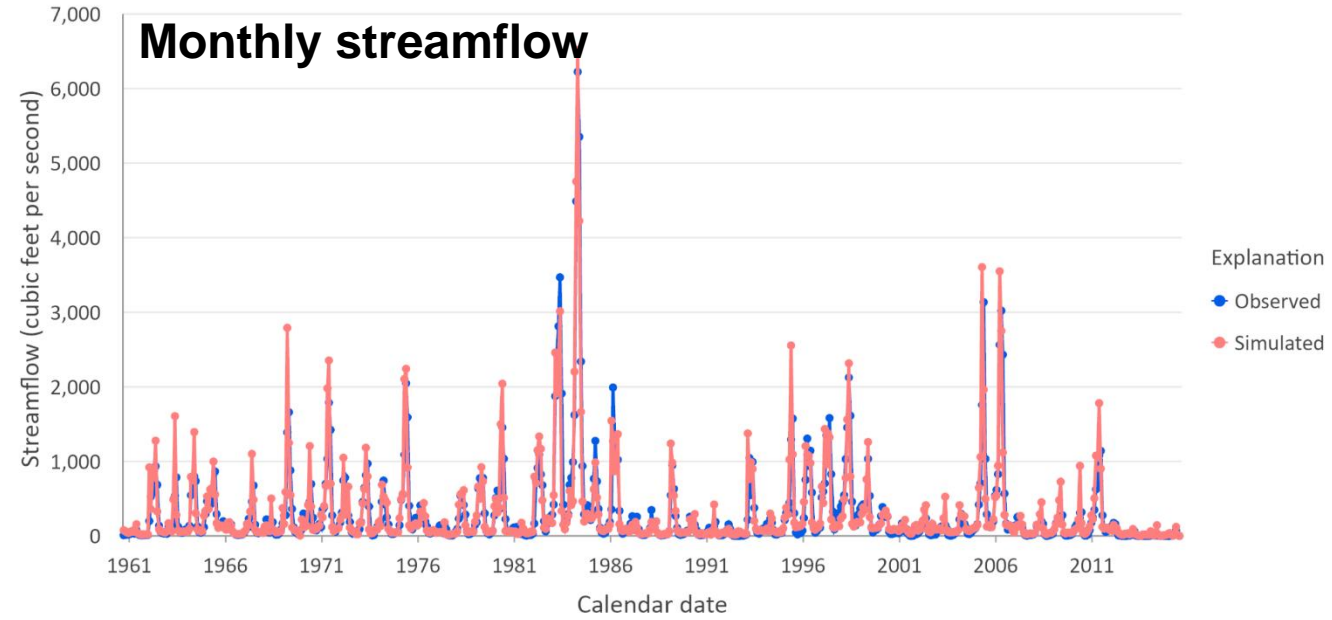
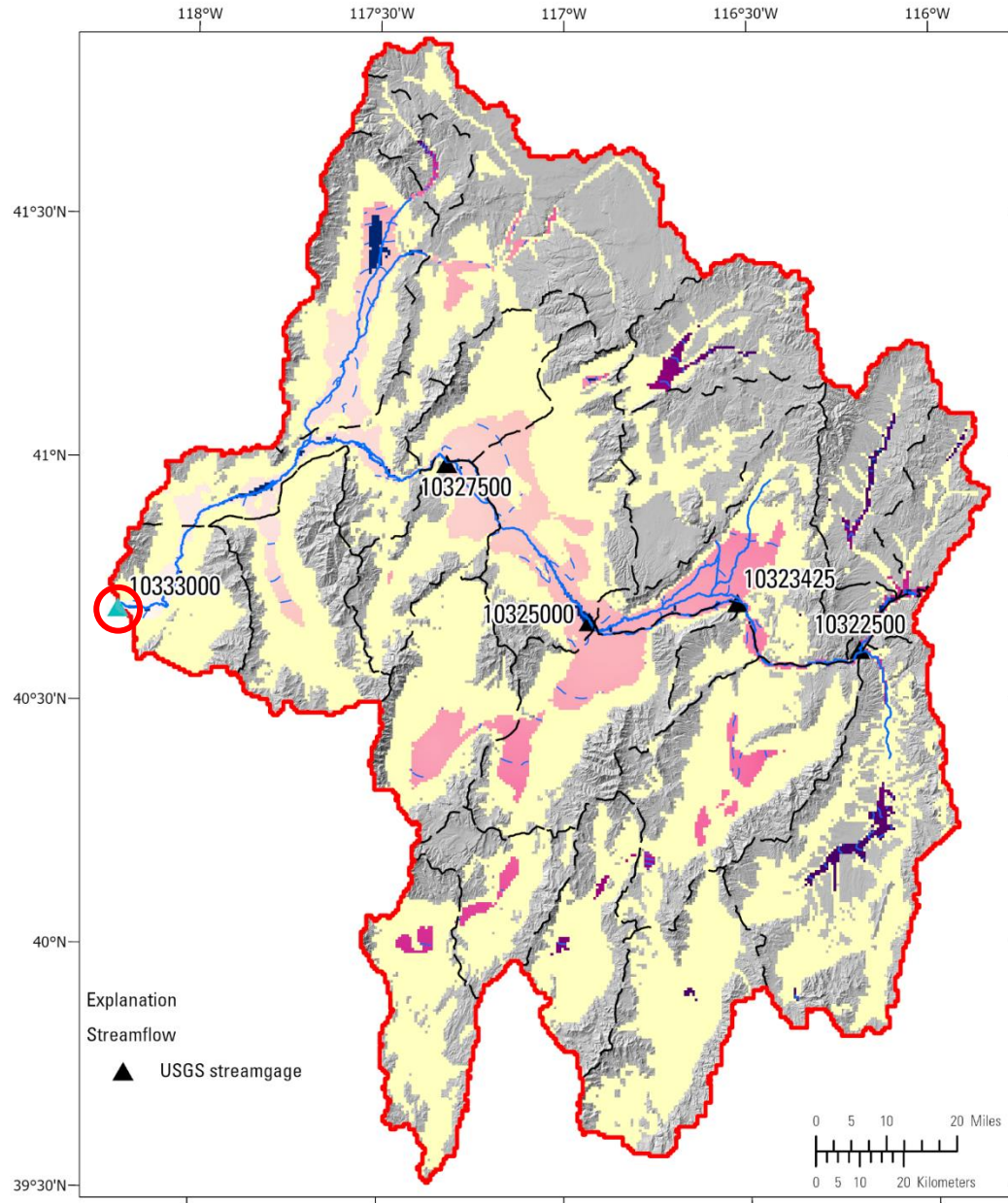
## Humboldt River Flow Observed vs. Simulated



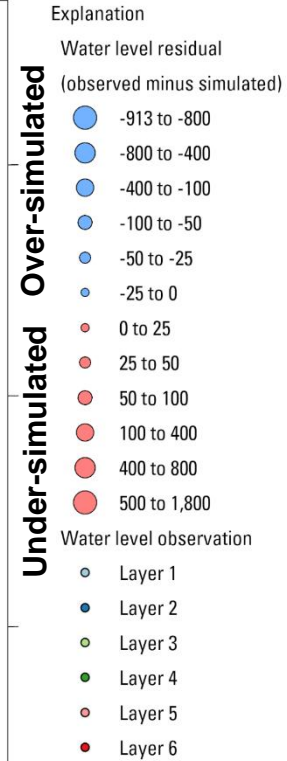
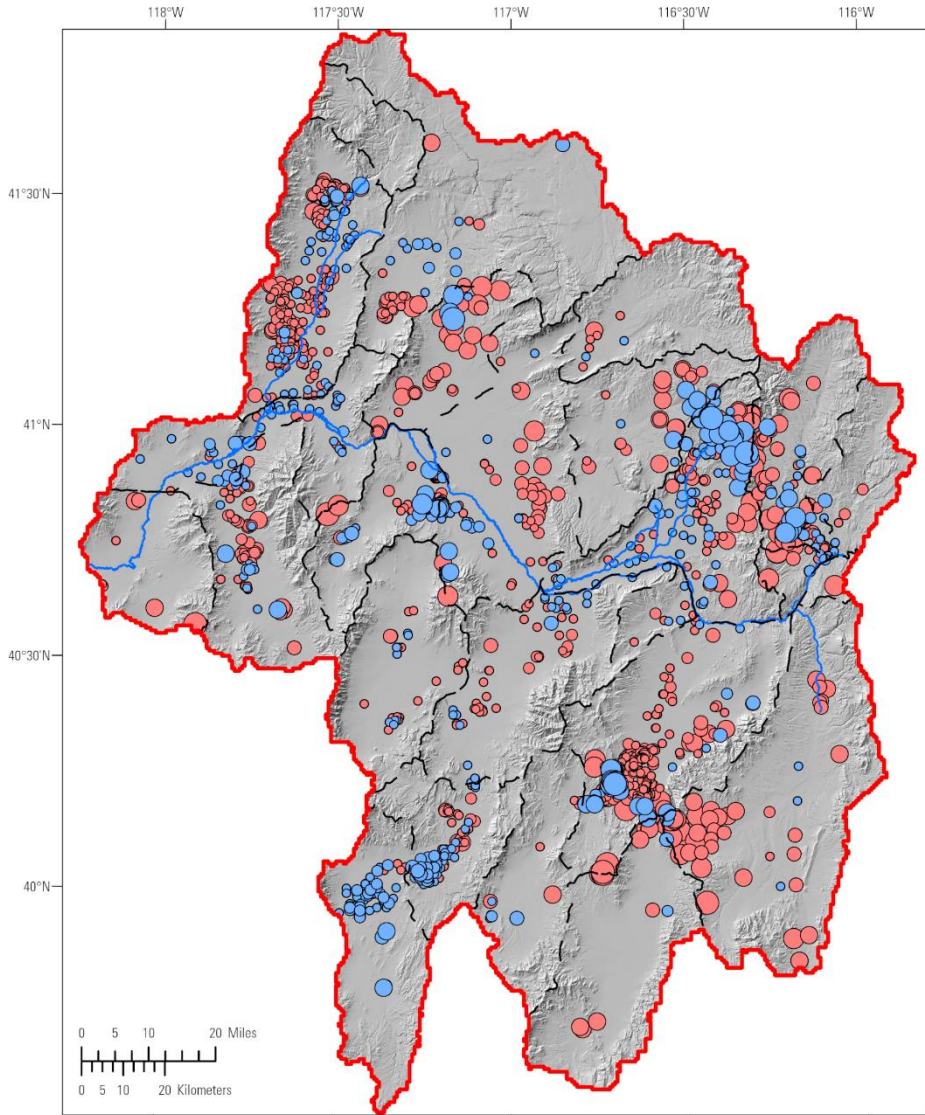
# Streamflow and cumulative streamflow Humboldt River at Palisade: USGS-10322500



# Streamflow and cumulative streamflow Humboldt River at Imlay: USGS-10333000

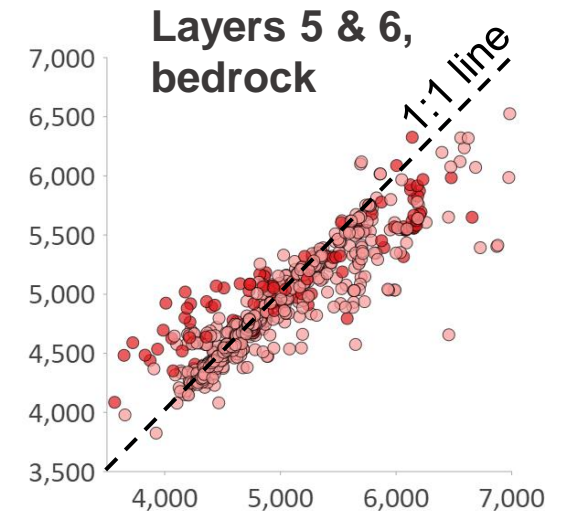
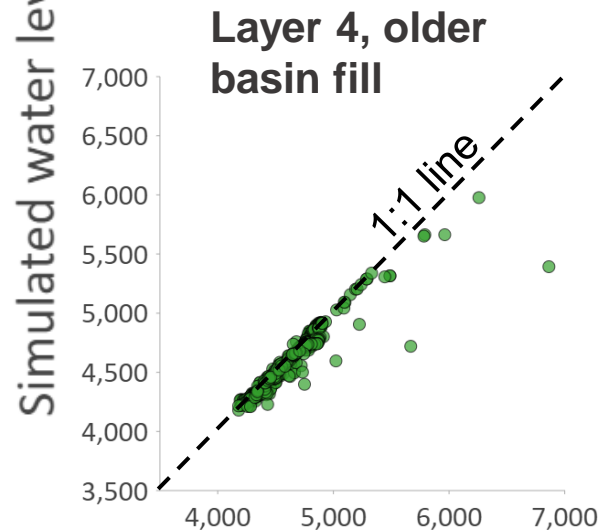
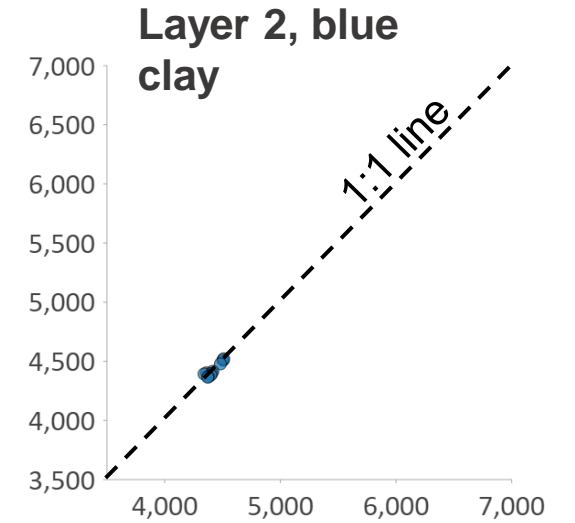
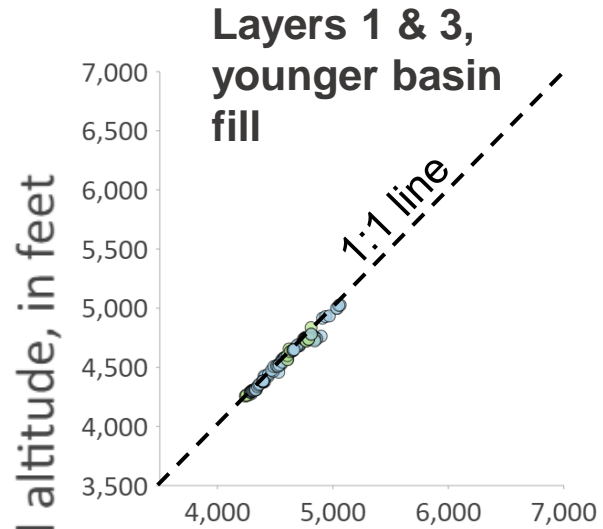


# Simulated water level comparisons



**Over-simulated**

**Under-simulated**

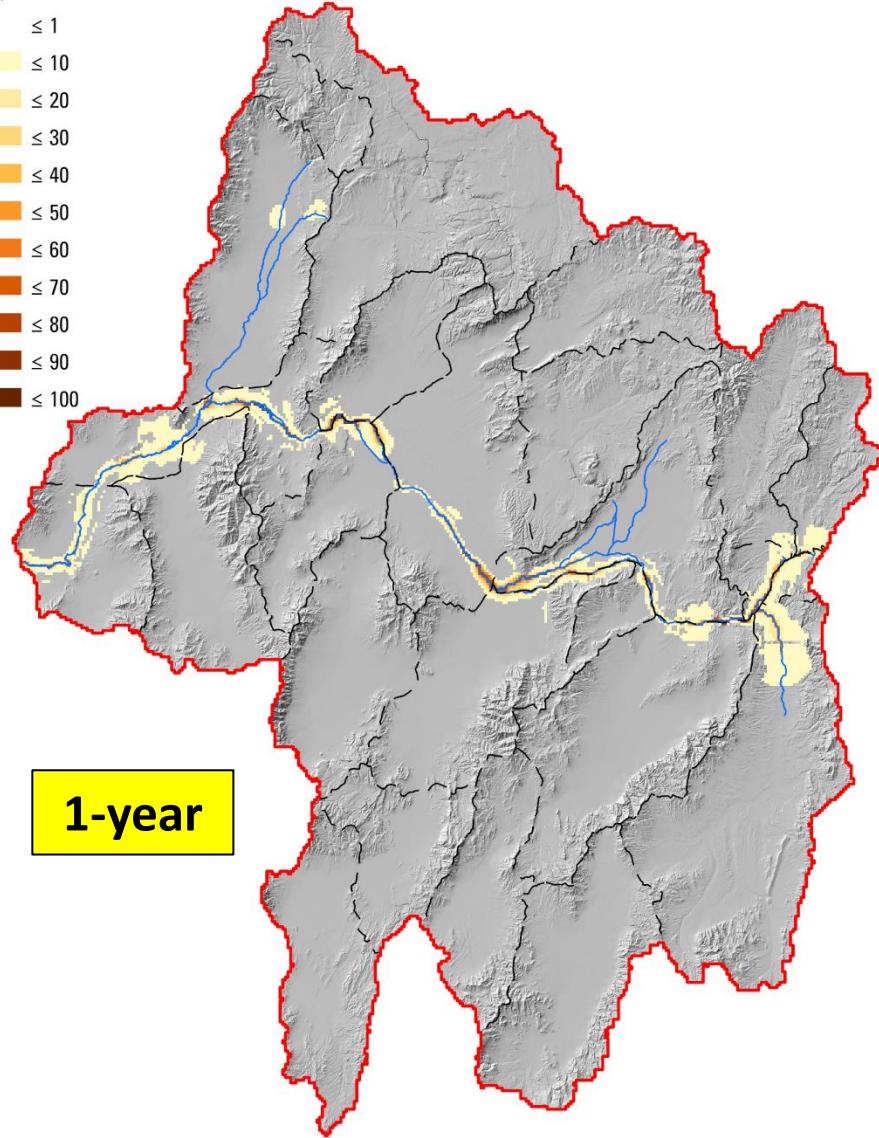


Observed water level altitude, in feet

# Capture Map – Imlay Depletion: 1-yr and 10-yr

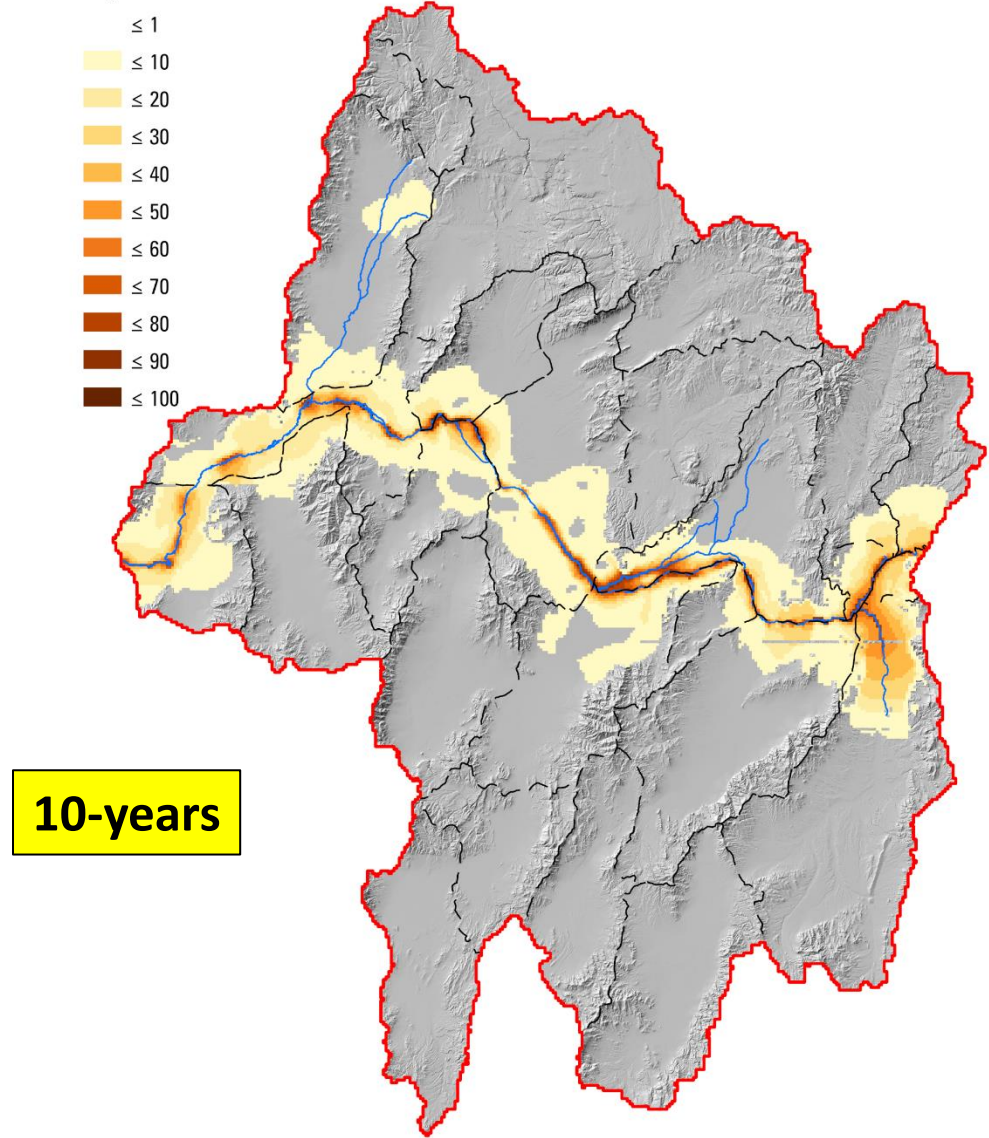
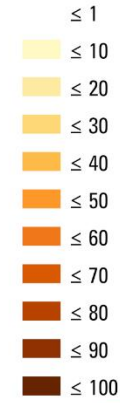
Streamflow depletion, as a percent of pumping

1 year



Streamflow depletion, as a percent of pumping

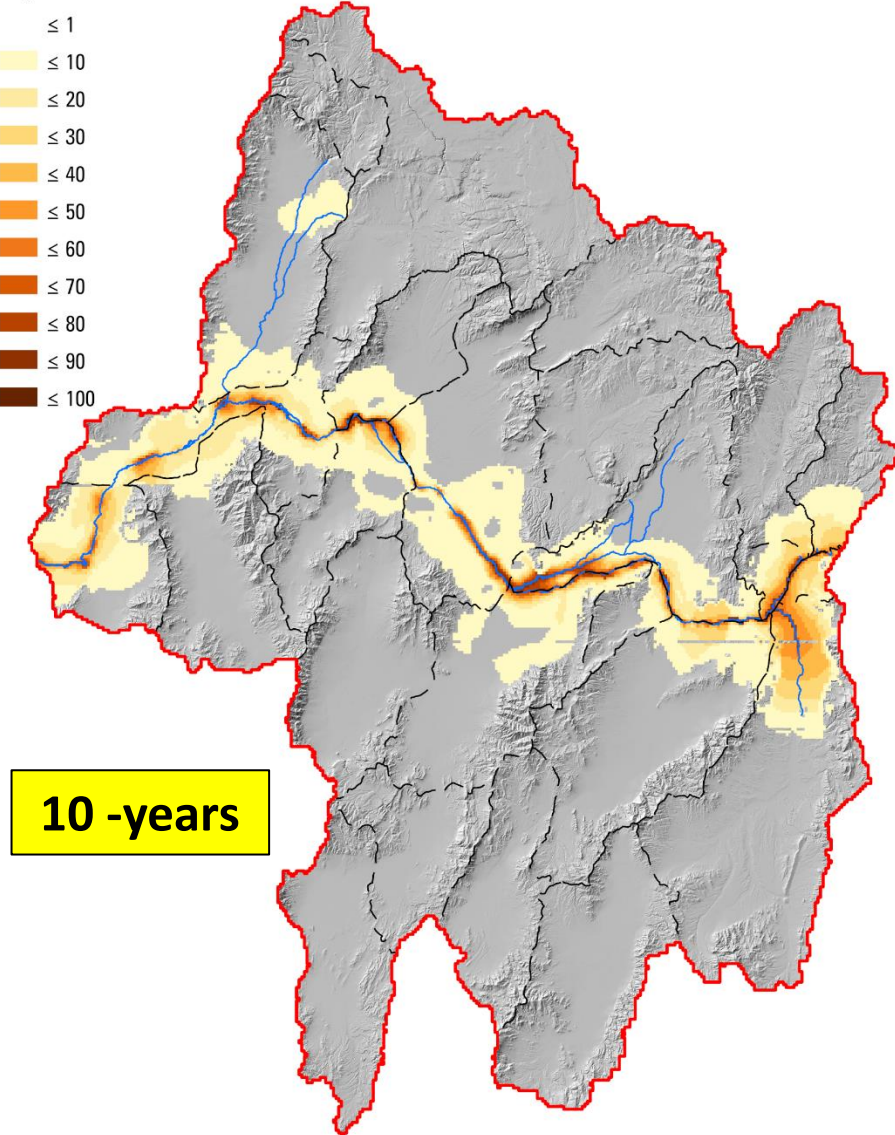
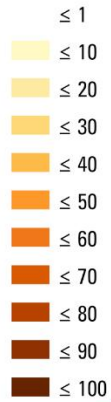
10 years



# Capture Map – Imlay Depletion: 10-yr and 50-yr

Streamflow depletion, as a percent of pumping

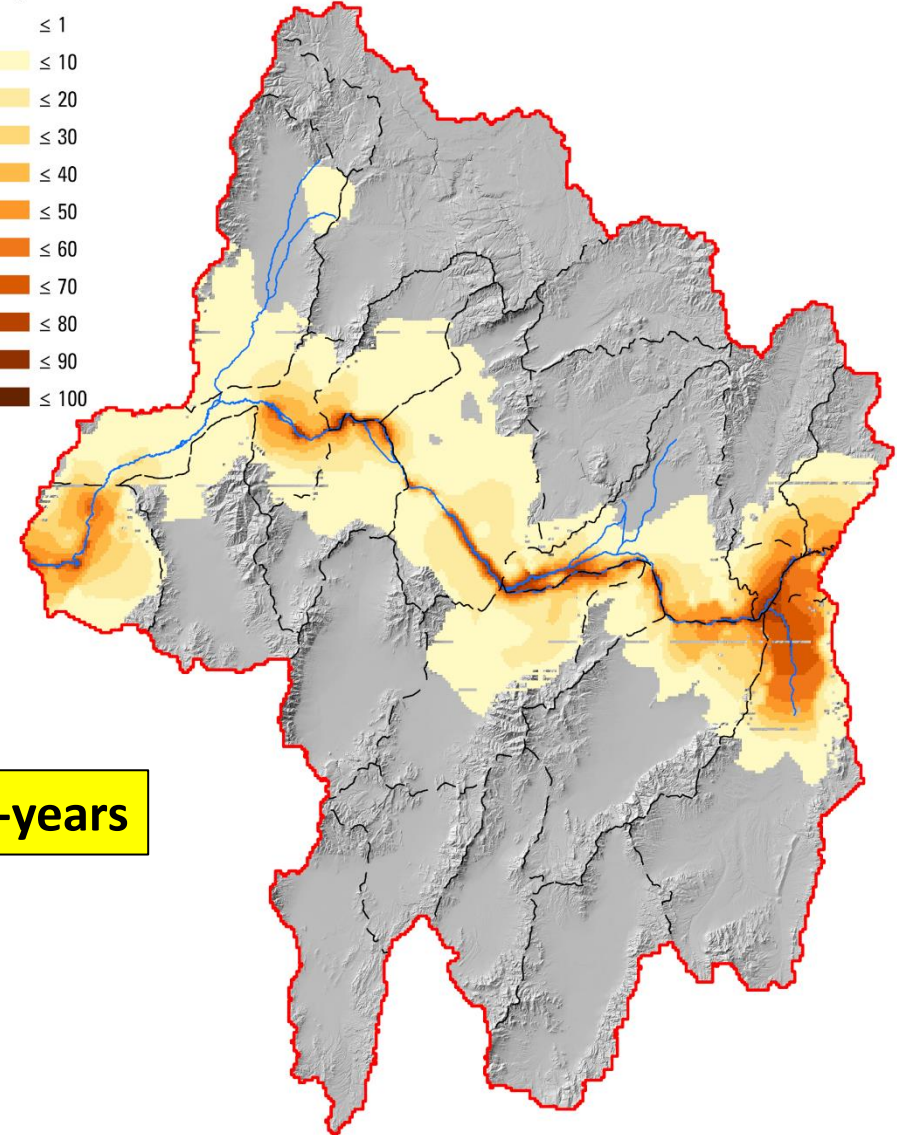
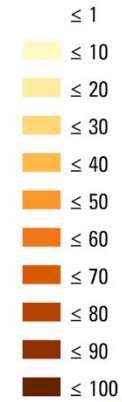
10 years



**10 -years**

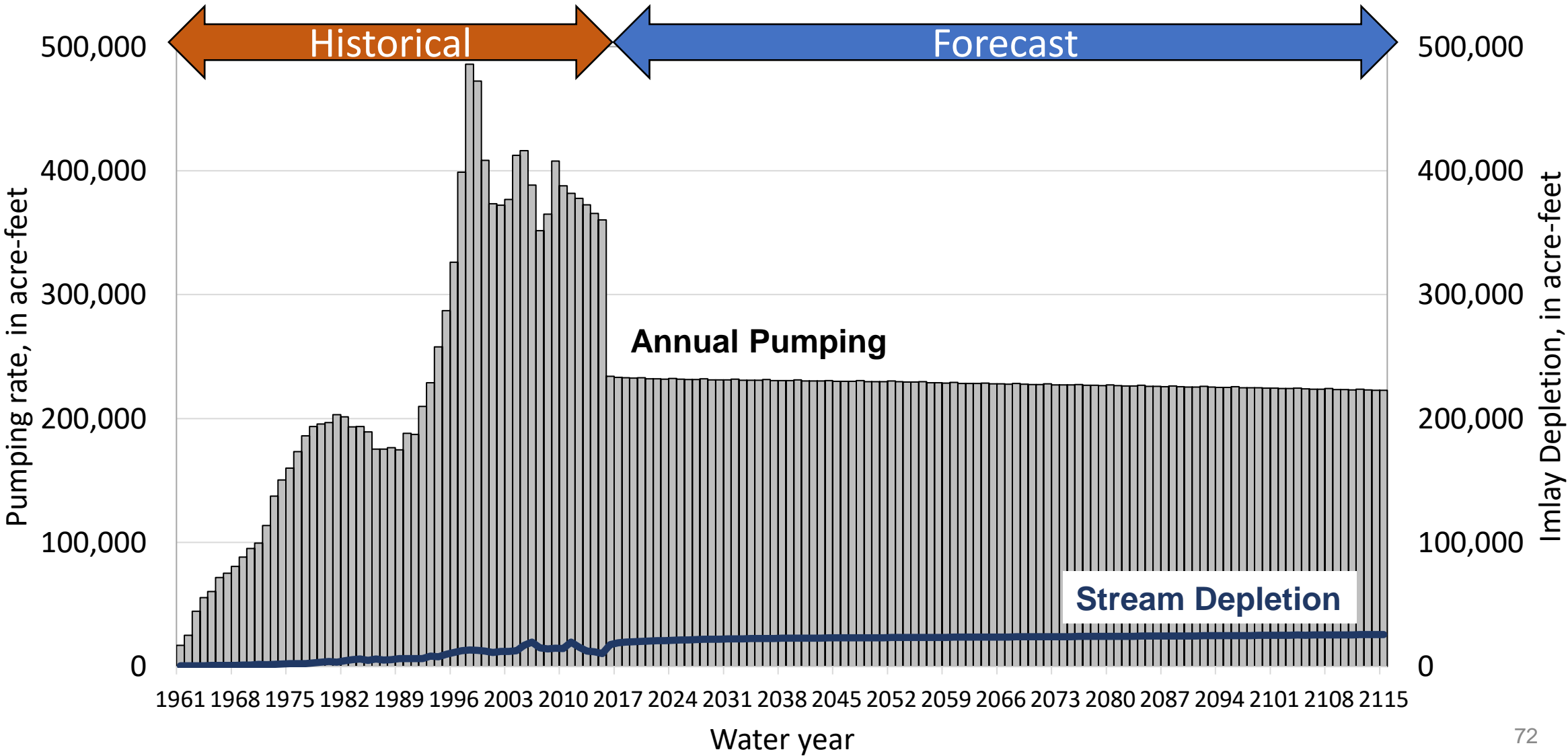
Streamflow depletion, as a percent of pumping

50 years



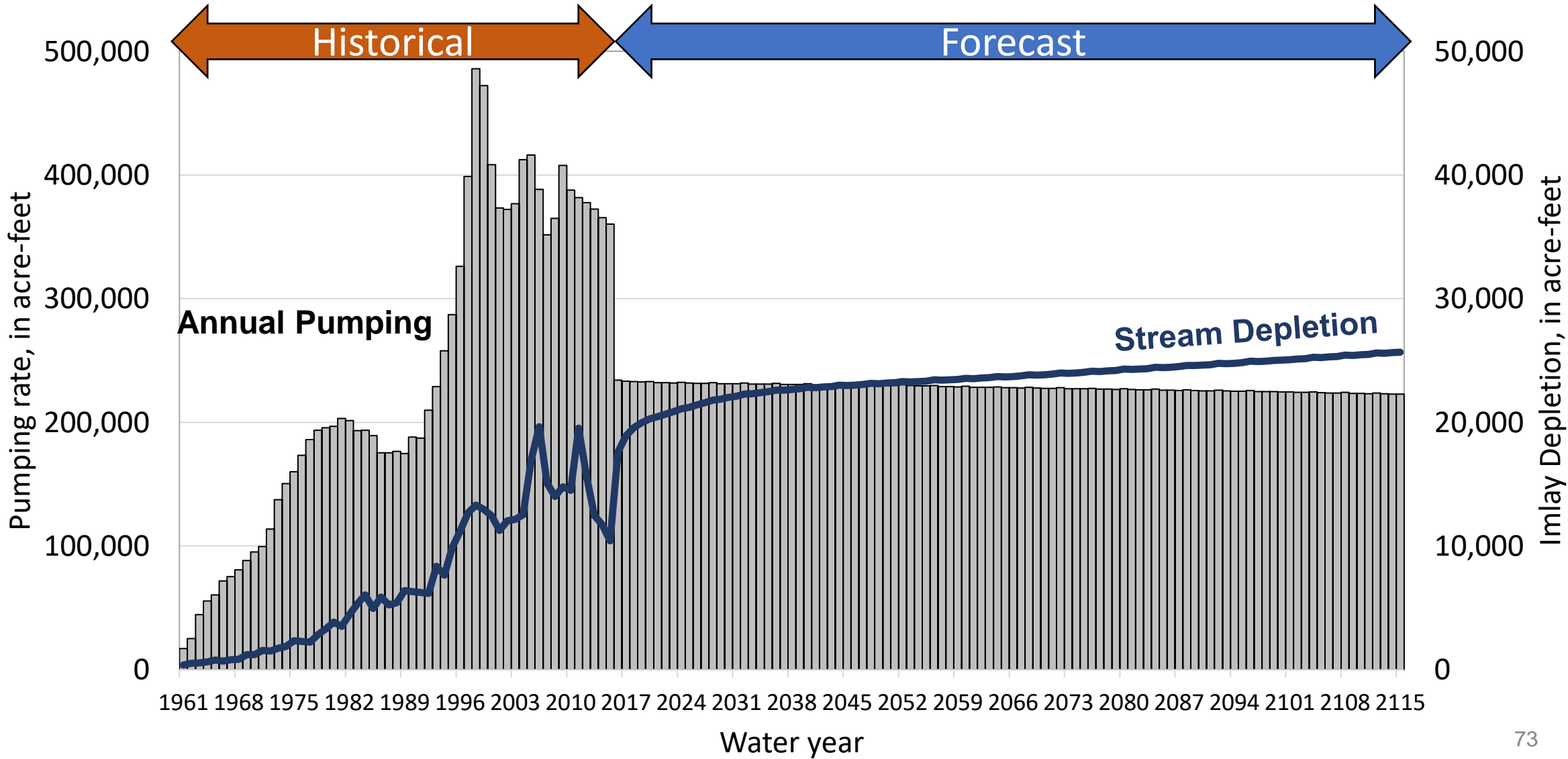
**50-years**

# Pumping and Imlay Depletion – All pumping – Same scale

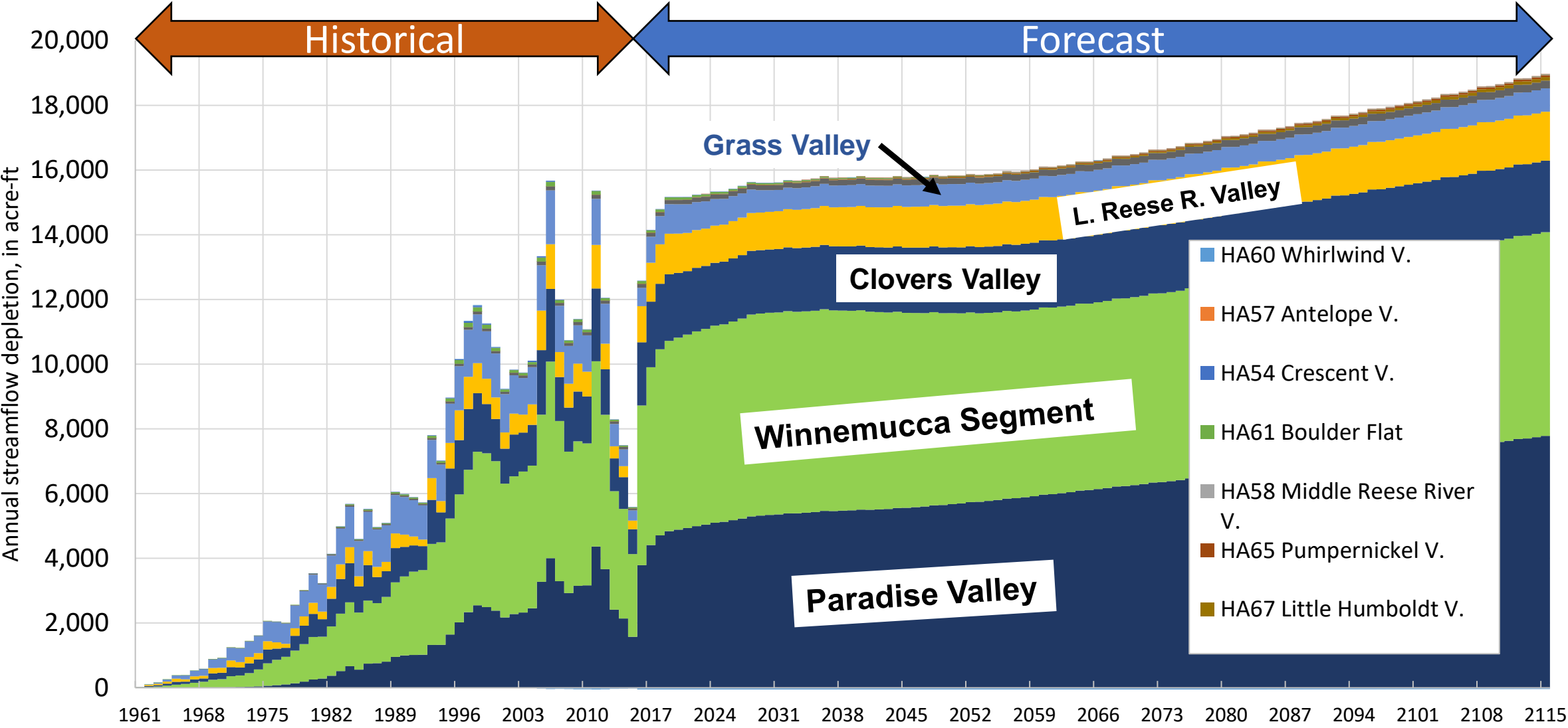




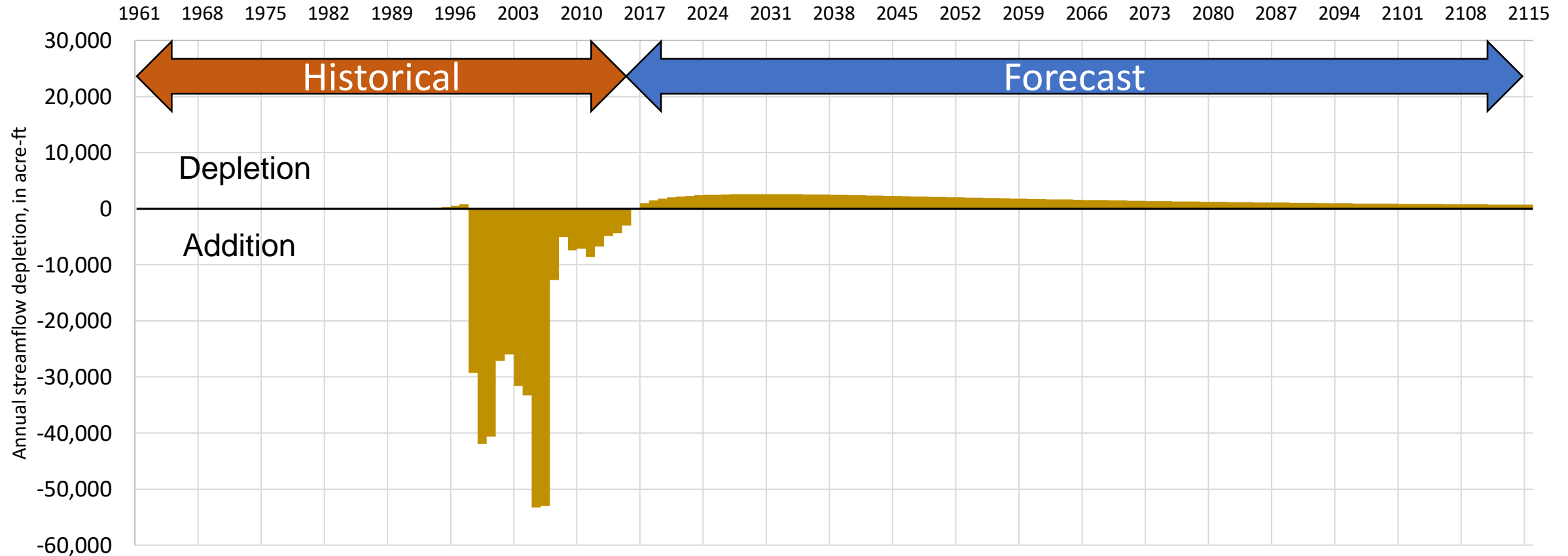
# Pumping and Implay Depletion – All Pumping – Separate scales



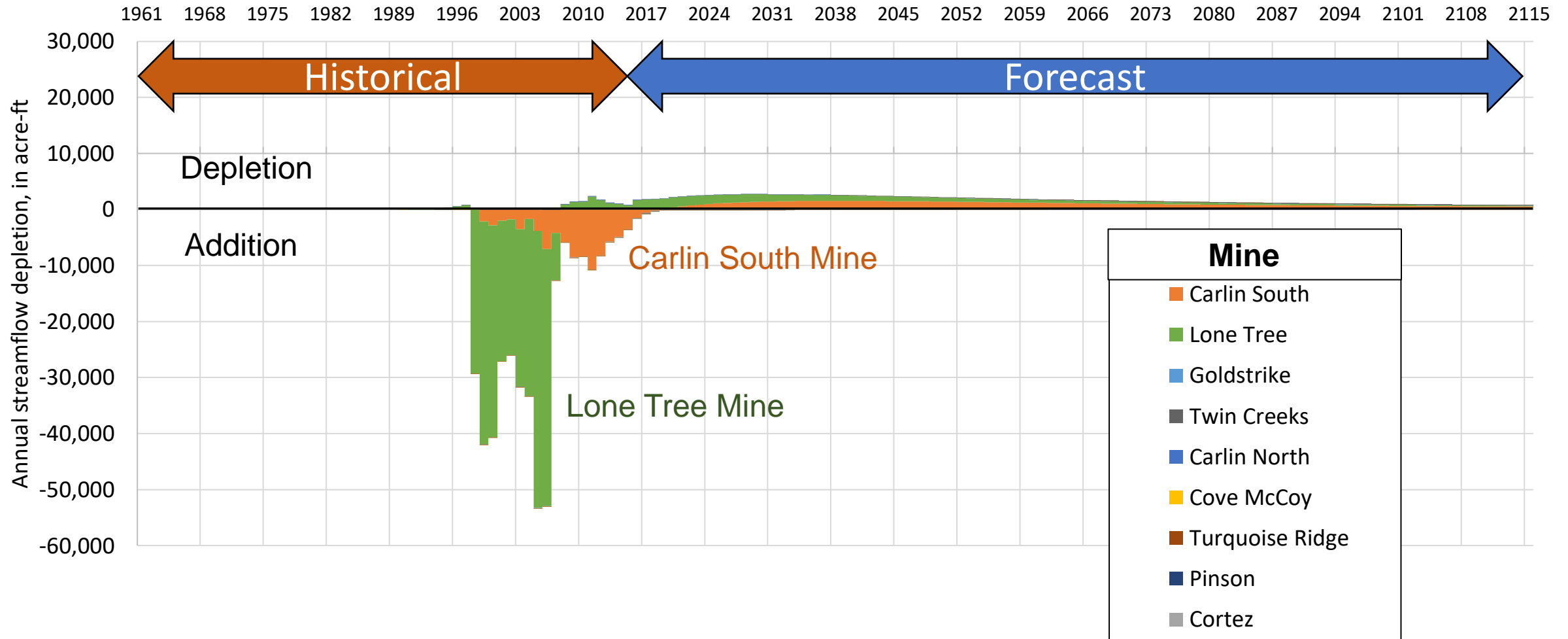
# Imlay Depletion by HA – Without Mine Pumping



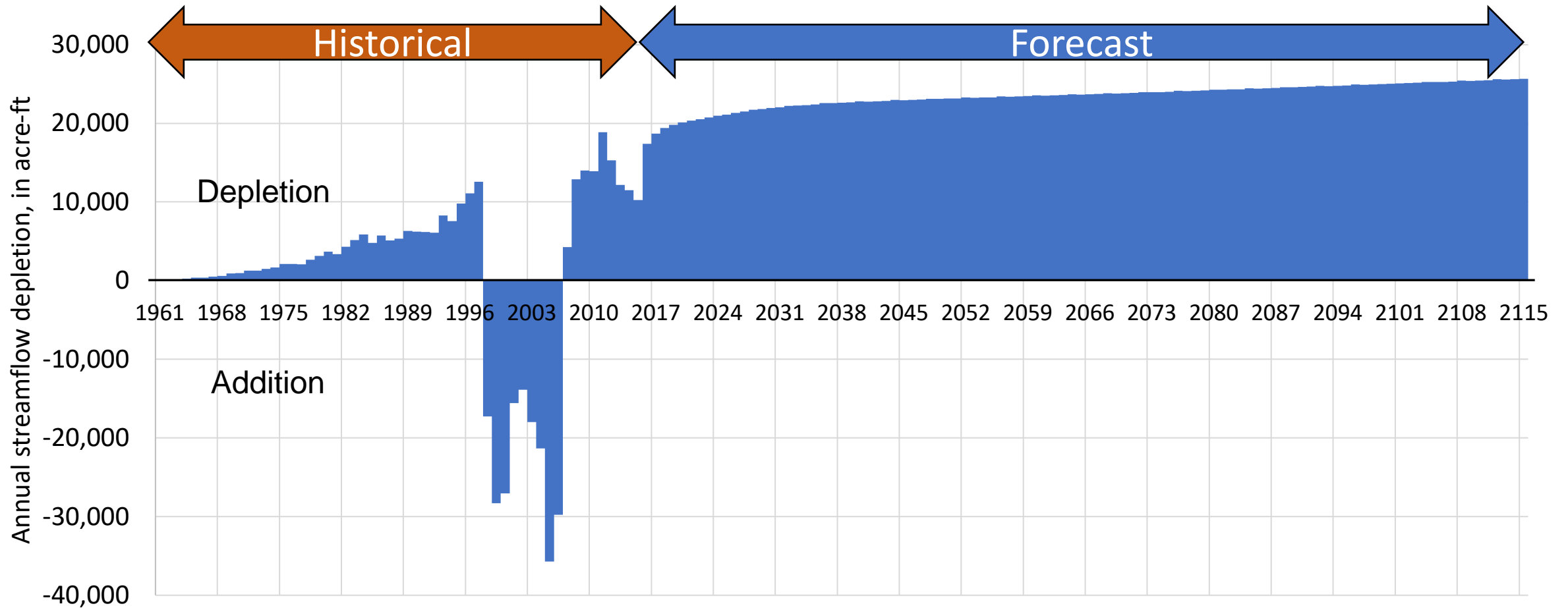
# Imlay Depletion from Mine Dewatering (net)



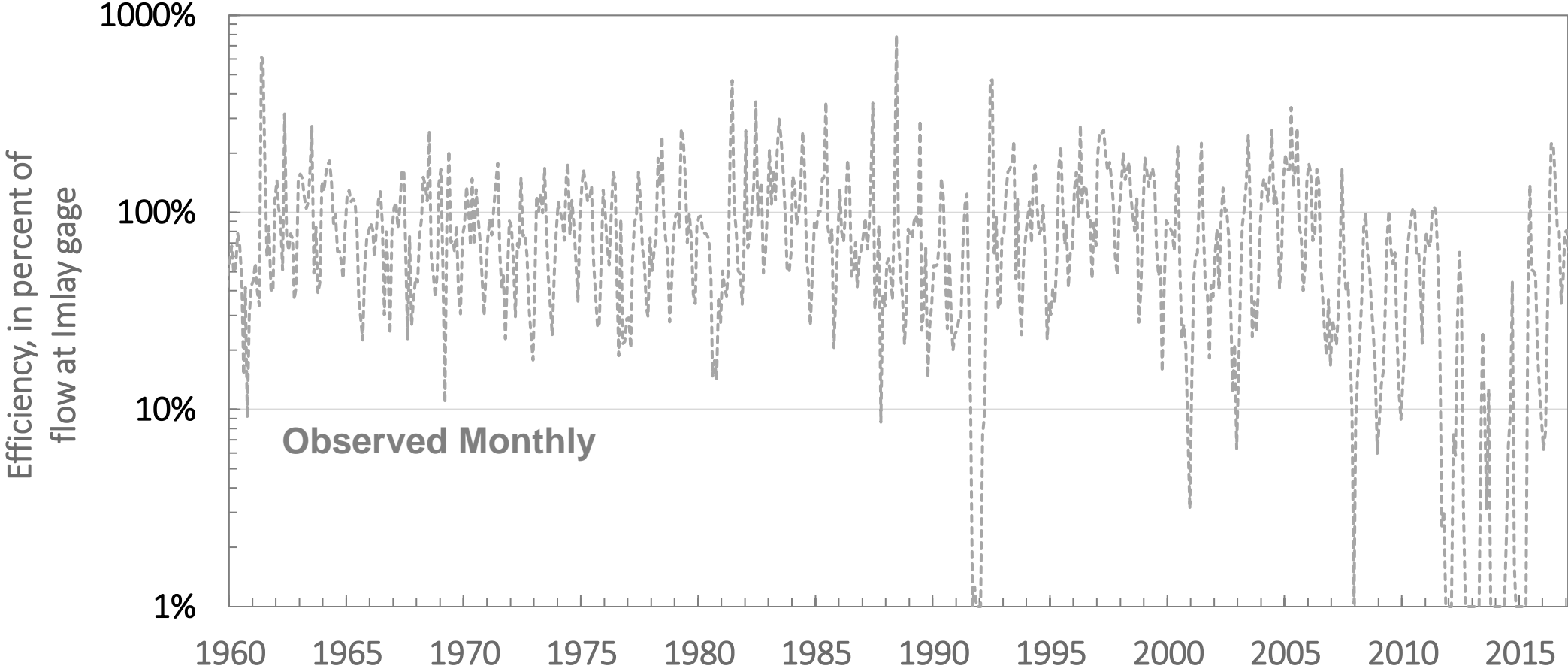
# Imlay Depletion by Individual Mines



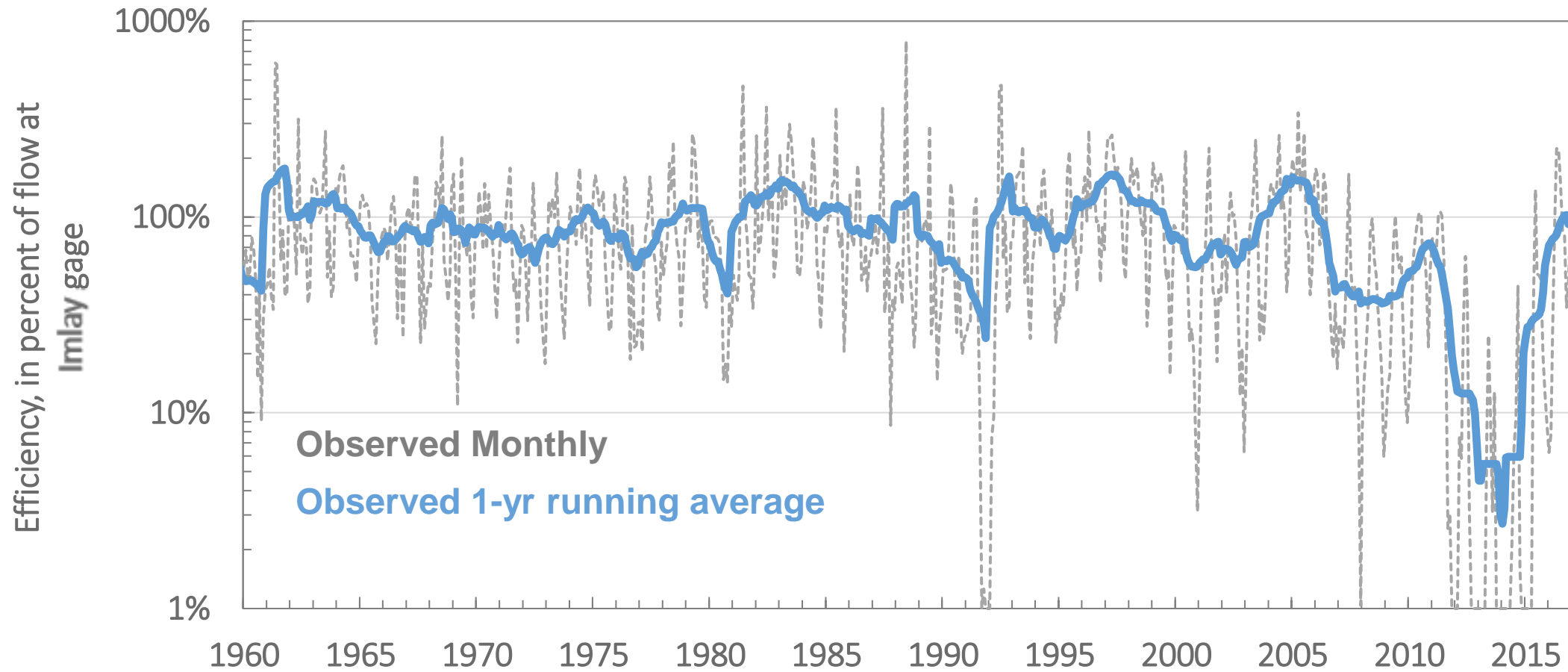
# Total Imlay Depletion – All pumping and mine discharge



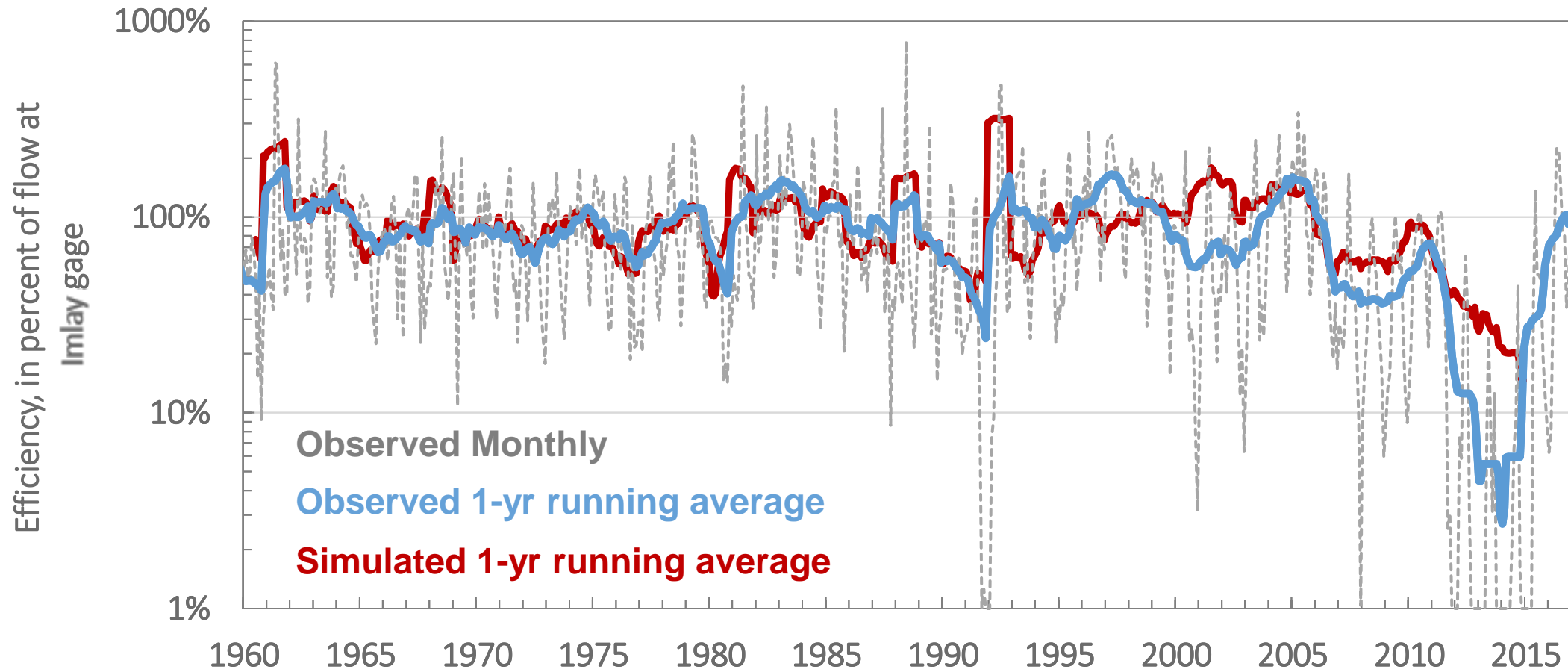
Stream efficiency is defined as percentage of flow at Imlay gage that passed Palisade gage – Observed monthly



# Stream efficiency – Observed monthly with 1-yr running average

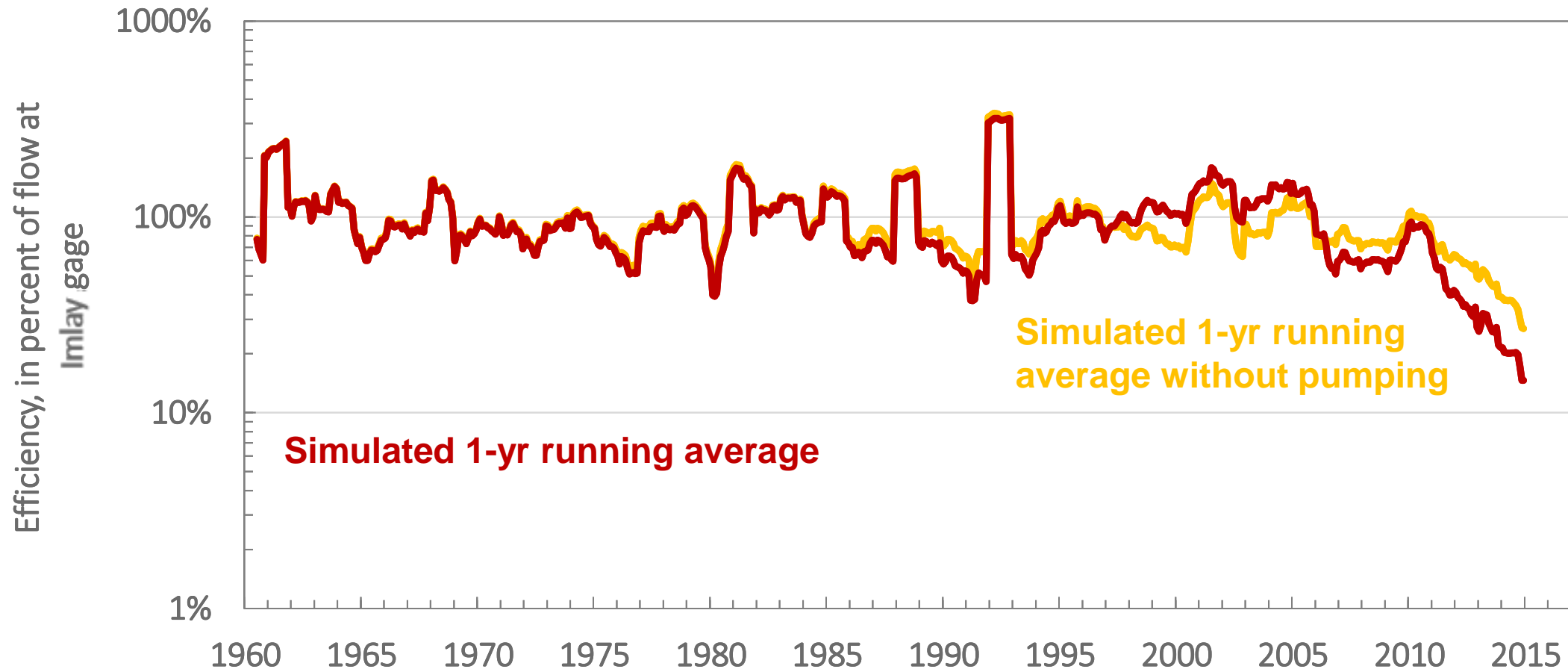


# Stream efficiency – Comparing simulated running average with observed running average

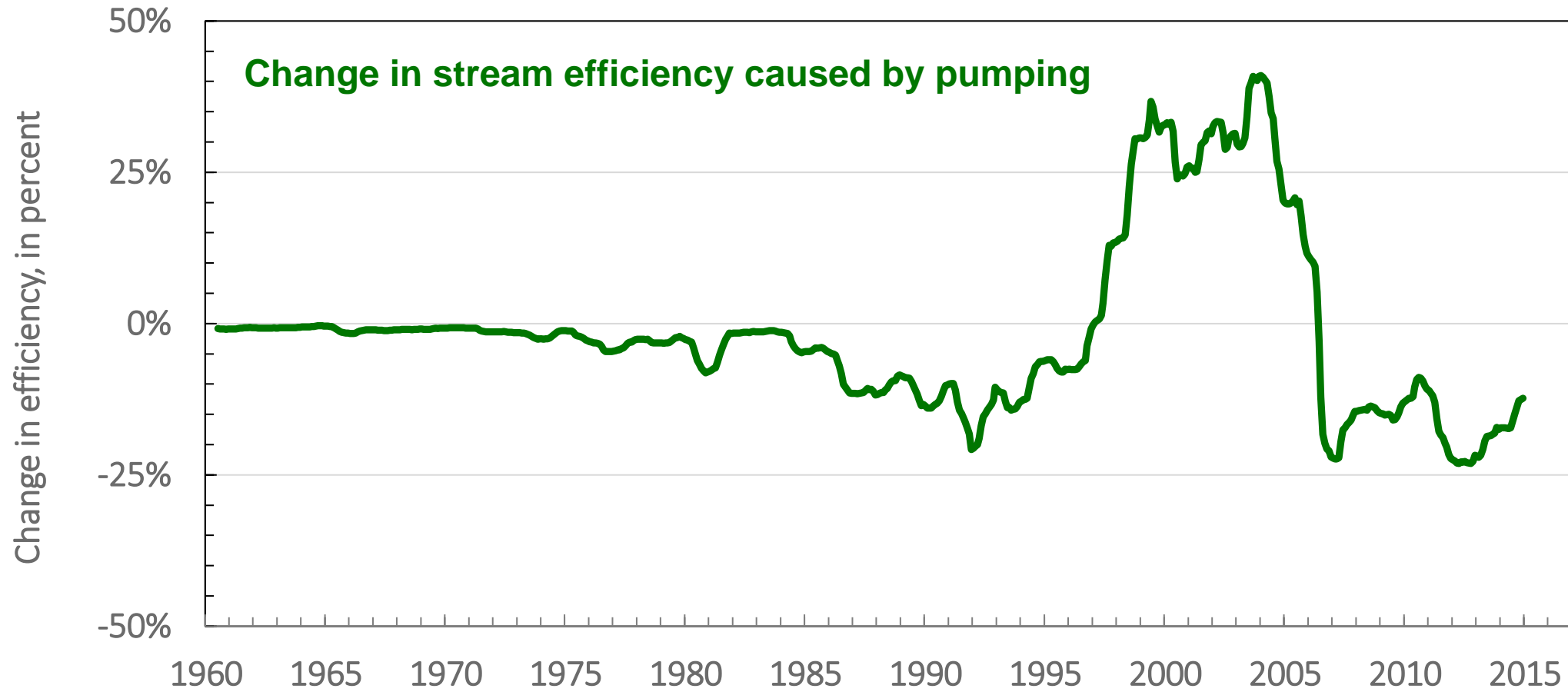




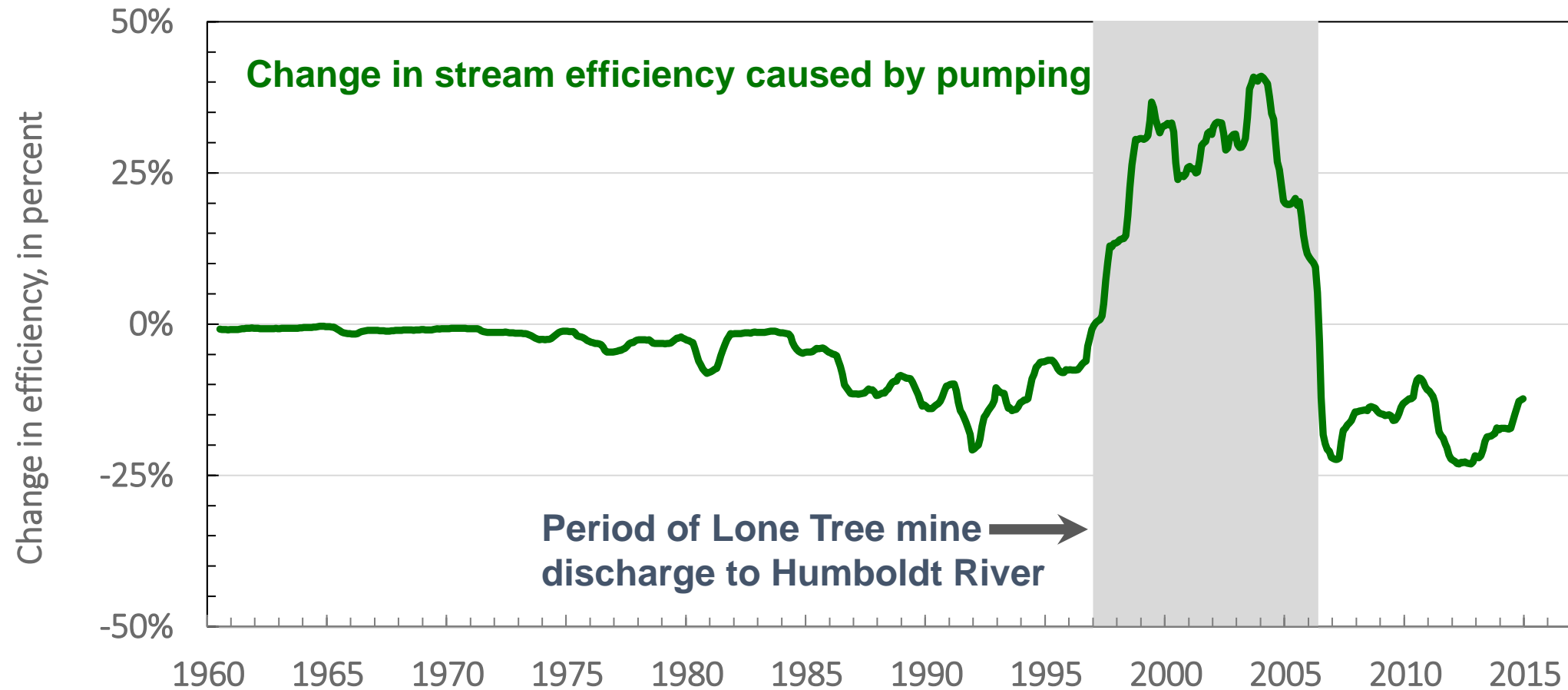
# Stream efficiency – Simulated effect of pumping



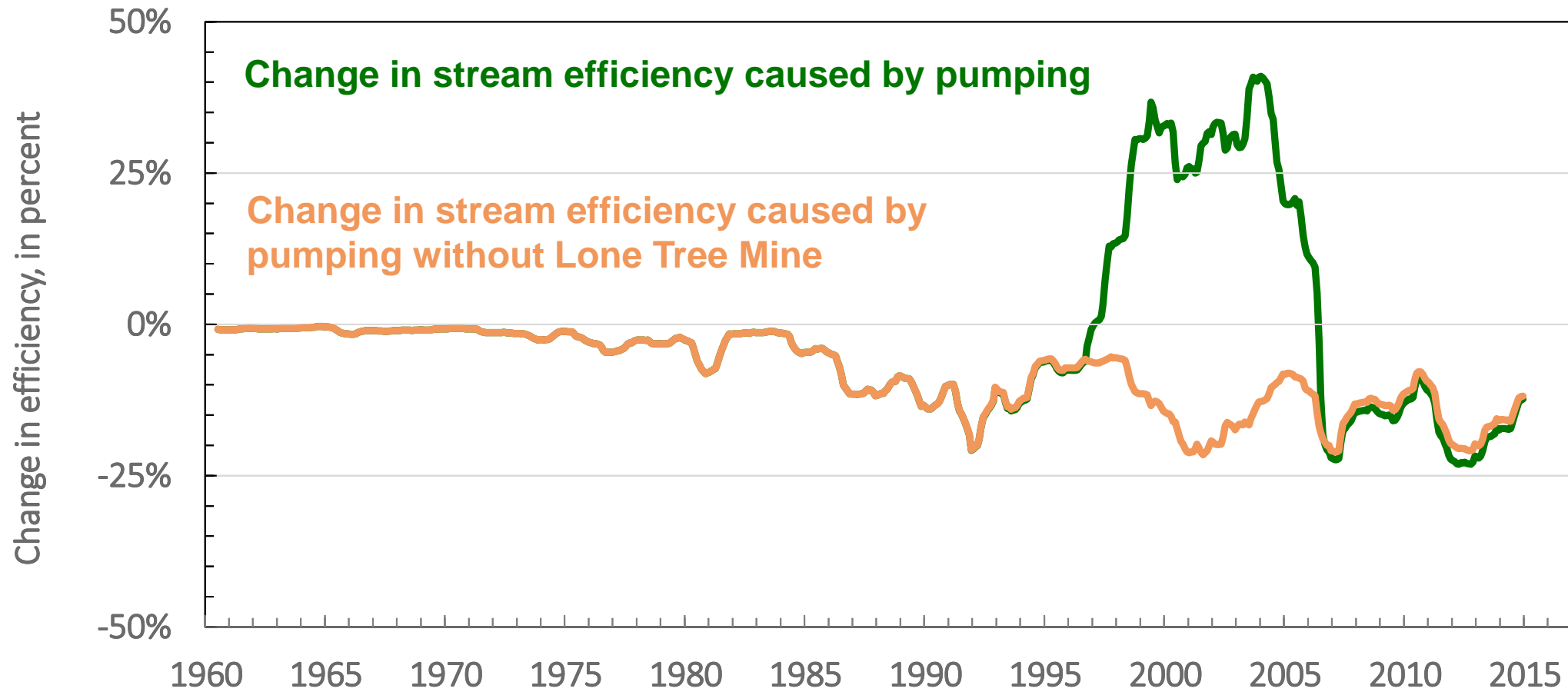
# Change in stream efficiency caused by pumping



# Large increase in stream efficiency in late 1990's and early 2000's was from discharge of Lone Tree Mine into Humboldt River



# Change in stream efficiency with and without the influence of Lone Tree Mine



# Humboldt Capture Query Tool – Query page

## Humboldt Capture Query Tool

Legend

- Study Area
- Hydrographic Area
- Humboldt River Basin
- No Data

**Step 1: Select Location**

Select a location by either clicking within the study area on the map, or by entering the coordinates below:

Latitude (decimal degrees):  
  
example: 40.635409

Longitude (decimal degrees):  
 [Locate](#)  
example: -116.944957

**Step 2: Select Depth**

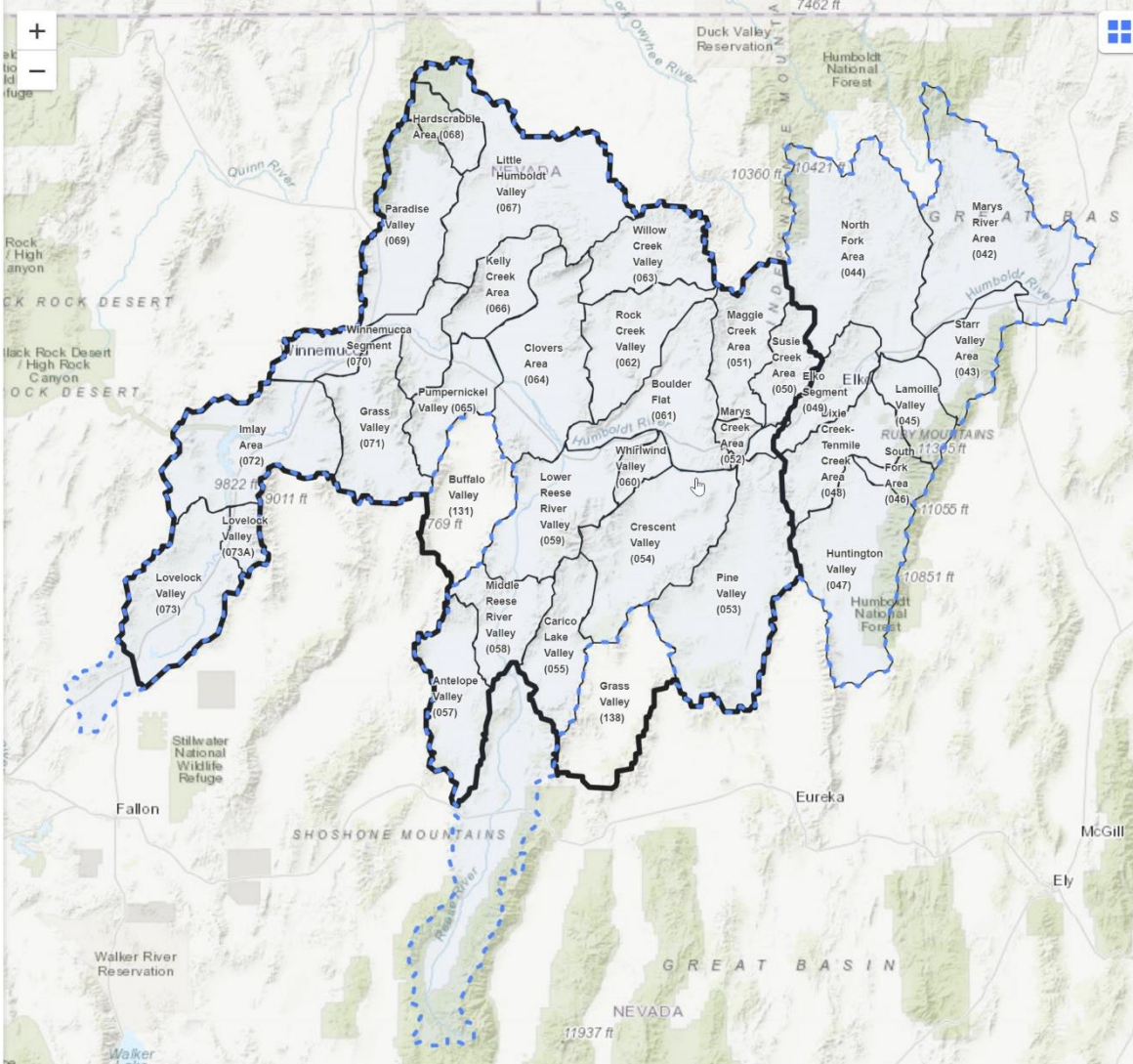
The maximum depth in feet for this location is:

Depth below surface:  
  
example: 500

**Step 3: Select Years**

Number of years pumping (1-100):  
  
1 year

[Results](#)



The map displays the Humboldt River Basin in Nevada, outlined in blue. The basin is divided into numerous hydrographic areas, each labeled with a name and a number in parentheses. These areas include: Hardscrabble Area (068), Little Humboldt Valley (067), Willow Creek Valley (063), North Fork Area (044), Starr Valley Area (043), Marys River Area (042), Elk Creek Area (050), Elk Segment (049), Lamolle Valley (045), Creeks-Tenmile Fork Area (046), Huntington Valley (047), Pine Valley (053), Crescent Valley (054), Lower Reese River Valley (059), Middle Reese River Valley (058), Carico Lake Valley (055), Grass Valley (138), Antelope Valley (057), Buffalo Valley (131), Pumpernickel Valley (065), Winemucca Segment (070), Grass Valley (071), Imlay Area (072), Lovelock Valley (073A), and Lovelock Valley (073). The map also shows the Humboldt River, Quinn River, and Walker River. Major geographical features like the Shoshone Mountains, Great Basin, and Humboldt National Forest are labeled. Elevation markers such as 7462 ft, 10360 ft, 10421 ft, 9822 ft, 9011 ft, 11055 ft, 10851 ft, and 11937 ft are visible. The map includes a legend, a scale bar, and a location pin icon.

# Humboldt Capture Query Tool – Results page

### Humboldt Capture Query Tool

**Legend**

- Study Area
- Hydrographic Area
- Humboldt River Basin
- No Data

**Step 1: Select Location**

Select a location by either clicking within the study area on the map, or by entering the coordinates below:

Latitude (decimal degrees):  
  
example: 40.635409

Longitude (decimal degrees):  
 [Locate](#)  
example: -116.944957

**Step 2: Select Depth**

The maximum depth in feet for this location is: **3997**

Depth below surface:  
  
example: 500

**Step 3: Select Years**

Number of years pumping (1-100):  
  
 33 years

[Results](#)

### Humboldt Capture Query Tool Results

After **33 years** of pumping at location **40.838561, -117.170752**, at a depth of **25 feet** below land surface, groundwater is derived from the following sources:

**33 Years**

- Streamflow Depletion
- Salvaged ET
- Storage Change
- Drain Capture

2000 ft

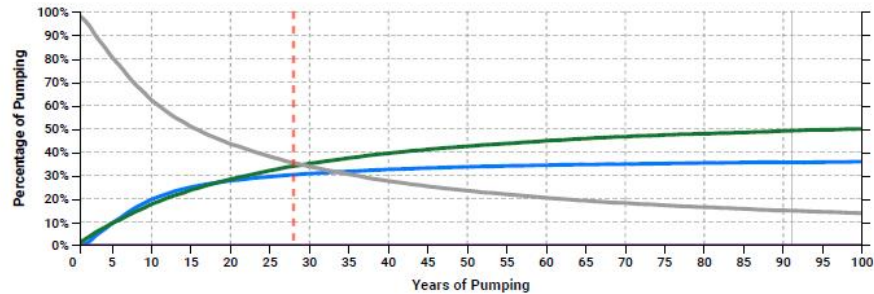
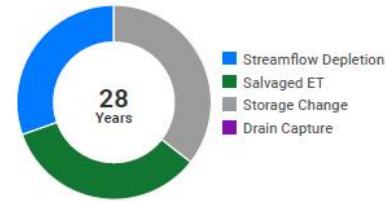
Years of Pumping	Streamflow Depletion	Salvaged ET	Storage Change	Drain Capture
1	0.0%	0.8%	99.2%	0.0%
5	0.3%	8.3%	91.3%	0.0%
10	1.4%	19.2%	79.5%	0.0%
20	3.9%	36.2%	59.9%	0.0%
25	4.8%	42.1%	53.1%	0.0%
33	6.0%	49.9%	44.1%	0.0%
50	7.6%	61.4%	31.0%	0.0%
75	9.0%	70.6%	20.4%	0.0%
100	10.0%	75.2%	14.9%	0.0%

[Summary](#) [All Years](#)

# Humboldt Capture Query Tool – Exported results

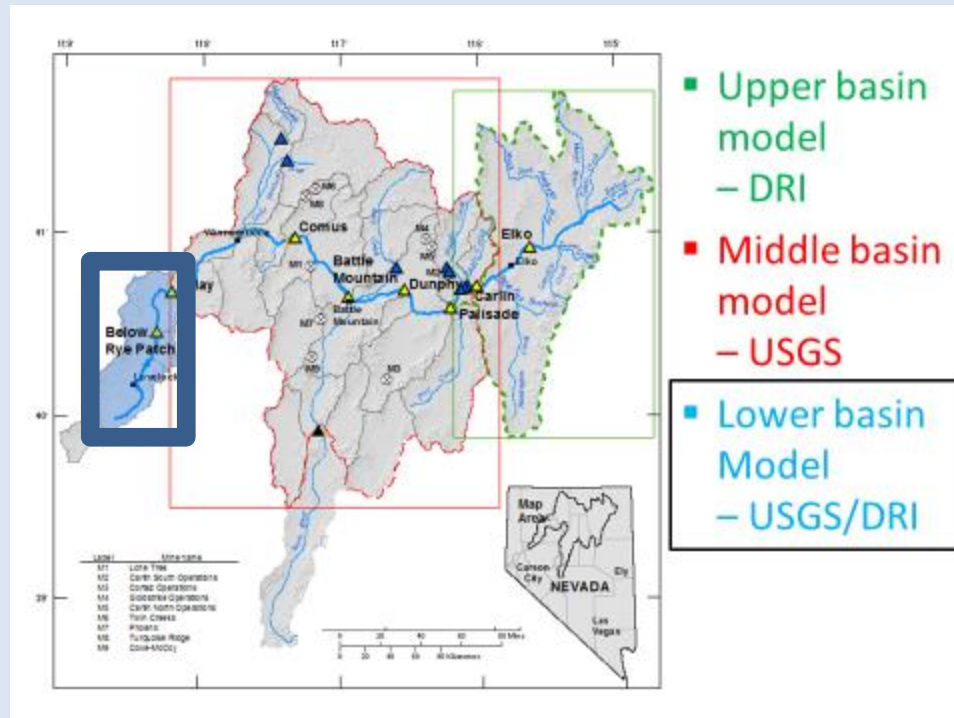
## Humboldt Capture Query Tool Results

After 28 years of pumping at location 40.718702, -117.004395, at a depth of 10 feet below land surface, groundwater is derived from the following sources:



Years of Pumping	Streamflow Depletion	Salvaged ET	Storage Change	Drain Capture
1	0.1%	1.4%	98.5%	0.0%
5	9.6%	9.6%	80.8%	0.0%
10	19.8%	17.8%	62.4%	0.0%
20	27.9%	28.5%	43.6%	0.0%
25	29.6%	32.2%	38.2%	0.0%
28	30.4%	34.1%	35.5%	0.0%
50	33.8%	42.6%	23.6%	0.0%
75	35.2%	47.5%	17.3%	0.0%
100	36.0%	50.1%	13.9%	0.0%

# Lower Humboldt River Basin Model



DRI/USGS

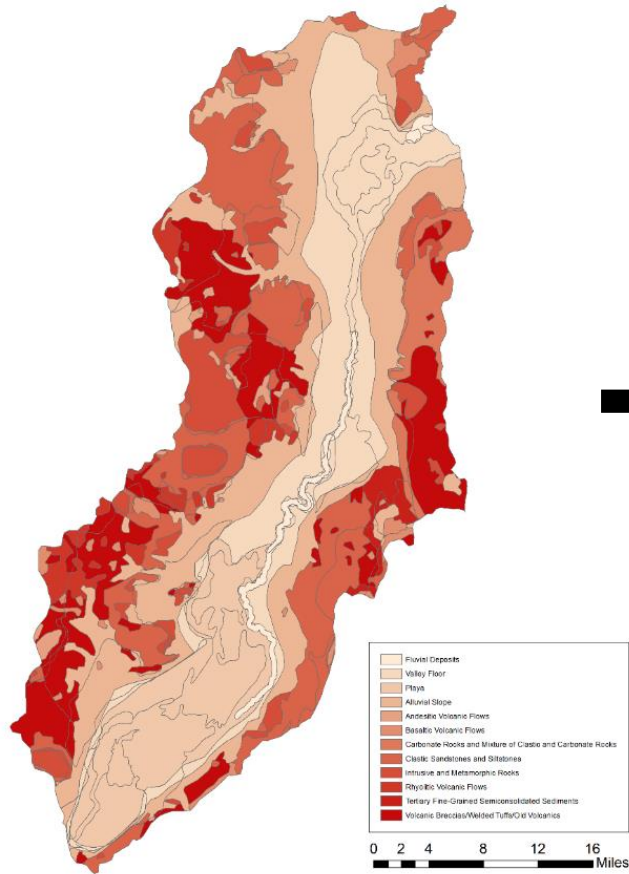


# Lower Humboldt River Basin Model Update

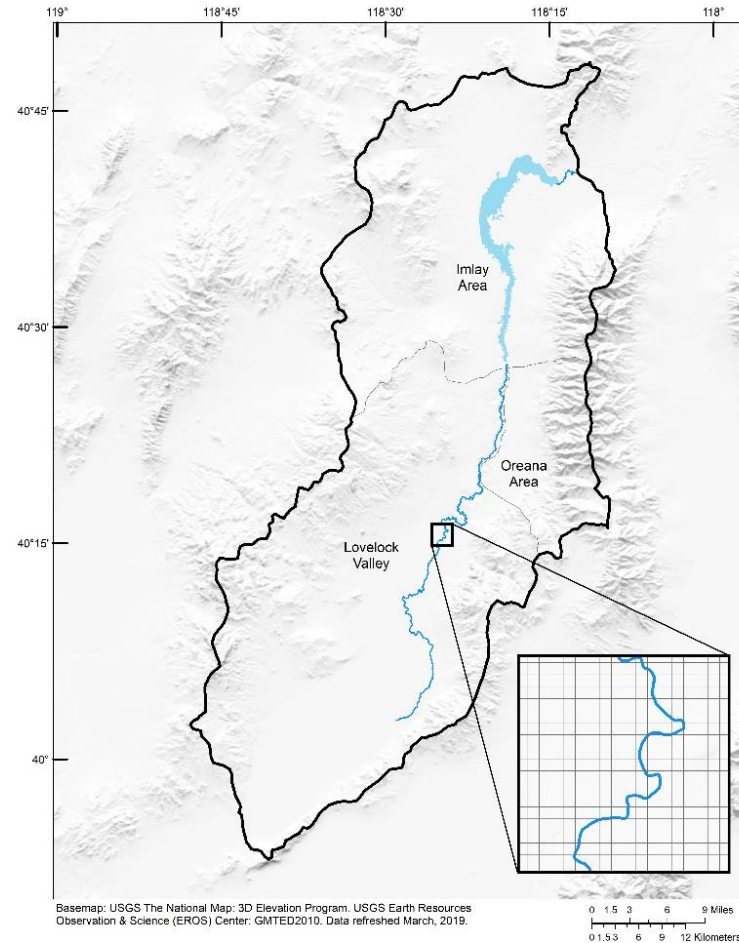
Susie Rybarski/Cara Nadler  
February 4, 2021  
DRI/USGS

**\* Model results are provisional and subject to change\***

# Model Domain



Modified from Maurer and others (2004)



EXPLANATION  
 Humboldt River  
 Rye Patch Reservoir

- 500 ft grid cell resolution
- Includes mountain block/bedrock
- 3 layers, generally representing clay (layer 1), alluvium/valley fill (layer 2), bedrock (layer 3)
- Thickness of clay layer set to 50 feet
- Depth to basement based on Ponce and Damar (2017) and used to define elevation of top of layer 3, with a minimum depth of 20 feet bls.

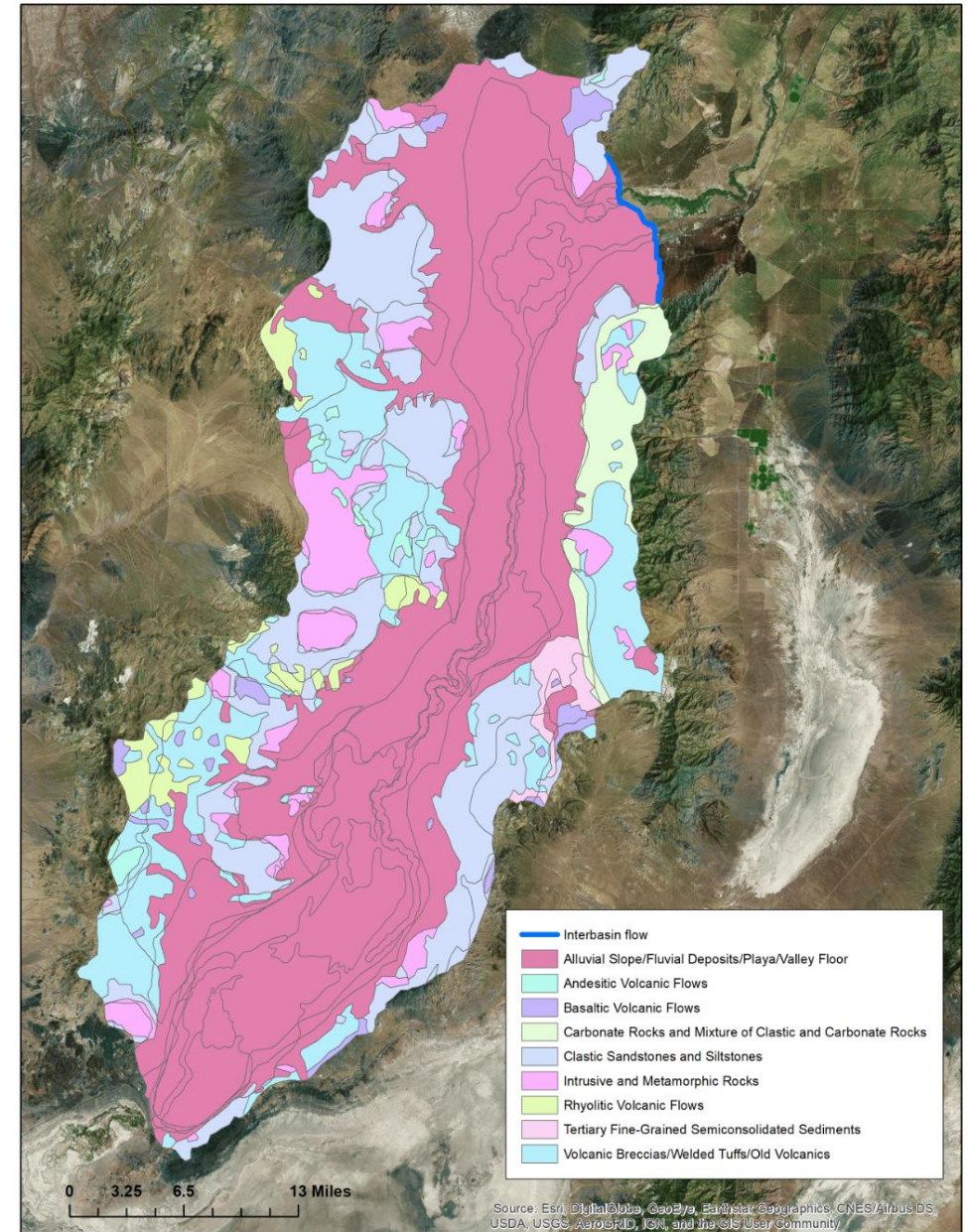
# Lakes and River

- Humboldt River simulated using River package (RIV)
- Rye Patch Reservoir simulated as a constant head boundary (CHD), using mean stage for steady state (SS) model.
- Pitt-Taylor Reservoirs, Toulon Lake, and Humboldt Lake not simulated as they are frequently dry and heads are unknown.
- Mean annual stages applied to transient model.
- River conductance calibrated to estimated steady-state river loss of 9,900 acre-feet/year (AFA)
- 6,000-14,000 AF mean annual reservoir loss to bank storage; loss to aquifer unknown (Eakin, 1962; Fereday and Nash, 2017). Simulated loss of 100 AFA determined by model given calibration to ET in Imlay area and local heads.



# Interbasin Flow

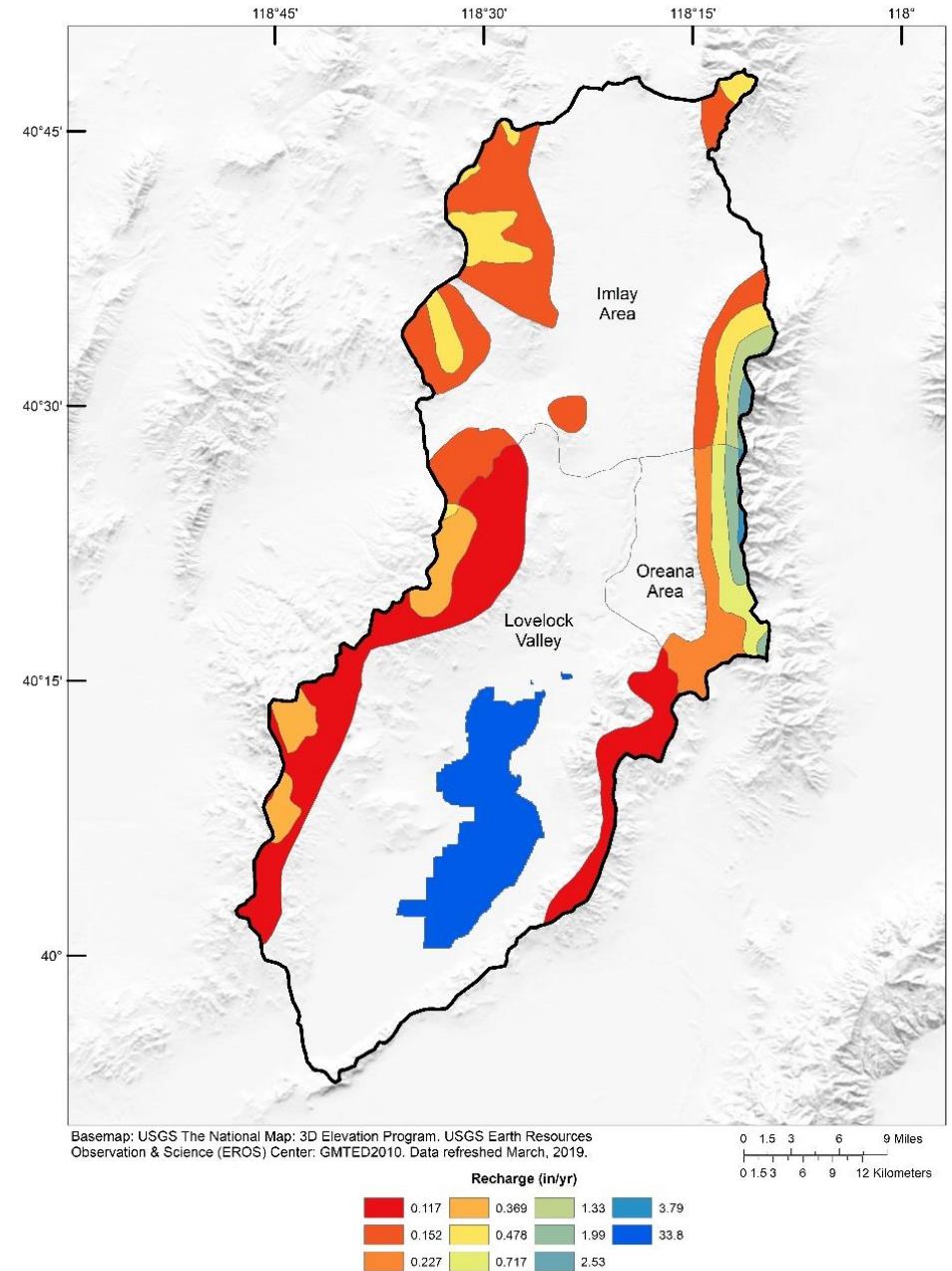
- Specified flux boundary applied along shared boundary with Middle Humboldt model
- Limited to extent of alluvial slope/fluvial deposits/playa/valley floor
- SS flux of 771 AFA based on current outflow from Middle Humboldt model



# Steady State Recharge

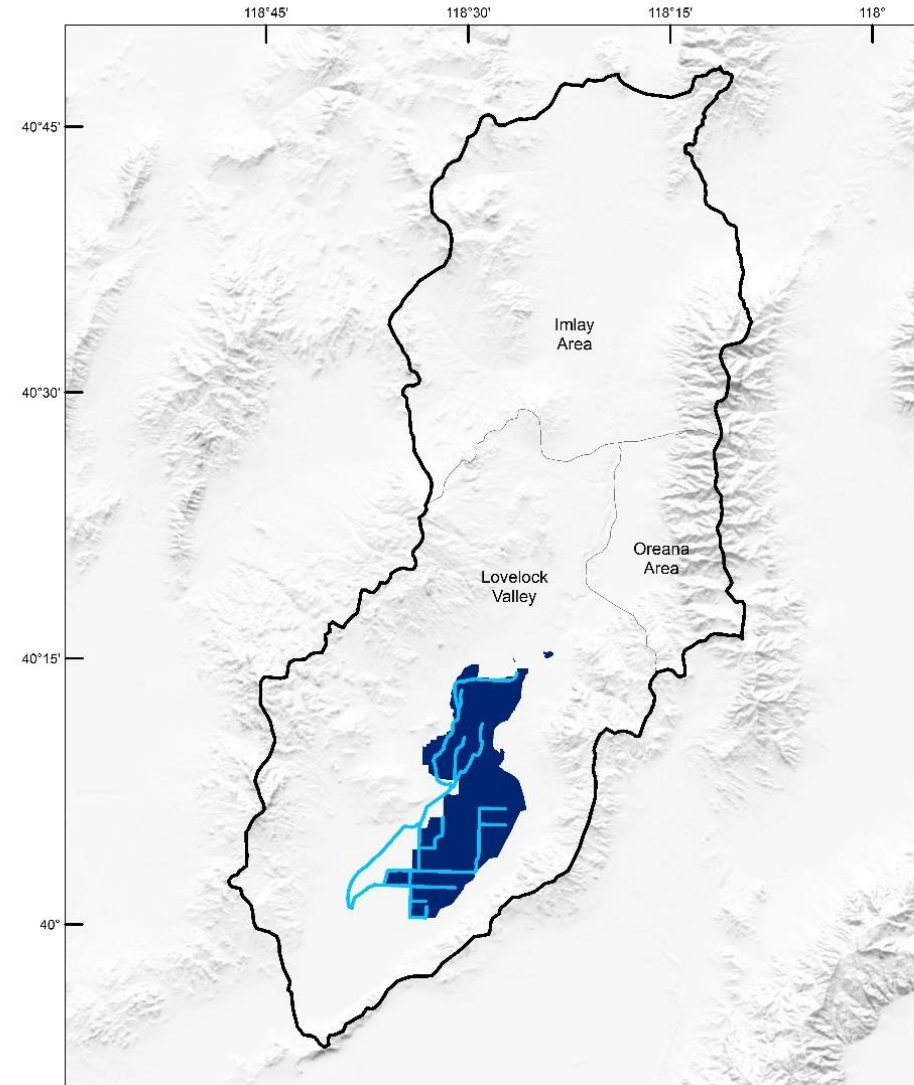
Reference	Mountain Block Recharge (afy)				Methodology
	Lovelock	Oreana	Imlay	Model Domain	
Everett and Rush, 1965	1,200	2,000	--	--	Maxey-Eakin, 1949
Eakin, 1962	--	--	4,000	--	Maxey-Eakin, 1949

- Mountain block recharge estimates from Recon Reports distributed proportionally over Hardman map intervals
- Ag recharge rate applied as median of 1960-1990 regression (127,800 AFA)
- Simulated mountain block recharge = 5,700 AFA



# Drains

- Represents ag runoff/recharge lost to sink; simulated using Drain (DRN) package
- Drain bottoms set to 9 ft bls
- Drain outflow estimated to be ~18,000 AFA



Basemap: USGS The National Map: 3D Elevation Program. USGS Earth Resources Observation & Science (EROS) Center. GMTED2010. Data refreshed March, 2019.

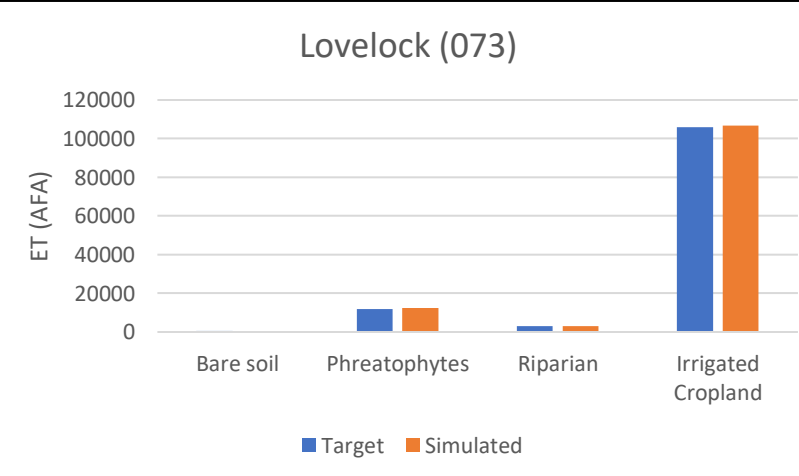
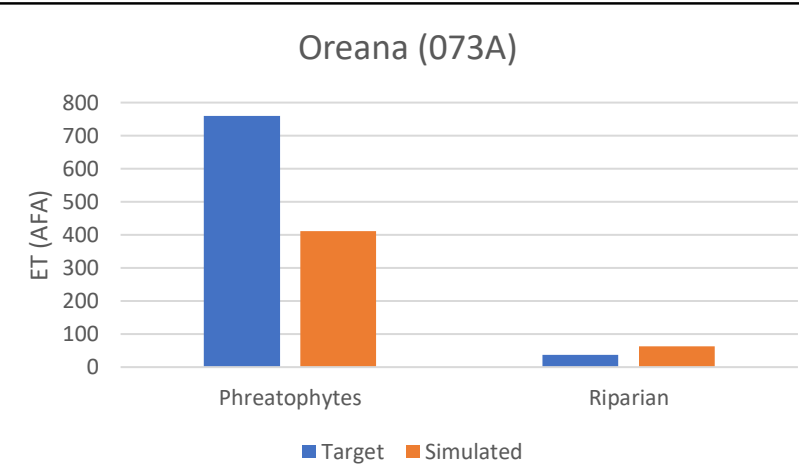
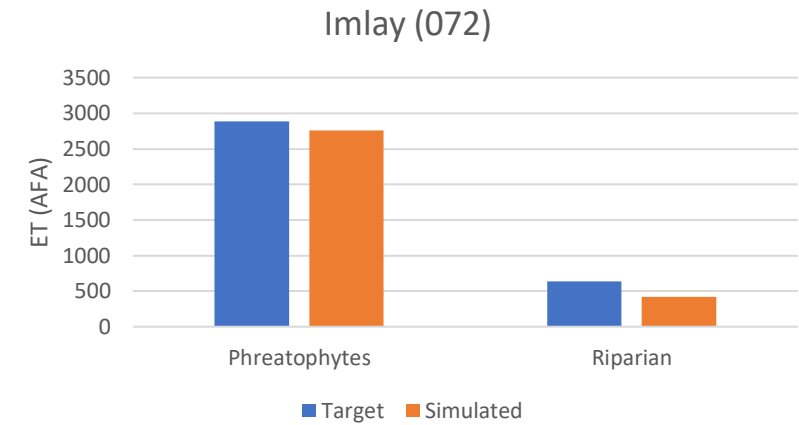
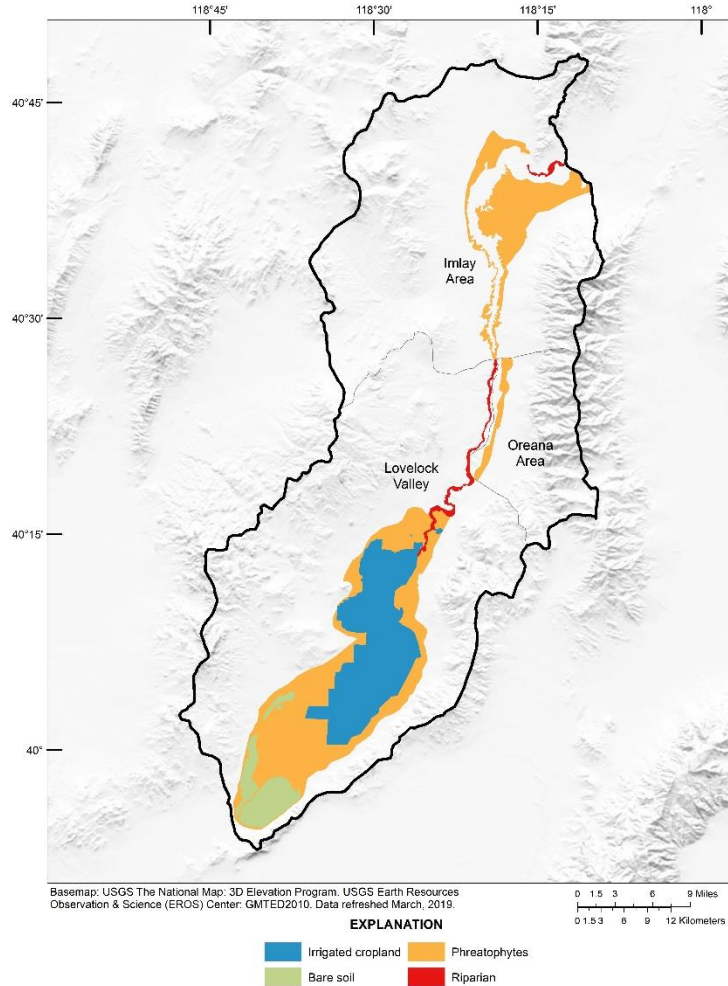
0 1.5 3 6 9 Miles  
0 1.5 3 6 9 12 Kilometers

#### EXPLANATION

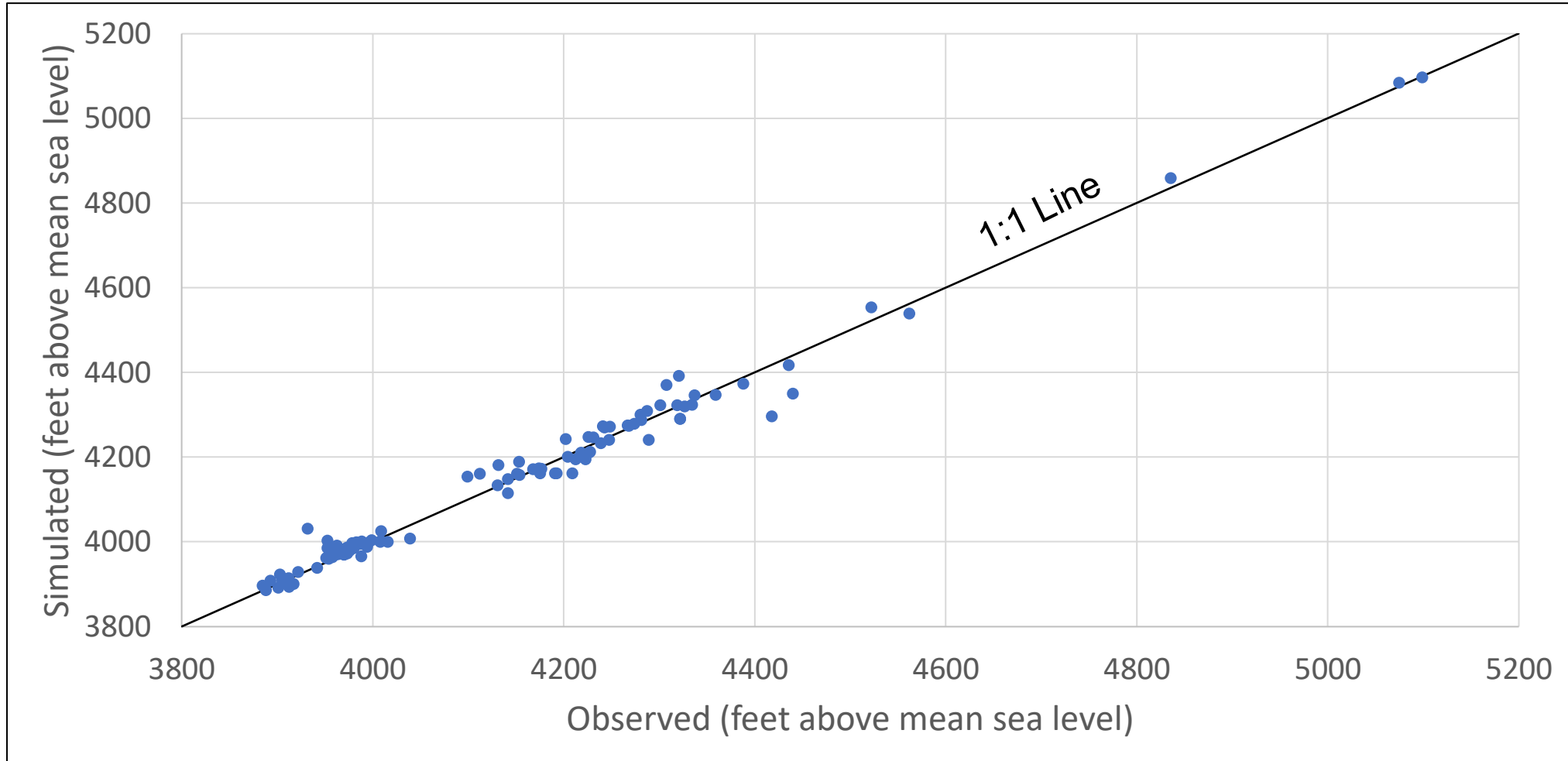
— Drains ■ Irrigated cropland

# Evapotranspiration

- ET zones applied over DRI polygons, estimated at 126,000 AFA.



# SS Model Calibration



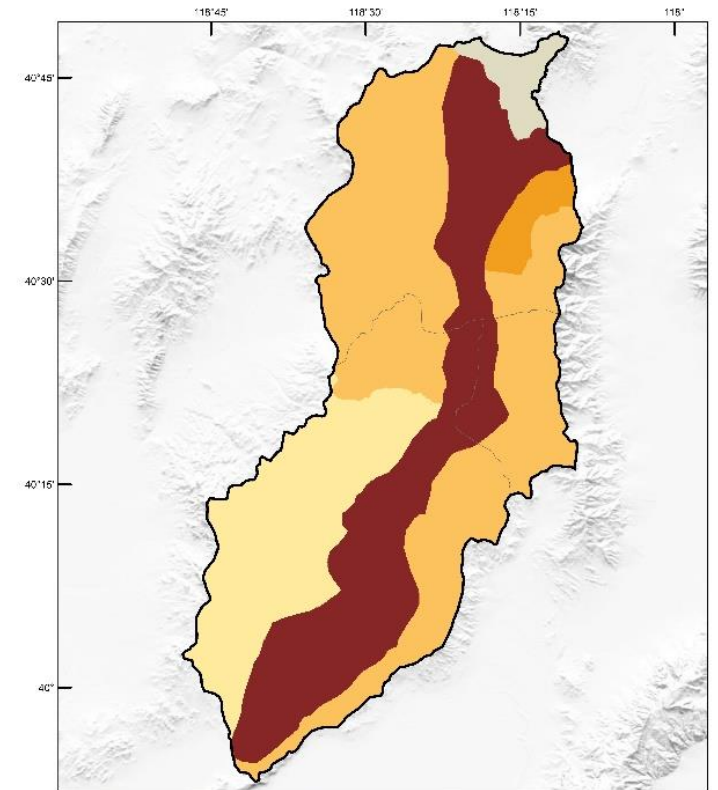
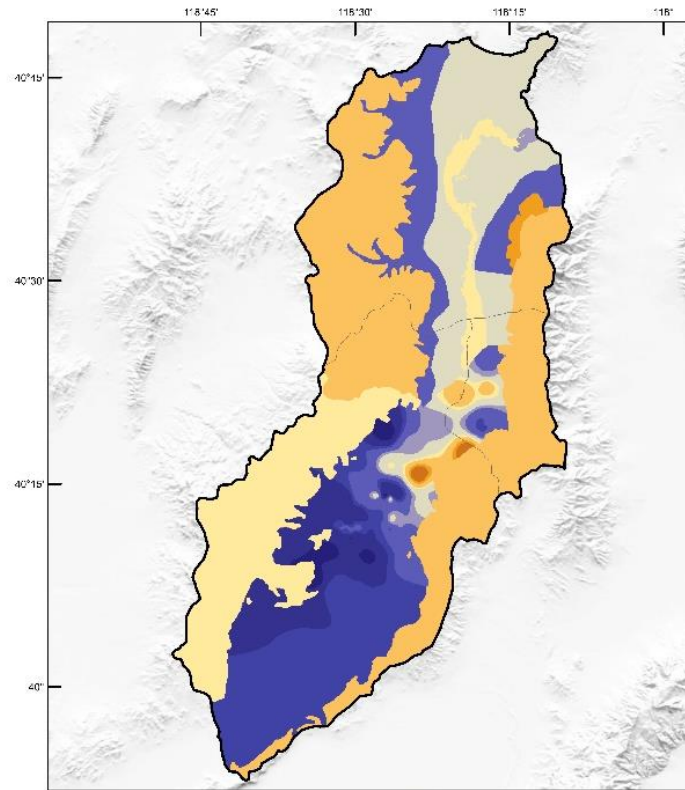
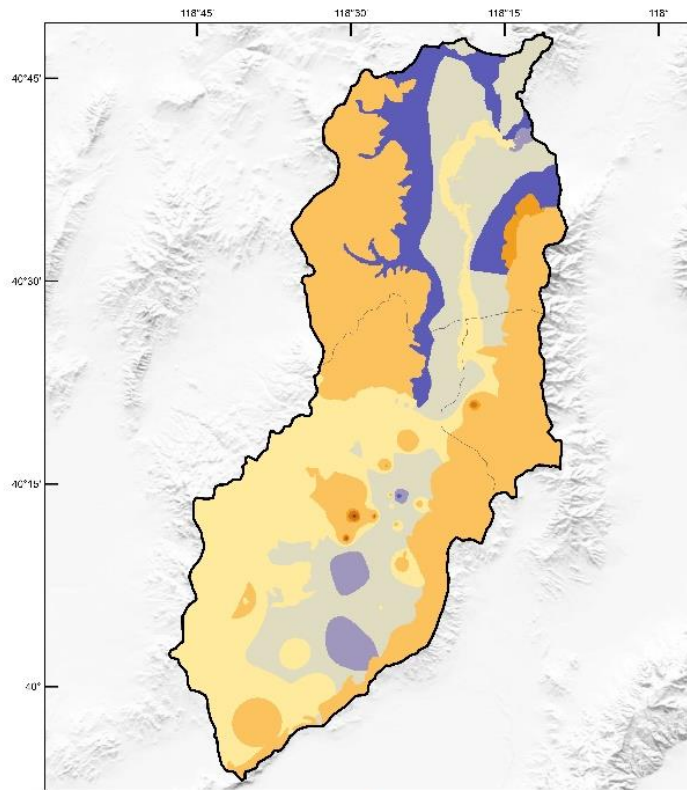


# Hydraulic Conductivity

Layer 1

Layer 2

Layer 3



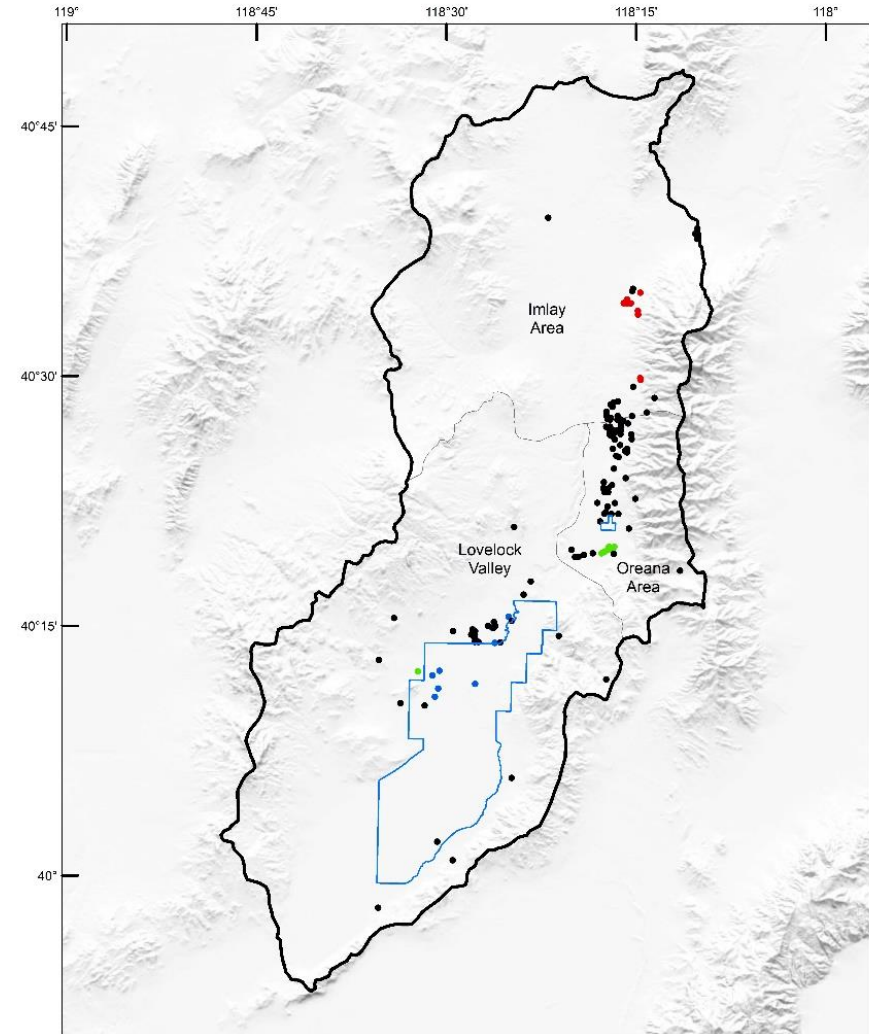
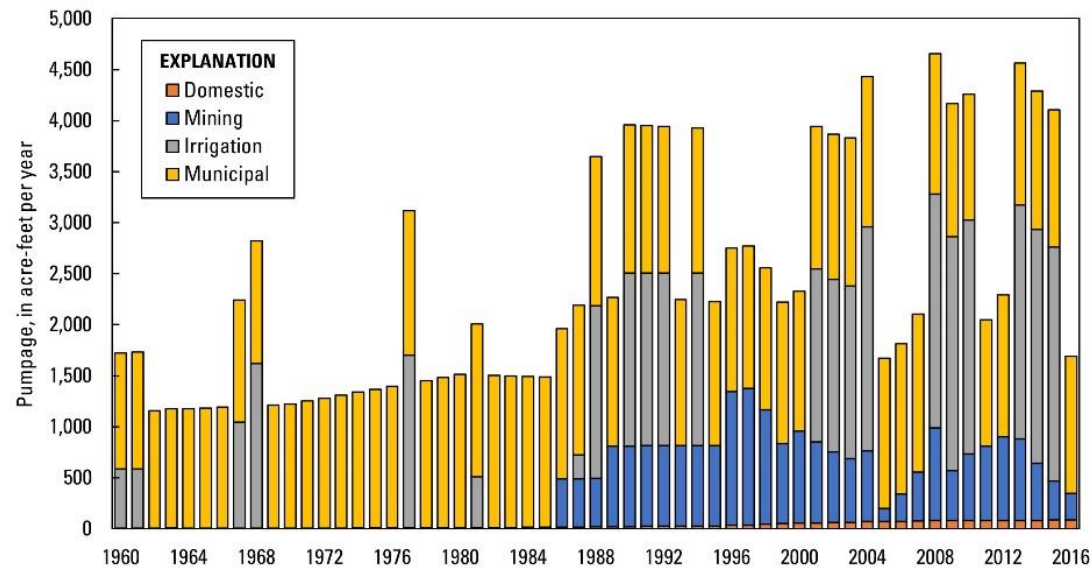
# Steady State Flow Budget

<b>Inflows</b>	<b>Target (AFA)</b>	<b>Simulated (AFA)</b>
Recharge (Mountain block + Total Ag)	133,500	133,500
Reservoir Loss	<14,000	100
River Loss	9,900	9,900
Interbasin Flow	800	800
Total	144,200 + reservoir loss	144,300

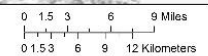
<b>Outflows</b>	<b>Target (AFA)</b>	<b>Simulated (AFA)</b>
Evapotranspiration	126,000	125,900
Drains	18,200 + reservoir loss	18,400
Total	144,200 + reservoir loss	144,300

# Transient Pumping

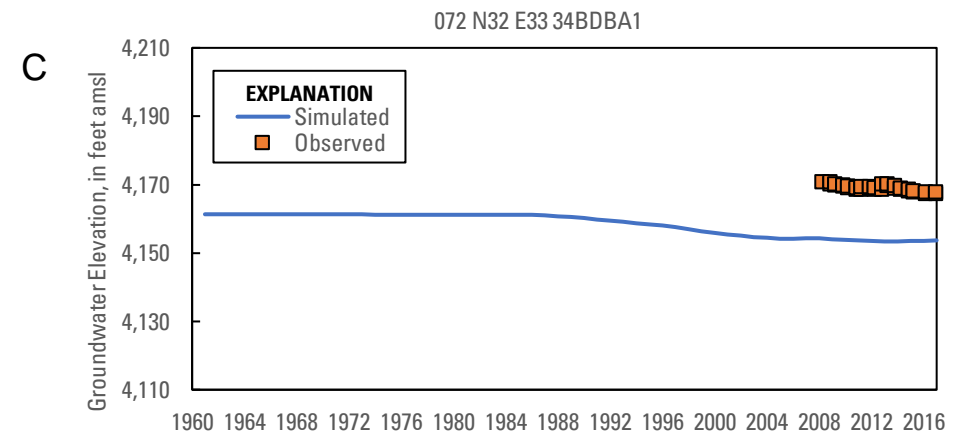
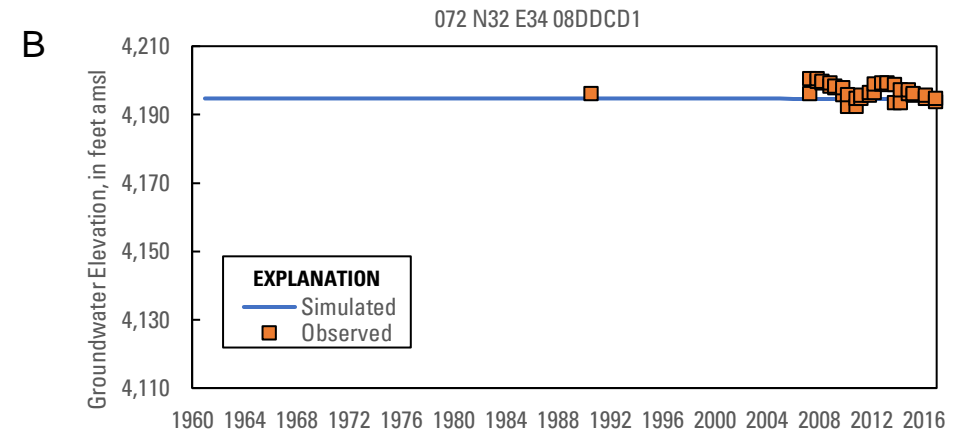
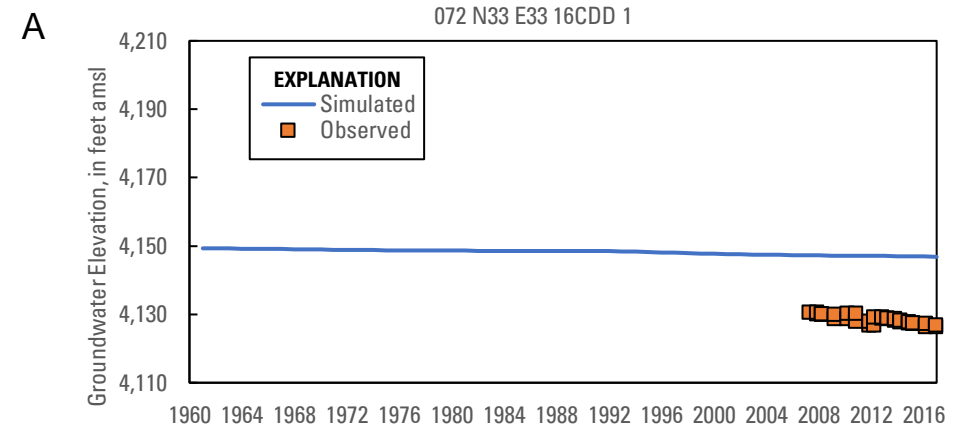
- Domestic wells pumping outside of Lovelock Meadows service area at 0.7 AFA.
- Public supply wells pumped at rates extrapolated backwards to 1960 based on population.
- Mining wells pumpage extrapolated earliest known rates backwards to 1986.
- Irrigation wells pumpage inversely proportional to the ratio of estimated ag recharge relative to the mean ag recharge 1960-1990.



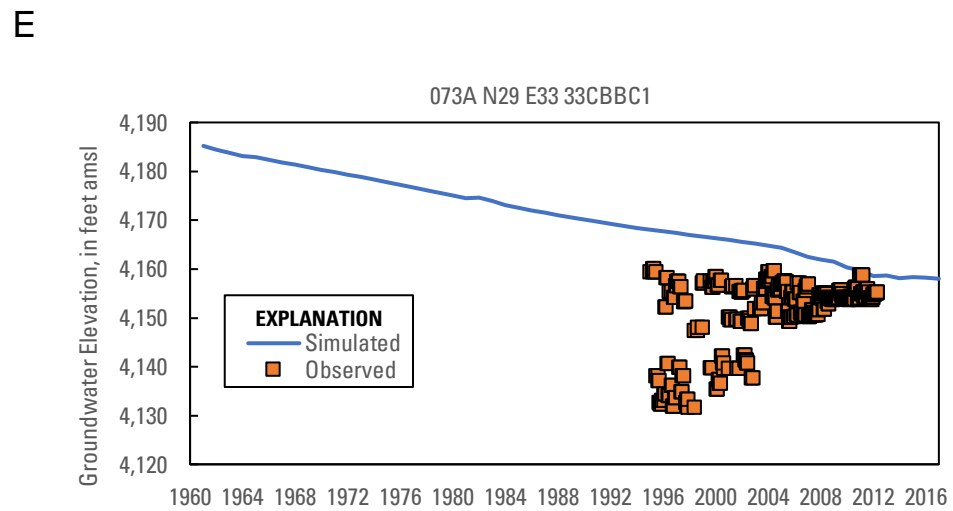
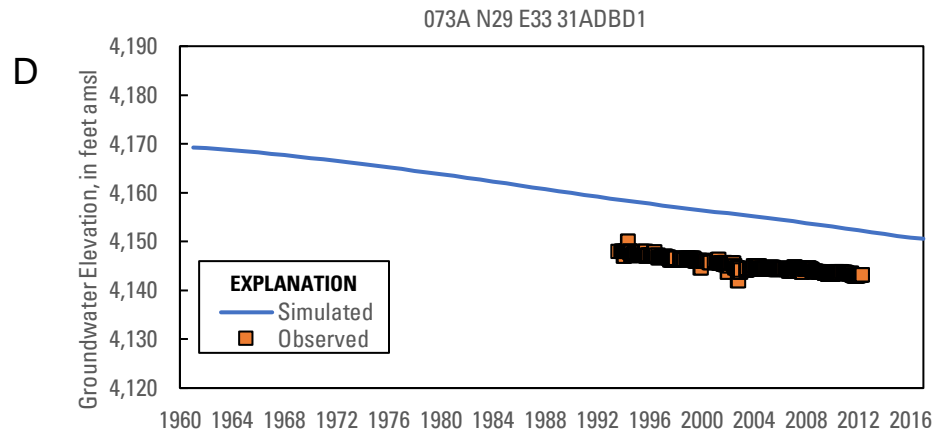
Basemap: USGS The National Map: 3D Elevation Program. USGS Earth Resources Observation & Science (EROS) Center. GMTED2010. Data refreshed January, 2020.



# Transient Results

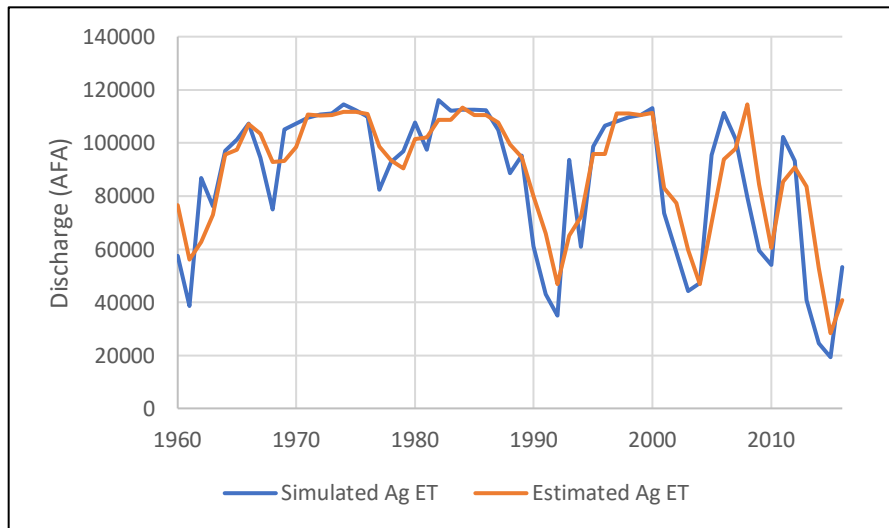
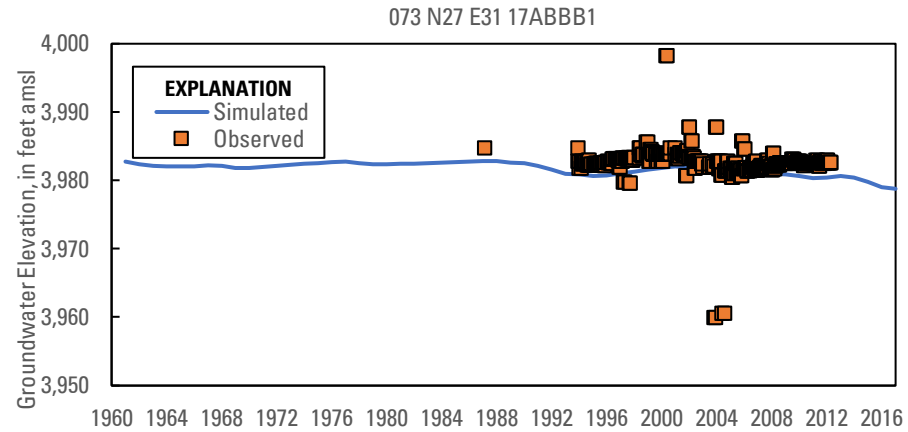


# Transient Results

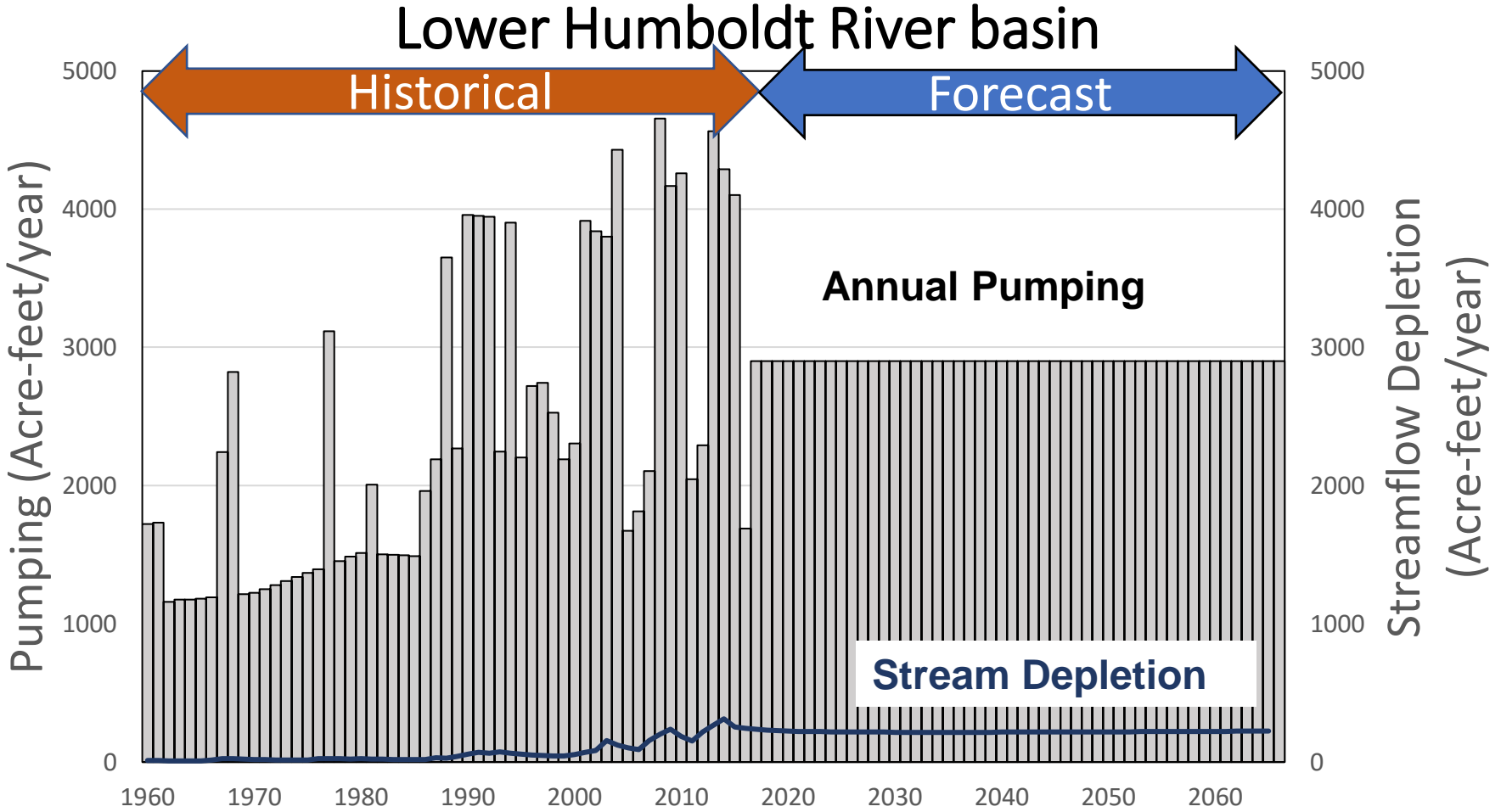


# Transient Results

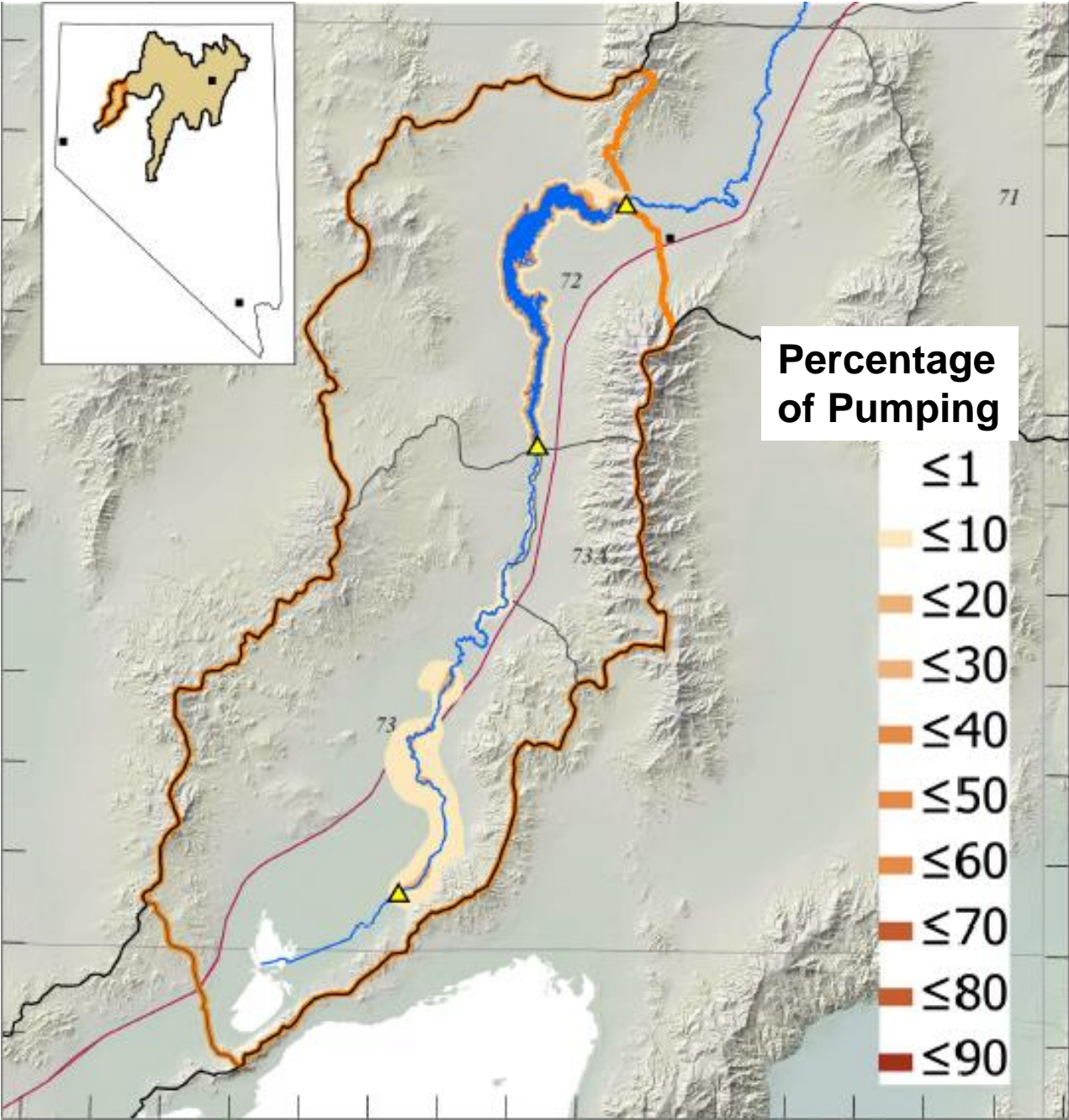
F



# Estimated Humboldt River Depletion

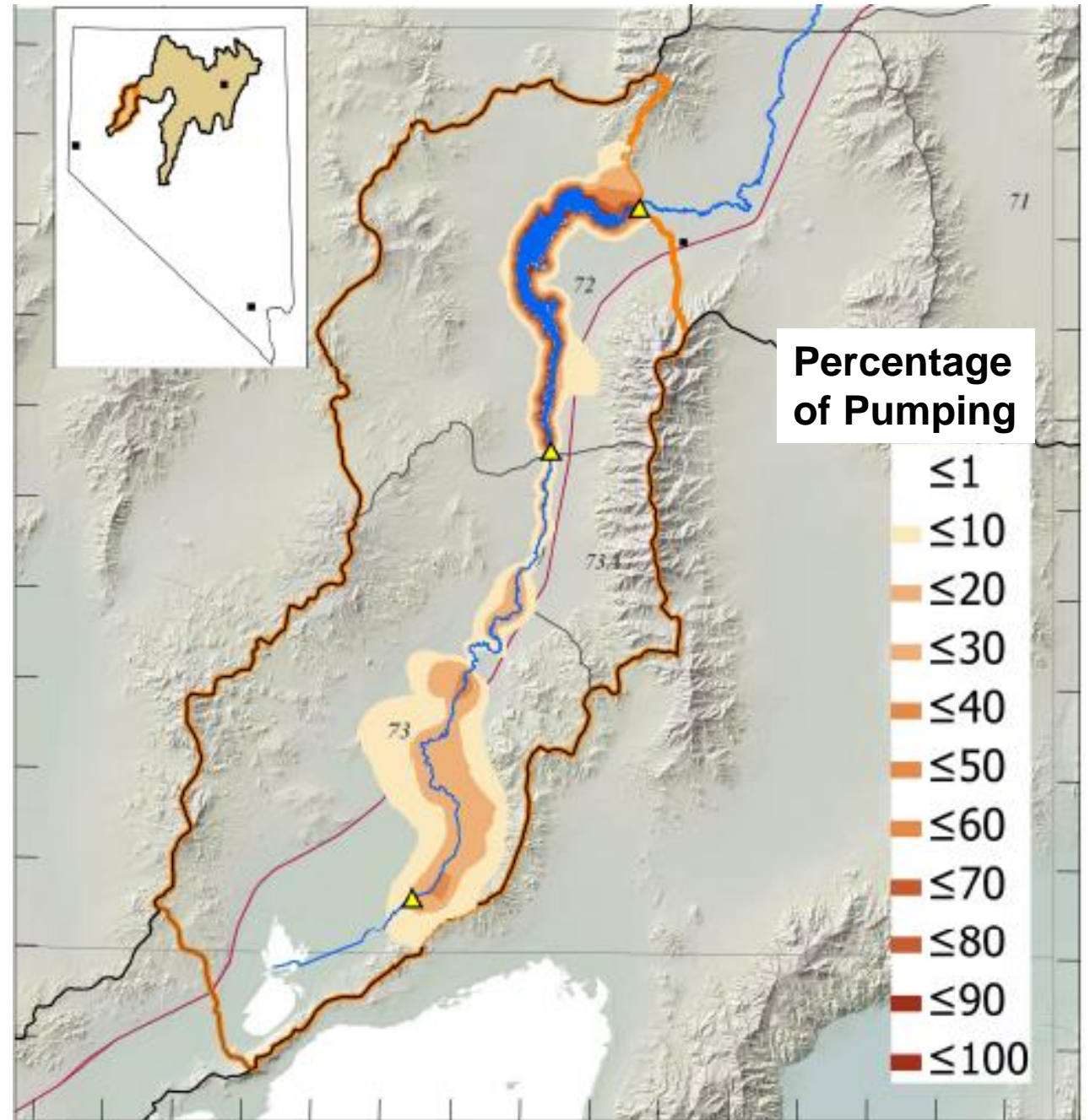


# Streamflow Capture Map – Lower Humboldt after 1 year of pumping

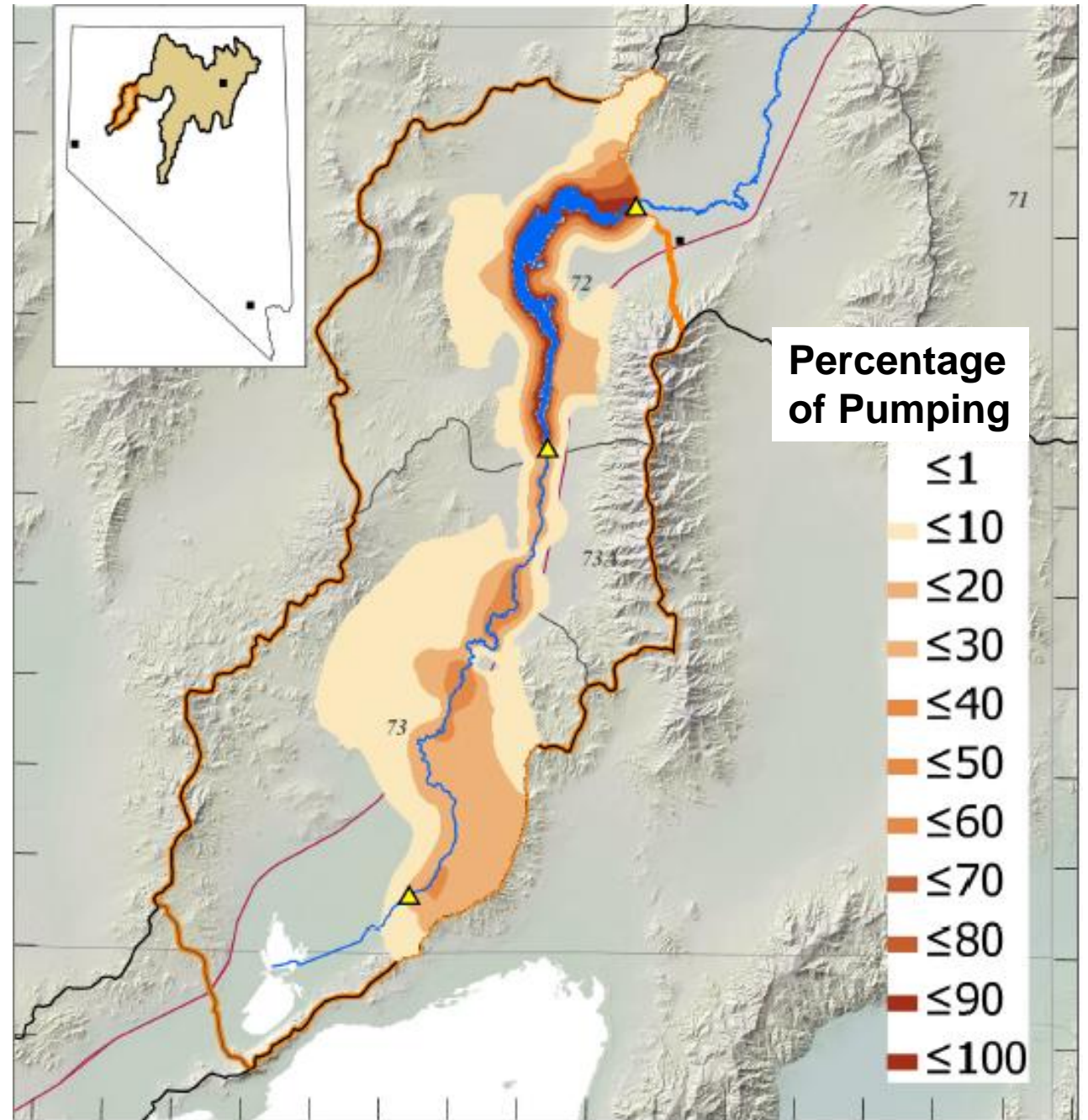




# Streamflow Capture Map – Lower Humboldt after 10 years of pumping

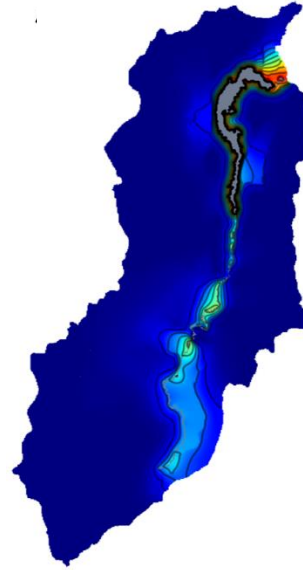


# Streamflow Capture Map – Lower Humboldt after 50 years of pumping

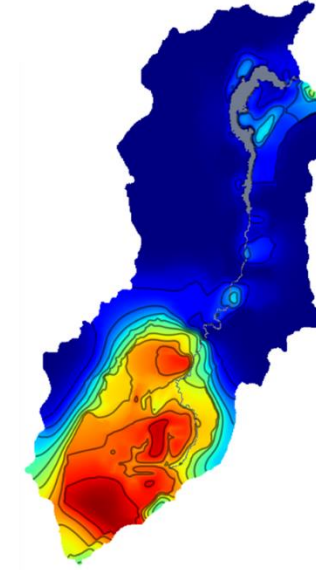


# Capture Maps – Lower Humboldt after 10 years of pumping

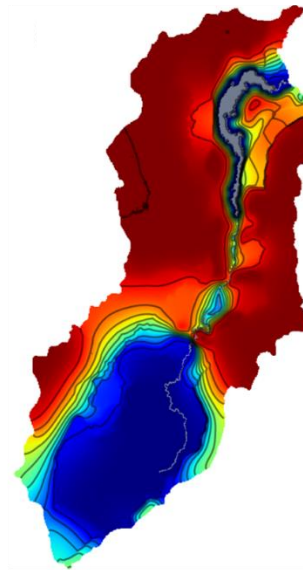
Streamflow Capture



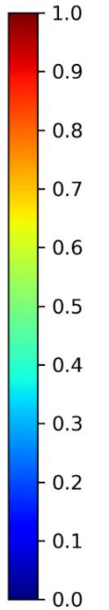
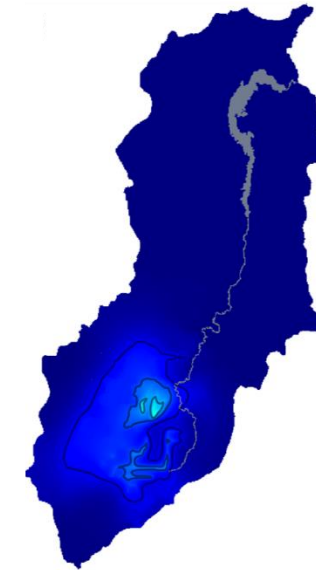
ETg Capture



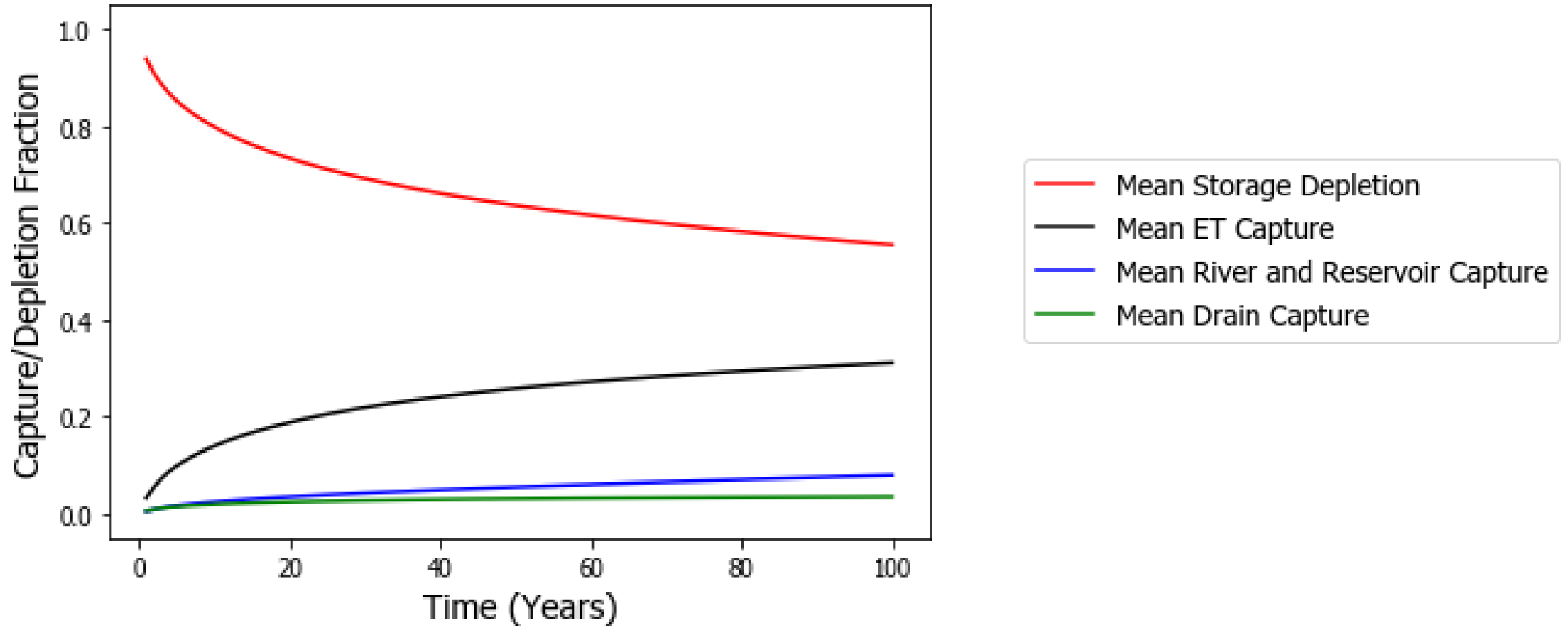
Storage Depletion



Drain Capture



# Average Capture and Depletion Curves



**End of Technical Presentations**

**10 Minute Break**

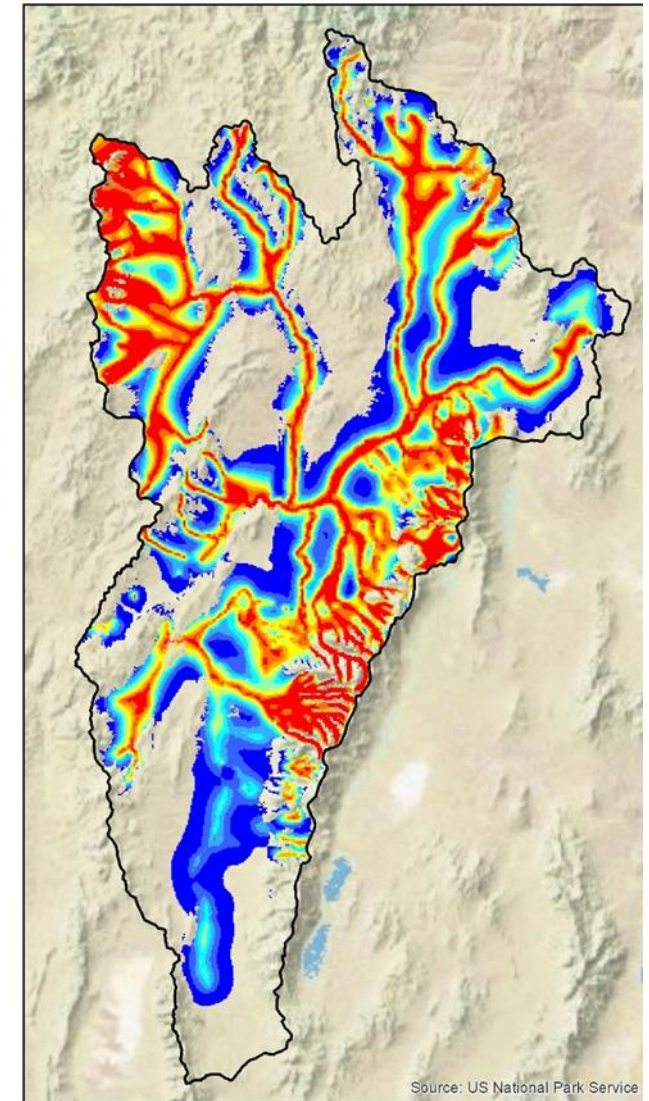
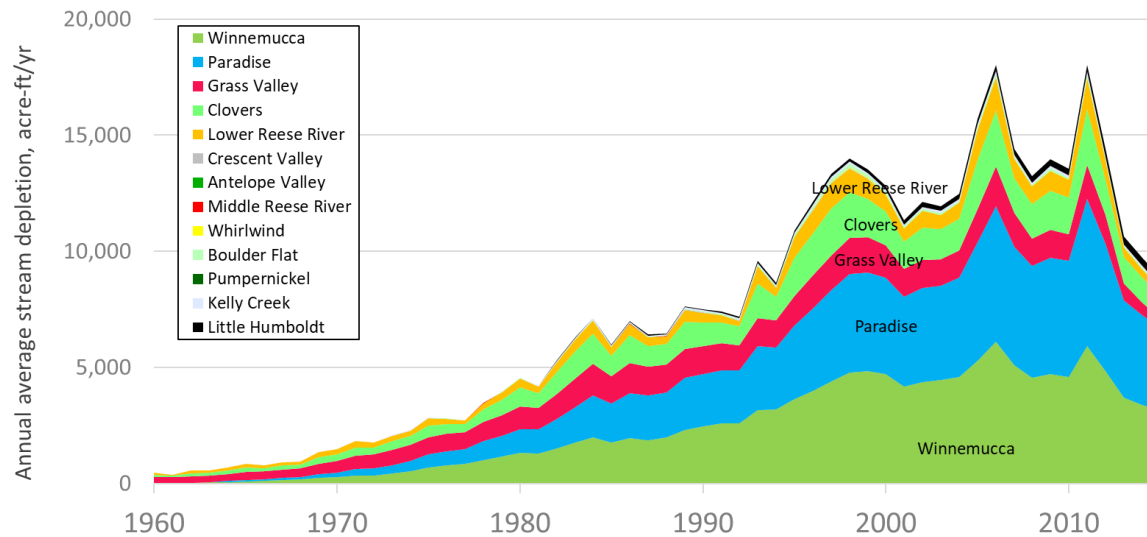
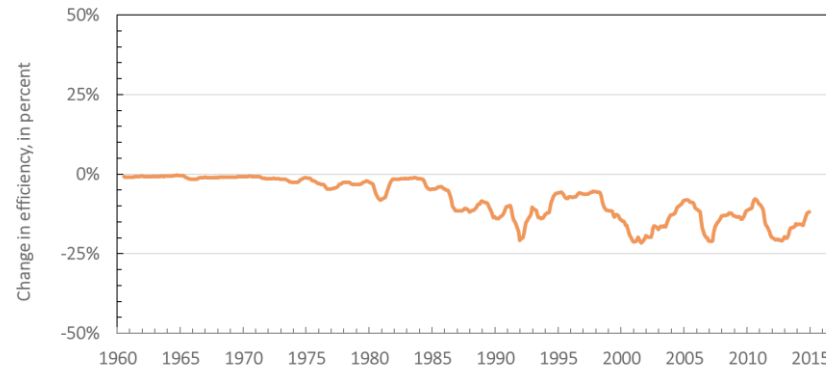
# **Link to Management Approach: Draft Order**

NDWR

# Capture Study Goal

## Goal:

- Characterize amount and distribution of **capture**
- Help understand capture dynamics that may affect amount and distribution of **conflict**

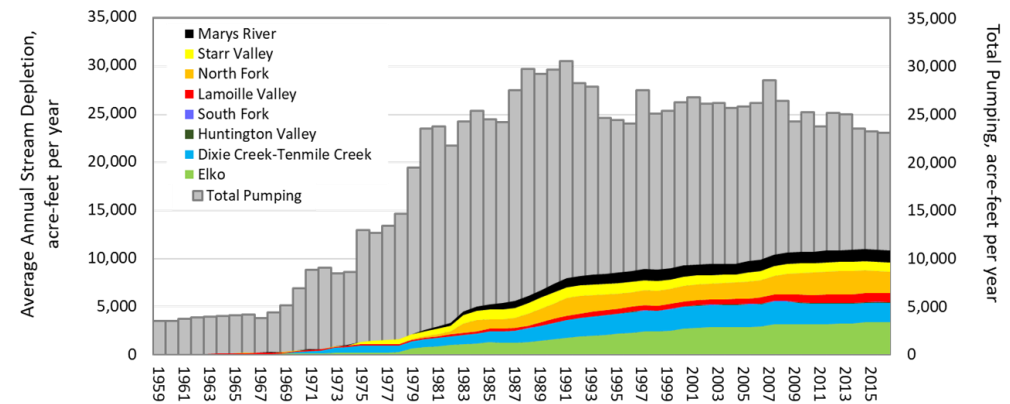


# Capture Study Results

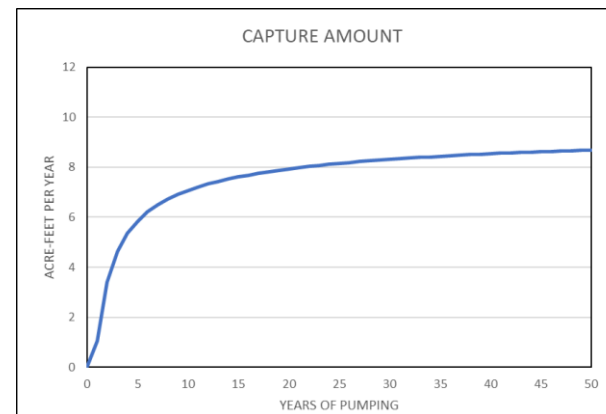
## Capture:

- ✓ Estimate/Predict legacy, ongoing, future capture from existing permits
- ✓ Predict capture from new appropriations
- ✓ Predict increased capture from change applications

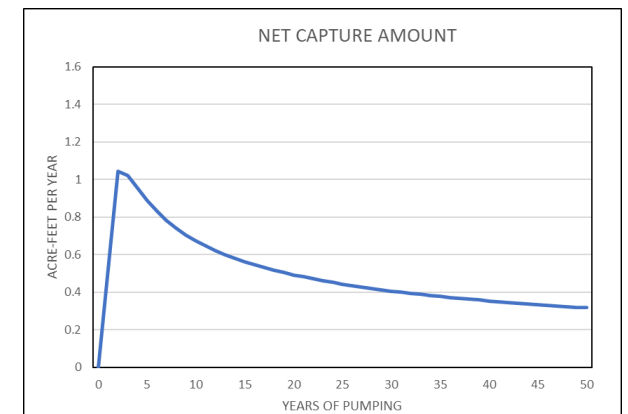
Upper Humboldt Capture relative to Pumping



New Appropriation Capture



Change App Capture



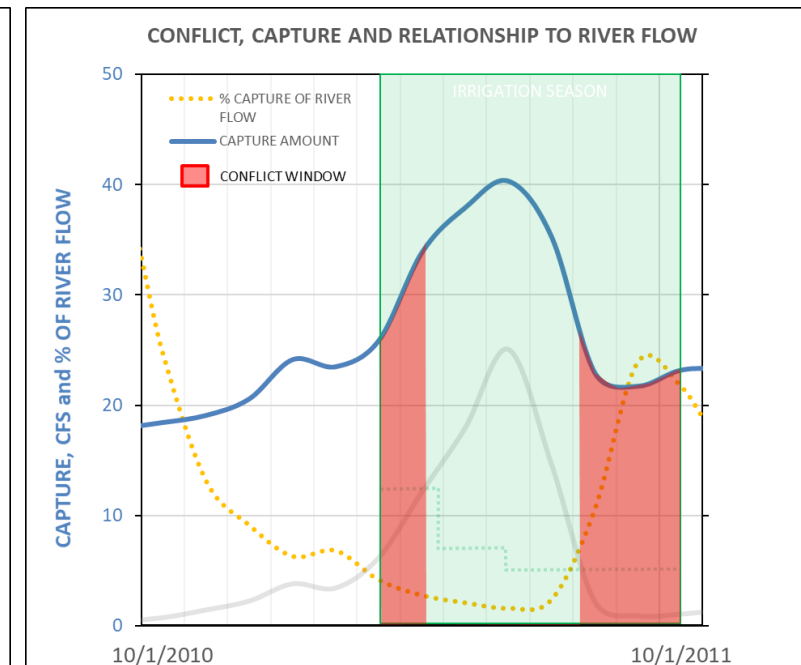
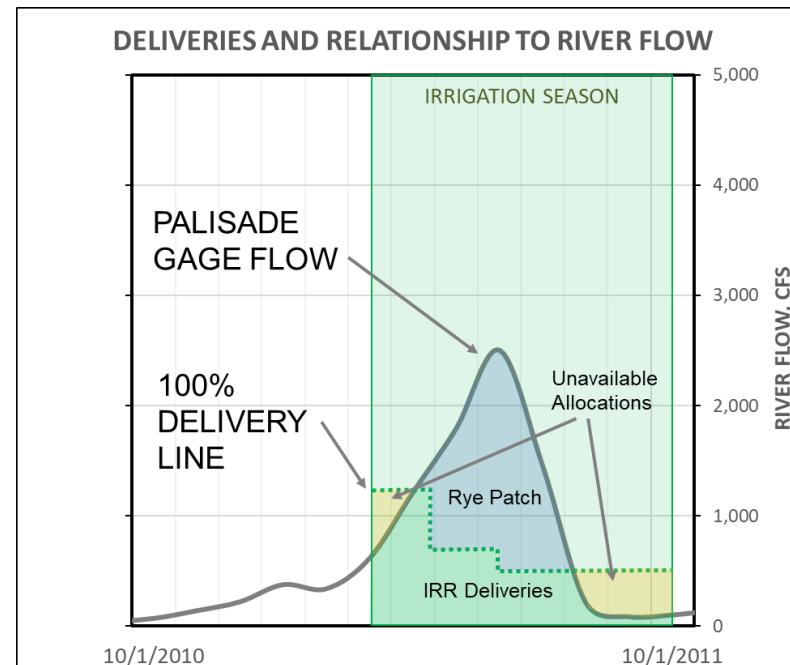
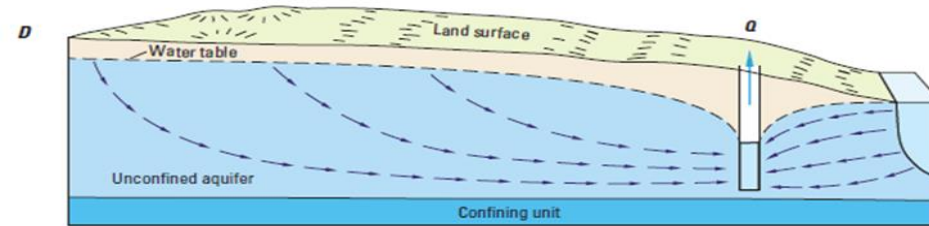


# Management Goal

## Goal:

- Prevent
- Avoid
- Reduce
- Mitigate

**Conflict  
due to  
Capture**



**NEED TO UNDERSTAND CAPTURE *AND* CONFLICT**

# Science to Management

- What can we do now?
  - ✓ Administer new appropriations to prevent additional capture
  - ✓ Administer change applications to prevent increased capture
  - ✓ Build framework for enacting statutory available tools (curtailment)
  - ✓ Facilitate community-supported solutions to prevent, avoid, reduce, mitigate ongoing and legacy capture
  - ✓ Improve capabilities to appropriately deliver SW by priority and to measure conflict with assistance of model
  - ✓ Consider adaptive, regional-scale solutions that improve the situation

# Settlement Agreement

PCWCD:

- ✓ Dismiss Writ Petition

SE:

- ✓ Develop draft order
- ✓ Issue by 1/19/21

PERSHING COUNTY WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT,  Petitioner,  vs.  TIM WILSON, P.E., State Engineer of the State of Nevada, DIVISION OF WATER RESOURCES, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES,  Respondent	<b>STIPULATION AND ORDER FOR DISMISSAL WITH PREJUDICE</b>
--	---

<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>DRAFT INTERIM ORDER</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS TO APPROPRIATE GROUNDWATER IN THE HUMBOLDT RIVER REGION WITH REGARD TO THE POTENTIAL FOR CAPTURE OF AND CONFLICT WITH DECREED RIGHTS TO THE WATERS OF THE HUMBOLDT RIVER AND TRIBUTARIES</b></p>
--

# Draft Interim Order

– Addresses:

## **1) New Appropriations**



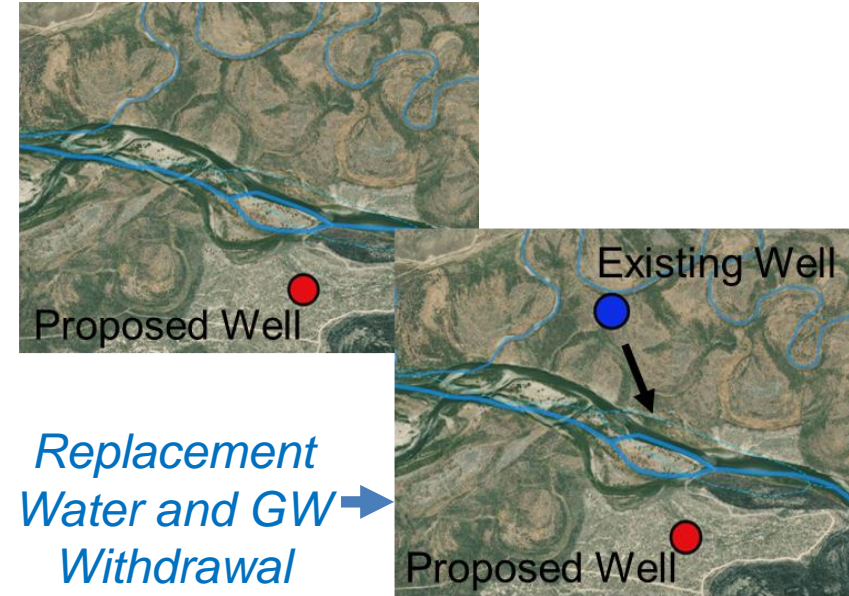
↑  
*Replacement  
Water and GW  
Withdrawal*

# Draft Interim Order

– Addresses:

1) New Appropriations

2) **Change Applications**



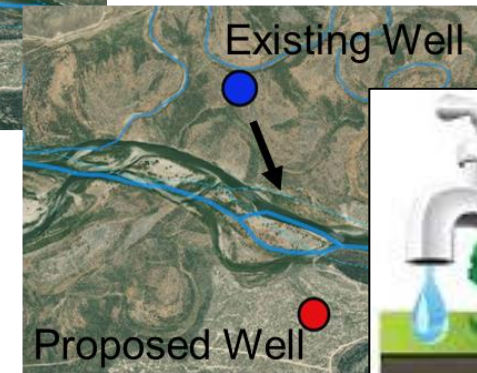
# Draft Interim Order

– Addresses:

- 1) New Appropriations
- 2) Change Applications
- 3) Curtailment Process**



*Replacement  
Water and GW  
Withdrawal*



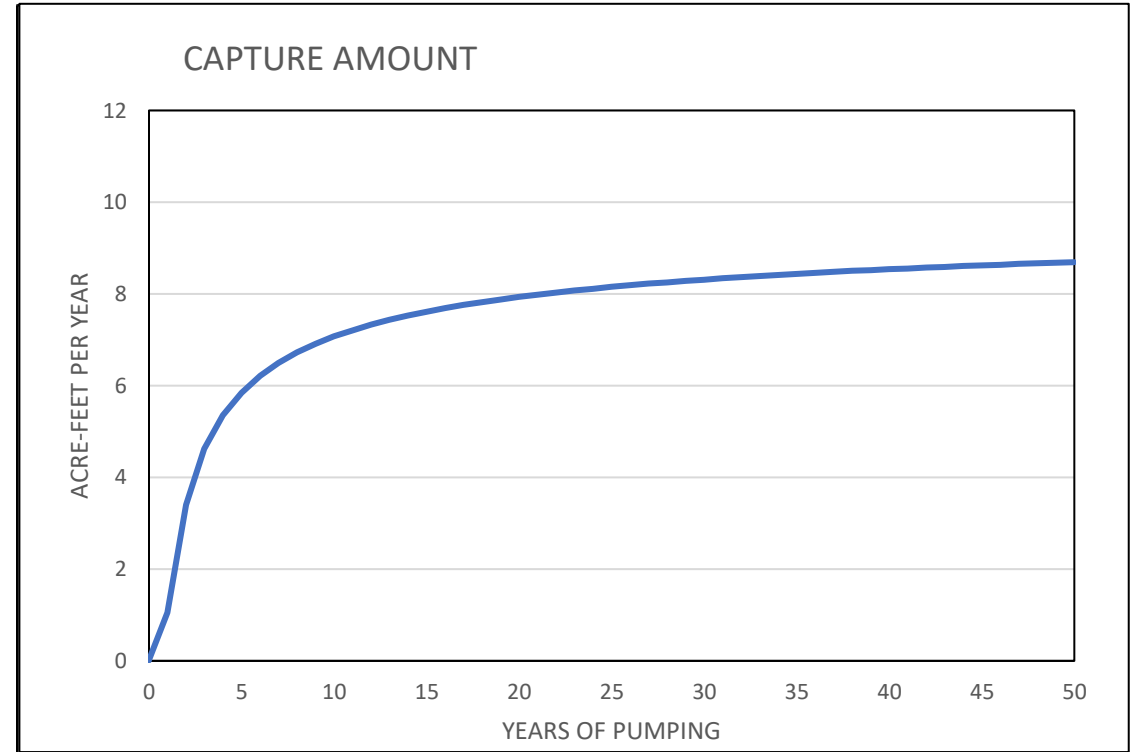
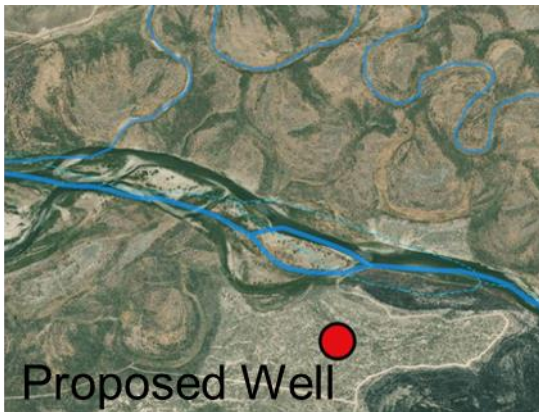
*Focused  
Curtailment*

*Does not address alternative or long-term  
management remedies*

# New Appropriations

- Replacement Water Proposal

GROUNDWATER RIGHT APPLICATION:		
Information on New or Change Application		
Application #:	89110	
Duty Applied-for:	10	acre-feet
Distance to river:	3,130	ft
Transmissivity:	500	ft <sup>2</sup> /day
Storage Coeff:	0.05	unitless



**Σ 50-YR CAPTURE AMOUNT: 382.15 af**

# New Appropriations

- Replacement Water Proposal

2A: UPPER RIGHTS				
PRIORITY		HARVEST	MEADOW	DIVERSIFIED
DATE		cfs	cfs	cfs
1870		0.045	0	0
TOTAL:		0.045	0	0

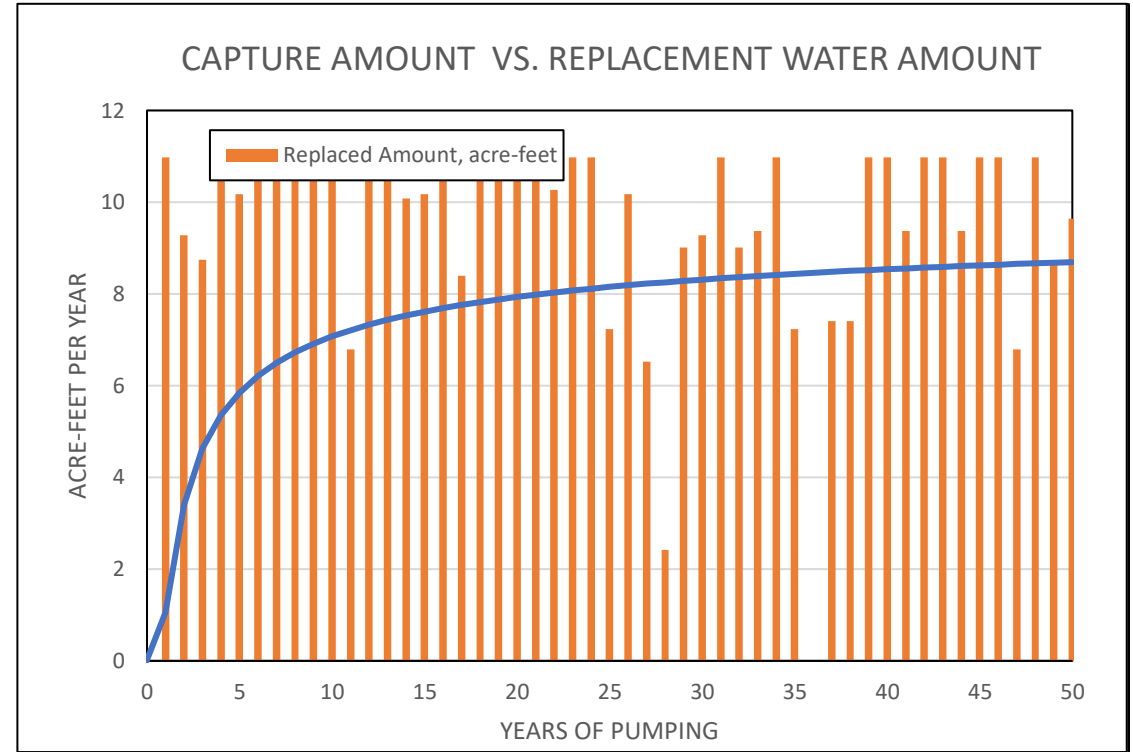
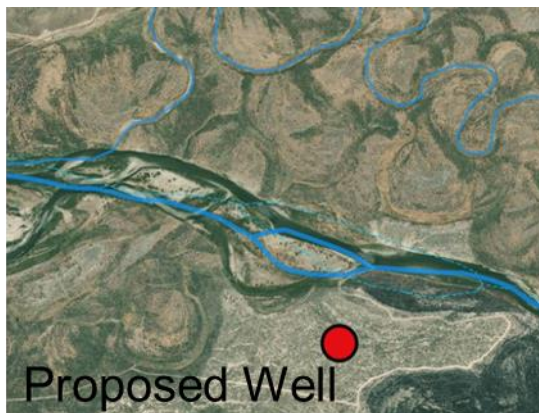


CHART NOTE: WHEN ORANGE BAR IS BELOW BLUE LINE, REPLACEMENT WATER IS INSUFFICIENT TO OFFSET DEPLETION

- ✓ Replaced > Capture
- ✓ Annual Capture Offset in  $\geq 80\%$  of Years

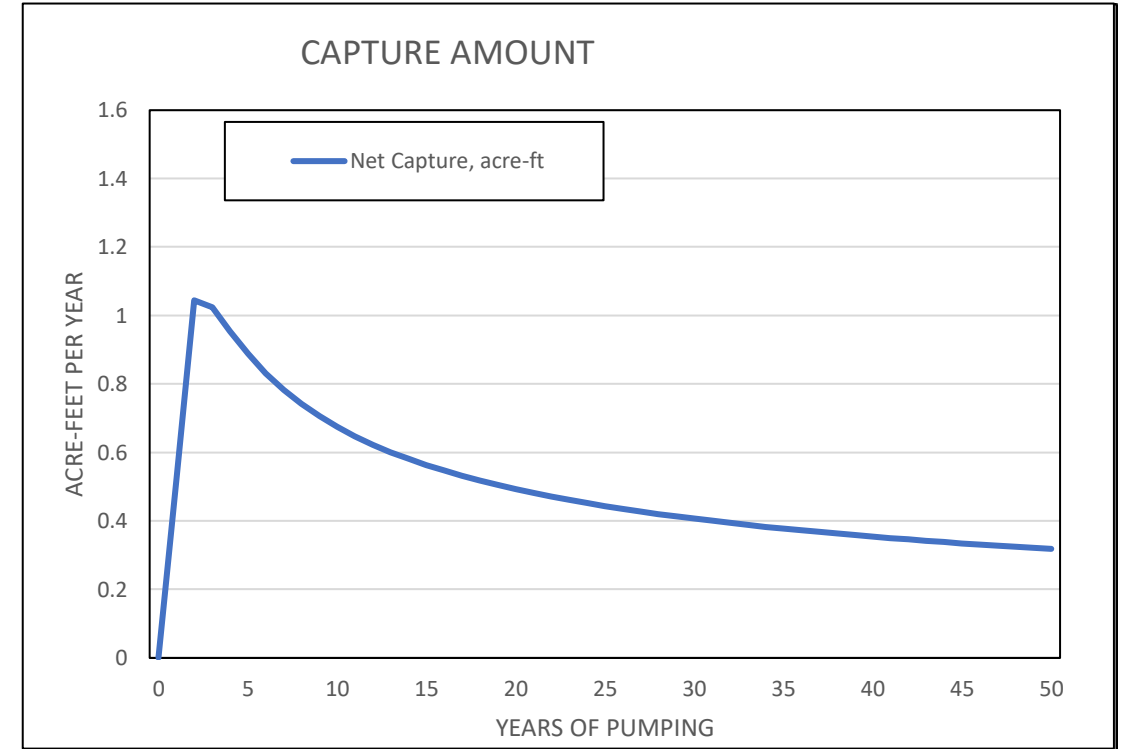
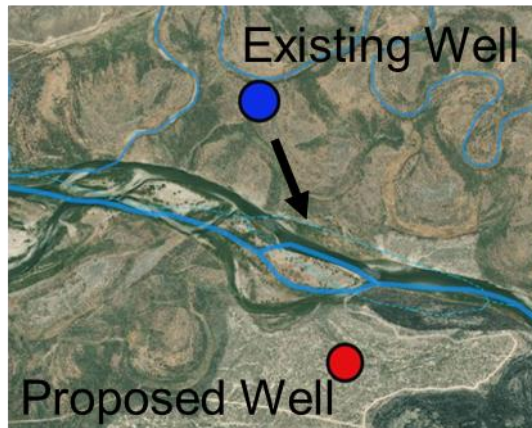
Σ 50-YR CAPTURE AMOUNT:	382.15	af
Σ 50-YR REPLACED AMOUNT:	477.25	af
AVERAGE DELIVERED FOR SCENARIO:	9.545	afs
% YEARS CAPTURE NOT REPLACED:	20.0%	
% YEARS DUTY NOT REPLACED:	40.0%	



# Applications to Change POD

- Withdrawal Proposal**

GROUNDWATER RIGHT APPLICATION:	
Type of Application: <b>Change</b>	
Information on New or Change Application	
Application #:	89110
Duty Applied-for:	10 acre-feet
Distance to river:	3,130 ft
Transmissivity:	500 ft <sup>2</sup> /day
Storage Coeff:	0.05 unitless
Diffusivity:	10000
Enter Information on Base Right to be changed	
Permit #:	72080
Duty Changed:	10 acre-feet
Distance to river:	3,900 ft
Transmissivity:	500 ft <sup>2</sup> /day
Storage Coeff:	0.05 unitless
Diffusivity:	10000



50-YEAR SCENARIO STATISTICS	
Σ 50-YR CAPTURE AMOUNT:	25.28 af

# Applications to Change POD

- Withdrawal Proposal**

**WITHDRAWAL OPTION:**

Enter Information on Withdrawal Right to be changed

Permit #:	72080	
Duty:	1.6	acre-feet
Distance to river:	3,900	ft
Transmissivity:	500	ft <sup>2</sup> /day
Storage Coeff:	0.05	unitless

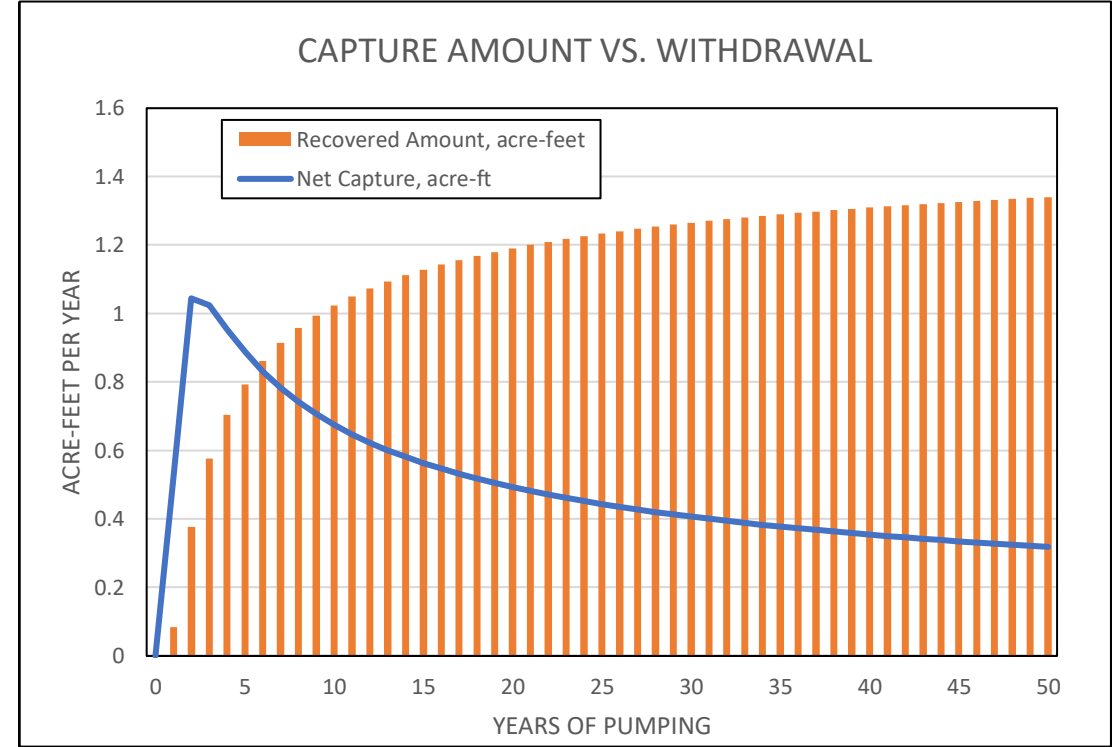
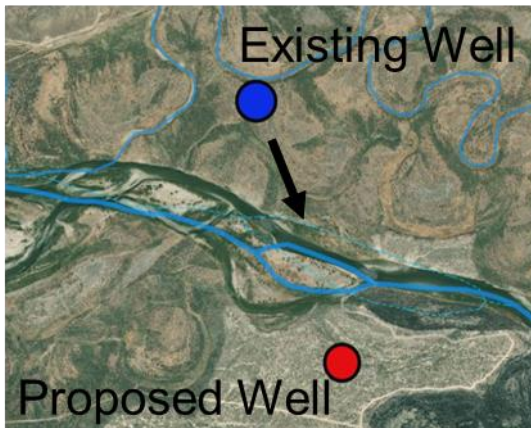


CHART NOTE: WHEN ORANGE BAR IS BELOW BLUE LINE, REPLACEMENT WATER IS INSUFFICIENT TO OFFSET DEPLETION

- ✓ Replaced > Capture
- ✓ Annual Capture Offset in  $\geq 90\%$  of Years

**50-YEAR SCENARIO STATISTICS**

Σ 50-YR CAPTURE AMOUNT:	25.28 af
Σ 50-YR RECOVERED AMOUNT:	57.10 af
% YEARS CAPTURE NOT REPLACED:	10.0%

# Curtailment

<http://water.nv.gov/documents/Notice%20and%20Proposed%20Order%20Humboldt%20River%20Region.pdf>

## B. Hydrologic conditions:

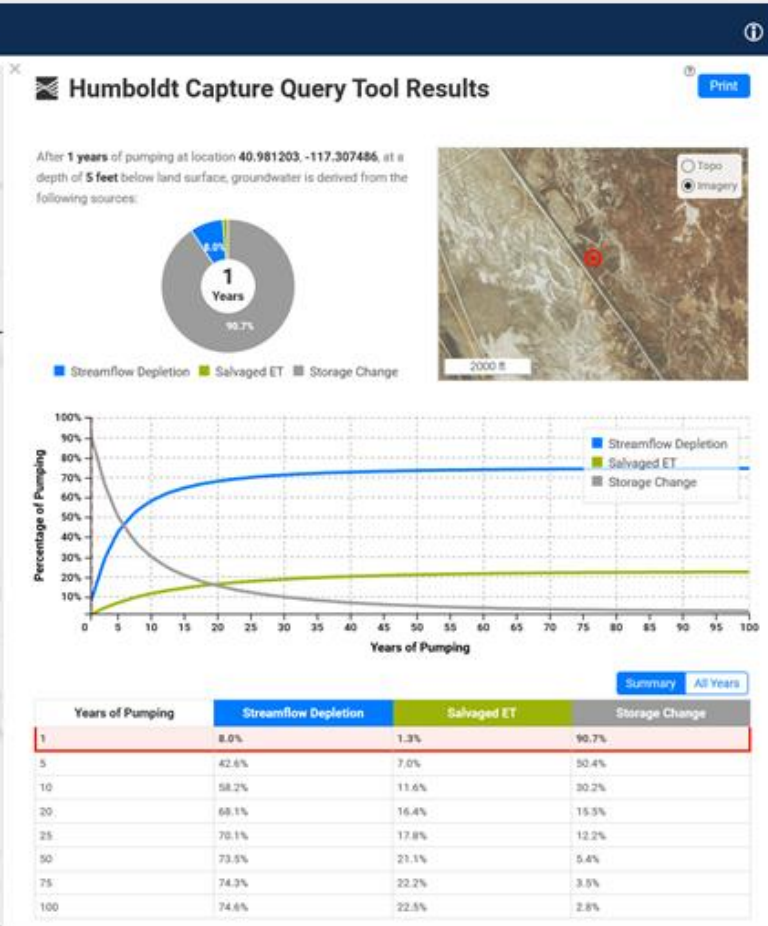
- i. Effectiveness of any curtailment to increase actual flow in the decreed source and thereby avoid conflict caused by non-delivery of senior rights.
- ii. Drought conditions as measured by available snowpack data, runoff forecast for the season, prior years' condition and cumulative water deficit.
- iii. Well location and potential for capture as demonstrated by USGS and DRI models

## *FOCUSED CURTAILMENT BASED ON:*

- ✓ *Drought conditions*
- ✓ *Short-term benefit*
- ✓ *Capture liability*



# What's Next for Linking Science to Management?



## 50% REDUCED PUMPING - 100 YR SCENARIO

DESCRIPTION  
CURTAILMENT SCENARIO

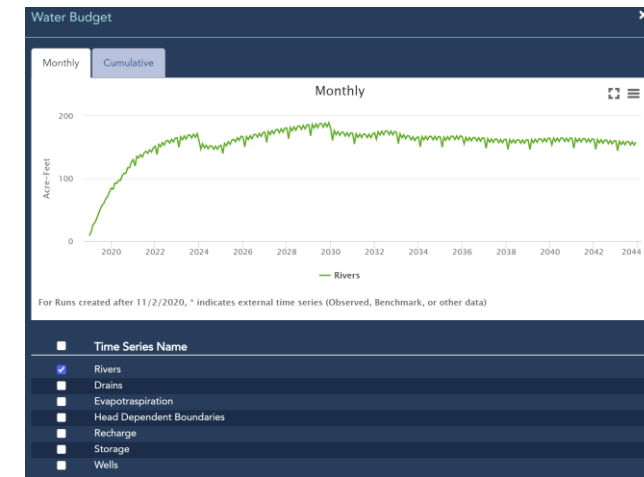
Model	Date Created	Scenario	Created By	Status
Upper Humboldt: 100 yr	February 02, 2021 15:40 GMT	Adjust Irrigation	Jon Benedict	Created

Model Type: Transient

Model Inputs: **SAVE** **PROCESS WITH MAPS** **PROCESS WITHOUT MAPS**

Data Adjustment:

Zone Name	Adjustment
Headwaters	0%
PrimTrib	0%
Humboldt	-50%

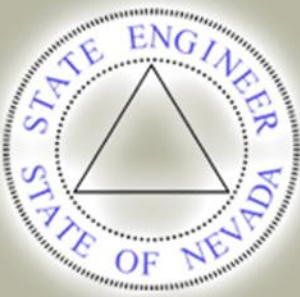


# Next Steps

NDWR

# Next Steps

- Final model results for management analysis and decisions
- Appropriate level of precision in relying on model results
- Public awareness and transparency
- Hearing on draft order: Friday April 2, 2021
- Final order to be issued following review of public comment



Division of  
WATER RESOURCES



Questions