

High-Resolution Flood Mapping at Regional to Continental Scales

Global Flood Partnership Conference 2017
Tuscaloosa, AL | June 29th, 2017

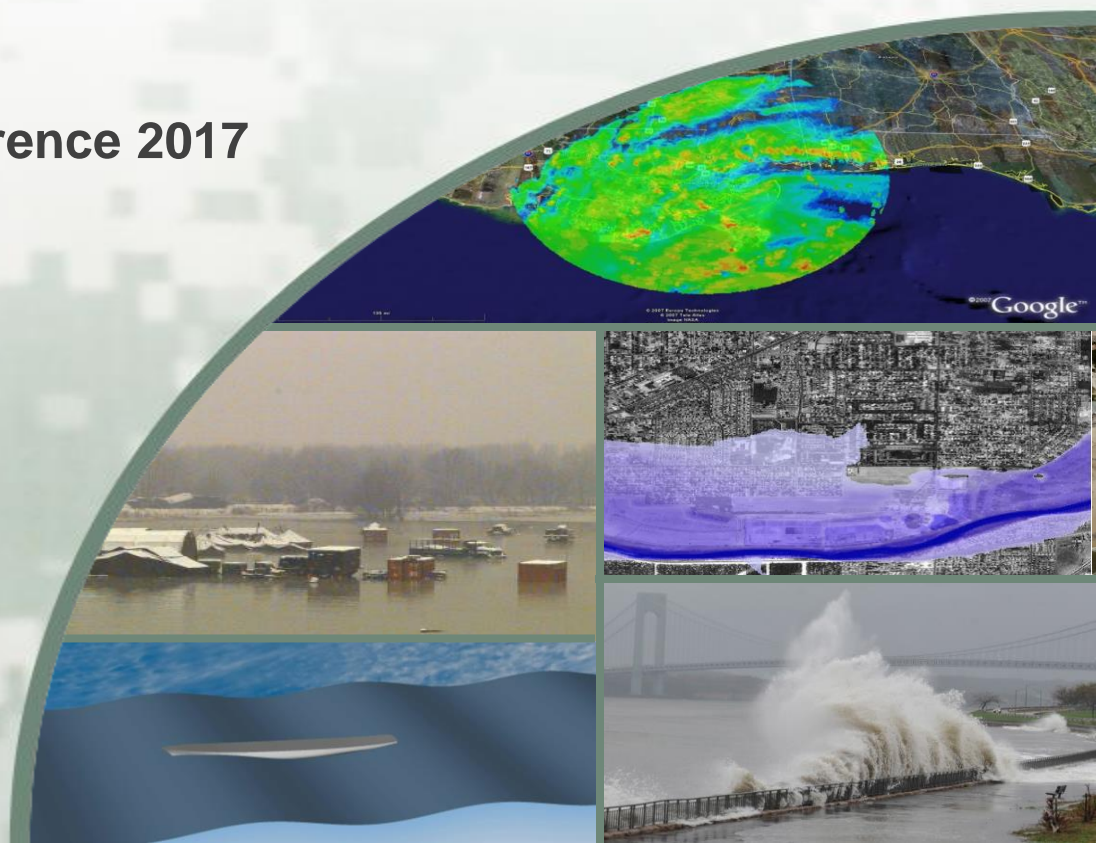
Mike Follum
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Mark Wahl, PhD
Mark.D.Wahl@usace.army.mil

Alan Snow
Alan.D.Snow@usace.army.mil

Overall Classification of Briefing is
UNCLASSIFIED

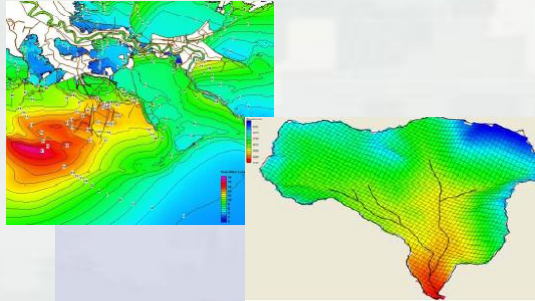


USACE – ERDC – CHL: Three Focus Areas

Navigation



Flood and Coastal Storm Damage Reduction

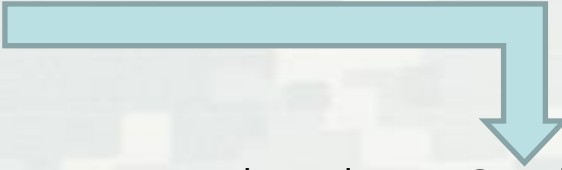
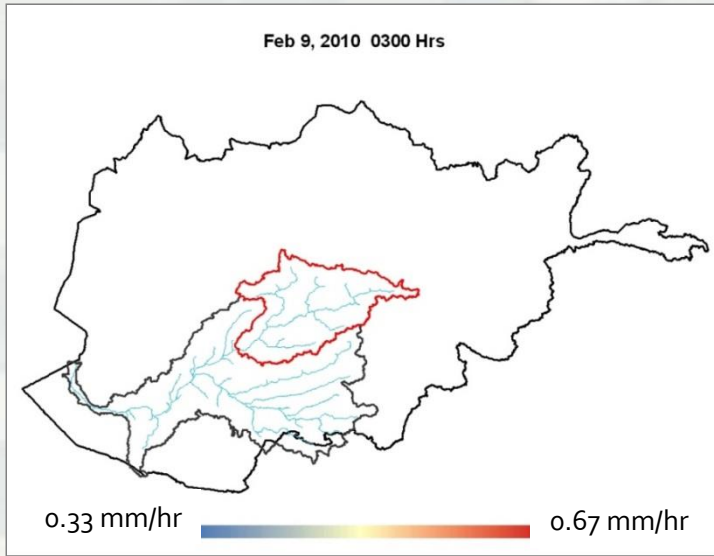


Military Hydrology

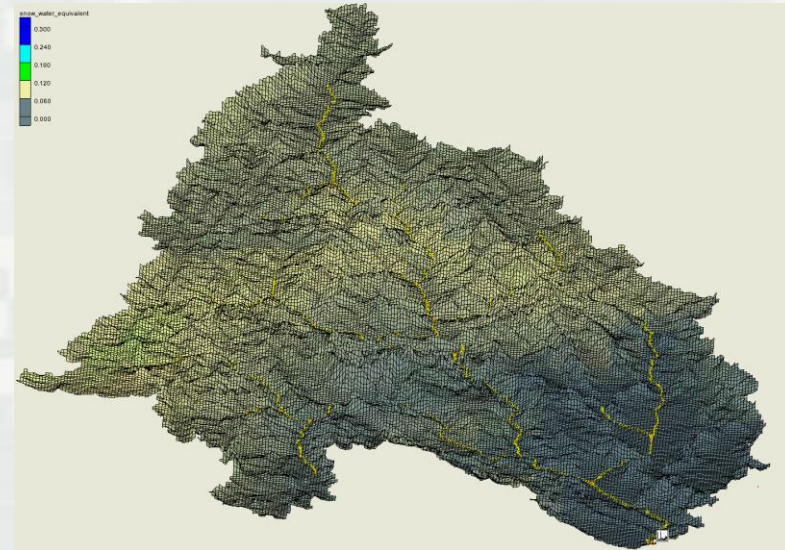


- CHL develops / deploys physical and numerical models to answer questions in these areas

Weather Informed Hydrology



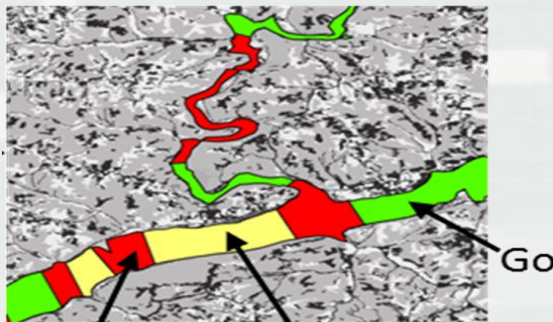
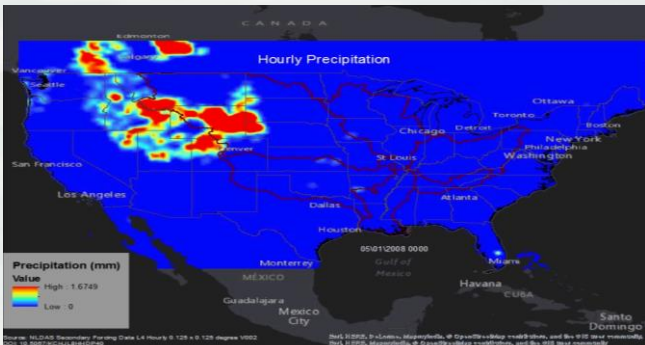
Upper Helmand Basin Simulation: January – June 2010



- **Watershed-based**
- **Manual setup**
- **Limited forecasting window**

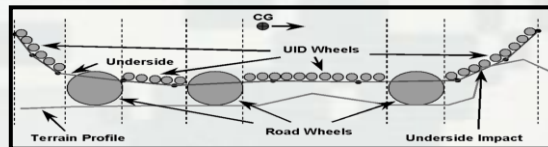
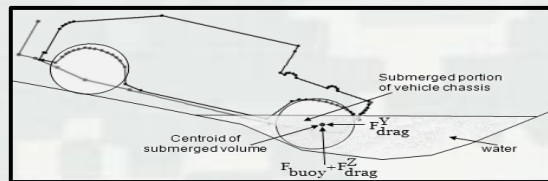
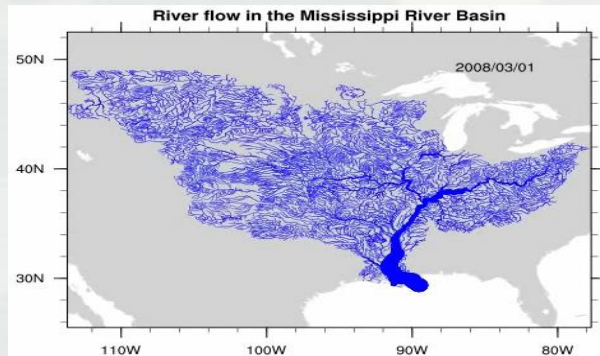
Operational Informed Hydrology

Operational Runoff Forecasts



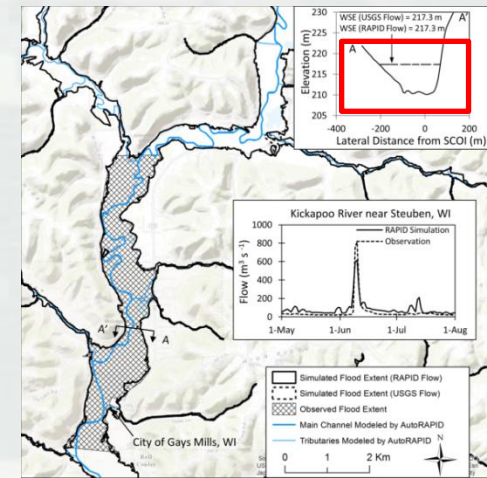
Gap-Crossing Maps

Streamflow: RAPID TEXAS



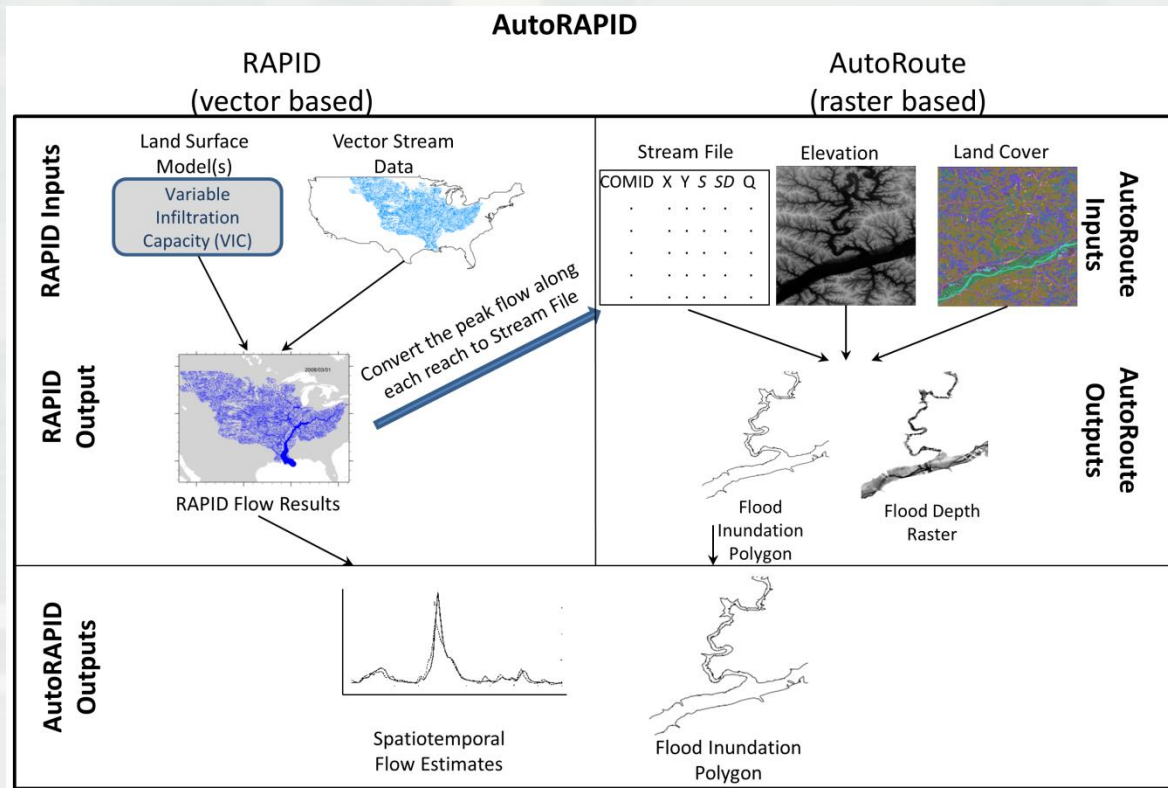
Mobility: VehDyn

Flood Map: AutoRoute



AutoRoute – Quick, Initial Estimate of Flood Inundation

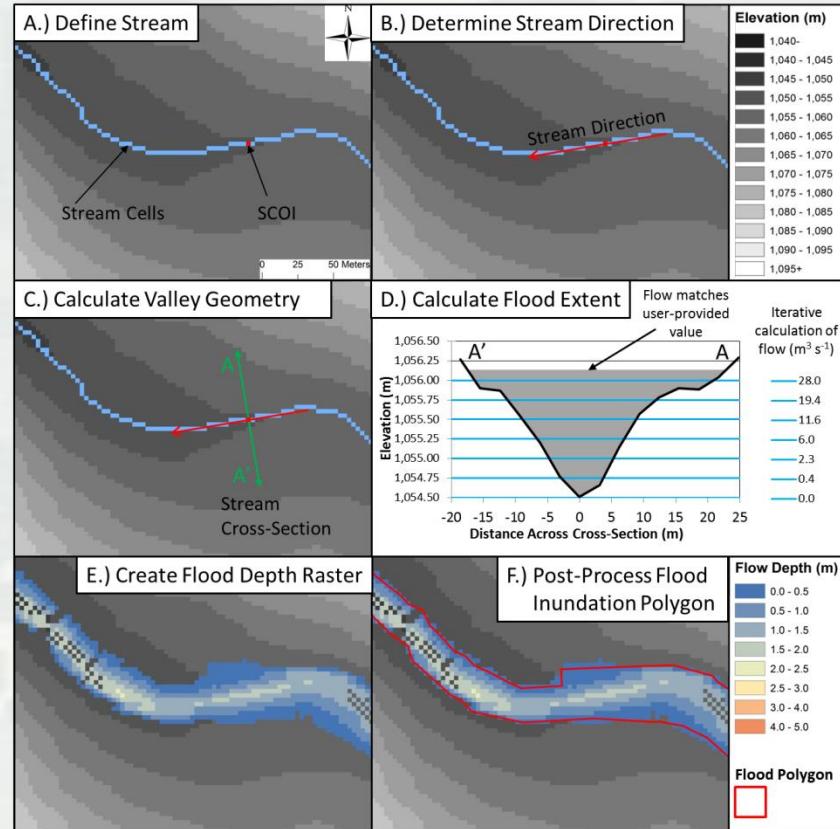
- Raster-based model that calculates the normal flow depth for a large number of sampled floodplain cross-sections.
- Given a flow, AutoRoute quickly produces a flood depth raster and flood inundation polygon over large regions (1000's of km²).



Follum et al., 2017

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AutoRoute – June 2008 Flood Event

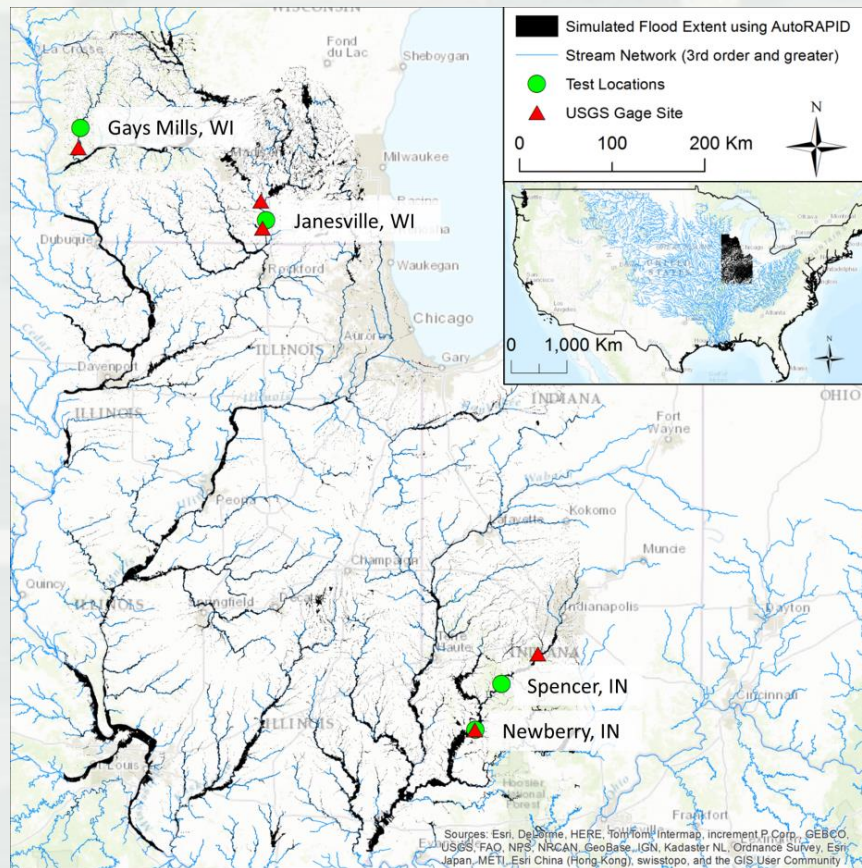
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Terrain:

- Medium Topography

Issues:

- Urban areas overestimated
- Dependent on accurate streamflow estimates
- Dams



- Area:
~230,000km²
- 27- 1°x1° Tiles
- ~88 million cross-sections
- ~20 min / tile
- now ~5 min / tile

Follum et al., 2017



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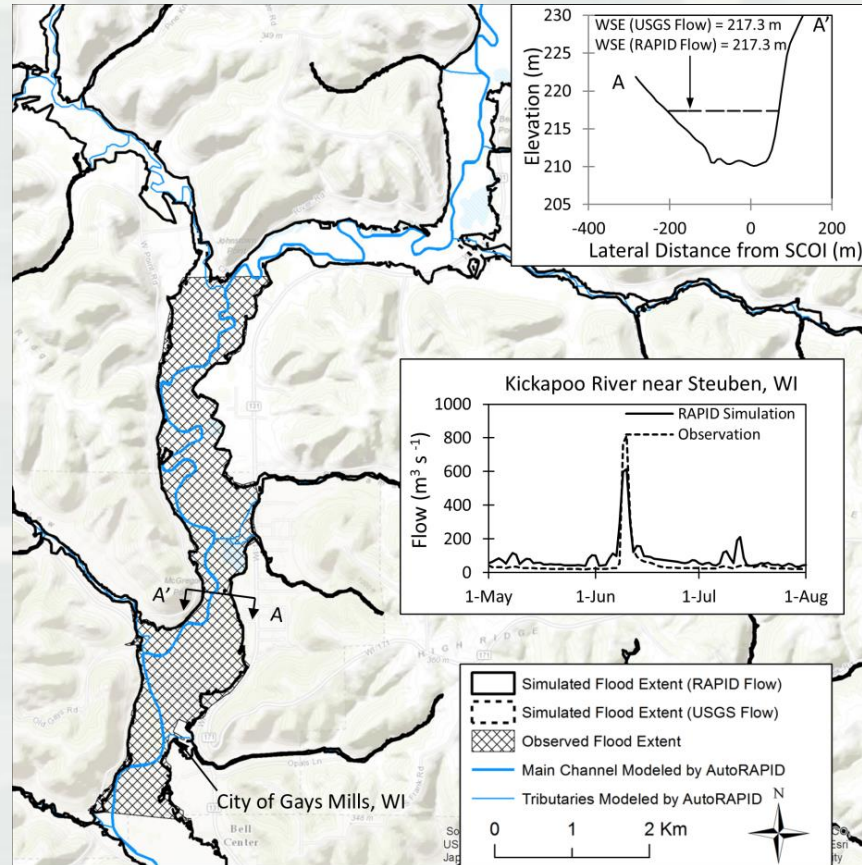
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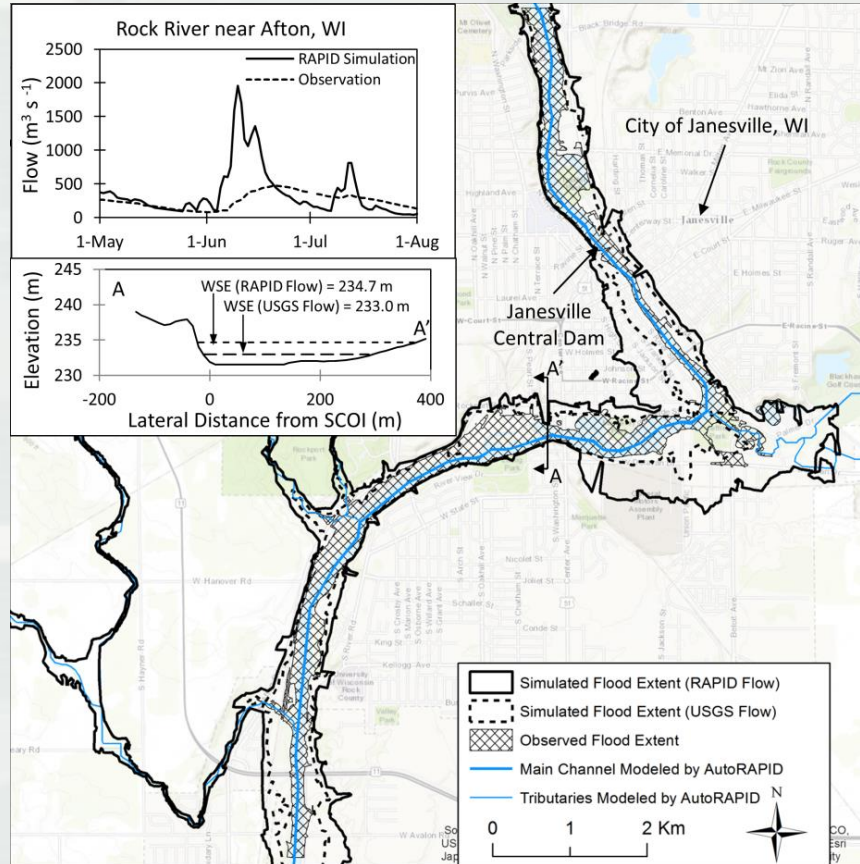
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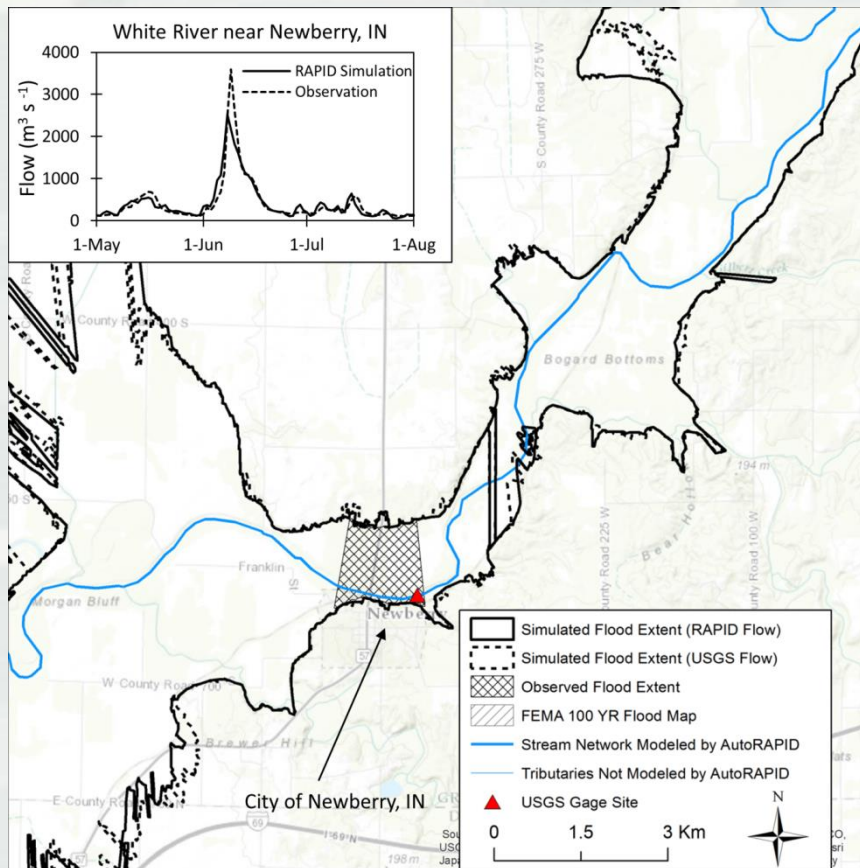
Follum et al., 2017



AutoRoute Example of June 2008 Flood Event

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Tributaries Matter!



230,000 km² area

69 million cross-sections

~12 minutes to simulate flood depth raster

~15 minutes to simulation flood inundation polygon

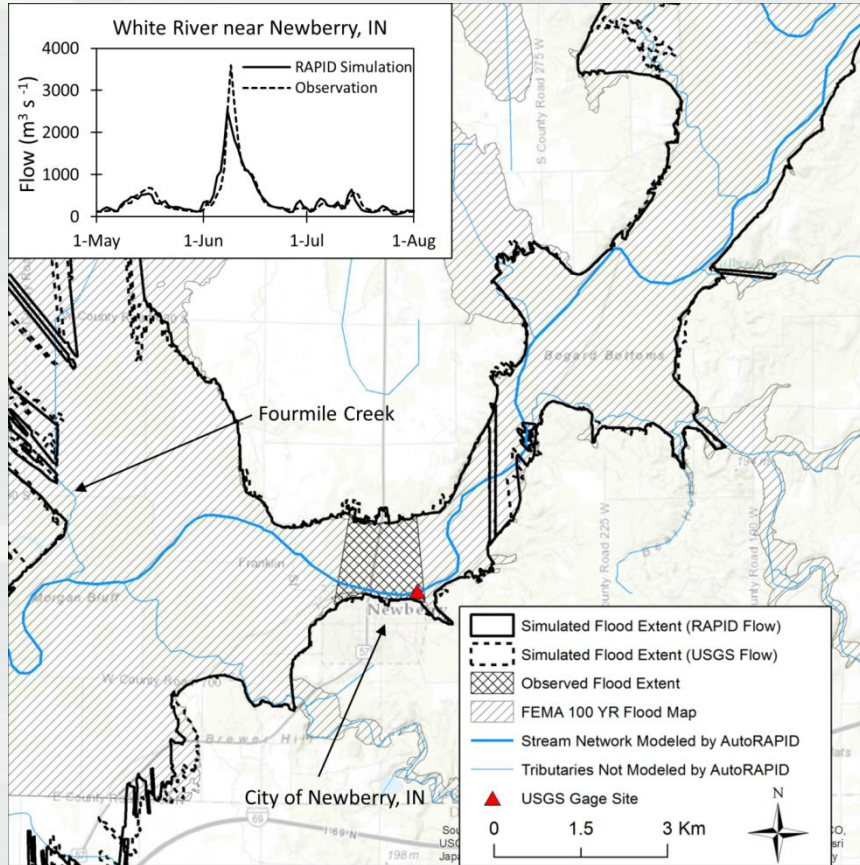
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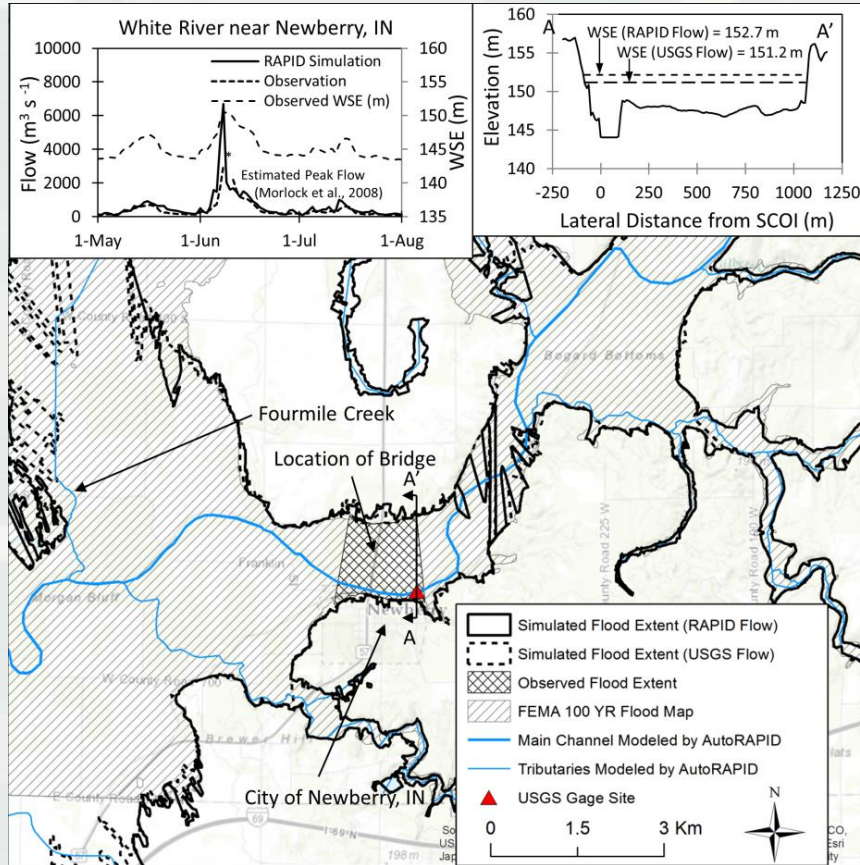


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AutoRoute – May/June 2011 Flood Event

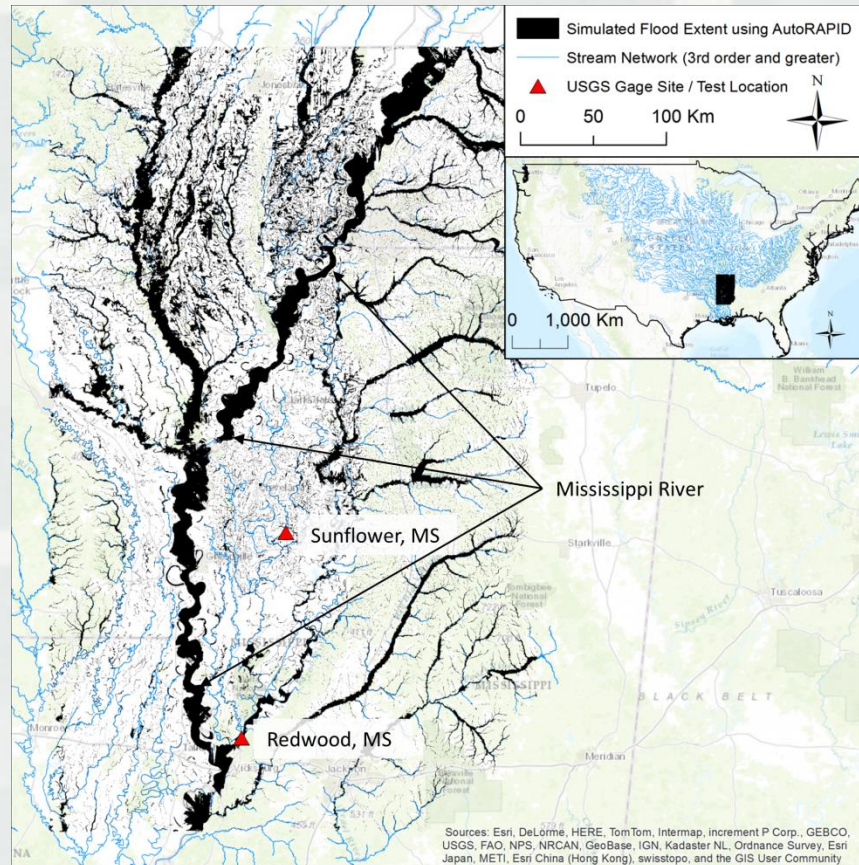
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Terrain:

- Flat
- Routing from terrain to channel not explicitly included in RAPID model.

Backwater:

- Muskingum approach (RAPID model) not able to capture backwater flooding.
- Methods in AutoRoute likely not applicable



- Area:
~109,500km²
- 12- 1°x1° Tiles
- ~42 million cross-sections
- ~20 min / tile
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Follum et al., 2017



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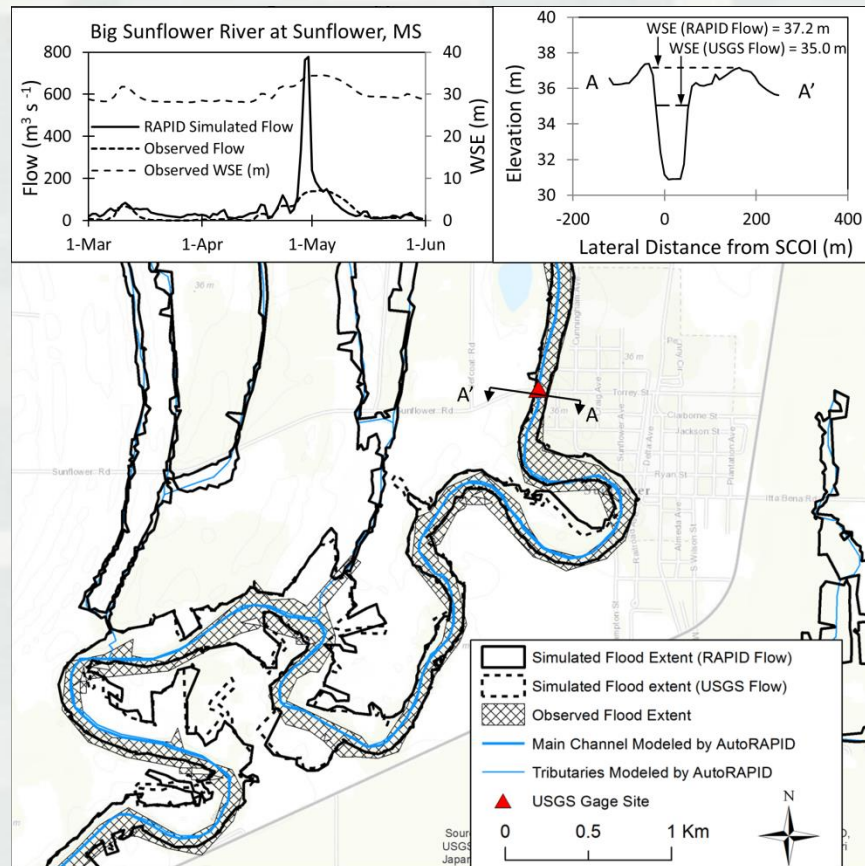
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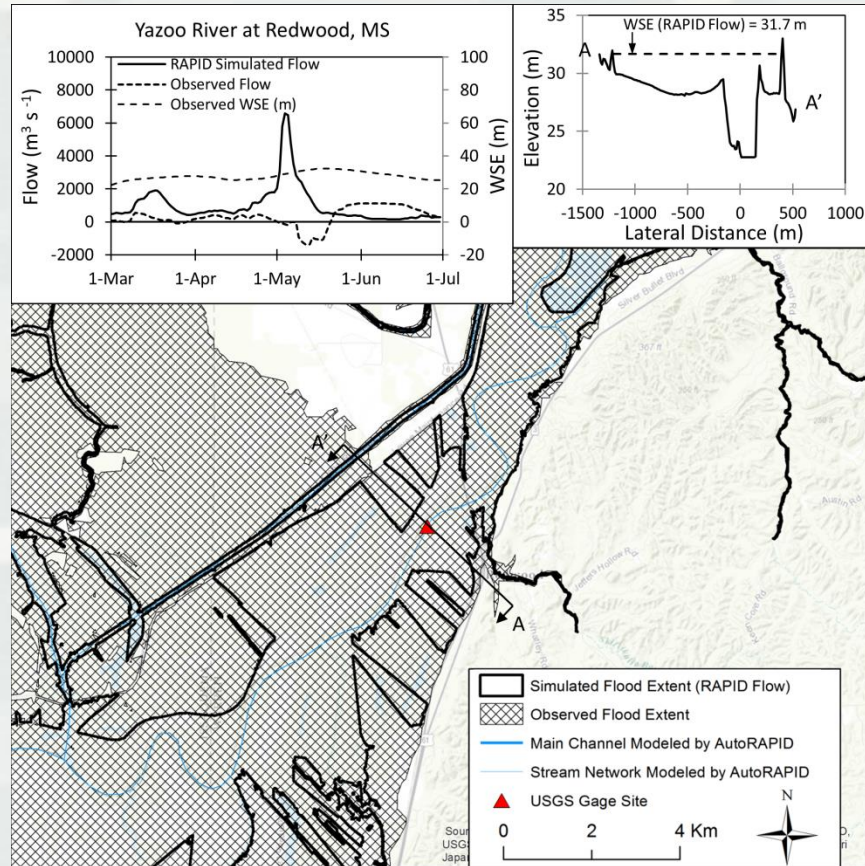
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Attributes Required for Each Reach:

- Stream location and slope
- Drainage area
- Connectivity between reaches

Data Required:

Elevation Data

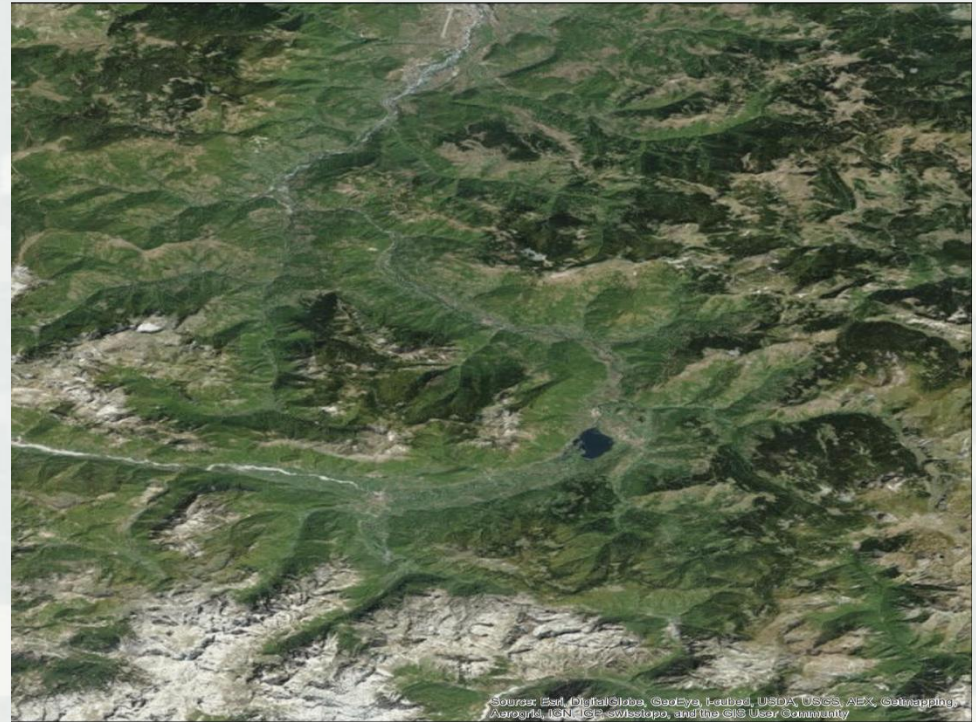
Tool Required:

ESRI ArcGIS 10.3

- Tool currently being tested for inclusion into ArcToolbox / ArcHydro

What Can Improve Hydrography Data:

Any info on stream, dam, and lake locations in GIS format



Follum et al., 2016

Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar (USA), USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, SDA, Airphoto, IGN, GE, Swisstopo, and the GIS User Community



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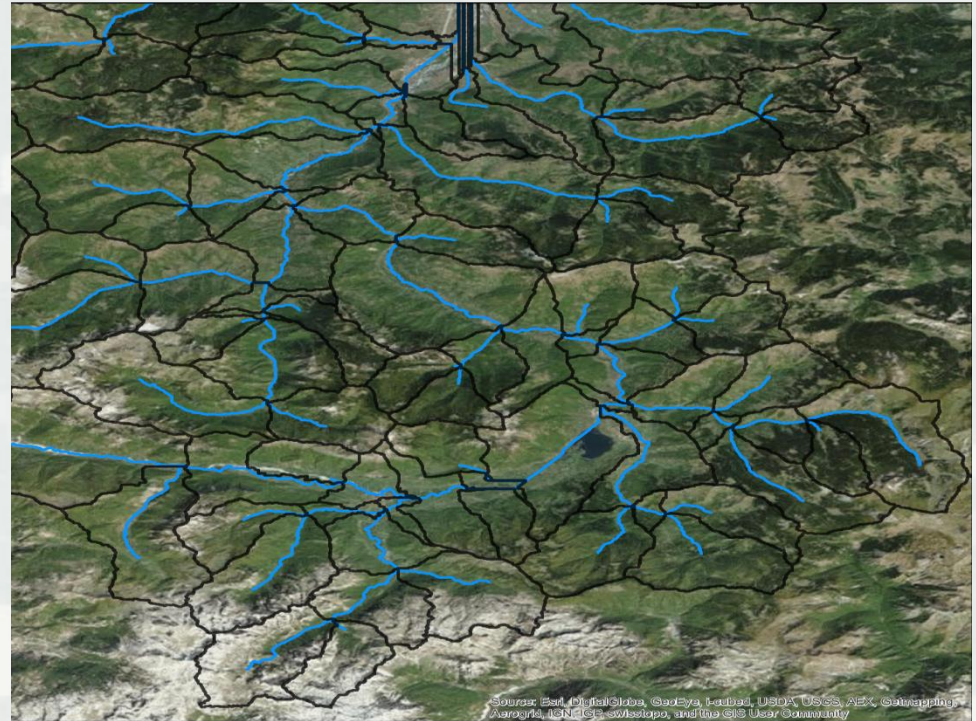
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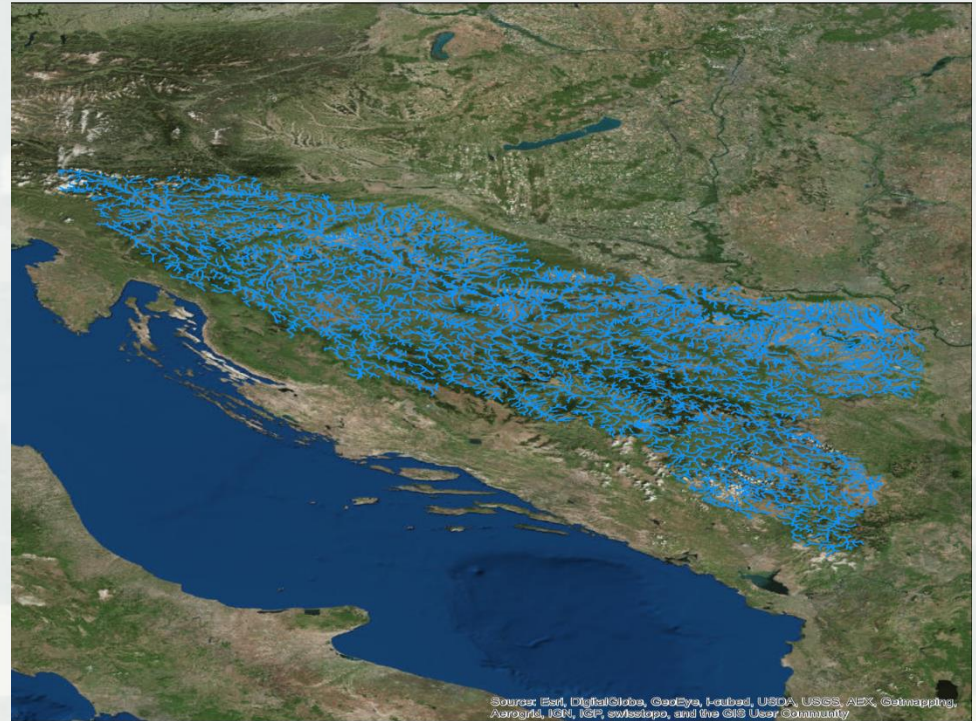
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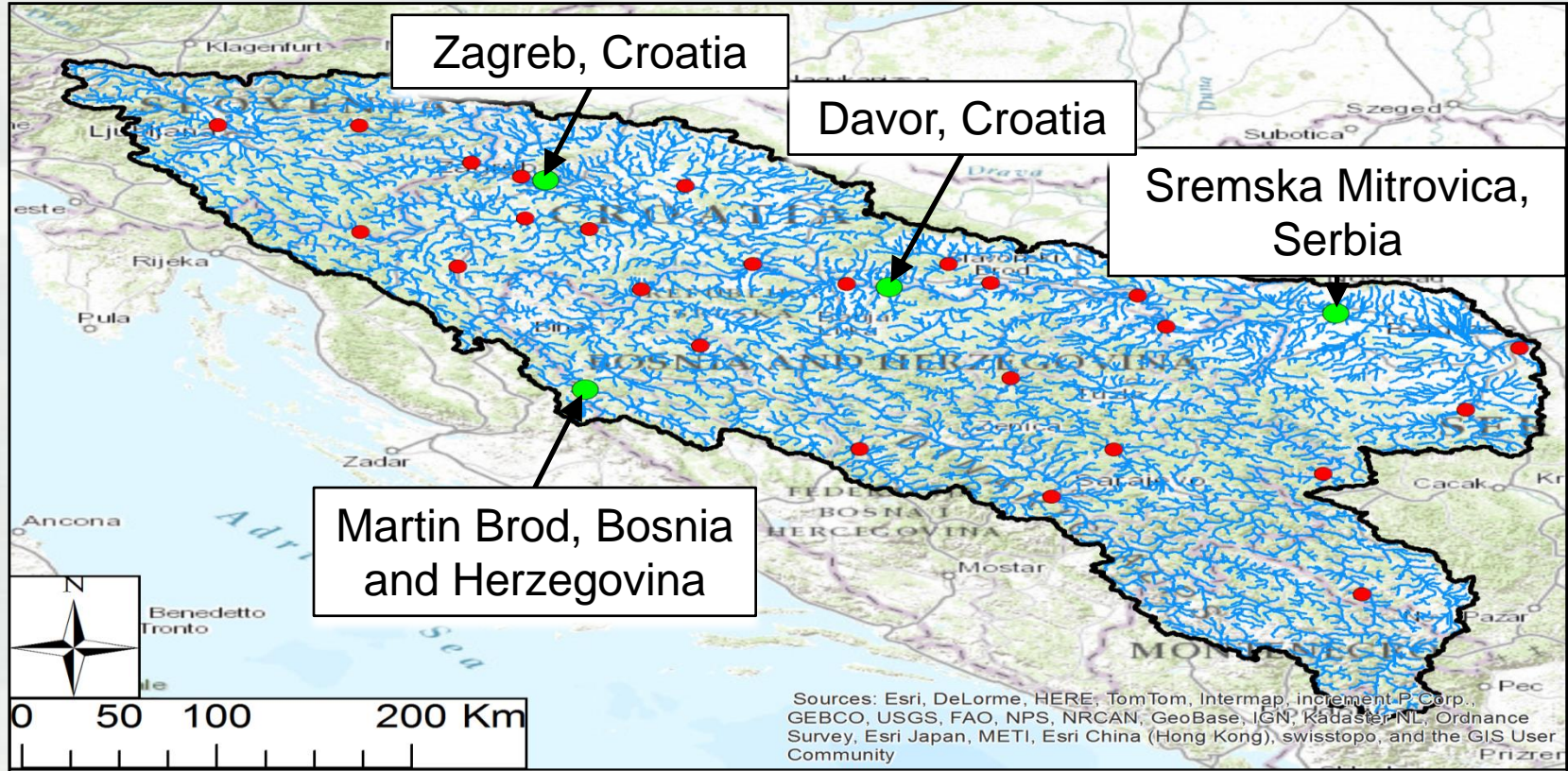


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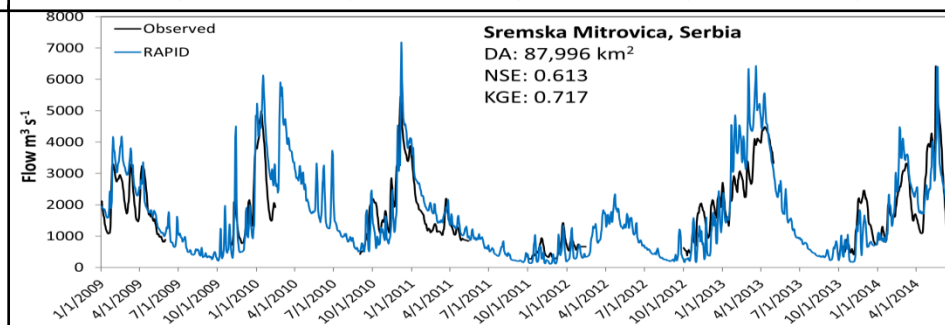
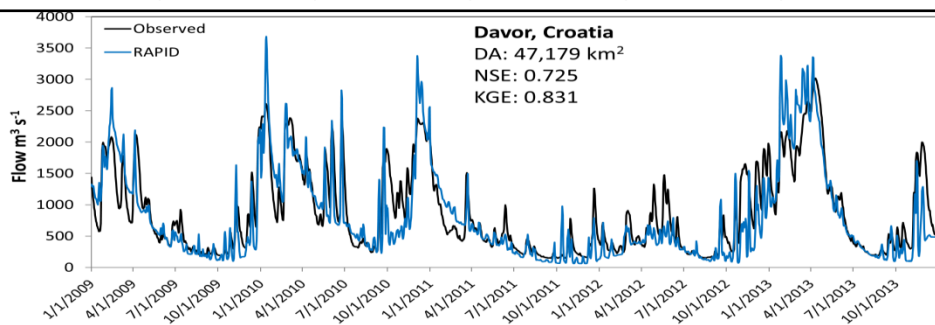
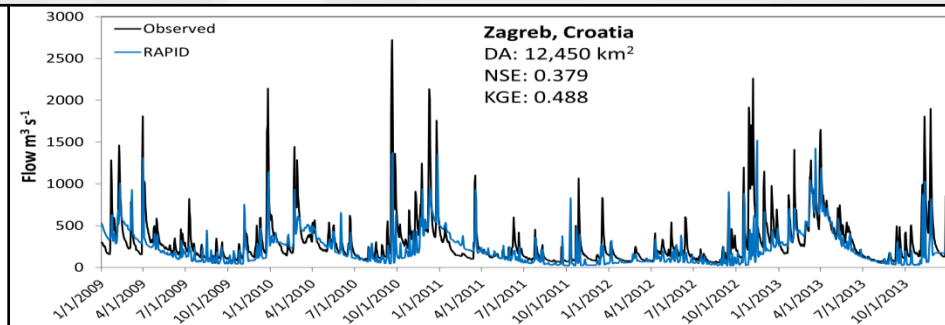
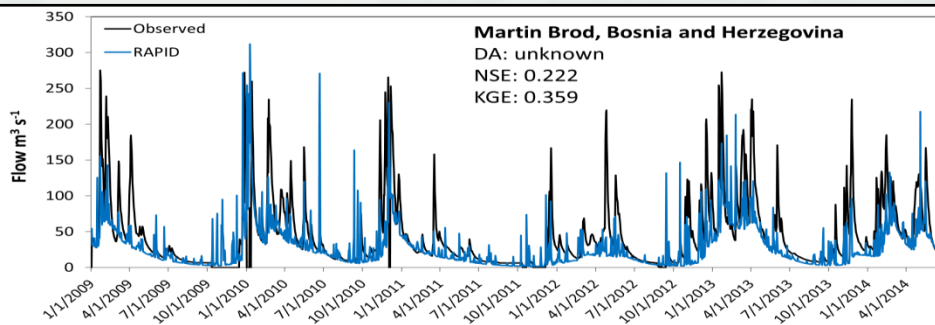
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Sava River Basin

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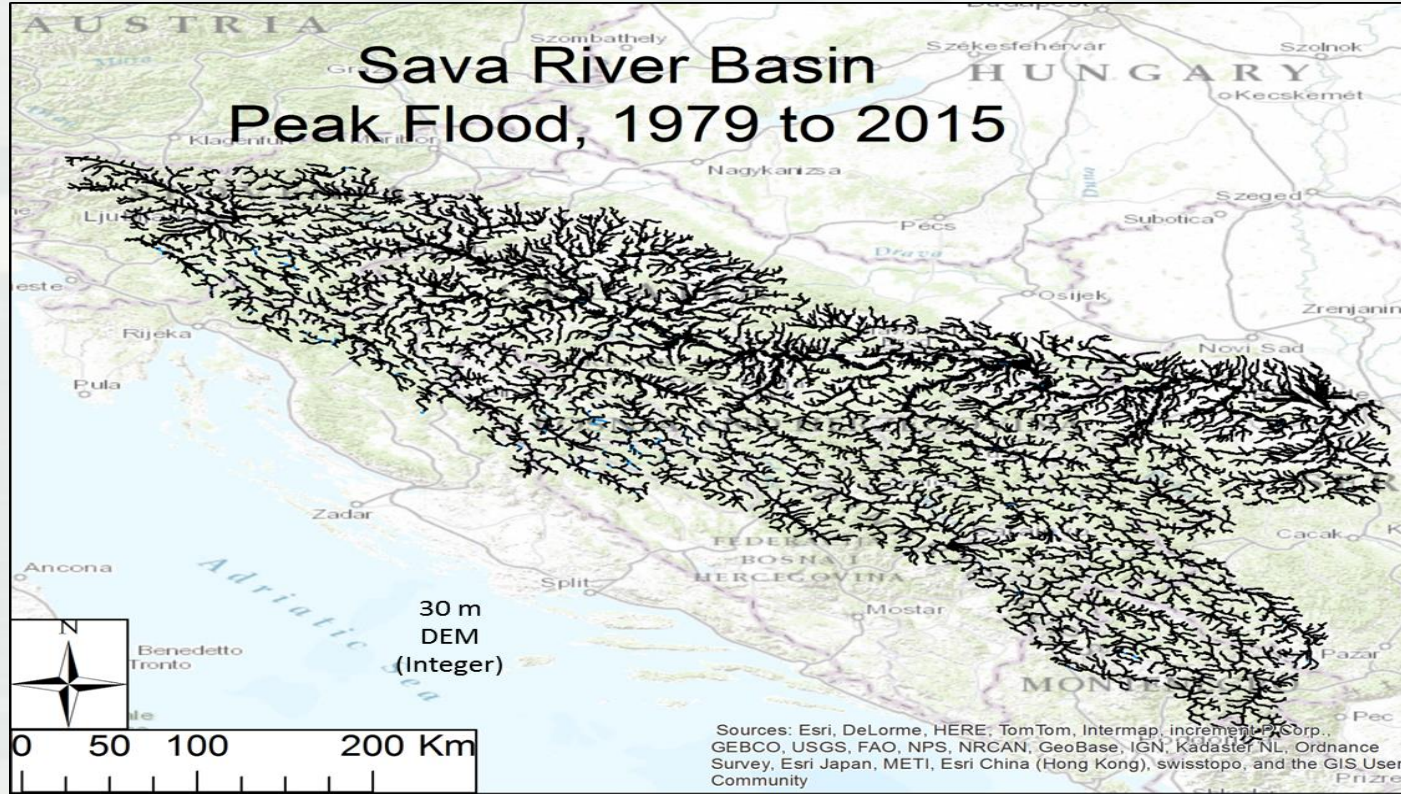
Follum et al., 2016



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Sava River Basin

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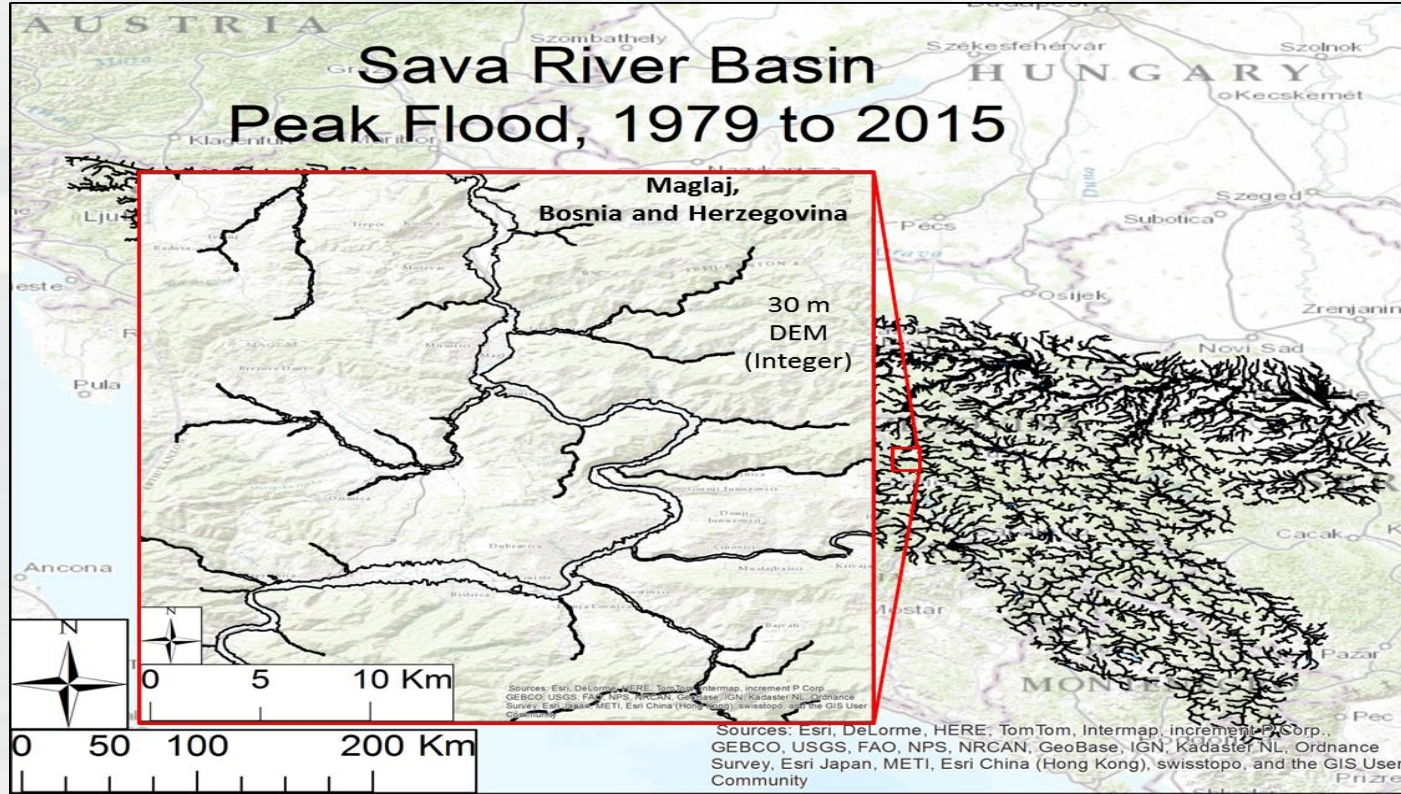
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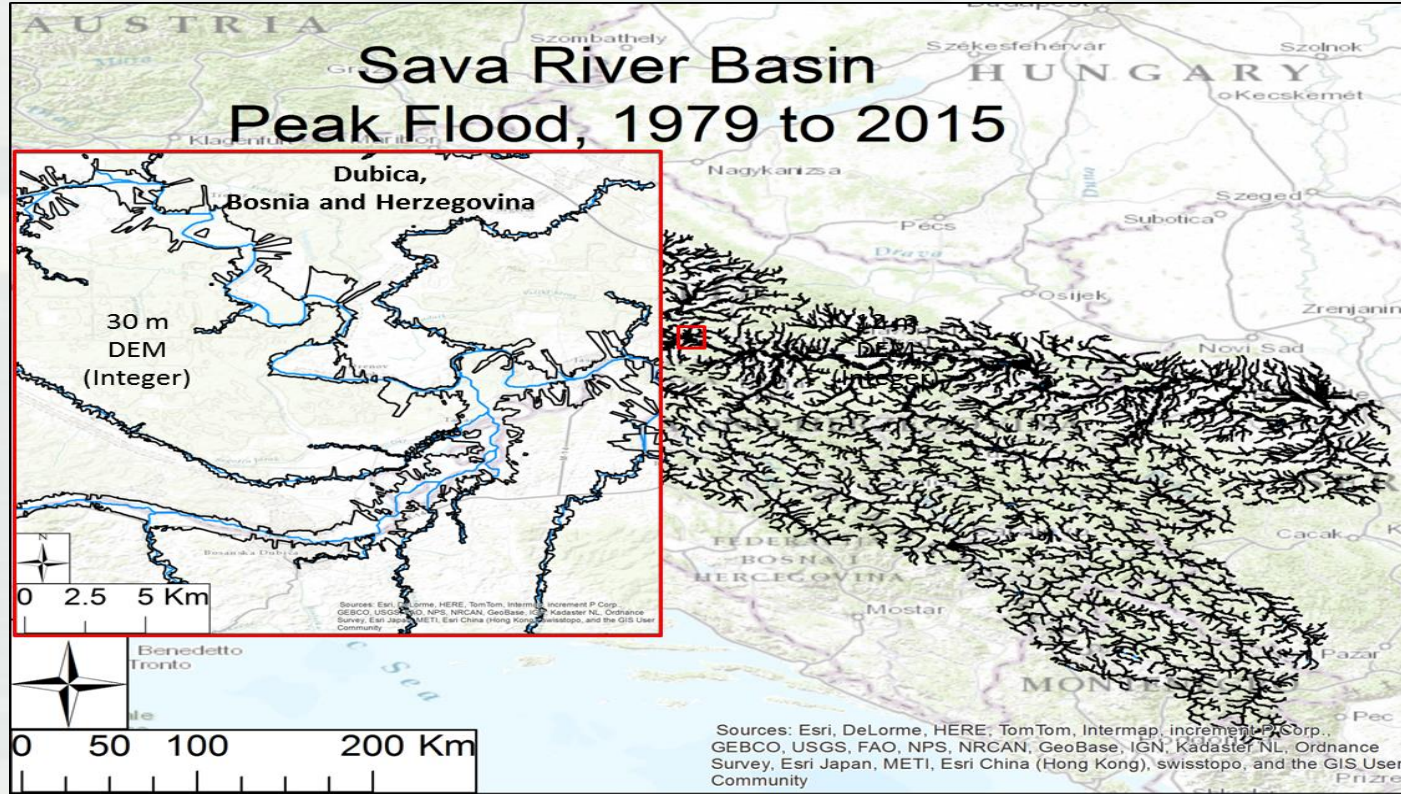
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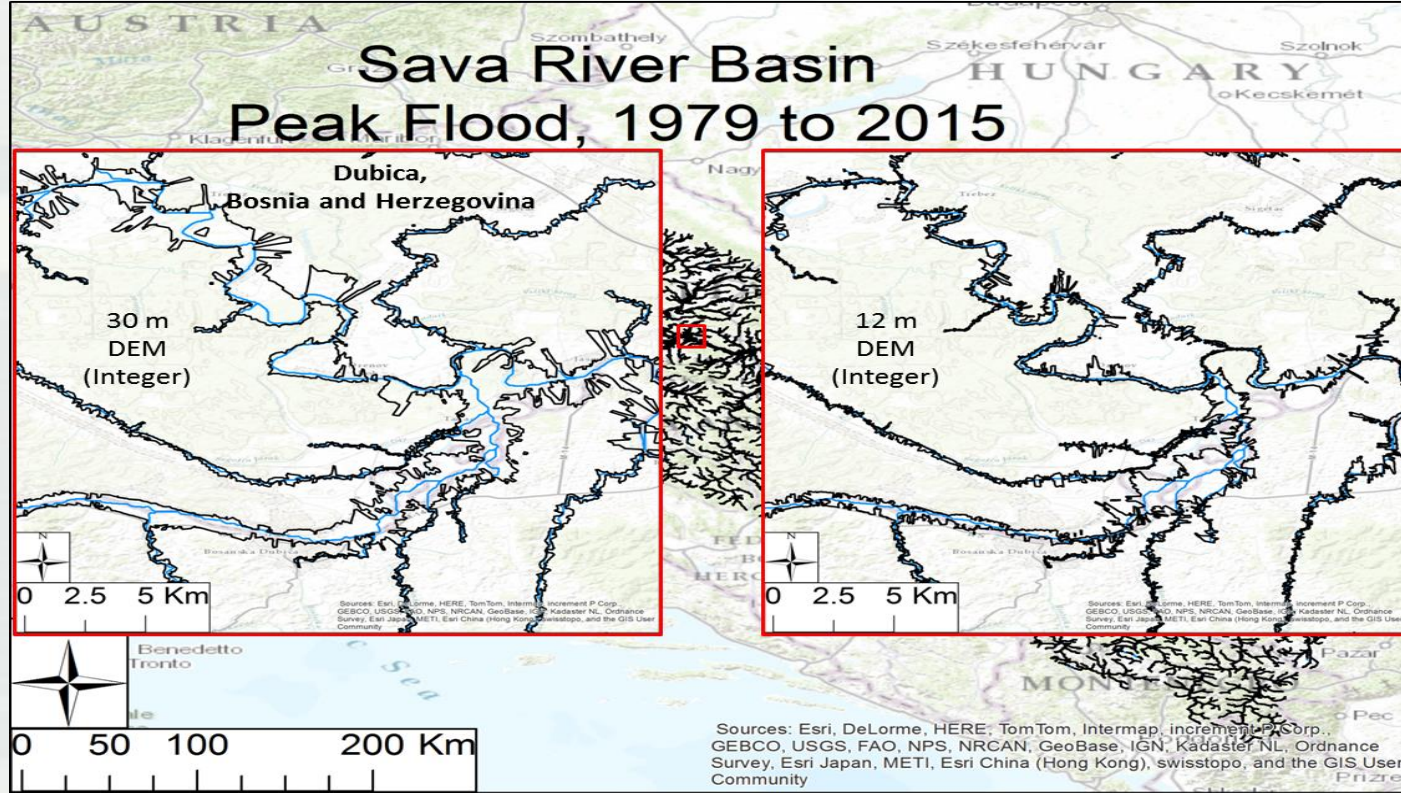
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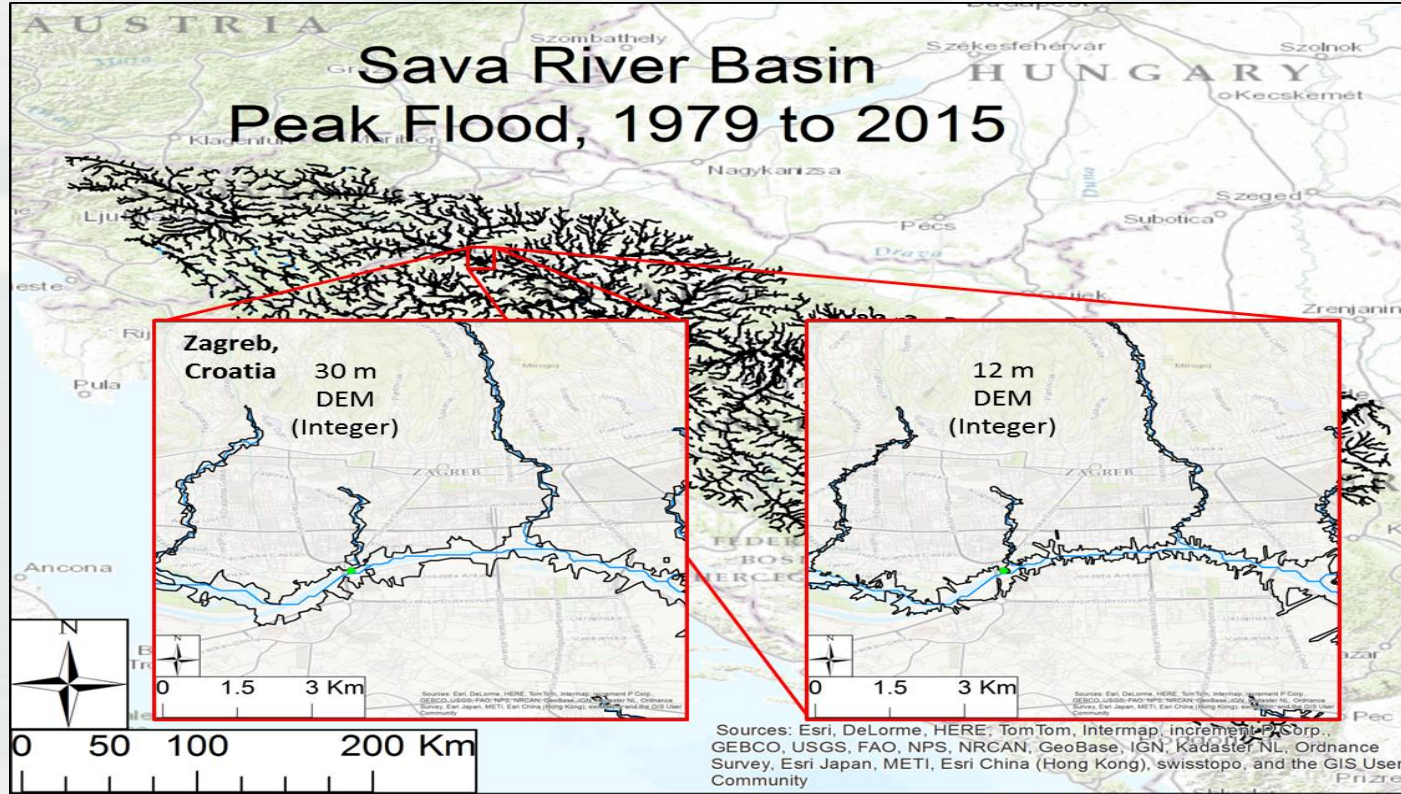
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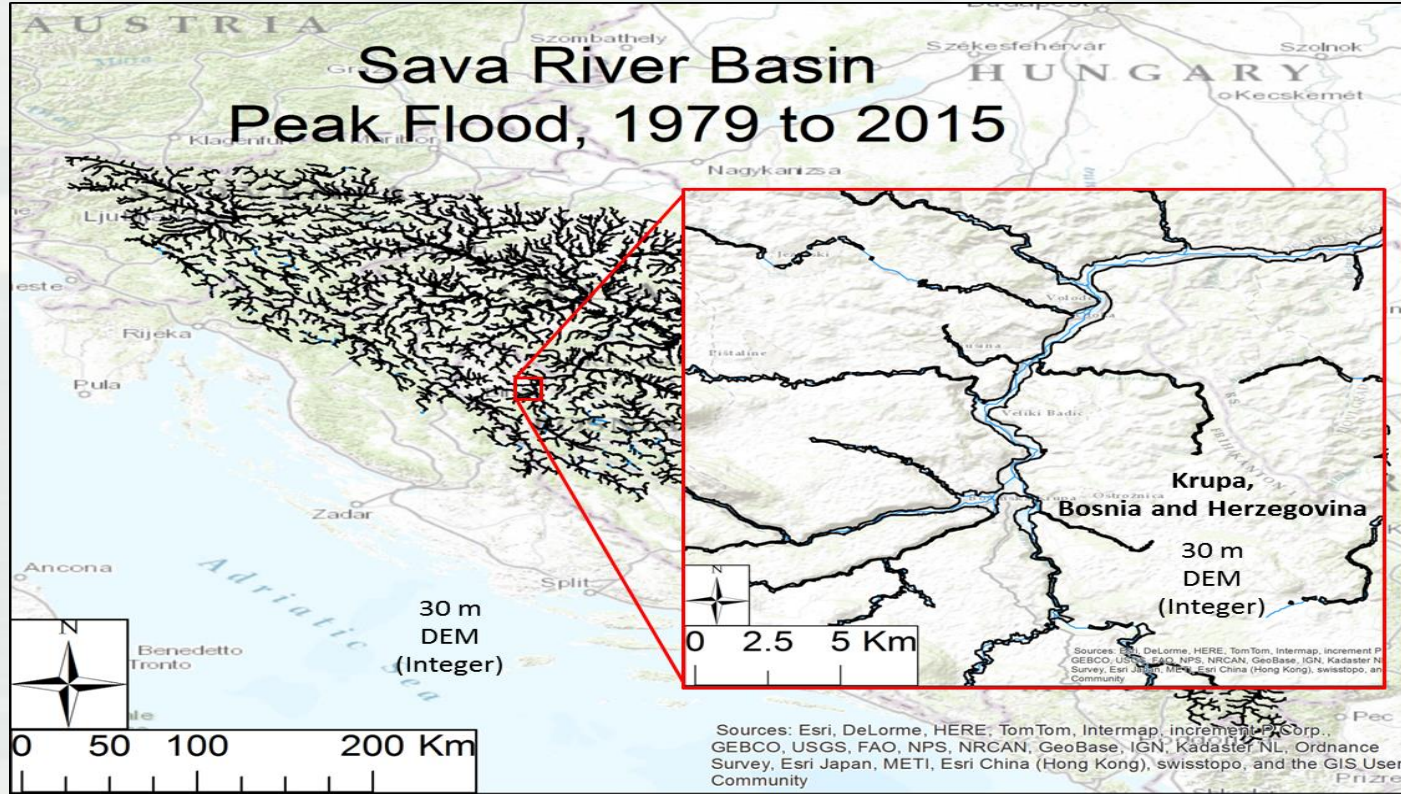
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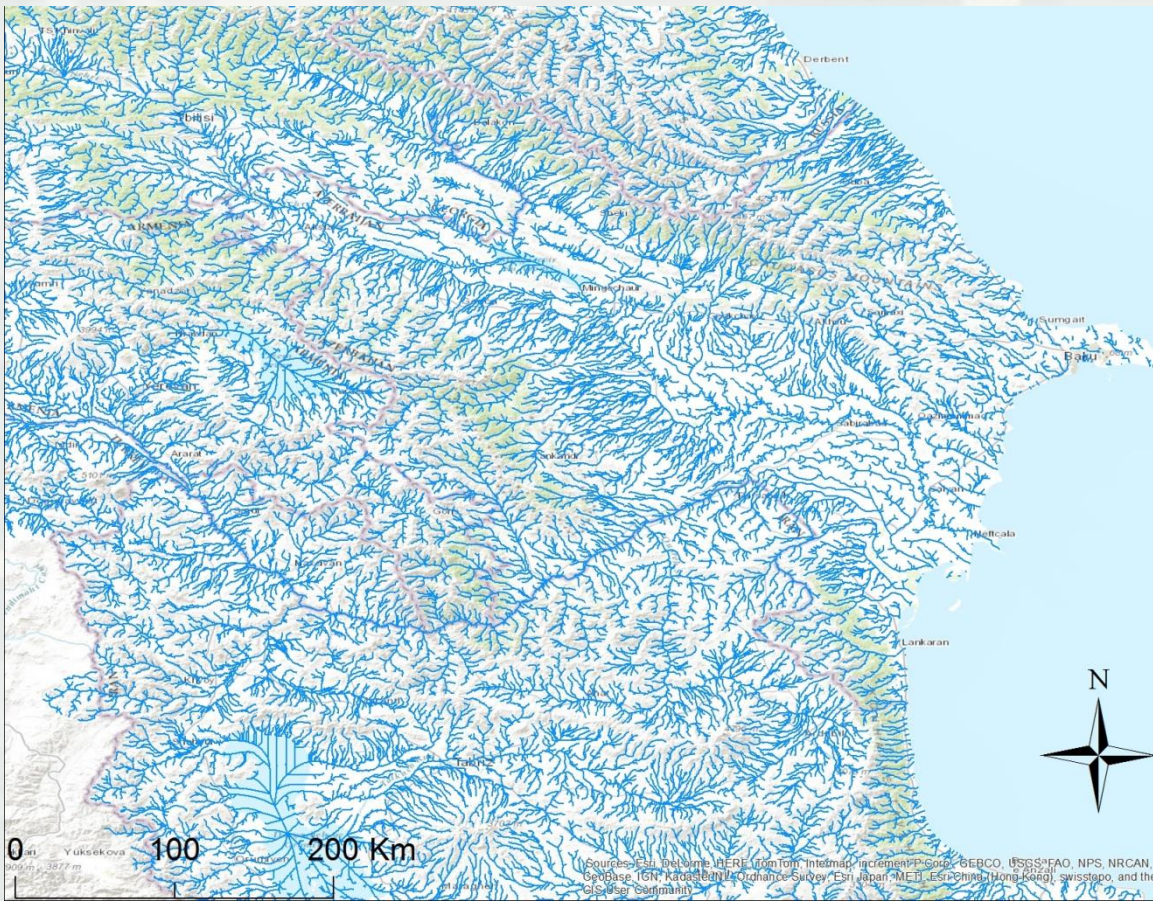
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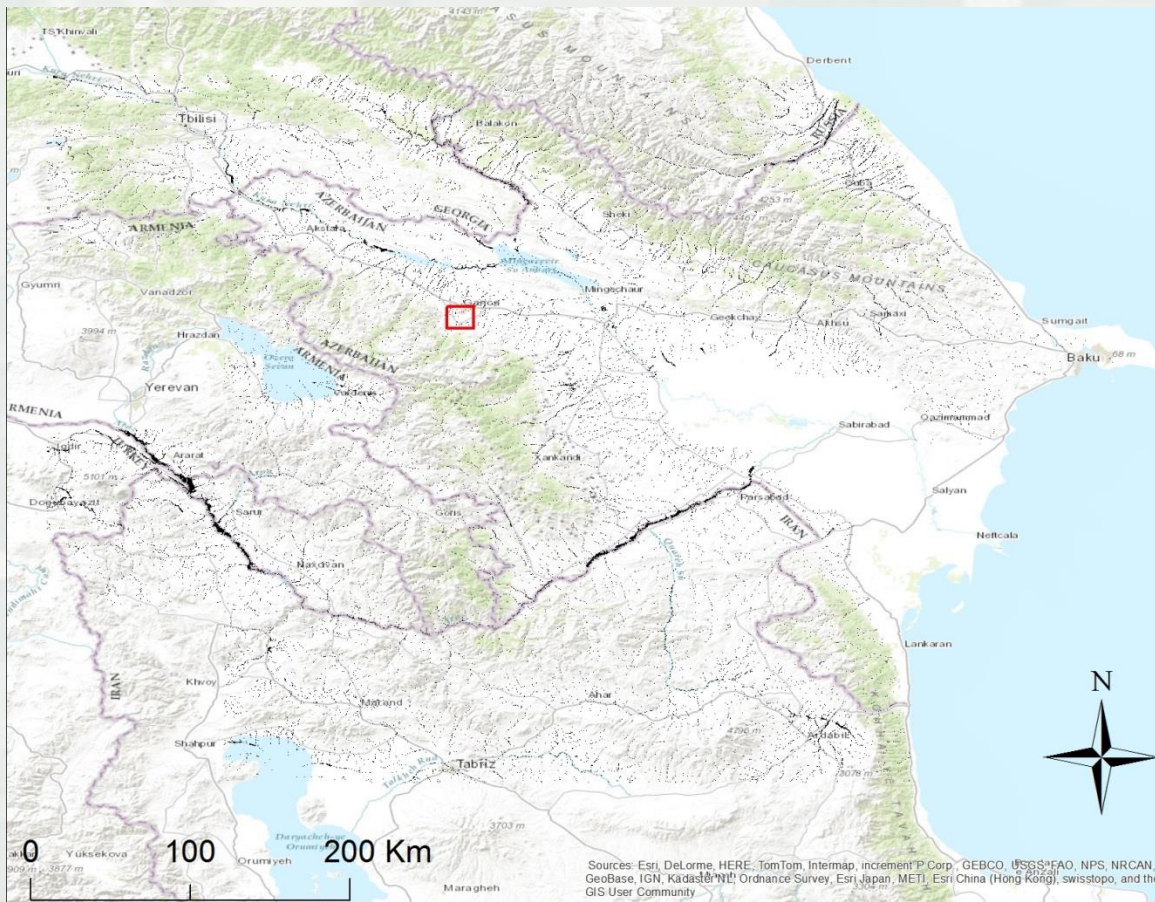
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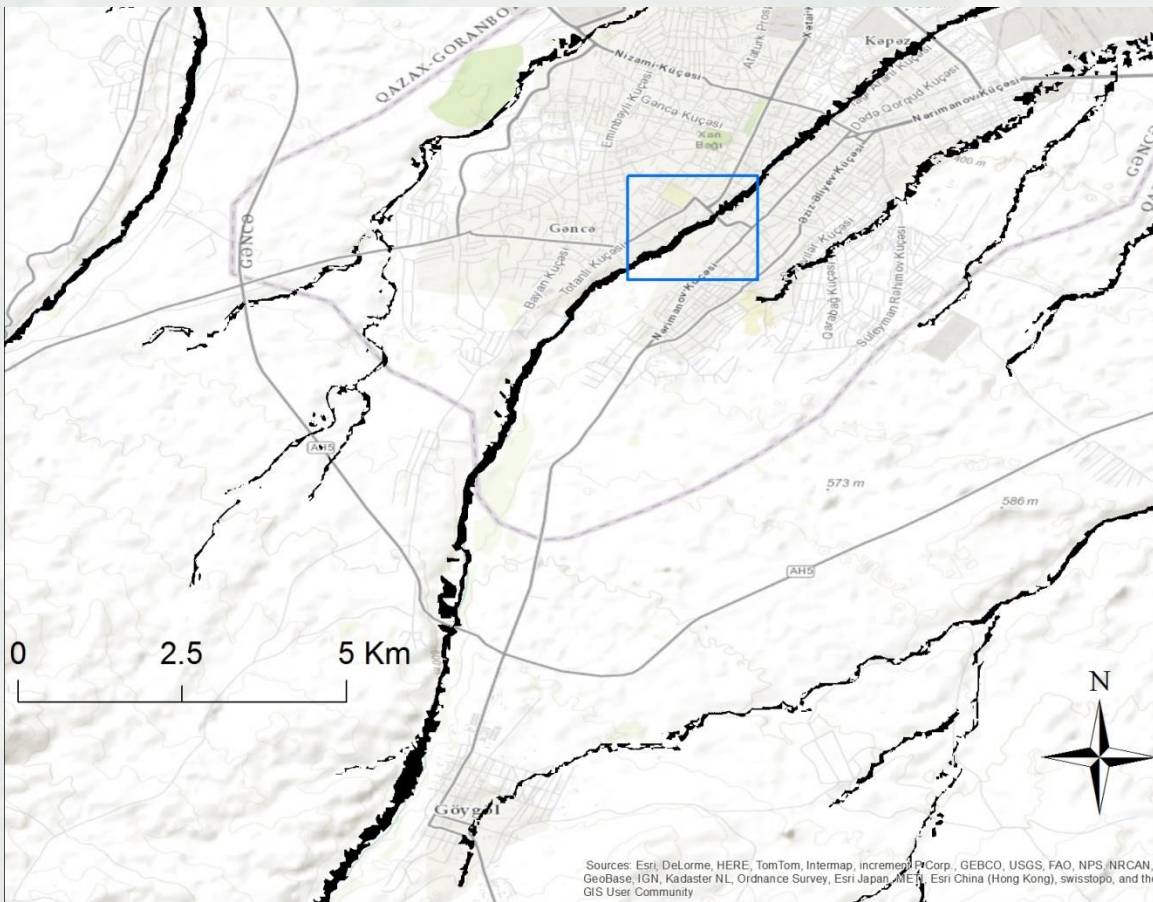
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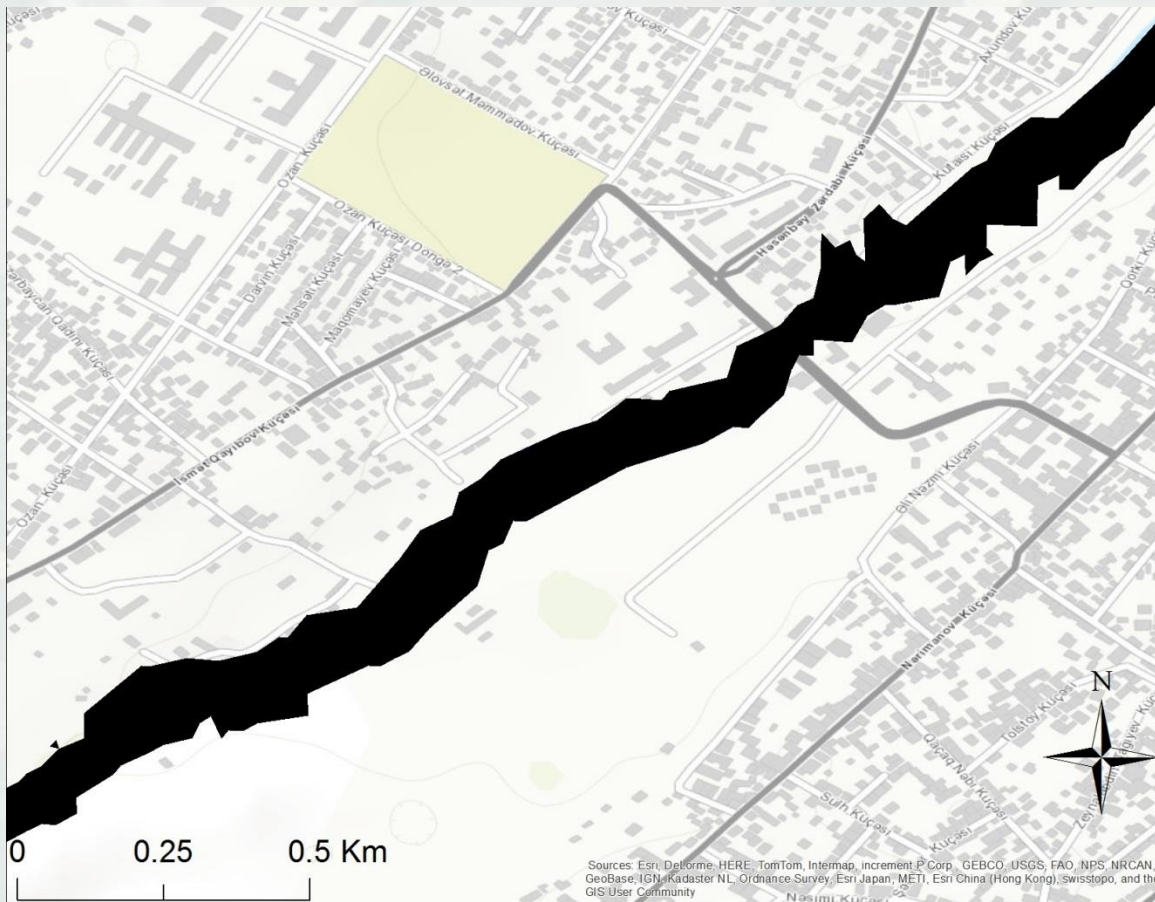
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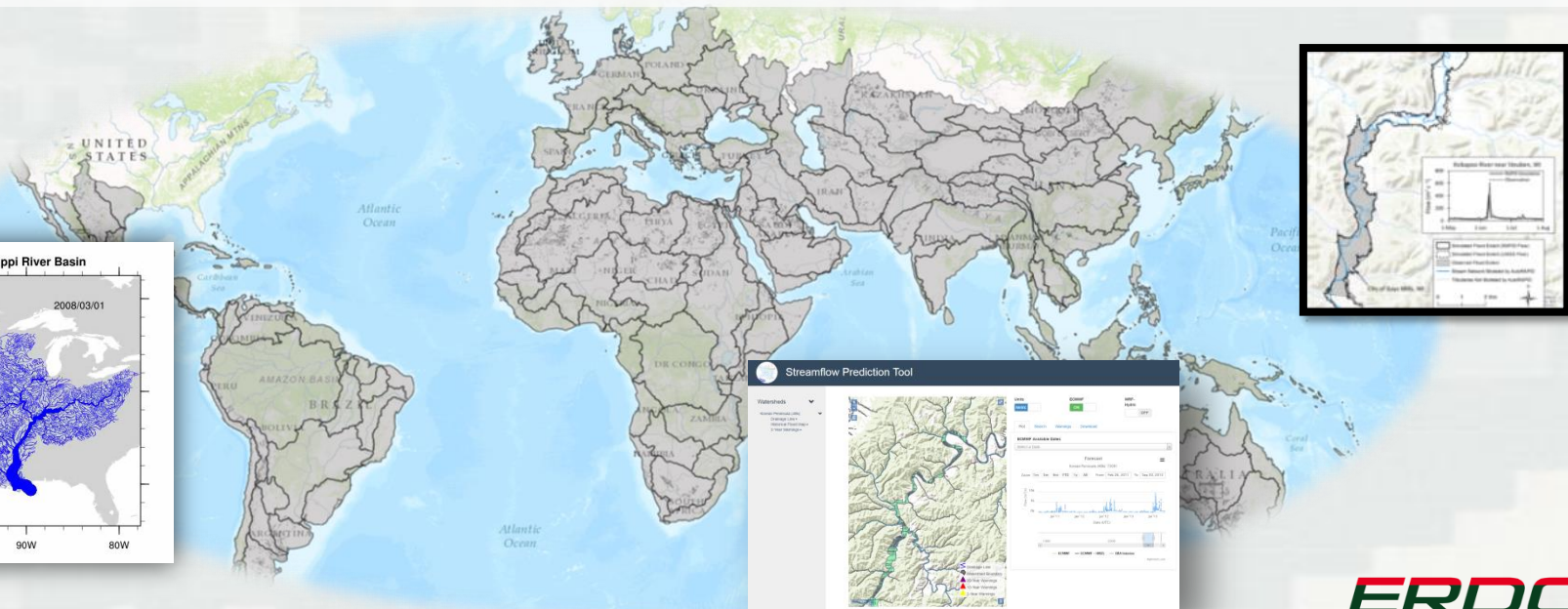
Streamflow Prediction Tool (SPT)

Providing hydrologic information that is globally aware and locally precise

U.S. Army ERDC, along with university partners, has developed a method for forecasting streamflow and mapping inundation by routing globally available runoff estimates over continental-scale stream networks. This is a first-order approach for estimating streamflow in ungaged basins. The tool provides a 15-day hydrologic forecast.

BYU

BRIGHAM YOUNG
UNIVERSITY



Web-based Graphical User Interface

Making hydrologic information accessible and comprehensible

Streamflow Prediction Tool Exit

App Navigation

Select Watershed(s)

Watershed Groups ▾

NORTHCOM ▾

- Drainage Line -
- Cage ▾
- AHPS Station -
- 20-Year Warnings ▾
- 10-Year Warnings ▾
- 2-Year Warnings ▾

Back to Admin Options

Warning Points Control Panel

Select Forecast Date

2016-05-22 00:00:00

2016-06-22 to 2016-09-22

Units

Metric

IN

ECMWF

ON

WRF-Hydro

OFF

Plot Search Warnings Download

Legend

- Drainage Line
- Watershed Boundary
- 20-Year Warnings
- 10-Year Warnings
- 2-Year Warnings

Error: ERA interim return period data for mississippi_region (mte) not found



Limitations and Ongoing Research

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Global, High-Resolution Elevation Data:

- Recent release of provisional TanDEM-X DEM products (Krieger et al., 2007) to the United States Department of Defense (DOD) at a 12-meter horizontal resolution (Boer et al., 2014).
- Not hydrologically “cleaned-up” ... yet.

Reservoirs:

- Include if we know the operational outflow schedule.
- Currently implementing methods to account for reservoirs based on inflow and storage capacity.

Snow:

- We have found larger errors in flow simulations during snow melt events.

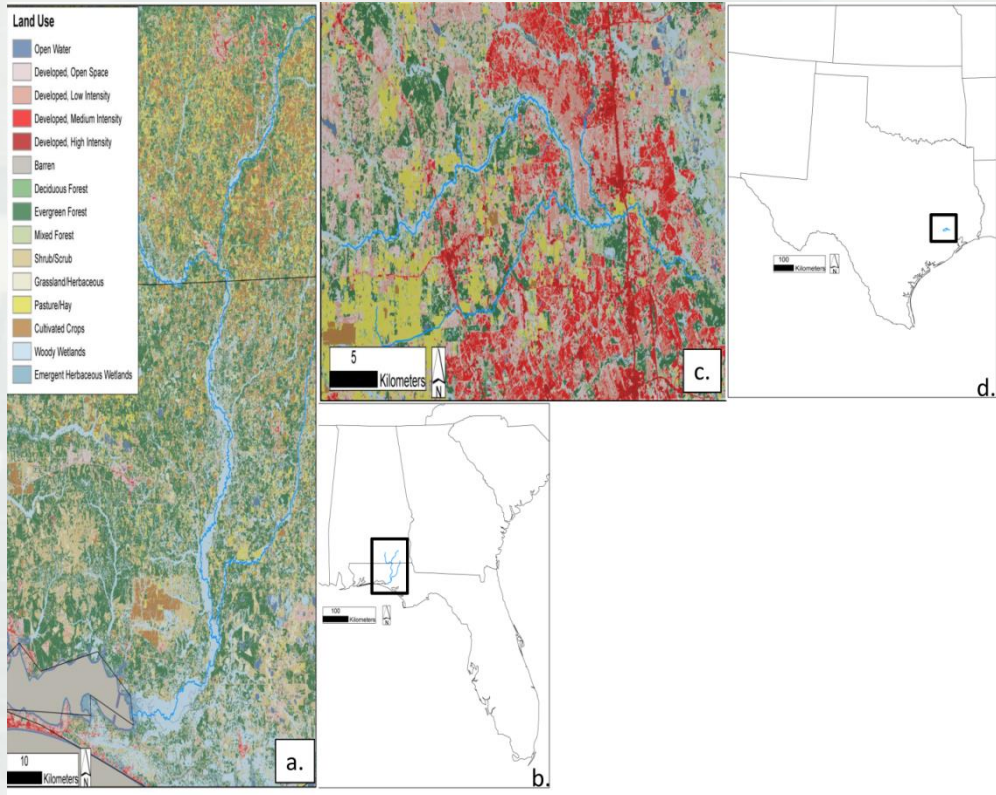
Flat Terrain and Coastal Regions:

- Need for a Diffusive Wave approach??
- Connect to more sophisticated models??



Limitations and Ongoing Research

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Choctawhatchee River in AL and FL; and Spring and Willow Creeks, TX

Comparisons / Validation:

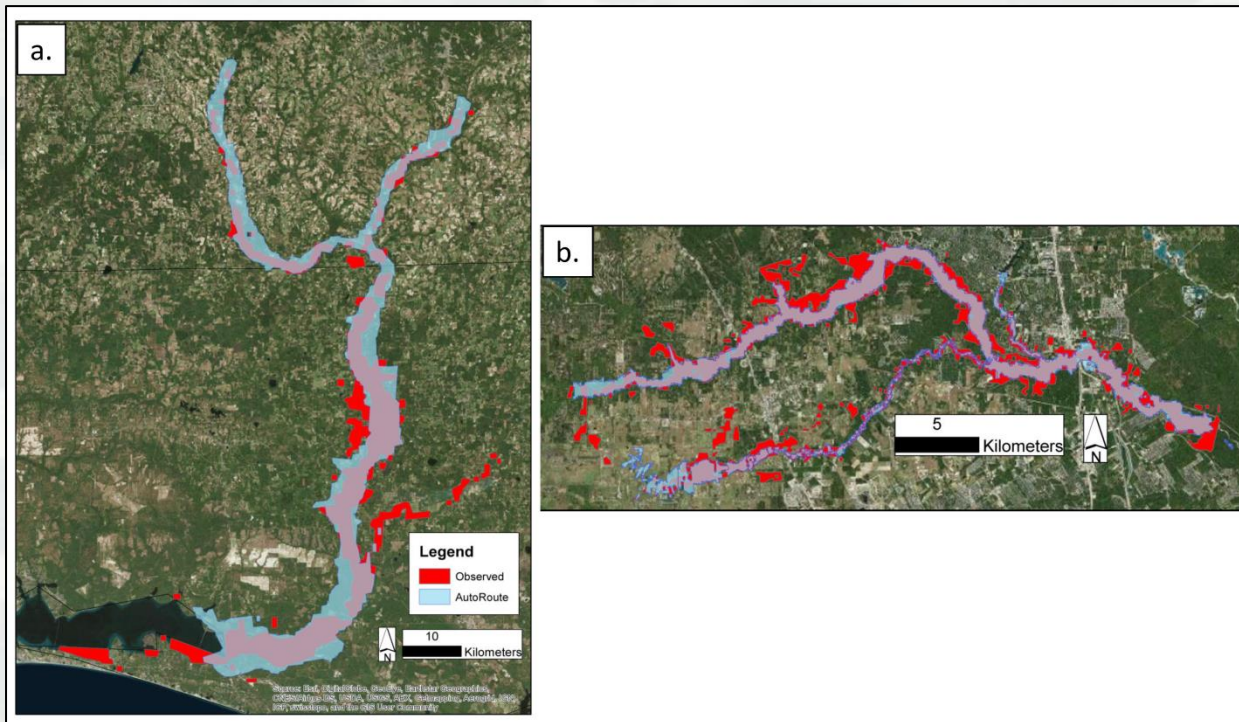
Praskievicz et al., “Evaluation of AutoRoute-simulated flood-inundation extents using remotely sensed imagery: 2016 Alabama/Florida and Texas Floods”, In Progress.

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Department of Geography
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Limitations and Ongoing Research

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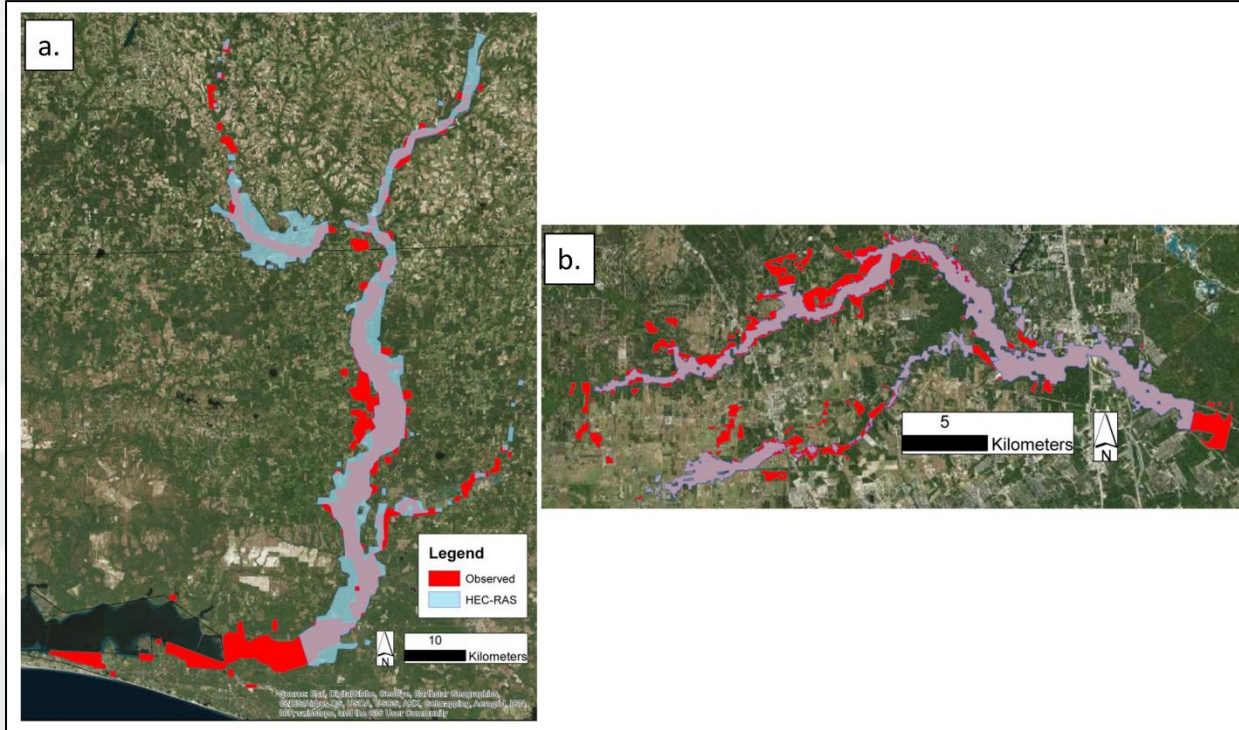
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AutoRoute vs. LandSat-derived flood maps
(<https://sdml.ua.edu/usfimr/>)



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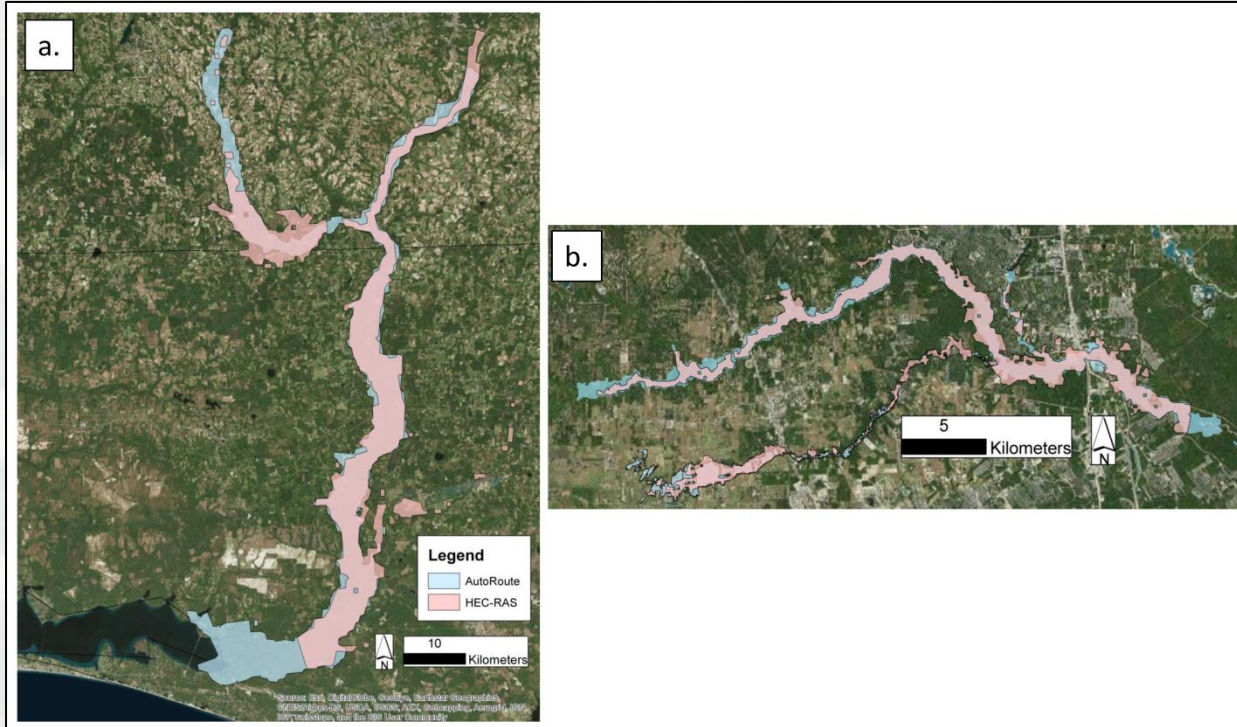
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HEC-RAS vs. LandSat-derived flood maps
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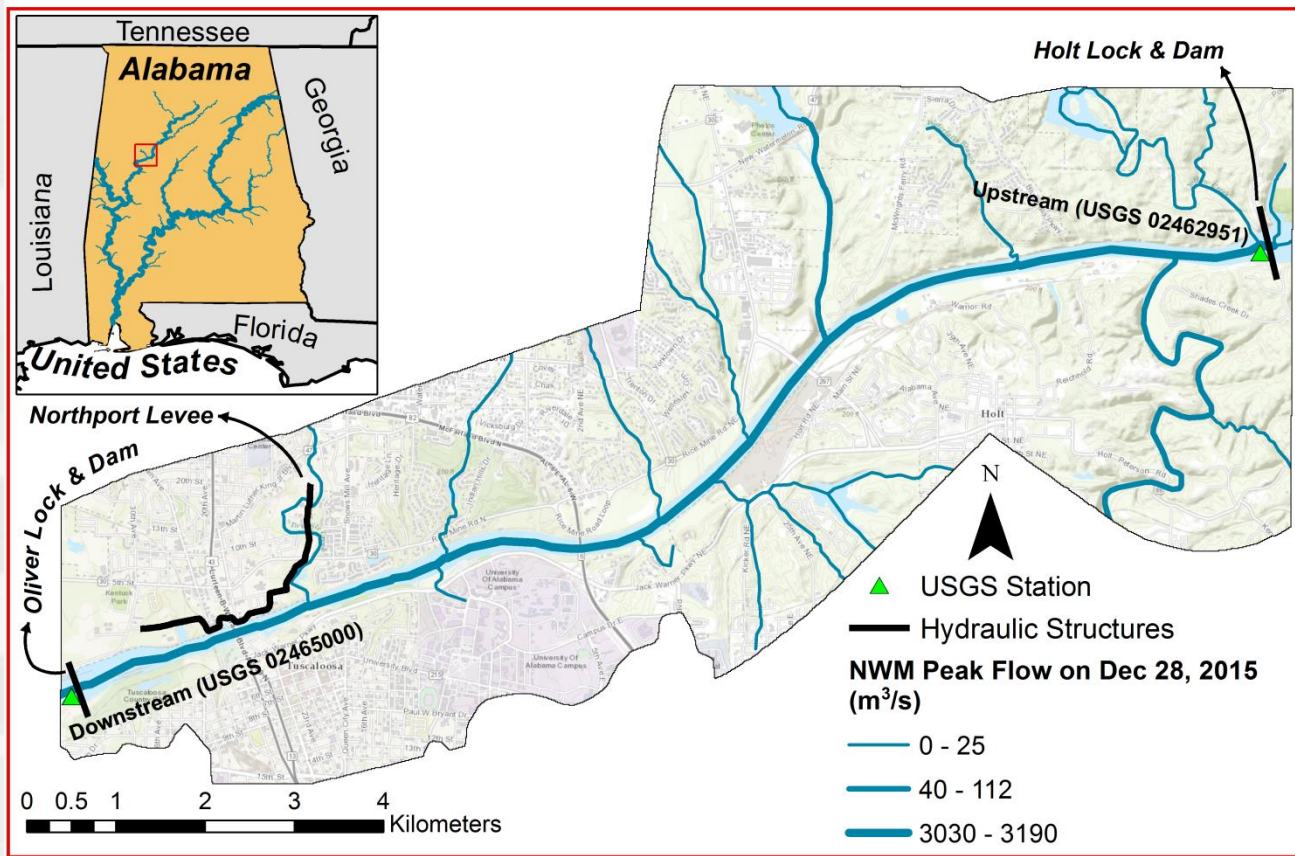
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AutoRoute vs. HEC-RAS



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Bathymetry / Levees:

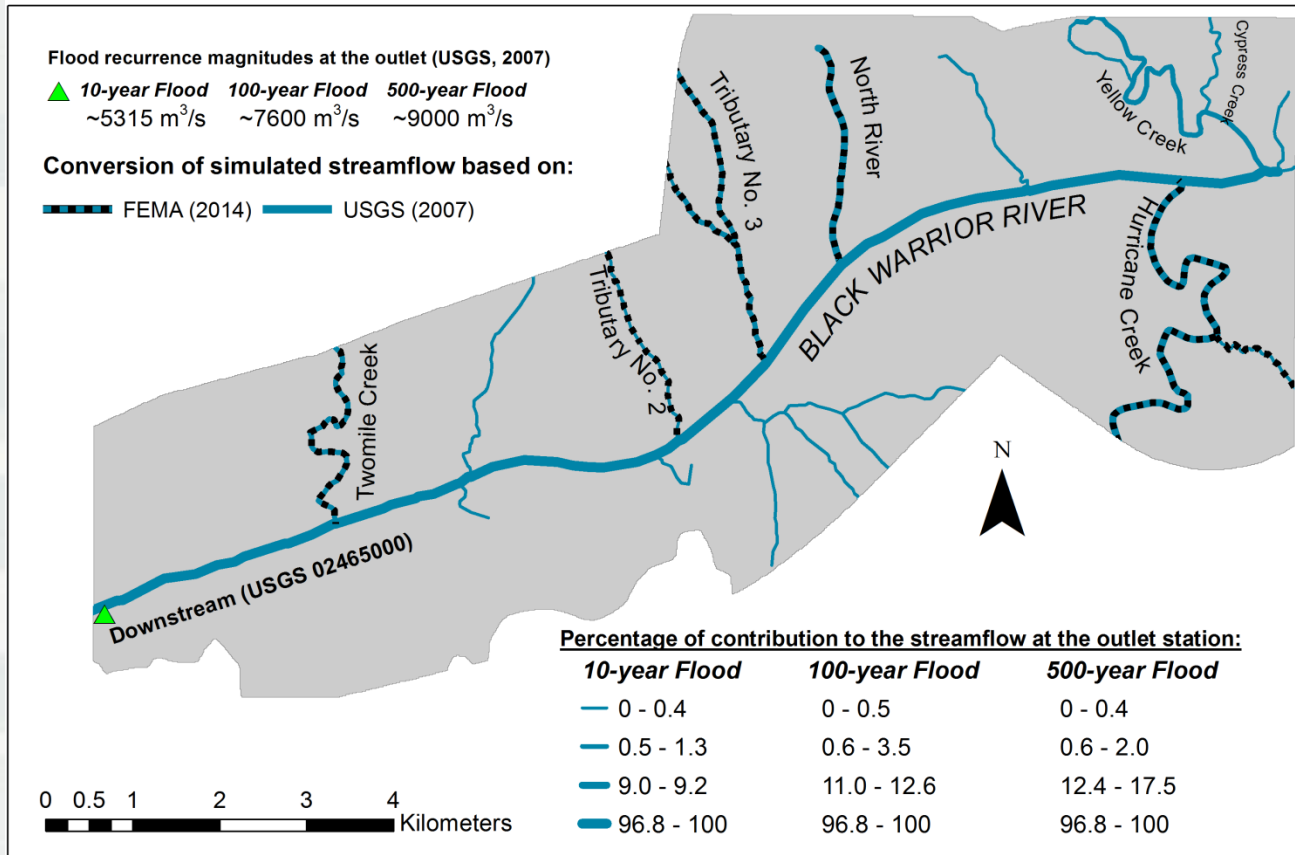
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Shahab Afshari
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City University of New York
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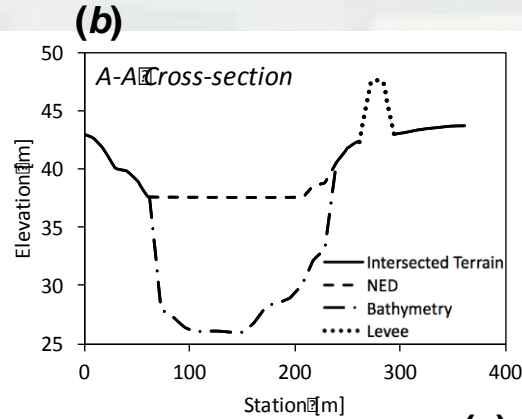
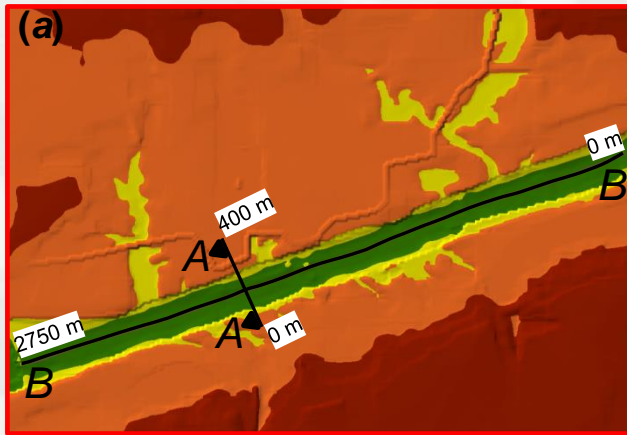
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 City University of New York
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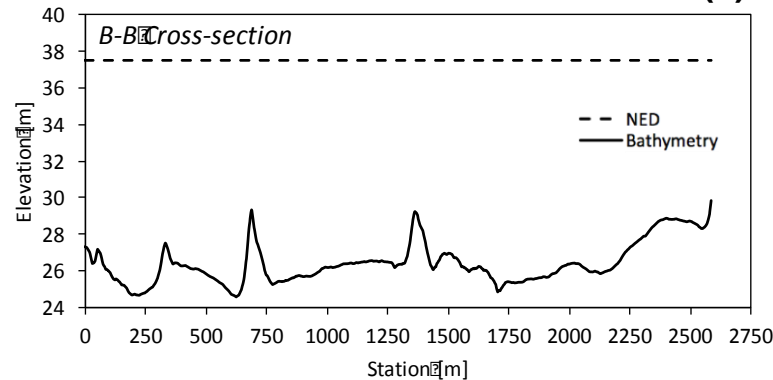
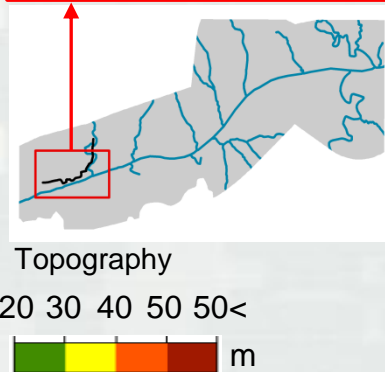


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Afshari et al., “Comparison of new generation low-complexity flood inundation mapping tools with a hydrodynamic model”, In Review at Journal of Hydrology.

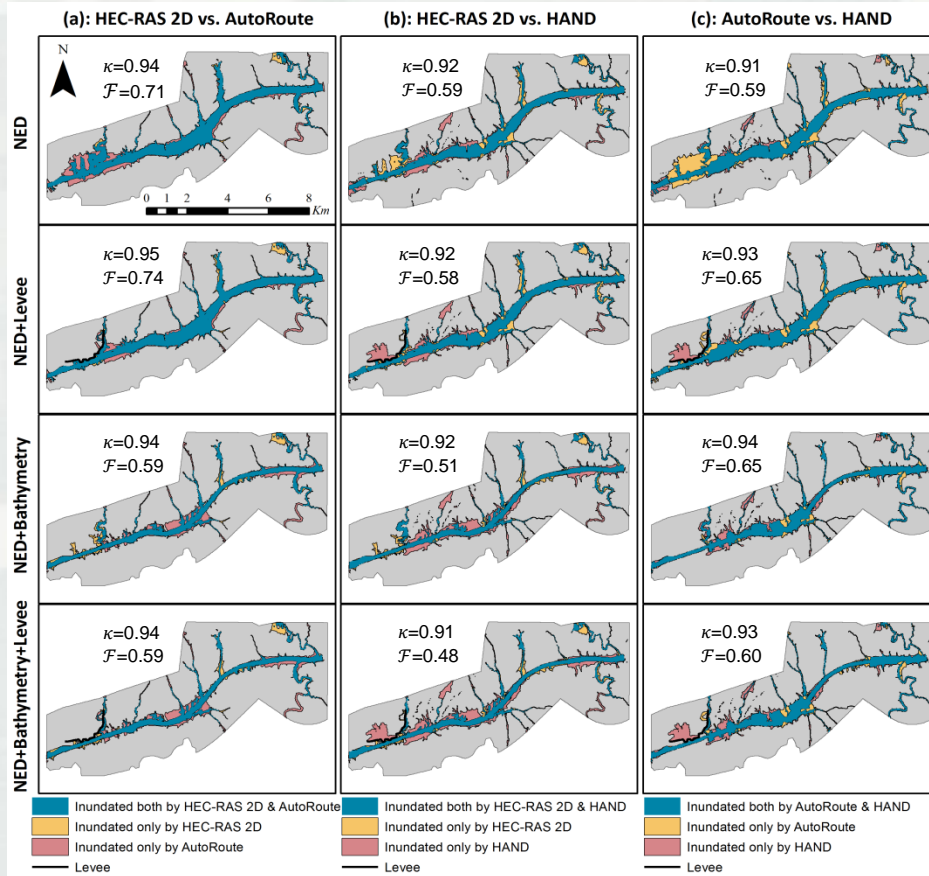
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10-Yr Flood



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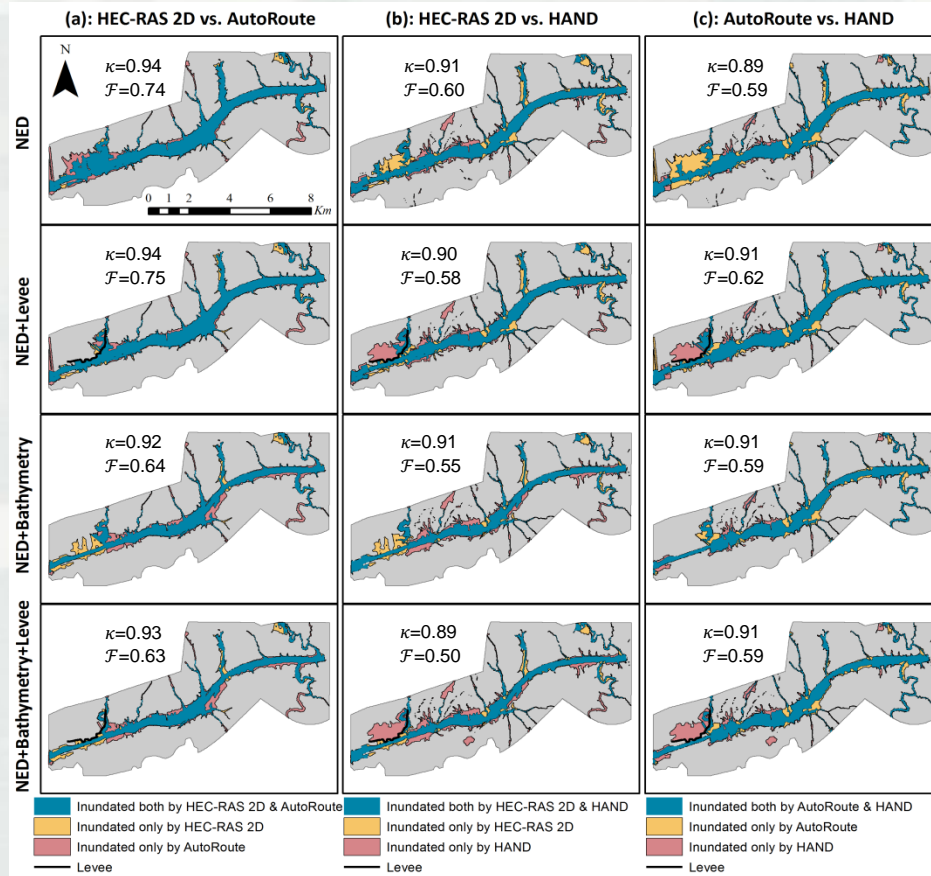
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100-Yr Flood



Bathymetry / Levees:

Afshari et al., “Comparison of new generation low-complexity flood inundation mapping tools with a hydrodynamic model”, In Review at Journal of Hydrology.

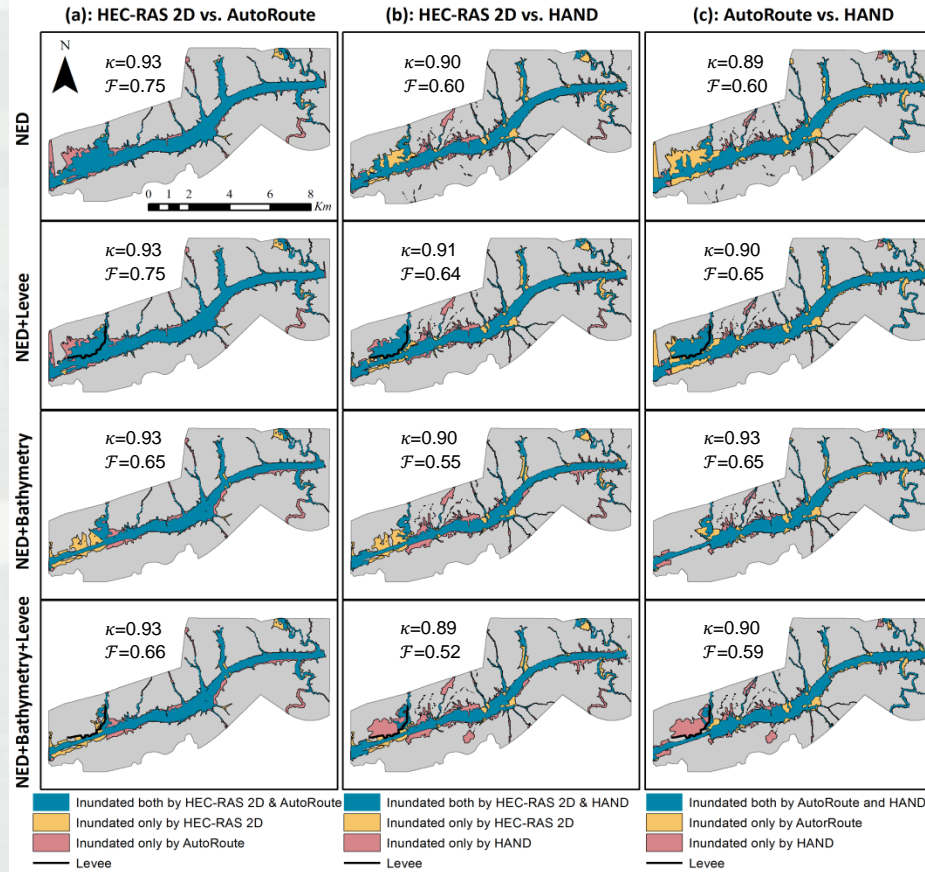
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500-Yr Flood



Bathymetry / Levees:

Afshari et al., “Comparison of new generation low-complexity flood inundation mapping tools with a hydrodynamic model”, In Review at Journal of Hydrology.

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Web-based Graphical User Interface

Making hydrologic information accessible and comprehensible

Streamflow Prediction Tool Exit

App Navigation

Select Watershed(s)

Watershed Groups ▾

NORTHCOM ▾

- Drainage Line -
- Cage ▾
- AHPS Station -
- 20-Year Warnings ▾
- 10-Year Warnings ▾
- 2-Year Warnings ▾

Back to Admin Options

Warning Points Control Panel

Select Forecast Date

2016-05-22 00:00:00

2016-06-22 to 2016-09-22

Units

Metric IN WRF-Hydro OFF

Plot Search Warnings Download

Legend

- Drainage Line
- Watershed Boundary
- 20-Year Warnings
- 10-Year Warnings
- 2-Year Warnings

Error: ERA interim return period data for mississippi_region (nile) not found



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QUESTIONS



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