

# The National Water Center Summer Institute

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**Fred Ogden**, University of Wyoming

**Mike Johnson**, University of California

**Jim Coll**, University of Kansas



# NWC Summer Institute Program

The NWC Summer Institute (SI) is an annual program under the auspices of the NWC's Innovators Program.

Administered by the [The Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc. \(CUAHSI\)](#)

Seven-week event at the NWC and UA in which graduate student collaborated intensively to work on projects designed to contribute to the NWC goals.

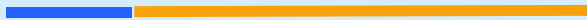
Project themes are defined in advance to reflect the NWC goals.

The SI is led by faculty theme leads with daily oversight provided by post-doctoral or PhD course coordinators (selected by a committee; open application).



# Summer Institute Process

2015 SI

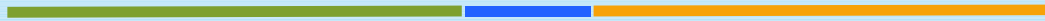


6 June to 20 July 2016

Plan and Prototype

2016 SI

Publication

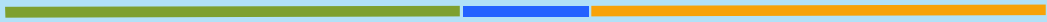


10 months

7 weeks

1 year

2017 SI



- Goals:**
- 2015 – a prototype national flood forecasting system
  - 2016 – flood inundation mapping for continental US
  - 2017 – hyper-resolution simulation in cities (streets, pipes, streams)

# 2016 Summer Institute: 34 Graduate Students from 21 Universities

Oregon State  
UNIVERSITY



PURDUE  
UNIVERSITY



UC SANTA BARBARA



UTSA



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA

NC STATE  
UNIVERSITY

KU



UTRGV



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
MĀNOA

JACKSONVILLE  
STATE UNIVERSITY

Northeastern University

VILLANOVA  
UNIVERSITY

UMassAmherst

THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

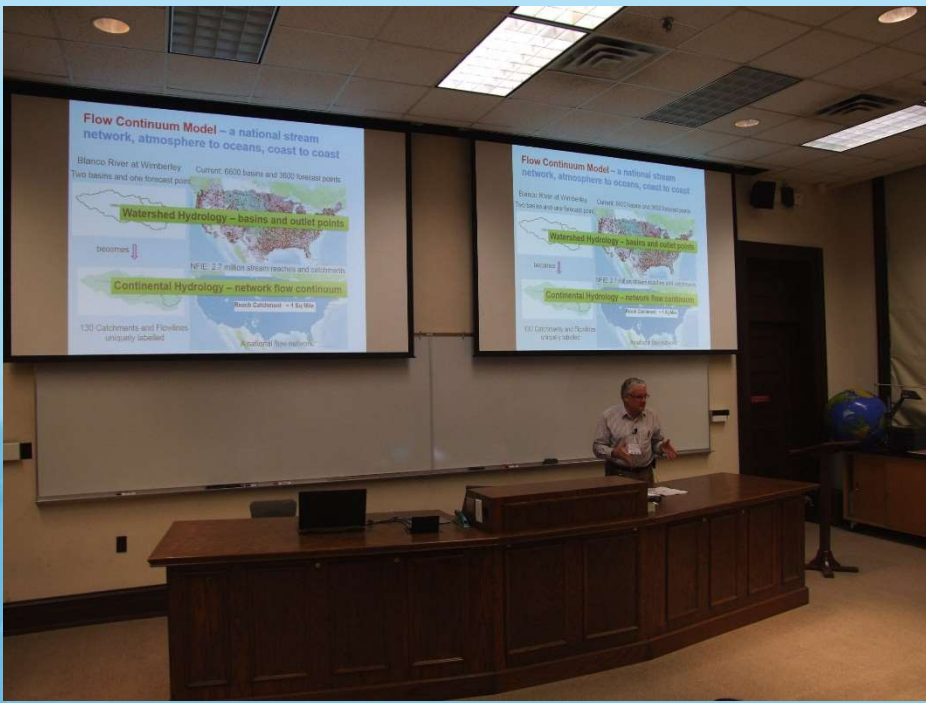
UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS ARLINGTON



# 2016 Summer Institute Projects

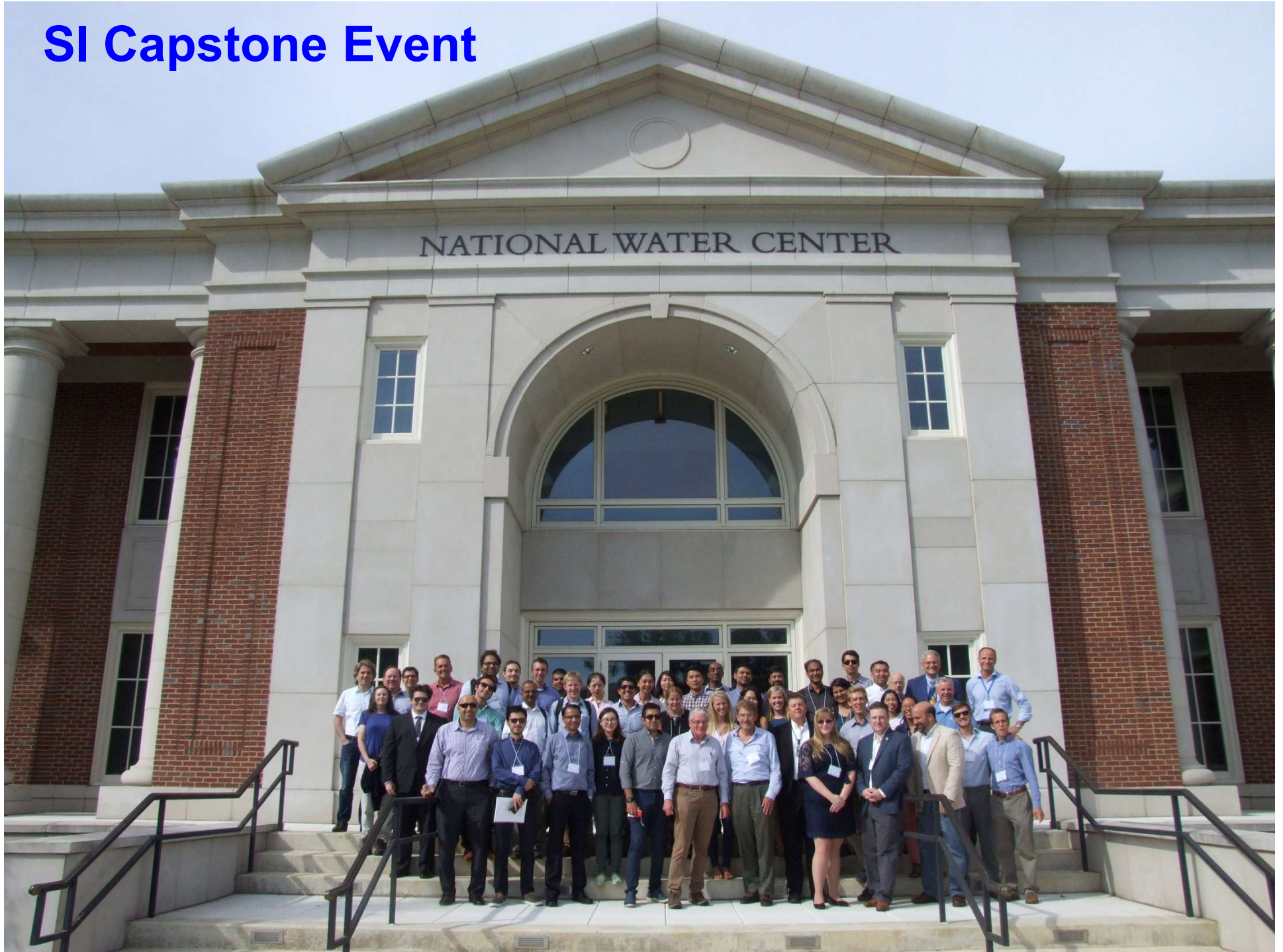
<i>Theme</i>	<i>Project</i>	<i>Topic</i>	<i>Students</i>
<b>Flood Modeling</b>	1	Radar measurement and flow modeling	James Coll, Mike Johnson, Paul Ruess
	2	Hydrologic mapping of the Lower Rio Grande Valley	Brenda Eliza Bazan, Mark Hagemann, Kyungmin Kim
	3	Flood Inundation by Physical and Non-physical models	Shahab Ansari, Ehsan Omranian, Dongmei Feng
<b>Inundation Mapping</b>	4	The Modified HAND Method	Ryan McGehee, Lingcheng Li, Emily Posten,
	5	Object-based Flood Inundation Mapping	Yan-Ting Liao, Krishna Gadiraju
	6	Comparison of Flood Inundation Mapping Techniques	Jiaqi Zhang, Dinuke Munasinghe, Yu-Fen Huang
<b>Forecast Uncertainty</b>	7	Real-Time Postprocessor for Flood Inundation Mapping	Sanjib Sharma, Binqing Lu
	8	Uncertainty in Flood Inundation Mapping	Ridwan Siddique, Christopher Zarzar, Hossein Hosseiny, Michael Gomez
	9	Assimilation of Water Level Observations	Amir Javaheri, Mohammad Nabatian
<b>Emergency Response</b>	10	HAND Flood Mapping through the Tethys Platform	Savannah Keane, Christian Kesler, Xing Zheng
	11	Reimagining Disaster Warning Systems	Mike Johnson, Paul Ruess, James Coll
	12	Translator TTX and Citizen Awareness of Floods	Whitney Henson, Richard Garth, Chris Franklin, Dawne Butler

# SI Capstone Event





# SI Capstone Event



# Post-SI

Consortium of Universities for the Advancement of Hydrologic Science, Inc.

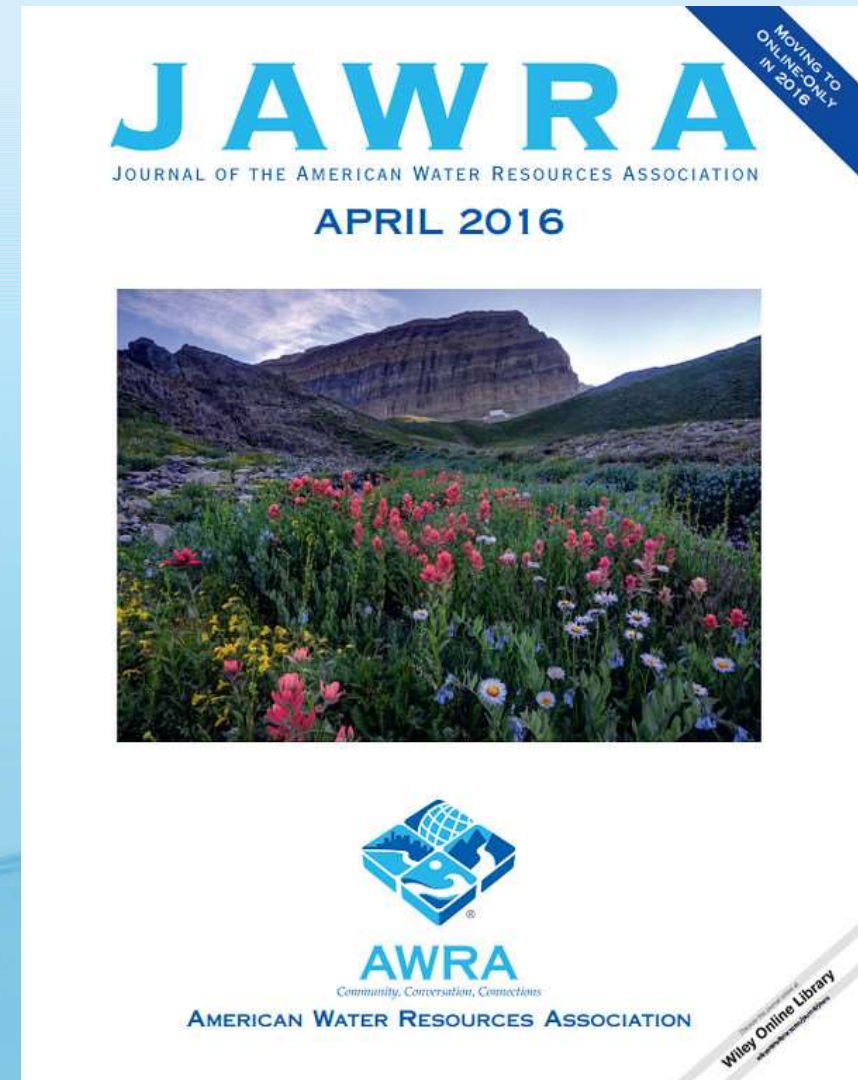
TECHNICAL REPORT 13

JULY 20, 2016



NATIONAL WATER CENTER  
INNOVATORS PROGRAM  
SUMMER INSTITUTE REPORT 2016

## *Journal of the American Water Resources Association* Special Issue





# 2017 Summer Institute: 32 Graduate Students from 24 Universities



University of Colorado Boulder



SAN FRANCISCO STATE UNIVERSITY



PURDUE UNIVERSITY



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING



LSU  
LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

KU  
THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS

PENNSTATE

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY



THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA

WAB



THE UNIVERSITY OF UTAH

UT DALLAS

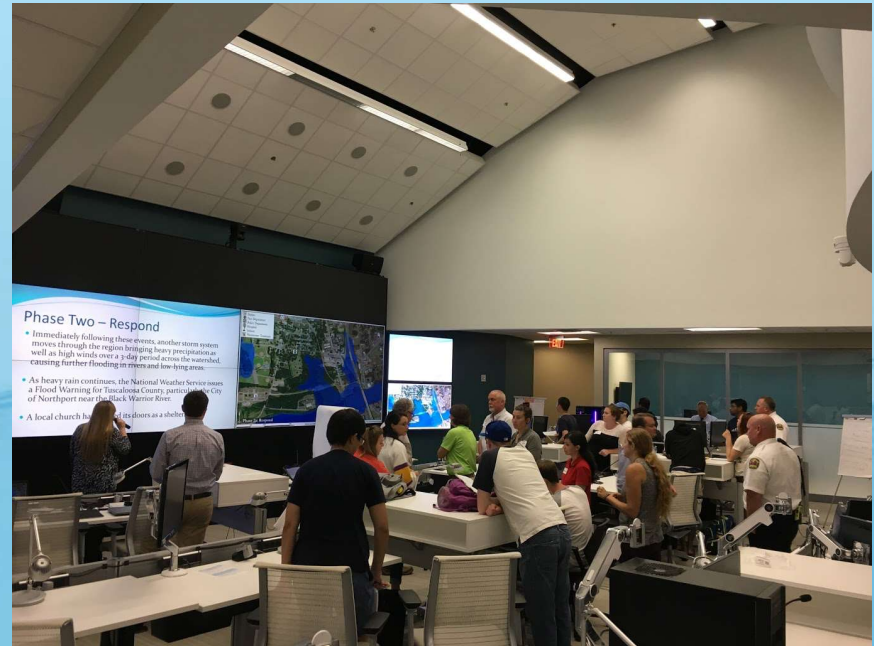
UF UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

UND  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTH DAKOTA

Slide: Jim Coll and Mike Johnson



# First Responders Day

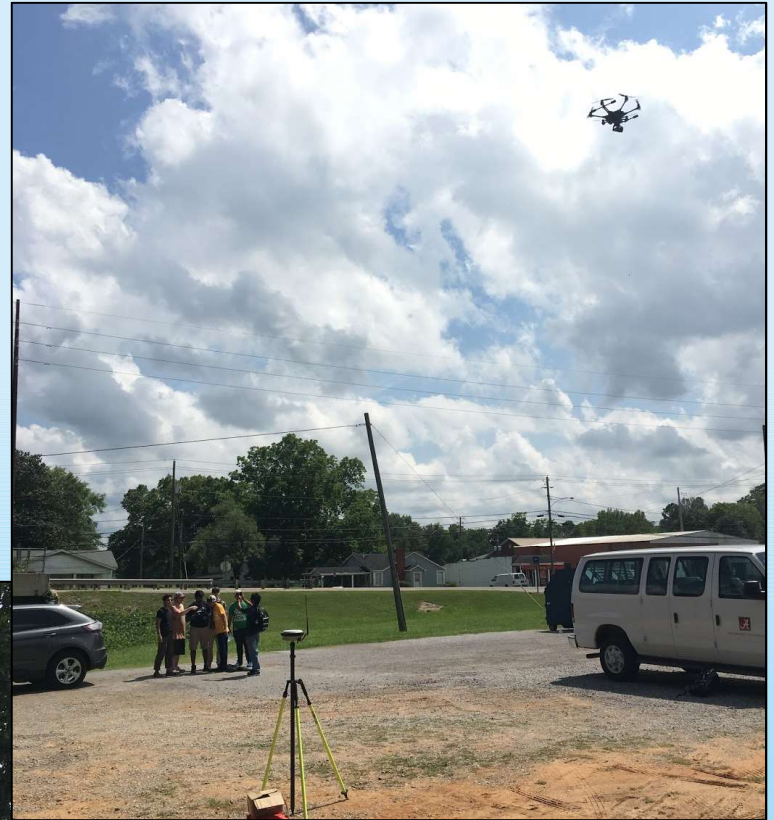


**Phase Two - Respond**

- Immediately following these events, another storm system moves through the region bringing heavy precipitation as well as high winds over a 3 day period across the watershed.
- As heavy rain continues, the National Weather Service issues a Flood Warning for Tascalooza County, particularly the City of Northport near the Back Warrior River.
- A local church has 1000 people sheltering in place as a shelter.



# Field Day





# Modeling/Data/Development Training



# **2017 Summer Institute Research Themes:**

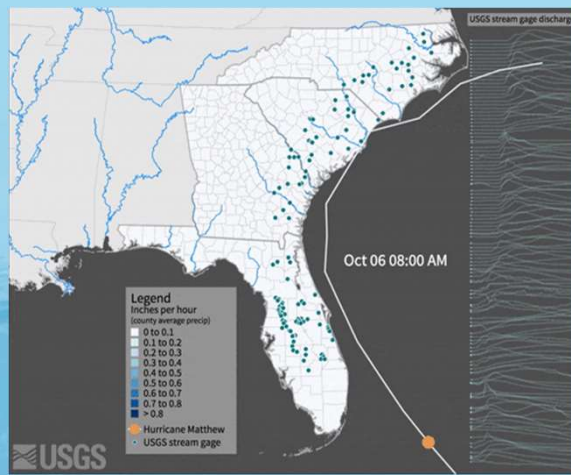
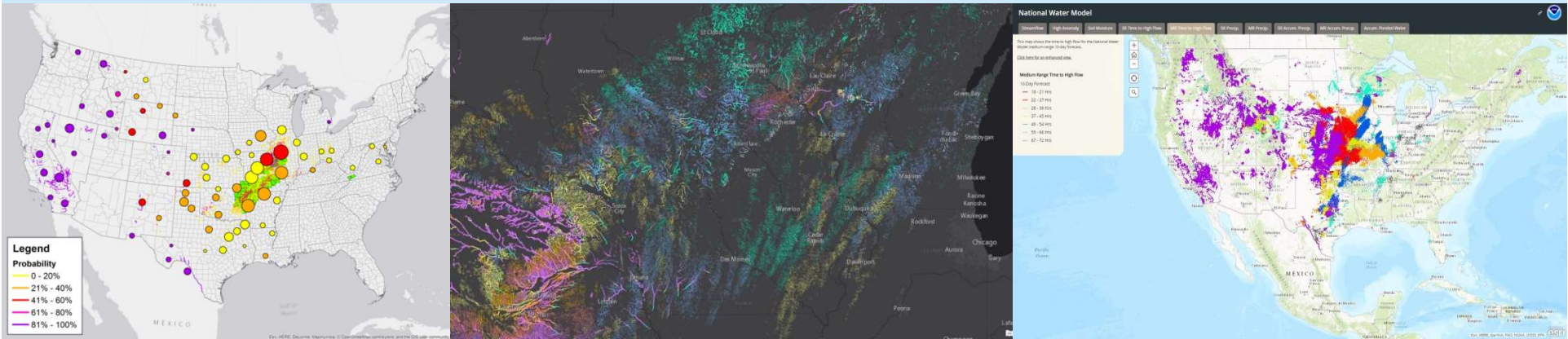
**Theme 1: Hyper-Resolution Simulation**

**Theme 2: Flood Inundation Mapping**

**Theme 3: Communicating National Water Model Results**

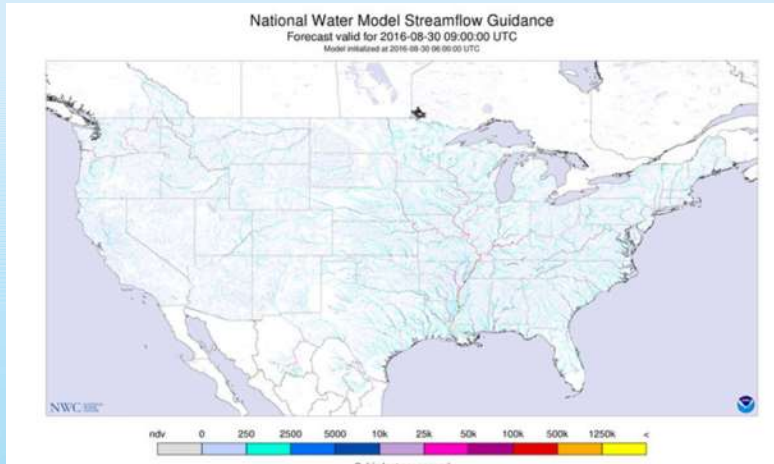


# Communicating NWM Results – Extracting Geospatial Intelligence from National Water Model Data





# Previous Work



Streamflow Prediction Tool

App Navigation  
Select Watershed(s)

Watersheds

- NFIE California Region (HUC 2 18)
- NFIE Colorado Region (HUC 2 1...)
- NFIE Great Basin Region (HUC...)
- NFIE Rio Grande Region (HUC 2 13)
- NFIE Texas Gulf Region (HUC 2 12)

Search by reach ID

Units: Metric  **CMF**  WRF-Hydro  **OFF**

ECMWF Available Dates

Select a Date

Forecast  
Nfie Rio Grande Region (Huc 2 13): 22422996

Flow (cms)

1000  
750  
500  
250  
0

19 Oct 26 Oct

Date (UTC)

20-yr  
10-yr  
2-yr

USGS and AHPS Gaugeviewer WML

Layers to Display

- AHPS Gauges (Red)
- USGS Gauges (Green)

Enter Area of Interest

Click to center to area

Instructions

West Virginia HAND Flood Map

Toggle Layers

- Flood Map
- Water
- Developed Area
- High Density
- Medium Density
- Low Density
- Open Space

Flood Animation  
View Flood Animation

Flood Forecast

Forecast Size  
Short

Forecast Date Start  
2016-10-07

Start Time  
00:00

View Flood Forecast

Forecast Slider  
Flood Depth (meters): 7

USGS and AHPS Gaugeviewer WML

USGS Data

Gauge ID: 30153907  
West-Cody EAST CANYON CREEK NEAR JEREMY RANCH, UT  
Link to Website View Website

Instantaneous Values Streamflow Plot

Flow (cms)

175  
150  
125  
100  
75  
50  
25  
0

0 Sep 08 Sep

Daily Average Streamflow Values Plot

Flow (cms)

175  
150  
125  
100  
75  
50  
25  
0

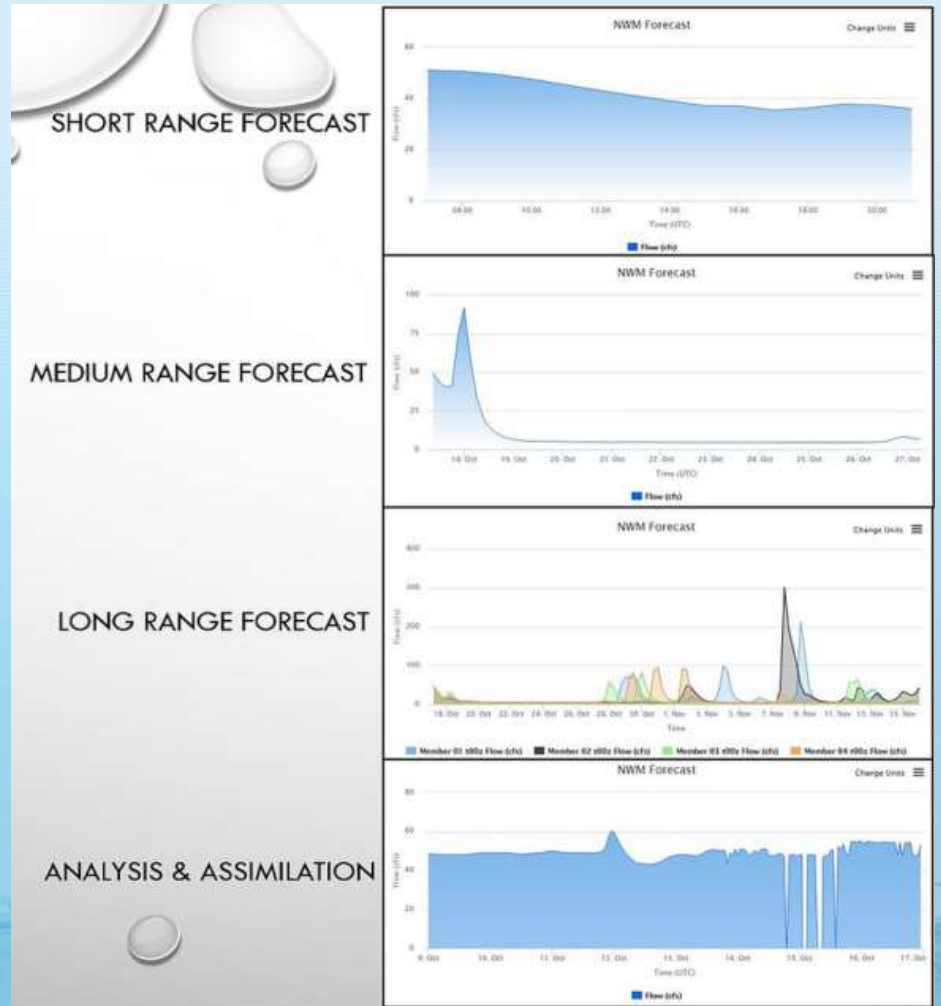
0 Sep 08 Sep

Start Date: 2016-09-01  
End Date: 2016-09-03  
Forecast Size: Short  
COMID: 10175018  
Forecast Data Start: 2016-09-01  
Start Time (UTC): 00:00  
Change Timezone: Coordinated Time

Update Graph

# NWM Viewer

The screenshot displays the National Water Model Forecast Viewer interface. It features a sidebar with configuration options: 'Add Watershed', 'Enter Configuration' (Short Range), 'Enter Geometry' (Channel), 'Enter Variable' (Streamflow), 'Enter ODMID' (10349002), and 'Enter Beginning Date' (2016-10-01). The main area shows a map of a watershed with a highlighted channel. Below this, another configuration panel is visible with options for 'Land', 'Snow Depth', 'Enter Grid Cell South-North Value' (2046), and 'Enter Grid Cell West-East Value' (1113). The bottom panel shows 'Enter Beginning Date' (2016-10-12) and 'Enter Initialization Time (UTC)' (00:00). The interface includes a search bar, API and Exit buttons, and a 'Submit' button at the bottom.





# Additions for SI 2017 Support

- Add your Watershed and subset results



National Water Model Forecast Viewer

API

Exit

Add Watershed

Subset Watershed

- Merge results
- Upload to HydroShare

Enter Configuration

Short Range

Enter Geometry

Channel

Enter Variable

Streamflow

Enter COMID

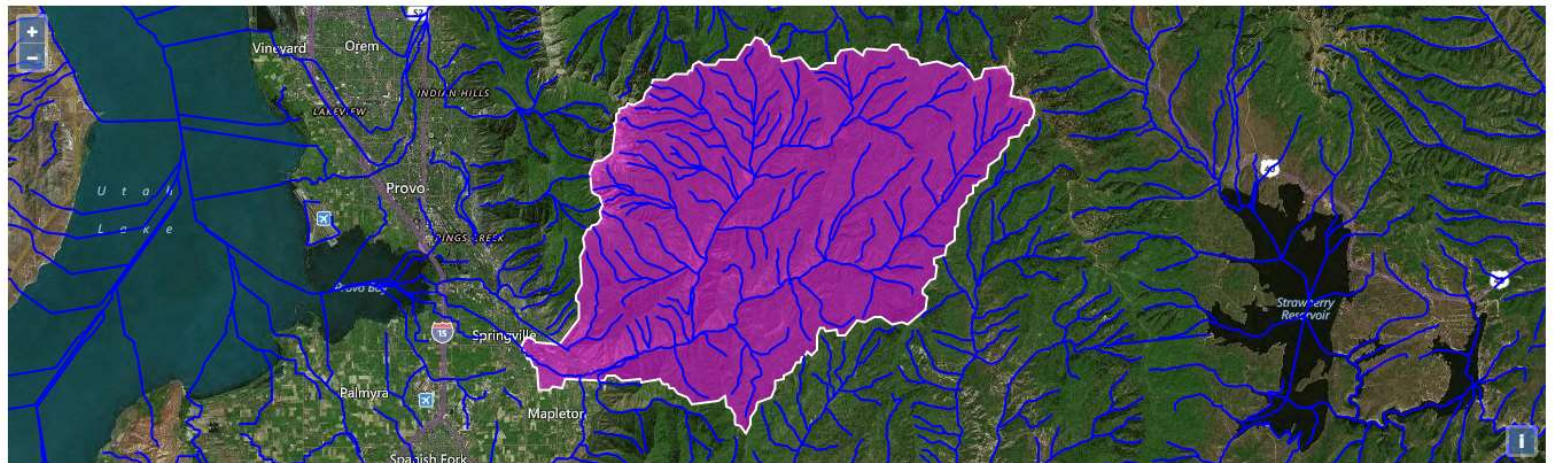
Enter Beginning Date

2017-06-08

Enter Initialization Time (UTC)

00:00

Submit



# Additions for SI 2017 Support

- Forcings as well (can be used in other models)

**Add Watershed**

**Subset Watershed**

Merge results  
 Upload to HydroShare

**Enter Configuration**

Short Range ▾

**Enter Geometry**

Forcing ▾

**Enter Variable**

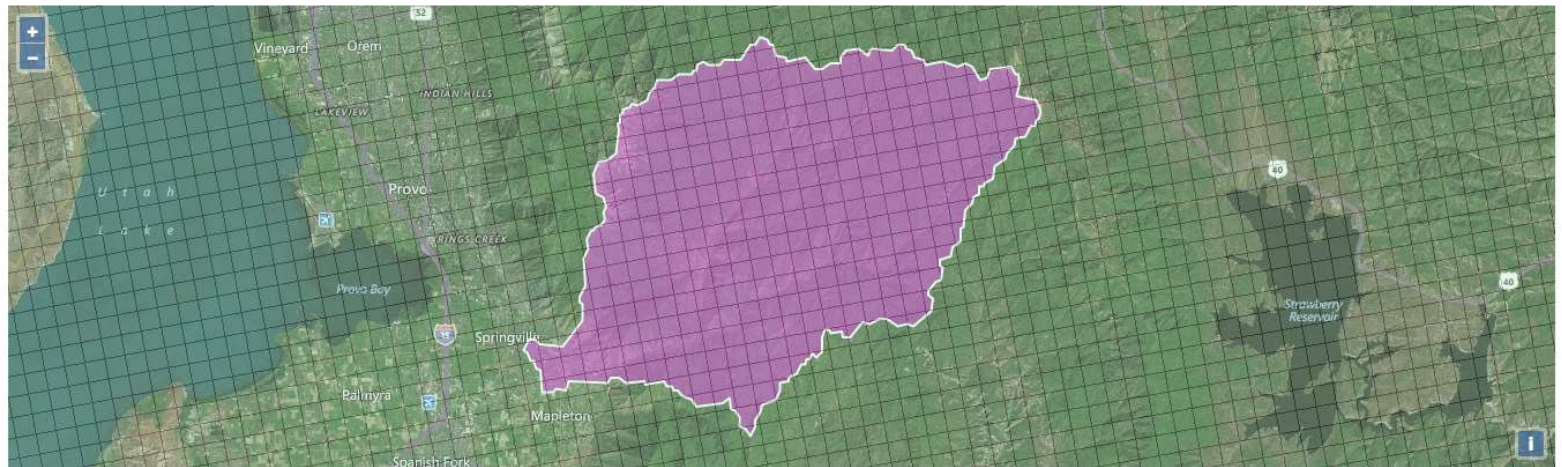
Rain Rate ▾

**Enter Grid Cell South-North Value**

**Enter Grid Cell West-East Value**

**Enter Beginning Date**

**Enter Initialization Time (UTC)**



# API Access to retrieve NWM Data



## GetWaterML

<b>Parent App</b>	nwm-forecasts				
<b>Supported Methods</b>	GET				
<b>Returns</b>	A WaterML file of the specified forecast.				
	<b>Name</b>	<b>Description</b>	<b>Valid Values</b>	<b>Required</b>	<b>Default if omitted</b>
	config	The configuration of the forecast.	One and only one of the following strings: "short_range", "long_range", "medium_range", "analysis_assim", "fe_short_range", "fe_medium_range", or "fe_analysis_assim".	Yes	Cannot be omitted.
	geom	The geometry of the forecast.	One and only one of the following strings: "channel_rt", "land", or "reservoir".	Yes.	Cannot be omitted.
	variable	The variable of the forecast.	One and only one of the following strings, depending on the specified configuration and geometry. For config=analysis_assim and geom=channel_rt: "streamflow", or "velocity". For config=analysis_assim and geom=reservoir: "inflow", or "outflow". For config=analysis_assim and geom=land: "SNOWH", "SNEQV", "FSNO", "ACCET", "SOILSAT_TOP", or "SNOWT_AVG". For config=short_range and geom=channel_rt: "streamflow", or "velocity". For config=short_range and geom=reservoir: "inflow", or "outflow". For config=short_range and geom=land: "SNOWH", "SNEQV", "FSNO", "ACCET", "SOILSAT_TOP", or "SNOWT_AVG". For config=medium_range and geom=channel_rt: "streamflow", or "velocity". For config=medium_range and geom=reservoir: "inflow", or "outflow". For config=medium_range and geom=land: "SNOWH", "SNEQV", "FSNO", "ACCET", "SOILSAT_TOP", "SNOWT_AVG", "UGDRNOFF", "ACCECAN", "SOIL_T", "SOIL_M", or "CANWAT". For config=long_range and geom=channel_rt: "streamflow". For config=long_range and geom=reservoir: "inflow", or "outflow". For config=long_range and geom=land: "SNEQV", "ACCET", "SOILSAT", "UGDRNOFF", "SFCRNOFF", "CANWAT". Where "SNOWH" is Snow Depth, SNEQV is Snow Water Equivalent, "FSNO" is Snow Cover, "ACCET" is Accumulated Total Evapotranspiration, "SOILSAT_TOP" is Near-surface Soil Saturation, "SNOWT_AVG" is Average Snow Temperature, "UGDRNOFF" is Accumulated Groundwater Runoff, "ACCECAN" is Accumulated Canopy Evaporation, "SOIL_T" is Soil Temperature, "SOIL_M" is Volumetric Soil Moisture, "CANWAT" is Total Canopy Water, "SOILSAT" is Soil Saturation (Column Integrated), and "SFCRNOFF" is Accumulated Surface Runoff,	Yes.	Cannot be omitted.
	COMID	The identifier of the stream reach, reservoir, or grid cell	A numeric string. e.g. "12345678". If geometry=land, enter the grid south_north index followed by a comma and then the grid west_east index. e.g. "1357,2468"	Yes.	Cannot be omitted.

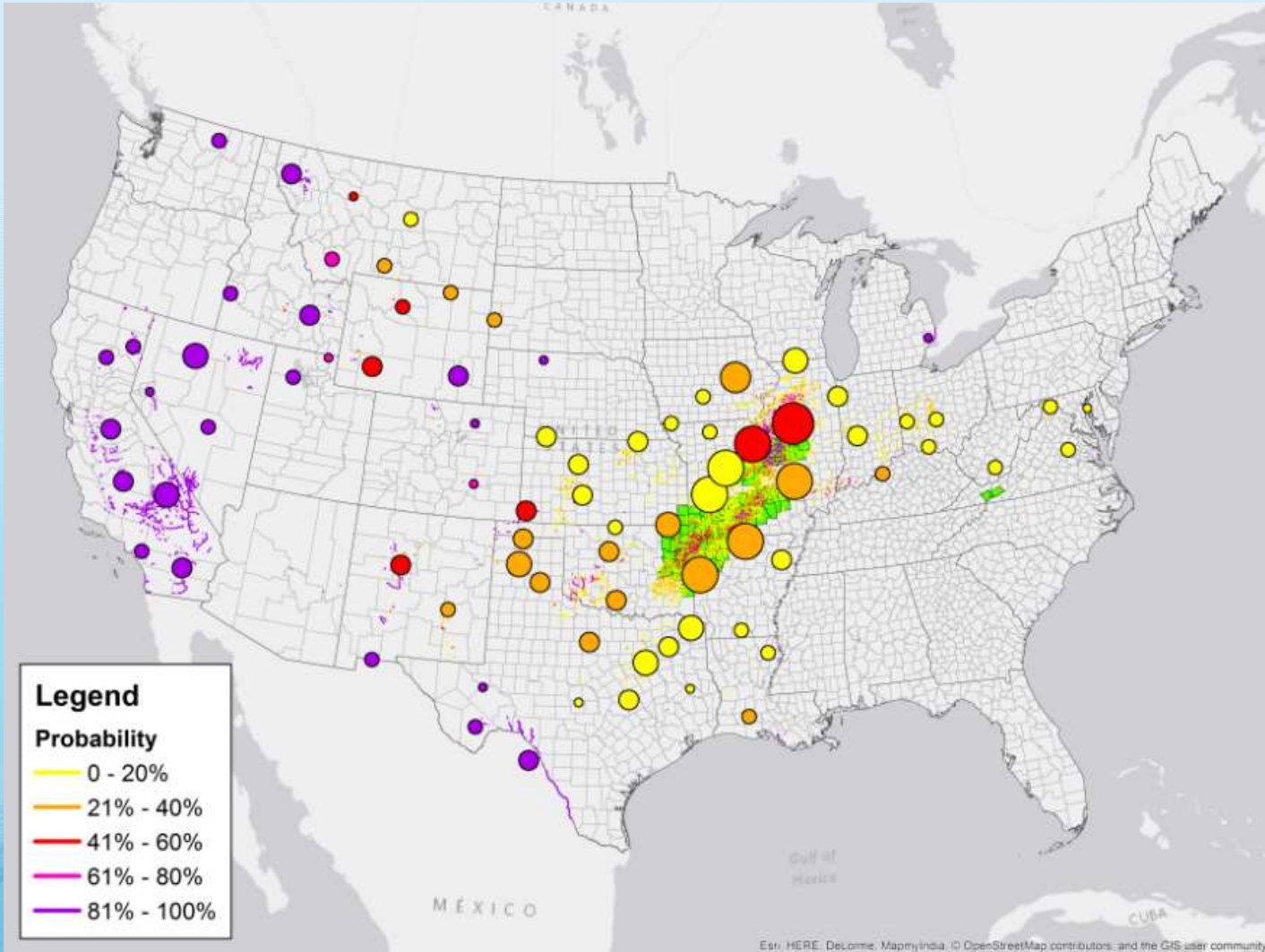


# Streamflow Anomaly



**OWP** | OFFICE OF  
WATER  
PREDICTION

# Probabilistic High Flow



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WATER  
PREDICTION



# Time to Exceed High Flow Short Range

## National Water Model

Streamflow High Anomaly Soil Moisture SR Time to High Flow MR Time to High Flow SR Precip. MR Precip. SR Accum. Precip. MR Accum. Precip. Accum. Pondered Water

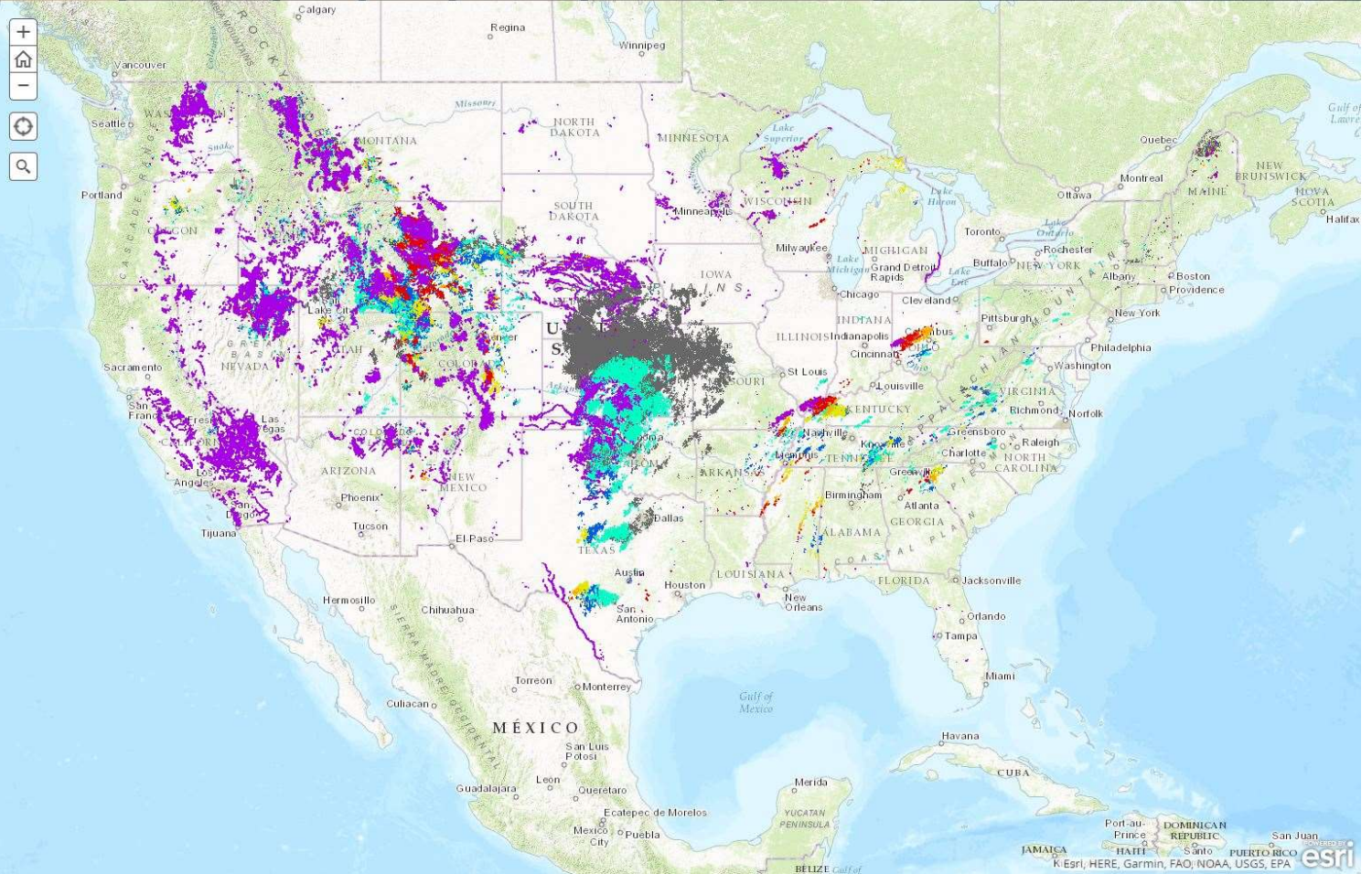
This map shows the time to high flow for the National Water Model short-range 18-hour forecast.

[Click here for an enhanced view.](#)

### Short-Range Time to High Flow

18-Hour Forecast

- 1 Hr
- 2 Hrs
- 3 Hrs
- 4 - 6 Hrs
- 7 - 9 Hrs
- 10 - 13 Hrs
- 14 - 18 Hrs



OWP OFFICE OF WATER PREDICTION

esri K. Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA



# Time to Exceed High Flow Medium Range

## National Water Model



- Streamflow
- High Anomaly
- Soil Moisture
- SR Time to High Flow
- MR Time to High Flow
- SR Precip.
- MR Precip.
- SR Accum. Precip.
- MR Accum. Precip.
- Accum. Poned Water

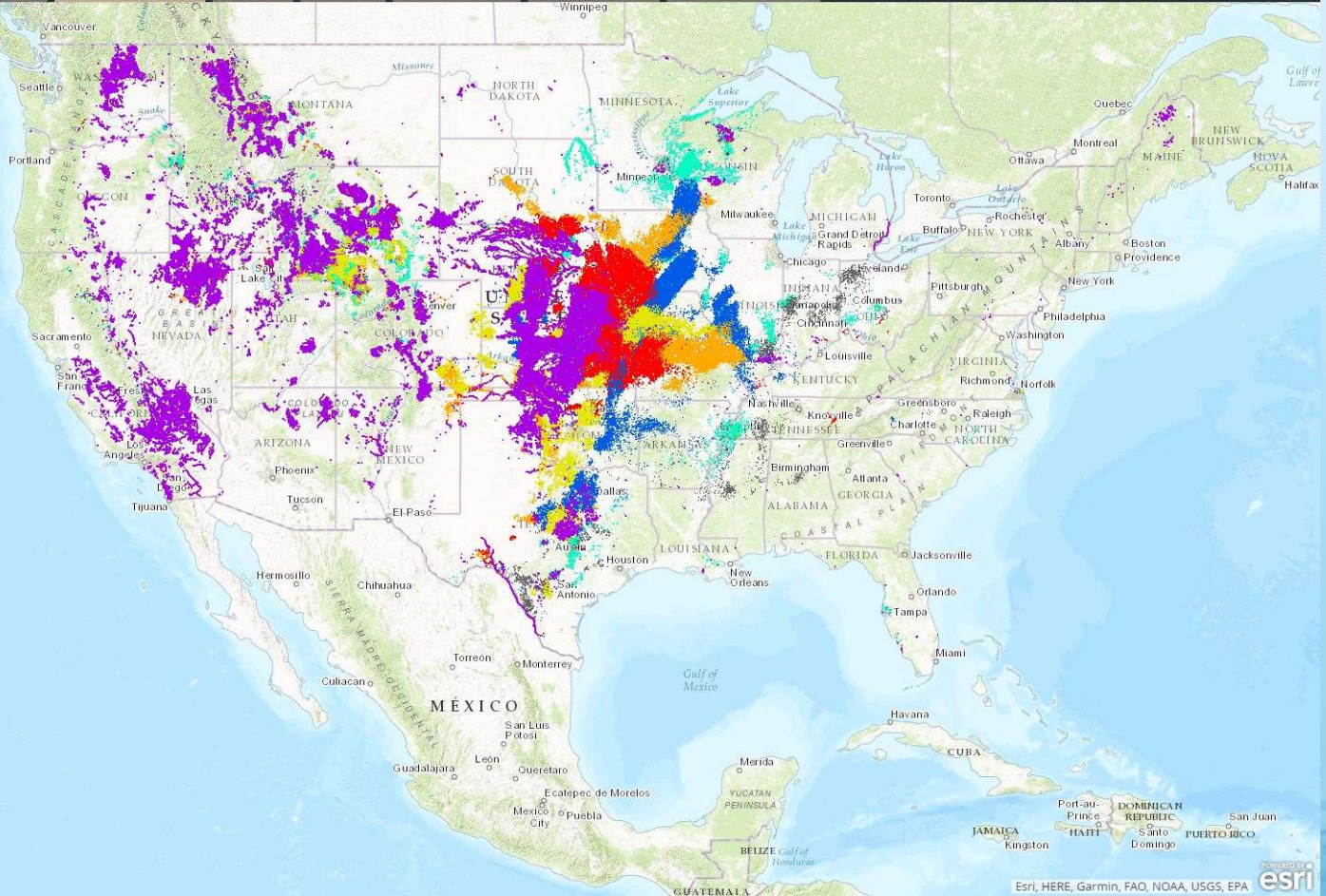
This map shows the time to high flow for the National Water Model medium-range 10-day forecast.

[Click here for an enhanced view.](#)

### Medium Range Time to High Flow

#### 10-Day Forecast

- 18 - 21 Hrs
- 22 - 27 Hrs
- 28 - 36 Hrs
- 37 - 45 Hrs
- 46 - 54 Hrs
- 55 - 66 Hrs
- 67 - 72 Hrs



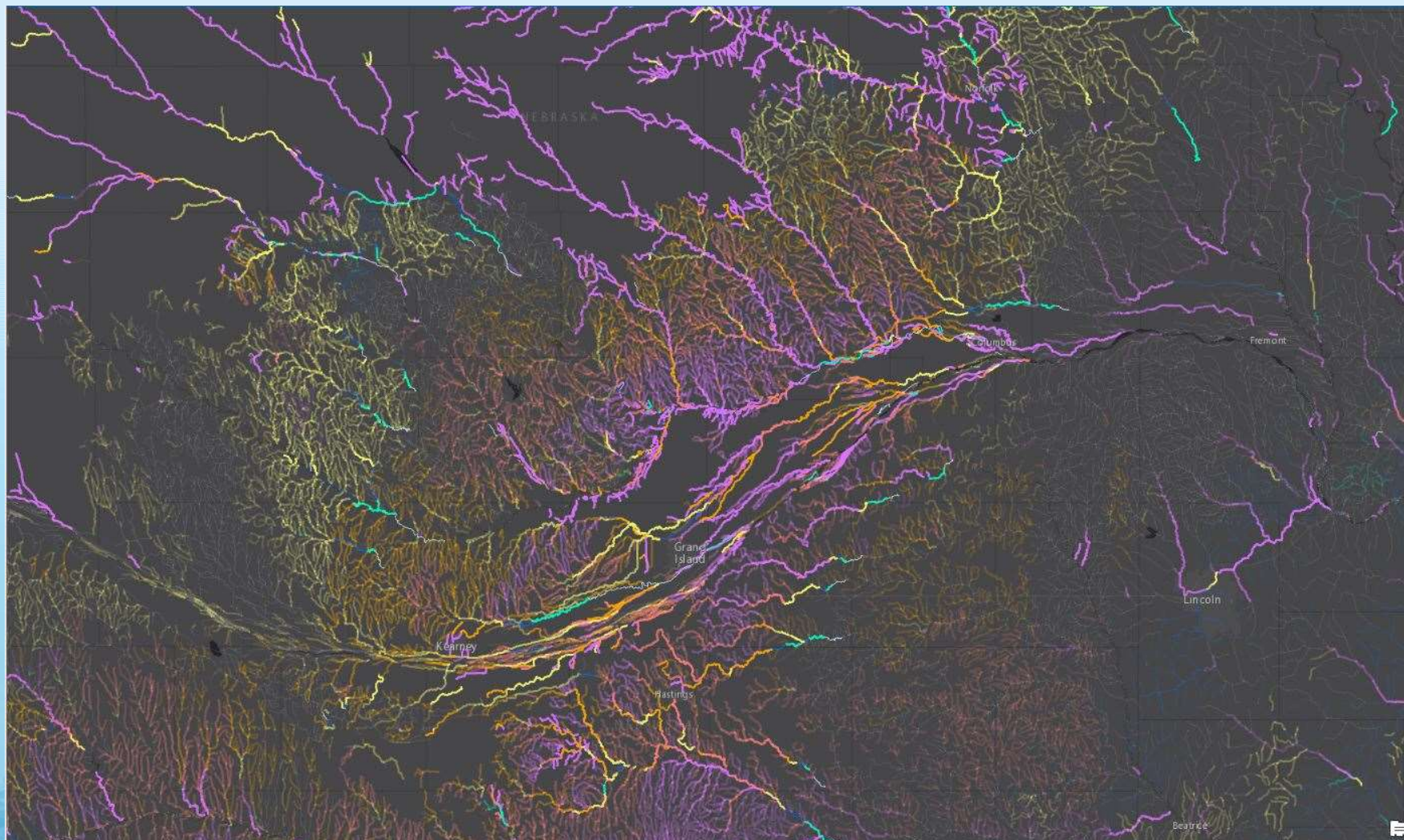
Esri, HERE, Garmin, FAO, NOAA, USGS, EPA



**OWP** | OFFICE OF WATER PREDICTION



# Time to Exceed High Flow and High Flow Duration



**OWP** | OFFICE OF  
WATER  
PREDICTION

**\*Stream transparency indicates the forecasted duration of high flow, i.e. fainter-colored lines indicate shorter forecasted durations than bolder-colored lines.**



## Hyper-Resolution Simulation Theme (led by Fred Ogden)

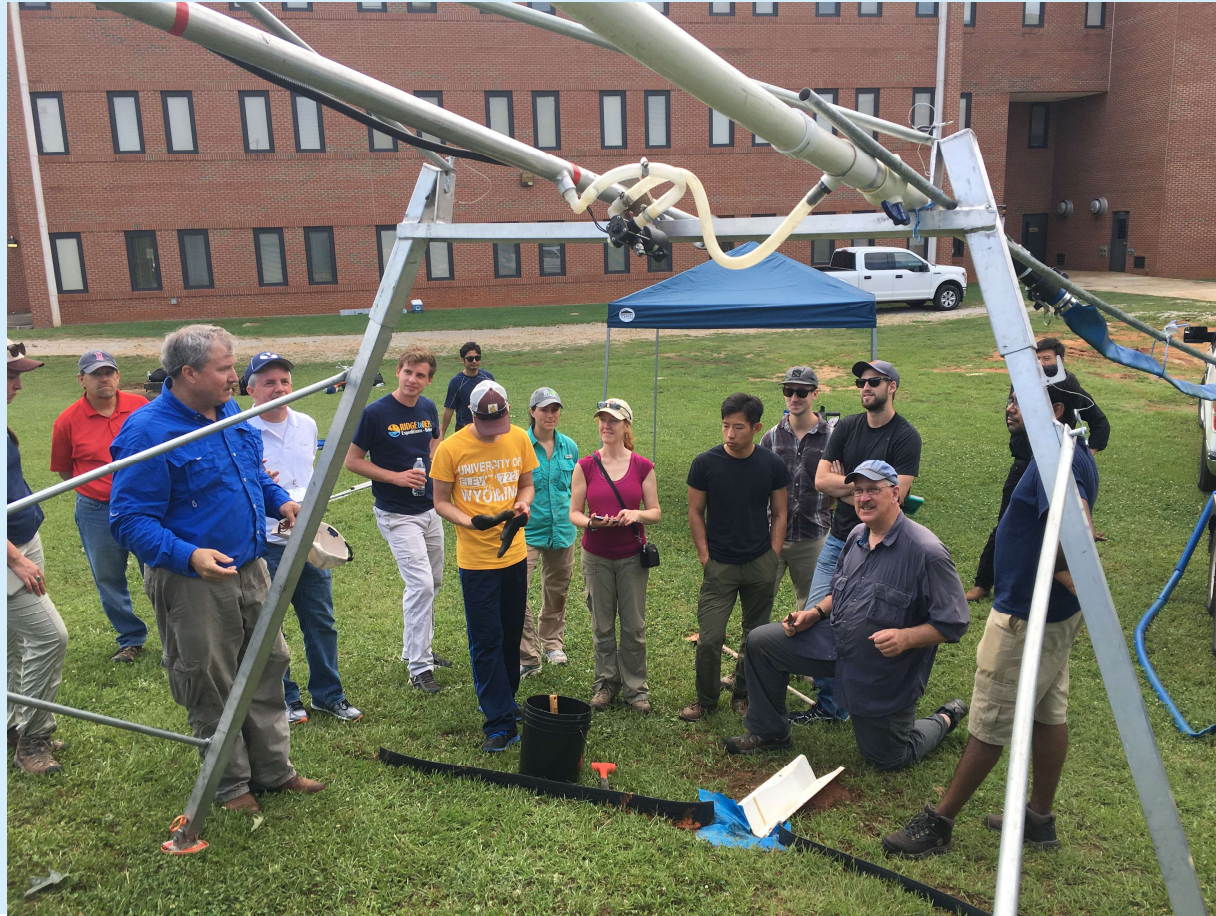
- Need actionable hydrological information at points that are not on the NHD+ network where HAND is not useable
- Particularly true in urban areas where channel networks have been heavily modified or buried
- Needed at locations on NHD+ network where small scale features such as levees/embankments/backwater control flooding
- Creates need for a hyper-resolution modeling capability in addition to NWM

# What is a hyper-resolution model?

- Resolves features less than 100m in size
- Can dynamically describe hydrologically important man-made features such as:
  - Roadway embankments
  - Ditches/drains
  - Levees and flood walls
  - Stormwater detention structures
  - Perennial lakes with passive or managed outlets
  - Dynamic land-use effects



# Summer Institute Field Activities





# Radar Measurement Demonstration Sites



**Cahaba River**



**Cribbs Mill Creek**

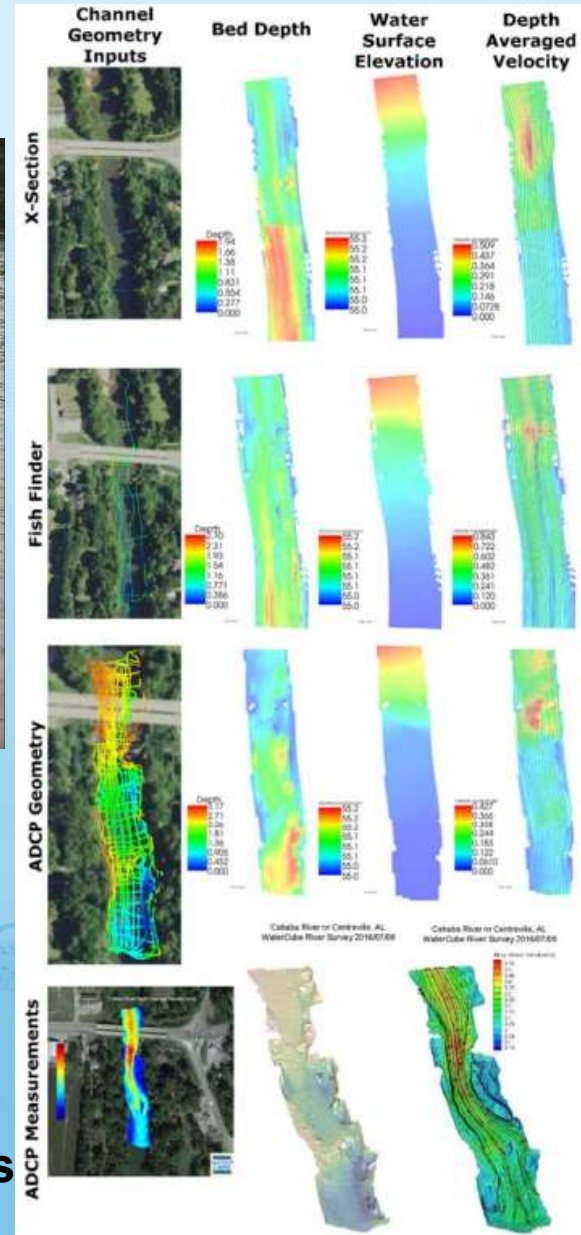


# 2016: Radar Measurement and Flow Modeling

Jim Coll, Mike Johnson, and Paul Ruess



Cahaba River surveying



FaSTMECH model outputs



# 2017: River Surveying

ADCP  
surveying



Looking at  
ADCP output



Flying UAV



# 2017: Rainfall Simulator



**Setting up  
experiment**



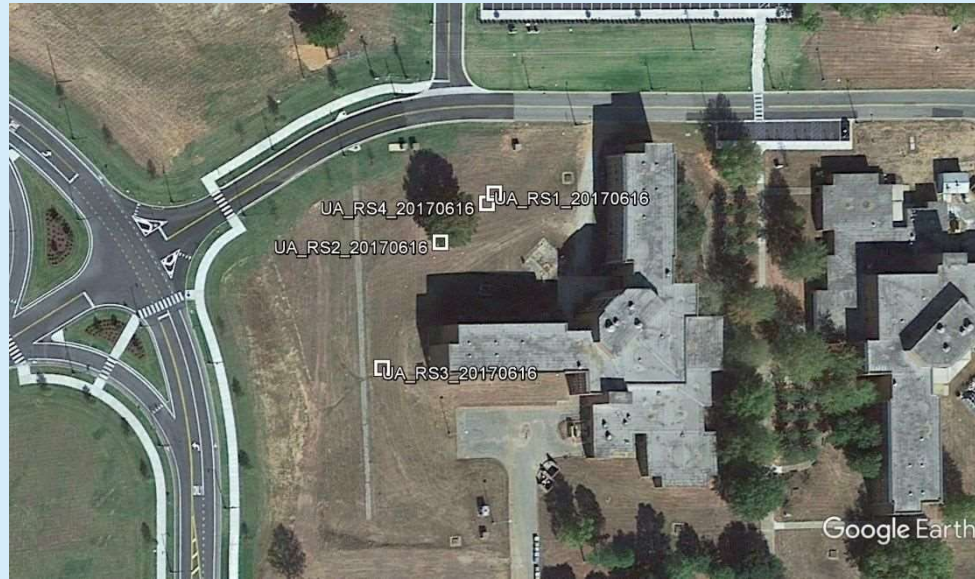
**Setting up  
ERT cables**



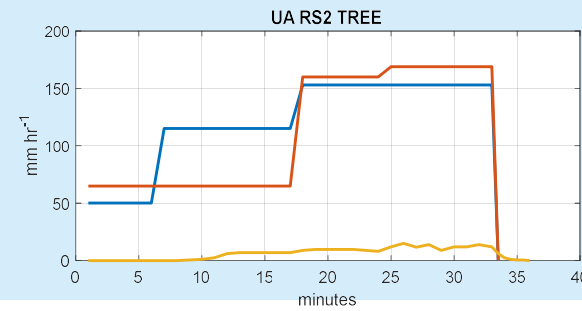
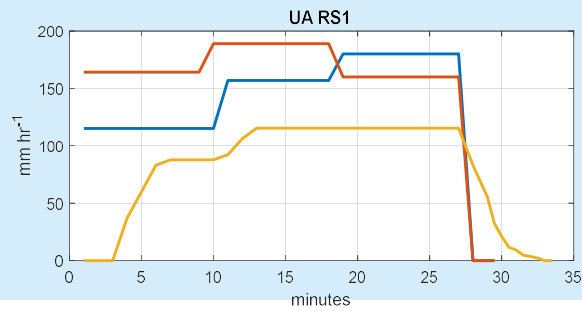
**Measuring runoff**



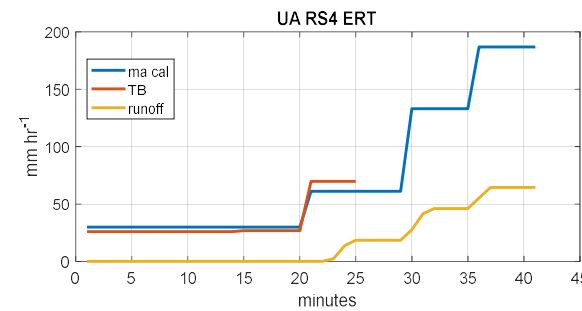
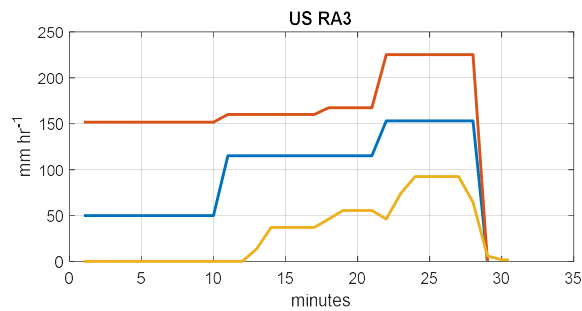
# 2017: Rainfall Simulator Results



Site locations



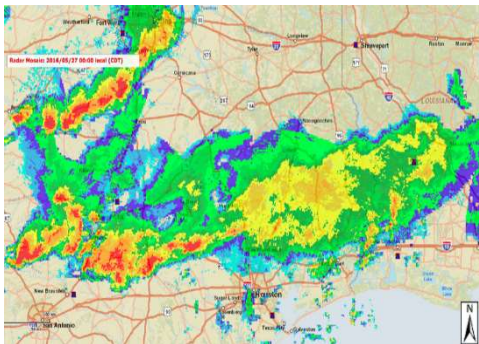
Results







# Comparison of Flood Inundation Mapping Techniques between Different Modeling Approaches and Satellite Imagery



Jiaqi Zhang, University of Texas at Arlington  
 Yu-Fen Huang, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
 Dinuke Munasinghe, University of Alabama

# Objectives

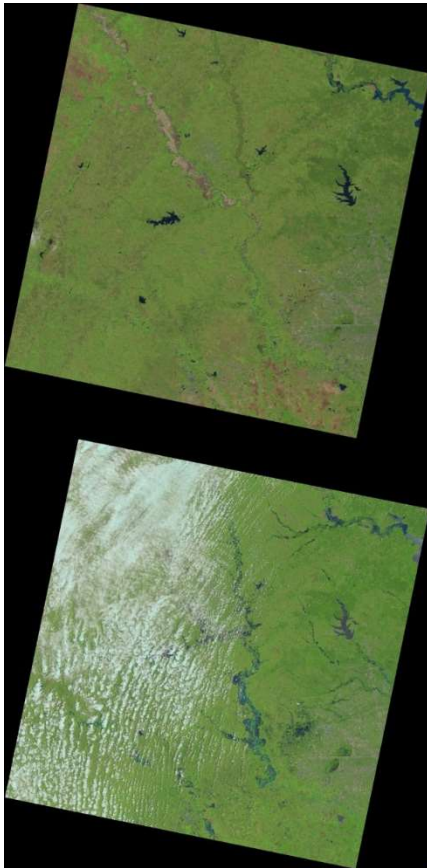
- To simulate flood inundation maps
  - *Height Above the Nearest Drainage (HAND)*
  - *International River Interface Cooperative (iRIC)*
- To generate observed flood inundation maps from Landsat 8
- To compare the modeled inundation maps with observation
- To gain perspective on the pros and cons of individual mapping tool





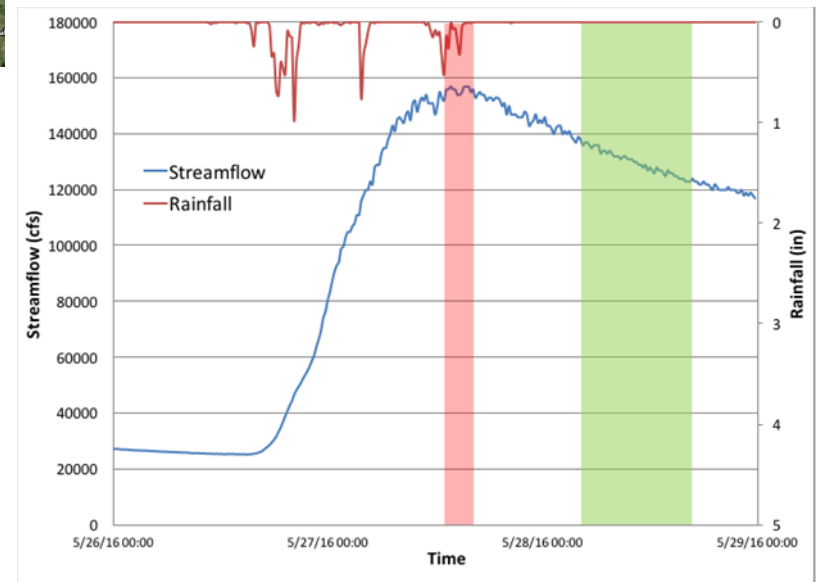
# Study area

May 26 to 27<sup>th</sup> Flood in Brazos River, TX



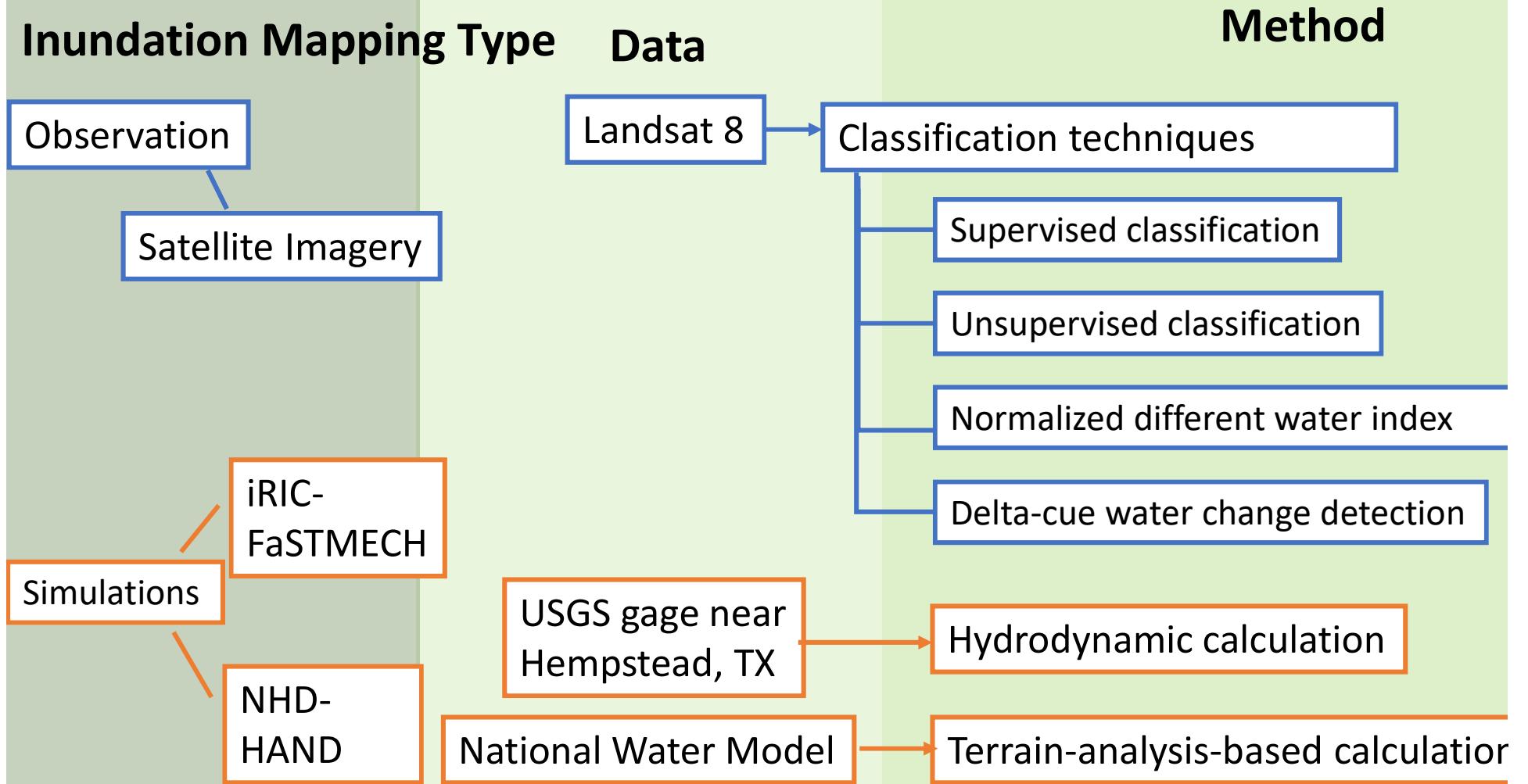
Research area

USGS gage ID: 08111500



Total rainfall: 10.07 inch in 30 hrs  
Peak discharge: 157000 cfs  
Peak timing: 2 pm, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2016  
Satellite image taken: May 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

# Methodology





# Advanced Fitness Index

$$\text{Advanced Fitness (\%)} = \frac{IA_{obs} \cap IA_{model} + NIA_{obs} \cap NIA_{model}}{A_{obs} \cup A_{model}} \times 100$$

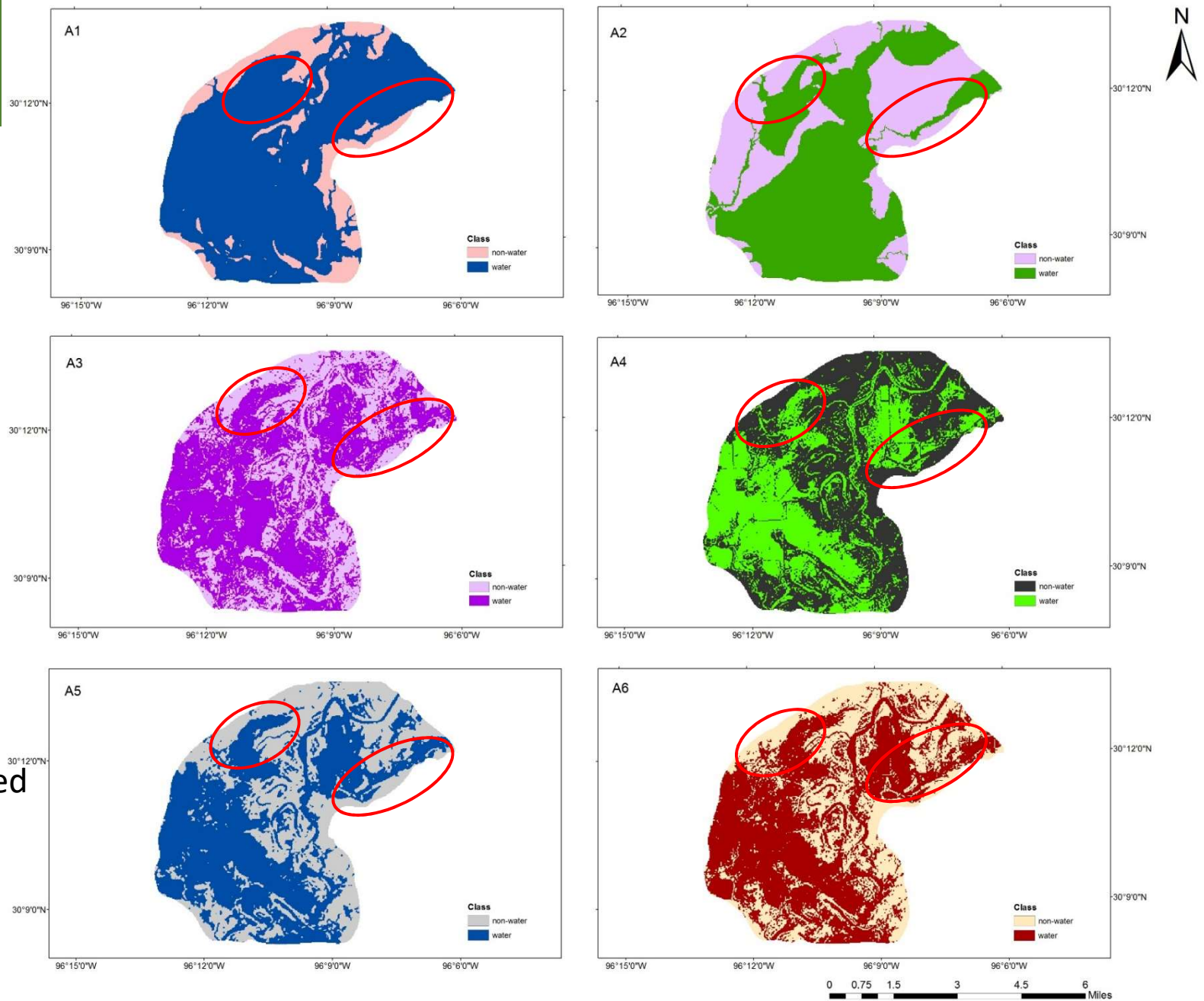
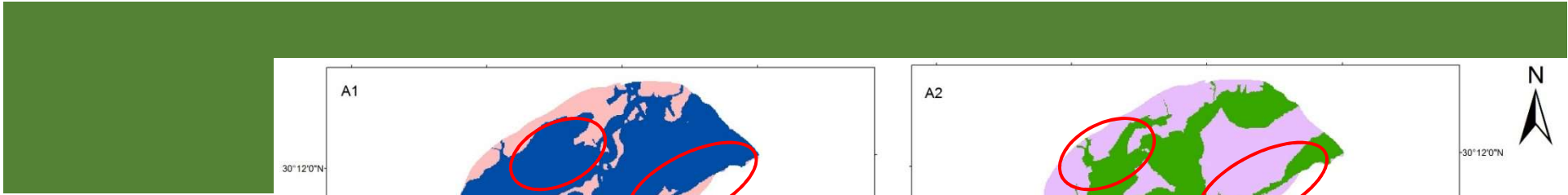
where  $IA_{obs}/NIA_{obs}$  is inundated/non-inundated area from the satellite imagery;

$IA_{model}/NIA_{model}$  is inundated/non-inundated area from the model;

$A_{obs}/A_{model}$  is the entire calculated area from the satellite imagery/model.

# Results





(A1) iRIC

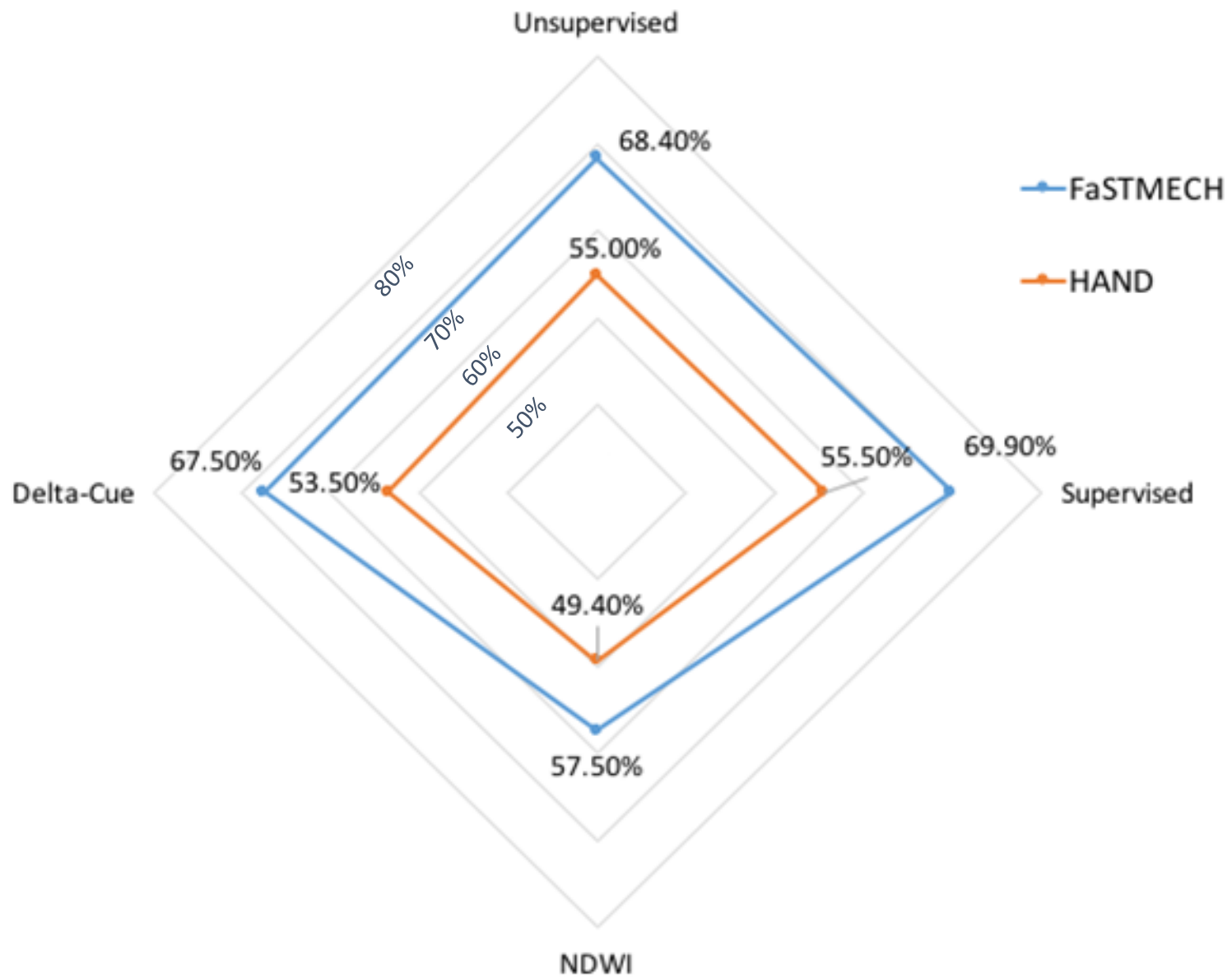
(A2) HAND

(A3) Delta-Cue

(A4) NDWI

(A5) Unsupervised

(A6) Supervised





# Conclusion

- Both HAND and iRIC generated fair ( $> 50\%$ ) fit with the satellite imagery.
- iRIC performed better ( $\sim 70\%$ ) in this case.
- HAND better captured details than iRIC in some inundated areas.
- Modified HAND is needed when subcatchments are behaving interactively
- Solely based on the studied flood event, one cannot simply conclude iRIC is a superior approach than HAND considering the uncertainties in remote sensing observations and iRIC parameters.

Thank you!