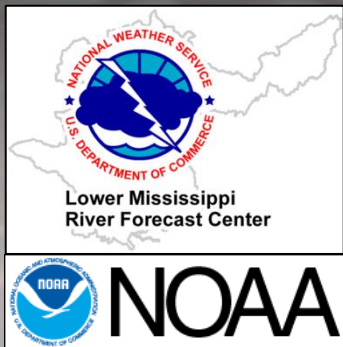


Geospatial Analyses at the Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center



W. Scott Lincoln, Sr. Hydrologist/Cartographer
David Schlotzhauer, Hydrologist
NWS Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center

Overview

What do we do at the LMRFC?

- Forecast river stages for ~220,000 mi² area
 - River Gauge Data
 - Rainfall Data
 - Amount/Location and Fallen/Forecasted
 - Soil Moisture Data
- Assist with Flash Flooding

Overview

- Most data used by LMRFC (or any NWS office) inherently geospatial
- Tools/Techniques for Situational Awareness
- Research

SA – Status of Model Inputs

- Models depend on valid, consistent input (GIGO)
- Volume of data overwhelming
- So, display data graphically to enable (relatively) quick/easy QC
- (note: all of the following products are generated automatically!)

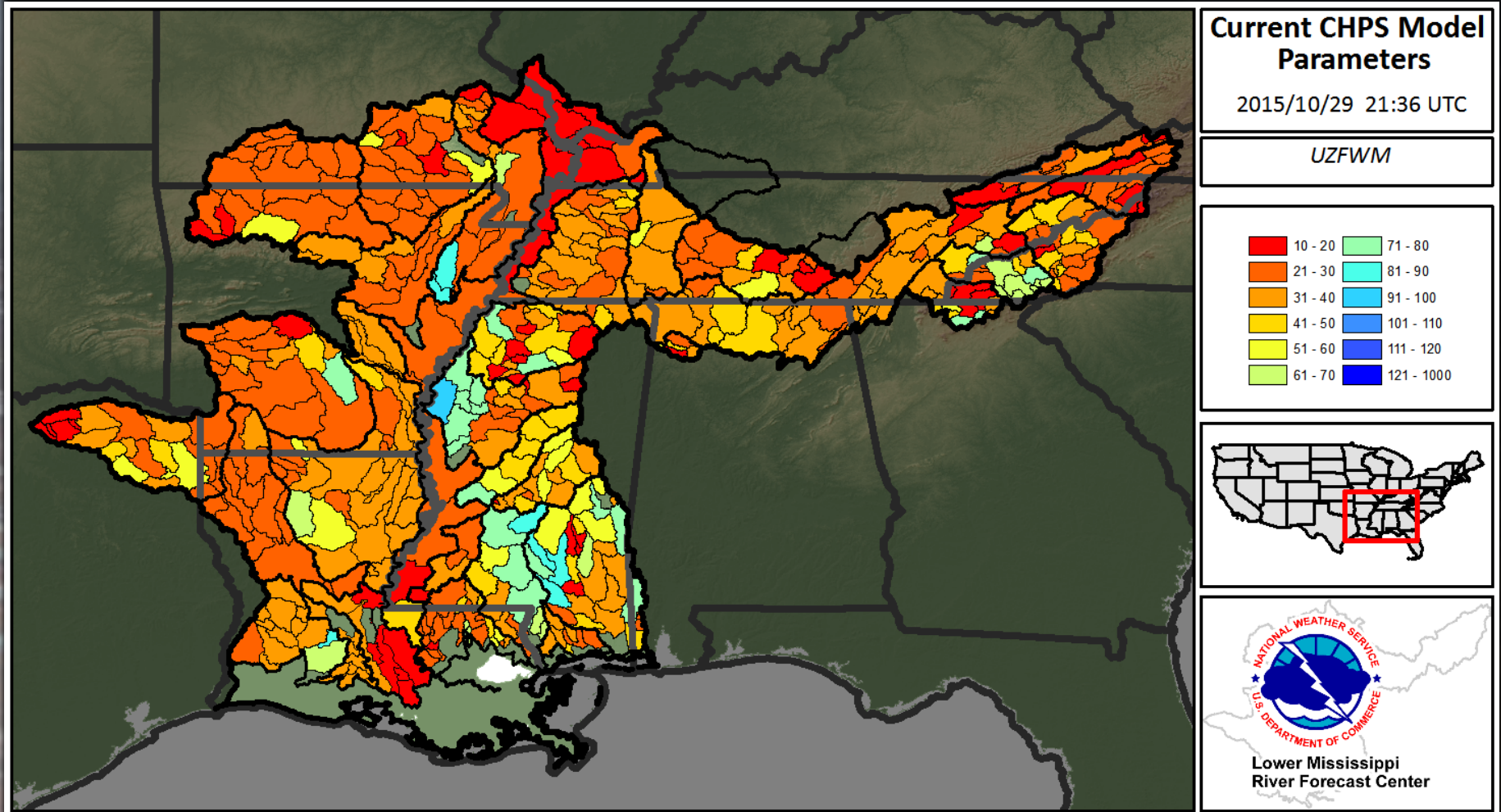
Calibration Parameters

- Calibrated parameters for our hydrologic model are at least conceptually tied to real world, measureable quantities
- As such, they should not be random; they should be generally consistent spatially and temporally

Calibration Parameters

- Scripts create CSV files with the calibration parameter values
- CSV file joined to shapefile of the river basins and image is output

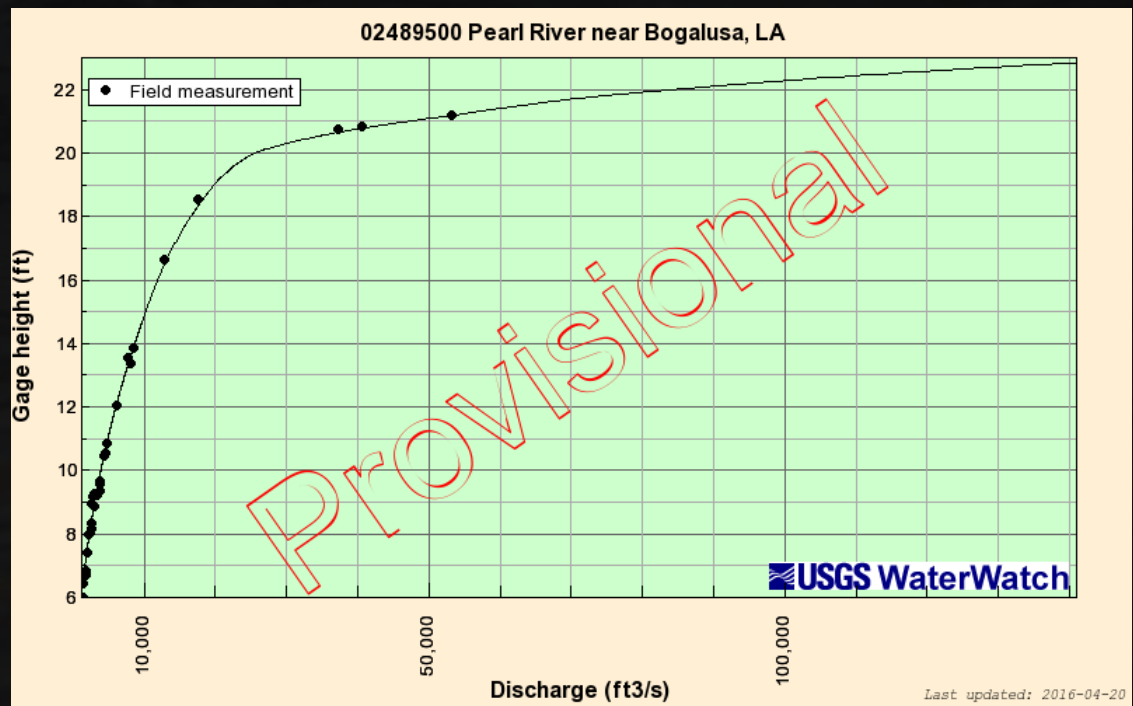
Calibration Parameters



Rating Curves

- Rating curves provide a means to relate an observed stage to a flow rate

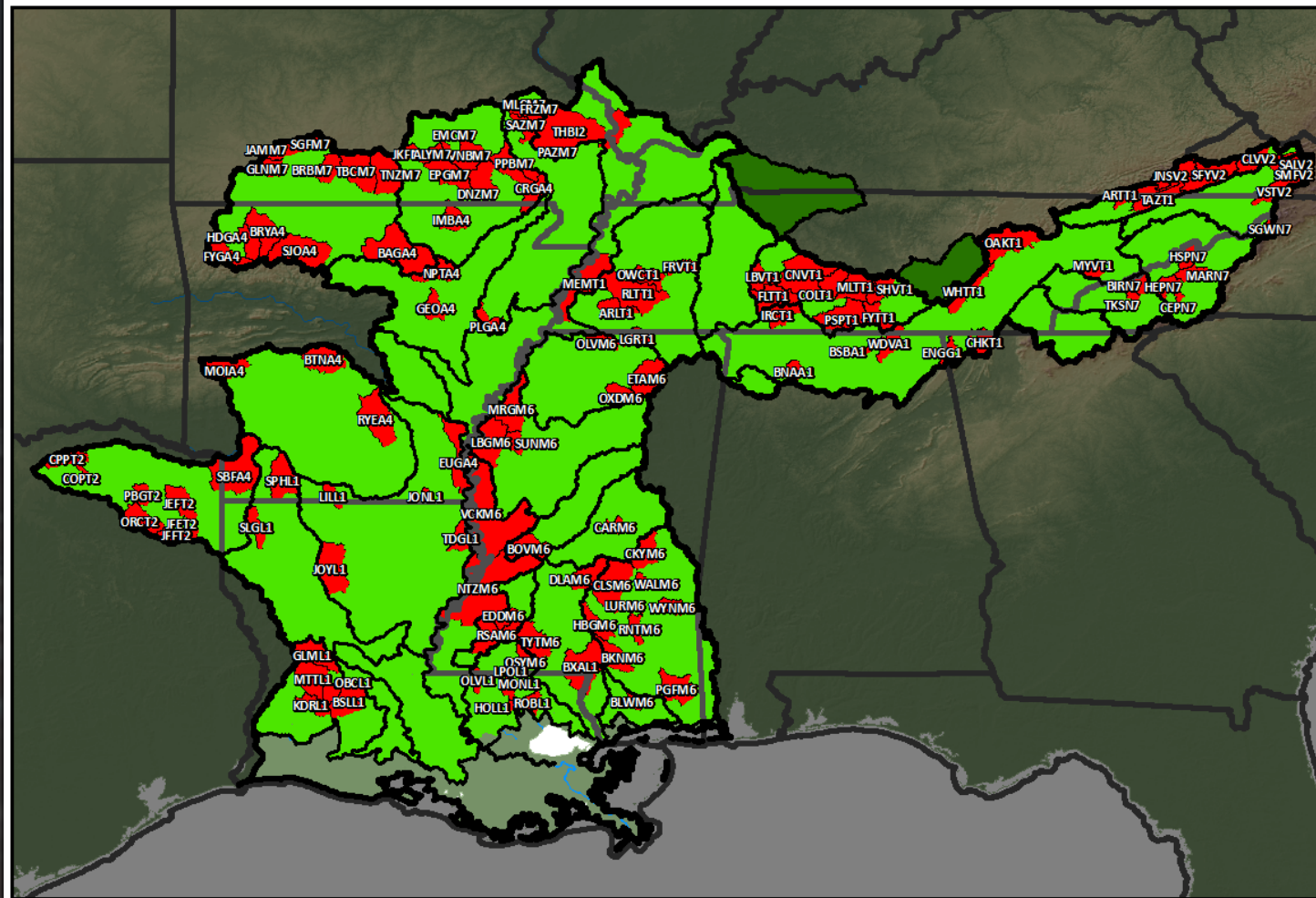
Frequently updated rating curves required for hydrologic forecasting because river impacts are related to the stage but models work with discharge (flow rate)



Rating Curves

- Our system checks an online repository of USGS rating curves, downloads updates when available
- CSV file created indicating which river basins have a USGS rating curve newer than what is currently in system
- CSV file joined to shapefile of the river basins and image is output

Rating Curves

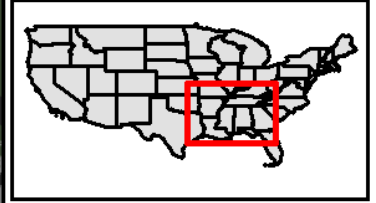


Current Rating Curve Update Status

2016/4/18 15:15 UTC
 Updates once daily at: 10:30 AM

[LMRFC Overview](#)

- Rating Curve Current
- New Rating Curve Available (USGS Only)



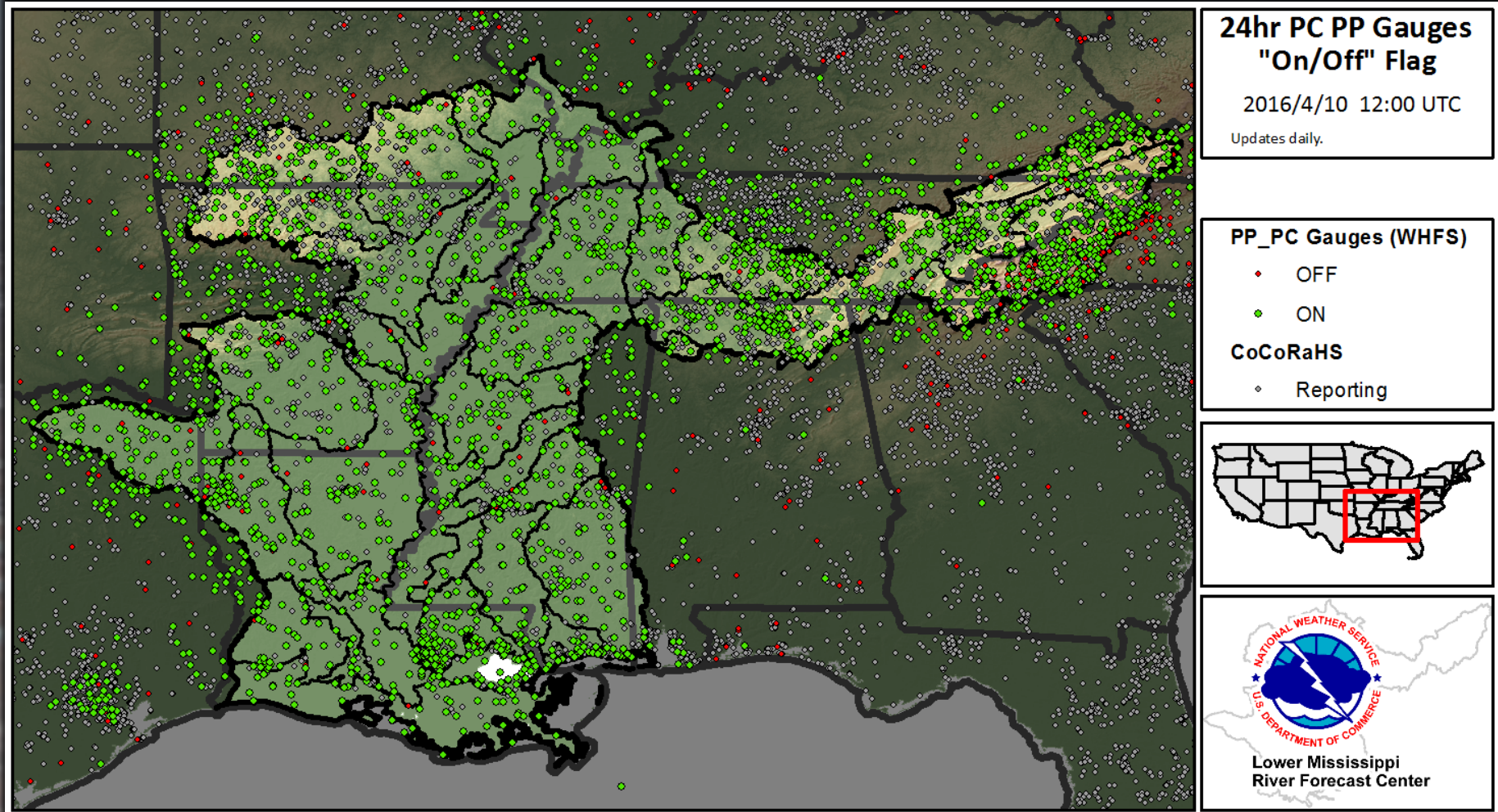
Rain Gauge Status

- Gauges used in our rainfall analysis sometimes provide inaccurate data so often, they are turned off in our system
- Once a gauge is turned off, it requires manual change to turn it back on
- Also difficult to keep track of gauges that are off

Rain Gauge Status

- Script in our system checks for which gauges are set to “on” or “off” and creates a CSV file
- CSV file joined to shapefile of the rainfall gauges and image is output

Rain Gauge Status



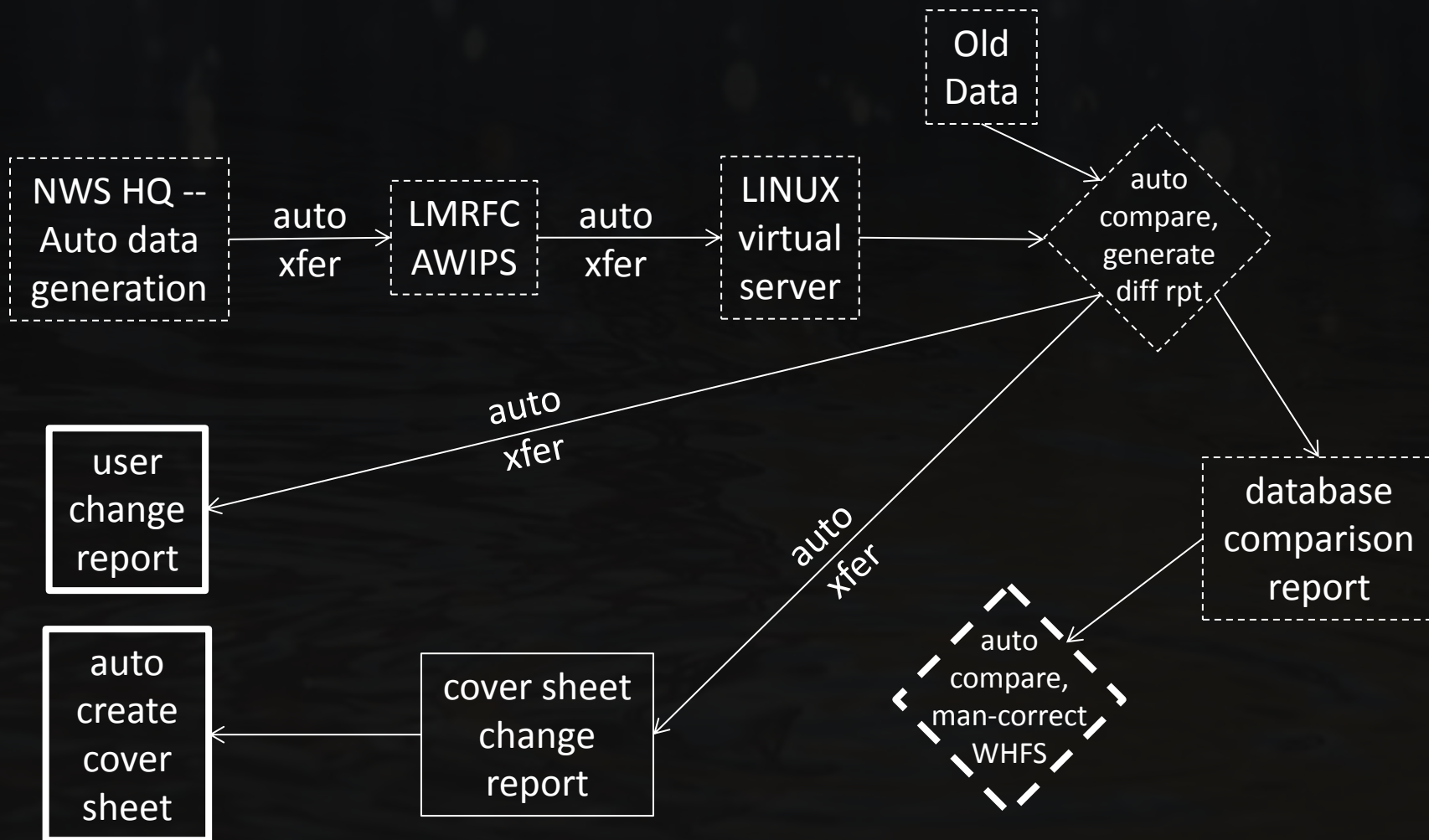
SA – Data Consistency

- Need for a consistent “one-stop-shop” of metadata (flood stage, owner, record crest) for each of our forecast locations
- Data should come from the local NWS Weather Forecast Offices, which are the maintainers of said metadata

SA – Data Consistency

- As a positive side effect, automated retrieval of gauge metadata from WFOs can also improve other issues:
 - Multiple databases/sources can cause inconsistency
 - “System” doesn’t allow for single database
 - Alerts/notifications not given when WFOs change their metadata

Forecast Point Cover Sheet



Forecast Point Cover Sheet

Vermilion River At Lafayette, Surrey Street Gage

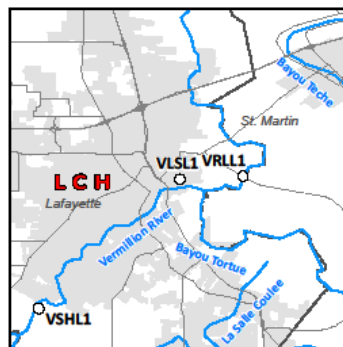
VLSL1

<http://water.weather.gov/ahps2/hydrograph.php?wfo=LCH&gage=VLSL1>

State: LA
 County: Lafayette Lat: 30.2172
 HSA: LCH Lon: -91.9925
 Owner: N/A
 USGS ID: 07386880 USACE ID:

Low Water:	--.- FT
Action Stage:	10.0 FT
Minor Flood:	10.0 FT
Moderate Stage:	14.0 FT
Major Stage:	16.0 FT

Vertical Datum:	-2.7 FT NAVD88
-----------------	-------------------



CRESTS

24.9 FT	1940-08-09
---------	------------

16.8 FT	1947-03-13
16.4 FT	1942-04-08
15.8 FT	1993-01-20
15.6 FT	1980-05-17
15.3 FT	2001-06-10
15.0 FT	1993-01-21
14.8 FT	1977-04-22
14.6 FT	1971-12-06
14.3 FT	1966-02-16

Created: 2016/3/31

VLSL1

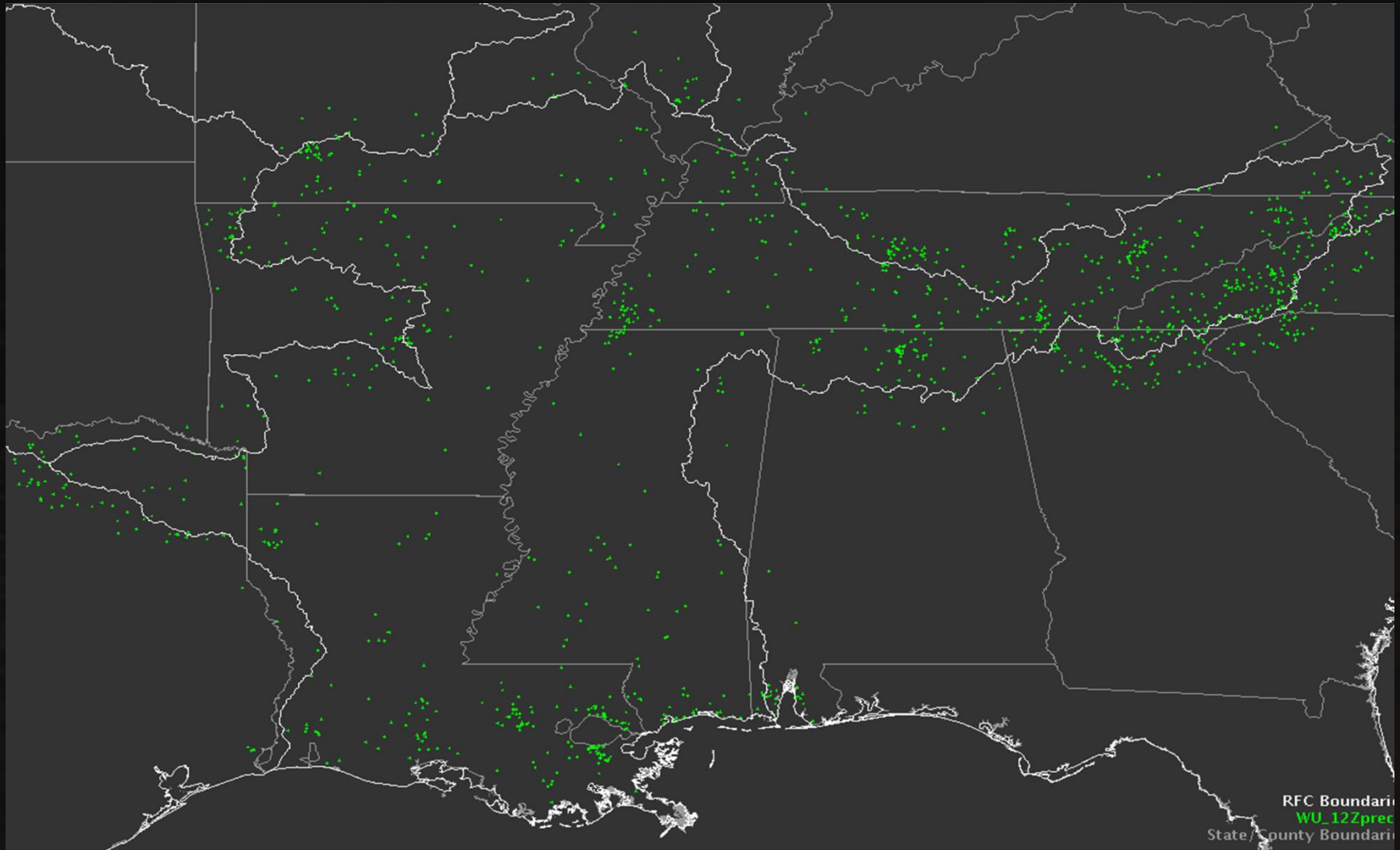
SA – Available Data

- NWS is not the only gauge game in town
- Private Weather Station data can be valuable, e.g. wunderground.com

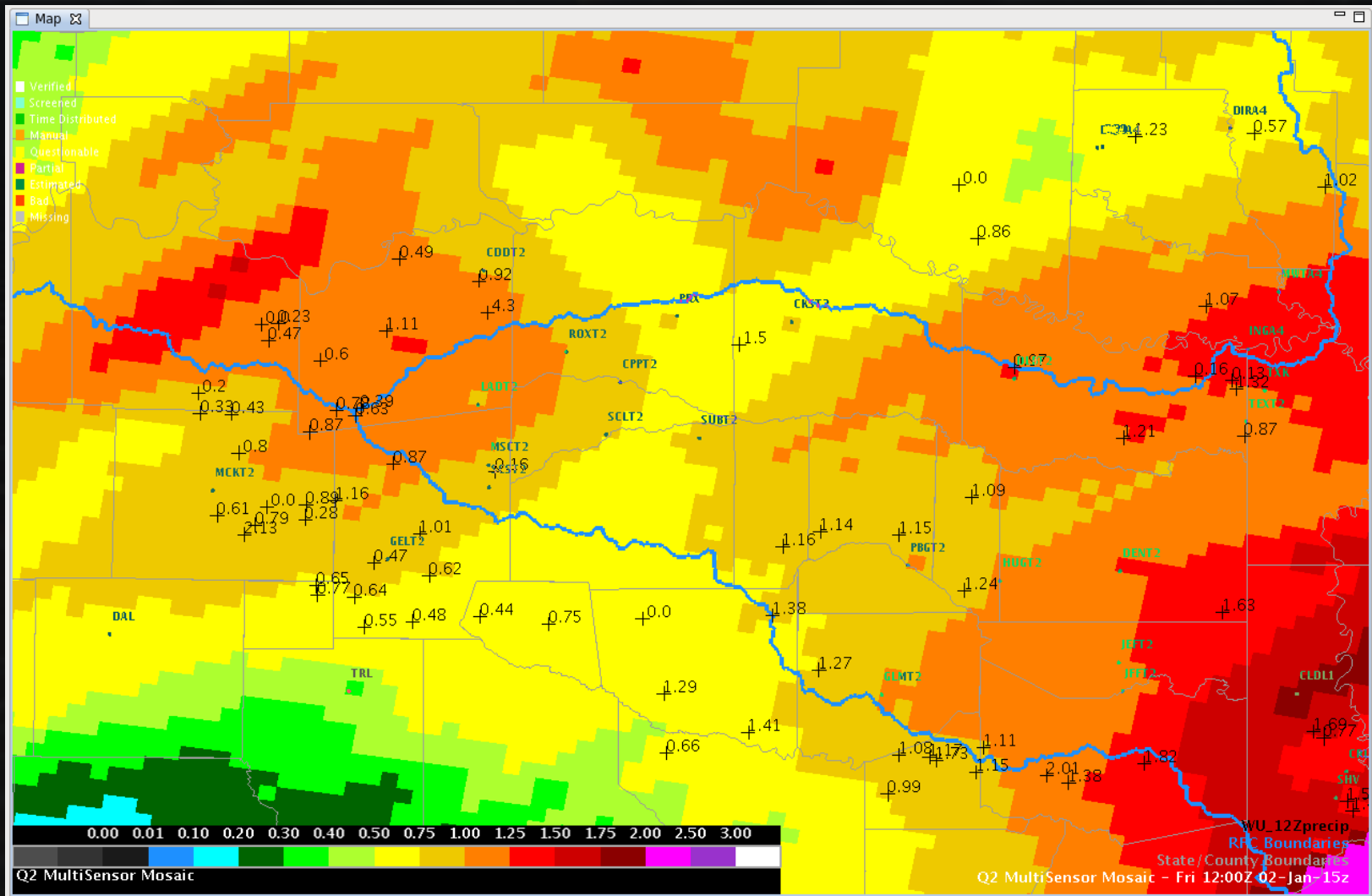
WeatherUnderground PWS - AWIPS

- Compile list of stations and associated lat/lon
- Scripts retrieve wunderground.com data and sum rainfall for each station
- Scripts use arcpy to build shapefile set
- Shapefile set transferred to operational system
- (future?...increase efficiency using LINUX only [pyshp]; create auto QC algorithm)

WeatherUnderground PWS - AWIPS



WeatherUnderground PWS - AWIPS



WeatherUnderground PWS – GR2Analyst

- Same data collection process as previous, but with different parameters and timing
- Matter of formatting data properly so display program can ingest/understand

GR2Analyst is a widely-used radar interrogation program utilized by meteorologists.

WeatherUnderground PWS – GR2Analyst

```
lix-lw-www1/grlevel2/shapefiles/LIX_WU_1hrRain_Placefile.txt

;!!! DISCLAIMER ----

;THIS FILE SHOWS DATA RETRIEVED FROM PRIVATE WEATHER STATIONS ON THE
;WEATHERUNDERGROUND INTERNET SITE AT wunderground.com. THE DATA OBTAINED AND
;DISPLAYED IS NOT QUALITY CONTROLLED BY THE NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE. THE DATA
;IS PROVIDED 'AS IS' AND THE FORECASTER MUST BE RESPONSIBLE FOR DETERMINING THE
;DATA'S FINAL QUALITY AND USEFULNESS.

;THE DATA IS COLLECTED AND FORMATTED TO MEET SPECIFIC NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
;SPATIAL AND TEMPORAL NEEDS AND IS NOT INTENDED FOR USE OUTSIDE OF NATIONAL
;WEATHER SERVICE APPLICATIONS.

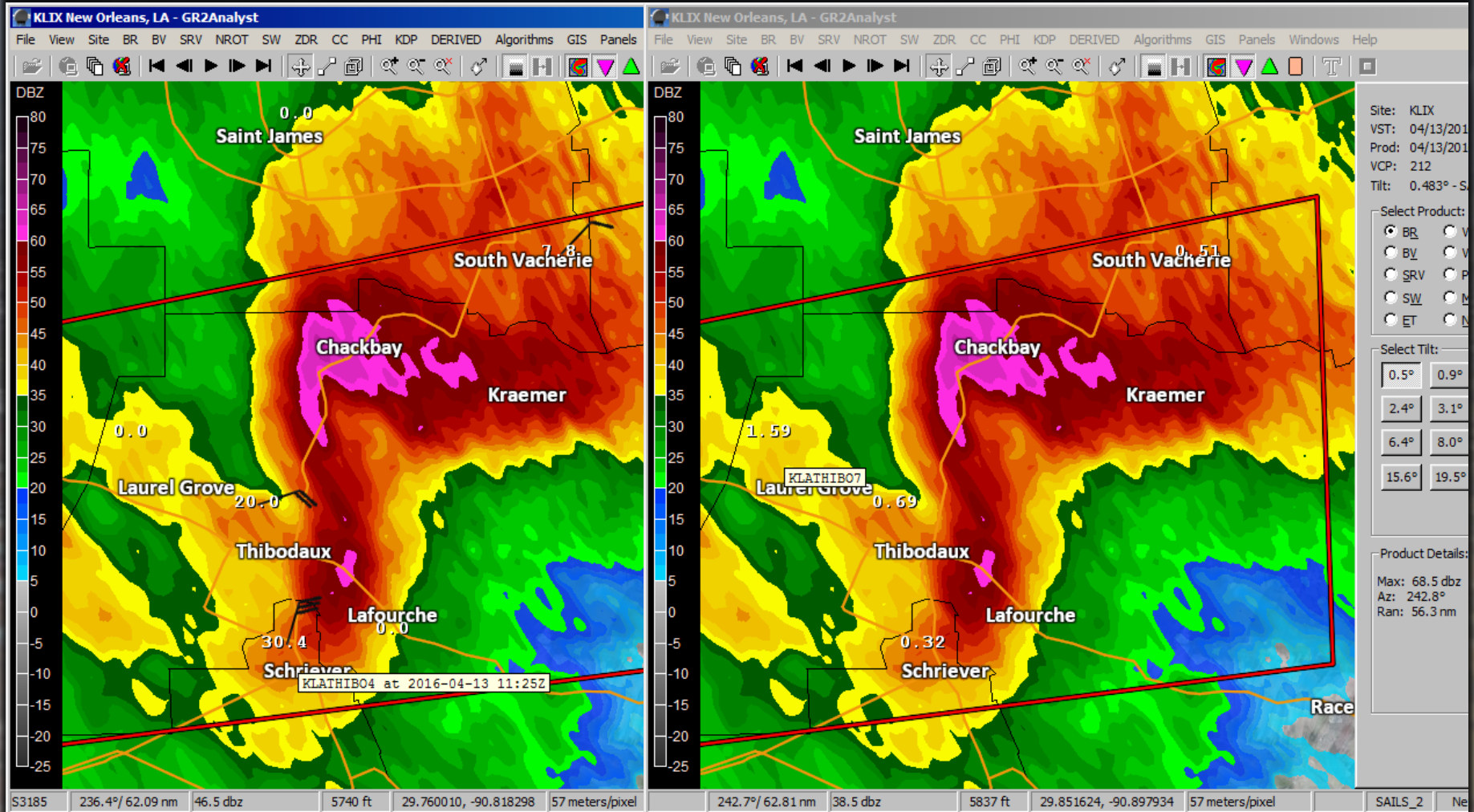
;---- END DISCLAIMER !!!

Title: LIX WU Station 1 hour Rainfall Total ending 2016-04-12 15:52Z
Color: 200 200 255
IconFile: 1, 20, 49, 1, 48, "http://www.meteor.iastate.edu/~ckarsten/chase/placefiles/black_barbs.png"
Font: 1, 16, 1, "Courier New"
RefreshSeconds: 60

;WU STATIONS (scanned 455 WU PWS in the LIX CWA; 317 reported valid data below)
;          (bounding box for scan defined by latitudes: 28.9 to 34.2 and longitudes: -92.2 to -88.2)

Object: 32.103508, -88.204414
Threshold: 999
Icon: 0, 0, 0, 1, 24, KALBUTLE3      ;text string displayed on mouse hover
Color: 255 255 255
Text: 0, 0, 1, 0.0      ;last number is hourly rain in inches
End:
```

WeatherUnderground PWS – GR2Analyst



SA – Data Presentation

- Sometimes map isn't the best answer ☹
 - Relatively high bandwidth requirement to display
 - Hard to navigate/manipulate on smartphone
 - Users with visual impairments
- So, show data in tabular format
- Rely on users' inherent geospatial knowledge

Current Gauge HTML

- Script collects current/forecast stage data from various sources
- Script writes data with appropriately formatted HTML tags embedded in ascii file
- NWS Content Management System ingests HTML and displays to web
- <http://w2.weather.gov/lmrfc>

Current Gauge HTML

```
outf.write('    <tr>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>' + ID + '</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>' + CurrStage + '</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>' + Crest + '</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>' + "&nbsp;" + '</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td><a href="' + tablelink + '">Table</a></td>' + crlf)
outf.write('    </tr>' + crlf)
outf.write('    <tr>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>' + Descript + '</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>' + ObTime + '</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>' + CrestTime + '</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>&nbsp;</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td><a href="' + graphlink + '">Hydrograph</a></td>' + crlf)
outf.write('    </tr>' + crlf)
outf.write('    <tr>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>&nbsp;</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>&nbsp;</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>&nbsp;</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>&nbsp;</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('        <td>&nbsp;</td>' + crlf)
outf.write('    </tr>' + crlf)
```

Current Gauge HTML

Observations and Forecasts by River System	
Forecast Group	Major Rivers
FGMISSISSIPPI	Mississippi, Ohio, Arkansas
FGATCHAFLA	Atchafalaya
FGUYAZMS	Colwater, Tallahatchie
FGLYAZMS	Skuna, Yazoo
FGBIGBMS	Big Black
FGUPERMS	Pearl, Yackanookany
FGLPERMS	Pearl, Bogue Chitto
FGPASMS	Pascagoula, Leaf, Chickashaway, Escatawpa
FGGULFMS	Wolf, Tchoutacabouffa, Biloxi
FGFRBRNC	French Broad, Pigeon
FGLITLTN	Oconaluftee, Tuckasegee
FGCPOWTN	Clinch, Powell
FGHOLSTN	Holston
FGHWSETN	Hiwassee
FGTENNTN	Flint, Paint Rock
FGDKEKTN	Duck, Elk
FGWESTTN	Forked Deer, Wolf, Hatchie
FGSTFRAR	St. Francis
FGBLAKAR	Black
FGUWHIAR	White, James
FGLWHIAR	White, Cache
FGUOUAAR	Ouachita, Saline
FGLOUALA	Ouachita, Tensas
FGUREDLA	Red, Sulphur, Big Cypress, Black Cypress
FGLREDLA	Red
FGCALCLA	Calcasieu
FGVERMLA	Vermilion
FGAMCOLA	Amite, Comite, Tickfaw, Tangipahoa, Tchefuncte

FGCALCLA

Calcasieu River

[BACK](#)

Site	Latest Observation	Highest Forecast Value	More Data
GLML1 Calcasieu River nr Glenmora, LA	6.26 @2016-04-18 13:45 CT	**Below action stage** --	Table Hydrograph
OKDL1 Calcasieu River nr Oakdale, LA	**Missing Value** --	**Below action stage** --	Table Hydrograph
OBCL1 Calcasieu River nr Oberlin, LA	3.46 @2016-04-18 14:00 CT	**Below action stage** --	Table Hydrograph
MTTL1 Whisky Chitto Creek nr Mittie, LA	3.82 @2016-04-18 14:00 CT	**Below action stage** --	Table Hydrograph
BKDL1 Bundick Creek at Bundick Lake, LA	95.32 @2016-04-18 13:45 CT	**Below action stage** --	Table Hydrograph
KDRL1 Calcasieu River nr Kinder, LA	4.98 @2016-04-18 14:00 CT	**Below action stage** --	Table Hydrograph
OTBL1 Calcasieu River nr Old Town Bay, LA	**Missing Value** --	4.90 (Minor) @2016-04-18 19:00 CT	Table Hydrograph
LCRL1 Calcasieu River at Sam Houston Jones State Park, LA	3.60 @2016-04-18 07:00 CT	**Below action stage** --	Table Hydrograph
LCHL1 Calcasieu River NEAR Saltwater Barrier, LA	4.83 @2016-04-18 13:00 CT	4.80 (Minor) @2016-04-18 19:00 CT	Table Hydrograph
BSLL1 Bayou Nezpique at Basile, LA	6.75 @2016-04-18 14:00 CT	**Below action stage** --	Table Hydrograph
MRML1 Mermentau River at Mermentau, LA	3.25 @2016-04-18 14:15 CT	**Below action stage** --	Table Hydrograph

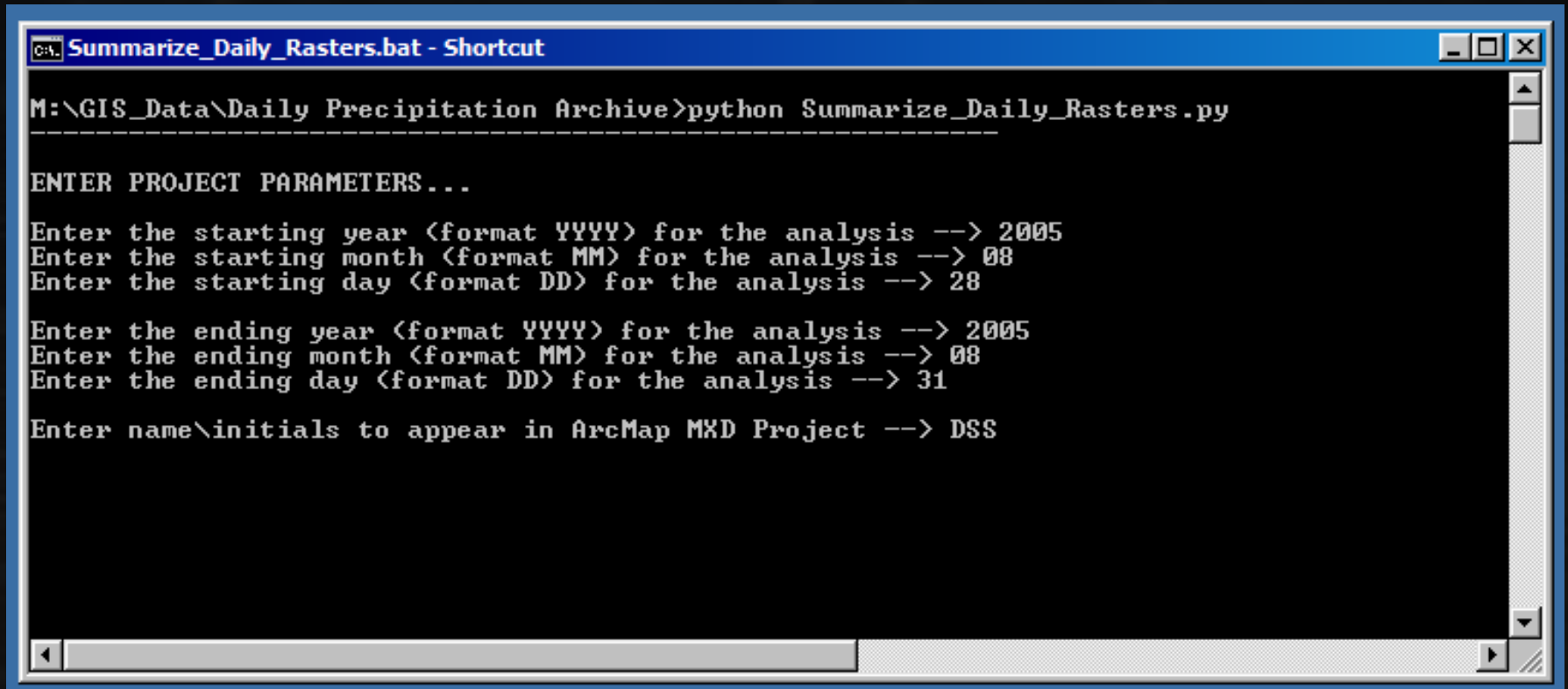
SA – Historical Data Availability

- Rivers tend to respond in a similar way to similar rain events, so we look for historical comparisons
- Historical daily rainfall obs dataset
 - Interpolate points to raster (Kriging)
 - Summarize/Display data

Daily Precip. Archive Project

- Maintain database of daily obs and associated interpolated rasters
- Database utilized by separate script that prompts user for period of interest
- Script uses arcpy to create storm total raster of individual daily rasters
- Auto creates graphic from template mxd

Daily Precip. Archive Project

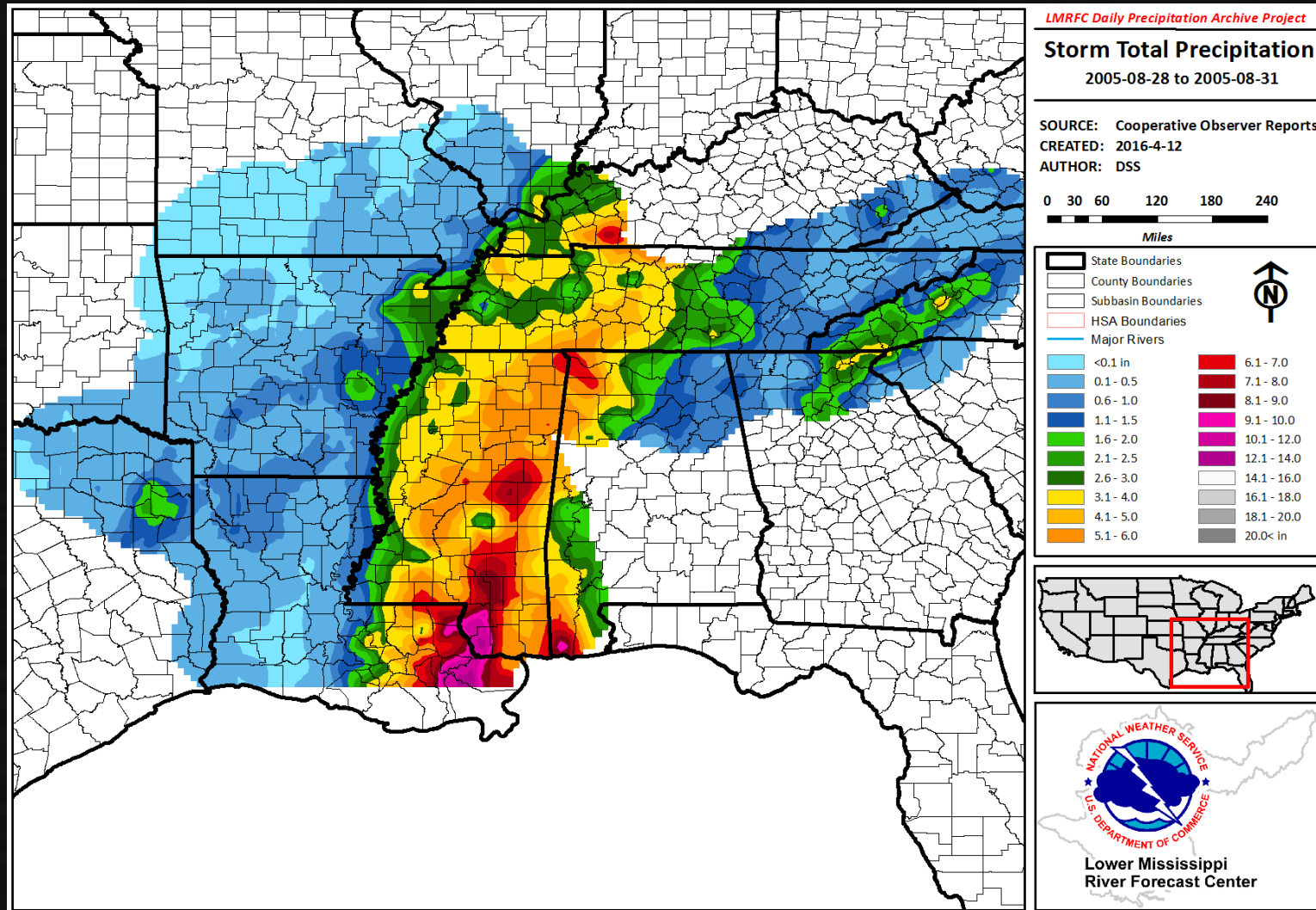


```
C:\ Summarize_Daily_Rasters.bat - Shortcut
M:\GIS_Data\Daily Precipitation Archive>python Summarize_Daily_Rasters.py
-----
ENTER PROJECT PARAMETERS...
Enter the starting year <format YYYY> for the analysis --> 2005
Enter the starting month <format MM> for the analysis --> 08
Enter the starting day <format DD> for the analysis --> 28

Enter the ending year <format YYYY> for the analysis --> 2005
Enter the ending month <format MM> for the analysis --> 08
Enter the ending day <format DD> for the analysis --> 31

Enter name\initials to appear in ArcMap MXD Project --> DSS
```

Daily Precip. Archive Project



Sidebar – Point Data Interpolation

How can we compare different rainfall estimates of different types?

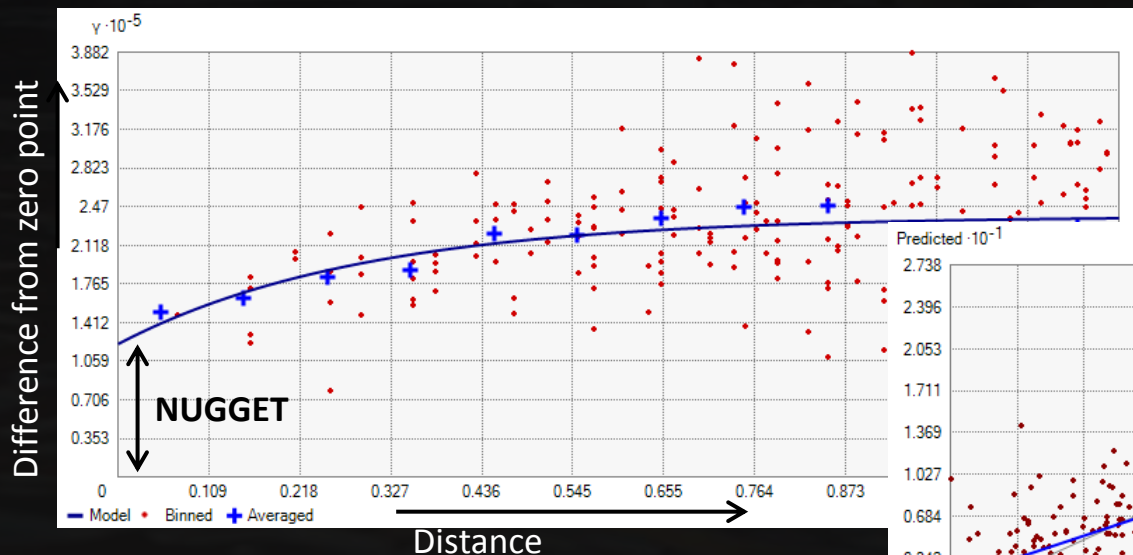
- Convert point data to gridded data using interpolation.
- IDW best for data where minima and maxima are well sampled. Can cause contour bullseyes. Can artificially increase rainfall between points.
- Spline best for data where minima and maxima need to be interpolated. Typically has higher interpolation errors than IDW, but not quantified. Can artificially increase rainfall between points.
- Kriging good for data that is spatially-correlated. Can provide information on how correlation changes with distance. Can assume measurement and interpolation uncertainty right at measurement point (nugget). Provides built-in methods for minimizing creation of mass.

Sidebar – Point Data Interpolation

Kriging

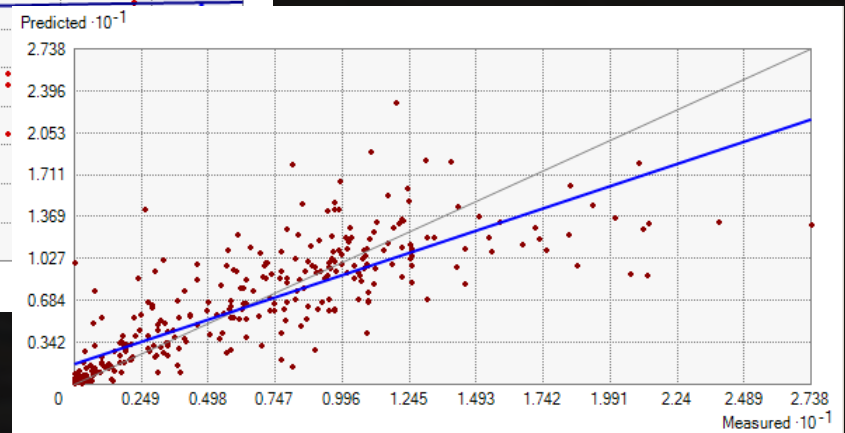
Semivariogram (left)

Equations that describe how data correlates spatially



Interpolation error analysis(right)

Removal of each point, comparison of predicted to actual

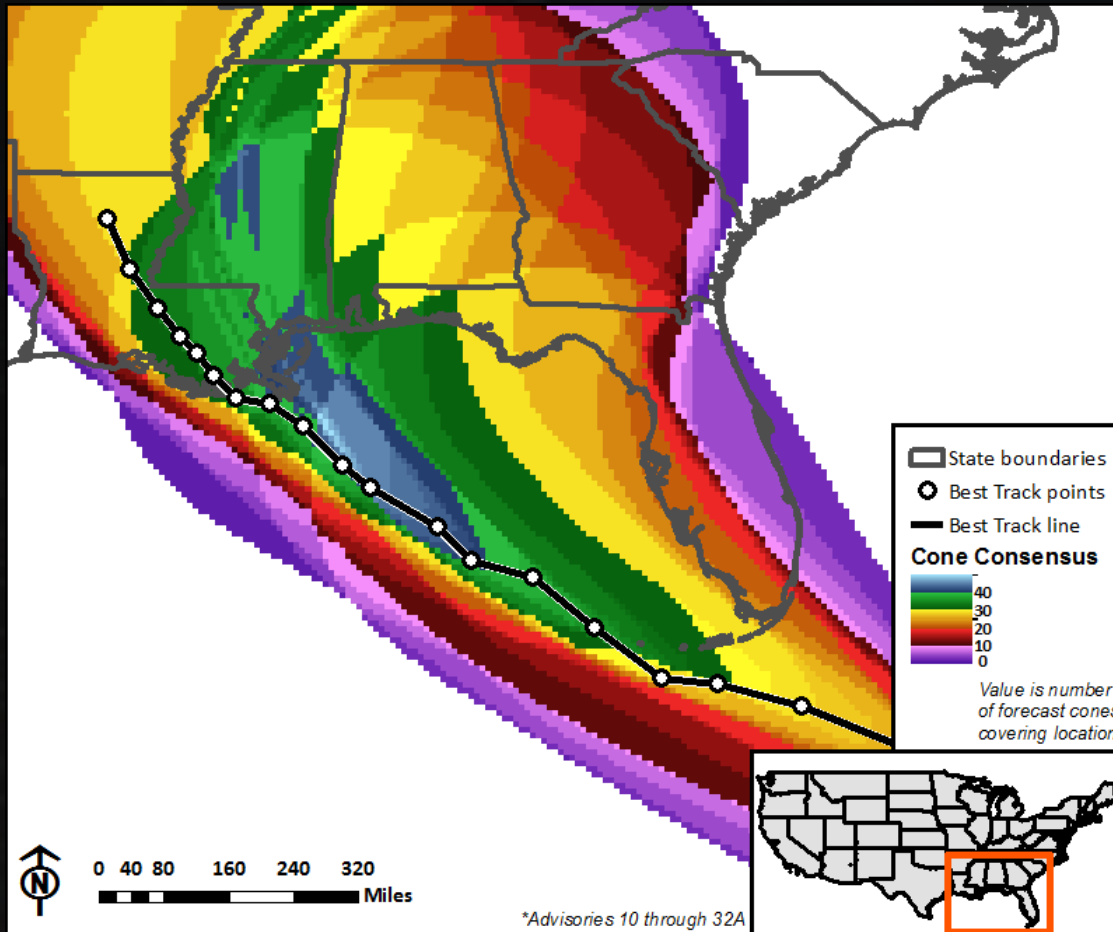


2012 HURRICANE ISAAC

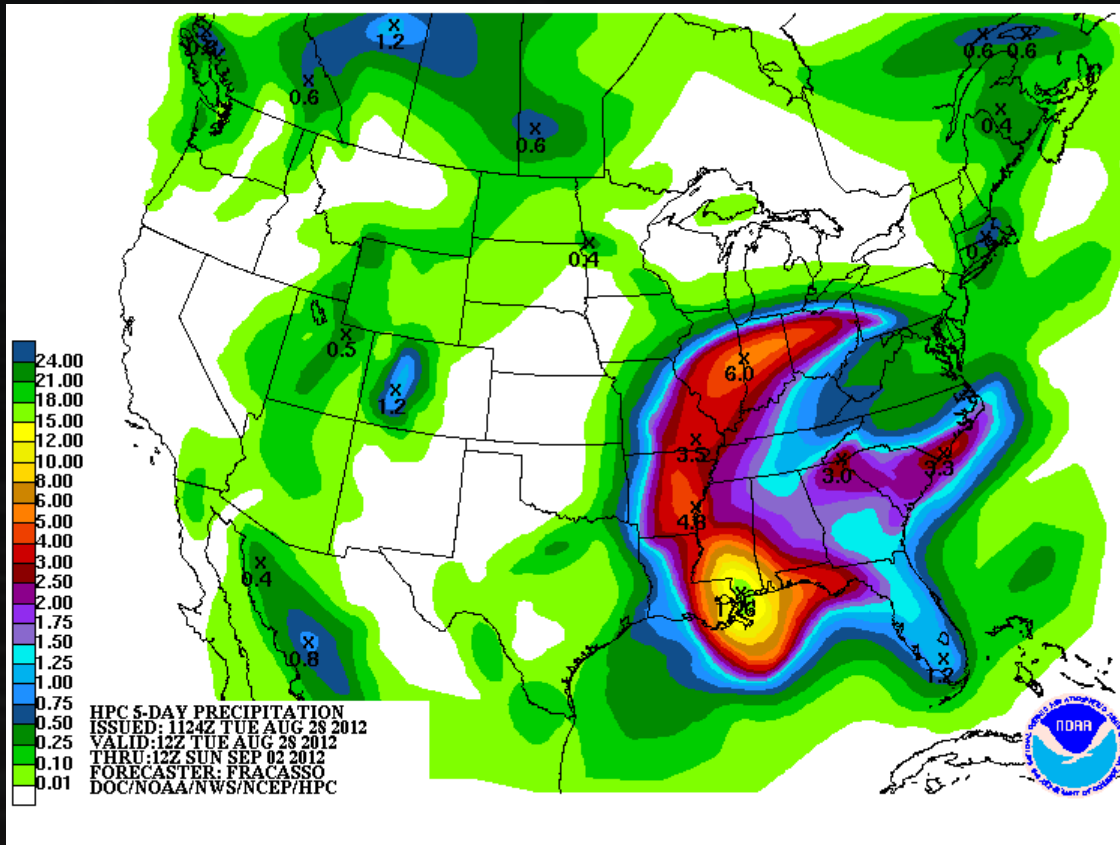
- Isaac a slow moving minor storm with heavy rains across SE LA, especially NO
- What can we expect? -- Forecasting Tools
- What happened? -- Event Analysis

Isaac Forecasting

- Consensus of forecast cones Aug 23-29

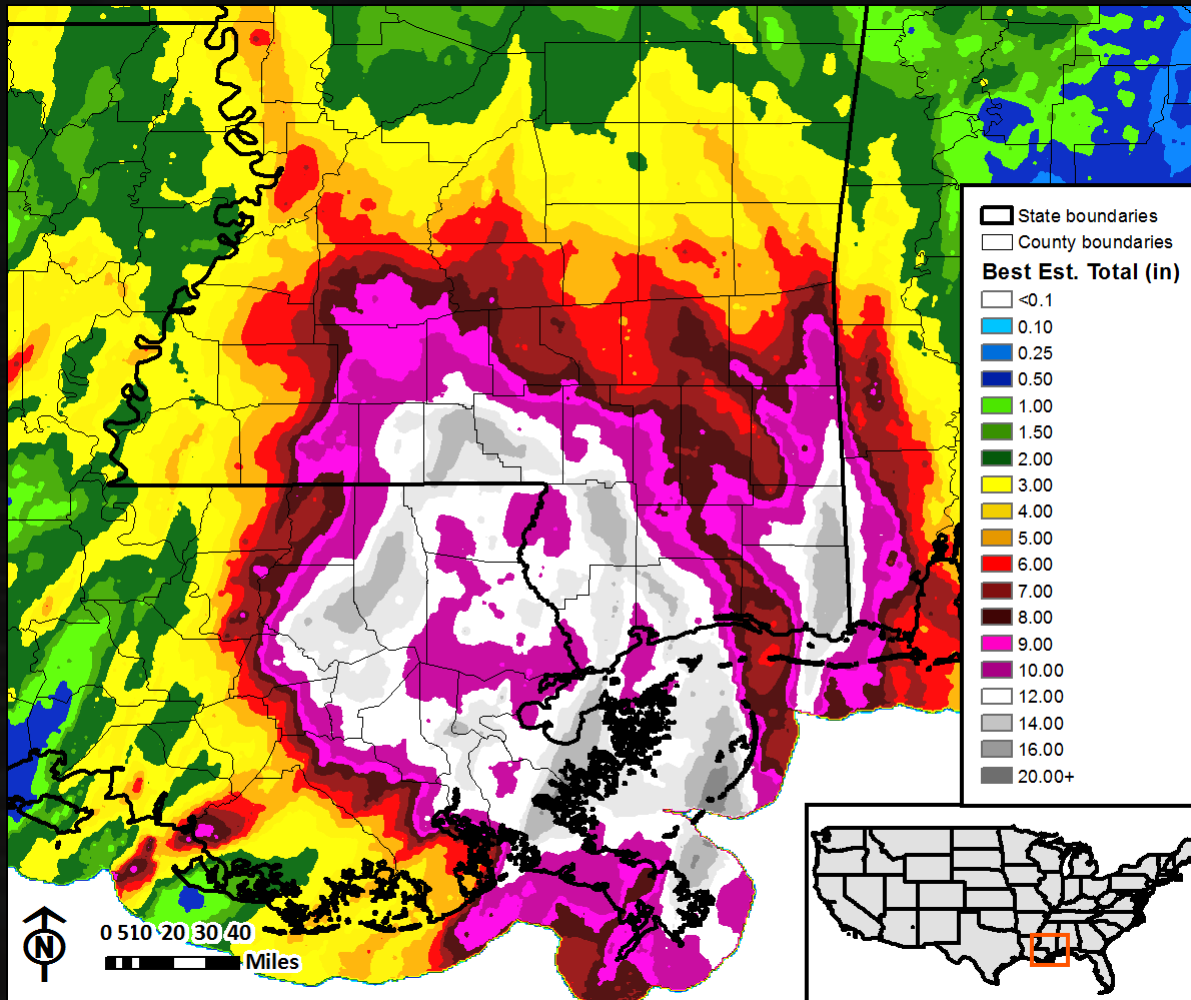


Isaac Forecasting



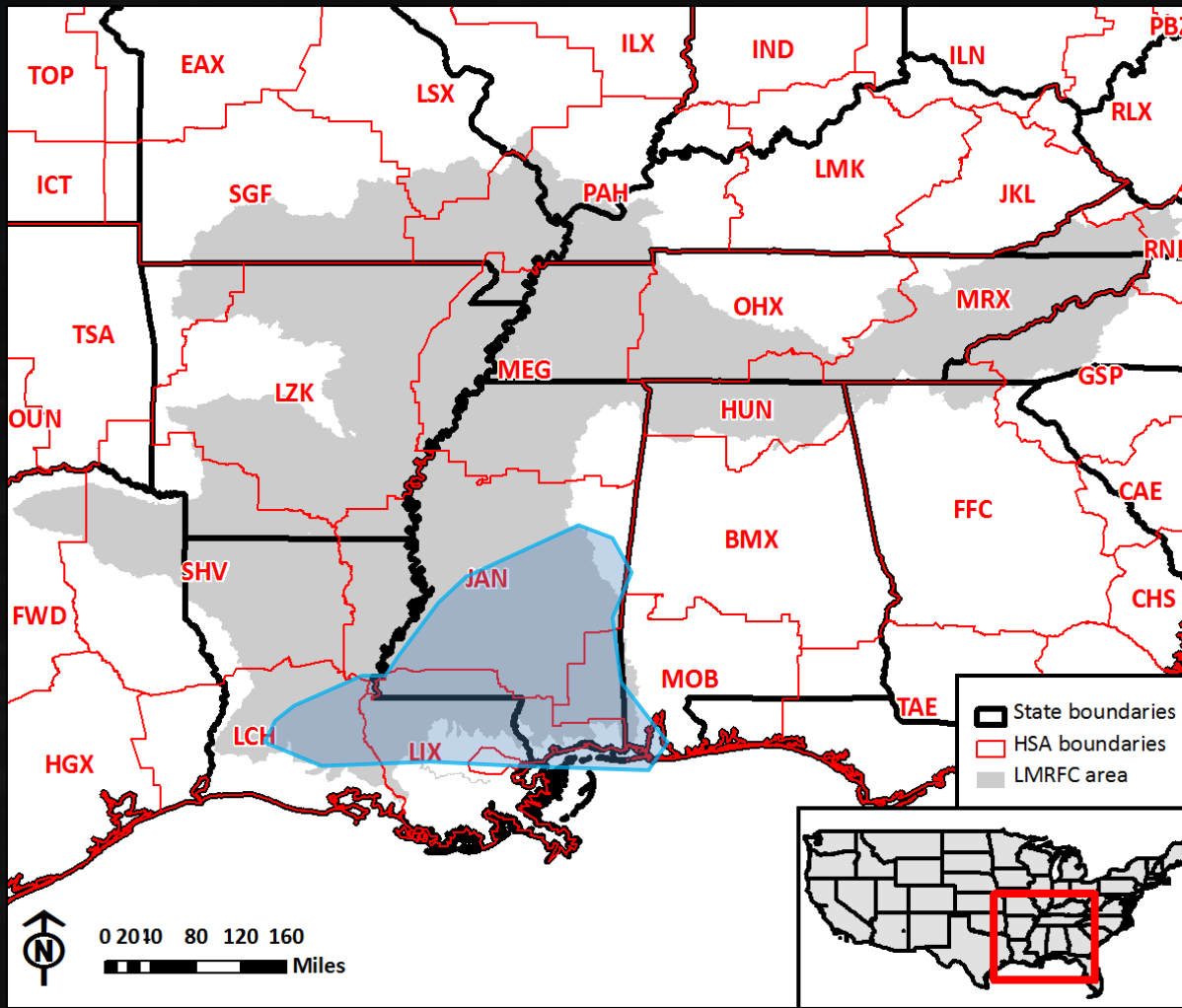
- 5-day rainfall (QPF) forecast
- Issued Tuesday, August 28th 7AM
- Final forecast before heavy rain bands begin impacting coast

Isaac Forecasting



- NWS Best Estimate Rainfall
- Gridded radar data offices mosaicked, then bias-corrected to official gauge stations

Finding Isaac Impacts



- Area of most significant flooding impacts (defined USGS 90th percentile streamflow)

Finding Isaac Impacts

- September 5th-8th, 2012: The National Weather Service (NWS) Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center (LMRFC) coordinated flood survey teams
 - Document impacts
 - Discuss forecast services with customers/partners
- September-December, 2012: Survey note compilation and analysis
 - Summarizing notes
 - Addressing concerns and action items
 - GIS analysis

Finding Isaac Impacts

Amite @ fort Vincent
Residents on Summerfield are cutoff
but not flooded. Some portions of
the road still impassable on the 6th.

30,31689 -90,83853 ^{High} ^{Water}
is near the crown of the road at point
APPROX WSLVL = 5.8'

Amite River @ Bayou Manchac

Amite River Road and Horseshoe Bend
were impassable. All homes have
been elevated and 9.8 feet no longer
floods. Their property is very much invaded

Presby Outing 9/6/12
21" Rain Entrance to Camp store
* Indep. rd 1' ~~from~~ road from Floody & clubhouse
4' / hour during storm
Gauges higher by one foot
Clubhouse Flood

Georges foot of Water ^{Independence and Thomas} ^{Marthaler Rd}
Water coming up from ^{Thomas} ^{Marthaler}
8300 Thomas Marthaler Rd
1" inch into shop
3:00 pm ^{4P} crest at 8300 T Marthaler Rd -15' high
5pm go to John
7:30pm dropped 20 1/4"
From 1979 on
Water to back step of home
* Input Franklin Creek Back up to homes may
* Input Black Creek Back up to Bens may

kenL@latterblom.com

15 years got inside 6 bricks up 1 foot
8:30 am Thursday Wednesday
water coming up from Escapa
Thursday, starting falling * Highest Thursday
coming back Friday / Saturday
Midway ^{position} water coming up both sides
~~Little Rock~~ Church Katem flooded more flooded now 2ft
~~Gruber~~ Mans Rd 6500

Finding Isaac Impacts

Thomas bluff / Apartments on bank / sloughing off bank
entering into bank

Friday Morning 3FT From bleed frame
water on two steps ~~to~~ across from apartment

Light pole 1' = 2' of light pole showing

S-bays apartment

~~13.5 FT~~ 13.5 ft to 14.5 ft * Look large

- 0.38 ft Apartment 16.5 - 16.6 ft staff

Aid slope from bank to bank

Top of 14.35^{staff} 13 approximate on light pole

* Impact some houses may flood on River Road

Angipahou @ Amite gauge crest: $80.0 + 25.3 = 105.3$

- water/mud mark on east US bank reached driveway
- EM indicated that LA16 not overtopped

- Over-driving for 1st time in 18 yrs' slidy at vet office

- Couple feet over road to vet office

- Water cut off some homes on vet office road (Thomas Rd)

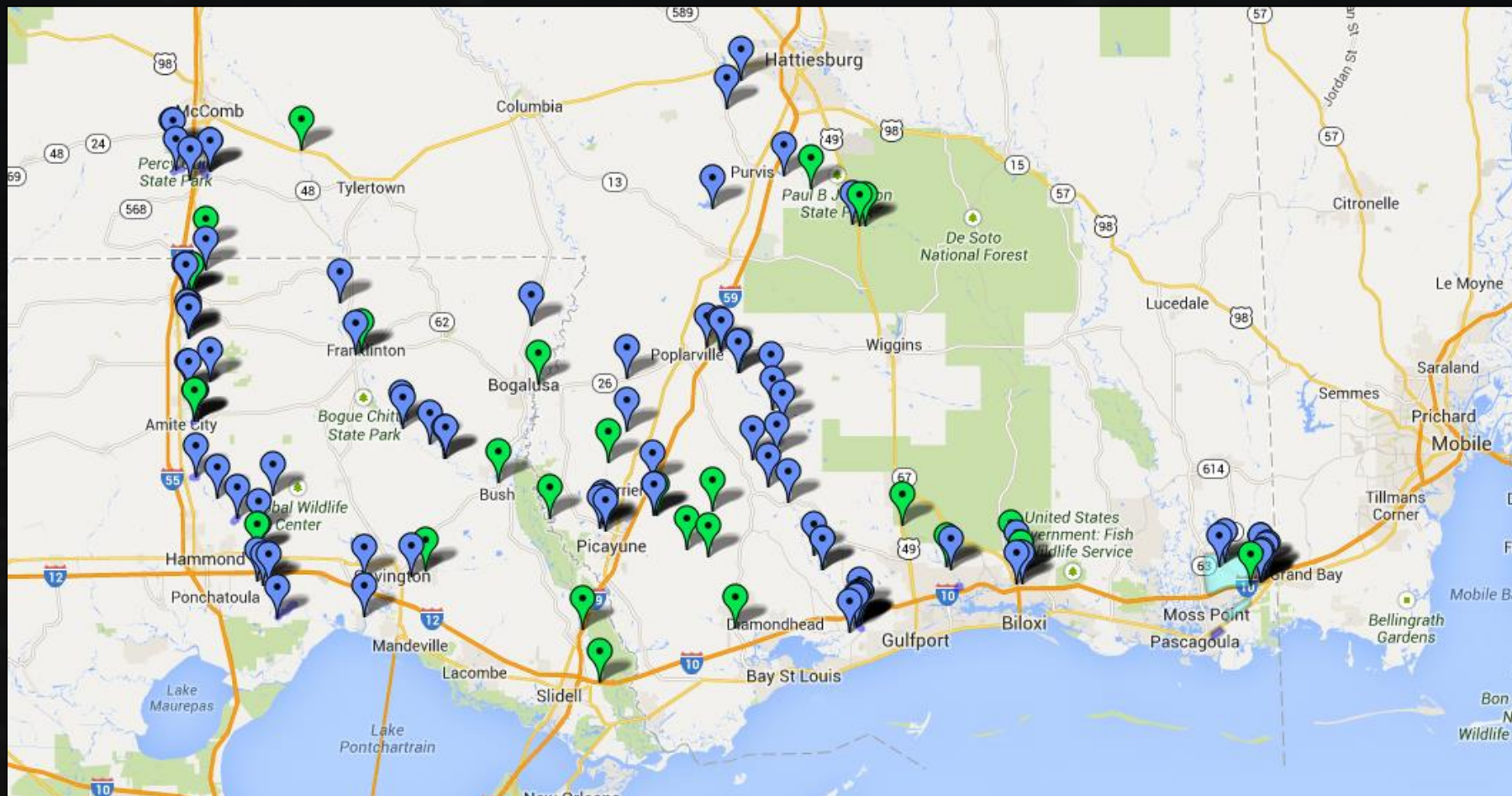
- up to around/above 103 ft at lots just west of Thomas Rd

River @ Hwy 440 - NO INDICATIONS OF
FLOODING ON ROAD; BRIDGE DECK ESTIMATED
15' ABOVE HWM

- CHECK FOR POSSIBLE DATUM SHIFT @ ICNVL

What to do with all of this different information???

Finding Isaac Impacts



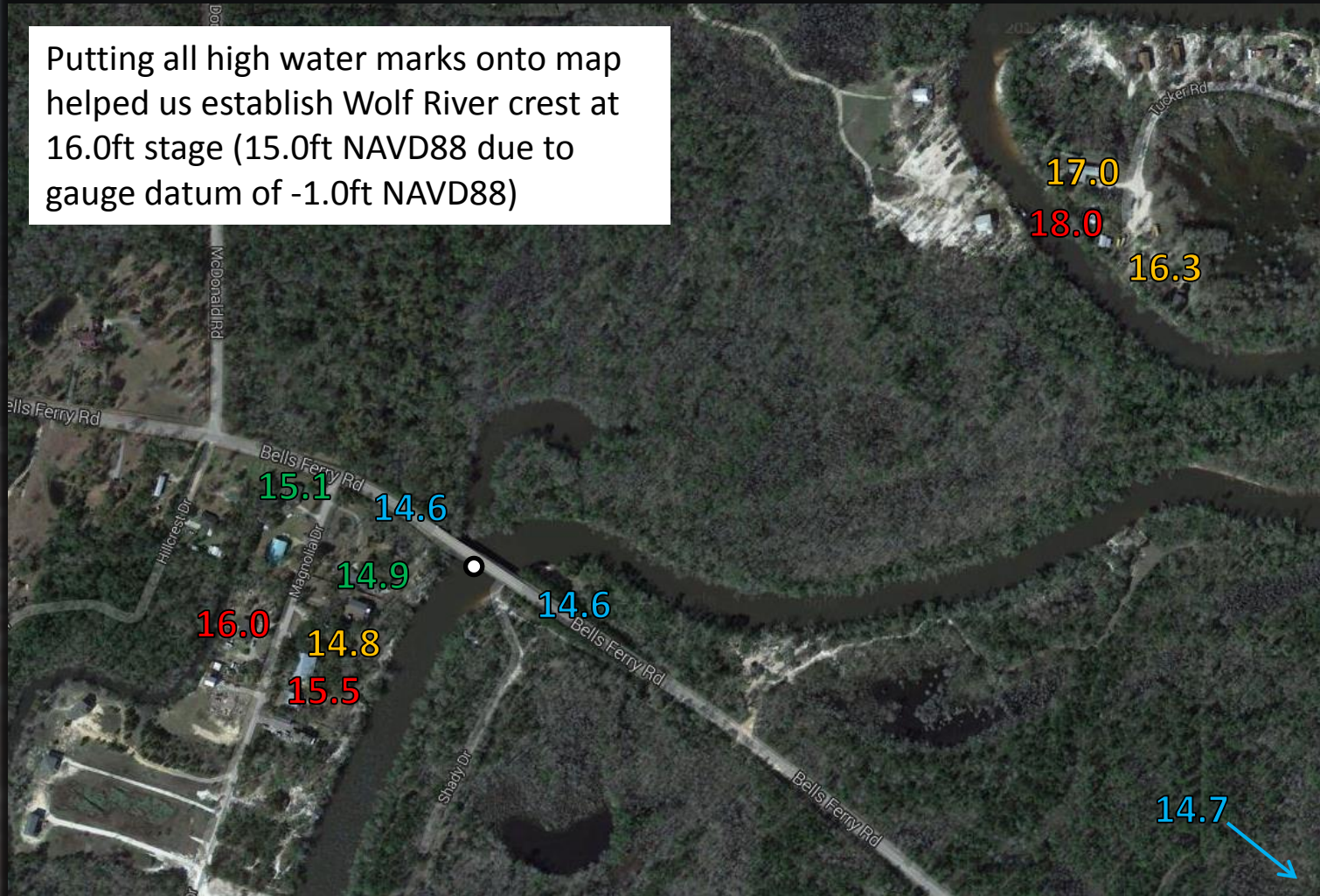
Isaac Analysis

This leads to a nearly ~~year~~ 4 year long period of:

- Compiling notes and mapped locations into a survey report
- Analyzing data
- Answering questions raised by the survey
- Compiling recommendations for improving our service
- Validating an extreme rainfall event in the New Orleans area

Isaac Analysis

Putting all high water marks onto map helped us establish Wolf River crest at 16.0ft stage (15.0ft NAVD88 due to gauge datum of -1.0ft NAVD88)



SOURCE

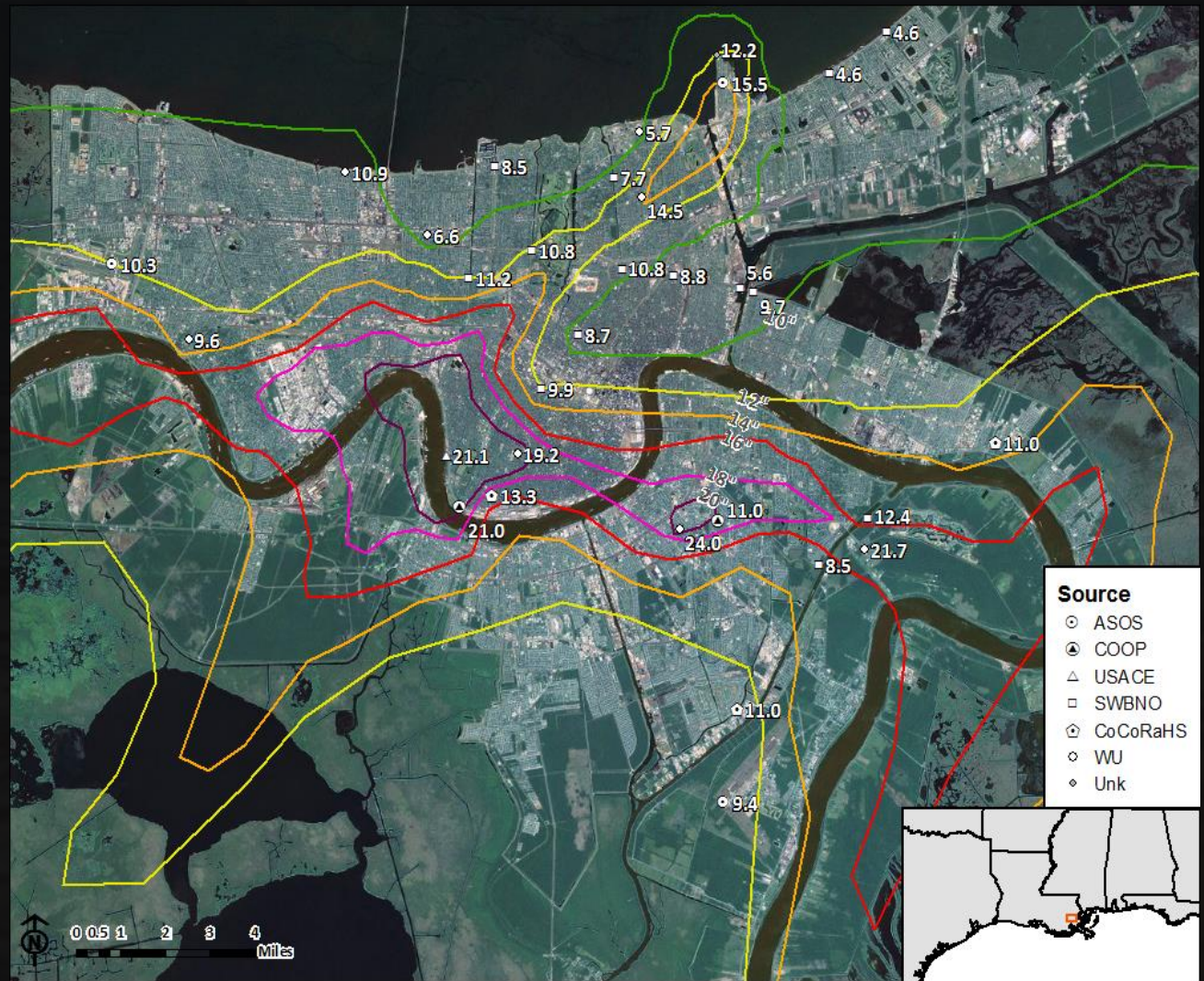
USGS

NWS/Survey
Public (High
Confidence)

Public (Low
Confidence)

Isaac Analysis

The 20+ inch rainfall that started it all...



Isaac Analysis

Audubon and Slidell ^{WED} Date: 8/29/12
Daily Recap

Audubon AUD

Local Time	Temp	Dew Point	Cumul Precip		Local Time	Temp	Dew Point	Cumul Precip	
1 AM	M	M	41.67	.21	1 PM	M	M	58.19	
2 AM	M	M	43.04	.37	2 PM	M	M	58.34	
3 AM	M	M	43.57	.53	3 PM	M	M	58.54	
4 AM	M	M	44.09	1.52	4 PM	M	M	58.65	
5 AM	M	M	45.83	1.74	5 AM	M	M	45.83	1.74
6 AM	M	M	46.74	.91	6 AM	M	M	46.74	.91
7 AM	M	M	47.84	1.10	7 AM	M	M	47.84	1.10
8 AM	U	M	49.27	1.43	8 AM	U	M	49.27	1.43
9 AM	*M	M	53.22	2.95	9 AM	*M	M	53.22	2.95
10 AM	M	M	53.41	1.19	10 AM	M	M	53.41	1.19
11 AM	*M	M	57.23	Not likely	11 AM	*M	M	57.23	Not likely
12 PM	M	M	M	1.96	12 PM	M	M	M	1.96

Daily Data	Slidell ASD			LIX
	High	Low	Precip	Precip
6a/7a	80	77	1.38	
12p/1p	79	78	1.38	3.84
6p/7p	78	77	2.20	2.22
12a/1a	79	77	1.56	1.94
24 Hour			6.52	7.96

9.26

- Official site in New Orleans area reported extreme rainfall totals, but was discounted at the time.
- **“New Orleans has never received that rainfall rate and not had significant flooding”** – common justification.

Isaac Analysis

~~The 20+ inch rainfall~~

The 27 inch rainfall* that made us search even harder...



Photo courtesy of Uptown Messenger

Isaac Analysis

~~The 20+ inch rainfall~~

~~The 27 inch rainfall*~~

The 19 inch rainfall that corroborated the nearby gauges

**Additional QC
from a later
analysis adjusted
the value
downward to 19
inches.*

Isaac Analysis

How can we confirm/discount rainfall maximum in New Orleans?

- Estimate storm runoff as proxy for minimum basin-averaged rainfall.
- In typical watersheds with gauges at outlet point, we can estimate runoff using a rating curve and the discharge hydrograph.
- But New Orleans is not a typical watershed and runoff does not flow downhill into streams
- Runoff flows into storm drains, which have to be pumped into canals, then pumped into Lake Pontchartrain
- So use pumping data in place of rating/discharge!

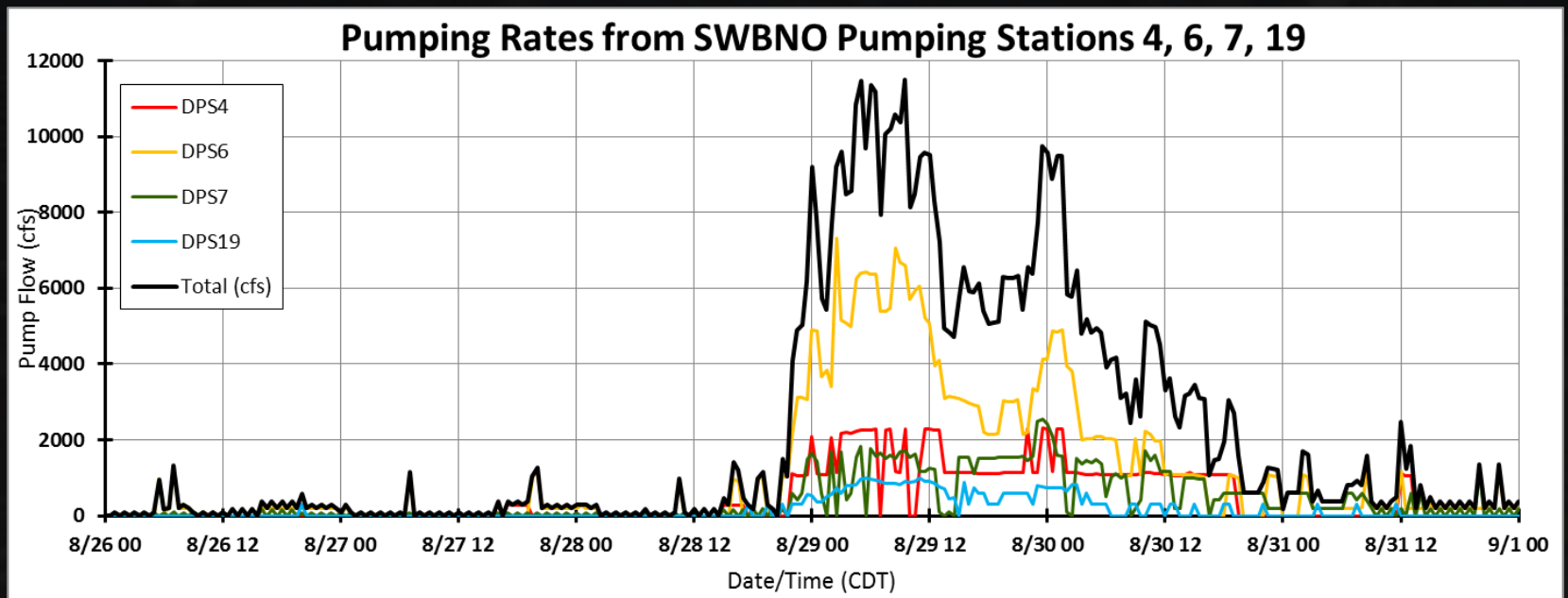
Isaac Analysis

SEWERAGE & WATER BOARD OF NEW ORLEANS DAILY LOG DRAINAGE PUMPING STATION

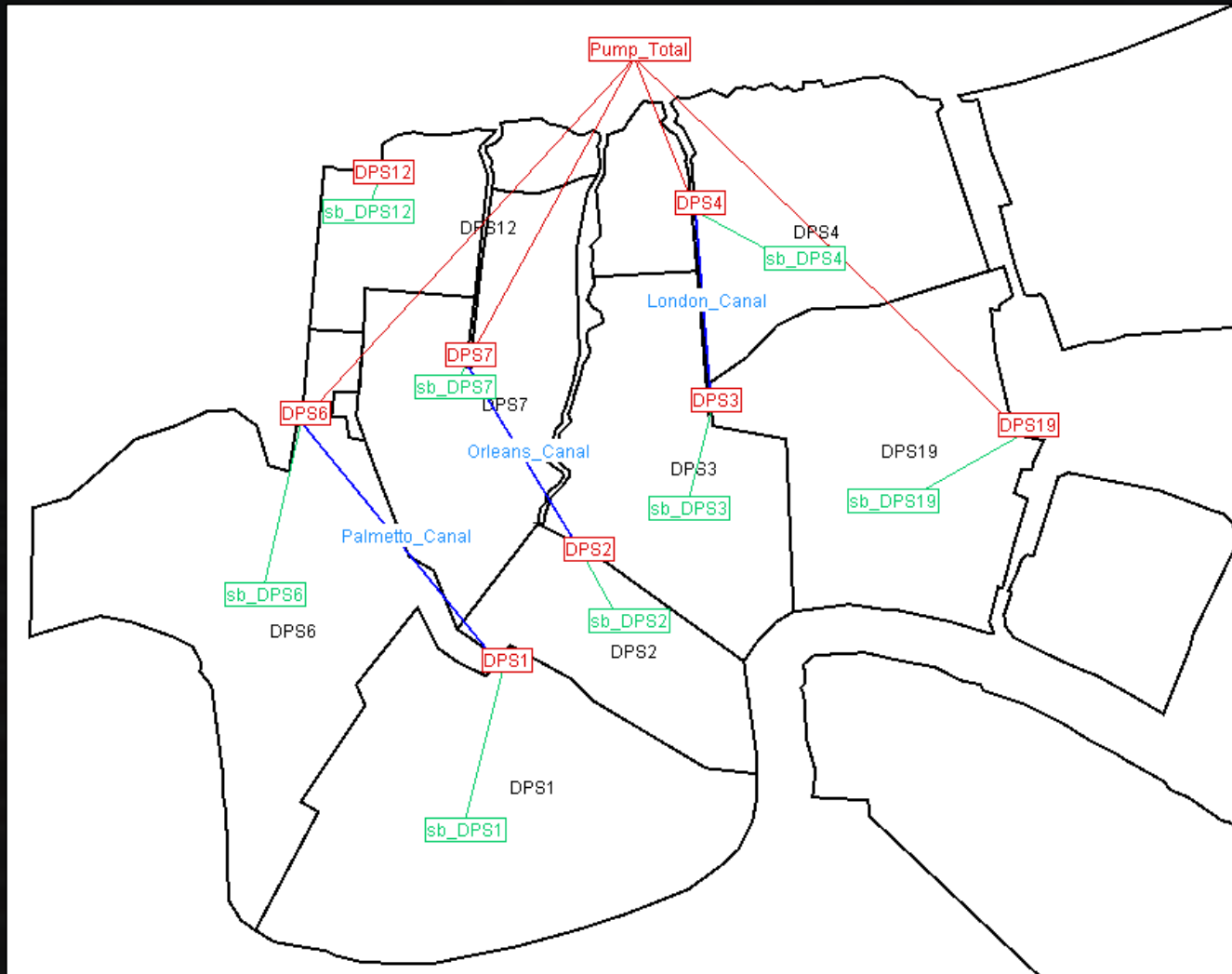
Time	WATER GAUGES				INDICATING WATT METERS															
	Section		Discharge		6600 V Units							60 Cycle		Constant Duties		Vertical Pumps				
	In Back of Screen	In Front of Screen	STAIR	ESCOVO	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	#1	#2	No.1	No.2	No.3	No.4	
12:30 A.M.	105	105	227	227	150/15		175/180													
1:00	105	111	225	225	150/15		LT	LT						150/200	200/270					
1:30	105	106	226	226																
2:00	113	119	231	231	150/15		LT	150/210						150/200	200/270					
2:30	120	124	231	234																
3:00	113	122	233	235	200/15		LT	150/210						150/200	200/270					
3:30	124	121	234	234	200/15		LT													
4:00	124	129	232	230	200/15		LT							150/200	200/270					
4:30	126	132	234	234	200/15		LT	150/210						150/200	200/270					
5:00	143	15	235	235	200/15		LT	150/210						150/200	200/270					
5:30	143	149	238	238																
6:00	142	142	240	240	200/15		LT	150/210						150/200	200/270					
6:30	140	148	242	242	200/15		LT	150/210												
7:00	140	141	243	243	200/15		LT	150/210												
7:30	139	142	246	246	200/15		LT	150/210												
8:00	134	139	245	245	200/15		LT	150/210												
8:30	132	139	246	246	200/15		LT	150/210												
9:00	132	139	246	246	200/15		LT	150/210						150/200	200/270					

Courtesy New Orleans Sewerage and Water Board

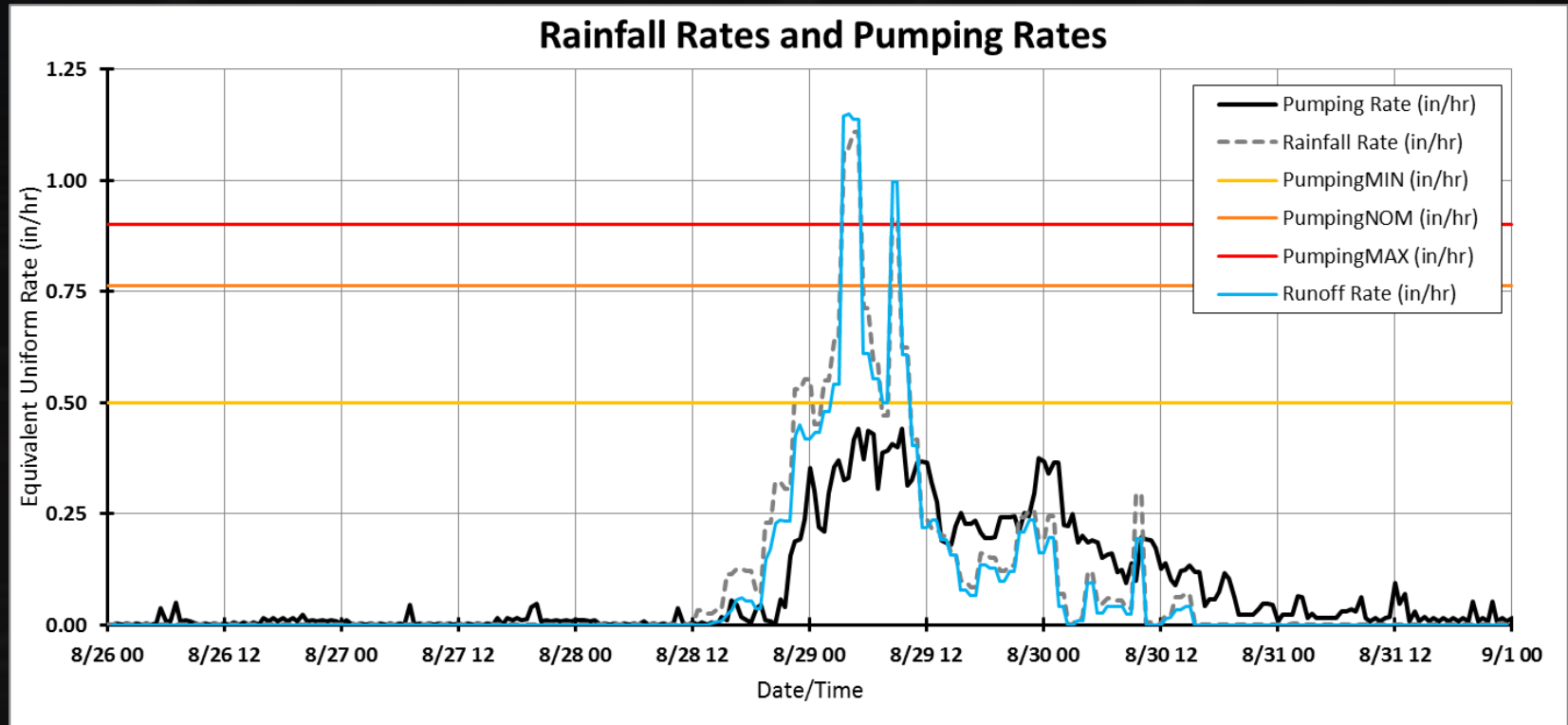
Isaac Analysis



Isaac Analysis



Isaac Analysis



Isaac Analysis

Subbasin	Rainfall (in)	Loss (%)	Loss (in)	Modeled Runoff (in)	Equivalent Depth Pumped (in)
1	16.97	13.5%	2.29	14.77	
2	11.29	1.5%	0.17	11.02	
3	10.42	2.2%	0.22	10.11	
4	12.02	4.3%	0.51	11.43	
6	17.35	20.4%	3.54	13.88	
7	12.28	3.3%	0.40	11.76	
19	9.11	2.7%	0.24	8.77	
PolderAVG	13.54	10.2%	1.39	12.13	11.94

Isaac Analysis

- Uncertainty analysis shows that without the rainfall maximum, modeled runoff drops to around 10 inches, even though around 12 inches was pumped out
- How could the city pump ~2.0 inches more was pumped than what actually fell?
- So YES, this evidence supports this high rainfall maximum

Flash Flood Data -- Crowdsourcing

- Current methods of collecting flash flood reports inadequate for verifying new models/techniques under development
- Data-mining of social media, news media, and other web sources is one potential way to complement NWS LSRs

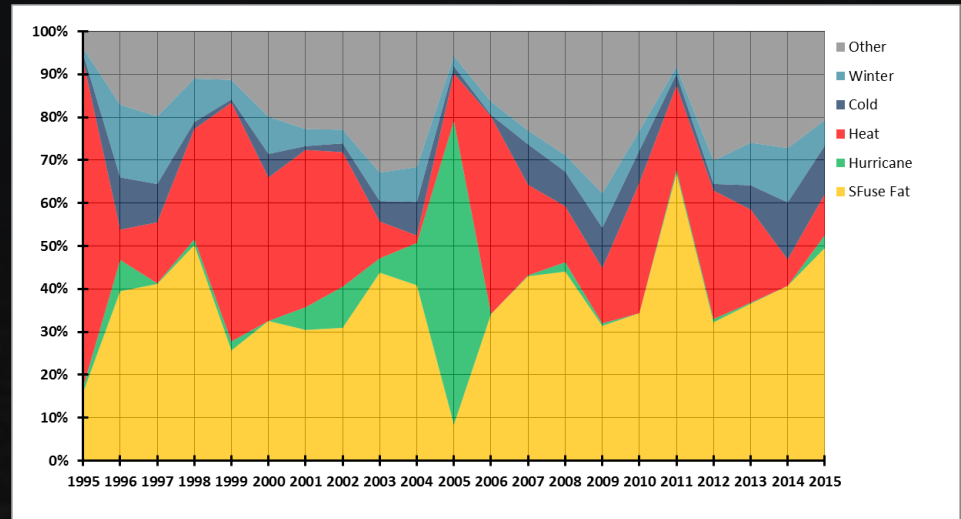
Why care about flash flooding?

- Among short-fuse weather events from 1994-2015, ***flash*** flooding is just shy of #1* in:
 - Number of fatalities
 - Crop/property damage

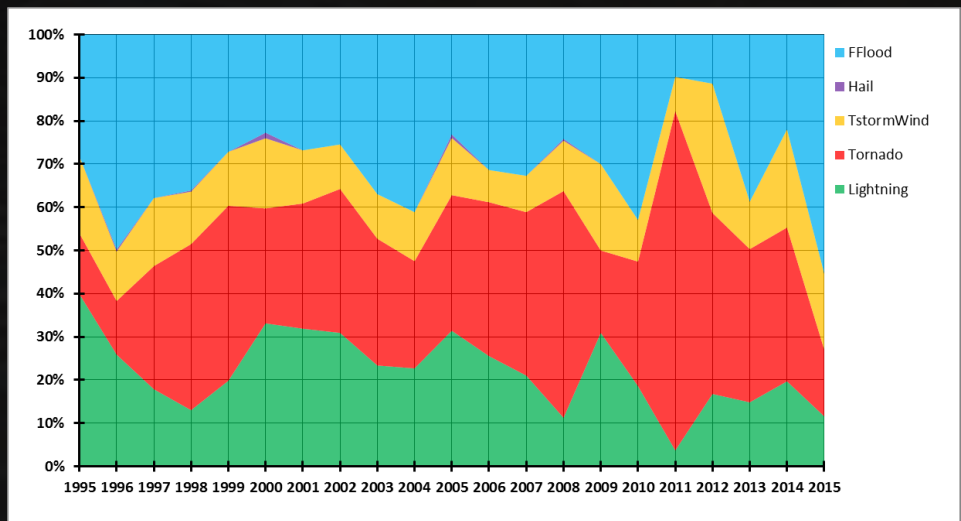
**NOTE: Ignoring the big tornado year of 2011, flash flooding would be just slightly higher than tornadoes.*

Flash Flooding Statistics

U.S. Weather Fatalities: All

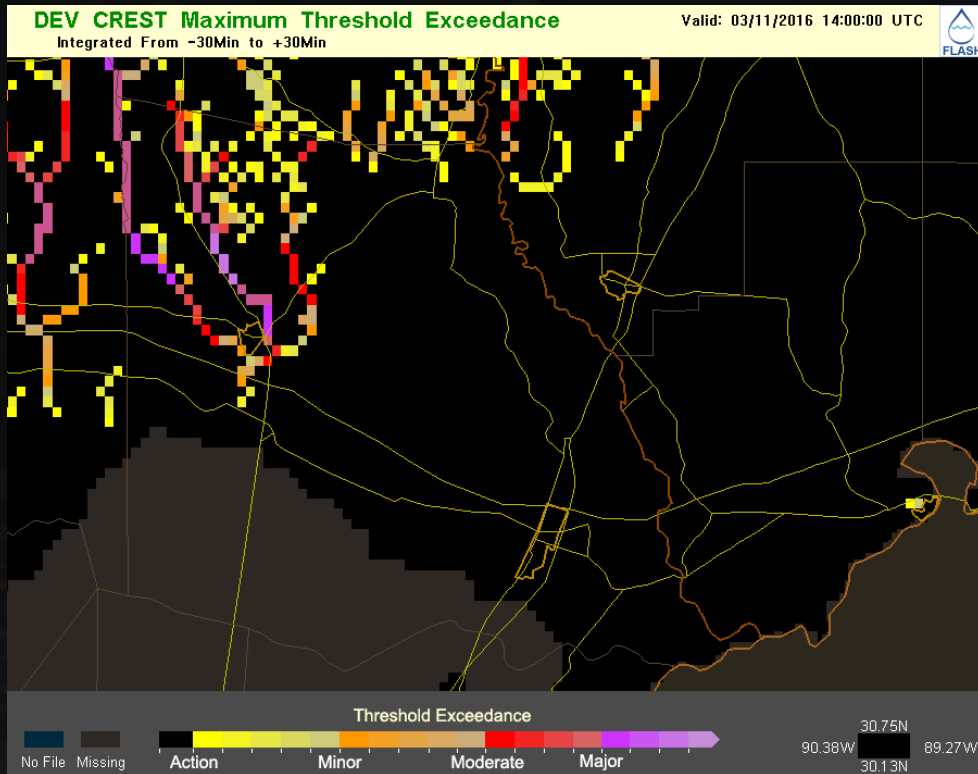


U.S. Weather Fatalities: Short-fuse events



Source: National Weather Service Office of
Climate, Water, & Weather Services

Why improve flash flood warnings?



Source: Flooded Locations and Simulated Hydrographs Project. OU/CIMMS/NSSL/NOAA

9:00 CST

...NUMEROUS ROADWAYS
FLOODED ACROSS
WESTERN PORTIONS OF
THE COUNTY...

How do we
validate the model
at left which is
spatial against
report above?

How to improve flash flood warnings?

- Techniques need to be verified and/or calibrated against actual flash flooding
- Current reports of flash flooding come from NWS Local Storm Reports (LSRs)
 - Data is inconsistent by event and by office
 - Data lacks areas of confirmed “no flooding”
 - Data isn’t used to verify warnings *spatially*

How to improve flash flood warnings?

- What can we do?
 - Search for as much data as possible for real events and quantify the severity

Severe weather post-event surveys

- For tornadoes/straight-line winds NWS surveys damaged areas after event to determine scope and cause
- Damage for high-end wind events typically evident even in lower population areas

Severe weather post-event surveys



- Where's the evidence of high-end flash flood event?

Severe weather post-event surveys

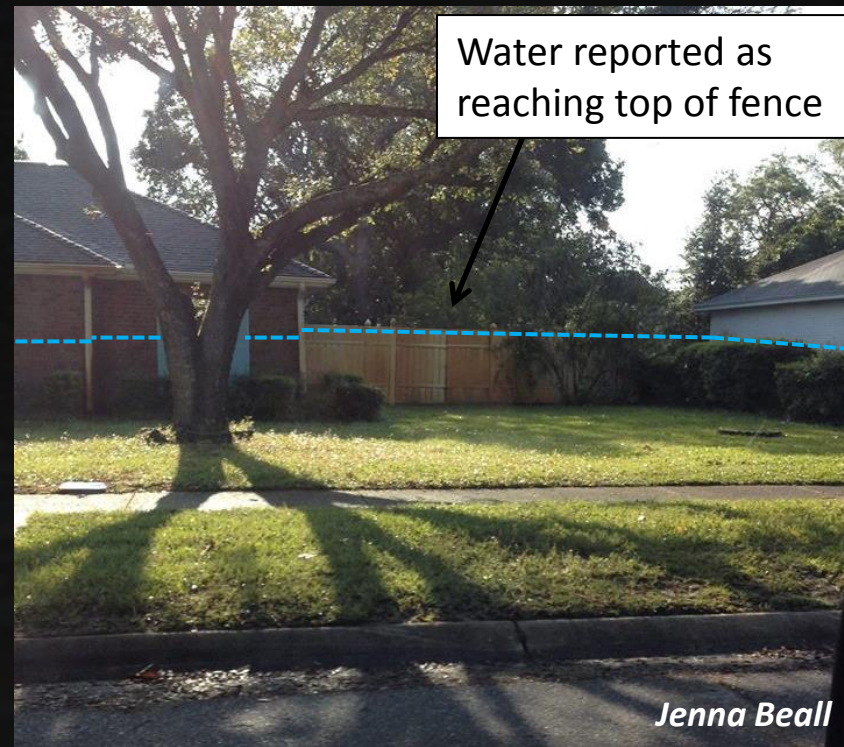


Jenna Beall

- Where's the evidence of high-end flash flood event?

Severe weather post-event surveys

- With quick onset of flooding and quick drainage, sometimes there is no debris nor obvious mud/dirt marks in vegetation within just a few days

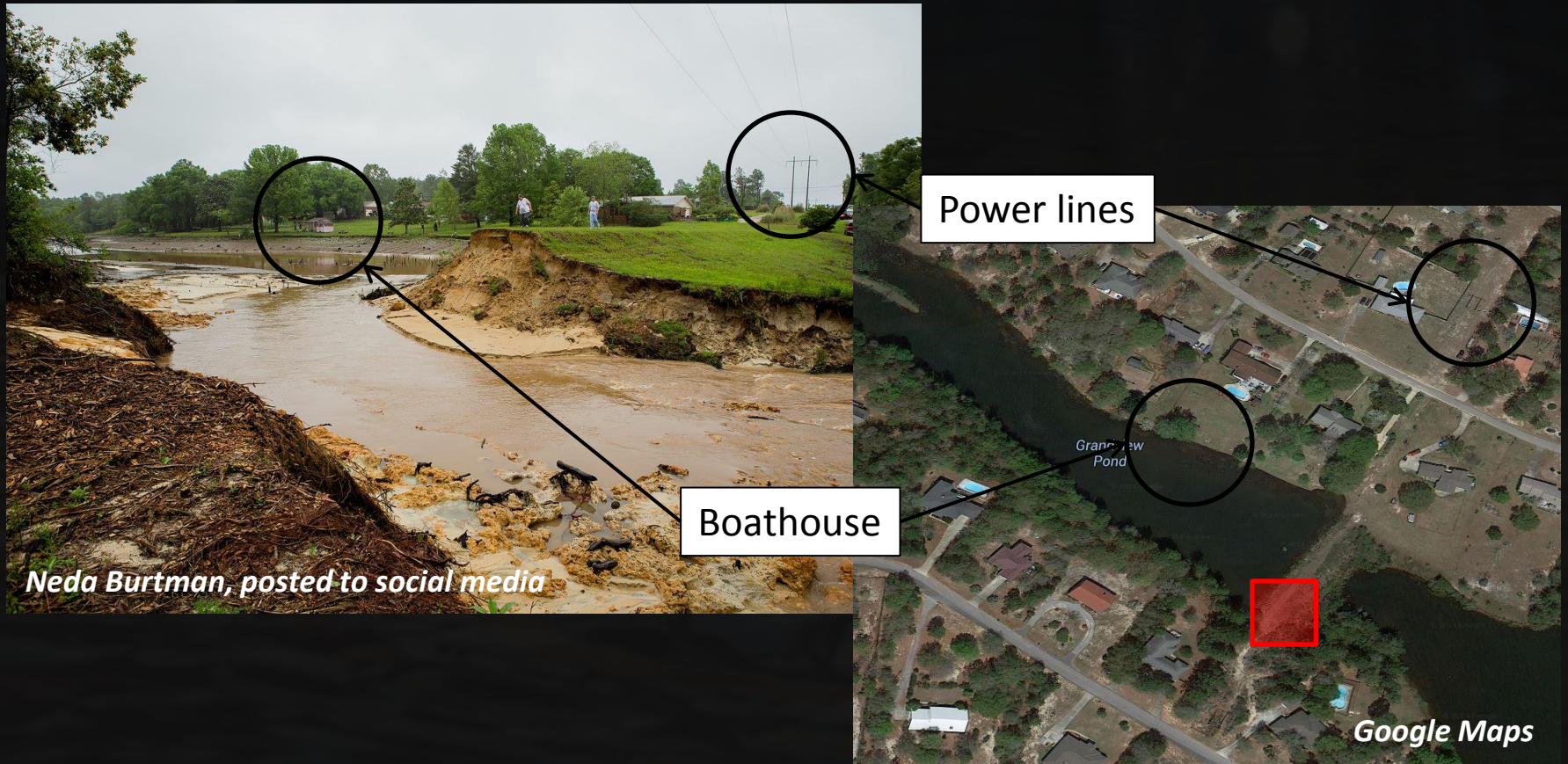


Sources for additional reports

- Social media
 - Facebook pages for TV, radio, newspaper
 - Twitter posts using tags Pensacola and Flood
 - Youtube videos
- News media
 - TV, radio, newspaper websites
- Other web sources
 - Blogs
 - Google Traffic

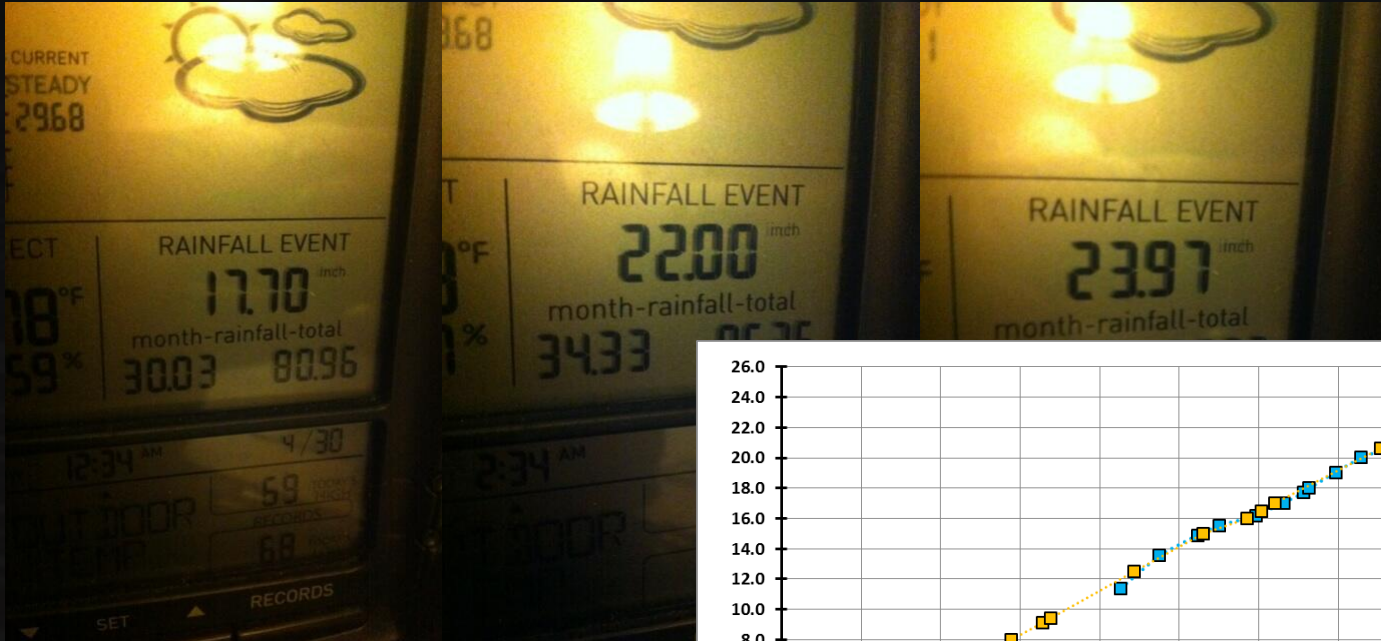
Sources for additional reports

- Data from social media... community TV facebook

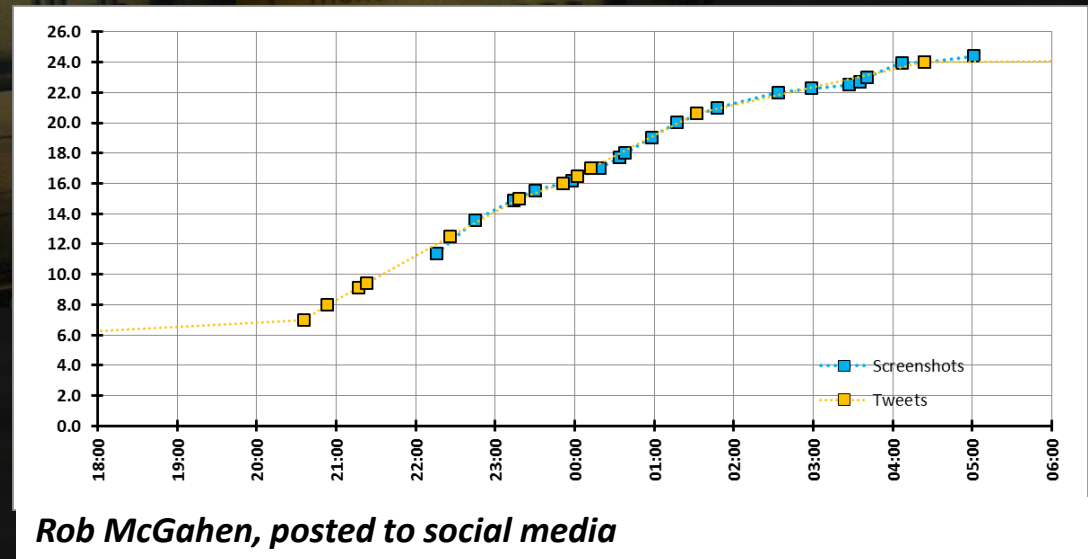


Sources for additional reports

- Data from social media... Twitter

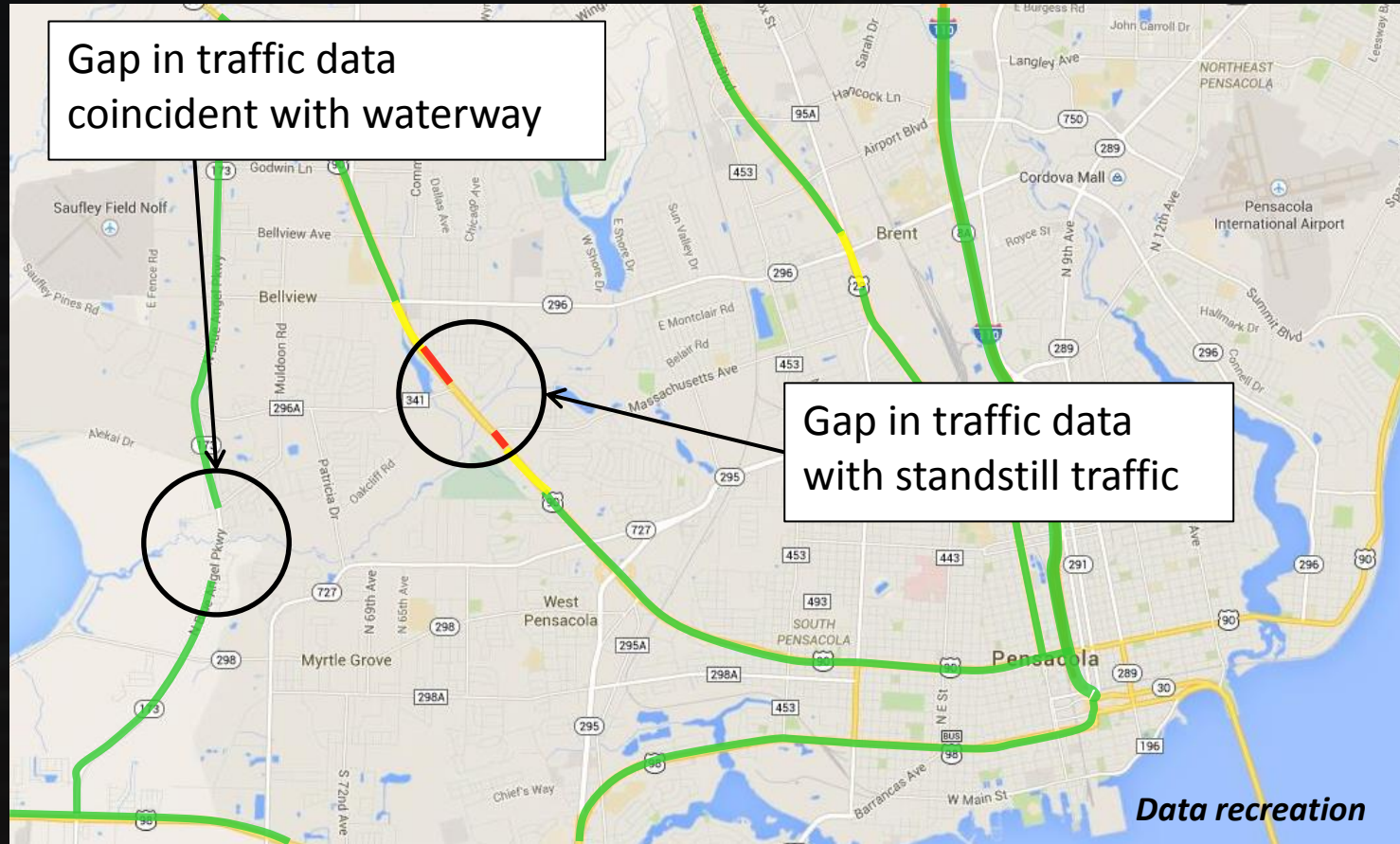


32 tweets
over 9 hours!



Sources for additional reports

- Google Traffic



Sources for additional reports

- Youtube



Vehicle washed off road



Sources for additional reports

- Blog posts

04-30-2014, 04:49 PM #125

wld1985
Senior Member
Blue Marlin

Join Date: Oct 2007
Location: Pensacola
Posts: 4,498

Quote:

Originally Posted by **Realtor**

Just got through to one of my tenants over on Crescent lake they told me the dam gave way and the lake will be empty in another hour. There was a vehicle in the trees from when the dam let go, it washed the car off Massachusetts ave. into the trees. such a shame.

Im in Gulf South Manor, and when i let this morning around 8am.. There were **3 automobiles pushed off the side of michigan where cresent lake flows out** and under Michigan.. One truck was about 100ft off the road and into the woods.. (where people sometimes fish at the bottom of the hill).. I've got pics but, Not sure how to post them.. Also of Mobile hwy, where the carragie hills and Bayou Marcus I think spill into.. That whole bridge before massachutes was flooded over and running like a river.

[Share](#)

Pensacola Fishing Forum

Sources for additional reports

- News Media



Roadway followed natural low spot



Quantifying report severity

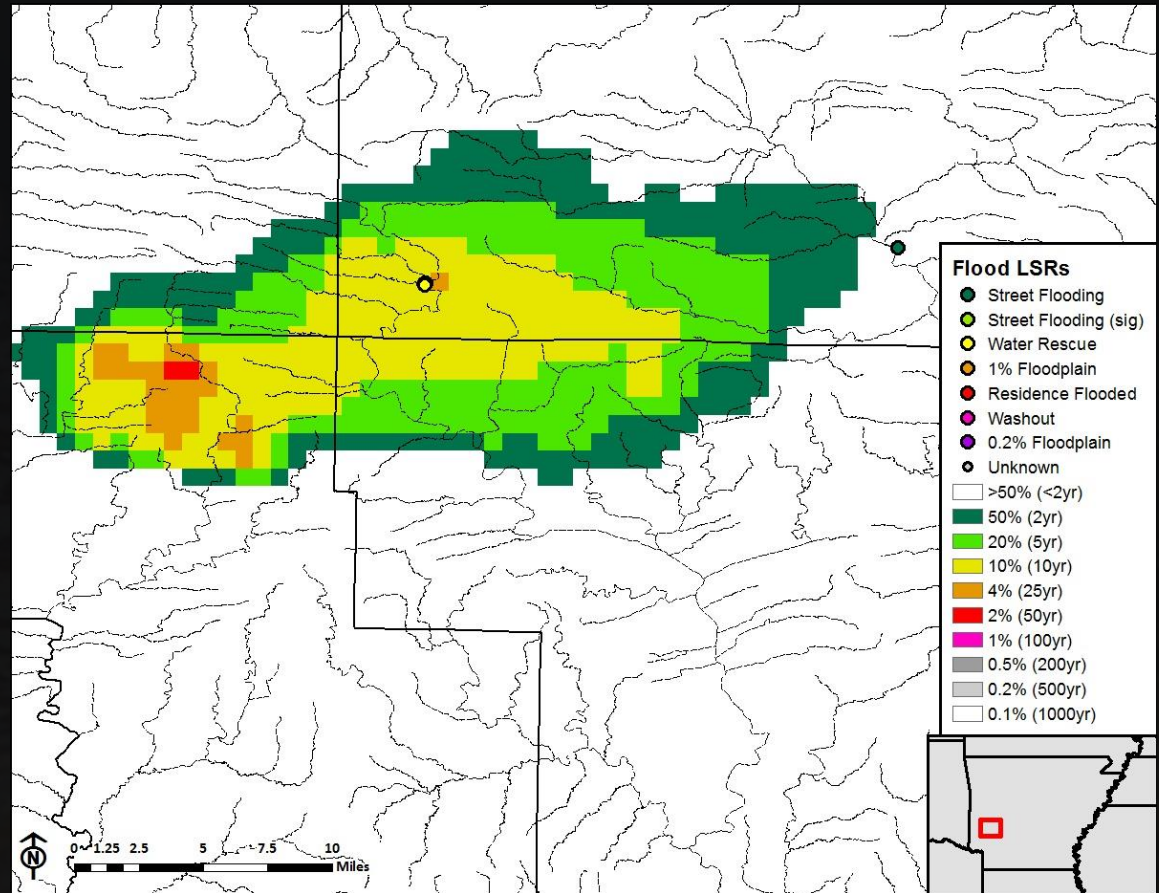
Severity Label	Description/Criteria
Roadway flooded	Minor nuisance flooding of roadways
Roadway flooded (major)	Flooding of roadways deep enough to stall cars, or overtopping of bridges along major highways of modern design standards
Structure flooded	Residences or businesses flooded
Washout	Roadways or culverts completely washed away
Water rescue	Reports of persons needing to be rescued from residences or their vehicles
Dam failure	Dam eroded away to allow impounded water to release uncontrolled
Unknown	Flooding reported but little additional information provided

Adapted from:

Lincoln, W. S., 2014: Analysis of the 15 June 2013 isolated extreme rainfall event in Springfield, Missouri. *J. Operational Meteor.*, 2 (19), 233–245.

Ouachita Mountains, AR: June 2010

3hr Rainfall Average
Recurrence Interval

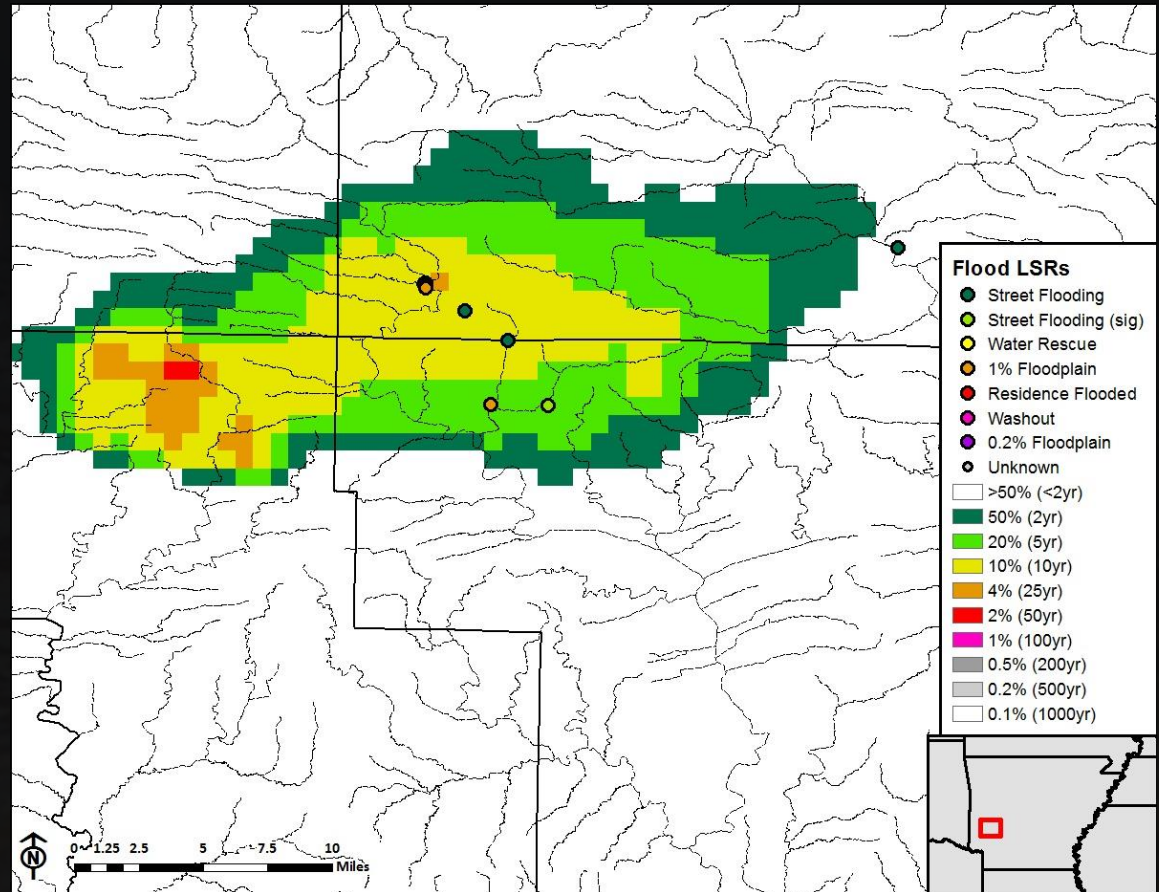


Reports to NWS (LSRs)

5*

Ouachita Mountains, AR: June 2010

3hr Rainfall Average
Recurrence Interval

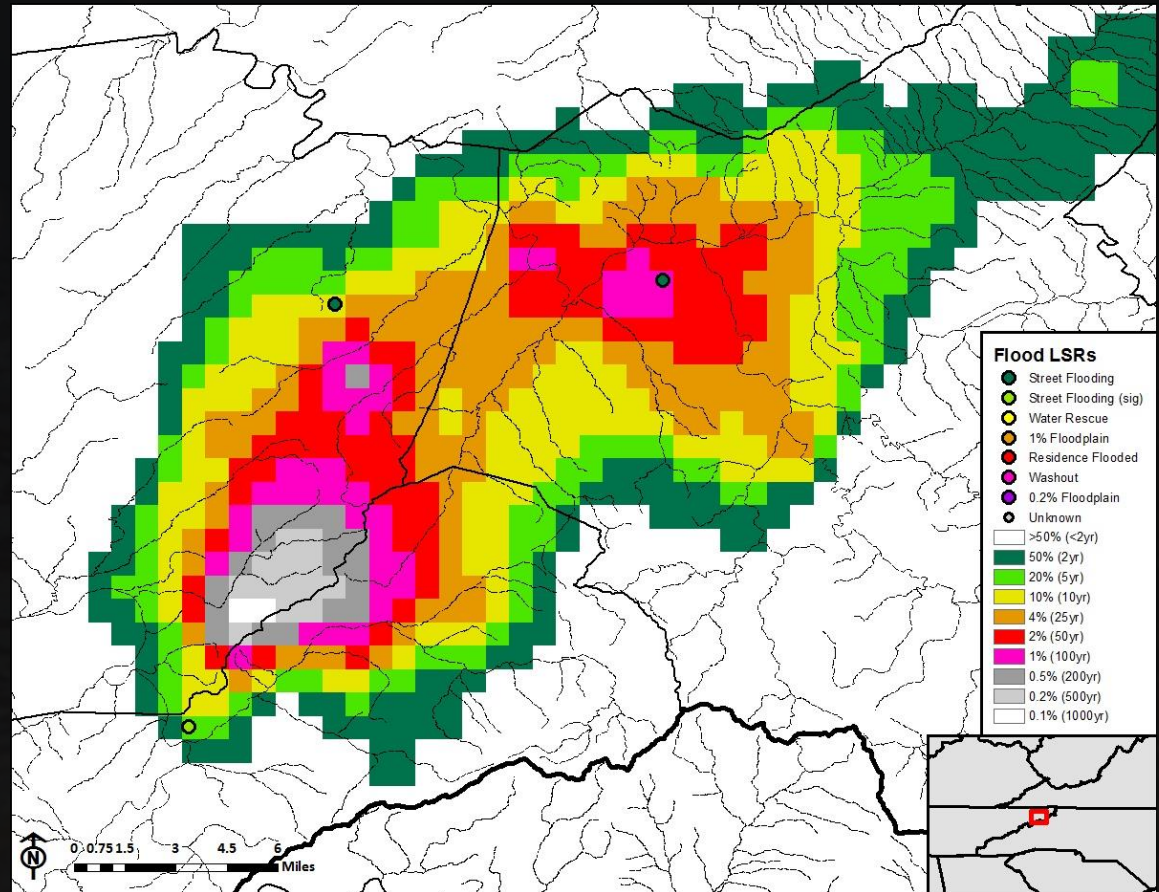


LSRs & CrowdSourced

11

Eastern TN: August 2012

3hr Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval

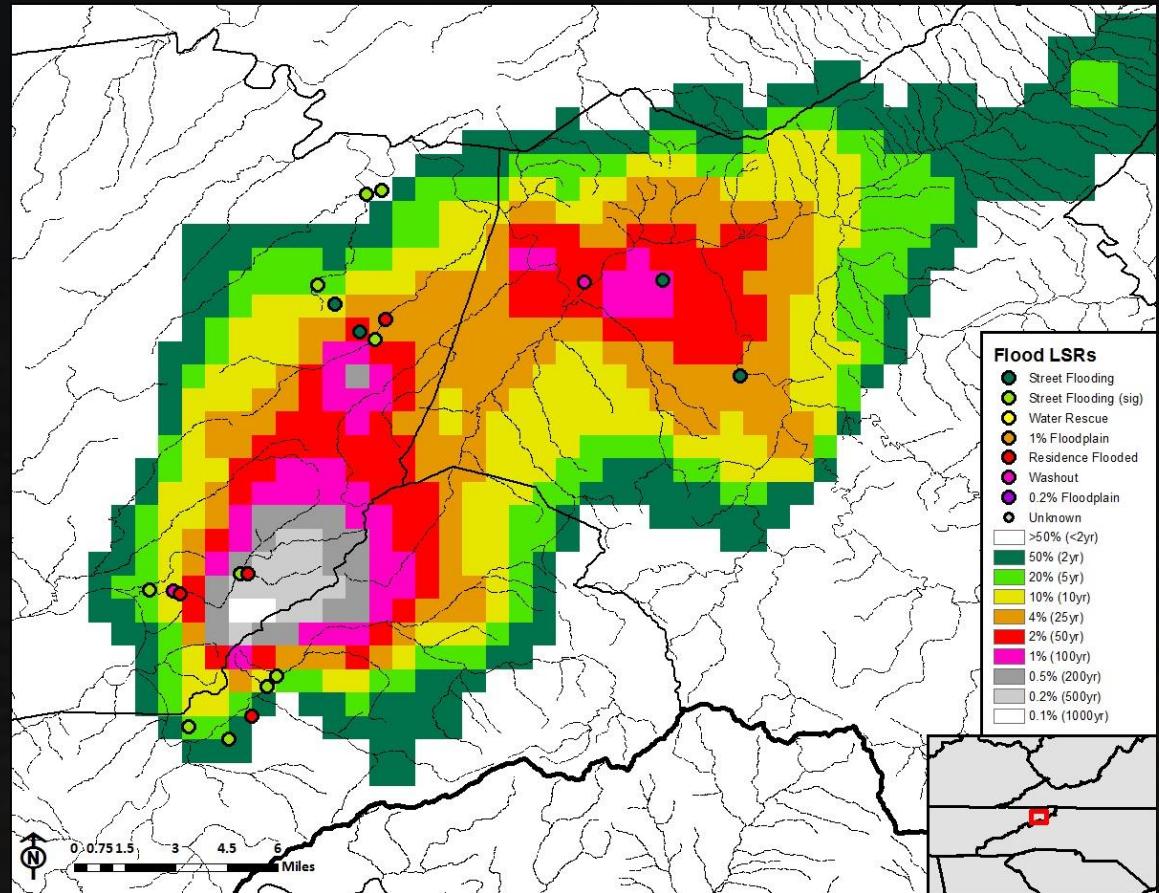


Reports to NWS (LSRs)

3

Eastern TN: August 2012

3hr Rainfall Average
Recurrence Interval

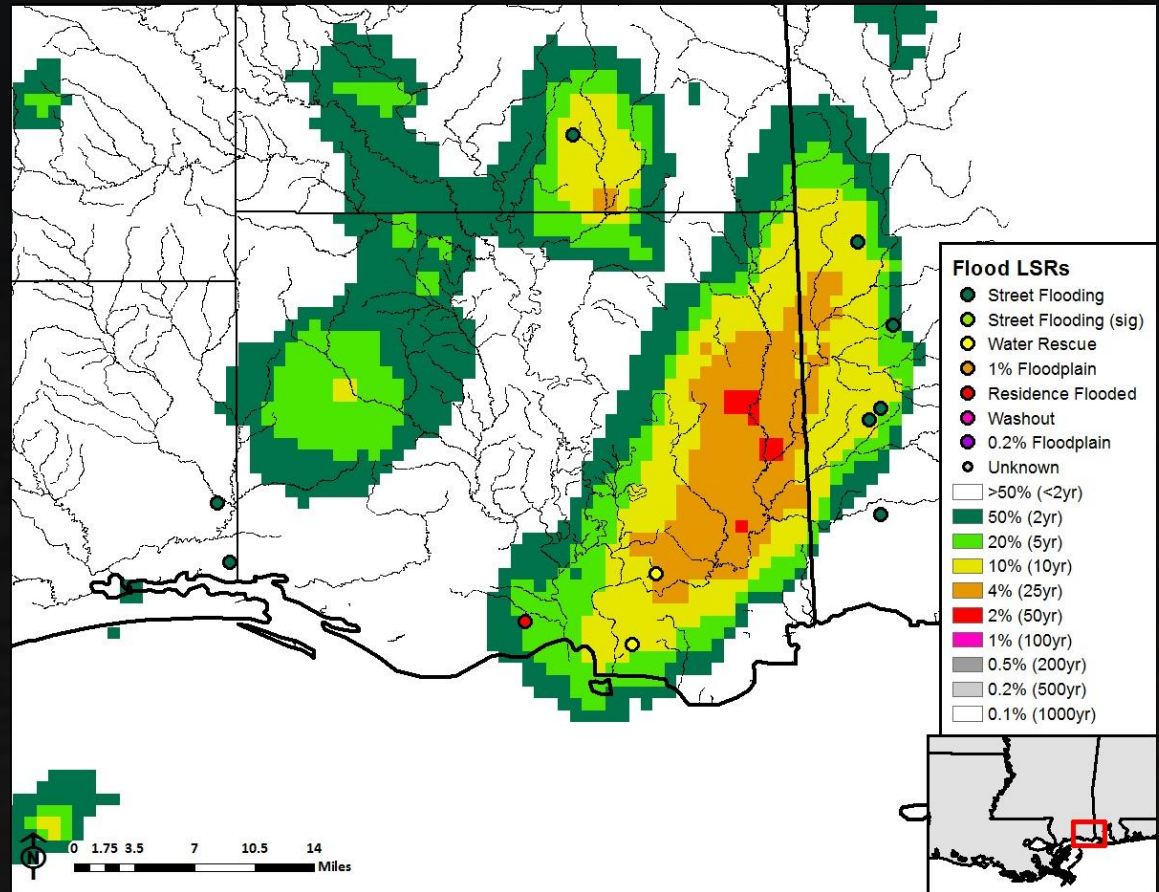


LSRs & CrowdSourced

20

Coastal MS: May 2013

3hr Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval

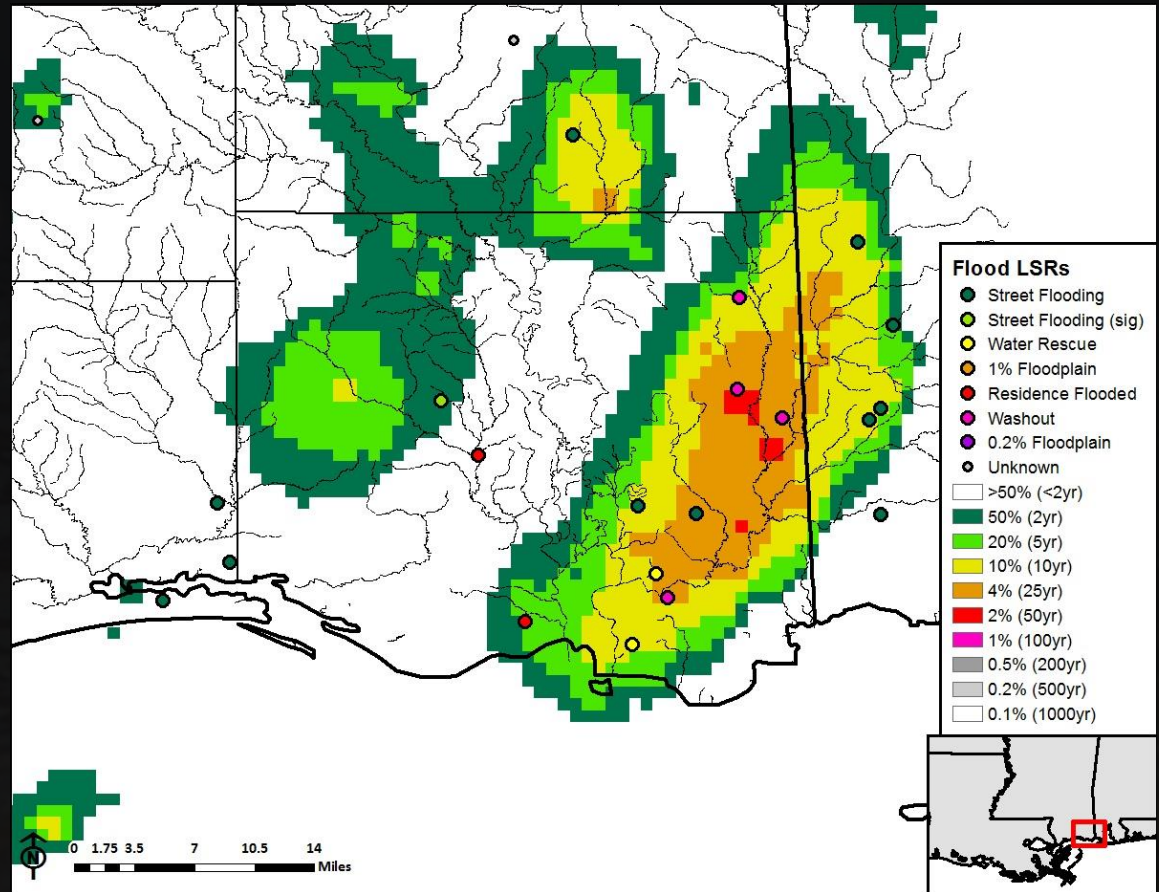


Reports to NWS (LSRs)

12

Coastal MS: May 2013

3hr Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval

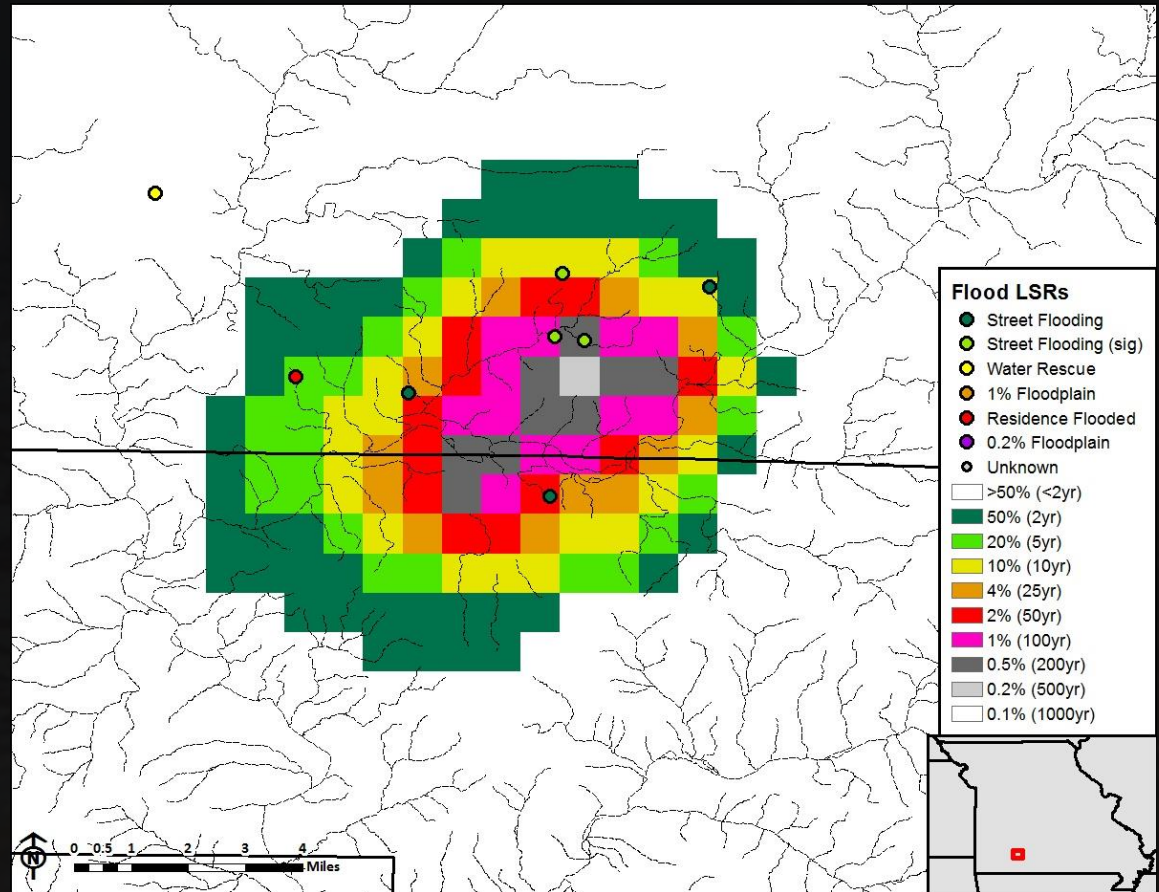


LSRs & CrowdSourced

23

Springfield, MO: June 2013

3hr Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval

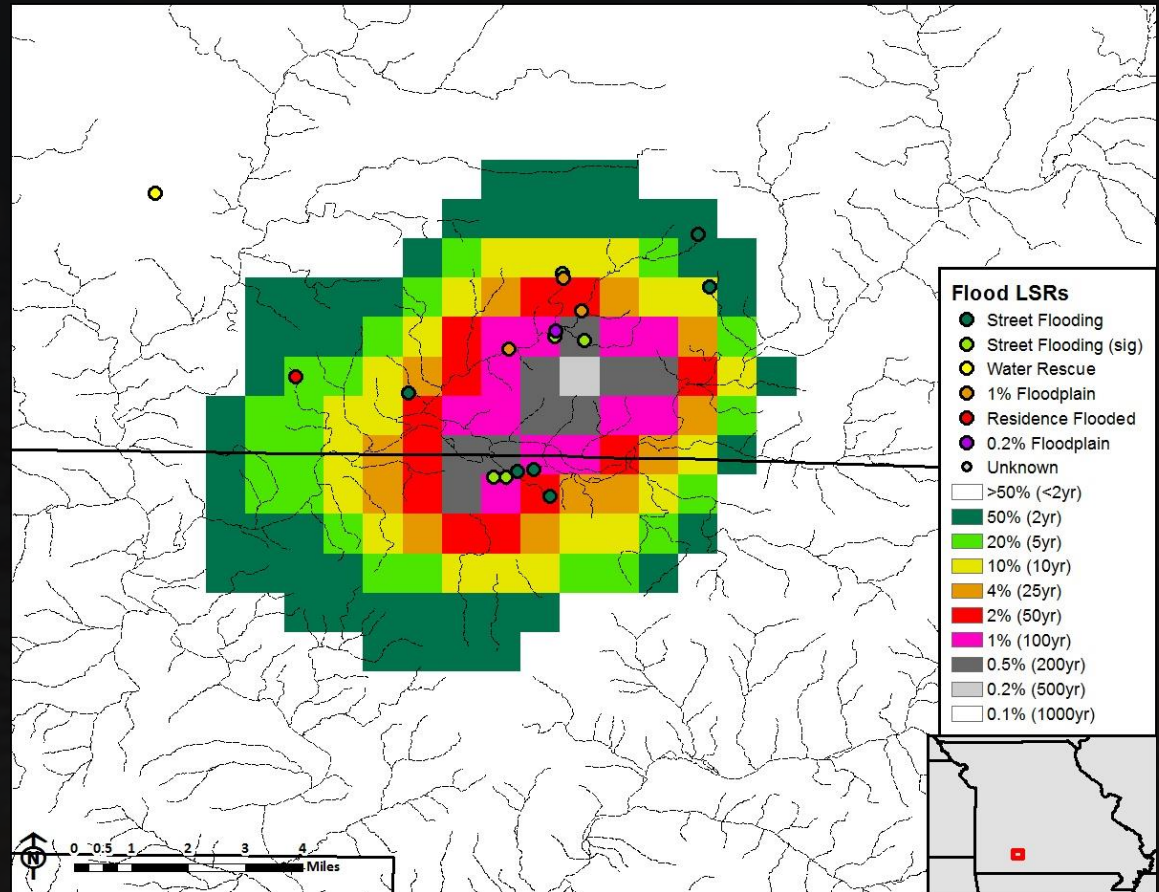


Reports to NWS (LSRs)

8

Springfield, MO: June 2013

3hr Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval

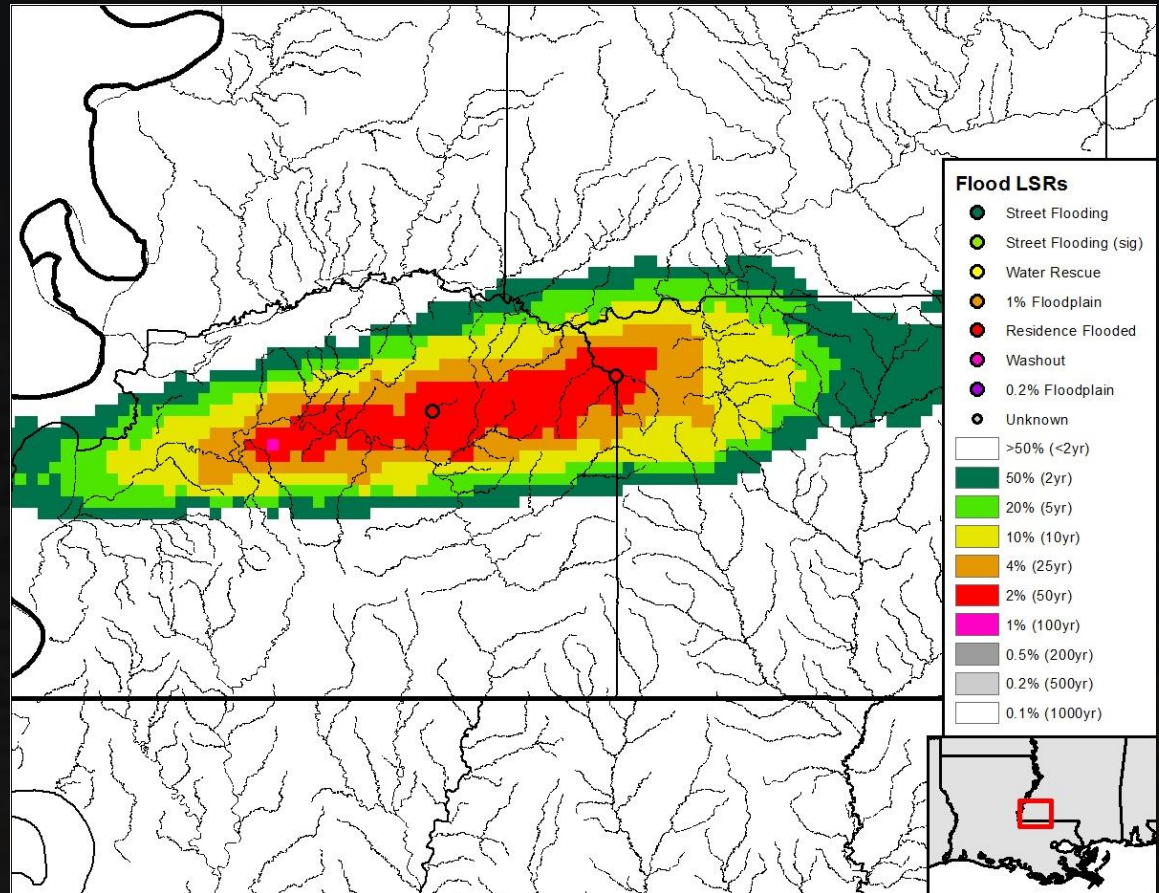


LSRs & CrowdSourced

17

Southwest MS: March 2014

3hr Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval

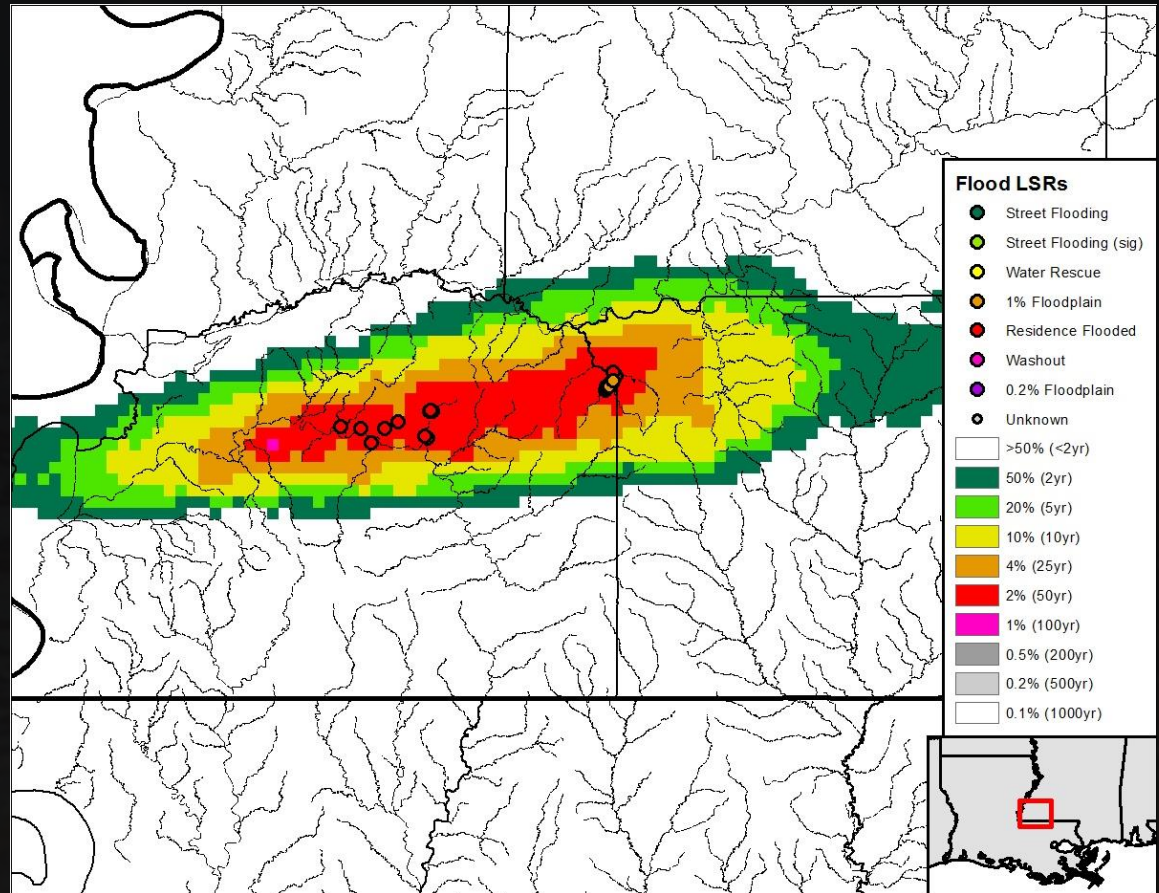


Reports to NWS (LSRs)

2

Southwest MS: March 2014

3hr Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval



LSRs & CrowdSourced

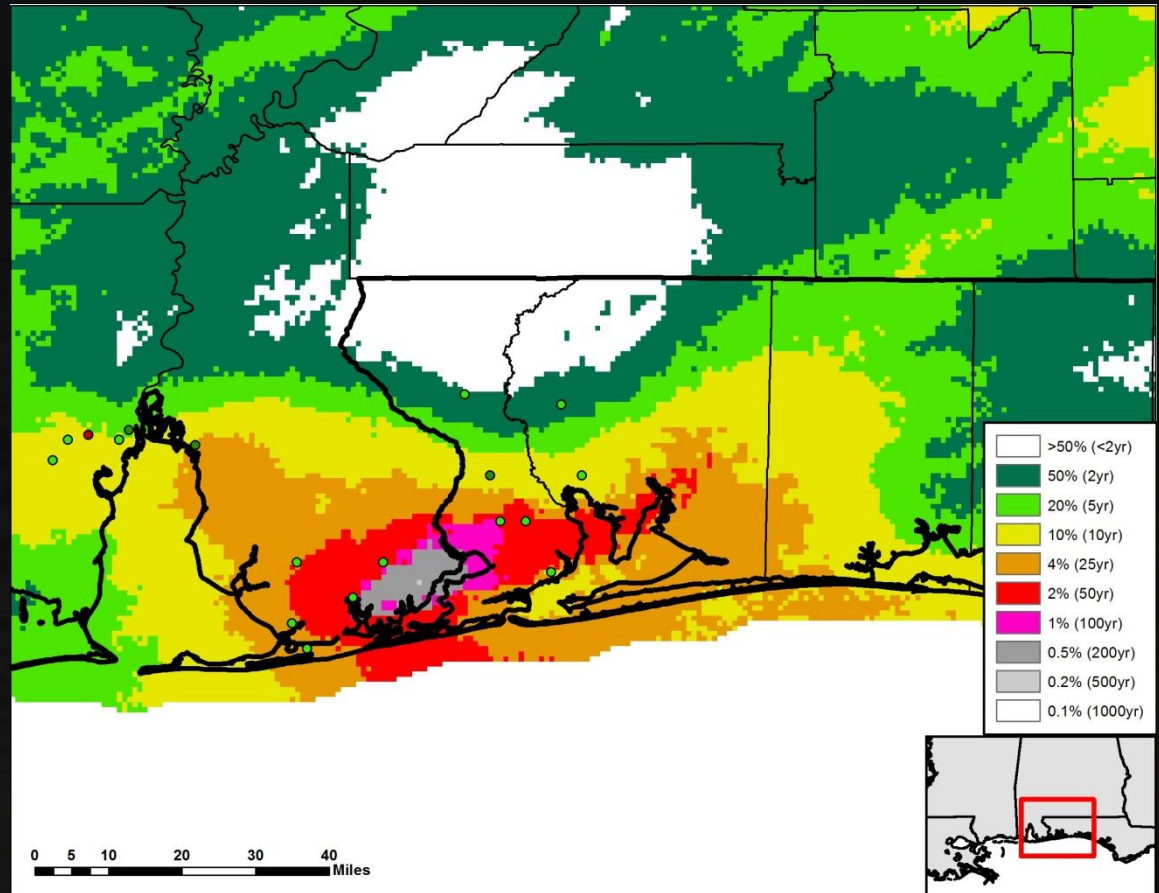
26

Coastal FL/AL: April 2014

3d Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval

Reports to NWS (LSRs)

20

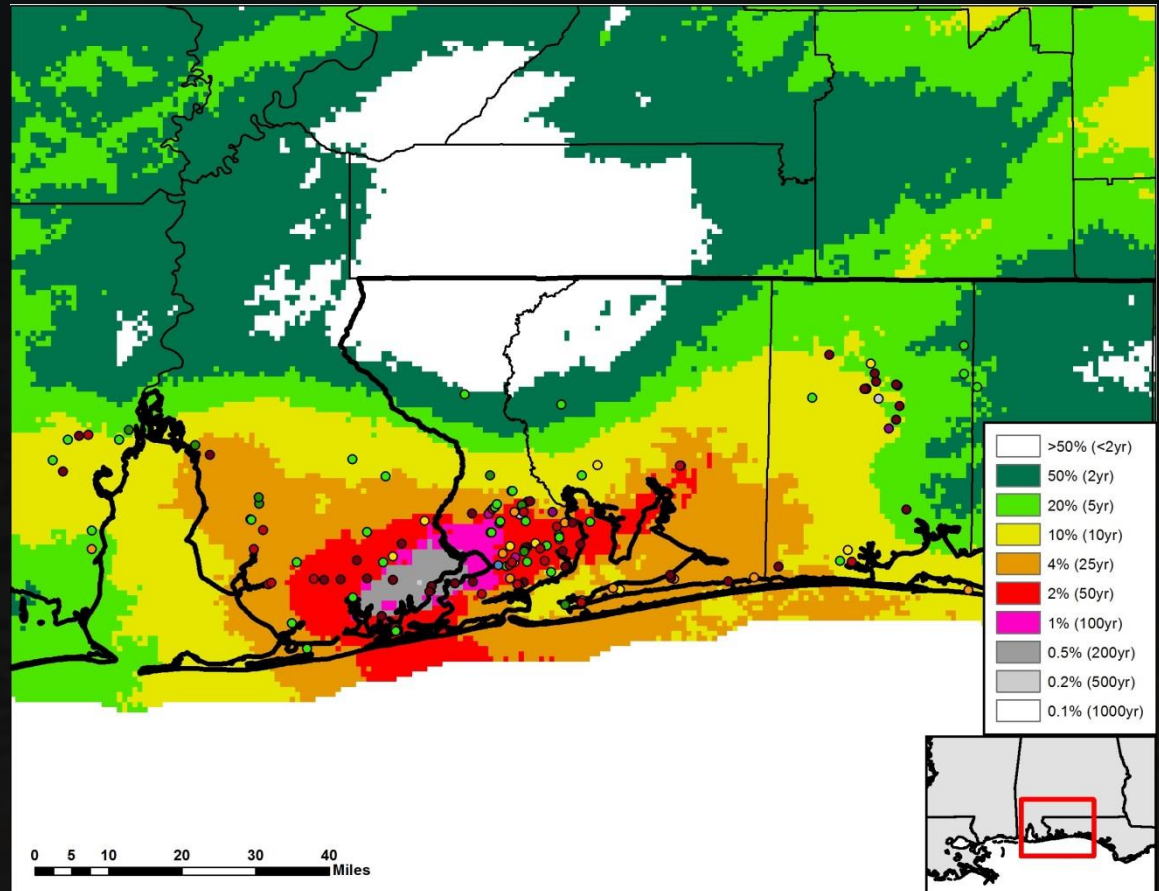


Coastal FL/AL: April 2014

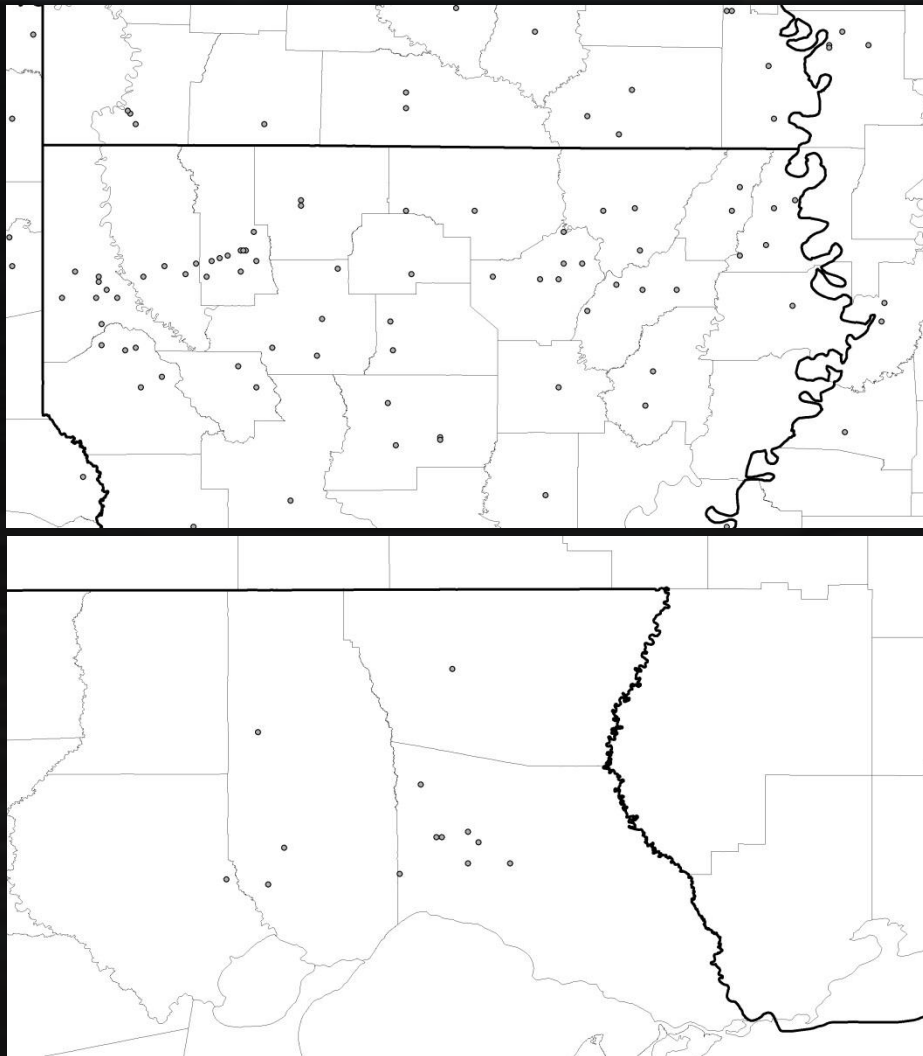
3d Rainfall Average Recurrence Interval

LSRs & CrowdSourced

147

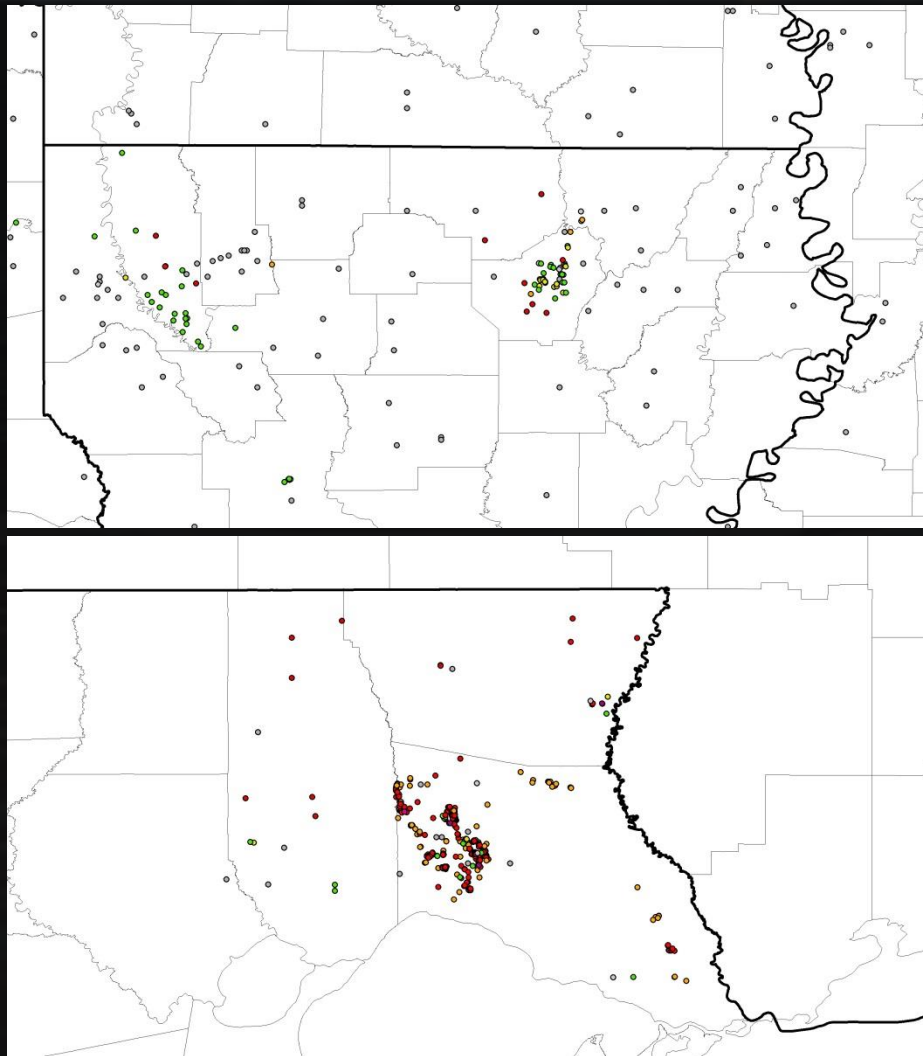


LA: February 2016 & March 2016



Analysis
ongoing...

LA: February 2016 & March 2016



Analysis
ongoing...

Summary

- Geospatial analysis is about products and techniques
- Automation is key in operations
- Cross-platform considerations
- Expand thinking on how to obtain information and make it actionable data
- Expand thinking on what we think of as a geospatial analysis tool

REMOTE SENSING - GIS

- RADAR
- Weather Satellite
- River Gauges

- Flood Analysis
 - High Water Marks
 - Gauging records
 - International Charter
 - Satellite images of flooding
 - Extent AND Temporal record

Questions/Comments?

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