

Model Development for Drought-Tolerant Groundwater Management in the Prairies

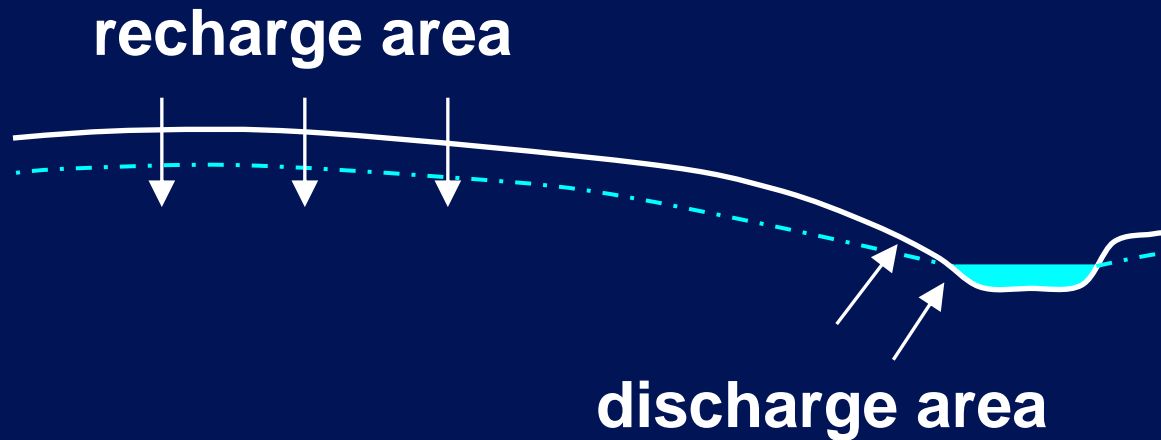
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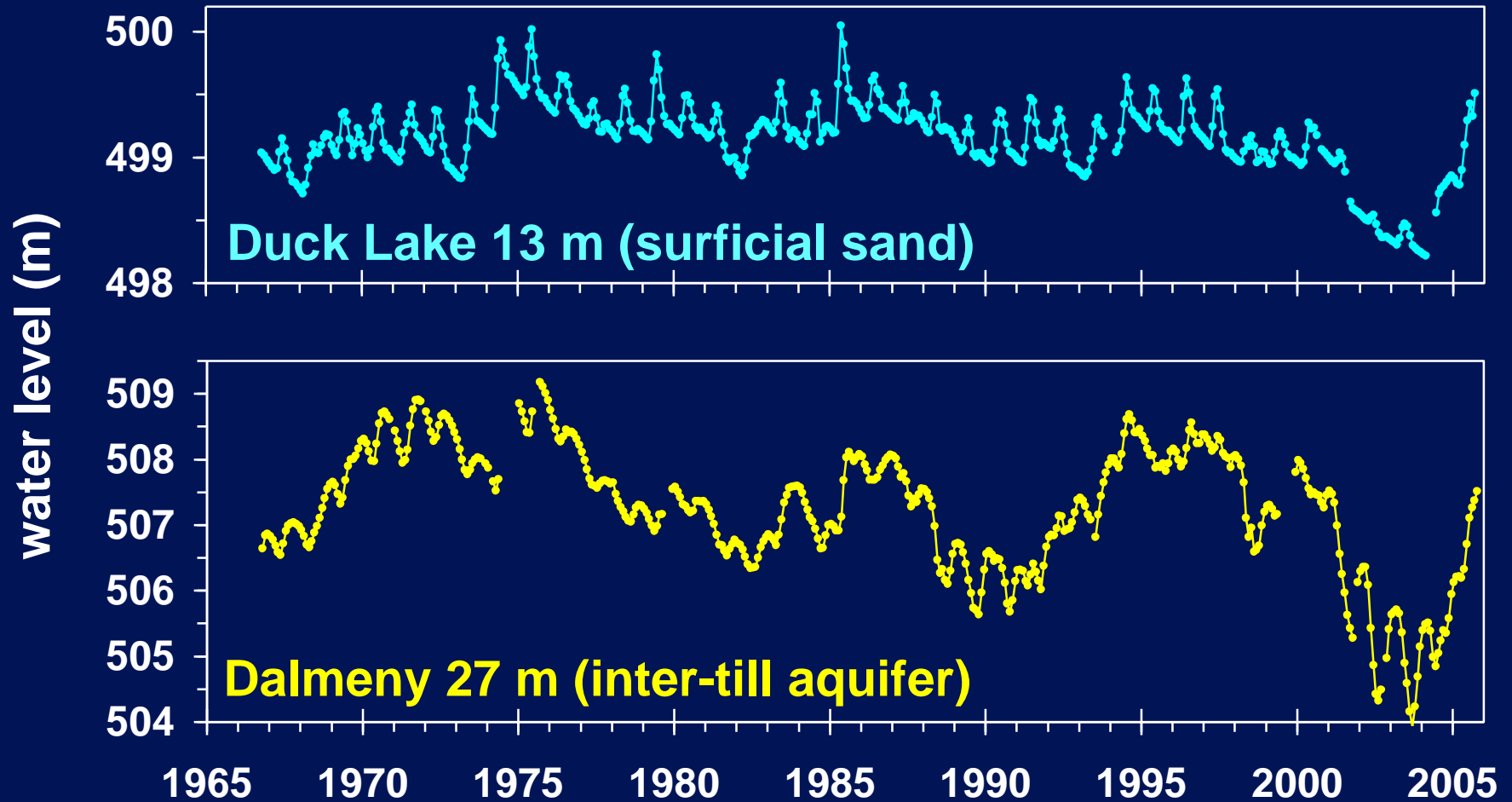
Water Balance: Basis of GW Management

Recharge - Discharge = Storage change
(groundwater level $\uparrow\downarrow$)

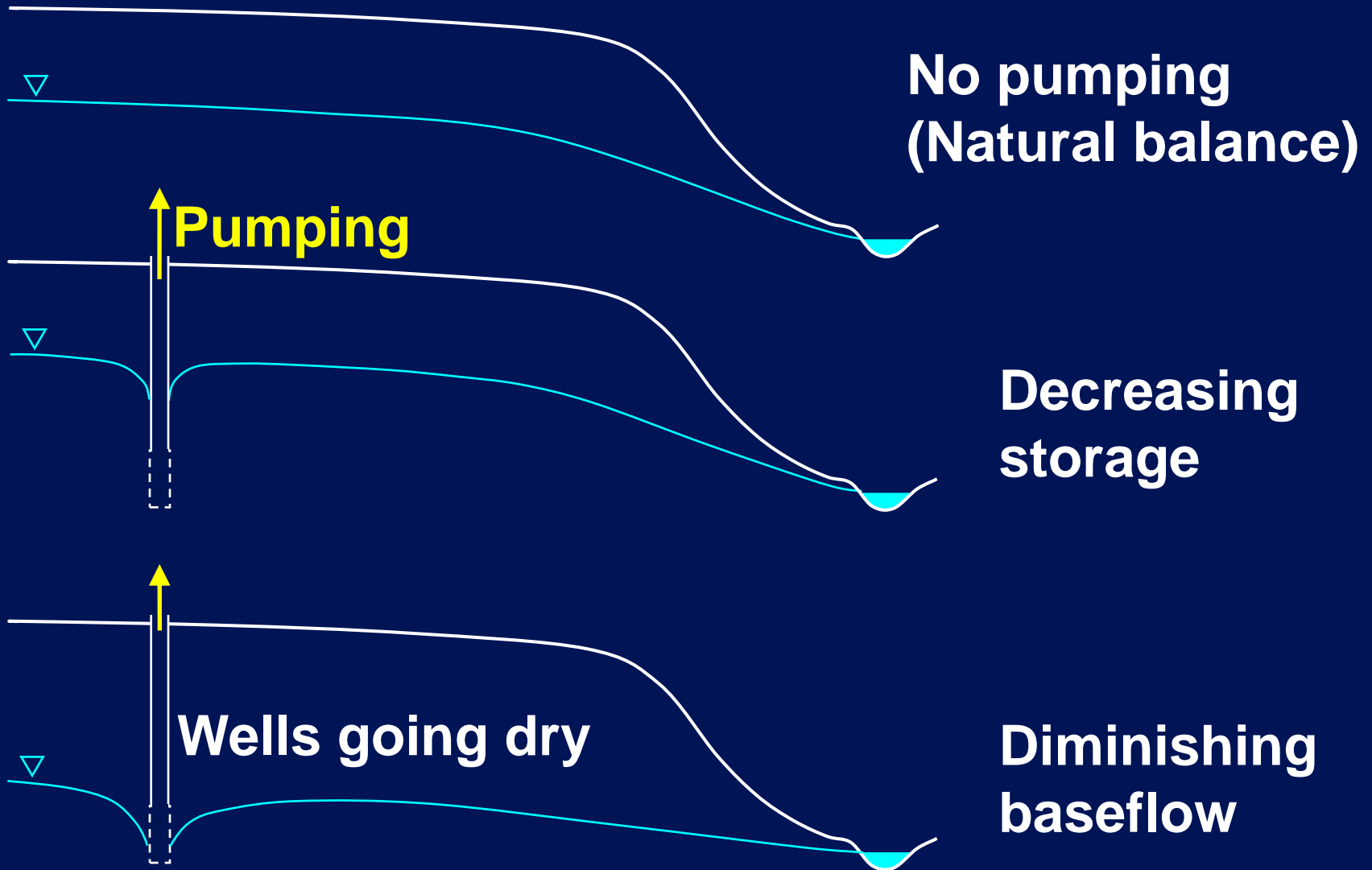


Water Level in Undisturbed Prairie Aquifers

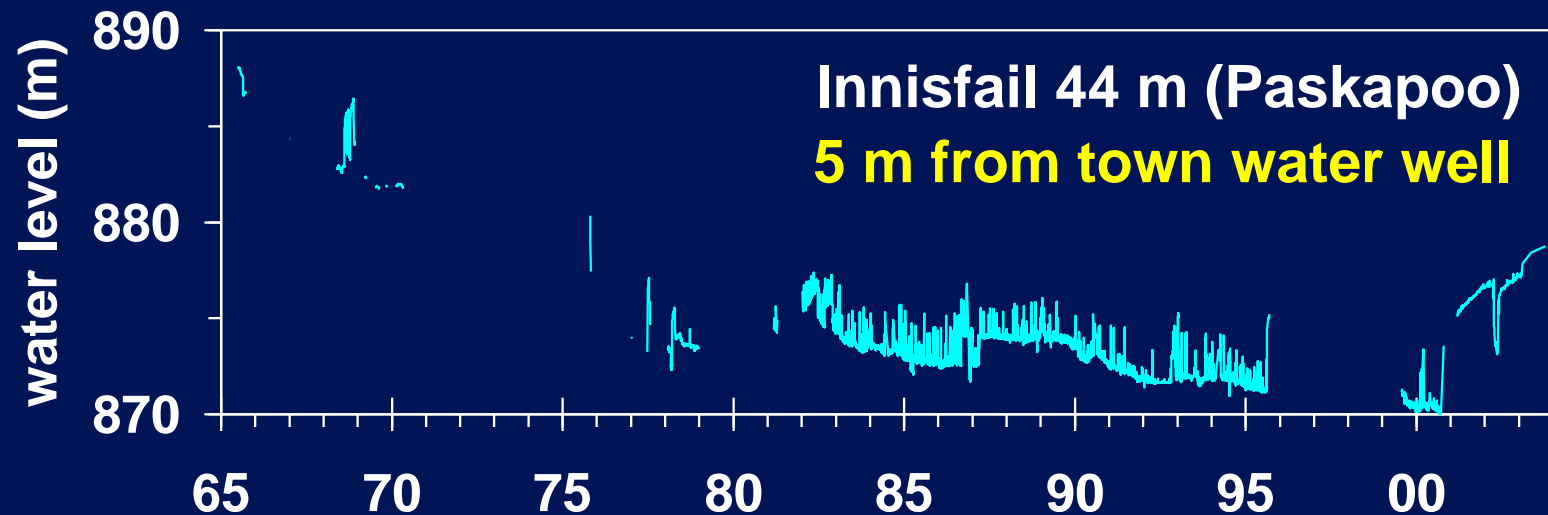
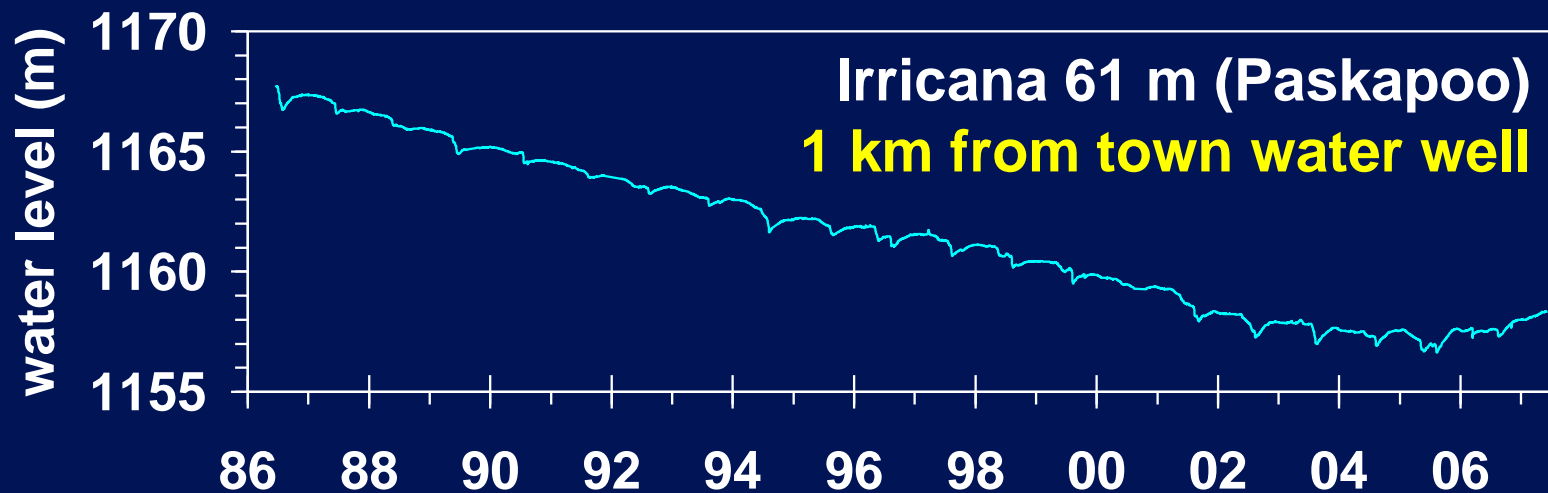
Data from Sask. Obs. Well Network



Summary of Pumping Effects



Alberta Environment Monitoring Wells



Data by Carole Holt Oduro (Alberta Environment)

Groundwater Model Coupled with Soil Water Balance Model

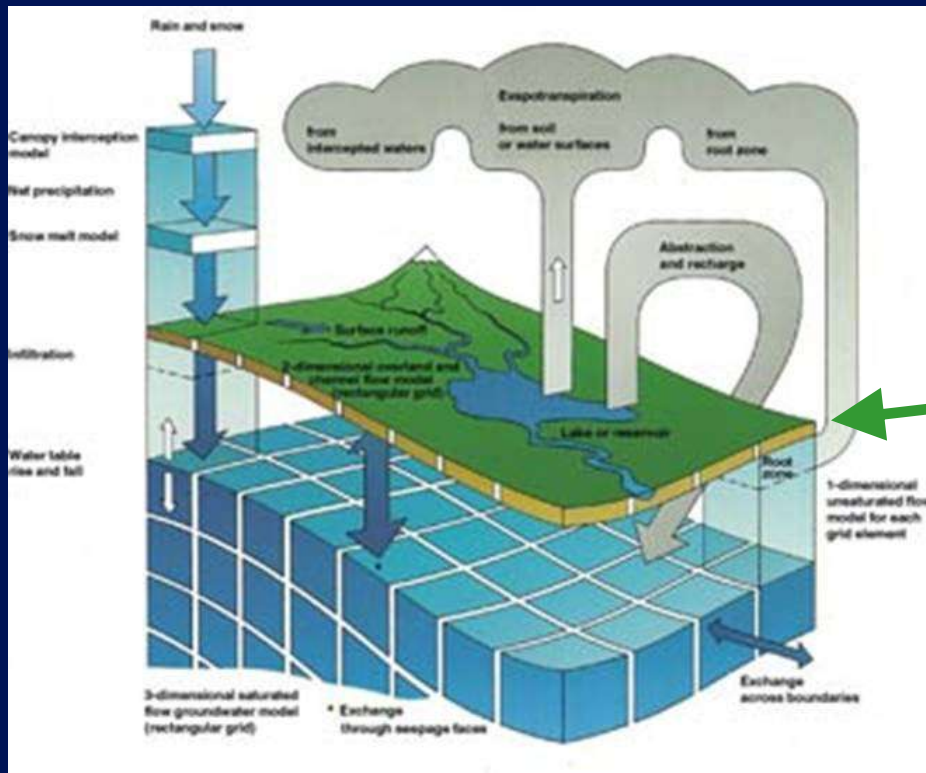
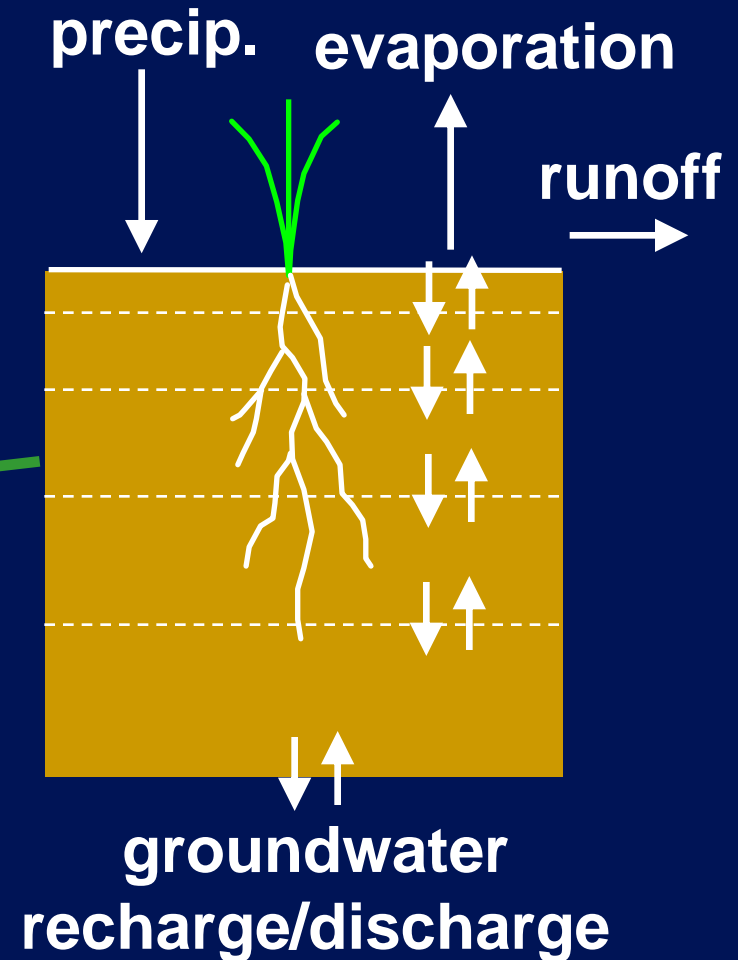
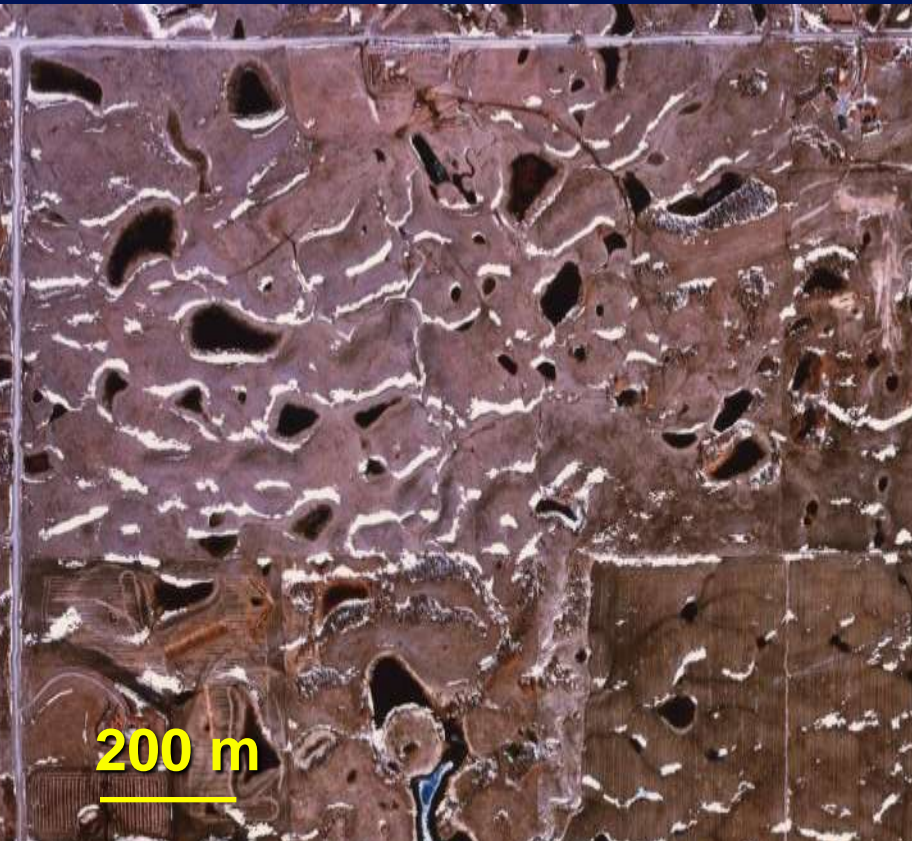


Figure from: www.dhisoftware.com



Snowmelt Runoff Fills Depressions

West Nose Creek watershed near Calgary

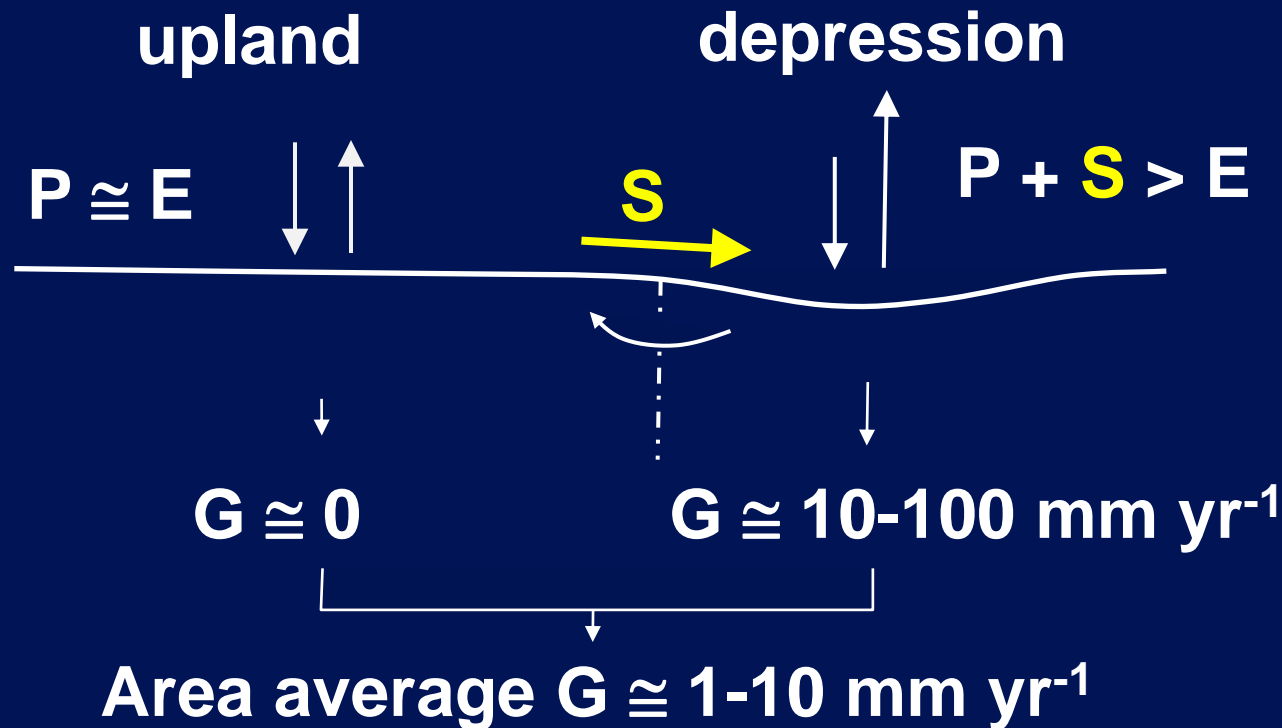


Typical Climate of the Prairies

Precip. (P) = 300-500 mm yr⁻¹

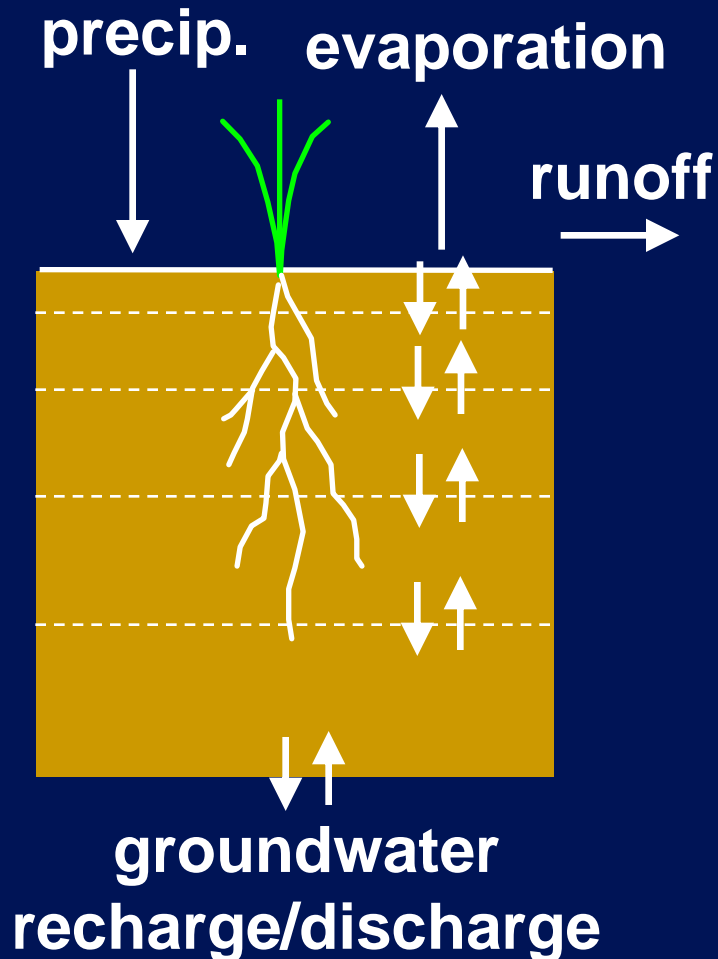
Evaporation (E), potential = 700-800 mm yr⁻¹

Snowmelt (**S**) → additional water input



Versatile Soil Moisture Budget (VSMB)

Used by Alberta Agriculture and Agriculture Canada



- Potential E by Priestley-Taylor
- $E = E_{\text{pot}} \times \text{drying function}$
- Crop stages by degree-day
- Gravity drainage of soil water to field capacity
- Soil temperature does not consider freezing
- Snowmelt runoff by a simple rational method

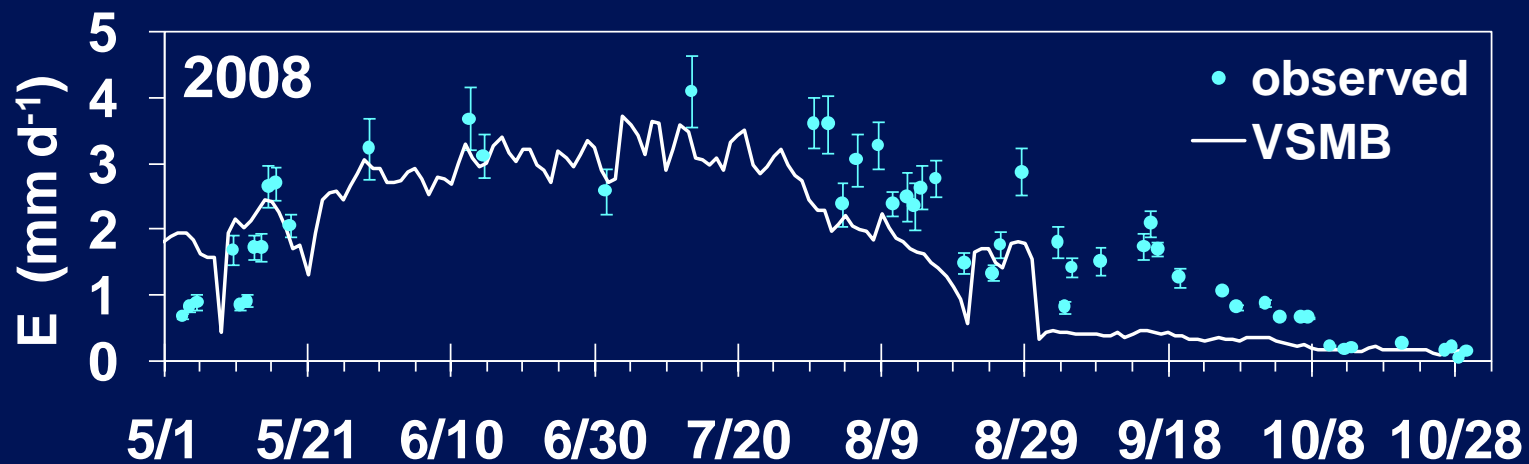
Model Testing for Perennial Grass

Spy Hill Farm – West Nose Creek watershed

Eddy flux measurement.

Uncertainty estimates
based on energy balance.

Current operational VSMB.



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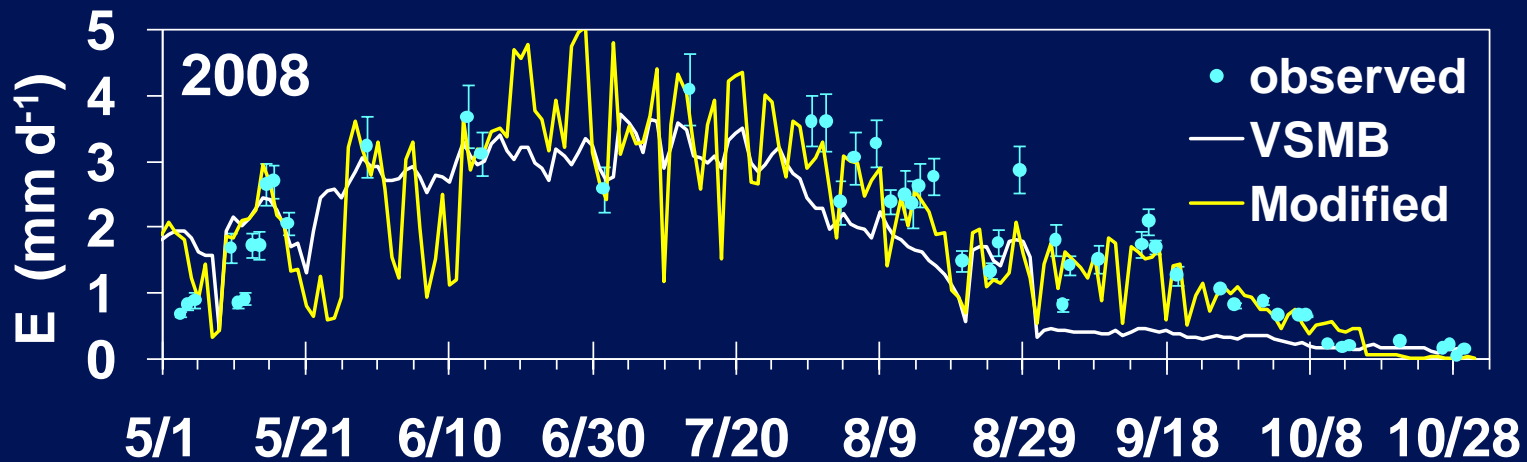
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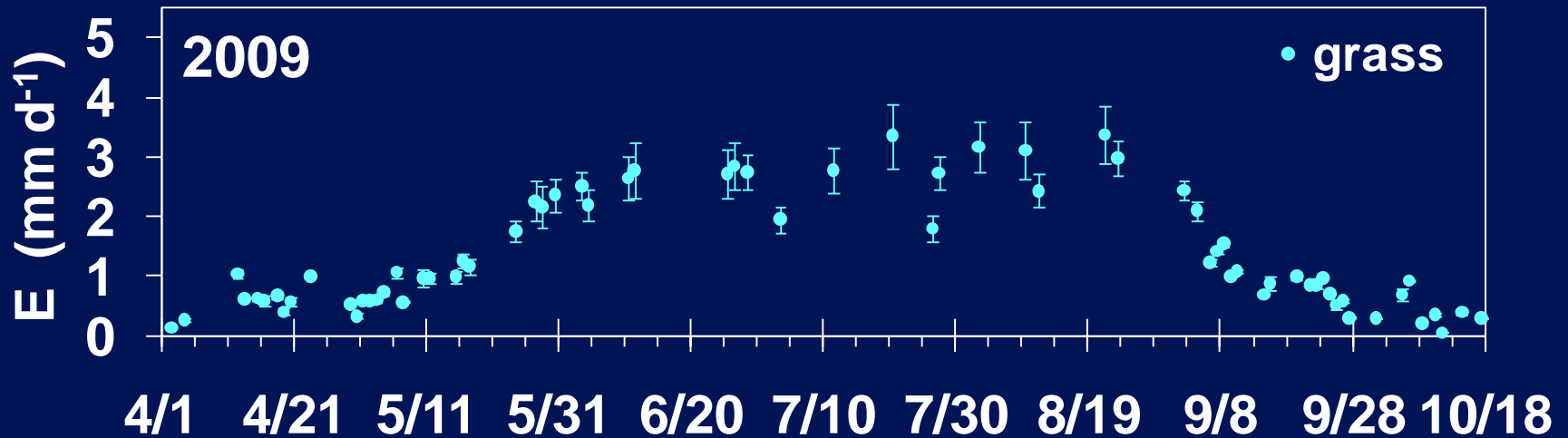
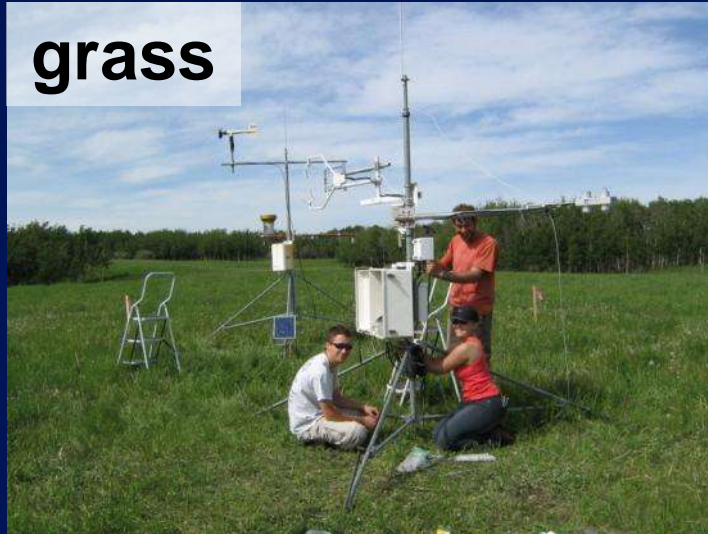
Current operational VSMB.

Modification: radiation, crop stage, soil depth, etc.



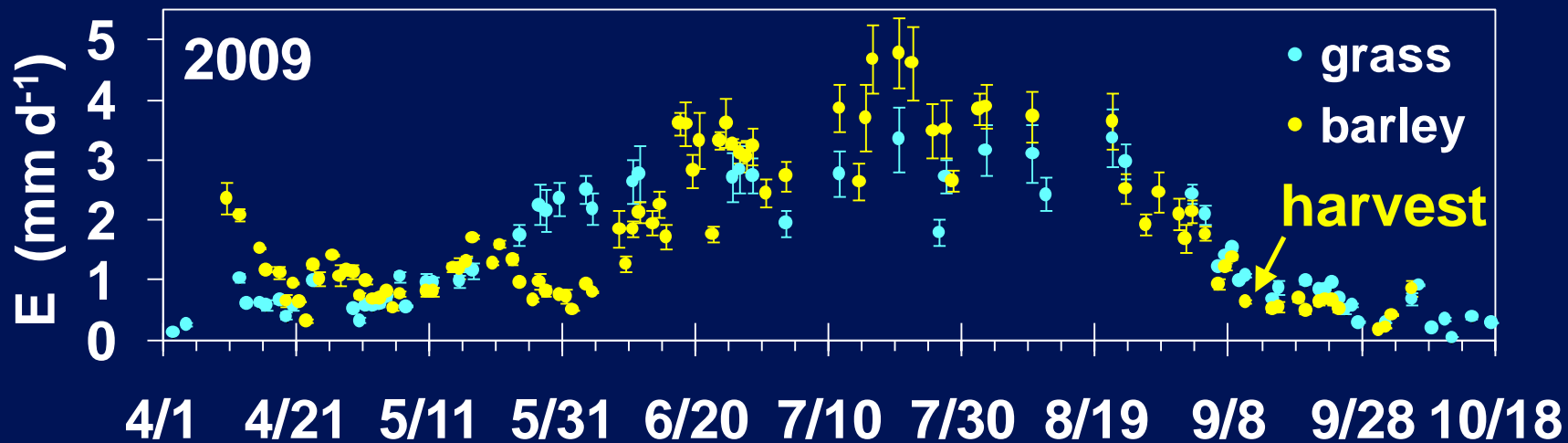
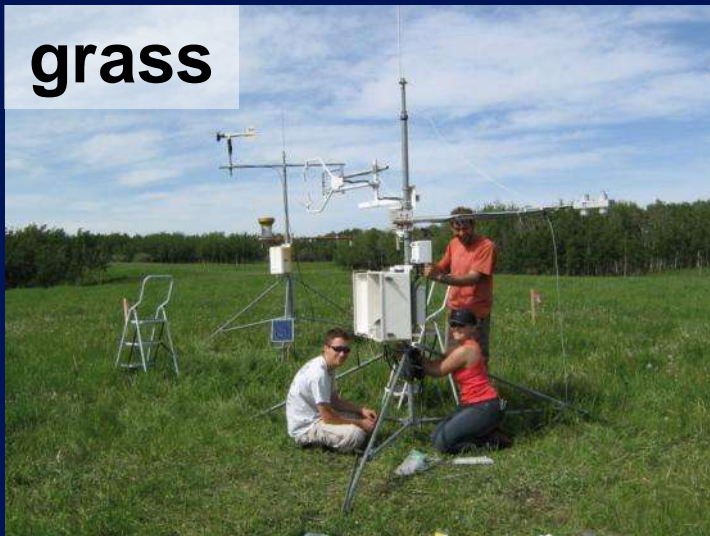
Evaporation Flux: Landuse Comparison

Same instruments, only 10 km away



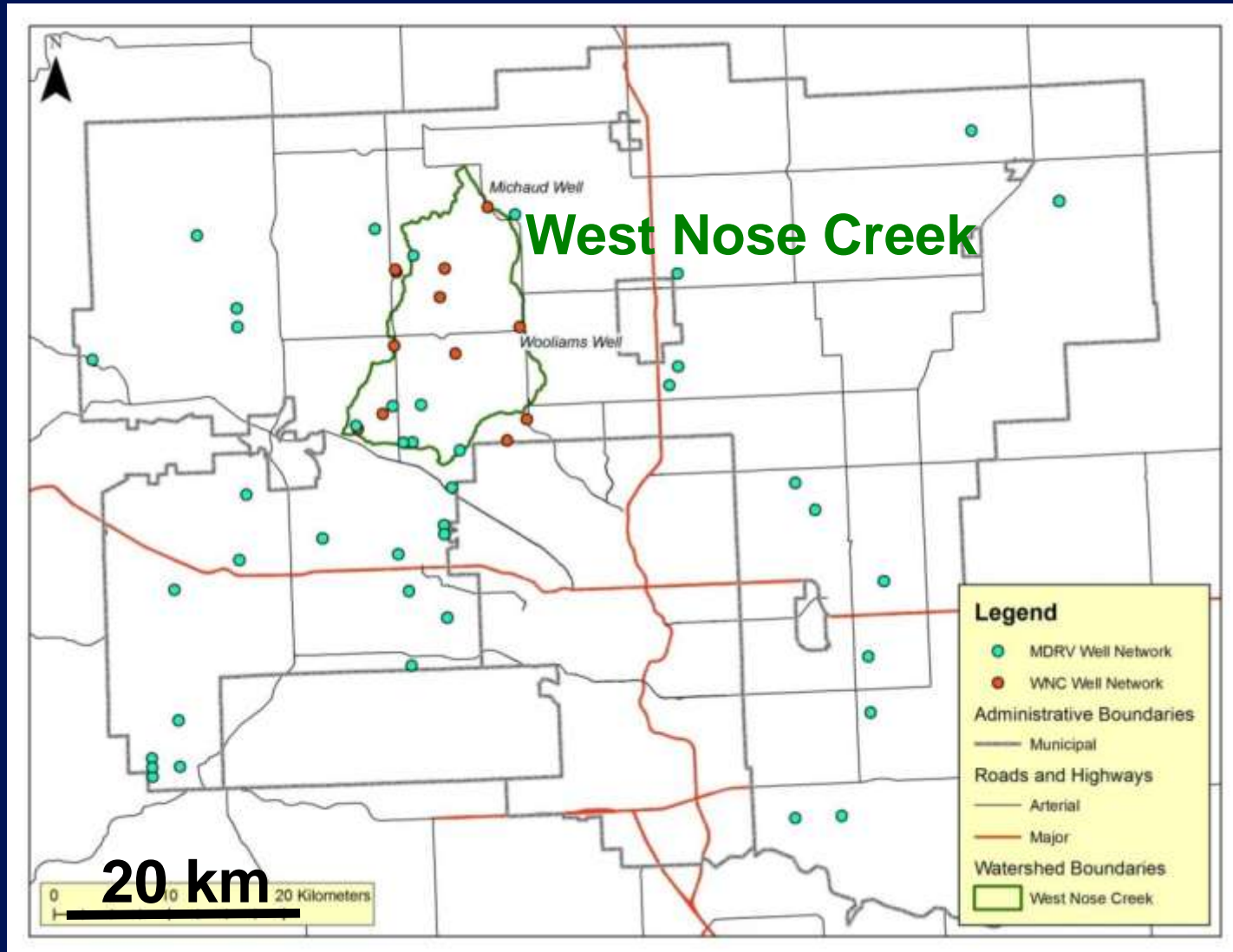
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MD of Rocky View Monitoring Network

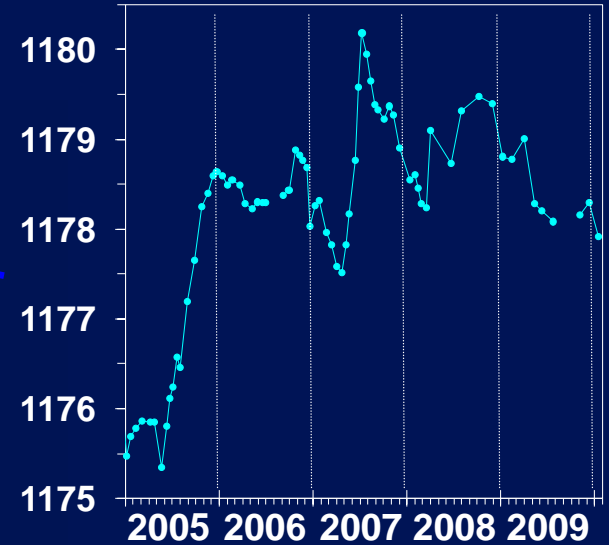
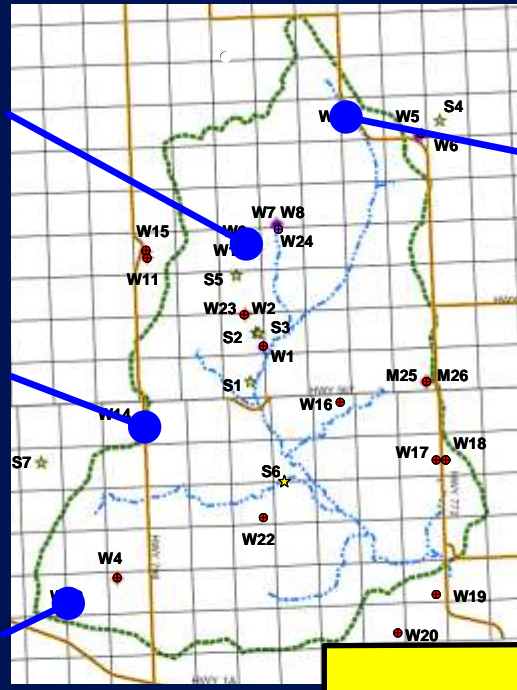
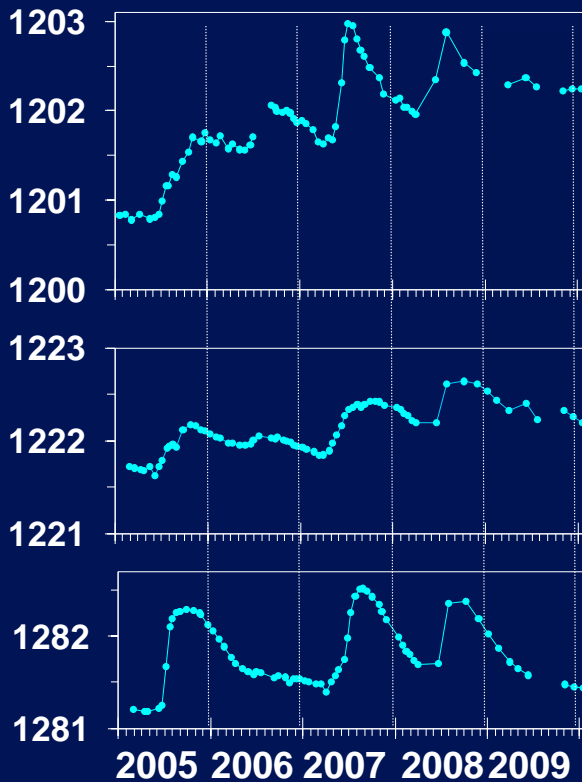
Observation by Well Owners



Water Level in Selected Monitoring Wells

Jan. 2005 – Jan. 2010

Elevation (m) above mean sea level



Calgary

Summary

Sustainable groundwater management must be watershed-based; **recharge-storage-discharge**.

Integrated hydrological model will provide an effective tool, when combined with a **high-density monitoring well network**.

Acknowledgement

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