



# **Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago**

**Welcome to the November  
Edition of the 2021  
M&R Seminar Series**

# NOTES FOR SEMINAR ATTENDEES

- All attendees' audio lines have been muted to minimize background noise.
- A question and answer session will follow the presentation.
- Please use the “Chat” feature to ask a question via text to “All Panelists.”
- The presentation slides will be posted on the MWRD website after the seminar.
- This seminar has been approved by the ISPE for one PDH and approved by the IEPA for one TCH. Certificates will only be issued to participants who attend the entire presentation.

**DR. THOMAS A. WALL**  
**PROGRAM LEAD, ENGINEERING & APPLIED RESILIENCE**  
**ARGONNE NATIONAL LABORATORY**

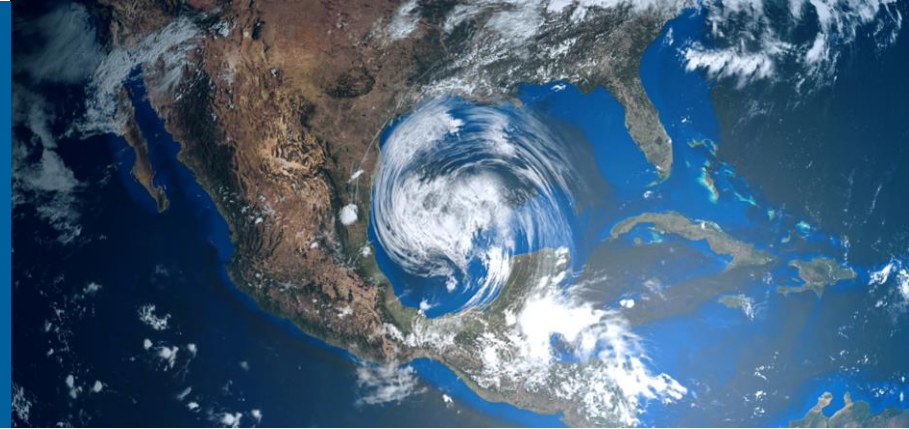


Dr. Wall is the Program Lead for Engineering & Applied Resilience in the Decision and Infrastructure Sciences Division at Argonne National Laboratory, a multidisciplinary science and engineering research center of the U.S. Department of Energy. Tom co-leads Argonne's efforts in Climate and Energy Action, which is a collaboration among Argonne scientists, engineers, and external partners providing expertise in climate science and modeling, advanced computing, infrastructure risk and resilience analysis, and decision science to solve national climate resilience problems. This collaboration provides actionable climate impact information that enables industry, the engineering and planning communities, and state and local governments to proactively address climate resilience concerns in their infrastructure and community systems; recent industry partners include AT&T, PG&E, and the New York Power Authority.

NOVEMBER 17, 2021



# PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE WITH REGIONAL CLIMATE MODELING



**THOMAS A. WALL, PH.D.**  
Senior Infrastructure & Preparedness Analyst  
Decision and Infrastructure Sciences Division



Argonne National Laboratory is a  
U.S. Department of Energy laboratory  
managed by UChicago Argonne, LLC.



# PLANNING FOR RESILIENCE

CLIMATE RISK IS INCREASING

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RESILIENCE DEMANDS INFORMATION  
ALIGNED WITH THE SCALES AND TYPES  
OF DECISIONMAKING

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DATA INFORMS DECISION

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UNCERTAINTY, RESILIENCE, AND DECISIONS

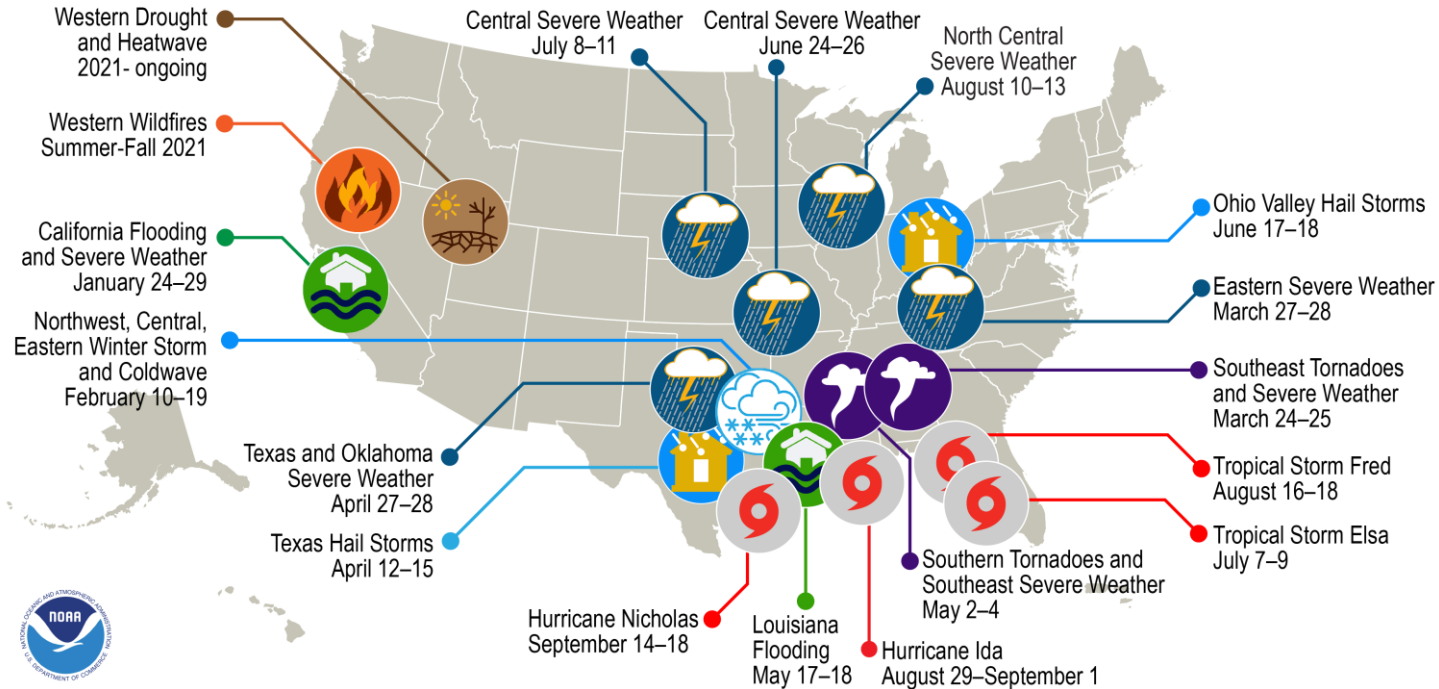


A satellite-style image of Earth with a blue overlay. A large, swirling hurricane is visible in the center of the frame, positioned over the Atlantic Ocean. The text "CLIMATE RISK IS INCREASING" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font across the middle of the image.

**CLIMATE RISK IS INCREASING**

# 2021 BILLION-DOLLAR CLIMATE DISASTERS: \$104.8 BILLION

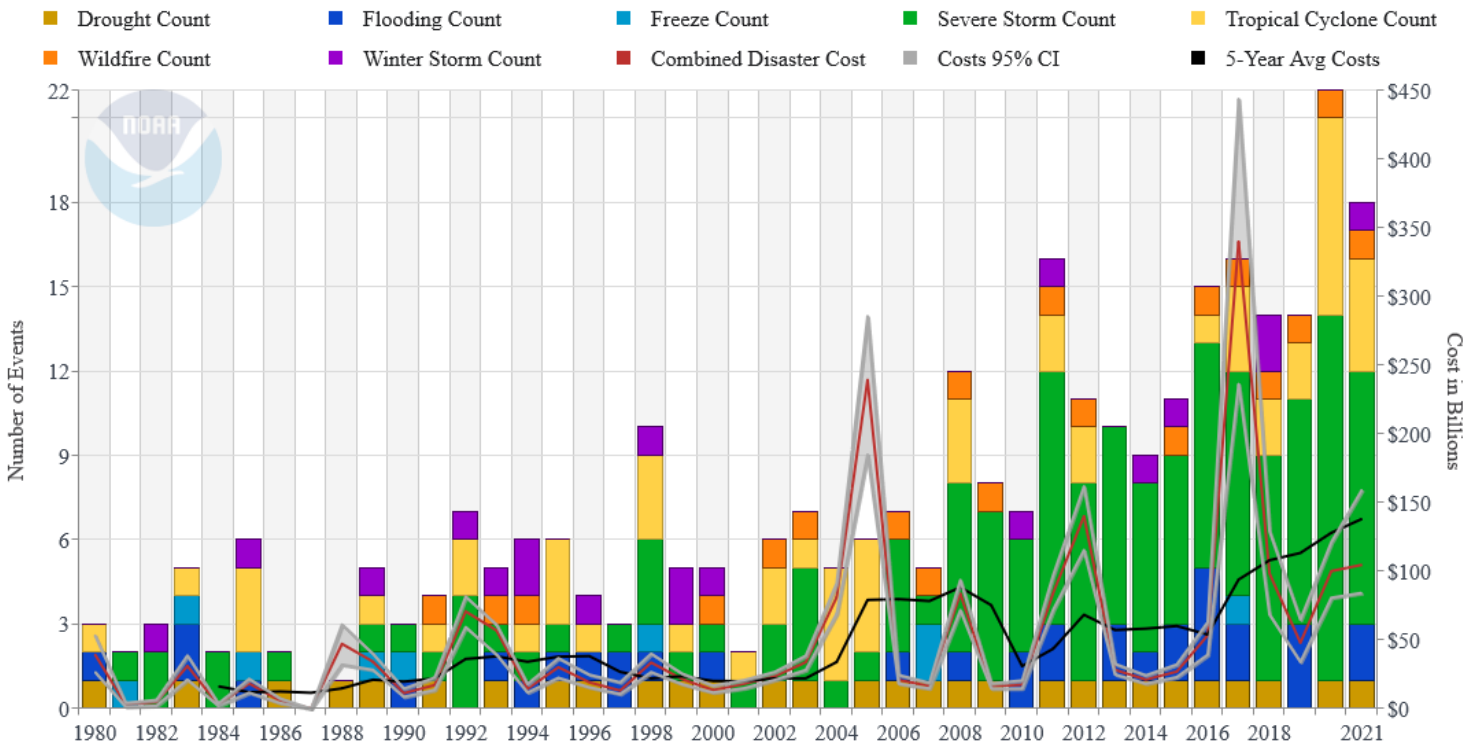
## U.S. 2021 Billion-Dollar Weather and Climate Disasters



This map denotes the approximate location for each of the 18 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters that impacted the United States January-September 2021.

# U.S. BILLION-DOLLAR DISASTER EVENT FREQUENCY

United States Billion-Dollar Disaster Events 1980-2021 (CPI-Adjusted)



Updated: October 8, 2021





# 2017 HURRICANE HARVEY

**60 INCHES OF RAIN**  
**\$125 B IN DAMAGES**





# 2015 SOUTH CAROLINA FLOODS

**20 INCHES OF RAIN IN 5 DAYS**  
**\$12B IN DAMAGES**



An aerial photograph showing a large area of agricultural land completely inundated with muddy brown floodwater. A multi-lane highway runs along the right side of the frame, with some water reaching its edges. The background shows a mix of green fields and residential or commercial buildings under a grey, overcast sky.

# 2013 COLORADO FLOODS

**17 INCHES OF RAIN IN 2 DAYS**

**\$4 B IN DAMAGES**

**Severity / Exposure  
to Weather and  
Climate Events**



**HAZARDS**

**RISK**

**VULNERABILITY**

**Sensitivity and  
Adaptive Capacity  
of Physical, Social,  
Economic Systems**



**CONSEQUENCE TO HUMAN SYSTEMS**



**Disrupted Communities,  
Infrastructure and Businesses**

**Severity / Exposure  
to Weather and  
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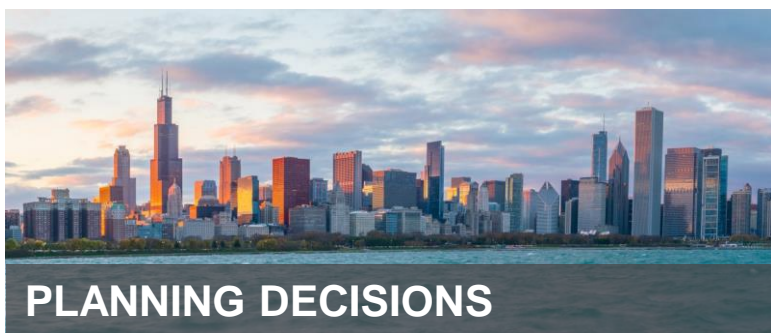
**Disrupted Communities,  
Infrastructure and Businesses**





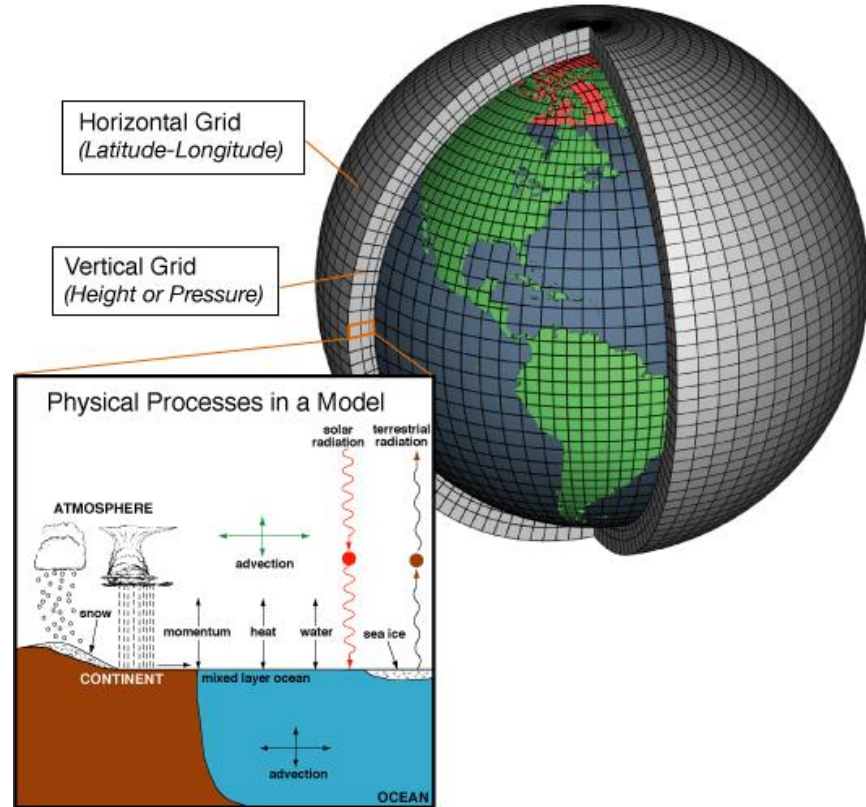
**RESILIENCE DEMANDS INFORMATION  
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# DIFFERING NEEDS IN DECISIONMAKING



# GLOBAL CLIMATE SYSTEM MODELS

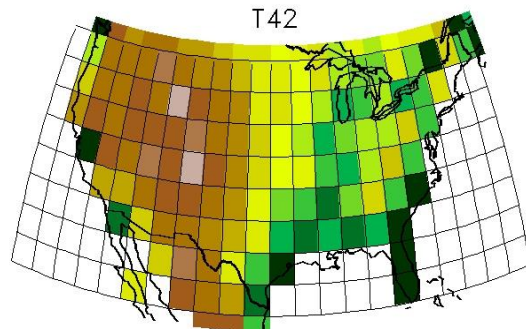
Mathematical representations of the climate system based on physical laws and understanding of processes



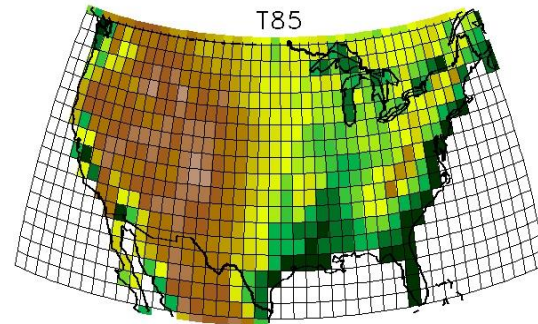


# EVOLUTION OF CLIMATE MODEL RESOLUTION

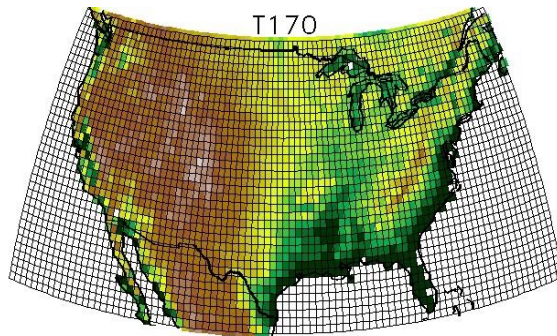
Smaller grid squares or “pixel sizes” enable more *place-specific* and *detailed* projections of locally relevant climate



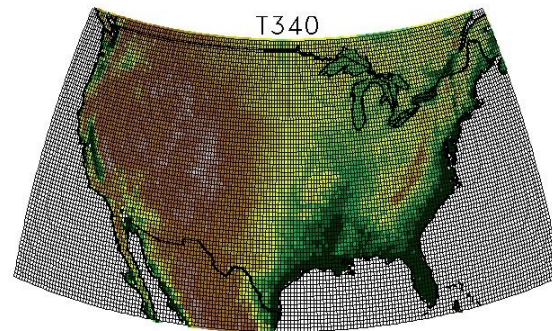
Mid-1990s 200~300 kms



2000s 100~150 kms



Current 50~100 kms

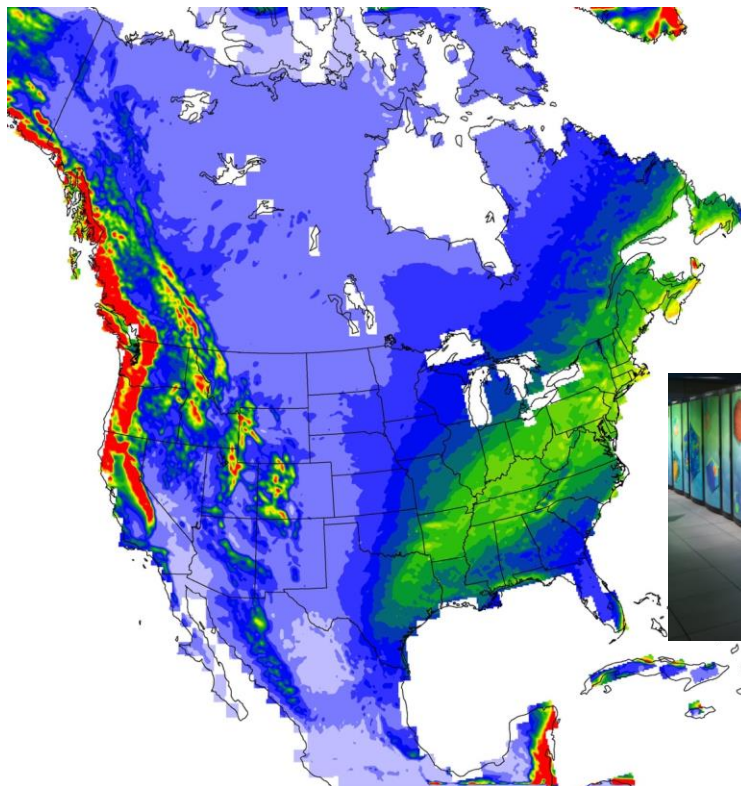


Future. 25~40 kms

# DYNAMIC DOWNSCALING

**RUNS A REGIONAL CLIMATE MODEL OVER  
A SMALLER SPATIAL DOMAIN USING INPUT  
FROM GLOBAL CLIMATE MODELS**

- Covers (nearly) all of North America
- Spatial resolution: 12 km
- Physics-based Model: Weather Research Forecast (WRF) Model, V3.3.1
- Output data interval 3-hrs; 8.8 GB/day
- More than 330 years of model simulation output
- Dataset size: > 700Tb
- Accounts for 2 IPCC scenarios RCP4.5, RCP8.5
- Output includes 6-8 ensemble member datasets

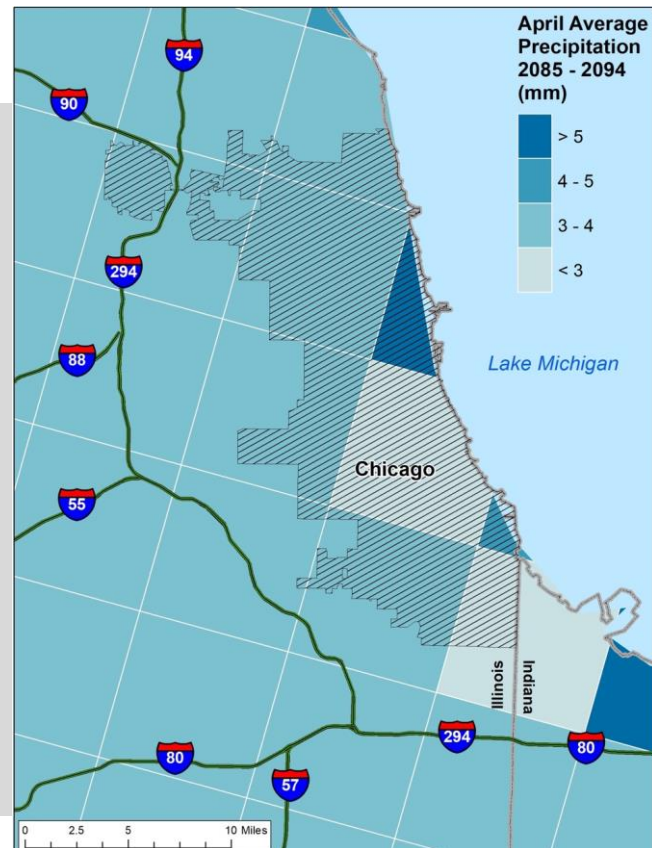




# DYNAMIC DOWNSCALING

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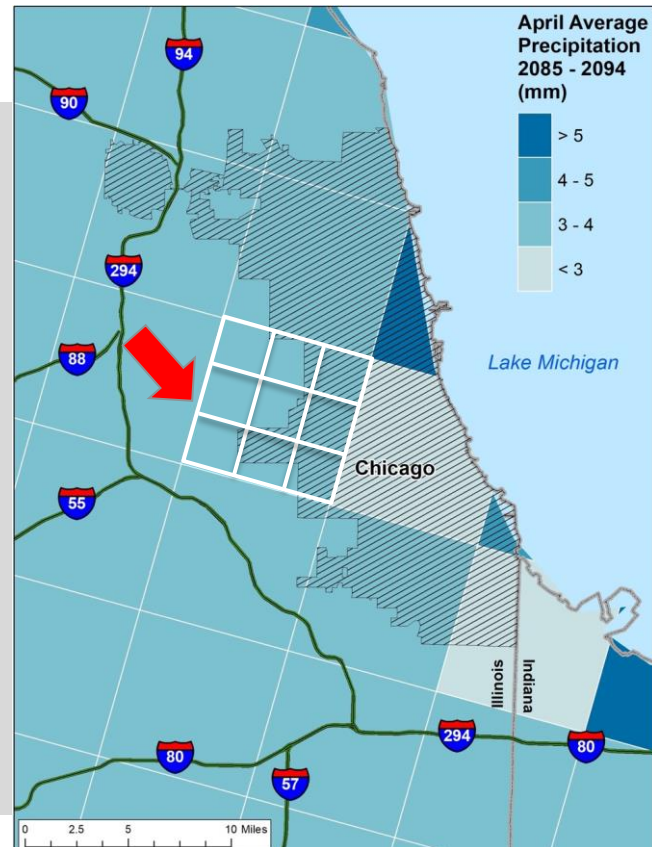
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A satellite view of the Earth, showing a large hurricane or cyclone in the center. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. The text "DATA INFORMS DECISION" is written in white, bold, uppercase letters across the middle of the image.

**DATA INFORMS DECISION**



# ARGONNE EXPERTS FORM MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

Answer Impact-Specific Questions, Provide Actionable Information





# ARGONNE EXPERTS FORM MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAMS

## Climate Science Enabling Decisionmaking

### STATISTICIANS

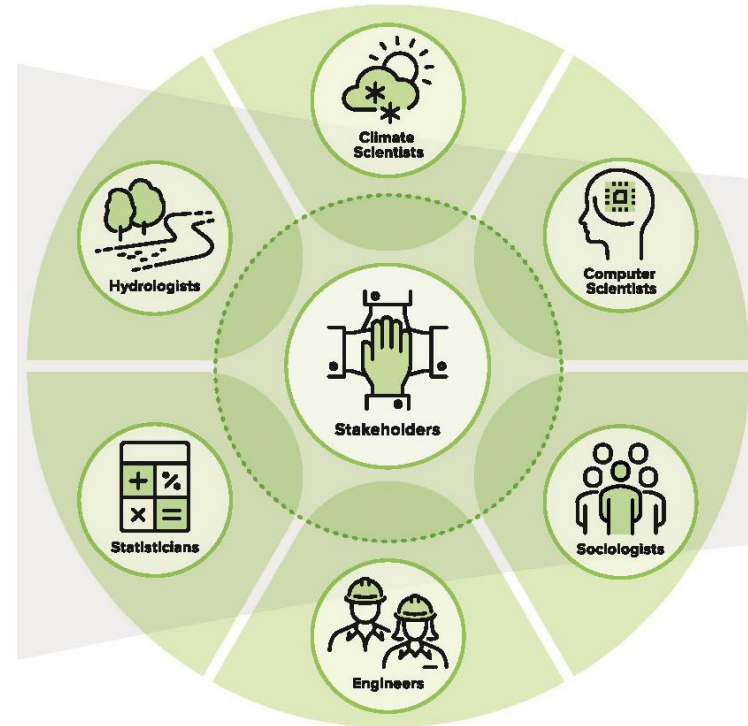
determine extreme event intensities

### ENVIRONMENTAL MODELERS

determine location-/region-  
specific impacts

### ENGINEERS

determine critical asset/system  
thresholds and impacts

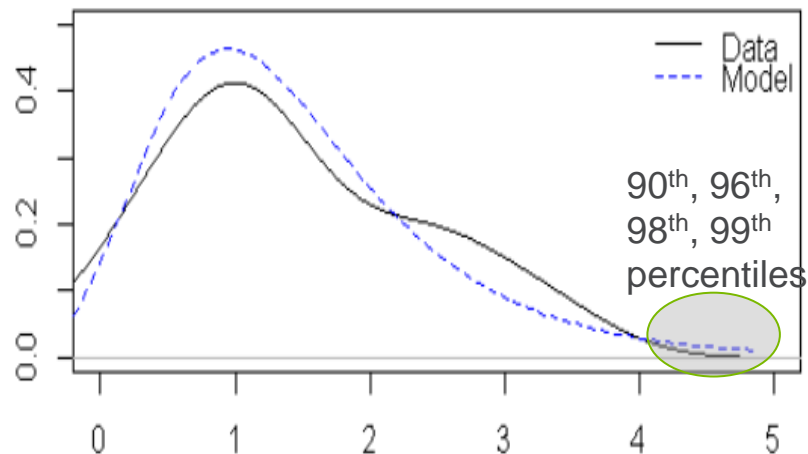


# STATISTICAL ANALYSIS PROJECTS

## EXTREMES AND FLOOD RISKS

DYNAMIC DOWNSCALE PRECIPITATION DATA (12km RUNS) INFORMS SURFACE HYDROLOGY MODEL AT 200m RESOLUTION FOR ALL OF SOUTHEASTERN USA

- 10- year simulations for present-day and mid-century
- Ensemble of downscaled simulations
- GEV fitting to develop the PDF of maximum water depths for each 200m grid cell

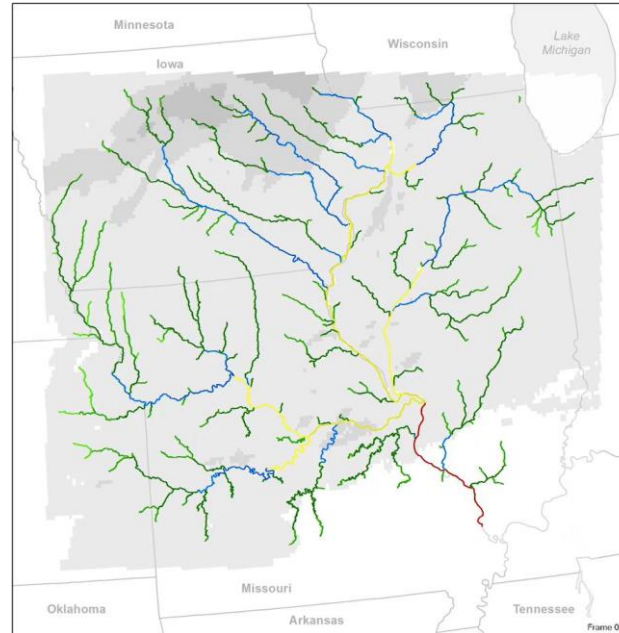
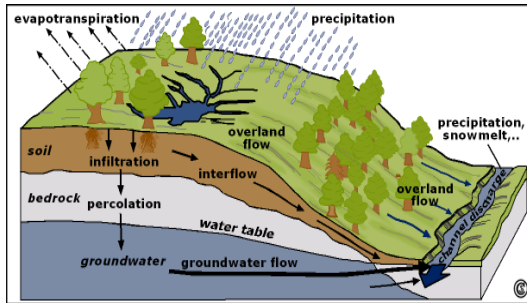


$$\xi \neq 0, G(x) = \exp \left\{ - \left[ 1 + \xi \left( \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \right) \right]^{-1/\xi} \right\}$$

$$\xi = 0, G(x) = \exp \left\{ - \exp \left( - \frac{x - \mu}{\sigma} \right) \right\}$$

# WRF-HYDRO: TOOL FOR ANALYZING TOPOGRAPHY AND PRECIPITATION RUNOFF

- Serves national hydrological forecast
- Argonne is first to:
  - Run WRF-Hydro on high-performance computers
  - Apply WRF-Hydro over a large domain



RIVER DISCHARGE



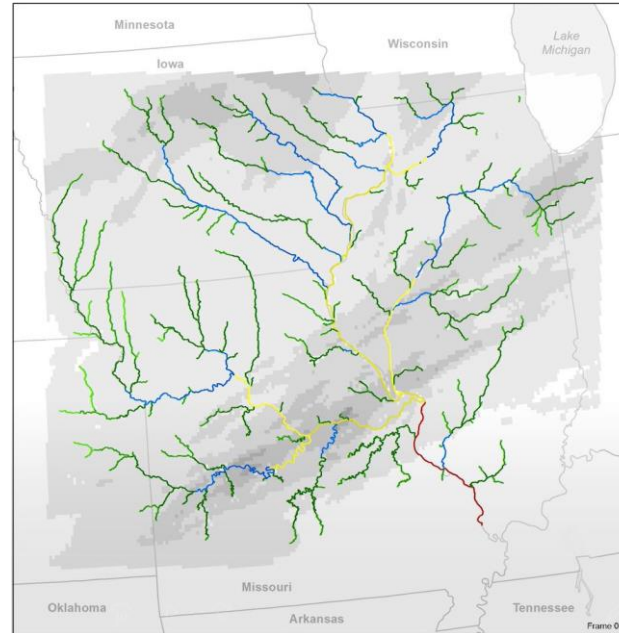
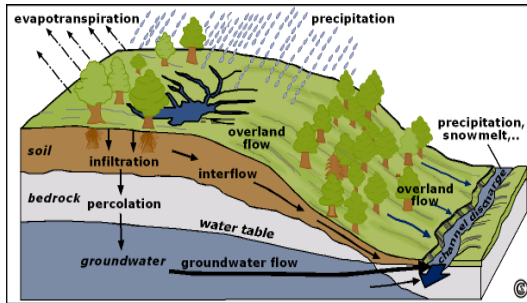
SURFACE FLOODING



FLASH FLOODING

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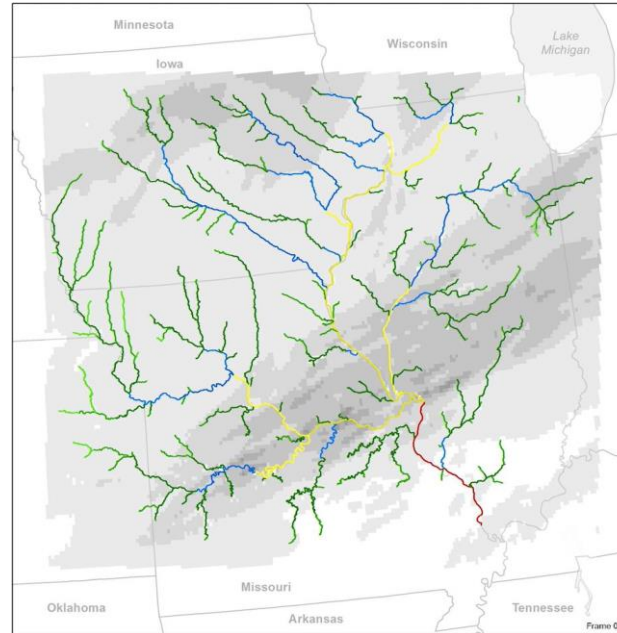
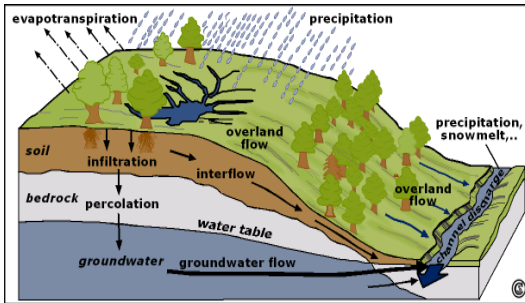


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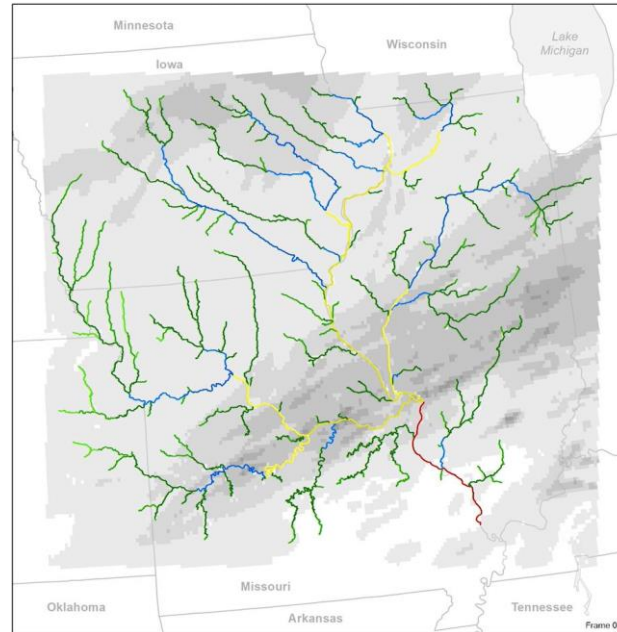
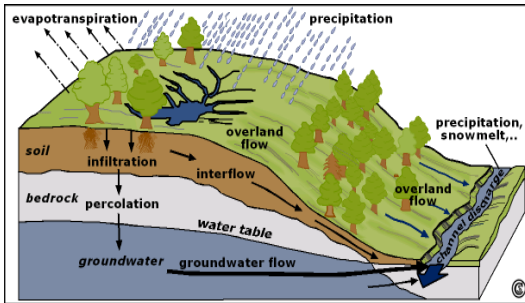
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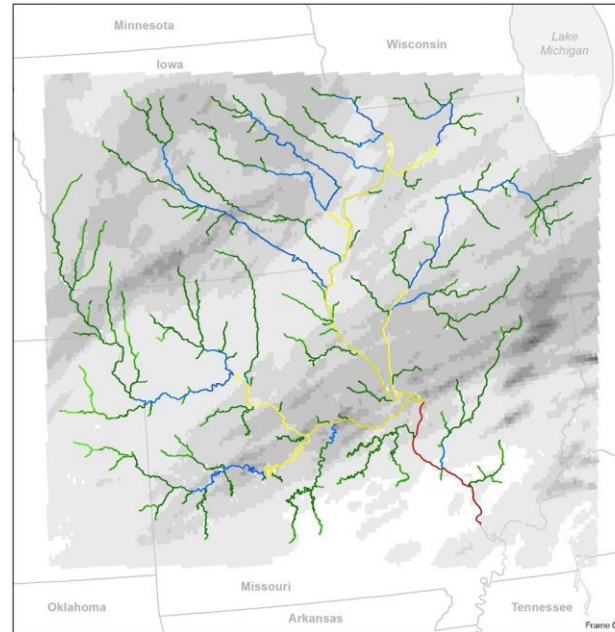
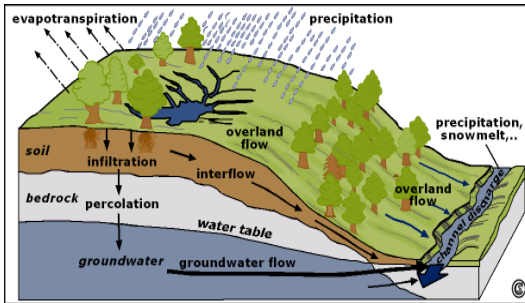
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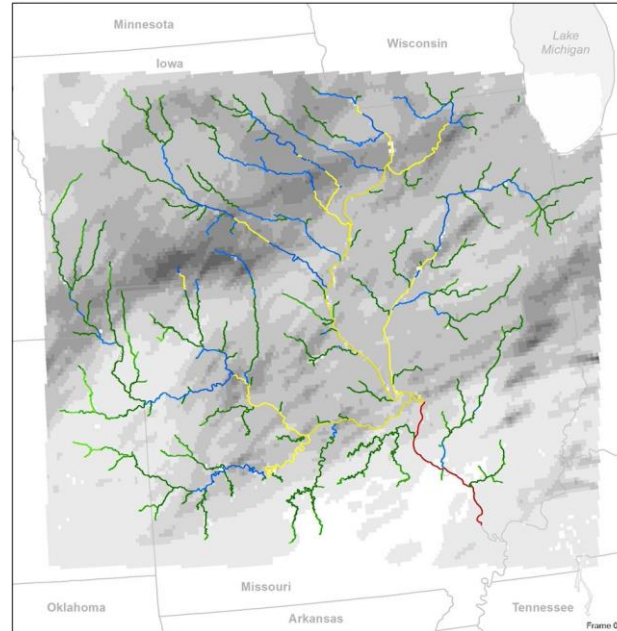
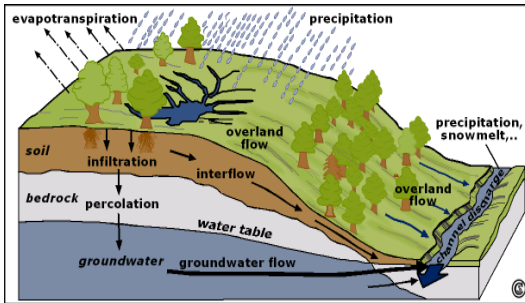


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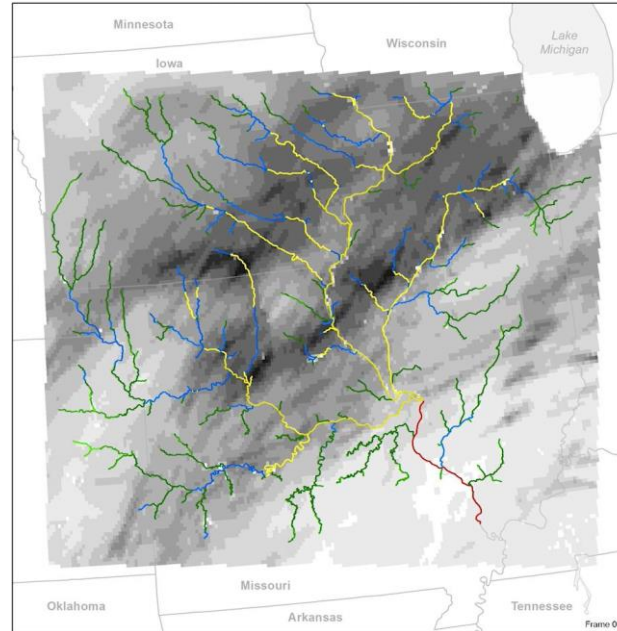
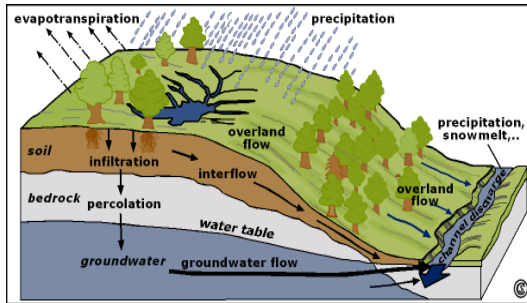
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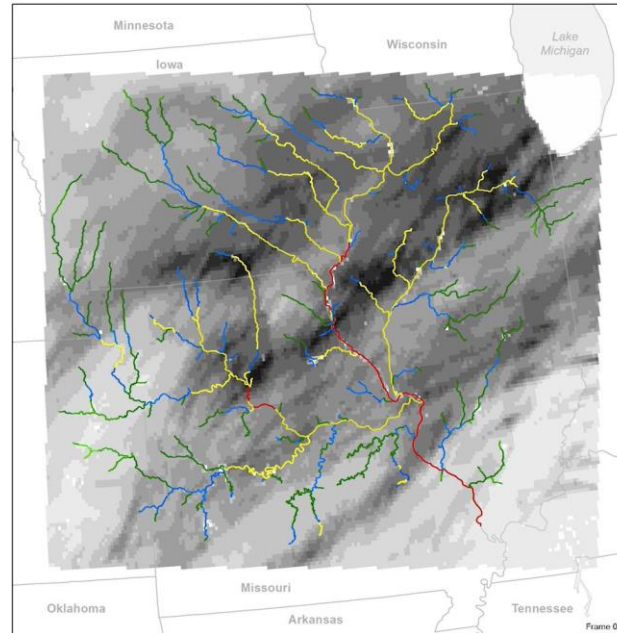
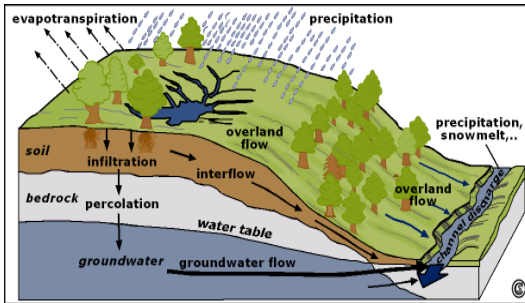
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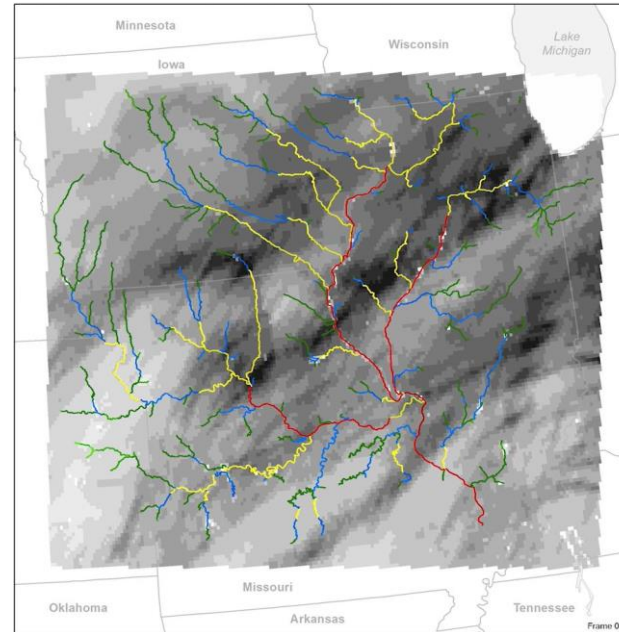
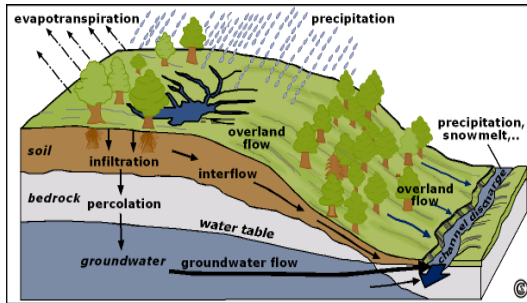
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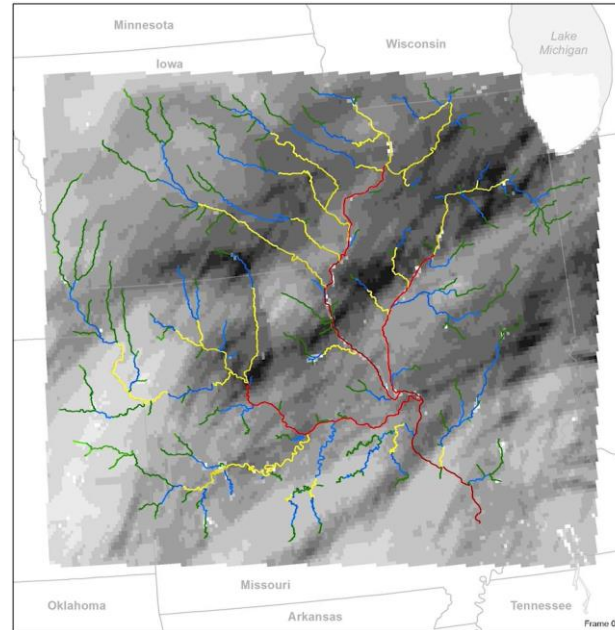
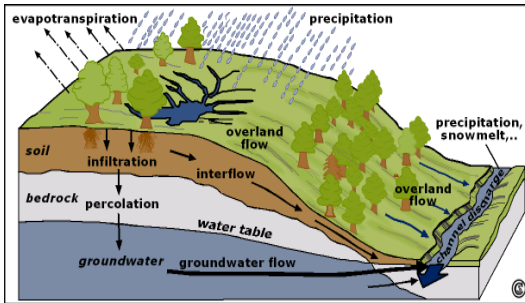


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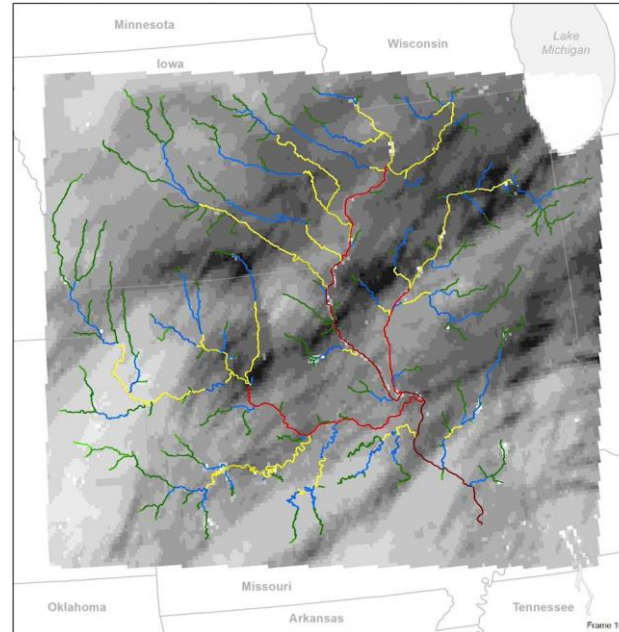
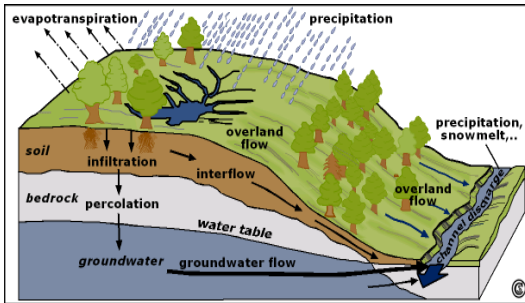
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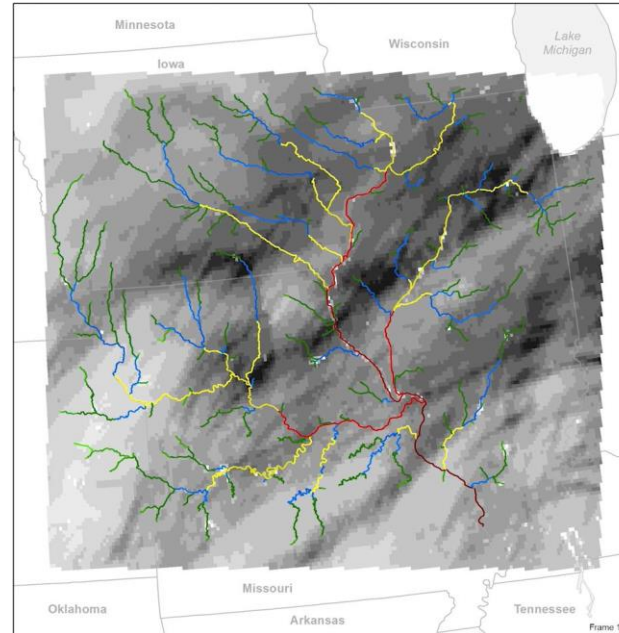
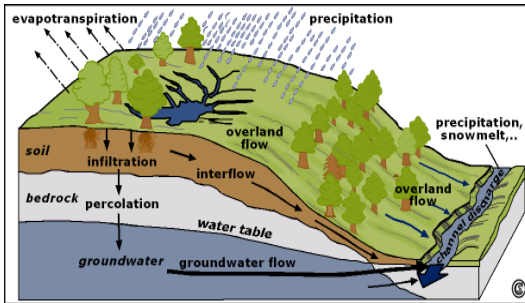
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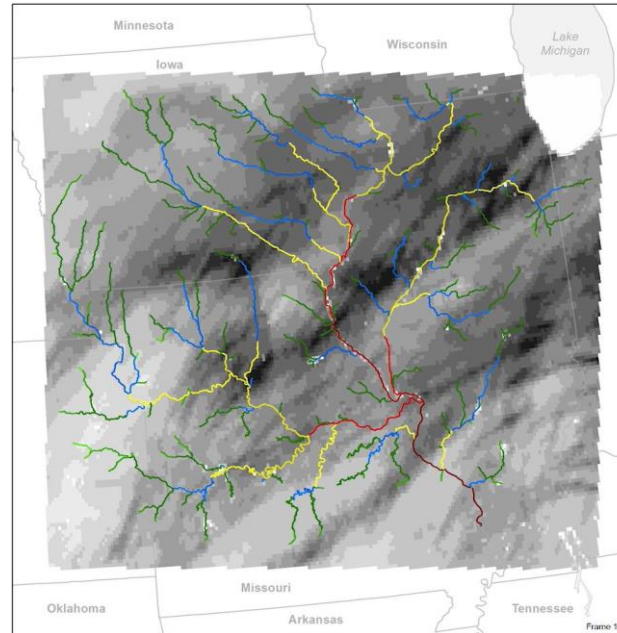
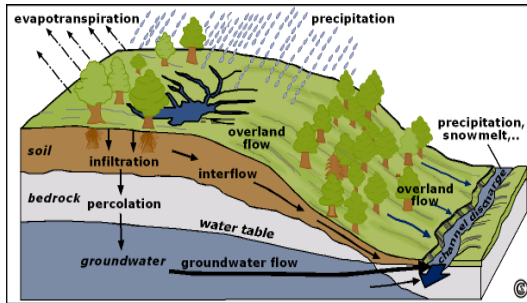
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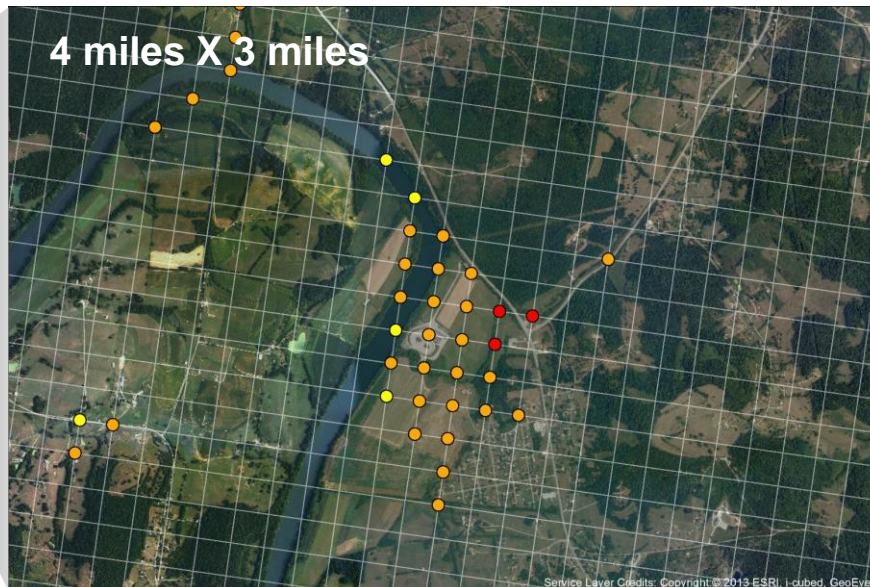
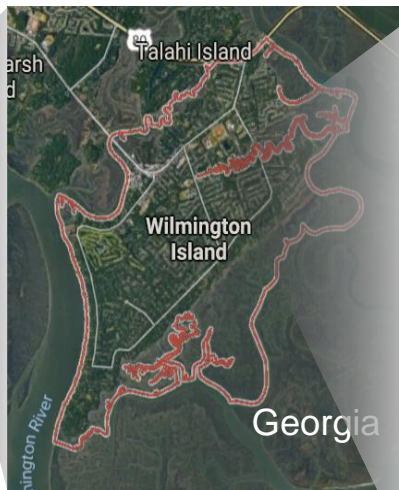
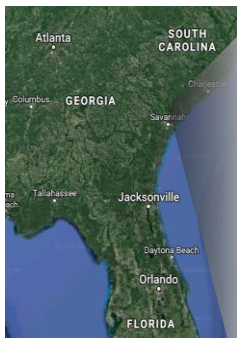


FLASH FLOODING



# MODEL ALLOWS FOR NEIGHBORHOOD SCALE PROJECTIONS

## AT&T Partnership



### Time interval

- Water depth: 2hr, 3hr or 6hr
- Streamflow: 2hr

### Spatial resolution:

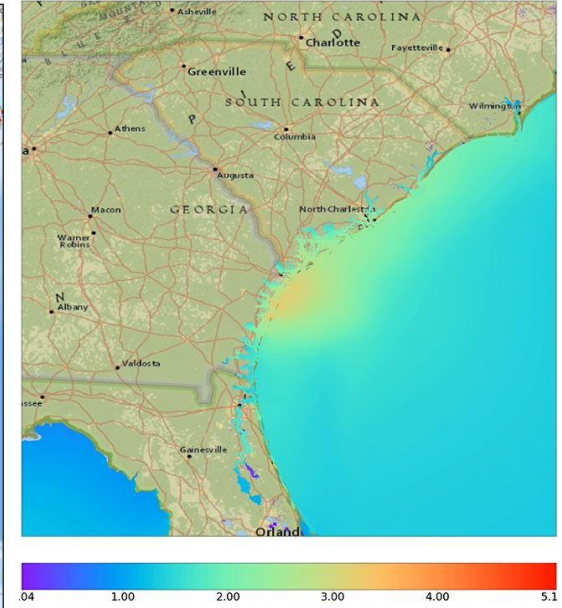
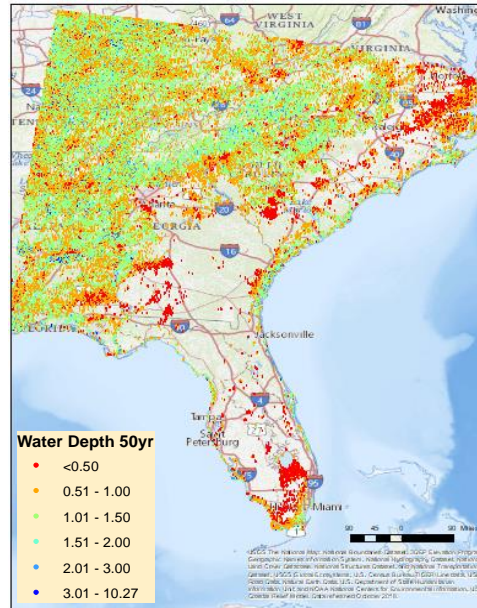
200 meters  
Number of grid cells:  
5180 x 6980 =  
36.15 millions

# INFORMING DECISIONS

## AT&T Partnership

### PROJECTING COMBINED COASTAL AND INLAND FLOOD RISKS

- Future hurricane coastal flooding
  - Winds, wave and storm surge at 50m-90m resolution
- Future inland flooding projected at 200m resolution
- AT&T created internal tool to assess telecommunication
  - Asset management
  - Capital planning/investment
- AT&T publicly released all data created for the Southeast US

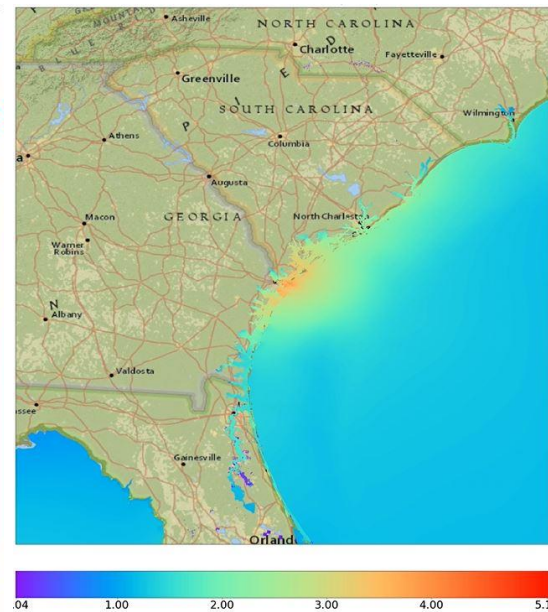
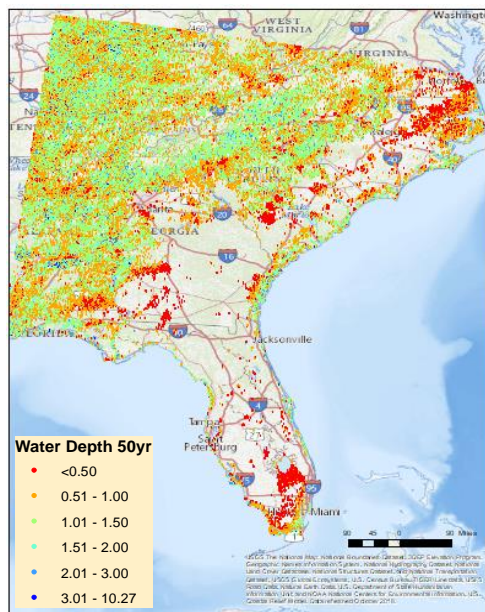


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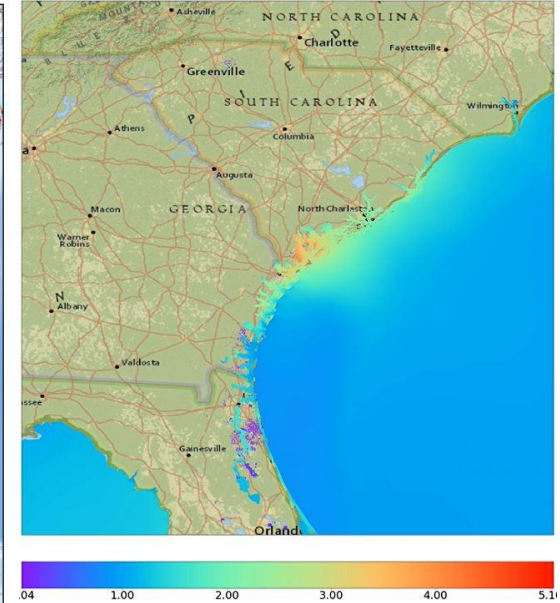
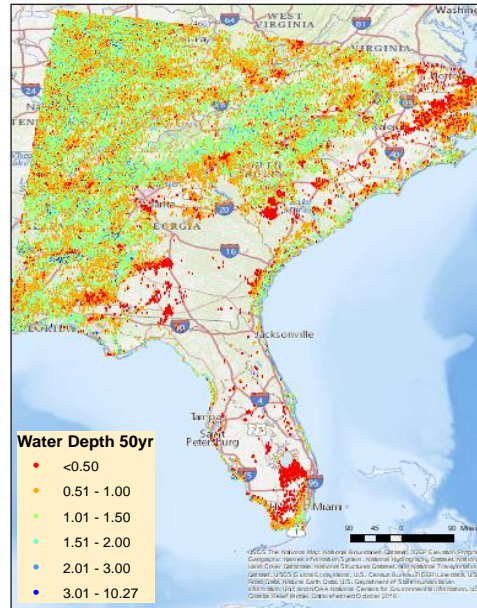


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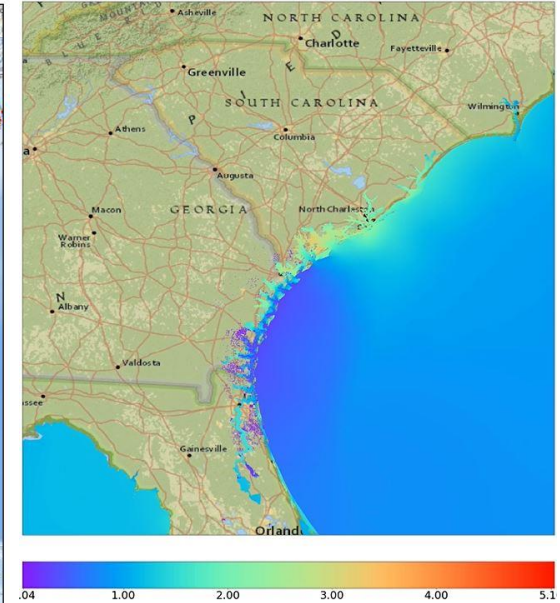
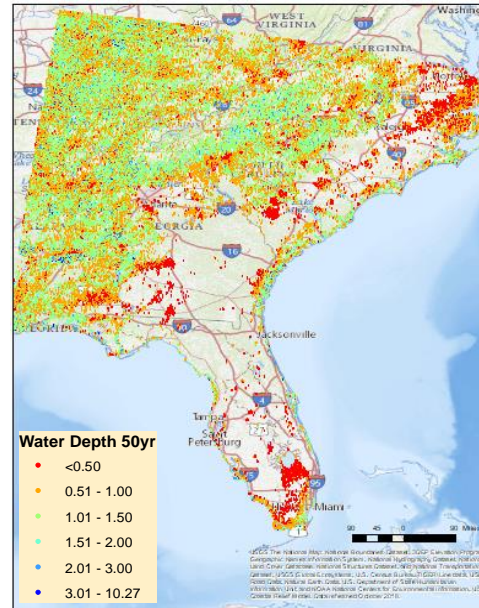


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## AT&T Partnership

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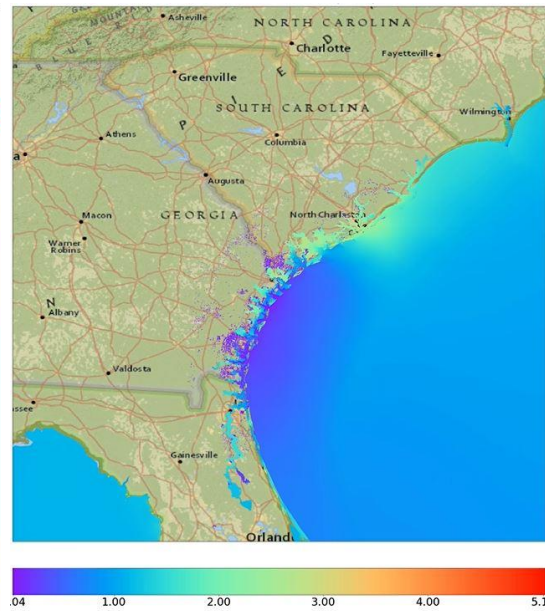
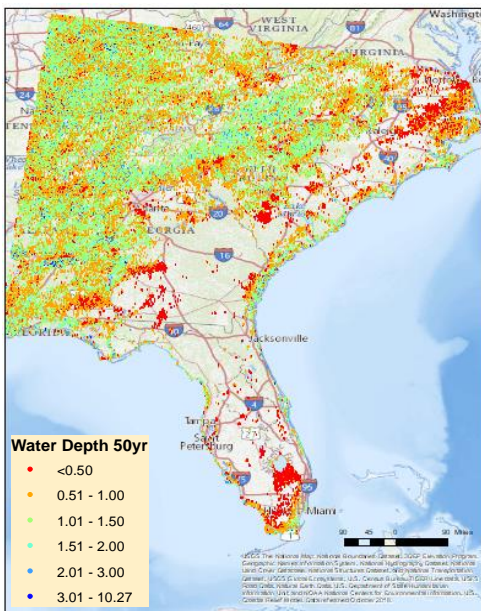


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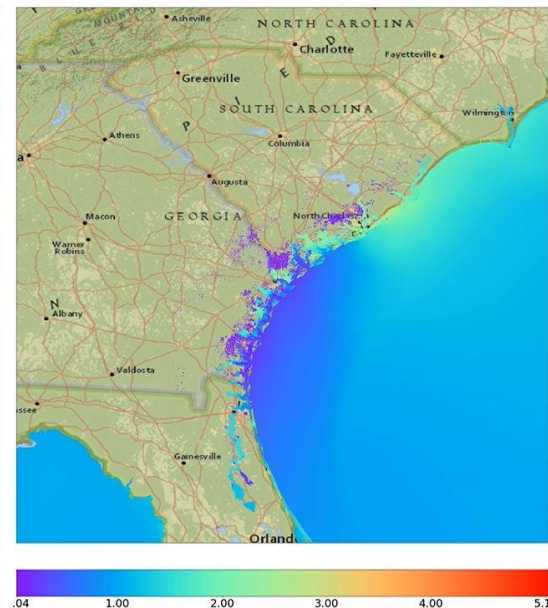
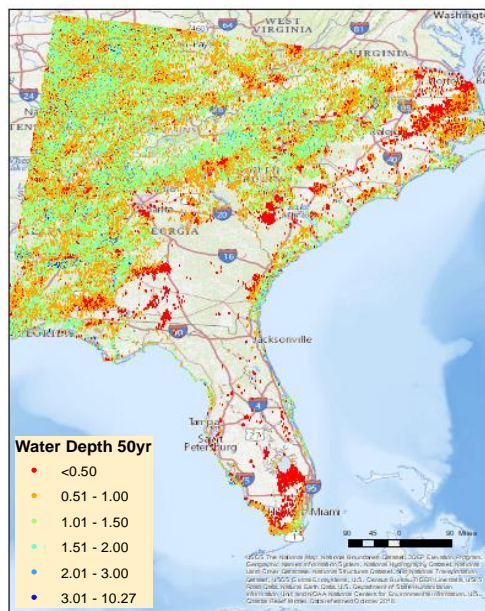


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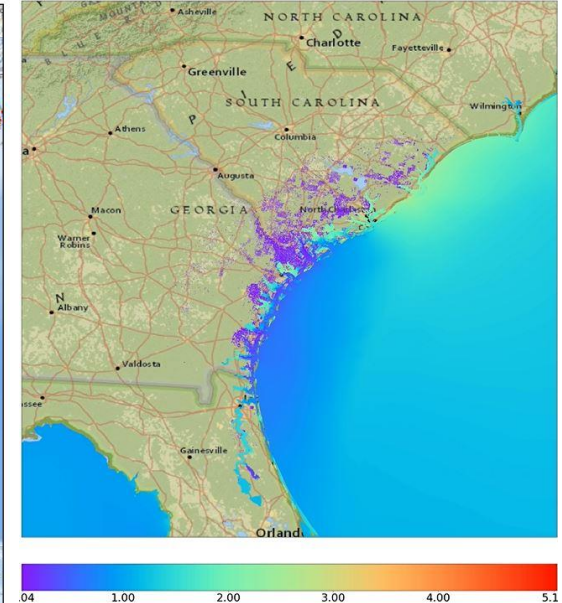
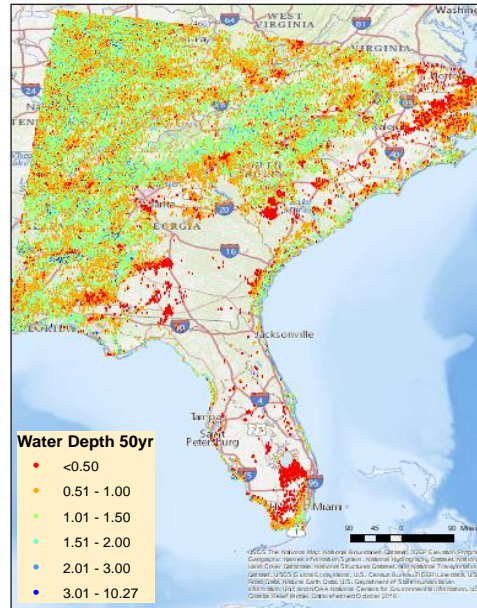


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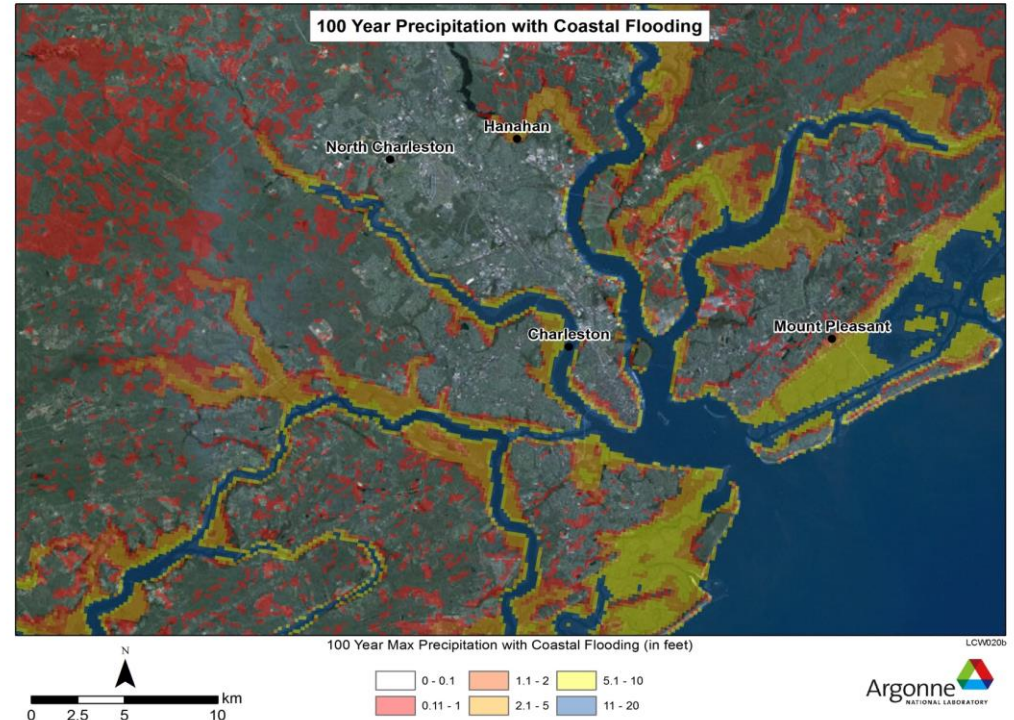


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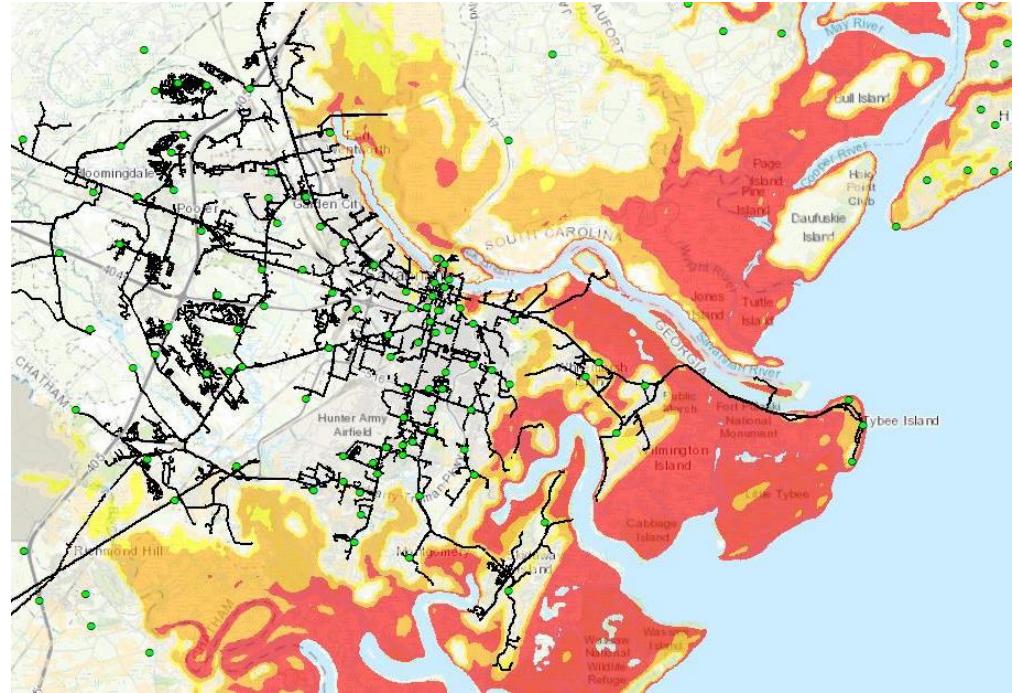


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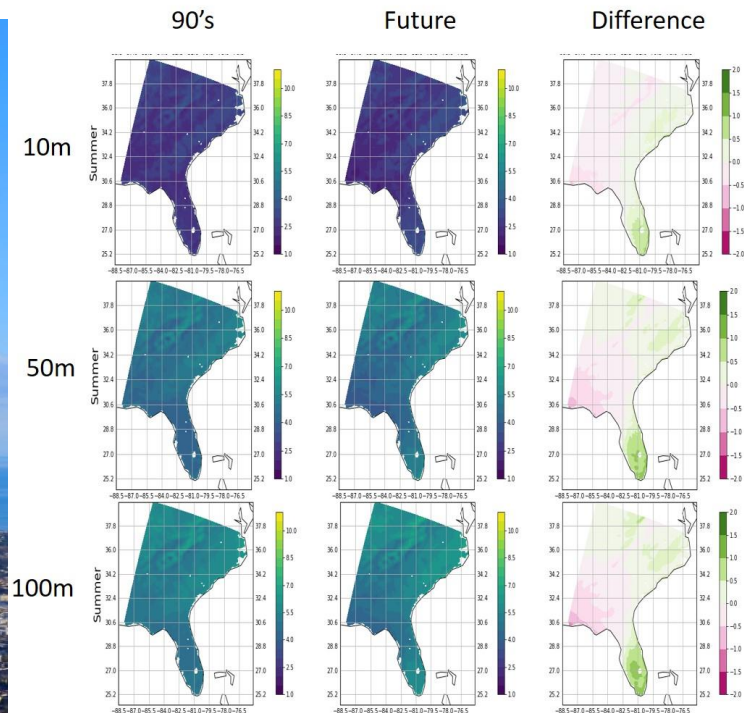


# INFORMING DECISIONS

## AT&T Partnership

### PROJECTING FUTURE WIND INTENSITIES AND EXTREMES

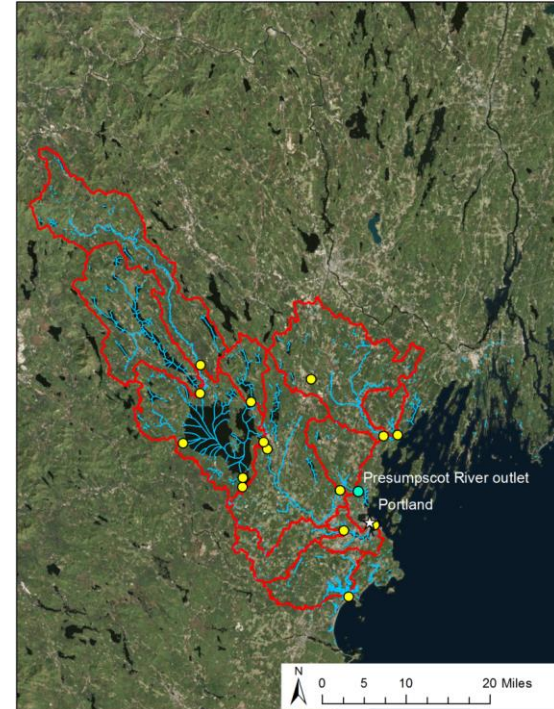
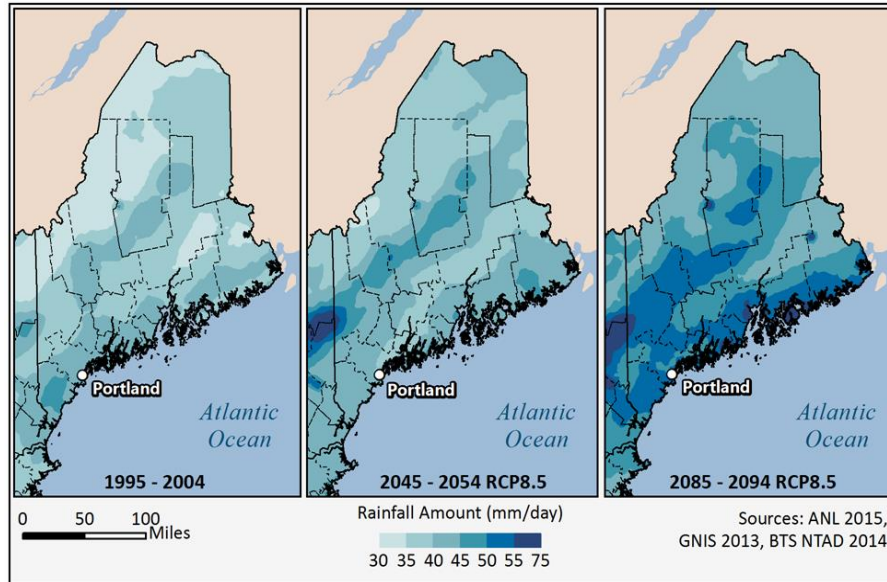
- Statistical modeling projects changes in wind intensities across the Southeast
- Incorporated high-resolution local topographical datasets
- Projected wind intensities at 10, 50 and 100 meters above the ground
- Changes in 50-year wind intensities inform structural design for lateral wind loading



# INFORMING DECISIONS

## Maine Critical Infrastructure

Stormwater flood risks to urban stormwater and transportation systems

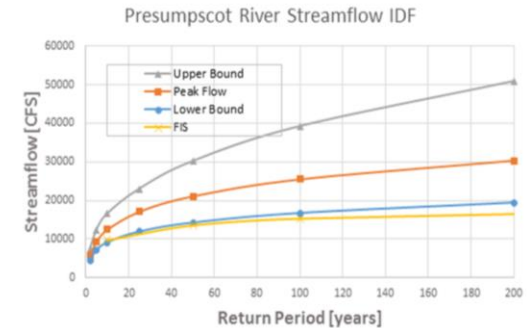
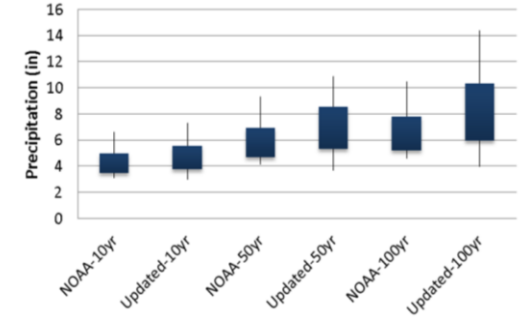
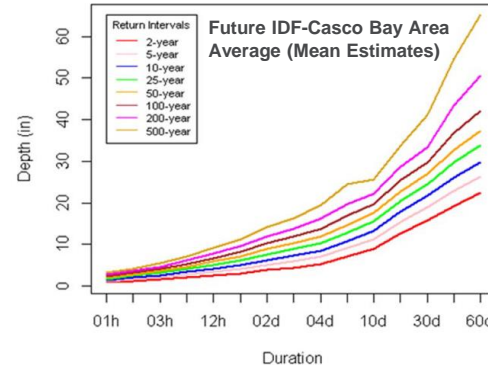
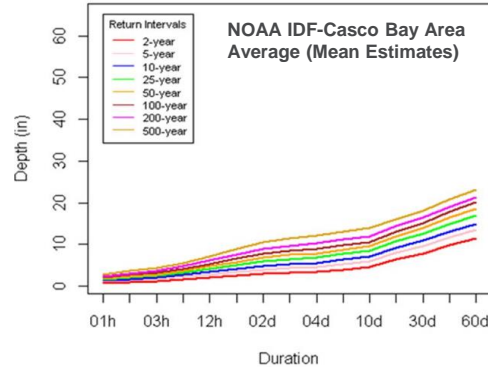


# INFORMING DECISIONS

## Maine Critical Infrastructure

### STORMWATER FLOOD RISKS TO TRANSPORTATION STORMWATER SYSTEMS

- Modeled regional watersheds using USACE's HEC-HMS software
- Model future stream flows using precipitation from 12km climate model projections
- Compared projections with NOAA historical precipitation intensities
- Developed Intensity-Duration-Frequency (IDF) curves, updated for future precipitation

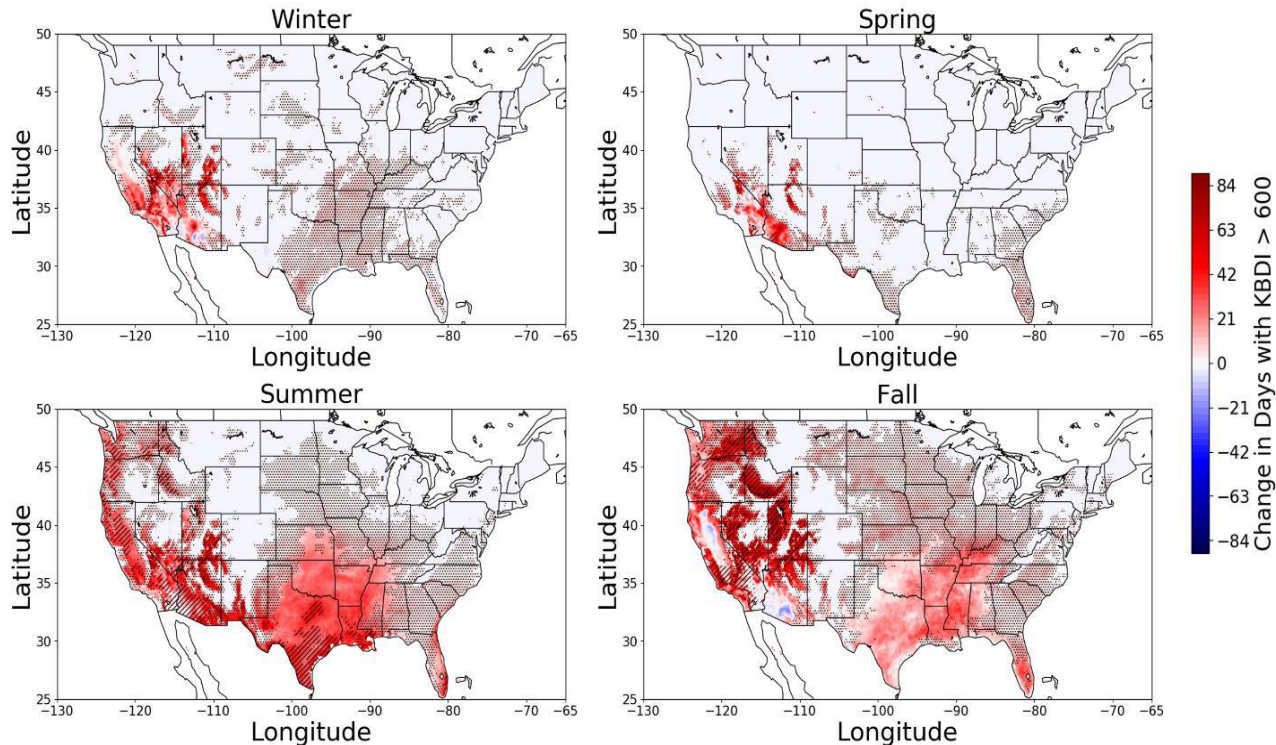




# CLIMATE MODELS INFORM FUTURE WILDFIRE RISKS NATIONWIDE

## DYNAMICALLY-DOWNSCALED DROUGHT INDEXES FOR FUTURE WILDFIRE RISKS

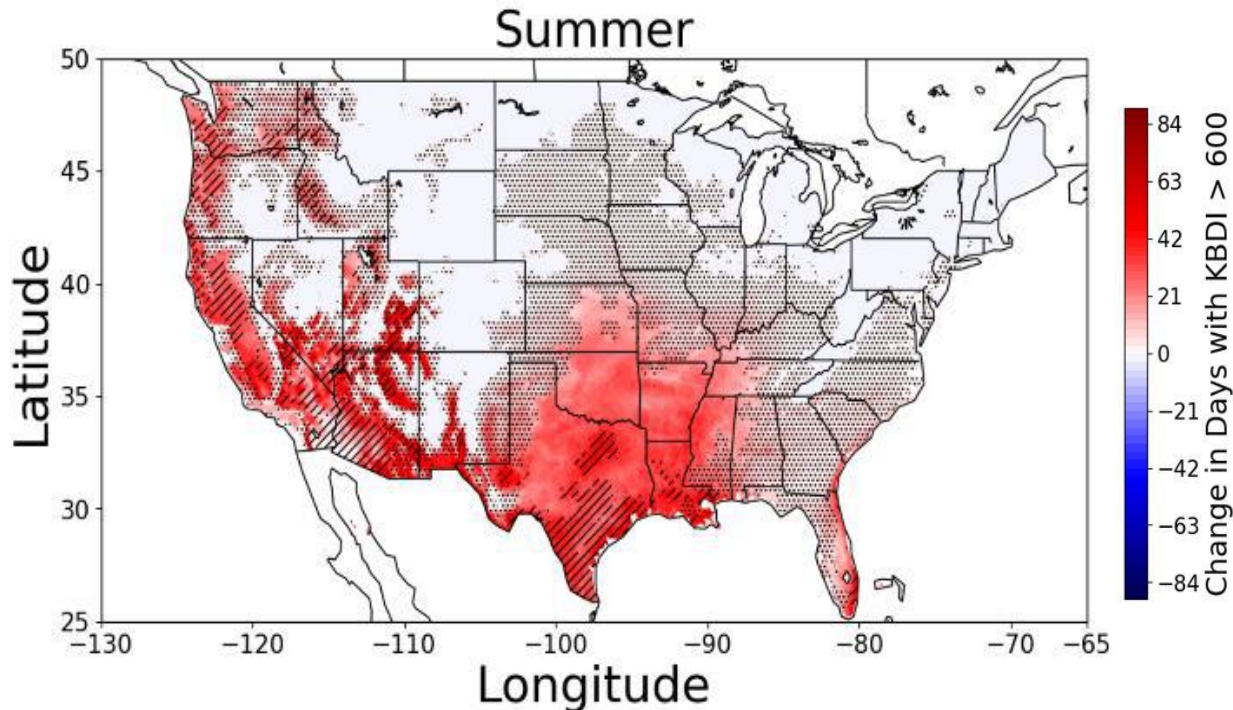
- Keech-Byram Drought Index (KBDI) developed by USDA Forest Service
- KBDI >600 correlates with large burned area and intense fire activity
- Projected to broaden by nearly 60 times in the southern CONUS
- Figure shows change in the number of days with KBDI > 600 from the historical period to late 21st century



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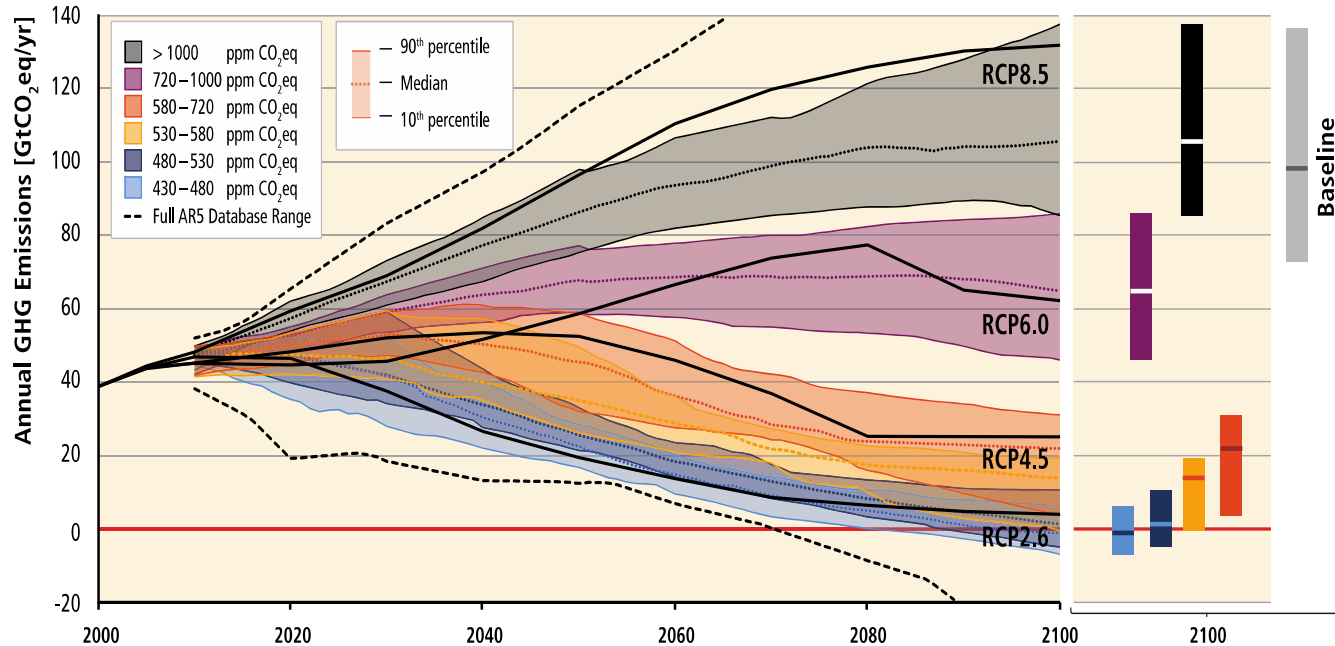


# UNCERTAINTY, RESILIENCE, AND DECISIONS



# THE BIGGEST UNCERTAINTY IS THAT WE DON'T KNOW WHAT PEOPLE WILL DO

GHG Emission Pathways 2000–2100: All AR5 Scenarios



IPCC AR-5

**Severity / Exposure  
to Weather and  
Climate Events**



**HAZARDS**

**RISK**

**VULNERABILITY**

**Sensitivity and  
Adaptive Capacity  
of Physical, Social,  
Economic Systems**



**CONSEQUENCE TO HUMAN SYSTEMS**



**Disrupted Communities,  
Infrastructure and Businesses**



# RESILIENCE

The ability to **prepare** for and **adapt** to changing conditions and **withstand** and **recover** rapidly from disruptions.

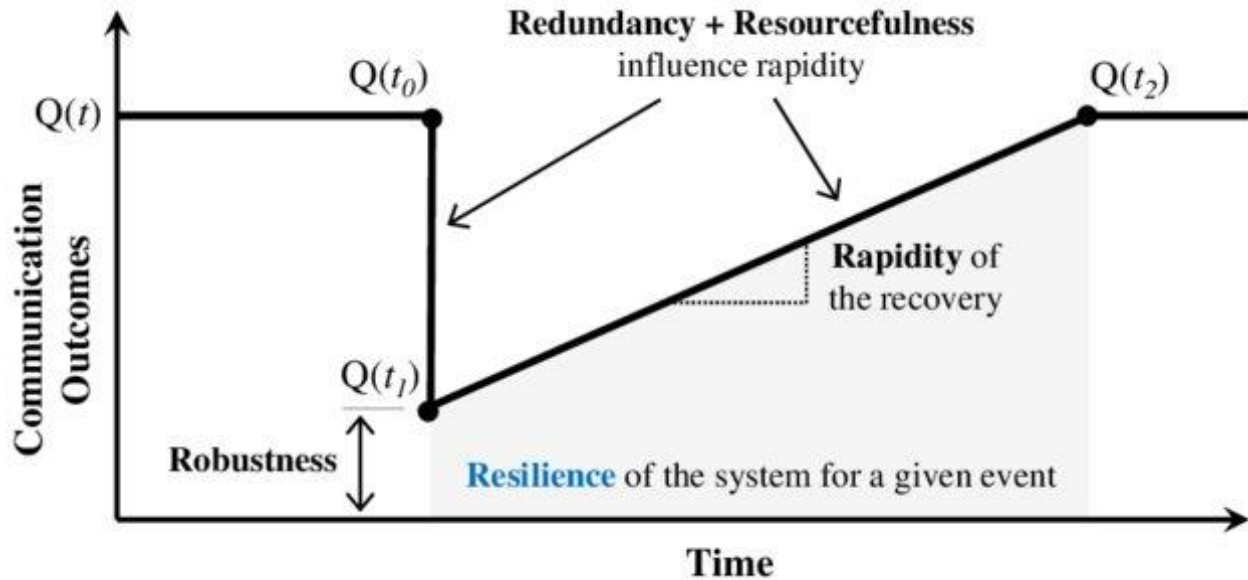


# CONCEPTUALIZING DISASTER RESILIENCE

## Resilience Triangles / Curves

### Resilience Elements

1. Prepare
2. Adapt
3. Withstand
4. Recover

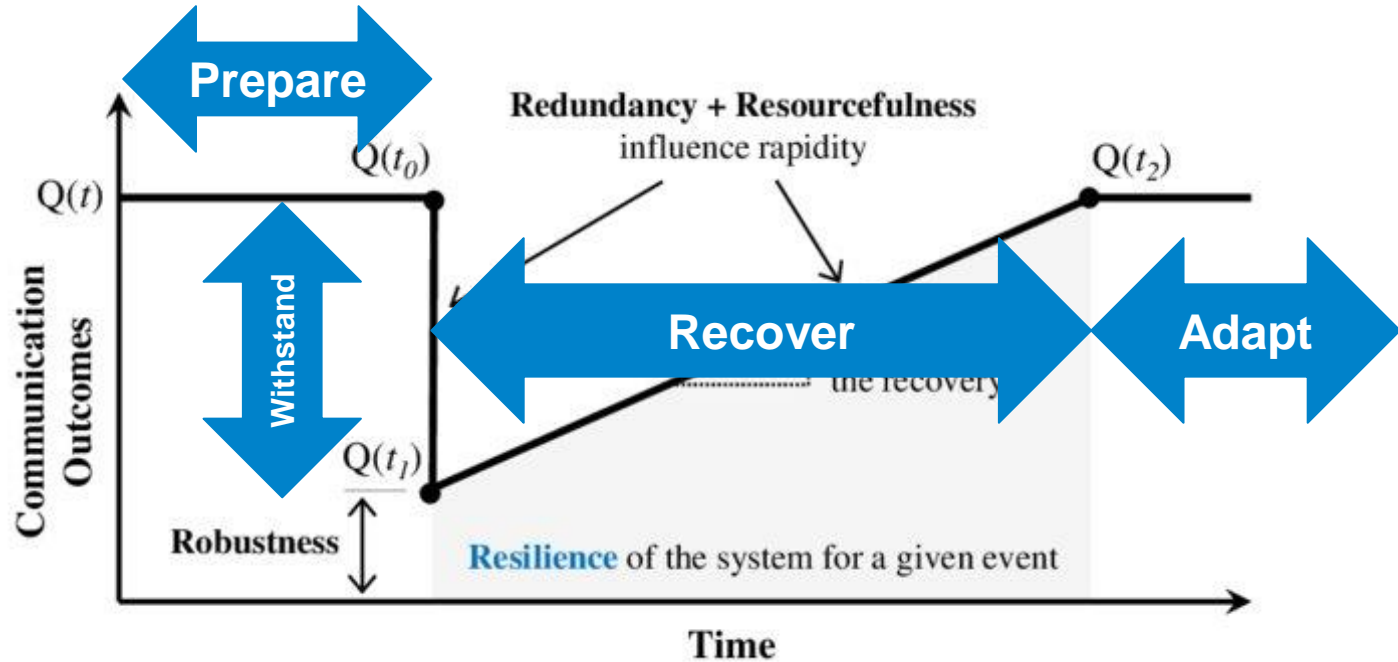


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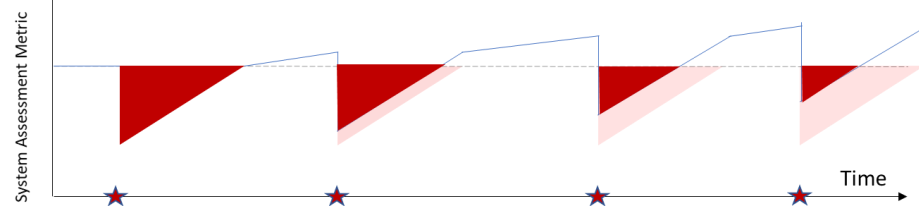


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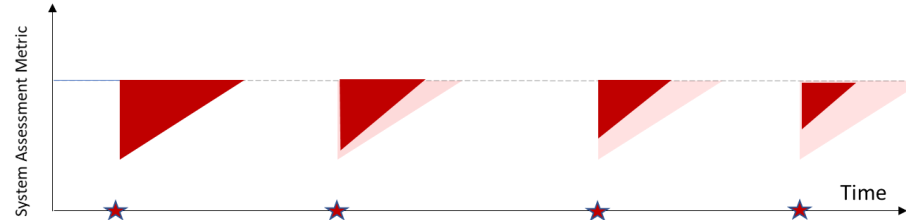
# CONCEPTUALIZING DISASTER RESILIENCE

## Adaptive Resilience

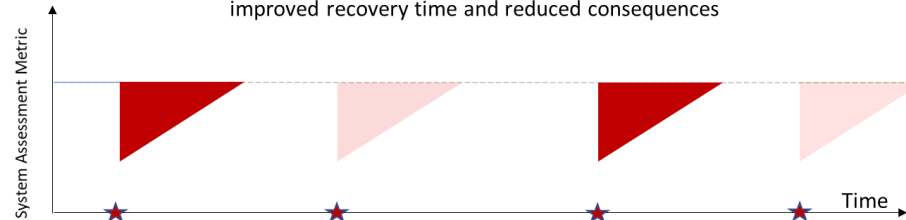
- **Build Back Better**
- **Improve Response & Recovery**
- **Improve Robustness to Disruption**



(a) Adaptive Resilience: Building back better



(b) Adaptive Resilience: Continuous reduction of resilience triangle—improved recovery time and reduced consequences



(c) Adaptive Resilience: Improving disruption threshold

### Legend



Disruptive event occurrence



Resilience loss for each future event

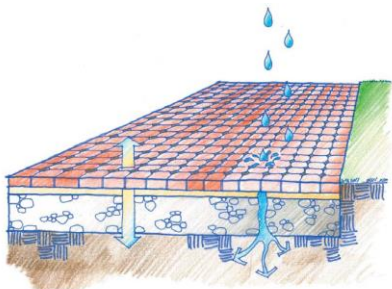


Baseline resilience loss (without any AR strategy in place)



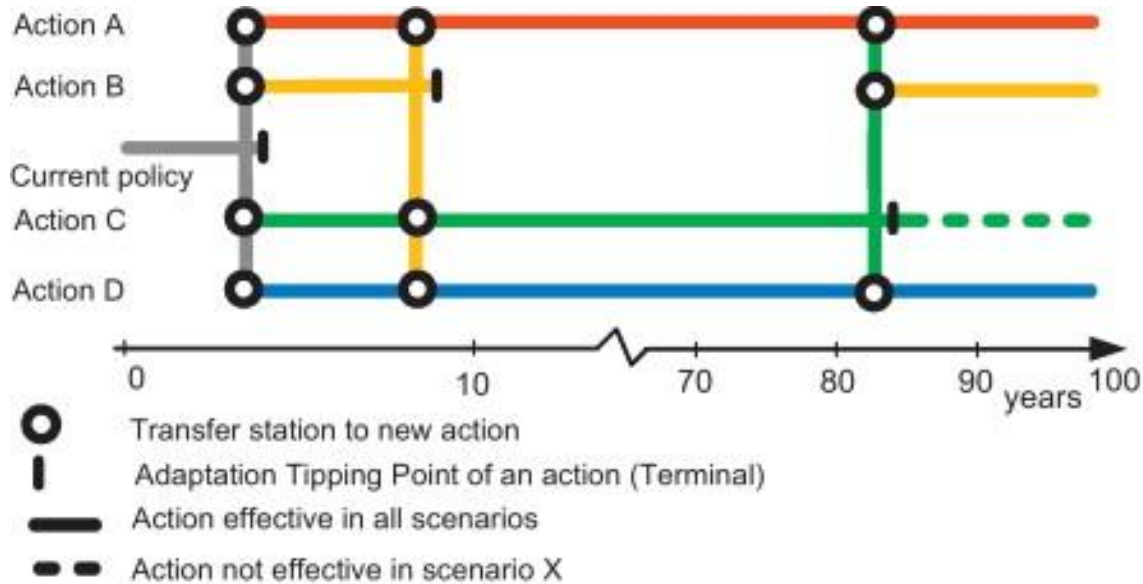
# ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

## Green Infrastructure



# ADAPTIVE CAPACITY

## Real Options and Dynamic Adaptive Planning (Policy Pathways)



Adaptation Pathways Map

| Path actions | Relative Costs | Target effects | Side effects |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| 1            | +++            | +              | 0            |
| 2            | +++++          | 0              | 0            |
| 3            | +++            | 0              | 0            |
| 4            | +++            | 0              | 0            |
| 5            | 0              | 0              | -            |
| 6            | ++++           | 0              | -            |
| 7            | +++            | 0              | -            |
| 8            | +              | +              | - - -        |
| 9            | ++             | +              | - - -        |

Scorecard pathways







A satellite image of Earth showing the Americas and a large hurricane swirling over the Atlantic Ocean. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter.

**THANK YOU.**

Tom Wall  
twall@anl.gov



