

A scenic view of a river with a forested background and a person in a canoe in the distance. The text is overlaid on the image.

Evaluating Floodplain Hydrologic Connectivity on the Yakima River

Cris Morton and Anthony Gabriel

Cultural and Environmental Resource Management, CWU

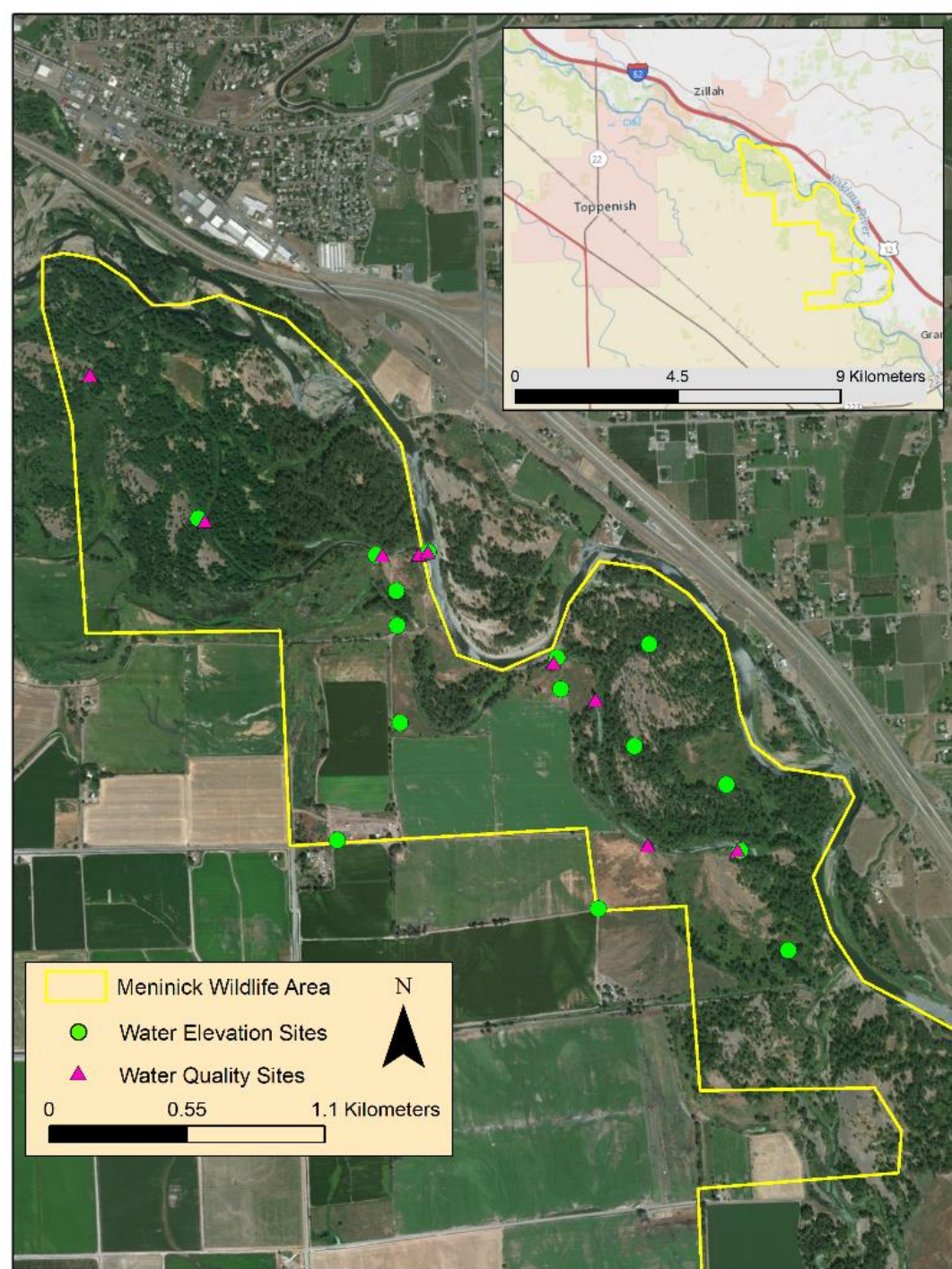
Research Goals

- Describe changes in groundwater (GW) movement through the floodplain
- Determine if and how surface water (SW) and GW movement influence each other's water quality parameters and water levels
- Determine how SW and GW contribute to water storage in the floodplain

Research Objectives

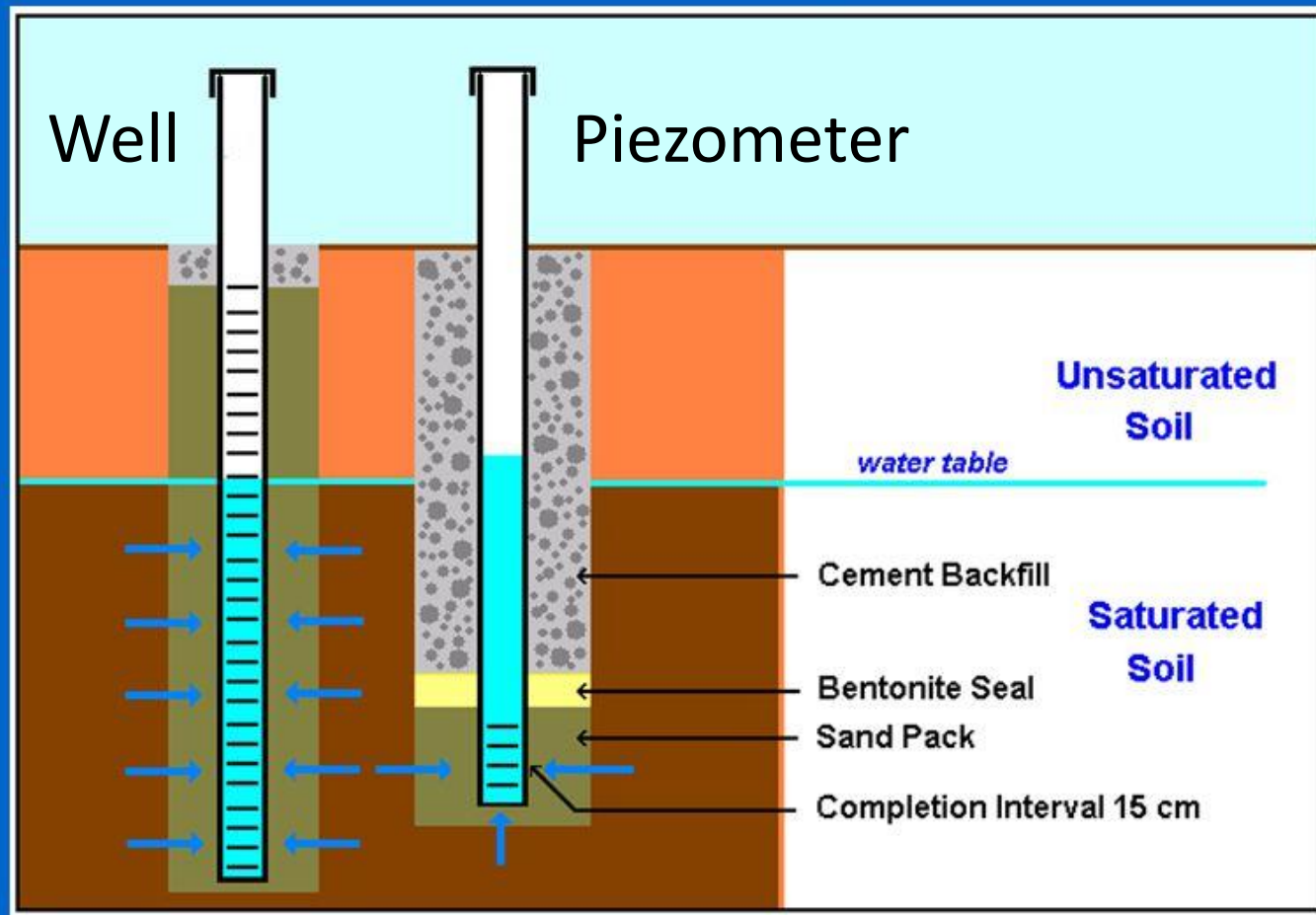
- Collect side-channel water quality (dissolved oxygen, conductivity, pH, turbidity, and temperature) and flow (m^3/second) data to determine differences between sites and seasons.
- Gather groundwater depth and side-channel water level data from groundwater monitoring wells and side-channel stage recorders.
- Use statistical analyses to investigate changes in water quality measures and water levels inside groundwater monitoring wells before check-dam installation and levee breach to determine changes in and relationships between surface and subsurface flow.

Study Area



Wells vs Piezometers

Water table well vs. piezometer



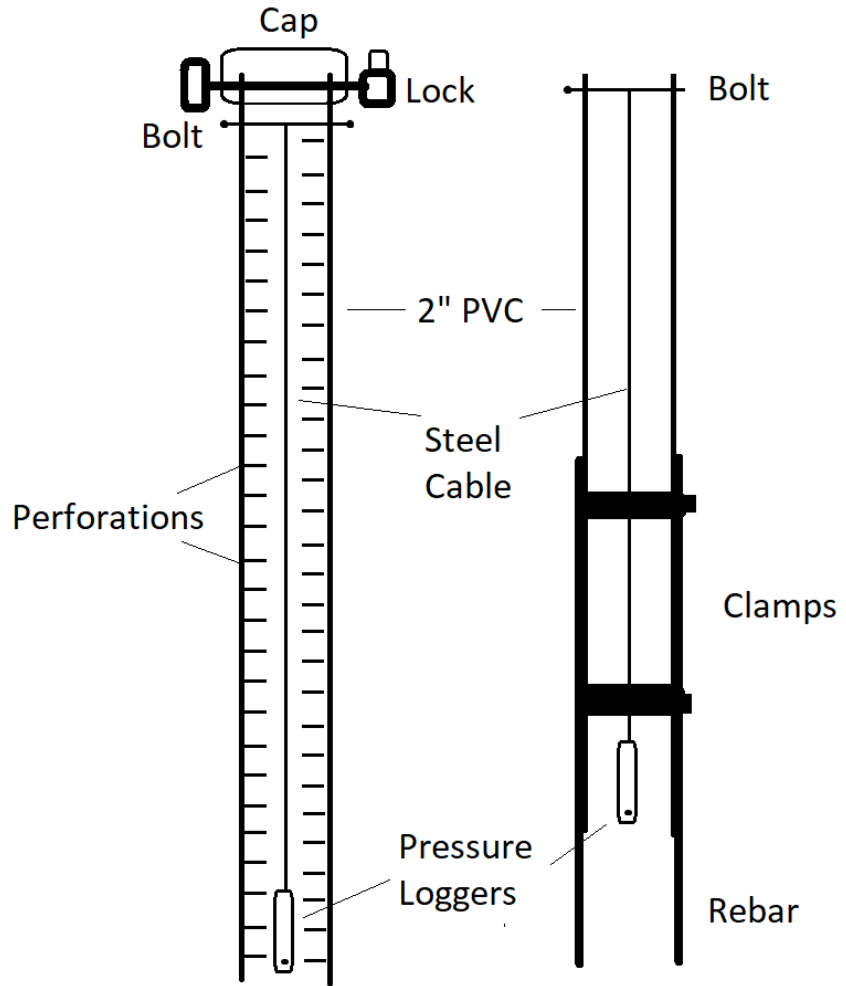
- Depends on research question
 - Vertical or horizontal flow?

- Piezometers look at fluid pressure

- Wells look at water table elevation

Well Construction

Well Stage Recorder



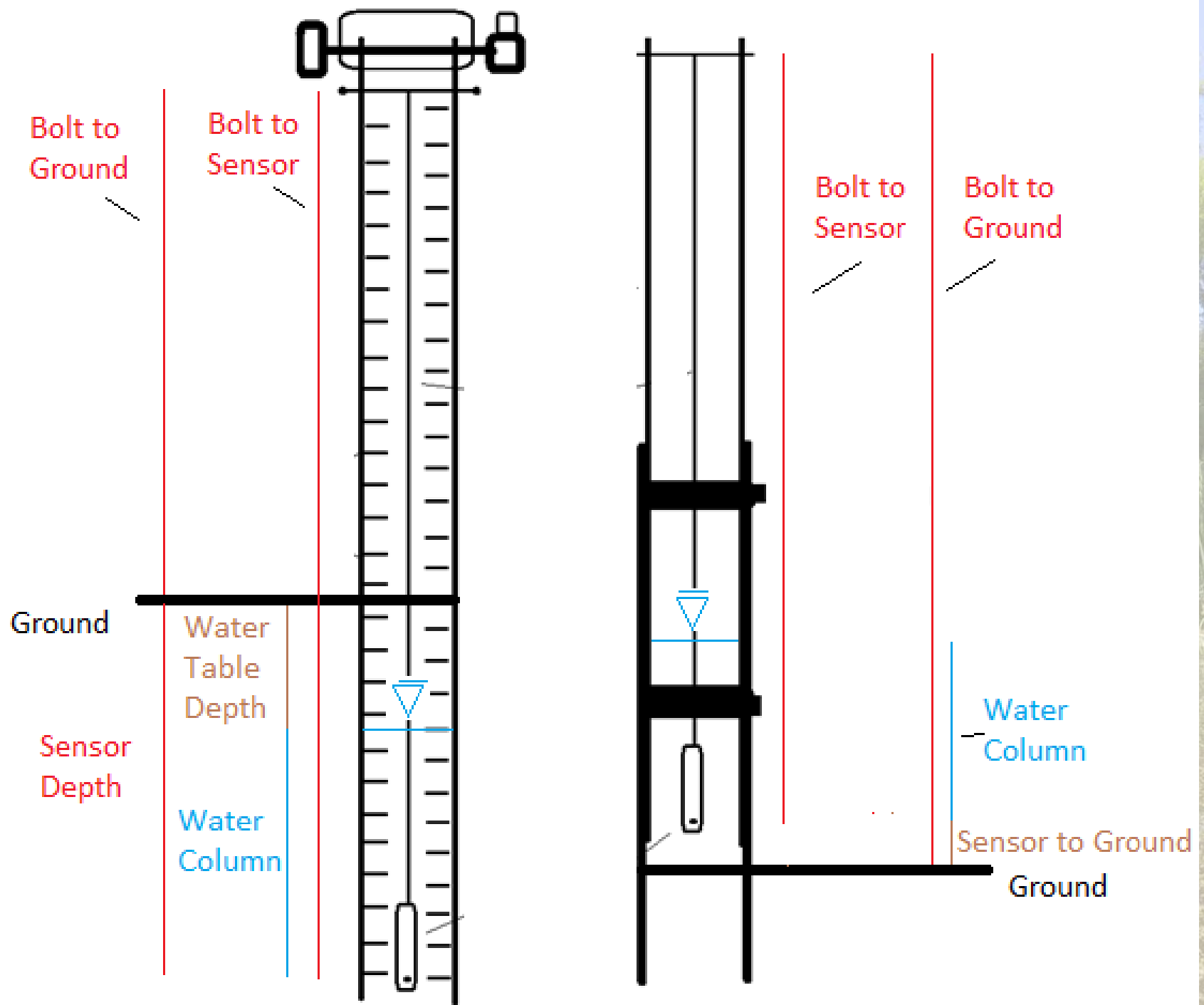
Installation



Monitoring



Calculating Water Elevations

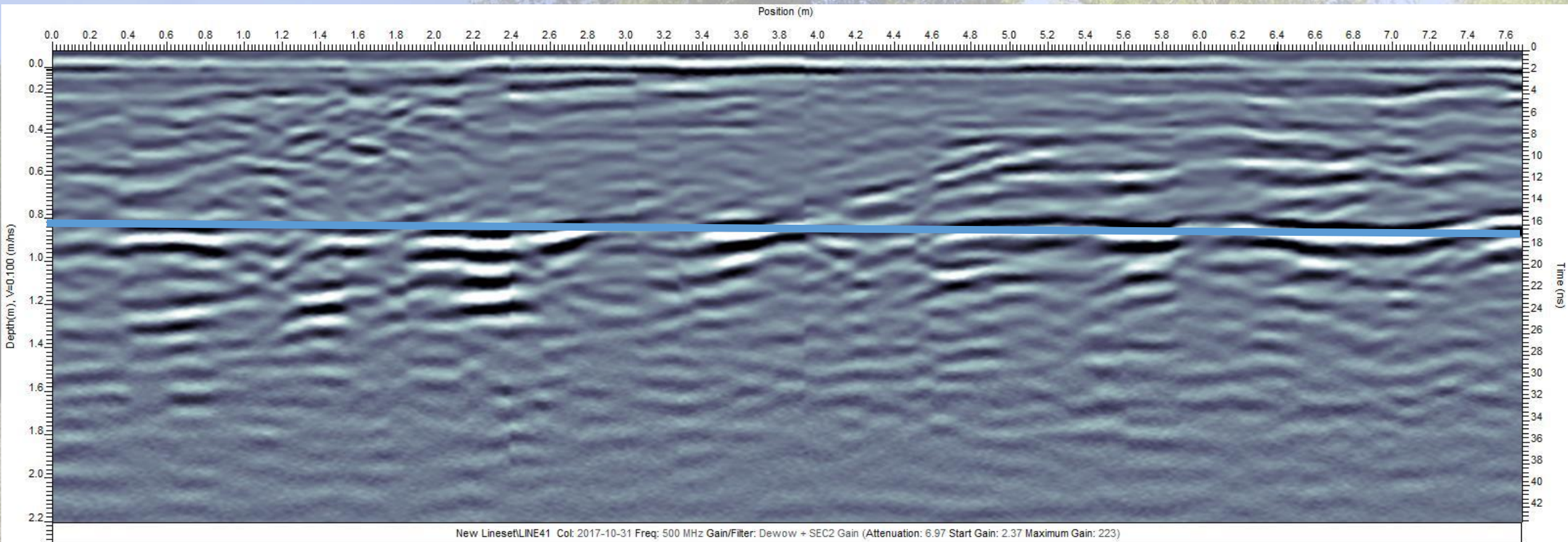


Other Groundwater Monitoring Methods

- Chemical concentrations (Mg, Na, Ca)
- Oxygen and hydrogen isotopes (compared to LMWL and GMWL)
- Ground-penetrating Radar
- Side-channel profiles

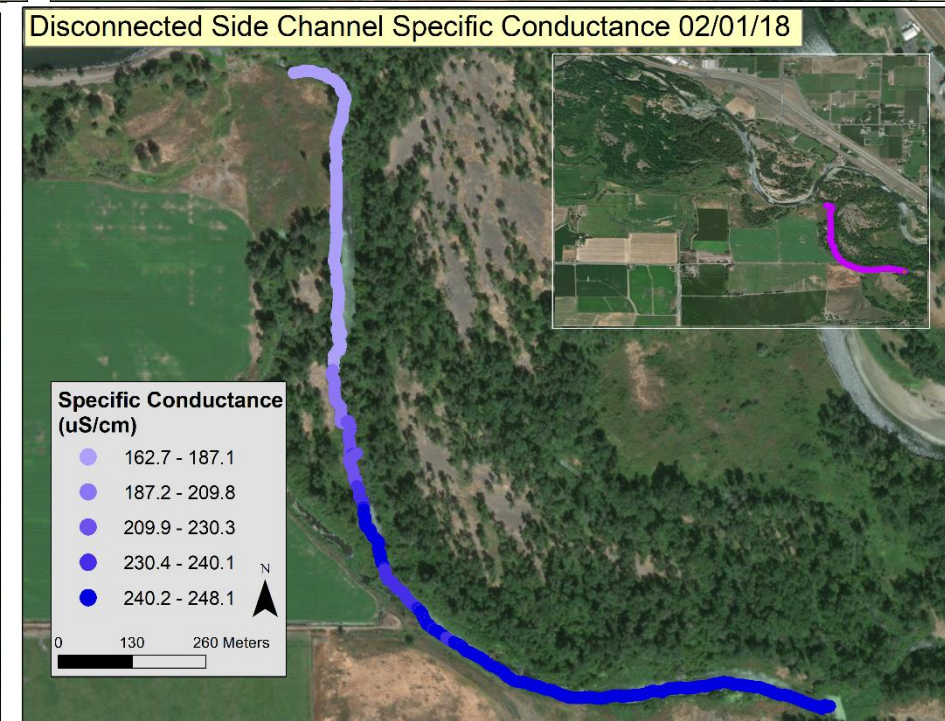
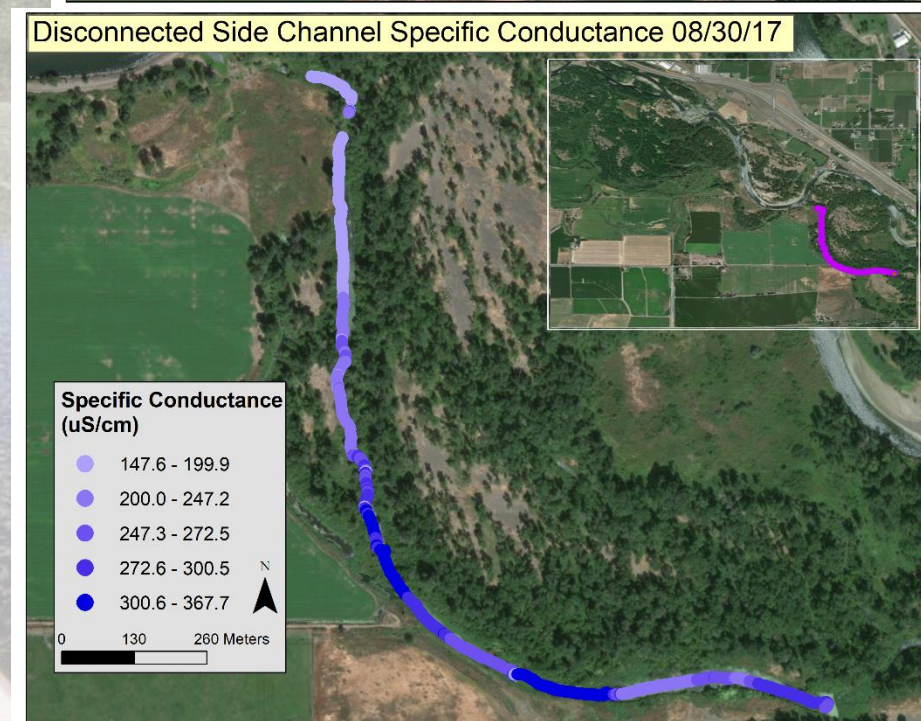
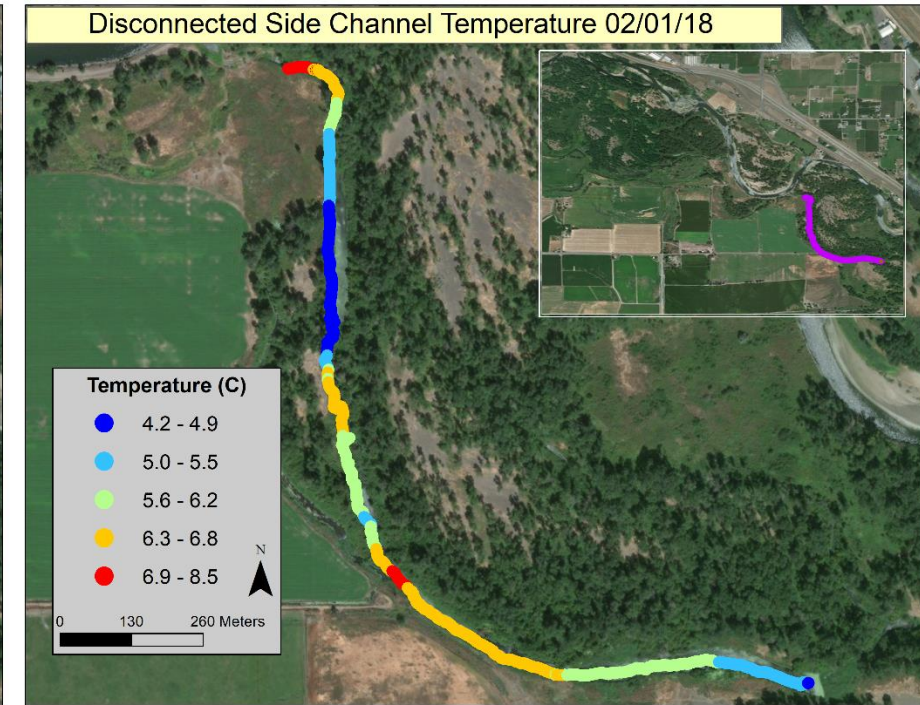
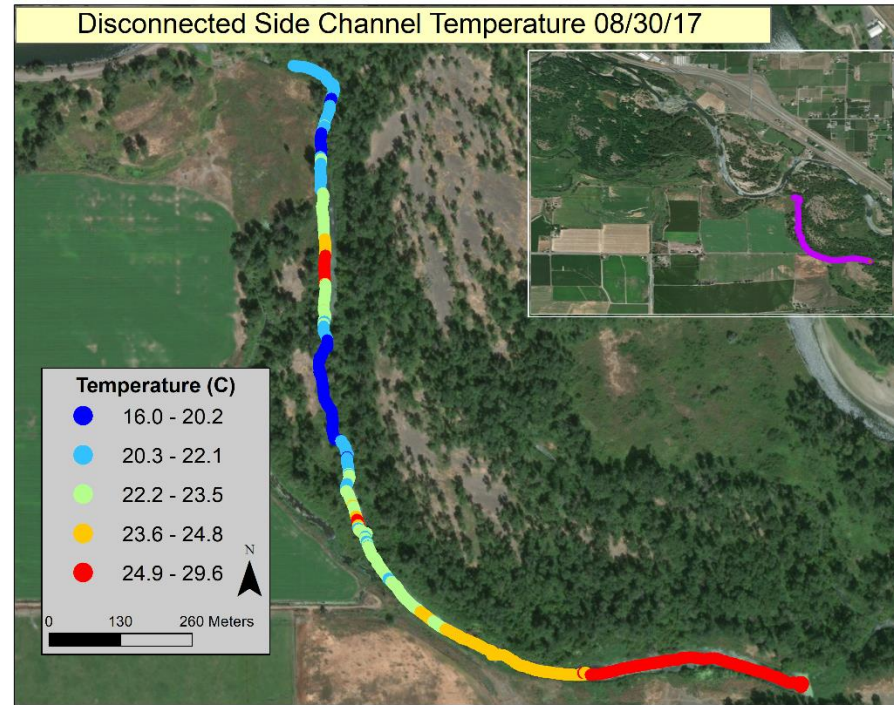


Ground-penetrating Radar

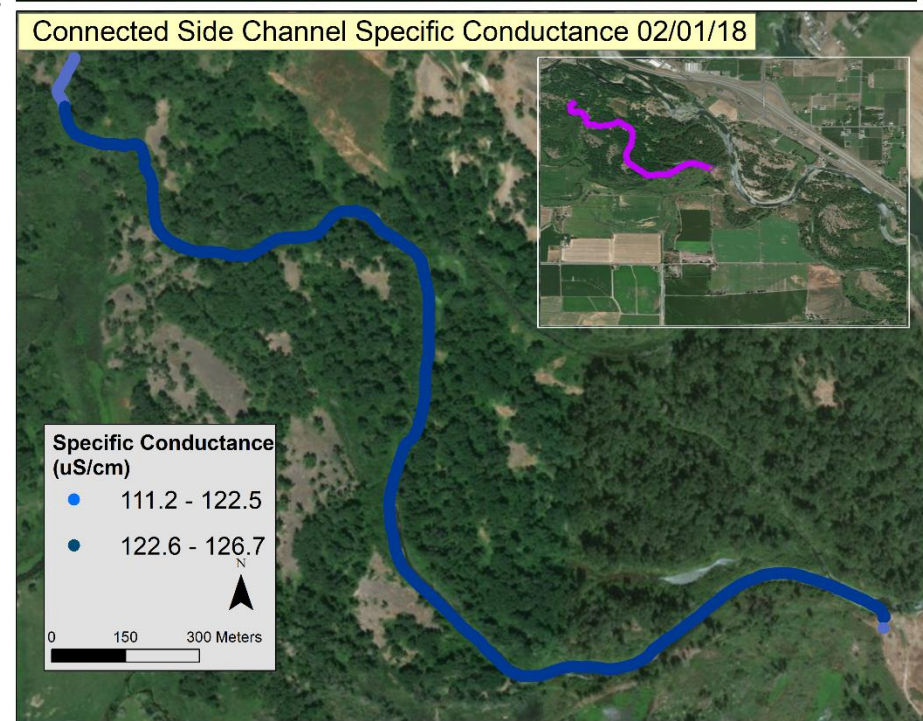
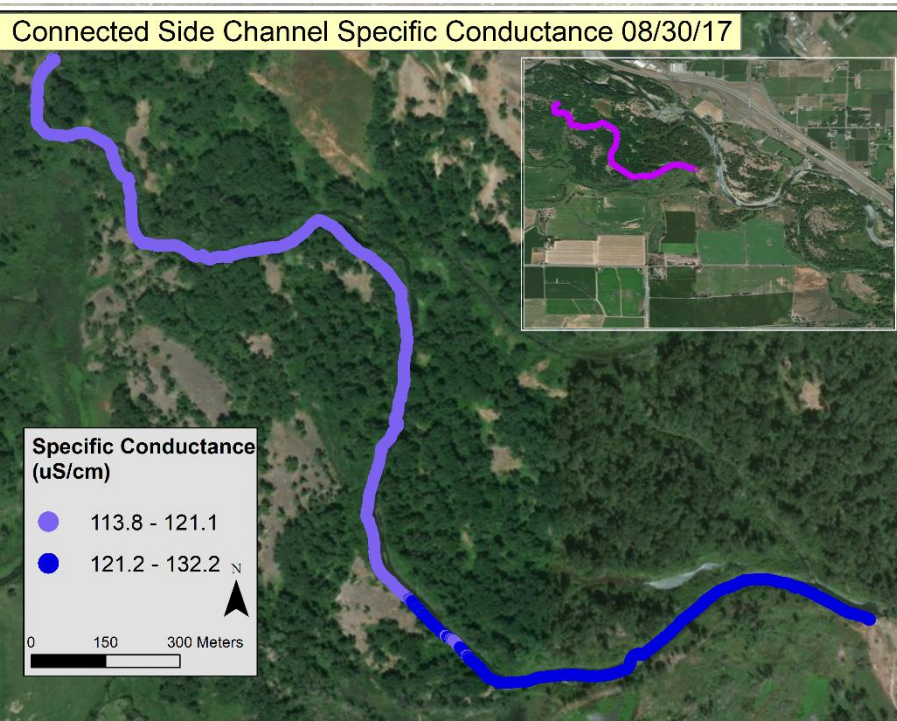
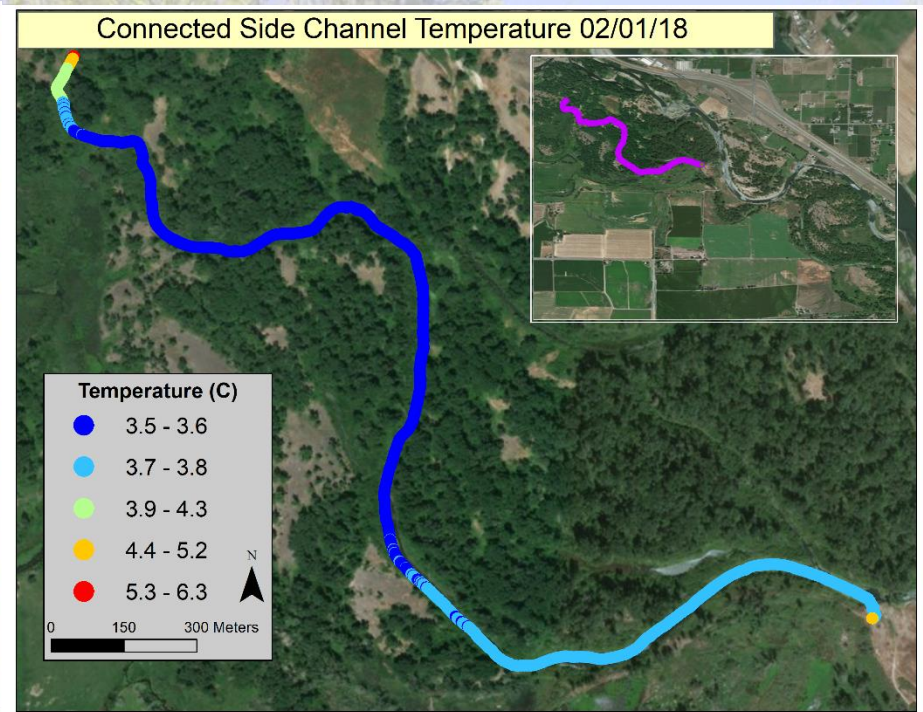
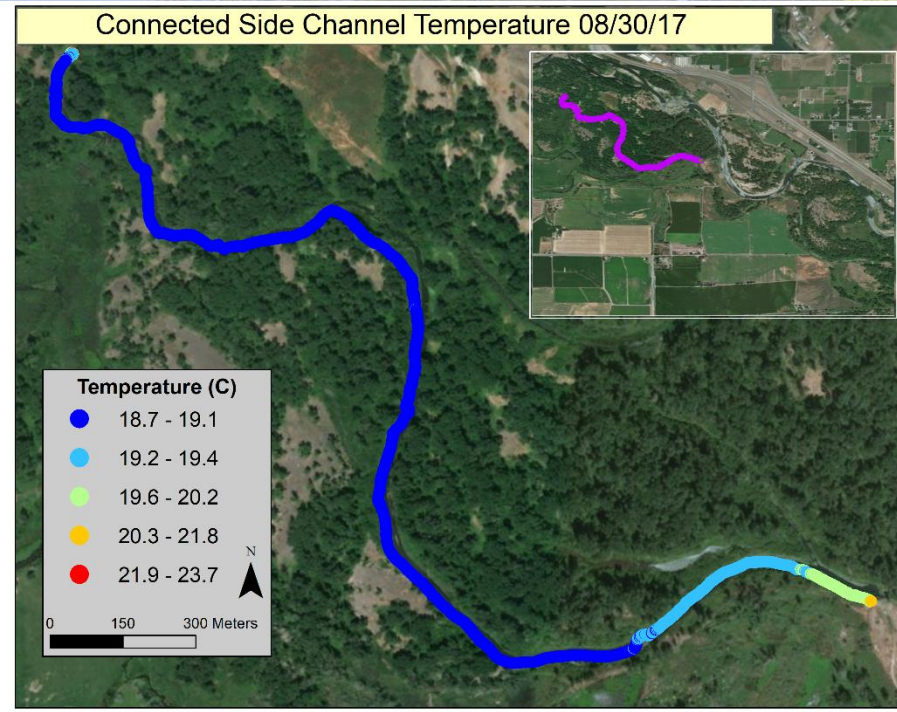


— Measured water table depth at Well 5

Disconnected Side-Channel Temperature and Specific Conductance

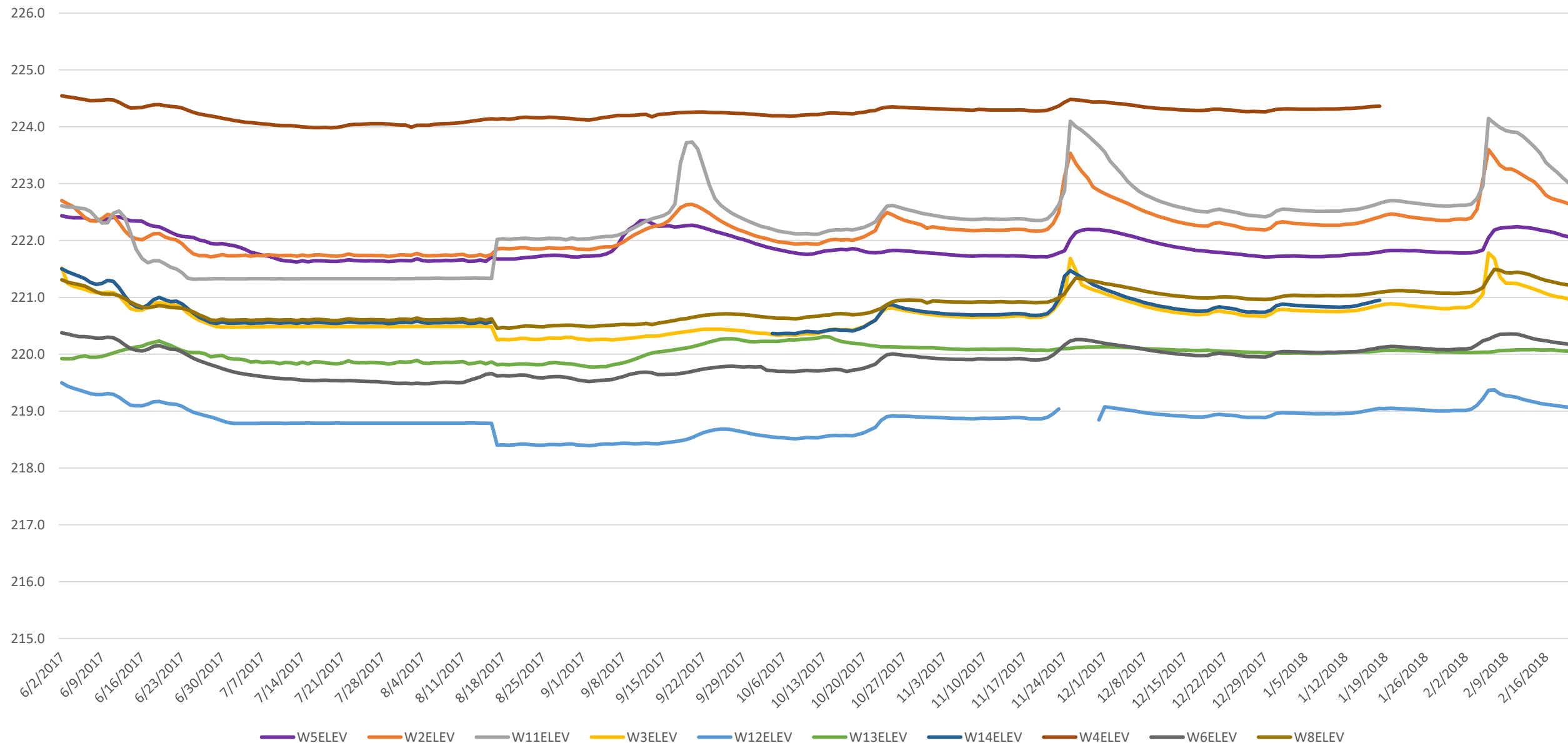


Connected Side-Channel Temperature and Specific Conductance

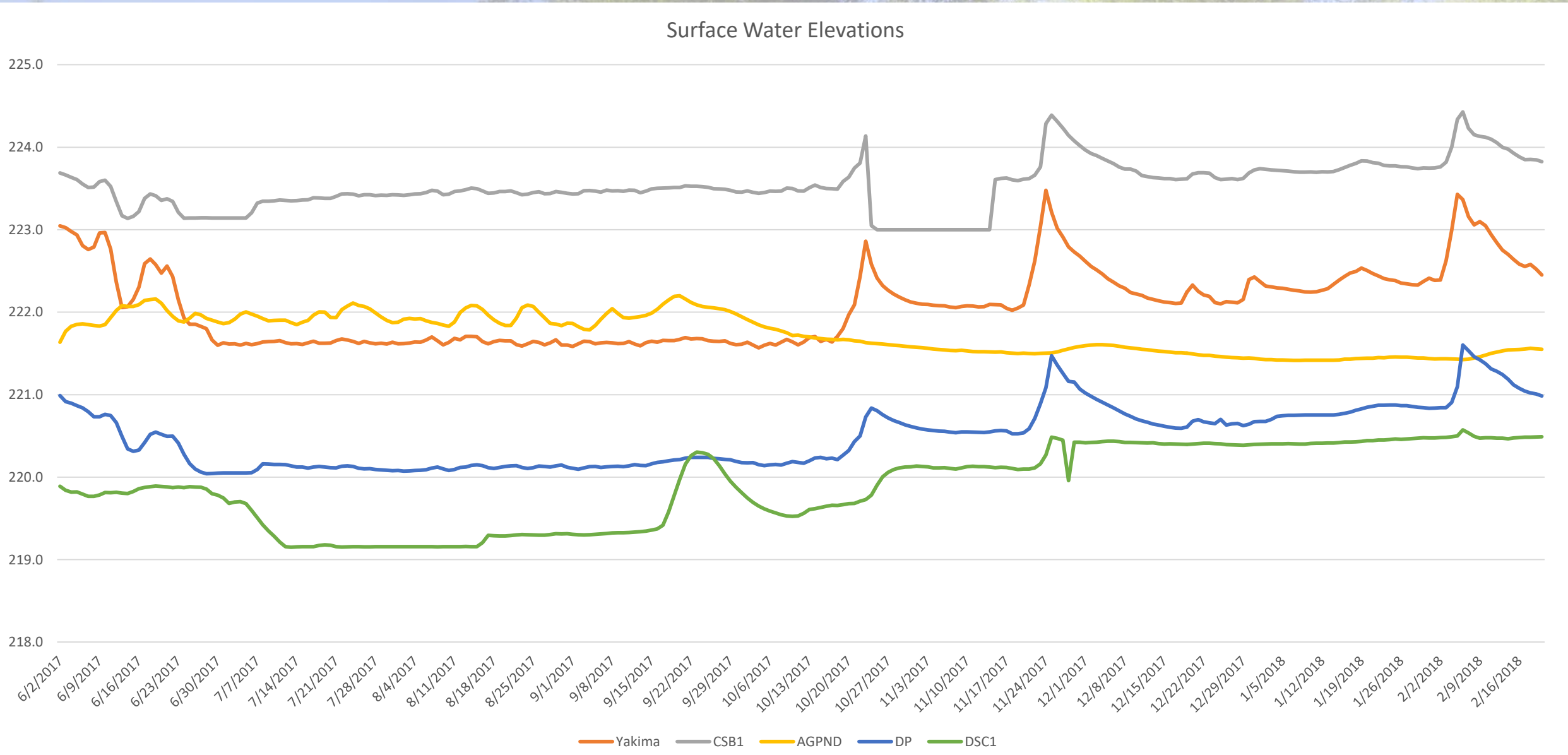


Analysis – Groundwater Elevations

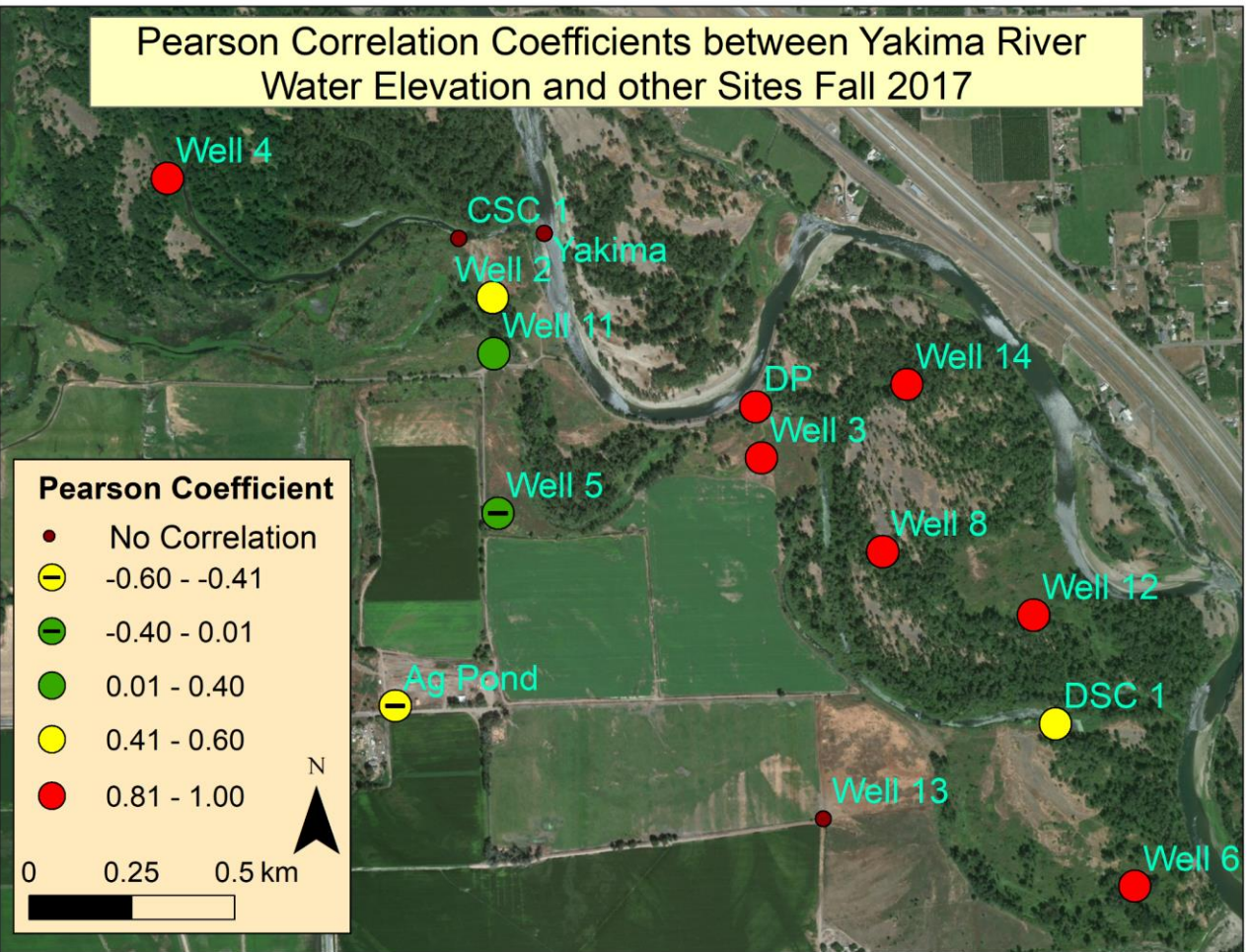
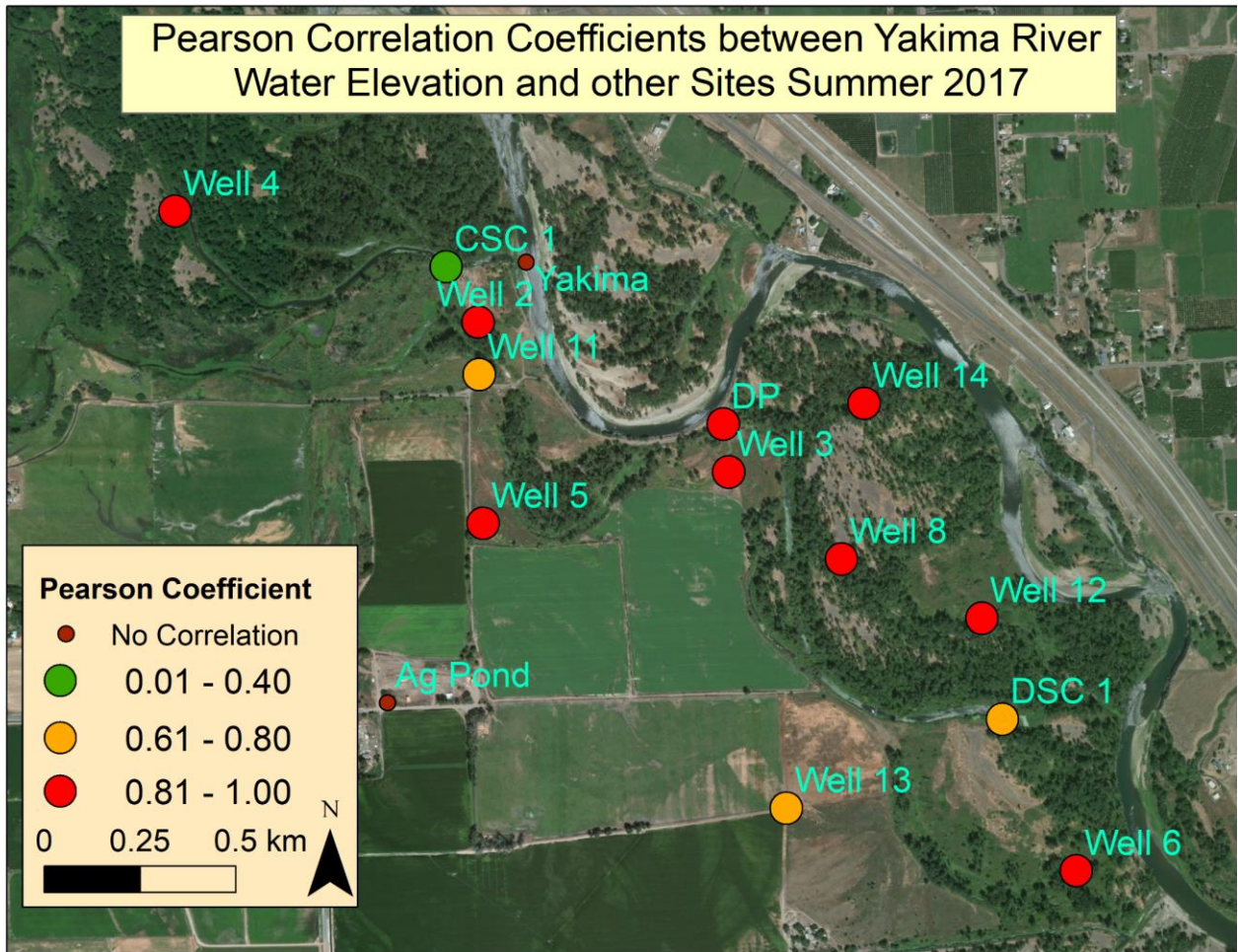
Groundwater Elevations



Analysis – Surface Water Elevations

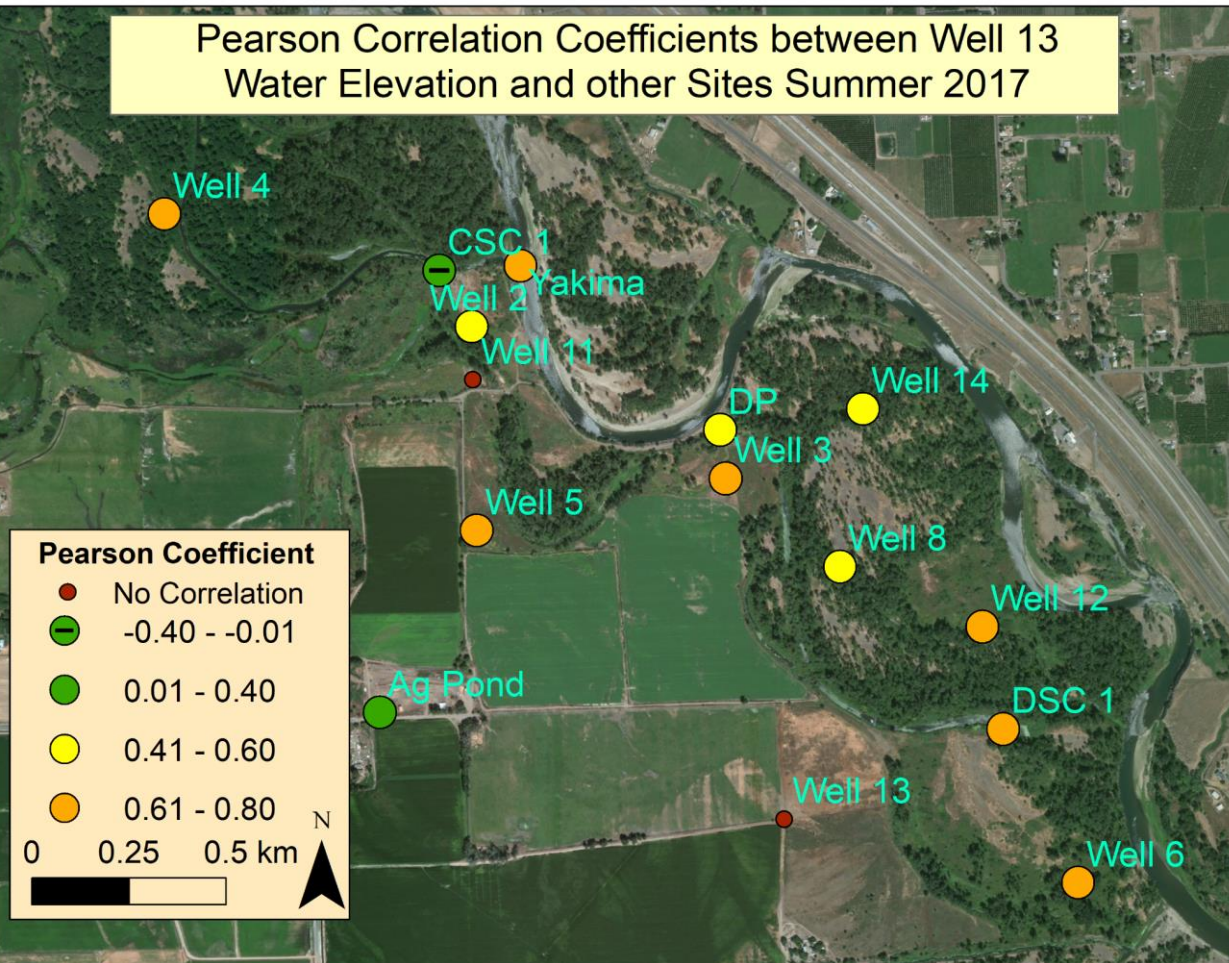


Analysis – Groundwater Correlations

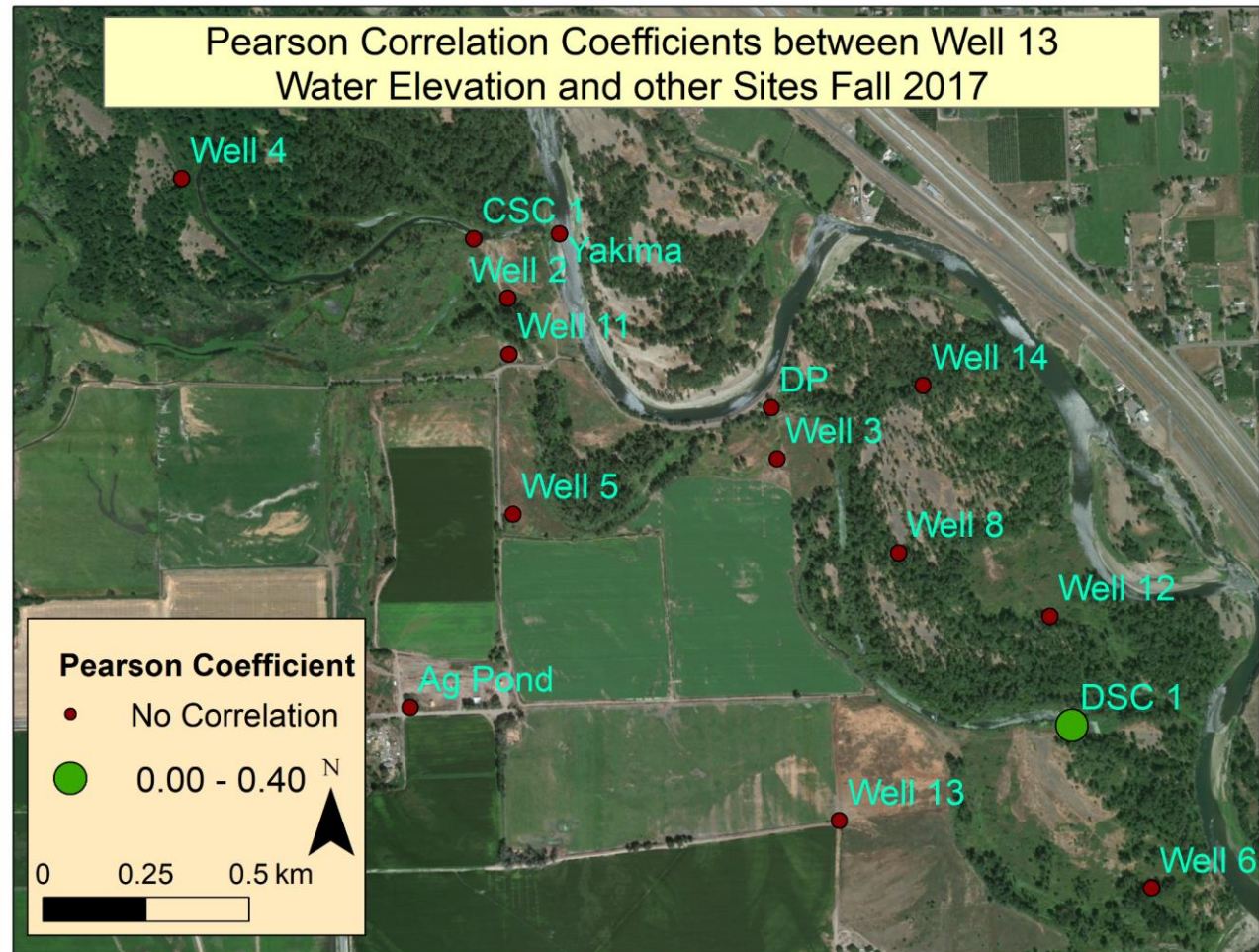


Analysis – Groundwater Correlations

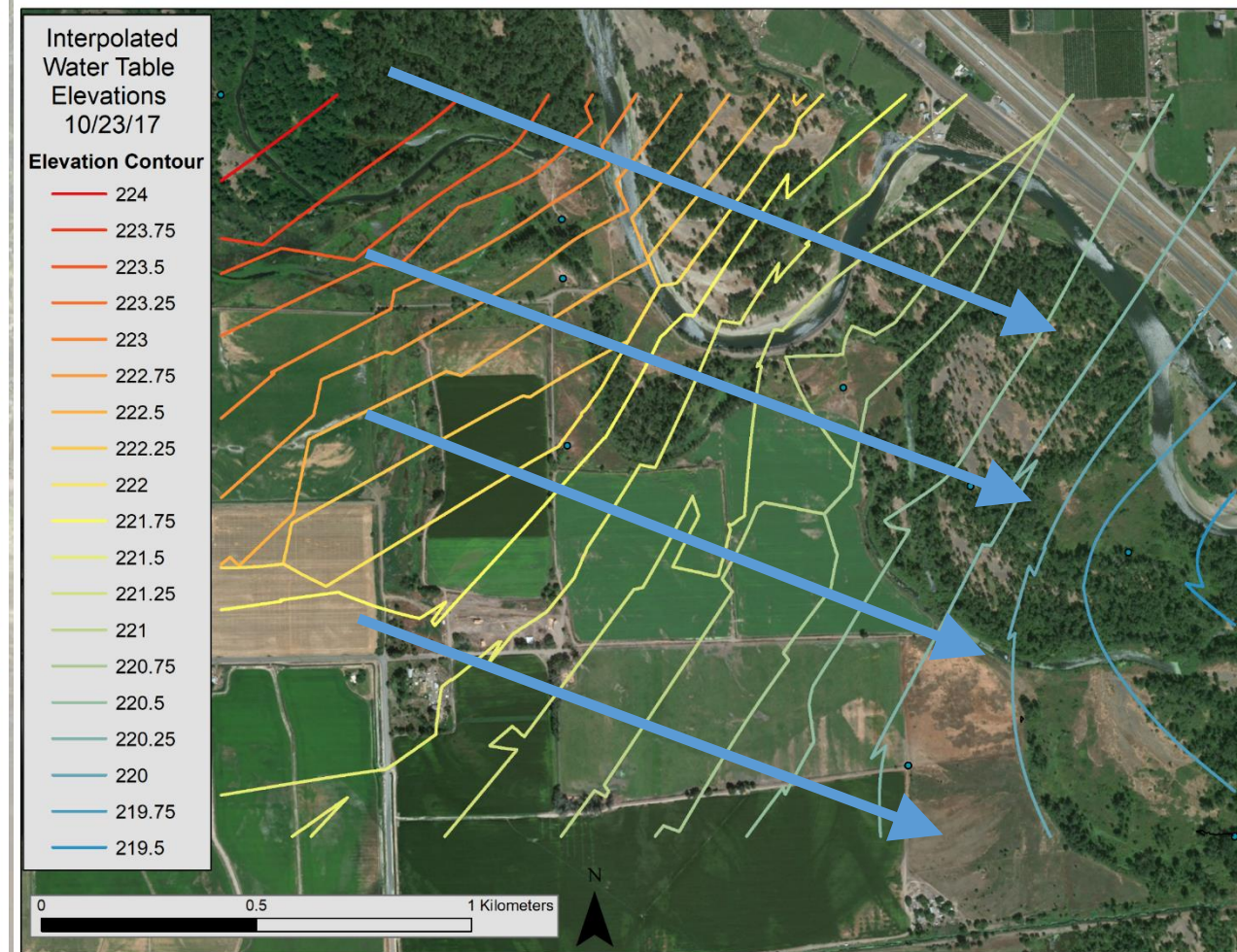
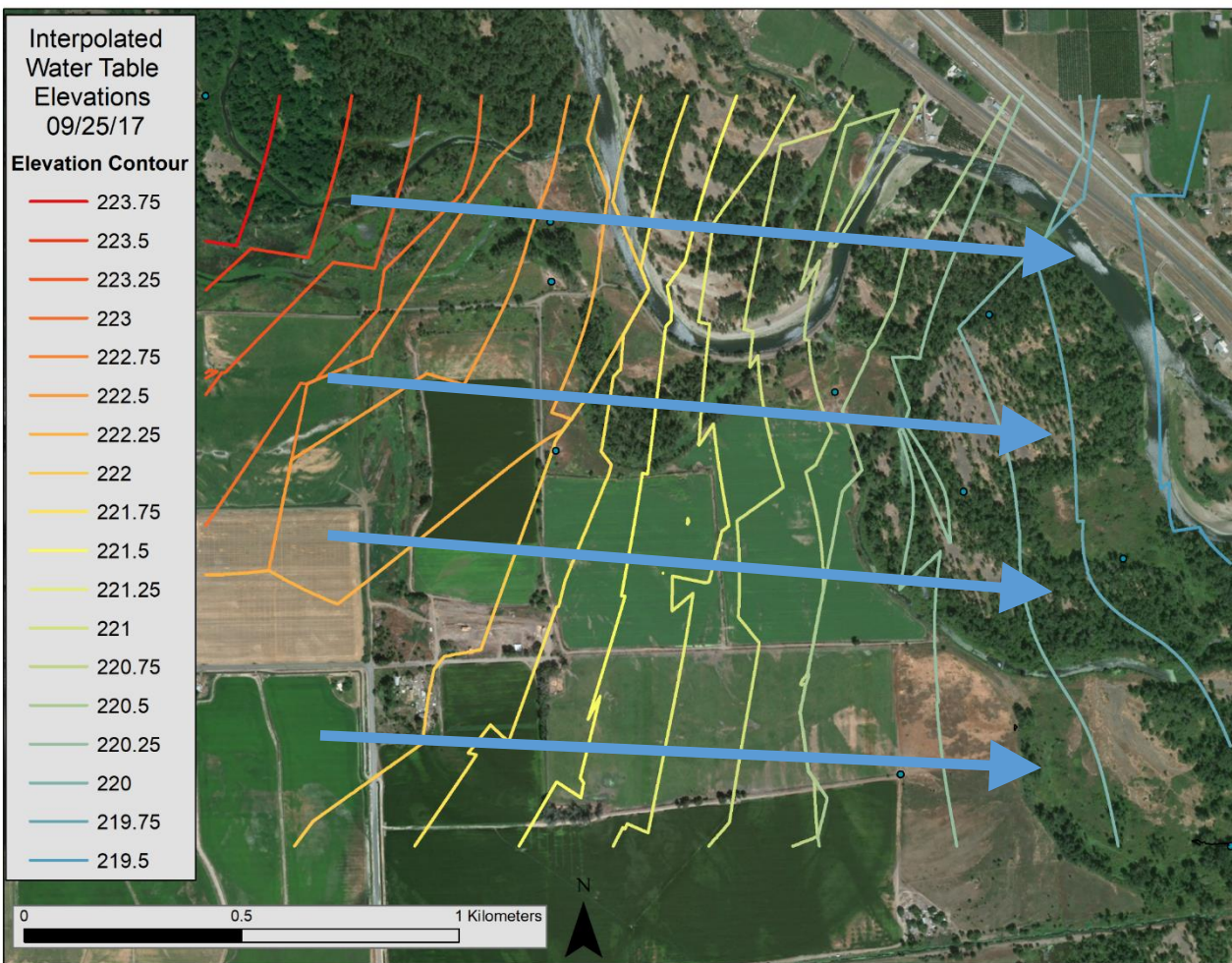
Pearson Correlation Coefficients between Well 13 Water Elevation and other Sites Summer 2017



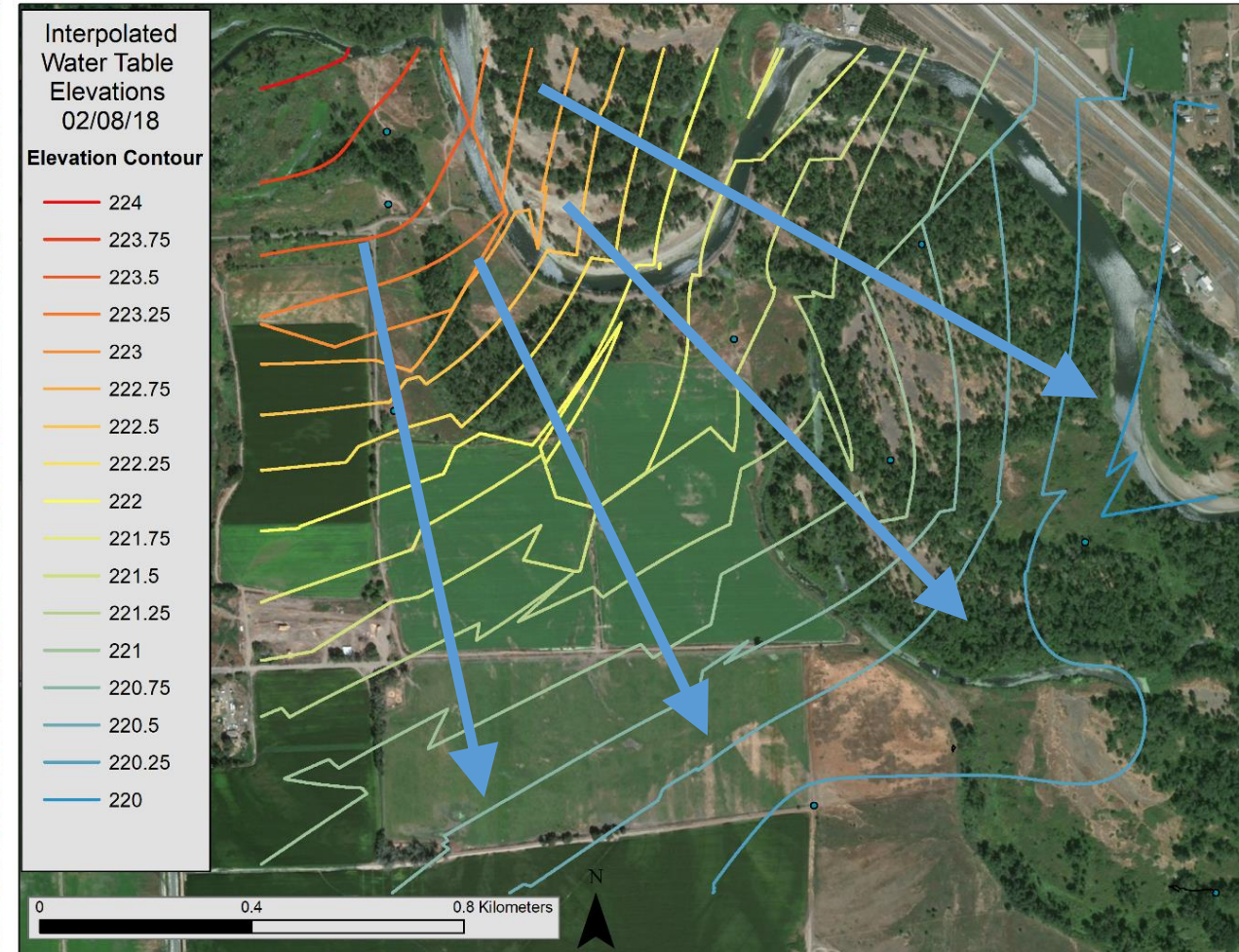
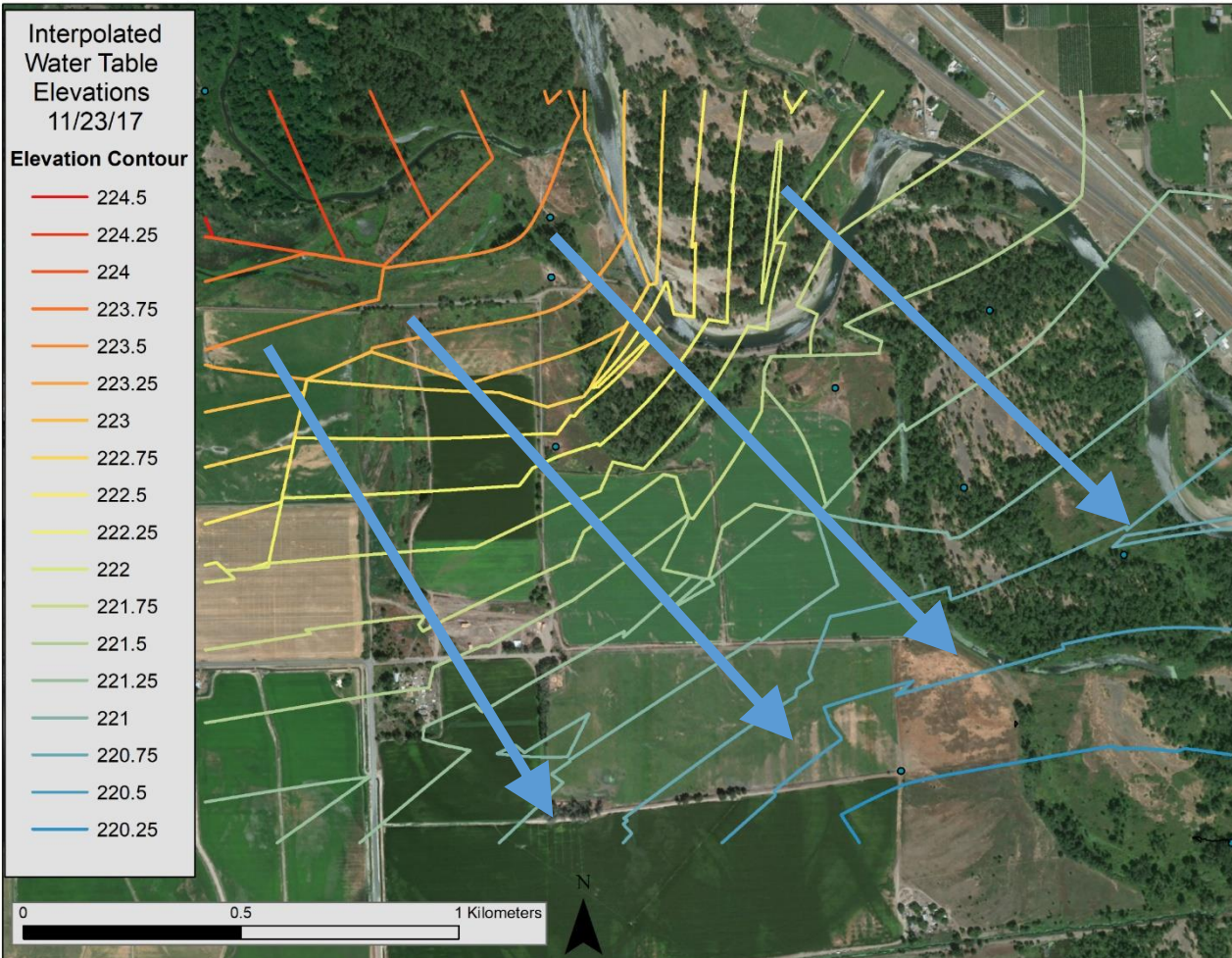
Pearson Correlation Coefficients between Well 13 Water Elevation and other Sites Fall 2017



Analysis – Groundwater Interpolation



Analysis – Groundwater Interpolation

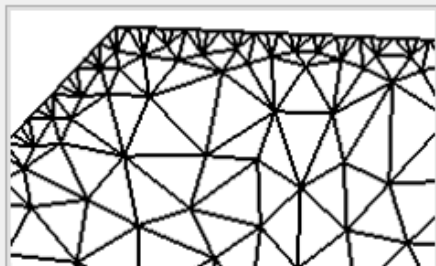


Analysis - Modeling

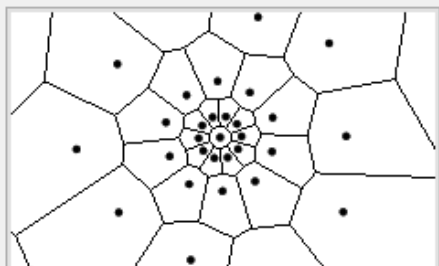
- ➔ Define Modeling Objectives
- ✔ Collect Data Objects
- ✔ Define Conceptual Model
- ✔ Define Model Structure
- ✔ Define Property Zones
- ✔ Select the Next Step
- You have completed this step
- ✔ Define Wall Boundary Condition
- ✔ Define Pumping Wells
- ✔ Define Boundary Conditions
- ✔ Select Grid Type
- ✔ View Unstructured V-Grid
- ✔ View Finite Element Mesh
- ➔ View Finite Difference Grid
- ✔ Convert to MODFLOW-USG Model
- ✔ Translate to FEFLOW Model
- ✔ Convert to MODFLOW Model



Define Finite Difference Grid



Define Finite Element Mesh



Define Unstructured V-Grid

- ➔ Run
- ✔ Define Properties
- ✔ Define Boundary Conditions
- ✔ Define Observations
- ✔ Translate
- ➔ Run
- ✔ View Results
- ✔ View Charts
- ✔ View Maps

Run Log

```

PERCENT DISCREPANCY =          0.00    PERCENT DISCREPANCY =          0.00

          TIME SUMMARY AT END OF TIME STEP          10 IN STRESS PERIOD          6
          SECONDS          MINUTES          HOURS          DAYS          YEARS
-----
TIME STEP LENGTH 17174.          286.23          4.7705          0.19877          5.44200E-04
STRESS PERIOD TIME 86400.          1440.0          24.000          1.0000          2.73785E-03
TOTAL TIME 5.18400E+05 8640.0          144.00          6.0000          1.64271E-02

VOLUMETRIC BUDGET FOR ENTIRE MODEL AT END OF TIME STEP          10 IN STRESS PERIOD          7
-----
CUMULATIVE VOLUMES          L**3          RATES FOR THIS TIME STEP          L**3/T

IN:
---
STORAGE =          195.6147
CONSTANT HEAD =          0.0000
RIVER LEAKAGE = 79673054.3559
ET =          0.0000
RECHARGE = 72011.2122
TOTAL IN = 79745261.1828

OUT:
---
STORAGE = 79741375.9624
CONSTANT HEAD =          0.0000
RIVER LEAKAGE =          0.0000
ET = 3884.7763
RECHARGE =          0.0000
TOTAL OUT = 79745260.7387
IN - OUT =          0.4441

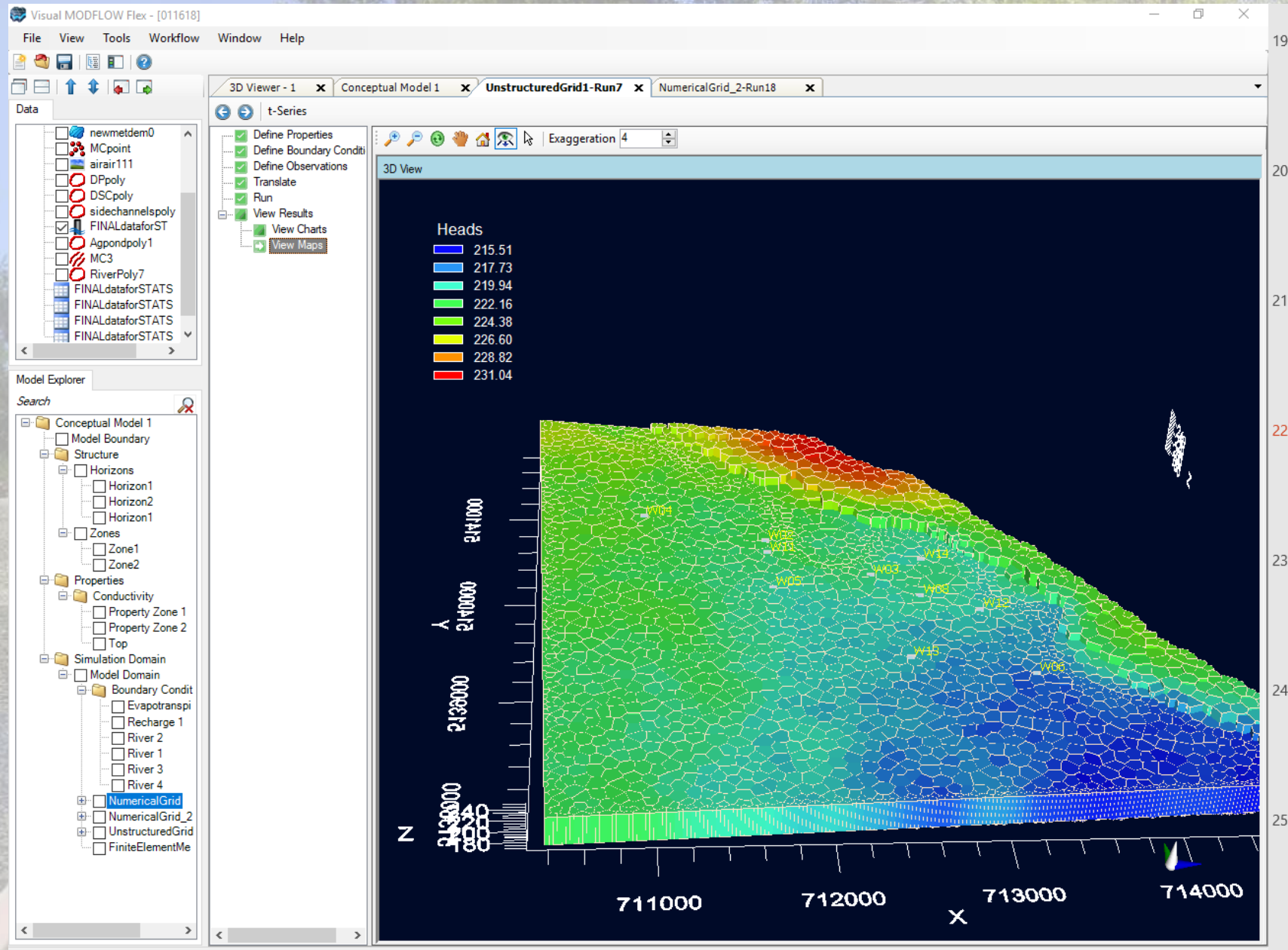
PERCENT DISCREPANCY =          0.00    PERCENT DISCREPANCY =          0.00

          TIME SUMMARY AT END OF TIME STEP          10 IN STRESS PERIOD          7
          SECONDS          MINUTES          HOURS          DAYS          YEARS
-----
TIME STEP LENGTH 17174.          286.23          4.7705          0.19877          5.44200E-04
STRESS PERIOD TIME 86400.          1440.0          24.000          1.0000          2.73785E-03
TOTAL TIME 6.04800E+05 10080.          168.00          7.0000          1.91650E-02

***** The run was successful. *****

```


Analysis - Modeling



Problems and Issues



-Vandalism

-Weather

-Edge of models/interpolations

-Modeling learning curve

-Sensor deployment user error

-Well installation timing



What's Next

- Conduct dissolved oxygen longitudinal profiles
- Continue GW monitoring through project
- Post project monitoring
 - Determine changes in water quality
 - Determine changes in SW/GW interactions
- Use findings to inform future projects