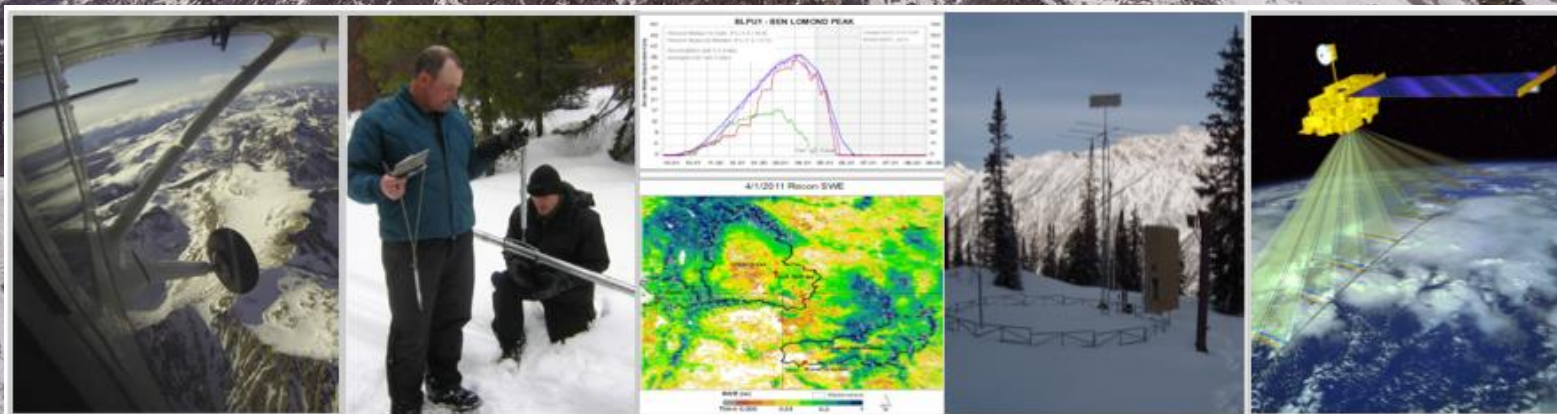


MODIS-Based, Real-time SWE Data Product

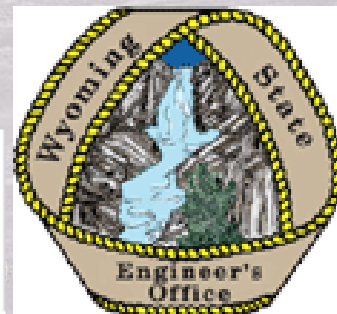
Noah Molotch, Dominik Schneider, Leanne Lestak, Jeff Dozier, Jeff Lukas & Tom Painter



Noah.Molotch@Colorado.edu

Lander, Wyoming– August 27, 2015

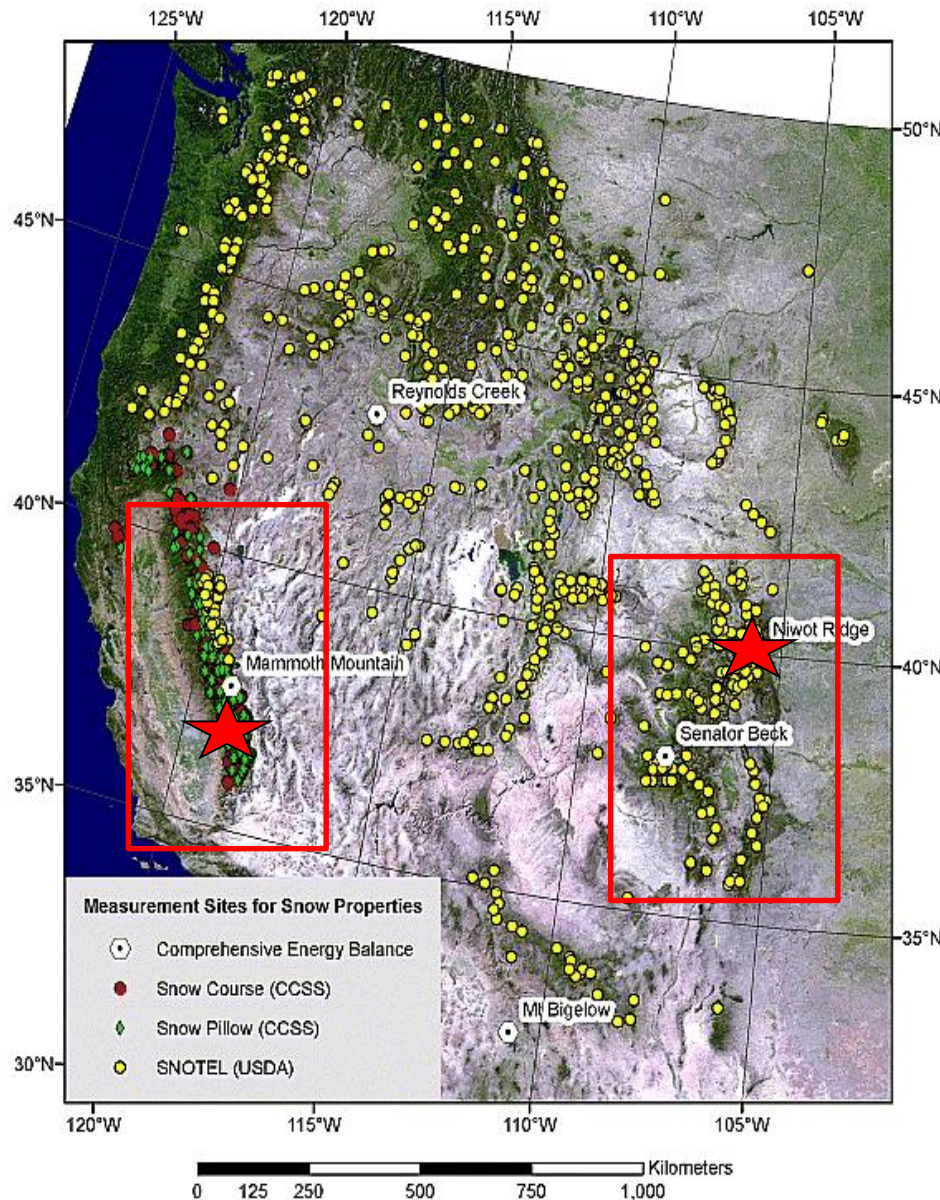
Background Photo: Jim Steenburgh,
Wasatch Weather Weenies



Objective

- Develop more accurate spatial snow estimates using satellite data.
 - Reconstruct SWE distribution using MODIS snow cover data and an energy balance model.
 - Use multi-variate regression to interpolate SNOTEL SWE based on topography.
 - Add historical SWE reconstructions as independent variable in multi-variate regressions.
 - Reanalysis and real time daily SWE products at 500-m resolution from 2000 – 2015.

Study Areas & Data



Snowpack Metrics

- 350+ SNOTEL SWE sites
- MODIS-based SWE Reconstruction (*Guan et al., 2013; Molotch et al., 2009*)

Independent Variables

- Elevation, slope, aspect, distance to ocean, barrier height, others.
- MODIS-based SWE Reconstruction

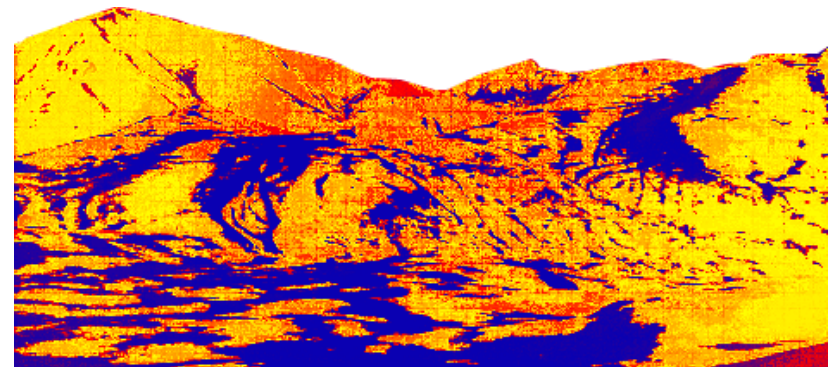
SWE Reconstruction model

- Model uses energy balance to recover amount of snow prior to melt.
- Requires adequate estimate of snowpack energy balance and satellite observed snow covered area.

snow covered area

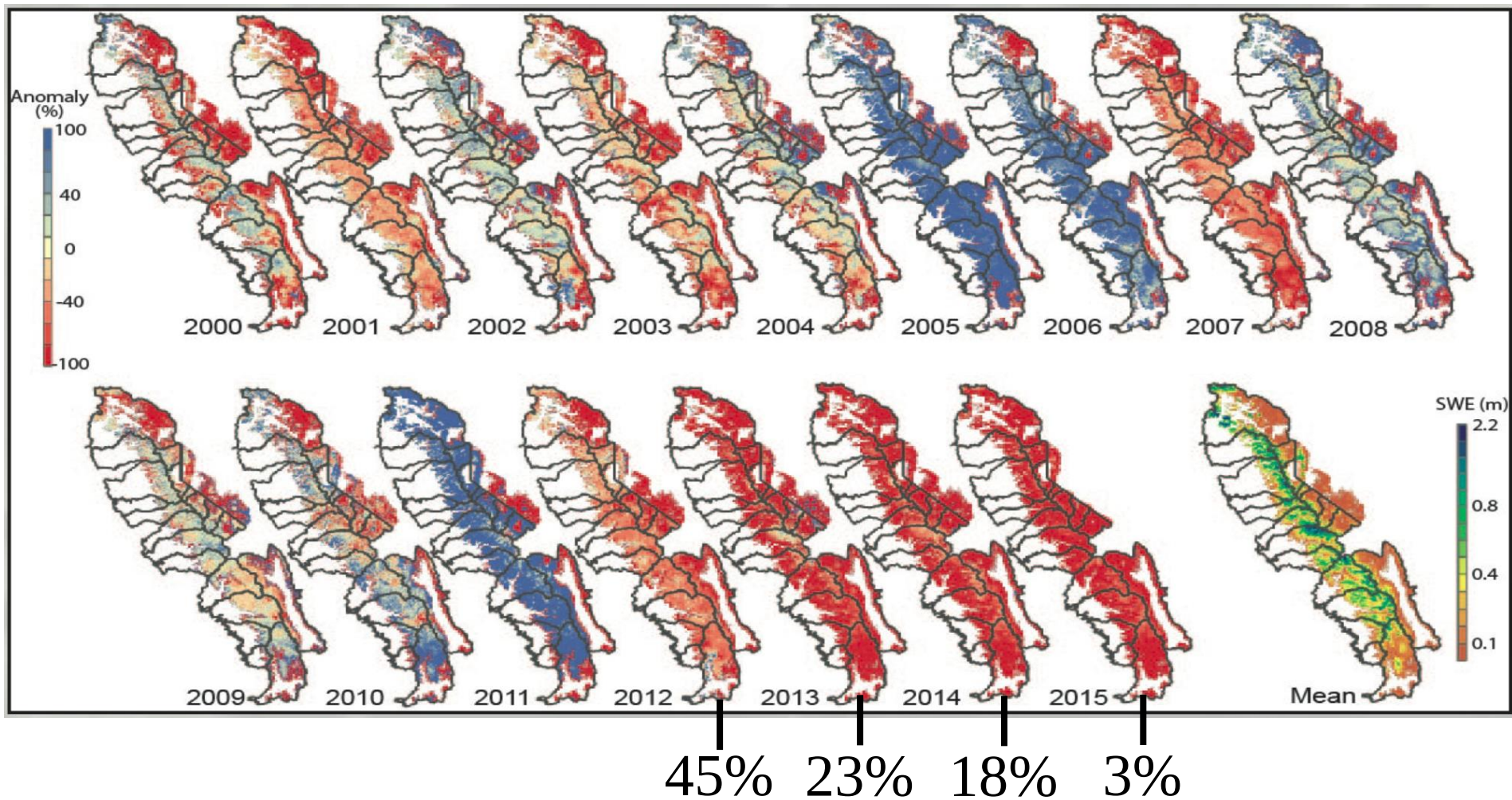


daily snowmelt, cm



Cline et al., 1998a,b; Liston, 1999; Molotch et al., 2004b; Molotch & Bales, 2005;2006; Durand et al., 2007; Molotch, 2008.

Snow Water Equivalent Anomalies



Guan et al., 2013 - WRR

Model Validation

snow depth

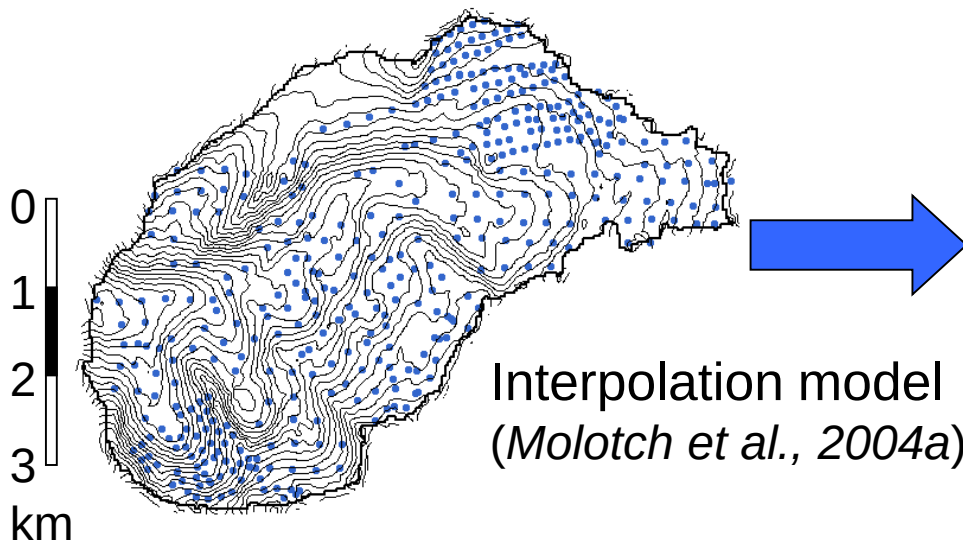


6 people
8 days

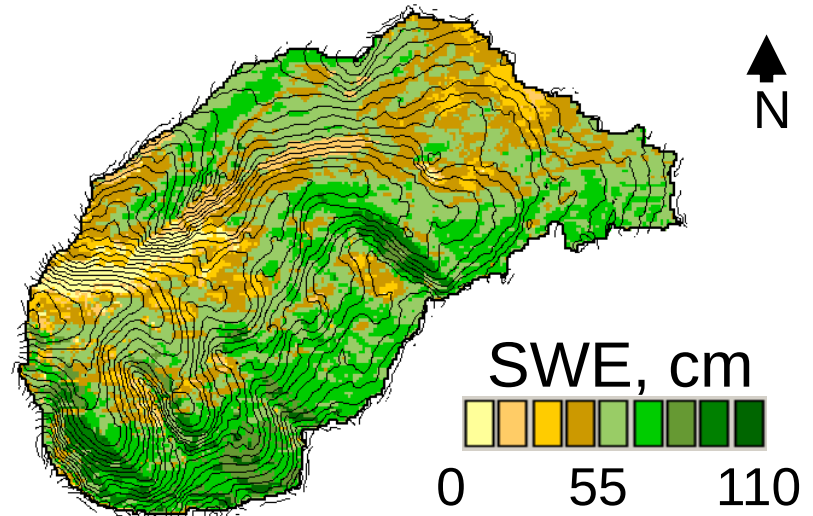
snow density



● 400+ measurements

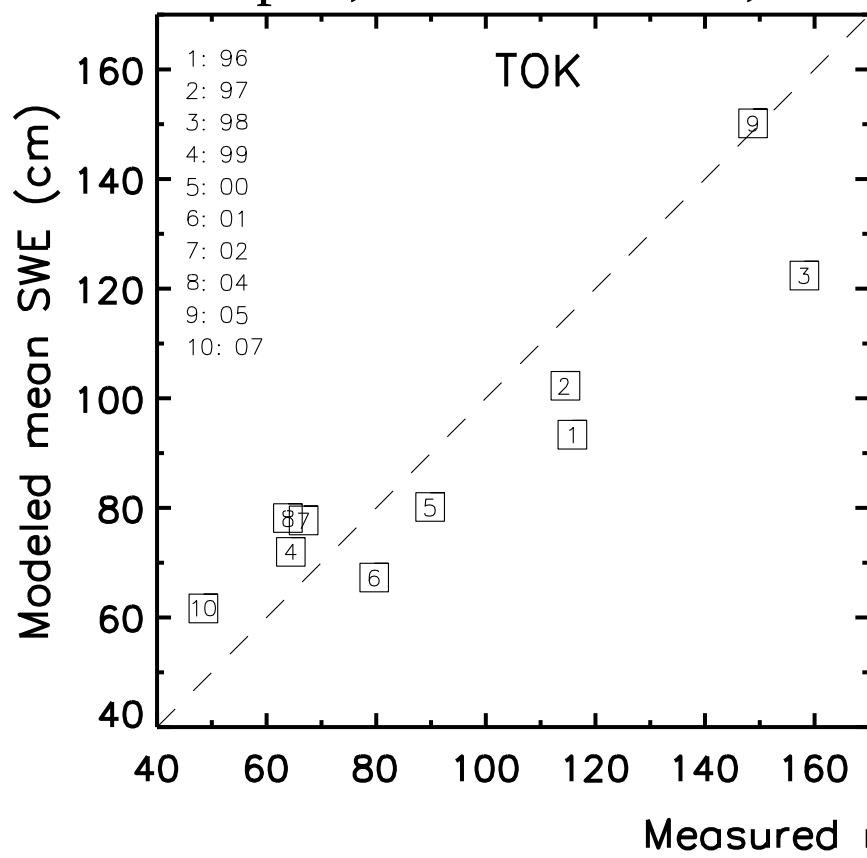


Interpolation model
(Molotch et al., 2004a)

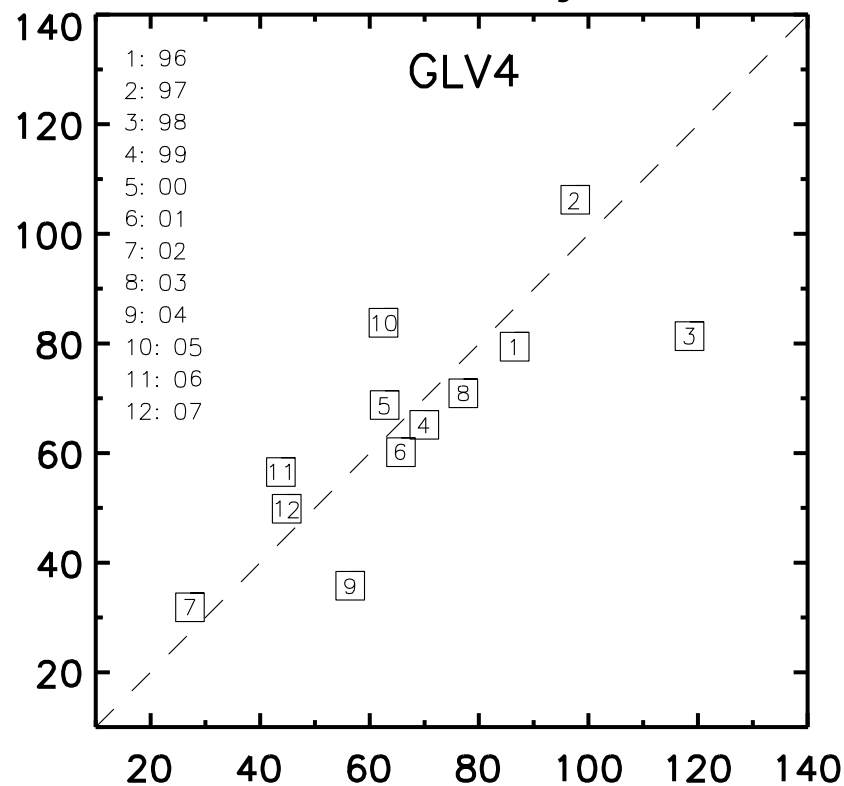


Model Evaluation: Sierra and Rockies

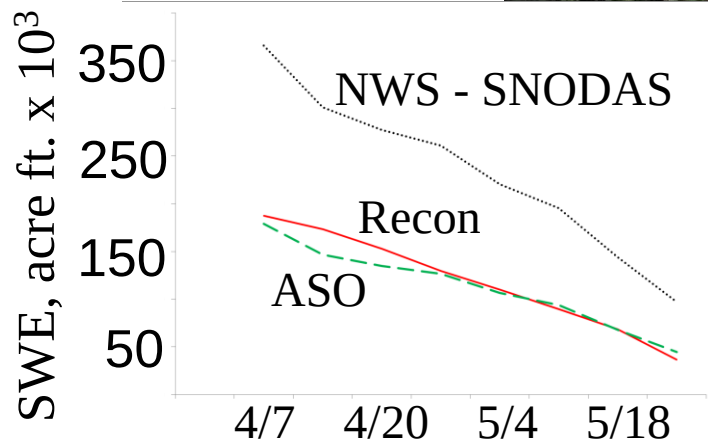
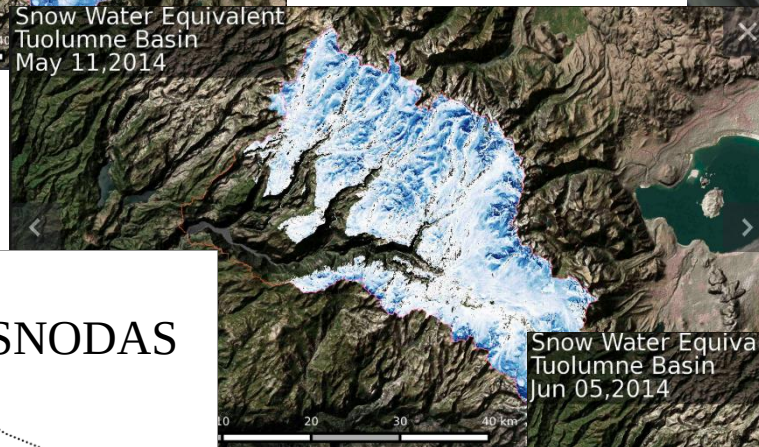
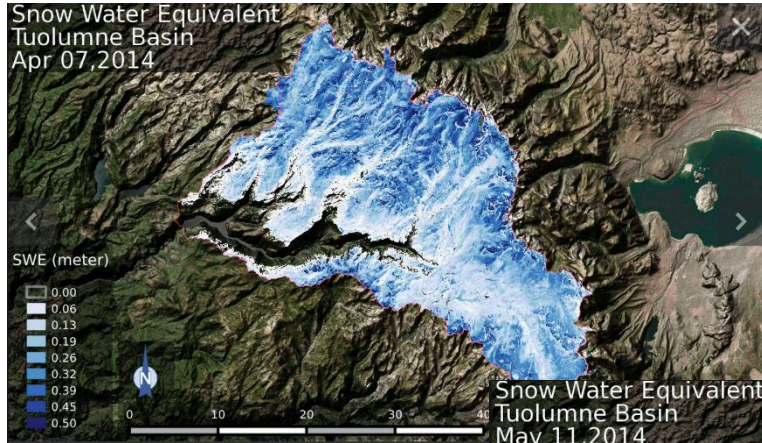
Tokopah, Sierra Nevada, CA



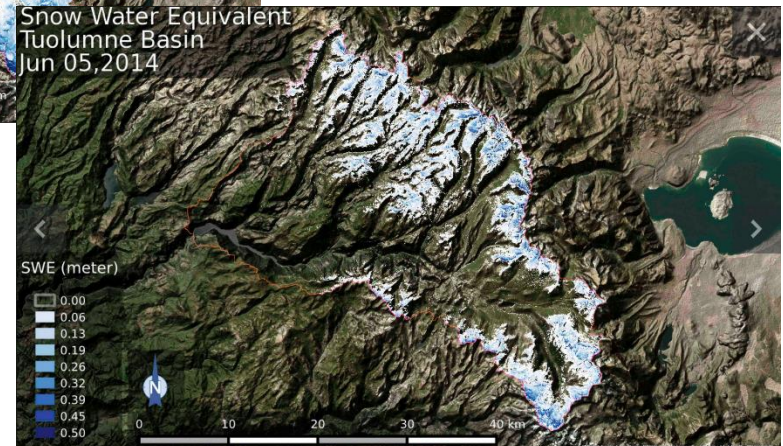
Green Lakes Valley, CO Rockies



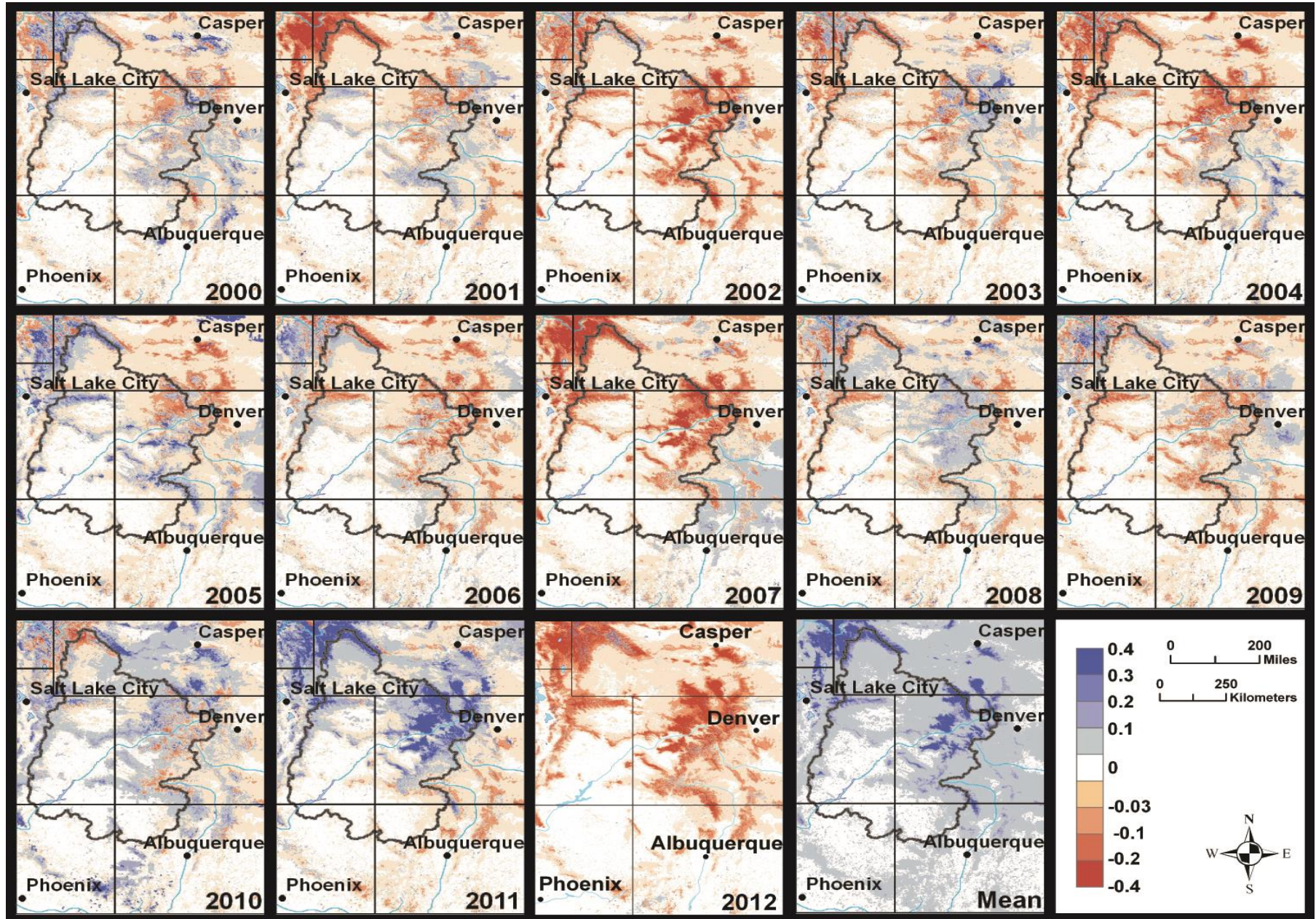
Model Validation: Airborne Snow Observatory (ASO)



ASO data courtesy of T. Painter



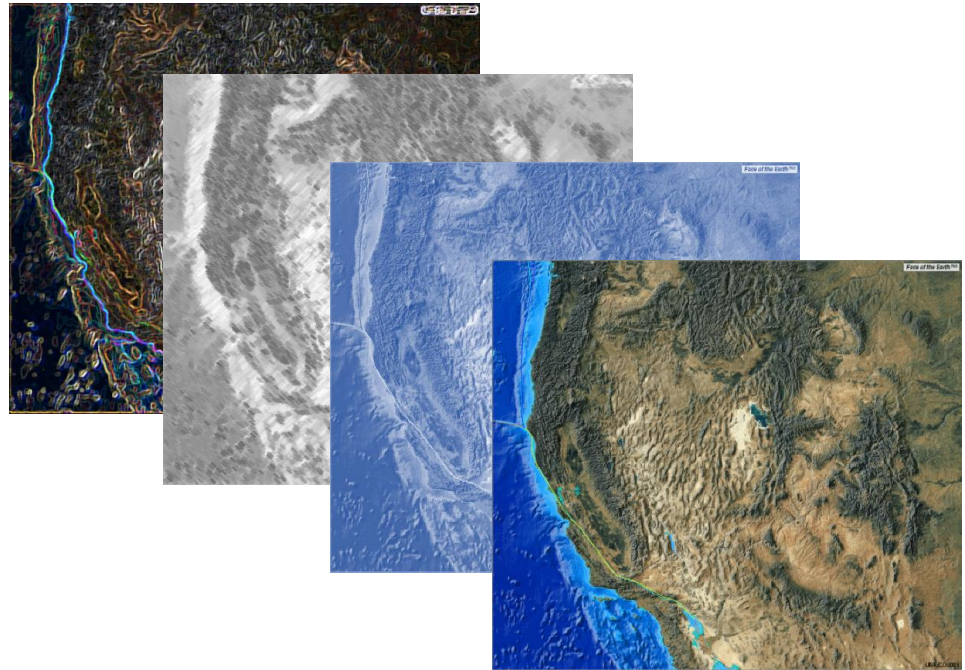
Colorado River Basin Snowpack



SNOTEL SWE Interpolation

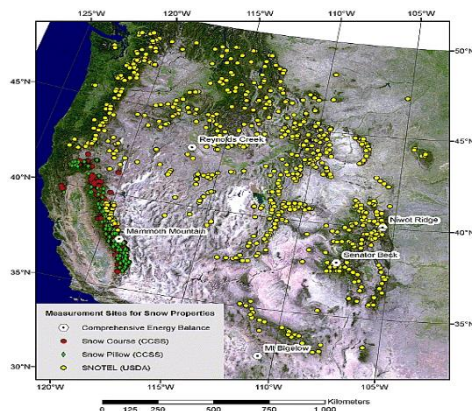
Independent Variables

DEM: slope, aspect, elevation, NW barrier difference, distance to ocean, others.

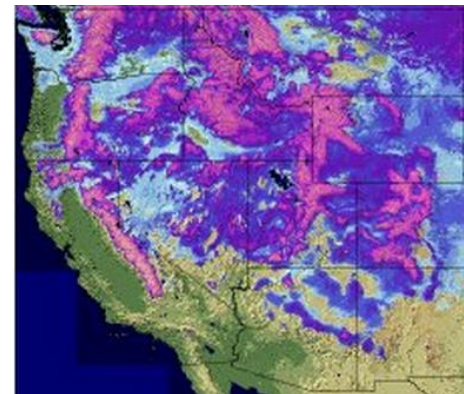


Dependent Variable

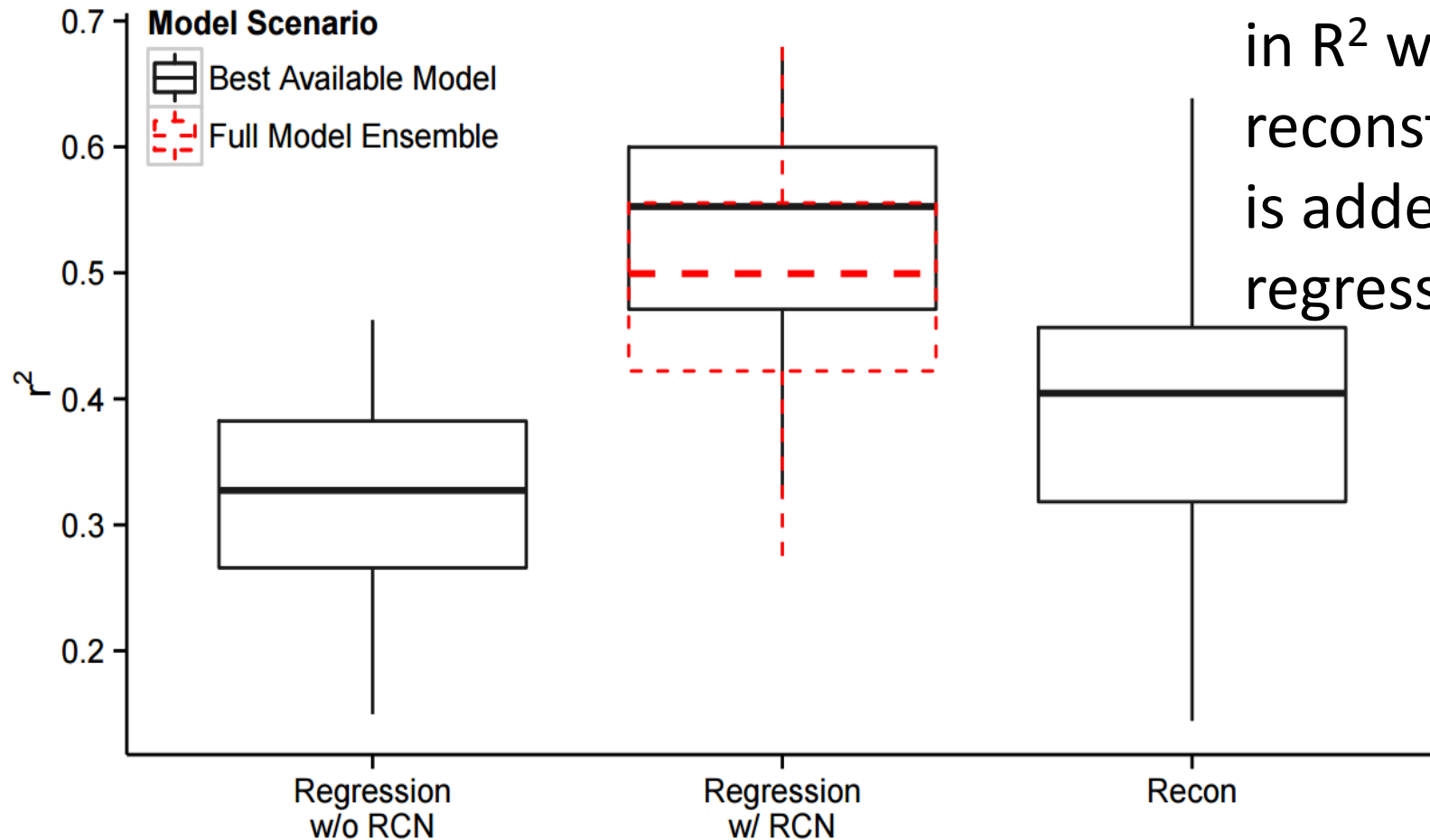
SNOTEL SWE
Measurements



Gridded SWE Prediction



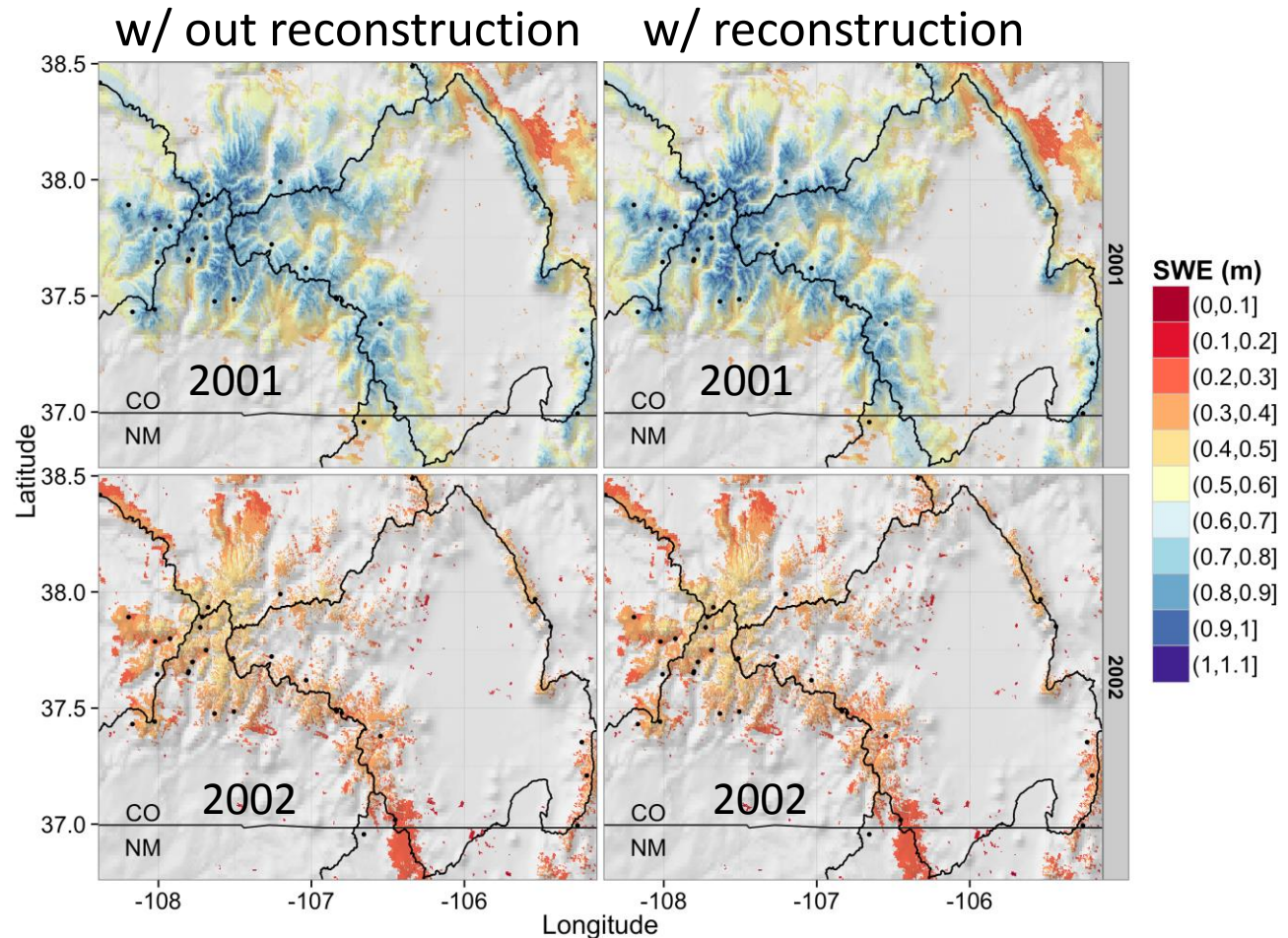
Correlation of SWE & Independent Variables: With and Without Reconstruction



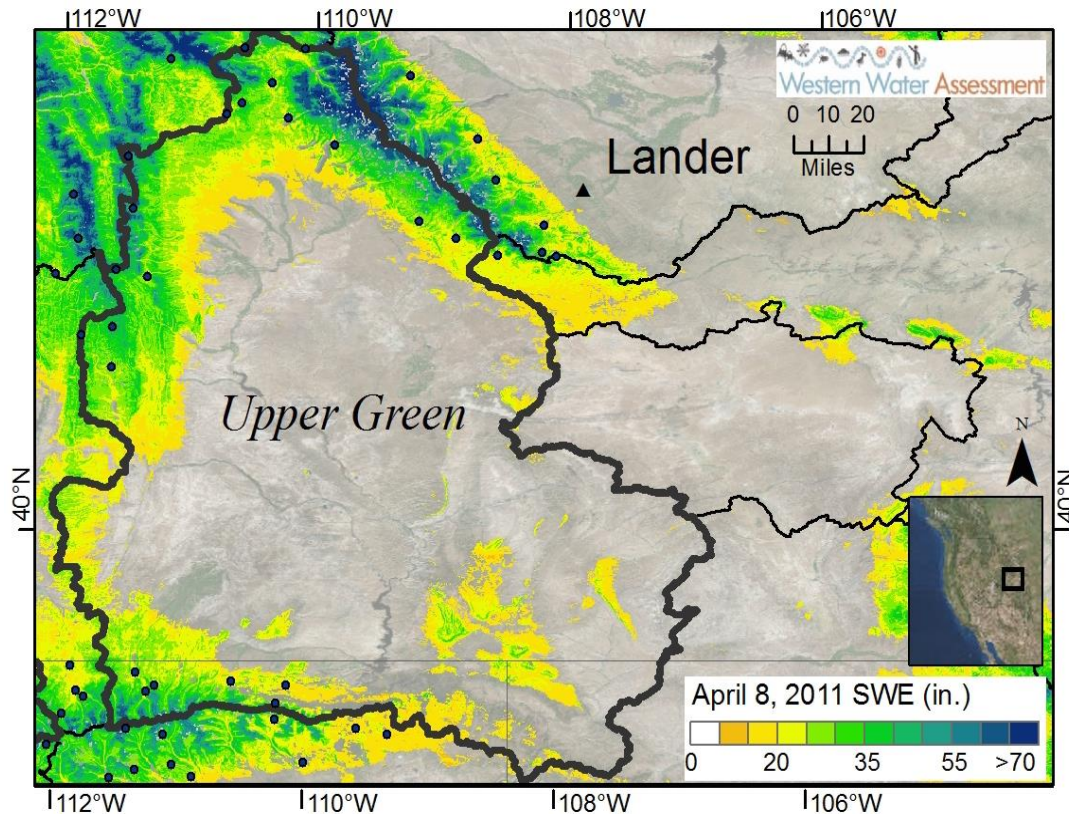
- 67% increase in R^2 when reconstruction is added to regression.

SWE for the Rio Grande Headwaters, Early April 2001 & 2002

- Range of SWE estimates increases with reconstruction.
- Higher elevation SWE increases with reconstruction.
- Lower elevations decrease SWE.



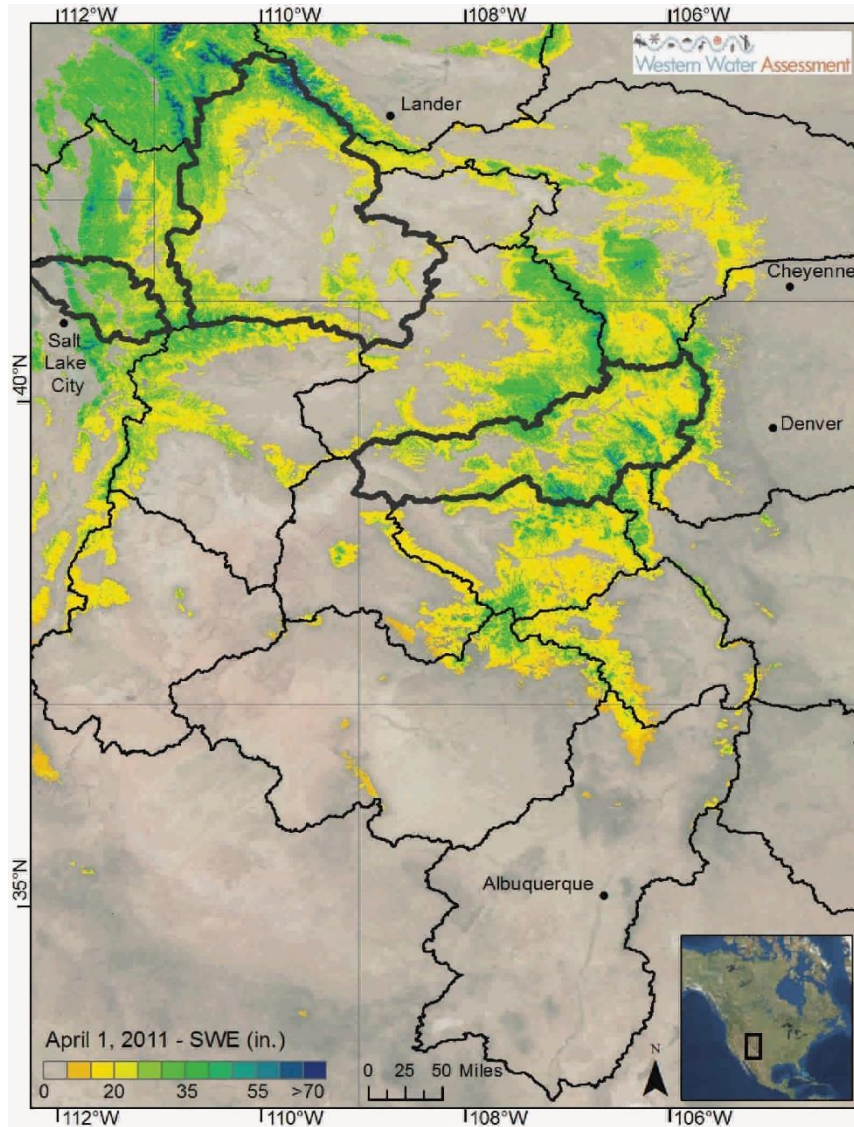
Utility of our approach:



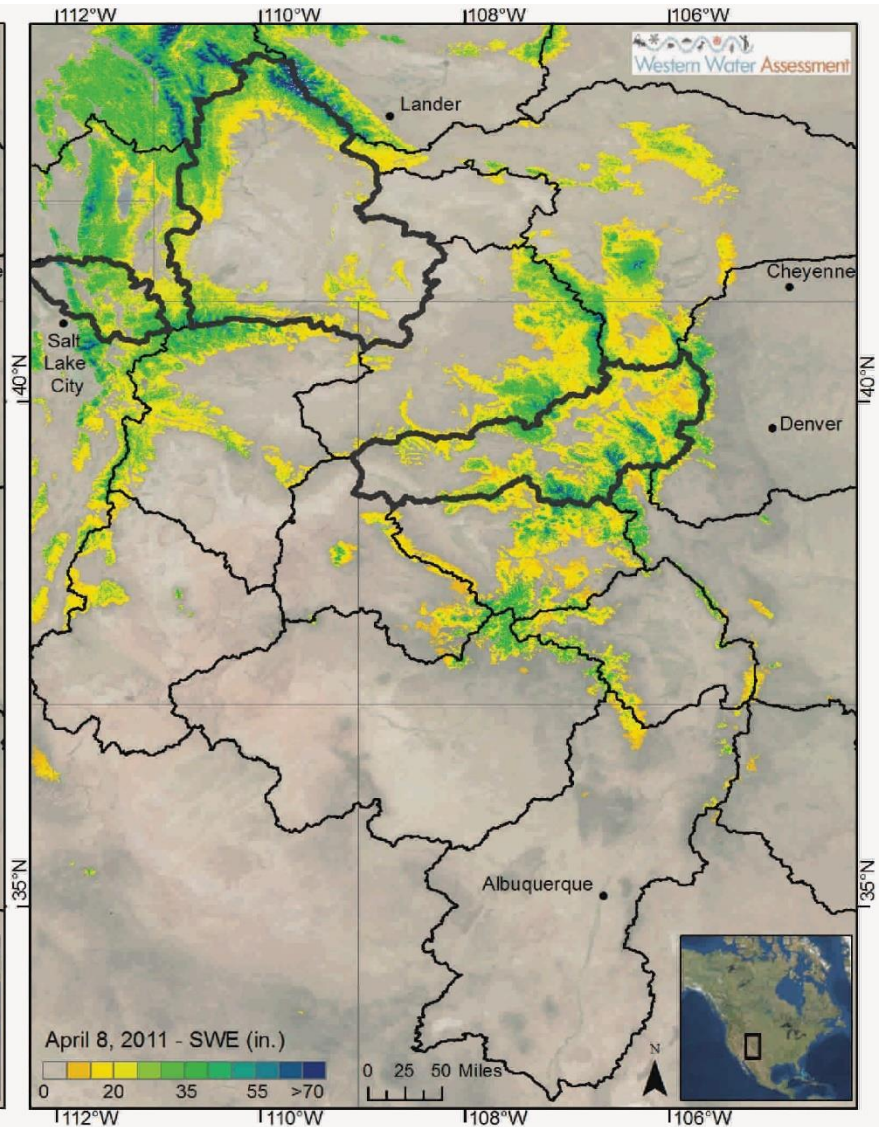
- SWE increases in highest elevations
- SWE decreases in lowest elevations
- RMSE decreases (for a large majority of stations)
- R^2 Increases

Real-time SWE for the Southern Rockies

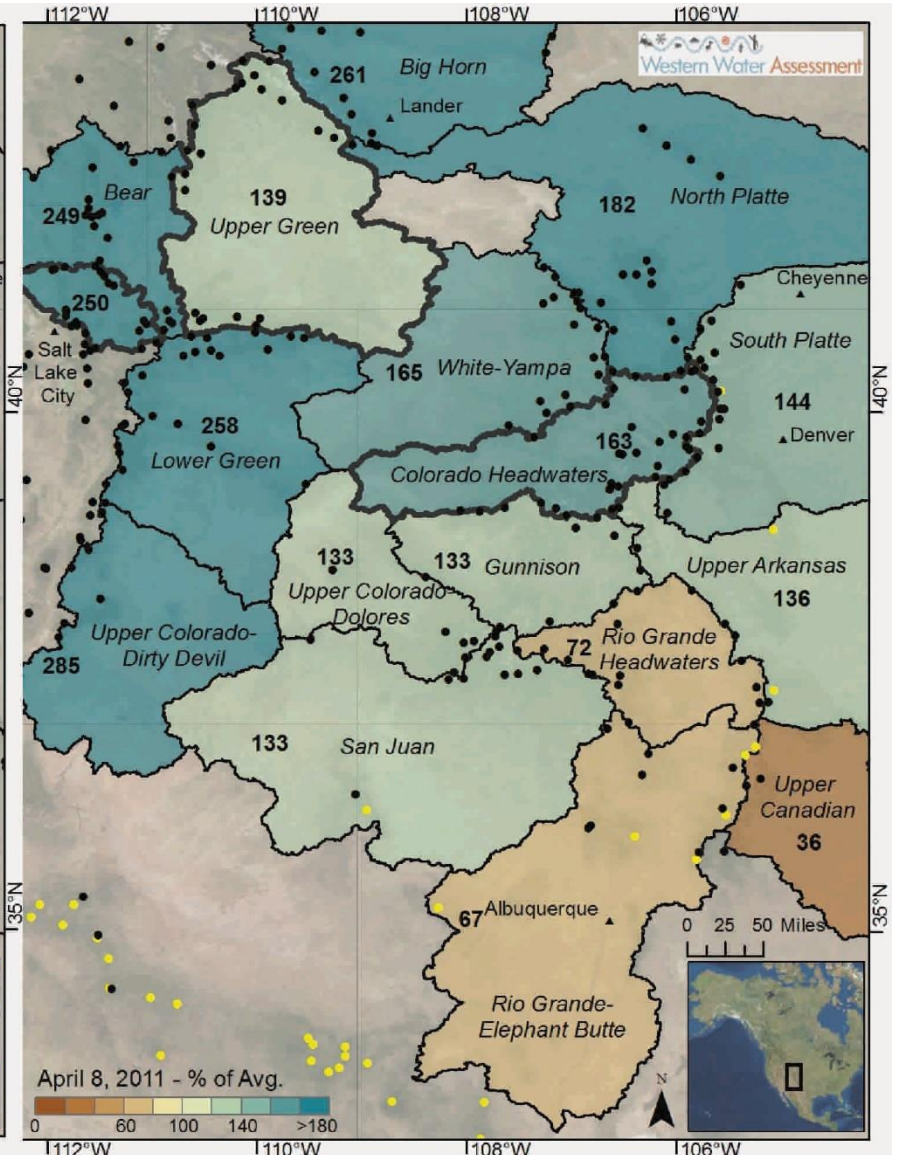
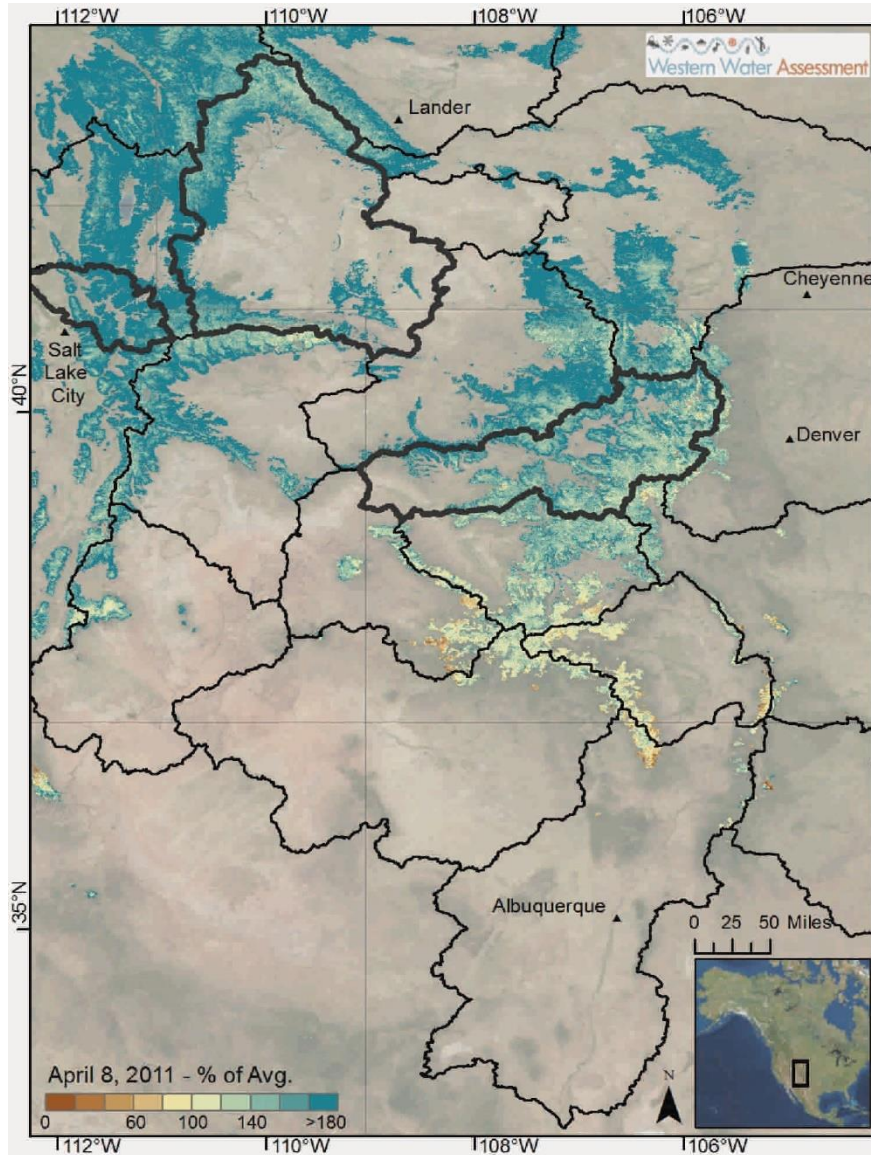
April 1, 2011



April 8, 2011



Real-time SWE Anomalies: Southern Rockies, April 8, 2011



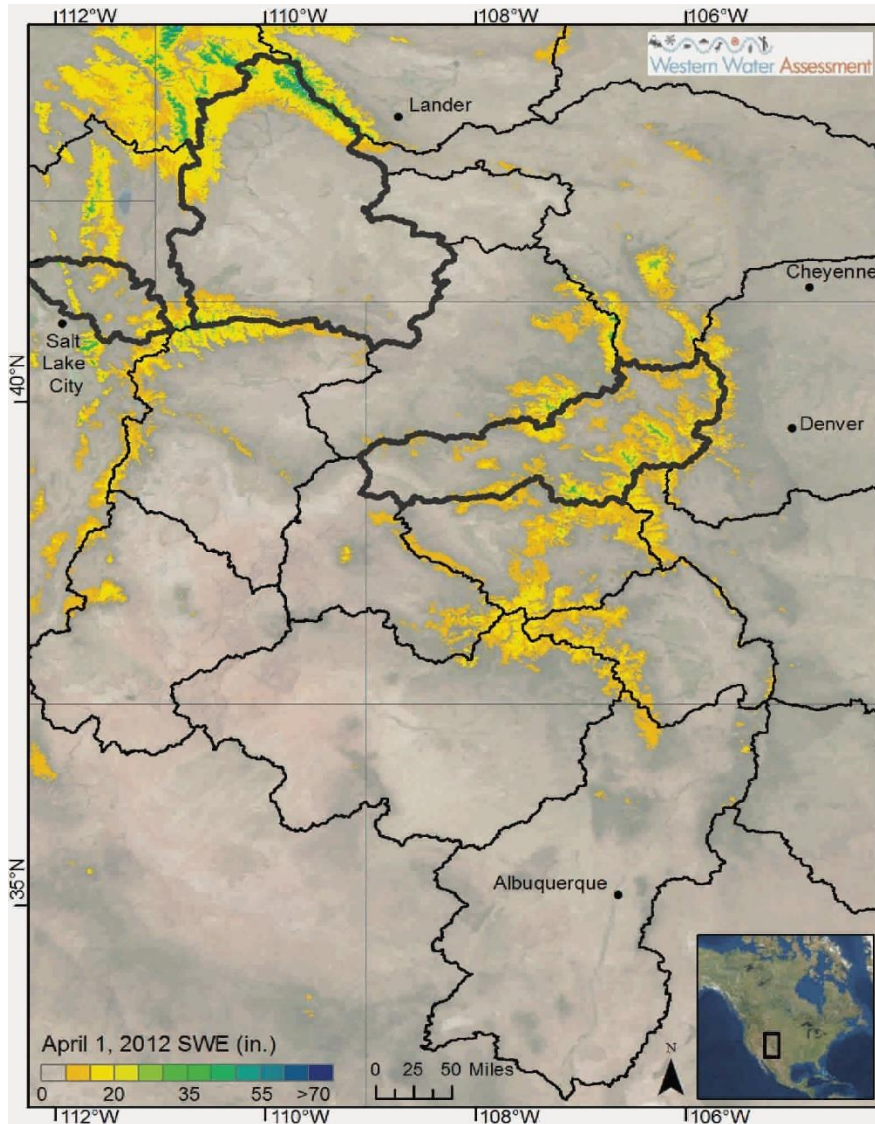
Real-time SWE Anomalies by watershed:

Southern Rockies, April 8, 2011

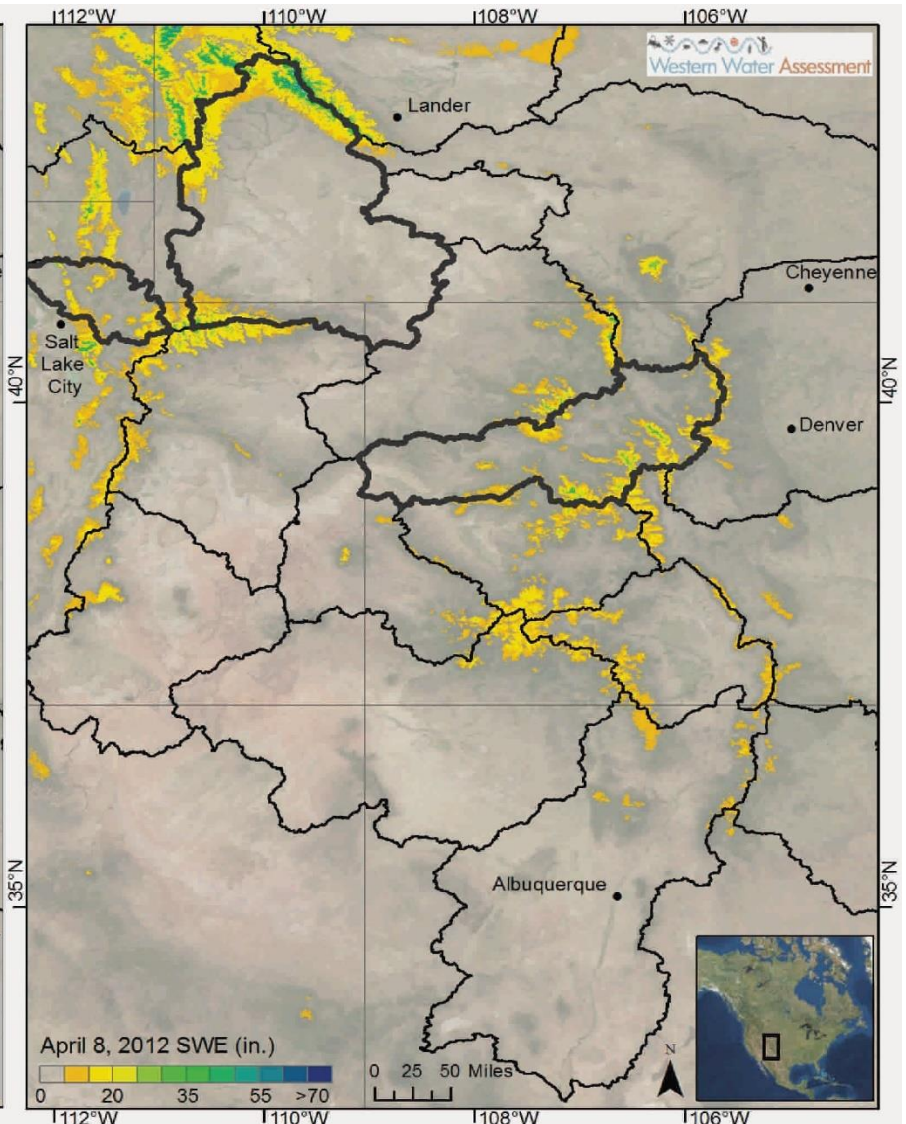
Watershed	4/8/11 % of Avg to Date		4/8/11 SWE (in)		4/1/11 SWE (in)		4/1-4/8 Change SWE (in)	
	Spatial	SNOTEL	Spatial	SNOTEL	Spatial	SNOTEL	Spatial	SNOTEL
Bear	248.75	174.78	20.06	28.47	22.42	27.24	-2.36	1.23
Big Horn	260.92	127.52	12.27	13.74	12.16	12.89	0.11	0.85
Colorado Headwaters	163.46	140.55	14.45	21.03	17.03	20.86	-2.58	0.17
Gunnison	133.43	130.75	9.66	19.26	12.28	19.51	-2.62	-0.25
Lower Green	258.39	156.44	8.82	18.83	9.84	19.63	-1.03	-0.80
North Platte	182.34	148.91	6.49	27.67	11.02	26.84	-4.53	0.84
Rio Grande Headwaters	71.98	88.38	3.17	8.72	4.34	9.12	-1.17	-0.39
Rio Grande-Elephant Butte	67.31	60.77	0.27	4.23	0.39	4.40	-0.11	-0.17
San Juan	133.38	97.28	1.37	15.05	1.89	16.19	-0.52	-1.14
South Platte	143.74	136.84	2.91	16.43	4.24	16.35	-1.33	0.08
Upper Arkansas	135.81	82.00	2.70	7.87	2.81	7.97	-0.11	-0.10
Upper Canadian	36.39	12.86	0.10	0.60	0.05	2.90	0.05	-2.30
Upper Colorado-Dirty Devil	285.32	146.57	2.30	12.03	2.35	12.75	-0.05	-0.72
Upper Colorado-Dolores	133.02	98.25	2.86	12.55	3.88	13.72	-1.02	-1.17
Upper Green	139.21	146.82	7.77	20.77	9.09	20.05	-1.33	0.73
Weber	250.32	158.24	21.54	29.24	22.36	28.31	-0.82	0.93
White-Yampa	165.10	147.62	7.64	29.39	10.60	28.77	-2.96	0.62

Real-time SWE for the Southern Rockies

April 1, 2012

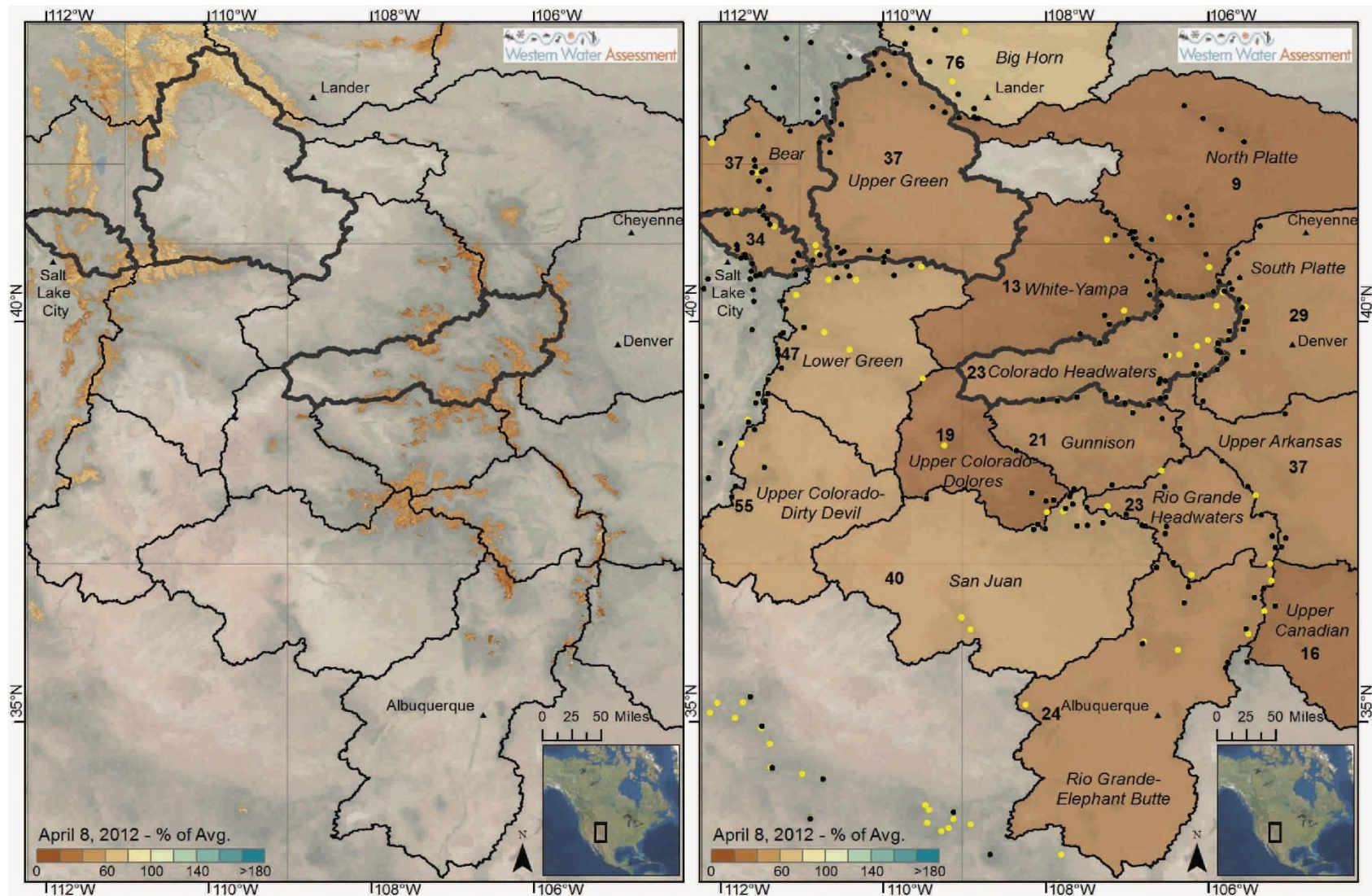


April 8, 2012



Real-time SWE Anomalies

Southern Rockies, April 8, 2012



Real-time SWE Anomalies by watershed: Southern Rockies, April 8, 2012

Watershed	4/8/12 % of Avg to Date		4/8/12 SWE (in)		4/1/12 SWE (in)		4/1-4/8 Change SWE (in)	
	Spatial	SNOTEL	Spatial	SNOTEL	Spatial	SNOTEL	Spatial	SNOTEL
Bear	37.44	56.64	3.02	9.23	3.97	10.28	-0.95	-1.06
Big Horn	75.93	82.59	3.57	8.90	3.44	9.04	0.13	-0.14
Colorado Headwaters	22.94	43.14	2.03	6.46	3.28	7.89	-1.25	-1.44
Gunnison	20.98	51.32	1.52	7.56	2.60	9.33	-1.08	-1.77
Lower Green	46.63	39.21	1.59	4.72	1.88	5.89	-0.29	-1.17
North Platte	9.26	59.33	0.33	11.03	0.73	12.47	-0.40	-1.45
Rio Grande Headwaters	23.07	53.41	1.01	5.27	1.34	5.61	-0.32	-0.34
Rio Grande-Elephant Butte	23.68	53.25	0.10	3.71	0.07	4.03	0.03	-0.32
San Juan	40.40	53.12	0.41	8.22	0.56	9.75	-0.15	-1.53
South Platte	29.35	67.63	0.60	8.12	0.88	8.36	-0.29	-0.24
Upper Arkansas	37.32	57.16	0.74	5.48	0.80	5.68	-0.06	-0.20
Upper Canadian	16.19	70.71	0.04	3.30	0.00	1.90	0.04	1.40
Upper Colorado-Dirty Devil	54.68	42.97	0.44	3.53	0.52	4.83	-0.08	-1.30
Upper Colorado-Dolores	18.82	33.14	0.41	4.23	0.75	6.68	-0.35	-2.45
Upper Green	37.18	79.83	2.07	11.29	2.44	12.01	-0.36	-0.72
Weber	34.26	50.83	2.95	9.39	3.37	10.23	-0.42	-0.83
White-Yampa	12.51	41.69	0.58	8.30	1.03	10.40	-0.45	-2.10

Real-time SWE Anomalies by watershed: Southern Rockies, April 8, 2012

Watershed	Elevation	4/8/12 % Avg to Date		4/8/12 SWE (in)		4/1/12 SWE (in)		4/1-4/8 Change SWE (in)		Area Sq Mi
		Spatial	SNOTEL	Spatial	SNOTEL	Spatial	SNOTEL	Spatial	SNOTEL	
CO Headwtrs	6000-7000'	0.00	N/A	0.00	N/A	0.01	N/A	-0.01	N/A	1,732.4
	7000-8000'	0.01	N/A	0.00	N/A	0.06	N/A	-0.06	N/A	2,293.2
	8000-9000'	0.55	1.76	0.04	0.14	0.70	2.08	-0.66	-1.94	3,108.4
	9000-10,000'	6.67	29.31	0.69	3.55	2.85	5.28	-2.16	-1.73	2,237.1
	10,000-11,000'	20.94	50.41	3.17	9.94	6.10	11.36	-2.93	-1.43	2,300.9
	11,000-12,000'	39.81	60.13	10.09	9.90	12.08	10.35	-1.99	-0.45	1,150.5
	12,000-13,000'	48.34	N/A	16.53	N/A	17.79	N/A	-1.26	N/A	346.3
	13,000+	51.88	N/A	18.55	N/A	19.51	N/A	-0.96	N/A	25.1
Upper Green	6000-7000'	0.02	N/A	0.00	N/A	0.00	N/A	0.00	N/A	11,164.6
	7000-8000'	9.71	104.51	0.44	11.00	0.84	12.50	-0.41	-1.50	10,008.7
	8000-9000'	40.53	81.87	4.84	12.38	5.96	13.27	-1.12	-0.89	2,482.9
	9000-10,000'	61.44	74.18	10.51	9.87	11.81	10.32	-1.31	-0.45	1,230.6
	10,000-11,000'	66.18	75.48	17.61	10.30	18.56	10.55	-0.95	-0.25	926.1
	11,000-12,000'	67.43	N/A	27.57	N/A	27.98	N/A	-0.41	N/A	300.6
	12,000-13,000'	66.93	N/A	31.36	N/A	31.64	N/A	-0.28	N/A	50.9
	13,000+	68.57	N/A	41.76	N/A	41.82	N/A	-0.06	N/A	1.7
Weber	6000-7000'	6.64	22.01	0.43	1.90	0.30	3.80	0.13	-1.90	1,155.3
	7000-8000'	19.46	48.36	2.19	10.90	2.94	11.94	-0.75	-1.04	1,039.4
	8000-9000'	46.67	65.24	8.01	8.97	9.06	9.27	-1.06	-0.30	363.5
	9000-10,000'	53.72	61.62	10.77	14.80	11.55	14.65	-0.78	0.15	124.6
	10,000-11,000'	61.21	N/A	15.80	N/A	16.42	N/A	-0.62	N/A	70.1
	11,000+	60.99	N/A	20.87	N/A	21.35	N/A	-0.48	N/A	0.9

Conclusions & Future Work

- Spatial SWE estimates provide valuable information for augmenting SNOTEL data.
- Products are used by CA Department of Water Resources to adjust statistical forecasts.
- Approach can be applied in conjunction with airborne snow measurements in context of validation and / or temporal change analysis.

Contact Us

We are looking for new partners to tailor SWE reports for local needs.

We can map SWE in real-time for your region of interest. Costs are typically on the order of \$1000 - \$1500 / report.

Noah Molotch: noah.molotch@colorado.edu

University of Colorado at Boulder

WWA & Center for Water, Earth Science and Technology

Acknowledgements

- USDA/NSF Water Sustainability and Climate
- NSF: Hydrologic Sciences
- NSF: CZO
- NASA: Terrestrial Hydrology & Applied Sciences
- NOAA-CIRES: Western Water Assessment

