

# MISSOURI RIVER BASIN WATER MANAGEMENT

## GOVERNOR'S WATER CONFERENCE

Ryan Larsen, P.E.  
Reservoir Regulation Team Lead  
Missouri River Basin Water Management

November 16, 2022



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®





# OVERVIEW



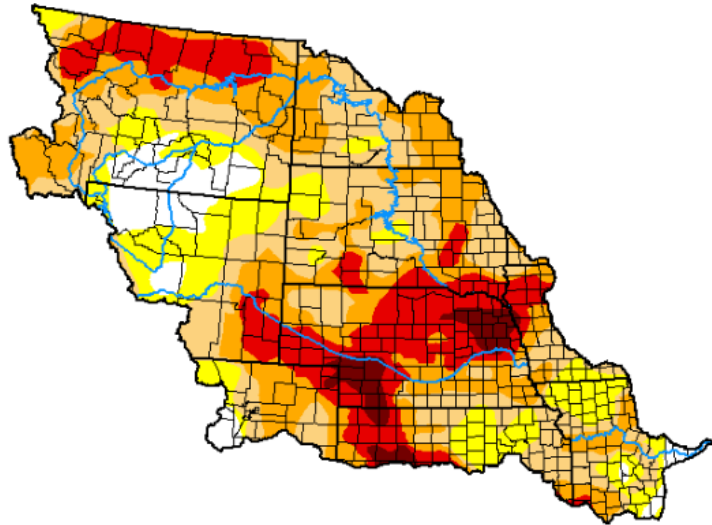
- Current Drought Monitor and Outlook
- Missouri River Mainstem System
- Mainstem System Status
- Gavins Point Release Schedule
- Expected Winter Stages



# DROUGHT MONITOR AND OUTLOOK



## U.S. Drought Monitor Missouri Basin RFC



**November 8, 2022**  
(Released Thursday, Nov. 10, 2022)  
Valid 7 a.m. EST

	Drought Conditions (Percent Area)					
	None	D0-D4	D1-D4	D2-D4	D3-D4	D4
<b>Current</b>	6.97	93.03	76.99	47.97	20.19	3.06
<b>Last Week</b> 11-01-2022	6.59	93.41	78.35	48.57	18.94	2.51
<b>3 Months Ago</b> 08-09-2022	33.51	66.49	43.86	22.79	6.95	0.97
<b>Start of Calendar Year</b> 01-04-2022	15.77	84.23	62.18	43.33	20.54	3.80
<b>Start of Water Year</b> 09-27-2022	7.52	92.48	71.31	38.45	12.93	2.43
<b>One Year Ago</b> 11-09-2021	23.26	76.74	61.05	41.37	22.26	6.05

**Intensity:**

None	D2 Severe Drought
D0 Abnormally Dry	D3 Extreme Drought
D1 Moderate Drought	D4 Exceptional Drought

The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. For more information on the Drought Monitor, go to <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/About.aspx>

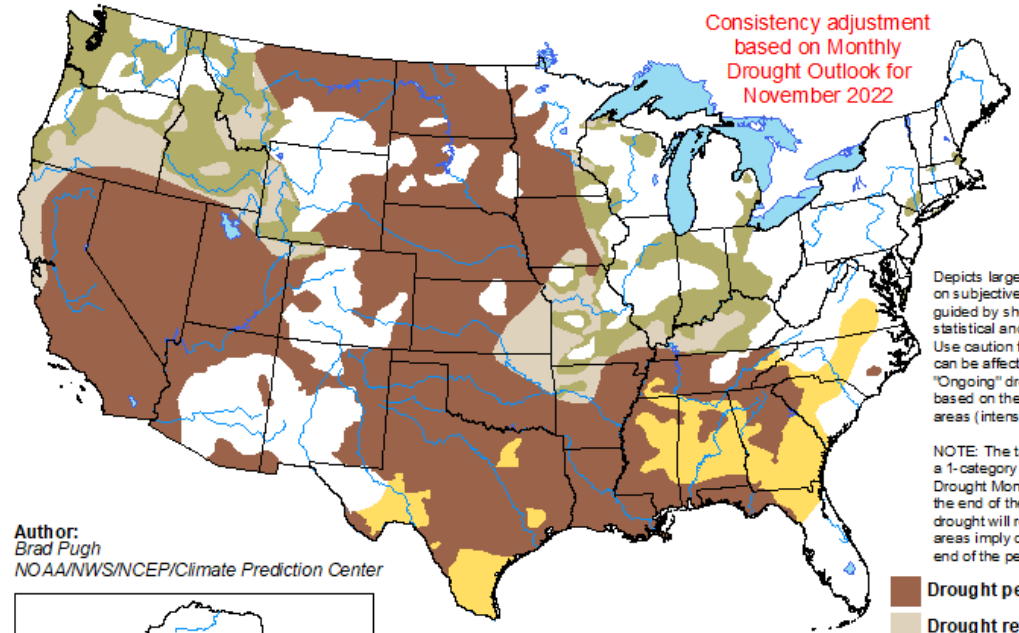
**Author:**  
Brian Fuchs  
National Drought Mitigation Center



[droughtmonitor.unl.edu](http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu)

## U.S. Seasonal Drought Outlook Drought Tendency During the Valid Period

Valid for November 1, 2022 - January 31, 2023  
Released October 31, 2022



Consistency adjustment based on Monthly Drought Outlook for November 2022

Depicts large-scale trends based on subjectively derived probabilities guided by short- and long-range statistical and dynamical forecasts. Use caution for applications that can be affected by short lived events. "Ongoing" drought areas are based on the U.S. Drought Monitor areas (intensities of D1 to D4).

NOTE: The tan areas imply at least a 1-category improvement in the Drought Monitor intensity levels by the end of the period, although drought will remain. The green areas imply drought removal by the end of the period (D0 or none).

- Drought persists
- Drought remains but improves
- Drought removal likely
- Drought development likely

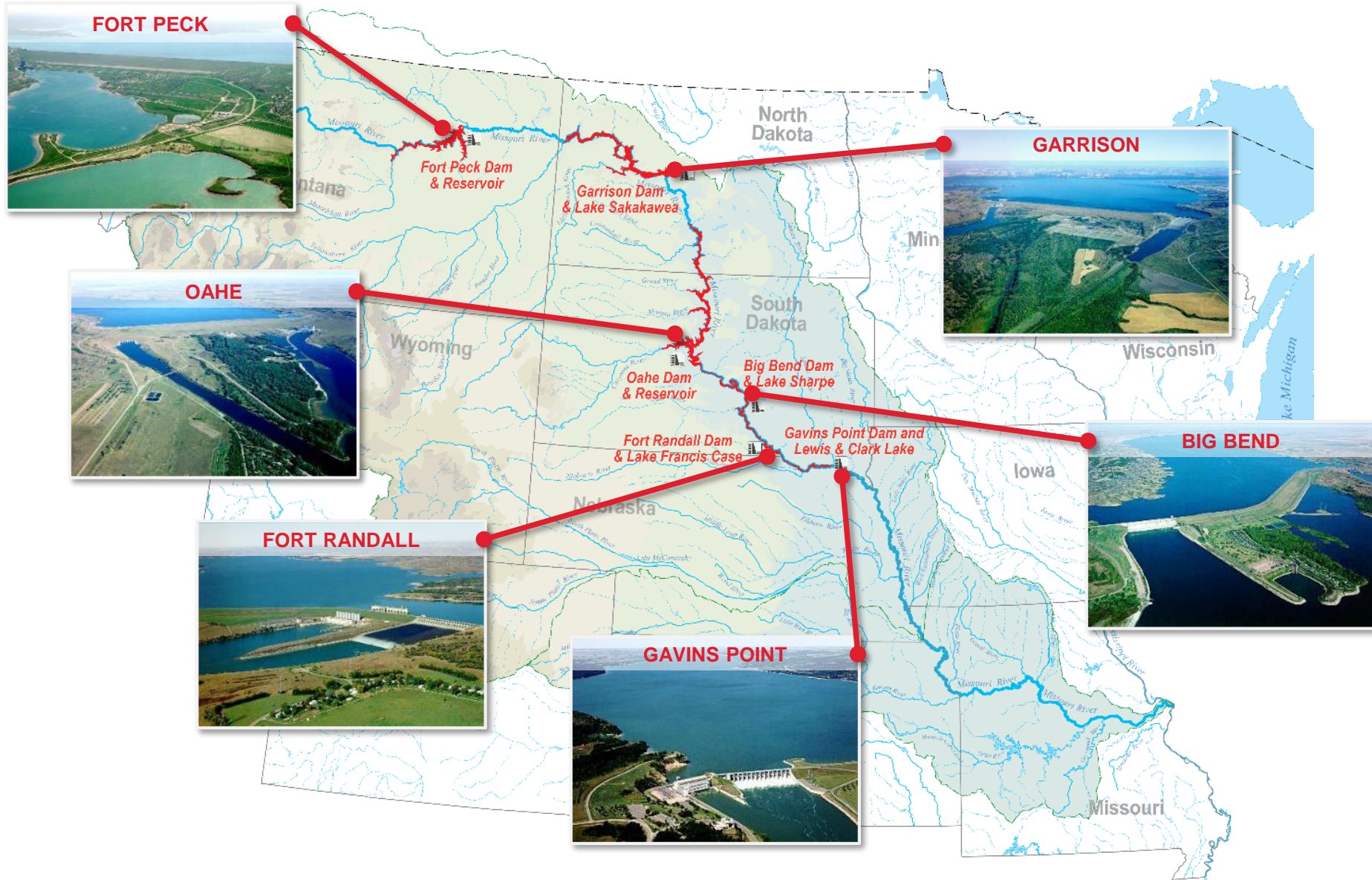
**Author:**  
Brad Pugh  
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/Climate Prediction Center



<http://go.usa.gov/3eZ73>

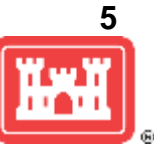


# MISSOURI RIVER MAINSTEM RESERVOIRS





# MISSOURI RIVER MAINSTEM SYSTEM STORAGE ZONES AND ALLOCATIONS



STORAGE IN MILLION ACRE FEET (MAF)

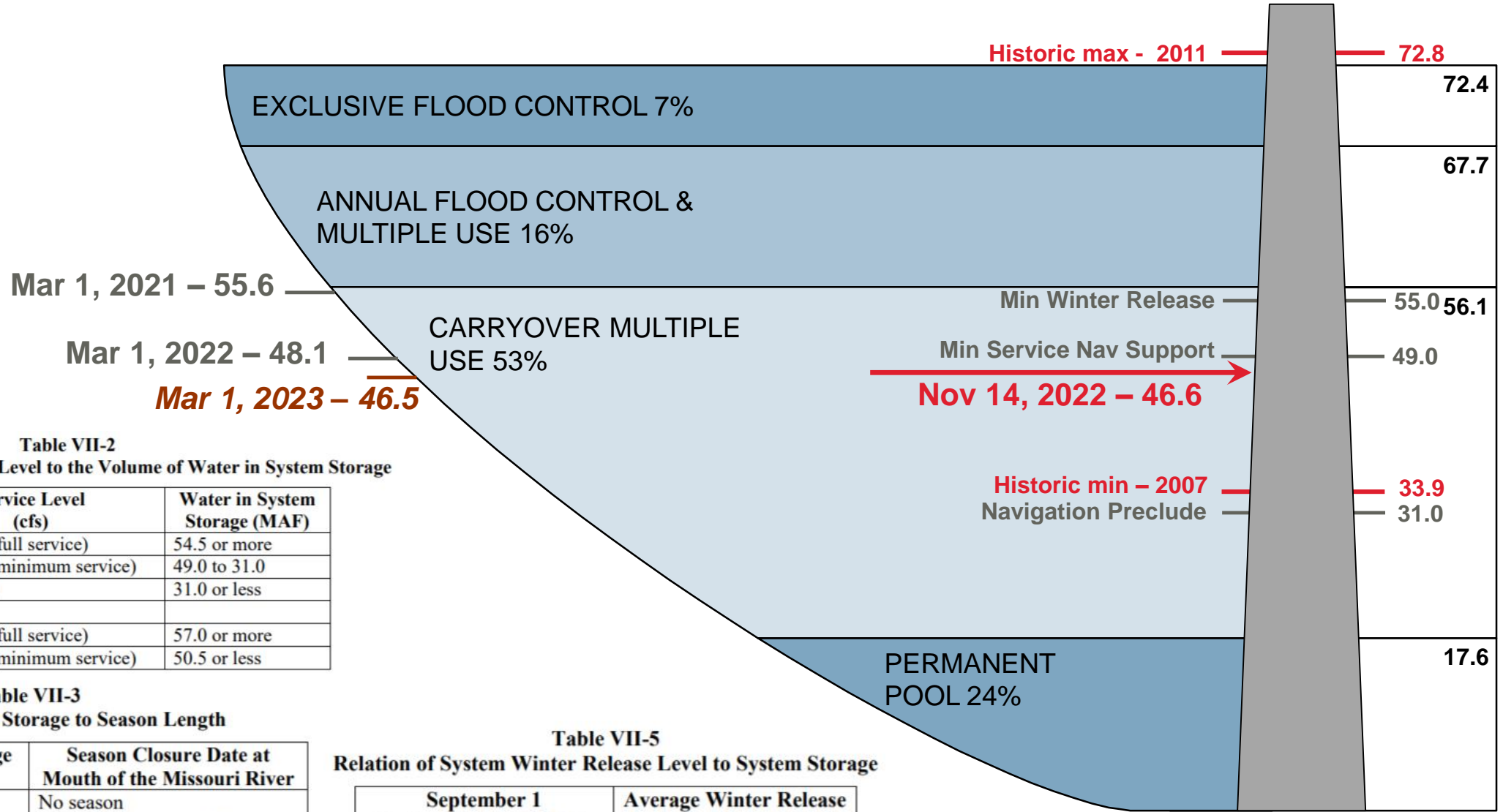


Table VII-2

Relation of Navigation Service Level to the Volume of Water in System Storage

Date	Service Level (cfs)	Water in System Storage (MAF)
March 15	35,000 cfs (full service)	54.5 or more
March 15	29,000 cfs (minimum service)	49.0 to 31.0
March 15	(no service)	31.0 or less
July 1	35,000 cfs (full service)	57.0 or more
July 1	29,000 cfs (minimum service)	50.5 or less

Table VII-3

Relation of System Storage to Season Length

Date	System Storage (MAF)	Season Closure Date at Mouth of the Missouri River
March 15	31.0 or less	No season
July 1	51.5 or more	December 1 - 8-month season
July 1	46.8 through 41.0	November 1 - 7-month season
July 1	36.5 or less	October 1 - 6-month season

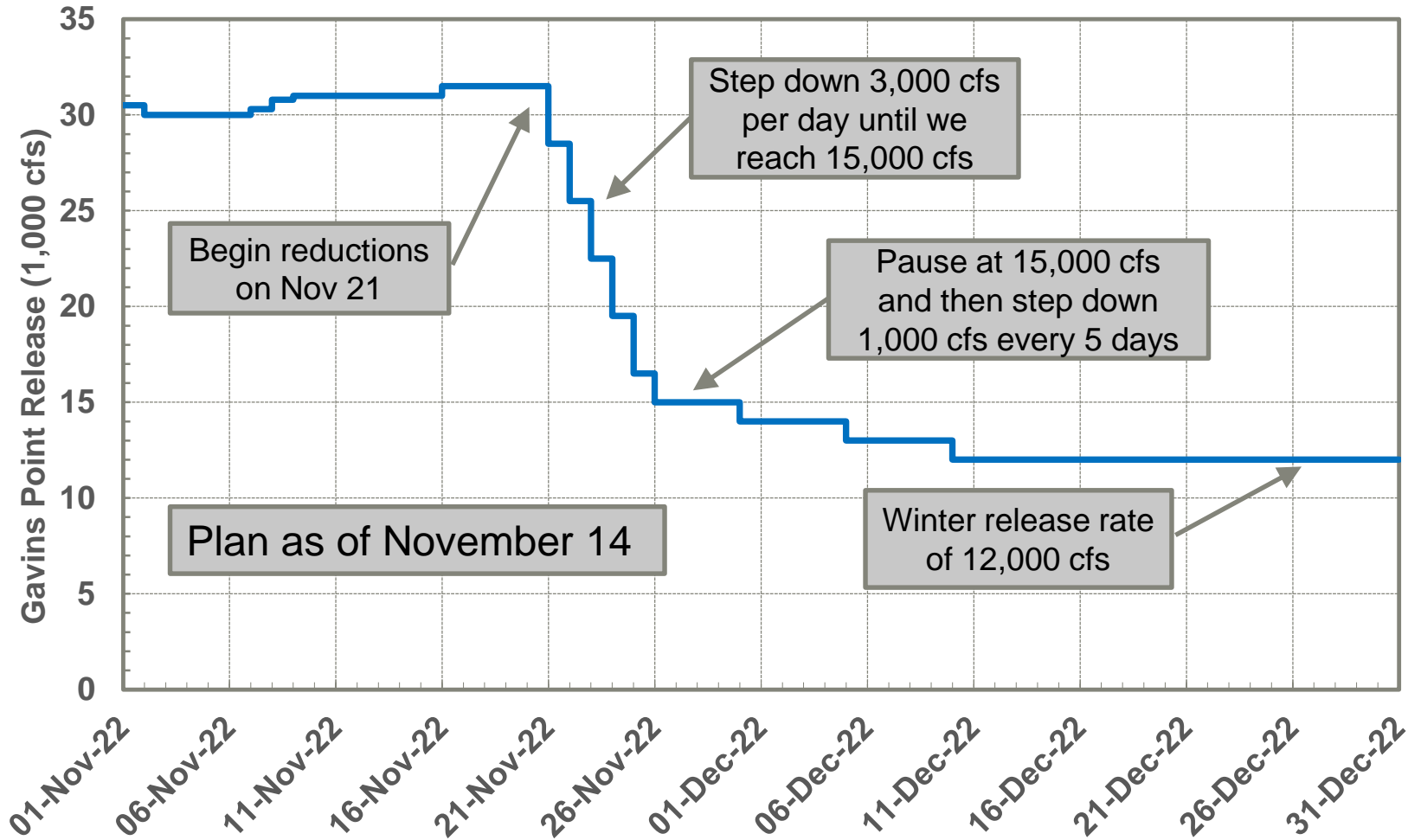
Table VII-5

Relation of System Winter Release Level to System Storage

September 1 System Storage (MAF)	Average Winter Release from Gavins Point (cfs)
58.0 or more	17,000 cfs
55.0 or less	12,000 cfs



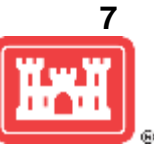
# 2022 Fall-Winter Gavins Point Dam Release Forecast



Location	Closing Date
Sioux City	November 19
Omaha	November 21
Kansas City	November 24
Mouth	November 28



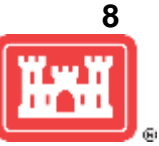
# MISSOURI RIVER – ESTIMATED STAGES AND FLOWS



Location		Fall		Winter	
	Flood Stage	Stage	Flow	Stage	Flow
Wolf Point	23 ft	9-10 ft	5-7 kcfs	14-17 ft	frozen
Culbertson	19 ft	2-3 ft	5-8 kcfs	10-15 ft	frozen
Bismarck	14.5 ft	4-6 ft	14-20 kcfs	9-11 ft	frozen
Sioux City	30 ft	11-13 ft	30-36 kcfs	5-7 ft	12-18 kcfs
Omaha	29 ft	14-16 ft	30-36 kcfs	7-9 ft	12-20 kcfs
Nebraska City	18 ft	10-12 ft	36-44 kcfs	5-7 ft	15-23 kcfs
St. Joseph	17 ft	6-8 ft	36-45 kcfs	1-3 ft	18-25 kcfs
Kansas City	20 ft	9-12 ft	40-55 kcfs	4-6 ft	20-27 kcfs
Boonville	21 ft	7-10 ft	43-60 kcfs	2-4 ft	23-30 kcfs
Hermann	21 ft	5-10 ft	48-80 kcfs	2-4 ft	33-43 kcfs



# THANK YOU!



**Ryan Larsen, P.E.**

**ryan.j.larsen@usace.army.mil**

**402.996.3861**

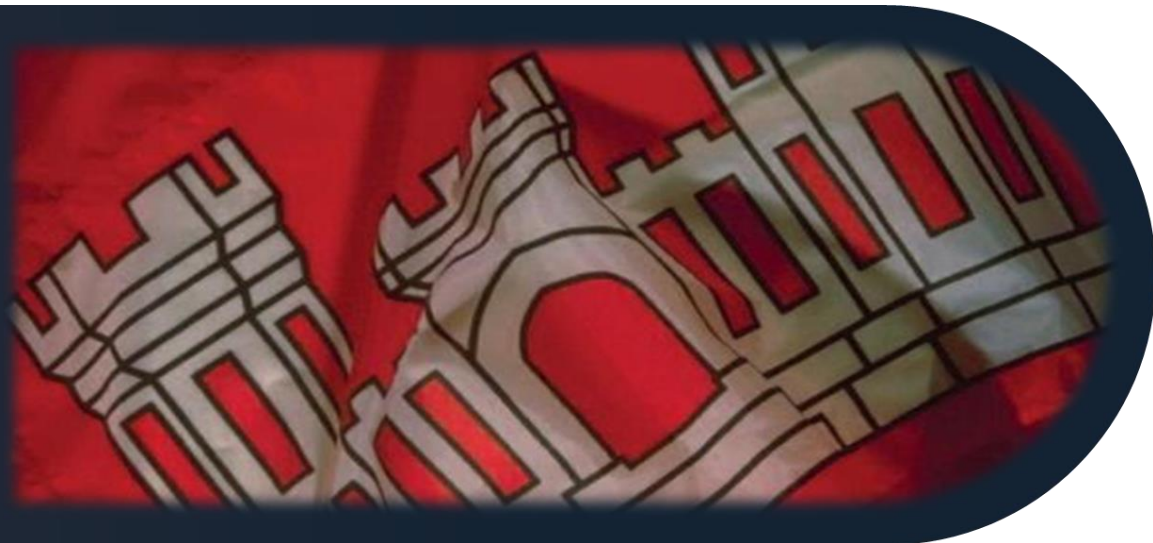
**Email:** Missouri.Water.Management@usace.army.mil

**Website:** [www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/](http://www.nwd-mr.usace.army.mil/rcc/)  
[nwd.usace.army.mil/MRWM](http://nwd.usace.army.mil/MRWM)

**Search:** Corps Missouri River

## QUESTIONS ?

US Army Corps of Engineers  
Northwestern Division







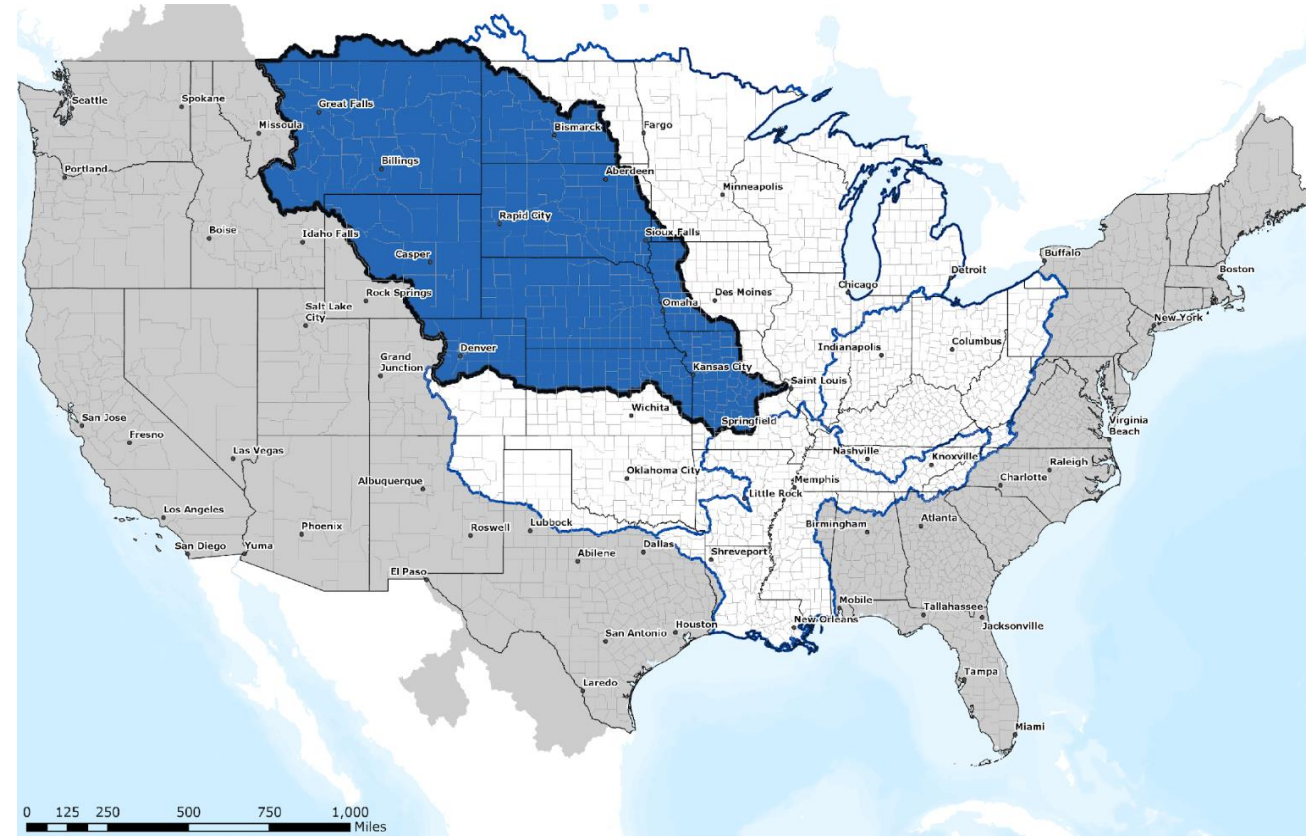
# NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Building a Weather-Ready Nation

## National Weather Service Surface Water Forecasting

2022 Governor's  
Conference on the Future  
of Water in Kansas

Kevin Low, P.E.  
NOAA National Weather Service  
Missouri Basin River Forecast Center  
Kansas City

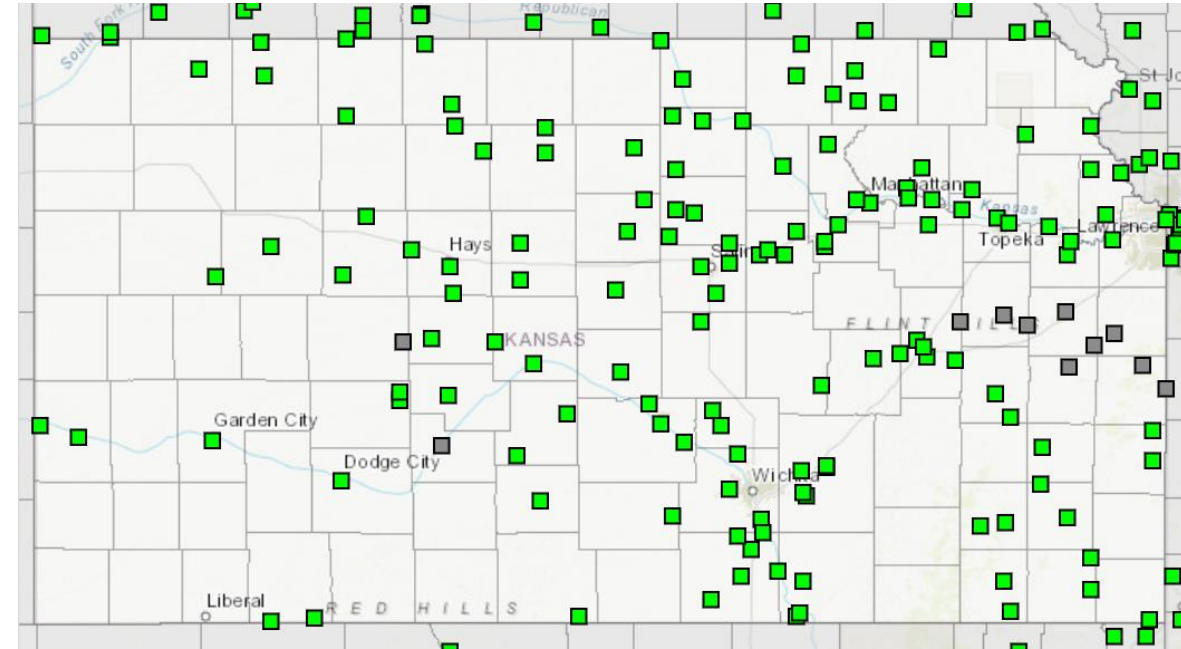
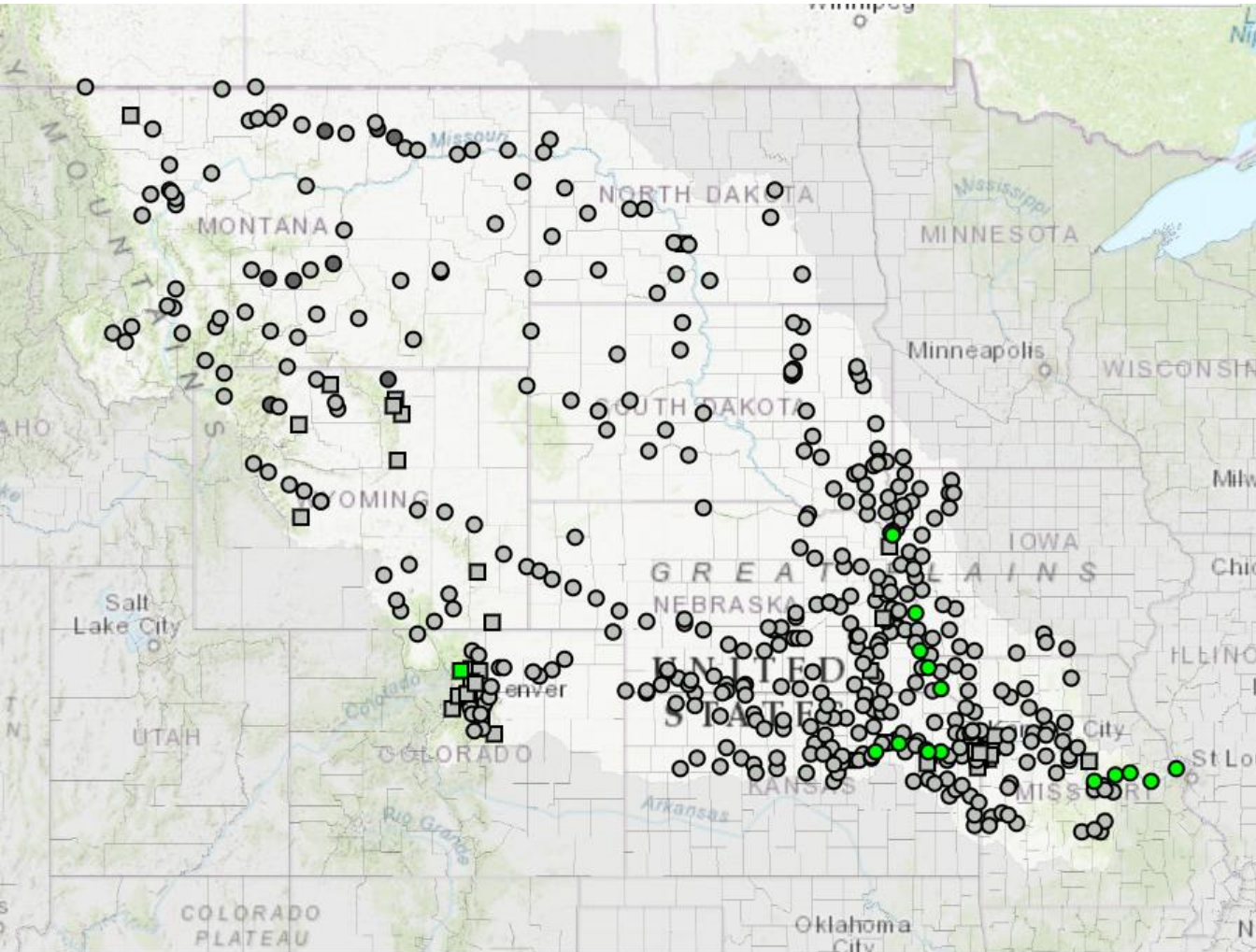


# NWS-forecasted SURFACE WATER LOCATIONS

470 river points

82 reservoirs

~200 diversion/return reaches



**State of Kansas**

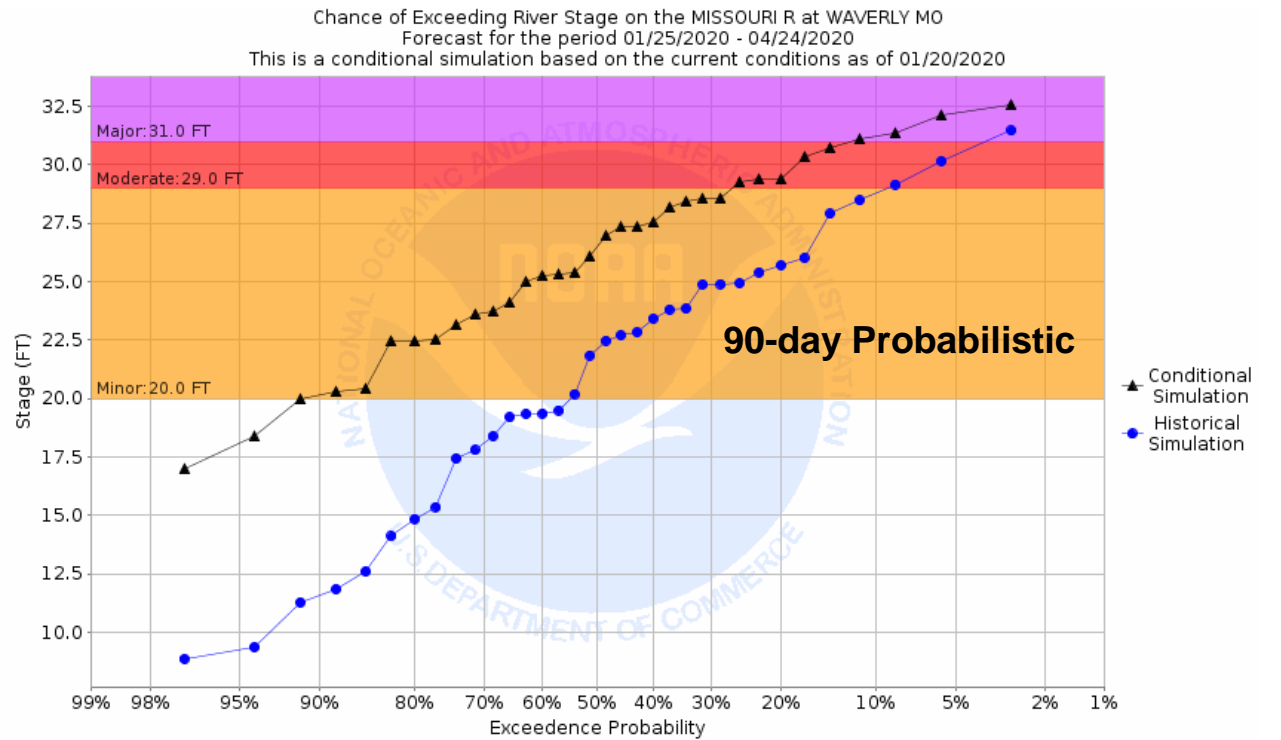
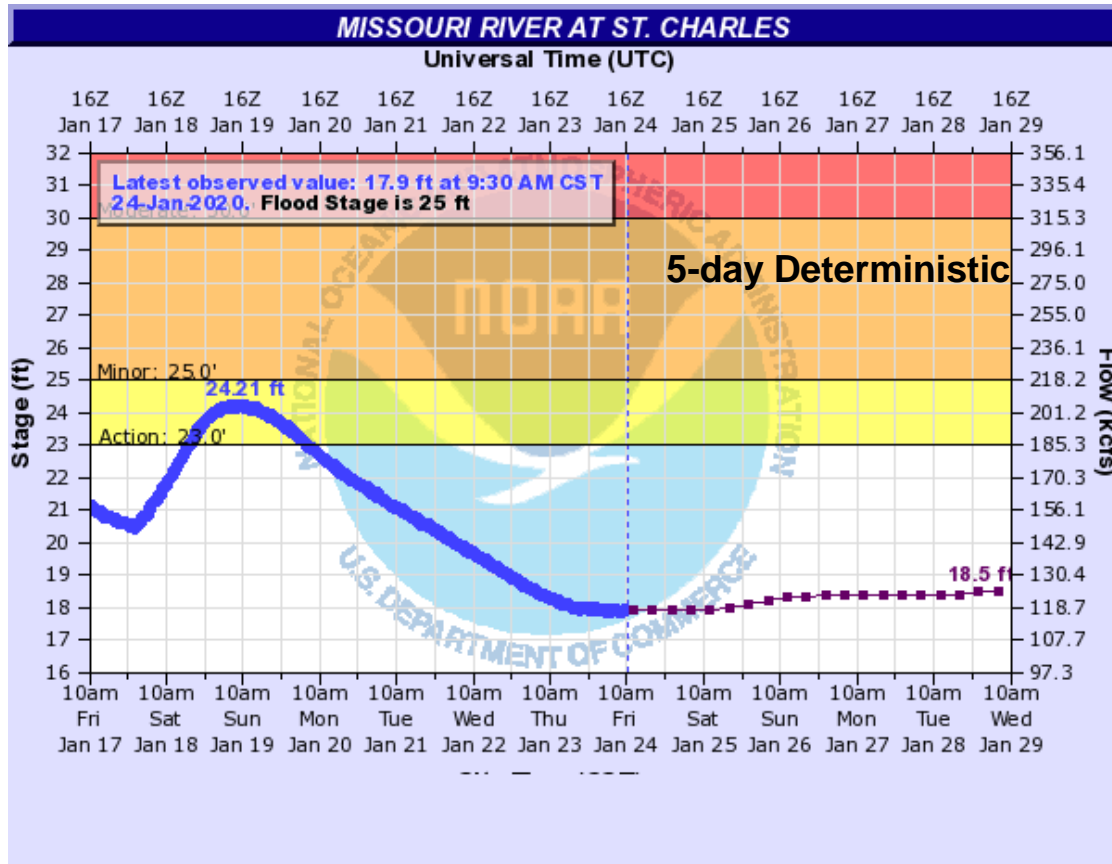
**258 river points (ABRFC & MBRFC)**

**14 reservoirs (MBRFC)**

**Smoky Hill & Republican div/returns**

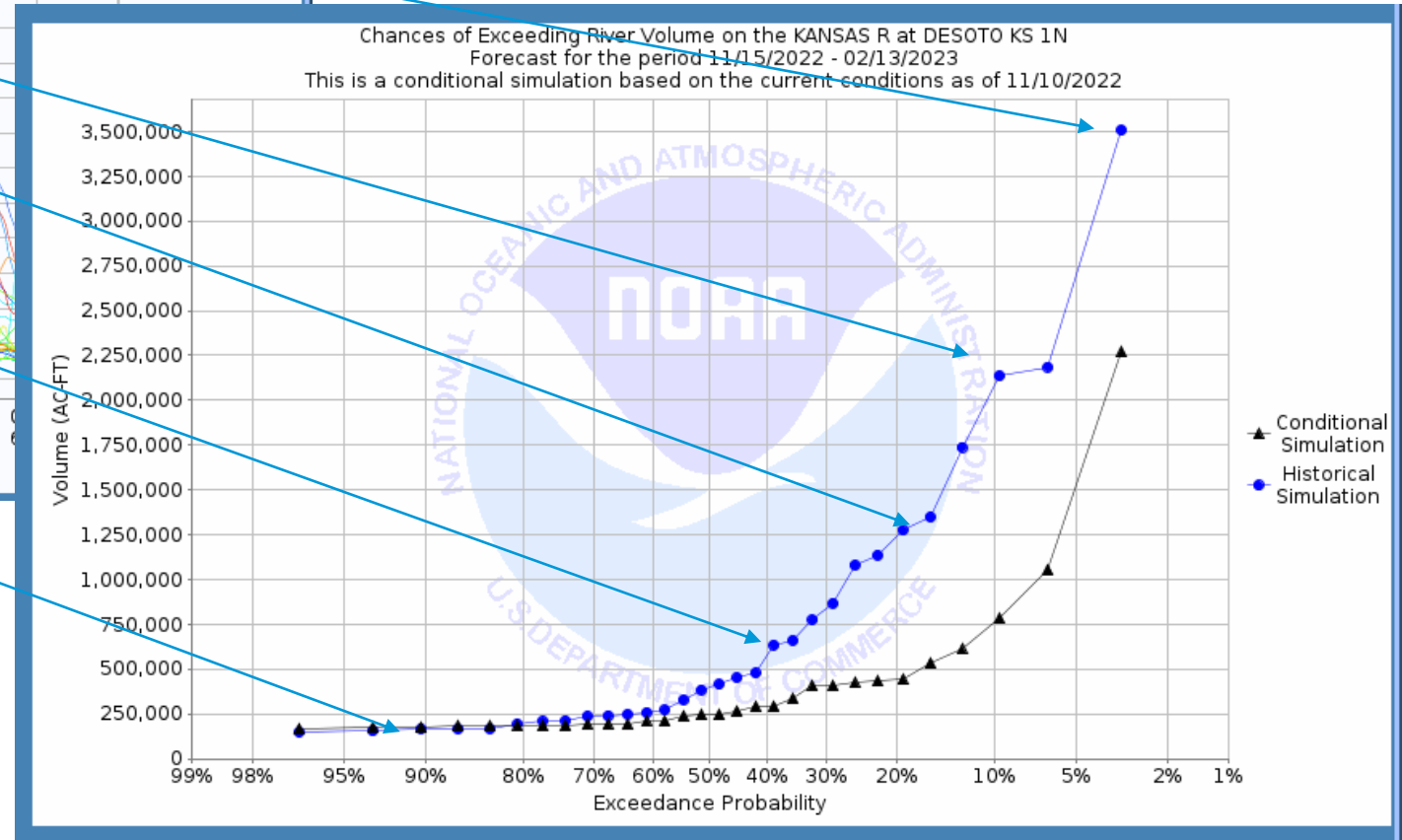
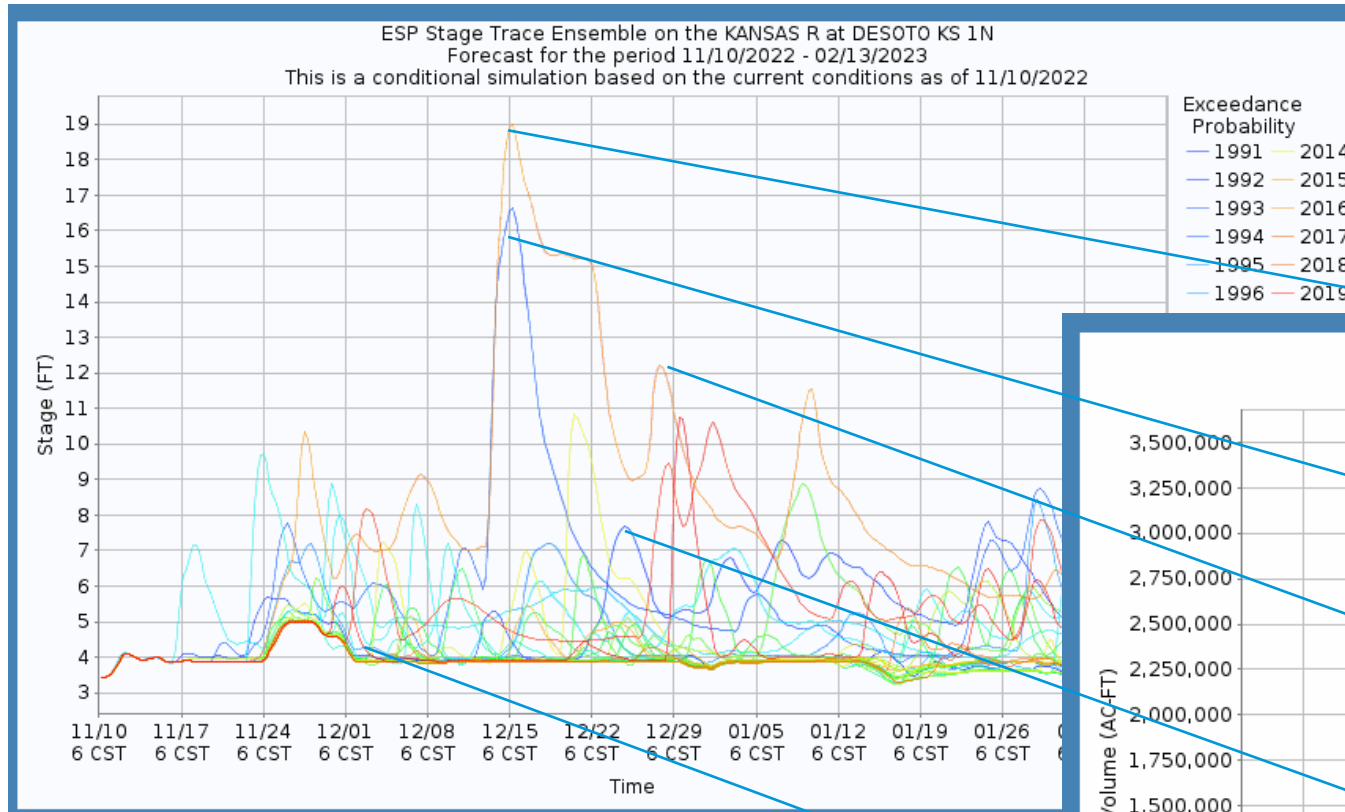


# SOME KEY SURFACE WATER PRODUCTS PROVIDED



# SURFACE WATER PROBABILISTIC PRODUCTS

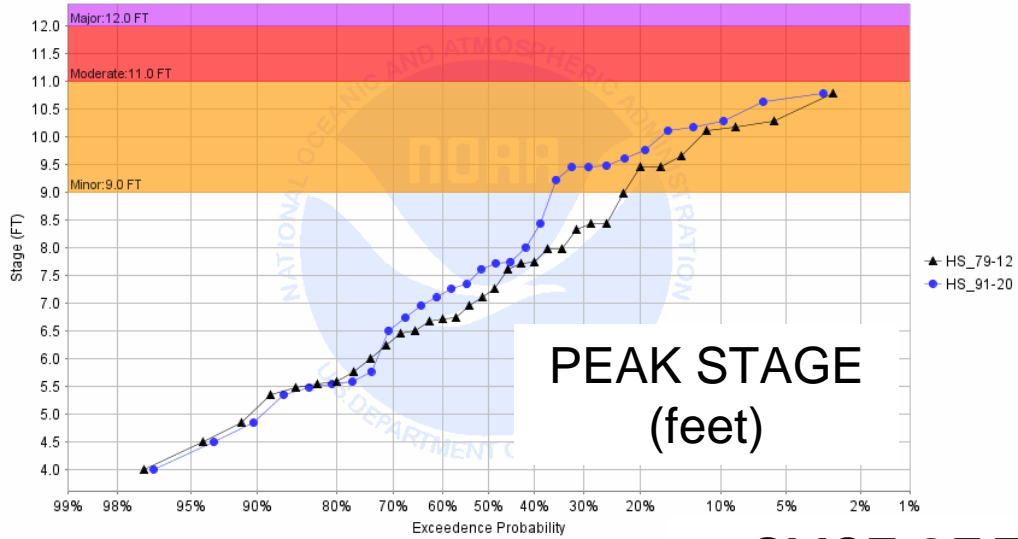
## Converting Ensemble Traces into Probabilities



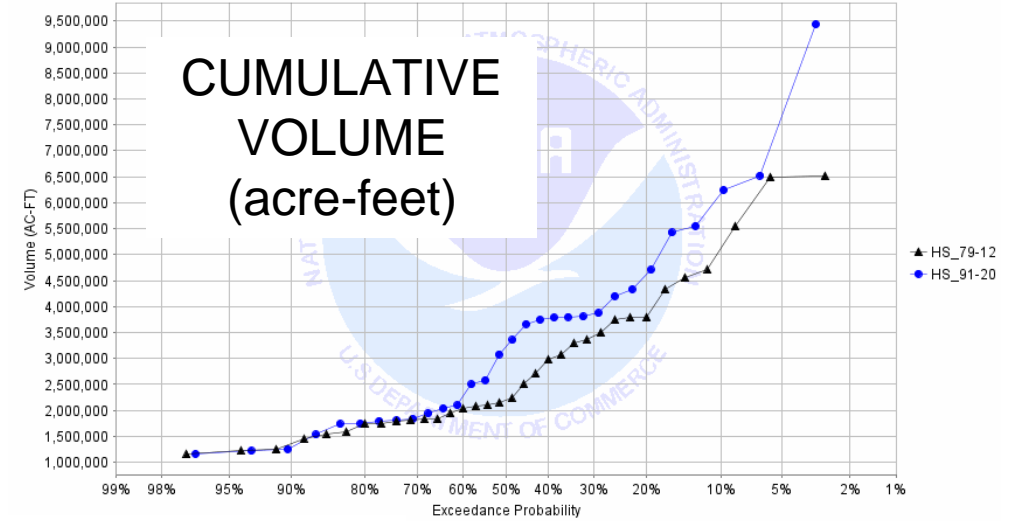
# SURFACE WATER PROBABILISTIC PRODUCTS

## VARIOUS PARAMETERS, VARIOUS TIME SLICES

Chance of Exceeding River Stage on the PLATTE R at LOUISVILLE NE  
Forecast for the period 04/01/2022 - 09/30/2022  
This is a historical simulation for LOUN1

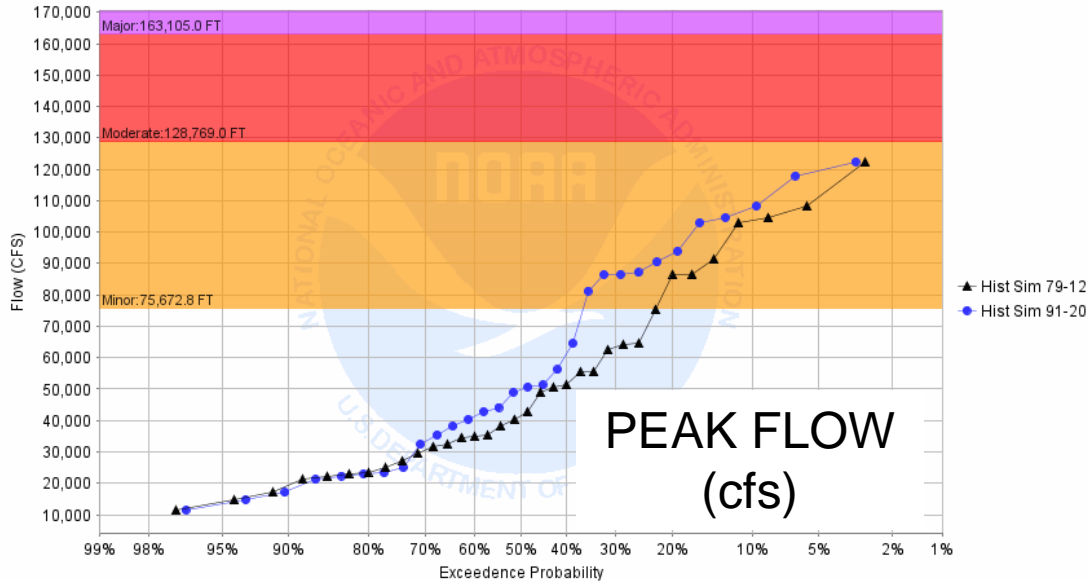


Chances of Exceeding River Volume on the PLATTE R at LOUISVILLE NE  
Forecast for the period 04/01/2022 - 09/30/2022  
This is a historical simulation for LOUN1

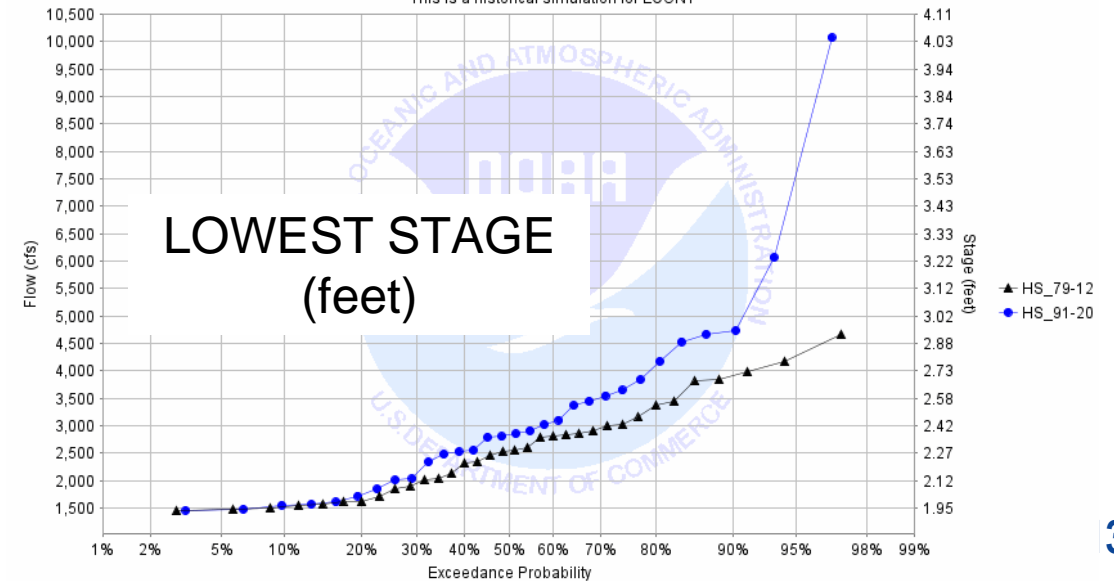


### SLICE OF TIME April thru September

Chance of Exceeding River Flow on the PLATTE R at LOUISVILLE NE  
Forecast for the period 04/01/2022 - 09/30/2022  
This is a historical simulation for LOUN1

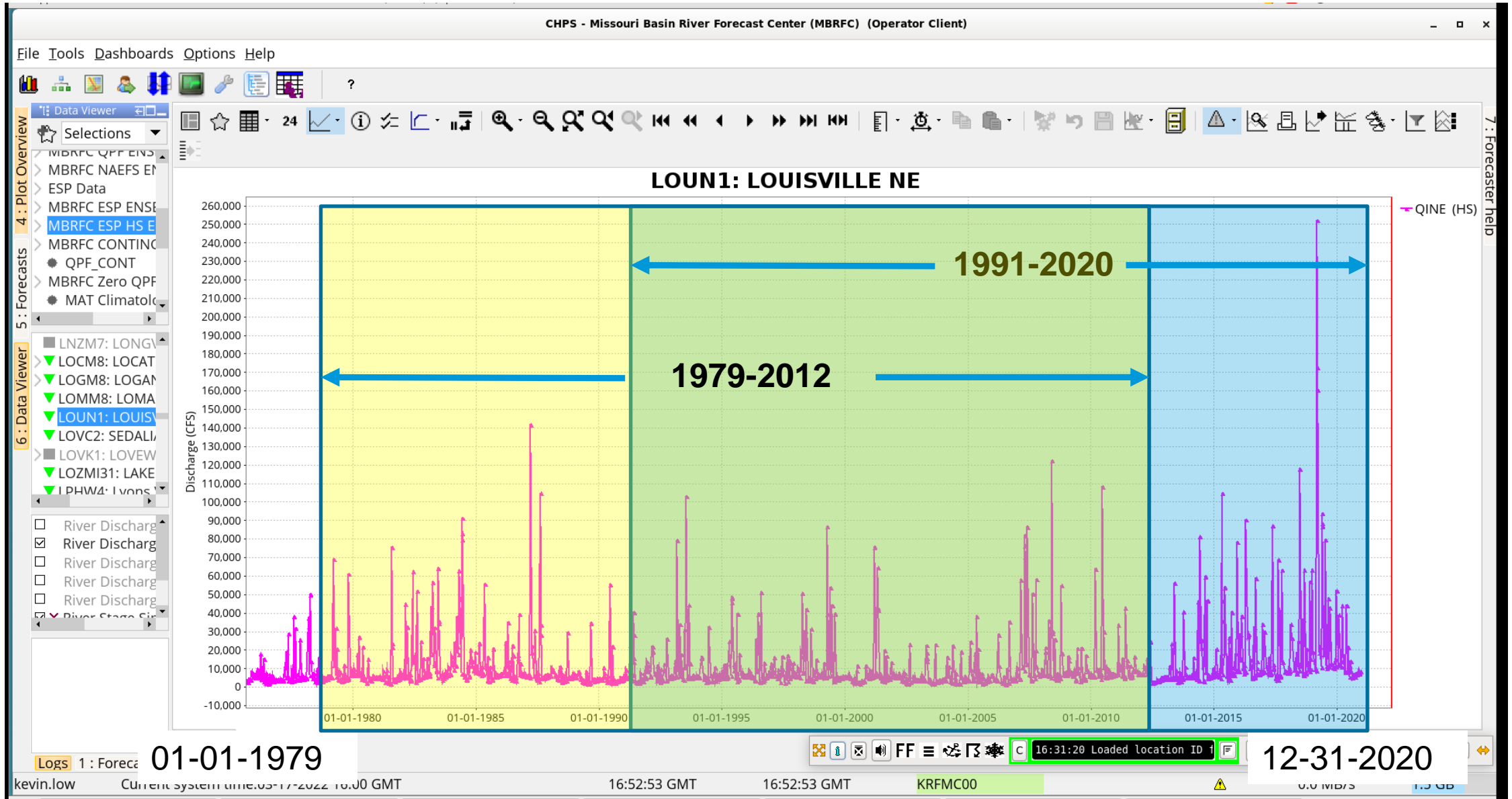


Chance of Exceeding River Stage on the PLATTE R at LOUISVILLE NE  
Forecast for the period 04/01/2022 - 09/30/2022  
This is a historical simulation for LOUN1



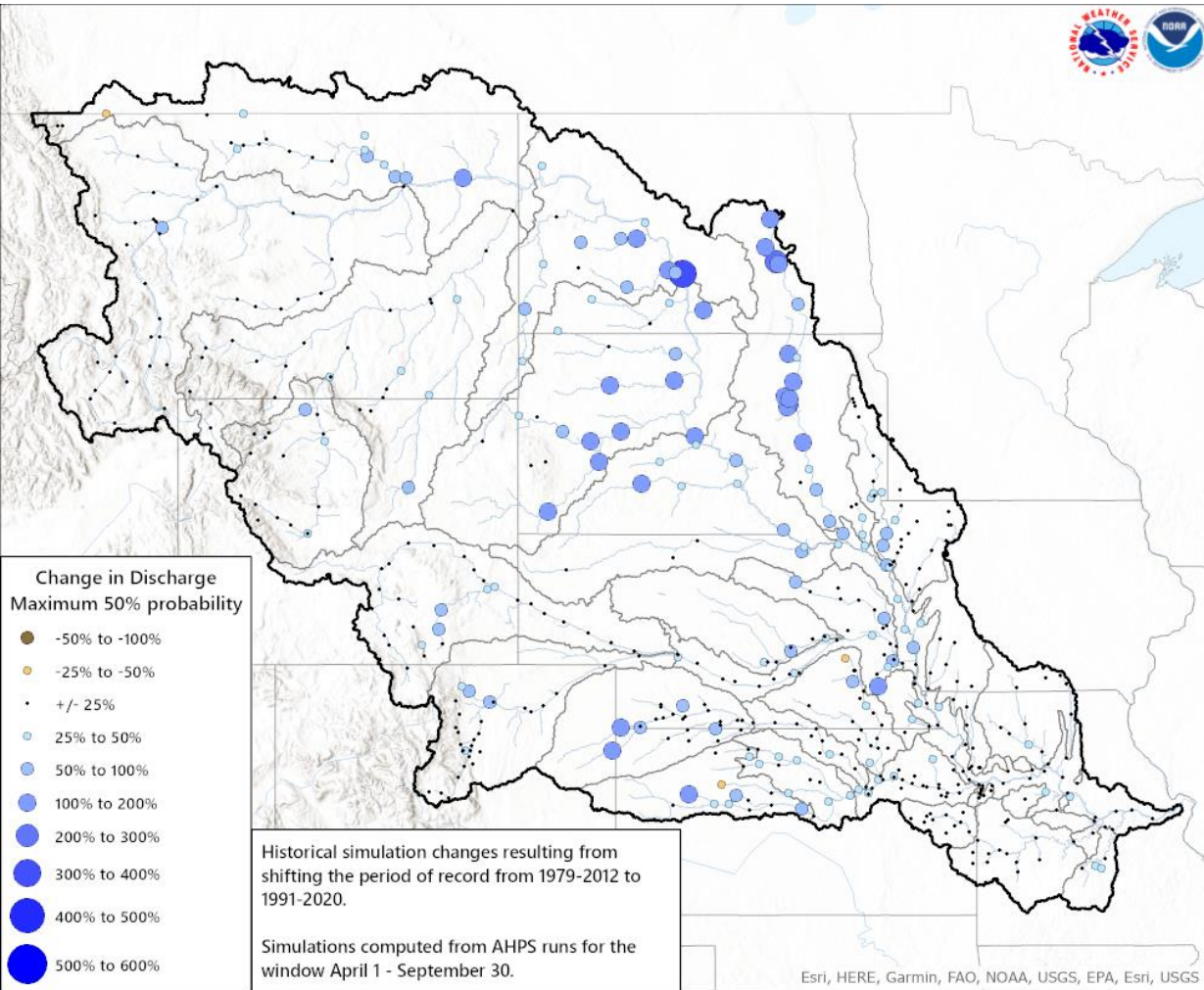
# MISSOURI BASIN HYDROLOGIC TRENDS

## MOVING 30-DAY PERIOD-OF-RECORD



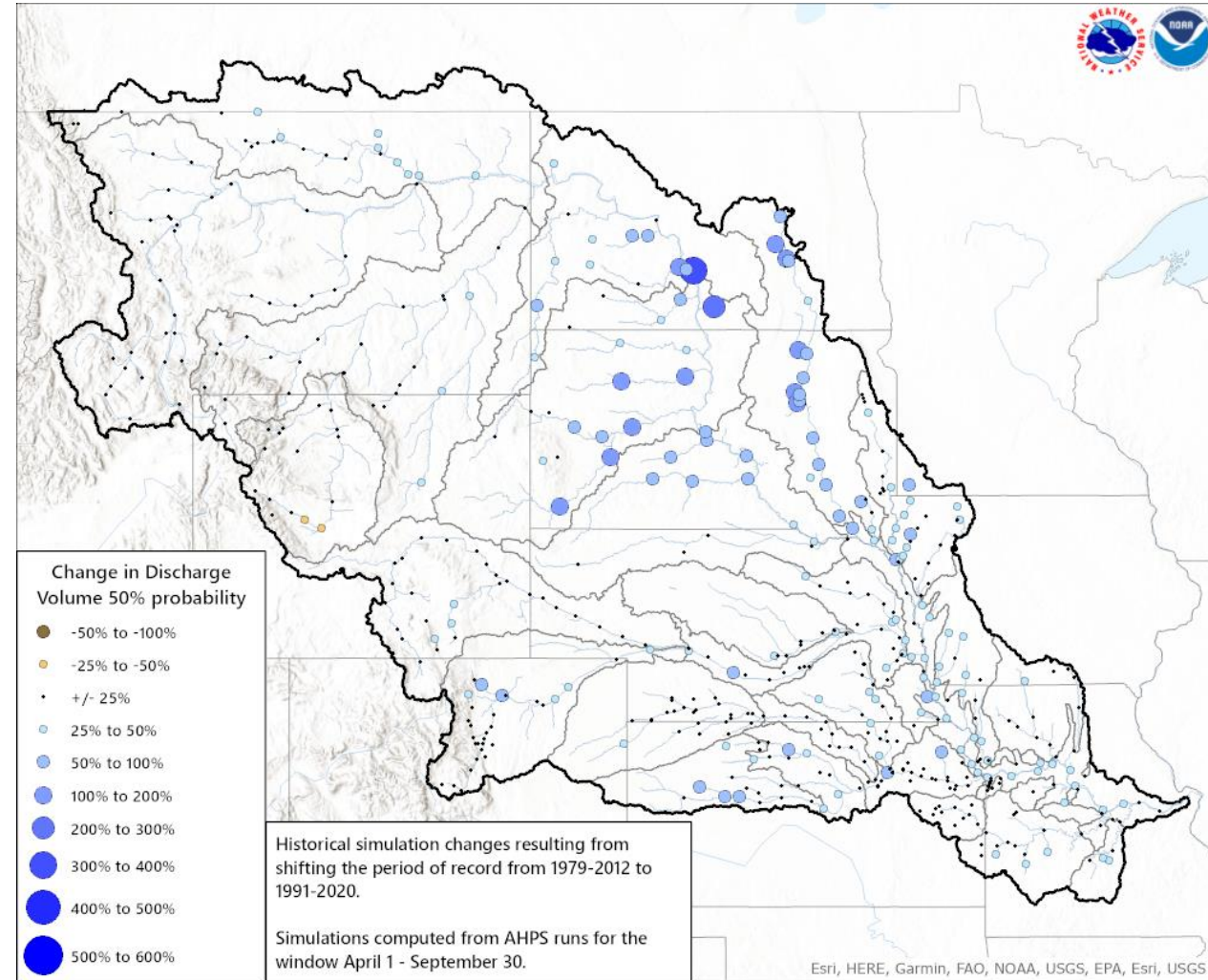
# SURFACE WATER TRENDS

## APRIL-SEPTEMBER: COMPARING '79-'12 To '91-'20



Change in Discharge Maximum 50% Probability

**Expected peak discharges (50-50%)  
during April-September**



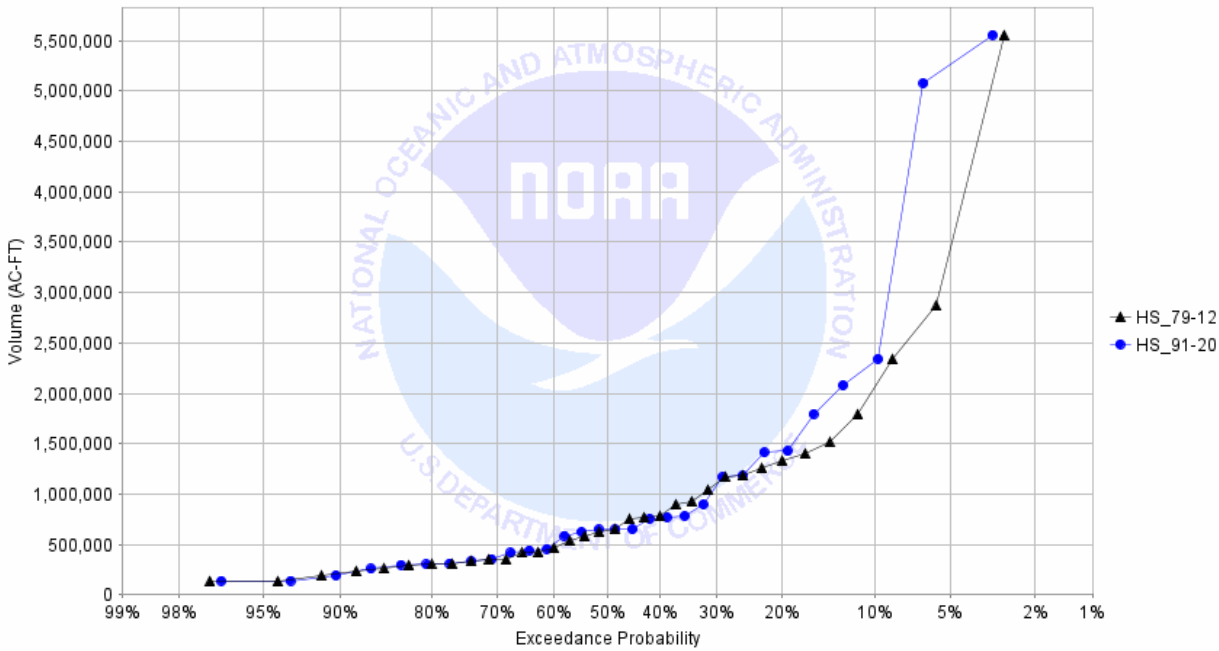
Change in Discharge Volume 50% Probability

**Expected volumes (50-50%)  
during April-September**

# SURFACE WATER TRENDS ('79-'12 to '91-'20)

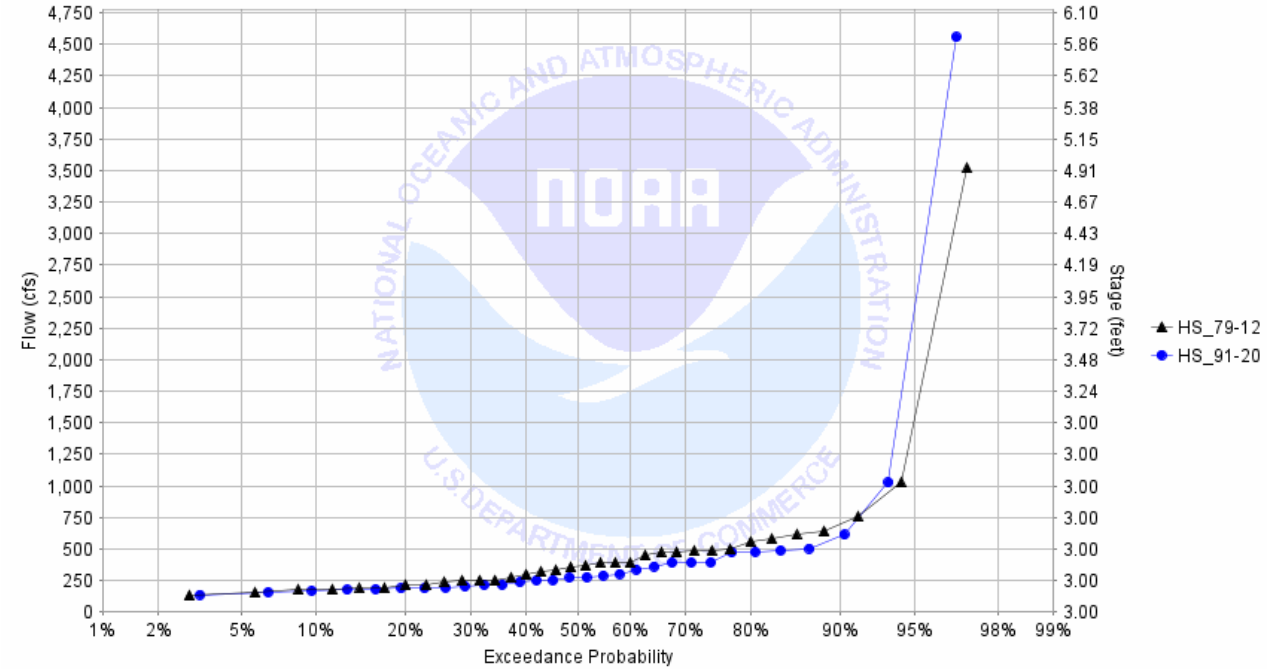
## SMOKY HILL AT JUNCTION CITY

Chances of Exceeding River Volume on the SMOKY HILL R at JUNCTION CITY KS 4SSW  
 Forecast for the period 04/01/2022 - 09/30/2022  
 This is a historical simulation for JUCK1



**Volume**  
 during April-September

Probability of Falling to Low Flow Levels on the SMOKY HILL R at JUNCTION CITY KS 4SSW  
 Forecast for the period 04/01/2022 - 09/30/2022  
 This is a historical simulation for JUCK1



**Low-Flow**  
 during April-September





# Kansas Aquifers and Drought

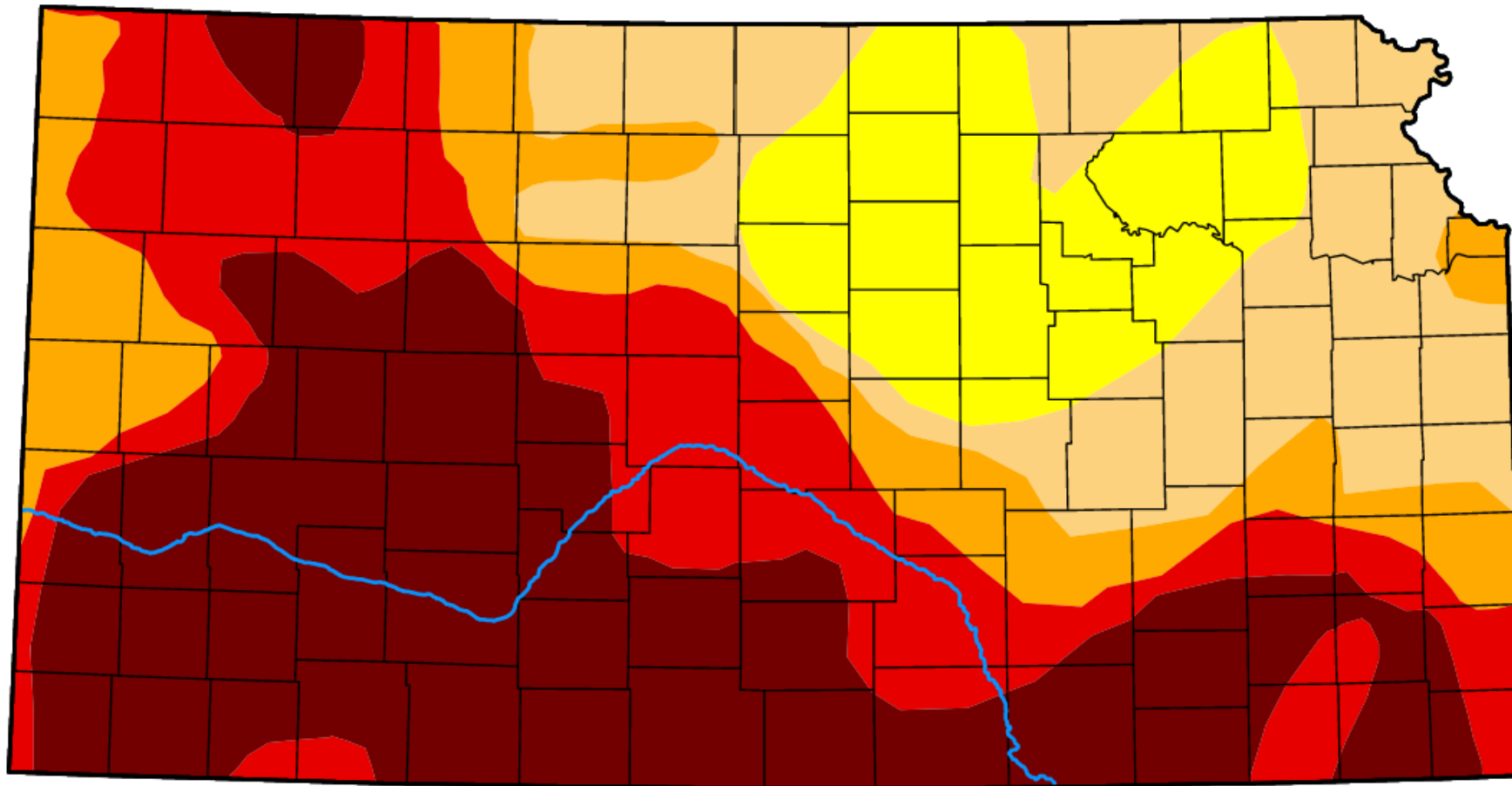
Jim Butler

Kansas Geological Survey  
University of Kansas

Drought Panel

**Governor's Conference on the  
Future of Water in Kansas**

Manhattan, Kansas  
November 16, 2022



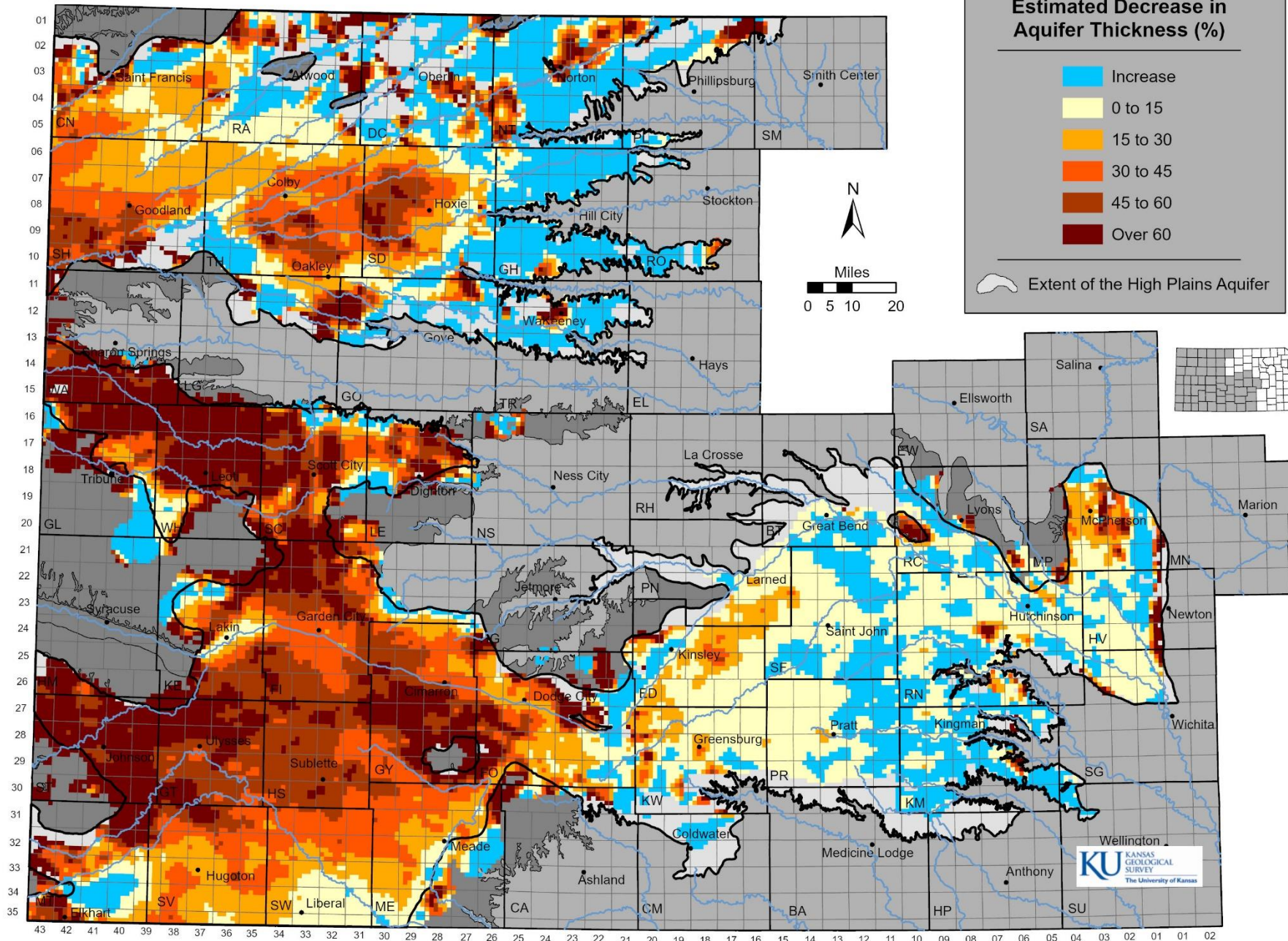
# Kansas Drought Monitor

## November 8, 2022

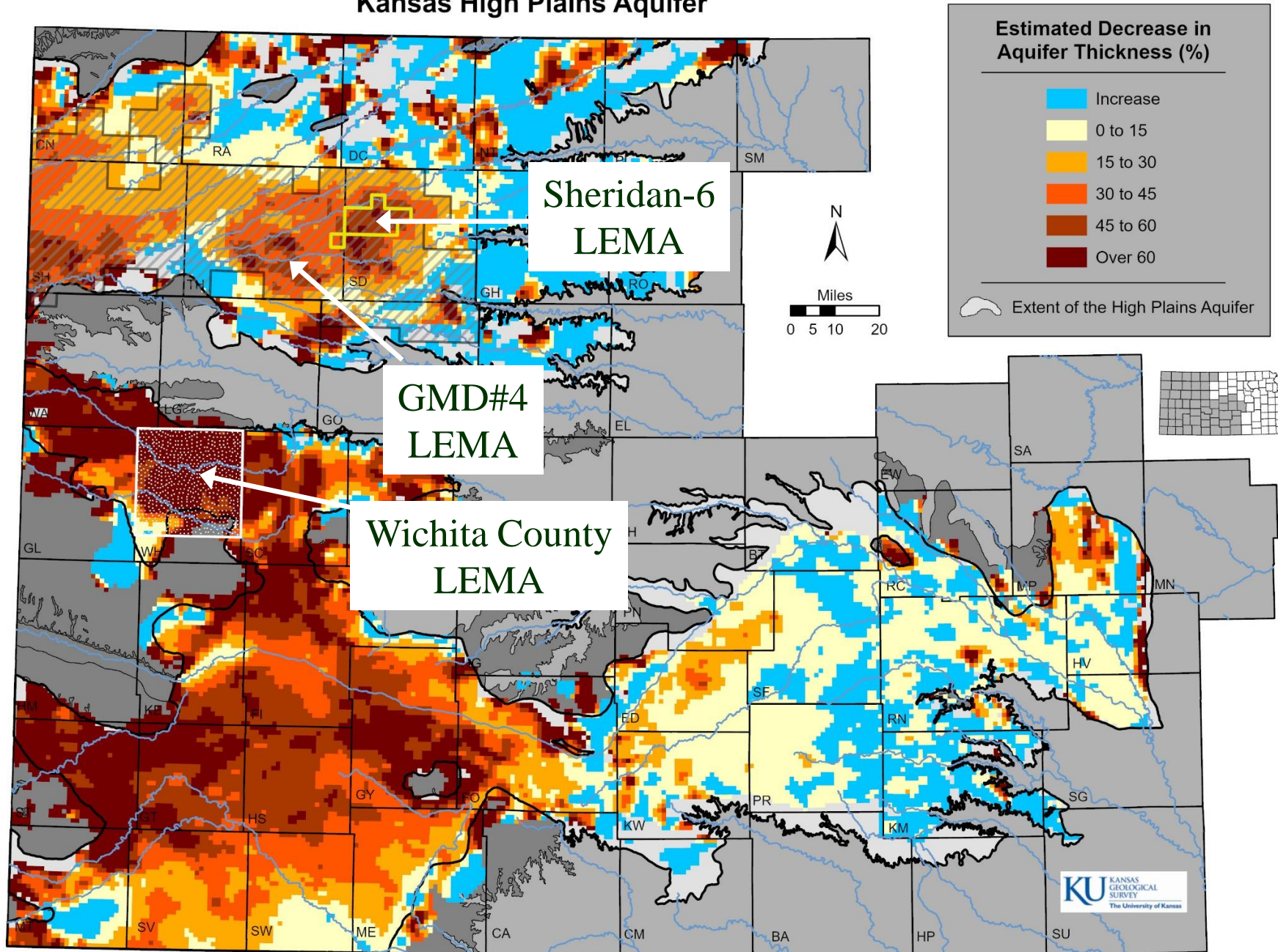
### Intensity

- None
- D0 (Abnormally Dry)
- D1 (Moderate Drought)
- D2 (Severe Drought)
- D3 (Extreme Drought)
- D4 (Exceptional Drought)

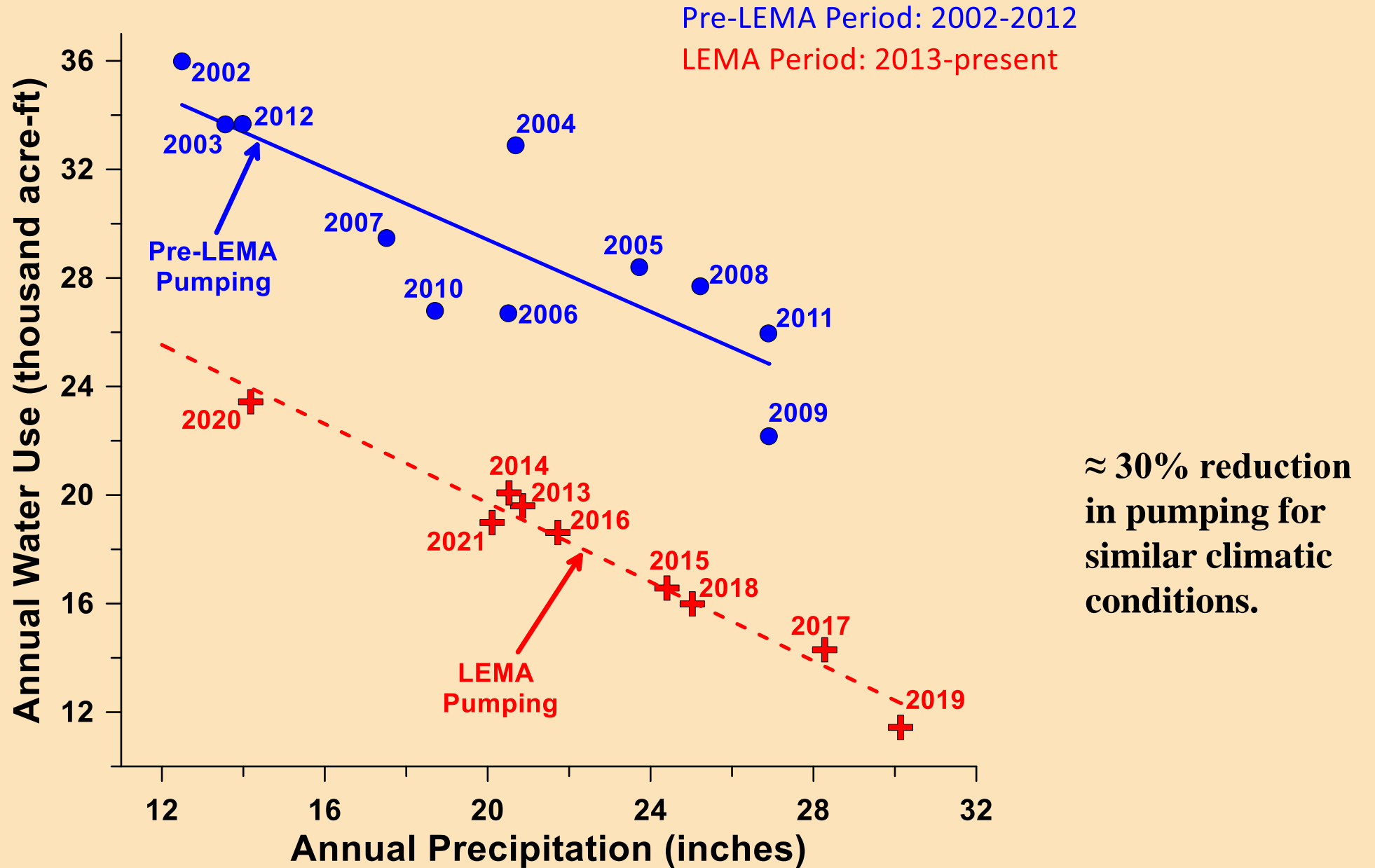
# Percent Change in Aquifer Thickness, Predevelopment to Average 2020-2022, Kansas High Plains Aquifer



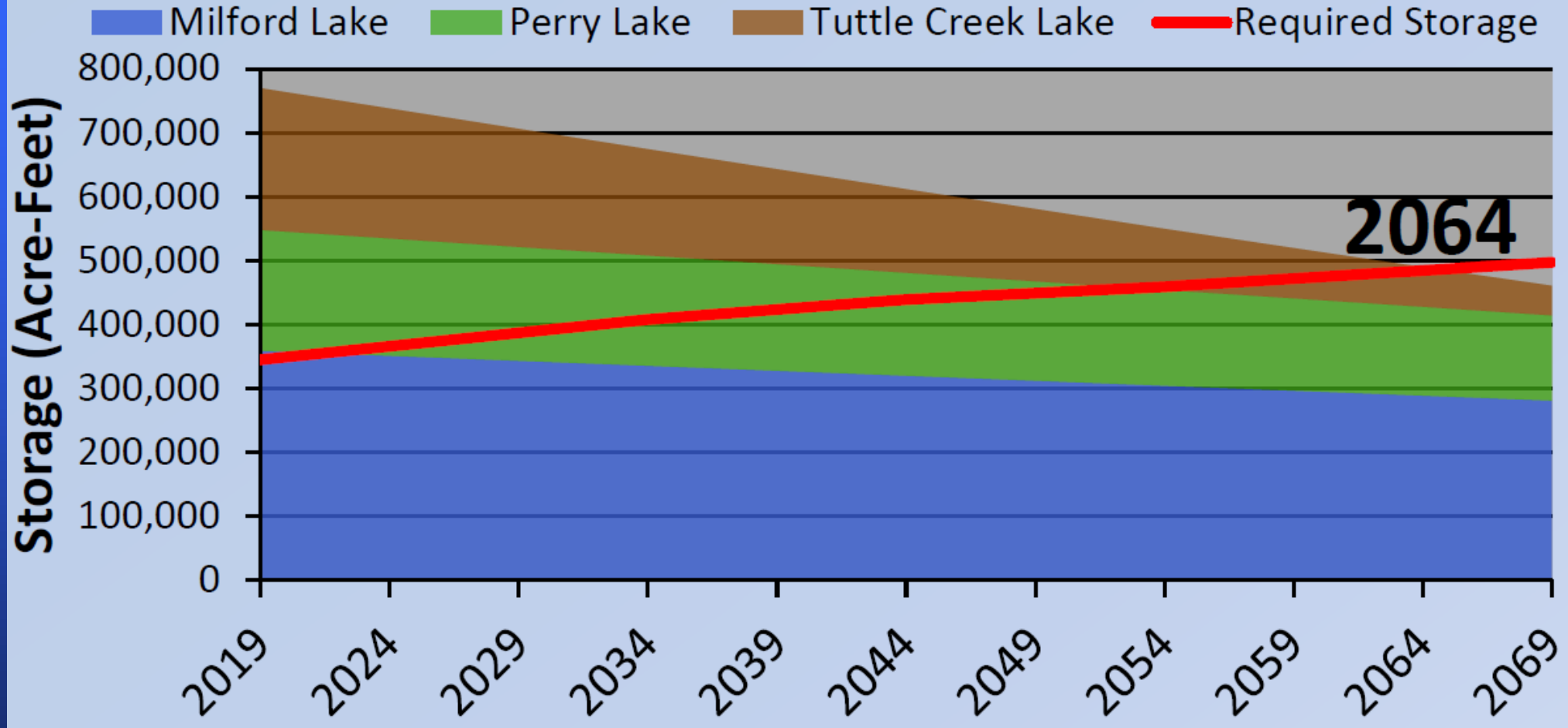
# Percent Change in Aquifer Thickness, Predevelopment to Average 2020-2022, Kansas High Plains Aquifer



# Sheridan-6 LEMA

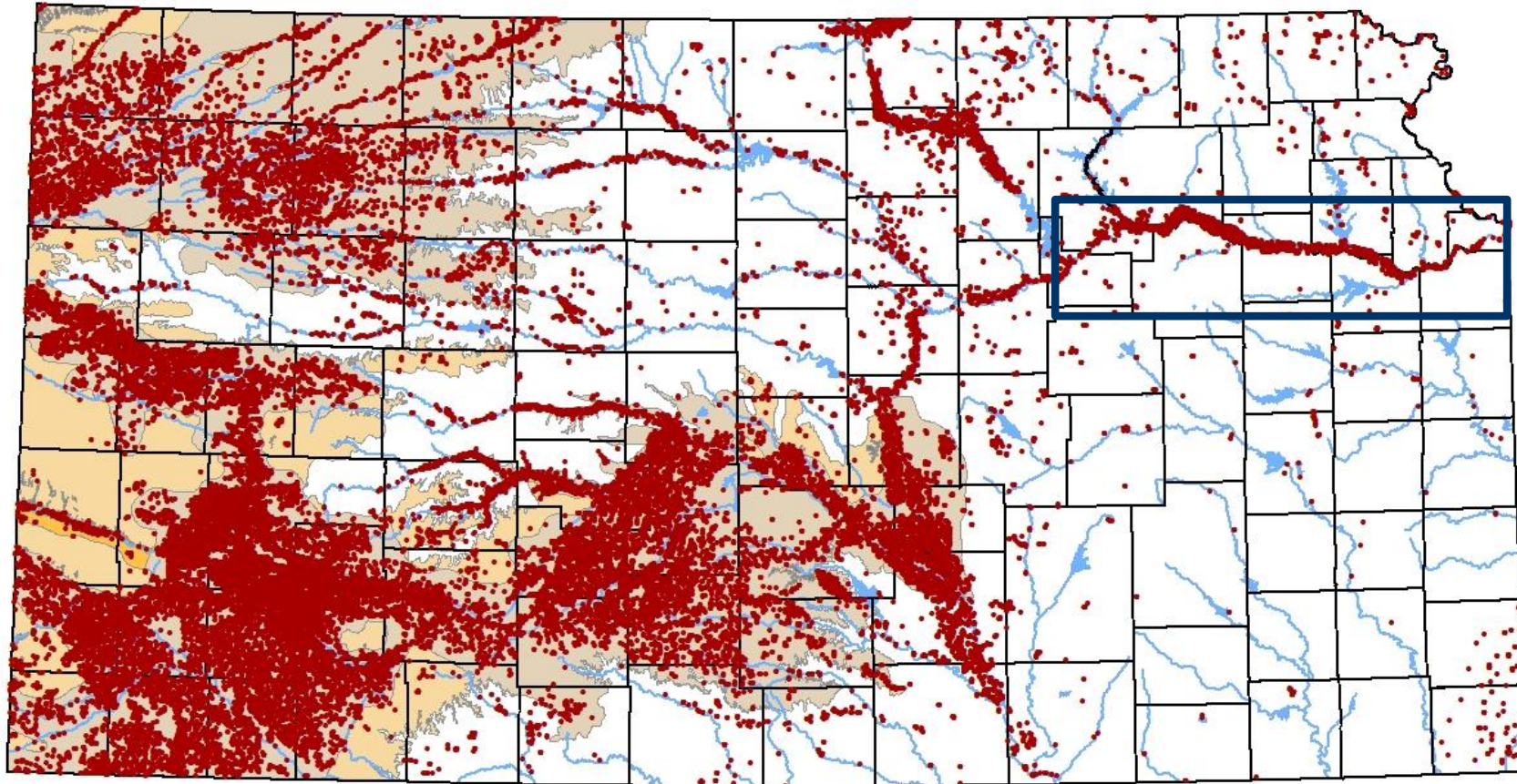


# Kansas River Basin



Where are we going to get the storage?

# Annual Groundwater Use Data



**How do the Kansas River Alluvial Aquifer and Kansas River interact?**



## Kansas River Index Well Network: 16 wells

Data



Insights



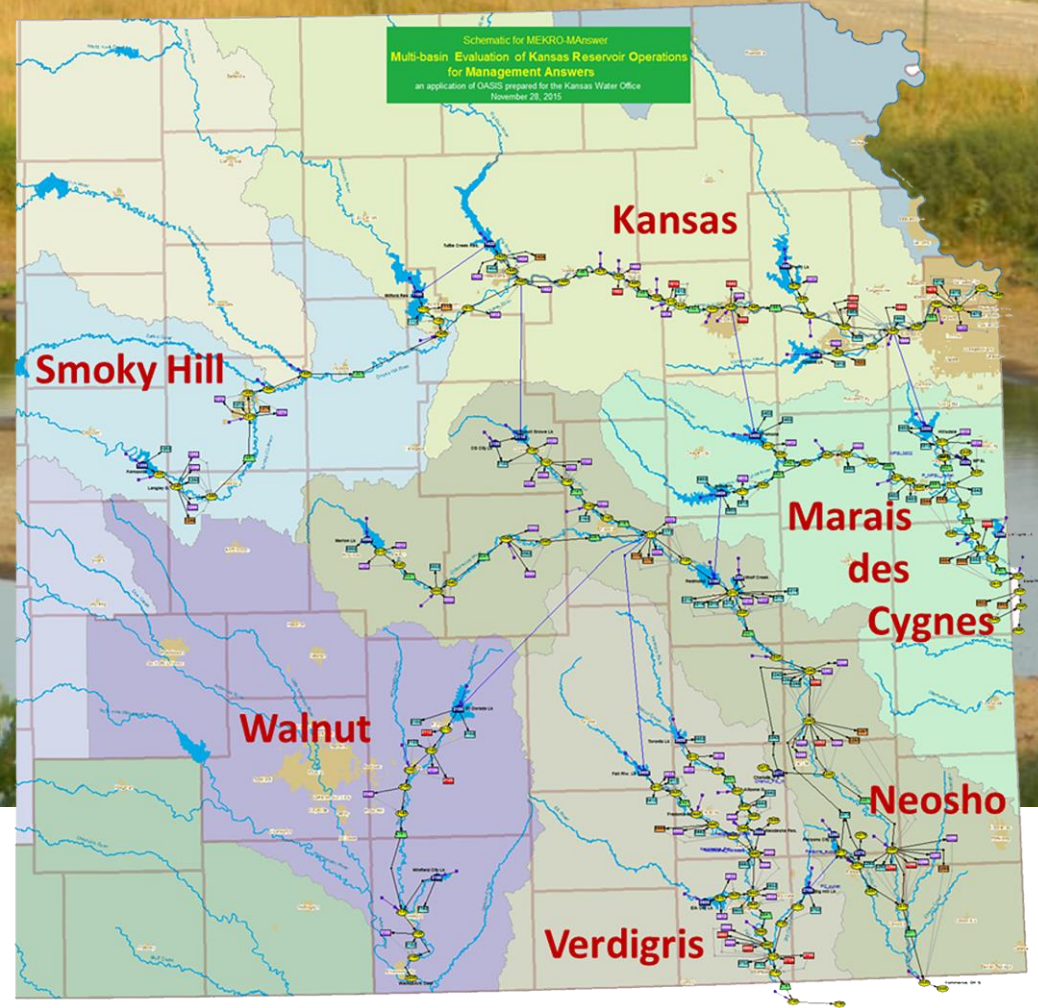
Model

Paths Forward





# Hazen



## The Tools of Successful Drought Management

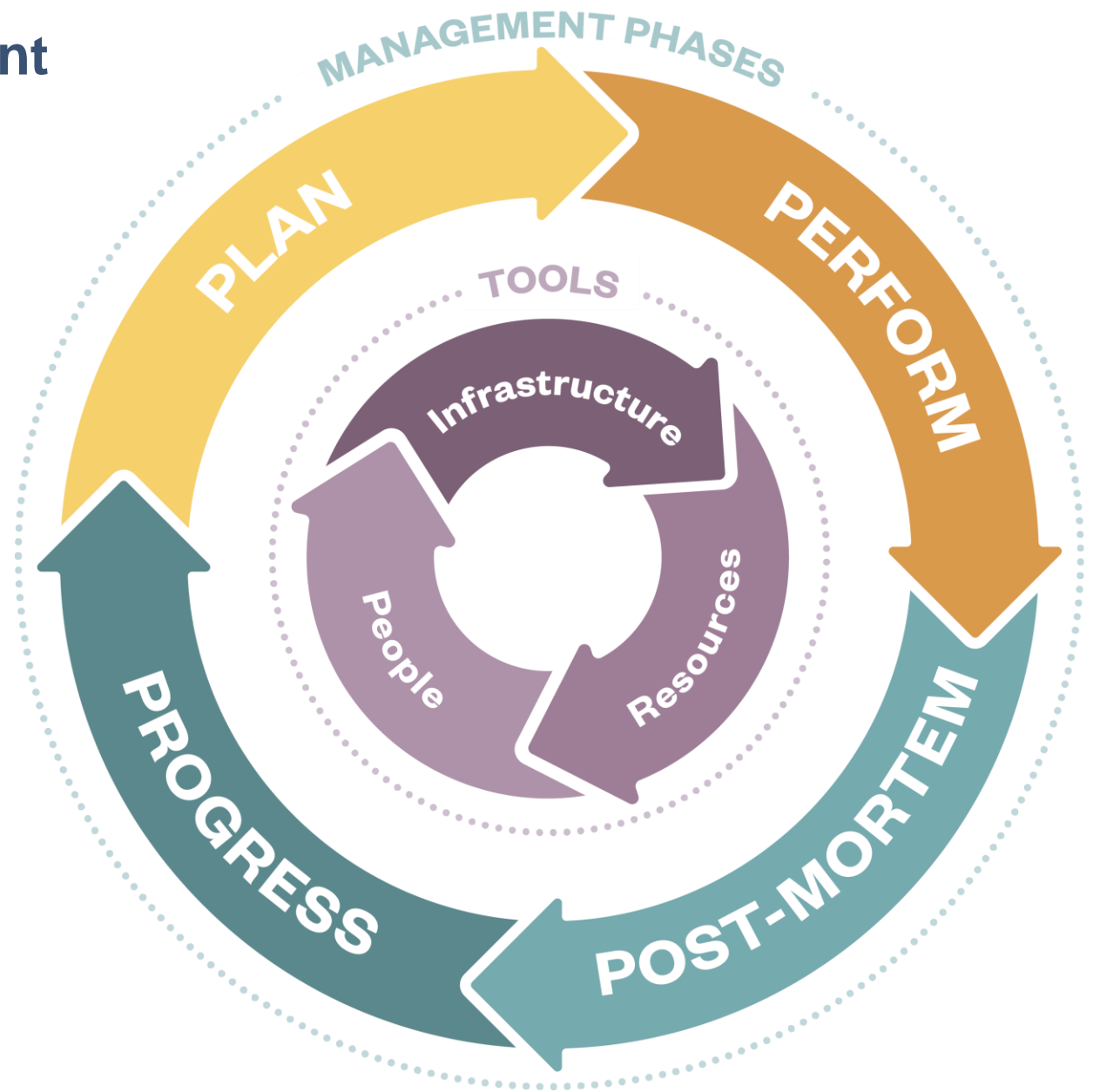
Governor's Conference on the Future of Water In Kansas  
A. Michael Sheer

Manhattan, KS | November 16, 2022



# Successful Drought Management

Four steps, three factors, One shared toolbox



# Phase 1: Plan

Explore, Test, Engage



## Explore

KU | The University of Kansas

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**Contact**

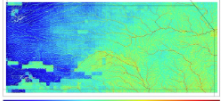
Brendan M. Lynch  
 KU News Service  
 785-864-8855  
[blynch@ku.edu](mailto:blynch@ku.edu)

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### RESEARCHERS TO DEVELOP NEW MODELS FOR FORECASTING WATER AVAILABILITY AND ALLOCATION IN KANSAS

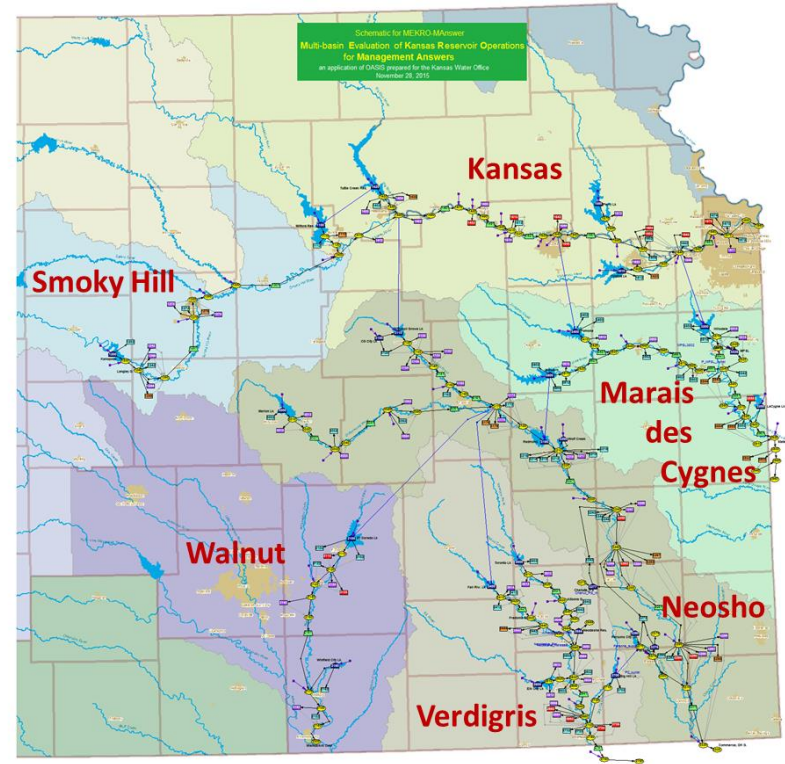
Tue, 11/09/2021

The new modeling effort will focus on central and eastern sections of Kansas that depend on surface water, incorporating six river basins, 21 reservoirs, 51 inflows and 163 sources of consumptive water use.

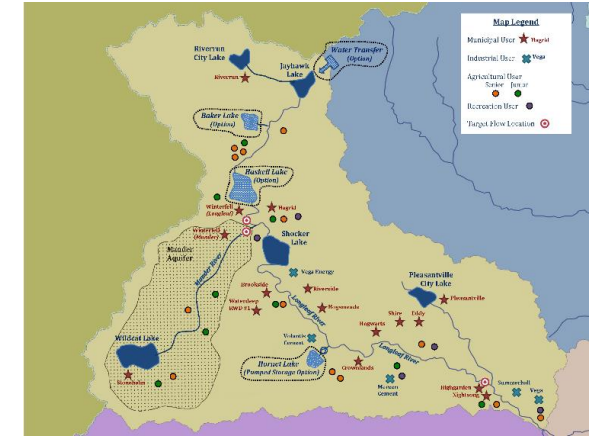


“The Kansas Water Office is looking forward to working with the University of Kansas on this WaterSmart grant project, developing more tools and resources to incorporate climate variability to future water supply planning for the state of Kansas,” said Richard Rockett, KWO water resource planner. “This project will allow for a more comprehensive analysis of climate variability as applied to regional water supply issues the state is facing.”

## Test



## Engage



### 1st Place: The Grasshoppers

The Grasshoppers followed a plan more similar to the approach taken by several other groups, combining a mix of better utilization of existing storage alongside conservation and minimum flow reduction. This alternative came in at \$13,863,800, still considered cheap relative to the other plans.

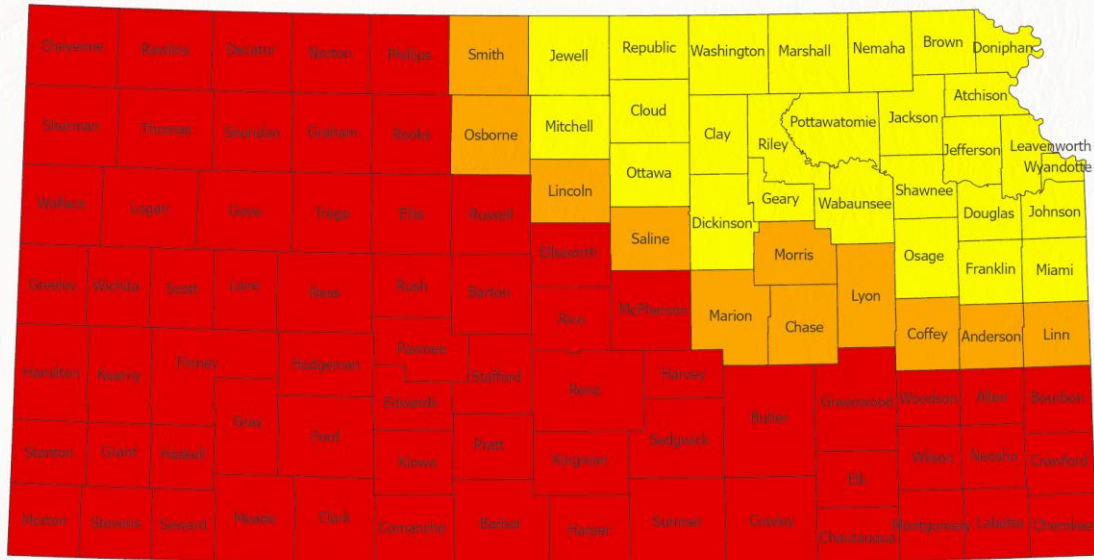
# Phase 2: Perform

Communicate & Manage



## Communicate

Governor Declares Drought Emergency, Warnings and Watches for Kansas Counties  
September 30, 2022

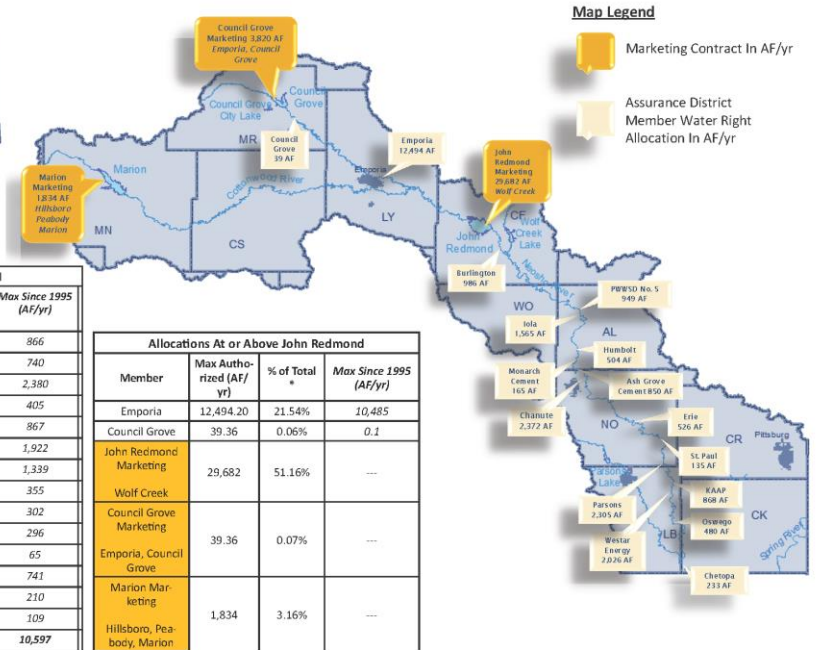


■ Emergency ■ Warning ■ Watch



## Manage

### Cottonwood & Neosho River Water Supply Storage Customers



- Map Legend**
- Marketing Contract In AF/yr
  - Assurance District Member Water Right Allocation In AF/yr

Allocations Below John Redmond			
Member	Max Authorized (AF/yr)	% of Total *	Max Since 1995 (AF/yr)
PWWSD No. 5	948.95	1.64%	866
Burlington	986.39	1.7%	740
Parsons	2,304.73	3.97%	2,380
Erie	526.53	0.91%	405
Westar Energy	2,026.45	3.49%	867
Chanute	2,371.80	4.09%	1,922
Iola	1,565.09	2.7%	1,339
Humboldt	504.06	0.87%	355
Oswego	480.52	0.83%	302
KAA GPD/D&Z	868.19	1.4%	296
Monarch Cement	165	0.28%	65
Ash Grove Cement	849.91	1.46%	741
Chetopa	233.24	0.40%	210
St. Paul	135.06	0.23%	109
<b>Total</b>	<b>13,966</b>	<b>24.07%</b>	<b>10,597</b>

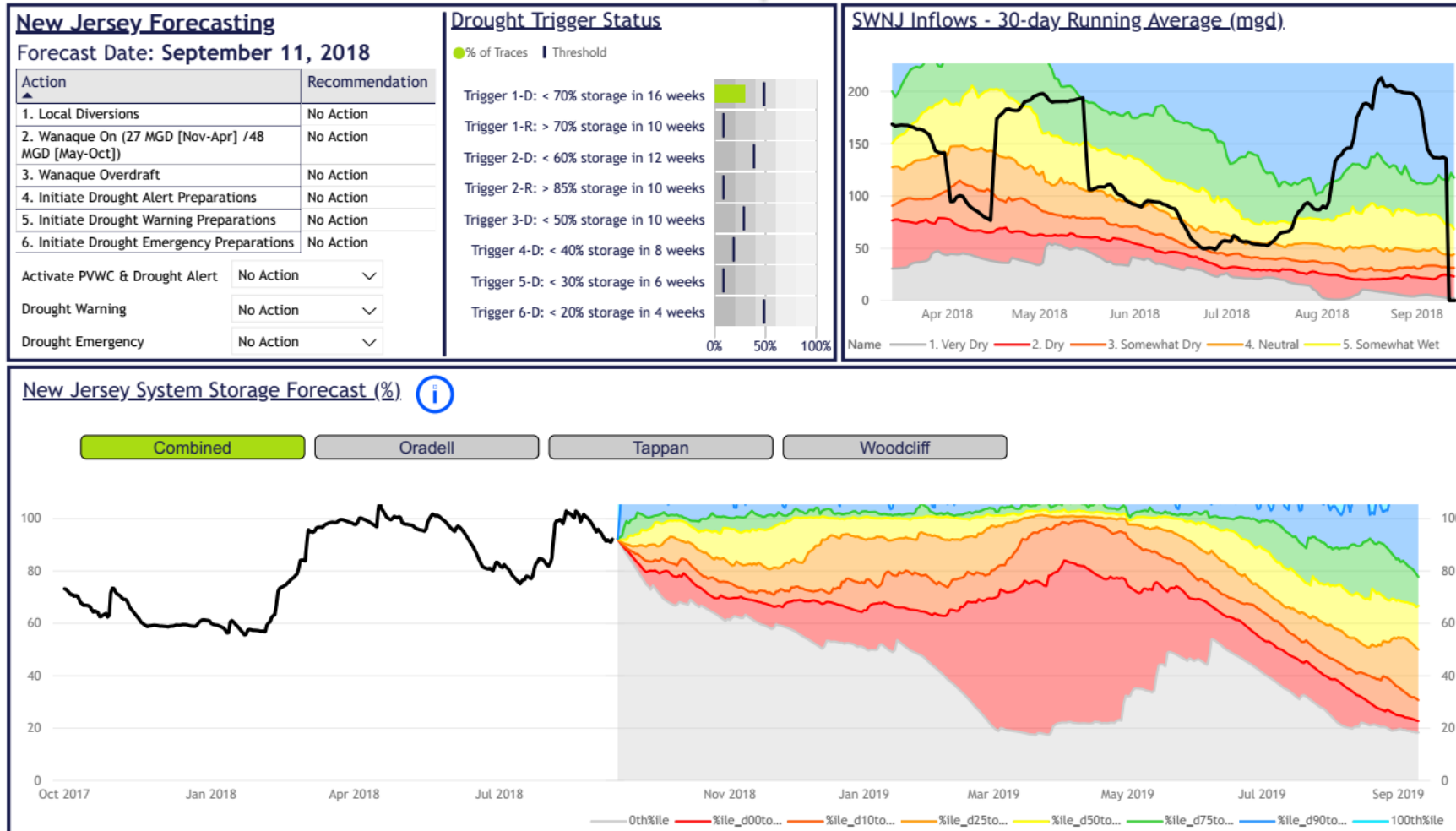
Allocations At or Above John Redmond			
Member	Max Authorized (AF/yr)	% of Total *	Max Since 1995 (AF/yr)
Emporia	12,494.20	21.54%	10,485
Council Grove	39.36	0.06%	0.1
John Redmond Marketing	29,682	51.16%	---
Wolf Creek	39.36	0.07%	---
Emporia, Council Grove	39.36	0.07%	---
Marion Marketing	1,834	3.16%	---

# Phase 2: Perform

## Forecast Informed Operations & Operation Support Tools



How close are we to triggering action?

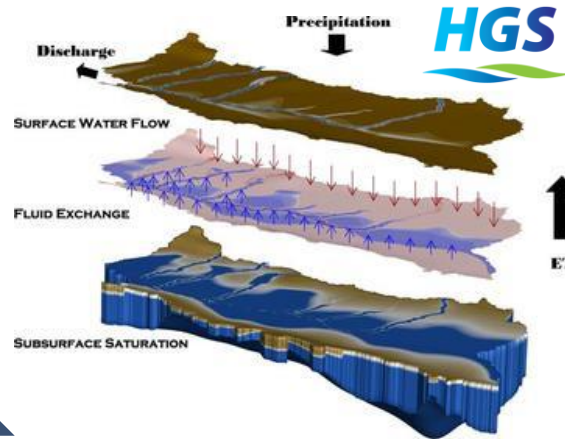


# Phases 3 & 4: Post-Mortem & Progress

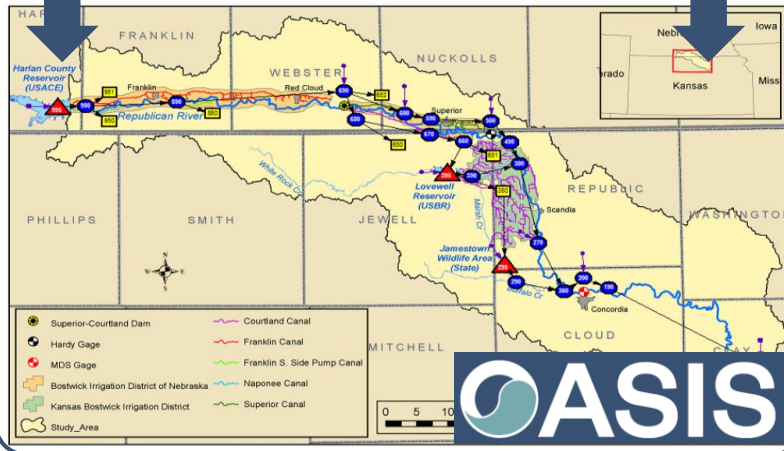


Review and Improve, Find new solutions

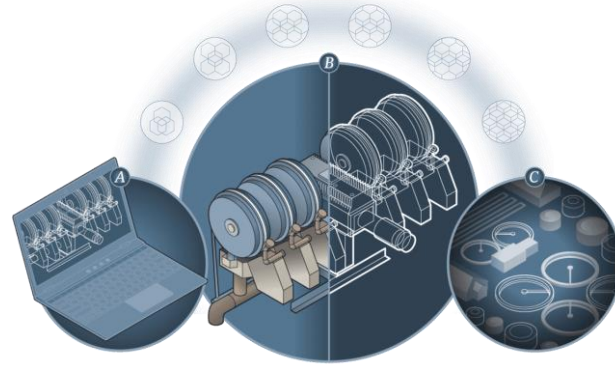
## Explore & Link



Groundwater Model Linkage



## Design



## Permit



## Build & Adapt



all  
things  
water<sup>®</sup>  
Hazen

The logo graphic consists of three horizontal lines of varying lengths, centered under the word 'water' in the text above. The top line is the longest, the middle line is shorter, and the bottom line is the shortest.