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Bottom-up Approaches to Optimize Urban Water Supply, Wastewater, Stormwater, Reuse, and Watershed Network Systems

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Bottom-up Approaches to Optimize Urban Water Supply, Wastewater, Stormwater, Reuse, and Watershed Network Systems

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Presented at:

50 Years of Watershed Modeling

Engineering Conferences International

NCAR in Boulder, Colorado

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Collaborators

- University of Colorado (1991-2003)
 - Donald Alexander, Lynn Buhlig, Beorn Courtney, Bill DeOreo, Bob Harberg, Jeff Harpring, Wayne Huber, Joong Lee, Istvan Lippai, Peter Mayer, Chelisa Pack, Marcus Quigley, Derek Rapp, David Sample, Laurel Stadjuhar, Eric Strecker, and Leonard Wright
- University of Florida (2003-2012)
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Research Sponsors

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- Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection
- South FL, Southwest FL, and St. Johns River Water Management Districts in Florida
- U.S. Geological Survey

Outline

- Why watersheds in urban areas?
- Build your own watershed starting with individual land parcels to evaluate centralized vs. decentralized water management options
- Agent-based modeling methods

Outline

- **Why watersheds in urban areas?**
 - **NRC study (Graf et al. 1999)**
 - **Boulder Creek Watershed (Heaney et al. 2000)**
- Build your own watershed starting with individual land parcels to evaluate decentralized vs. centralized water options
- Agent-based modeling methods

Sustainable Urban Water Infrastructure Systems

- Watershed Management
 - Hydropower
 - Water rights
 - Land use and energy planning
 - In-stream flow needs
 - Etc.
- Water Supply
 - Nature of urban water use
 - Impact of conservation in Florida
 - Dual water systems for reuse and fire protection
- Waste Water
 - CSO and SSO control
 - Reuse
- Storm Water
 - Characterization
 - Evaluation of LID & Other BMPs
 - Reuse
- System Integration

New Strategies for America's Watersheds

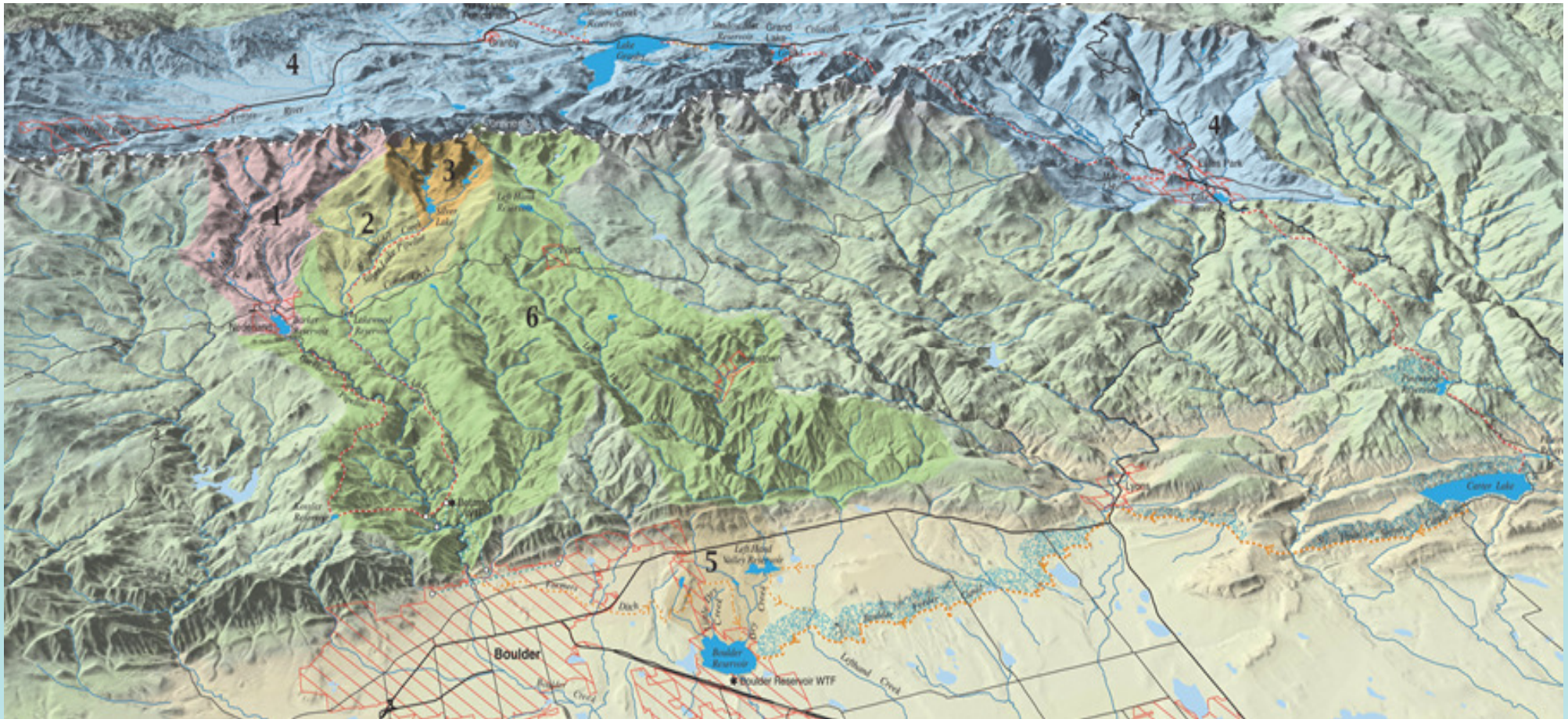
Graf et al. 1999 NRC Report

http://www.nap.edu/openbook.php?record_id=6020&page=R2

- Federal water agencies are defined by their missions and can't take an holistic view of watershed scale problems because of their project by project and mission focus
- Funding for watershed management is a major problem because most agency funding is for single purpose activities within a political jurisdiction
- Watershed approaches are easiest to implement at the local level

Boulder Creek Watershed is a Complex Mosaic of Natural and Human Systems

<http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/Utilities/resources/Boulder%20Watersheds%20Map.pdf>



Boulder Water System Modeling

Five “Watersheds” to Consider

- Boulder Creek Watershed with Supply Canals
- Looped Water Supply Network
- Mostly Dendritic Wastewater Network
- Mostly Dendritic Stormwater Network
- Looped/Dendritic Reuse Network

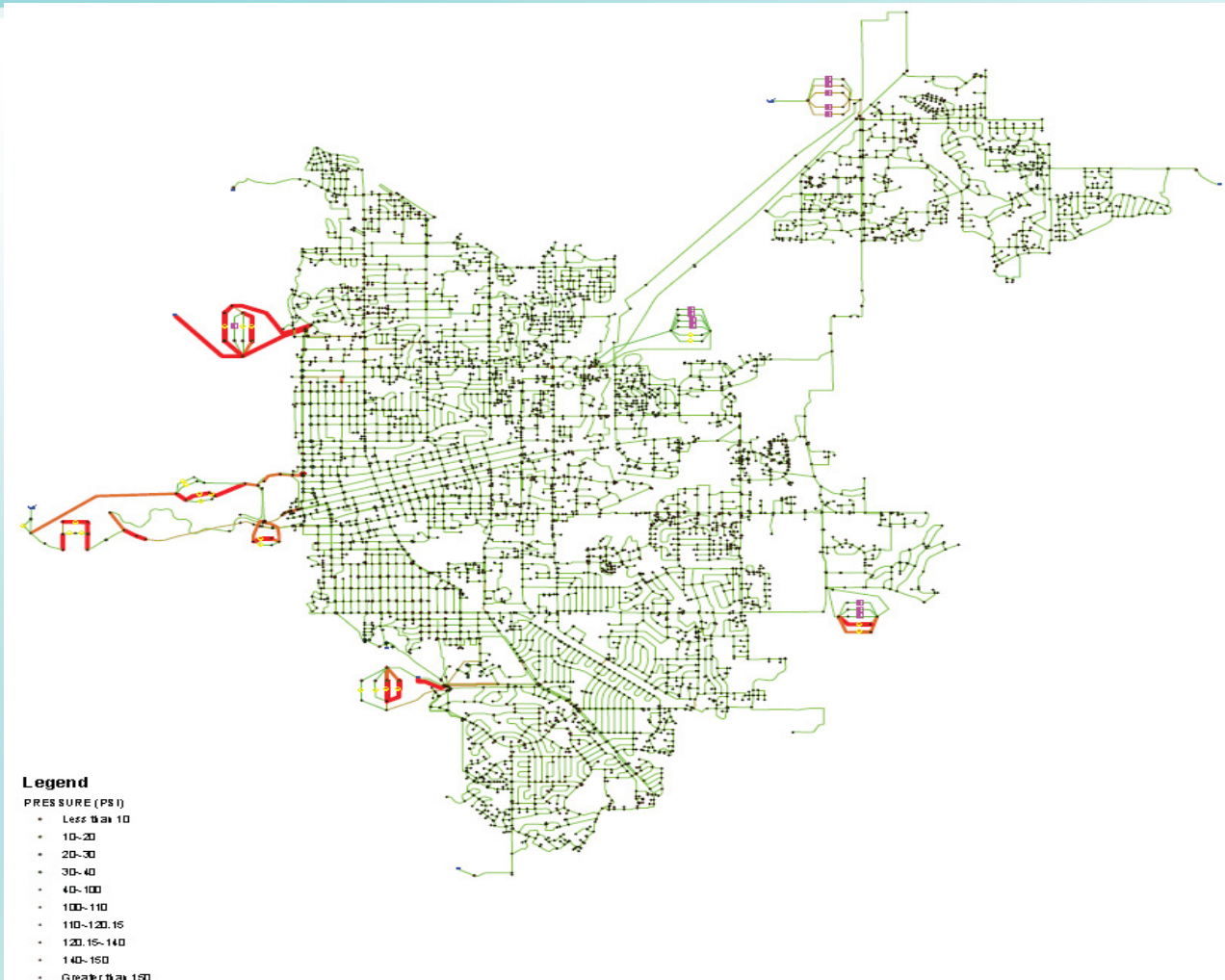
Boulder Creek Watershed Model Simulates/Optimizes Water Rights for the City of Boulder

http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/Utilities/WUMP/October_2011/Volume_4_-_October_2011.pdf

- Streamflows, water rights, diversions, exchanges, reservoir releases, return flows, etc.
- Facilities: reservoirs, pipelines, ditches, WTPs, and WWTPs
- Boulder's water supply system operations, including drought response triggers and demand reduction goals
- **Proprietary** model developed for a single stakeholder's use

Boulder Water Supply Hydraulic All Pipe Network

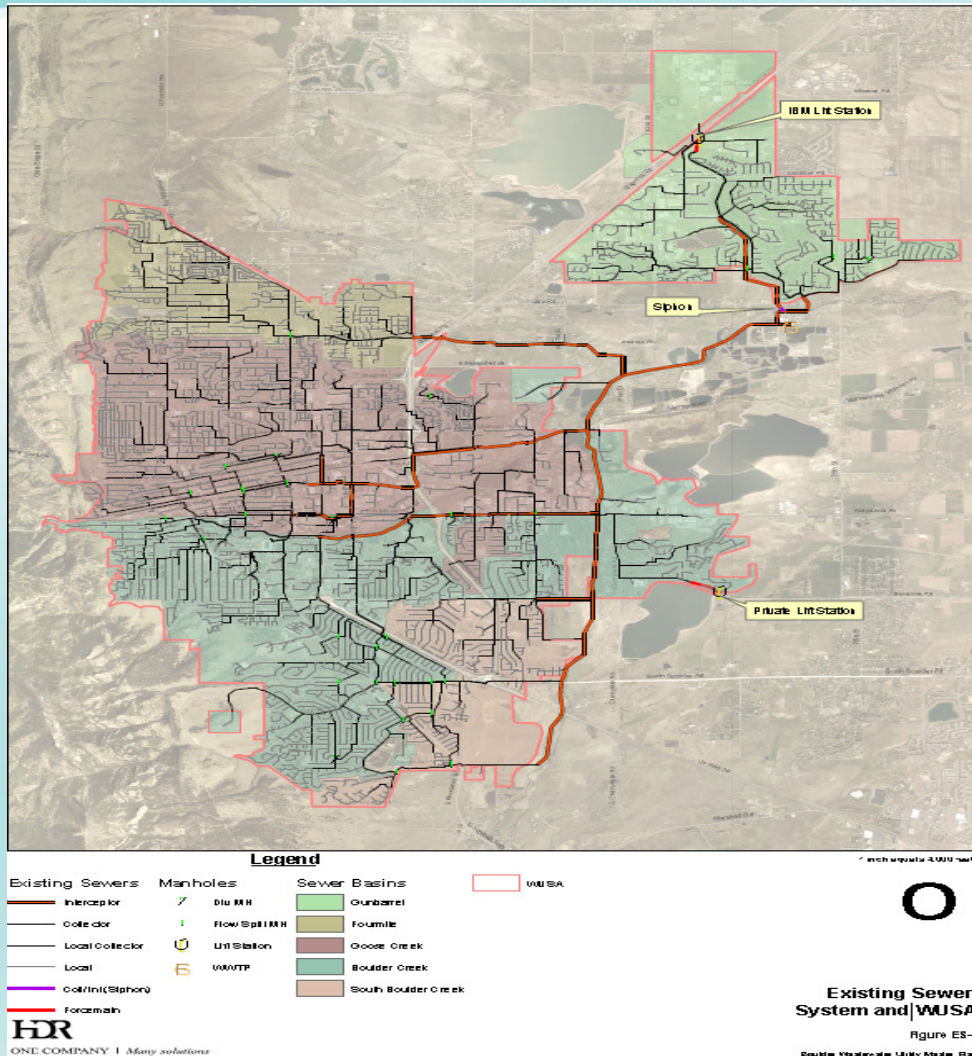
http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/Utilities/WUMP/October_2011/Volume_5_-_October_2011.pdf



- All pipe network
- Demands from customer billing data- about 40,000 accounts
- Irrigated area estimated for each parcel for water budget
- Advanced modeling capability

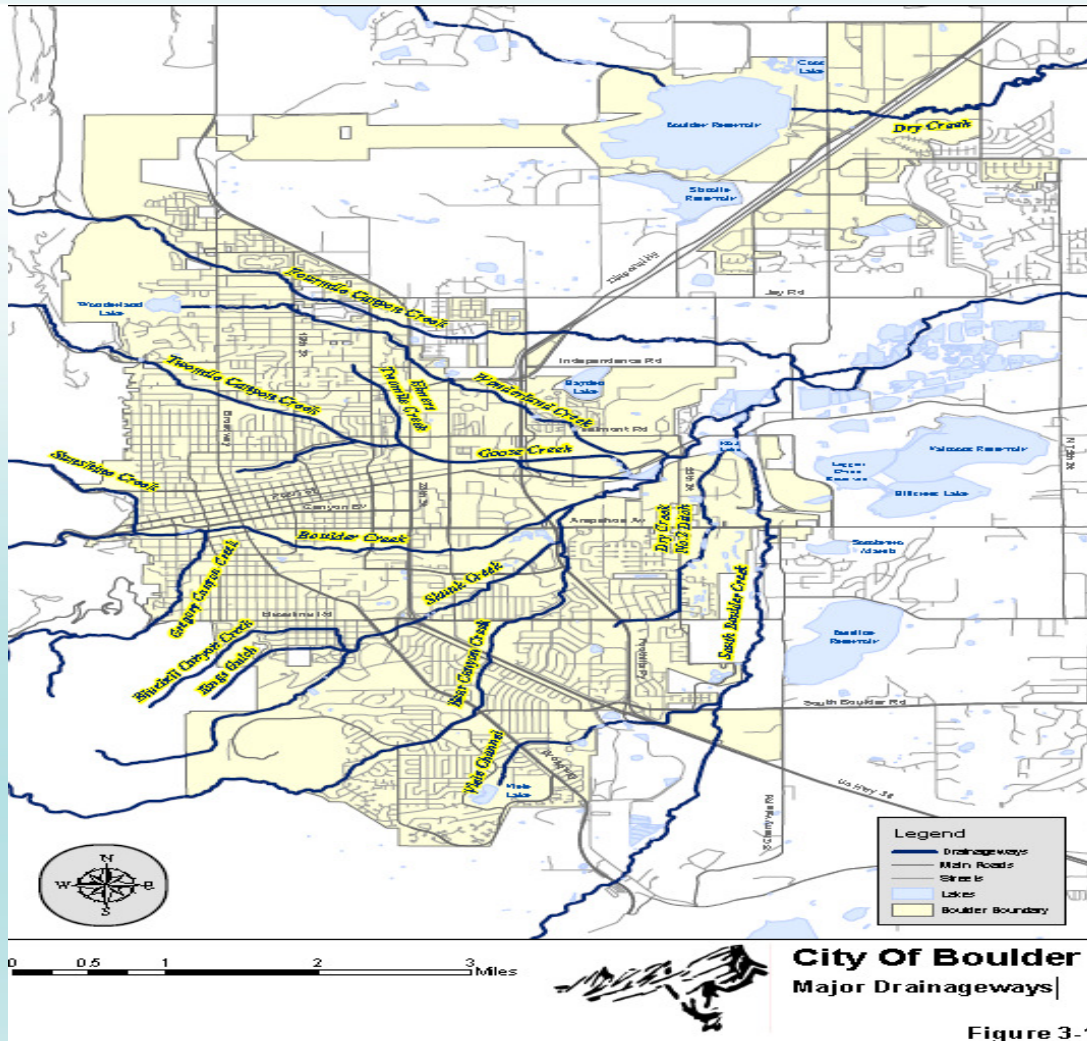
Boulder's 485 Sanitary Sewersheds

<http://www.bouldercolorado.gov/files/Utilities/wastewater/Boulder%20WWCSMP%20Volume%201%20-%201st%20Draft%20101008.pdf>



- 485 sewersheds range in size from 5 to 400 acres with an average of 33.6 acres
- About the same spatial scale as a TAZ
- Numerous interconnections
- All pipe modeling network
- Estimate wastewater supply from water billing records

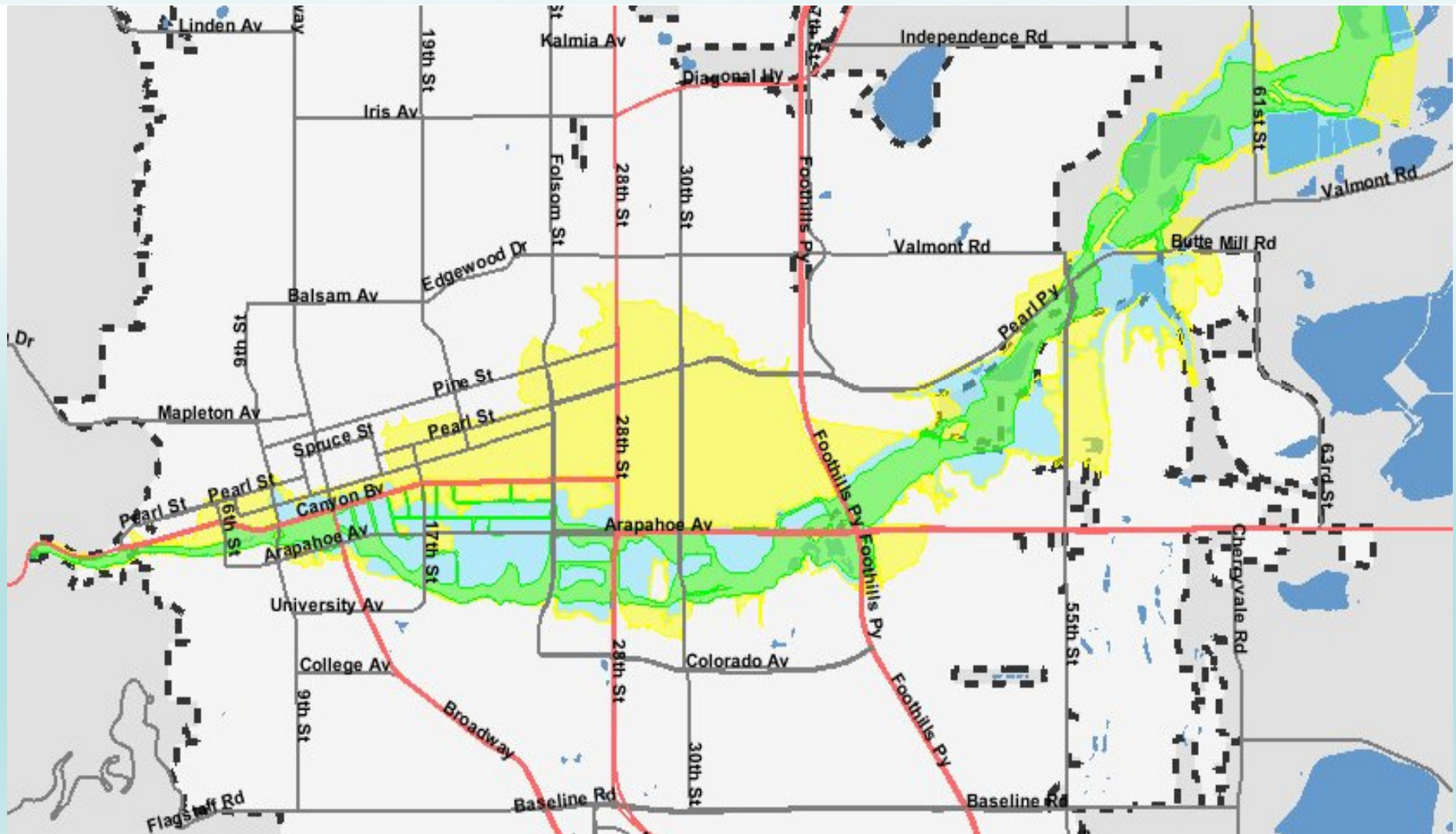
15 Major Drainageways



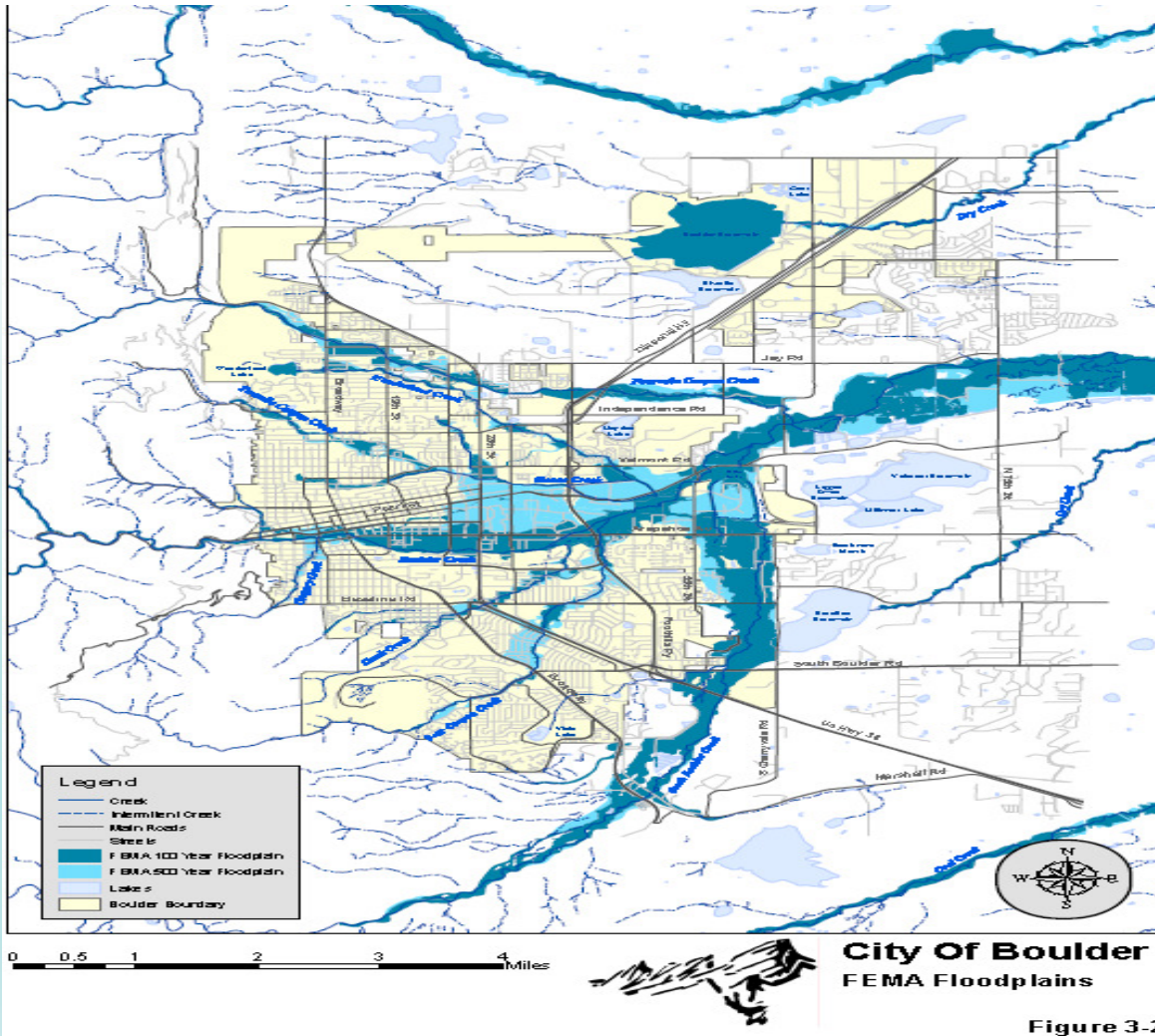
- Water delivery canals also serve as unplanned drainageways
- Sophisticated floodplain mapping models
- Minimum flow maintenance is important
- Stormwater quality modeling is not a priority activity

BCW High Flood Hazard Areas (Green-conveyance channel) and Yellow (proposed 100-500 year flood zone)

http://gisweb.ci.boulder.co.us/website/pds/pds_floodbase/viewer.htm



Land in 100 & 500 year floodplains



- 15% of the community is in the floodplain
- Flash flood hazards-Thousands of people and about 3,600 structures with an assessed valuation of almost \$1 billion are within the 100 year floodplain

Dedication of Presentation

Gilbert F. White Memorial Flood Height Marker



Known by many as the "Father of Floodplain Management," Gilbert F. White was a professor at the University of Colorado, and a much beloved and influential leader in the world environmental movement. Dr. White's lifelong work was based on the belief that people can live in harmony with their environment—including inevitable extremes such as floods.

"The human race is a family that has inherited a place on the earth in common . . . All have a responsibility to leave it ungraded for those who follow."

— Gilbert F. White (1911–2006),
Gustavson Distinguished Professor
Emeritus of Geography, CU

Old Way



Gilbert's Way



Let It Flow
Dr. White believed that removing houses and other structures from floodways—and building greenways along rivers and streams—could be more effective than concrete channel walls and dams. Boulder Creek is a perfect example of that natural philosophy in action.

What Does the Marker Mean?

90 YEAR LEVEL

50 YEAR LEVEL

100 YEAR LEVEL

Height of a flash flood on Boulder Creek of comparable size to the Big Thompson flood of 1976.



The Big Thompson flood occurred 90 miles north of Boulder in a very similar canyon. More than 148 people died in that flood.

Height of Boulder Creek's "Great Flood" of 1894.



This was a "100-year flood"—an event with a one-in-a-hundred chance of occurring any year.

With bridges damaged or washed away, Boulderites created other ways to cross the creek.



Height of a "50-year flood"—a flood with a one-in-fifty chance of happening any year.



Bear Creek near Table Mesa flooded to a 50-year level in 1965.

Acknowledgements
This project was funded with donations from over 400 organizations, colleagues, students, friends, and family of Gilbert White, worldwide, including the Boulder Arts Commission.

Why Watersheds?

Conclusions

- Current Boulder Creek Watershed is dominated by man's influences
- Need to work across multiple combinations of the remaining natural system and man-made water supply, wastewater, stormwater, hydropower, and other water resource systems
- Historical operating policies are vital to obtain a process level understanding

Outline

- Why watersheds in urban areas?
- **Build your own watershed starting with individual land parcels to evaluate centralized vs. decentralized water management options**
- Agent-based modeling methods

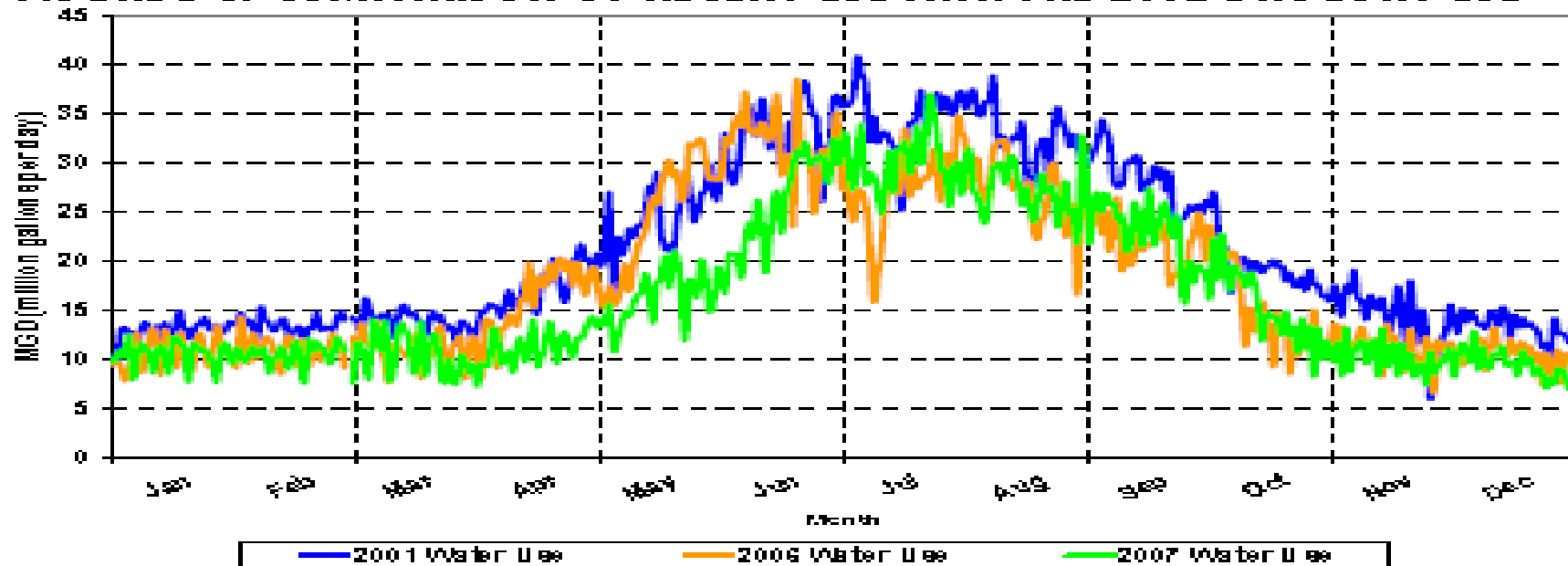
Paradigm Shift From Macro to Nano-Spatial Scales for Water Demand Modeling

- Previous water demand models used macro-scale data of overall water use-hard to see changes in demand at this scale
- Conserve Florida Water model uses a bottom up approach that begins with an end use inventory of all water using devices
- Original idea came from research in Boulder

Catalyst for Switching to Bottom Up Approaches for Estimating Demands

- Unsuccessful in quantifying the effects of water conservation on aggregate water use patterns (Buhlig 1995)

FIGURE 5-8. COMPARISON OF RECENT USE WITH PRE-2002 DROUGHT USE²⁰



1995-99 Micro-Water Use Studies at the U. of Colorado

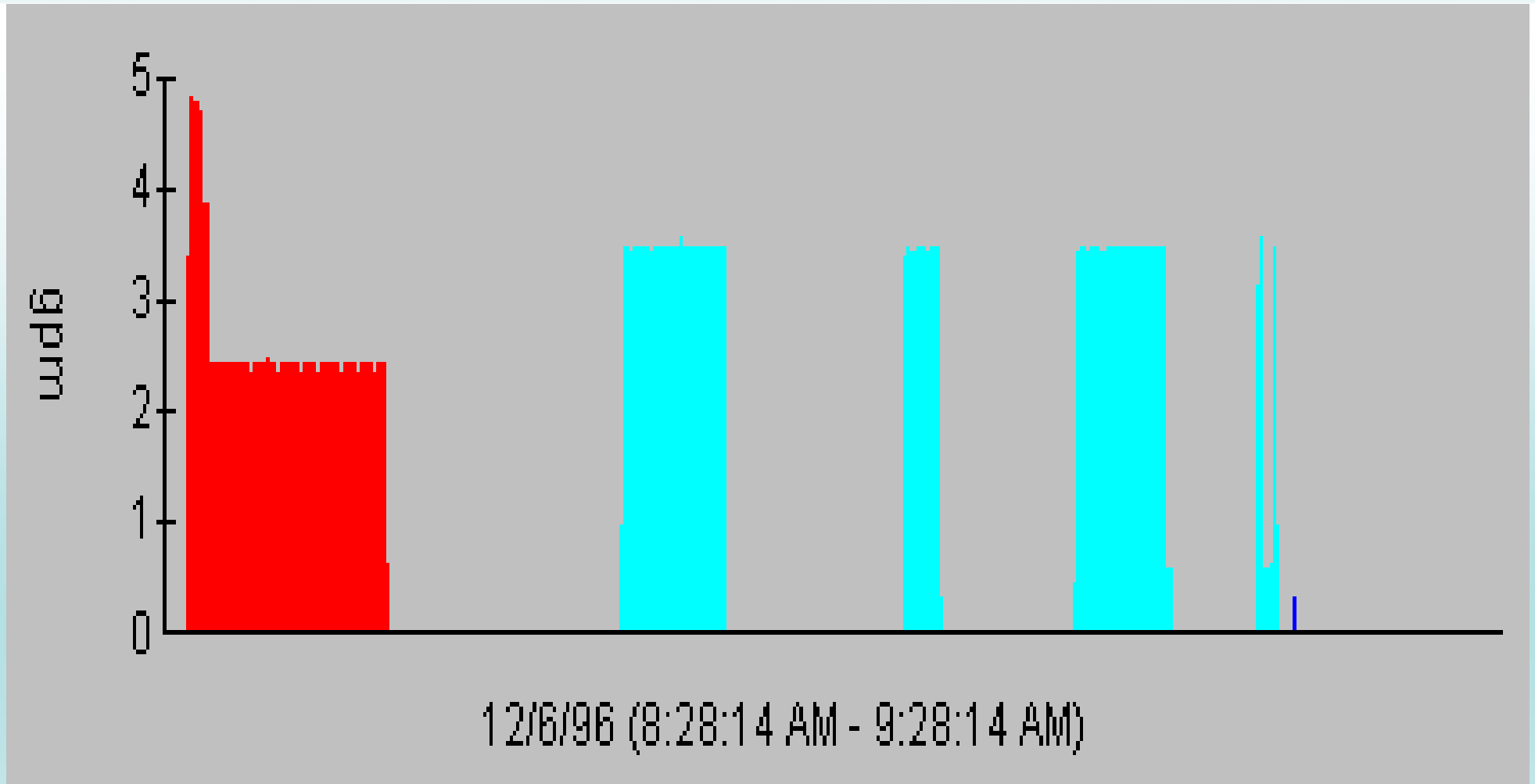
Mayer, DeOreo and Heaney

- Sampled 17 houses in a Boulder neighborhood
- Monitored flow to each customer every 10 seconds at the water meter for two weeks
- Developed software to process these high frequency signals into water using events
- Used this method on a national AwwaRF study of 1,200 homes in 12 cities
- First definitive evidence on the nature of residential water use

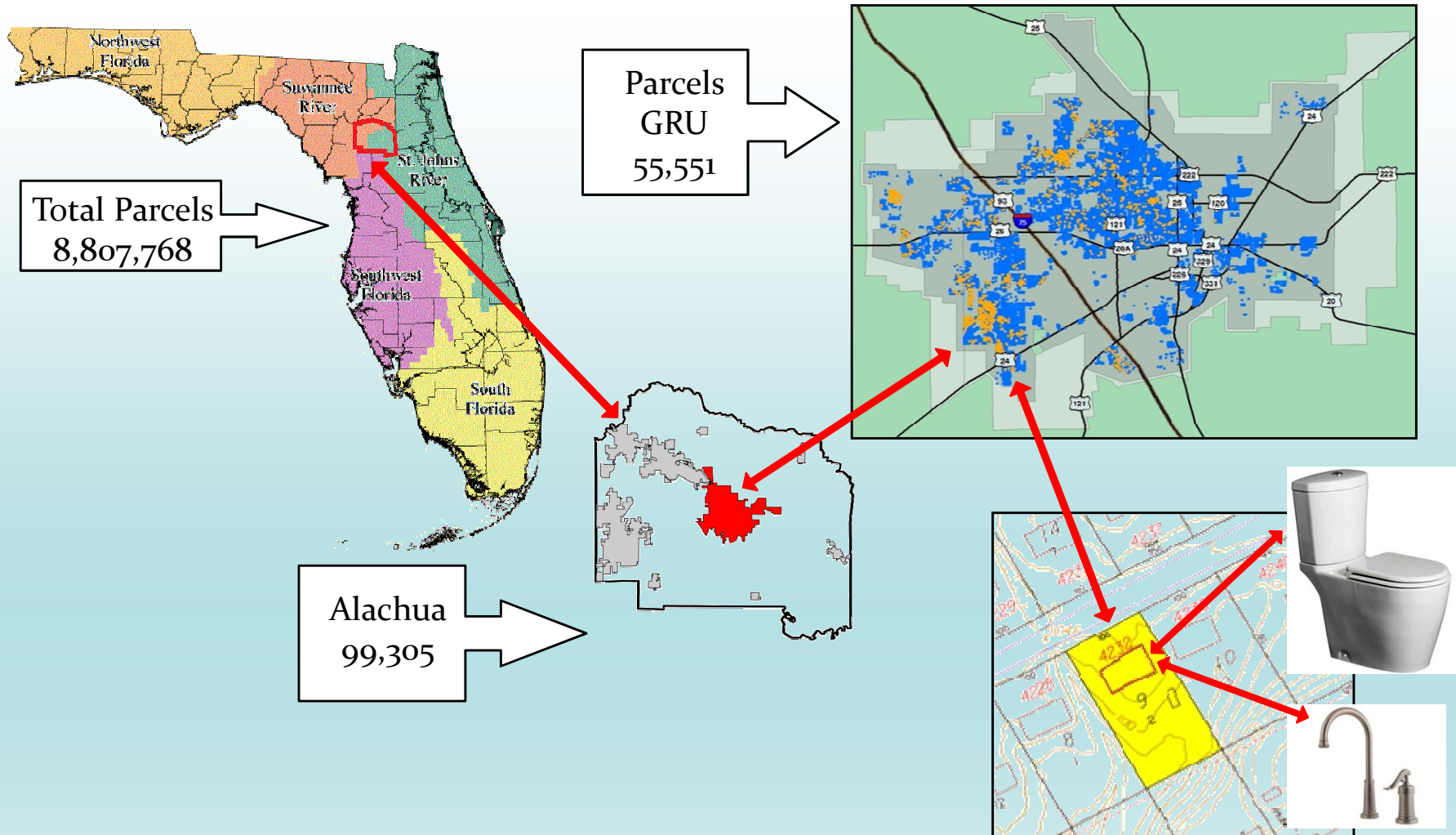
Water Use Measured Every 10 Seconds

Partition all pulses into water use events

(DeOreo et al. 1996)



Macro to Nano-Scale Evaluation of Urban Water Use is Feasible in Florida



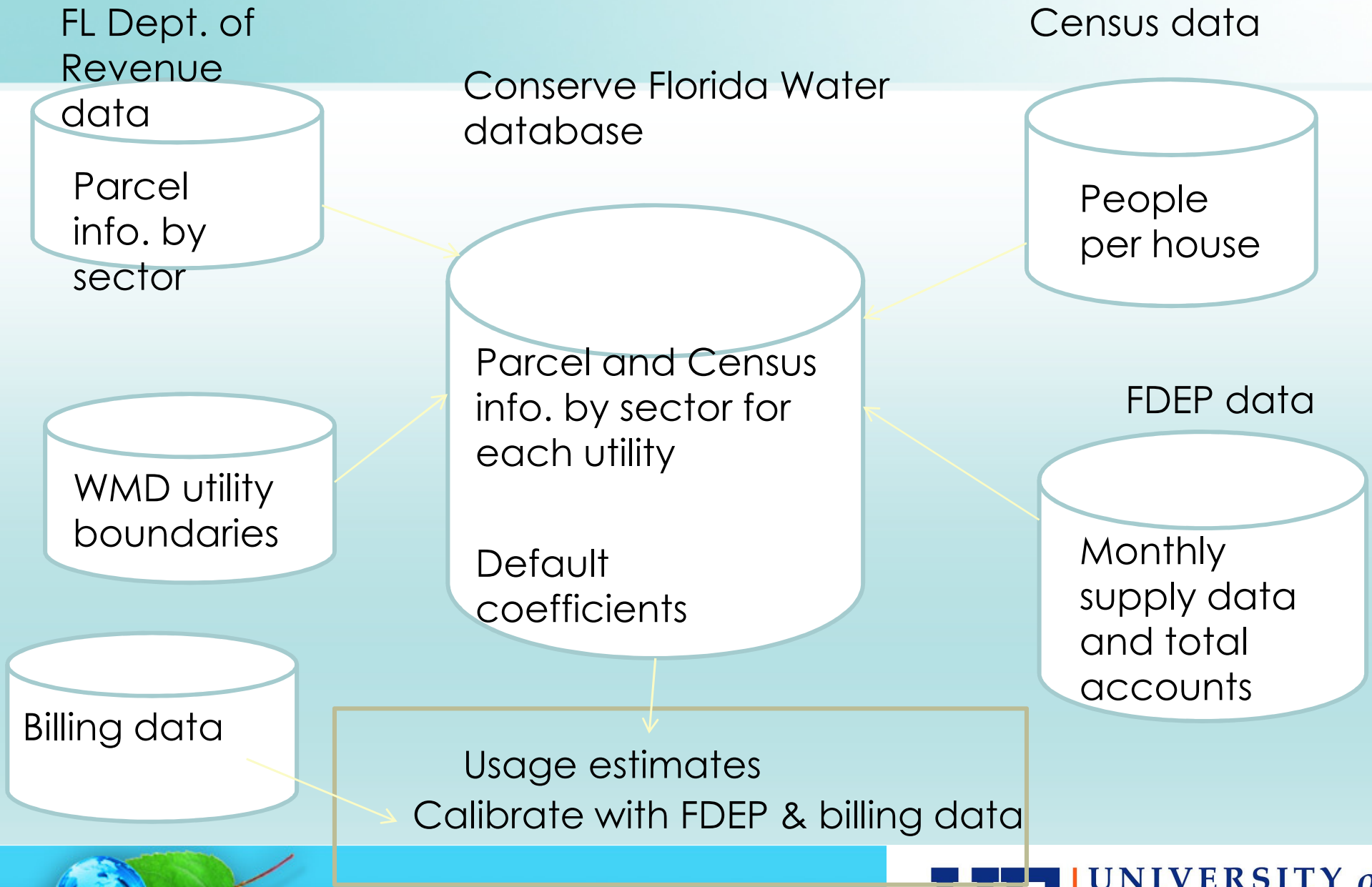
Levels of Spatial Aggregation in Florida Based on 2009 Conditions

Item	Count	Population/no.	Parcels/no.
Population	18,800,000	1	
Parcels	8,800,000	2.14	1
Census blocks	362,500	51.9	24
Traffic analysis zones	12,750	1,475	690
Census tracts*	4,700	4,000	1,872
Water utilities	2,625	7,162	3,352
Counties	67	280,597	131,343

*Count based on 4,000 persons per Census tract.

Friedman et al. (2011)

EZ Guide Databases



EZ Guide Water Use Calibration



Conserve Florida Water Clearinghouse
Promoting Conservation in Our Public Water Supplies

[Administration](#) | [SU](#)

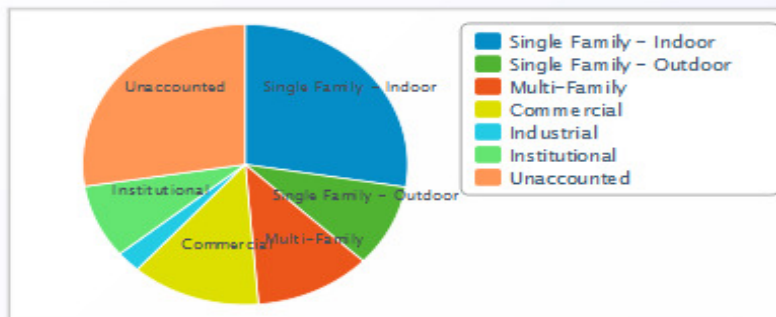
[Home](#) | [Profile](#) | [Water Supply Analysis](#) | [Audit](#) | **Water Budget** | [BMP Analysis](#) | [Planning](#) | [Summary Report](#) | [BMP Tracking](#)

[Sanford no billing data](#)

Water Budget Configurables

Analysis Year: 2009 - [To change the Analysis Year return to Water Supply Analysis page](#)

Calibrated Water Budget By Sector



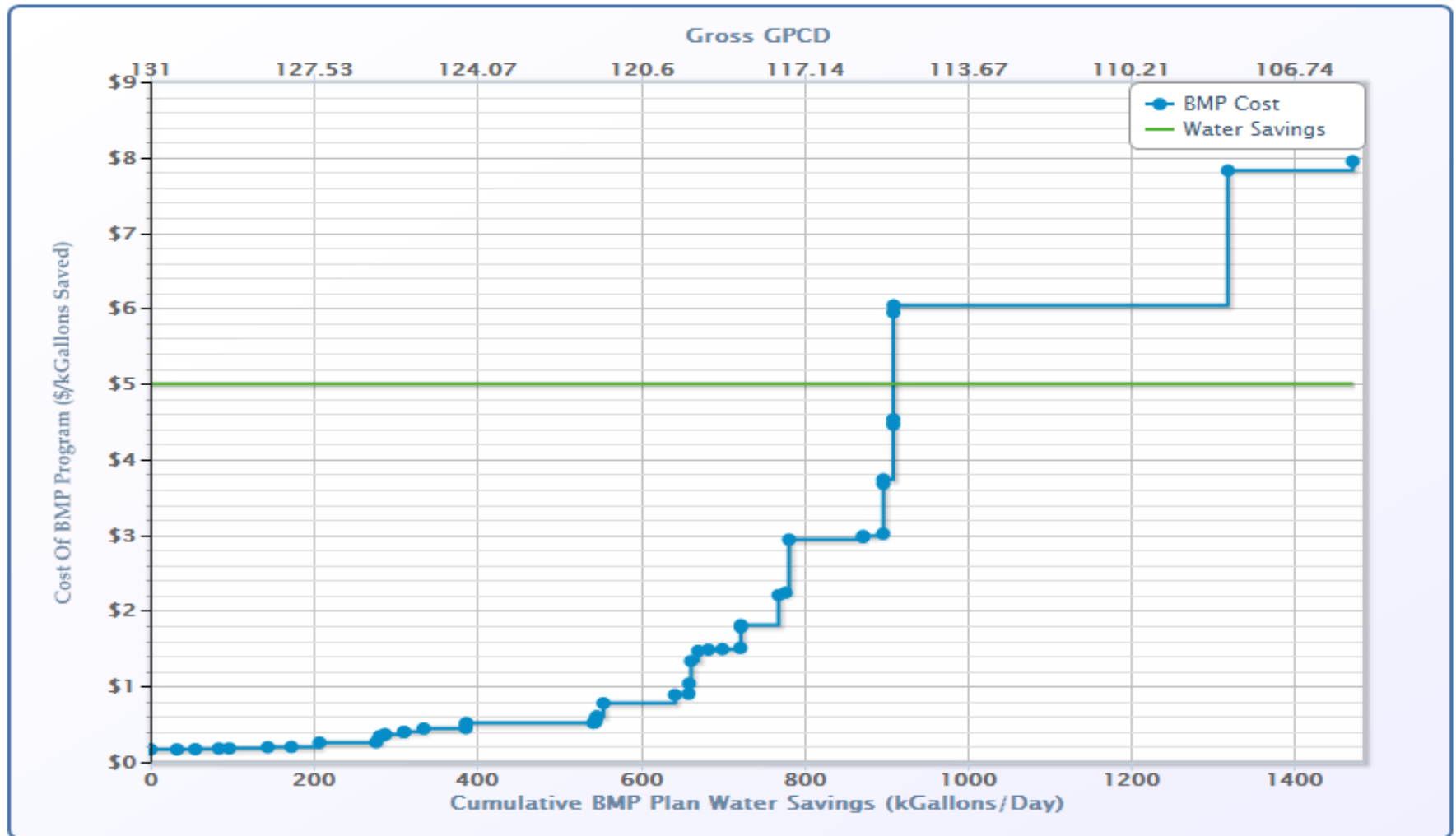
Difference Between FDEP and CFWC Estimate

	FDEP Data	CFWC Estimate	% Difference
Total Accounts	17,729	18,121	2.21 %
Population Served	62,052	57,440	-7.43%
Total Water Use (MGY)	2,674.27	3,247.14	21.42%
GPCD	118	155	31%

Water Use Summary By Sector

Sector	% Water Use	Residential GPCD	Gross GPCD	Average Gallons Per Heated Square Foot Per Month	Links
Single Family	37.1 %	82	57	4.97	
Single Family - Indoor	27.6 %	61	43	3.75	Details
Single Family - Outdoor	9.5 %	21	15	1.31	Details
Multi-Family	11.6 %	59	18	6.26	Details
CII	23.8 %	--	37	3.47	Details
Commercial	12.9 %	--	20	4.45	
Industrial	2.5 %	--	4	0.99	
Institutional	8.5 %	--	13	5.76	
Unaccounted	27.5 %	--	43	--	
Total	100.0 %	--	155	6.18	

EZ Guide Optimized Marginal Cost Curve for All Water Conservation BMPs



Conclusions on Building Bottom Up Watershed/Water Supply/Wastewater/Stormwater/Reuse Systems

- Parcel level databases are available in many areas with vital attribute data
- High frequency water use data are used to isolate individual end use events
- Monthly or more frequent customer billing data provide bases for estimating water and wastewater flows and accounting for impact of irrigation on stormwater runoff
- Directly measured impervious areas greatly improve stormwater modeling capability

Outline

- Why watersheds in urban areas?
- Build your own watershed starting with individual land parcels evaluating centralized vs. decentralized water management options
- **Agent-based modeling methods**

Agent Based Modeling (ABM)

- A bottom up approach is used to evaluate decision processes among affected entities based on a variety of normative and descriptive behavioral assumptions across space and time (Miller and Page 2007)
- Future trends in social science modeling activities in water resources are described by Braden et al. (2009)
- Chu et al. (2009) describe an extensive application of ABM to water demand evaluation in Beijing

Wonderland Creek Watershed in Boulder

(Lee and Heaney 2003)

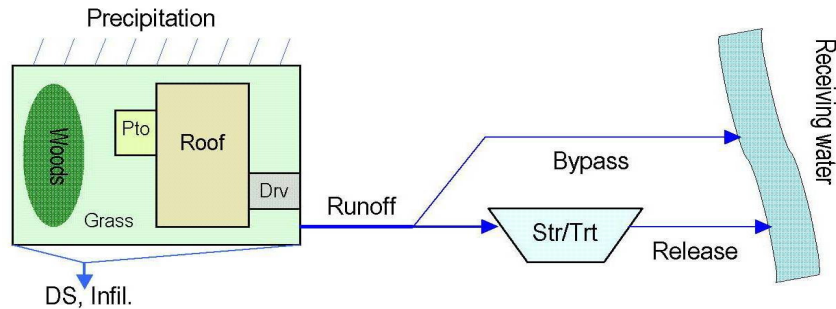
- GIS is now available for every parcel for stormwater and water use evaluations



Stormwater Simulation/optimization Model

Lee, Heaney, and Lai (2005)

Now can run for all agents or clusters of agents



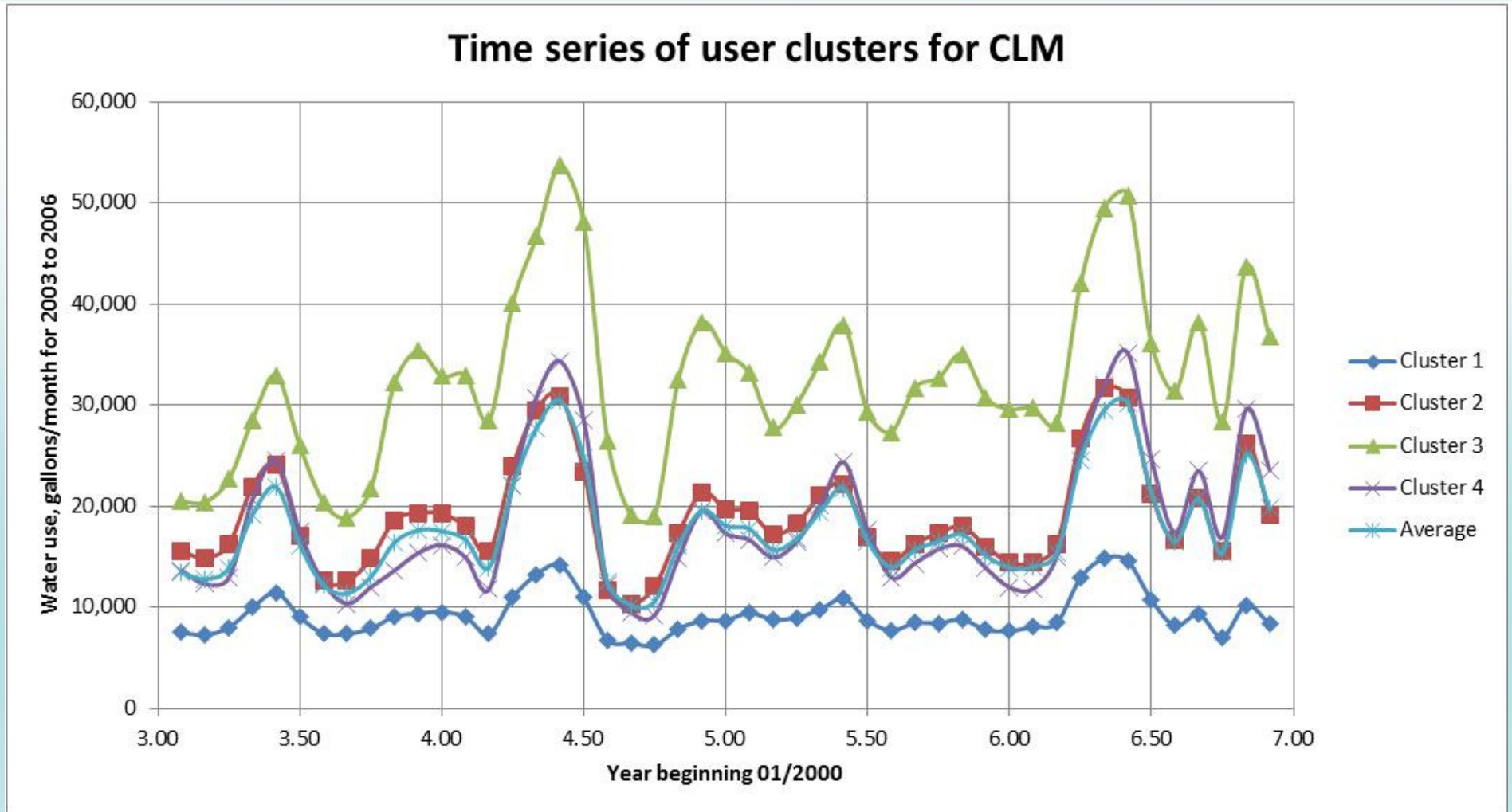
The screenshot shows the Solver Parameters dialog box for a model. The Set Cell is \$V\$16. The goal is to minimize the value of 0. The Solver is set to Standard GRG Nonlinear. The constraints listed are:

- \$E\$18:\$I\$21 >= 0
- \$E\$22:\$G\$22 = \$E\$24:\$G\$24
- \$H\$22 <= \$H\$24
- \$J\$22 = \$J\$24
- \$Q\$17 >= \$5\$17
- \$Q\$25 >= \$5\$25

 The Solver Parameters dialog box includes options for solving, changing variable cells, and applying constraints.

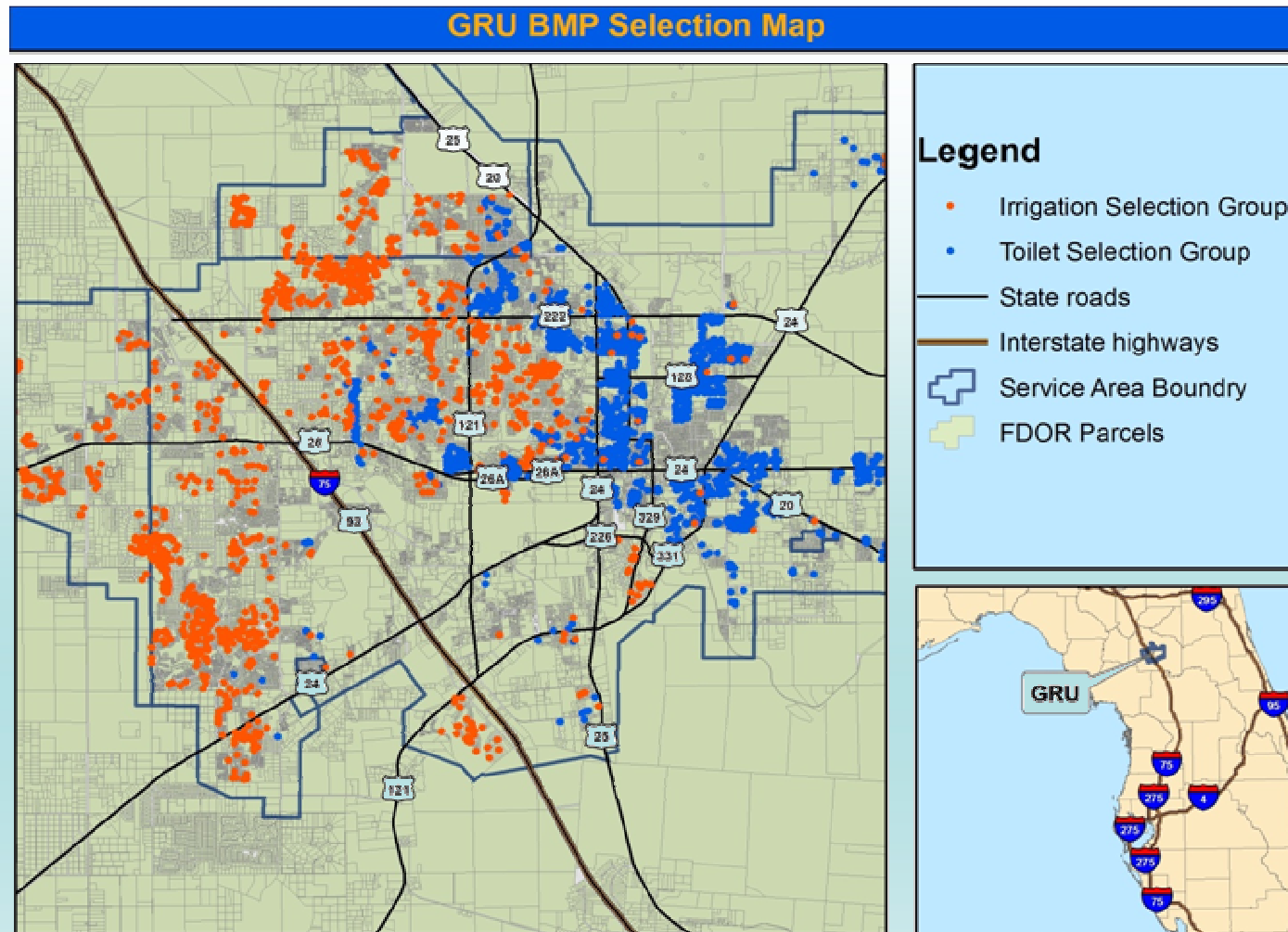
	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R	S	T	U	V					
1				Spatial info	Roof	Patio	Drwvy	Yard	TA			Evapo. rate			Infiltration rate												
2					230.51	35.56	45.19	773.467	1084.73			Month			Infiltr	1.27	(mm/hr)										
3												1	0.381	Del-T	1	(hr)											
4							Max Grs	60%				2	0.457														
5				Land use opt.	Roof	Patio	Drwvy	Grass	Wood			3	0.635														
6				DS (mm)	Opt1	2.7	2.7	1.037	13.5	33.9		4	0.991														
7					Opt2	9	7	12.7	22.8	41.6		5	1.651														
8					Opt3				32.5	55		6	2.515														
9					Opt4					118.5		7	3.226														
10				Unit Cost (\$/m2)	Opt1	\$0.00	\$0.22	\$0.65	\$1.51	\$8.61		8	3.150														
11					Opt2	\$16.15	\$0.31	\$0.86	\$2.69	\$15.07		9	1.600														
12					Opt3				\$3.66	\$21.53		10	1.092														
13					Opt4					\$32.29		11	0.686														
14				Land use Opt	Opt1	1	1	1	1	1		12	0.381														
15					Opt2	1	1	1	1	1																	
16					Opt3																						
17					Opt4																						
18				Land use Opt	Opt1	230.51	0	0	464.08	309.387																	
19					Opt2	0	35.56	45.19	0	0																	
20					Opt3	0	0	0	0	0																	
21					Opt4	0	0	0	0	0																	
22						230.51	35.56	45.19	464.08	309.387	773.467																
23						=	=	=	=	=																	
24				Area	230.51	35.56	45.19	464.08		773.467																	
25				DS	2.7	7	12.7	13.5	33.9																		
26				Continuous Simulation																							
27				Total =	317.5																						
28				Prpc time series	Dry	ET	DS for each area					Runoff from each area					Overall	Storage-Release-Bypass					Pollutant removal				
29				Time	Prpc (mm)	Dry day	ET (mm/d)	DSr avail	DSp avail	DSd avail	DSg avail	DSw avail	Rff-r	Rff-p	Rff-d	Rff-g	Rff-w	Rff	Str1	Rls	Str2	Trt	BP	td (hr)	Mout		
30				2000/01/04 12:00	2.54	0	0.381	2.7	7	12.7	13.5	33.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
31				2000/01/18 11:00	2.54	13.917	0.381	2.7	7	12.7	13.5	33.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
32				2000/01/26 19:00	2.54	8.2917	0.381	2.7	7	12.7	13.5	33.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
33				2000/01/26 22:00	2.54	0.0833	0.381	0.19175	4.49175	10.1917	10.9917	31.3917	2.34825	0	0	0	0	0	0.49902	0.49902	0.0221	0.47692	0.49902	0	11.2903	3.17674	
34				2000/01/27 02:00	2.54	0.125	0.381	0.04763	1.99937	7.69937	8.49937	28.8994	2.49238	0.54063	0	0	0	0	0	0.54737	0.95798	0.0221	0.93588	0.54737	0	33.9648	1.40685
35				2000/02/15 05:00	2.54	19.083	0.4572	2.7	7	12.7	13.5	33.9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
36				2000/09/24 14:00	2.54	0	1.6002	0	0	0	0	0	2.34	2.34	2.34	3.81	3.81	3.81	3.08773	3.62783	0.0221	3.60574	0.0221	3.06563	163.66	0.00032	
132				2000/09/24 15:00	5.08	0	1.6002	0	0	0	0	0	5.08	5.08	5.08	3.81	3.81	3.81	3.08773	3.62783	0.0221	3.60574	0.0221	3.06563	163.16	0	
133				2000/12/05 19:00	2.54	72.125	0.381	2.7	7	12.7	13.5	27.4796	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
134				2000/12/10 21:00	2.54	5.0417	0.381	2.08088	6.38088	12.0809	12.8809	26.8605	0.45912	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.09757	0.09757	0.0221	0.07547	0.09757	0	2.20745	0.89321
135				2000/12/22 13:00	2.54	11.625	0.381	2.7	7	12.7	13.5	28.7496	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3.41489	0

Four Temporal Water Use Clusters and Overall Average



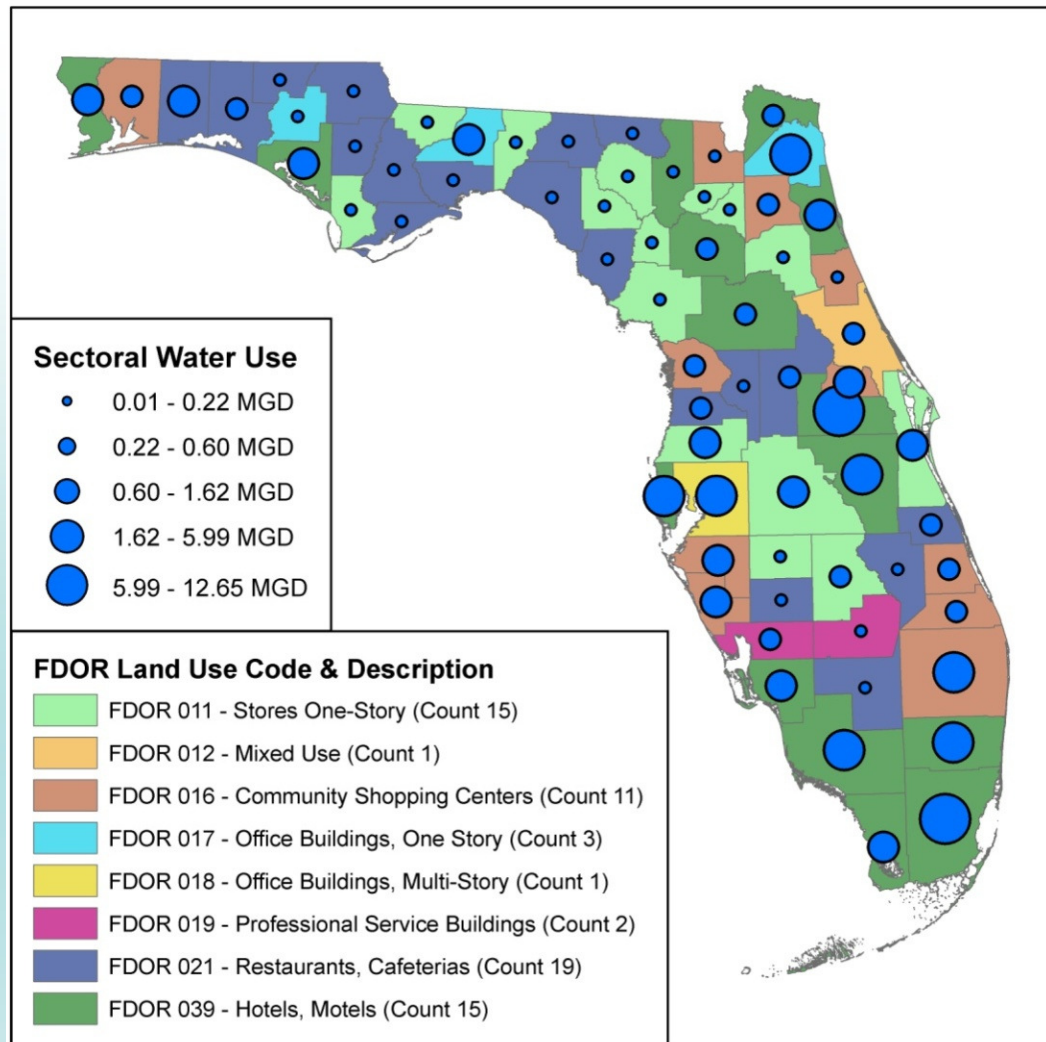
Spatial Clusters Based on Bottom Up Optimization

Selected priority irrigation and toilet retrofit parcels



Upscale to the State

Top Commercial Water Use Sectors by County



- The top water using commercial sectors vary significantly by county
- Similar result for industrial sectors
- Non-residential water use is heterogeneous and site specific

Summary and Conclusions

- Why watersheds in urban areas? Yes but need to concurrently look at associated water, wastewater, stormwater, and reuse networks
- Build your own bottom up network models
- Agent-based modeling methods are used to target clusters of parcels to find more sustainable combinations of centralized and decentralized systems
- Need increased emphasis on customer behavior in water demand characterization

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