Extreme Rainfall, PMP, and Climate Change

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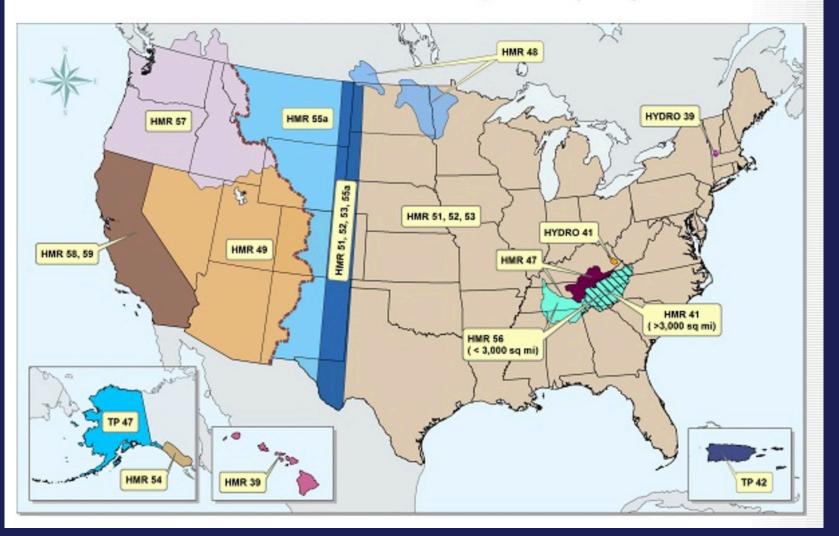


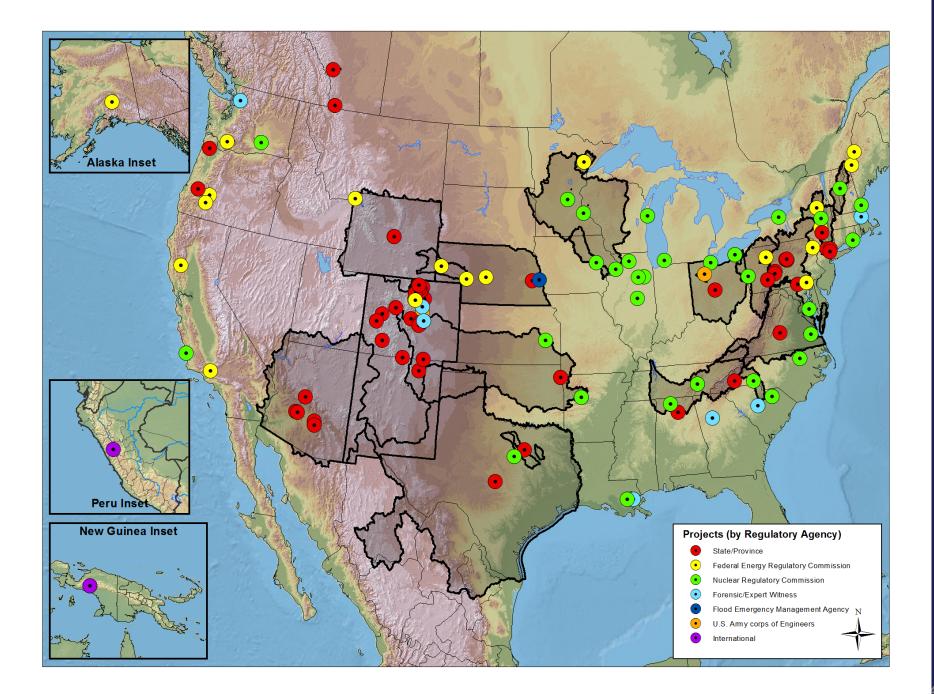
Probable Maximum Precipitation

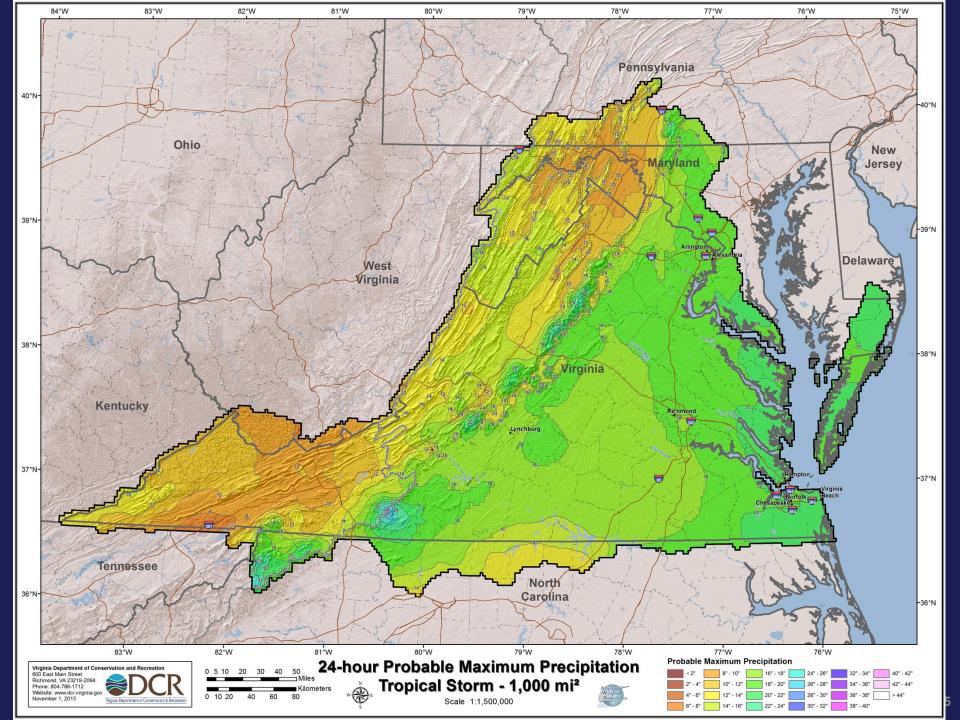
- Definition: The <u>theoretically</u> greatest depth of precipitation for a given duration that is <u>physically possible</u> over a given storm area at a particular <u>geographic location</u> at a certain time of year (HMR 59, 1999)
- Deterministic values
- Storm-based approach

NWS HMR Reports Coverage

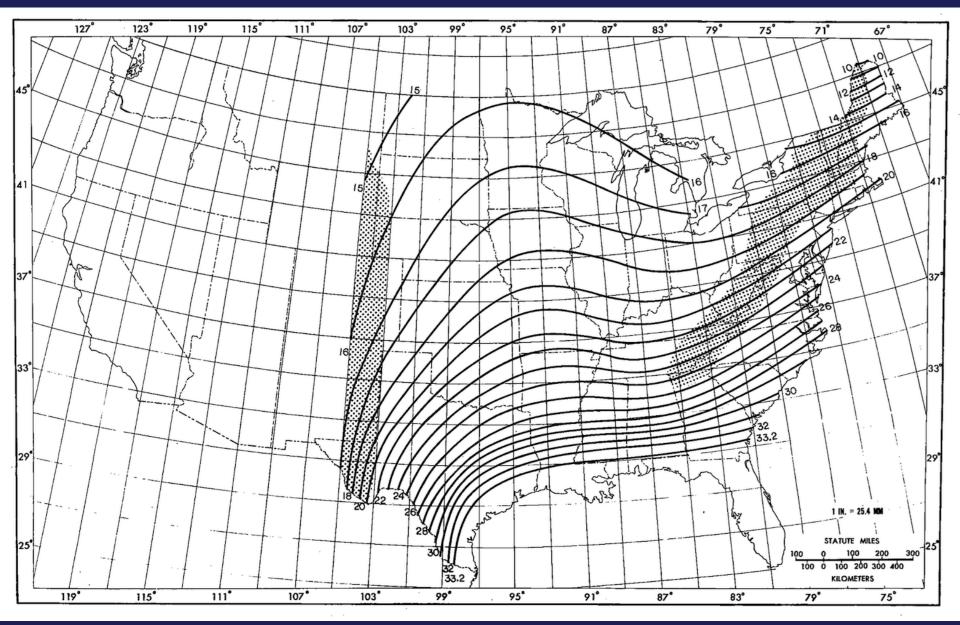
Current NWS Probable Maximum Precipitation (PMP) Documents

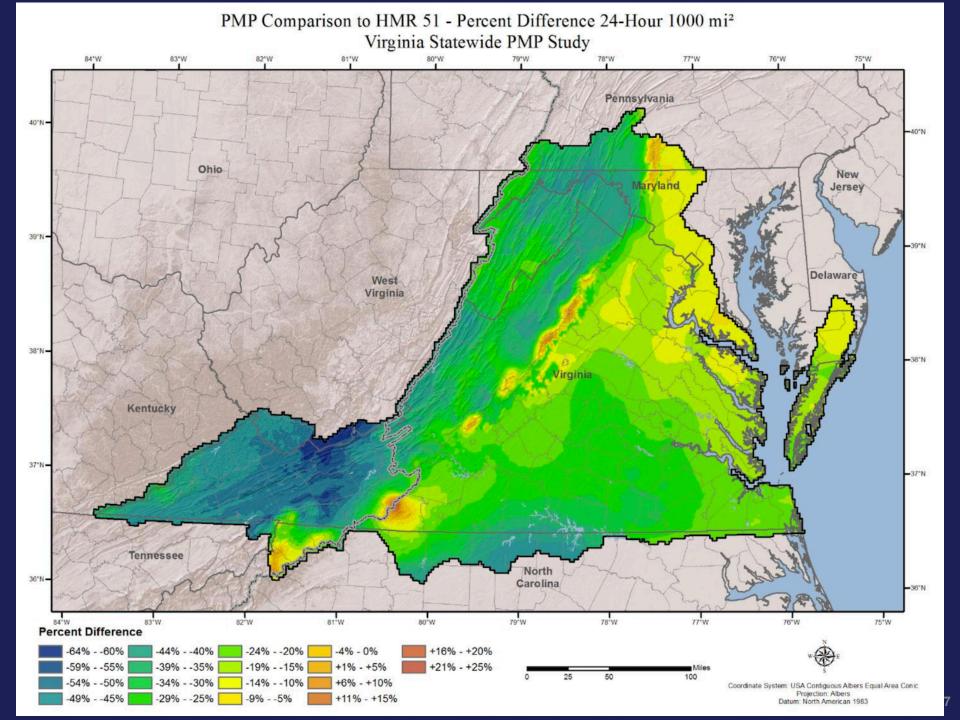






HMR 51 24-hour 1,000-square mile PMP

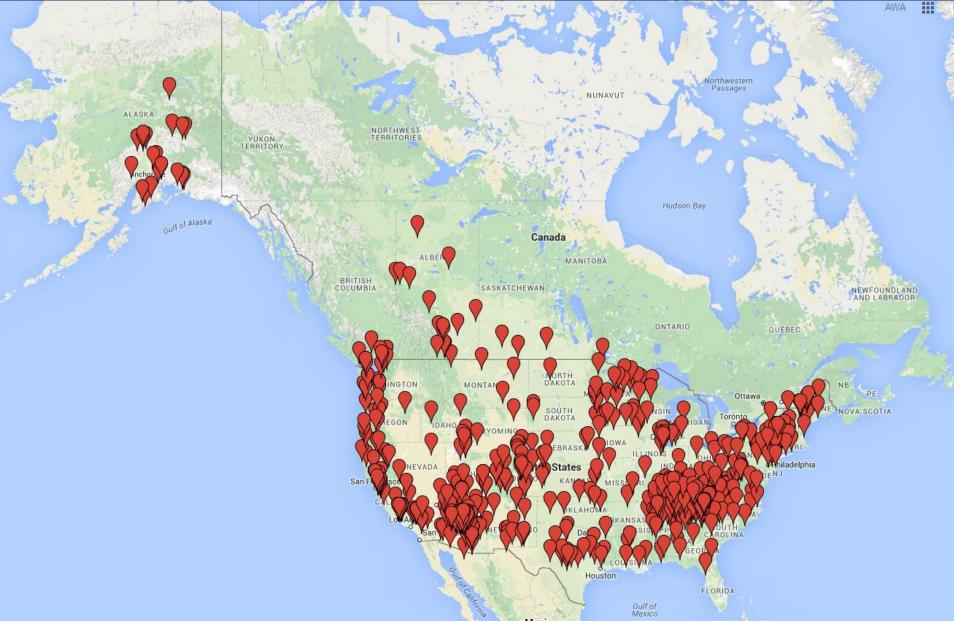




Big Storms

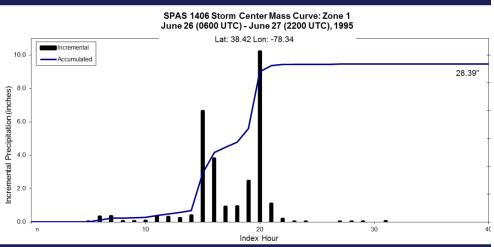
- Rapidan, VA June 1995
- Hurricane Floyd, September 1999
- South Carolina, October 2015
- Baton Rouge, August 2016
- Hurricane Matthew, October 2016

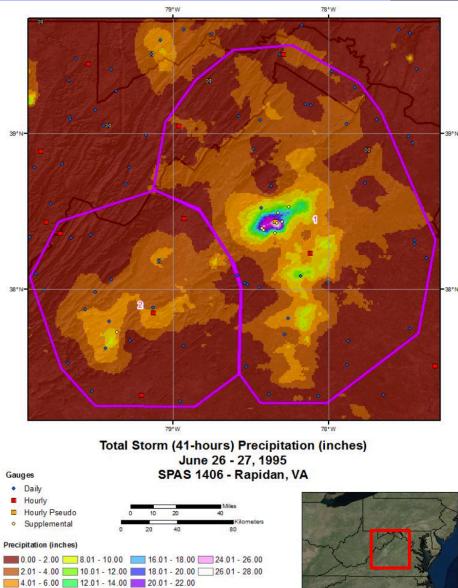
AWA SPAS Storm Locations



Rapidan, VA June 1995

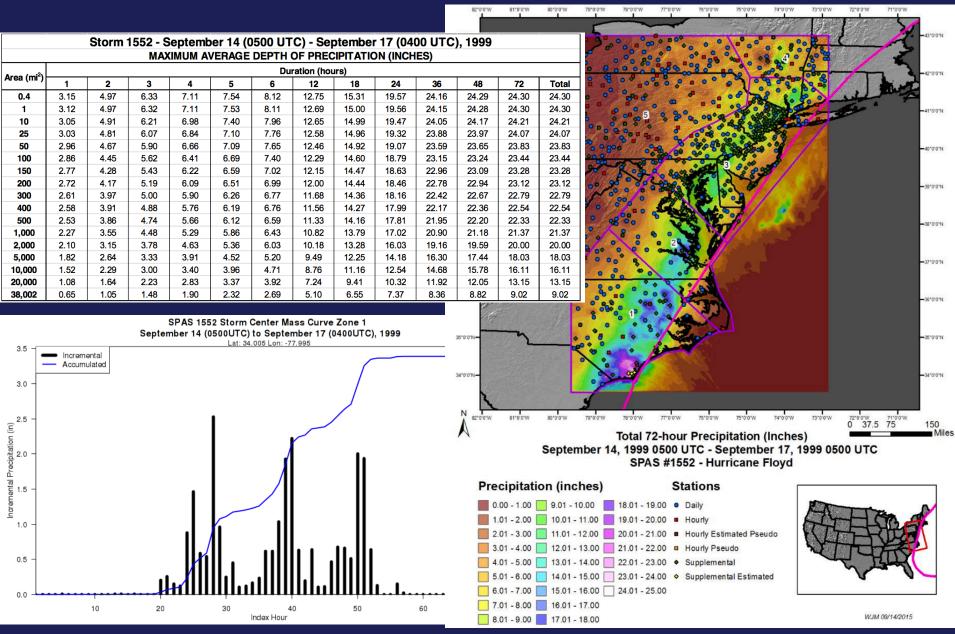
Storm 1406 Zone 1 - June 26 (0500 UTC) - June 30 (04										
MAXIMUM AVERAGE DEPTH OF PRECIPITATION (IN										
	Duration (hours)									
areasqmi	1	3	6	12	18	24	36	41		
0.4	10.4	13.8	25.1	27.5	28.3	28.4	28.4	28.4		
1	10.3	13.7	24.9	27.2	28.1	28.1	28.2	28.2		
10	8.9	12.2	22.9	24.7	25.0	25.5	25.9	25.9		
25	8.1	11.3	21.4	23.0	23.6	23.8	24.2	24.2		
50	7.3	10.3	19.6	20.9	21.5	22.0	22.2	22.2		
100	6.2	8.8	16.7	17.7	18.2	18.9	19.0	19.0		
150	5.4	7.8	14.7	16.0	16.5	16.7	16.8	16.9		
200	4.9	6.9	13.4	14.3	15.0	15.5	15.6	15.6		
300	4.3	5.6	11.5	12.5	12.9	13.2	13.3	13.3		
400	3.7	5.0	10.1	10.7	10.9	10.9	12.6	12.6		
500	2.6	4.5	9.2	9.9	9.9	9.9	11.8	11.8		
1,000	2.3	3.1	6.0	6.4	7.2	7.7	8.9	8.9		
2,000	0.5	1.6	3.4	5.5	5.9	5.9	7.0	7.2		
5,000	0.4	0.8	1.4	2.9	3.2	4.7	4.8	4.8		
10,000	0.4	0.6	1.2	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.9		
10,196	0.4	0.6	1.1	2.0	2.5	2.6	2.8	2.8		



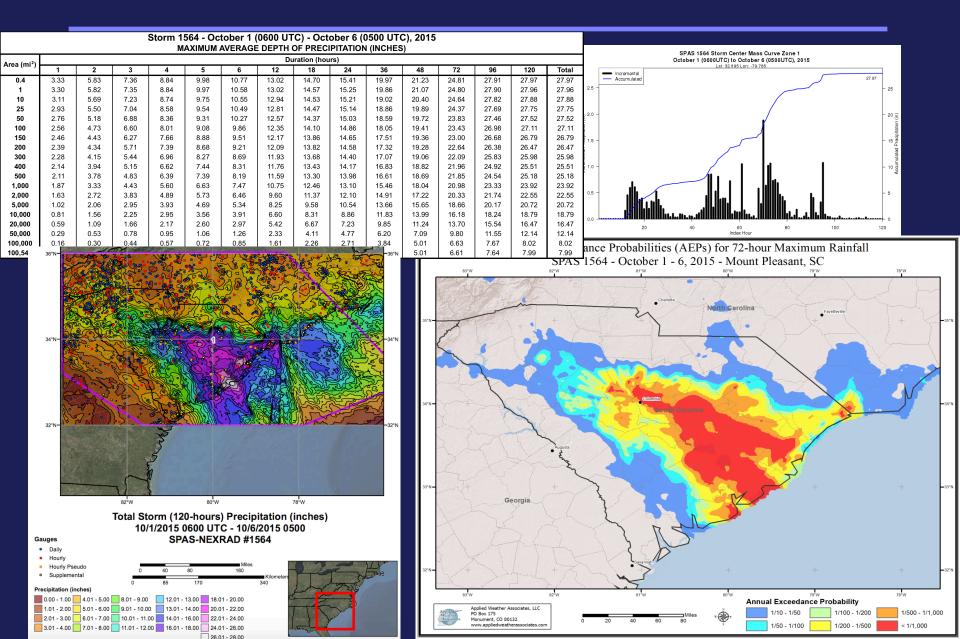


6.01 - 8.00 14.01 - 16.00 22.01 - 24.00

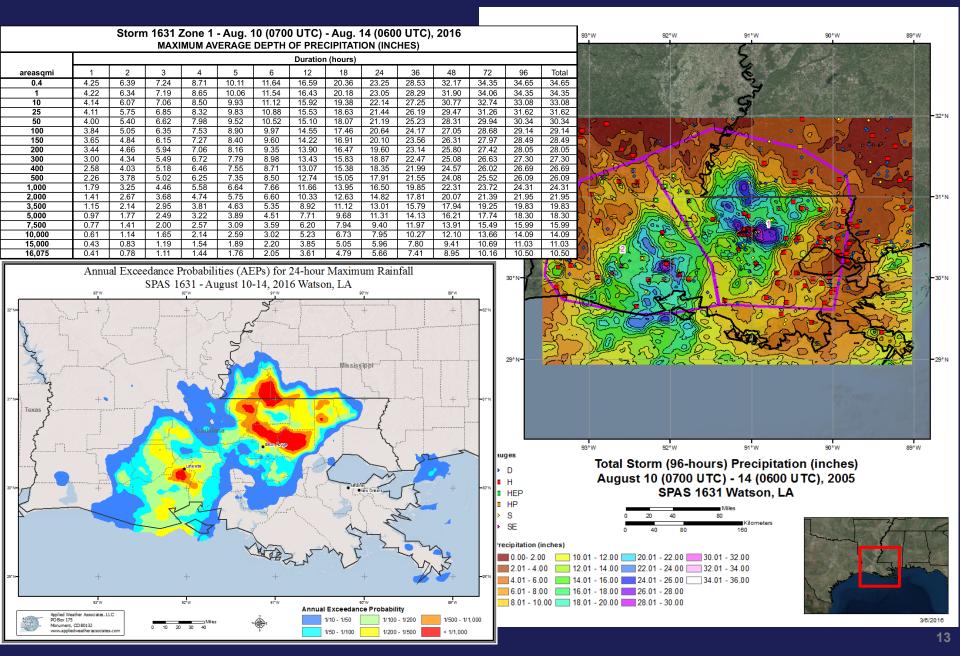
Hurricane Floyd September, 1999



South Carolina, October 2015



Baton Rouge, LA August 2016



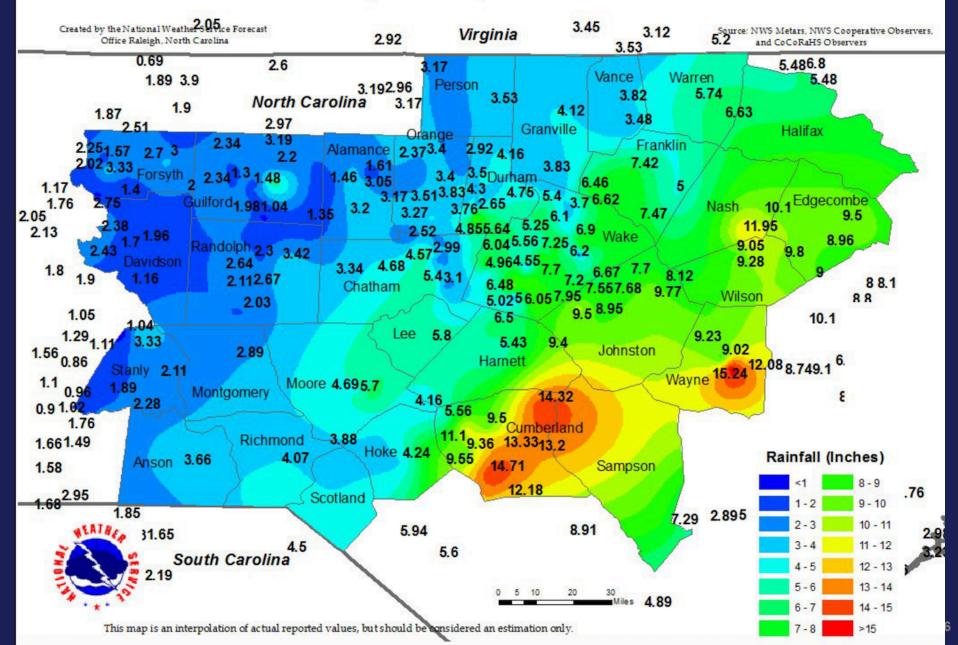
Hurricane Matthew October 2016

- Savannah (Hunter U.S. Army Airfield), Georgia: 17.49 inches
- William O Huske Lock 3, North Carolina: 15.65 inches
- Goldsboro, North Carolina: 15.24 inches
- Fayetteville, North Carolina: 14.82 inches
- Beaufort, South Carolina: 14.04 inches
- Reevesville, South Carolina: 12.90 inches
- Virginia Beach, Virginia area: 12.16 inches
 - <u>https://youtu.be/TeWKdFobabg</u>

Hurricane Matthew Rainfall-NASA



Hurricane Matthew - 24 Hour Rainfall Ending Oct 09, 2016 8 AM EDT



Recent Big Storms

- Lots of big recent storms, is something different?
- No, storms as big and bigger have happened before and will continue to happen
- Hurricane Agnes, June 1972
- Tyro, VA (Camille) July 1969
- Smethport, PA July 1942
- Rosman, NC August 1940
- Alta Pass, NC July 1916

What About Climate Change and PMP?

- Climate has always changed and always will
- Is something different now?
 - Pace of change not unusual
 - But, like most science, we don't know all the answers
- Climate models are projections
 - They do not produce data
 - Many unknowns/errors/etc
- Nothing wrong with preparing for "what if" scenarios
 - But don't pretend we know more than we do

What About Climate Change and PMP?

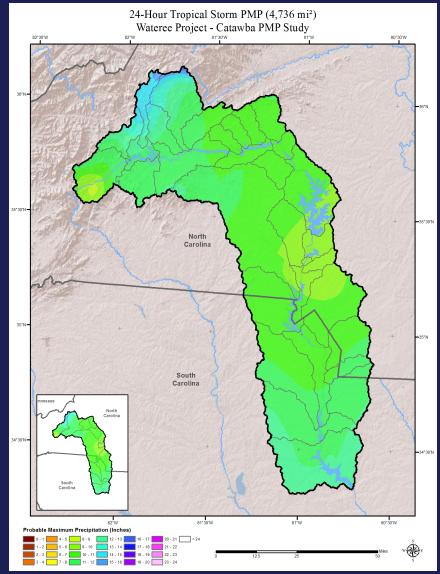
- What if it's getting warmer, doesn't that mean more moisture?
 - Yes, but that is not the only factor that causes rainfall-especially heavy rainfall
 - Many other feedback mechanisms and other factors
 - Some we understand, some we don't
 - For Example, less thermal contrast means weak storm dynamics, which can mean less intense rainfall
- PMP storm data and period of record already captures all these things and potential changes

What About Probability of PMP?

- Deterministic, but probability can still be estimated
- Very useful for RIDM and context
- Traditionally compared to Precip Frequency
 - 2 to 5 x greater than 24-hr, 100-year values
 - But only point estimates
- Recent work completed to derive recurrence interval of PMP
 - Follows methods developed by Corps and Bureau
 - Utilize area of storm search domain, period of record, observed values compared to PMP

PMP Probability Methods

- Regional L-moments
 Method
- Stochastic Storm Transposition (SST) Method

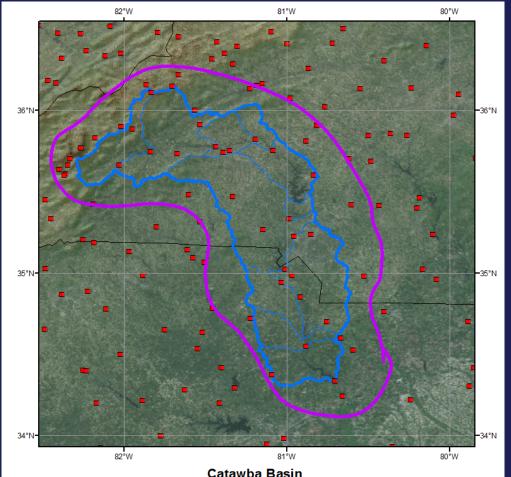


Regional L-moments

- Regional L-moments
 - AMS
 - ARF
 - Point to area
 - Homogenous Regions
 - Trade space for time
 - Regional Probability Distribution
 - Goodness-of-fit
 - Uncertainty Bounds
 - Annual Exceedance Probability

Regional L-moments AMS and Homogeneous Regions

- Identify homogenous region
- 56 stations amounting to 4500+ years of station record
 - Equivalent independence recorded length

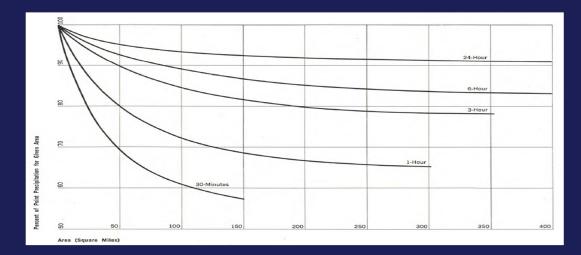


Regional L-moments Areal Reduction Factor

• AWA calculated ARFs using a storm centered depth-area approach based on gridded hourly rainfall data from the Storm Precipitation Analysis System (SPAS)

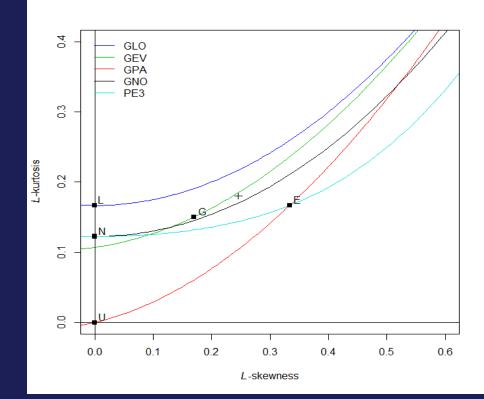
• Used SPAS hourly precipitation grids for calculation

	Bridgewater 386-mi ²	Cowans Ford 1793-mi ²	Catawba 4737-mi ²
Average	0.81	0.65	0.51
Maximum	0.96	0.90	0.78
Minimum	0.40	0.22	0.17
Controlling Storm*	0.88	0.71	0.72

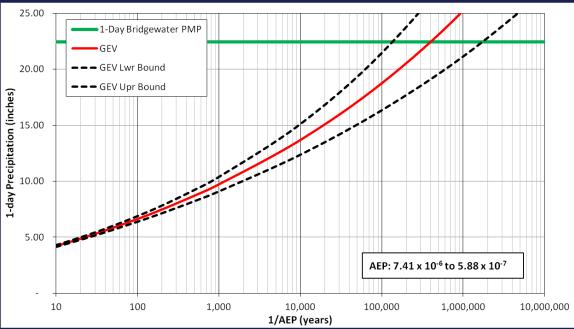


Regional L-moments Goodness of fit - Uncertainty

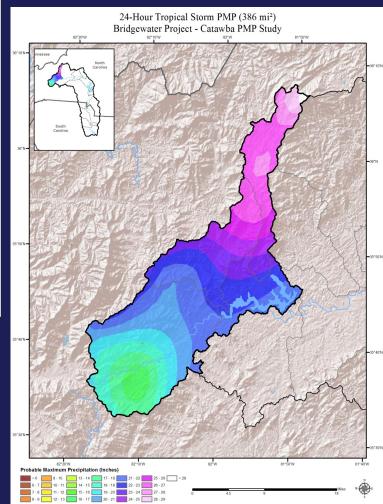
- Identification of Regional Probability Distribution
- Goodness of fit measures (Hosking and Wallis, 1997)
- L-moment Ratio Diagram
- The regional weightedaverage L-Skewness and L-Kurtosis pairing were found to be very near the GEV distribution
- Derivation of uncertainty bounds



Regional L-moments Bridgewater AEP



Bridgewater Basin (386-sqmi)
PMP = 22.46"
AEP = 7.41 x 10⁻⁶ to 5.88 x 10⁻⁷



Stochastic Storm Transpositioning

- Stochastic Storm Transposition (SST) Method
 - Transposition Storms to Basin
 - Probability of precipitation occurrence

 $p1 = \frac{r - 0.44}{N}$

- Probability of watershed size from storm transposition region $p_2 = \frac{B_a}{S_a}$
- Probability of PMP events from sample period of record $p_{3} = \frac{N_{s}}{P_{s}}$
- Annual Exceedance Probability

AEP = p1 * p2 * p3

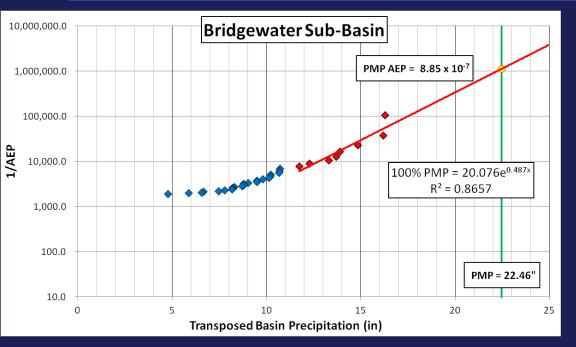
Stochastic Storm Transitioning

#Events	31
Trans Area (mi²)	180,426.0
Basin Area (mi²)	386.0
P2	0.0021
1day pmp	22.46
# Data years	126
P3	0.2460

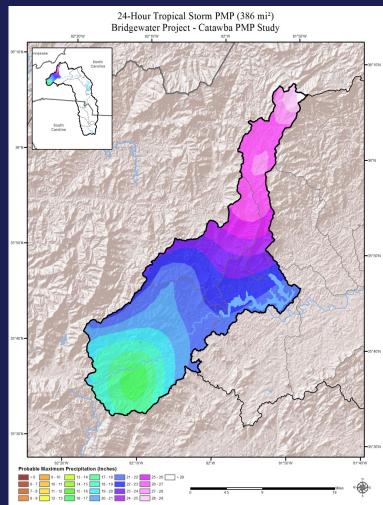
		P1	P2 and P3				
1d			AEP				
Ppt	Rank	AEP	Adj Basin	1/AEP	EV Plot	Fx	%PMP
16.29	1	0.01806	0.0000095	105,170.6	8.56	0.9999905	0.725
16.18	2	0.05032	0.0000265	37,753.5	7.77	0.9999735	0.720
14.84	3	0.08258	0.0000435	23,006.1	7.38	0.9999565	0.661
13.89	4	0.11484	0.0000604	16,543.7	7.12	0.9999396	0.618
13.7	5	0.1471	0.0000774	12,915.7	6.93	0.9999226	0.610
13.31	6	0.1794	0.0000944	10,592.7	6.77	0.9999056	0.593
12.28	7	0.2116	0.0001114	8,978.0	6.65	0.9998886	0.547
11.74	8	0.2439	0.0001284	7,790.4	6.54	0.9998716	0.523
10.71	9	0.2761	0.0001453	6,880.3	6.44	0.9998547	0.477
10.69	10	0.3084	0.0001623	6,160.6	6.35	0.9998377	0.476
10.66	11	0.3406	0.0001793	5,577.2	6.27	0.9998207	0.475
10.23	12	0.3729	0.0001963	5,094.8	6.20	0.9998037	0.455
10.19	13	0.4052	0.0002133	4,689.1	6.14	0.9997867	0.454
10.11	14	0.4374	0.0002302	4,343.3	6.08	0.9997698	0.450
9.81	15	0.4697	0.0002472	4,045.0	6.02	0.9997528	0.437
9.48	16	0.5019	0.0002642	3,785.1	5.97	0.9997358	0.422
9.48	17	0.5342	0.0002812	3,556.5	5.92	0.9997188	0.422
9.03	18	0.5665	0.0002982	3,354.0	5.88	0.9997018	0.402
8.78	19	0.5987	0.0003151	3,173.3	5.83	0.9996849	0.391
8.77	20	0.6310	0.0003321	3,011.0	5.79	0.9996679	0.390
8.71	21	0.6632	0.0003491	2,864.6	5.76	0.9996509	0.388
8.3	22	0.6955	0.0003661	2,731.7	5.72	0.9996339	0.370
8.2	23	0.7277	0.0003831	2,610.6	5.68	0.9996169	0.365
8.18	24	0.7600	0.0004000	2,499.8	5.65	0.9996000	0.364
8.16	25	0.7923	0.0004170	2,398.0	5.62	0.9995830	0.363
7.77	26	0.8245	0.0004340	2,304.2	5.59	0.9995660	0.346
7.46	27	0.8568	0.0004510	2,217.5	5.56	0.9995490	0.332
6.64	28	0.8890	0.0004679	2,137.0	5.53	0.9995321	0.296
6.55	29	0.9213	0.0004849	2,062.2	5.50	0.9995151	0.292
5.86	30	0.9535	0.0005019	1,992.4	5.47	0.9994981	0.261
4.76	31	0.9858	0.0005189	1,927.2	5.45	0.9994811	0.212

- Probability of precipitation occurrence
- Probability of watershed size from storm transposition region
- Probability of PMP events from sample period of record
- Annual Exceedance Probability

Stochastic Storm Transitioning Bridgewater AEP

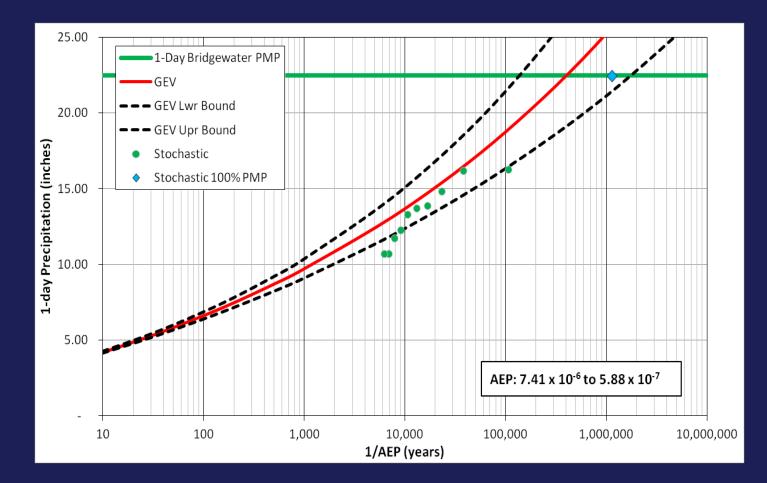


Bridgewater Basin (386-sqmi)
PMP = 22.46"
AEP = 8.85 x 10⁻⁷ (1,129,793 yrs)



Summary of 1-Day Precipitation Frequency

- Bridgewater Basin (386-sqmi)
- AEP = 7.41 x 10^{-6} to 5.88 x 10^{-7}



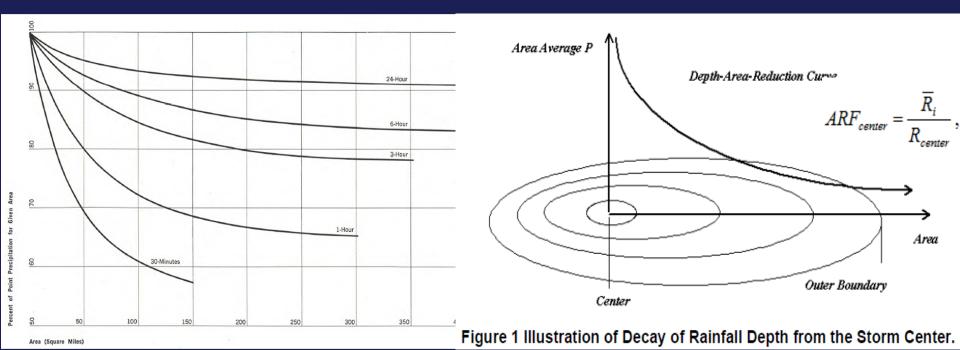
Use of Paleoflood Data

- Provide bounding conditions of PMP
 - Reasonableness check
 - Lots of uncertainty with paleoflood estimates
 - Must be understand and communicated
 - Paleofloods MUCH smaller than PMP
- Provide upper limits of largest floods for a basin
- Provide info for risk assessment, climate
- USBR uses risk-based approach and incorporates paleoflood data
- USACE uses both deterministic and risk-based data

Extra Slides

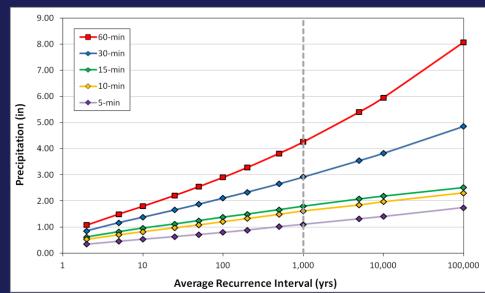
Regional L-moments Areal Reduction Factor

- NOAA defines an ARF as the <u>ratio between area-averaged</u> <u>rainfall to the maximum depth at the storm center</u>
- The most common sources for generalized ARFs and deptharea curves in the United States are from the NOAA Atlas 2 and the U.S. Weather Bureau's Technical Paper 29



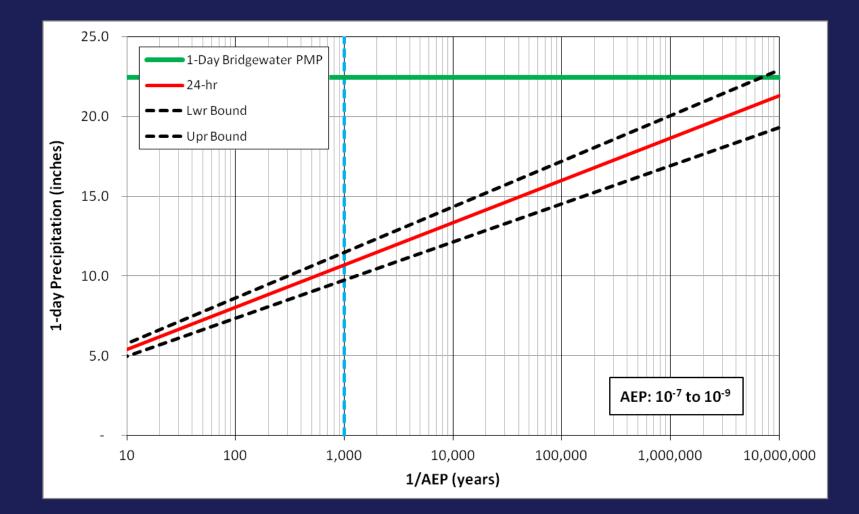
Statistical Extension

- NOAA Atlas 14 Statistical Extension
 - Identify station representative of region
 - ARF reduce point to area
 - Fit regression to NOAA Atlas 14 data
 - Simulate AMS data and distribution to statistically extend NOAA Atlas 14 curves

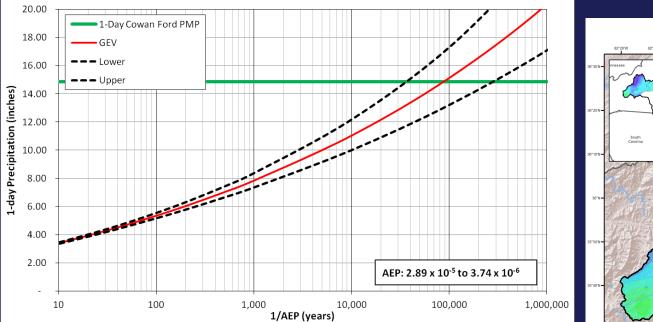


Statistical Extension

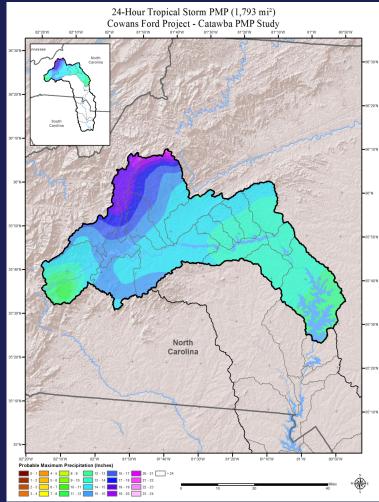
• NOAA Atlas 14 Statistical Extension



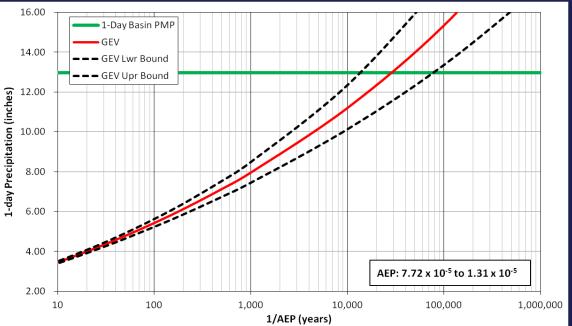
Regional L-moments Cowan Ford AEP



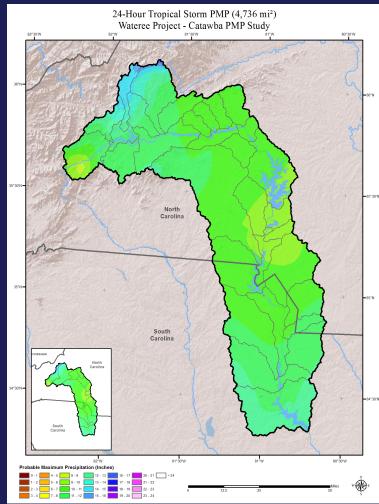
Cowan Ford Basin (1793-sqmi)
PMP = 14.85"
AEP = 2.89 x 10⁻⁵ to 3.74 x 10⁻⁶



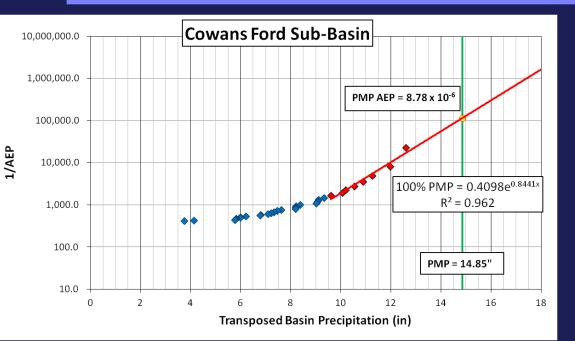
Regional L-moments Catawba AEP



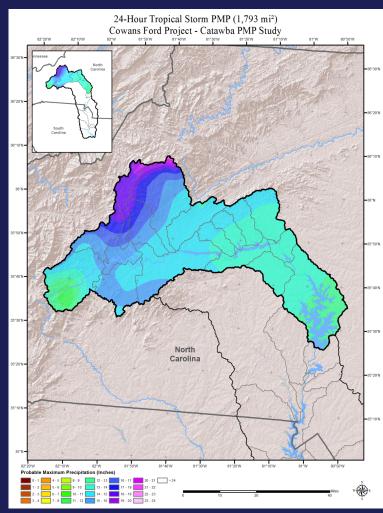
Catawba Basin (4737-sqmi)
PMP = 12.96"
AEP = 7.72 x 10⁻⁵ to 1.31 x 10⁻⁵



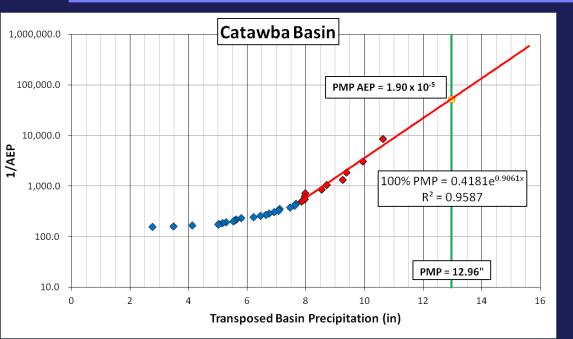
Stochastic Storm Transitioning



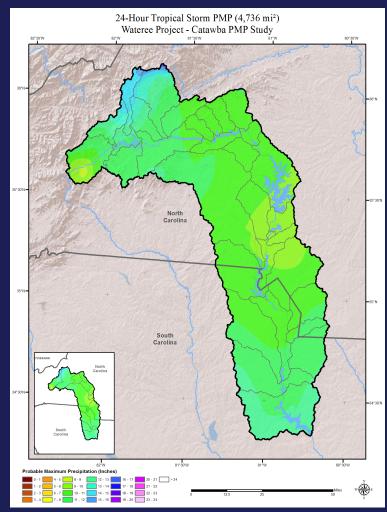
Cowan Ford Basin (1793-sqmi)
PMP = 14.85"
AEP = 8.78 x 10⁻⁶ (113,868 yrs)



Stochastic Storm Transitioning

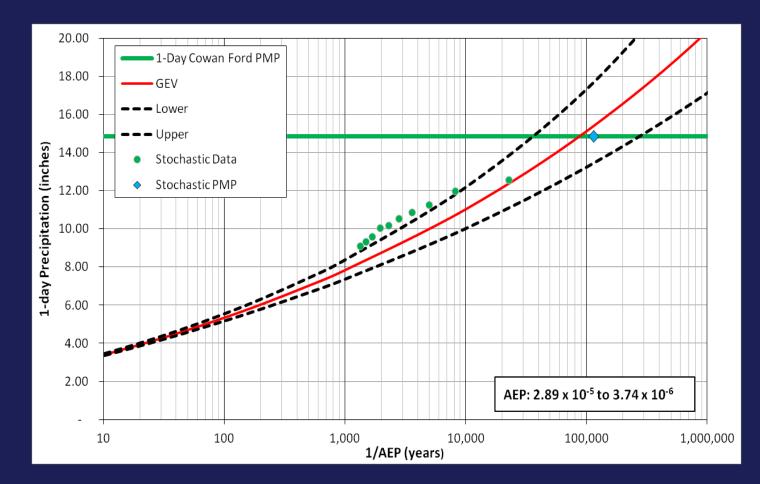


Catawba Basin (4737-sqmi)
PMP = 12.96"
AEP = 1.90 x 10⁻⁵ (52,629 yrs)



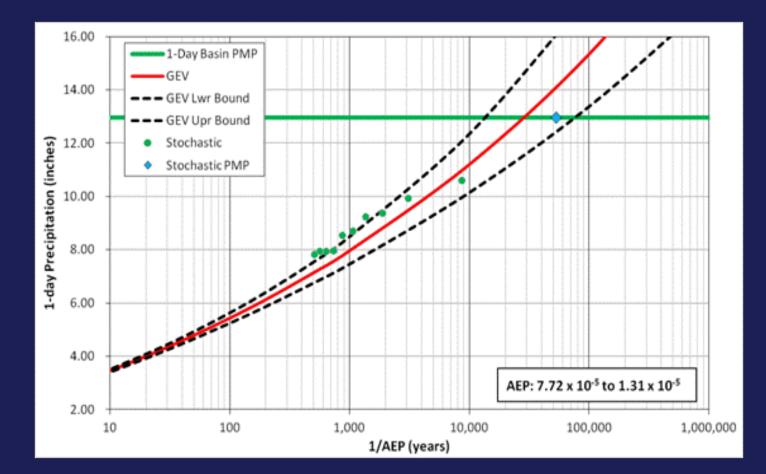
Summary of 1-Day Precipitation Frequency

- Cowan Ford Basin (1793-sqmi)
- AEP = 2.89×10^{-5} to 3.74×10^{-6}



Summary of 1-Day Precipitation Frequency

- Catawba Basin (4737-sqmi)
- AEP = 7.72×10^{-5} to 1.31×10^{-5}



Summary of PMP Probability Methods

- AEP of PMP ranges from 10⁻⁵ to 10⁻⁷ AEP
 - Varies by location, duration, and storm areal coverage
- Multiple methods provide confidence in AEP

Basin	Stochastic	AEP Upper	AEP Lower
Bridgewater	8.87 x 10 ⁻⁷	7.41 x 10 ⁻⁶	5.88 x 10 ⁻⁷
Cowans Ford	8.78 x 10 ⁻⁶	2.89 x 10 ⁻⁵	3.74 x 10 ⁻⁶
Catawba	1.90 x 10 ⁻⁵	7.72 x 10 ⁻⁵	1.31 x 10 ⁻⁵