



# Approach to Data Access, Hydroclimate Modeling & Scenario Development

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# Why the Hydroclimate Team?

1. Collect all available **hydrometeorological observations** in Arizona
2. Apply a suite of **hydrologic models** to reconstruct key water balance variables across the state, with a focus on:
  - a. **Potential aquifer recharge regions**
  - b. **Areas of high evapotranspiration (ET)**
3. Build **confidence in models** via thorough validation against observations
4. Perform **ad-hoc high-resolution hydrologic simulations** in specific basins to support capture and recharge solutions
5. Assess **future changes of key water balance variables** using climate model outputs under different greenhouse gas emission scenarios

# Collection of Hydrometeorological Datasets

## Hydrometeorological Observations

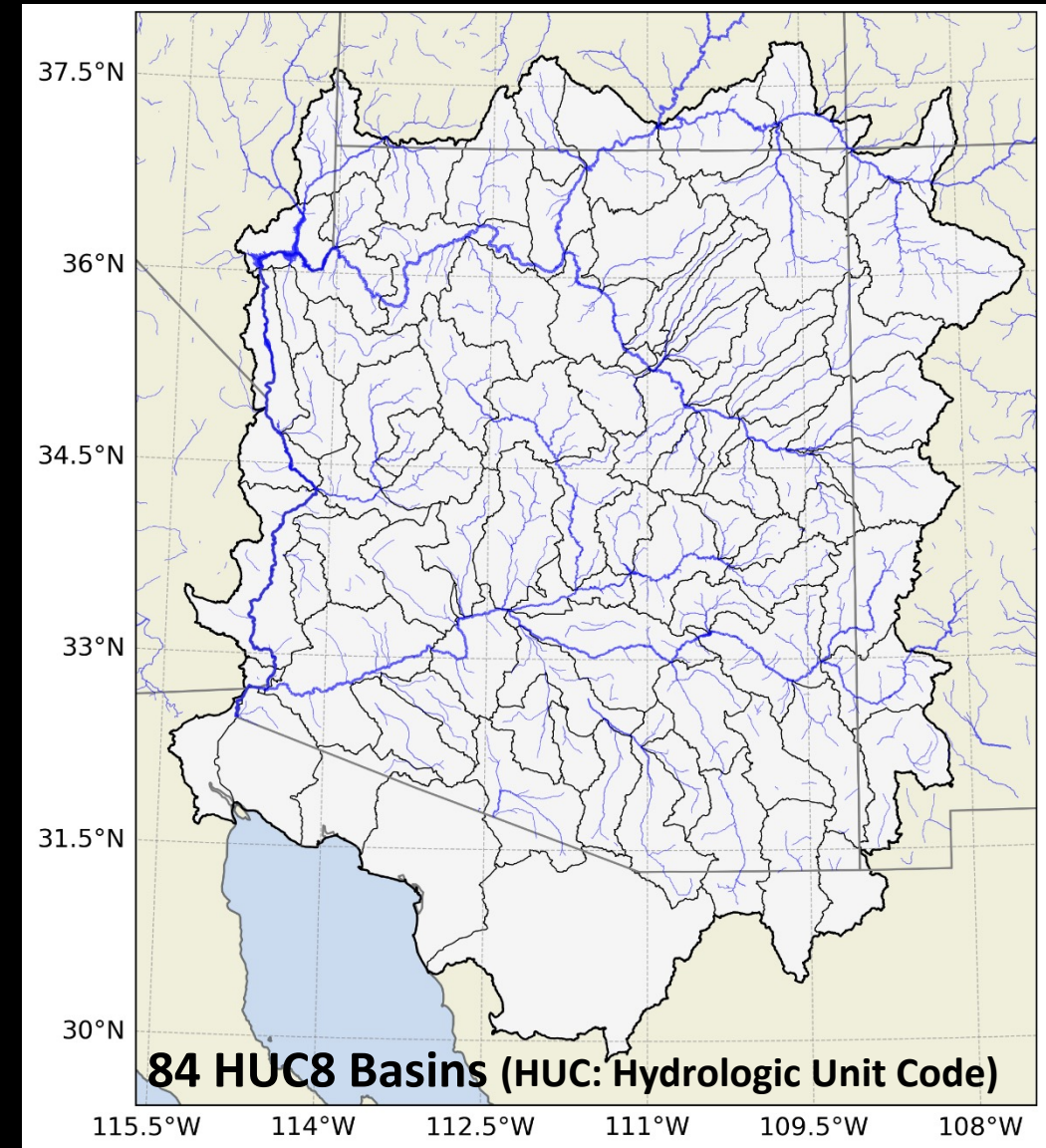
Dataset	Variables	Resolution
Analysis of Record for Calibration (AORC)	Precipitation Air Temperature Other Meteorological Variables	1-km, 1-hour
FLUXNET Tower	Evapotranspiration	Point, 30-min
USGS Gages	River Discharge	Point, 15-min
SNOTEL Stations	Snow Water Equivalent	Point, 1-day

## Hydrologic Models

- **National Water Model** (NWM; available from NOAA at 1 km, 1 hr)
- **Noah-MP** (applied by the team at 4 km, 1 hr)

**Period: 1980 - 2023**

## USGS Hydrologic Unit Code 8 (HUC8)



# Water Budget

Credit: Hayley Corson-Dosch/USGS VizLab

$$RE = P - ET - R$$

Observation

Simulation

Observation/  
Simulation

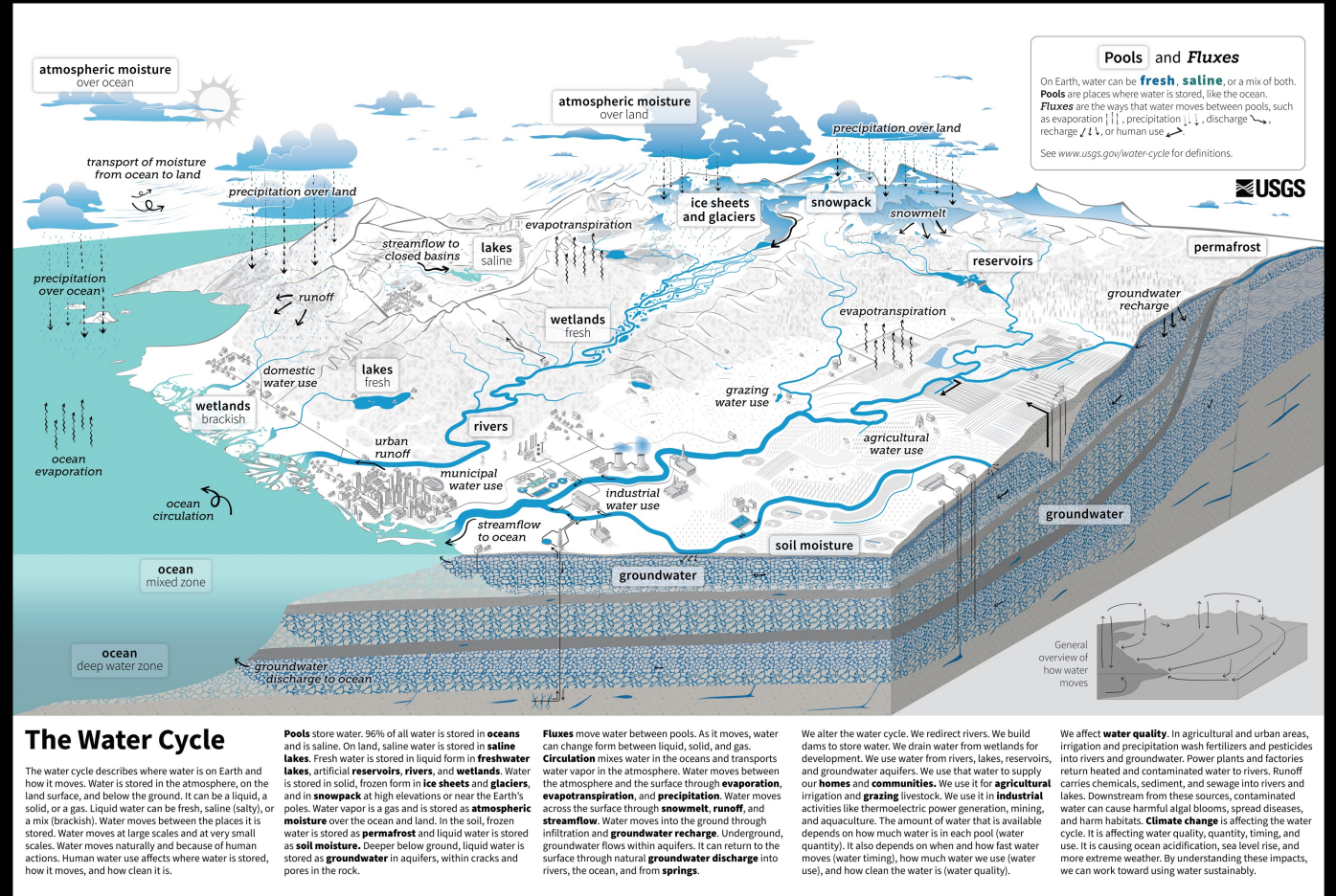
RE = Recharge

P = Precipitation

ET = Evapotranspiration

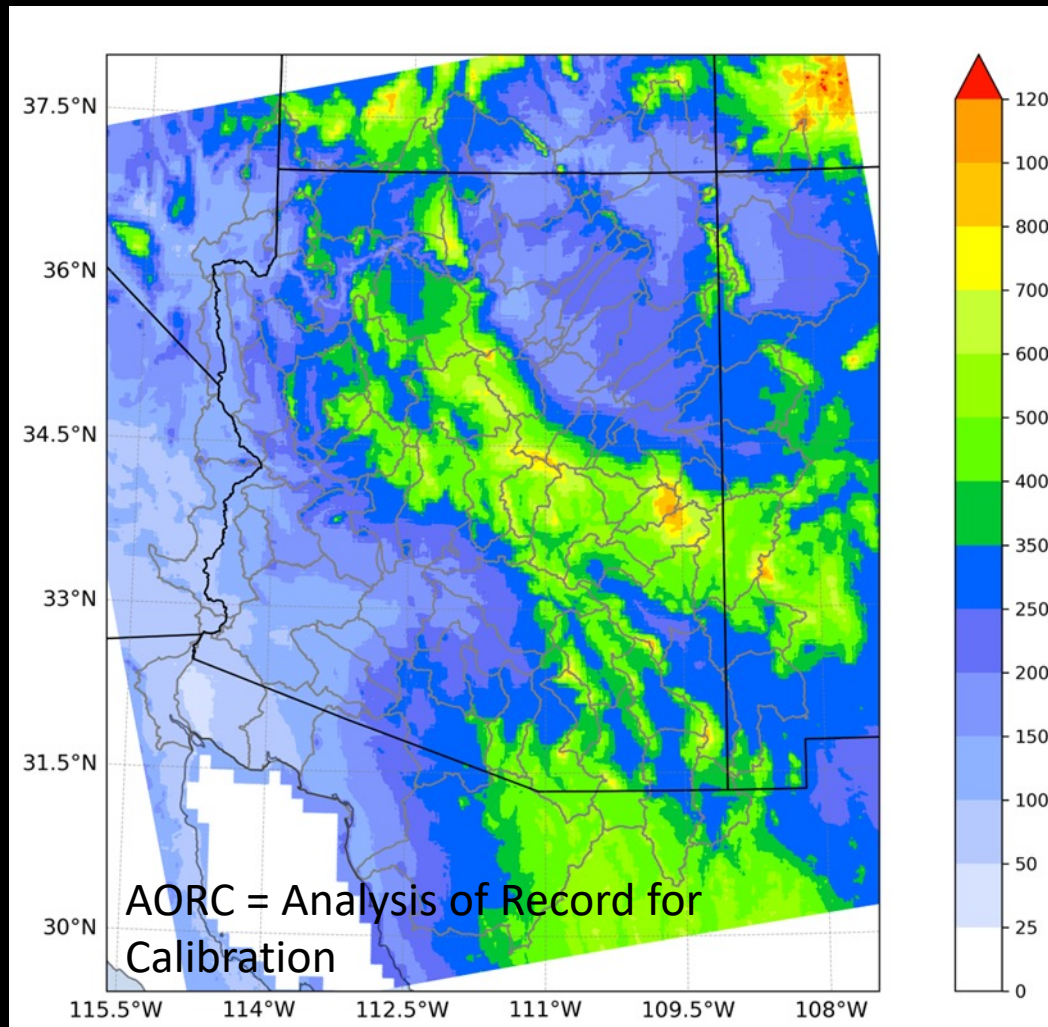
R = Runoff

*Applied at multiple time scales at each 1- or 4-km pixel and HUC8 basin*

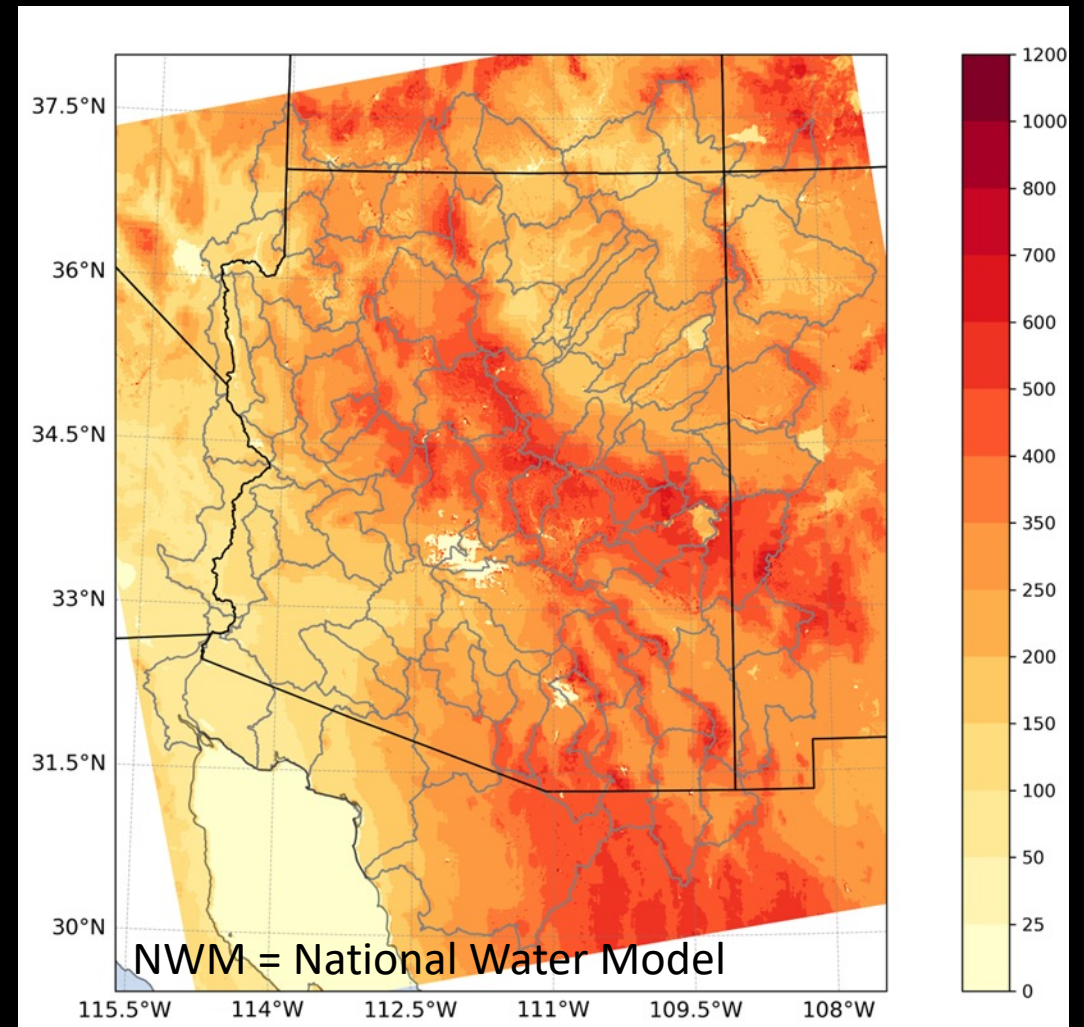


# Examples of Observations and Simulations

Mean annual AORC precipitation (1980-2020)



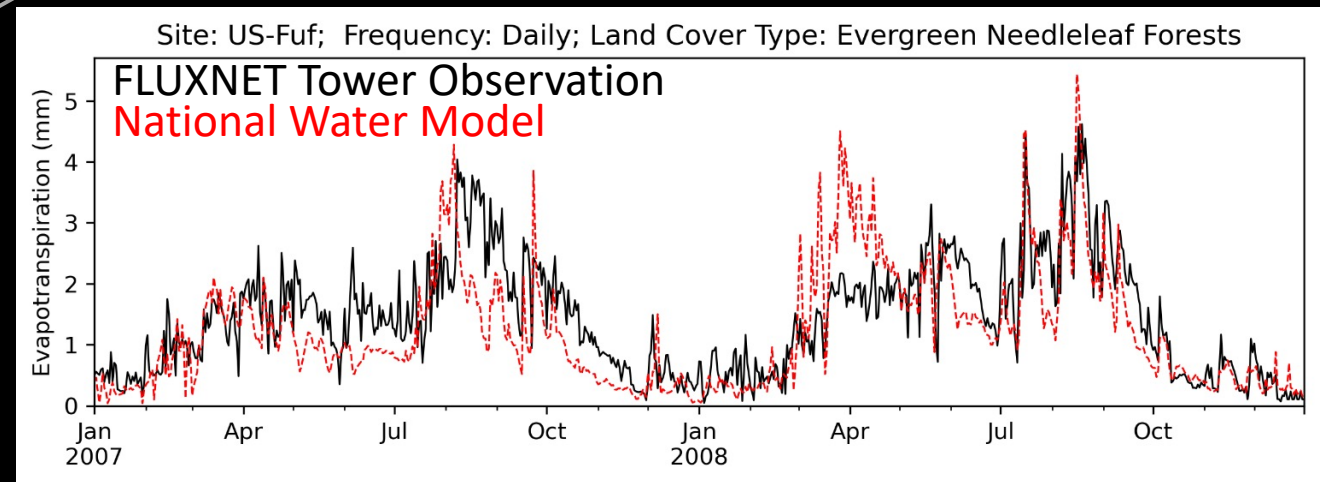
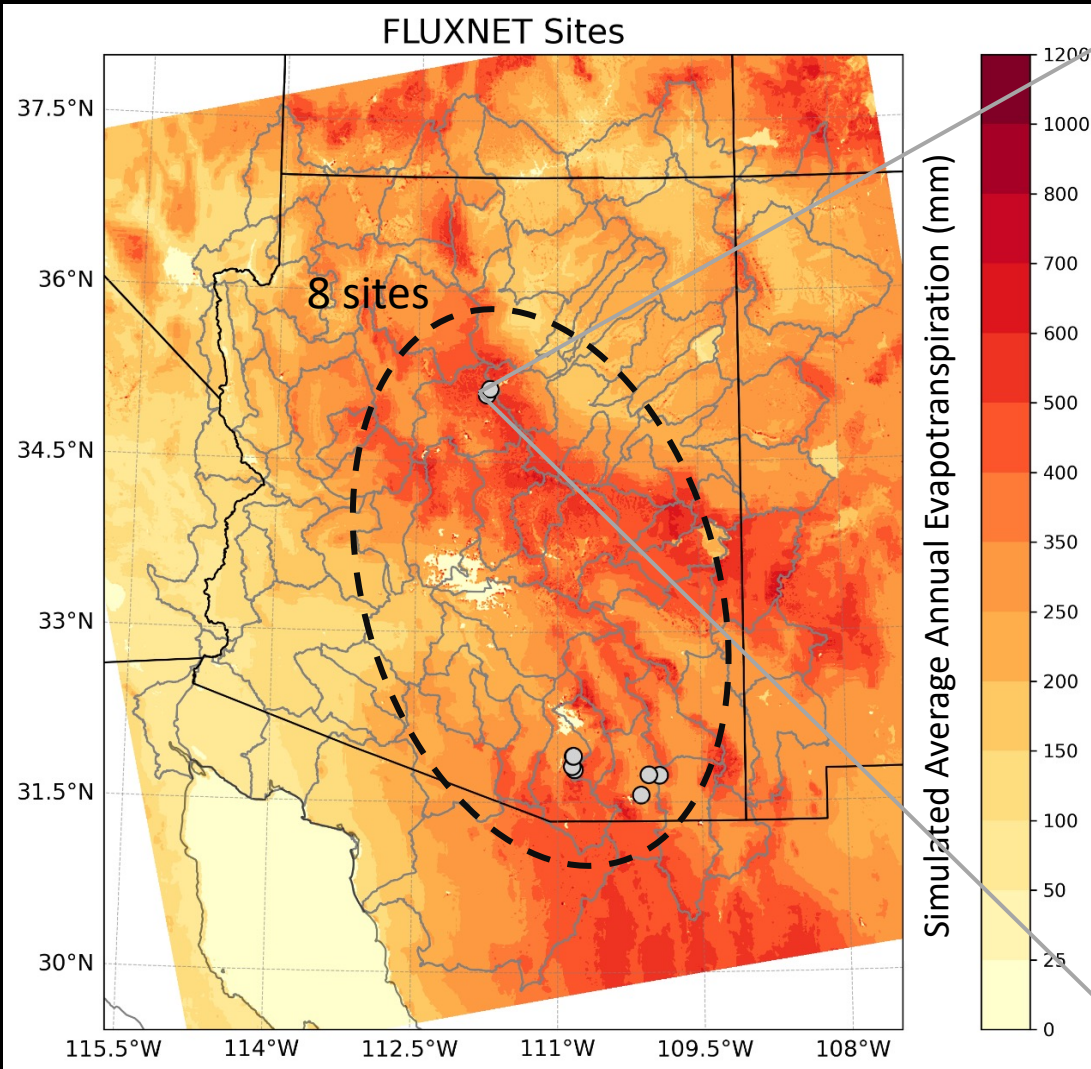
Mean annual NWM ET (1980-2020)



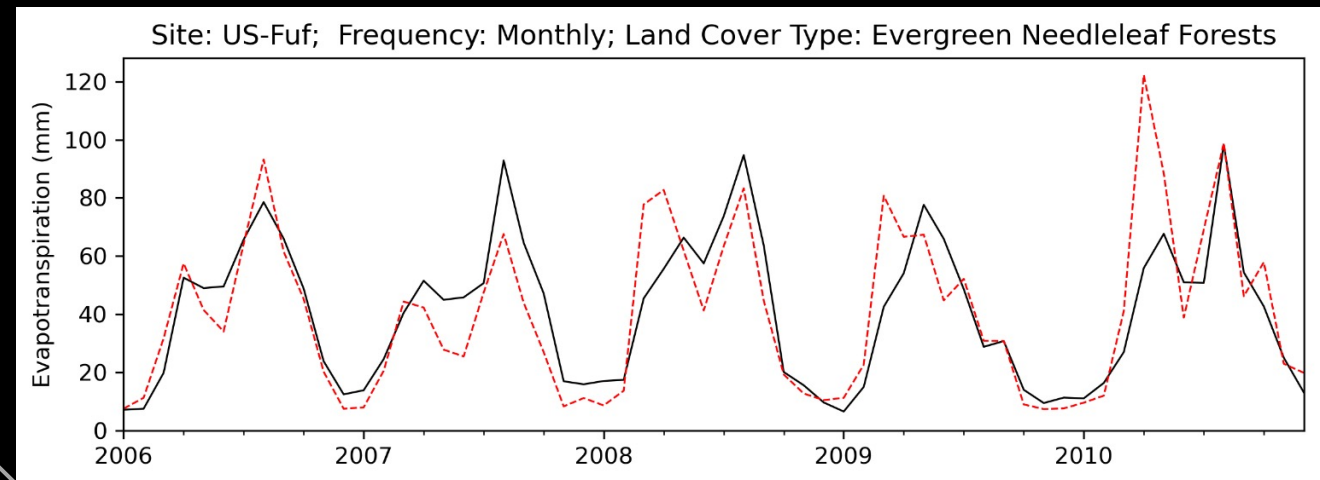
# Building Confidence in Models

## Validation of ET against eddy covariance estimates

Daily



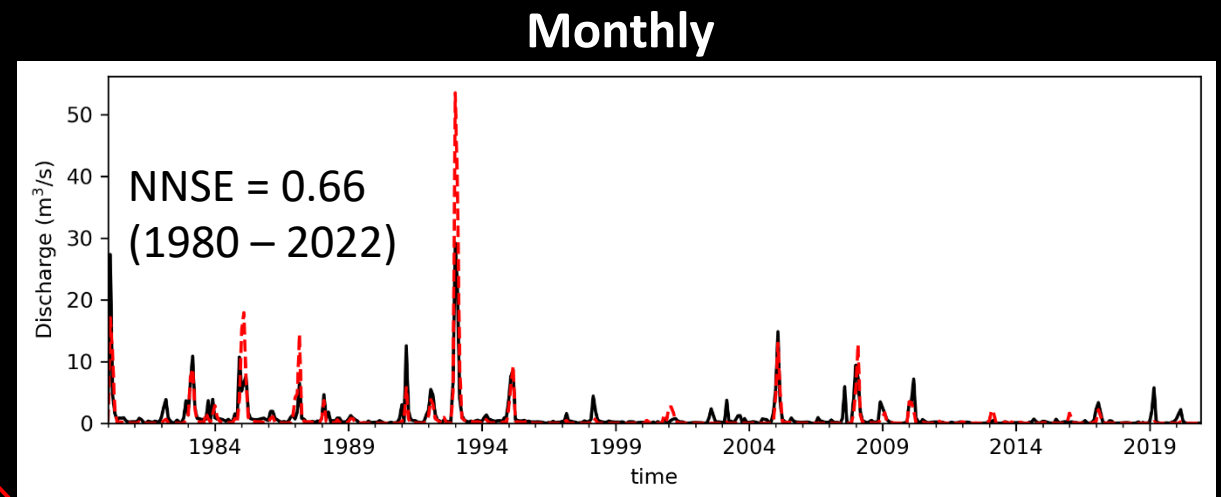
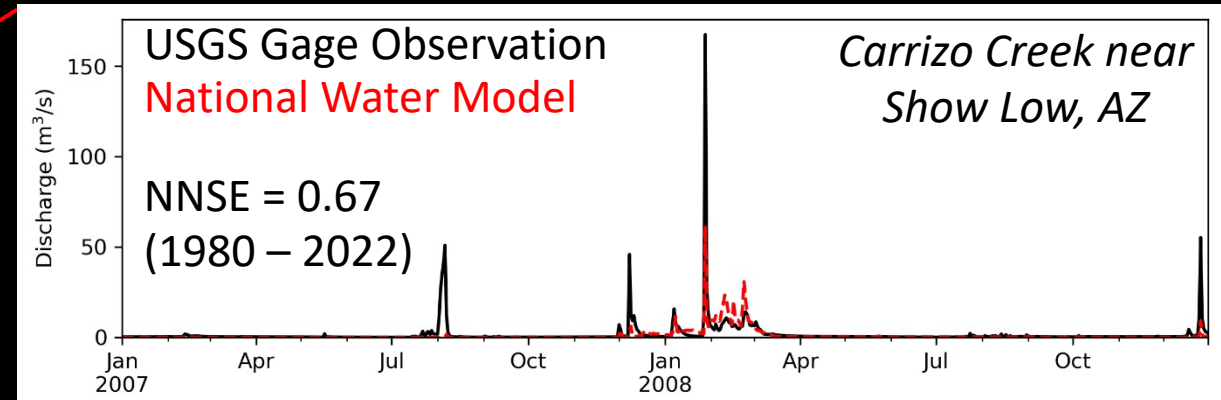
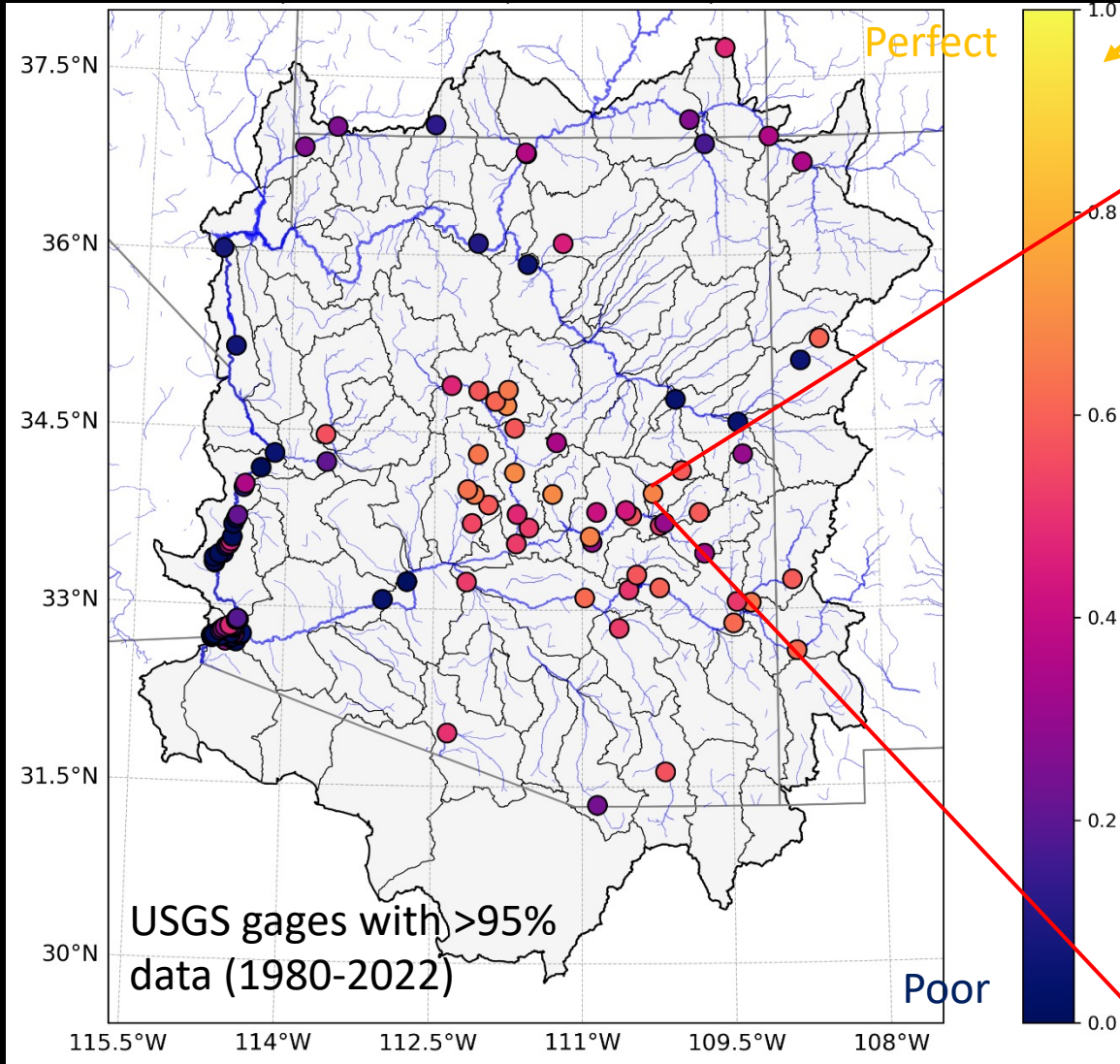
Monthly



# Building Confidence in Models

## Validation of river discharge

Normalized Nash Sutcliffe Efficiency (NNSE)



# High-Resolution Land Surface Modeling in Arizona

## Historical Simulations

- To estimate the water budget (including ET, runoff, recharge, SWE, etc.) during 1980-2020 in the HUC8 basins over Arizona.
- To find the factors that dominate the spatial and temporal variations in recharge during the historical period.

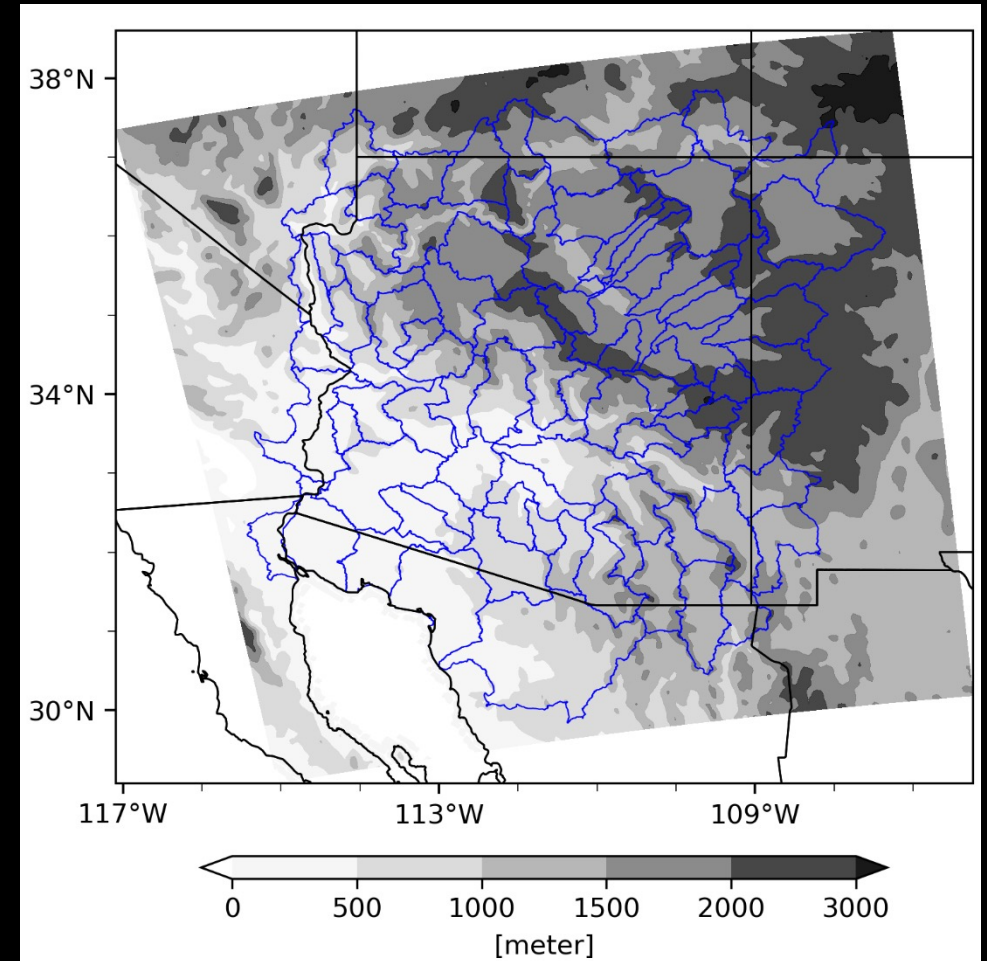
## Future Simulations

- To project the recharge in the middle and end of this century under different emission scenarios.
- To understand the effect of future climate change on recharge.



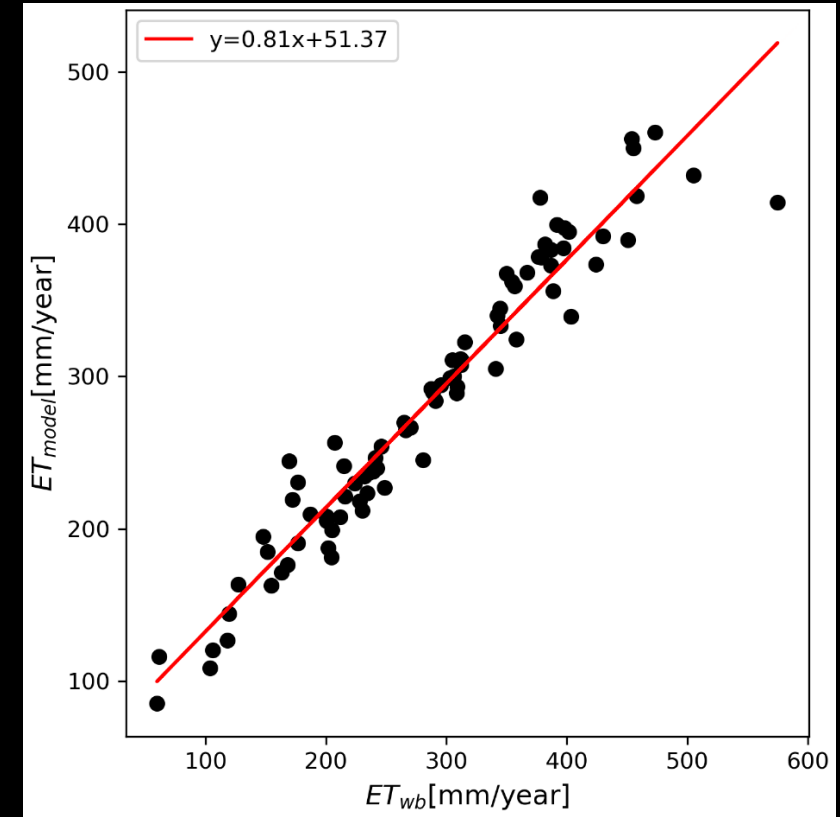
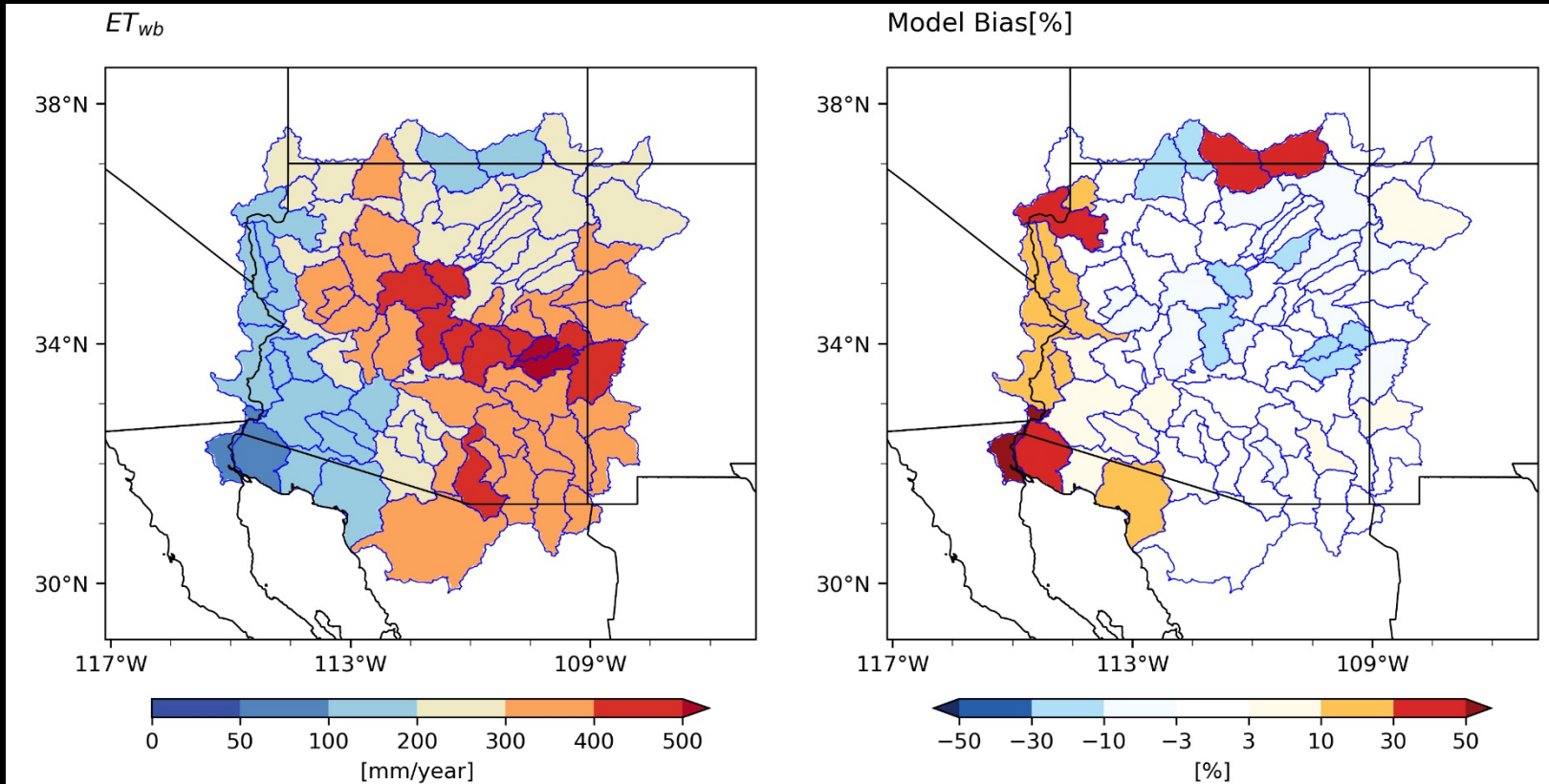
# Historical Simulations

Model	Noah-MP which can represent surface ponding and dynamic root water uptake
Domain	HUC8 watersheds (see blue lines in the right figure) over Arizona
Period	1980-2020
Resolution	4 km (spatial) and 1 hr (temporal)
Forcing data	CONUS404 (dynamically downscaled results of ERA5), AORC (based on multiple observation and analysis datasets), and IMERG (satellite data, 2001-2020)



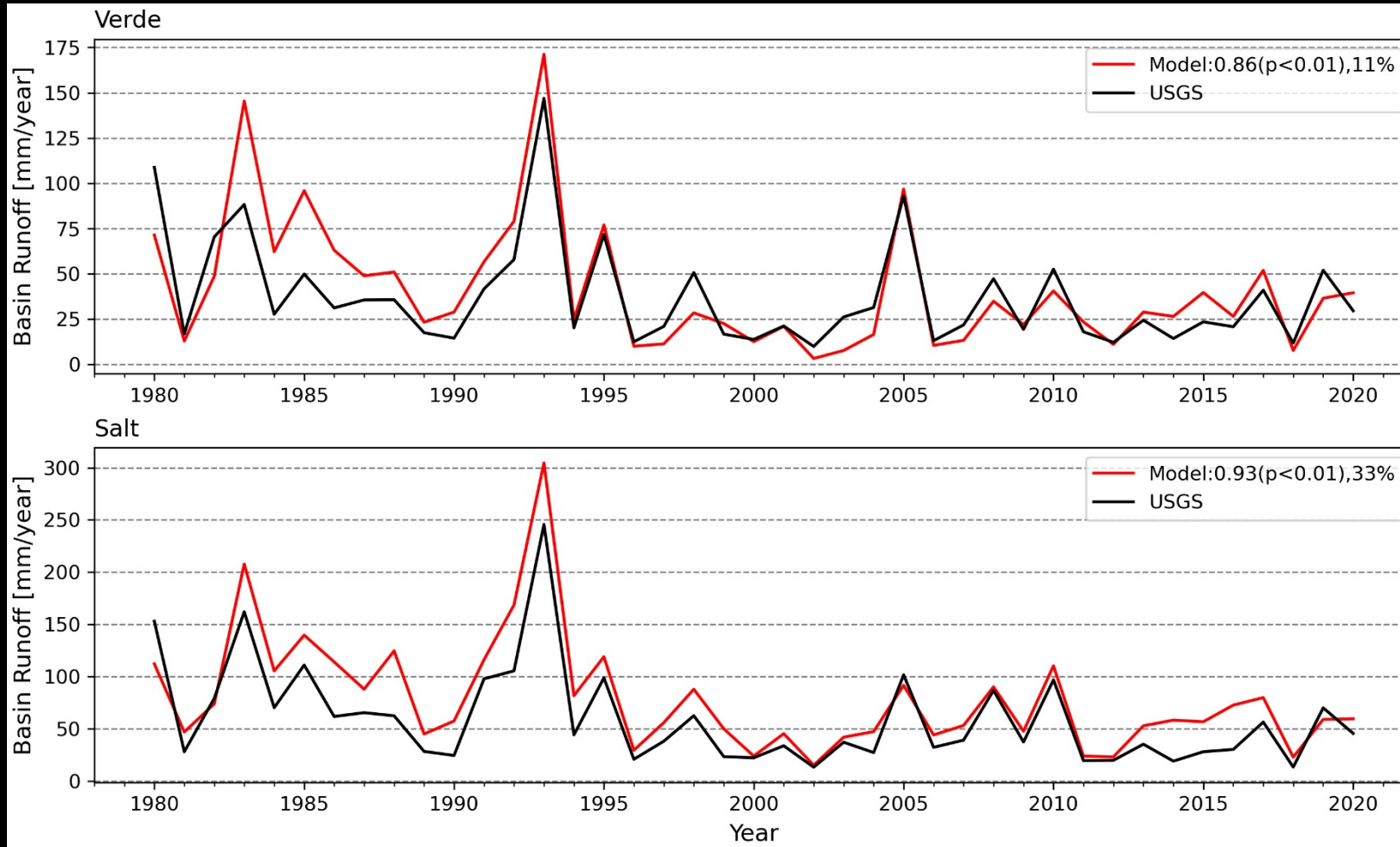
# Model Performance in Simulating ET

$$ET_{wb} \approx P - RF_{usgs}$$



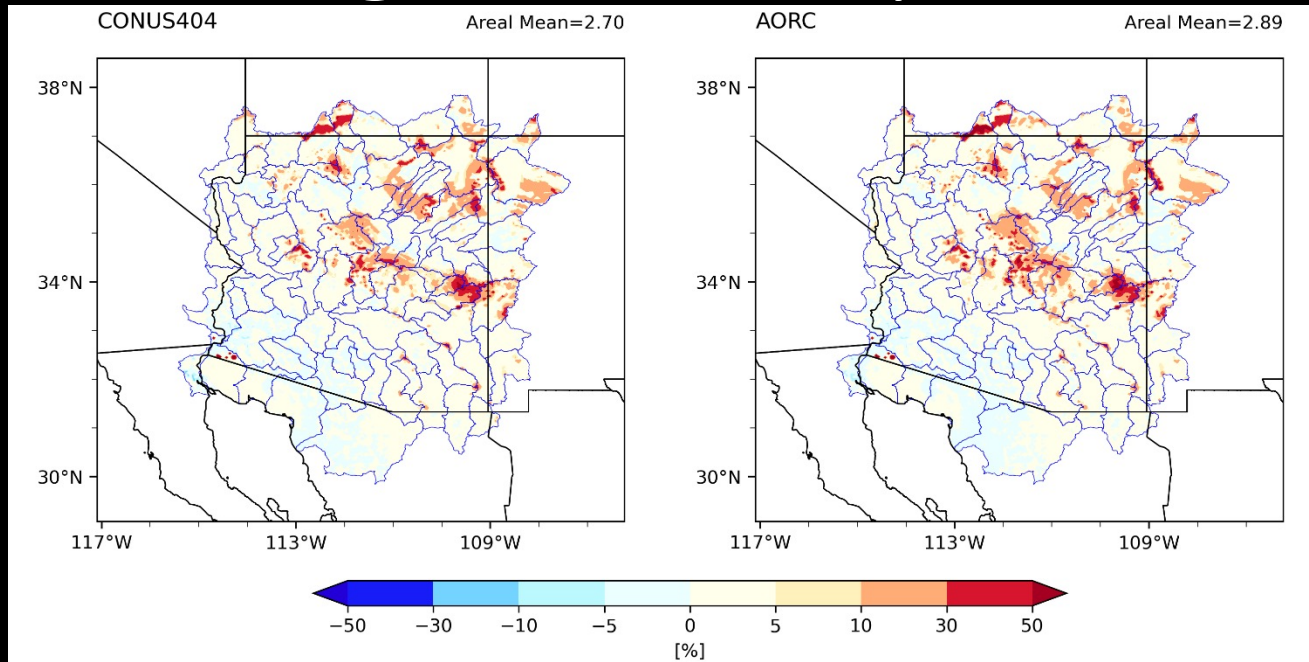
- For most of the basins, the model's relative bias is between -10% and 10%.
- $ET_{wb}$  and  $ET_{model}$  are very close, with  $R=0.81$ .

# Model Performance in Simulating Runoff



- The model can reproduce the annual runoff for the Verde (Salt) Basin with  $R=0.86$  ( $0.93$ ) and bias= $11\%$  ( $33\%$ )

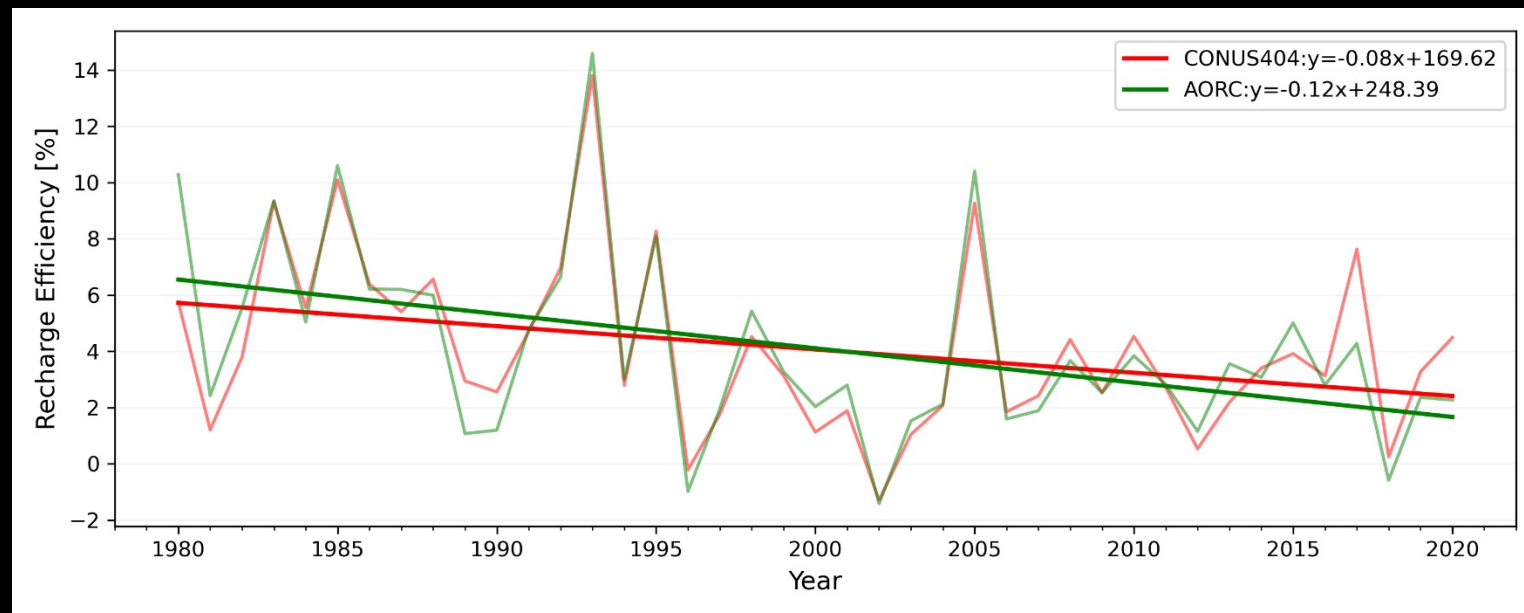
# Recharge Efficiency and Its Historical Trend



$$\text{Recharge Efficiency} = \text{Recharge} / P \times 100$$

- Very similar mean areal recharge efficiency (2.79% for CONUS404 and 2.89% for AORC)

- Both simulations suggest that recharge efficiency has significantly decreased by about 0.1% per year



# Hydroclimate Team Summary

1. Collection of high-resolution point and gridded hydrometeorological observations across Arizona
2. Validation of the latest National Water Model retrospective simulations and Noah-MP ad-hoc simulations in AZ
3. Generation of recharge maps from models and observations for the historical period
4. Estimation of changes in water balance components under future climate scenarios