

Fellowship of the Rain (Gauge Network)



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UNC Asheville

In collaboration with...



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Duke University

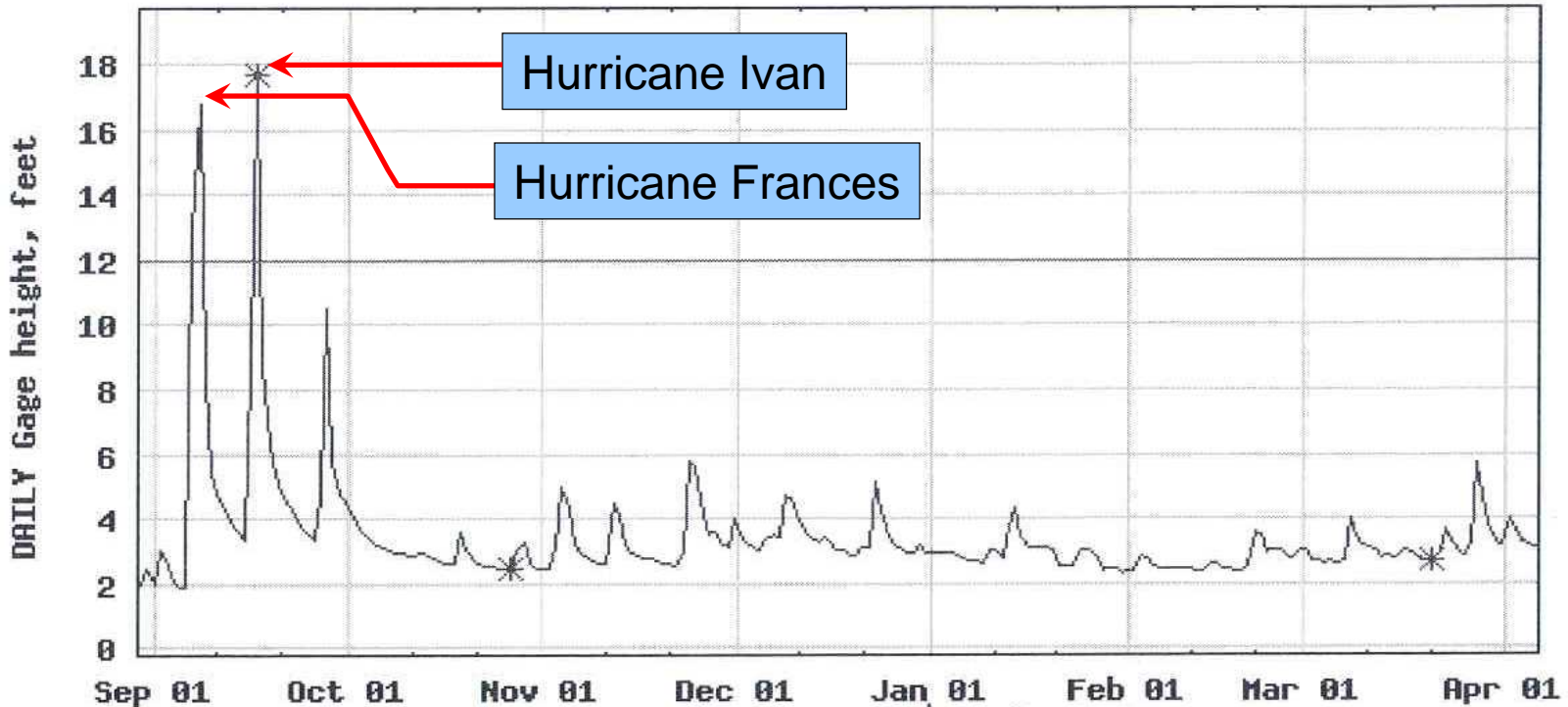
Outline

- High elevation rain gauge network in the Pigeon River Basin and Great Smoky Mountains National Park (Duke GSMRGN)
 - Founding
 - Why the Pigeon River Basin?
 - Purpose
 - Installation and maintenance and challenges
 - Findings
 - Pigeon River Basin
 - Pigeon v. Coweeta River Basin
 - Future
 - Climate-related questions

Flood Data



USGS 03459500 PIGEON RIVER NEAR HEPSCO, NC



- EXPLANATION -----
- * MEASURED Gage height
 - DAILY MAXIMUM GAGE HEIGHT
 - National Weather Service Floodstage

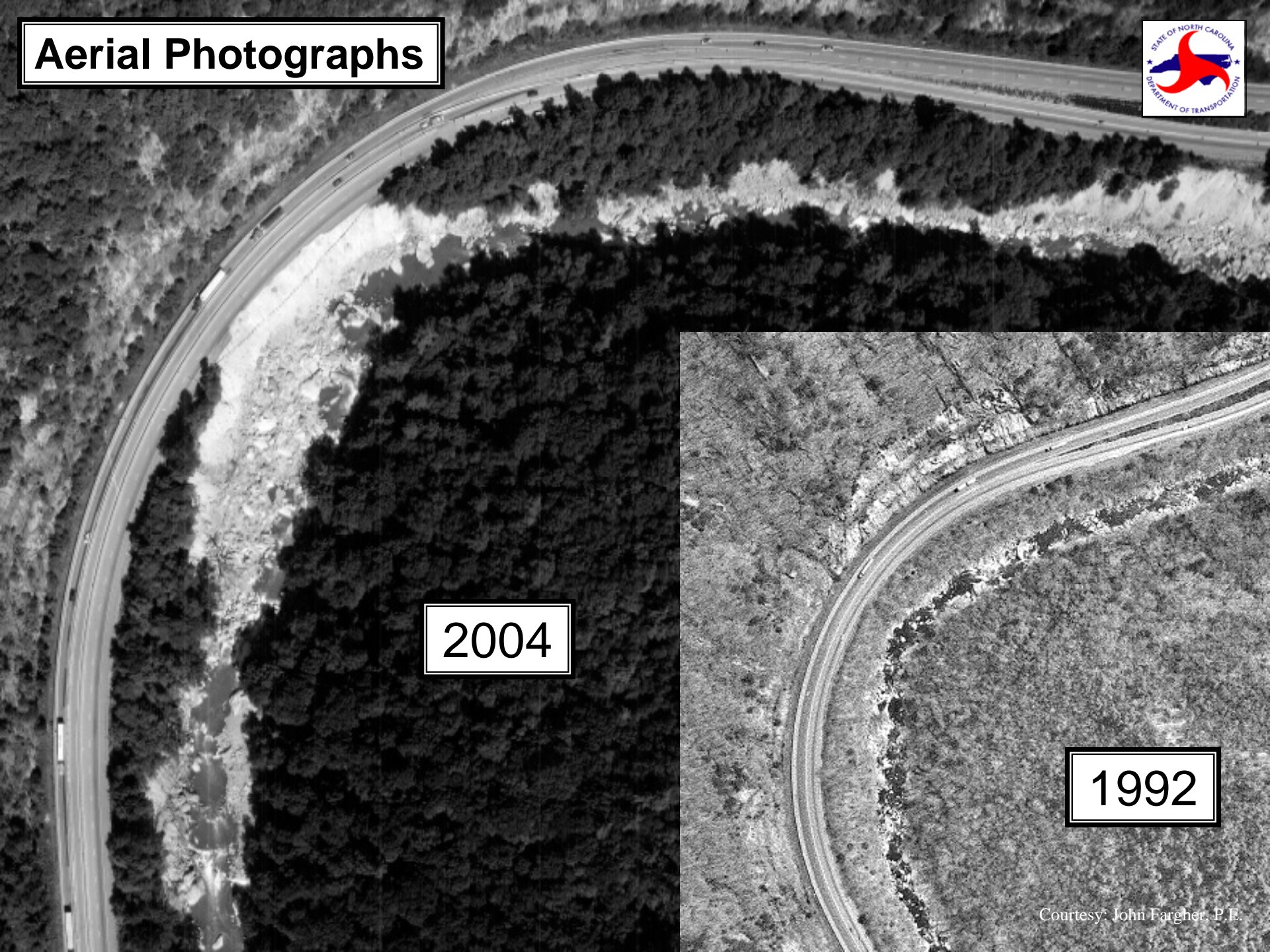
Provisional Data Subject to Revision

September 18, 2004



The Pigeon River

Aerial Photographs



2004



1992


Courtesy: John Fargher, P.E.



Original purpose - funding

- NASA
 - Provide ground validation (GV) at high elevation locations in the mid-latitudes for NASA's Global Precipitation Mission (GPM)





GPM LAUNCH: 27 FEBRUARY 2014, 1:37 PM EST, TANEGASHIMA SPACE CENTER, JAPAN

- Improves upon the capabilities of the Tropical Rainfall Measurement Mission (TRMM), a joint NASA-JAXA mission launched in 1997 and still in operation.
- **Expands coverage area** from 40° N to 40° S (TRMM) to from the Arctic Circle to the Antarctic Circle.
- **Detect light rain and snowfall**, a major source of available fresh water in some regions.
 - Collect information that unifies and improves data from an international constellation of existing and future satellites by mapping global precipitation **every three hours.**

GPM Ground Validation Program

Purpose

- Provide ground and airborne precipitation datasets supporting **physical validation** of satellite-based precipitation retrieval algorithms
- Determine the **measurement uncertainty** for GPM measurements to allow users of GPM data to interpret observations
- Improve the **retrieval algorithms** used by GPM and future space-based precipitation measurement missions
- Improve understanding of precipitation processes and the **ground-based GV measurements themselves**, which have historically been beset with difficulties

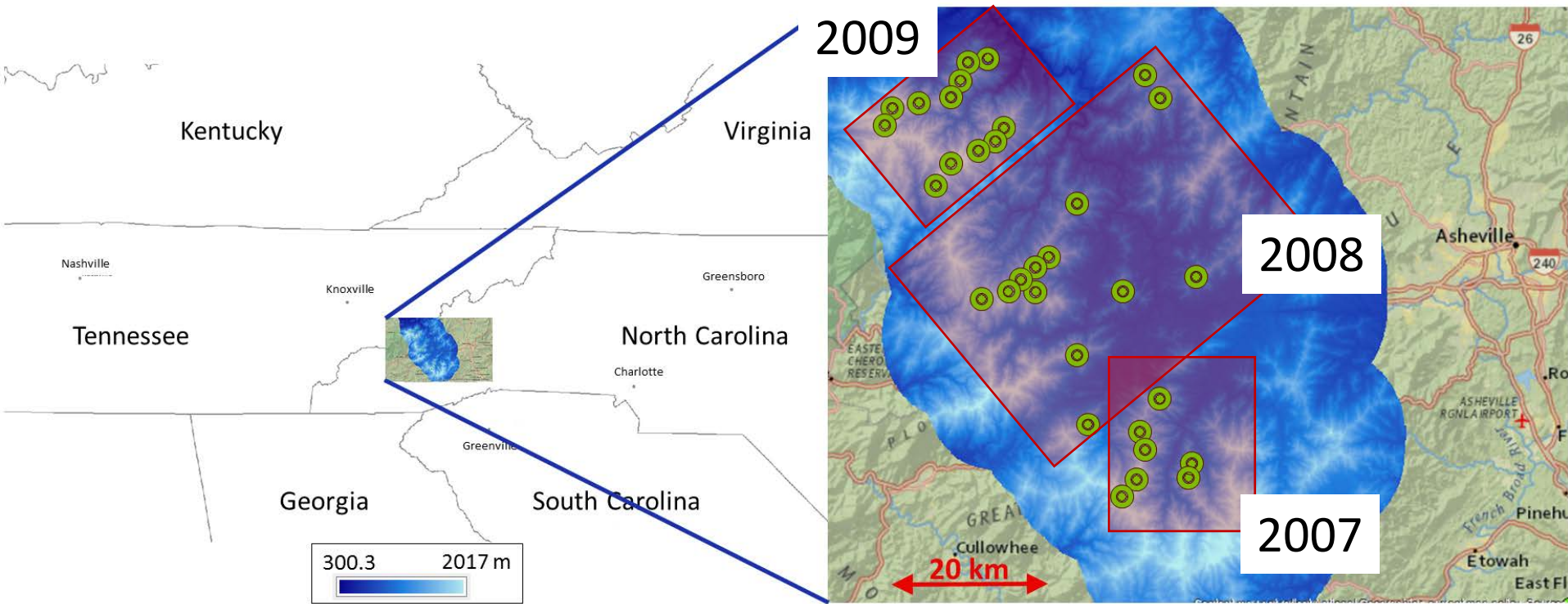
seek to advance our physical understanding of precipitation processes and assure consistency between this understanding and the representation of those physical processes in NASA GPM retrieval algorithms

Installation and Maintenance



pc: Daniel Martin

Duke University Great Smoky Mountain Rain Gauge Network (Duke GSMRGN)



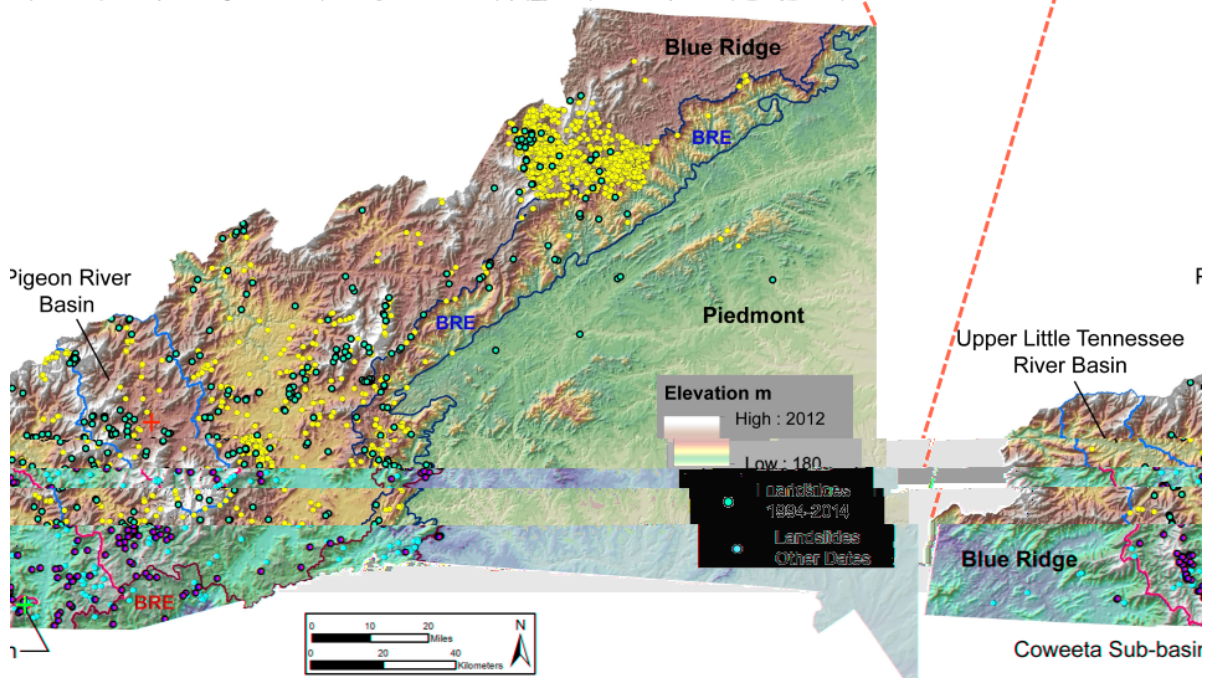
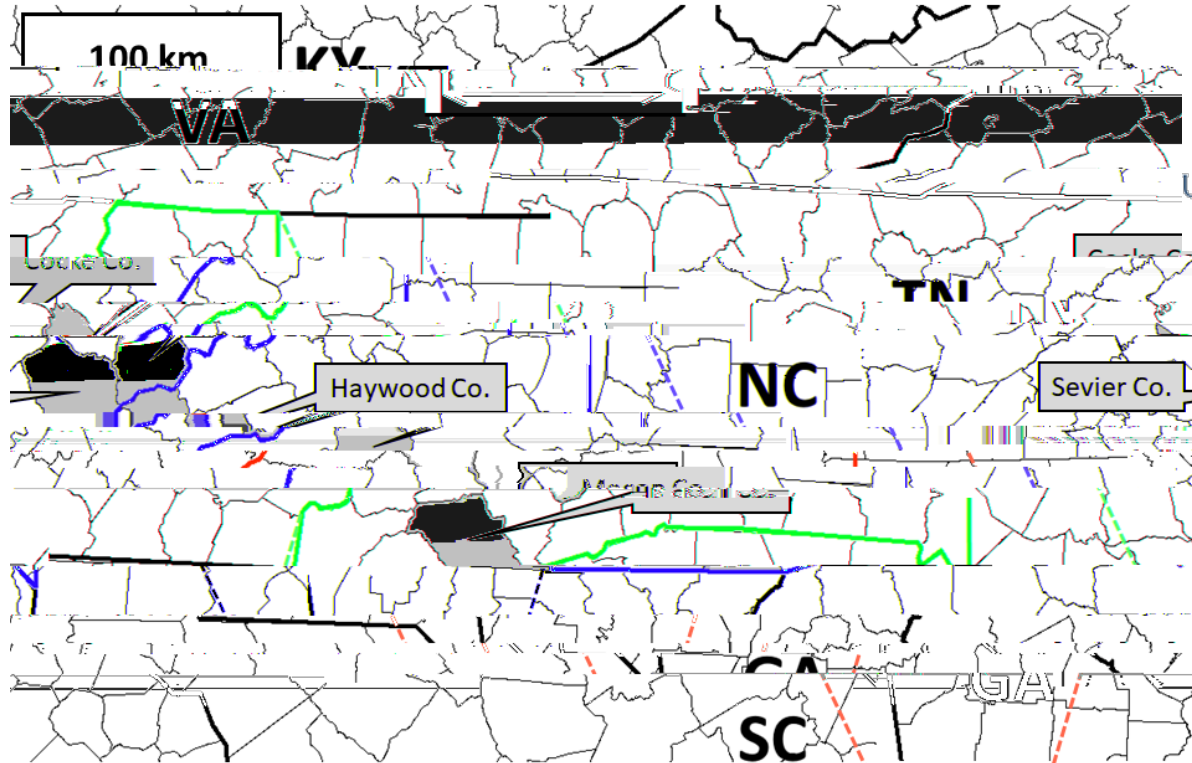




Table 1: Location and elevation of the 32 tipping bucket rain gauges comprising the Duke GSMRGN.

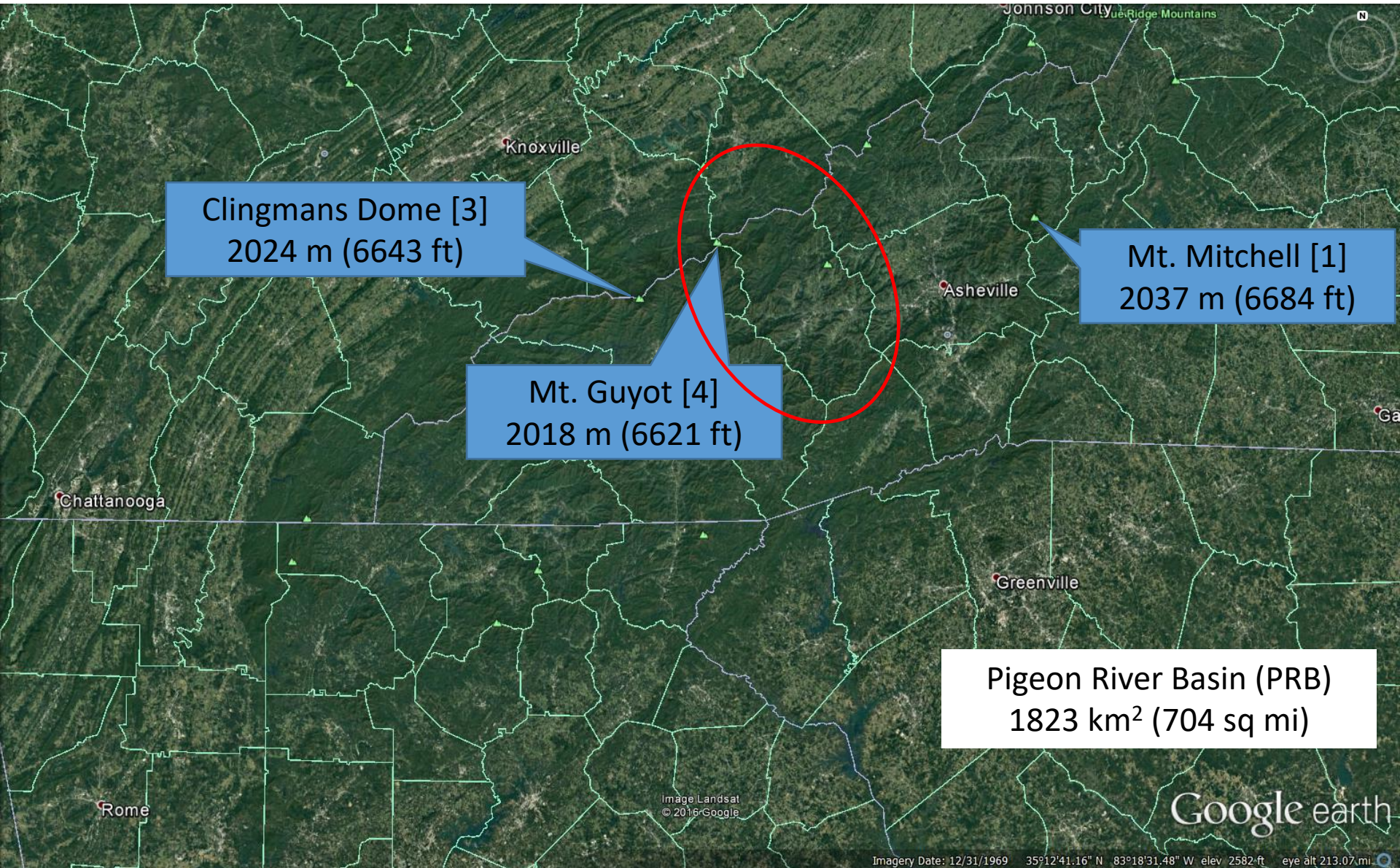
| Rain gauge number | Latitude | Longitude | Elevation (m) |
|-------------------|----------|-----------|---------------|
| RG001 | 35°23.8' | 82°54.7' | 1156 |
| RG002 | 35°25.5' | 82°58.2' | 1731 |
| RG003 | 35°23.0' | 82°54.9' | 1609 |
| RG004 | 35°22.0' | 82°59.4' | 1922 |
| RG005 | 35°24.5' | 82°57.8' | 1520 |
| RG008 | 35°22.9' | 82°58.4' | 1737 |
| RG010 | 35°27.3' | 82°56.8' | 1478 |
| RG100 | 35°35.1' | 83°04.3' | 1495 |
| RG101 | 35°34.5' | 83°05.2' | 1520 |
| RG102 | 35°33.8' | 83°06.2' | 1635 |
| RG103 | 35°33.2' | 83°07.0' | 1688 |
| RG104 | 35°33.2' | 83°05.2' | 1587 |
| RG105 | 35°38.0' | 83°02.4' | 1345 |
| RG106 | 35°25.9' | 83°01.7' | 1210 |
| RG107 | 35°34.0' | 82°54.4' | 1359 |
| RG108 | 35°33.2' | 82°59.3' | 1277 |
| RG109 | 35°29.7' | 83°02.4' | 1500 |
| RG110 | 35°32.8' | 83°08.8' | 1563 |
| RG111 | 35°43.7' | 82°56.8' | 1394 |
| RG112 | 35°45.0' | 82°57.8' | 1184 |
| RG300 | 35°43.5' | 83°13.0' | 1558 |
| RG301 | 35°42.3' | 83°15.3' | 2003 |
| RG302 | 35°43.2' | 83°14.8' | 1860 |
| RG303 | 35°45.7' | 83°09.7' | 1490 |
| RG304 | 35°40.2' | 83°10.9' | 1820 |
| RG305 | 35°41.4' | 83°07.9' | 1630 |
| RG306 | 35°44.7' | 83°10.2' | 1536 |
| RG307 | 35°39.0' | 83°11.9' | 1624 |
| RG308 | 35°43.8' | 83°10.9' | 1471 |
| RG309 | 35°40.9' | 83°09.0' | 1604 |
| RG310 | 35°42.1' | 83°07.3' | 1756 |
| RG311 | 35°45.9' | 83°08.4' | 1036 |

32 gauges

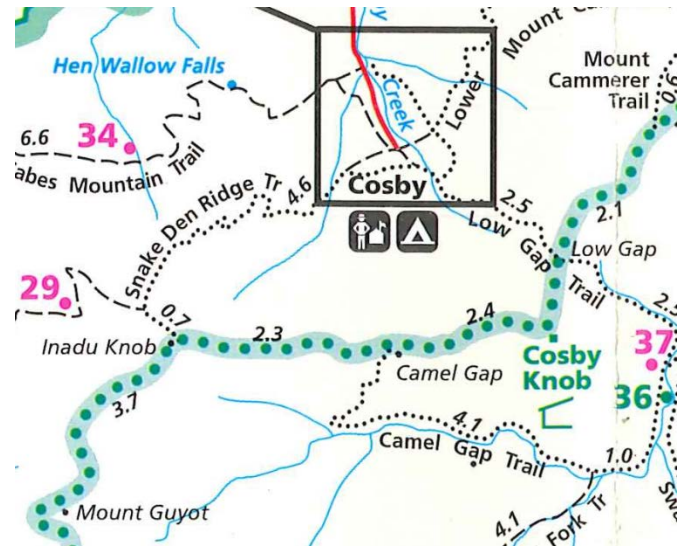
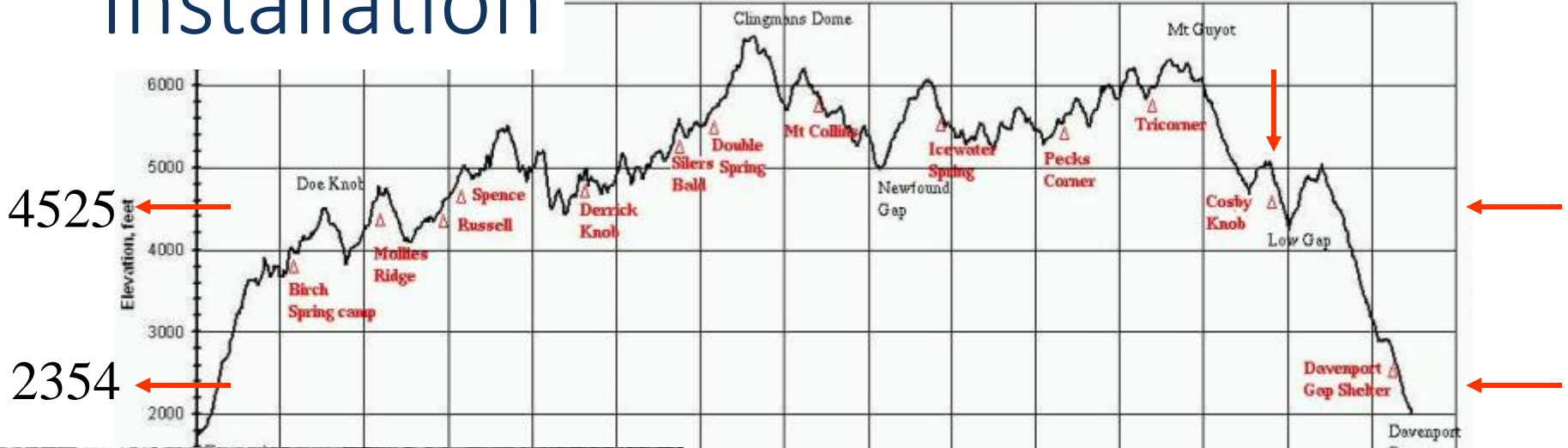
6570 ft

3398 ft

Southern Appalachians



Installation



Backcountry Horsemen of NC

Day One



Day One



Day Two

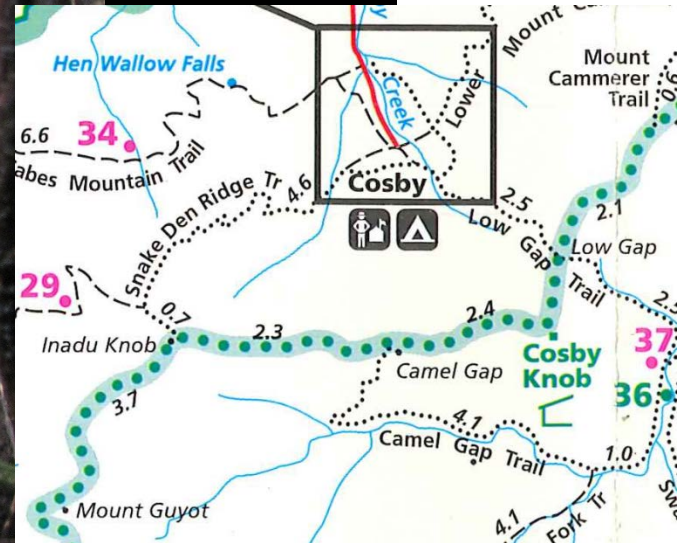
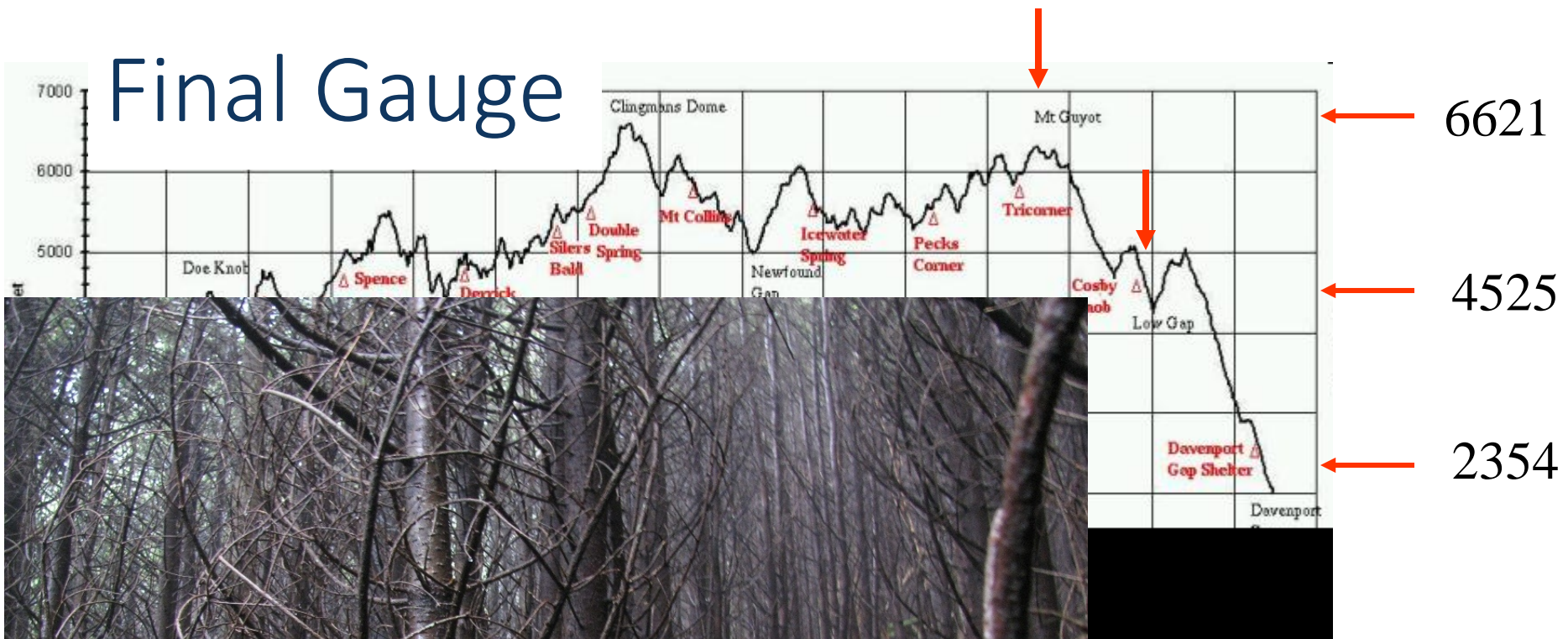


Day Two



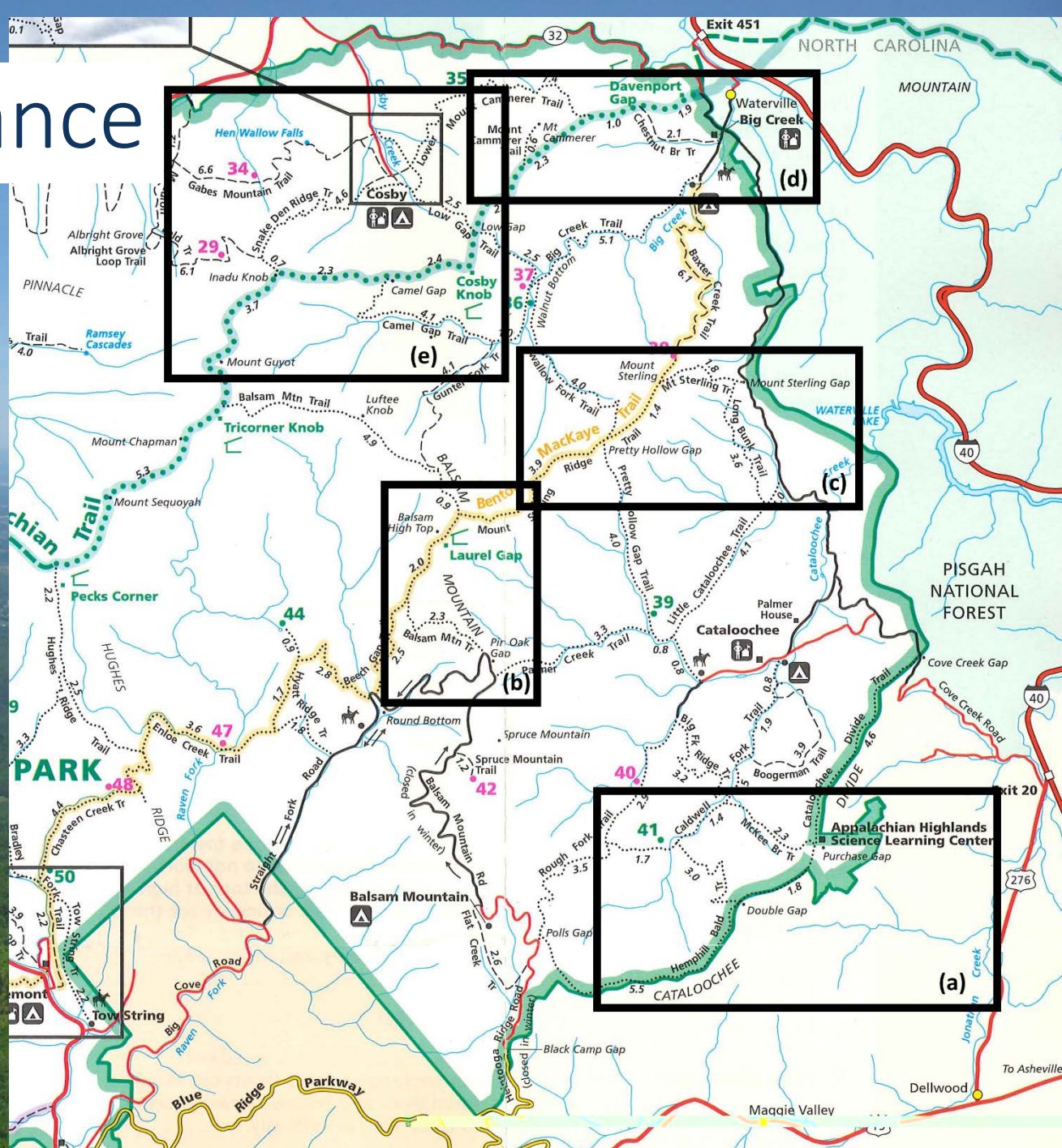
pc: Daniel Martin

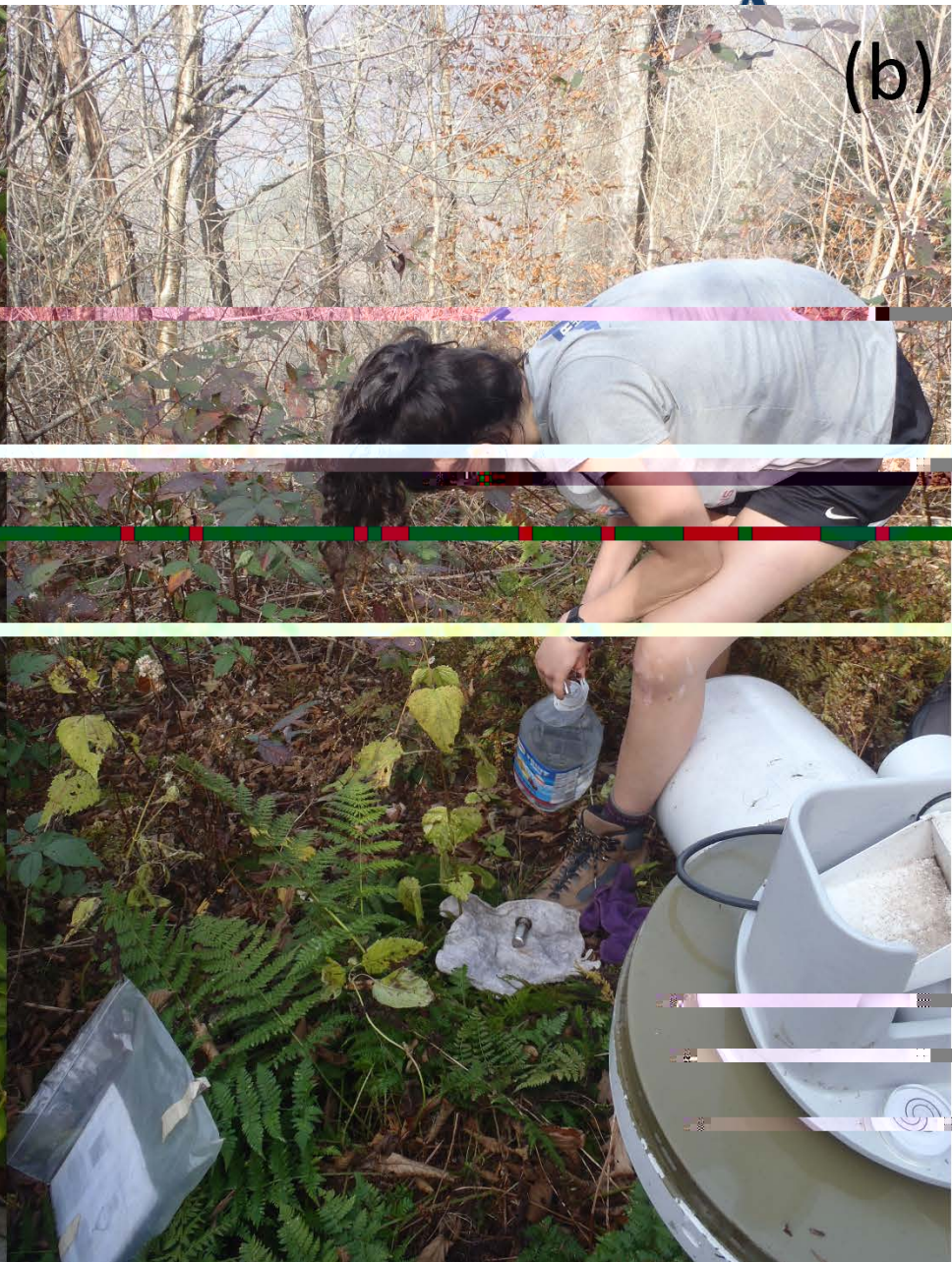
Final Gauge



pc: Daniel Martin

Maintenance





Maintenance



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Maint



Maintenance



Maintenance



Challenges



Challenges



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Challenges



Challenges



Challenges



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Challenges



<http://blizzard.atms.unca.edu/dmiller/MFDC0135.AVI>

Challenges



Challenges



Challenges



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Challenges



Local Research

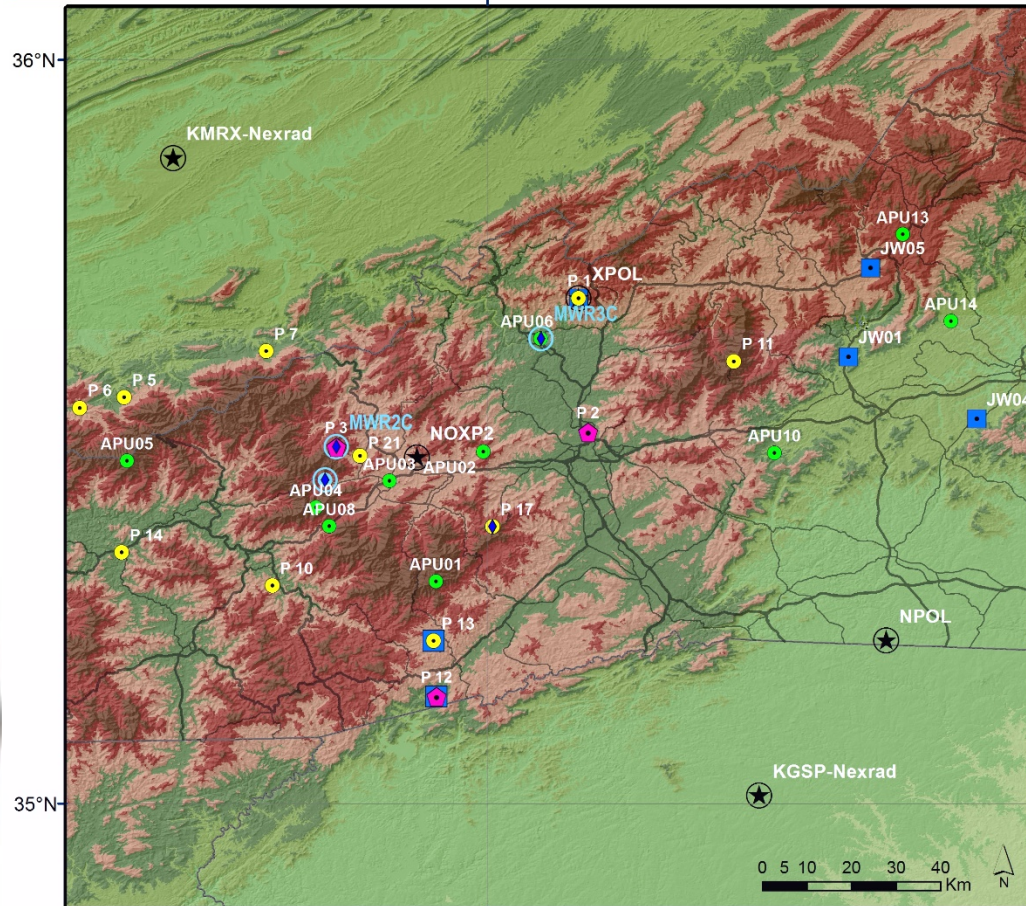
- Findings...

Findings

- IPHEX

1 May – 15 June 2014

IPHEX-GV Cartography: Disdrometers, Radiometers and Radar Network



- ◆ Paired P1 & P2
- P1 recording data
- P2 recording data
- Joss-Waldvogel (JWD)

- ★ Radars
- Radiometer
- ◆ MRR

-83°W

Global location



Elevation range (m)

- 1,250 - 1,531
- 950 - 1,250
- 700 - 950
- 500 - 700
- 250 - 500

Wilson et al. (2014)



Findings



GPM Ground Validation Southern Appalachian Rain Gauge IPHEX

The GPM Ground Validation Southern Appalachian Rain Gauge IPHEX dataset was collected during the Integrated Precipitation and Hydrology Experiment (IPHEX) field campaign consisting of 45 observation sites. The main goal of IPHEX were to characterize warm season orographic precipitation regimes and hydrologic processes in regions of complex terrain, to contribute to the development, evaluation, and improvement of remote sensing precipitation algorithms in support of the GPM mission. These data are available in ASCII-csv format from January 3, 2008 thru December 31, 2014. Data collection began in 2008 due to the entire network being funded by the NASA Precipitation Measurement Missions (PMM) to make these observations of orographic precipitation in preparation for the IPHEX field campaign.

This same dataset is also publicly available at the Duke Data Repository. If you obtained the Duke Data Repository dataset, please use the following citation: Barros, A.P., Miller, D., Wilson, A.M., Cutrell, G., Arulraj, M., Super, P., Petersen, W.A. (2017). IPHEX-Southern Appalachian Mountains -- Rainfall Data 2008-2014. Duke Digital Repository. <https://doi.org/10.7924/G8CJ8BJK>

Please include the following citation in your publications:

Barros, Ana P, Douglas Miller, Anna M Wilson, Gregory Cutrell, Malarvizhi Arulraj, Paul E. Super and Walter A Petersen. 2017. *GPM Ground Validation Southern Appalachian Rain Gauge IPHEX* [indicate subset used]. Dataset available online from the NASA Global Hydrology Resource Center DAAC, Huntsville, Alabama, U.S.A.

DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5067/GPMGV/IPHEX/GAUGES/DATA301>

Download Citation

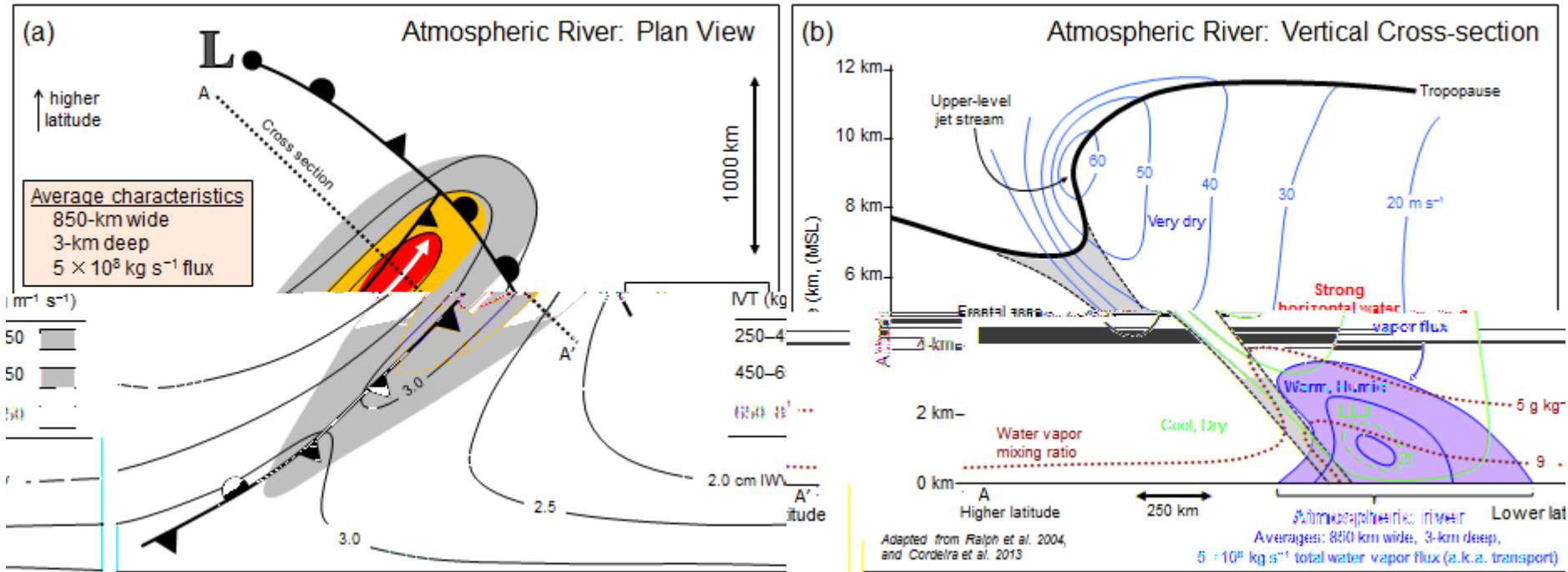
Barros, Ana P, Douglas Miller, Anna M Wilson, Gregory Cutrell, Malarvizhi Arulraj, Paul E. Super and Walter A Petersen. 2017. *GPM Ground Validation Southern Appalachian Rain Gauge IPHEX* [indicate subset used]. Dataset available online from the NASA Global Hydrology Resource Center DAAC, Huntsville, Alabama, U.S.A. DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.5067/GPMGV/IPHEX/GAUGES/DATA301>

Background on Atmospheric Rivers

- In the western United States...

Atmospheric River

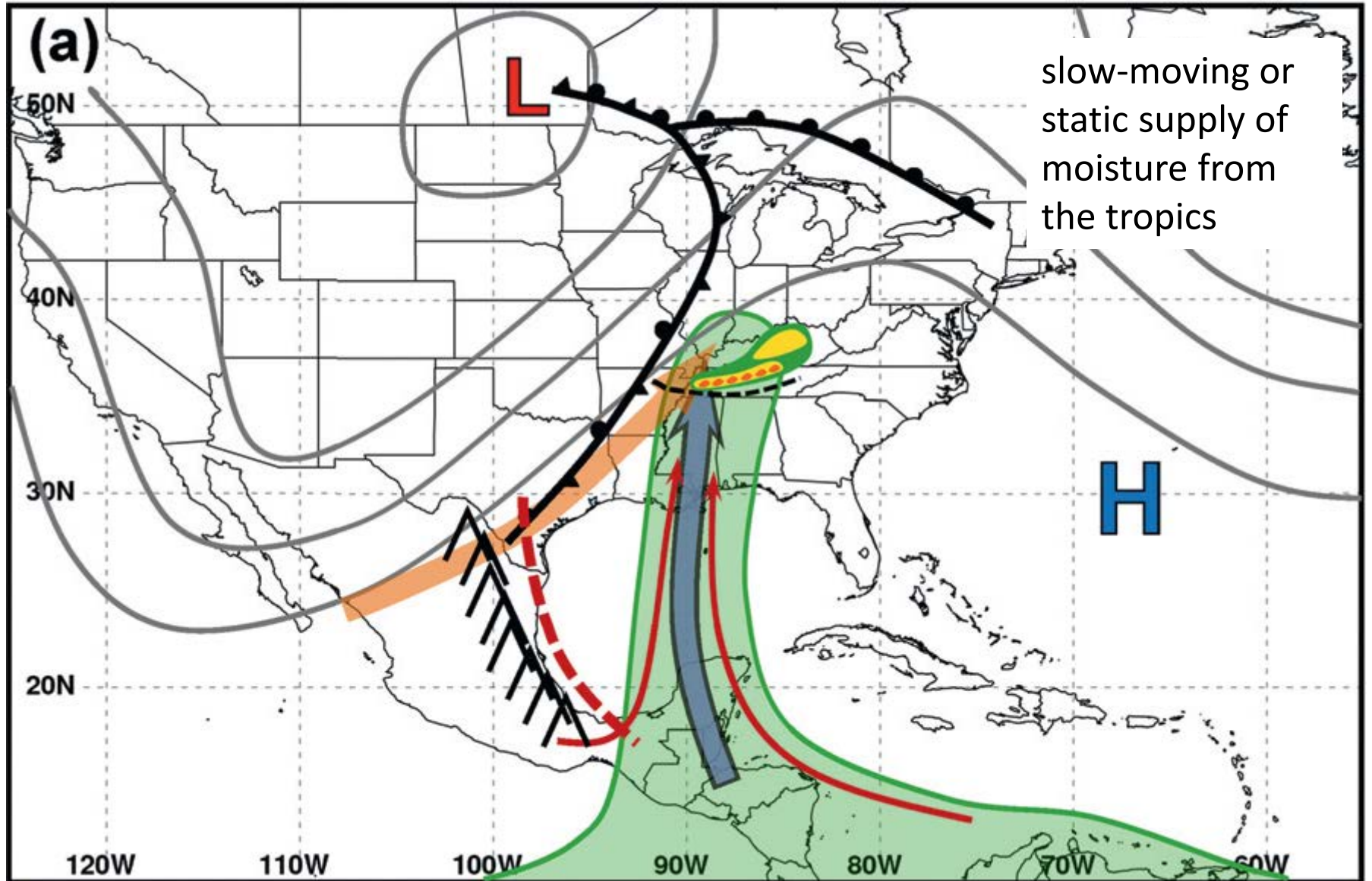
IVT = Integrated Vapor Transport



A long, narrow, and transient corridor of strong horizontal water vapor transport that is typically associated with a low-level jet stream ahead of the cold front of an extratropical cyclone. The water vapor in atmospheric rivers is supplied by tropical and/or extratropical moisture sources...Horizontal water vapor transport in the midlatitudes occurs primarily in atmospheric rivers and is focused in the lower troposphere.

Background on Atmospheric Rivers

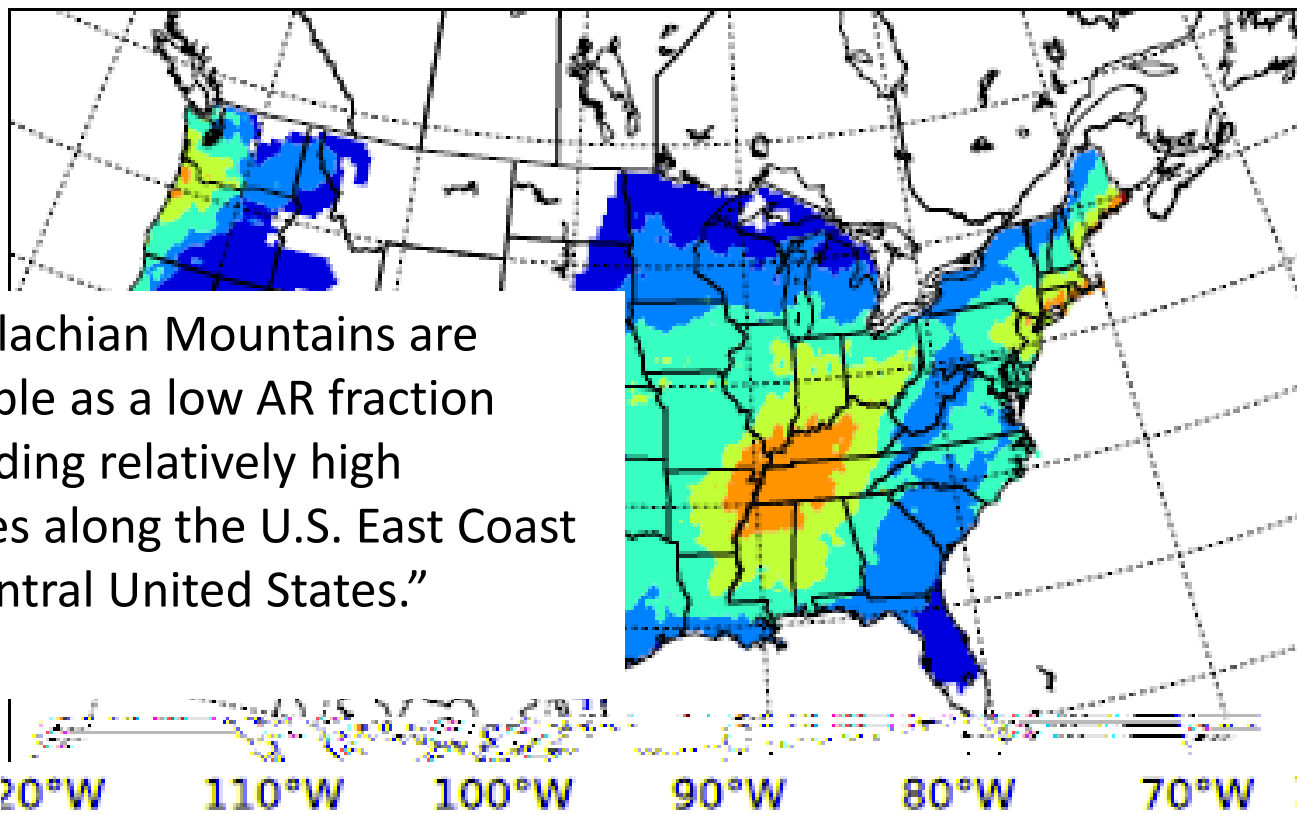
- In the southeastern United States...



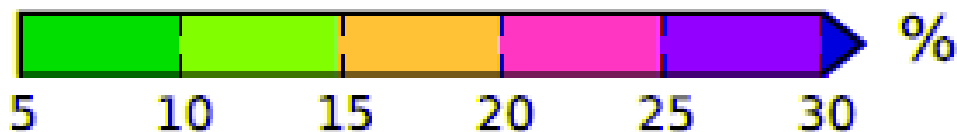
1 – 2 May 2010

Moore et al. (2012)

Climatology in SE U.S.



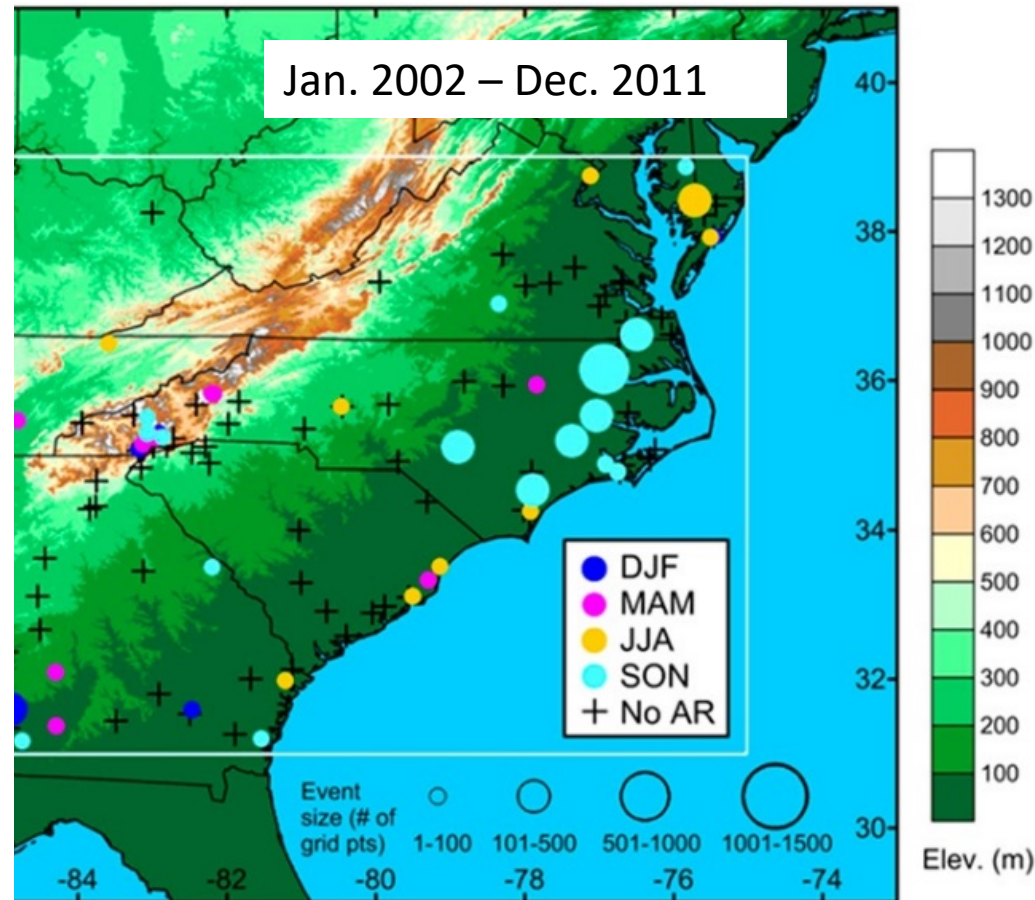
“The Appalachian Mountains are clearly visible as a low AR fraction region dividing relatively high percentages along the U.S. East Coast and the central United States.”



Background

S.E. U.S. (SEUS) findings...

IVT $\sim 500 \text{ kg m}^{-1} \text{ s}^{-1}$ reasonable threshold for defining ARs
clear connection between ARs and heavy precipitation events in non-summer months
AR conditions in SEUS have a less direct influence on heavy precipitation relative to the U.S. west coast

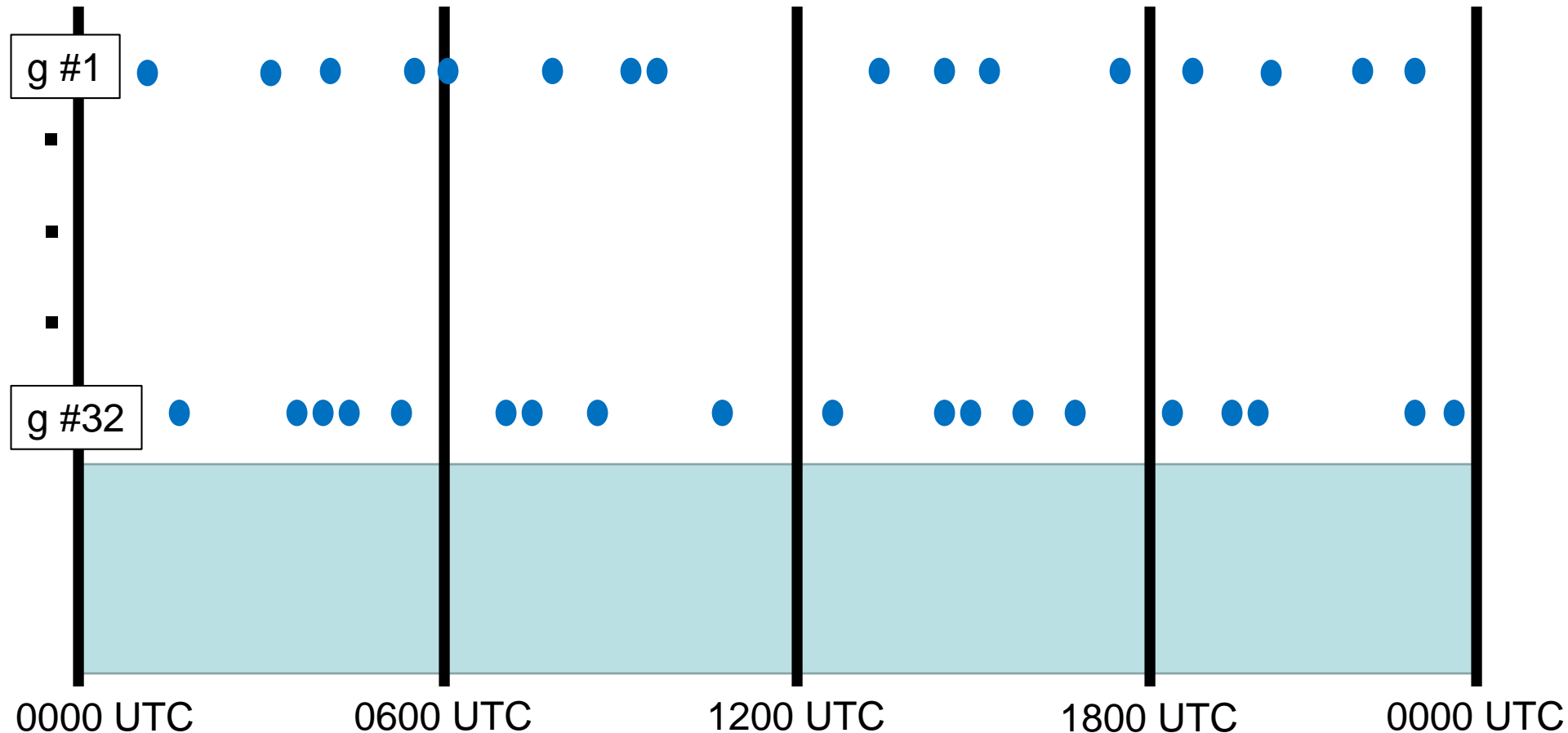


Findings...

- Pigeon River Basin

Methodology

- Rainfall accumulation binned in 6-h periods



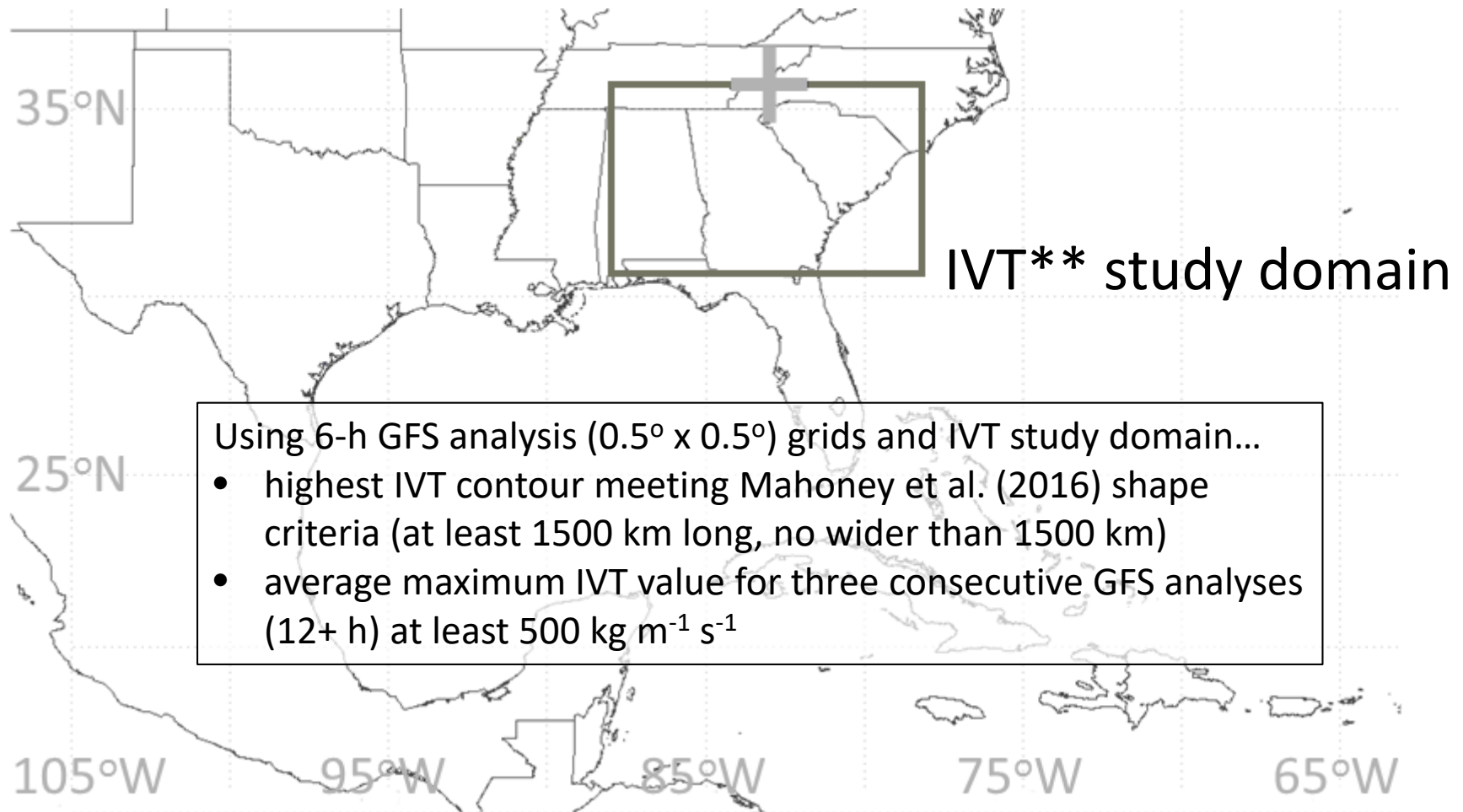
Methodology

- Rainfall events (observed by the Duke GSMRGN)
 - Rank events by event total per gauge accumulation
 - **Extreme** (top 2.5%) rainfall events
 - Normal (middle 33%) rainfall events

Methodology

- Investigate systematic differences between **Extreme** and Normal rainfall events (“Connections”)
 - Atmospheric Rivers (ARs)
 - Observed flooding at Newport, TN river gauge
 - Storm event reports in TN, NC along common state border

Methodology

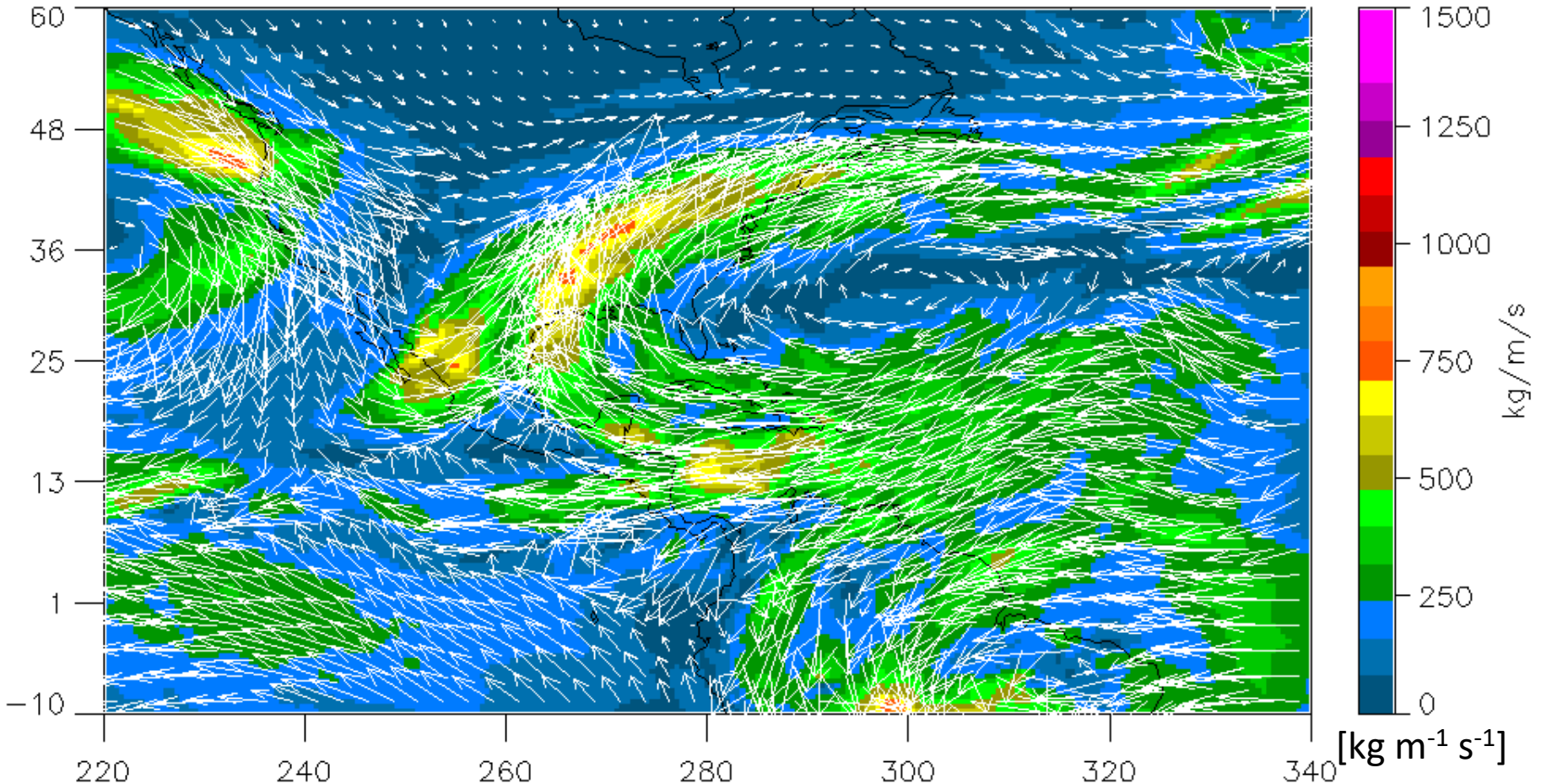


IVT** = Integrated Vapor Transport (vapor movement in lowest layer)

Results



Integrated Vapor Transport



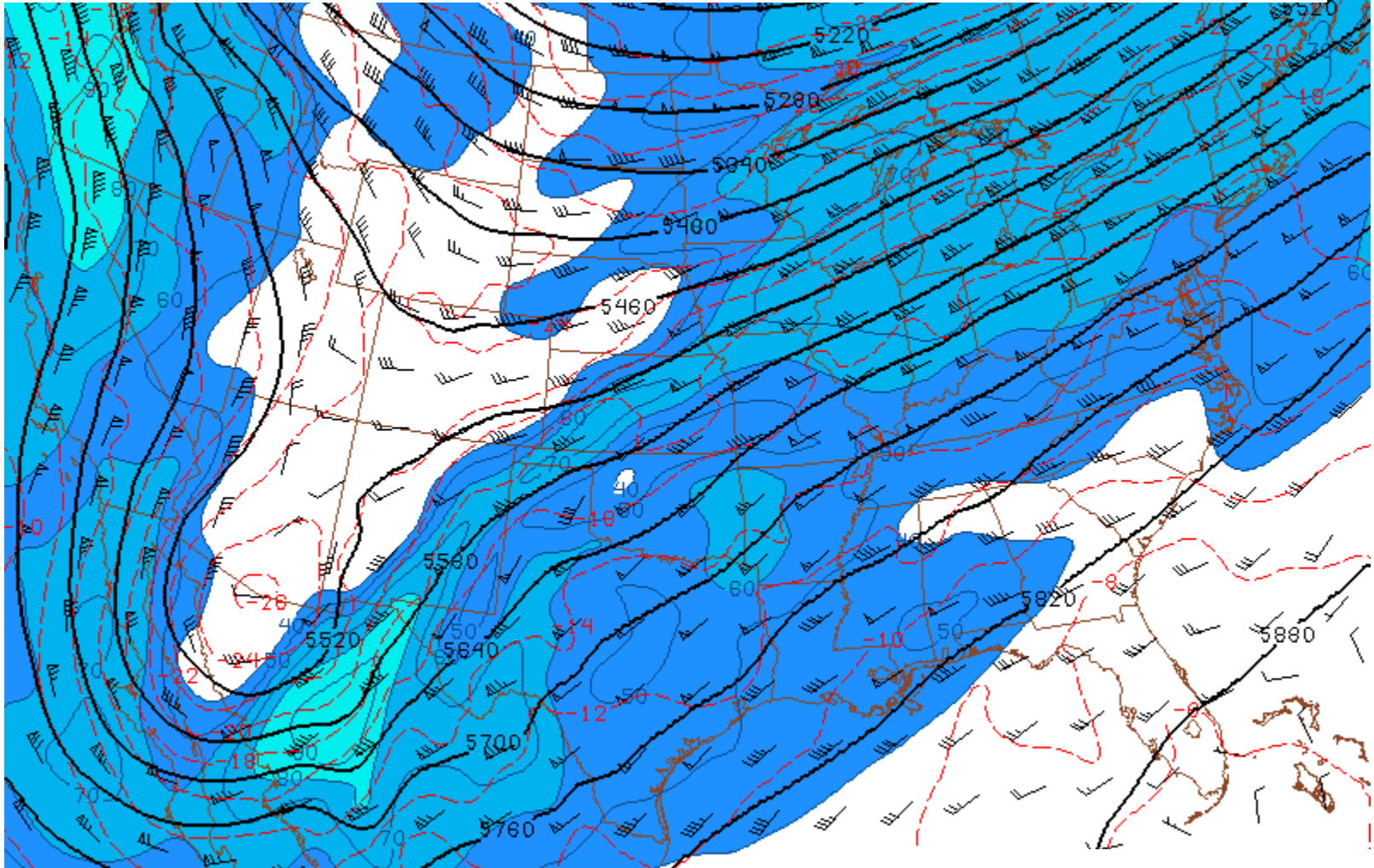
0000 UTC 21- 0600 UTC 24 December 2013

GFS gridded analyses

(moderate flooding)

NOAA - NOMADS

500 hPa level Geo Ht / Temp / WS

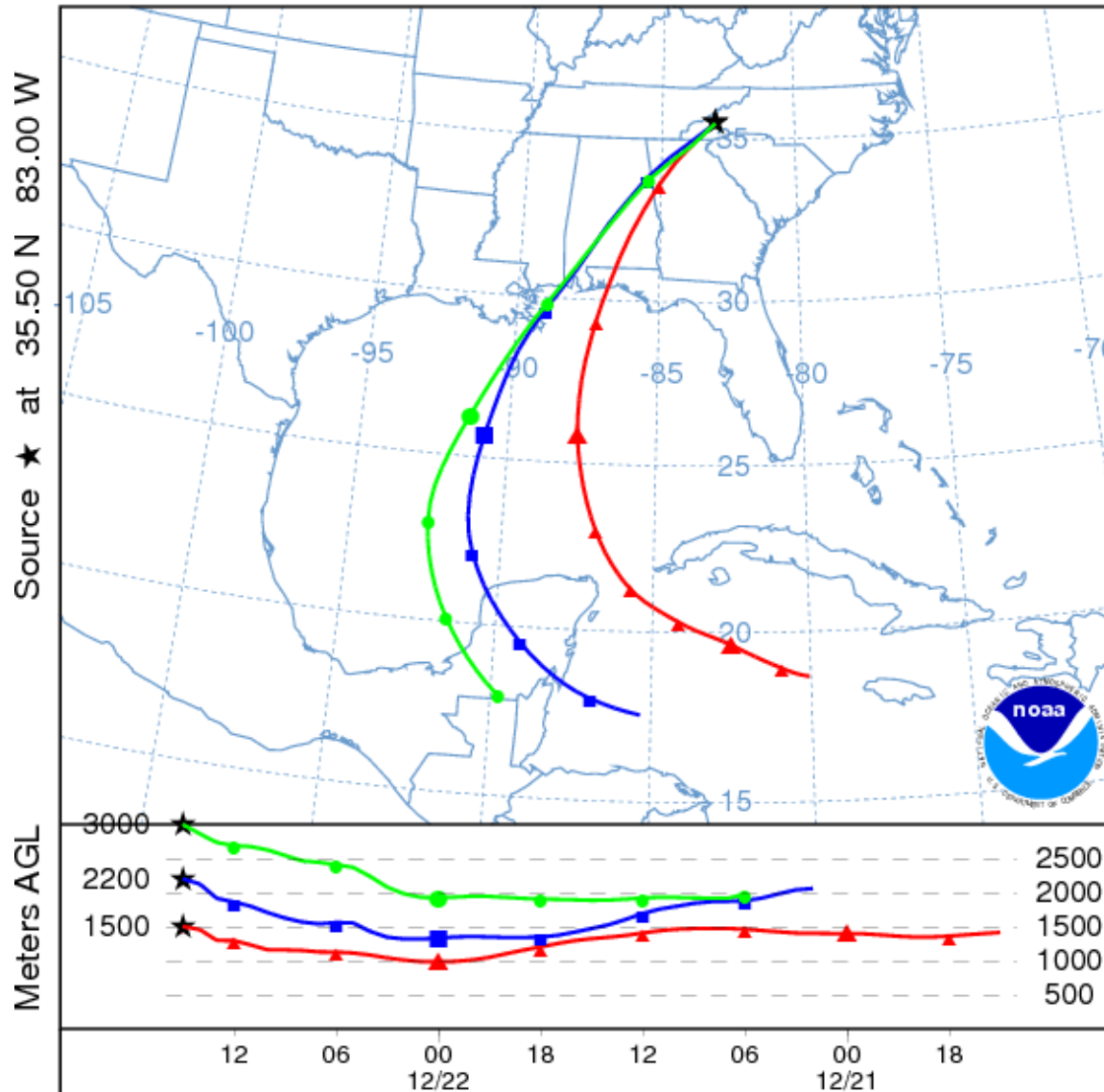


131221/0000V001 500mb 21- 24 December 2013

(moderate flooding)

NOAA - SPC

NOAA HYSPLIT MODEL
Backward trajectories ending at 1500 UTC 22 Dec 13
EDAS Meteorological Data



Job ID: 112174 Job Start: Thu Jul 14 19:15:45 UTC 2016
Source 1 lat.: 35.500000 lon.: -83.000000 hghts: 1500, 2200, 3000 m AGL

Trajectory Direction: Backward Duration: 48 hrs
Vertical Motion Calculation Method: Model Vertical Velocity
Meteorology: 0000Z 16 Dec 2013 - EDAS40

Findings

- Do Atmospheric Rivers impact the southern Appalachians?
 - Half of **Extreme** events are AR-influenced
 - Most likely in cool season environments
 - Slow-moving high amplitude atmospheric wave
 - » Rapidly moving humid air at low-levels (from the Gulf of Mexico)
 - **Extreme** events having no AR-influence
 - Most likely in warm season environments
 - Cut-off low level cyclone southwest of southern Appalachians
 - » Low-level winds blow normal to mountains – orographically-enhanced precipitation

Findings

- Do Atmospheric Rivers impact the southern Appalachians?
 - 12-25% ARs are associated with a societal hazard (flooding, flash flooding, heavy rainfall reports)
 - Normal rainfall events with an AR, not associated with a societal hazard? [“non-threatening” ARs]



Climatology [8-yr]

- Seasonal count of number of ARs impacting the IVT study domain using available 11463 GFS 6-h analysis periods of the 8-yr study (of 11688 maximum 6-h periods; 98.1% of a complete archive) [1 July 2009 – 30 June 2017].

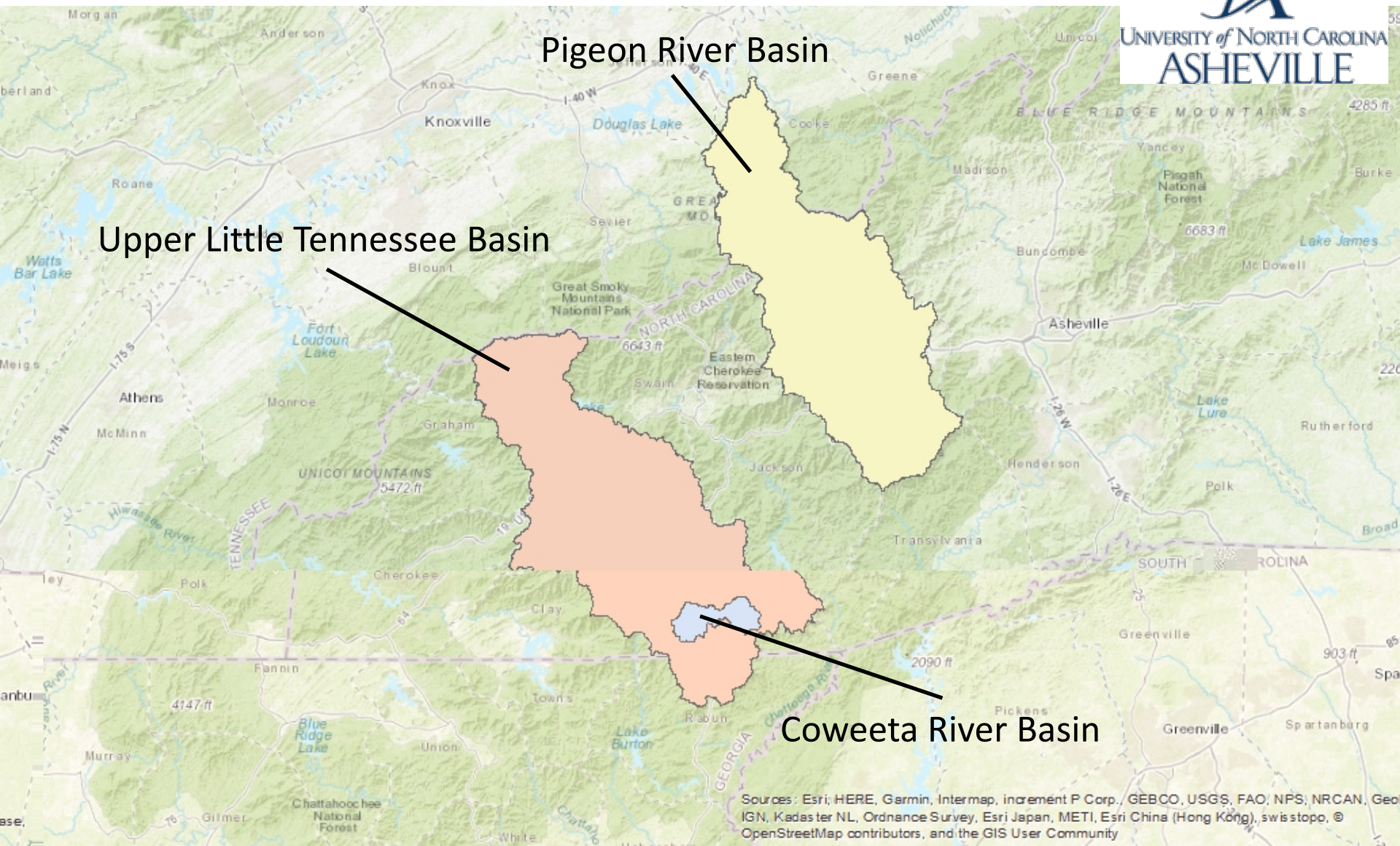
| Meteorological Season | AR Events | 6-h Periods | Avg Duration (h) |
|-----------------------|-----------|-------------|------------------|
| Winter (DJF) | 79 | 451 | 34.25 |
| Spring (MAM) | 49 | 258 | 31.59 |
| Summer (JJA) | 24 | 175 | 43.75 |
| Autumn (SON) | 40 | 247 | 37.05 |
| Total/avg | 192 | 1294 | 35.34 |

Findings...

- Comparison between the Pigeon River Basin (PRB) and the Coweeta River Basin (CRB)...



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Pigeon River Basin

Upper Little Tennessee Basin

Coweeta River Basin

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, Intermap, increment P Corp., GEBCO, USGS, FAO, NPS, NRCAN, GeoIGN, Kadaster NL, Ordnance Survey, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), swis stopp, © OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

Methodology



- Methodology
 - Pigeon River Basin – displaced north and west of the Blue Ridge escarpment
 - Coweeta River Basin – adjacent to the Blue Ridge escarpment

8-yr comparison; PRB v. CRB

- Results

Number of extreme (top 2.5%) rain events of the 8-yr study [1 July 2009 – 30 June 2017].

| River Basin | AR-influenced | TC-influenced | NOT AR- or TC-influenced | Total |
|-------------|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------|
| Pigeon | 23 (53.5%) | 3 (7.0%) {Ida, Lee, Andrea} | 17 (39.5%) | 43 |
| Coweeta | 20 (83.3%) | 2 (8.3%) {Ida, Lee} | 2 (8.3%) | 24 |

TC = tropical cyclone

8-yr comparison; PRB v. CRB

- Results

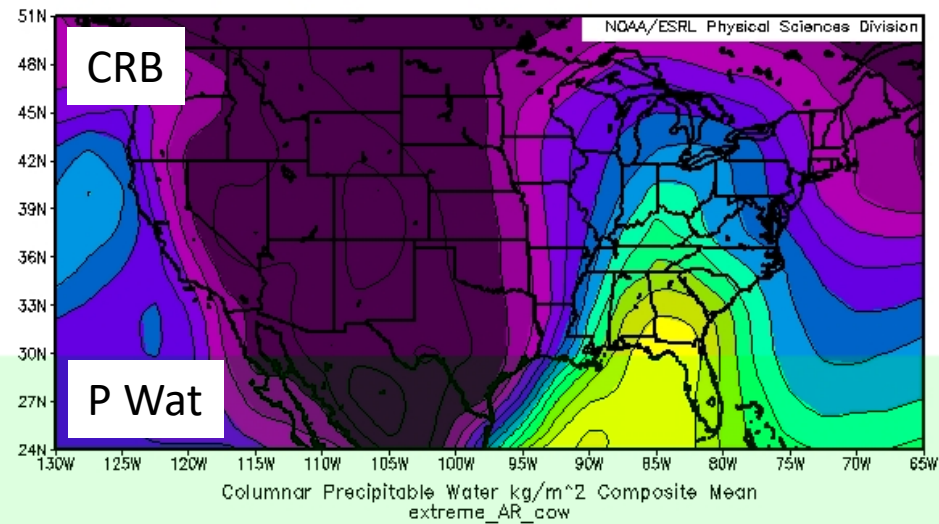
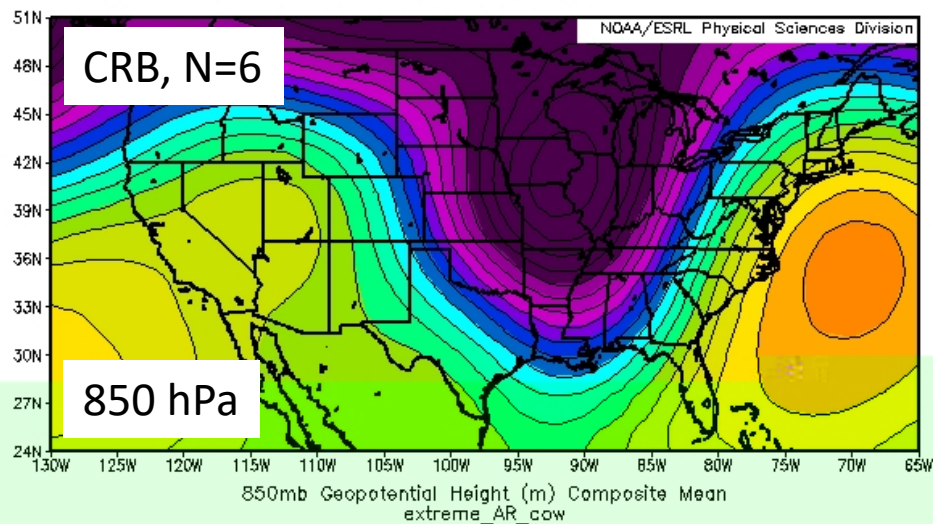
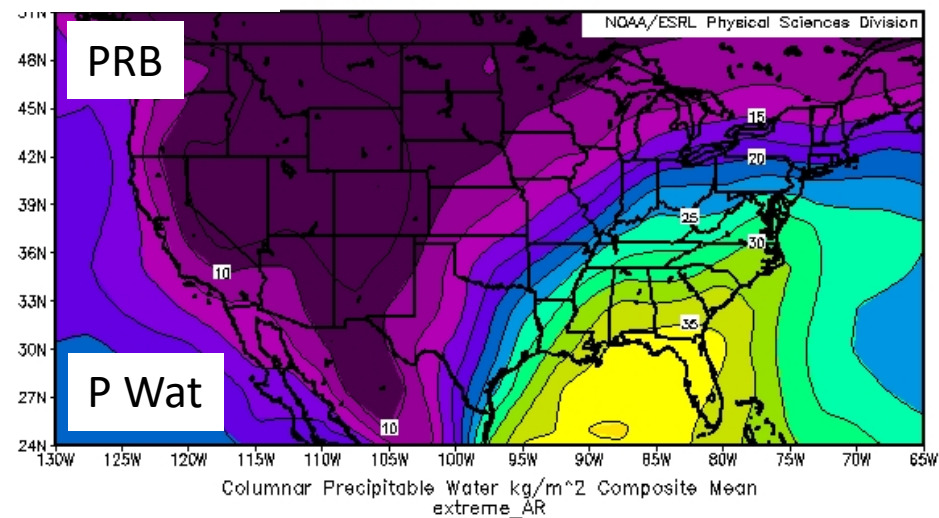
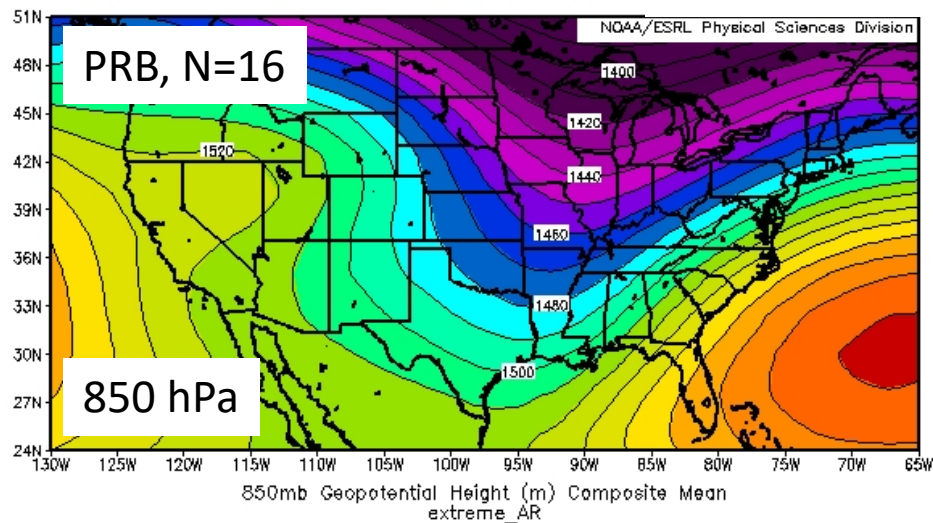
Seven rainfall events qualify as extreme in the Coweeta River Basin and less-than-extreme in the Pigeon R.B.

- Six events = AR influenced (5 Feb 2012, 16 Apr 2011, 28 Nov 2011, 14 Oct 2014, 18 Nov 2015, and 3 Feb 2016)
- One event = squall line and severe weather (26 Oct 2010)

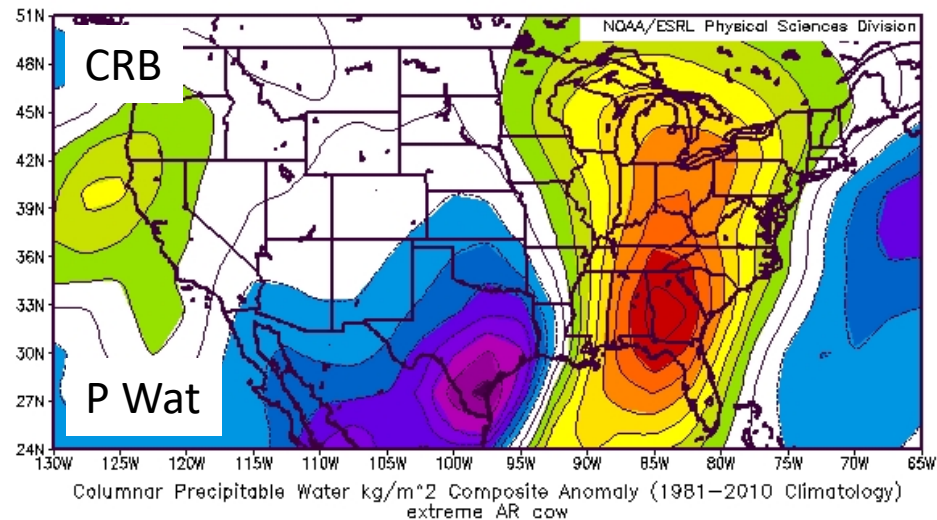
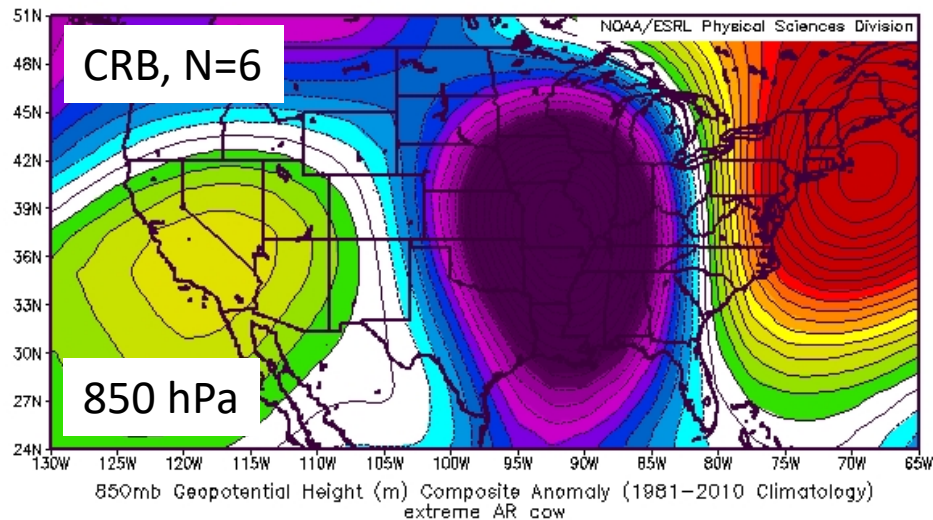
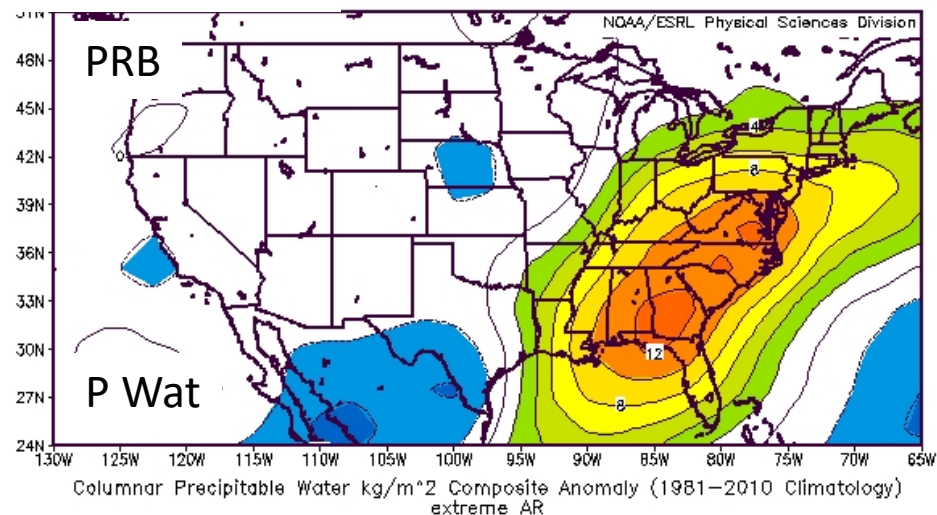
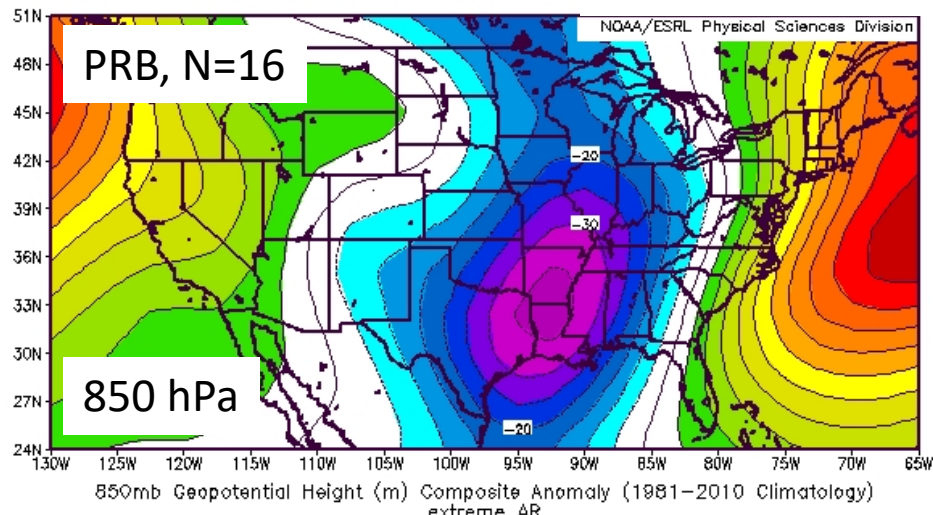
Examination of geopotential height and precipitable water composite means and anomalies of

- six AR-influenced extreme rainfall events (CRB)
- 16 AR-influenced extreme rainfall events (PRB, Miller et al. 2018)

Composite means



Composite anomalies



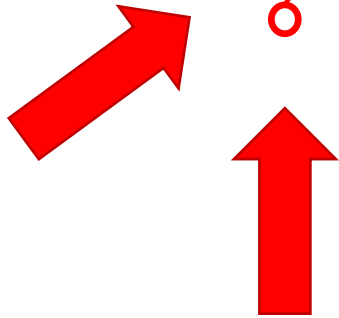
8-yr comparison; PRB v. CRB

- Results

- Disagreement between two river basins on ‘extreme’ events
 - Much smaller record (8-yr [v. 82-yr]) in the Pigeon River Basin
 - Difference in position relative to the **Blue Ridge escarpment**
 - Relative landform homogeneity of the Coweeta River Basin; 8-9 [32] gauges spread over 16.26 km² [1823 km², PRB]
- Composite weather AR pattern differences
 - Southwesterly flow favors extreme events in the PRB
 - Southerly flow inhibits extreme events in the PRB

Expanded view – two river basins

- Methodology
 - **Richmond Balsam, 1845 m (6053 ft)**
 - Map of pigeon and coveeta river basin boundaries embedded in elevation map of western NC



Future...

- Hypothesis; **another way** Atmospheric Rivers can cause a disruption in the southern Appalachian Mountains...



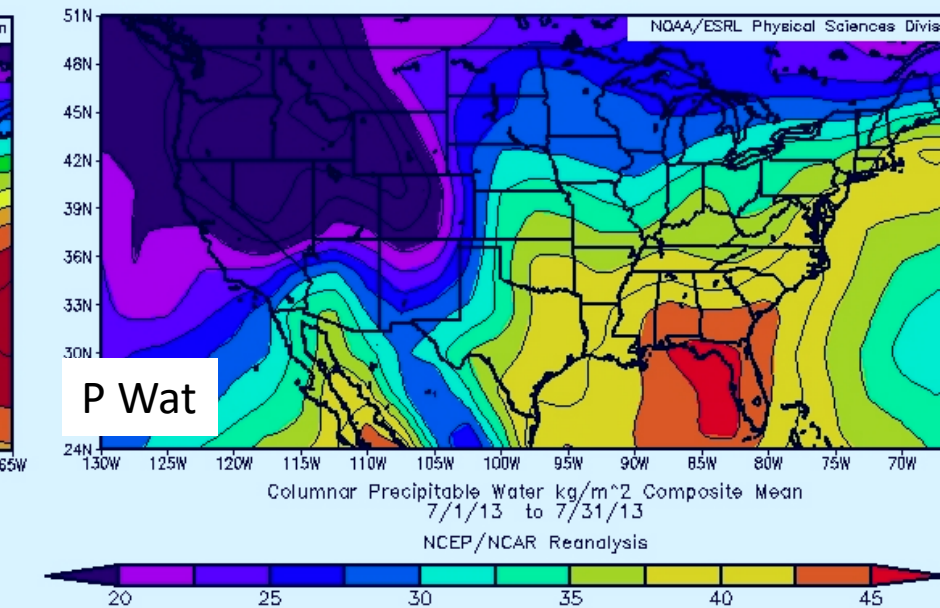
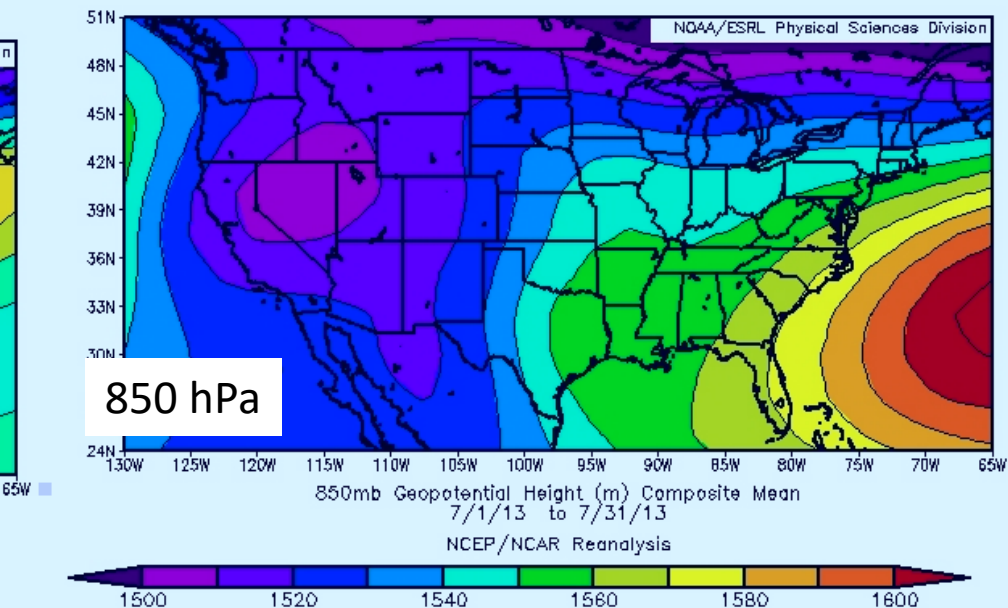
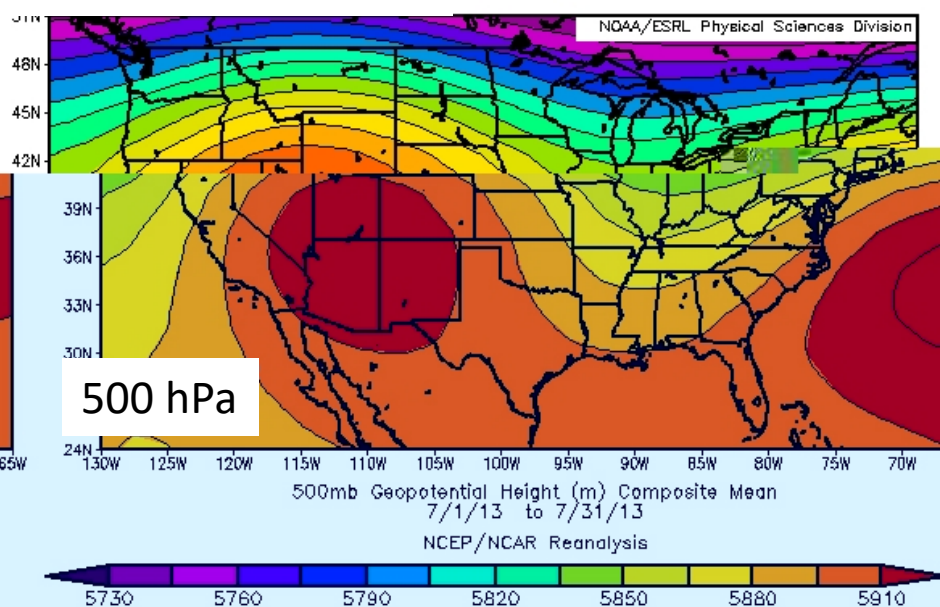
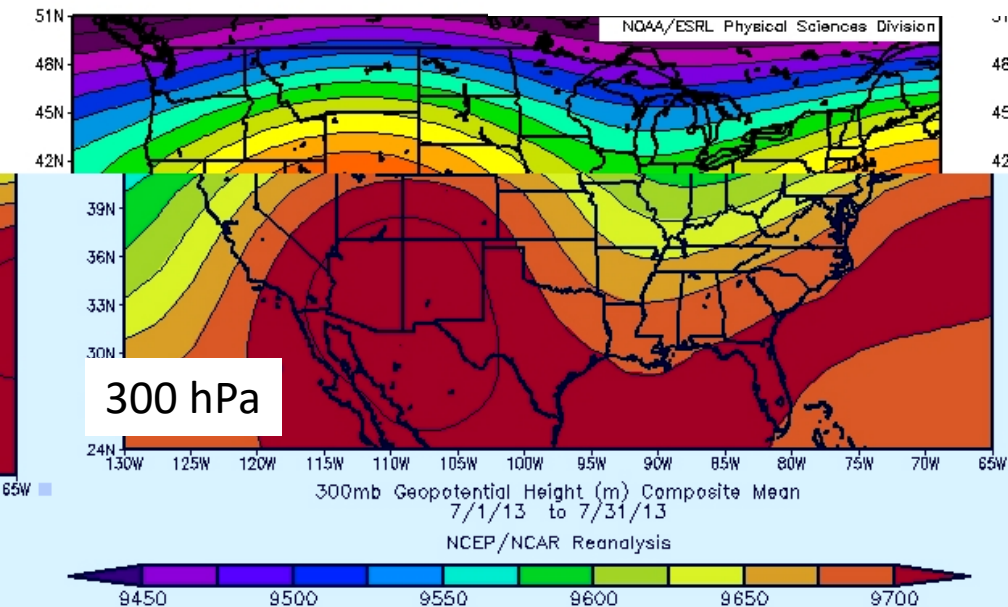
Future

- Methodology
 - Longer time-scale precipitation events; **Elevated Rain Time Clusters** [ERTCs]

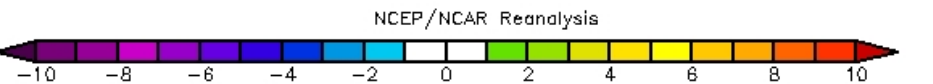
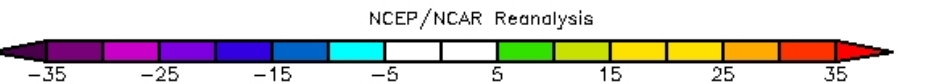
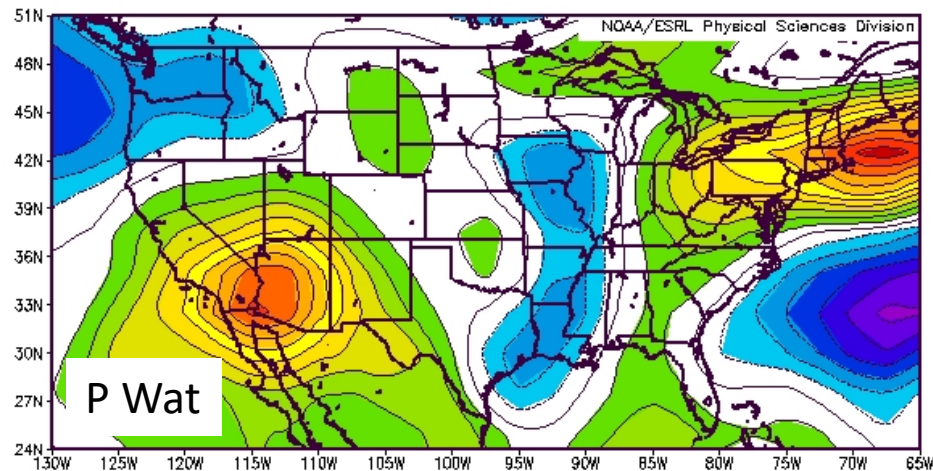
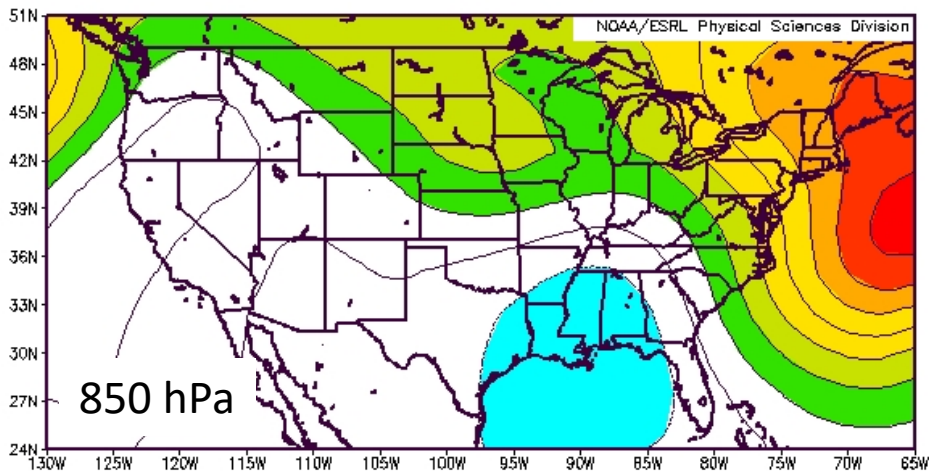
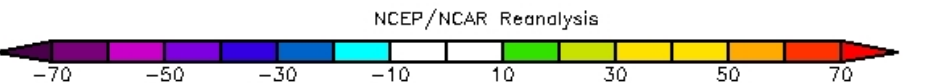
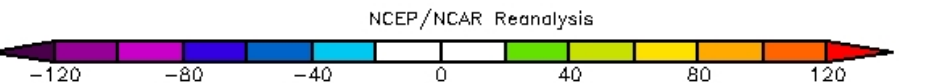
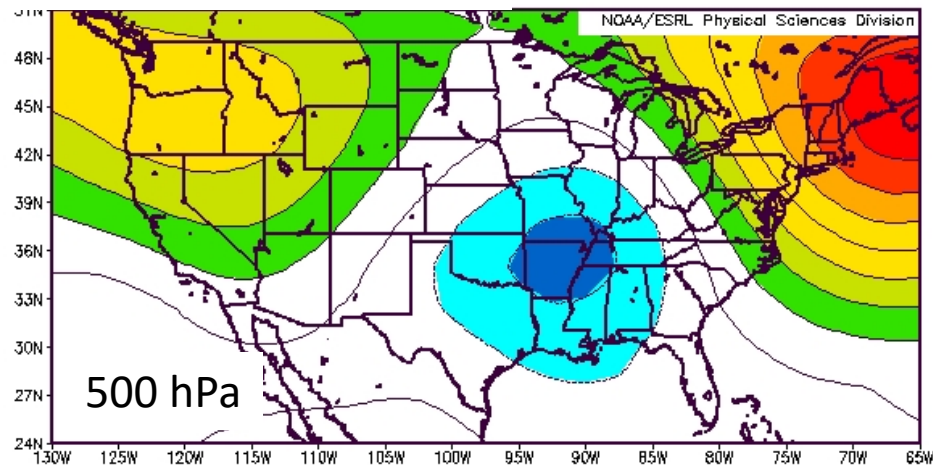
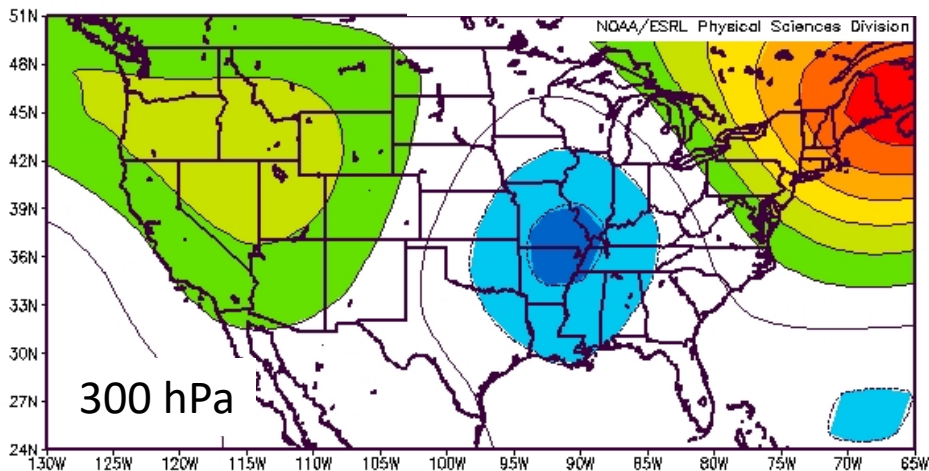


$$\Delta t = 30\text{-h}$$

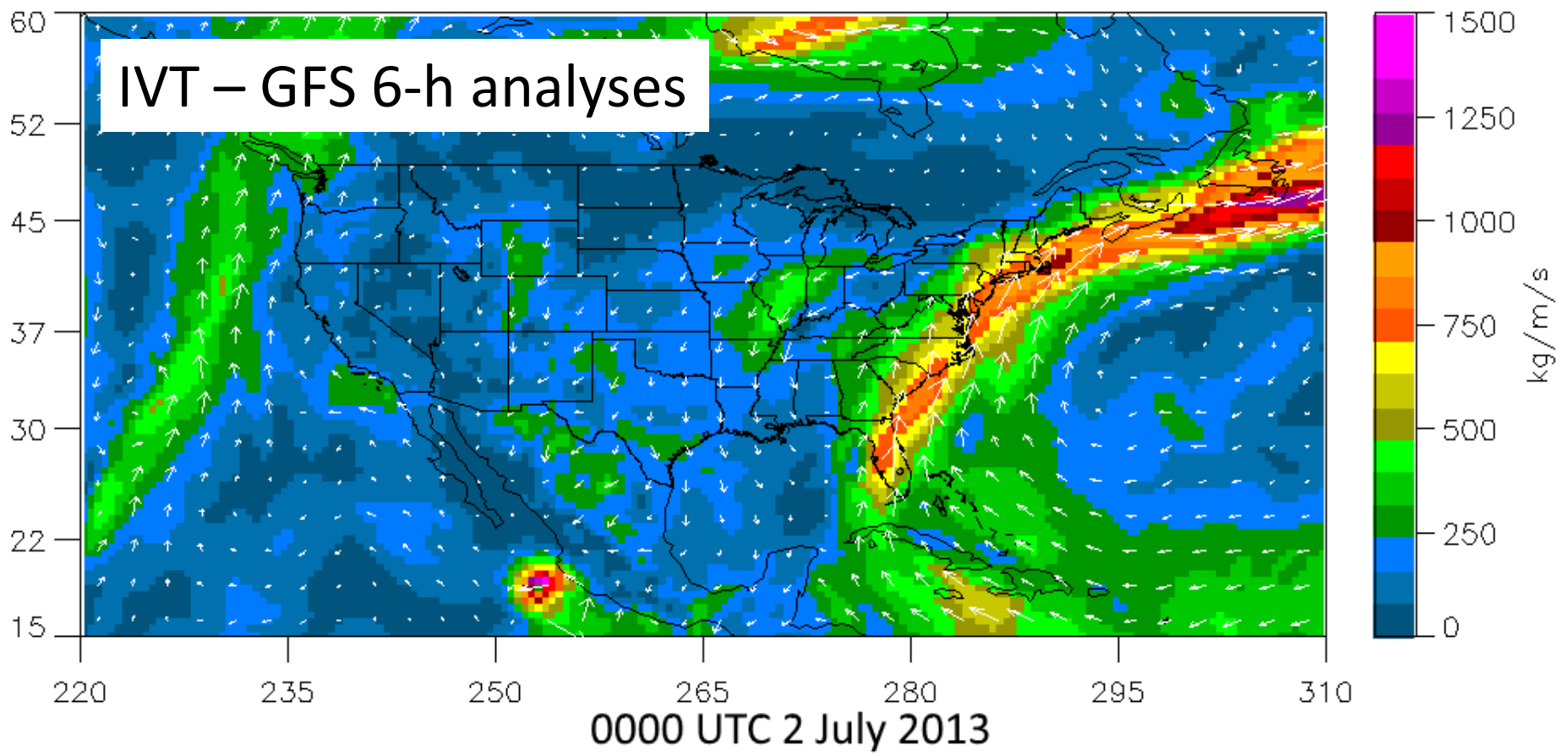
Composite means – July 2013



Composite anomalies – July 2013



Future – mud slides, debris flows



Future...

- ‘Maya Corridor’ **hypothesis**
 - ridge-building provided via the diabatic process of latent heat release as the sub-tropical moisture of the ARs was converted to cloud water and precipitation
 - as the ridge continued to build, the large-scale weather pattern became increasingly stagnant
 - repeated propagation of successive ARs over the same pathway and increased ridge-building through continued latent heating
 - provided a mechanism for ‘training’ rainfall events over the southern Appalachian Mountains that pre-conditioned the soil and/or triggered landslides

Future...

- **Warm season** studies (Duke GSMRGN is now past 10 year mark)
 - Regional WRF simulation of July 2013 – impact of diabatic heating – confirm/refute Maya Corridor hypothesis
 - Identify convection “hot spots” in the PRB with events stratified by the 850 – 700 hPa layer winds
 - Systematic change of the initiation time of convection in the PRB?

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Near Purchase Knob, credit: Michael Goldsbury

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extra References



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- Details of slides #10 – 41 are described in Chapter 11 of the book to be published in 2020...

