

La importancia geomorfológica, hidrológica y las condiciones climáticas para lograr un manejo

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Manejo de humedales para técnicos en México II

LAGUNA MEXICANOS CHIHUAHUA

Club Raramuri

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The Basis of Good Habitat Management

- Start with abiotic conditions
- Add biology of plants next
- Understand the role of invertebrates in system ecology and as a protein source
- Then add animal ecology
- Put the abiotic and biotic in a temporal setting
- Don't forget the social and economic considerations

ESSENTIAL TO IDENTIFY LANDSCAPE SETTING

- **GEOMORPHIC SETTING**
 - **GEOLOGY**
 - **FORMATIVE PROCESSES**
 - **ABIOTIC PROCESSES**
- **HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS**
 - **SURFACE**
 - **SUBSURFACE**
- **CLIMATE**

Geomorphic, Hydrologic, and Climate Setting for Successful Management

- Essential to know where you are in space.
- Essential to understand temporal scale

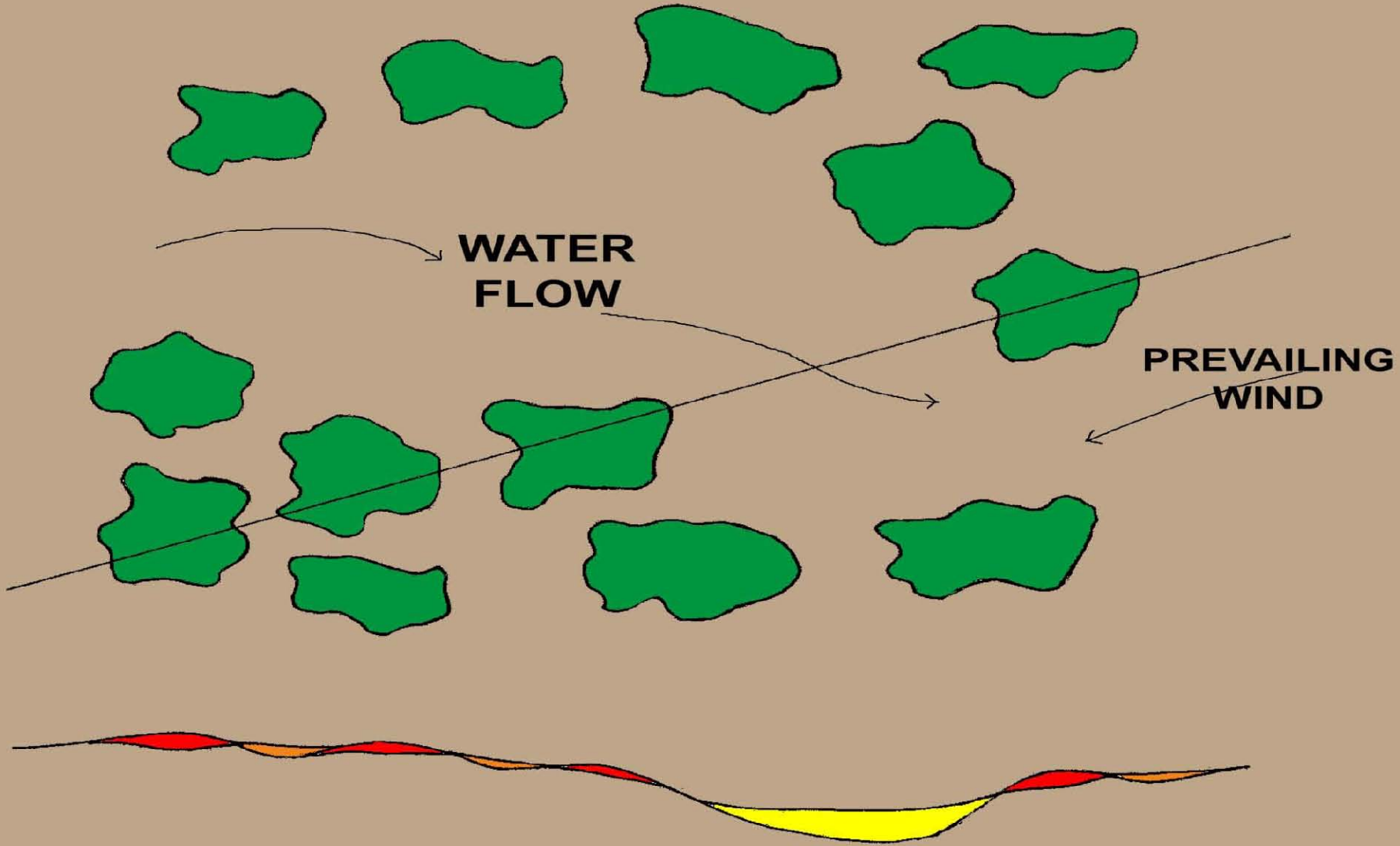
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE YOU ARE IN TIME AND SPACE??

- GEOMORPHIC SETTING
- FORMATIVE PROCESSES
- HOW DOES GEOMORPHIC SETTING INFLUENCE WATER AVAILABILITY AND FLOW?
- HOW OLD IS THE SURFACE AND HOW WAS IT FORMED?
- WHAT ARE THE FEATURES OF THE SURFACE?

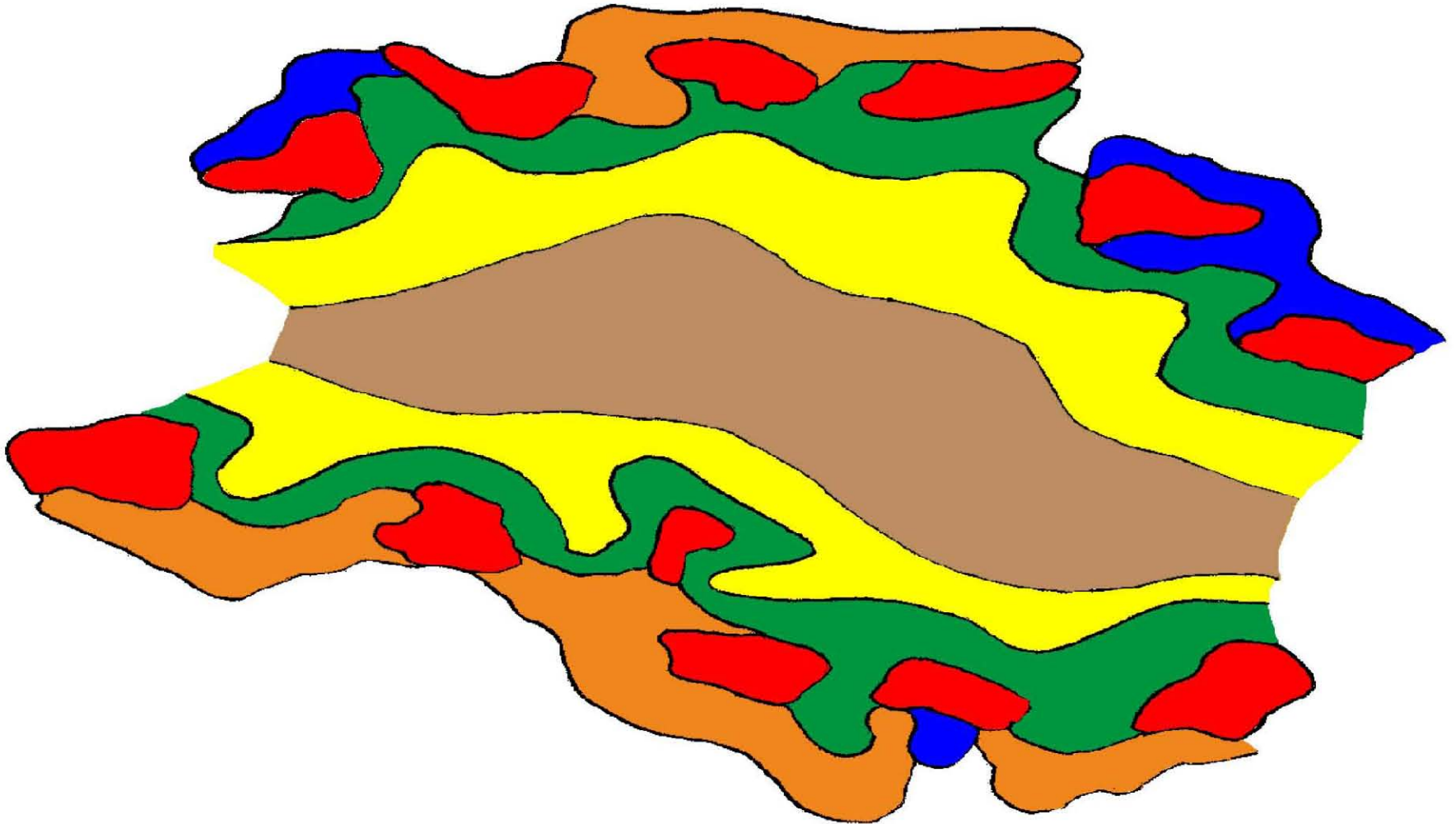
Formative Processes

- Always more than one
 - Water
 - Wind
 - Freezing
- Always on-going
 - Some subtle and steady
 - Some dramatic
- Constant change in influencing factors
 - Wet vs dry

DEVELOPMENT OF TEXTURAL HETEROGENEITY



PLANT DISTRIBUTION AND HETEROGENEITY



PLANT RESPONSE TO MICROTOPOGRAPHIC AND TEXTURAL VARIABILITY



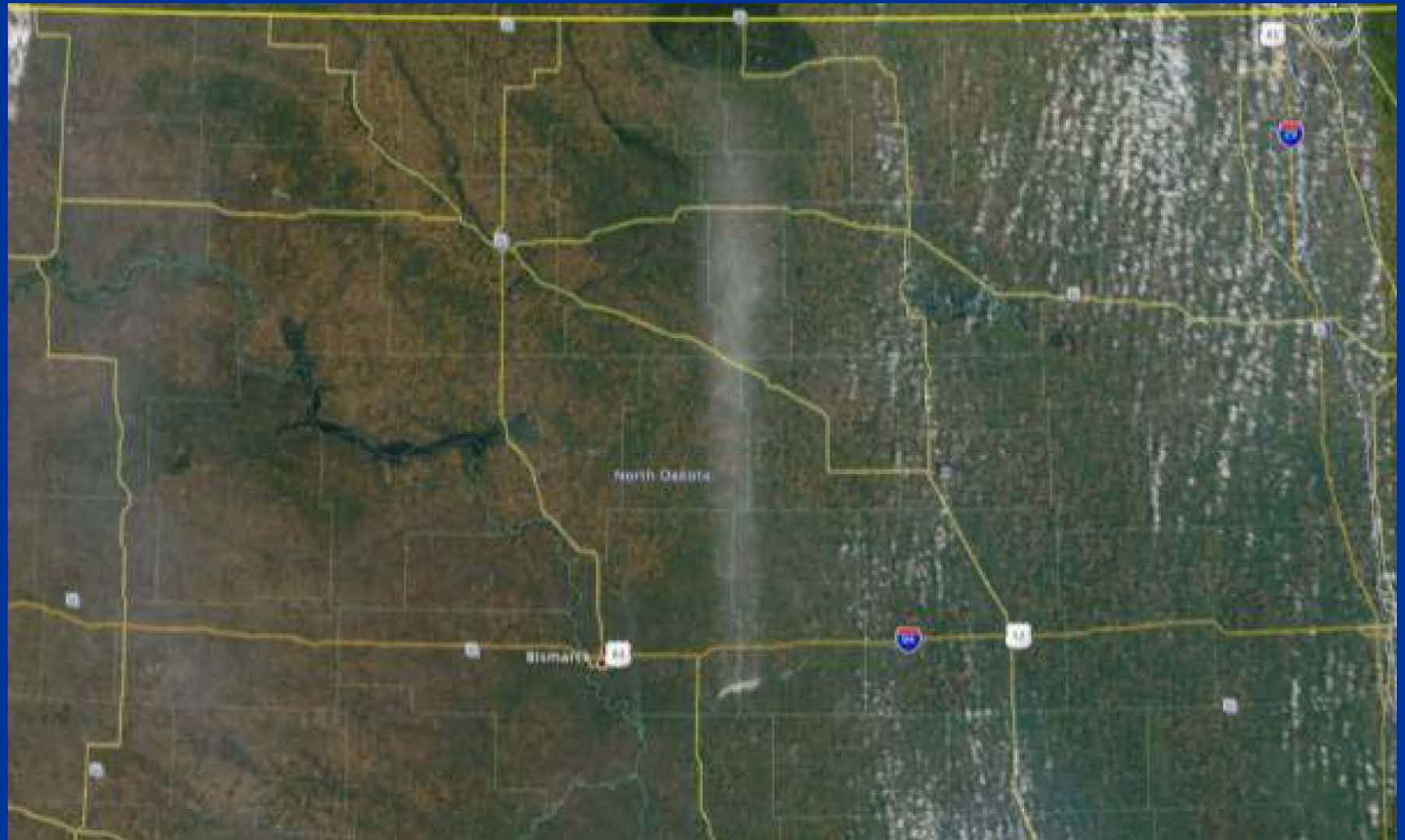
Las Vegas NWR New Mexico



LONG LAKE NWR SALT MOVEMENT



Long Lake NWR Salt Movement



ALLUVIAL DEPOSITS

- NATURAL LEVEES – COARSE TEXTURE
- POINT BARS – TEND TOWARD COARSE TEXTURE
- BACK SWAMP – FINE TEXTURED
- CREVASSE SPLAY – COARSE TEXTURE
- ABANDONED CHANNEL – TEND TOWARD FINE TEXTURE
- BRAIDED CHANNEL – VERY HETEROGENOUS
- ALLUVIAL FANS -- VERY HETEROGENOUS

ALLUVIAL FAN





Map

Traffic

RED ROCK LAKES NWR MONTANA

Lower Red Rock Lake

Swan Lake

Red Rock Lakes National Wildlife Refuge

Upper Red Rock Lake

Sheep Mountain

Baldy Mountain

Odell Fan

Taylor Mountain



RED ROCK LAKES NWR MONTANA



CRITICAL INFORMATION

- TOPOGRAPHY
- TEXTURAL VARIABILITY
- PRESENCE OF RESTRICTIVE LAYER
- DEPTH TO RESTRICTIVE LAYER
- SLOPE OF RESTRICTIVE LAYER
- GROUND WATER DISCHARGE

Glaciated

- Poorly developed drainage
- Complex groundwater movements
- Complex intermixed soil textures and strata
- Historic lake beds with many different areas of different textures and microtopography

SOIL TEXTURE AND PLANT ASSOCIATIONS

FINE TEXTURE

NUTSEDGES

SMARTWEED

CATTAIL

COARSE TEXTURE

MILLETS

HARDSTEM

BULRUSH

EFFECTS OF GROUND WATER AND SOILS

- MILLETS WITH MUCH HIGHER PRODUCTION WHERE RESTRICTIVE LAYER IS CLOSER TO SURFACE
- CHANGES IN SOIL MOISTURE RATES INFLUENCED BY DEPTH TO GROUND WATER

ILLINOIS

HORSESHOE LAKE

MISSOURI

EXPLANATION

HISTORIC CHANNEL POSITIONS

1944
1880

1820
1765

PRE-HISTORIC CHANNEL-POSITION STAGES

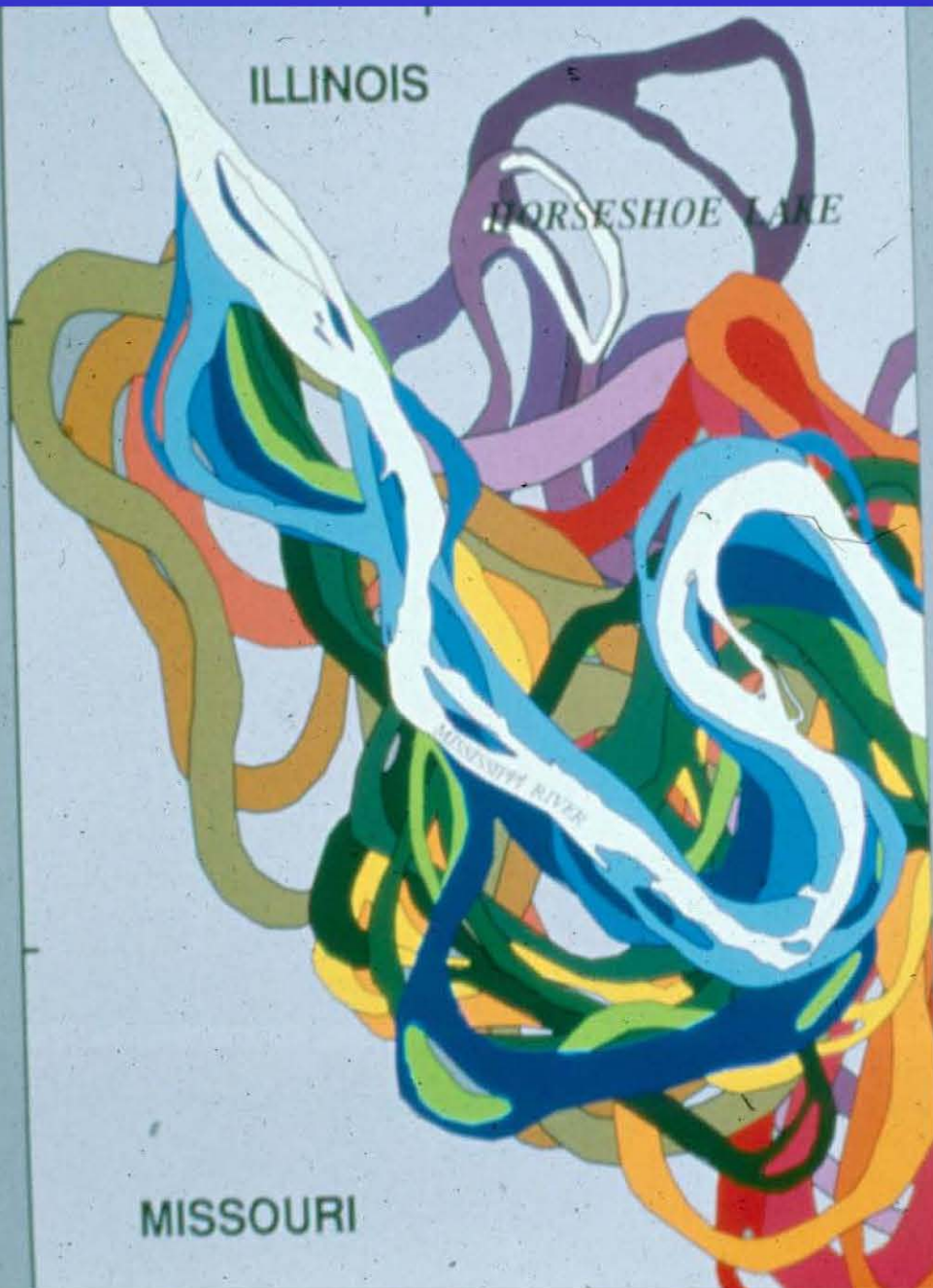
16
15
14
13
12
11
10
9

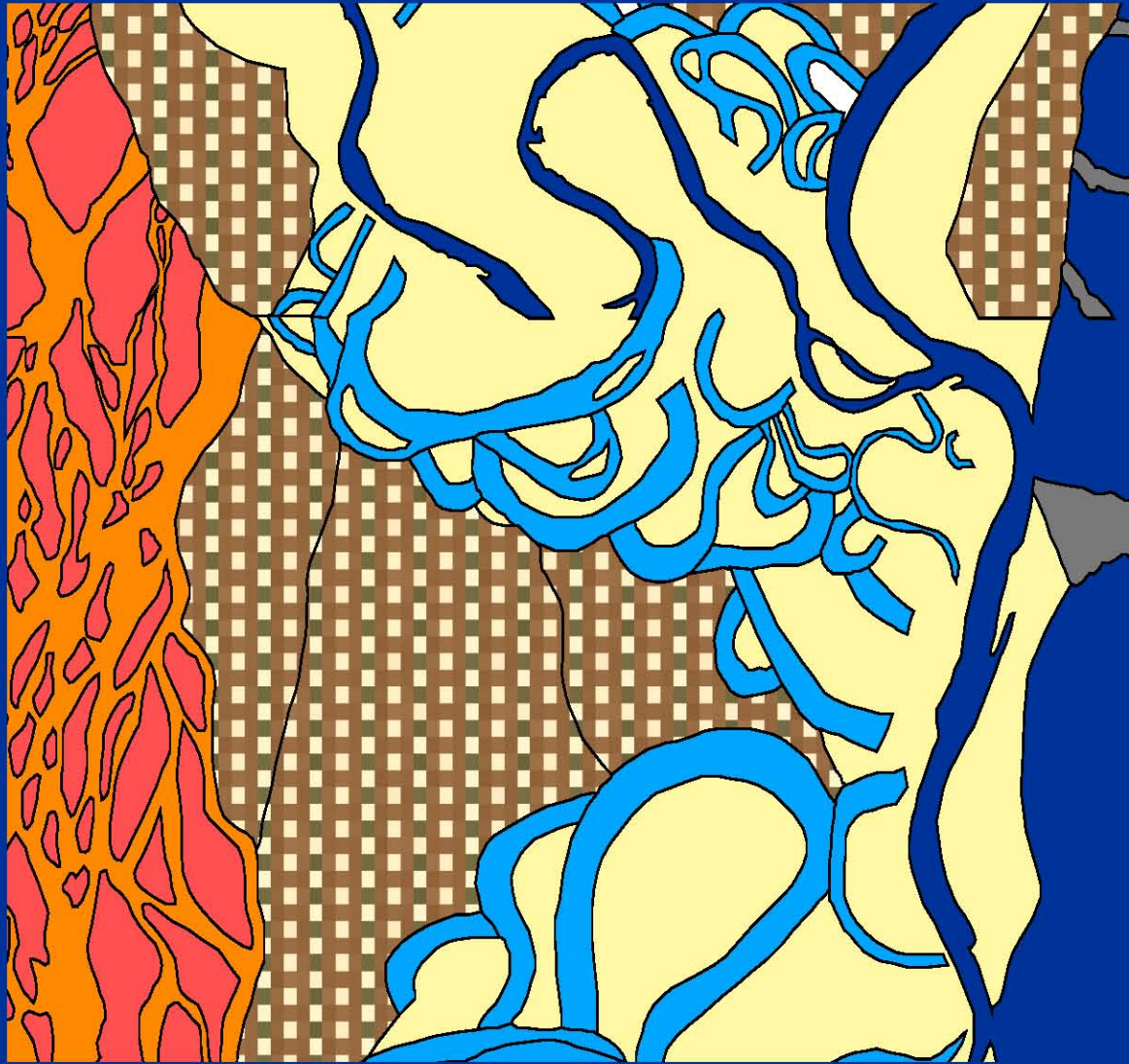
8
7
6
5
4
3
2
1

LATE WISCONSIN AND OLDER

1993 POST-FLOOD BANKLINE
AND LEVEE-BREAK FEATURES

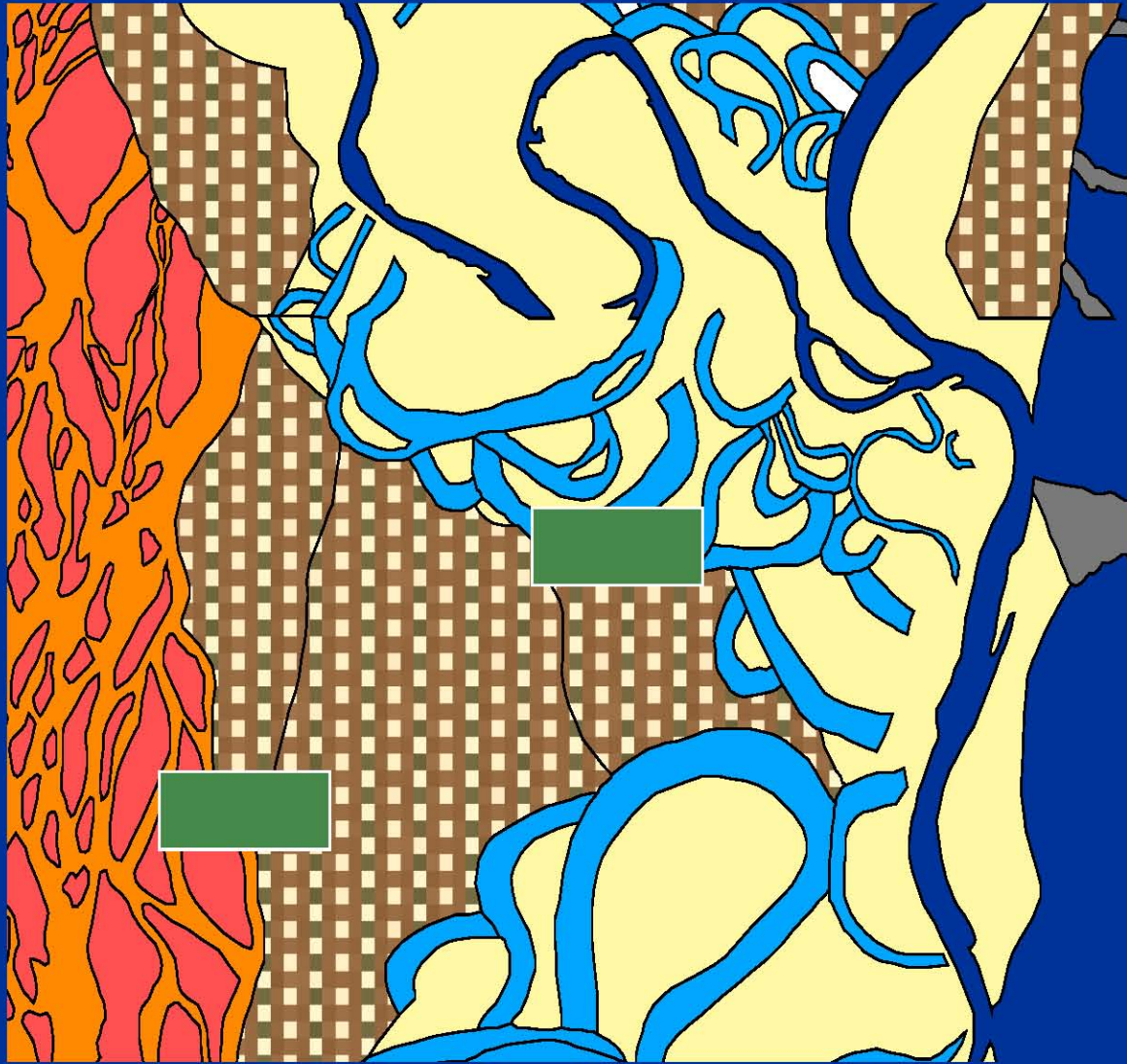
0 2 4 6 KILOMETERS
0 2 4 MILES





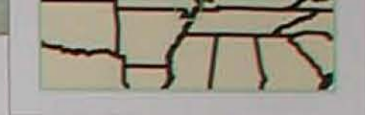


8 0 8 16 Miles





 Natural Flood
 Other Water



| <i>Coverage</i> | <i>Acres</i> | <i>Potential Acres</i> |
|-----------------|--------------|------------------------|
| State WMU's | 7,997 | 9,588 |
| Private Lands | 4,680 | 13,245 |
| Federal WMU's | 8,301 | 9,625 |
| MOP | 44,021 | - |
| Blended Forest | 50,566 | - |



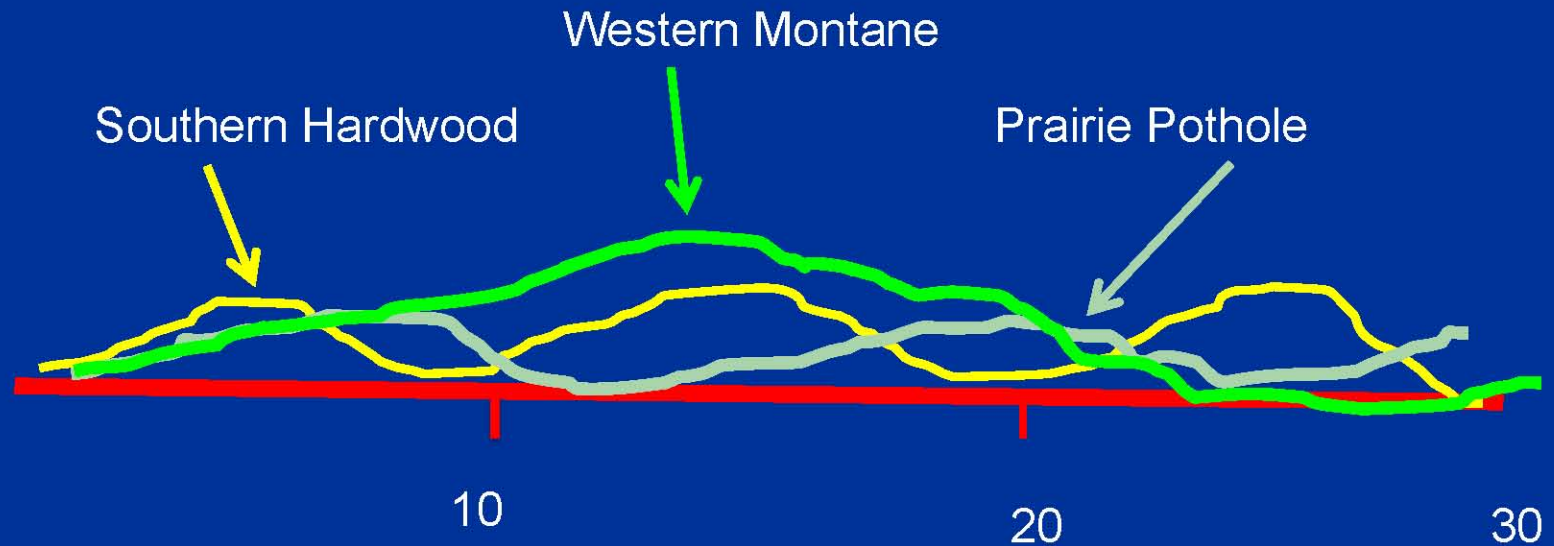
Background Imagery: Landsat 7 p23r34 and

HYDROLOGIC VARIATION

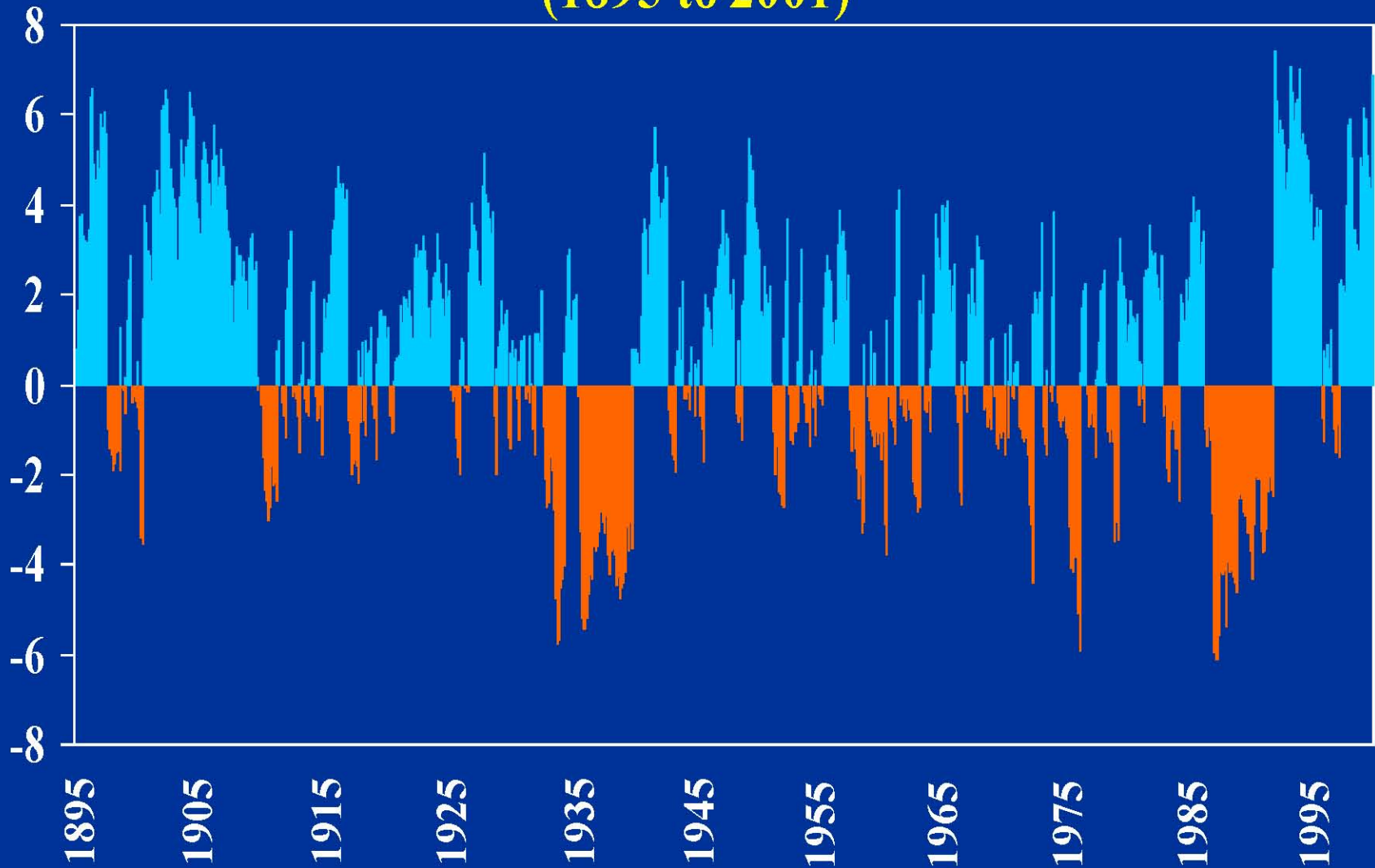
- SHORT AND LONG-TERM VARIATION
- TIMING OF FLOWS
- DURATION OF FLOWS
- HIGH/LOW FLOWS
- SURFACE OR SUBSURFACE
- CONNECTION CONTINUOUSLY AND DISCONTINUOUSLY

OVER RIDING HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS ARE KEY

WETLAND CYCLE DURATION



Palmer Drought Severity Index, Division 5, ND (1895 to 2001)

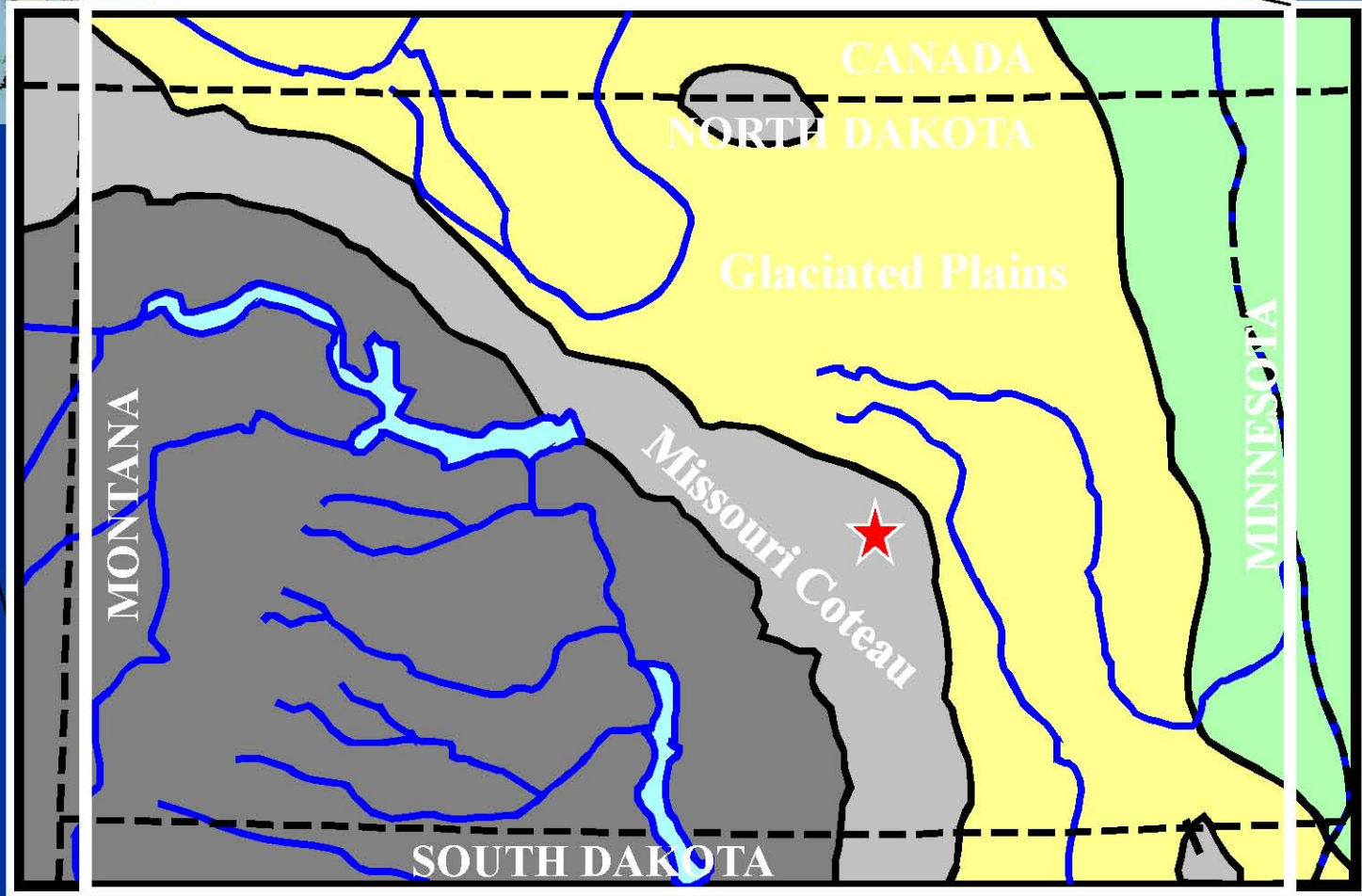


TEMPORAL SCALE

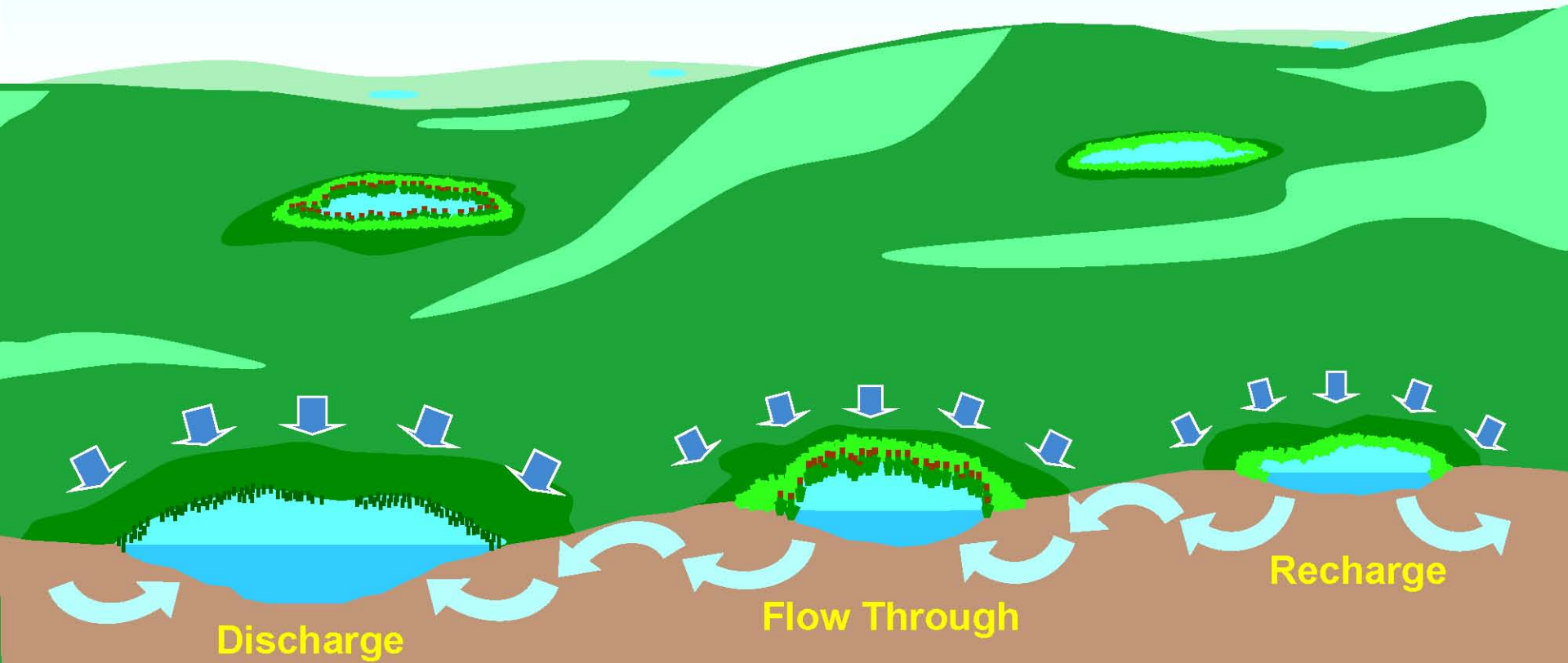
- CLIMATIC AND HYDROLOGIC VARIATION
 - DAILY
 - ANNUAL
 - LONG-TERM
 - WITHIN A LIFE TIME
 - OVER THOUSANDS OF YEARS
- FREQUENCY OF BREEDING OR GERMINATION TO MAINTAIN POPULATIONS
 - ONCE ANNUALLY??
 - ONCE EVERY ?? YEARS

WHAT IS POTHOLE COUNTRY?

- DIVERSITY OF GEOMORPHIC SURFACES
 - MORAINES
 - THE COTEAUS
 - ABANDONED FLOODWAYS
 - LAKE BEDS
- DIVERSITY OF HYDROLOGIC SETTINGS
 - SURFACE AND SUBSURFACE
- DIVERSITY OF ANTHROPOGENIC CHALLENGES
 - AGRICULTURE
 - WATER PROJECTS
 - ALL OTHER INFRASTRUCTURE



Wetland Hydrological Functions



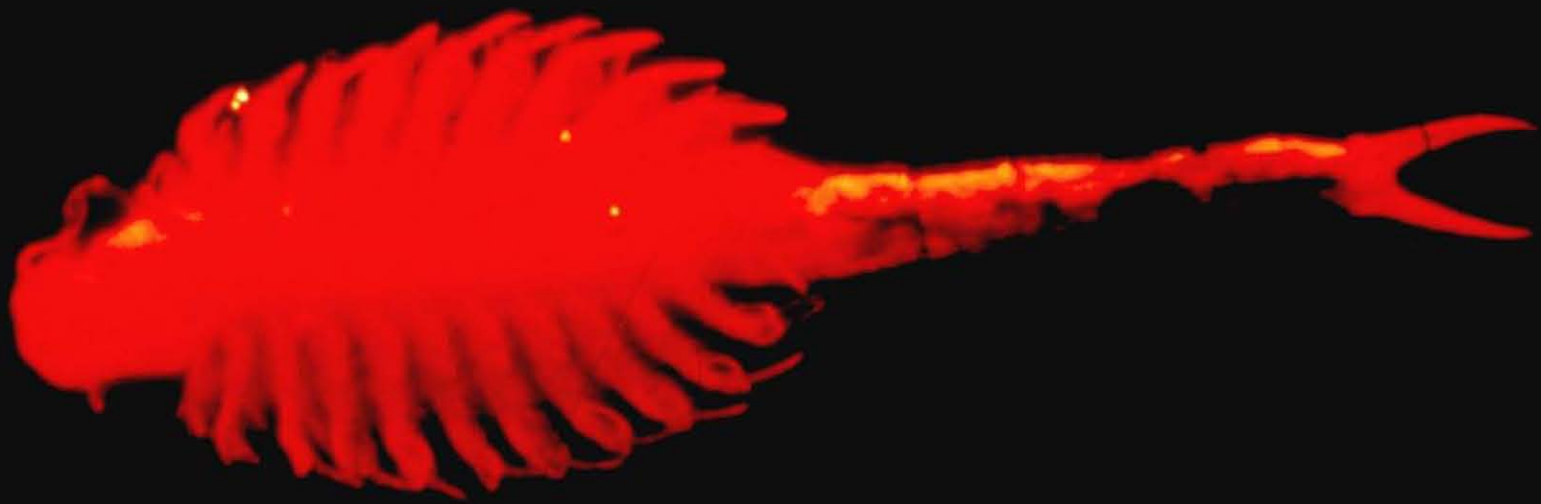












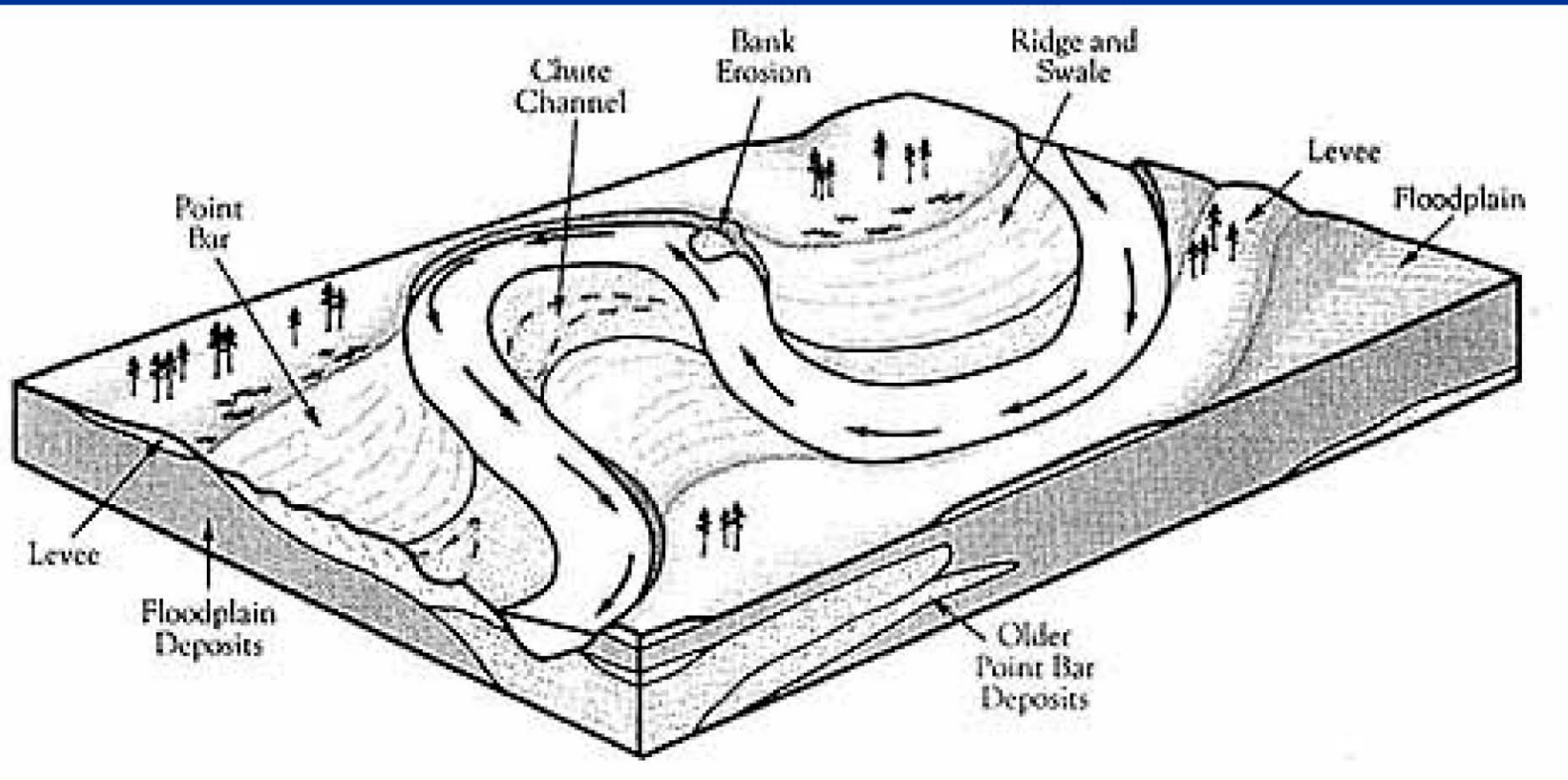




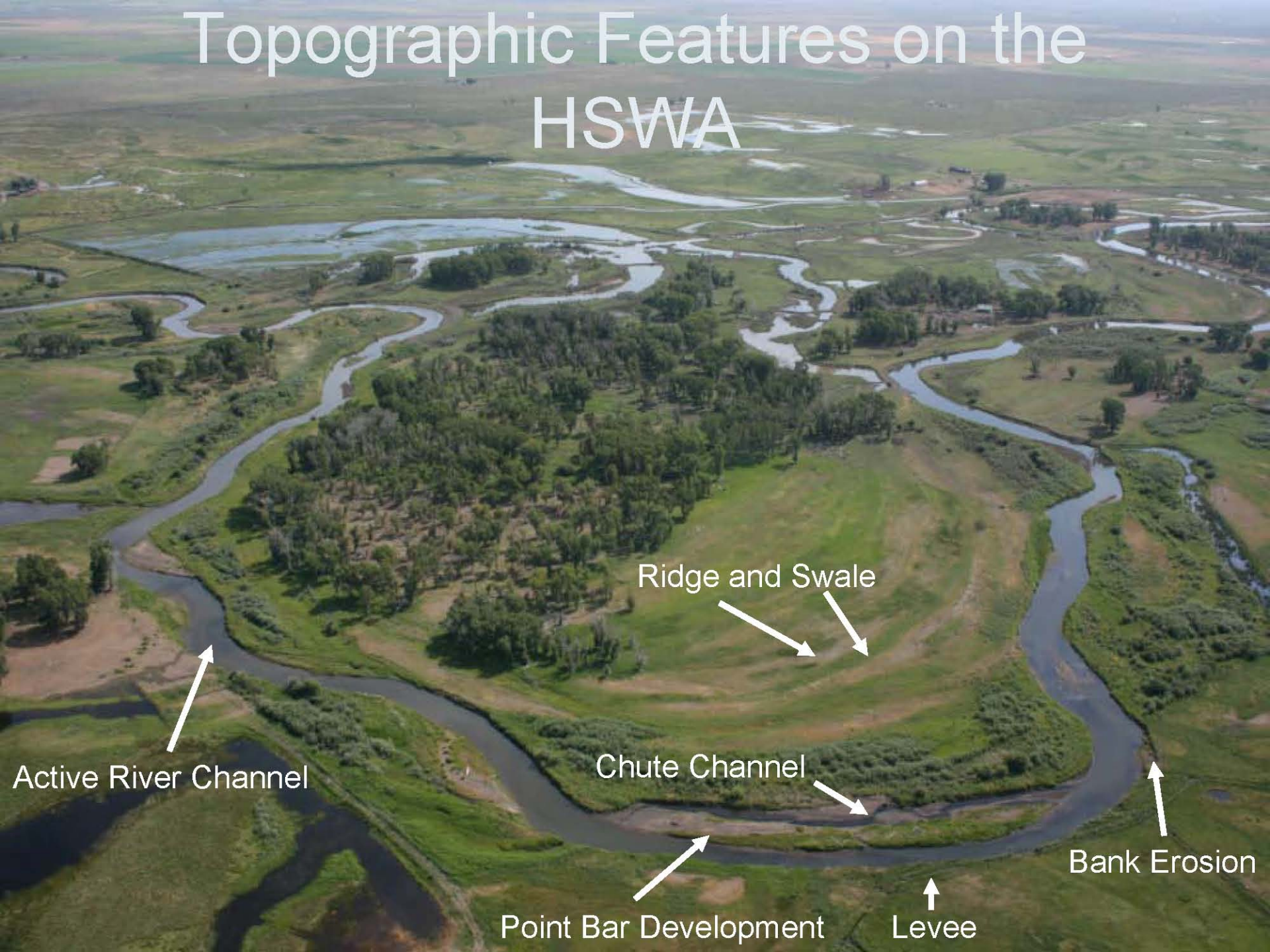


Fluvial systems

Topographic Features



Topographic Features on the HSWA



Ridge and Swale



Chute Channel



Active River Channel



Point Bar Development



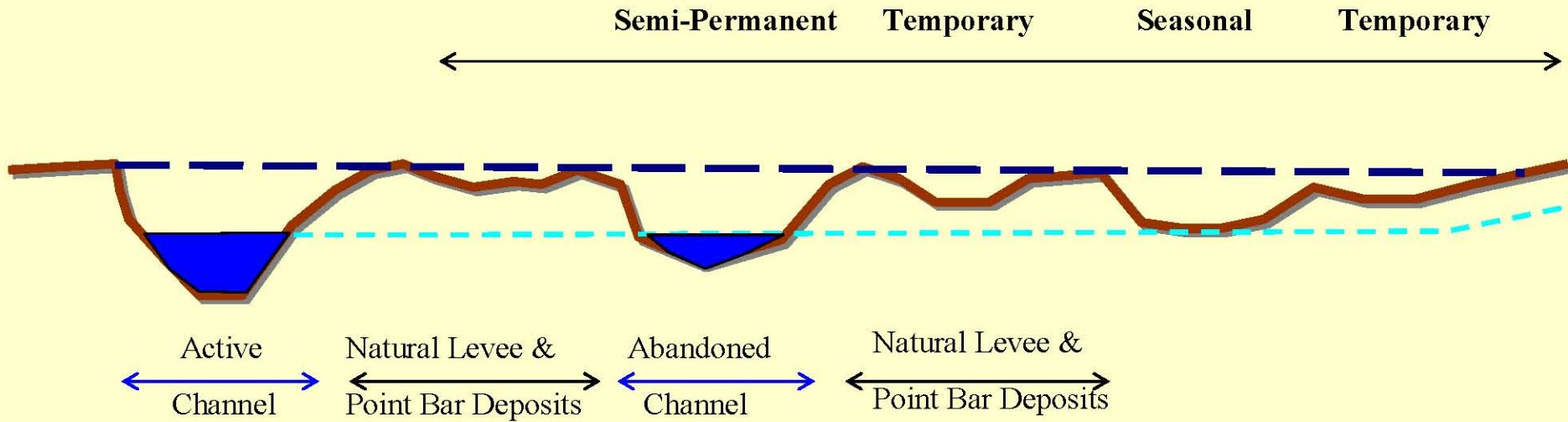
Levee



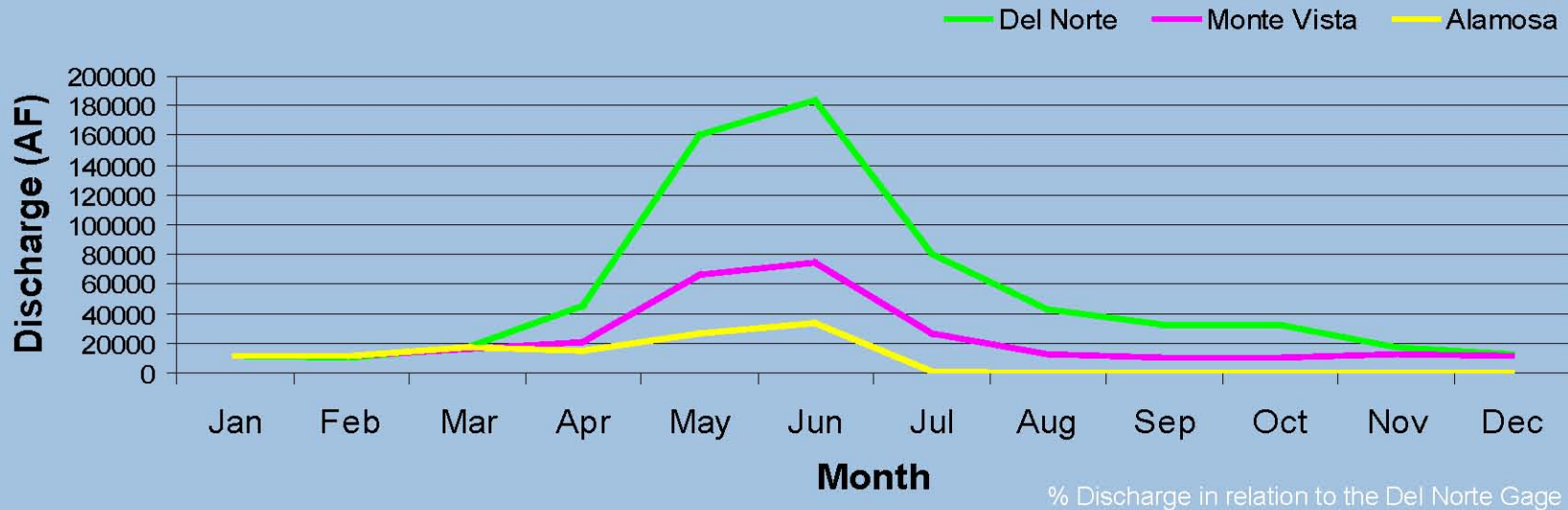
Bank Erosion



Hydrologic Linkage and Juxtaposition of Riparian Wetland Environments



Average Monthly Discharge of Rio Grande at Del Norte, Monte Vista and Alamosa, CO 1980-2008



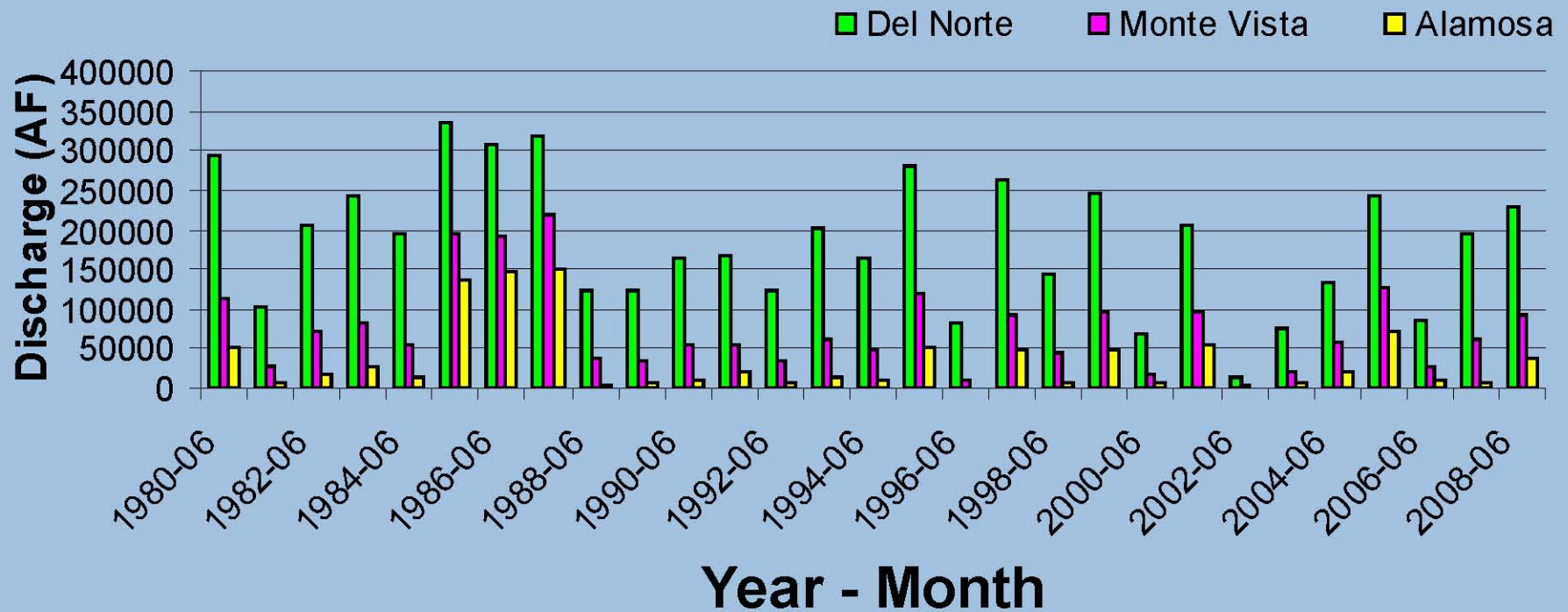
- Dampening of the hydrograph
- Alterations of fluvial processes
- Non-connectivity between the River and Floodplain

| Month | % Monte Vista | % Alamosa |
|-------|---------------|-----------|
| Jan | 102.71 | 108.81 |
| Feb | 105.82 | 114.28 |
| Mar | 91.75 | 102.14 |
| Apr | 46.21 | 33.82 |
| May | 41.74 | 16.81 |
| Jun | 40.42 | 18.51 |
| Jul | 33.74 | 1.16 |
| Aug | 30.84 | 1.06 |
| Sep | 33.77 | 1.16 |
| Oct | 32.99 | 1.18 |
| Nov | 74.23 | 2.65 |
| Dec | 96.95 | 3.46 |

Average and Range of Monthly Discharge of Rio Grande at Del Norte, CO 1980-2008



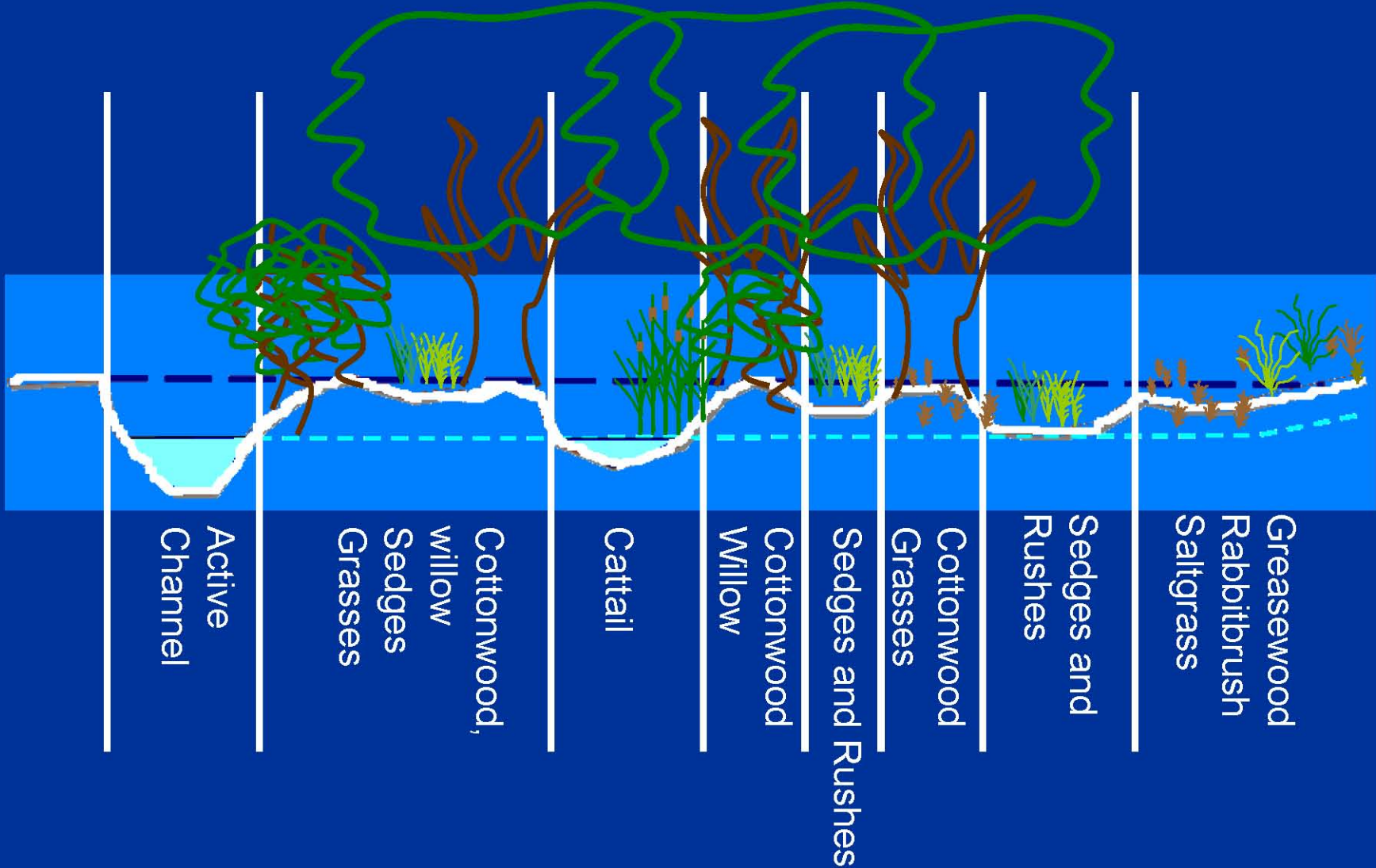
Average Monthly Discharge for June from Del Norte to Alamosa (1980 - 2008)



HSWA Soils in Relation to Geomorphic Features and Hydrology



Vegetation in Relation to Hydrology and Salts Through the Wetlands



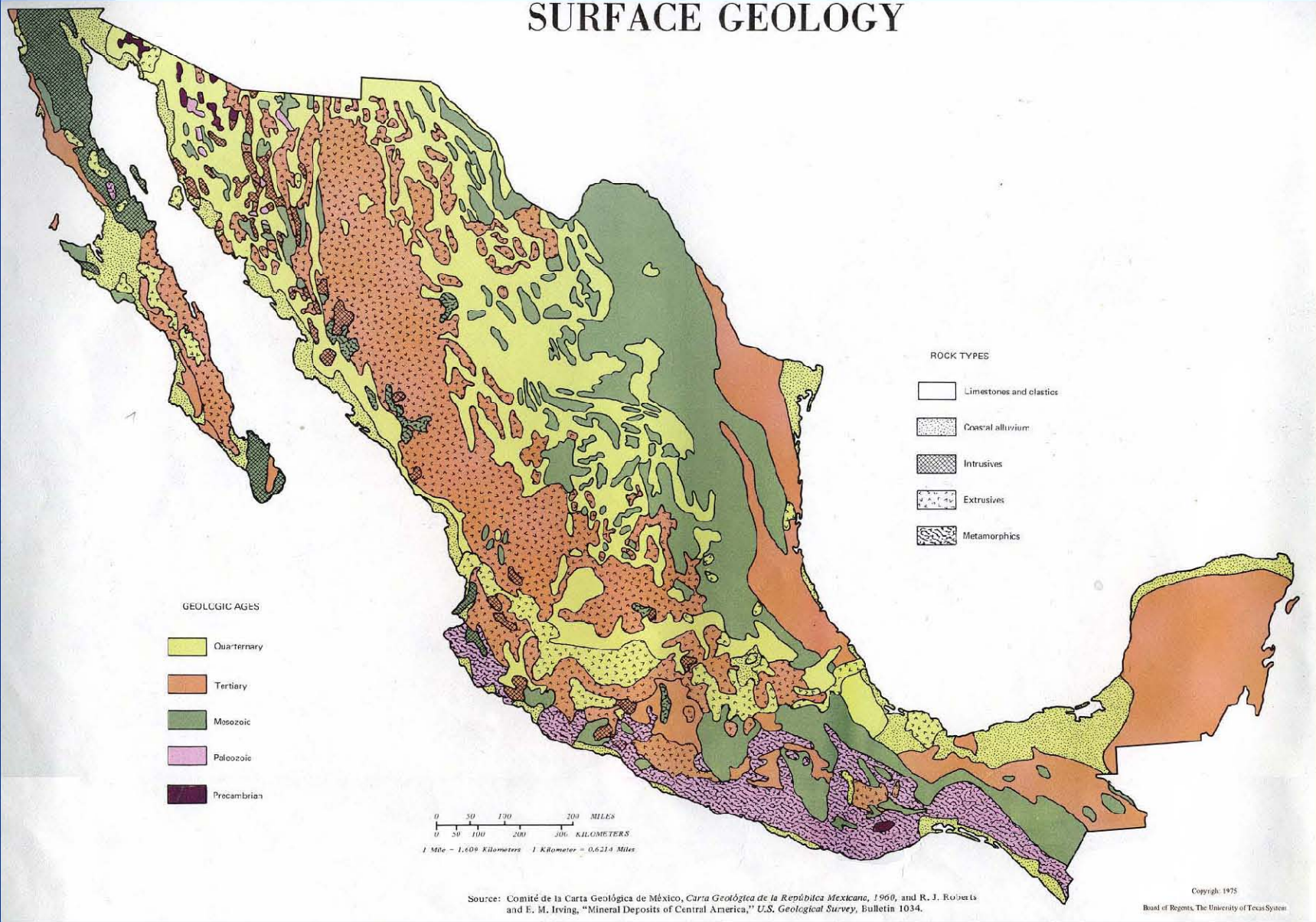
Some conditions in Mexico

- Highly variable
 - Latitude
 - Elevation
 - Formative process
 - Proximity to ocean

Tectonic Plates



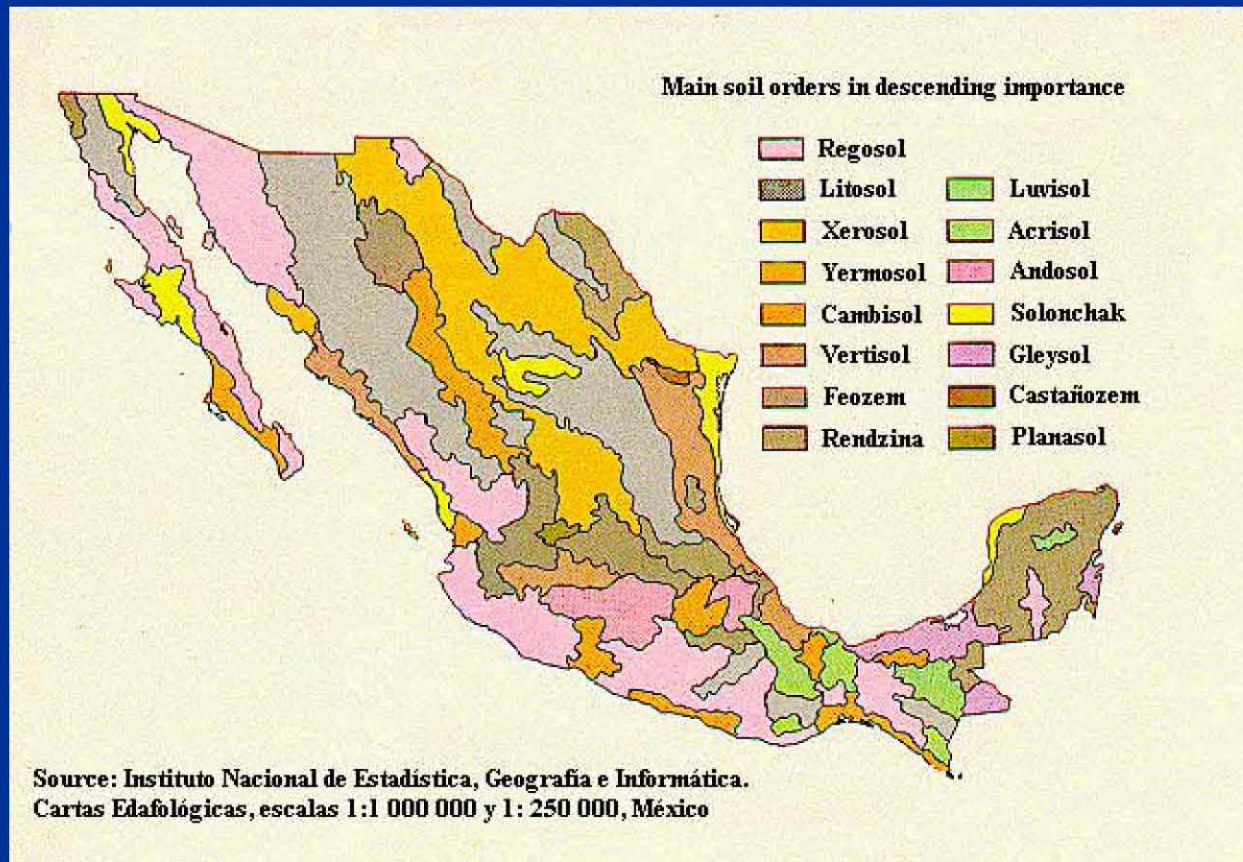
SURFACE GEOLOGY



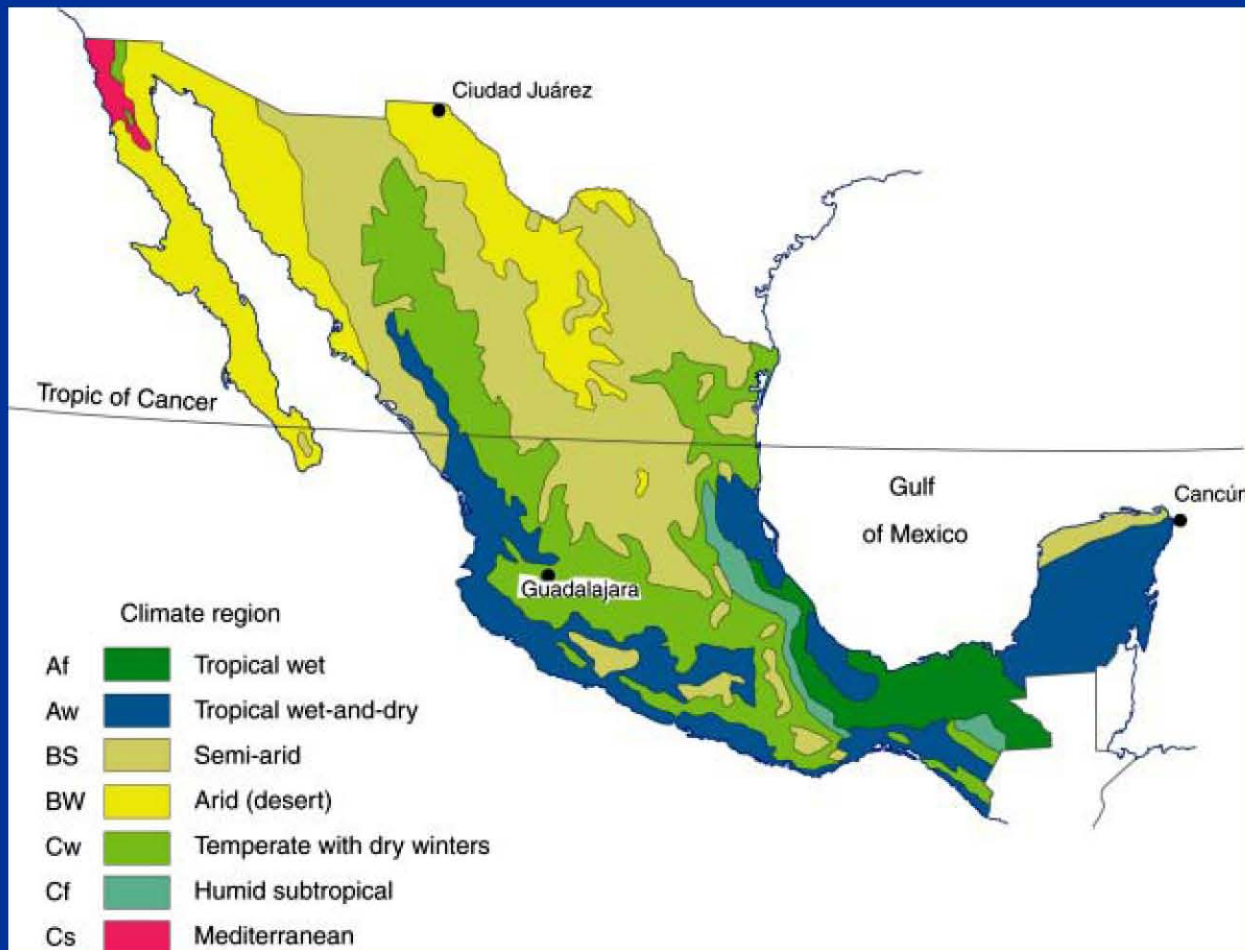
Source: Comité de la Carta Geológica de México, *Carta Geológica de la República Mexicana, 1960*, and R. J. Roberts and E. M. Irving, "Mineral Deposits of Central America," *U.S. Geological Survey, Bulletin 1034*.

Copyright: 1975
 Board of Regents, The University of Texas System

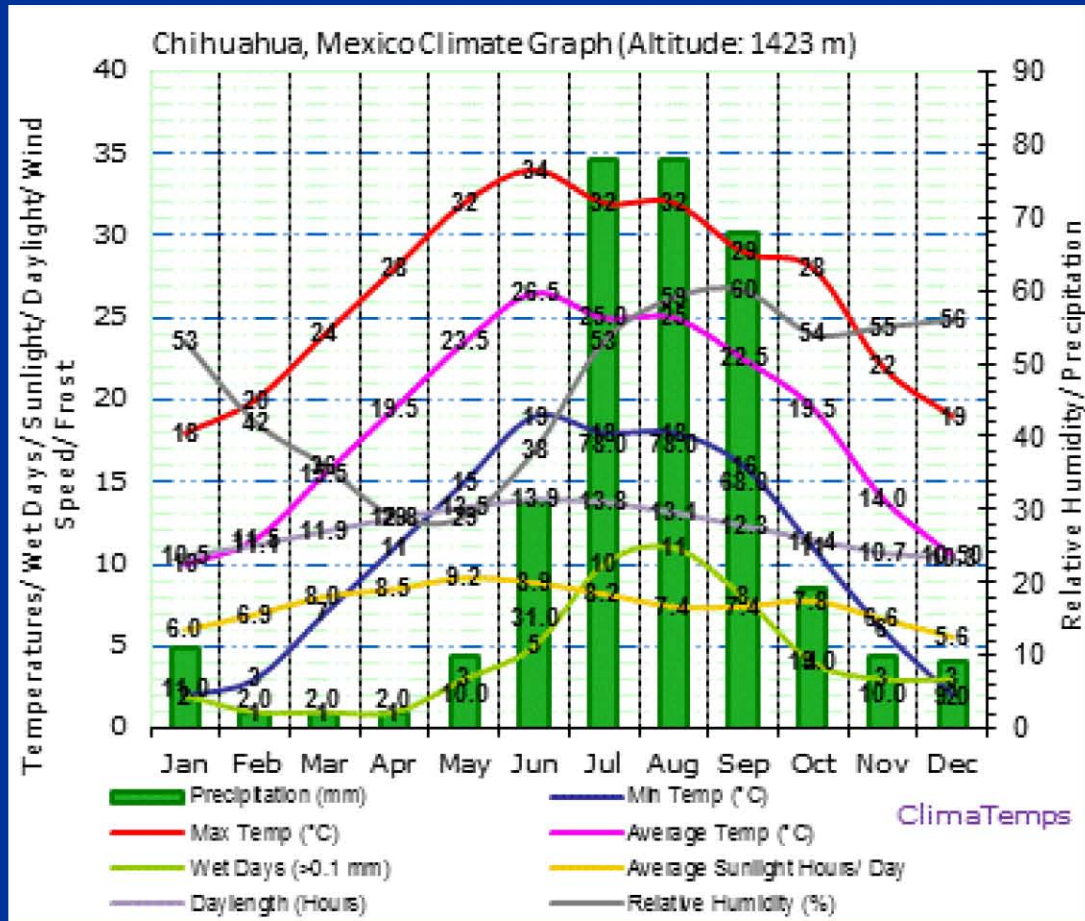
Soil Orders in Mexico



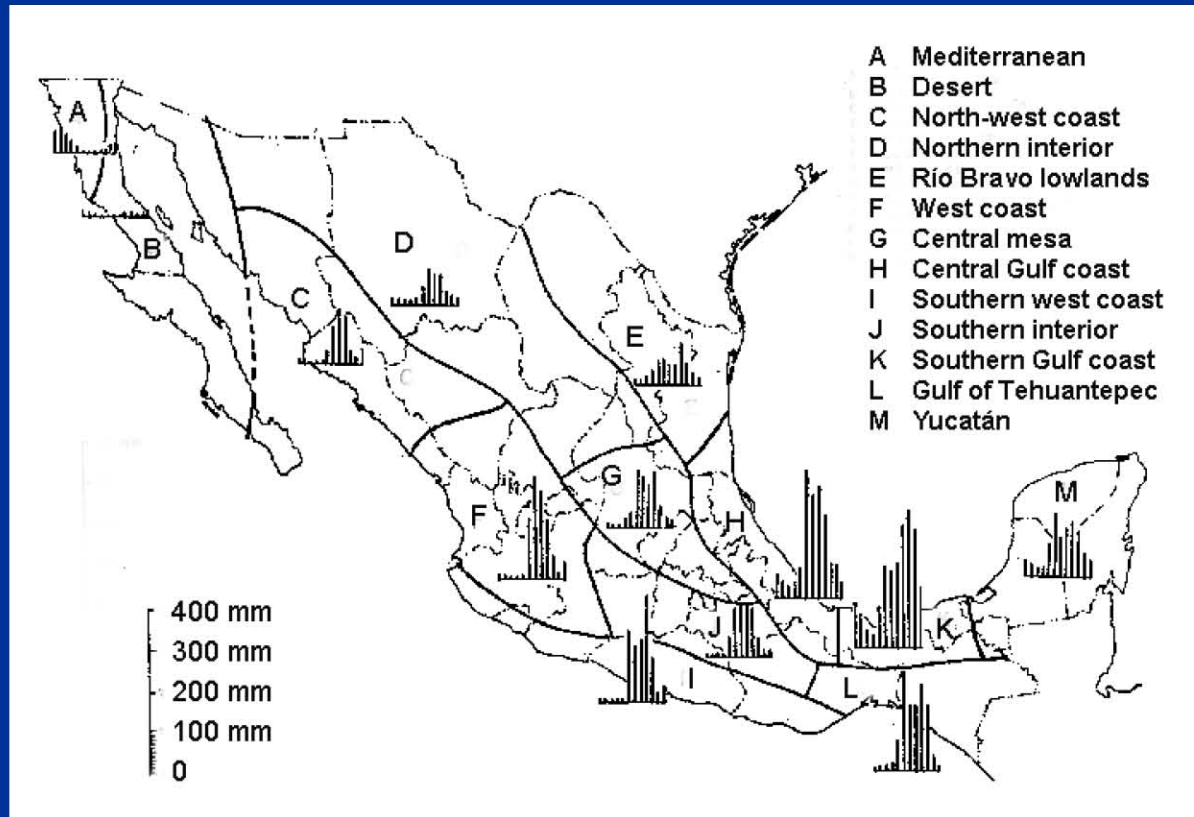
Climate Regions of Mexico



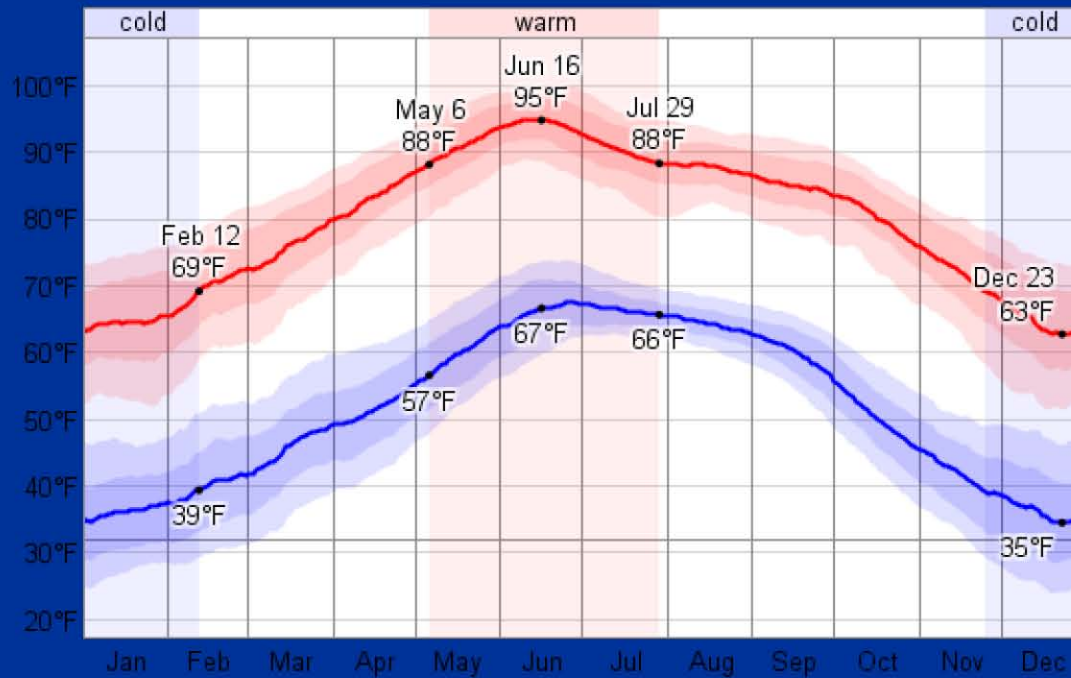
Climate



Precipitation Patterns In Mexico

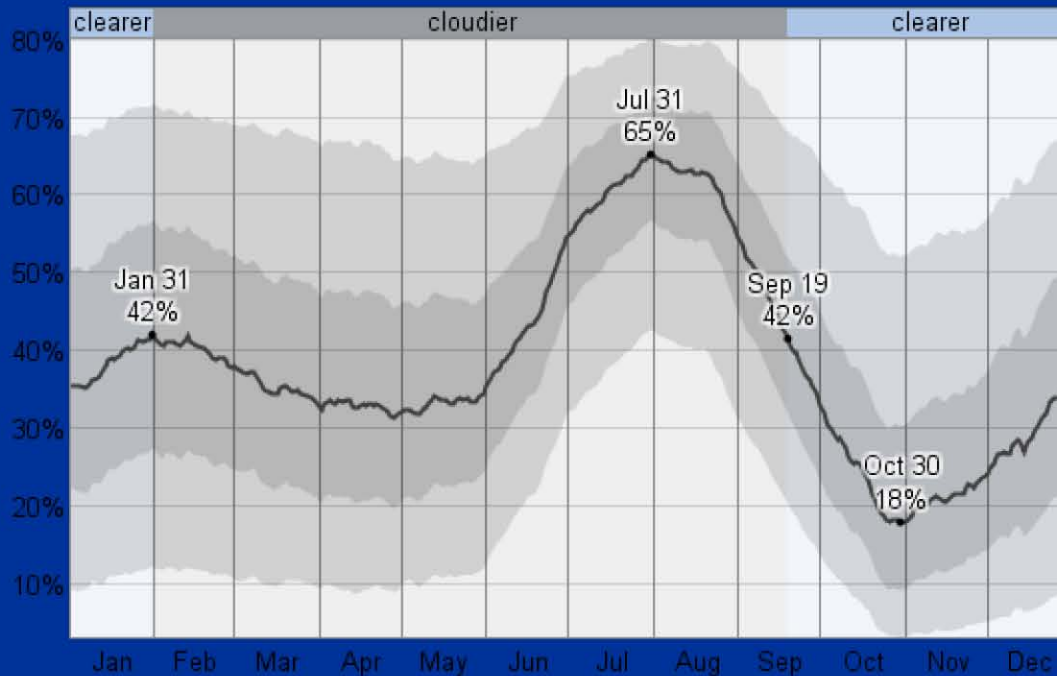


Average Daily Temperature 1990-2012 (Chihuahua City, Mexico)



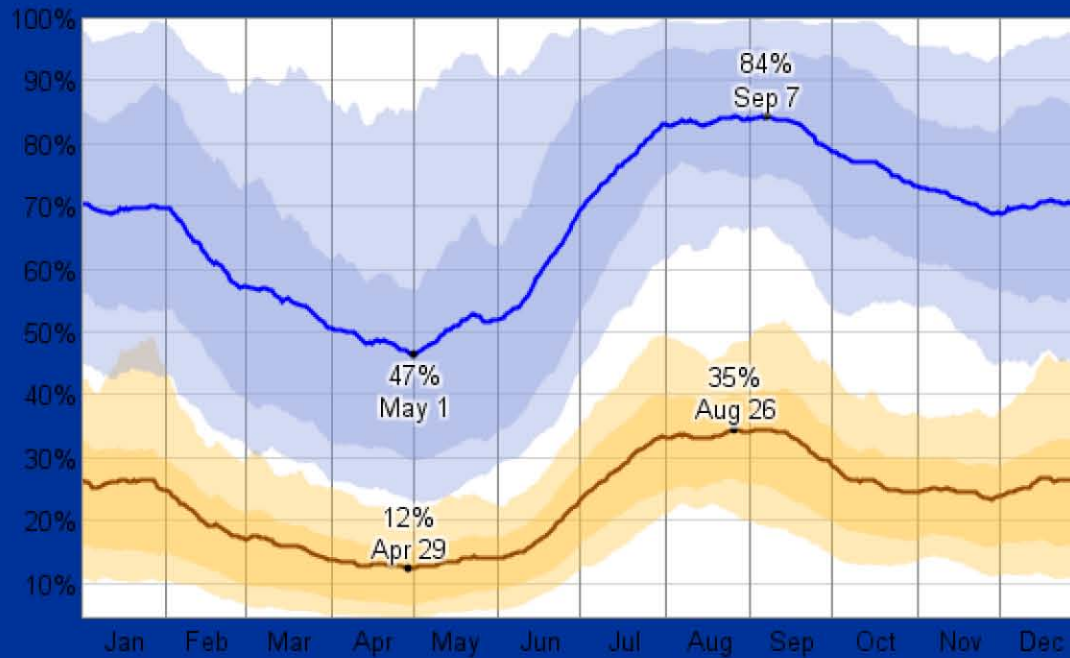
From: weatherspark.com

Median Cloud Cover (Chihuahua City, Mexico)



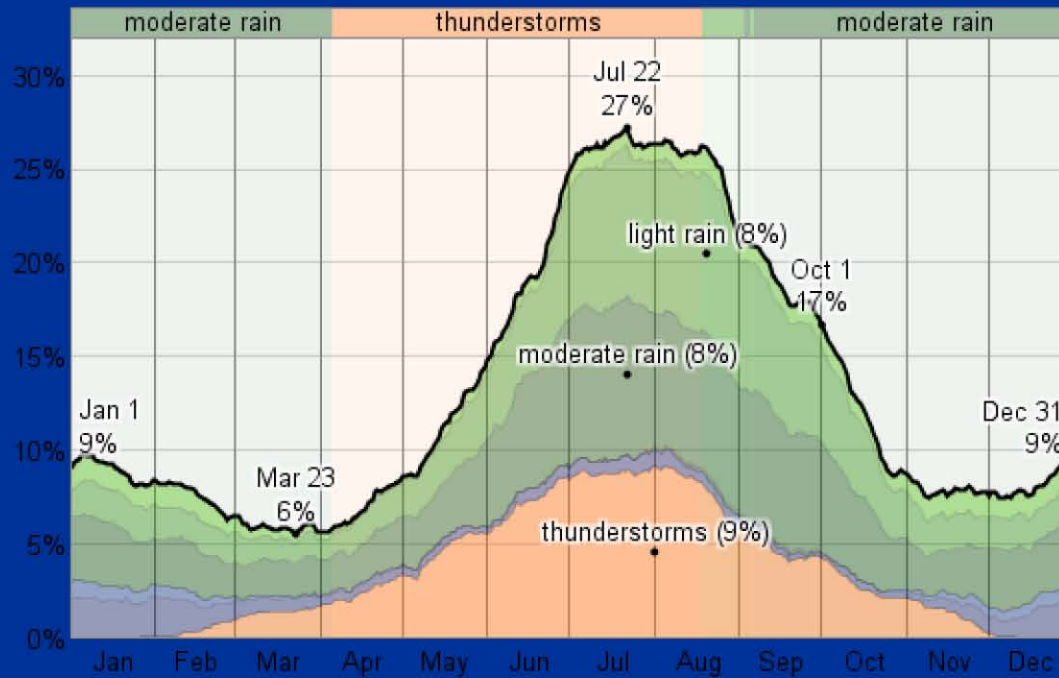
From: weatherspark.com

Average Daily High and Low Relative Humidity (Chihuahua City, Mexico)



From: weatherspark.com

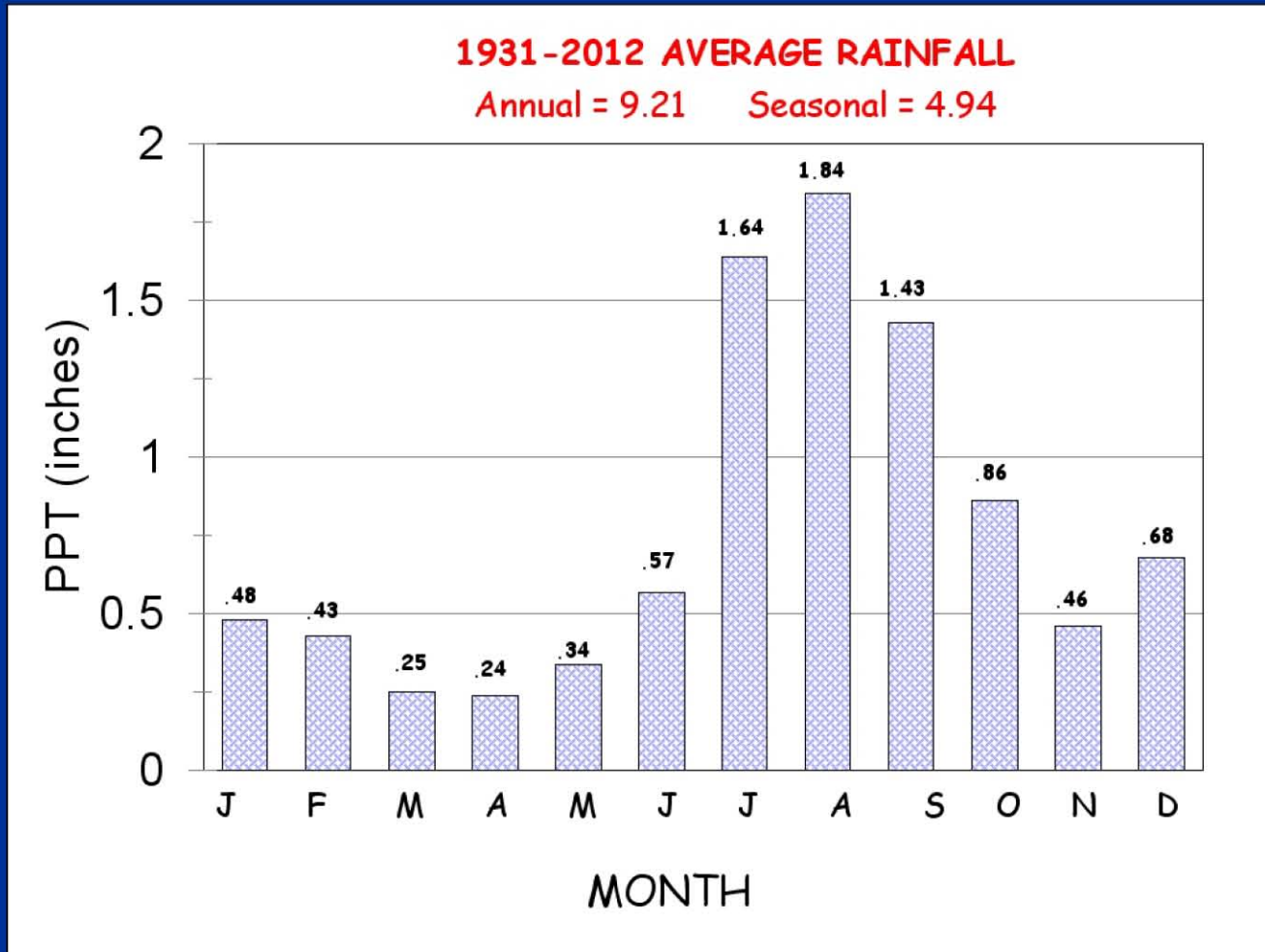
Probability of Precipitation (Chihuahua City, Mexico)



From: weatherspark.com

Long-term Average Precipitation

(Chihuahuan Desert Rangeland Research Center)



Reconstructed Palmer Drought Severity Index (PDSI) and Soil Moisture (Averaged for Northern Mexico)

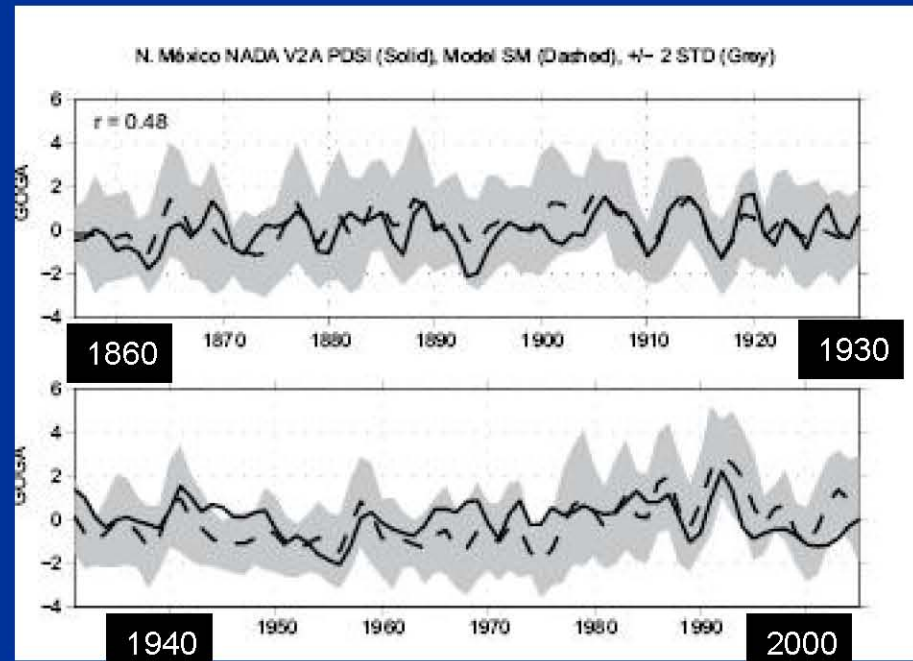


Fig. 11. The tree ring-reconstructed PDSI and the modeled soil moisture with (top) global SST forcing, average over northern México, for the 1856 to 2004 period. The time series are standardized and have been smoothed with a 3 year low pass filter. The shading is the two standard deviation spread of the model ensemble.

From Ting et al. 2009 Mexican drought: an observational modeling and tree ring study of variability and climate change

http://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?pid=S0187-62362009000100001&script=sci_arttext

Paleoclimate Wet/Dry Periods

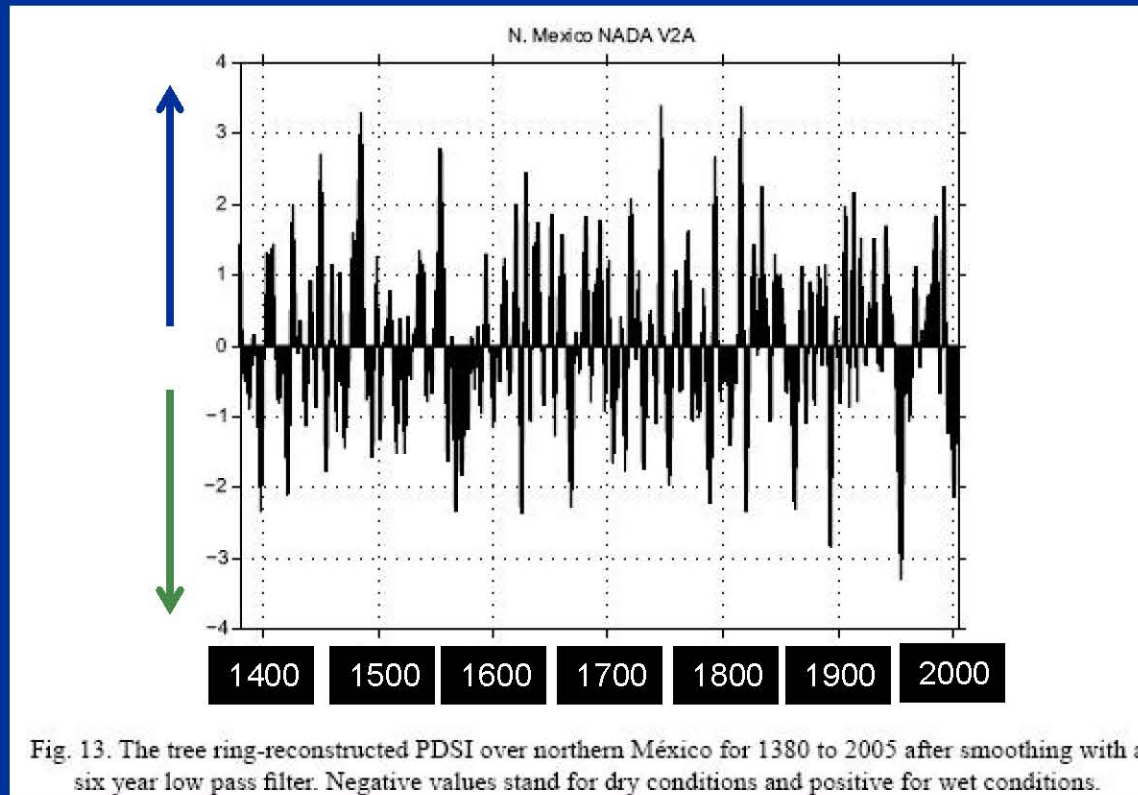
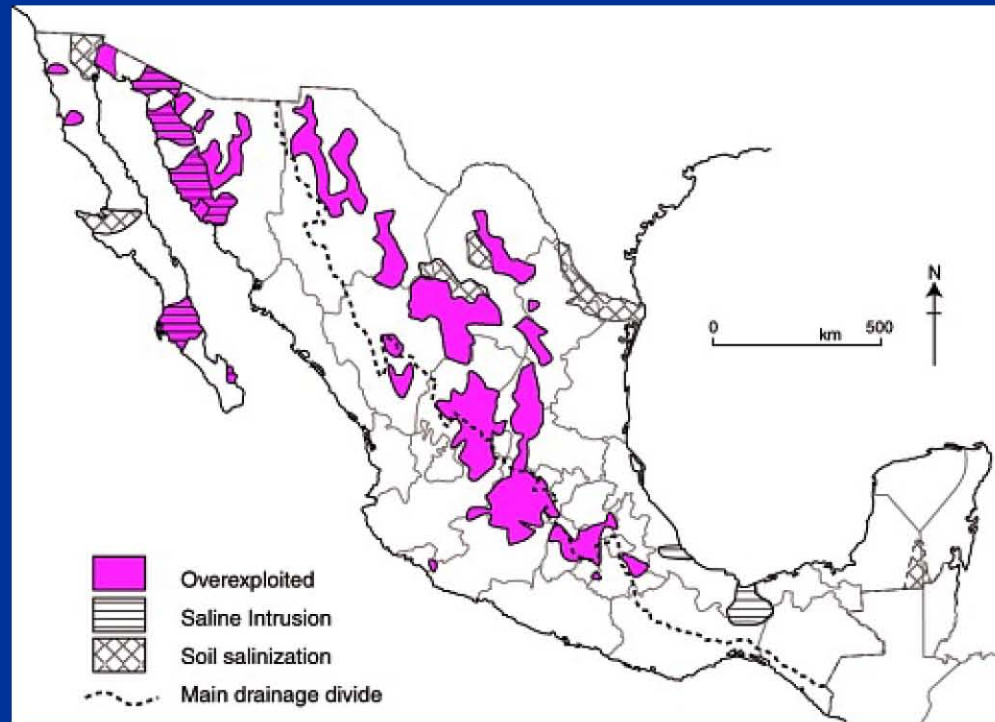


Fig. 13. The tree ring-reconstructed PDSI over northern México for 1380 to 2005 after smoothing with a six year low pass filter. Negative values stand for dry conditions and positive for wet conditions.

From Ting et al. 2009 Mexican drought: an observational modeling and tree ring study of variability and climate change

http://www.scielo.org.mx/scielo.php?pid=S0187-62362009000100001&script=sci_arttext

Groundwater Aquifer Conditions



My interpretation

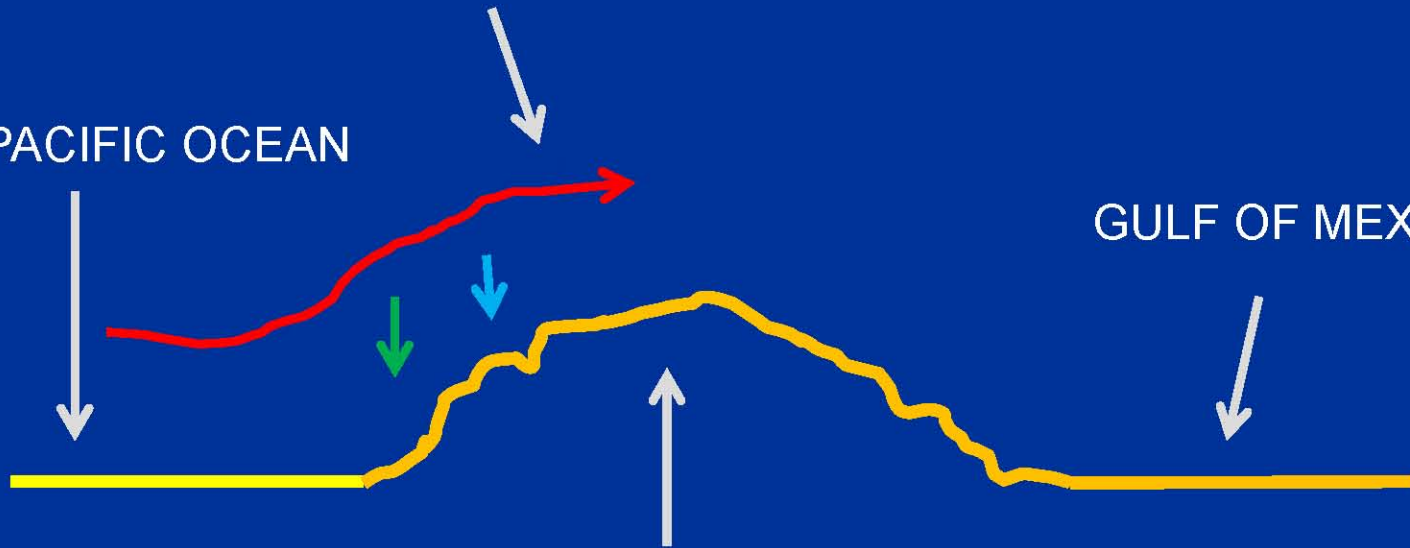
- Monsoons provide much of the input
- The precipitation events during monsoons are likely to be thunderstorms rather than fronts
- Higher elevations are cooler and hold less air moisture
- Mountains get more rainfall than basin floor

WARM WET AIR MASS

PACIFIC OCEAN

GULF OF MEXICO

MEXICO



My Interpretation contd

- Water infiltrates rapidly in coarse material and moves subsurface
- Some water reaches the surface through discharge points
- Coarse material is flooded because of high water table
- When fortunate several thunderstorms occur at the same location to re-flood previously wetted sites
- More ground water discharges as ET decreases

Number of Wetlands

| | Historic | Current |
|----------------|-----------|---------|
| Temporary | + + + + + | + |
| Seasonal | + + + + | + |
| Semi-Permanent | + + + | + + |

HISTORIC CONDITION

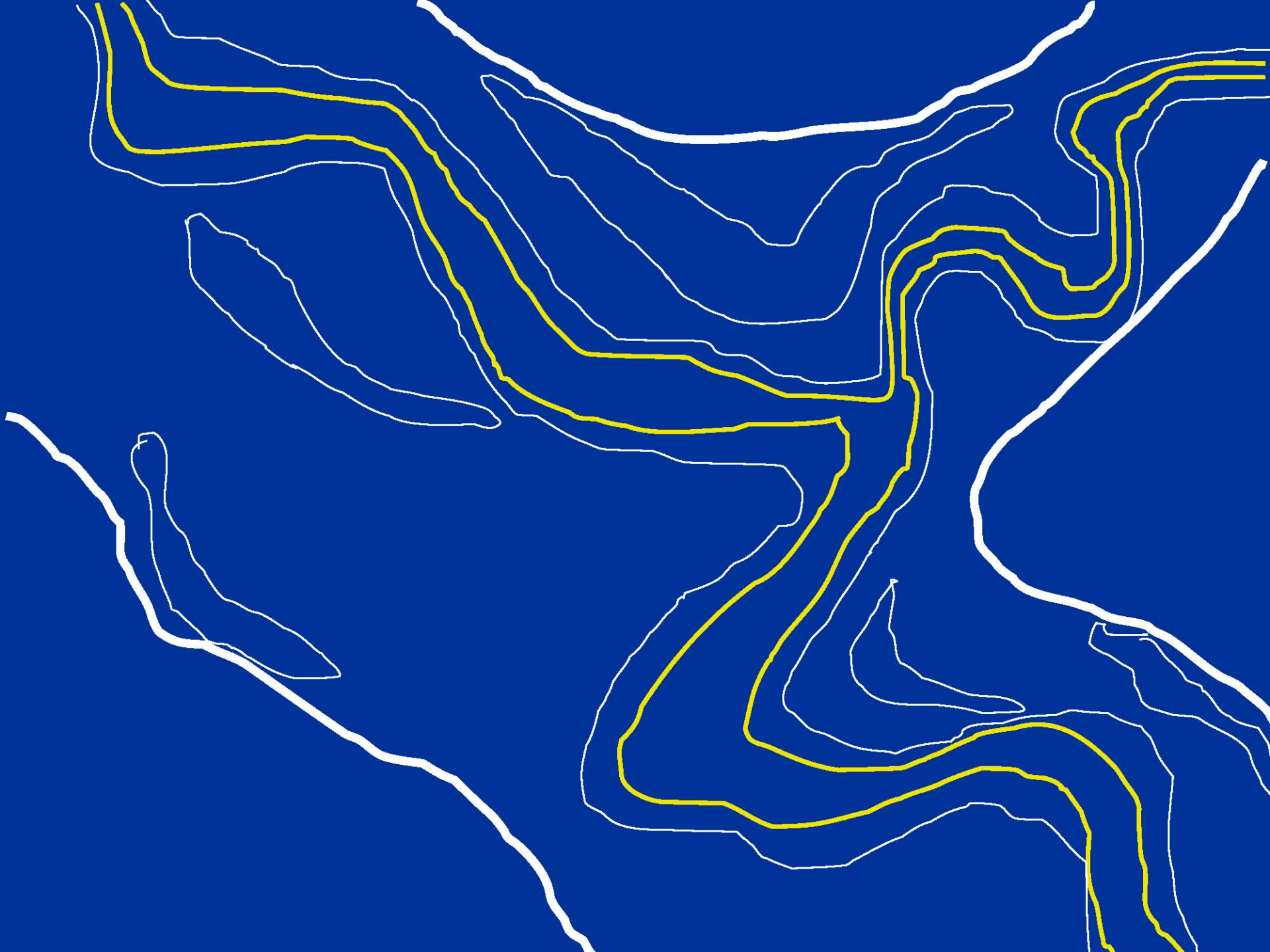
- A WIDE VARIETY OF WETLAND TYPES IN LARGE AND SMALL FLOODPLAINS ACROSS ANY REGION
- DIFFERENT HYDROPERIODS PROVIDED CONSTANTLY CHANGING HABITAT CONDITIONS RESULTING IN A DIVERSITY OF FOODS AND HABITAT STRUCTURE

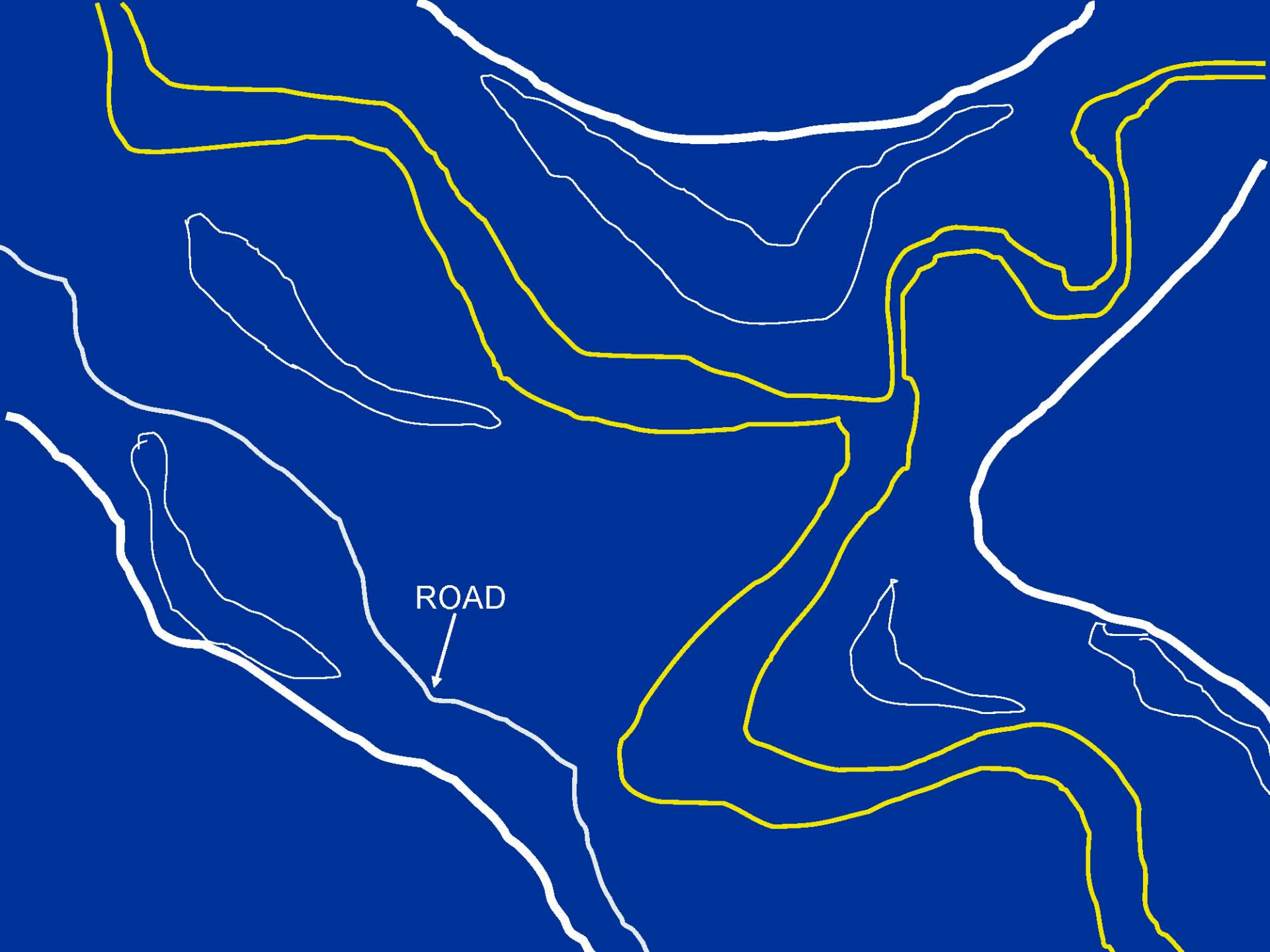
CHANGES TO LANDSCAPE

- REDUCED HABITAT AREA
- CHANGED COMPOSITION OF HABITAT TYPES
- CHANGED PHYSICAL CONDITIONS
- MODIFIED HABITAT FUNCTIONS

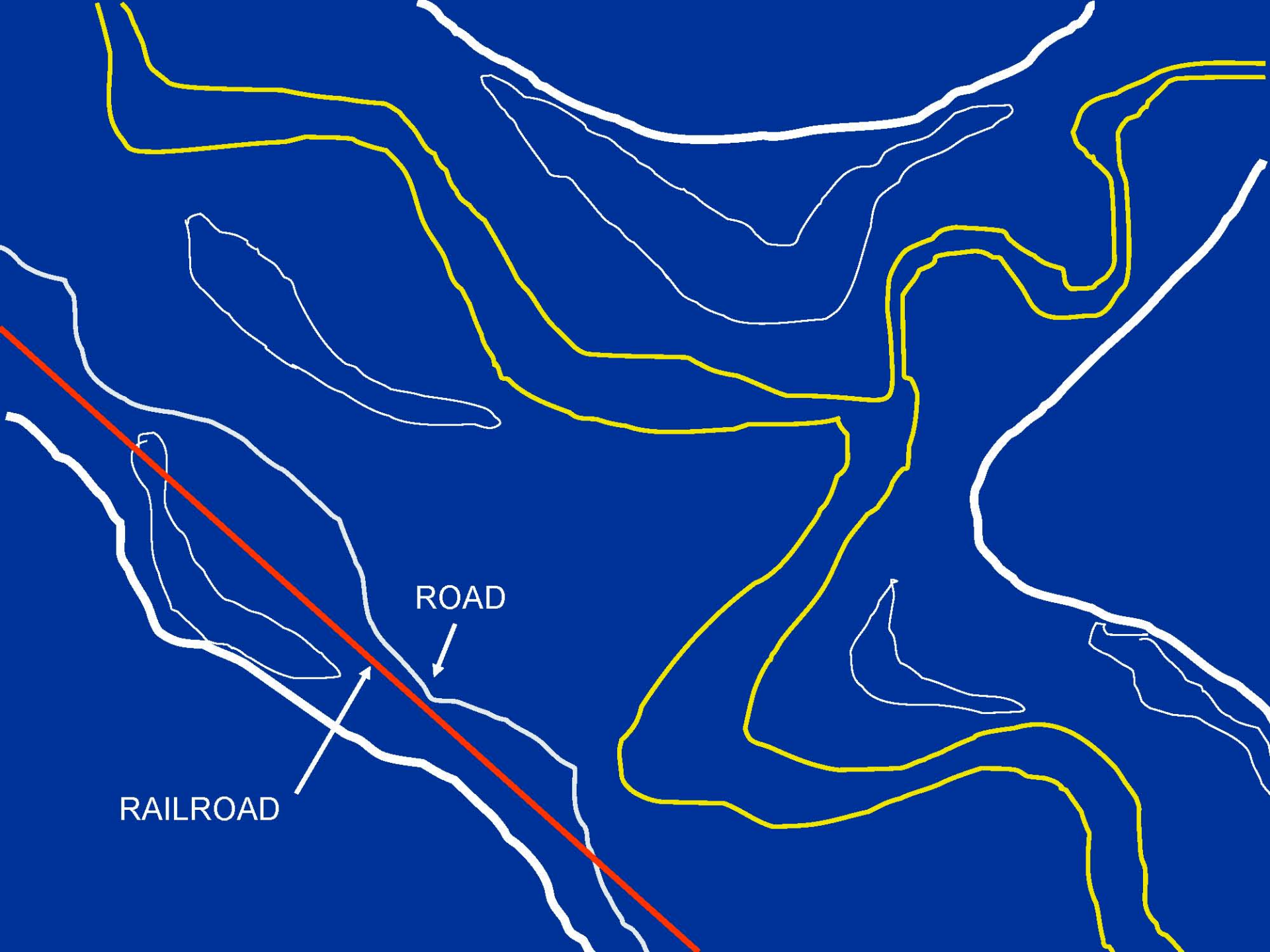
ANTHROPOMORPHIC MODIFICATIONS

- ON SITE
- OFF SITE
- IN PHYSICAL CONDITION
- IN PROCESSES
- LOCAL/REGIONAL
- GLOBAL



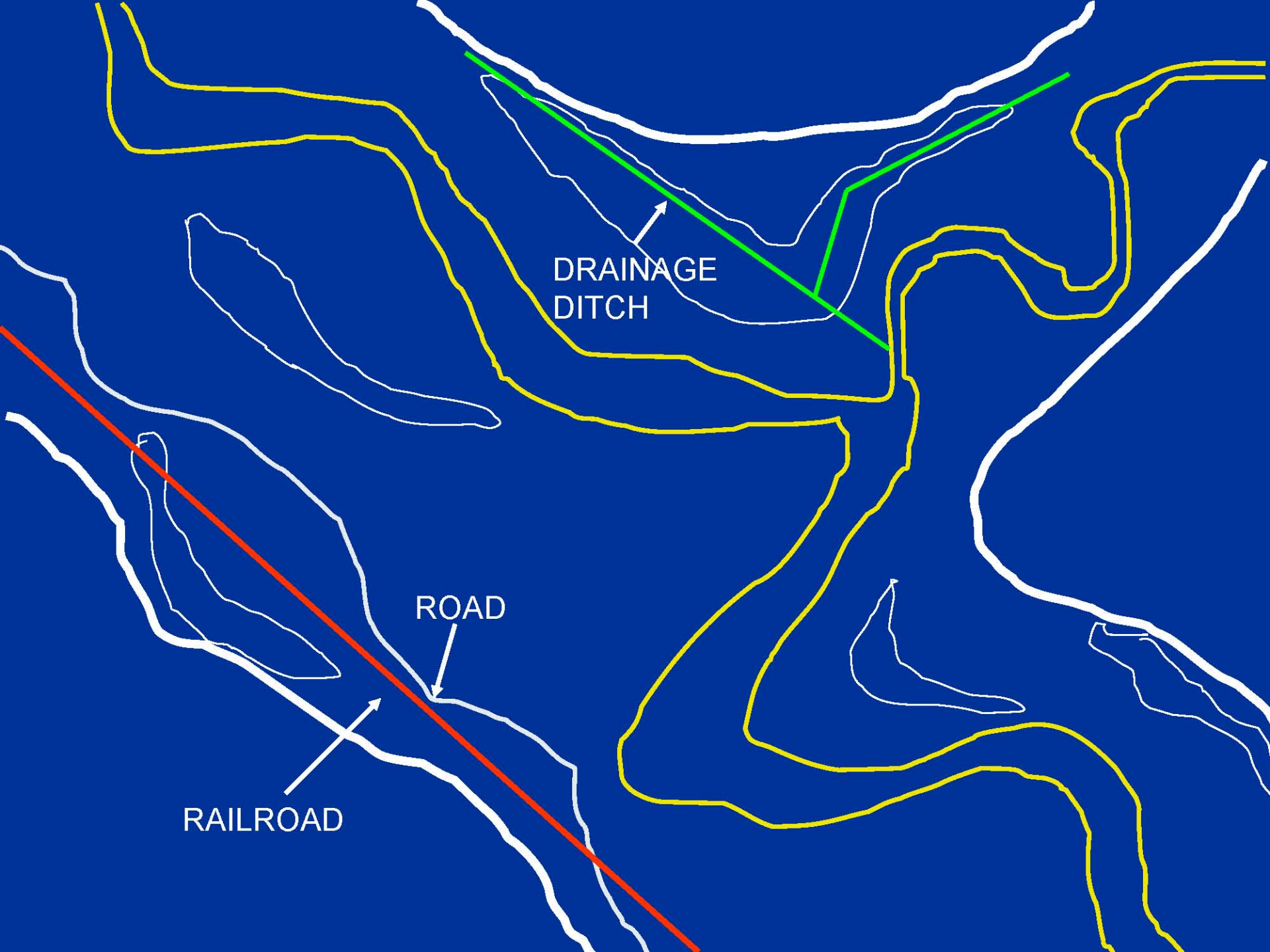


ROAD



ROAD

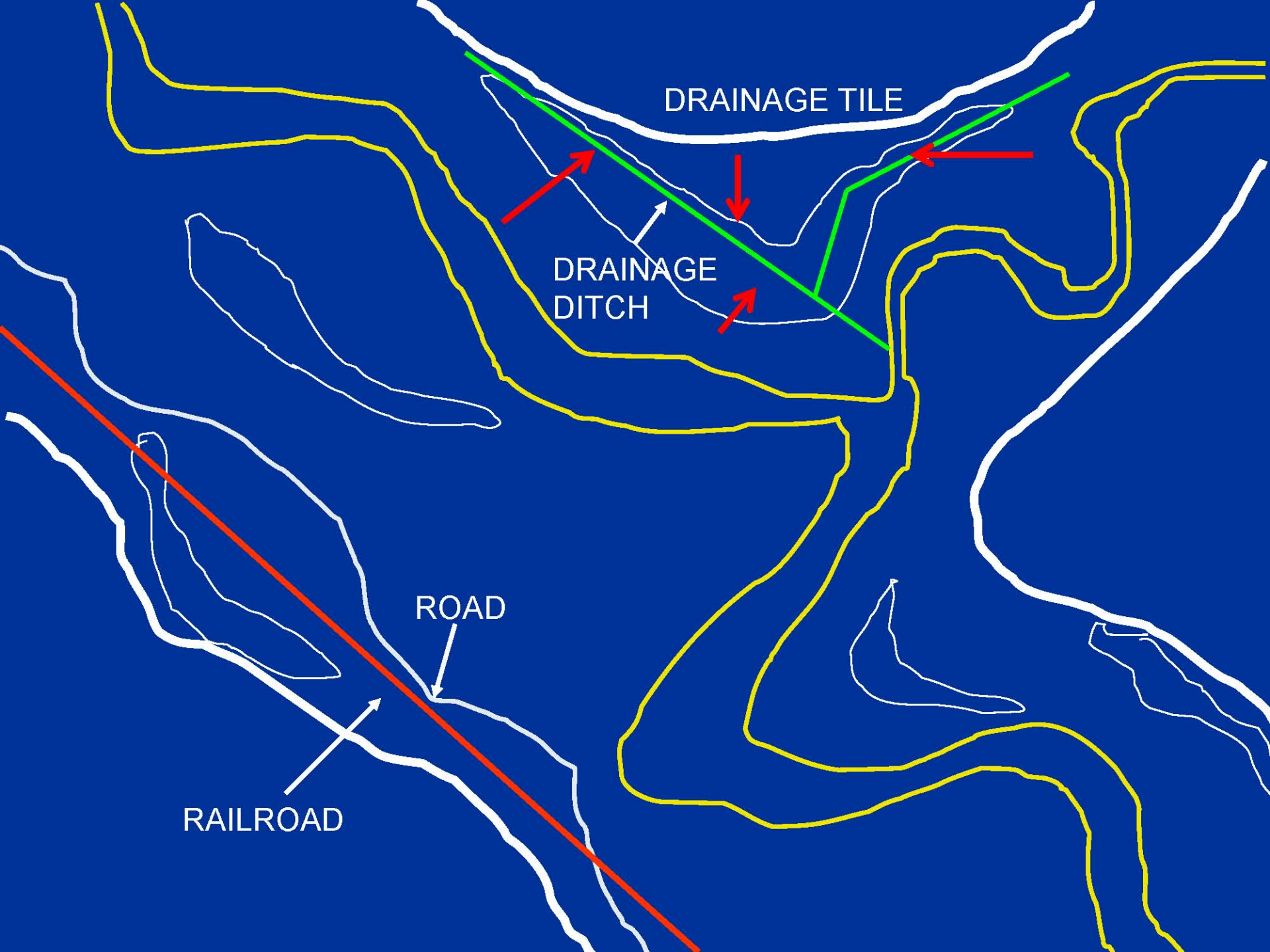
RAILROAD



DRAINAGE
DITCH

ROAD

RAILROAD

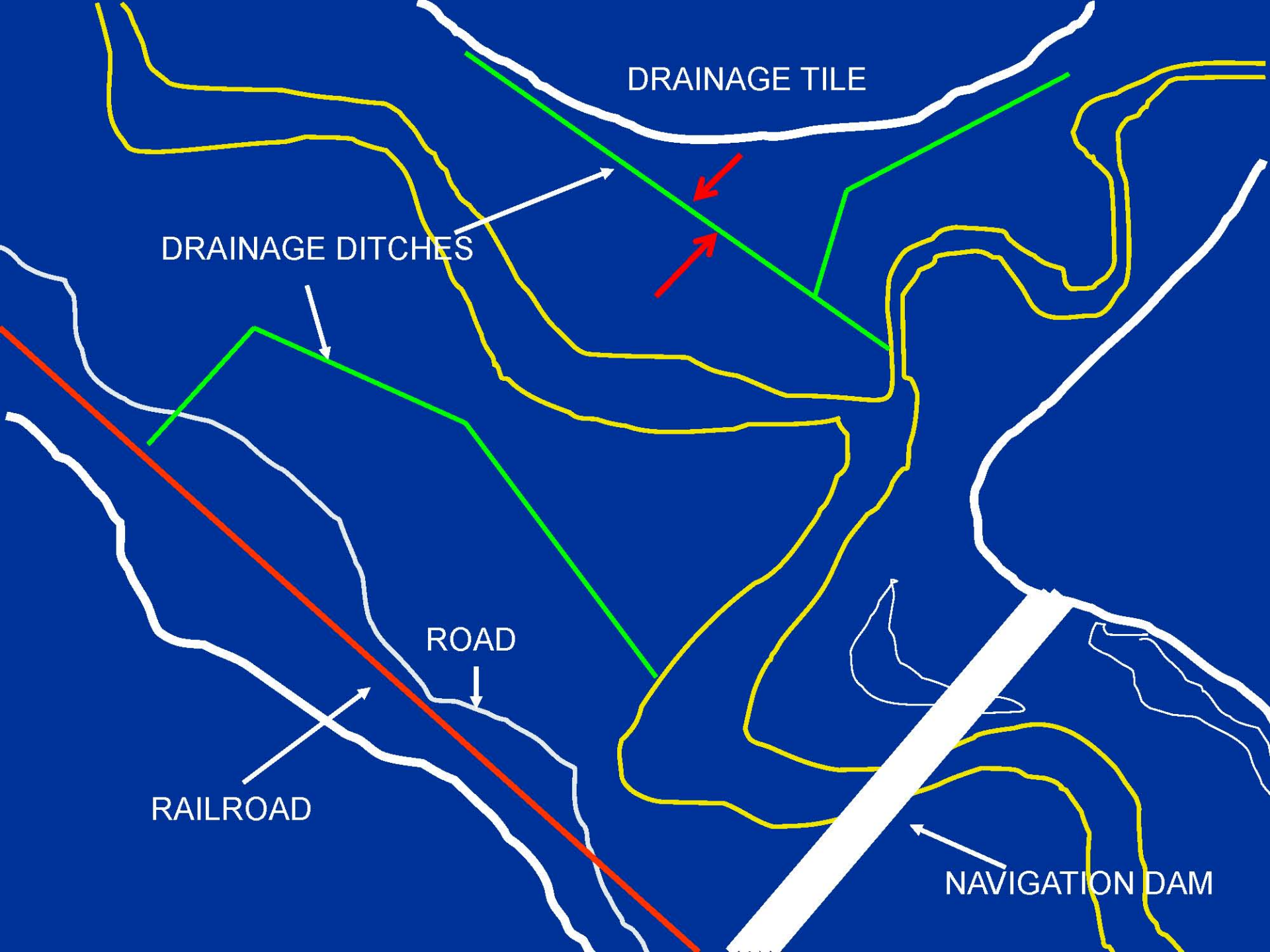


DRAINAGE TILE

DRAINAGE DITCH

ROAD

RAILROAD





DRAINAGE TILE

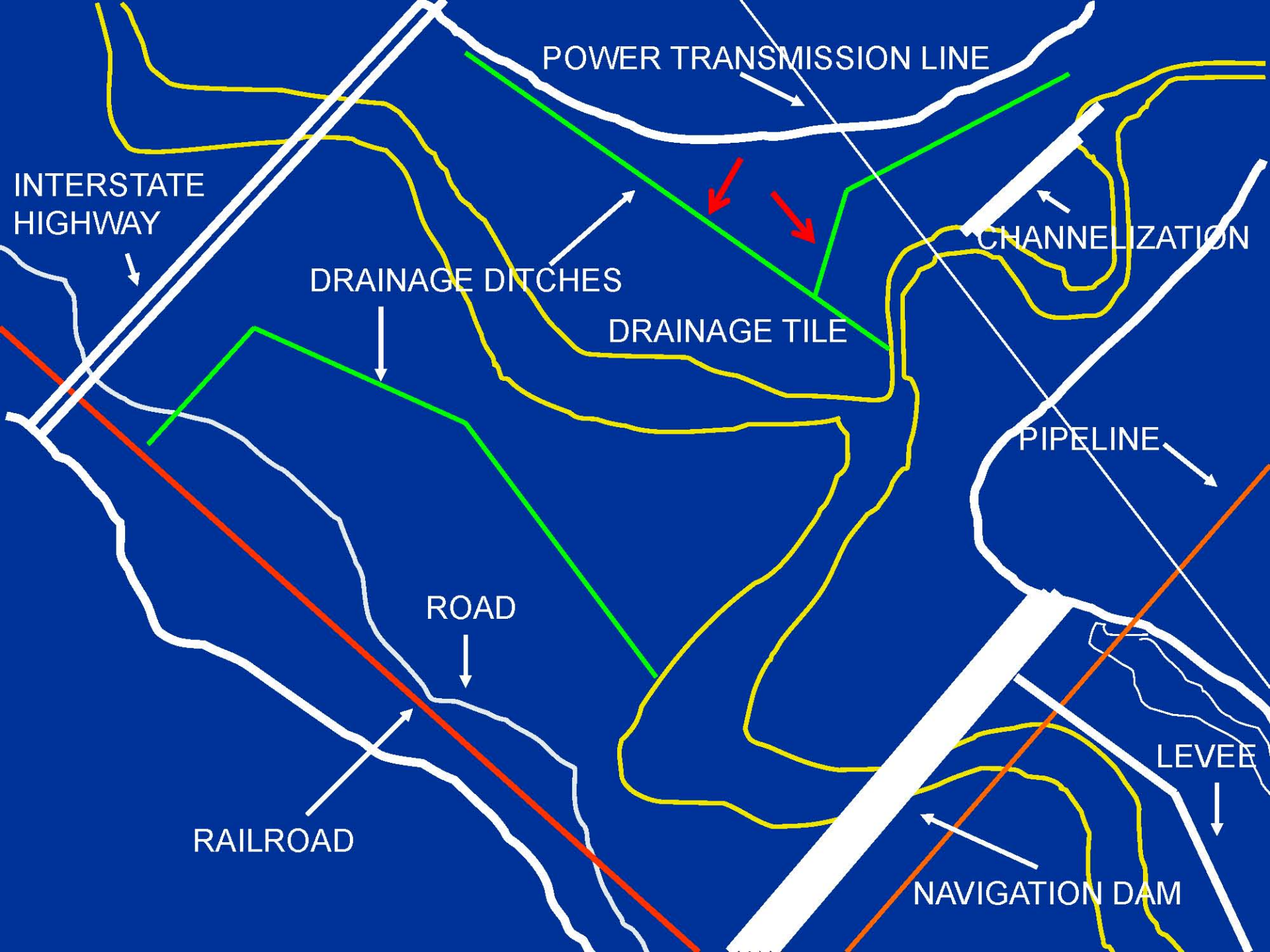
INTERSTATE
HIGHWAY

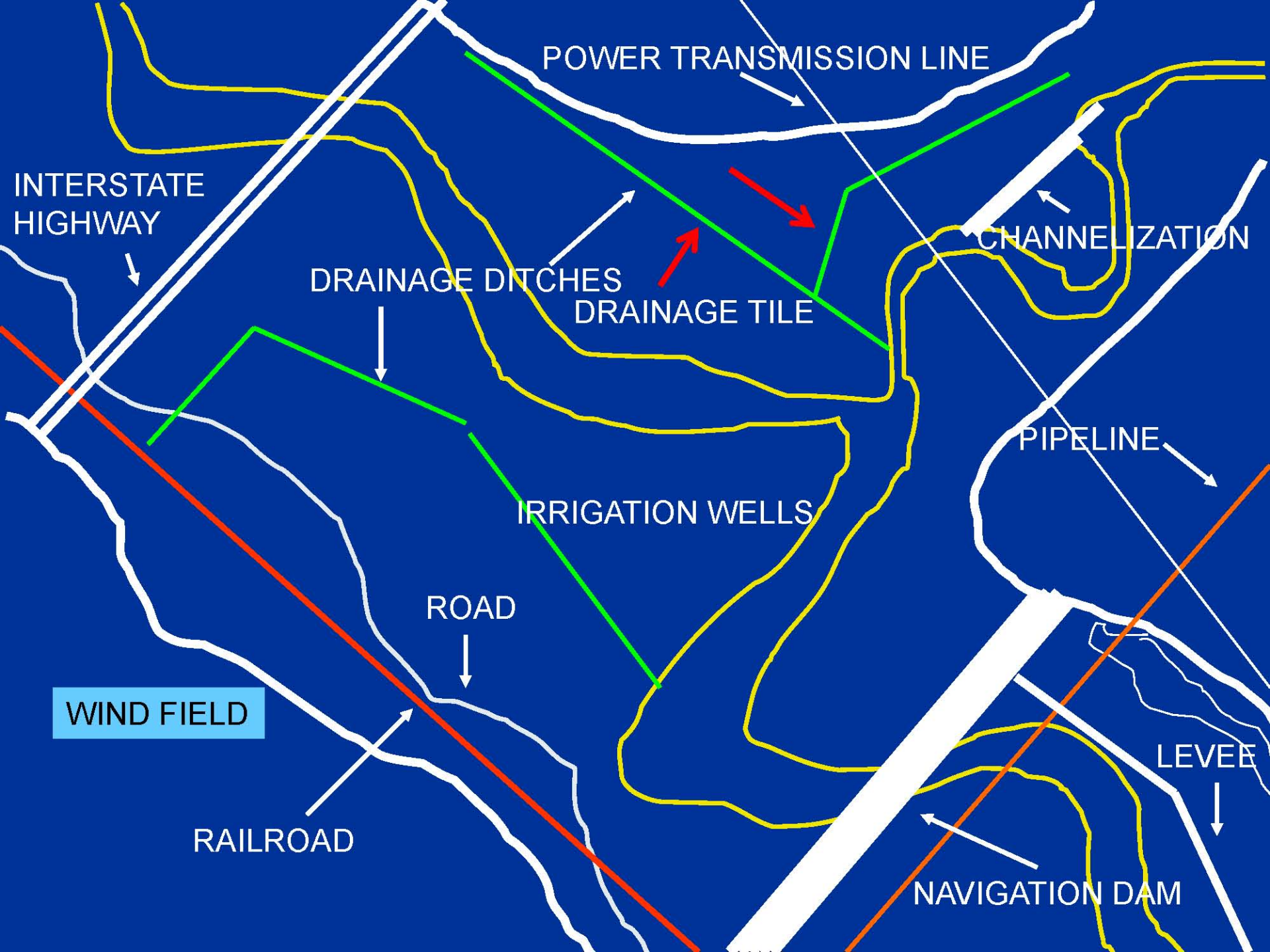
DRAINAGE DITCHES

ROAD

RAILROAD

NAVIGATION DAM





ECOLOGICAL PERTURBATIONS

- COMPROMISED SHEET FLOW
- CHANGED FLOW PATTERNS
- CONCENTRATED FLOW AT HIGH VELOCITY
- IMPEDED WATER MOVEMENTS
- REDUCED BASE FLOW
- MODIFIED GROUND WATER DISCHARGE

CHANGES IN ECOLOGICAL FUNCTIONS

- CHANGED PLANT COMMUNITIES
 - COMPOSITION
 - DISTRIBUTION
 - DYNAMICS
- CHANGED WILDLIFE COMMUNITIES
 - OFTEN SMALLER POPULATIONS OF DESIRED SPECIES
 - OFTEN LARGER POPULATIONS OF UNDESIRABLE SPECIES
 - CHANGES IN DISTRIBUTION

**A MODEL FOR HABITAT
MANAGEMENT AND RESTORATION:
WETLAND EXAMPLES**

**RESTORATION/
CONSTRUCTION**

**MISSOURI
RIVER
FLOODPLAIN
WETLANDS**

**MISSISSIPPI RIVER
ALLUVIAL VALLEY**

**PRAIRIE
POTHOLES**

**TUNDRA
PONDS**

**ALTERED
PHYSICAL
NATURE**

PROTECTION

ALTERED PROCESSES

MANAGEMENT



WHAT CAN WE DO TO BECOME BETTER HABITAT MANAGERS??

- BETTER PREPARATION PRE-EMPLOYMENT
- BETTER CONTINUING EDUCATION
- MONITOR AND EVALUATE IN A MORE MEANINGFUL MANNER
- LEARN TO BE A GOOD DECISION MAKER WITH LIMITED INFORMATION

HOW DO WE CHANGE??

- MENTORING BY THE PROS
- BE A SKEPTIC
- BE A GOOD LISTENER
- NEVER STOP LEARNING
- TRAVEL WHEN YOU CAN BUT WITH AN “OPEN EYE AND EAR”
- BE PATIENT
 - MODIFIED CONDITIONS TOOK YEARS TO DEVELOP
 - MAY TAKE 20 YEARS TO GAIN RANGE OF EXPERIENCE
 - SLOW CHANGES CAN LEAD TO SUCCESS
 - YOU MAY HAVE TO OUTLIVE SOME

OPPORTUNITIES IN FORMAL EDUCATION

- MORE DIRECT EXPOSURE TO SYSTEMS WHETHER NATURAL OR MODIFIED
- MORE HANDS ON EXPERIENCE IN THE FIELD
- EDUCATION THAT INCLUDES EXPOSURE TO PHYSICAL AND CHEMICAL ASPECTS THAT DRIVE THE BIOLOGICAL CONDITION
- MORE EXPERIENCE IN THE APPLICATION OF LIMITED INFORMATION IN DECISION MAKING

EFFECTIVE APPLICATION OF INFORMATION OR SCIENTIFIC METHOD

- GETTING BEAVERS TO DO YOUR WORK
- SIMPLE EXPERIMENTS

Management strategies change across the gradient of alteration

Highly altered

Degree to which physical condition has been altered

Natural

Degree to which wetland processes have been altered

Highly altered

Increasing:

- Complexity
- Coordination
- Intellects required
- Management intensity

