Modeling watersheds affected by Groundwater
Case study- East Branch Croton River Watershed, Putnam Co, NY

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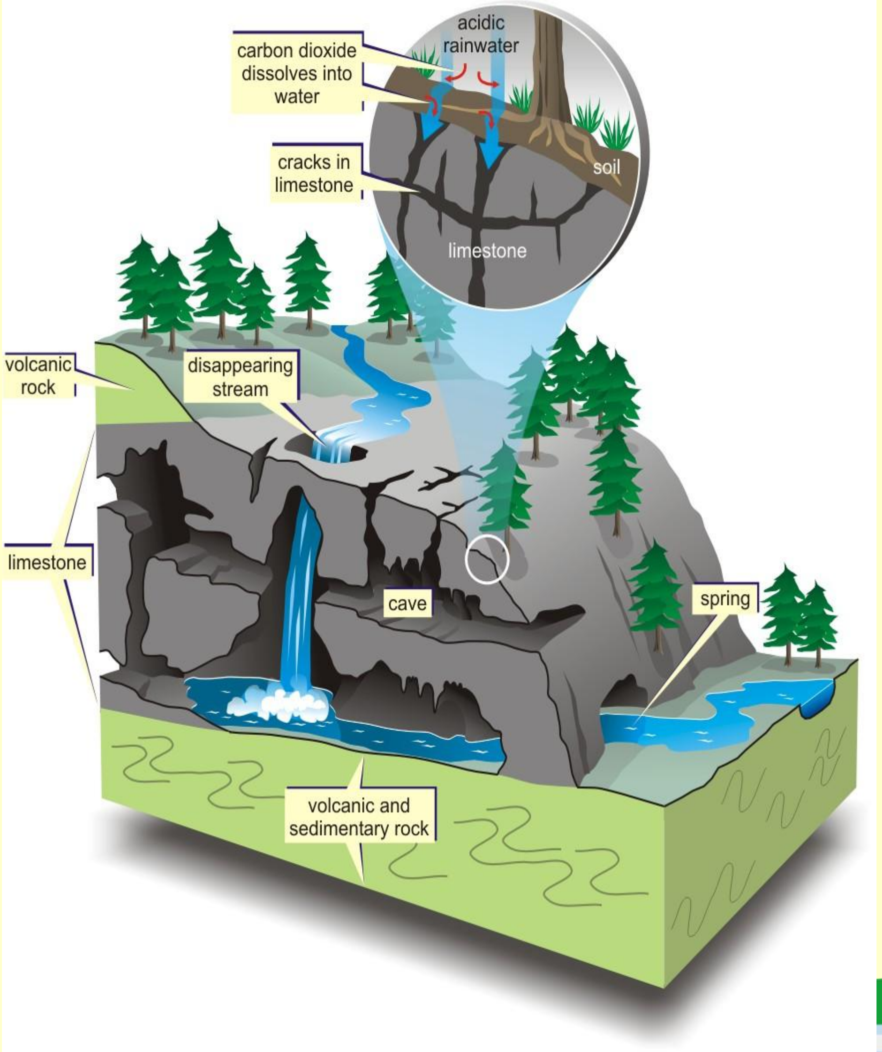
Outline

- Introduction- Karst Topography
- Runoff models
- Modeling Process in HECHMS
- Case study- EBCR watershed
- Modeling Challenges
- Results
- Conclusions

Karst Topography

- Landscape formed by the underground erosion of rocks such as limestone and marble that dissolve in water
- Subterranean drainage may cause very little surface water, also absence of all rivers and lakes
- Complex underground drainage systems like karst aquifers, extensive caves, cavern systems might form.
- In US Karst exists in 25-40% of the eastern US
- Subsurface Karst flow is not slow, especially during floods



Rainfall-Runoff models

- Rainfall Runoff model- Physical model describing the rainfall- runoff relation of a rainfall catchment area or watershed
- Mainly used for ungaged streams and urban watersheds
- The way the model behaves depends to a large extent upon the input data, rainfall.
- It is necessary to check the accuracy of results obtained.
- Usually done by calibrating the model against known storm events.

Case Study: East Branch Croton River Watershed, NY

Putnam Co. NY- Part of Croton River Watershed System

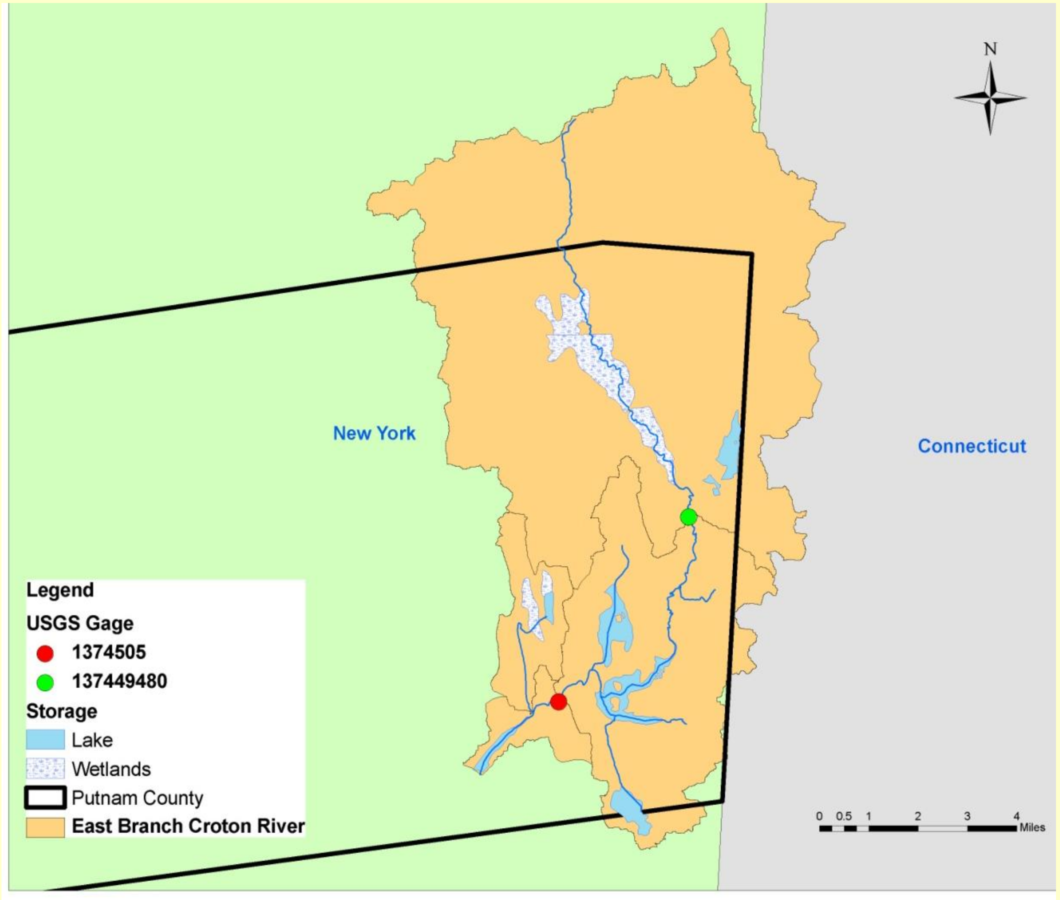
Part of New York City drinking water supply system

Approximately of 88 sq.mi Drainage area

Characterized by the presence of Carbonate layer and great swamp

There are several reservoirs situated in the watershed

Two USGS Gages (for calibration)



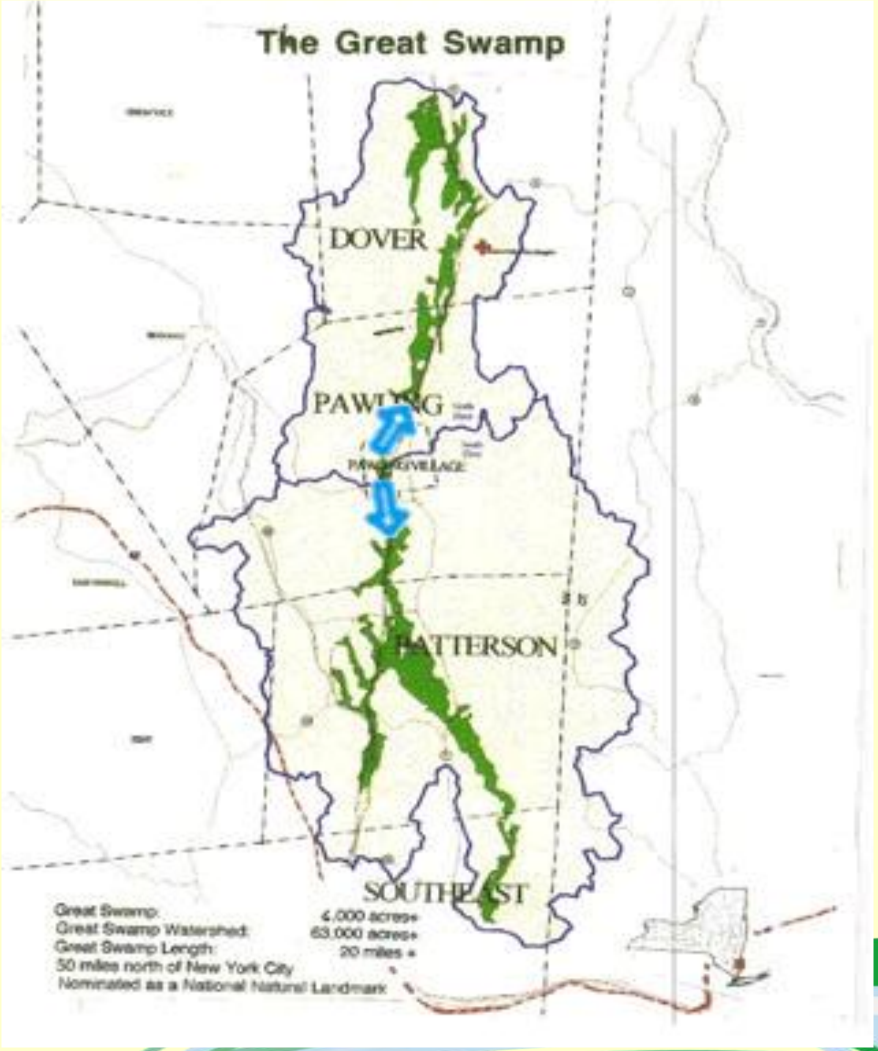
The Great Swamp in EBCR

Flows in two directions

1- North flows into Swamp River

2- South becomes East Branch Croton River watershed

Joins East Branch Croton Reservoir at the downstream



Modeling Approach:- Rainfall - Runoff

HEC-HMS Model

• Sub-basins = 45
• CN = 65 to 84

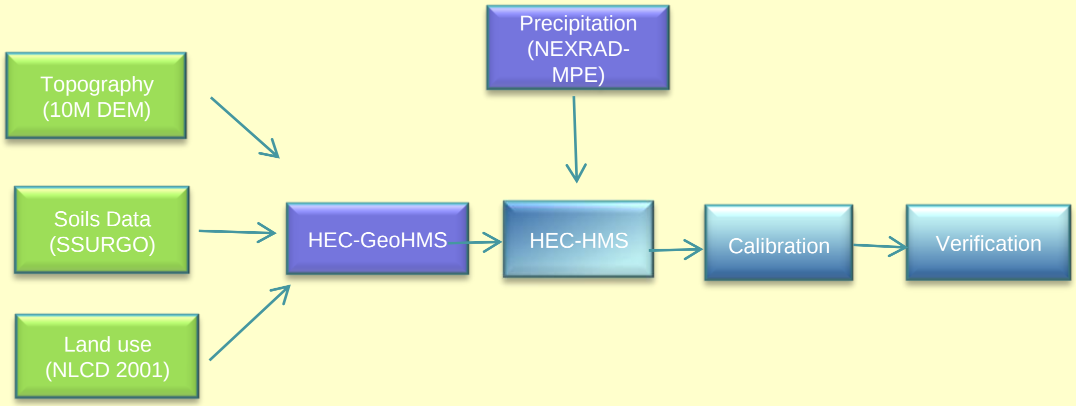
Methodology

•CN:- Based on Soil map and Landuse (SSURGO and NLCD)

•Lag time:- TR55 method

•Reservoir Routing:- (Twin Reservoir)

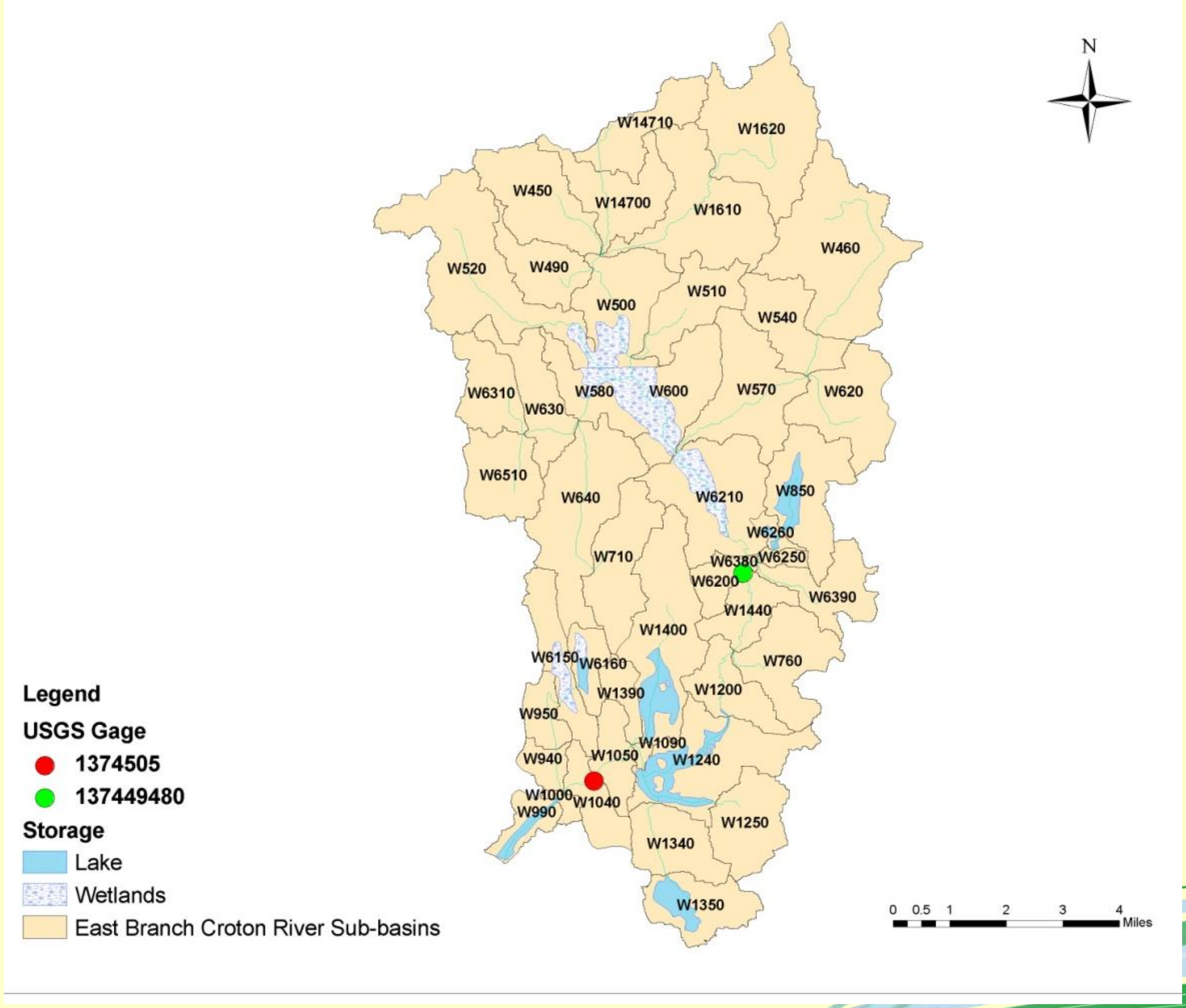
•Reach Routing:- Muskingum Cunge 8 point XS



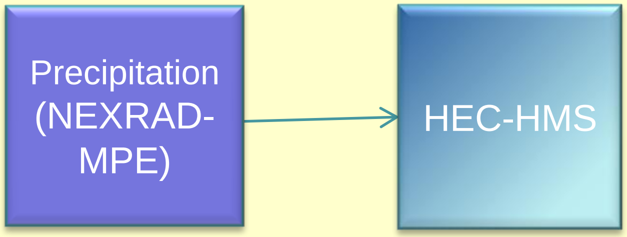
Calibration

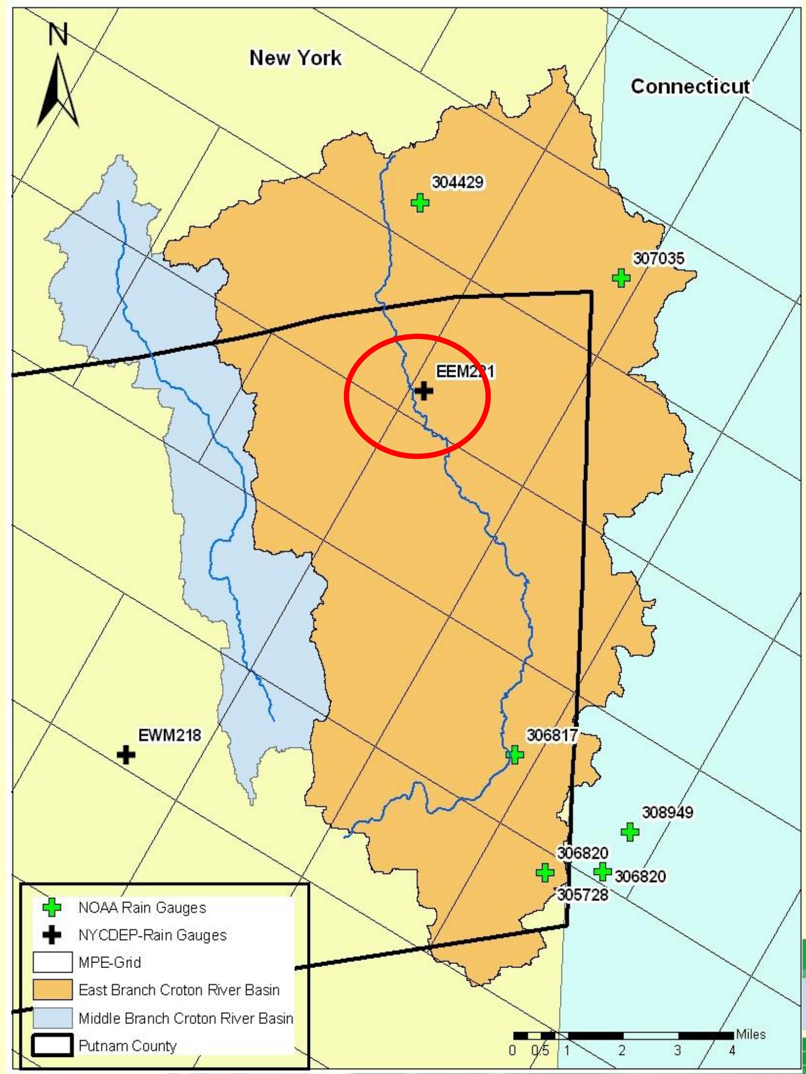
1.Sep 1999 (Calibration)
2.Apr 2007 (Verification)

Modeling Approach - Subbasins



Modeling Approach- Rainfall





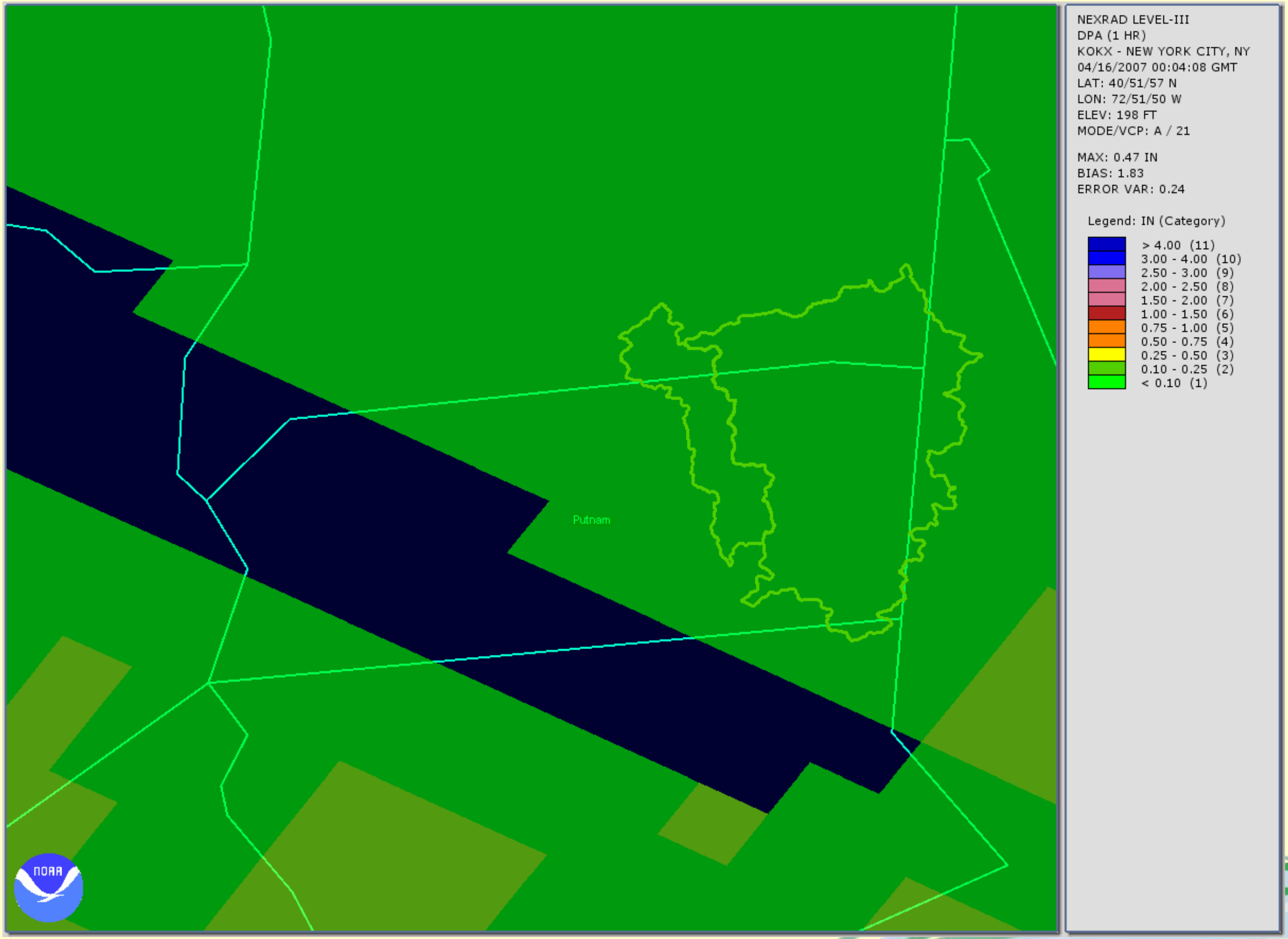
Two Precipitation sources

1. **NYCDEP Rain Gages**
2. **NEXRAD**

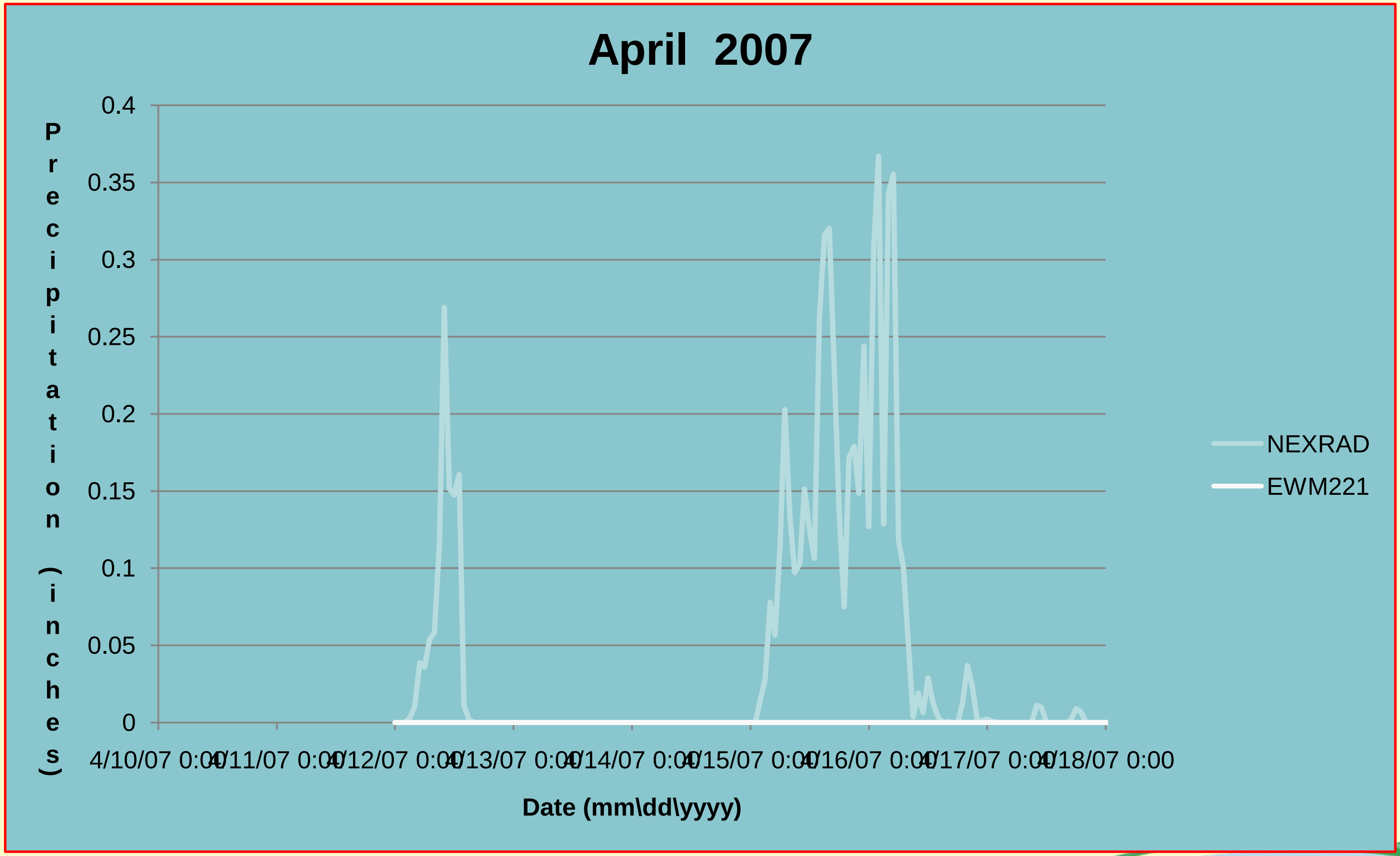
Binary NEXRAD was converted in to HEC-HMS ESRI Grid Time Series

Comparison of NYCDEP Rain gage, NEXRAD & NOAA Gages (no data)

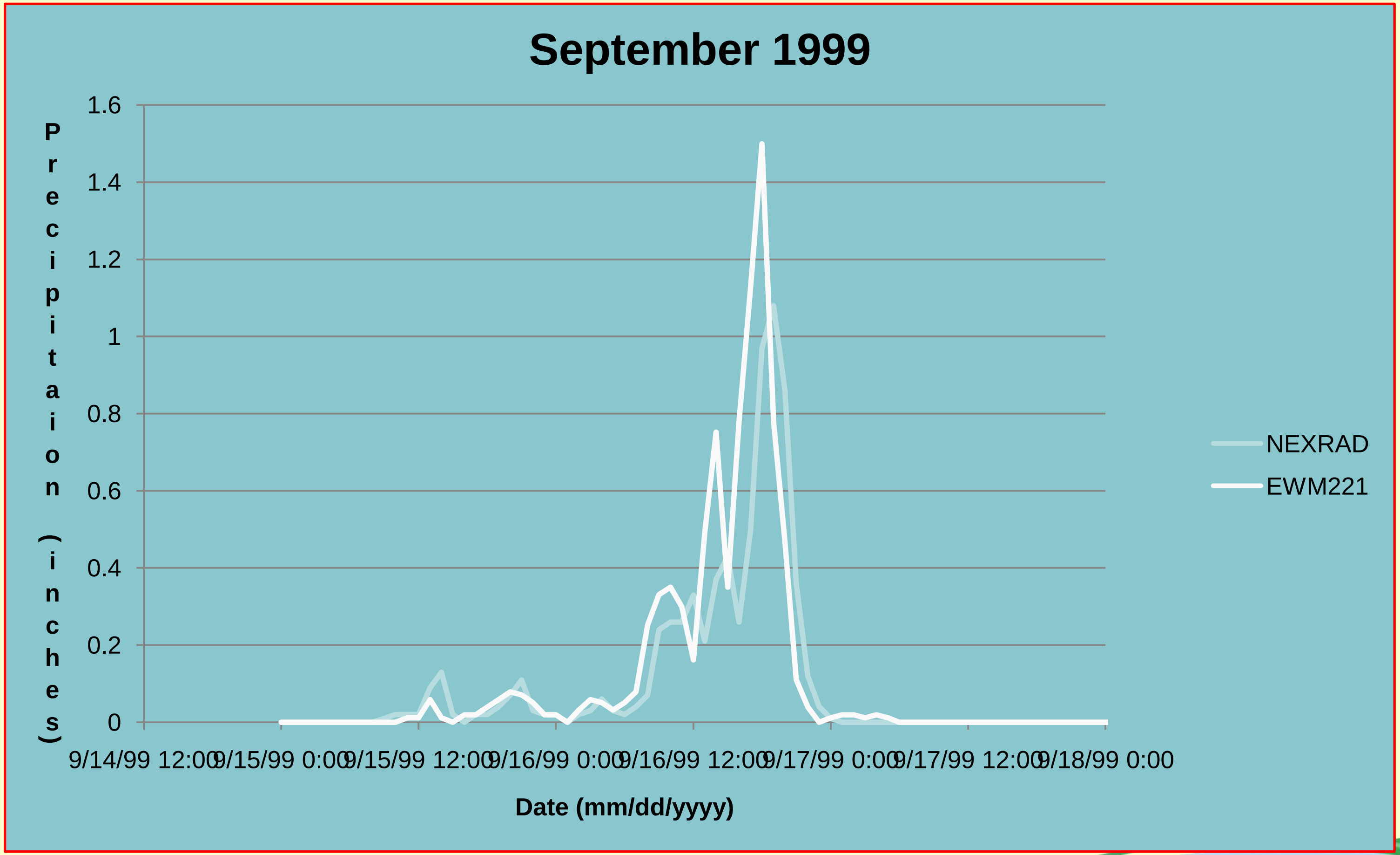
Modeling Approach- Rainfall



Modeling Approach- Rainfall



Modeling Approach- Rainfall



Initial Model Run

- Model Predicts higher discharge (>200%)
- Predicted time to peak occured before observed time to peak
- 64 sq.mi basin - ~2000 cfs (low yield)

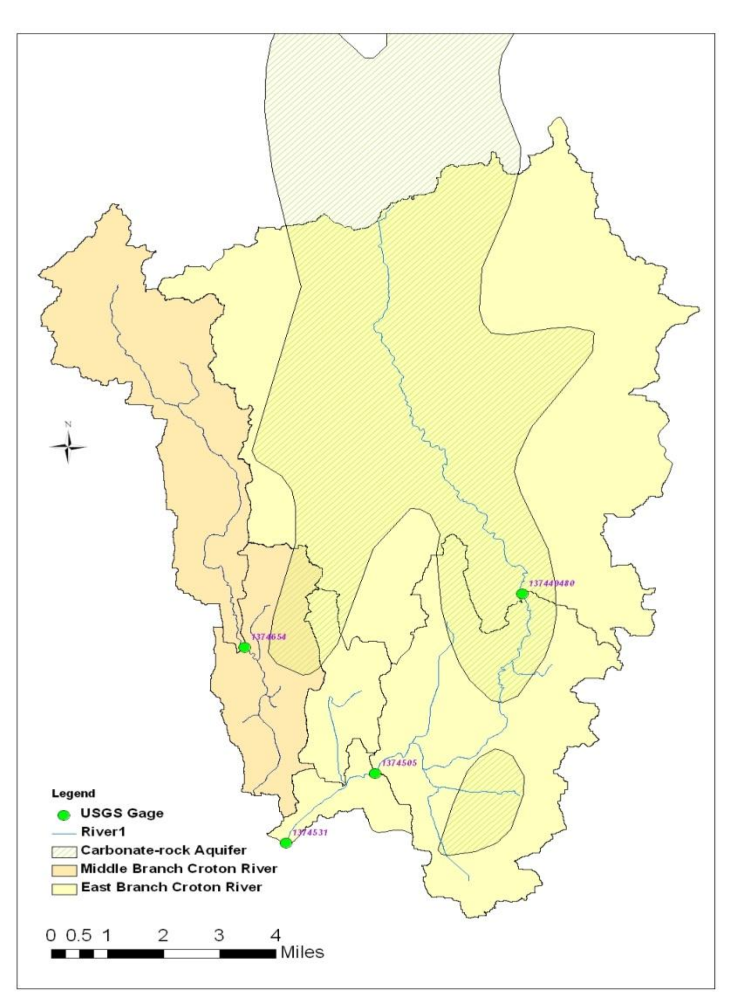
Calibration Issues

- Issues
  - Presence of Carbonate layer
  - Effect of Great Swamp

Modeling Challenges- Calibration
1. Carbonate Layer

Has an effect of storage and recharge

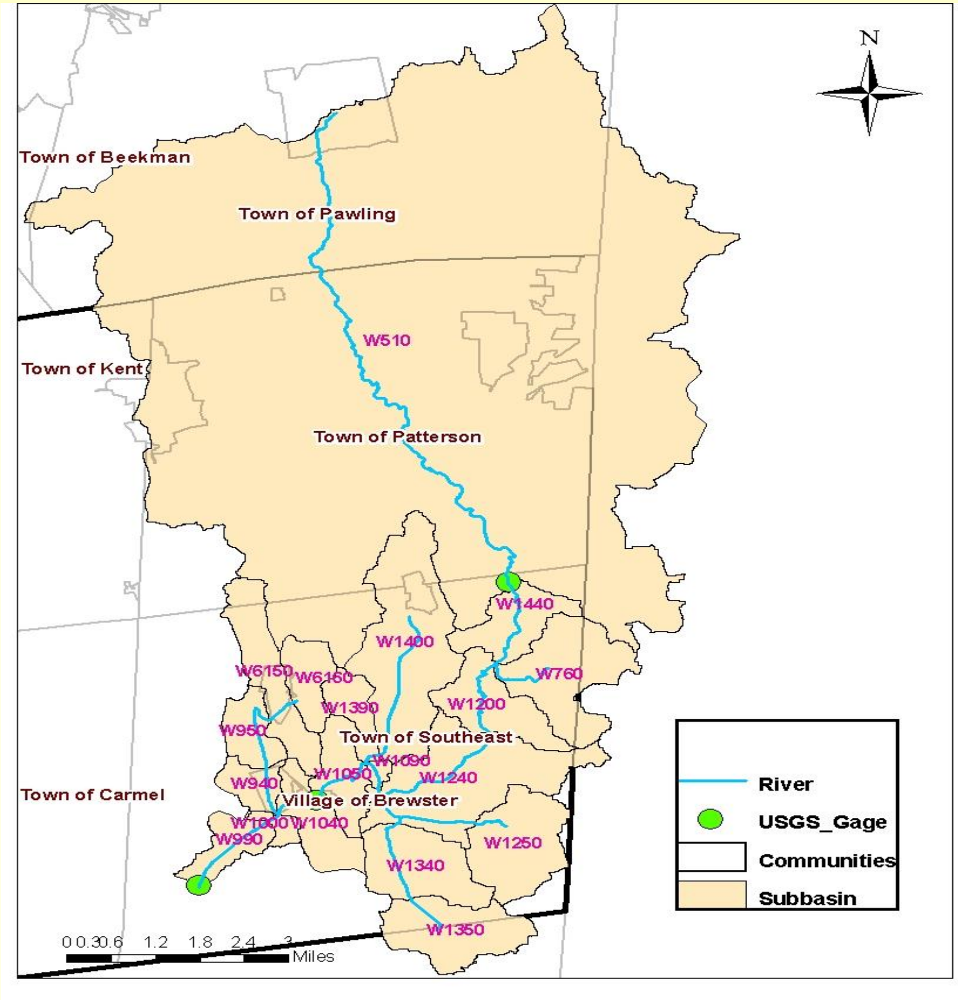
Is above the scope of HEC-HMS



Modeling Challenges- Calibration
2. The Great swamp

Cannot be just reflected by Reach Routing only

Combined effect of carbonate layer and great swamp was represented by Unit Hydrograph

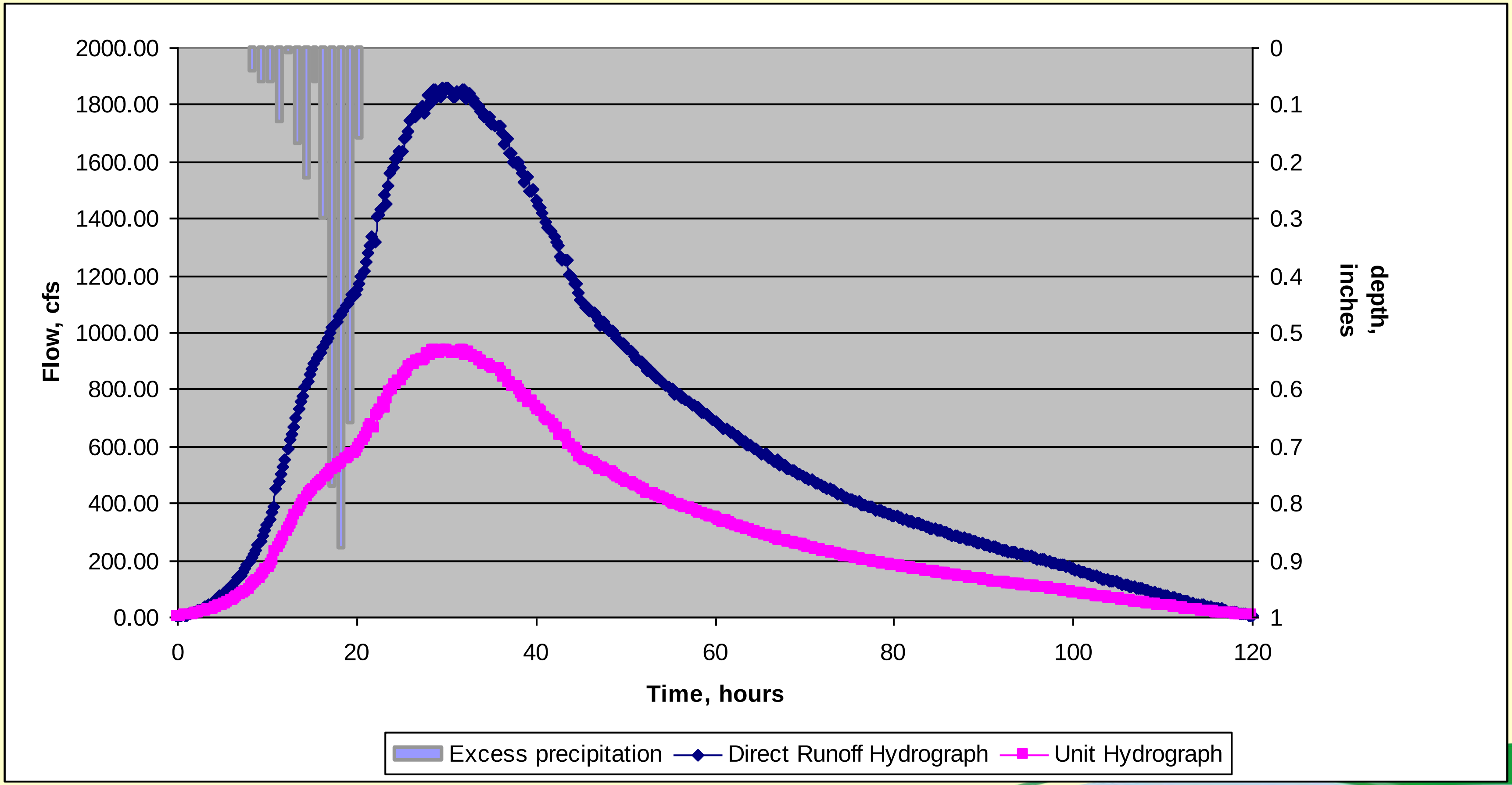


Unit Hydrograph Approach

- Defined as the direct runoff hydrograph resulting from 1in of excess rainfall

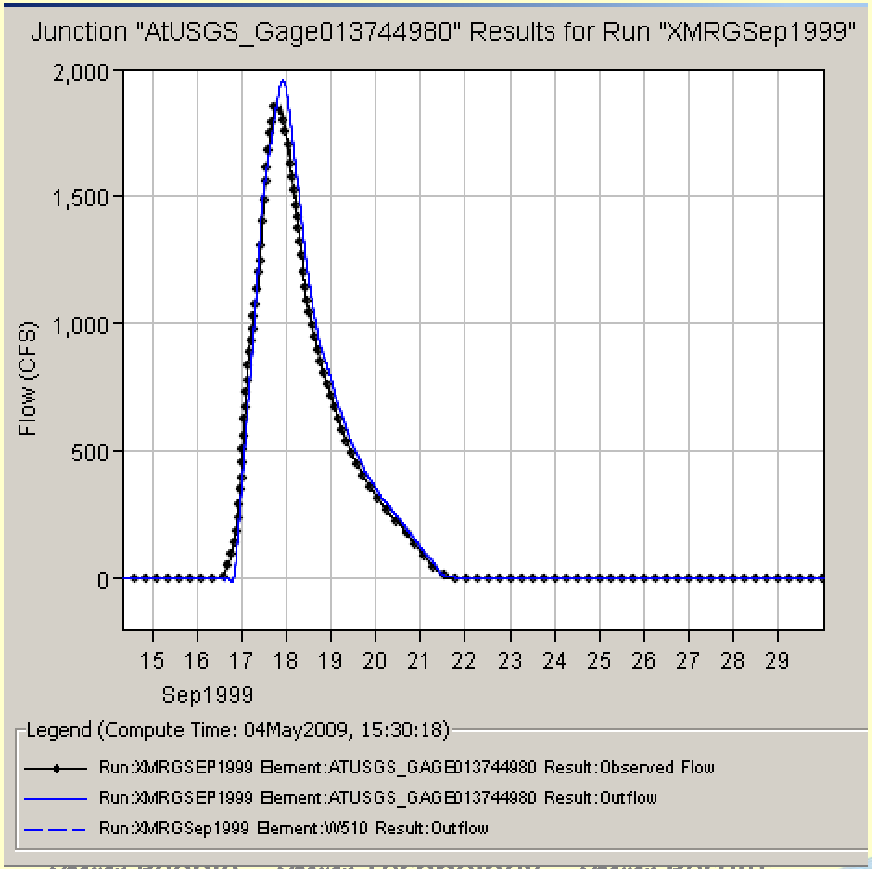
  The essential steps in deriving a unit hydrograph from a single storm are:
- Separate the base flow and obtain the direct runoff hydrograph.
- Compute the total volume of direct runoff. Convert this volume into equivalent depth (in inches or in centimeters) over the entire basin.
- Normalize the direct runoff hydrograph by dividing each ordinate by the equivalent volume (in or cm) of direct runoff (or effective rainfall).
- Compute effective rainfall and associated duration of the effective rainfall hyetograph. This duration is the duration associated with the unit hydrograph.
- Unit hydrographs are intimately linked with the duration of the effective rainfall event producing them. They can only be used to predict direct runoff from storms of the same duration as that associated with the UH.

Unit Hydrograph Approach



Modeling Result
1- Up stream Gage

Comparison of Simulated and Observed Direct Runoff Hydrographs at USGS Gage 013744980 for September 1999 Flood Event



Project: EBCrotonRiver
Simulation Run: XMRGSep1999 Junction: AtUSGS_Gage013744980

Start of Run: 14Sep1999, 08:00 Basin Model: 1999CalibrationModel
End of Run: 30Sep1999, 00:00 Meteorologic Model: XMRG
Compute Time: 04May2009, 15:30:18 Control Specifications: XMRG_Sep1999

Volume Units: IN AC-FT

Computed Results

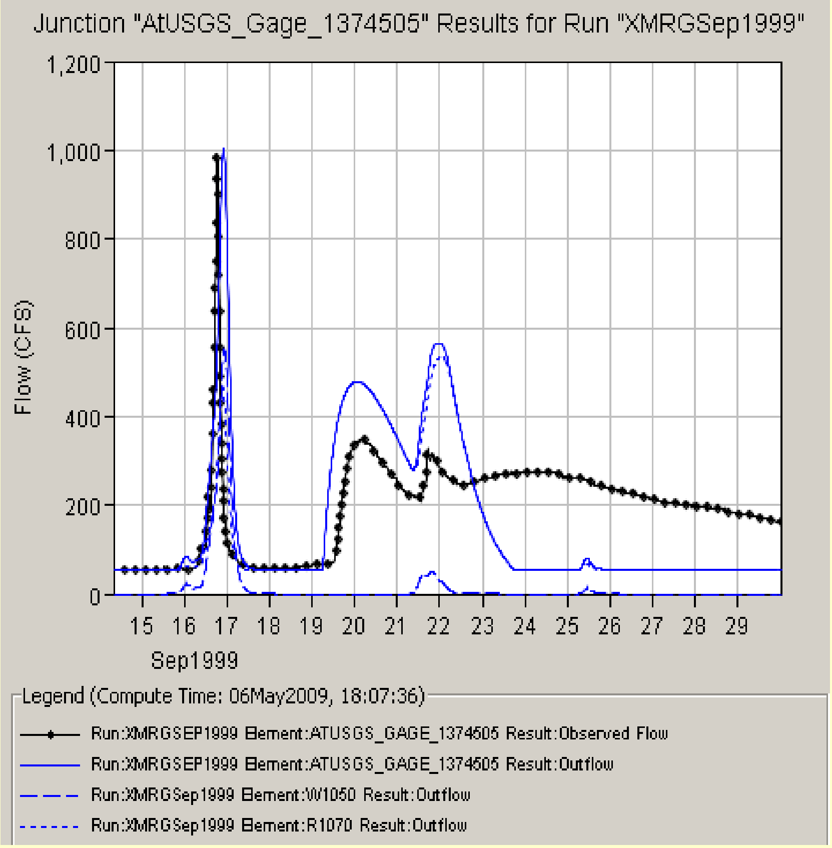
Peak Outflow : 1955.7 (CFS) Date/Time of Peak Outflow : 17Sep1999, 22:15
Total Outflow : 2.08 (IN)

Observed Hydrograph at Gage USGSGage9480

Peak Discharge : 1860.20 (CFS) Date/Time of Peak Discharge : 17Sep1999, 18:30
Avg Abs Residual : 19.28 (CFS)
Total Residual : 0.09 (IN) Total Obs Q : 1.98 (IN)

Modeling Result
2- Down Stream Gage

Comparison of Simulated Versus Observed Discharge at USGS Gage 01374505 for September 1999 Flood Event



Project: EBCrotonRiver
Simulation Run: XMRGSep1999 Junction: AtUSGS_Gage_1374505

Start of Run: 14Sep1999, 08:00
End of Run: 30Sep1999, 00:00
Compute Time: 06May2009, 18:07:36

Basin Model: 1999CalibrationModel
Meteorologic Model: XMRG
Control Specifications: XMRG_Sep1999

Volume Units: (•) IN ( ) AC-FT

Computed Results

Peak Outflow : 1001.6 (CFS)
Date/Time of Peak Outflow : 16Sep1999, 22:00
Total Outflow : 1.16 (IN)

Observed Hydrograph at Gage USGSGage505

Peak Discharge : 982.00 (CFS)
Date/Time of Peak Discharge : 16Sep1999, 18:30
Avg Abs Residual : 123.93 (CFS)
Total Residual : -0.21 (IN)
Total Obs Q : 1.38 (IN)

Conclusions

- Careful investigation of watershed characteristics is important during calibration

- Systematic approach where watershed is impacted by groundwater (ex. Unit Hydrograph)

Questions

Thank you!