AGENDA

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

Aquifer Stabilization Committee Meeting No. 2-22
Monday, August 1, 2022
1:00 p.m. (MT)

Water Center
Conference Rooms 602 C&D / Online Zoom Meeting
322 E. Front St.
BOISE

Board Members & the Public may participate via Zoom
Click here to join our Zoom Meeting
Dial in Option: 1(253) 215-8782
Meeting ID: 860 6774 2031 Passcode: 352695

1. Introductions and Attendance
2. ESPA Aquifer Storage Update
3. ESPA Springs & Reach Gains Update
4. ESPA Aquifer Impacts
5. SWC Agreement Update
6. IWRB ESPA Recharge Program Comments from Partners
7. Other Items
8. Adjourn

Committee Members: Chair Dean Stevenson, Al Barker, Pete Van Der Meulen, and Brian Olmstead

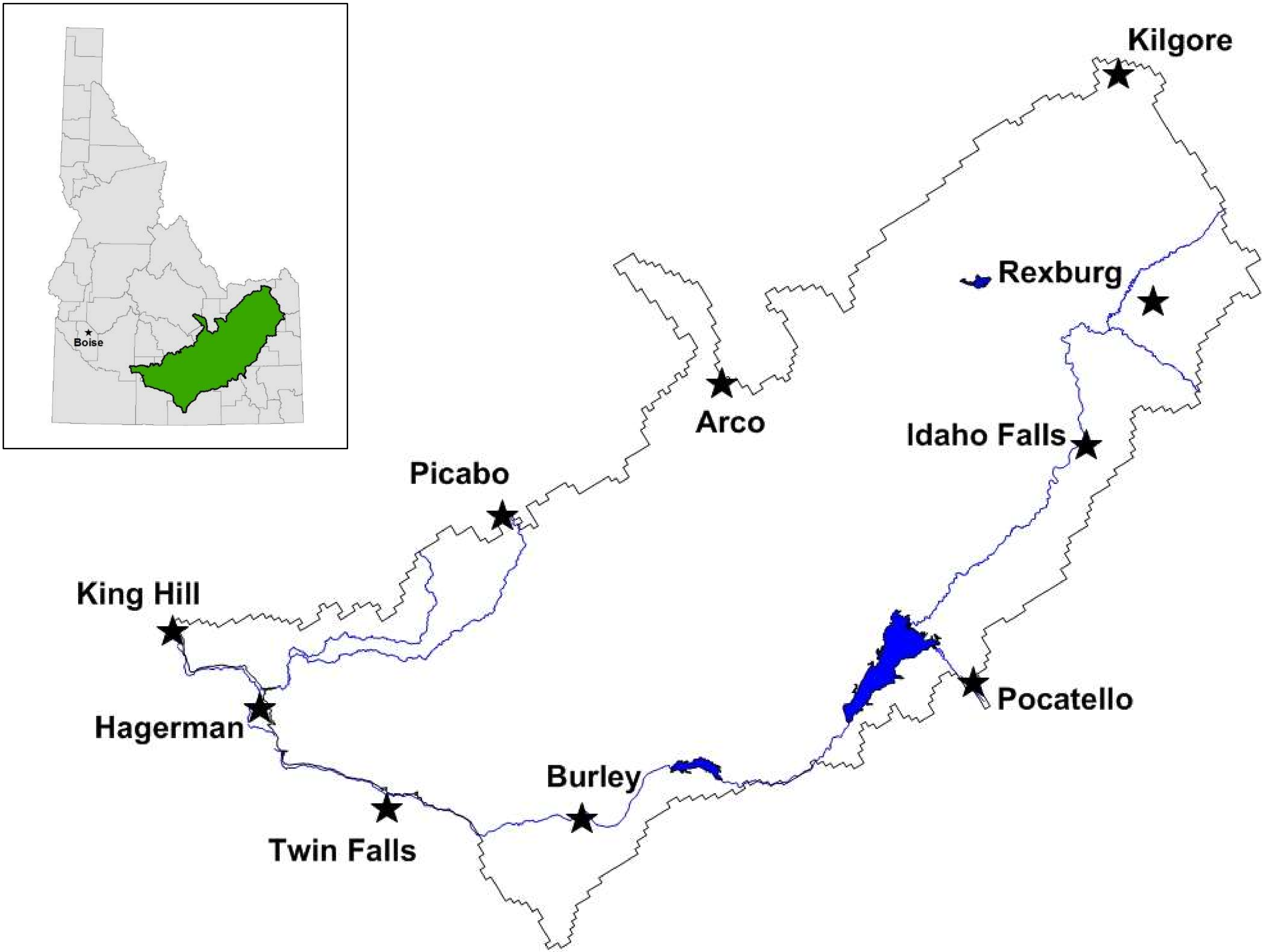
* Action Item: A vote regarding this item may be made this meeting. Identifying an item as an action item on the agenda does not require a vote to be taken on the item.

Americans with Disabilities
The meeting will be held telephonically. If you require special accommodations to attend, participate in, or understand the meeting, please make advance arrangements by contacting Department staff by email jennifer.strange@idwr.idaho.gov or by phone at (208) 287-4800.

ESPA Storage Changes

Presented by Mike McVay, P.E., P.G.

August 1, 2022



Boise
Kilgore
Rexburg
Arco
Idaho Falls
Picabo
King Hill
Hagerman
Pocatello
Burley
Twin Falls

IDAHO Water Resource Board

Aquifer Water Balance

Inflow – Outflow = ΔStorage

ESPA Inflows = Incidental recharge from SW irrigation, Canal Seepage, Perched River Seepage, Tributary Underflow, Precipitation.

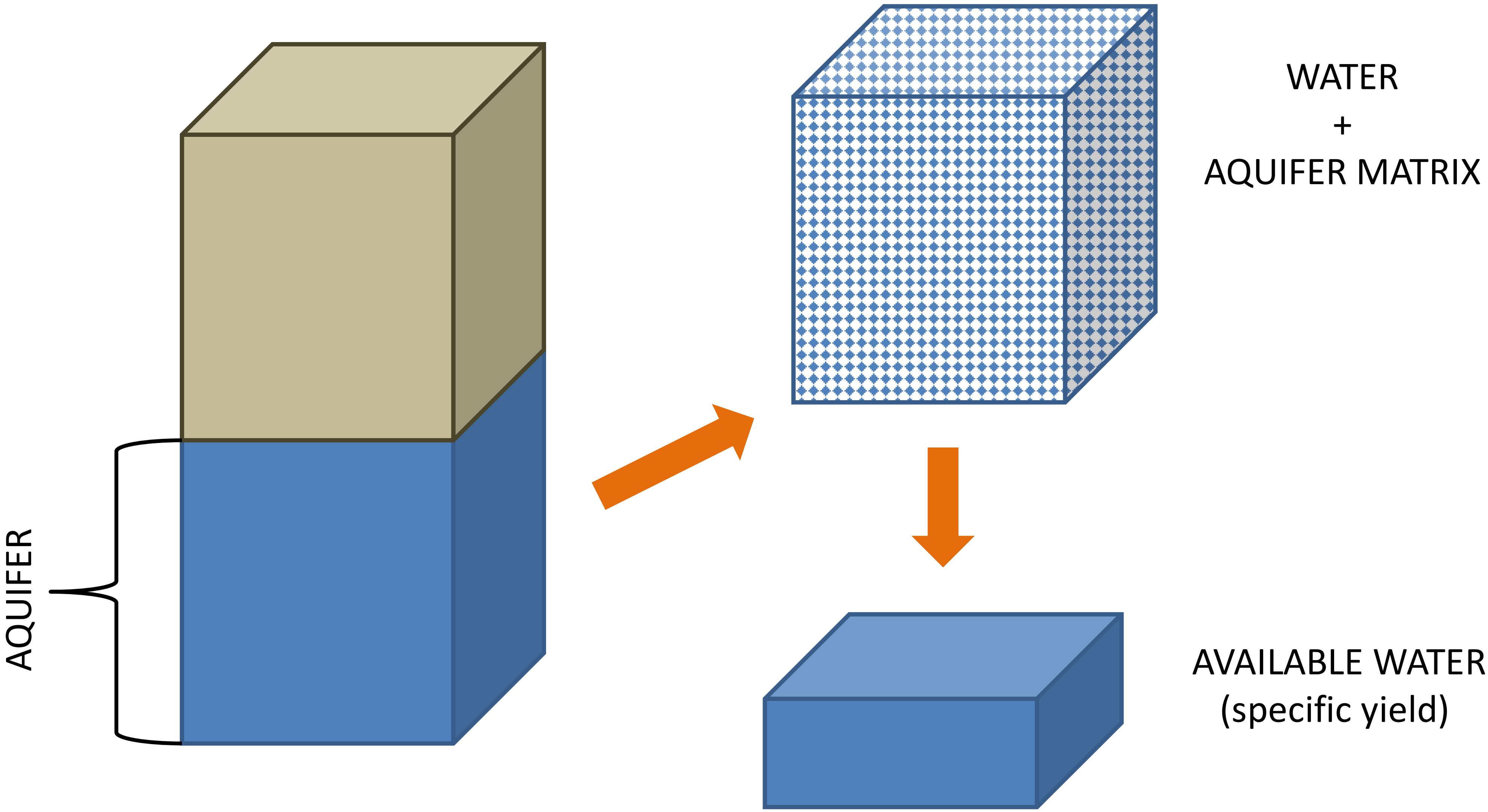
ESPA Outflows = Evapotranspiration, Spring Discharge, Well Pumping

- Requires large investment of time, money and effort.
- A more efficient method of calculating change-in-storage allows us to evaluate both aquifer conditions and aquifer management activities.
- Direct calculation of change-in-storage using water-level measurements.

Using Water-Level Data to Estimate Changes in Aquifer Storage

- Water-level changes are calculated for each of the wells.
- Changes at the wells are interpolated across the ESPAM version 2.2 (ESPAM2.2) model area to create water-level change maps.
  - The resulting volume represents water and aquifer matrix.
- The volumes calculated above are multiplied by the average, calibrated Sy from EPAM2.2 to calculate the change in volume of water.
- Specific Yield (Sy) is the ratio of the volume of water that drains from a saturated rock due to gravity to the total volume of the rock.

Specific Yield = Available Water

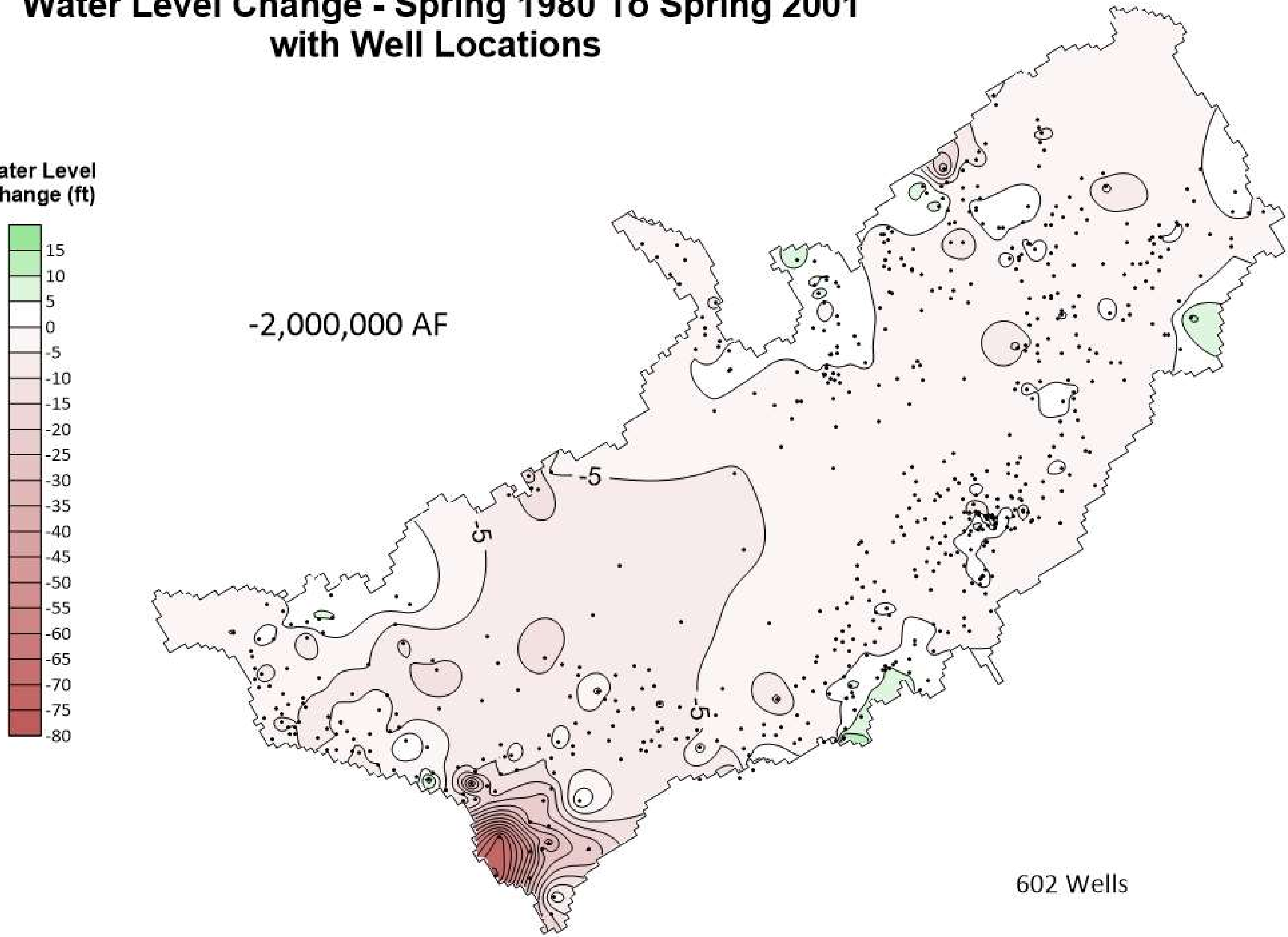


Mass Measurements and Aquifer Storage Changes

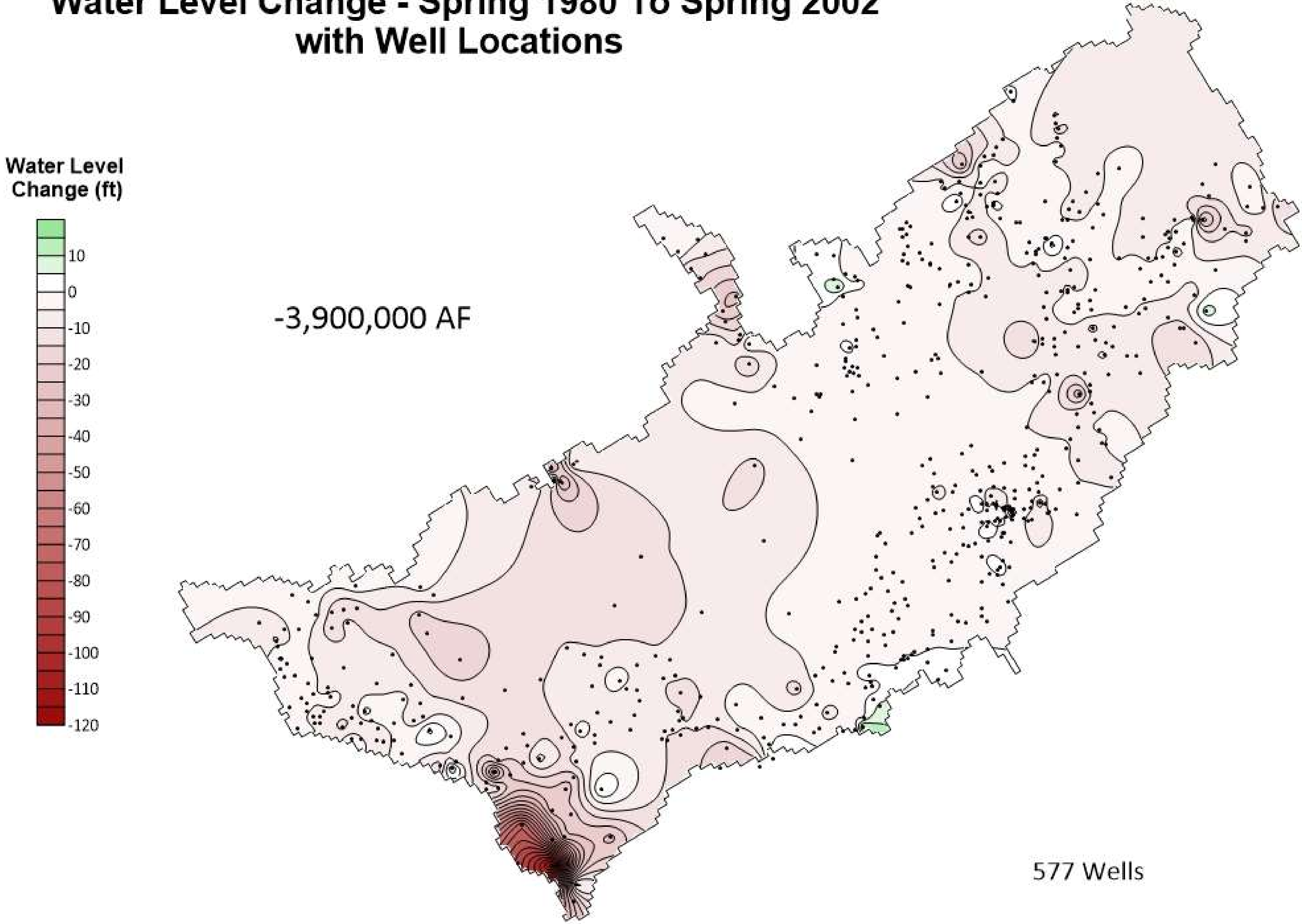
- Storage change calculations are based on data collected during mass measurement events.
- Mass measurement events are designed to collect as much data as possible during a brief window of time.
  - Provides a snapshot of the aquifer.
- Previous mass measurement events took place in the spring of 1980, 2001, 2002, 2008, 2013, 2018, and are now conducted every 5 years.

Mass Measurement Change Maps

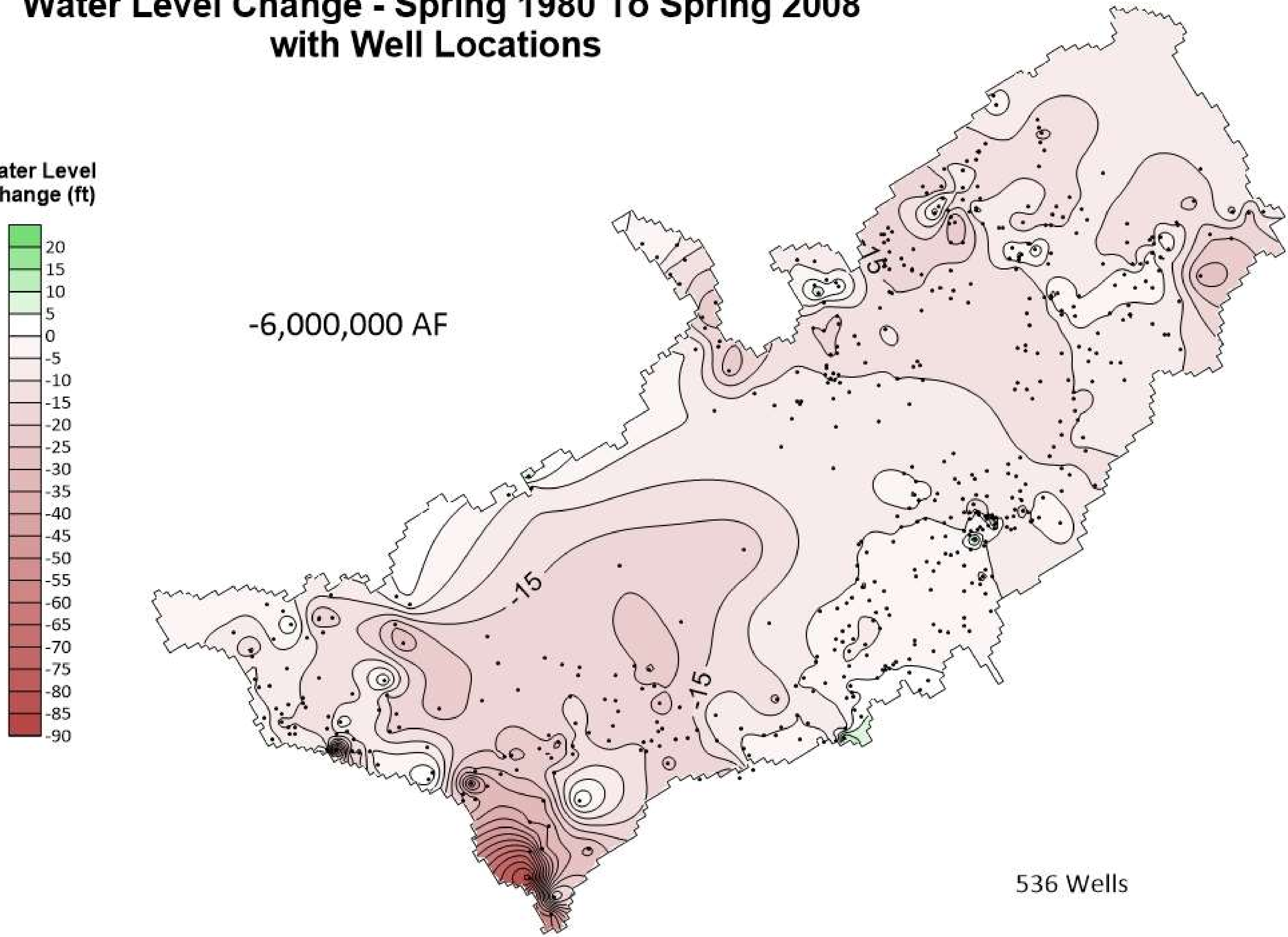
Water Level Change - Spring 1980 To Spring 2001 with Well Locations



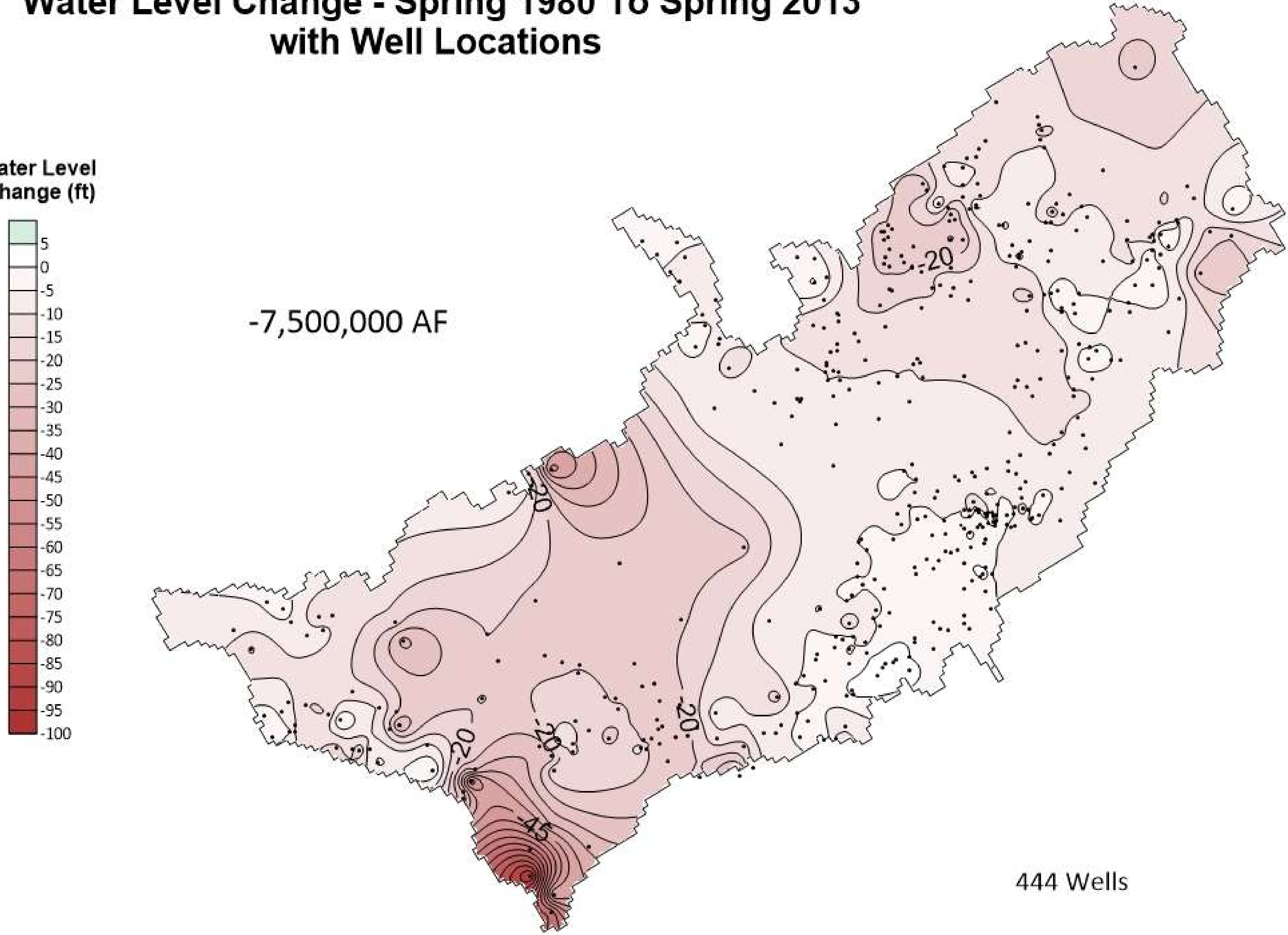
Water Level Change - Spring 1980 To Spring 2002 with Well Locations



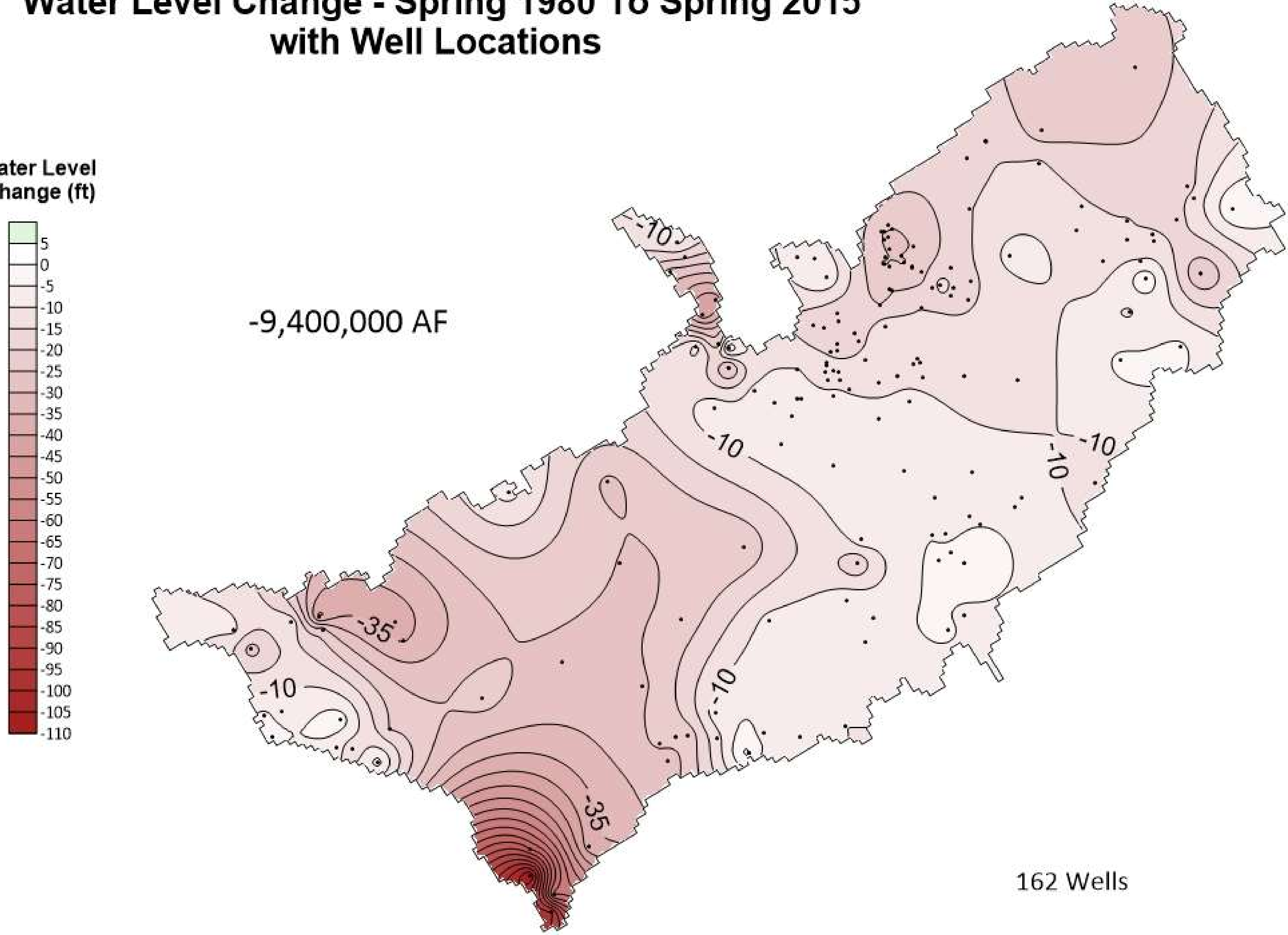
Water Level Change - Spring 1980 To Spring 2008 with Well Locations



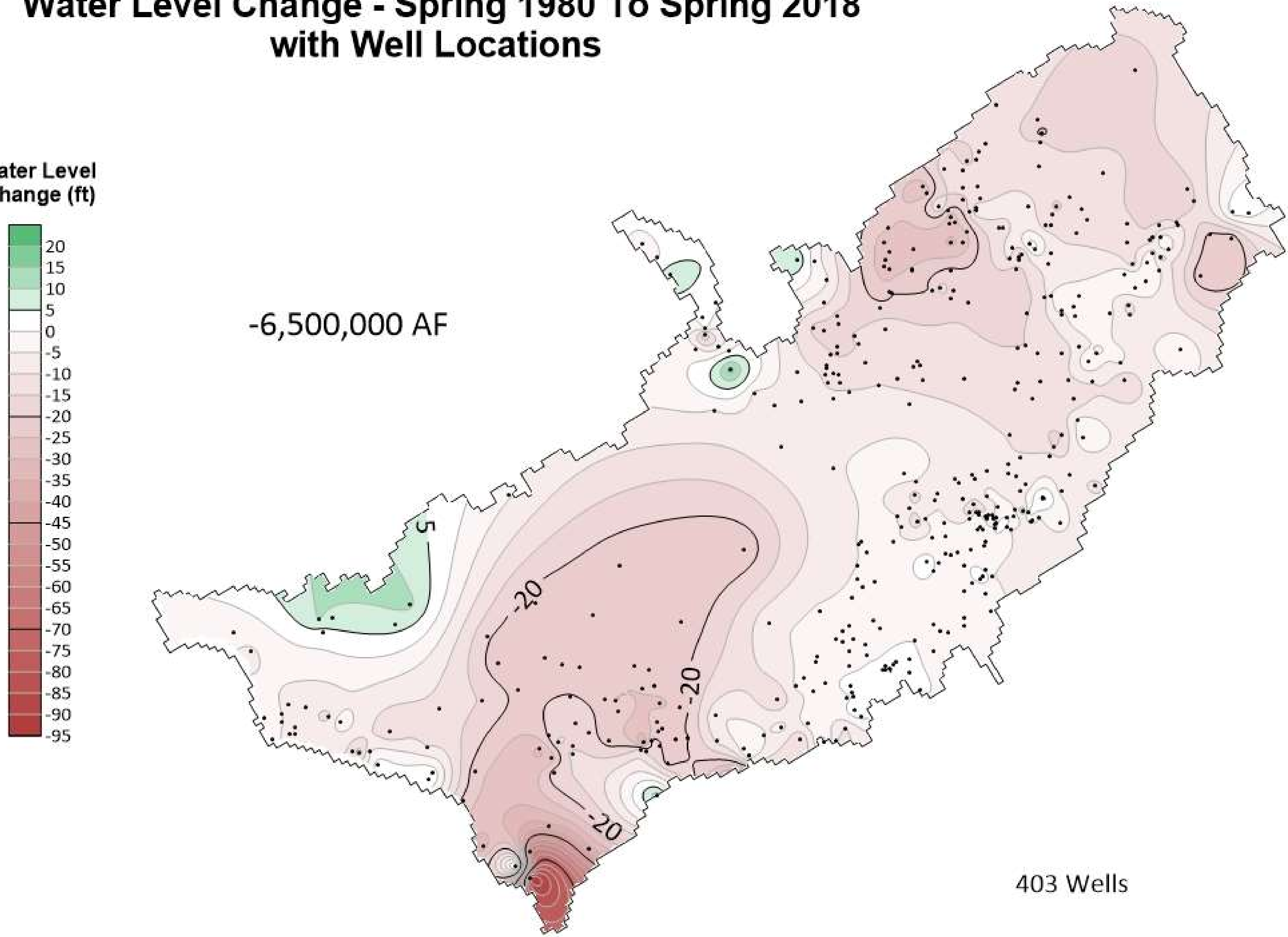
Water Level Change - Spring 1980 To Spring 2013 with Well Locations

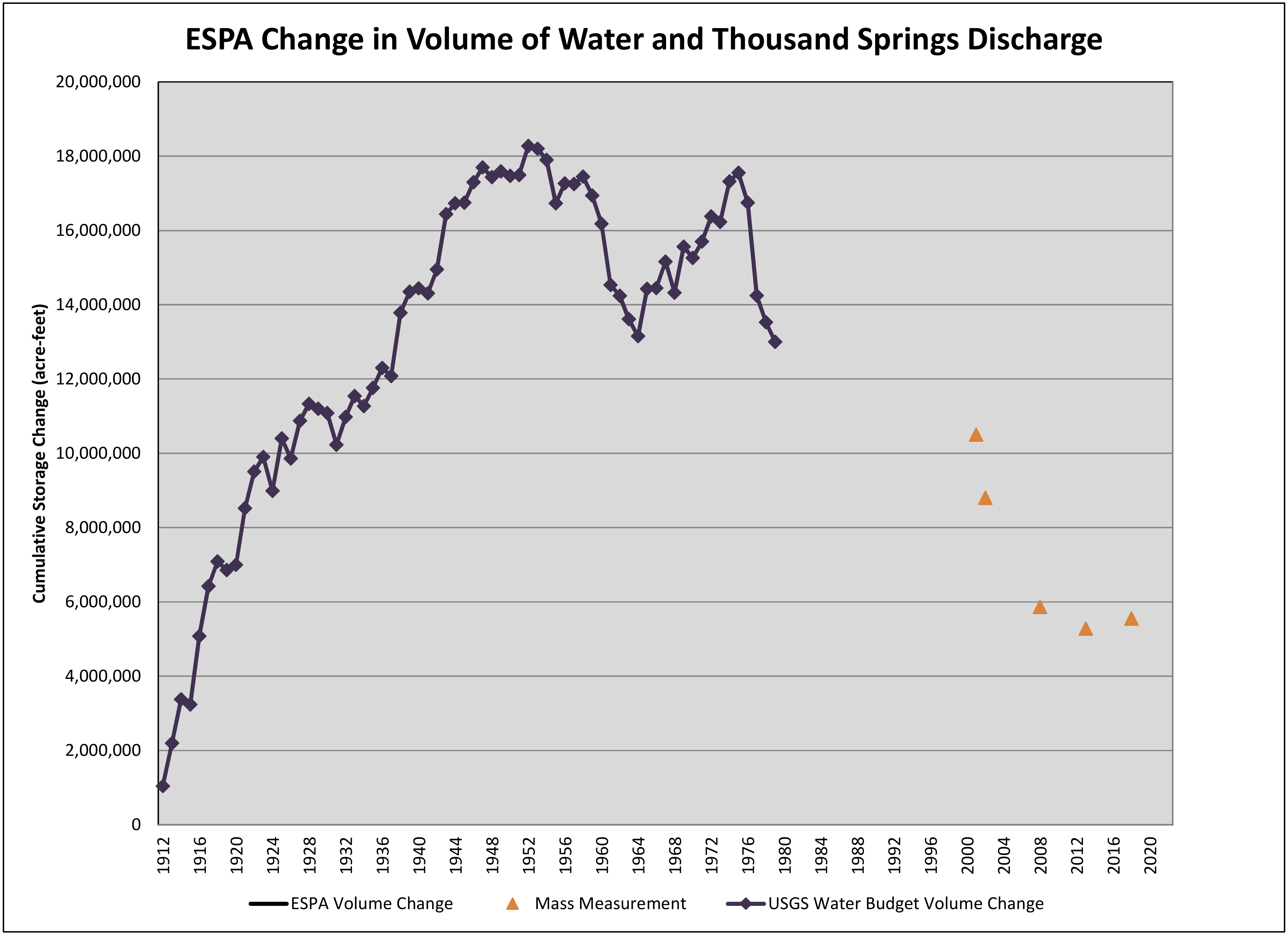


Water Level Change - Spring 1980 To Spring 2015 with Well Locations



Water Level Change - Spring 1980 To Spring 2018 with Well Locations




ESPA Change in Volume of Water and Thousand Springs Discharge
Cumulative Storage Change (acre-feet)
20,000,000
18,000,000
16,000,000
14,000,000
12,000,000
10,000,000
8,000,000
6,000,000
4,000,000
2,000,000
0
1912
1916
1920
1924
1928
1932
1936
1940
1944
1948
1952
1956
1960
1964
1968
1972
1976
1980
1984
1988
1992
1996
2000
2004
2008
2012
2016
2020
ESPA Volume Change
Mass Measurement
USGS Water Budget Volume Change

Storage Change between Mass Measurements

- Changes based on mass-measurement events give a general indication of the volume of water stored in the aquifer;
  - However, it is difficult to make management decisions with only this information.
- Hundreds of wells are measured in the spring each year.
  - Historically, these measurements were taken as time and conditions allowed.
- Since the spring of 2016, IDWR has been conducting coordinated measurement of the ESPA well network every spring to facilitate storage-change calculations.

Rationale for using Spring-Season Water Levels

- Conducting measurement events in the spring:
  - Maximizes the time between irrigation seasons.
  - Integrates the impacts due to irrigation-season activities into a resulting condition (annual aquifer storage change).
  - Pre-irrigation measurements reduce the impact of local water use on water levels (unperturbed water table).
- Managed recharge impacts water levels, and these impacts need to be addressed in the storage-change calculations.

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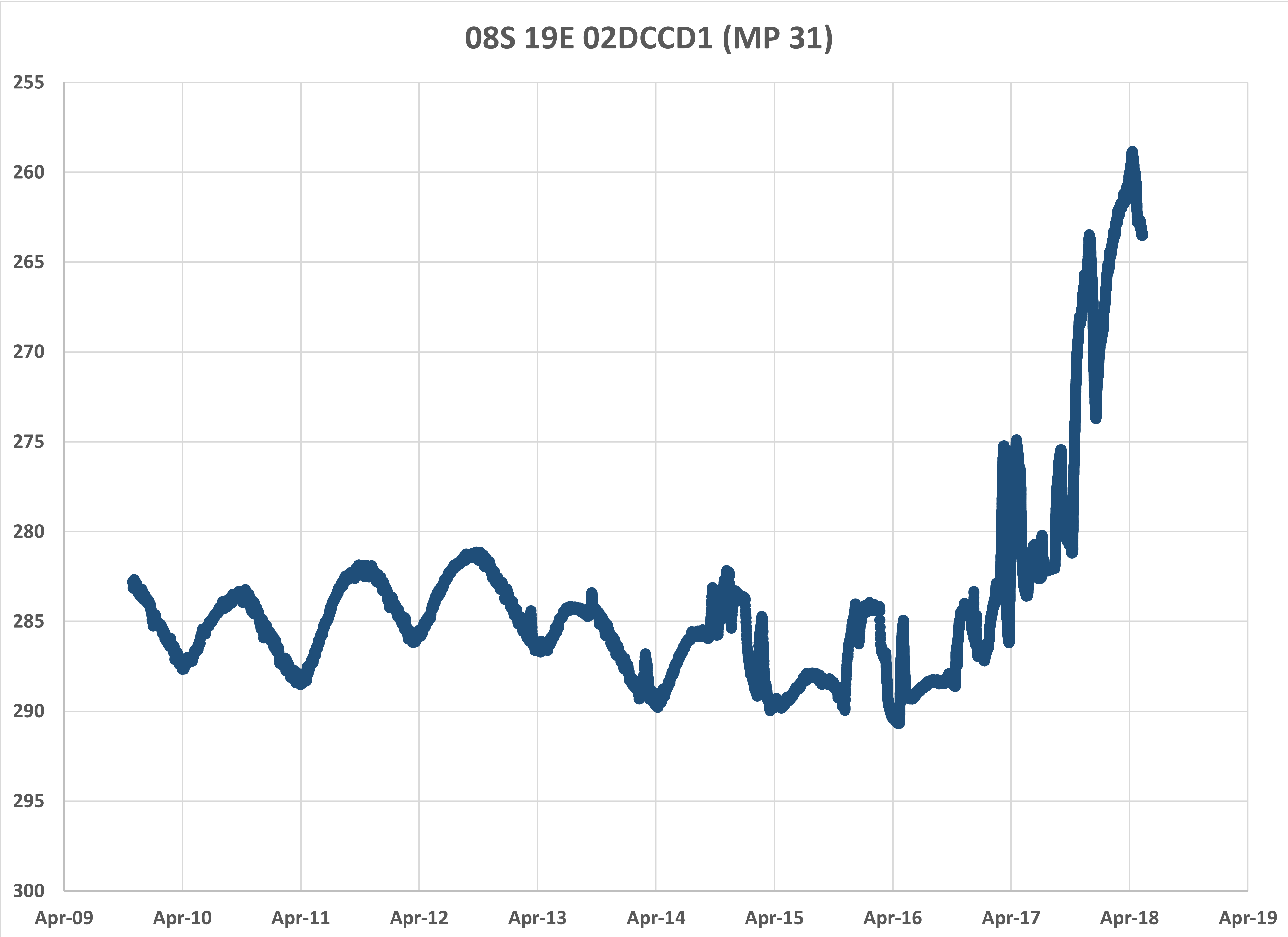
Water Levels Impacted by Managed Recharge

- Recharge is a real, regional water-budget component.
- Water levels that are impacted by managed recharge **must be included**.
- We need to avoid over-estimating storage changes by excluding water levels that respond too strongly to recharge.
    - Any approach used to determine which data to include/exclude requires a subjective decision.
    - There is no direct answer as to whether water-level responses to recharge appropriately represent water-budget change



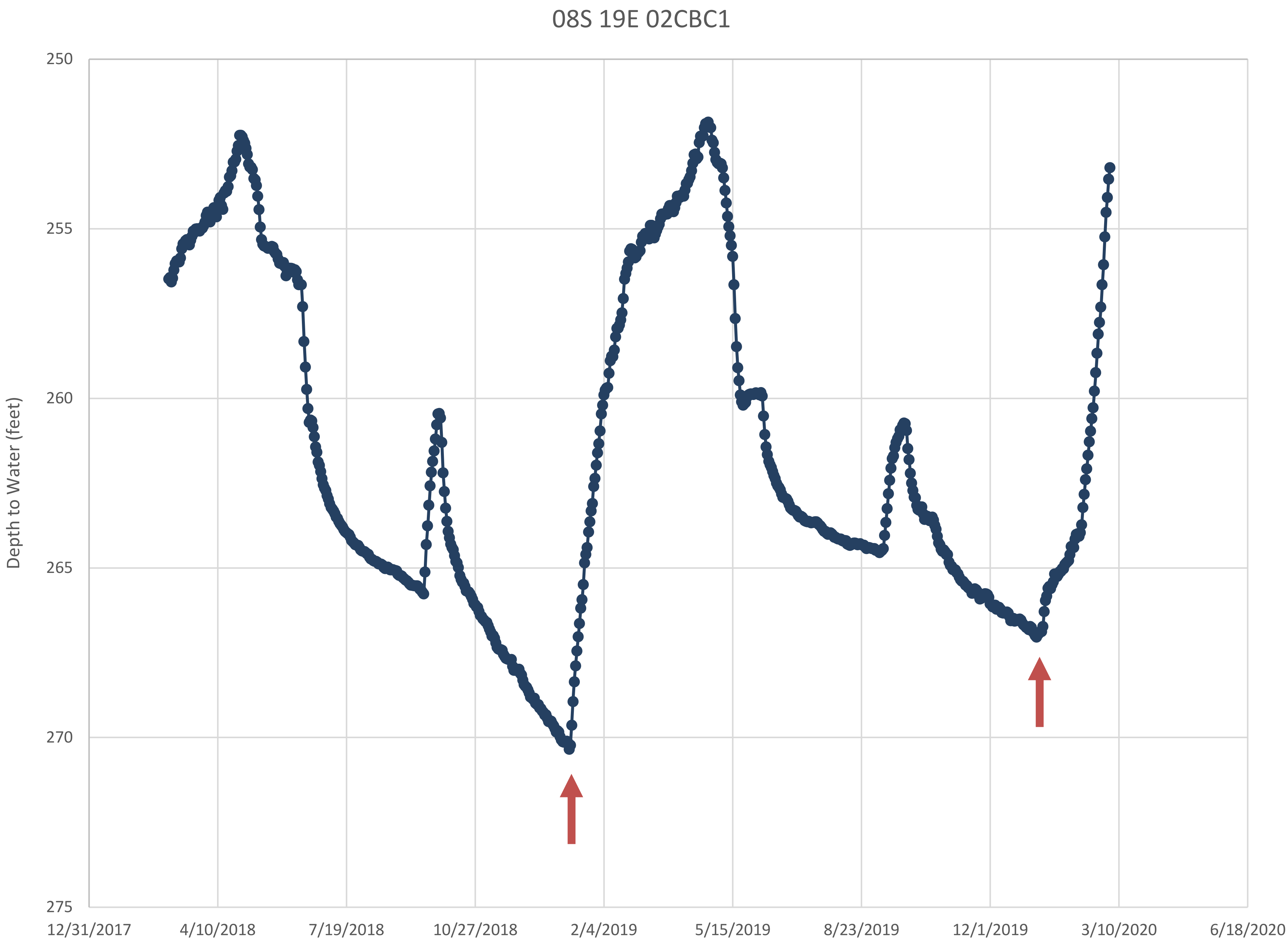
08S 19E 02DCCD1 (MP 31)
255
260
265
270
275
280
285
290
295
300
Apr-09
Apr-10
Apr-11
Apr-12
Apr-13
Apr-14
Apr-15
Apr-16
Apr-17
Apr-18
Apr-19

Choosing Wells in Proximity to Managed Recharge

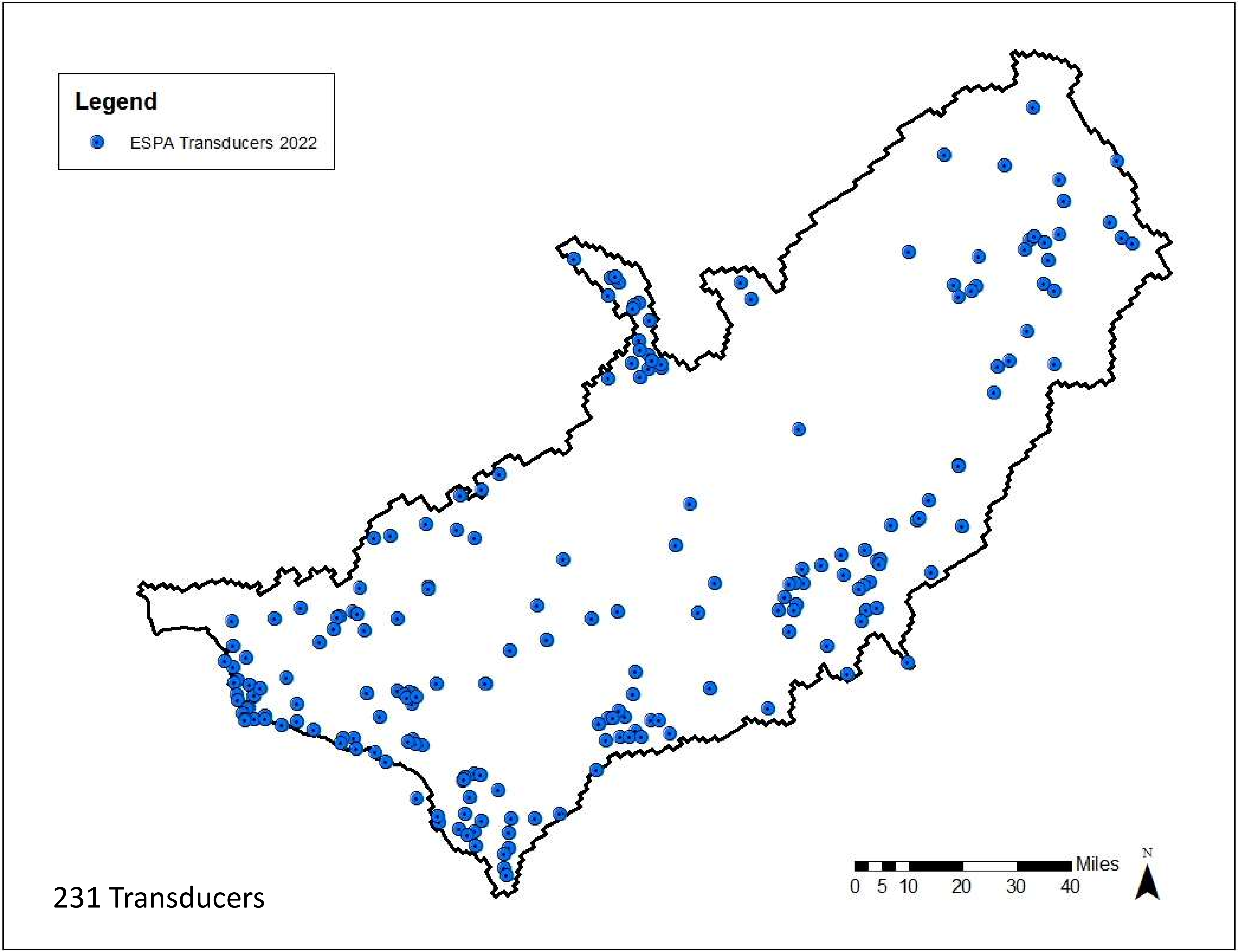
- ESPAM2.2 is a regional model.
  - The model area is broken into one-mile grid cells.
  - The model simulation period is divvied into one-month stress periods.
- Because we are calculating regional impacts, I have used the ESPAM2.2 discretization to include/exclude wells.
  - Exclude wells that are less than one mile from a recharge location.
  - For wells > one mile from recharge, exclude water levels that occur less than 30 days after an obvious recharge event –
  - Not all recharge locations are known, and not all water-level data are sufficient for these choices.

The Value of Transducer-Data Loggers

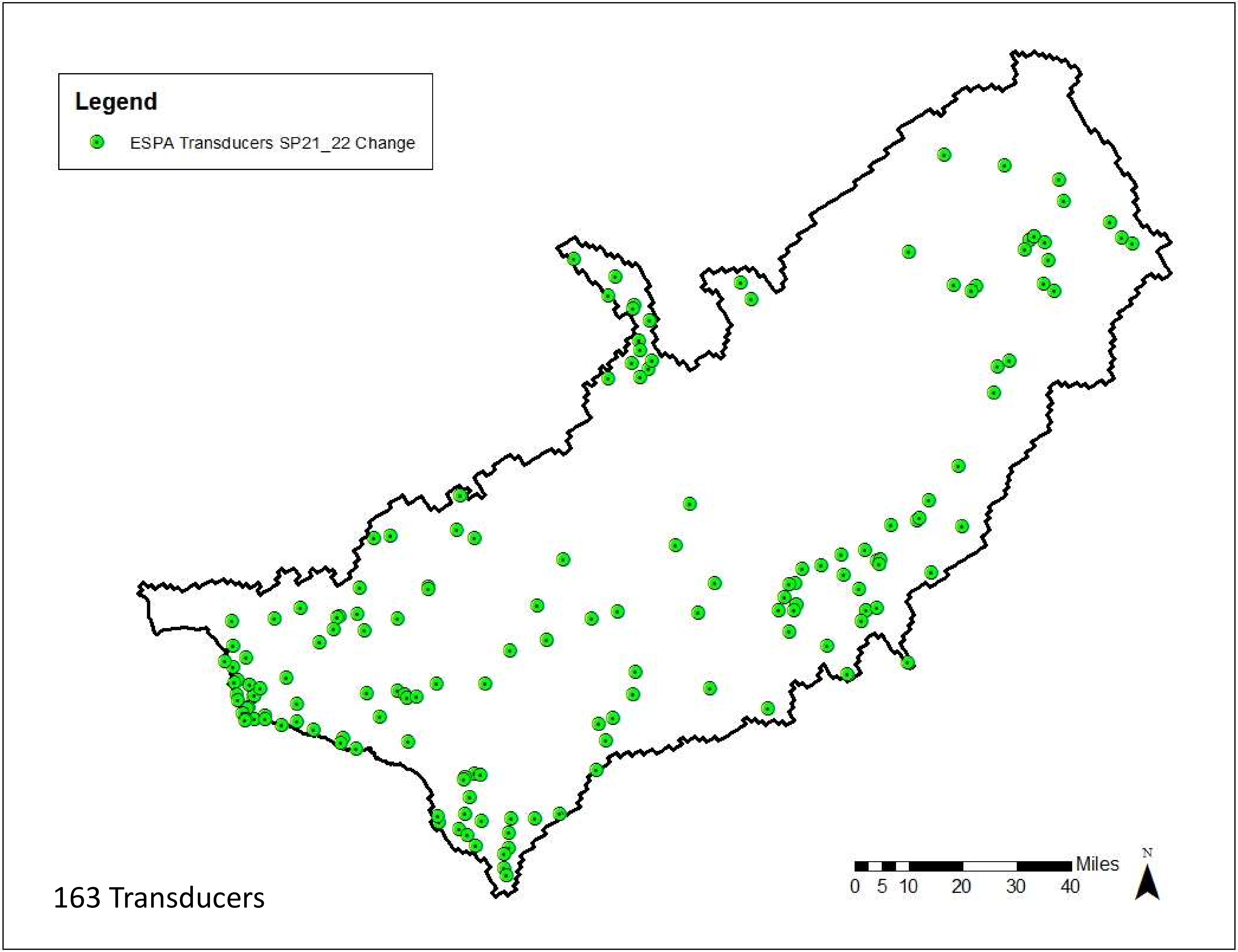
- Transducers measure the pressure of water above the probe.
  - Manual measurements are used to relate the pressure to depth-of-water.
- Data loggers record the pressure measurements.
- We collect much more data using transducers.
- Able to collect measurements even if the well is inaccessible during the synoptic measurement event.
- Allows for understanding of well behavior.
- *Data collected via transducer allows for the selection of the most appropriate water level.*
  - Even if the water levels aren't obviously influenced by recharge.



08S 19E 02CBC1
Depth to Water (feet)
250
255
260
265
270
275
12/31/2017
4/10/2018
7/19/2018
10/27/2018
2/4/2019
5/15/2019
8/23/2019
12/1/2019
3/10/2020
6/18/2020

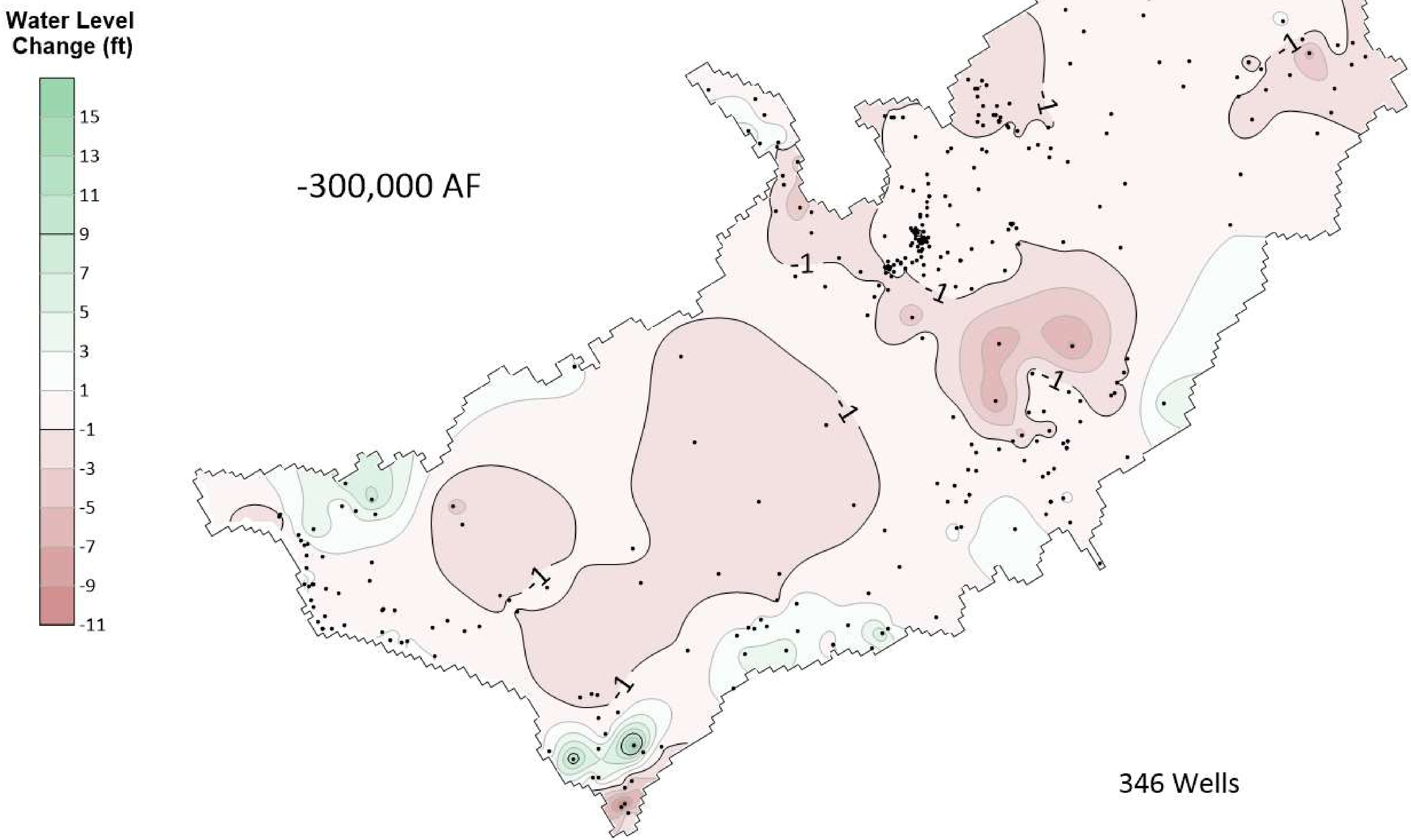


231 Transducers

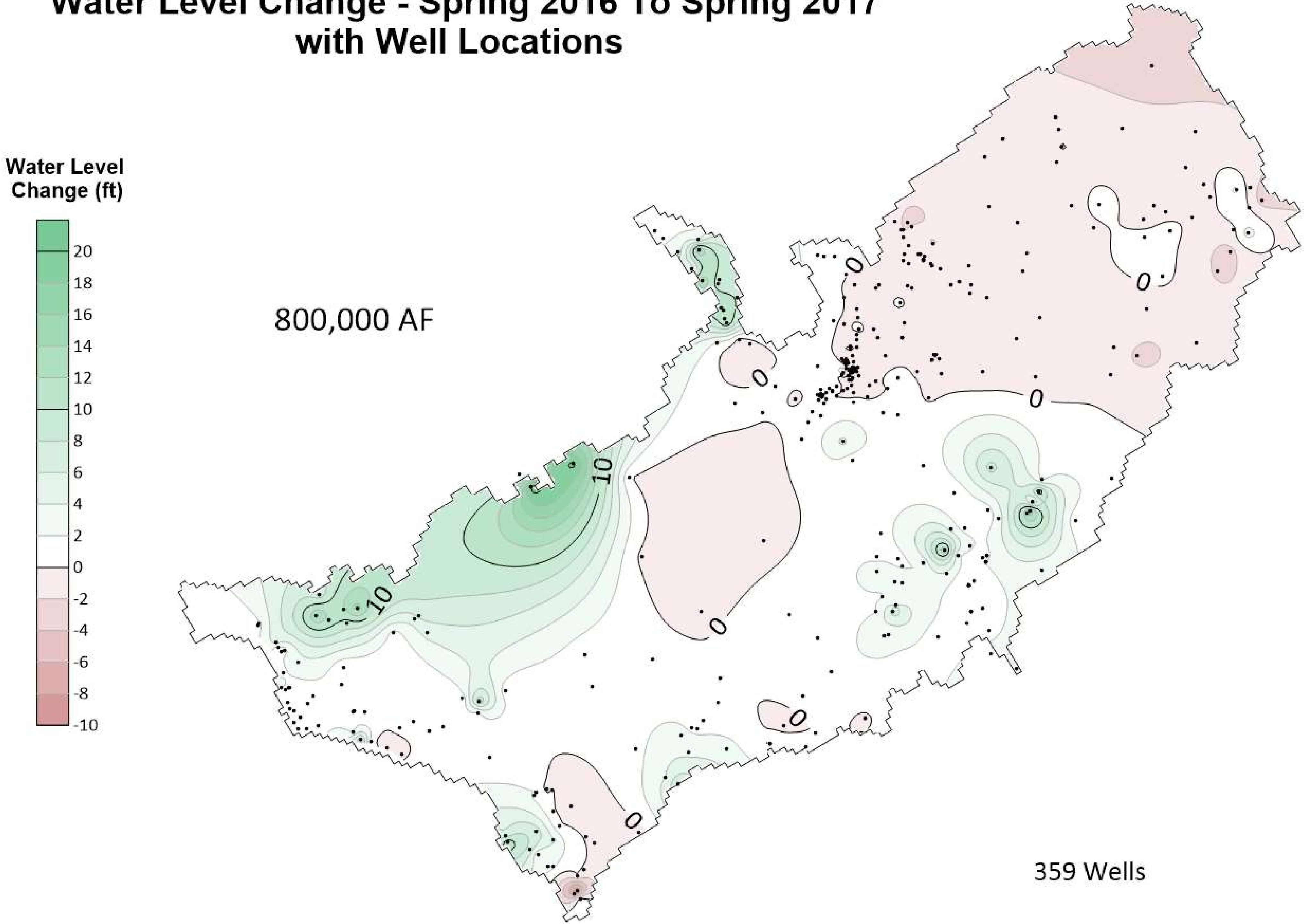

Legend
ESPA Transducers SP21_22 Change
Miles
0 5 10 20 30 40
N
163 Transducers

Annual Measurement Change Maps:
2015 – 2022

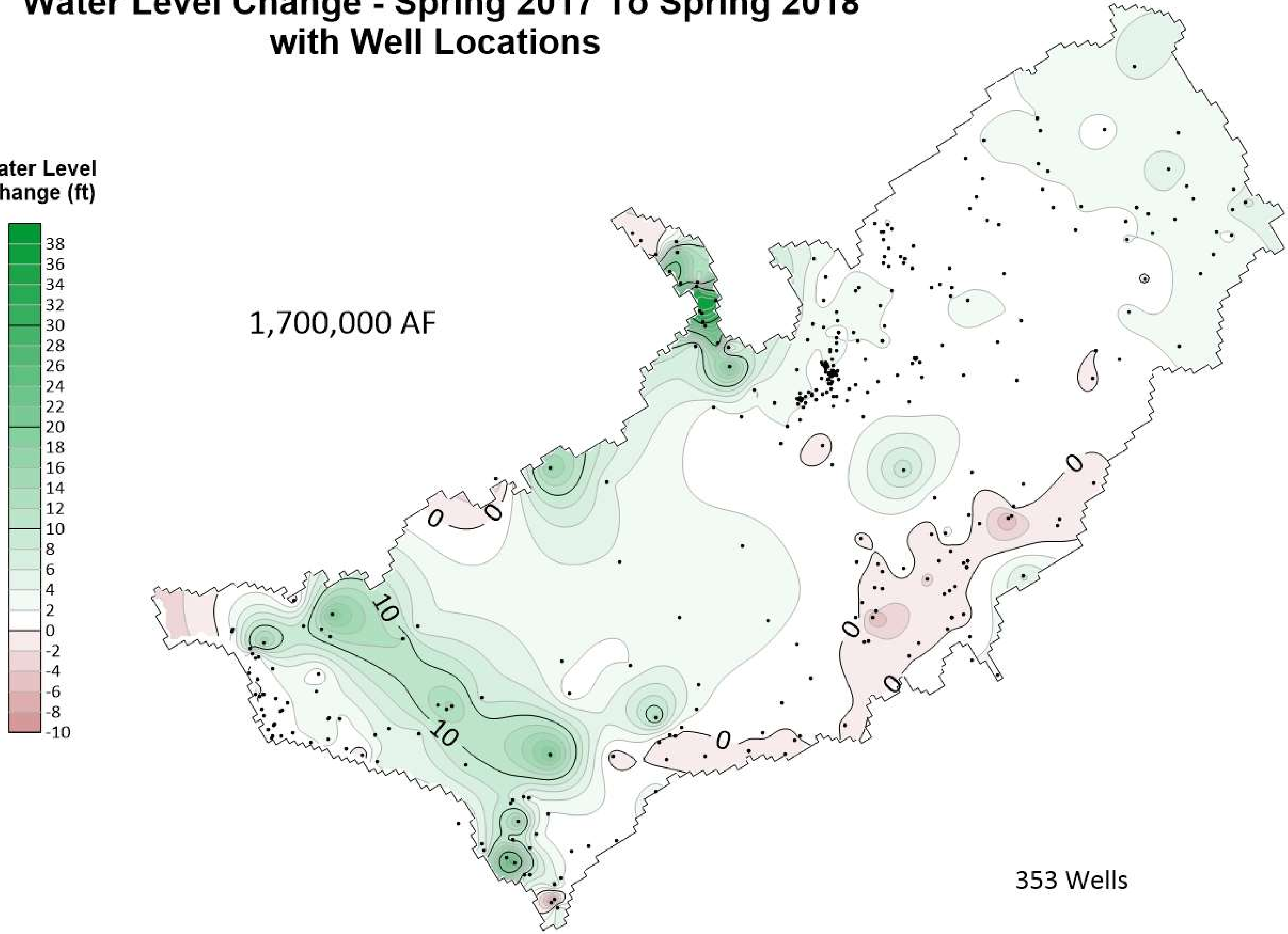
Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2016 with Well Locations



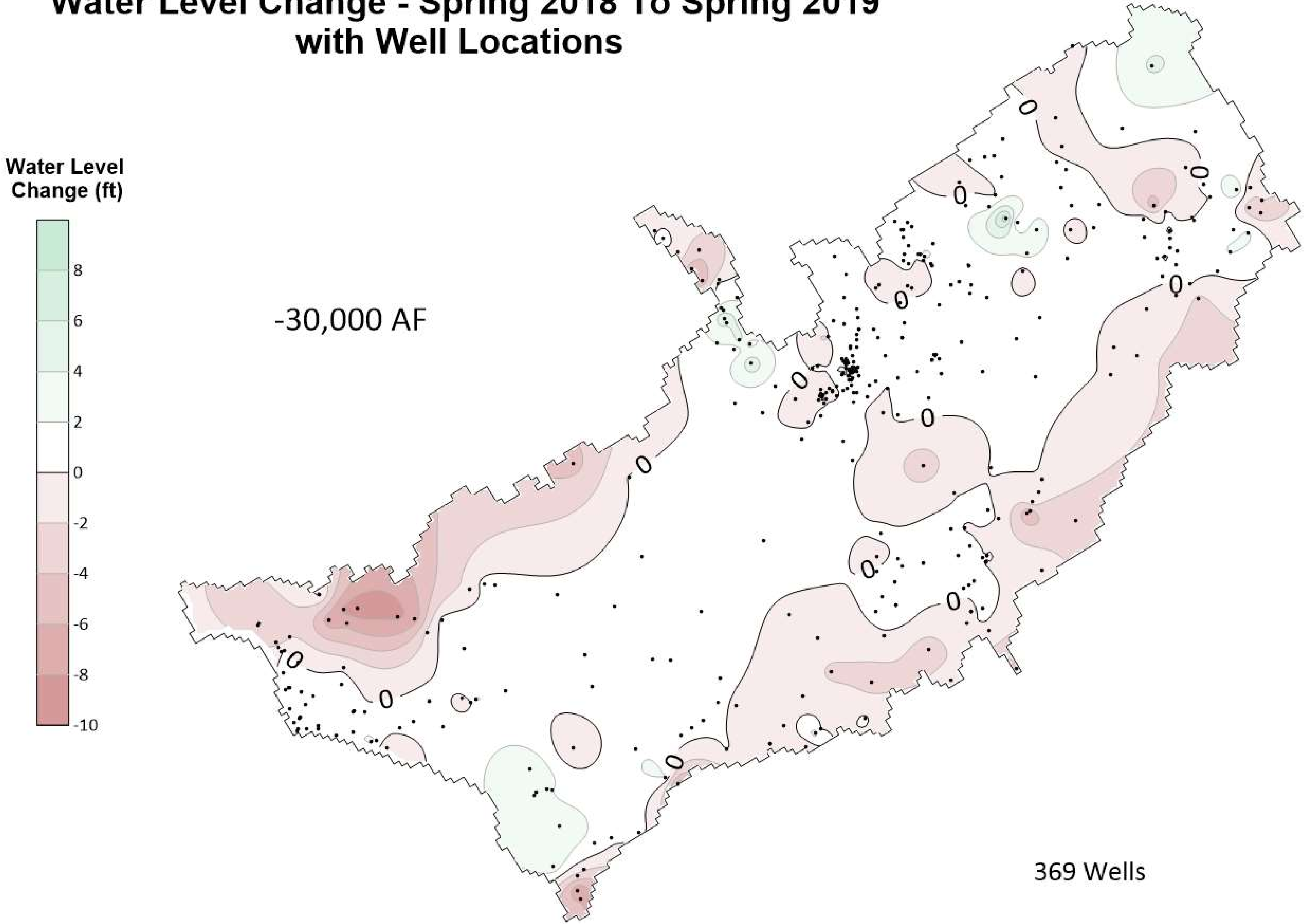
Water Level Change - Spring 2016 To Spring 2017 with Well Locations



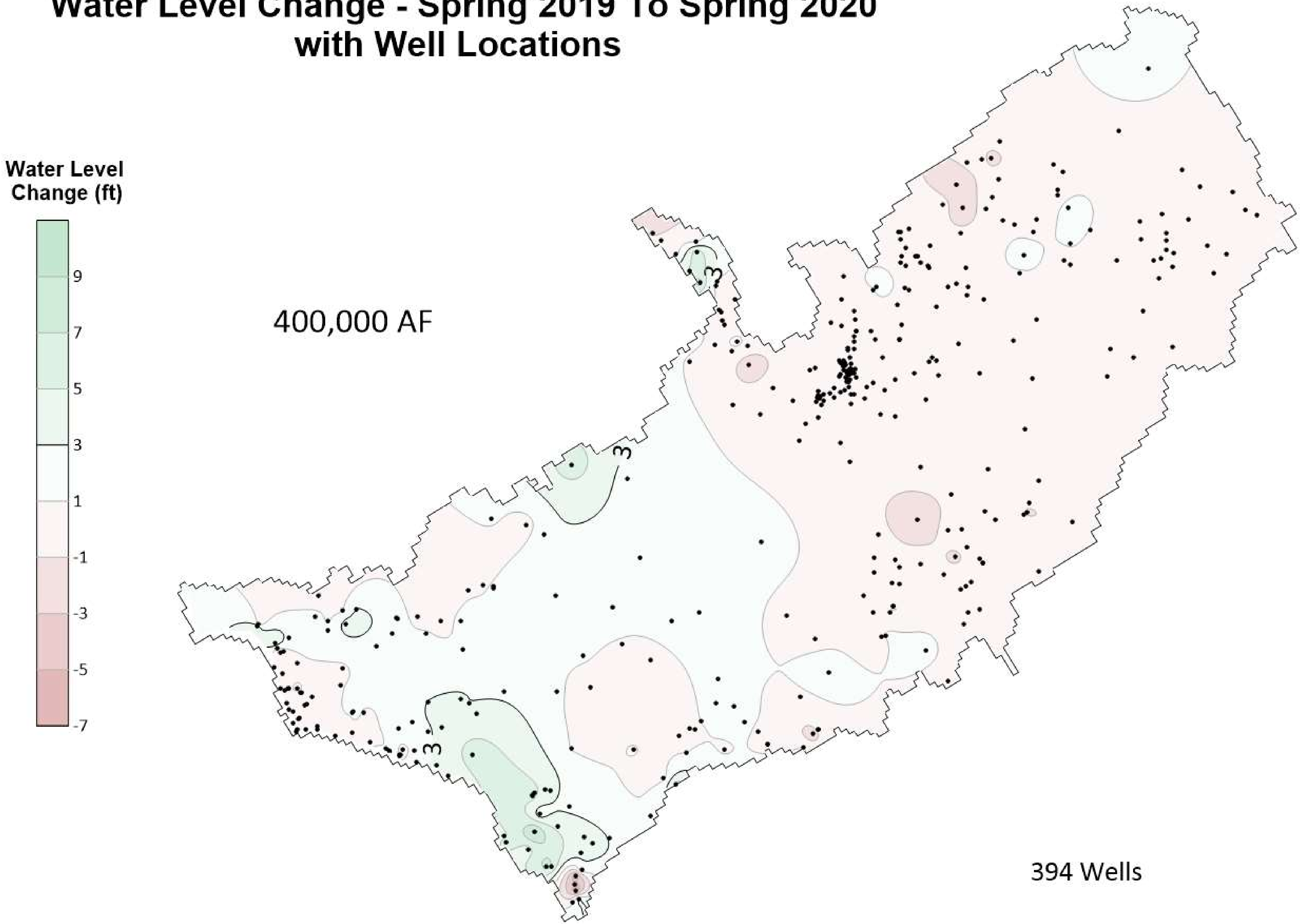
Water Level Change - Spring 2017 To Spring 2018 with Well Locations



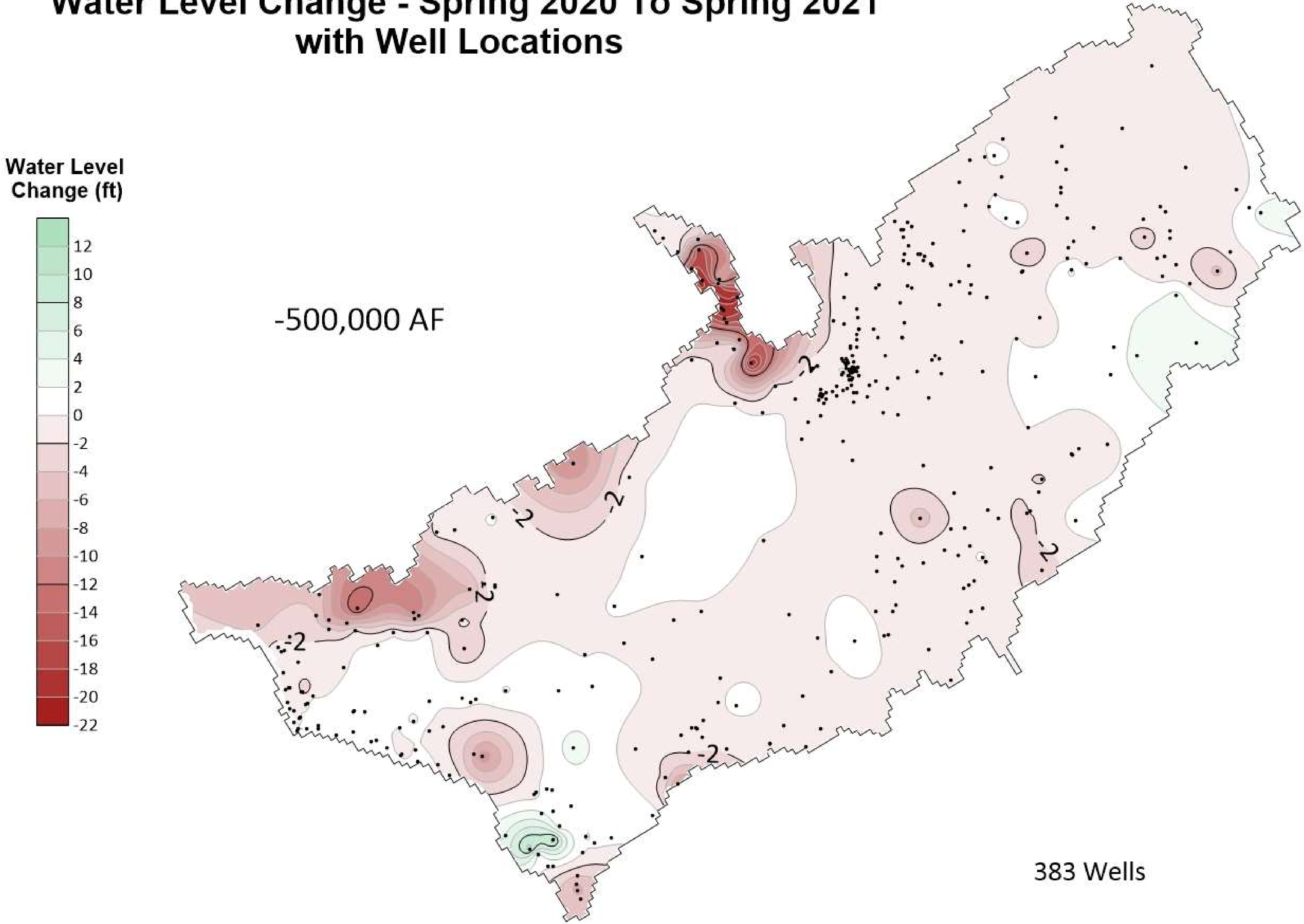
Water Level Change - Spring 2018 To Spring 2019 with Well Locations



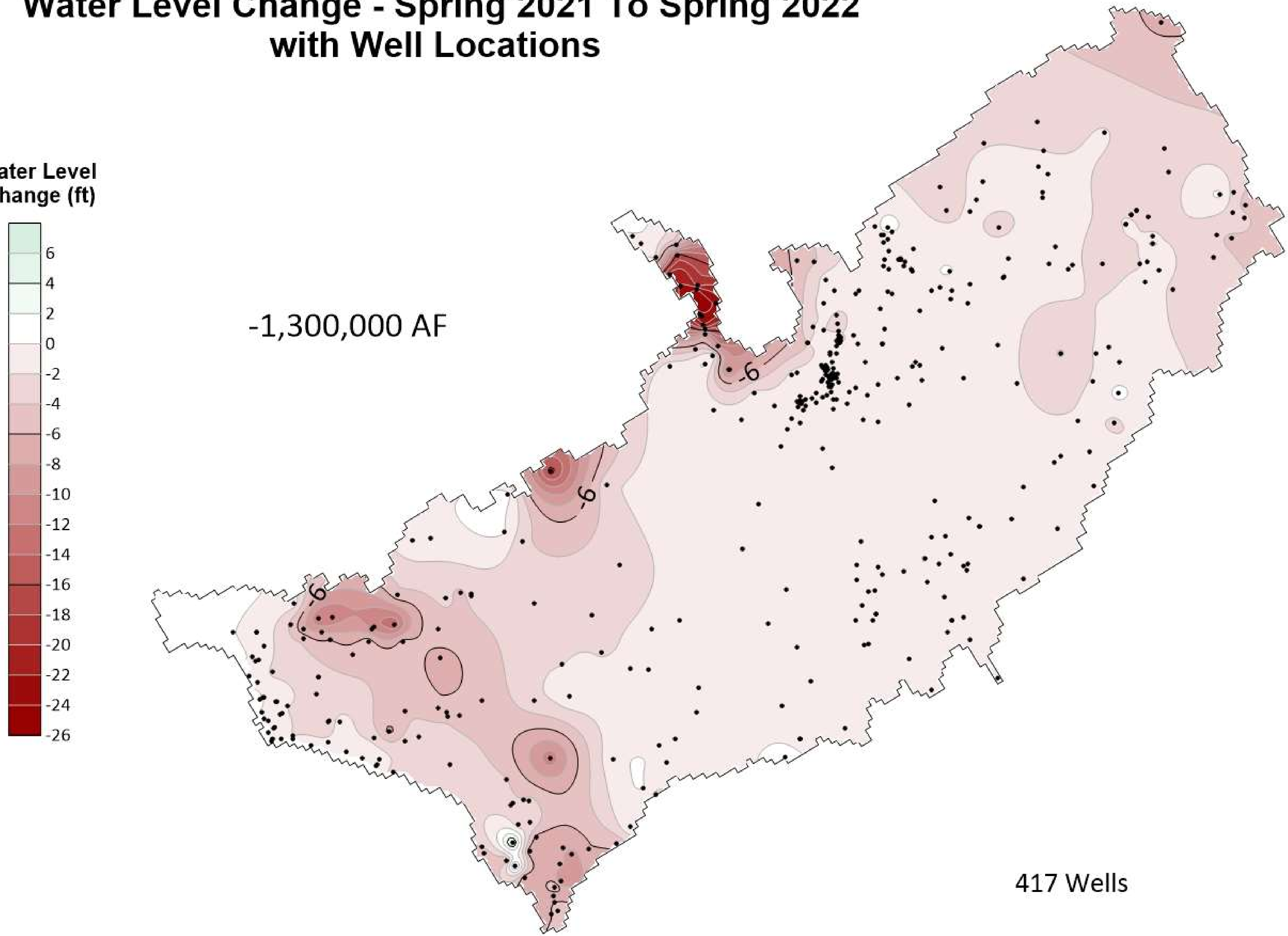
Water Level Change - Spring 2019 To Spring 2020 with Well Locations



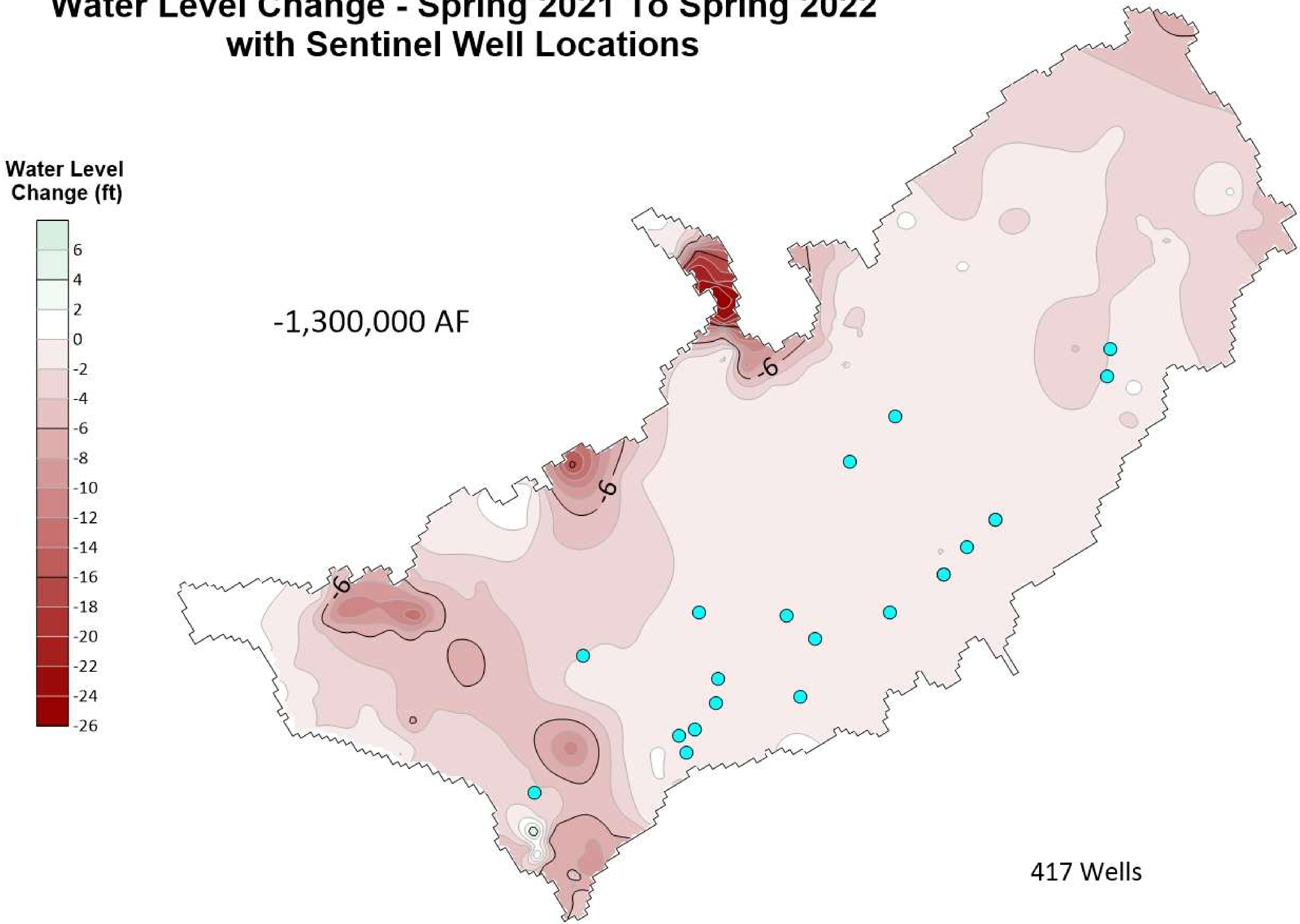
Water Level Change - Spring 2020 To Spring 2021 with Well Locations

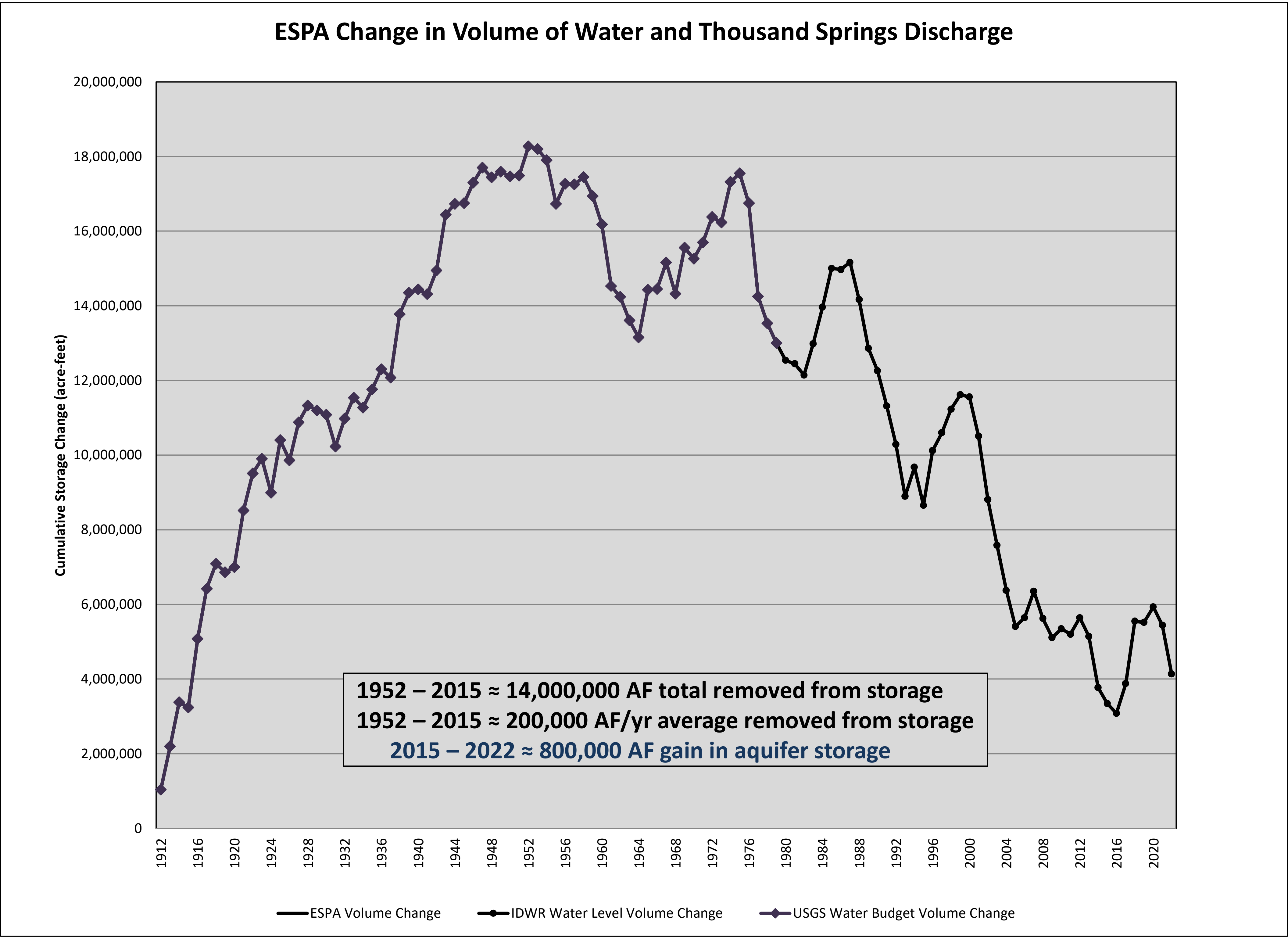


Water Level Change - Spring 2021 To Spring 2022 with Well Locations



Water Level Change - Spring 2021 To Spring 2022 with Sentinel Well Locations





ESPA Change in Volume of Water and Thousand Springs Discharge
Cumulative Storage Change (acre-feet)
20,000,000
18,000,000
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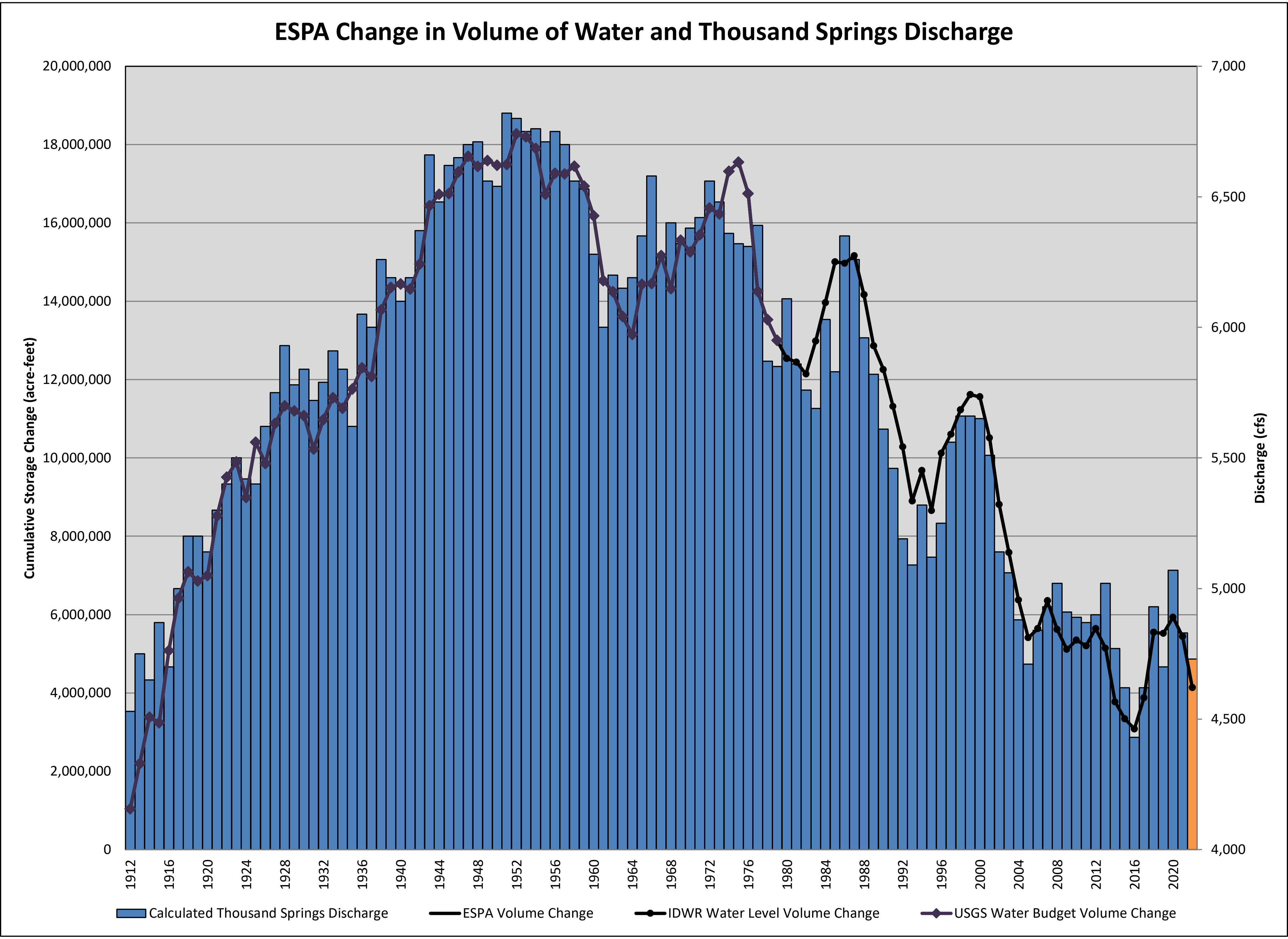
1952 – 2015 ≈ 14,000,000 AF total removed from storage
1952 – 2015 ≈ 200,000 AF/yr average removed from storage
2015 – 2022 ≈ 800,000 AF gain in aquifer storage
ESPA Volume Change
IDWR Water Level Volume Change
USGS Water Budget Volume Change


ESPA Change in Volume of Water and Thousand Springs Discharge
Cumulative Storage Change (acre-feet)
Discharge (cfs)
0
2,000,000
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6,000,000
8,000,000
10,000,000
12,000,000
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16,000,000
18,000,000
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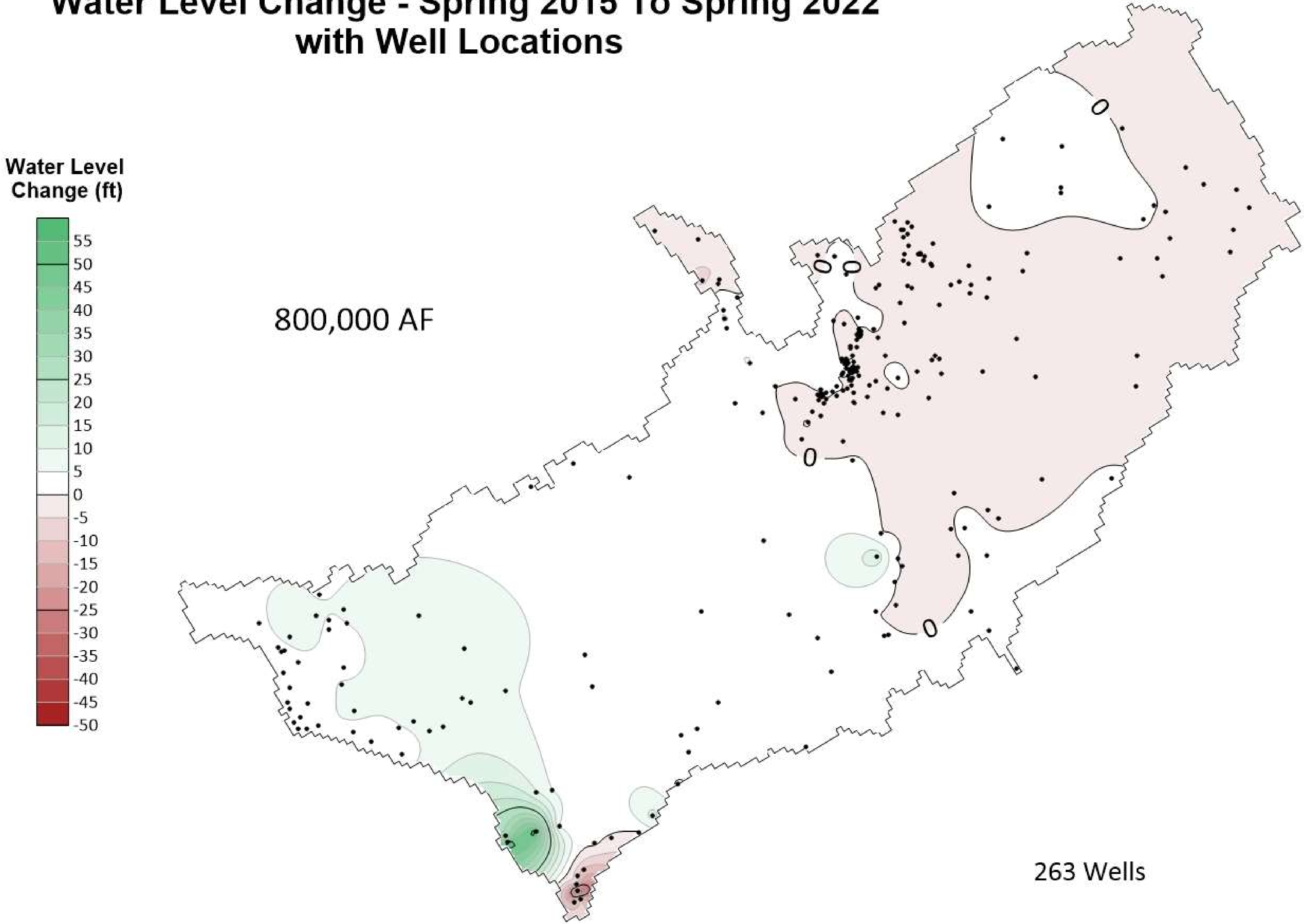
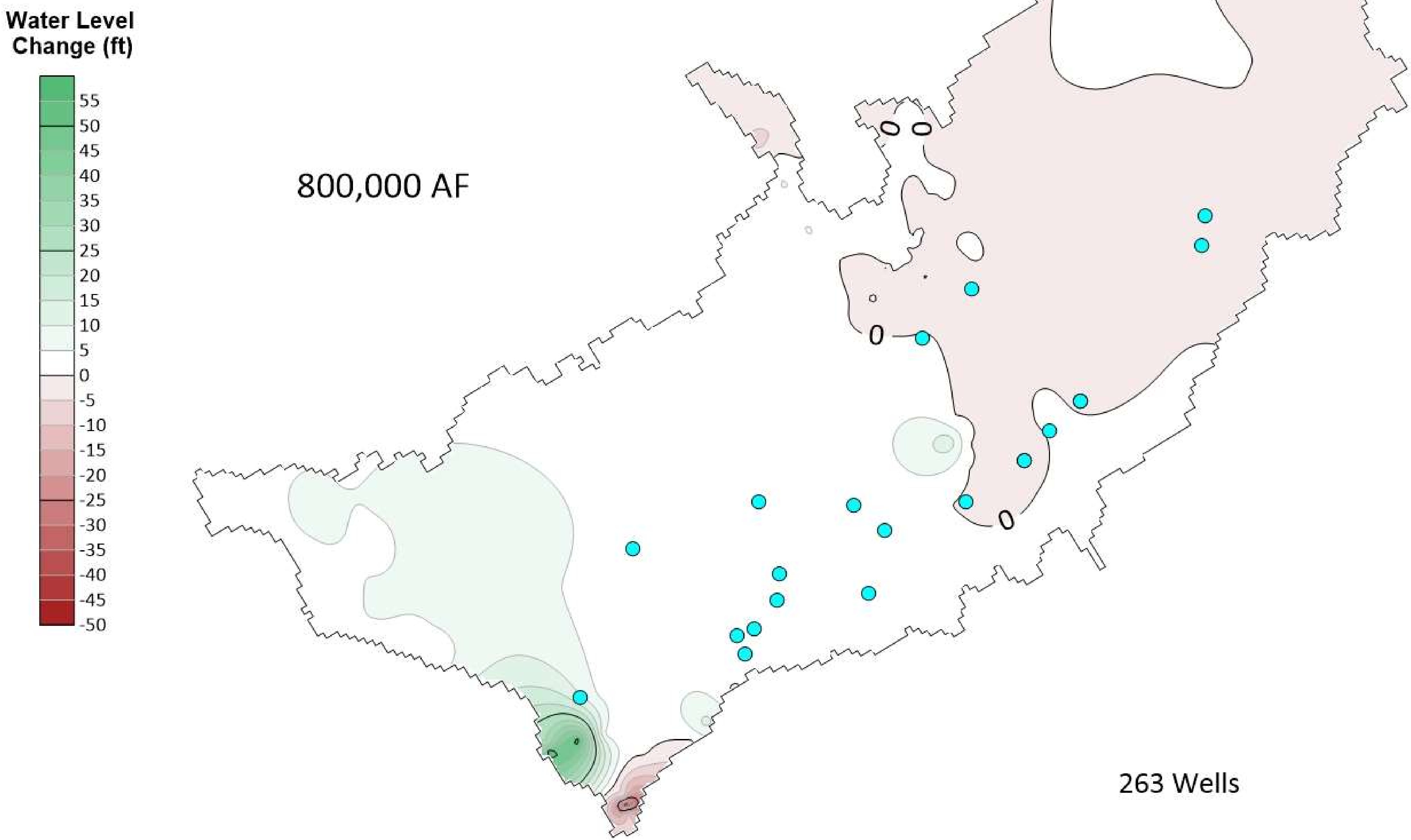
2020
Calculated Thousand Springs Discharge
ESPA Volume Change
IDWR Water Level Volume Change
USGS Water Budget Volume Change

Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2022 with Well Locations



Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2022 with Sentinel Well Locations

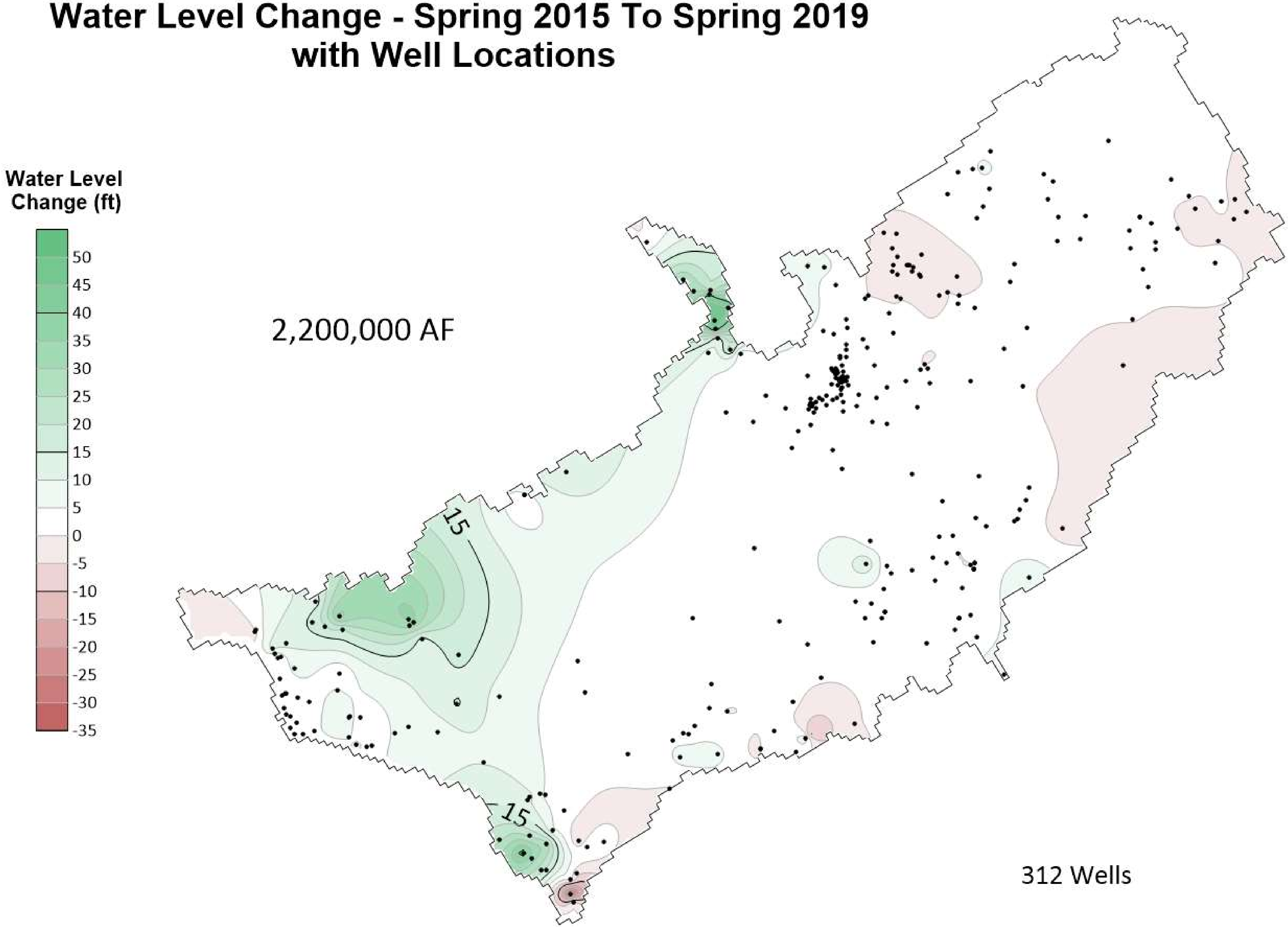


Storage Change Summary

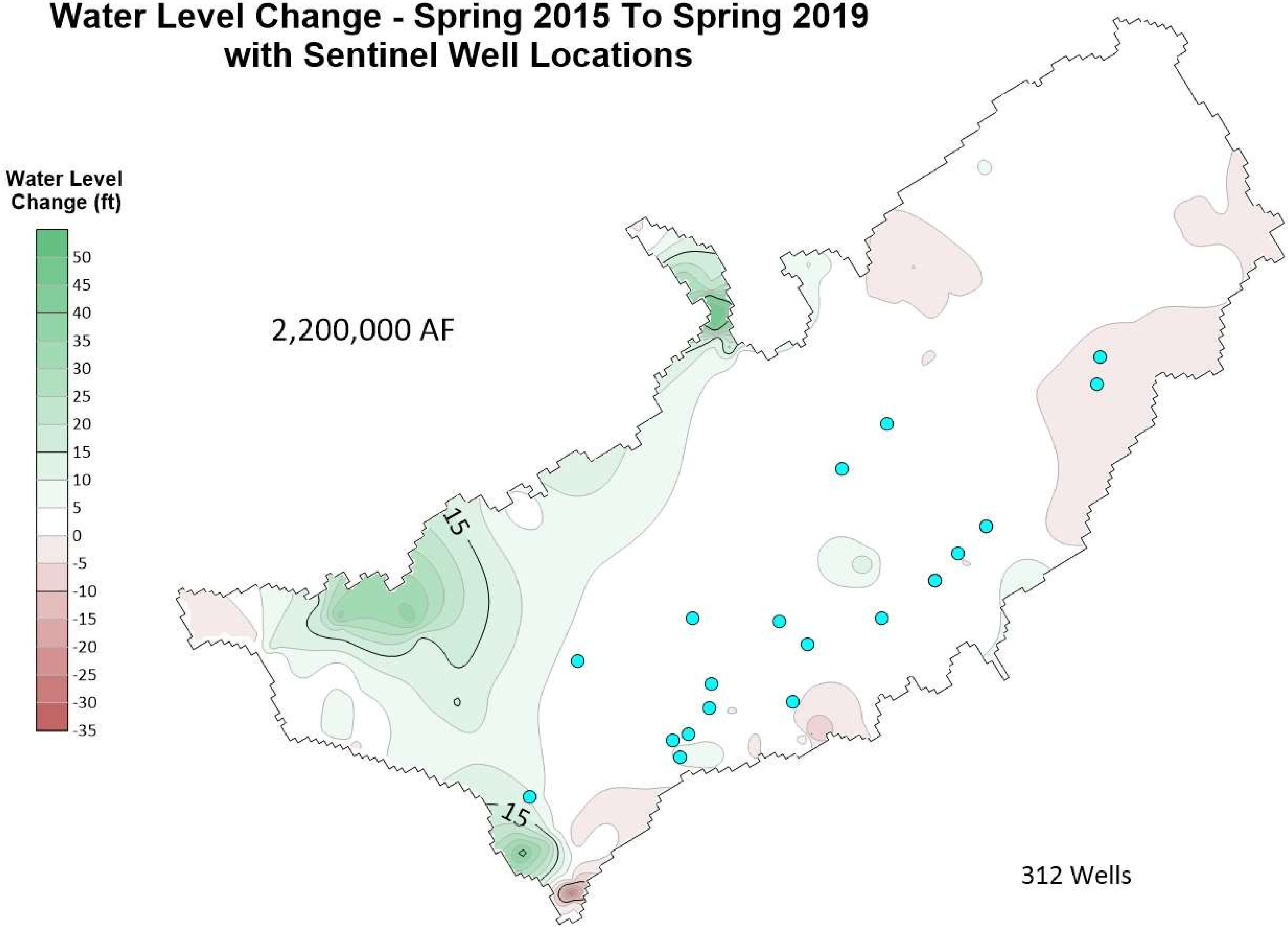
- The aquifer lost 1,300,000 acre-feet from 2021 to 2022.
- The aquifer has gained 800,000 acre-feet of storage since 2015.
- The increase in precipitation in 2016 – 2017 helped us get a good start to a long-term solution.
  - Undulations due to weather are to be expected – 2021 was a dry year
  - The ESPA leaks, and aquifer-storage gains are fleeting.
  - Perseverance through the dry times is vital to success.

Discussion

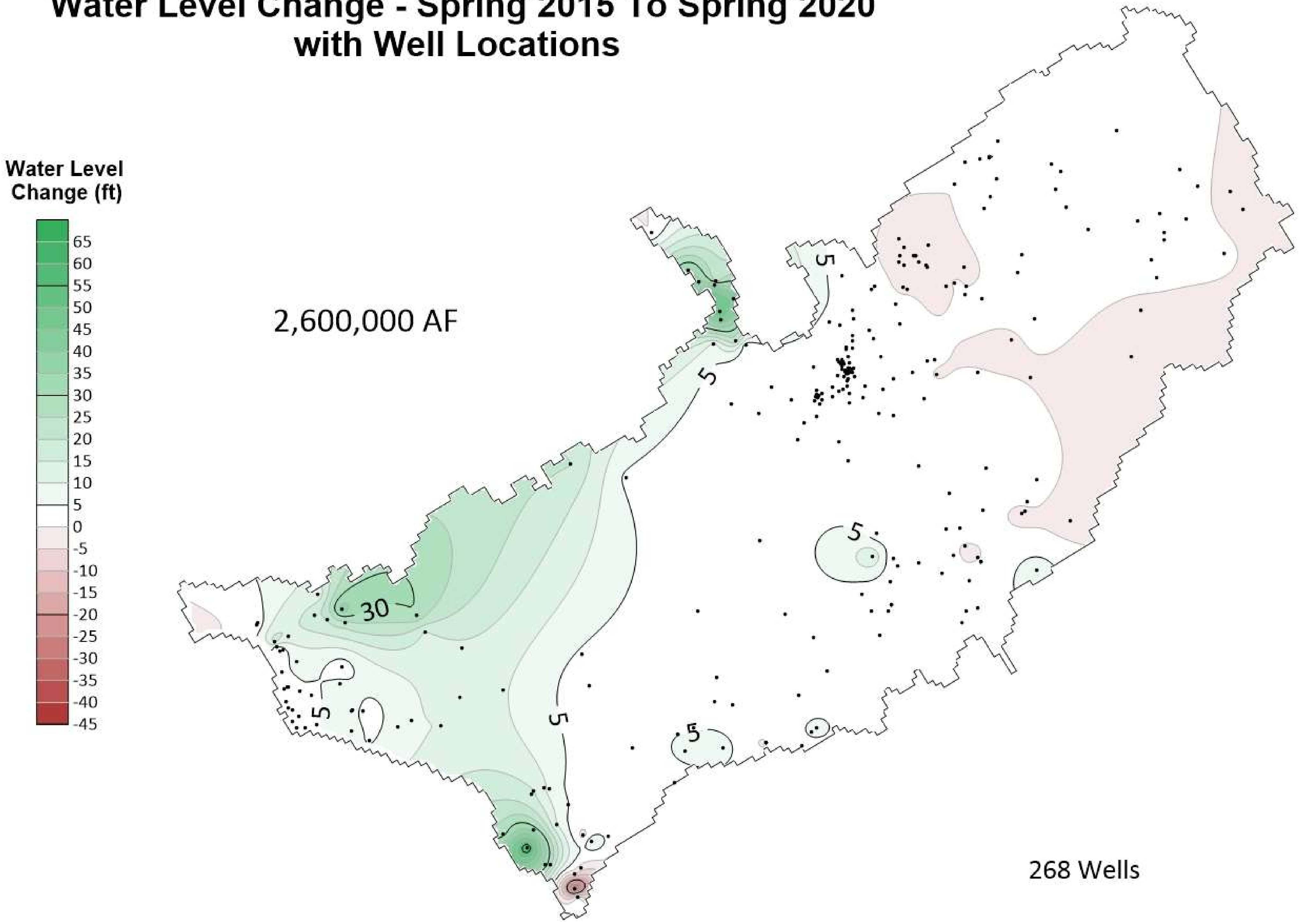
Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2019 with Well Locations



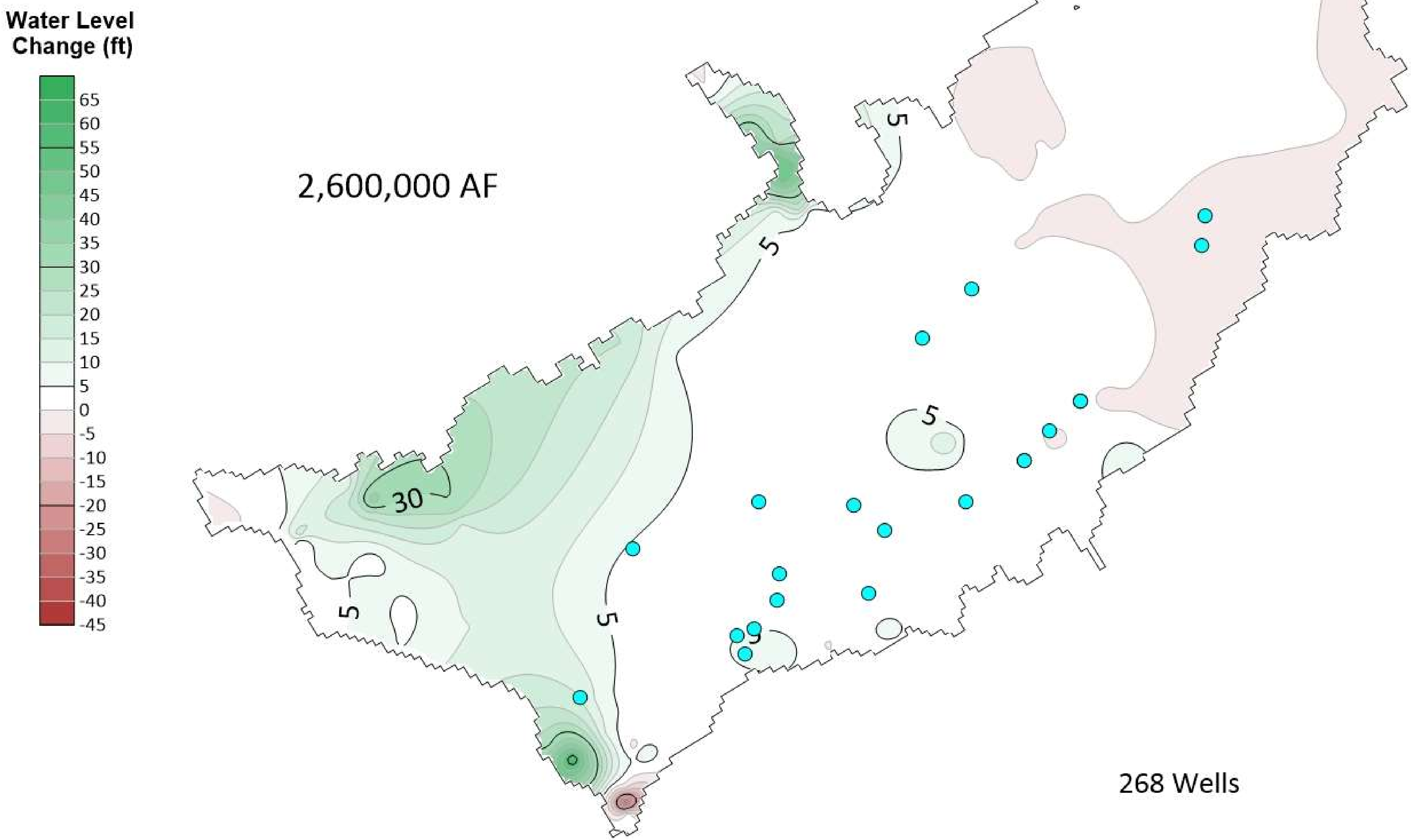
Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2019
with Sentinel Well Locations



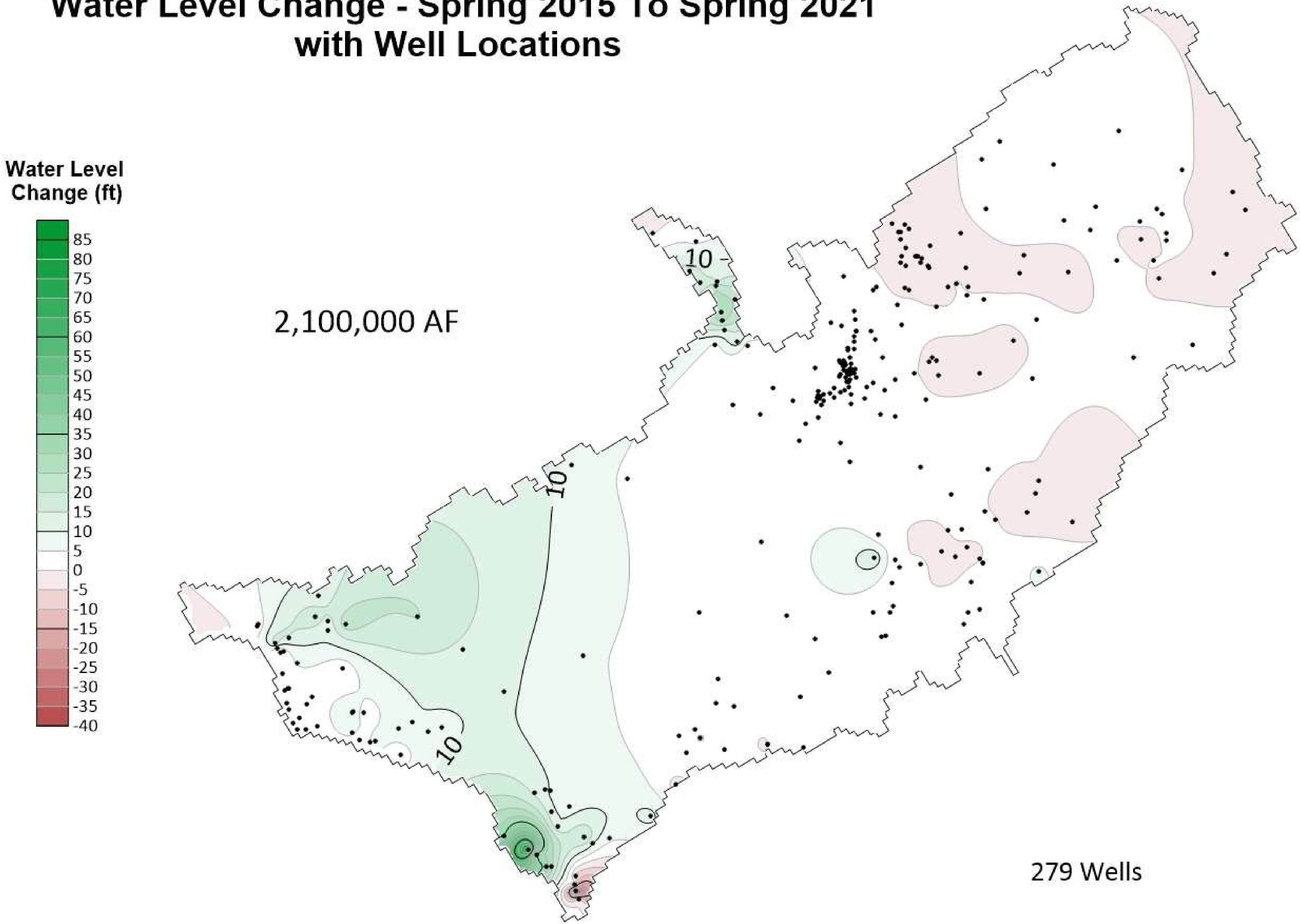
Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2020 with Well Locations



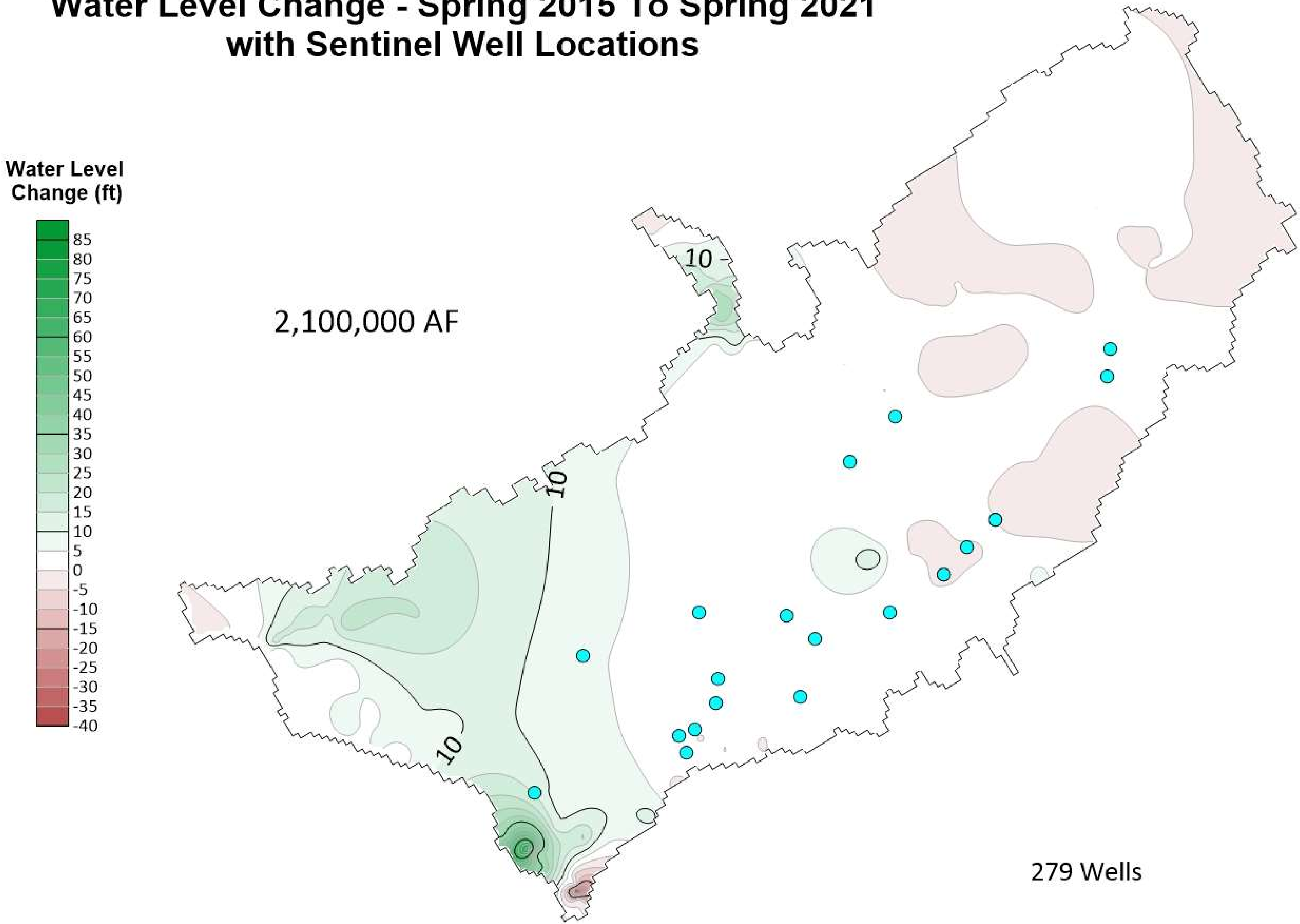
Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2020 with Sentinel Well Locations



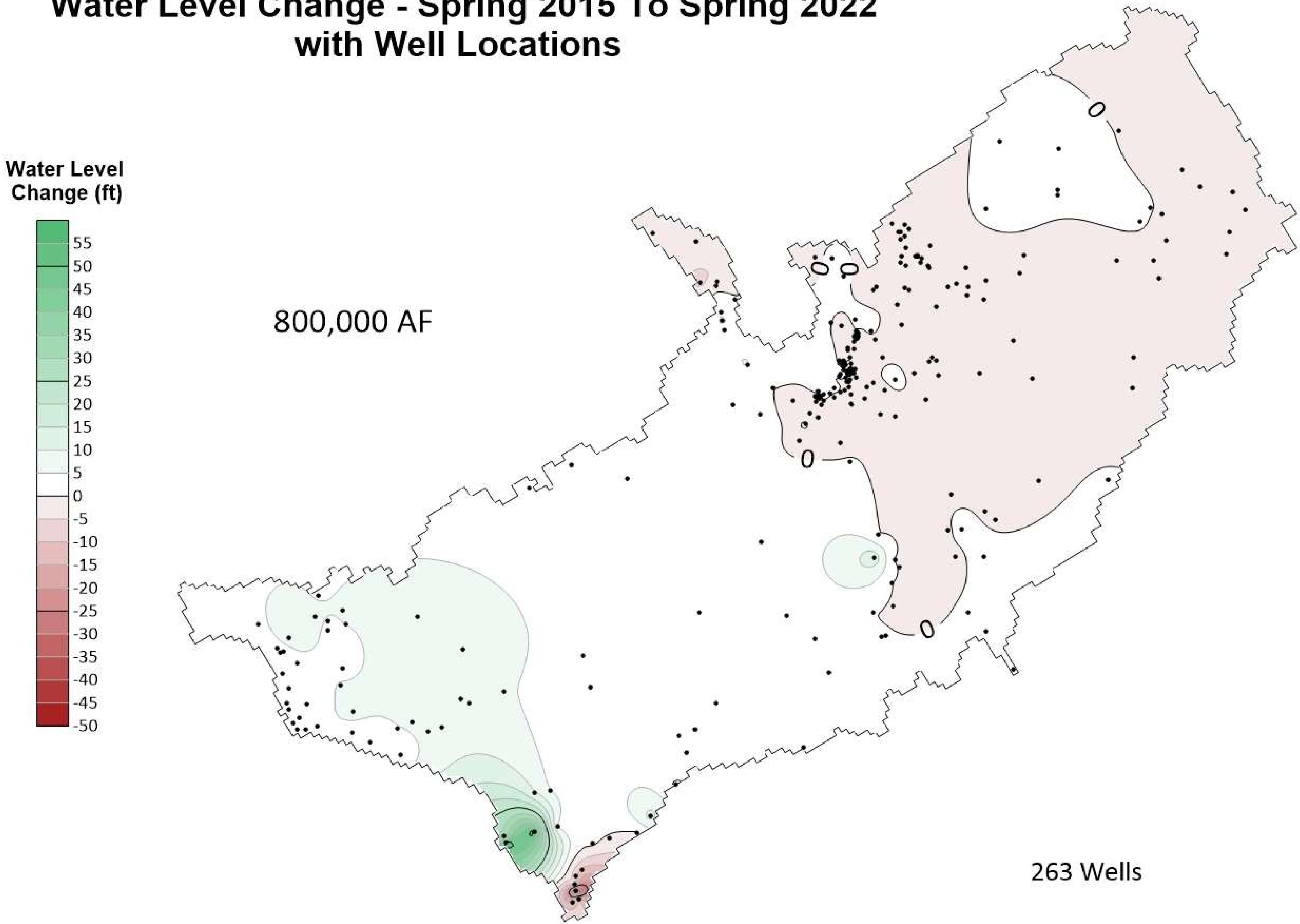
Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2021 with Well Locations



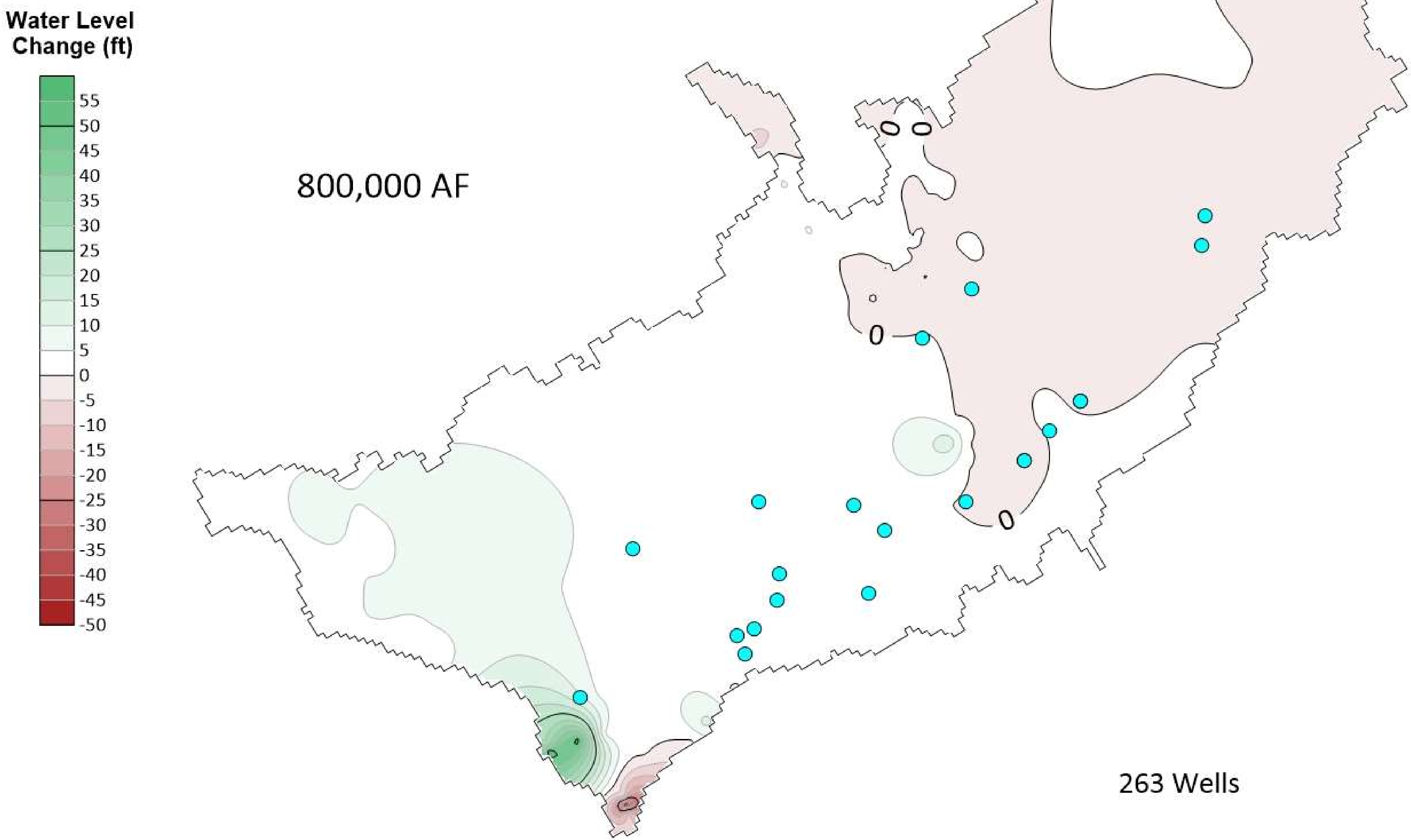
Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2021 with Sentinel Well Locations



Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2022 with Well Locations



Water Level Change - Spring 2015 To Spring 2022 with Sentinel Well Locations

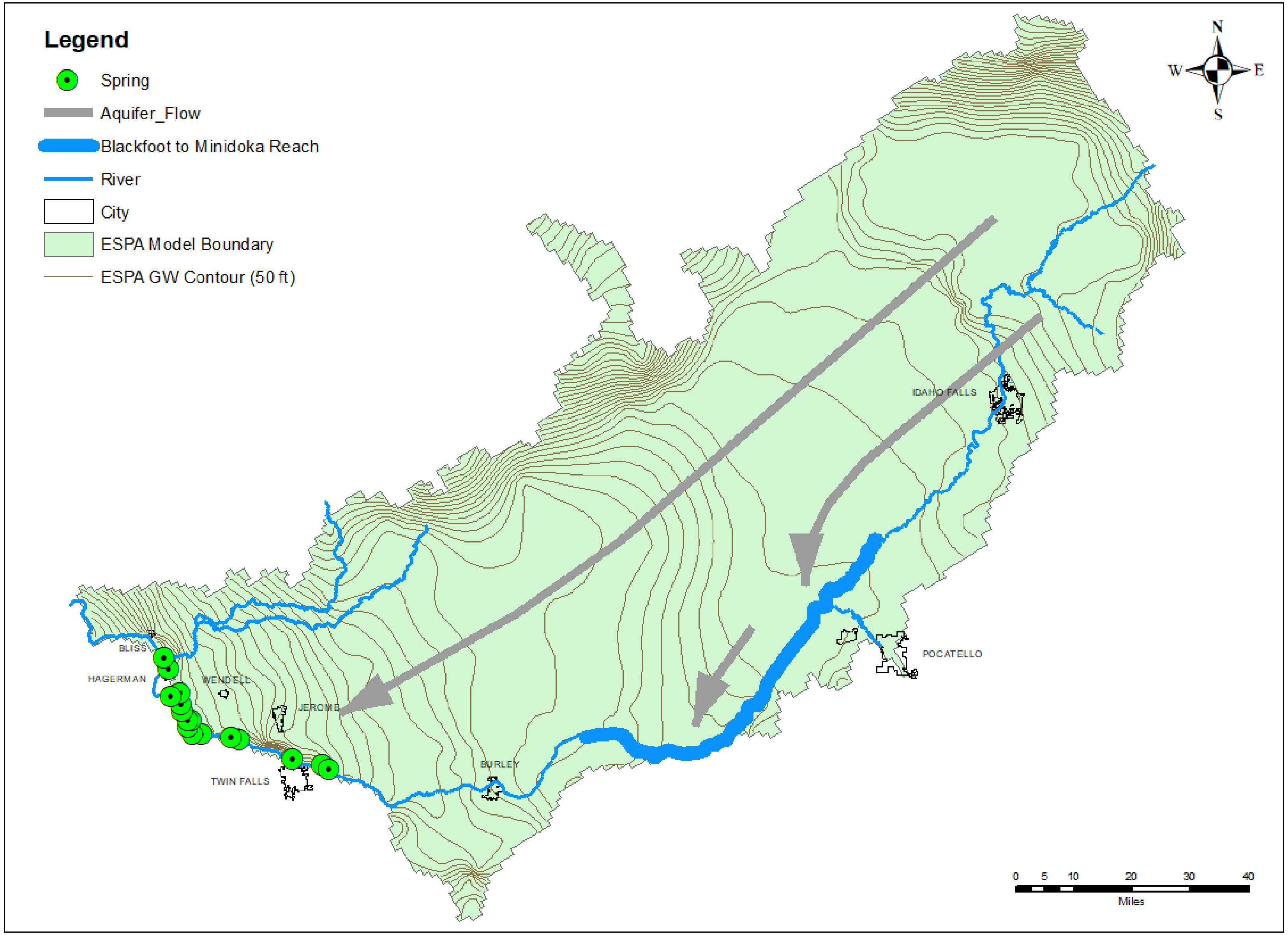


Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Discharge

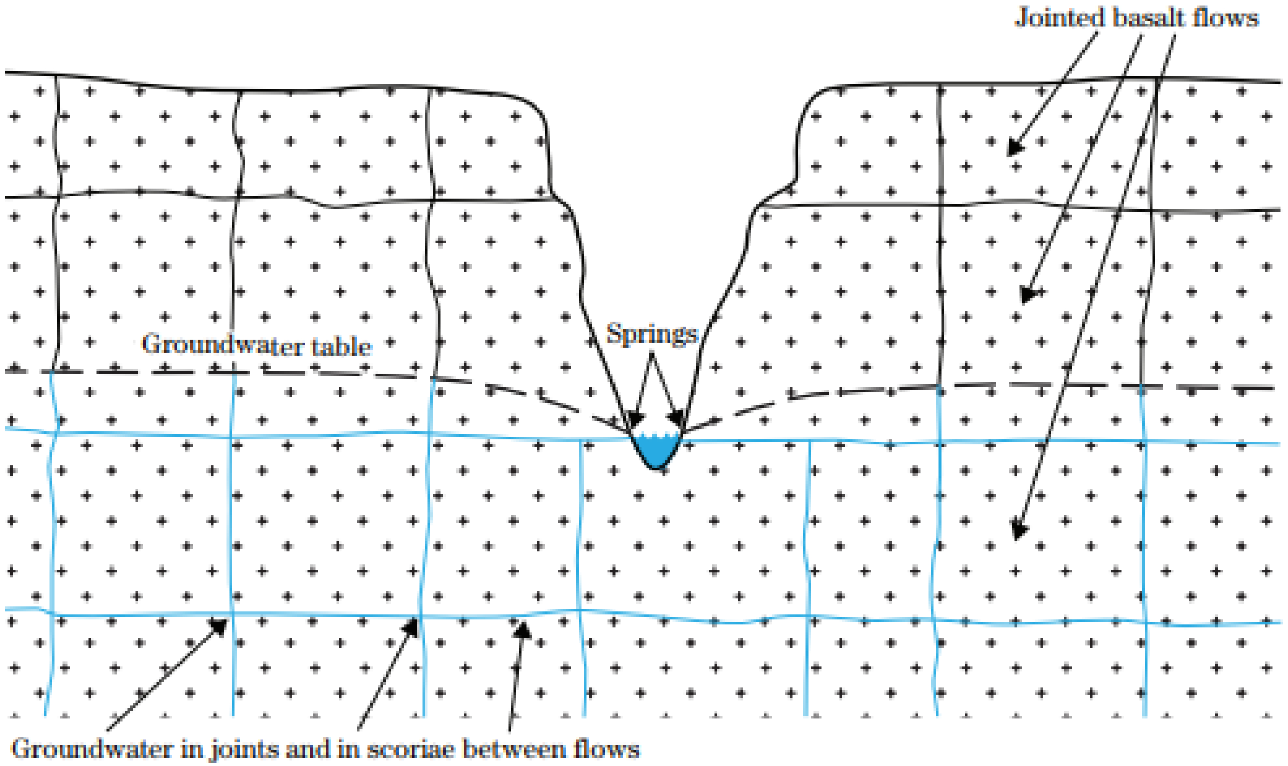
Presented by: Matt Anders

Date: 8/1/2022

Discharge from ESPA



Spring Discharge on ESPA



- Springs occur when the groundwater table intersects the land surface or canyon wall.
- Discharge from springs is controlled by the water level in the ESPA.
- Higher water levels in the aquifer increase discharge at springs, and vice versa.

Total Spring Discharge is Difficult to Measure

- Example 1: Easy to Measure
- Road access
- Flow becomes concentrated in a single channel.

Total Spring Discharge is Difficult to Measure

- Example 2: Harder to Measure
- Limited road access
- Brush in channel
- Possible seepage into hillside.

Total Spring Discharge is Difficult to Measure

- Example 3: Hard to Measure and Unmeasurable
- River access
- Only measurable during low river flow.
- Possible discharge directly into Snake River.

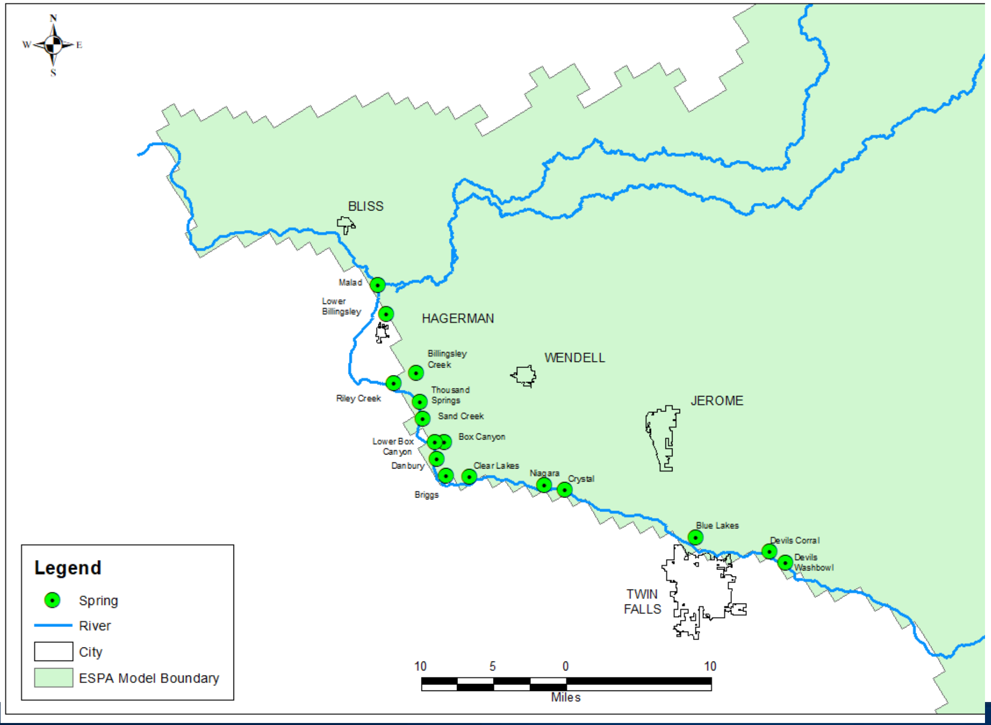
Current Calculation Method

- The current method was developed in 1995 (Kjelstrom) using data available at that time.

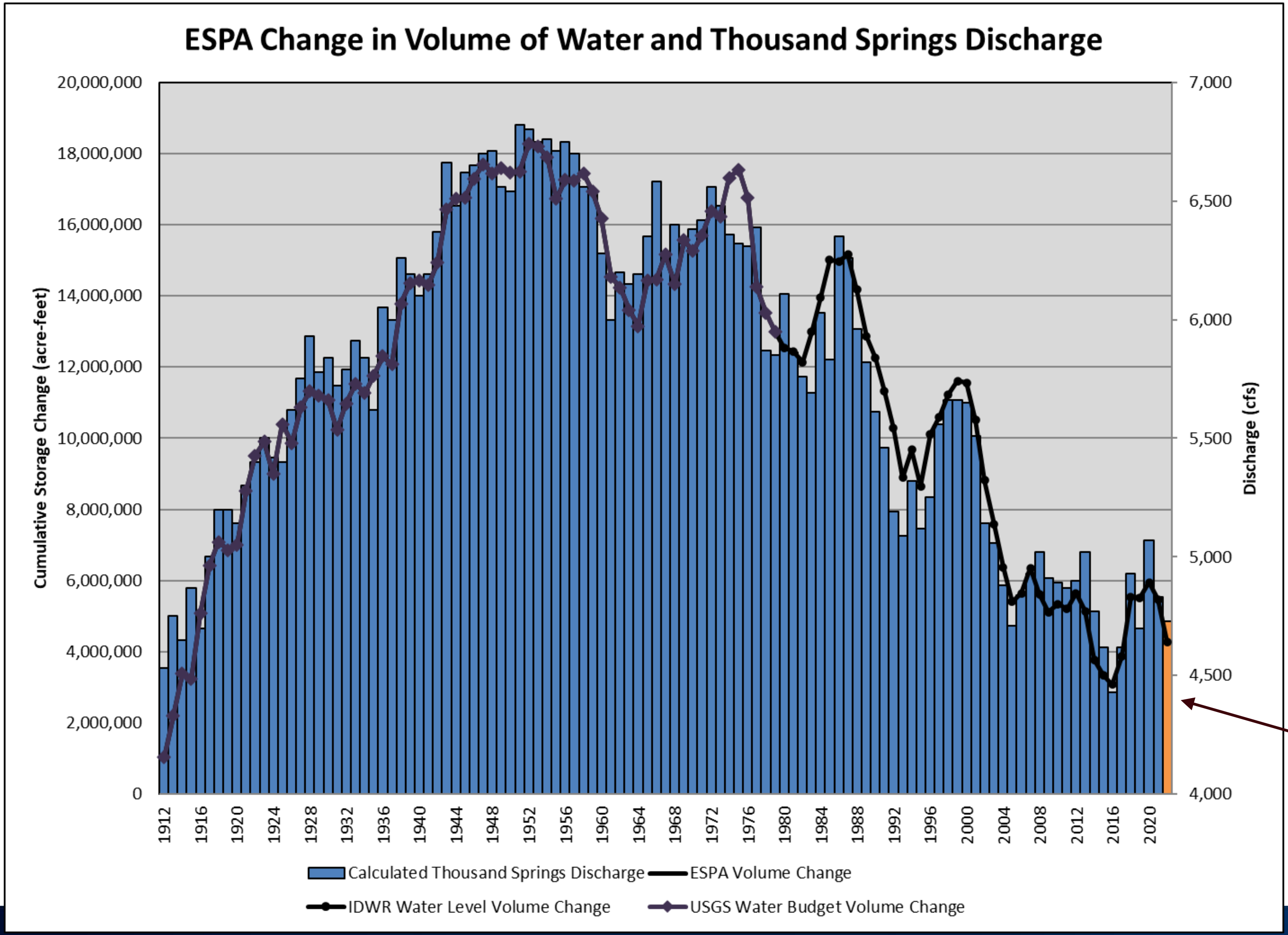
  - Total Spring Discharge = Actual Measurements + Statistical Estimates

    Actual Measurements: 17 springs in March-April (Measurable)

    Statistical Estimates: (Unmeasurable)



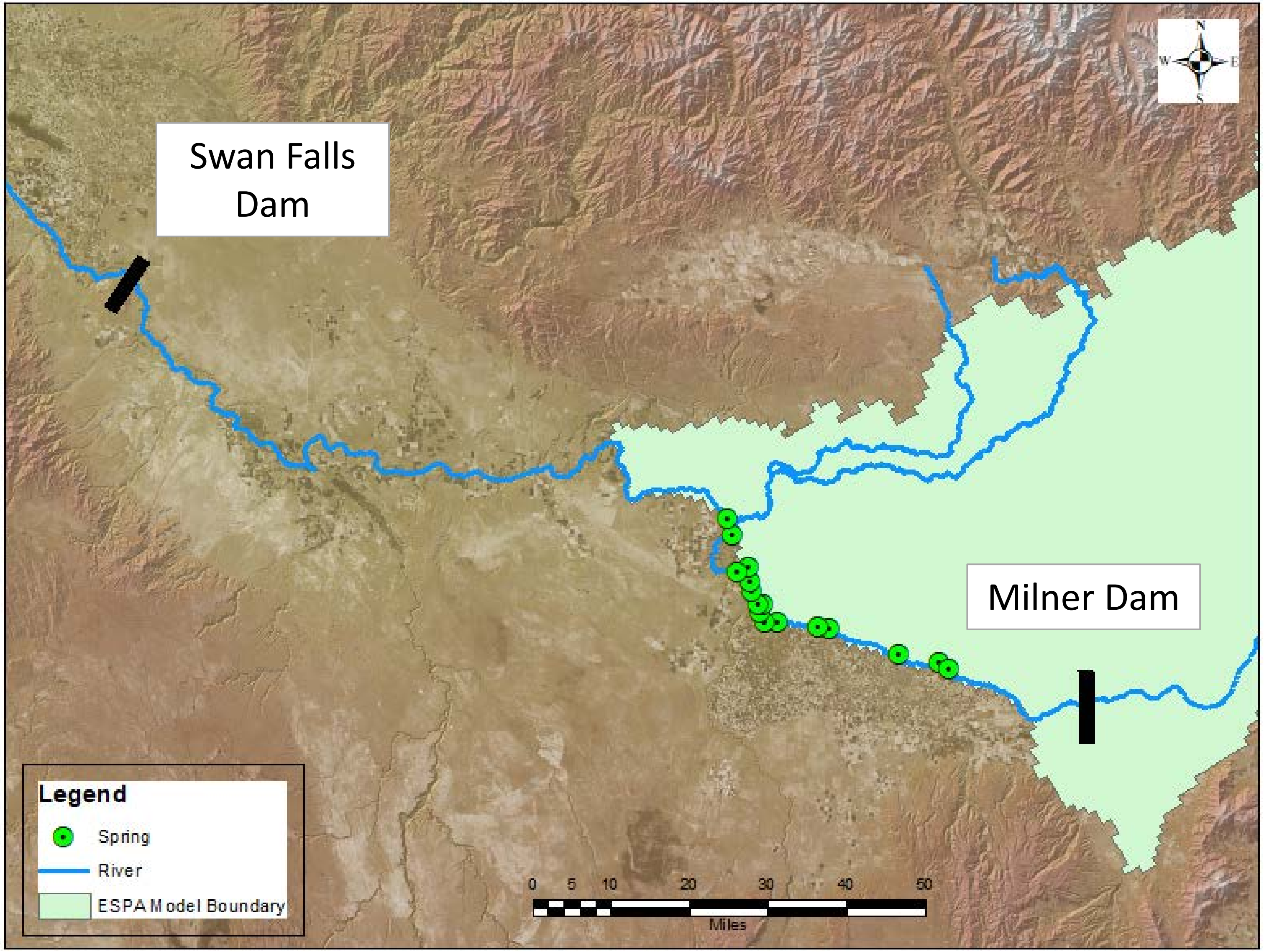
Spring Discharge – 1912 to 2022



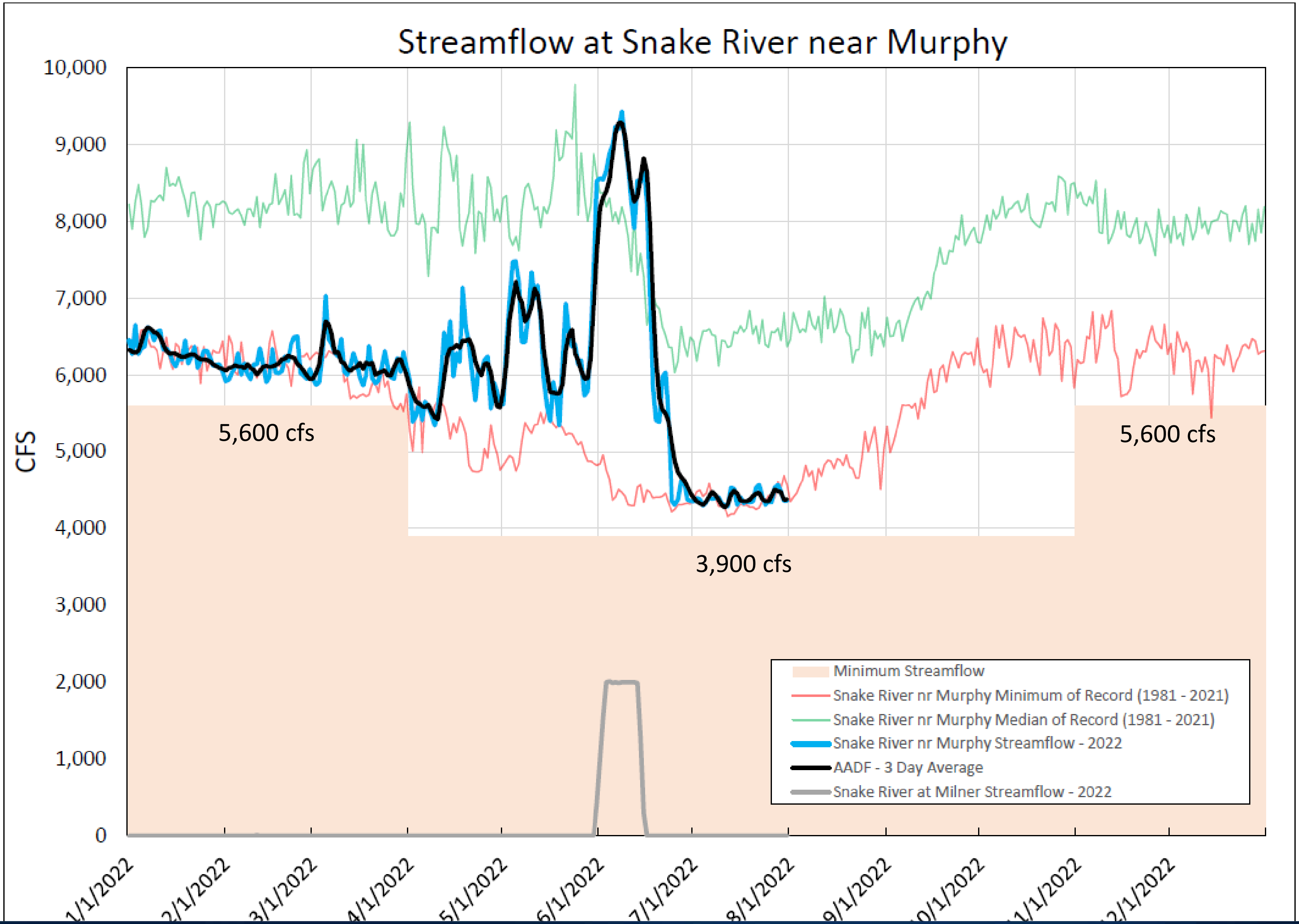
- Blue bars are the calculated discharge from Thousand Springs.
- Spring discharge is an indicator of water storage in the ESPA.

2022 value is preliminary

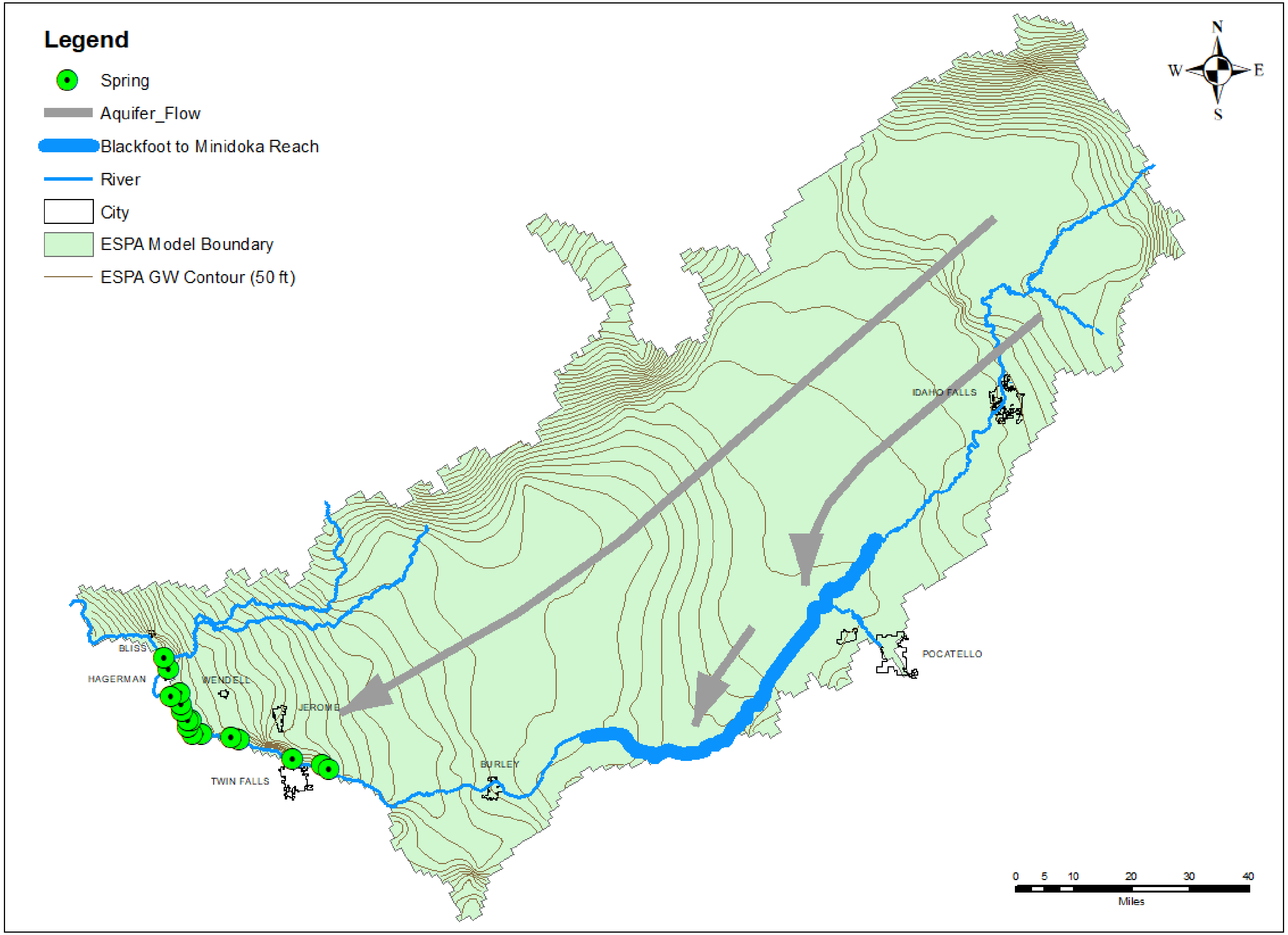
Spring Discharge – Murphy Gage



Murphy Gage – Adjusted Average Daily Flow (AADF)



Near Blackfoot-Minidoka Reach Gains



Reach Gains

- The gain or loss of water between the beginning and end of a river reach.

- Reach Gain = Outflow - Inflow + Diversions + Reservoir Change in Content + Reservoir Evaporation - Return Flow

Outflow is the river discharge at the end of the river reach.

Inflow is the river discharge at the beginning of the river reach.

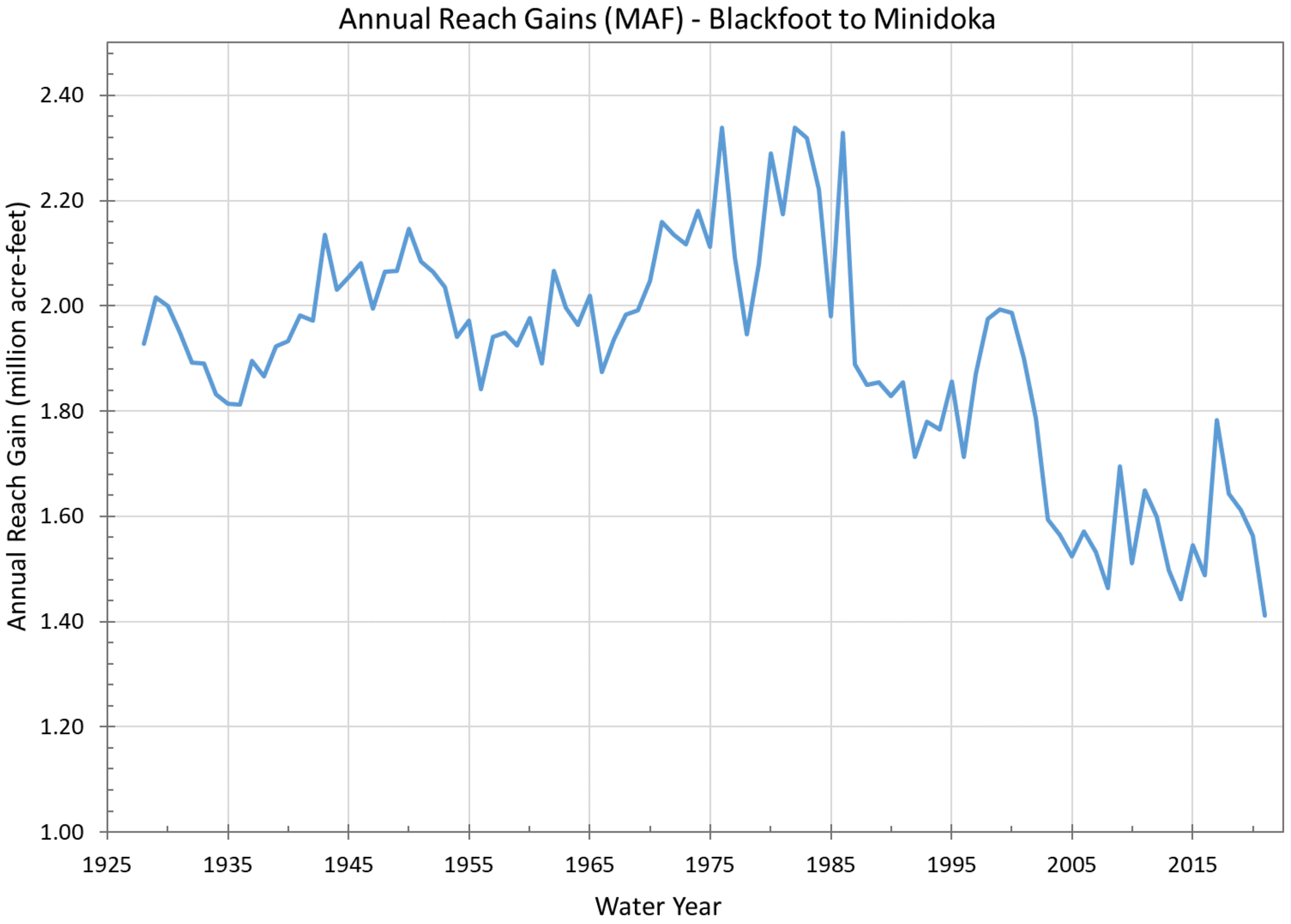
Diversions is the sum of canal and pump diversions from the river reach.

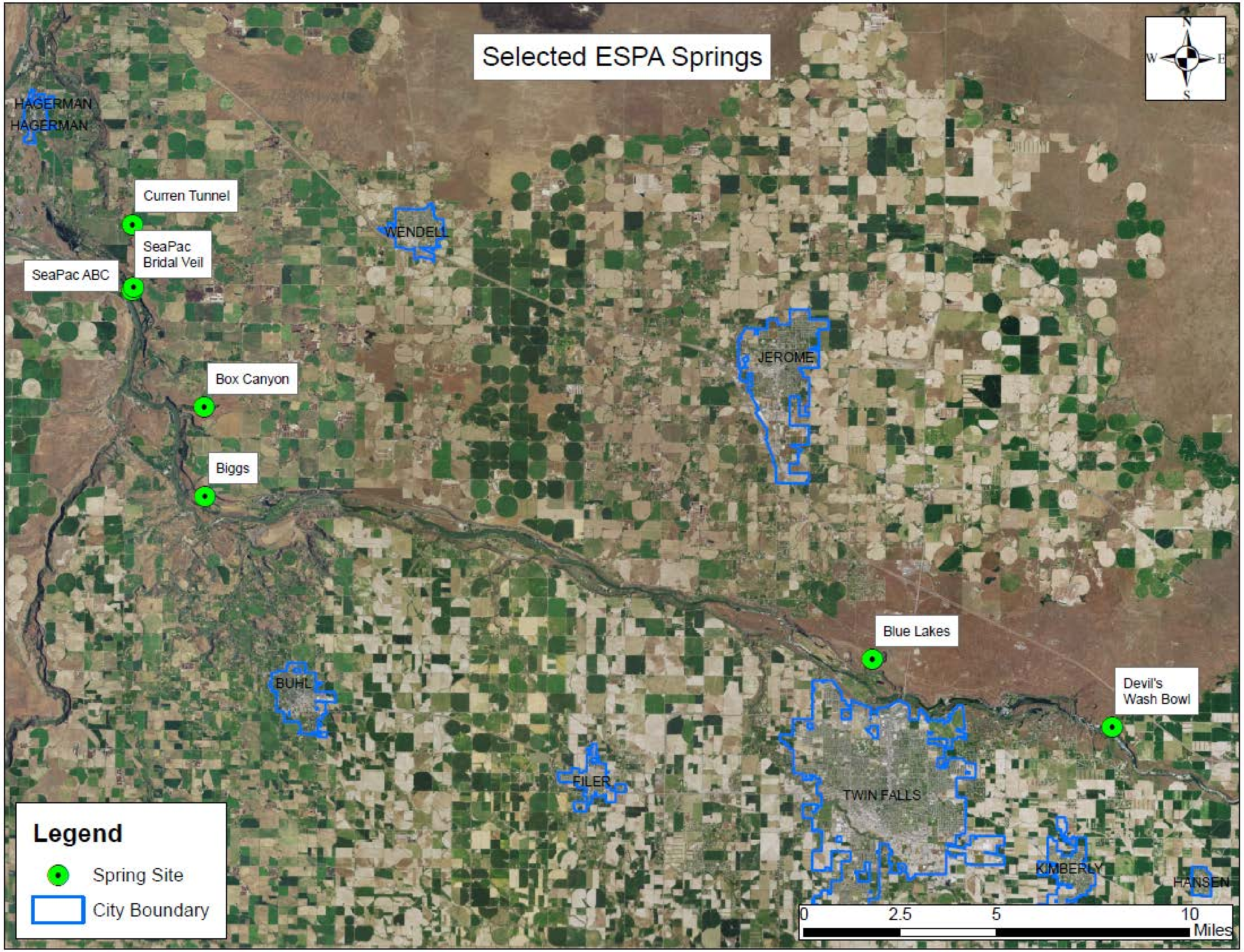
Reservoir Change in Content is the daily increase or decrease in physical content of any reservoirs within the river reach.

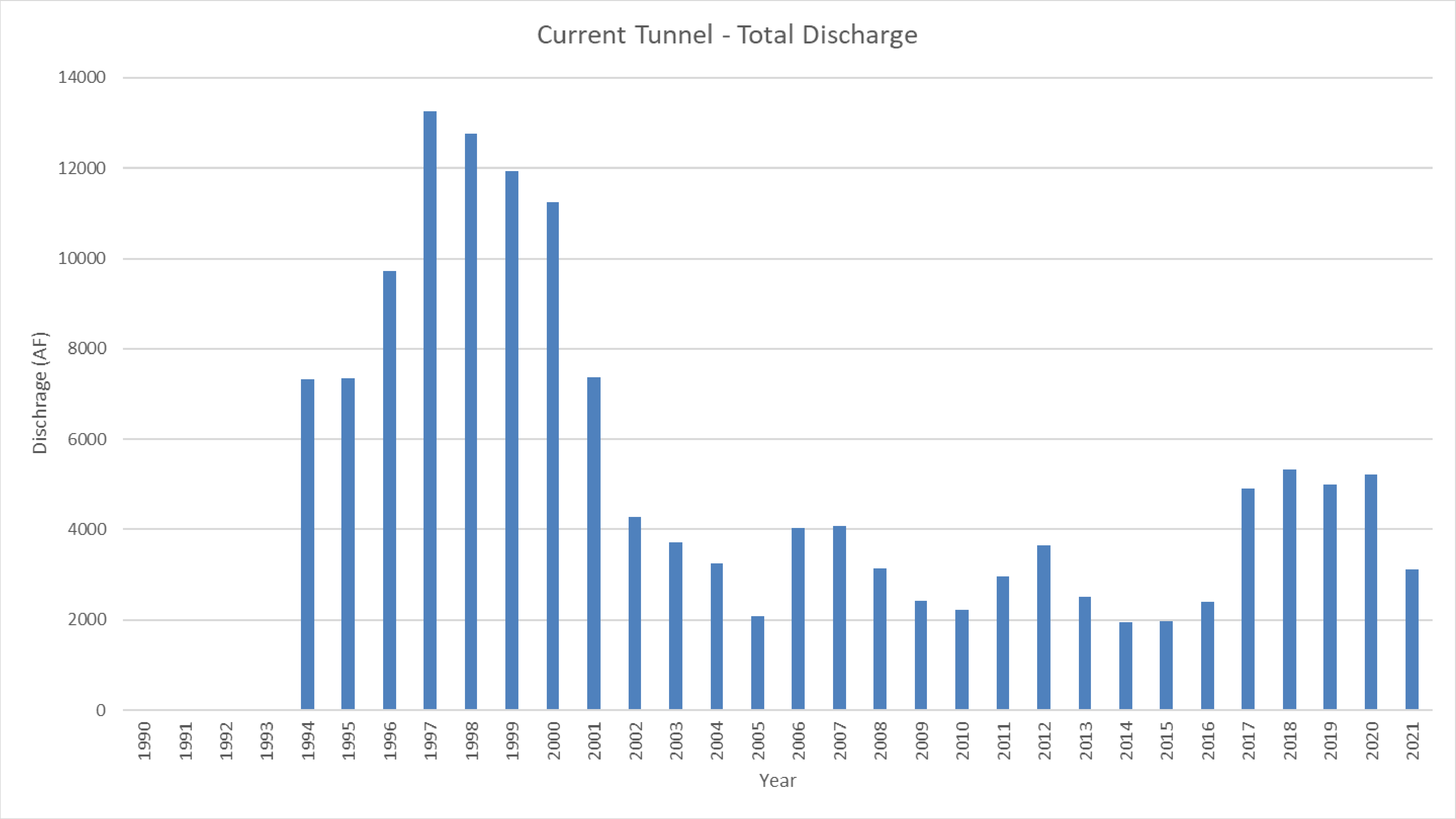
Reservoir Evaporation is the calculated evaporative losses from the reservoir.

Return Flow is the unused irrigation diversion returning to the river.

Near Blackfoot to Minidoka Reach Gains – 1928 to 2021




Selected ESPA Springs
N
W
E
S
HAGERMAN
HAGERMAN
Curren Tunnel
SeaPac Bridal Veil
SeaPac ABC
WENDELL
JEROME
Box Canyon
Biggs
Blue Lakes
Devil's Wash Bowl
BUHL
FILER
TWIN FALLS
KIMBERLY
HANSEN
Legend
Spring Site
City Boundary
0 2.5 5 10
Miles


Current Tunnel - Total Discharge
Discrhage (AF)
14000
12000
10000
8000
6000
4000
2000
0
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
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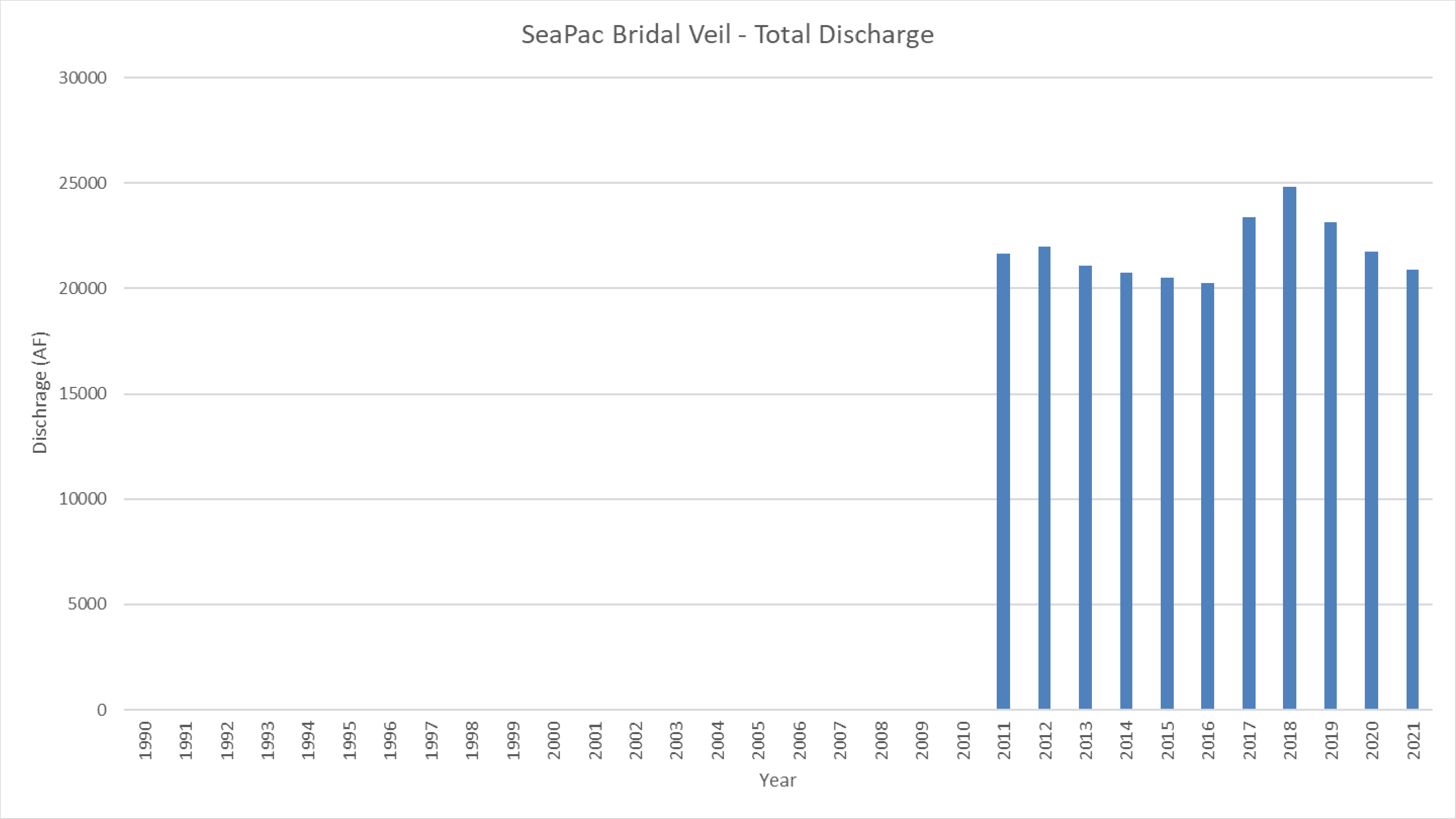
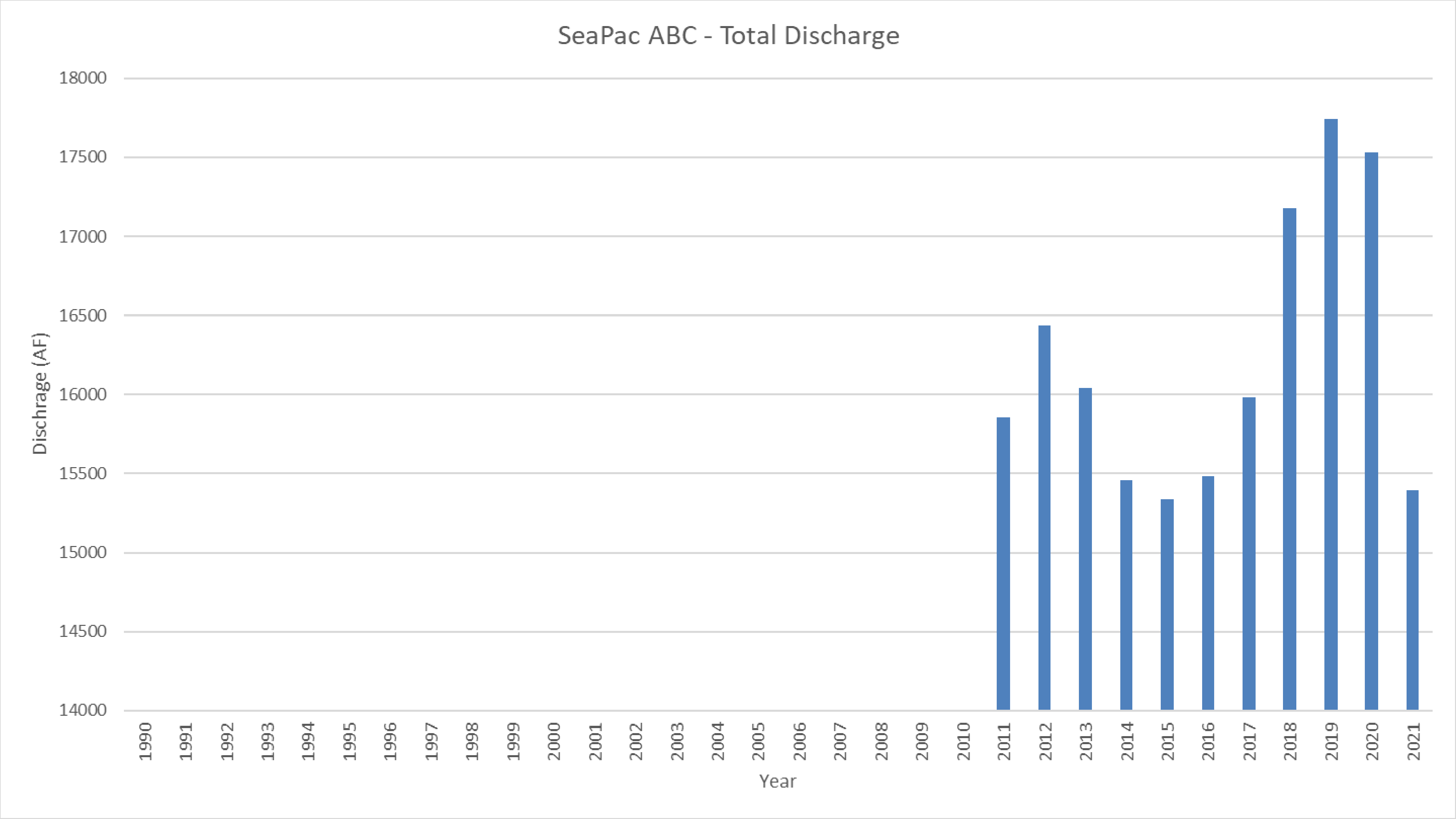
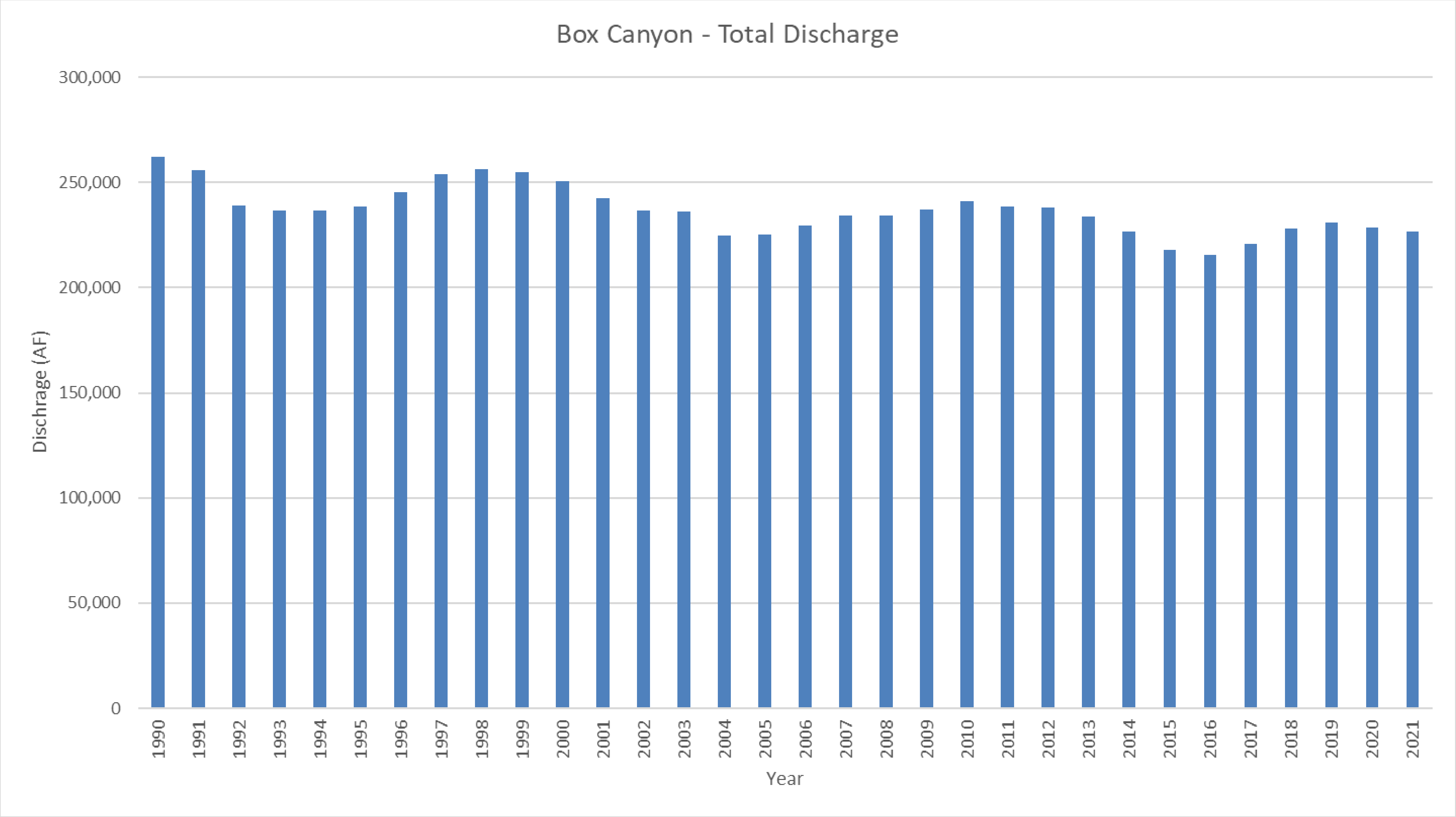
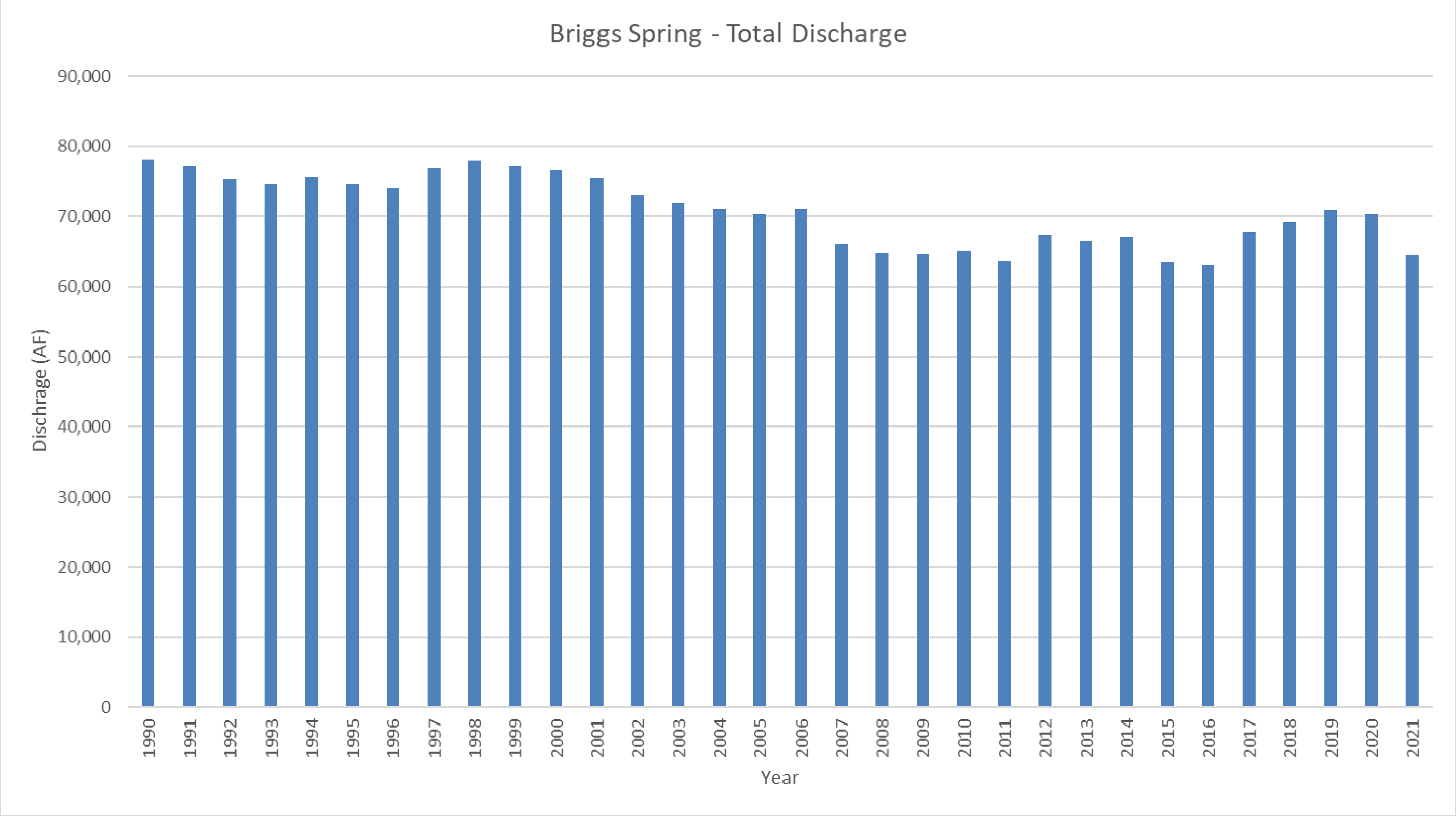
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
Year


SeaPac Bridal Veil - Total Discharge
Dischrage (AF)
30000
25000
20000
15000
10000
5000
0
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
Year


SeaPac ABC - Total Discharge
18000
17500
17000
16500
16000
15500
15000
14500
14000
Dischrage (AF)
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
Year


Box Canyon - Total Discharge
Dischrage (AF)
300,000
250,000
200,000
150,000
100,000
50,000
0
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
2005
2006
2007
2008
2009
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
Year


Briggs Spring - Total Discharge
Dischrage (AF)
90,000
80,000
70,000
60,000
50,000
40,000
30,000
20,000
10,000
0
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
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2006
2007
2008
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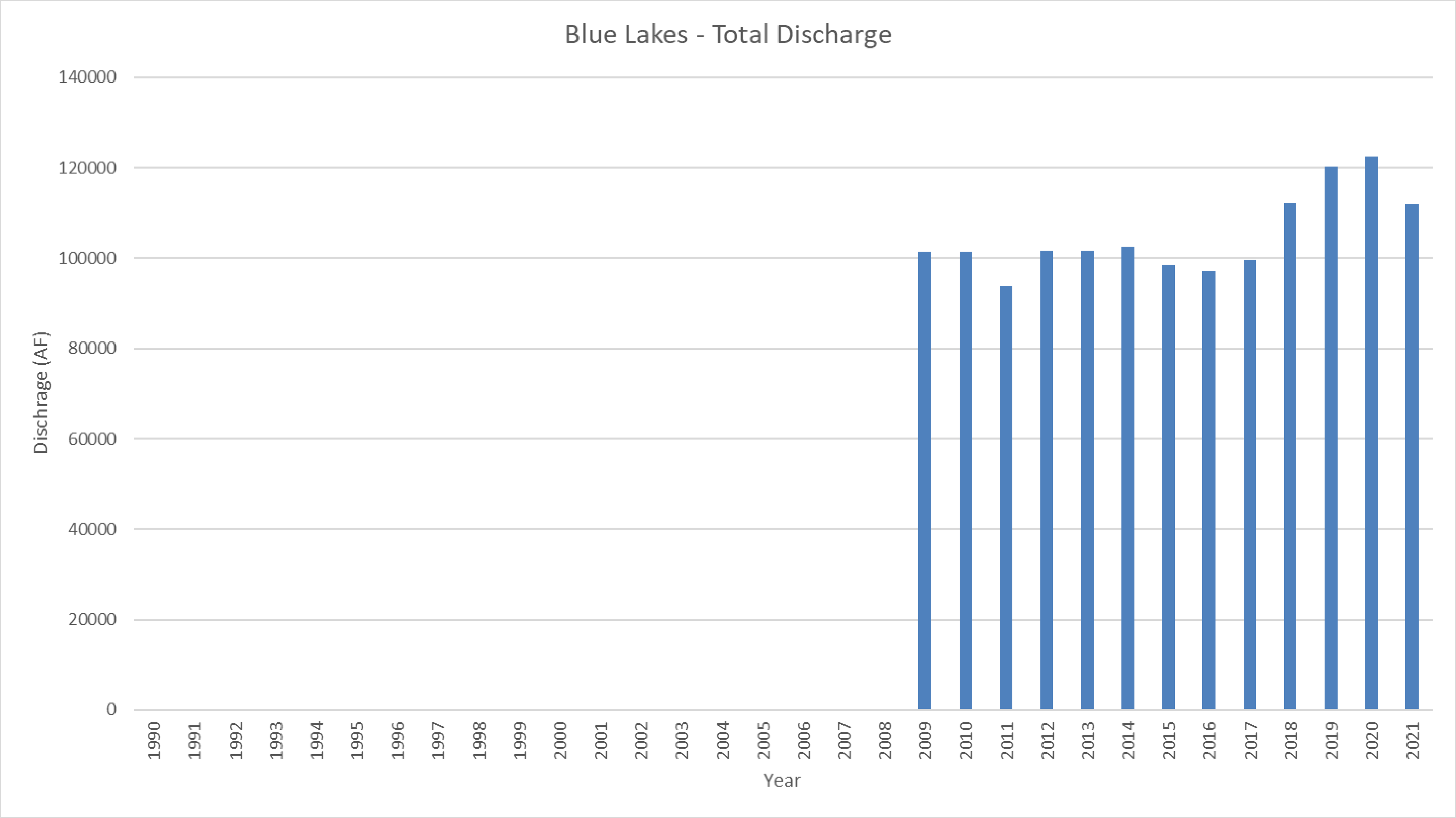
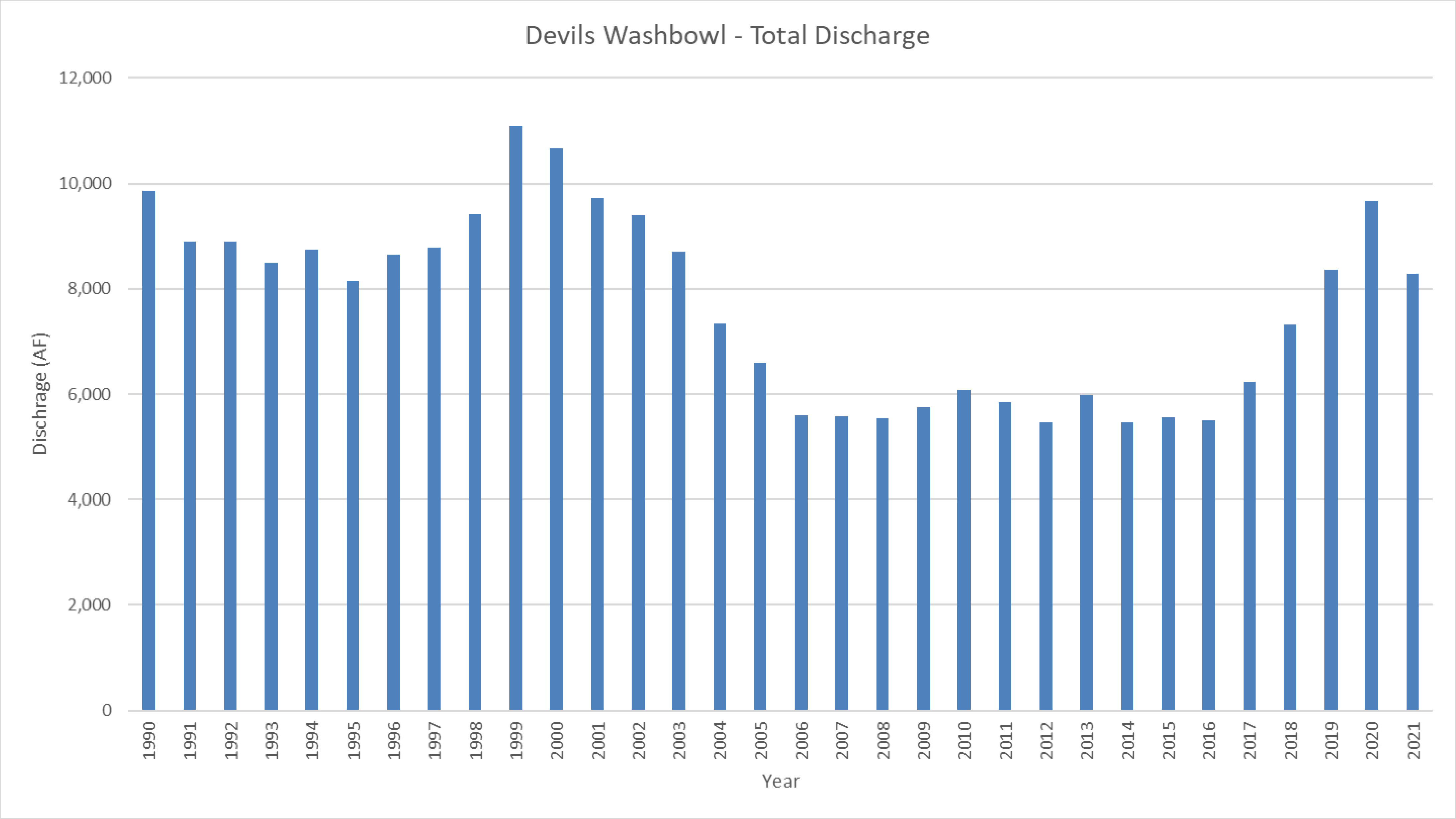
2010
2011
2012
2013
2014
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
Year


Blue Lakes - Total Discharge
Dischrage (AF)
0
20000
40000
60000
80000
100000
120000
140000
Year
1990 1991 1992 1993 1994 1995 1996 1997 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021


Devils Washbowl - Total Discharge
Discharge (AF)
12,000
10,000
8,000
6,000
4,000
2,000
0
1990
1991
1992
1993
1994
1995
1996
1997
1998
1999
2000
2001
2002
2003
2004
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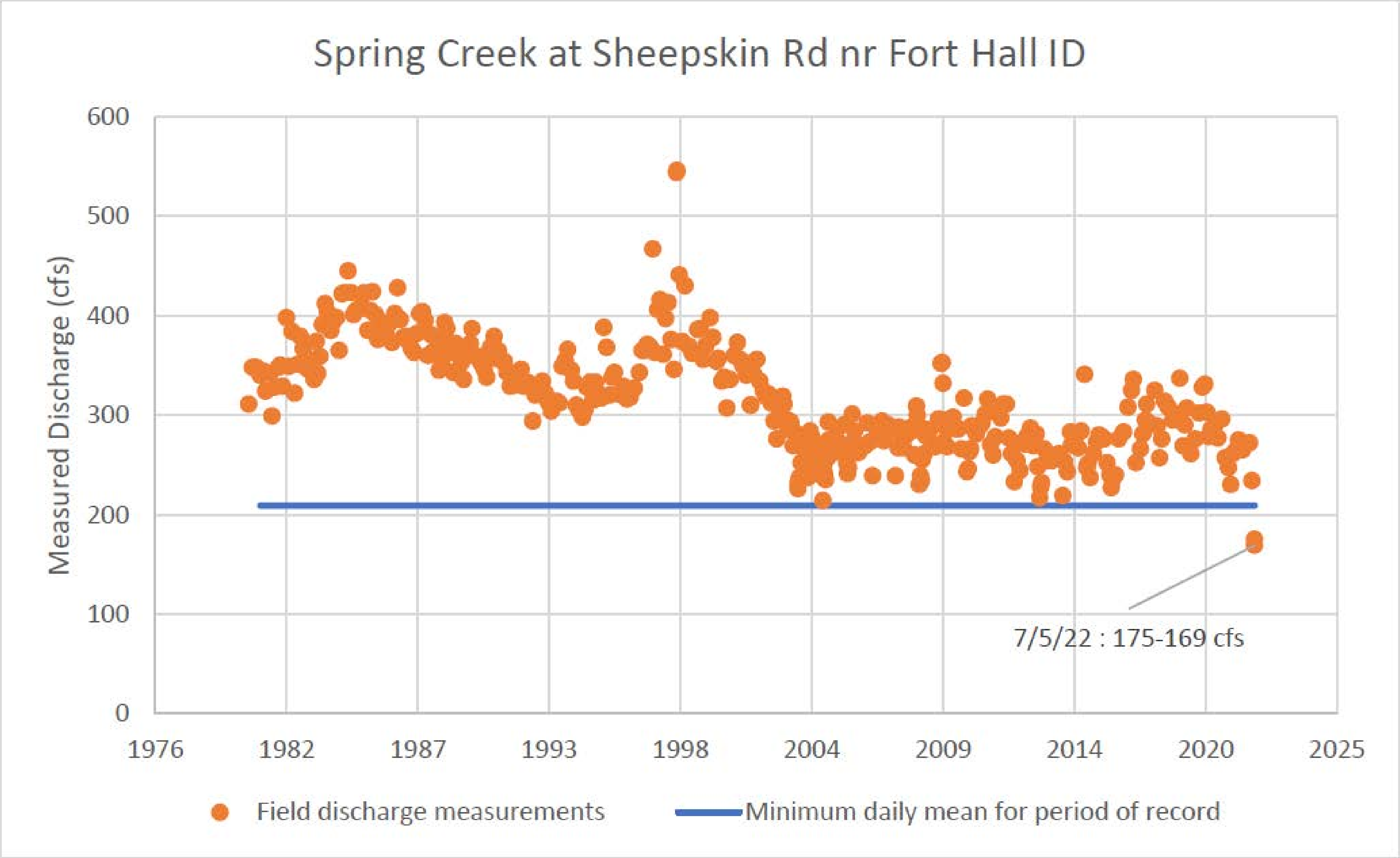
2015
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
Year

Questions


Spring Creek at Sheepskin Rd nr Fort Hall ID
Measured Discharge (cfs)
600
500
400
300
200
100
0
1976
1982
1987
1993
1998
2004
2009
2014
2020
2025
7/5/22 : 175-169 cfs
Field discharge measurements
Minimum daily mean for period of record

Modeling Aquifer Management on the ESPA

Alex Moody, P.G.

Presented August 1, 2022

IDAHO DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

IDAHO WATER RESOURCE BOARD

01

Visualizing water level change

How are aquifer levels changing across the ESPA and what is causing those changes?

02

Quantifying aquifer recovery

What does the model show about management's impacts on the aquifer and river?

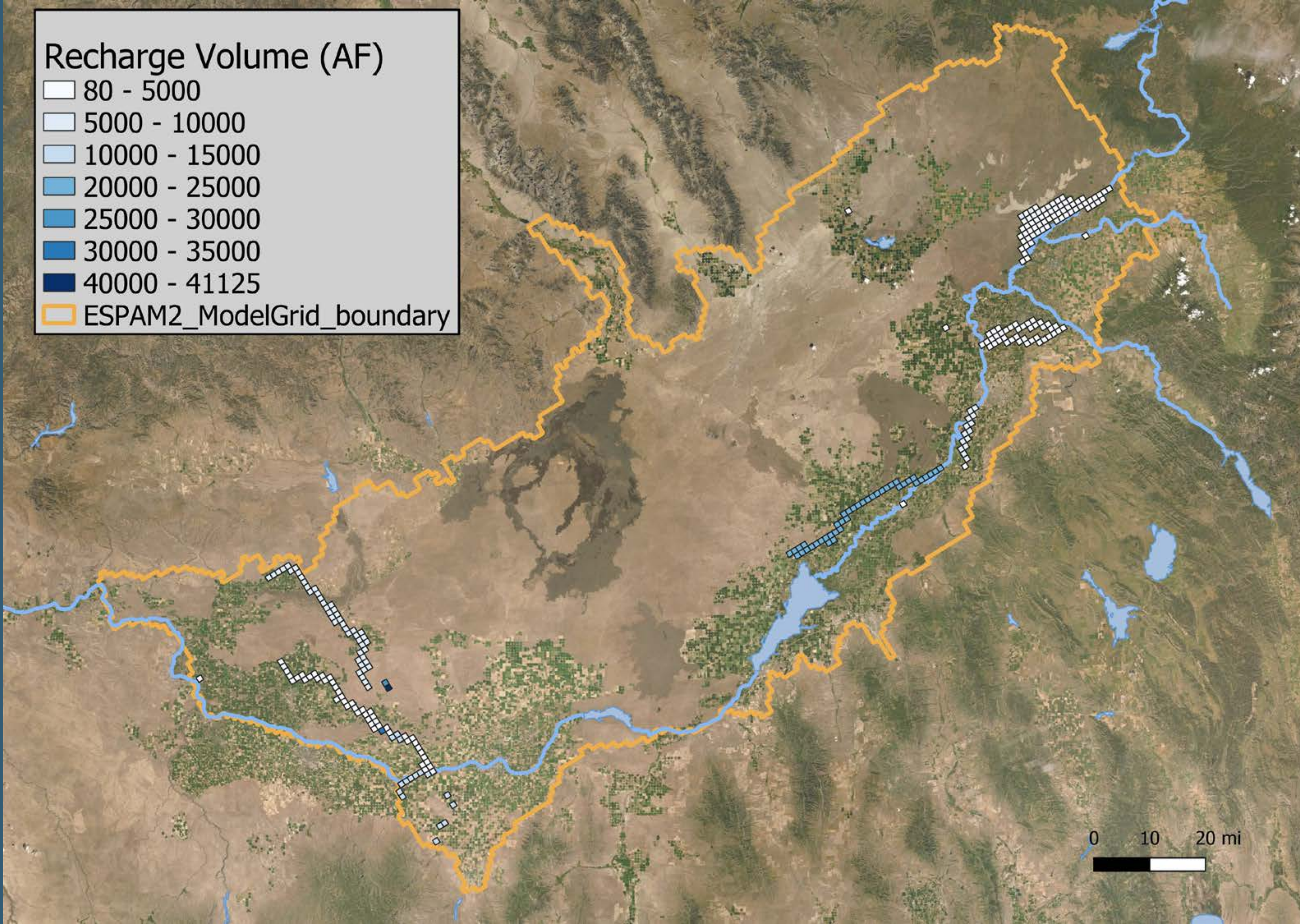
01

Visualizing water level change

Lower valley aquifer levels remain elevated relative to spring 2016

South Fork area showing annual fluctuations in 2021 and 2022

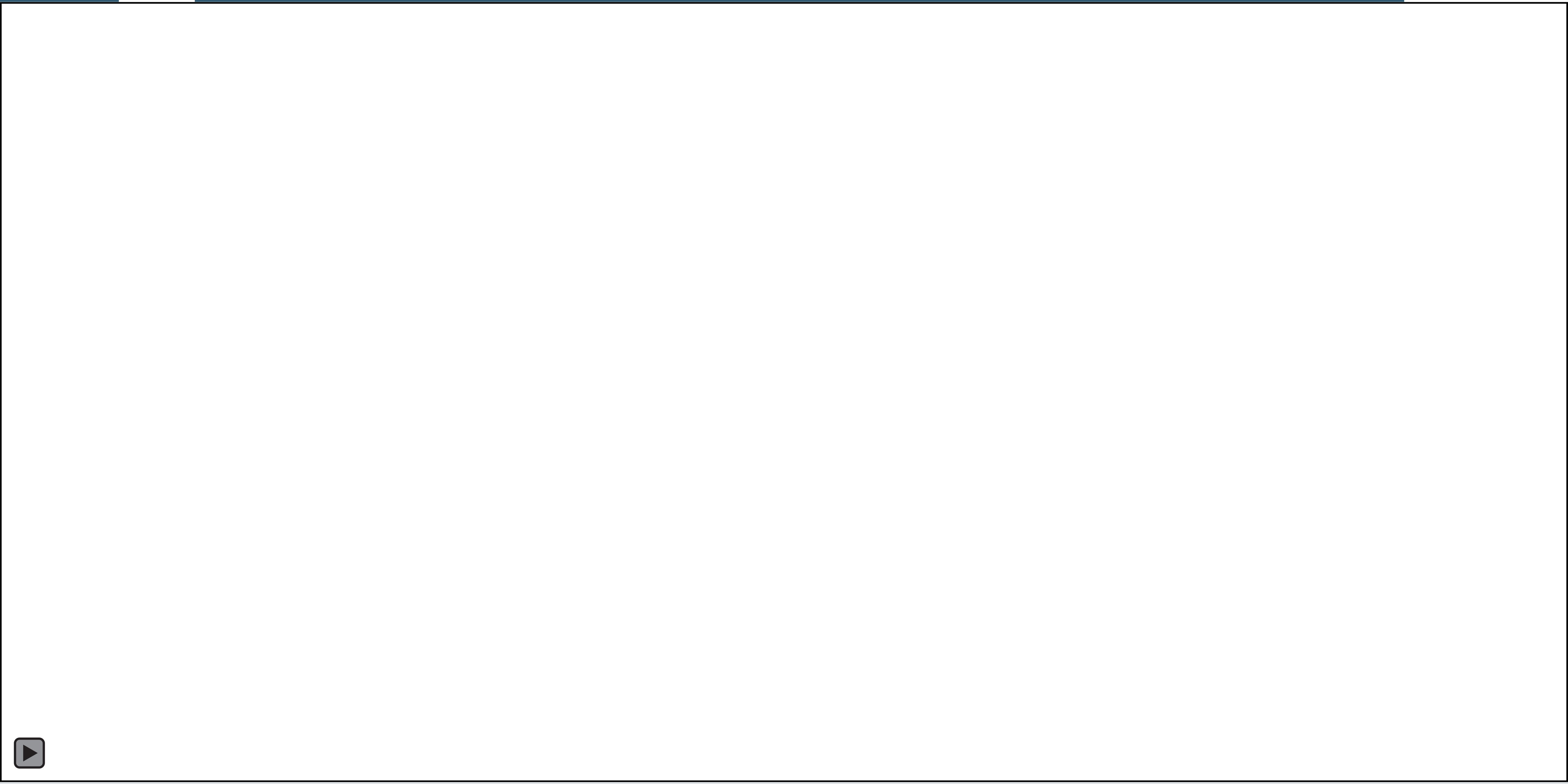
2021 recharge on the ESPAM model grid



Board recharge has increased levels in the lower valley.

Level increases continue to progress up-valley

IGWA impacts widespread across ESPA with smaller level changes

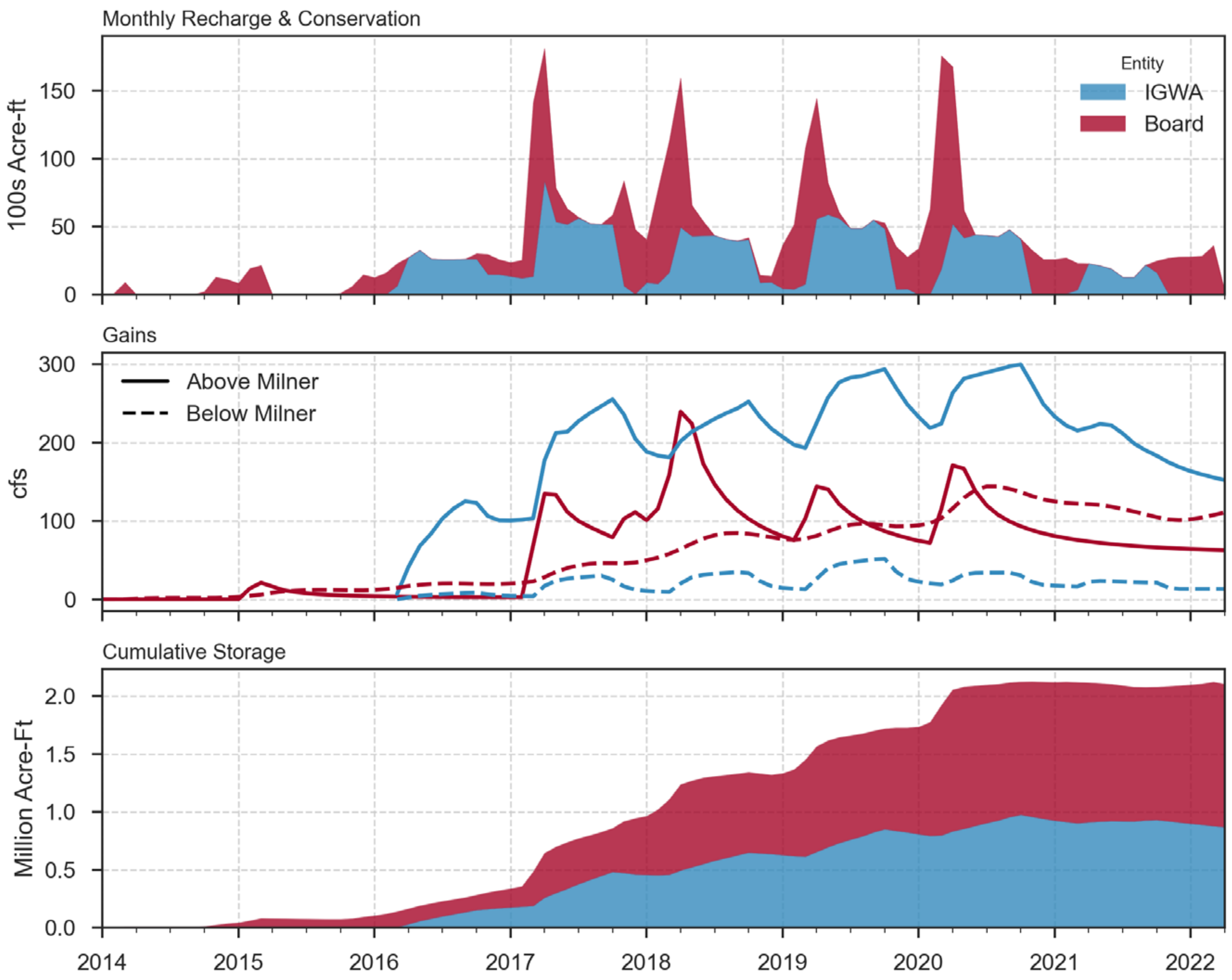


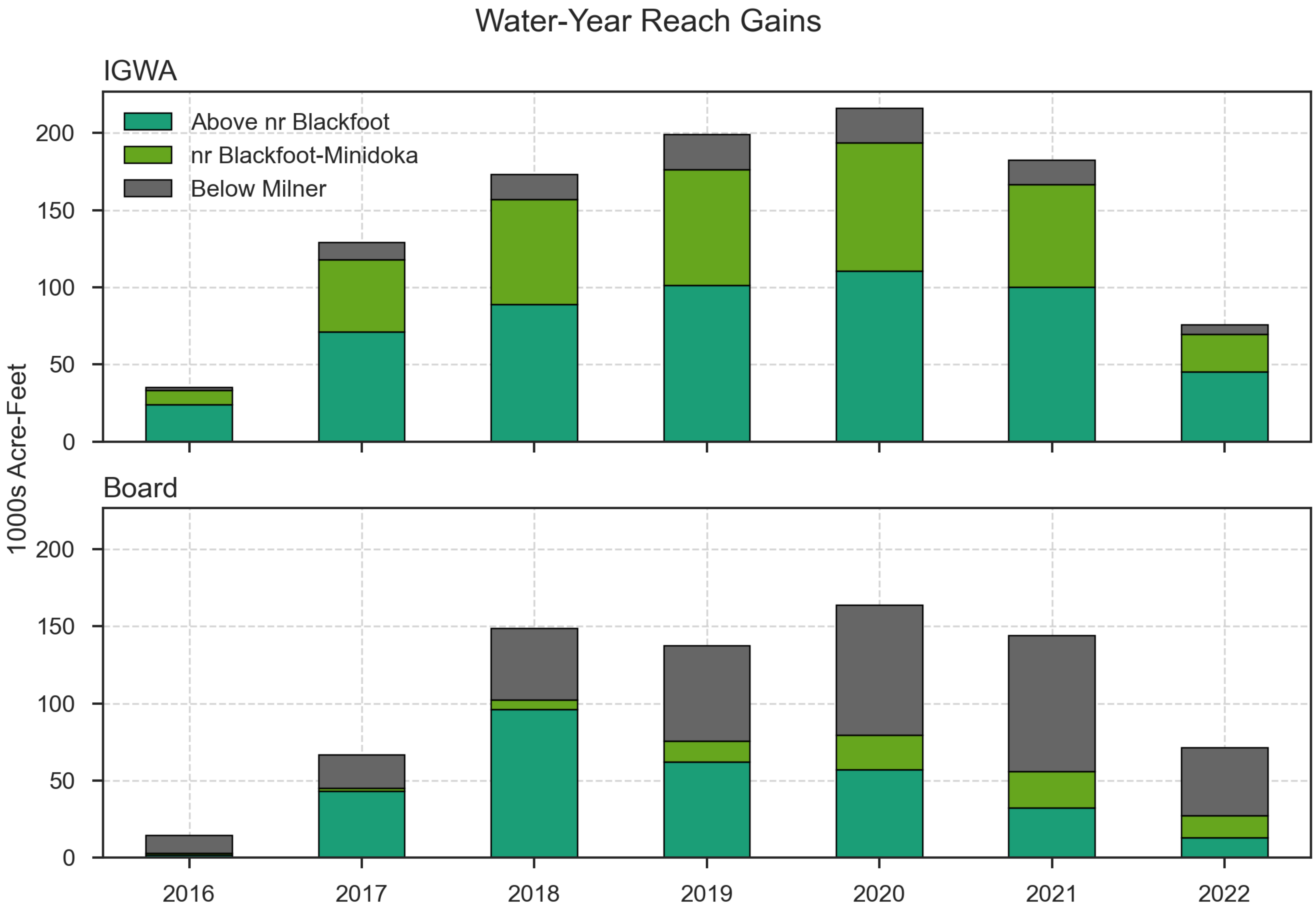
02

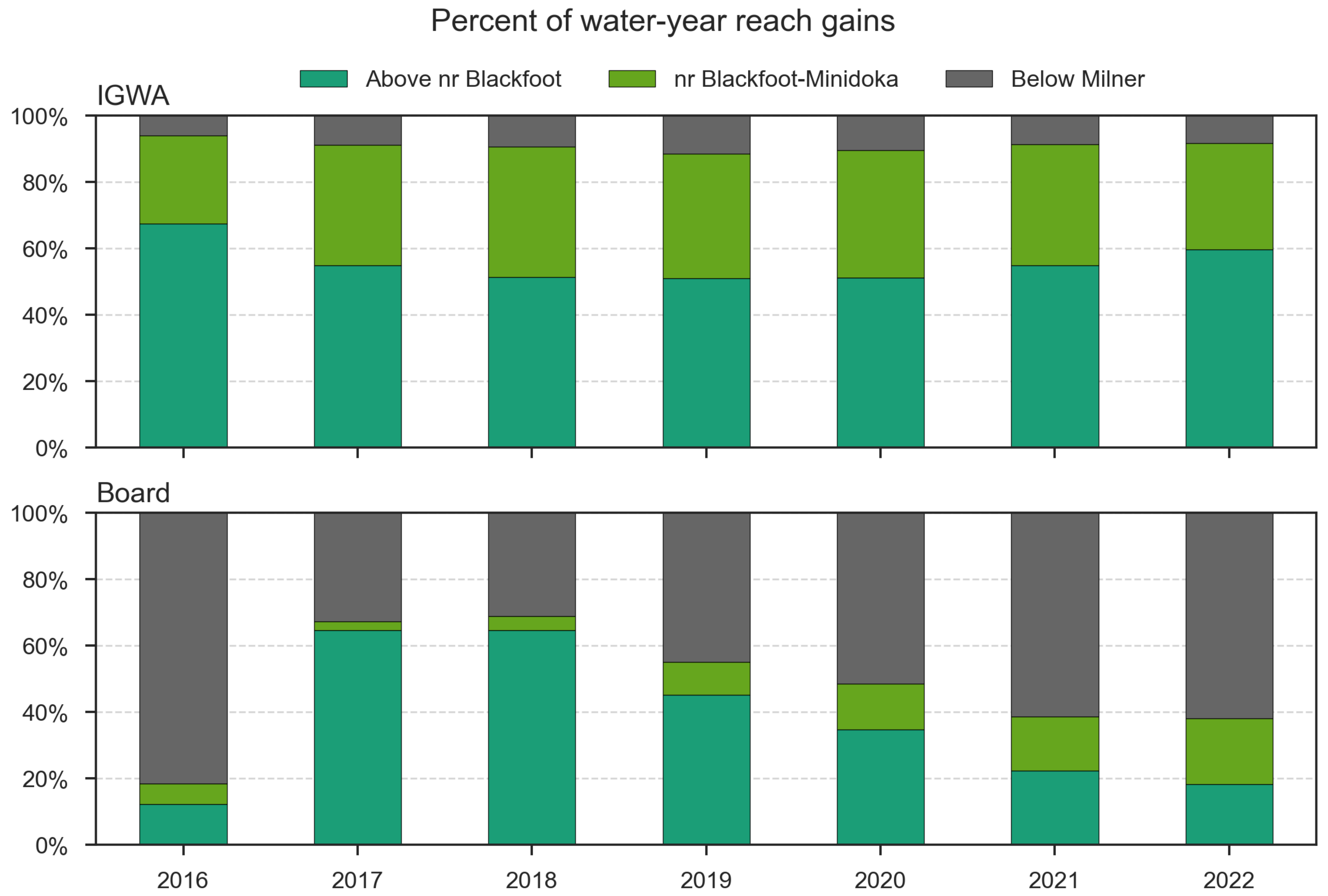
Quantifying aquifer recovery

Aquifer Recharge and Discharge

- Aquifer management efforts vary in timing and spatial impact
- Gains increased until 2021 and have generally declined after 2021
- Cumulative storage remained steady during decline in river gains.

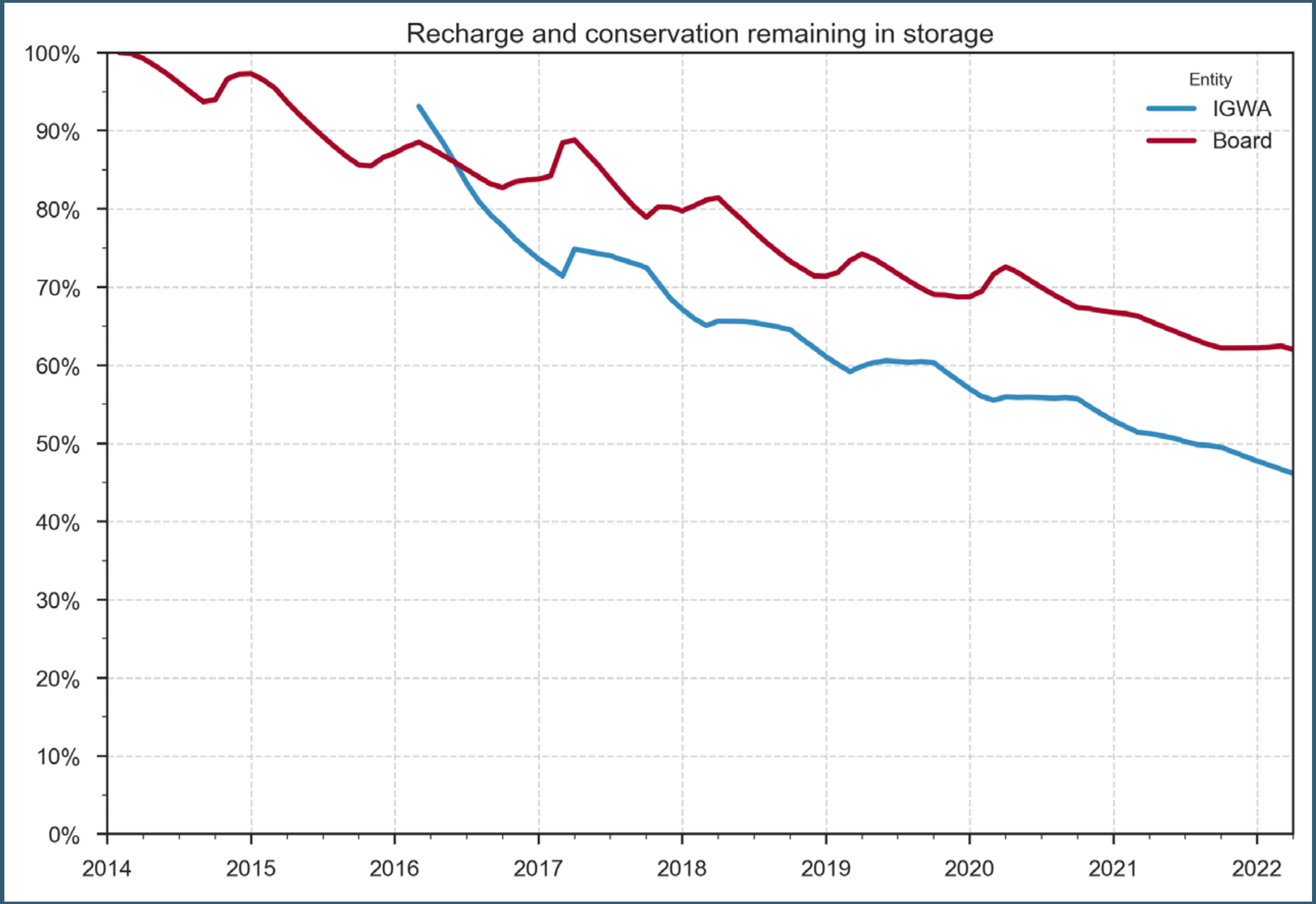


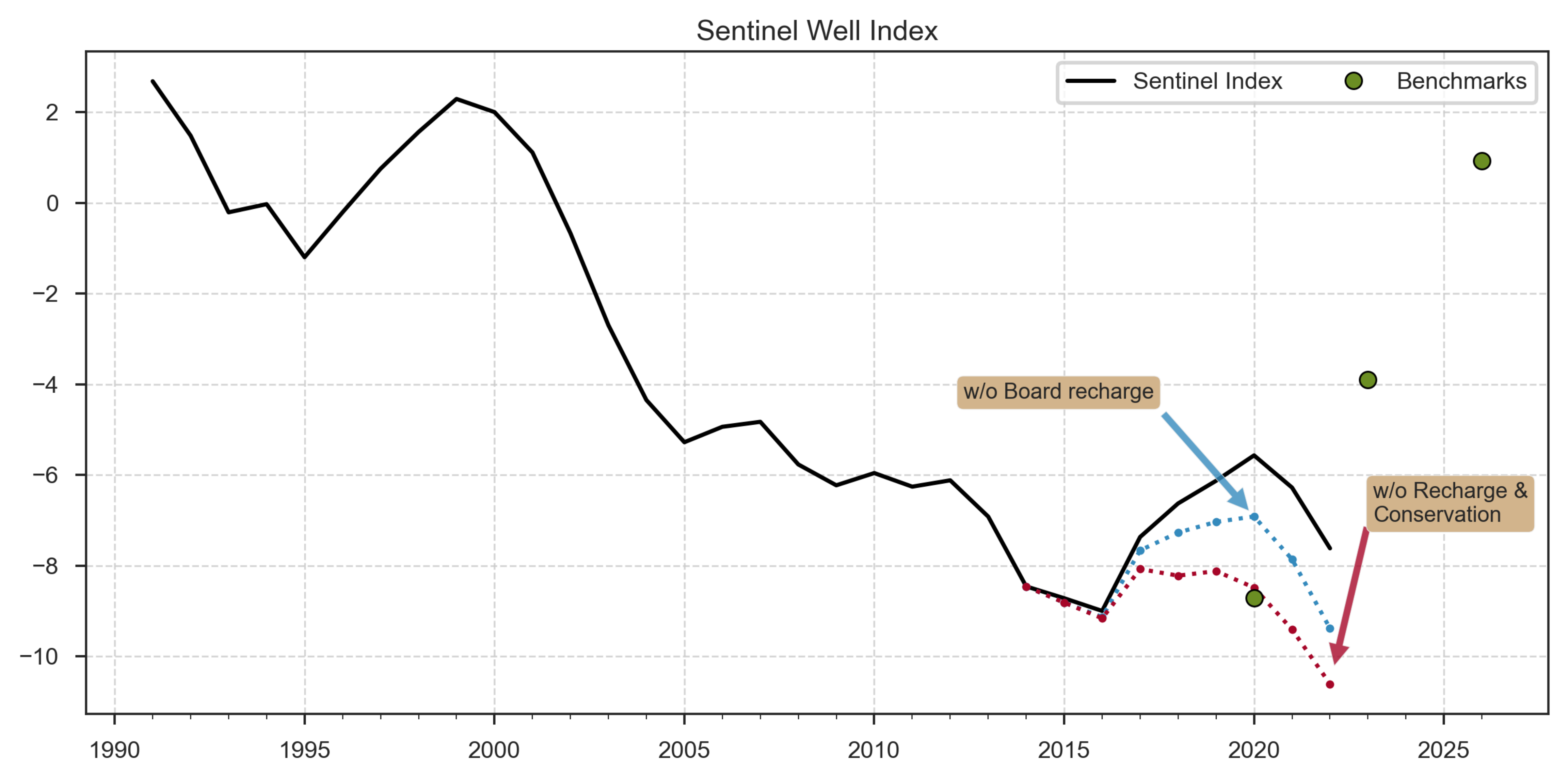

Water-Year Reach Gains
IGWA
Above nr Blackfoot
nr Blackfoot-Minidoka
Below Milner
1000s Acre-Feet
Board
0
50
100
150
200
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022


Percent of water-year reach gains
Above nr Blackfoot
nr Blackfoot-Minidoka
Below Milner
IGWA
Board
100%
80%
60%
40%
20%
0%
2016
2017
2018
2019
2020
2021
2022

Some perspective

- A majority of recharged and conserved water remains in storage.





- Sentinel well index approximately 3 feet higher with recharge and conservation

Takeaways

- 50 - 60% of recharged and conserved water remains in storage
- Aquifer recovery will take decades to accomplish
- Sentinel well index is higher due to aquifer management

Thank you

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208-287-4849

ESPA Settlement Agreements: 2021 Activities

Brian Ragan

August 1, 2022

IDWR

OUTLINE

1. Signatory Cities: 2021 Annual Progress Report
    - 2019-2023: work towards average annual mitigation of 7,650 acre feet
    - 2024 and beyond: maintain 5-year rolling average of at least 7,650 acre feet
2. IGWA: 2021 Annual Progress Report
    - 240,000 acre feet annual reduction in ground water diversion
3. Sentinel Well 2022 Ground Water Level Index

IDAHO Department of Water Resources

City Settlement Agreement

Source of Recharge Water	Recharge Location	Recharge Date	Is location authorized? Does location meet Agreement criteria?	2021 Recharge Amount (acre-feet)
City of Pocatello's Palisades Reservoir Storage	NA: Direct delivery to Twin Falls Canal Company	-	Yes. See First Addendum to Agreement.	5,495.8
Source 1. Lease from City of Pocatello (1350 acre-feet)	Sand Creek Site	5/10 - 9/4	Yes. ESPAM2.1 modeled 5-year retention of 17.8% (row 77, columns 160 and 161)	1,392.0
Source 3. Lease from Common Pool (42 AF)	Near Gem lake	?	Yes. ESPAM2.1 modeled 5-year retention of 21% (row 74, columns 156)	
Rexburg Teton River surface water rights 22-203 and 22-204C	Walters Pond	4/27 - 9/8	Yes. ESPAM2.1 modeled 5-year retention of 44.3% (row 77, column 183)	359.6

2021 Annual Recharge

7,247.4 af

Average Annual Recharge

7,743.5 af

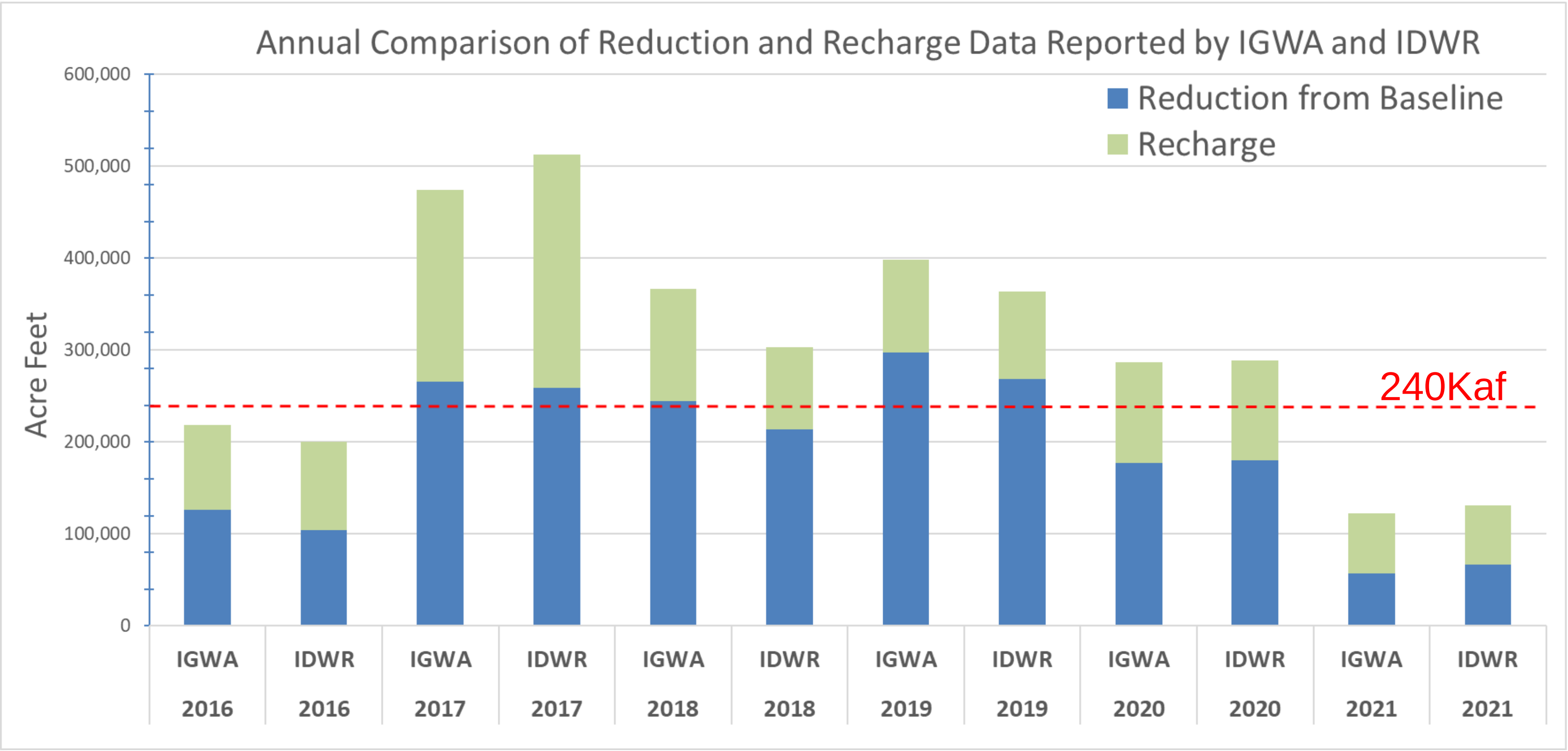
	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Five Year Average
Total City Recharge Amount (acre-feet)	8,169.4	7,813.8	7,247.4			7,743.5

IDAHO Department of Water Resources

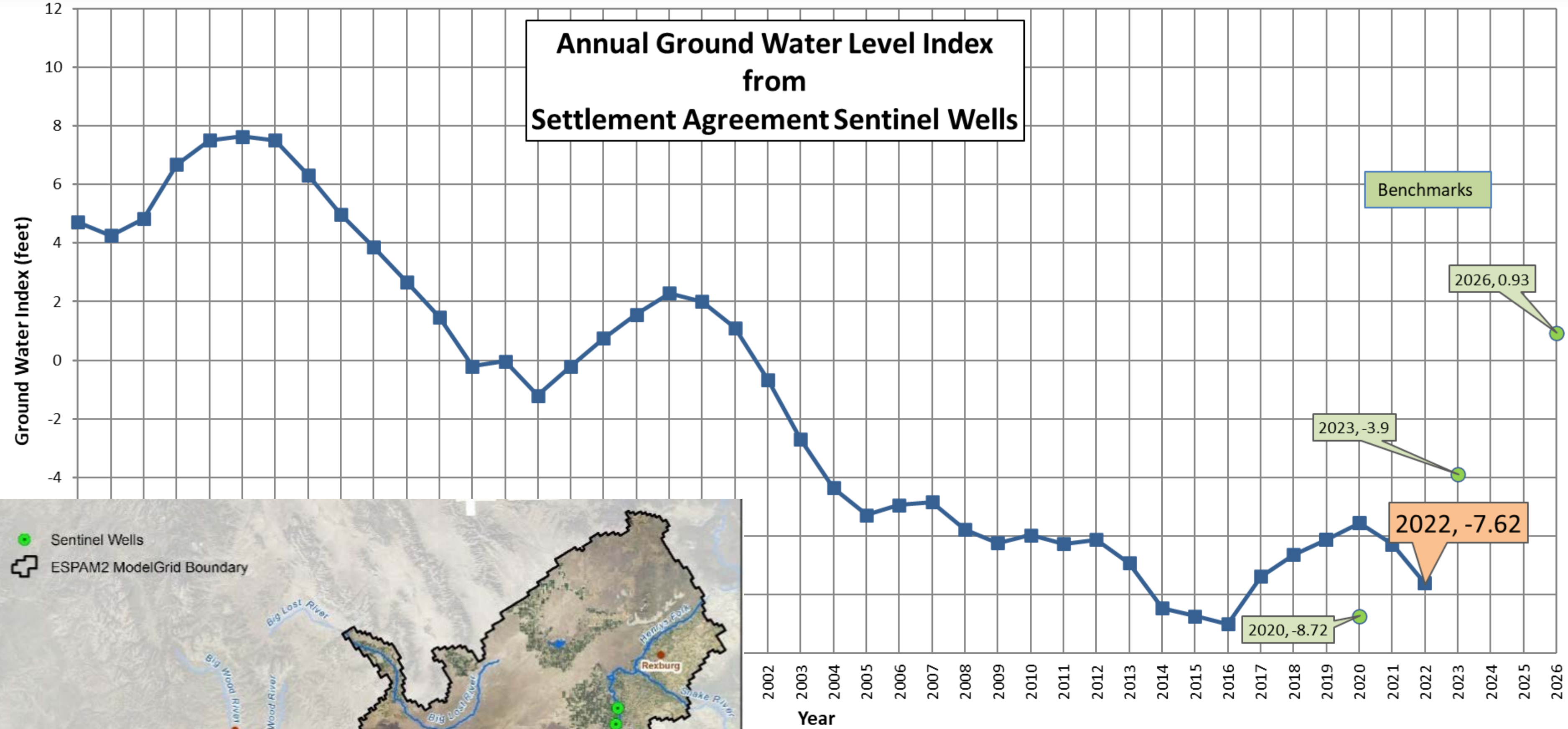
IGWA 2021 Progress Report

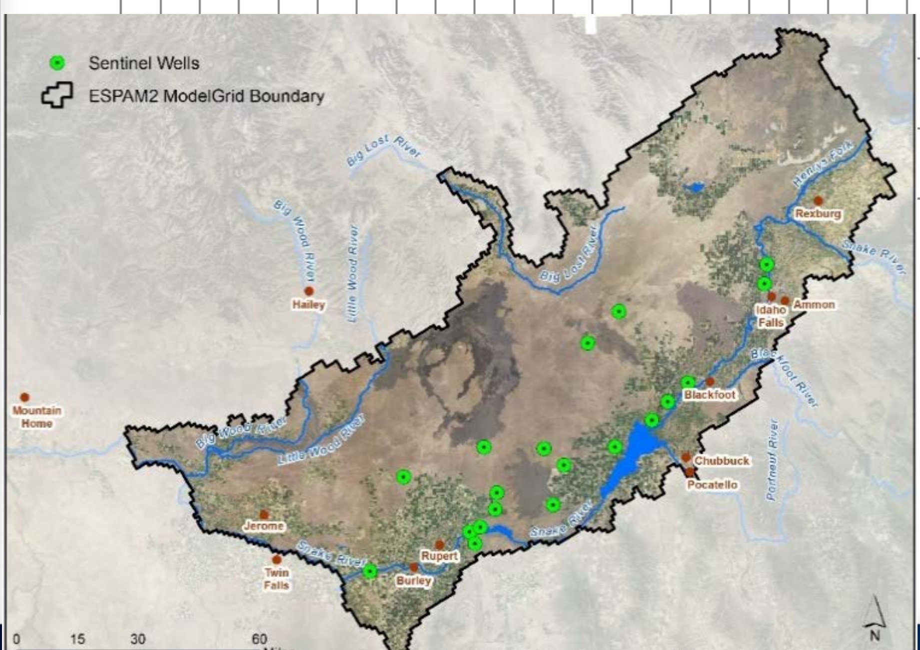
	IGWA (acre feet)	IDWR (acre feet)	IDWR relative to IGWA
5-Year Baseline	1,787,604	1,780,267	-0.4%
	-		
2021 Usage (AF)	1,730,652	1,713,681	-1.0%
	=		
2021 Reduction (AF)	56,953	66,586	16.9%
	+		
2021 Recharge (AF)	65,831	64,317	-2.3%
	=		
Total Conservation (AF)	122,784	130,903	6.6%

IDAHO Department of Water Resources



IDAHO Department of Water Resources





Questions?

ESPA Cities' Comments to
Idaho Water Resource Board
Aquifer Stabilization Committee
August 1, 2022

I. INTRODUCTION

The Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer Cities[1] (ESPA Cities) support the Idaho Water Resource Board's ESPA Recharge Activities and have met or exceeded their obligation to help stabilize the ESPA. The ESPA Cities will continue to do their part to stabilize the ESPA and encourage the IWRB to continue its work to meet or exceed the State's obligations to increase water levels in the ESPA.

II. CITIES' RELIANCE ON THE IWRB RECHARGE PROGRAM

Beginning in 2015 the Cities recharged water through the IWRB program to mitigate for any injury from City ground water pumping under the Surface Water Coalition delivery call. In 2015 and for several years after, the Cities entered into annual agreements with the Surface Water Coalition and engaged over the course of several years in purposeful settlement negotiations.

A settlement was executed in 2018 between the Surface Water Coalition, the Idaho Ground Water Appropriators and certain ESPA Cities (the Signatory Cities[2]) entered into a *Settlement Agreement Between the Surface Water Coalition, Participating Members of Idaho Ground Water Appropriators, Inc., and Signatories Cities* (Final Settlement Agreement). The Final Settlement Agreement was effective January 1, 2019, and requires the Signatory Cities to supply mitigation water for aquifer enhancement or other mitigation activities ("Mitigation Obligation") averaging 7,650 af per year (af/y)[3] on a five-year running average, with a minimum requirement to supply 1,000 af/y commencing January 1, 2019. The first compliance period will be assessed in 2024 for the period 2019-2023.

The Signatory Cities allocated the Mitigation Obligation amongst themselves on a basis that accounts for priority dates of each city's groundwater rights and average annual groundwater pumping. To satisfy the Mitigation Obligation, each Signatory City may lease water from Pocatello, Water District 01, or other suppliers, or supply mitigation arising from its own water supplies and/or through its own aquifer enhancement projects that are consistent with paragraphs II.A.2.a. and b. of the Final Settlement Agreement and the

[1] Includes the cities set forth in Table 1.

[2] The cities obligated under the Final Settlement Agreement, hereinafter referred to as the "Signatory Cities," are the cities of Bliss, Burley, Carey, Declo, Dietrich, Gooding, Hazelton, Heyburn, Idaho Falls, Jerome, Paul, Pocatello, Richfield, Rupert, Shoshone, Wendell, Albion, Blackfoot, Atomic City, Rexburg, Ammon, and Iona.

[3] IGWA's performance under its settlement with the Surface Water Coalition can affect the Cities' mitigation obligation—failure to satisfy certain obligations could result in the Cities' mitigation obligation increasing to 9,640 af.

August 2021 First Amendment to the Final Settlement Agreement (providing specifically for direct delivery of water for mitigation purposes).

The Cities have benefited from the IWRB's operation of its recharge program because participating cities can make mitigation water available to IWRB at the end of the irrigation season. While this flexibility has sometimes been a source of stress for Water District 01 staff awaiting signed leases and lease payments, it has also been critical to the success of the Cities' efforts—many of the smaller city settlement-participants do not have full time city staff and their city councils or town boards meet infrequently. It is a hallmark of the IWRB program that it can accommodate the entity contributing the water for recharge. We have heard that there may be efforts to try to limit or schedule recharge obligations—if that were to occur, the Cities would have a difficult time engaging with the program.

III. CONCLUSION

The Cities encourage the IWRB to continue administration of the recharge program in the manner they have historically. We look forward to continued participation and engagement in the important task of returning the aquifer to historical levels.