

# Towards a Cyberinfrastructure For Watershed Prediction and Data Assimilation

## from Shared Discovery to Shared Decision Making

C. Duffy, L. Leonard, G. Bhatt, X. Yu, L. Giles, D. Wu, P. Ragavhan, Penn State Univ.



# Numerical Watershed Prediction: A Strategy

## Issues & Questions

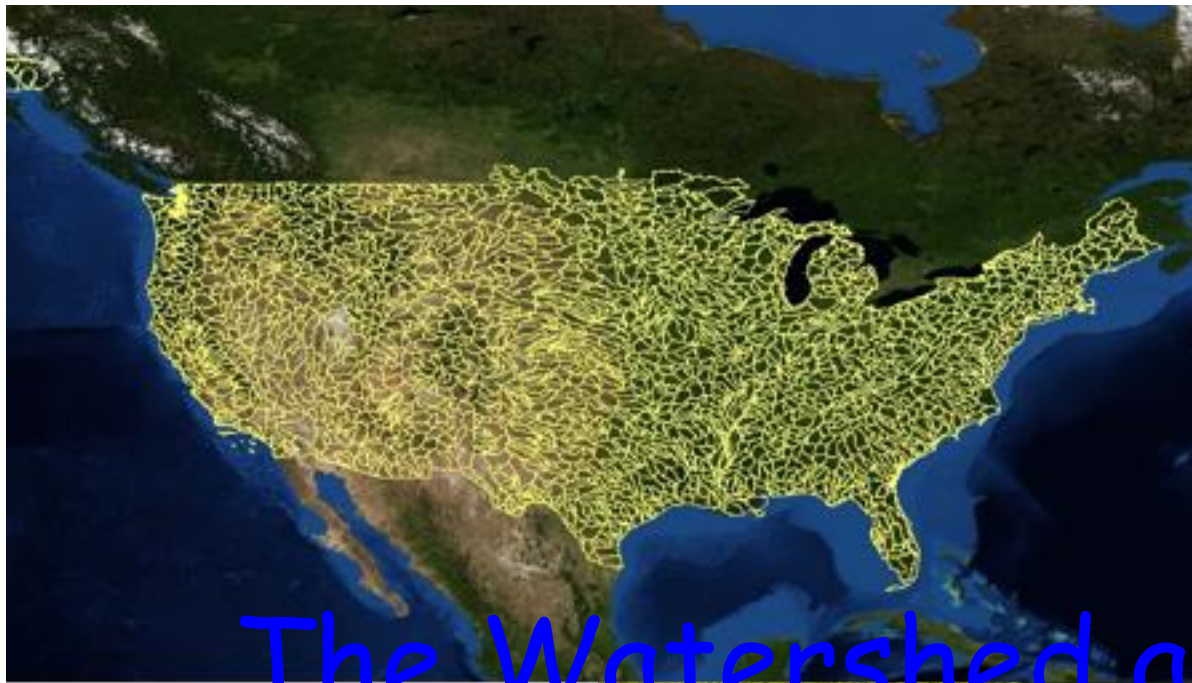
Simulation Framework

The Essential Terrestrial Variables - National Products?

Cyberinfrastructure for Data and Models-> Cloud Framework

Reanalysis and the Role of Environmental Observatories

Platform for interagency collaboration & research support?



2,268 USGS  
HUC 8  
watersheds

# The Watershed as Basis For Model-Data Sharing

103,444 USGS  
HUC 12  
watersheds



# What are the Essential Terrestrial Variables?

## Water-Energy-Solute-Vegetation-Management

- Atmospheric Forcing (precipitation, snow cover, wind, relative humidity, temperature, net radiation, albedo, photosynthetic atmospheric radiation)
- Digital elevation models (30, 10, 3, 1m resolution)
- River/Stream discharge, stage, cross-section
- Soil (texture, C/N, organic, hydrologic & thermal properties)
- Groundwater (levels, extent, hydrogeologic properties)
- Land Cover (biomass/leaf area index, phenology,..... )
- Land Use (human infrastructure, demography, ecosystem disturbance, property & political boundaries)
- Environmental Tracers- stable isotopes
- Water Use and Water Transfers
- Lake/Reservoir/Diversion (levels, extent, discharge, operating rules)

Most data reside on federal servers ....many terabytes

# A-Priori Data Sources

Feature/ Time Series	Property	Source
Soil	Porosity; Sand, Silt, Clay Fractions; Bulk Density	CONUS, SSURGO and STATSGO <a href="http://www.soilinfo.psu.edu/index.cgi?soil_data&amp;conus">http://www.soilinfo.psu.edu/index.cgi?soil_data&amp;conus</a> <a href="http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/NextPage.asp">http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/NextPage.asp</a> <a href="http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/statsgo/">http://www.ncgc.nrcs.usda.gov/products/datasets/statsgo/</a>
Geology	Bed Rock Depth; Horizontal and Vertical Hydraulic Conductivity	<a href="http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/">http://www.dcnr.state.pa.us/topogeo/</a> , <a href="http://www.lias.psu.edu/emsl/guides/X.html">http://www.lias.psu.edu/emsl/guides/X.html</a>
Land Cover	LAI	<a href="http://glcf.umiacs.umd.edu/data/landcover/data.shtml">http://glcf.umiacs.umd.edu/data/landcover/data.shtml</a> , <a href="http://ldas.gsfc.nasa.gov/LDAS8th/MAPPED.VEG/LDASmapveg.shtml">http://ldas.gsfc.nasa.gov/LDAS8th/MAPPED.VEG/LDASmapveg.shtml</a> ;
	Manning's Roughness	Hernandez et. al., 2000
River	Topology: From Node – To Node, Neighboring Elements;	Derived using PIHMgis (Bhatt et. al., 2008)
	Manning's Roughness;	Dingman (2002)
	Coefficient of Discharge	ModHms Manual (Panday and Huyakorn, 2004)
	Shape and Dimensions;	Derived from regression using depth, width and discharge data from <a href="http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/measurements">http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/usa/nwis/measurements</a>
Forcing	Prec, Temp. RH, Wind, Rad.	National Land Data Assimilation System : NLDAS-2
DEM		<a href="http://seamless.usgs.gov/">http://seamless.usgs.gov/</a>
Streamflow		<a href="http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/sw">http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/sw</a>
Groundwater		<a href="http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/gw">http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/gw</a>



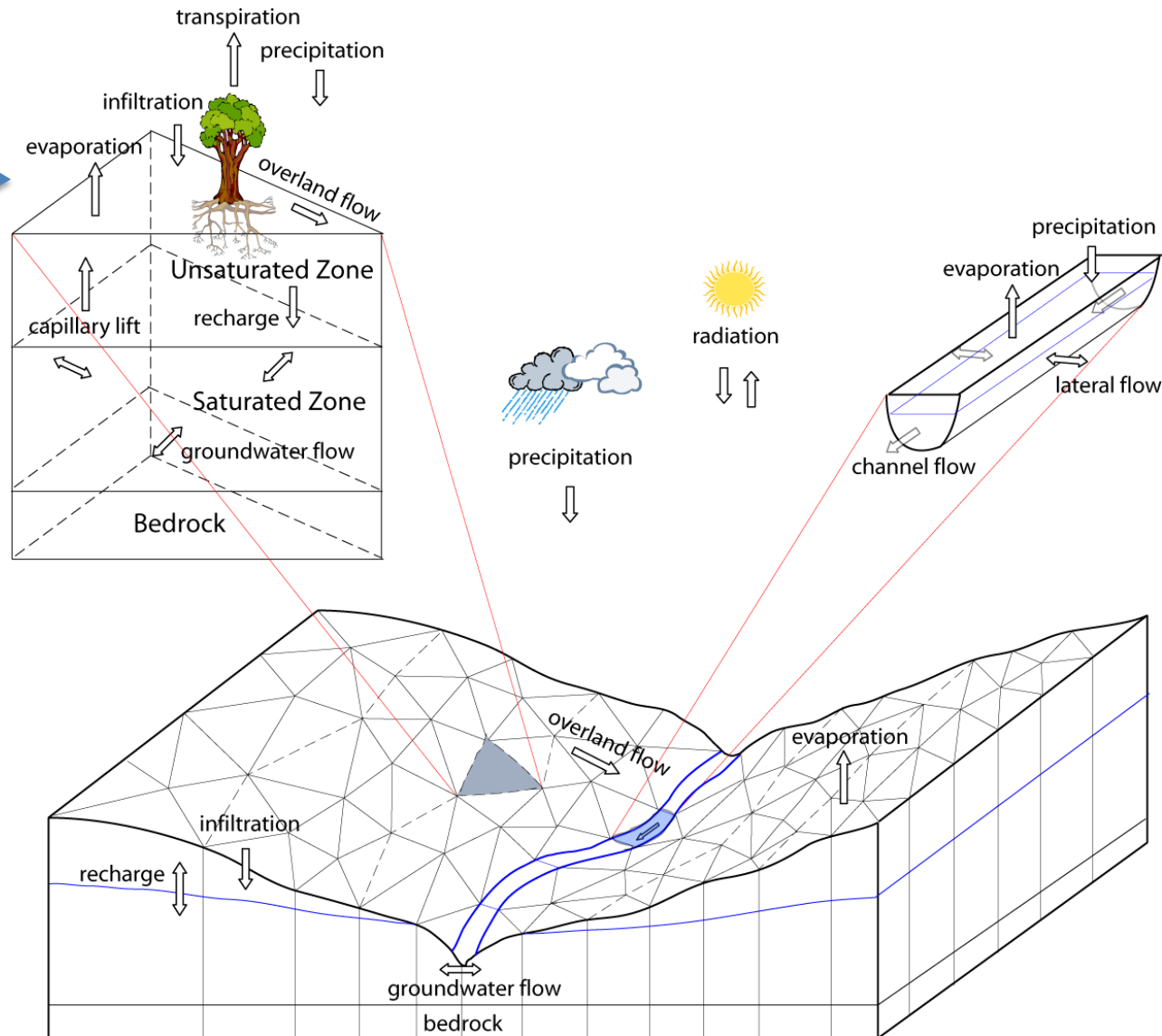
# Scale of Data and Model Storage And CPU-HRS/yr To Support a National Archive for Watershed Reanalysis 1979-2012 & IPCC Projections 2012-2065

	Storage (TB)	CPU- HRS/ YR
<b>National Data Products</b> * <sup>(1)</sup>	60	748
Digital terrain models* <sup>(2)</sup>	20	170
Atmospheric forcing* <sup>(3)</sup>		
Reanalysis: NLDAS-2, NARR	5	100
Climate Scenario: IPCC	1	20
Soils (SSURGO)	3	<1
Land cover/use (NLCD 2001)	20	336
Landuse Scenario: (-)	5	100
Digital geology (-)	3	<1
Observations data (CUAHSI) * <sup>(4)</sup>	~2	20
Nat. Hydrogrsphy Data (NHD) * <sup>(5)</sup>	< 1	<1
<b>National Data Processed</b> * <sup>(6)</sup>	8	505
HUC 12 watershed/stream network	1	5
Watershed Climate data (NLDAS-2/)	2	450
Soil hydraulic properties (PTF)	< 1	20
Land cover param.'s (LAI, albedo)	< 1	30
Hydrogeologic properties (-)	< 1	-
Stream hydraulic geometry (-)	~2	-
<b>Watershed Model Prototype</b>	300	1.8E6
HUC-12 Model run: reanalysis 30yr	0.5GB/ HUC12	40/HU C12
HUC-12 Model run: IPCC scenario 30yr	0.5GB/ HUC12	40/HU C12
Model Code Versions * <sup>(6)</sup>	2GB/H UC12	80/ HUC12
US – 103,444 HUC-12's * <sup>(7)</sup>	300TB	1.8E6
<b>Model-Data InfoVis HUC-12 Prototype</b>	40	25
Space-time analysis products		
Reanalysis	0.2GB/ HUC12	
Scenario	0.2GB/ HUC12	
US– 103,444 HUC-12's * <sup>(7)</sup>	40	25
<b>Totals for US</b>	408	1.8E6

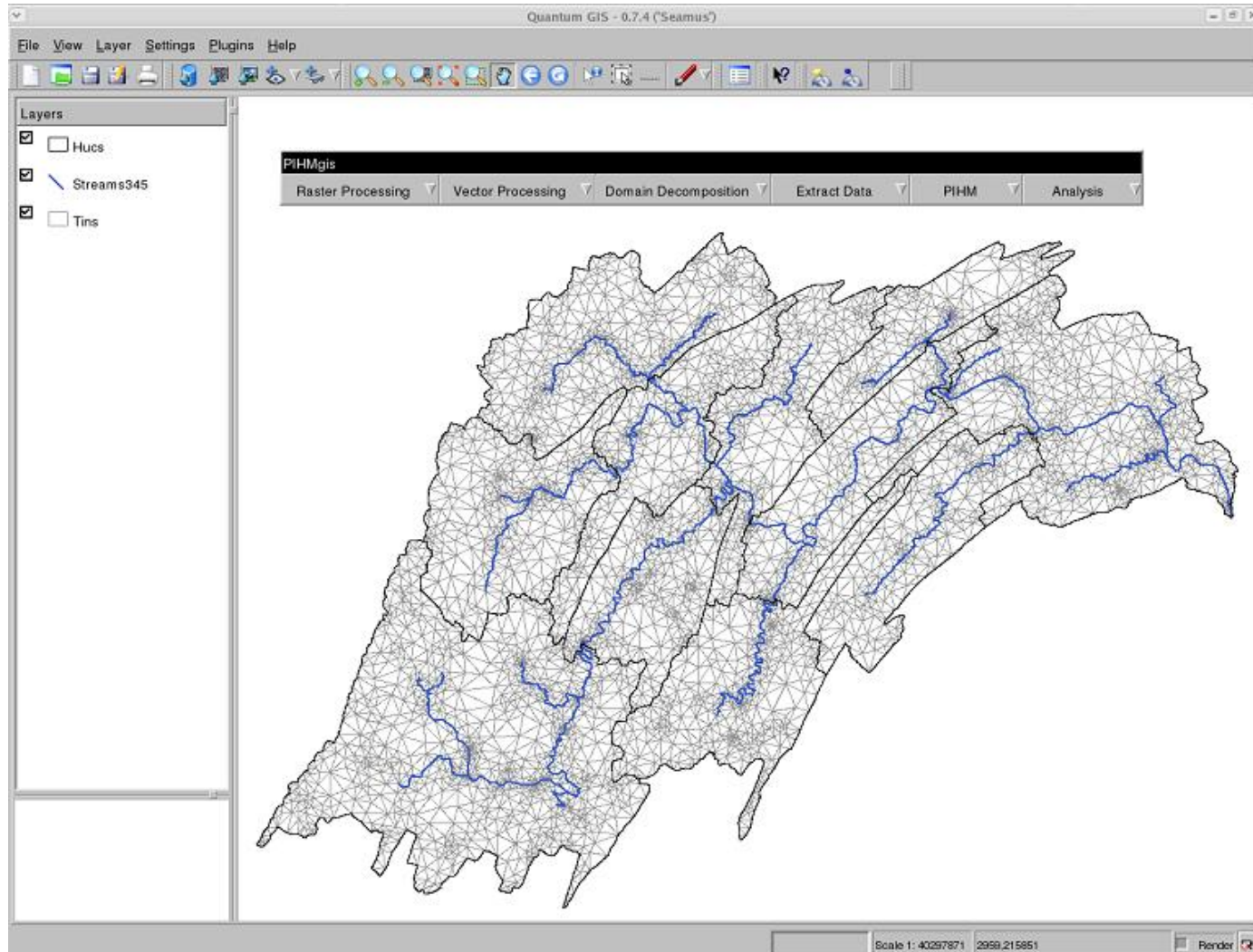
Estimated storage (TB) and cpu-hrs/yr for data processing, model runs and info-vis for the 103,444 watersheds in the coterminous US. Notes for Table 1: \*<sup>(1)</sup> National data includes downloading and maintaining digital terrain, soils, hydrogeology, NLCD land cover/use, hydroclimatic data from NLDAS-2/NARR, and MODIS satellite data. \*<sup>(2)</sup> Digital terrain includes 1m-lidar, 3m, 10m, 30m, 90m DEM. \*<sup>(3)</sup> National data 1979-pres.: precipitation, net radiation, wind speed/direction, soil moisture, etc. on a 4km grid. \*<sup>(4)</sup> National historical streamflow, soil moisture, weather station point gauging data. \*<sup>(5)</sup> National hydrographic data for watersheds, streams, channel geometry in GIS formats. \*<sup>(6)</sup> Processing of all National Data Products to generate input and model parameter database for all 103,444 watersheds, To be used to run the watershed model PIHM. \*<sup>(7)</sup> US National coverage. There are 103,444 HUC12 watersheds in the continental US.

# Penn State Integrated Hydrologic Model (PIHM)

NOAH Land  
Surface  
Model



# PIHM GIS Desktop: Manipulating Geospatial Data and Models





DataModel Loader ▾

Run All

Generate MeshFile

Generate AttFile

Generate RivFile

Generate ParaFile

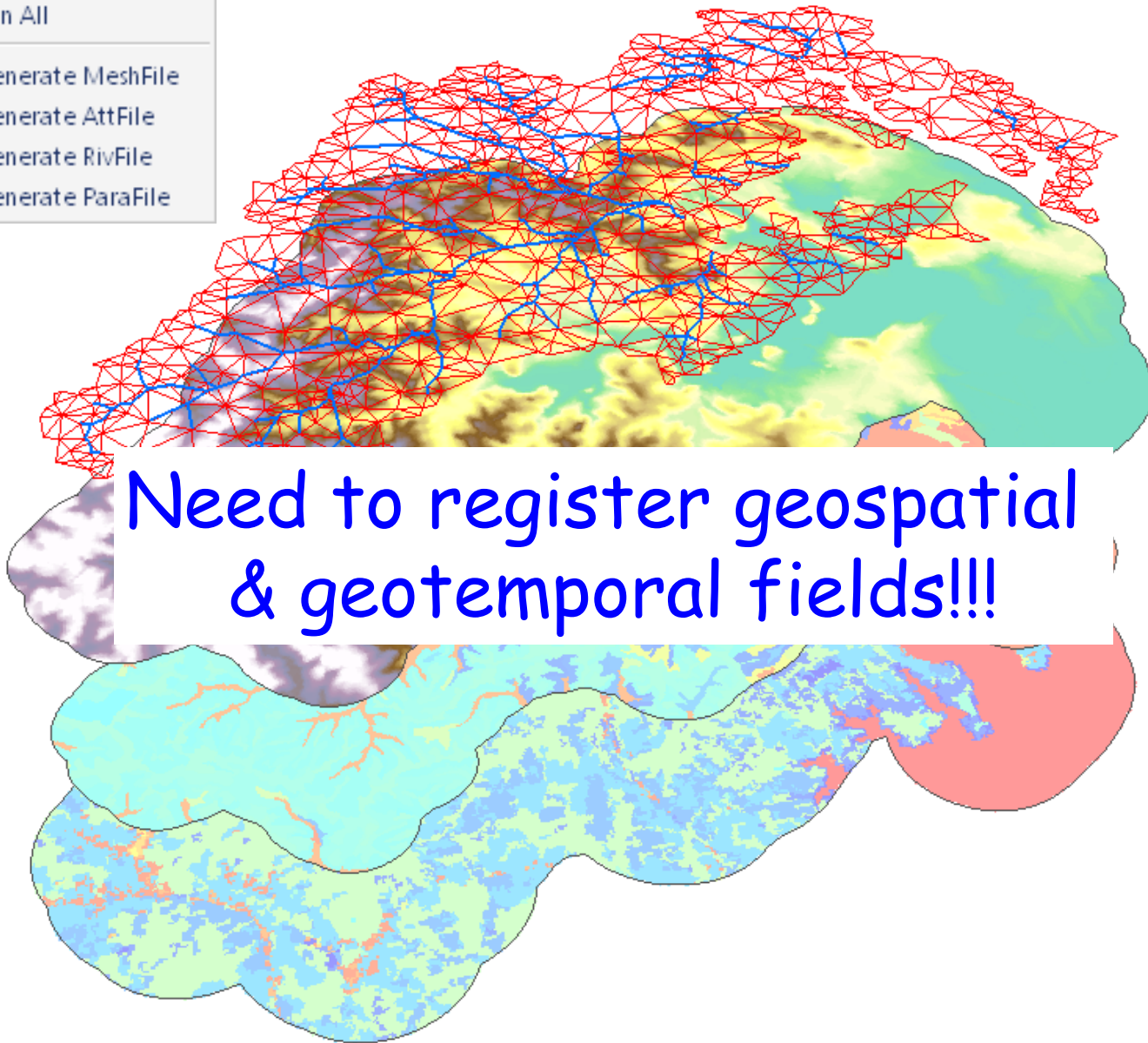
Need to register geospatial  
& geotemporal fields!!!

Irregular Mesh &  
Stream Network

Elevations

Soil Classes

Land Cover



# Towards a New Cyberinfrastructure For Models and Data

Shared Discovery  
&  
Shared Decision Making

# Workflow Concept

Scientific workflows are used to describe, compose, and execute ensembles of scientific computations on distributed resources.

The prescriptive and descriptive representations of workflows (called provenance) are useful for publishing, discovering, and reproducing computational results.

Scientific workflows within the geosciences range from pipelines used to create community data products to real-time processing of sensor data to individual researchers' unique computations (the "long tail")

# Approach

Solicit input to develop an initial roadmap for defining scientific workflows in the geosciences

Provide examples of scientific workflows that:

- Support automated and efficient data management
- Assures reliability for national and global data
- Offers a scalable solution ...nation.....global
- Automatically captures provenance
- Accessible by to geoscience researchers, students, etc.
- Allows integration across geoscience disciplines

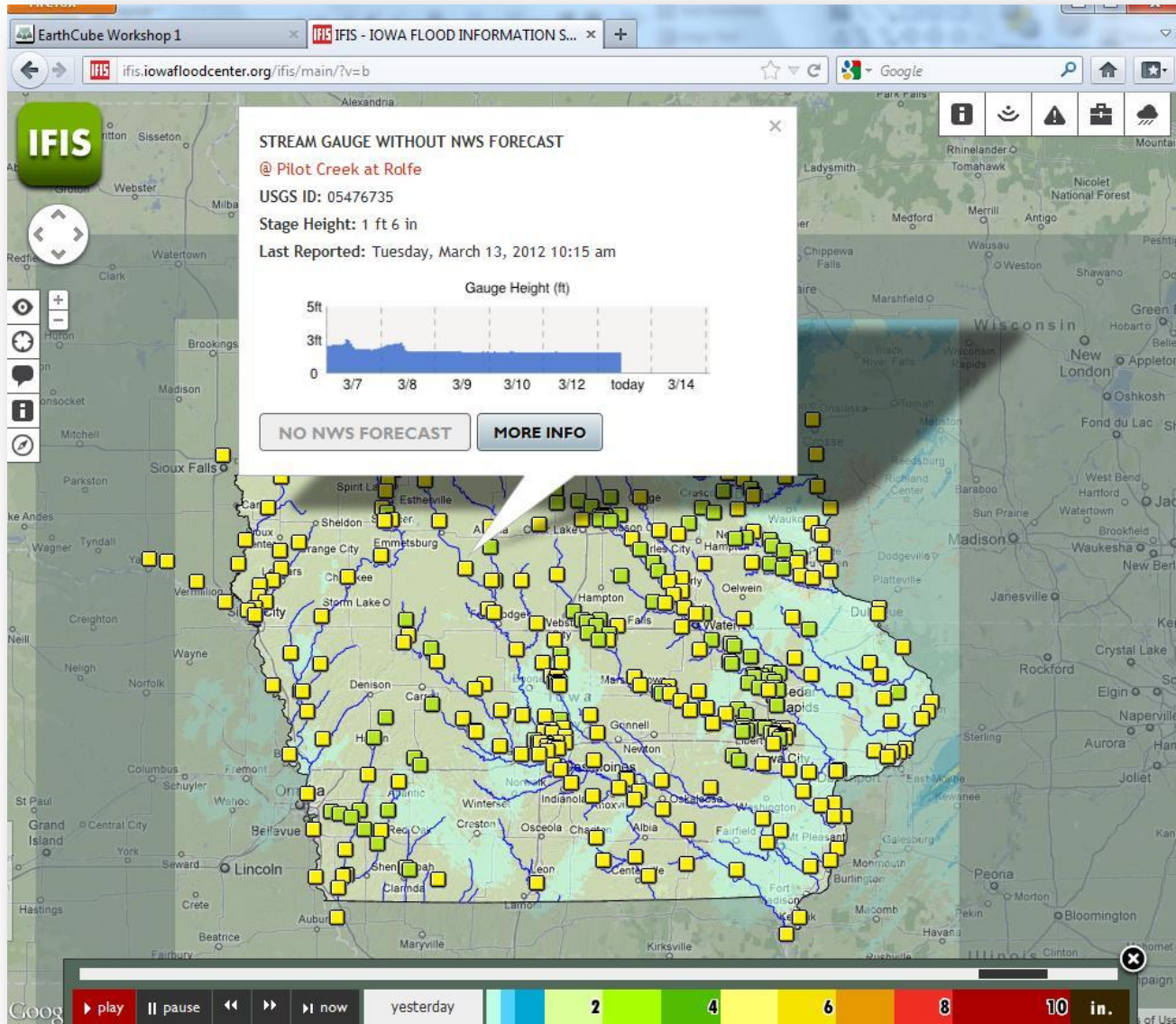
# Possible Earth Science Workflow Paradigms

## The Center Modeling Paradigm:

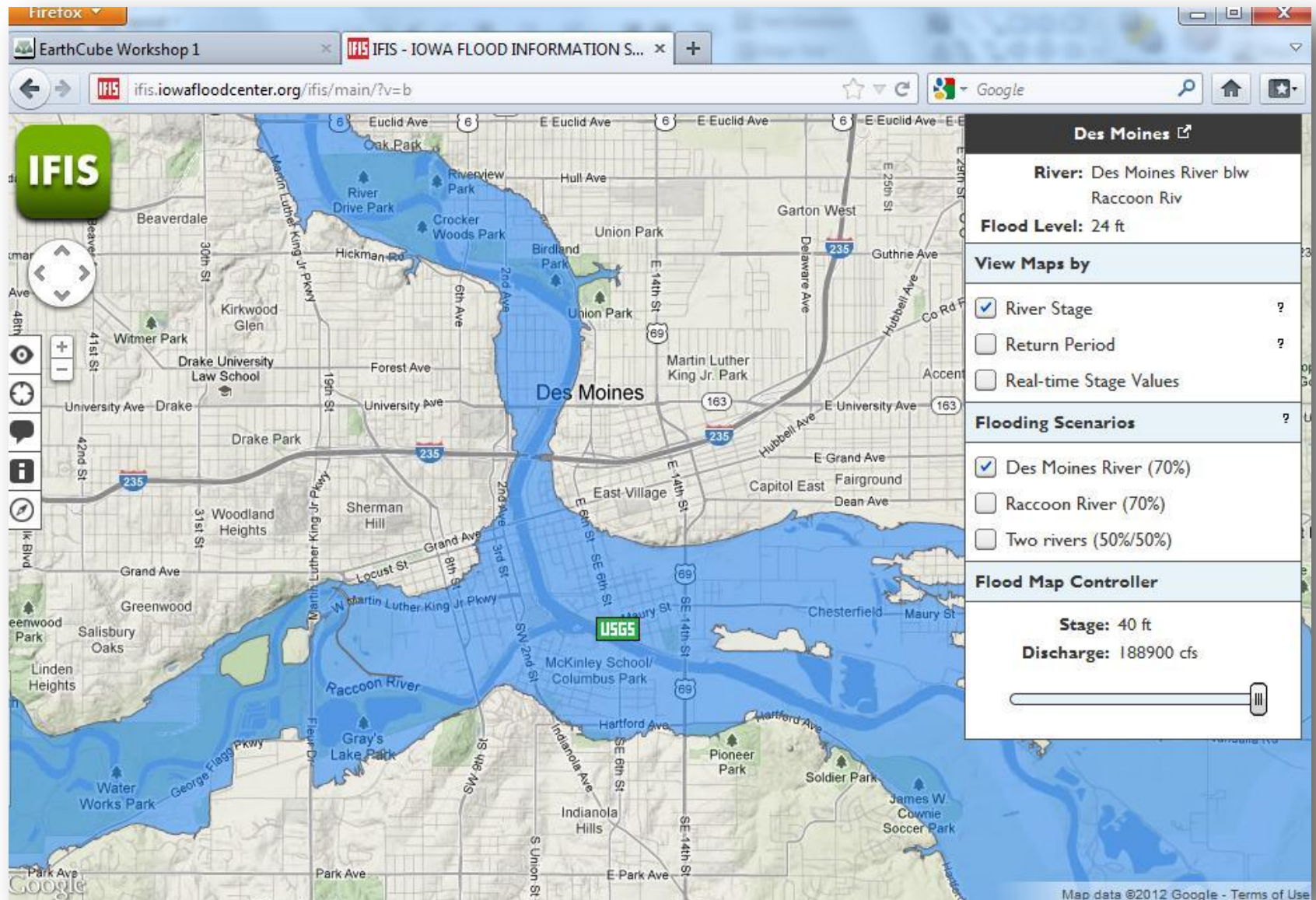
A group of people (a Center) design the workflow to run specific models, the results of executing the workflow are specialized data products that are then published to a community of users. An example of this is the Iowa Flood Center. A group of scientists develops the models and runs them, they integrate data from a specific set of sensors. Workflow execution engines can automate these processes. Once the workflows are run, the results are published so that all stakeholders in the Center can benefit.



# Flood Information System



# Flood Information System





# The Long Tail Paradigm:

Individual investigators run their own workflows. The investigators prepare the data themselves, integrate it with data from shared sources, and run their own models. An example of this is a river ecologist, interested in estimating water metabolism rates. She sets up her own local sensors, prepares the data, integrates it with data from government sites/services (about weather, other sensors in the area, etc), and then runs some models. Currently this investigator might just use spreadsheets to manage the data and model codes. In the future, she would like better support to do the routine data preparation, stream the data, pre-process the data automatically, and record all the steps. She might like to easily incorporate into her workflow the models developed by other people, run her workflow on other people's data, etc

## Data Analysis: Water Metabolism

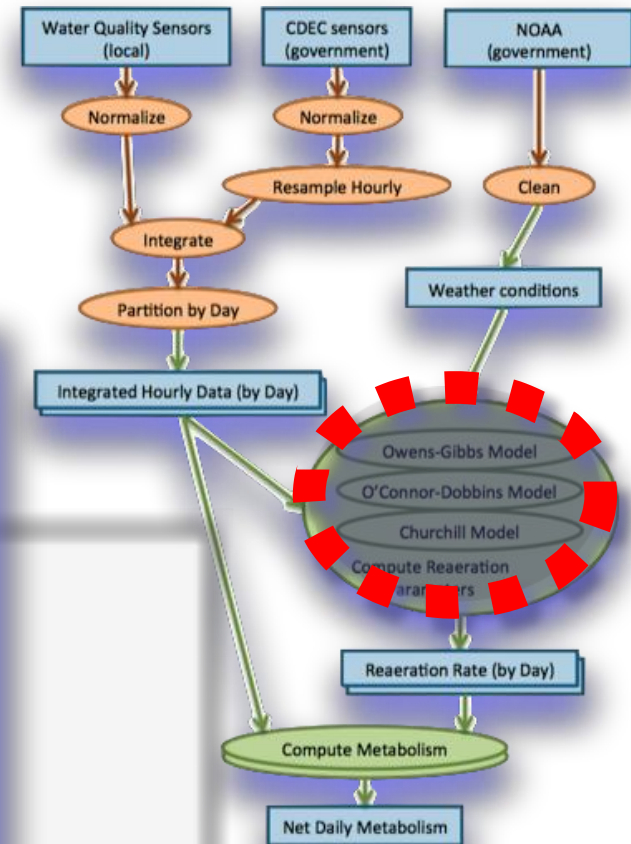
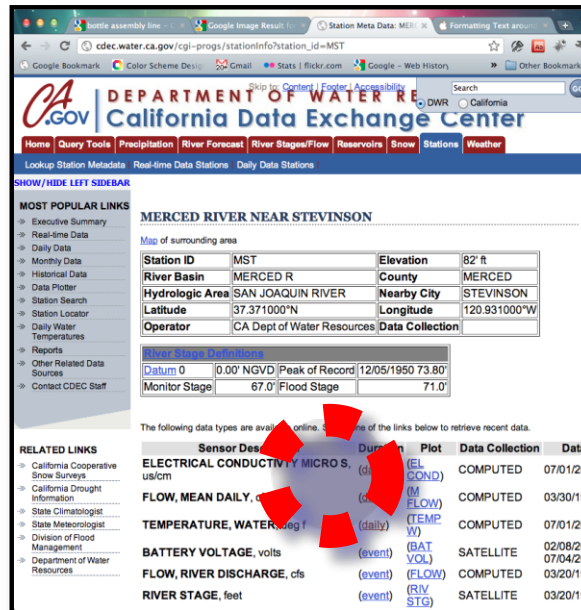
[Gil et al 11] [Villamizar et al 11]

**Collaboration with  
Tom Harmon of UC Merced,  
C. Knoblock and P. Szekely of USC  
California's Central Valley**

Harmon's sensors



State data sources (other sensors)



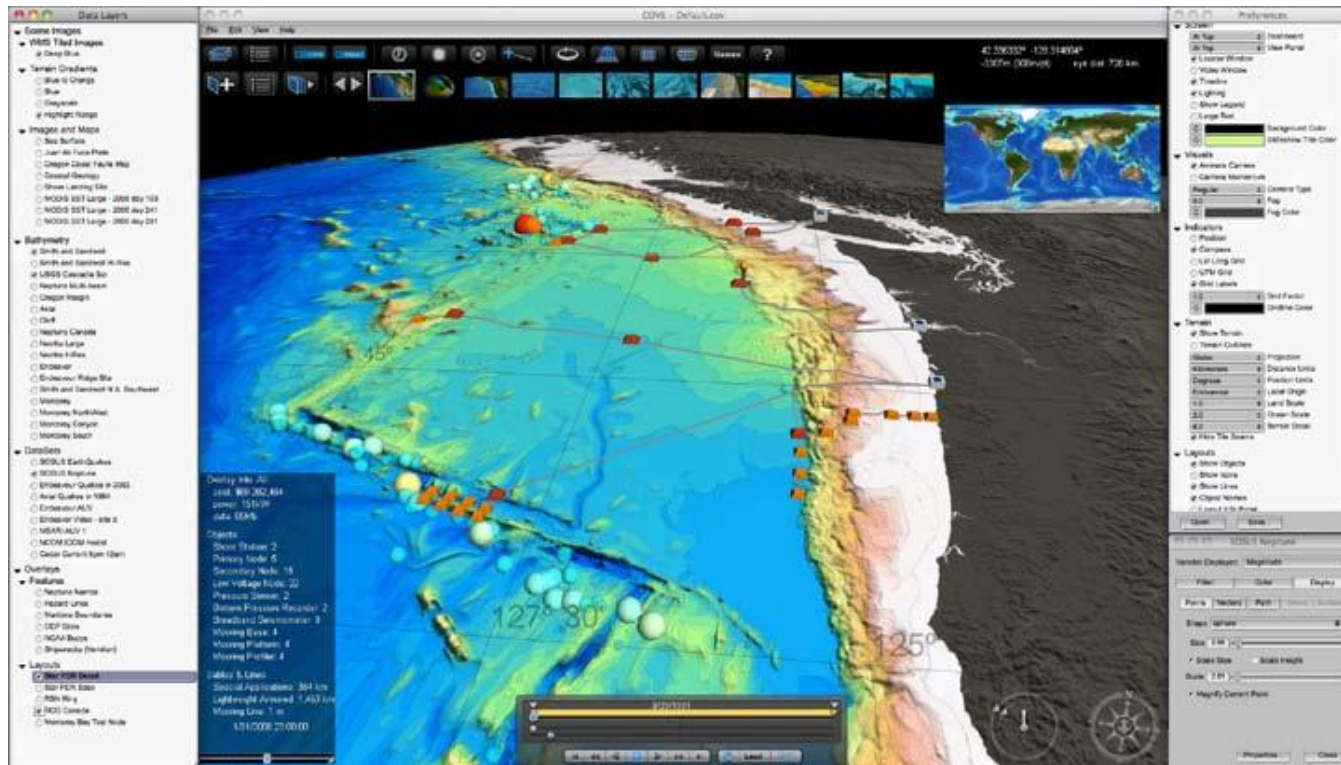
# The Big Data Paradigm:

Very large datasets with computationally intensive codes are routinely run, requiring high-end computing resources and scalable infrastructure. An example of this would be climate or weather models. The Big Data Paradigm includes the **Data Intensive Paradigm** where large computational models require very large datasets during runtime as well as pre- post-processing. An example of this is Ecological and Agro-Hydrologic models using vegetation, landuse, digital terrain, soils, weather and climate data as input to their models. This workflow requires the usual High Performance Computing (HPC) resources for modeling, but also requires HPC for large data handling during run-time.



## The Big Data Paradigm:

# The Collaborative Ocean Visualization Environment (COVE)

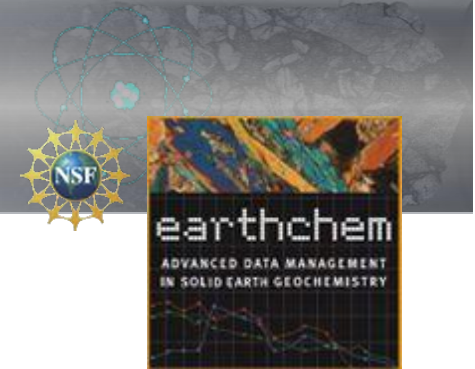


**Figure 2:** COVE displays a geo-positioned scientific data, seafloor terrain, images, and instrument layout with selectable layers on the left and rich visualization controls on the right.

# The Metadata-Rich Paradigm:

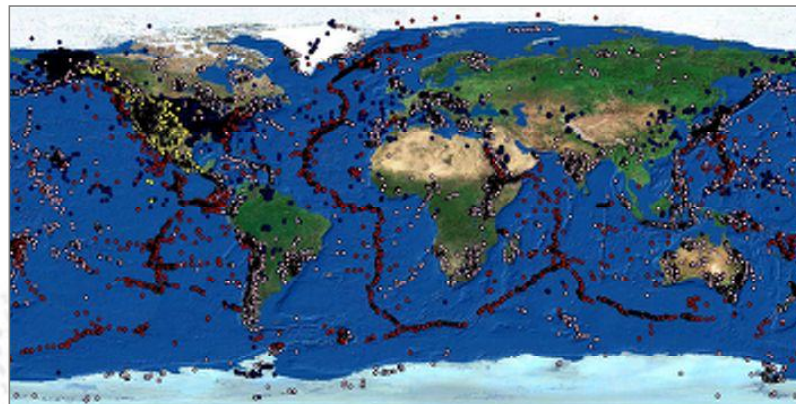
A collaboration that wants to track metadata of all data used and produced by their analyses. The user in the Metadata-Rich Paradigm may be individuals or communities of geoscientists where data collection is a very intensive process and often uses very sophisticated laboratory analyses on each sample they collect. An example of this is geochemists that collect limited amounts of actual rock sample data for all rocks of the earth but processing and lab analyses lead to very large amounts of meta-data.

# EarthChem



- ❖ Consortium founded in 2003
- ❖ Project funded by US NSF in 2005
  - To develop & operate the **EarthChem Portal** as a central discovery and access point for geochemical and geochronological data
  - To facilitate community-based **growth of data holdings**
  - To promote & implement **standards for data management** in Geochemistry

Access to >13 Million  
analytical values for  
>600,000 sample from  
GEOROC, NAVDAT,  
PetDB, USGS



# Geochemical Data



- ❖ Data are acquired by a plethora of analytical methods with procedures.
  - Tailored to scientific problems and customized to optimize data quality.
- ❖ Small data volumes.
- ❖ Large personal effort to generate data.
- ❖ Many data are unique and cannot be reproduced.



# The Whiteboard Paradigm:

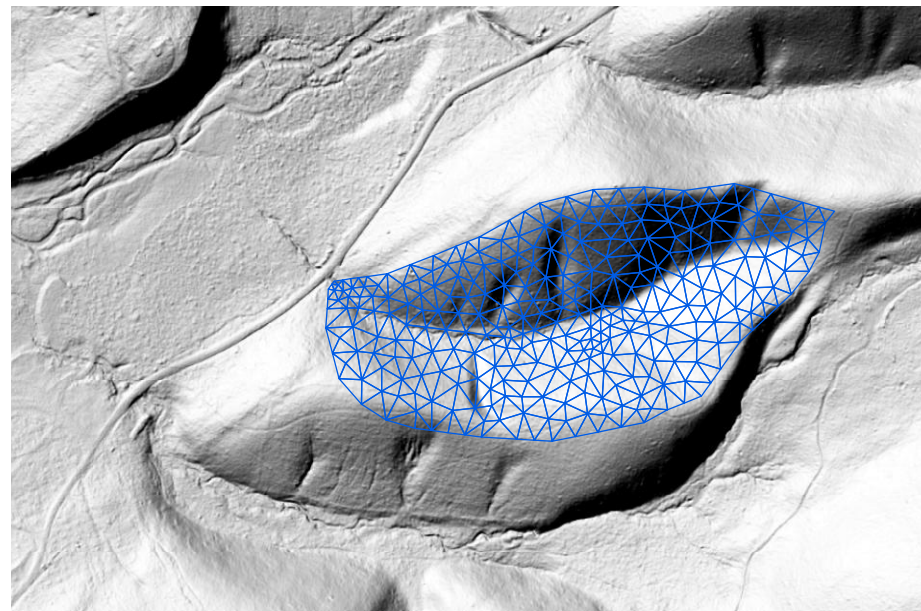
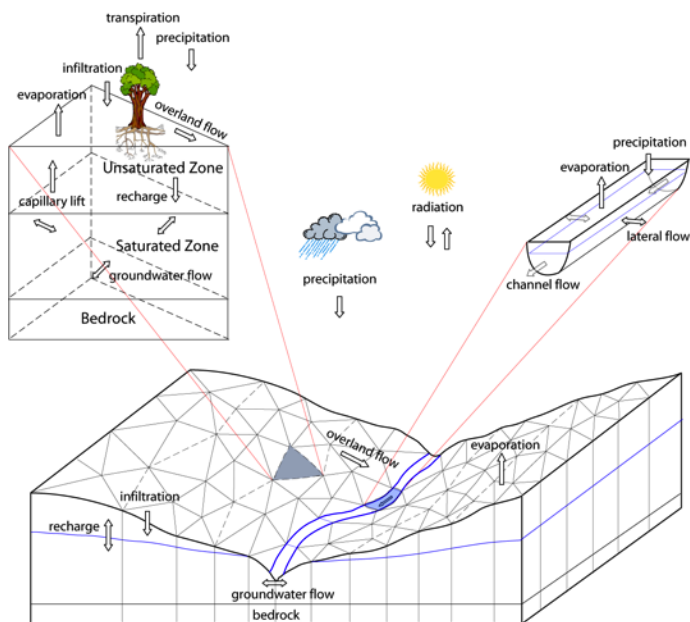
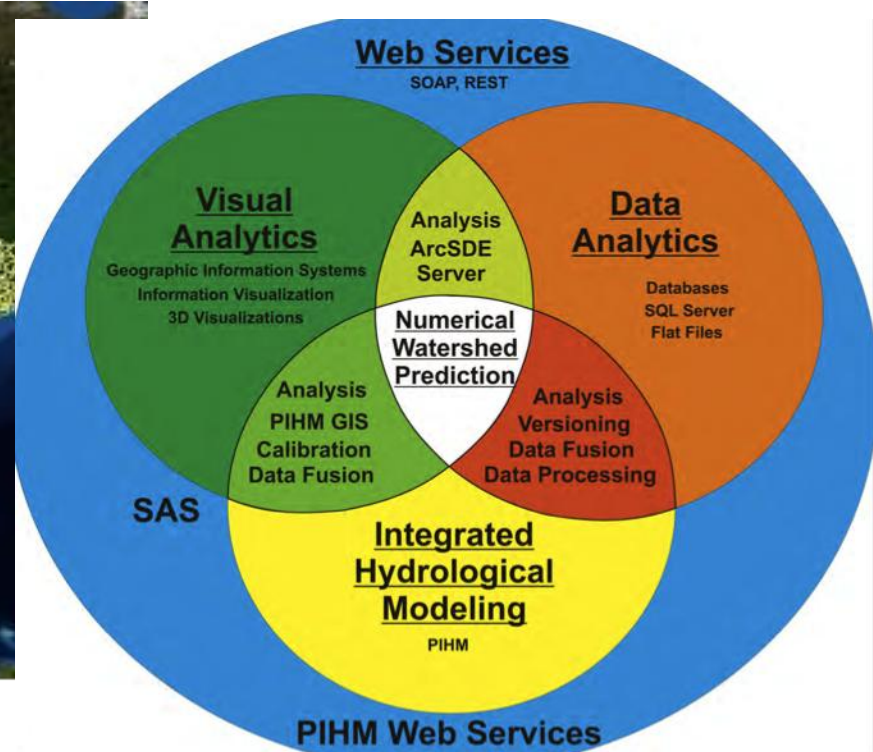
A group of investigators, decision makers in a collaboration on an interdisciplinary investigation drafts a sketch of what looks like a workflow, just to gain an understanding on what models they are agreeing to all run on their individual data. The team may have little understanding of each others needs at first but want to work together to solve some big science or multidisciplinary environmental question. An example of The Paradigm might be ecologists, hydrologists, coastal marine and social scientists working on the Chesapeake Bay watershed-estuary problems or possibly the Critical Zone Observatory program where geologists, hydrologists, geochemists, ecologists, weather, climate and soil scientists are all working together and want to use each others science in the most productive way. The important point here is the workflow needs a way to support team approach trying to resolve very hard holistic problems or trying to solve very specialized problem with a multidisciplinary worldview of data and models.



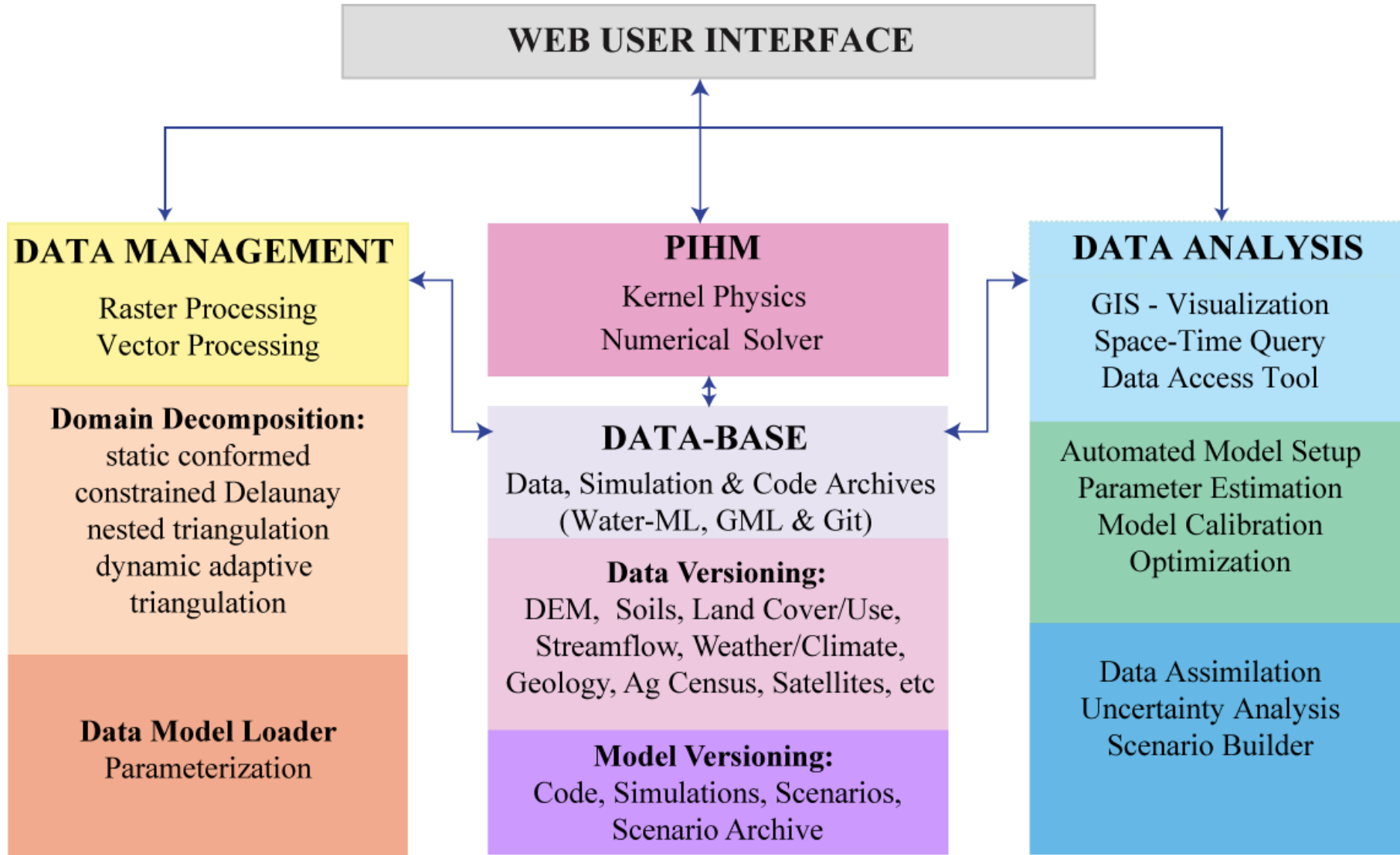
# The Whiteboard Paradigm:

Terrestrial Water Cycle Simulation  
In Every Watershed in US...

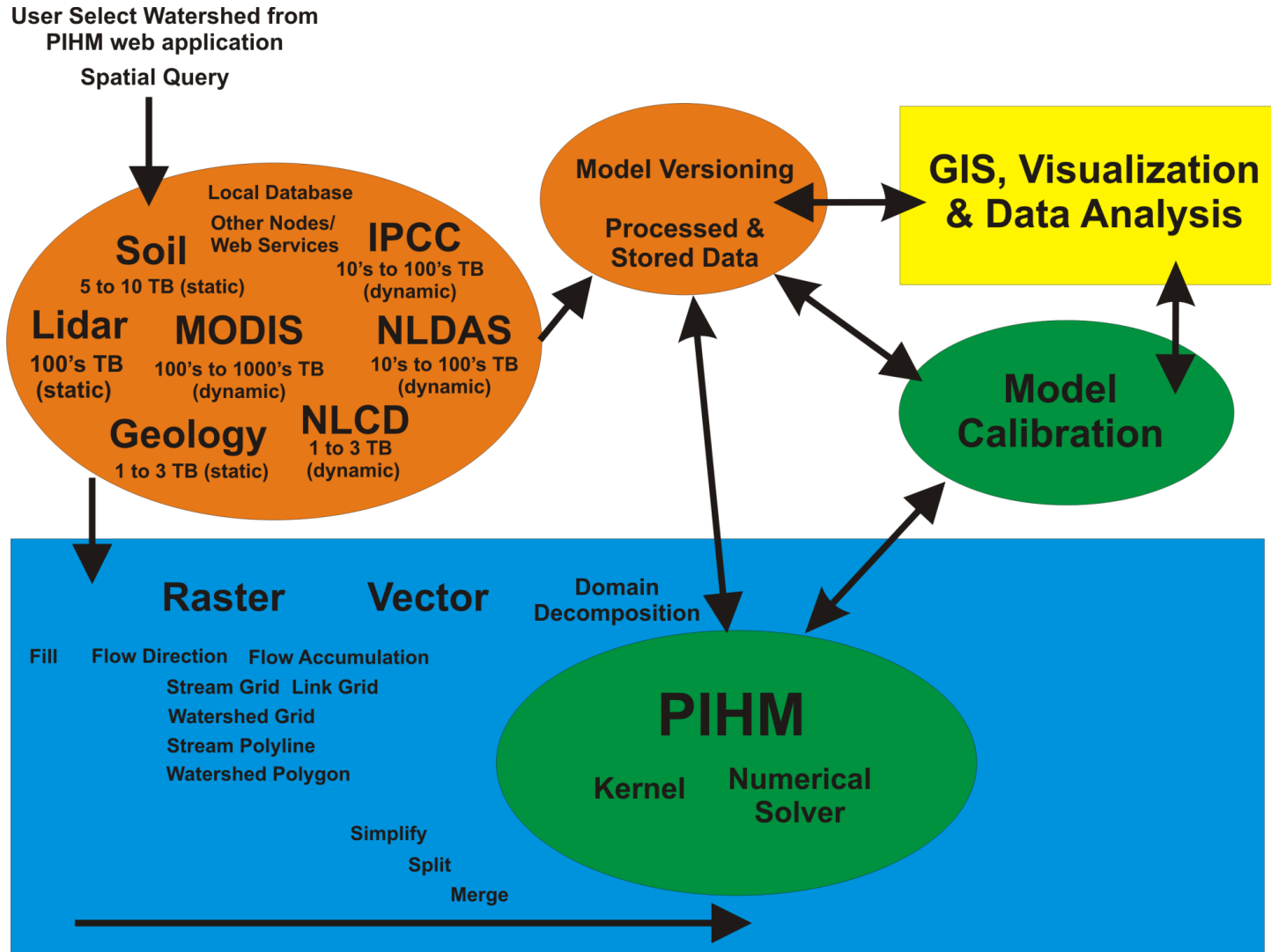
103,000 HUC 12 (~100km<sup>2</sup>) Watersheds in US...



# Model-Data Workflow



# Model-Data Integration Framework

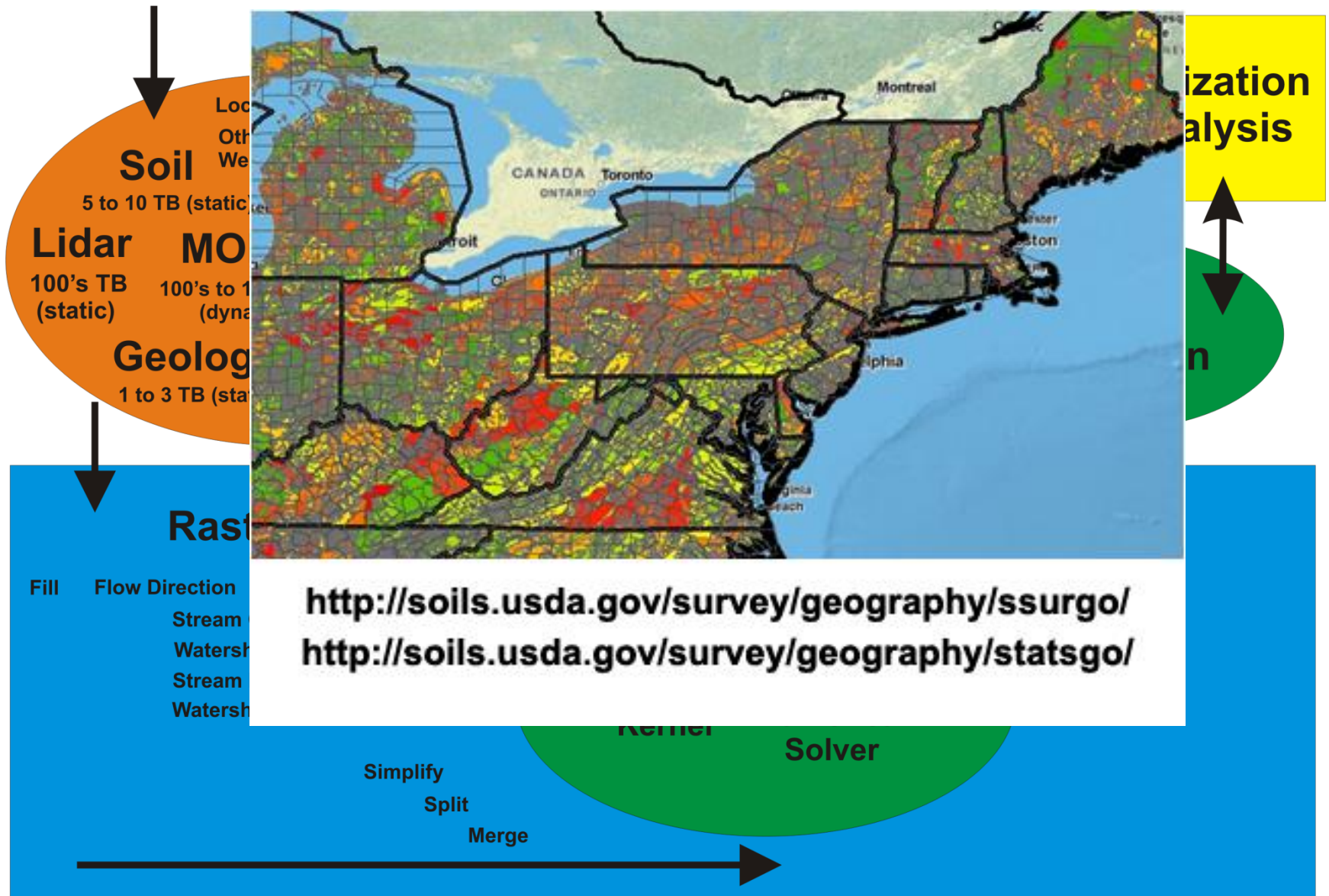




User Select Watershed from  
PIHM web application

Spatial Query

# PIHM USA Workflow



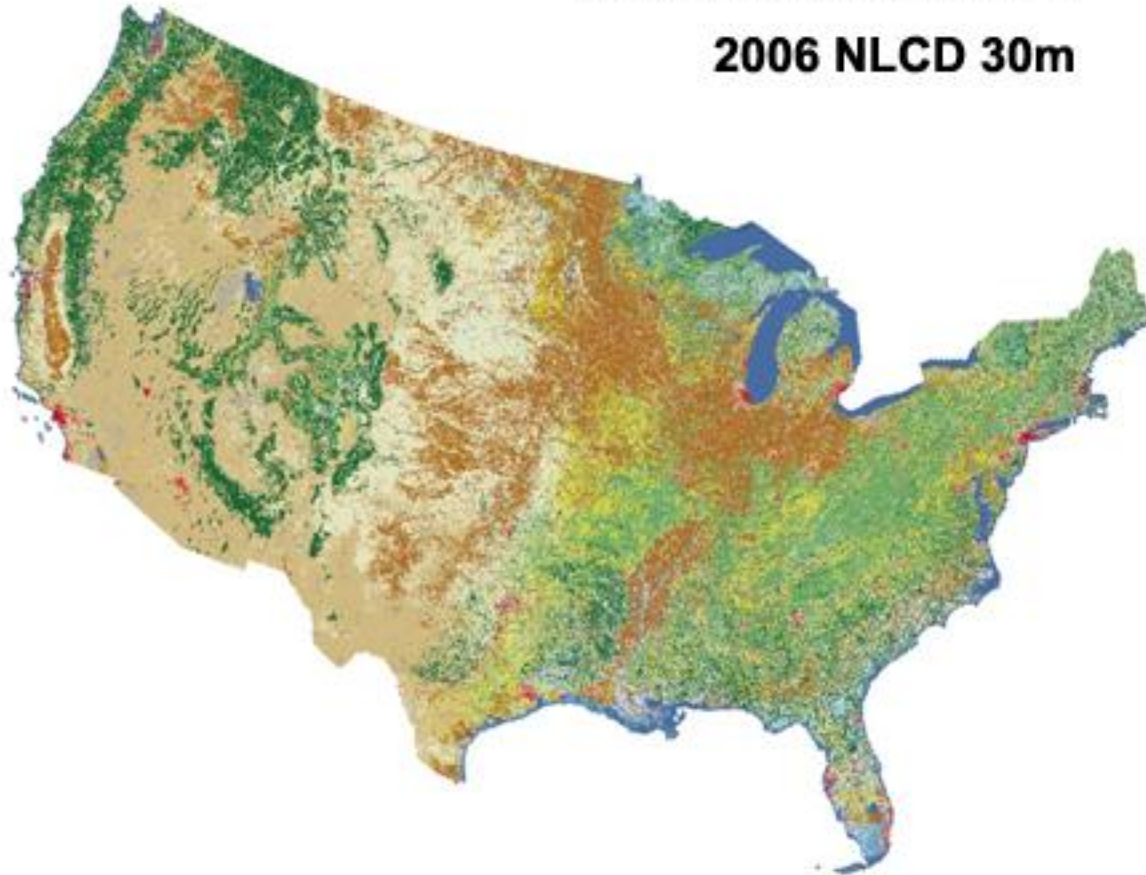
User Select Watershed from  
PIHM web app  
Spatial Qu

# PIHM USA Watershed

14 GB Land cover File  
2006 NLCD 30m

Visualization  
Analysis

Model  
Simulation



<http://www.epa.gov/mrlc/nlcd-2006.html>

Soil

5 to 10 TB (s

Lidar M

100's TB (static) 100'

Geol

1 to 3 TE

R

Fill Flow Direc

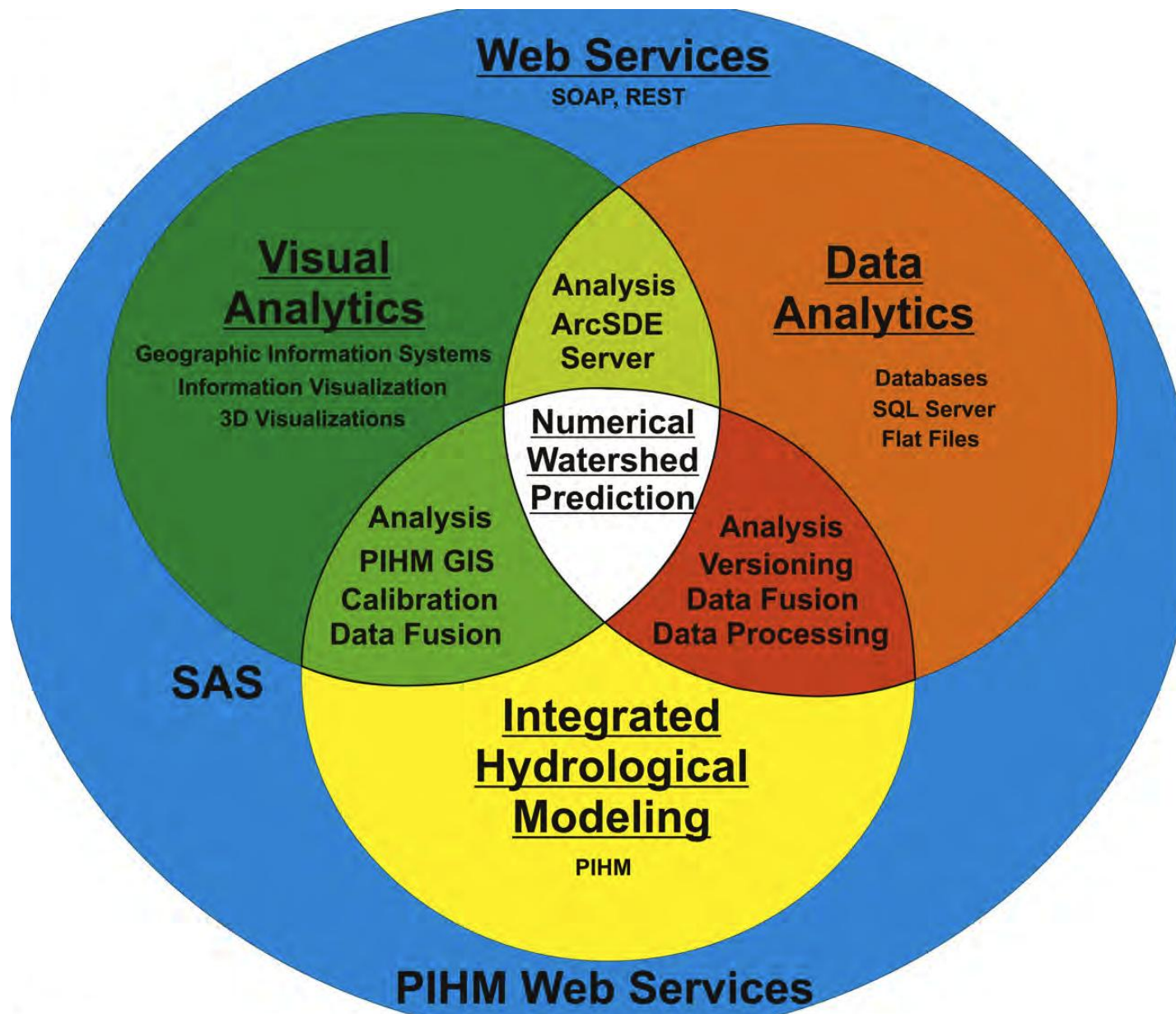
Str

Wa

Str

Wa





# Cloud Everything As a Service

---

## SaaS: Software as a Service

Web Services: Visual & Data Analytics,  
GIS API's, Modeling PIHM/SWAT/ETC.

---

## PaaS: Platform as a Service

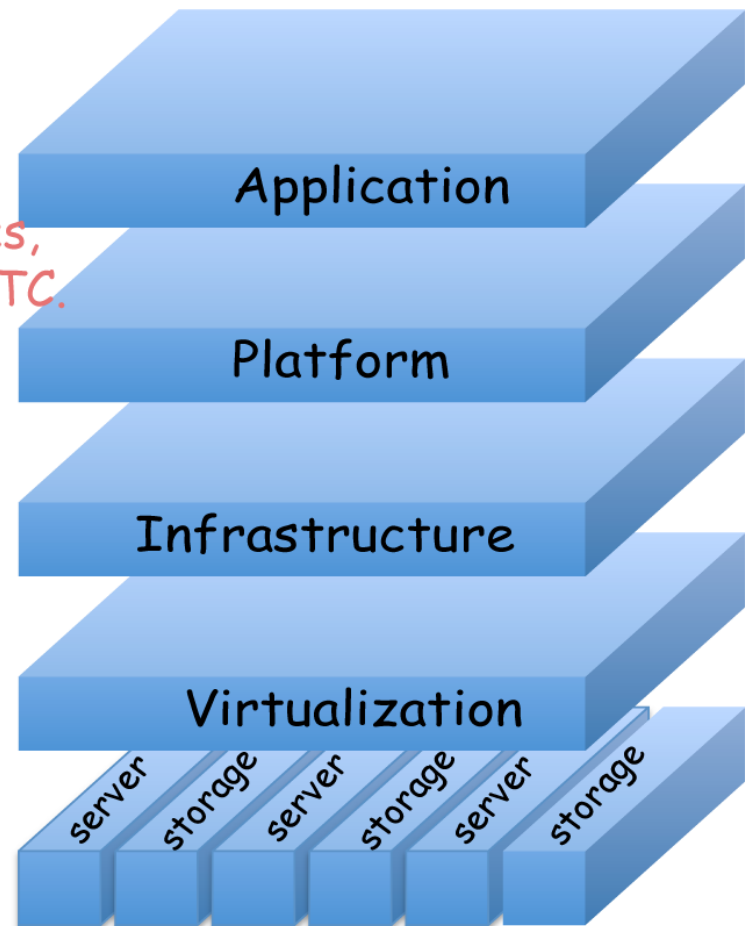
Linux, Windows, other

---

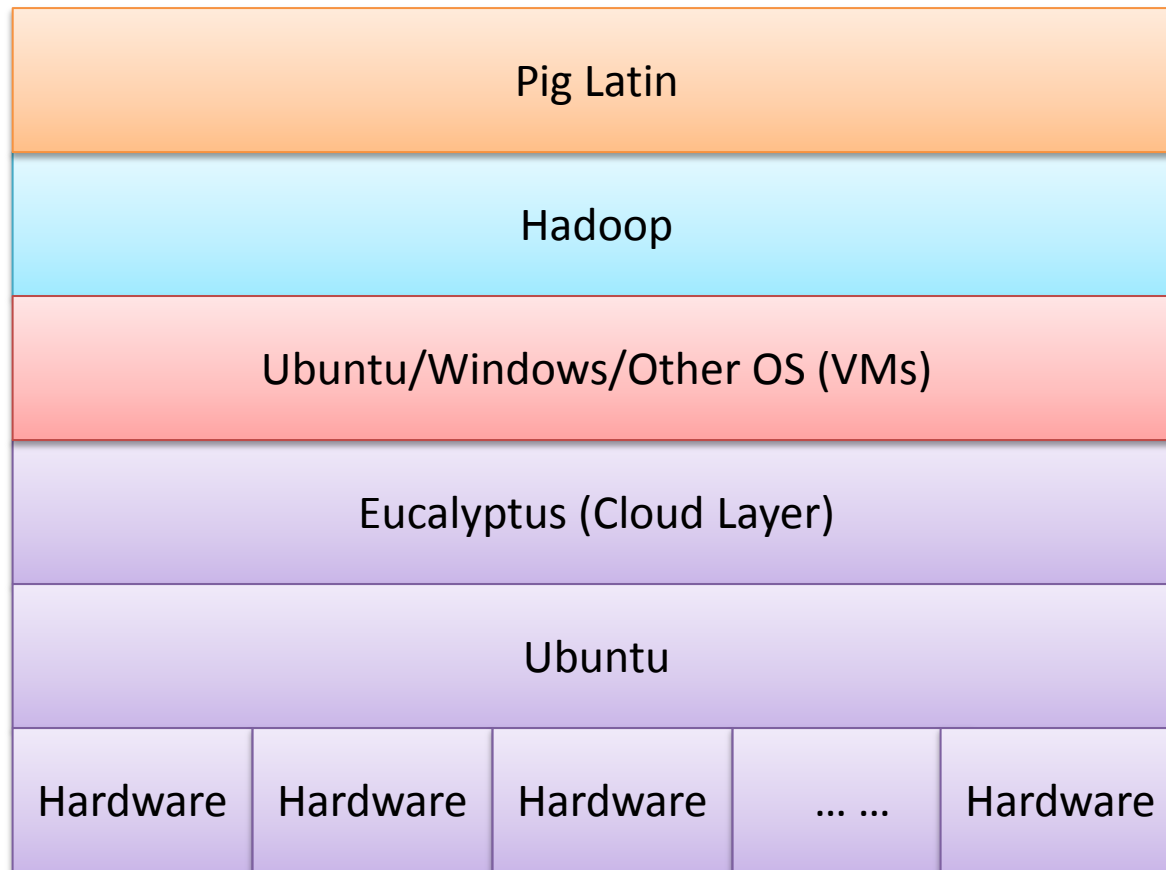
## IaaS: Infrastructure as a Service

Eucalyptus Cloud layer  
Virtual Machines  
Hardware : cpu, disk,  
Memory & Bandwidth

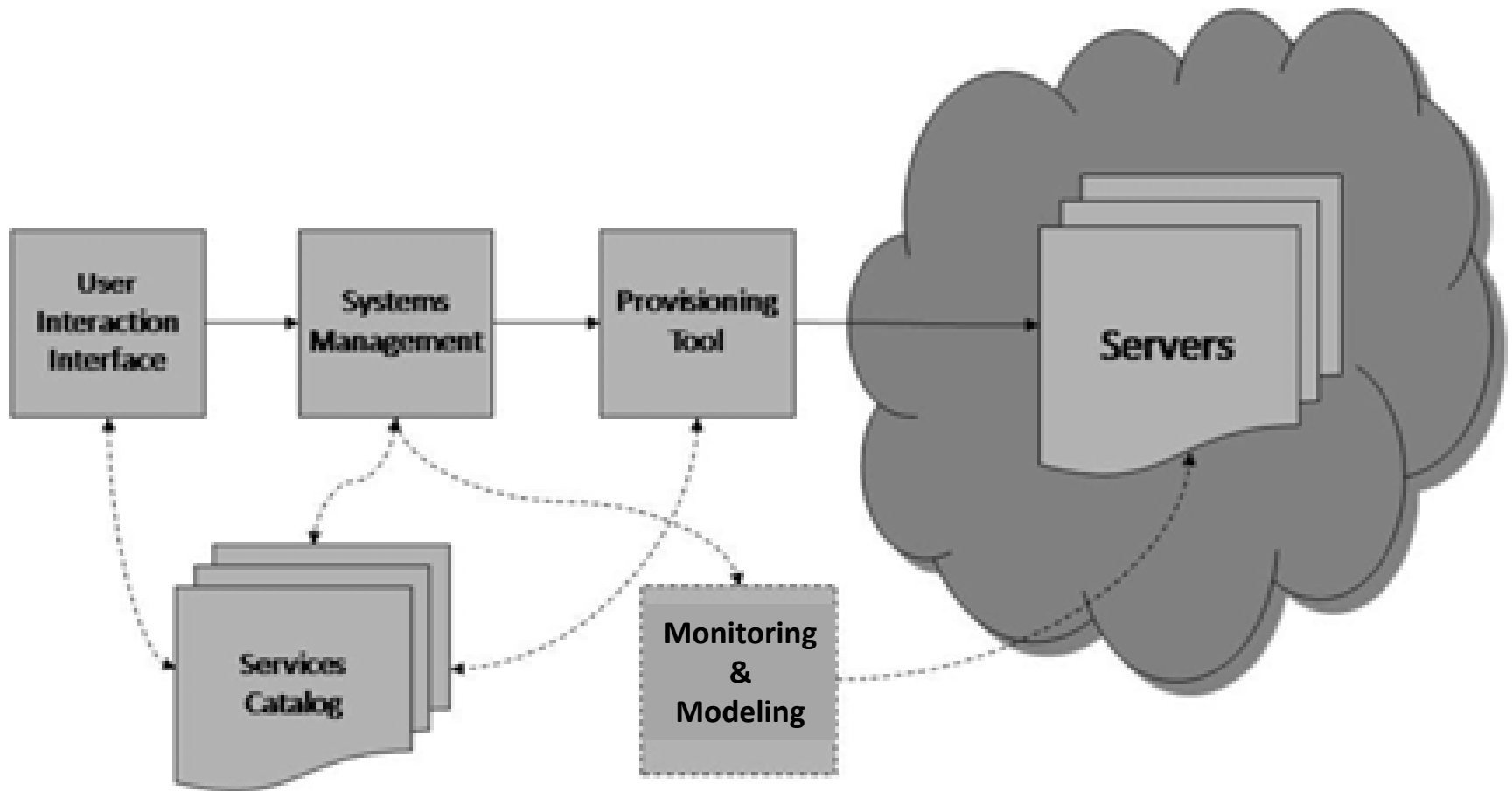
---



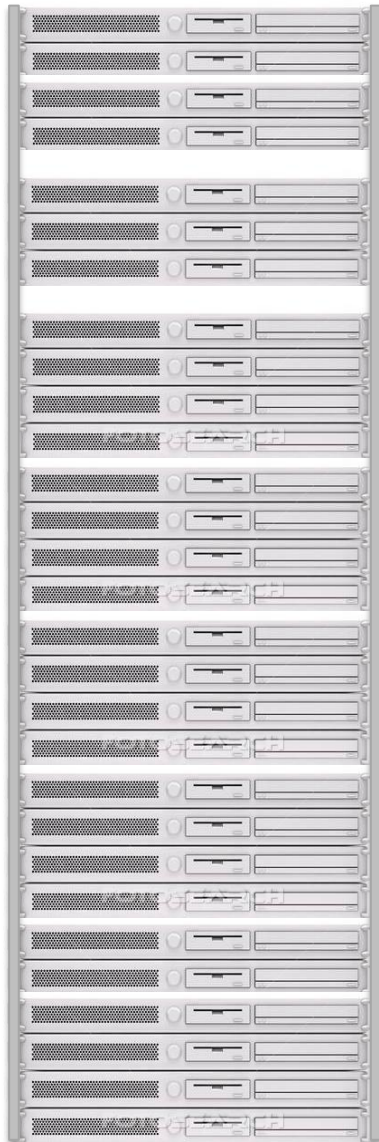
# Penn State Private Cloud Prototype



# Cloud Services Prototype



# Micro-Cloud Hardware



2U OSX 10 TB Data Server



CZO Server

2U OSX 10TB Disk Server



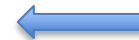
CZO Server

3U 32 Core 20TB Server



Cloud Services Layer

4U Linux Compute Server for PIHM



PIHM Servers in Cloud

4U LINUX Compute Server for PIHM



PIHM Servers in Cloud

4U Linux Compute Server for PIHM  
Cloud



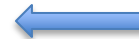
PIHM Servers in  
Cloud

4U Windows Server 20 TB



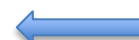
GIS Fail-Over

2U Web Server 20 TB



Web App's to outside world

4U Data Server 30TB



Web App's use this server



# Web Services for data access & rapid Model prototyping

PIHM Web Service

▼ Step 1: Email  
Please enter email where the PIHM results will be sent to.  
**Int3@psu.edu**

▼ Step 2: Select  
▼ Step 3: Define Location  
Click on tool, drag a window to define the DEM extent

▼ Step 4: Period  
▼ Step 5: Execute

**Select a HUC**

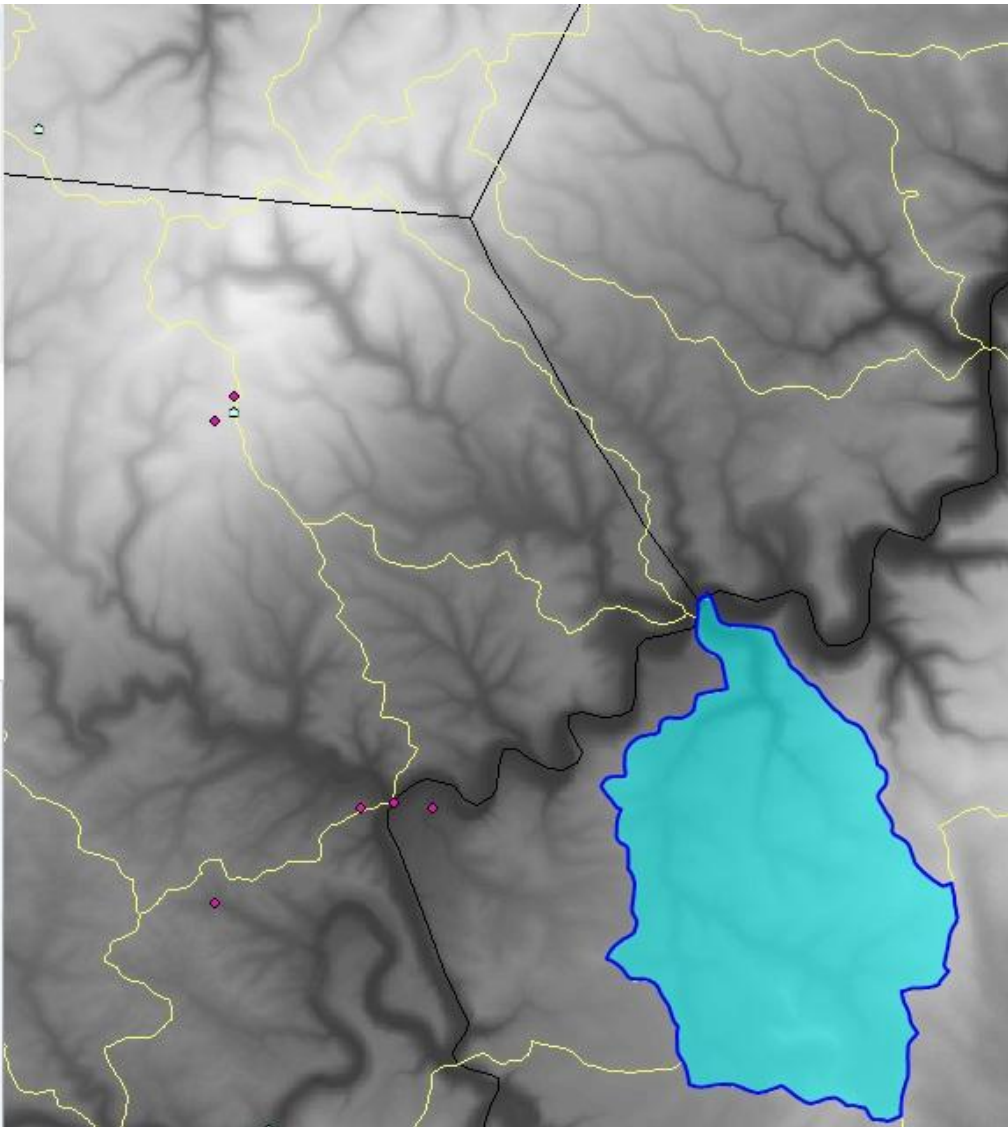
Step 4: Period  
Step 5: Execute

MyLayer

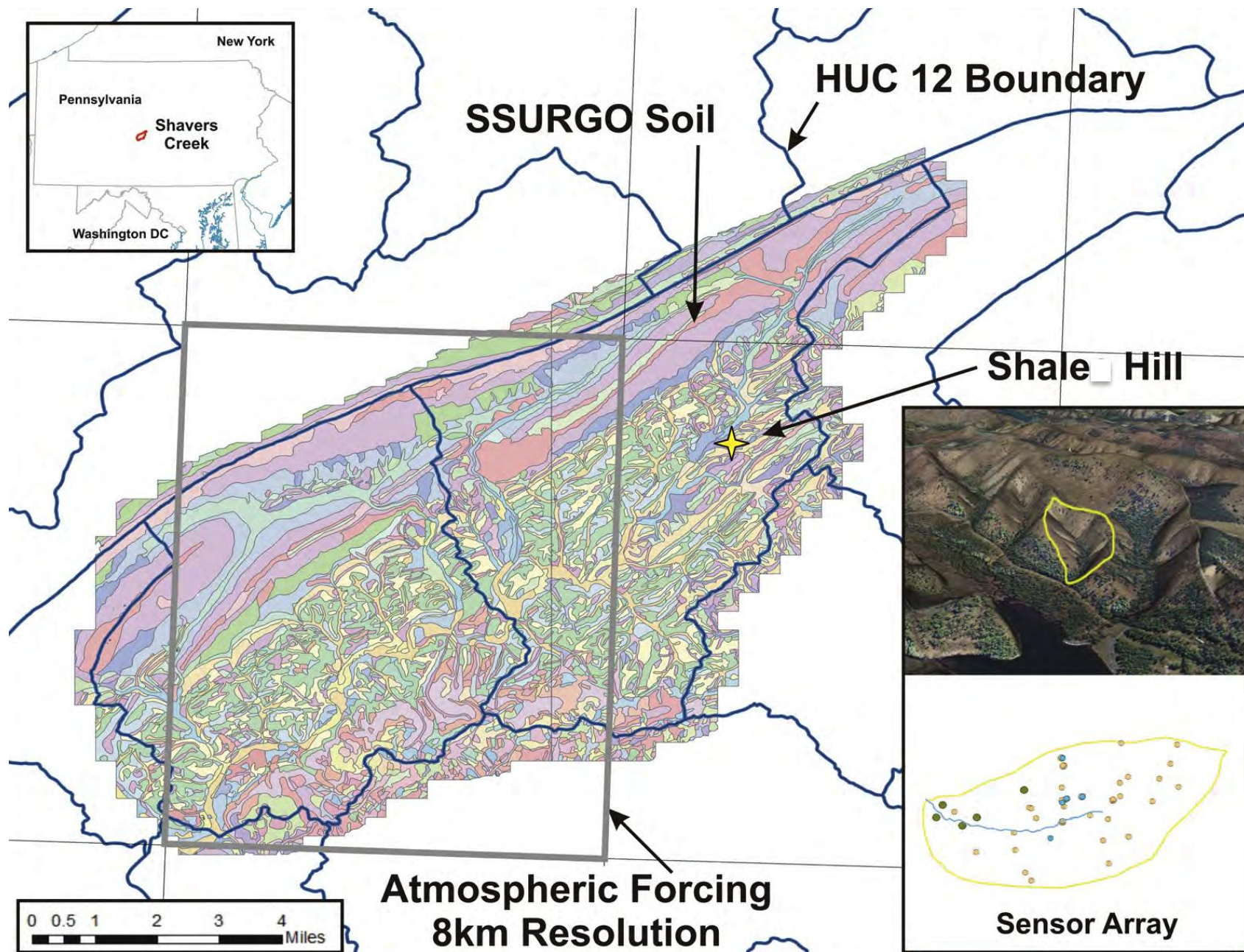
- ☒ coop\_srbhos
- ☒ gages\_srbhos
- ☒ dams\_srbhos
- ☒ wells\_srbhos
- ☐ reaches\_srbhos
- ☐ streams\_era\_srbhos
- ☐ geol\_srbhos
- ☐ soils\_srbhos\_buff1
- ☐ Huc

Coordinates: X = 0, Y = 339  
Coordinates: X = -288569.3464, Y = 29196

Click on map to identify



The screenshot displays the PIHM Web Service interface. On the left, a sidebar contains a list of data layers under the heading 'MyLayer'. The layers include 'coop\_srbhos', 'gages\_srbhos', 'dams\_srbhos', 'wells\_srbhos', 'reaches\_srbhos', 'streams\_era\_srbhos', 'geol\_srbhos', 'soils\_srbhos\_buff1', and 'Huc'. The 'dams\_srbhos' layer is currently selected. The main map area shows a topographic DEM with a specific HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code) highlighted in cyan. A black line indicates the DEM extent. A small inset map in the top right corner shows the location of the selected HUC within a larger regional context. The interface also includes a 'Step 3: Define Location' section with instructions to click on a tool and drag a window to define the DEM extent. A 'Coordinates' box displays the coordinates X = 0, Y = 339 and X = -288569.3464, Y = 29196. A 'Click on map to identify' button is also present.



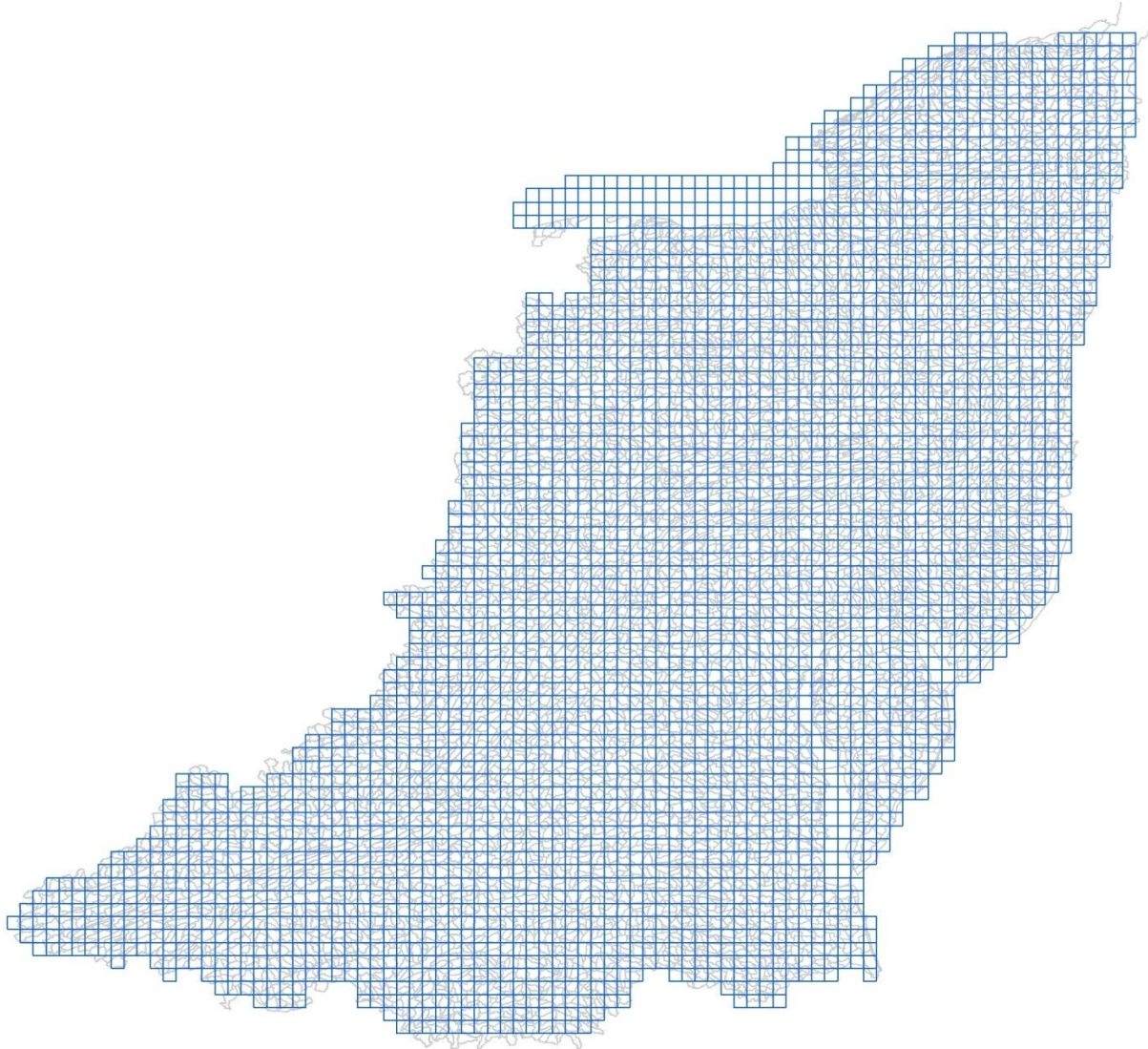
# Upscaling Model-Data-Process: Chesapeake Bay

- Groundwater-Stream-Land-Surface model
- Fully coupled surface water, soil water, groundwater, and land surface components
- C-N-Sediments
- Vegetation Growth
- Environmental Tracers
- PIHM\_HPC



# Data :: Climate :: NLDAS II (1979 – present)

---



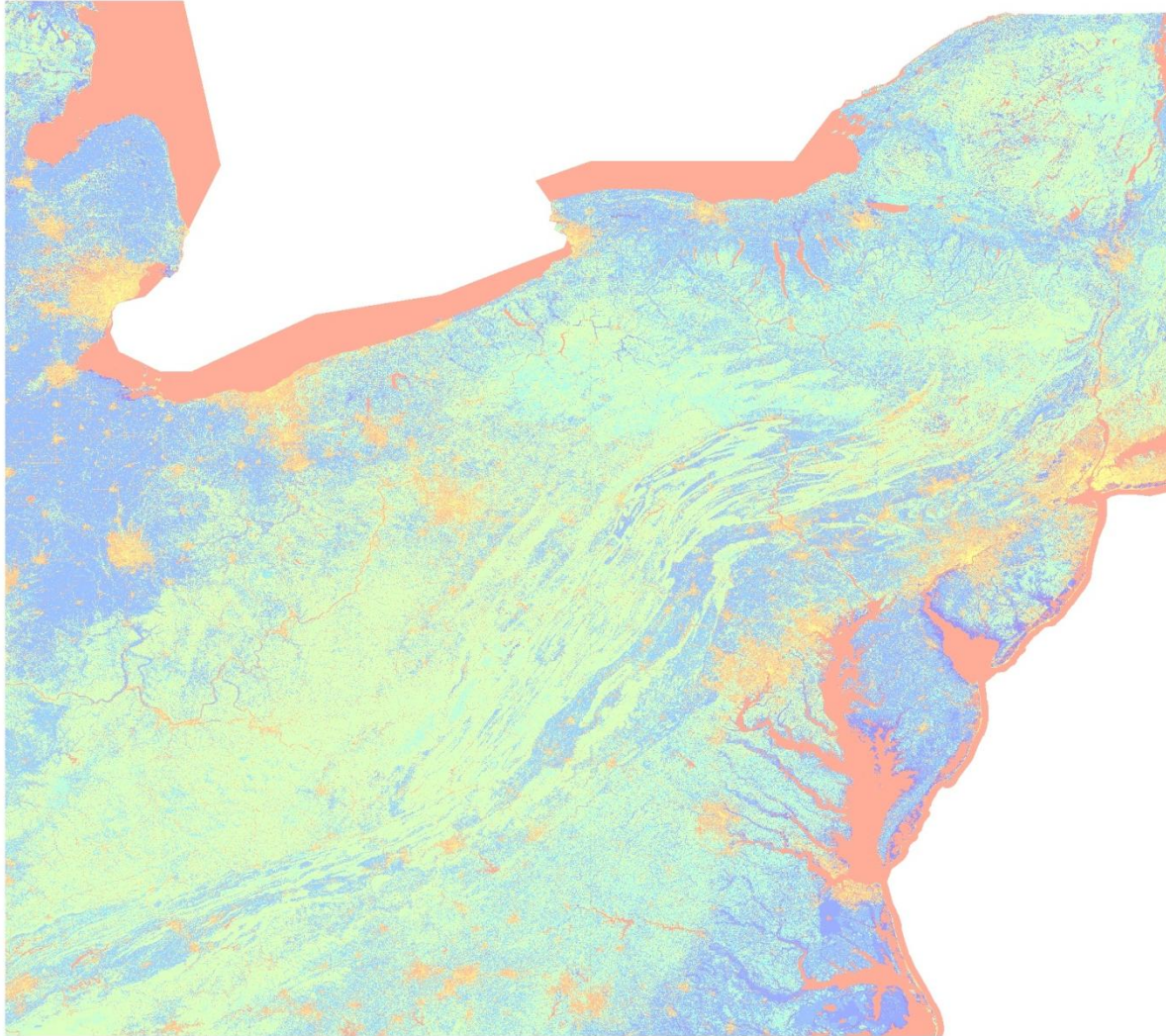
## 8km **Hourly** time-series

1. Precipitation
2. Temperature
3. Solar Radiation
4. Vapor Pressure
5. Relative Humidity
6. Wind Speed

We have developed tools that extracts forcing variables (from NLDAS-2 grib2 data) and formats all above mentioned variables according to PIHM data structure

# Data :: Land Cover :: NLCD 2006 + Veg Parameters

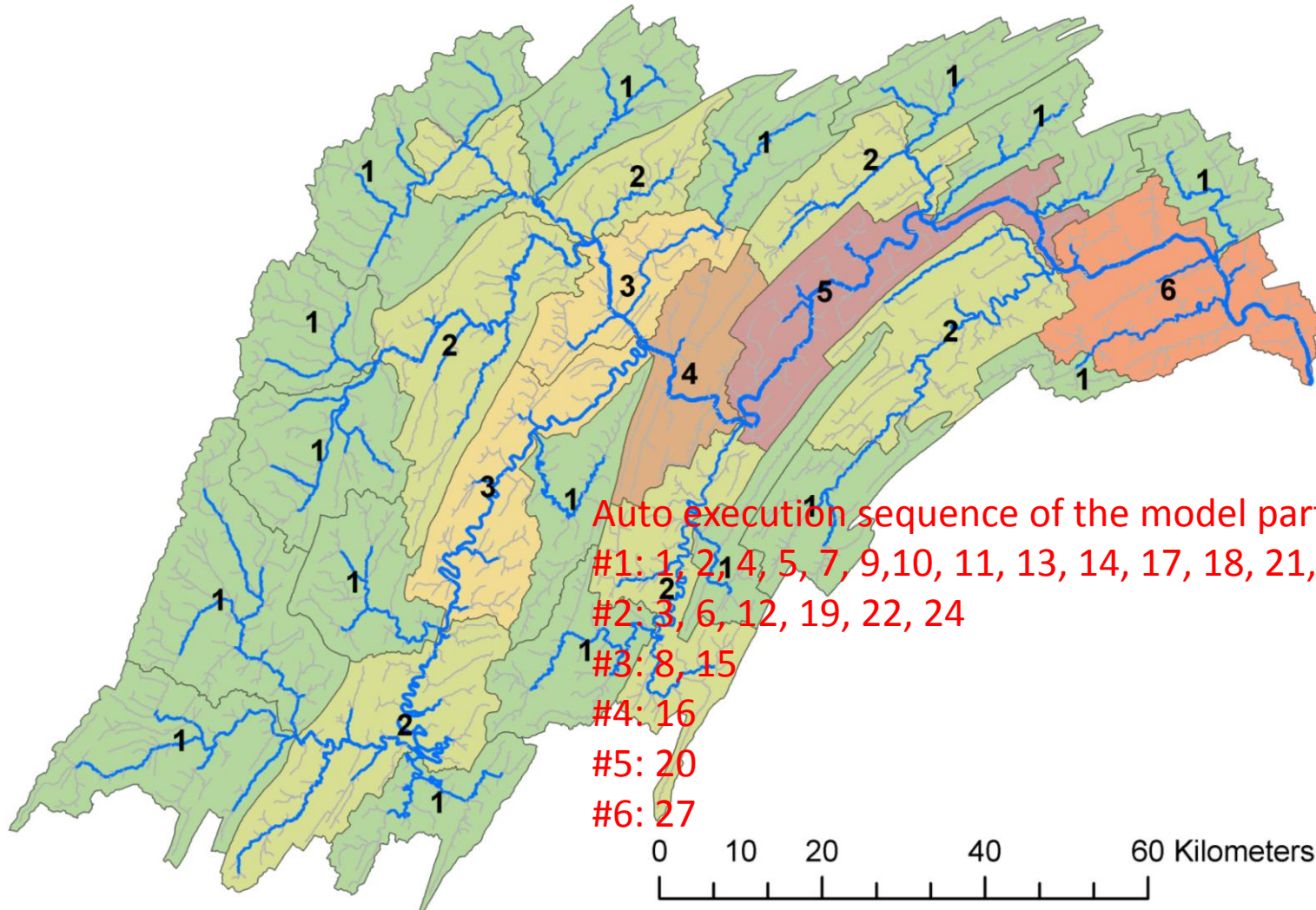
---



- Vegetation Parameters
1. Leaf Area Index (TS)
  2. Roughness Length (TS)
  3. Min. Stomata Resist.
  4. Albedo
  5. Vegetation Fraction
  6. Rooting Depth



# HPC: Juniata River Domain Partitioning



# Watershed Reanalysis

## Towards a National Strategy for Model-Data Integration

Christopher Duffy, Lorne Leonard, Gopal Bhatt,  
Xuan Yu  
Dept. of Civil & Environmental Engineering  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA, USA  
cxdl1@psu.edu

Lee Giles  
College of Information Science and Technology  
Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA, USA  
giles@ist.psu.edu

**Abstract**— Reanalysis or retrospective analysis is the process of re-analyzing and assimilating climate and weather observations with the current modeling context. Reanalysis is an objective, quantitative method of synthesizing all sources of information (historical and real-time observations) within a unified framework. In this context, we propose a prototype for automated and virtualized web services software using national data products for climate reanalysis, soils, geology, terrain and land cover for the purpose of water resource simulation, prediction, data assimilation, calibration and archival. The prototype for model-data integration focuses on creating tools for fast data storage from selected national databases, as well as the computational resources necessary for a dynamic, distributed watershed prediction anywhere in the continental US. In the future implementation of virtualized services will benefit from the development of a cloud cyber infrastructure as the prototype evolves to data and model intensive computation for continental scale water resource predictions.

**Keywords**—component; Climate Reanalysis, Data Analytics, Distributed Hydrologic Model, Numerical Watershed Prediction (NWP), PIHM, Software as a Service (SaaS), Visual Analytics, Web Services

### I. INTRODUCTION

*"The challenge of water scarcity (or flooding) has to be confronted watershed by watershed according to the local physical and political conditions..."* (Stephen Solomon, *Water and Civilization*). There is a clear national need to provide researchers, educators, resource managers and the general public seamless and fast access to essential geo-spatial/geo-temporal data, physics-based numerical models, and data fusion tools that are necessary to understand, predict and manage the nations surface and groundwater resources. The evaluation of ecosystem and watershed services such as the detection and attribution of the impact of climatic change on floods and drought provides one of many examples of the pressing need for high resolution, spatially explicit resource assessments. At the present time, there is no unified cyber infrastructure for supporting watershed models, and the data resource itself (weather/climate reanalysis products, stream flow, groundwater, soils, land cover, satellite data products, etc.) resides on many federal servers with limited access. It is clear that fast and efficient access to the data during model development, analysis and simulation remains the challenge. It

is also important to state that computation for terrestrial watershed modeling is a data-intensive process, requiring extensive data libraries for climate, soils, geology land-use and land-cover, etc. Once acquired, each of these data sources must be processed before it is useful for constructing the physical watershed model and successive versions of the data and model are desirable. Model-data versioning would also include retrospective simulations, real time forecasting as well as future scenarios for climate and landuse change simulations [7].

Predicting the spatial and temporal distribution of water on complex landscapes begins with a multi-physics model for water and energy that couples surface and subsurface flows, with a community model for land surface moisture and energy fluxes [12]. In our research we have designed and developed the Penn State Integrated Hydrologic Model (PIHM). The hydrological processes in PIHM are fully coupled on a spatially-distributed unstructured grid. The unstructured grid and domain decomposition allows the user to construct quality numerical grids that can be constrained to follow or preserve important features of the model domain (e.g. watershed boundaries, soil, geology, political boundaries, etc.). Once the model domain is formed, the process of acquiring and projecting the geo-spatial and geo-temporal data on the model grid is perhaps the most time consuming and difficult process in model development. The web-based strategy described here focuses on implementation of the cyber infrastructure and workflow facilitating model prototyping through rapid data access, model input generation, model-data archival and versioning, and visualization of the results. In principal, the strategy discussed here would enable World Wide Web users to have seamless access to all necessary data products and to be able to carry out a simulation from archived data for any watershed or HUC (Hydrologic Unit Code) in the United States. Figure 1 illustrates the 1248 HUC-8 product for the USA as an example.

### II. SCALE OF COMPUTATION

Beyond the problem of access to national data, the scale of computation for both data processing and model computational represents a major hurdle. This predicament is especially true since our application promotes a national approach to watershed prediction. All data resources must be processed before they are useful as parameters, inputs, boundary and

Research funded by NSF EAR 0725019 Critical Zone Observatory, NOAA NA100AR4310166 Role of Groundwater in land surface processes and European Commission SoilTrEC Project.

# Issues, Questions, Goals

Data Issues: What & Where are the Essential Terrestrial Variables?

Simulation Framework: What scales, processes, computation resources?

The Role of Testbeds to Scaling Up to Chesapeake bay

Unique Cyberinfrastructure Needs for Catchment Data and Models?

Towards a prototype for sharing geospatial/temporal data and models

Goal: State of the Art Data and Models -> improved decision making