Using Land Data Assimilation Systems for Drought Monitoring, Water Resources, and Hydrologic Indicators

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The **North American Land Data Assimilation System (NLDAS)** is a collaborative project between NOAA/NCEP and NASA/GSFC, and is supported by the NOAA Climate Program Office's Modeling Analysis, Predictions, and Projections (MAPP) Program.

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The **National Climate Assessment – Land Data Assimilation System (NCA-LDAS)** is led by the Hydrological Sciences Laboratory at NASA/GSFC, and is supported by NASA HQ.

PI: Michael Jasinski (NASA) PI of initial proposal: Christa D. Peters-Lidard (NASA)

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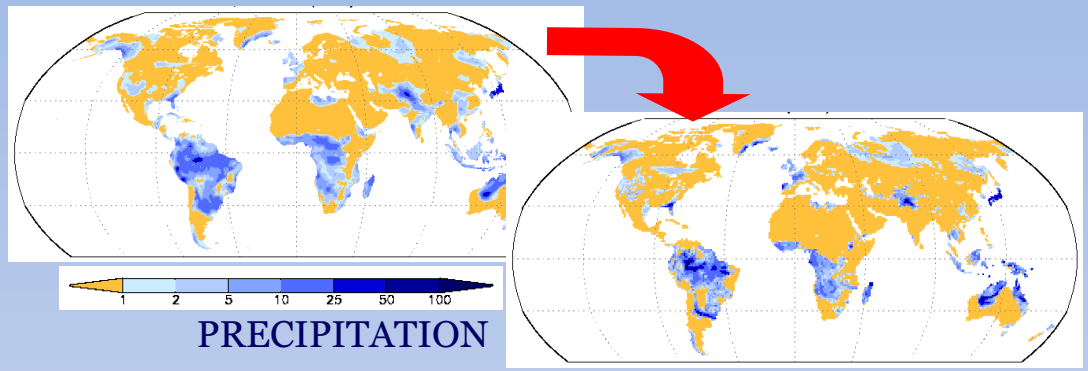
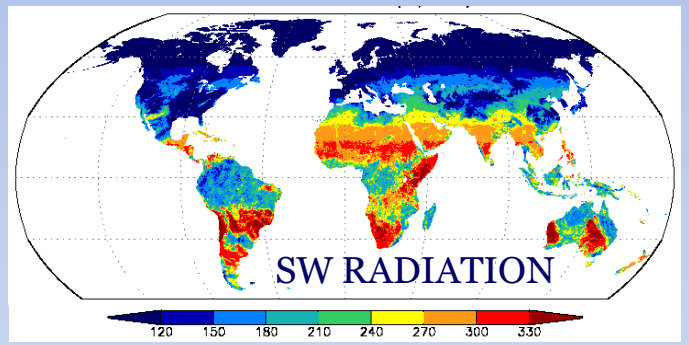
What is a Land Data Assimilation System?

A Land Data Assimilation System – or LDAS – is a dataset from land-surface models (LSMs) forced with the best-available observations to support water resources applications.

Remotely-sensed land satellite observations are assimilated into the LSMs to improve the depiction of water/energy cycles.

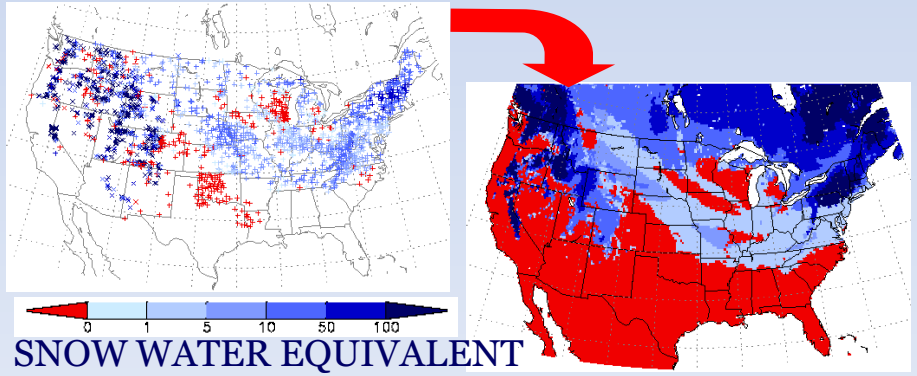
INTERCOMPARISON and OPTIMAL MERGING of land-surface data fields

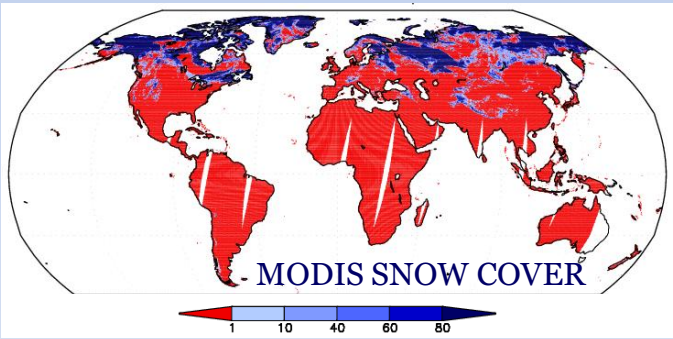




Reanalysis and/or radar/satellite-observed surface meteorological data combined and used as land-surface model FORCING

ASSIMILATION of satellite-based land surface state fields (snow, soil moisture, terrestrial water storage, irrigation, etc.)





Ground-based observations used to VALIDATE model output

Examples from NASA's GLDAS
http://ldas.gsfc.nasa.gov/

Slide by Matt Rodell

Four LDAS systems are available from NASA/GSFC/HSL

GLDAS – Global LDAS

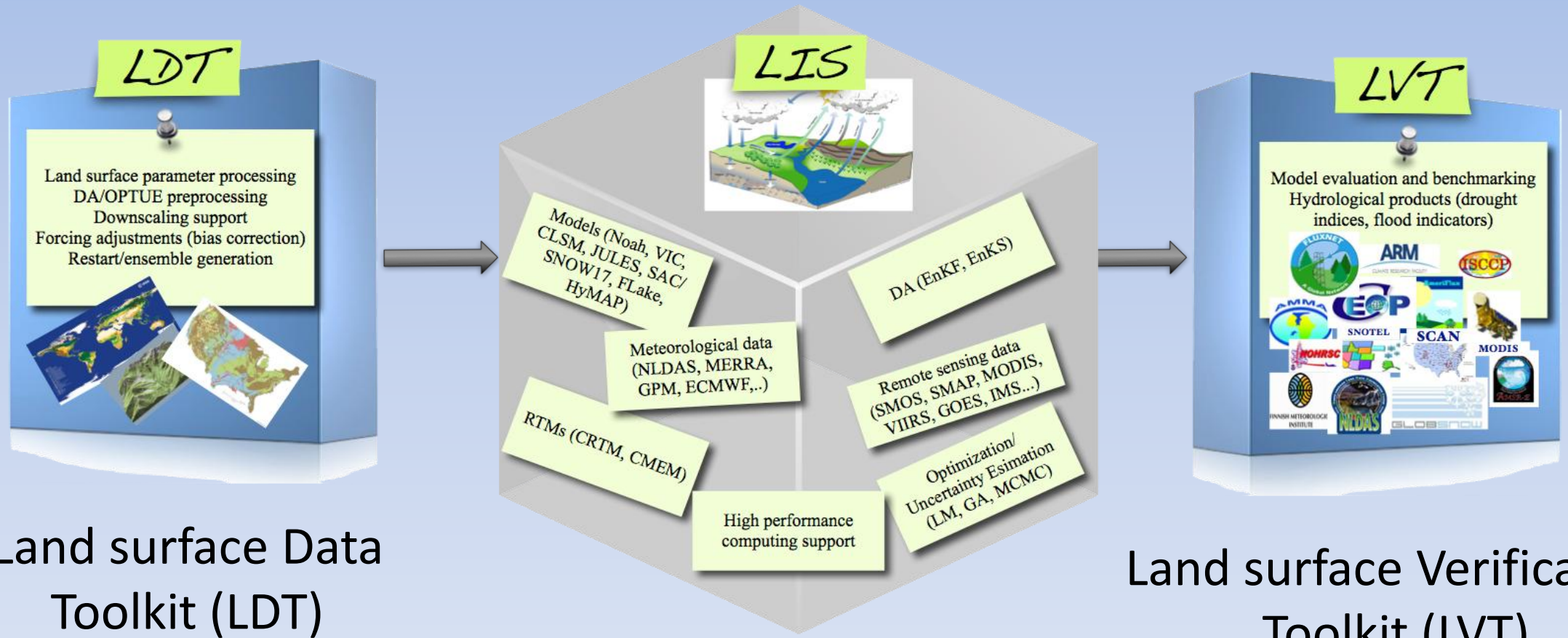
NLDAS – North American LDAS

NCA-LDAS – National Climate Assessment LDAS

FLDAS – Famine Early Warning System Network (FEWS NET LDAS)

http://ldas.gsfc.nasa.gov/

NASA's Land Information System (LIS) software framework is used to drive the models and perform data assimilation



Land surface Data Toolkit (LDT)

Land Information System (LIS)

Land surface Verification Toolkit (LVT)

http://lis.gsfc.nasa.gov/

@NASA_LIS

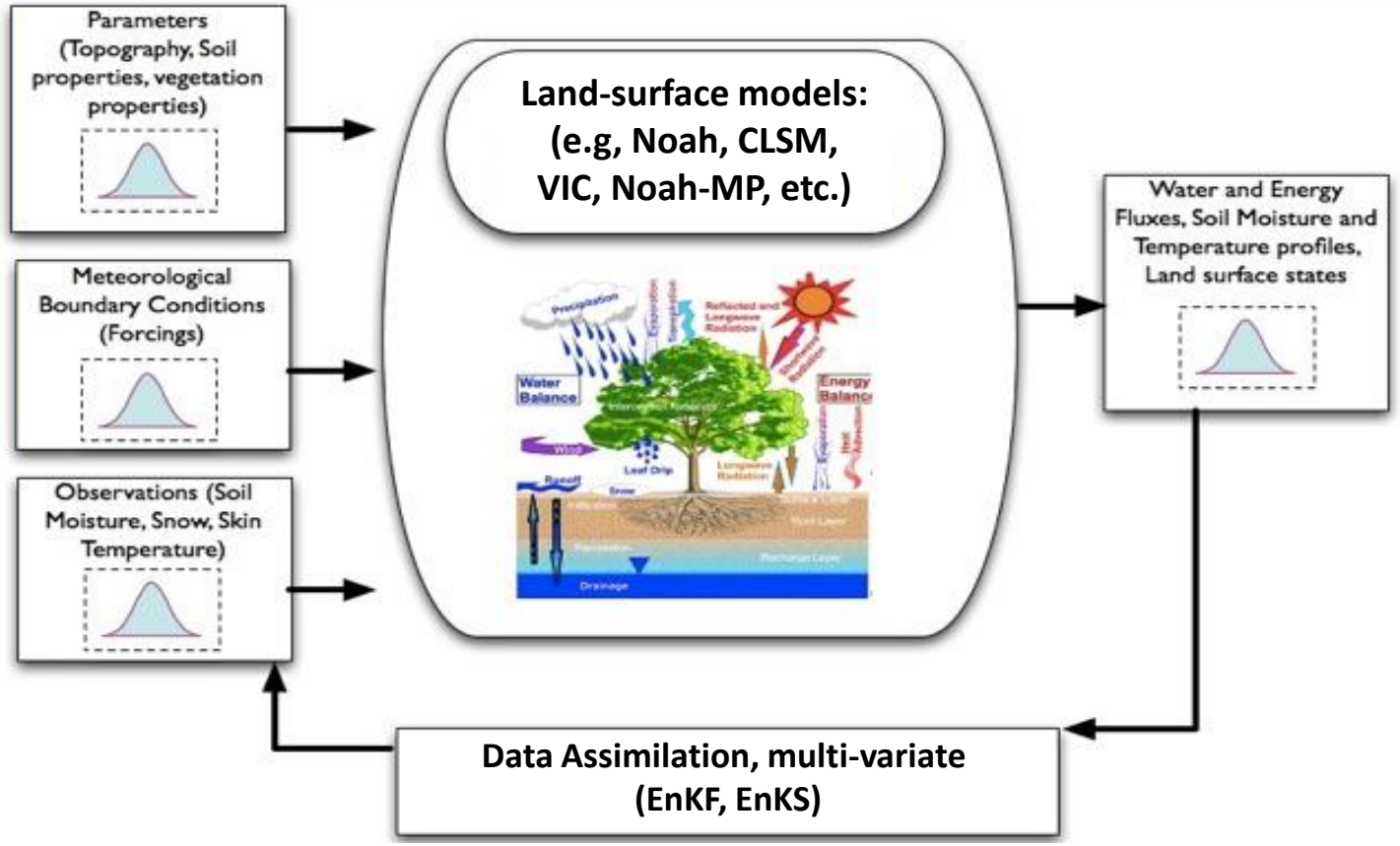
LIS software uses parameters, meteorological forcings, and remotely-sensed environmental data records

Using the Land Information System for an LDAS

Best-available input datasets depending on the region of interest and application

Satellite EDRs*

SM, SCA, SWE, TWS, and II



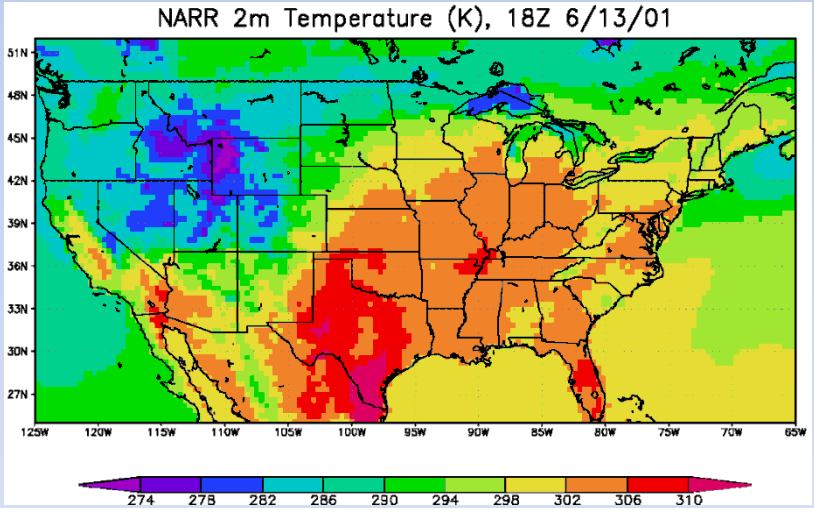
* Satellite-based Environmental Data Records (EDRs): soil moisture (SM), snow-covered area (SCA), snow water equivalent (SWE), terrestrial water storage (TWS), & irrigation intensity (II)

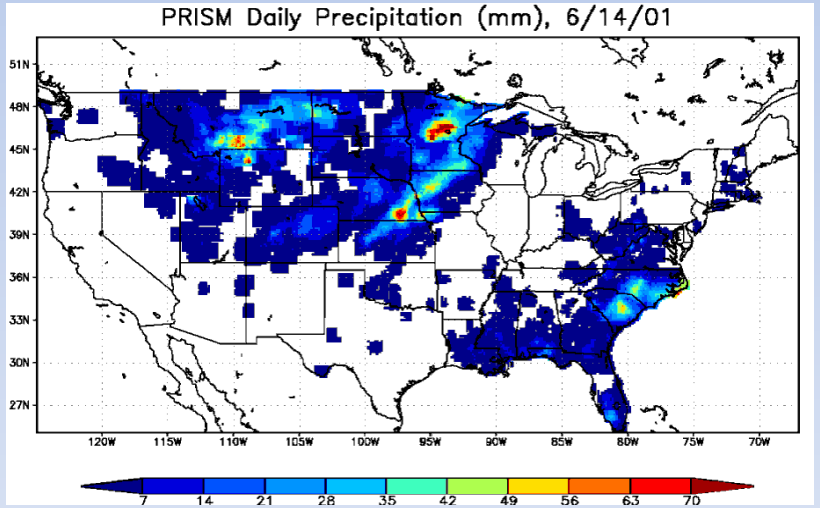
The **Land Information System (LIS)** is a flexible land-surface modeling and data assimilation framework developed with the goal of integrating satellite- and ground-based observed data products with land-surface models.

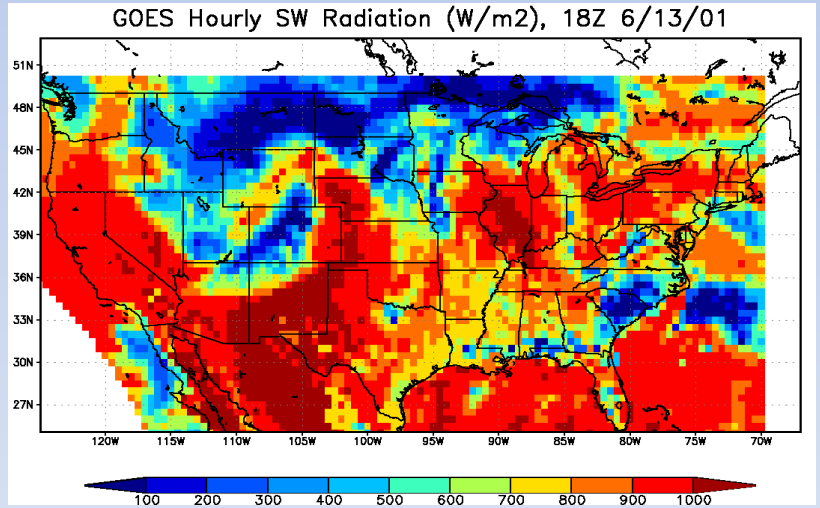
NLDAS combines a high-quality surface forcing dataset and land-surface modeling to produce consistent products

- Jan 1979 to present (operationally w/ ~3.5-day latency); hourly/monthly
- 1/8th-degree (~12.5km) over CONUS-centered domain (25-53°N; 125-67°W)

NARR near-surface meteorology	CPC Daily Precipitation Analysis	Bias-corrected SW radiation (SRB)







- Stage II radar, CMORPH, other precipitation datasets, or NARR used to temporally disaggregate the CPC Daily Analysis into hourly precipitation

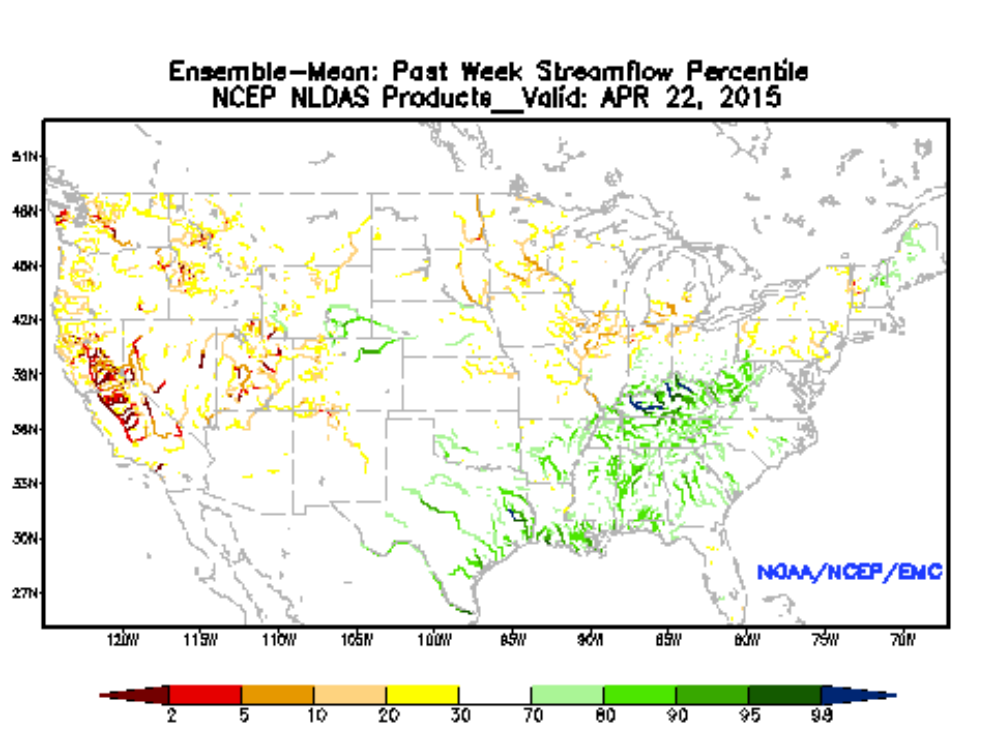
The NLDAS Drought Monitor is updated daily, and is one of the datasets used for the weekly U.S. Drought Monitor

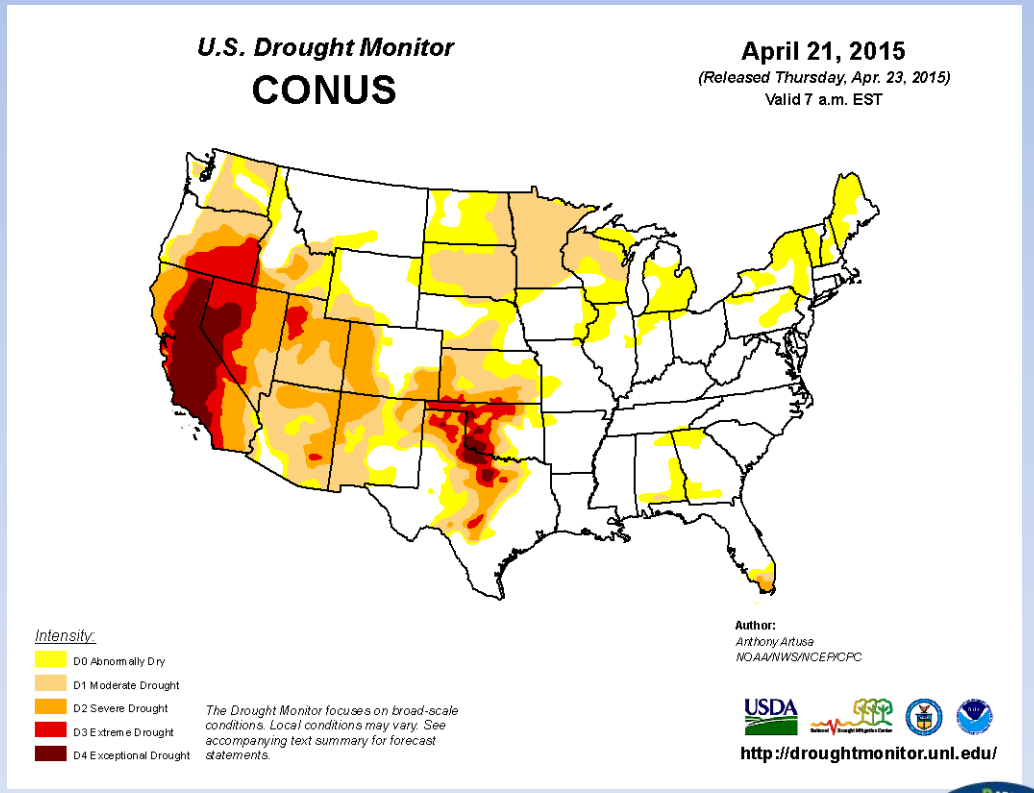
Percentiles and anomalies of: precipitation, soil moisture, snow, evaporation, runoff, and streamflow (from river routing)

Streamflow Percentile

Snow Water Equivalent Anomaly (mm)

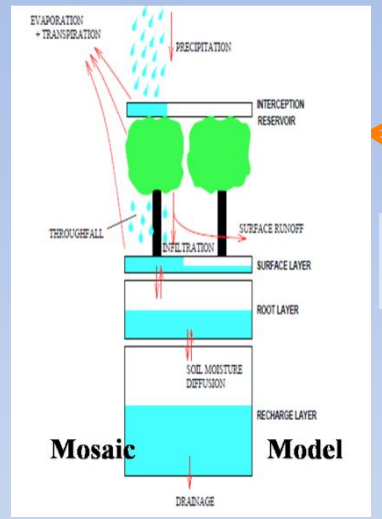
Soil Moisture Anomaly (mm)



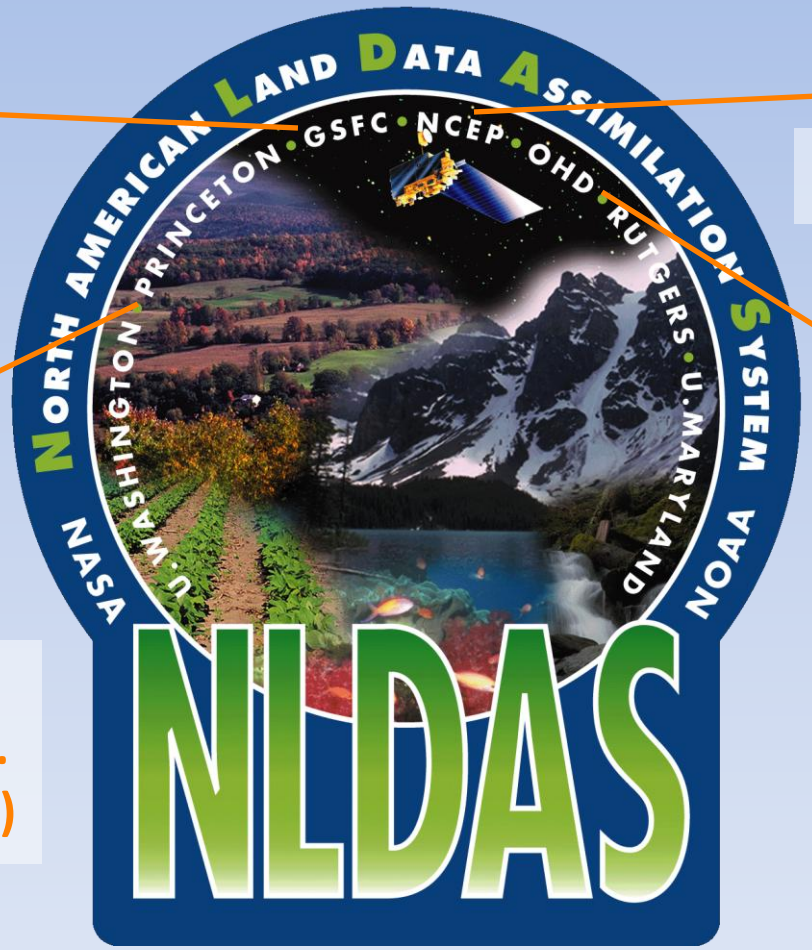


http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/mmb/nldas/drought/

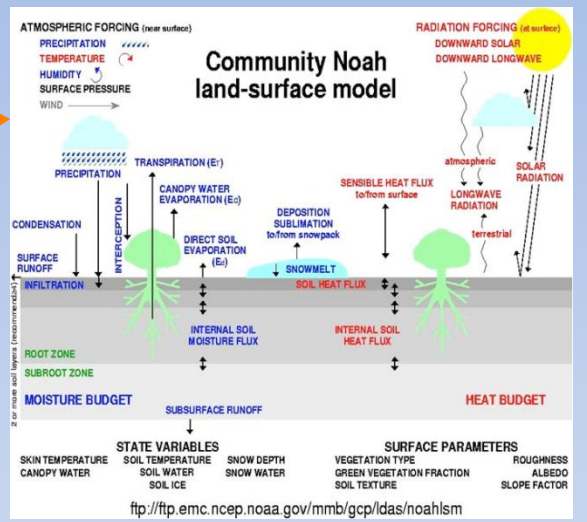
Collaboration between NOAA/NCEP/EMC and NASA/GSFC w/ other groups; it runs 4 LSMs (Noah, Mosaic, VIC, & SAC)

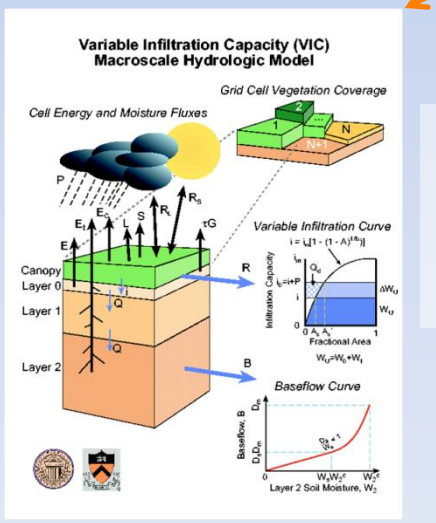


Mosaic (GSFC)



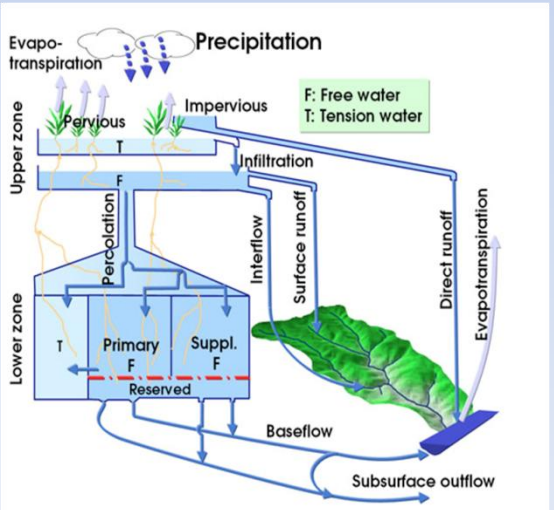
Noah (NCEP)





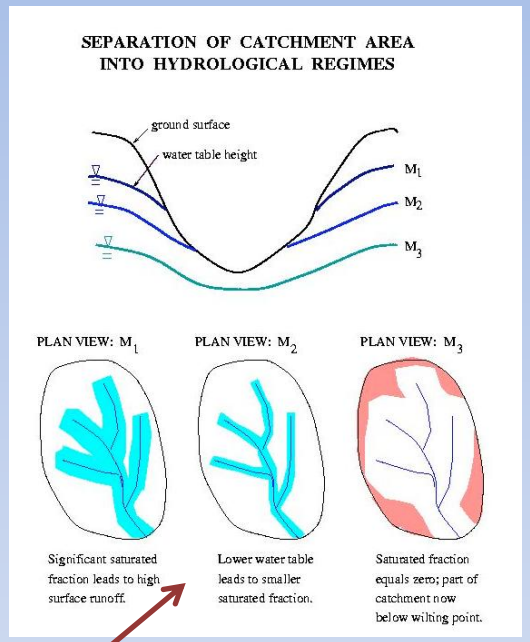
VIC (Princeton Univ. and Univ. of Washington)

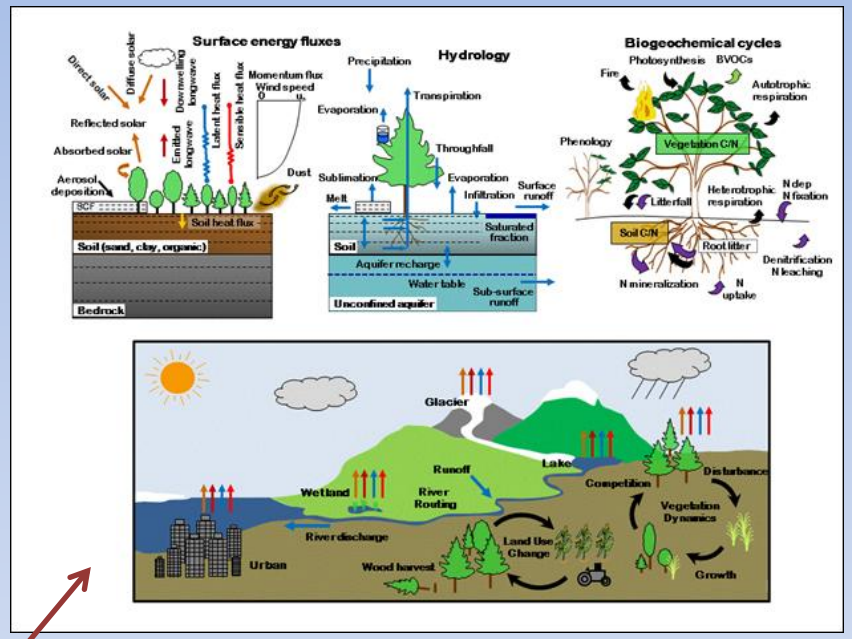
SAC (OHD)

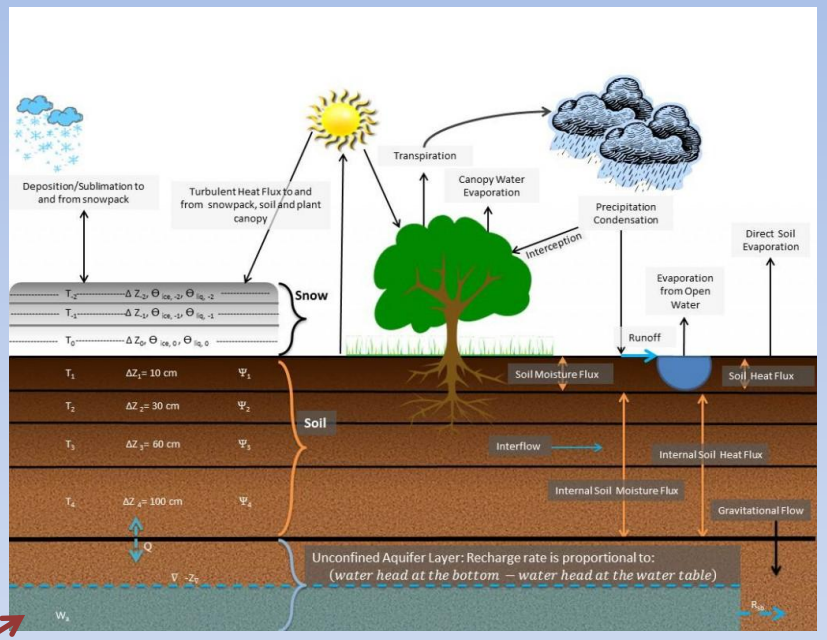


http://ldas.gsfc.nasa.gov/nldas/

NASA's Catchment LSM as well as CLM are being added, with the other LSMs being upgraded to their latest versions







Catchment LSM (CLSM) is developed by NASA/GMAO, and is the land-surface component of the NASA GEOS-5 GCM.

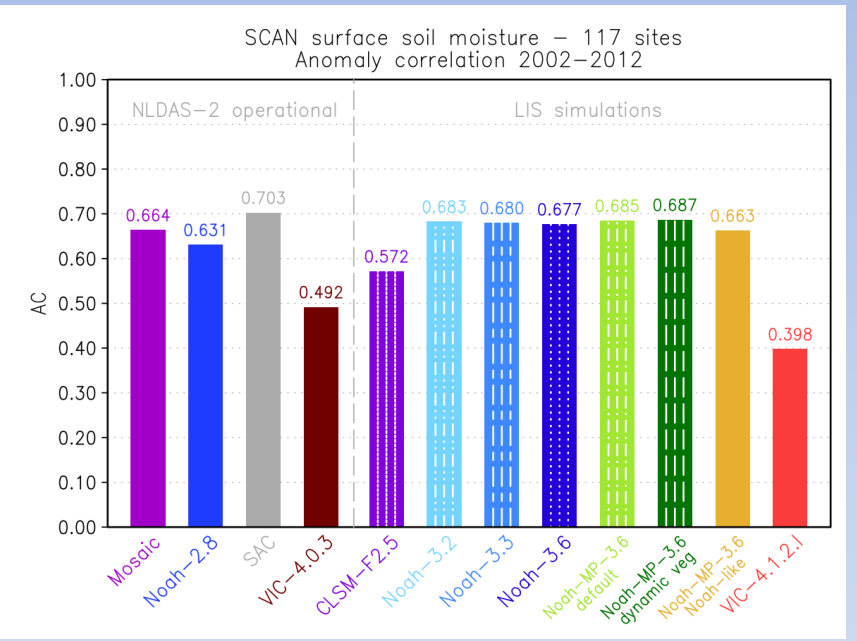
Community Land Model (CLM-4.5) is maintained by NCAR, and is the land-surface model for the Community Earth System Model (CESM).

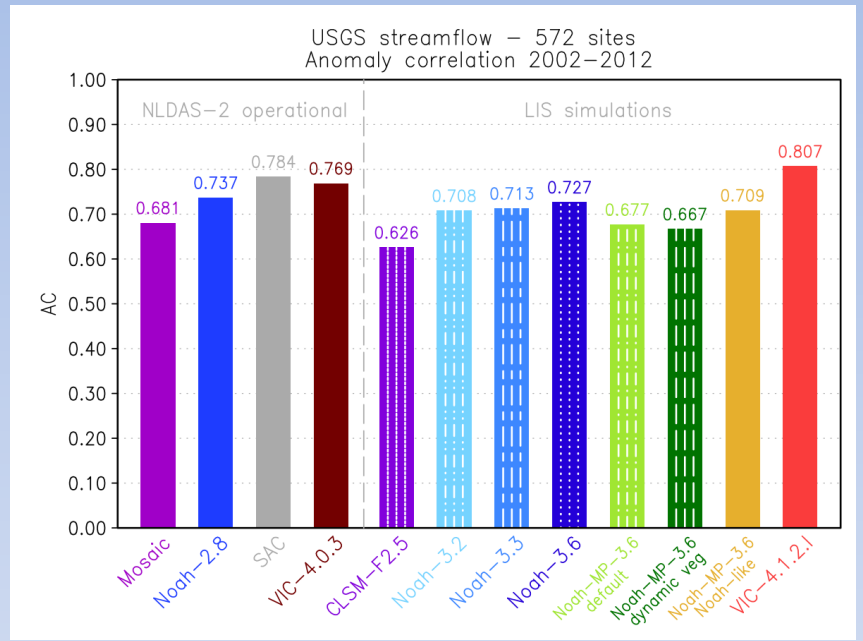
Noah-MP-3.6 is a LSM option within WRF, with Multiple Physics options, including dynamic vegetation & groundwater modules.

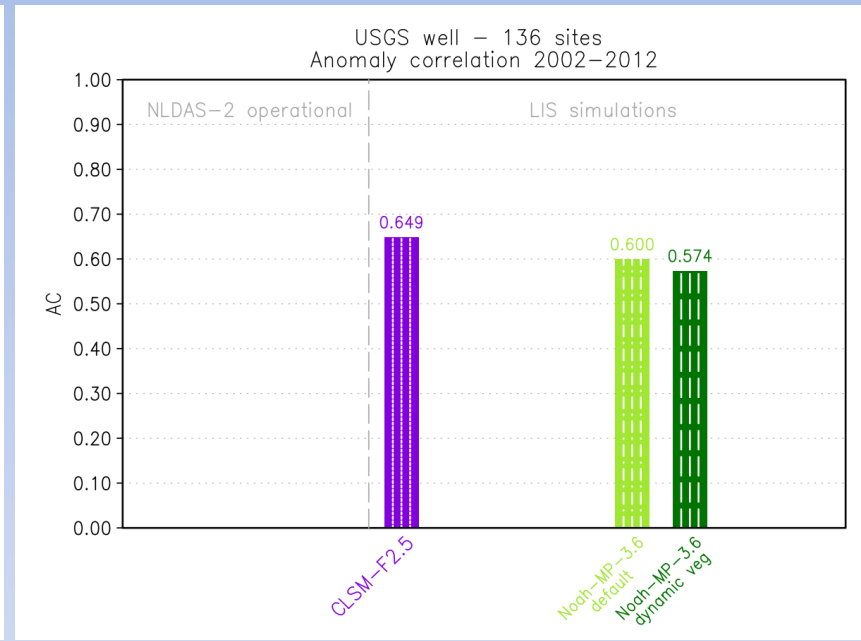
VIC-4.1.2.l, SAC-HTET-3.5.6, and Noah-3.6 are also in LIS and contain numerous upgrades.

NLDAS Science Testbed evaluation

The new and upgraded LSMs for the next phase of NLDAS have been run using the LIS software framework, and the new results and the NLDAS-2 operational LSMs have been evaluated against observations using the LVT software.





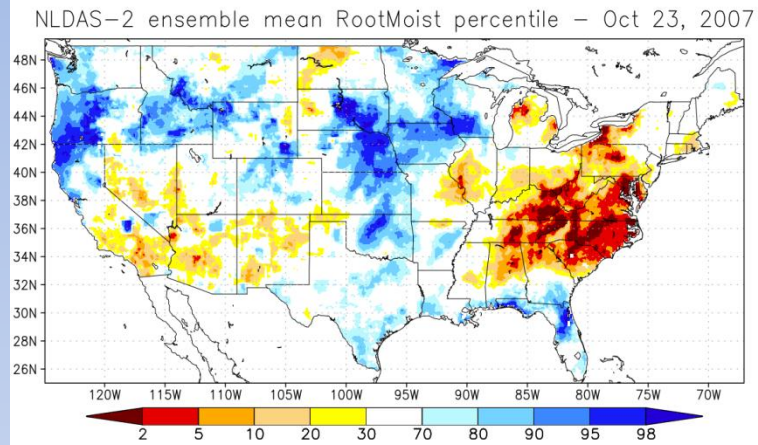


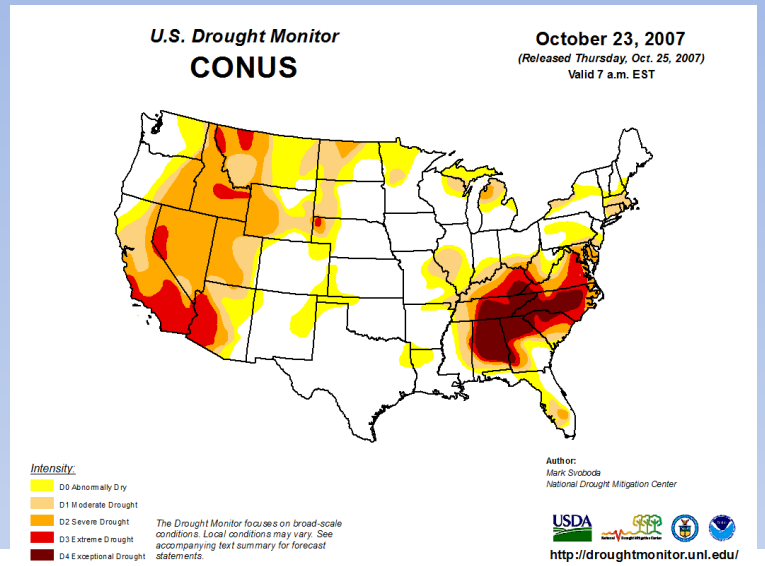
Surface soil moisture **Streamflow** **Groundwater**

Anomaly correlations are shown for the 4 NLDAS-2 LSMs (left of the dashed line) and various instances/options of the LIS LSMs (right of the dashed line). Against 117 quality-controlled SCAN soil moisture sites (left panel), the new versions of Noah and Noah-MP are improved over NLDAS-2's Noah. For routed streamflow (middle) against USGS observations at 572 small, unregulated basins, the LSMs do well, particularly the new version of VIC. Groundwater anomaly correlation is shown (right) against 136 USGS well observations. Groundwater is not available in any of the NLDAS-2 LSMs, while two of the new LSMs in LIS calculate groundwater. Fluxes, snow, TWS are also in evaluation.

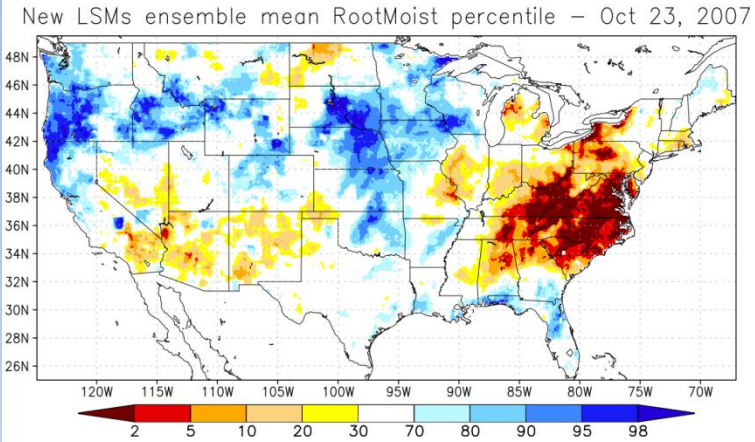
Oct 23, 2007 – Southeast Drought

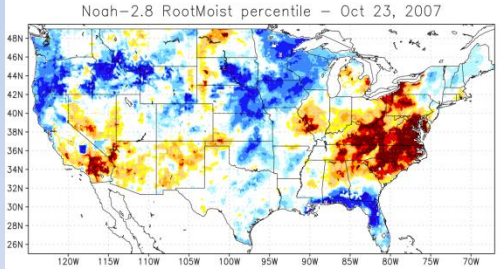
NLDAS-2 operational LSMs

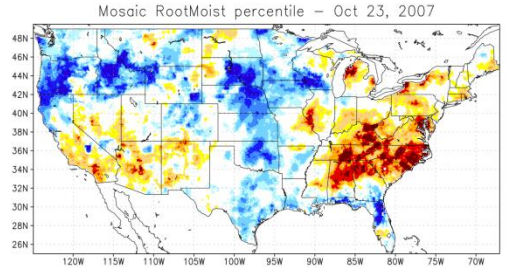


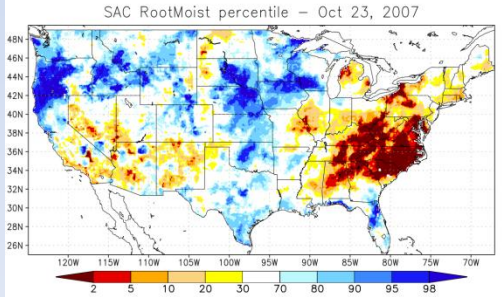


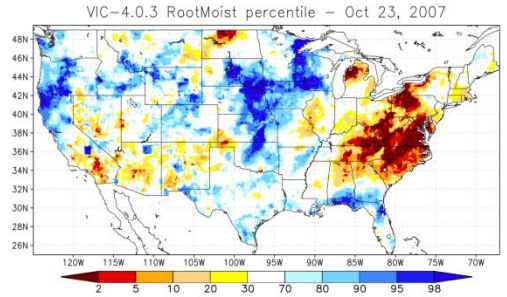
LIS LSMs for next phase



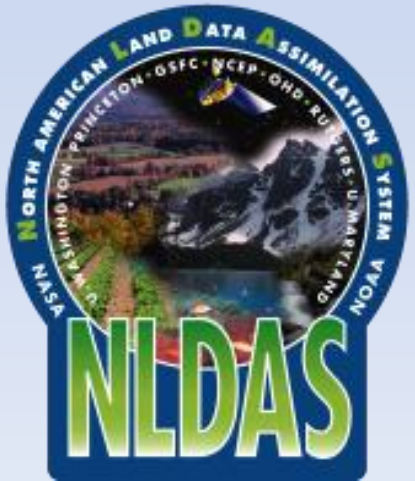


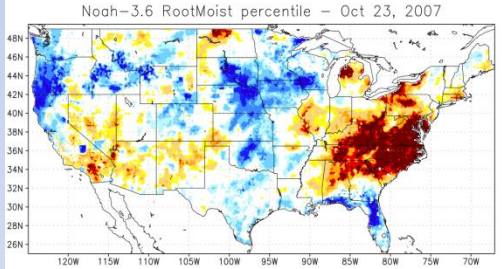


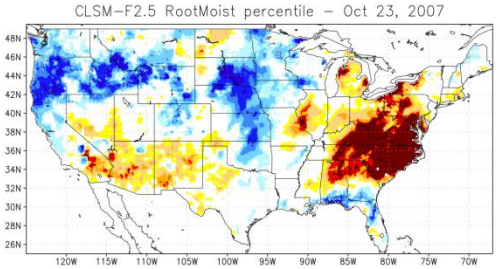


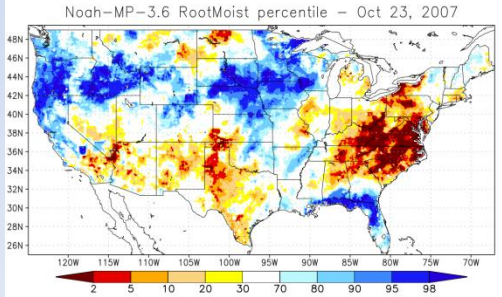


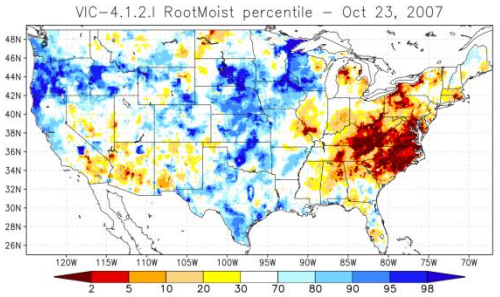
Top 1-meter soil moisture





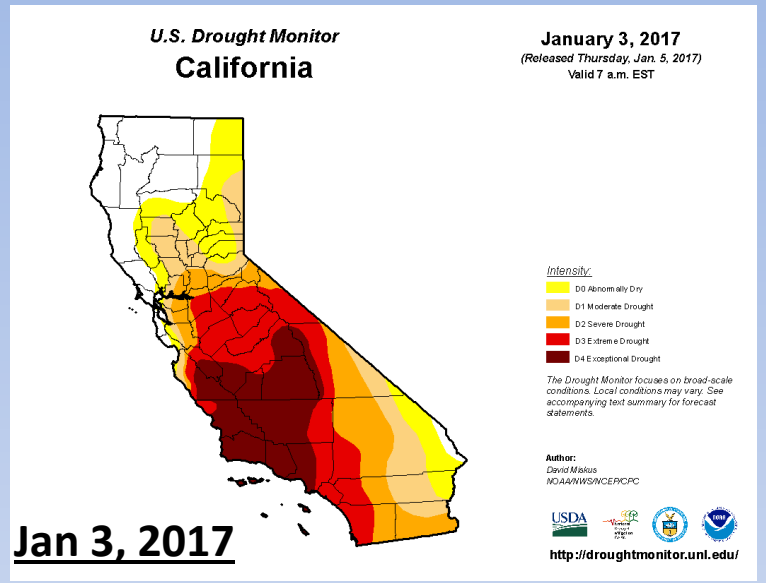




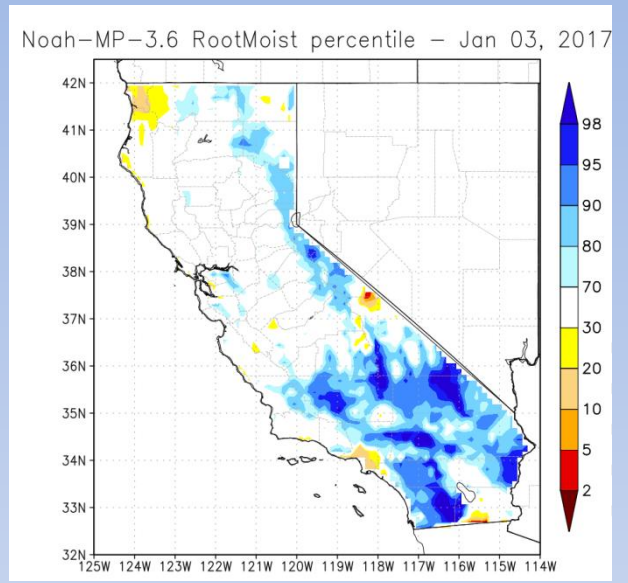


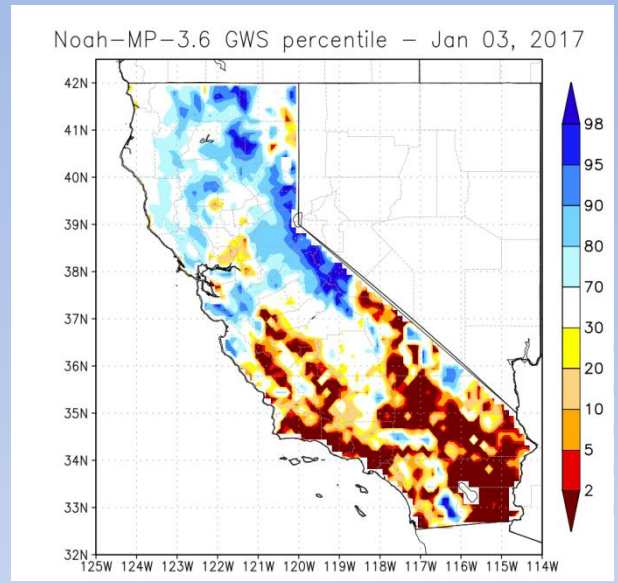
California winter drought reduction 2016-2017

Comparisons to the U.S. Drought Monitor on Jan 3 and Jan 24, 2017 are shown. The percentiles of groundwater from Noah-MP in LIS show dryness despite many winter storms. The USDM noted the dry groundwater well observations in many areas of Southern California in issuing the USDM maps for these dates. The root zone soil moisture percentiles do not tell the entire story.

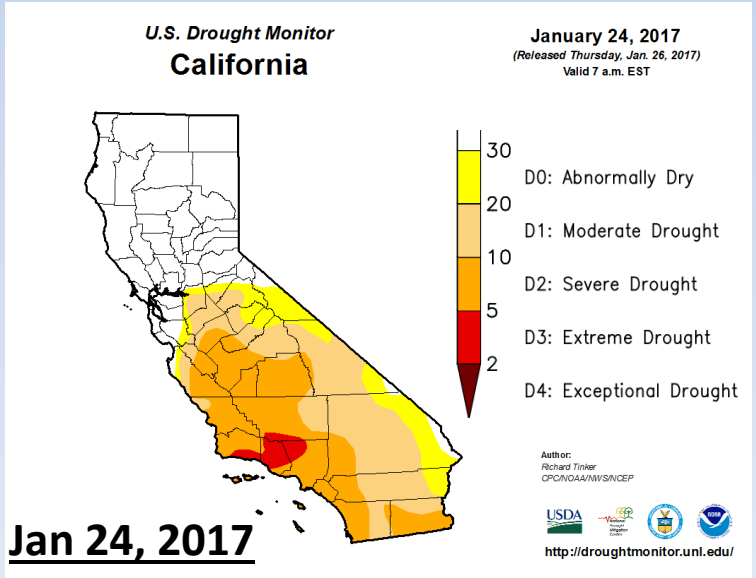


Jan 3, 2017

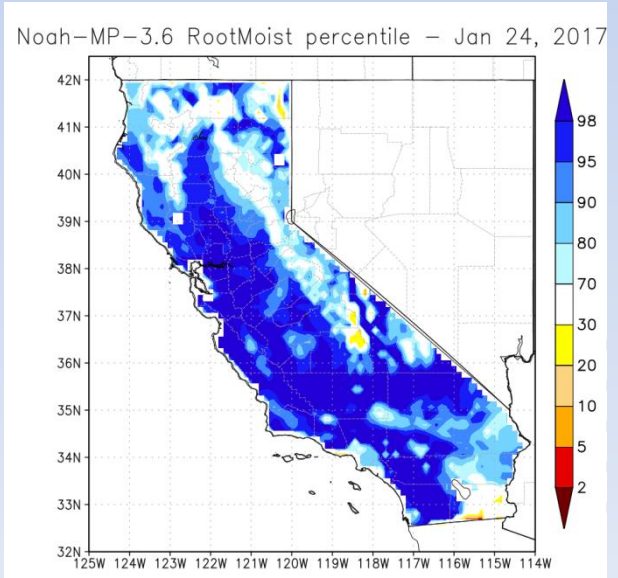


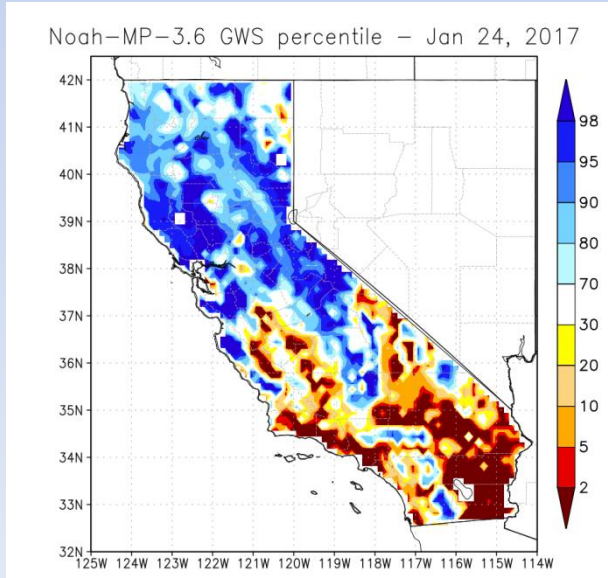


U.S. Drought Monitor **LIS Noah-MP Top 1-m soil moisture**



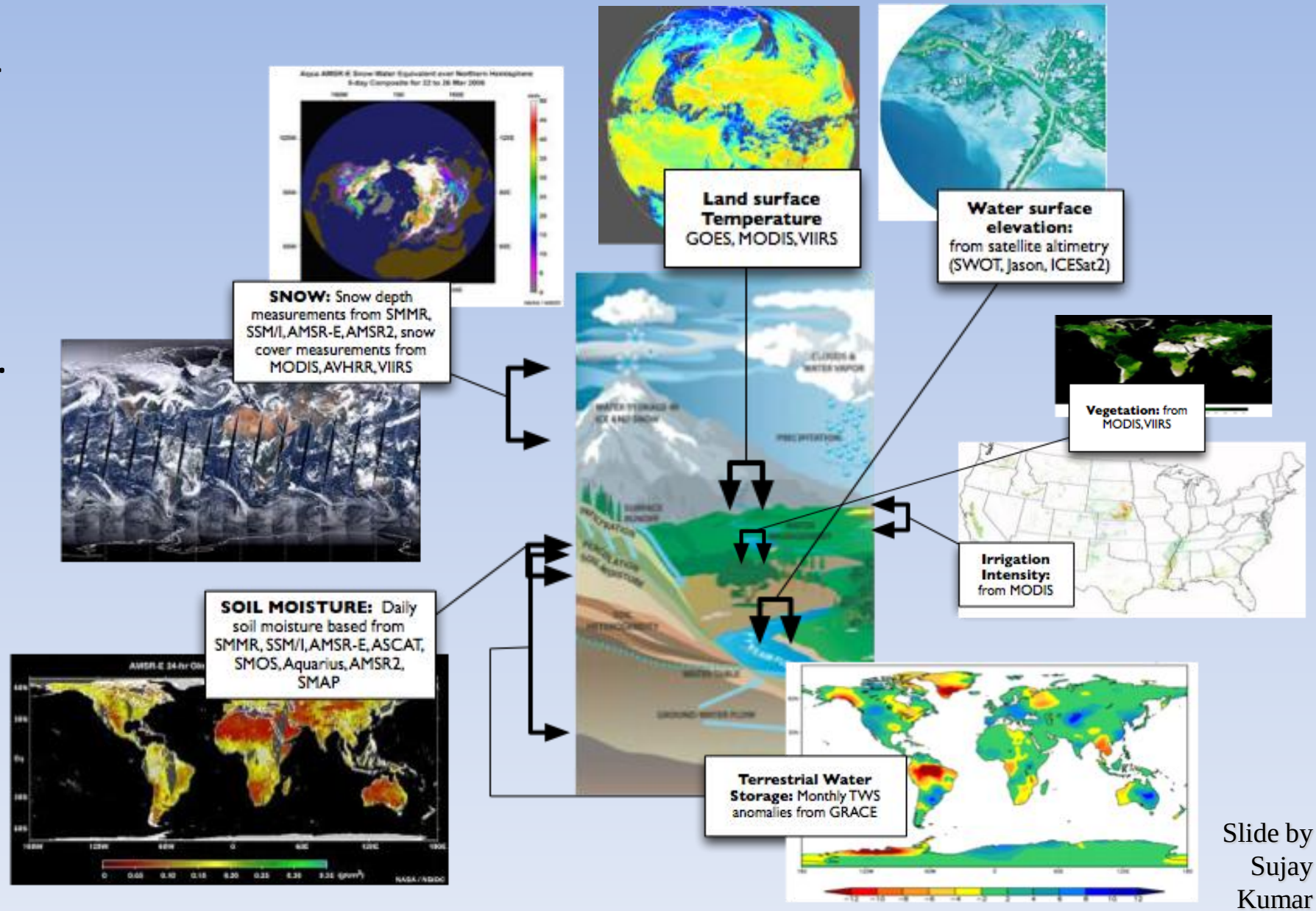
Jan 24, 2017





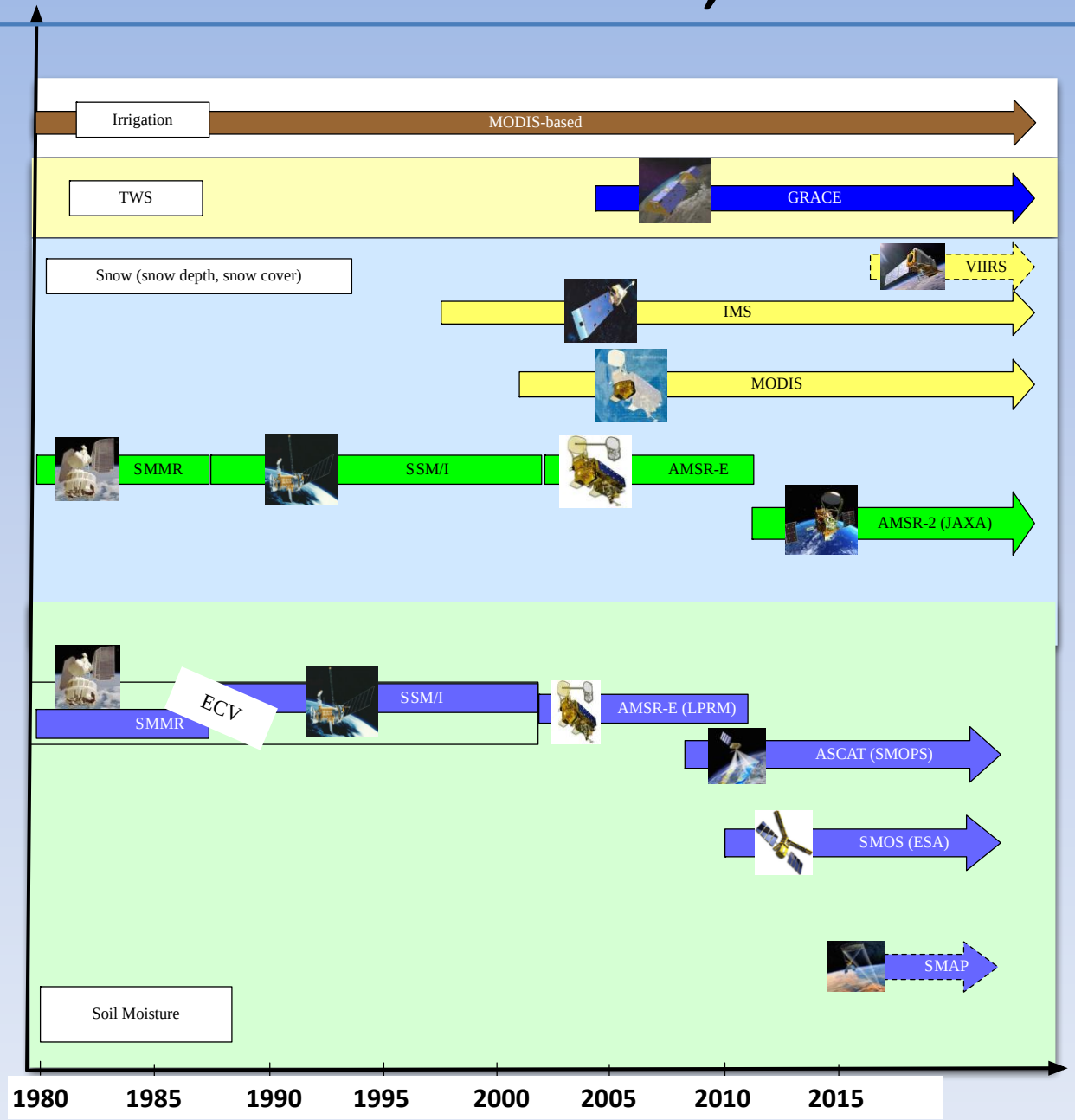
NCA-LDAS Vision

- Create an enabling tool for development, evaluation, and dissemination of hydrological indicators to support the National Climate Assessment (NCA).
- Generate indicators through multivariate assimilation of satellite-era data products (1979-present) using the NASA Land Information System (LIS) software framework.

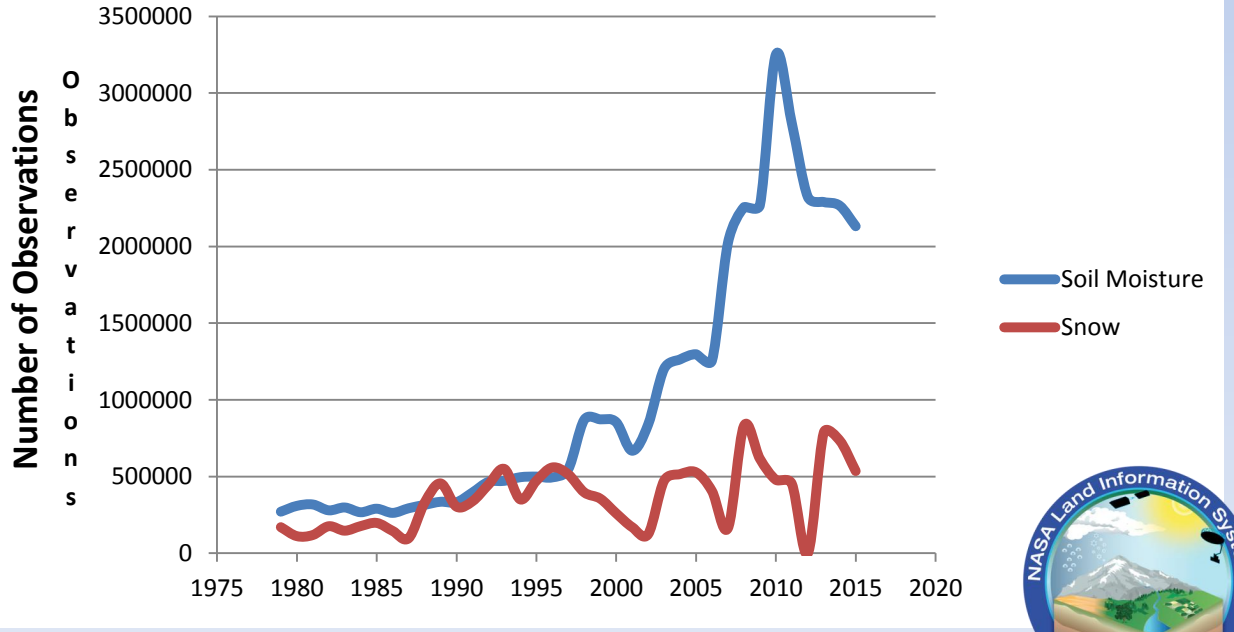


Slide by Sujay Kumar

Multivariate, Multisensor Data Assimilation



Model domain: Same as NLDAS (1/8th-degree centered over CONUS)
Forcing data: NLDAS Phase 2 (w/ daily CPC gauge-based precipitation)
Models: Noah LSM ver 3.3, and CLSM Fortuna-2.5: a 60-year spin-up, followed by 36-year simulation; streamflow simulations using HyMAP (Getirana et al. 2012)
Data assimilation method: 1-d Ensemble Kalman Filter (EnKF) and 3-d Ensemble Kalman Smoother (EnKS)
Time period: Jan 1, 1979 to Dec 31, 2015



Slide by Sujay Kumar

Univariate Assimilation Experiments/Papers

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SPECIAL Advances in Drought Monitoring COLLECTION

Assimilation of Remotely Sensed Soil Moisture and Snow Depth Retrievals for Drought Estimation

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Quantifying the Added Value of Snow Cover Area Observations in Passive Microwave Snow Depth Data Assimilation

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ABSTRACT

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Assimilation of Gridded GRACE Terrestrial Water Storage Estimates in the North American Land Data Assimilation System

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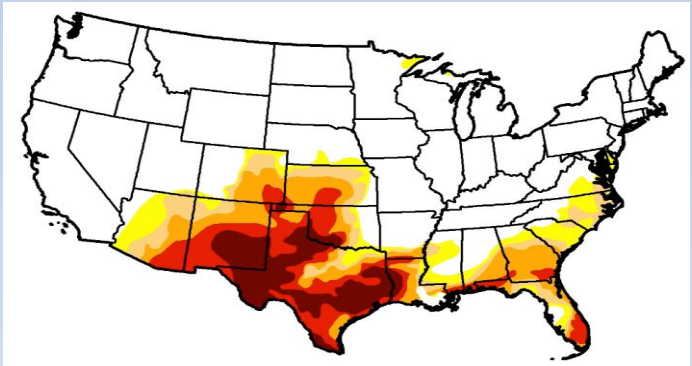
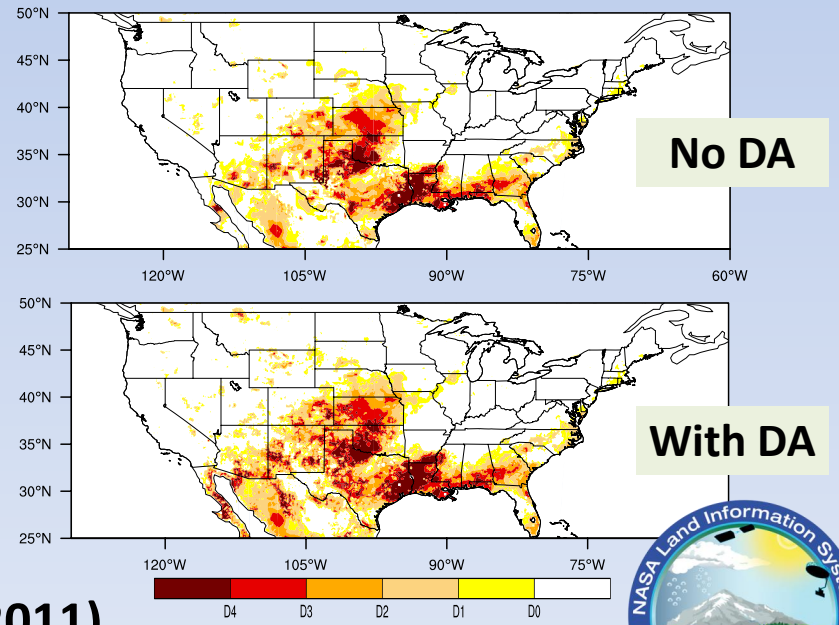
Univariate data assimilation experiments demonstrated that:

- Assimilation of satellite soil moisture, snow, and terrestrial water storage observations improved water cycle components of soil moisture, snow, terrestrial water storage, and evapotranspiration.
- Joint use of snow cover and passive microwave based snow depth data reduced RMSEs.
- Use of gridded GRACE TWS anomalies for DA are beneficial.
- These improvements also translated to short-term improvements for applications such as drought monitoring.



U.S. Drought Monitor



Impact of soil moisture DA on drought estimates (May 10-17, 2011)

Slide by Sujay Kumar

LDAS Data Availability at NASA/GSFC

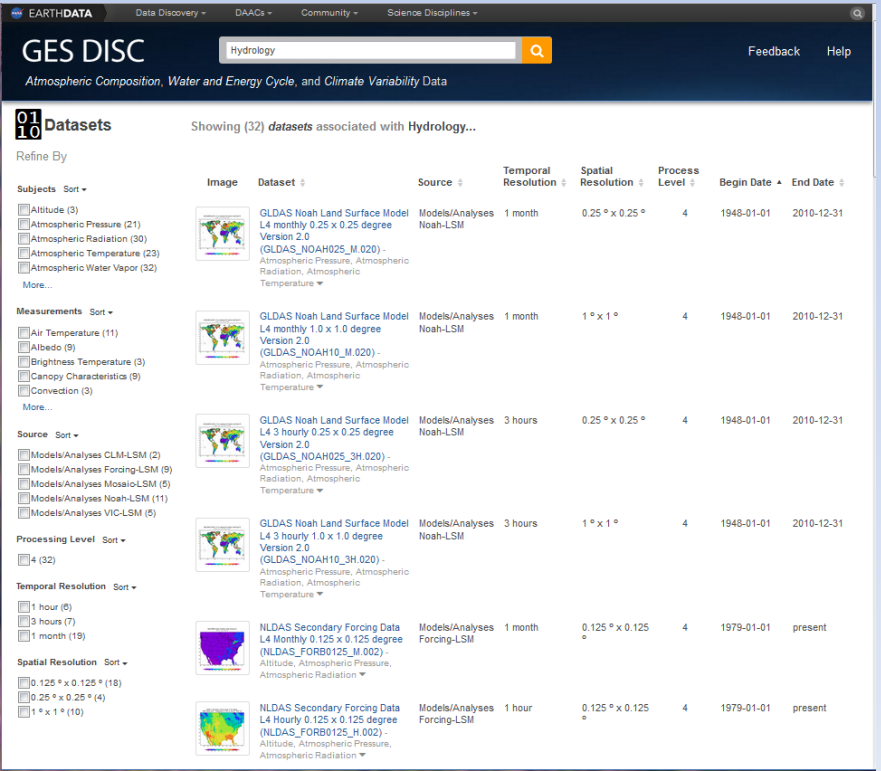
https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/hydrology

NLDAS: (Phase 1 and Phase 2)
0.125°, 1979-present (~3.5-day latency): Noah, Mosaic, VIC

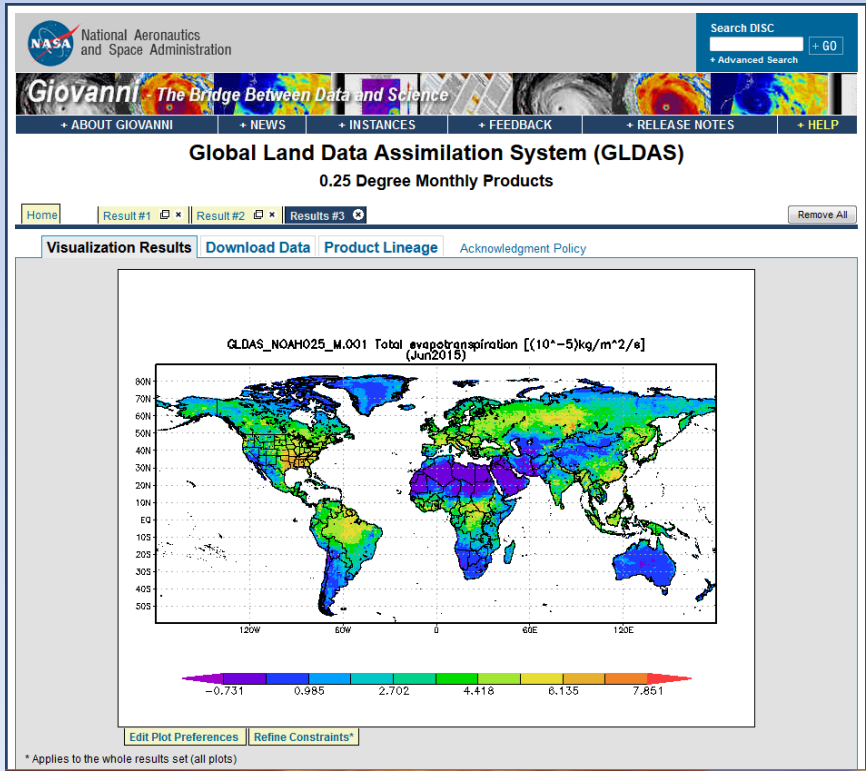
NCA-LDAS:
0.125°, 1979-2015 (annual updates expected): Noah
(CLSM to come)

GLDAS: (v1.0, v2.0, v2.1)
1.0° or 0.25°, 1979-present (1-2 month latency) or 1948-2010: Noah, Mosaic, VIC, CLM-2

FLDAS:
0.25° or 0.1°, 1982 or 2001-present (~1-day latency): Noah, VIC



- Access via HTTP, GDS, or quick-look visualization in Giovanni (right)
- GRIB-1 and NetCDF formats
- On-the-fly subsetting
- Full documentation, including README files and a FAQ
- LDAS projects support a growing number of national/international hydrometeorological investigations and water resources applications



Next steps

- Next phase of NLDAS will include new/updated LSMs with data assimilation of operational remotely-sensed products – and close the 3.5-day latency gap
- NLDAS will also expand the domain and to go finer resolution (details in a forthcoming white paper written in coordination with NOAA/NCEP)
- NCA-LDAS is expected to have annual updates to extend the record as well as include the assimilation of additional remotely-sensed products
- Studies with all LDAS systems are updated on the websites, including a LIS blog
- Datasets and documentation are being updated and a mailing list is available

@NASA_LIS

https://disc.gsfc.nasa.gov/hydrology

http://ldas.gsfc.nasa.gov/ http://lis.gsfc.nasa.gov/

Take-away Messages

- A Land Data Assimilation System – or LDAS – is a dataset from land-surface models (LSMs) forced with the best-available observations to support water resources applications, including drought monitoring
- Remotely-sensed land satellite observations are assimilated into the LSMs to improve the depiction of water/energy cycles
- The NASA Land Information System (LIS) software framework is used for several different LDASs and datasets/documentation are available from NASA/GSFC
- Data assimilation has been shown to improve LDAS depiction of soil moisture, snow, evaporation, and streamflow compared to in situ & gridded observations

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