

# West Salt Creek Landslide



Presenter: Chad Wellman



\* Chad Wellman Bio

- \* Grew up in Virginia Beach Virginia. Lived on tidal water and boated the Atlantic Ocean, Chesapeake Bay, and Lynnhaven Inlet on a regular basis. Graduated from Virginia Tech May 2000 with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering.

Started with the Forest Service in January of 2010. Currently a Project Engineer for the GMUG stationed at the Gunnison Ranger District in Region 2. Live in Crested Butte and enjoy building, biking, hiking, walking my dogs, snowboarding and skiing. I have 2 dogs and a cat.



\* Credits:

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\* Education

Ph.D. University of Utah

B.S. Colorado State University

A.S. Mesa State Junior College

\* Ben Stratton USFS Hydrologist

- \*The tragedy of landslides:
- \*Three people died in the West Salt Creek Landslide
- \*The slide killed 51 year old Mesa County Road and Bridge Department worker Clancy Nichols, his 24-year-old son Danny who was a geologist and District Water Manager 46-year-old Wes Hawkins.
- \*On Saturday, March 22, 2014, at 10:37 a.m. local time, a major mudflow occurred 4 miles east of Oso, Washington, United States, when a portion of an unstable hill collapsed, engulfing a rural neighborhood, and covering an area of approximately 1 square mile (2.6 km<sup>2</sup>). Forty-three people were killed.
- \*Heavy rain in Vargas Venezuela triggered a landslide in December 1999 that killed 30,000

**Mass wasting**, is the geomorphic process by which soil, sand, and rock move downslope typically as a mass, largely under the force of gravity, but frequently affected by water and water content.

Types of mass wasting include creep, slides, flows, topples, and falls, each with its own characteristic features, and taking place over timescales from seconds to years.

Mass wasting occurs on both terrestrial and submarine slopes, and has been observed on Earth, Mars, Venus, and Jupiter's moon Io.

When the gravitational force acting on a slope exceeds its resisting force, slope failure (mass wasting) occurs.

The steepest angle that a cohesionless slope can maintain without losing its stability is known as its **angle of repose**.

Factors that change the potential of mass wasting include: change in slope angle, weakening of material by weathering, **increased water content**; changes in vegetation cover, and overloading.

Water can increase or decrease the stability of a slope depending on the amount present.

Small amounts of water can strengthen soils because the surface tension of water increases soil cohesion.

This allows the soil to resist erosion better than if it were dry.

If too much water is present the water may act to increase the pore pressure, reducing friction, and accelerating the erosion process and resulting in different types of mass wasting (i.e. mudflows, landslides, etc.).

A good example of this is to think of a sand castle. Water must be mixed with sand in order for the castle to keep its shape. If too much water is added the sand washes away, if not enough water is added the sand falls and cannot keep its shape. Water also increases the mass of the soil, this is important because an increase in mass means that there will be an increase in velocity if mass wasting is triggered.





## Types of mass movements:

Types of mass movement are distinguished based on how the soil or rock moves downslope as a whole.

### **Creeps**

Soil creep is a long term process. The combination of small movements of soil or rock in different directions over time are directed by gravity gradually downslope. The steeper the slope, the faster the creep. The creep makes trees and shrubs curve to maintain their perpendicularity, and they can trigger landslides if they lose their root footing. The surface soil can migrate under the influence of cycles of freezing and thawing, or hot and cold temperatures, inching its way towards the bottom of the slope forming terracettes. This happens at a rate that is not noticeable to the naked eye.

### **Landslides**

A landslide is a rapid movement of a large mass of earth and rocks down a hill or a mountainside. Little or no flowage of the materials occurs on a given slope until heavy rain and resultant lubrication by the same rainwater facilitate the movement of the materials, causing a landslide to occur. The common forms of landslides are slump, debris slide, rock slide, rock fall, debris fall and avalanche.

## **Flows**

Movement of soil that more resembles fluid behavior is called a flow. These include avalanches, mudflows, debris flows, earth flow, lahars and sturzstroms. Water, air and ice are often involved in enabling fluidlike motion of the material.

## **Slump**

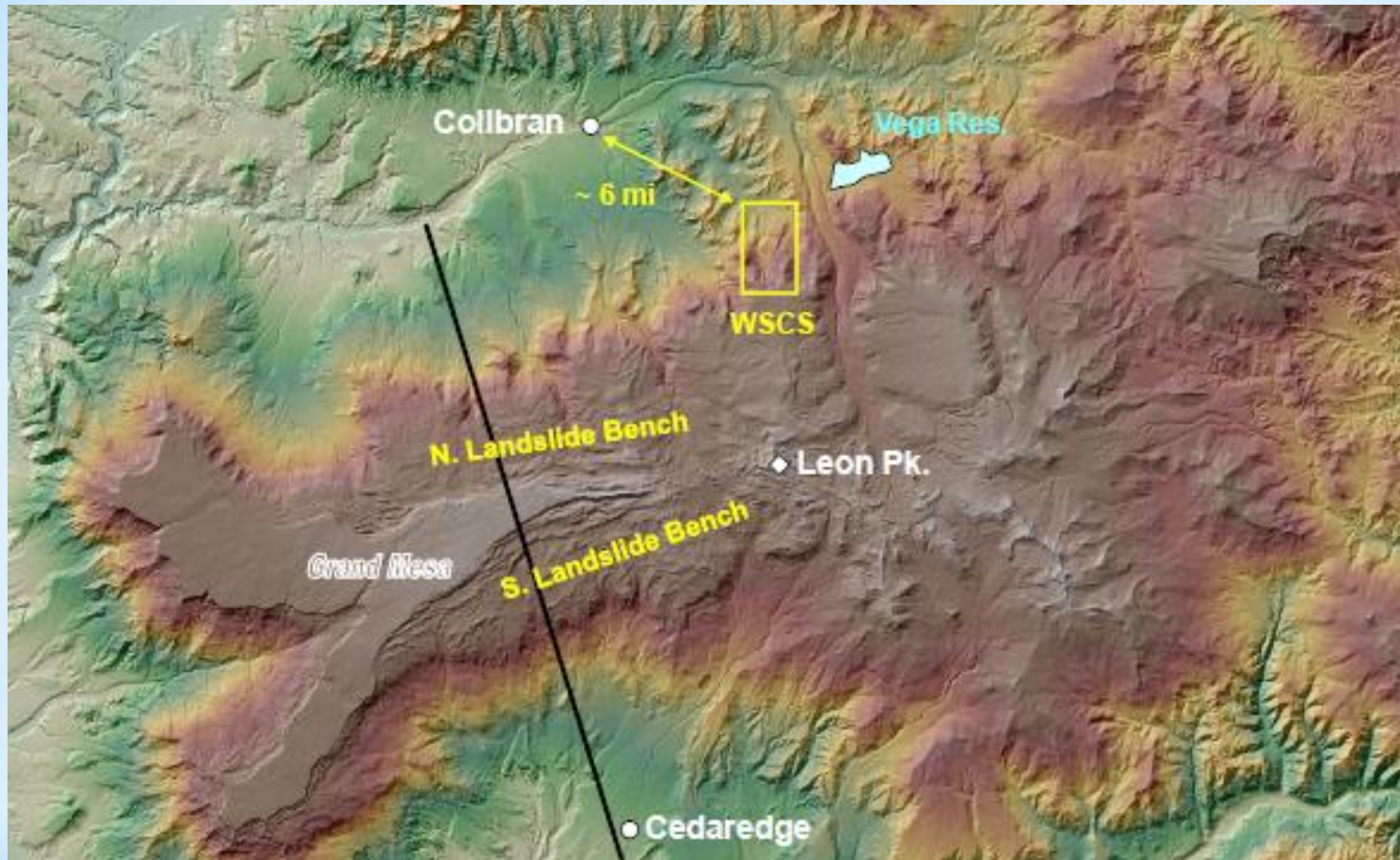
A slipping of coherent rock material along the curved surface of a decline. Slumps involve a mass of soil or other material sliding along a curved surface (shaped like a spoon). It forms a small, crescent-shaped cliff, or abrupt scarp at the top end of the slope. There can be more than one scarp down the slope.

## **Falls**

A fall, including rockfall, is where regolith cascades down a slope, but is not of sufficient volume or viscosity to behave as a flow. Falls are promoted in rocks which are characterized by presence of vertical cracks. Falls are a result of undercutting of water as well as undercutting of waves. They usually occur at very steep slopes such as a cliff face. The rock material may be loosened by earthquakes, rain, plant-root wedging, expanding ice, among other things. The accumulation of rock material that has fallen and resides at the base of the structure is known as talus.

## \*Geology:

- \*The mesa is topped by a hard volcanic basalt. This layer, formed approximately 10 million years ago by basalt flows, suppressed erosion compared to the surrounding sedimentary rock layers, which suffered rapid downcutting from the action of the Colorado and the Gunnison rivers.



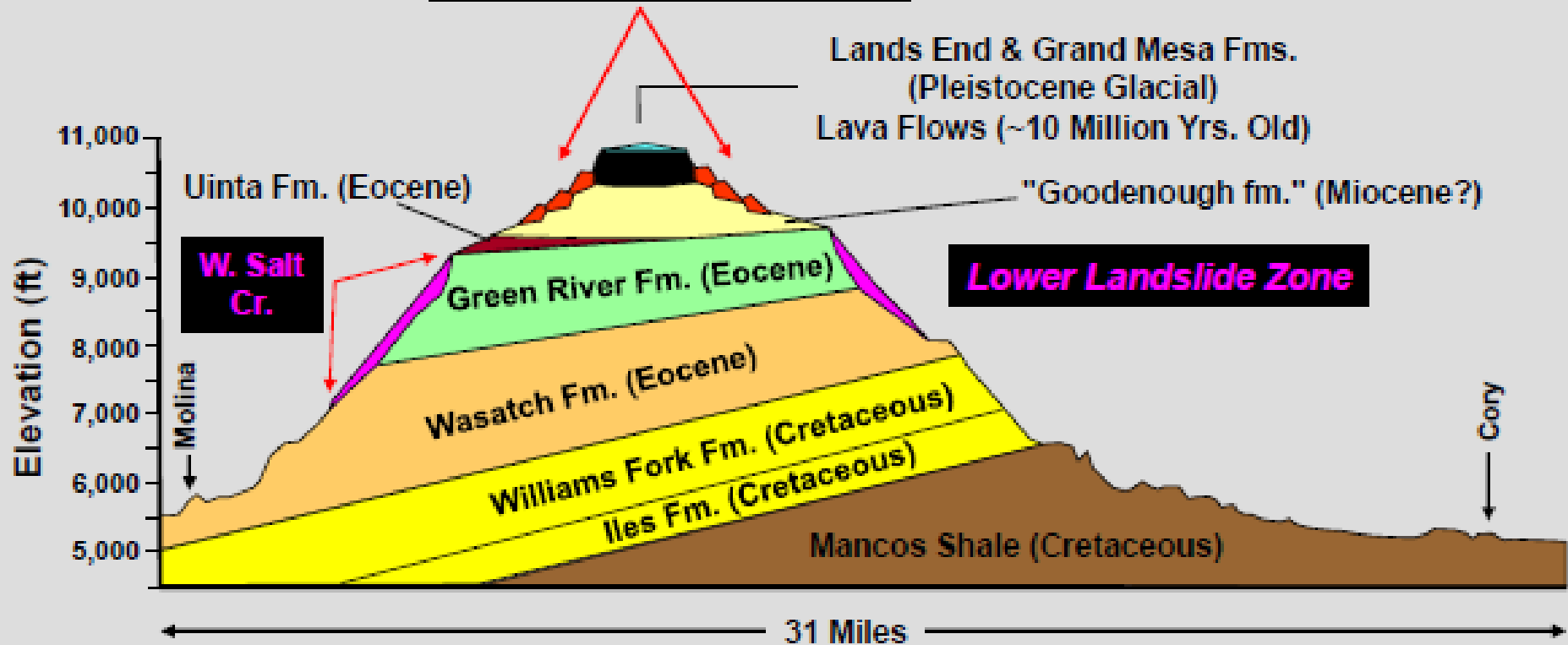
The Grand Mesa is the largest flat top mountain in the world. It is about 500 square miles in area and reaches 11,000 feet above sea level and is about 6000 feet above the surrounding valley floors. Over 300 lakes, including many reservoirs created and used for drinking and irrigation water, are scattered along the top of the formation. The Grand Mesa is flat in some areas, but quite rugged in others.

# Grand Mesa

North

South

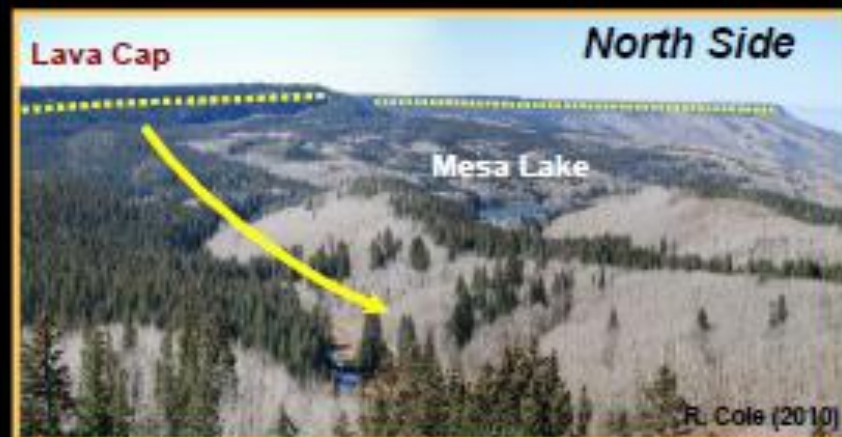
**Upper Landslide Benches**



# Upper Landslide Benches on Grand Mesa

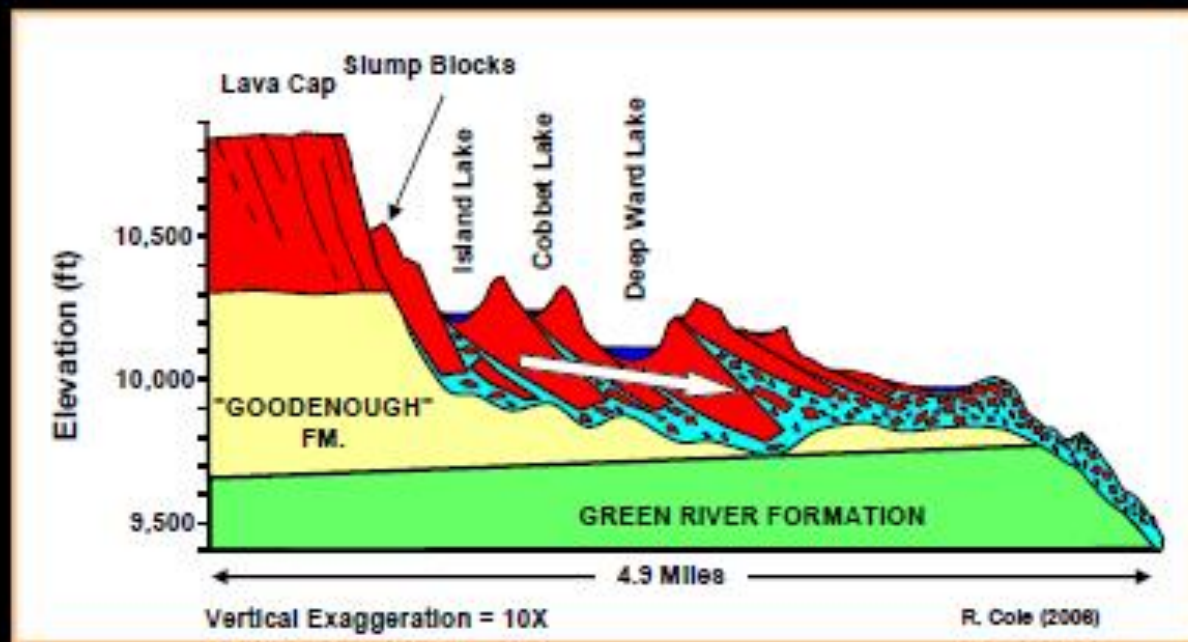


View from Land of Lakes Overlook

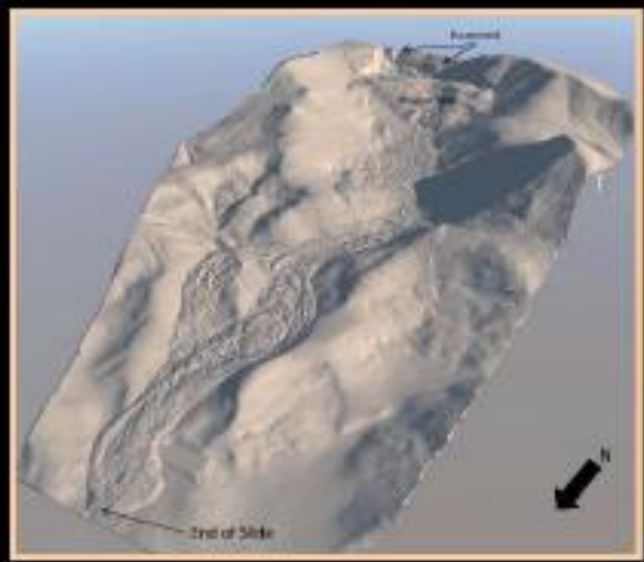
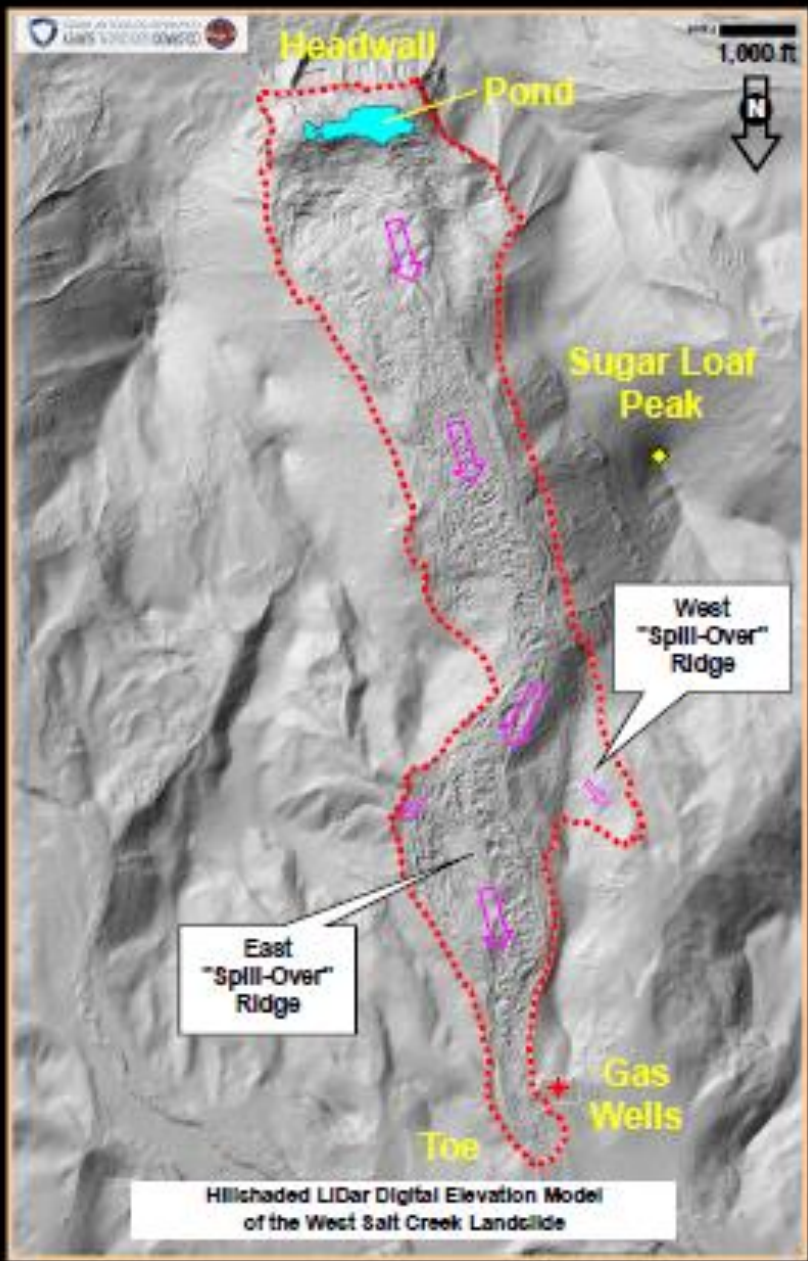


View from Skyway Point

Diagrammatic Cross  
Section of Upper  
Landslide Bench



# Summary



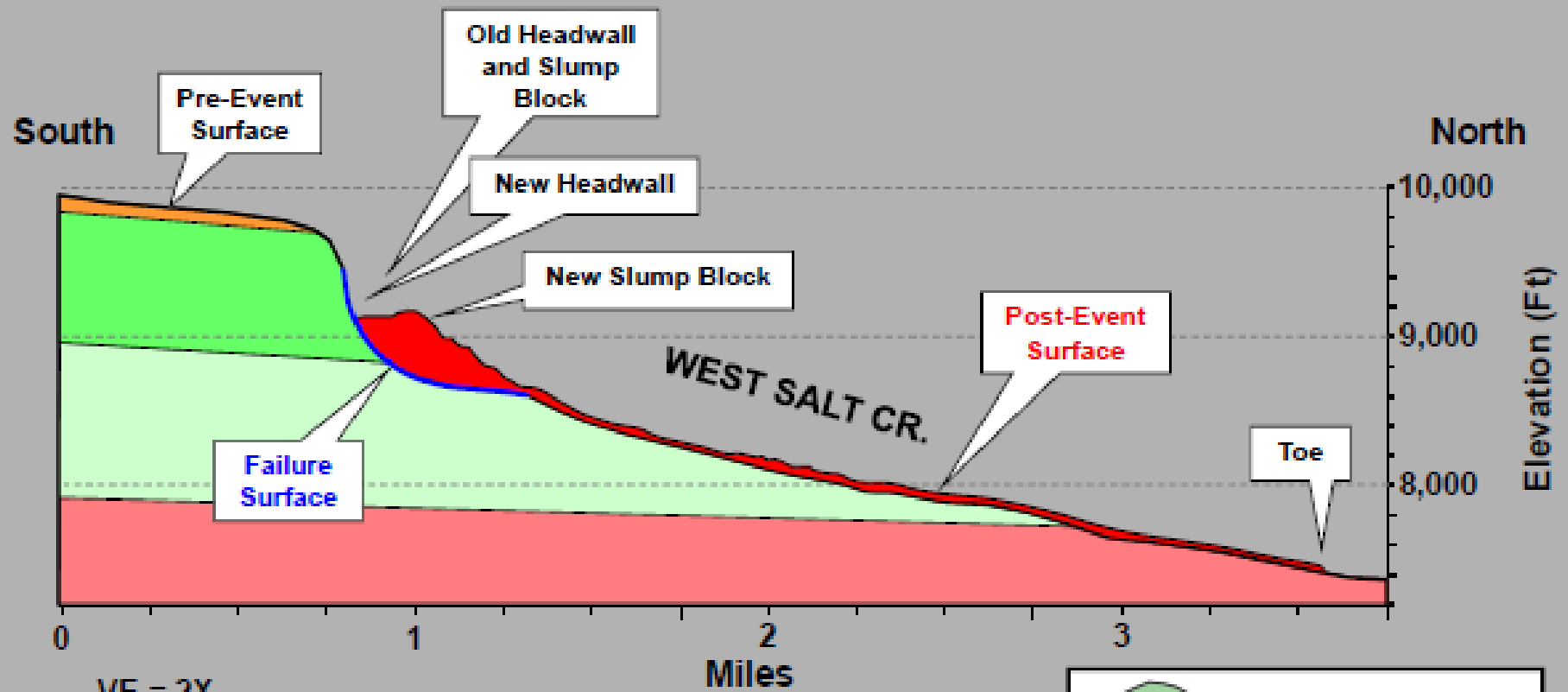
- **Flow Length: ~ 2.7 mi**
- **Max Width: ~ 0.53 mi**
- **Elevation: 9,740 - 7,420 ft**
- **Area: 500 - 600 acres**
- **Volume: ~ 39 million yd<sup>3</sup>**
- **Weight: ~ 50 million tons**
- **Max Thickness: ~ 150 ft**
- **Max Velocity: 50-75 mph**
- **Occurred in 4-5 Pulses over about 2-5 Minutes**

# Lower Landslide Zone @ W. Salt Cr.



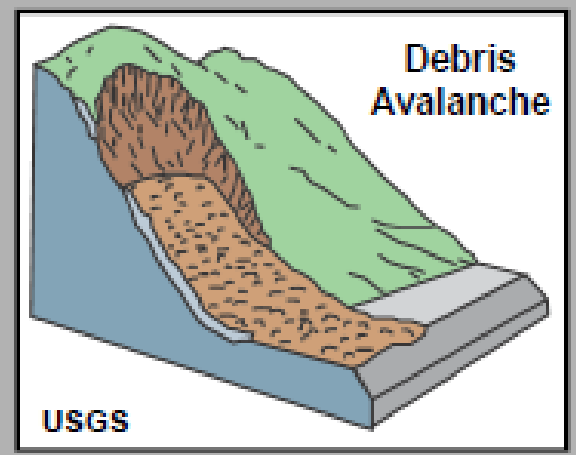


# Geologic Cross Section



VE = 2X

- Orange box: Uinta Fm. and/or Goodenough Deposits
- Green box: Parachute Creek Mbr. of Green River Fm.
- Light Green box: Anvil Points Mbr. of Green River Fm.
- Red box: Wasatch Fm.

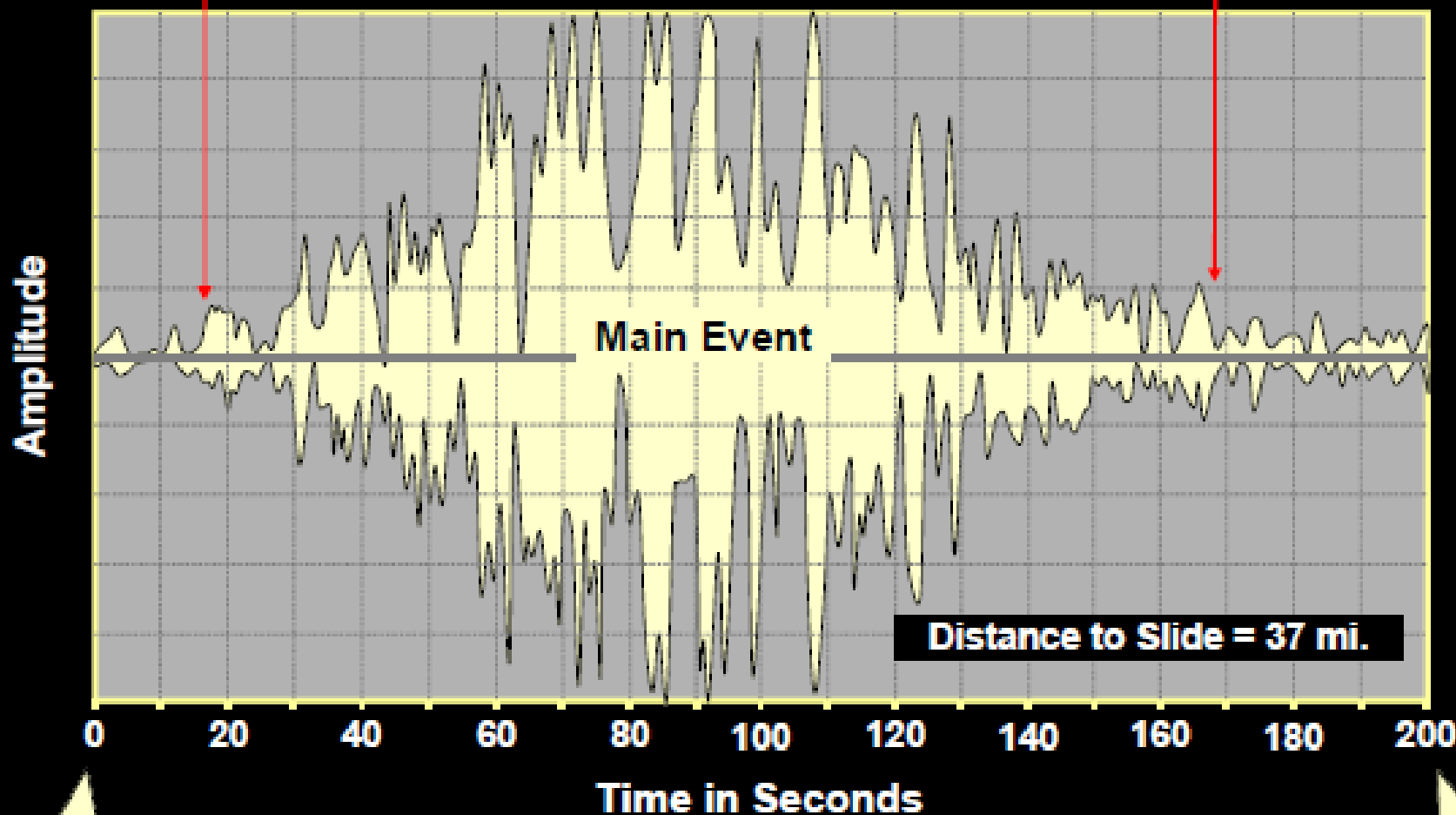


# Seismic Signal at Orchard Mesa

← ~ 2.5 Minutes →

Start ~23:44

End ?

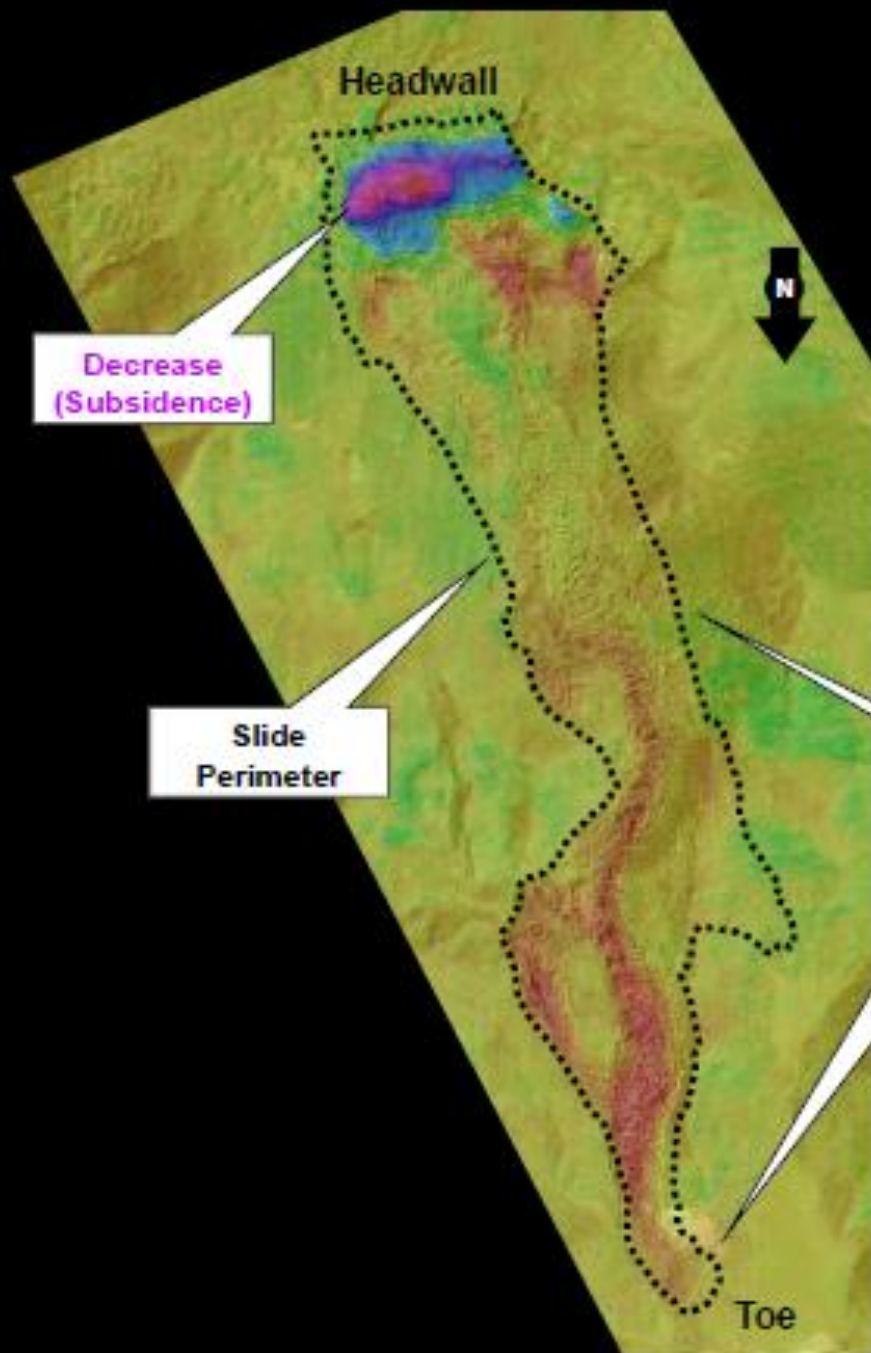


23:43:46

13

23:47:06

# Elevation Changes



LiDAR Data from Colorado Geol. Survey;  
Image Created by Verner Johnson.

# Headwall Scarp and Slump Block

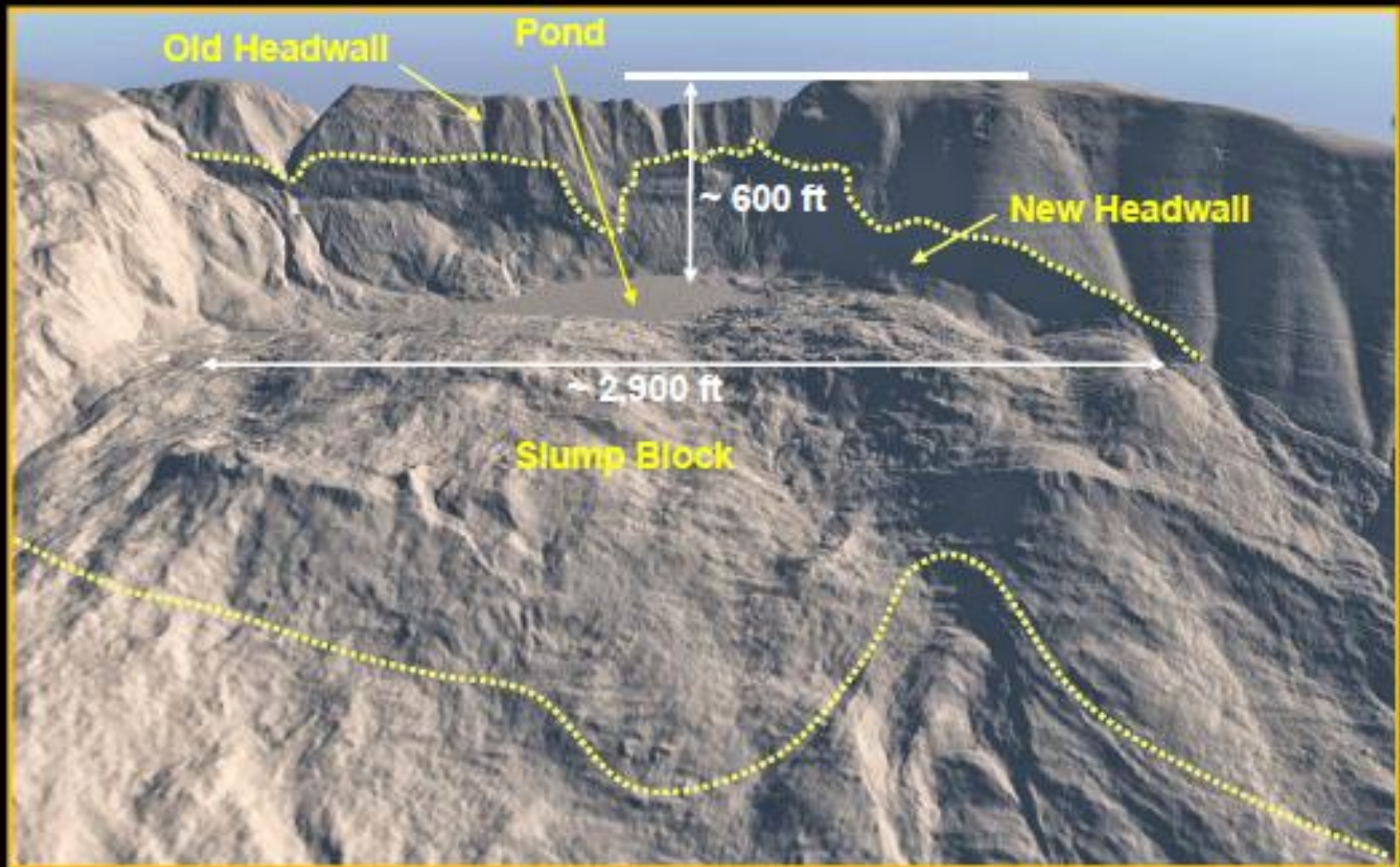
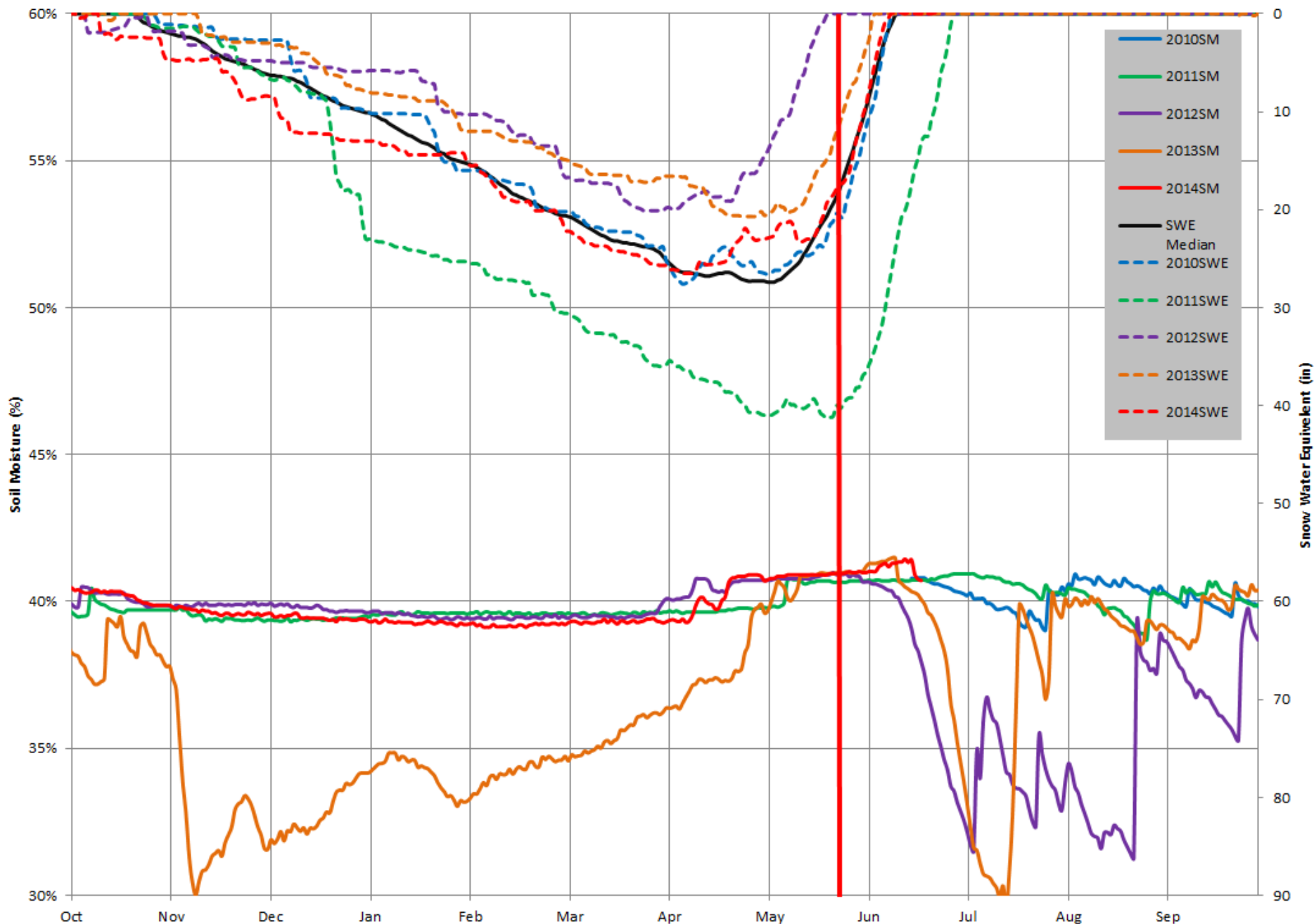
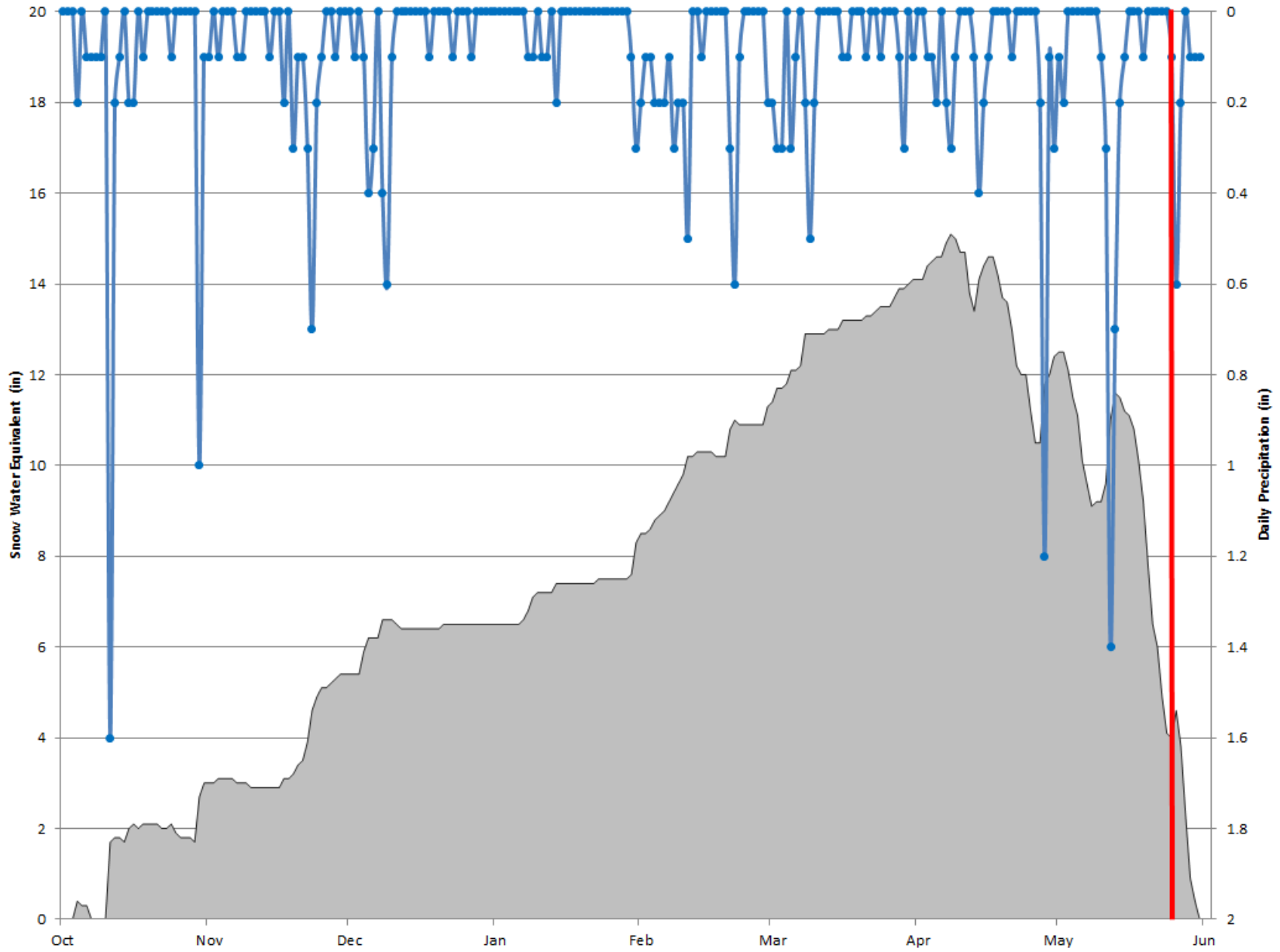


Image from Mesa County (<http://www.mesacounty.us/Landslide-Model-Images/>) based on LiDAR data from the Colorado Geological Survey

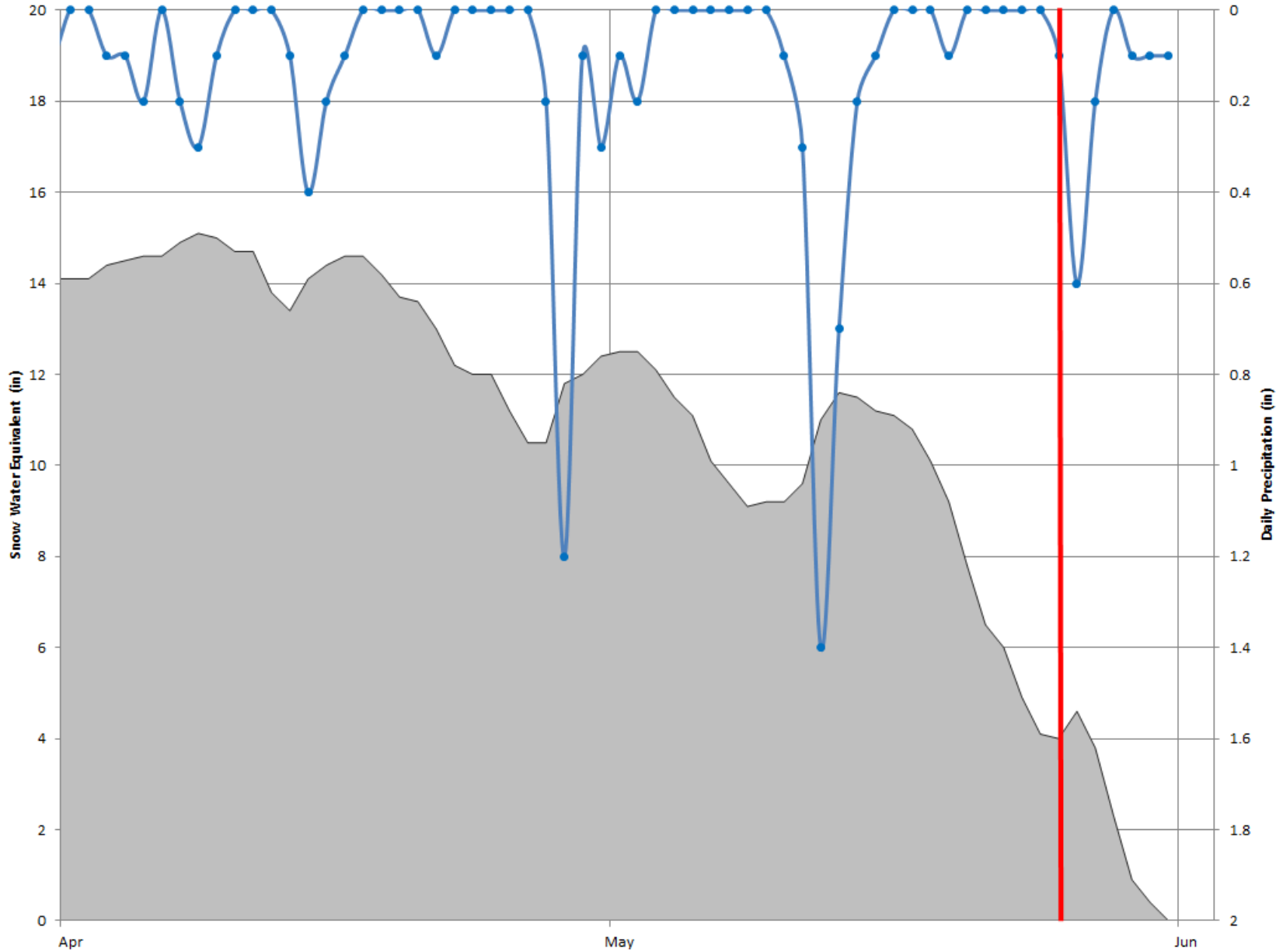
# Park Reservoir SNOTEL (682)



# Mesa Lakes SNOTEL (622)



### Mesa Lakes SNOTEL (622)



**PDS-based precipitation frequency estimates with 90% confidence intervals (in inches)<sup>1</sup>**

Duration	Average recurrence interval (years)									
	1	2	5	10	25	50	100	200	500	1000
5-min	<b>0.193</b> (0.154-0.247)	<b>0.208</b> (0.165-0.266)	<b>0.255</b> (0.202-0.327)	<b>0.316</b> (0.249-0.408)	<b>0.435</b> (0.348-0.629)	<b>0.553</b> (0.423-0.795)	<b>0.694</b> (0.510-1.02)	<b>0.861</b> (0.604-1.30)	<b>1.12</b> (0.749-1.73)	<b>1.34</b> (0.859-2.05)
10-min	<b>0.283</b> (0.226-0.362)	<b>0.304</b> (0.242-0.389)	<b>0.373</b> (0.296-0.479)	<b>0.463</b> (0.365-0.598)	<b>0.637</b> (0.510-0.920)	<b>0.81</b> (0.620-1.16)	<b>1.02</b> (0.746-1.49)	<b>1.26</b> (0.884-1.90)	<b>1.64</b> (1.10-2.53)	<b>1.96</b> (1.26-3.00)
15-min	<b>0.345</b> (0.275-0.442)	<b>0.371</b> (0.295-0.474)	<b>0.455</b> (0.361-0.584)	<b>0.565</b> (0.445-0.729)	<b>0.777</b> (0.622-1.12)	<b>0.988</b> (0.756-1.42)	<b>1.24</b> (0.910-1.82)	<b>1.54</b> (1.08-2.32)	<b>2</b> (1.34-3.08)	<b>2.4</b> (1.53-3.66)
30-min	<b>0.413</b> (0.329-0.528)	<b>0.486</b> (0.387-0.622)	<b>0.637</b> (0.505-0.818)	<b>0.792</b> (0.624-1.02)	<b>1.05</b> (0.817-1.46)	<b>1.28</b> (0.964-1.79)	<b>1.54</b> (1.12-2.22)	<b>1.83</b> (1.27-2.72)	<b>2.27</b> (1.51-3.46)	<b>2.64</b> (1.69-4.03)
60-min	<b>0.502</b> (0.400-0.641)	<b>0.601</b> (0.478-0.769)	<b>0.788</b> (0.625-1.01)	<b>0.966</b> (0.761-1.25)	<b>1.24</b> (0.961-1.71)	<b>1.48</b> (1.11-2.06)	<b>1.75</b> (1.26-2.50)	<b>2.04</b> (1.41-3.00)	<b>2.46</b> (1.63-3.73)	<b>2.8</b> (1.79-4.28)
2-hr	<b>0.59</b> (0.475-0.745)	<b>0.716</b> (0.576-0.905)	<b>0.939</b> (0.752-1.19)	<b>1.14</b> (0.908-1.45)	<b>1.44</b> (1.12-1.93)	<b>1.69</b> (1.27-2.30)	<b>1.95</b> (1.42-2.73)	<b>2.24</b> (1.56-3.23)	<b>2.64</b> (1.77-3.93)	<b>2.97</b> (1.93-4.46)
3-hr	<b>0.672</b> (0.544-0.842)	<b>0.797</b> (0.645-1.00)	<b>1.02</b> (0.821-1.28)	<b>1.22</b> (0.976-1.54)	<b>1.51</b> (1.18-2.02)	<b>1.76</b> (1.34-2.38)	<b>2.02</b> (1.49-2.81)	<b>2.31</b> (1.62-3.30)	<b>2.71</b> (1.83-3.99)	<b>3.03</b> (1.98-4.51)
6-hr	<b>0.842</b> (0.690-1.04)	<b>0.979</b> (0.800-1.21)	<b>1.21</b> (0.989-1.51)	<b>1.42</b> (1.15-1.77)	<b>1.72</b> (1.36-2.25)	<b>1.97</b> (1.51-2.61)	<b>2.23</b> (1.65-3.03)	<b>2.5</b> (1.78-3.51)	<b>2.88</b> (1.97-4.17)	<b>3.18</b> (2.11-4.67)
12-hr	<b>1.08</b> (0.897-1.32)	<b>1.23</b> (1.02-1.51)	<b>1.49</b> (1.23-1.82)	<b>1.71</b> (1.40-2.11)	<b>2.04</b> (1.63-2.63)	<b>2.32</b> (1.80-3.02)	<b>2.6</b> (1.95-3.49)	<b>2.91</b> (2.09-4.02)	<b>3.33</b> (2.31-4.75)	<b>3.67</b> (2.47-5.30)
24-hr	<b>1.38</b> (1.15-1.66)	<b>1.55</b> (1.30-1.88)	<b>1.86</b> (1.55-2.25)	<b>2.13</b> (1.76-2.59)	<b>2.52</b> (2.03-3.19)	<b>2.84</b> (2.23-3.65)	<b>3.17</b> (2.41-4.19)	<b>3.53</b> (2.58-4.80)	<b>4.02</b> (2.82-5.64)	<b>4.41</b> (3.01-6.27)
2-day	<b>1.72</b> (1.45-2.04)	<b>1.96</b> (1.65-2.33)	<b>2.36</b> (1.99-2.82)	<b>2.71</b> (2.27-3.25)	<b>3.2</b> (2.60-3.98)	<b>3.59</b> (2.85-4.54)	<b>3.99</b> (3.07-5.17)	<b>4.41</b> (3.25-5.88)	<b>4.97</b> (3.53-6.84)	<b>5.41</b> (3.75-7.56)
3-day	<b>1.97</b> (1.68-2.33)	<b>2.27</b> (1.93-2.68)	<b>2.75</b> (2.33-3.26)	<b>3.16</b> (2.67-3.77)	<b>3.74</b> (3.06-4.61)	<b>4.19</b> (3.35-5.24)	<b>4.65</b> (3.60-5.97)	<b>5.13</b> (3.81-6.77)	<b>5.76</b> (4.13-7.84)	<b>6.25</b> (4.37-8.65)
4-day	<b>2.2</b> (1.88-2.58)	<b>2.53</b> (2.16-2.98)	<b>3.08</b> (2.62-3.63)	<b>3.54</b> (3.00-4.19)	<b>4.18</b> (3.43-5.12)	<b>4.68</b> (3.76-5.81)	<b>5.18</b> (4.03-6.61)	<b>5.7</b> (4.26-7.49)	<b>6.4</b> (4.61-8.65)	<b>6.93</b> (4.87-9.52)
7-day	<b>2.81</b> (2.42-3.26)	<b>3.2</b> (2.76-3.73)	<b>3.86</b> (3.31-4.50)	<b>4.4</b> (3.76-5.16)	<b>5.16</b> (4.27-6.23)	<b>5.74</b> (4.65-7.04)	<b>6.33</b> (4.97-7.96)	<b>6.92</b> (5.23-8.96)	<b>7.72</b> (5.62-10.3)	<b>8.32</b> (5.92-11.3)
10-day	<b>3.33</b> (2.89-3.84)	<b>3.77</b> (3.27-4.35)	<b>4.48</b> (3.87-5.19)	<b>5.08</b> (4.37-5.91)	<b>5.9</b> (4.92-7.07)	<b>6.54</b> (5.33-7.95)	<b>7.17</b> (5.67-8.95)	<b>7.82</b> (5.95-10.0)	<b>8.67</b> (6.37-11.5)	<b>9.32</b> (6.69-12.5)
20-day	<b>4.75</b> (4.17-5.40)	<b>5.29</b> (4.64-6.02)	<b>6.16</b> (5.39-7.04)	<b>6.89</b> (5.99-7.90)	<b>7.88</b> (6.65-9.29)	<b>8.64</b> (7.14-10.3)	<b>9.4</b> (7.53-11.5)	<b>10.2</b> (7.84-12.8)	<b>11.2</b> (8.32-14.5)	<b>11.9</b> (8.68-15.7)
30-day	<b>5.9</b> (5.22-6.66)	<b>6.57</b> (5.80-7.42)	<b>7.63</b> (6.72-8.64)	<b>8.5</b> (7.45-9.67)	<b>9.67</b> (8.21-11.3)	<b>10.6</b> (8.78-12.5)	<b>11.4</b> (9.22-13.9)	<b>12.3</b> (9.55-15.3)	<b>13.4</b> (10.1-17.2)	<b>14.2</b> (10.4-18.6)
45-day	<b>7.36</b> (6.55-8.24)	<b>8.23</b> (7.32-9.22)	<b>9.61</b> (8.52-10.8)	<b>10.7</b> (9.46-12.1)	<b>12.2</b> (10.4-14.0)	<b>13.2</b> (11.1-15.5)	<b>14.3</b> (11.6-17.1)	<b>15.3</b> (12.0-18.8)	<b>16.5</b> (12.5-20.9)	<b>17.4</b> (12.9-22.5)
60-day	<b>8.6</b> (7.69-9.57)	<b>9.69</b> (8.66-10.8)	<b>11.4</b> (10.2-12.7)	<b>12.8</b> (11.3-14.3)	<b>14.5</b> (12.4-16.6)	<b>15.8</b> (13.2-18.3)	<b>16.9</b> (13.8-20.1)	<b>18.1</b> (14.2-22.0)	<b>19.4</b> (14.8-24.4)	<b>20.4</b> (15.2-26.1)

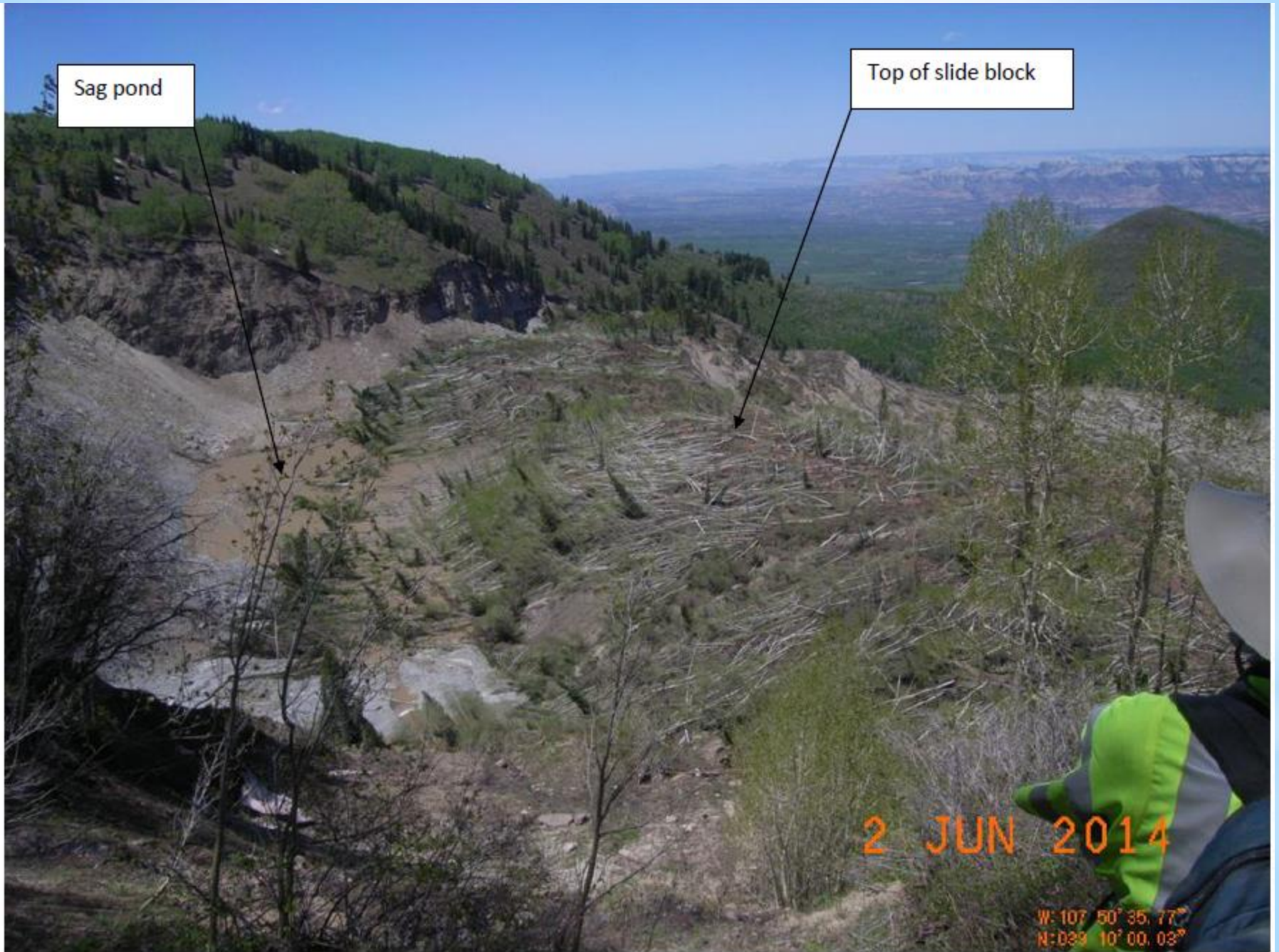


Sag pond

Top of slide block

2 JUN 2014

W: 107° 50' 35.77"  
N: 029° 10' 00.03"











Total Inflow  $\approx$  30cfs (60 acre-ft/day)



05-28-14  
Wednesday



Block Pond:  
Surface  $\approx$  1 acre  
Depth:  
Wednesday  $\approx$  7'  
Friday  $\approx$  15'

05-30-14  
Friday





Existing end of the stock  
Driveway







© 2014 Google  
Image Landsat

Google earth

1999

Imagery Date: 6/3/2014 39°12'01.73" N 107°51'24.02" W elev 7489 ft eye alt 7574 ft



2 JUN 2014

W: 107 51 57.00"  
N: 009 12 01.77"





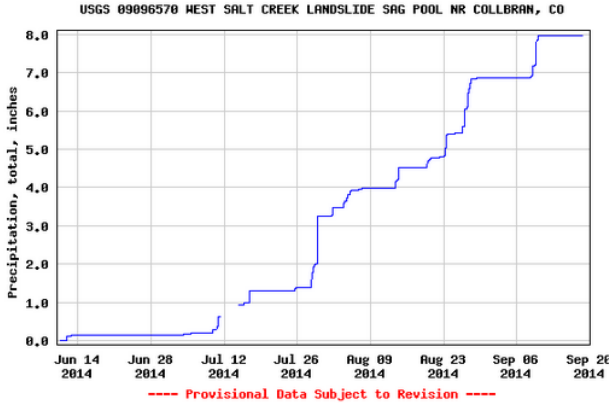




**Summary of all available data for this site**  
**Instantaneous-data availability statement**

**Precipitation, total, inches**

Most recent instantaneous value: 0.00 09-18-2014 14:30 MDT



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Add up to 2 more sites and replot for "Precipitation, total, inches"

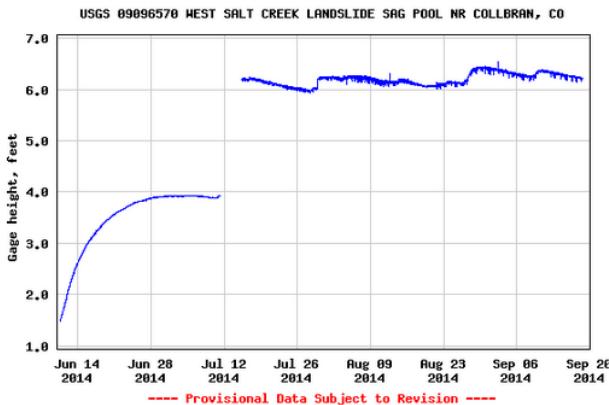
[Add site numbers](#) [Note](#)

Enter up to 2 site numbers separated by a comma. A site number consists of 8 to 15 digits

GO

**Gage height, feet**

Most recent instantaneous value: 6.22 09-18-2014 14:30 MDT



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GO





LiDAR - What is LiDAR?

LiDAR is a Portmanteau

Portmanteau is a blend of two words in linguistics.

Some common Portmanteaus are Brunch or Smog

In this case, LiDAR's root words are the combination of Light and Radar

Lidar (also written LIDAR or LiDAR) is a remote sensing technology that measure distance by illuminating a target with a laser and analyzing the reflected light.

Lidar is popularly used as a technology to make high-resolution maps, with applications in geomatics, archaeology, geography, geology, geomorphology, seismology, forestry, remote sensing, atmospheric physics, airborne laser swath mapping (ALSM), laser altimetry, and **contour mapping**.

Lidar was developed in the early 1960s, shortly after the invention of the laser.

In 1971, Lidar was used during Apollo 15 mission to map the surface of the moon.

Lidar uses ultraviolet, visible, or near infrared light to image objects. It can target a wide range of materials, including non-metallic objects, rocks, rain, chemical compounds, aerosols, clouds and even single molecules. A narrow laser-beam can map physical features with very high resolution.

Wavelengths vary to suit the target: from about 10 micrometers to the UV (approximately 250 nm). Typically light is reflected via **backscattering**. Different types of scattering are used for different lidar applications.

Airborne lidar sensors are used by companies in the remote sensing field. It can be used to create **DEM (digital elevation models)**; this is quite a common practice for larger areas as a plane can acquire 3-4 km wide swaths in a single flyover.

Greater vertical accuracy of below 50 mm can be achieved with a lower flyover, even in forests, where it is able to give you the height of the canopy as well as the ground elevation.

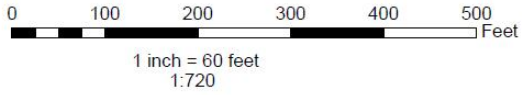
Lidar data must be interpreted. The lowest reading would be considered the ground. Canopy's and rock formations will also reflect back higher (in elevation) readings.

Even stream pebble counts (of dry streams) could be extracted from Lidar data.

Canopy heights are often found using Lidar data.

The following is Lidar data from the West Salt Creek Landslide.

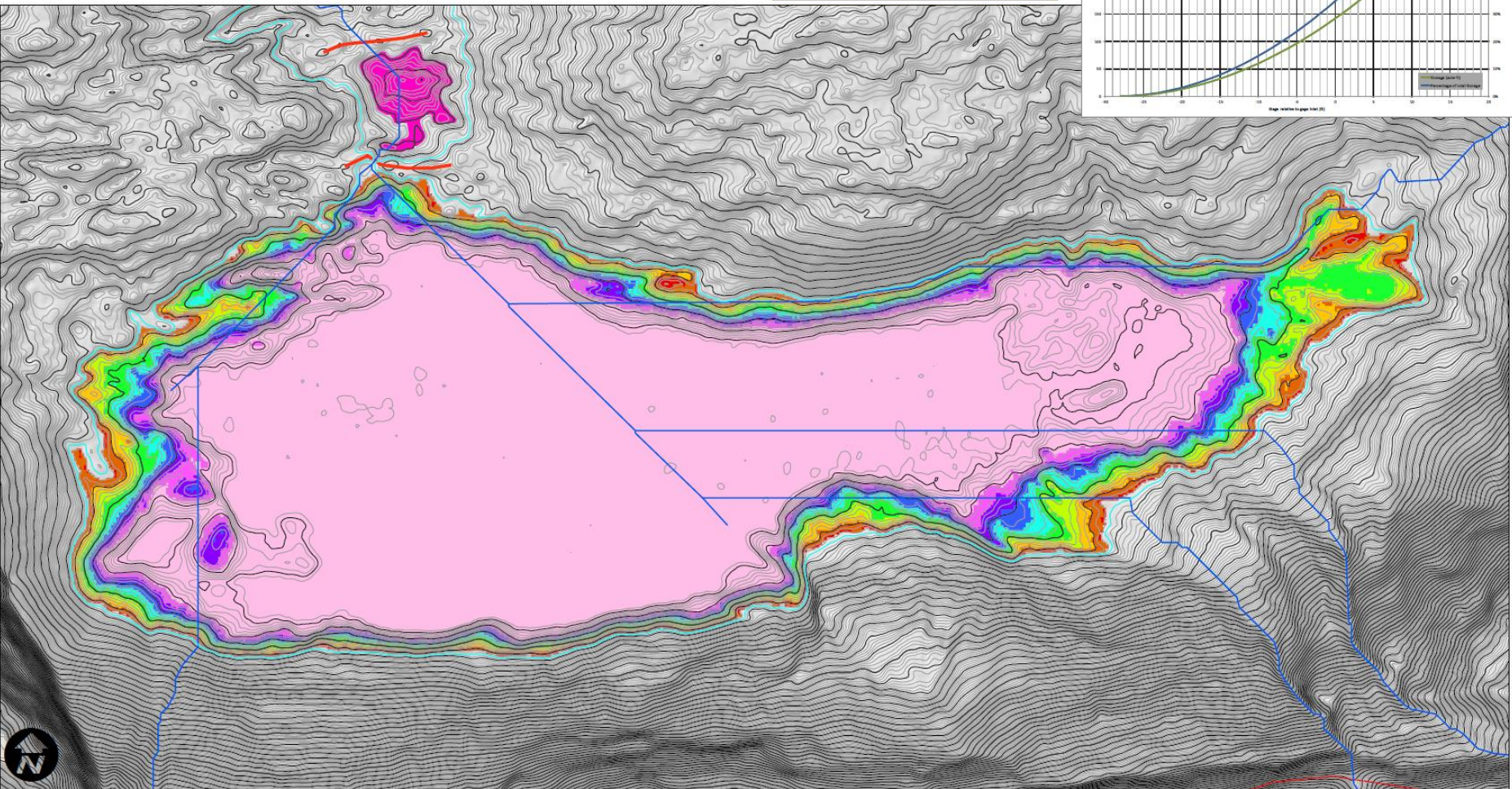
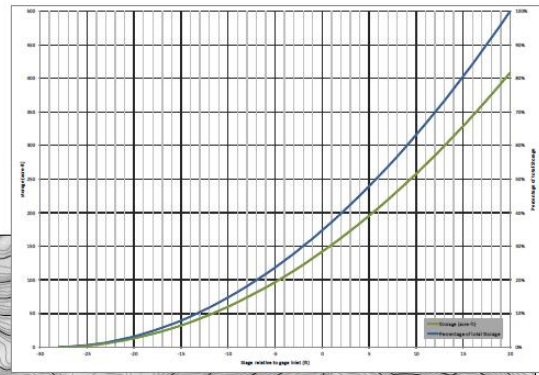
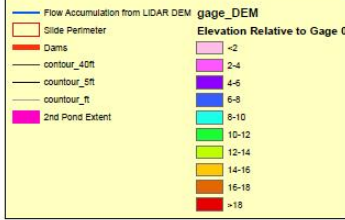
# West Salt Creek Landslide Flow Pond Extent Analysis of LiDAR Data

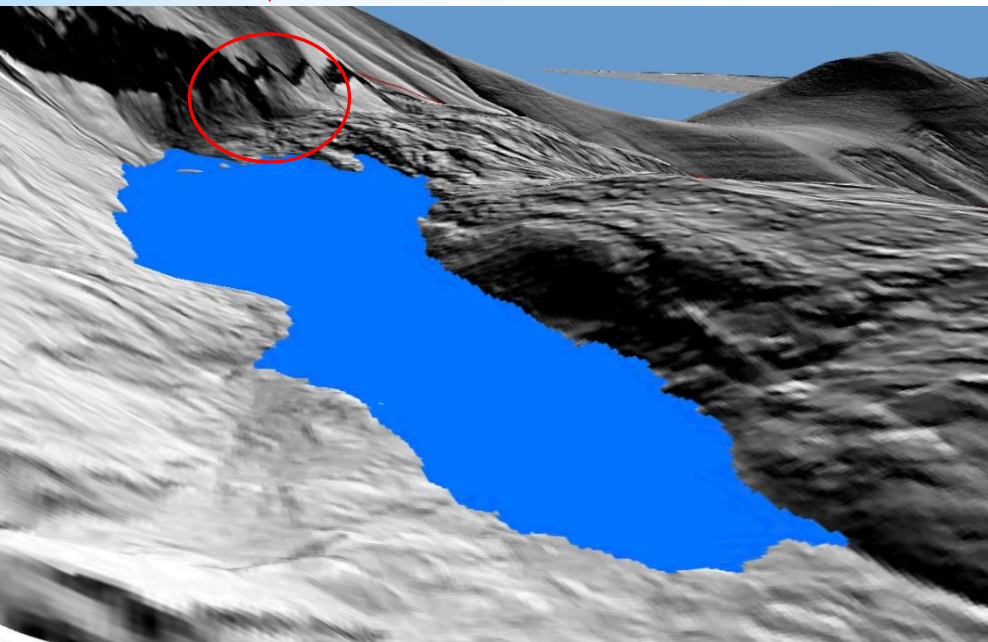


The information on this map or in this document is based on map products from the Colorado Geological Survey with support from the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

### ATTENTION

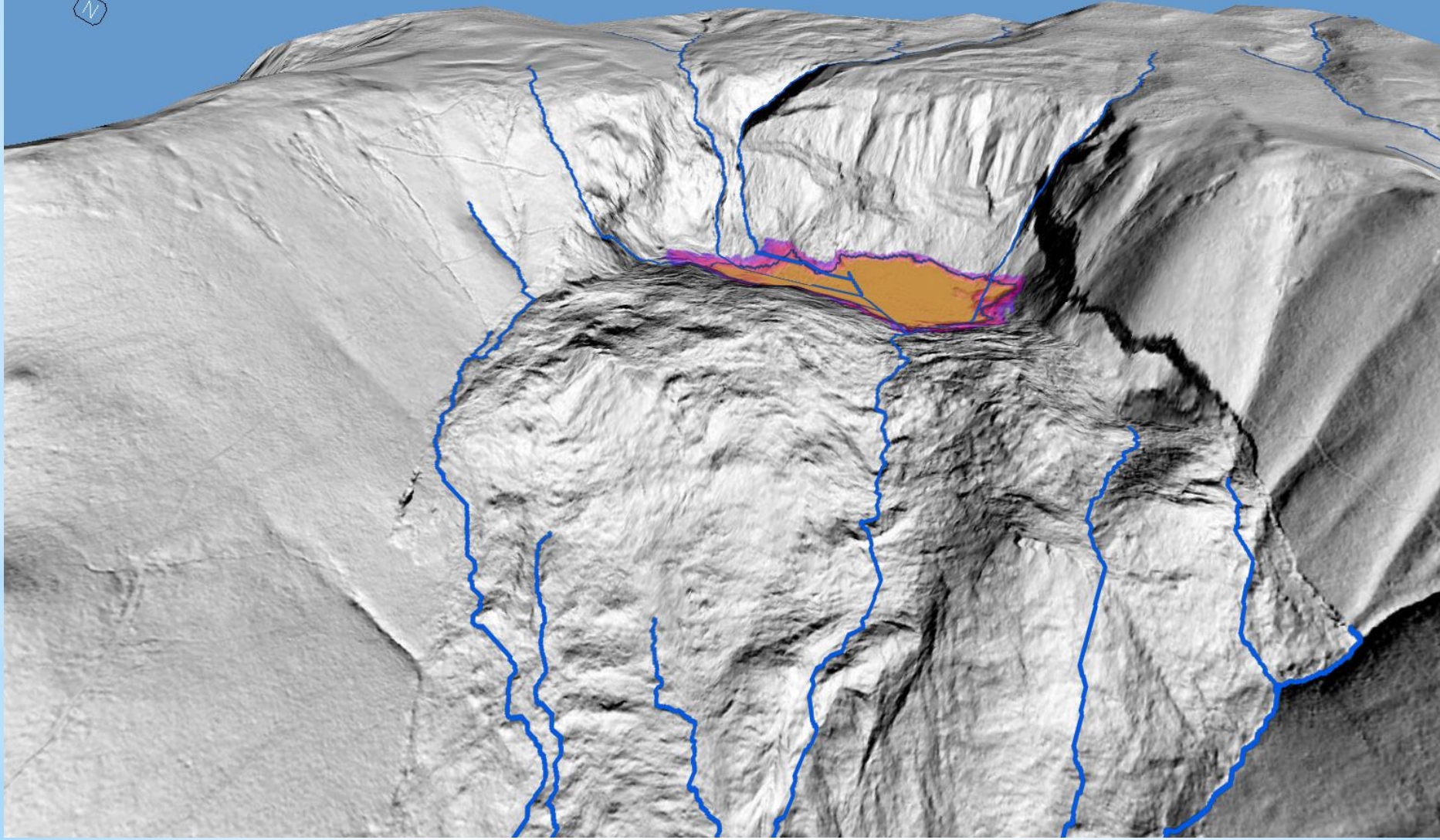
This product is reproduced from geospatial information prepared by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service. GIS data and product accuracy may vary. They may be developed from sources of differing accuracy, accurate only at certain scales, based on modeling or interpretation, incorporate data being created or revised, etc. Using GIS products for purposes other than those for which they were created, may yield inaccurate or misleading results. The Forest Service reserves the right to correct, update, modify, or replace GIS products based on new inventories, new or revised information, and if necessary in conjunction with other federal, state or local public agencies or the public in general as required by policy or regulation. Previous recipients of the products may not be notified unless required by policy or regulation. For more information, contact the Grand Mesa, Uncompahgre, and Gunnison National Forests Supervisor's Office (970) 874-6600.





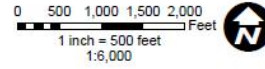
Pond DEM at gage Height of 3.91' at 0800 on 6/30/2014  
With photo at same time

- Both islands in upper left of pond modeled well





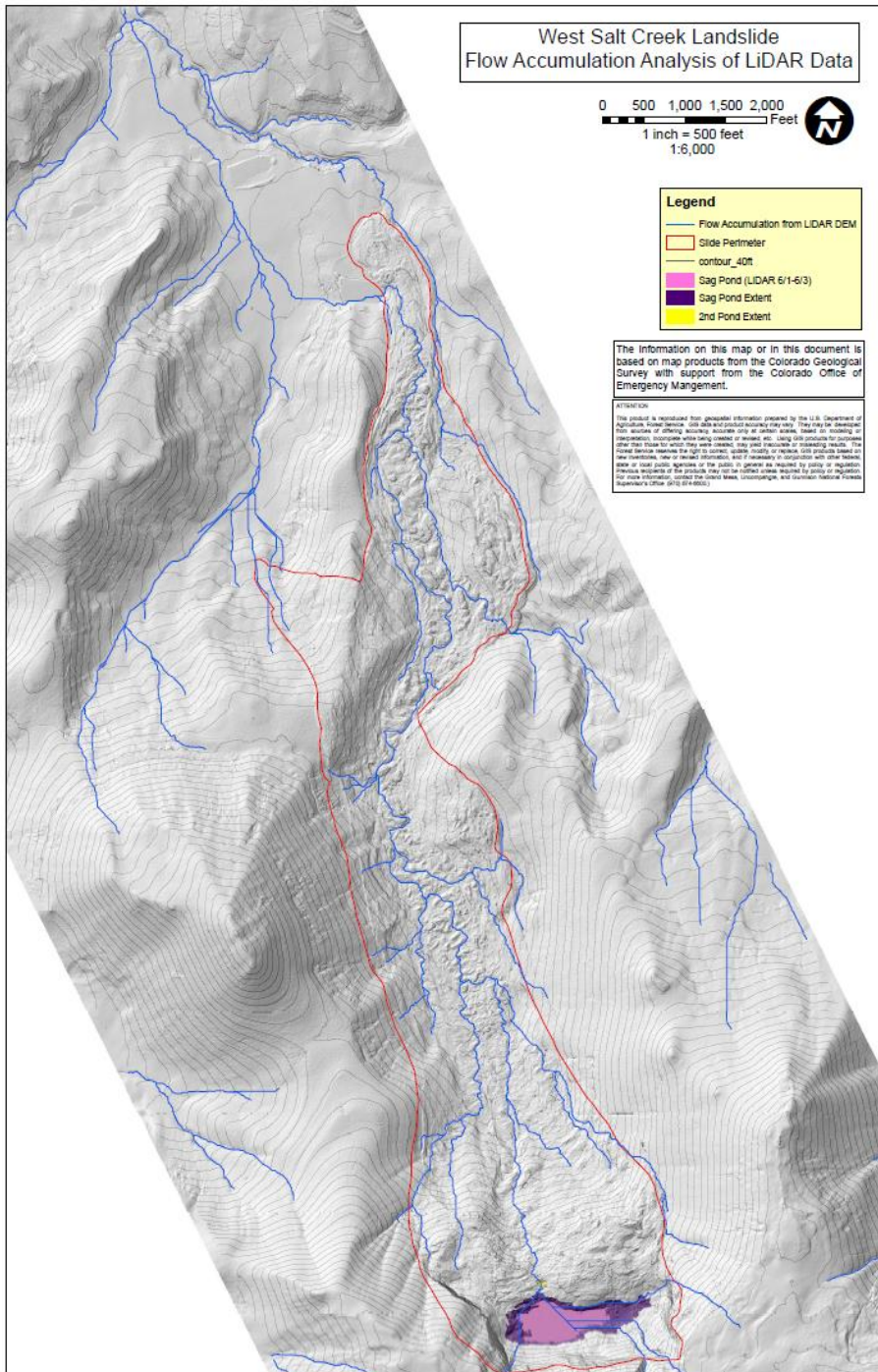
# West Salt Creek Landslide Flow Accumulation Analysis of LiDAR Data

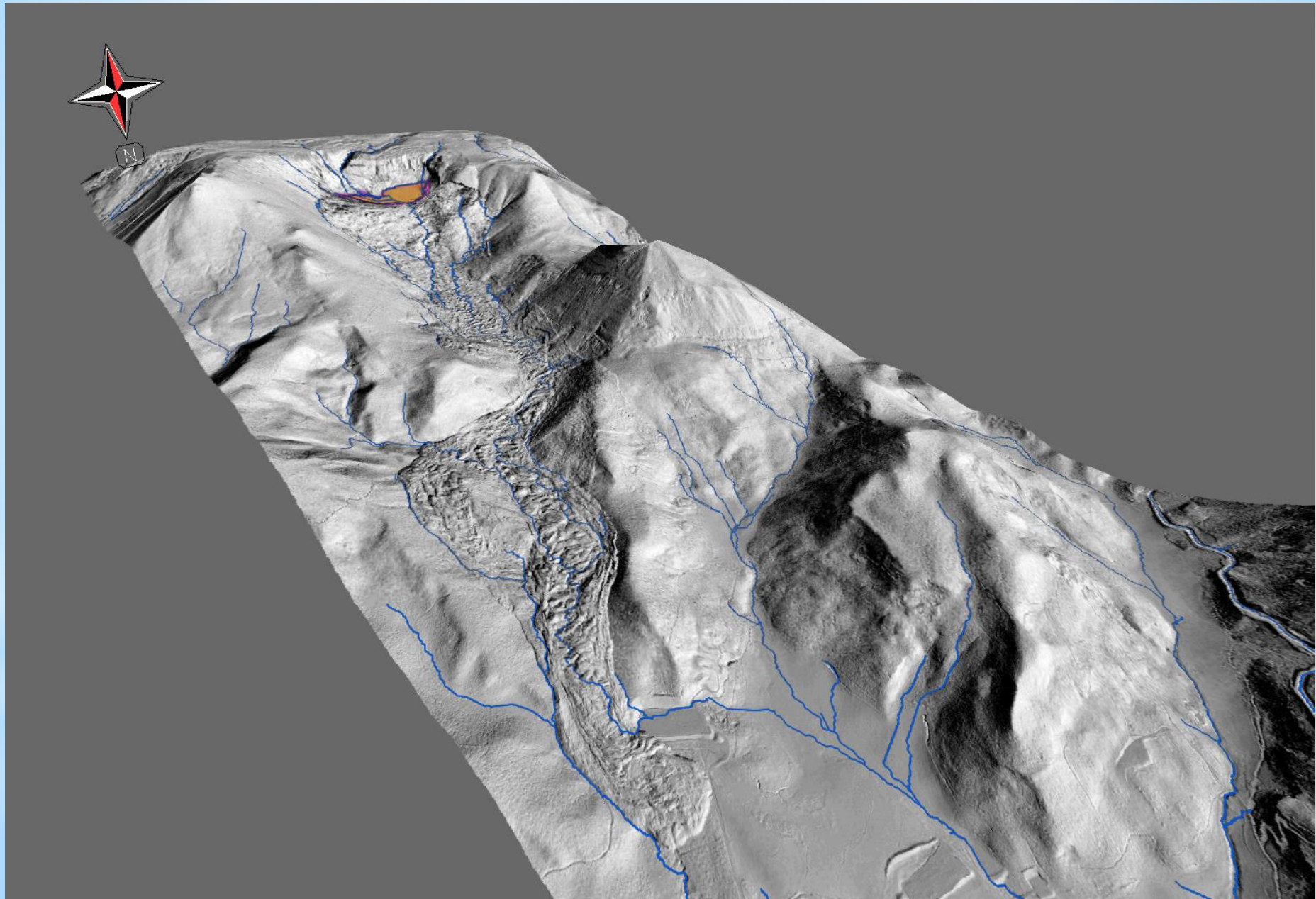


Legend	
	Flow Accumulation from LiDAR DEM
	Slide Perimeter
	contour_40ft
	Sag Pond (LiDAR 6/1-6/3)
	Sag Pond Extent
	2nd Pond Extent

The information on this map or in this document is based on map products from the Colorado Geological Survey with support from the Colorado Office of Emergency Management.

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Now with new Lidar data, the new stream courses can be predicted accurately given the existing ground conditions.



Notice the stream going through the well pads

Notice the old slide to the left of the new slide and the stream paths that resulted.

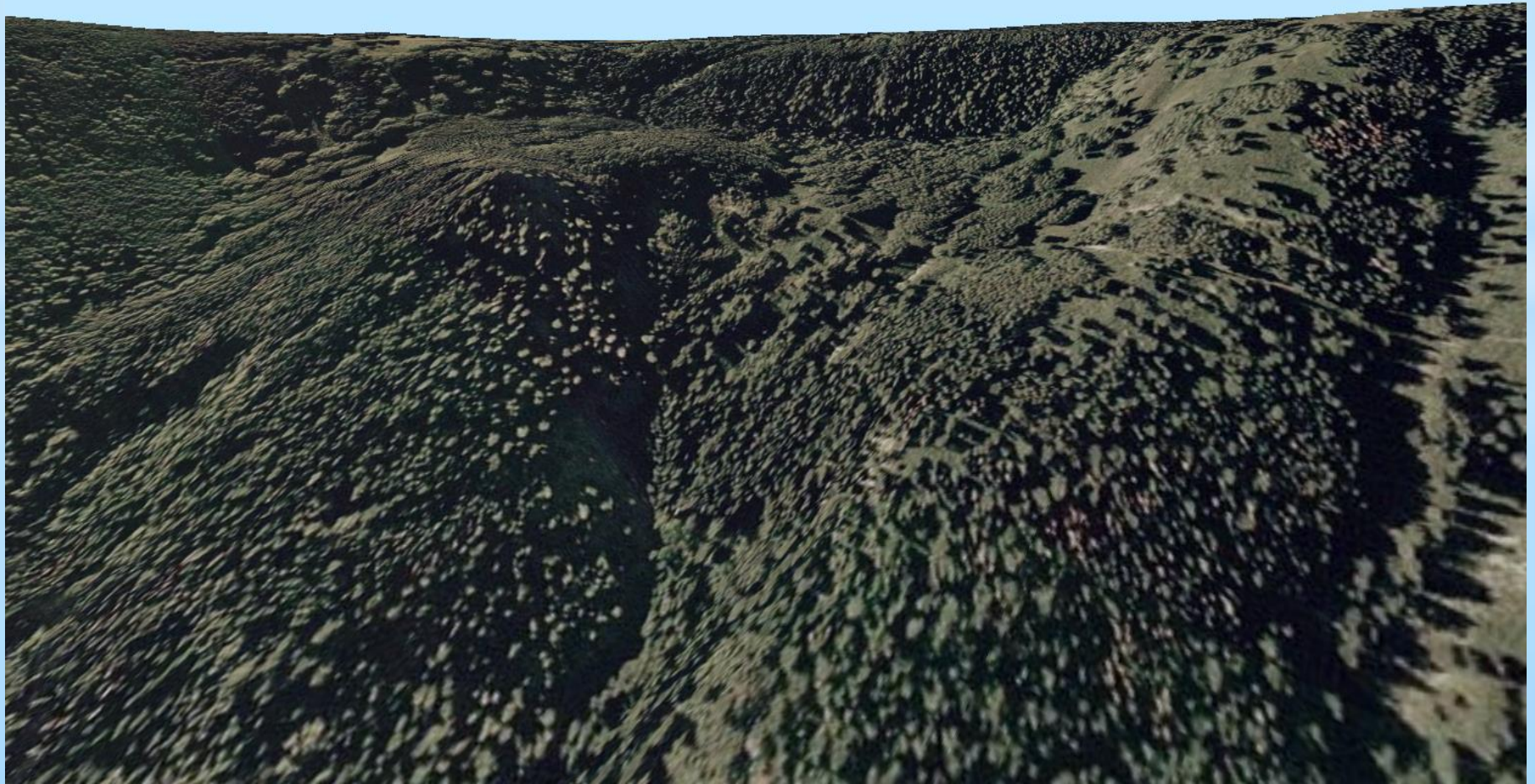


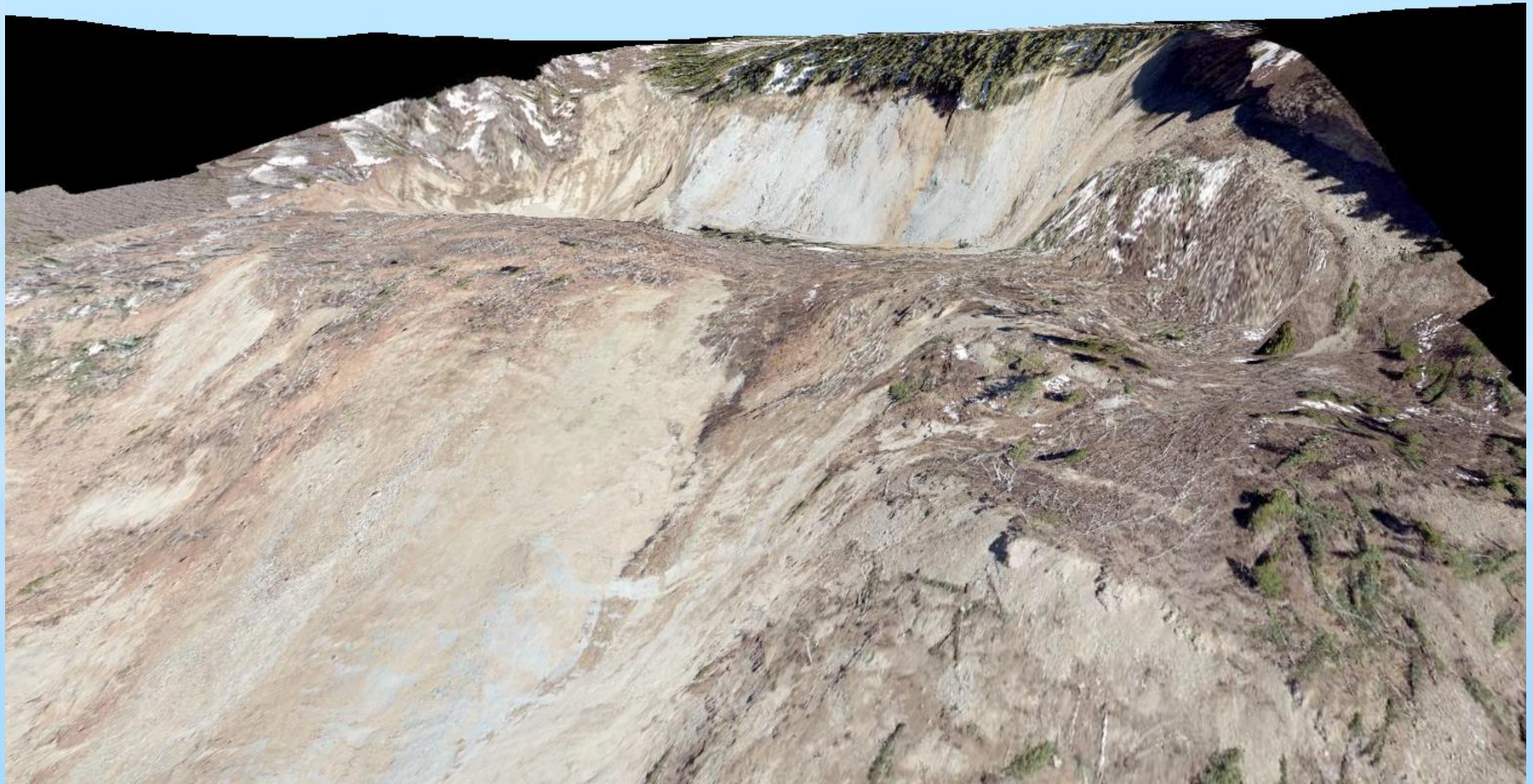
1993

© 2014 Google

Google earth

Imagery Date: 6/3/2014 39°10'56.09" N 107°50'49.83" W elev 8565 ft eye alt 34774 ft





If you were to look closely at satellite images of the slide on Google Earth, the pond at the headwall lays on an uphill slope. The imagery does not make sense due to the ground moving in the slide and the topography being different now. But if you take the satellite images of the slide and lay them over Lidar Data, the imagery corresponds to the topography.

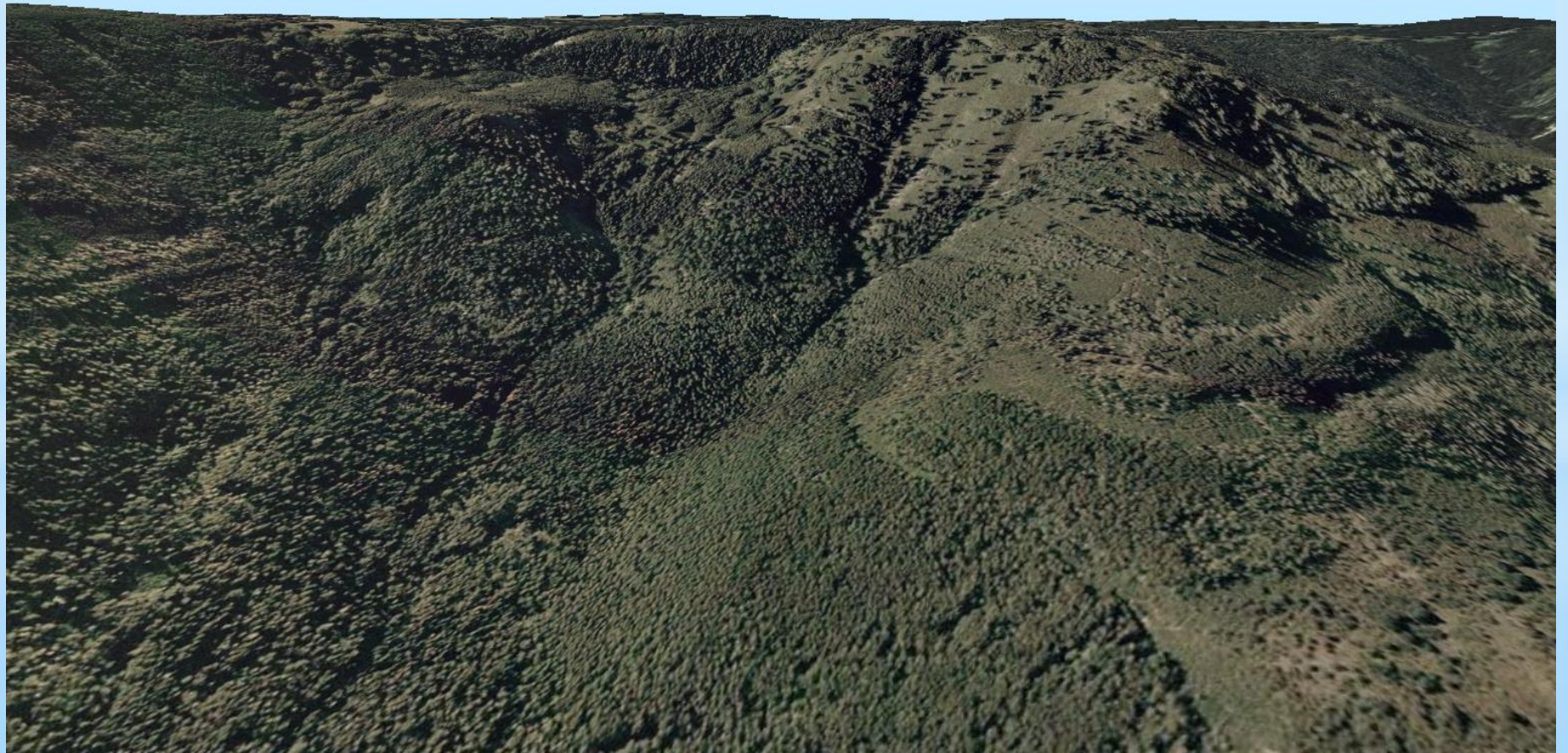
Google Earth does not have updated topo data, so the new topography has not yet been recorded and does not correspond to the imagery.

Image Landsat  
© 2014 Google

Google earth

1999

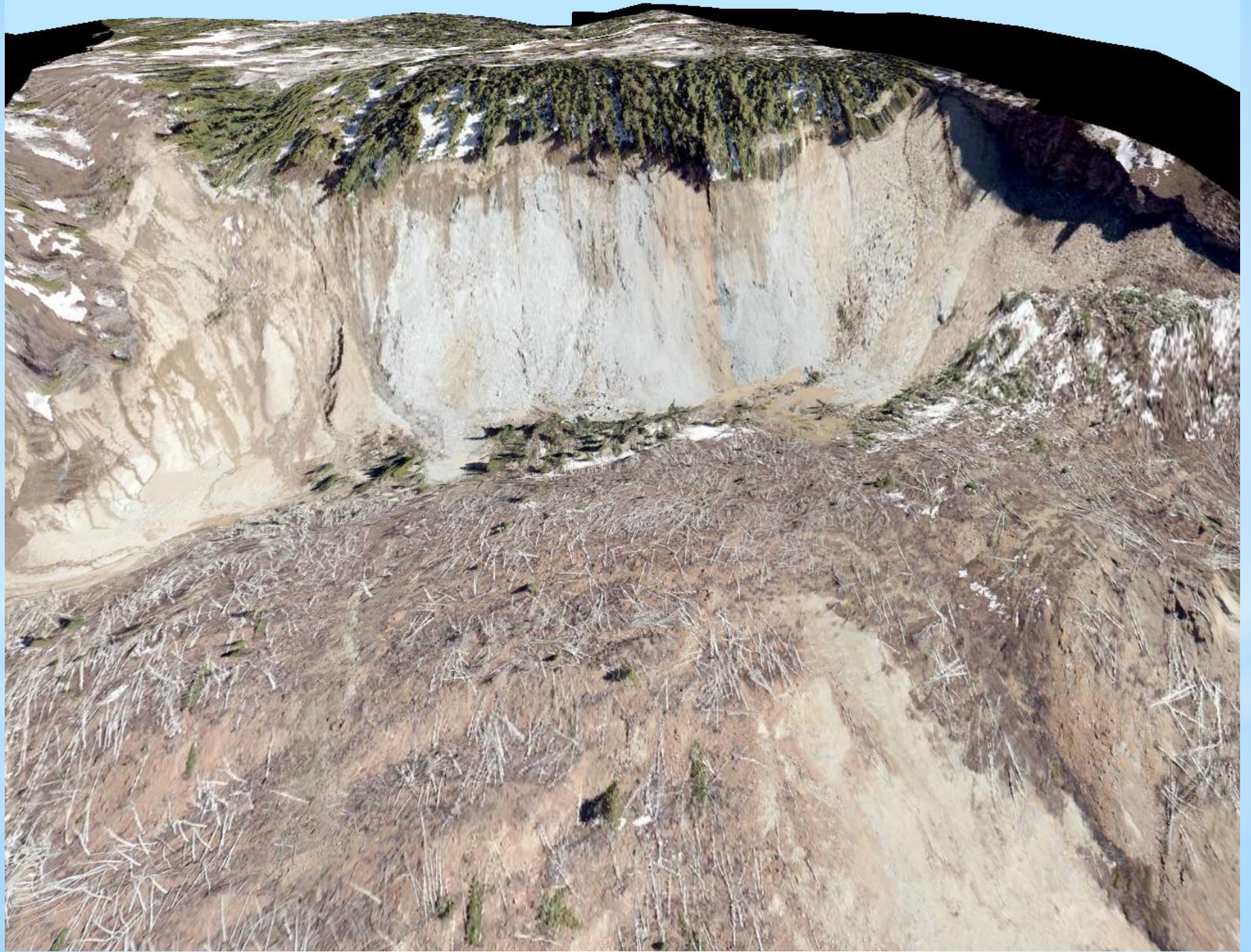
Imagery Date: 6/3/2014 39°09'58.10" N 107°50'55.56" W elev 9299 ft eye alt 9384 ft

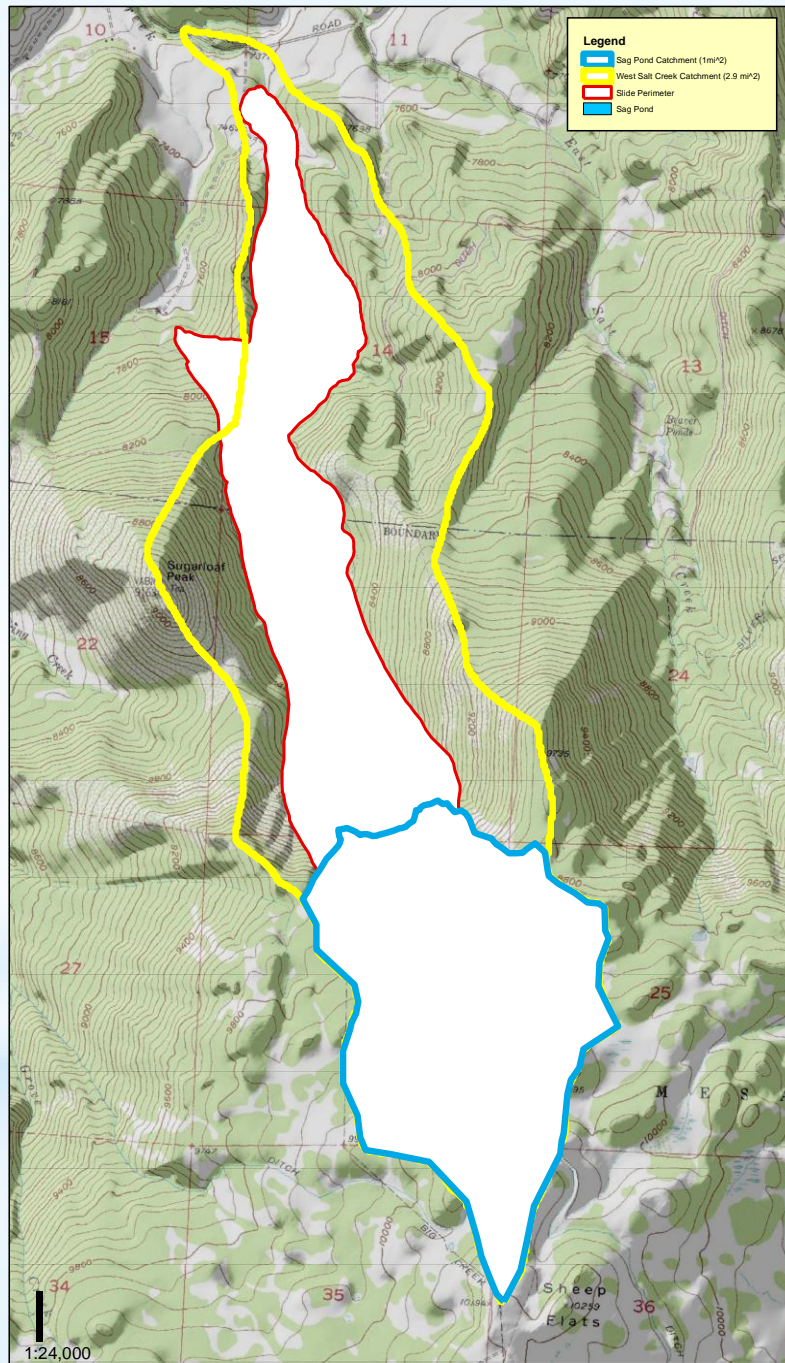


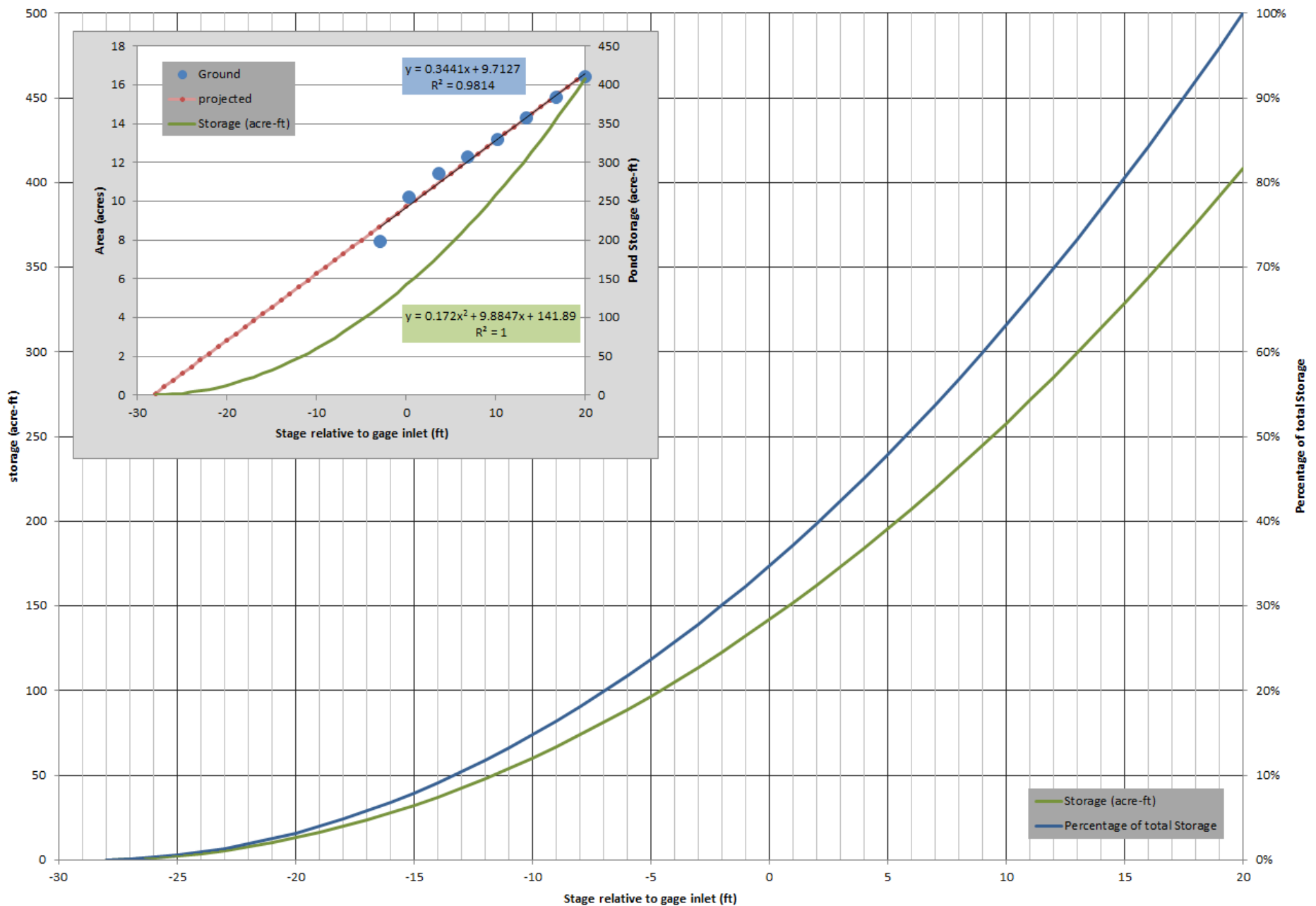


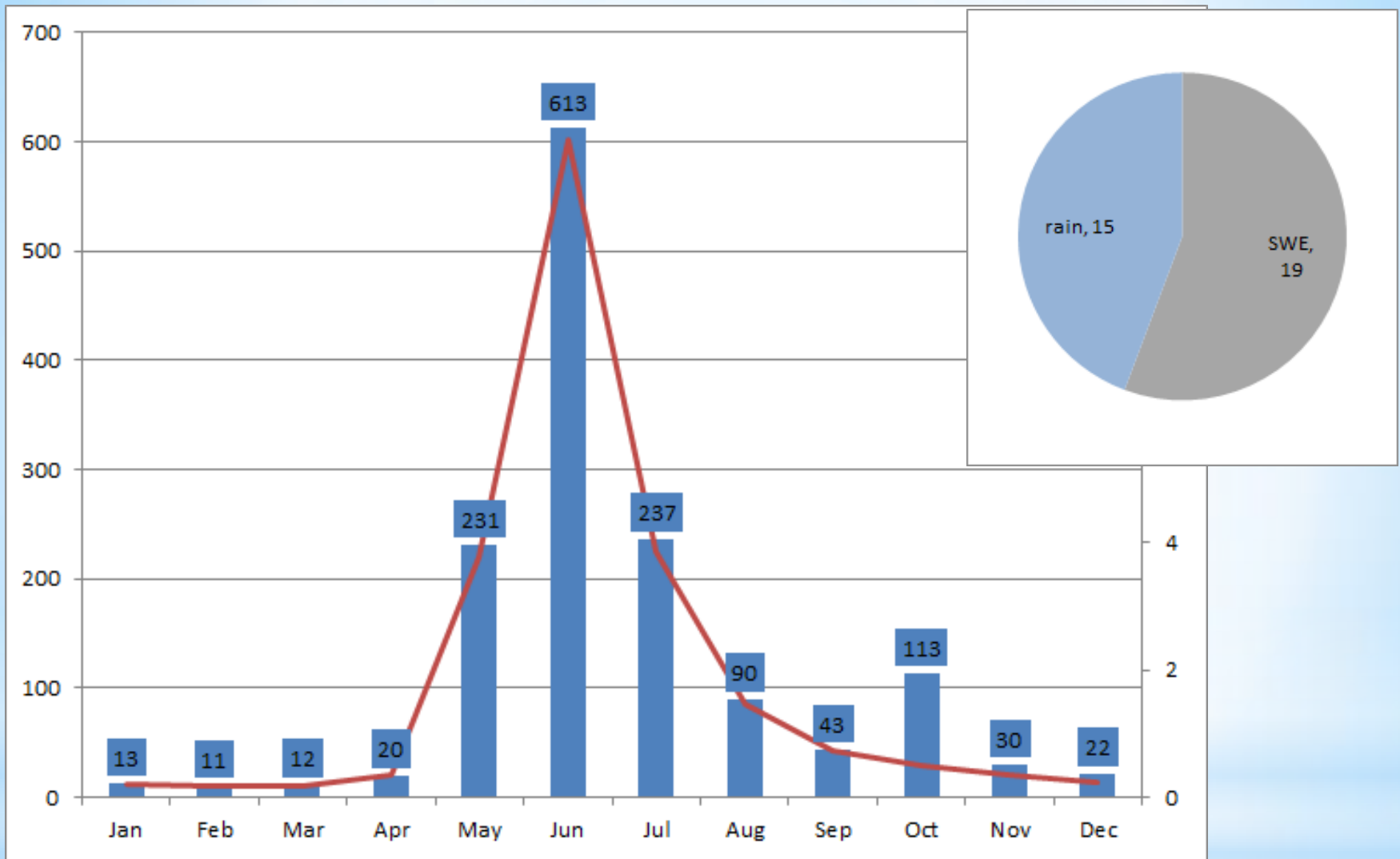








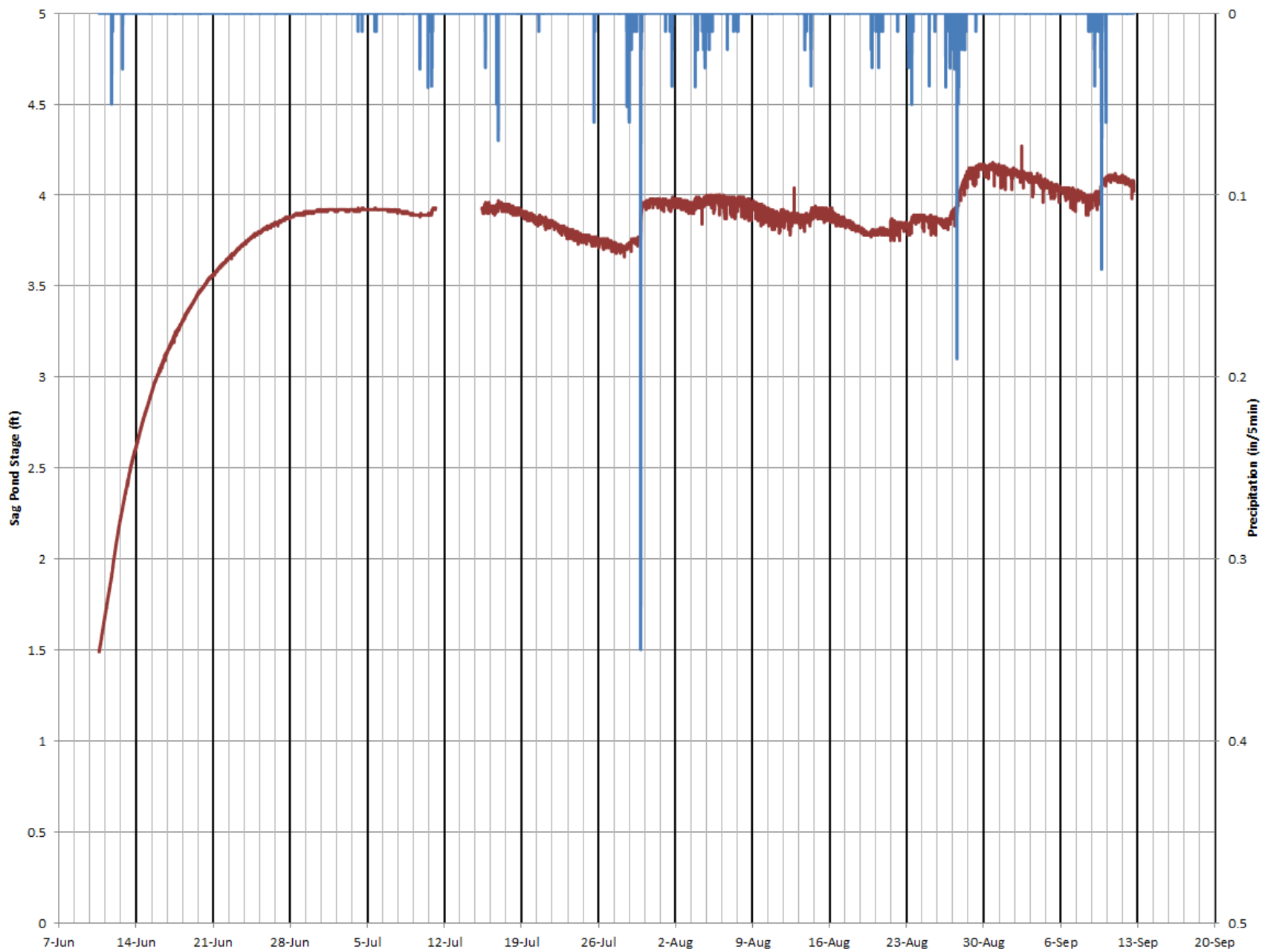




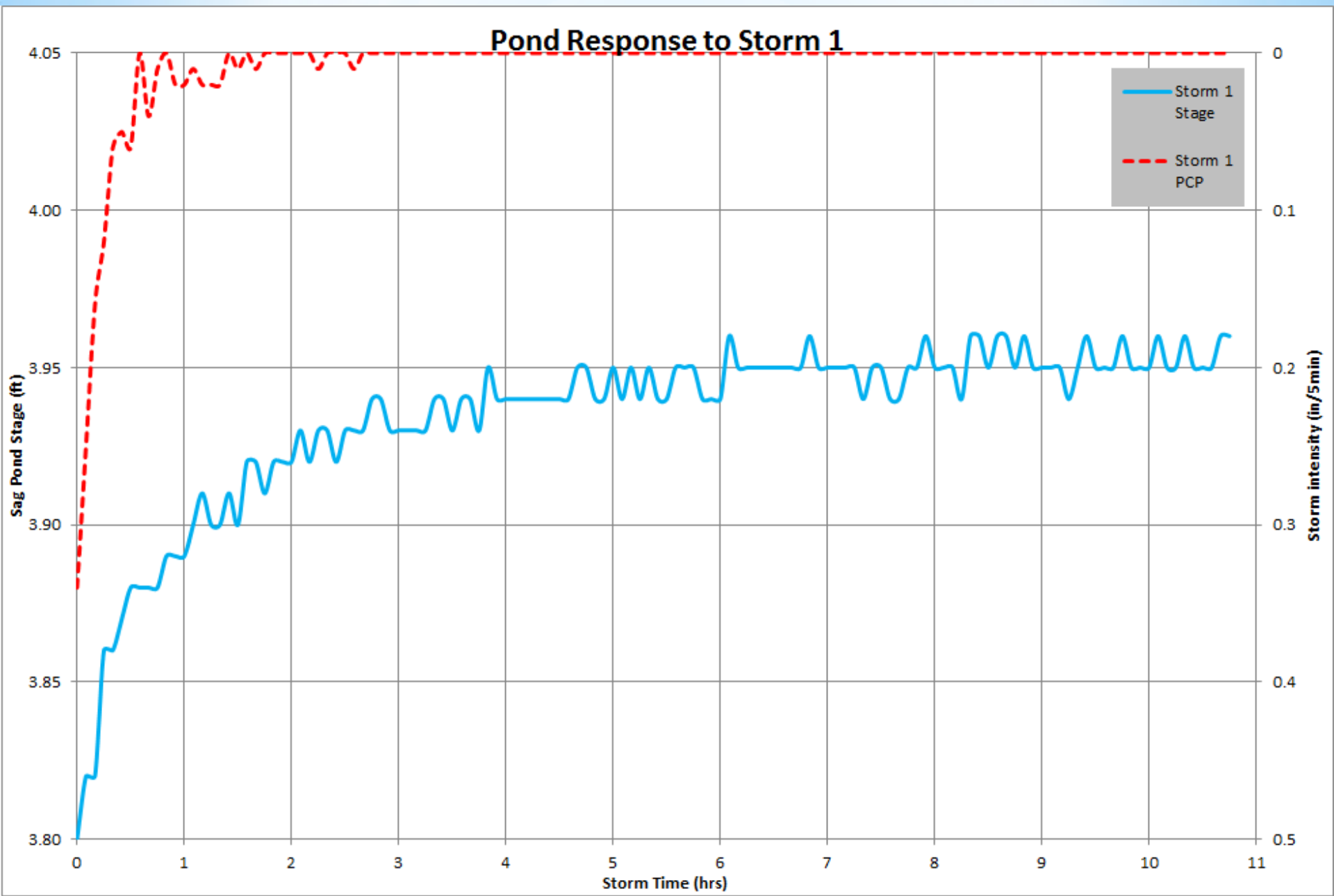
area	640 acres
SWE vol	1000 acre-ft
precip vol	1800 acre-ft
stream Stats	1400 acre-ft

Pond storage is only 400 acre feet, 2cfs for a day is an acre-ft. The storage pond should overtop during spring runoff in May/June. Pond should be silted in by then and hold water better.

# USGS Sag Pond Stage and Precipitation

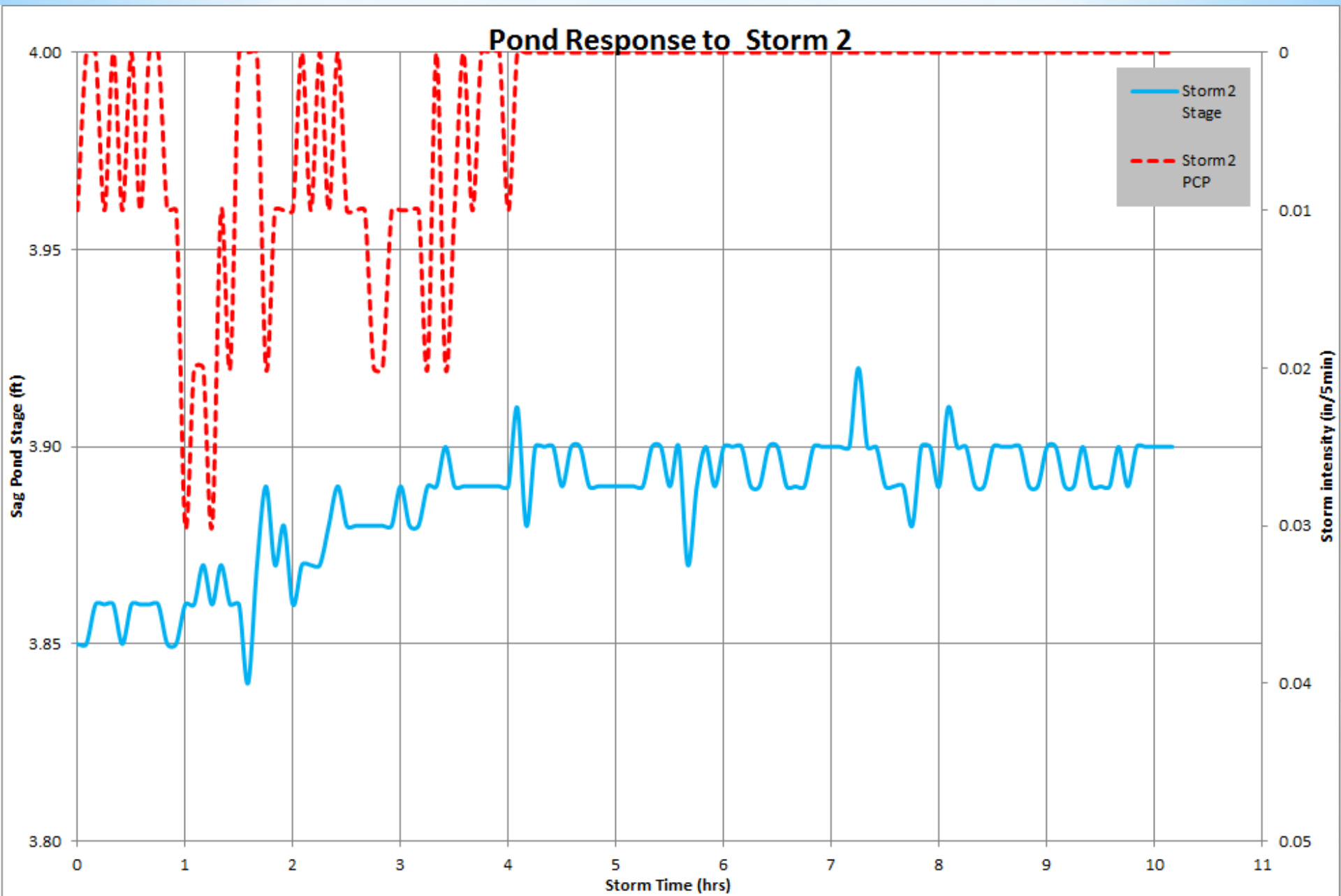


# Pond Response to Storm 1

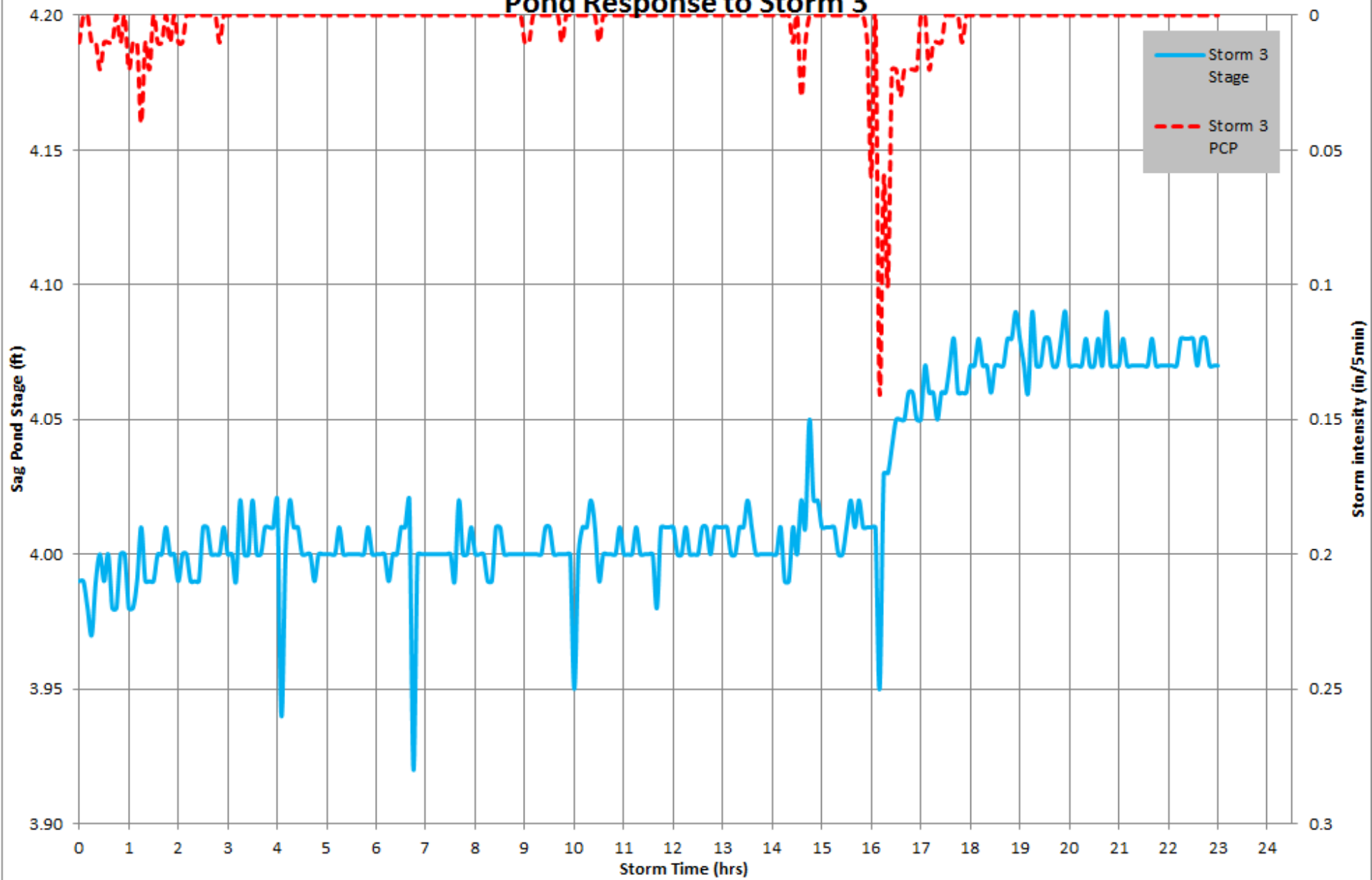




# Pond Response to Storm 2

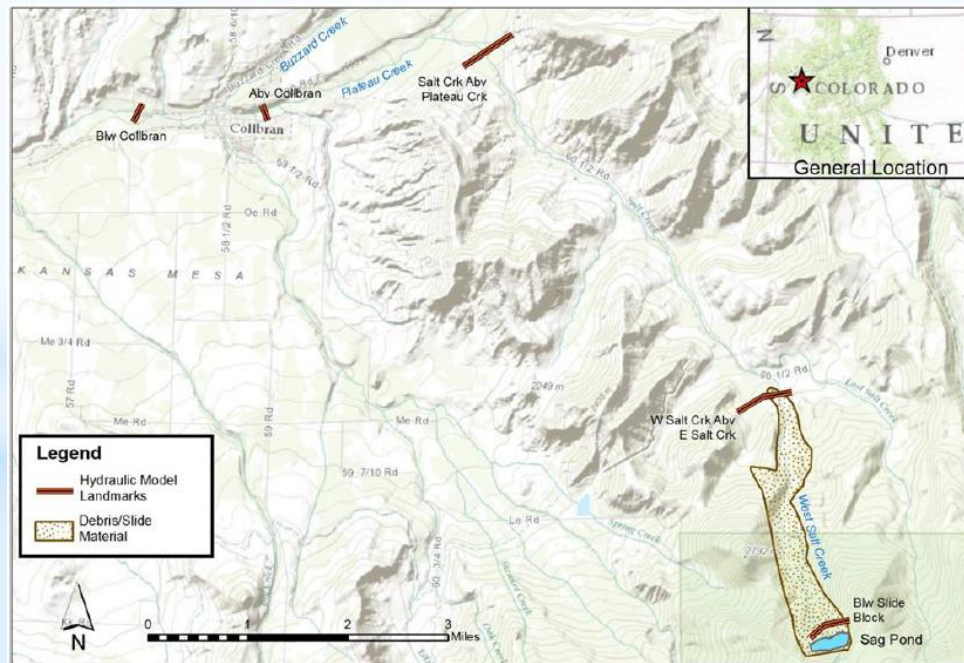


# Pond Response to Storm 3



Army Corp of Engineers used FLO-2D software modeling and concluded:

Location	Time to first flow from breach (hr)	Time to peak flow (hr)
Toe of landslide	1.0 – 1.5	2.0 – 2.5
Salt Creek at new USGS gage	2.0 – 3.0	2.5 – 3.5
Plateau Creek upstream of Collbran	2.5 – 4.0	3.0 – 5.0
Plateau Creek downstream of Collbran	3.0 – 5.0	3.0 – 5.5



Hydrologically, there is little consequence of the sag pond overtopping the block and creating a flood event. There is so much topography and roughness and infiltration capacity of the slide debris that as long as we don't somehow move the block again it could move towards a flow in=flow out situation.

Since a catastrophic release of the sag pond producing “a wall of water” is not expected, the focus has been shifted to studying the potential for a second movement of the block due to increased pore pressure in the block as a result of a higher pond level.