

Geomorphic Elements in Modern Continental Sedimentary Basins – Implications for Groundwater Basins in California

Gary Weissmann, Adrian Hartley, Gary Nichols, and Louis Scuderi



Goals and Outline

- General concepts on basin-scale controls on fluvial facies distributions – fluvial sedimentology using reasonable modern analogs
 - Evaluations of modern continental sedimentary basins
 - Distributive Fluvial Systems (alluvial fans, fluvial fans, and megafans)
 - Axial fluvial systems
 - Expected facies trends for fluvial systems
- Relationship to California hydrogeology and petroleum geology
 - San Joaquin Basin studies



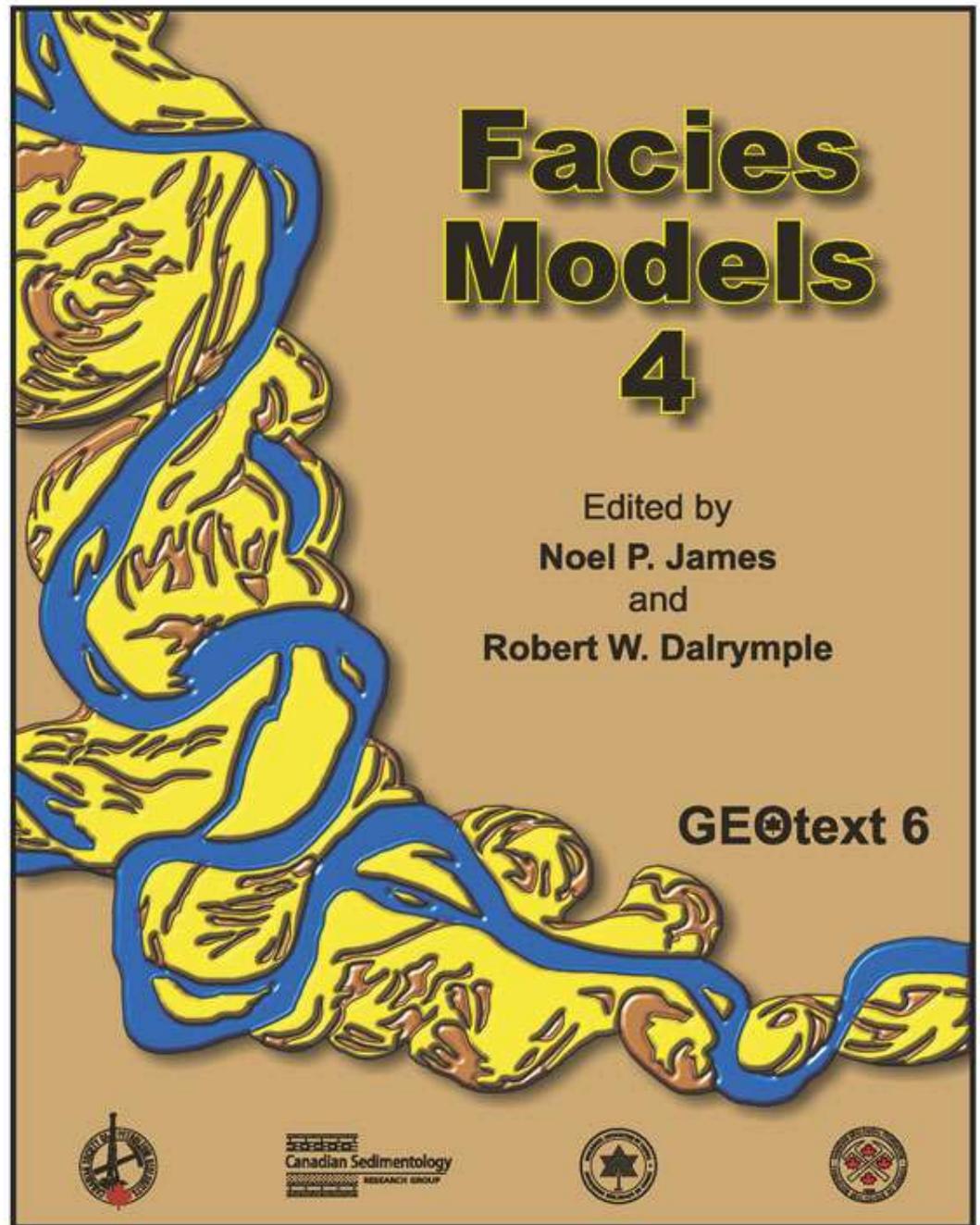
- **What river deposits ultimately become sedimentary rocks?**
- **What is the geomorphology of these rivers?**
- **Why is this important for prediction of aquifer form?**



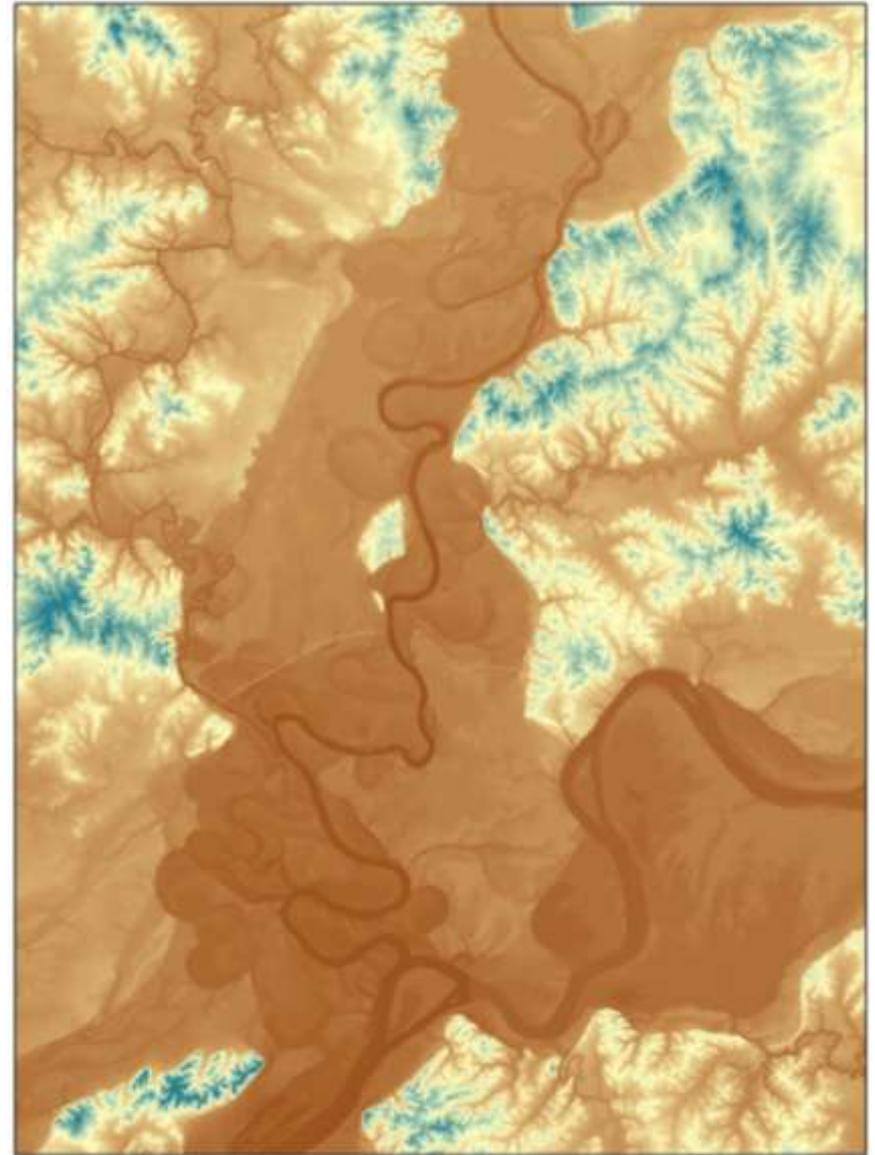
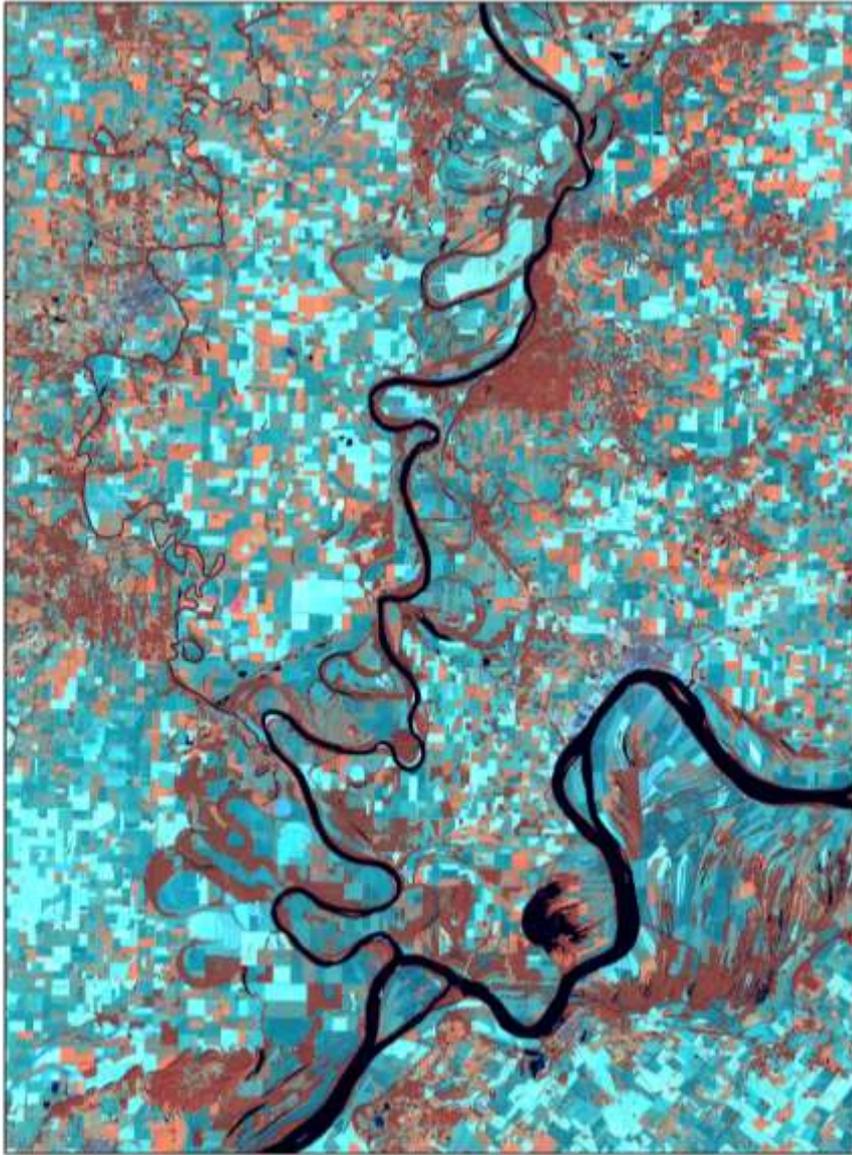
What modern
river analogs
make up our
facies
models??



Morrison Formation, New Mexico



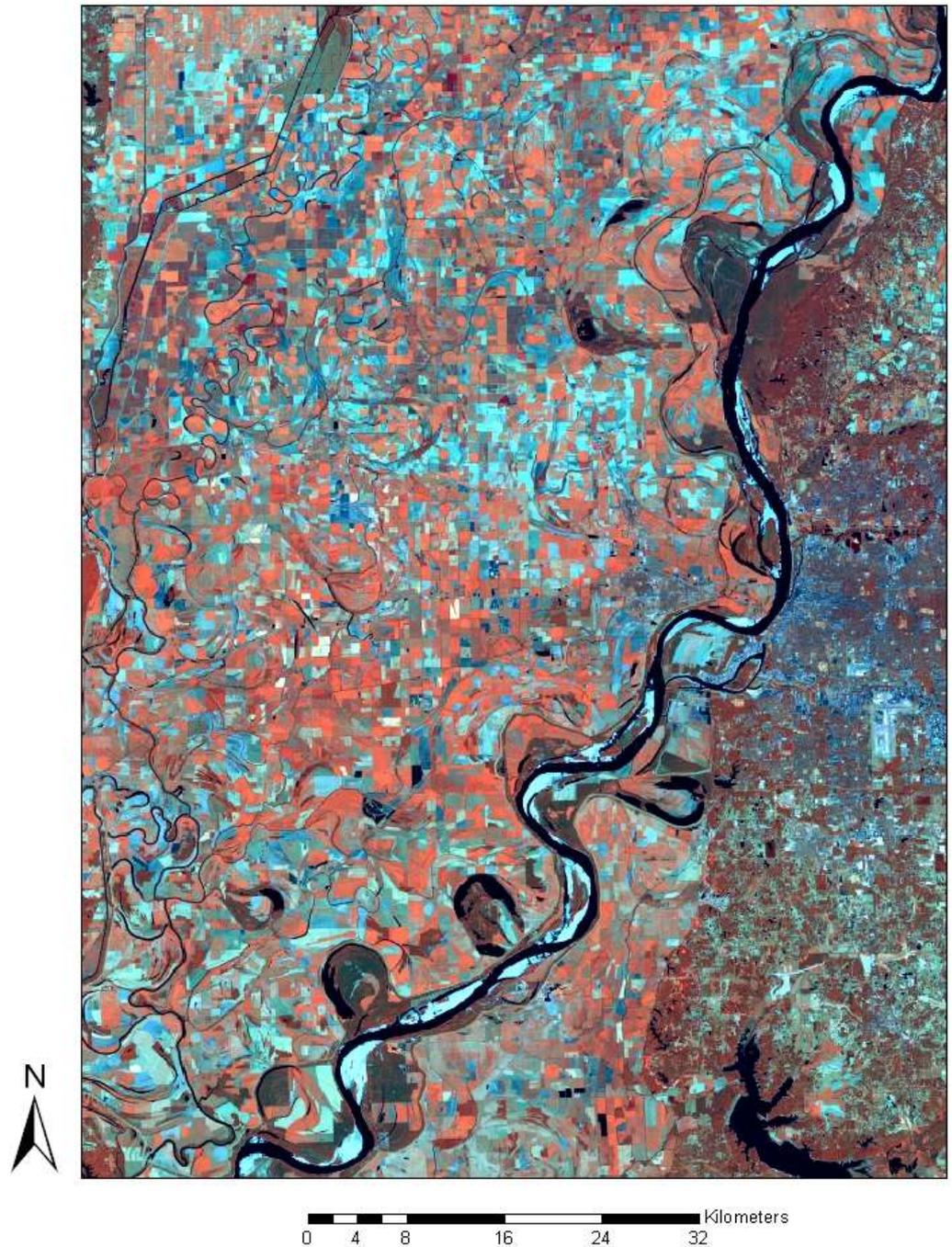
Wabash River, Illinois, USA (Jackson papers)



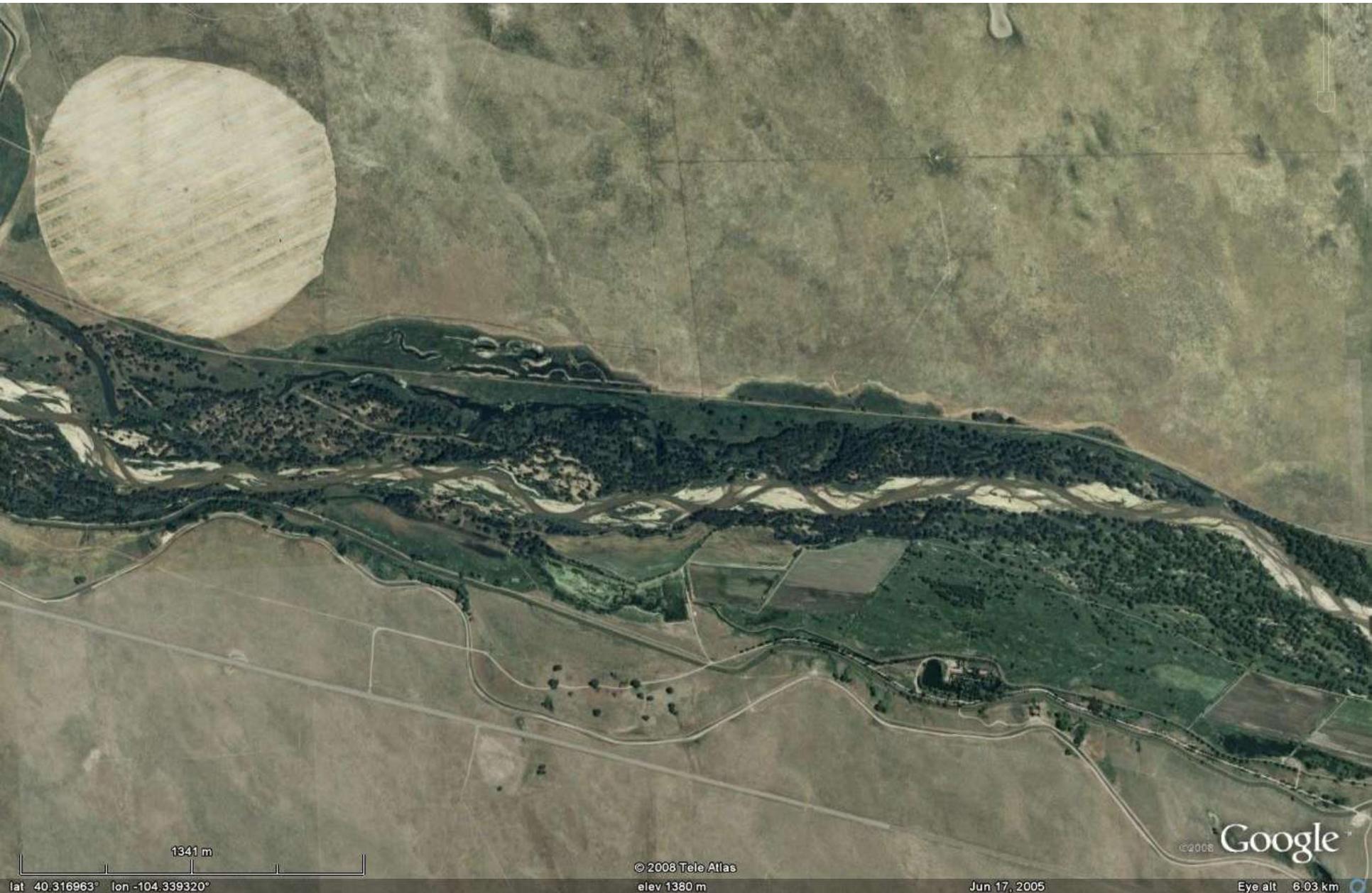
0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

Upper Mississippi River, Arkansas, USA



South Platte River – Colorado, USA



1341 m

© 2008 Tele Atlas
elev 1380 m

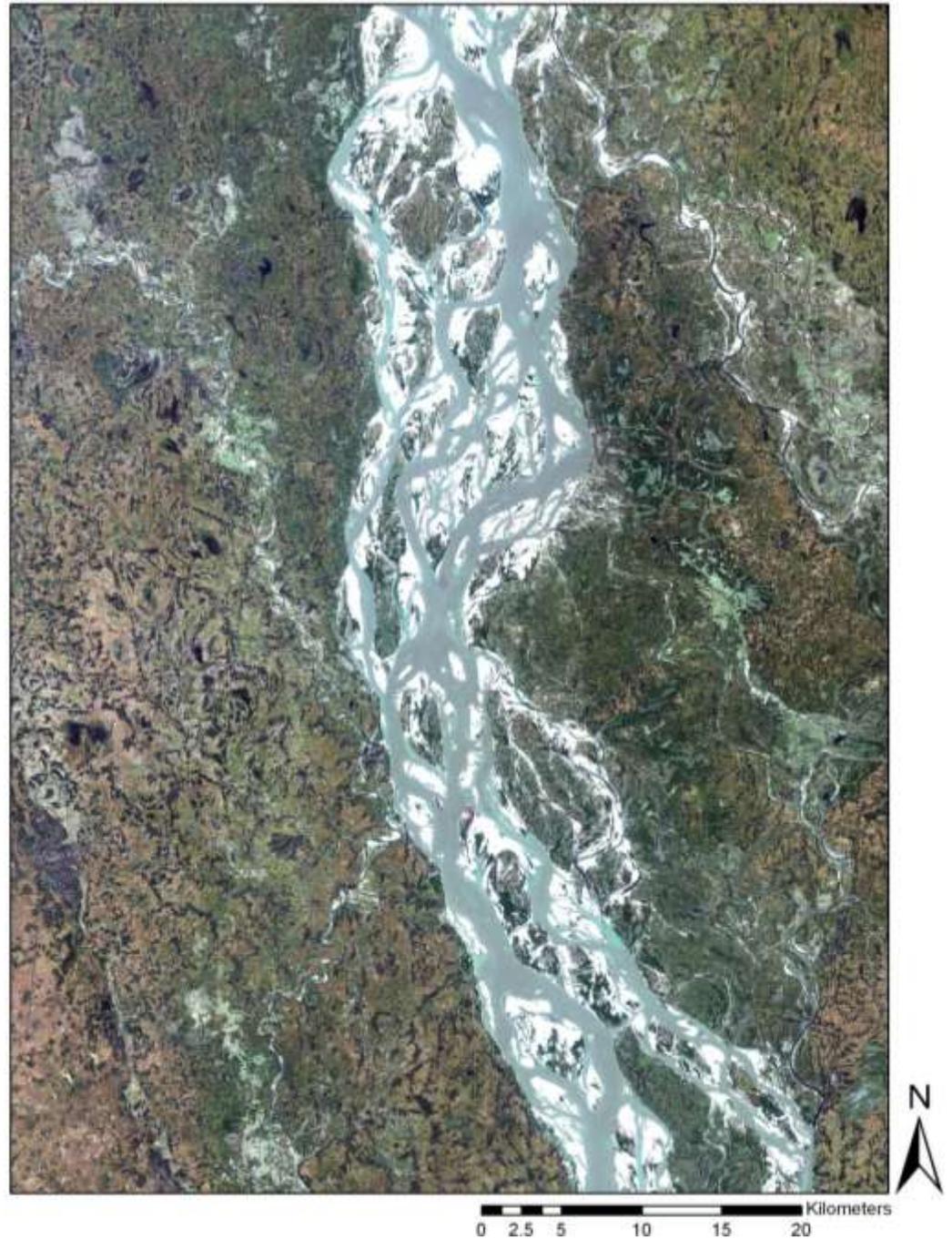
Jun 17, 2005

© 2008 Google

Eye alt 6.03 km

lat 40.316963° lon -104.339320°

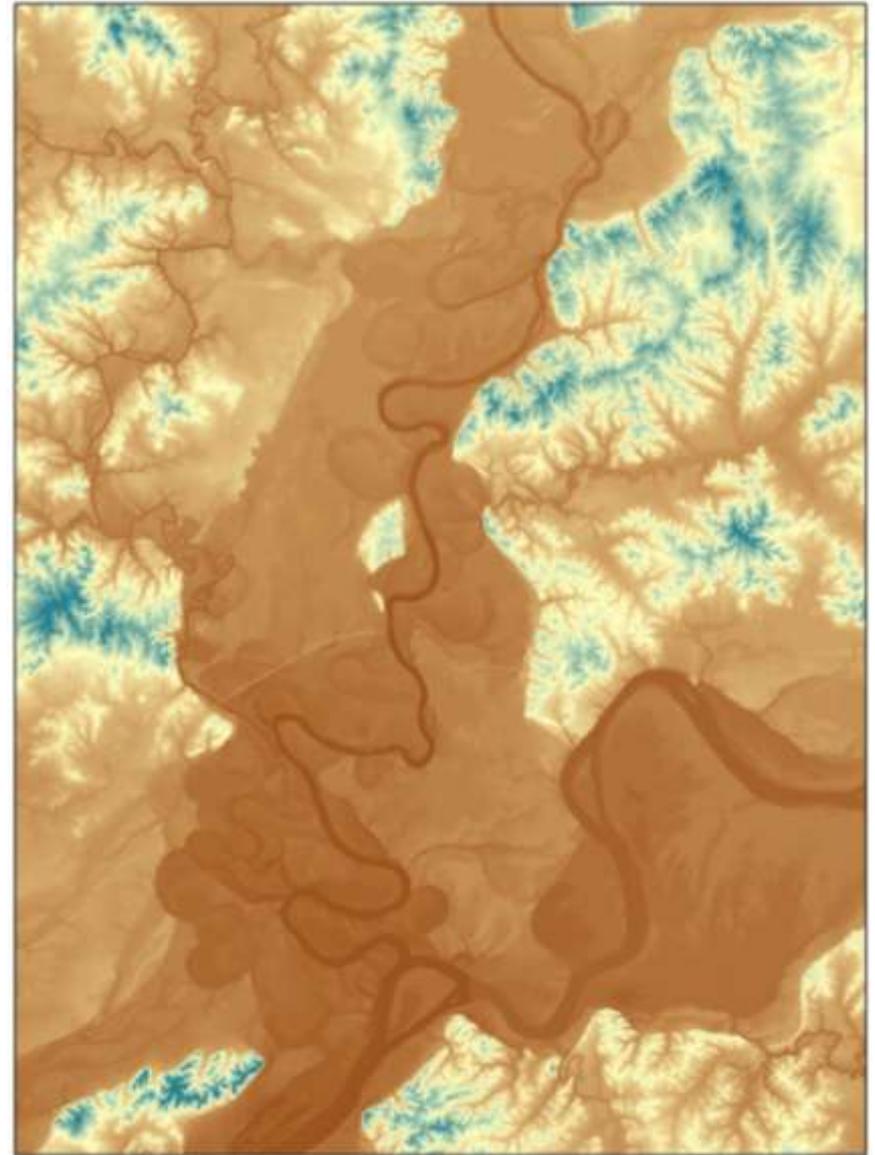
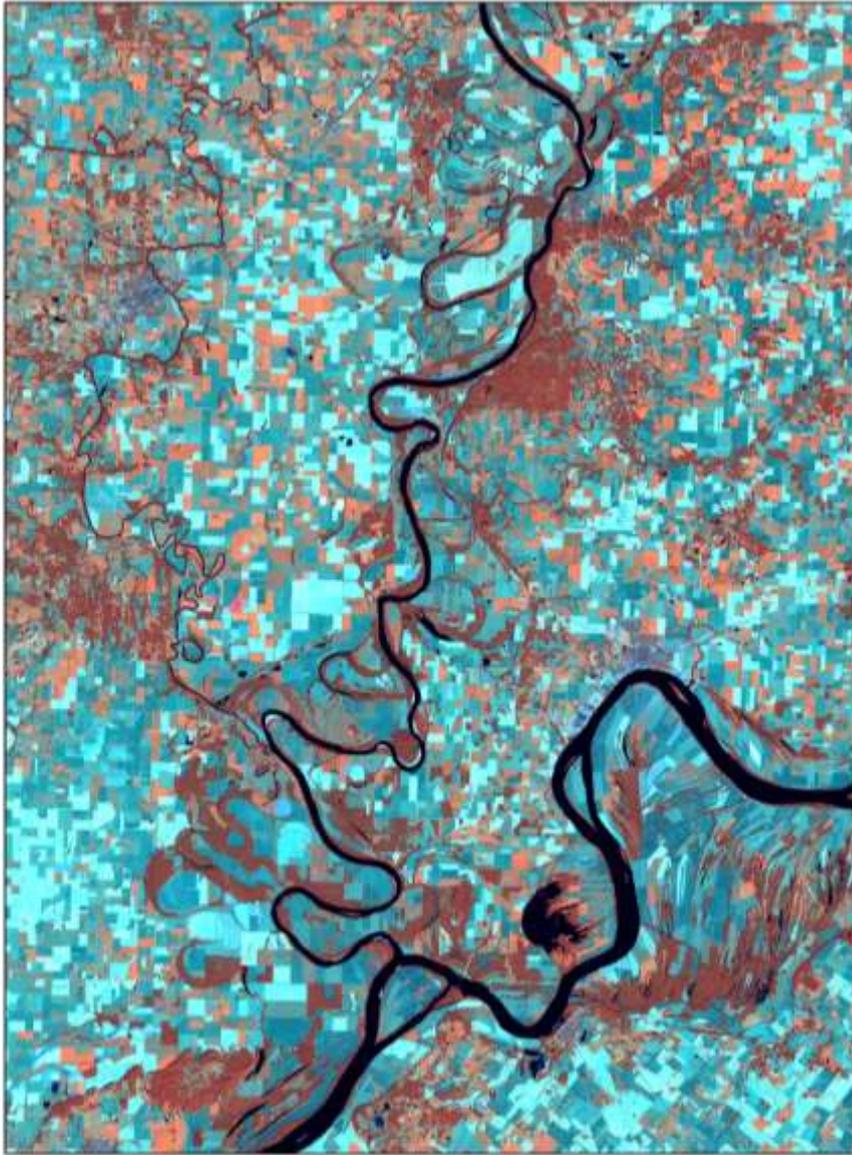
Lower Brahmaputra River, Bangladesh



Kicking Horse River, British Columbia, Canada



Wabash River, Illinois, USA (Jackson papers)

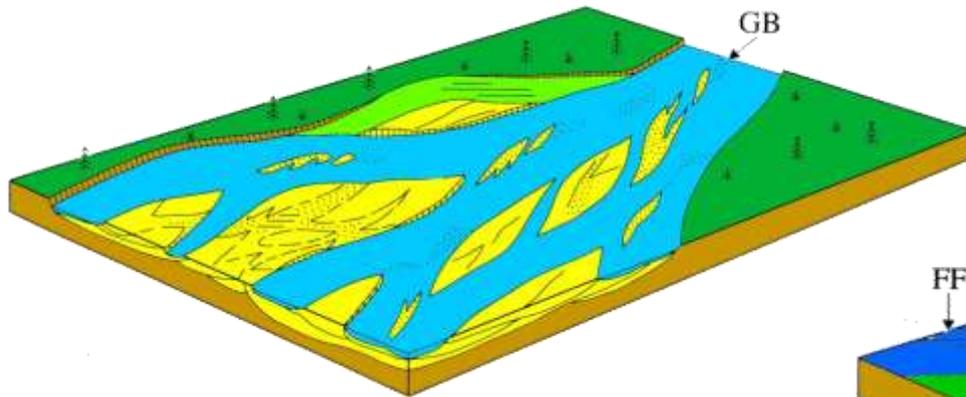


0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

Fluvial Facies Models

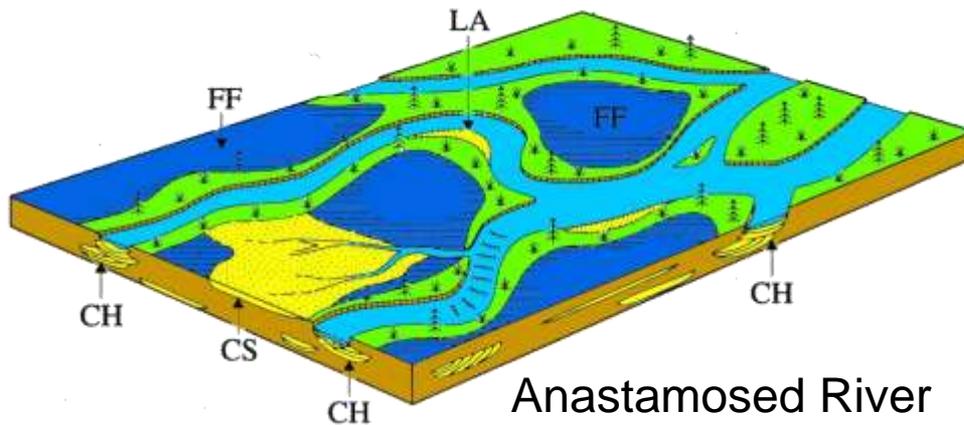
(from Miall 1996)



Sandy Braided River



Sandy Meandering River



Anastomosed River

Floodplains???



Fundamental Principle of Sedimentary Geology:

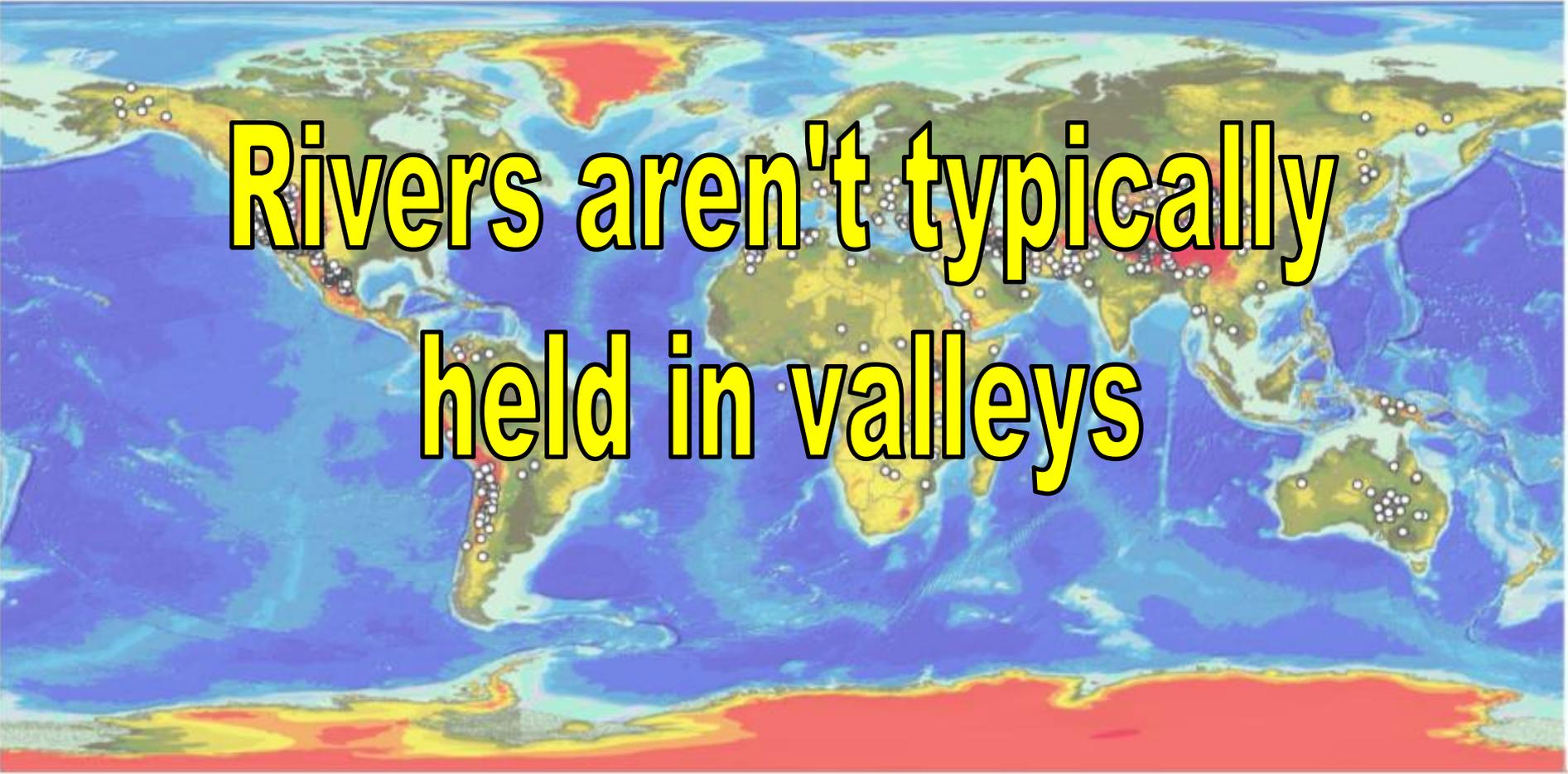
Geology:

Sedimentary rocks are formed from deposits in ancient sedimentary basins!



Morrison Formation, New Mexico

A review of ~700 modern continental sedimentary basins provides a different picture.

A world map showing the distribution of modern continental sedimentary basins. The map uses a color scale from blue (shallow) to red (deep) to represent bathymetry. Numerous small white circles are scattered across the continents, indicating the locations of the basins. The text "Rivers aren't typically held in valleys" is overlaid in large yellow font with a black outline.

**Rivers aren't typically
held in valleys**

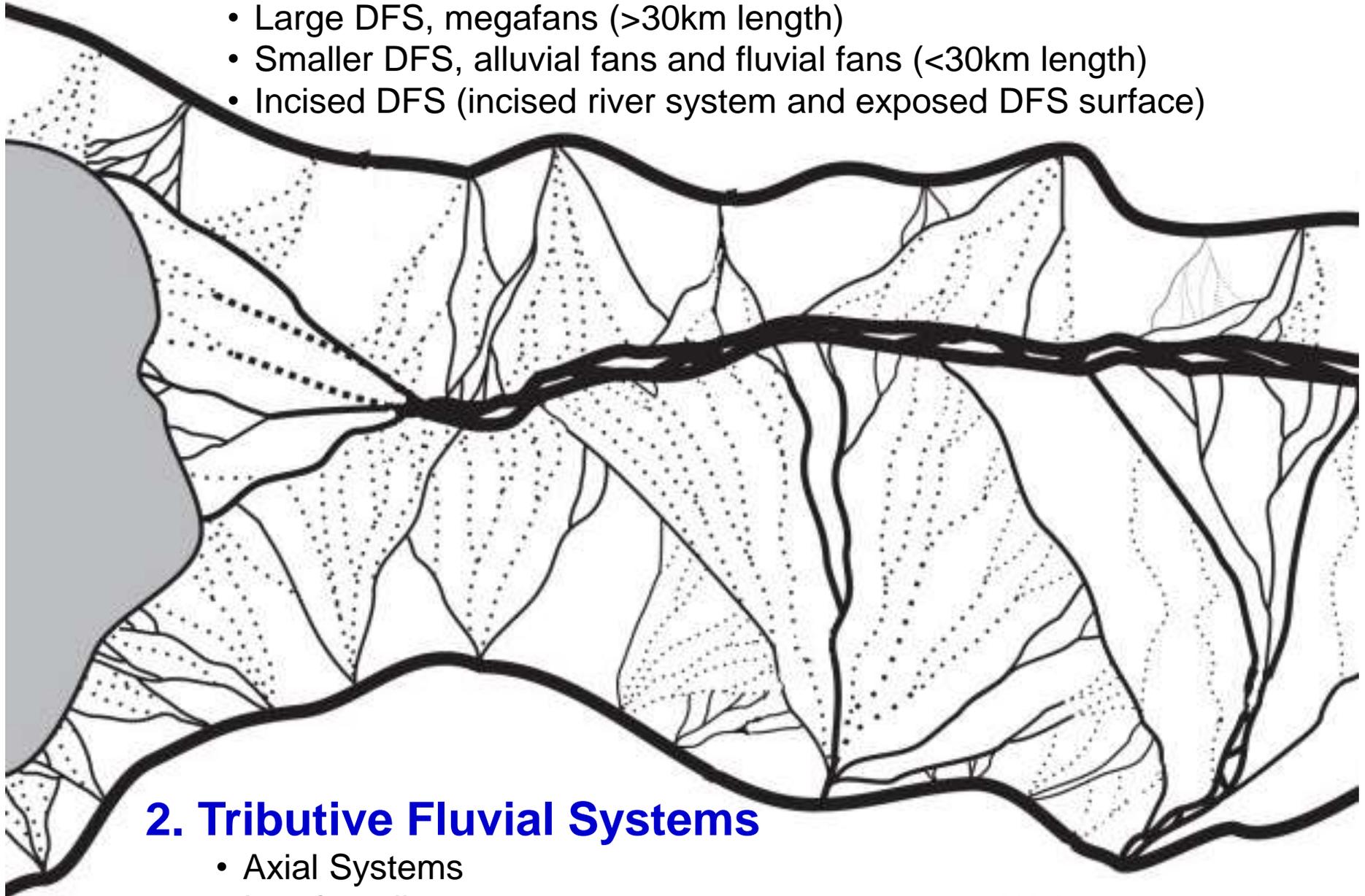
Weissmann et al 2010

1. Distributive Fluvial Systems (DFS)

- Large DFS, megafans (>30km length)
- Smaller DFS, alluvial fans and fluvial fans (<30km length)
- Incised DFS (incised river system and exposed DFS surface)

2. Tributive Fluvial Systems

- Axial Systems
- Interfan tributary systems





“Distributive Fluvial Systems” (DFS)

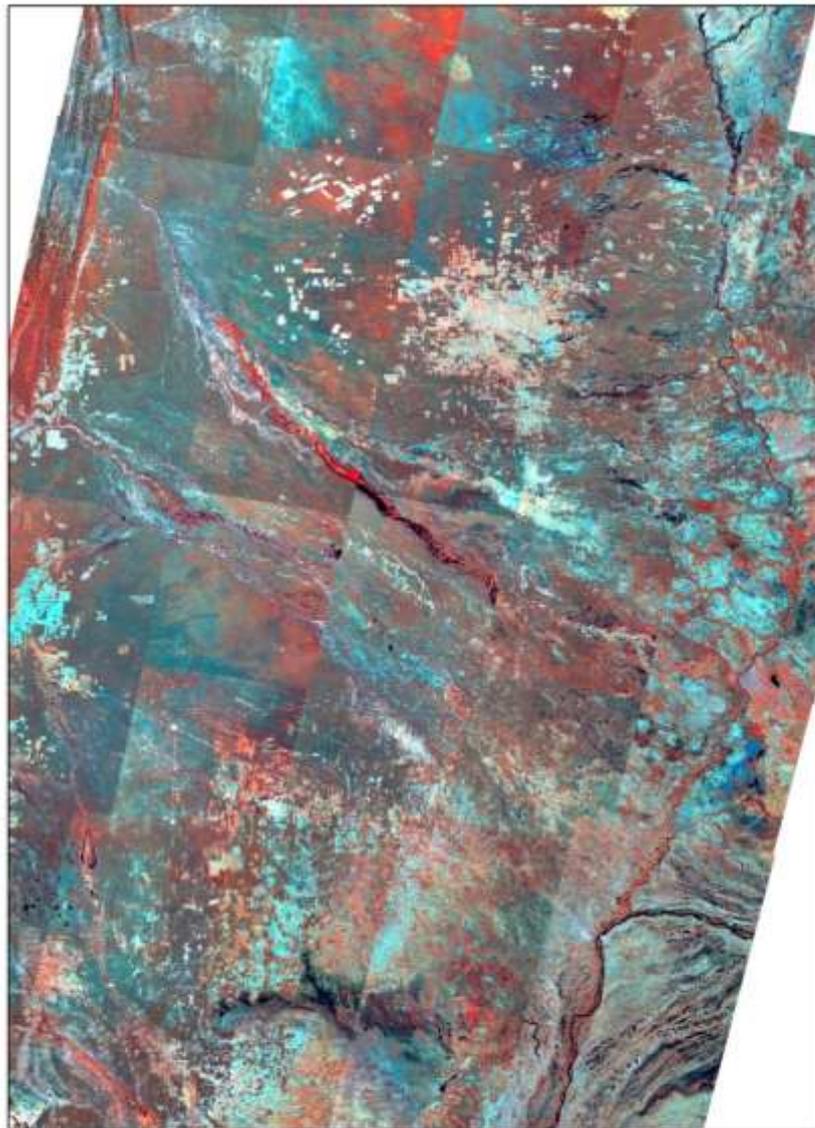
“the *deposit* of a fluvial system which in planform displays a radial distributive channel pattern” (Hartley et al. 2010).

These are megafans, fluvial fans, and alluvial fans
(Distributive Fluvial Landforms)

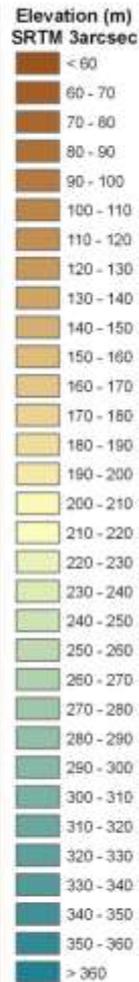
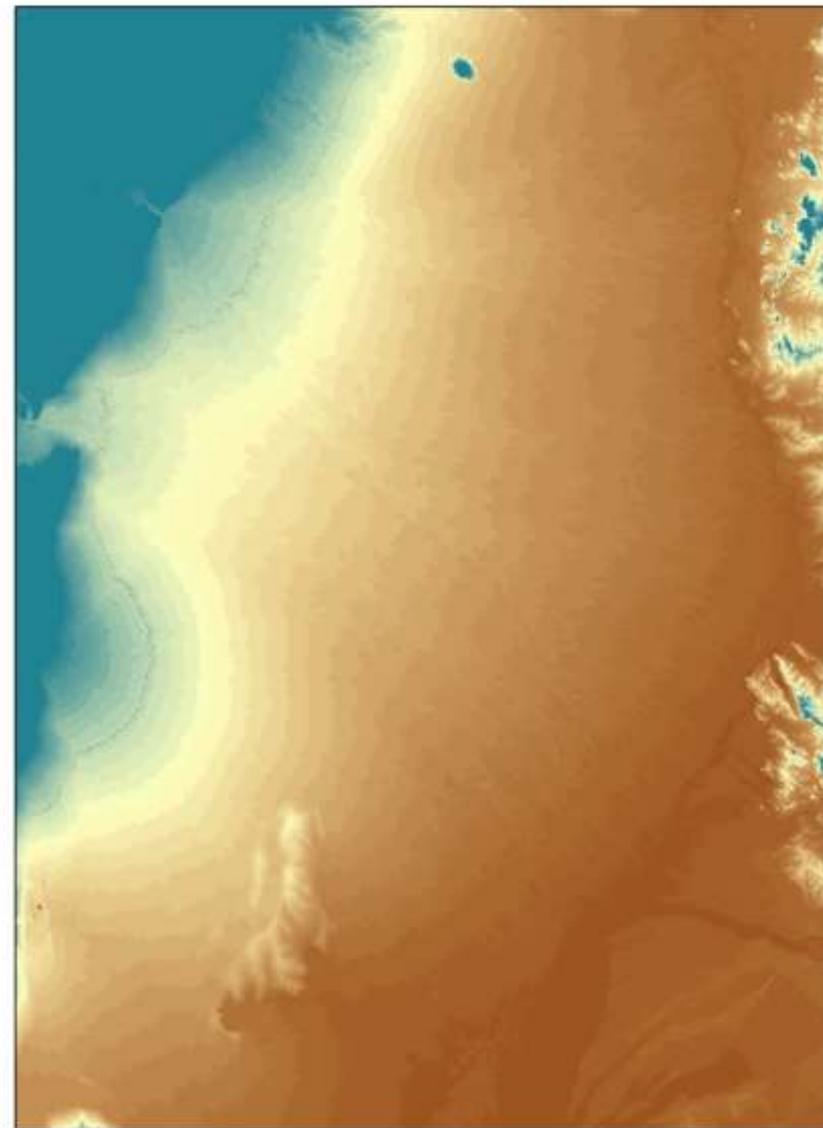
Use of term **Distributive Fluvial System**

- **Confusion between “distributary” and “distributive”**
- Definitions from The New Shorter Oxford English Dictionary, 1993, p. 707-708.
 - **Distributary**: “1. Distinct, several; 2. That distributes; *spec.* designating a distributary of a canal, river, etc.
 - **Implies multiple channels simultaneously active.**
 - **Distributive**: “Having the property of distributing; characterized by dealing portions or by spreading; given to engaged in distribution.”
 - **No implication for multiple channels.**

Andean Foreland Basin, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay Pilcomayo, Bermejo, and Salado Rivers



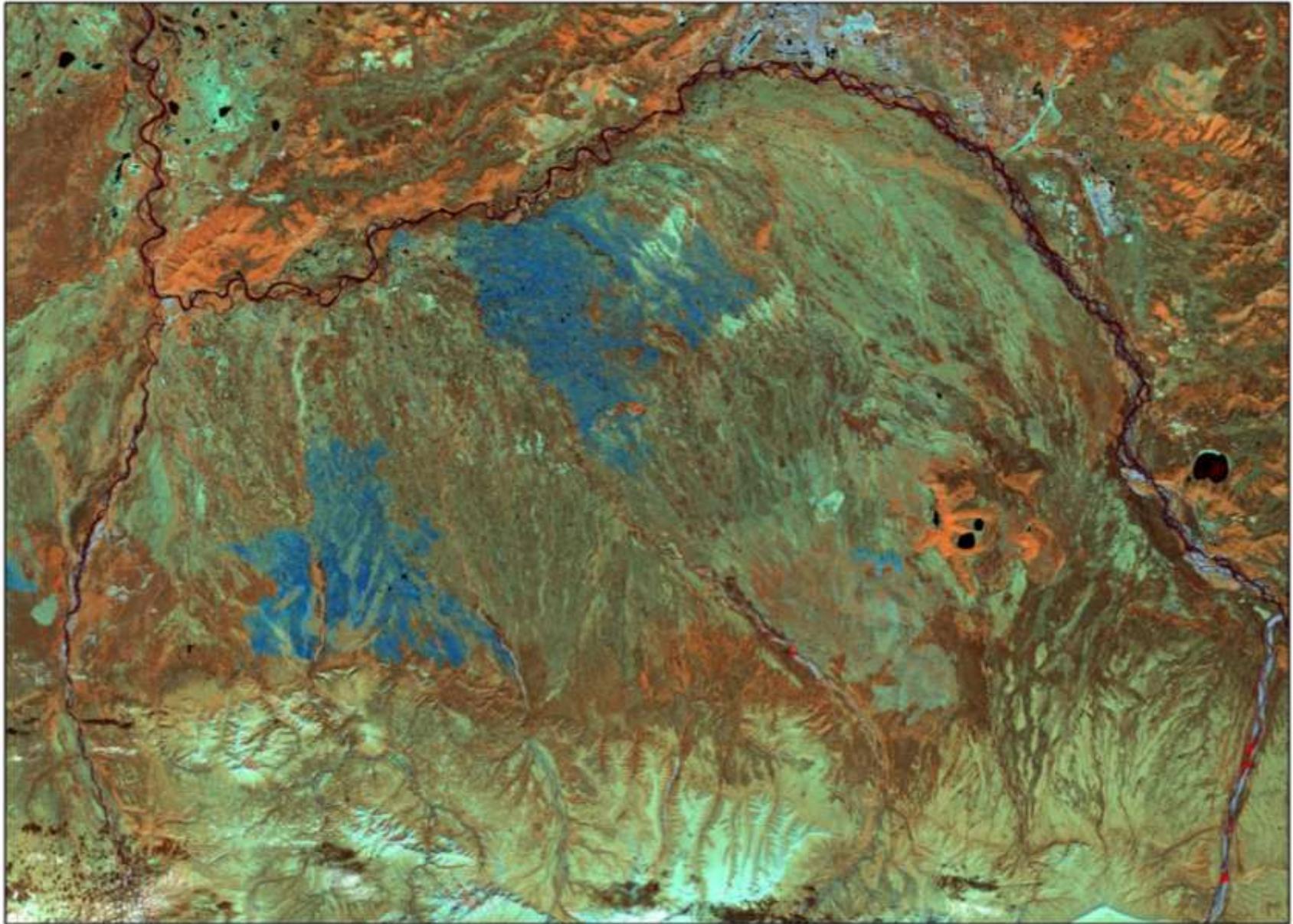
0 30 60 120 180 240 Kilometers



0 30 60 120 180 240 Kilometers

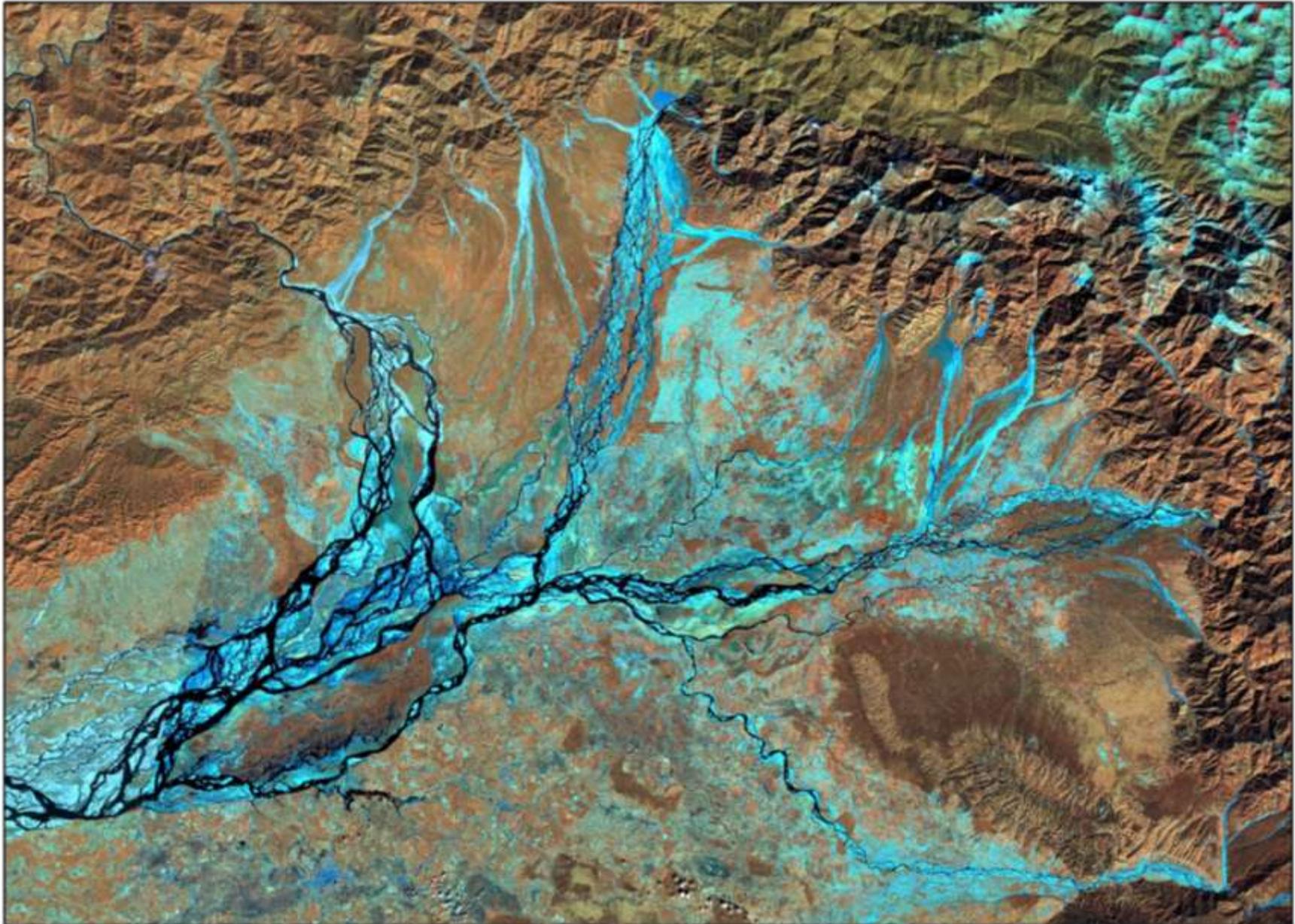


Alaska Range Foreland Basin, Alaska, USA

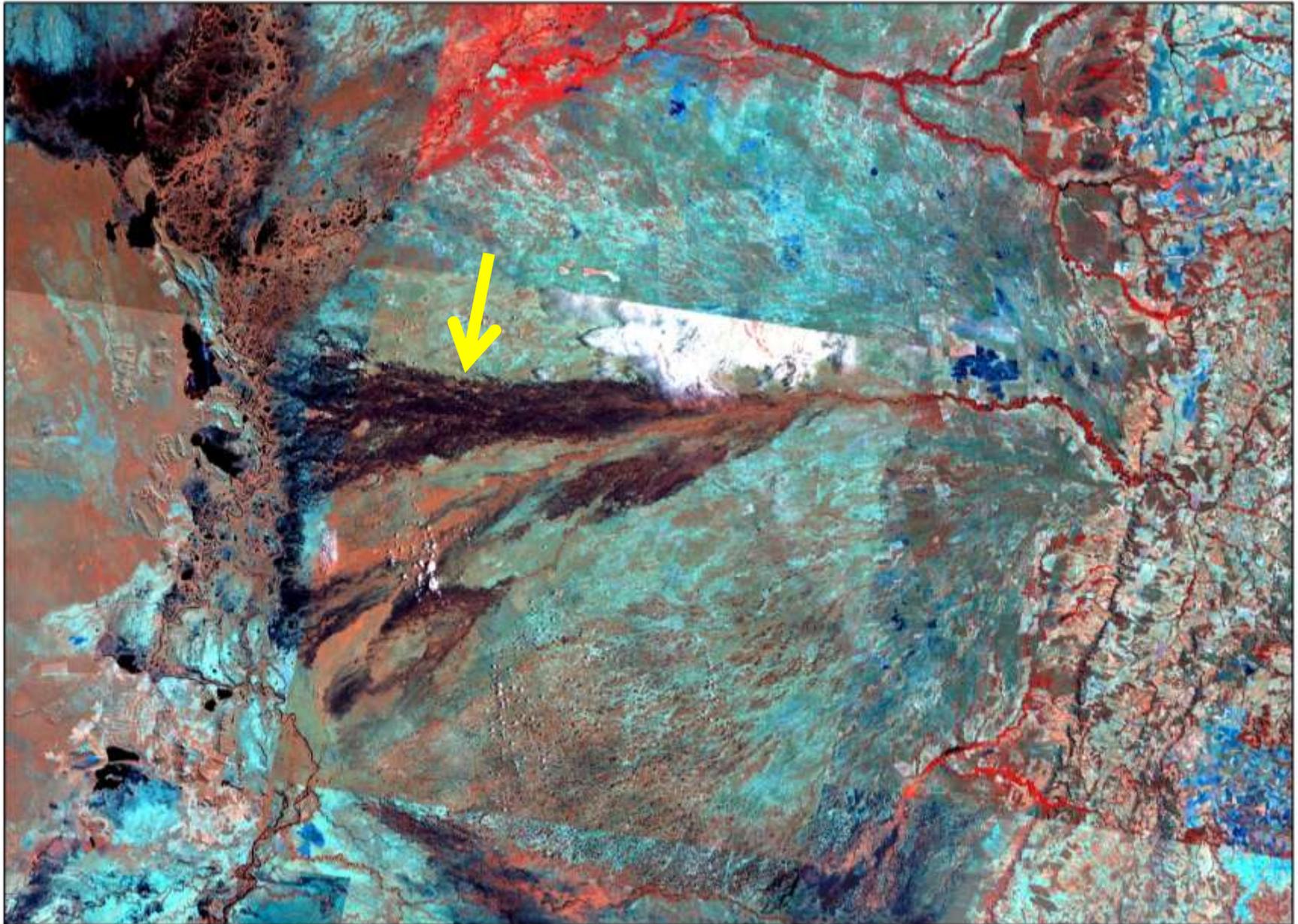


0 4 8 16 24 32 Kilometers

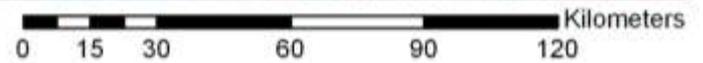
Upper Brahmaputra River, Himalayan Foreland Basin, India



Pantanal Basin, Brazil (Taquari River DFS)



Decadal LANDSAT false color image



Okavango River DFS, Botswana



0 10 20 40 60 80 Kilometers

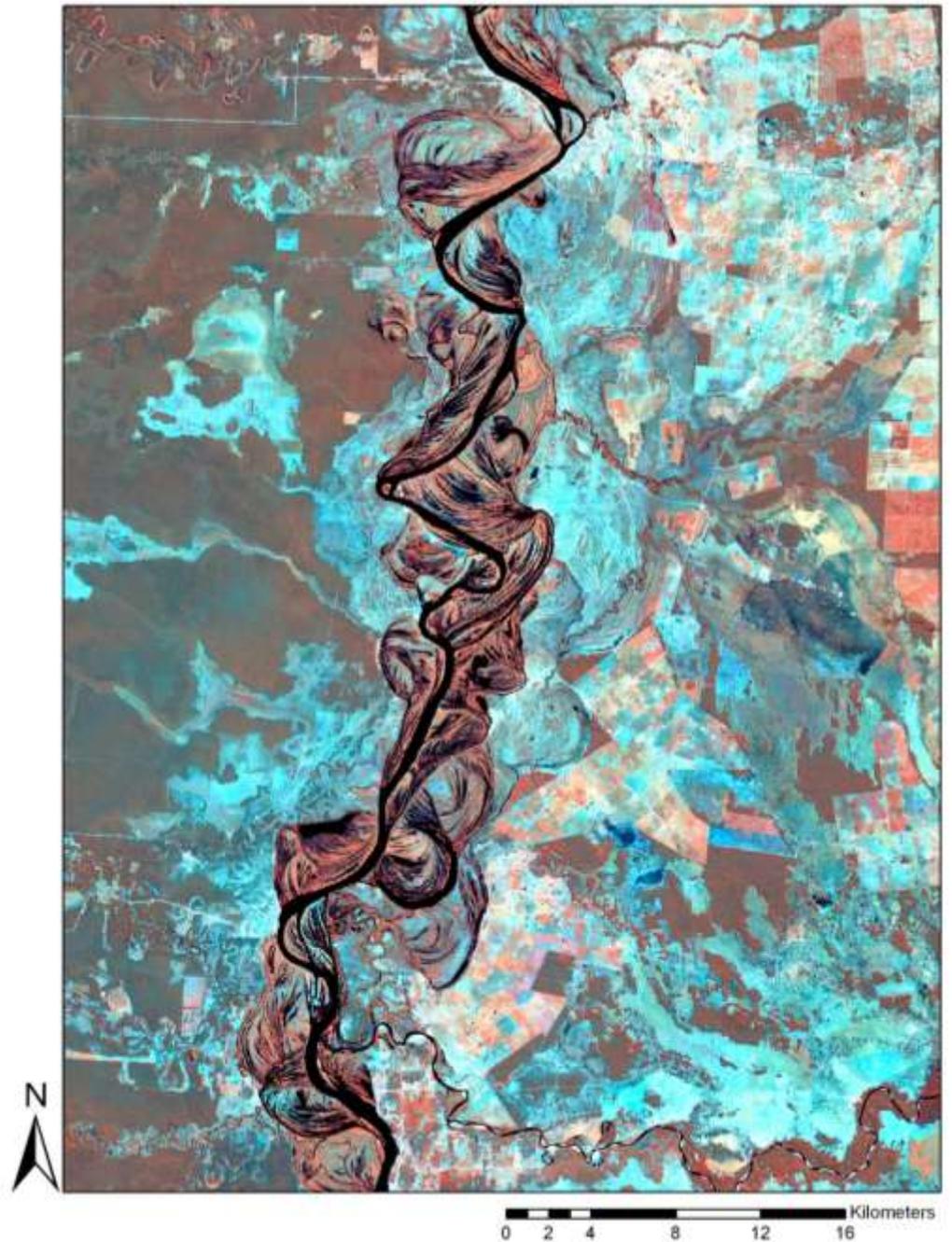
Axial Tributary River Systems



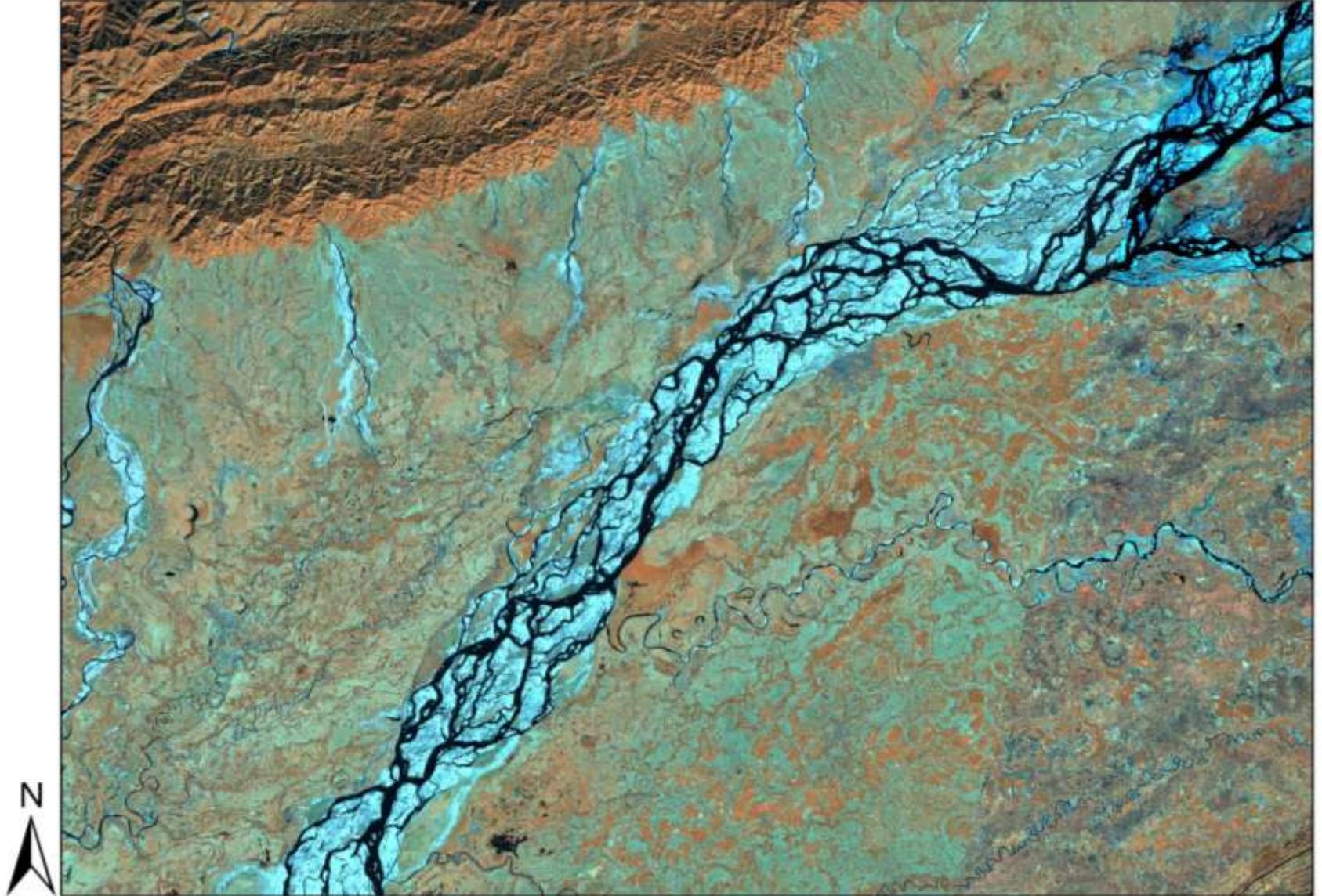
Rio Upia, Andes Foreland, Columbia

0 2.5 5 10 15 20 Kilometers

Axial Paraguay River, Andean Foreland Basin



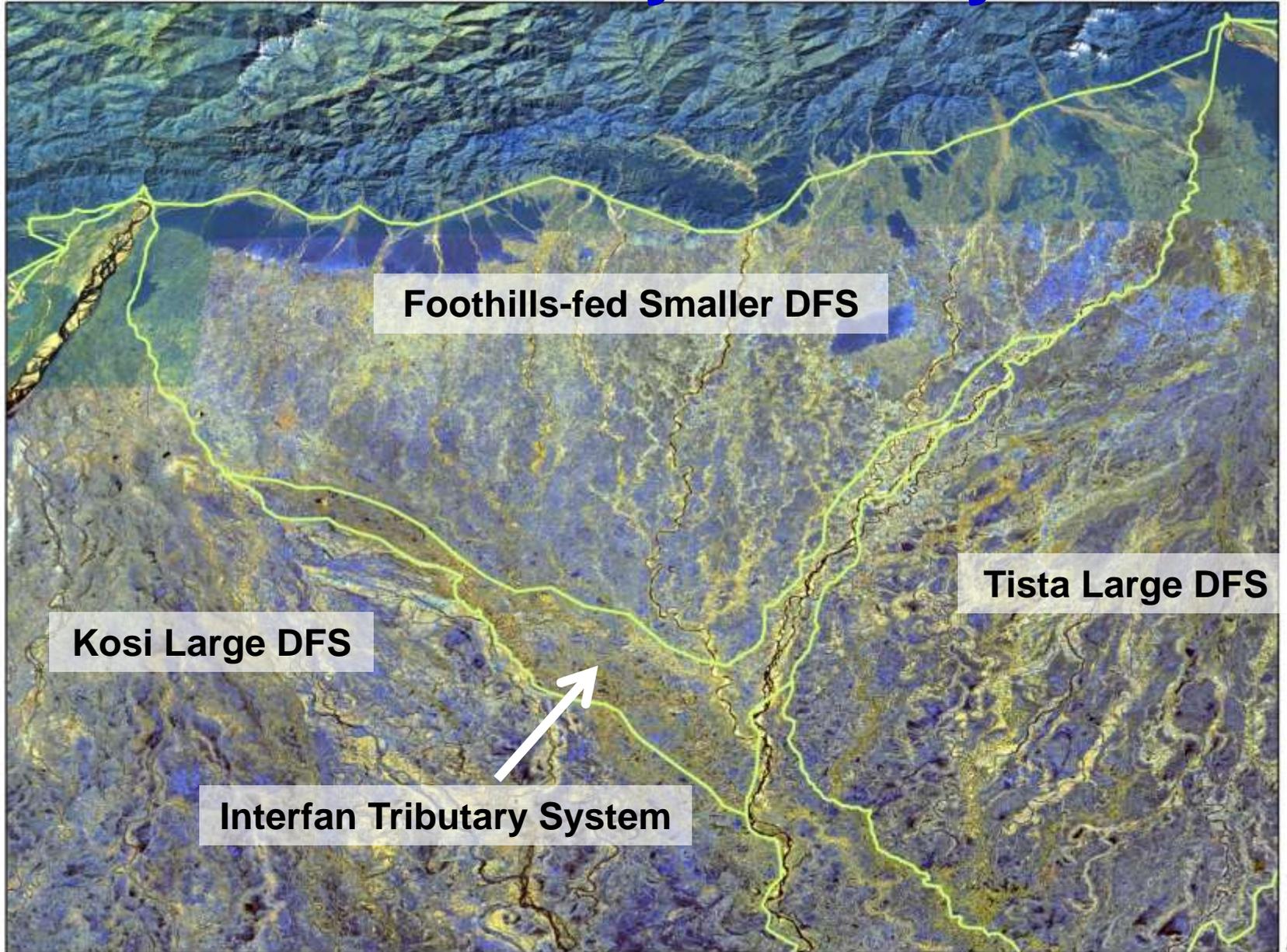
Axial Tributary River Systems



Brahmaputra River, India

0 3.75 7.5 15 22.5 30 Kilometers

Interfan Tributary River Systems

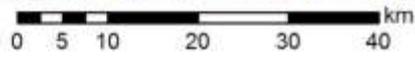


Foothills-fed Smaller DFS

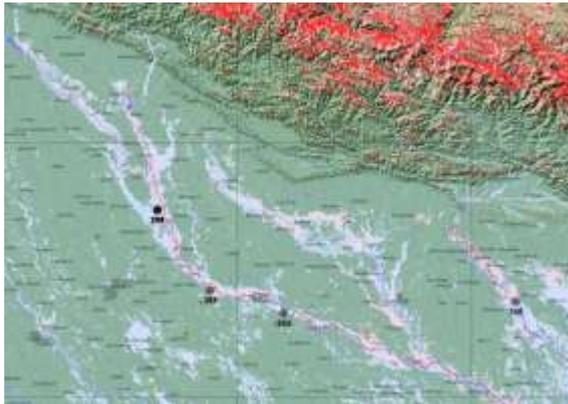
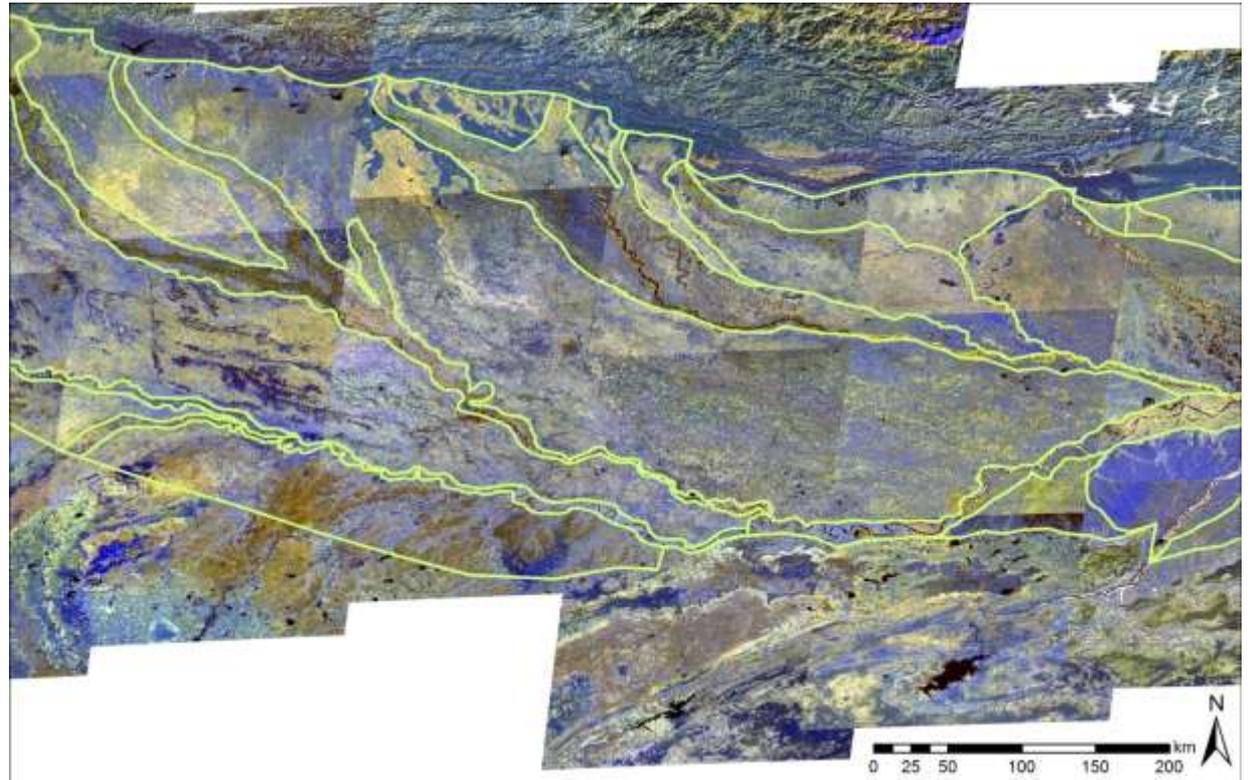
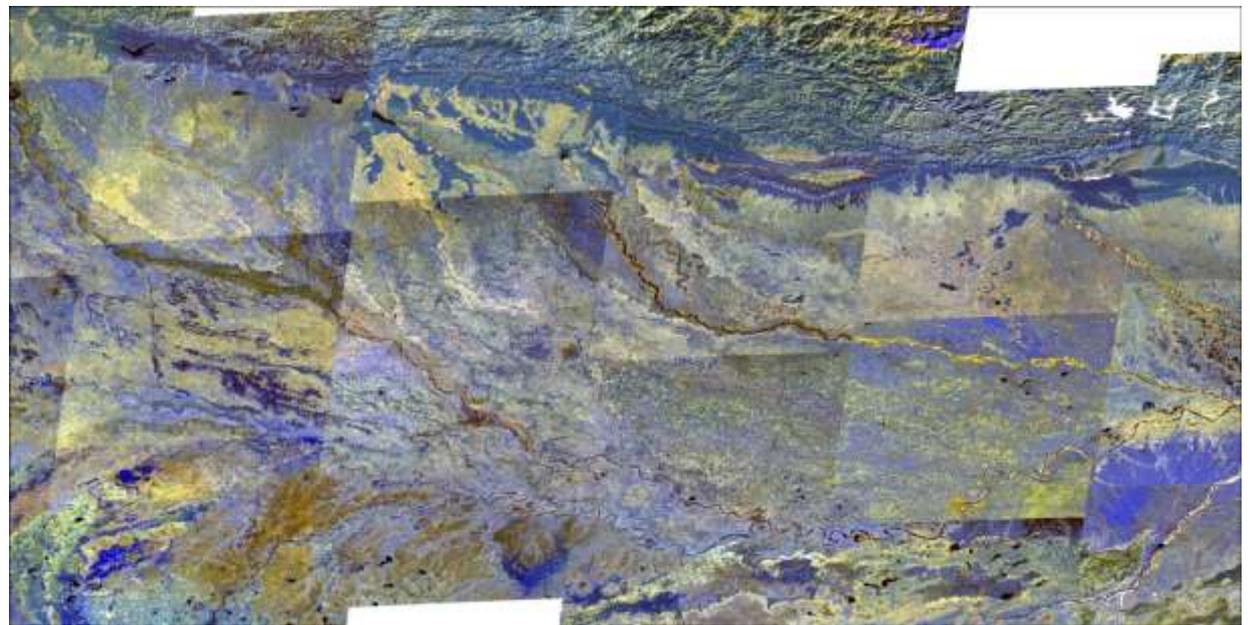
Kosi Large DFS

Tista Large DFS

Interfan Tributary System



Incised DFS Himalayan Foreland Basin



Dartmouth Flood Map,
University of Colorado

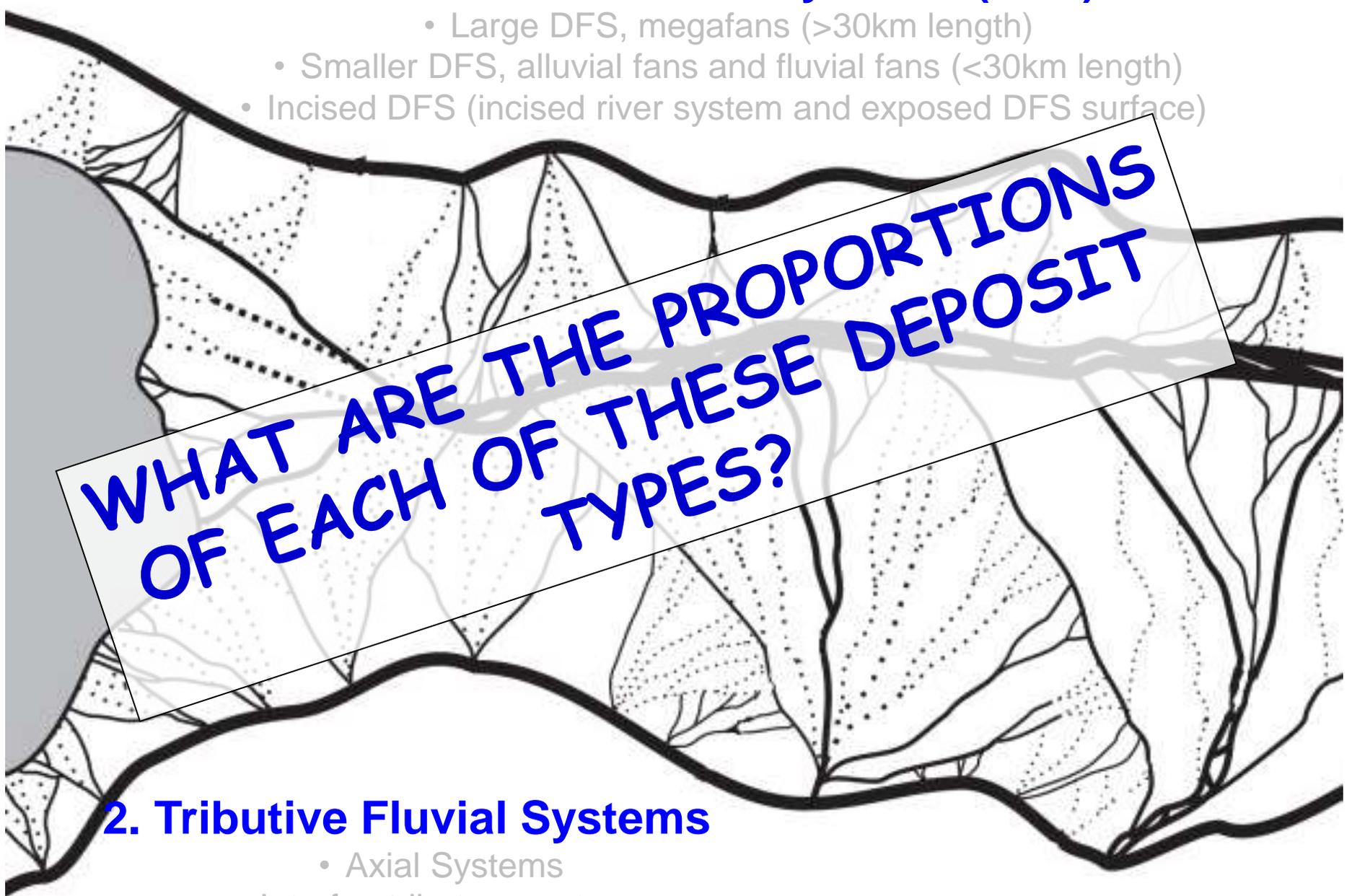
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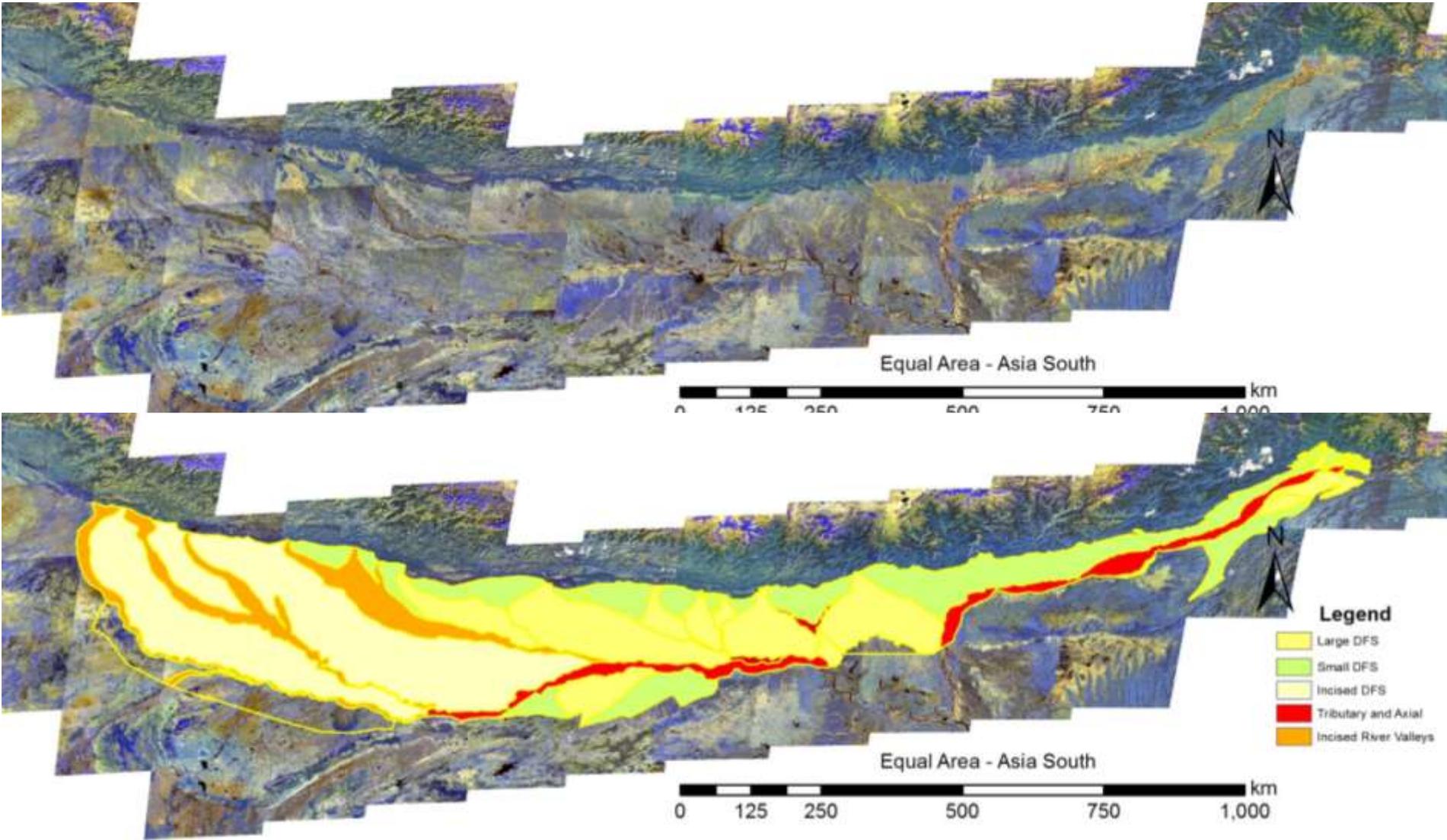
**WHAT ARE THE PROPORTIONS
OF EACH OF THESE DEPOSIT
TYPES?**

2. Tributive Fluvial Systems

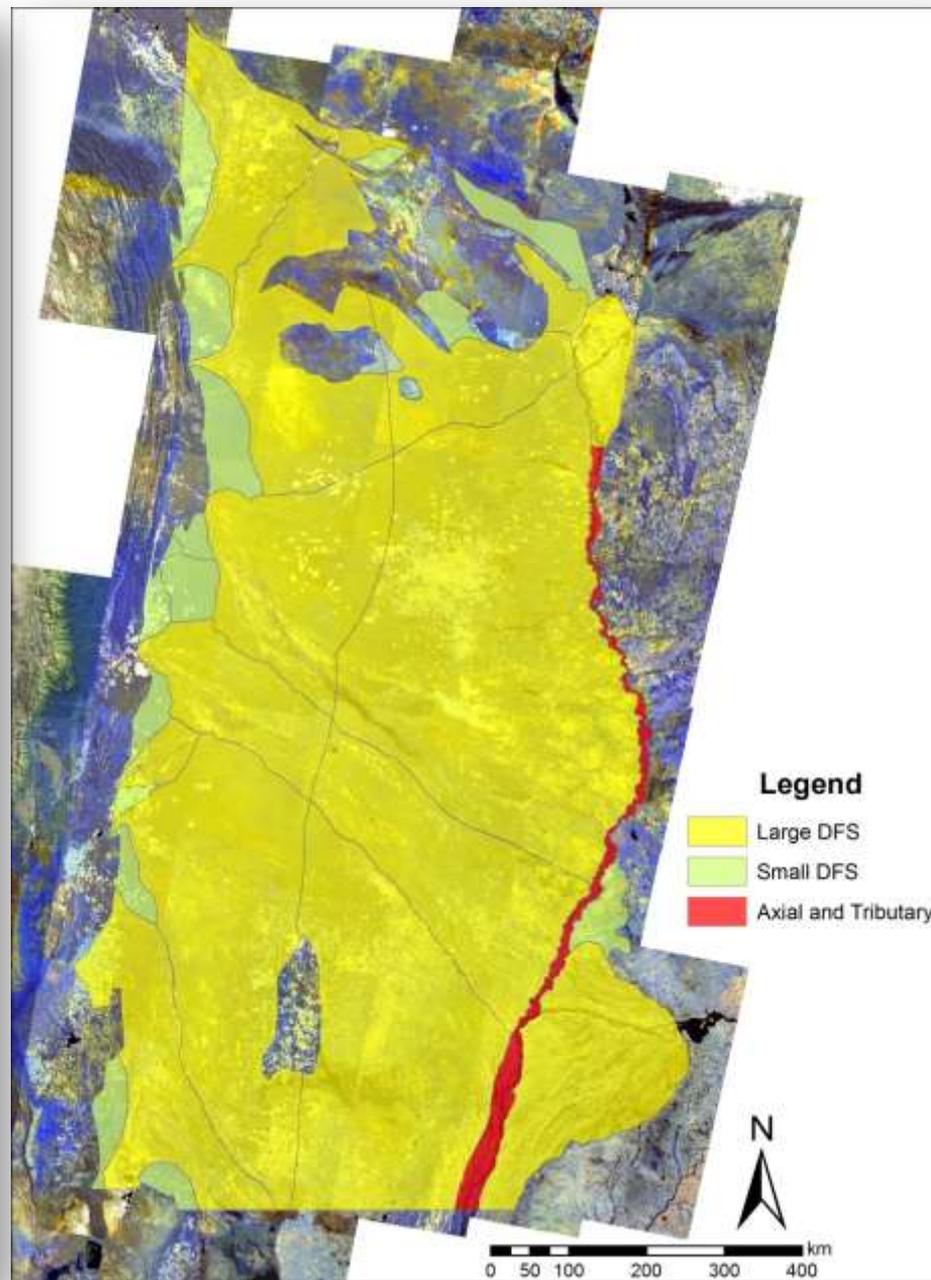
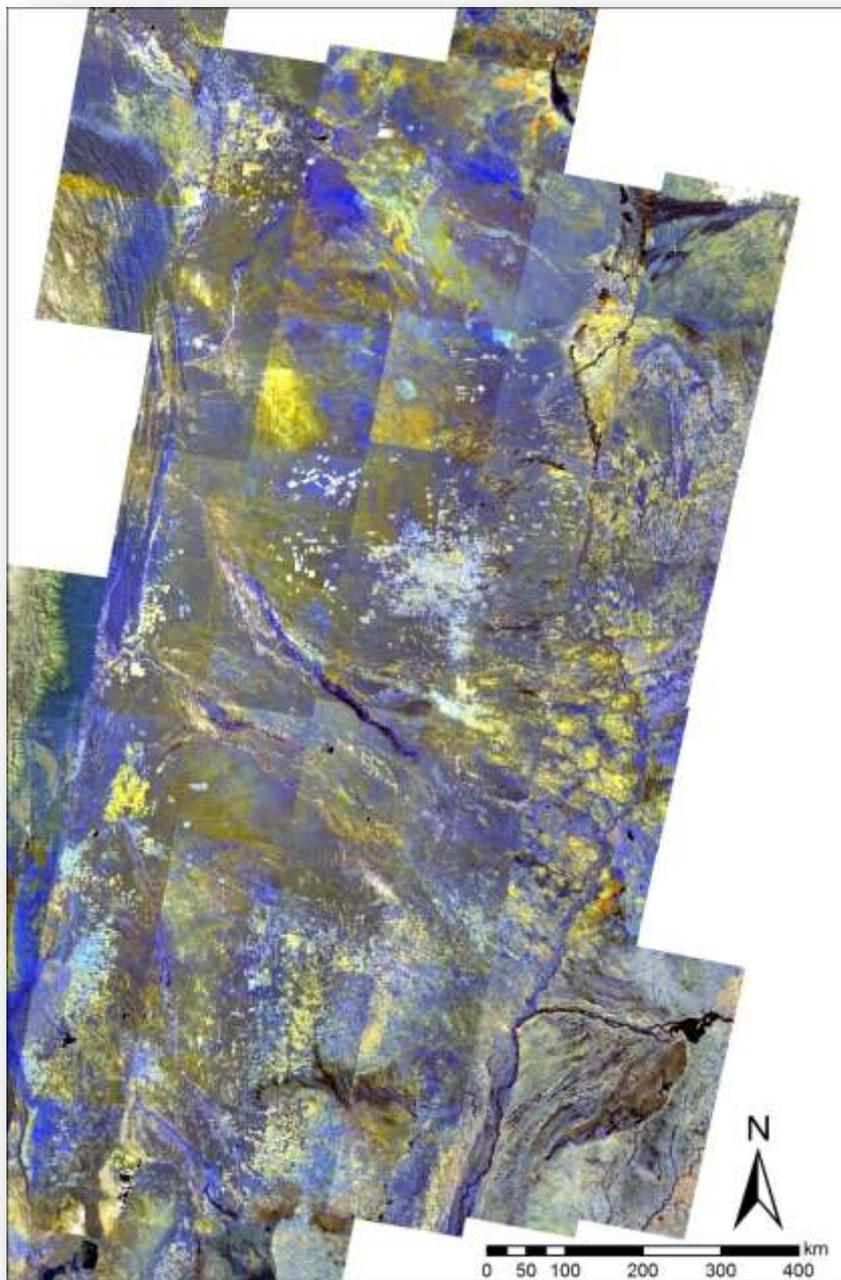
- Axial Systems
- Interfan tributary systems



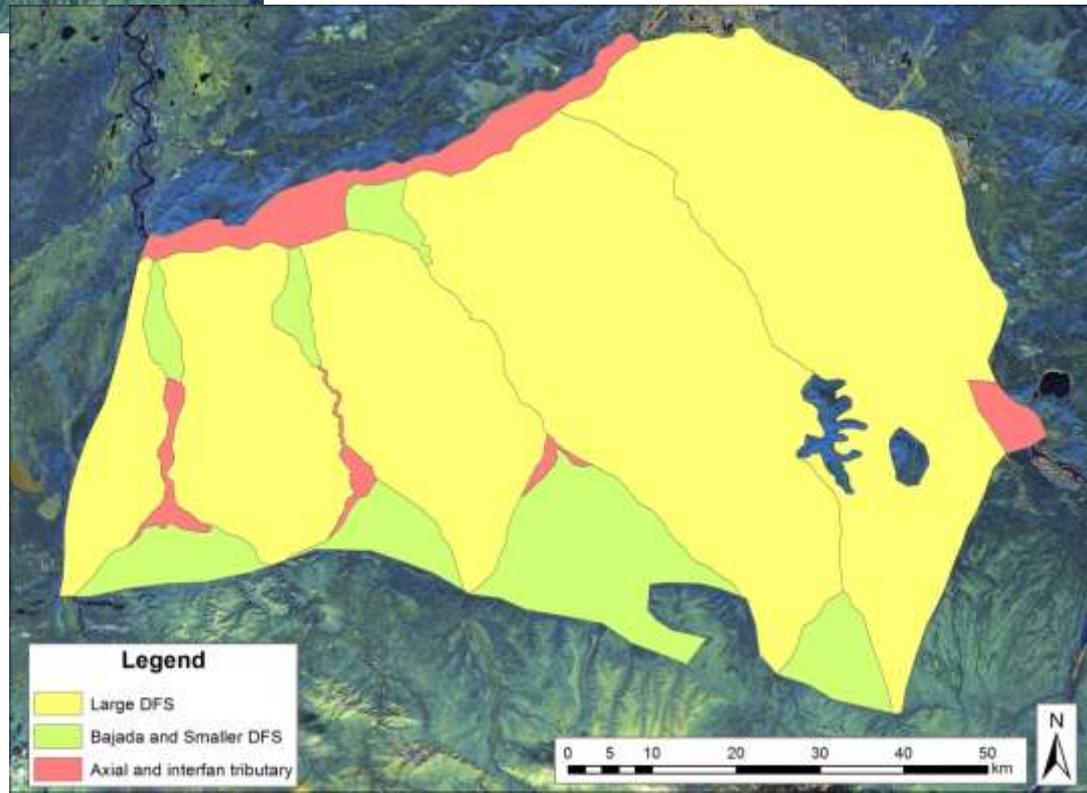
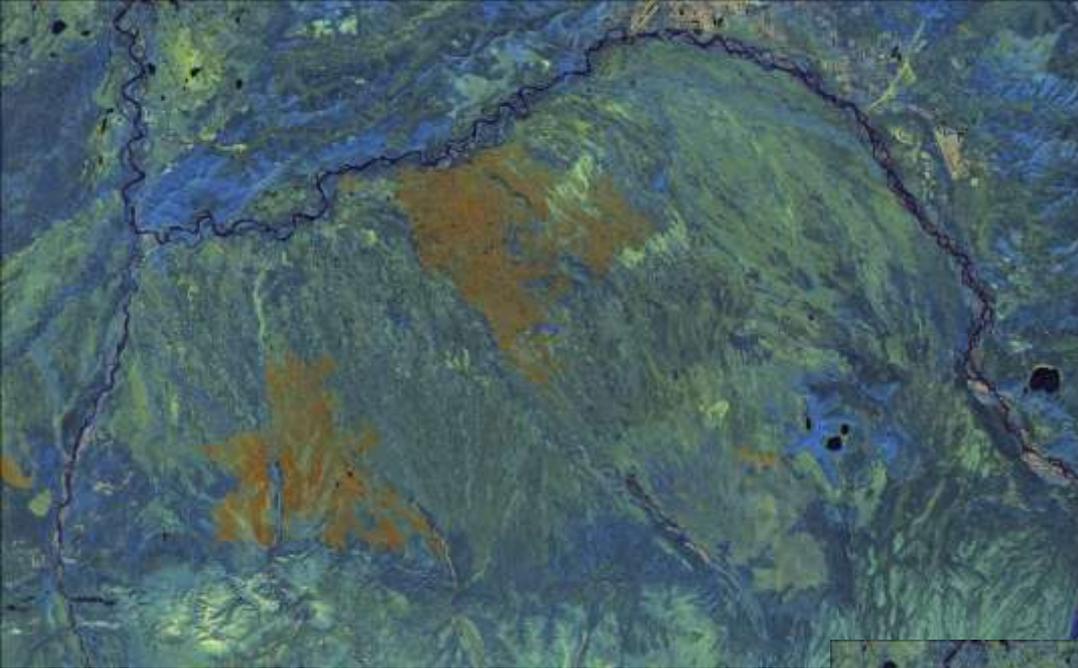
Himalayan Foreland Basin



Andes Foreland Basin – Chaco Plain



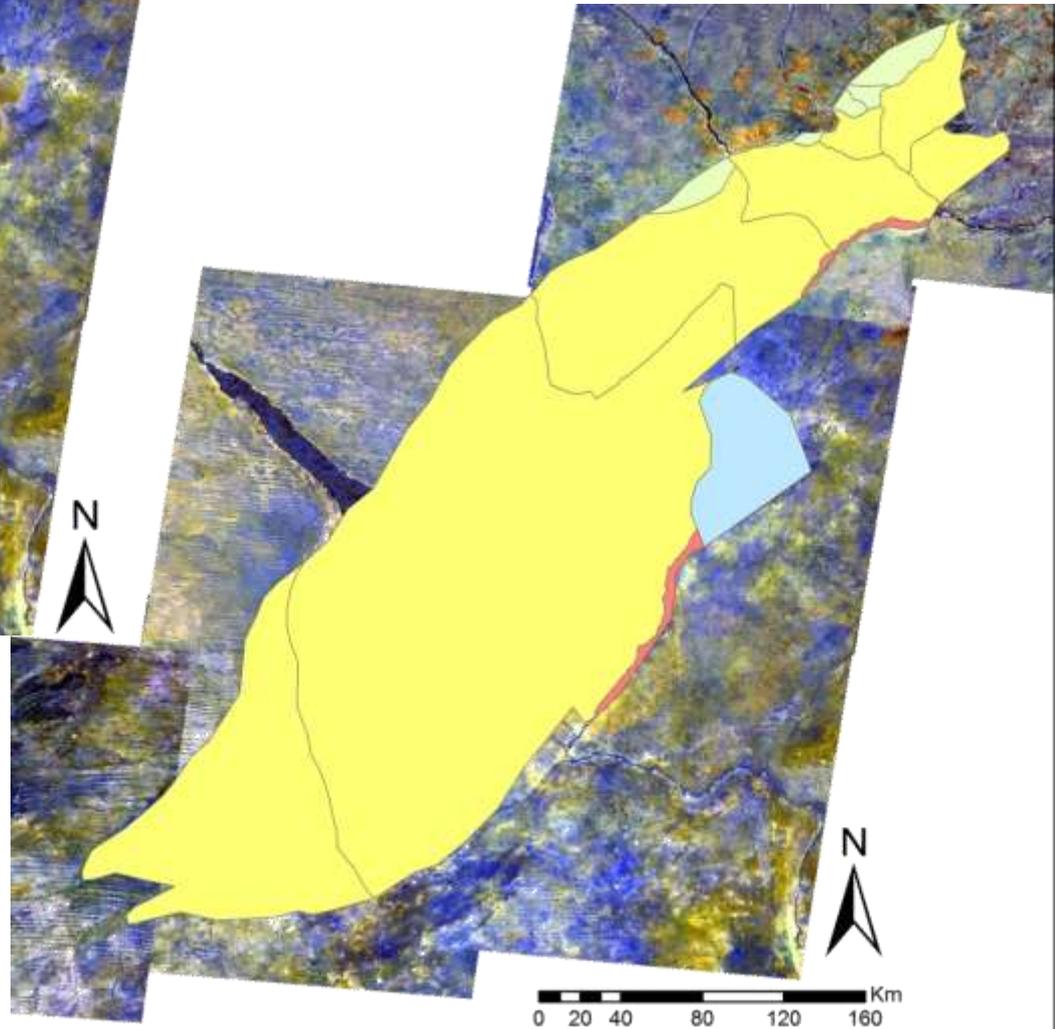
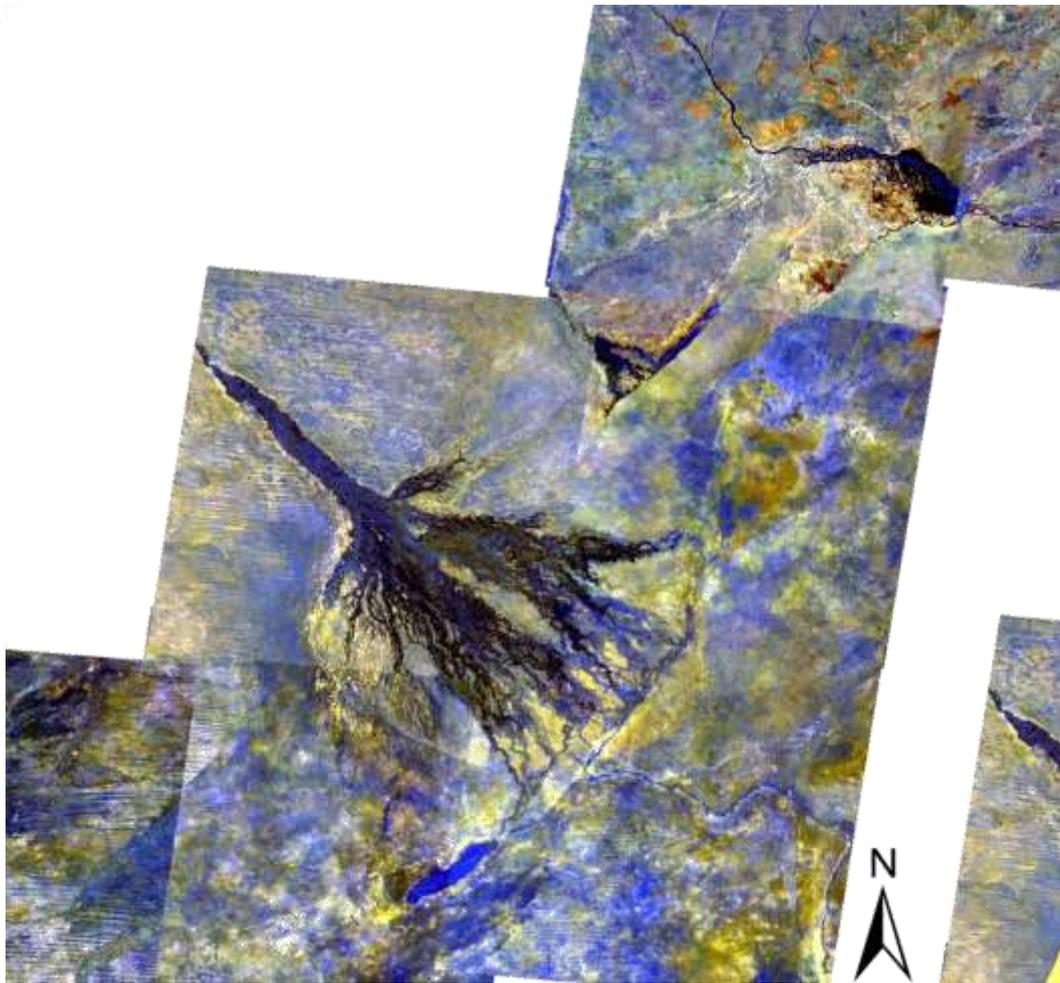
Alaska Range Foreland Basin



Legend

- Large DFS
- Bajada and Smaller DFS
- Axial and interfan tributary

Okavango Rift



Percent Area Covered by Geomorphic Elements

Basin / Geomorphic Element	Himalayan Foreland	Andean Foreland (Chaco)	Andean Foreland (<250km)	Alaska Range Foreland	Okavango Rift
Megafans	24.7	89.60	85.80	81.08	92.35
Smaller Fans	0.7	0.94	2.13	2.15	0.23
Piedmont / Bajadas	22.3	7.45	11.87	11.20	1.94
Abandoned megafan surfaces	33.9	--	--	--	--
Incised Valleys into fans	11.2	--	--	--	--
Axial Rivers	6.6	1.84	--	4.38	0.93
Interfan tributary	0.6	0.17	0.20	1.19	--
Lakes/other	---	--	--		4.55
Total Distributive	92.8	97.99	99.80	94.43	94.52
Total Tributive	7.2	2.01	0.20	5.57	0.93

A false-color satellite image of a river delta, likely the Ganges-Brahmaputra delta. The image shows a complex network of water channels and land areas. The colors are non-natural, with reds, blues, and greens used to distinguish different features. A prominent white, fan-shaped area is visible in the upper center, possibly representing a large reservoir or a specific land use. The text "Questions So Far?" is overlaid in a bold, yellow font across the middle of the image.

Questions So Far?

Does this matter???

Distinguishing Characteristics of DFS



Mendoza



Rio Tunuyán DFS, Argentina

0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers

Rivers on DFS are not the same as those in tributary systems

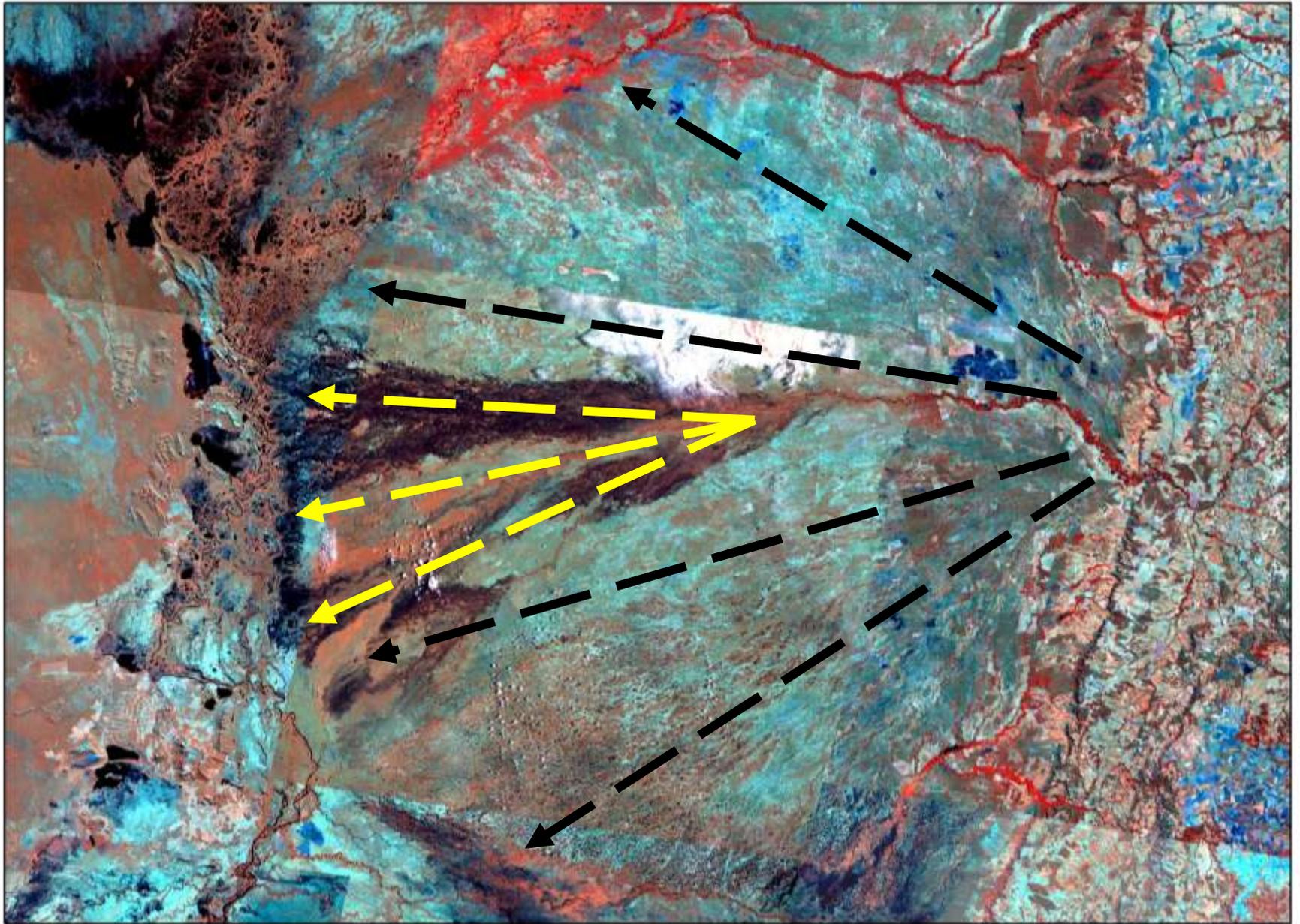
(Nichols and Fisher 2007; Weissmann et al. 2010, 2011, 2013; Hartley et al. 2010, 2013):

1. Radial pattern of channels from apex;
2. Channel size commonly decreases downstream;
3. Floodplain deposits avulsion dominated;
4. Greater floodplain deposit preservation;
5. Predictable facies distribution patterns;
6. Predictable progradational pattern

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Pantanal Basin, Brazil (Taquari River DFS)

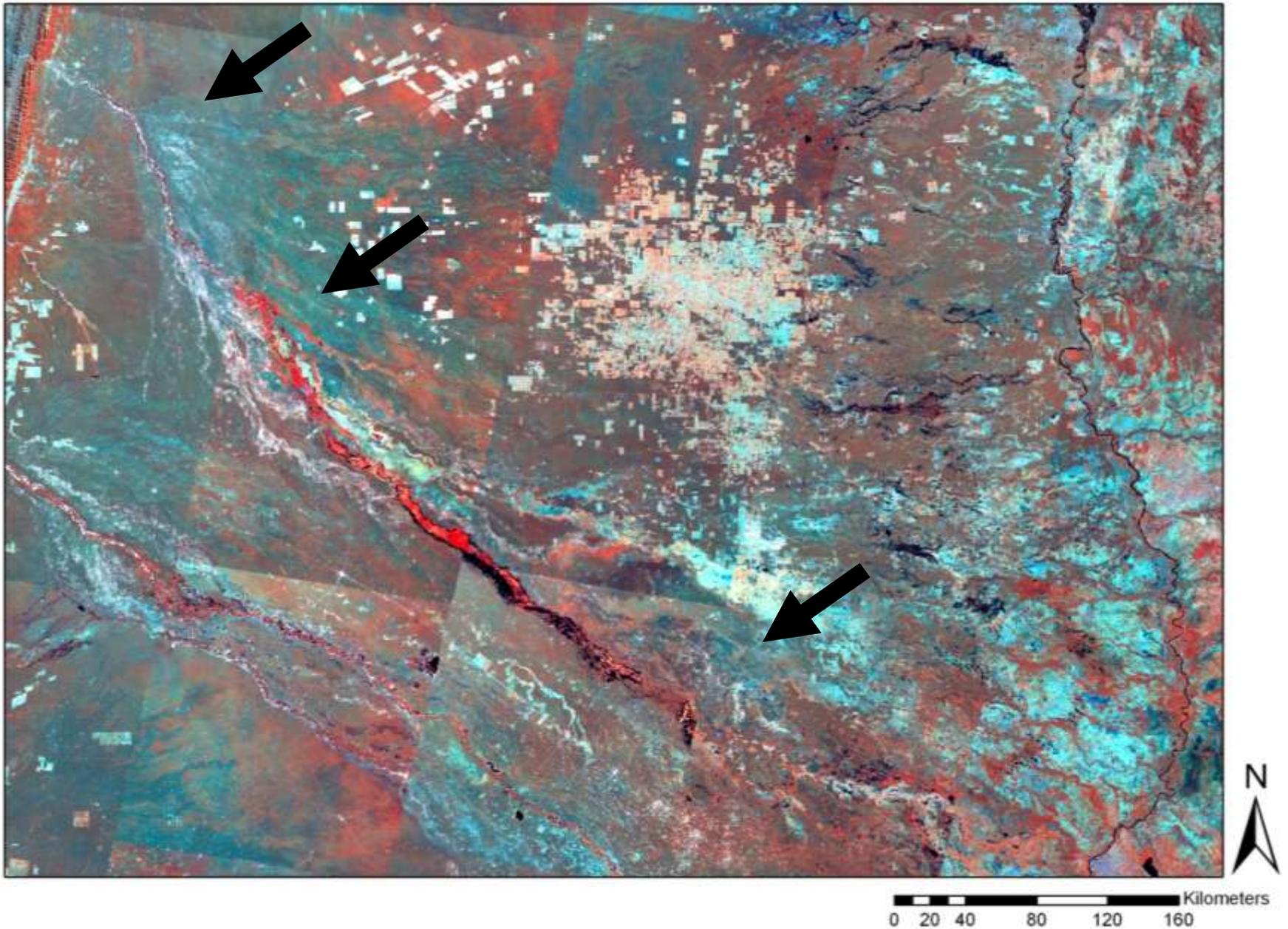
0 15 30 60 90 120 Kilometers

Rivers on DFS are not the same as those in tributary systems

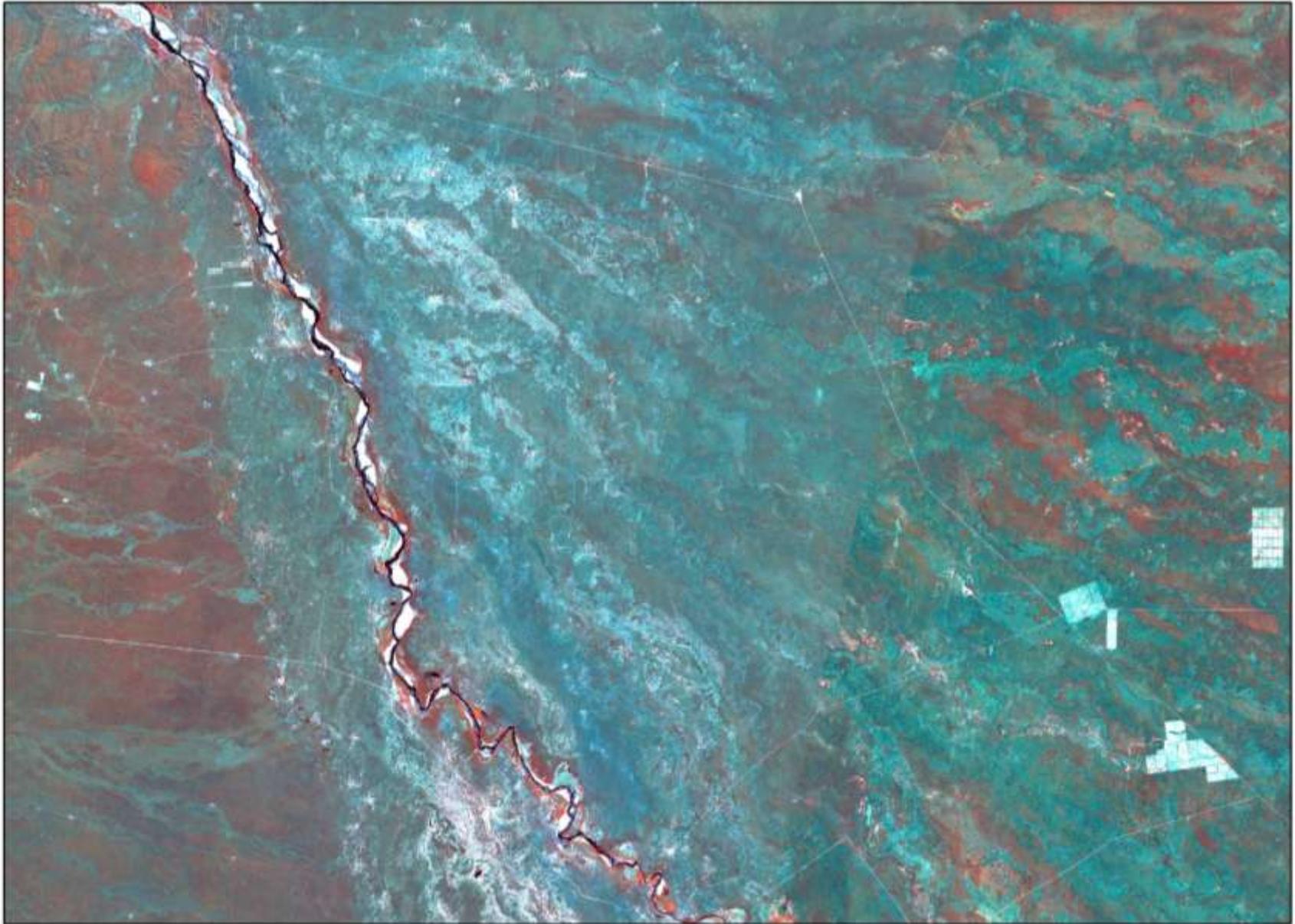
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Pilcomayo DFS, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay



Pilcomayo River, near the apex



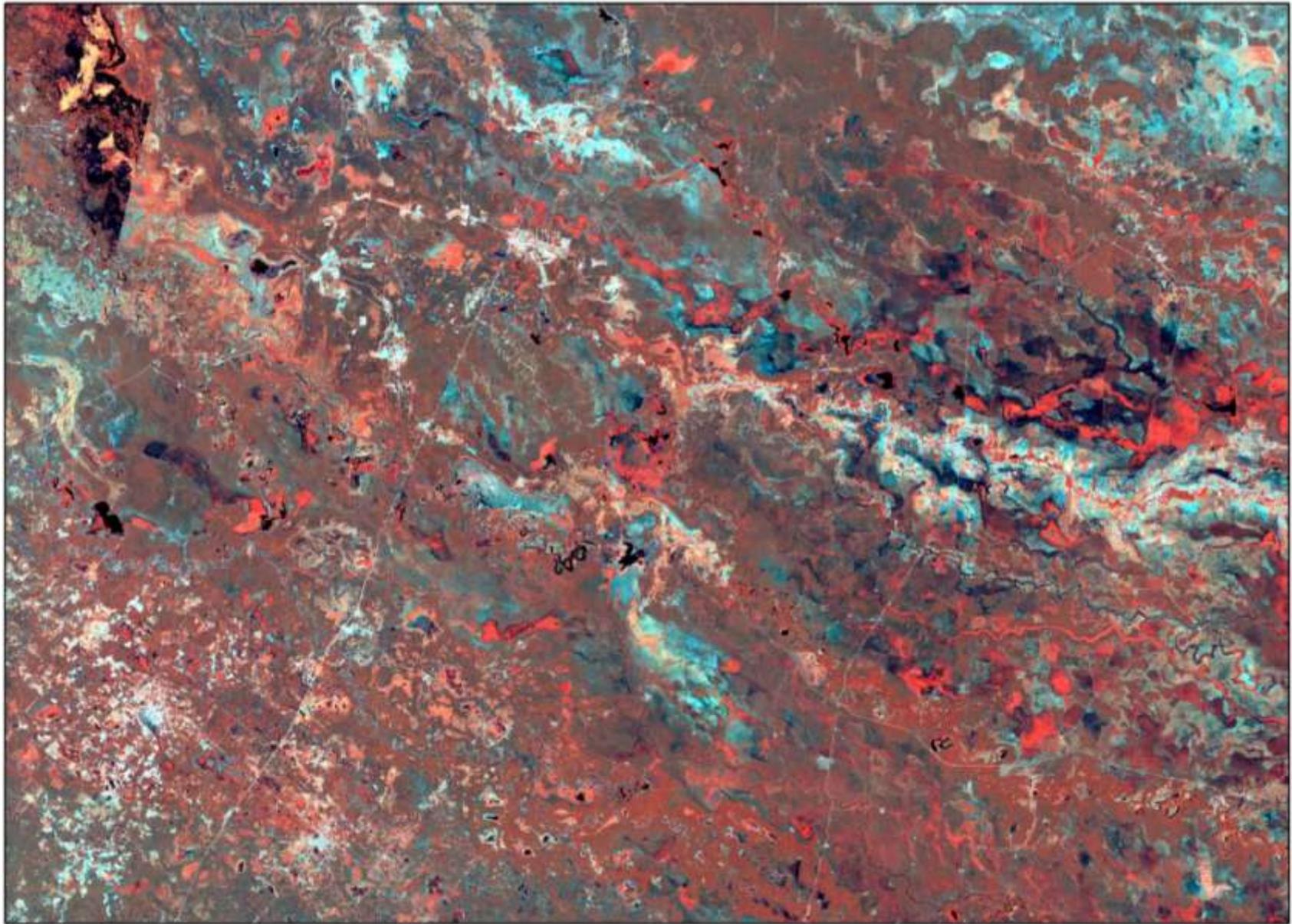
0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers

Pilcomayo River, medial



0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers

Pilcomayo River, distal



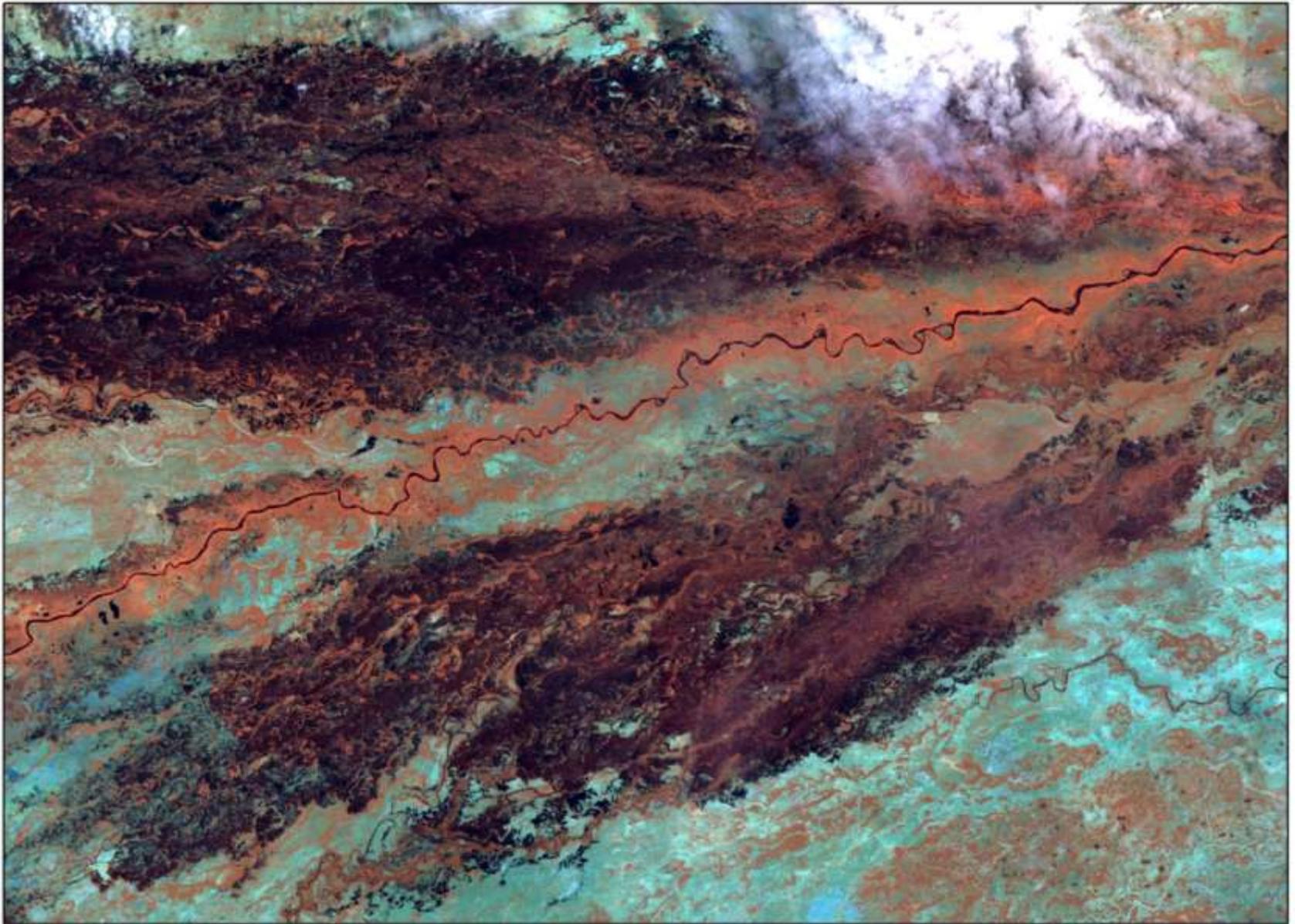
0 5 10 20 30 40 Kilometers



Rivers on DFS are not the same as those in tributary systems

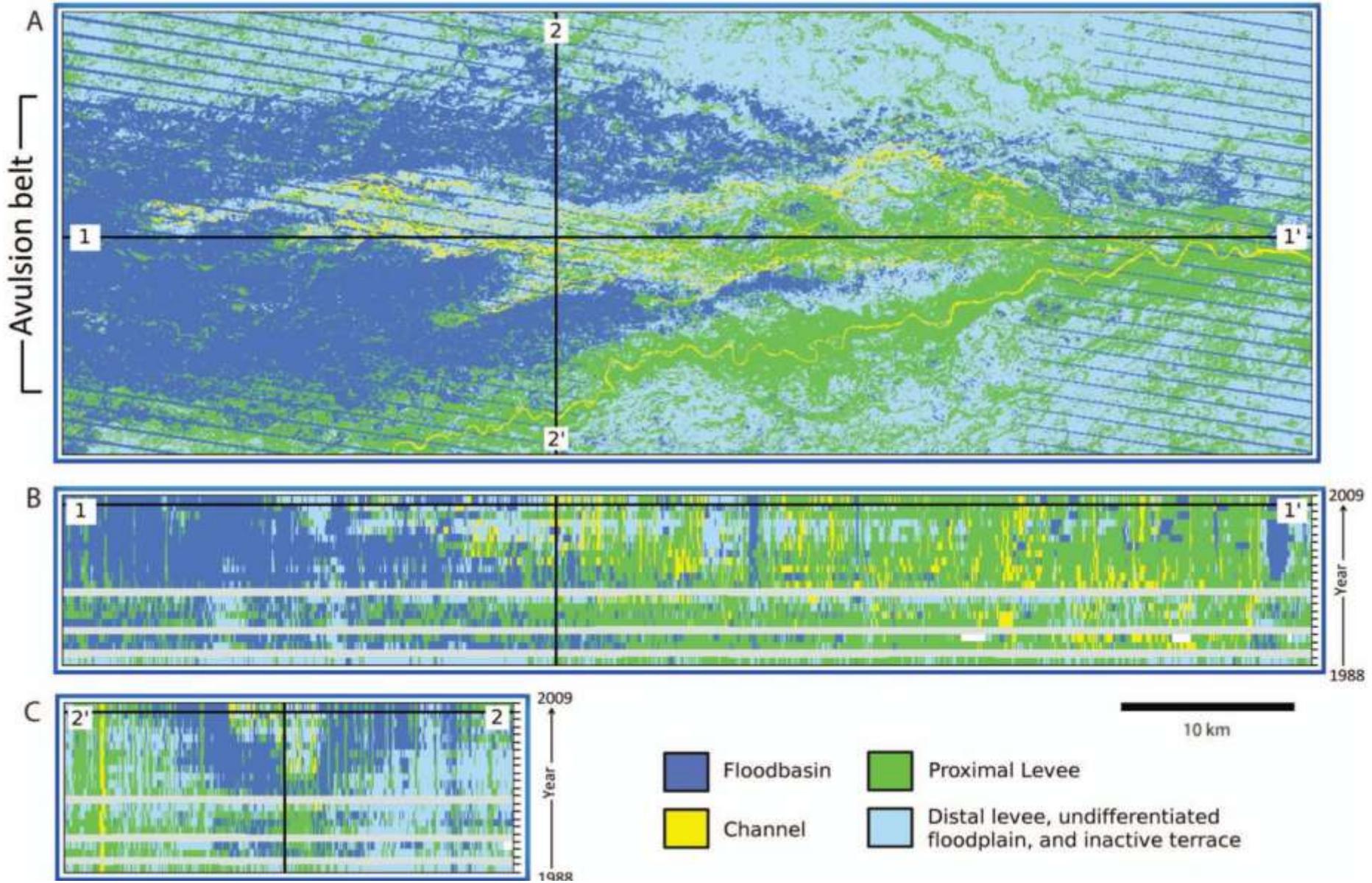
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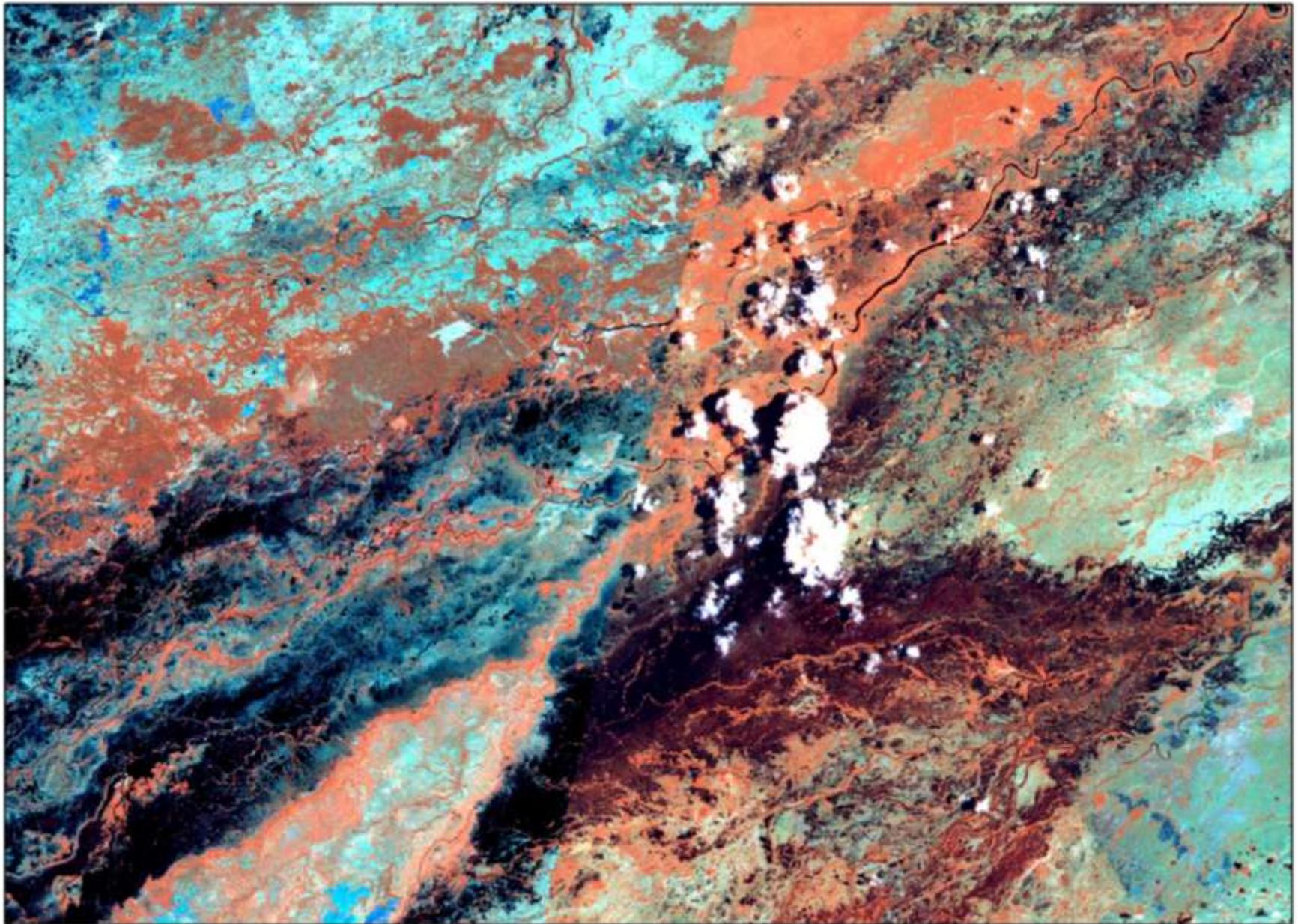
Pantanal Basin, Brazil (Taquari River DFS)

Buehler et al 2011 (movies on YouTube)



Pantanal Basin, Brazil (Taquari River DFS)

Buehler et al 2011 (movies on YouTube)



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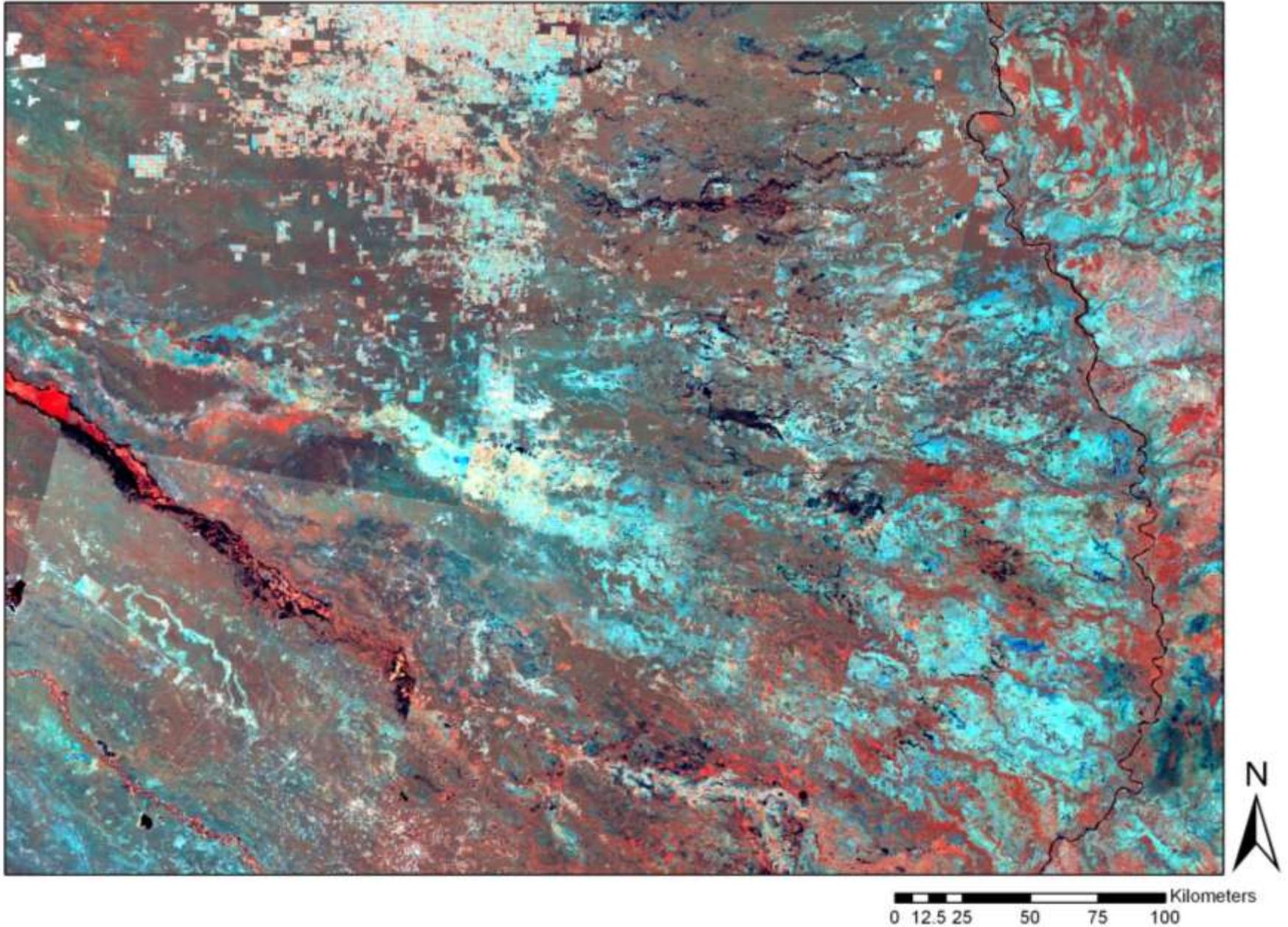
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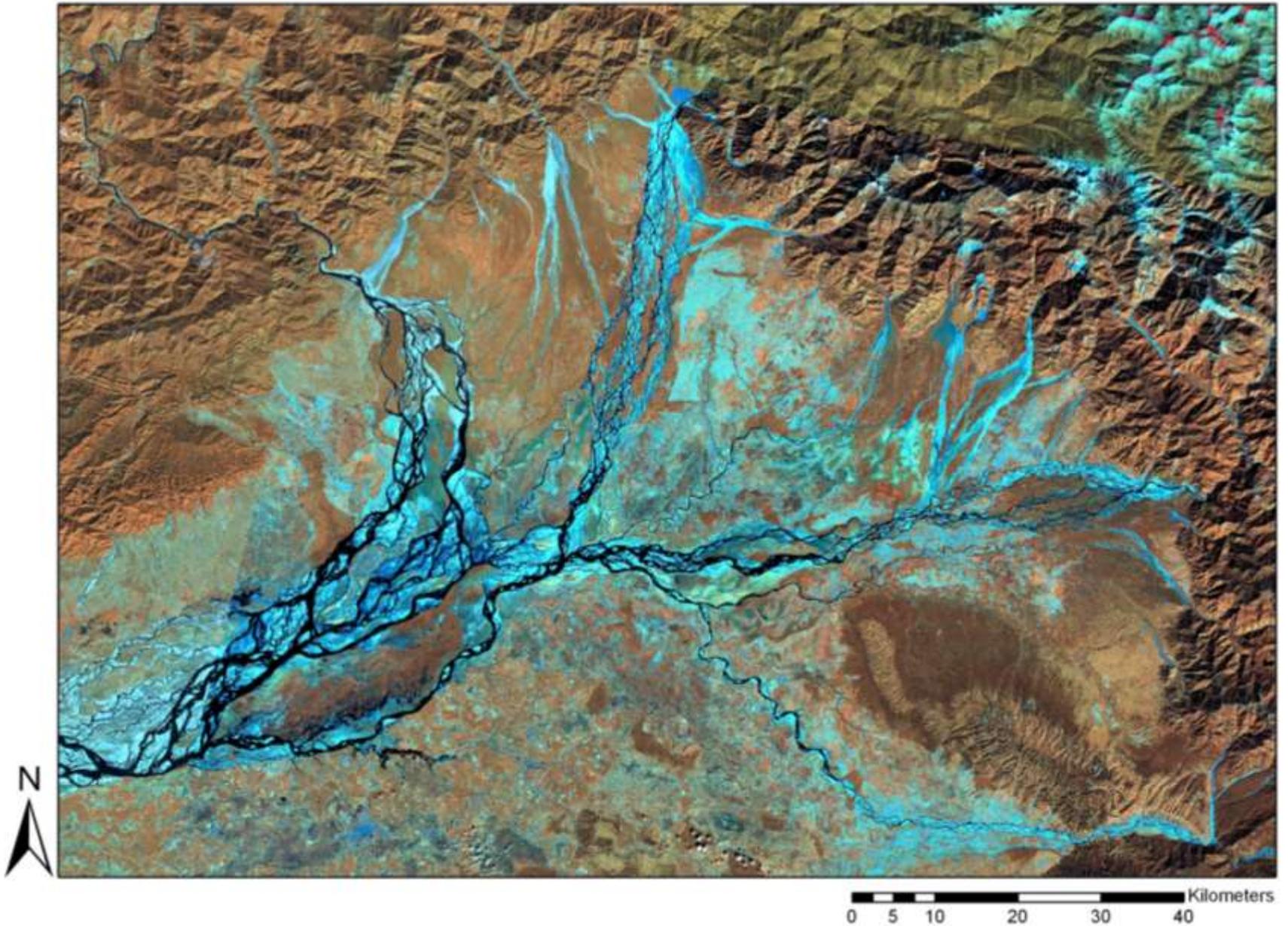
5. Predictable facies distribution patterns;
6. Predictable progradational pattern



Distal Pilcomayo DFS, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay



Floodplain preservation along braided rivers



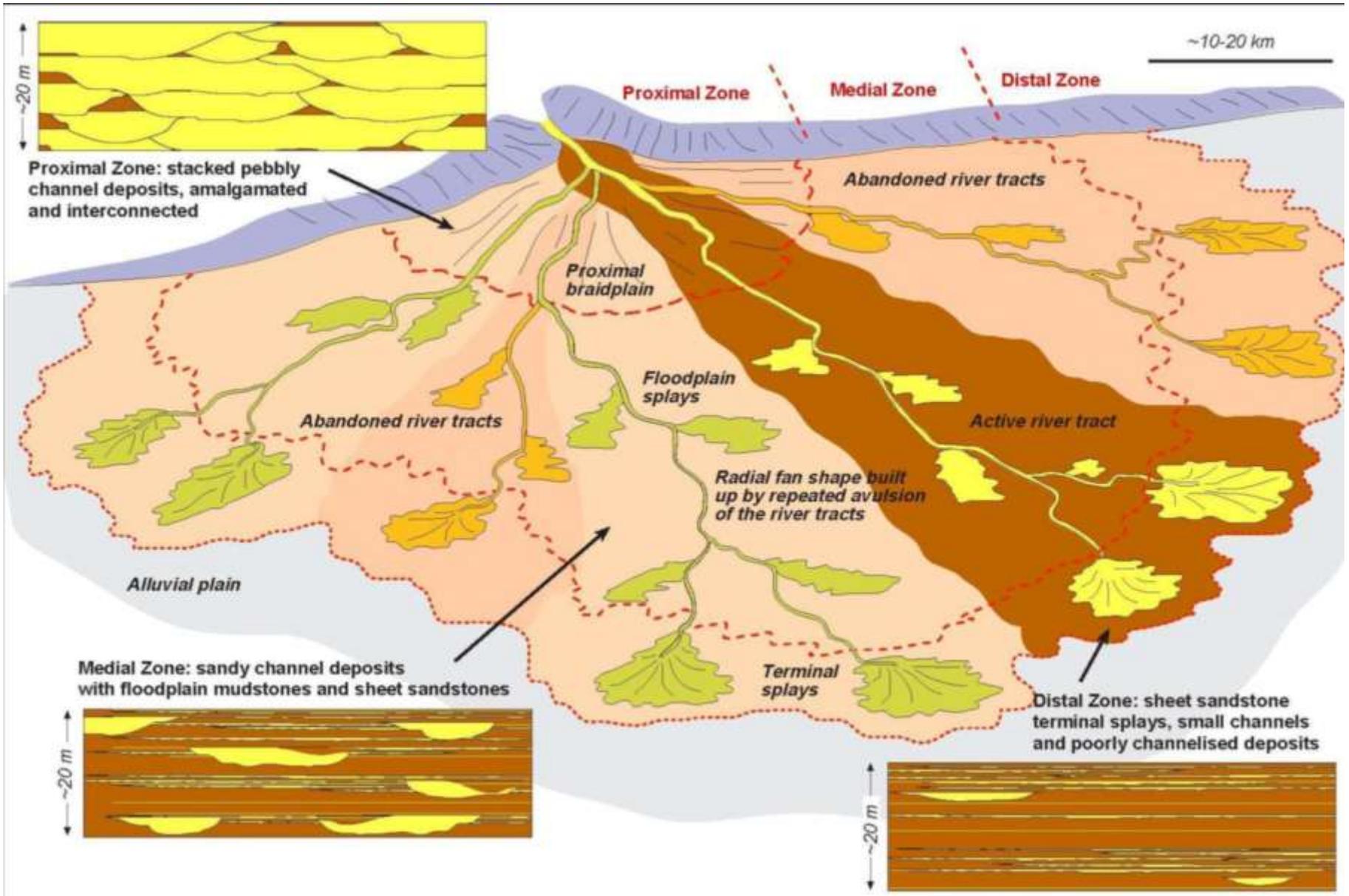
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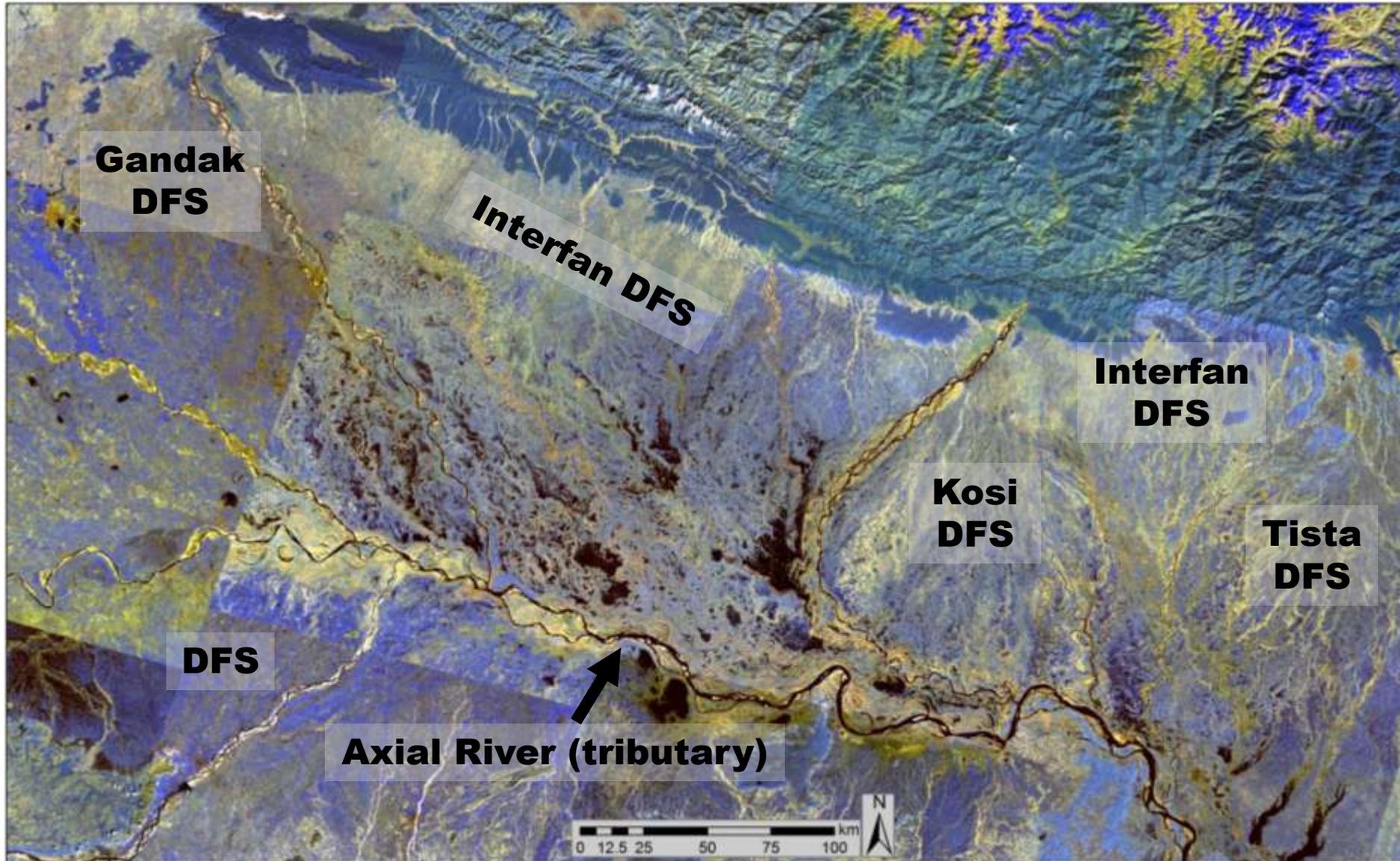
6. Predictable progradational pattern



Nichols and Fisher (2007)

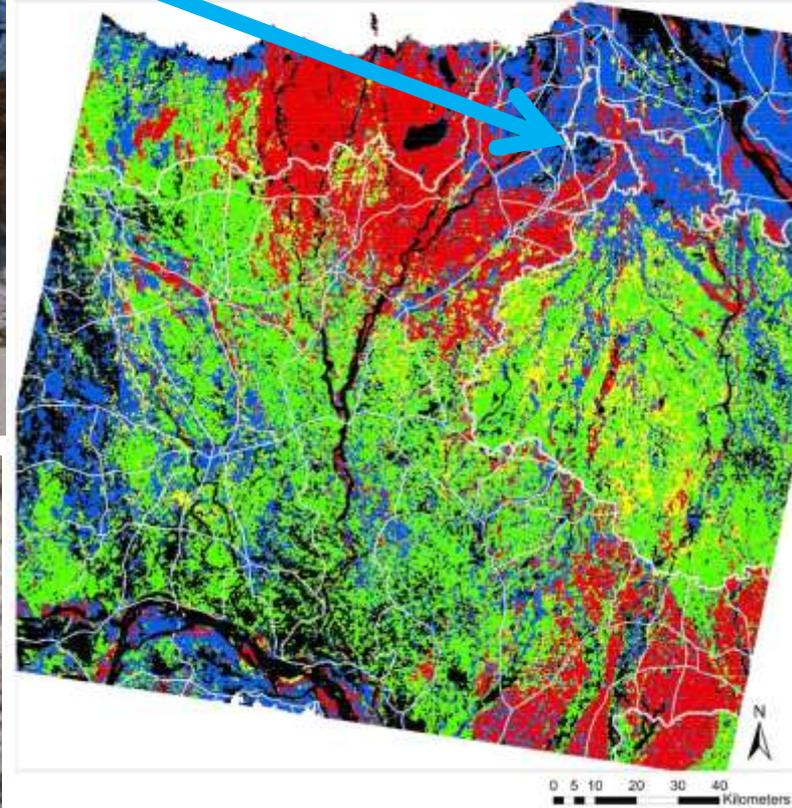
Himalayan Foreland Basin Variability

Tista / Kosi Field Evaluation





Tista DFS and Surrounding Areas
Maximum Likelihood Analysis with Major Roads

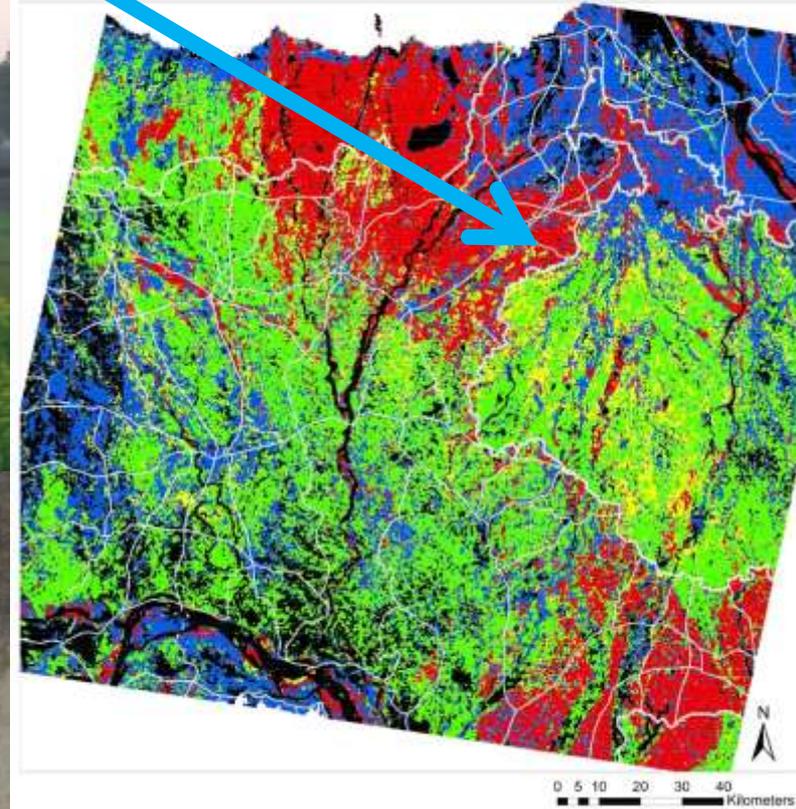


Medial Tista DFS.

- Sandy (medium).
- Low angle cross beds dominate succession, some trough fill.
- Well drained soils cap succession



Tista DFS and Surrounding Areas
Maximum Likelihood Analysis with Major Roads

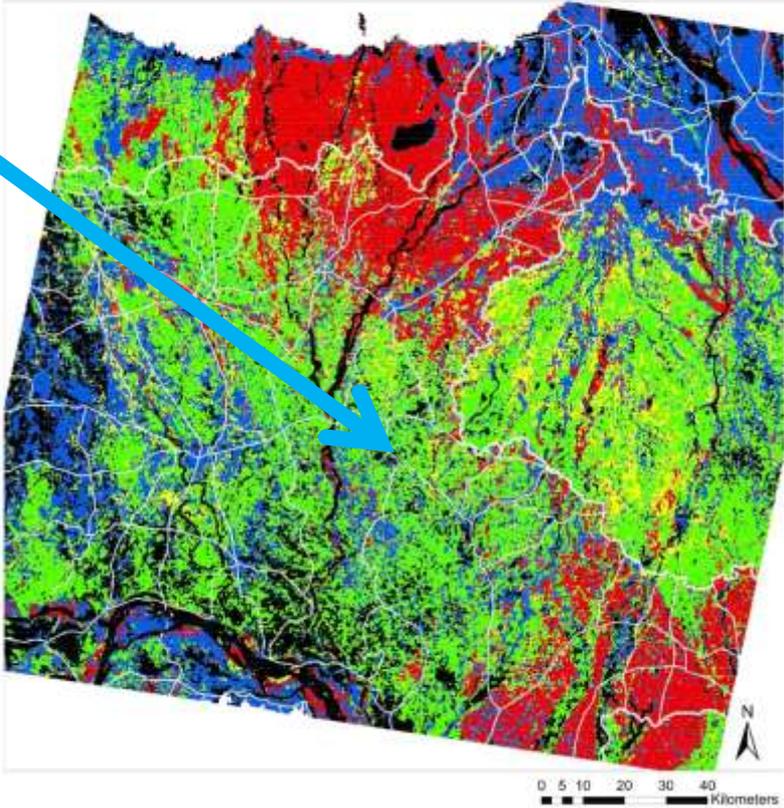


Medial Tista DFS.

- Sandy (medium).
- Low angle cross beds dominate succession, some trough fill.
- Well drained, thick soil caps succession.



Tista DFS and Surrounding Areas
Maximum Likelihood Analysis with Major Roads



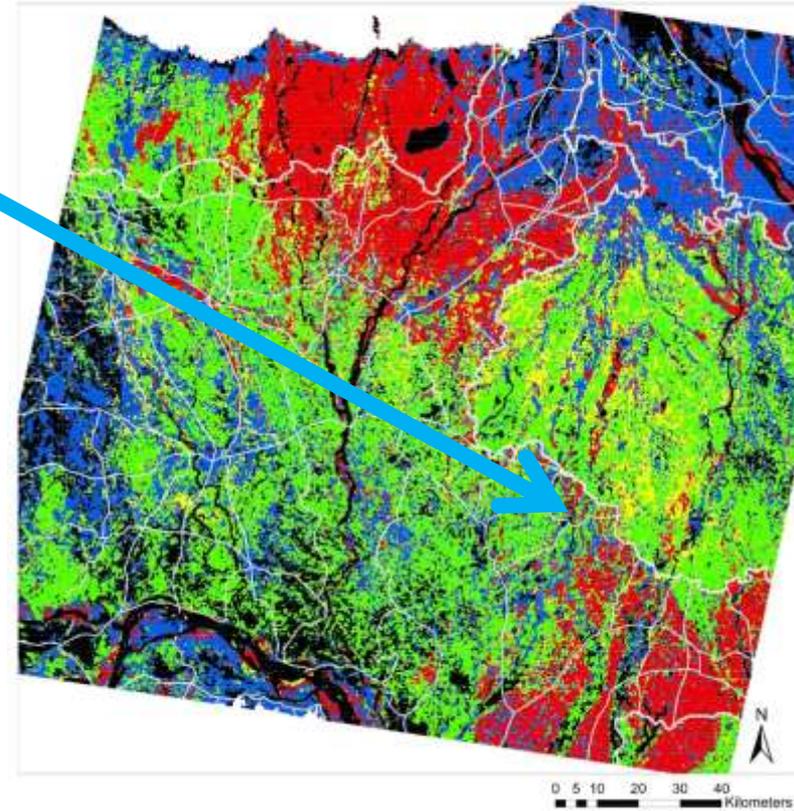
Medial/distal Tista DFS.

- Sandy and silty (fine-medium).
- Moderately drained soil caps succession.
- Mottling common, indicating wetting and drying cycles.





Tista DFS and Surrounding Areas
Maximum Likelihood Analysis with Major Roads



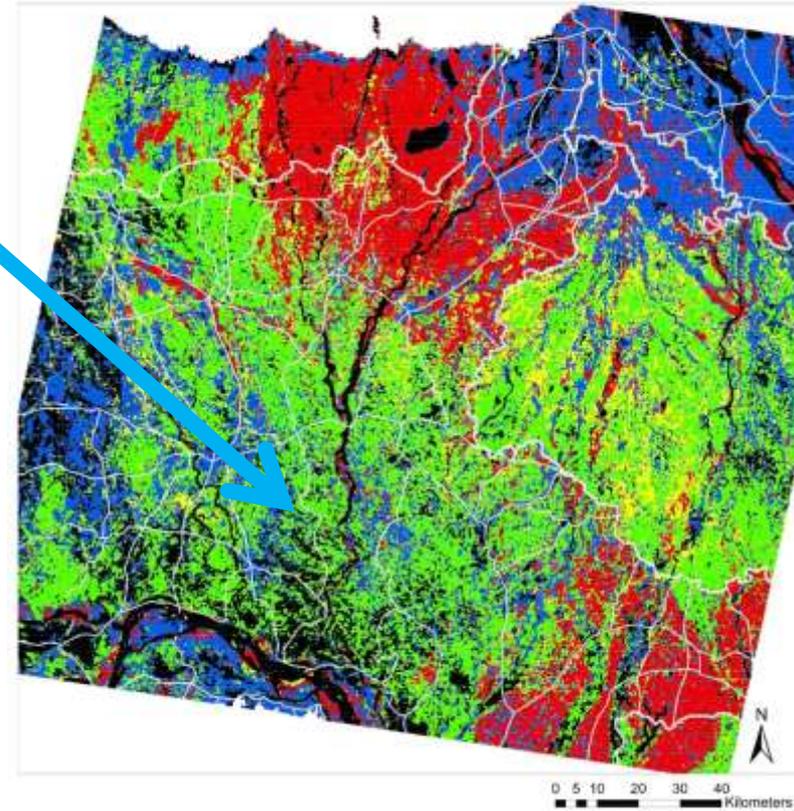
Distal Tista DFS.

- Silty and clay-rich.
- Sandy channels (medium sand)
- Moderately drained soils.
Mottled, but generally gray color.





Tista DFS and Surrounding Areas
Maximum Likelihood Analysis with Major Roads



Distal Kosi DFS

- Poorly drained soils – water table lies 1-2 m below surface, depending on time of year.
- Clay-rich, mottled, root halos, crawfish burrows



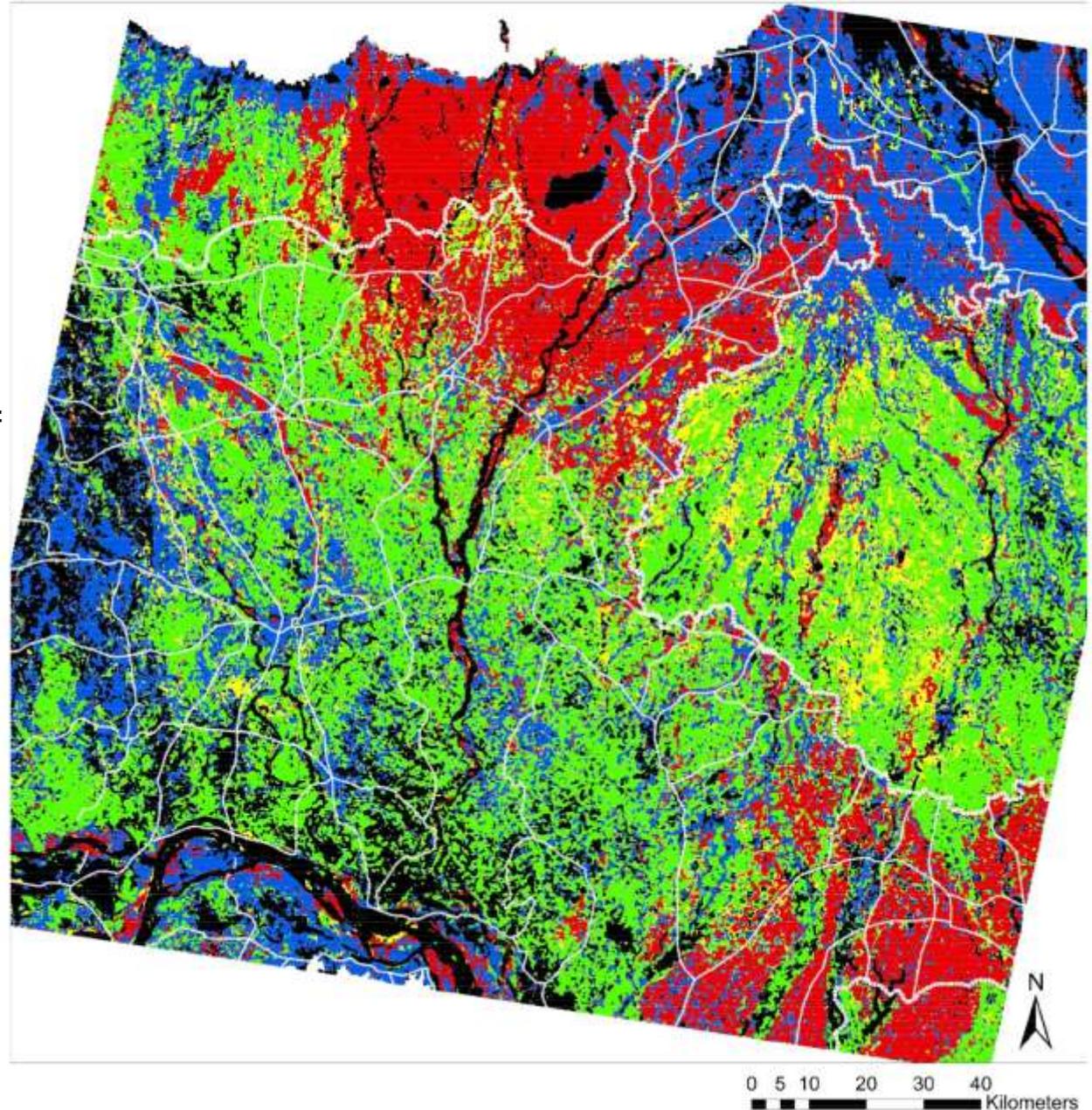


Tista DFS and Surrounding Areas

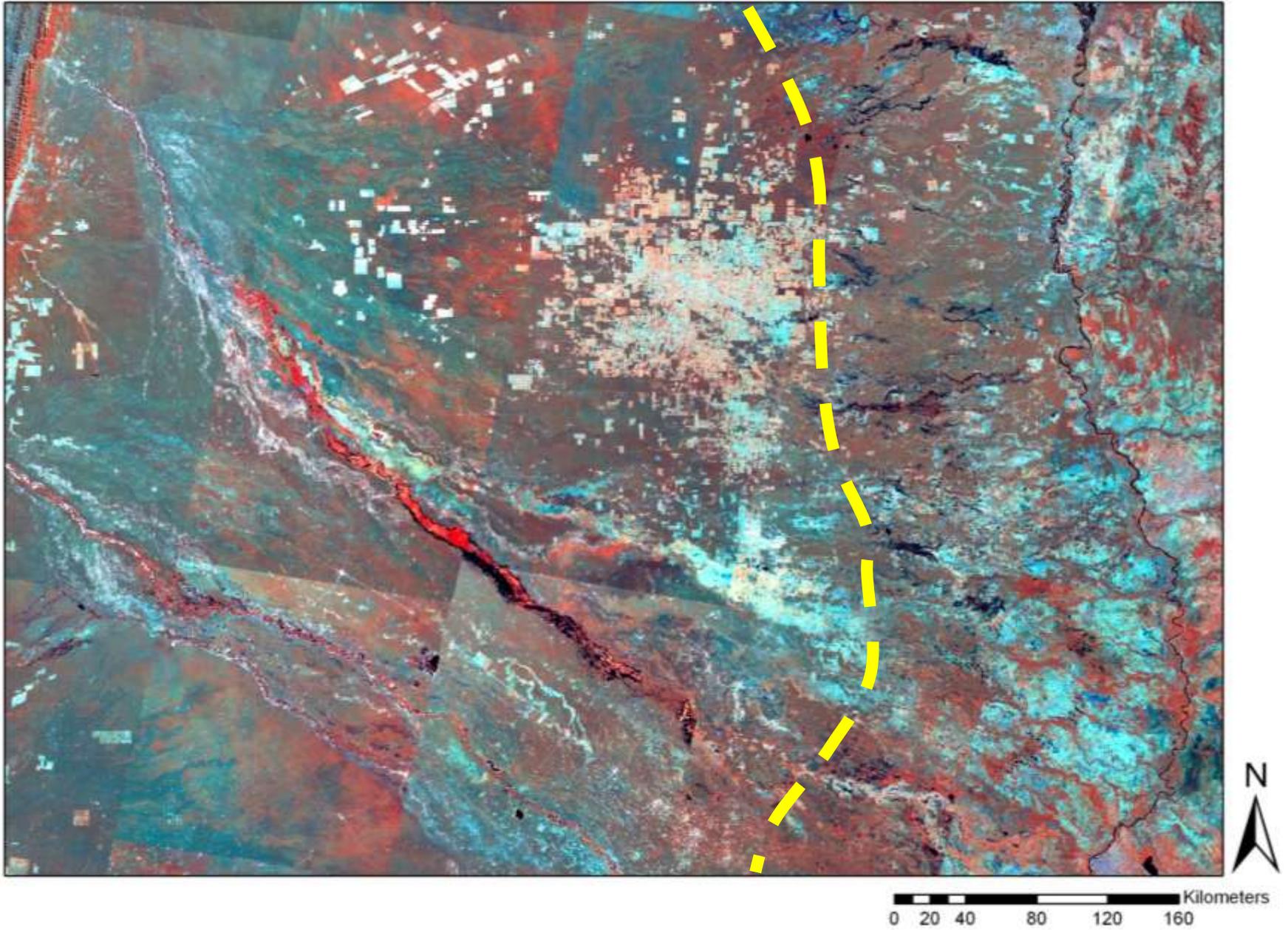
Maximum Likelihood Analysis with Major Roads

Analysis on Tista DFS Imagery

- Shows indications of soil moisture
- Gleyed soils more common distally; well-drained soils more common near apex areas

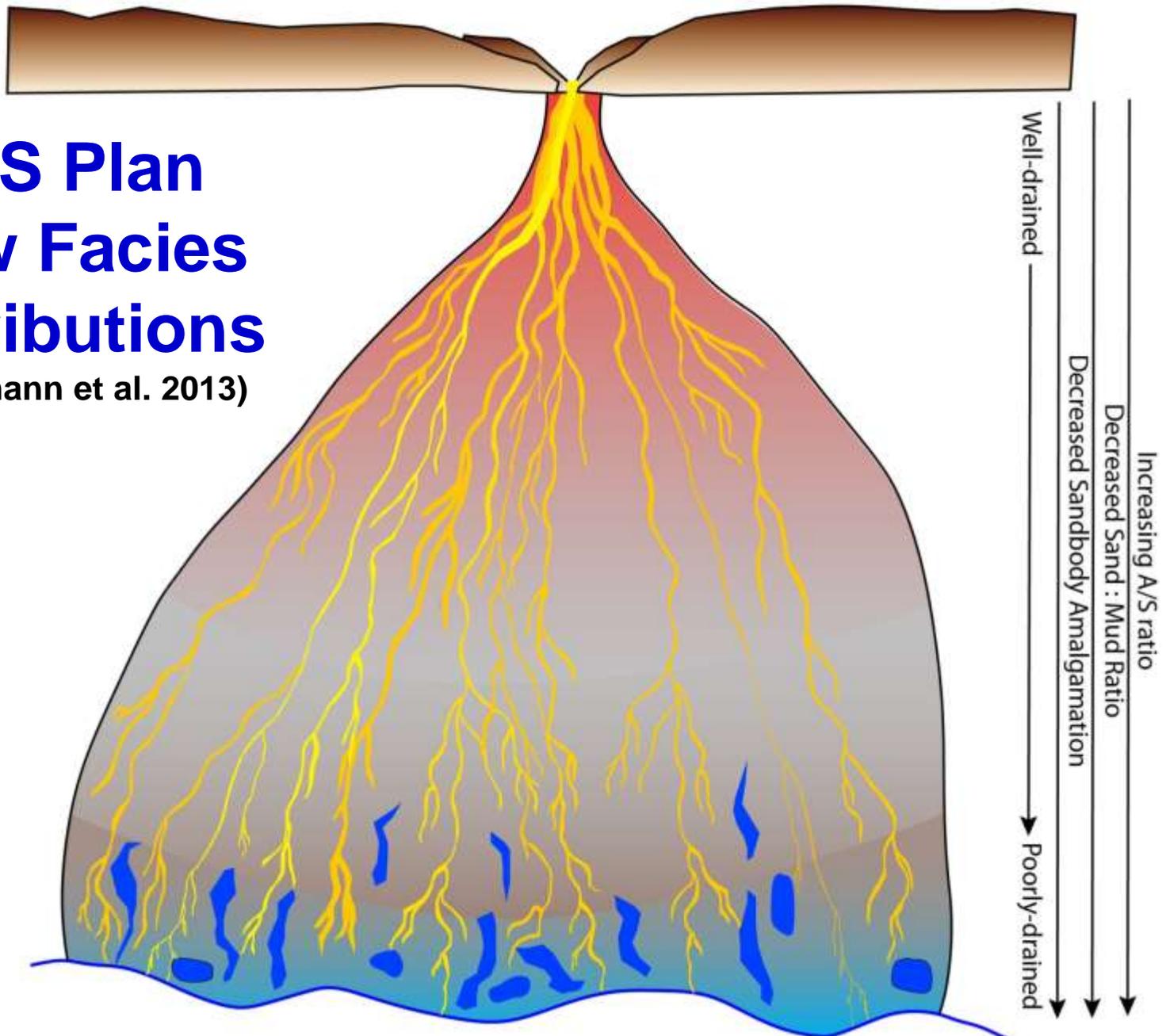


Pilcomayo DFS, Argentina, Bolivia, Paraguay



DFS Plan View Facies Distributions

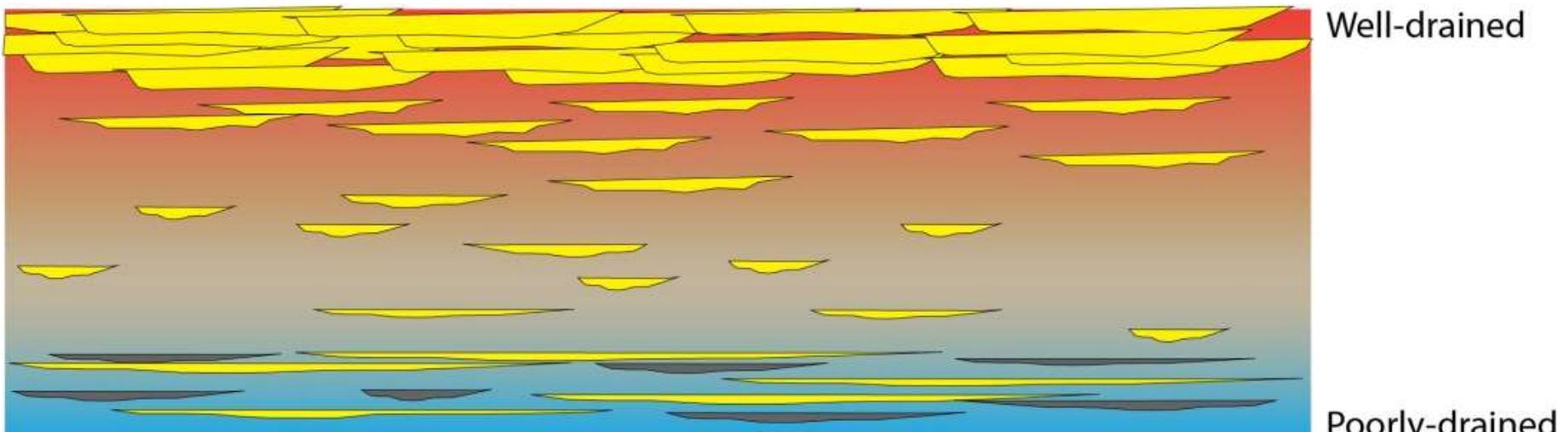
(Weissmann et al. 2013)



Active channelbelt in yellow; abandoned channelbelts in orange; wetland/lacustrine in blue.

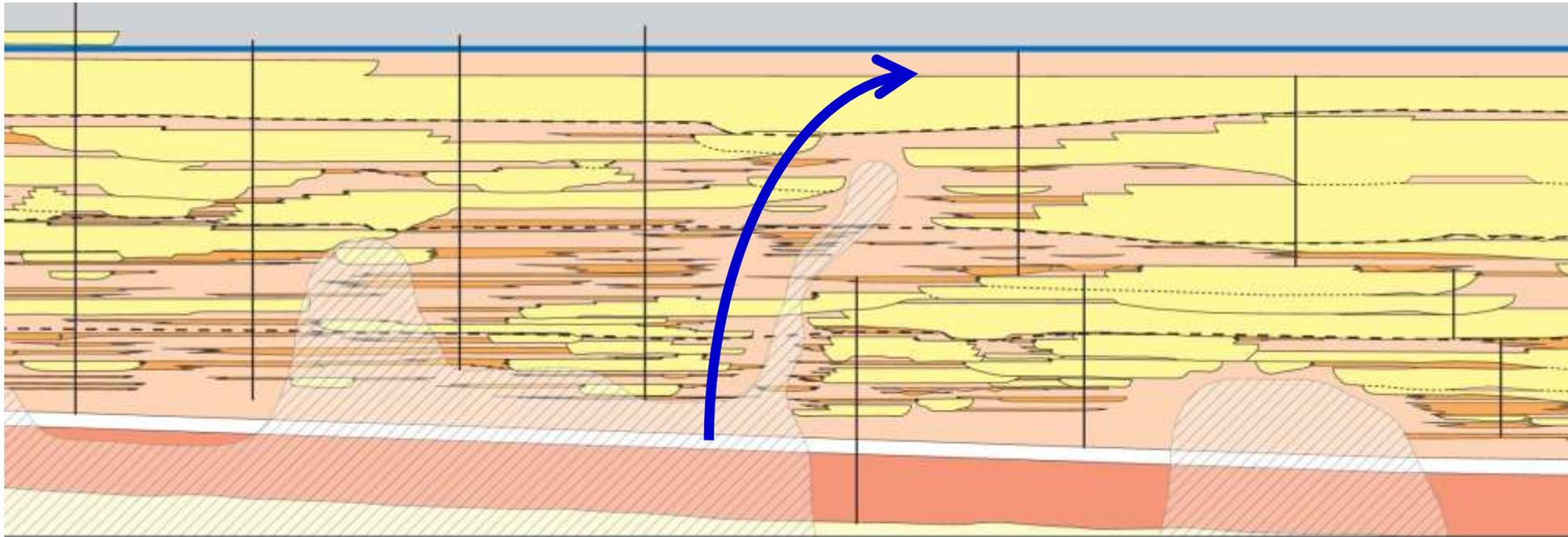
Schematic Vertical Section from DFS Progradation

(Weissmann et al. 2013)



Sandstones in yellow; wetland/lacustrine in dark gray; No vertical scale inferred.

Possible Progradational Succession Morrison Formation, Utah

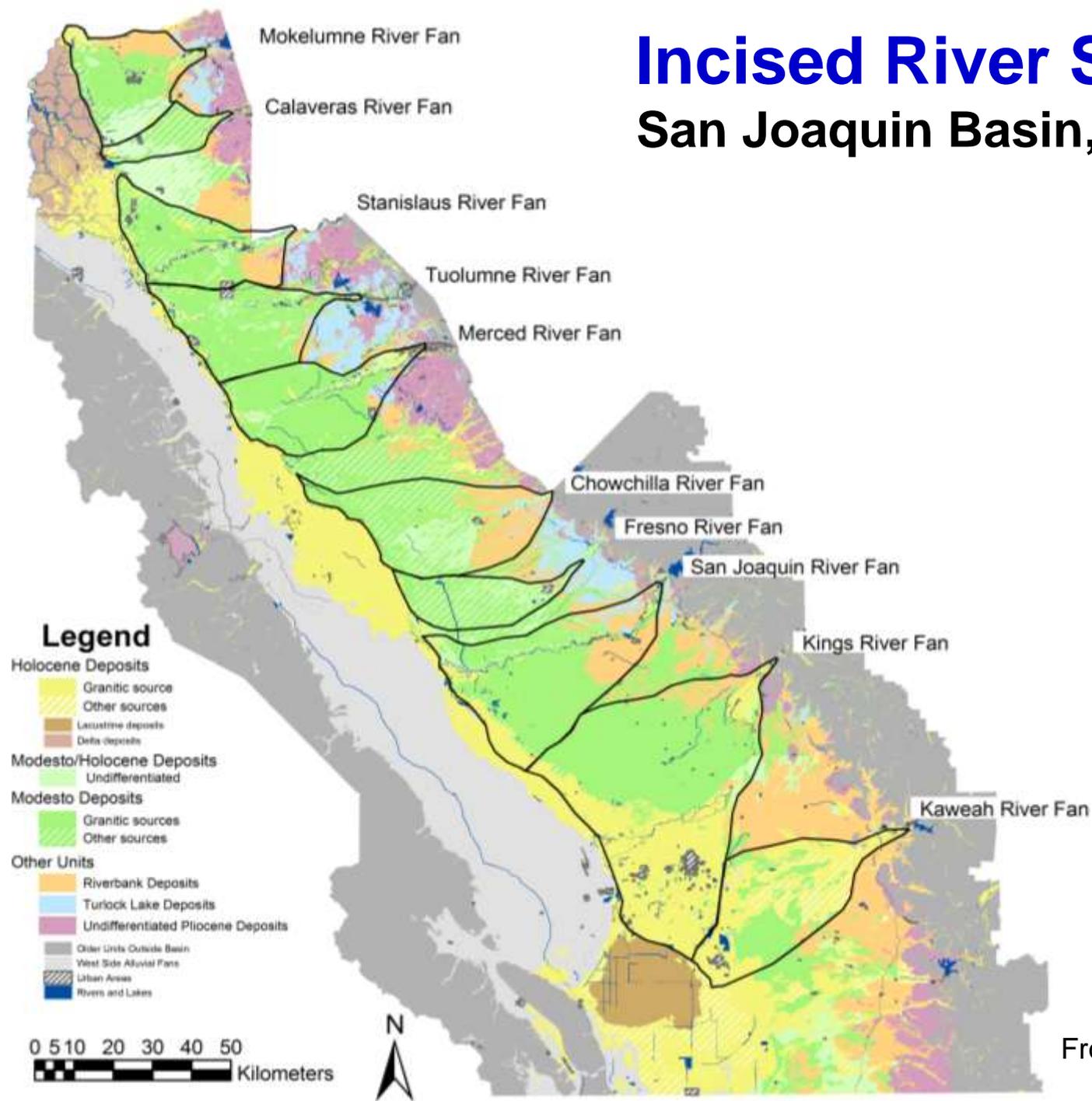


From Kjemperud et al 2008



More Questions?

Incised River Systems San Joaquin Basin, California

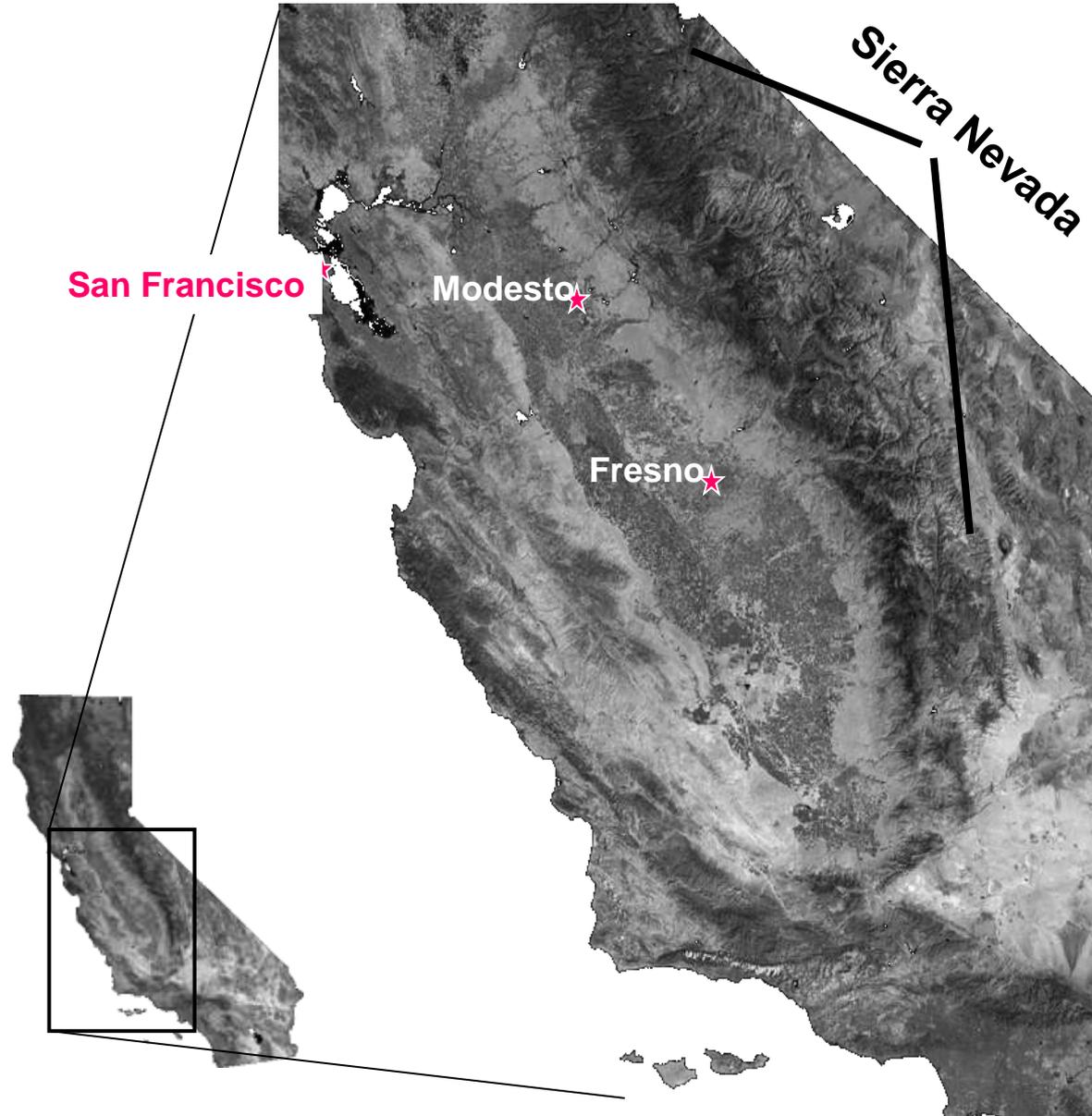


From Weissmann et al 2005

San Joaquin Basin

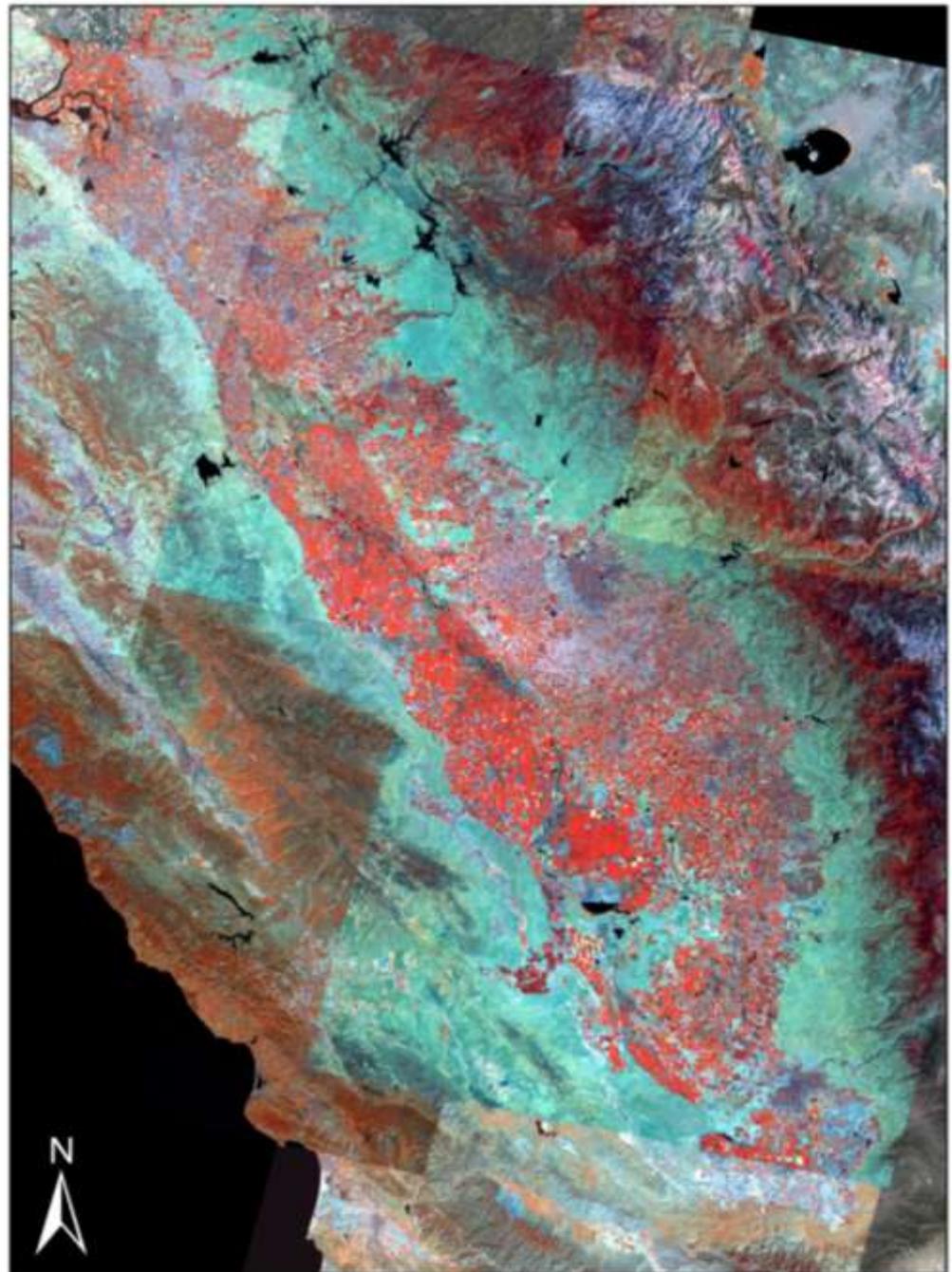
Outline

- Motivation
- Controls on Stratigraphic Evolution
 - Sequence Development
 - Incised valley fills
- Examples and Hydrogeologic Implications
 - Kings River Fan
 - Tuolumne River Fan
 - Chowchilla River Fan



Motivation

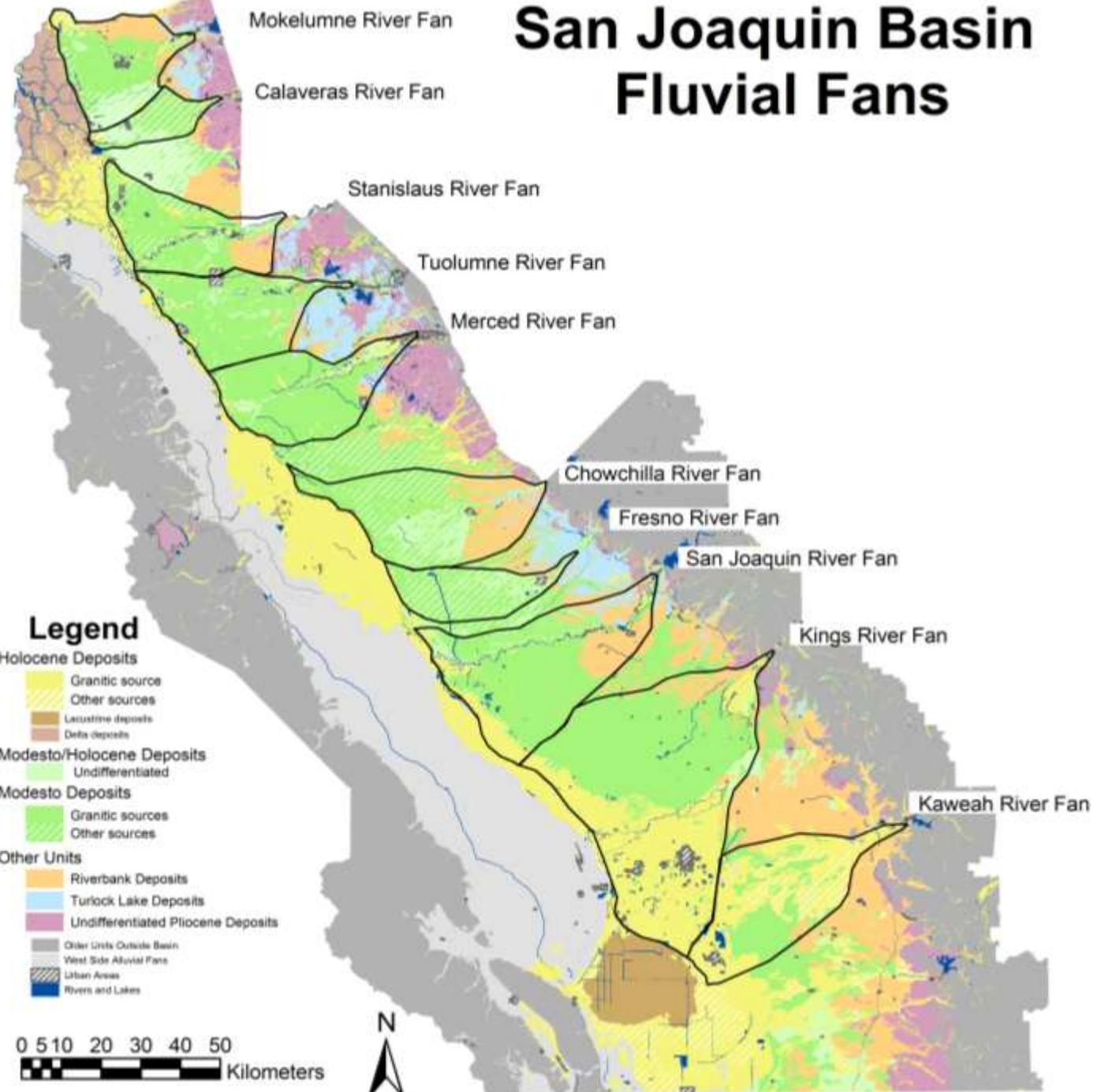
- **California basins excellent models of modern basin depositional systems.**
 - Well studied, a lot of data.
- **Growing population**
 - Increased demand on water resources
 - High potential for contamination (industrial, agricultural)
- **Surface-water storage maximized**
 - No more dams
 - Where can we store water?
- **Heterogeneity and stratigraphy often missing from groundwater studies!**



Decadal Landsat False Color Image

0 12.5 25 50 75 100 Kilometers

San Joaquin Basin Fluvial Fans

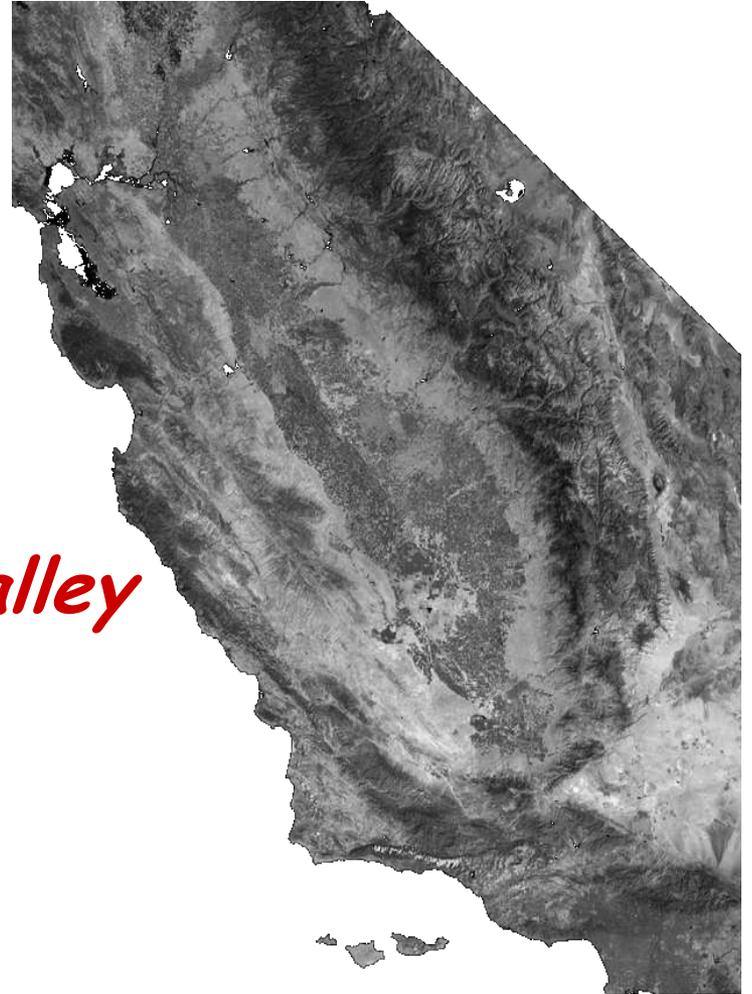


Controls on Stratigraphic Architecture

- ratio of sediment supply to stream discharge
- basin subsidence rate
- local base level change
- basin width

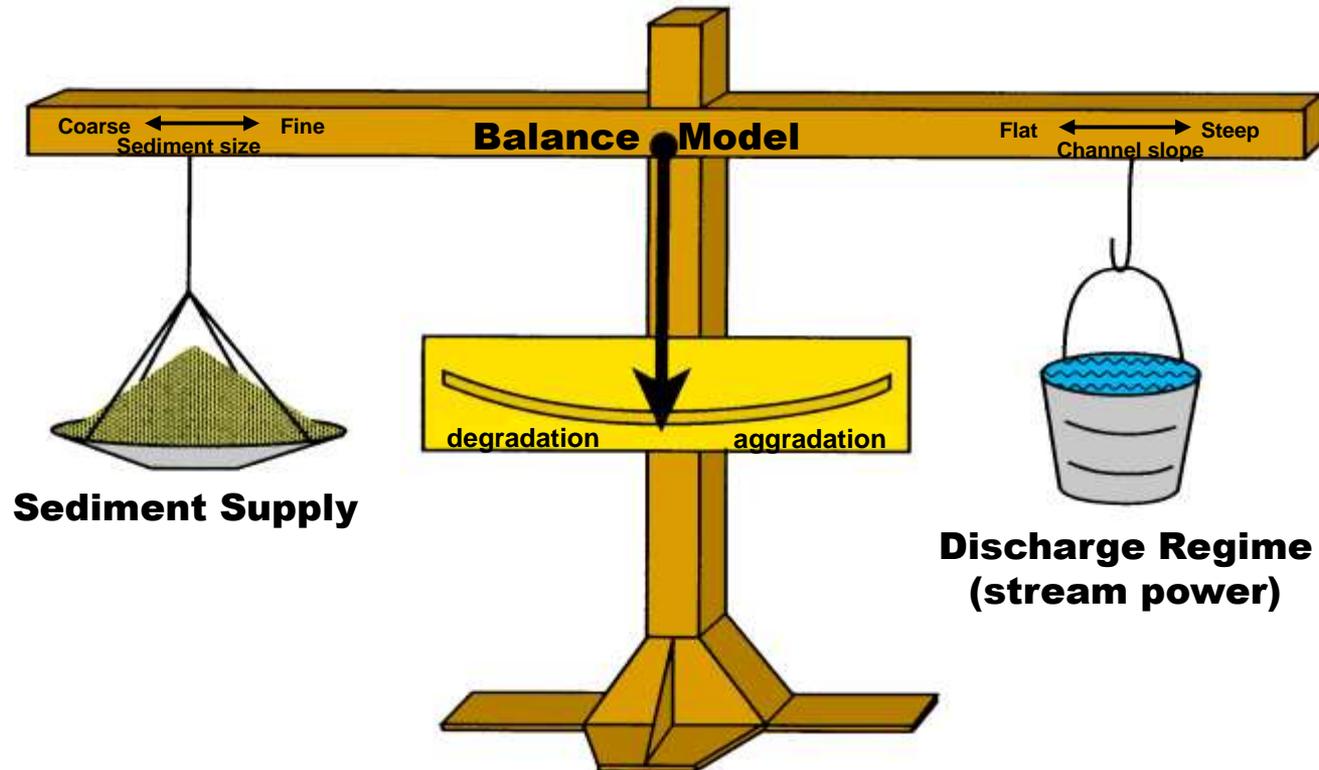
Ultimately, these control:
1. whether an incised valley fill exists;
2. the incised valley fill geometry

From Weissmann et al., 2005

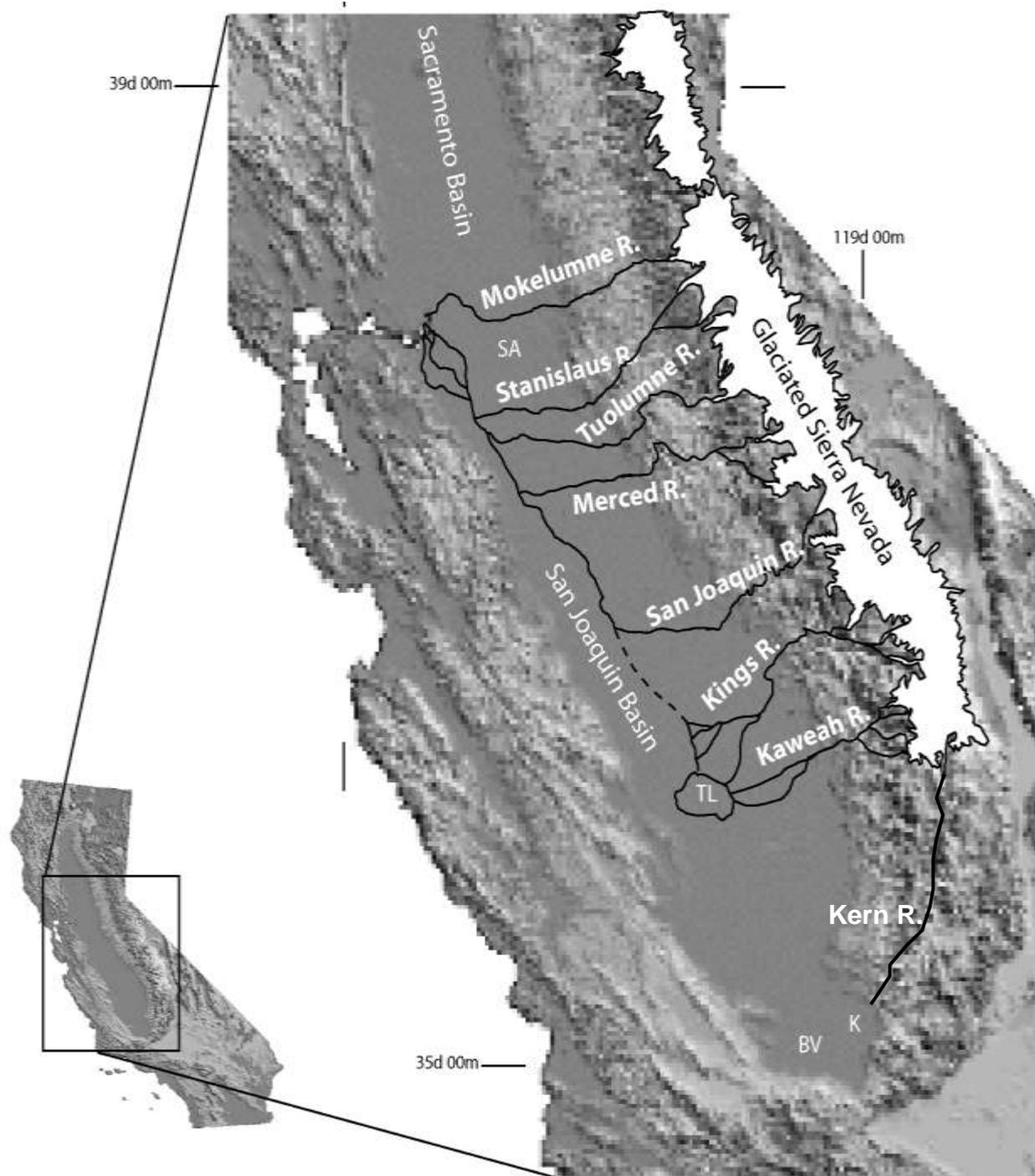


Controls on Stratigraphic Architecture

- ratio of sediment supply to stream discharge

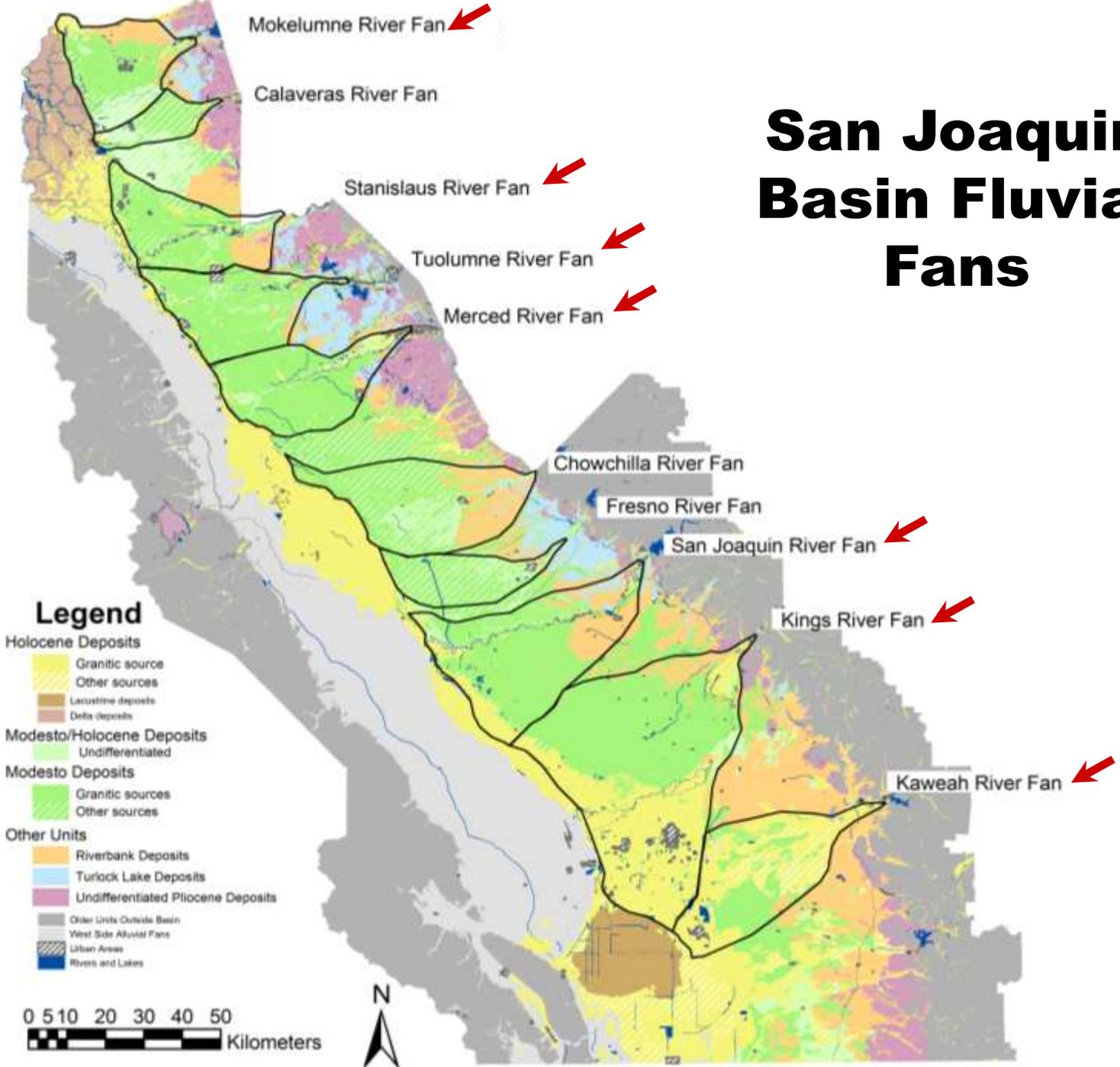


Lane 1955

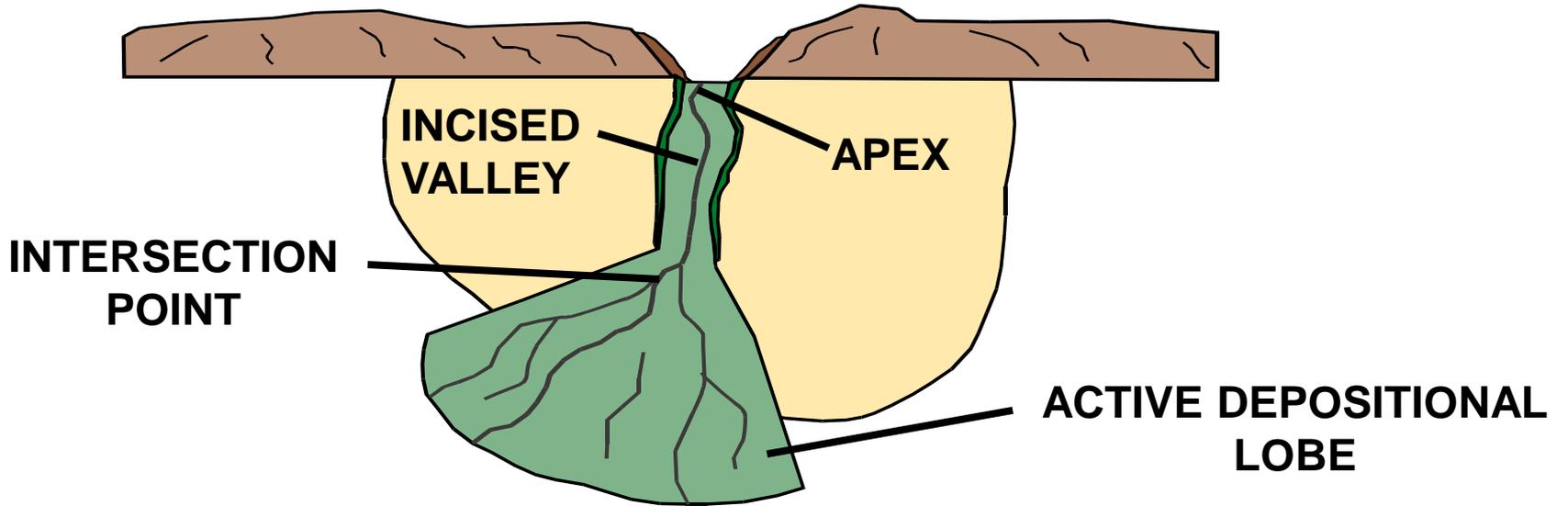


Glacial extent from Wahrhaftig and Birman, 1965

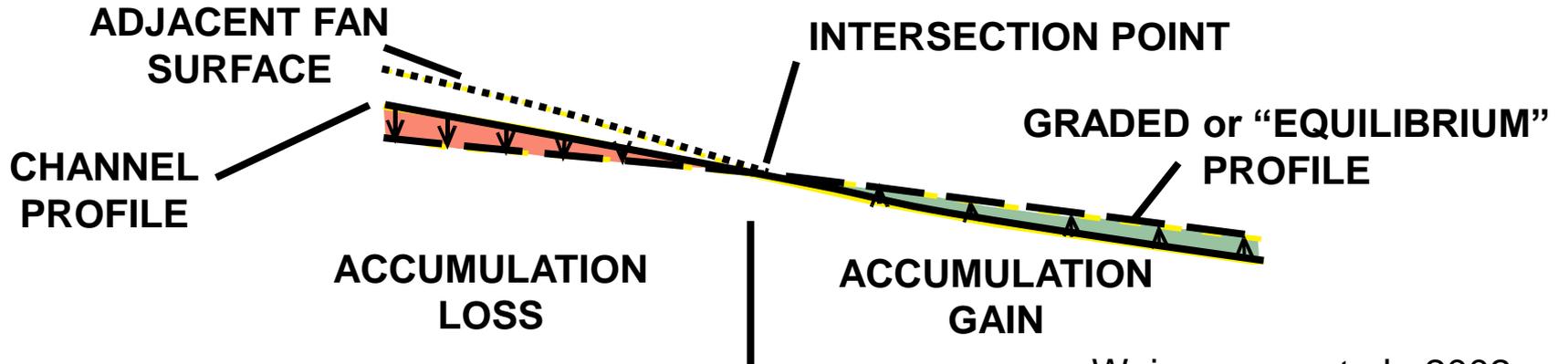
San Joaquin Basin Fluvial Fans



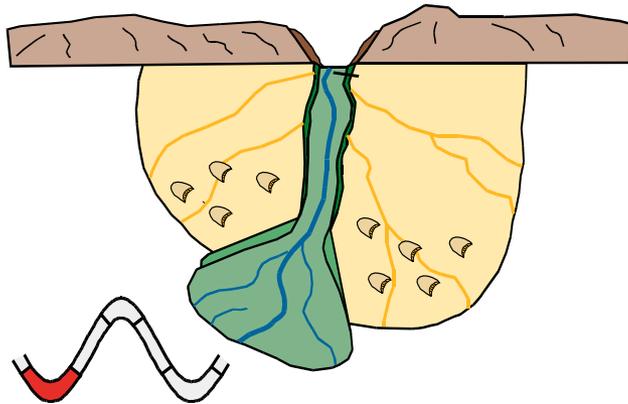
PLAN VIEW



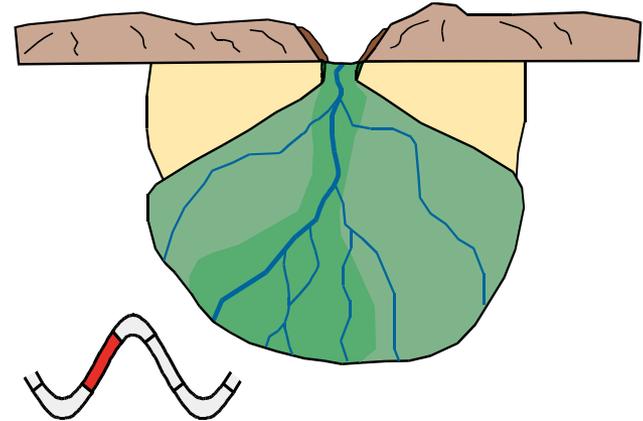
CROSS-SECTIONAL VIEW



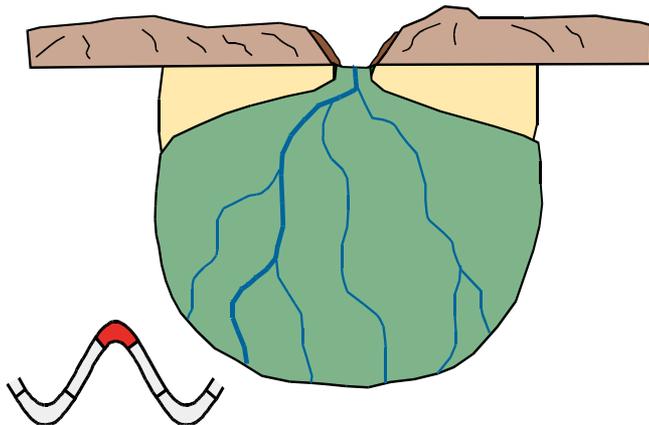
CYCLES ON SJV FLUVIAL FANS



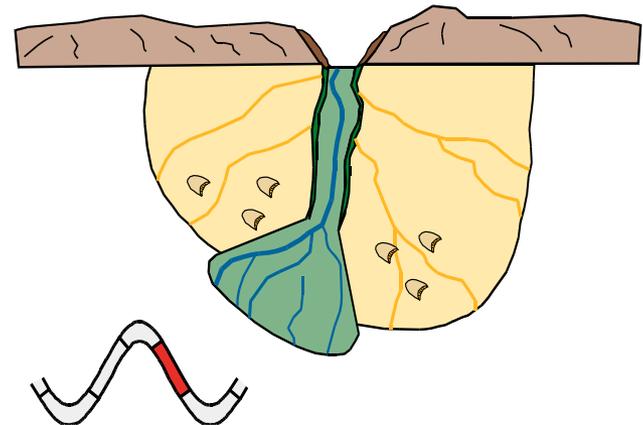
Late Interglacial



Glacial Outwash



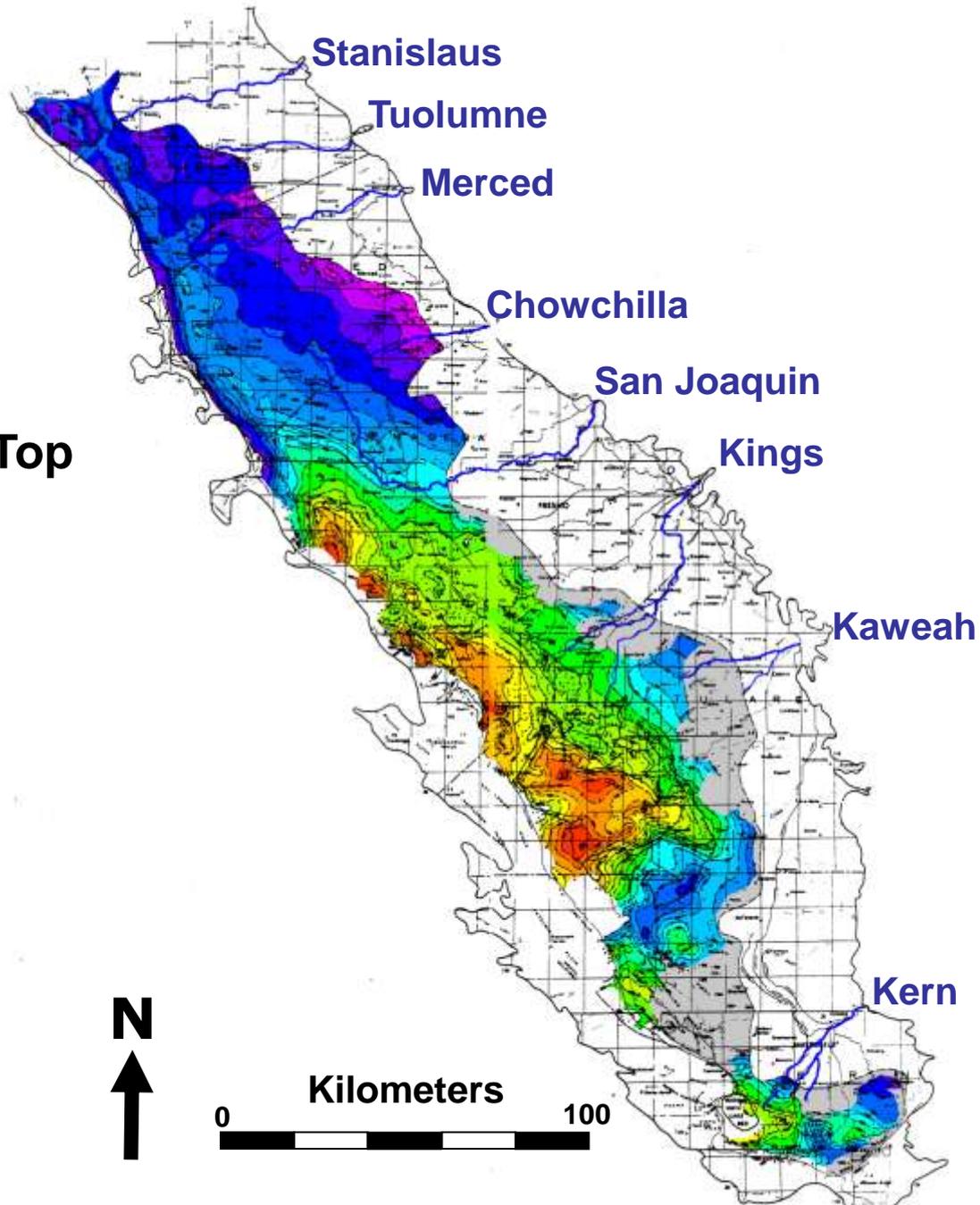
Continued Glacial Outwash



Glacial to Interglacial Transition

San Joaquin Basin

Depth to Corcoran Clay Top
(Basin Structure)



Lettis, 1982

San Joaquin Basin Fluvial Fans

Tuolumne Fan:

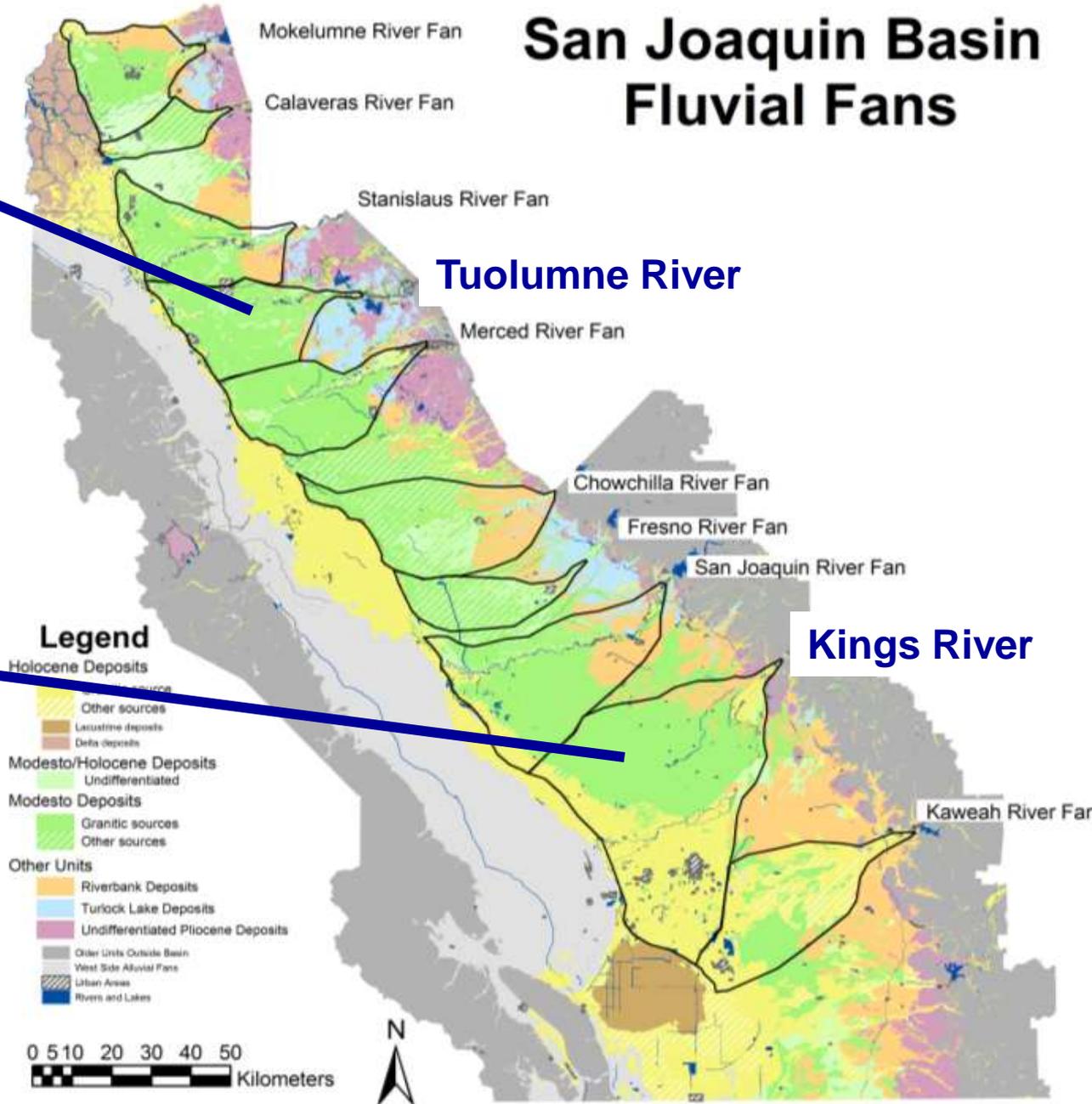
- glacial input
- low subsidence rate
- low local base level

Tuolumne River

Kings River Fan:

- glacial input
- high subsidence rate
- high local base level

Kings River



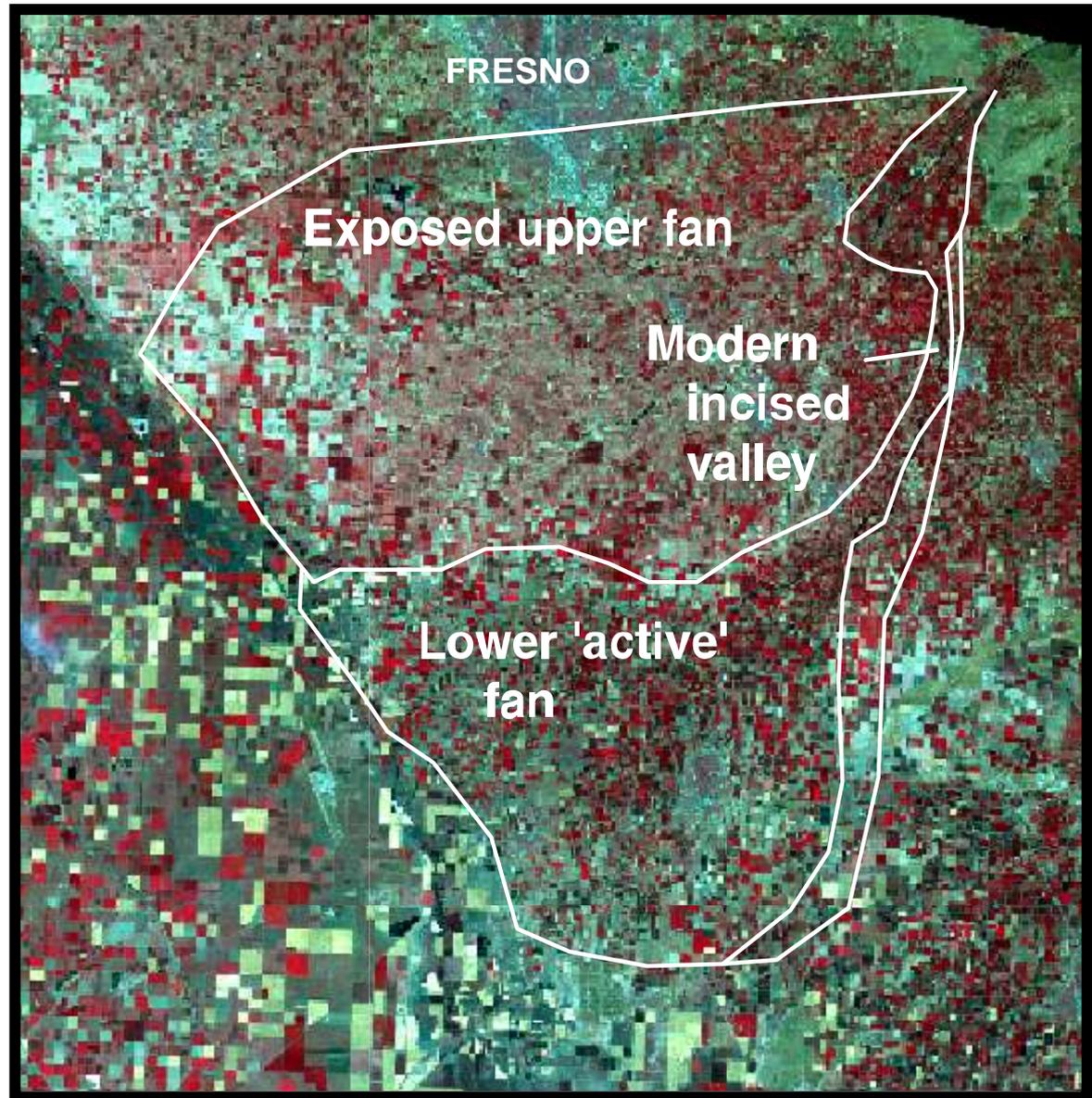
KINGS RIVER FLUVIAL FAN

- glacial input
- high subsidence rate
- high local base level

20km



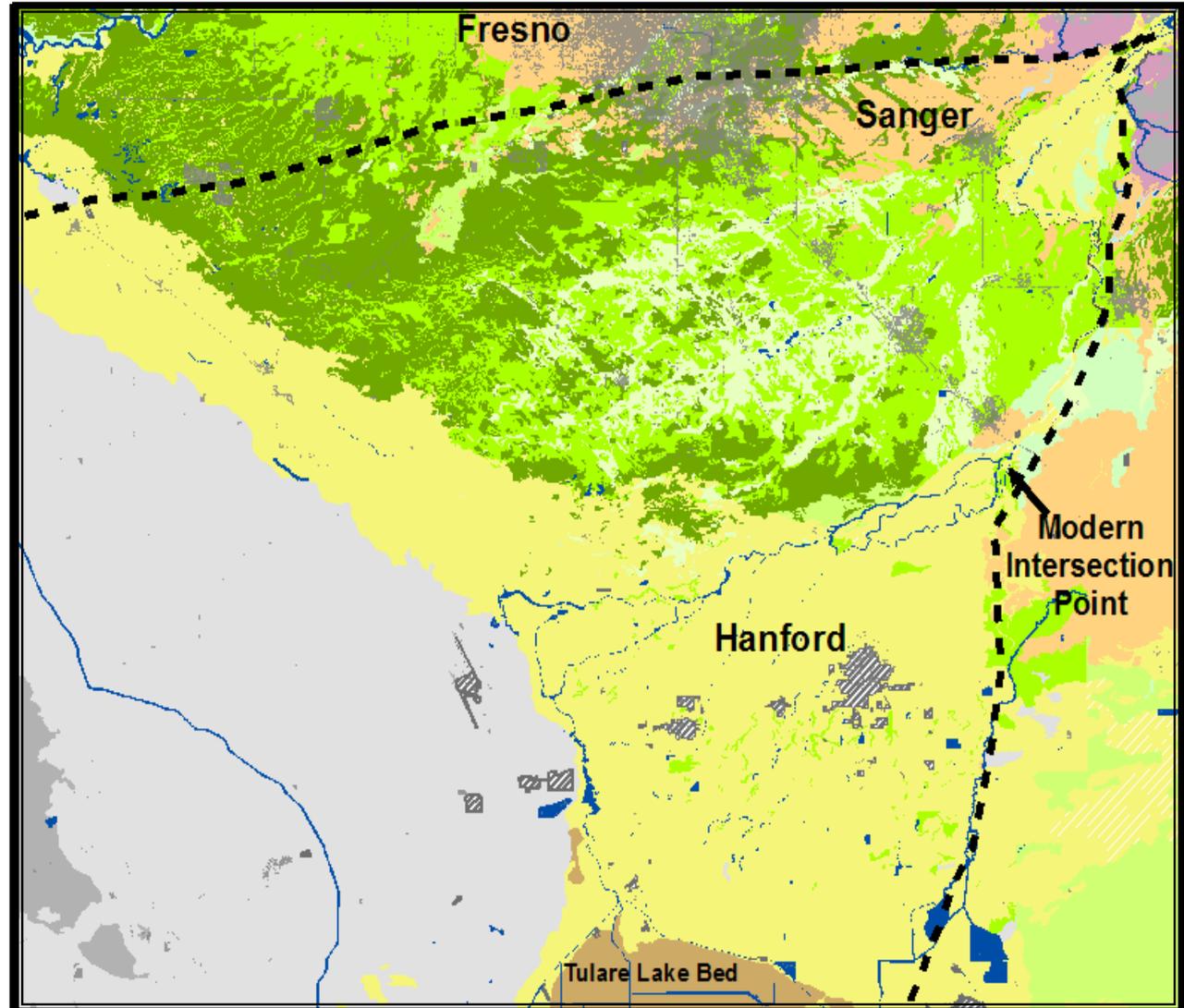
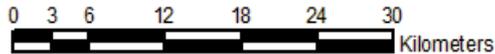
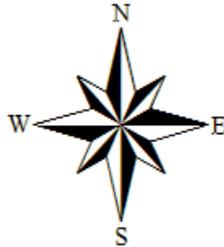
1980 Landsat MSS from USGS
NALC program.



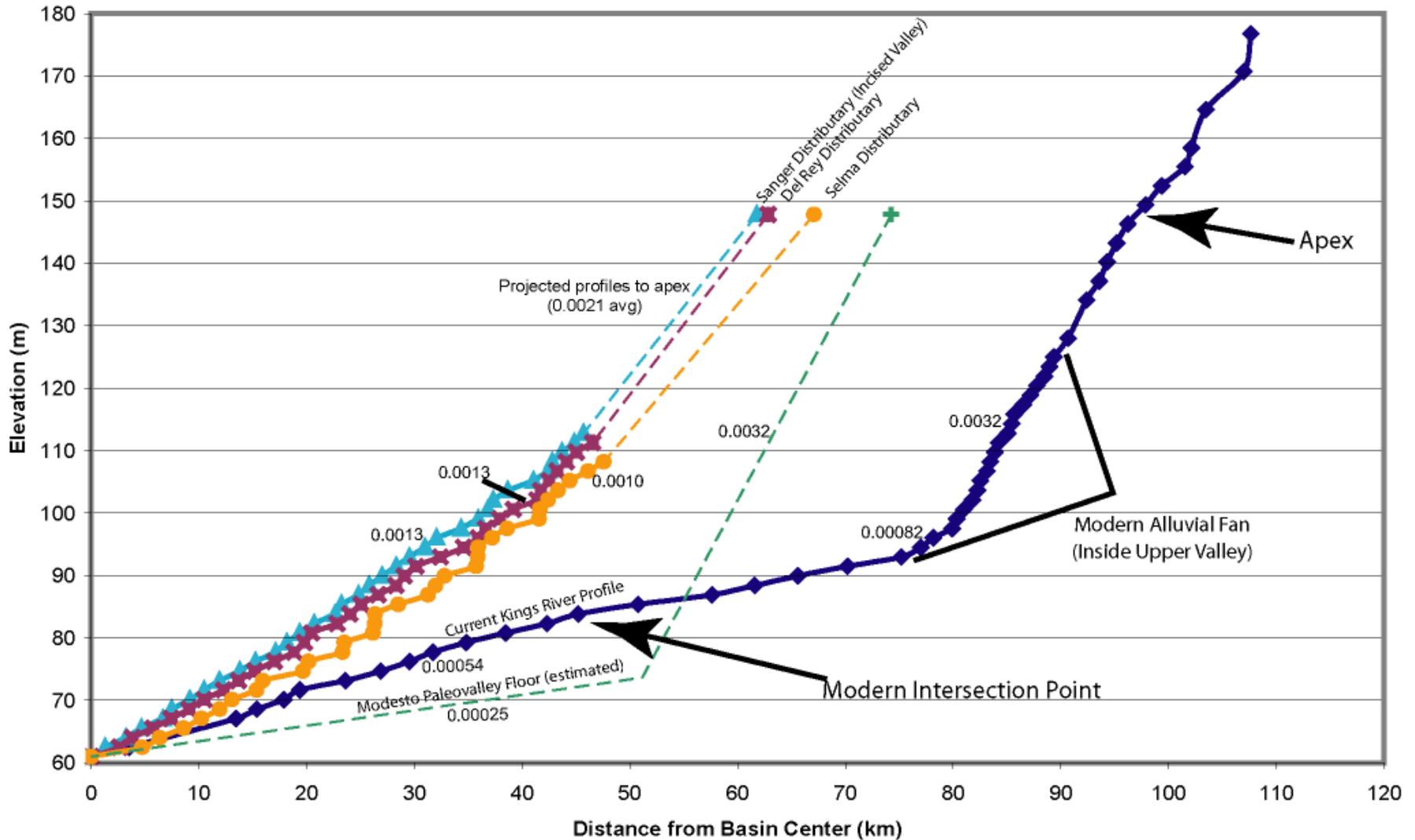
Kings River Fluvial Fan

LEGEND

- Holocene Fluvial Deposits
- Holocene Lacustrine or Deltaic Deposits
- Undifferentiated Holocene and Modesto Deposits
- Upper Modesto (Proximal Fan) Deposits
- Lower Modesto (Distal Fan) Deposits
- Undifferentiated Modesto Deposits
- Riverbank Deposits
- Undifferentiated Pliocene Deposits
- West Side Alluvial Fans
- Older units outside basin
- Water
- Urban Areas

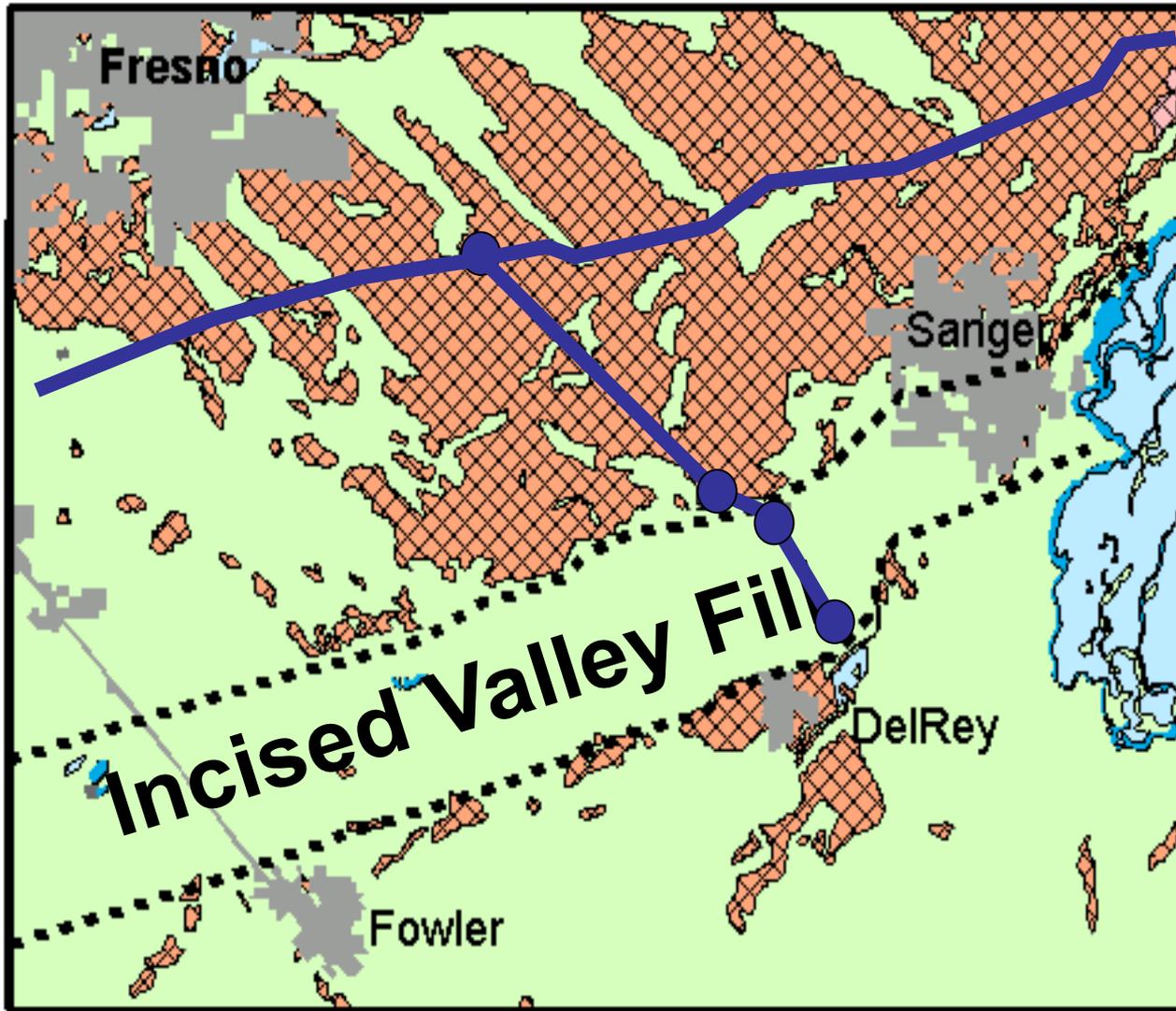


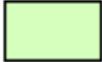
Kings River Fluvial Fan Gradients



From Weissmann et al 2005

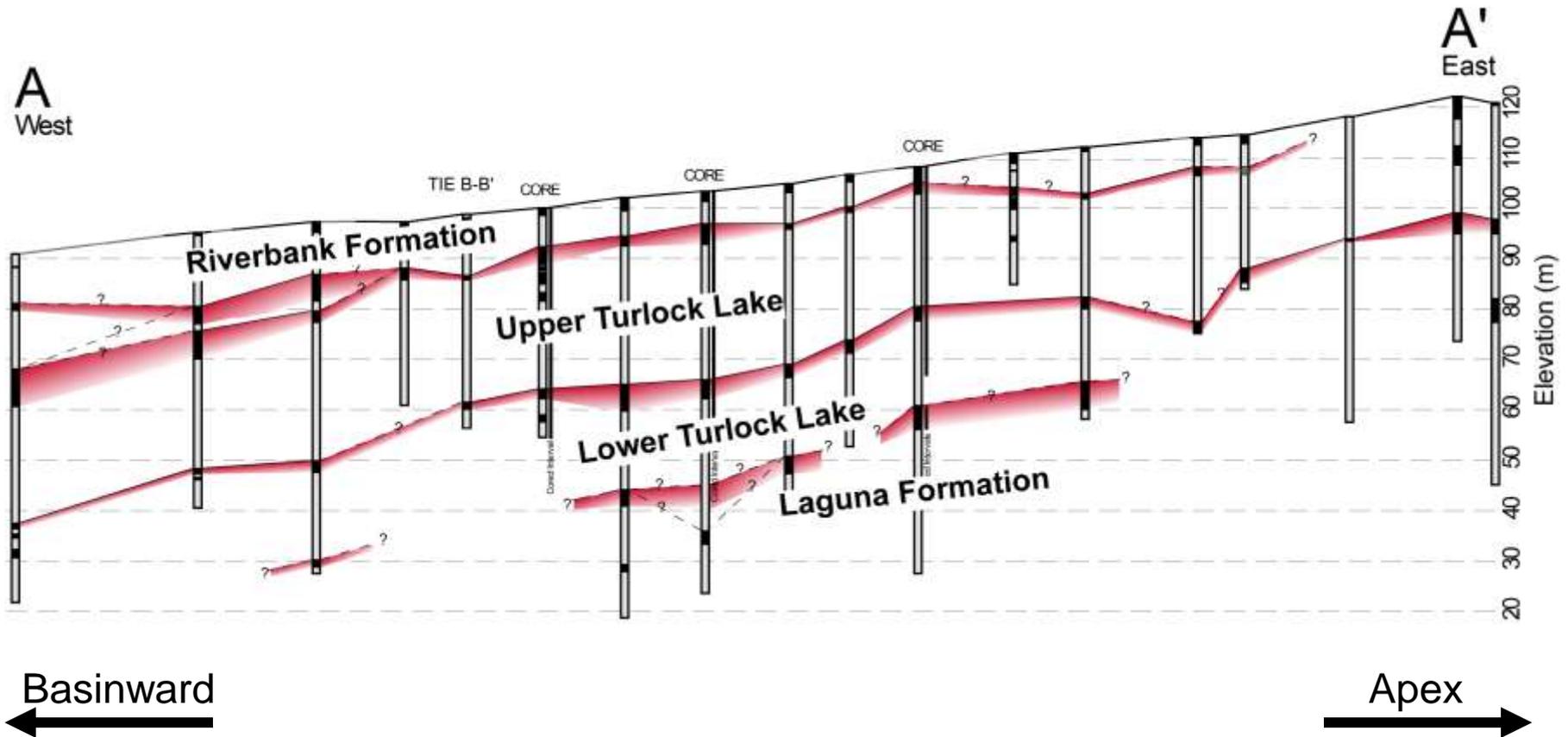




-  Holocene
-  Modesto (Wisconsin)
-  Riverbank (Illinoian)



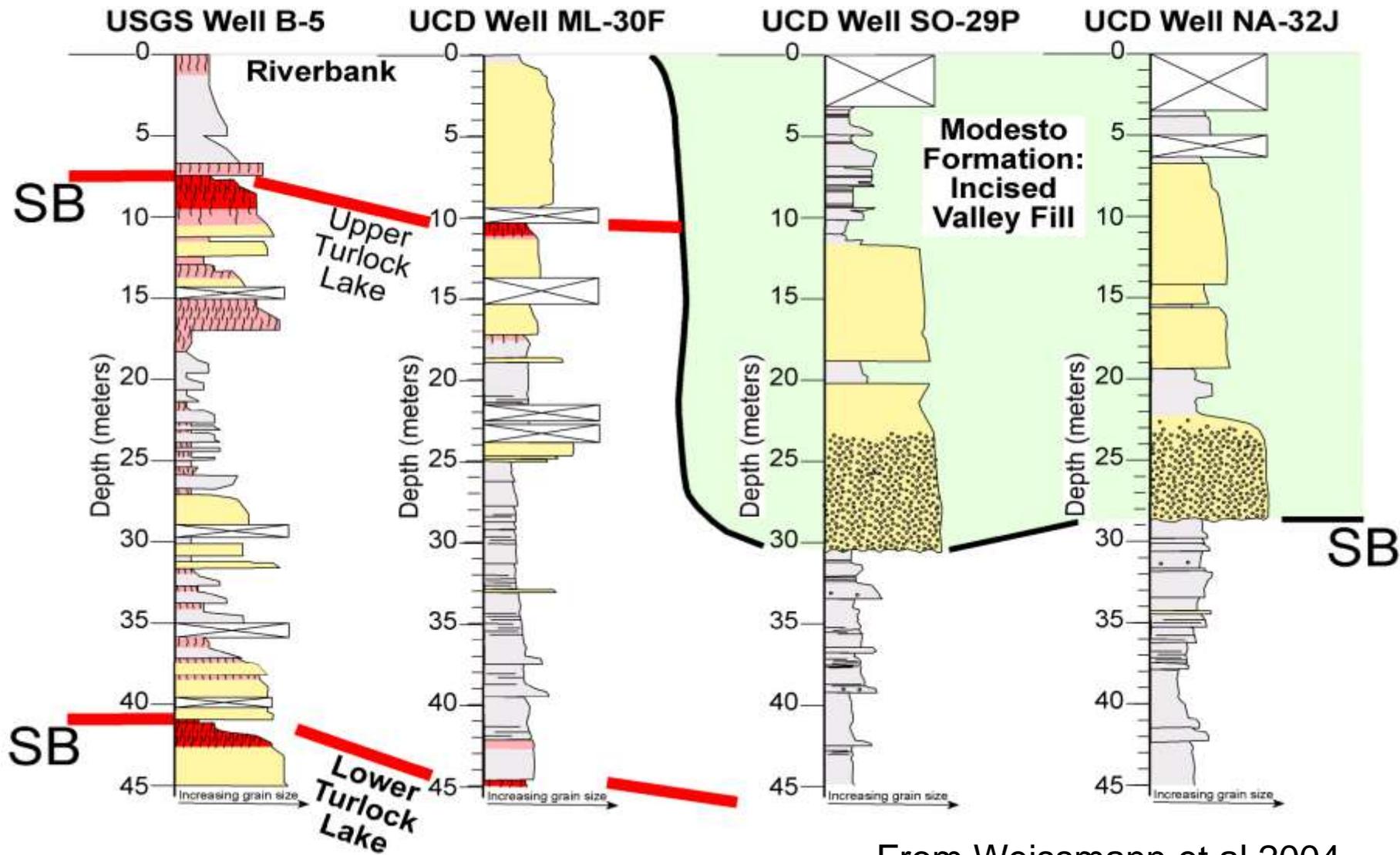
Kings River Alluvial Fan – Dip Section



From Weissmann et al 2002

NW

SE

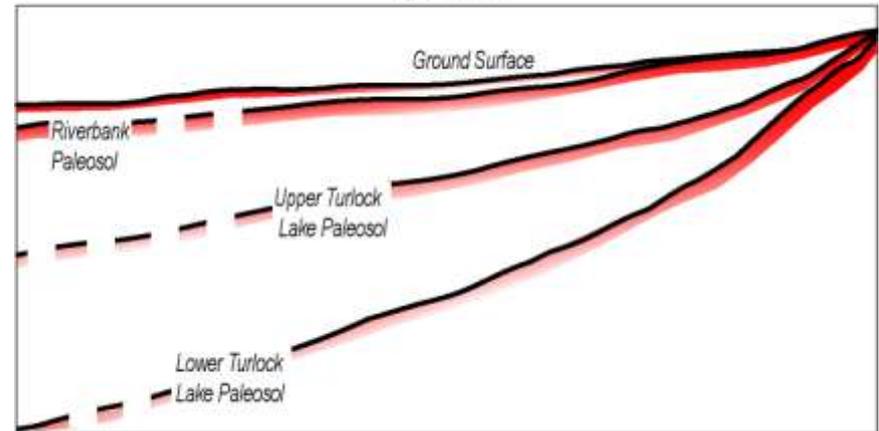


From Weissmann et al 2004

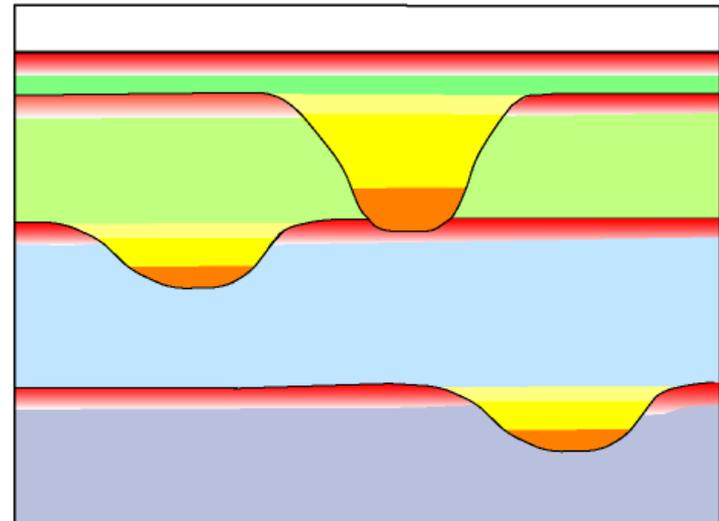
Kings River Fluvial Fan

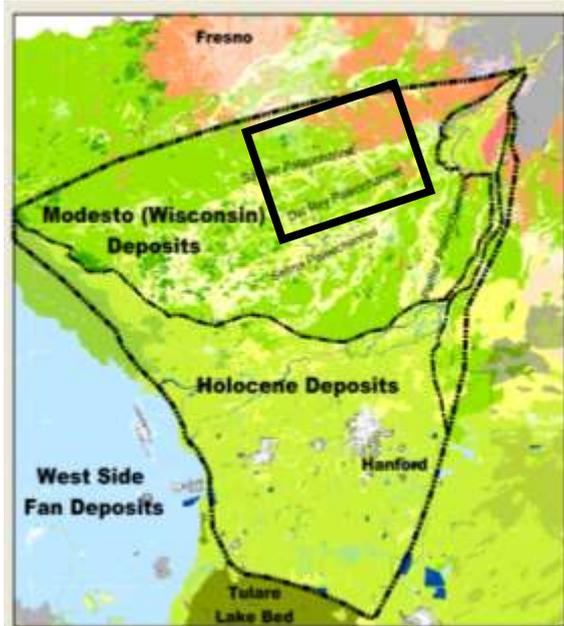
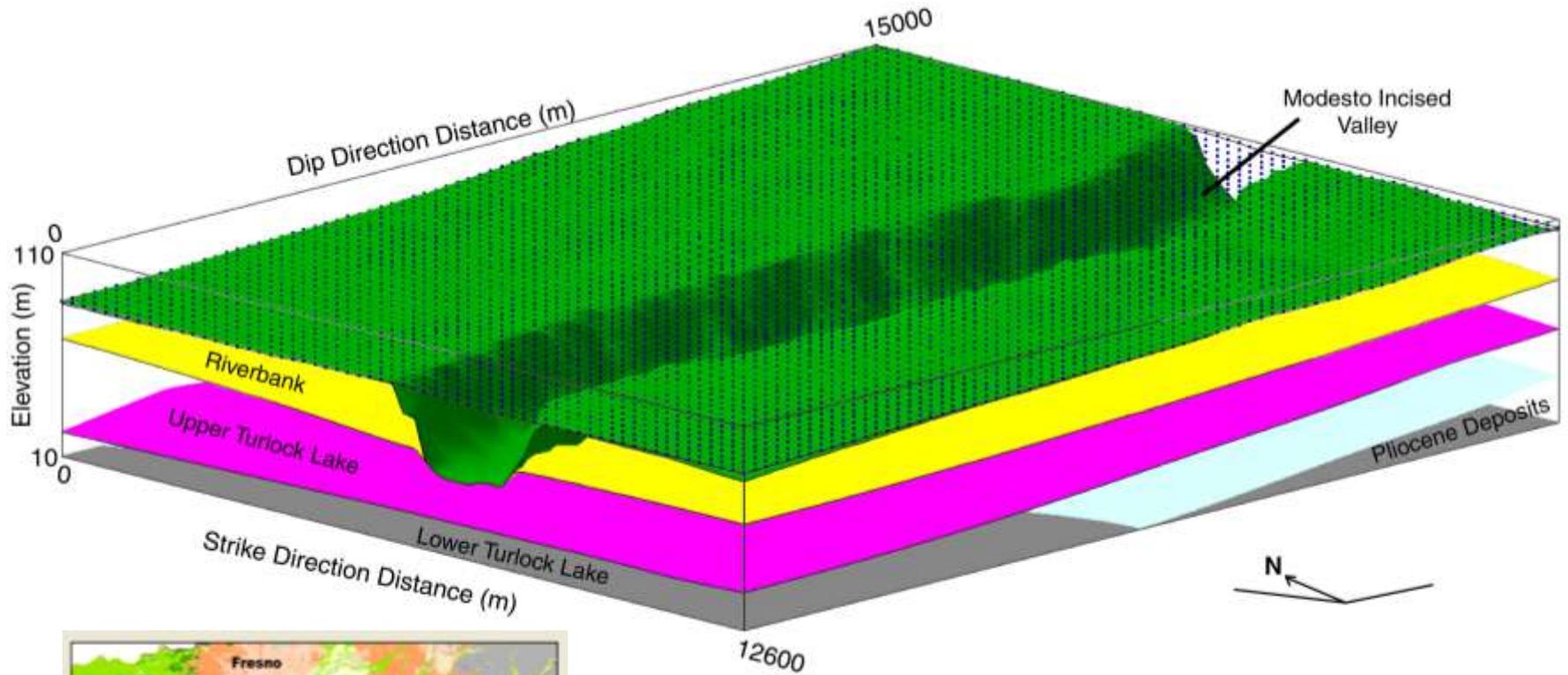
- Vertically-stacked sequences near apex
- Significant incised valley fill deposits, but modern incised valley is ~10m deep.
- Large, relatively thick open-fan fluvial deposits that radiate outward from intersection point near apex
- Preservation of interglacial deposits in basin
- Laterally extensive paleosols mark sequence boundaries.

Dip Section

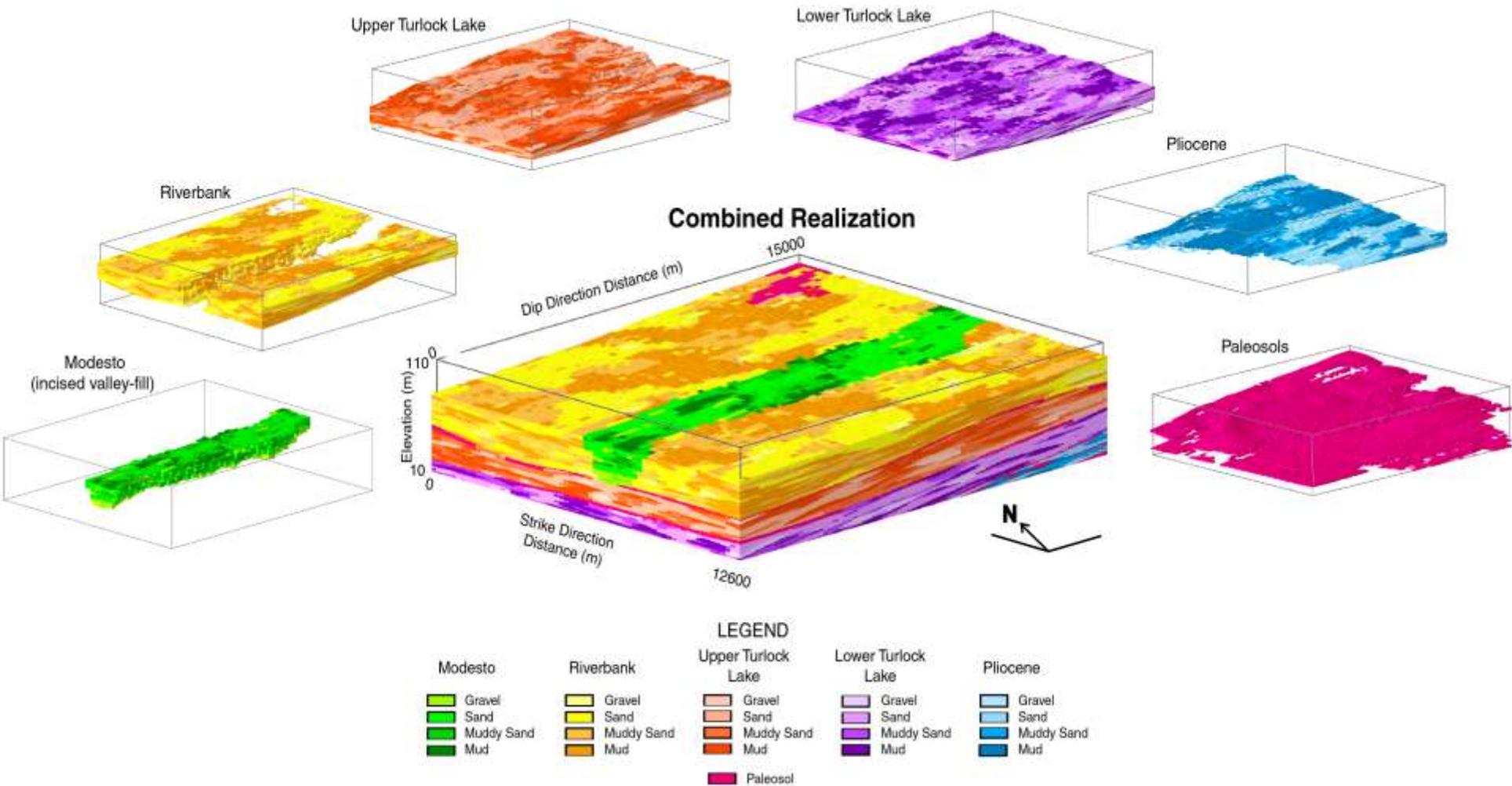


Strike Section



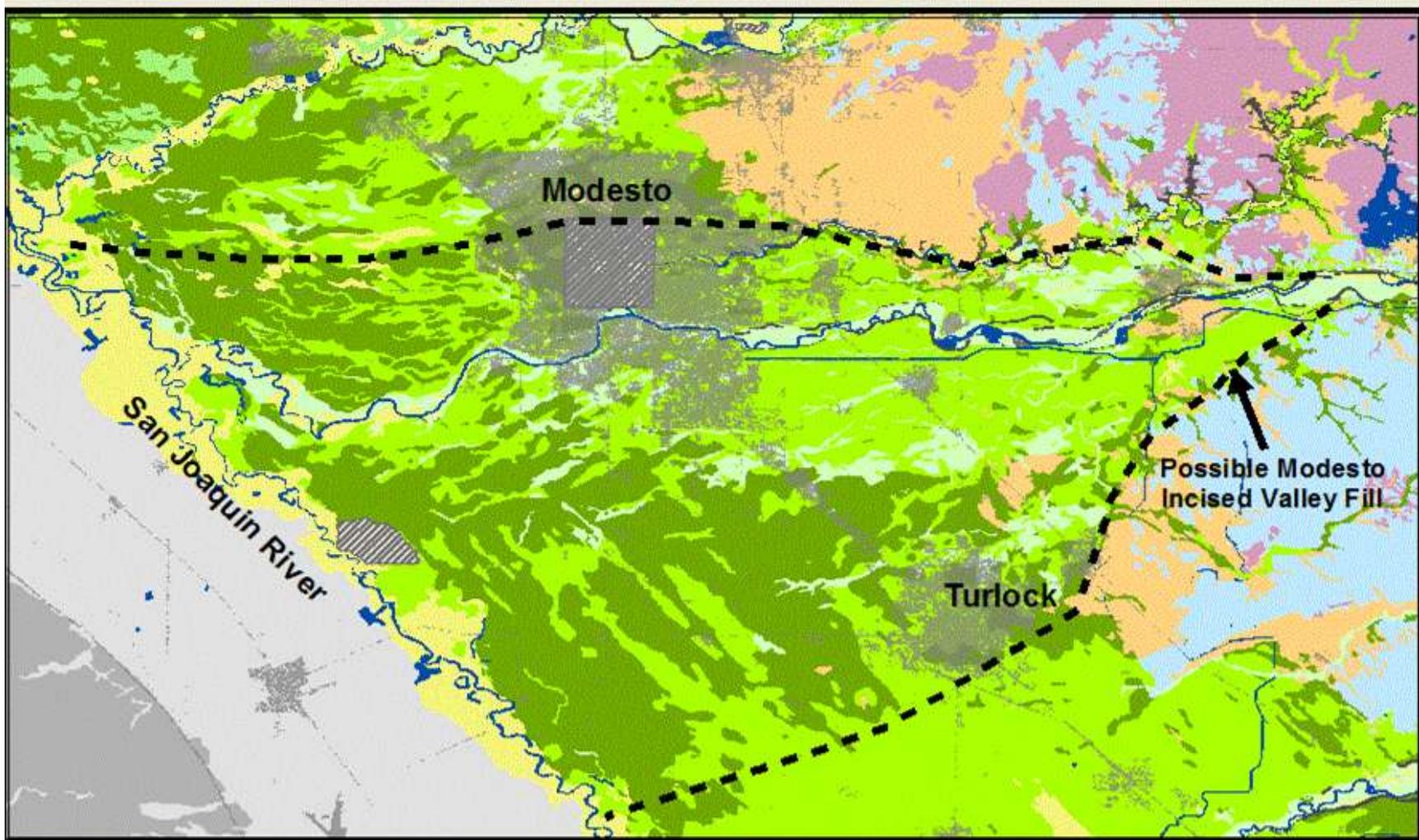


From Weissmann et al 2004

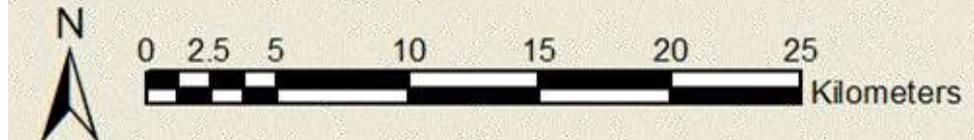


From Weissmann et al 2004

Tuolumne River Fluvial Fan

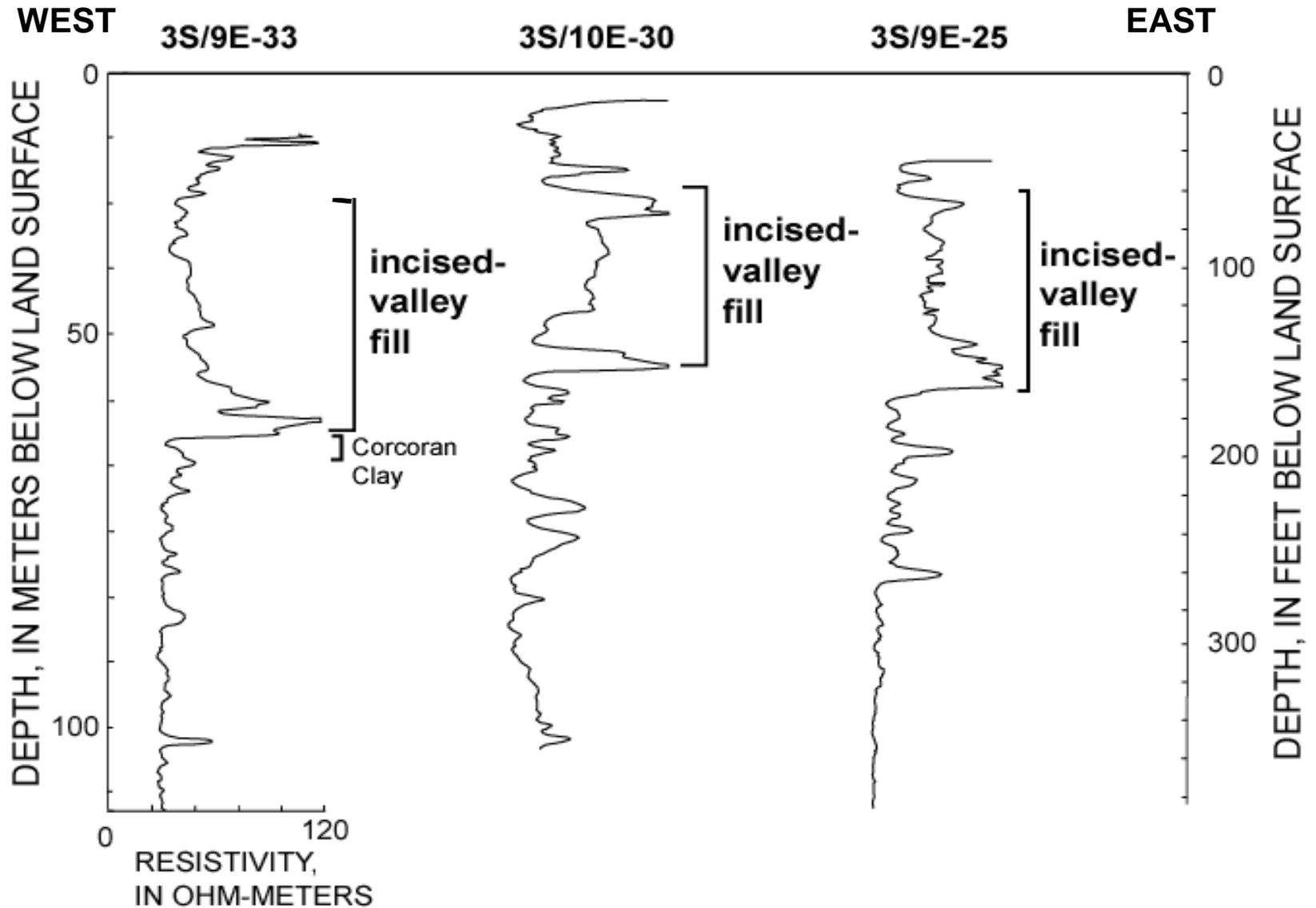


- glacial input
- low subsidence rate
- low local base level



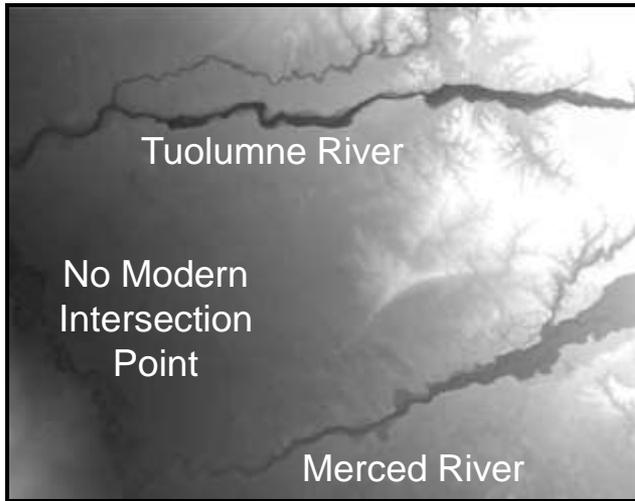
From Weissmann et al 2005

Riverbank (?) Incised Valley Fill

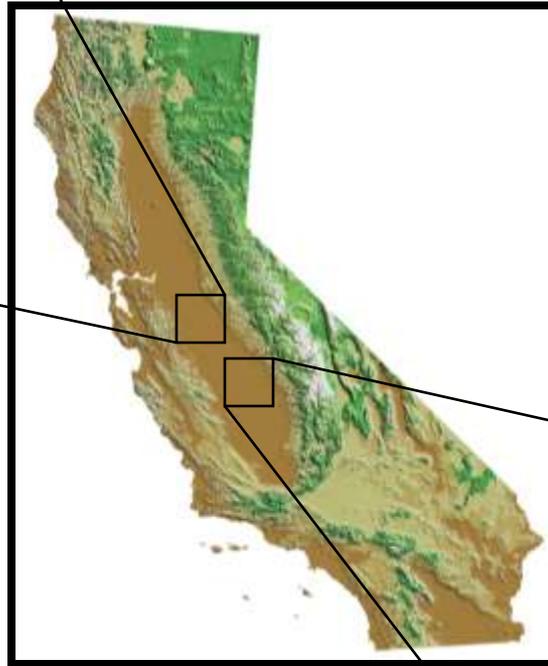


From Burow et al 2004

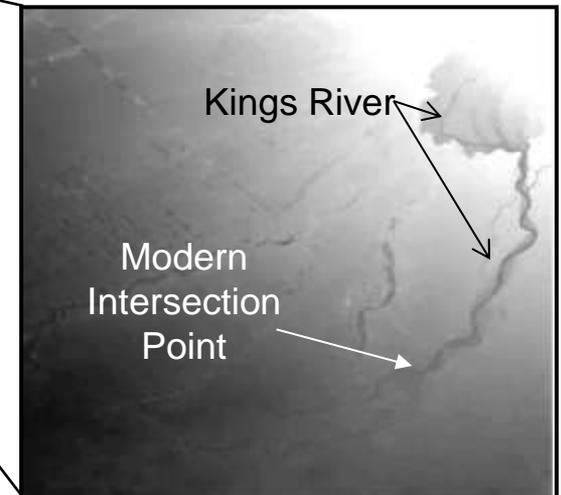
Modern Incised Valley Depths



Tuolumne and Merced River Fluvial Fans



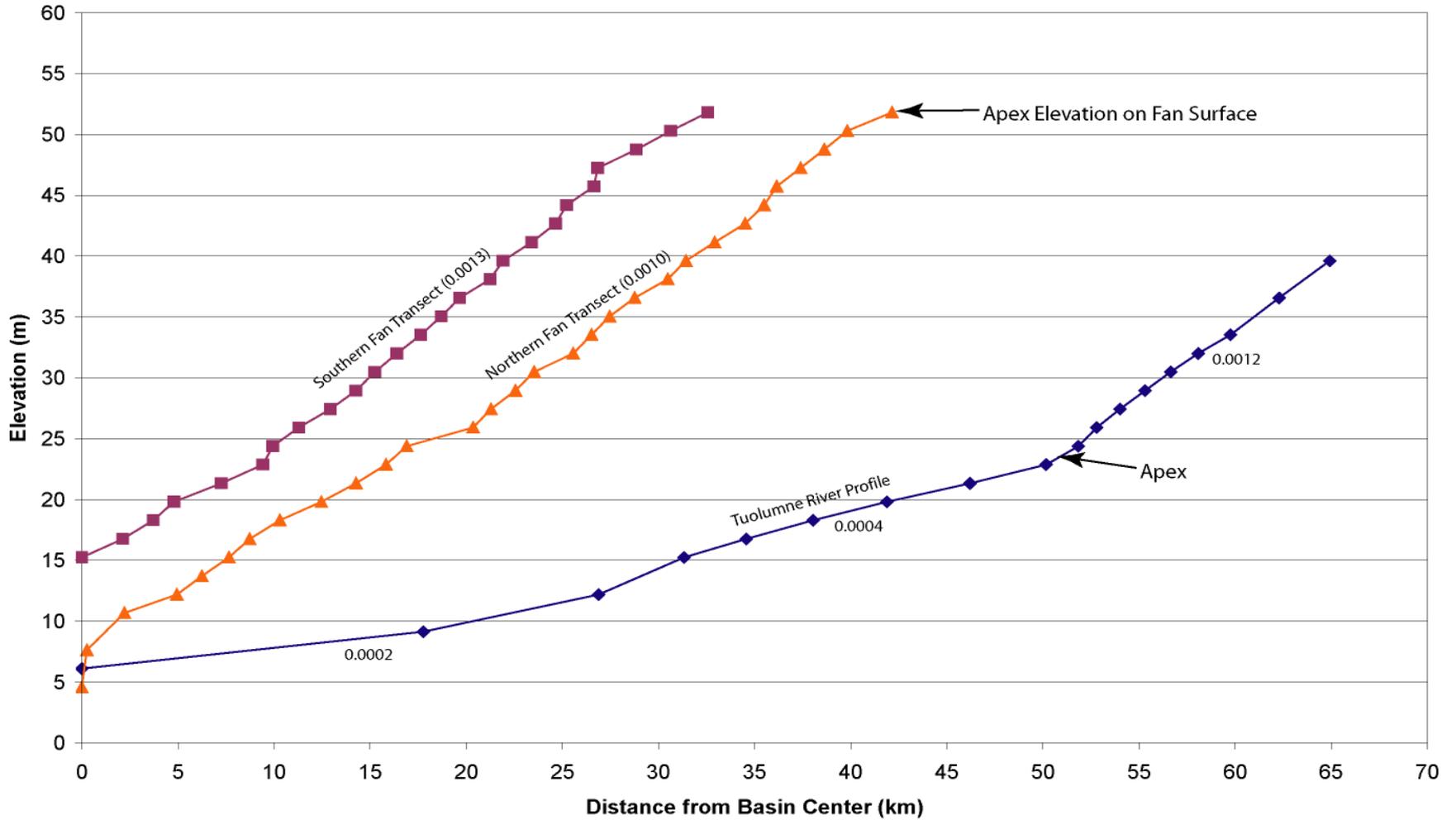
Kings River Fluvial Fan



From Bennett 2003

Fluvial Fan Images from 30m
USGS Digital Elevation Models

Tuolumne River Fluvial Fan Gradients

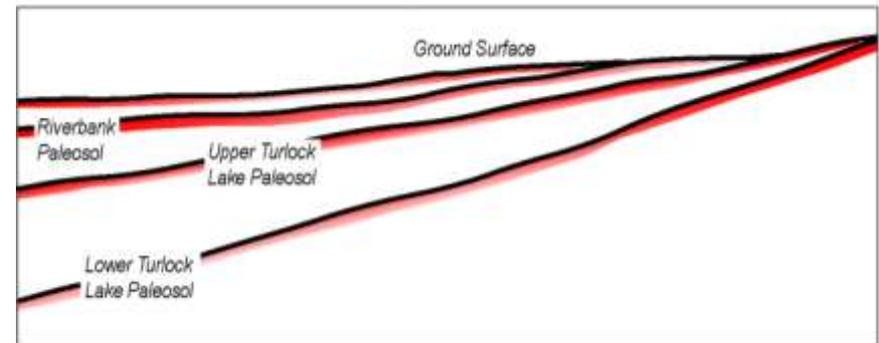


From Weissmann et al 2005

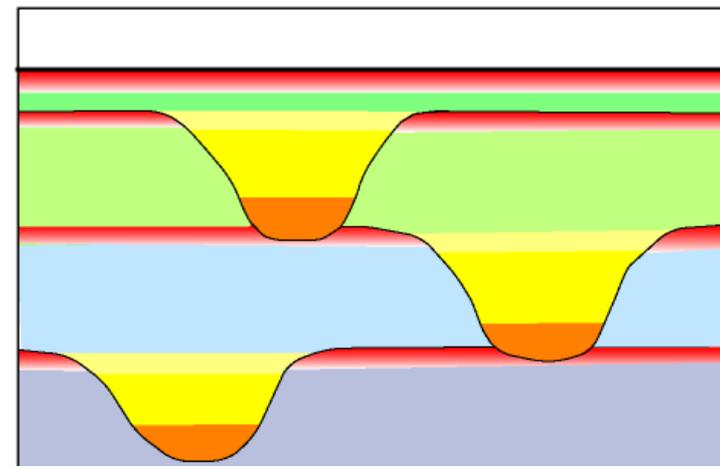
Tuolumne River Fluvial Fan

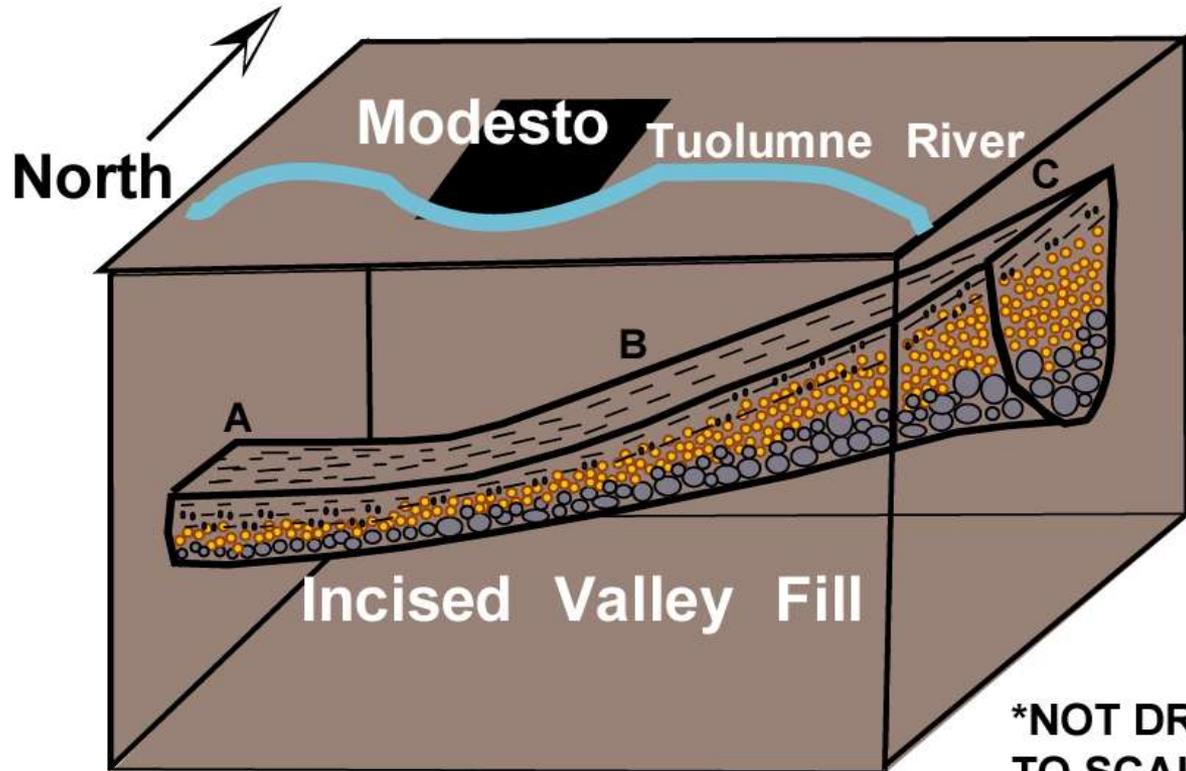
- Laterally-stacked sequences basinward
- Significant incised valley fill deposits; modern incised valley is ~30m deep.
- Modesto open-fan fluvial deposits radiate outward from proximal intersection point but lack channels
- No preservation of interglacial deposits in distal fan

Dip Section

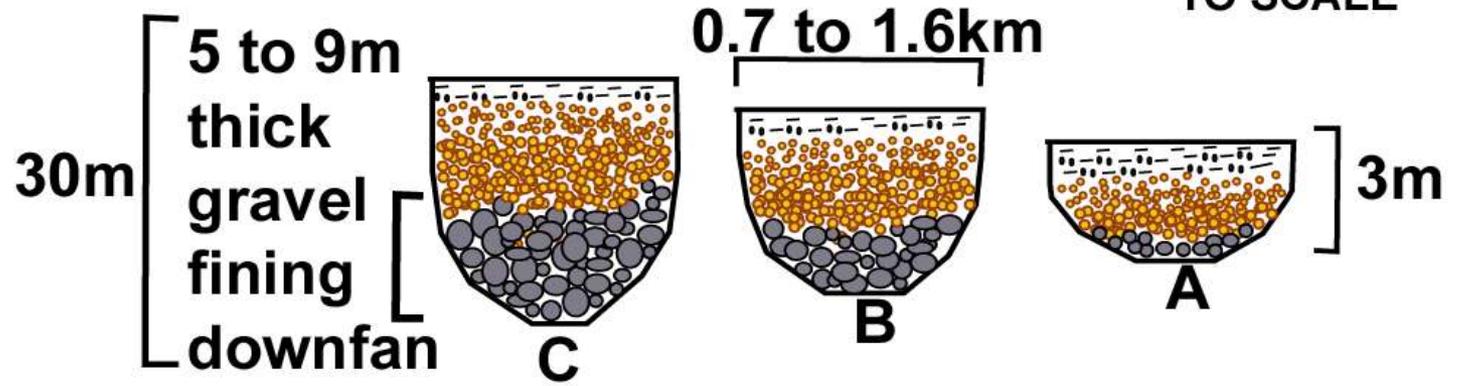


Strike Section





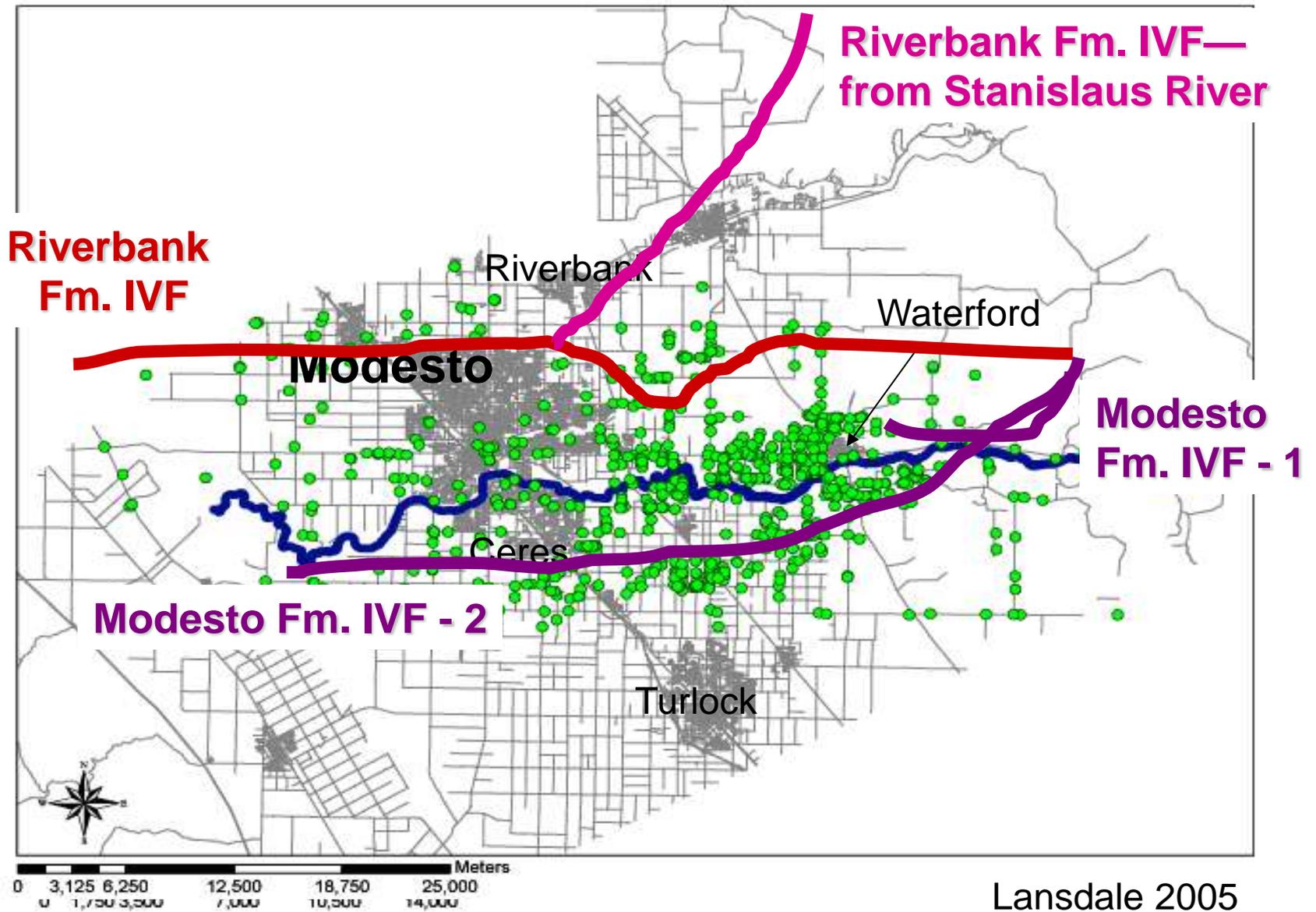
NOT DRAWN TO SCALE



Determining the Location of the Tuolumne Incised Valley Fills

- Evaluated over 10,000 driller's well logs to locate the gravel/cobble base of the IVF.
 1. Gravels > 3 meters thick
 2. Gravel depths were used to correlate trends:
 - 24 to 38 m (80 to 125 ft): Modesto IVF
 - 43 to 61 m (~140 to 180 ft): Riverbank IVF
 3. Rank of 1 (best) to 4 (worst): fining-upward character of the IVF, drilling method, and driller.

Wells with Possible Incised Valley Fill Indicators



Modeling Applications

San Joaquin Valley Fluvial Fans

1. Non-point Source Contamination: Evaluation of Groundwater Age Date from Chlorofluorocarbons (CFC)

- *Weissmann et al. 2002, Water Resources Research, v. 38*

2. Water Supply / Non-point Source Contamination: Groundwater Flow and Contaminant Transport Around Incised Valley Fill Sediments

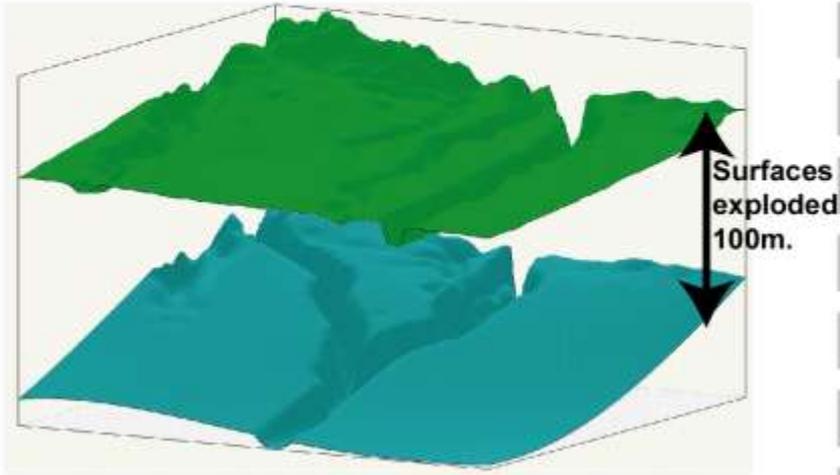
- *Weissmann et al. 2004, SEPM Special Publication 80*

- *Lansdale 2005, MS Thesis, Michigan State University*

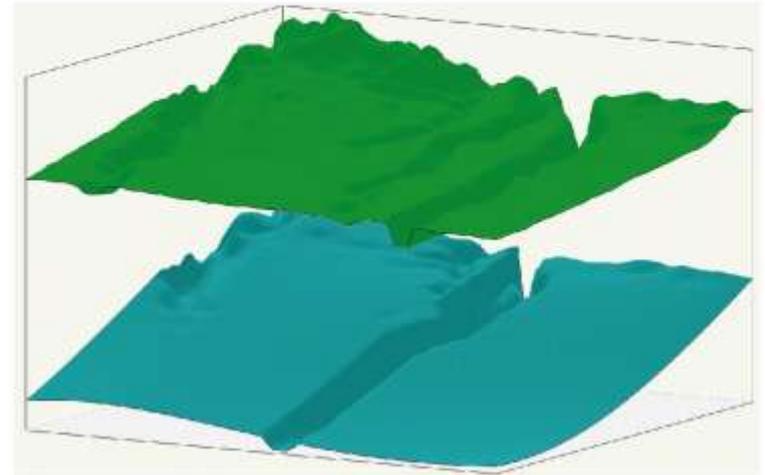
Incised Valley Fill Models – Modesto Area

Riverbank: Tuolumne + Stanislaus Valleys

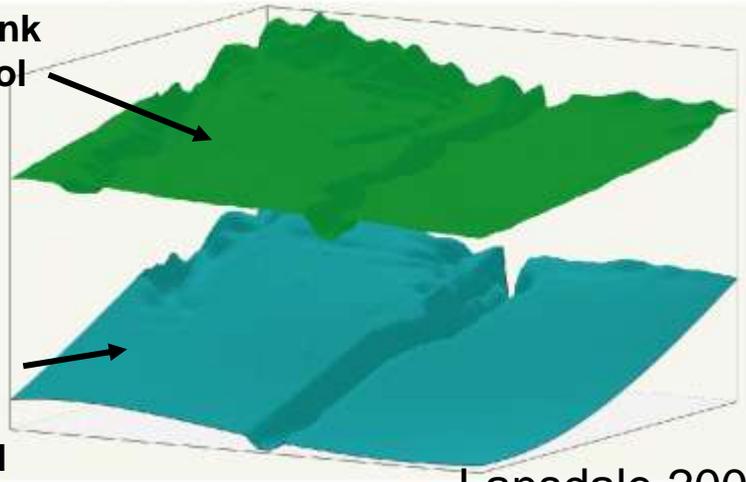
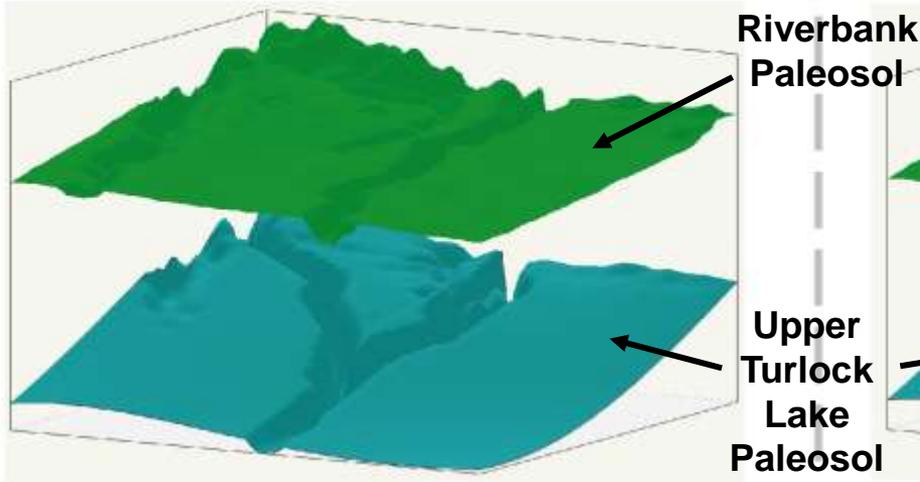
Modesto: Large Valley



Riverbank: Tuolumne Valley Only

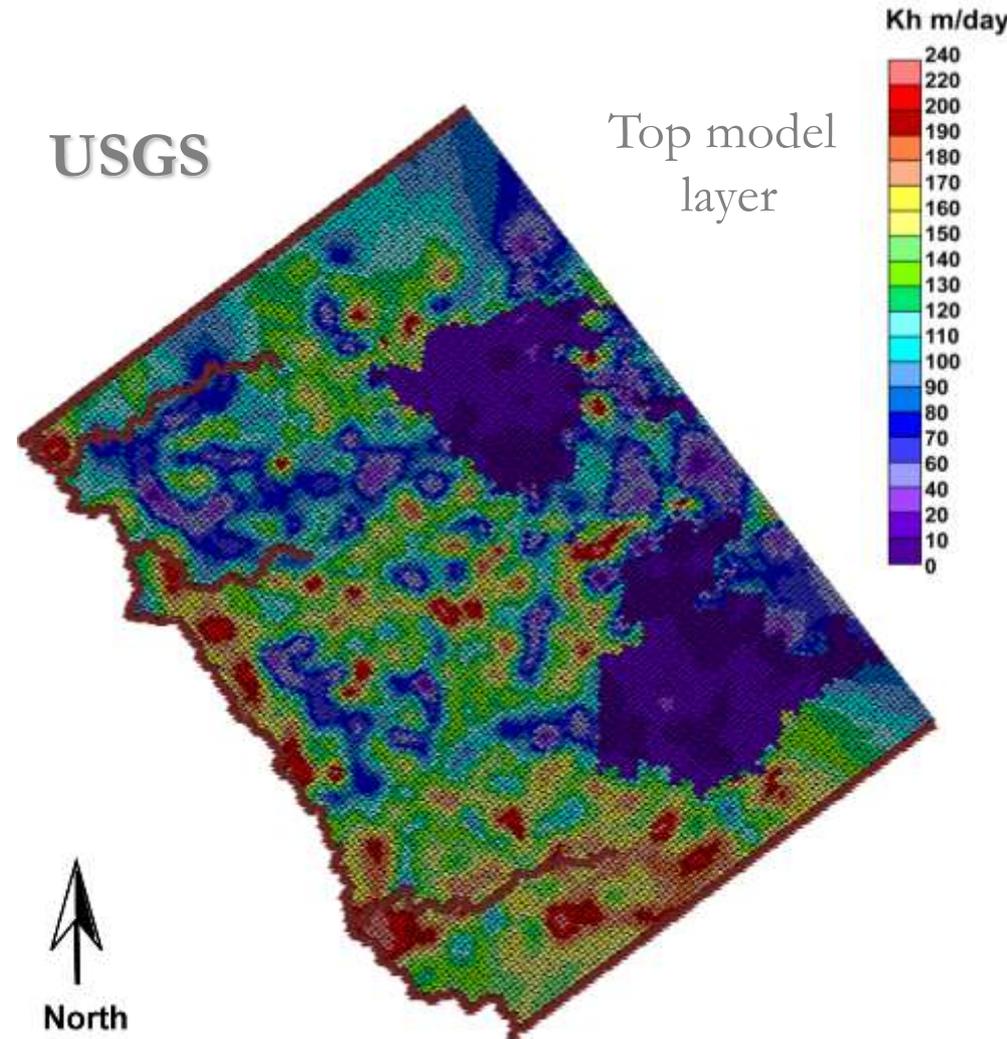


Modesto: Small Valley

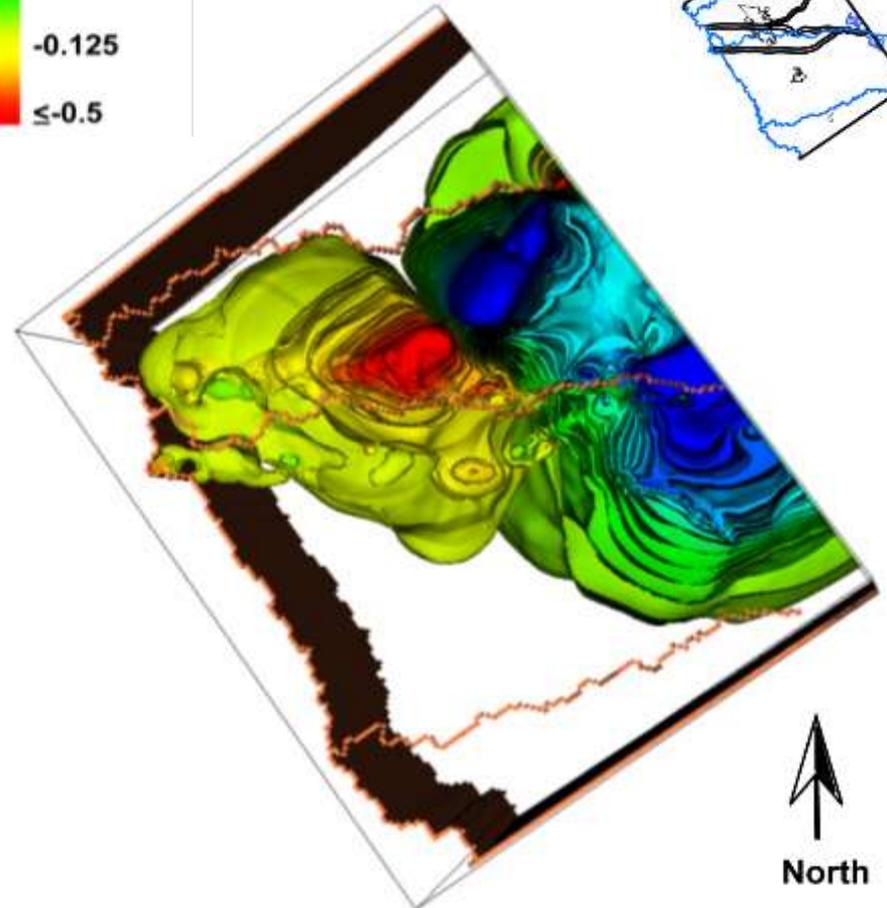
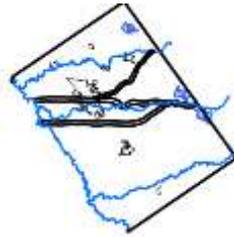
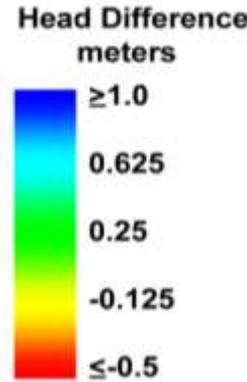


Groundwater Model Development: USGS Model and Modifications

- MODFLOW 2000
- Characterization of Geology (Hydraulic conductivities)
 - USGS Model
 - Binary texture (grain-size) classification from driller's logs
 - Calculated equivalent K values
 - Preserves heterogeneity
 - Modification
 - Addition of the IVFs



Head Difference

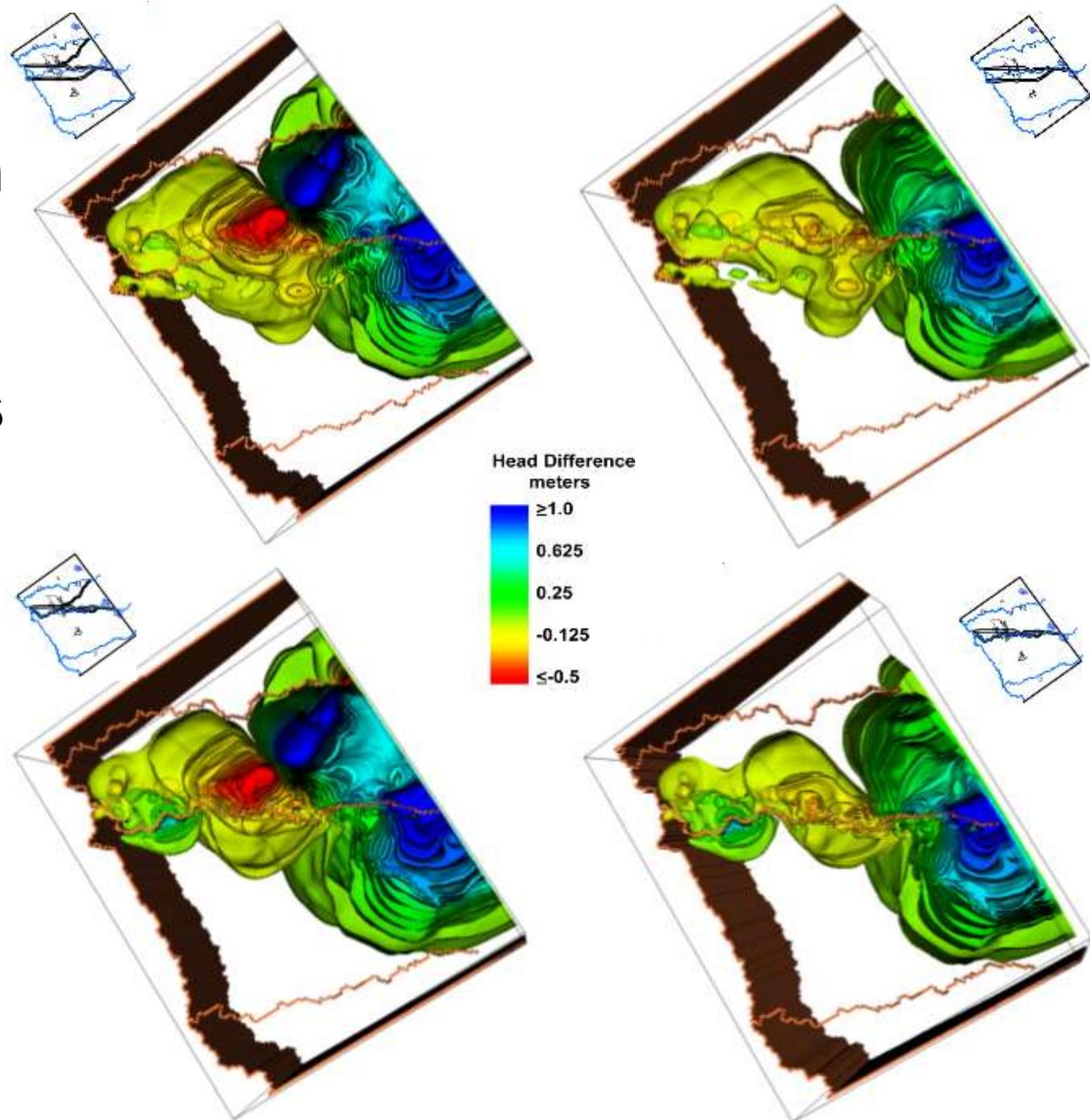


North

Lansdale 2005

- **Head difference** = (model without IVF) – (model with the IVF)
- **Positive head difference** (blues and greens)
 - no IVF model head HIGHER than IVF model head
- **Negative head difference** (reds and yellows)
 - no IVF model head LOWER than the IVF model head
- Areas of convergent and divergent flow

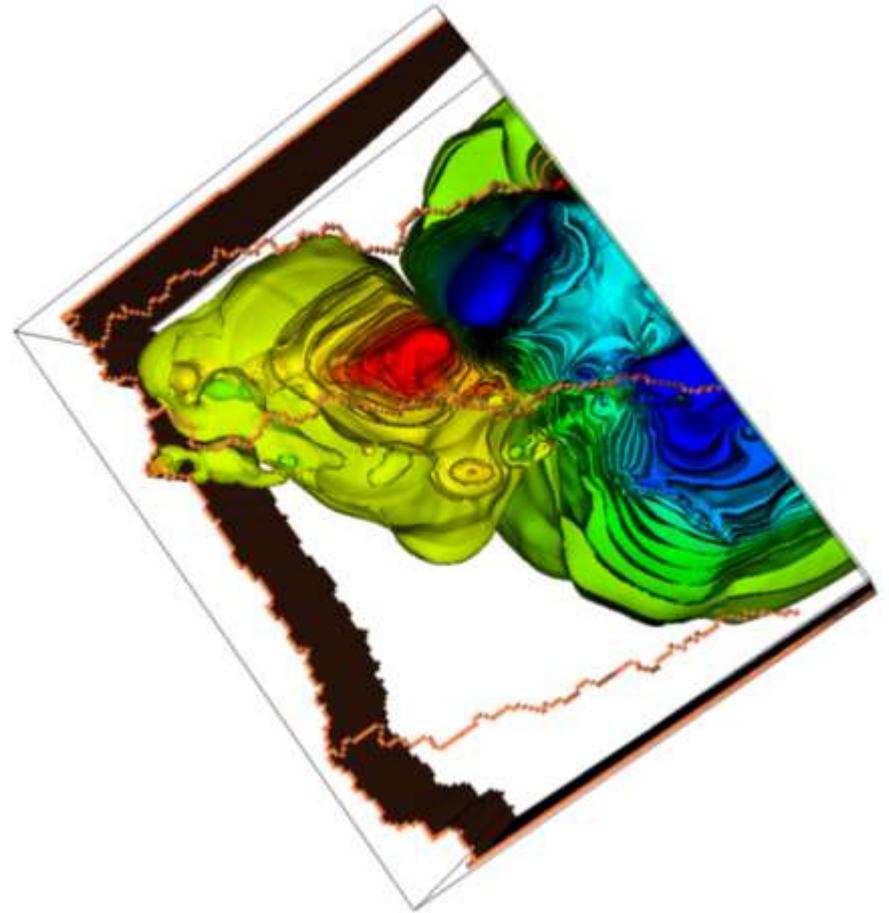
Comparison among Geologic Realizations



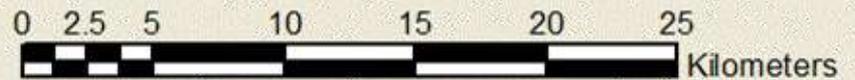
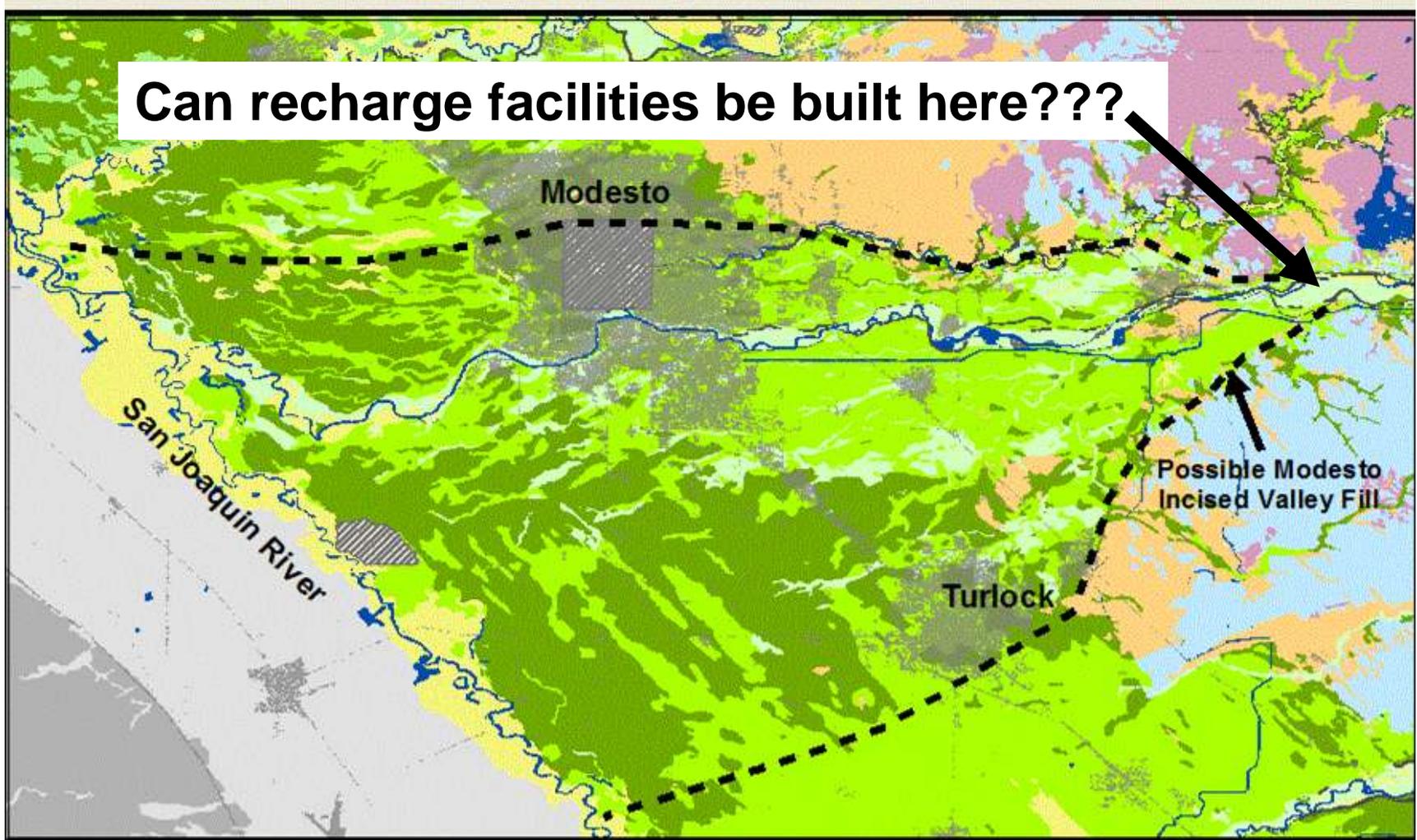
Implications for Artificial Recharge

Incised valley fill deposits are potential pipelines for transferring water deep into the aquifer...if we can access them!

BUT, these incised valley fill units don't exist on all megafans!



Tuolumne River Fluvial Fan



From Weissmann et al 2005

Concluding Thoughts

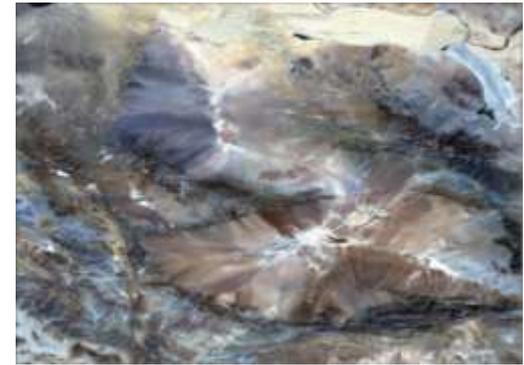
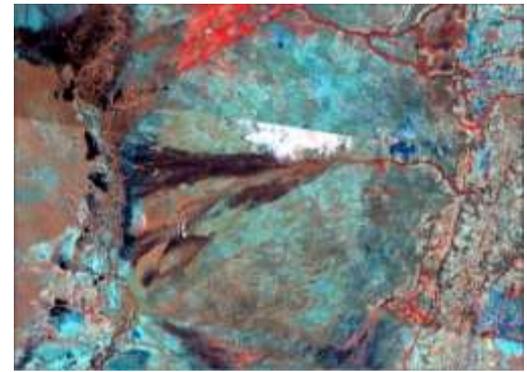
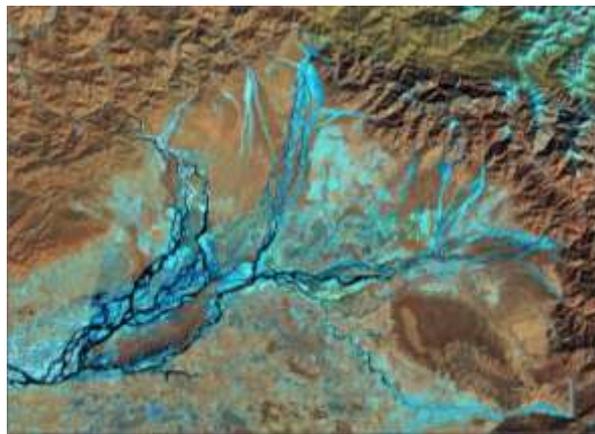
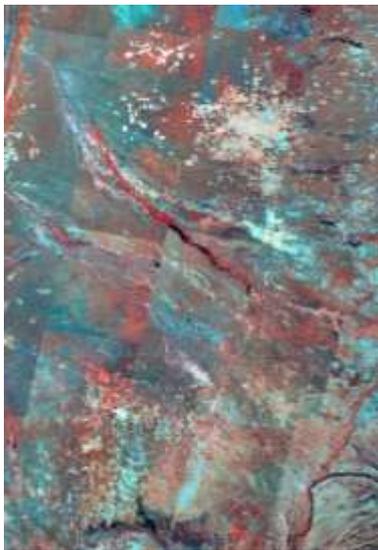
- **Stratigraphic framework is critical for:**
 - **Understanding aquifer test results**
 - **Modeling contaminant transport**
 - **Evaluating non-point source contaminant movement**
 - **Developing water supply (e.g., artificial recharge)**
- **Further work is needed on the San Joaquin Basin megafans to determine potential for artificial recharge through incised valley fill deposits.**
- **San Joaquin Basin megafans may provide a framework from which to understand other DFS.**

Concluding Thoughts

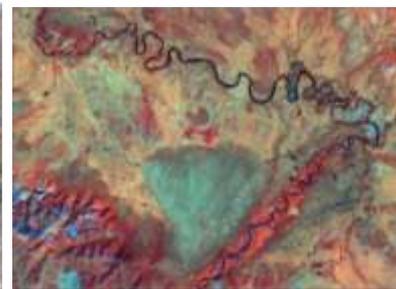
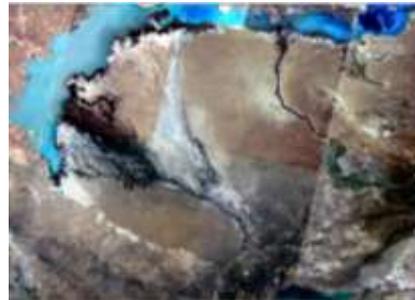
- Rivers in continental sedimentary basins exist either as distributive fluvial systems (DFS) or as axial or interfan tributive streams
- DFS dominate basin depositional surface area, covering more than 90% of the fluvial depositional area.
- **THEREFORE:** We believe that most of the fluvial sedimentary rock record was formed by distributive fluvial systems.
- **However:** Some important sedimentary successions are tributary (axial or initial valley fill).

Concluding Thoughts

- **DFS depositional patterns and resulting facies distributions are potentially different from the tributary stream systems we typically used to develop facies models (or, the facies models are out of context of the basin).**
- **A predictive pattern of facies exist from DFS deposition.**
- **We need to evaluate the geomorphology of DFS and deposits from these rivers in order to construct facies models for rock record evaluation.**



We need to focus on the rivers that deposit material in sedimentary basins



Sedimentary Basin Work

Collaborators and Colleagues: Tapan Chakraborty, Partha Ghosh; Martin Gibling

Postdoc: Stephanie Davidson

Students: Michelle Olson; Kelsey McNamara; Amanda Owen; Anna Kulikova; Proma Bhattacharyya; Holly Buehler; Lauren Massengill; Reyna Banteah; Kevin Painter; Cody Bodman; Franki Anaya; Manny Salgado



Funding Sources

FSRG-DFS Consortium:



ConocoPhillips



NASA Earth System Enterprise Grant



National Science Foundation



University of New Mexico

San Joaquin Basin Work

Graduate Students:

George Bennett (MS 2003)
Amy Lansdale (MS 2005)

Undergraduate Students:

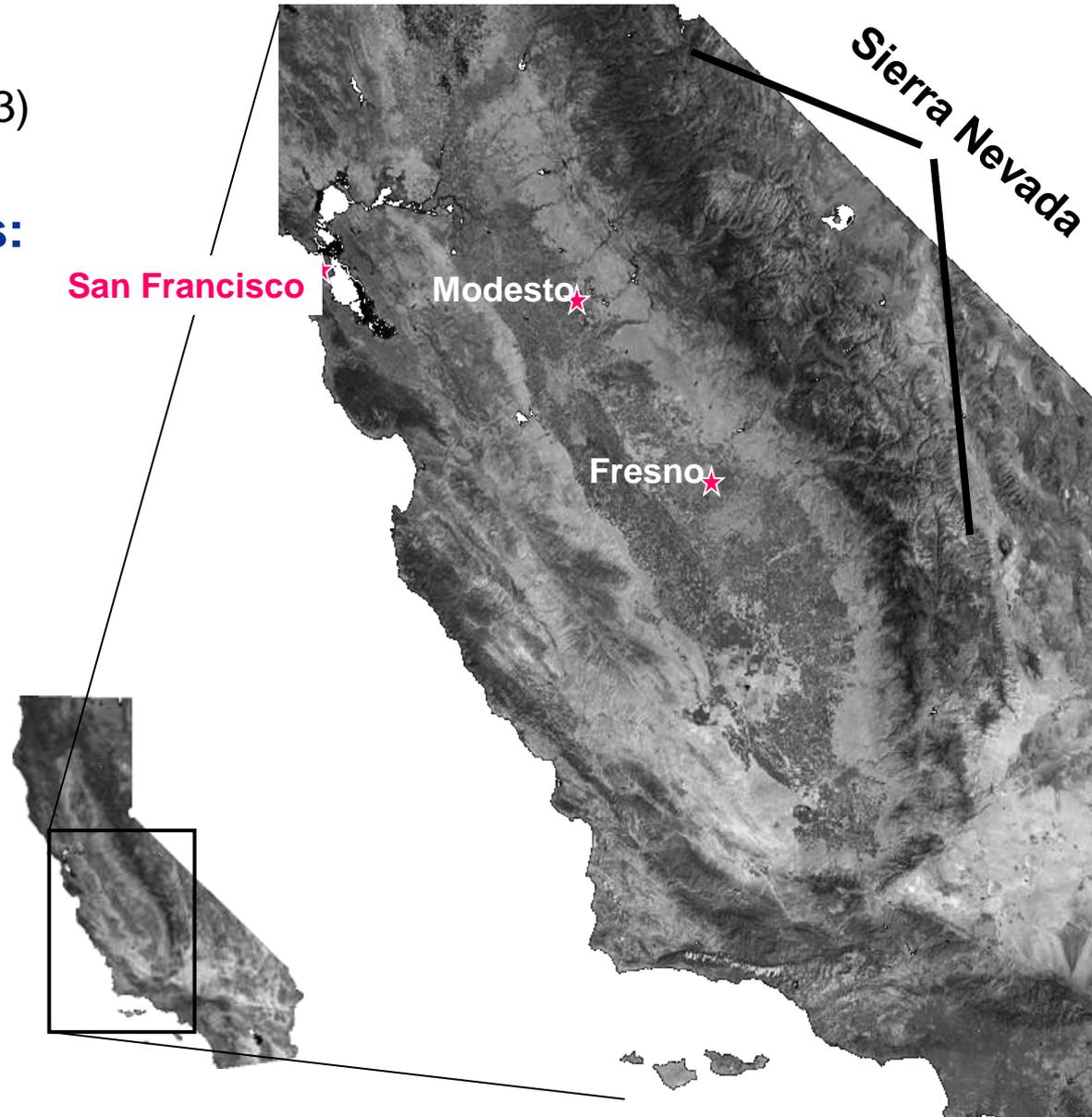
Sarah Norris
Aimee Kneisel

Funding Sources:

NSF (UC Davis)
ACS-Petroleum
Research Fund
US Geological Survey
USDA

Collaborators:

Karen Burow (USGS)
Steve Phillips (USGS)
Graham Fogg
Yong Zhang



An aerial photograph of a large, roughly circular crater. The crater floor is a mix of brown, tan, and greenish-grey, showing some topographical features and a network of small channels. In the center of the crater, there is a prominent, irregularly shaped lake with a deep blue color. A dark red, wavy line traces the inner rim of the crater, separating the central basin from the surrounding terrain. The background outside the crater shows more rugged, brownish terrain with some linear features.

Thank You



CALTRANS PALEONTOLOGY POLICY

Kim Christmann
October 16, 2013



NATIONAL FOSSIL DAY



DISCOVERY • SCIENCE • PREHISTORIC LIFE
OCTOBER 16, 2013

INFORMATION LINKS

- × <http://www.earthsciweek.org>
- × <https://www.facebook.com/NatIFossilDay>
- × <http://nature.nps.gov/geology/nationalfossilday>

CALTRANS PALEONTOLOGY POLICY

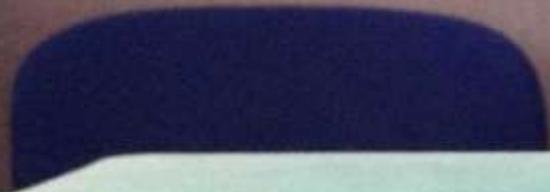
- ❖ Why was a policy needed?
- ❖ Process Caltrans developed
- ❖ Challenges we face
- ❖ What do we find?



WHY?

- ❖ Legal Requirements
- ❖ No legally defined process
- ❖ Poorly understood resource
- ❖ Lack of advocacy





PALEONTOLOGY

CEQA APPENDIX G

V. CULTURAL RESOURCES -- Would the project:

a) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of a historical resource as defined in 15064.5?

b) Cause a substantial adverse change in the significance of an archaeological resource pursuant to 15064.5?

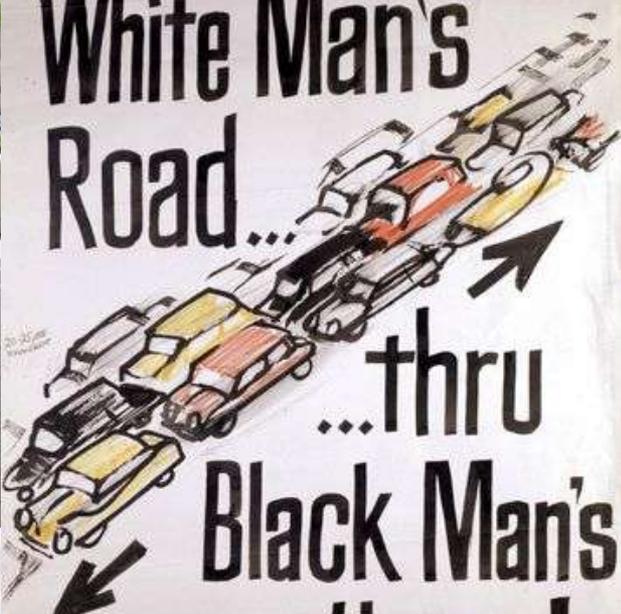


c) Directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature?

d) Disturb any human remains, including those interred outside of formal cemeteries?

SAVE OUR TREES
BUILD YOUR ROUNDABOUT IN THE FIELD



White Man's Road ...

...**thru Black Man's Home!**





PRIMARY ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS



- ❖ CEQA – State
- ❖ NEPA - Federal

CEQA

- ❖ **Intent:**
 - ❖ Maintain and enhance the environmental quality of the state.
- ❖ **Requires that we determine and take action if:**
 - ❖ The project would directly or indirectly destroy a unique paleontological resource or site or unique geologic feature
- ❖ **Applies**
 - ❖ Whenever a project involves a discretionary action by a State or local agency.

ADDITIONAL STATE LAWS & REGS

- ❖ California Coastal Act
- ❖ Public Resources Code Section 5097.5
- ❖ Title 14 Sections 4307 & 4309



NEPA

❖ Intent:

- ❖ Preserve important historic, cultural, and **natural aspects of our national heritage**, and maintain, wherever possible, an environment which supports diversity, and variety of individual choice

❖ Applies if there is a federal nexus:

- ❖ Federal funding
- ❖ Located on federal property
- ❖ Requires federal approval



ADDITIONAL FEDERAL LAWS & REGS

- ❖ Limitation on Federal Participation (23 USC 1.9)
- ❖ Federal Aid Highway Act
- ❖ National Registry of Natural Landmarks
- ❖ Antiquities Act of 1906
- ❖ Paleontological Resources Preservation Act



CHALLENGES OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

- ❖ Applicable laws must be determined for each project
- ❖ Lack of process specifics in the law
- ❖ Agencies with jurisdiction must be determined for each project
- ❖ Varying agency requirements



PROCESS FOR RESOURCE CONSIDERATION

- ❖ Not defined in law
- ❖ Used examples and guidance from:
 - Federal agencies
 - Local agencies
 - Museums
 - Private organizations



FEDERAL AGENCIES

- ❖ Bureau of Land Management
- ❖ National Park Service
- ❖ Bureau of Indian Affairs
- ❖ Federal Highway Administration
- ❖ US Forest Service
- ❖ US Army Corps of Engineers



STATE AGENCIES

- ❖ Ca Dept of Parks & Recreation
- ❖ Ca Coastal Commission



OTHER RESOURCES

❖ Local Agencies

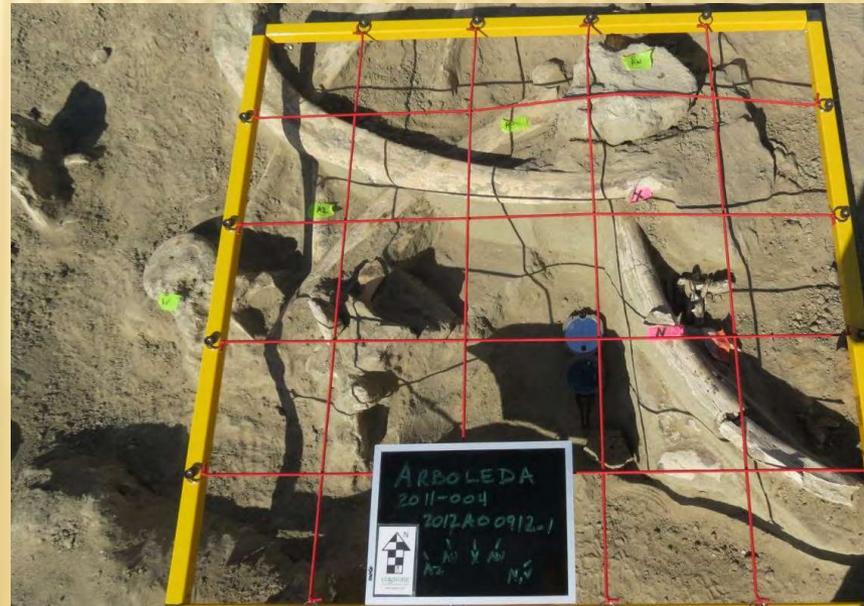
- San Diego County

❖ Private Organizations

- Society for Vertebrate Paleontology

❖ Museums

- San Bernardino County
- UC Berkeley



PROCESS



- ❖ Identification
- ❖ Evaluation
- ❖ Response

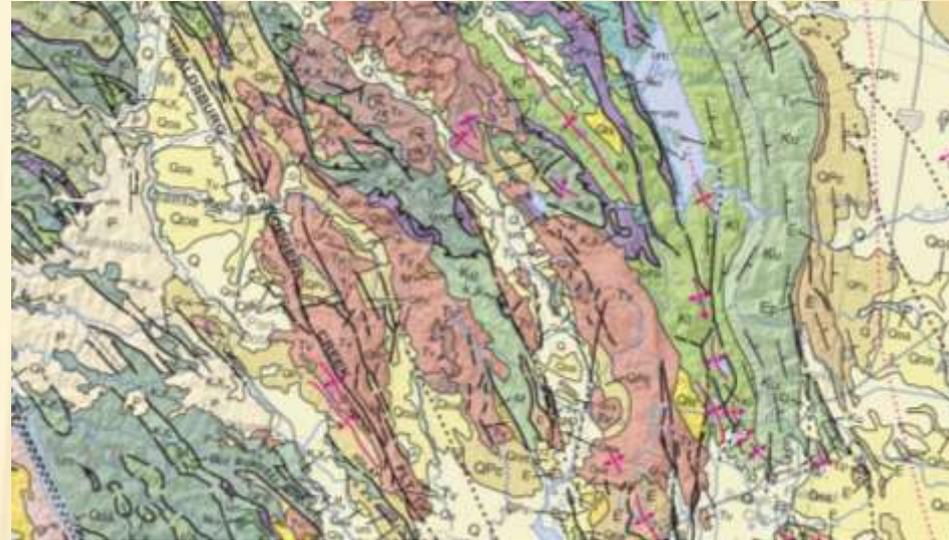
IDENTIFICATION

- ❖ Are there potentially fossiliferous formations/deposits present in the project area?
- ❖ Will the project include excavation into previously undisturbed deposits?



IDENTIFICATION ACTIVITIES

- ❖ Review
 - ❖ Geologic maps
 - ❖ Literature specifically for
 - ❖ Stratigraphy
 - ❖ Structural Geology
 - ❖ Fossil occurrence
- ❖ Field Visit
- ❖ Prepare Paleontological Identification Report
 - ❖ Recommendation regarding need for evaluation
 - ❖ Supports the environmental document



EVALUATION

❖ Must answer:

- Are the deposits that will be disturbed by the project expected to be scientifically valuable?
- Are there unique features present that have important public education value?
- What is the regulatory framework?

❖ Paleontological Evaluation Report:

- Recommendation regarding the need for a response
- Information needed to support the environmental document



WHAT IS THE RESOURCE?

- ❖ Potentially fossiliferous formation or deposit not an individual fossil



FORMATIONS HAVE SCIENTIFIC VALUE IF THEY HAVE THE POTENTIAL TO CONTAIN:

- ❖ Vertebrate fossils
- ❖ Invertebrate and plant fossils and microfossils that will add to our understanding of:
 - Phylogeny
 - Taxonomy
 - Morphology
 - Stratigraphy
 - Paleoclimatology



RESPONSE

- ❖ Avoidance
- ❖ Minimization
- ❖ Mitigation



AVOIDANCE

- ❖ Redesigning the project to completely avoid fossiliferous formations.
- ❖ Usually not practicable because of the extent of formations.
- ❖ May be applied to preserve a unique feature.



MINIMIZATION

- ❖ Redesigning the project to reduce the volume of fossiliferous material impacted.
- ❖ Also difficult to implement because of the extent of formations.
- ❖ But may be implemented to minimize the impact to a unique feature.



MITIGATION

- ❖ **Paleontological Mitigation Plan**
 - ❖ Monitoring during excavation activities
 - ❖ Fossil salvage
 - ❖ Fossil preparation to the point of identification
 - ❖ Fossil cataloguing
 - ❖ Curation
- ❖ **Paleontological Mitigation Report**



POLICY & PROCESSES

- ❖ Caltrans Standard Environmental Reference (SER)
- ❖ Under revision
- ❖ Interested in reviewing contact:
Kim.D.Christmann@dot.ca.gov



What Do We Find . . .

STATE ROUTE 133





10 cm

Fragment of a Baleen Whale Jaw

Whale
Vertebrae



Squalodont – extinct whale with serrated teeth like a shark



Platanistid – type of dolphin

CEA 050517-02



Dorsal



CEA 050517-02

Ventral

STATE ROUTE 41



Pinniped (Seal) collected in 2004





Pinniped Maxillary Teeth

CALDECOTT TUNNEL



130-ton Wirth roadheader used to drill the Caldecott 4th bore:





Camel Vertebrae



Leaves



Horse Metatarsal



Lenticulina sp.

Martinotiella
communis

Pyramidulina
acuminata

Forams



Oreodont Jaw



Clam

STATE ROUTE 76



First Pleistocene bison ever found in San Diego County - Spring 2013





Welcome to the Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Hazard
Research Demonstration Lab

A window into research and collections at the NAT

There is more to the museum than exhibits.
We have a collection of more than 7.4 million
specimens—fossils, plants, insects, reptiles,
amphibians, birds, mammals,
and more.

See some of the ways our



Most of our collections are from Southern
California and the Baja California peninsula.
At the NAT, our mission is to better understand
the plants, animals, and geology of
this region—Hazard and you.



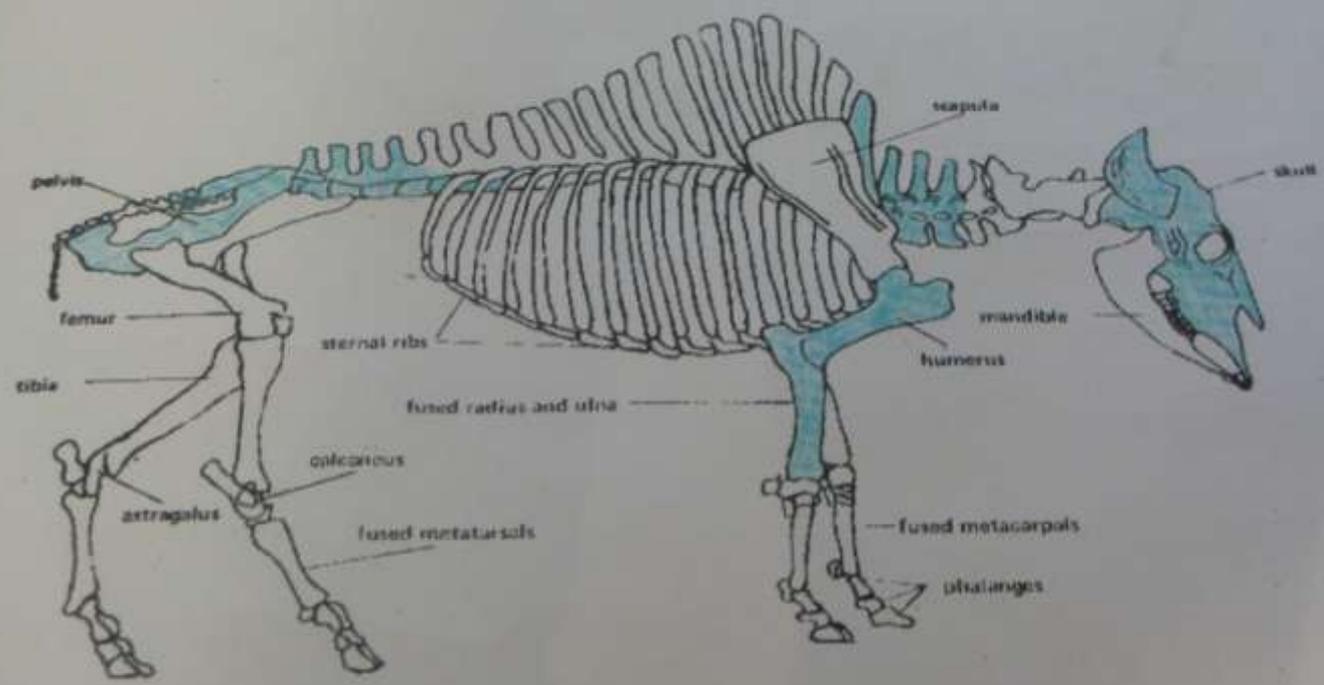


GOOGLE: YOUTUBE CALTRANS BISON

✘ http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_n2XPmCKclo



FOSSILS COLLECTED SHOWN IN BLUE



Elements of the bison that were collected from this site in North San Diego County, at the I-15 and SR-76 Interchange

BISON – FOSSIL PREPARATION COMPLETE



PELVIS & RIBS



Pelvis and Ribs
Human (Homo sapiens) - *Homo sapiens*
Anatomical

HUMERUS AND RADIUS & ULNA



STATE ROUTE 99 IN MADERA





New Species of Dire Wolf
(cranium on the right and
humerus on the left)



Camel and extinct Horse

STATE ROUTE 99 IN MERCED





Western Horse Tooth

Western Horse



Columbian Mammoth – ribs & vertebrae



Columbian Mammoth – skull and tusks



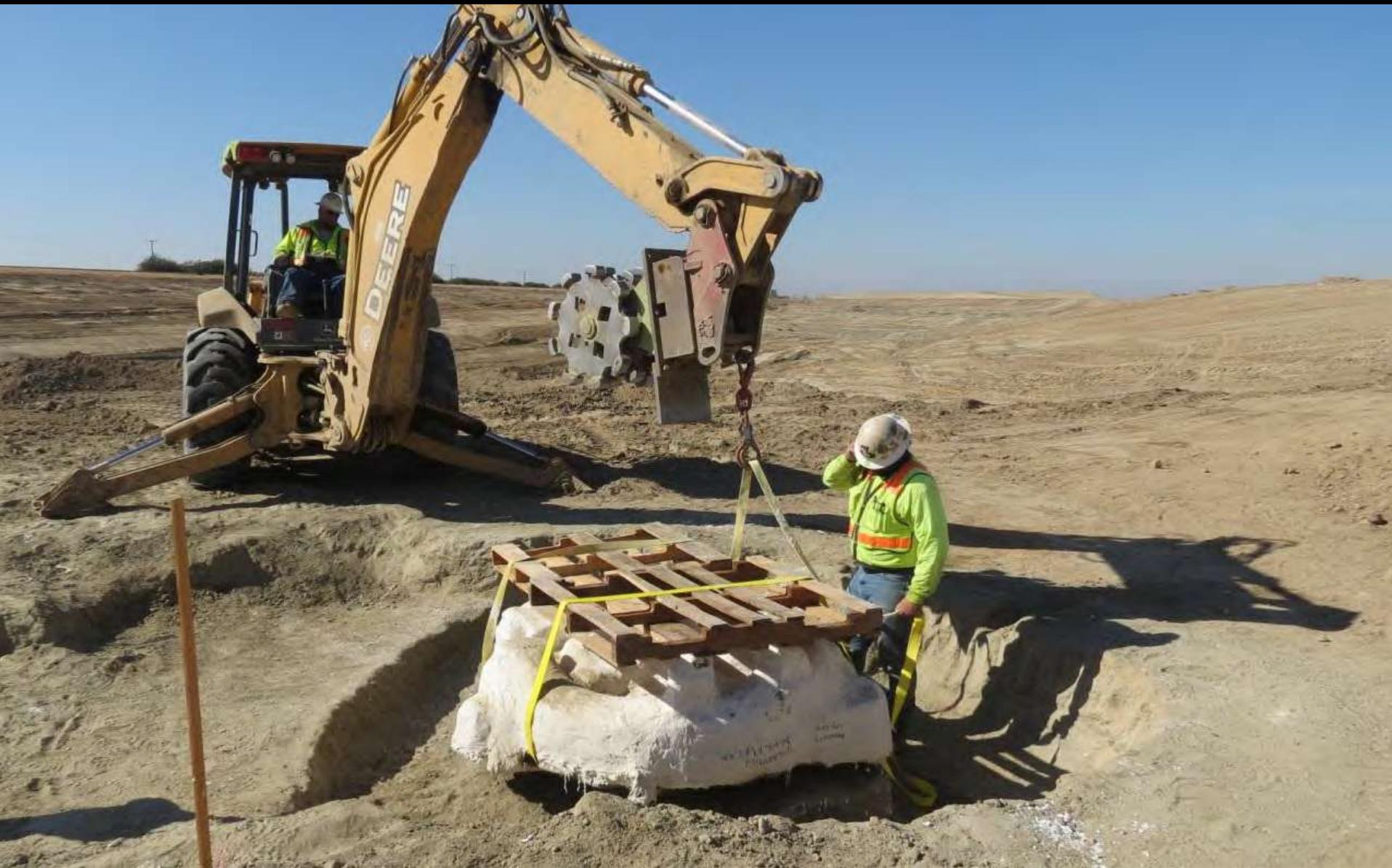


















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