Diagnostic Decision Support and BMP Effectiveness for Water Quality Gains

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Diagnostic Decision Support Systems (DDSS)



Components: GIS, Hydrologic Models, Expert Systems, Behavioral Models

Goal: More "bang for the buck": Target BMPs to CSAs, Interventions to Low Adoption Areas

1) Agricultural Team:



Hubert Montas, Diagnostic Tools

Sociology



Paul Leisnham, Socio-Ecology



Adel Shirmohammadi, Hydrology



Jaison Rekenberger, Diagnostic Tools



Dan Boward, MD-DNR *Ecology*



Tom Hutson & Nicole Barth, Extension

2) Urban and Sub-Urban Team: Yan Wang, Zhongrun Xiang, Many more...

Climate Change: Precipitation Changes

Precipitation Volume: Very Heavy Events i.e., top 1% (1958-2012)



Climate Change and Design Rainfall

(hypothetical change – 5-yr, 1-hr, 2.4 inch curve shown; DC is 2.2 inch)



Source: U.S. Weather Bureau, 1961. Technical Paper No. 40, Rainfall Frequency Atlas of the U.S.

Climate Change: Robustness of Designs



Will chair designed for today's conditions remain comfortable tomorrow?

Investigation 1:

- Agricultural watershed
- Maryland Eastern Shore (Coastal Plains)
- 🖵 300 km^2
- □ Single CMIP3 model: GFDL –CM2.1 (US)
- Scenarios B1, A1B and A2
- 50- and 100-year time horizons
- □ Fixed Threshold for CSAs (TMDL)



Watershed Response: Baseline and Climate Change Scenarios



Surface Run-off & Total Suspended Solids



Nitrogen & Phosphorous



Targeting Dense CSAs of Today

Residual CSA Density with Baseline BMP Design Subjected to Current, A1B and A2 Climate Conditions



Investigation 2:

- Suburban Watershed
- Central Maryland (Piedmont)
- 🖵 5 km^2
- Six CMIP5 models (US, Canada, France, Japan)
- □ Four RCP Scenarios 2.6, 4.5, 6.0 and 8.5
- □ 50- and 100-year time horizons
- □ Fixed (TMDL) and Relative Thresholds for CSAs



Watershed Response: Baseline and Climate Change Scenarios



Watershed Response: Baseline CSAs



Watershed Response: Fixed Threshold CSAs in 2100 (Model 3, RCP8.5)



Watershed Response: Relative Threshold CSAs in 2100 (Model 3, RCP8.5)



Summary

In Maryland (US North East), changing rainfall patterns (volume and intensity) are expected to result in:

- Increased runoff, sediment, nitrogen and phosphorus production (nonlinear)
- Increased area of CSAs (1.5X to 4X) for constituents that need to be controlled by mass (fixed TMDLs -> fixed targeting threshold)
- Similar area and location of CSAs for constituents that need to be controlled by concentration (eg. TMDLs adjusted for increases in runoff).

For the latter, BMP plans and social interventions designed for todays' conditions are expected to be robust against climate change.

For the former, the changing climate will require additional resources and efforts to maintain water quality gains (and flood control).

Extra Slides

Model Construction and Analysis

Data Type Characteristics

Topography/DEM10 meterLanduse/Land CoverNLCD 2006SoilsNRCS SSURGOWeather (Calibration)3 stations NCEP CFSRFlow, Nutrients and1 USGS GaugingSedimentStation GreensboroClimate ChangeCMIP3 (B1, A1B, A2)GFDL-CM2.1(Mid and End Century)

Software Purpose and Progression ArcGIS Spatial Data Analysis (Graphics and Database) ArcSWAT Model development SWAT input file Generation SWAT-CUP Model calibration (SUFI-2 Method) SWAT Experimental engine (SWAT.exe)

Downscaled climate predictions from global model based around 3 IPCC scenarios that lead to low, medium, and high future levels of CO₂

Model Calibration

- Warm-up (3 yrs): 1/1/1990 to 12/31/1992
- Calibration Period (15 yrs): 1/1/1990 to 12/31/2004

Model Validation

- Warm-up (2 yrs): 1/1/2005 to 12/31/2006
- Validation Period (6 yrs): 1/1/2005 to 12/31/2010

Definition of a Critical Source Area (CSA)

An area that exports a target pollutant at concentrations significantly above average

Rank	SurQ (mm H20)	TSS (tonnes/ha/yr)	TN (kg/ha/yr)	TP (kg/ha/yr)
Тор 10%	>406	>1.03	>24	>1.9
Тор 20%	>359	>0.73	>16	>1.6

Top 10%: Value for which the top ~770 HRUs is separated from the other 7705 HRUs Top 20%: Value for which the top ~1540 HRUs is separated from the other 7705 HRUs

Always defined a watershed area (or HRU) a CSA if it exported a given pollutant at these fixed thresholds

Targeting Method: Dense CSAs

Critically Dense Areas at the top 20% Break Value



Targeting Dense CSAs of the Future

Residual CSA Density with A2 BMP Design Subjected to Current, A1B and A2 Climate Conditions.

