

# **Barton Springs Groundwater Model Development and Application**



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# Topics

- Background and Objective
- Summary of Model Development
- Calibration Results
- Application

# BSEACD Area Models

- BEG model calibrated from 1989-1998
- BSEACD established DFCs based on “drought-of-record” (DOR -1950s)
- BSEACD expressed concern regarding calibration period of BEG model
  - Developed separate model that ostensibly covered DOR
  - Review of BSEACD model revealed that it was also not “calibrated” to DOR

# Options

- Use BEG Model (despite calibration period mismatch)
- Use BSEACD Model (despite calibration issues)
- Use “Water Budget Approach” (Analytical)
- Develop “New” Model

# Question

- Can BEG model be quickly and easily updated/recalibrated to cover DOR period?

## Key Issues

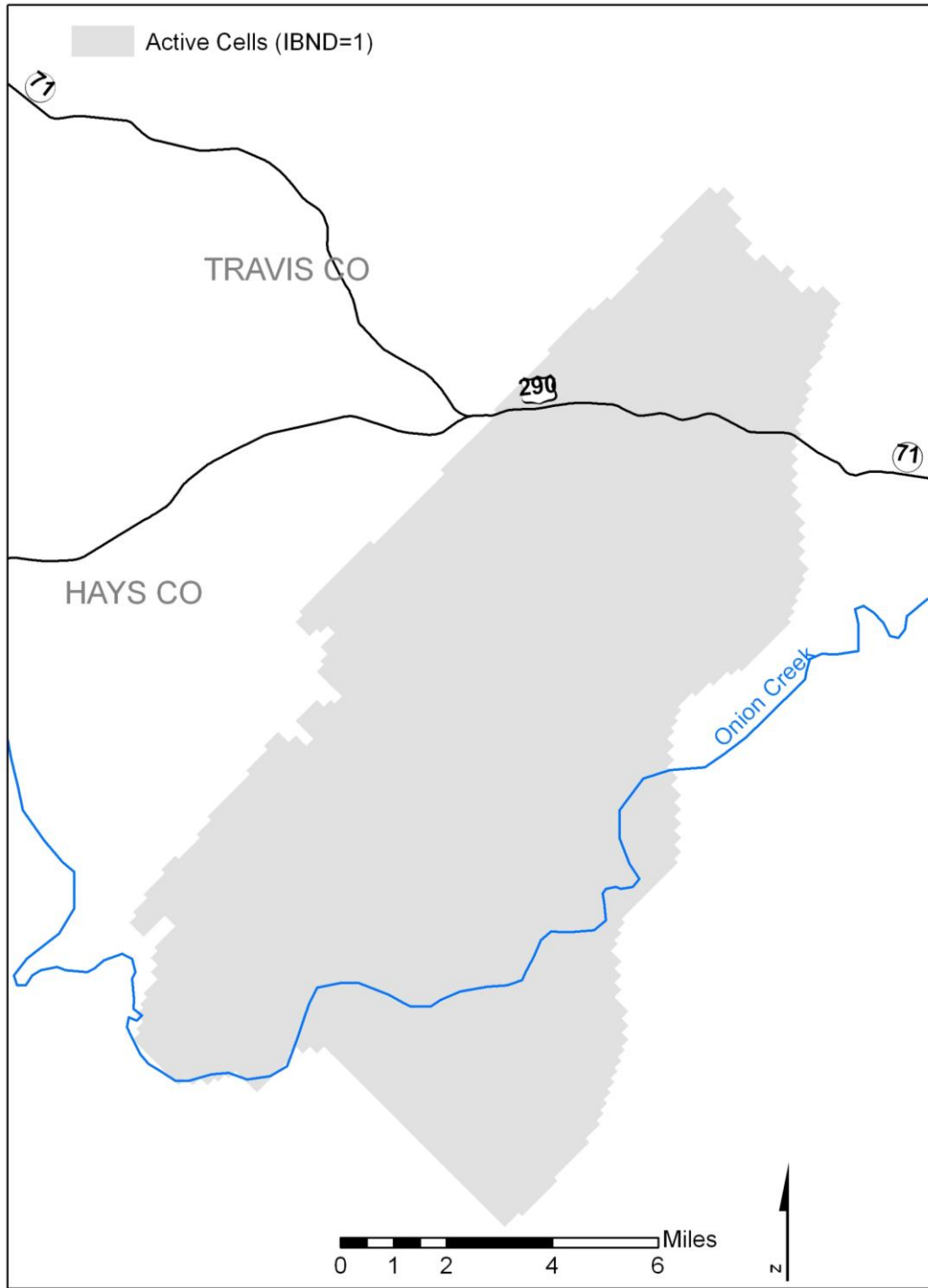
- “Backwards” extrapolation of recharge estimates
- Extension of pumping estimates

# Model Summary (MF2K)

- BAS
- DIS
- LPF
- WEL
- DRN
- HFB
- RCH

# BAS

- Same IBOUND as BEG model
- Starting Head Array
  - Assigned based on early runs





# DIS - Spatial

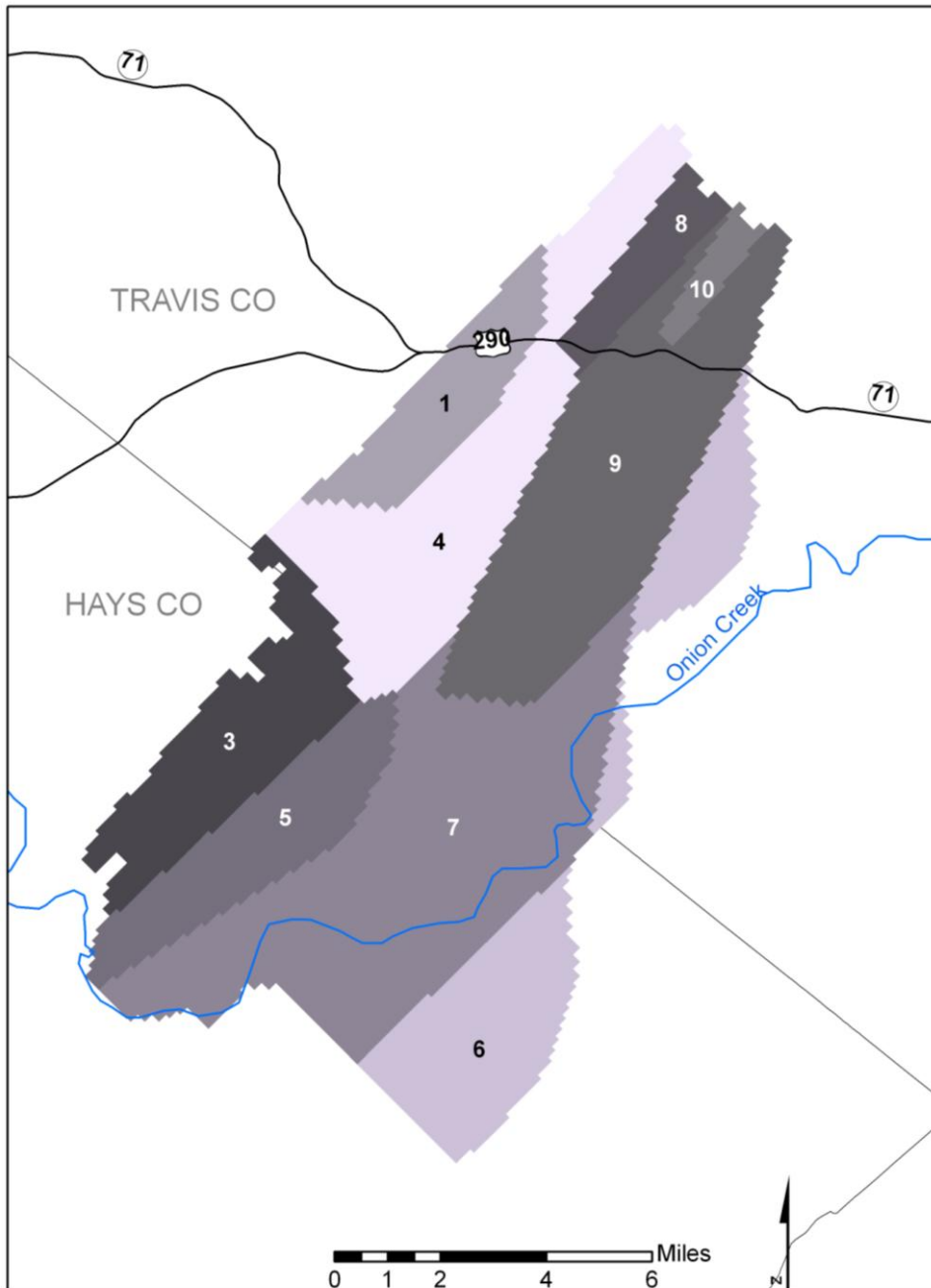
- 120 Rows x 120 Columns
- One Layer
- Cell Size = 1000 ft by 500 ft (Same as BEG)
- Top and Bottom Elevations
  - Same as BEG (with some corrections)

# DIS - Temporal

- Initial Steady State Stress Period
- Monthly Stress Periods
  - January 1943 to December 2004
  - All months = 30 days
- 745 Stress Periods

# LPF

- K and S Zones same as BEG
- Added anisotropy

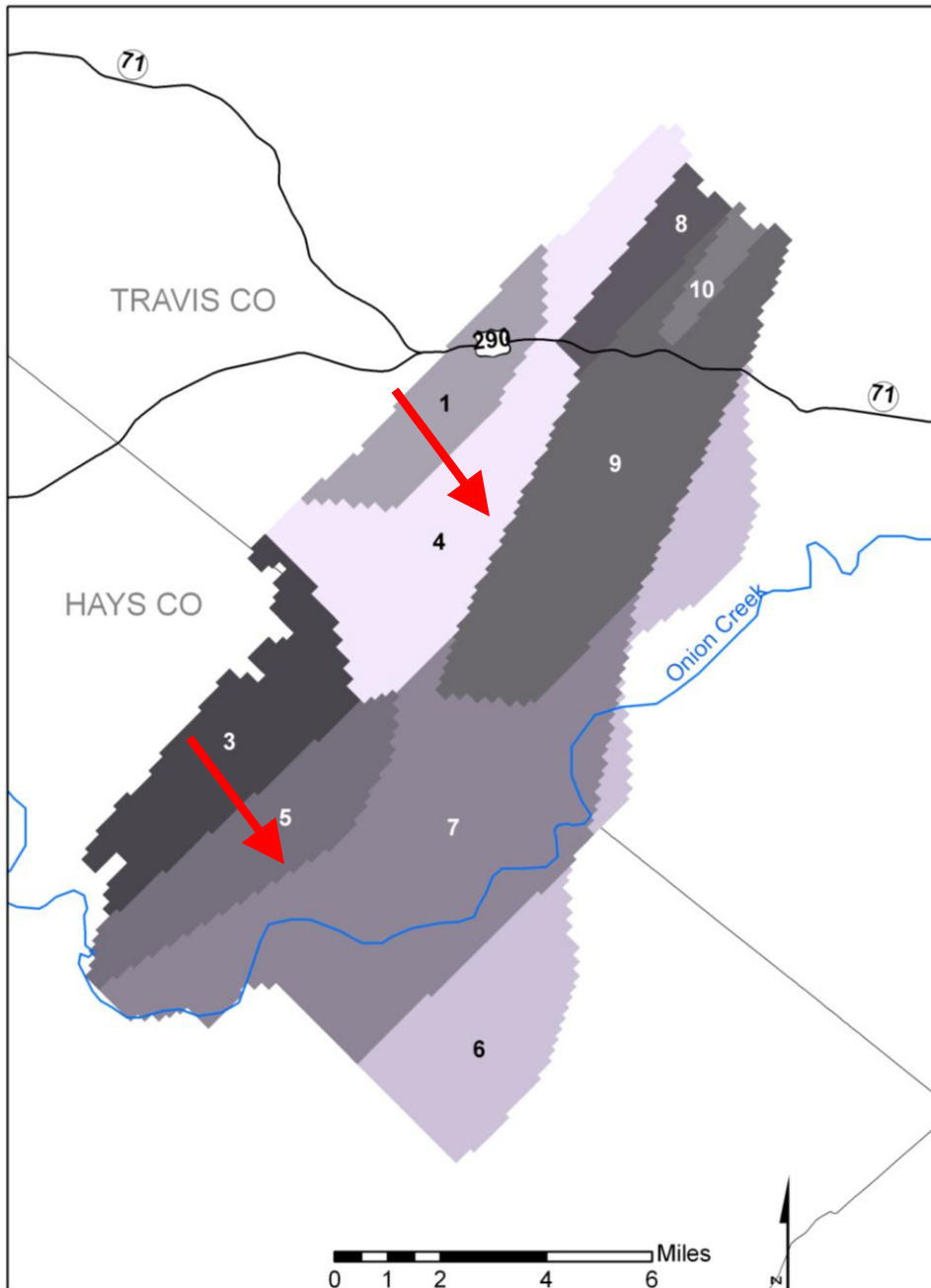


# Hydraulic Conductivity

Zone	New Model			BEG
	Kx	Ky	Kx/Ky	Kx=Ky
1	0.2	0.3	0.6	1
3	0.1	7.2	0.01	3
4	0.1	15.0	0.01	3.5
5	1.3	4.1	0.3	4.5
6	52.2	5.0	10.4	39
7	176.0	85.8	2.1	93
8	20.0	27.3	0.7	100
9	172.0	227.0	0.8	320
10	1855.9	2000.0	0.9	1236

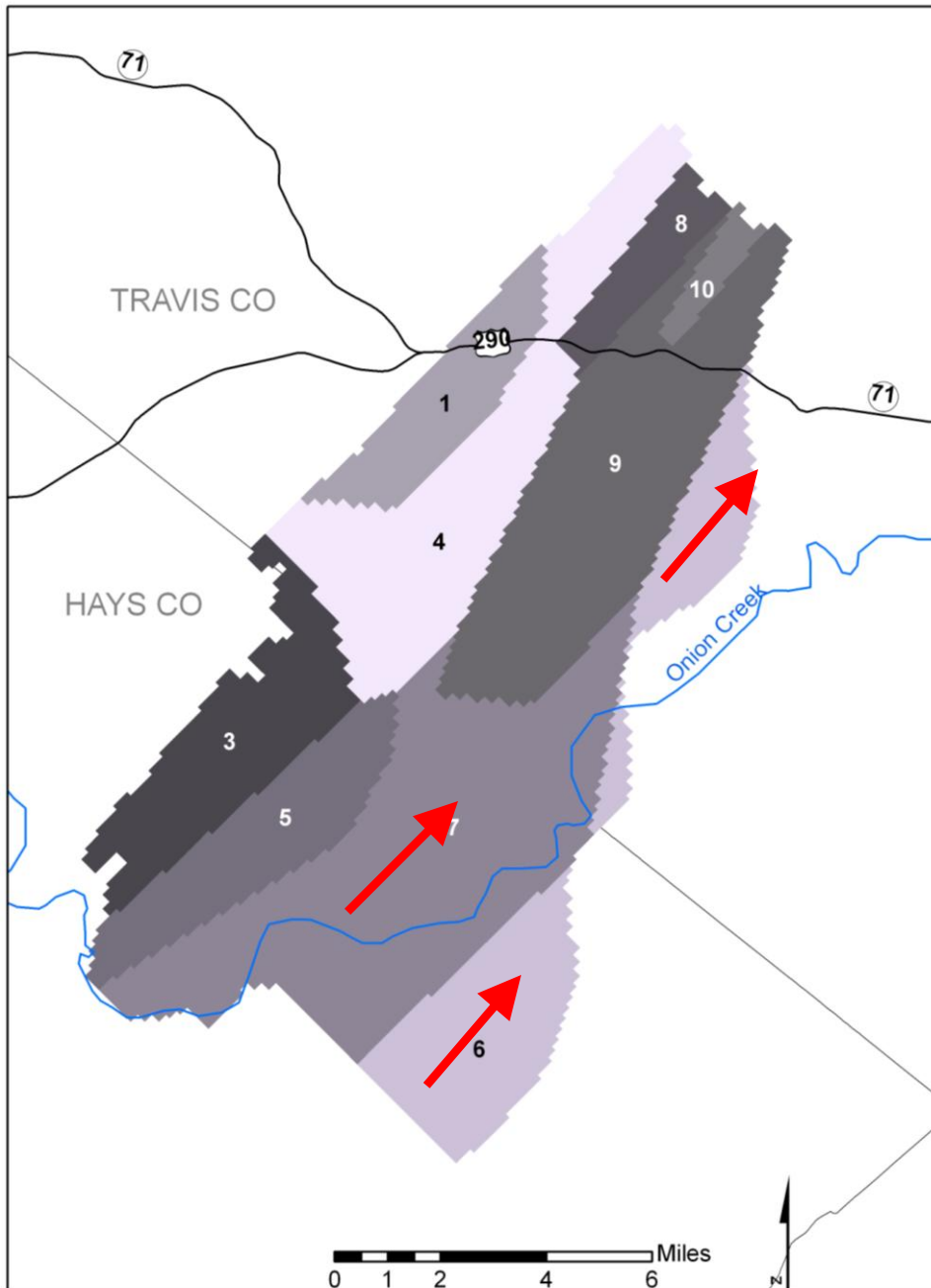
All values in ft/day

# Hydraulic Conductivity



Zone	New Model			BEG
	Kx	Ky	Kx/Ky	Kx=Ky
1	0.2	0.3	0.6	1
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5	1.3	4.1	0.3	4.5
6	52.2	5.0	10.4	39
7	176.0	85.8	2.1	93
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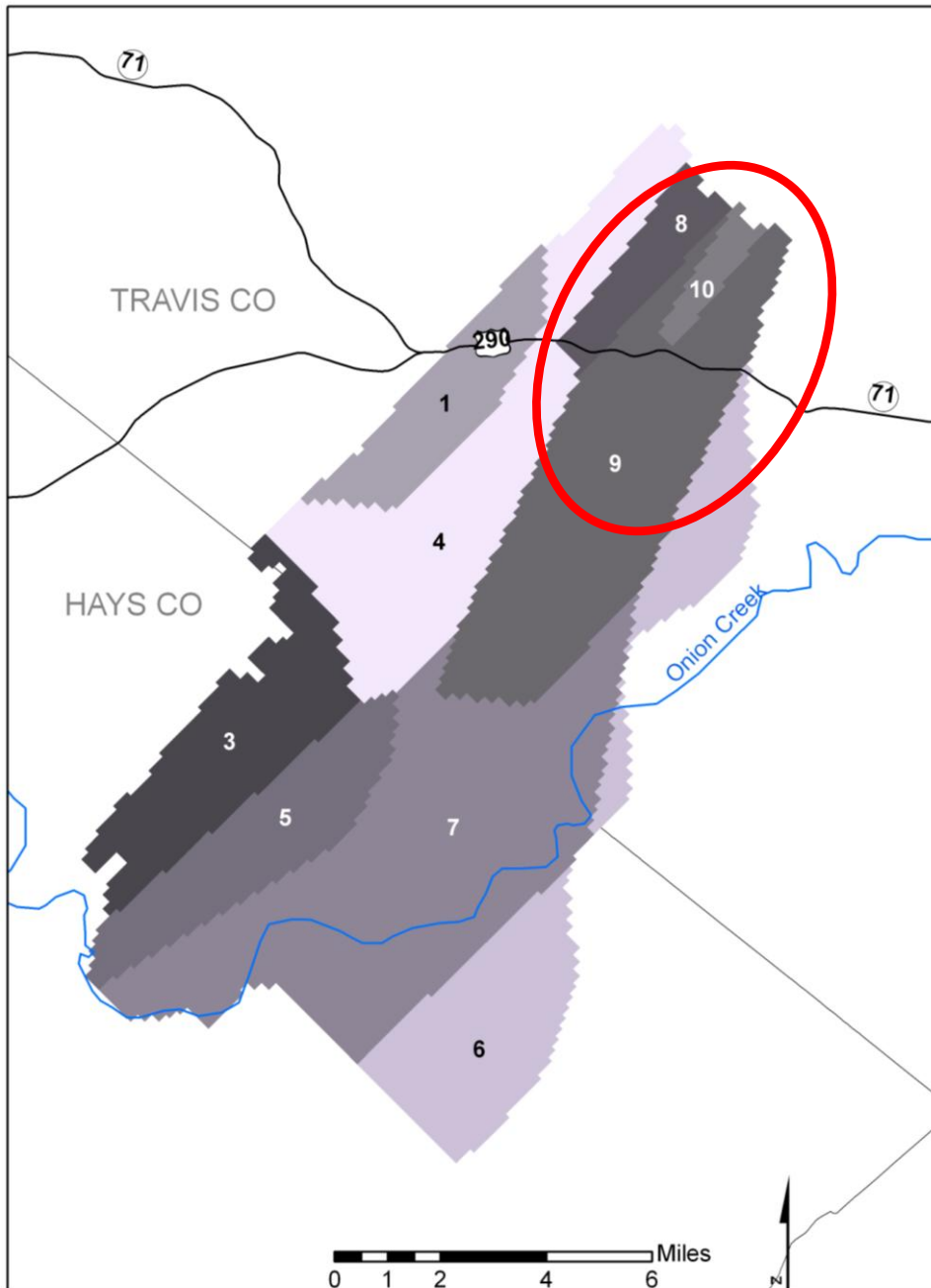
All values in ft/day



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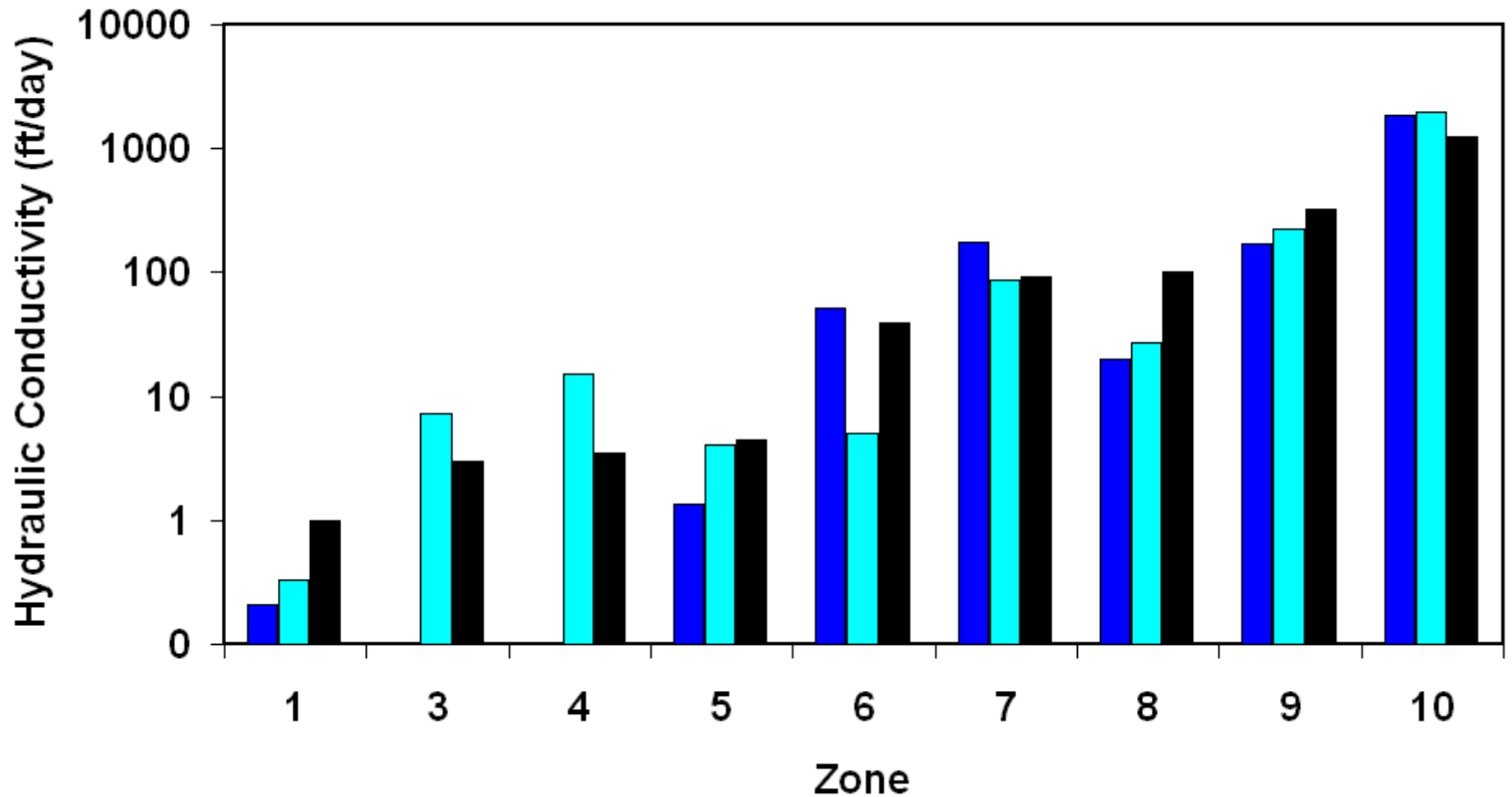


# Hydraulic Conductivity

Zone	New Model			BEG
	Kx	Ky	Kx/Ky	Kx=Ky
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All values in ft/day

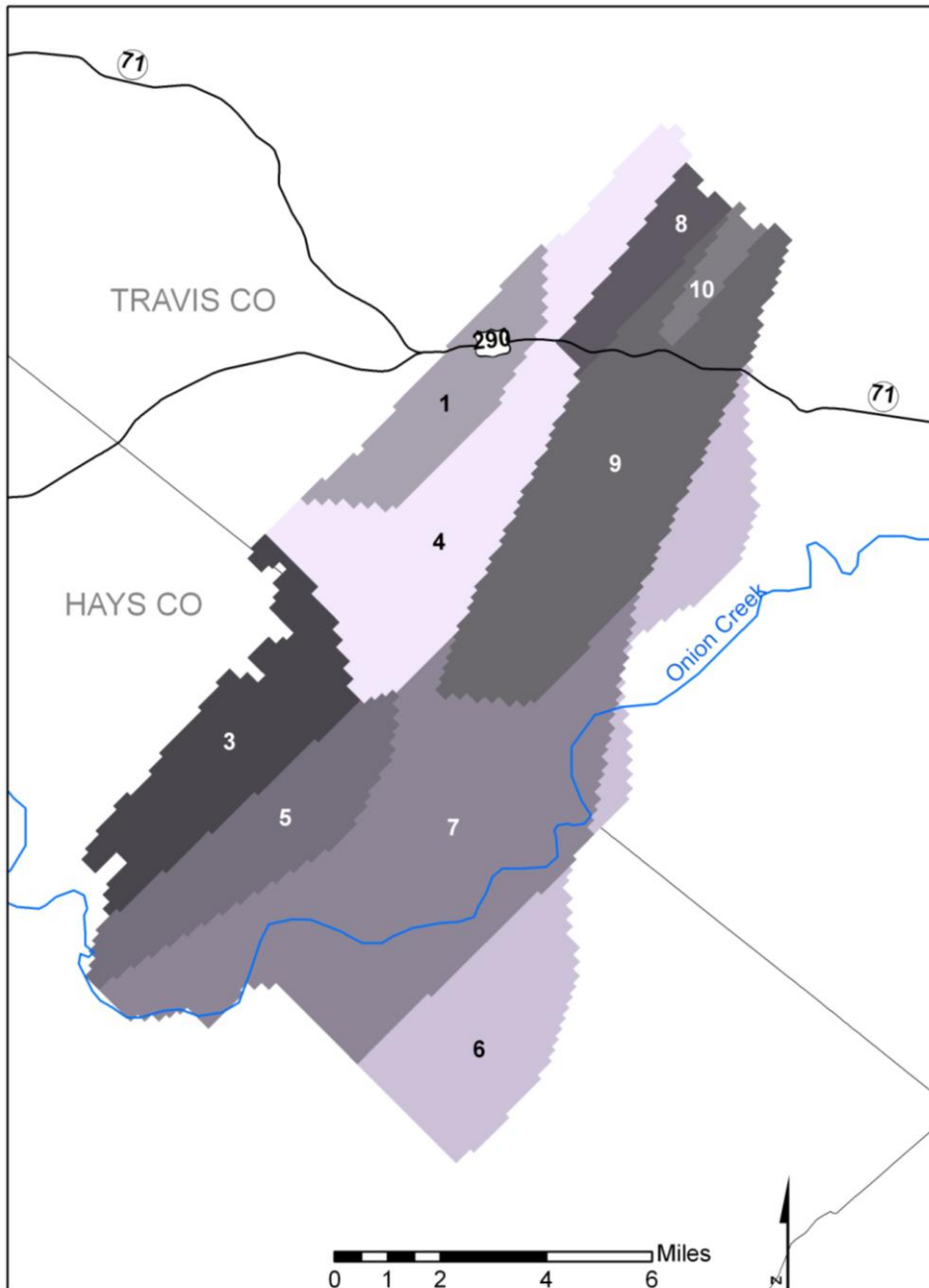
# Hydraulic Conductivity



■ New Model Kx   ■ New Model Ky   ■ BEG Kx=Ky



# Storativity and Specific Yield



Zone	New Model	
	$S_s$	$S_y$
1	1.72E-05	7.56E-02
3	7.16E-05	2.00E-01
4	3.22E-06	1.47E-03
5	1.33E-05	7.45E-03
6	2.19E-07	1.73E-02
7	1.12E-05	1.93E-03
8	1.66E-04	6.79E-02
9	8.74E-08	7.44E-04
10	1.15E-03	1.73E-01

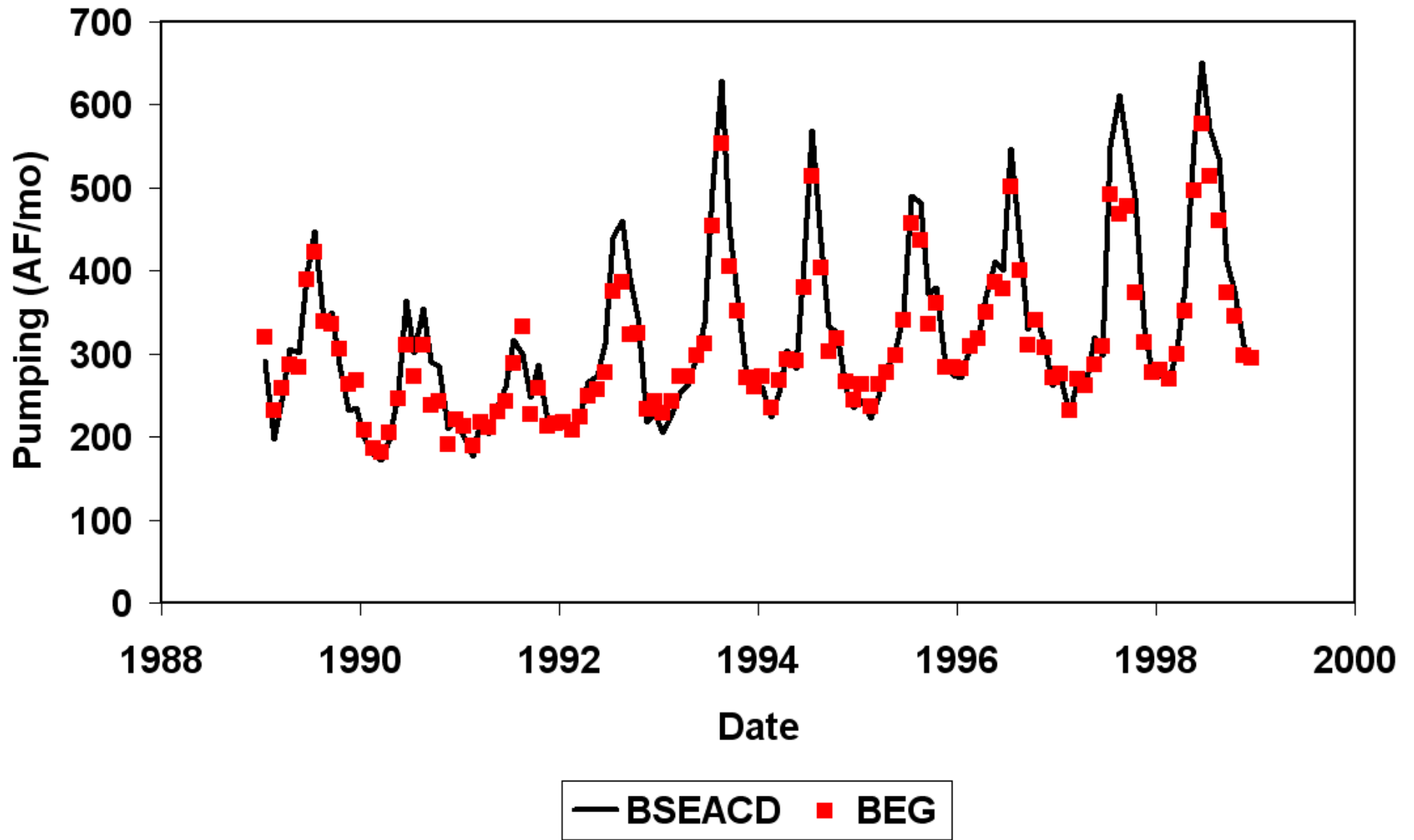
$S_s$  in ft-1

$S_y$  dimensionless

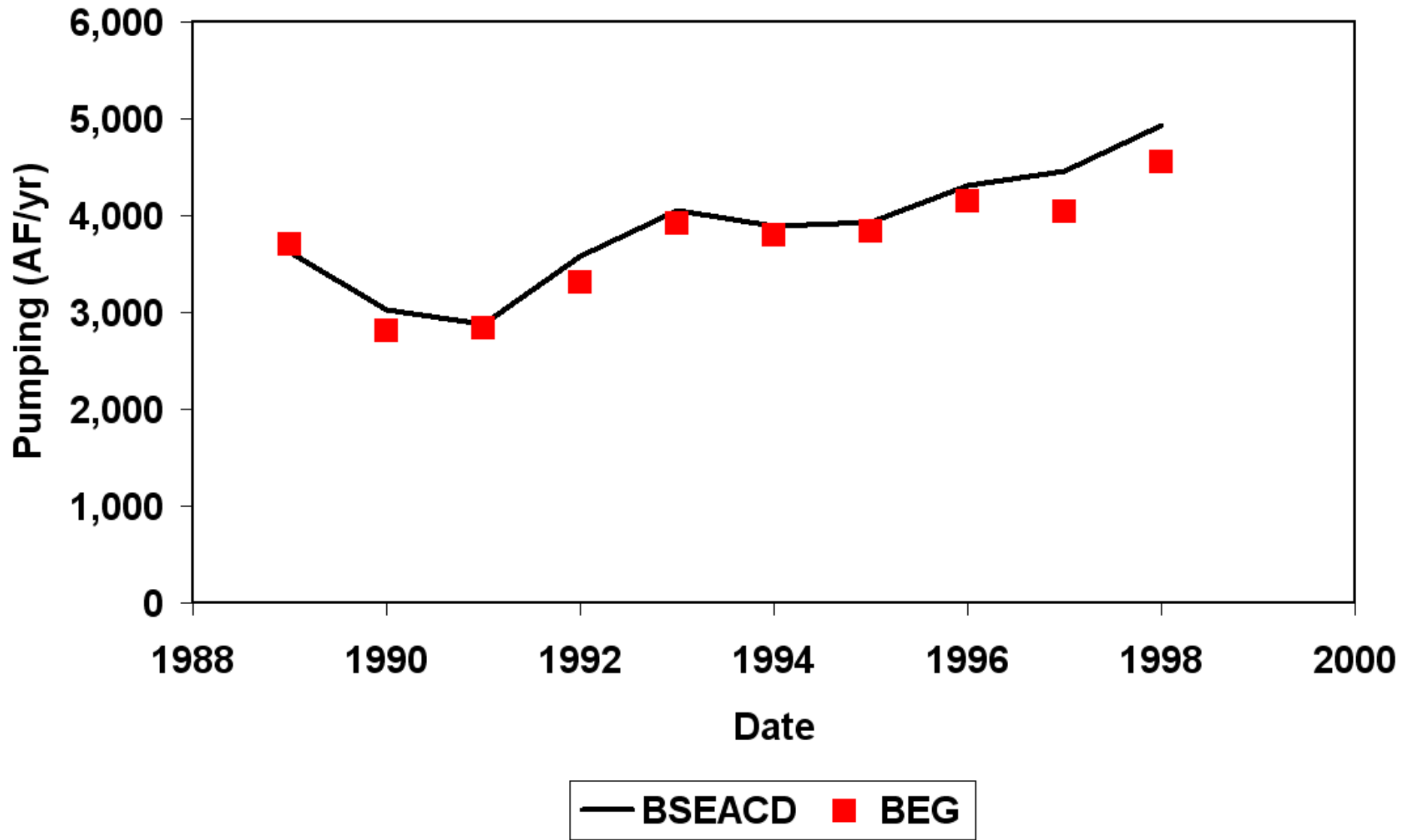
# WEL

- BEG/BSEACD Estimates
- “Rural” vs. “Point” Pumping

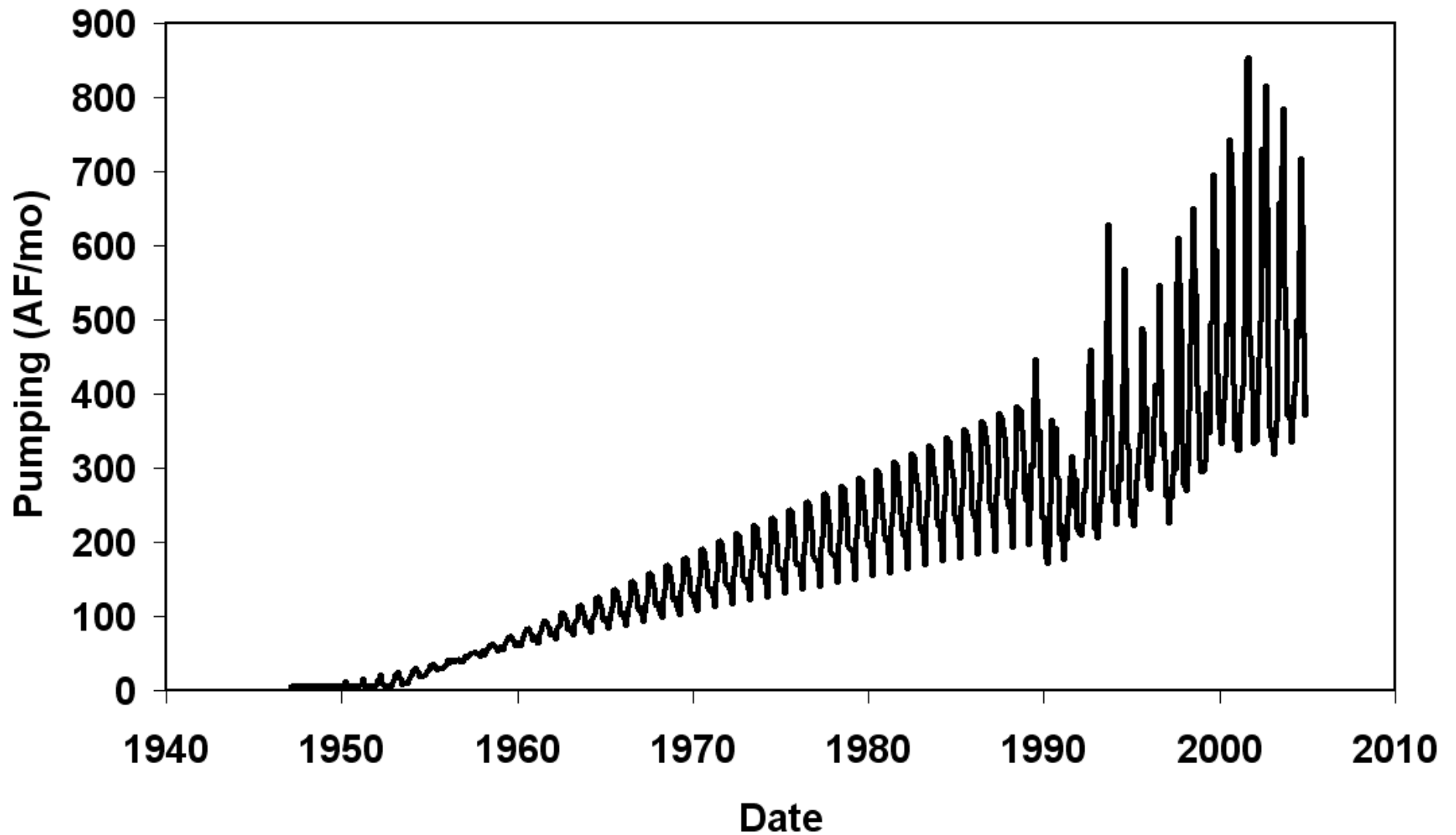
# Monthly Pumping



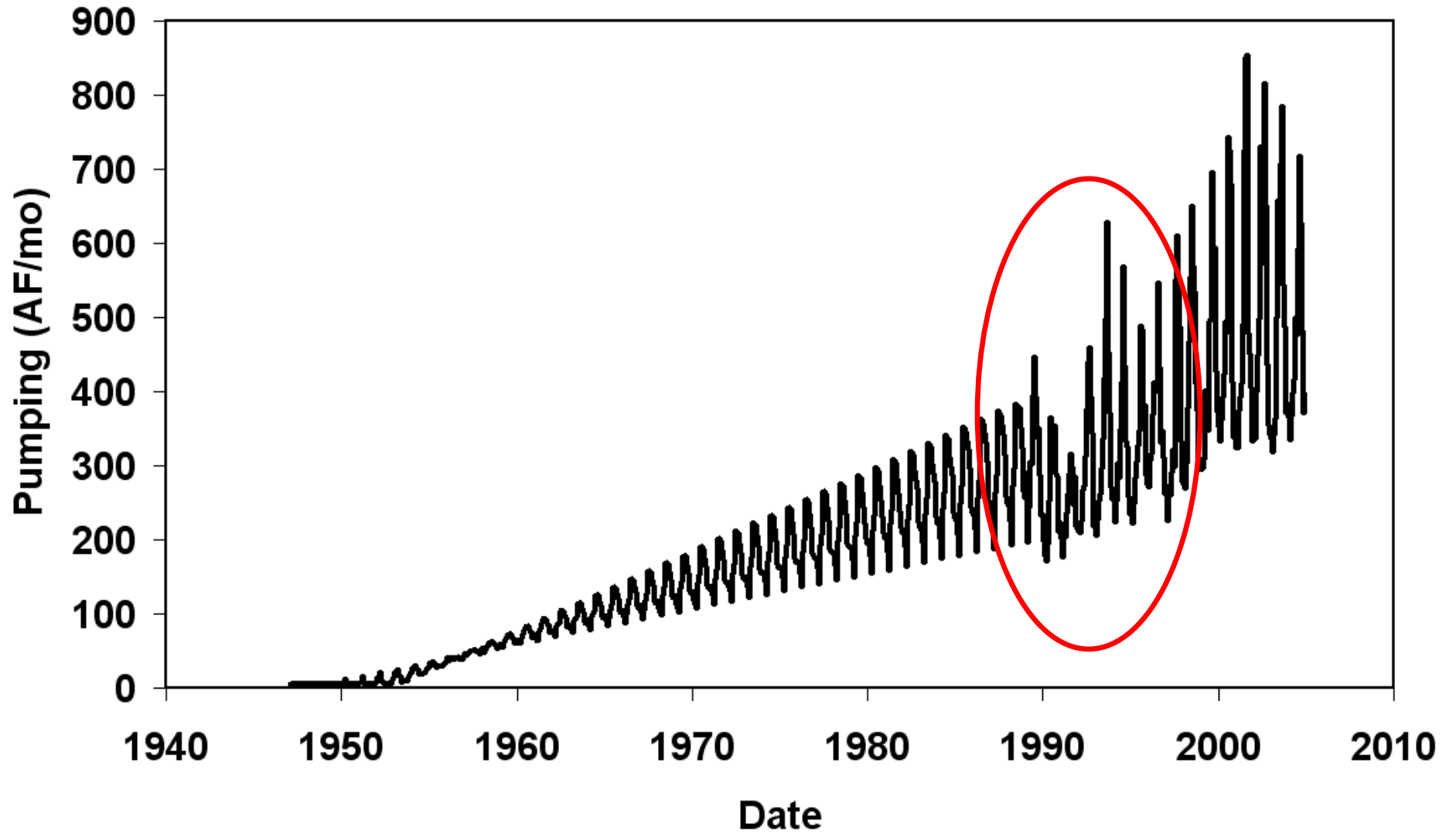
## Annual Pumping



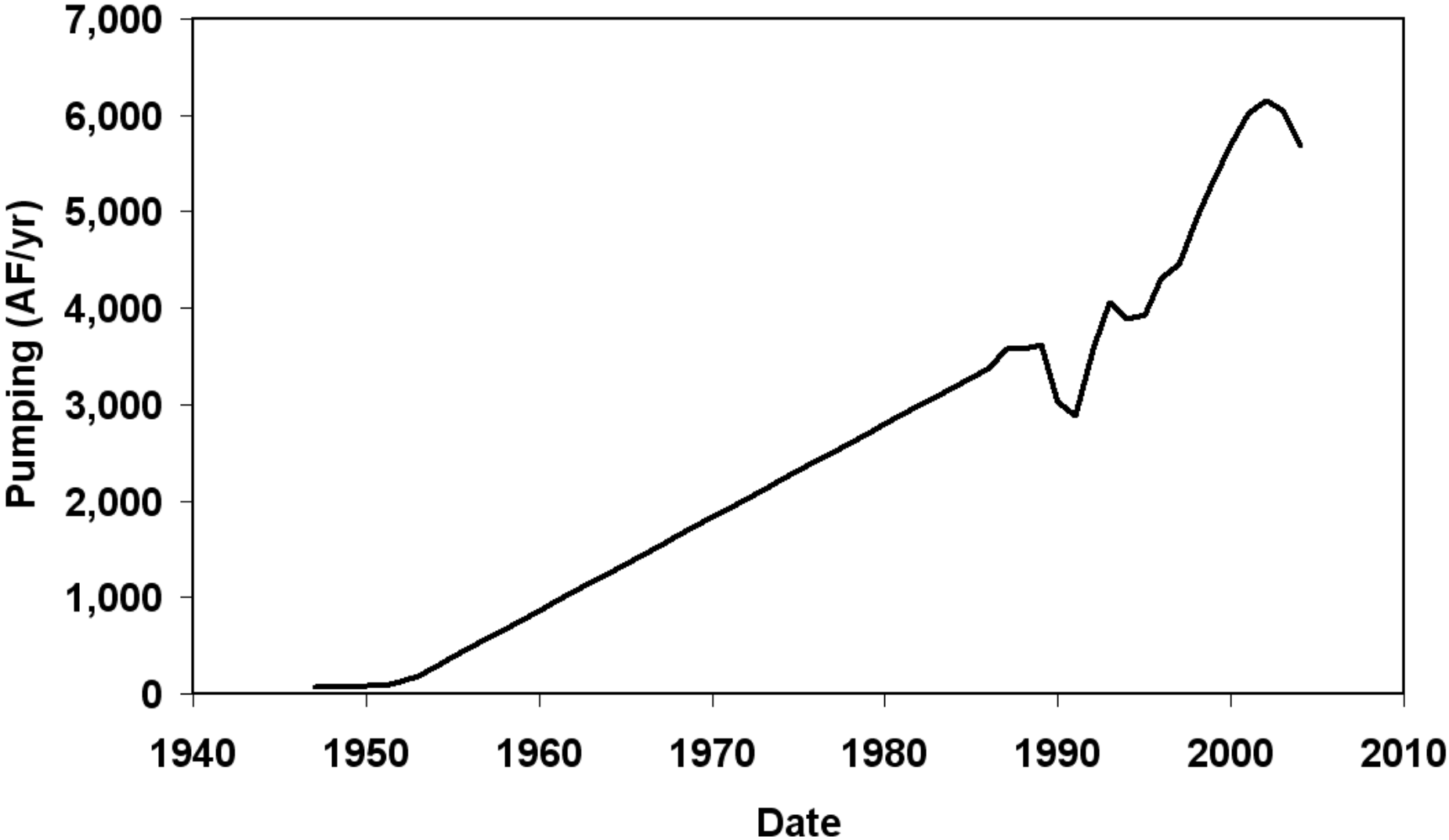
## Monthly Pumping (BSEACD Estimates)



# Monthly Pumping (BSEACD Estimates)



# Annual Pumping

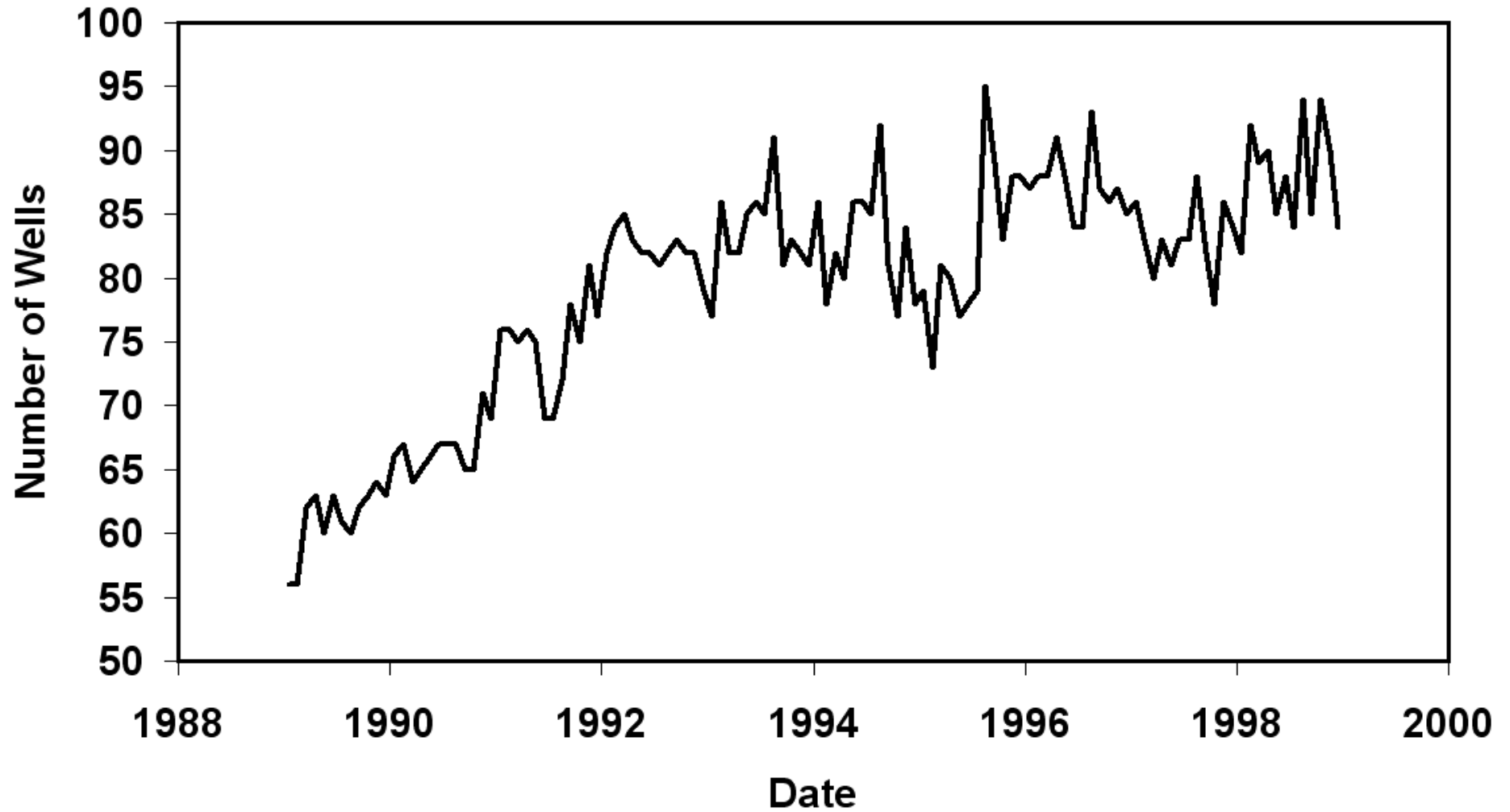


# 1943-1988, 1999-2004 Extrapolation

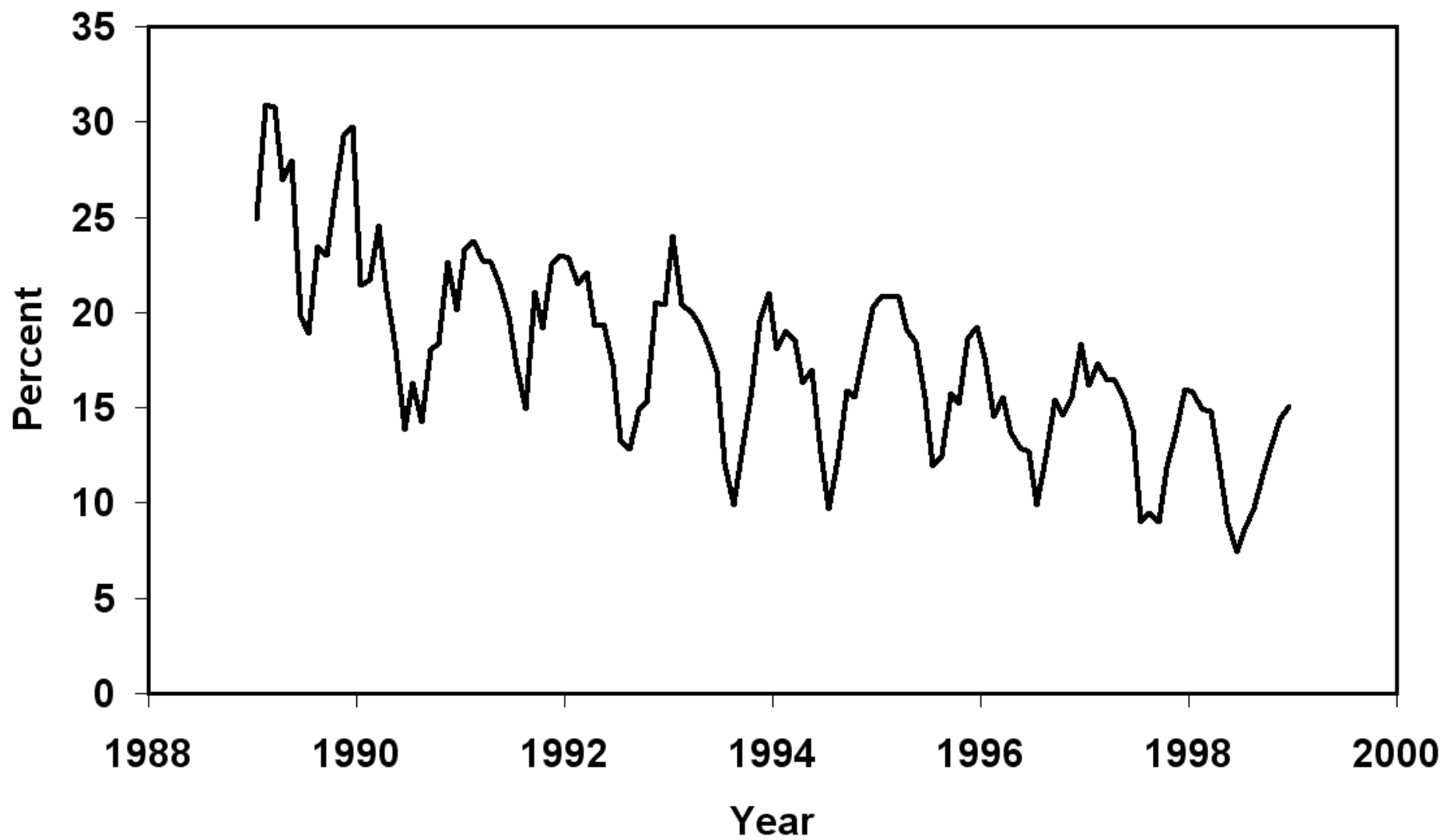
- Use BSEACD estimated pumping totals
- Distribute based on “rural” and “point” distribution
- Use BEG spatial distribution based on month



**"Point" Wells (BEG Model)**  
Total "Wells" =7,037



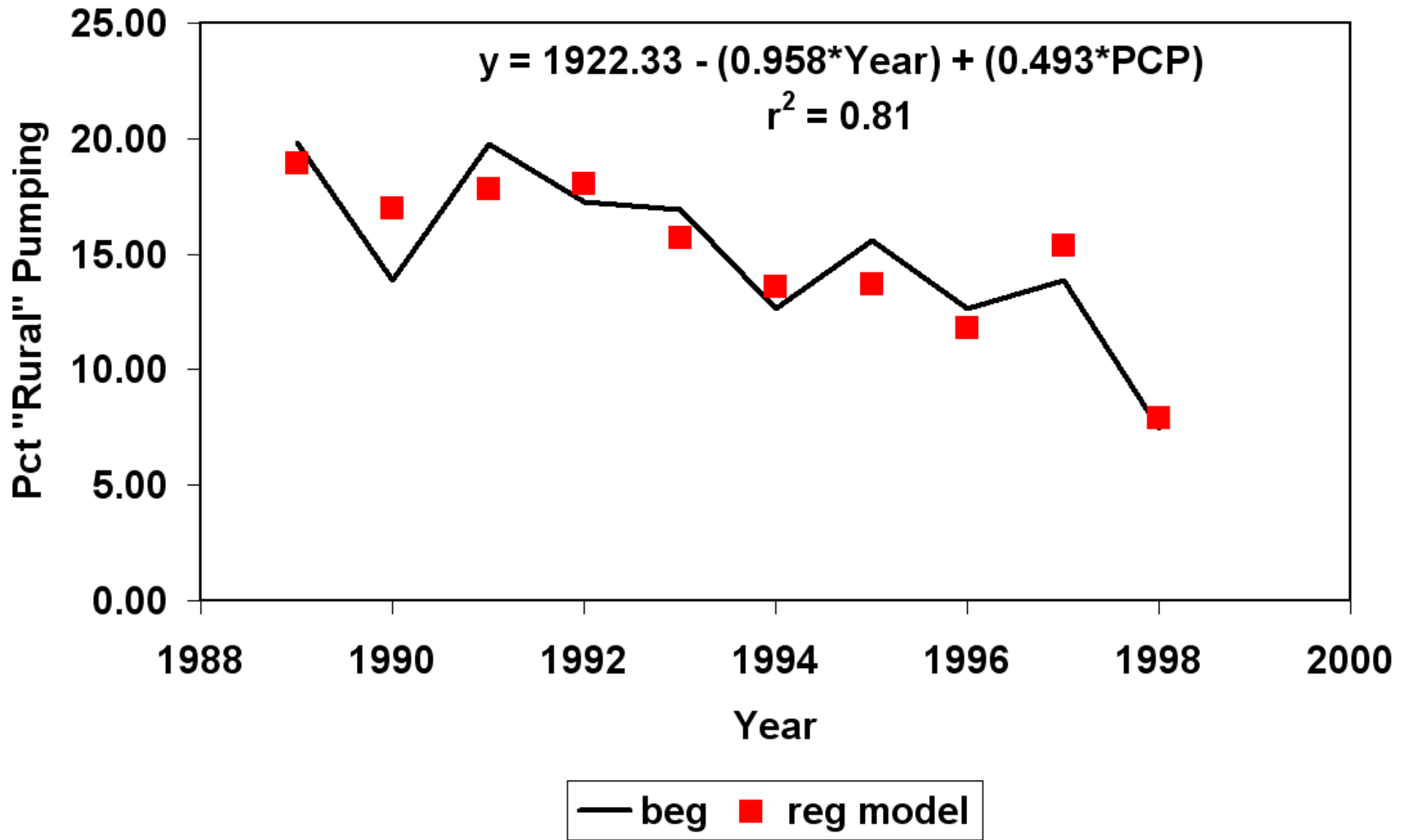
# Percent "Rural" Pumping



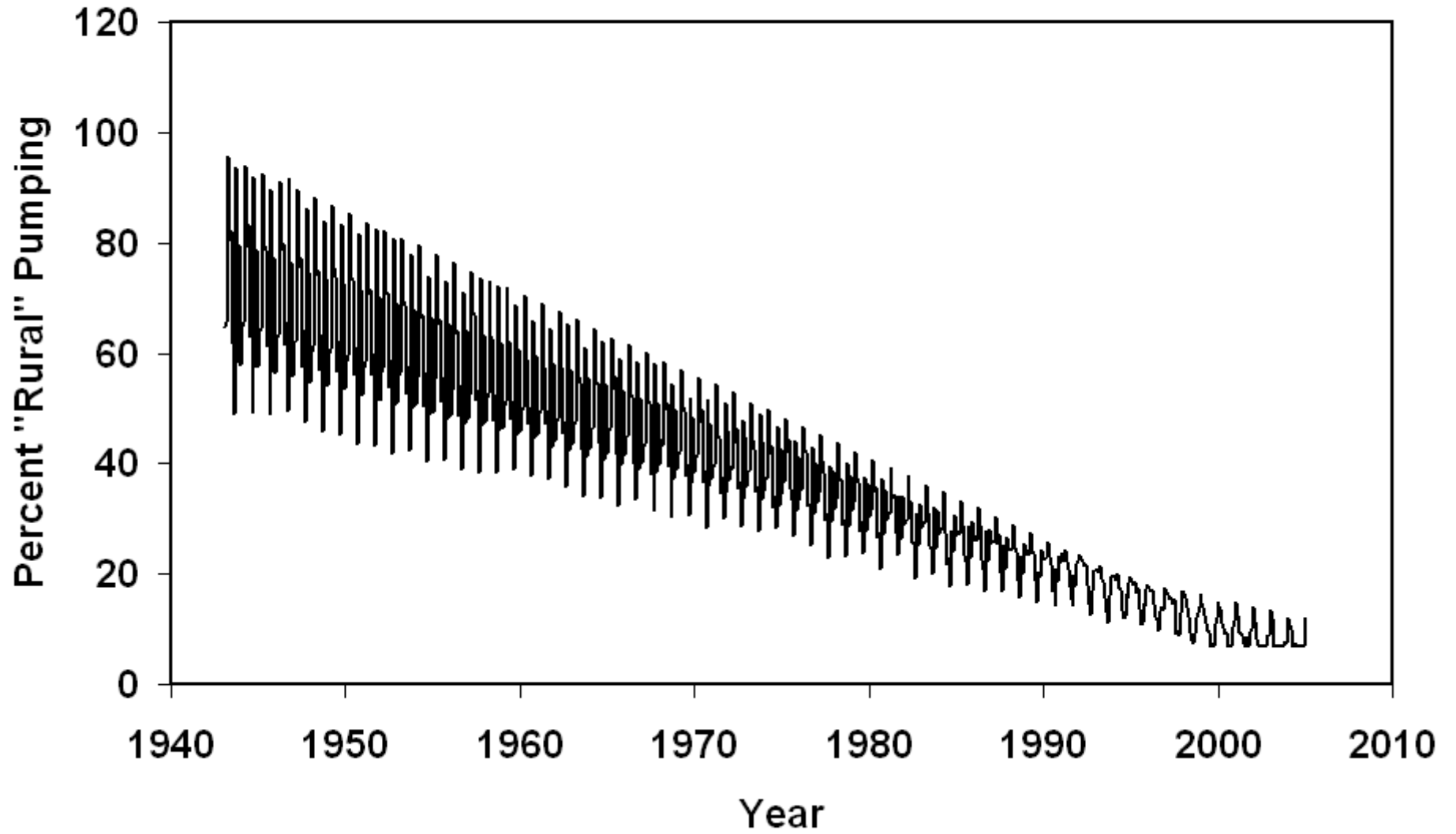
# “Rural” vs. “Point”

- 12 Months
- 12 Regression Equations
  - Year and Precipitation independent variables

# June



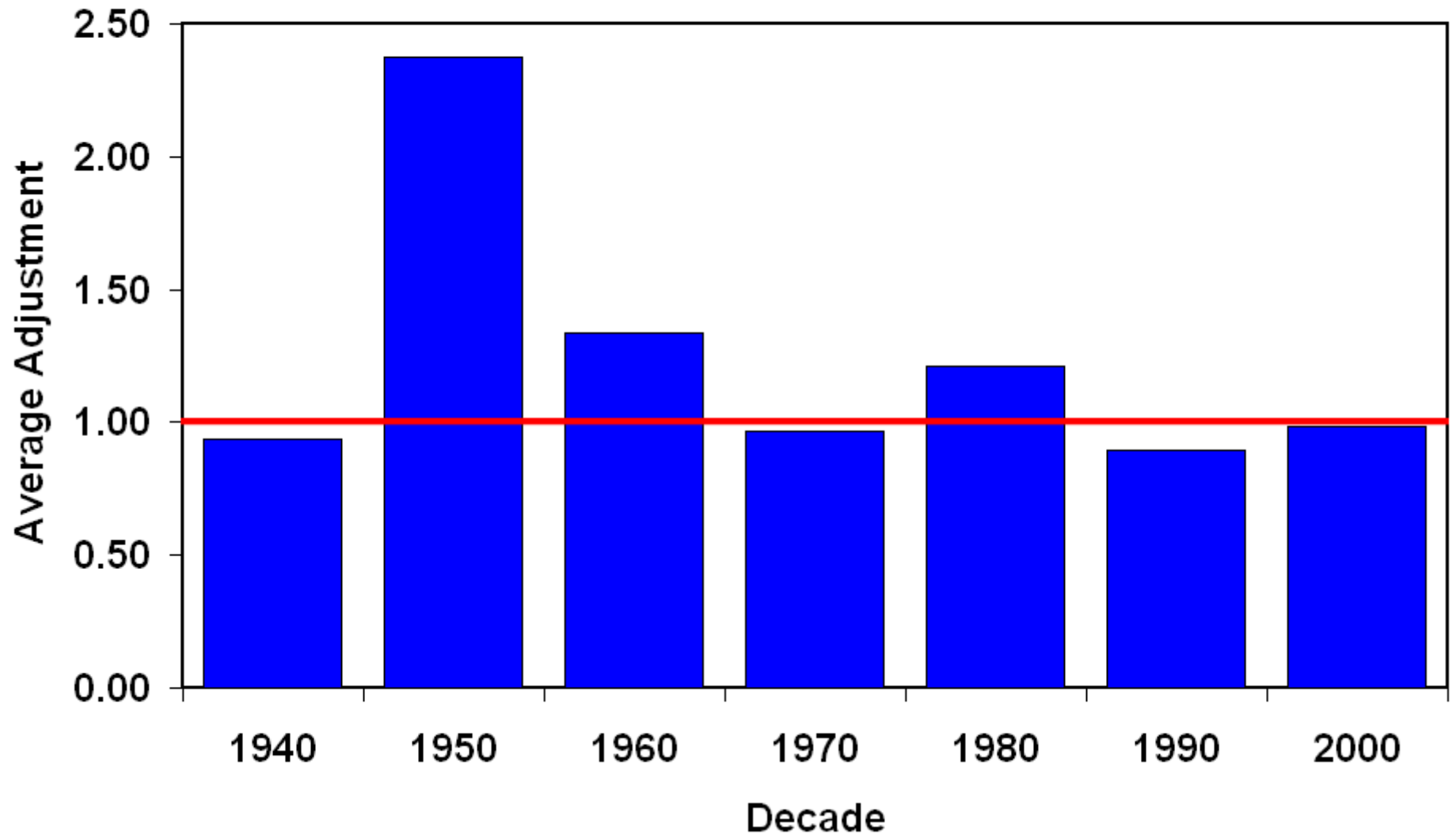
# Percent "Rural" Pumping



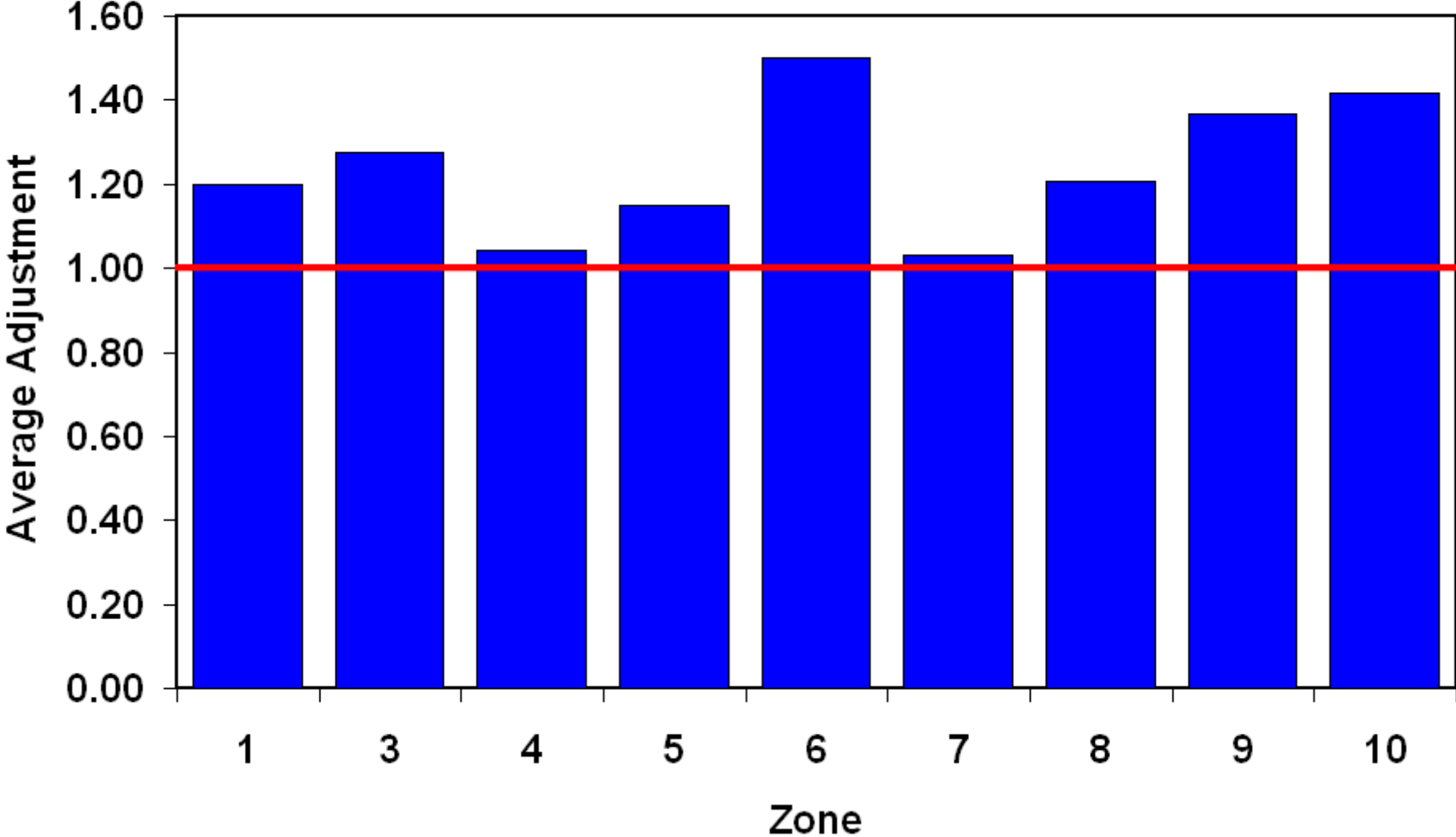
# Calibration Adjustments

- Adjust by decade (40s to 00s)
  - 7 “decades”
- Adjust by K&S zone
  - 9 zones

## Decadal Adjustment

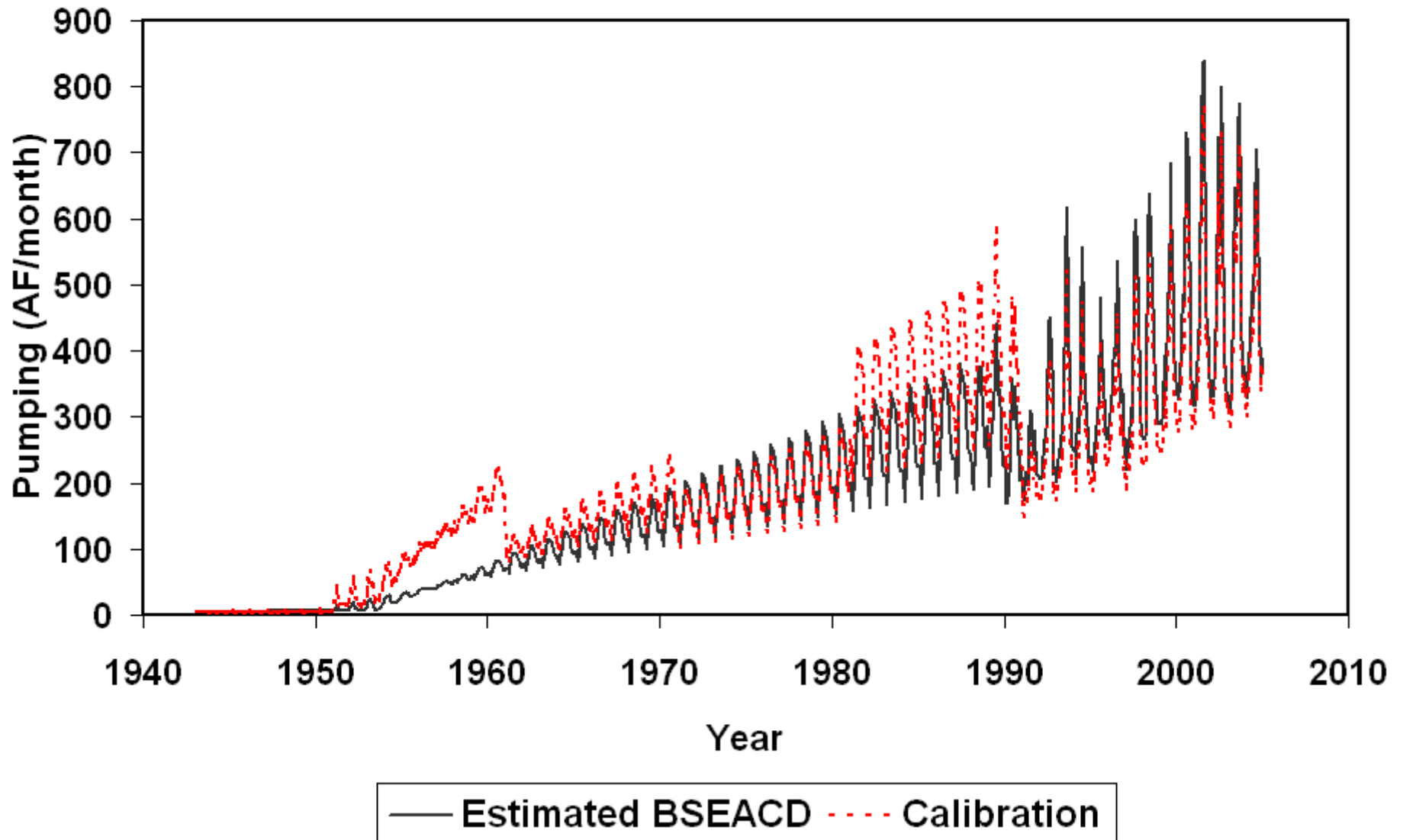


# Zone Adjustment

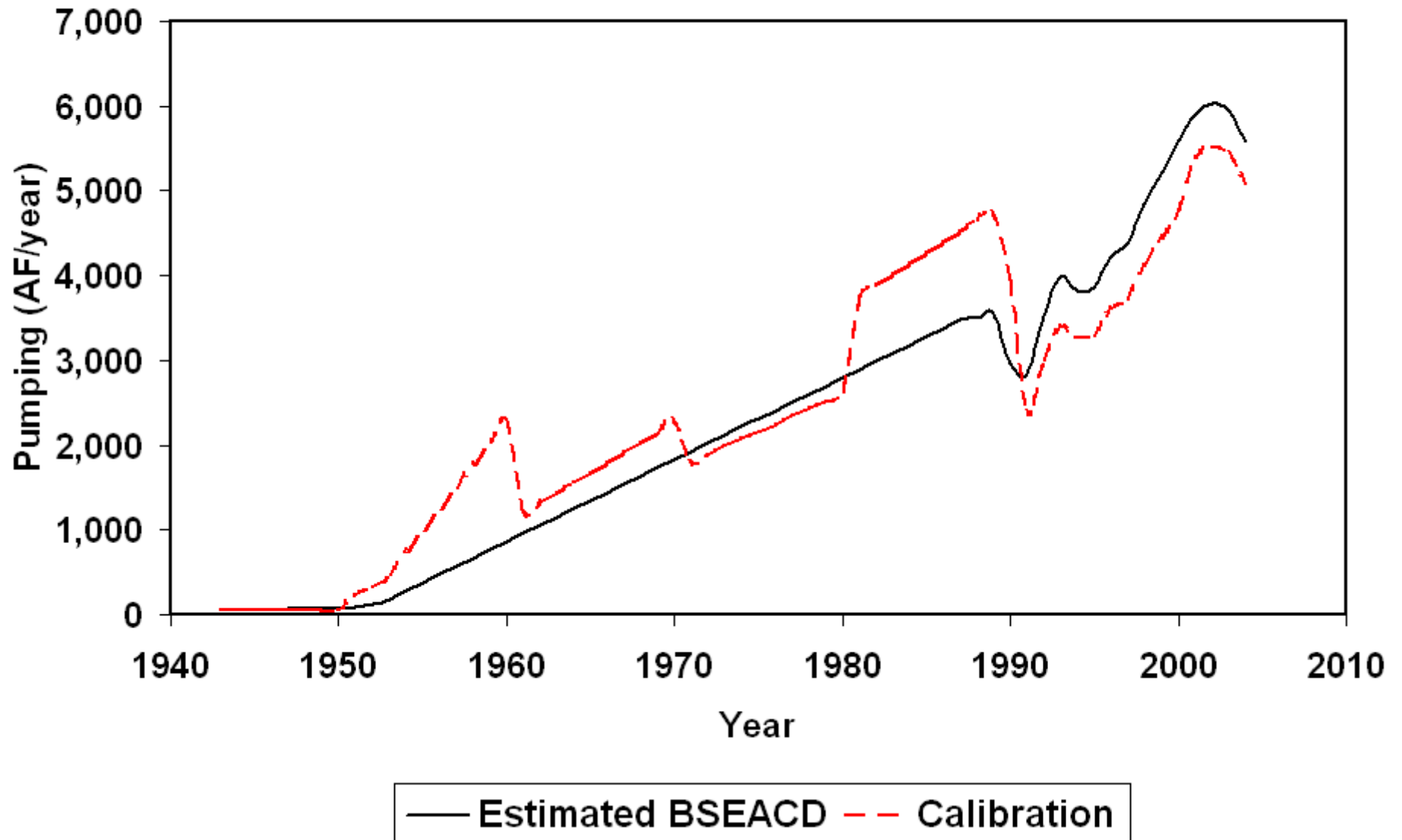




## Monthly Pumping (Estimated vs. Calibration)



Annual Average Pumping (Estimated vs. Calibration)



# DRN

- Barton Springs
- Cold Springs
- Calibration Parameter: Conductance

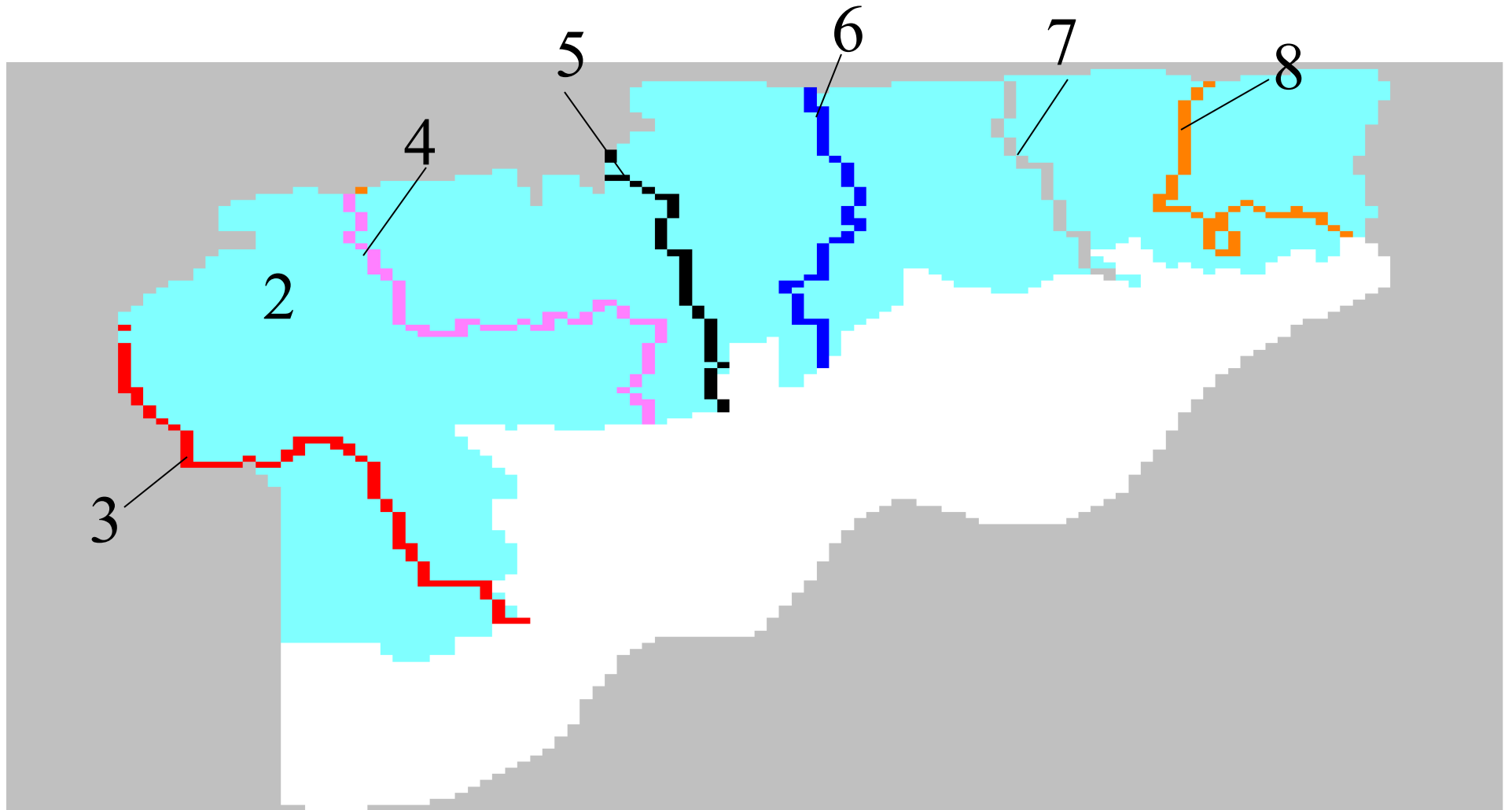
# HFB

- Same location and conductance as BEG

# RCH

- Extrapolation based on BEG model
  - 7 zones
  - 12 months
  - 84 Regression Relationships
- Adjusted during calibration

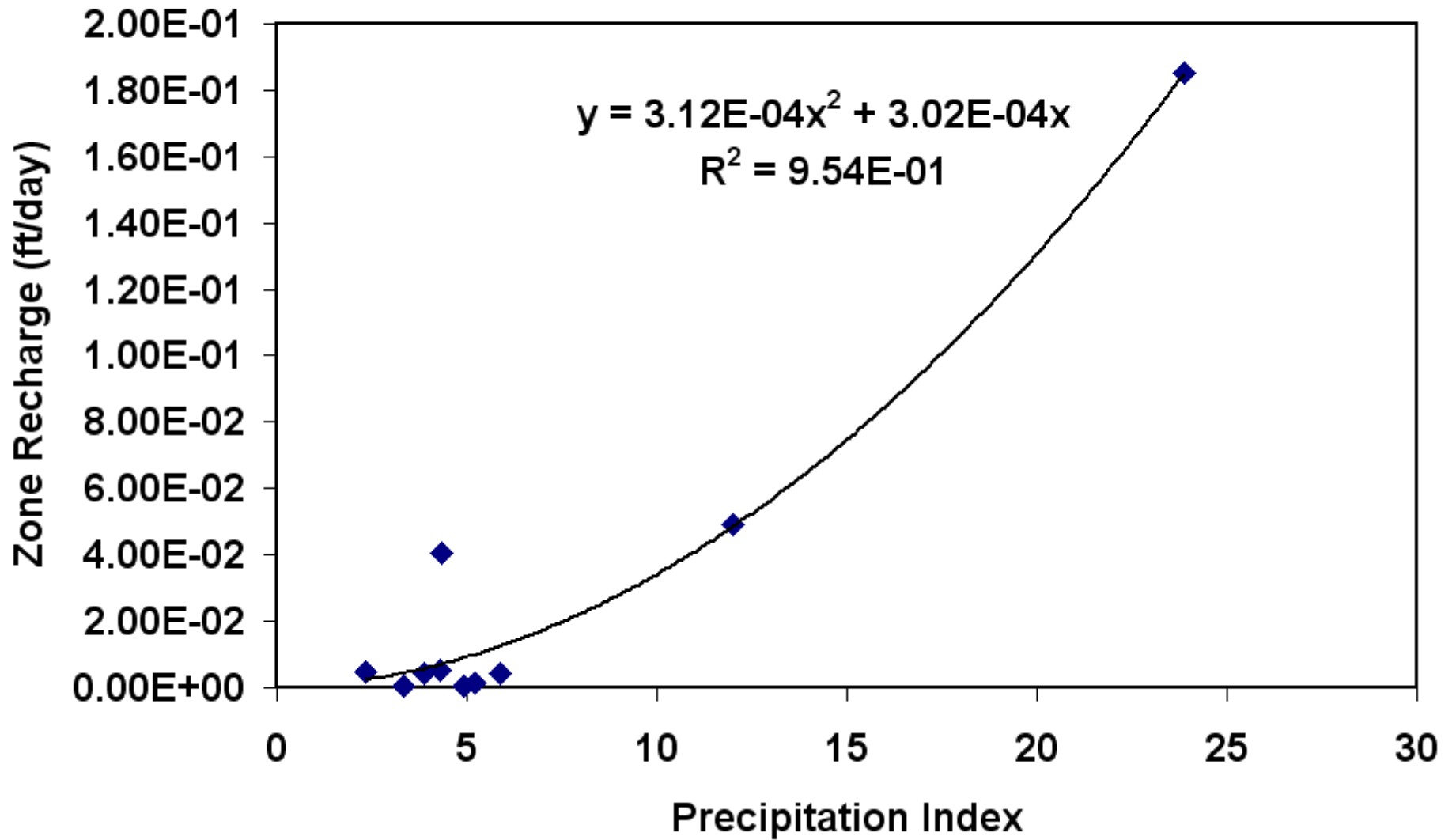
# 7 Recharge “Zones”



# Precipitation Index

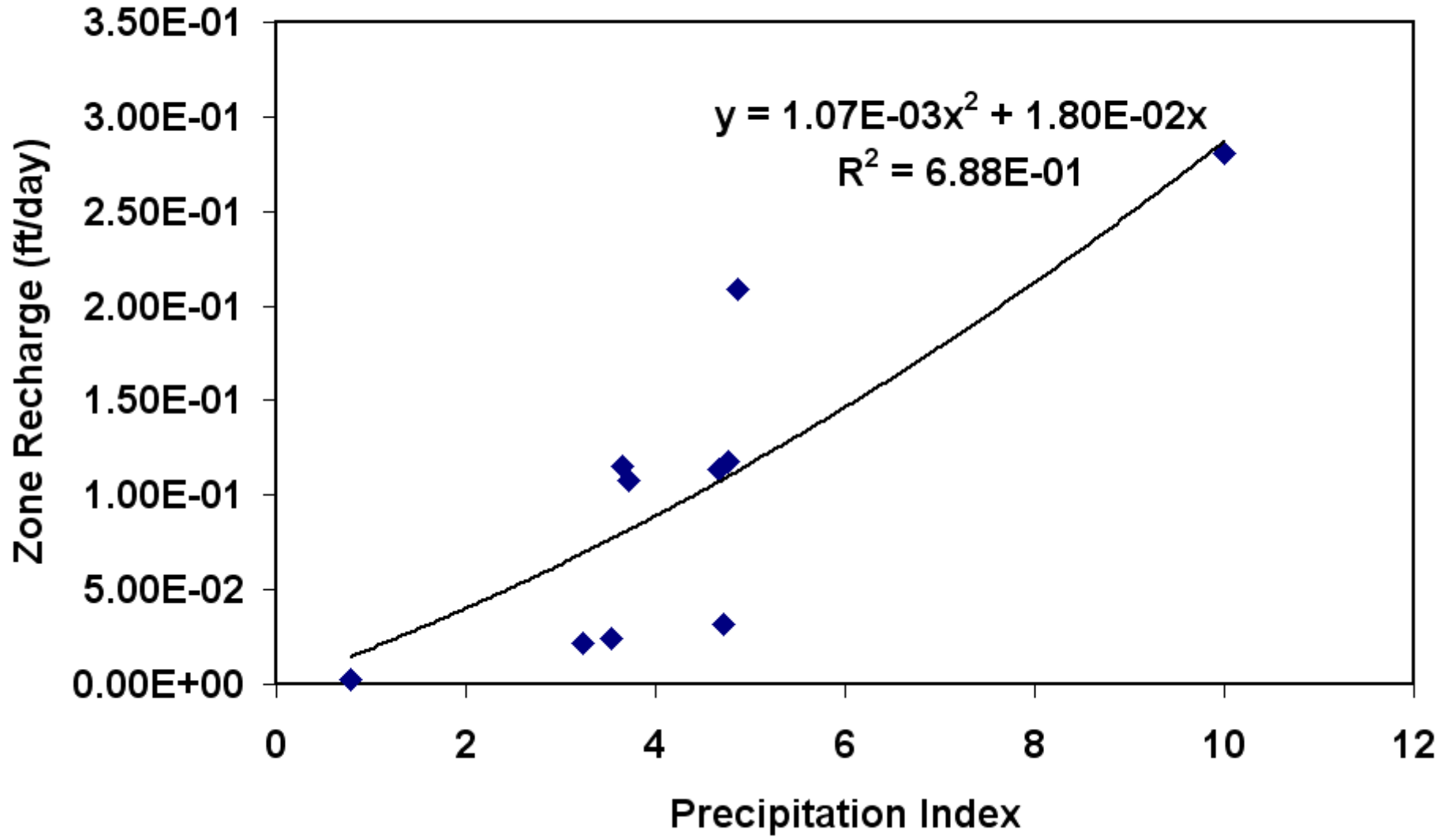
- Average of San Marcos and Austin Airport
- Current Month +  $\frac{1}{2}$  Month(-1) +  $\frac{1}{4}$  Month(-2)

### October - Zone 3

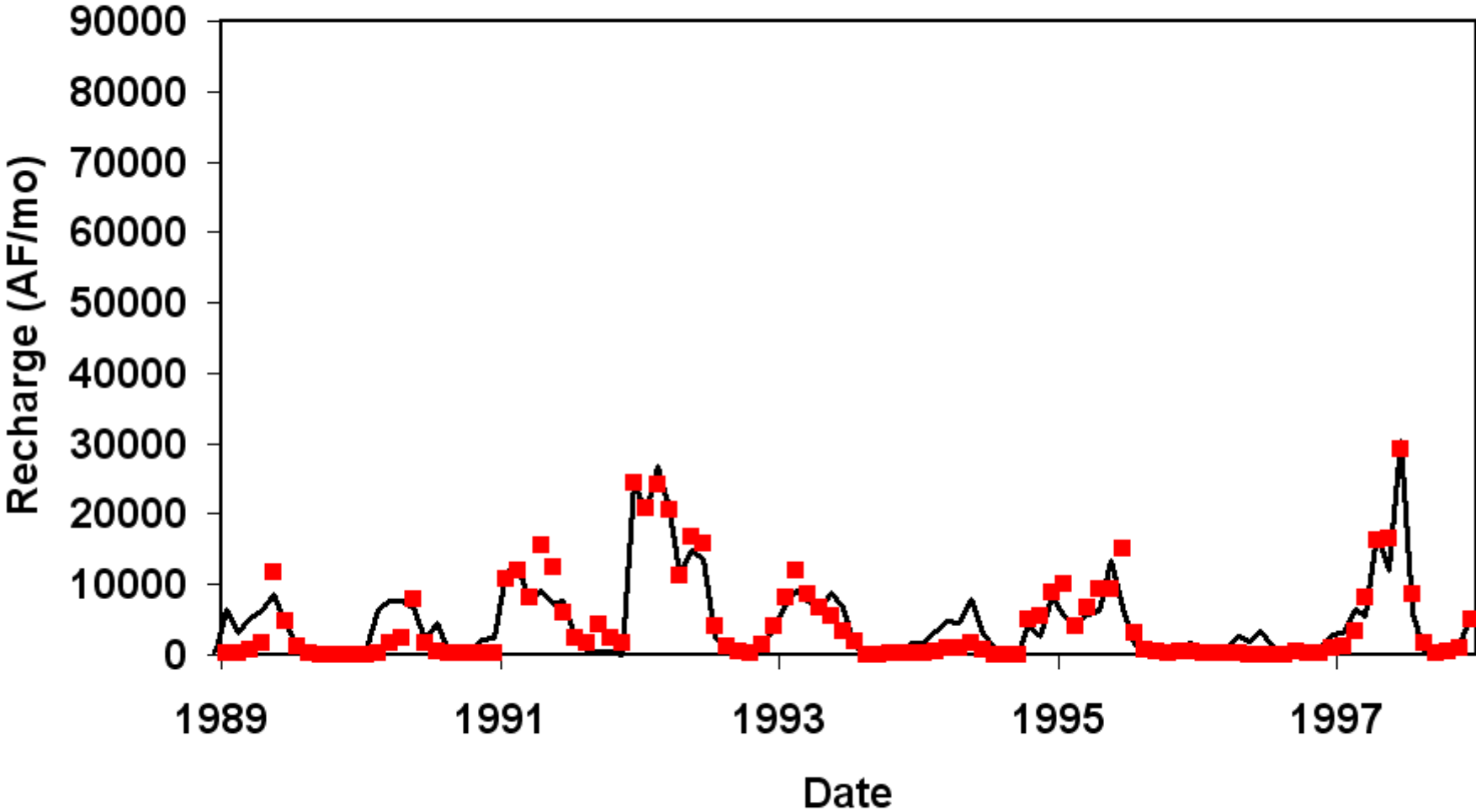




### March - Zone 8

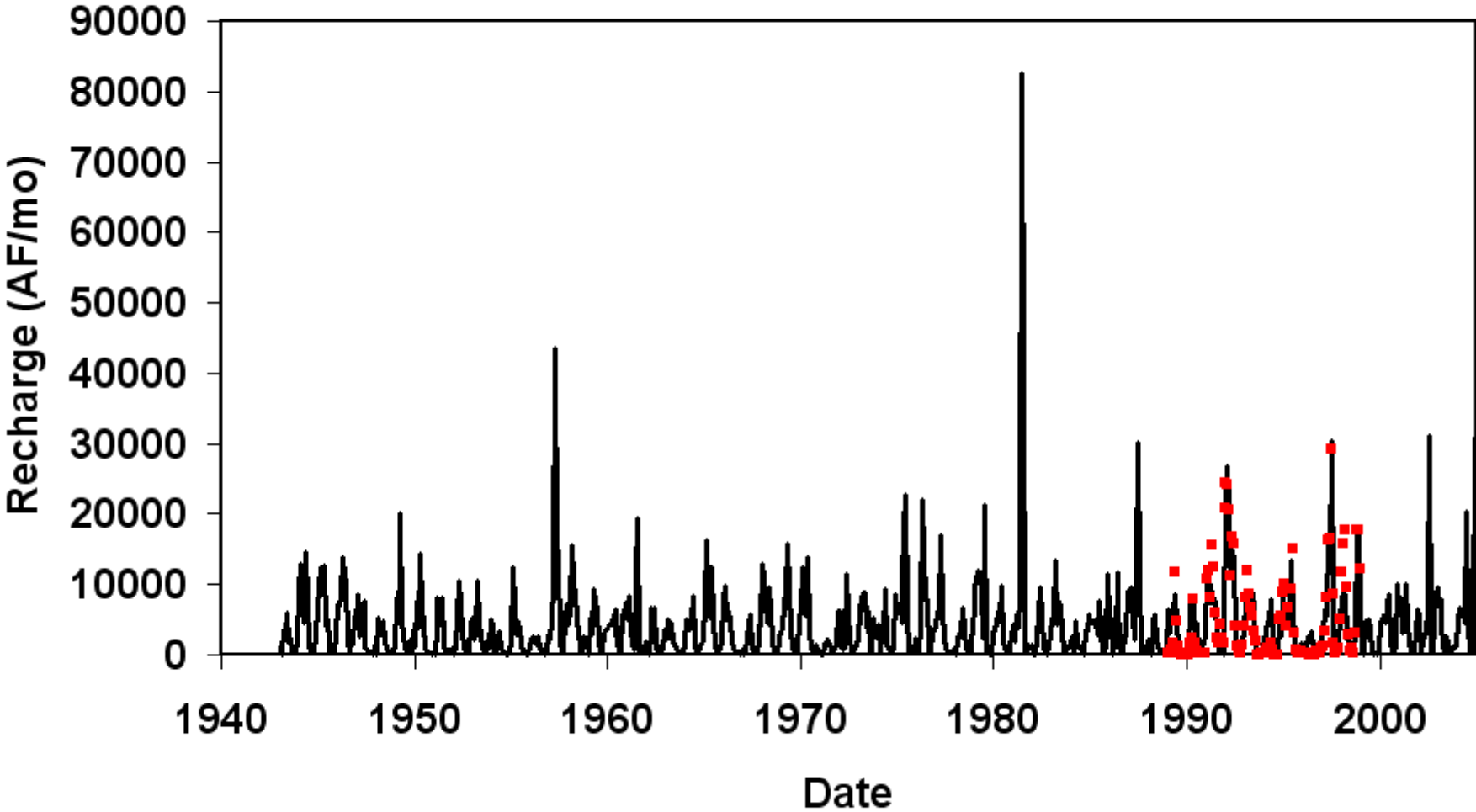


# Recharge Comparison



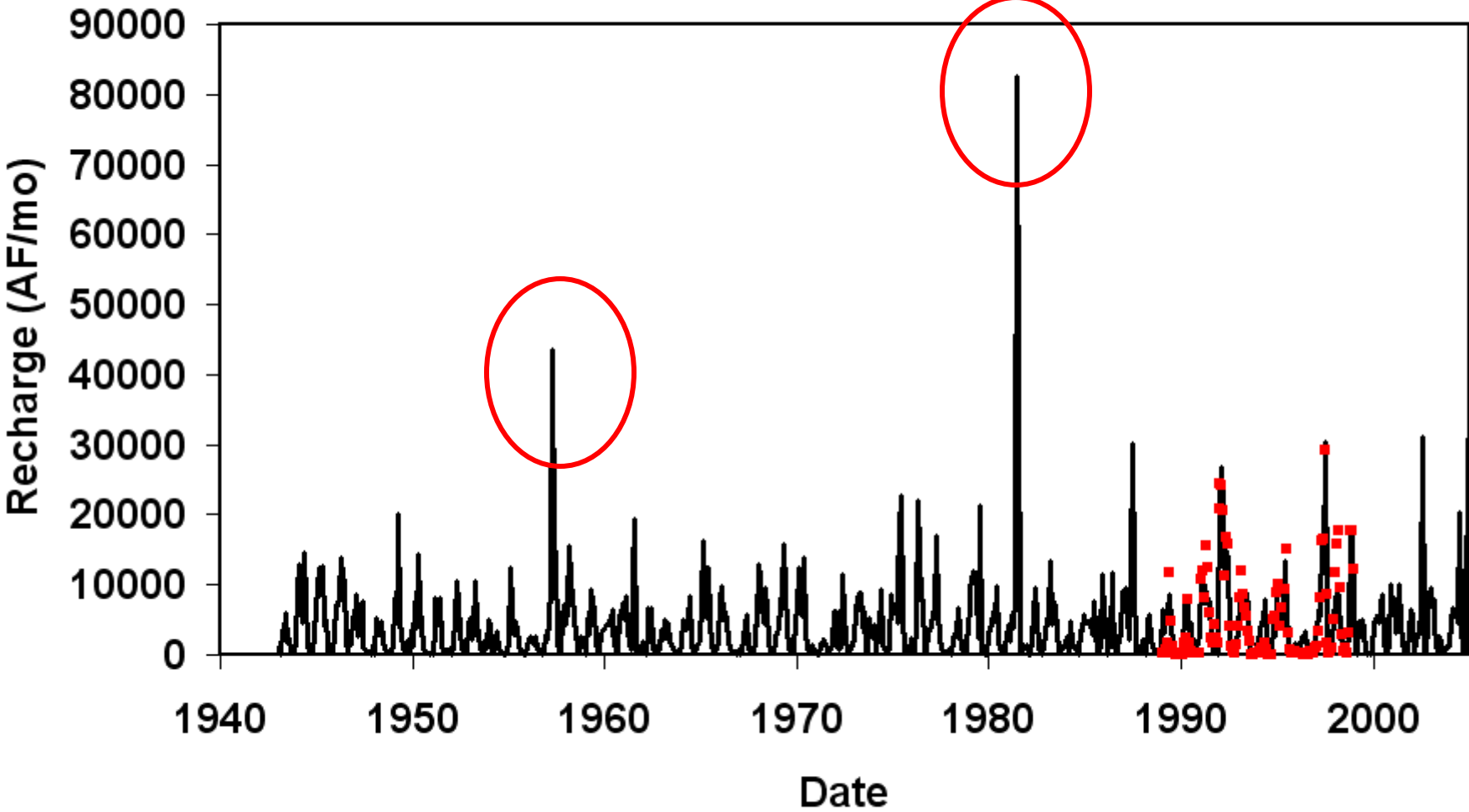
— Regression Result ■ BEG

# Recharge Comparison



— Regression Result    ■ BEG

# Recharge Comparison



— Regression Result    ■ BEG

# Calibration Parameters

- Adjust maximum recharge (by zone)
- Wet year adjustment (by month)
- Dry year adjustment (by month)
- Decadal adjustment (by decade)

# Maximum Recharge

Zone	Max Recharge Rate (ft/day)
2	2.00E-03
3	2.00E-01
4	5.00E-02
5	1.97E-01
6	6.26E-02
7	3.01E-02
8	1.80E-01

# Dry Year Factors

Month	Dry Threshold	Factor
1	4	0.143
2	4	0.1
3	4	0.1
4	5	0.1
5	4	0.1
6	6	0.1
7	4	0.1
8	4	0.1
9	4	0.1
10	7	0.1
11	6	0.1
12	5	0.1

# Wet Year Factors

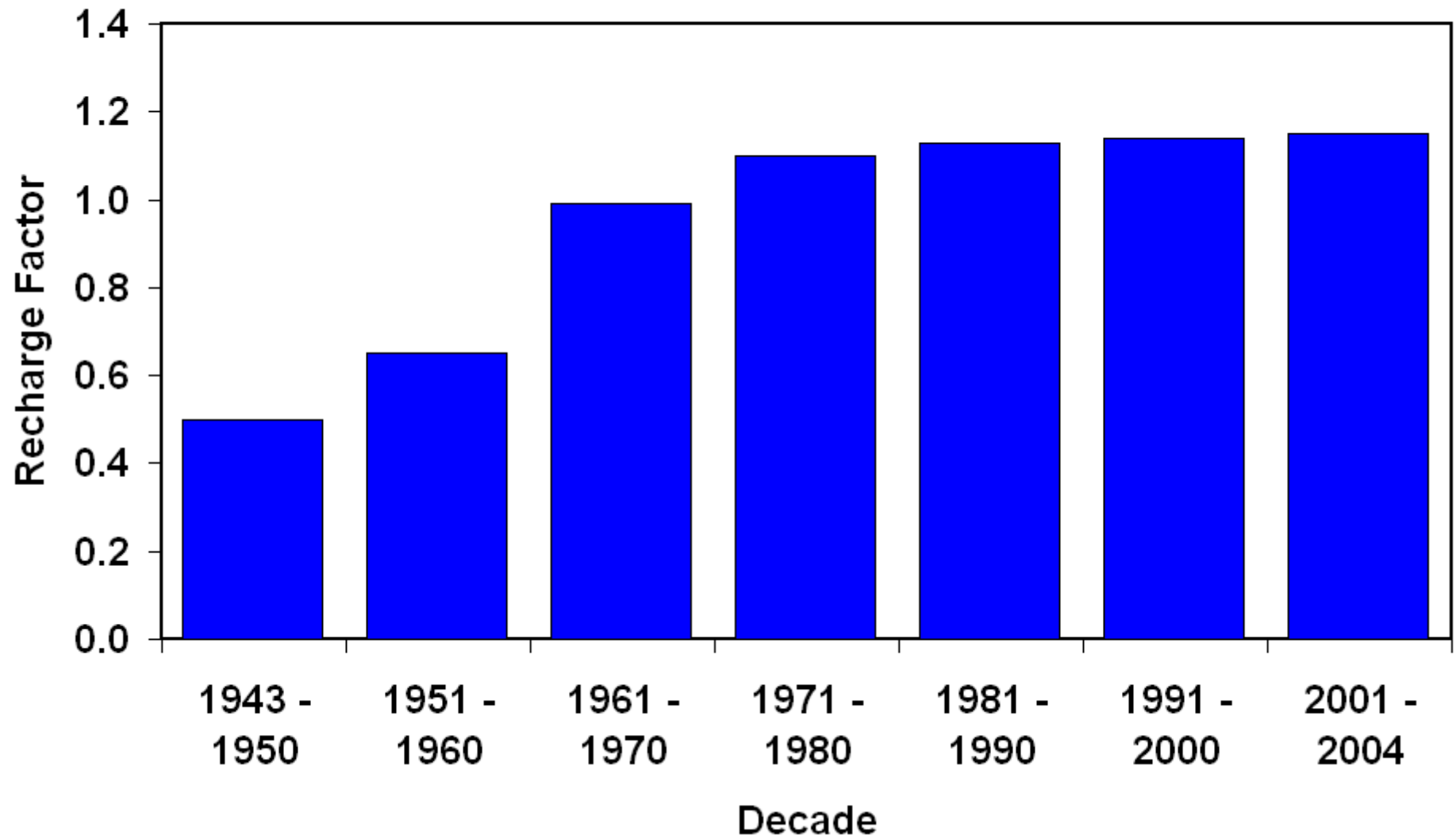
Month	Wet Threshold	Factor
1	6	9.5
2	7	0.7
3	8	0.7
4	6	6.7
5	9	6.5
6	8	0.7
7	7	4.5
8	6	9
9	8	10.5
10	7	8.5
11	9	10.5
12	9	2.5



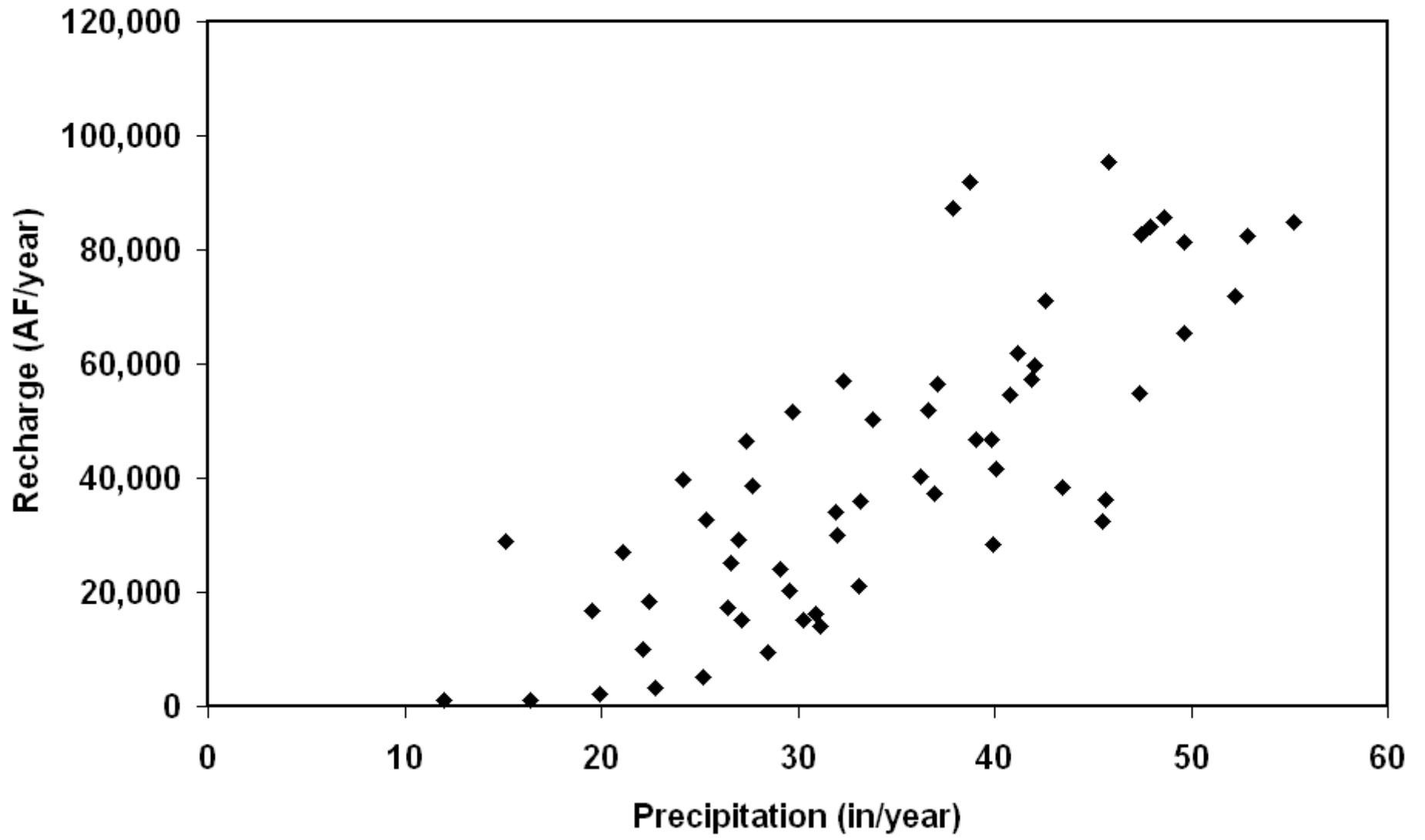
# Decadal Factors

Decade	Factor
1943 - 1950	0.50
1951 - 1960	0.65
1961 - 1970	0.99
1971 - 1980	1.10
1981 - 1990	1.13
1991 - 2000	1.14
2001 - 2004	1.15

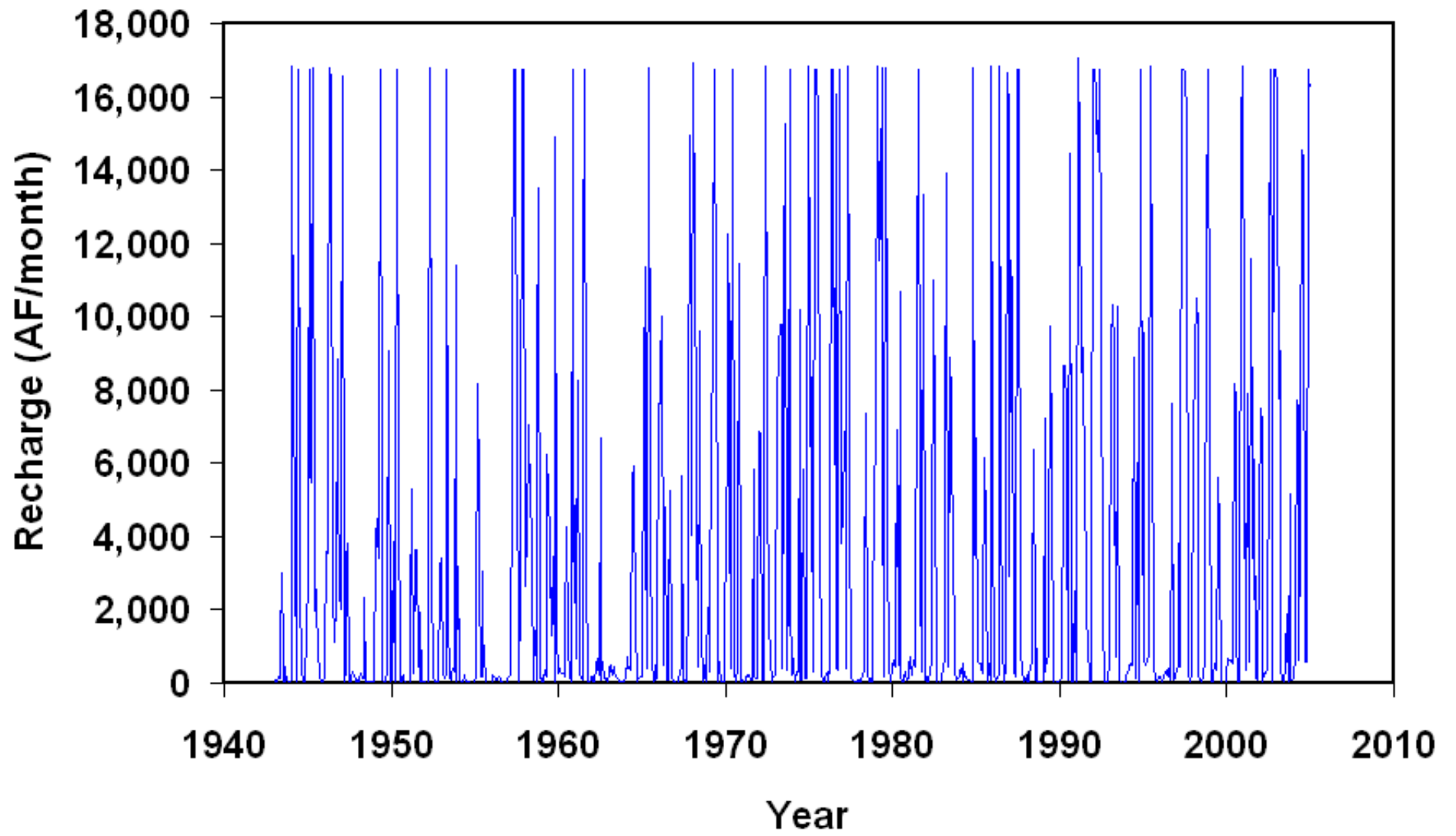
## Decadal Recharge Factors



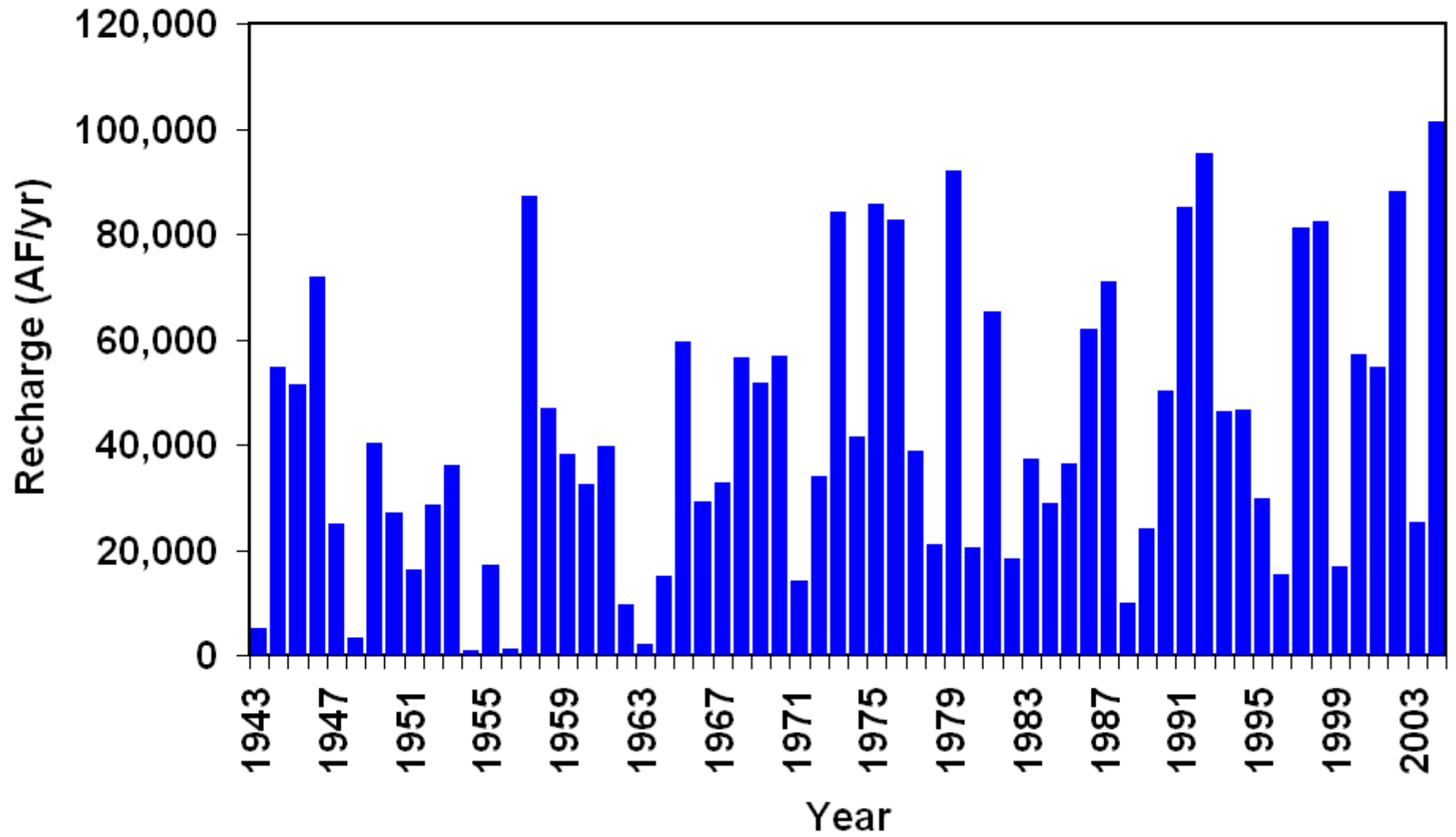
Precipitation vs. Recharge



# Monthly Recharge



# Annual Recharge



# Calibration Targets

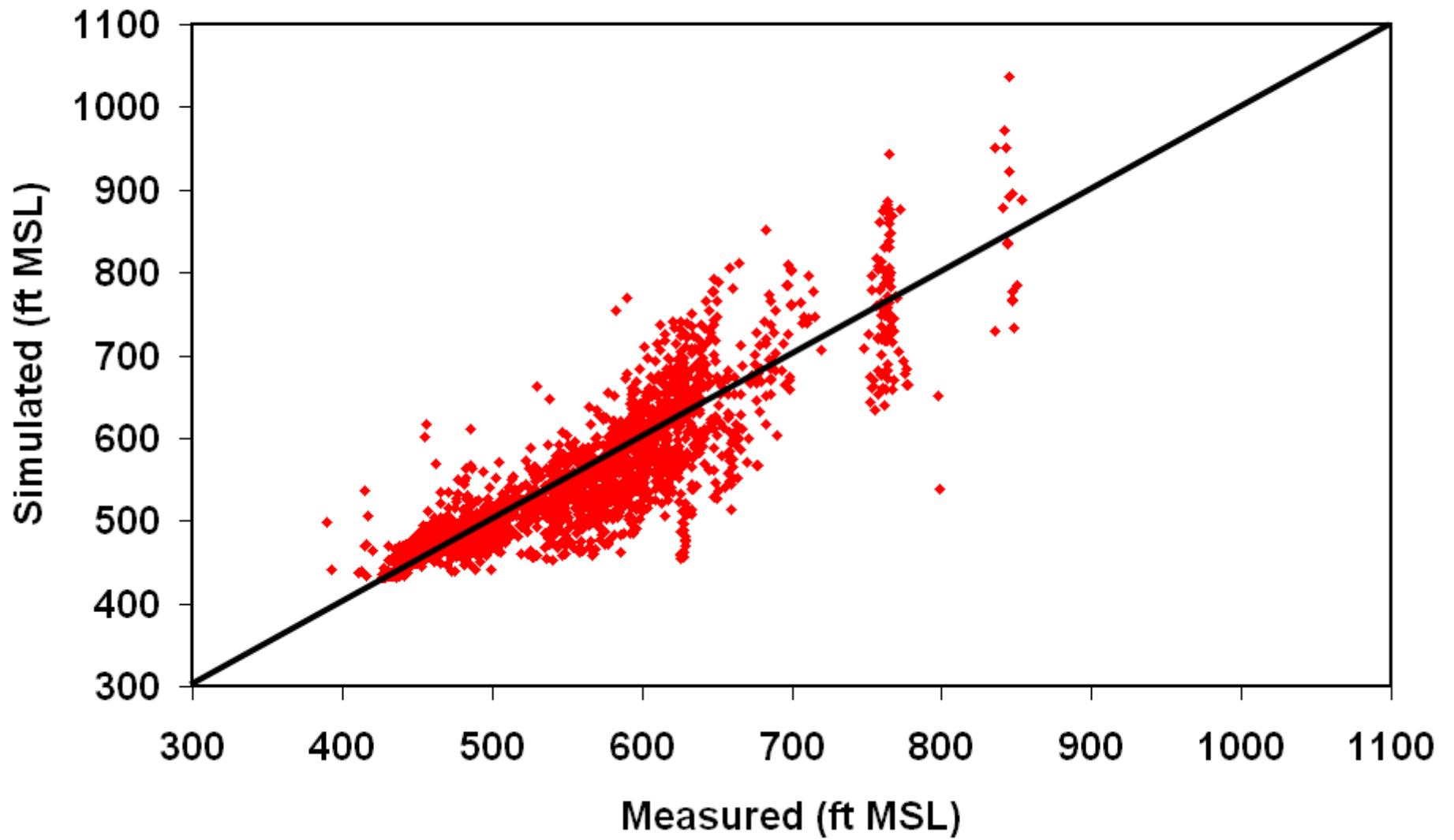
- 153 Wells
- 2246 Head Measurements
- 744 Barton Spring Flow “Measurements”

# Calibration Summary

	New Model	BEG Model
Simulation Period	1943-2004	1989-1998
Number of Stress Periods	744	120
Error of Head Drop Across Model	7%	10-22%*

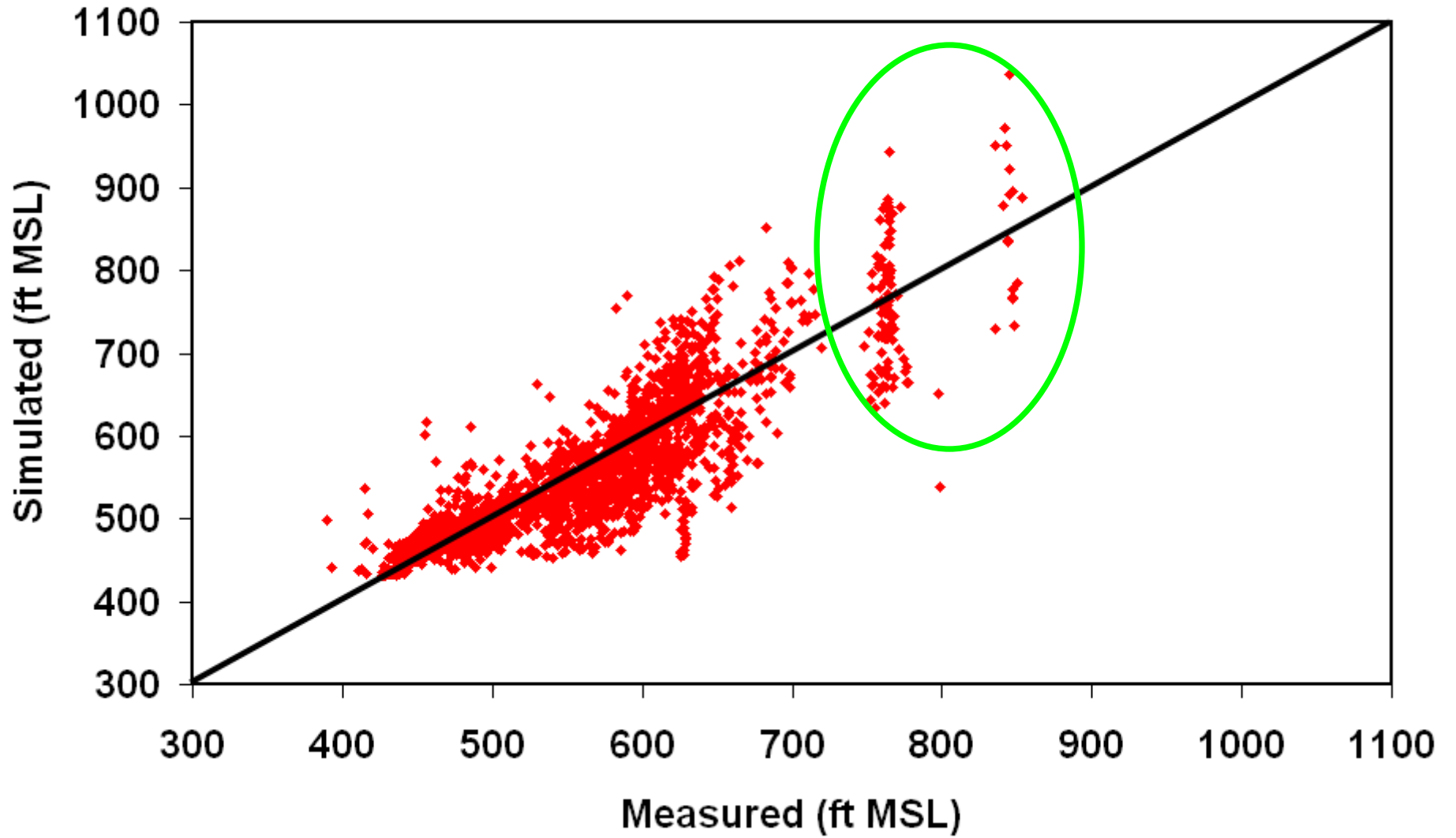
\*March/April 1994 July/Aug 1996 July/Aug 1998

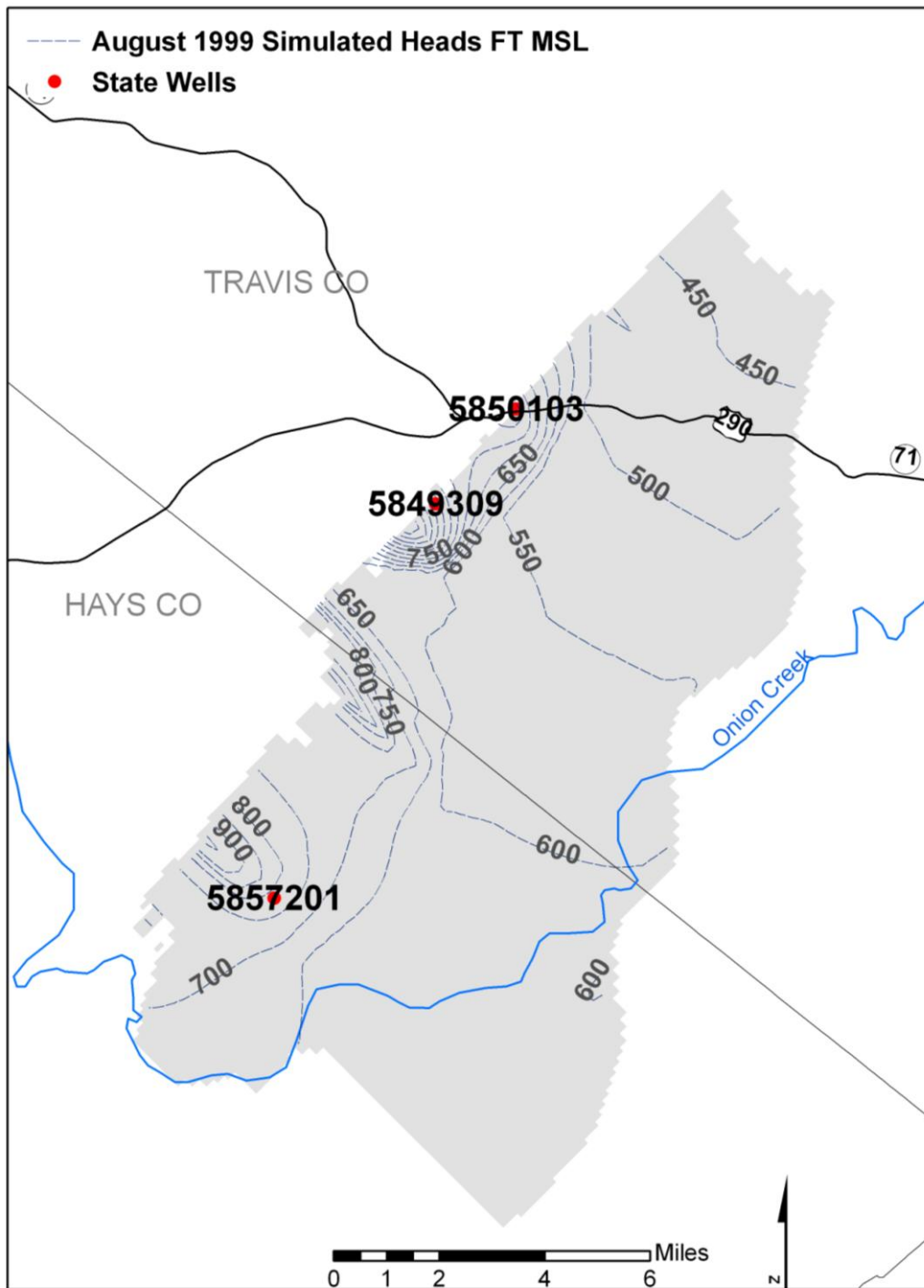
Measured vs. Simulated Heads



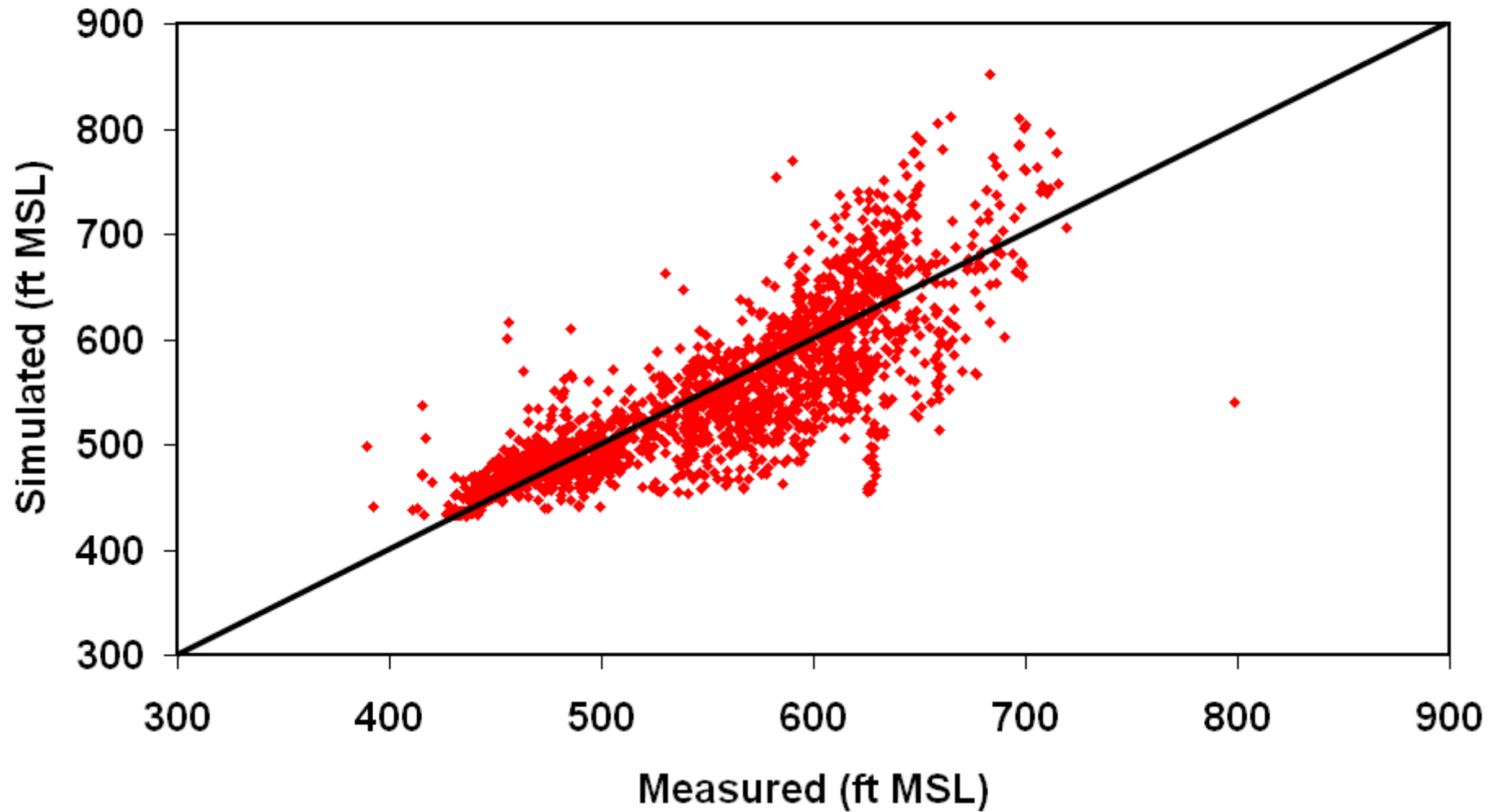


Measured vs. Simulated Heads





Measured vs. Simulated Heads  
(minus 5849309, 5857201, 5850103)



# Comparison

All  
Wells  
All  
Wells  
less 3

Range	464	409
Standard Deviation of Residuals	44.69	42.43
Standard Deviation/Range	0.096	0.104

# Comparison

All  
Wells

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Wells  
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All  
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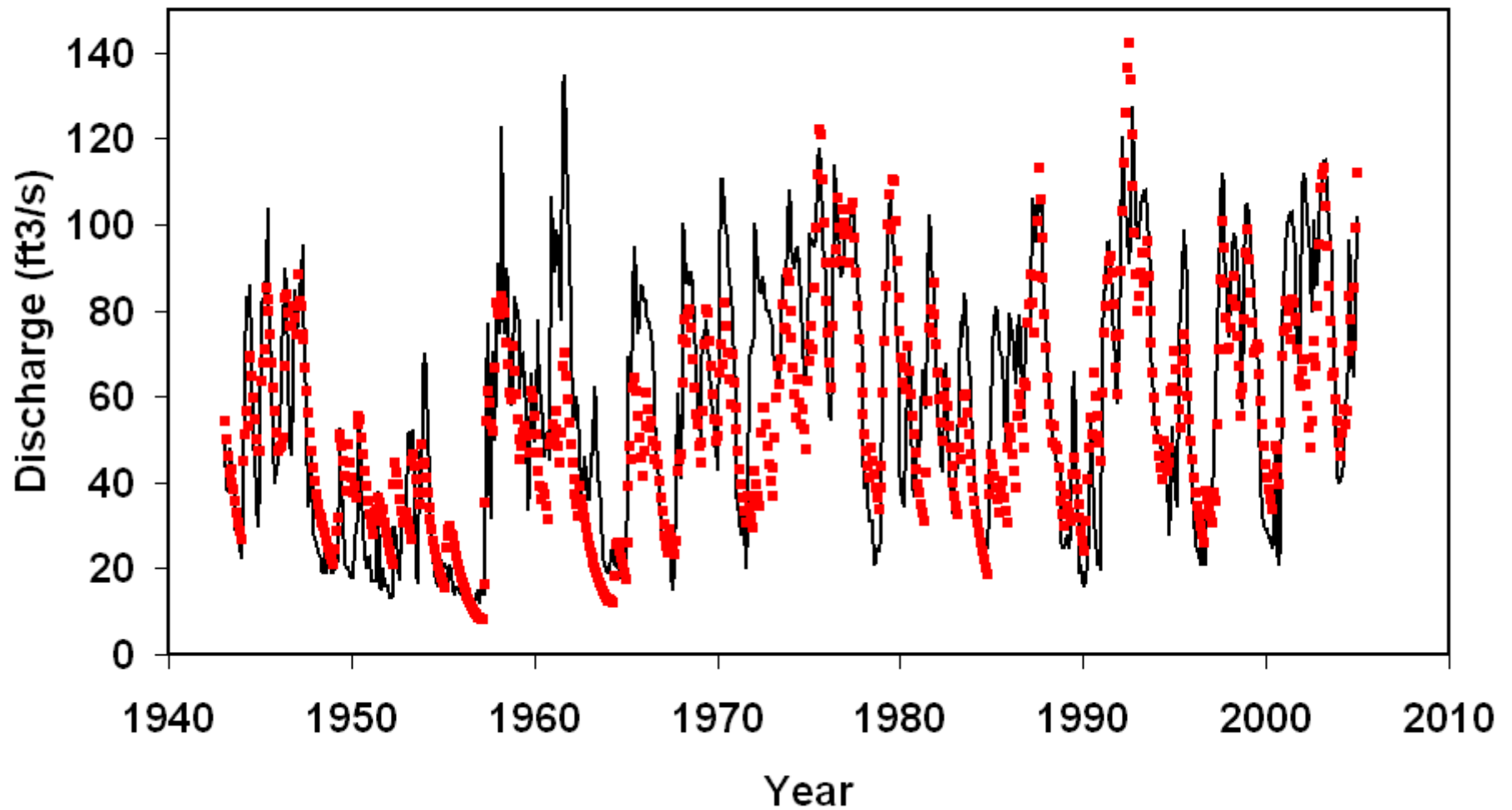
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# Comparison

	All Wells	All Wells less 3
Range	464	409
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Standard Deviation/Range	0.096	0.104

***Standard < 0.10***

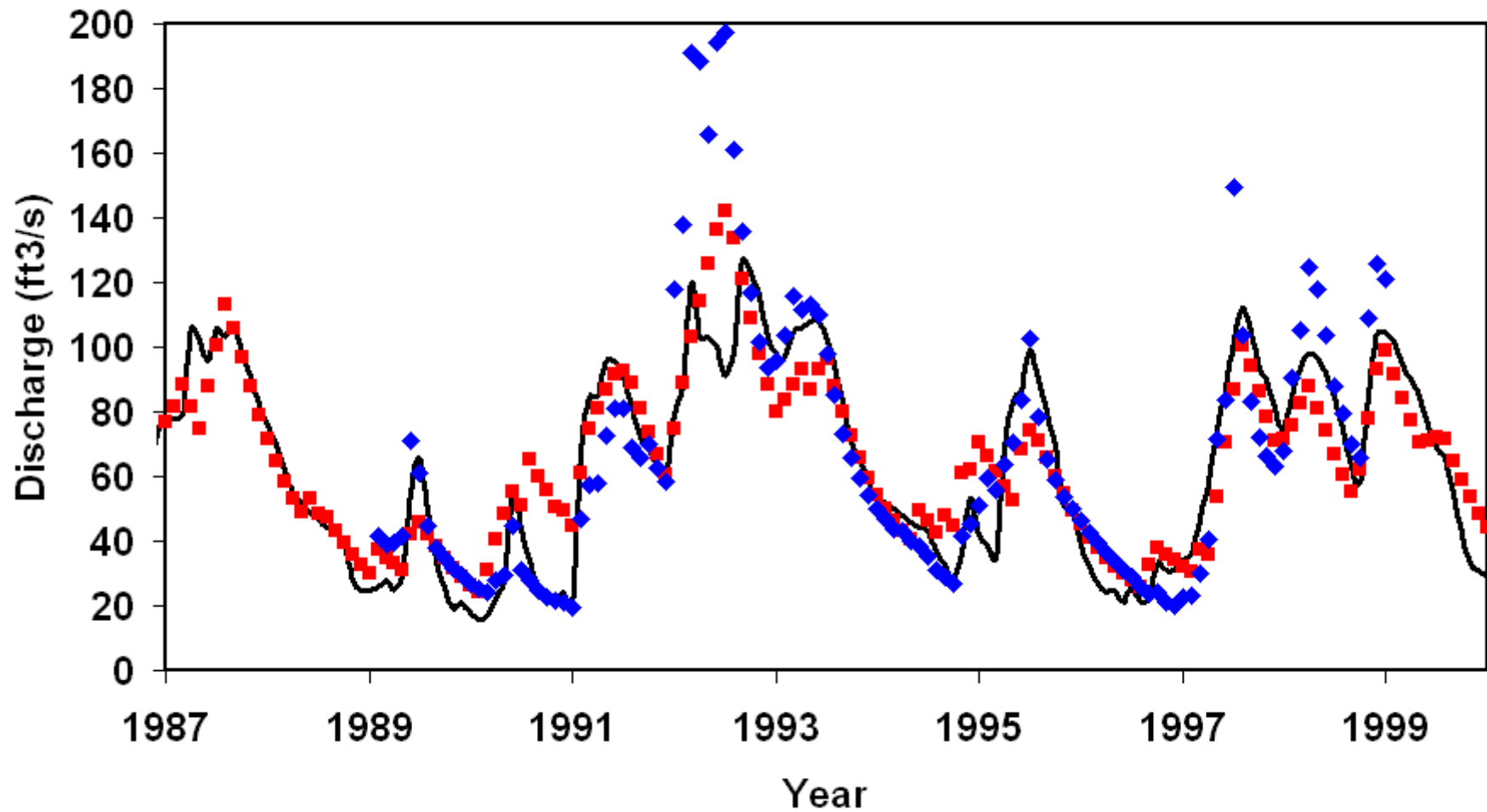
# Barton Springs



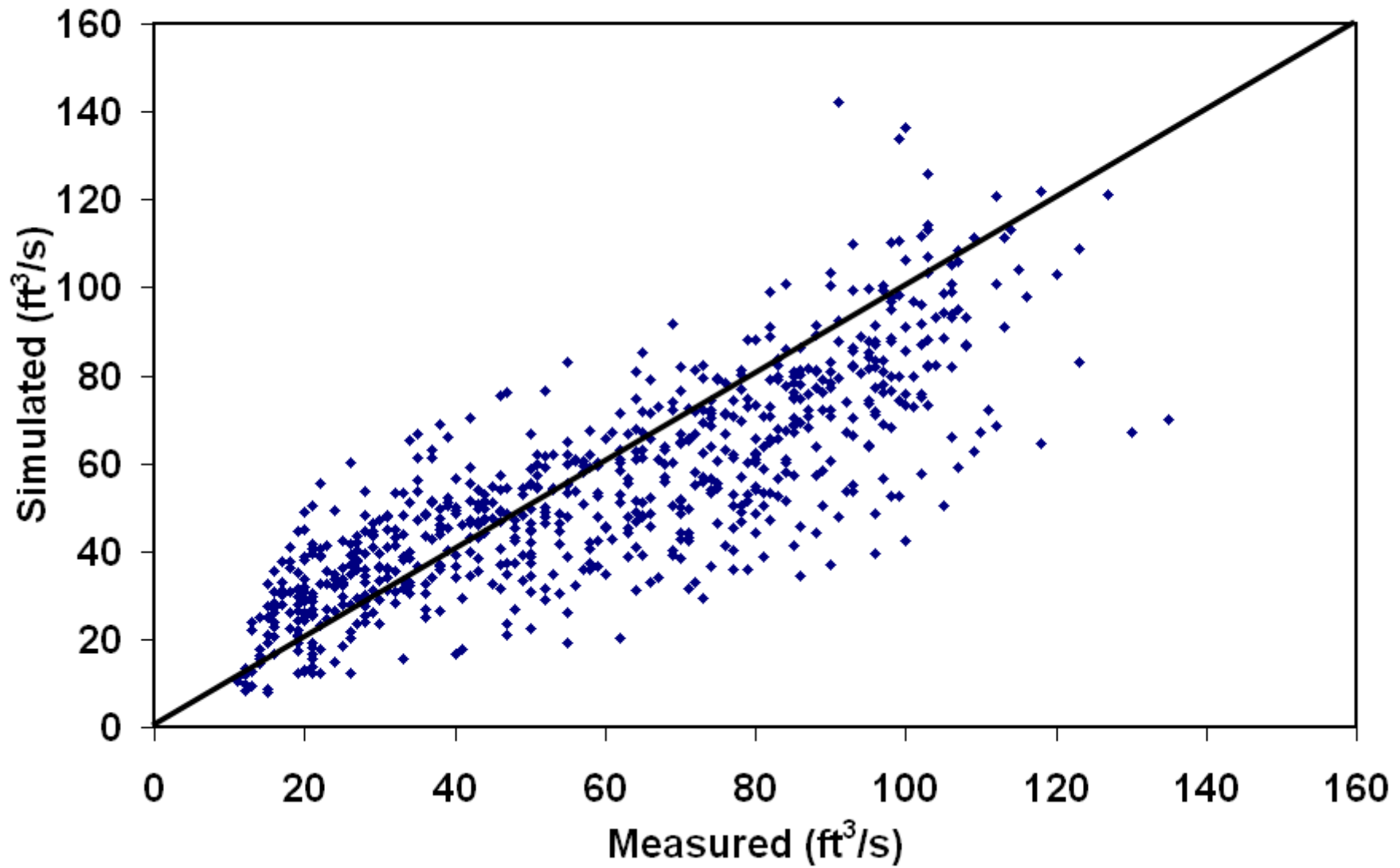
— Estimated BSEACD/Measured    ■ Simulated



# Barton Springs



Measured vs. Simulated Springflow



# Calibration Statistics

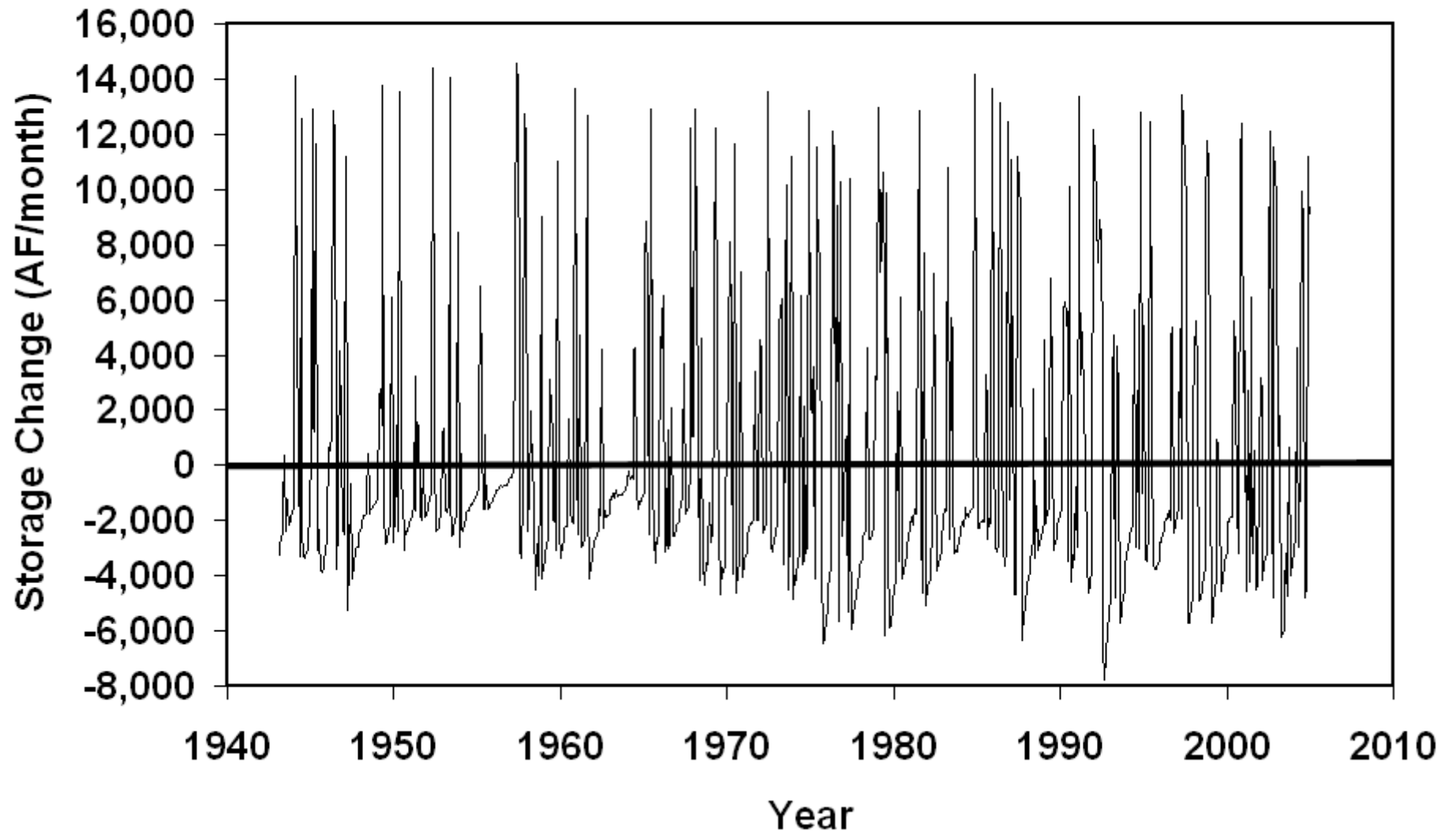
Barton  
Springs

Range (cfs)	134
Standard Deviation of Residuals	16.86
Standard Deviation/Range	0.126

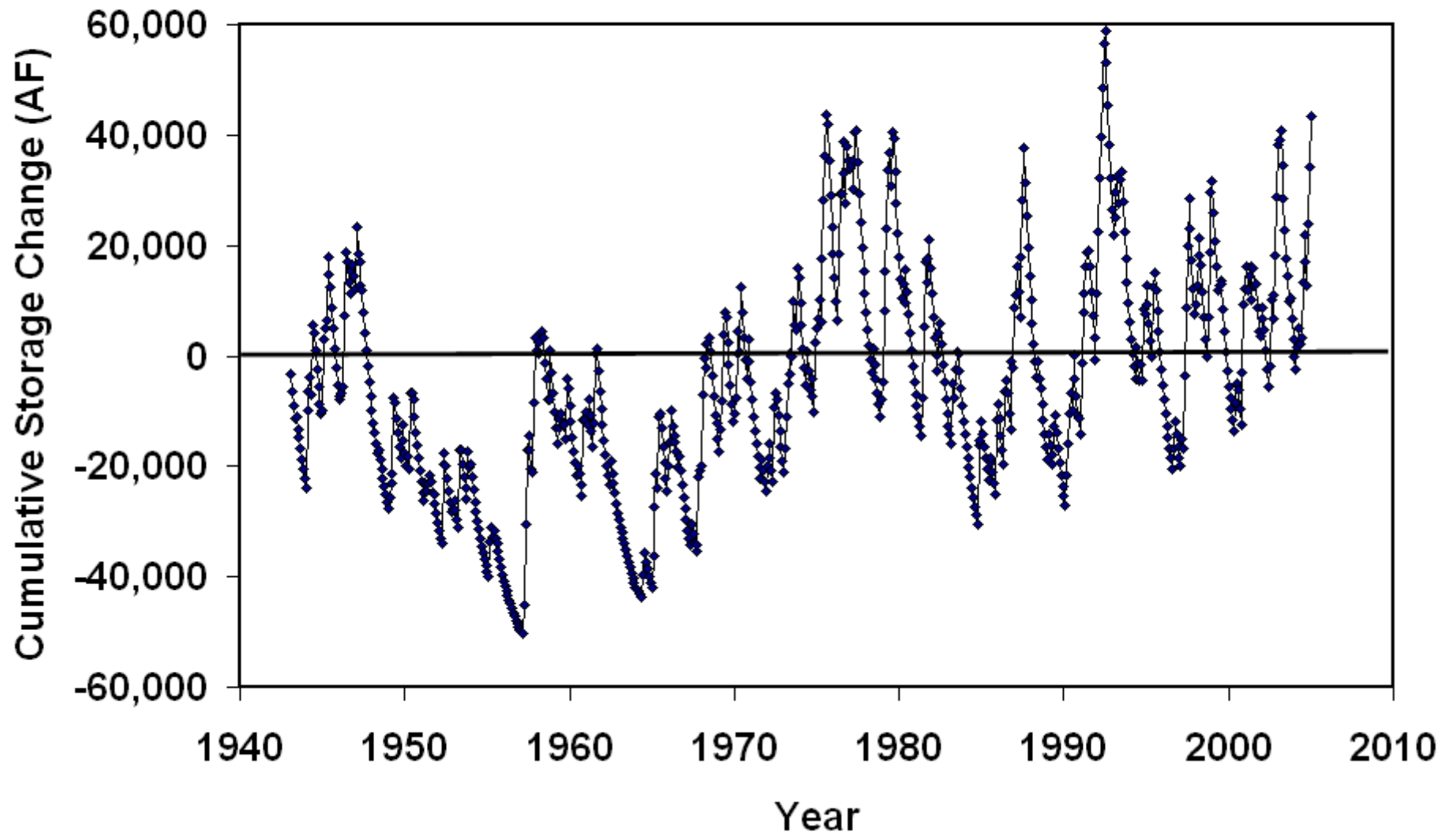
# Groundwater Budget

- Monthly
  - Recharge, Pumping, Spring Flow
  - Storage Change
  - Cumulative Storage Change
  - Cross Plots
- Annual

# Monthly Storage Change



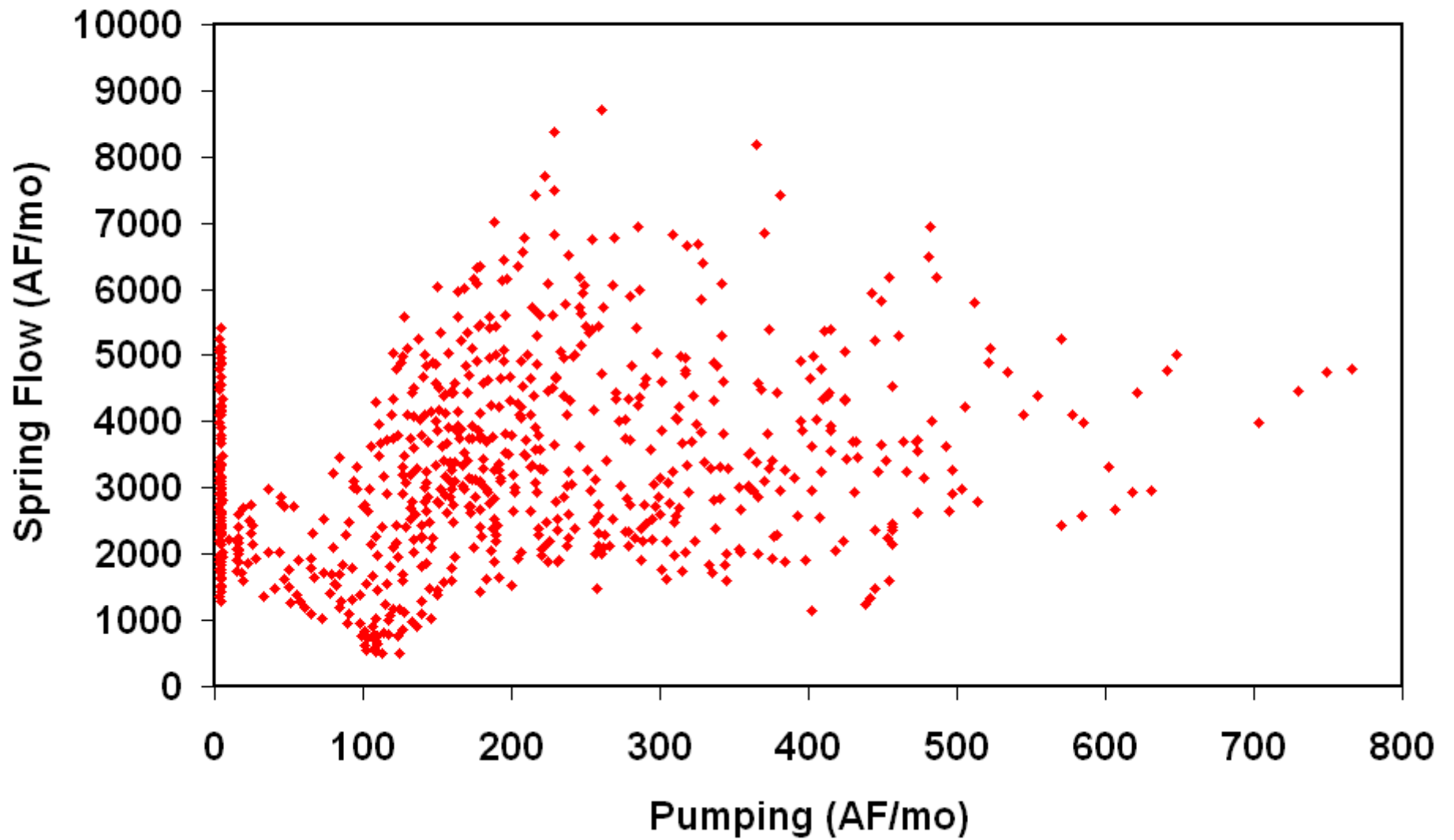
# Cumulative Storage Change



# Cross Plots

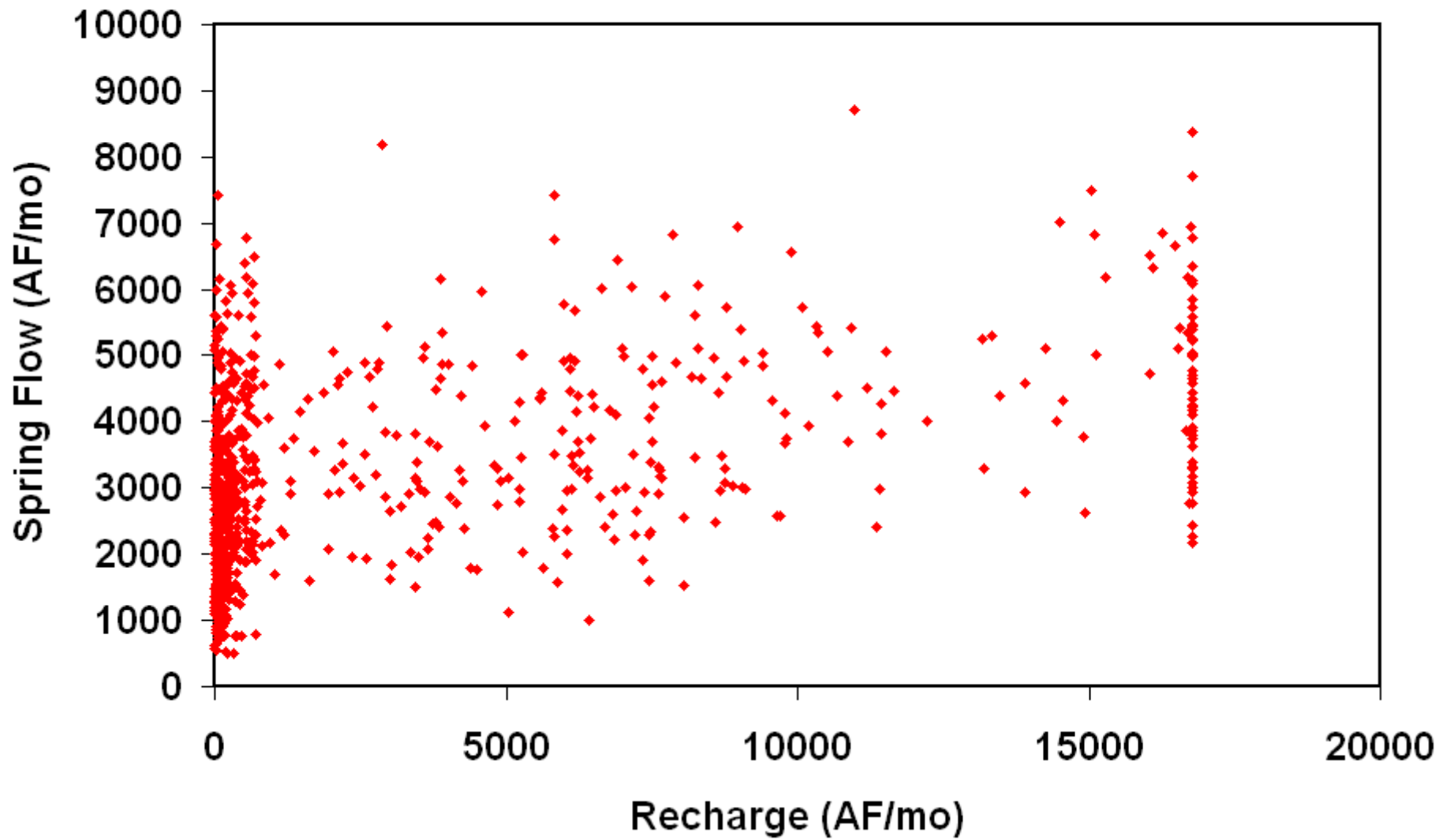
- Changes in Spring Flow
  - Pumping
  - Recharge
- Changes in Storage
  - Pumping
  - Recharge

### Pumping vs. Spring Flow

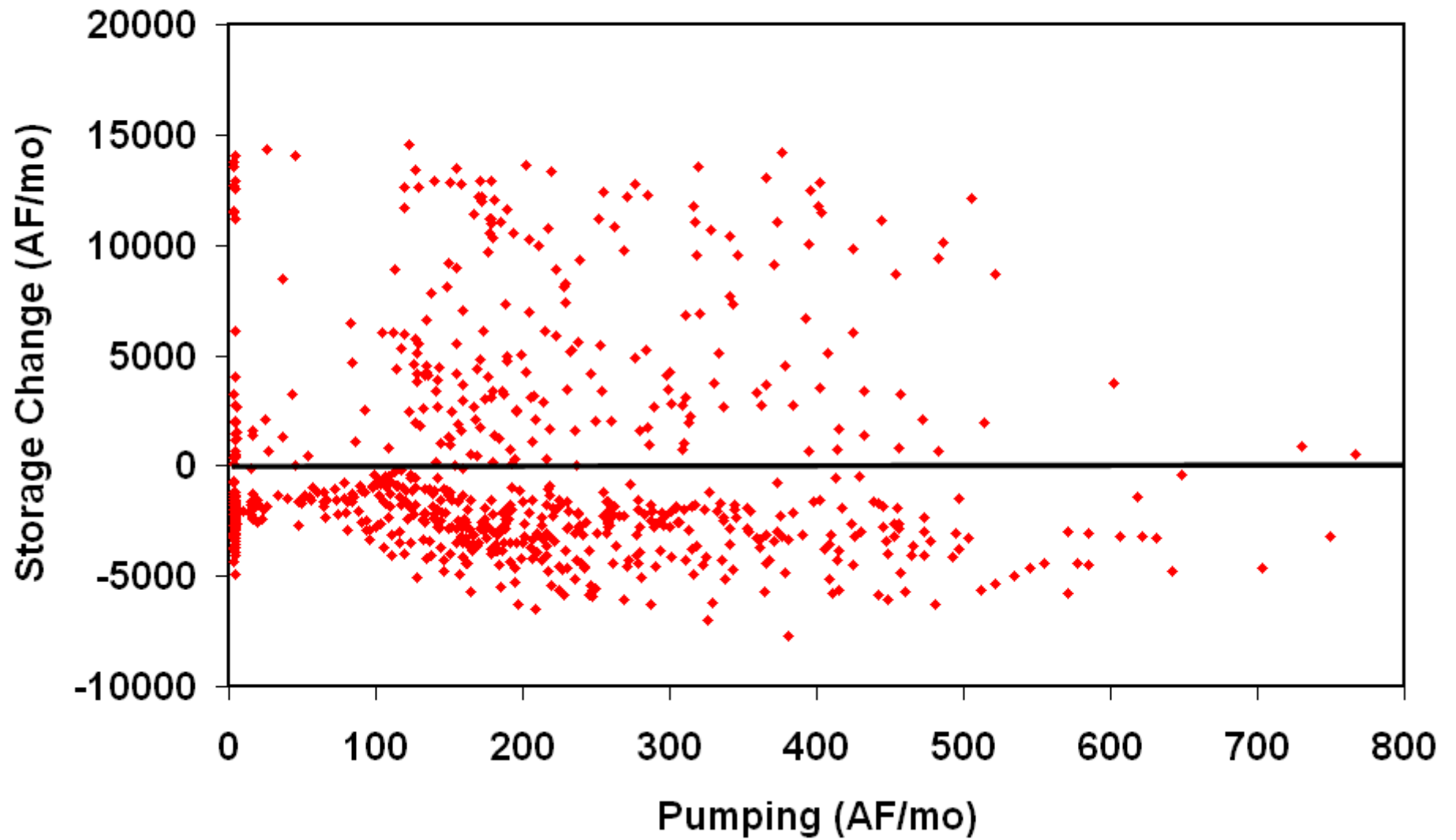




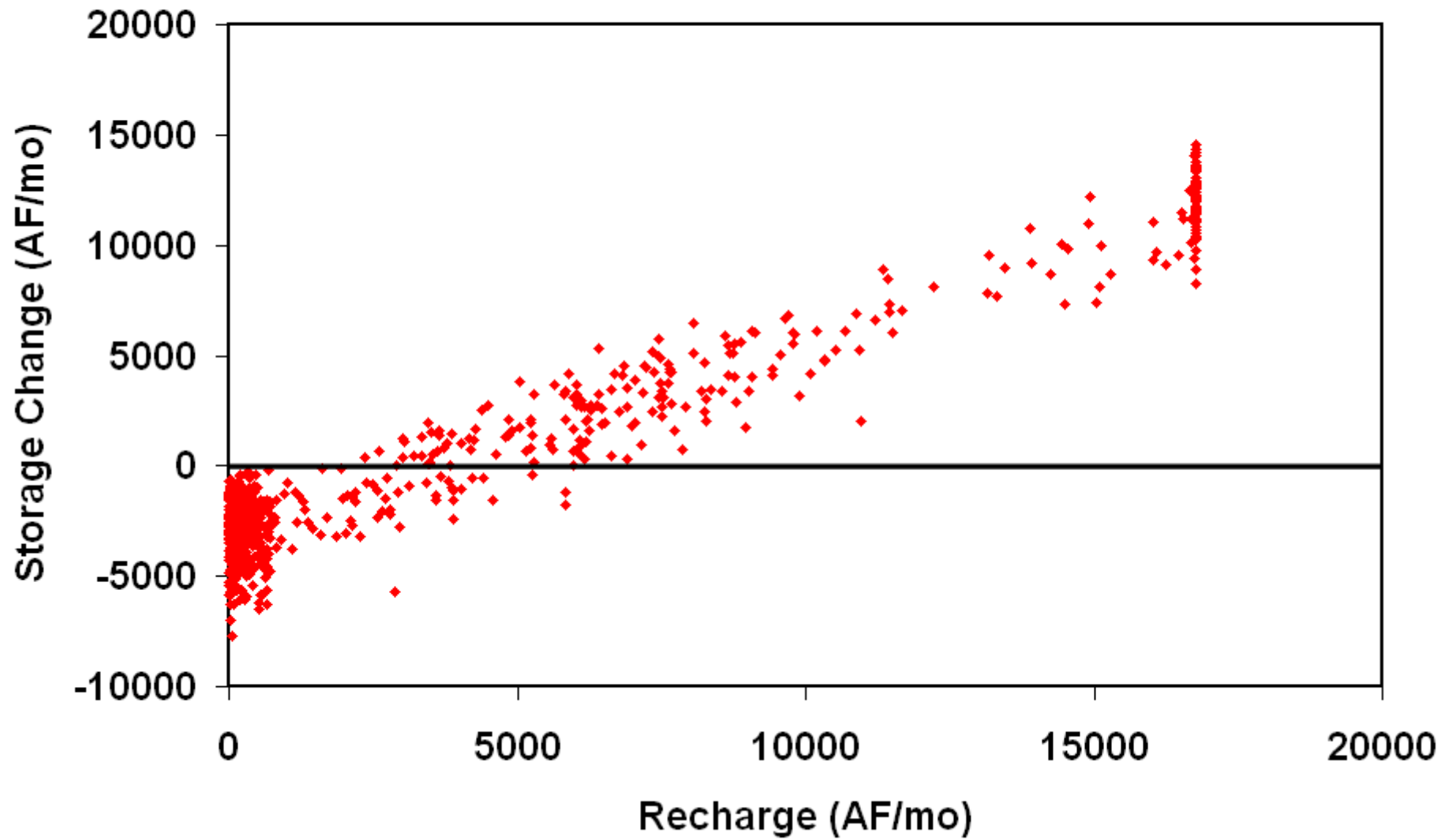
Recharge vs. Spring Flow



Pumping vs. Storage Change



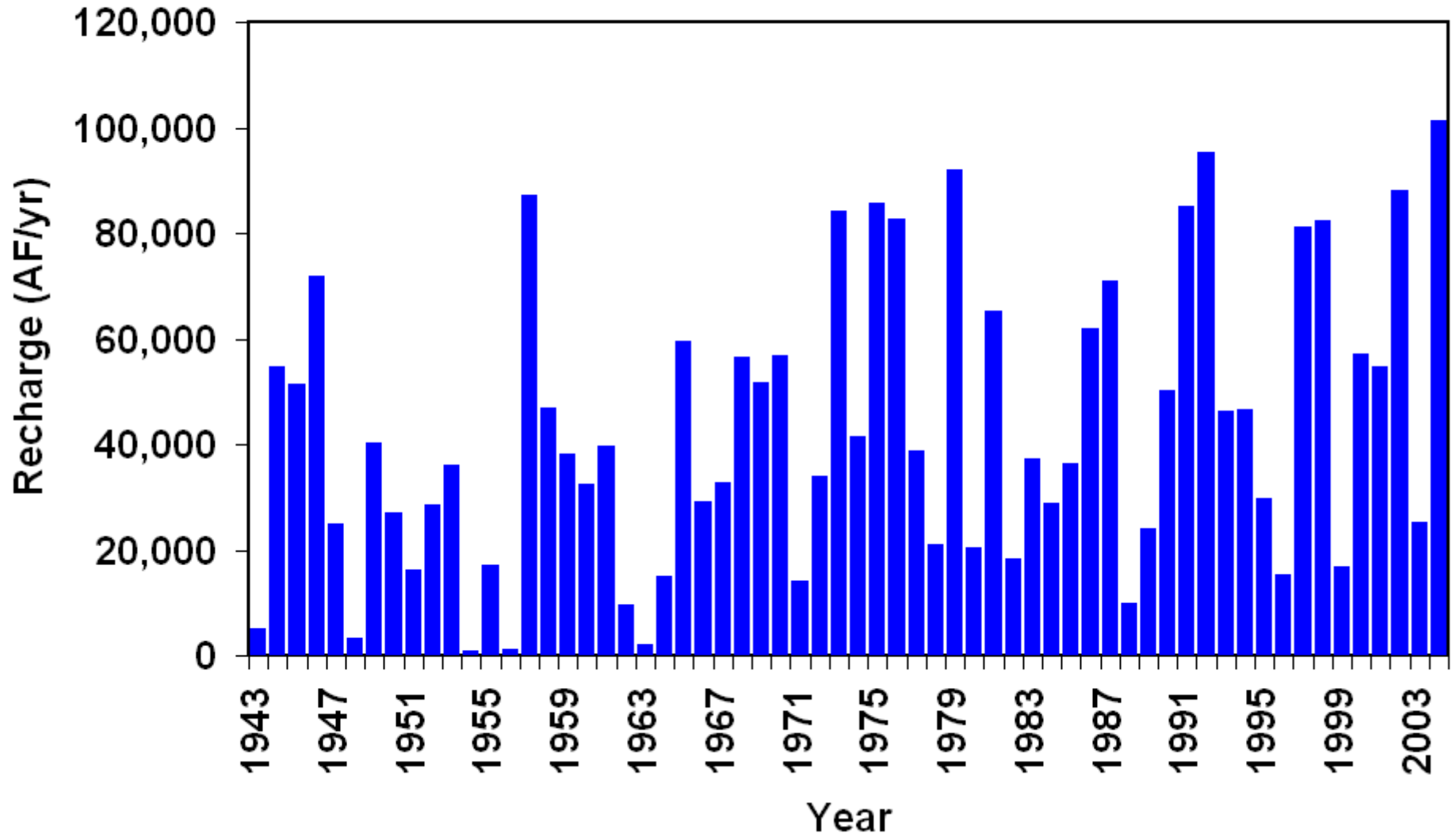
Recharge vs. Storage Change



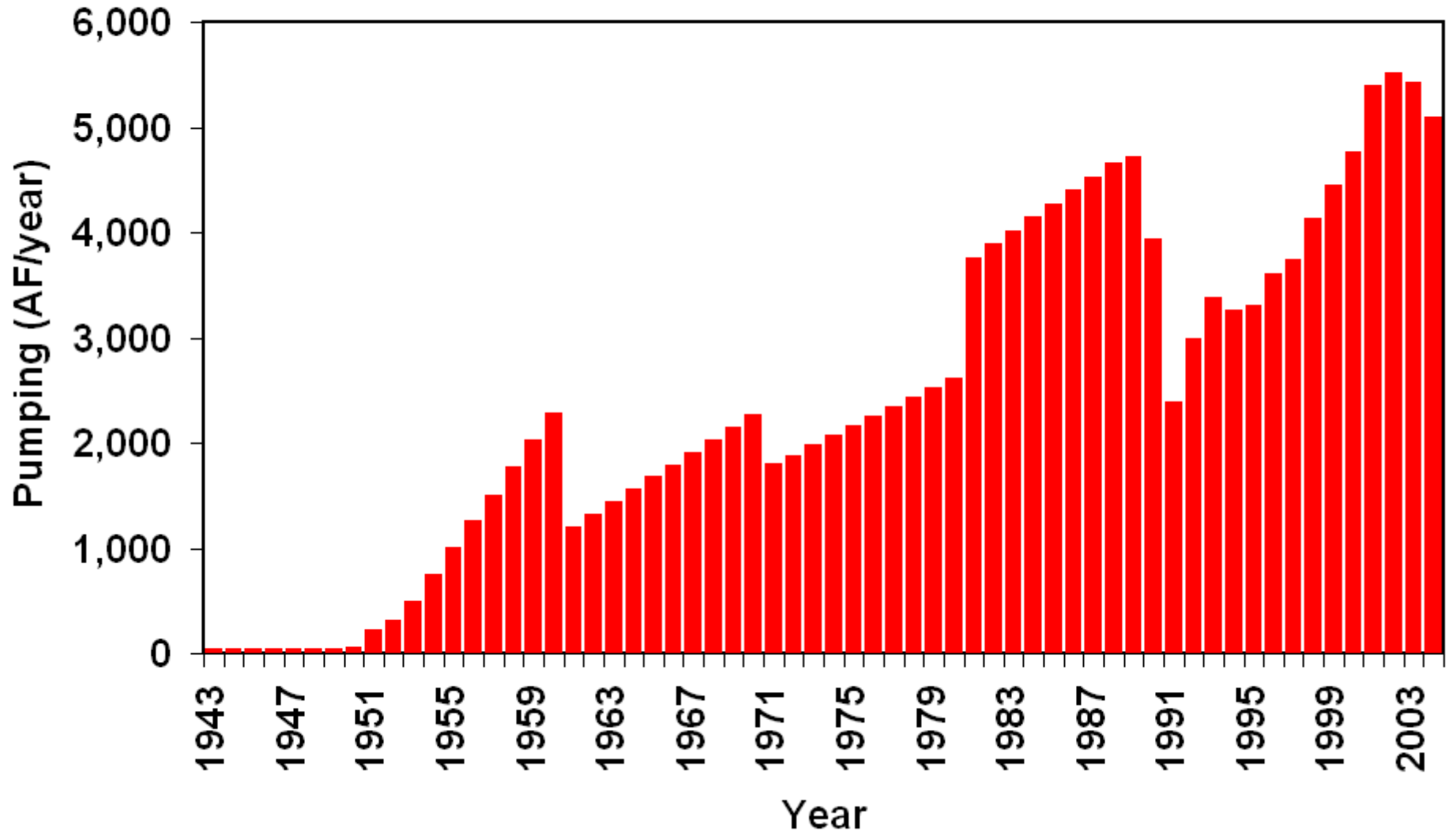
# Groundwater Budget

- Monthly
- Annual
  - Recharge
  - Pumping
  - Spring Flow
  - Storage Change
  - Cross Plots

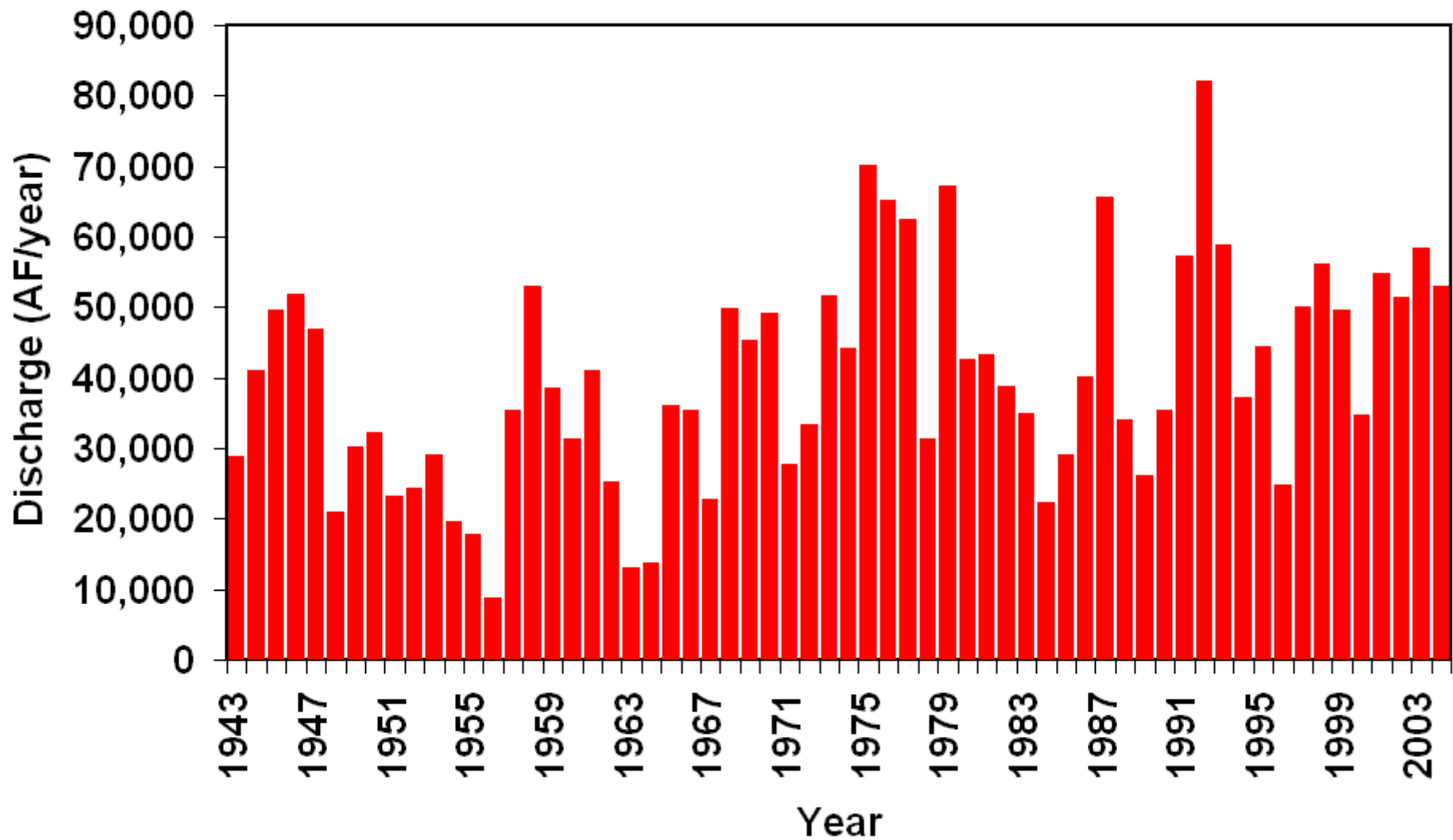
# Annual Recharge



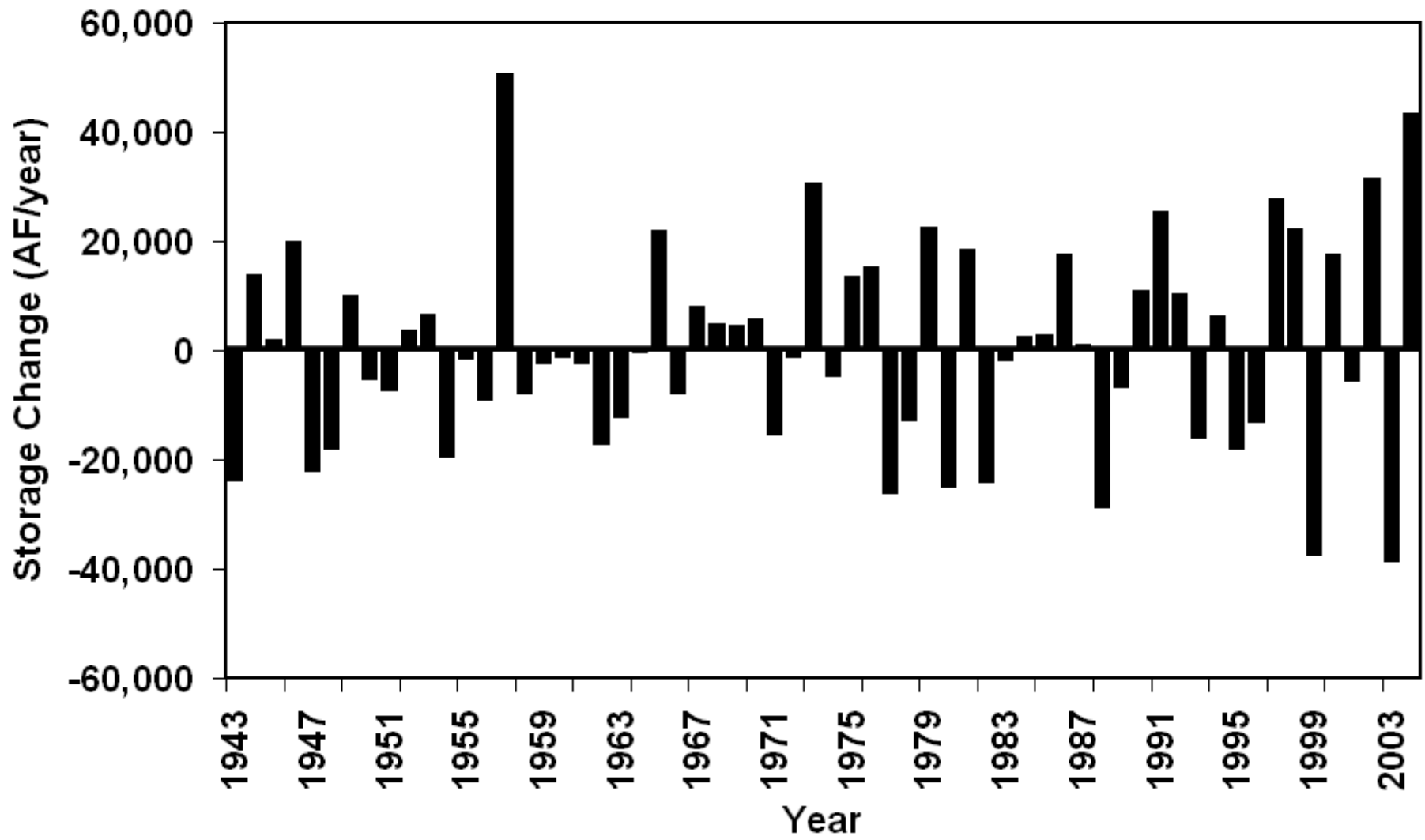
# Annual Pumping



## Annual Spring Flow



# Annual Storage Change

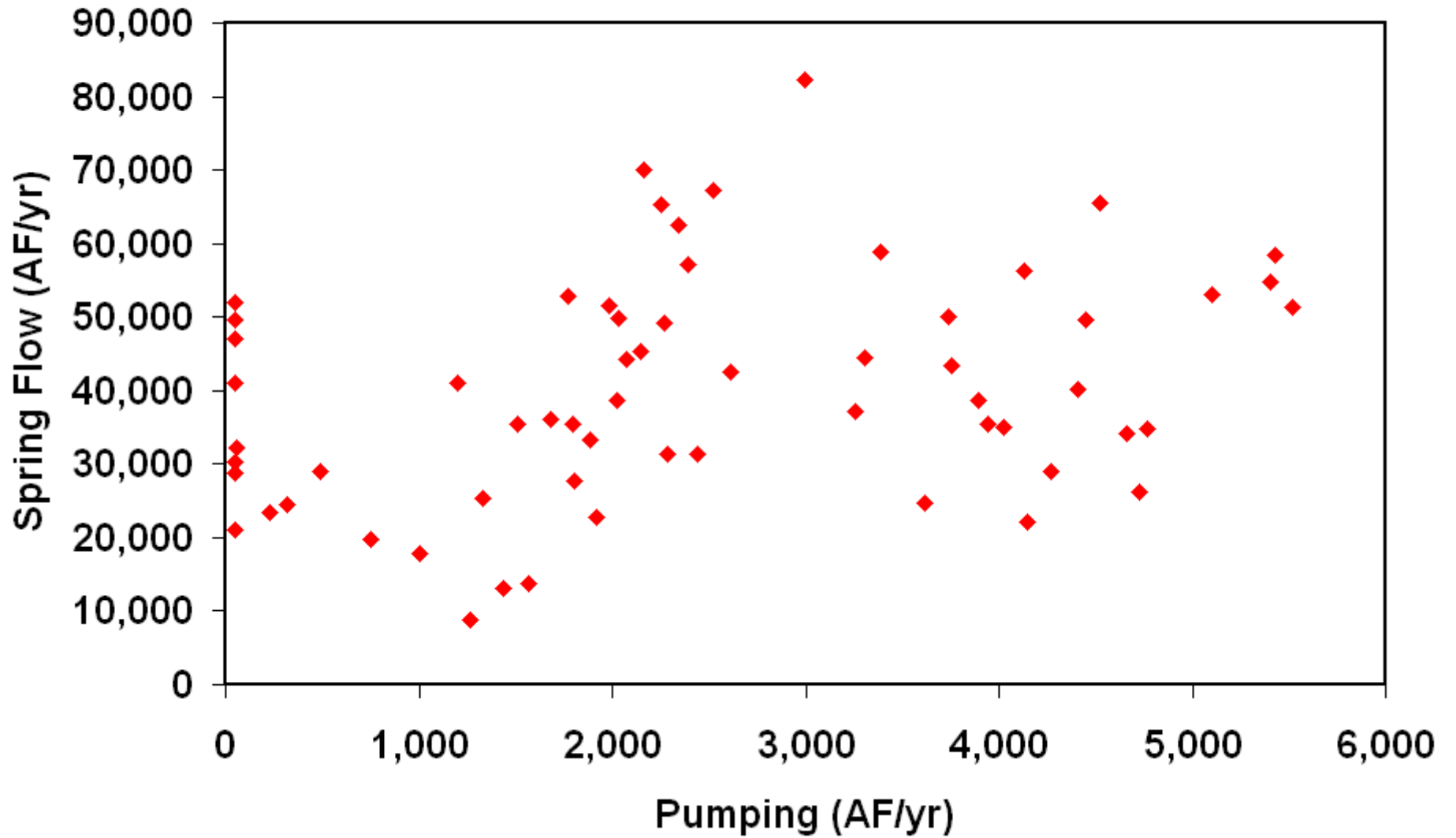




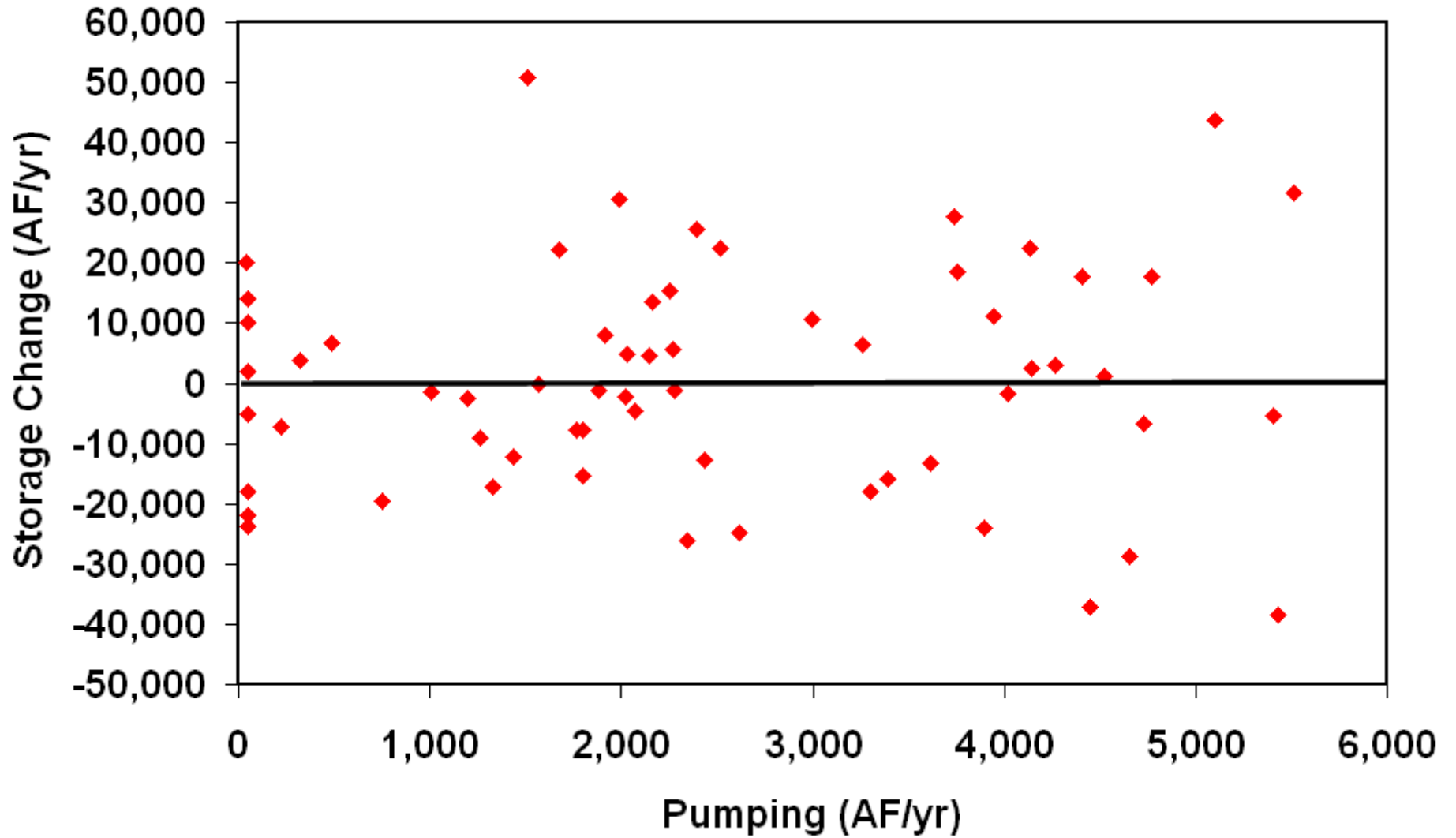
# Cross Plots

- Pumping Impacts on
  - Spring Flow
  - Storage Change
- Recharge Impacts on
  - Spring Flow
  - Storage Change

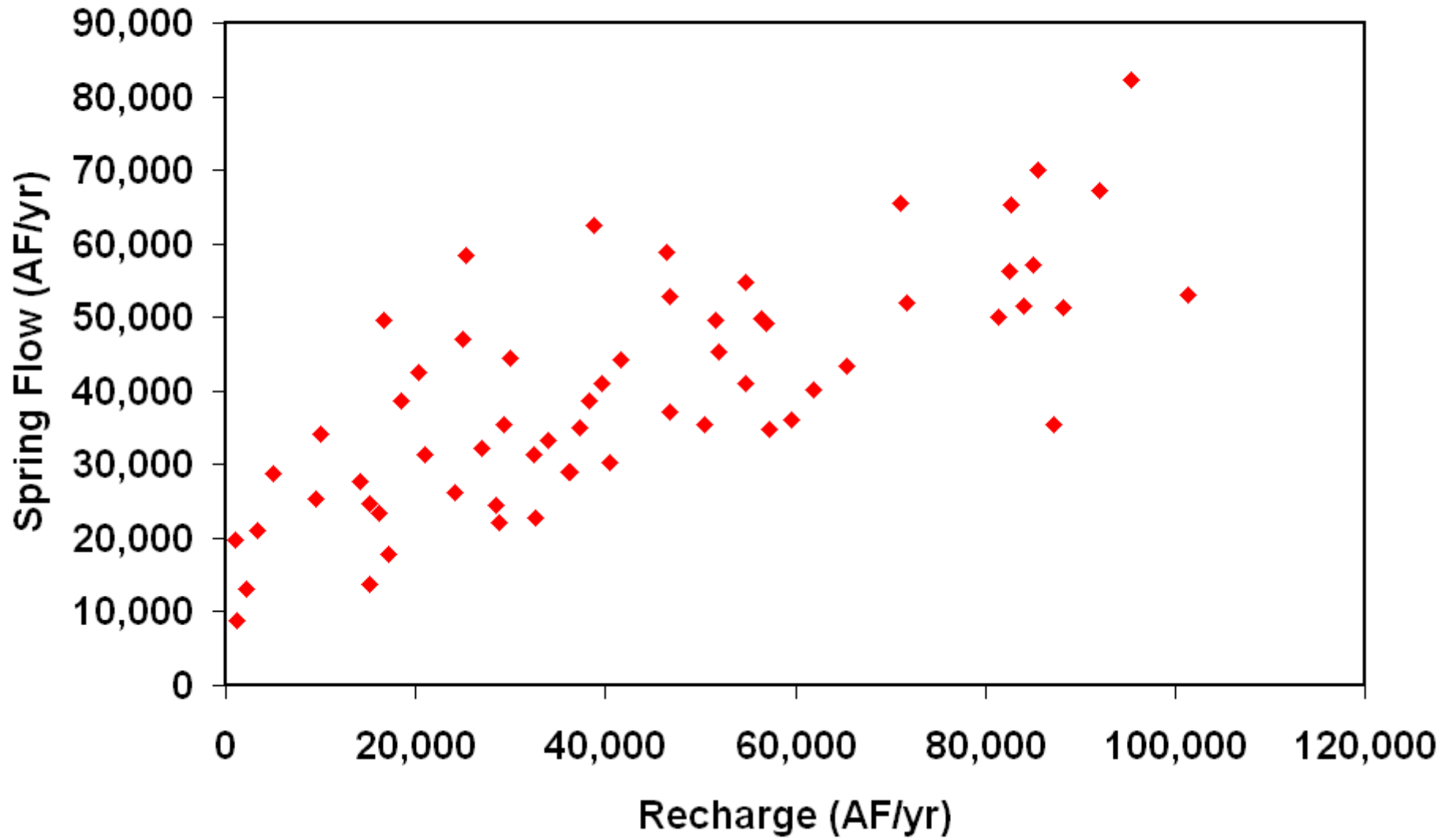
### Pumping vs. Spring Flow



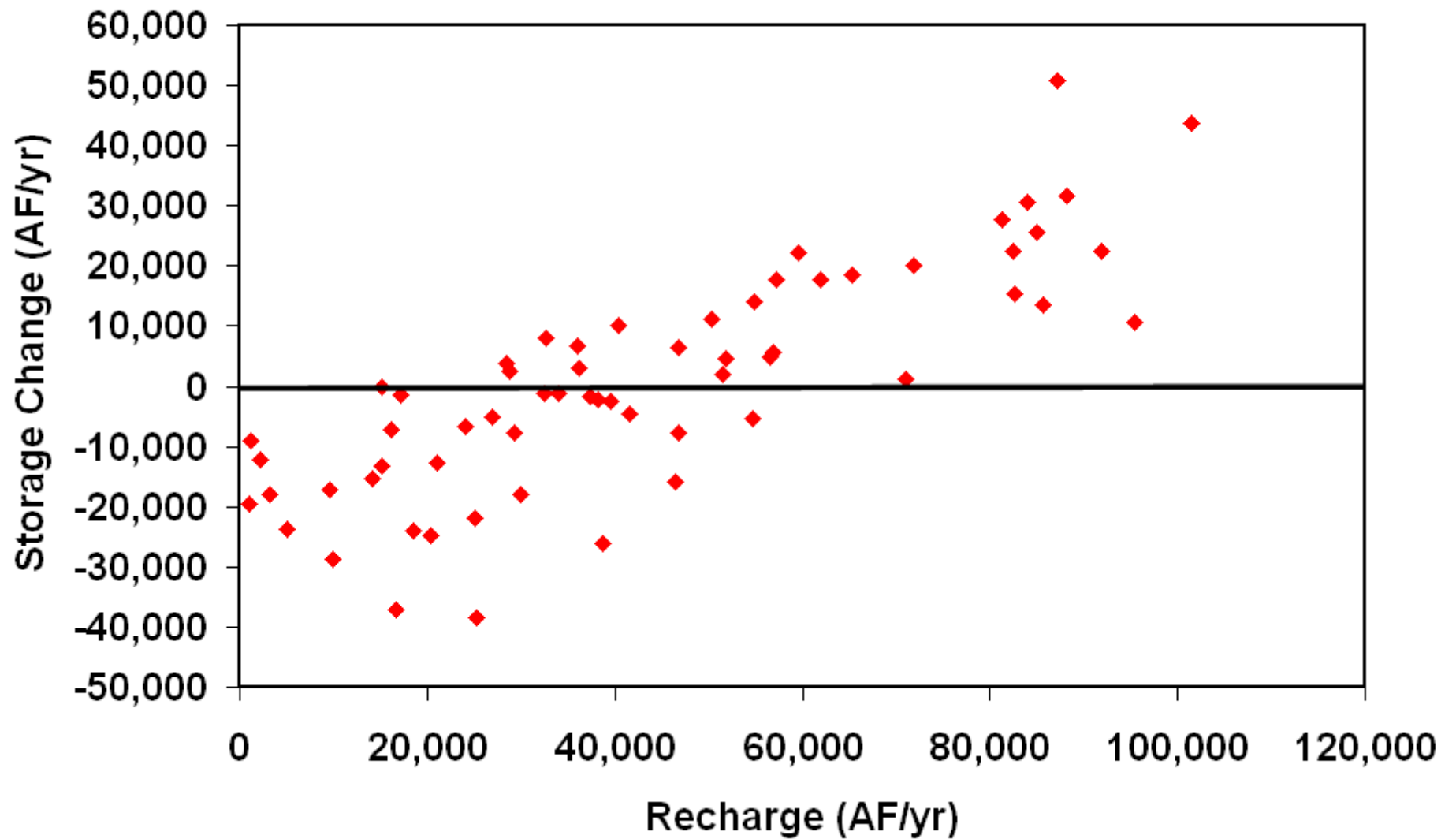
### Pumping vs. Storage Change



Recharge vs. Spring Flow



Recharge vs. Storage Change



# Groundwater Budget Summary

- Recharge vs. Storage Change
  - Monthly and Annual
- Recharge vs. Spring Flow
  - Annual
- Pumping impacts less significant

# Model Application

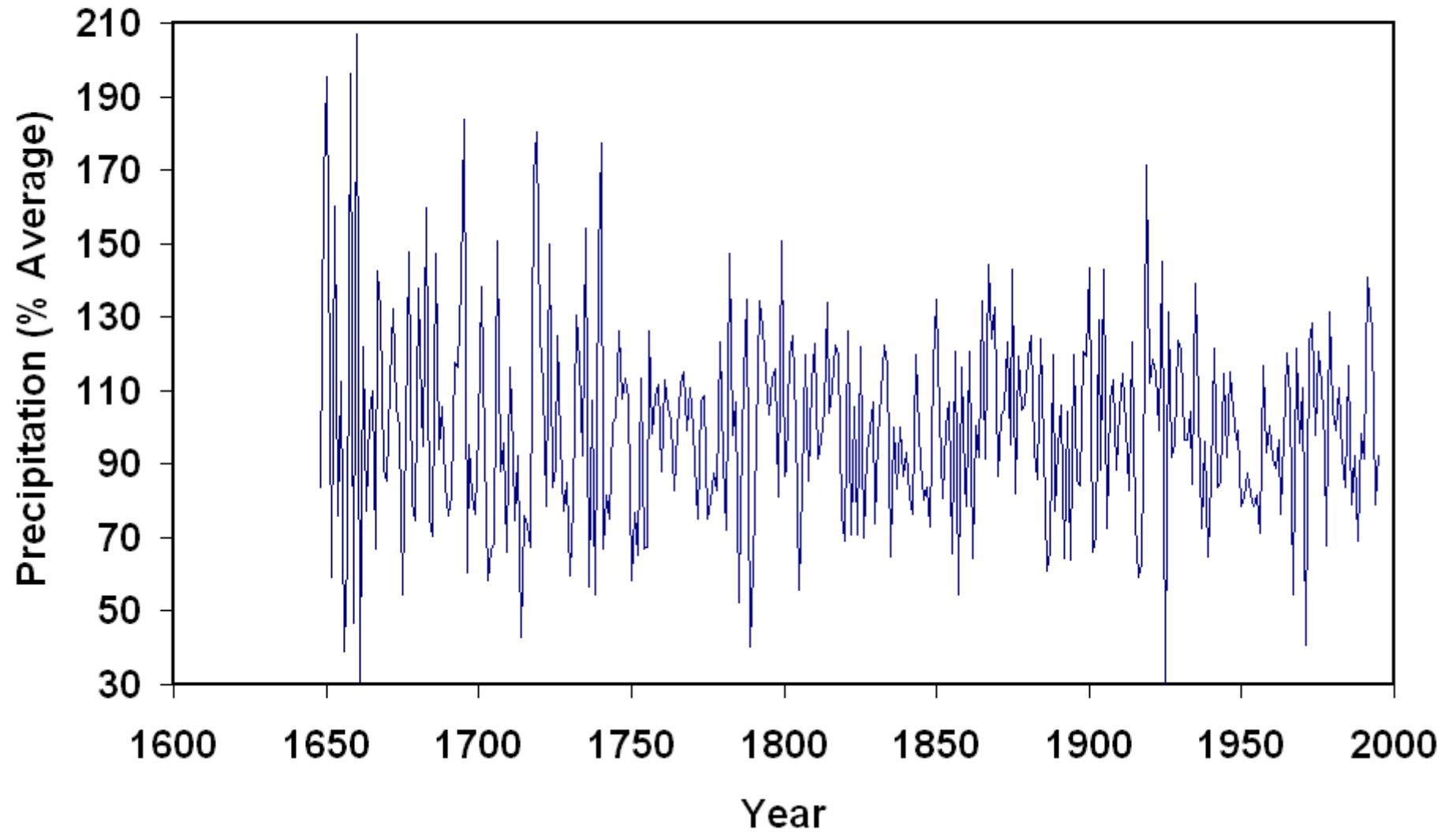
- DFC based on spring flow under drought conditions
- “Traditional” approach
  - 50 year run with 7 yr DOR as last 7 years
- “Variation” approach
  - Multiple 7-year simulations

# Extending Historic Record

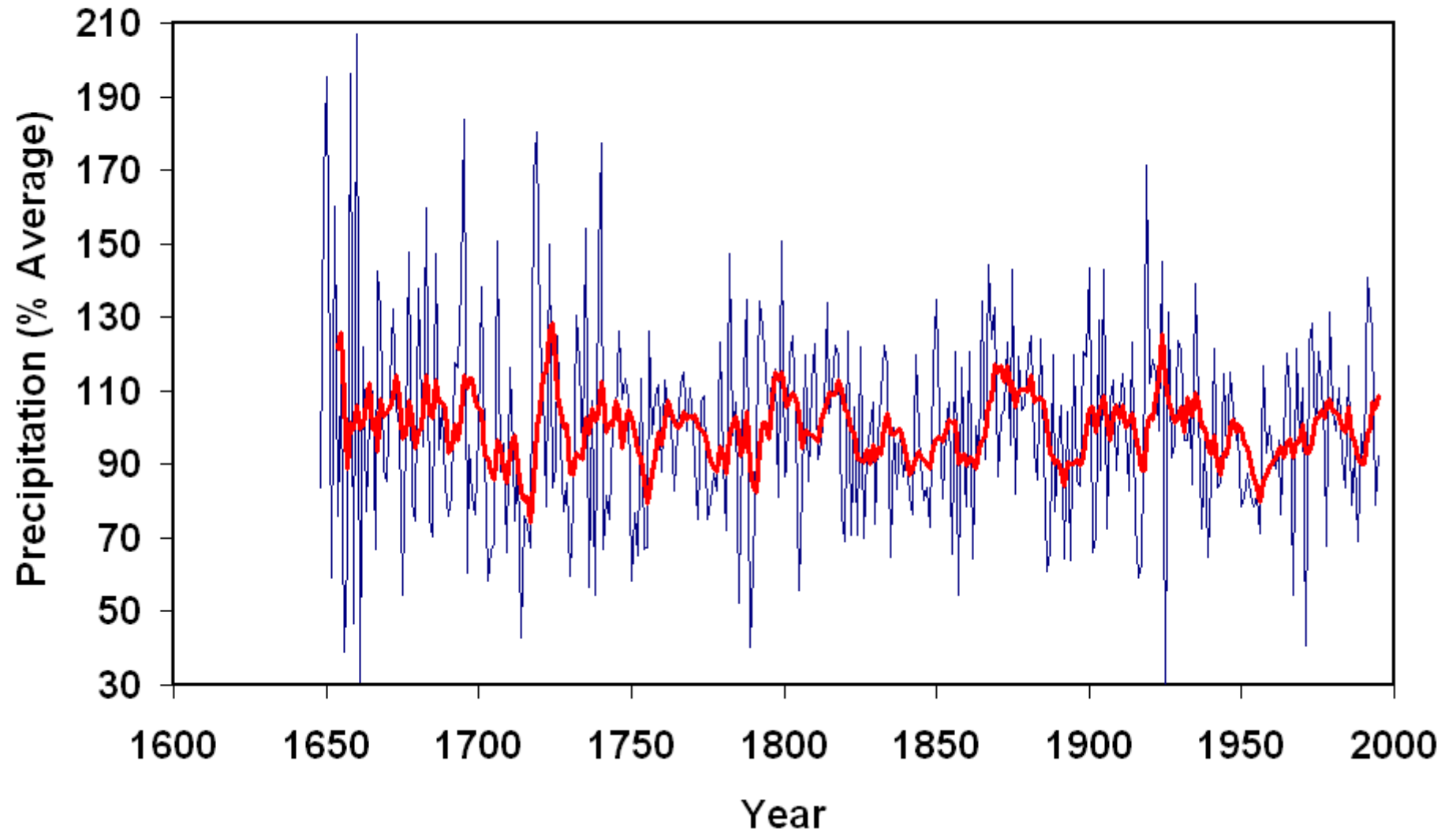
- University of Arkansas study (GBRA)
- Tree ring Record: 1648 – 1995



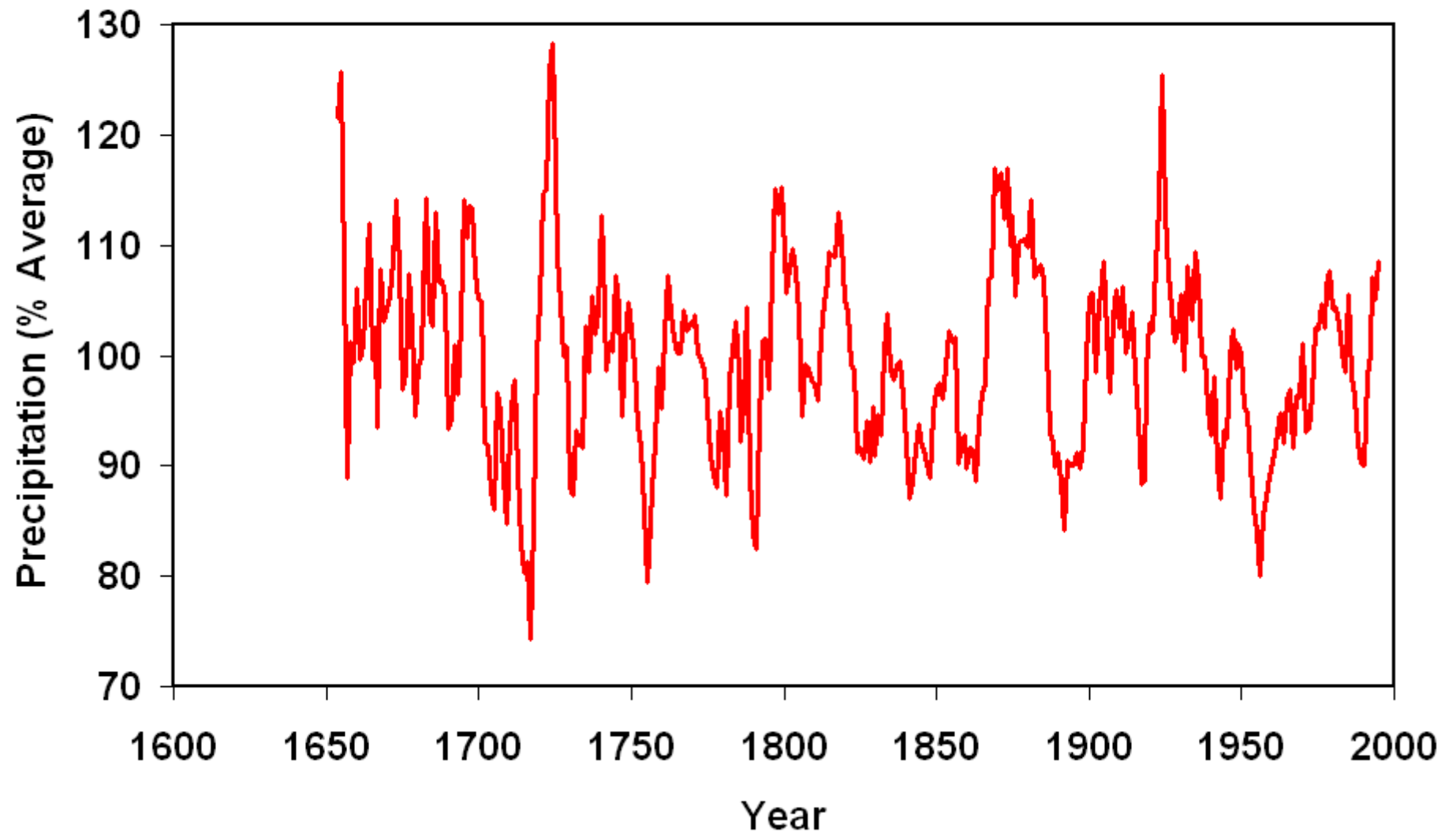
## South Central Texas Region



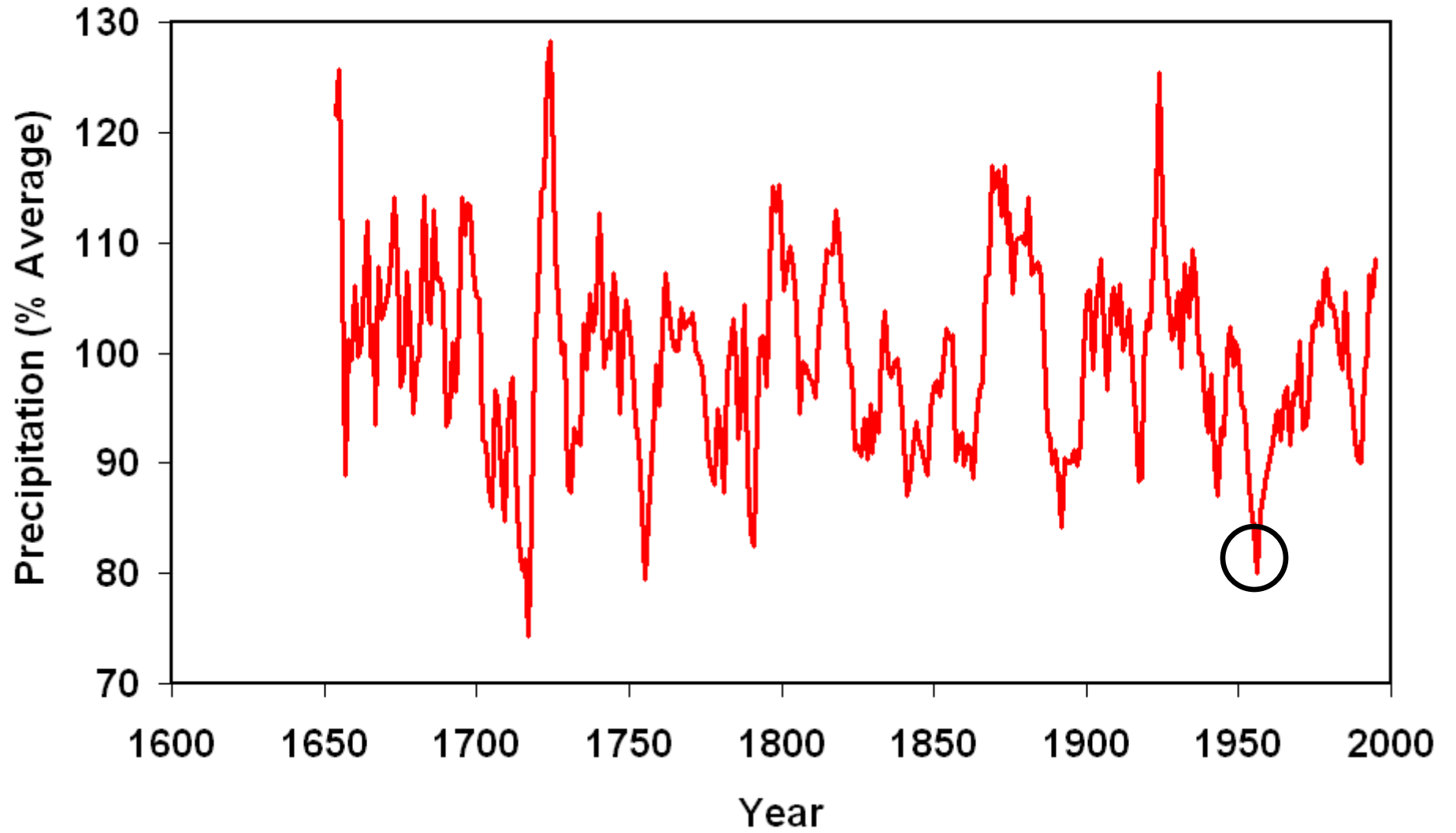
## South Central Texas Region - w/7-yr Running Average



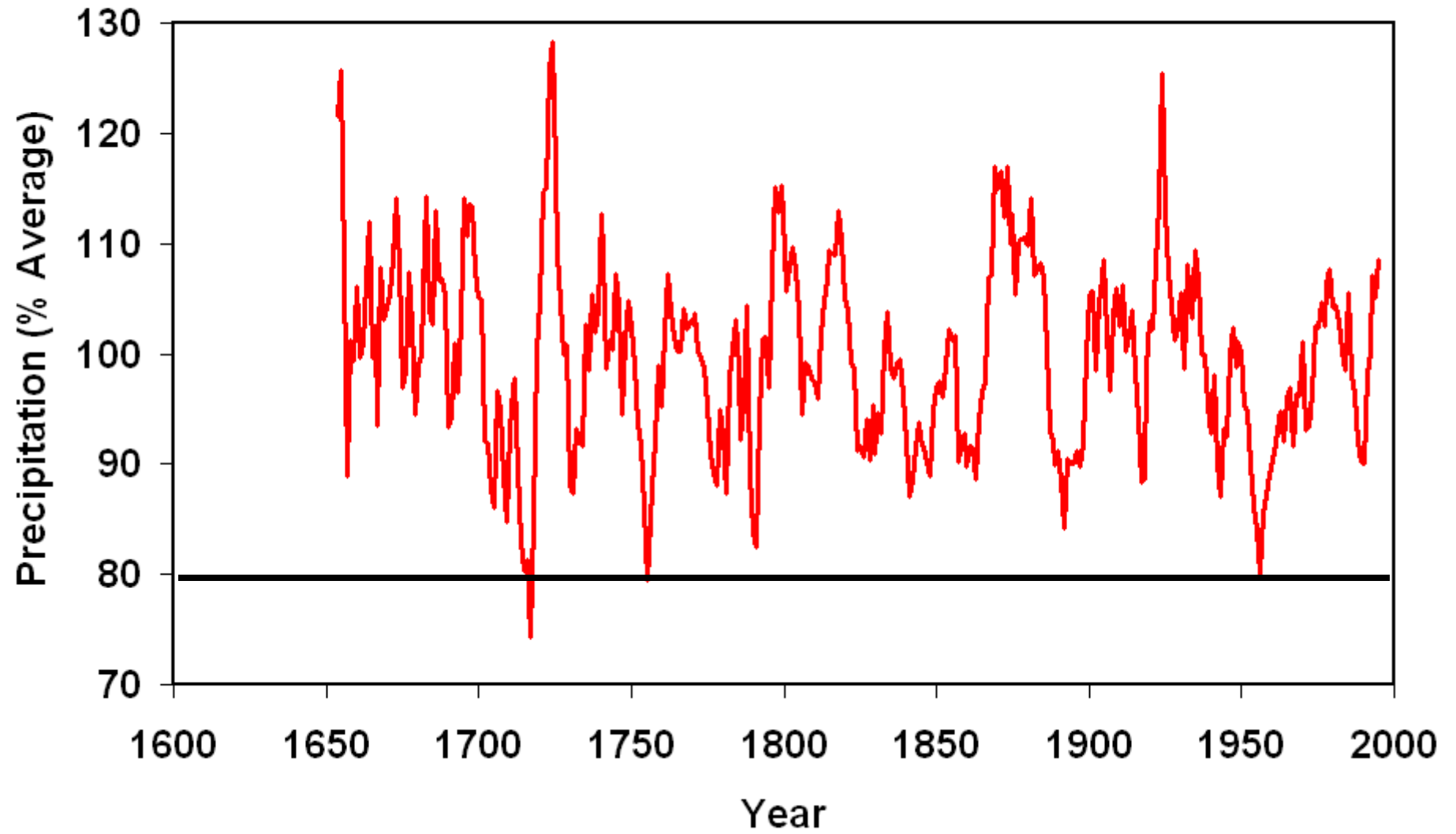
## South Central Texas Region



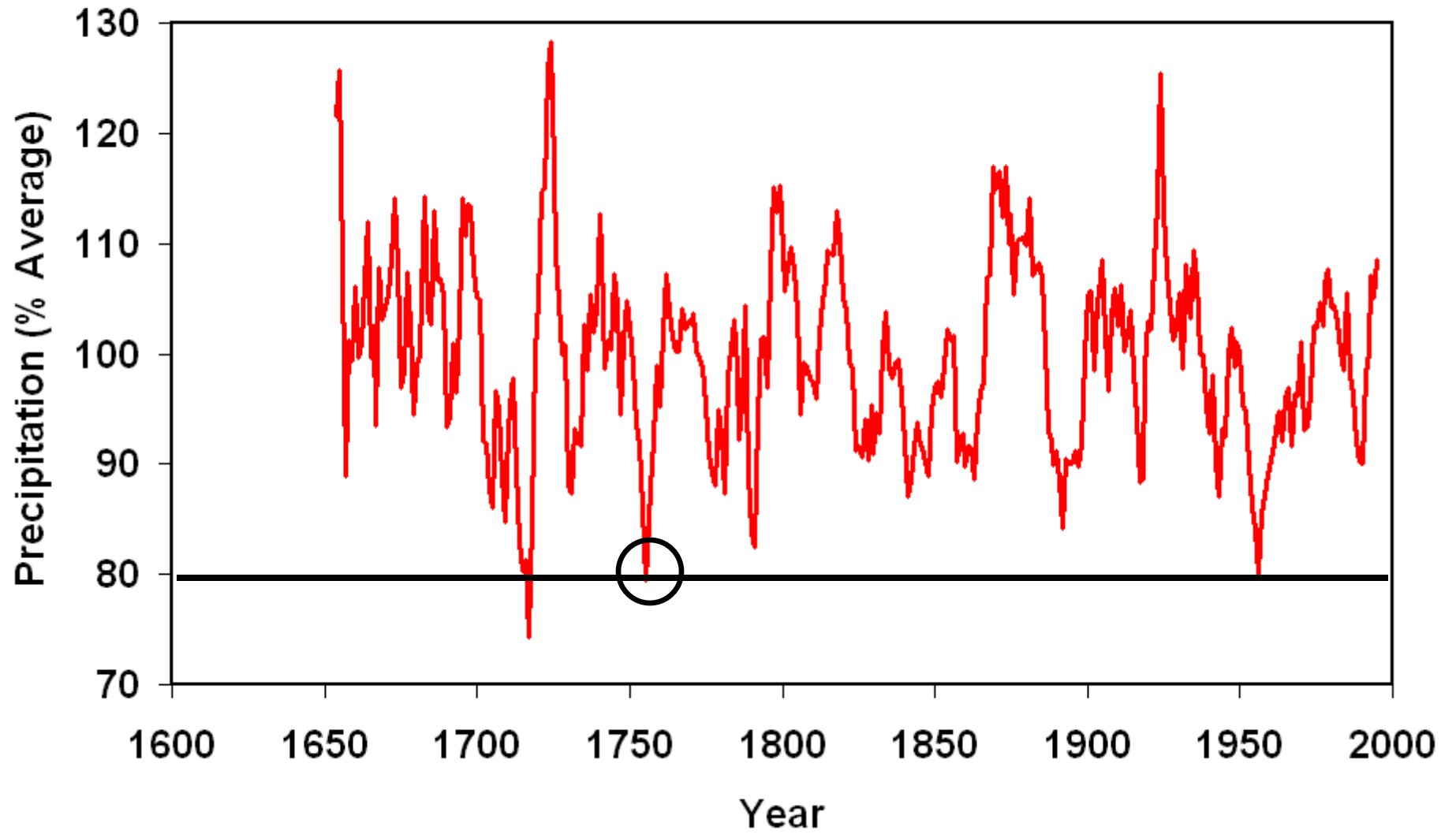
# South Central Texas Region



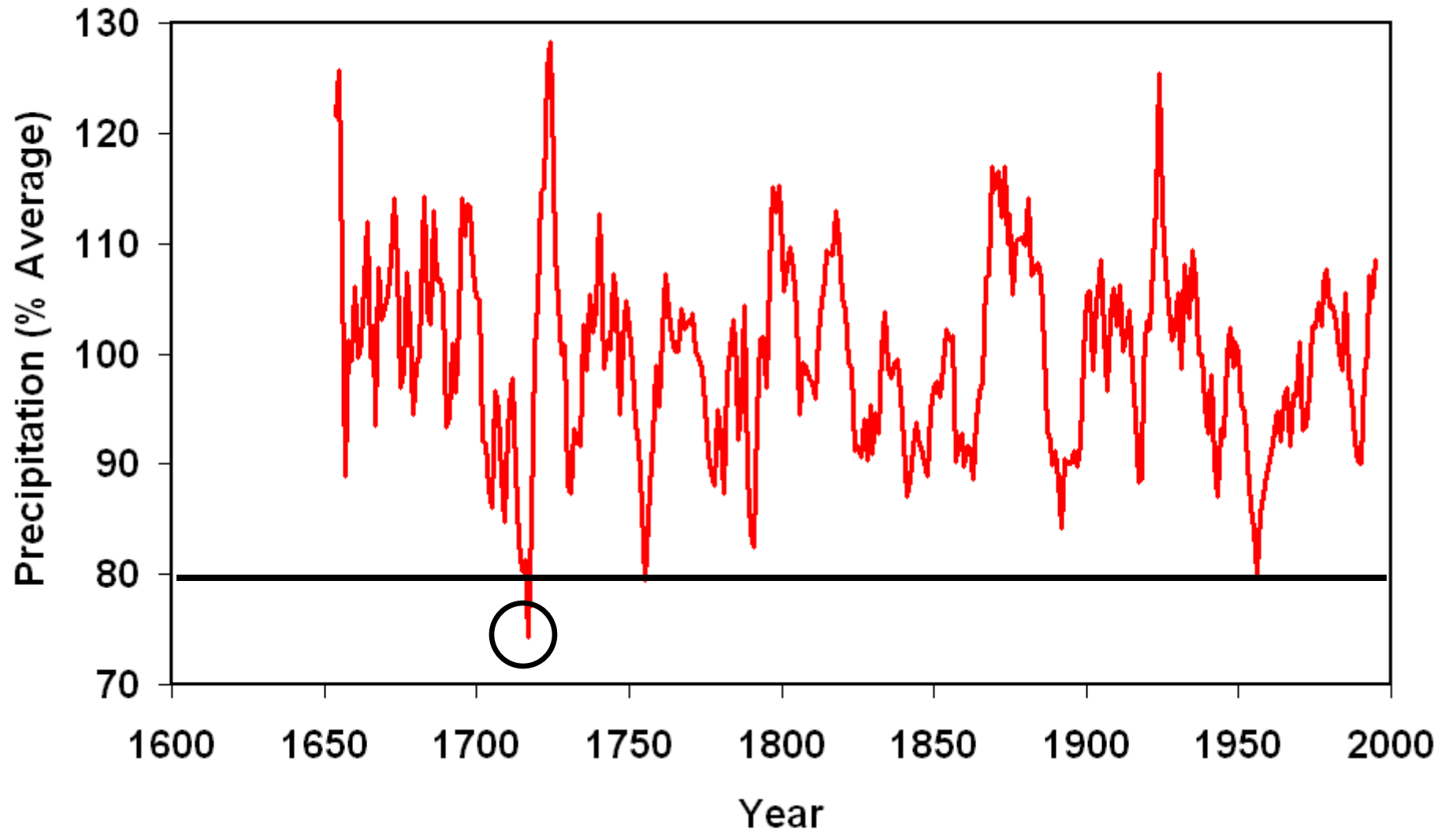
## South Central Texas Region



# South Central Texas Region



# South Central Texas Region



# 342 Recharge Scenarios

- 7-year scenarios

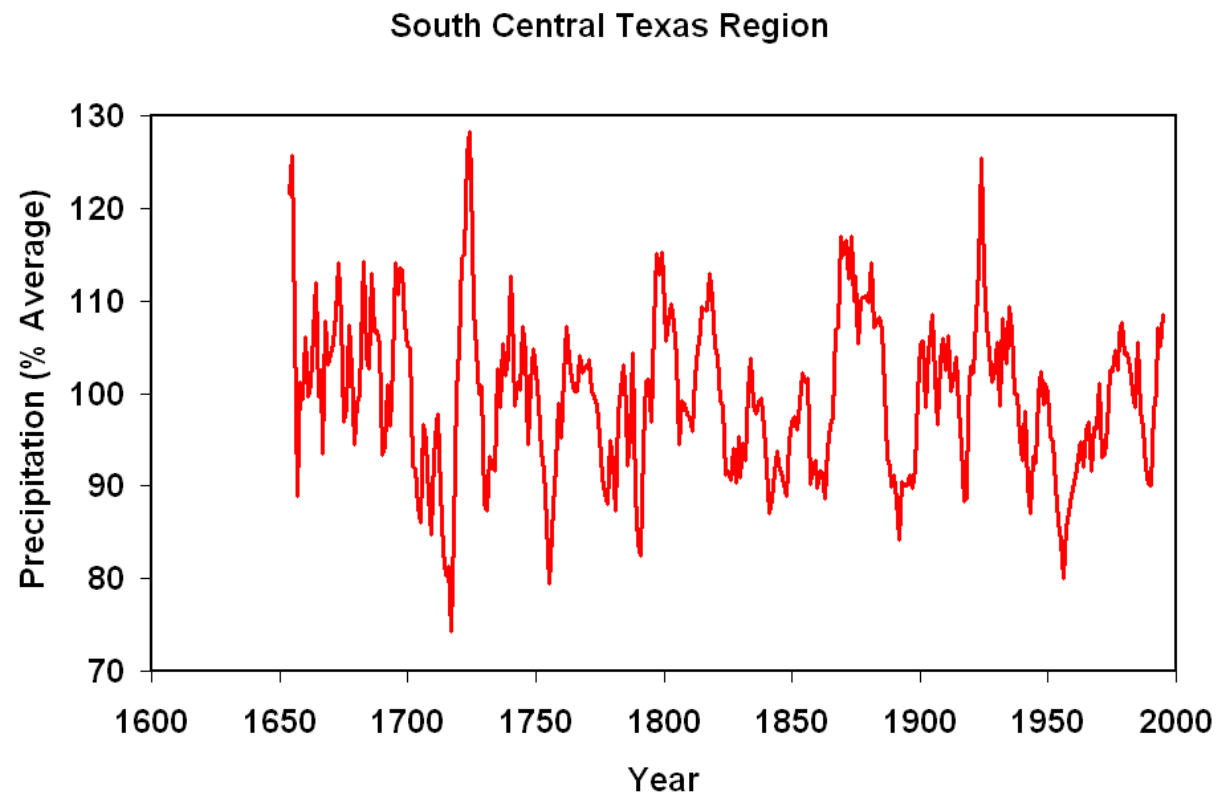
1648 to 1654

1649 to 1655

⋮

⋮

1989 to 1995

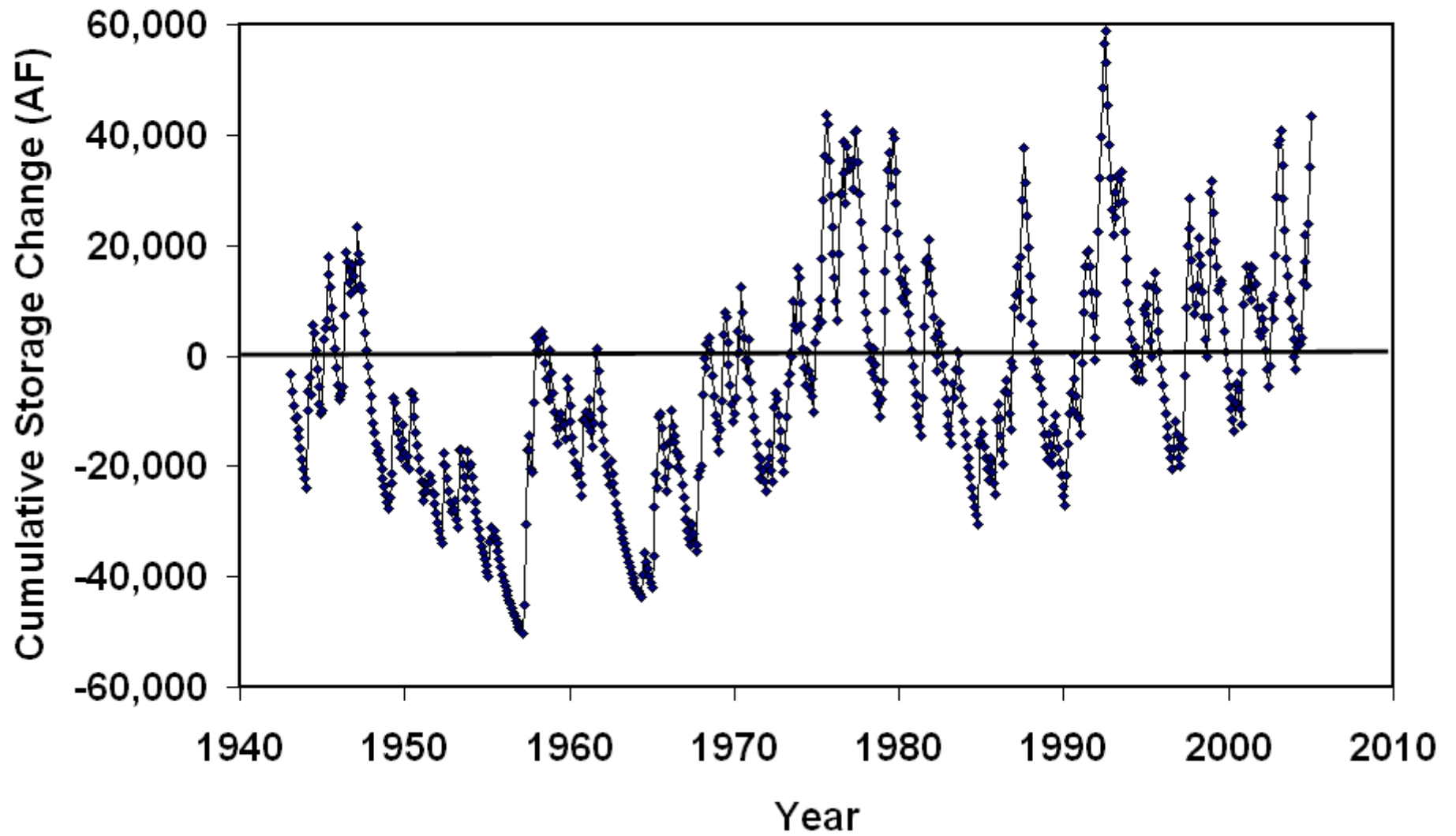




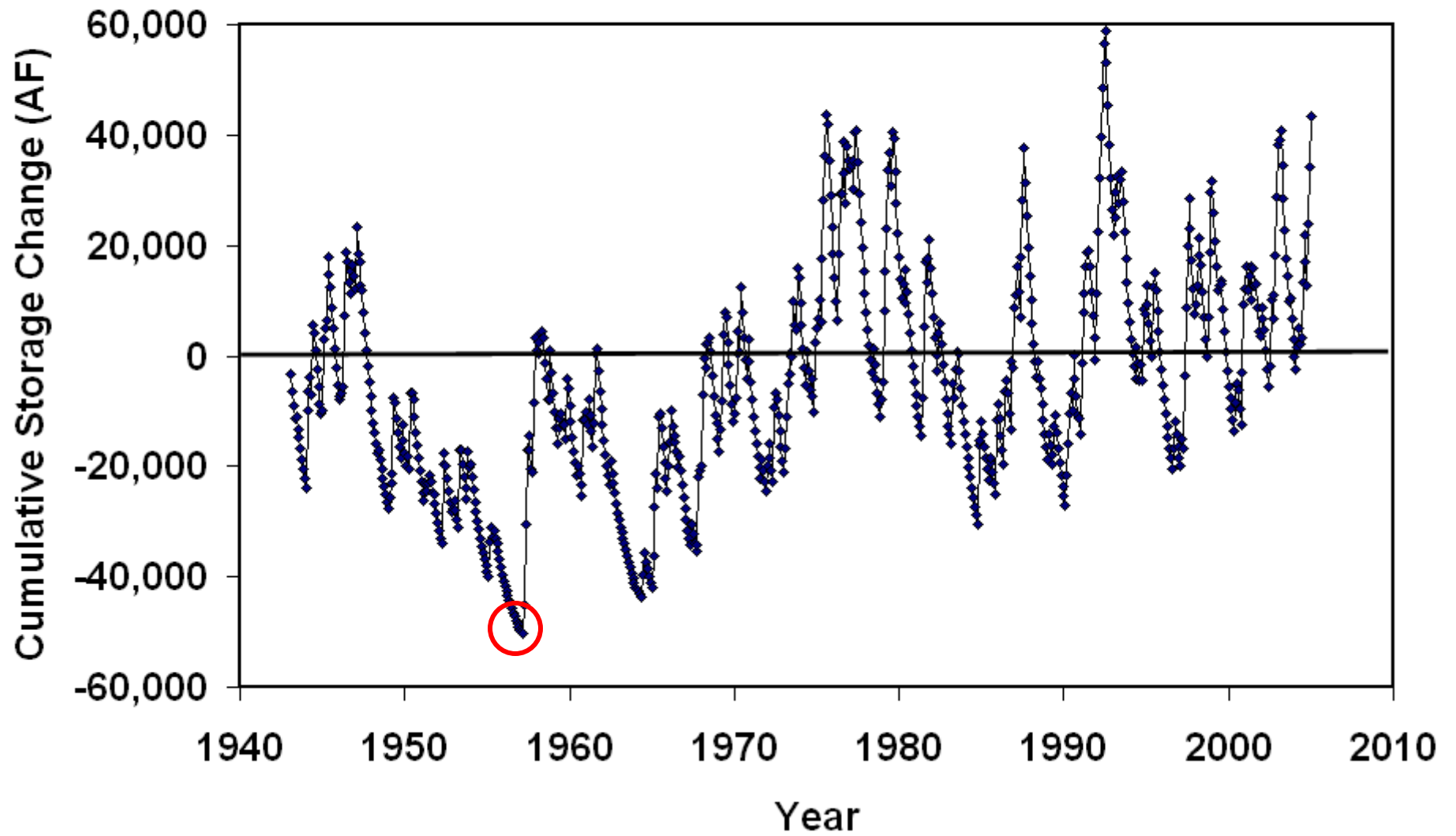
# Variations on Recharge Scenarios

- Initial conditions
  - Low (1957)
  - Intermediate (2004)
  - High (1992)
- Pumping
  - 5 scenarios (3,800 to 16,300 AF/yr)
  - Current Pumping ~ 5,500 AF/yr

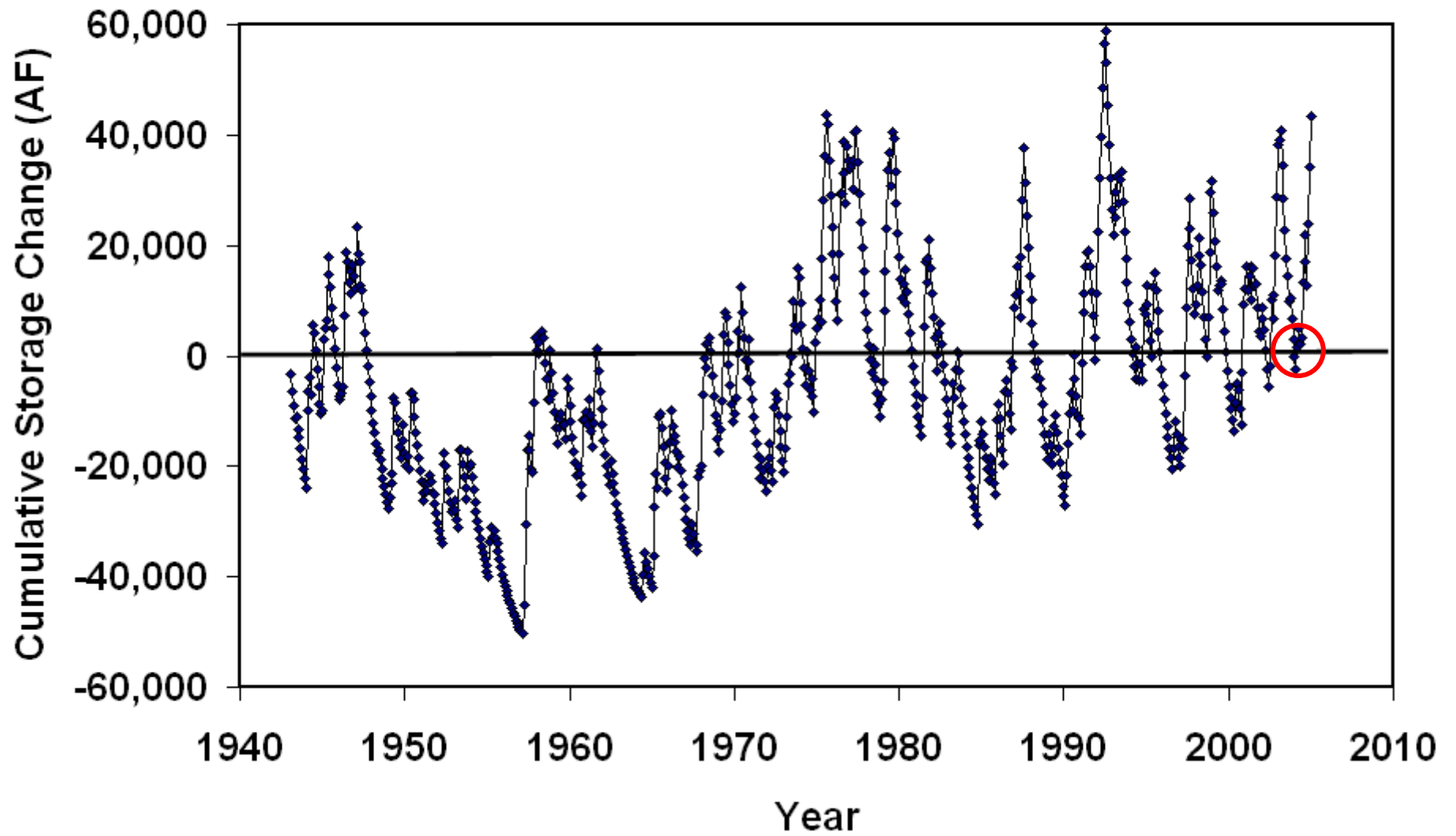
# Cumulative Storage Change



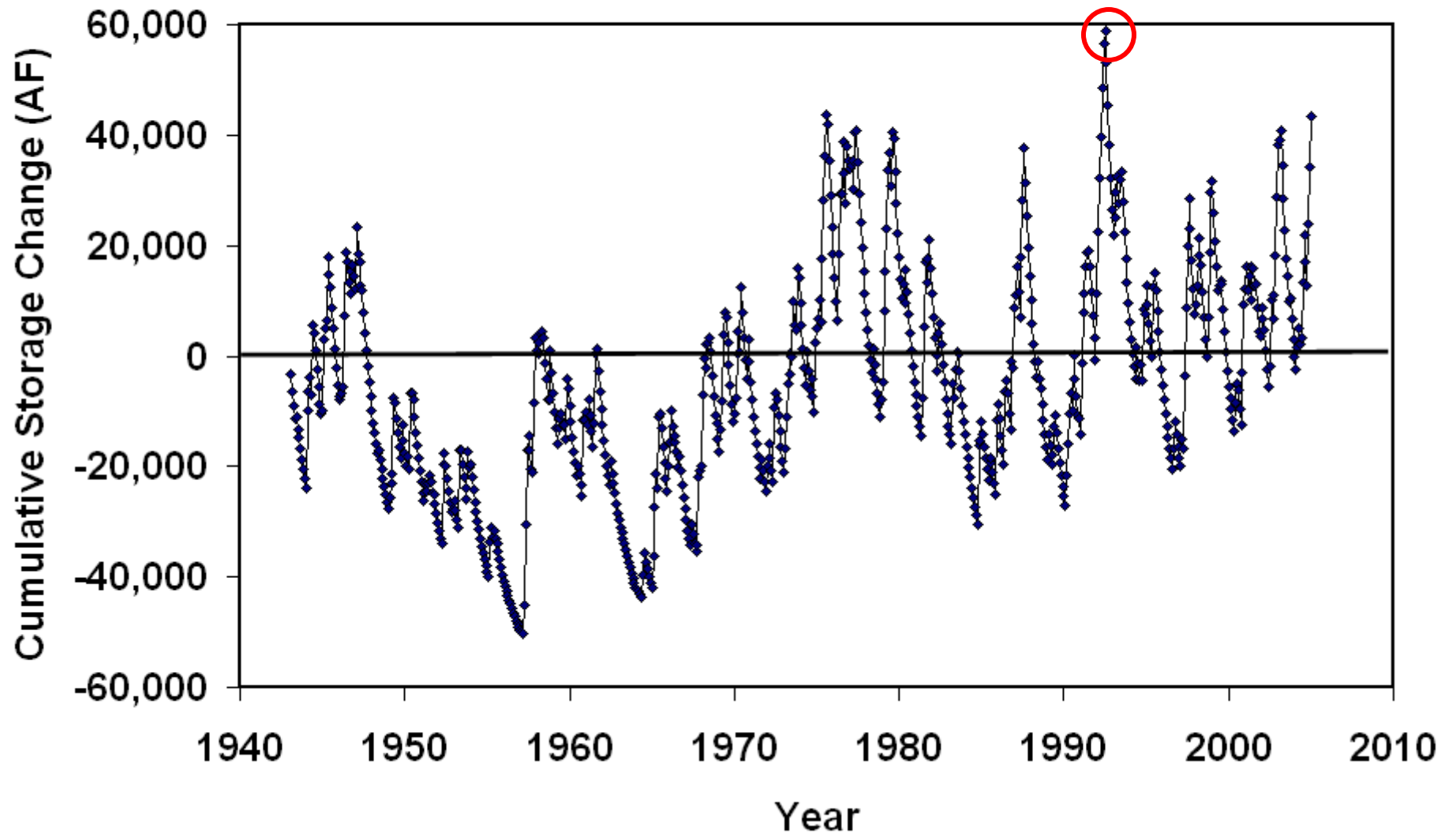
# Cumulative Storage Change



# Cumulative Storage Change



# Cumulative Storage Change



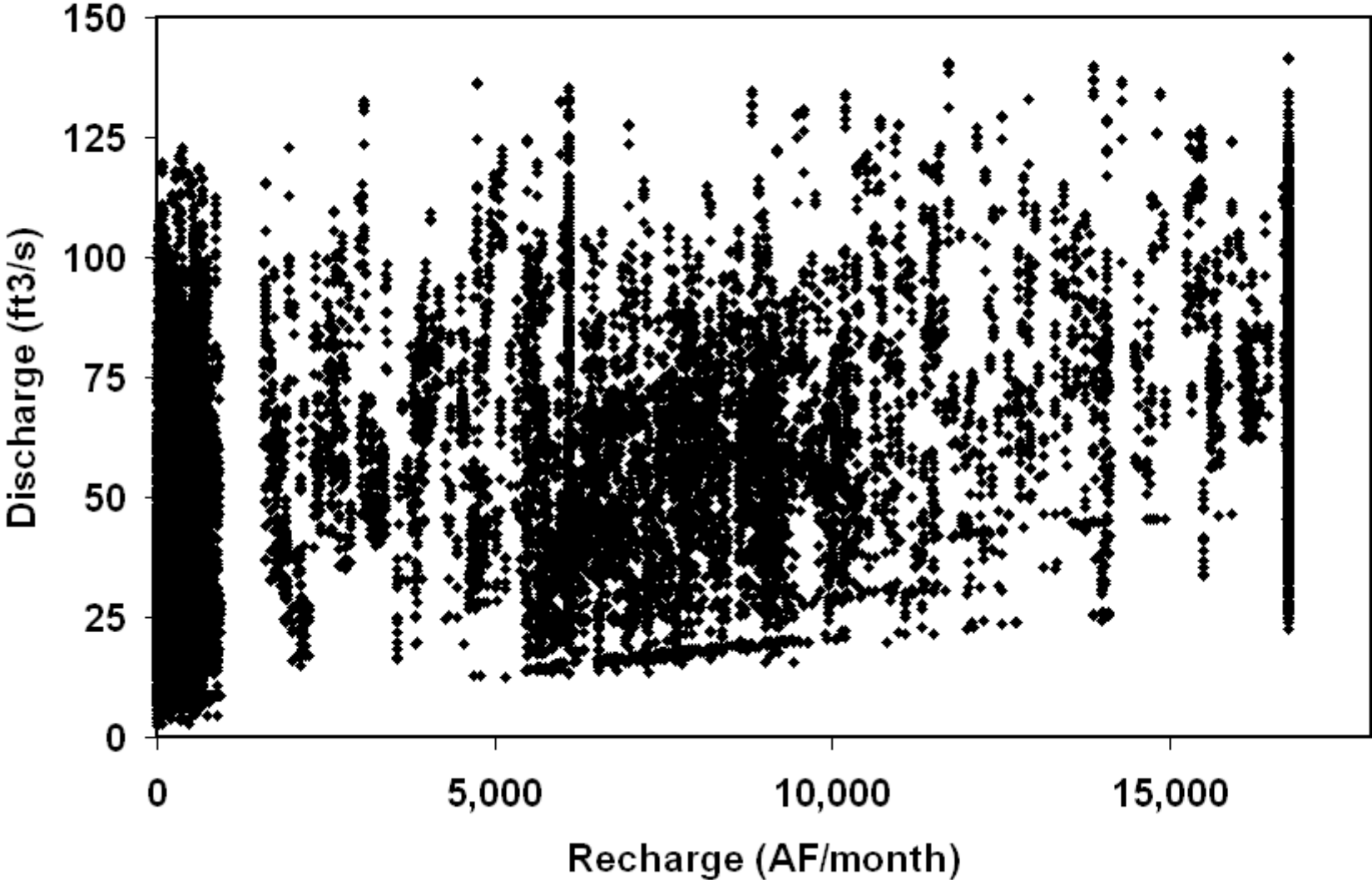
# Summary of Simulations

- 15 Scenarios
  - 3 Initial Conditions
  - 5 Pumping
- Each scenario = 342 7-year simulations
  - 28,728 months
- Initially – 5,130 7-year simulations

# Results

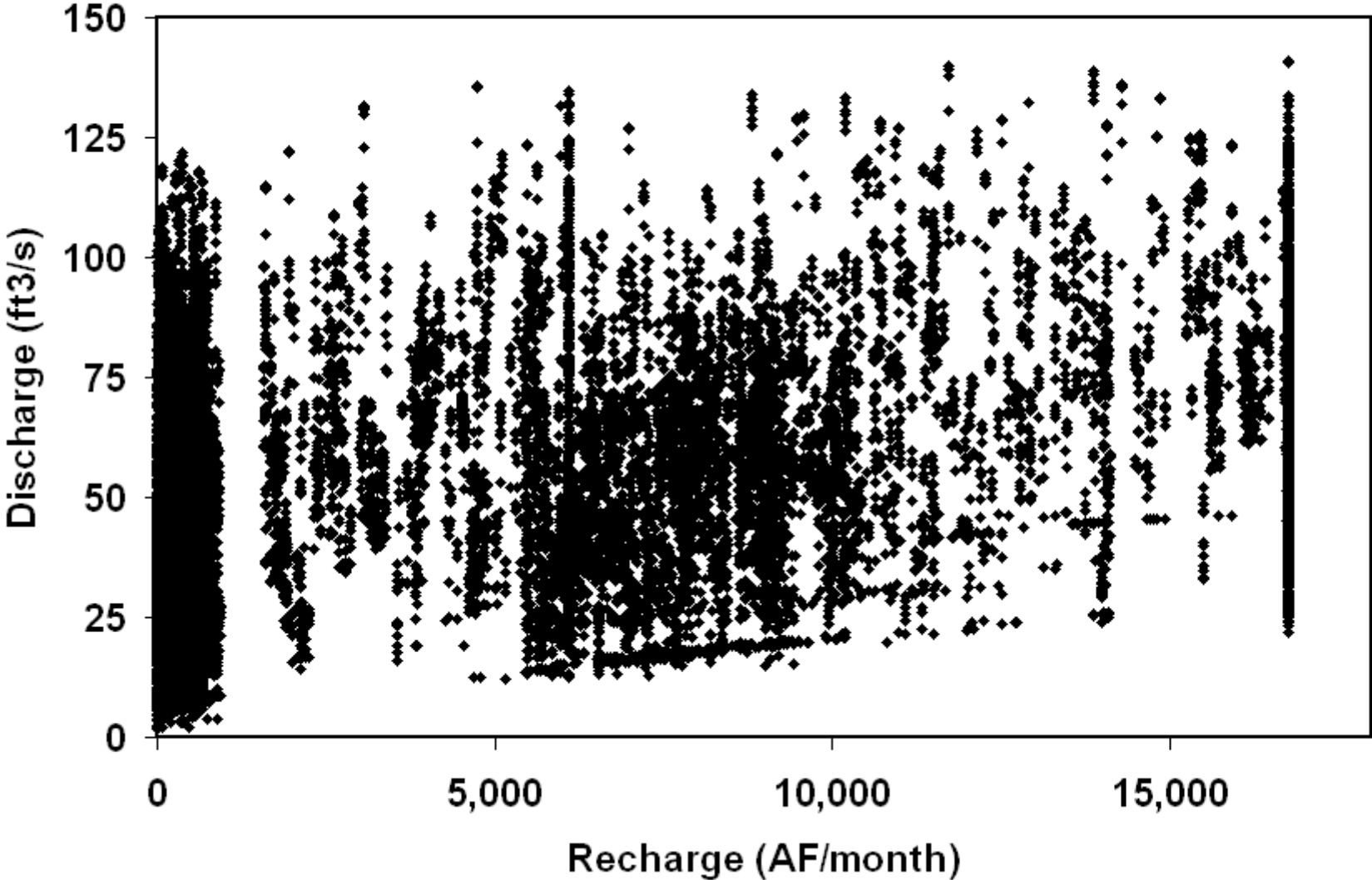
- 28,728 months
- Impacts of recharge on spring flow
- Impacts of pumping on spring flow

Initial Conditions = Low, Pumping = 3,800 AF/yr

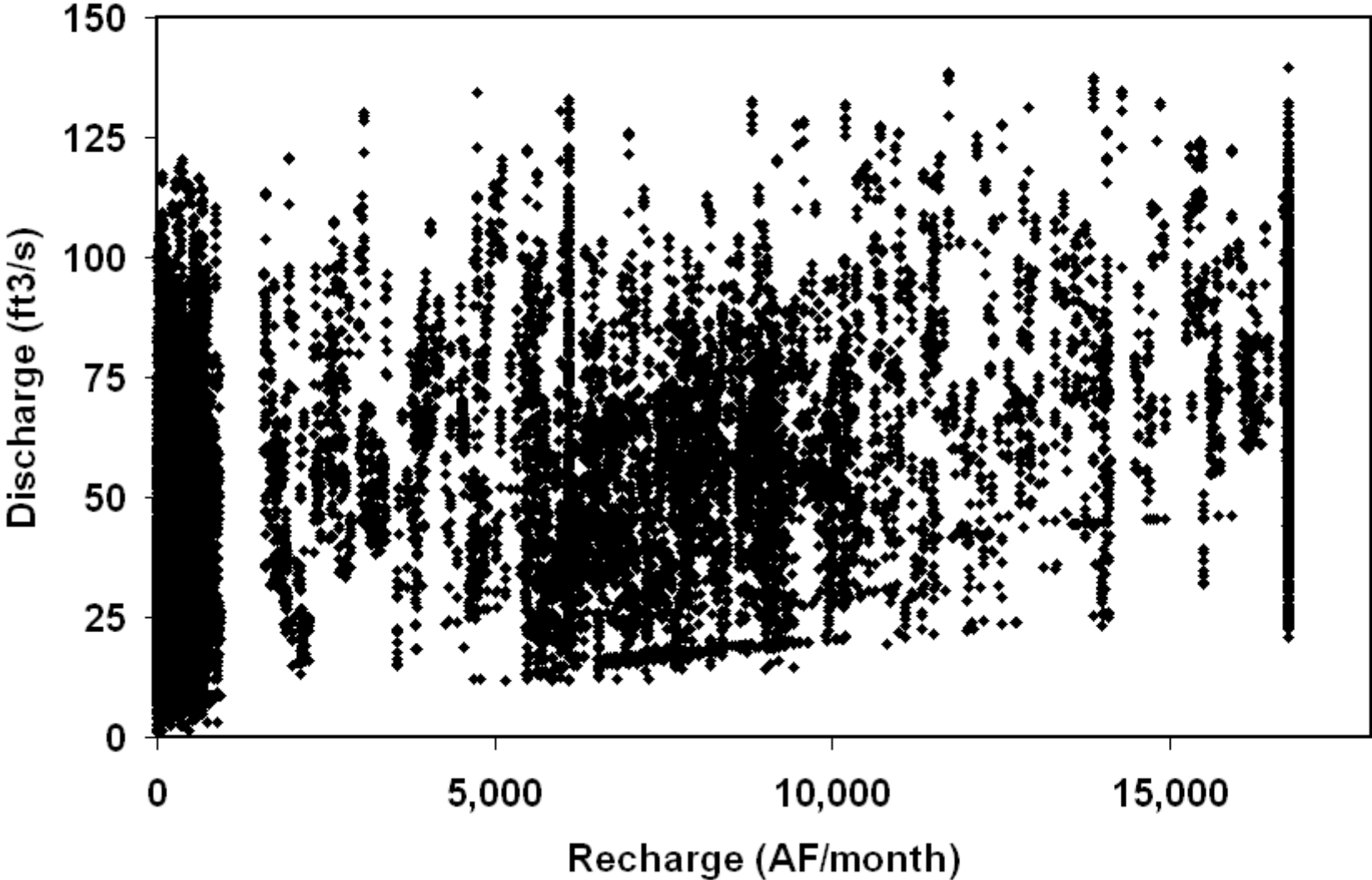




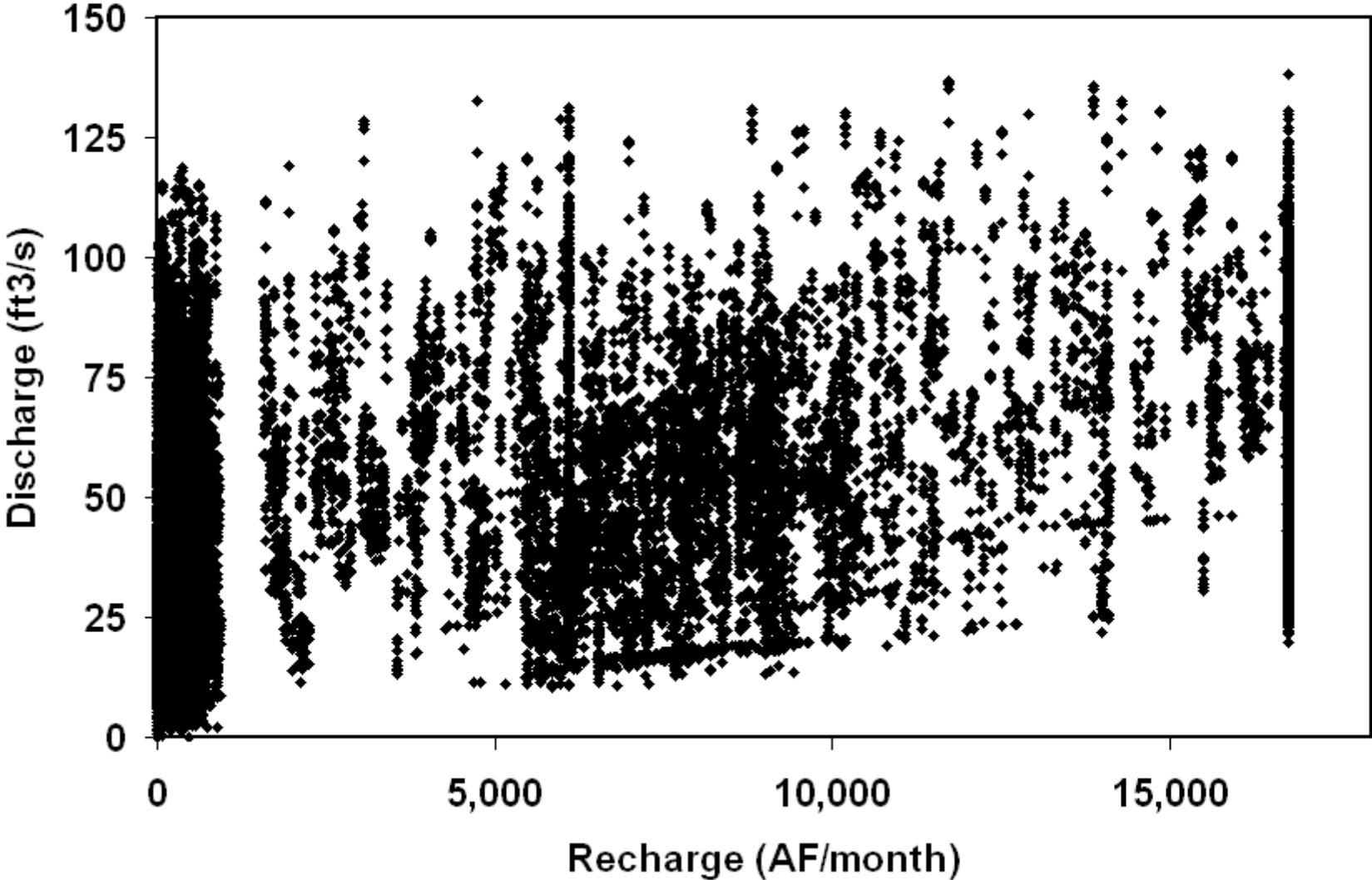
Initial Conditions = Low, Pumping = 4,500 AF/yr



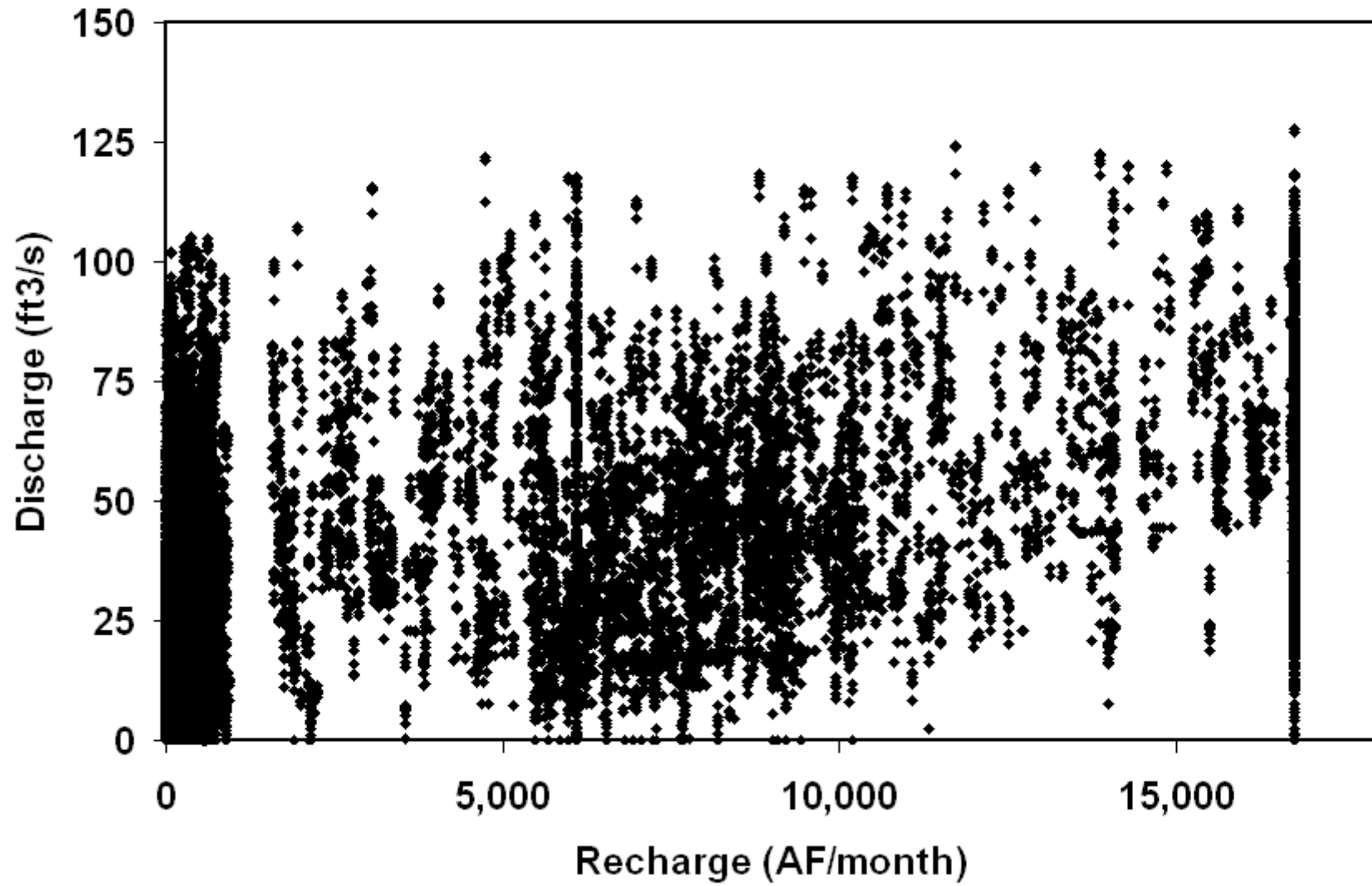
Initial Conditions = Low, Pumping = 5,400 AF/yr



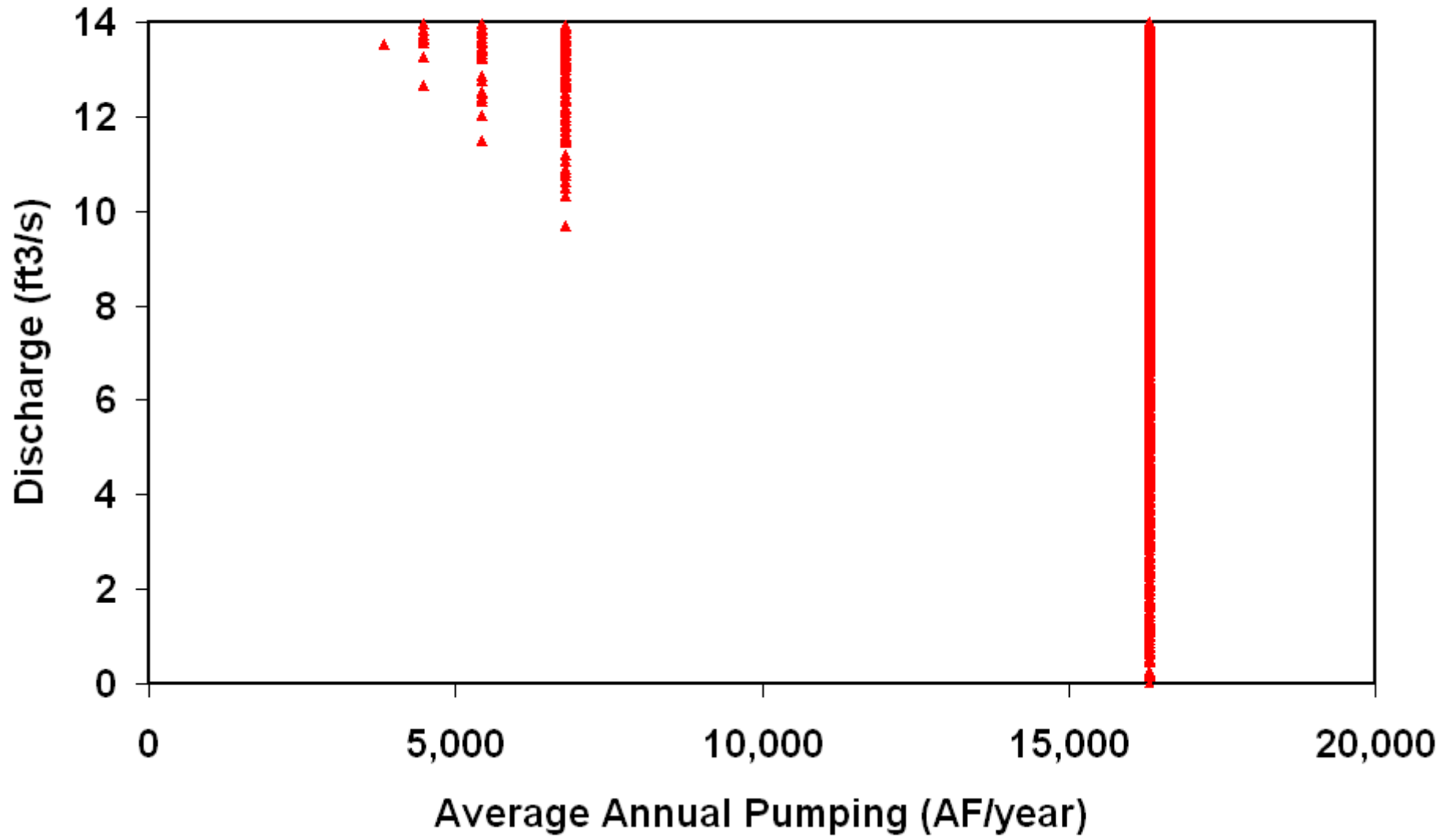
Initial Conditions = Low, Pumping = 6,800 AF/yr



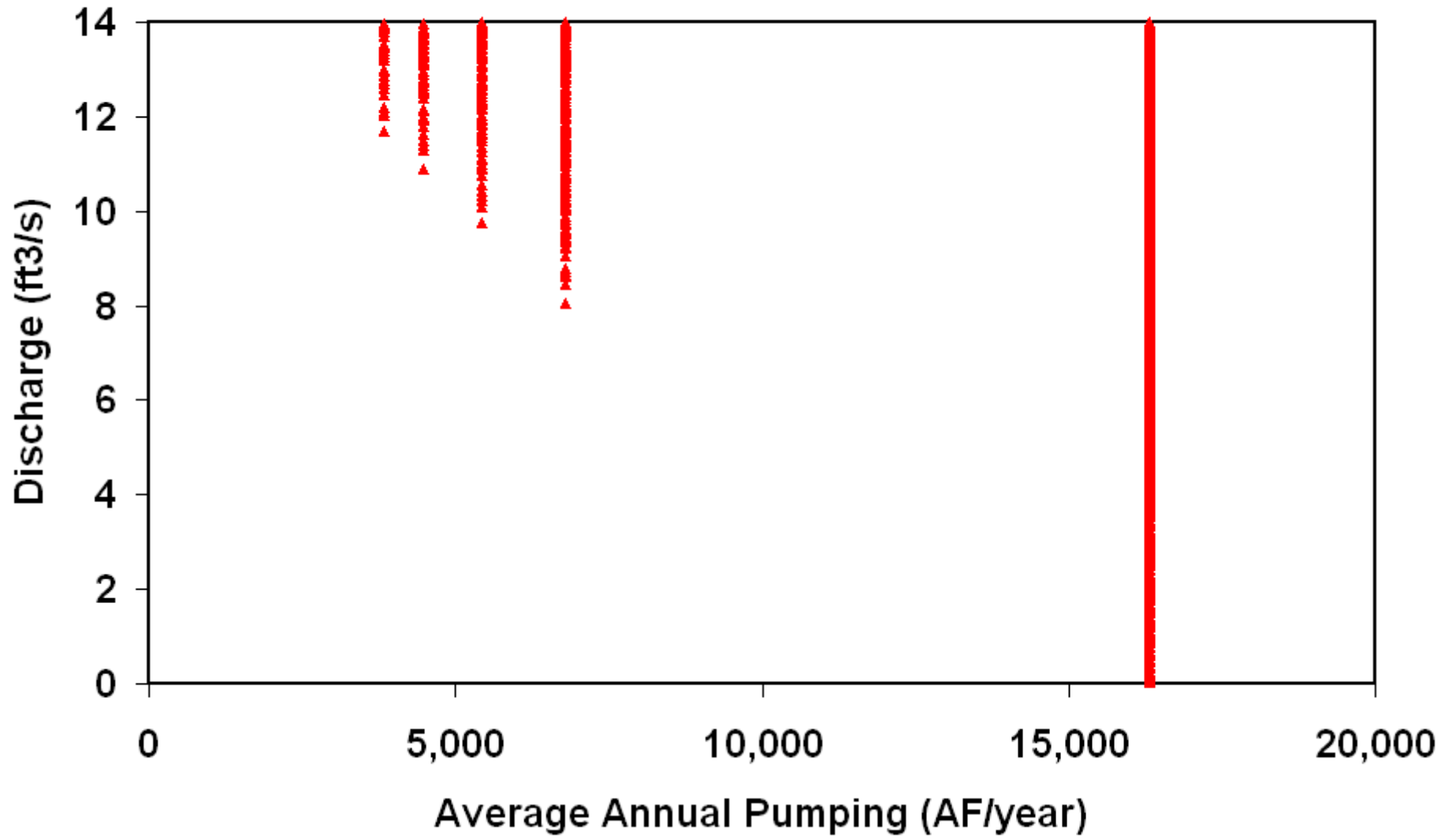
Initial Conditions = Low, Pumping = 16,300 AF/yr



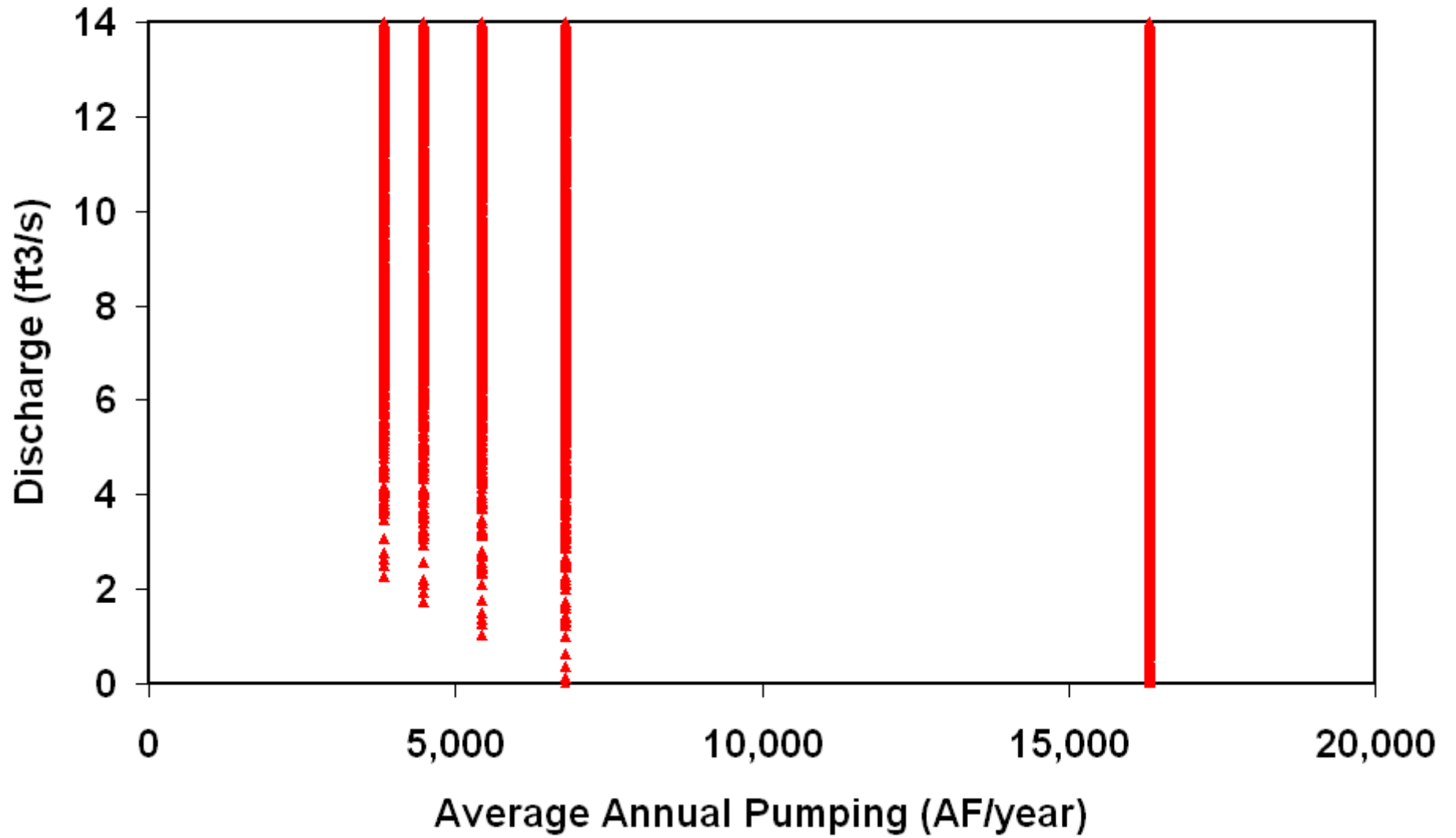
### High Starting Heads



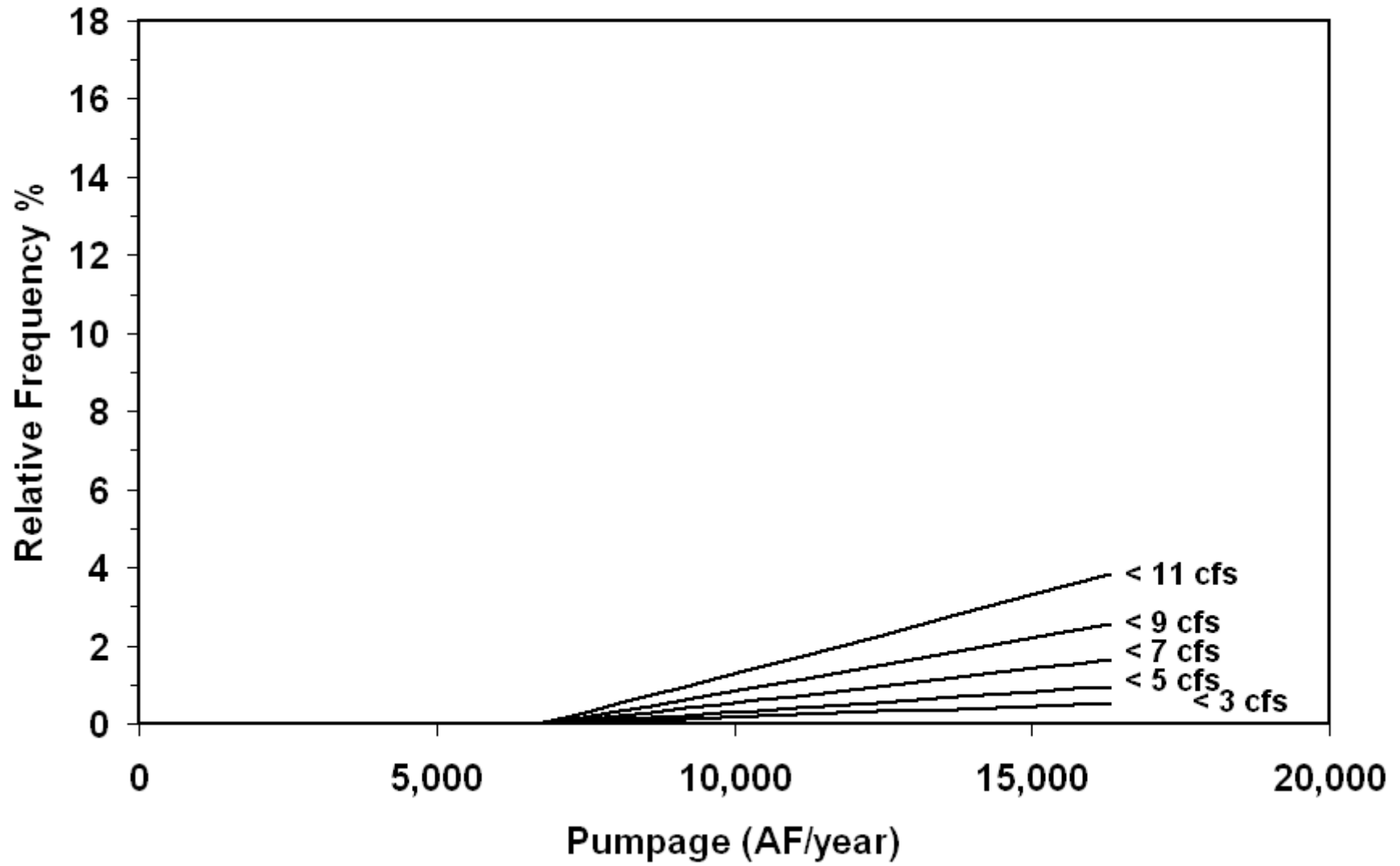
### Intermediate Starting Heads



### Low Starting Heads

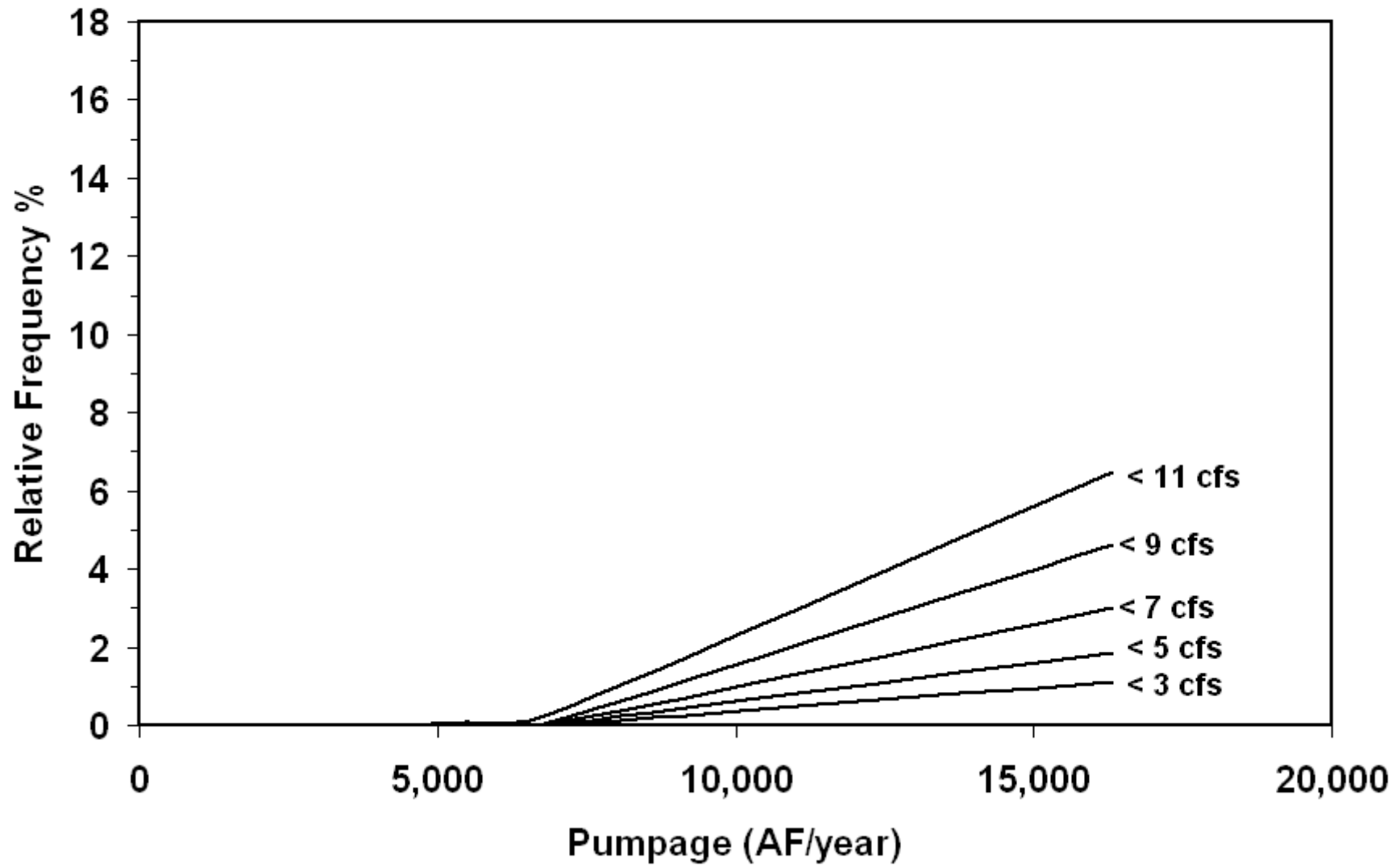


# High Starting Heads

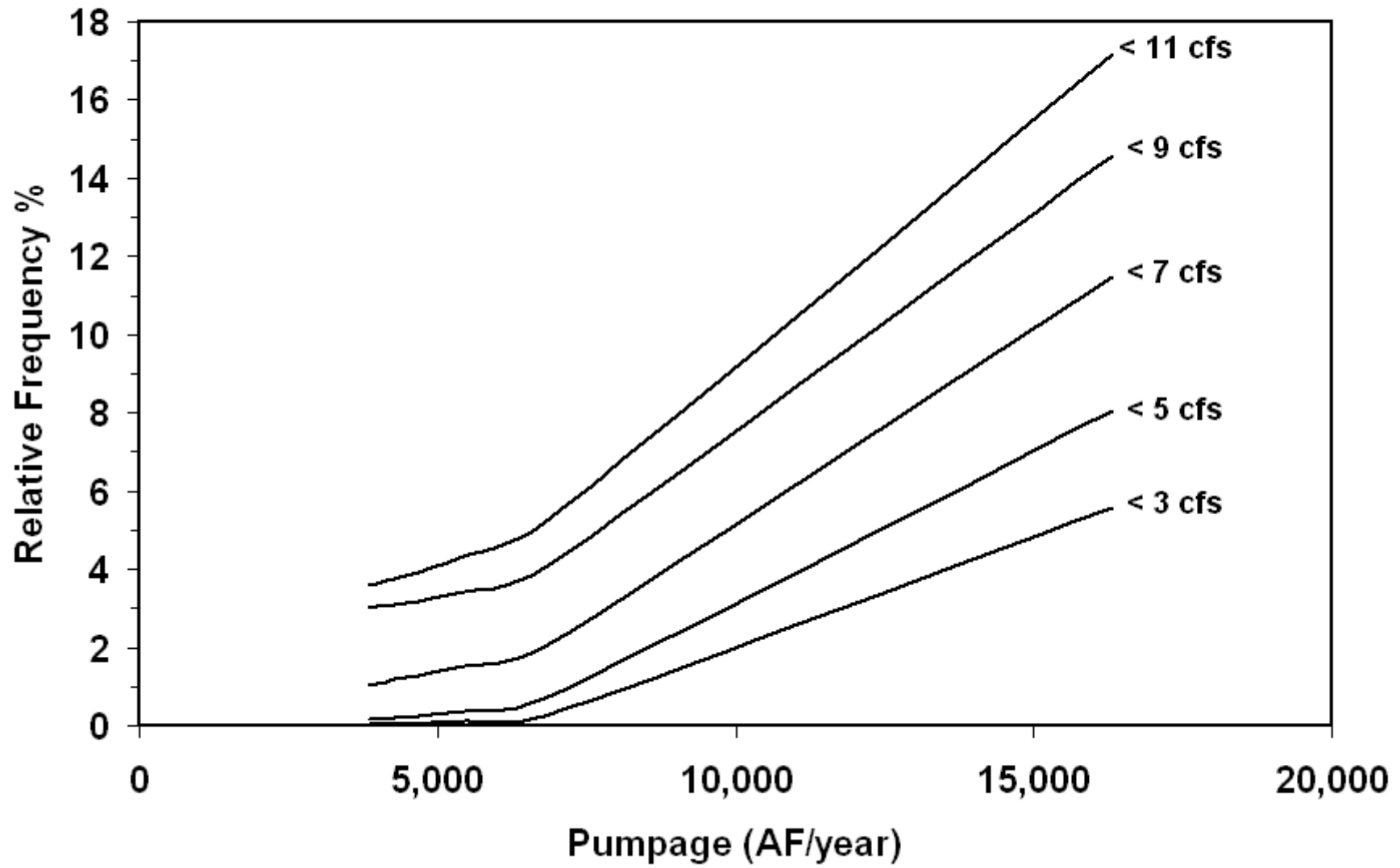




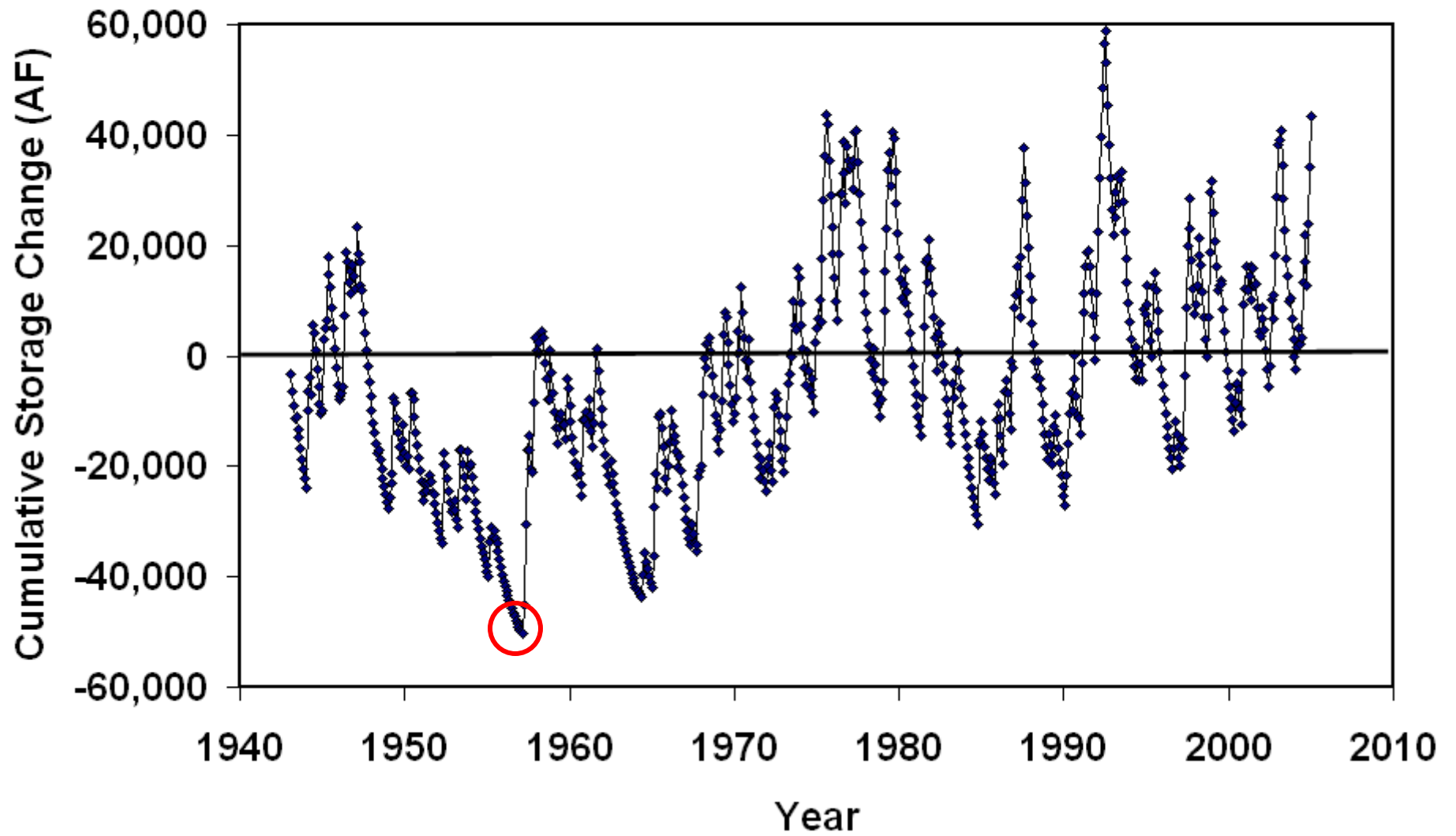
## Intermediate Starting Heads



# Low Starting Heads



# Cumulative Storage Change



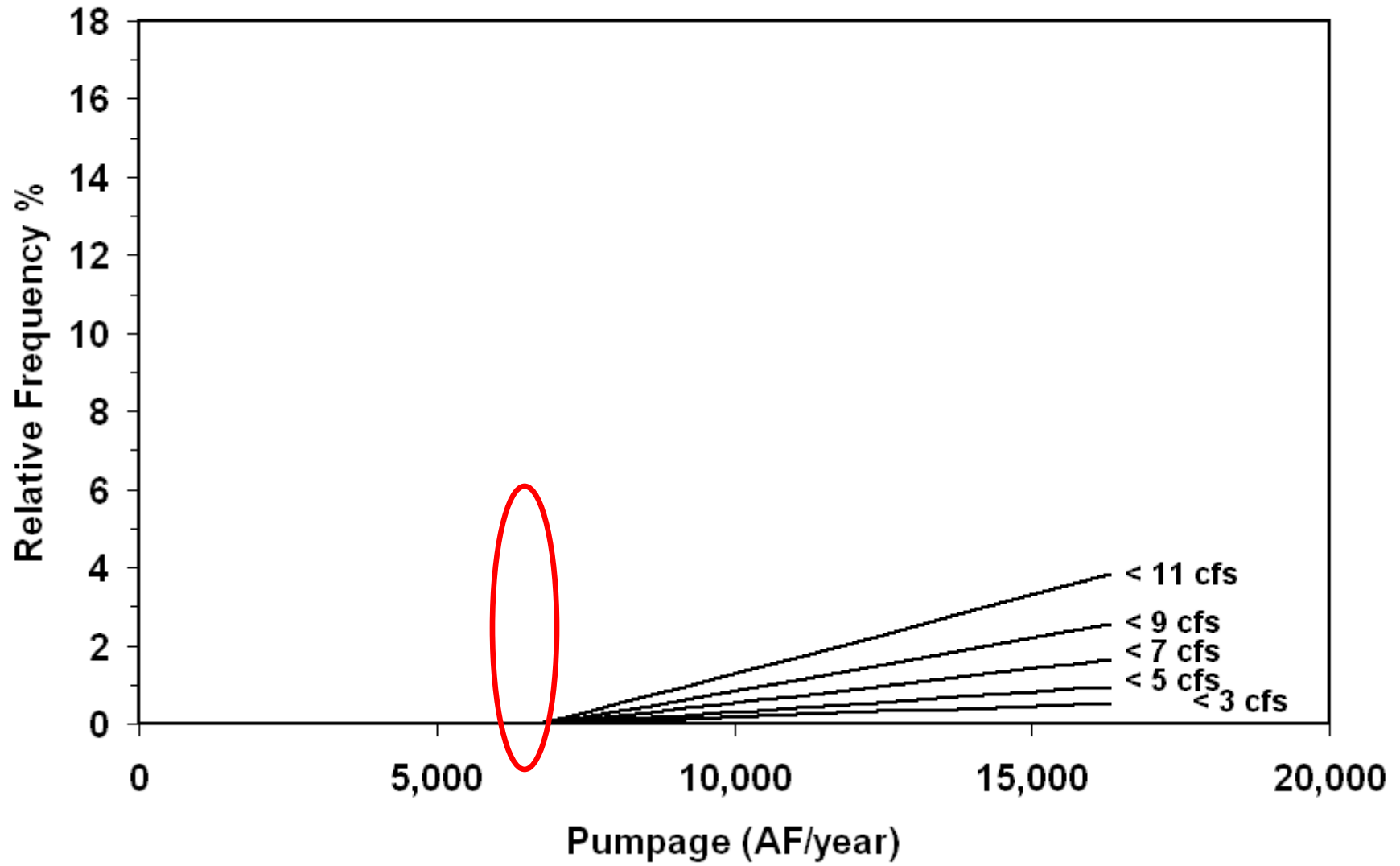
# Summary

- Current pumping is relatively low compared to flow in system
- Relative impacts on spring flow
  - Initial Conditions
  - Recharge
  - Pumping
- Pumping assumed to be constant

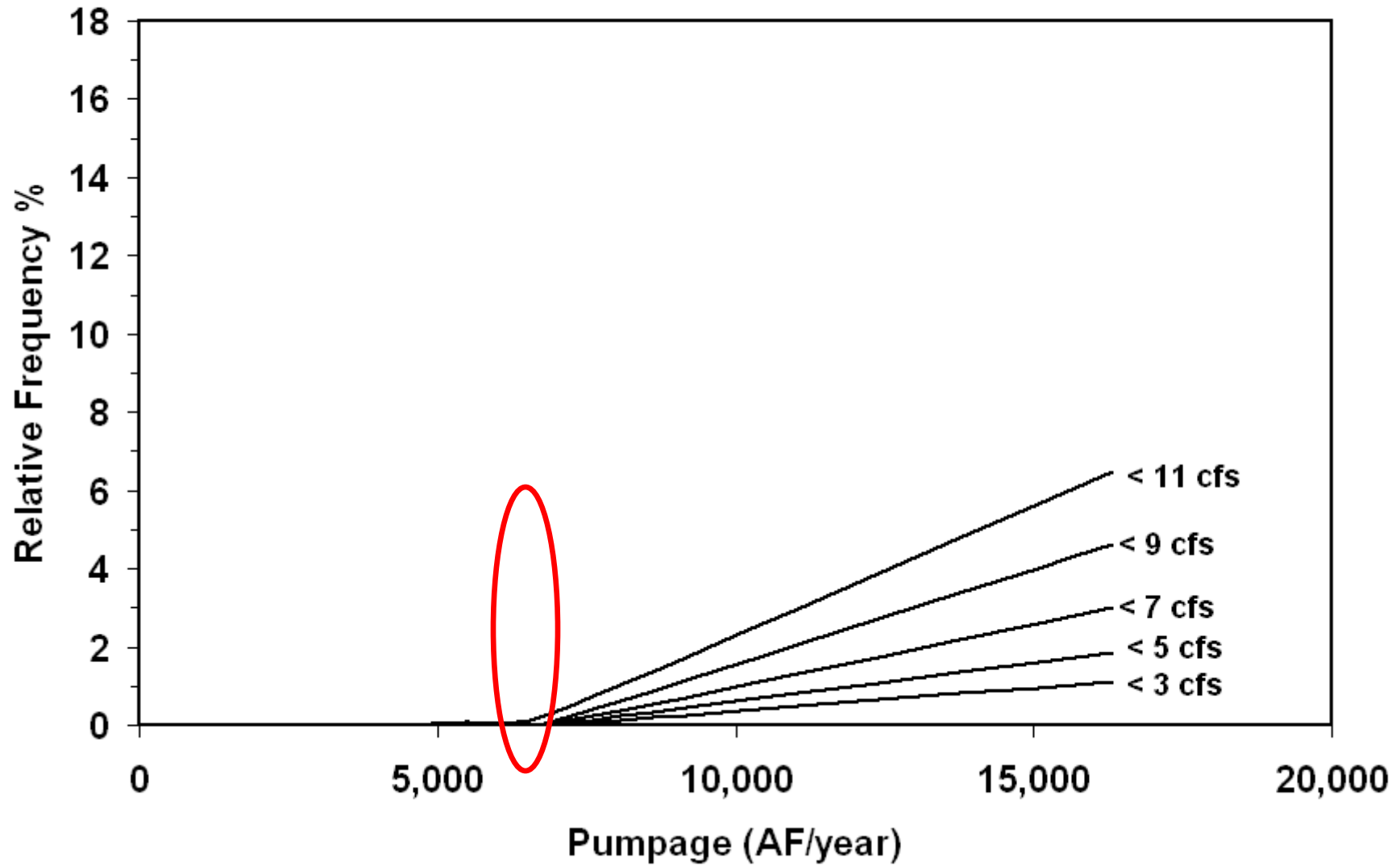
# Pumping Reduction During Drought

- Assumed low initial conditions
- Assumed 6,800 AF/yr pumping
- Drought Threshold
  - 5%
  - 10%
- Pumping Reduction
  - 25%
  - 50%
  - 75%

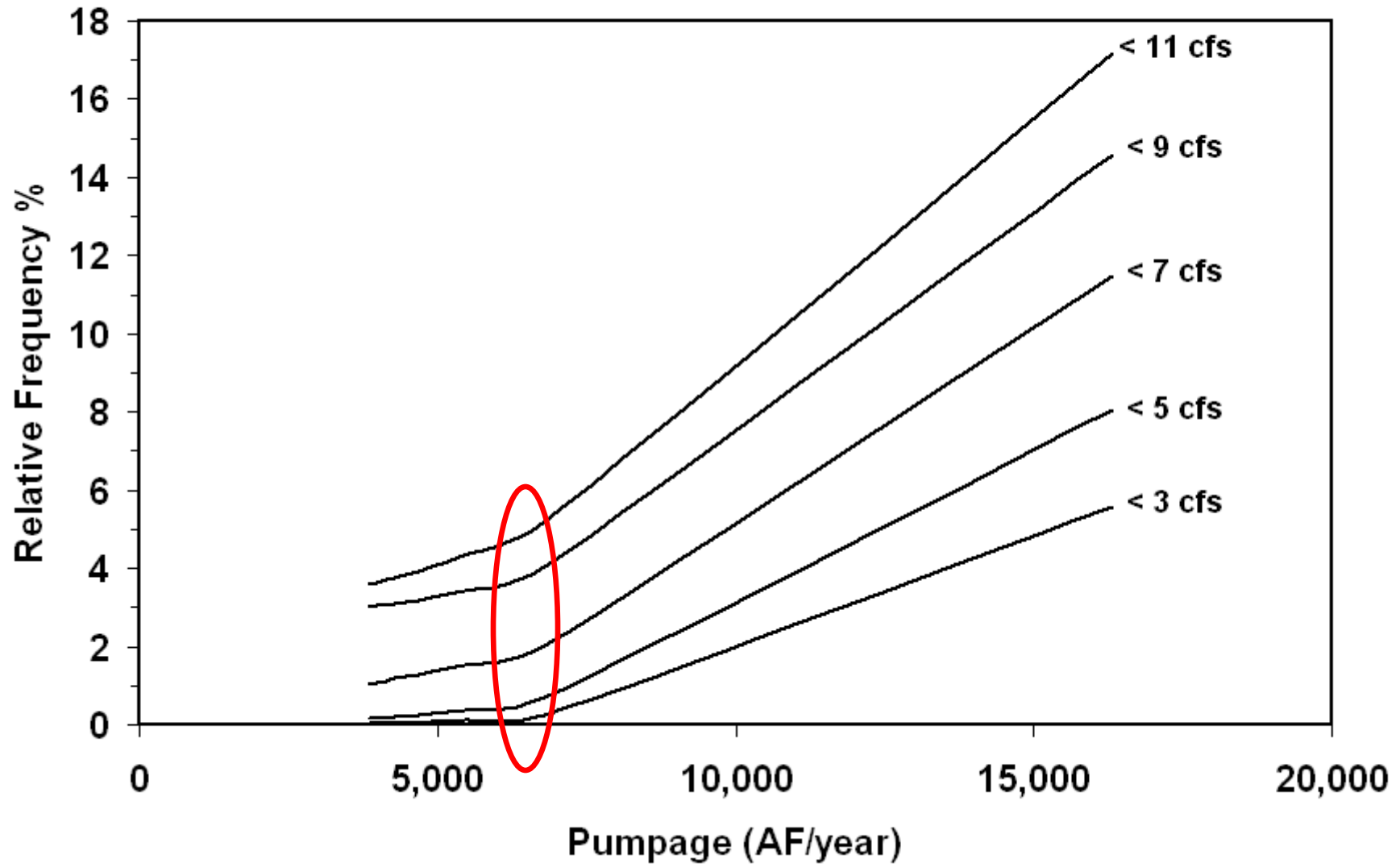
# High Starting Heads



## Intermediate Starting Heads

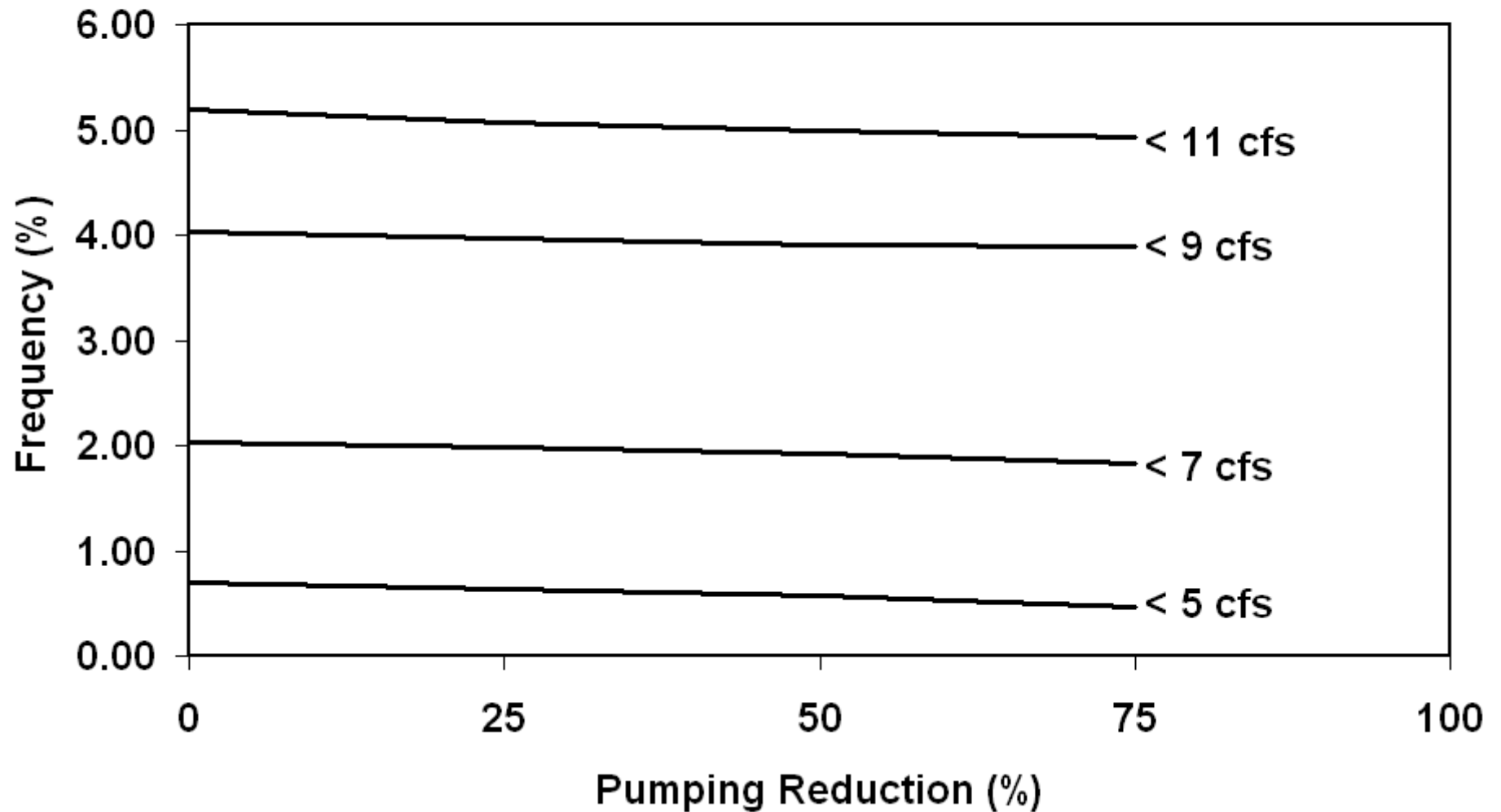


# Low Starting Heads





**Pumping Reduction Impacts During Drought**  
Assumes Drought = 5% Recurrence, Pumping = 6,800 AF/yr



# Summary

- New model better able to simulate drought conditions
- Tool to investigate spring flow impacts
  - Drought
  - Initial conditions
  - Annual pumping
  - Pumping reductions during drought

# Desired Future Condition

- Policy decision/choice
- Minimum spring flow
  - Initial condition assumption?
  - 100% achievement?
  - 95% achievement?
  - 90% achievement?