

Spatial variability in production and transport of sediment and nutrients to Lake Champlain

RACC Retreat, 6 February 2016

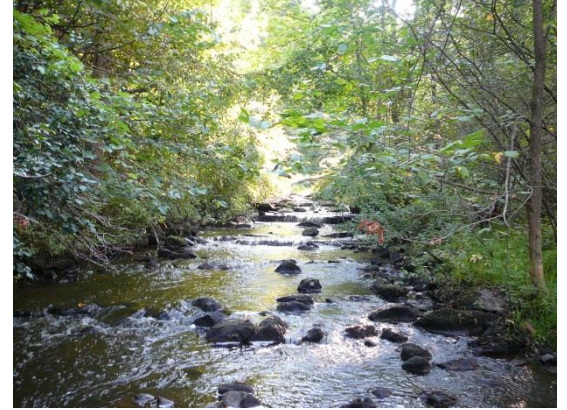
Kristen Underwood, PG

PhD Candidate, Civil & Environmental Engineering



Variability in Sediment Production and Transport

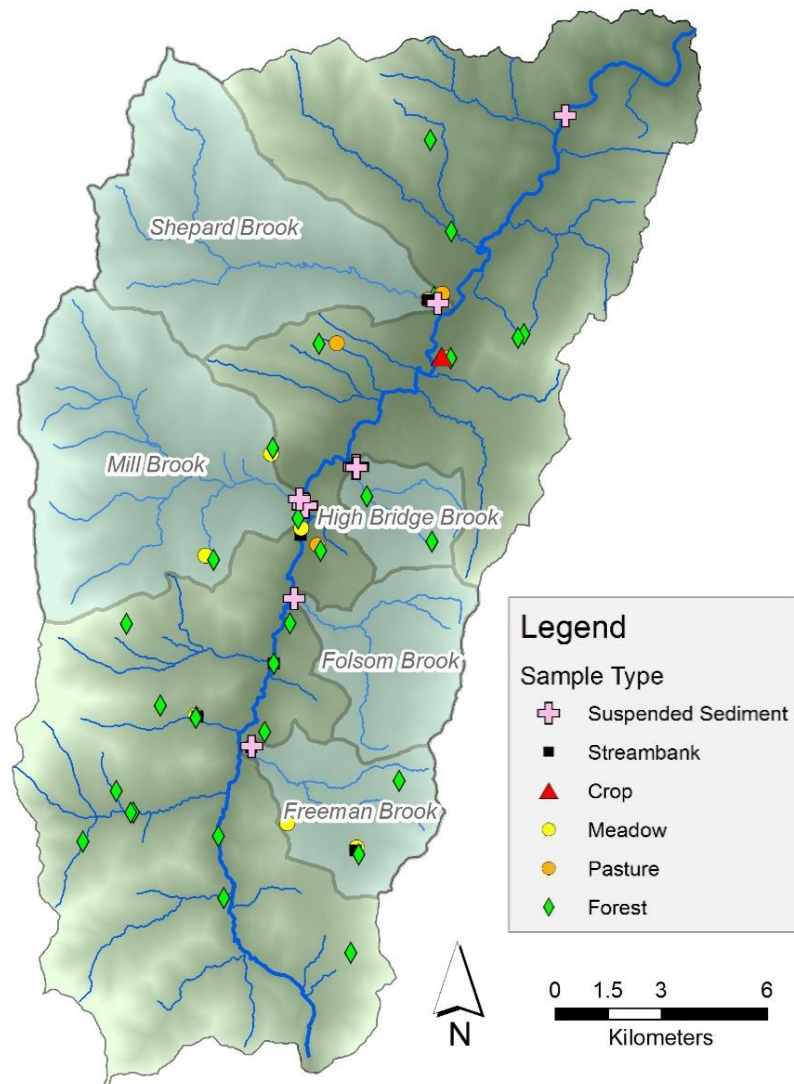
Confined



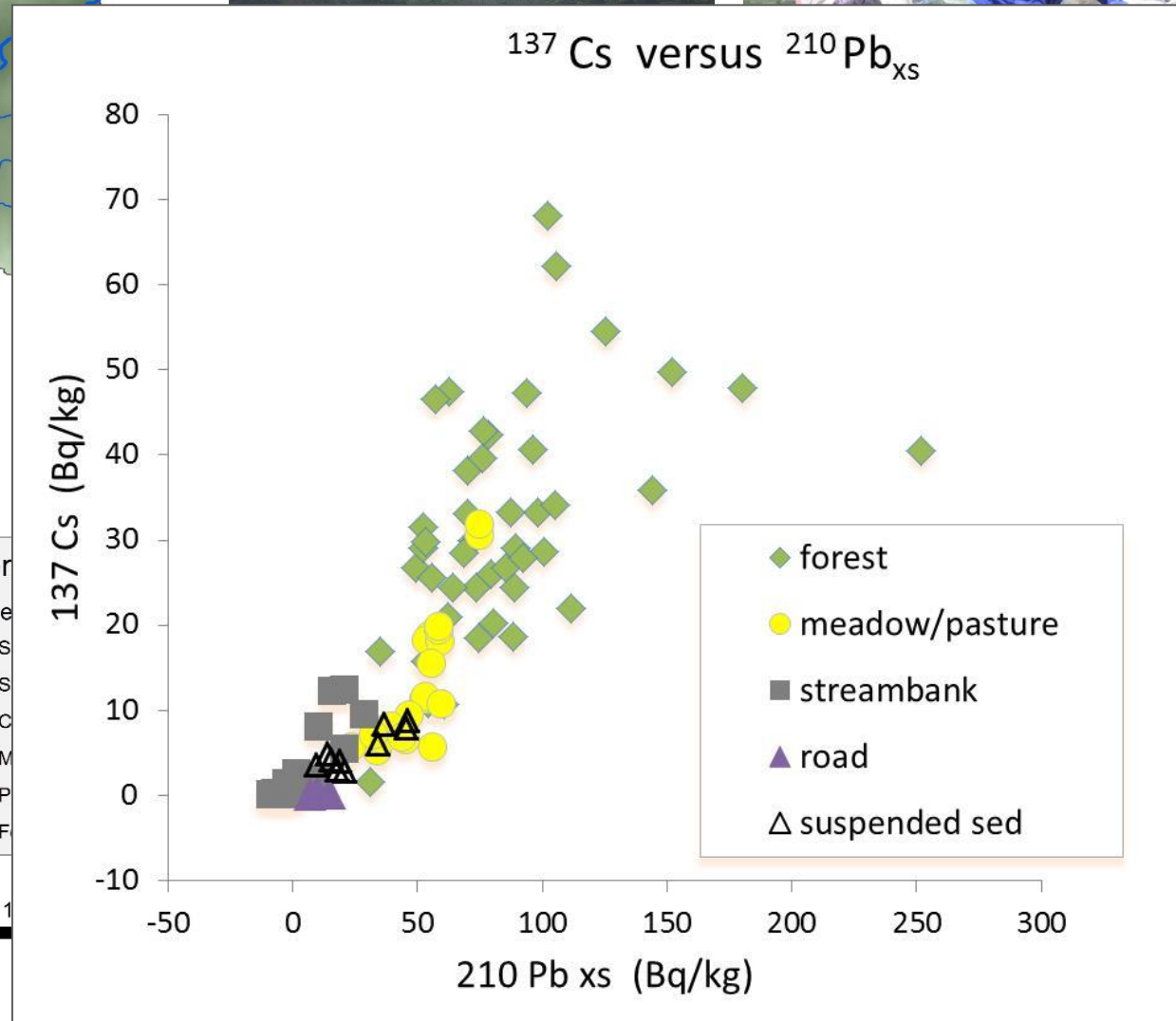
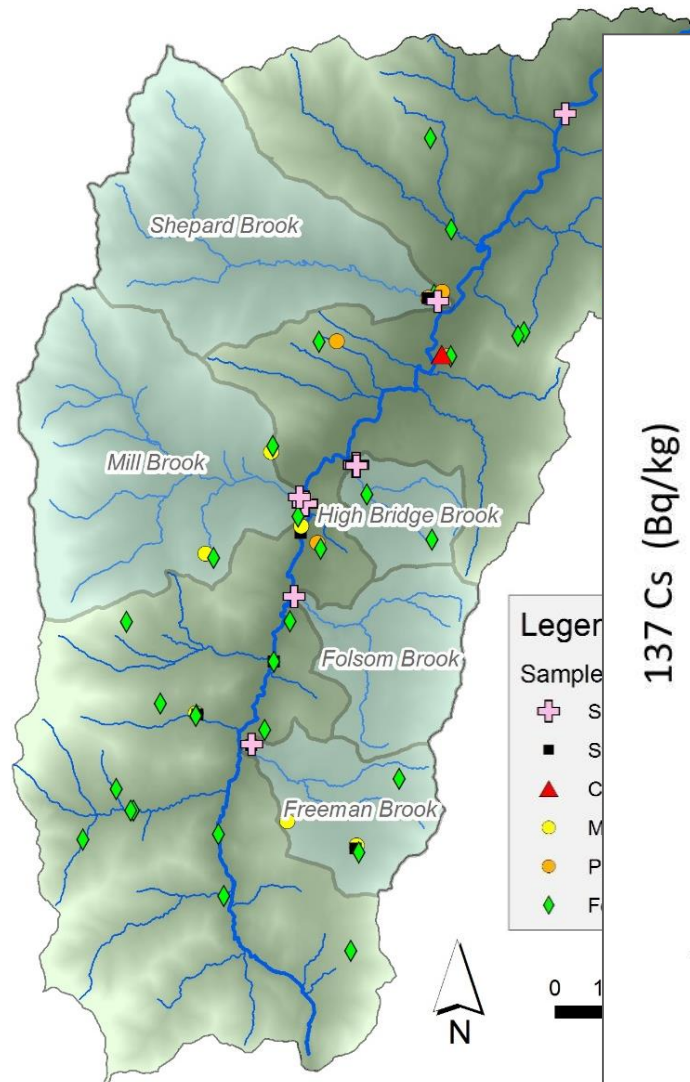
Unconfined



Sediment Tracer Study



Sediment Tracer Study



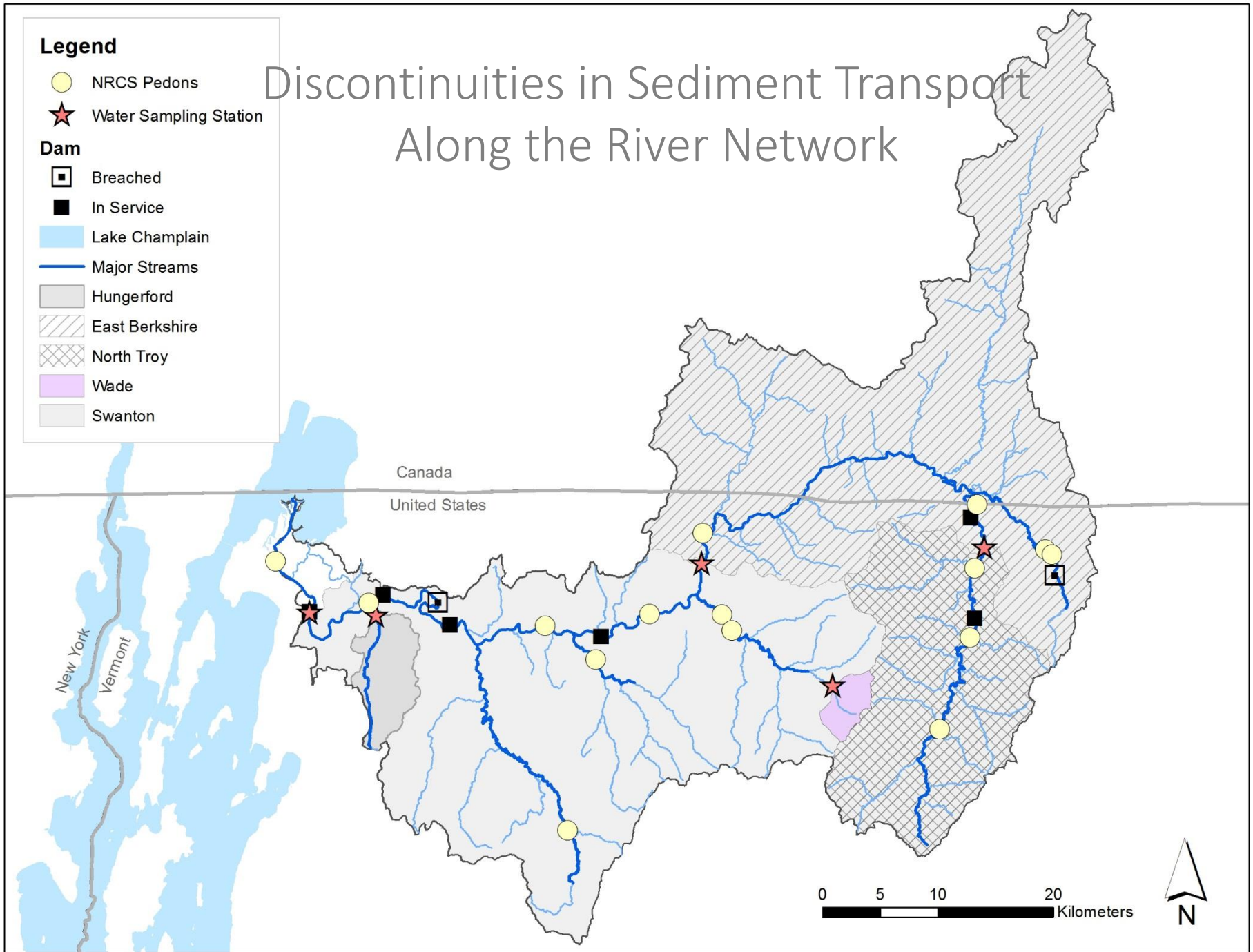
Legend

- NRCS Pedons
- ★ Water Sampling Station

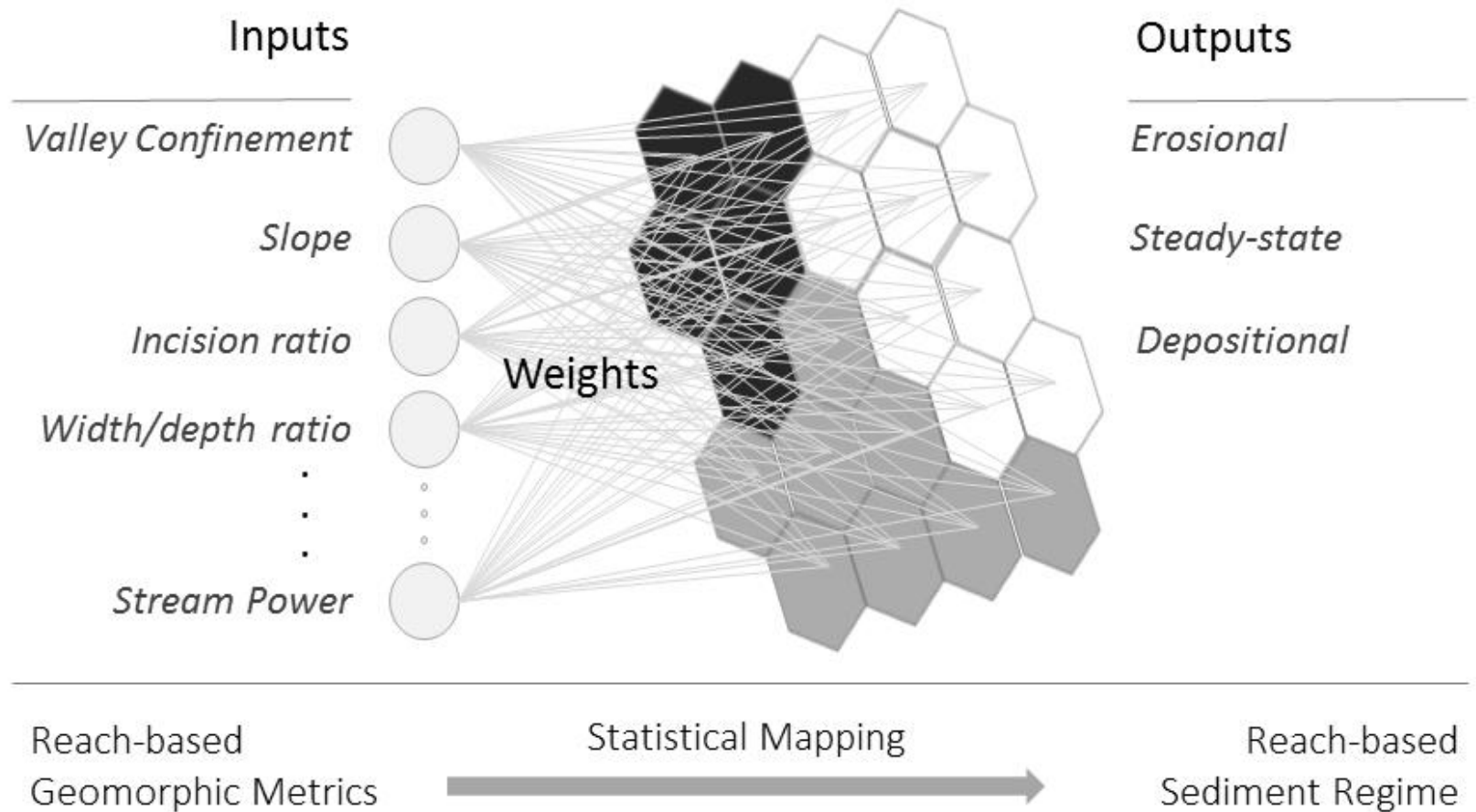
Dam

- ◻ Breached
- In Service
- Lake Champlain
- Major Streams
- Hungerford
- ▨ East Berkshire
- ▨ North Troy
- Wade
- Swanton

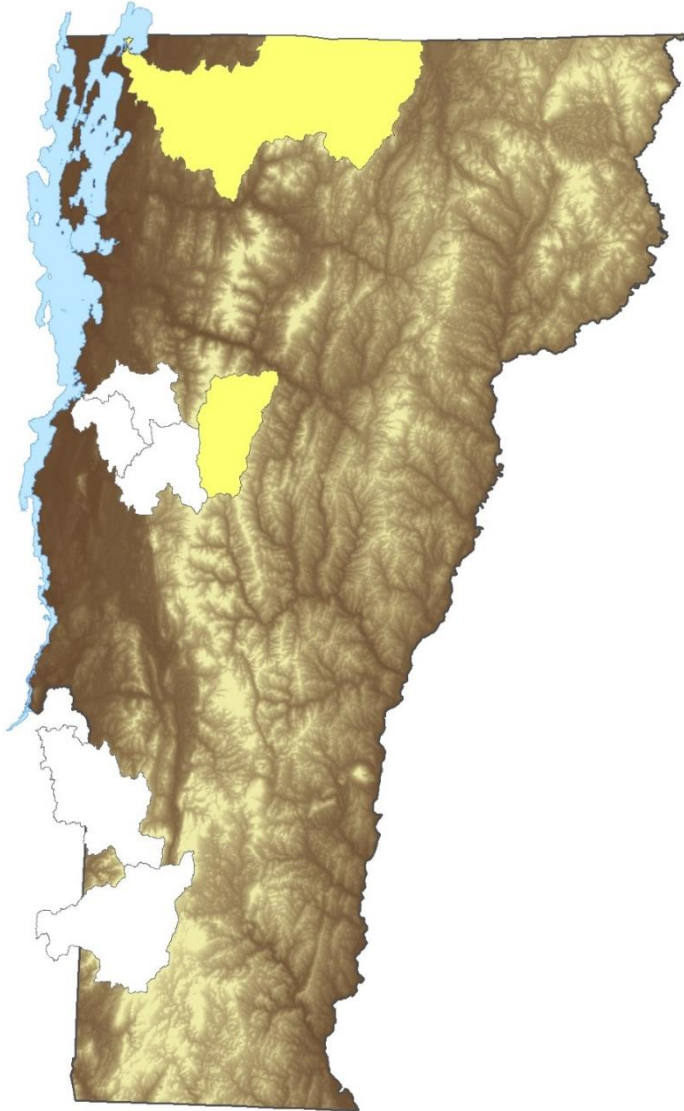
Discontinuities in Sediment Transport Along the River Network



Neural Network: Self-Organizing Map



Neural Network: Self-Organizing Map



Data Sets:
Reach-based
geomorphic metrics

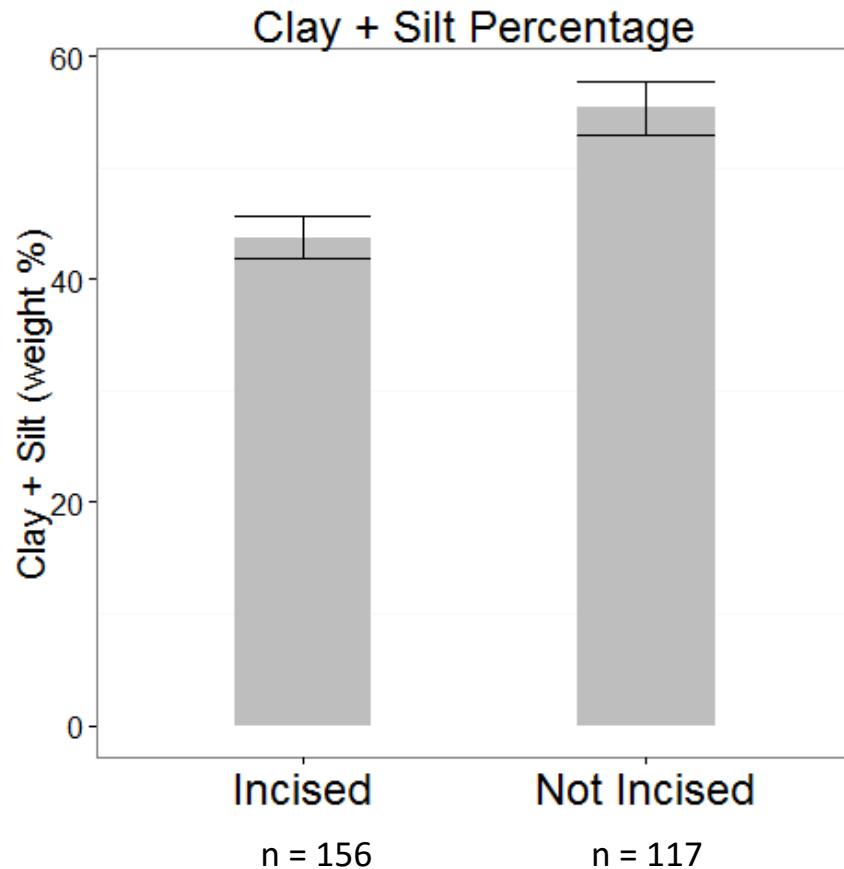
Training Data Sets (146):

- Lewis Creek (51)
- Little Otter Creek (19)
- New Haven River (23)
- Mettowee River (37)
- Battenkill River (16)

Prediction Data:

- Missisquoi River (> 100)
- Mad River (>40)

Characteristics by Sediment Regime

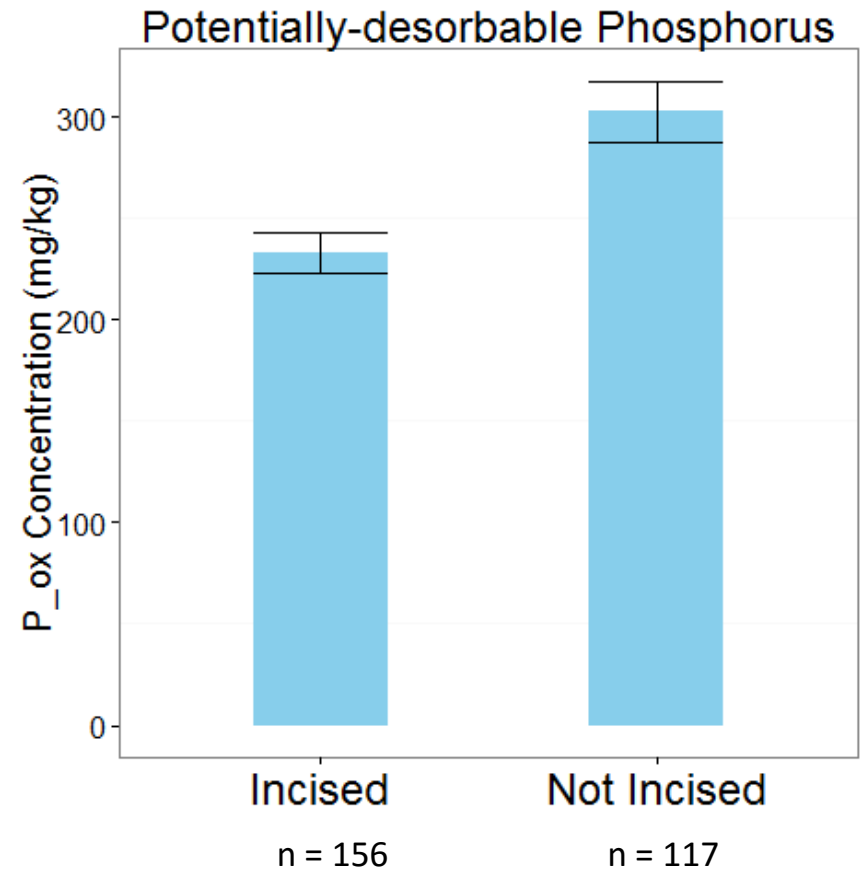
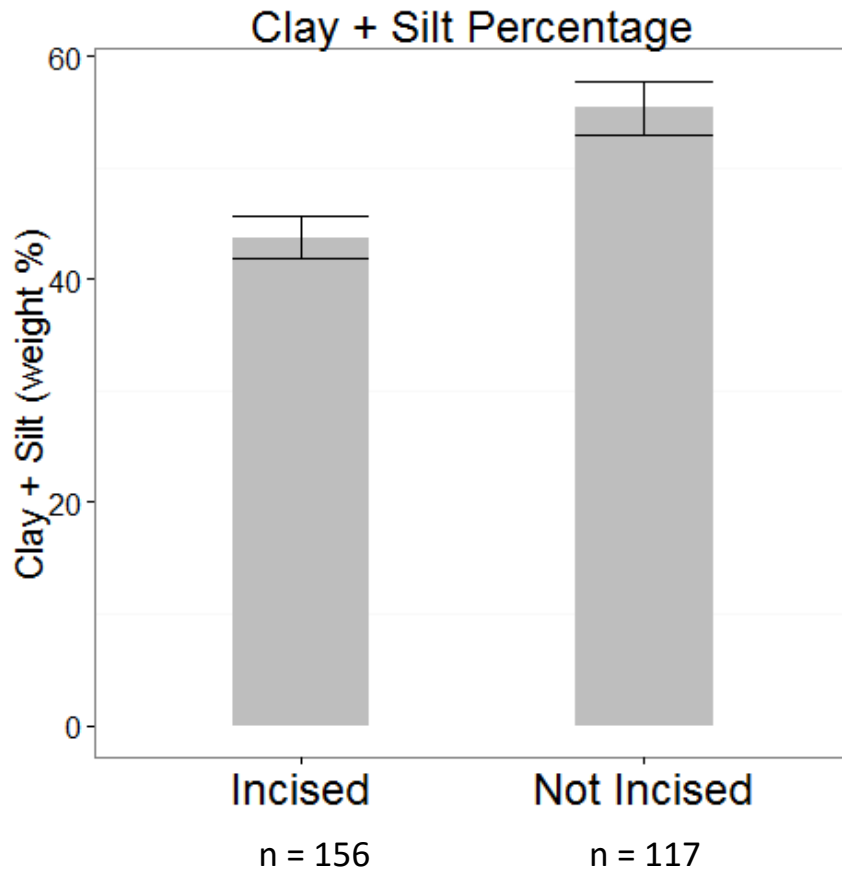


A, B, C horizons



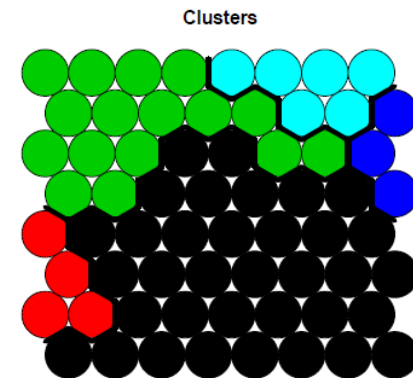
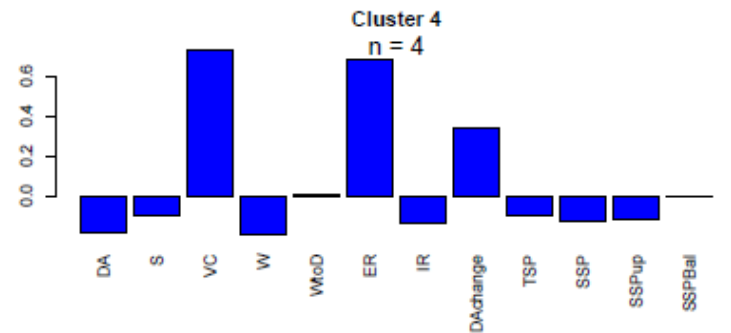
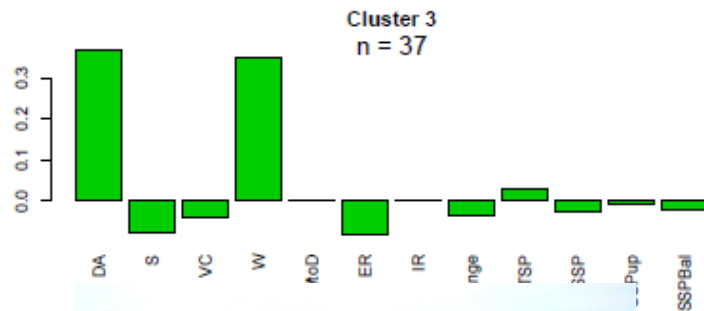
60 streambank sites
NRCS, 2007 – 2010
7 watersheds
from 8.0 to 2,230 km²

Characteristics by Sediment Regime



A, B, C horizons at 47 streambank sites

Neural Network: Self-Organizing Map



Expected Publications

- *Spatial Variation in Stream Power: Application of Neural Kriging to Classify Erosional and Depositional Stream Reaches in a Glacially-conditioned Vermont Headwater Catchment, (est. 2016)*
- *Comparison of data-driven models to process-based models in the estimate of fine sediment export from a glacially-conditioned catchment (est 2017)*
- *A Bayesian Network Model of Sediment Connectivity at the Catchment Scale, Mad River, Vermont (est 2017)*