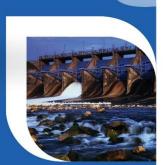
#### **Load Duration Curve Results**

Aaron Hoff **Trinity River Authority** January 11, 2018







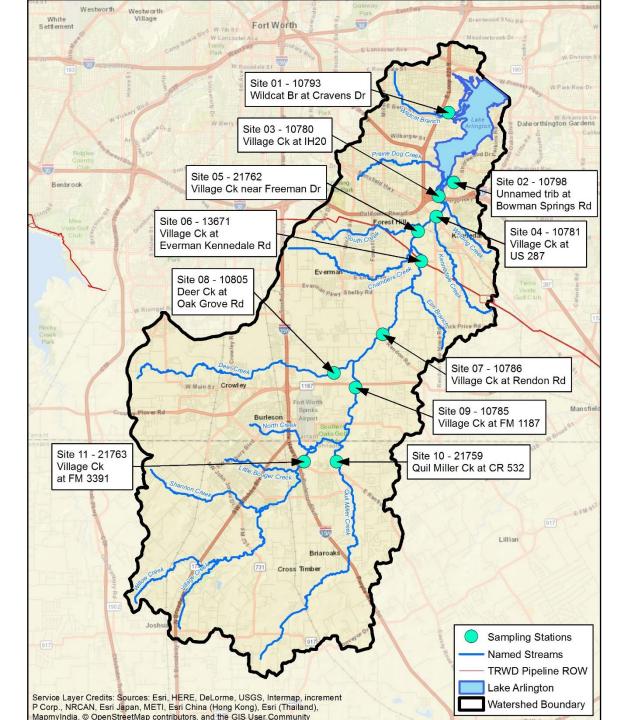




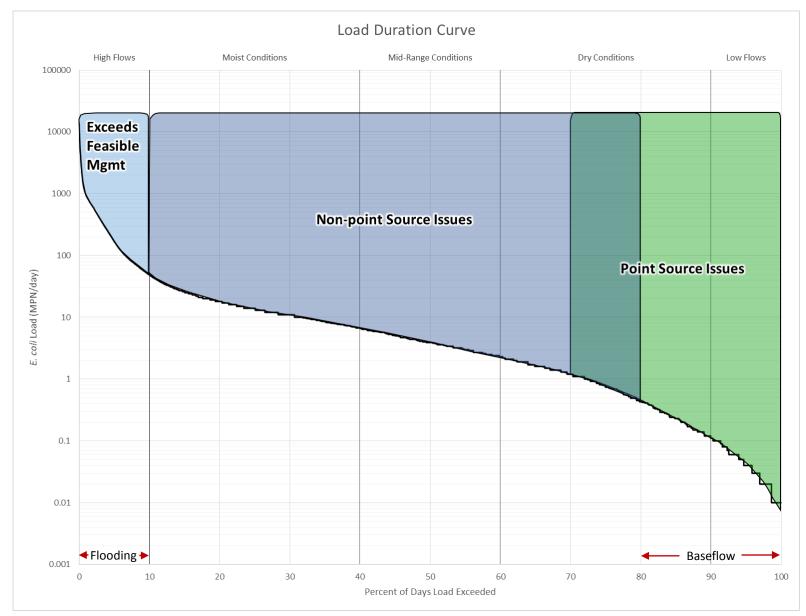
#### Load Duration Curve (LDC) Analysis

- Water quality data collected from June 2016 – May 2017 used to formulate LDCs
- LDCs calculated at each station for five parameters of interest
- Comparing data within a station
  - How do points compare to the max allowable load?
  - Problems at high flow or low flow?
- Comparing different stations
  - Worth our time to focus on subwatersheds that correspond to specific stations?
  - Substantial increases between two stations?





# What does an LDC graph tell me?



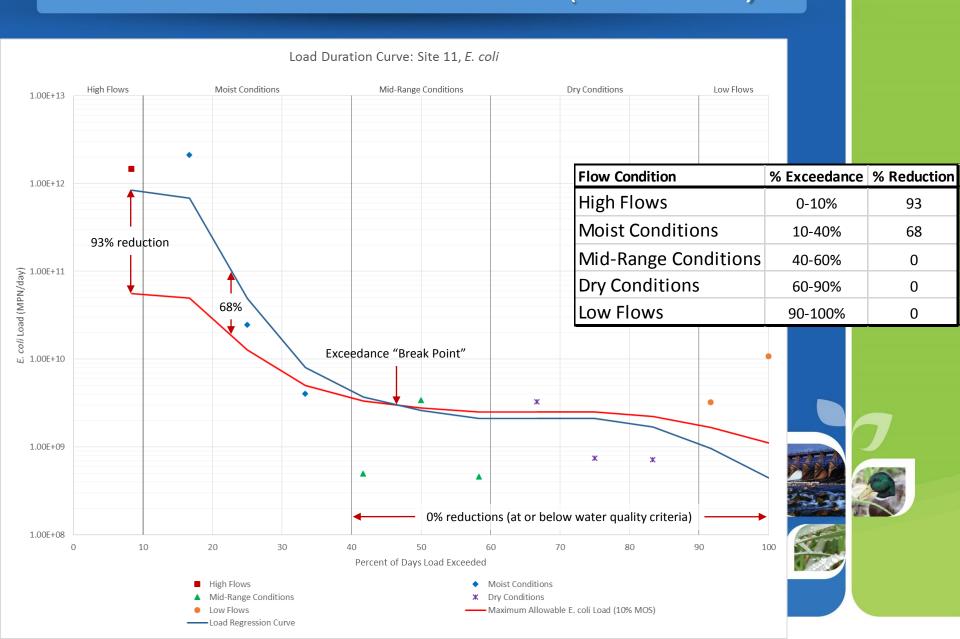
# Bacteria - E. coli



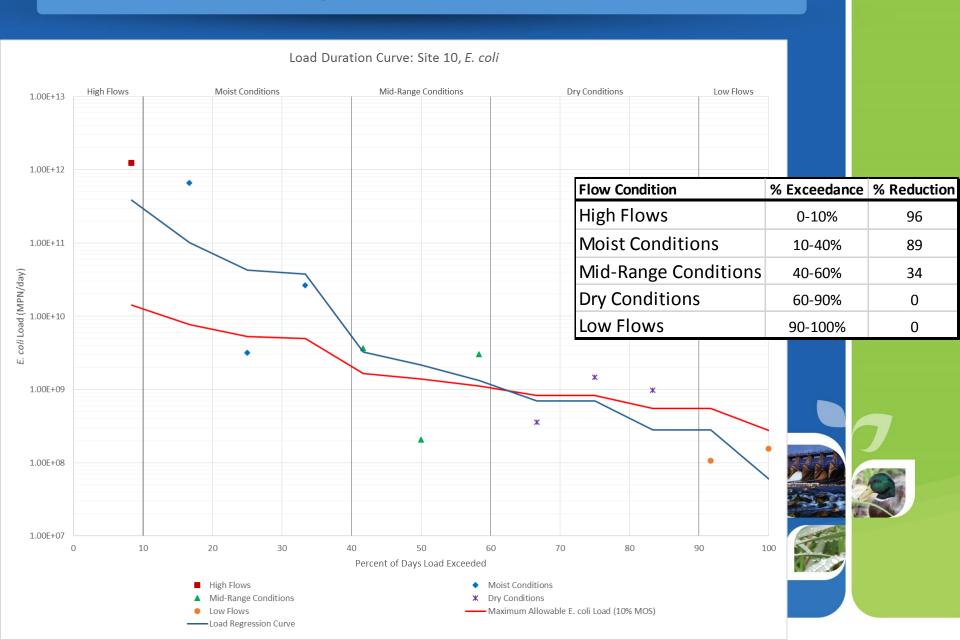




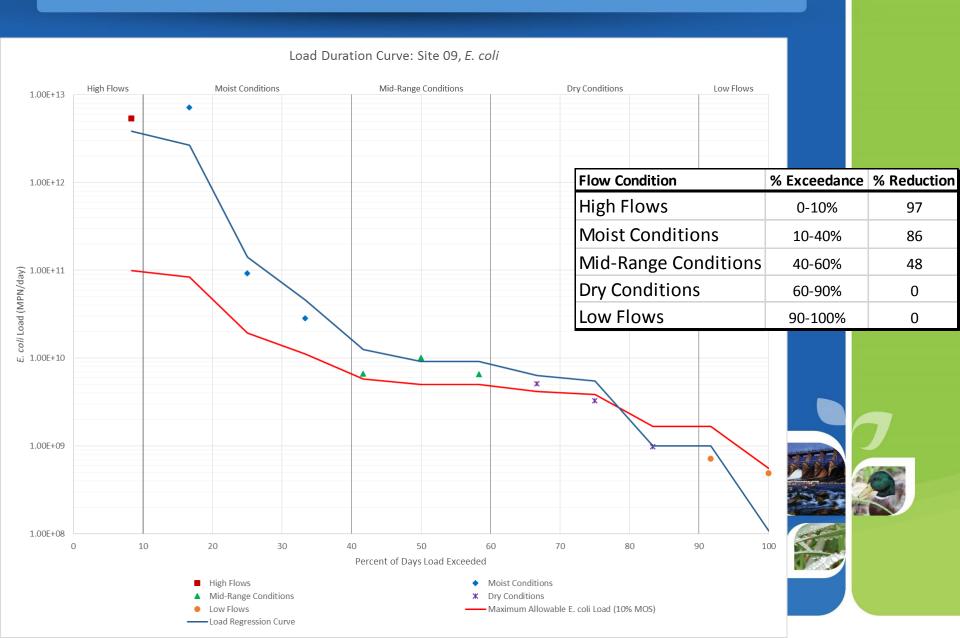
#### VC11 – VC at Renfro Rd (FM 3391)



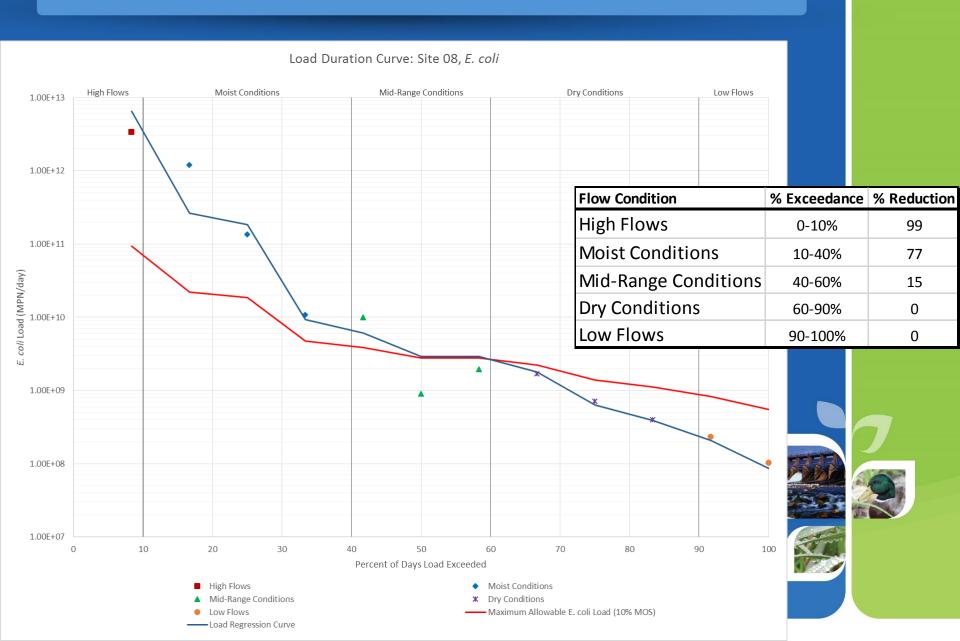
#### VC10 – Quil Miller at CR 532



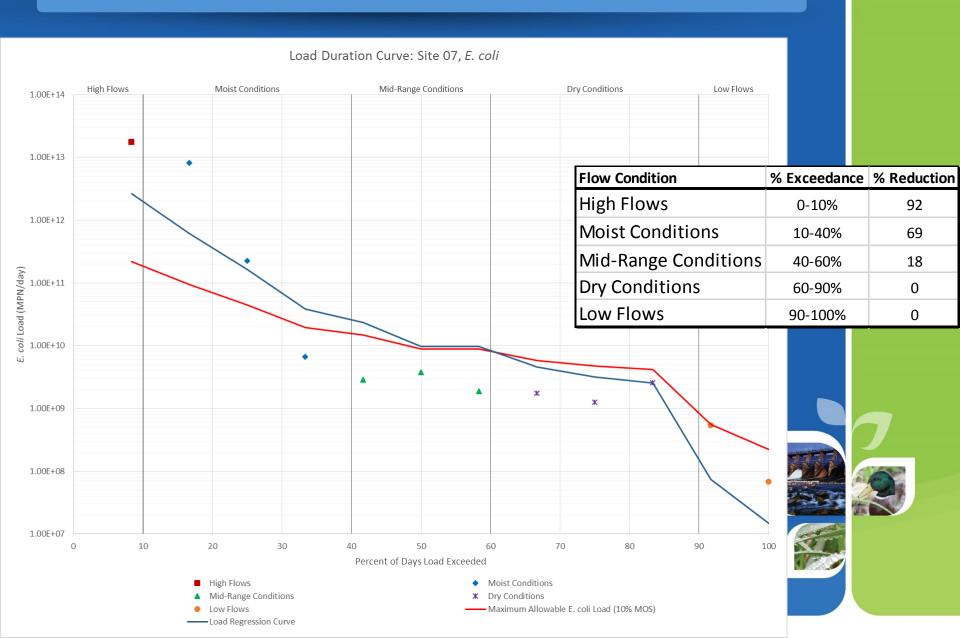
## VC09 – VC at FM 1187



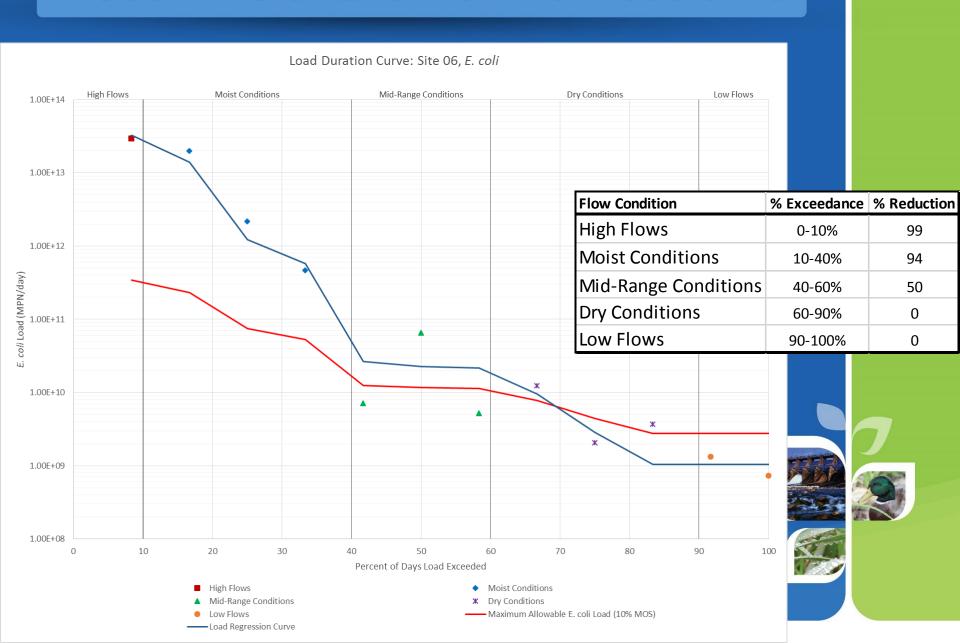
#### VC08 – Deer Creek at Oak Grove Rd



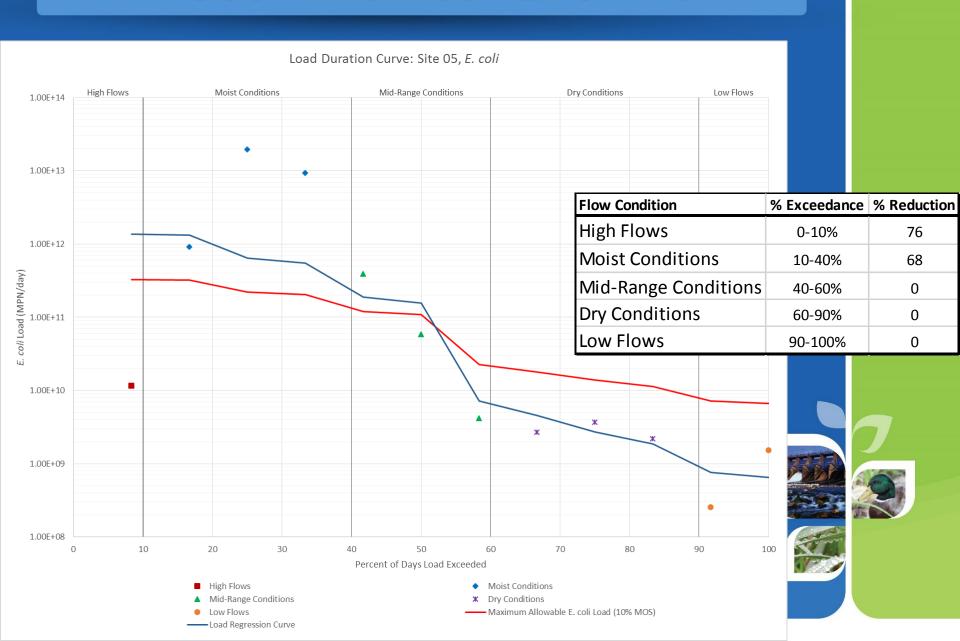
### VC07 - VC at Rendon Rd



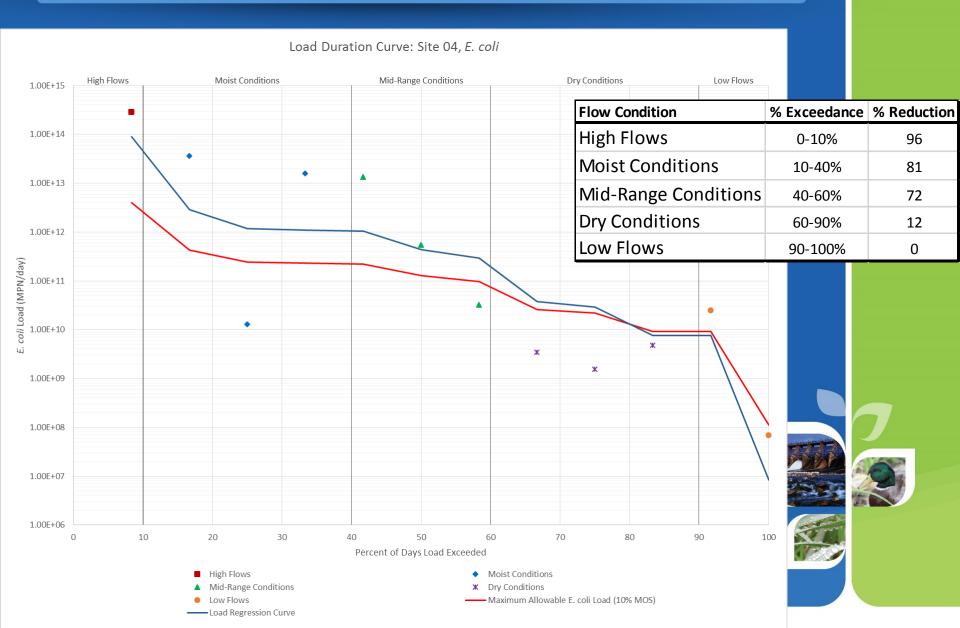
#### VC06 – VC at Everman-Kennedale Rd



#### VC05 – VC near Enon Rd

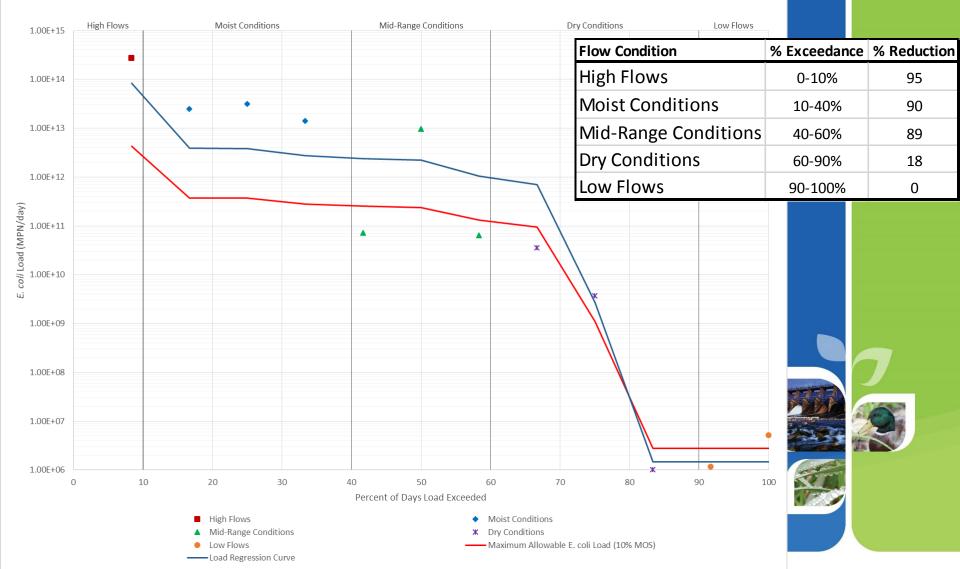


#### VC04 – VC at US-287 BUS

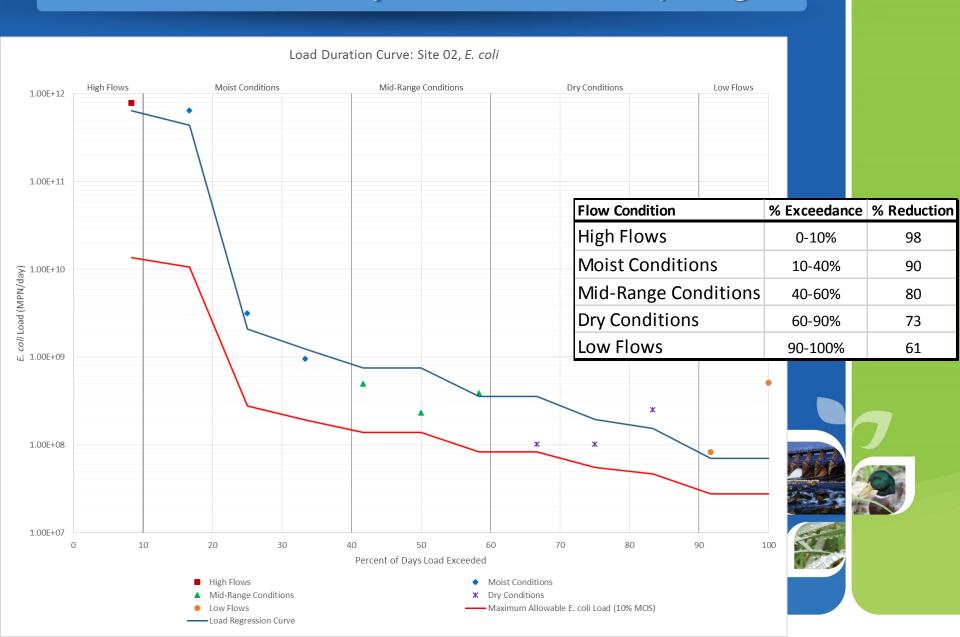


#### VC03 – VC at I-20

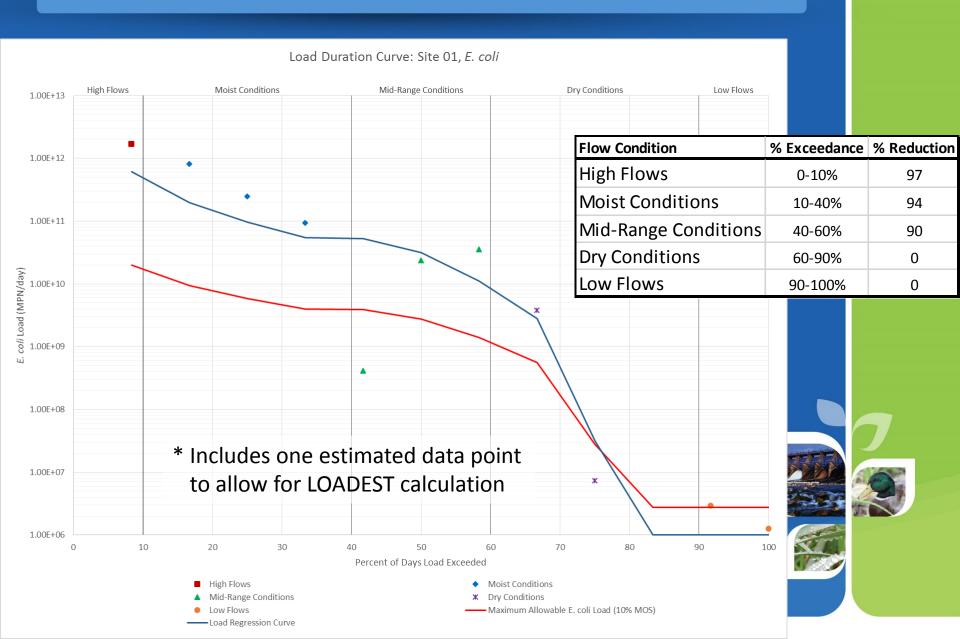




#### VC02 – Tributary at Bowman Springs



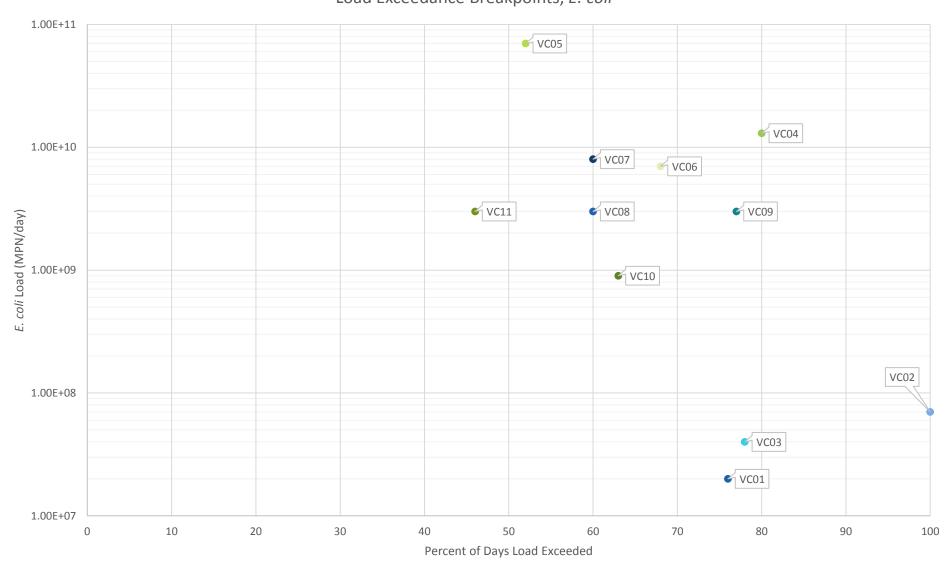
#### VC01 – Wildcat Branch at Cravens\*



# Load Exceedance Breakpoints for E. coli



#### Load Exceedance Breakpoints, E. coli



## Conclusions (so far)

- Non-point sources (stormwater inflows) dominant in upper reaches, VC06 – VC11
- Dilution from TRWD outfall a factor at VC05 – short-term E. coli decrease
- Confounding variable at VC01, VC03, and possibly VC04:
  - lake influence, or "backwater conditions"
- Very likely influence from point sources at VC02



# Total Dissolved Solids (TDS)





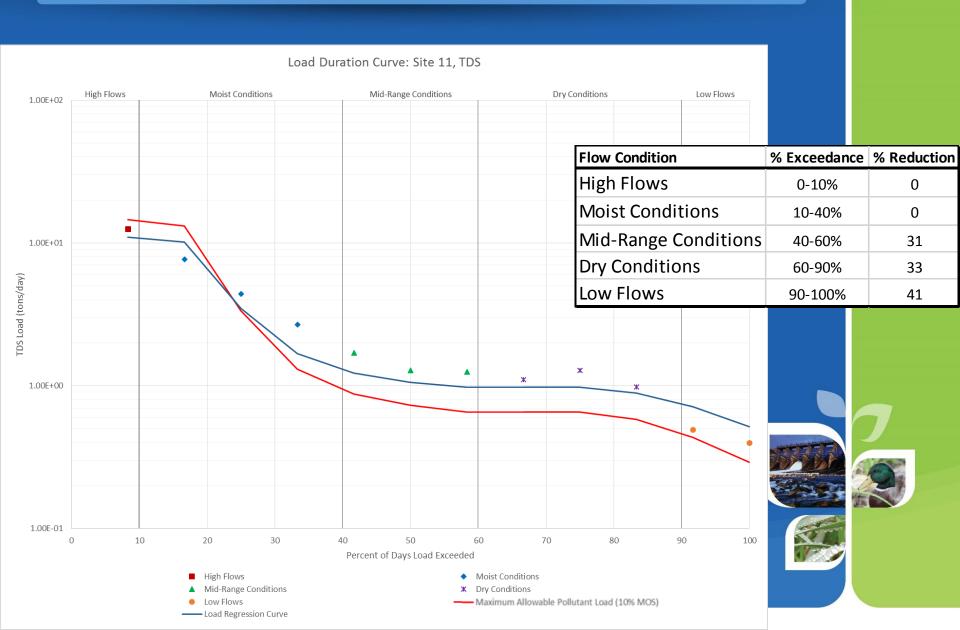


## TDS in Water Quality

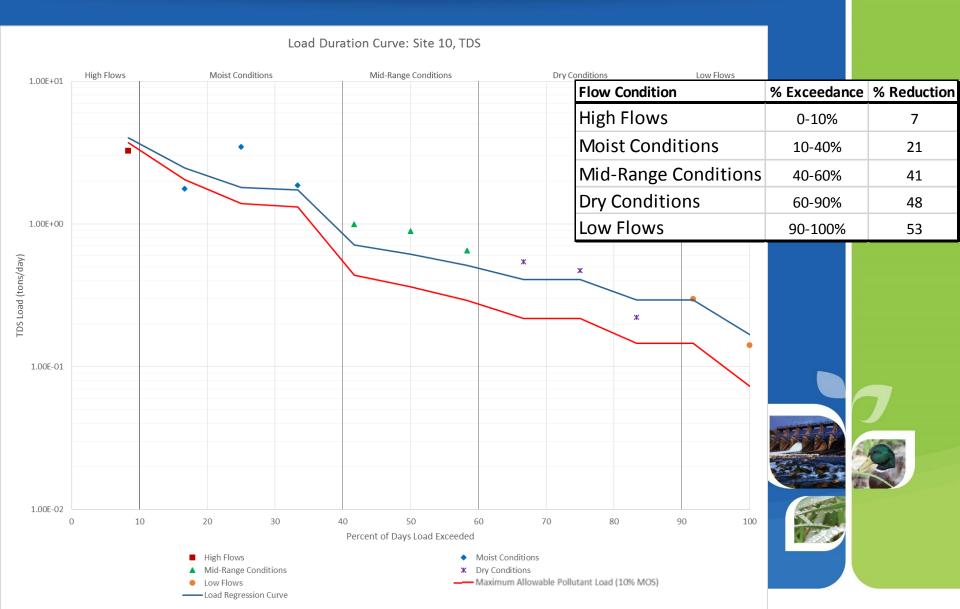
- TCEQ water quality criterion: 300 mg/L
- What do TDS levels tell us?
  - Rough indicator of potential problems with other dissolved salts (nitrates, sodium, sulfates, copper, cadmium, fluoride)
    - Corrosivity (chlorides think Flint, Michigan)
- High TDS in finished drinking water:
  - Taste/odor issues (carbonates, chlorides)
  - Always asking yourself, "Why am I still thirsty?"
  - Long term kidney stones, stiff joints, hardened arteries
- Common sources: everything!



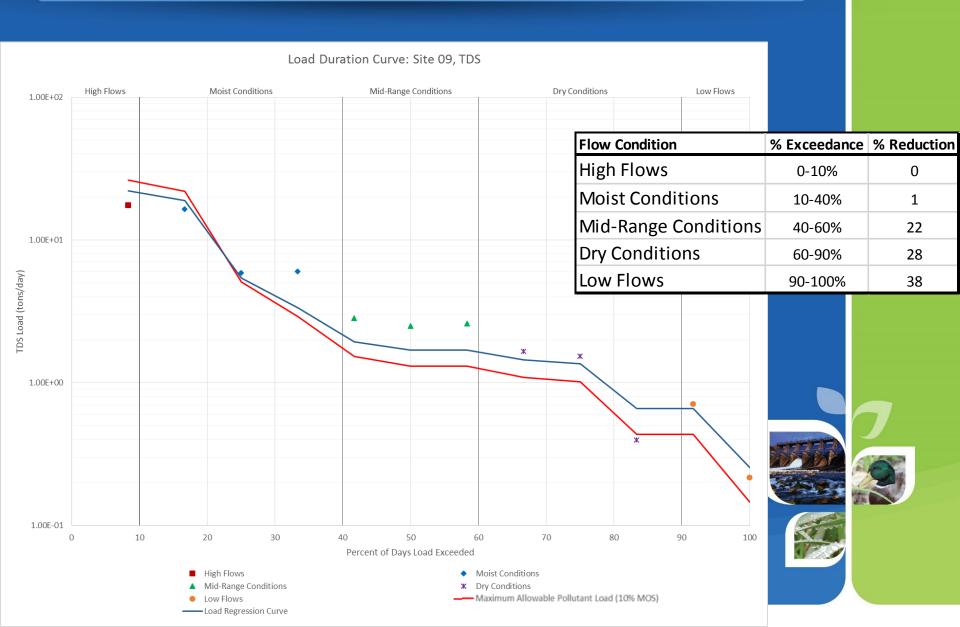
#### VC11 – VC at Renfro Rd (FM 3391)



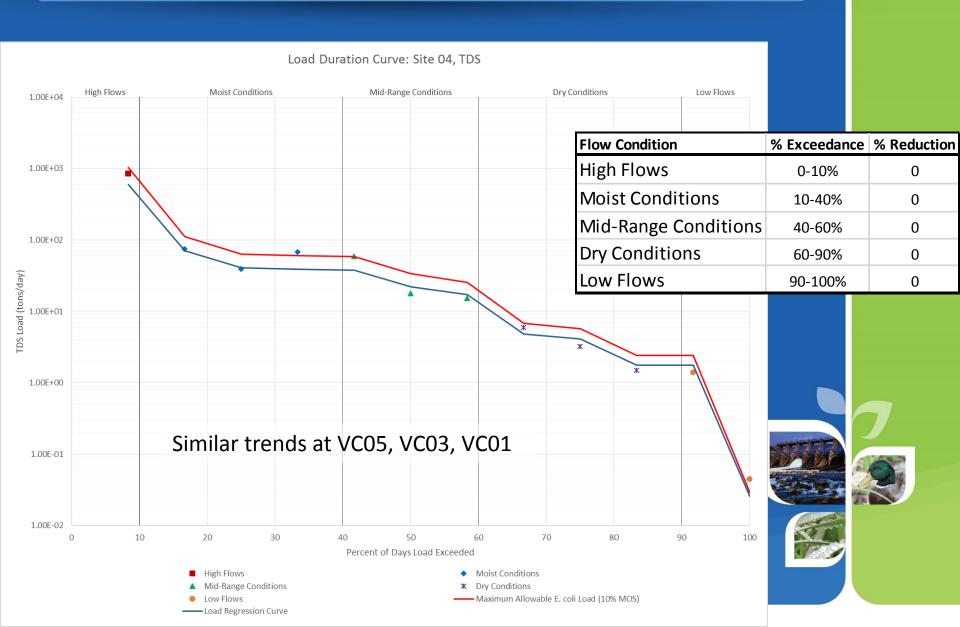
#### VC10 – Quil Miller at CR 532



### VC09 – VC at FM 1187



#### VC04 – VC at US-287 BUS



#### VC02 – Tributary at Bowman Springs



## Conclusions (so far)

- Almost anything can be a TDS source
- Management measures tough to pin down
- So how is this useful?
  - TDS LDCs best used as additional guidance when analyzing other pollutants
  - "Do TDS trends behave differently than expected?"
- Example: VC02
  - Load regression curve drifts further away from max allowable load curve as conditions get dryer
  - Another indicator for a point source issue



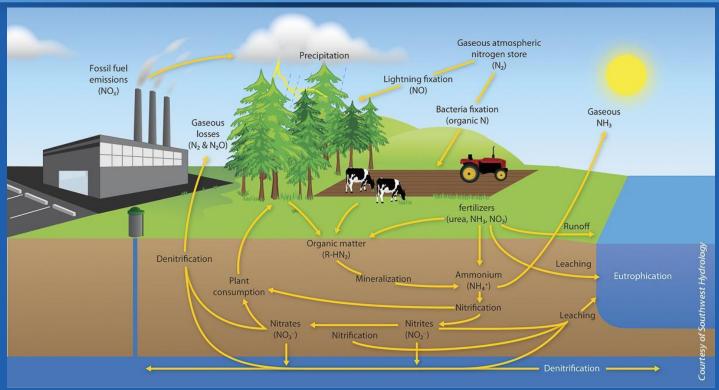
# Nitrate (NO<sub>3</sub>)







### Nitrate in Water Quality



- TCEQ nutrient screening level in streams: 1.95 mg/L
- Common source lawn/crop fertilizers
- Health issues in finished drinking water
  - "Blue Baby Syndrome" (methemoglobinemia)
- Environmental lakes
  - Algal bloom/bust → oxygen depletion → fish kills





#### Fish Kills & Algal Blooms

#### factors contributing to fish kills

Low dissolved oxygen



due to oxygen consumption associated with algal blooms, chemical demands, or poor mixing.

Algal toxins



toxins produced by eg, hydrogen sulfide, carbon dioxide, ammonta, some species, under certain conditions methane and other contaminants (e.g. metals)

Contaminants



cells and bacteria Interfere with fish aills

#### Nutrients

sources can be natural or include rural and urban inputs

factors contributing to algal blooms Water temperature



promote growth and thus proliferation of algae Reduced flushing



accumulate in poorly flushed or mixed areas

#### COMMON LOCATIONS OF BLOOMS & FISH KILLS

- In depositional areas (poorly flushed), e.g. lower catchments and near barriers
- In conjunction with salt wedge (due to low oxygen condition at bottom)
- In urbanised or rural catchments

BARRIERS TO FLOW

poor water quality

#### COMMON TIMES FOR BLOOMS & FISH KILLS

- Spikes in nutrients (food for algae) and other contaminants often occur following rainfall (typically first flows of season). Flow stirs up sediment and washes contaminants in from the catchment
- Summer is a common period as higher temperatures increase growth rate of phytoplankton and bacteria

SALTWATER

#### NUTRIENT INPUT SEDIMENT & ORGANIC MATERIAL INPUT (sources: natural, rural, urban) (sources: natural, erosion, rural, urban) Barriers to flow create areas where organic material and nutrients accumulate (deposition areas) bloom crash Barriers can also restrict the ability of biota to avoid (decay and deposition) Low Oxygen conditions often occur in deposition areas

LOW OXYGEN

- Low oxygen conditions typically occur in deeper or stratified areas, or around Barriers to Flow (poorly mixed). Salinity stratification is a common cause of reduced mixing in estuarine environments.
- Low oxygen condition results in favourable conditions for breakdown of organic material by bacteria, which can reduce oxygen (due to respiration) and release bound contaminants.

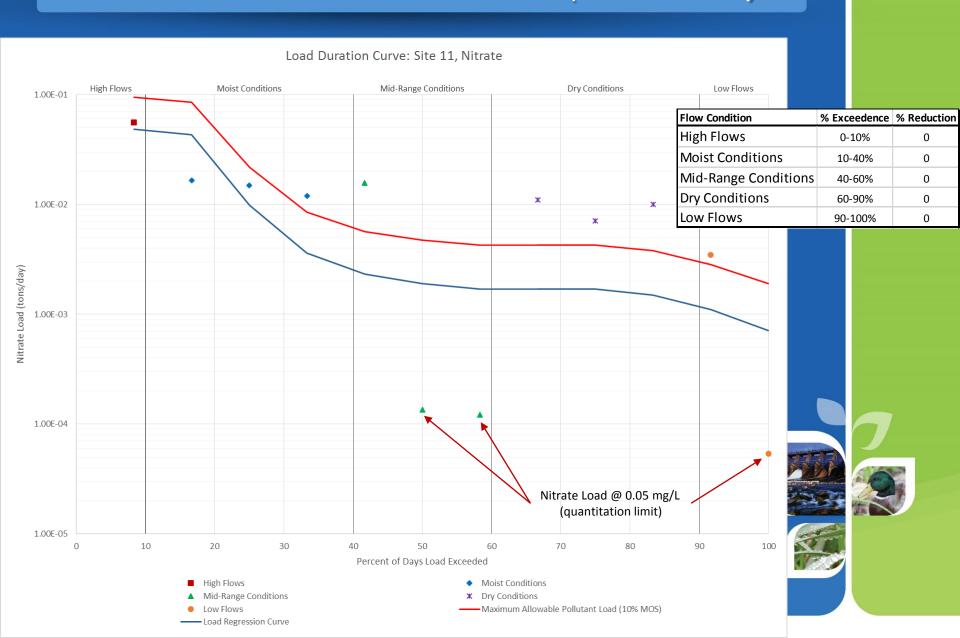
#### MICRO & MACRO ALGAE BLOOMS

- Algal growth requires nutrients and light. Higher temperatures can promote growth.
- Environmental effects from blooms include low oxygen (due to algae respiring at night), excess oxygen (due to algae photosynthesising during day), and the possibility of toxins produced by some species, which can affect biota
- Social effects include odour and aesthetics
- Excessive growth of aquatic macrophytes can also occur; having similar causes but minor negative environmental effects...

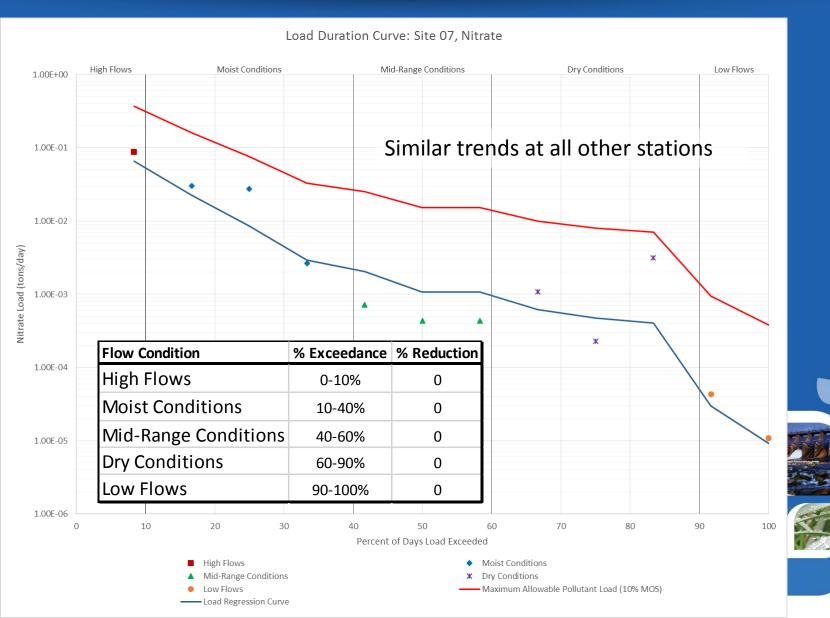
#### DECAY OF ORGANIC MATERIAL

- Effects from decay of organic material include low oxygen (due to growth of bacteria)
- Sources of organic material include vegetation, eroded soils and animal wastes from the catchment (natural, rural and urban sources) and large inputs following crash of Micro & Macro Algal Blooms

#### VC11 – VC at Renfro Rd (FM 3391)



#### VC07 – VC at Rendon Rd

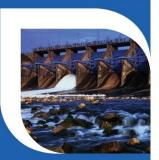


## Conclusions (so far)

- Nitrate issues not an immediate concern in the tributaries themselves
  - High single-sample measurements at VC11 offset by several at or below 0.05 mg/L quantitation limit
- Does not mean tributaries shouldn't be considered as a source
  - Lake screening level (0.37 mg/L) lower than stream level (1.95 mg/L)
  - Must account for residence time, use by organisms in lake, and storage in sediments



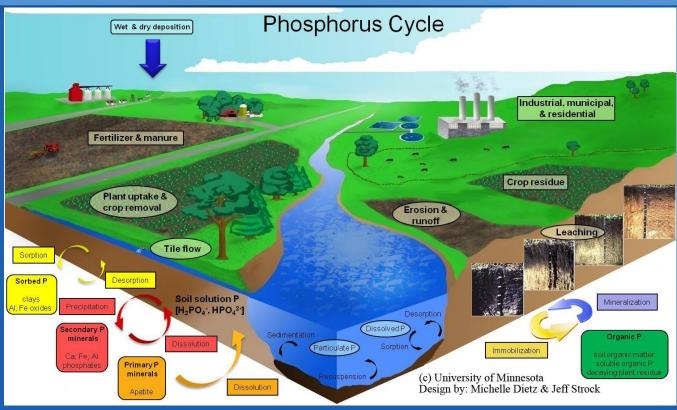
# Total Phosphorus (TP)







## Phosphorus in Water Quality

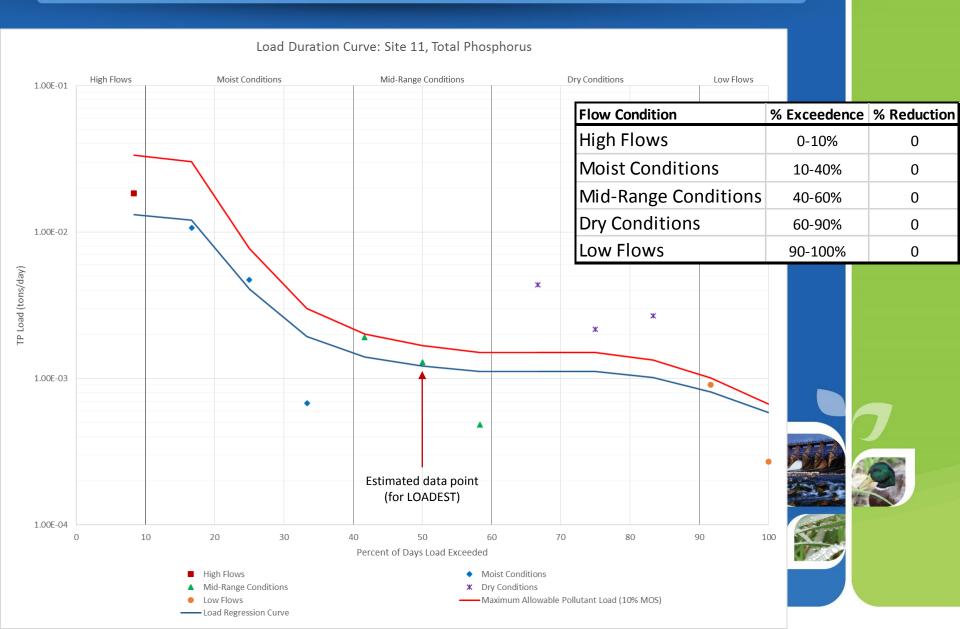


- TCEQ nutrient screening value in streams: 0.69 mg/L
- Common source lawn/crop fertilizers
- Health issues of excessive phosphate
  - · Rare, but can be linked to kidney failure and osteoporosis
  - Imbalances usually from prolonged medicine use, not water consumption
- Environmental lakes (same as nitrates)
  - Algal bloom/bust  $\rightarrow$  oxygen depletion  $\rightarrow$  fish kills

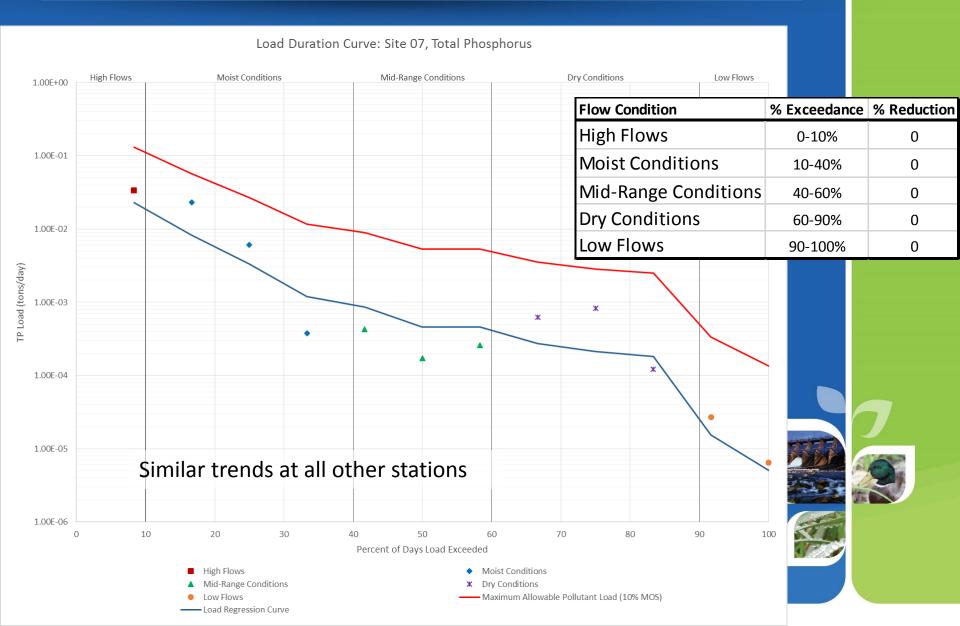




#### VC11 – VC at Renfro Rd (FM 3391)



#### VC07 – VC at Rendon Rd

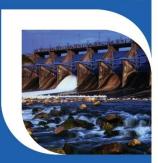


### Same song, 2<sup>nd</sup> verse...

- Phosphorus issues not an immediate concern in the tributaries themselves
  - Exception: VC11's high single-sample measurements for "Dry Conditions"
- Does not mean tributaries shouldn't be considered as a source
  - Lake screening level (0.20 mg/L) lower than stream level (0.69 mg/L)
  - Must account for residence time, use by organisms in lake, and storage in sediments



## Chlorophyll-a

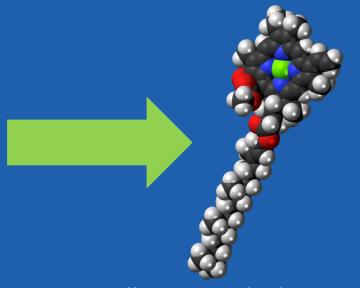






#### Chlorophyll-a in Water Quality





https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chlorophyll\_a

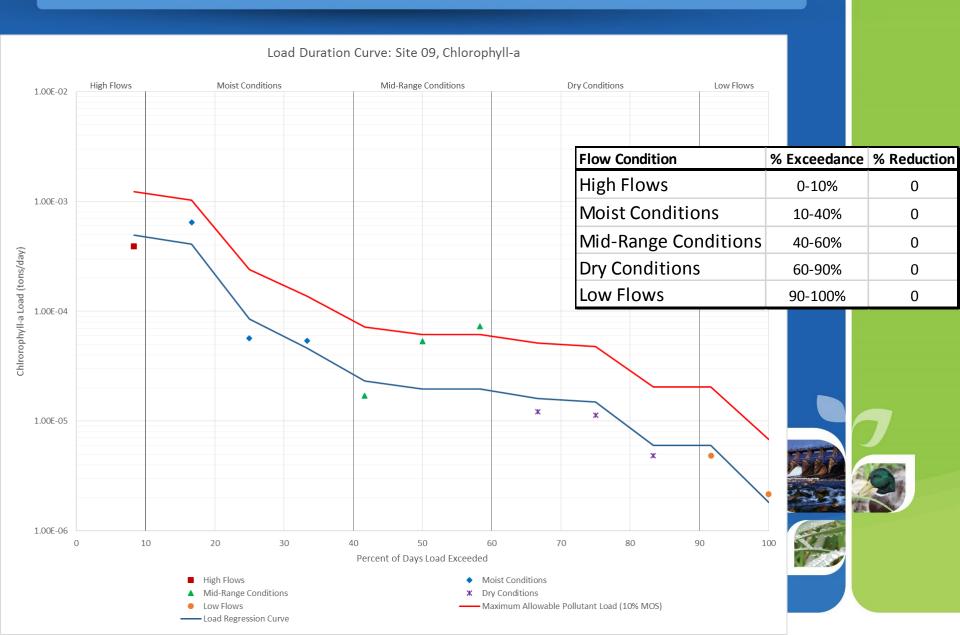
- TCEQ nutrient screening value in streams: 14.1 μg/L
- Photosynthetic molecule in most algae and plants that gives green color
- Used as surrogate for algal growth in water
- Another way to track potential algal blooms
  - Cause: high nutrient inputs to lakes/streams
  - Response: high chlorophyll-a production



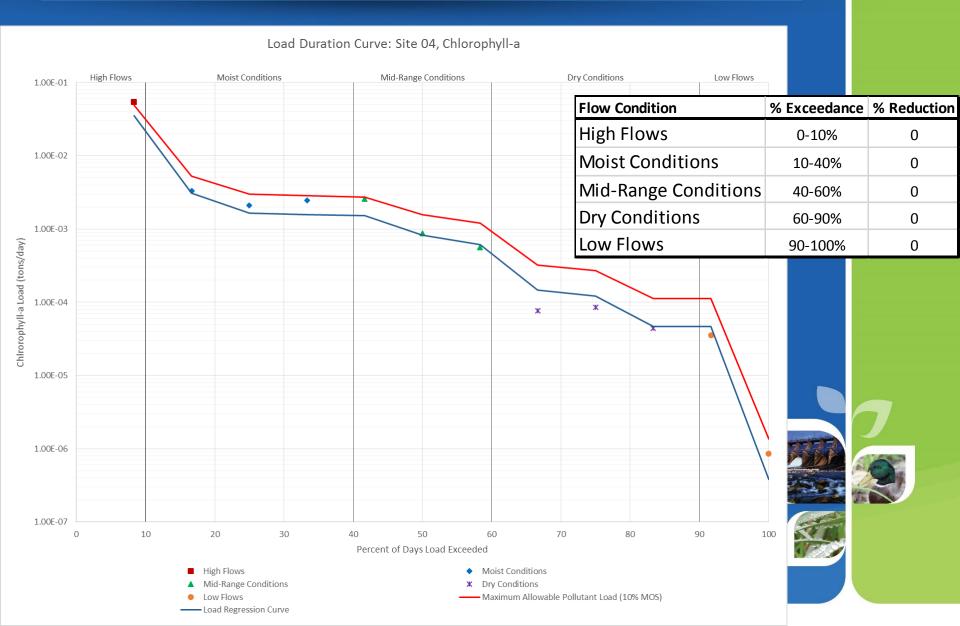




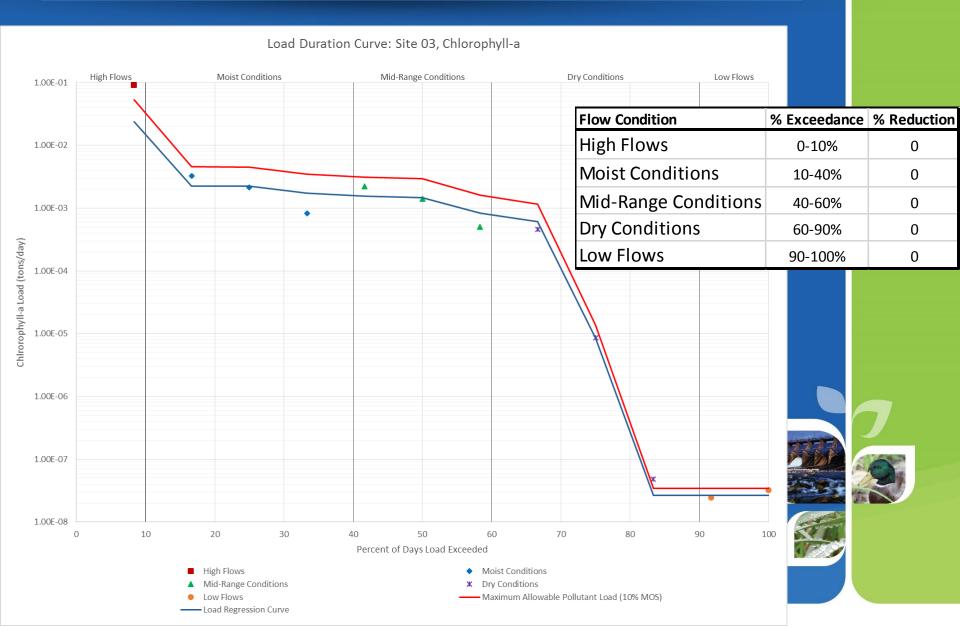
#### VC09 – VC at FM 1187



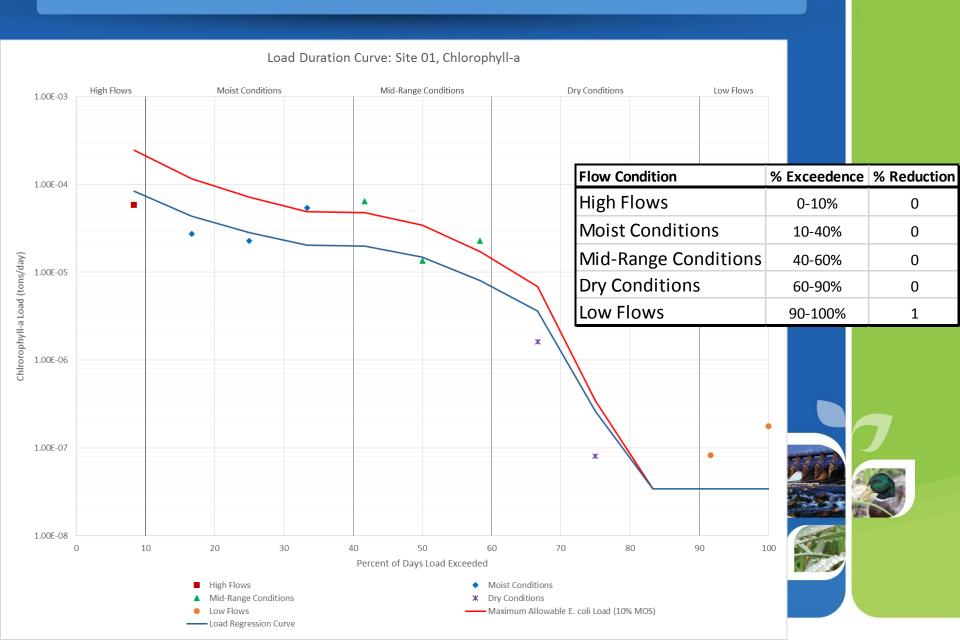
#### VC04 – VC at US-287 BUS



#### VC03 – VC at I-20



#### VC01 – Wildcat Branch at Cravens\*

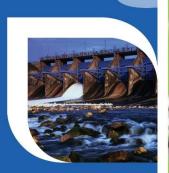


### What, this again? Oh wait...

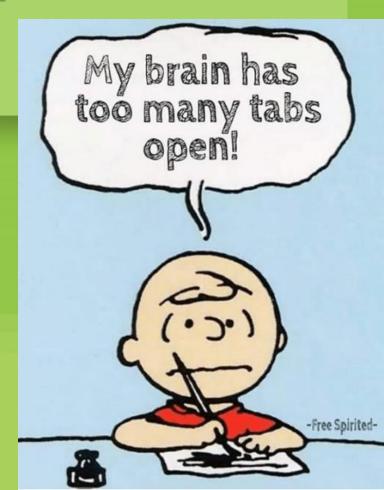
- Chlorophyll-a loading not an immediate concern for the tributaries
- For tributaries:
  - Can \*technically\* deliver chlorophyll-a to lake but...
  - Bigger concern goes back to the nutrients being delivered and \*potential\* for growth
  - Lake screening level (26.7 μg/L) higher than stream level (14.1 μg/L)
  - What happens when we move from a flowing system to a lake?



#### BRAIN BREAK

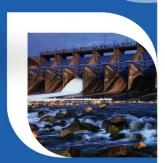






#### SELECT Results – E. coli

Aaron Hoff Trinity River Authority January 11, 2018











#### SELECT Refresher

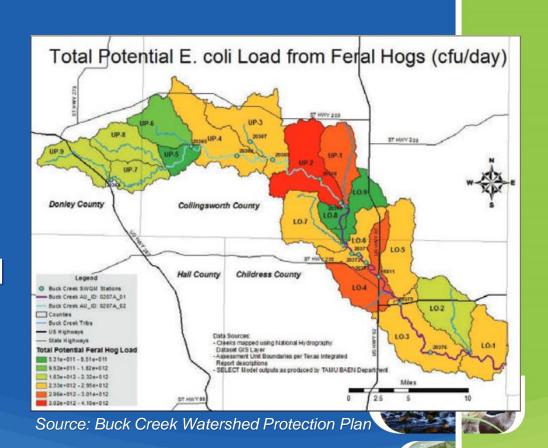
- Spatially Explicit Load Enrichment Calculation Tool (SELECT)
- Analytical approach for determining potential bacterial loads in specific areas of a watershed
- Spatial data inputs
  - Land use data
  - Population data (human and animal)
- Literature values for fecal production rates
- SELECT does \*not\* account for any natural or anthropogenic mitigation processes
  - Results in an overestimation of potential sources
  - Provides a "worst-case scenario"





#### Provides visual output

- Evaluates selected pollutant sources separately
- Determines which "catchments" have the greatest contribution to the overall pollutant load
- Targets areas for potential management practices



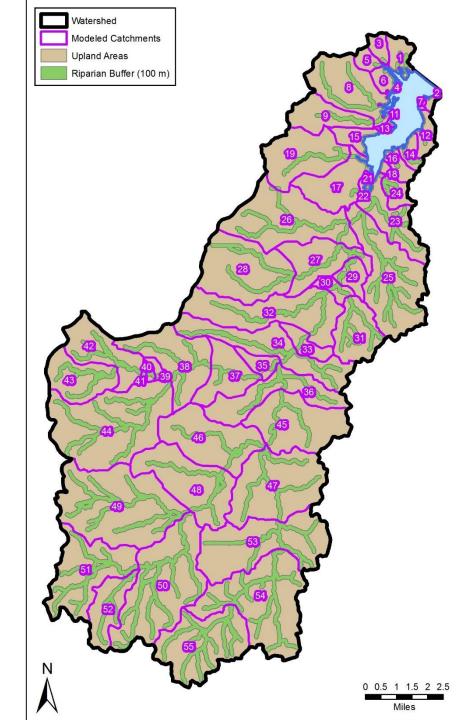
#### "Worst-case scenario" revisited

- Logic follows sources further from stream will have less influence on load
- Distance from E. coli source (the "poop point") to stream isn't taken into account automatically
- Artificially account for this to a small degree by using a stream buffer
  - Within buffer zone = more influence
    - 90% reaches stream
  - Outside buffer zone = less influence
    - 50% reaches stream





- Used catchments developed during the Lake Arlington Master Plan (LAMP) effort
  - 55 catchments
  - used for consistency
- National Hydrography Database (NHD) layer used for streams
- Built a 330-ft (~100-m) buffer around NHD streams
- Inside buffer
  - "riparian band"
  - More E. coli reaches stream
- Outside buffer
  - "upland areas"
  - Less *E. coli* reaches stream
- Loads "normalized" to subwatershed areas to account for dissimilar subwatershed sizes



## Population Density Estimates

- Used to estimate E. coli load contributions
- Animal estimates strongly tied to land use/land cover type
- 1 of 2 main drivers of the SELECT analysis
- Assists with future resource management

- Preliminary estimates calculated for:
  - Cattle
  - Sheep/goats
  - Equine species
  - Deer
  - Feral hogs
  - Domestic dogs
  - Septic Systems (OSSFs)







## **Loading Rates**

Table 2. Calculation of potential *E. coli* loads from various sources in the watershed.

from various sources in the watershed.	
Source	Calculation
Cattle	$EC = \# cattle \cdot 2.7 \cdot 10^{9} cfu d^{-1} head^{-1}$
Horses	$EC = \# horses \cdot 2.1 \cdot 10^8 cfu d^{-1} head^{-1}$
Sheep and goats	$EC = \# sheep \cdot 9 \cdot 10^9 cfu d^{-1} head^{-1}$
Deer	$EC = \# deer \cdot 1.75 \cdot 10^8 cfu d^{-1} head^{-1}$
Feral hogs	$EC = \# hogs \cdot 4.45 \cdot 10^{9} cfu d^{-1} head^{-1}$
Dogs	$EC = \# households \cdot \frac{0.8 dogs}{household}$
	· 2.5 · 10 <sup>9</sup> cfu d <sup>-1</sup> head <sup>-1</sup>
Failing septic systems	EC = # failing systems $\cdot \frac{5 \cdot 10^5 \text{ cfu}}{100 \text{ mL}}$
	$2.65 \cdot 10^5 \text{ mL}$ Avg # persons
	person/day household
WWTP	$EC = permitted MGD \cdot \frac{126 \text{ cfu}}{100 \text{ mL}}$
	$10^6 \text{ gal}$ 3758.2 mL
	MGD gal





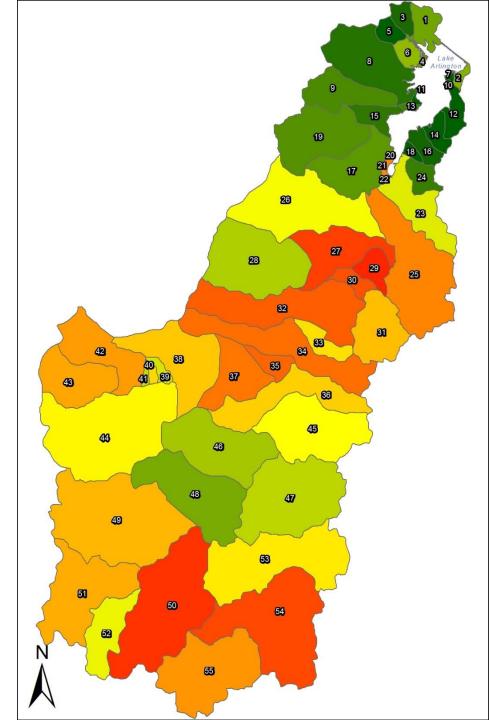


#### Cattle

- Stakeholder recommendation
  - Use NASS Data estimate
- NASS Data (2012)
  - 6,488 head in watershed
    - County numbers scaled down to illustrate estimate of cattle only in the watershed
    - limited to grassland and pasture land classes
  - Average watershed density = 5.43 ac per animal
  - Contribution factors:
    - Riparian 90% reaches stream
    - Upland 50% reaches stream



### **SELECT - Cattle**



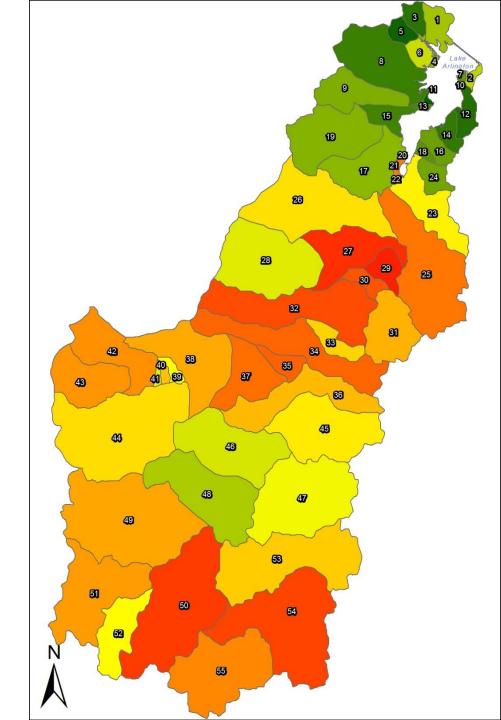
## **Equine Species**

- Stakeholder recommendation
  - 2500 head in watershed
  - Distribute to 100% of grassland and 90% of pasture land classes
  - Include 5% of low-density development in estimate to account for 'small acreage' (non-ag) owners that may not receive NASS
  - Average watershed density = 14.0 ac per animal
  - Contribution factors:
    - Riparian 90% reaches stream
    - Upland 50% reaches stream





# SELECT – Equine Species

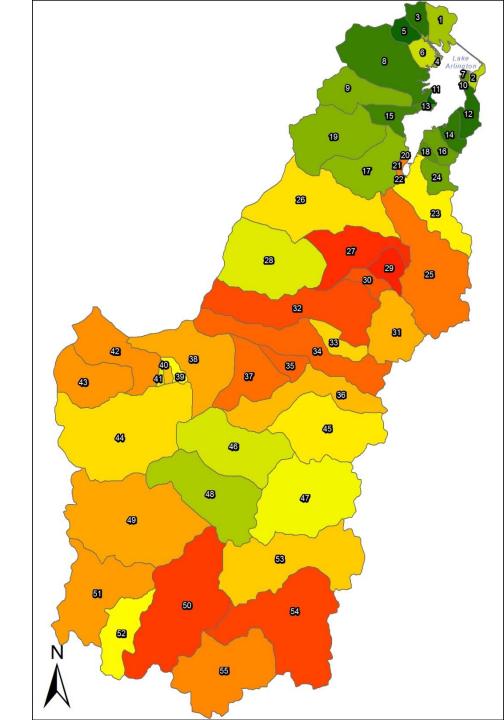


### Sheep & Goats

- Stakeholder recommendation
  - 2500 head in watershed
  - Distribute to 100% of grassland and 90% of pasture land classes
  - Include 5% of low-density development in estimate to account for 'small acreage' (non-ag) owners that may not receive NASS
  - Average watershed density = 14.0 ac per animal
  - Contribution factors:
    - Riparian 90% reaches stream
    - Upland 50% reaches stream



# SELECT – Sheep & Goats

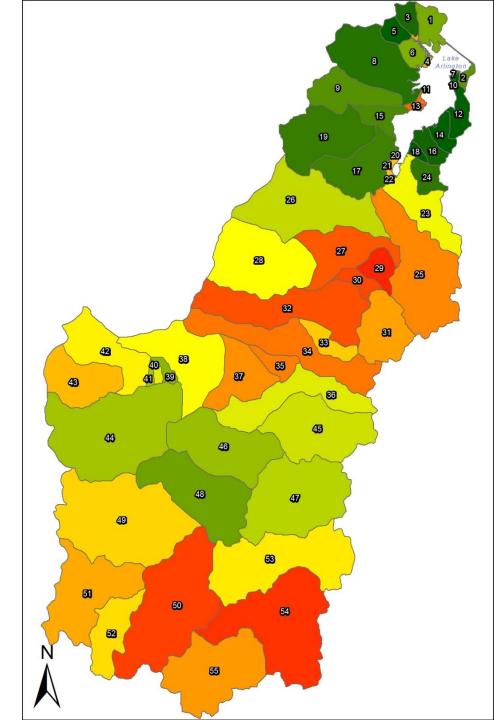


#### Deer

- Stakeholder recommendation
  - Use median density from TPWD
  - 53.7 ac/deer = 1461 deer in watershed
  - Applies to all land use except heavy development and open water
  - Average watershed density = 53.7 ac per animal
  - Contribution factors:
    - Riparian 90% reaches stream
    - Upland 50% reaches stream



## SELECT – Deer

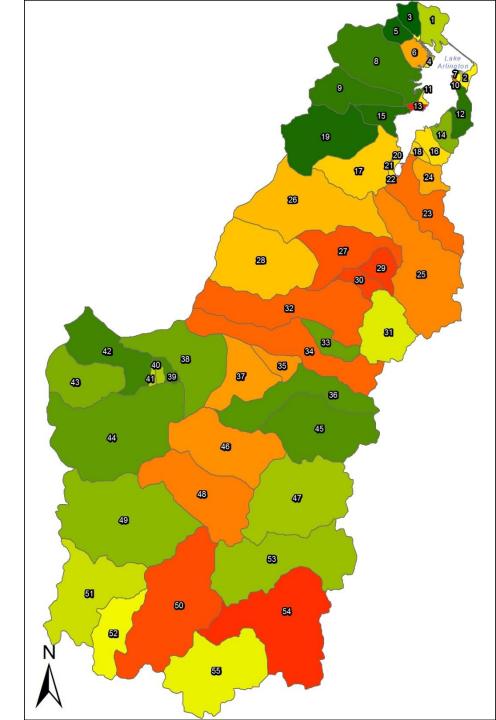


### Feral Hogs

- Stakeholder recommendation
  - 1000 head in watershed
  - Distribute to 100% of riparian zones and 100% of upland forested areas
  - Average watershed density = 26.62 ac per animal
  - Contribution factors:
    - Riparian 90% reaches stream
    - Upland 50% reaches stream



# SELECT – Feral Hogs

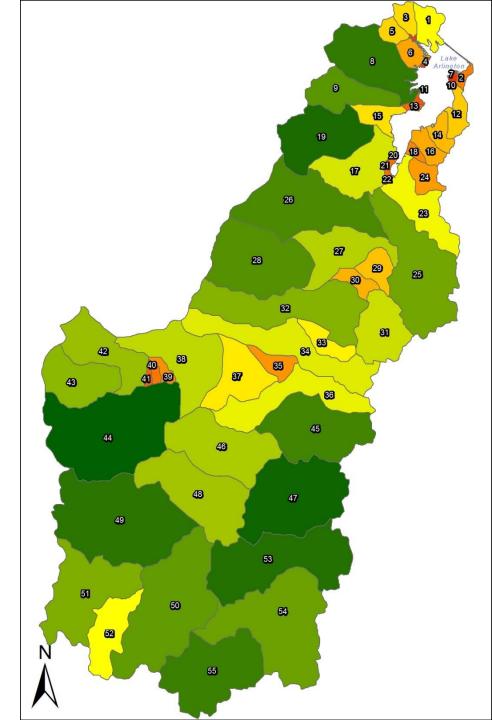


### Dogs and Cats

- Committee Recommendation
  - Use AVMA estimates
  - Households w/dogs 36.5%
  - Households w/cats 30.4%
  - In those households, average dogs per household is 1.6
  - Also apply to cats
    - · Help account for feral, barn, outdoor cats
  - Contribution factors:
    - Riparian 90% reaches stream
    - Upland 50% reaches stream



## SELECT – Dogs & Cats



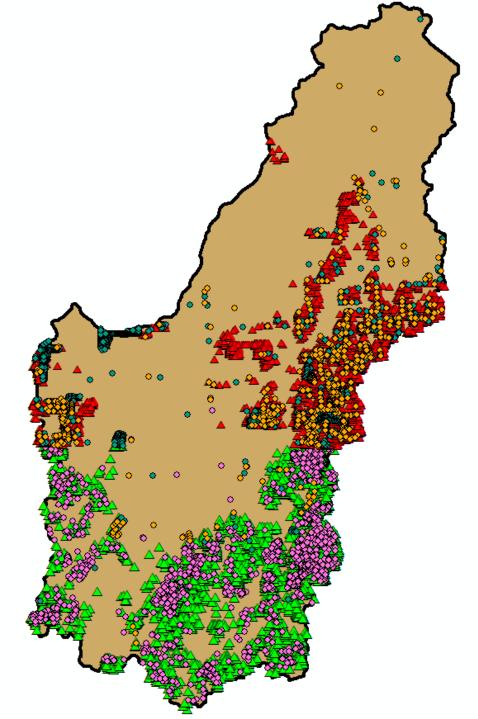
## Septic Systems (OSSFs)

- Specific number of OSSFs for each subwatershed based on GIS analysis
- Majority of potential contributions through groundwater
- Permitted OSSFs
  - 12% failure rate
- Unpermitted OSSFs
  - 50% failure rate
- Used only OSSFs in riparian buffer
  - 90% E. coli contribution in riparian buffer
  - 0% contribution OSSFs in upland areas

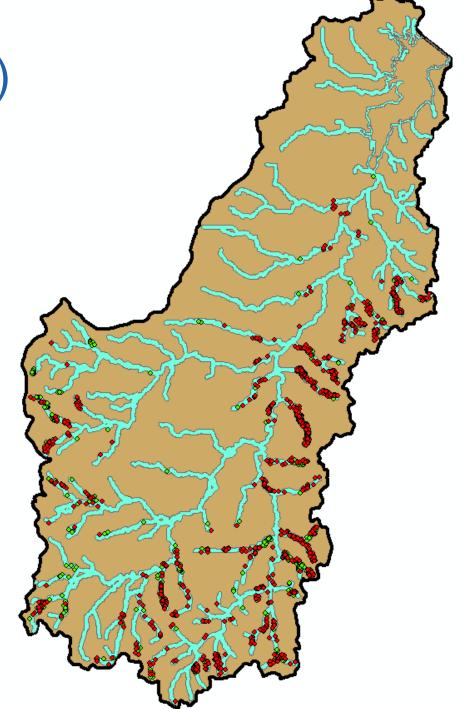




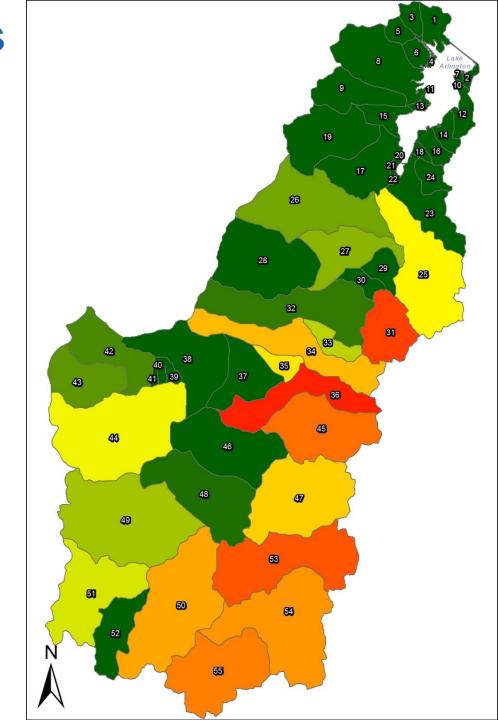
Count – OSSFs (all)



Count – OSSFs (in riparian zones)



SELECT – OSSFs (in riparian zones)

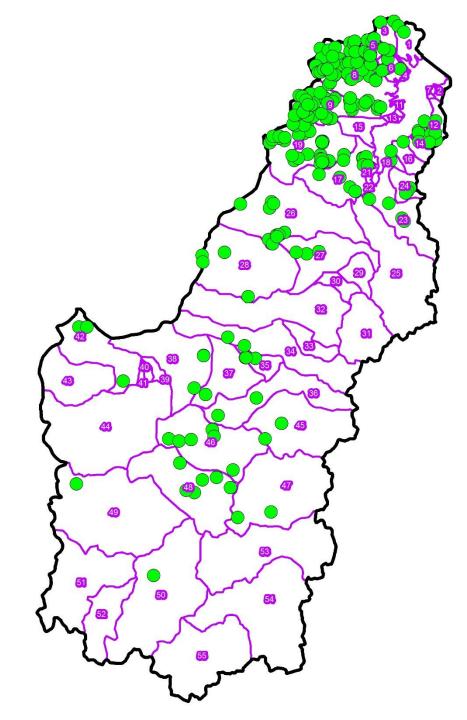


## Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

- Used 2011-2016 records for watershed
  - NCTCOG furnished records for Tarrant/Johnson Counties
  - Clipped records to each subwatershed's riparian and upland areas
  - Contribution factors:
    - Riparian 90% reaches stream
    - Upland 50% reaches stream

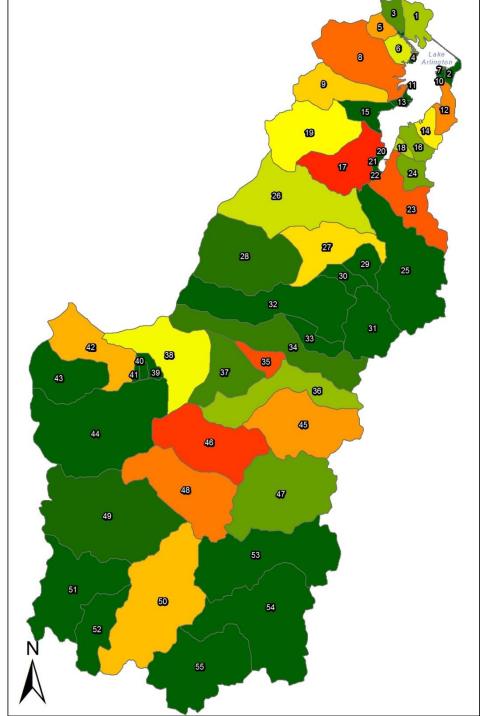


## Count - SSOs



7

## SELECT – SSOs

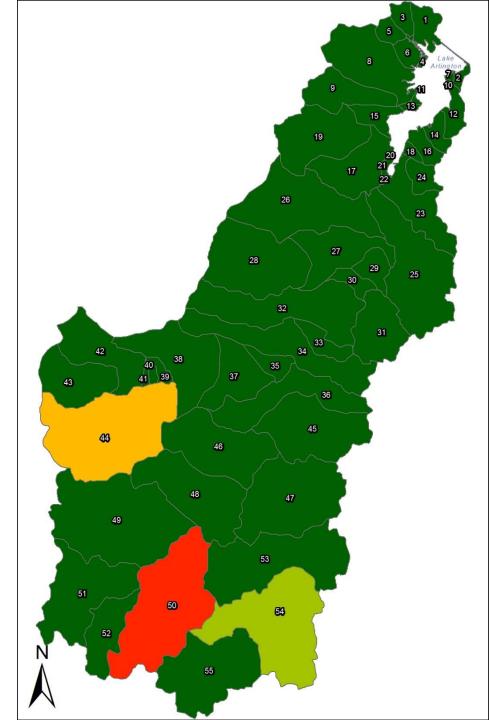


#### Wastewater Treatment Facilites

- Only three operating in watershed
  - Johnson County SUD
    - Good compliance record
  - Two smaller package plants
    - Mobile home park near Burleson
    - Subdivision near Crowley
  - All three have average discharge of < 8 MPN/100 mL (2014-2016)
    - Used 126 MPN/100 mL as surrogate for loading rate
  - Used each entity's average self-reported flow as discharge (2014-2016)
  - Discharged directly to stream 100% contribution factor used



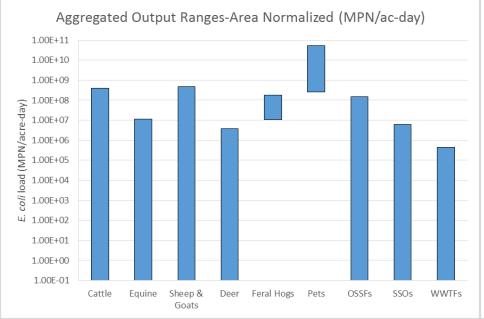
# SELECT – WWTFs

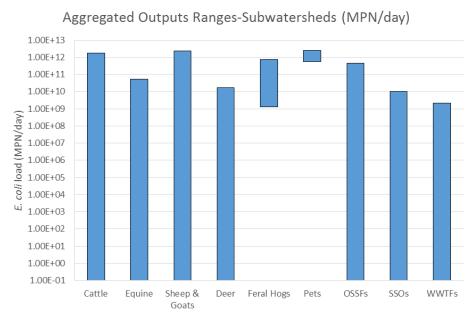


#### Max/Mins Across All Watersheds - All Sources

Daily Potential <i>E. coli</i> Load Ranges - Area Normalized		
Source	Daily Potential <i>E. coli</i> Load (MP	N/ac-day)
Cattle	0 -	3.92E+08
Equine	0 -	1.14E+07
Sheep & Goats	0 -	4.89E+08
Deer	0 -	3.83E+06
Feral Hogs	1.04E+07 -	1.72E+08
Pets	2.54E+08 -	5.14E+10
OSSFs	0 -	1.49E+08
SSOs	0 -	6.03E+06
WWTFs	0 -	4.48E+05

<u> </u>		
Daily Potential E. coli Load Ranges - Subwatersheds		
Source	Daily Potential <i>E. coli</i> Load (N	ИPN/day)
Cattle	0 -	1.78E+12
Equine	0 -	5.27E+10
Sheep & Goats	0 -	2.26E+12
Deer	0 -	1.64E+10
Feral Hogs	1.26E+09 -	7.64E+11
Pets	5.57E+11 -	1.99E+12
OSSFs	0 -	4.41E+11
SSOs	0 -	1.01E+10
WWTFs	0 -	2.14E+09
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	

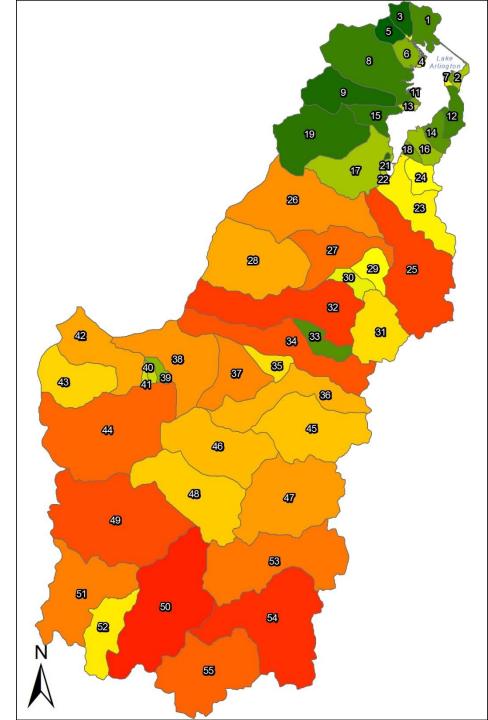




# All Sources - Not Normalized

Dark red = subwatersheds w/ largest *E. coli* loads

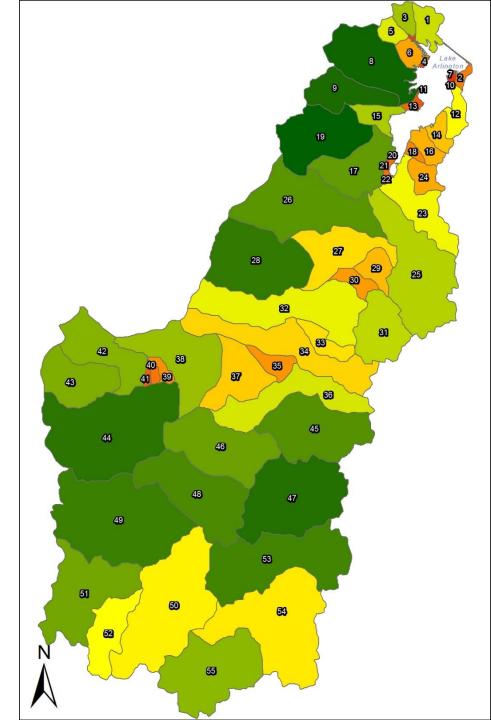
Unit basis = organisms/day



# All Sources – Area Normalized

Dark red = largest per-acre E. coli loads

Unit basis = organisms/acre-day



## Discussion

- Do we need to make adjustments?
  - Weighted contributions for riparian/upland
  - Change any of the loading rates (e.g. WWTFs)
  - Estimated populations (sheep, horses, feral hogs)
- Locations to focus on
- Likely sources based on location
- Strategy based on flow regime
- Appropriate BMPs to recommend
- Committee considers Partnership input, finalizes BMP recommendations



# **BRAIN BREAK...AGAIN**

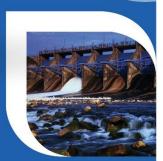






## Preliminary Management **Strategy Recommendations**

**Aaron Hoff Trinity River Authority** January 11, 2018











# Livestock BMPs

- Includes production farms/ranches for:
  - Cattle (beef and dairy)
  - Sheep/goats
  - Other production animals
- Problems:
  - Direct/indirect E. coli loading
  - Overgrazing upland areas
  - Degradation of riparian buffers
- BMPs
  - NRCS Water Quality Management Plans (WQMPs), starting w/those in riparian zones
  - Provide other technical assistance as needed
  - Work with natural resource agencies to develop/enhance educational programs
    - · Production agriculture
    - "Hobby farms" and horse ranches







# Deer & Other Wildlife BMPs

- Problem:
  - Direct/indirect *E. coli* loading in riparian zones
- "How do we manage wild animals?"
- BMP: Develop habitat management plans
  - Landowner partnerships w/TPWD
  - Ex: add supplemental feeding/watering locations outside of riparian zones



# Feral Hog BMPs

#### Problems

- Direct/indirect *E. coli* loading in riparian zones
- Destruction of riparian buffers, crops, pastures
- Resource competition/predation w/ native species

#### • BMPs

- Exclusion from wildlife feeders
- Work w/ municipalities on "trap share" program for public greenspaces
- Provide framework to landowners to easily access information to trappers, trap wholesalers, trapping programs, and other info
- Continue delivery of feral hog educational workshops



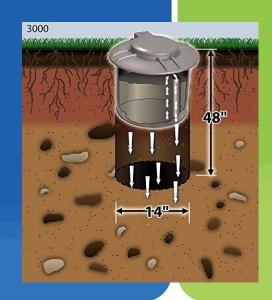




# Dogs and Cats BMPs

- Problem: Indirect E. coli loading from poop in yards, public greenspaces
- BMPs
  - Pet waste stations
    - Ensure good coverage of signage and pet waste stations in public areas
    - Ensure waste stations remain stocked/maintained
  - Public Education
    - Partner w/ NCTCOG on established campaigns
    - Utility bill inserts
    - Specialty programs e.g., pet waste digesters
  - LID in greenspaces/yards
    - Provide technical assistance (maybe financial too?) for on-site remediation – bioretention, rain gardens, etc.





# Septic Systems (OSSFs) BMPs

- Problem: direct/indirect loading from failing/non-existent OSSFs
- BMPs
  - Homeowner OSSF education programs
  - Work with municipalities to create/expand "septic to sewer" programs
  - Encourage ordinances that require OSSF to be inspected before property changes hands
  - Incentivize inspections (cheap or free) for existing property owners





# Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSOs)

- Problem: Direct/indirect loading from failing infrastructure/overloaded systems
- BMPs
  - Identify recurring SSOs in watershed
  - Work with municipalities to inventory current methods for SSO response:
    - Preventative maintenance
    - Addressing inflow/infiltration issues
    - Severe rain event prep
  - Public outreach
    - "Cease the Grease"/"Defend Your Drains"
    - "Flushable" Wipes



## **Nutrients BMPs**

- Problem: overuse of fertilizers on lawns, greenspaces, ag fields
- BMPs
  - Many of the same BMPs applied to these areas for E. coli management will also result in nutrient reductions
    - WQMPs
    - LID
  - Education for landowners/land managers
    - Where/how to get soil tested
    - Drawbacks of over-fertilizing





# Game Plan

- LDCs, SELECT, and management strategies will be developed into final WPP chapters
  - Draft chapters presented to Steering Committee for review and comment (early-mid March)
- Presented to TCEQ for review 4/30/18
- Present Draft WPP for public comment at Partnership meeting on 5/31/18
  - Address public comments
  - Return to TCEQ on 7/2/2018
- Final WPP submitted by 8/30/18



#### Questions?

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