

**NB-WAM Initiative: Forest watershed Research Centre (FoREM, UNB; ACASA; ETF; JDI; WWF)**

with facilitations from

NBELG, NB-DNR, NB-EMO, NB-DTI

and NGOs

via

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Kevin Connor (NB Government)

Sabine Dietz, Kim Reeder, Simon Mitchell, Malcolm McLeod, Denis Roussel (NGOs)

John-Paul Arp (Flood Animation Programming)

Environmental Trust Fund  
Environment and Local Government



## 1. How can your work contribute to better decision-making in landuse planning?

Digital elevation modelling improves

- land-use planning,
- wet-area, wetland, and flood extent mapping,
- assessing of hydrological infrastructure capacity and connectivity to accommodate severe flood & stream discharge events

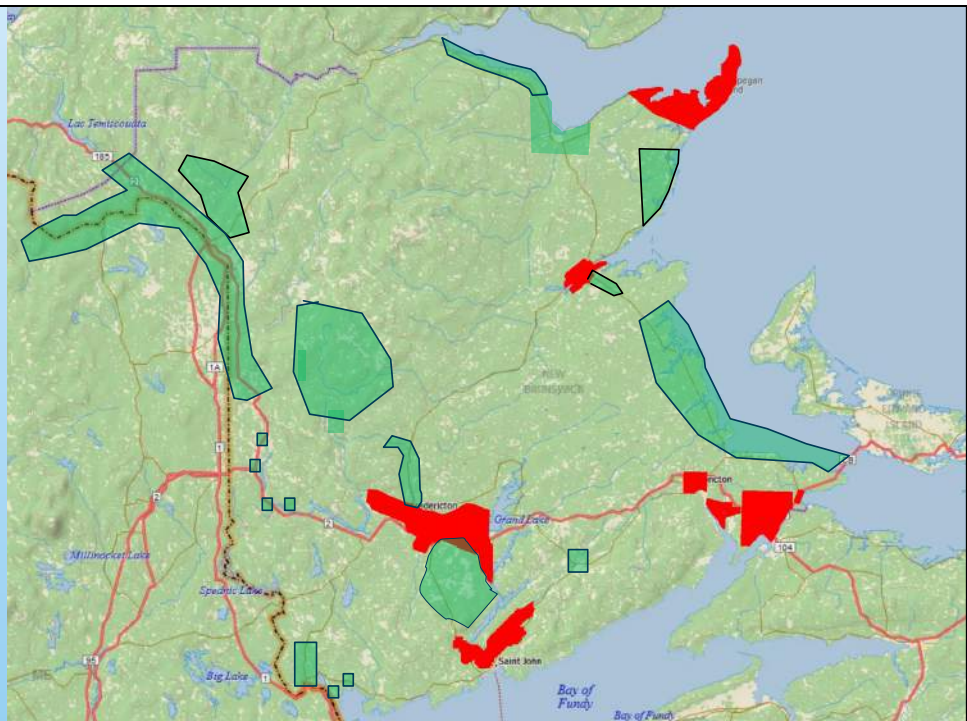
All at 10 m and 1 m resolution:

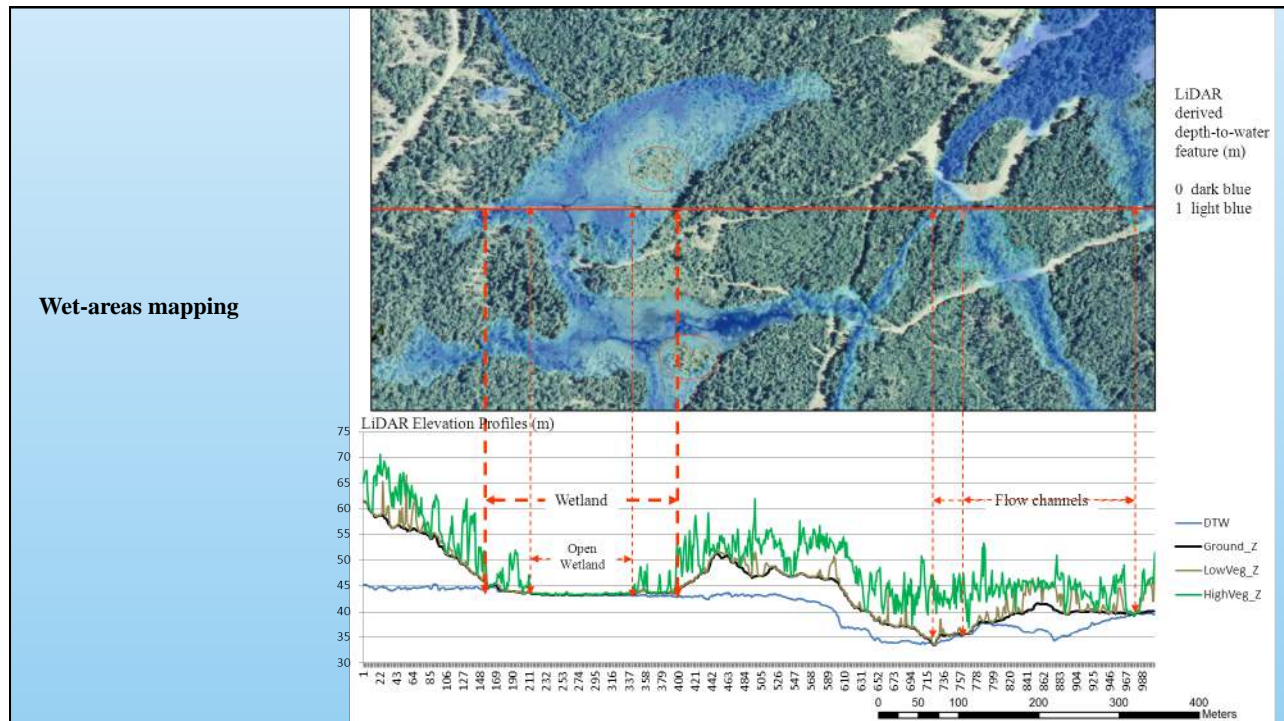
10 m resolution: comprehensive across provinces and large watersheds.

1 m resolution: increases precision and accuracy for target areas.

Provision of planning tools: TRAIL, SPILL, FLOOD, LOCATE

**NB LiDAR  
WAM Initiative  
Coverage to-date**





## 2. What do we know, and what do we need to better manage inland flooding?

### Provision of data layers:

Depression, stream channel, flood plain and wet-area map updates

10 m resolution: comprehensive across NB and adjacent watersheds

1 m resolution: 15 % coverage for NB; moving to 100 % within 2 to 3 years

geoNB: properties, road, train tracks, pipelines, conservation areas, municipal borders etc.

Other: Sparse on historic inland and coastal flood events (geoNB, DTI, JDI)

Sparse on hydrological infrastructure, decreases from urban to rural centres

Sparse on flow blockages (culverts, bridges, hydro dams, river and stream narrows)

Needs: comprehensive compilation of hydrological infrastructure, upgraded with DEM-modelled flow capacity and flood expectations

Workshops to discuss/adopt emerging planning tools,

including geoportal to compile and display emerging data, images, maps, etc.



### Floodplain mapping for the general Sussex area, NB:

Provincial. DEM (latest version, 10 m resolution),

hill-shaded and

coloured from

11 m (lightest green)

to 180 m (deepest brown)

Floodplains: shaded dark to light blue

up to 4 m in elevation away

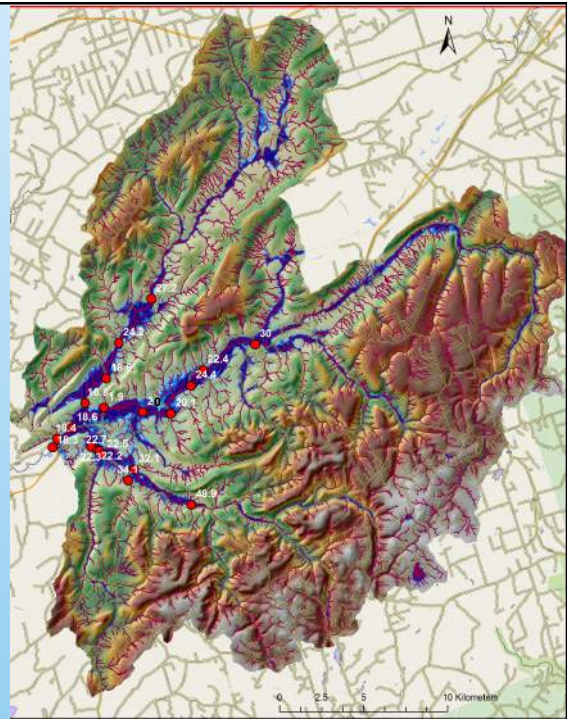
from the flood plain channels

Also shown:

Stream flow channel network

(each stream starting with 4 ha flow initiation)

Bridge locations by elevation



### Checking

#### hydrological infrastructure:

#### bridges

Rated by capacity to

accommodate 100mm discharge

(appr. 100 year storm event)

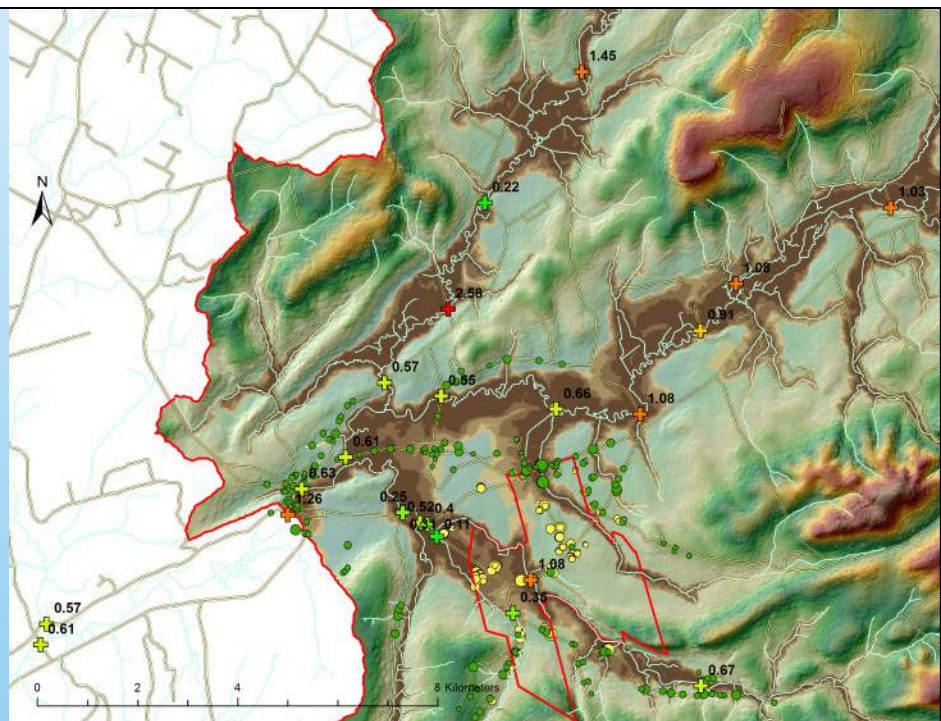
according to upstream

watershed area

Location conformance

to LiDAR-derived

road-stream crossings





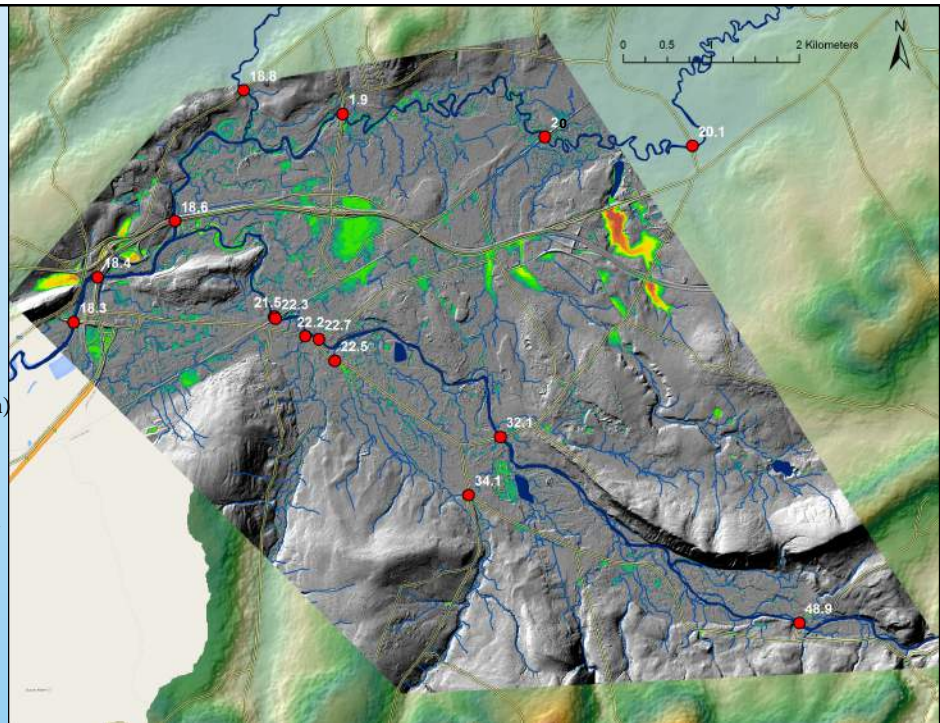
**Depression mapping**

for the general Sussex area, NB

based on LiDAR DEM  
(1 m resolution)

Showing depression depths  
up to 6 m (shaded green to brown)

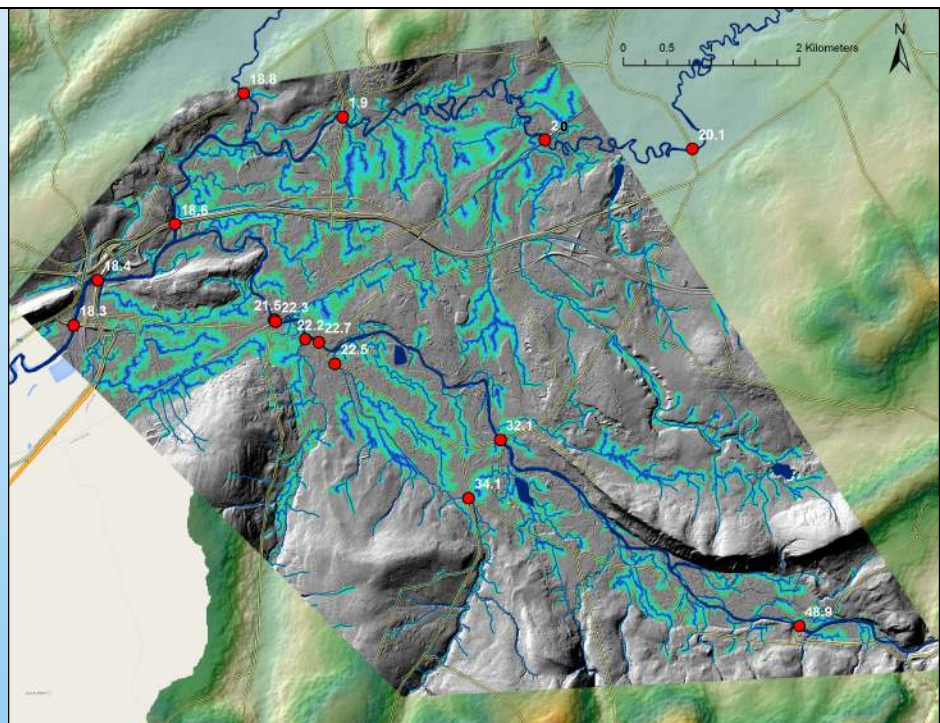
The deeper depressions occur  
when -road crossings are blocked

**Soil drainage (DTW) mapping**

for the general Sussex area, NB

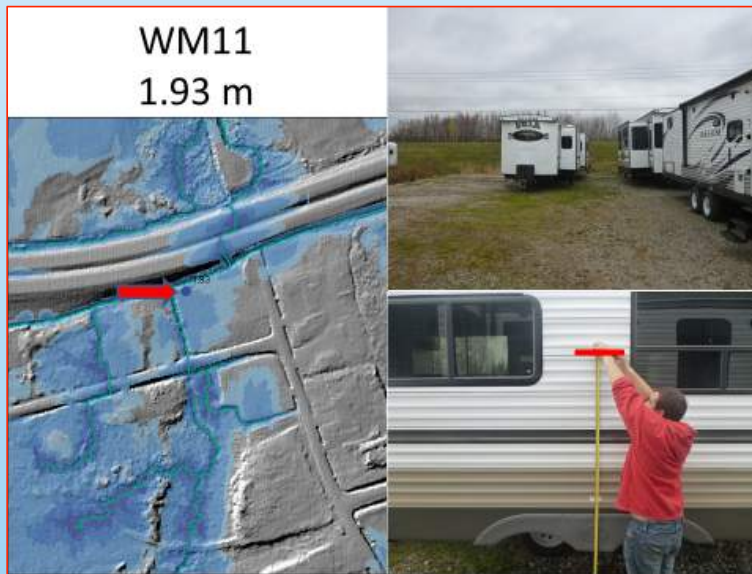
based on LiDAR DEM  
(1 m resolution)

Showing the elevation rise  
away from all streams  
with 4 ha flow initiation,  
up to 1 m (shaded green)



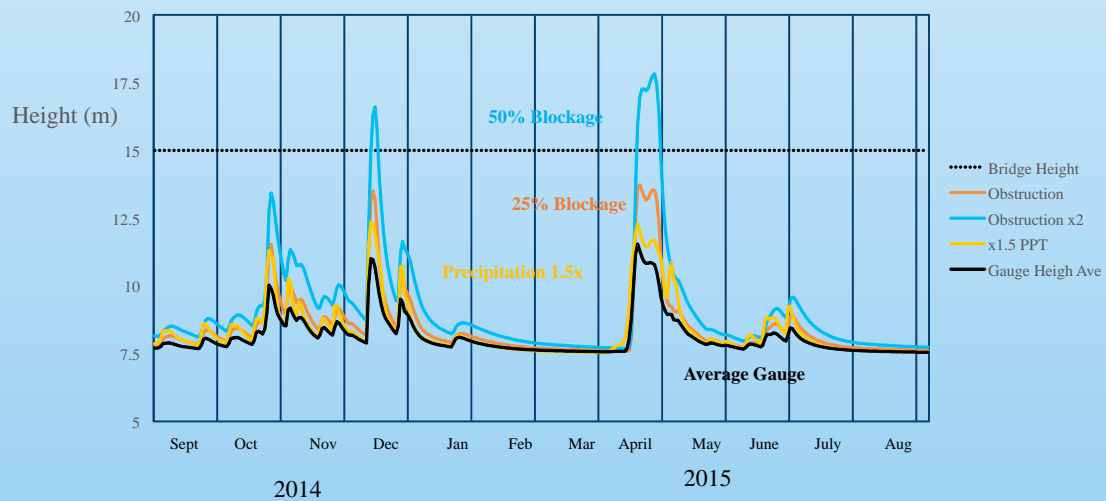
Checking flood levels  
(the hard way)

April 2014 flood



Water backing up in a depression towards Highway 1 along Leonard Drive. Flooding was aggravated by culvert blocking; April 2014.

Average gauge height and potential obstruction scenarios



### 3. How can we manage the challenge of uncertainty (future flood scenarios, precautionary principle)?

Using maps layers that locate flood vulnerabilities within specific community and property contexts

Systematically locate, quantify and risk-prioritize flow blockages:

- depressions,
- eroding slopes and stream channels,
- flow blockages (roads, dams, dykes, culverts, bridges, stream and river narrows)

Reduce flow rates through

- trail and road decommissioning
- restrict developments in floodplains, wetlands and depression
- soil protection
- stretch snowmelt season through watershed-based management of forest / vegetation cover

Improve flood forecasting and mapping through systematic GPS-GIS capture and analysis of flood events and damage reports; includes integration of river watch programs and activities

Flood monitoring and systematic reporting

