

Review of April Meeting Highlights

Proposal for Negotiations of Northbrook Hydroelectric Operations

It is proposed that the Saluda RBC seek to work with Northbrook Hydroelectric to obtain operations meeting the below criteria at its hydroelectric operation facilities at:

- Saluda Lake
- Holiday Dam
- Boyd Mill Pond

Criteria: A minimum release shall be maintained of the lesser of:

(1) instream flow to the operation (for example, at Saluda Lake, this would be incoming flow to Saluda Lake, less ECU withdrawals, lake evaporation, and any other withdrawals) to maintain lake level

(2) 30%* of MADF

*Note: the 30% value may be discussed

Proposal for Negotiations of Northbrook Hydroelectric Operations

It is requested that Northbrook add these facilities to its website at: <http://carolinalakelevels.com> including the following information:

- (1) planned 3-day release schedule
- (2) recent reservoir level
- (3) recent release amounts
- (4) 30-day** notice of planned lake level draw downs for maintenance

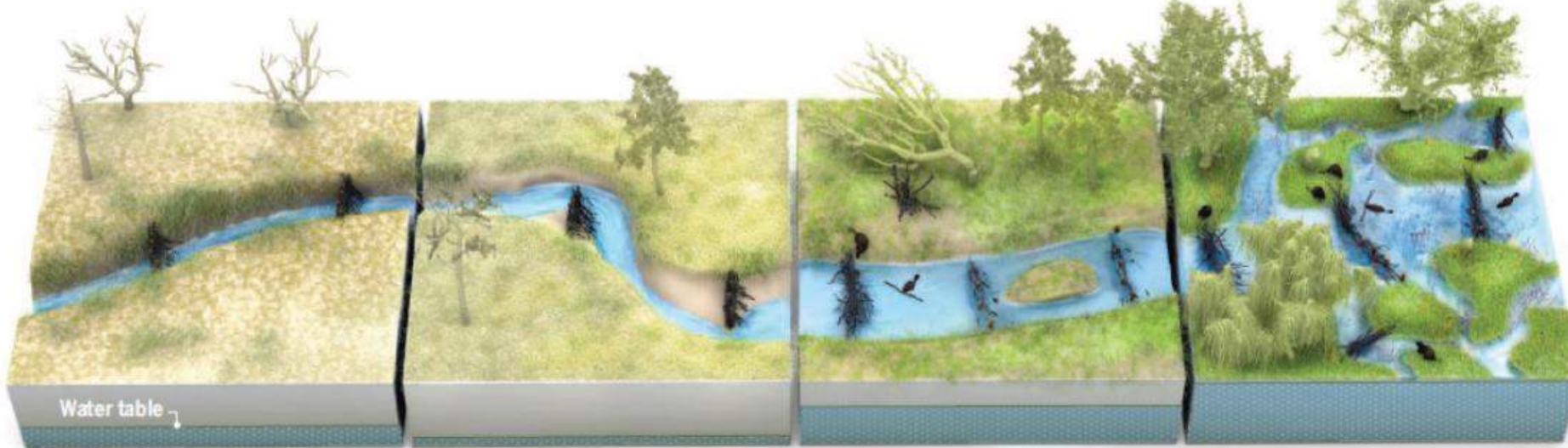
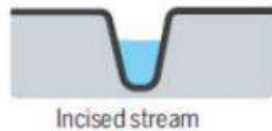
**Note: the 30-day value may be discussed. It may be reasonable to also allow a minimum release up to 20% less than the above criteria to allow the reservoir to return to its target level following a draw down in which proper public notice is given.

Low-Tech Process-Based Stream Restoration

Alex Pellett, SCDNR

MIMIC >> PROMOTE >> SELF-MAINTAINED

A stream comes back to life
 Across the U.S. West, scientists and land managers are using beaver dam analogs (BDAs) to heal damaged streams, re-establish beaver populations, and aid wildlife. In some cases, researchers have seen positive changes in just 1 to 3 years.



Adding dams

Beaver trapping and overgrazing have caused countless creeks to cut deep trenches and water tables to drop, drying floodplains. Installing BDAs can help.

Widening the trench

BDAs divert flows, causing streams to cut into banks, widening the incised channel, and creating a supply of sediment that helps raise the stream bed.

Beavers return

As BDAs trap sediment, the stream bed rebuilds and forces water onto the floodplain, recharging groundwater. Slower flows allow beavers to recolonize.

A complex haven

Re-established beavers raise water tables, irrigate new stands of willow and alder, and create a maze of pools and side channels for fish and wildlife.



An example from Goldfarb (2018) of achieving a self-sustaining condition where meals of beaver dam analogues (BDAs) mimic beaver dam activity, and then the maintenance and expansion of beaver dam activity is taken over by actual beaver and they maintain a complex system state. Figure © Science by V. Altounian

Upper Saluda Watershed Programs for Sediment

Melanie Ruhlman, RBC Member

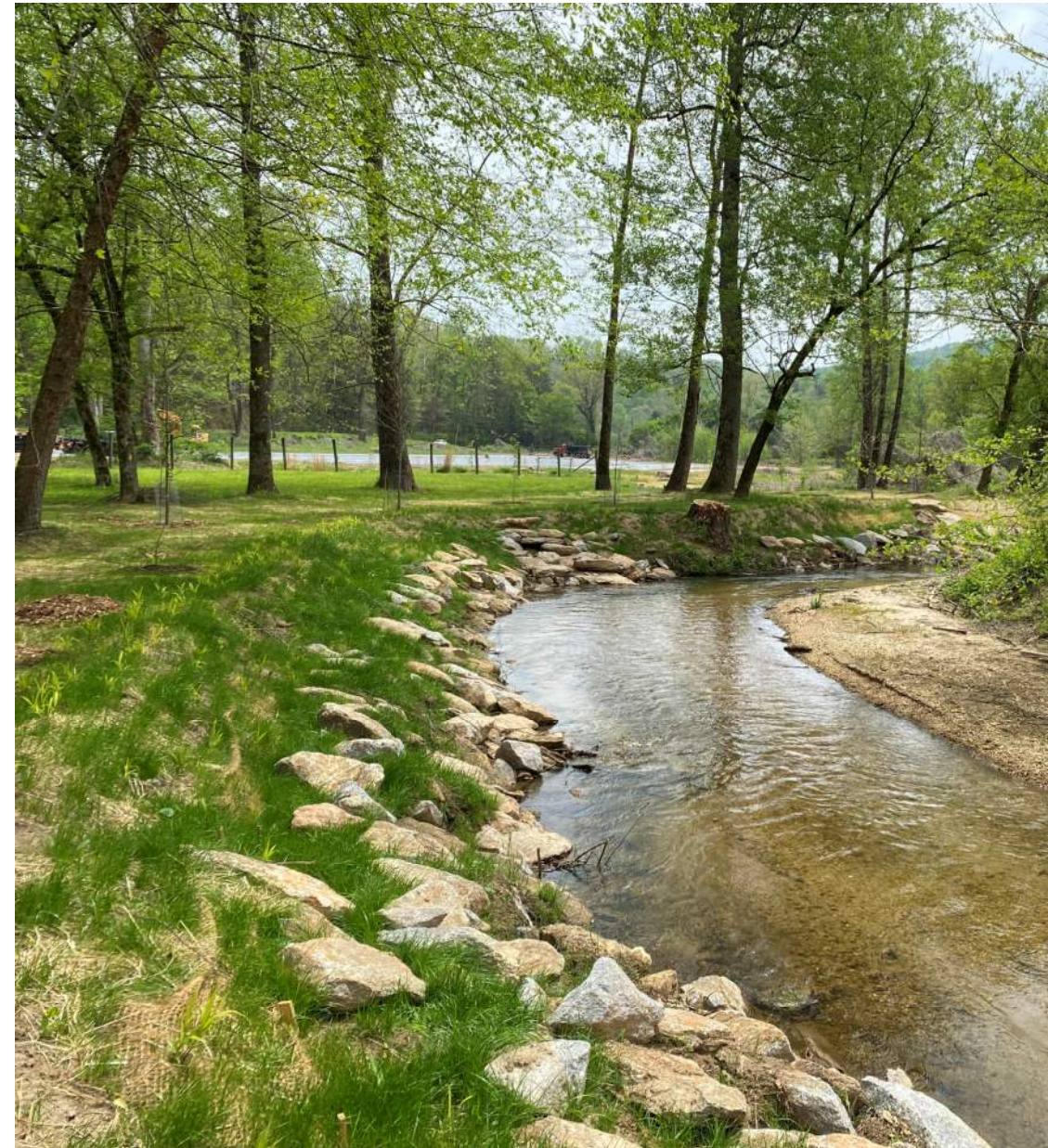
Sediment Impacts:

- Affects drinking water sources
- Loss of water supply storage
- Degrades aquatic habitat
- Effective pollutant carrier
 - Impairs water quality
 - Impacts recreation
 - Loss of Land

Saluda Lake Dredging

- \$8,000,000+
- 366,000 yd³ sediment removed
- Completed 2012
- Already filled in again

Terry Creek Stream Restoration Sites



Bank Loss Examples

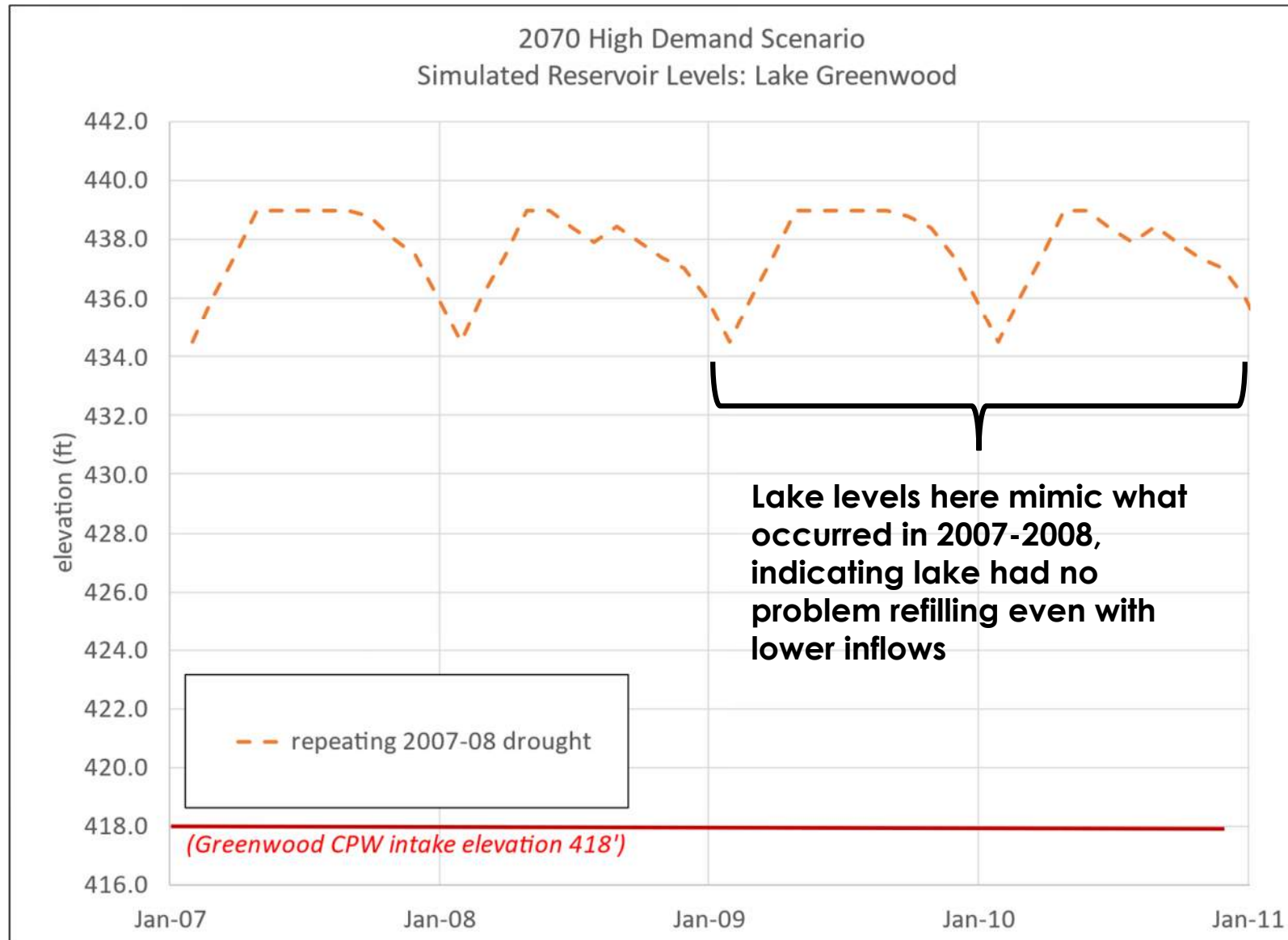


Terry Creek



North Saluda River

What is the impact to reservoirs if the drought of 2007-2008 were repeated?



Lake Greenwood levels repeating the hydrology of 2007-2008

(i.e., 2009-2010 hydrology was replaced with 2007-2008 hydrology)

2070 High Demand Scenario

Resequencing Historical Flows to Investigate Potential Future Droughts in the Upper Savannah Basin

Methods

Three (3) constructed scenarios:

1. Repeating 5-year drought constructed by splicing together the **five driest water years** in the hydrologic period of record with respect to mainstem total annual flow. These were **2001, 2008, 1981, 1988, and 2017**.
2. **Repeating single year drought** corresponding to the **second driest water year (2008)** and identified as the critical single year drought with respect to Lake Thurmond water supply availability.
3. **Repeating synthetic drought year** constructed by splicing together the **twelve driest calendar month flows** in the hydrologic period of record.

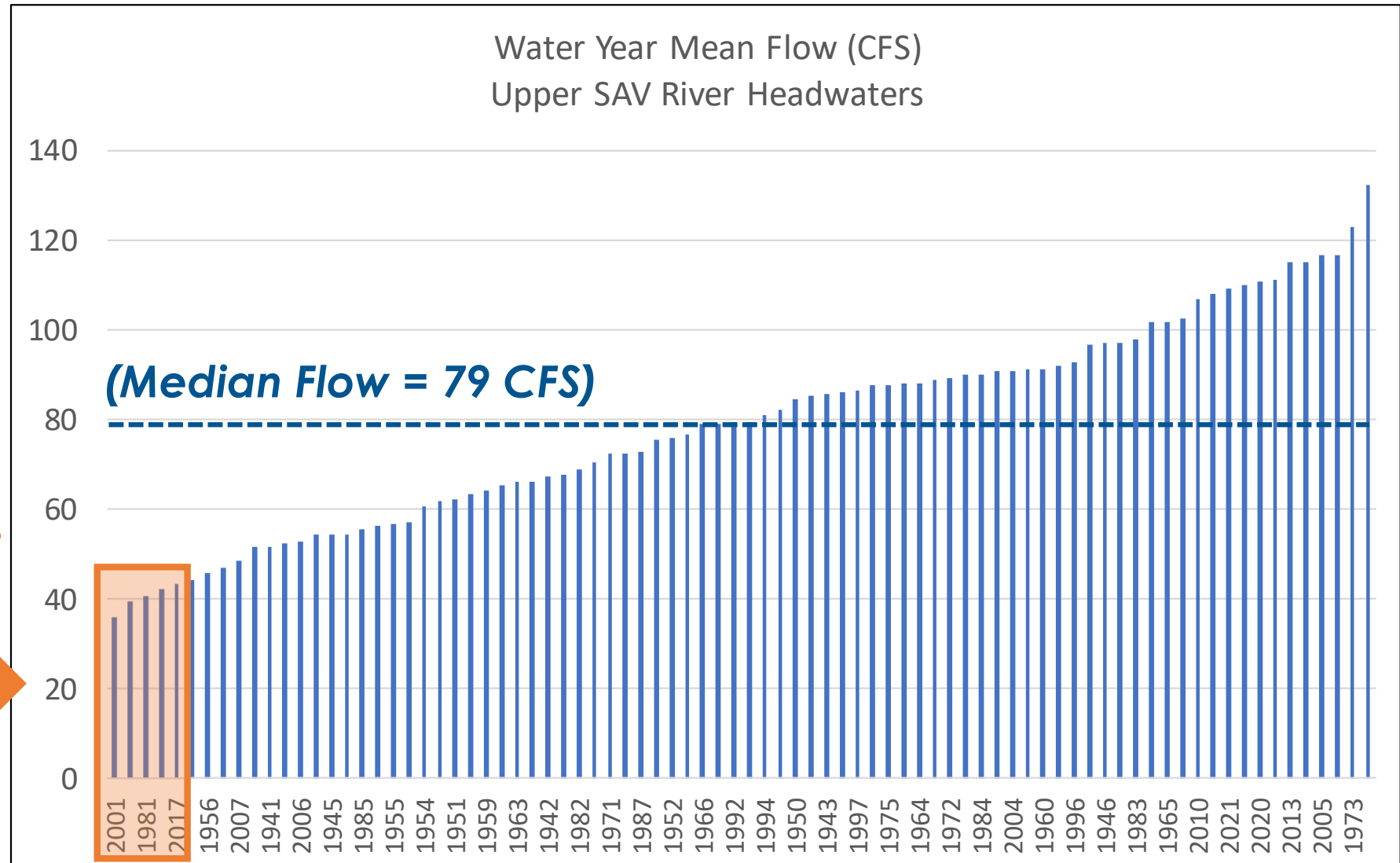
Resequencing Historical Flows to Investigate Potential Future Droughts

Methods

Ranked data based on mainstem headwater flows

5 Driest Years in terms of mainstem flow:

- 2001
- 2008
- 1981
- 1988
- 2017



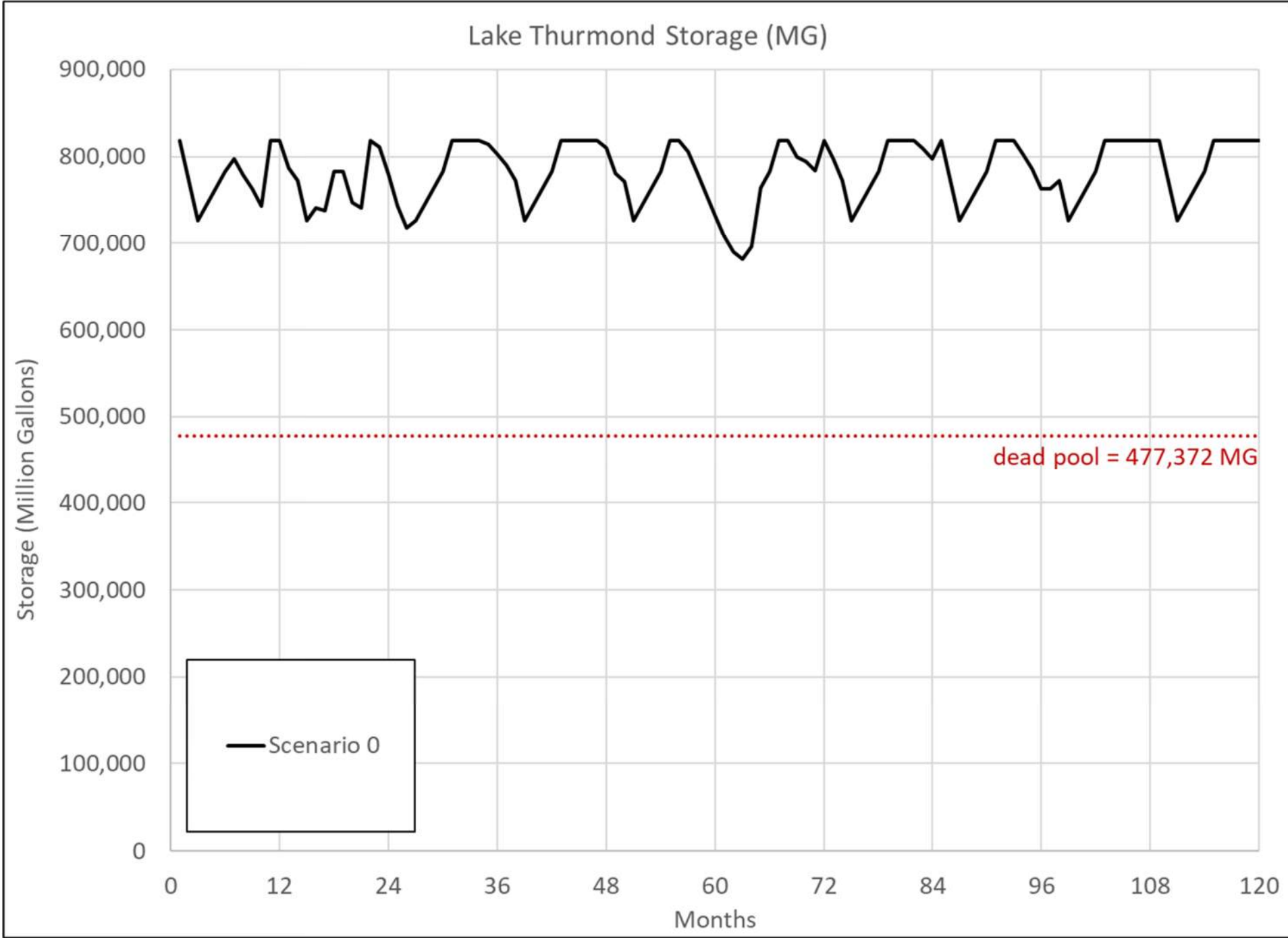
Resequencing Historical Flows to Investigate Potential Future Droughts

Methods

Scenario 3: 12 driest calendar months (Mainstem headwater flow)

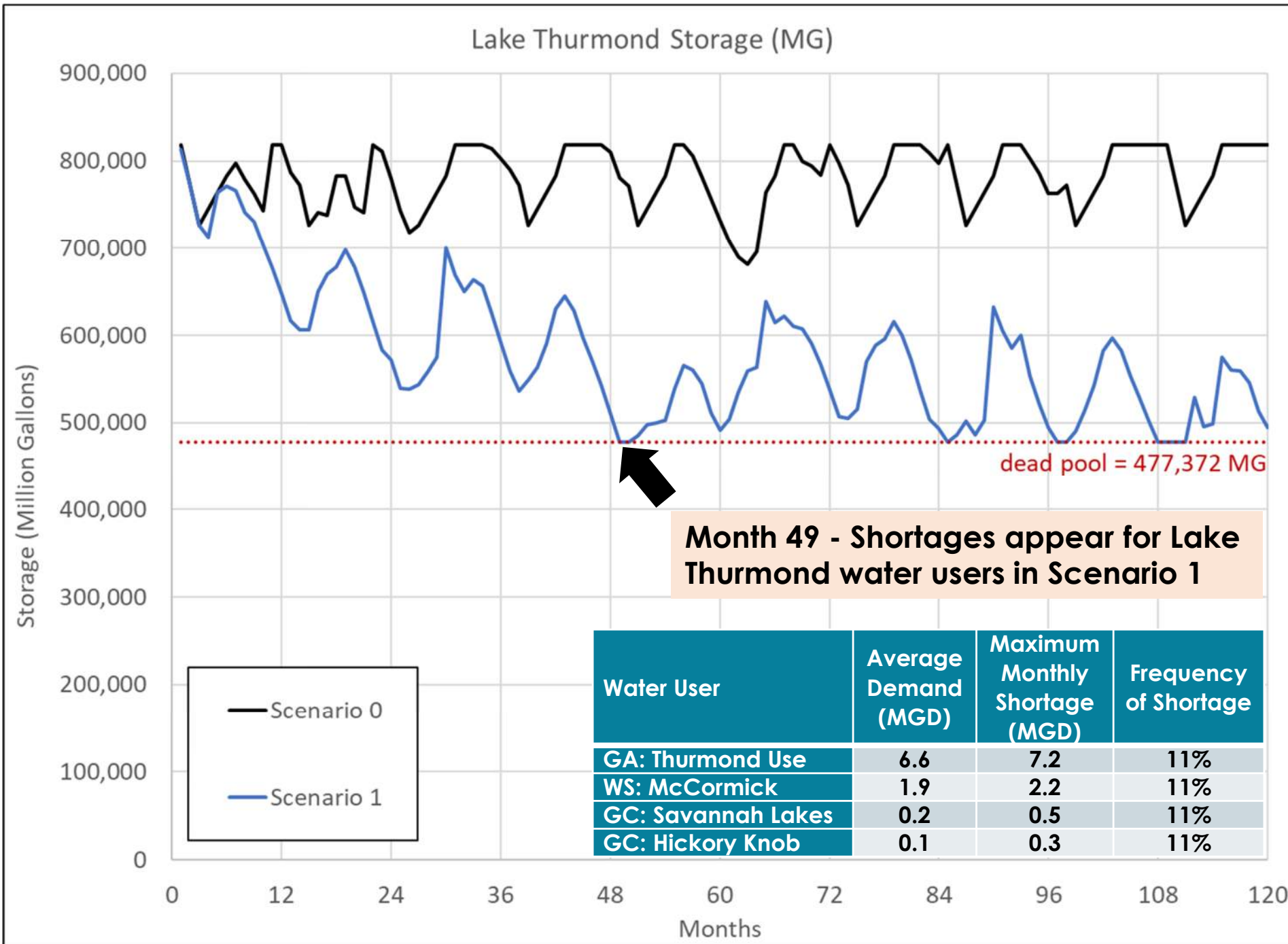
Mean annual flow = 22.5 CFS

Jan 1956
Feb 2017
Mar 2017
Apr 1986
May 2001
Jun 2008
Jul 2008
Aug 2007
Sep 1954
Oct 1954
Nov 2016
Dec 1955



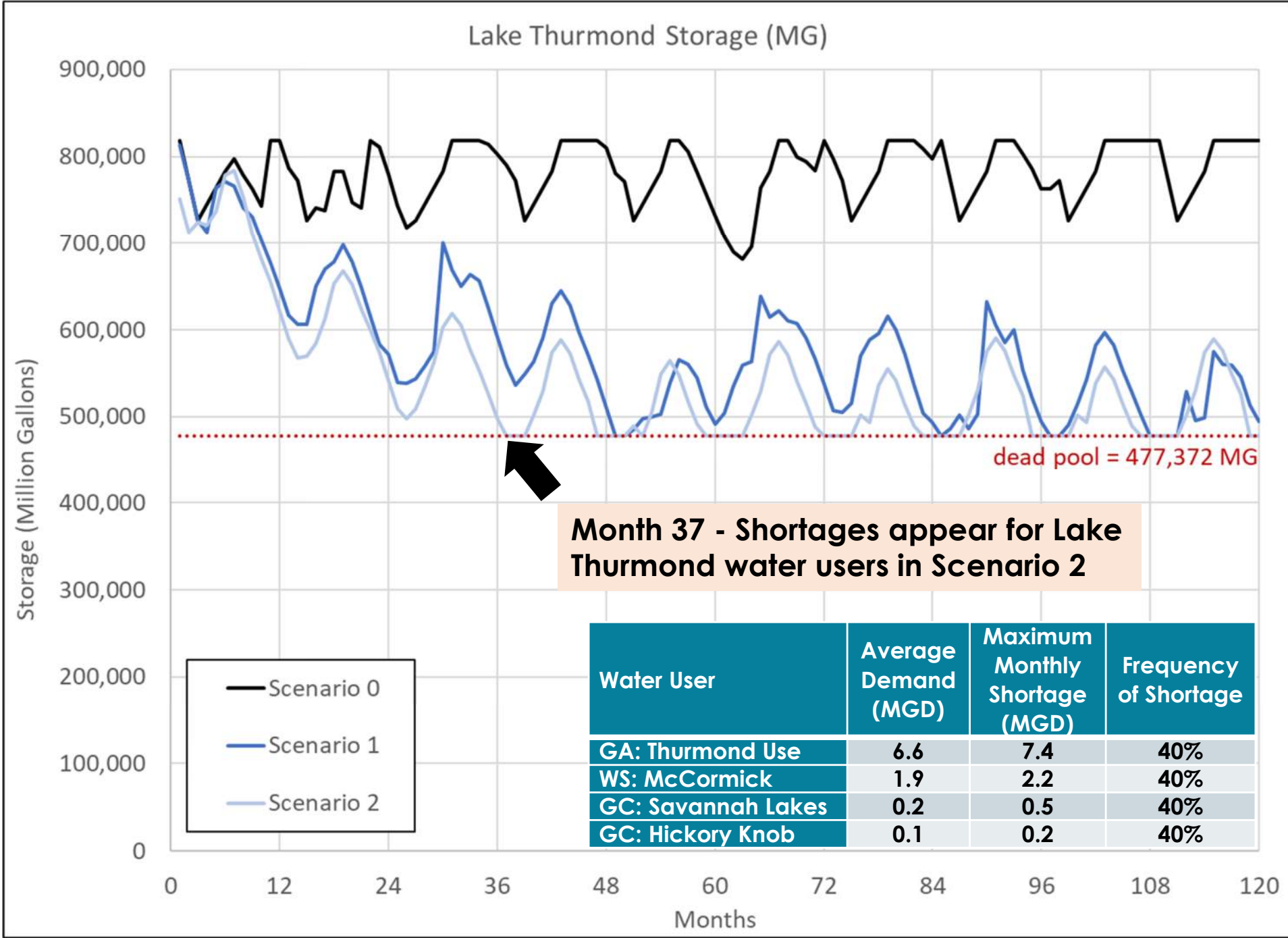
Resequencing Historical Flows to Investigate Potential Future Droughts

2070 High Demand Scenario is "Scenario 0"



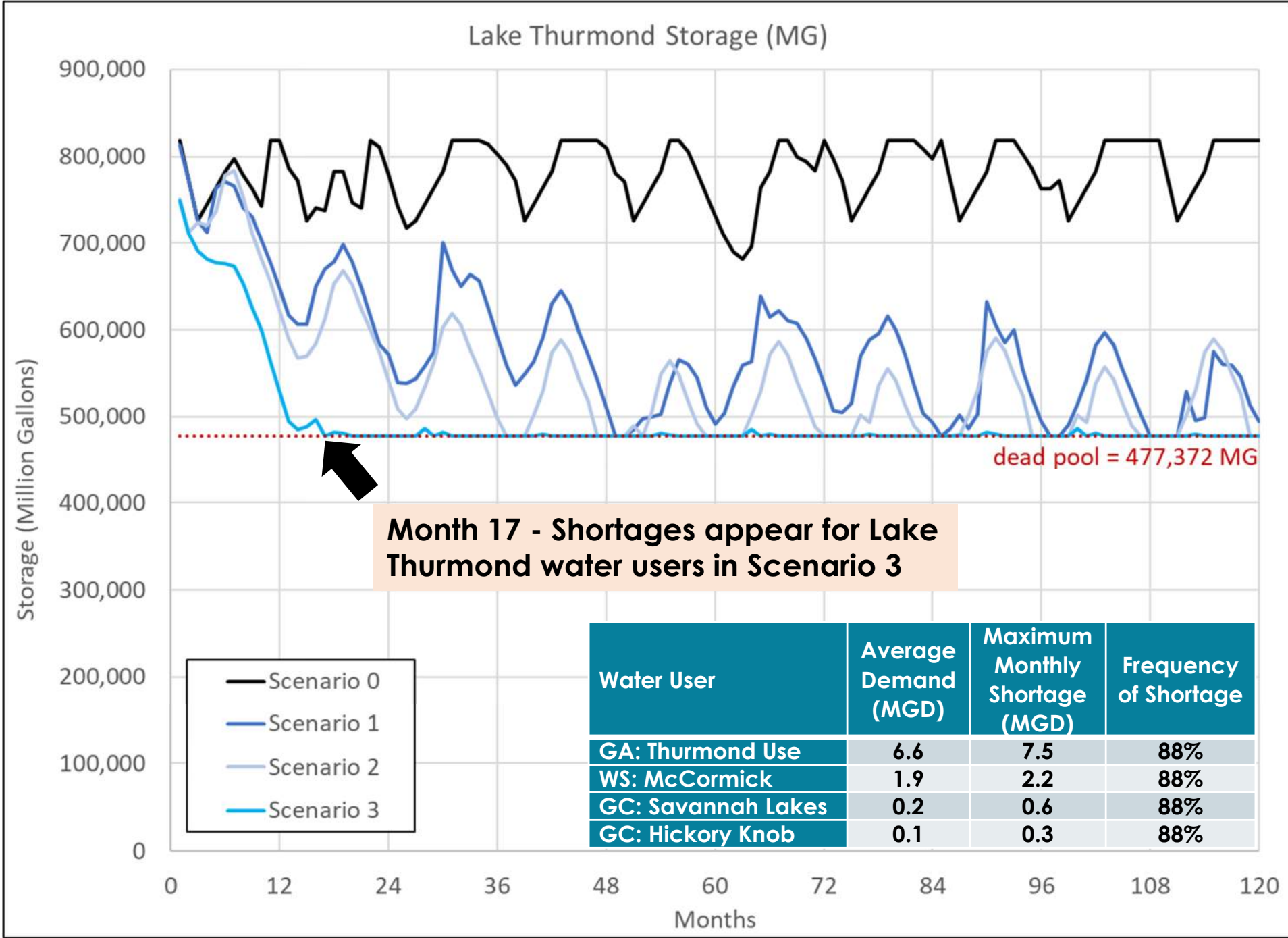
Resequencing Historical Flows to Investigate Potential Future Droughts

Scenario 1 Shortages



Resequencing Historical Flows to Investigate Potential Future Droughts

Scenario 2 Shortages



Resequencing Historical Flows to Investigate Potential Future Droughts

Scenario 3 Shortages