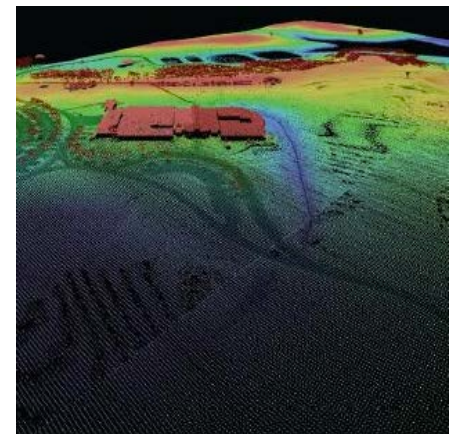
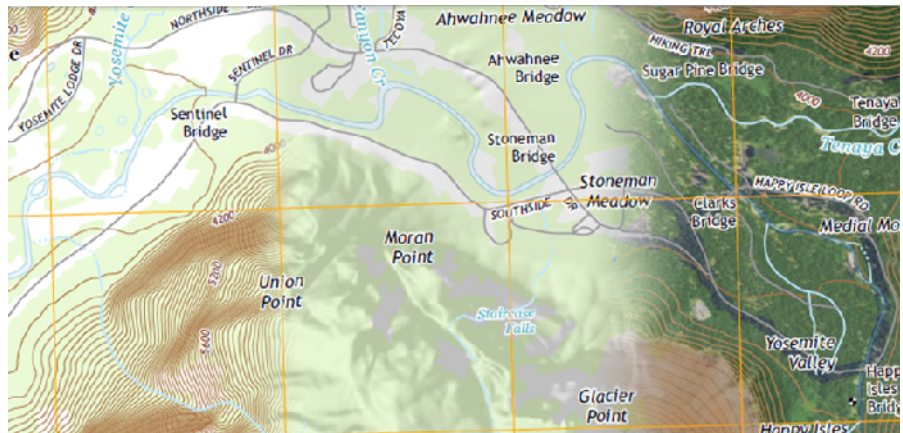




# Aerial Imaging and Lidar Point Cloud Fusion for Low-Order Stream Identification



**The  
National  
Map**

Your Source for Topographic Information

Ethan J. Shavers<sup>1</sup>, Lawrence V. Stanislawski<sup>1</sup>

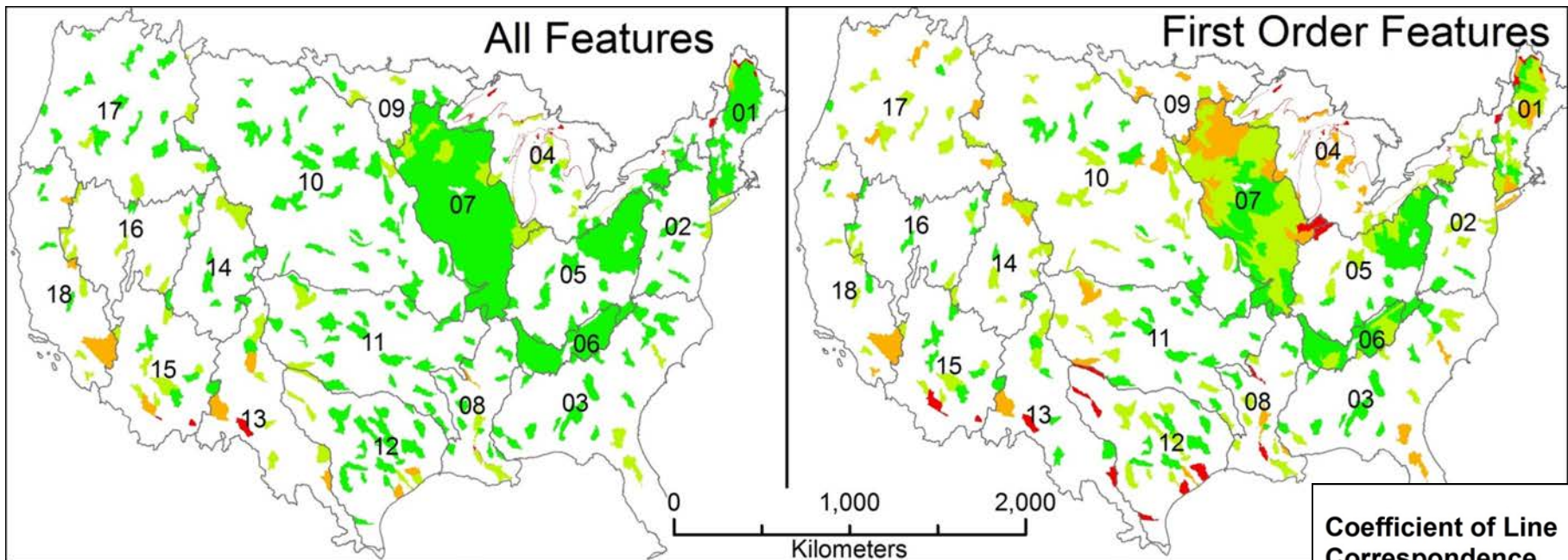
<sup>1</sup> U.S. Geological Survey, Center of Excellence for Geospatial Information Science, Email: [eshvers@usgs.gov](mailto:eshvers@usgs.gov), [lstan@usgs.gov](mailto:lstan@usgs.gov)

# + Outline

- Introduction
- Objectives and Challenges
- Methods
- Preliminary Results
- Conclusions and Future Work

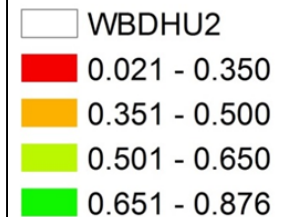
# + Introduction

- Weighted Flow Accumulation model and NHD
- Identify matching and mismatching features in both datasets
- Coefficient of Line Correspondence (CLC) metric



$$CLC = \frac{\text{Sum of the length of the matching lines in both datasets}}{\text{Sum of the length of all lines in both datasets}}$$

**Coefficient of Line Correspondence (CLC)**



(Stanislowski et al., 2015)

# + Introduction

- Headwater Stream length as a percentage of total stream length

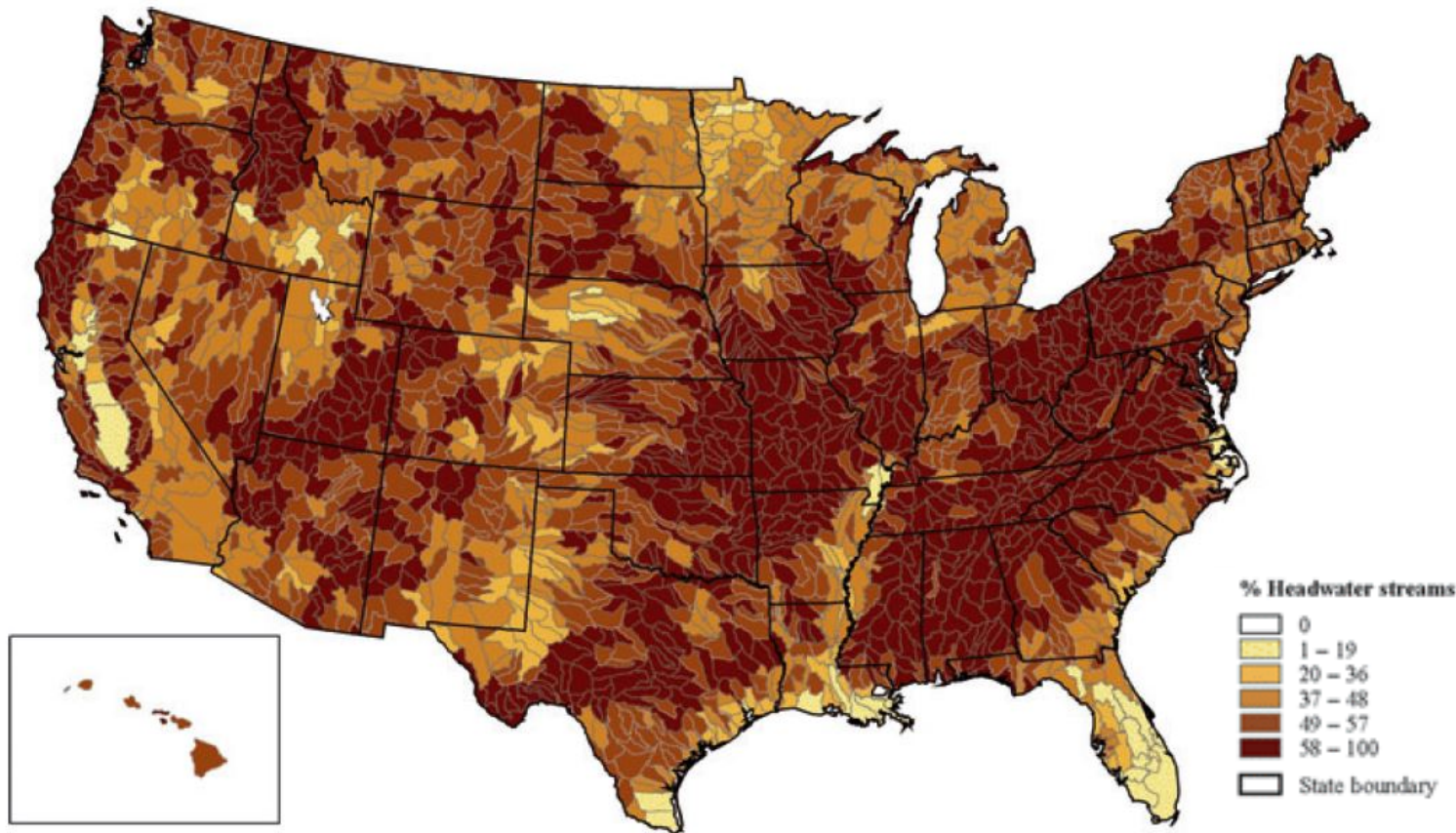


FIGURE 1. Headwater Stream Length, as a Proportion of Total Stream Length Within Each 8 Digit HUC Watershed, in the U.S., Excluding Alaska, as Computed Querying the NHD RAD v2.0 for Reaches That Have No Other Inflowing Streams at the 1:100,000 Scale. The NHD RAD v2.0 Does not Capture Streams Under 1 mile (i.e., 1.61 km) in Length.

(Nadeau and Rains, 2007)

# + Challenge and Objectives

## Challenge

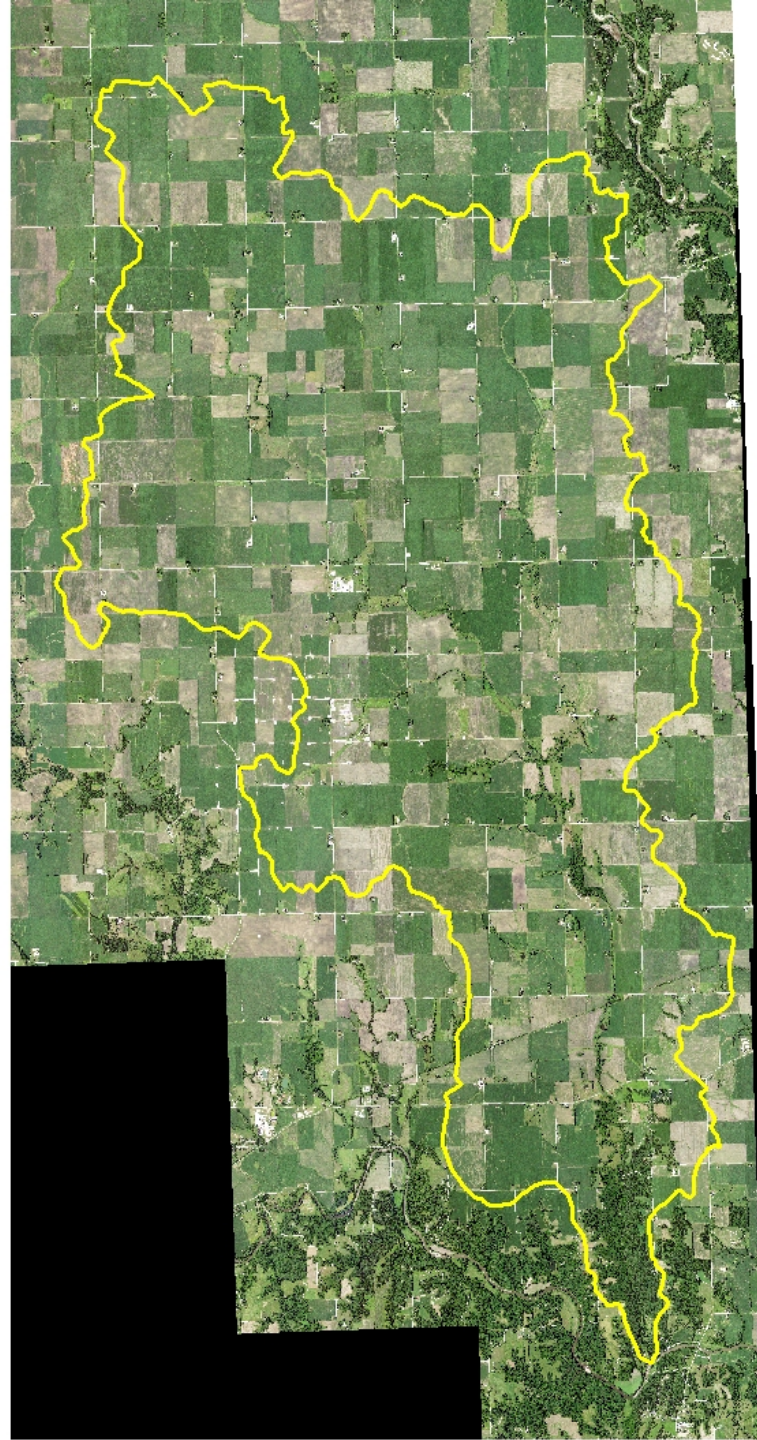
- Regular NHD validation and updating
- Low order stream modeling inaccuracy


## Objectives

- Automate low-order stream identification in low topographic relief humid regions
- Identify conditions that allow for stream classification


# + Methods

Low topographic relief  
agricultural region



 Panther Creek WS

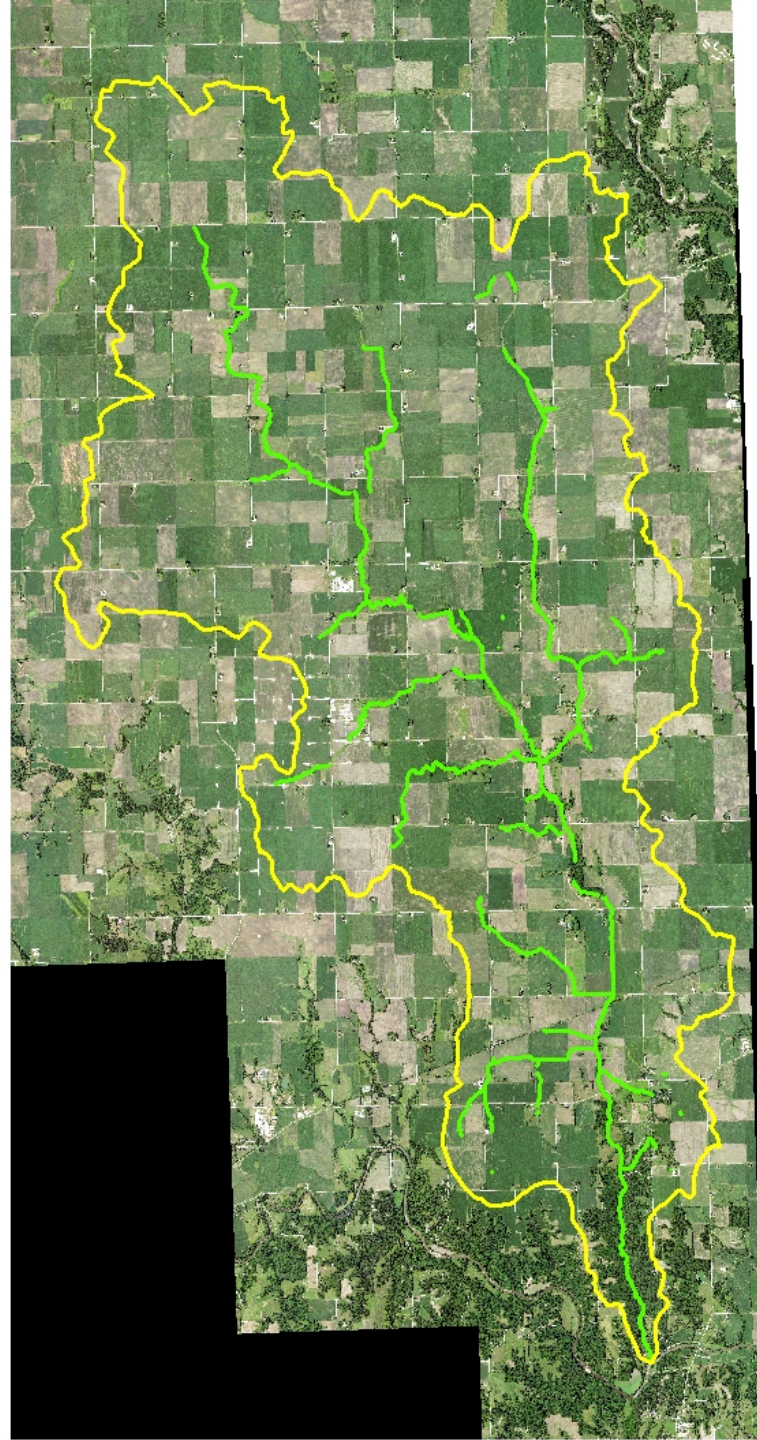
2

 Miles



# + Methods

NHD agreement with  
elevation-derived  
channels



— Model match  
— Panther Creek WS

2  
Miles

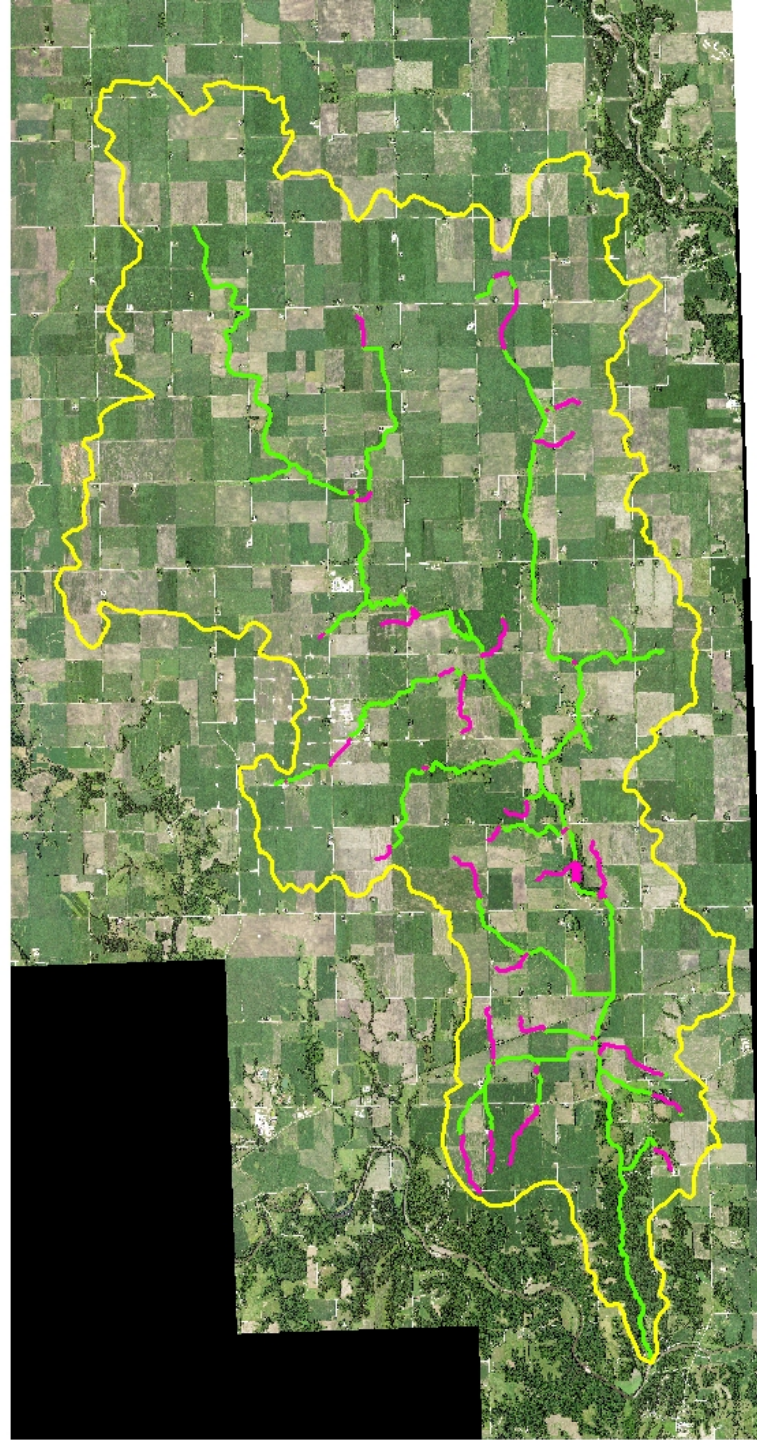


# + Methods

Elevation-derived  
channels:  
omissions

- Model match
- Omit error
- Panther Creek WS

2 Miles



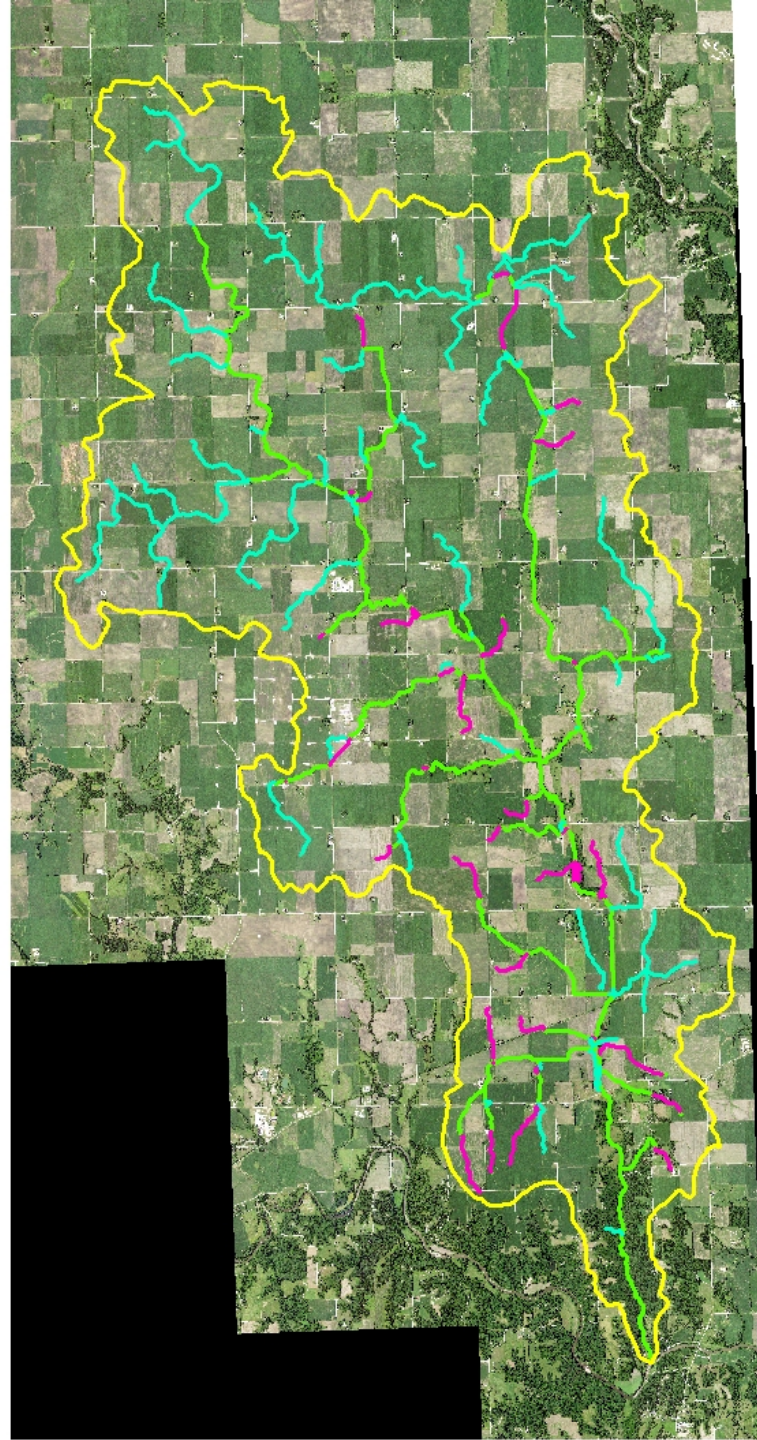


# + Methods

Elevation-derived  
channels:  
commission errors

- Model match
- Commit error
- Omit error
- Panther Creek WS

2 Miles

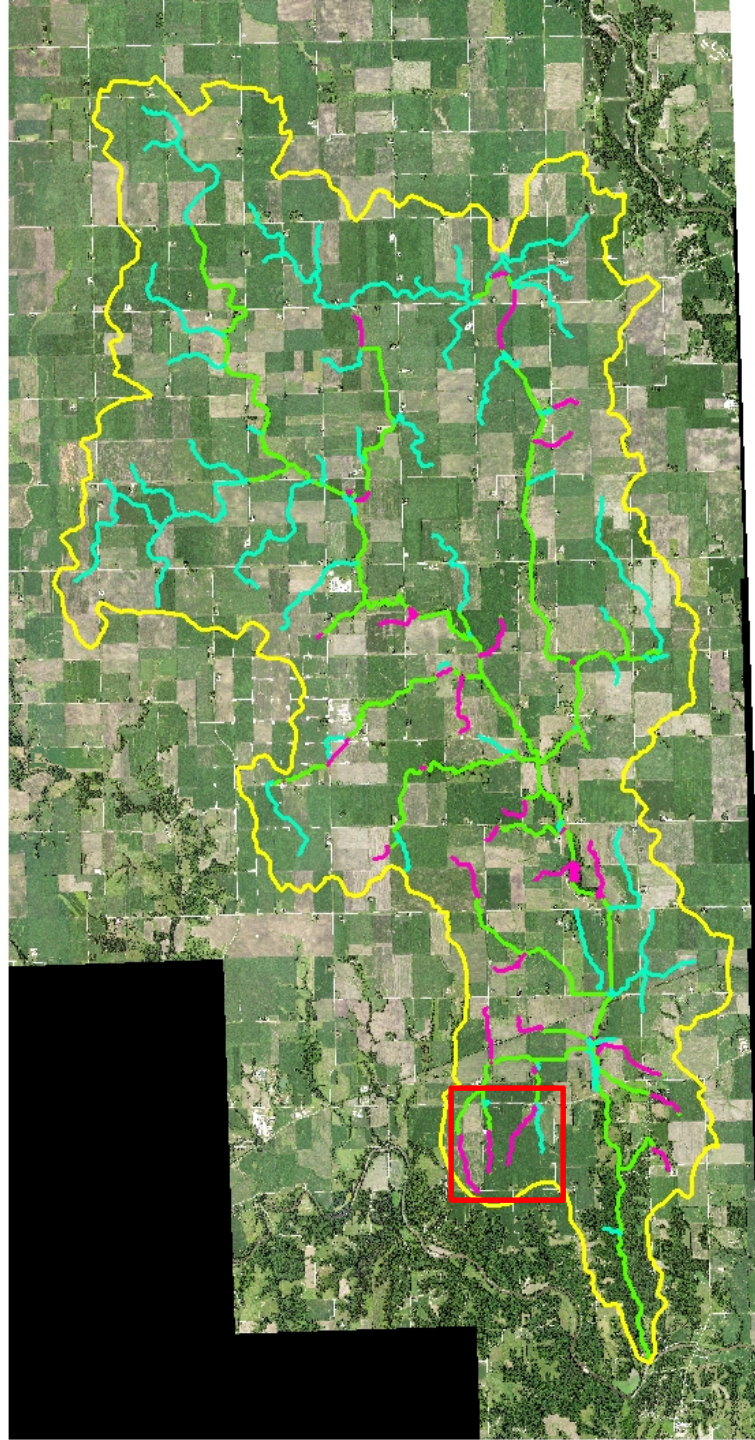


# + Methods

Elevation-derived  
channels:  
commission errors

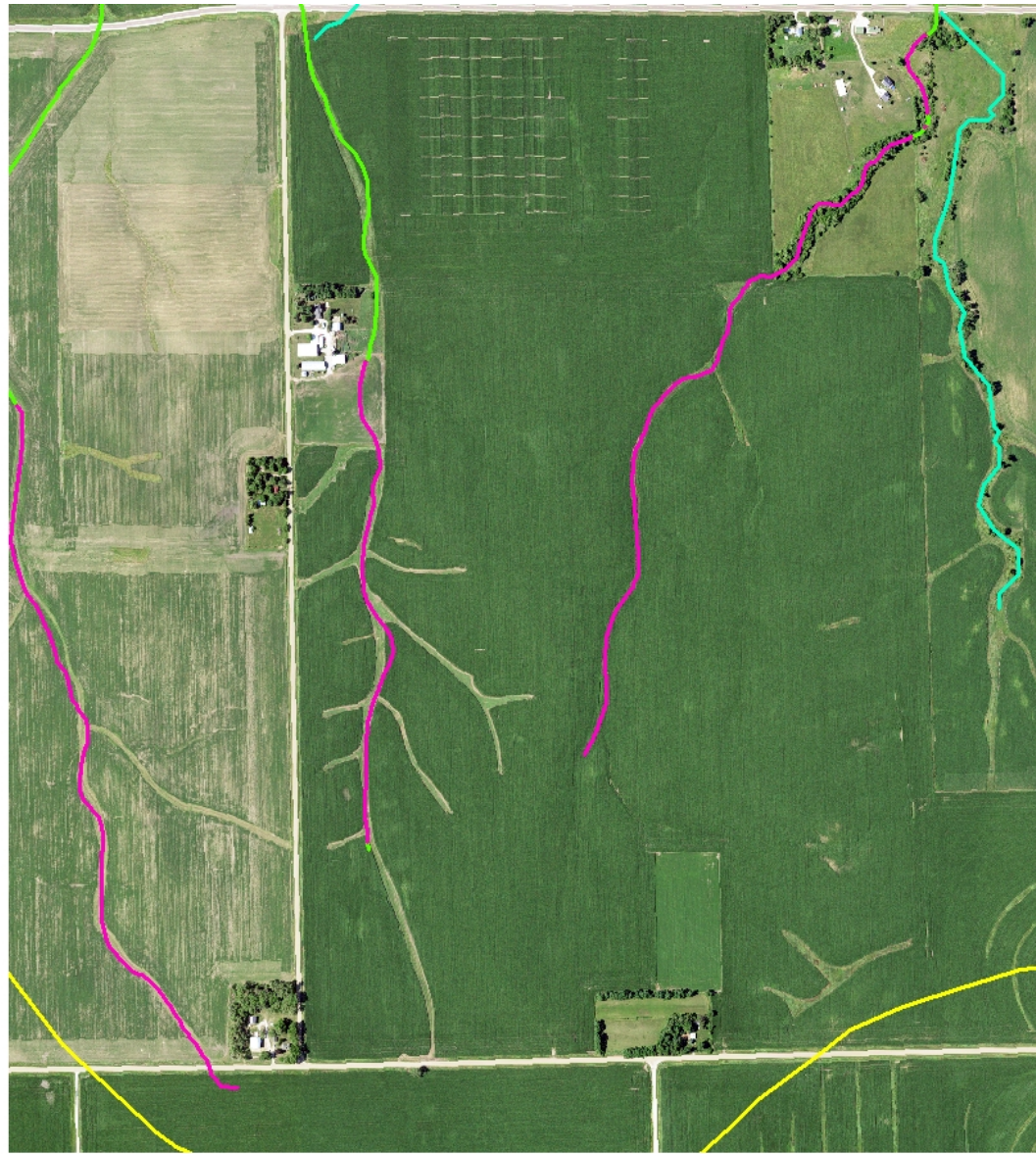
- Model match
- Commit error
- Omit error
- Panther Creek WS

2 Miles



# + Methods

## Stream permanence



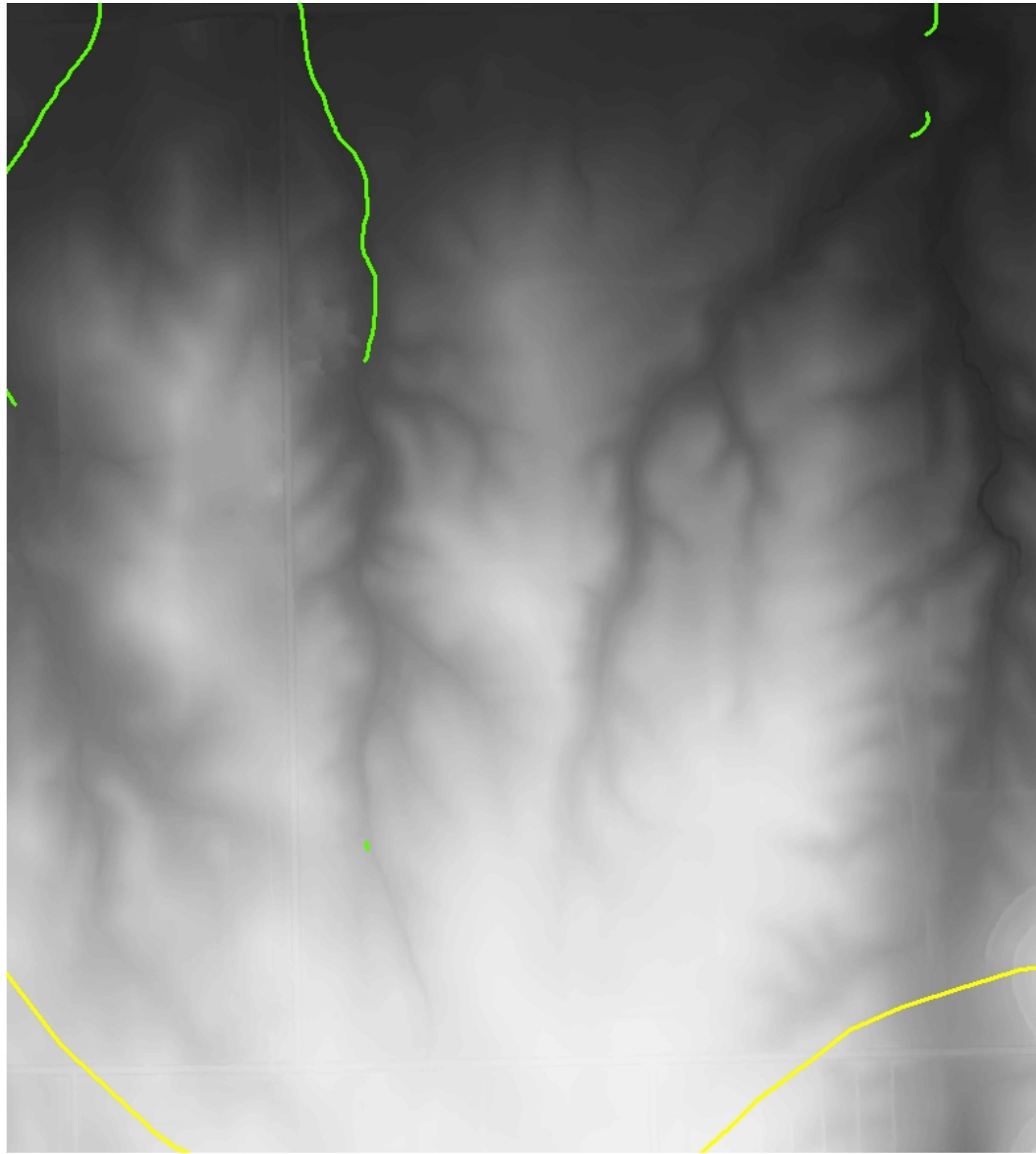
0.2 Miles

0.2 Miles

- Commit error
- Omit error
- Model match

# + Methods

3 m DEM



□ Panther Creek WS

0.2  
Miles

— Model match

# + Methods

Return  
intensity



Yellow line: Panther Creek WS

0.2 Miles

Green line: Model match

# + Methods

## Topographic Position Index



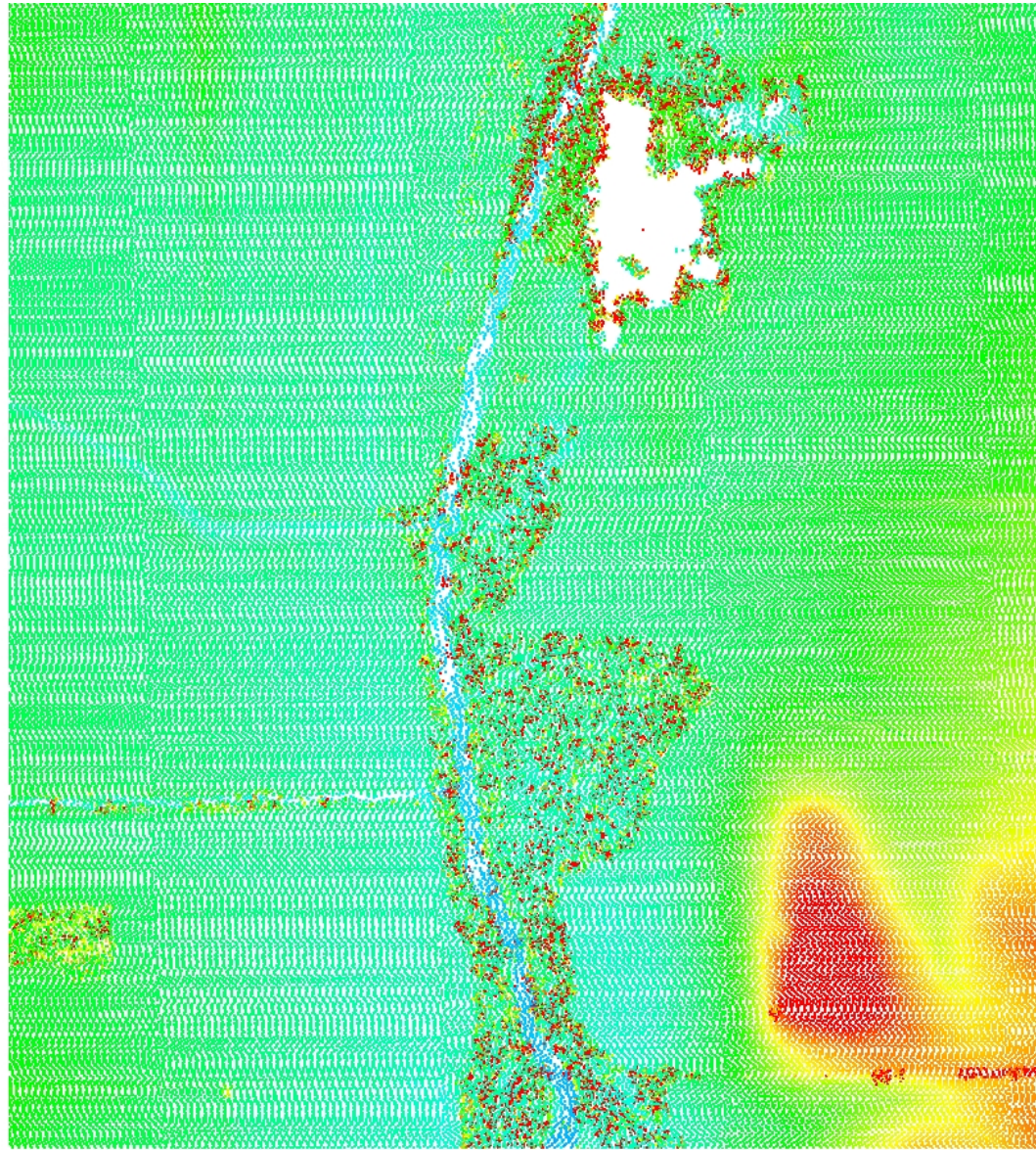
Yellow line Panther Creek WS

0.2  
Miles

Green line Model match

# + Methods

Point drop out



LAS Layer\_1  
Elevation 265 m 345 m

0.1 Miles



# + Methods

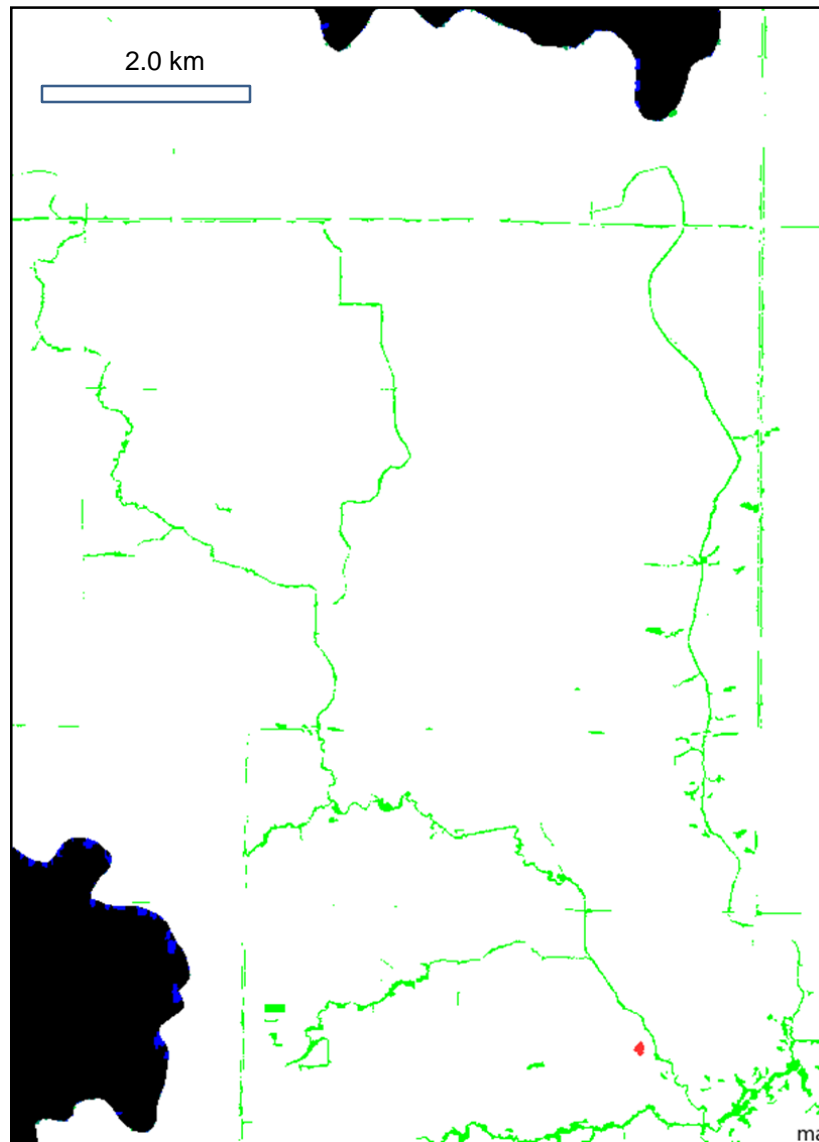
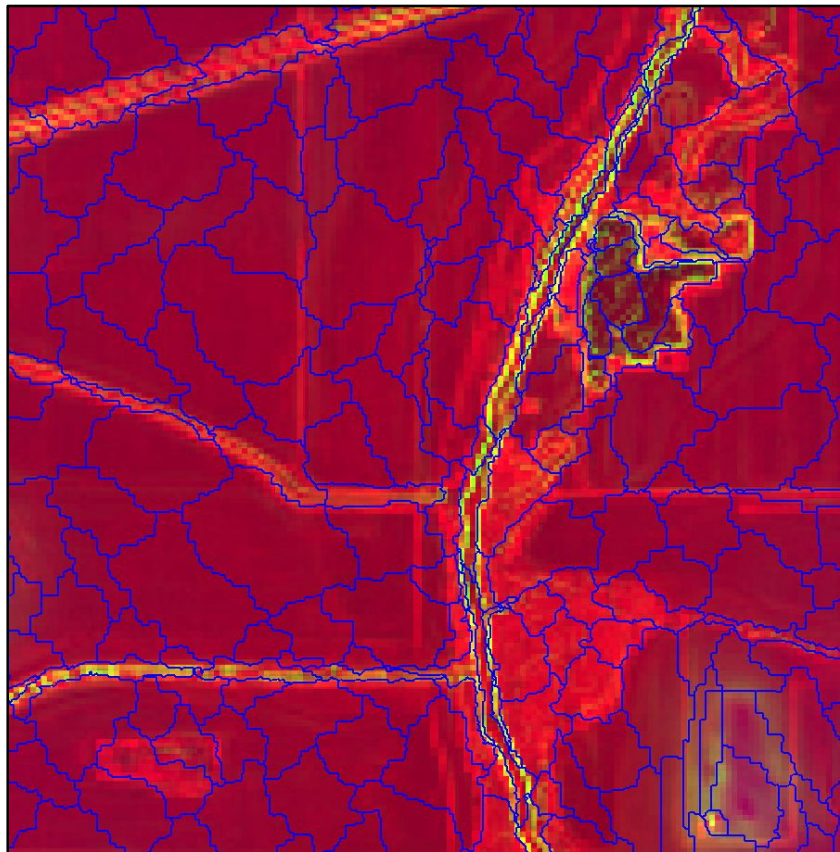
NAIP analysis





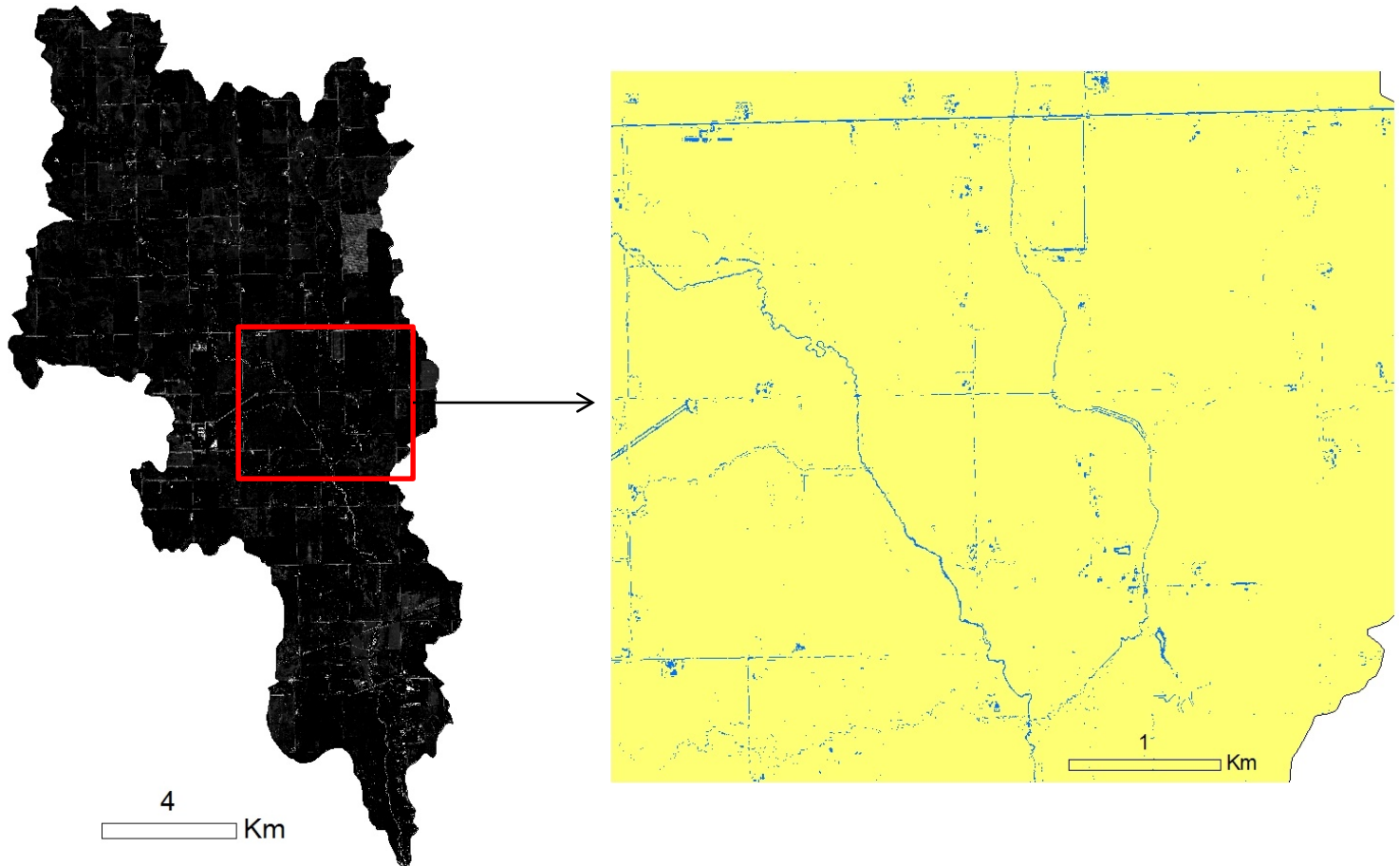
# + Methods

## Object Based Image Analysis

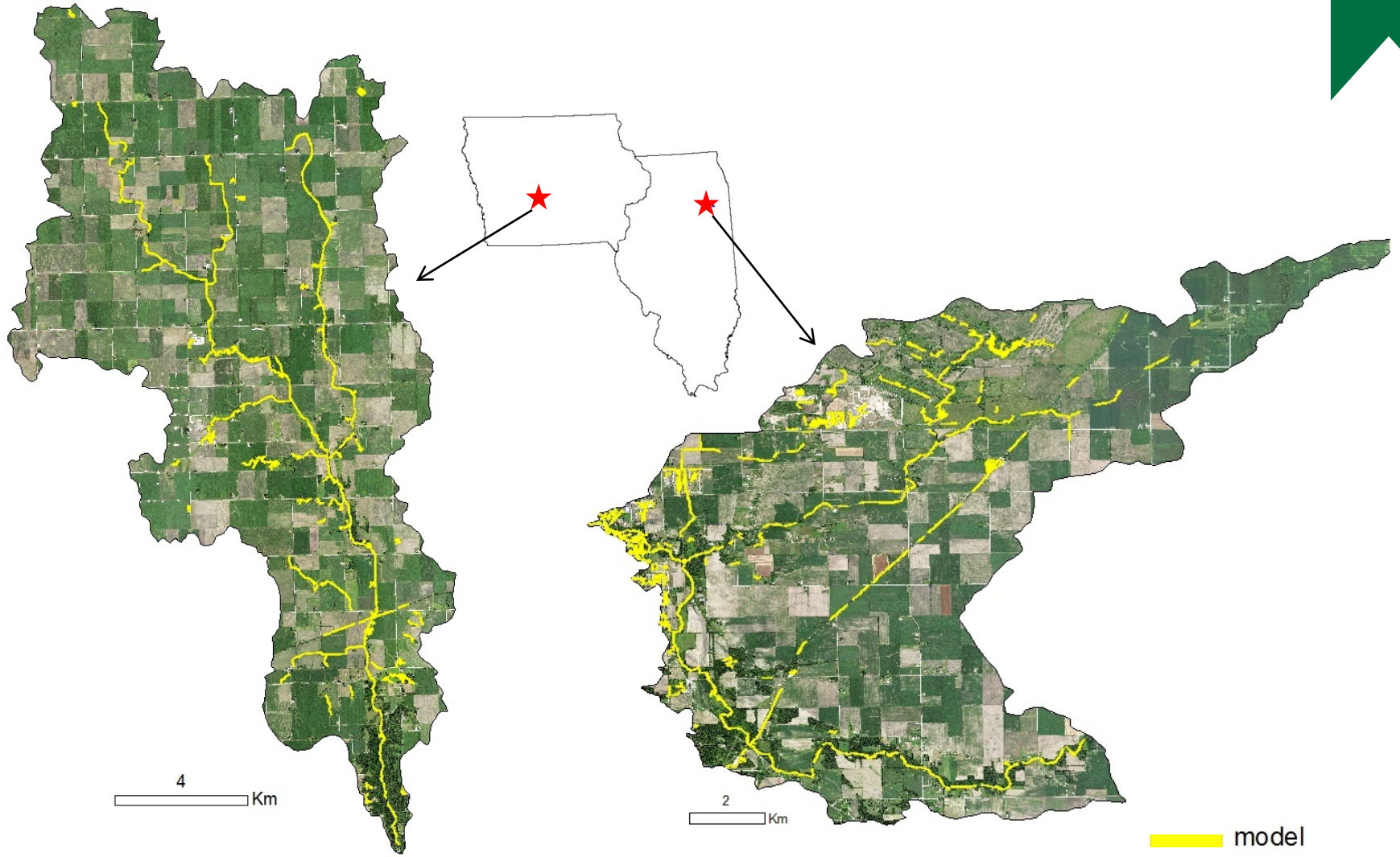


# + Preliminary Results

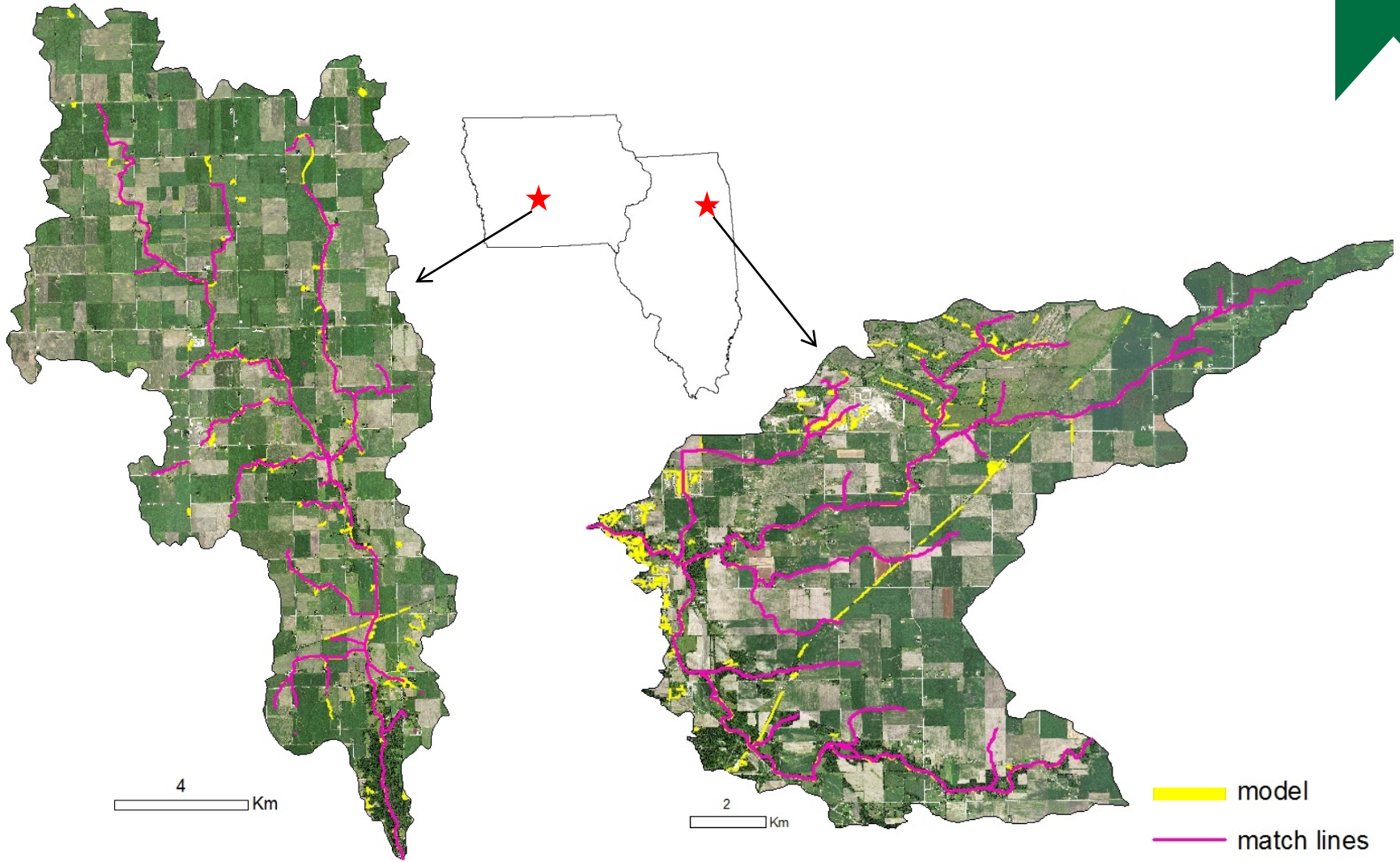
- Lidar derivatives: DEM (TPI and profile curvature), intensity, and density of returns
- NAIP:  $\sigma(\text{blue}) * \text{blue} / \text{NIR}$  (below)



# + Preliminary Results



# + Preliminary Results

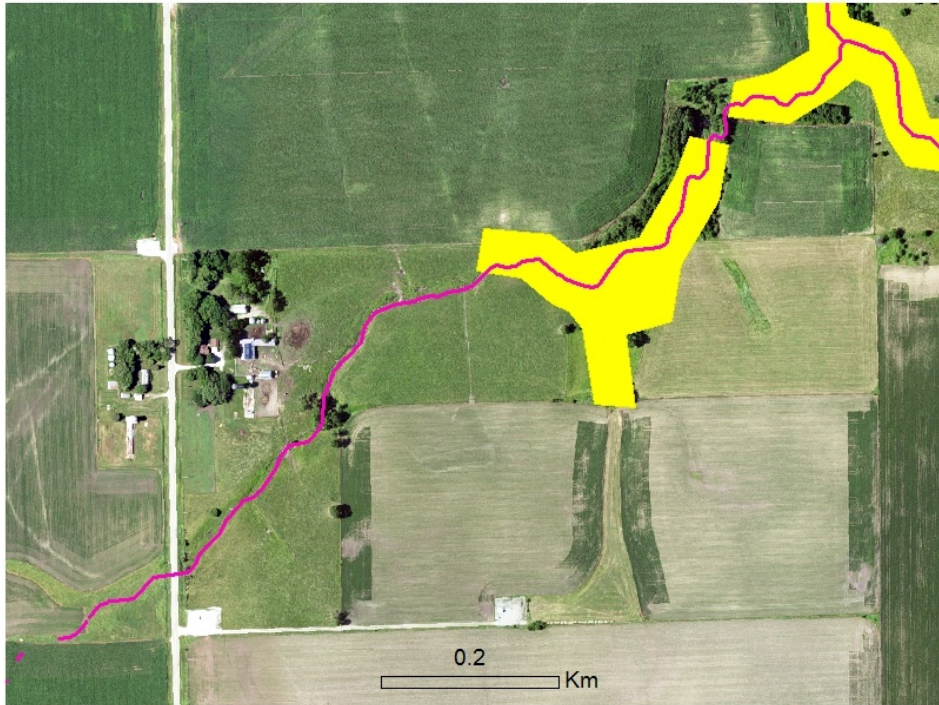


# + Preliminary Results

Panther Creek	intermittent	Perennial
Match lines	36.74	40.67
Model lines	22.02	37.69
	59 %	93 %

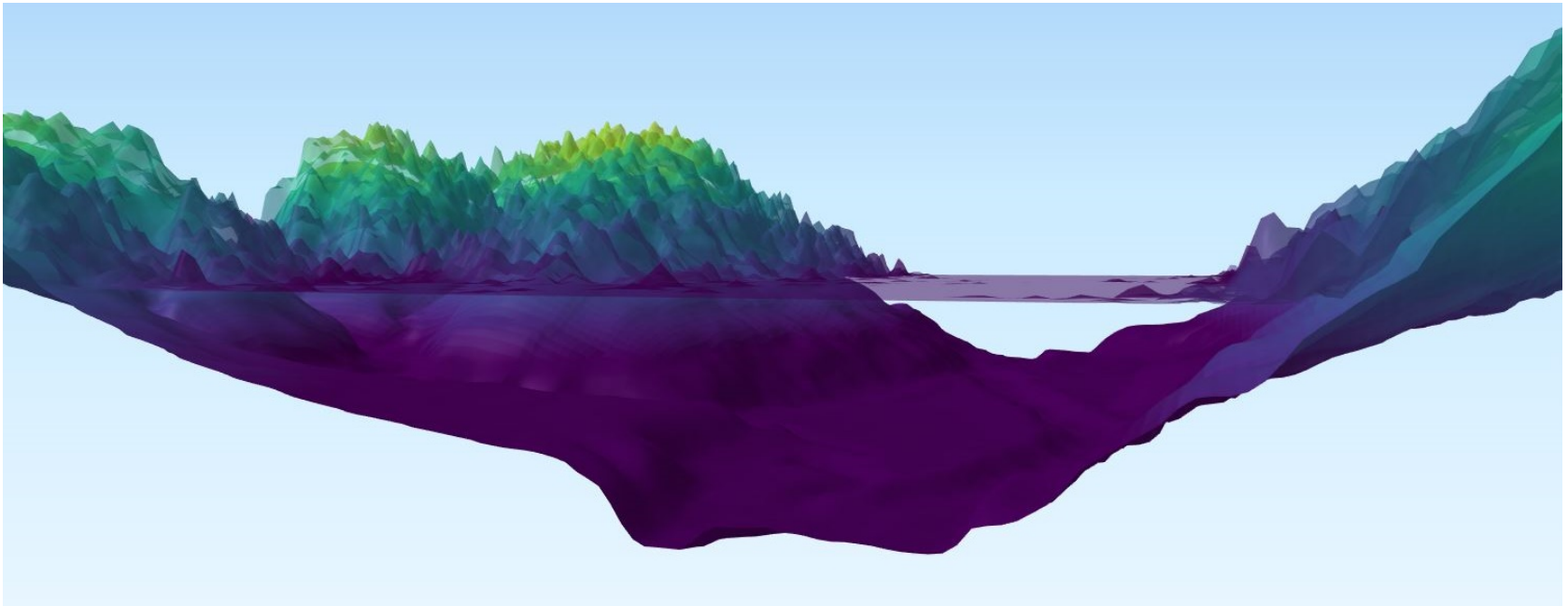
  

Forked Creek	intermittent	Perennial
Match lines	22.11	37.43
Model lines	5.45	29.23
	25 %	78 %



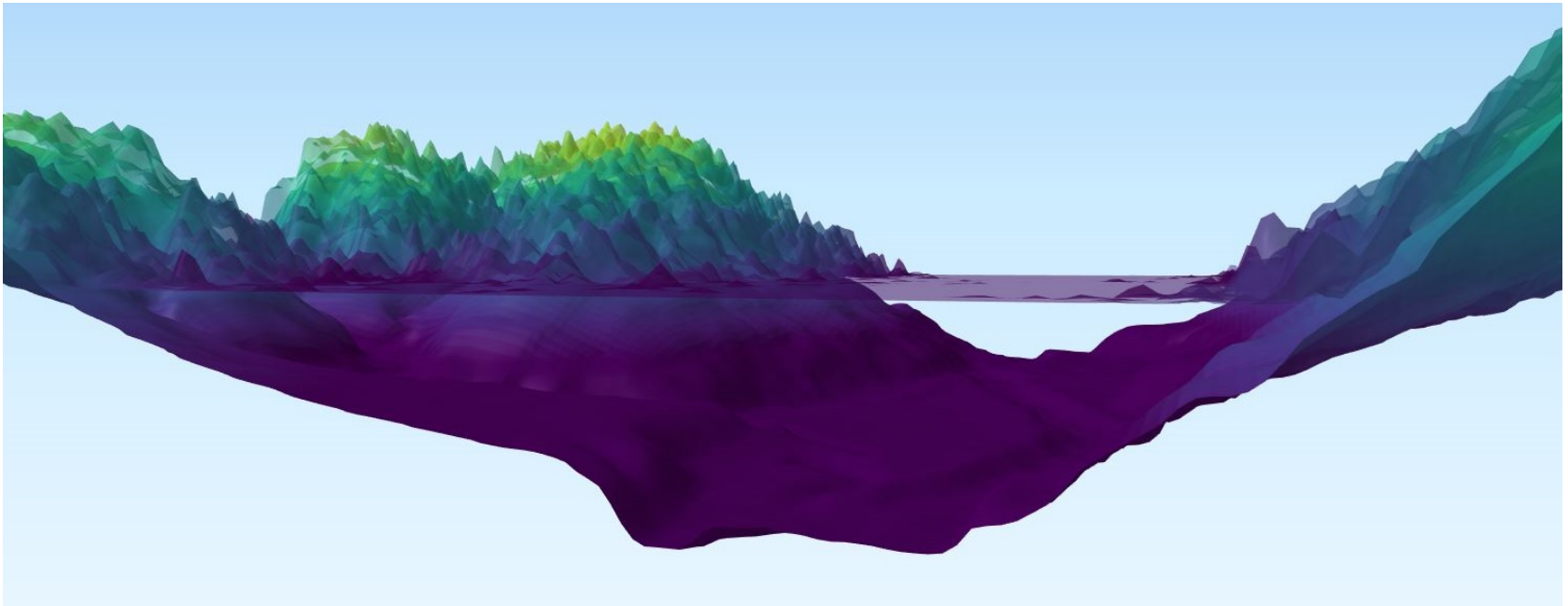
# + Conclusions and Future Work

- Lidar derivatives and NAIP data can be used to extract streams
- Classification as ratio of model match
- Ground-truthing
- Dynamic weighting may be required for automation



# + References

- Nadeau, T. and Rains, M. C. (2007), Hydrological Connectivity Between Headwater Streams and Downstream Waters: How Science Can Inform Policy. *JAWRA Journal of the American Water Resources Association*, 43: 118-133. doi:[10.1111/j.1752-1688.2007.00010.x](https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1752-1688.2007.00010.x)
- Stanislawski, L. V., Bittenfield, B. P., & Doumbouya, A. (2015). A rapid approach for automated comparison of independently derived stream networks. *Cartography And Geographic Information Science*, (5), 435.



*Thanks*