

Applications of Remote Sensing-Based Evapotranspiration Data Products for Agricultural and Water Resources Management

Amita Mehta, Forrest Melton

June 1, 2022

Training Objectives

By the end of this training attendees will be able to:

- Identify state-of-the-art techniques to derive evapotranspiration (ET) using remote sensing
- Recognize how ET data can be used in water resources and agricultural management
- Access OpenET and ECOSTRESS ET data products for their own applications



Prerequisites

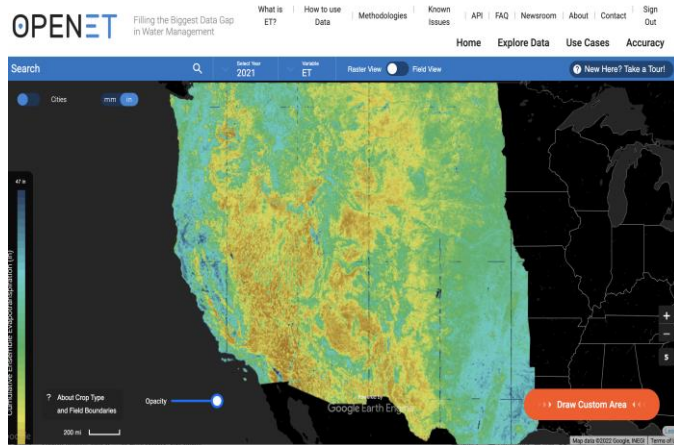
- Fundamentals of Remote Sensing, Sessions 1, 1A and 2B:
 - <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-fundamentals-remote-sensing>



Training Outline

Three 1.5-hour sessions offered in English with materials available in Spanish

Part 1: June 1, 2022



<https://explore.etdata.org/#5/39.665/-110.396>

OpenET

Speaker: Forrest Melton
NASA Ames Research Center

Part 2: June 8, 2022

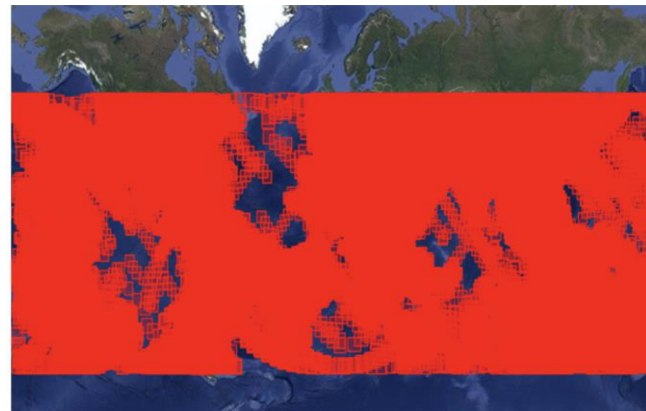


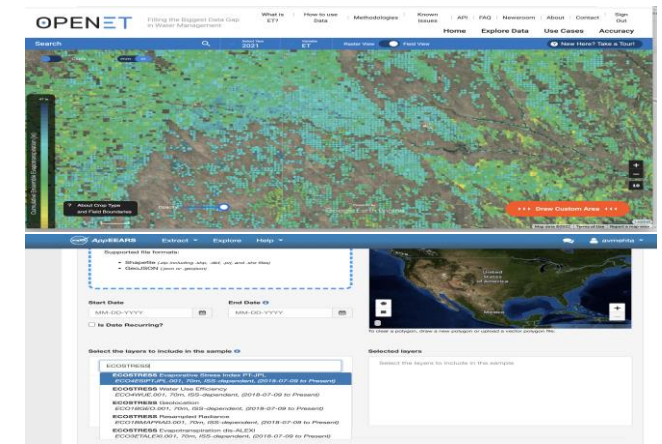
Figure 2. Represent the actual coverage area acquisition as of 19 March 2020.

<https://ecostress.jpl.nasa.gov/science>

ECOSTRESS ET

Speaker: Gregory Halverson
NASA JPL

Part 3: June 15, 2022

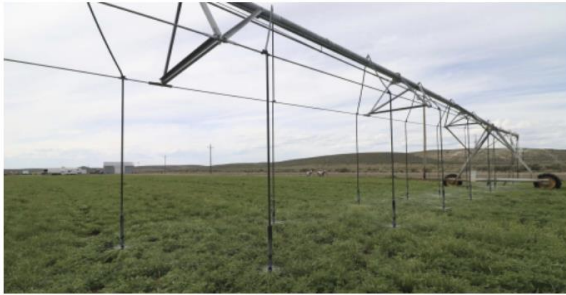


Exercises: Access and Analysis of OpenET and ECOSTRESS ET Data



Outline for Session 1

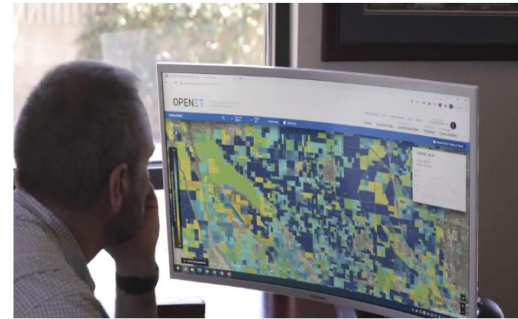
- About ARSET
- OpenET:
 - Data products, data portal, and applications



OpenET for Water Conservation Programs



OpenET for Rangeland, Forest, and Watershed Management



OpenET for Water Accounting



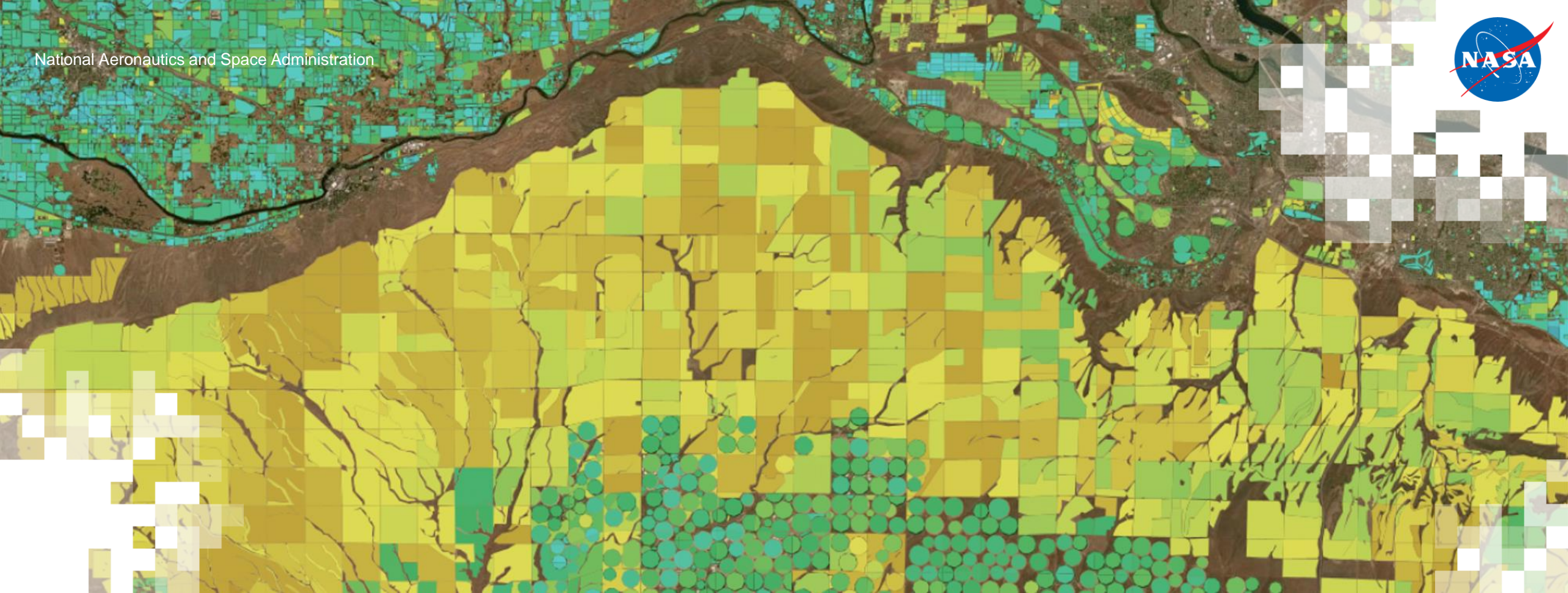
OpenET as a Common Foundation for Decision-Making



Homework and Certificate

- One homework assignment:
 - Answers must be submitted via Google Form accessed from the ARSET [website](#)
 - Homework will be made available on June 15, 2022.
 - Due date for homework: July 29, 2022.
- A certificate of completion will be awarded to those who:
 - Attend all live webinars
 - Complete the homework assignment by the deadline
 - You will receive a certificate approximately two months after the completion of the course from: marines.martins@ssaihq.com



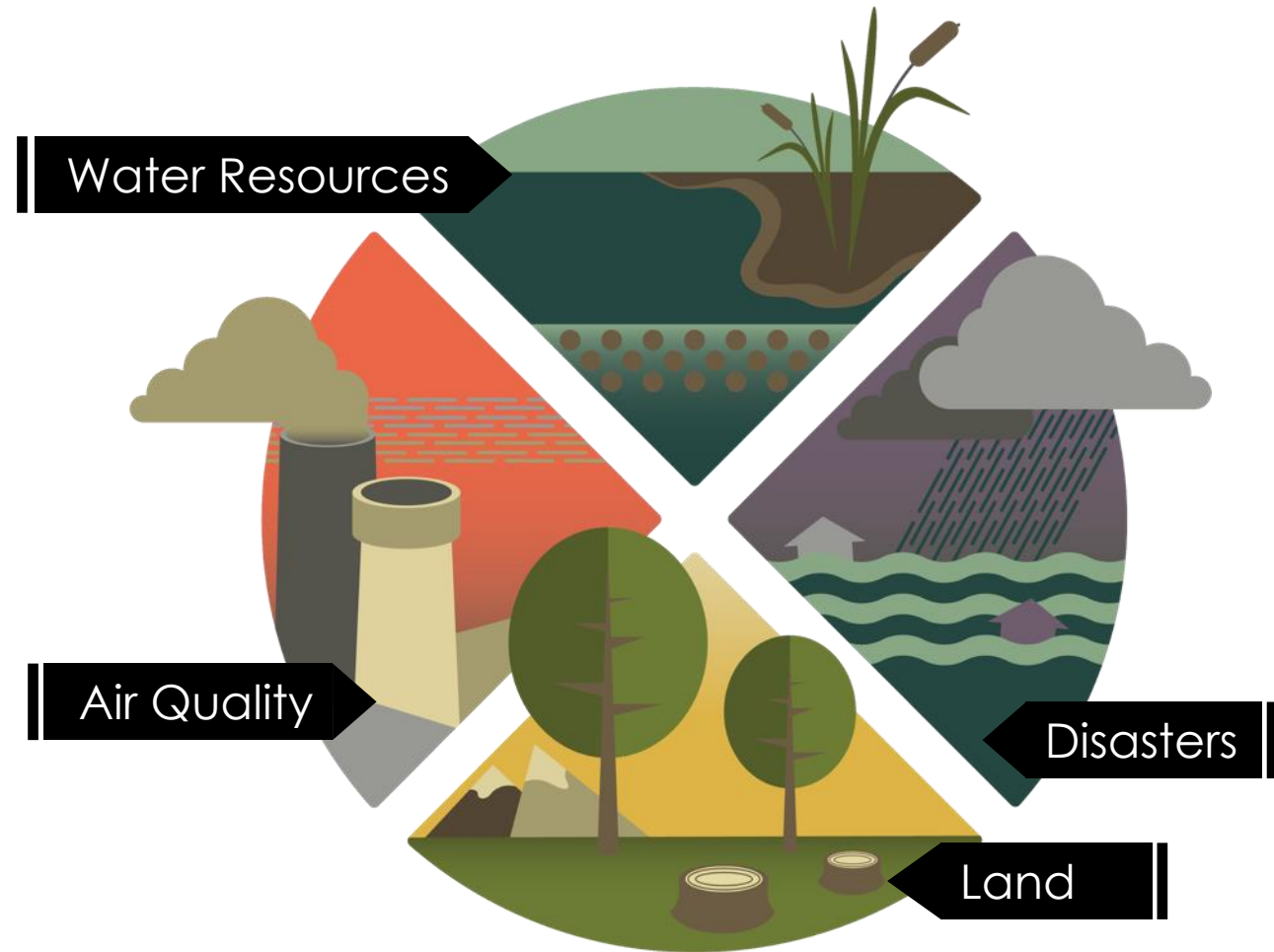


About ARSET

NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET)

<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/what-we-do/capacity-building/arset>

- Part of NASA's Applied Sciences Capacity Building Program
- Empowering the global community through online and in-person remote sensing training
- Topics for trainings include:
 - Water Resources
 - Air Quality
 - Disasters
 - Land
 - Climate (recently added)



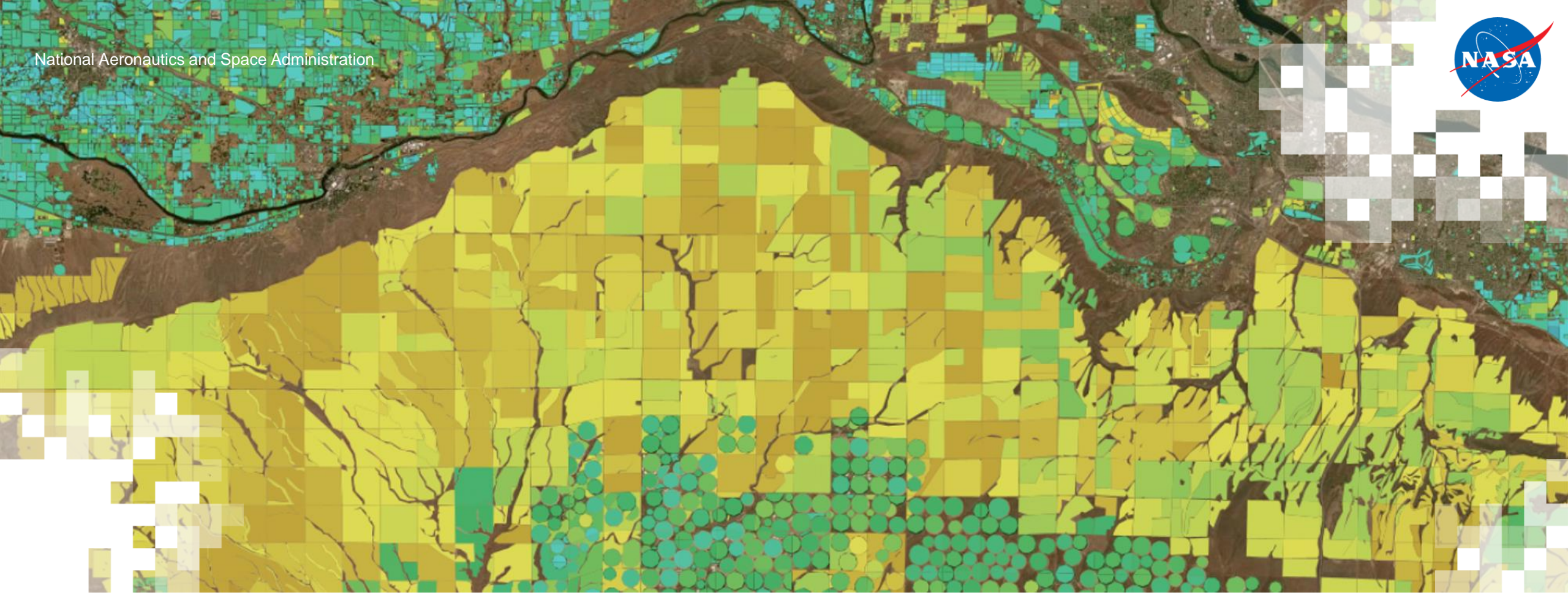
NASA's Applied Remote Sensing Training Program (ARSET)

<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/what-we-do/capacity-building/arset>

- ARSET's goal is to increase the use of Earth science remote sensing and model data in decision-making through training for:
 - Professionals in the public and private sector
 - Environmental managers
 - Policy makers

All ARSET materials are freely available to use and adapt for your curriculum. If you use the methods and data presented in ARSET trainings, please acknowledge the NASA Applied Remote Sensing Training (ARSET) program.



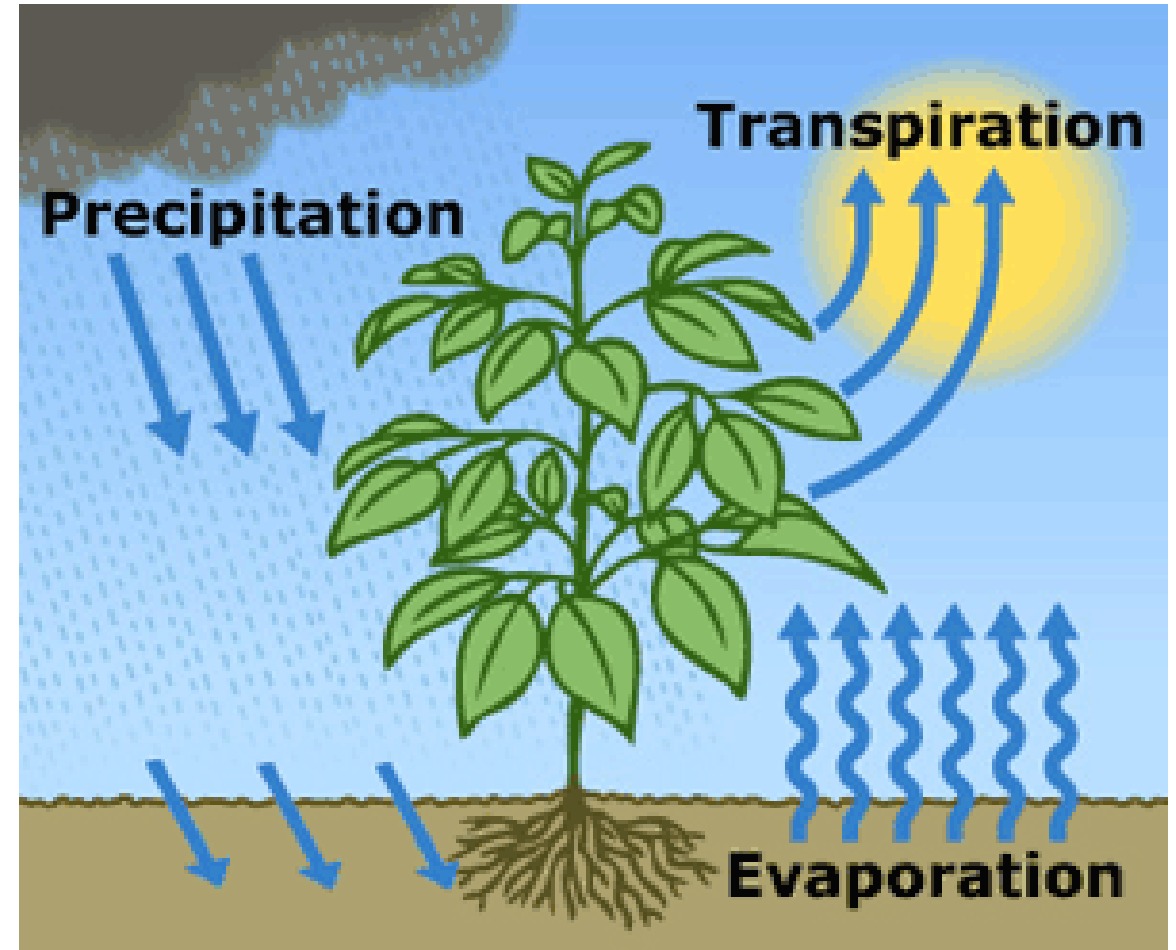


Overview of Evapotranspiration

<https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-applications-remote-sensing-soil-moisture-and>

What is evapotranspiration (ET)?

- The sum of evaporation from the land surface plus transpiration from plants
- ET transfers water from land surface to the atmosphere in vapor form
- Energy is required for ET to take place (for changing liquid water into vapor)



Source: USGS



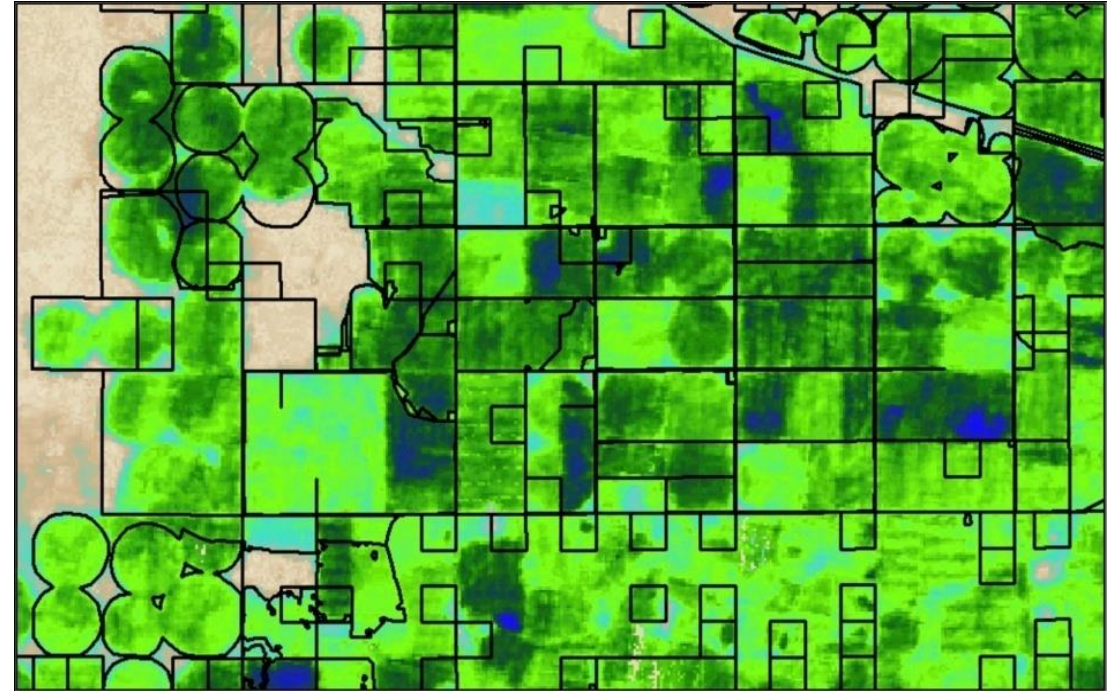
Importance of ET

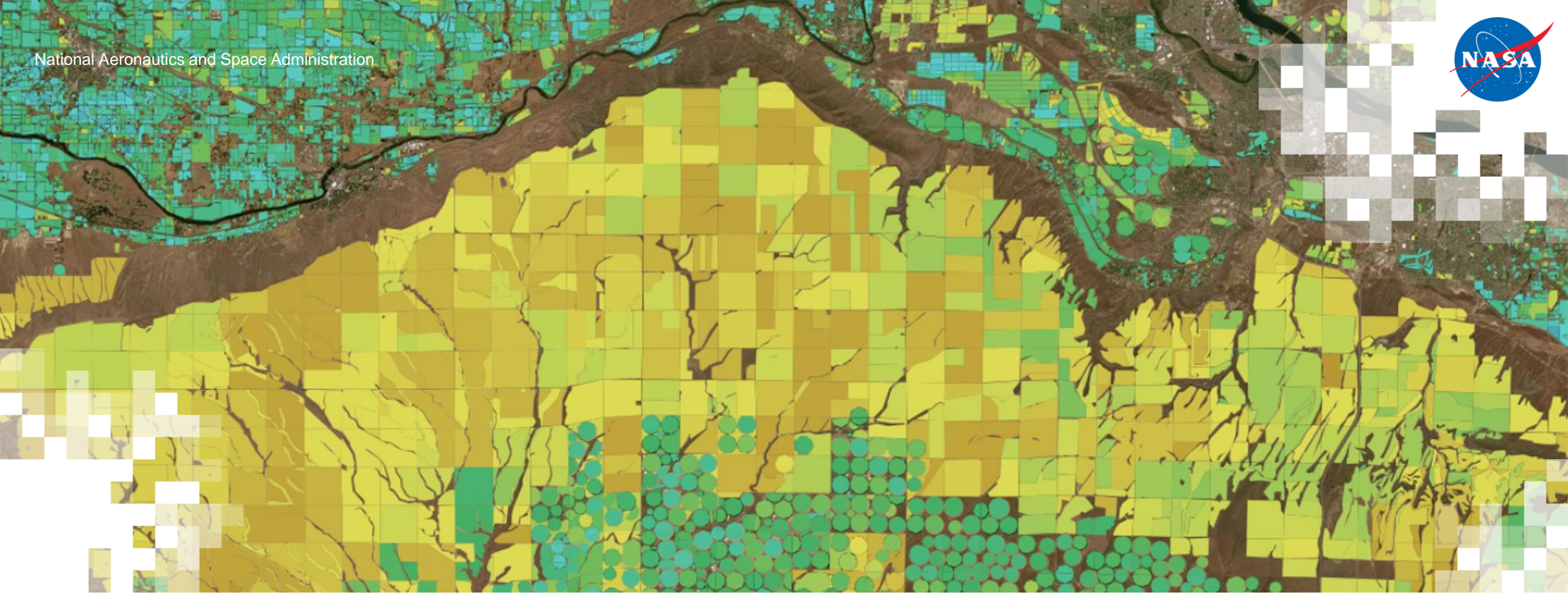
- Critical component of the water and energy balance of climate-soil-vegetation interactions.
- Useful for:
 - determining agricultural water consumption
 - assessing drought conditions
 - developing water budgets
 - monitoring aquifer depletion
 - monitoring crops and carbon budgets



Challenges in Measuring ET

- ET depends on many variables:
 - solar radiation at the surface
 - land and air temperatures
 - Humidity
 - surface winds
 - soil conditions
 - vegetation cover and types
 - Highly variable in space and time





OpenET

Speaker: Forrest Melton (NASA Ames Research Center)

OPENET

Evapotranspiration Data for Water Management and Precision Agriculture



Search



Select Year
2021

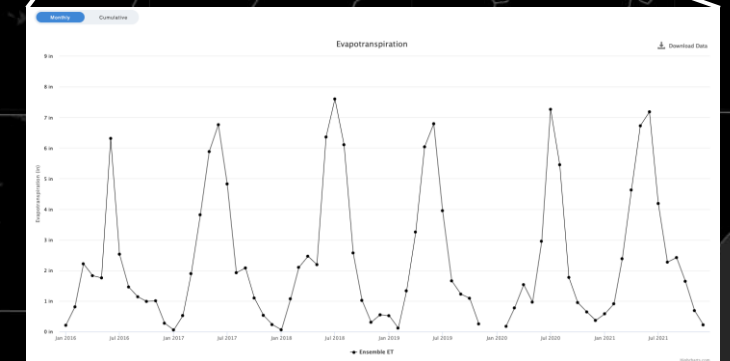
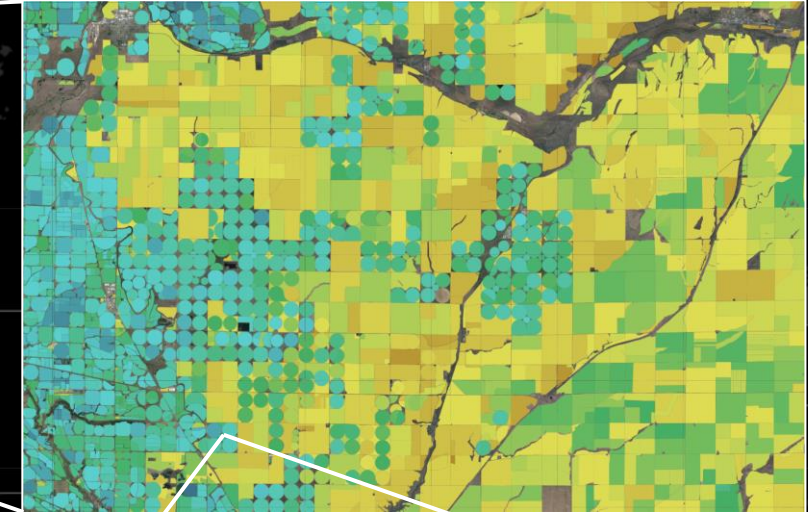
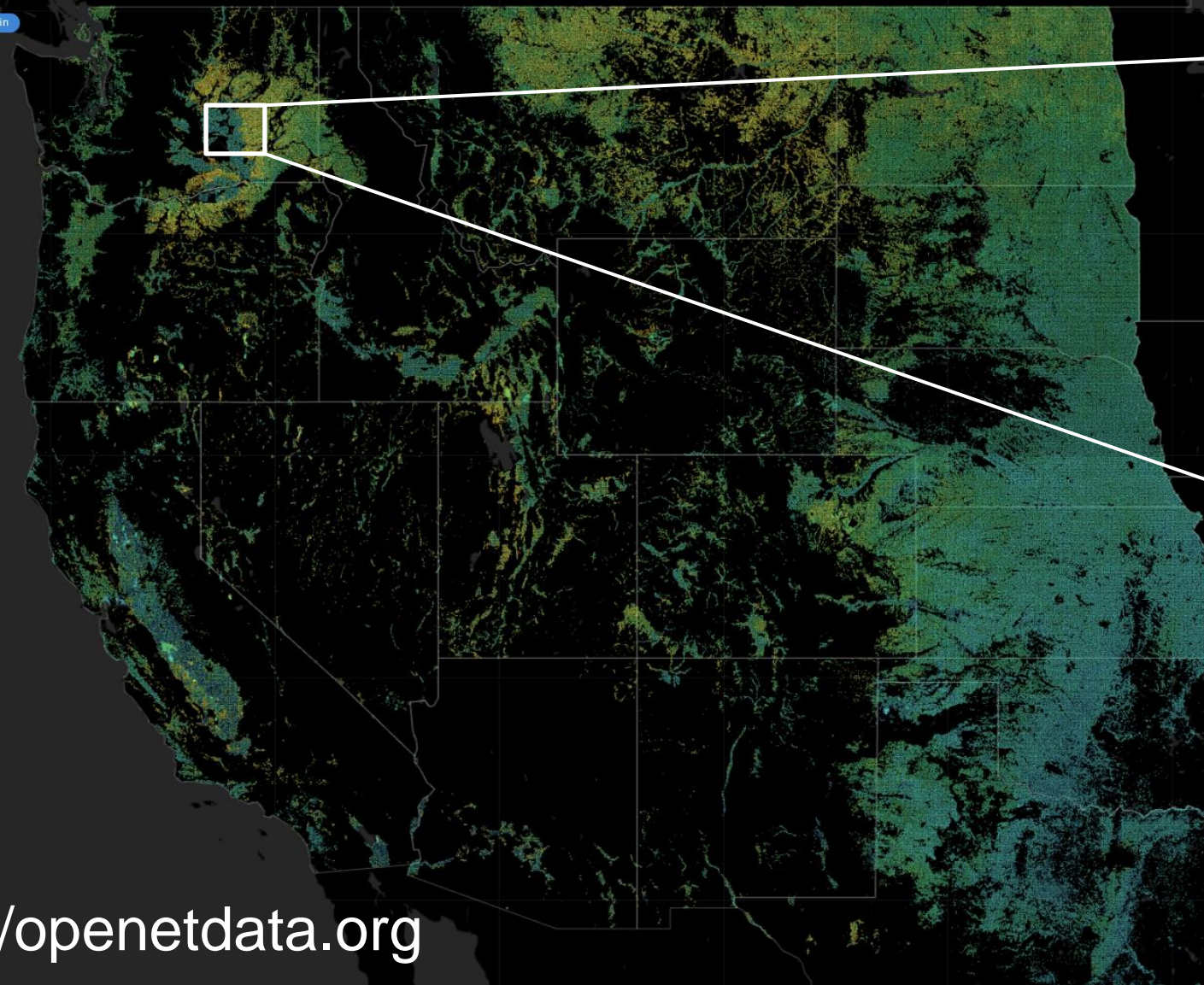
Variable
ET

Raster View

Field View

Cities

mm in



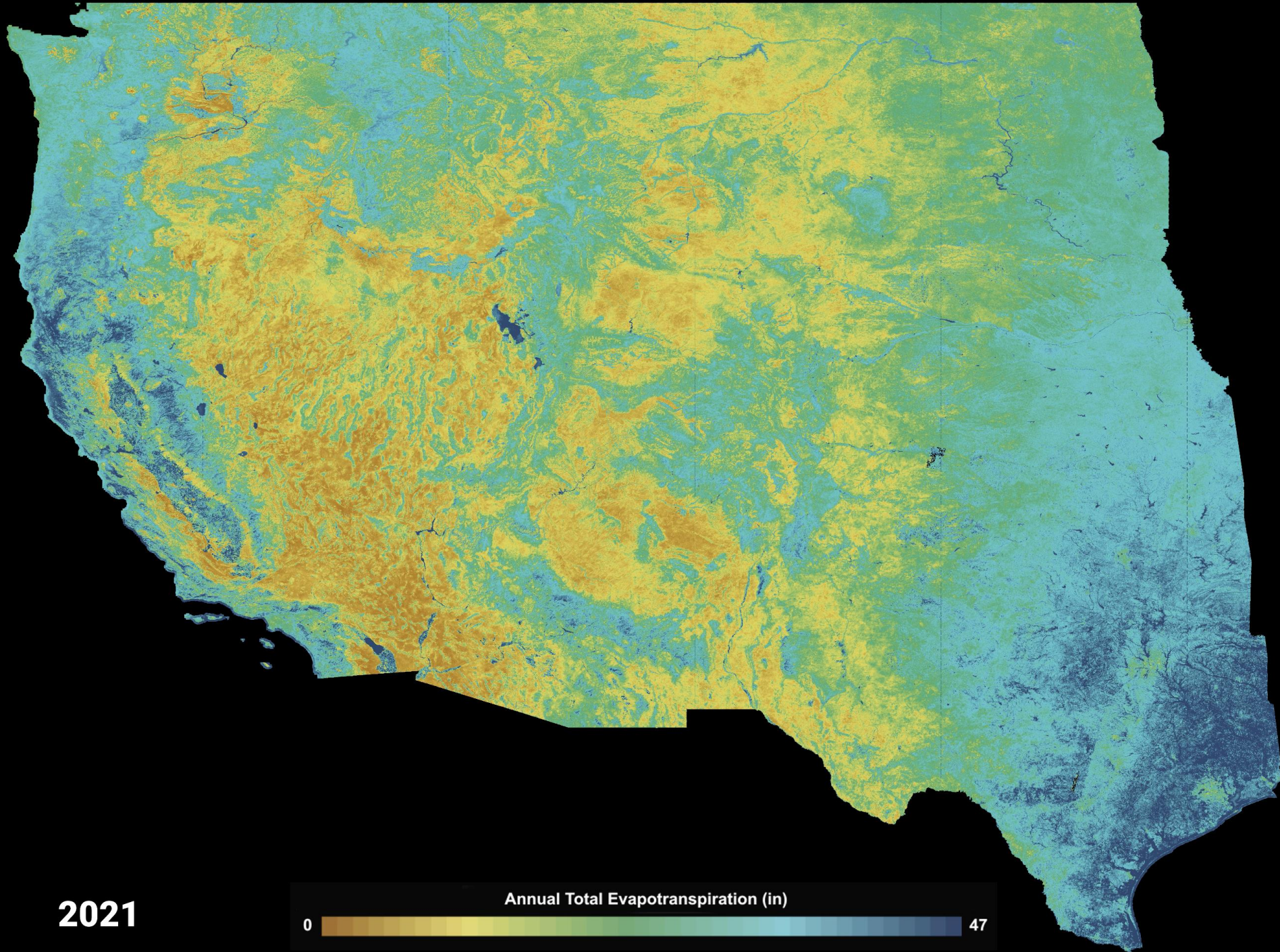
<https://openetdata.org>

About Crop Type
and Field Boundaries

Opacity

Powered by
Google Earth Engine

Draw Custom Area



2021

Annual Total Evapotranspiration (in)

0

47

Evapotranspiration (ET)

Water applied to a field ultimately:

- Evaporates
- Transpires (after being used by plants to grow)
- Recharges underlying groundwater
- Runs off and returns to a local canal or river



Overview

1. OpenET and the Value of Open Data
2. How OpenET Works
3. OpenET Accuracy Assessment
4. Use Cases and Pilot Projects
5. Next steps for OpenET
6. Lessons Learned
7. NASA and the Western Water Applications Office

OpenET and the Value of Open Data

Founded on Open Science

DRI, NASA Ames, Habitat Seven (Multimodel Development, Integration, API, UI) Forrest Melton, Jamie Herring, Charles Morton, Britta Daudert, Alberto Guzman, Jody Hansen, Jordan Harding, Matt Bromley, Justin Huntington

USDA, NASA Marshall Space Flight Center, U. Maryland, U. Wisconsin (ALEXI/DisALEXI) Martha Anderson, Yun Yang, Christopher Hain

U. of Nebraska, U. of Idaho, DRI (EE METRIC) Ayse Kilic, Rick Allen, Peter Reville, Samuel Ortega

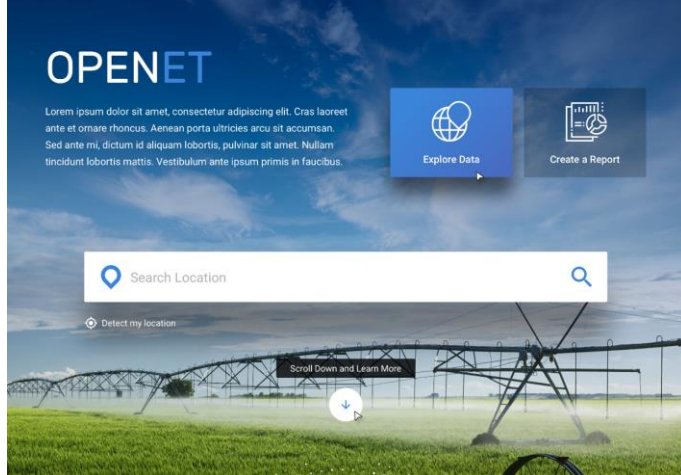
NASA JPL (PT JPL) Josh Fisher, Gregory Halverson

NASA Ames, CSUMB, Stanford University (SIMS) Forrest Melton, Alberto Guzman, Lee Johnson, Will Carrara, Tianxin Wang, Conor Doherty

USGS (SSEBop) Gabriel Senay, MacKenzie Friedrichs, Gabe Parrish

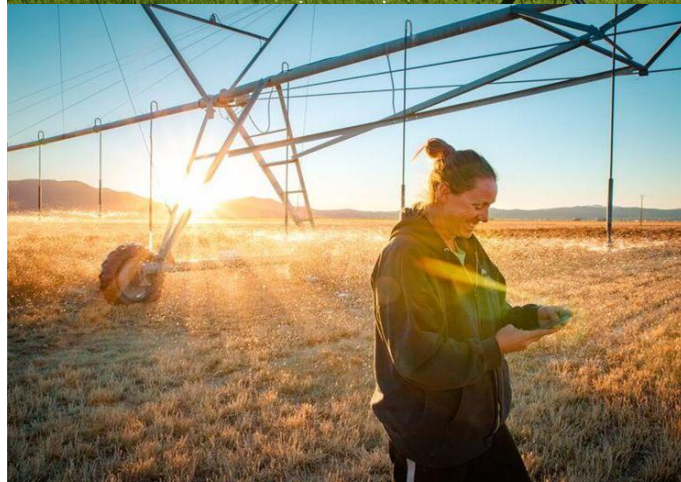
Google Earth Engine Tyler Erickson





OpenET Goals:

Reliable and transparent ET data are produced and **easily accessible for all farmers, communities, and water managers in the west via openetdata.org**



There is trust in the validity of the data and information provided by the platform, and it is utilized by farmers, and private and public resource managers at the local, state and federal levels.



A variety of **innovative and locally driven water management practices are enabled** at a much larger scale than currently possible.

Dedicated to Transparency and Equal Data Access

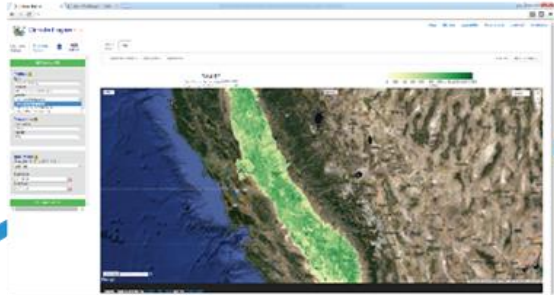
Available on www.openetdata.org:



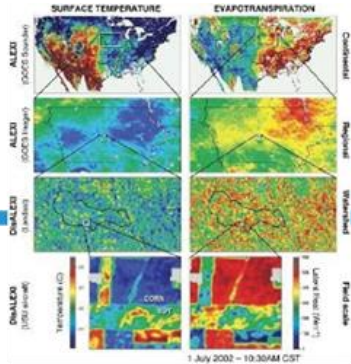
(and more)



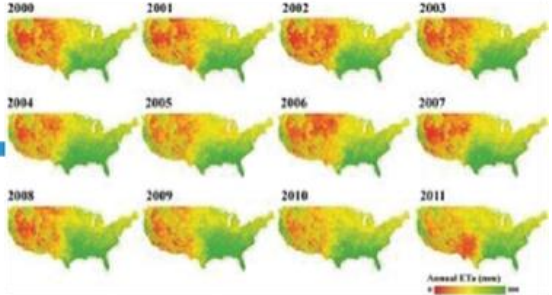
OpenET Uses Well-Established Methods



EE METRIC
University of Nebraska,
University of Idaho



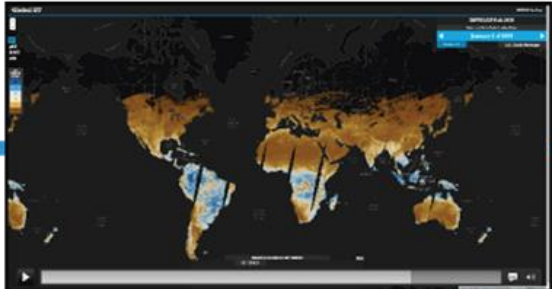
ALEXI/DisALEXI
USDA, NASA, University of Maryland,
University of Wisconsin



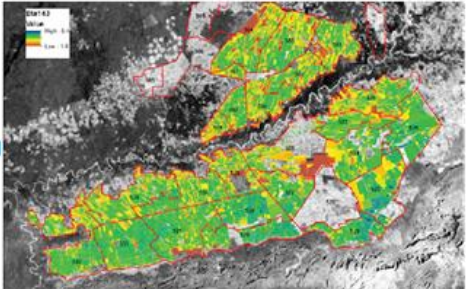
SSEBop
USGS



SIMS
NASA, CSUMB, Stanford University

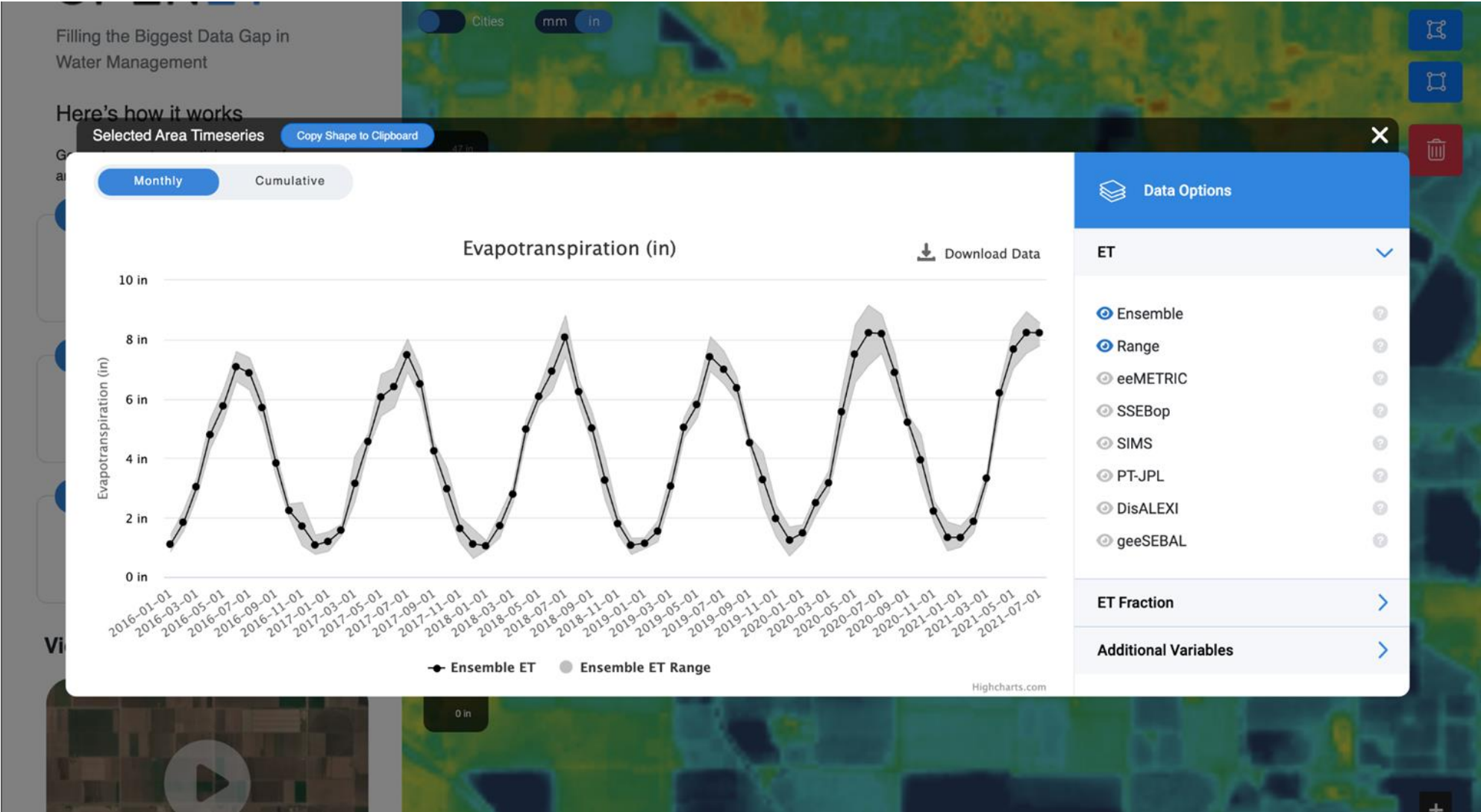


PT-JPL
NASA

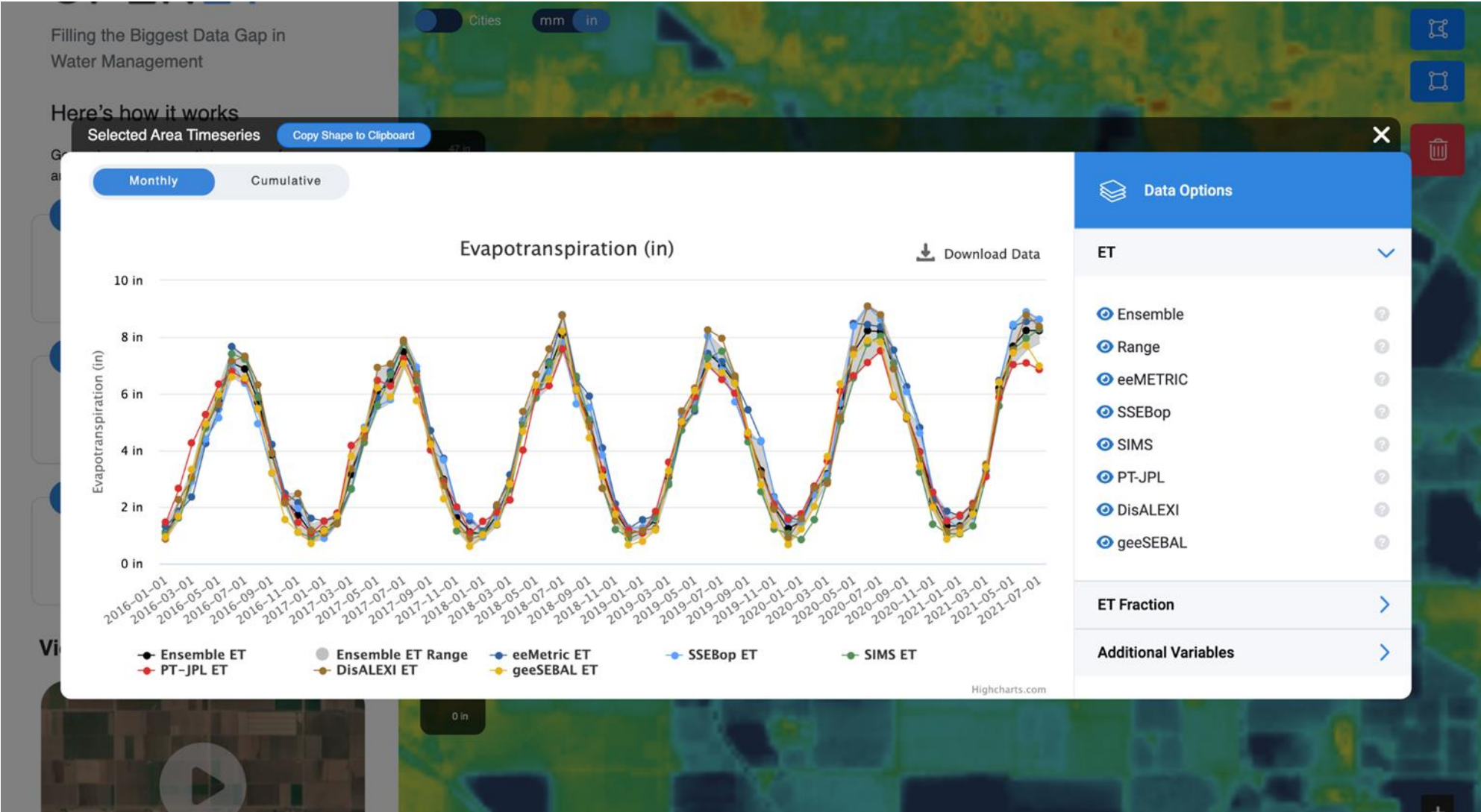


SEBAL
Universidade Federal
do Rio Grande do Sul

OpenET Ensemble Approach



OpenET Ensemble Approach





How OpenET Works

<https://openetdata.org>



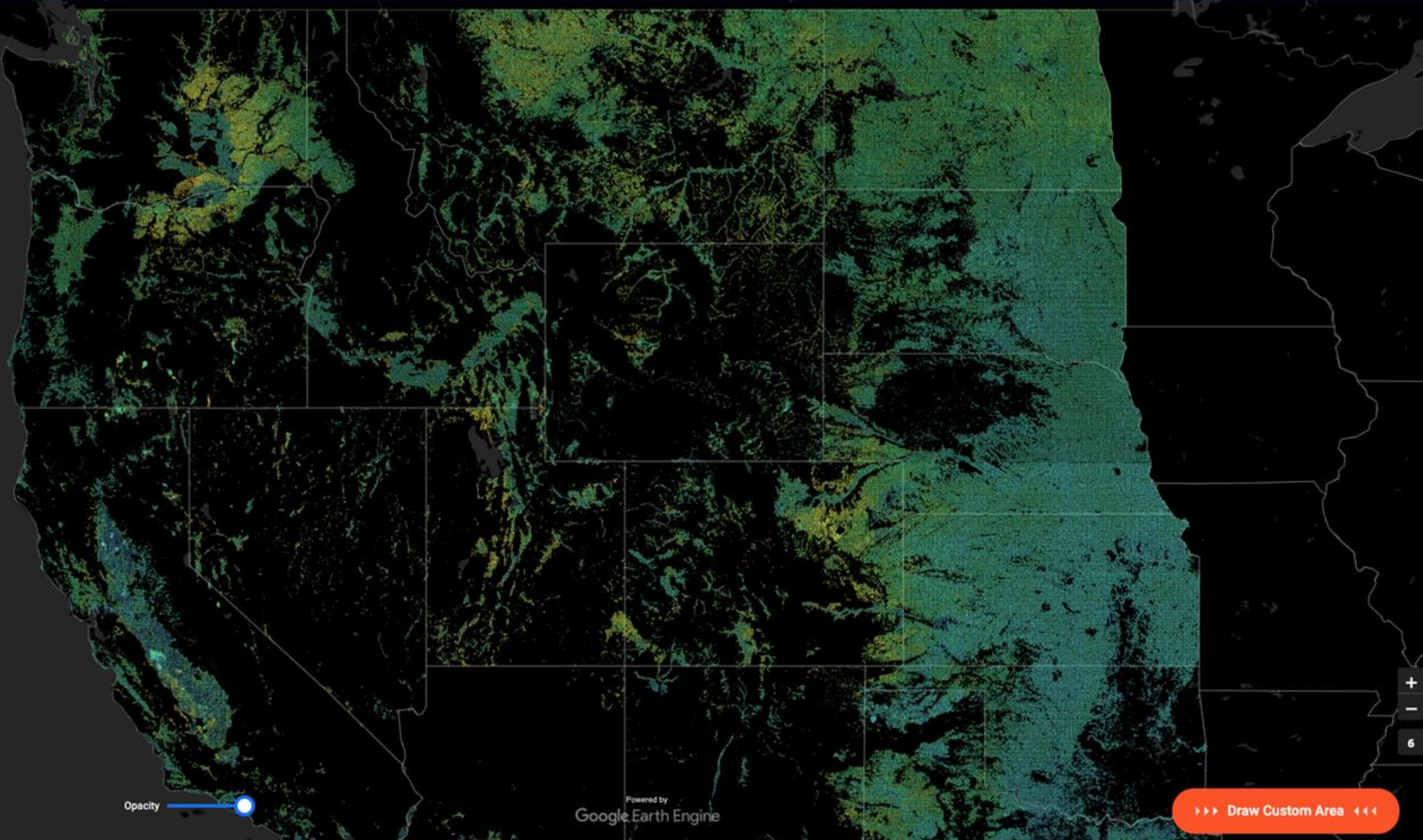
Choose to view data by **fields** or by **grids**.

Fields  [View Field Summaries](#)

Grids  [View Gridded Data](#)

OpenET provides data at different scales. You can view the data summarized for millions of individual fields or in the original raster format, or you can create a custom report to define your own boundaries, time frames, and data summaries.

[Terms of Service](#) | [How to Use OpenET Data](#)



? [About Crop Type and Field Boundaries](#)

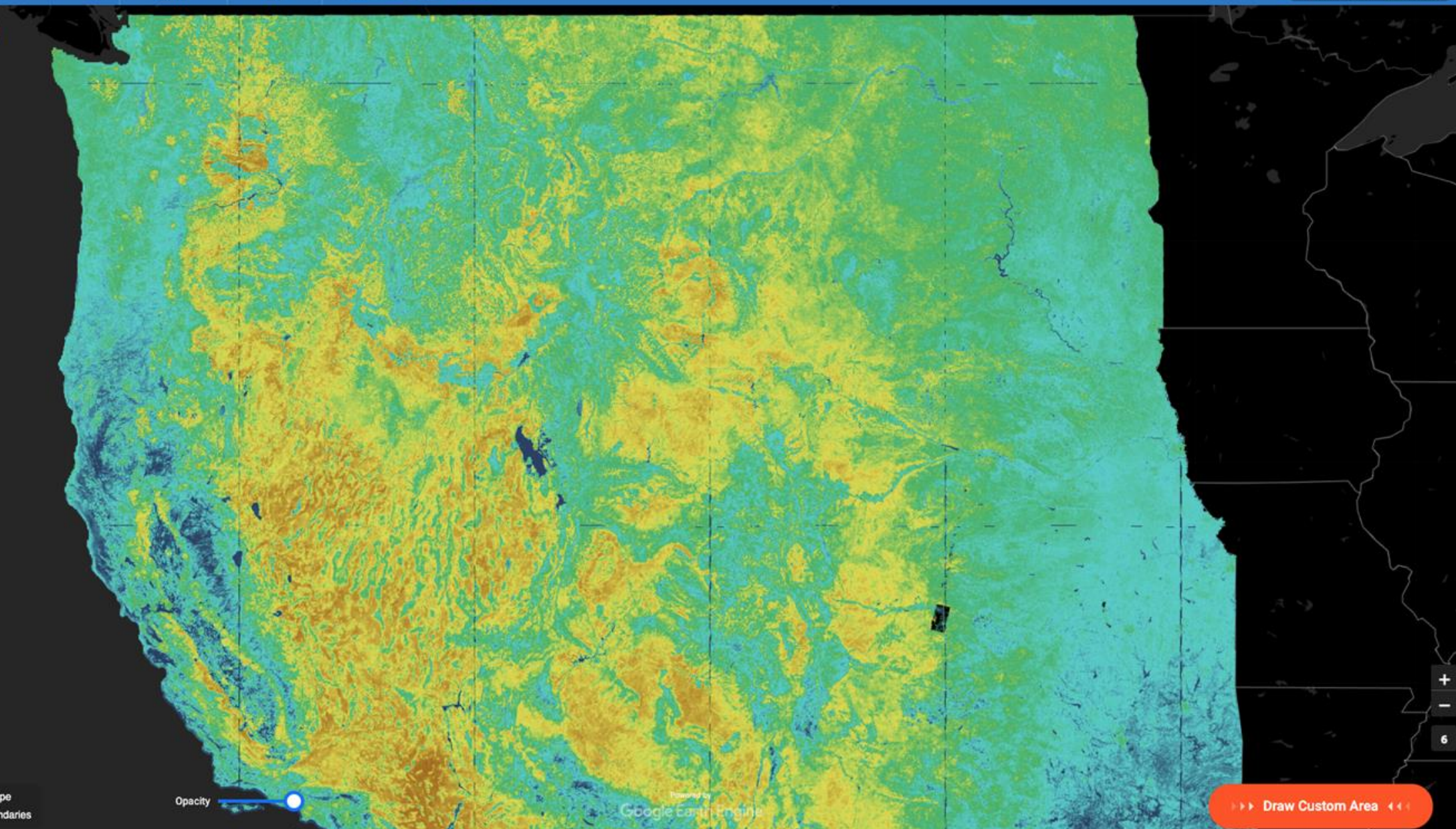
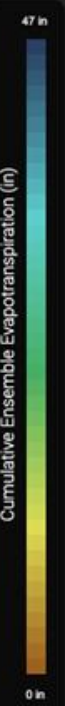
Opacity

Powered by
Google Earth Engine

Search Field View

Cities mm in

Cumulative Ensemble Evapotranspiration (in)



? About Crop Type and Field Boundaries

Opacity

Powered by Google Earth Engine

Leaflet

Grand Valley, CO, USA



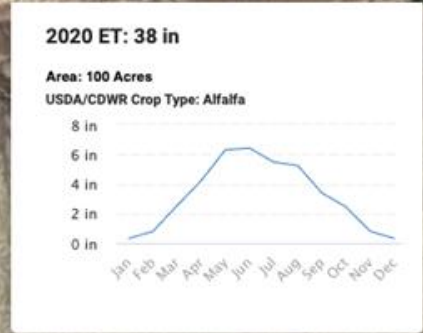
Select Year
2020

Variable
ET

Raster View

Field View

Cities mm in



? About Crop Type and Field Boundaries

Opacity

Powered by Google Earth Engine

Draw Custom Area

Grand Valley, CO, USA



Select Year
2020

Variable
ET

Raster View

Field View

New Here? Take a Tour!

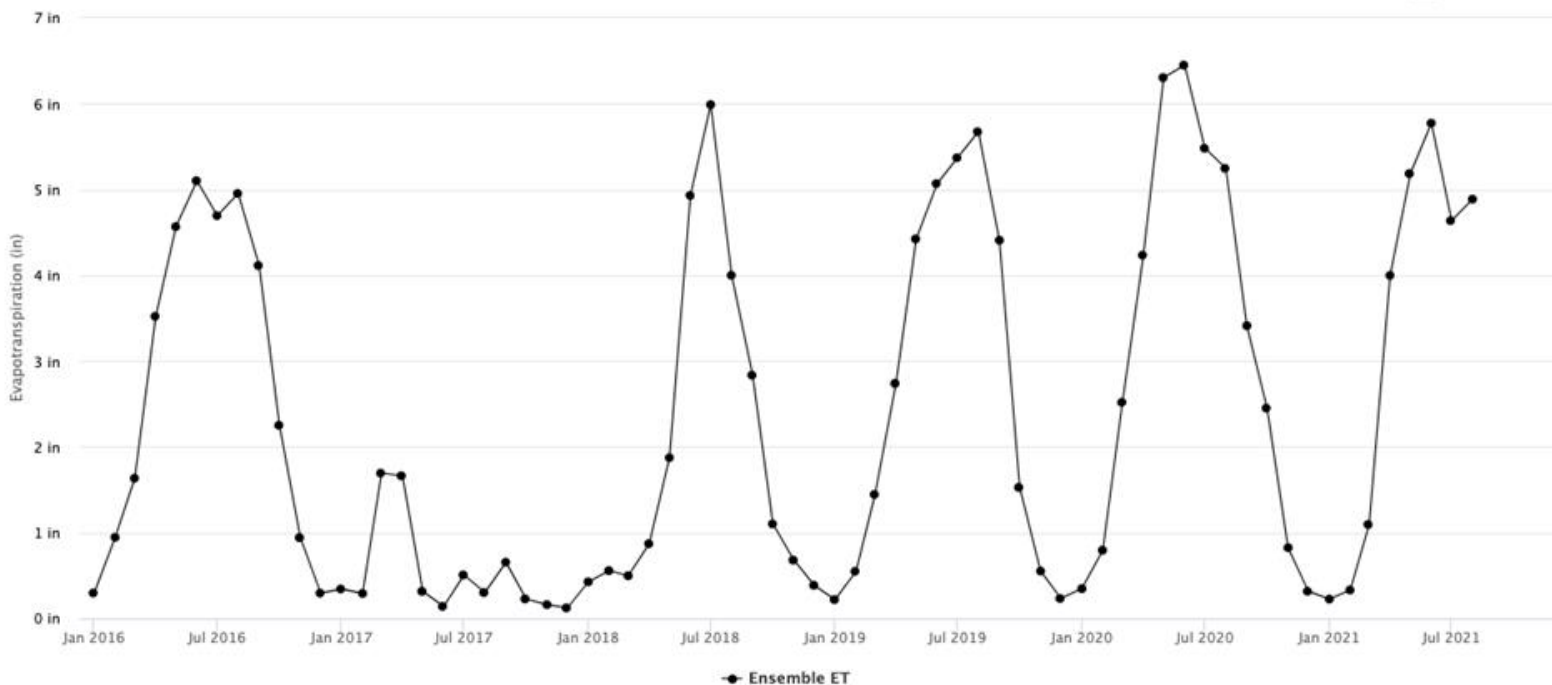
USDA/CDWR Crop Type: Alfalfa | Area: 100 Acres | Field ID: 084171

Monthly

Cumulative

Evapotranspiration

Download Data



Data Options

ET

- Ensemble
- Range
- eeMETRIC
- SSEBop
- SIMS
- PT-JPL
- DisALEXI
- geeSEBAL

ET Fraction

Additional Variables

About Crop Type and Field Boundaries

Opacity

Draw Custom Area

Grand Valley, CO, USA



Select Year
2020

Variation
ET

Raster View

Field View

New Here? Take a Tour!

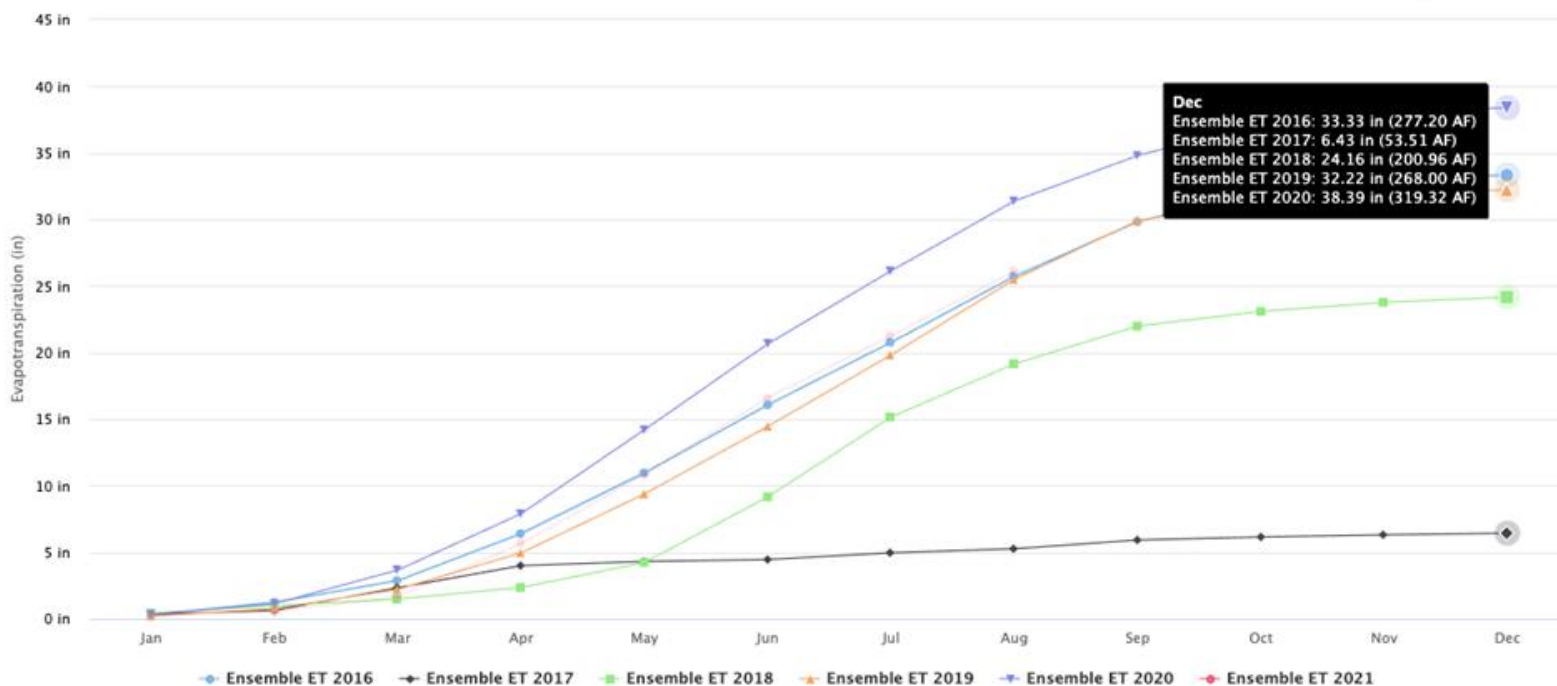
USDA/CDWR Crop Type: Alfalfa | Area: 100 Acres | Field ID: 084171

Monthly

Cumulative

Cumulative Ensemble Evapotranspiration

Download Data



Data Options

ET

- Ensemble
- eeMETRIC
- SSEBop
- SIMS
- PT-JPL
- DisALEXI
- geeSEBAL

Additional Variables

About Crop Type and Field Boundaries

Opacity

Draw Custom Area

Grand Valley, CO, USA



Select Year
2020

Variable
ET

Raster View

Field View

New Here? Take a Tour!

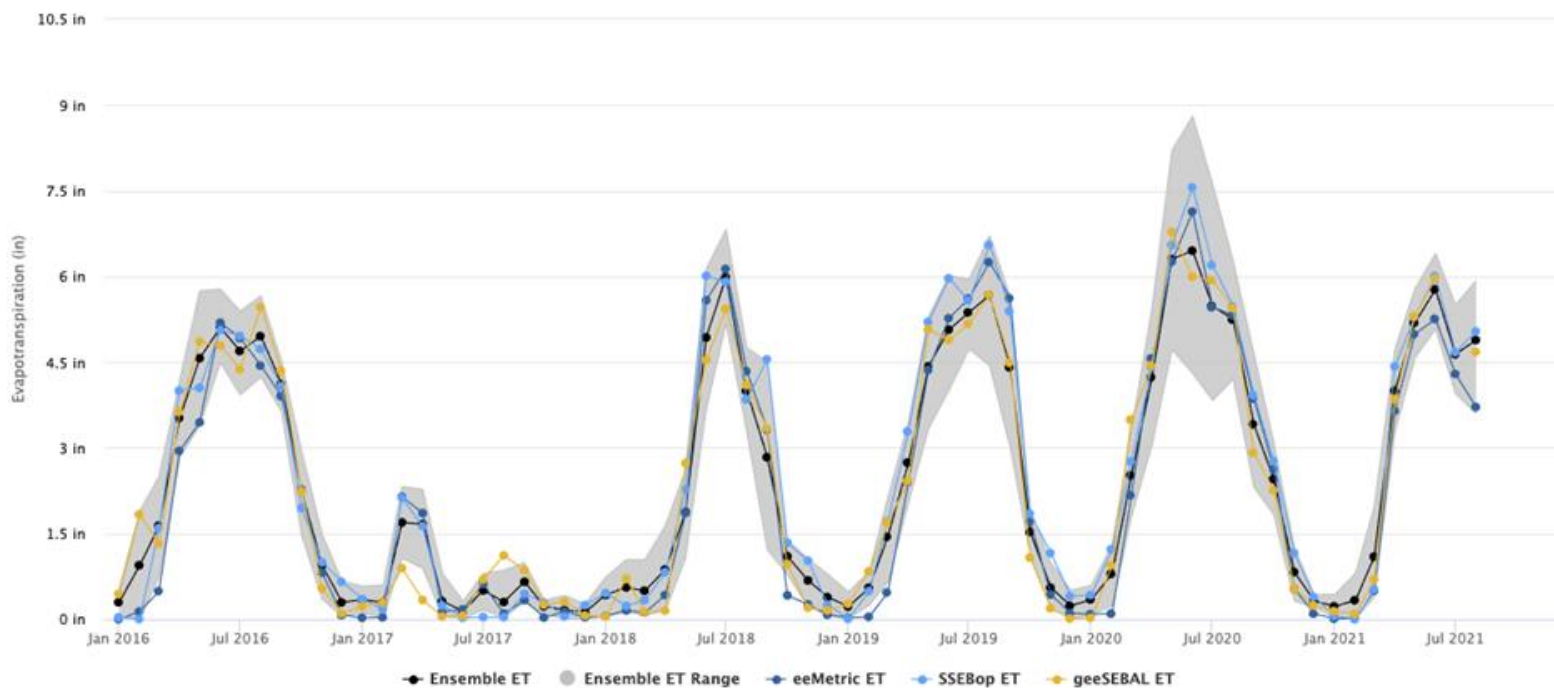
USDA/CDWR Crop Type: Alfalfa | Area: 100 Acres | Field ID: 084171

Monthly

Cumulative

Evapotranspiration

Download Data



Data Options

ET

- Ensemble
- Range
- eeMETRIC
- SSEBop
- SIMS
- PT-JPL
- DisALEXI
- geeSEBAL

ET Fraction

Additional Variables

Highcharts.com

About Crop Type and Field Boundaries

Opacity

Draw Custom Area

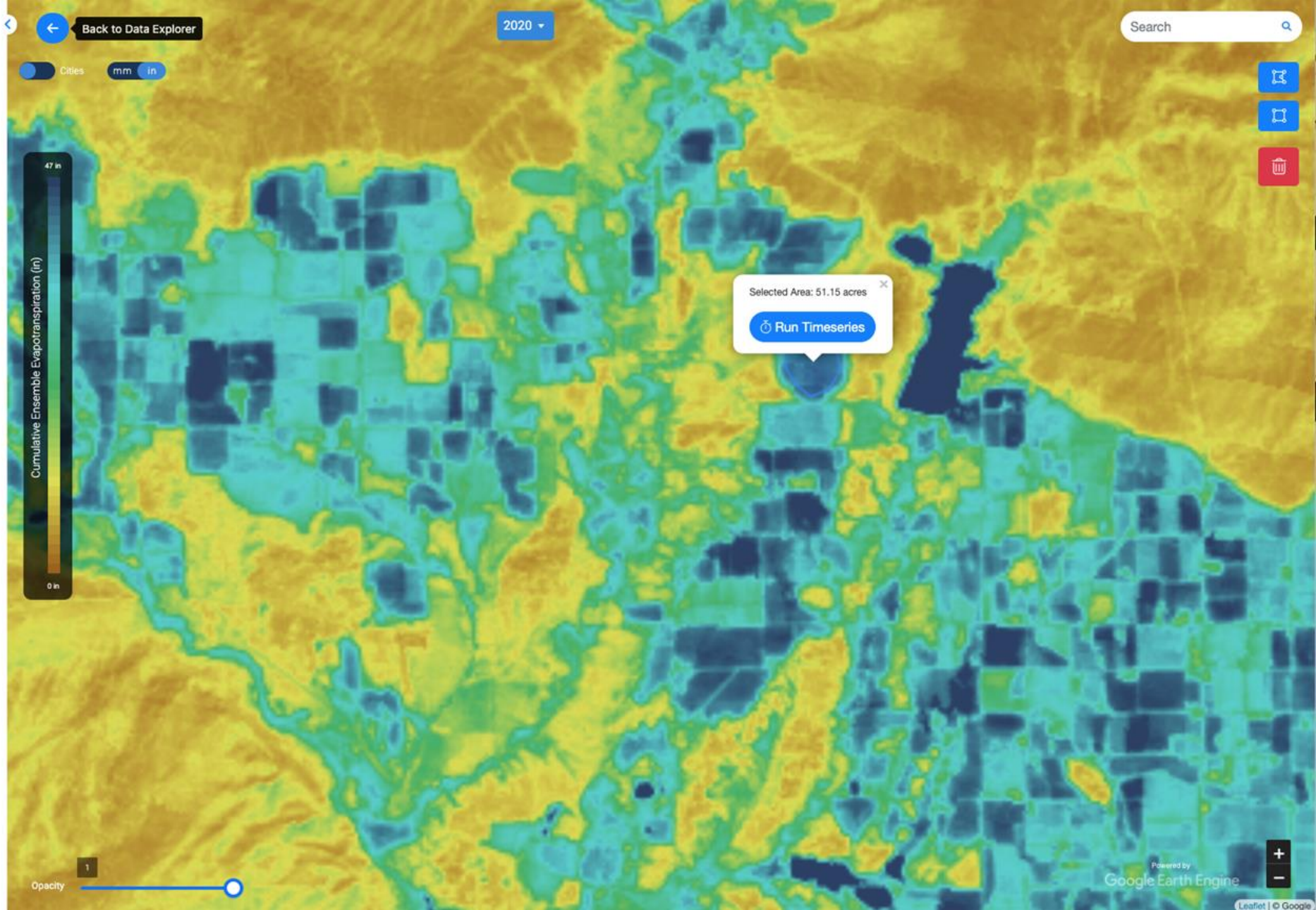
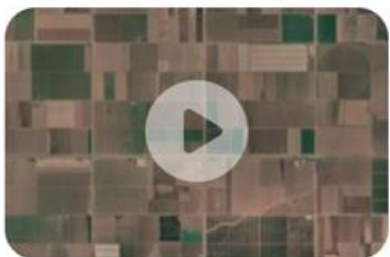
Filling the Biggest Data Gap in Water Management

Here's how it works

Generate a custom spatial summary for area up to 1000 ha.

- 1 Zoom and drag or use the search tool to find your location of interest on the map.
- 2 Use the polygon drawing tools to draw your area of interest.
- 3 Once done, click "run time series" to get data specific to the area drawn on the map.

Video demo



Here's how it works

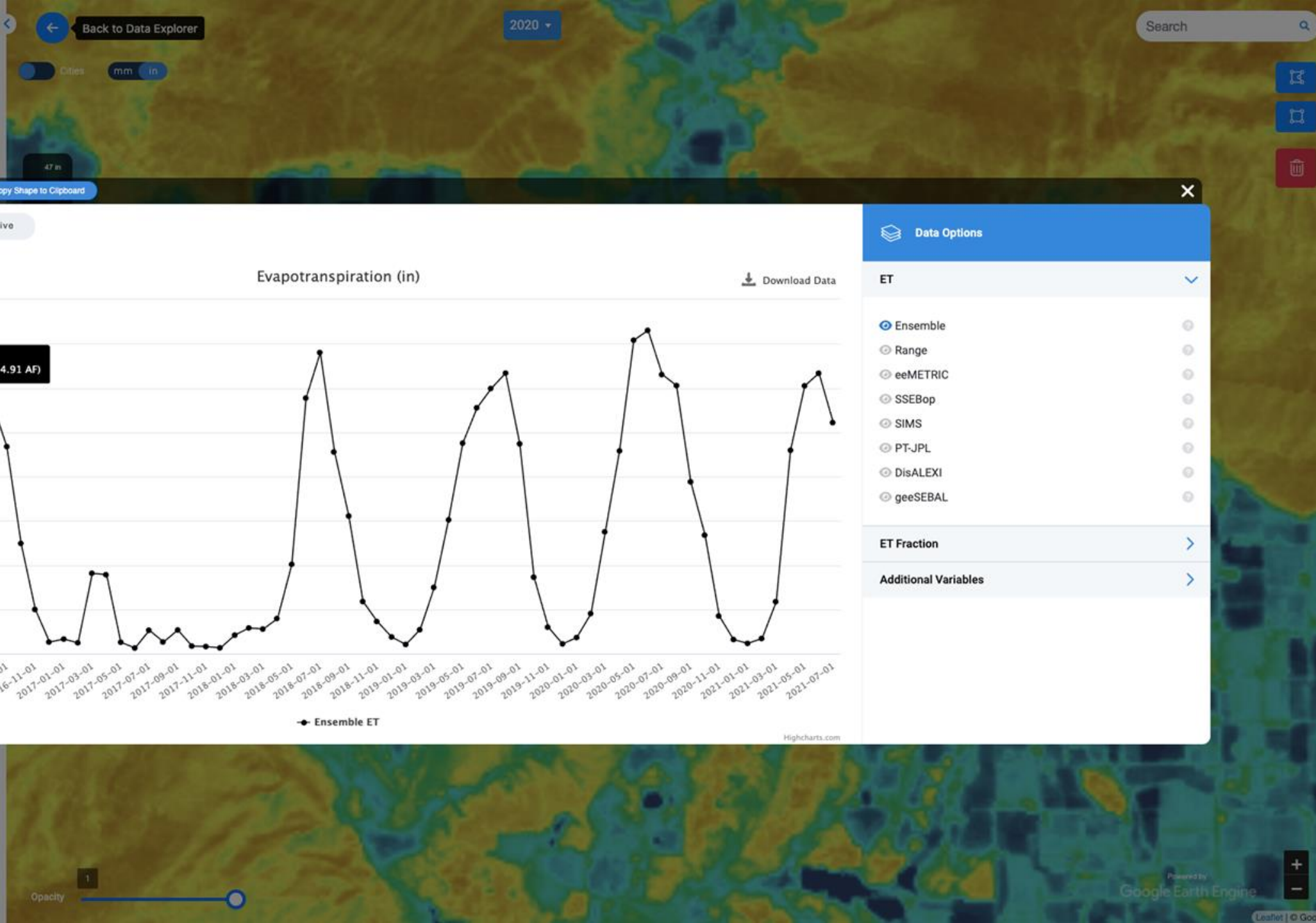
Generate a custom spatial summary for area up to 1000 ha

1 Zoom a search of interest

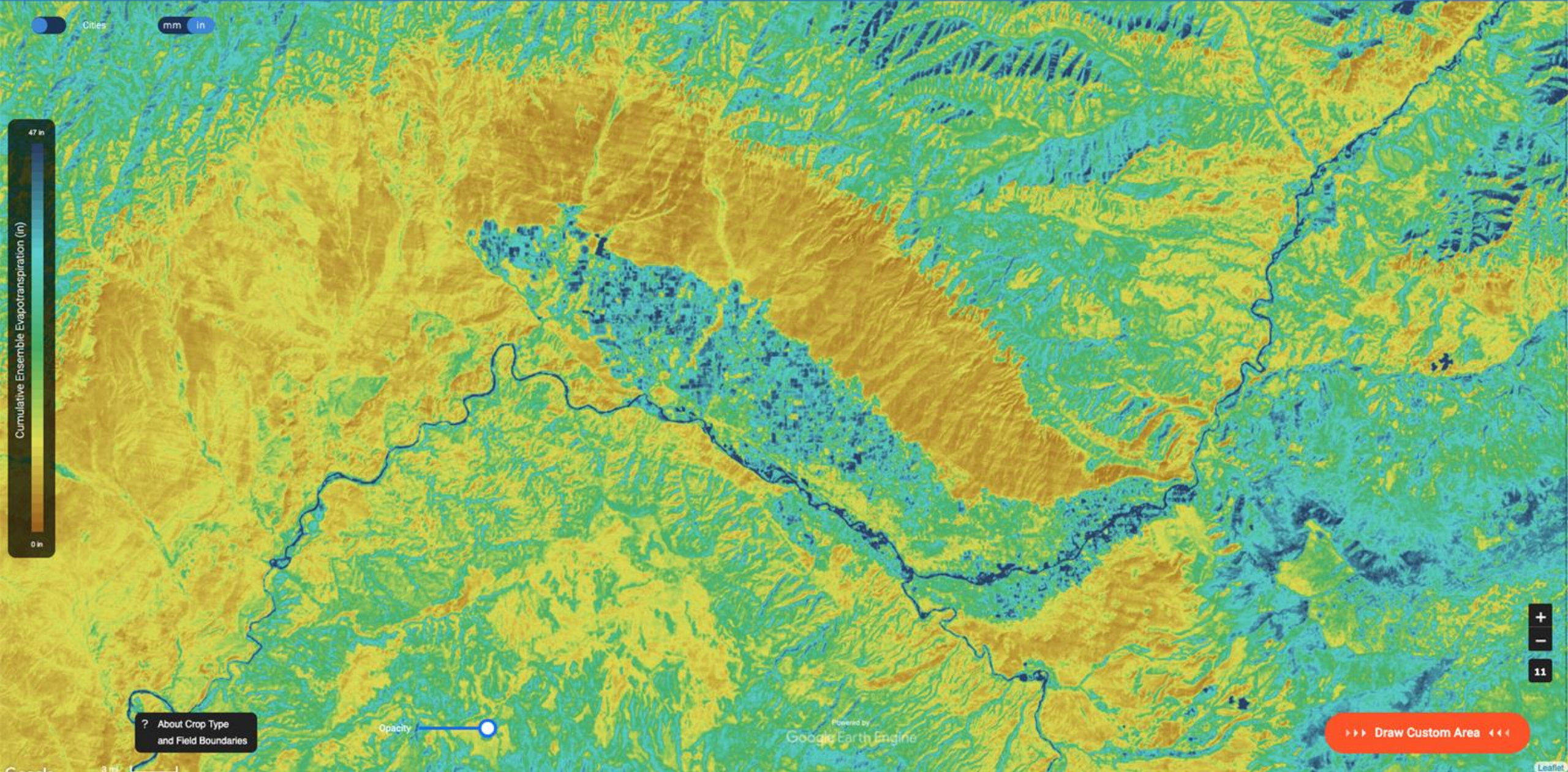
2 Use the to draw

3 Once de series" the area

Video demo



Cumulative Ensemble Evapotranspiration (in)



? About Crop Type and Field Boundaries

Opacity

Powered by Google Earth Engine

Draw Custom Area

+
-
11

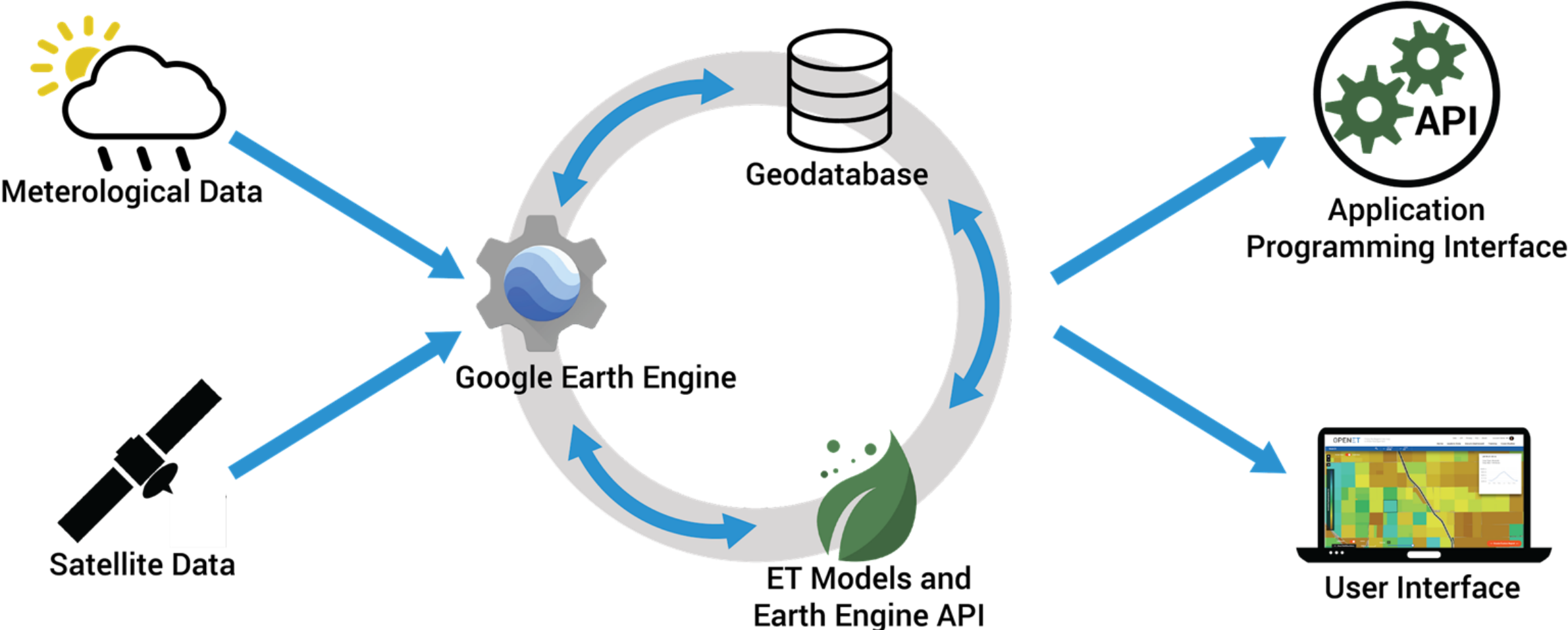
Important Considerations

1. OpenET provides information on the total amount of water consumed through ET
 - Includes ET from irrigation, precipitation, and access to shallow groundwater
 - When comparing to meters, important to subtract effective precipitation
2. The crop type information available on OpenET is from publicly available datasets, and does not affect the accuracy of the ensemble ET value.
3. The relationship between ET and crop water requirements can be complex.

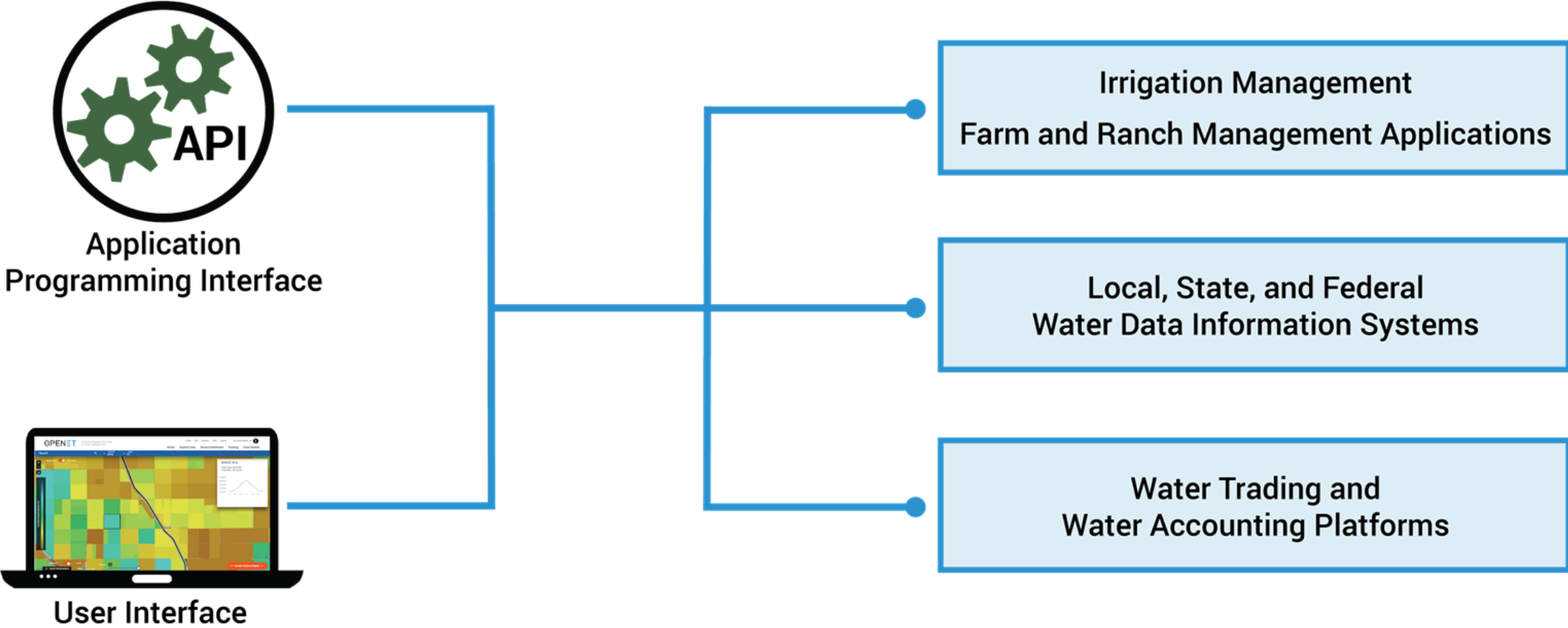
Important Considerations

4. OpenET data do not represent direct measurements of ET; rather they are calculations based on satellite, meteorological, soil, and vegetation datasets that are used within state-of-the-art ET models.
 - While they are generally accurate and consistent, these data and models have limitations, particularly during times of consistent and dense cloud cover and within complex topography.

OpenET Architecture Overview




OpenET API for Integration with Other Software



OpenET Application Programming Interface










OpenET 1.0
[Base URL: /]
<https://openet.dri.edu/swagger.json>
API for OpenET

[Authorize](#) 






home home >

metadata metadata >

raster Raster API wrapper ▾

- [GET /raster/export](#) 
- [GET /raster/export/all_files](#) 
- [GET /raster/export/stack](#) 
- [GET /raster/metadata](#) 
- [GET /raster/timeseries/multipolygon](#) 
- [GET /raster/timeseries/point](#) 
- [GET /raster/timeseries/polygon](#) 
- [GET /raster/visual/animate](#) 
- [GET /raster/visual/tile_id](#) 

timeseries timeseries ▾

- [POST /timeseries/features/aggregate/annual](#) 
- [POST /timeseries/features/aggregate/monthly](#) 
- [POST /timeseries/features/annual](#) 
- [POST /timeseries/features/monthly](#) 
- [POST /timeseries/features/stats/annual](#) 

OPENET

Search

GETTING STARTED

- [Introduction](#)
- [Registration](#)
- [Authentication](#)

GEODATABASE API

- [Timeseries](#)
- [Metadata](#)

RASTER API

- [Timeseries](#)
- [Export](#)
- [Metadata](#)
- [Visual](#)

TUTORIALS

- [Tutorials](#)

ADDITIONAL INFO

- [FAQ](#)
- [CDL Codes](#)
- [Issues & Feedback](#)

API Documentation

Last updated

May 09, 2022

GETTING STARTED

- Introduction
 - Geodatabase API
 - Raster API
 - OpenAPI UI
- Registration
 - Creating an Account
- Authentication
 - Tokens
 - Security

GEODATABASE API

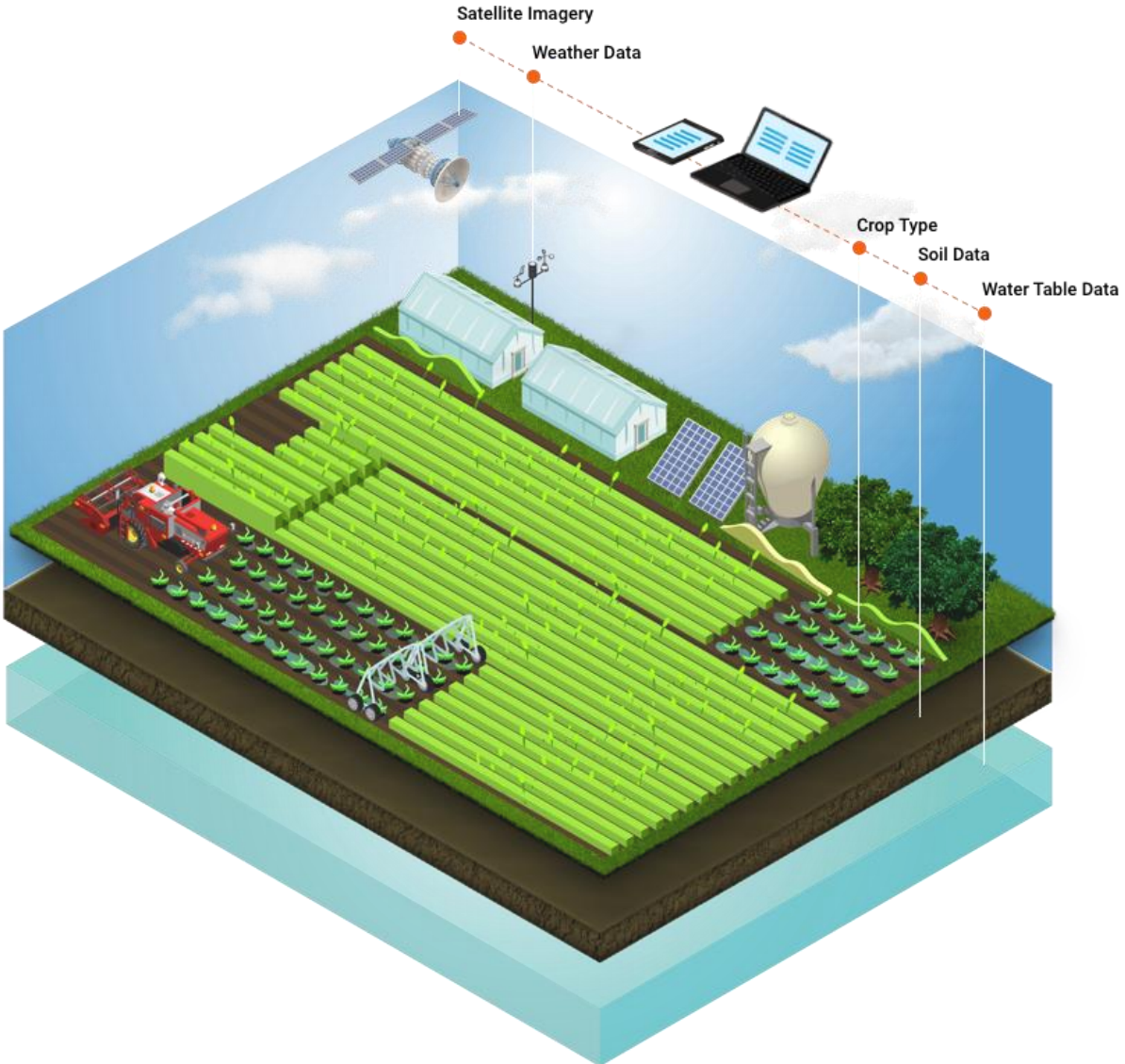
- Timeseries
 - timeseries/{field_id}
 - timeseries/features/annual
 - timeseries/features/monthly
 - timeseries/features/stats/annual
 - timeseries/features/stats/monthly
 - timeseries/features/aggregate/annual
 - timeseries/features/aggregate/monthly
- Metadata
 - metadata/openet/features
 - metadata/openet/feature_collection_names
 - metadata/openet/metadata/feature_ids_list
 - metadata/openet/feature_collection/feature_ids_list
 - metadata/openet/region_of_interest/feature_ids_list

OpenET Custom Reporting Tools

The screenshot shows the 'My Secure Dashboard Saved Reports' page. At the top left is the OPENET logo with the tagline 'Filling the Biggest Data Gap in Water Management'. The navigation bar includes 'Home', 'Explore Data', 'Secure Dashboard', 'Training', and 'Case Studies'. A user profile for 'John Smith' is visible in the top right. The main heading is 'My Secure Dashboard Saved Reports' with a sub-heading '19 Saved Reports'. A prominent blue button with a plus sign and the text 'Add New Report' is located below the heading. Below this, there are navigation controls for 'Page 2 of 4' and a section for '8 Recently updated Reports'. Two report cards are visible, each featuring a map of California with a red dot indicating a location. The report details include 'Report Name', 'Created January 20, 2019', 'Last Updated January 24, 2019', 'Start Date January 21, 2019', and 'Time Interval Weekly'. Each report card has 'Download CSV' and 'Download GeoTIFF' buttons. An 'Edit Report' button is also present for each report.

The screenshot shows the 'Add New Report' form. The top navigation is consistent with the previous page. The main heading is 'My Secure Dashboard Add New Report'. Below the heading, there are two questions: 'Is this report based on Polygons or Raster data?' with radio buttons for 'Raster' (selected) and 'Polygon', and 'Is this report one-time or recurring?' with radio buttons for 'One-Time' (selected) and 'Recurring'. The form is divided into two main sections. The first section, '1 Name of this Report', contains a text input field. The second section, '2 Pick a Point, Draw a Polygon or...', includes options to 'Upload Shape File', 'Use Previously Uploaded Shape File', and 'Use My Earth Engine Feature Collection', each with an 'Upload' or 'Select' button. A 'Next' button is located at the bottom right of this section. Below the form, there is a preview of a map with a search bar and a 'Use Existing Polygons' dropdown. The map shows a grid of polygons overlaid on a satellite image.

Linking Satellite Data with Irrigation Mgmt Software



UCANR CropManage

The screenshot shows the UCANR CropManage web interface. The page displays a calendar of irrigation events for a field named "Broccoli CM Trt 2 Large PL...". The events include Drip irrigation on 17 Nov 2017, 9 Nov 2017, and 30 Oct 2017, and Sprinkler irrigation on 26 Oct 2017. The interface also shows a "Contact Us to Learn More" button and a "View all events by" dropdown menu.

<https://cropmanage.ucanr.edu/>
Dr. Michael Cahn

OpenET Uses Data from a Constellation of Satellites



Image credit: NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center Conceptual Image Lab



USGS-NASA Landsat 5/7/8
(TM / ETM+ / OLI)

30m/0.22 acres | overpass every 8-16 days

NASA Terra / Aqua

1 km | daily overpass

NASA-NOAA Suomi NPP

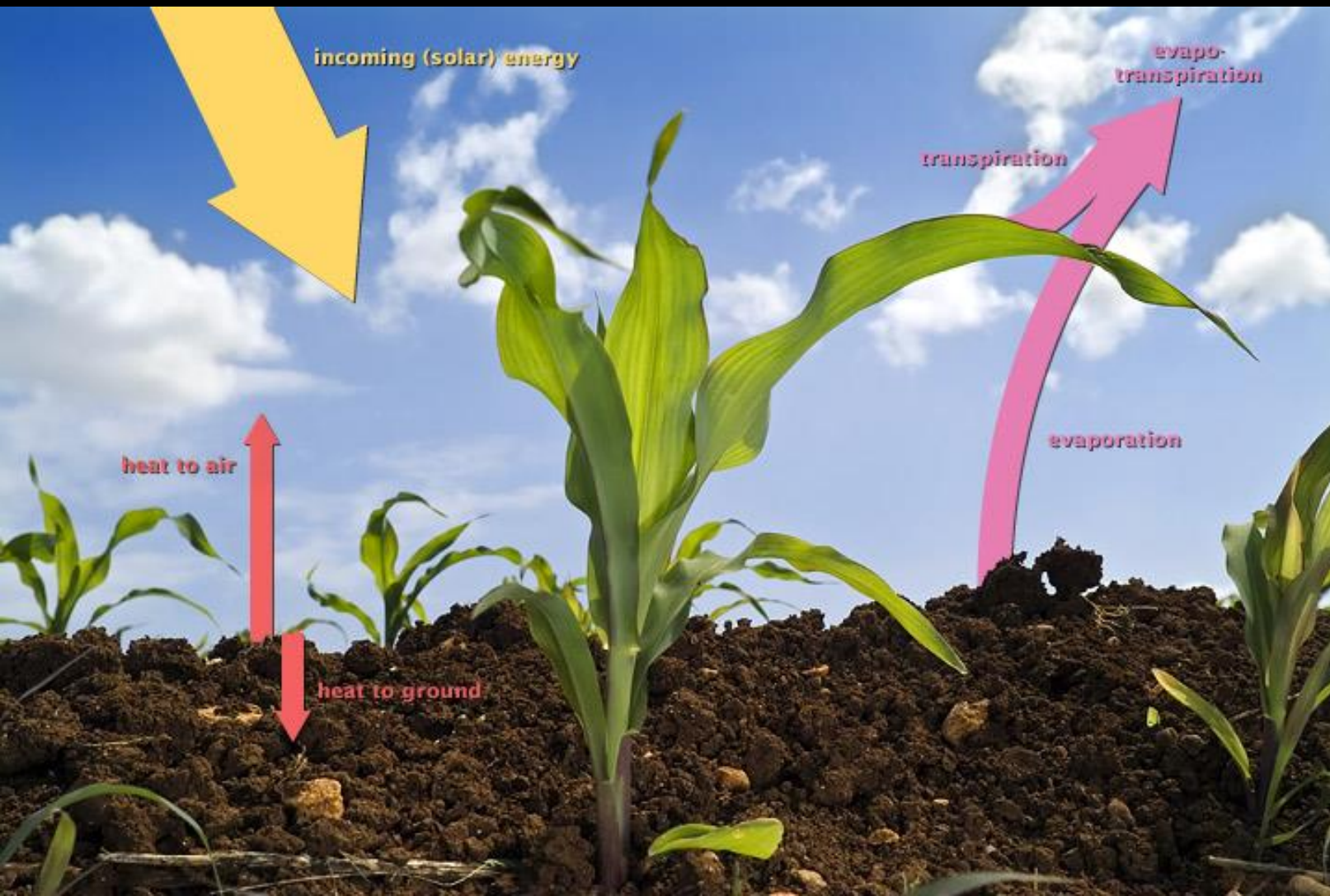
~300-375m | daily overpass

NOAA GOES-15/16/17

0.5-4 km | < hourly

ESA Sentinel-2A, 2B

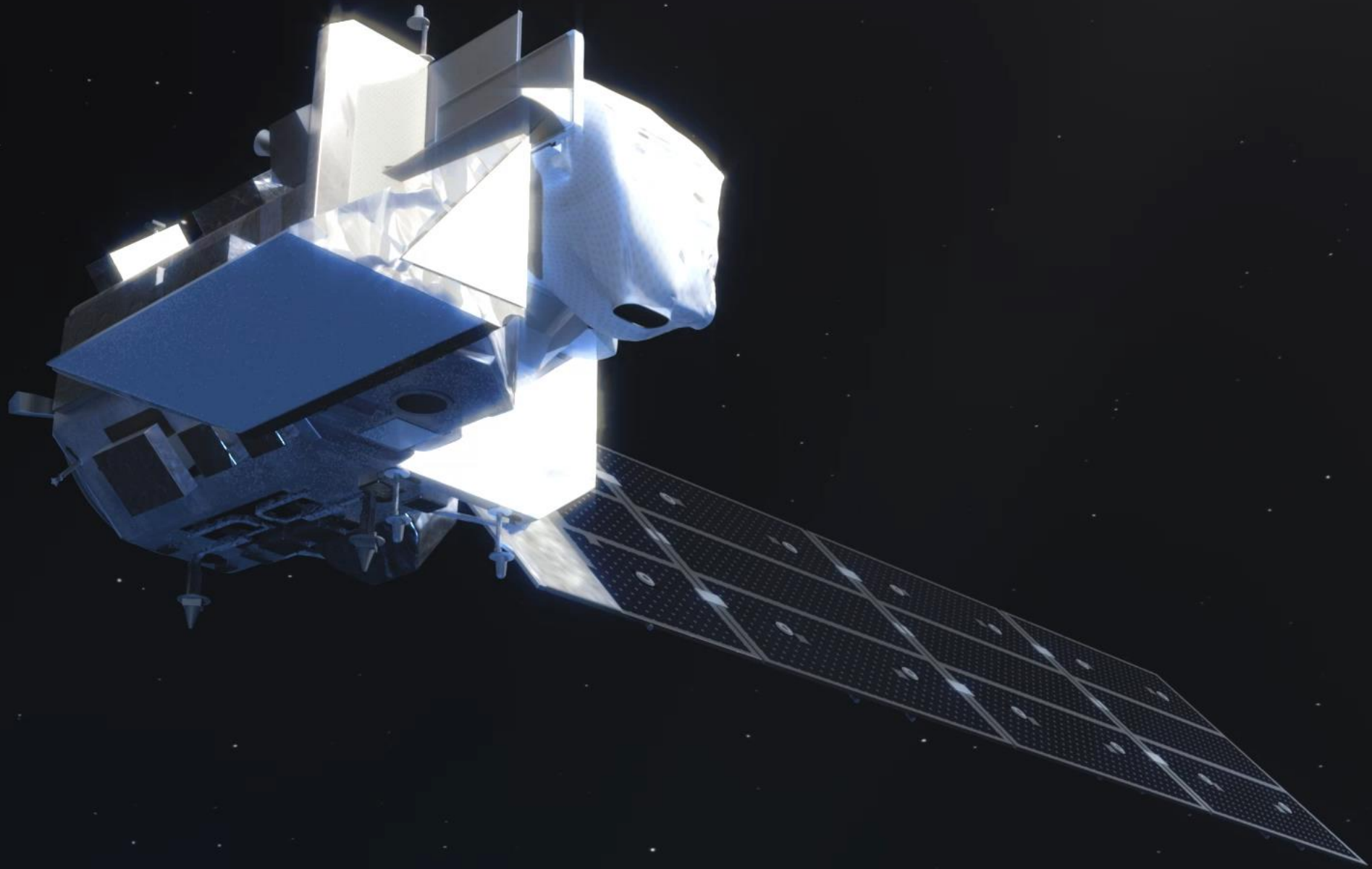
20m/0.1 acres | overpass every 5-10 days

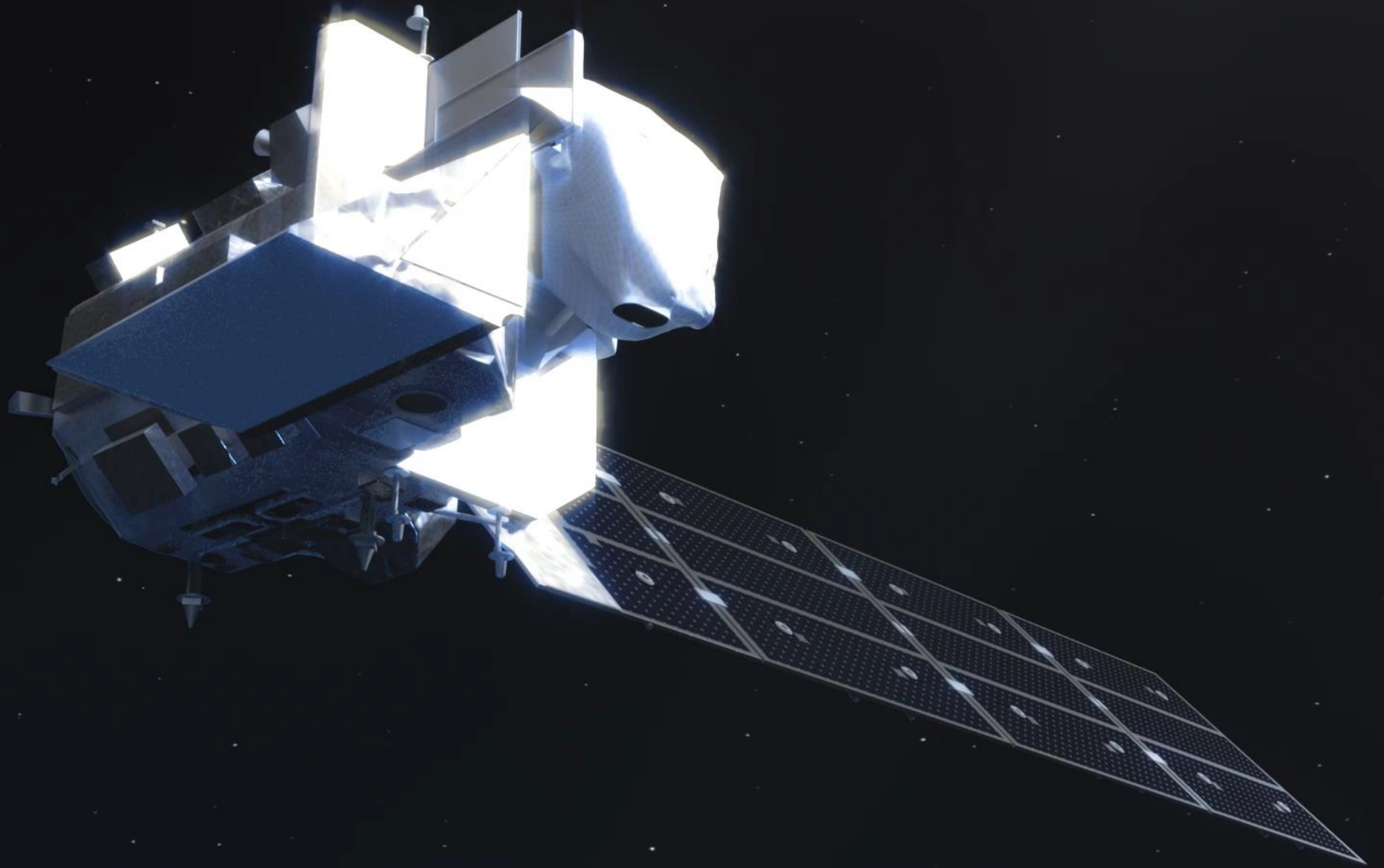


Key principle:

**Evapotranspiration
consumes energy!**



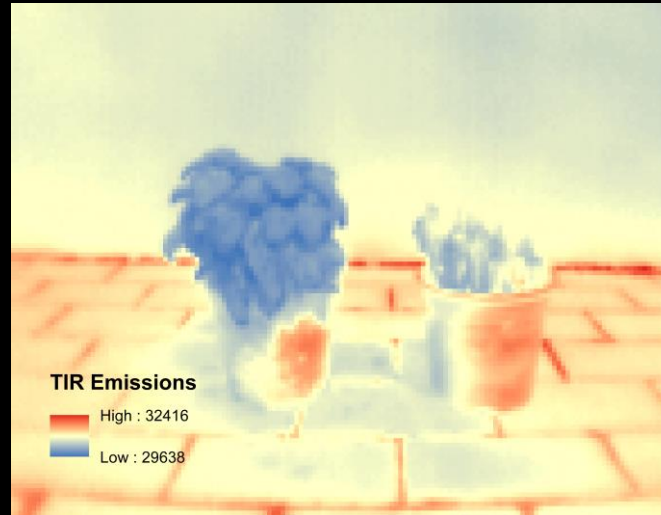




What does the satellite 'see'?



“True color”
(red, green, blue)

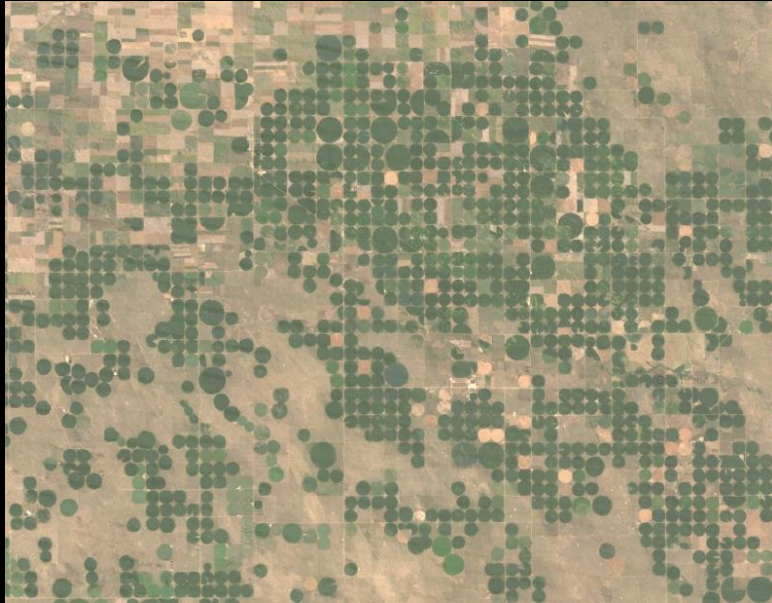


Thermal infrared
emissions

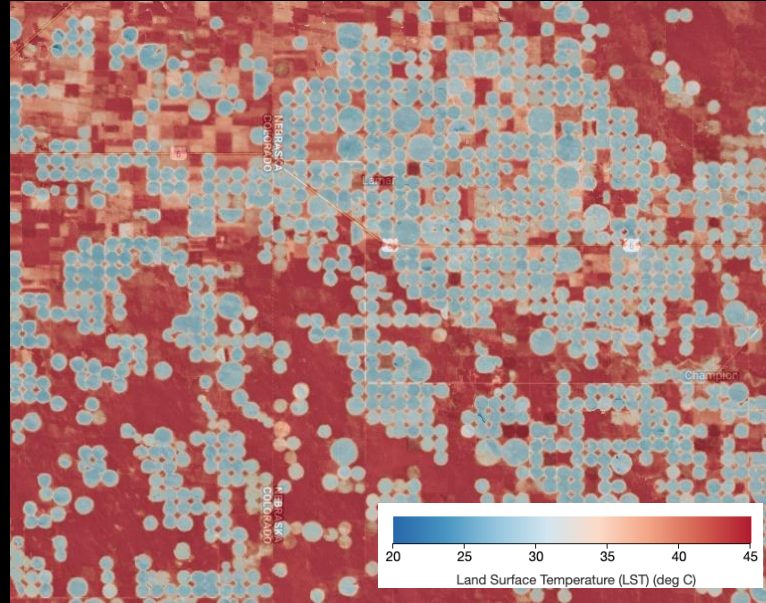


NDVI
(Normalized Difference
Vegetation Index)

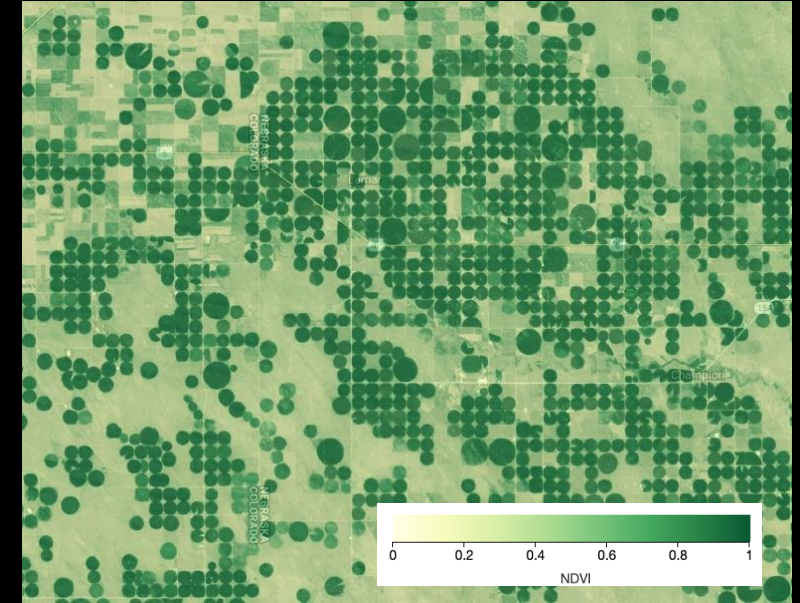
What does the satellite 'see'?



“True color”
(red, green, blue)



Thermal infrared
emissions

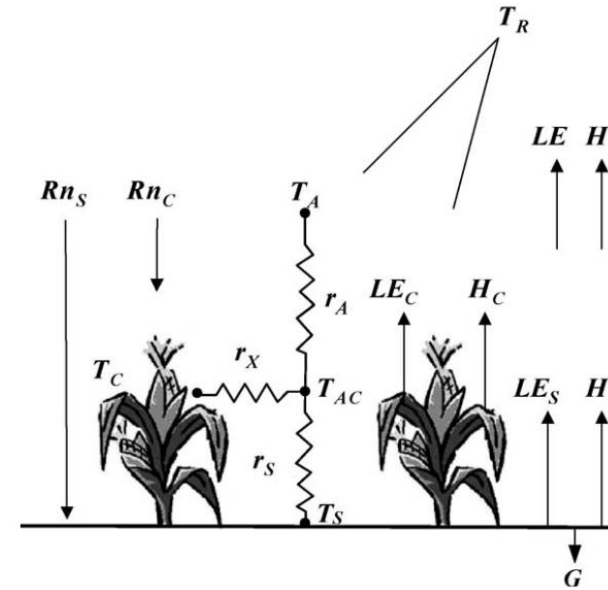
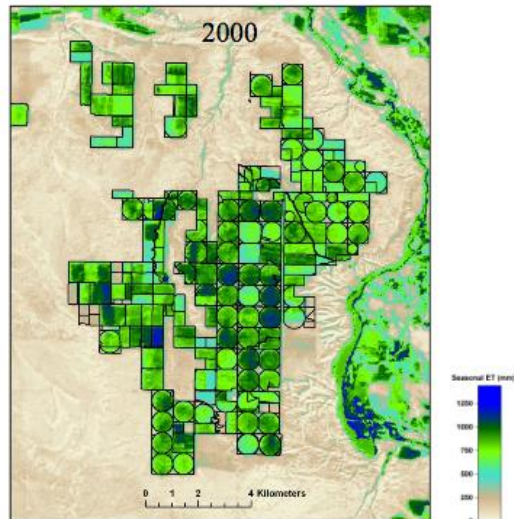
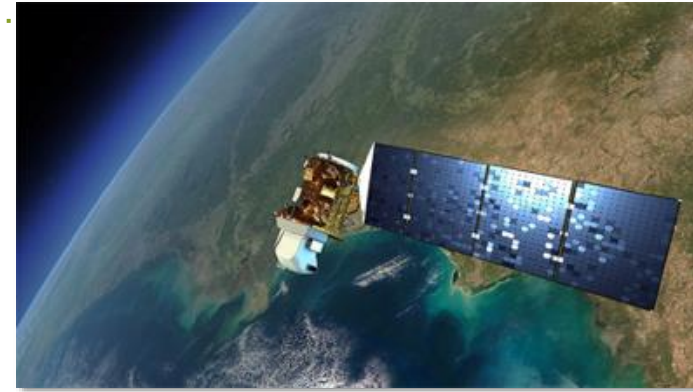
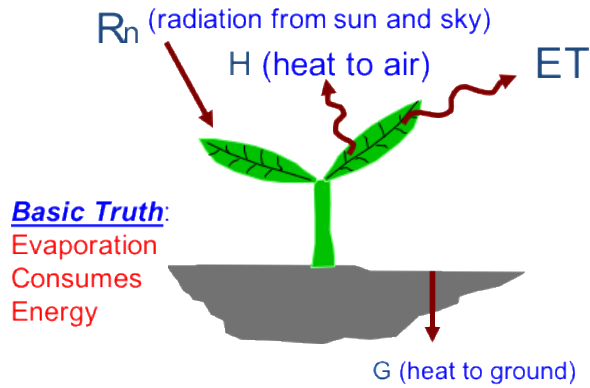


NDVI
(Normalized Difference
Vegetation Index)

Remote Sensing of Evapotranspiration:

Energy Balance Approach

$$ET = R_n - G - H$$

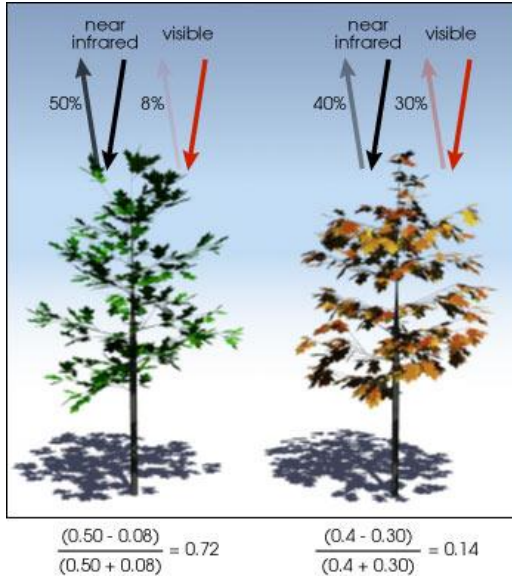


Norman et al., 1995; Bastiaanssen et al., 1998; Allen et al., 2007

Remote Sensing of Evapotranspiration: Reflectance-based Approach

$$NDVI = \frac{\rho_{nir} - \rho_{red}}{\rho_{nir} + \rho_{red}}$$

Normalized Difference
Vegetation Index (NDVI)



$$K_d = \min(1, M_L * F_{c_eff}, F_{c_eff}^{1/(1+h)})$$

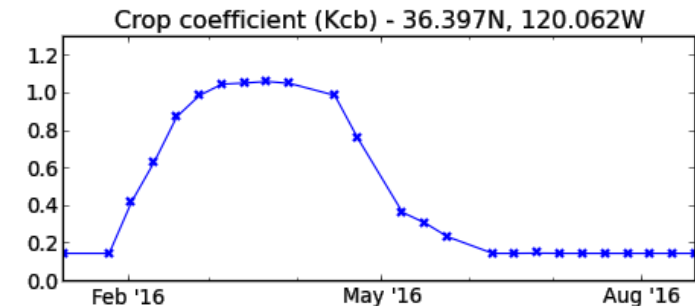
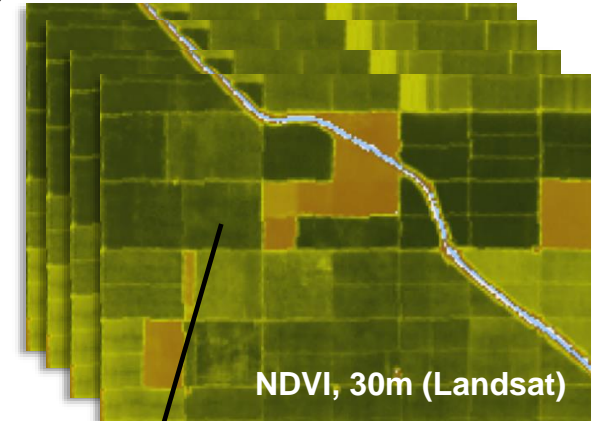
M_L : effect of canopy density on shading / max relative evapotranspiration
 K_d : density coefficient
 F_{c_eff} : effective fractional cover
 h : crop height

Allen & Pereira, 2009; Pereira et al., 2020

$$ET_c = ET_o * K_c$$

ASCE-PM Ref ET
Allen et al., 1998;
ASCE 2000

Satellite data

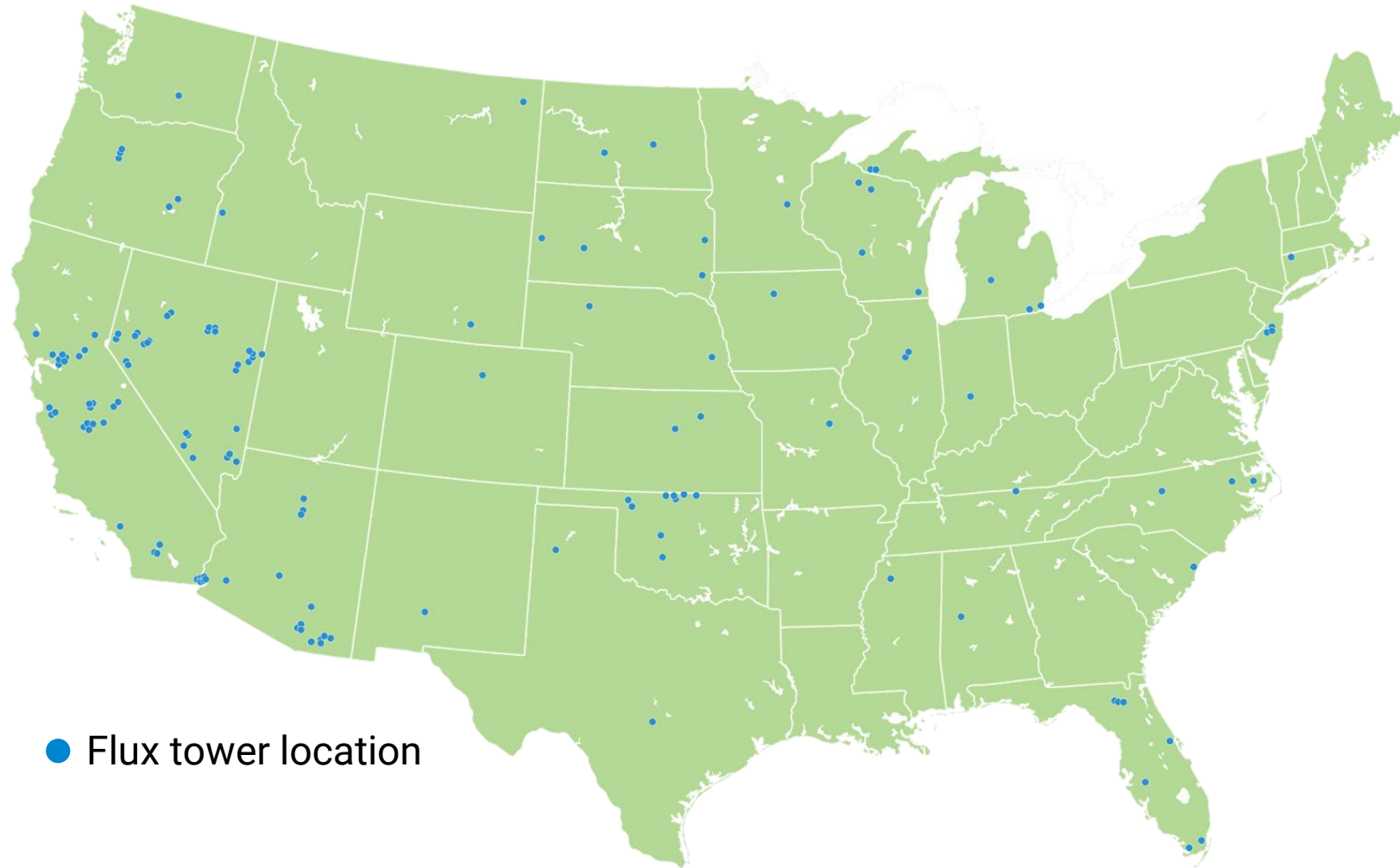


Trout et al., 2008

Johnson and Trout, 2012

Accuracy of the OpenET Approach

Intercomparison and Accuracy Assessment



● Flux tower location

- Phase I comparison complete (70 flux tower sites; 24 ag sites)
- Phase II comparison for 142 flux tower sites; 70 ag sites



OpenET Ensemble Value: Croplands

| Accuracy Summary for Croplands for the OpenET Ensemble ET Value | | | | | | |
|---|-------|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|
| Time Period | Slope | Mean Bias Error) | Mean Absolute Error | Root Mean Squared Error | r-squared | Mean flux tower ET |
| Water Year: 14 sites / 48 total water years | 0.93 | -71.6 mm (-7.0%) | 91.3 mm (8.9%) | 100.5 mm (9.8%) | 0.88 | 1024 mm |
| Growing Season: 38 sites / 151 growing seasons | 1.0 | -10.1 mm (-1.7%) | 80.3 mm (13.2%) | 92.7 mm (15.2%) | 0.88 | 609.5 mm |
| Monthly: 45 sites / 1,682 months | 0.95 | -3.6 mm (-3.9%) | 15.6 mm (16.6%) | 20.0 mm (21.3%) | 0.91 | 93.7 mm |
| Daily: 49 sites / 4,804 days | 0.88 | -0.3 mm (-7.4%) | 0.8 mm (22.8%) | 1.1 mm (29.7%) | 0.82 | 3.6 mm |

Slope: Measure of overall bias; 1.0 is perfect

Mean Bias Error (MBE): Measure of bias; 0.0 is perfect

Mean Absolute Error (MAE): Measure of expected error; 0.0 is perfect

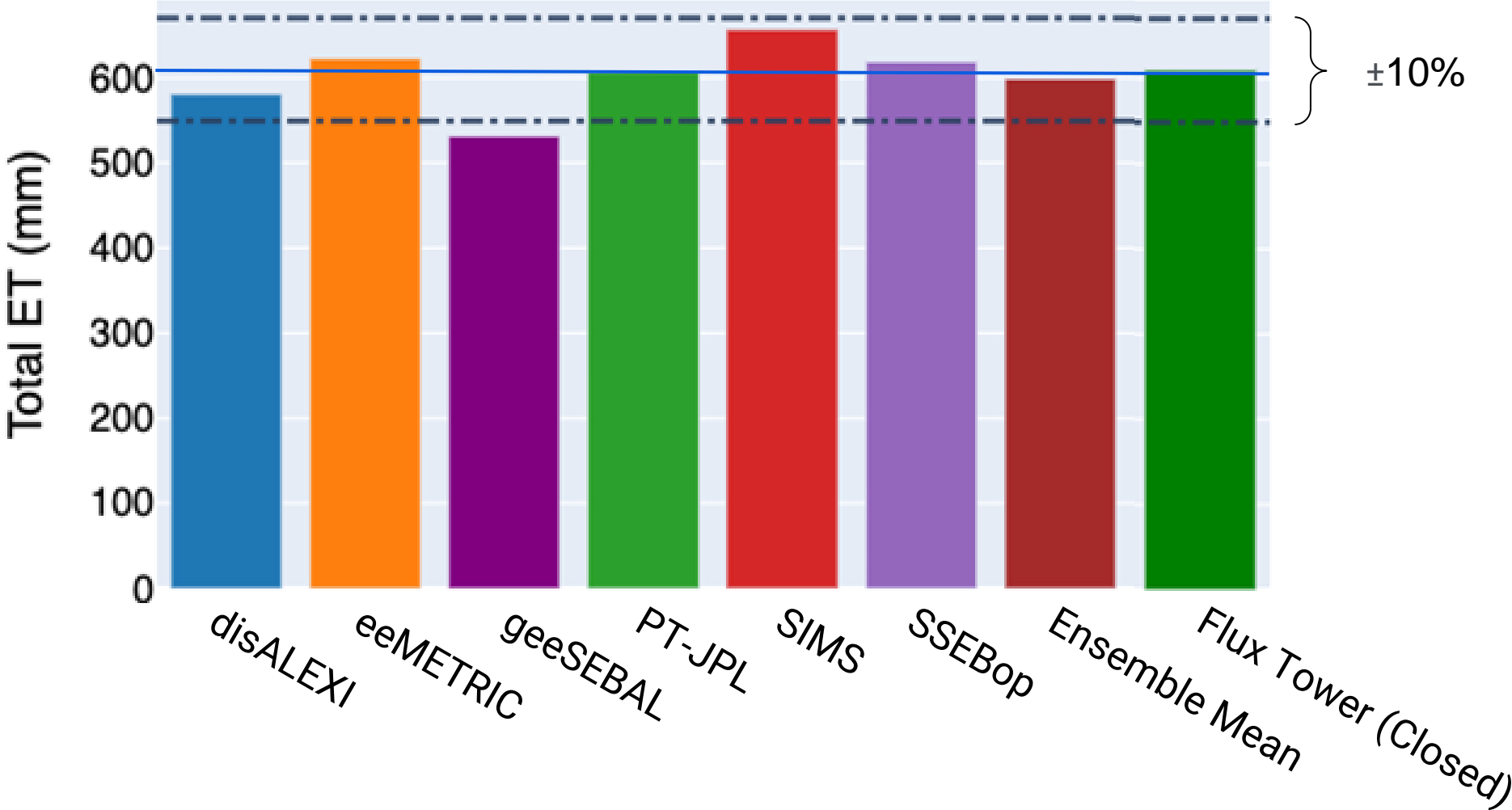
Root Mean Squared Error (RMSE): Measure of expect error with additional weight for outliers; 0.0 is perfect

r-squared: Measure of the ability of the model to reproduce observed variability; 1.0 is perfect

Melton et al., JAWRA, 2021

Ensemble Value: Croplands

Average Total Growing Season ET
(n=38 sites and 151 total growing seasons)



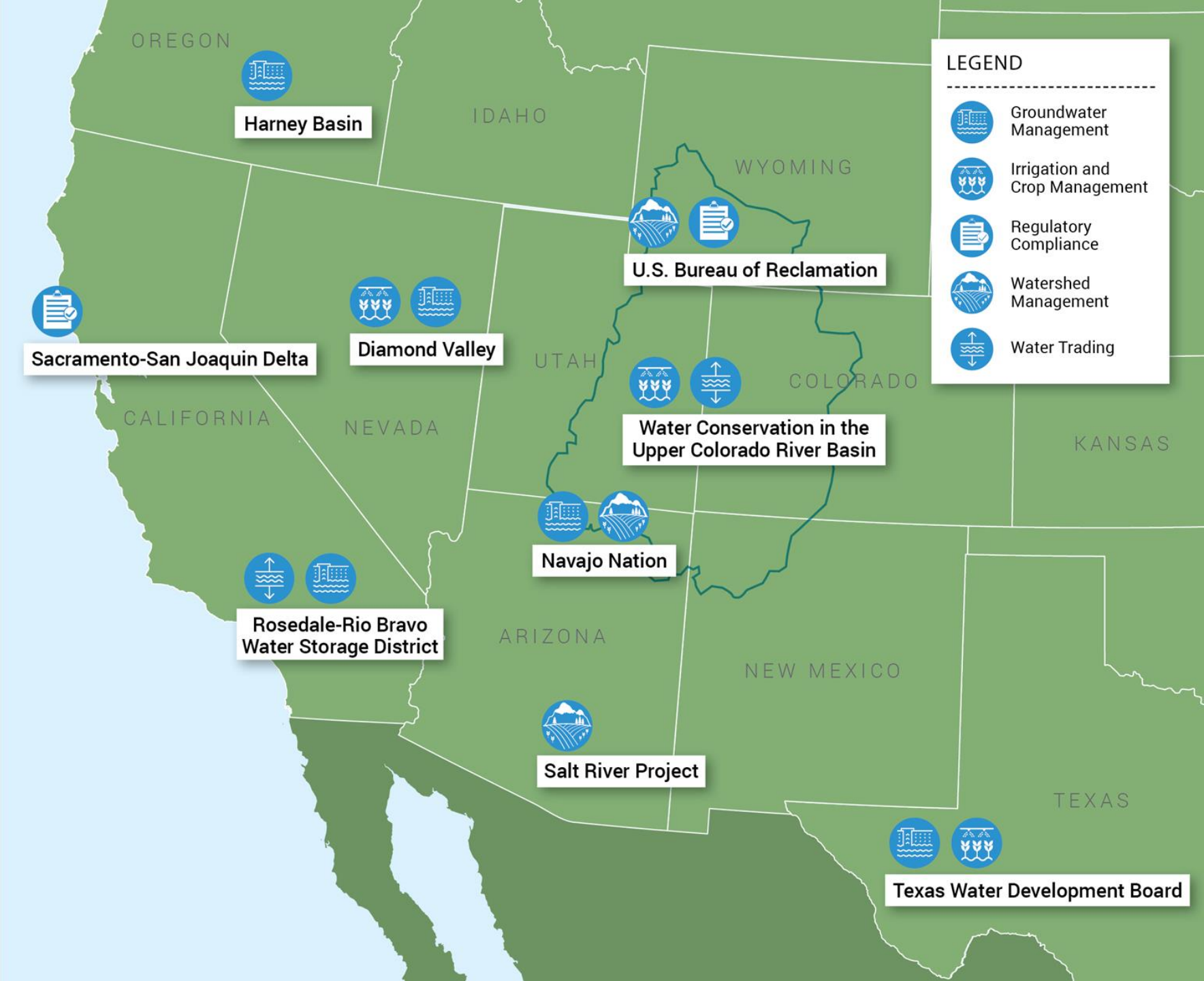
Use Cases and Pilot Projects

OpenET can help:

- Rural communities to design locally driven water conservation and trading programs.
- Water managers to develop more accurate water budgets, incentive programs and other innovative strategies.
- Policymakers to more accurately track water supplies, simplify regulatory compliance, and co-develop solutions with local communities.
- Farmers to expand use of data-driven irrigation practices to maximize “crop per drop” and reduce costs for fertilizer, water, and energy.



OpenET Use Cases



Irrigation Management in the Harney Basin



Mark Owens
Farmer
Harney County, OR

Water Accounting in the CA Central Valley



Eric Averett
Former General Manager
Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District

Forest Management in Arizona



Elvy Barton
Senior Water Policy Analyst
Salt River Project

Next Steps for OpenET

What's next for OpenET?

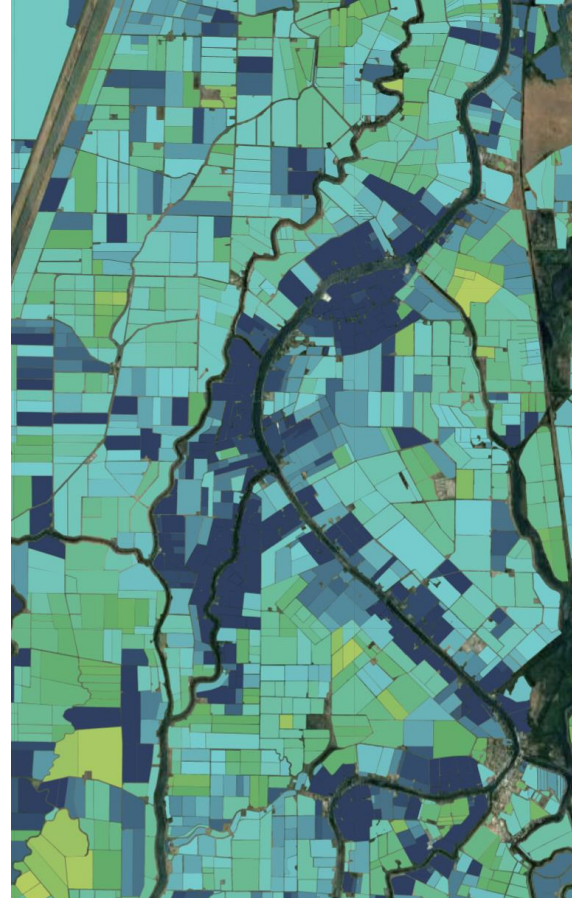
- Addition of daily data and integration with irrigation scheduling tools
- Public release of the API in second half of 2022
- Completion of the custom reporting tools
- Best Practices Manual and updates to the ensemble ET value (OpenET Collection 2)
- Further development in the underlying science
 - Evaluating the models for mature tree crops, open water evaporation, and for forested and other non-agricultural landscapes
 - Calculation of effective precipitation and ET of applied water



Lessons Learned

Look for win-win solutions

- New water data can be sensitive
- Important to listen to concerns from all stakeholders
- Identify and prioritize “win-win” solutions

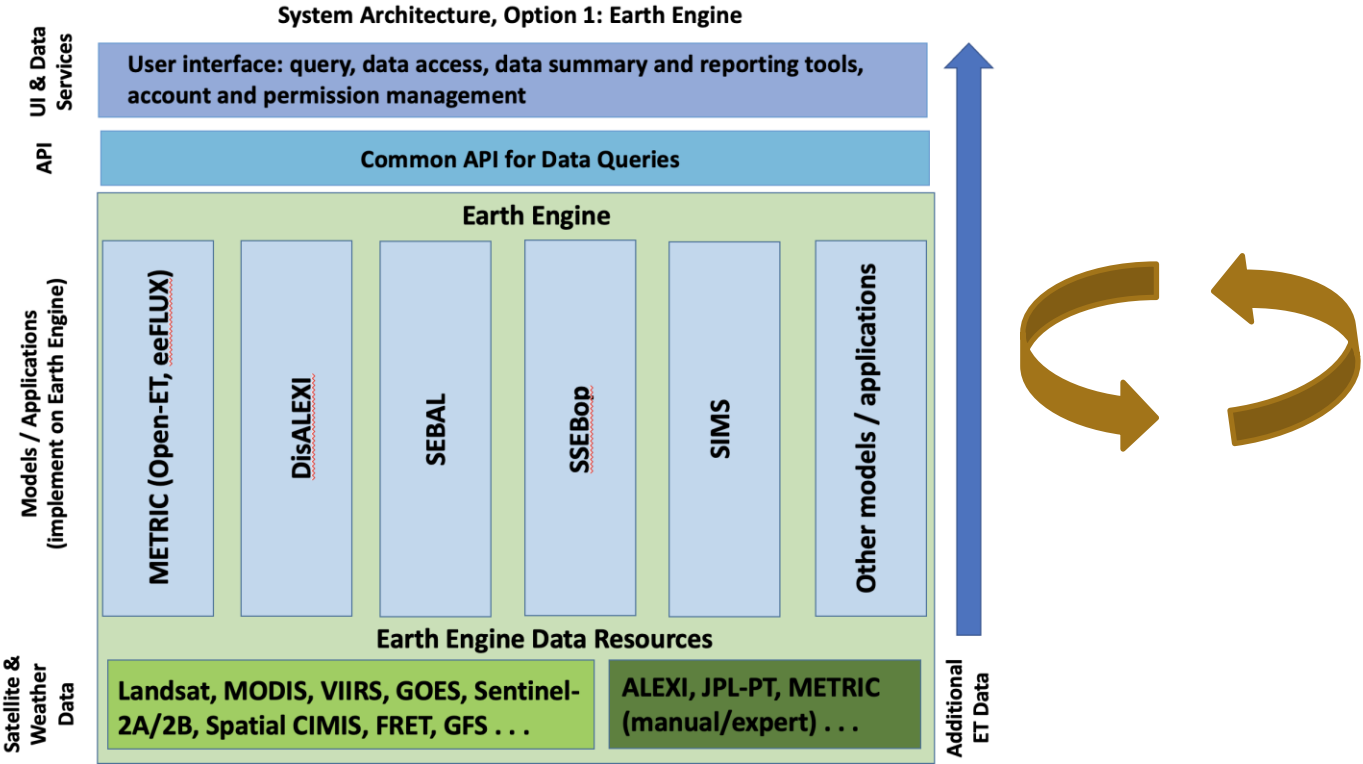


Open science and open data are not free

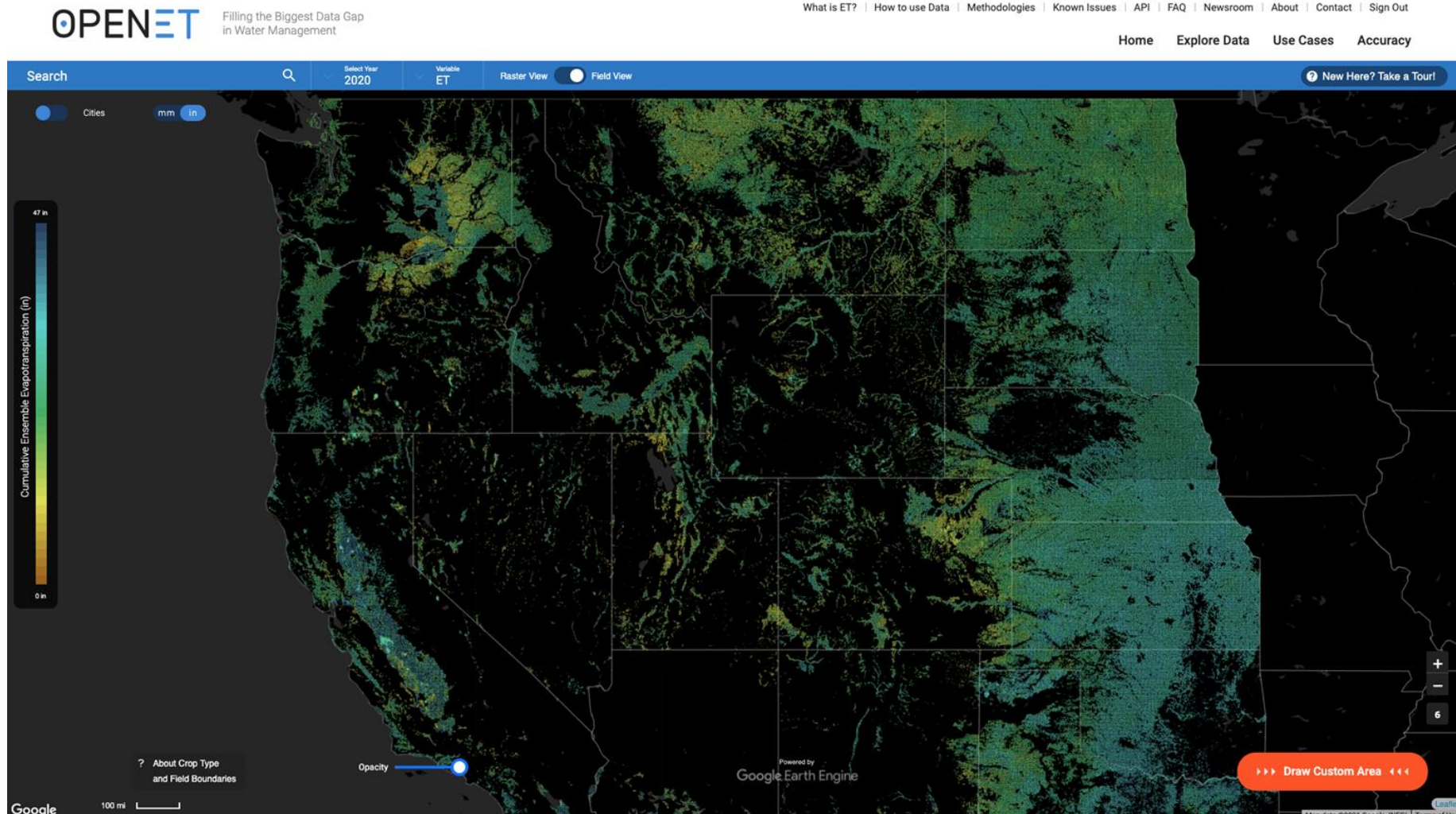
- Free to the user \neq free to the provider
- Plan far ahead
- Start early
- Of course, nothing will go according to plan



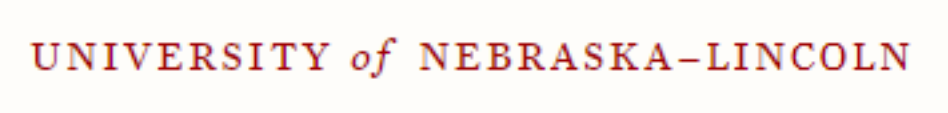
User-driven design works (if time allows!)



User-driven design works (if time allows!)



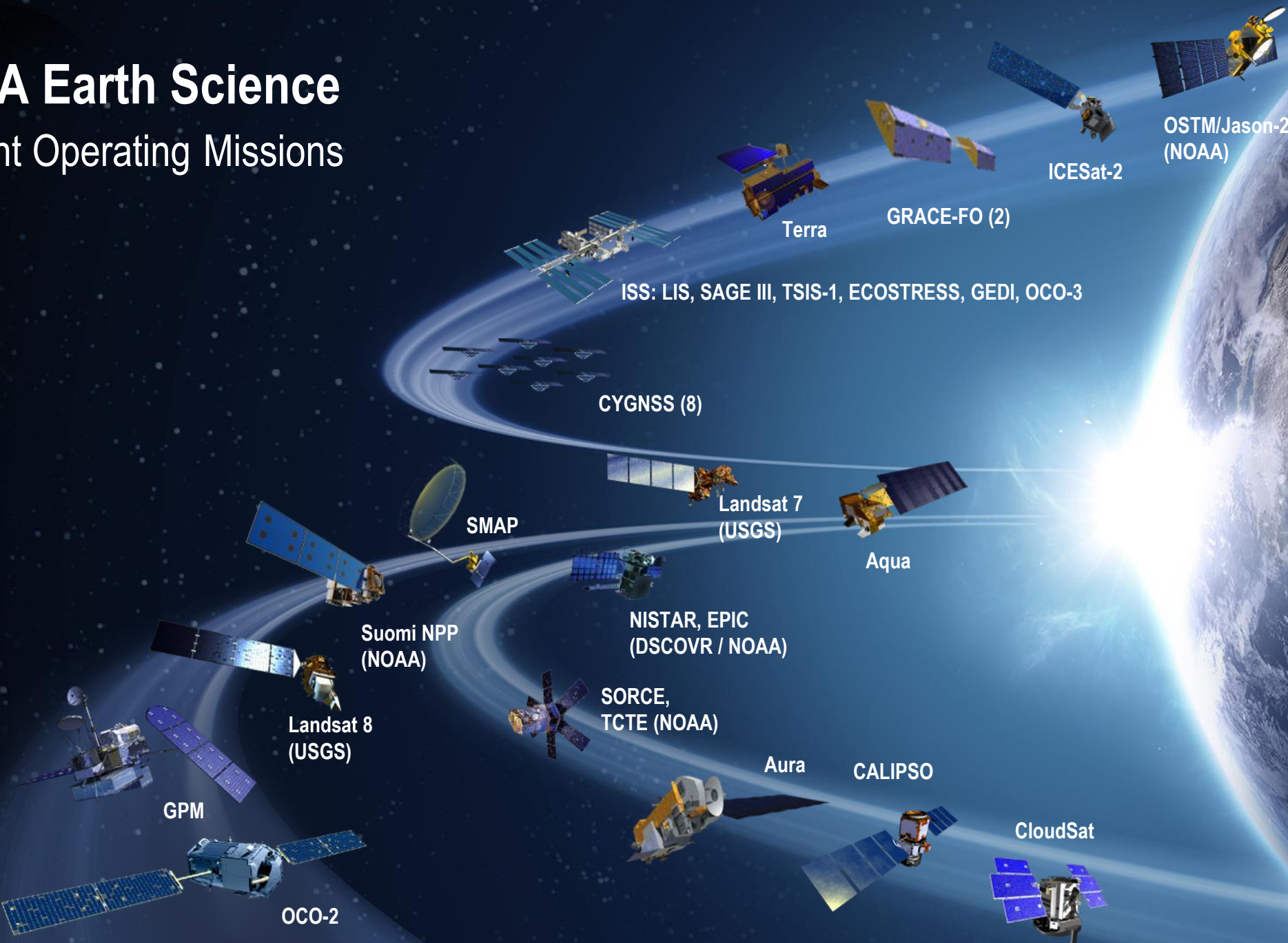
Partnerships matter!



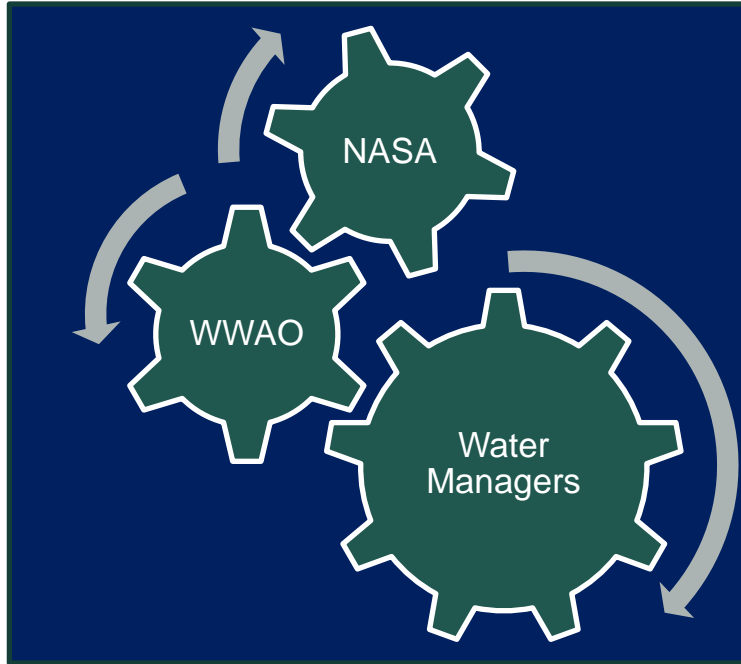
NASA and the Western Water Applications Office

NASA Earth Science

Current Operating Missions



NASA Applied Sciences Program: Western Water Applications Office (WWAO)



WWAO's Mission

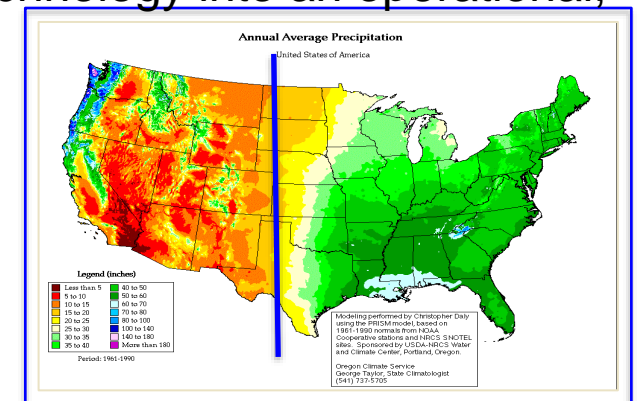
- Improve how water is managed by applying NASA data, technology, tools in partnership with water managers and decision makers in the western U.S.

WWAO does this by:

- **Identifying needs** in western water management for information and decision support
- **Making connections** between stakeholders and NASA scientists, technology, tools, and data
- **Supporting projects** tailored to meet those needs, engaging with partners from beginning to end
- **Transition of water applications** and technology into an operational, sustainable state for long-term impact

Why WWAO?

- NASA's science, remote-sensing data and expertise can bring a unique set of capabilities to address water management challenges
- Remote-sensing data can help fill critical data gaps in the West
- WWAO leverages decades of investment in science and technology, as well as deep relationships with partners and stakeholders



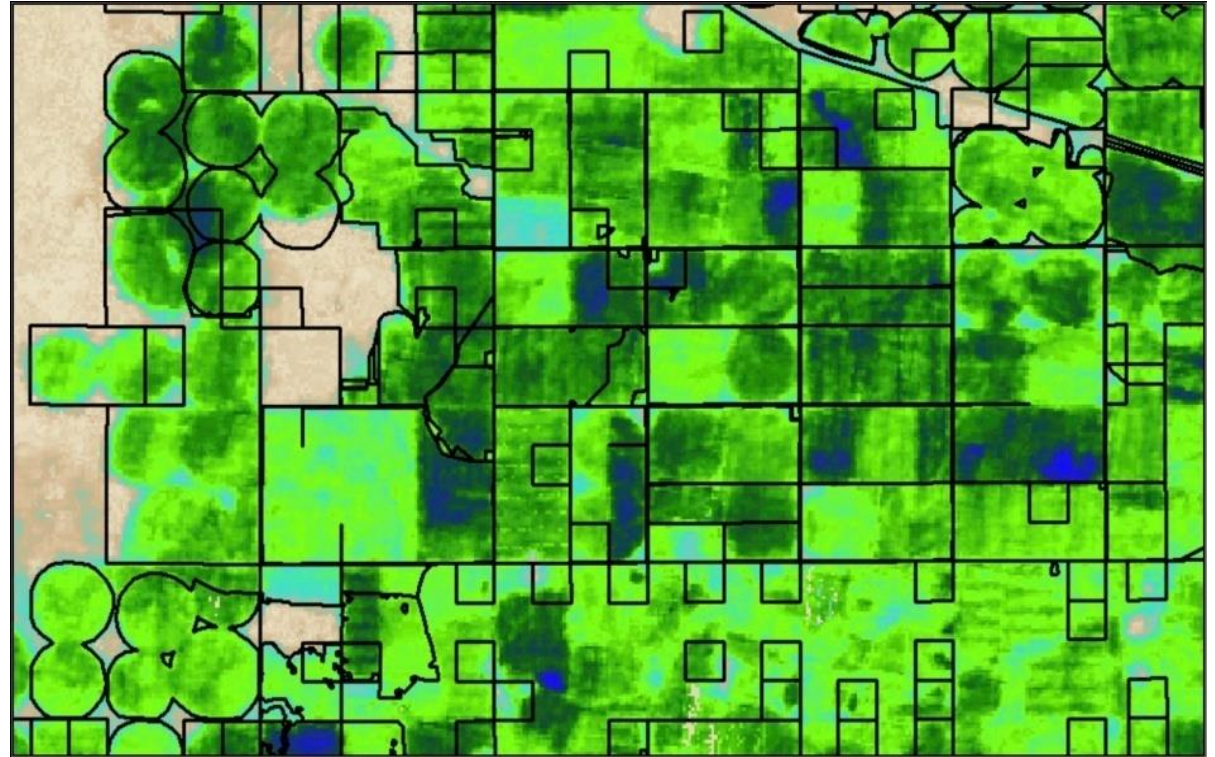
Questions?

forrest.s.melton@nasa.gov
openetdata.org



Questions?

- Please enter your questions in the Q&A box. We will answer them in the order they were received.
- We will post the Q&A to the training website following the conclusion of the webinar.



Contacts

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- Training Webpage:
 - <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/join-mission/training/english/arset-applications-remote-sensing-based-evapotranspiration-data>
- ARSET Website:
 - <https://appliedsciences.nasa.gov/arset>
- Twitter: [@NASAARSET](https://twitter.com/NASAARSET)

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Thank You!

