## Improving Estimates of Hydrologic Extremes: Applications to National Forests and Parks



Ingrid Tohver NCAP Climate Change and Human Access Workshop Nov 30, 2011

# **Partnerships with Stakeholders**

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### **Project Premise**

- Assess potential impacts of climate change on federal lands and incorporate projections into management practices
- Estimates of extreme streamflows using physically-based models
- Support protection of fish and wildlife habitat
- Support forest road management





Photos courtesy of Olympic National Park

## **Contrasting Methodologies**

### **USGS Regression-based model**



Inputs: Annual precipitation Basin size & elevation Aggregate - 12 digit HUCs

#### Grid Cell Vegetation Coverage Cell Energy and Moisture Fluxes Variable Infiltration Curve $i = i [1 - (1 - A)^{1/5})]$ Canopy cint Infittrati Capacity, I Laver 0 0 Layer 1 As - dA Fraction of Area 0 Layer 2 **Baseflow Curve** Ó Baseflow, B 00 W.W29 Layer 2 Soil Moisture, W2

Variable Infiltration Capacity (VIC)

Macroscale Hydrologic Model

# **Results for the Olympic Peninsula**

#### **100-year Flood Ratio**

#### Low Flow Ratio



Ratios of the future (A1B 2040s) to historical extreme flow magnitudes indicate spatial shifts projected by climate and hydrologic models

# **Flood Ratios for NCAP Region**

2.5

### Ratio of 100-year Flood Statistics by 6th level HUC (21st Century ÷ 20th Century) 0.7



# Low Flow Ratios for NCAP Region

### Ratio of Low Flow (7Q10) Statistics by 6th level HUC (21st Century ÷ 20th Century) 0.5

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## **Summary Statistics: Low Flow**

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## **Summary Statistics: Flood**

