

Idaho Department of Water Resources  
Open-File Report



Summary of Ground Water Conditions in the Big Wood River Ground Water Area

2016 Update

By  
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## **Introduction**

The Idaho Department of Water Resources maintains a ground water level monitoring network in the Wood River and Camas Valleys, Idaho. The monitoring network currently consists of 48 wells that are visited on a semi-annual basis (Figure 1). Twenty-one of the wells have transducers installed (Figure 1). The wells are labeled in Figures 2-4. Figures 2-4 focus on different areas within the Big Wood Ground Water Management Area (GWMA). The purpose of the ground water monitoring program is to observe water levels within the Big Wood GWMA and to provide data for a future recalibration of the Wood River Valley Aquifer Model. The GWMA was designated on June 28, 1991. The area was designated to address the connection between ground and surface water within the Camas Creek, Silver Creek, and Big Wood River drainages above Magic Reservoir.

A groundwater model by Fisher and others (in press) has been developed since designation of the GWMA to evaluate the groundwater and surface water connection with the Wood River and Silver Creek drainages. The US Geological Survey (USGS) published several studies of the hydrogeology of the Big Wood River and Camas basins. USGS studies of the Big Wood River basin include Stearns and others (1938), Jones (1952), Smith (1959), Smith (1960), Moreland (1977), Frenzel (1989), Skinner and others (2007), Bartolino (2009), Bartolino and Adkins (2012), Hopkins and Bartolino (2013), and Bartolino (2014). USGS studies of the Camas Creek basin include Stearns and others (1938), Jones (1952), Smith (1960), Walton (1962), Young (1978), and Young and others (1978). A management plan has not been developed for the area, nor has an advisory committee been formed. An advisory committee for development of the Wood River Valley Groundwater Flow Model was established in April, 2013 and continues to meet on a regular basis to monitor model performance and evaluate the need for a recalibration of the model. Currently, data from this monitoring network provides input for the Wood River Valley Aquifer Model and is a source of information for the management of the ground water resource in this area.

## **Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this report is to provide an updated summary of the status of the ground water monitoring network and to present water level data collected over the network's history.

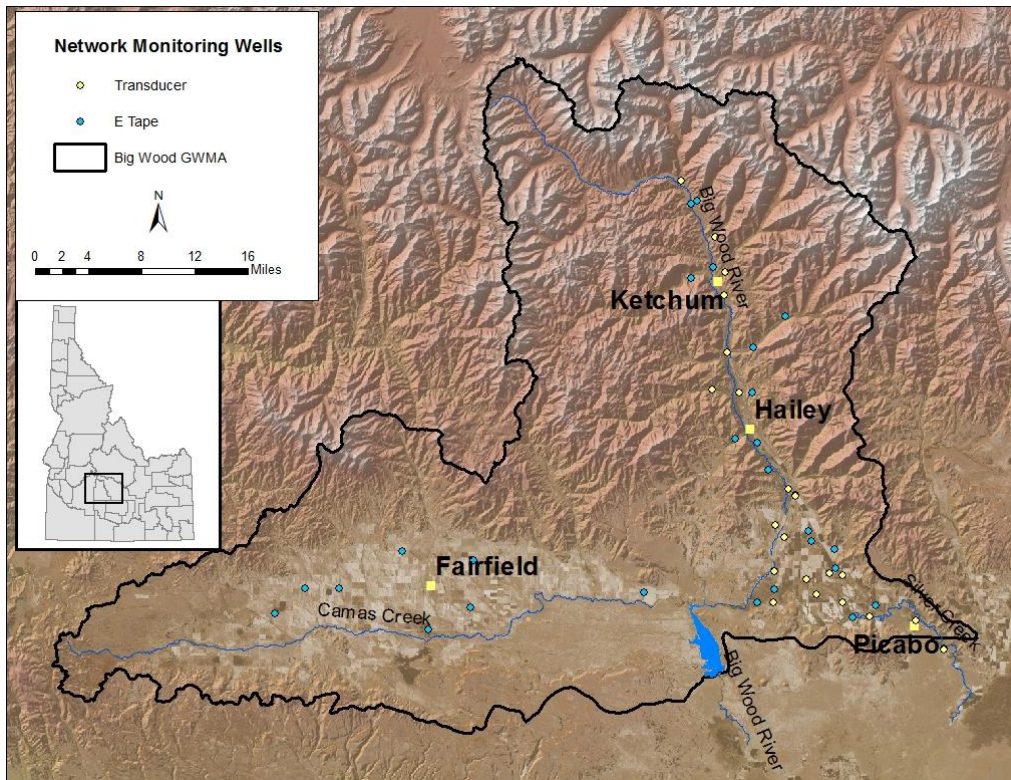


Figure 1. Current Big Wood GWMA monitoring network.

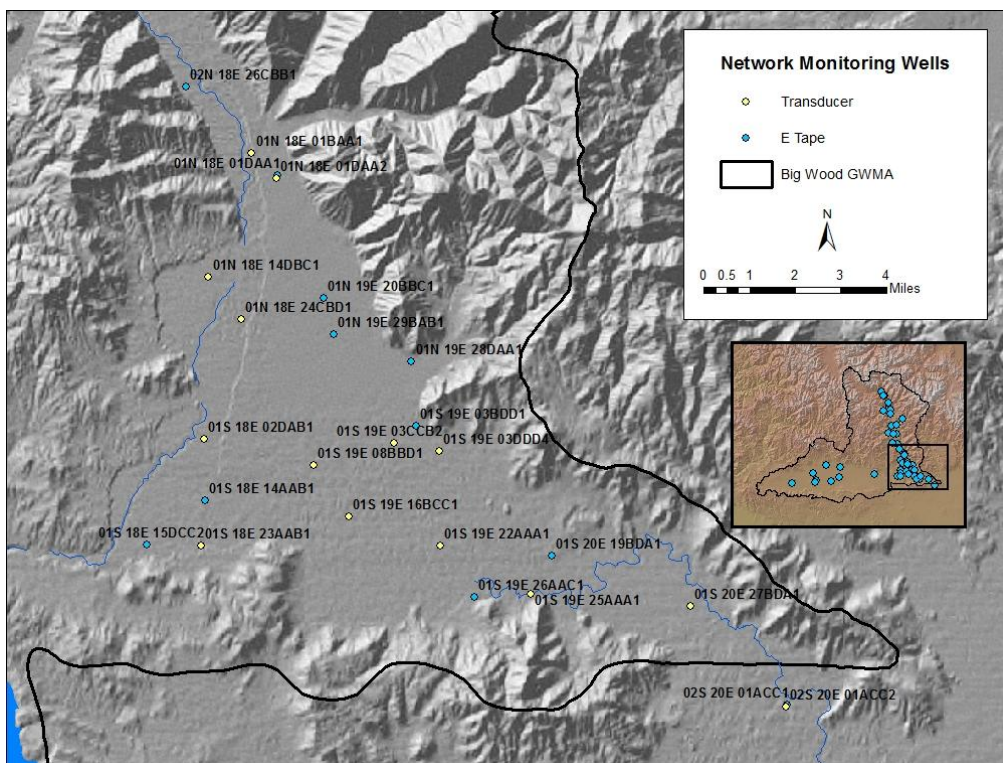


Figure 2. Southeast portion of the Big Wood groundwater monitoring network.

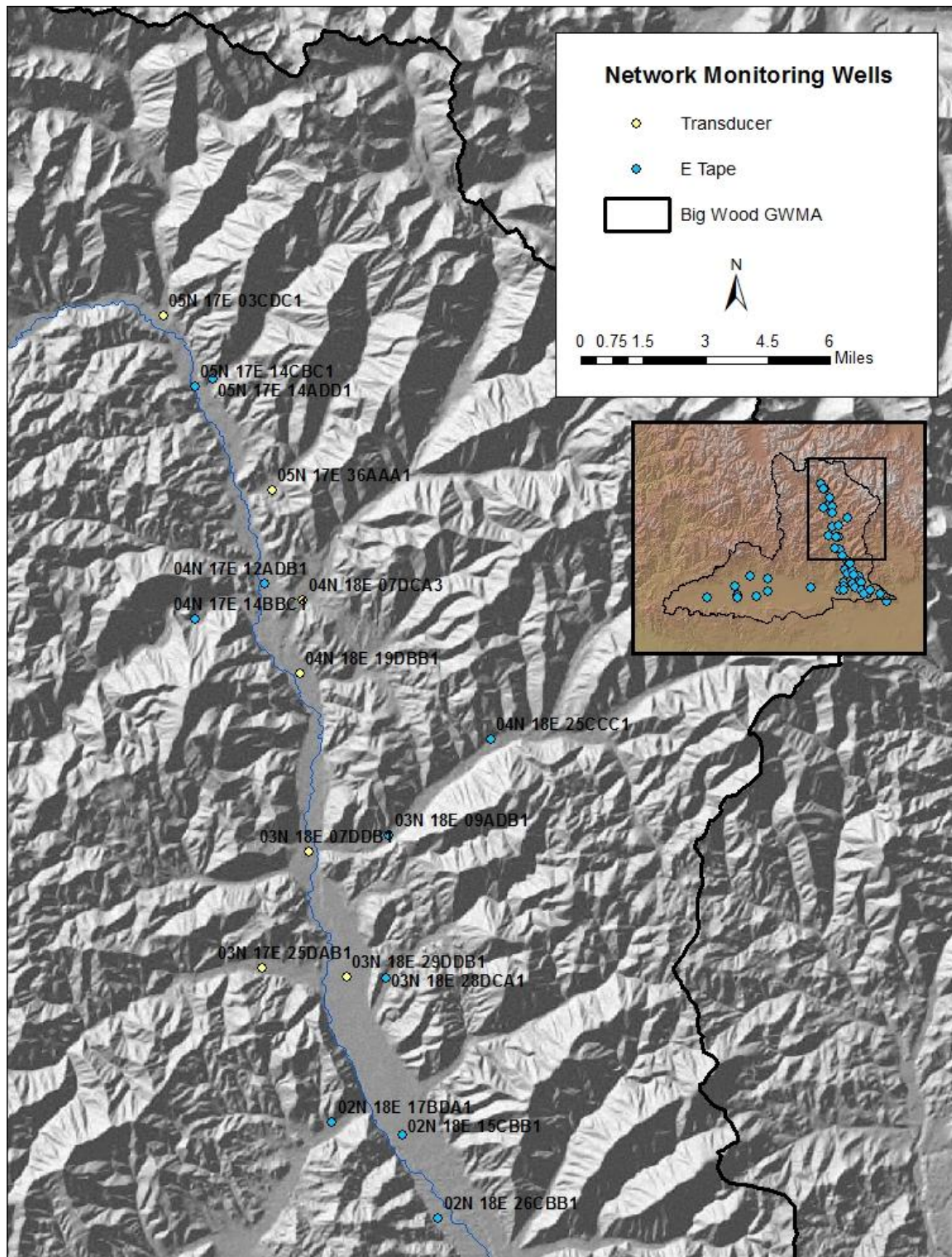


Figure 3. Northeast portion of the Big Wood GWMA groundwater monitoring network.

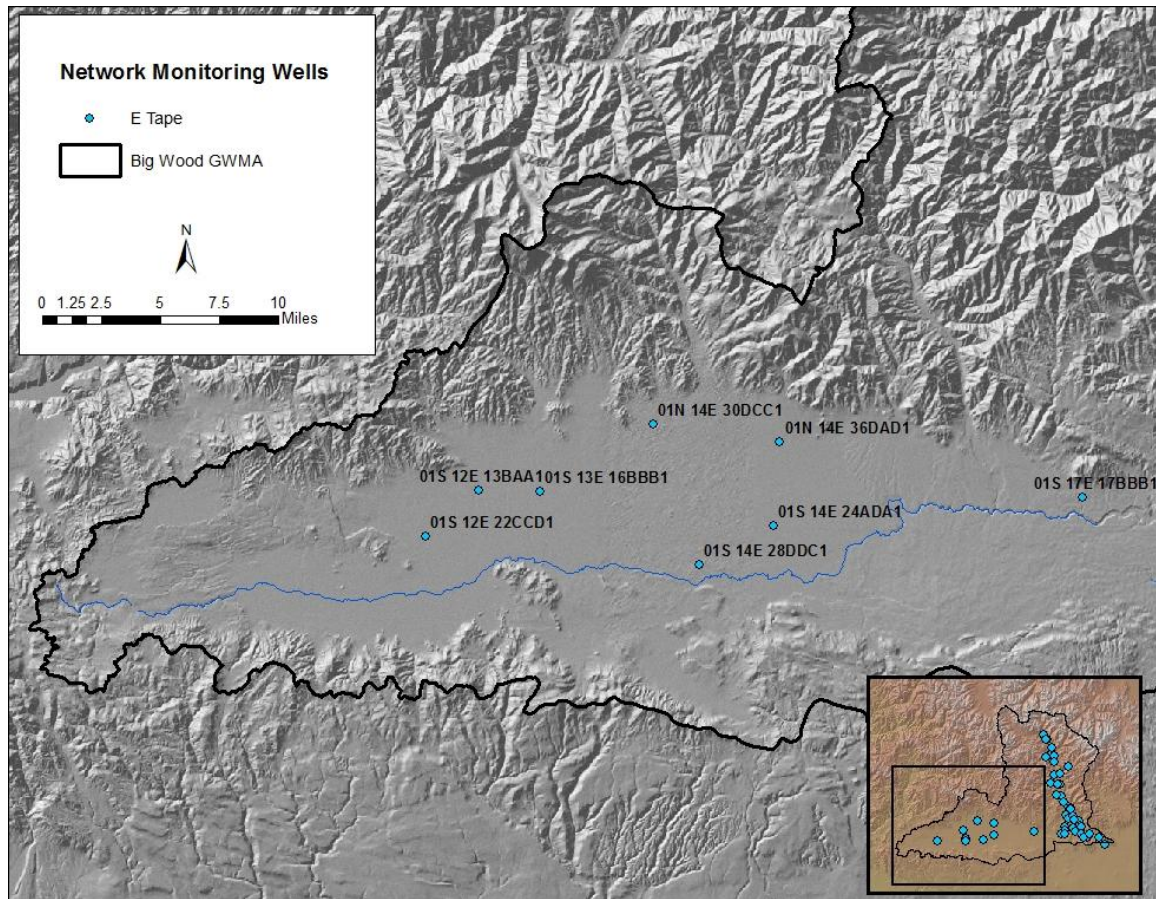


Figure 4. Western portion of the Big Wood groundwater monitoring network.

### Status of the Monitoring Network

Monitoring data exists dating back to 1944 (Table 1). Twenty-one of the wells have transducers installed (Figures 1-4). The transducers are programmed to collect water levels twice a day. This water level network is not static, the wells included in the network change as circumstances indicate more need for wells in specific areas. Five wells have only two water levels because they were added recently, while well 01S 19E 03CCB2 has 5,152 because it has been in the network since 1954 and had a transducer installed in it in July, 2012. The median number of water-levels is 205. The average period of record is about 32 years.

Table 1. Summary of wells in the Big Wood monitoring network. The Well ID corresponds to the well labels in Figures 2-4.

| Well ID        | WL Date Min | WL Date Max | Site Status | # of Water-Level Readings & Comments  |
|----------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| 01N 14E 30DCC1 | 9/22/1977   | 10/23/2015  | Active      | 10 WL                                 |
| 01N 14E 36DAD1 | 3/24/1977   | 10/23/2015  | Active      | 184 WL                                |
| 01N 18E 01BAA1 | 5/21/1955   | 11/3/2015   | Active      | 2433 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
| 01N 18E 01DAA1 | 7/22/1954   | 11/3/2015   | Active      | 889 WL                                |
| 01N 18E 01DAA2 | 7/14/1954   | 11/3/2015   | Active      | 2431 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
| 01N 18E 14DBC1 | 7/11/2012   | 11/3/2015   | Active      | 2268 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |

|                |            |            |           |                                       |
|----------------|------------|------------|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| 01N 18E 24CBD1 | 10/16/2014 | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 767 WL Transducer installed Oct 2014  |
| 01N 19E 20BBC1 | 5/8/1963   | 11/4/2015  | Active    | 32 WL                                 |
| 01N 19E 28DAA1 | 5/19/1970  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 5 WL                                  |
| 01N 19E 29BAB1 | 5/8/1963   | 3/3/2015   | Active    | 3 WL                                  |
| 01S 13E 16BBB1 | 4/17/1978  | 10/23/2015 | Active    | 172 WL                                |
| 01S 12E 13BAA1 | 7/14/1944  | 4/12/2013  | Destroyed | 298 WL                                |
| 01S 12E 22CCD1 | 10/25/1995 | 11/18/2015 | Active    | 4 WL                                  |
| 01S 14E 24ADA1 | 3/16/1978  | 10/23/2015 | Active    | 166 WL                                |
| 01S 14E 28DDC1 | 12/6/1976  | 10/23/2015 | Active    | 290 WL                                |
| 01S 17E 17BBB1 | 3/11/1977  | 10/23/2015 | Active    | 226 WL                                |
| 01S 18E 02DAB1 | 4/15/1953  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 651 WL Transducer installed Dec 2014  |
| 01S 18E 14AAB1 | 7/12/1954  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 390 WL                                |
| 01S 18E 15DCC2 | 5/7/1970   | 10/23/2006 | Active    | 4 WL                                  |
| 01S 18E 23AAB1 | 7/29/1975  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 766 WL Transducer installed Oct 2014  |
| 01S 19E 03BDD1 | 9/30/1952  | 11/10/2015 | Active    | 12 WL                                 |
| 01S 19E 03CCB2 | 7/23/1954  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 5152 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
| 01S 19E 03DDD4 | 7/12/2012  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 2425 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
| 01S 19E 08BBD1 | 7/11/2012  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 2425 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
| 01S 19E 16BCC1 | 4/29/1970  | 10/20/2015 | Active    | 428 WL Transducer installed Apr 2015  |
| 01S 19E 22AAA1 | 8/11/1954  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 307 WL Transducer installed Nov 2015  |
| 01S 19E 25AAA1 | 10/17/2014 | 10/20/2015 | Active    | 740 WL Transducer installed Oct 2014  |
| 01S 19E 26AAC1 | 5/5/1970   | 10/20/2015 | Active    | 28 WL                                 |
| 01S 20E 19BDA1 | 5/15/1963  | 11/10/2015 | Active    | 29 WL                                 |
| 01S 20E 27BDA1 | 9/10/1954  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 1265 WL Transducer installed Jun 2014 |
| 02N 18E 15CBB1 | 10/24/2006 | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 3 WL                                  |
| 02N 18E 17BDA1 | 10/24/2006 | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 3 WL                                  |
| 02N 18E 26CBB1 | 7/20/1983  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 7 WL                                  |
| 02S 20E 01ACC1 | 7/20/1983  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 7 WL                                  |
| 02S 20E 01ACC2 | 9/10/1954  | 10/20/2015 | Active    | 11 WL                                 |
| 03N 17E 25DAB1 | 11/5/2012  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 2192 WL Transducer installed Nov 2012 |
| 03N 18E 07DDB1 | 7/12/2012  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 2416 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
| 03N 18E 09ADB1 | 10/25/2006 | 11/4/2015  | Active    | 2 WL                                  |
| 03N 18E 28DCA1 | 10/25/2006 | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 3 WL                                  |
| 03N 18E 29DDB1 | 7/12/2012  | 11/3/2015  | Active    | 2410 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
| 04N 17E 12ADB1 | 8/24/1983  | 10/24/2006 | Active    | 10 WL                                 |
| 04N 17E 14BBC1 | 8/19/1983  | 11/4/2015  | Active    | 95 WL                                 |
| 04N 18E 07DCA3 | 10/1/2015  | 11/4/2015  | Active    | 69 WL Transducer installed Oct 2014   |
| 04N 18E 19DBB1 | 4/10/1986  | 11/4/2015  | Active    | 2428 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
| 05N 17E 03CDC1 | 7/12/2012  | 11/4/2015  | Active    | 1933 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
| 05N 17E 14ADD1 | 10/23/2006 | 11/4/2015  | Active    | 2 WL                                  |
| 05N 17E 14CBC1 | 8/25/1983  | 10/23/2006 | Active    | 4 WL                                  |

|                |            |           |        |                                       |
|----------------|------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------------|
| 05N 17E 36AAA1 | 10/23/2006 | 9/30/2015 | Active | 2357 WL Transducer installed Jul 2012 |
|----------------|------------|-----------|--------|---------------------------------------|

### Summary of Water Level Data

A review of the data from the wells included in the current monitoring network was conducted to evaluate seasonal water level fluctuations, determine trends, and establish short and long-term changes. Appendix A contains hydrographs of the wells shown in Figure 2, Appendix B contains hydrographs of the wells shown in Figure 3, and Appendix C contains wells shown in Figure 4. Hydrographs in Appendices A-C with a record beginning prior to year 2000 have a second hydrograph beginning in 2000. Figure 5 is a map showing the location of the wells with at least 20 years of record without significant gaps. The hydrographs for these wells along with a computed trend line and  $p^1$  value for the slope in the trend line are shown in Appendix D. All wells with at least 10 years of record, regardless of gaps in the record, show a declining trend except for 04N 17E 14BBC1, 01S 13E 16BBB1, and 01S14E24ADA1. These wells are highlighted in Figure 5.

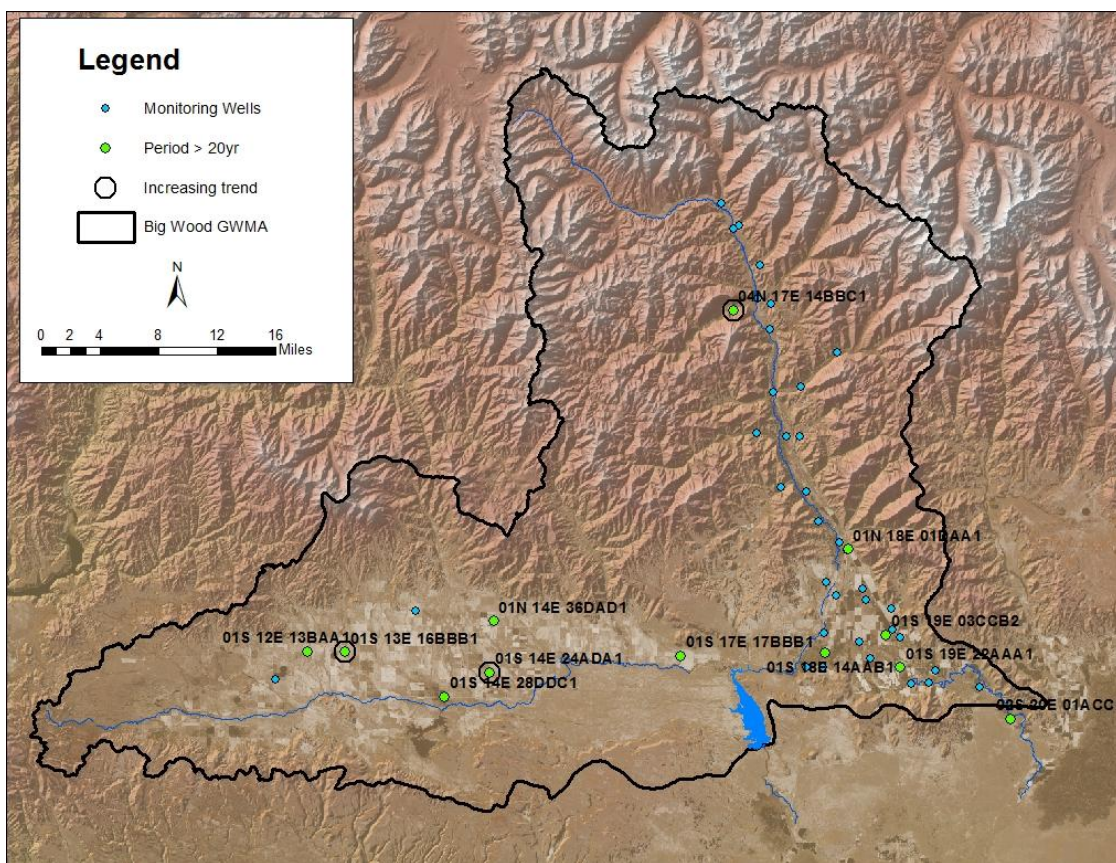
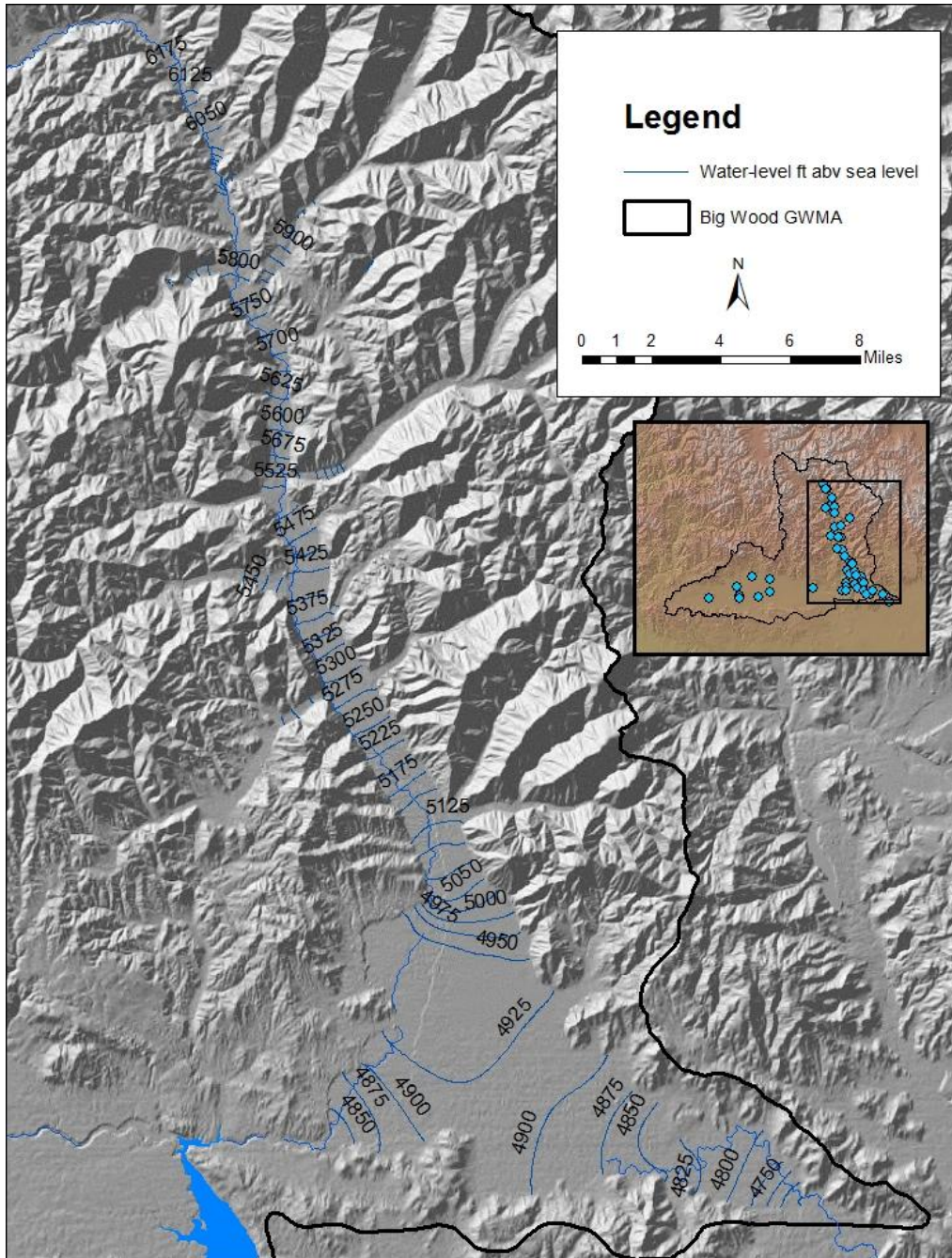


Figure 5. Wells with a record of over 20 years and at least 100 observations. Wells with a halo have an increasing trend, all other wells show a decreasing trend.

<sup>1</sup> The p value is the probability of obtaining the existing dataset when in fact the null hypothesis is true. In this case the null hypothesis is that the water-level trend is flat. If the p value is less than 0.05, then the null hypothesis is rejected at the 95% confidence level.

### ***General Water Level Elevation Analysis***

Bartolino (2014) produced water table contour maps for the Wood River Valley for October 2012. Figure 6 shows Bartolino's (2014) water table surface for October, 2012 for the shallow, unconfined aquifer in the Wood River Valley.



**Figure 6. Potentiometric surface for the shallow aquifer in the Wood River Valley from October 2012 (Bartolino, 2014).**



Figure 7 contains a potentiometric surface map for the confined aquifer in the Wood River Valley.

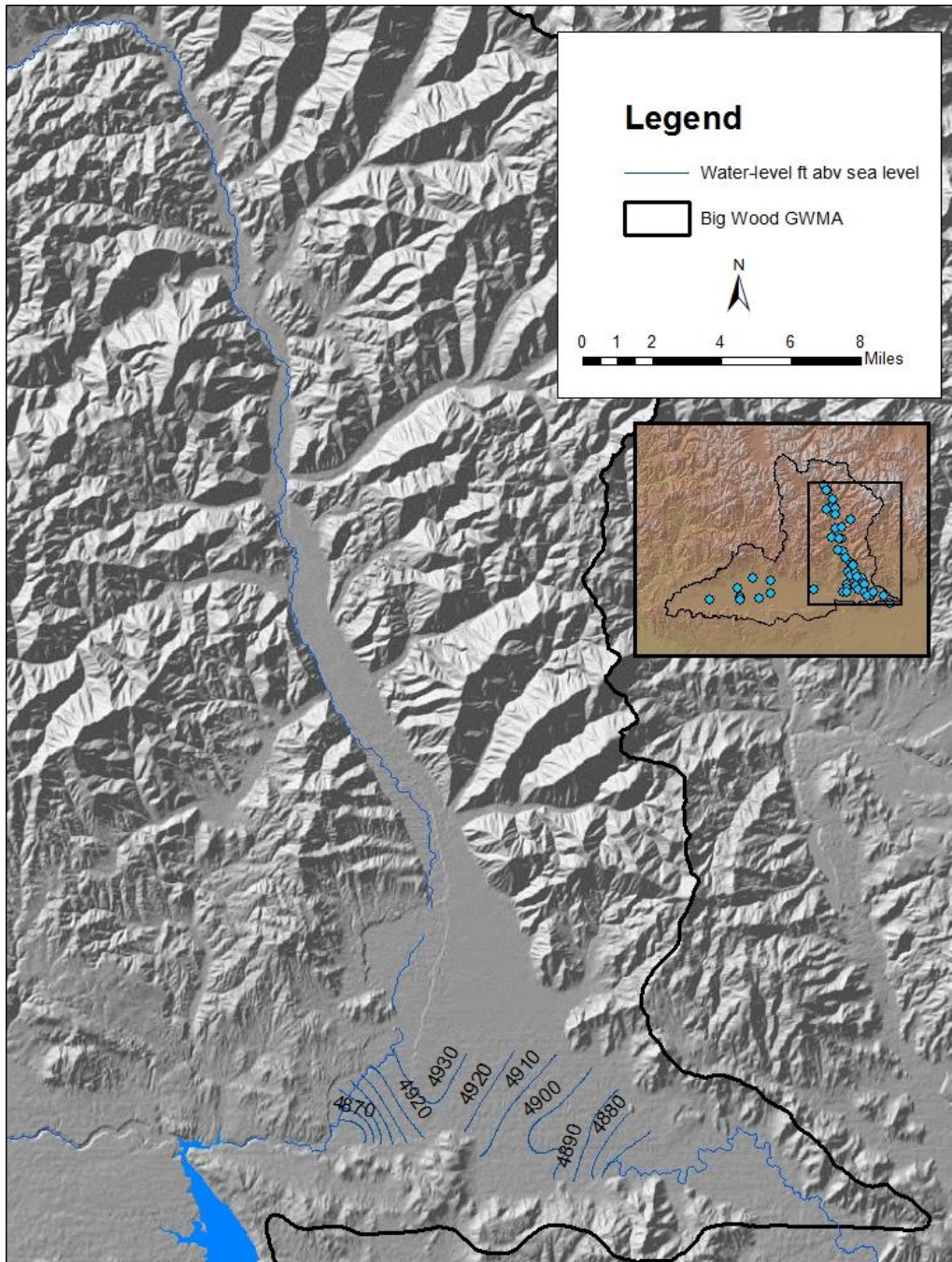


Figure 7. Potentiometric surface for the confined aquifer in the Wood River Valley from October 2012 (Bartolino, 2014).

The Camas Prairie can also be divided into shallow and deep aquifer systems. Figure 8 shows wells with water-levels collected during October 2012 in the Camas Prairie shallow and deep aquifer systems.

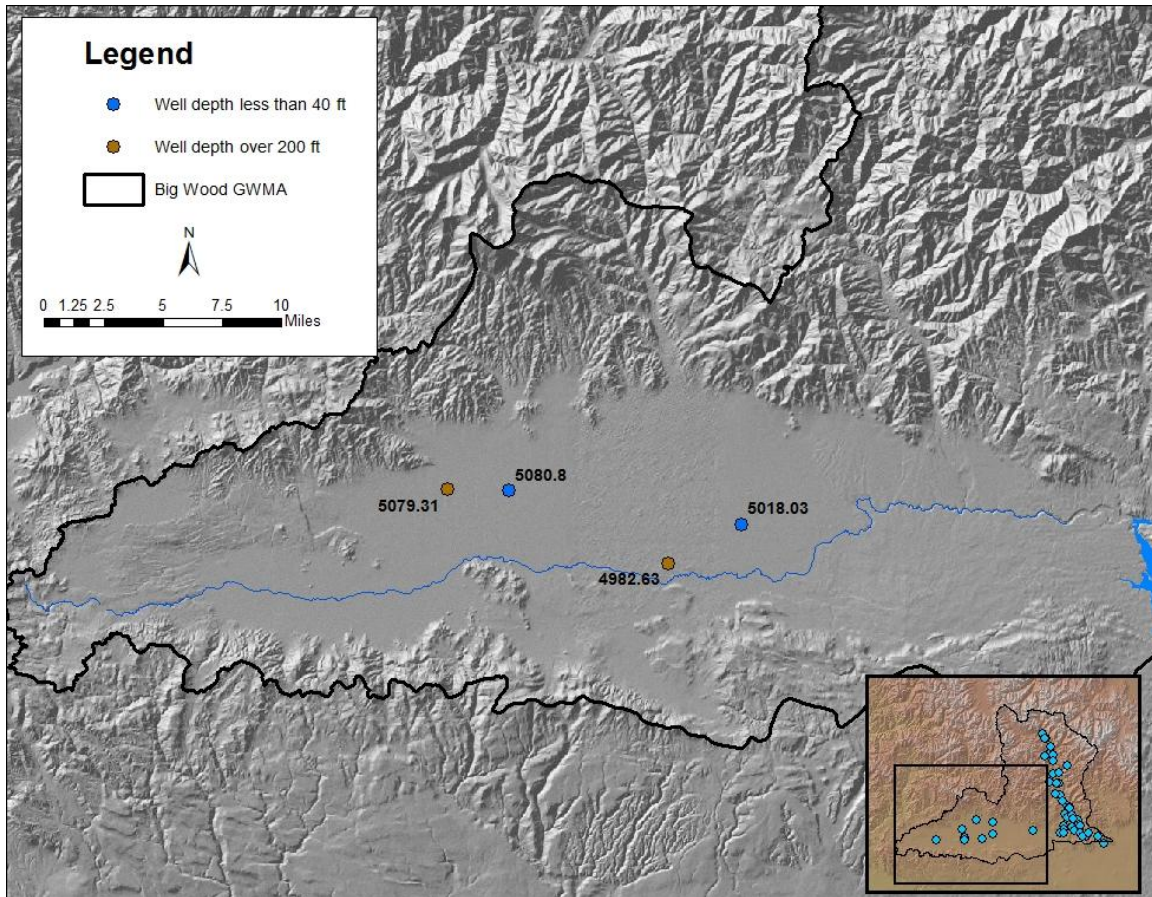


Figure 8. Water-levels in the shallow unconfined and deep confined aquifers in the Camas Prairie.

The maps indicate that groundwater flows from north to south in the Wood River Valley and out the basin to the east and west. The wells in the Camas Prairie suggest that the flow direction in both the shallow unconfined aquifer and the deep confined aquifer is from the west to the east.

### *Seasonal Fluctuations*

Responses to seasonal hydrologic changes are apparent in the hydrographs for each of the wells presented in Appendix D. In general, the hydrographs show similar responses over time. The average seasonal fluctuations for each well were determined by finding the difference between the summer and fall measurements (Figure 9). The average seasonal fluctuation for the selected wells is 2.7 ft. The average 10-year change is a decline of 3.8 ft and the average change from 1975 to 2015 is a decline of 13.4 ft.

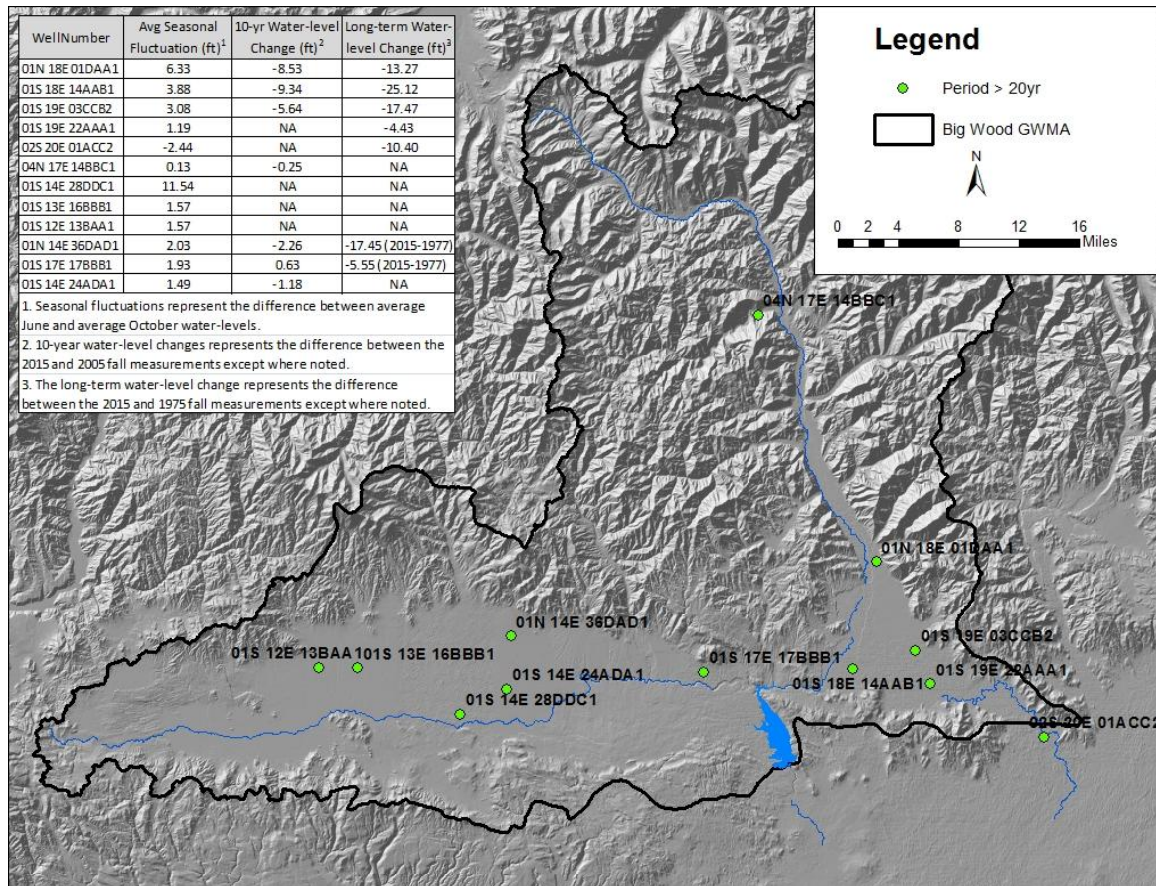


Figure 9. Summary of water-level changes in the Big Wood GWMA.

## Conclusions and Recommendations

The average rate of decline from 1975 to 2015 was 0.33 ft per year. The average rate of decline over the last 10 years was 0.38 ft per year. The increase from 0.33 to 0.38 ft/yr represents an increase of about 12%. This increase could be primarily due to changes in water use, or to climate related issues, or a combination of both.

The current network only includes eight wells in the Camas Prairie. An effort should be made to include more active wells in the both the shallow and deep aquifers in this network and add some transducer wells in both aquifers.

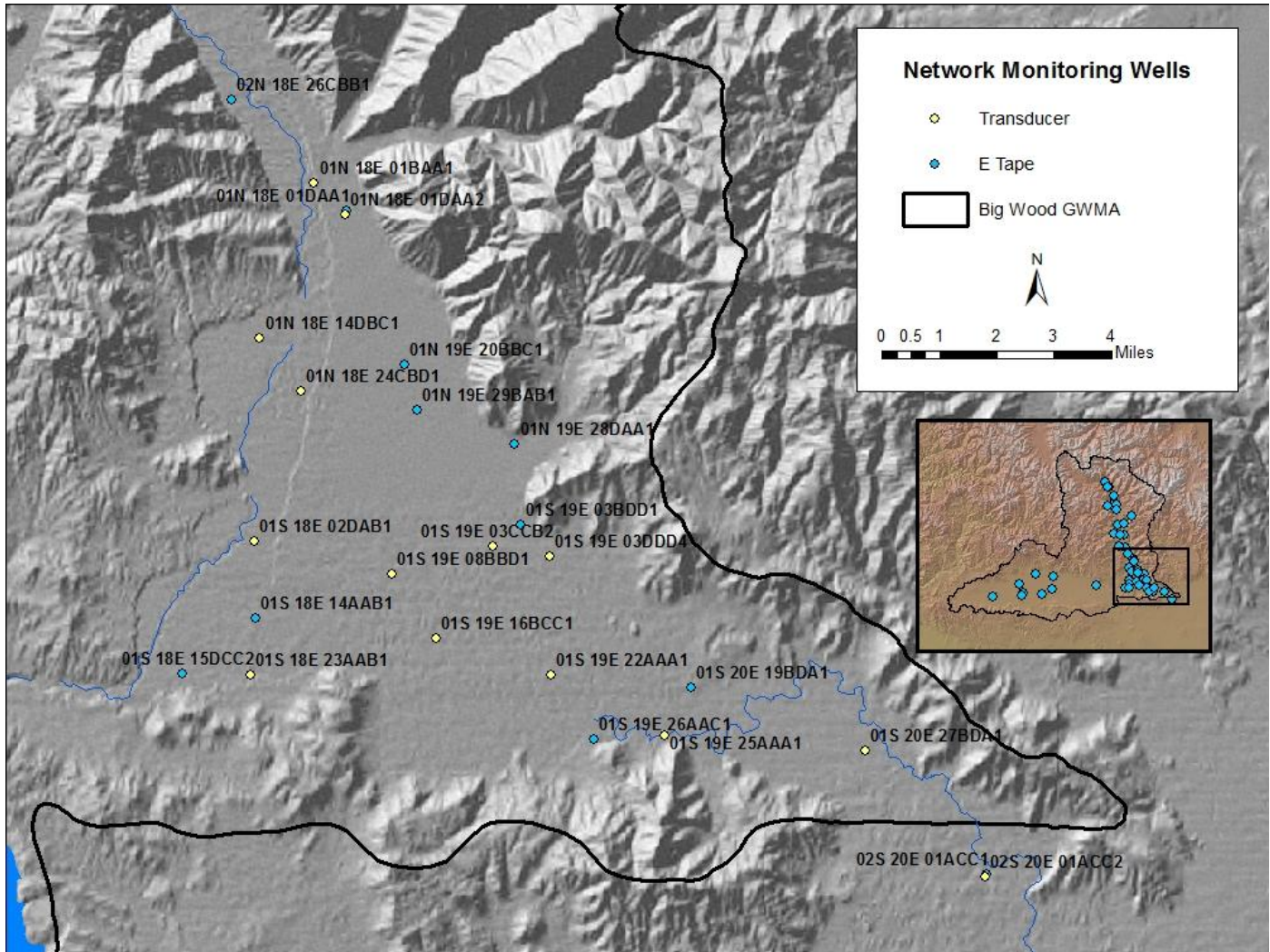
## References

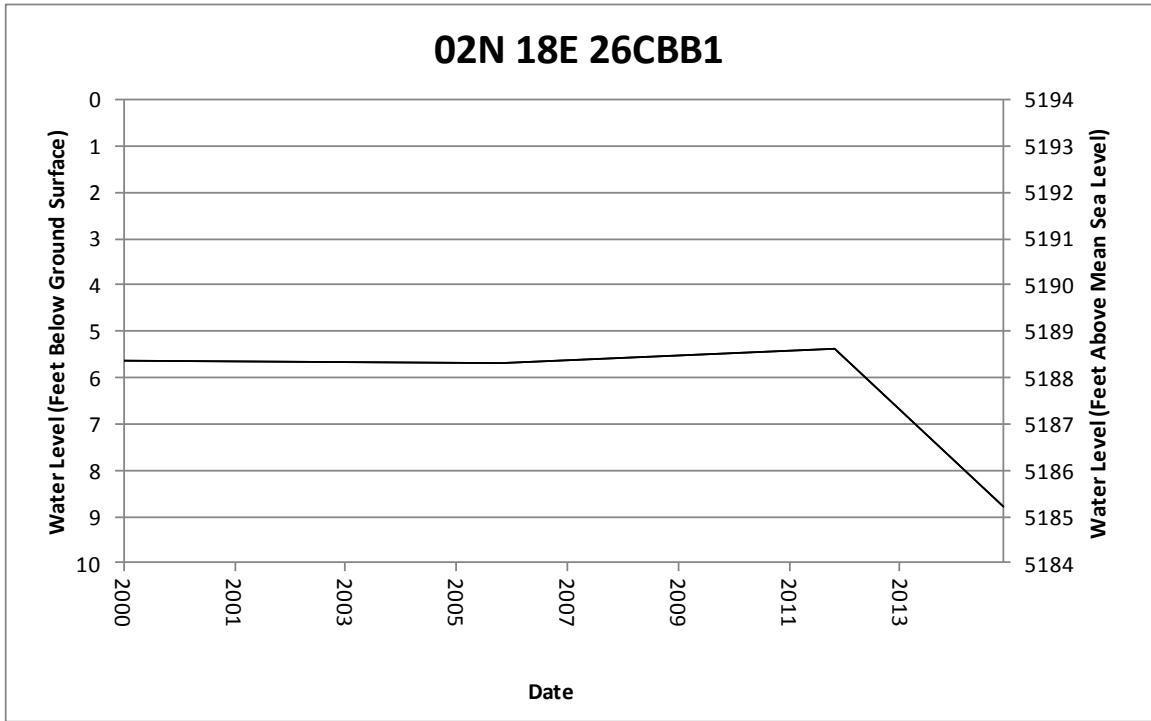
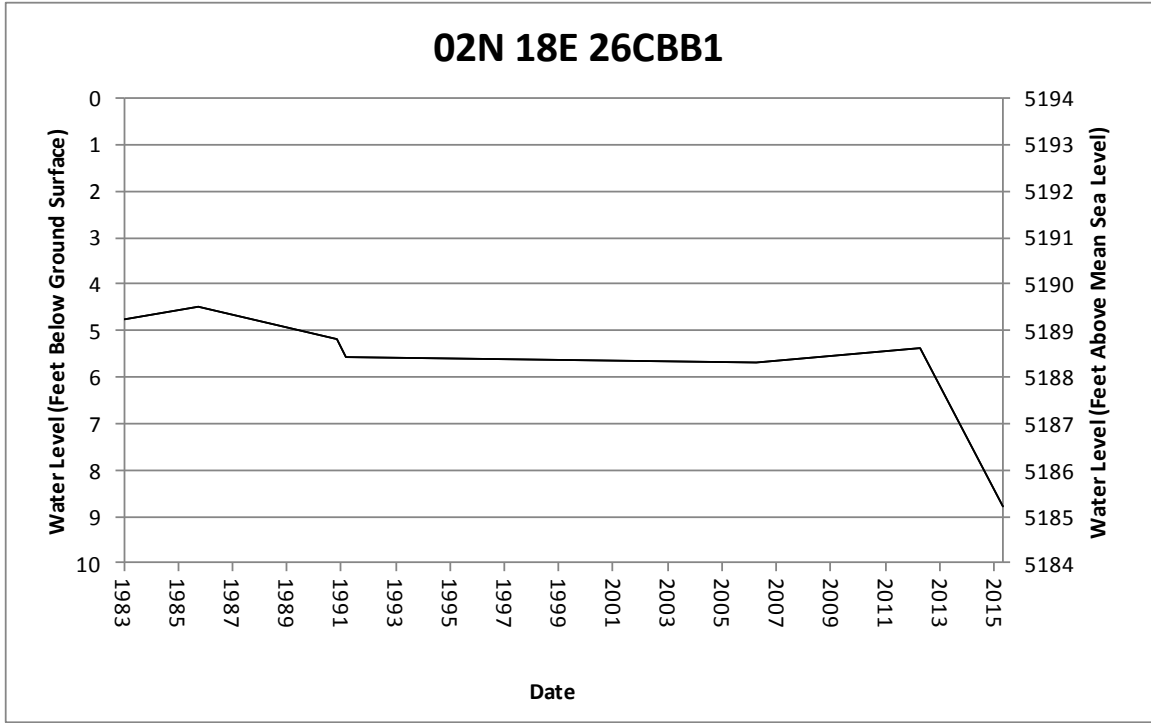
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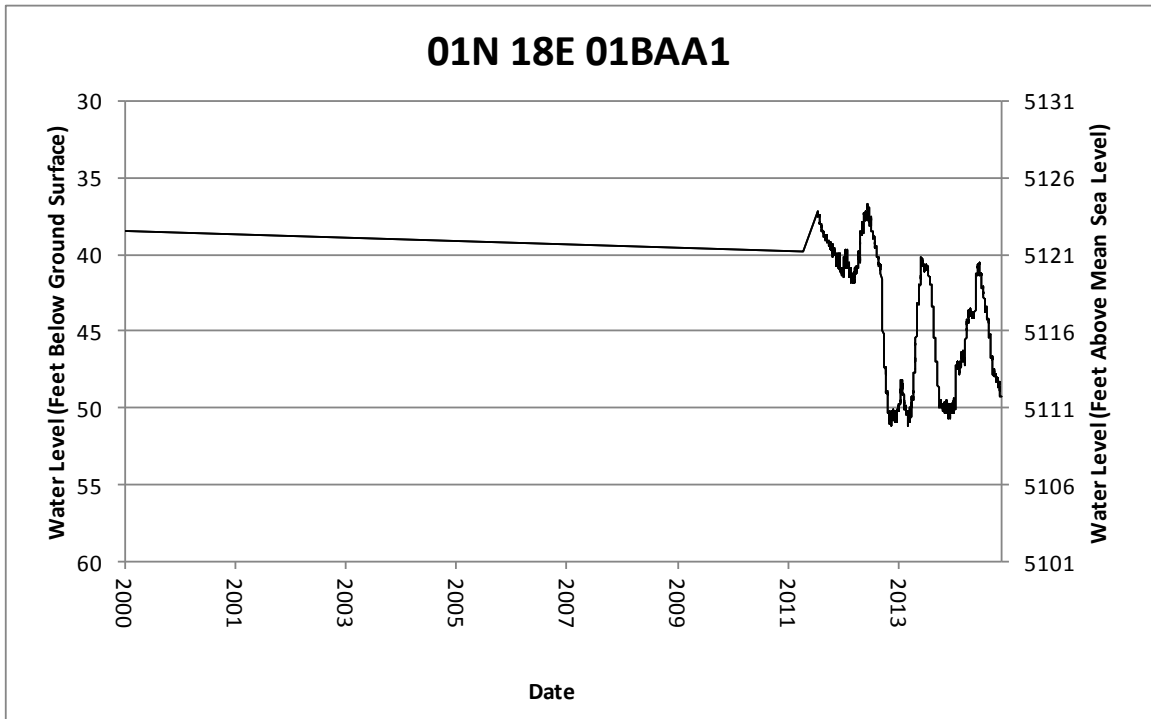
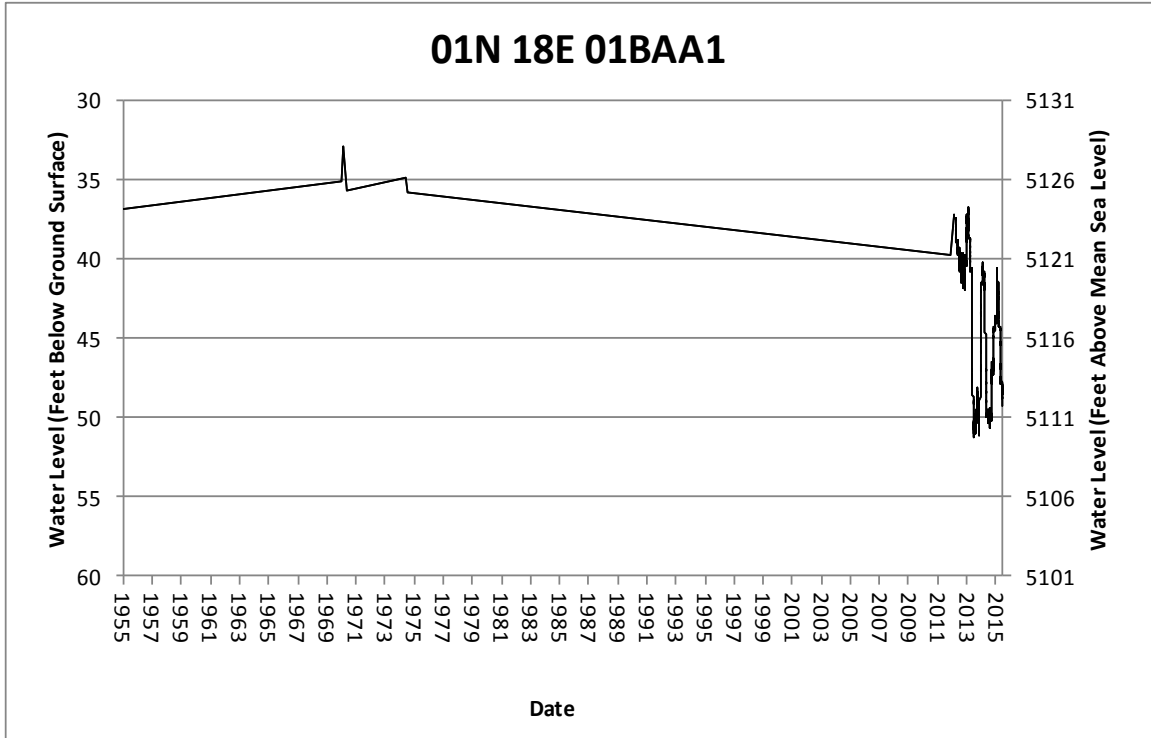
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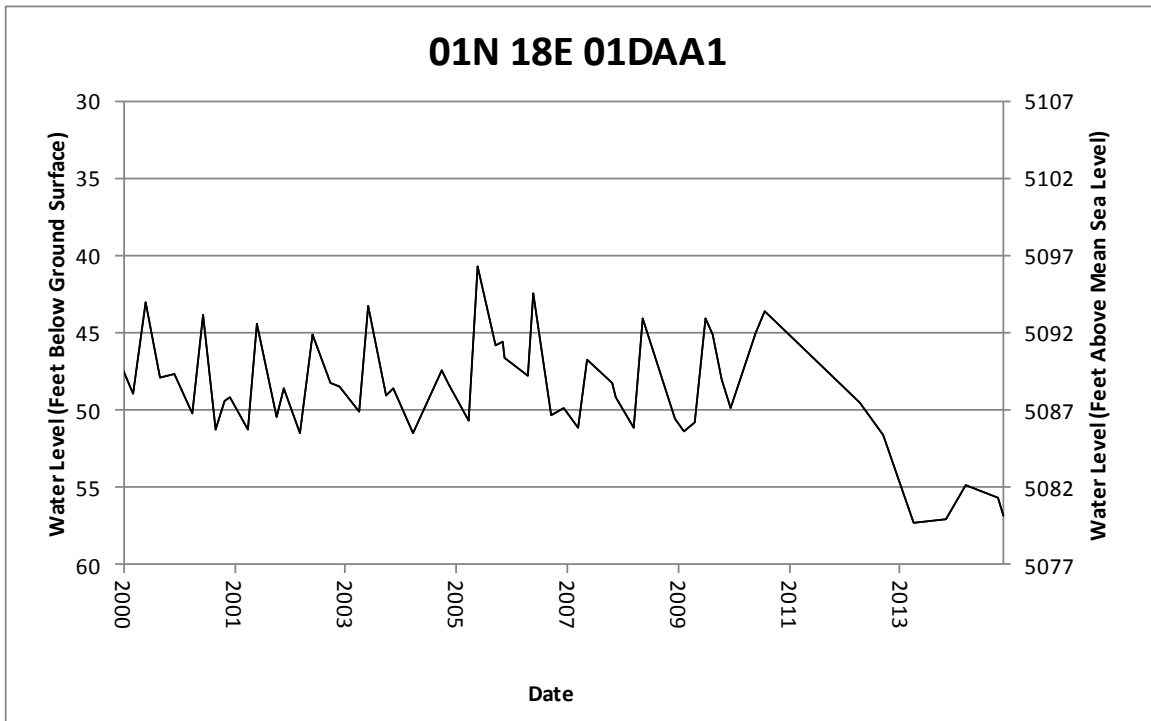
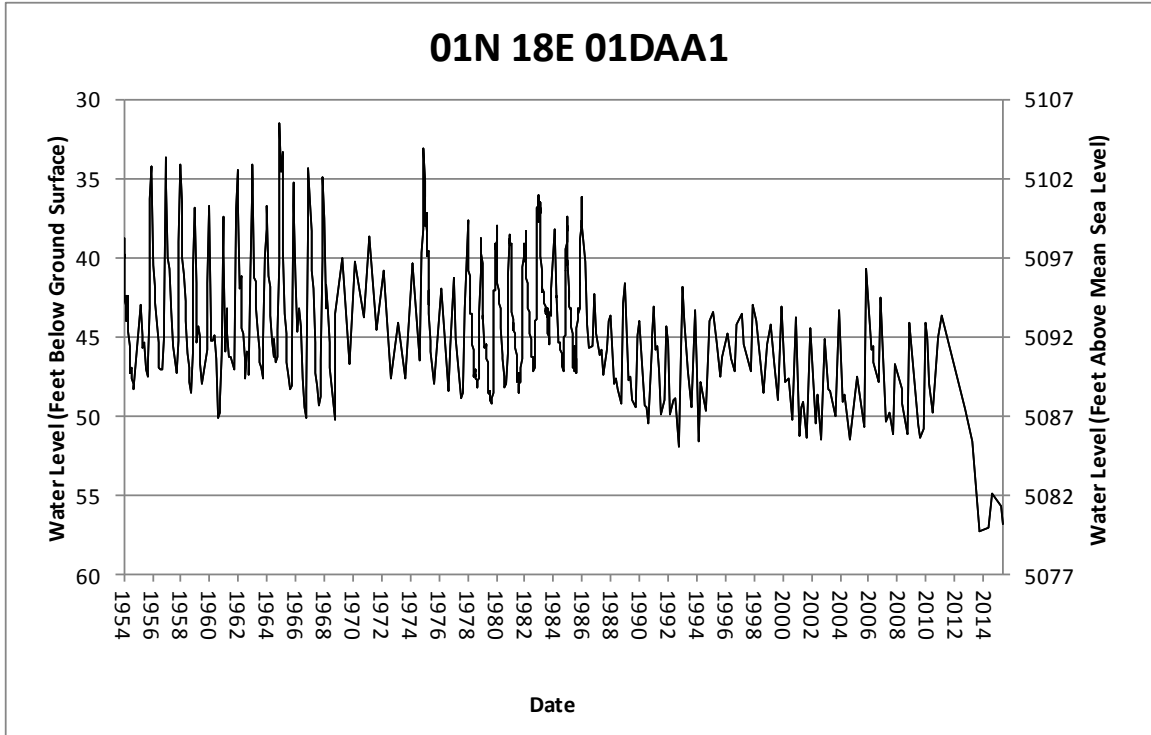
APPENDIX A  
HYDROGRAPHS

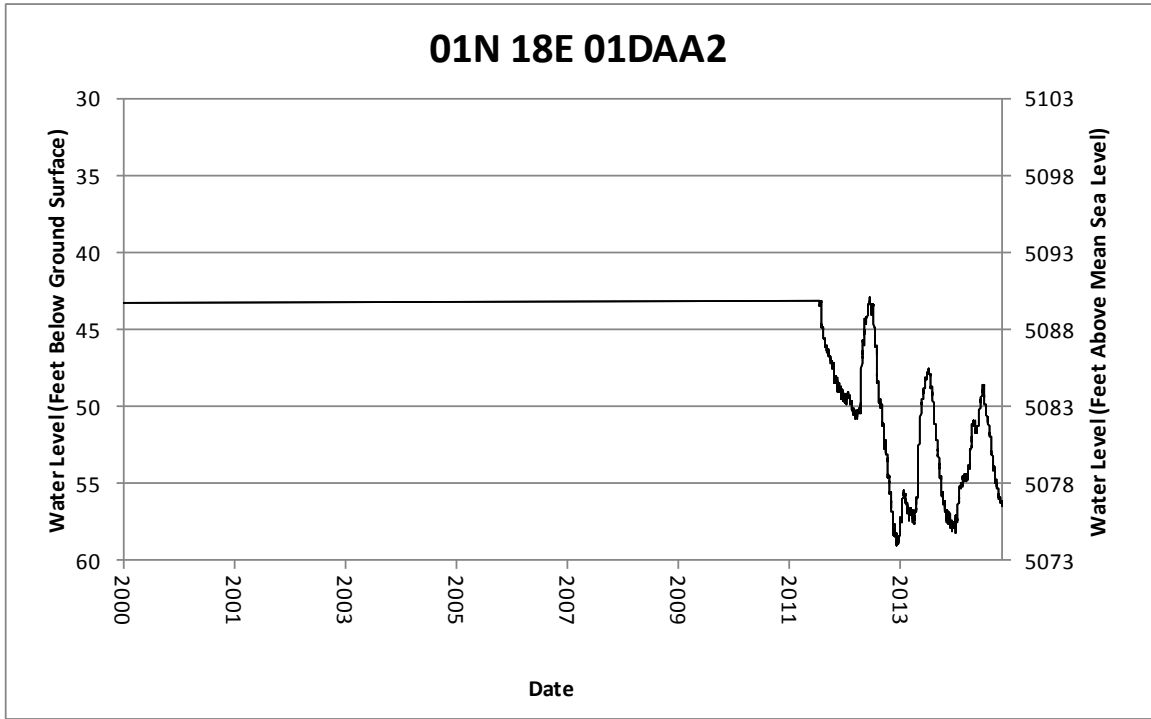
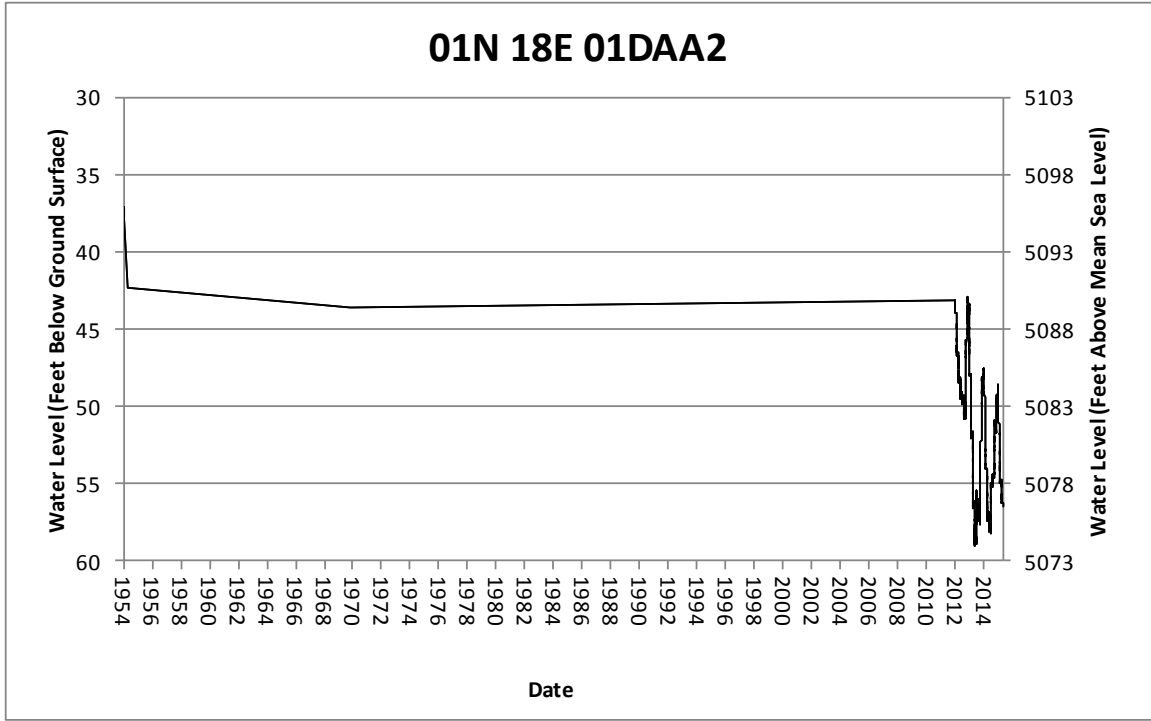




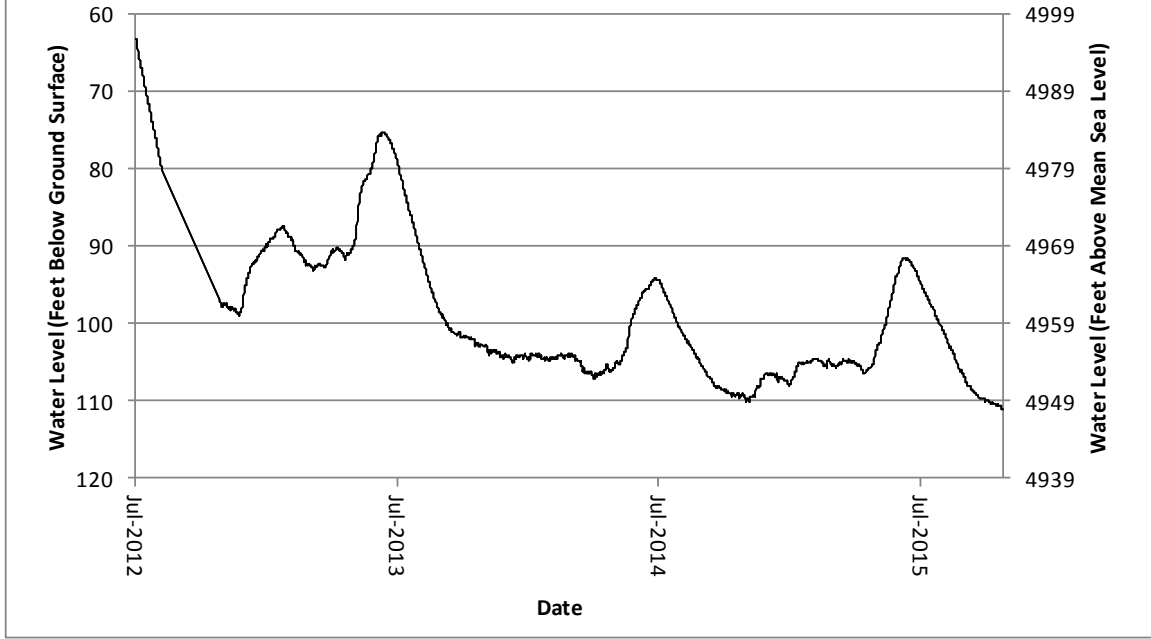


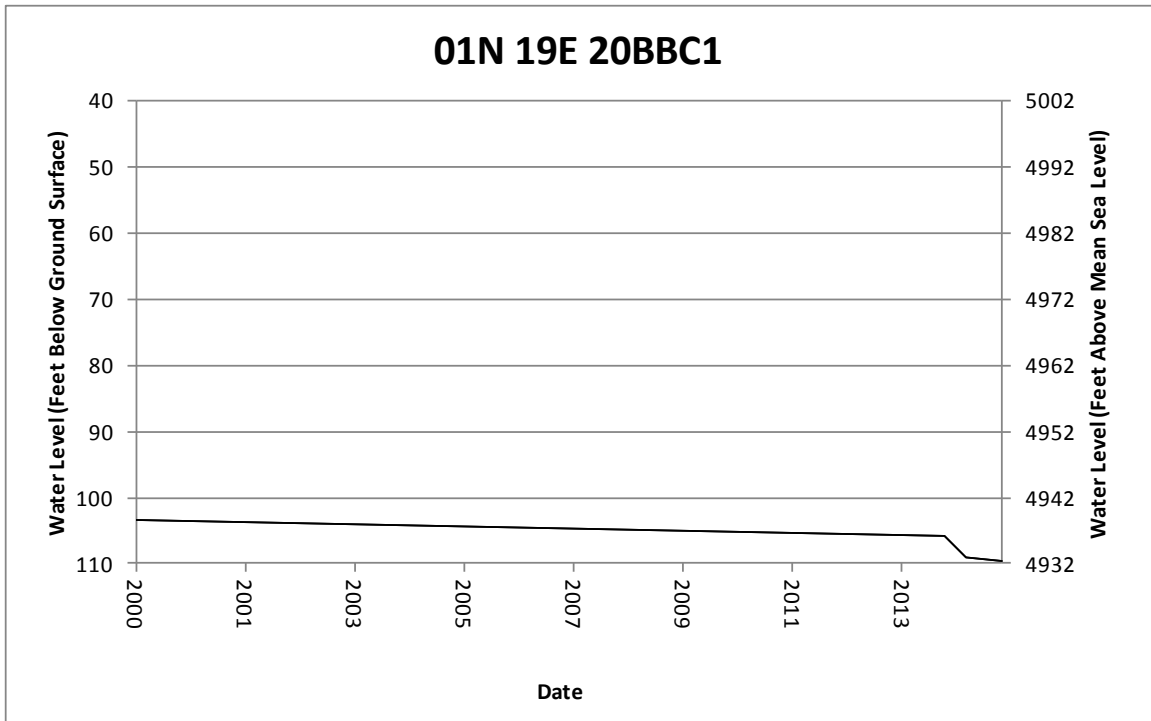
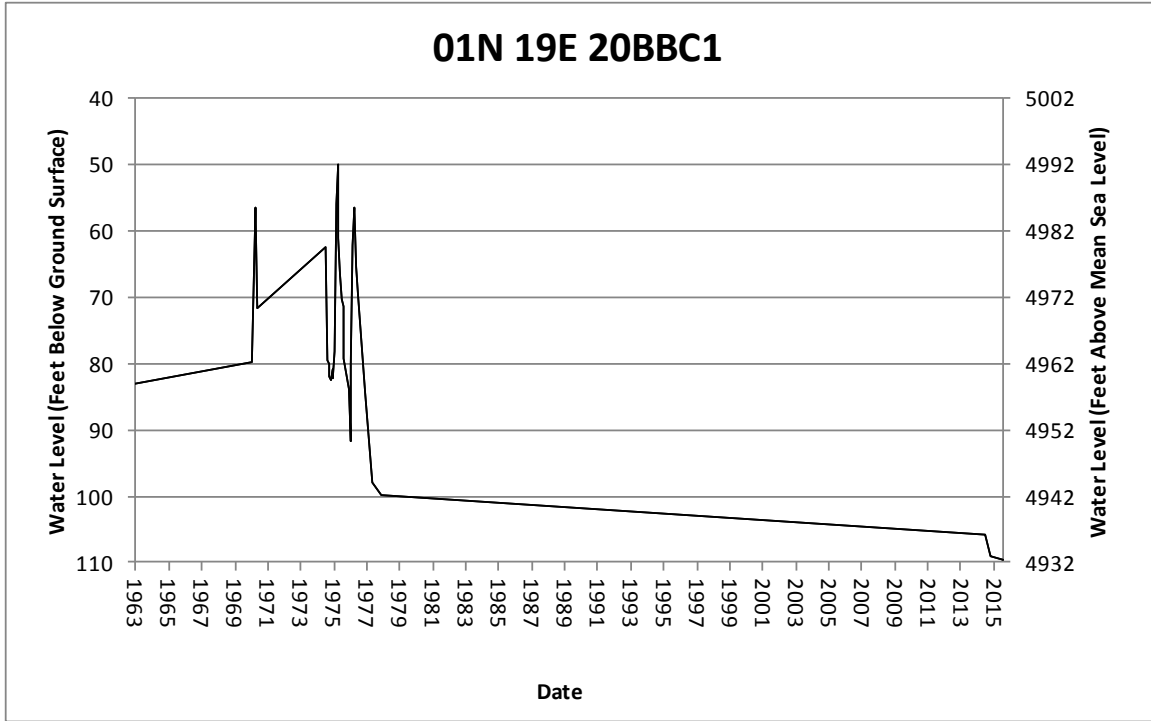


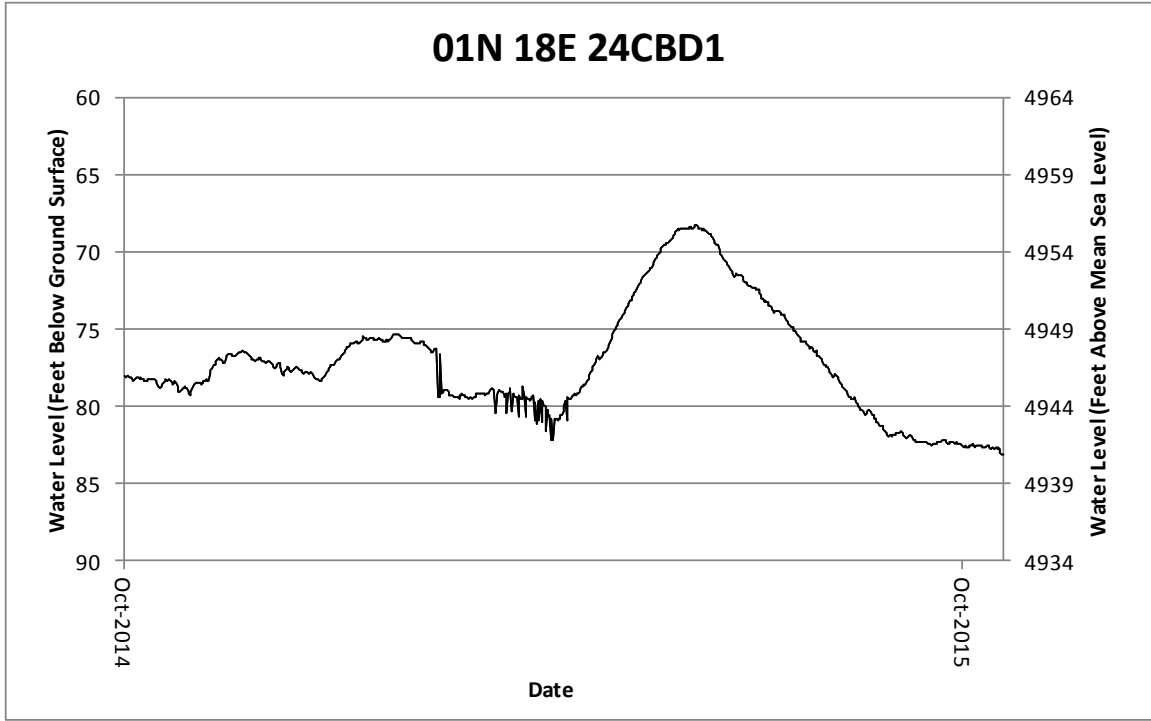


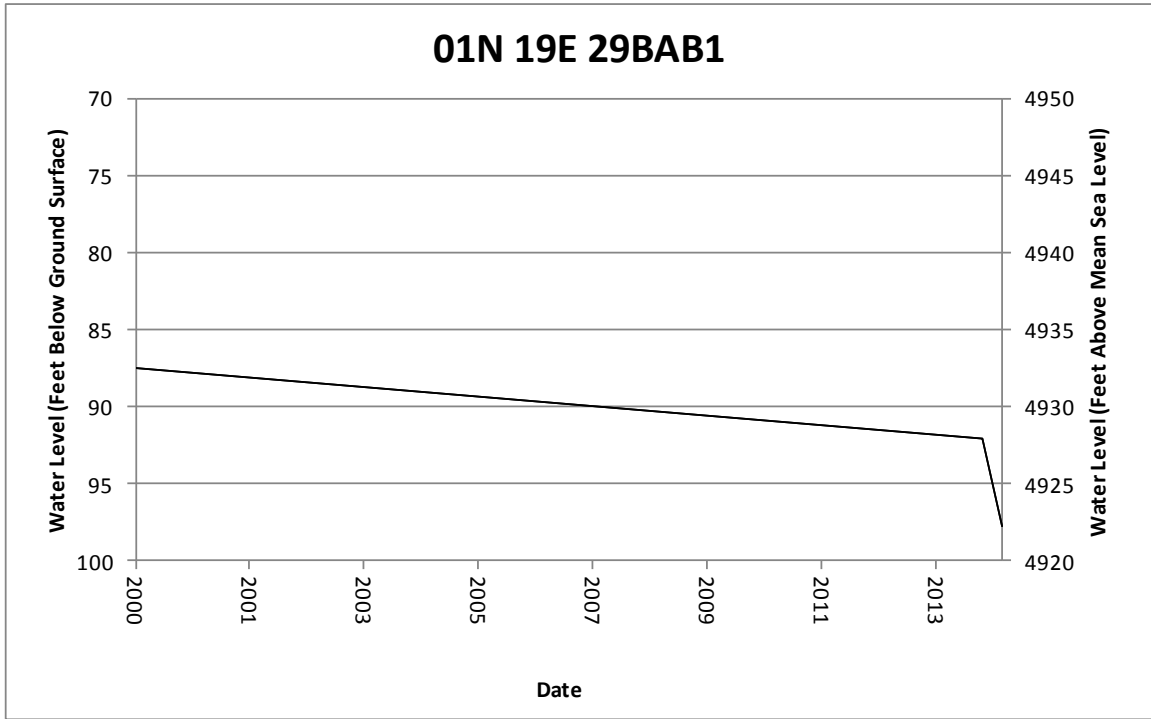
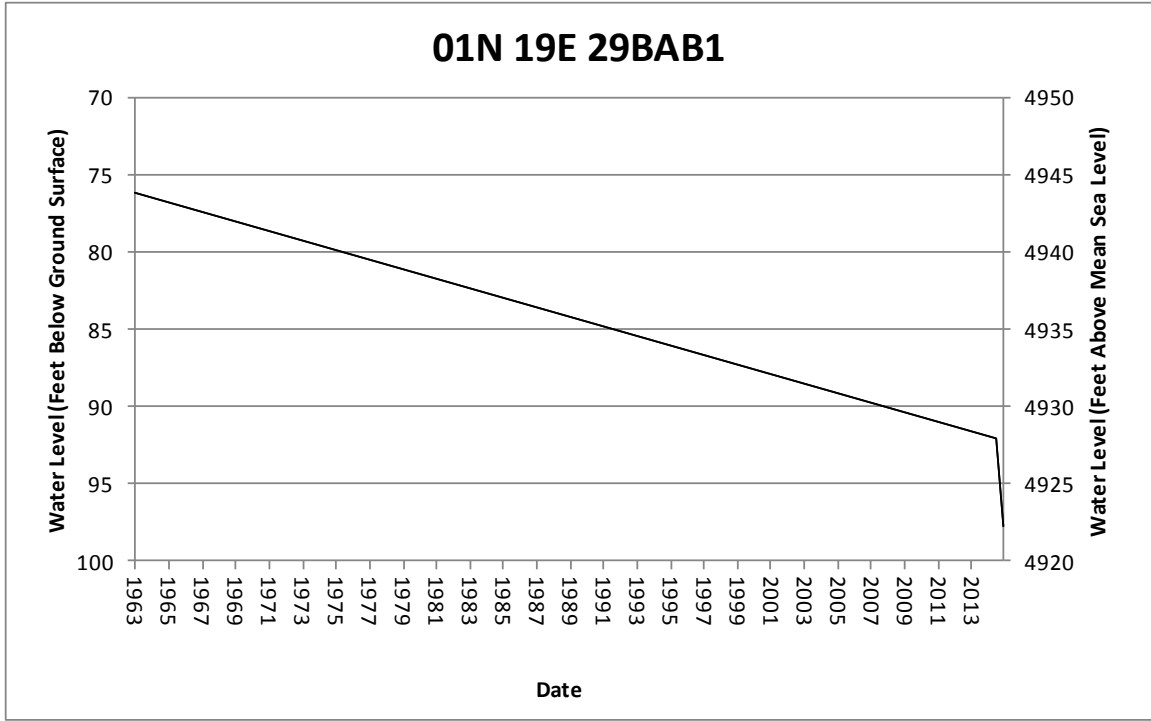


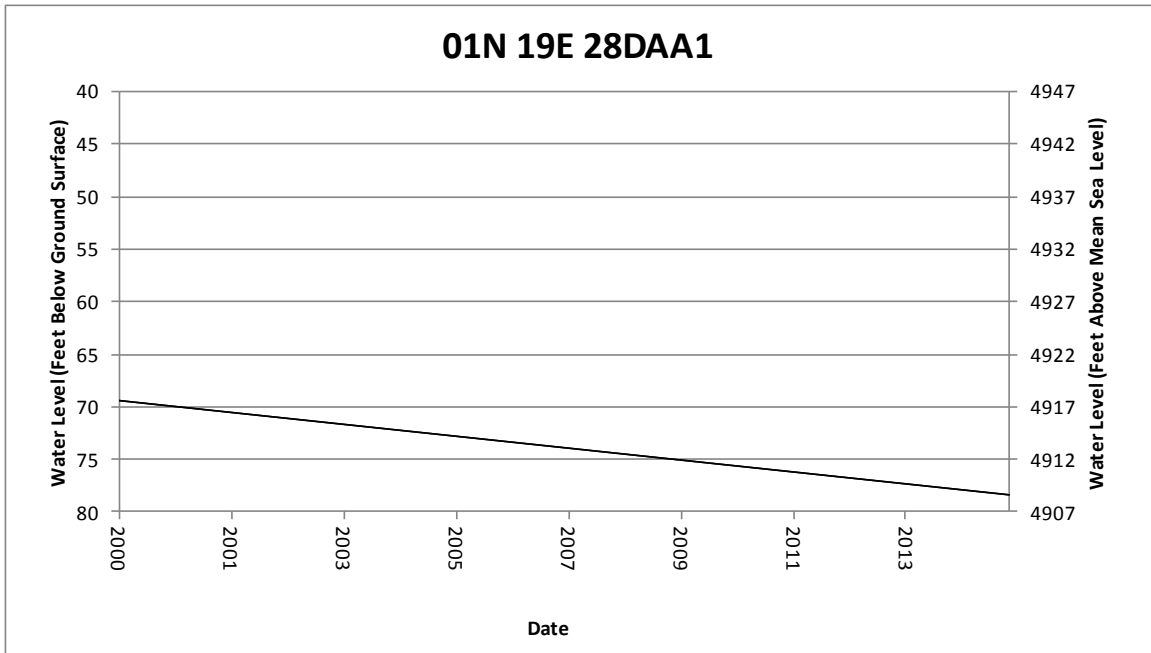
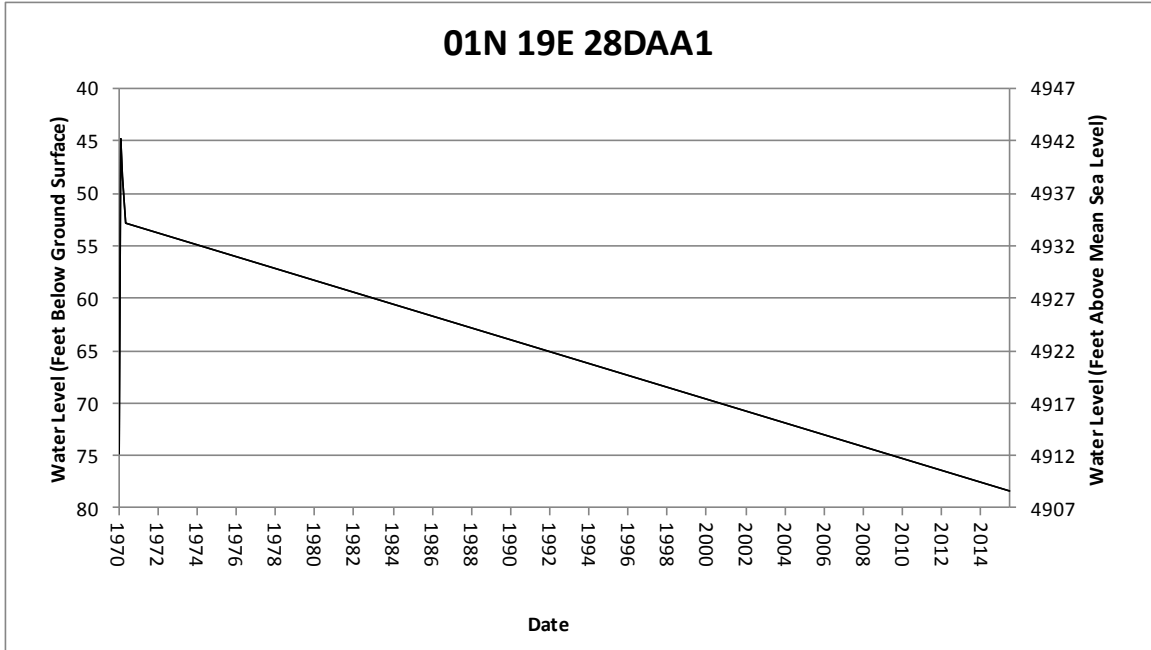
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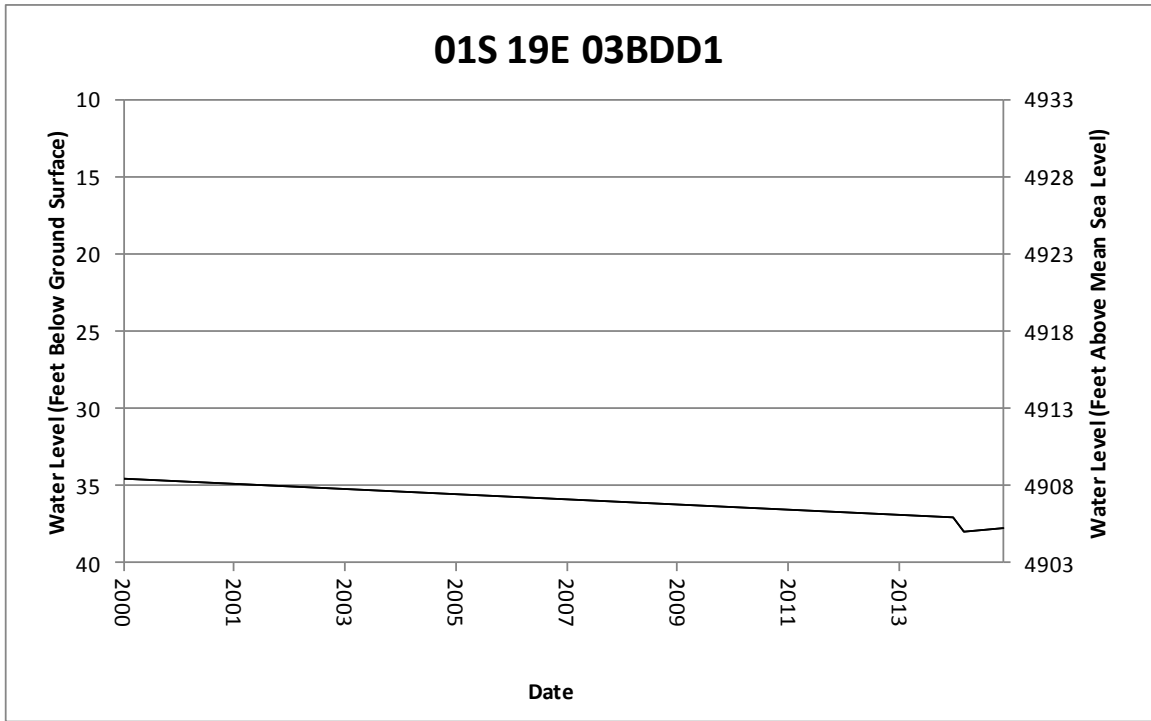
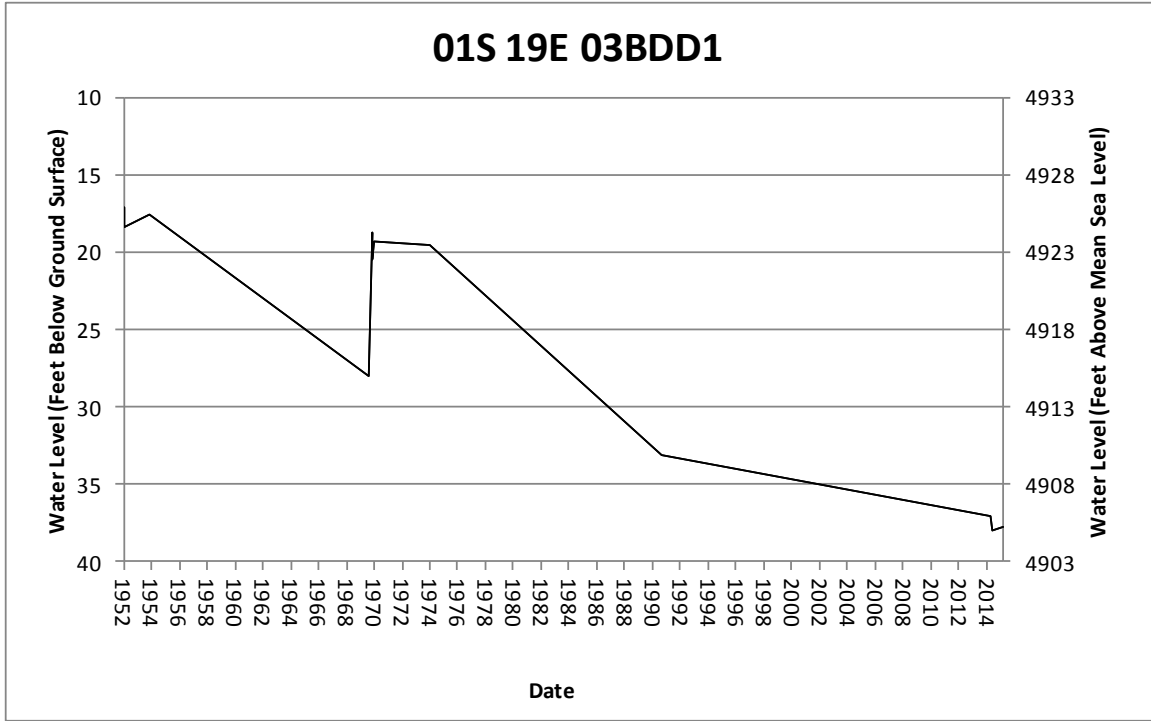


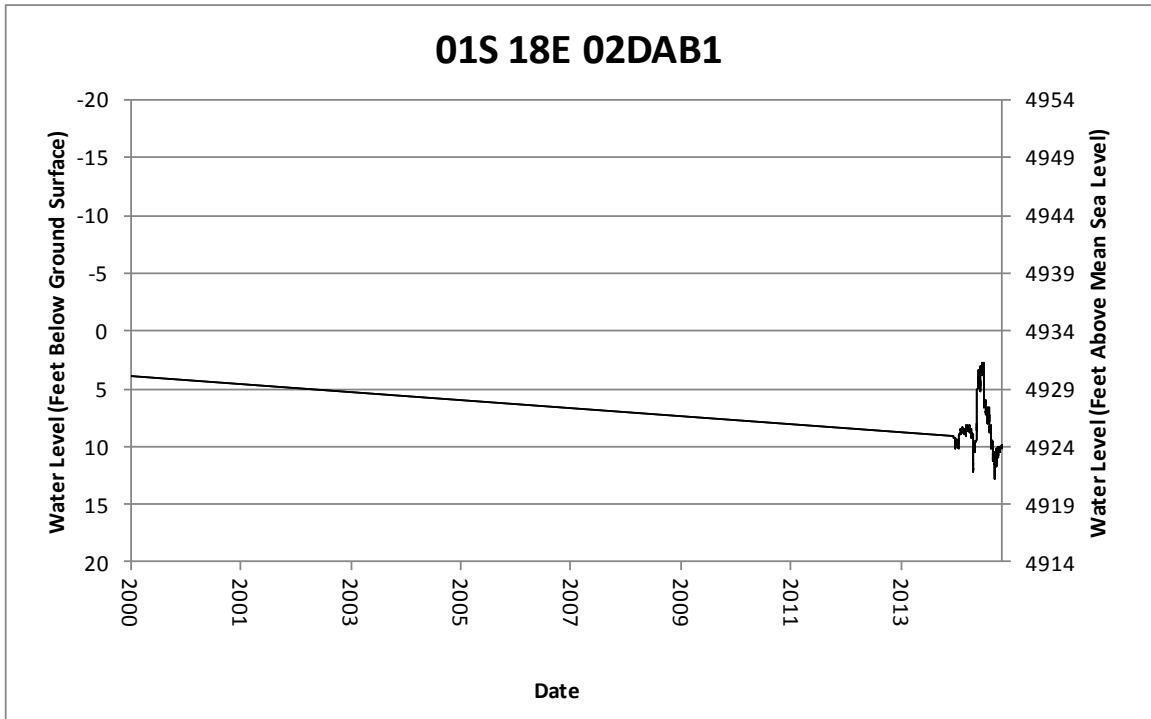
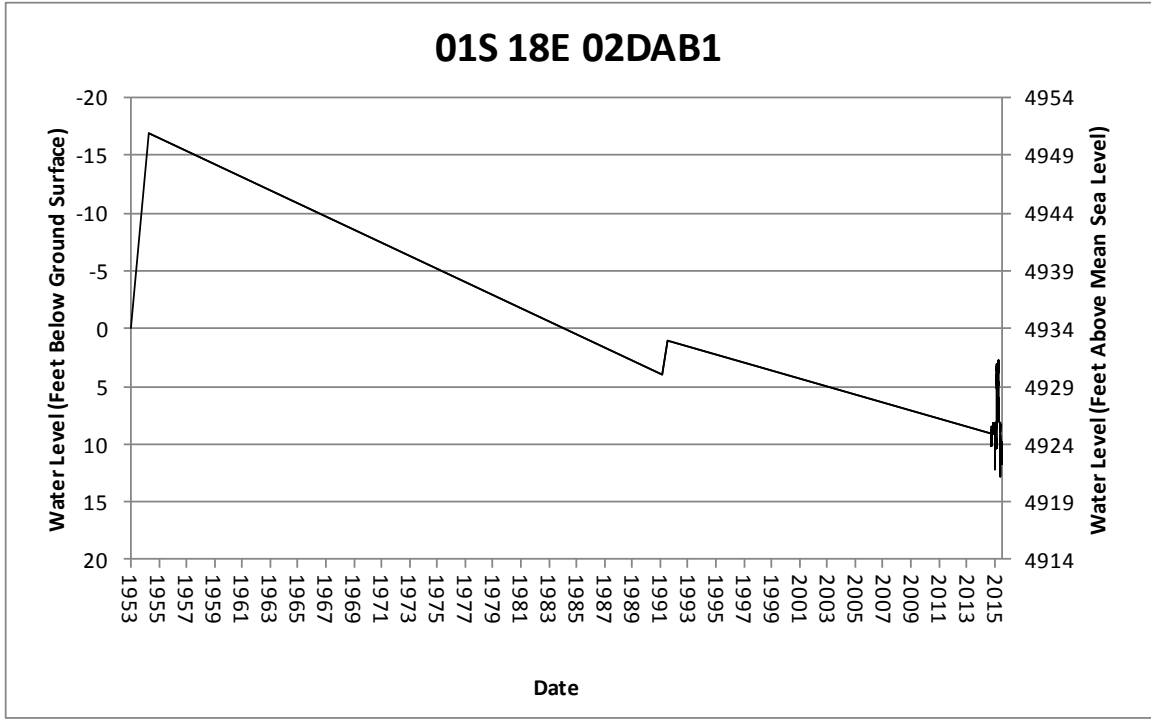


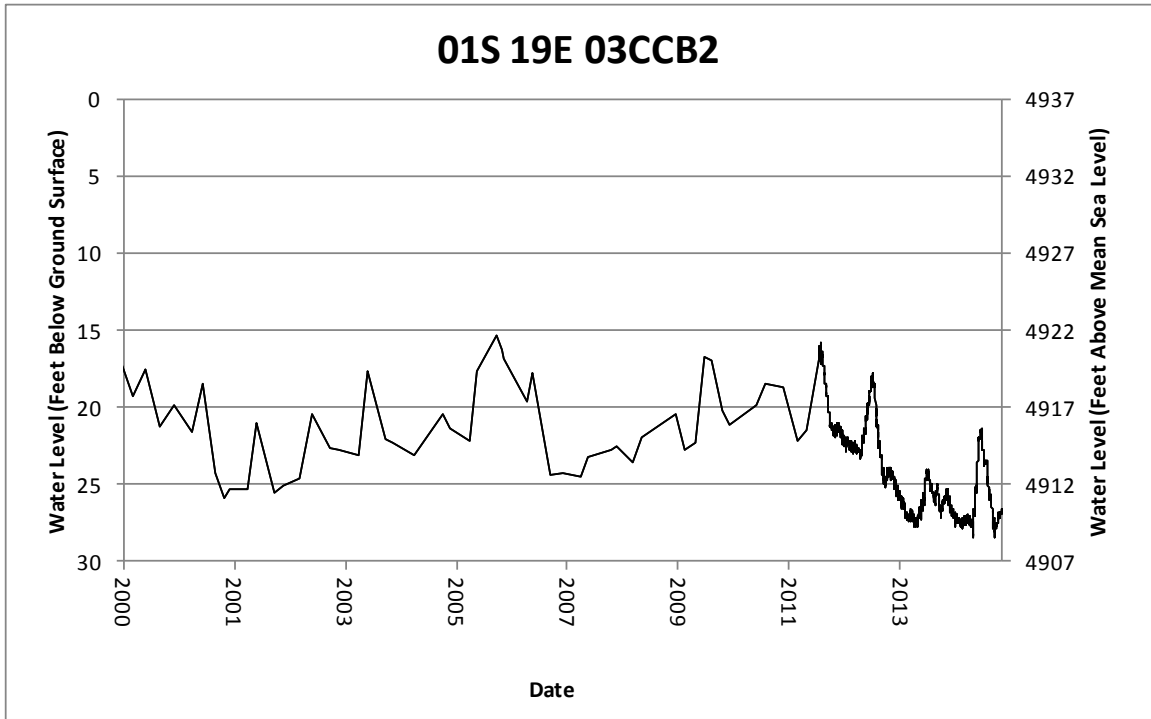
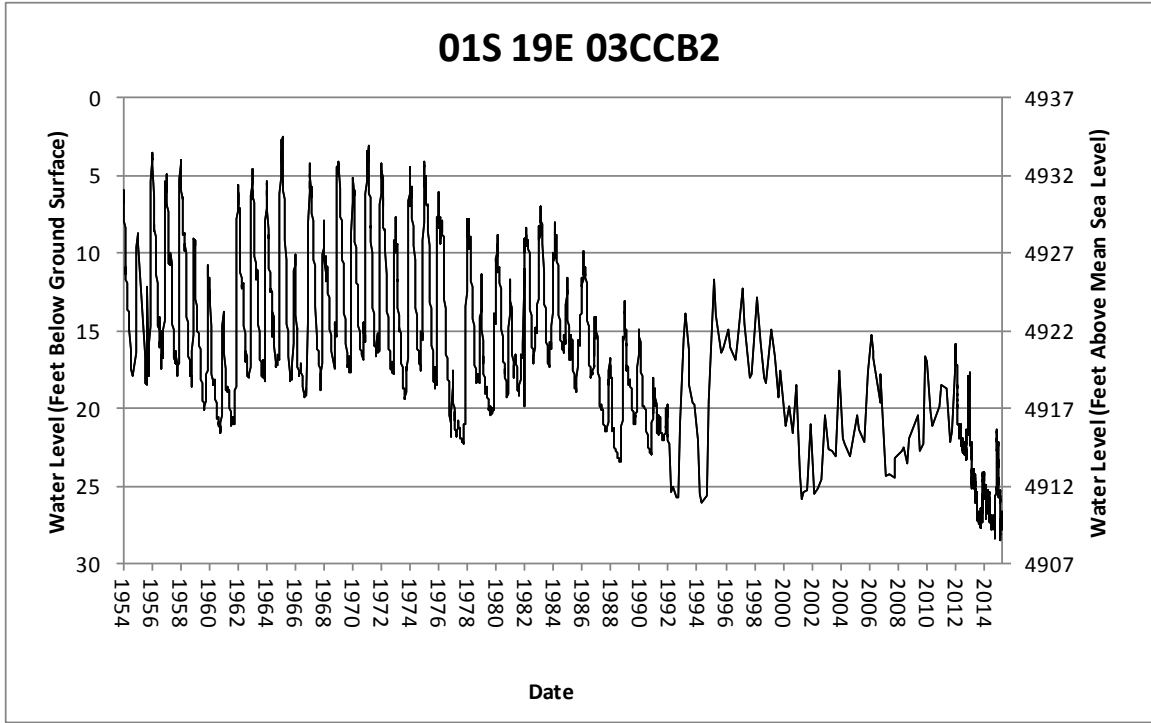




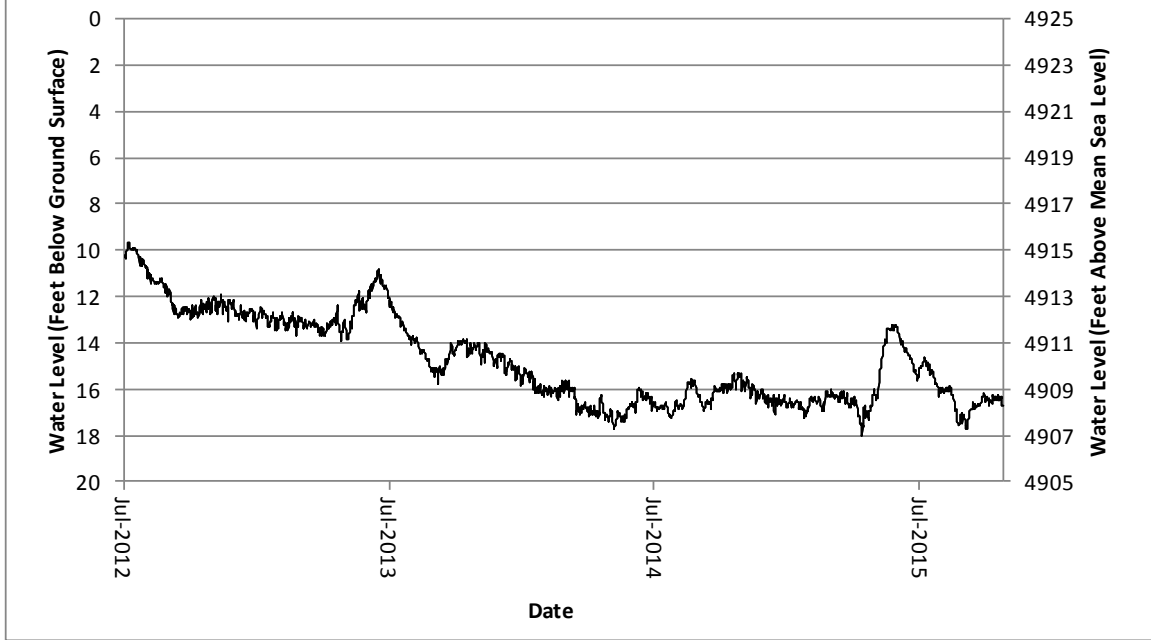


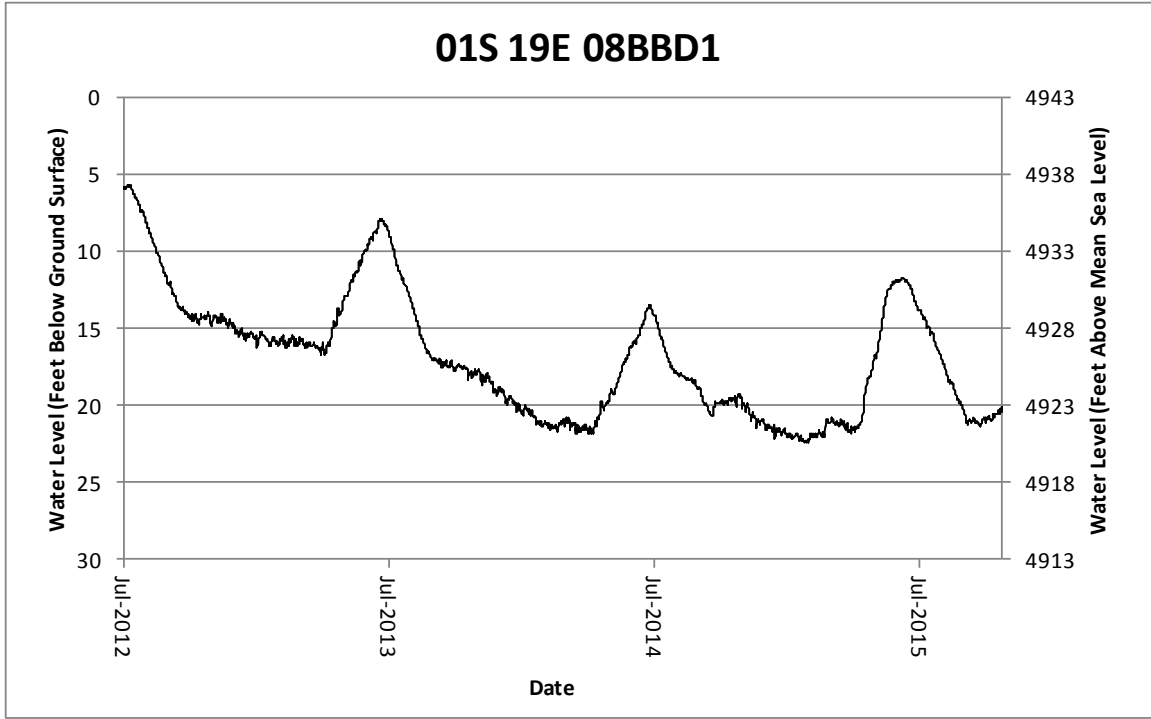


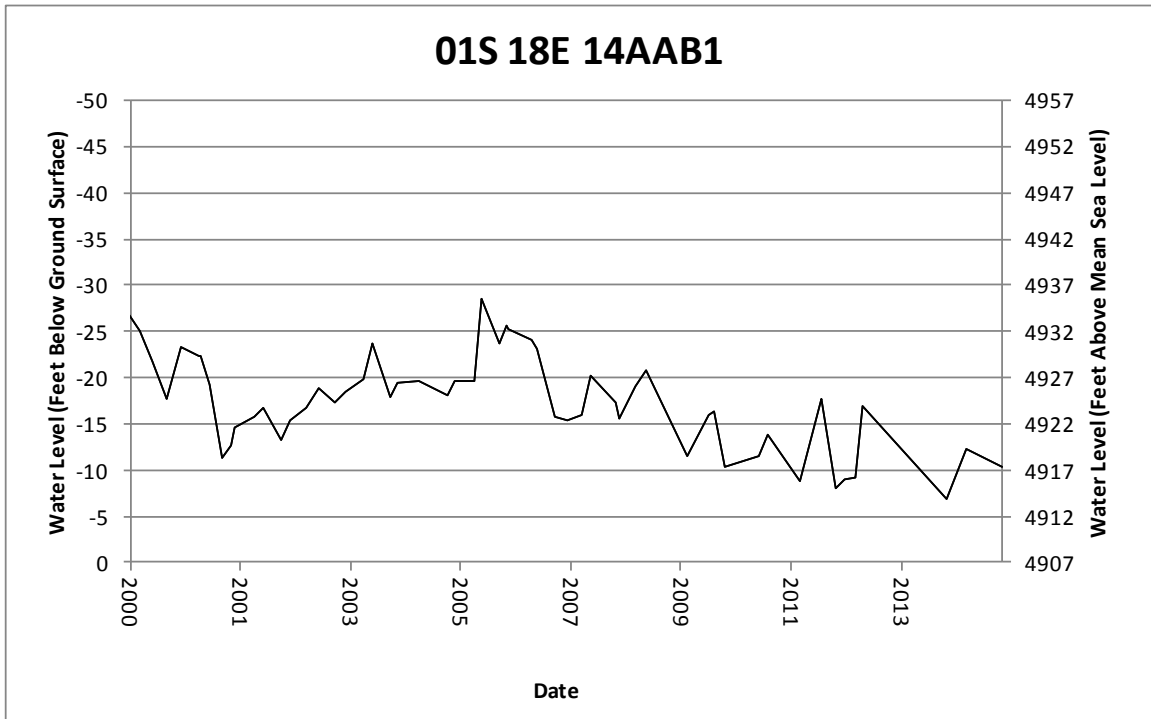
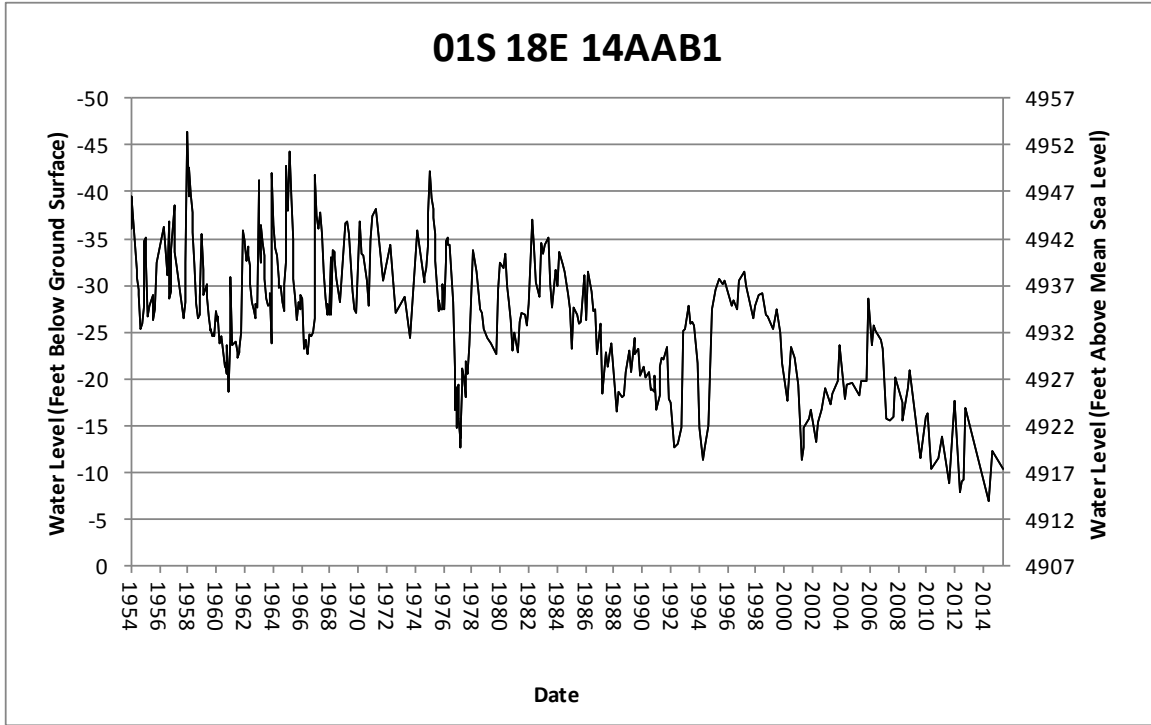


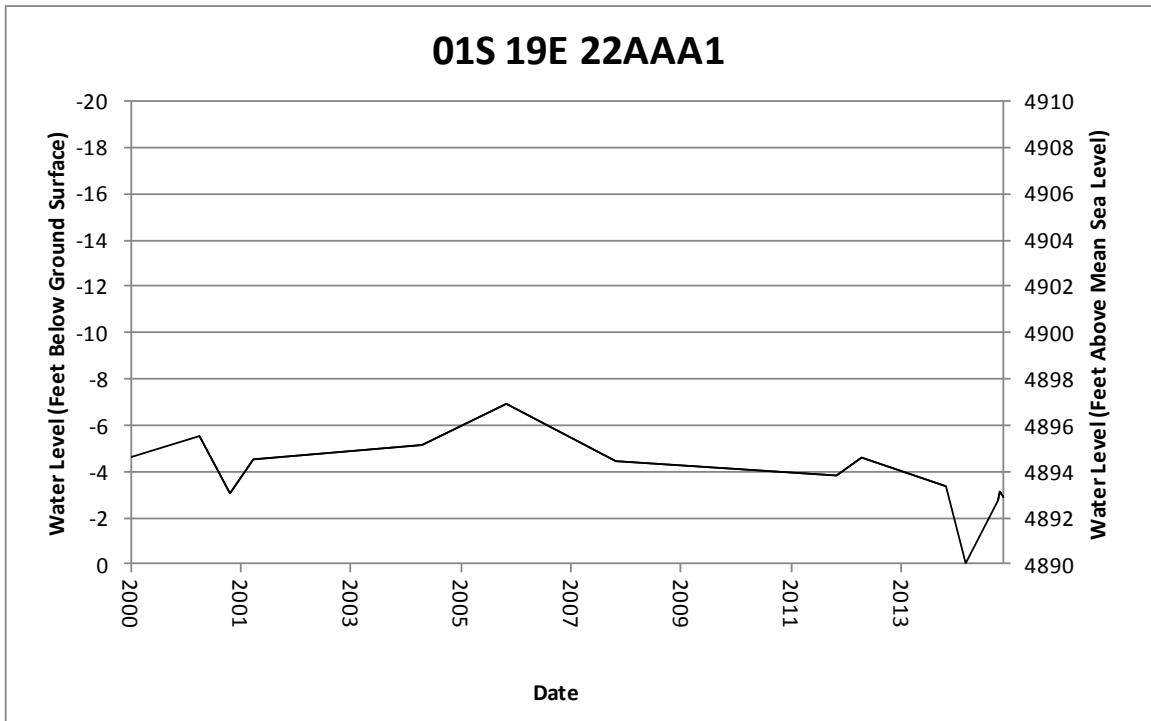
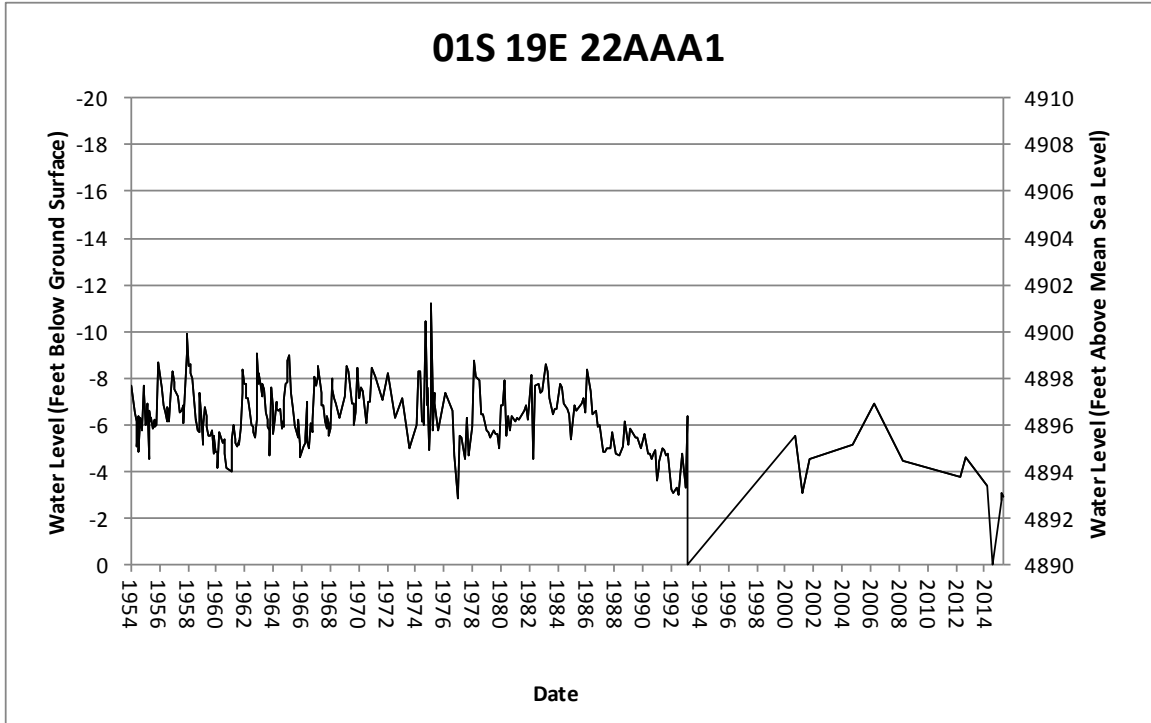


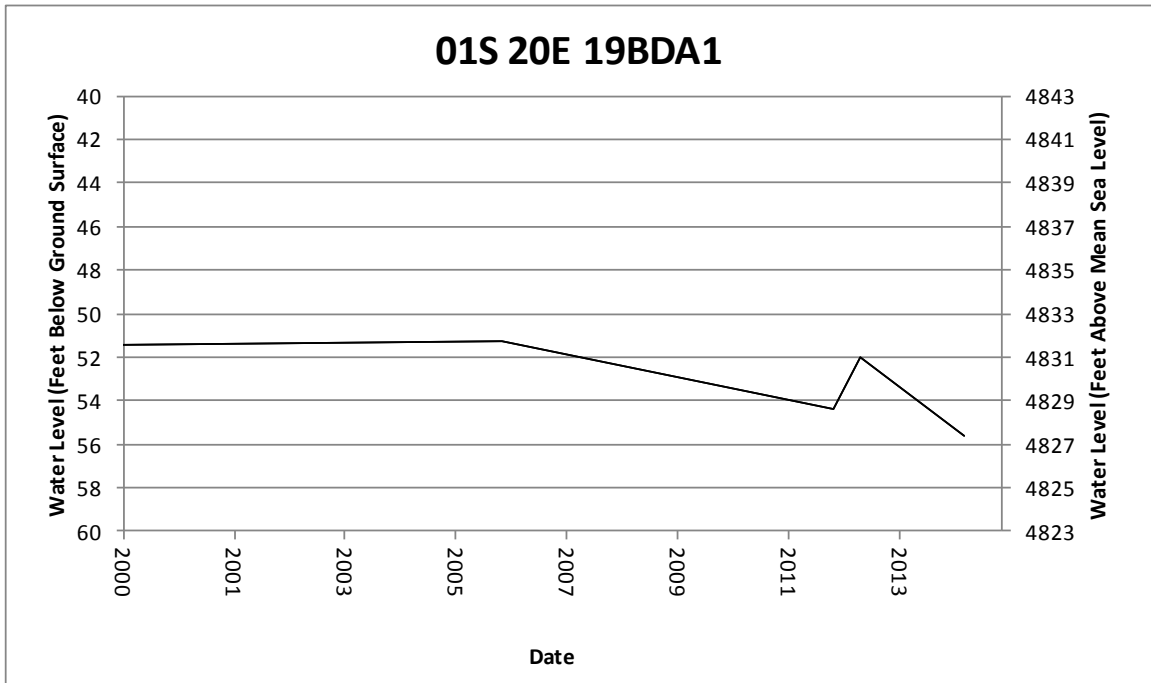
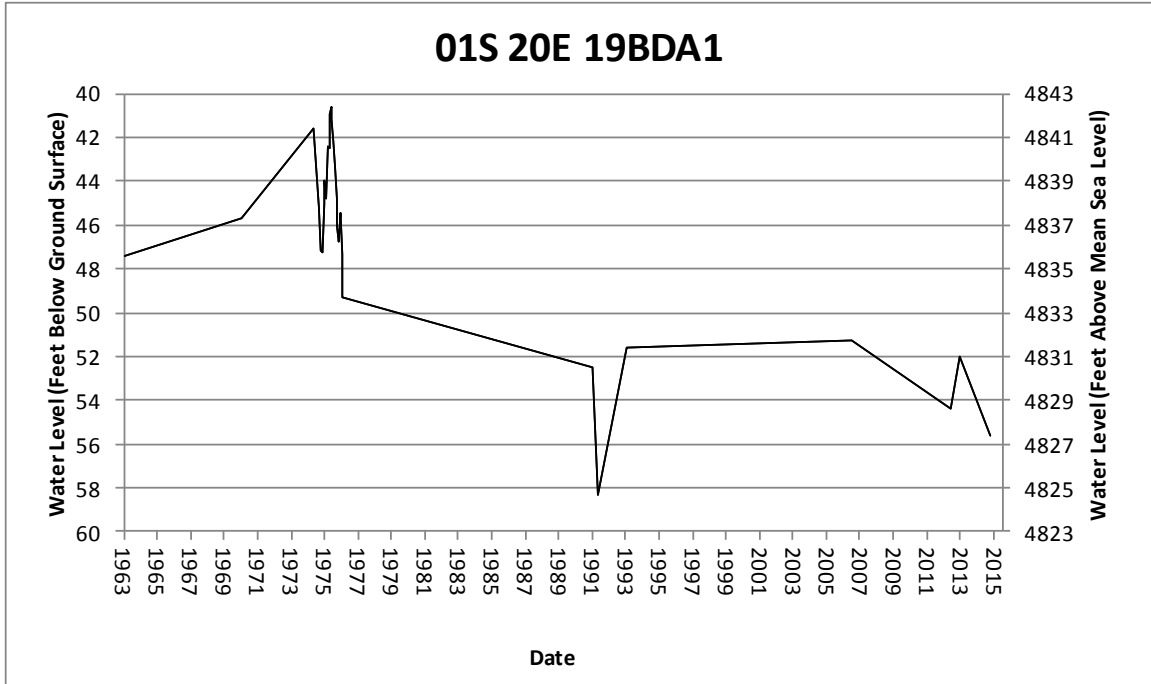
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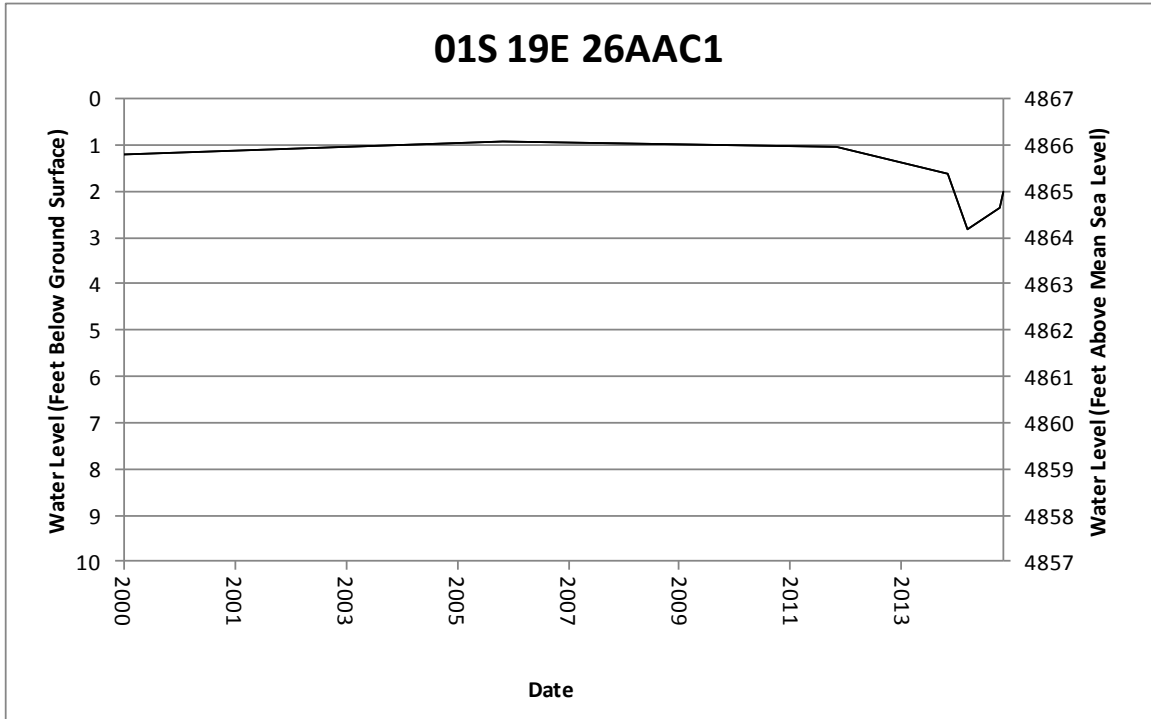
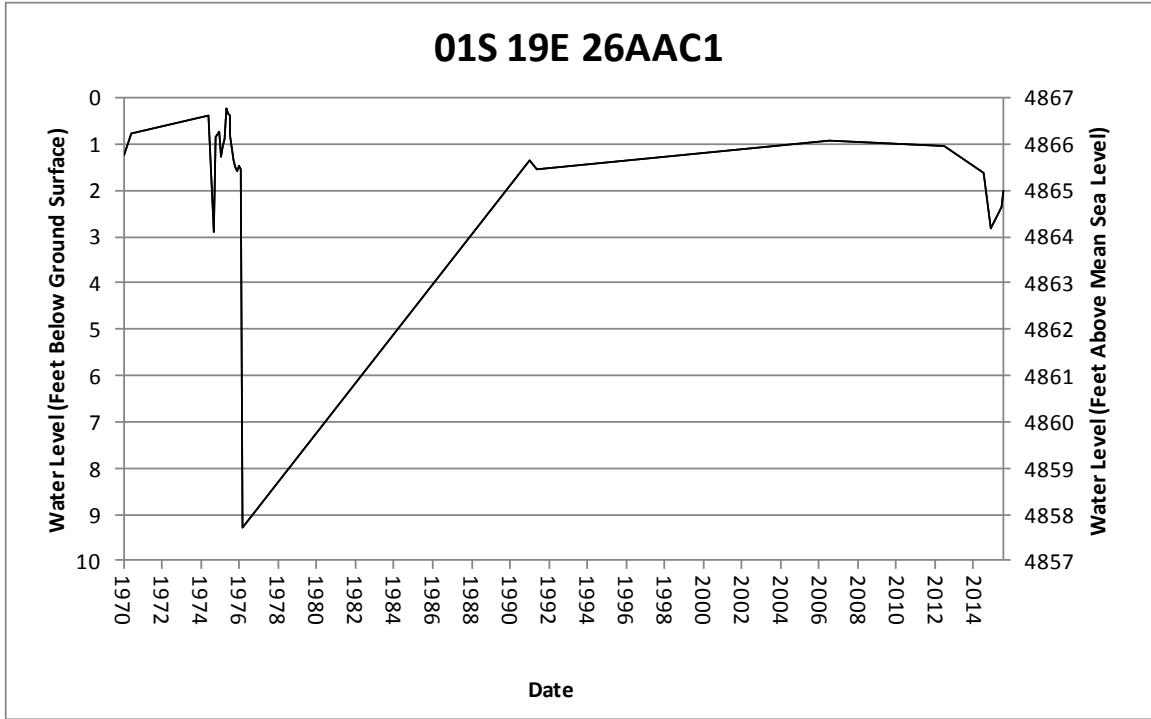




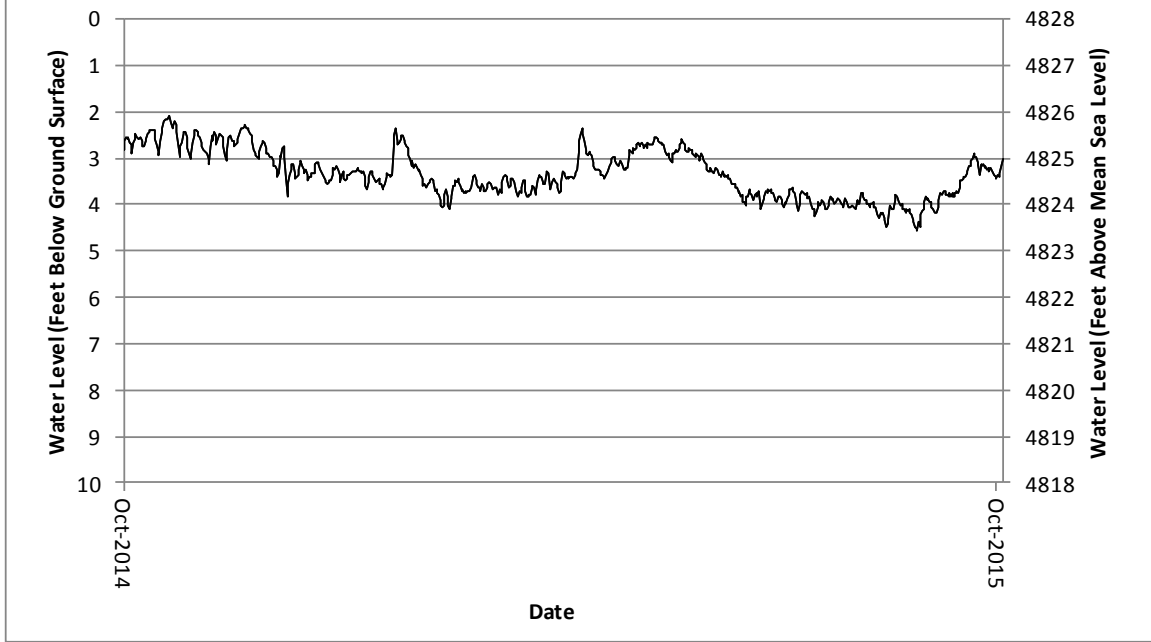


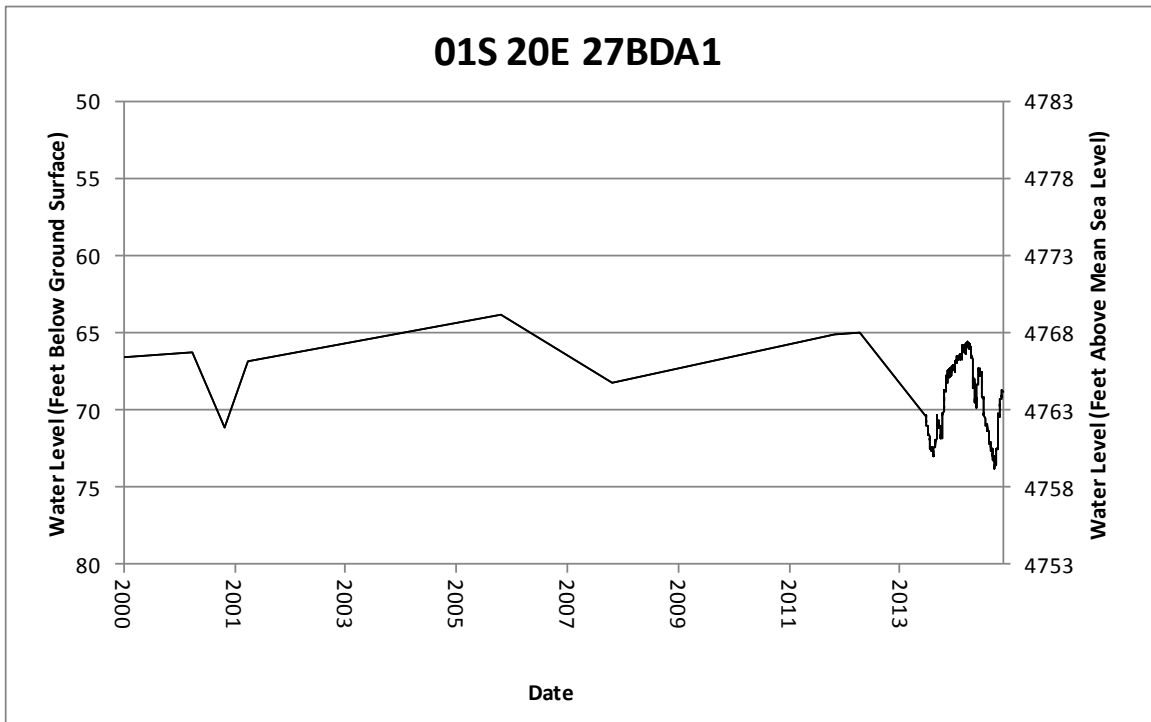
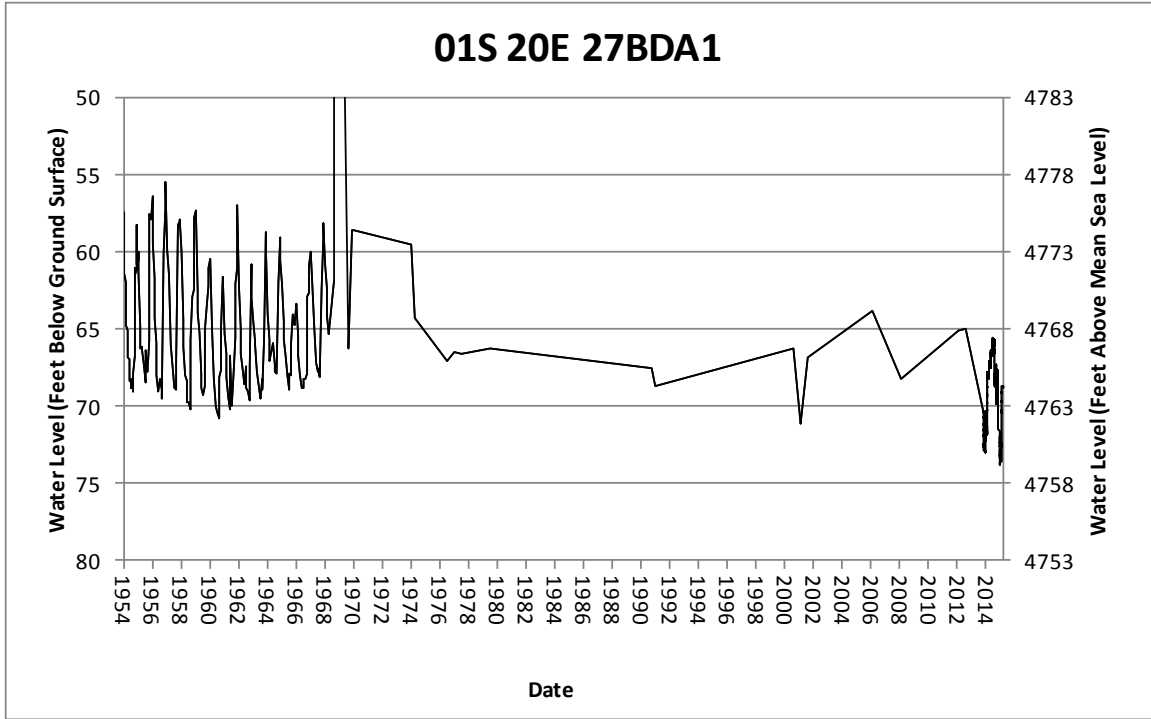


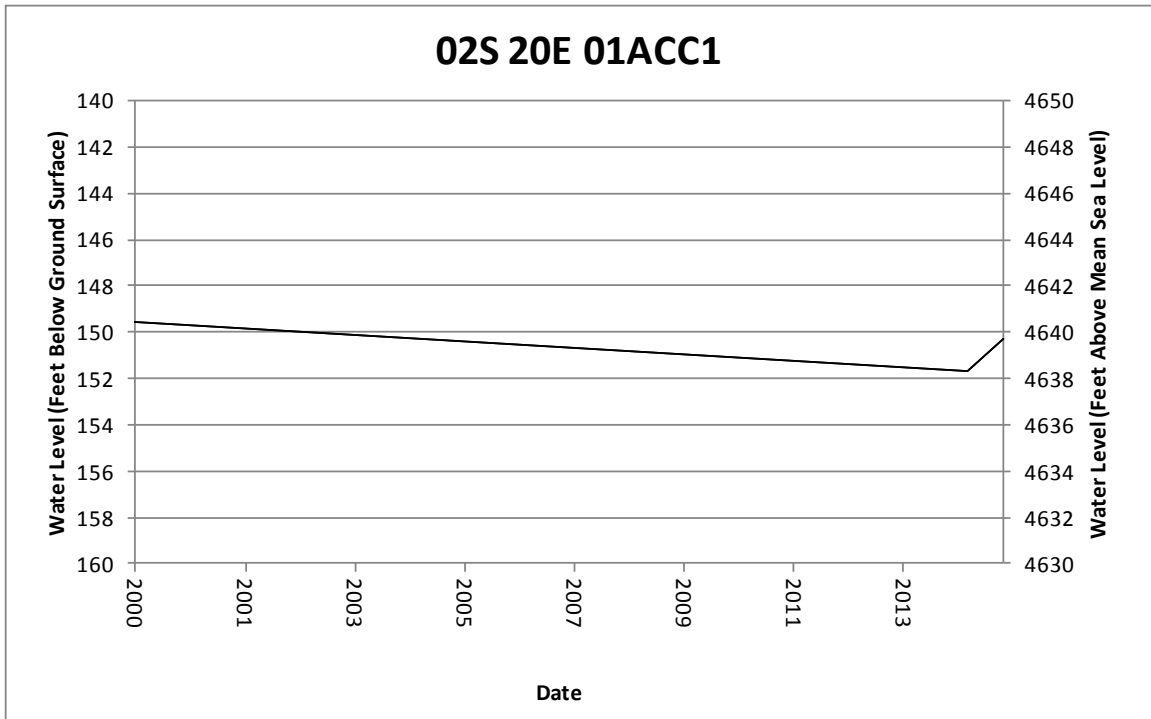
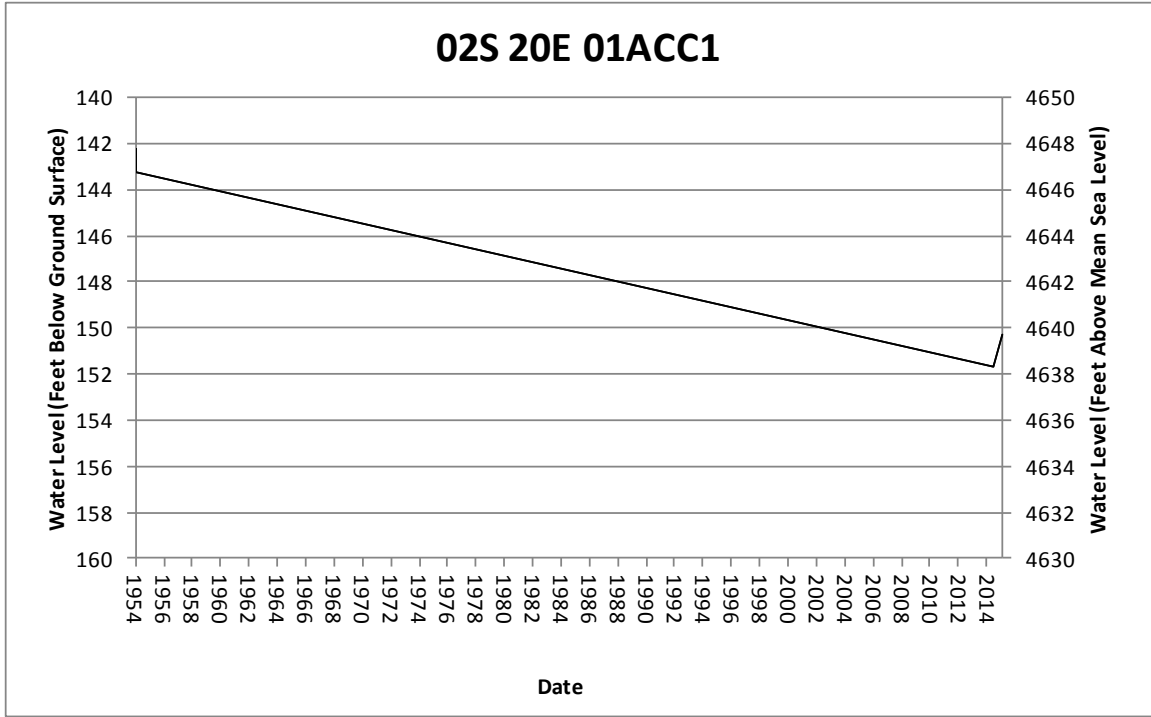


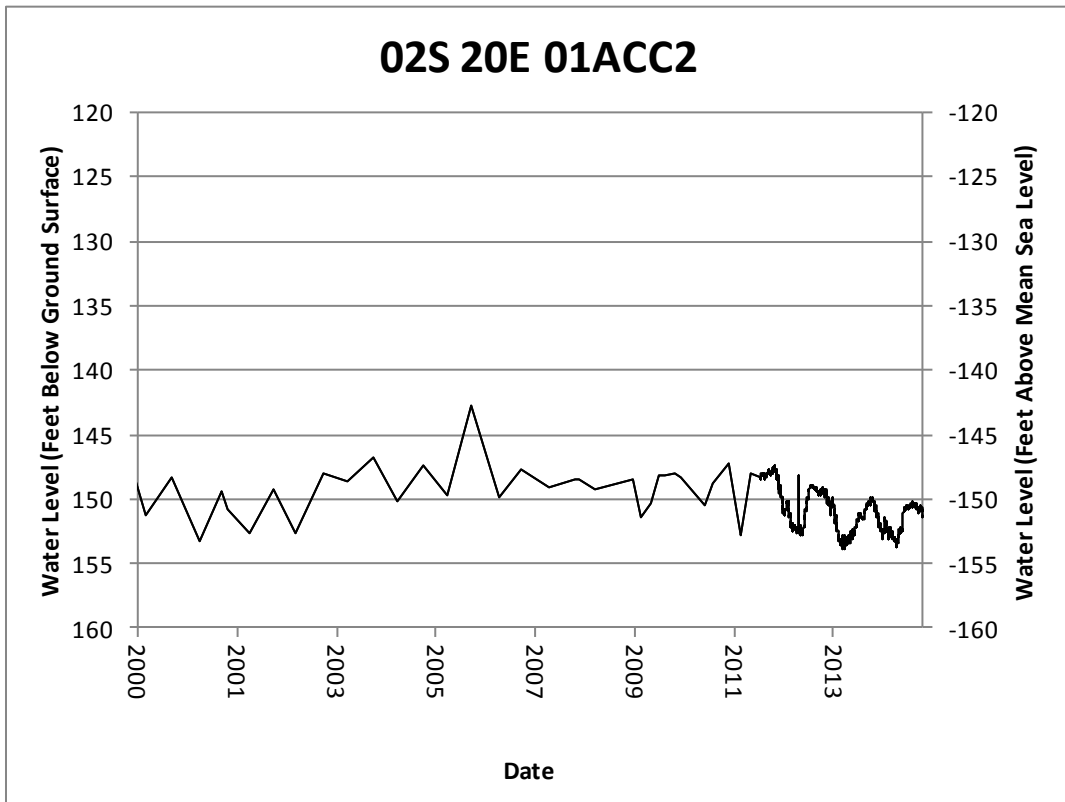
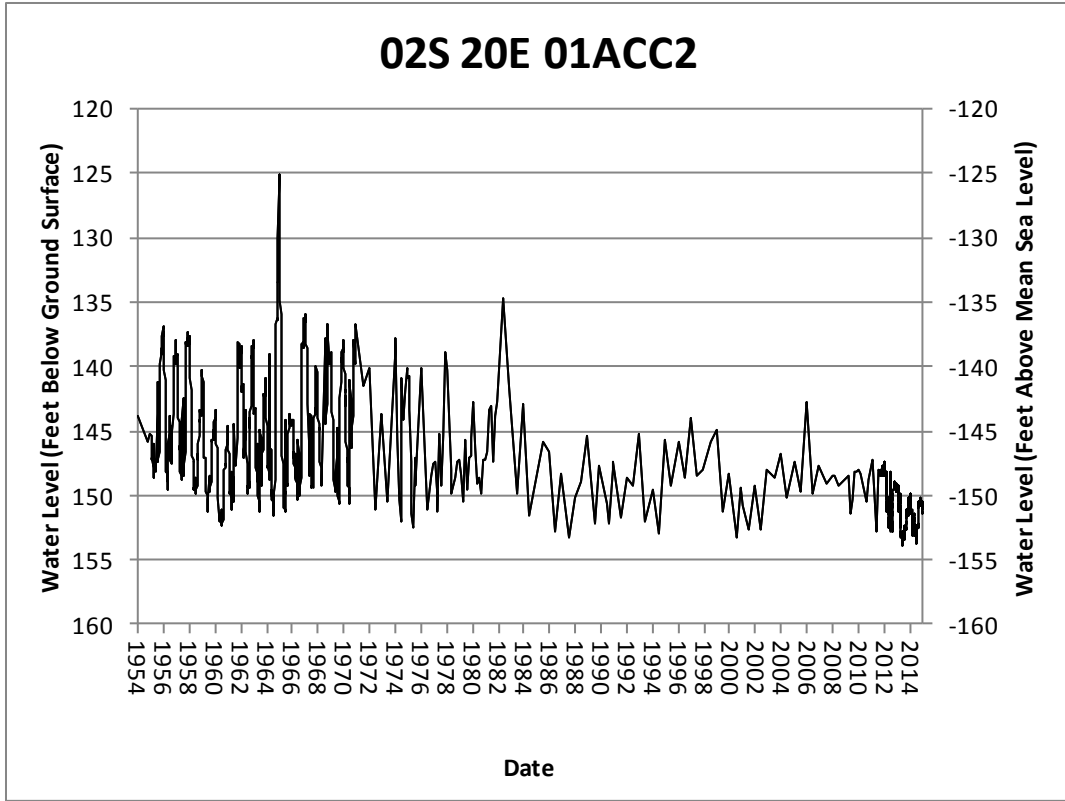


# 01S 19E 25AAA1

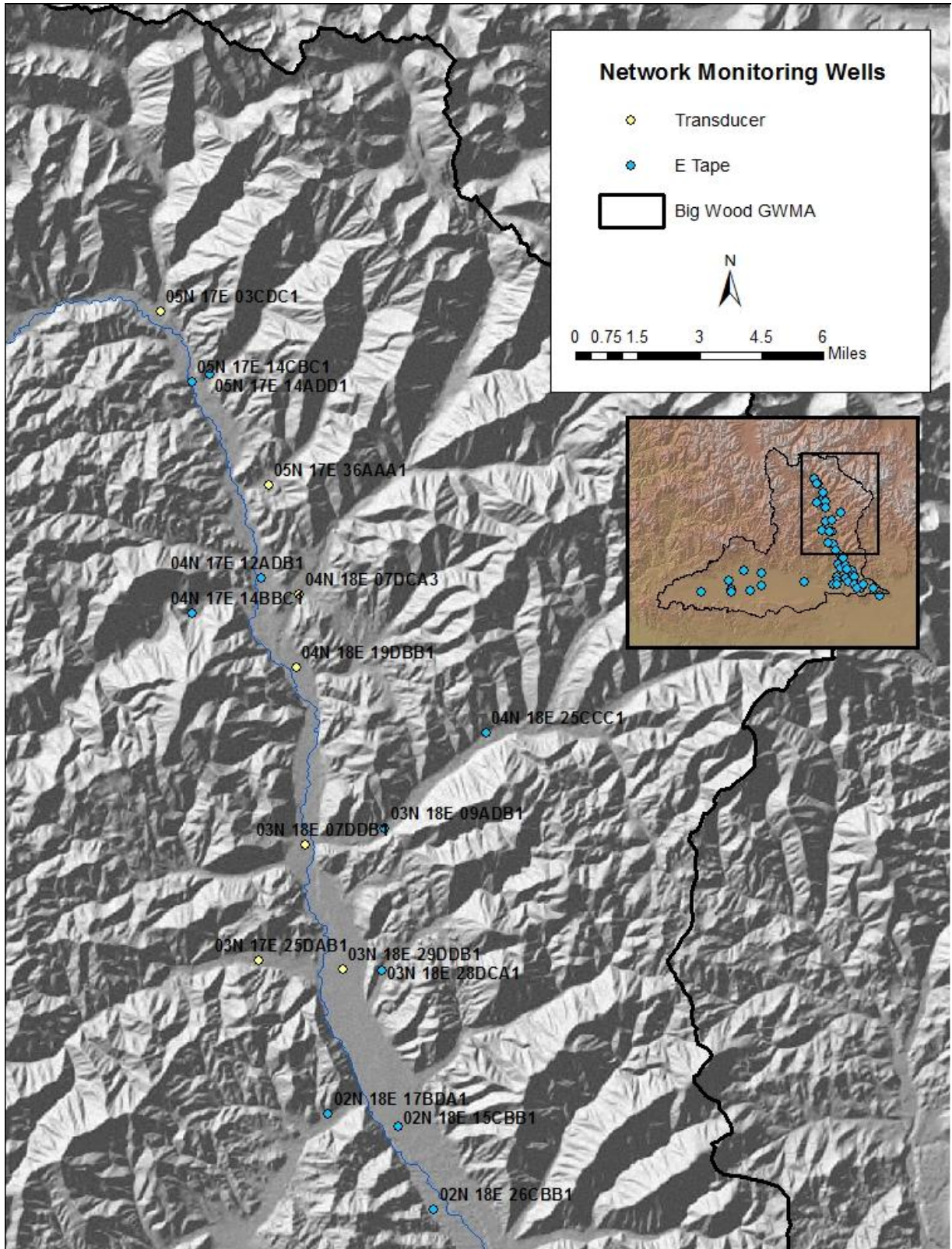




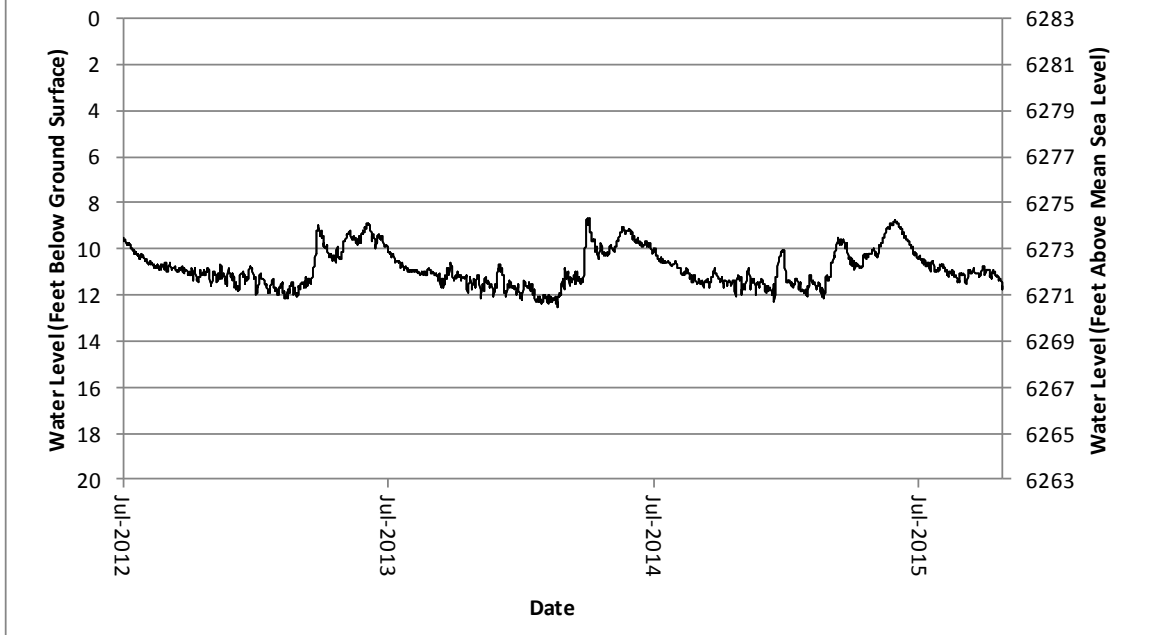




APPENDIX B  
HYDROGRAPHS

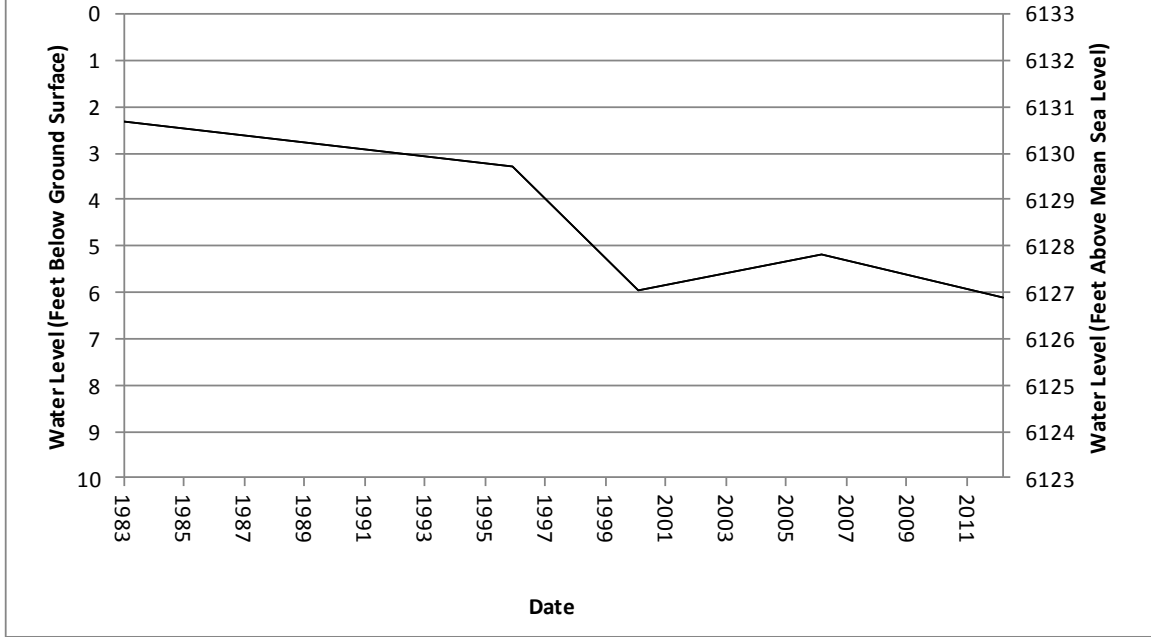


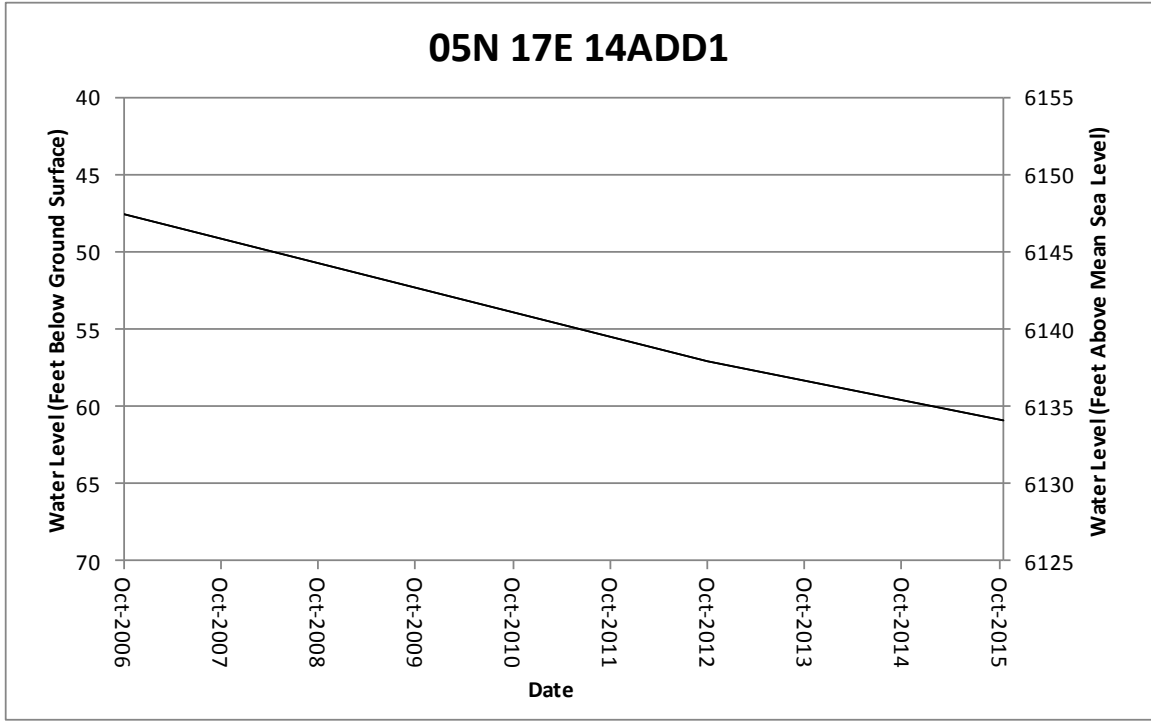
# 05N 17E 03CDC1

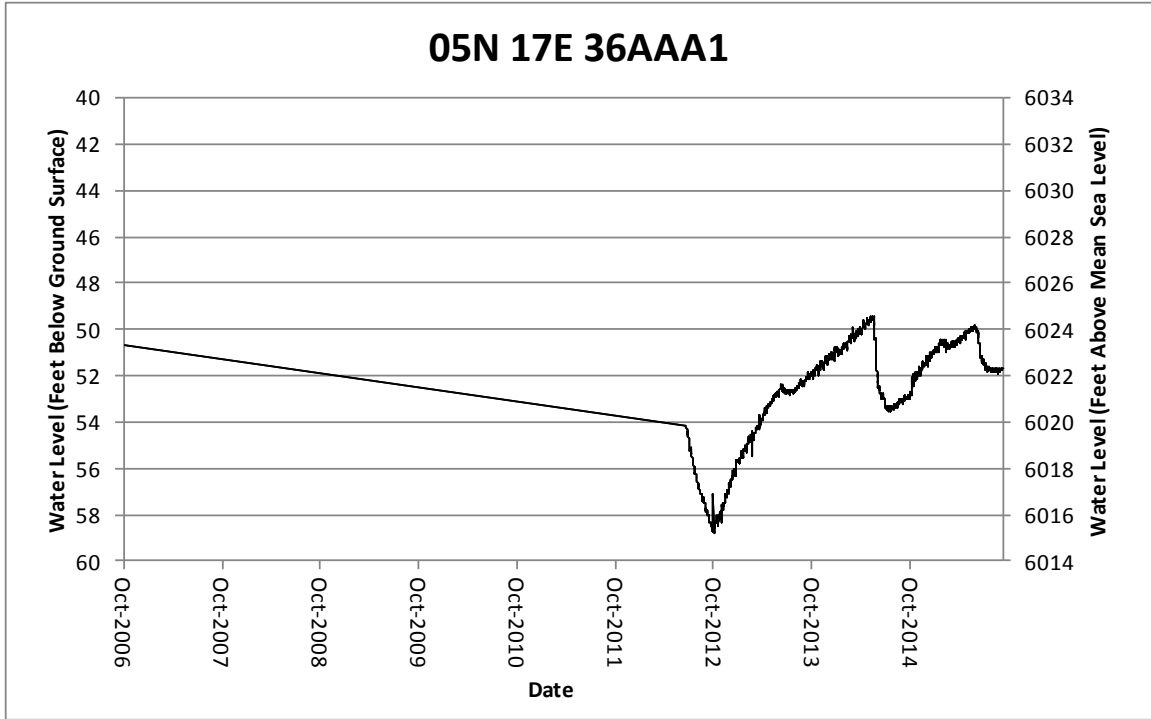


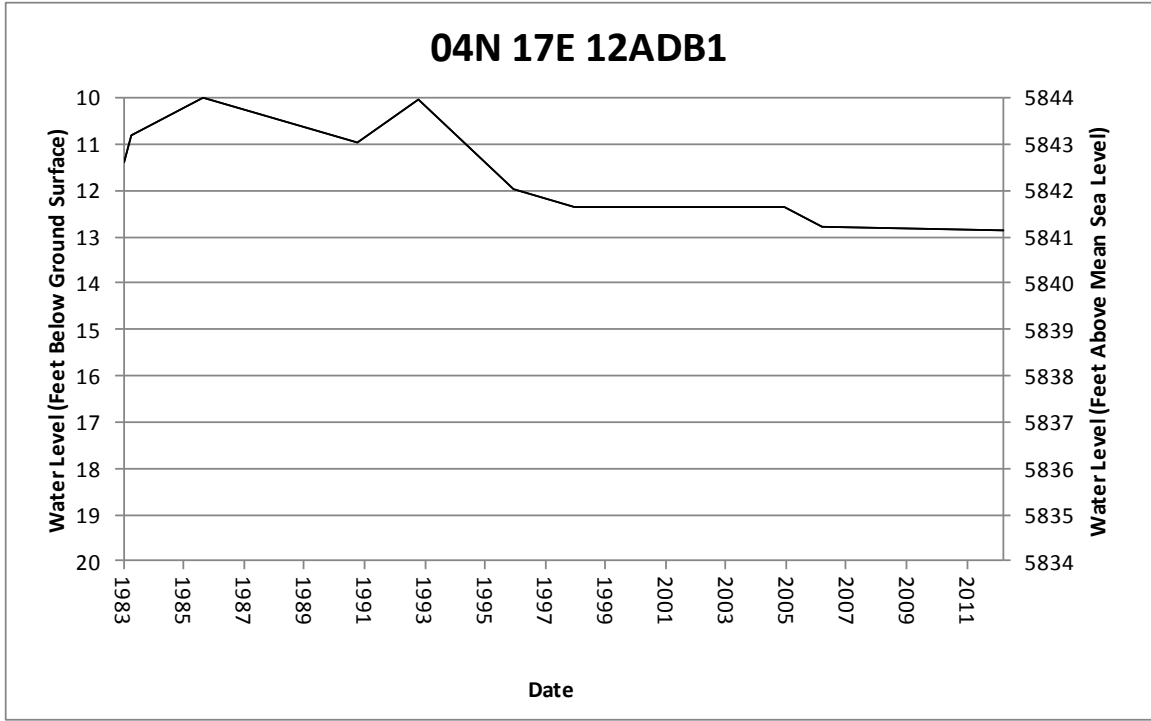


# 05N 17E 14CBC1

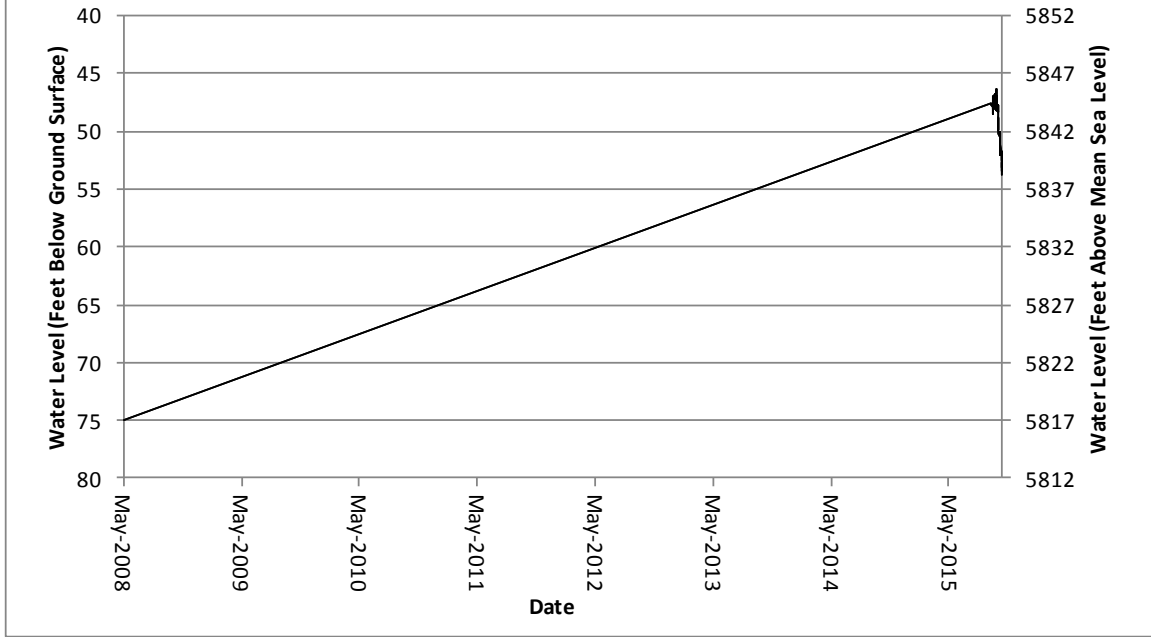


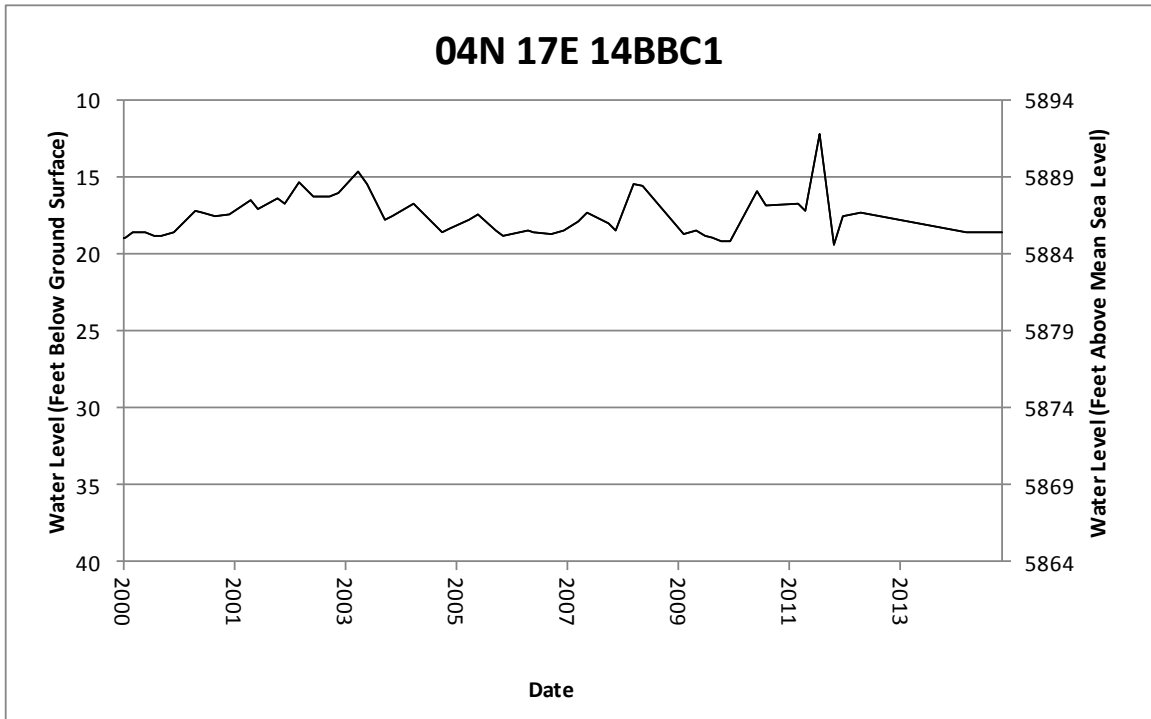
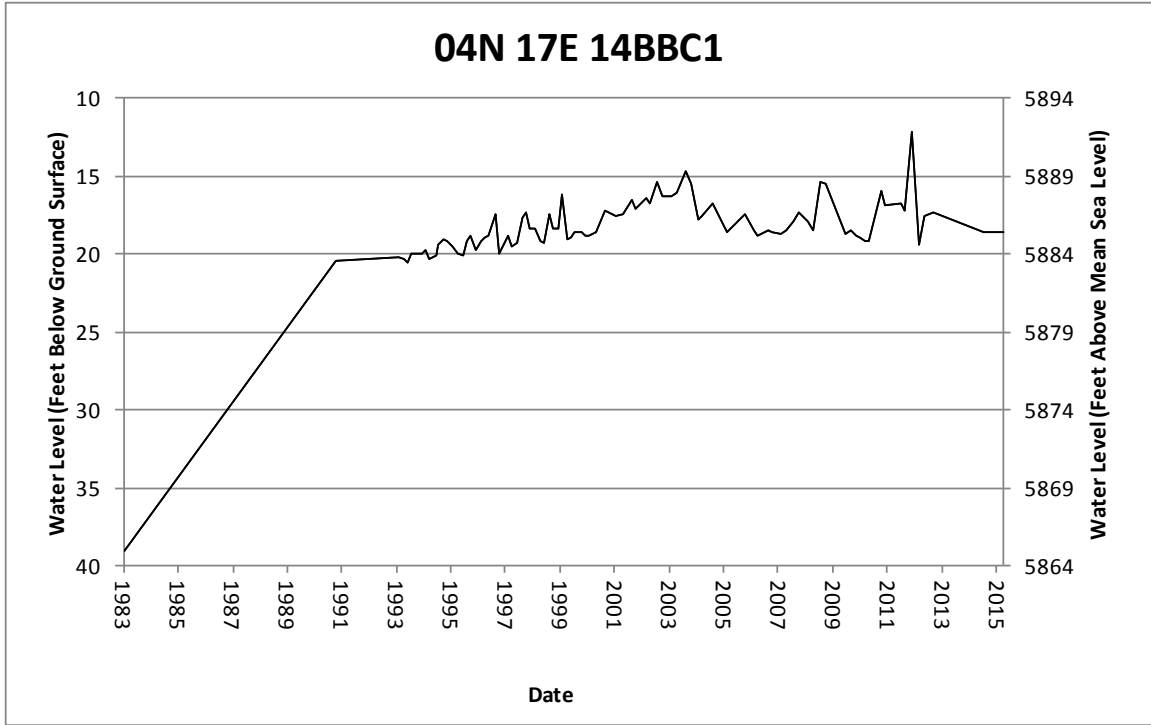


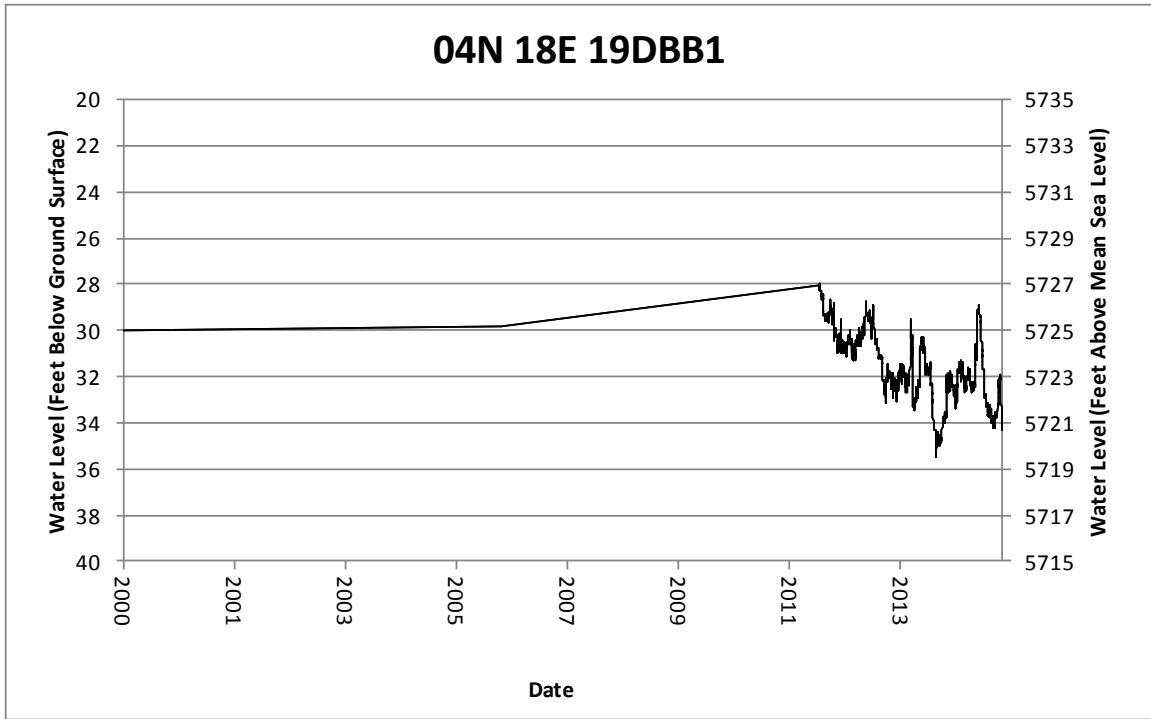
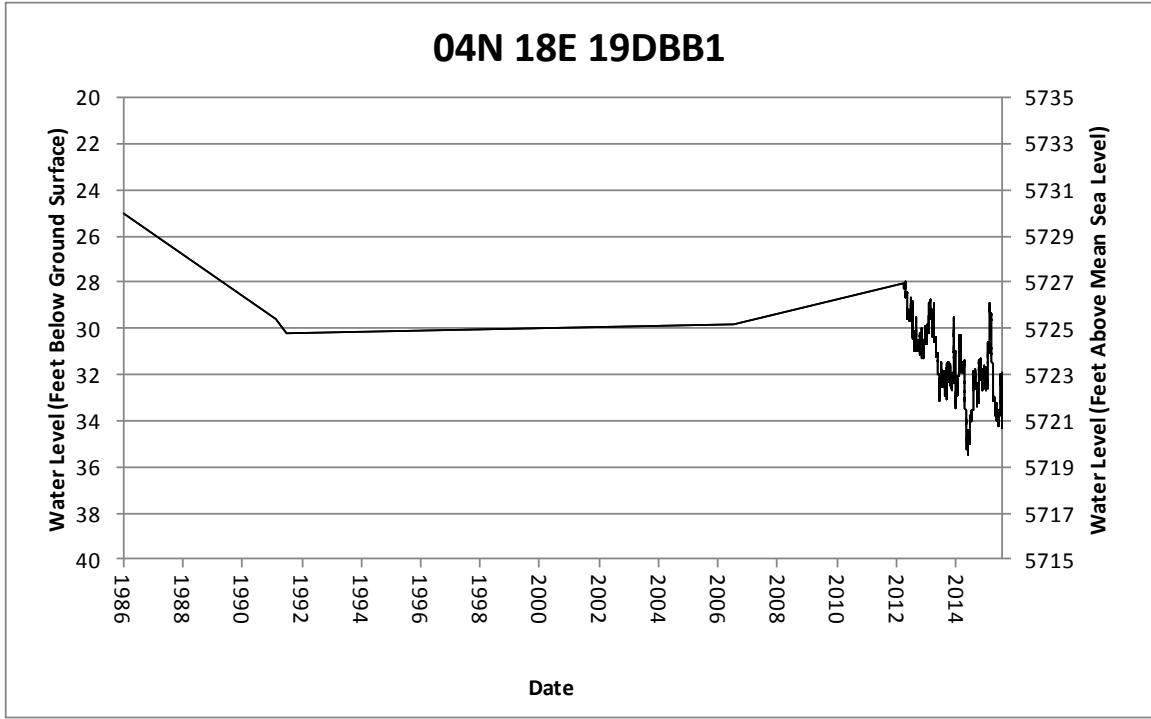


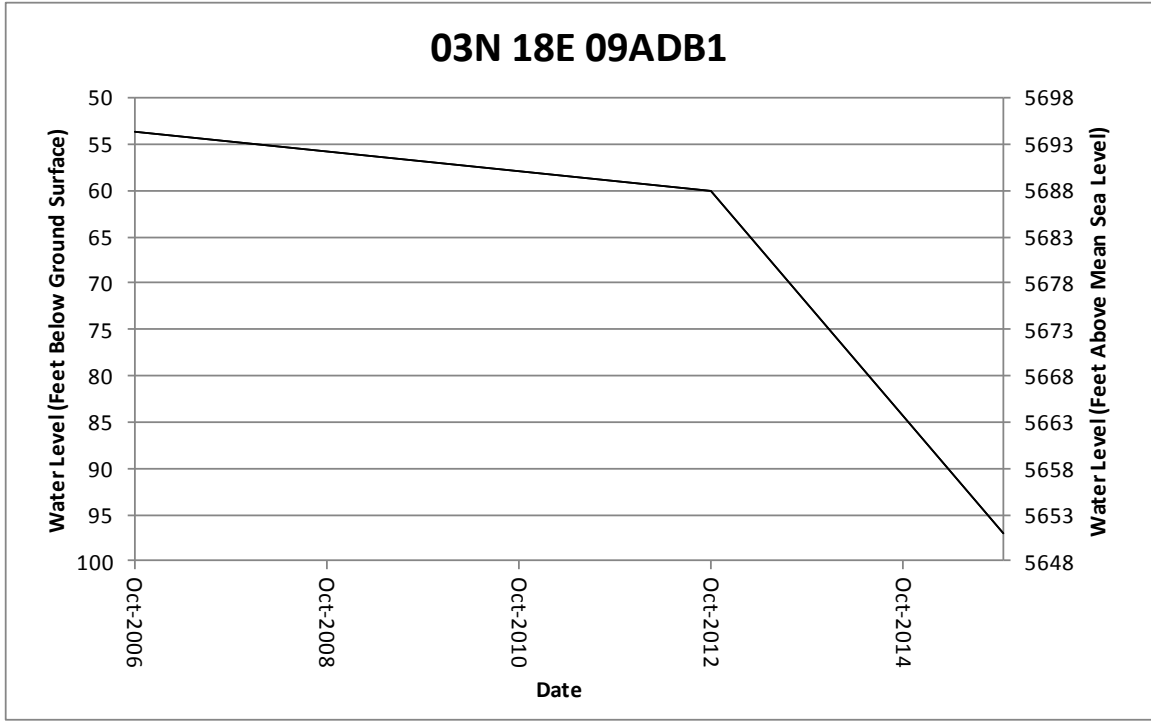


### 04N 18E 07DCA3



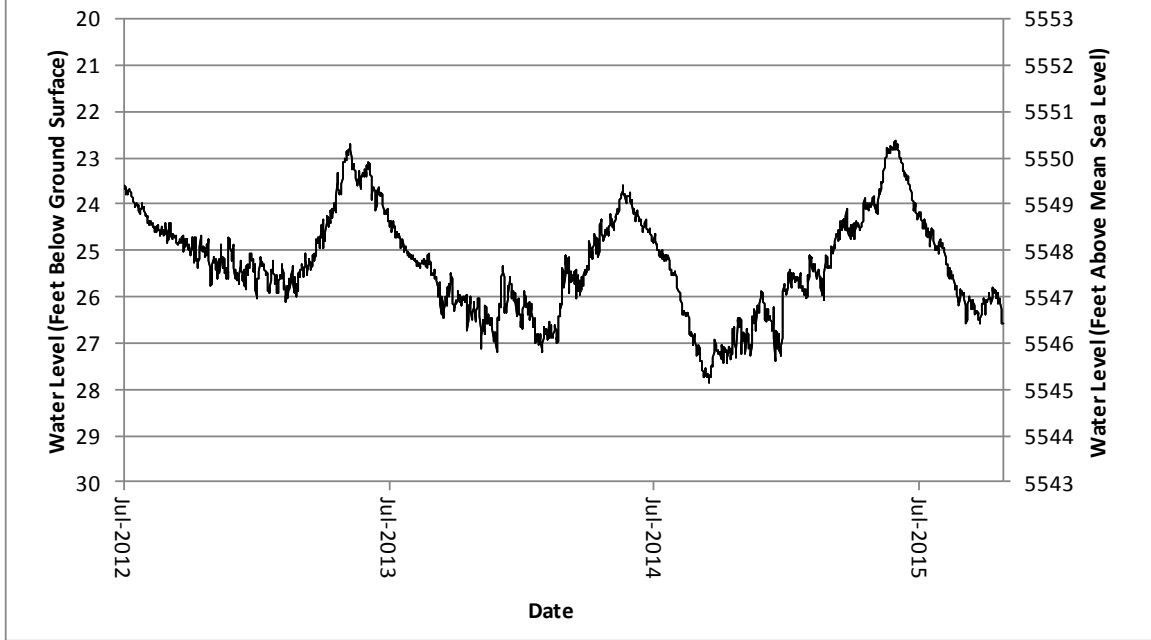


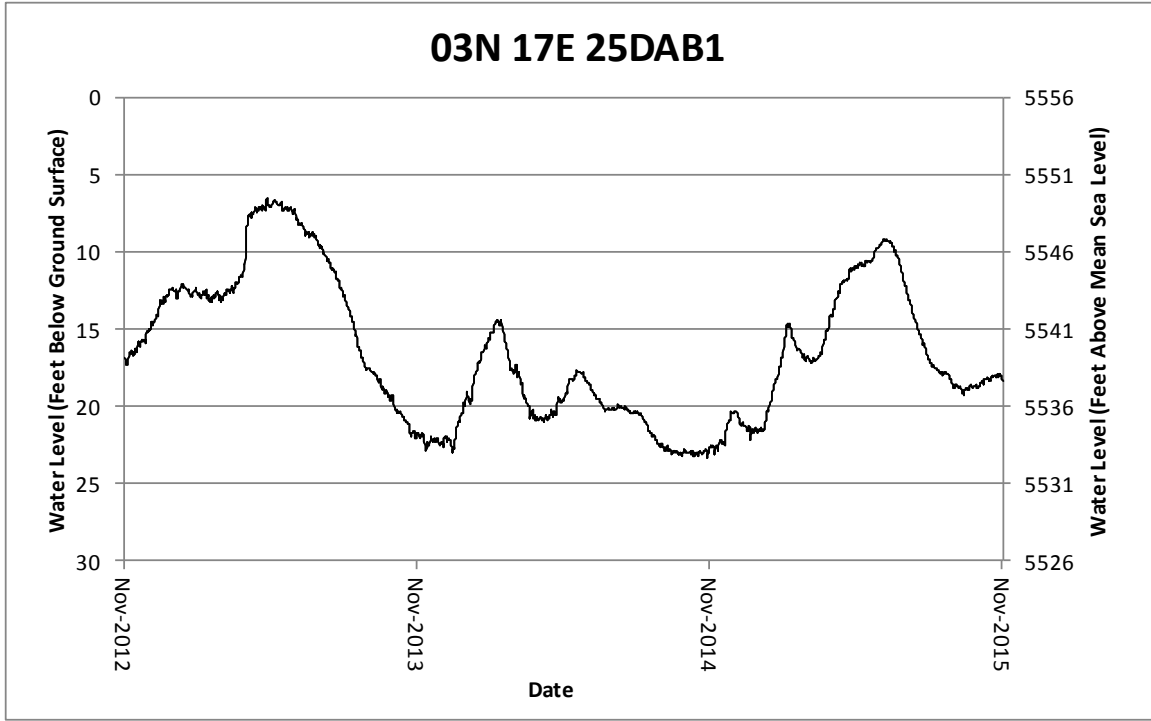


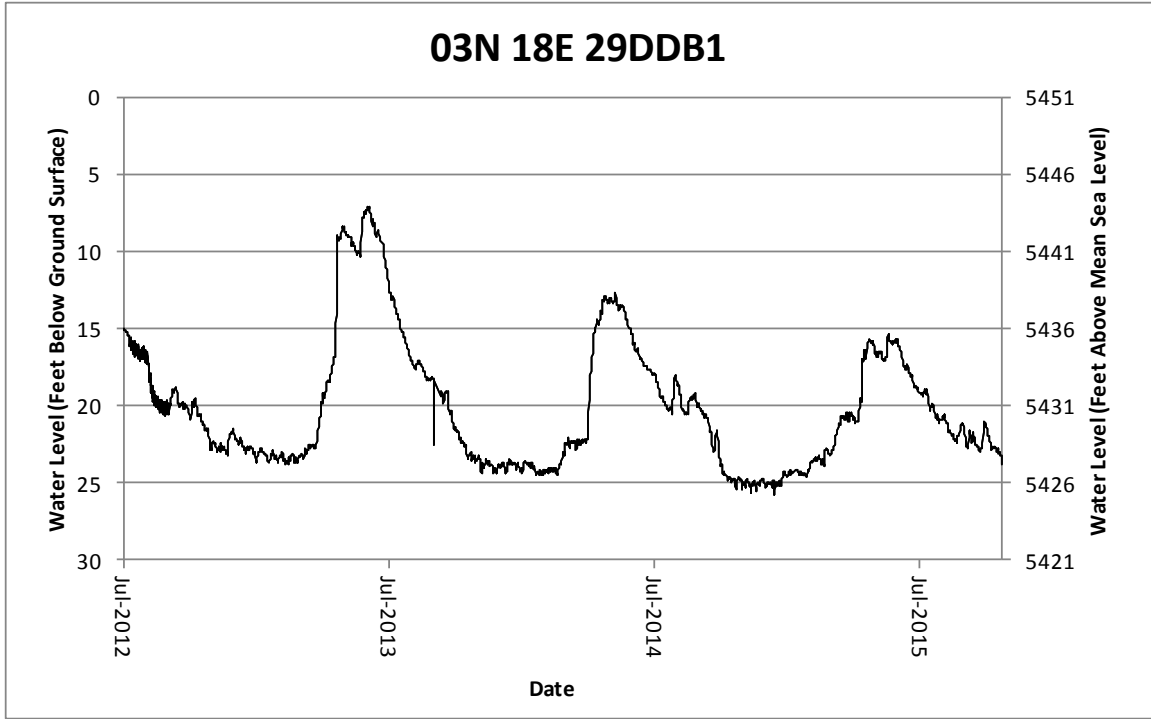




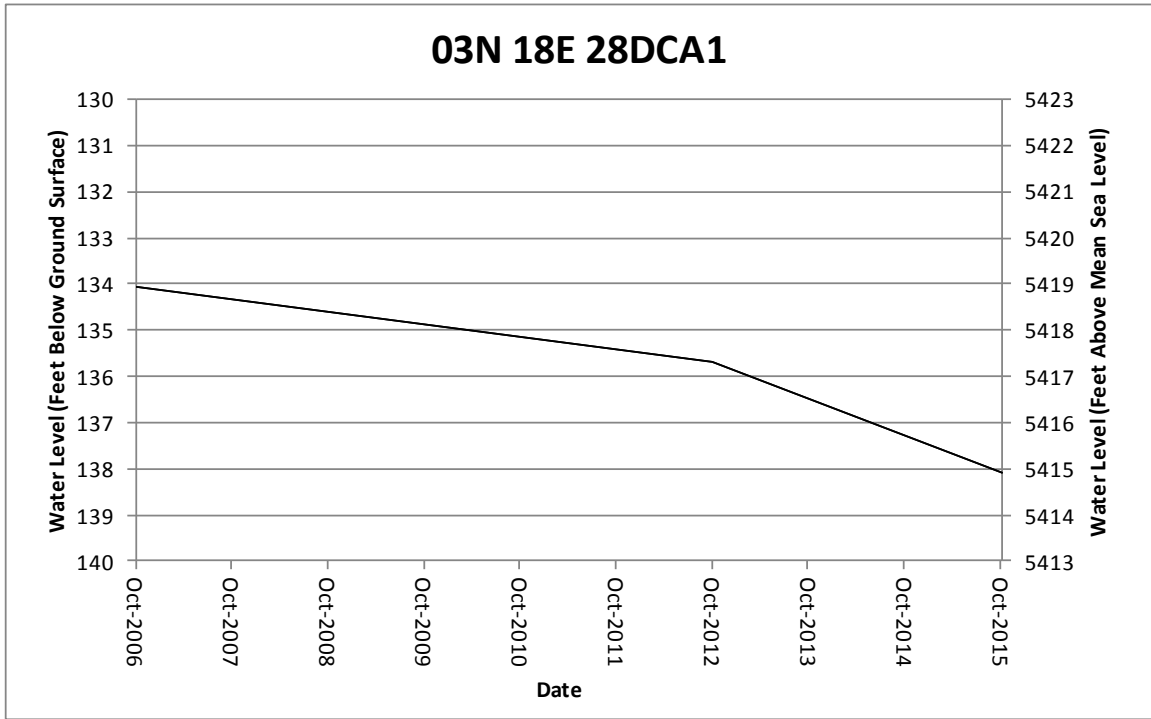
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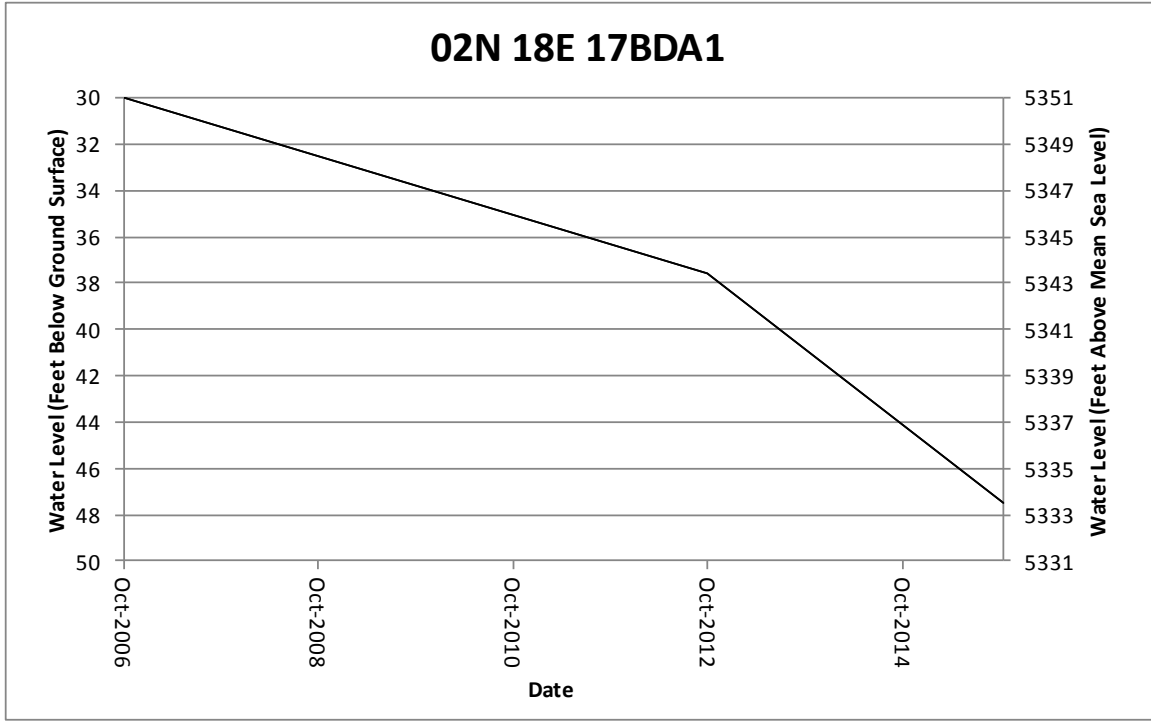




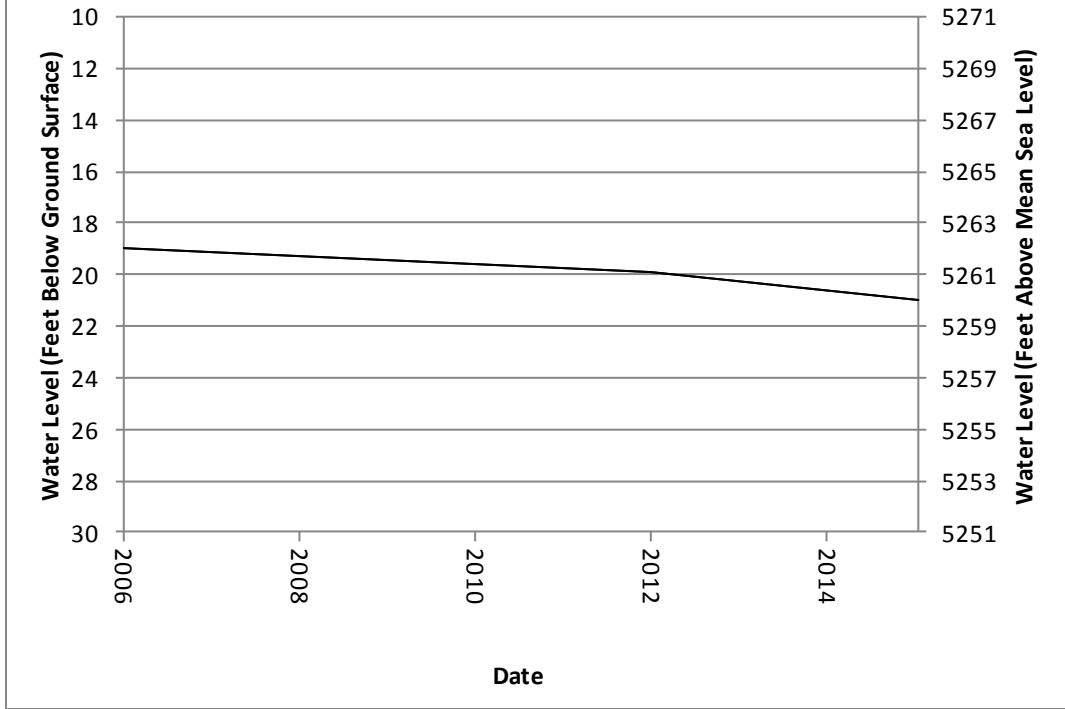


### 03N 18E 28DCA1

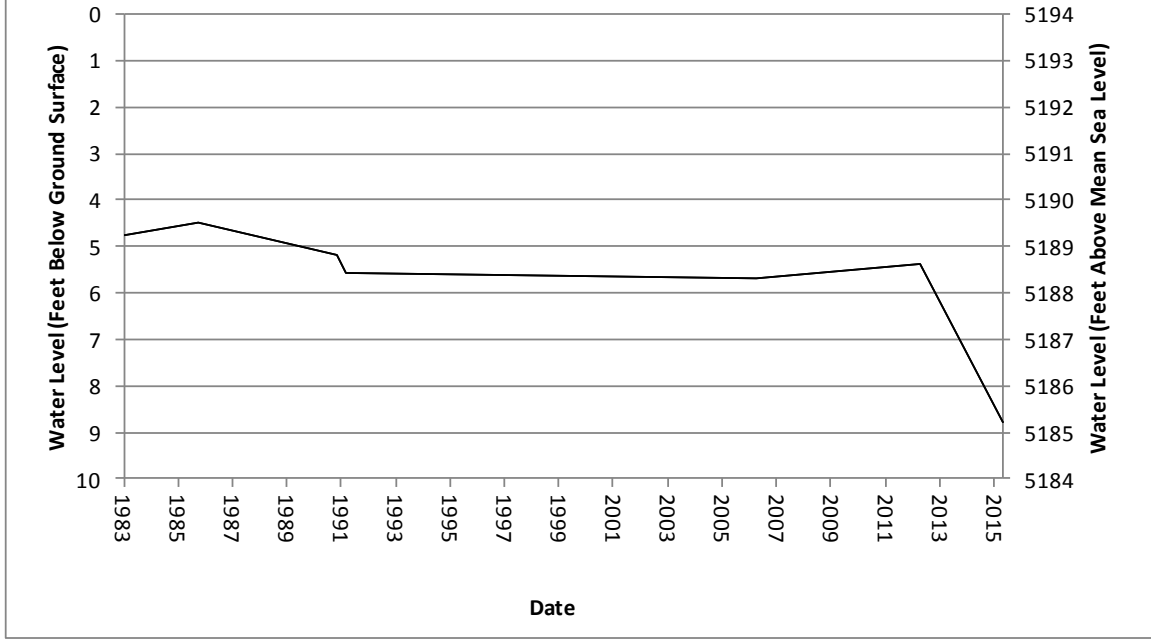




# 02N 18E 15CBB1

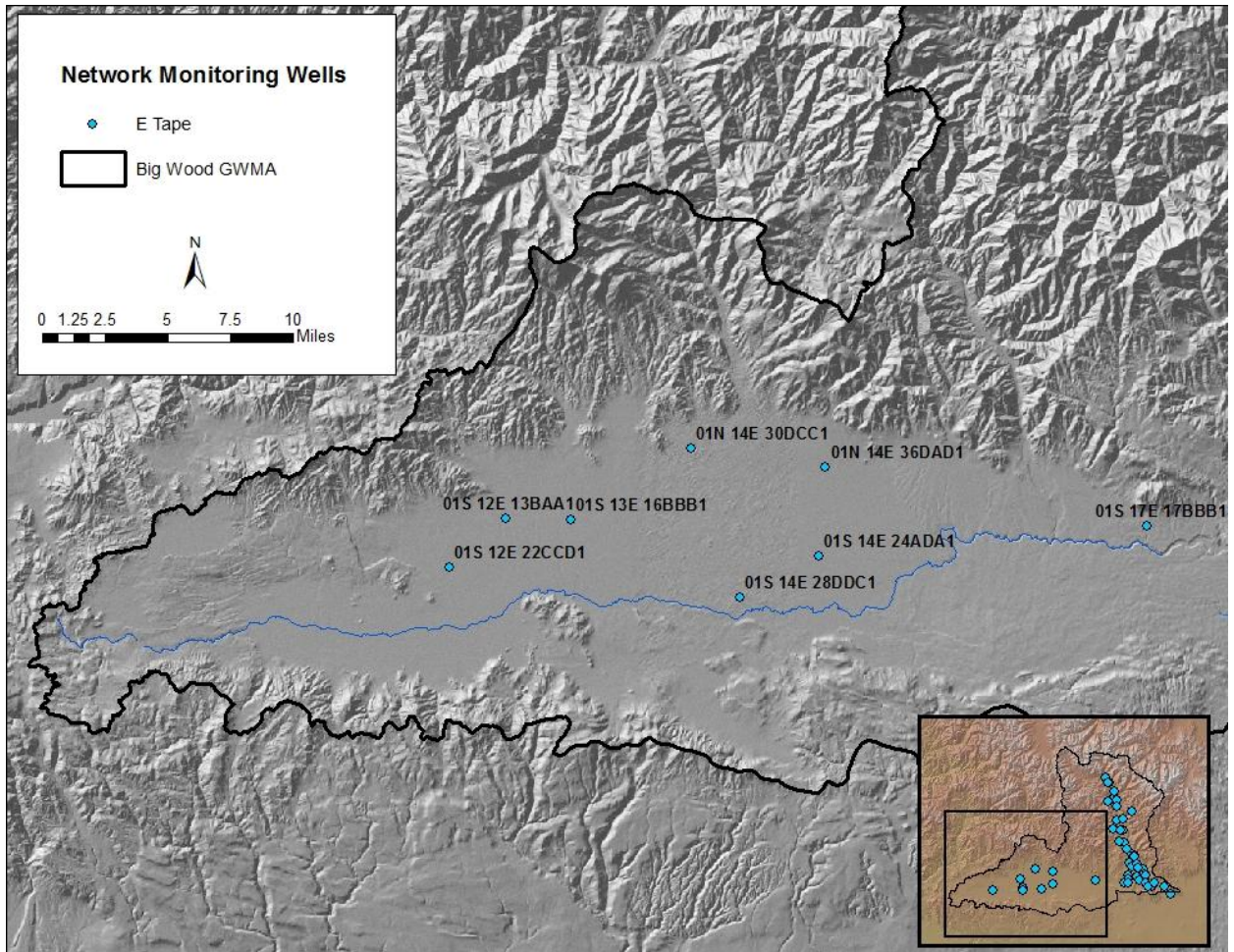


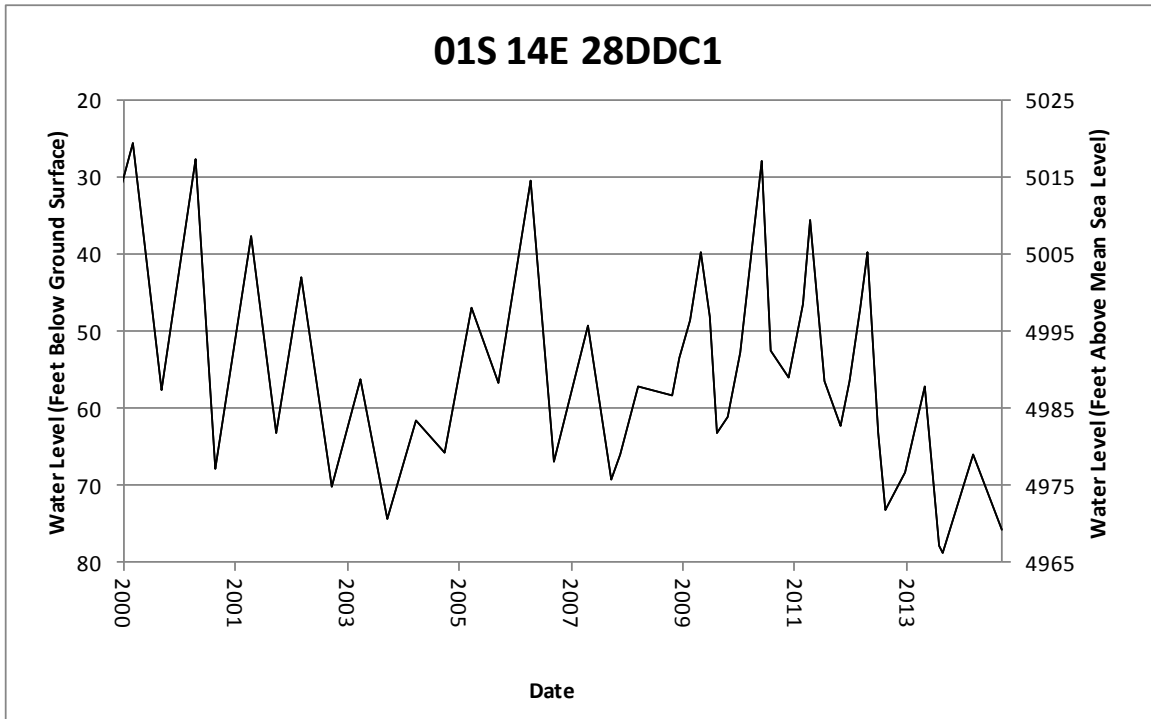
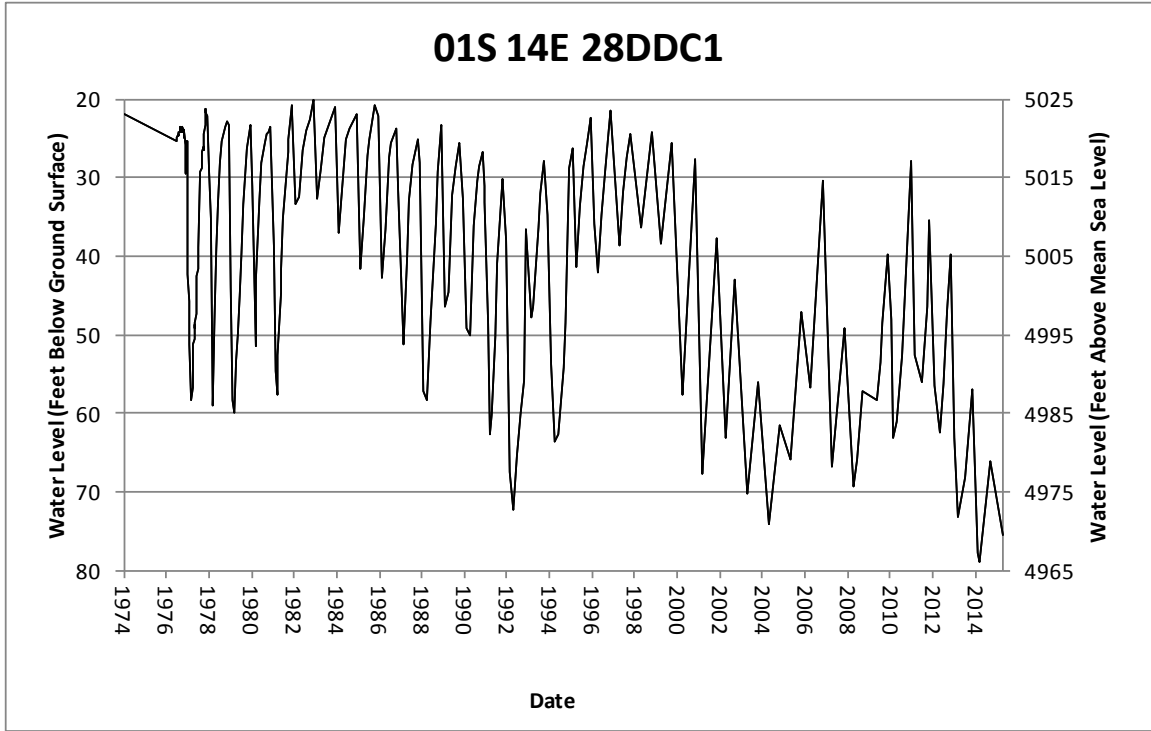
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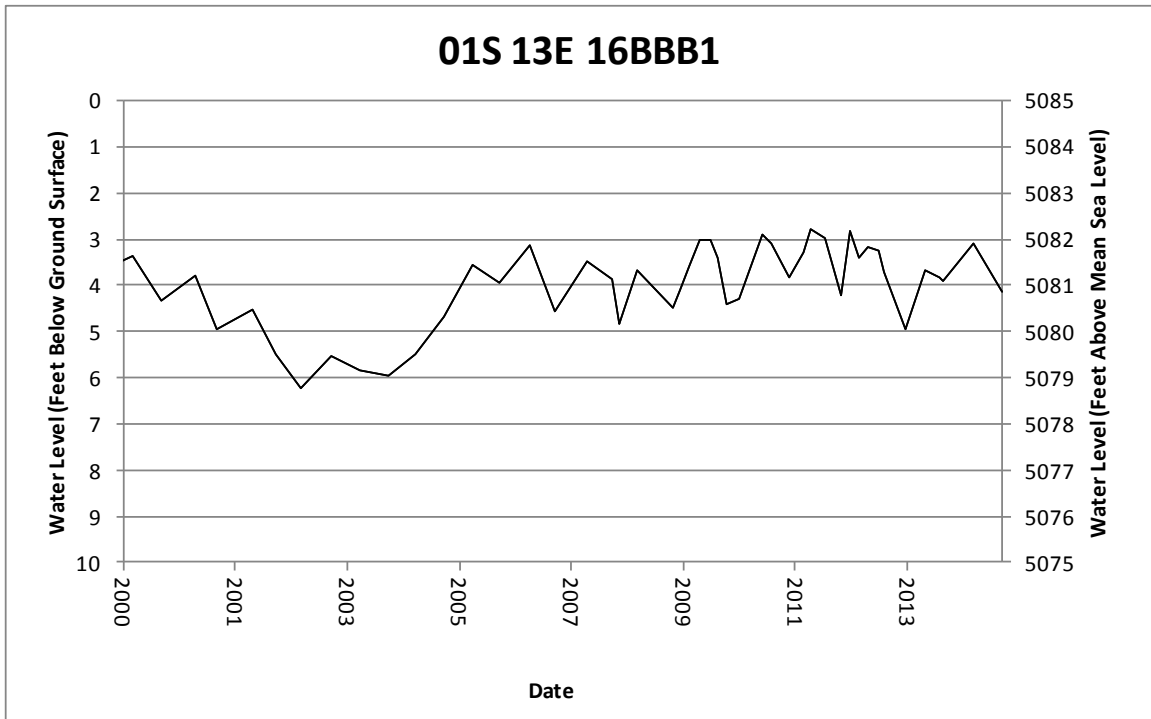
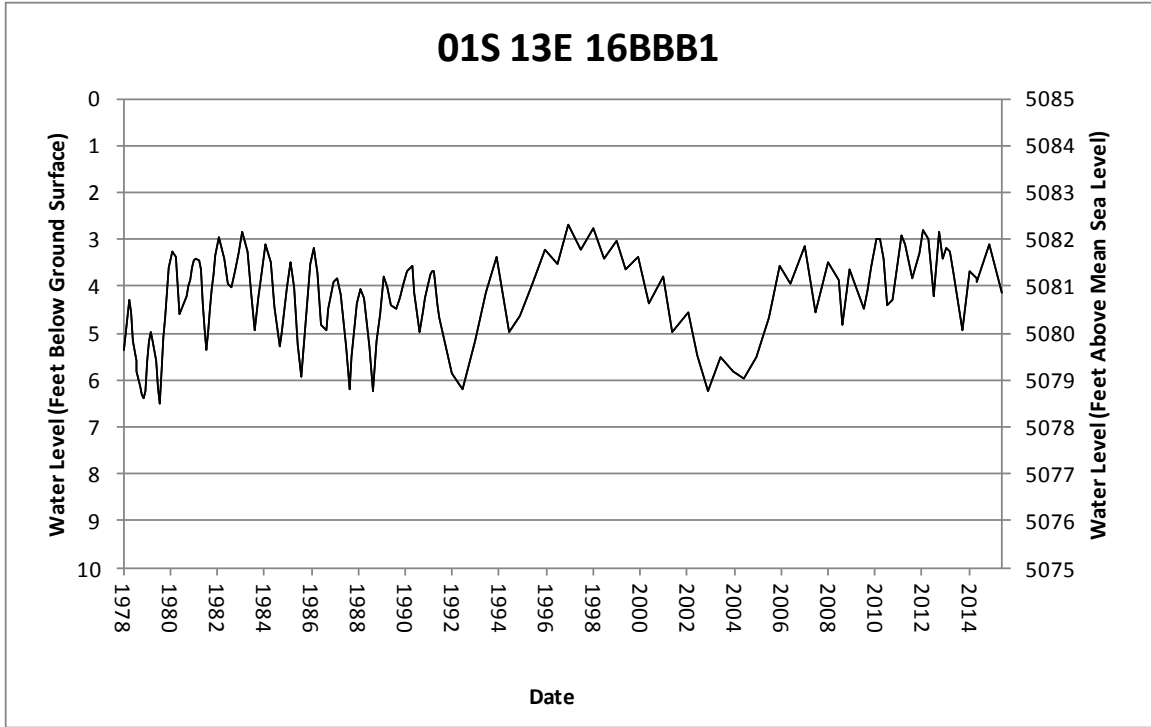


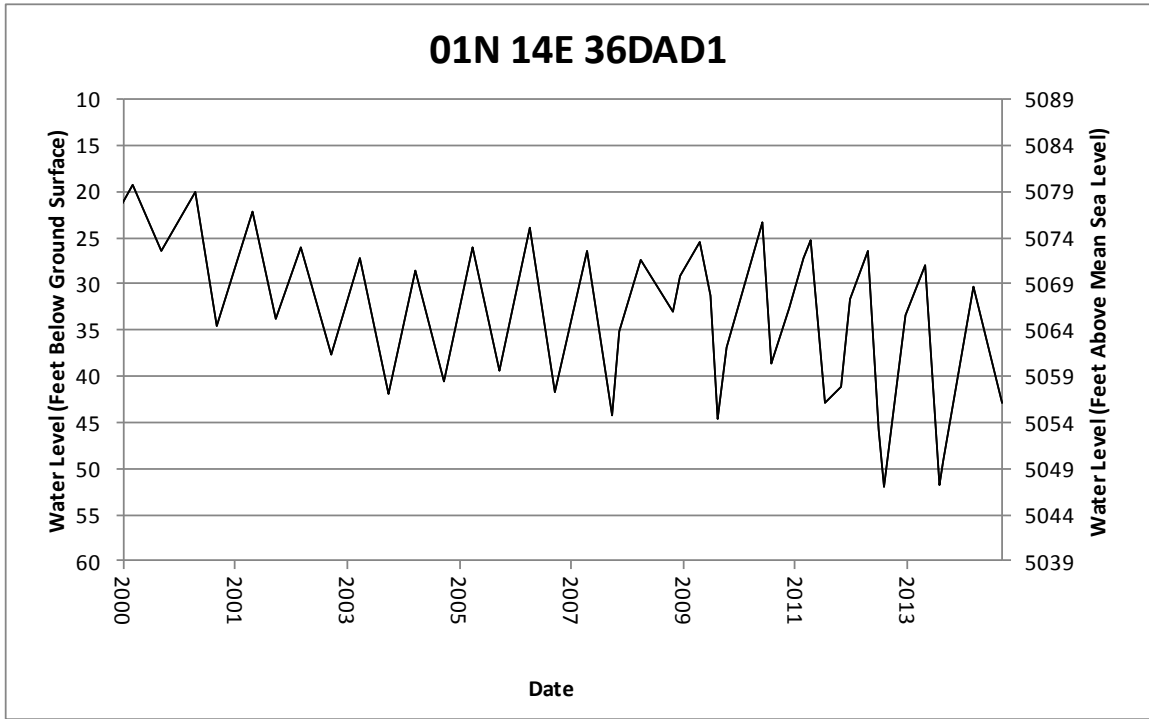
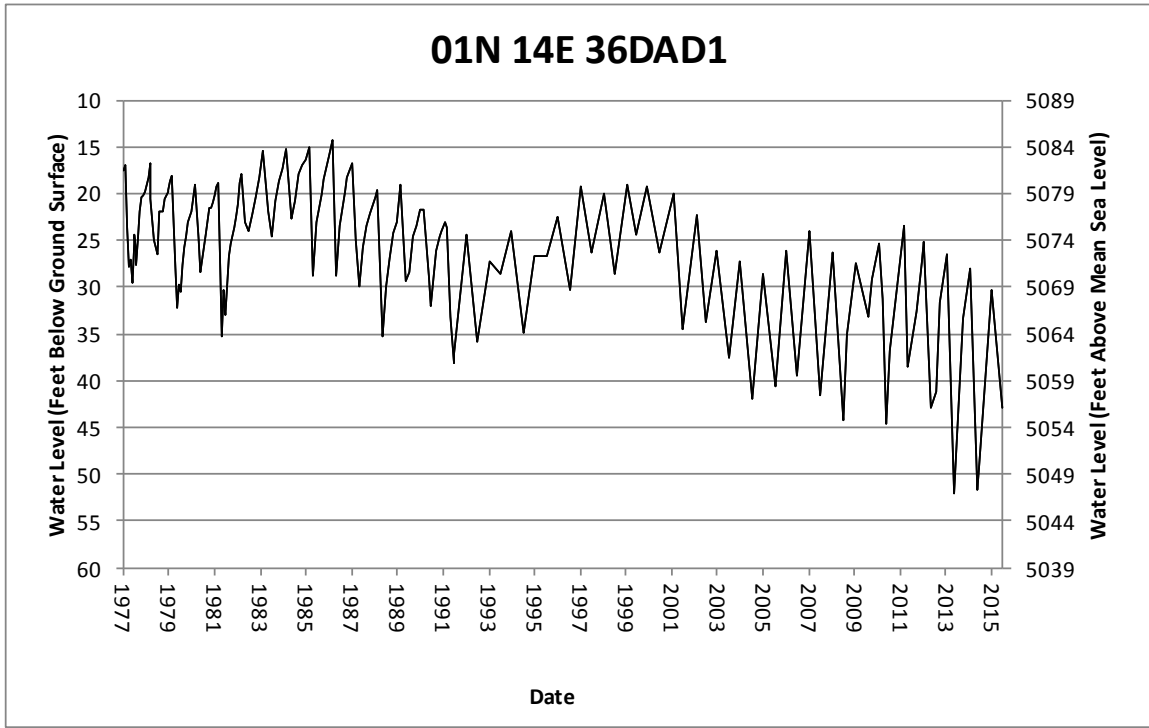
APPENDIX C  
HYDROGRAPHS

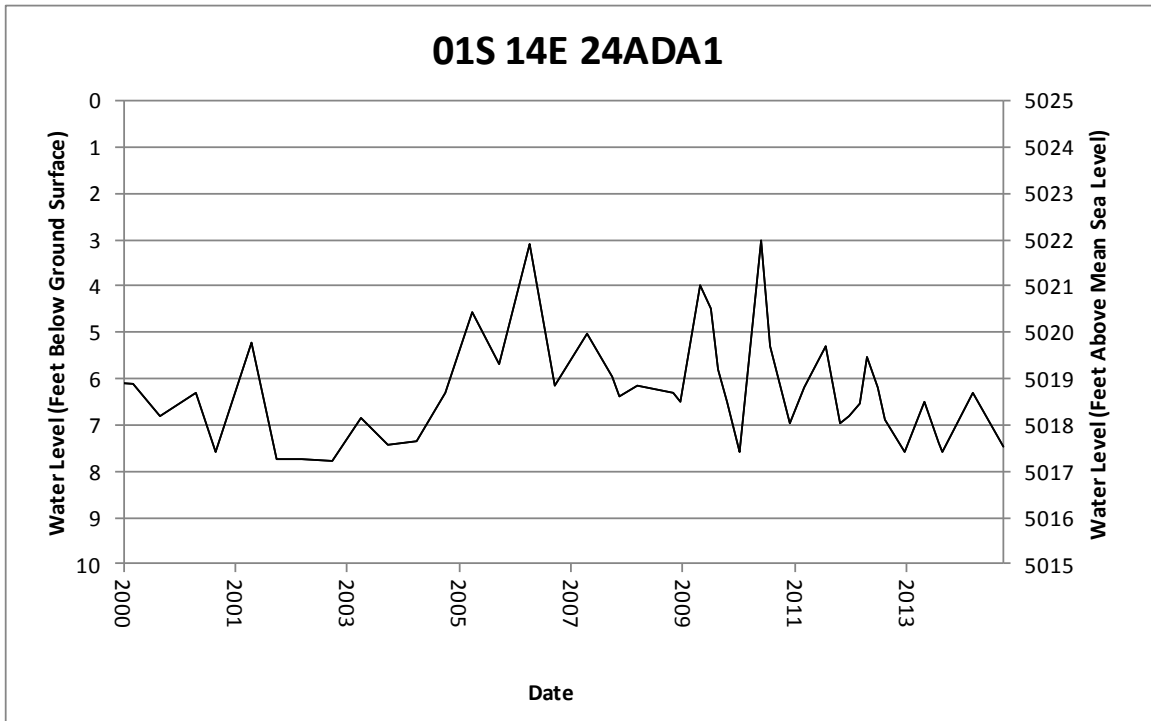
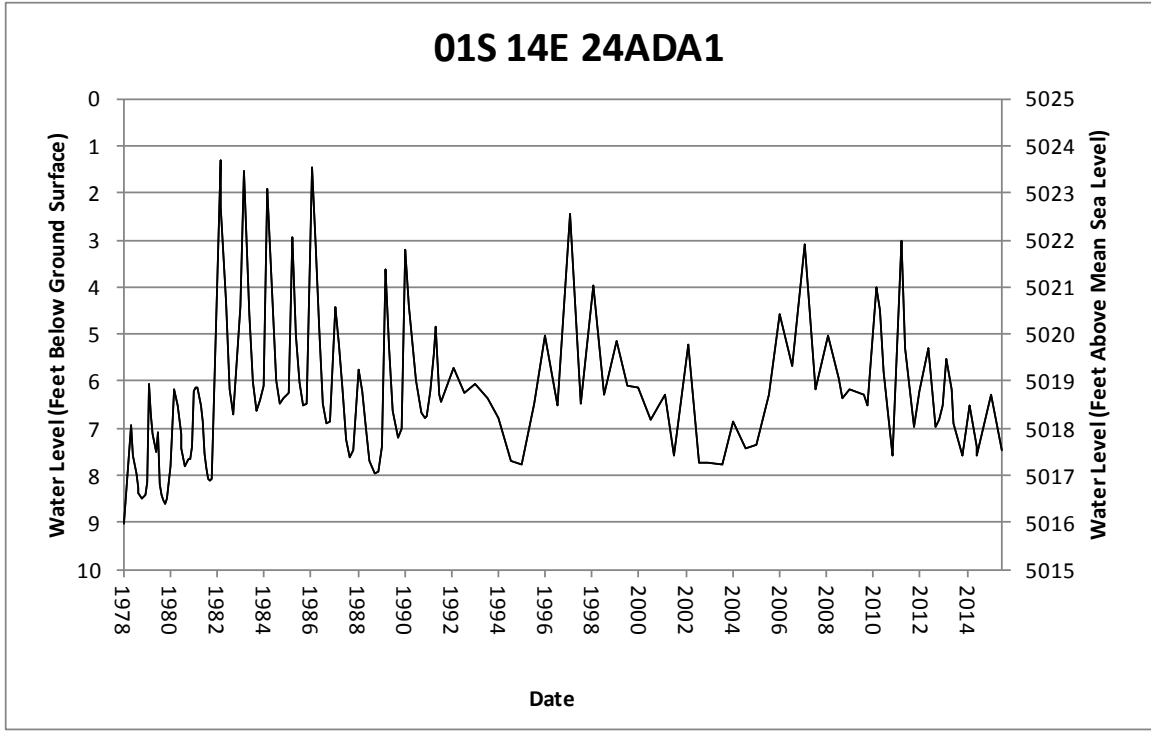


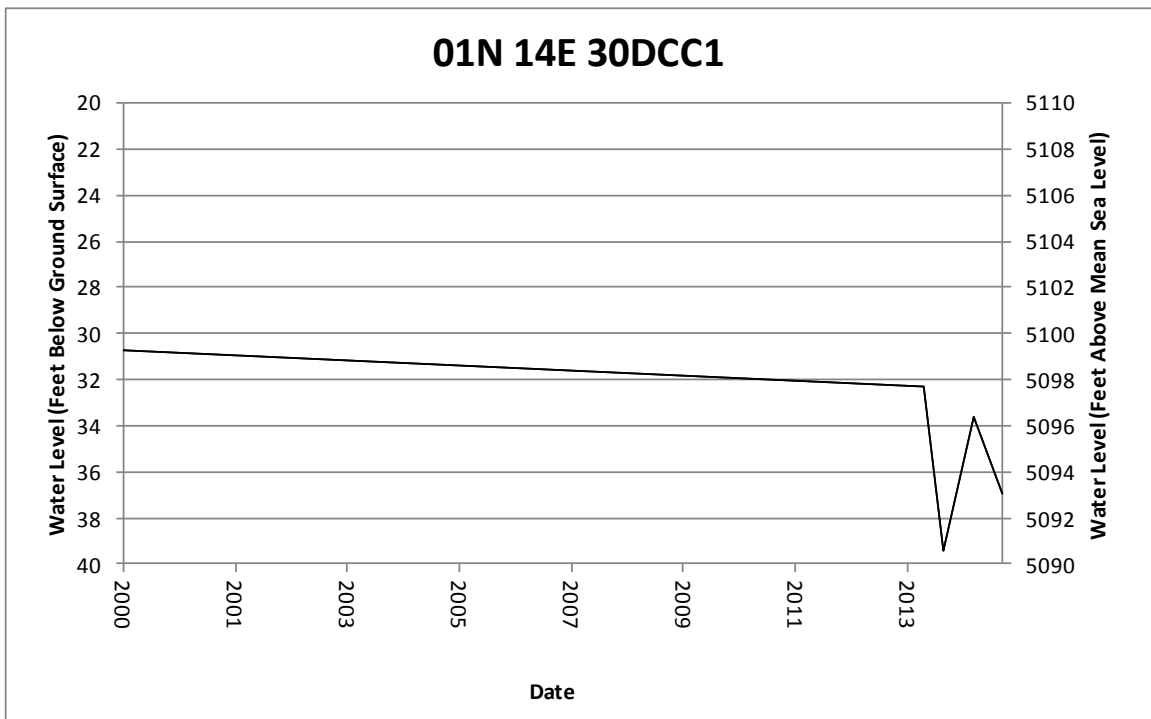
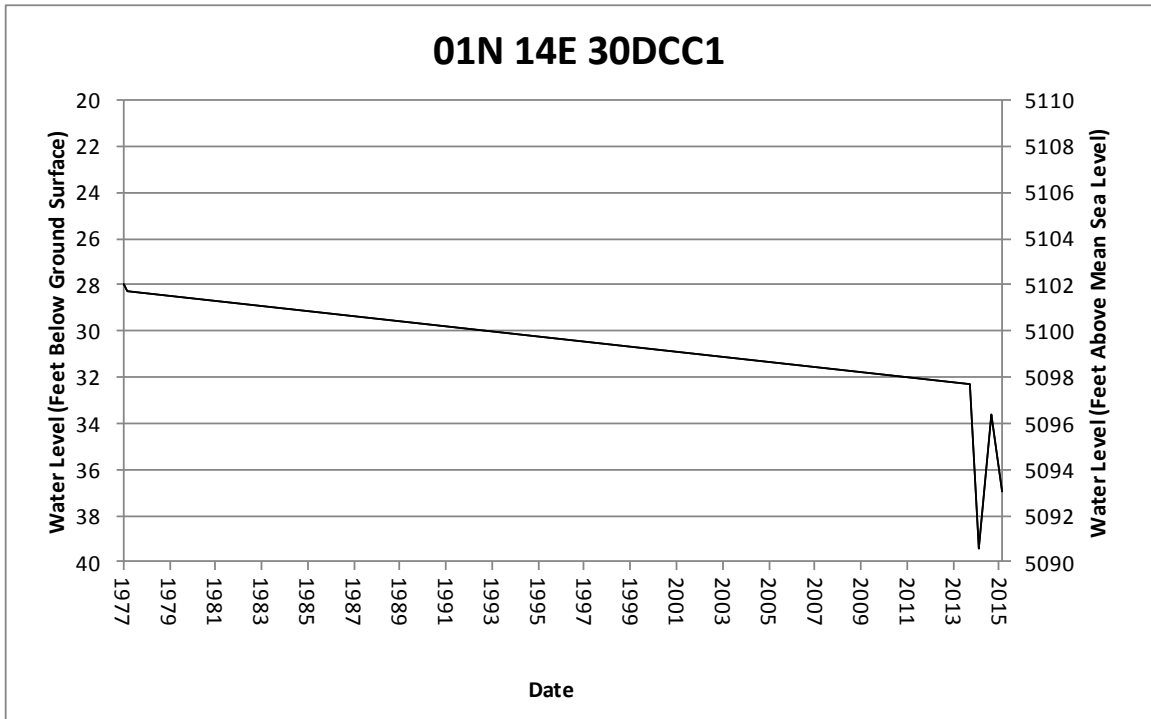


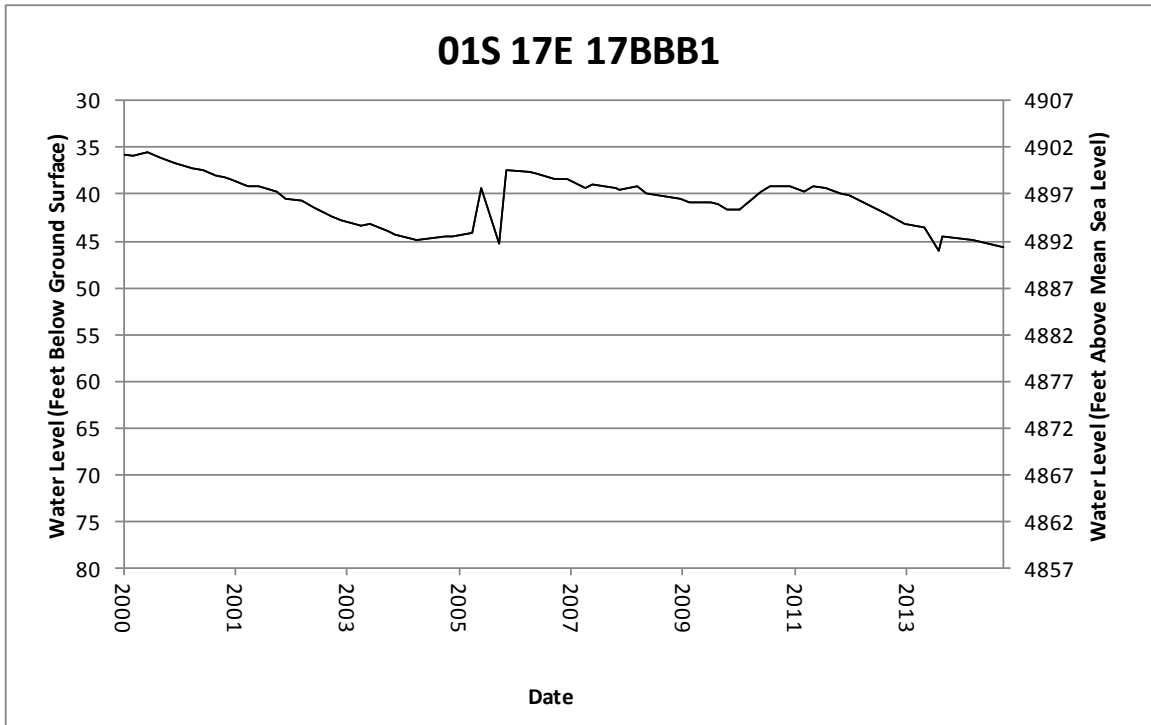
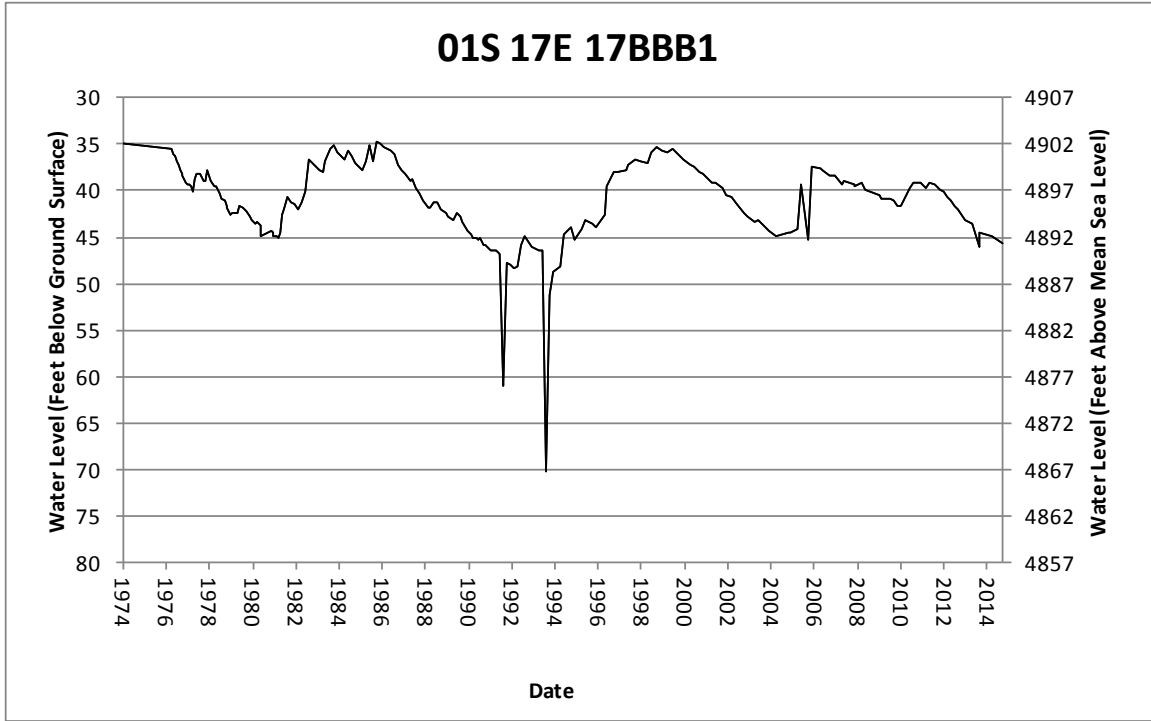


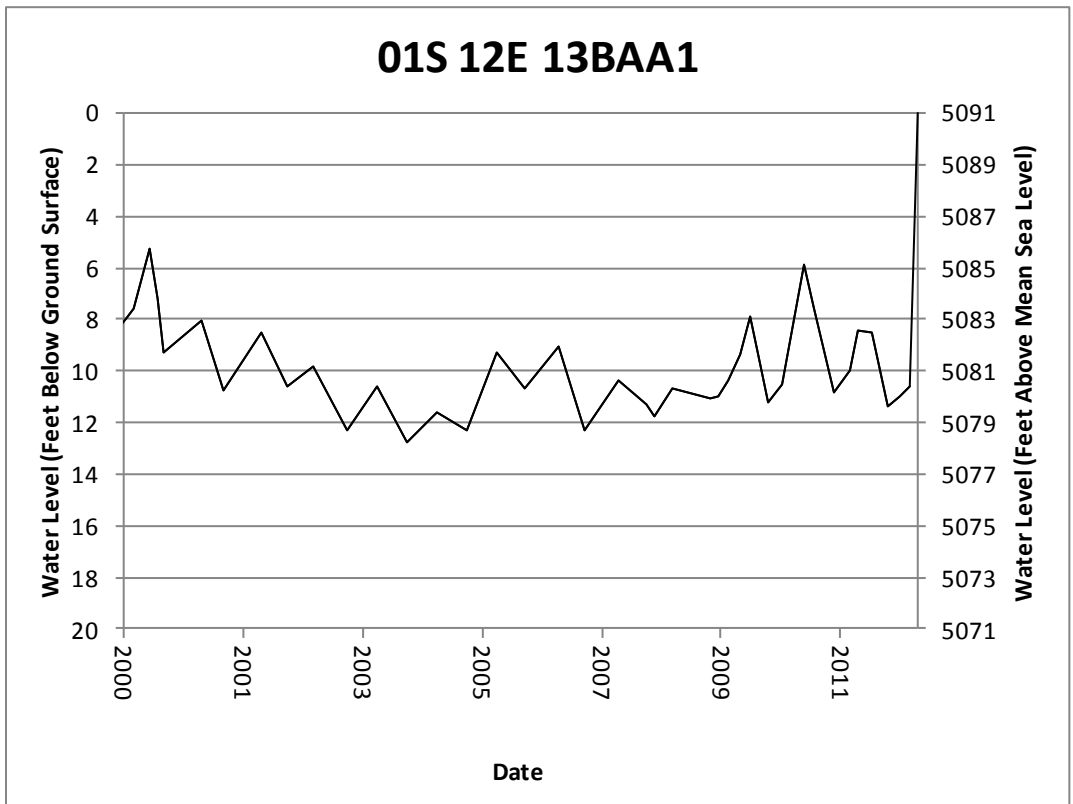
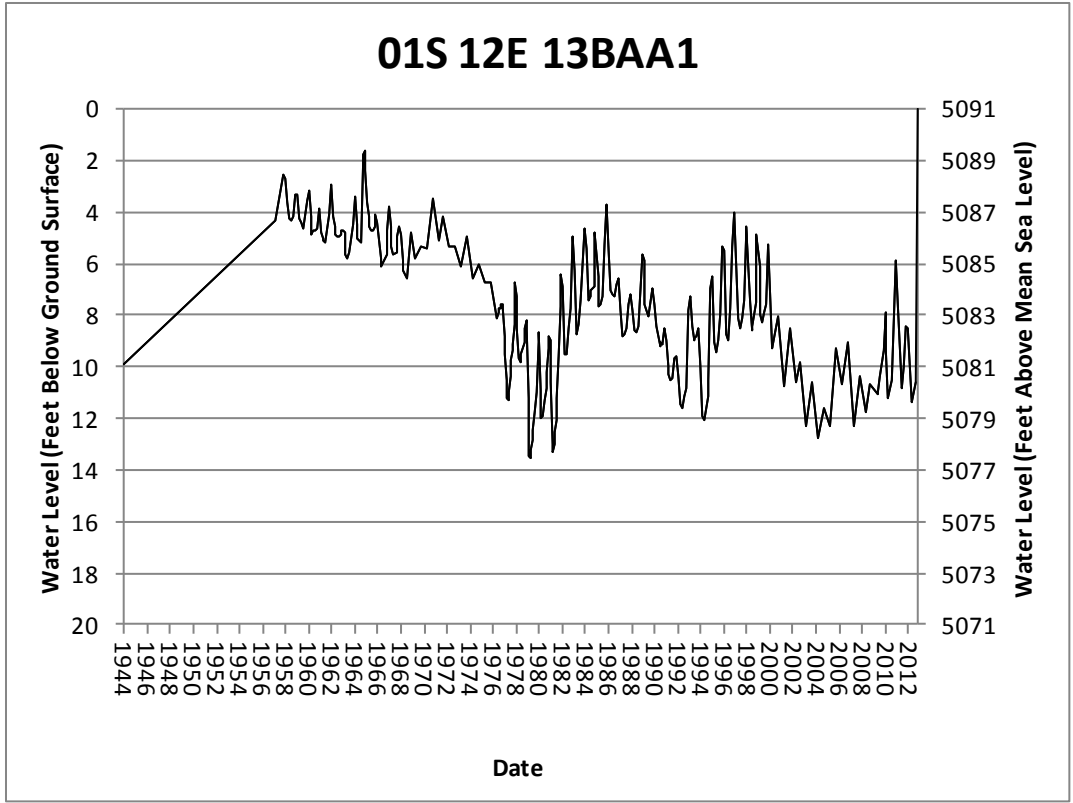






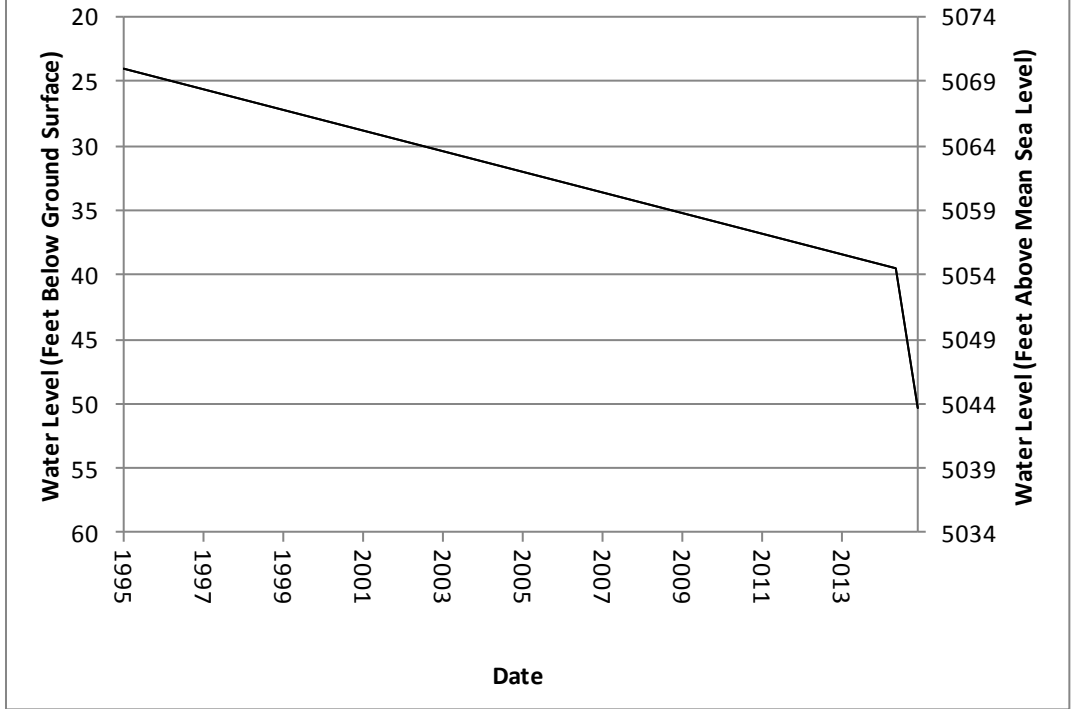




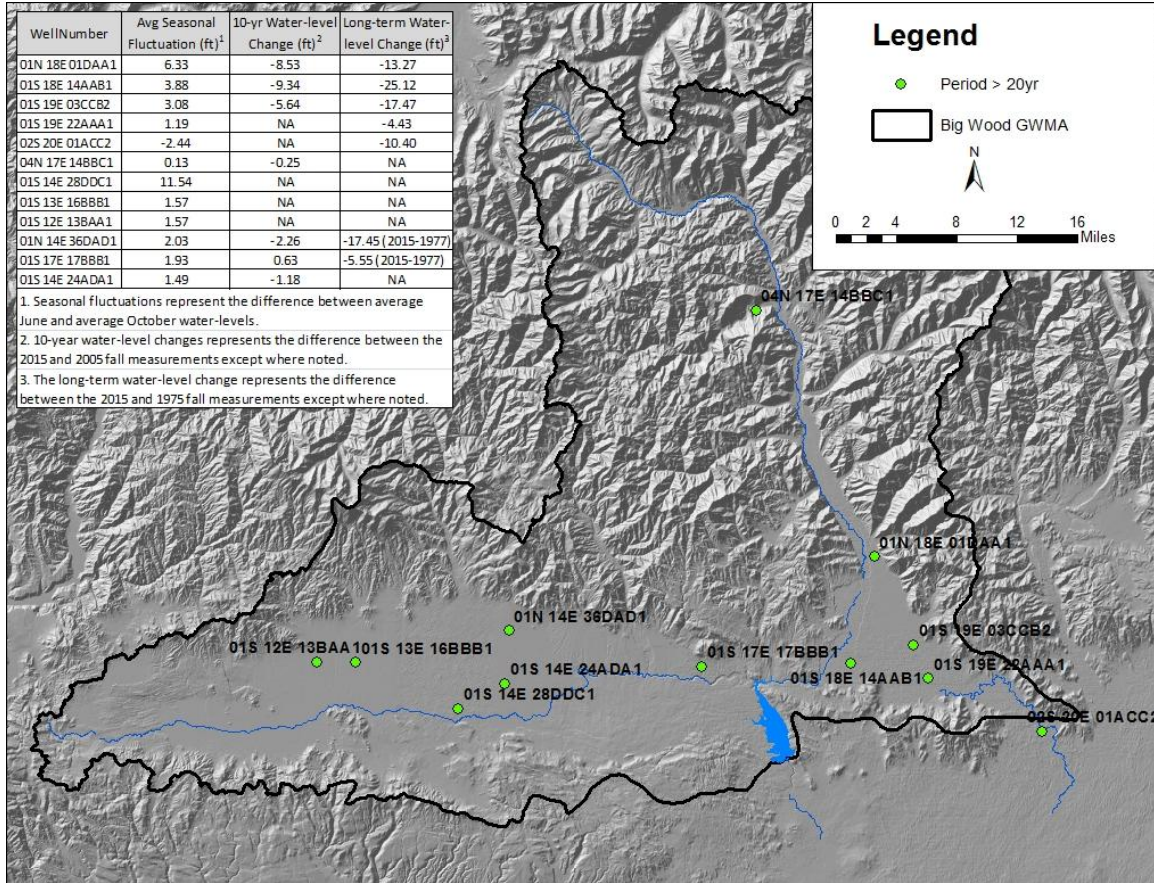




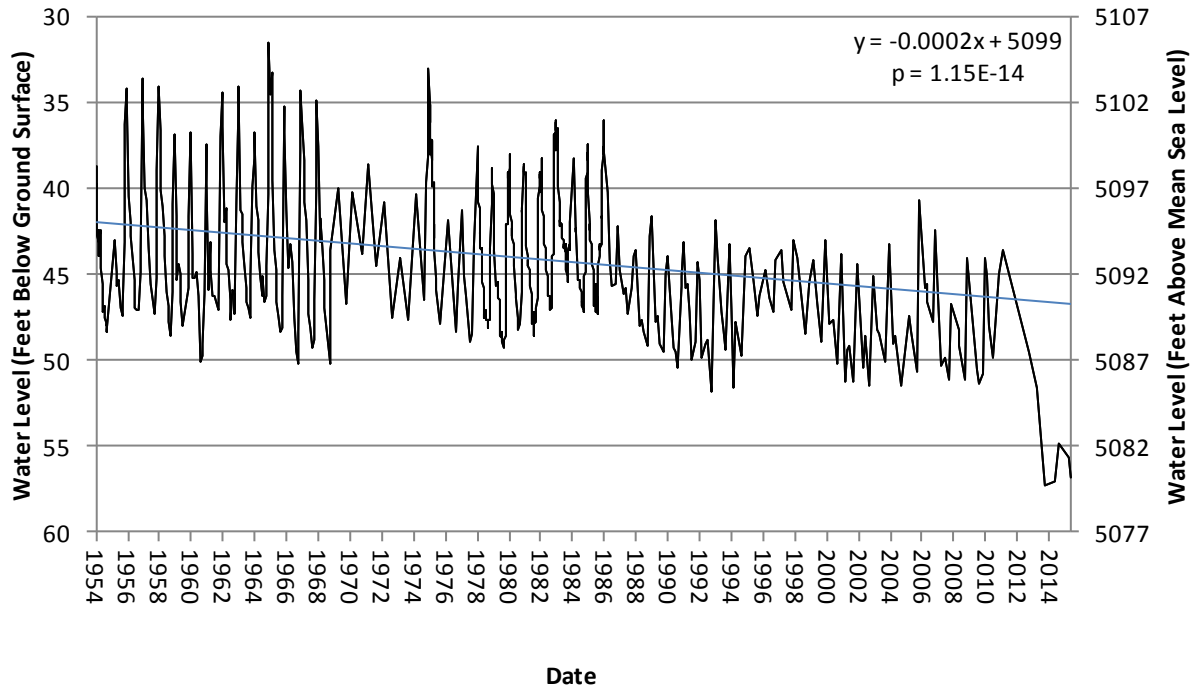
# 01S 12E 22CCD1



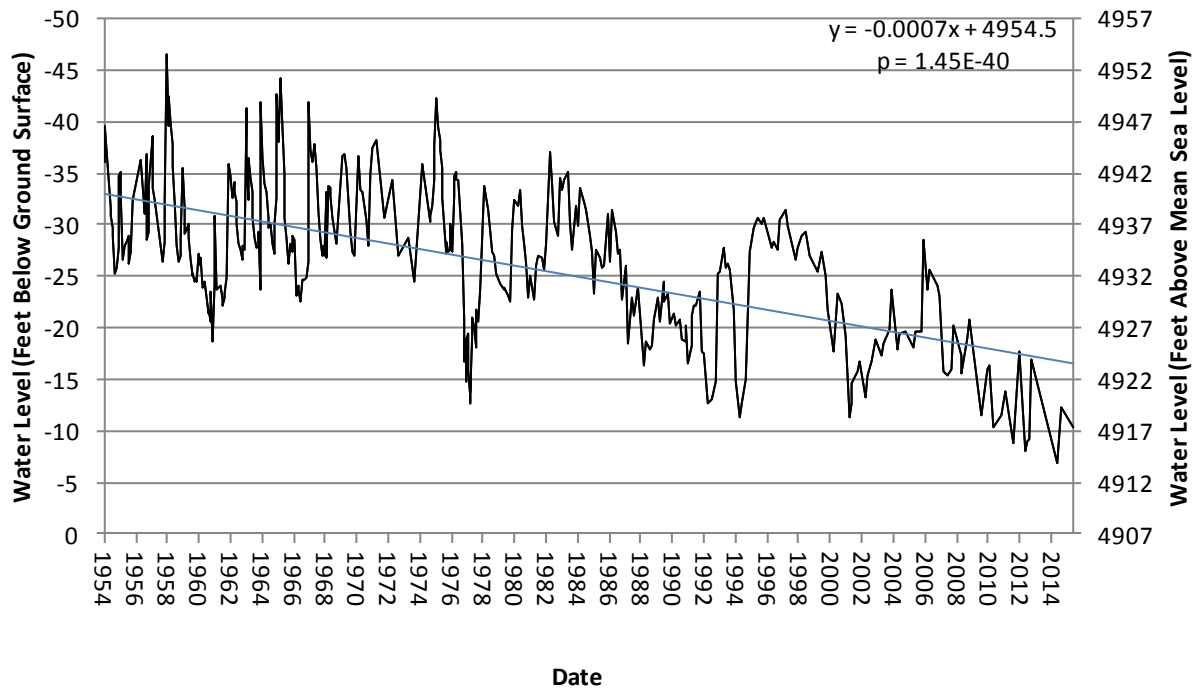
APPENDIX D  
HYDROGRAPHS AND TRENDLINES



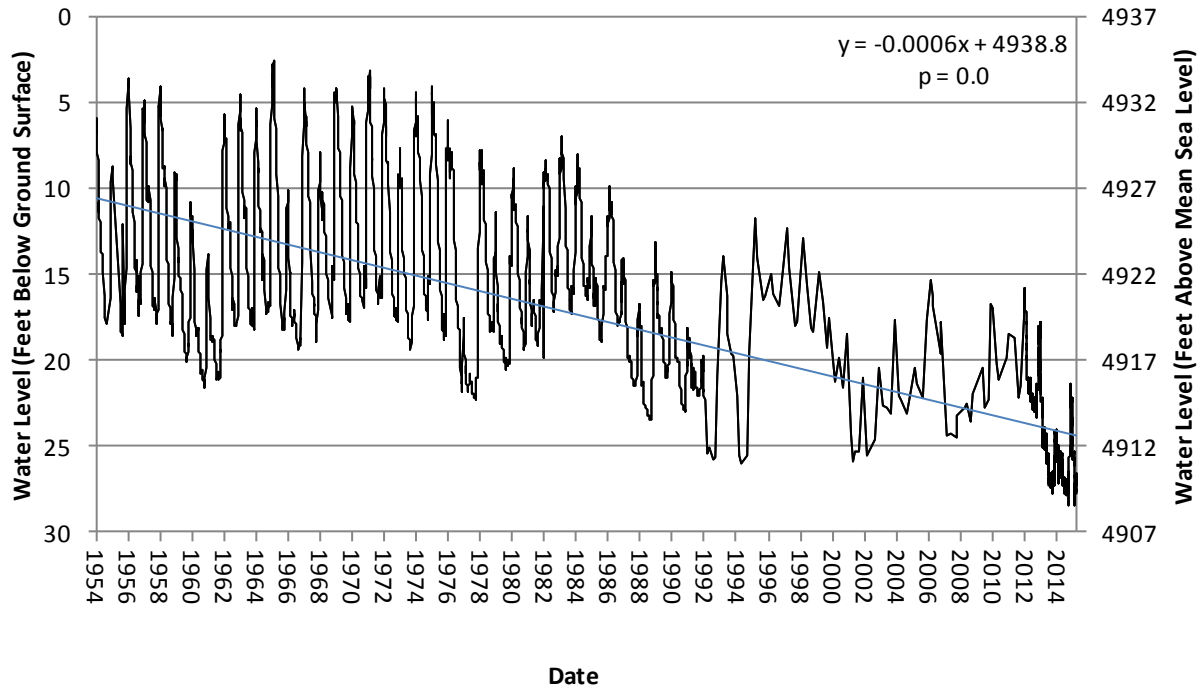
### 01N 18E 01DAA1



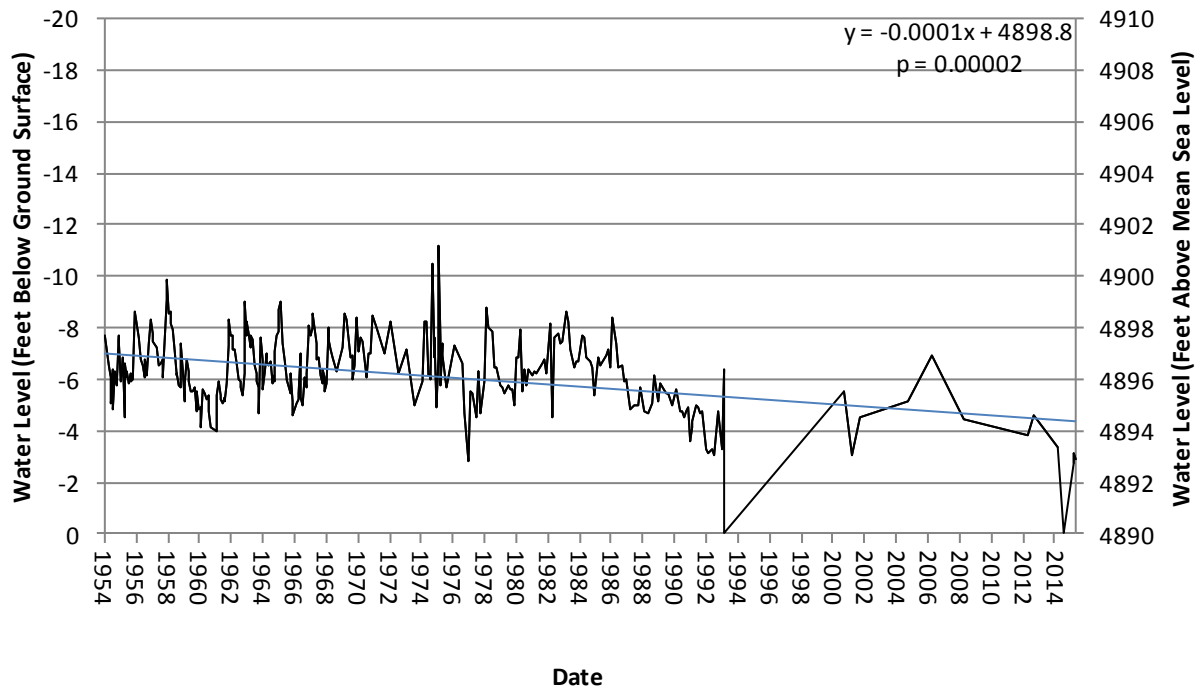
### 01S 18E 14AAB1



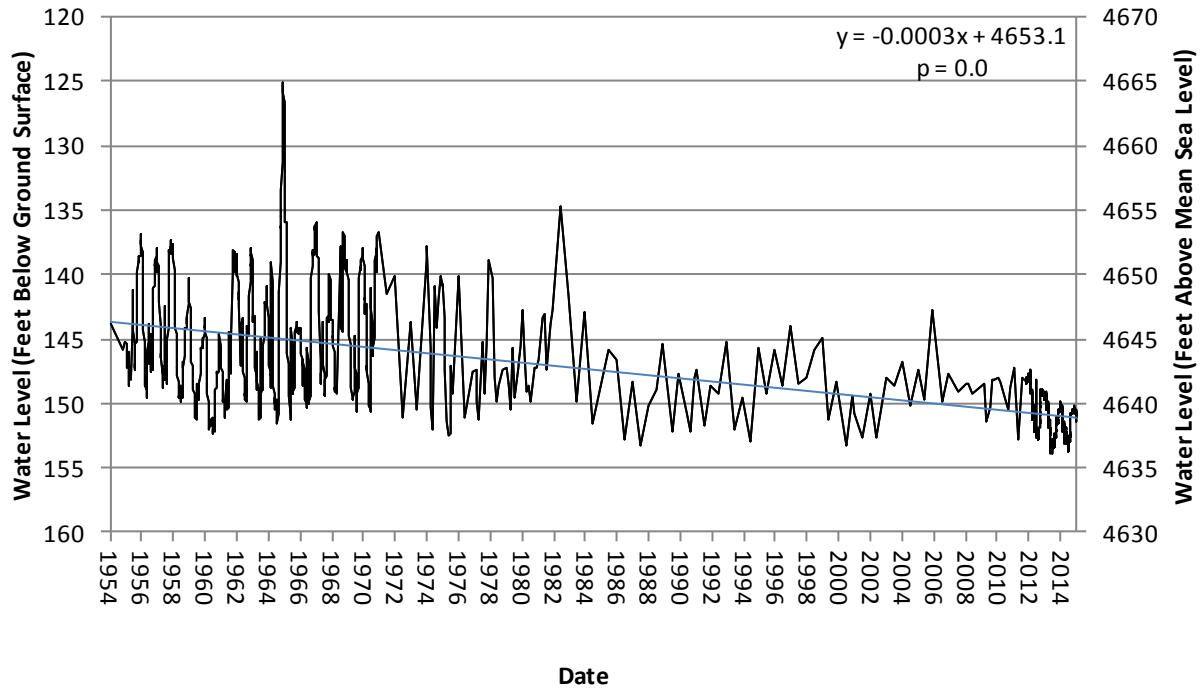
### 01S 19E 03CCB2



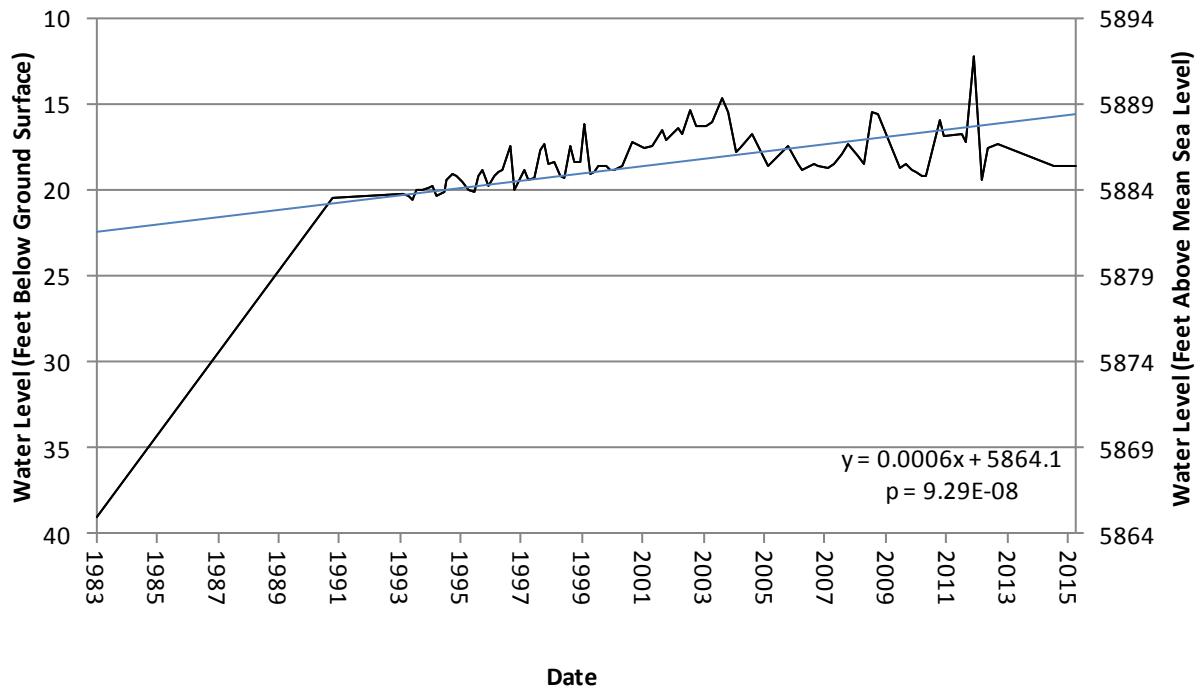
### 01S 19E 22AAA1



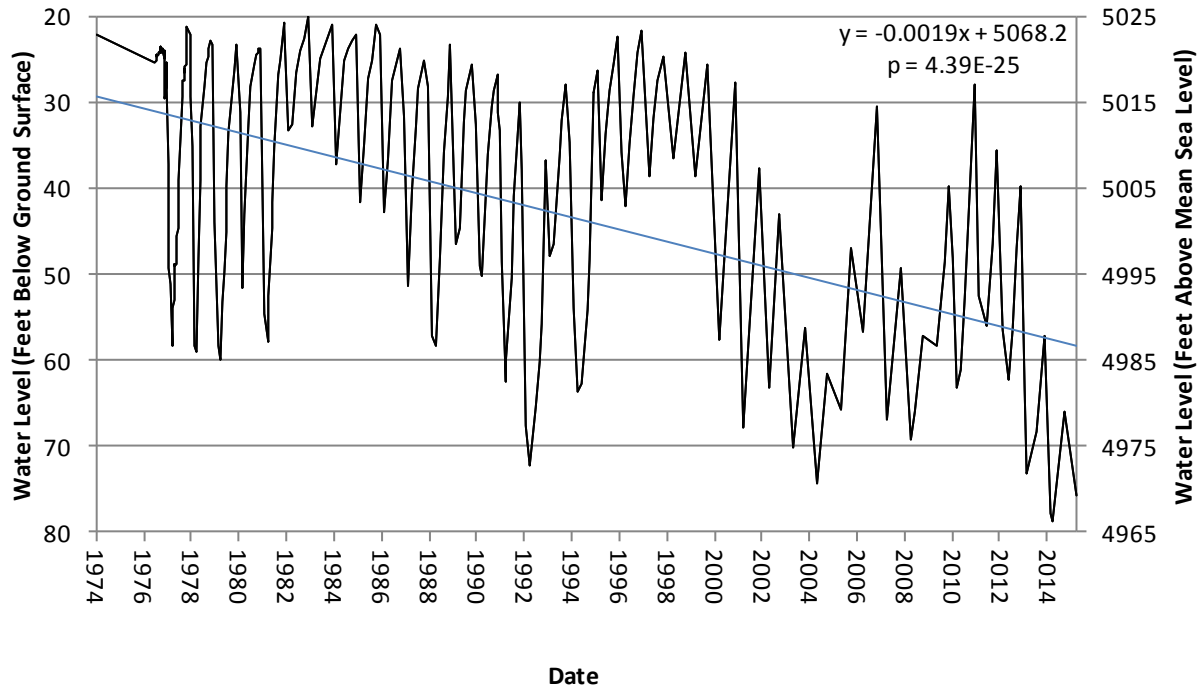
### 02S 20E 01ACC2



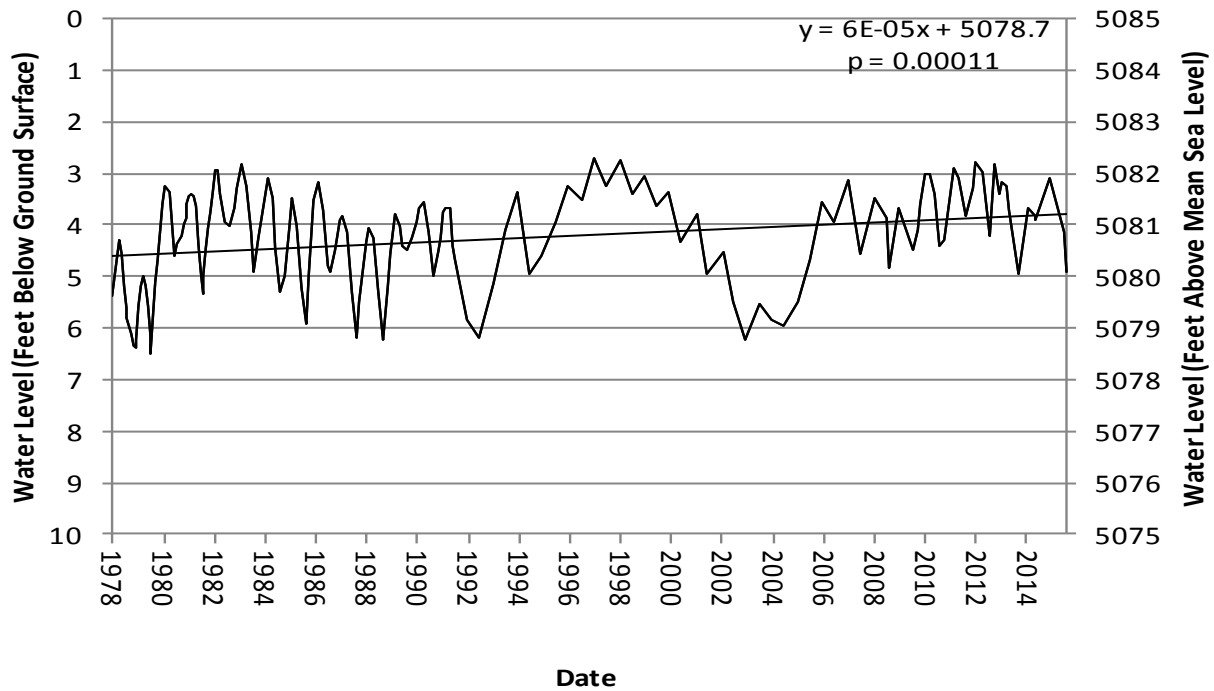
### 04N 17E 14BBC1



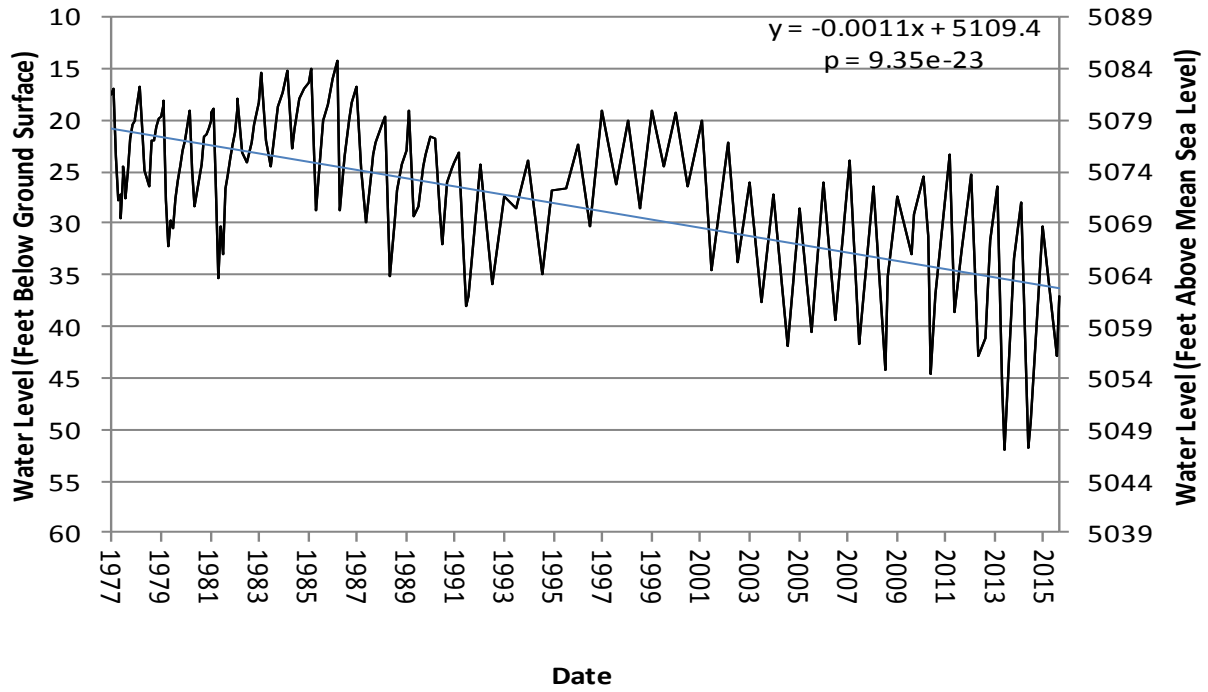
### 01S 14E 28DDC1



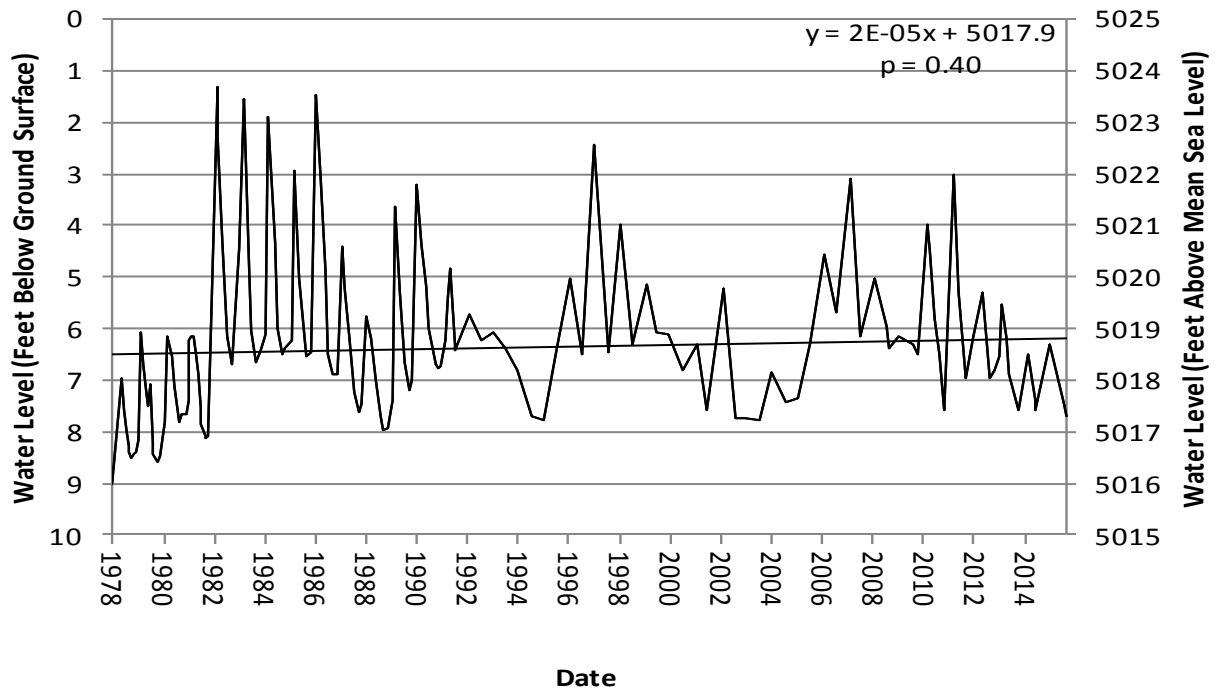
### 01S 13E 16BBB1



### 01N 14E 36DAD1

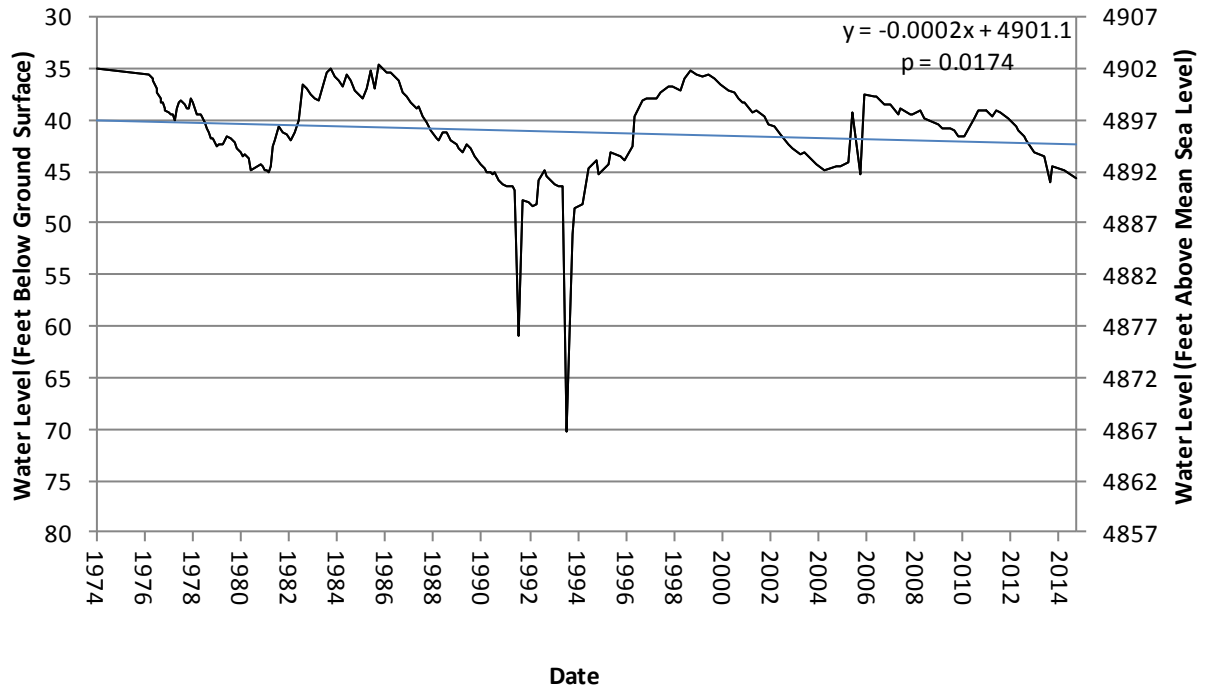


### 01S 14E 24ADA1





### 01S 17E 17BBB1



### 01S 12E 13BAA1

