

The influence of land use and geomorphology on water and sediment dynamics in the Canadian Prairies



Alex Koiter Brandon University
Masoud Goharrokhi University of Manitoba
David Lobb University of Manitoba
Phil Owens University of Northern BC



@Alex_Koiter



alex-koiter



alexkoiter.ca



koitera@brandonu.ca

Canadian Prairies

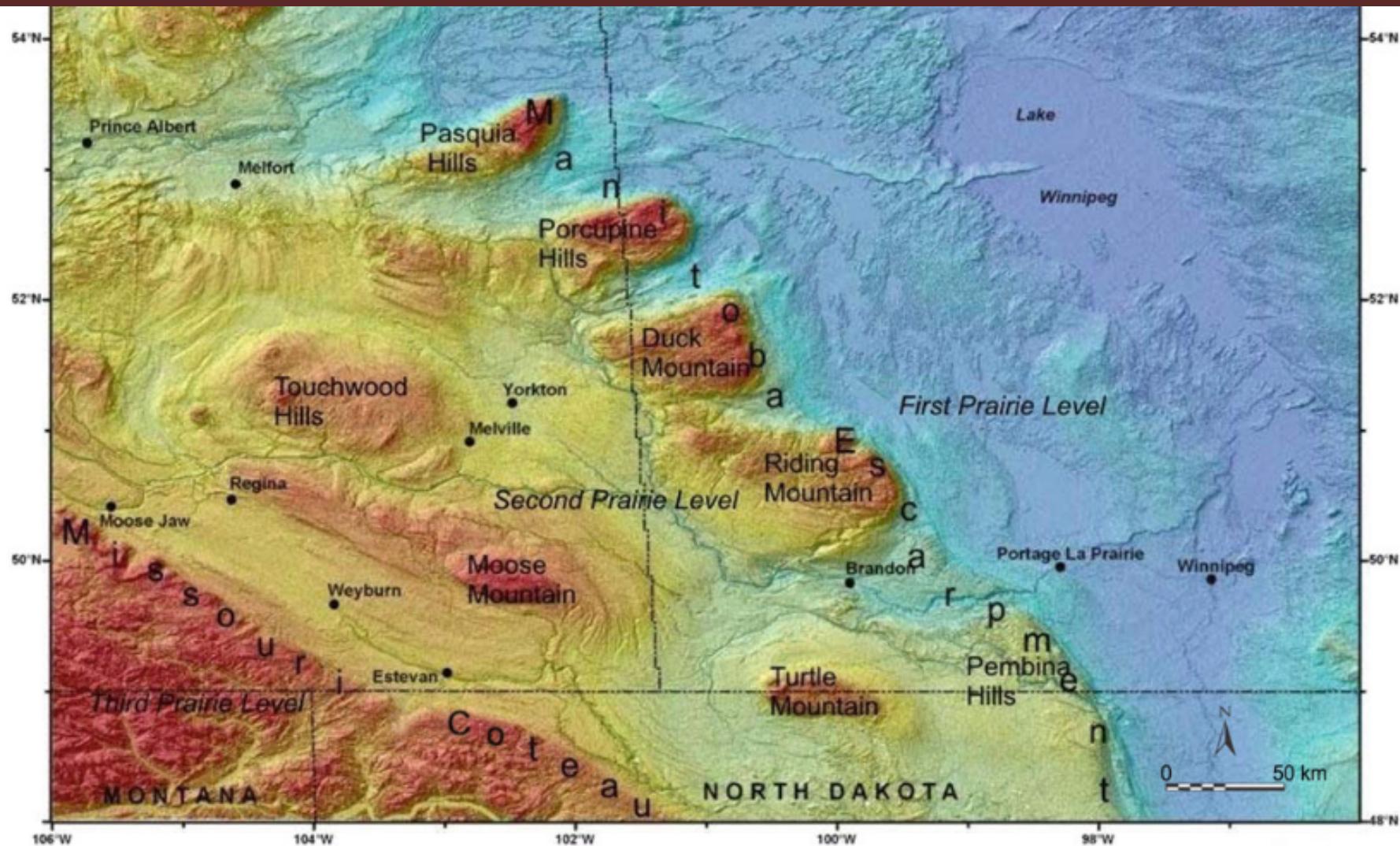
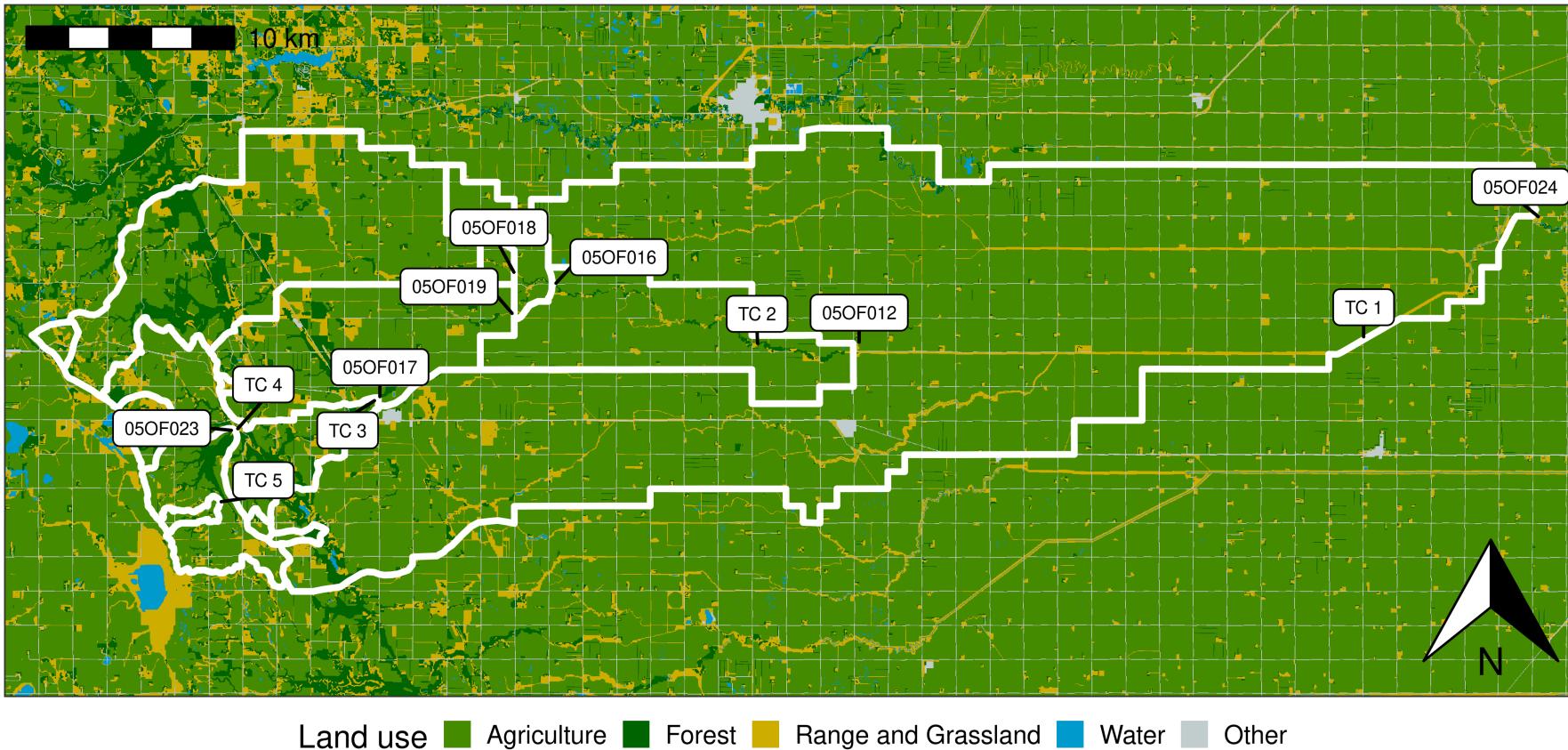


Fig. 9.2 The First, Second, and Third Prairie Levels, Manitoba Escarpment, and Missouri Coteau (after Bamburak and Nicolas 2010)

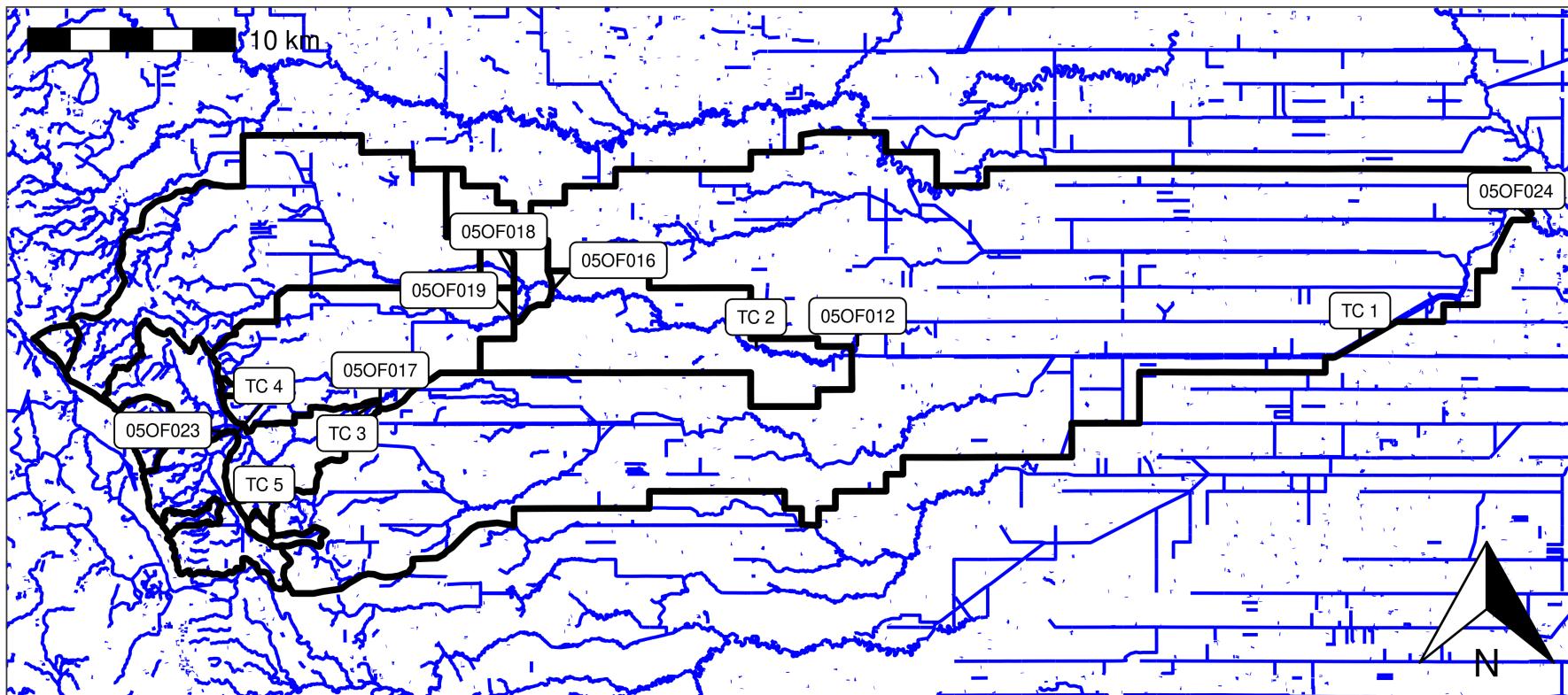
Tobacco Creek Model Watershed

- Nested watersheds: ~2km² to ~1000km²
- Predominantly agricultural land use



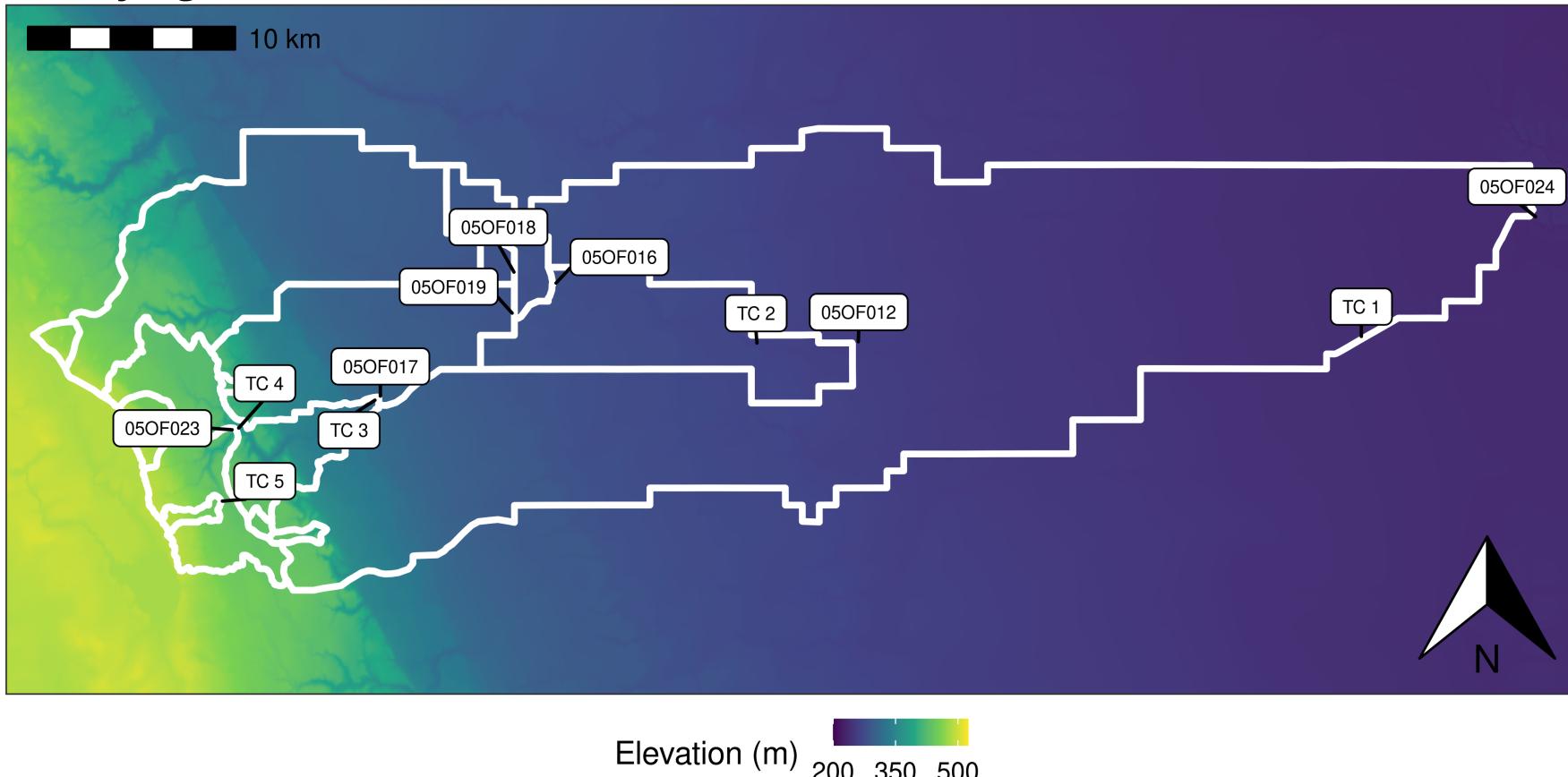
Tobacco Creek Model Watershed

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- Highly modified drainage network



Tobacco Creek Model Watershed

- Nested watersheds: ~2km² to ~1000km²
- Predominantly agricultural land use
- Highly modified drainage network
- Three distinct physiographic regions



Above the MB Escarpment

- Undulating hills
 - Glacial till
 - Headwater storage dams
 - Low-order streams



MB Escarpment

- Incised streams
 - Rapid change in elevation
 - Steep valley walls
 - Low-strength shales
 - Beaver dams



Lowlands

Glacial Lake Agassiz

- Low relief
 - Meandering rivers and streams
 - Provincial drains
 - Municipal drains
 - Lots of in-field surface drains

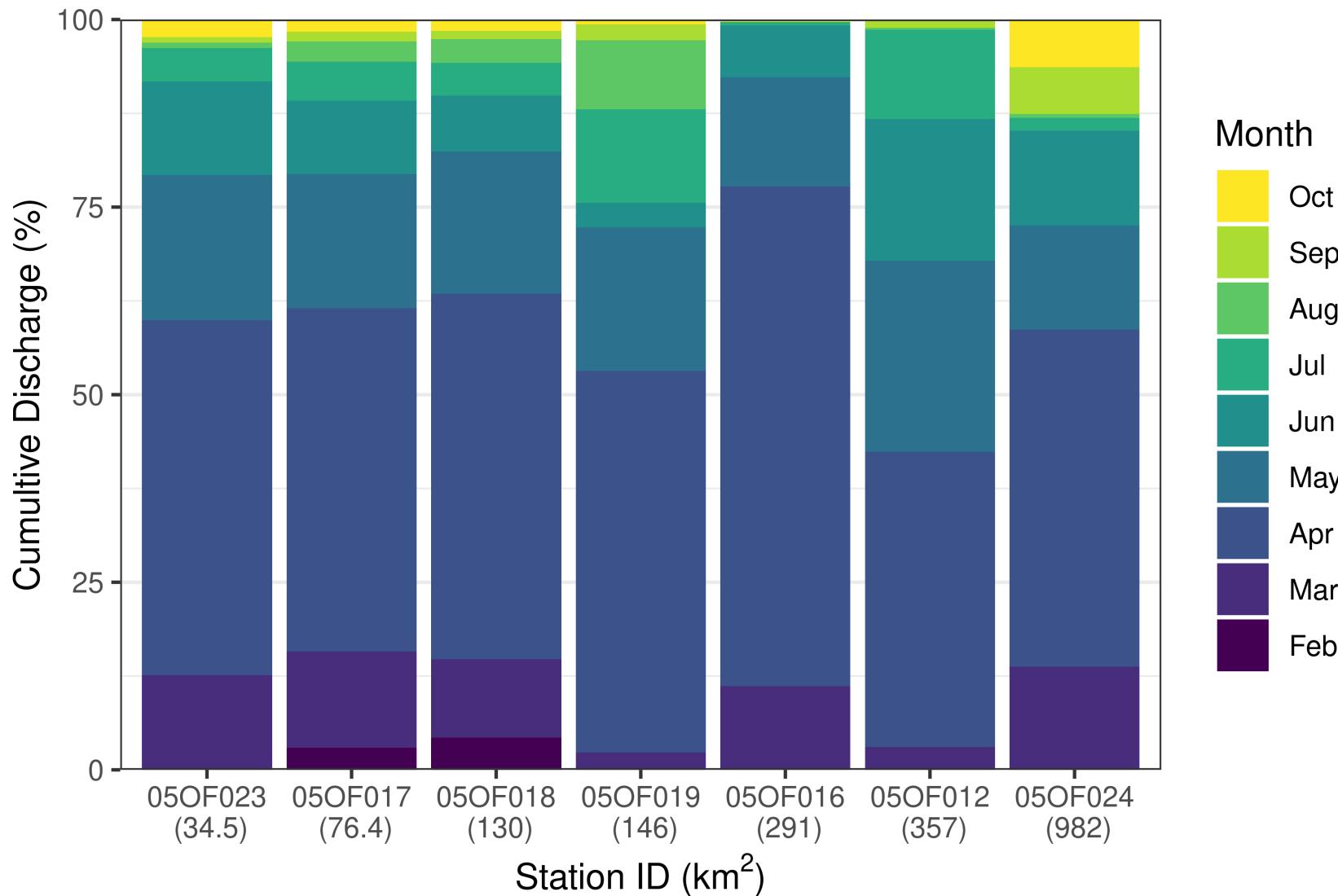
Complicates the normally simple concept of drainage area



Discharge

Annual

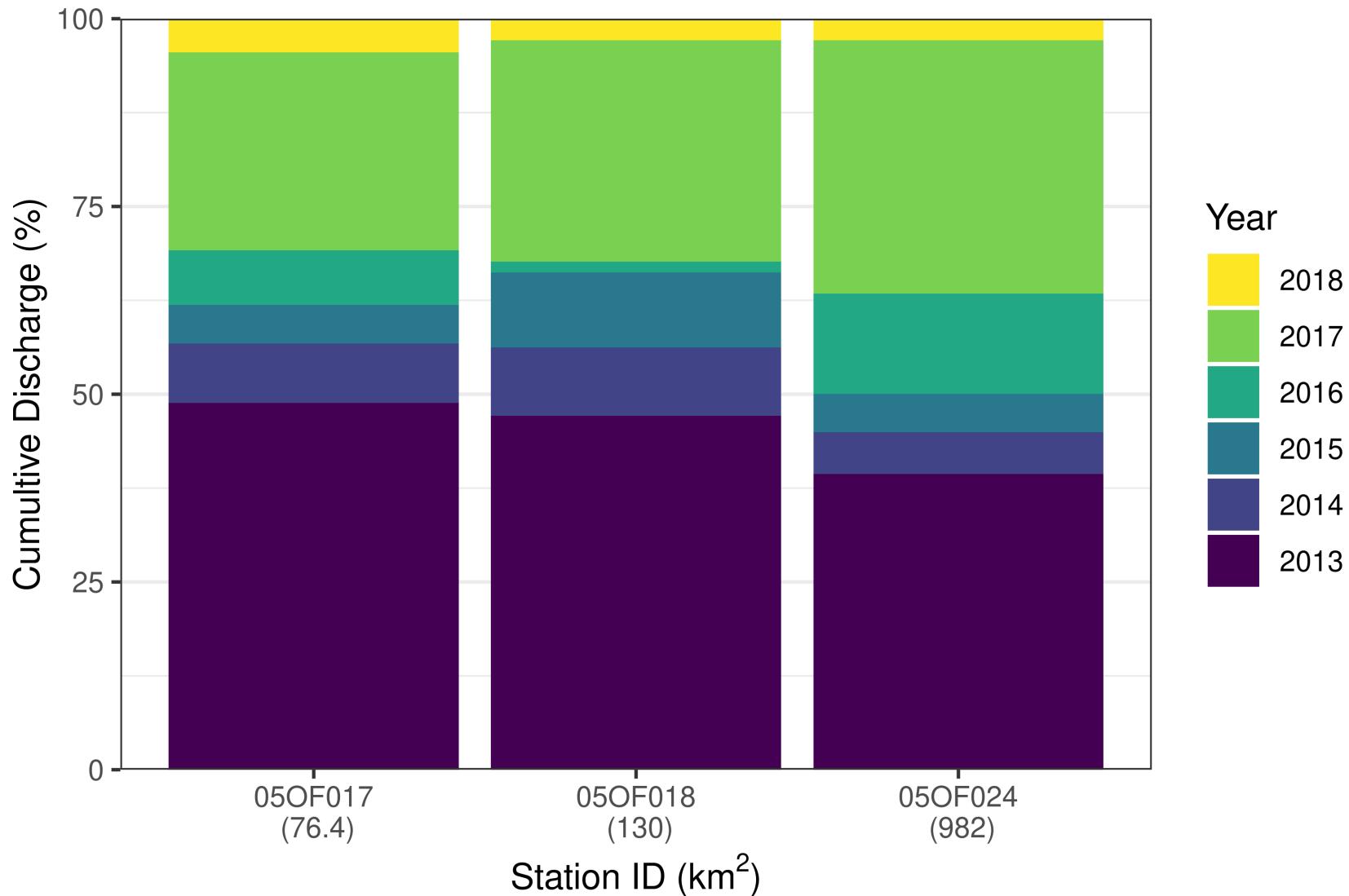
- Spring snowmelt dominated hydrology



Discharge

Inter-Annual

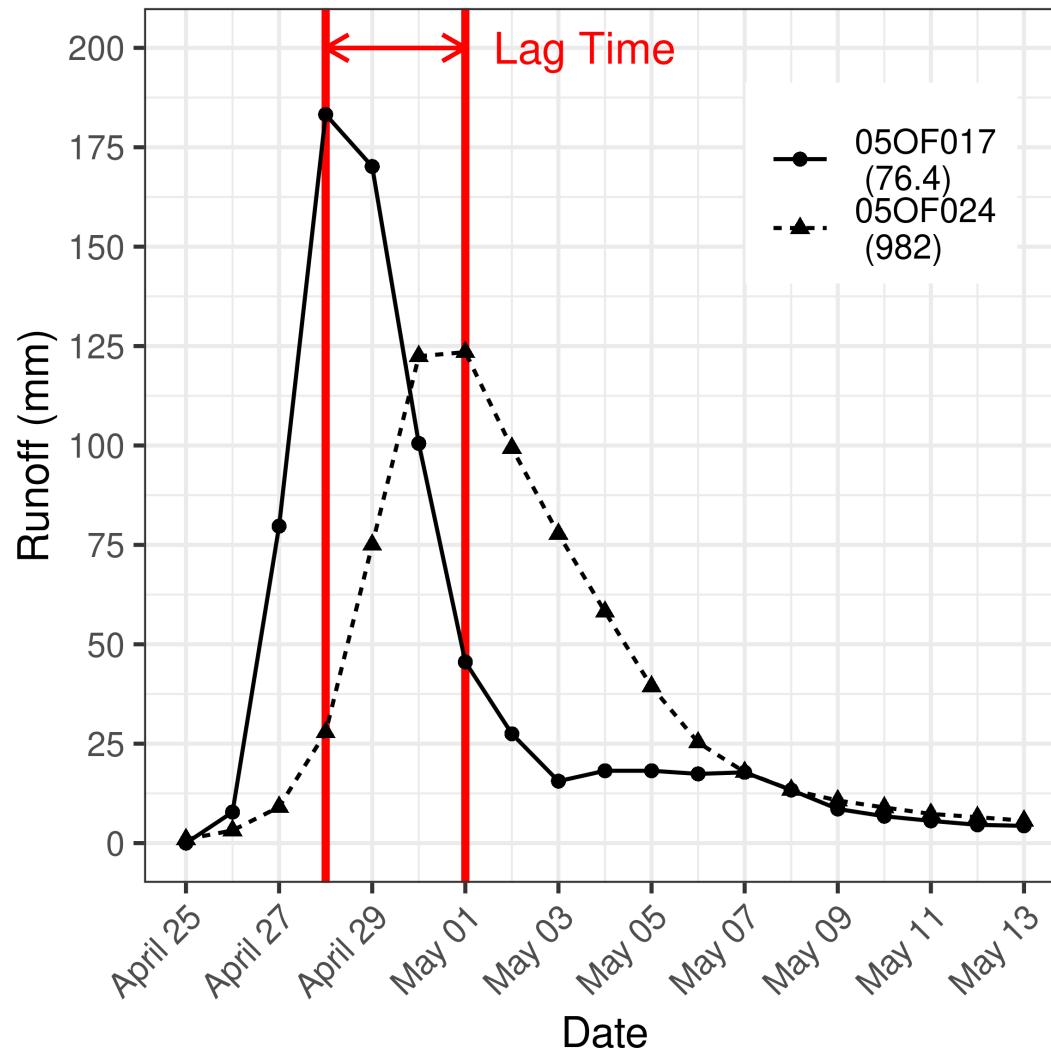
- 2/6 years account for more than >75% of water



Runoff

Lag Time

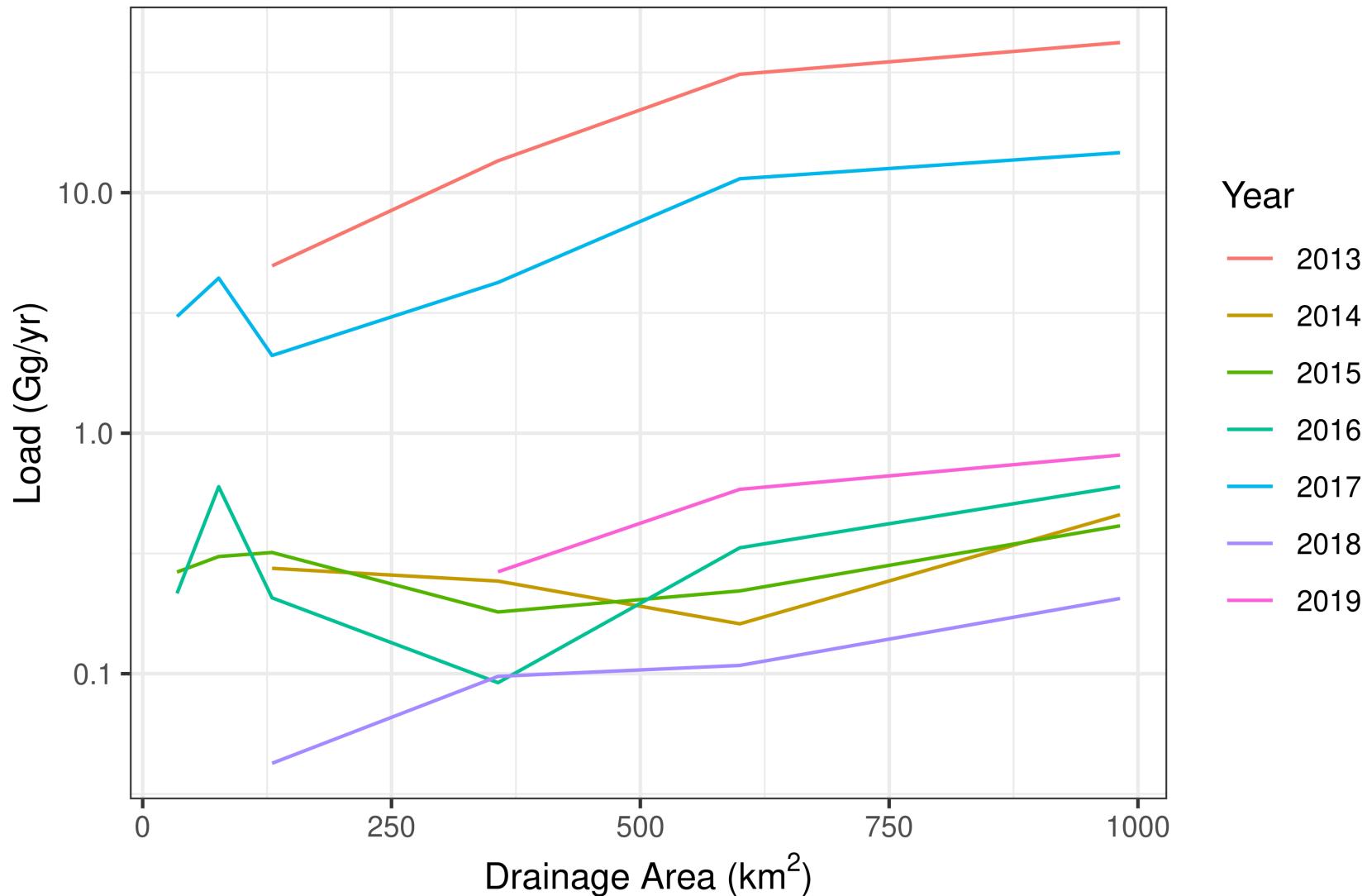
- Gaining streams above and within MB escarpment
- Losing streams below MB escarpment



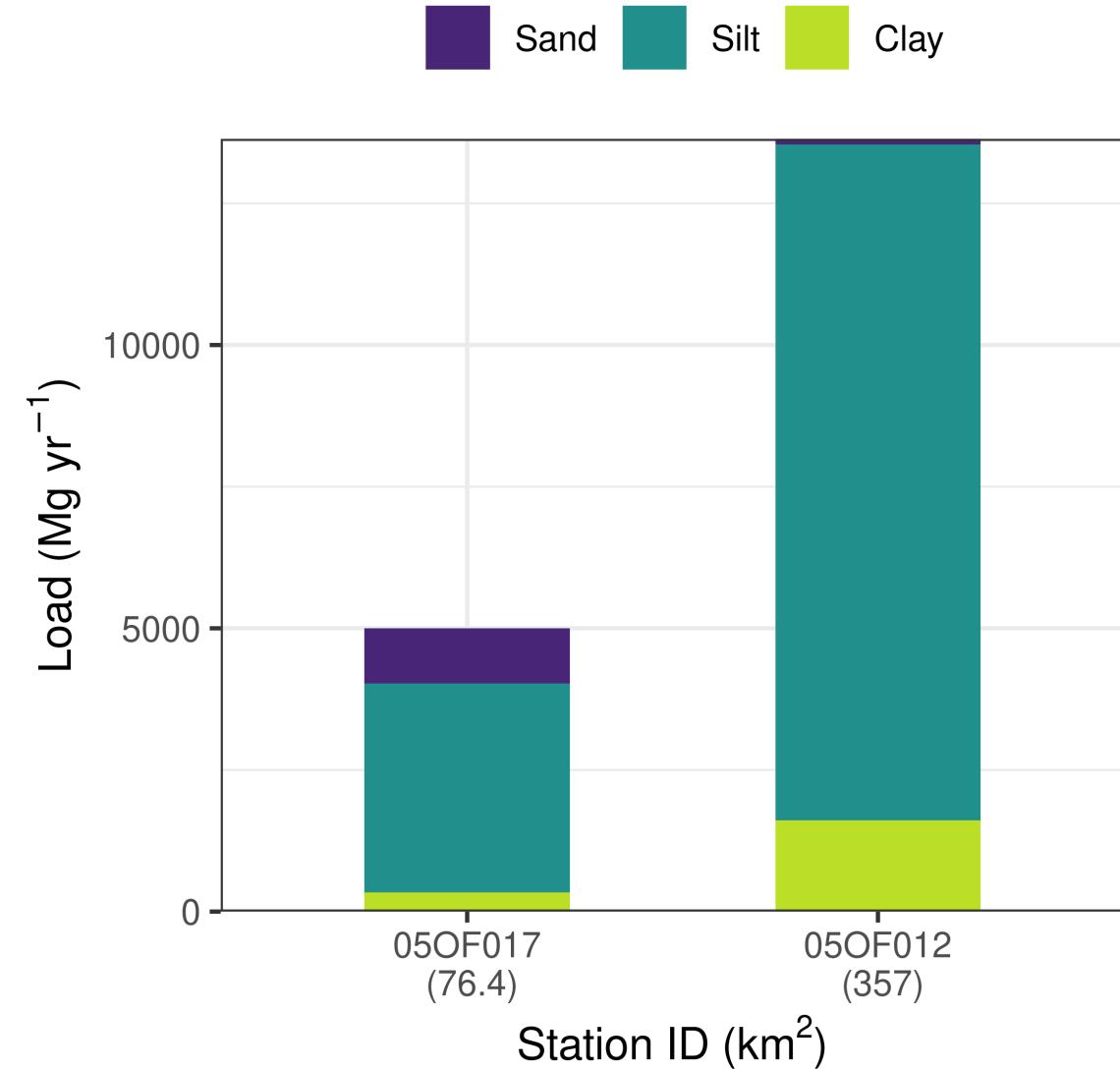
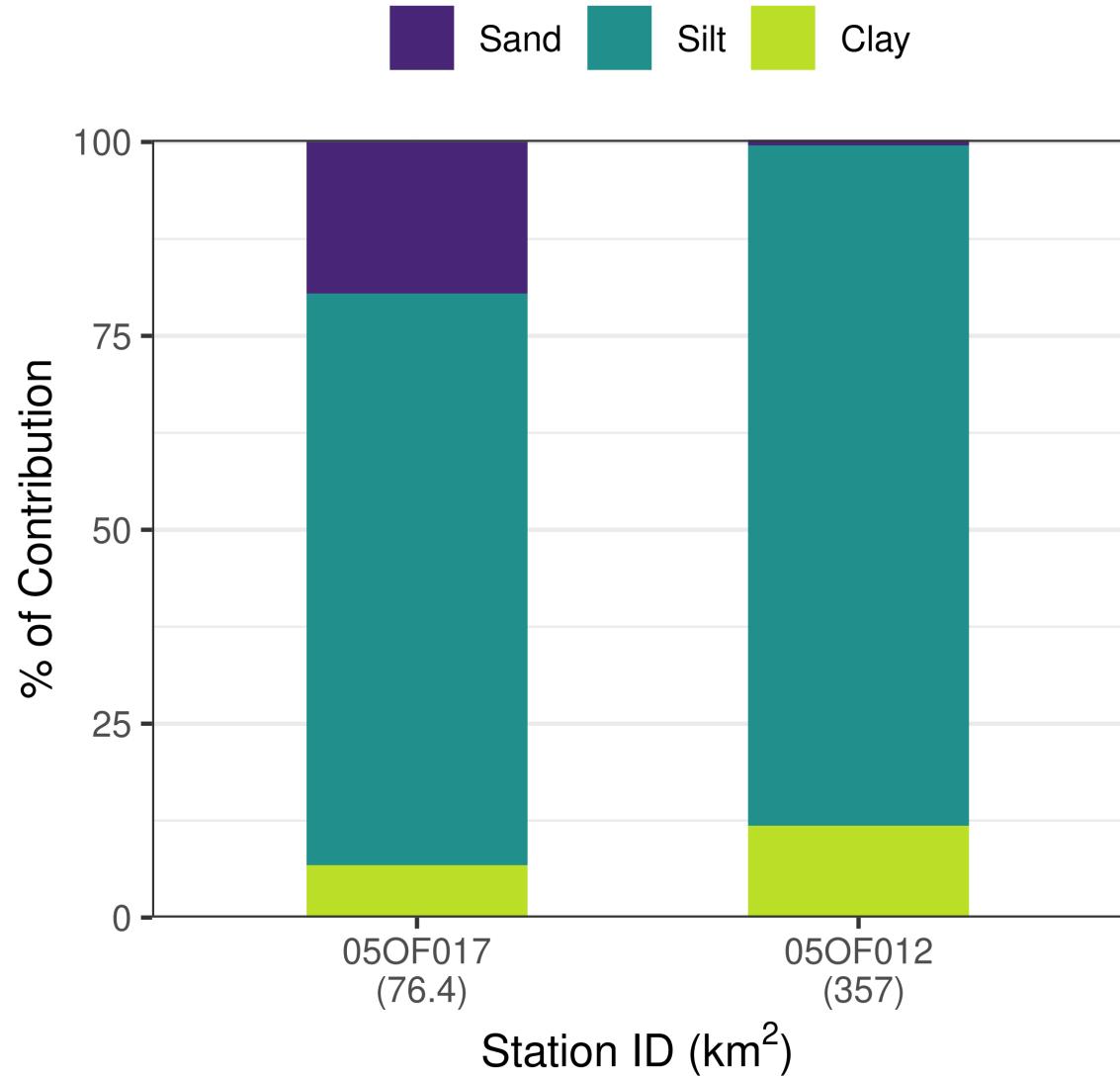
Sediment Load

Inter-Annual

- 2/6 years account for more than >80% of sediment moved

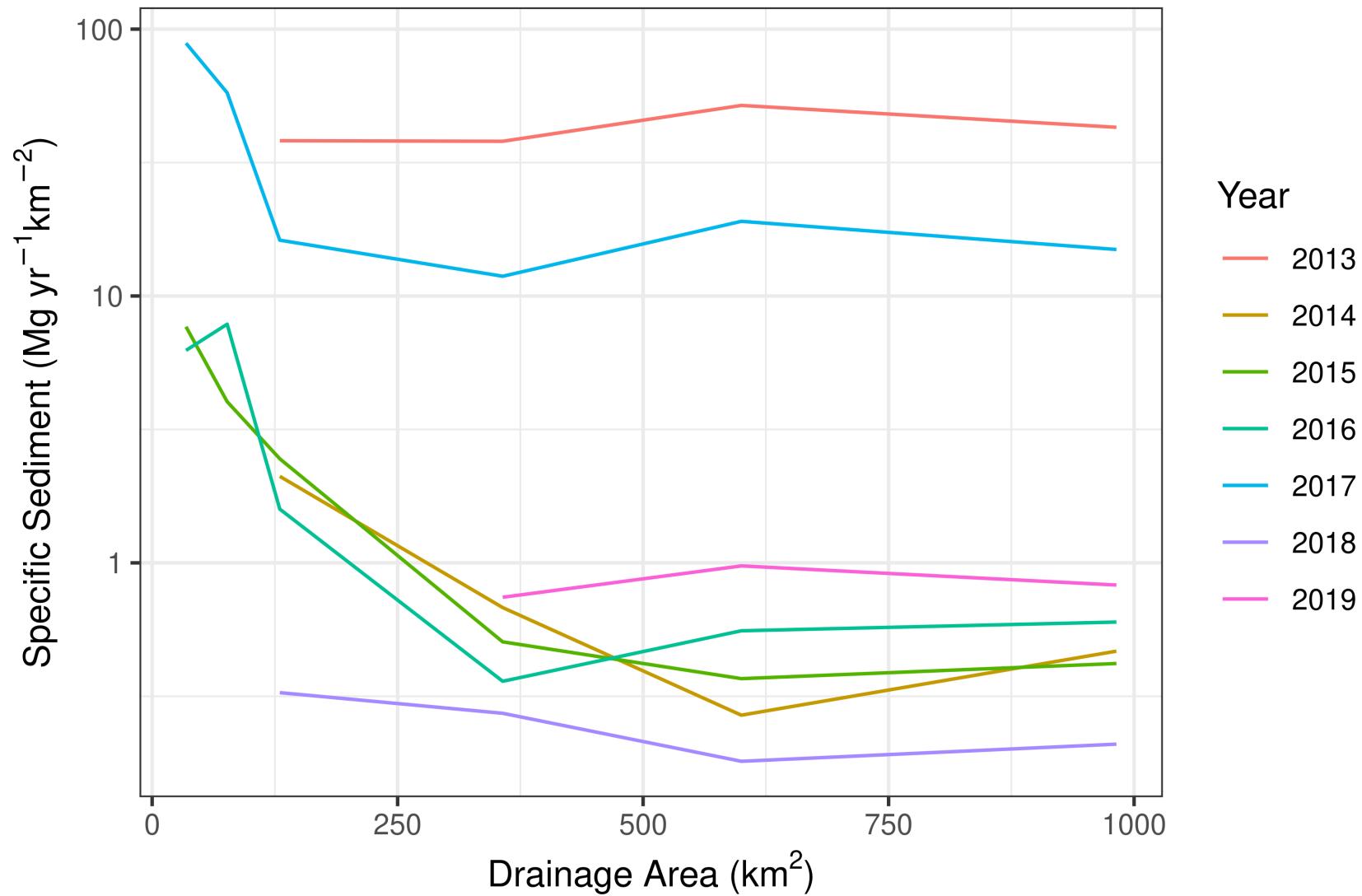


Grain-size



Specific Suspended Sediment Load

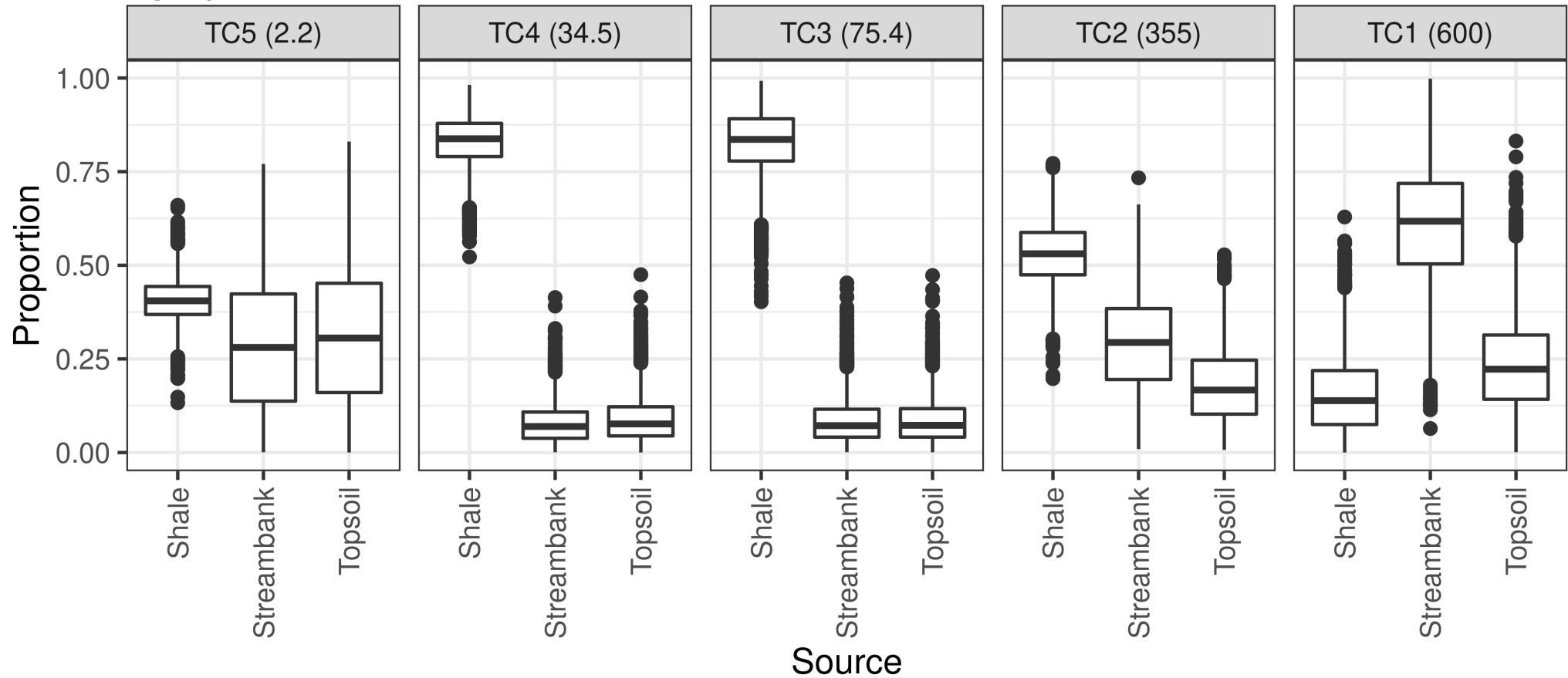
Decreases with increasing drainage area



Sources of Sediment

Shift in sources of sediment

- Colour fingerprints



Thank You

Changes in

- Physiographic regions, drainage, scale of observation

Impact

- Water yield, sediment yield, sources of sediment

Thank you!



Twitter: @Alex_Koiter | GitHub: alex-koiter | Website: alexkoiter.ca

Slides: <https://github.com/alex-koiter/presentations> (PDF)

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