

Incorporating Drought Evaluations in the Integrated Report for Clean Water Act Sections 305(b) and 303(d)



Lake Travis - drought impacts on reservoir level

Sarah Whitley

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Surface Water Quality Monitoring Team

Guidance Advisory Workgroup Meeting
August 24, 2018

Outline

- Revisit Drought Severity Index Scores (DSI)
- Incorporating drought evaluations
 - Methods tested and used for 2016 Integrated Report
- Drought in reservoirs
 - Discussion items
 - Onset of drought
 - Conclusion of drought
 - Data exclusion for drought period
 - Water quality data evaluation
- Drought in large rivers

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National Drought Mitigation Center

National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) based in the School of Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL).

NDMC partner entities include:

- National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)
- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)
- U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- National Climatic Data Center (NDMC)
- National Weather Service (NWS)

MISSION: The National Drought Mitigation Center (NDMC) helps people and institutions develop and implement measures to reduce societal vulnerability to drought, stressing preparedness and risk management rather than crisis management.

U.S. Drought Monitor Classification Scheme: Drought Severity Index

Category	Description	Ranges					
		Possible Impacts	Palmer Drought Index	CPC Soil Moisture Model (Percentiles)	USGS Weekly Streamflow (Percentiles)	Standardized Precipitation Index (SPI)	Objective Short and Long-term Drought Indicator Blends (Percentiles)
D0	Abnormally Dry	Going into drought: short-term dryness slowing planting, growth of crops or pastures. Coming out of drought: some lingering water deficits; pastures or crops not fully recovered	-1.0 to -1.9	21-30	21-30	-0.5 to -0.7	21-30
D1	Moderate Drought	Some damage to crops, pastures; streams, reservoirs, or wells low, some water shortages developing or imminent; voluntary water-use restrictions requested	-2.0 to -2.9	11-20	11-20	-0.8 to -1.2	11-20
D2	Severe Drought	Crop or pasture losses likely; water shortages common; water restrictions imposed	-3.0 to -3.9	6-10	6-10	-1.3 to -1.5	6-10
D3	Extreme Drought	Major crop/pasture losses; widespread water shortages or restrictions	-4.0 to -4.9	3-5	3-5	-1.6 to -1.9	3-5
D4	Exceptional Drought	Exceptional and widespread crop/pasture losses; shortages of water in reservoirs, streams, and wells creating water emergencies	-5.0 or less	0-2	0-2	-2.0 or less	0-2

U.S. Drought Monitor Texas

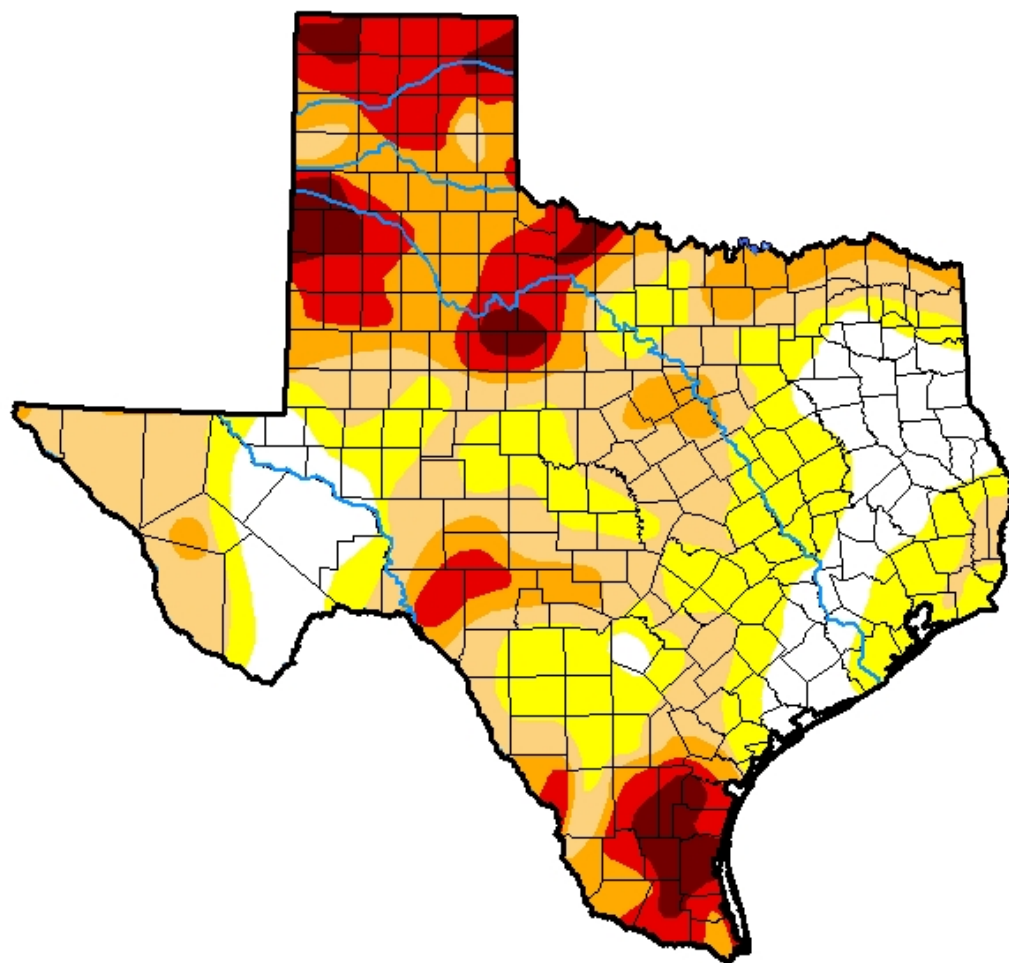
November 6, 2012

(Released Thursday, Nov. 8, 2012)

Valid 7 a.m. EST

Drought Conditions (Percent Area)

	None	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4
Current	15.44	24.65	26.35	16.57	12.30	4.68
Last Week <i>10-30-2012</i>	15.36	26.78	26.24	15.38	12.56	3.67
3 Months Ago <i>08-07-2012</i>	11.39	13.40	35.25	29.10	10.11	0.75
Start of Calendar Year <i>01-03-2012</i>	0.01	2.15	13.02	17.48	34.92	32.40
Start of Water Year <i>09-25-2012</i>	9.13	12.13	21.32	32.51	19.72	5.18
One Year Ago <i>11-08-2011</i>	0.00	0.00	1.92	7.77	24.49	65.82



Intensity:



The Drought Monitor focuses on broad-scale conditions. Local conditions may vary. See accompanying text summary for forecast statements.

Author:

David Miskus
NOAA/NWS/NCEP/CPC



<http://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>

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Incorporating Drought Evaluations

- Appendix E incorporated in the 2014 Guidance for Assessment
- Identifying candidate impairments to better characterize drought impacts using the 2014 IR



Exploratory Statistical Analysis

- Can we detect a quantifiable relationship between the DSI Scores and Surface Water Quality Monitoring Data?



Candidate Waterbodies

- Waterbody Selection
 - Adequate data for 305(b) Assessment
 - Segments listed as Category 5 for Dissolved Solids in the 2016 IR
 - Not previously listed for dissolved solids
- Diversion Lake
- Mackenzie Reservoir
- Bardwell Reservoir
- Elm Fork Trinity River below Lewisville Lake
- Nolan River
- White River Lake
- Frio River above Choke Canyon Reservoir
- Red Bluff Reservoir

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Candidate Waterbodies

- ANOVA
 - Meet assumption of equal variances
 - Significant result ($p < 0.05$)
 - Tukey's test successful
- Diversion Lake
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- Bardwell Reservoir
- Elm Fork Trinity River below Lewisville Lake
- Frio River above Choke Canyon Reservoir
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Mackenzie Reservoir

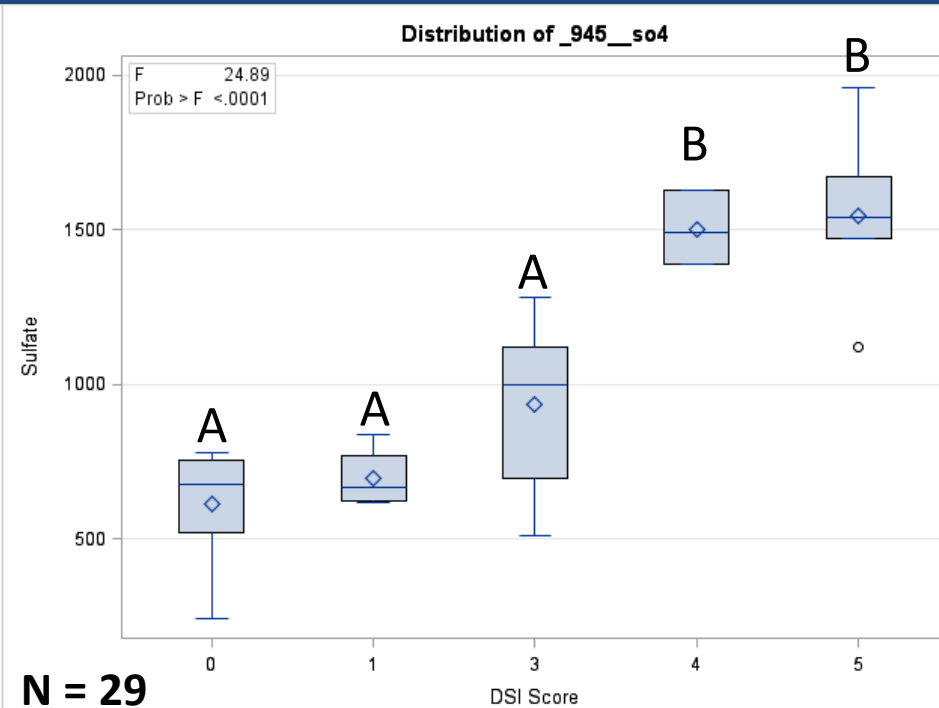
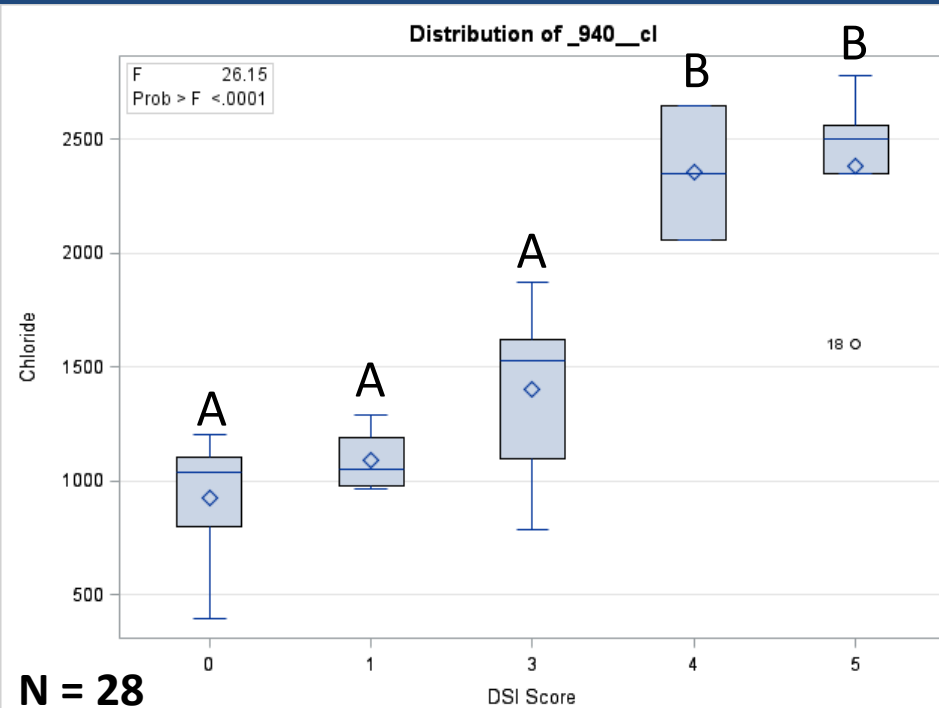
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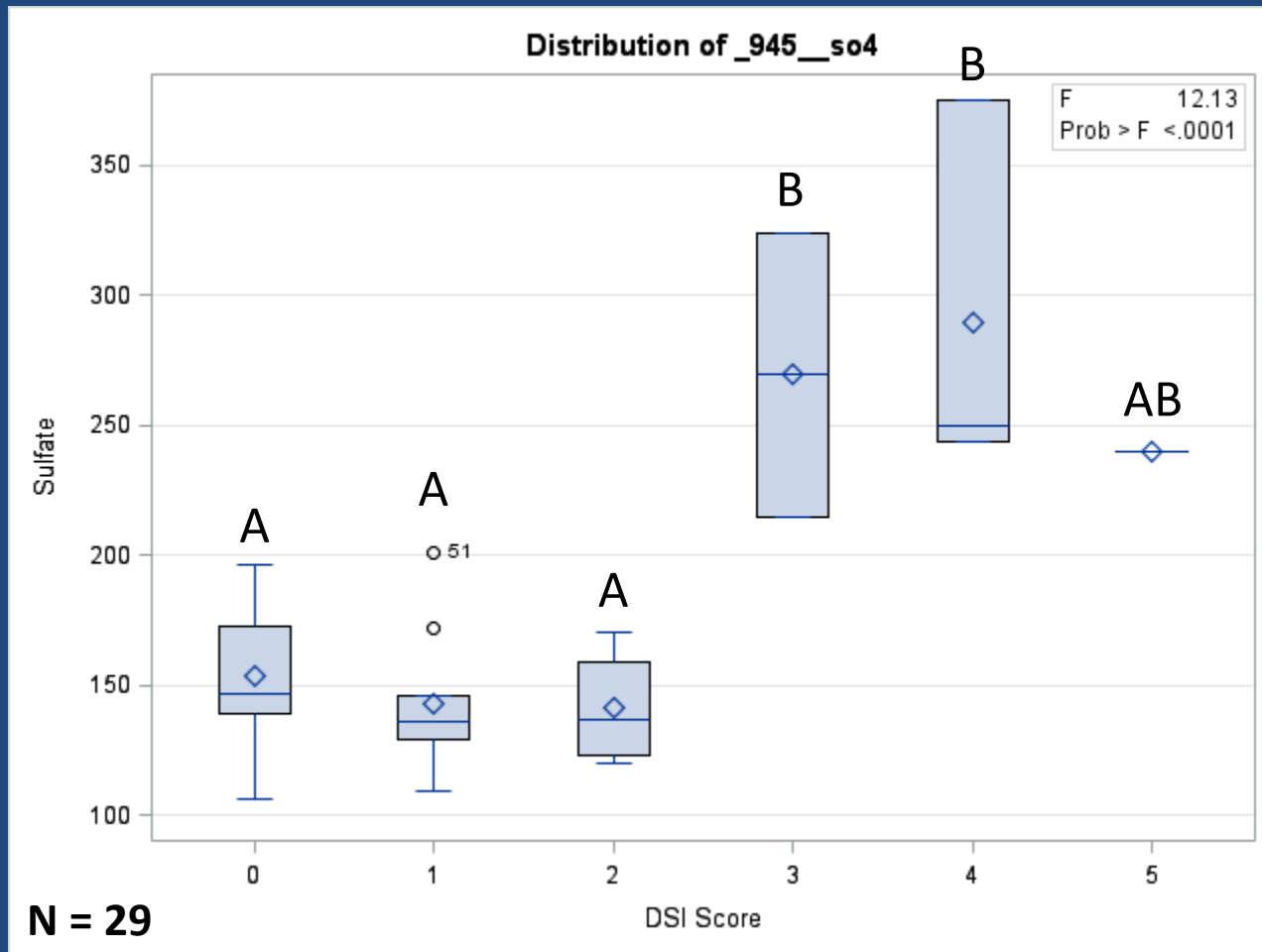


Mackenzie Reservoir

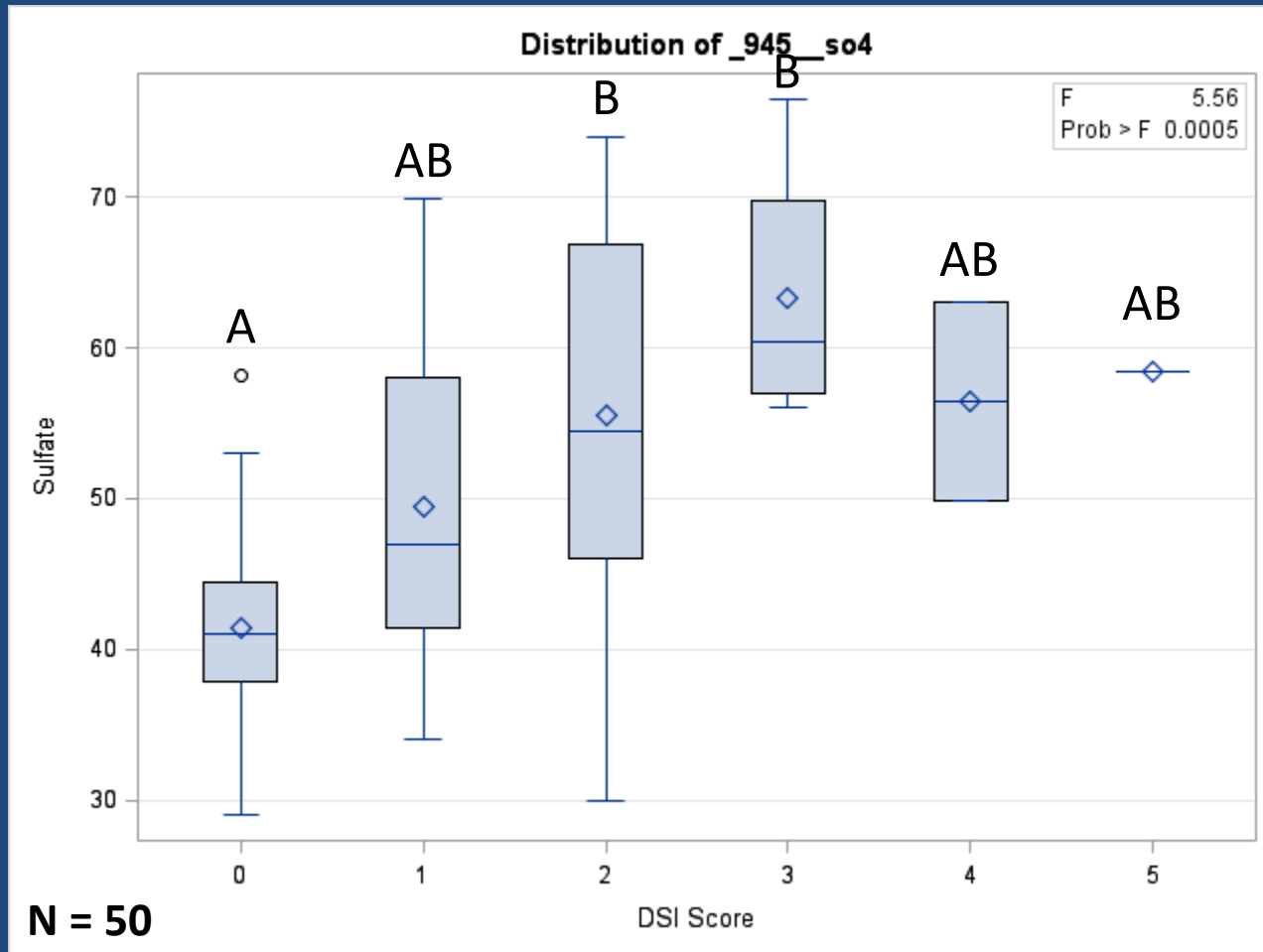
ANOVA Results: Diversion Lake



ANOVA Results: Mackenzie Reservoir



ANOVA Results: Bardwell Reservoir



Preliminary Drought Methods

- ANOVAs provided marginal results
 - Potential interpretation errors
 - Some water quality datasets are small
 - Few quantitative factors
- Focus efforts on reservoirs



Reservoir Nutrients in 2016 IR

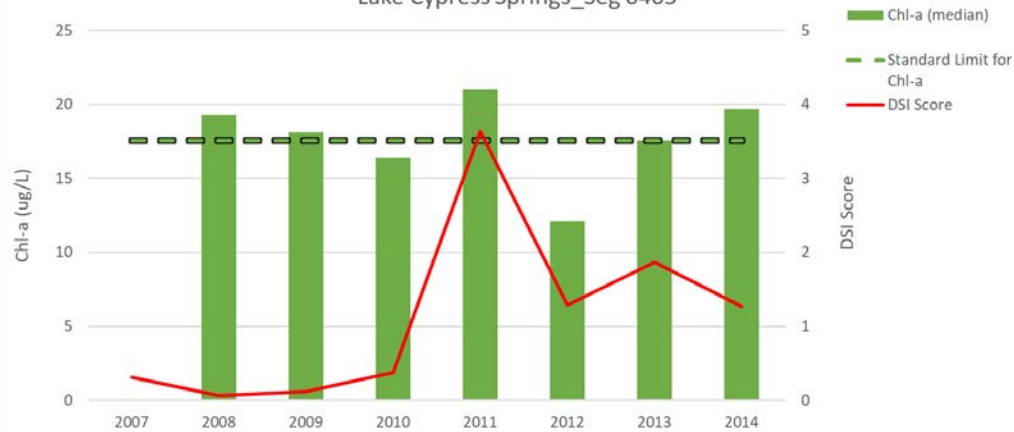
- Recently developed nutrient criteria using a line of evidence approach
- Applied ANOVAs to new nutrient impairments in reservoirs
 - DSI
 - Chlorophyll *a*
 - Reservoir level

Candidate Waterbodies:

- Lake Cypress Springs
- Hubbard Creek Reservoir
- White River Lake
- Lake Coleman
- Choke Canyon Reservoir

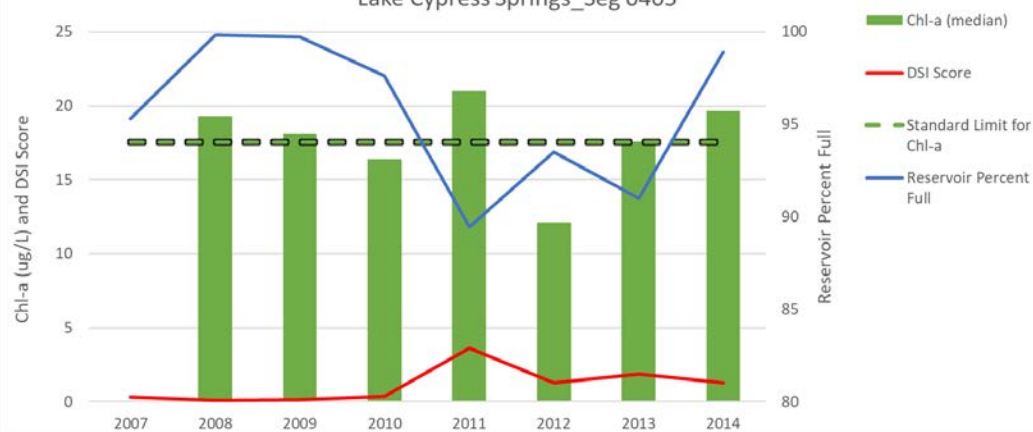
Lake Cypress Springs

Lake Cypress Springs_Seg 0405

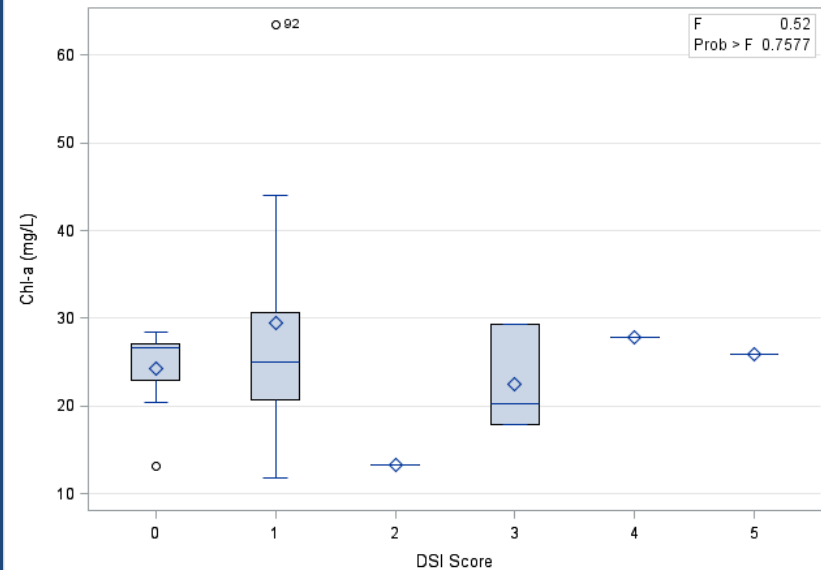


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Lake Cypress Springs_Seg 0405



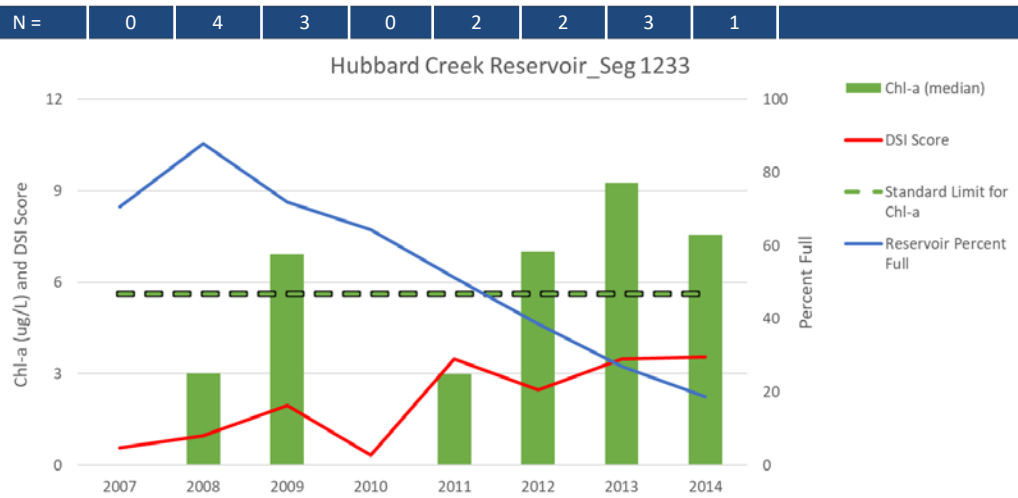
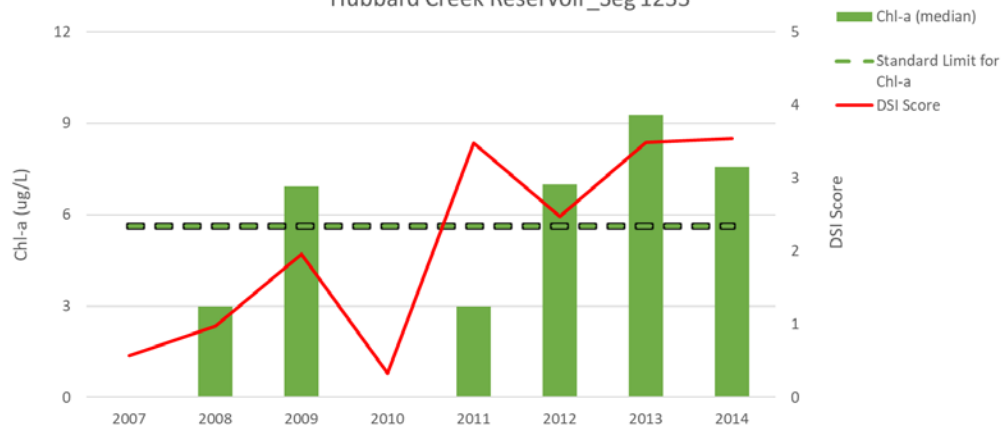
Distribution of Average of Chl-a (mg/L)



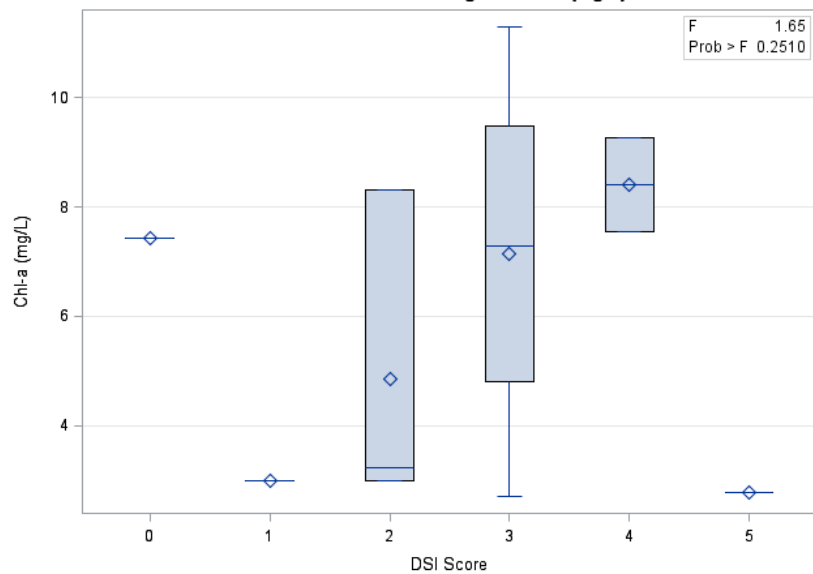
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Hubbard Creek Reservoir

Hubbard Creek Reservoir_Seg 1233

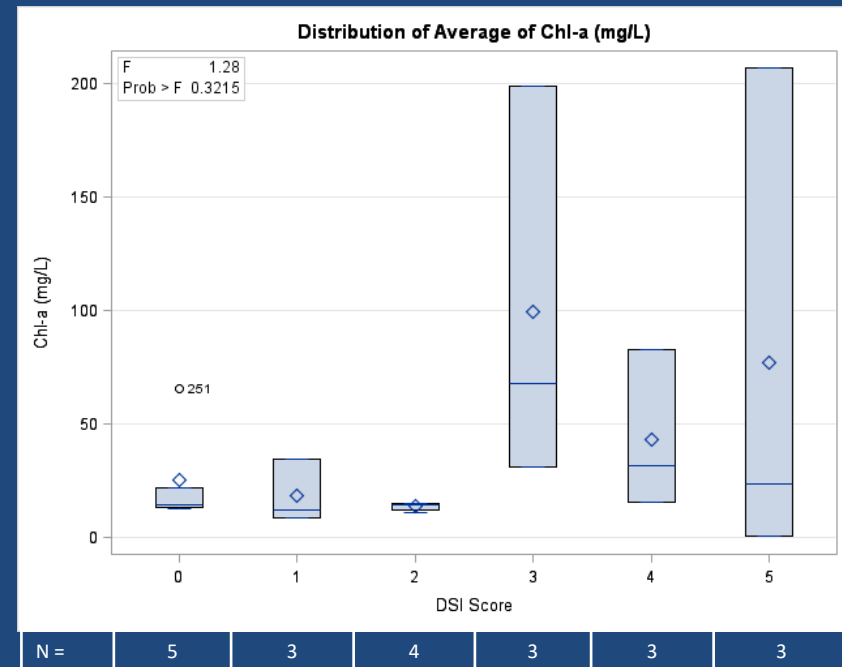
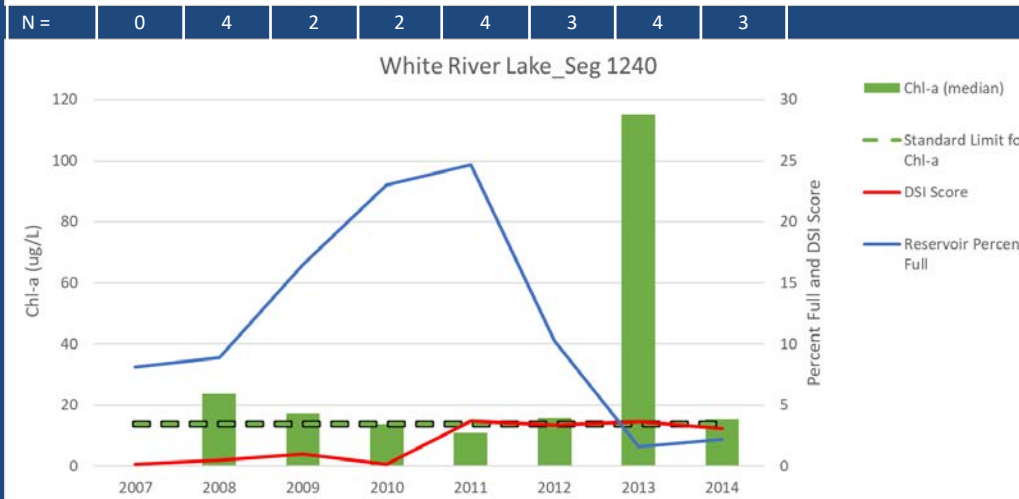
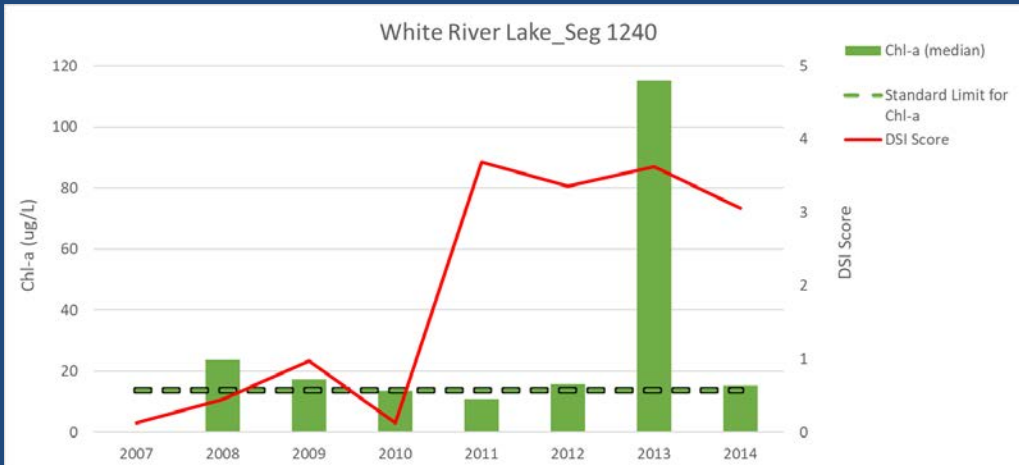


Distribution of Average of Chl-a (mg/L)

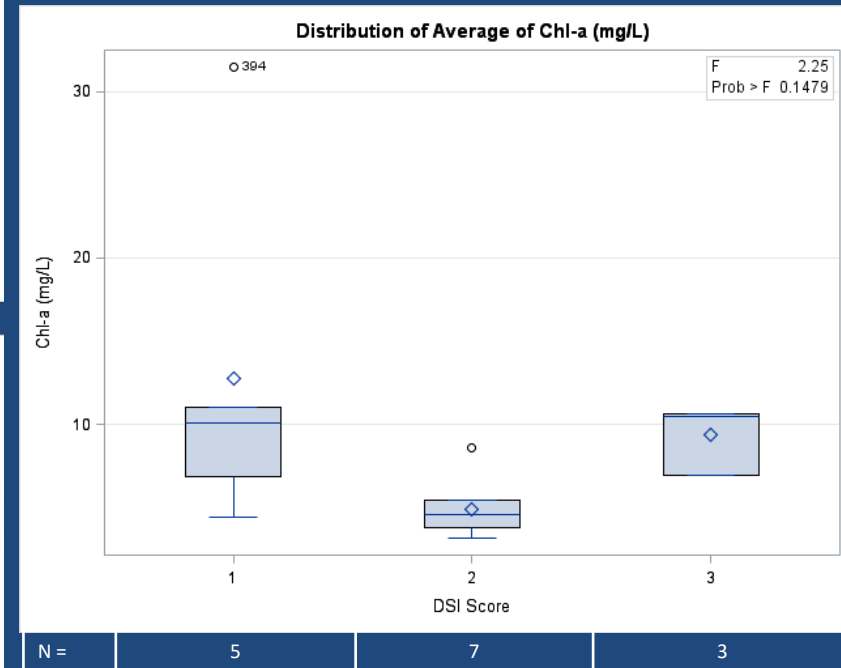
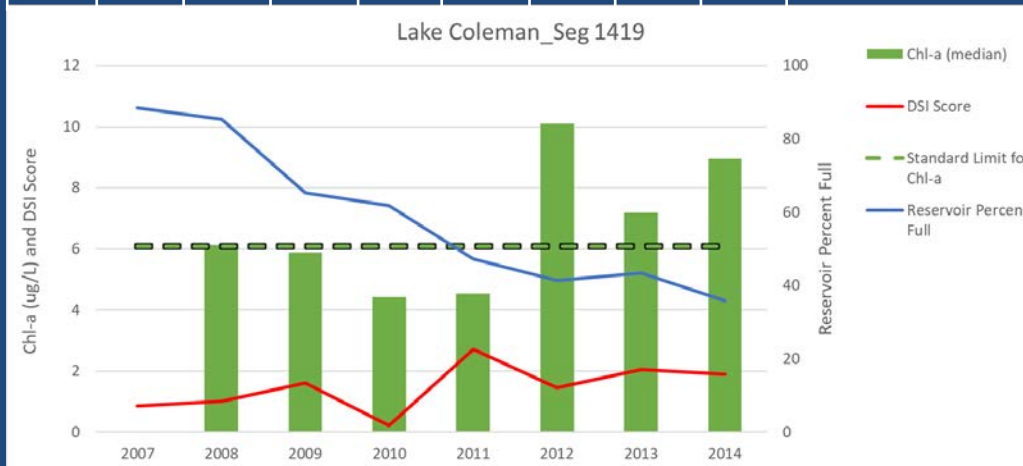
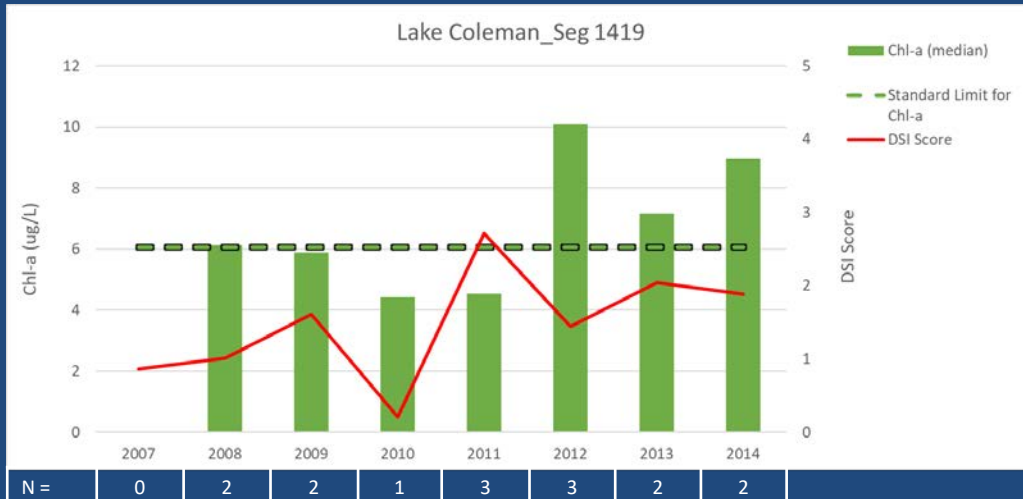


N =	1	3	3	4	2	1
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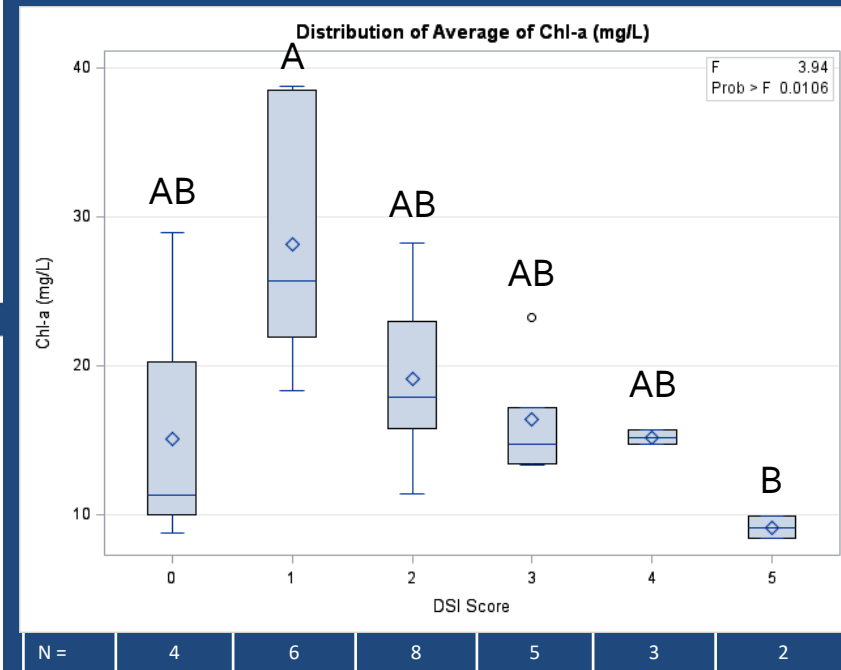
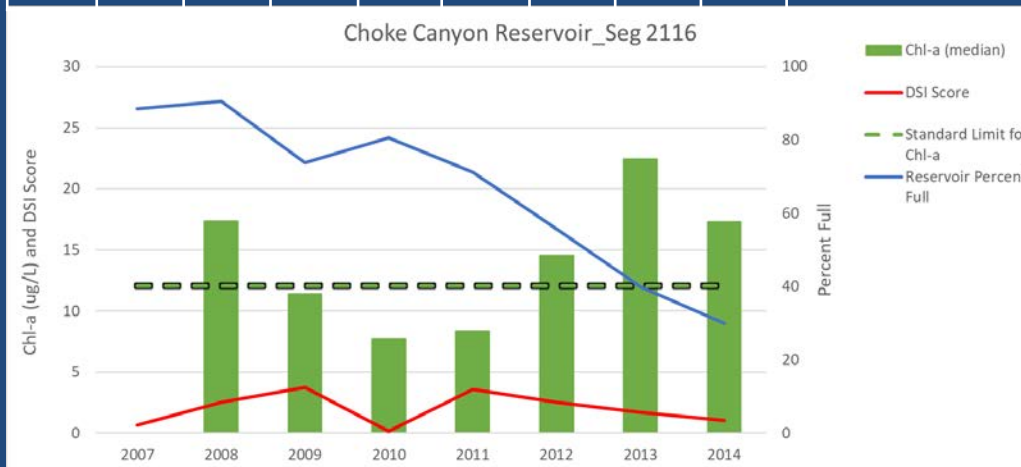
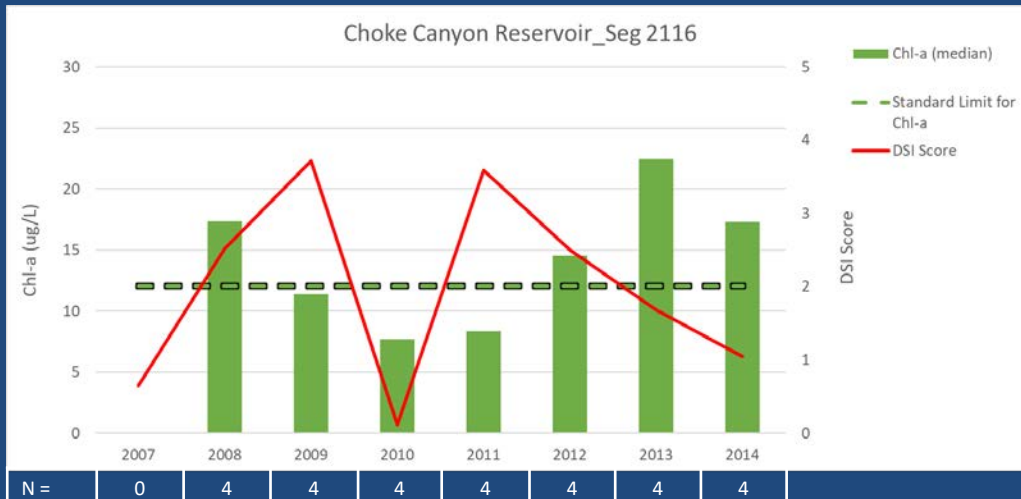
White River Lake



Lake Coleman



Choke Canyon Reservoir



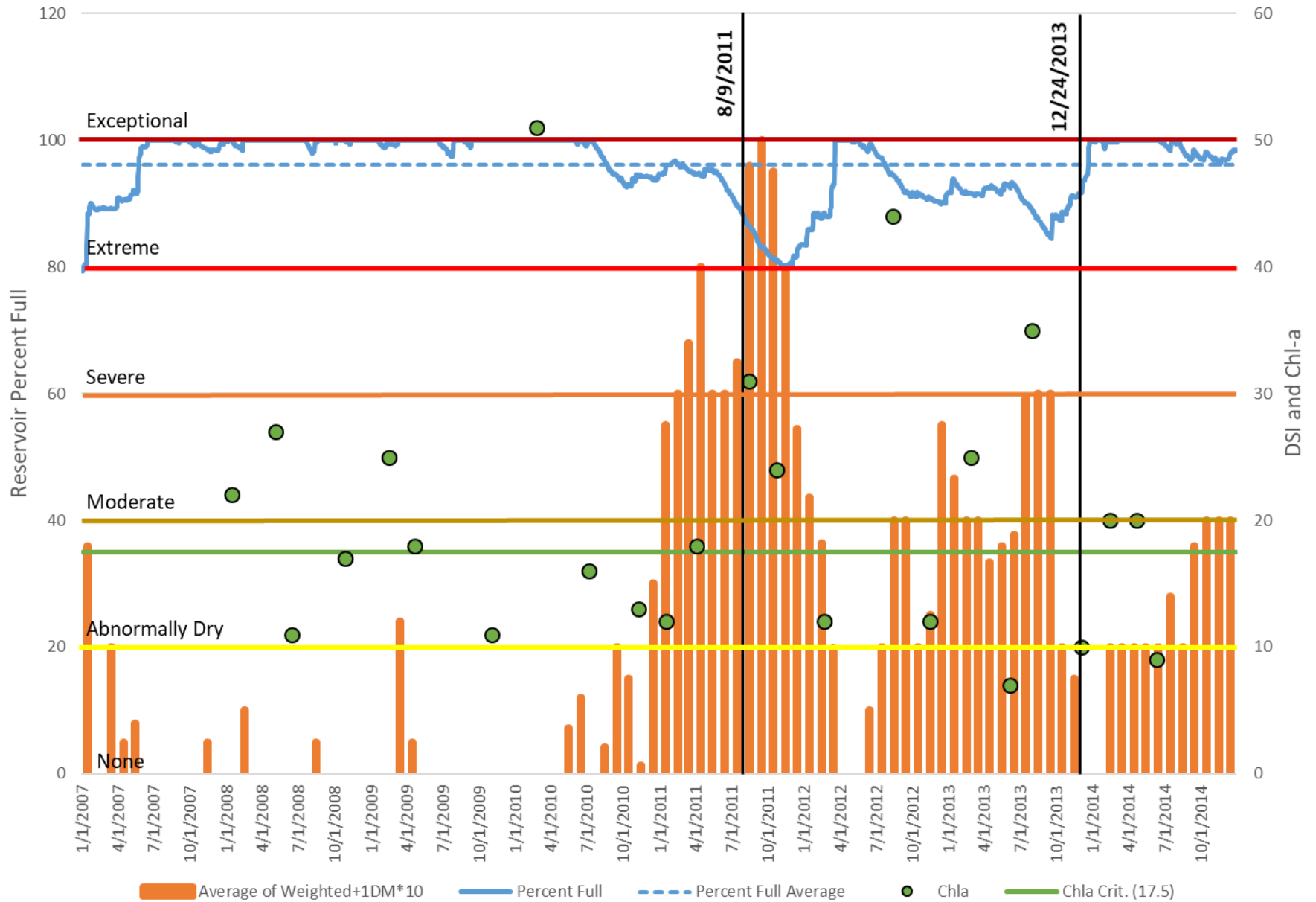
Method Used for 2016 Assessment

Reservoir Nutrients in 2016 IR

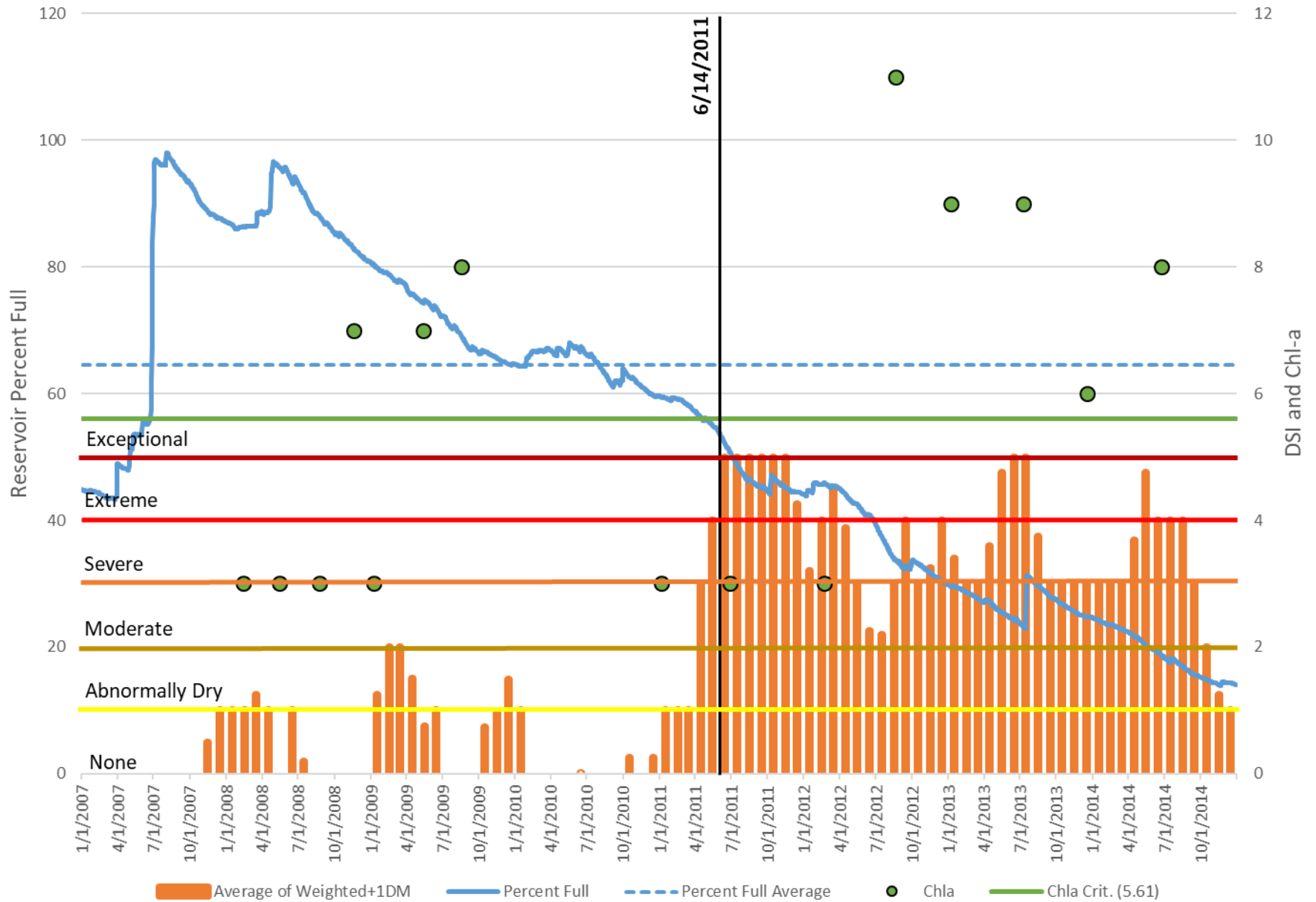
- ANOVAs and data graphs not telling the same story
- Modified graphs to better visualize trends
 - Chlorophyll a
 - DSI weighted average
 - Reservoir percent full
- Determined onset and conclusion of drought
- Removed all sample results within drought period and reassessed



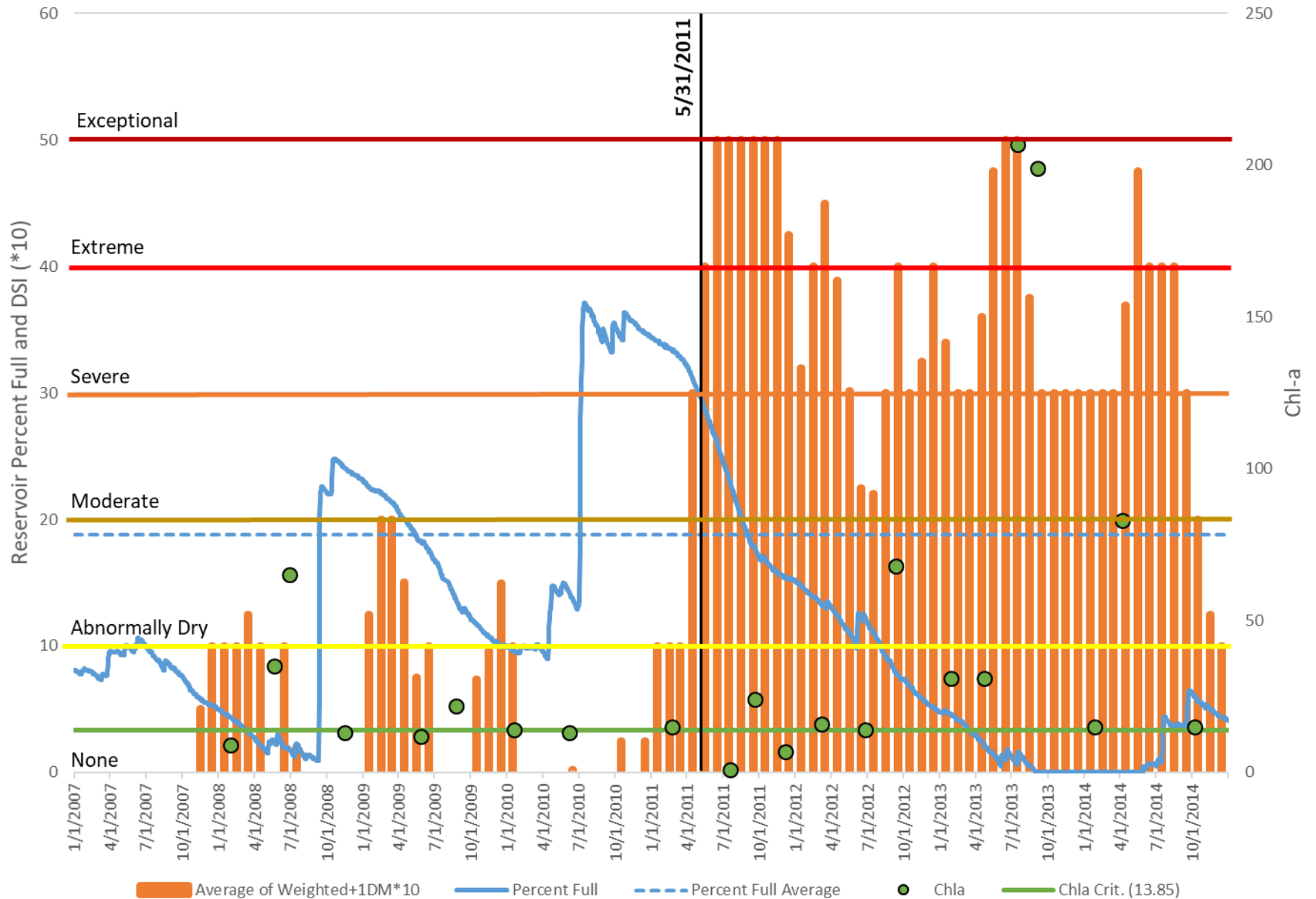
Lake Cypress Springs - 0405



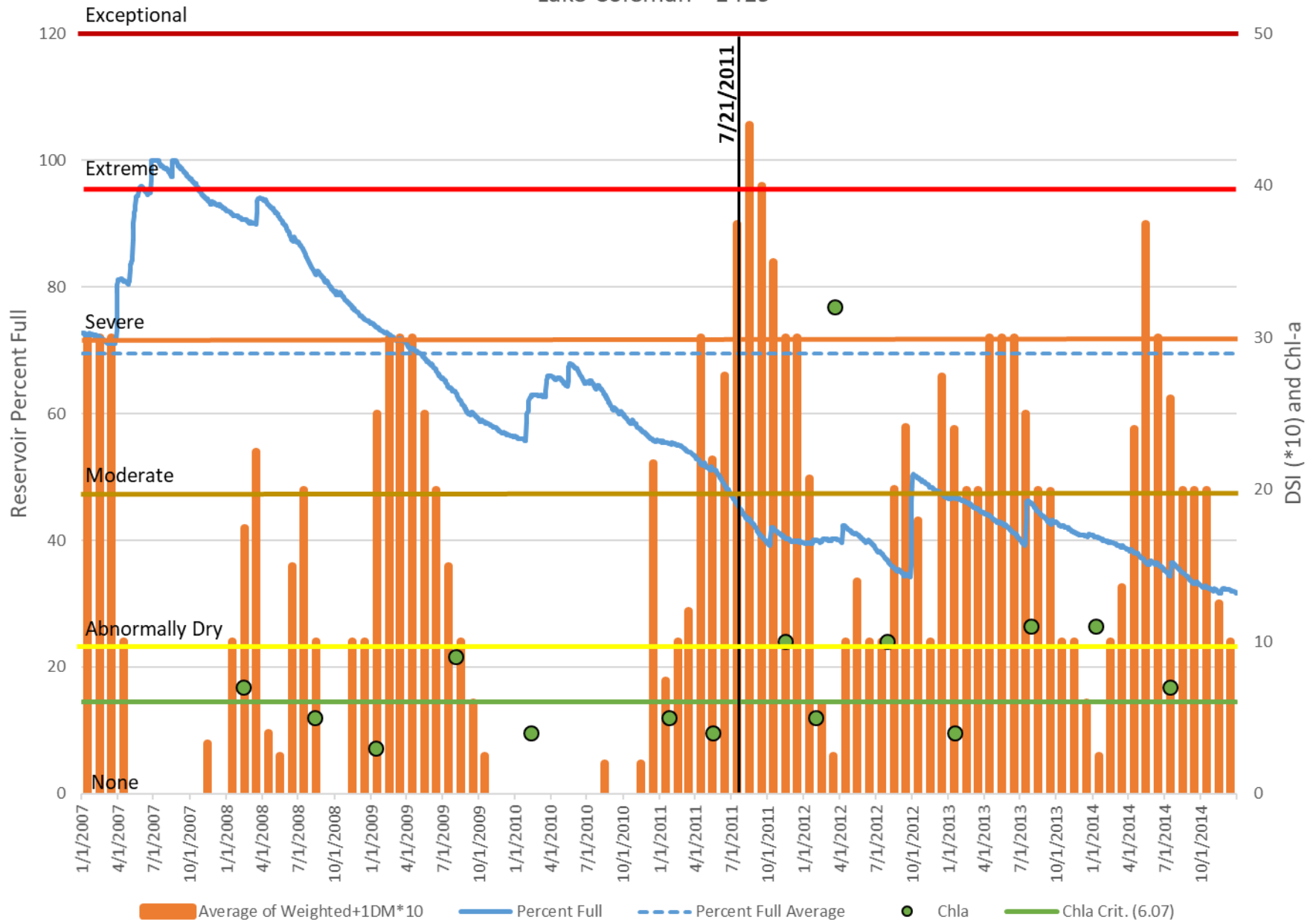
Hubbard Creek Reservoir - 1233



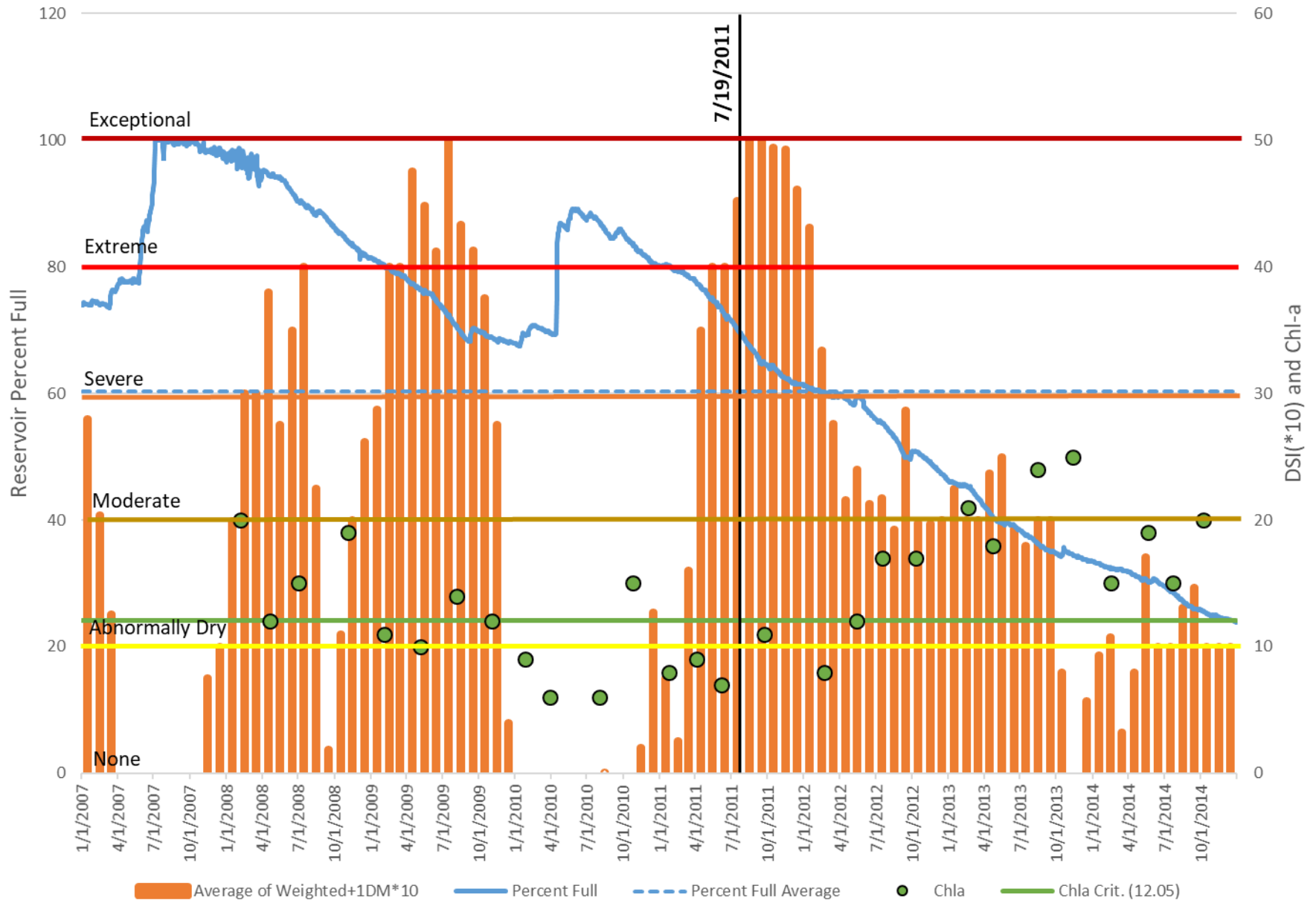
White River Lake - 1240



Lake Coleman - 1419



Choke Canyon Reservoir - 2116



Reservoir Nutrients in 2016 IR

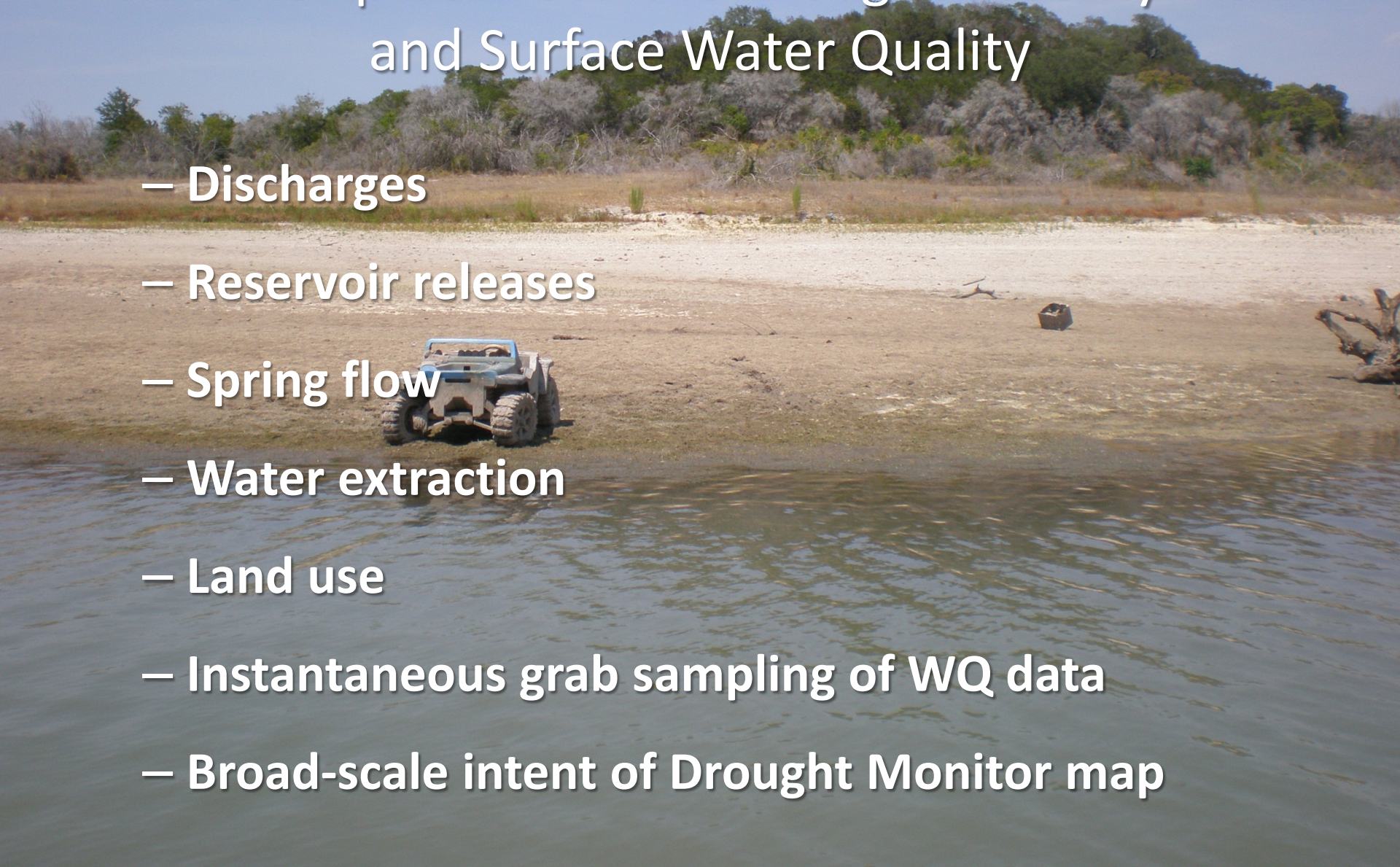
- Reviewed data and potential watershed impacts
- Results of drought evaluations on nutrient impairments (Category 3)
 - Hubbard Creek Reservoir
 - FS
 - Lake Coleman
 - FS
 - Choke Canyon Reservoir
 - insufficient data
- Resulted in two nutrient listings (Category 5)

Waterbodies:

- Lake Cypress Springs
- Hubbard Creek Reservoir
- White River Lake
- Lake Coleman
- Choke Canyon Reservoir

Factors that potentially complicate the relationship between the Drought Severity Index and Surface Water Quality

- Discharges
- Reservoir releases
- Spring flow
- Water extraction
- Land use
- Instantaneous grab sampling of WQ data
- Broad-scale intent of Drought Monitor map



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Drought in Reservoirs

- Method applied to nutrients in reservoirs in 2016
- Refinement to be applied for all parameters in 2018
- Discussion items
 - Onset
 - Conclusion
 - Data exclusion
 - Water quality evaluation

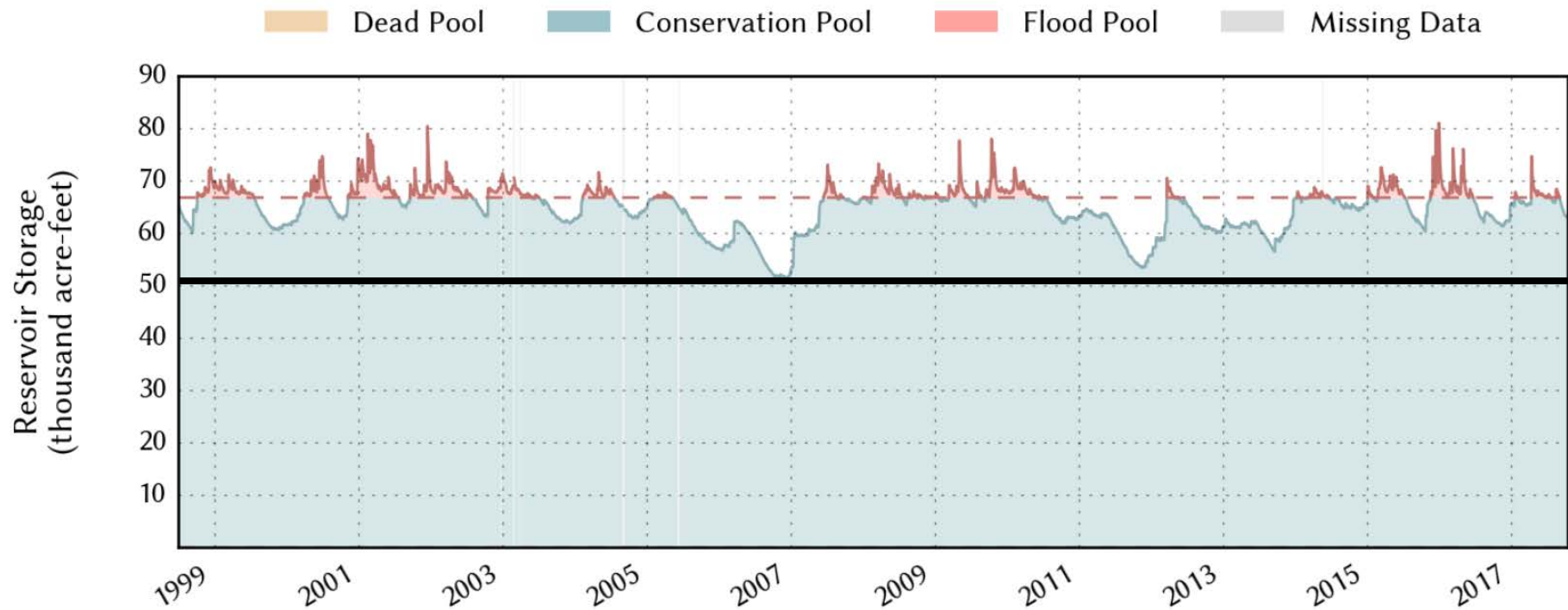


Drought Options: Onset

- A. Reservoir percent full declines towards historic low

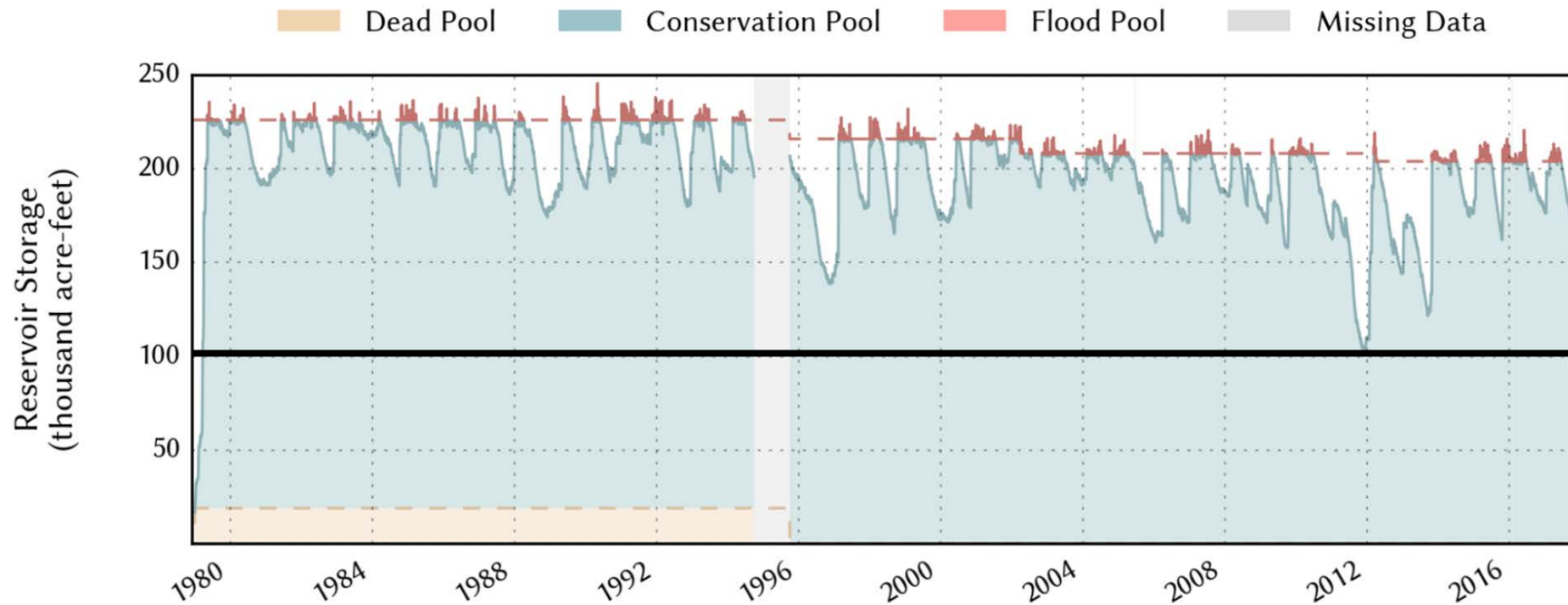
Historical Reservoir Levels

Lake Cypress Springs: 94.1% full as of 2017-10-12



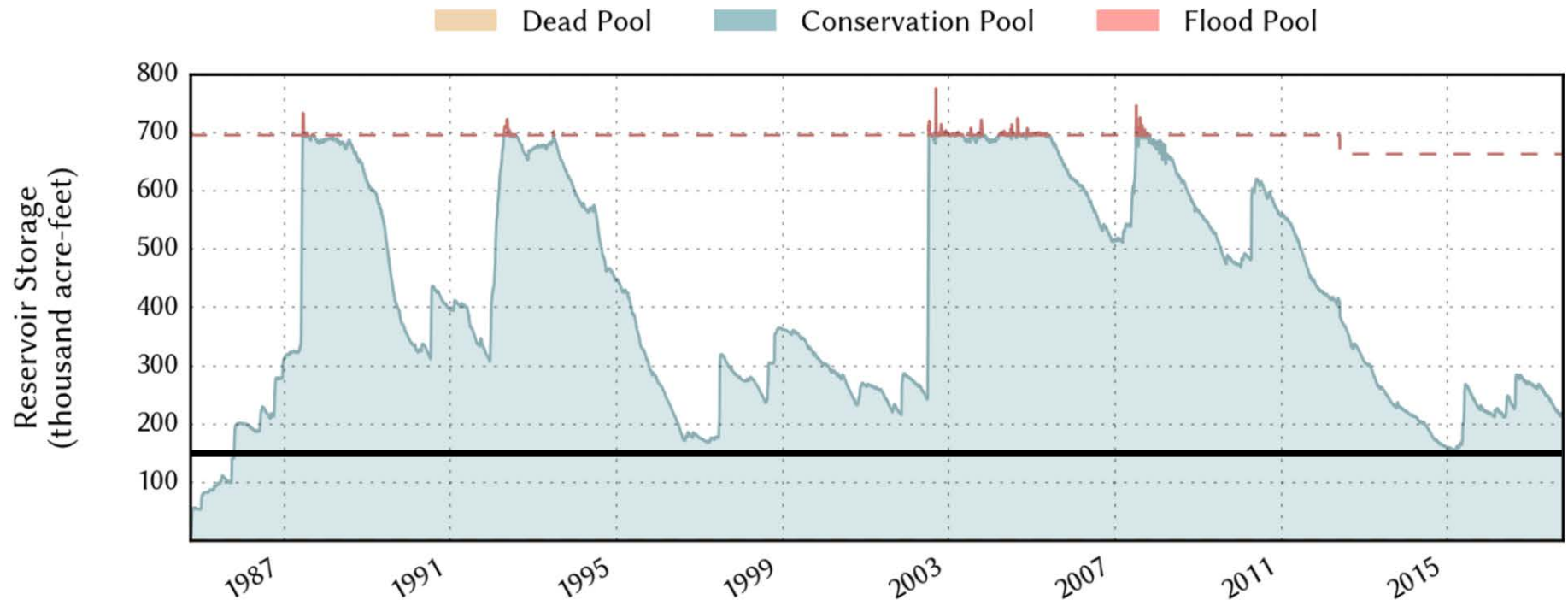
Historical Reservoir Levels

Lake Limestone: 82.7% full as of 2017-10-12



Historical Reservoir Levels

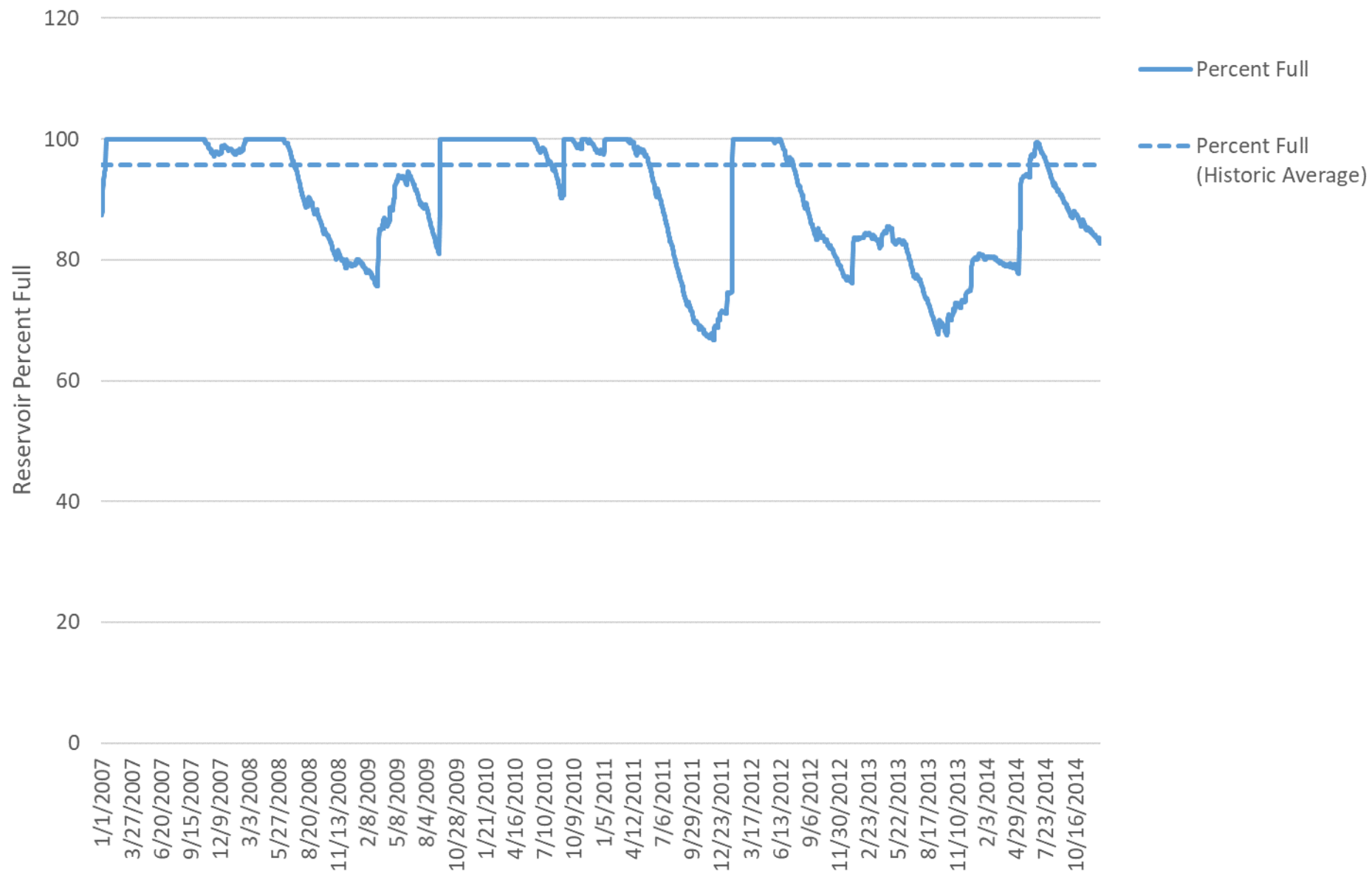
Choke Canyon Reservoir: 32.8% full as of 2017-10-12



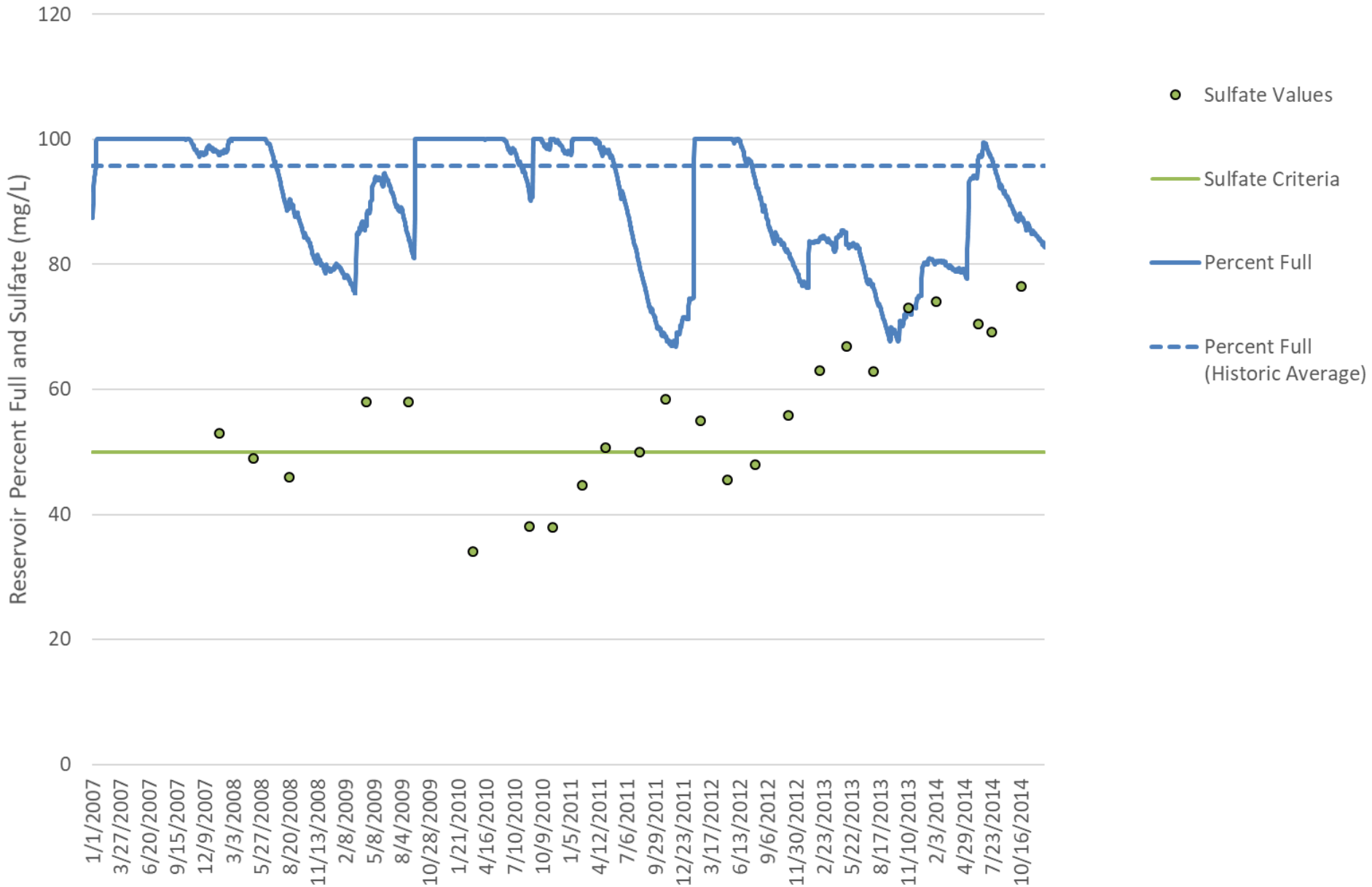
Drought Options: Onset

- A. Reservoir percent full declines towards historic low
- B. Reservoir percent full drops below historical average percent full

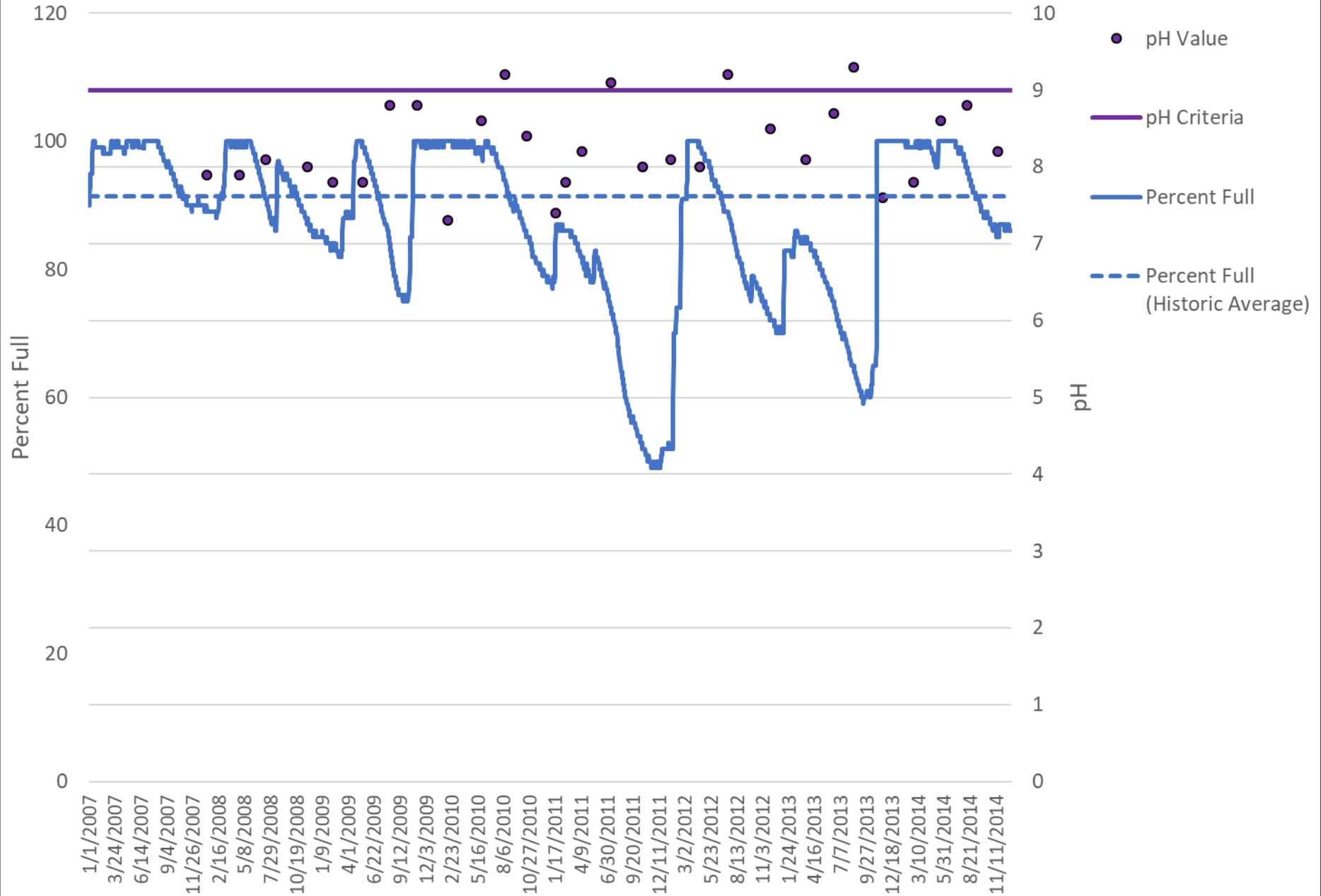
Bardwell Reservoir - 815



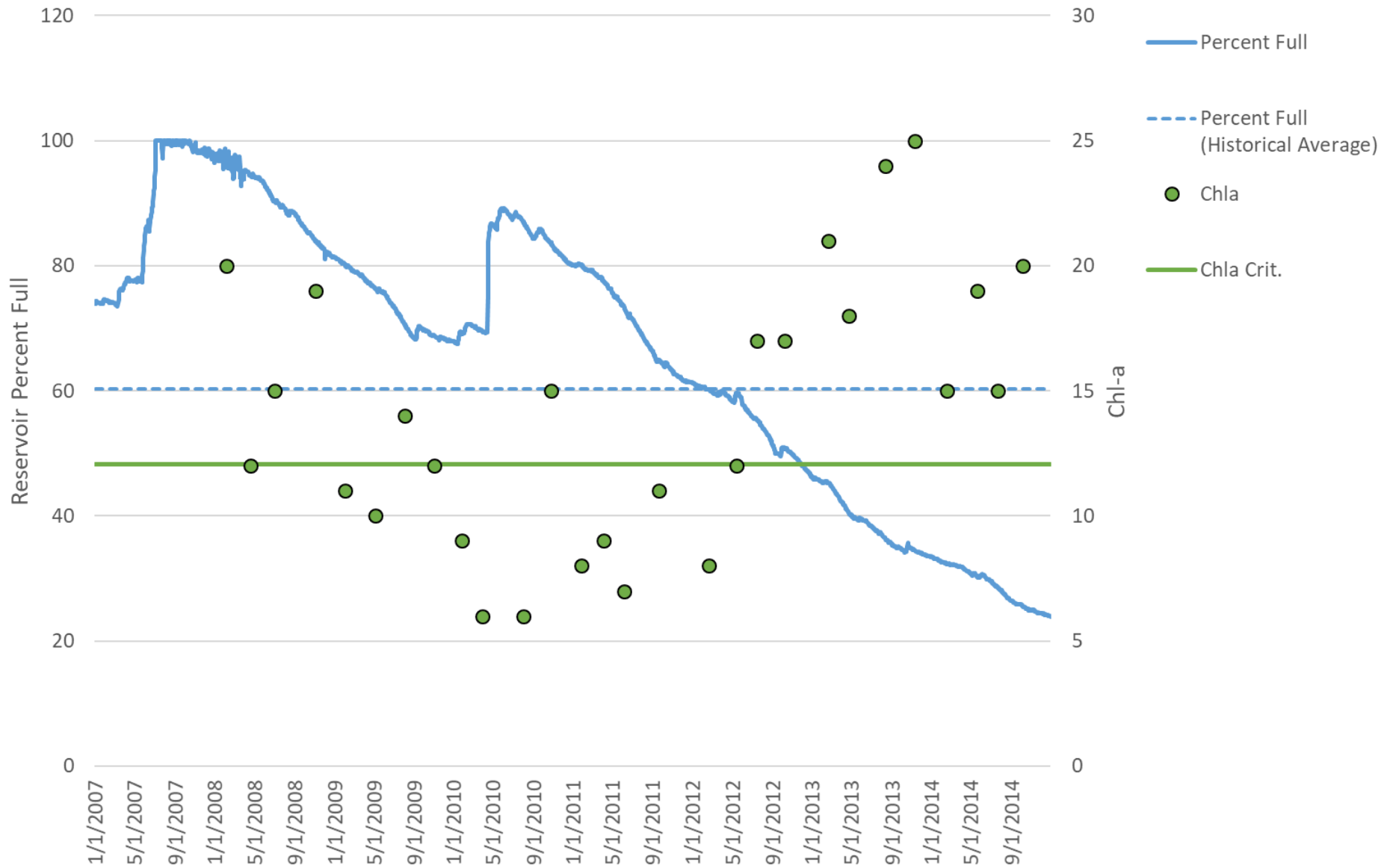
Bardwell Reservoir - 815



Lake Limestone - 1252



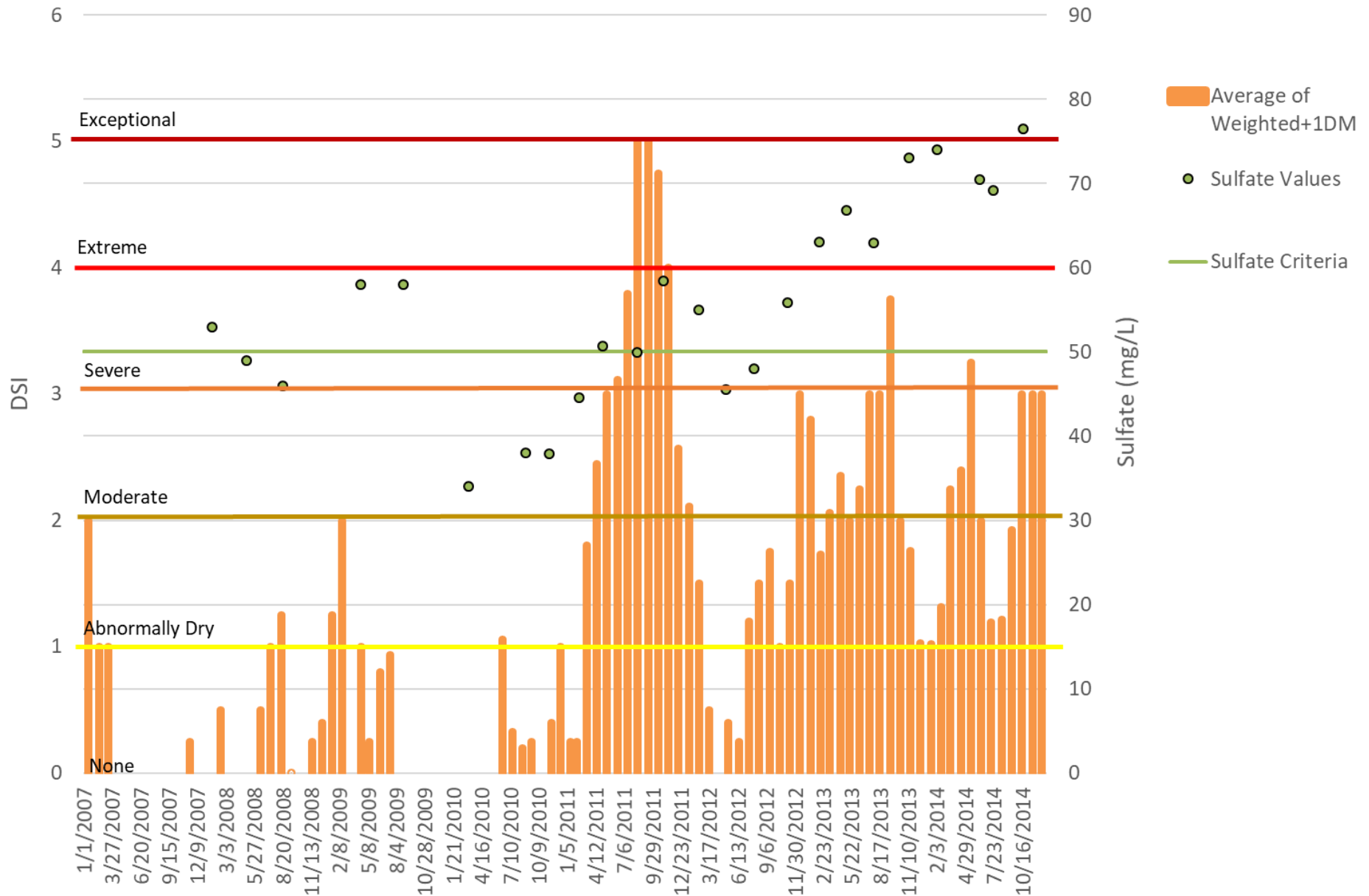
Choke Canyon Reservoir - 2116



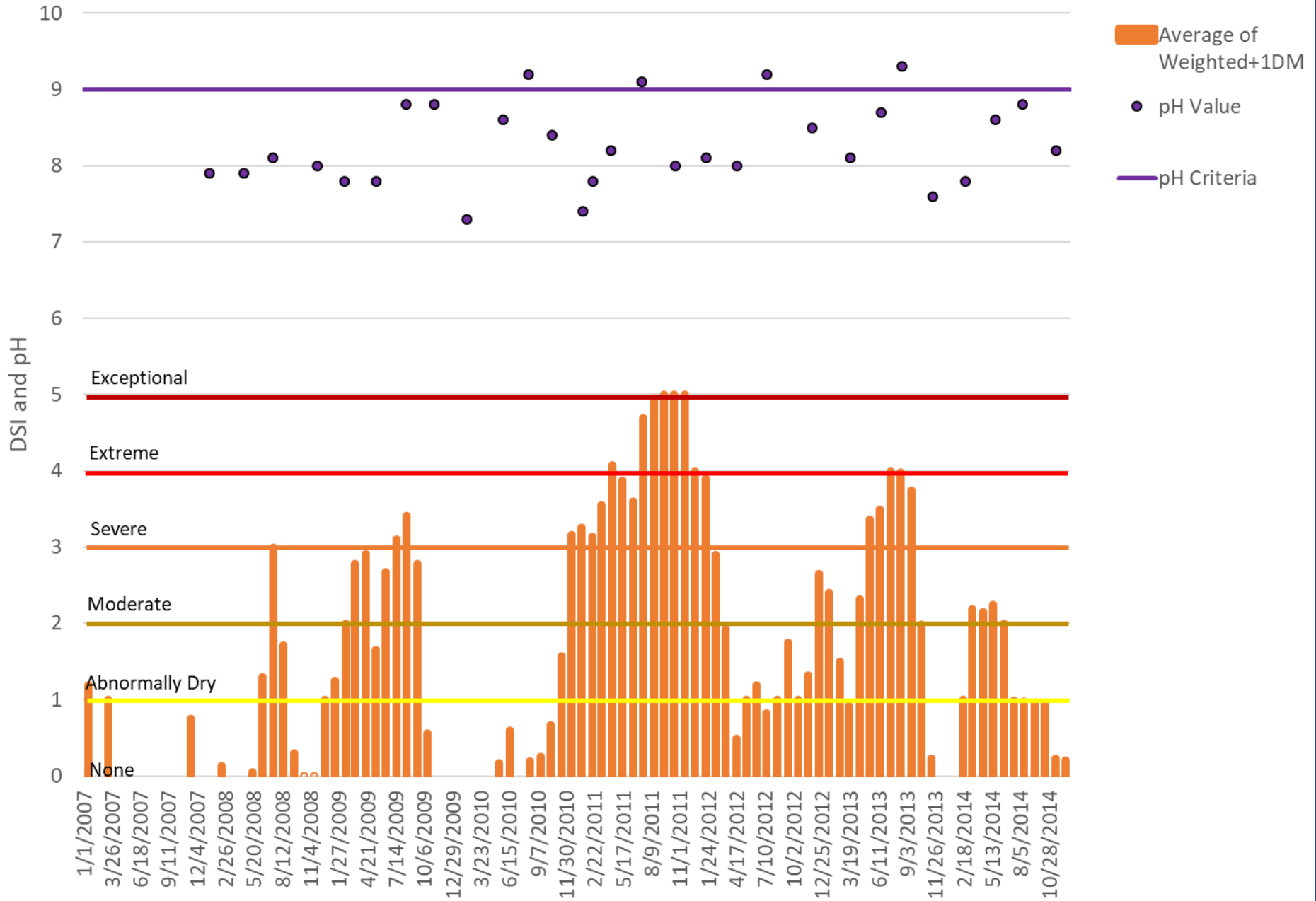
Drought Options: Onset

- A. Reservoir percent full declines towards historic low
- B. Reservoir percent full drops below historical average percent full
- C. Wt. DSI = 5 (exceptional)
Wt. DSI = 4 (extreme)

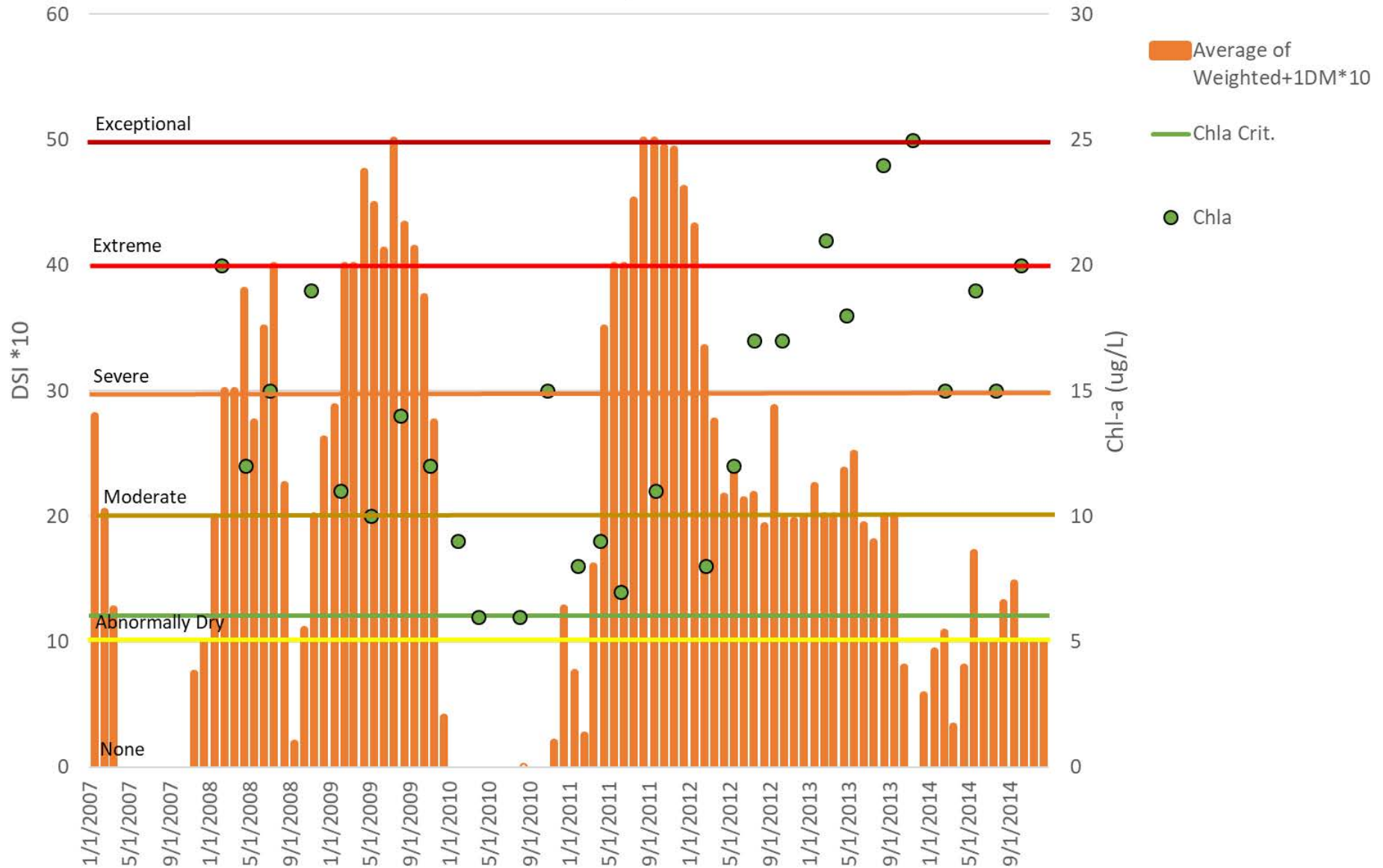
Bardwell Reservoir - 815



Lake Limestone - 1252



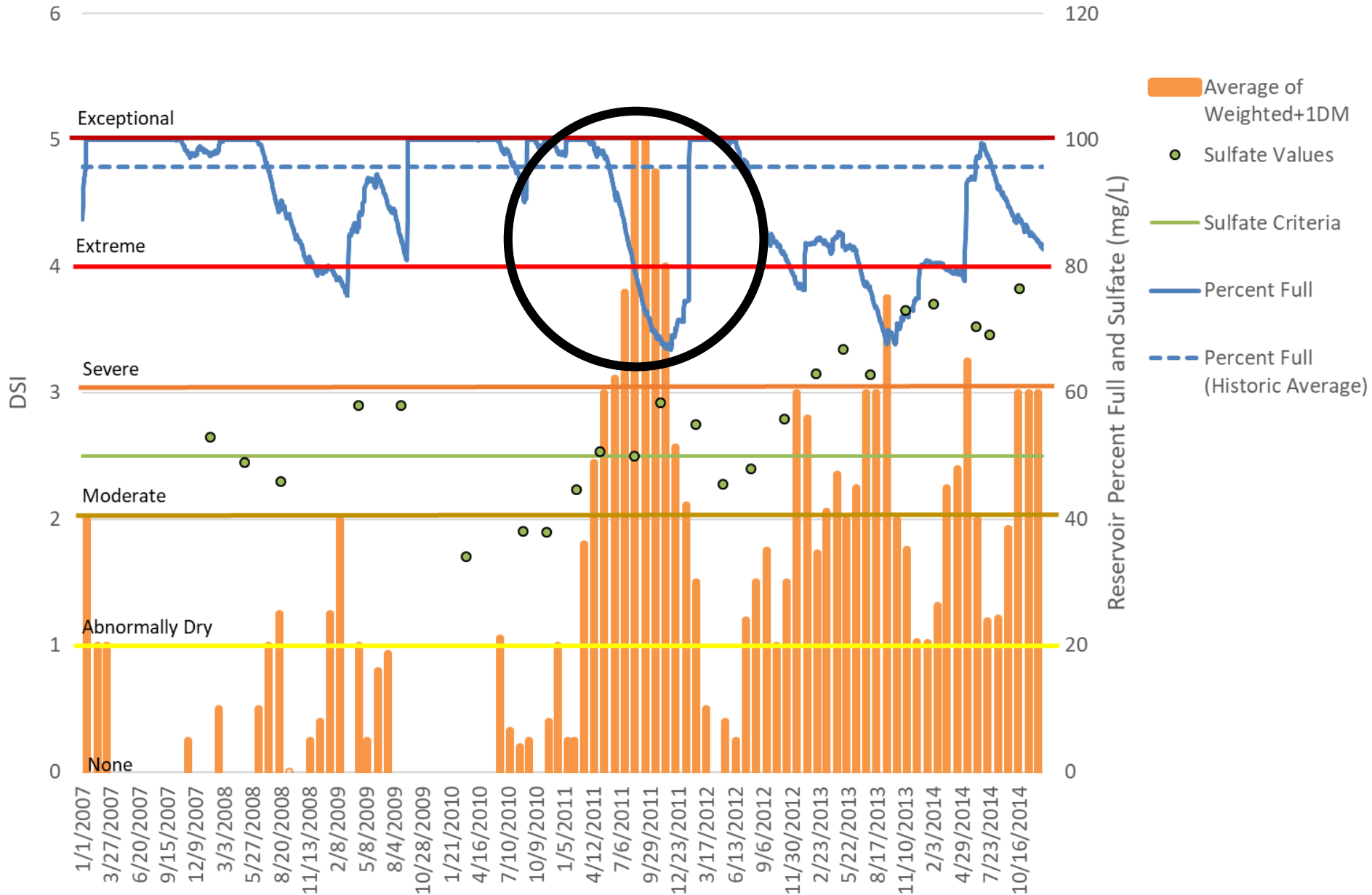
Choke Canyon Reservoir - 2116



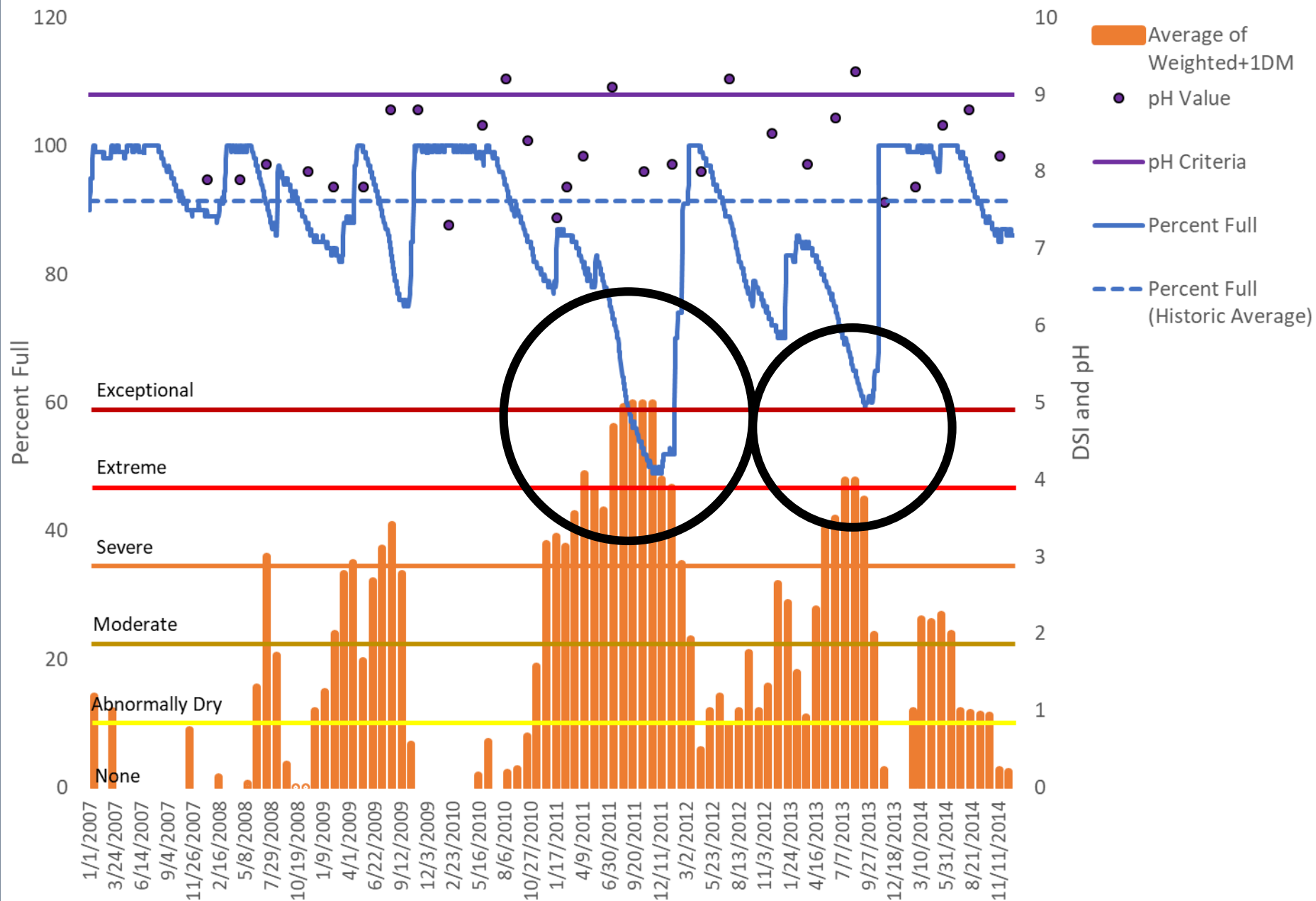
Drought Options: Onset

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- C. Wt. DSI = 5 (exceptional)
Wt. DSI = 4 (extreme)
- D. A combination of the above
- E. Other options and/or parameters?

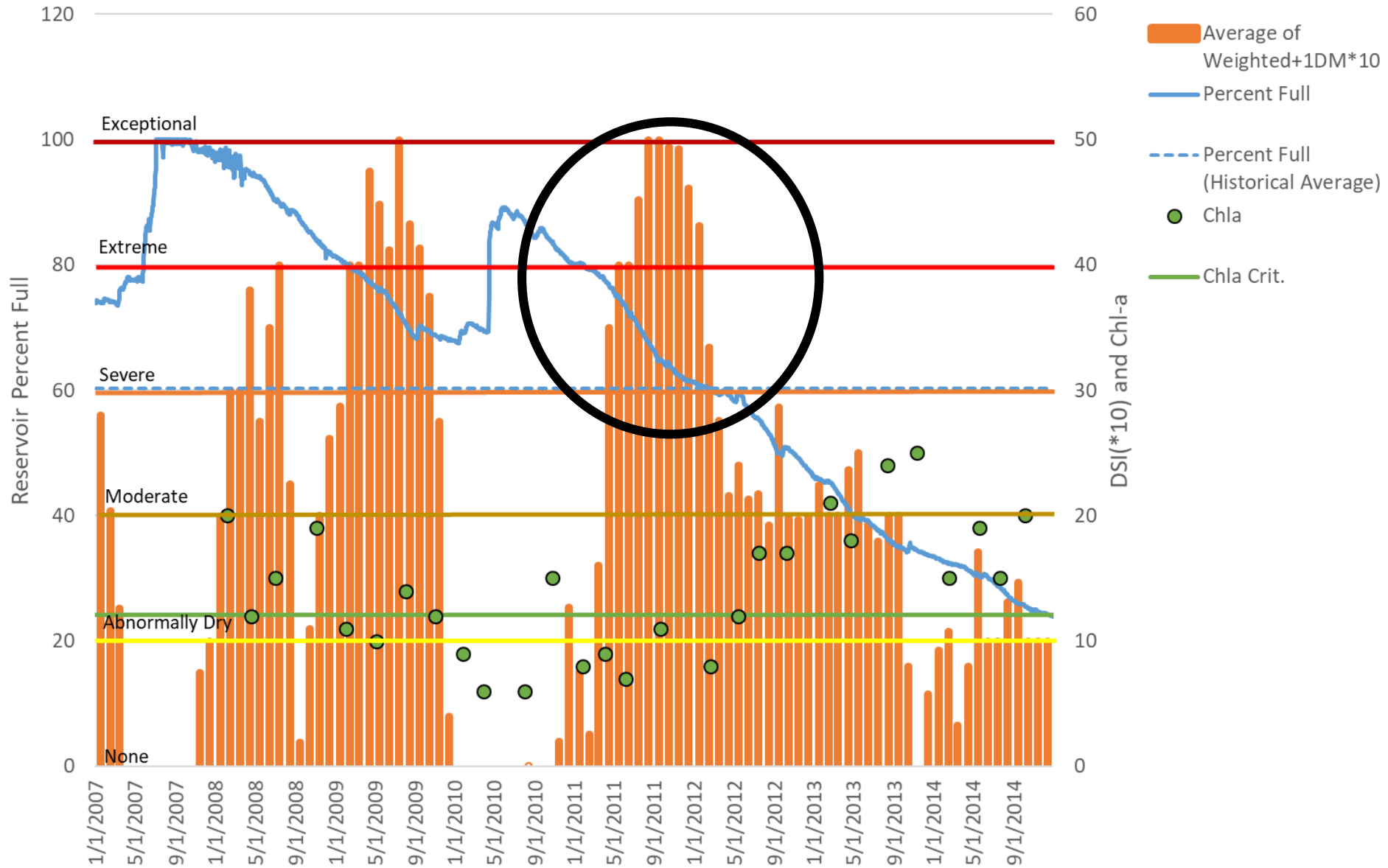
Bardwell Reservoir - 815



Lake Limestone - 1252



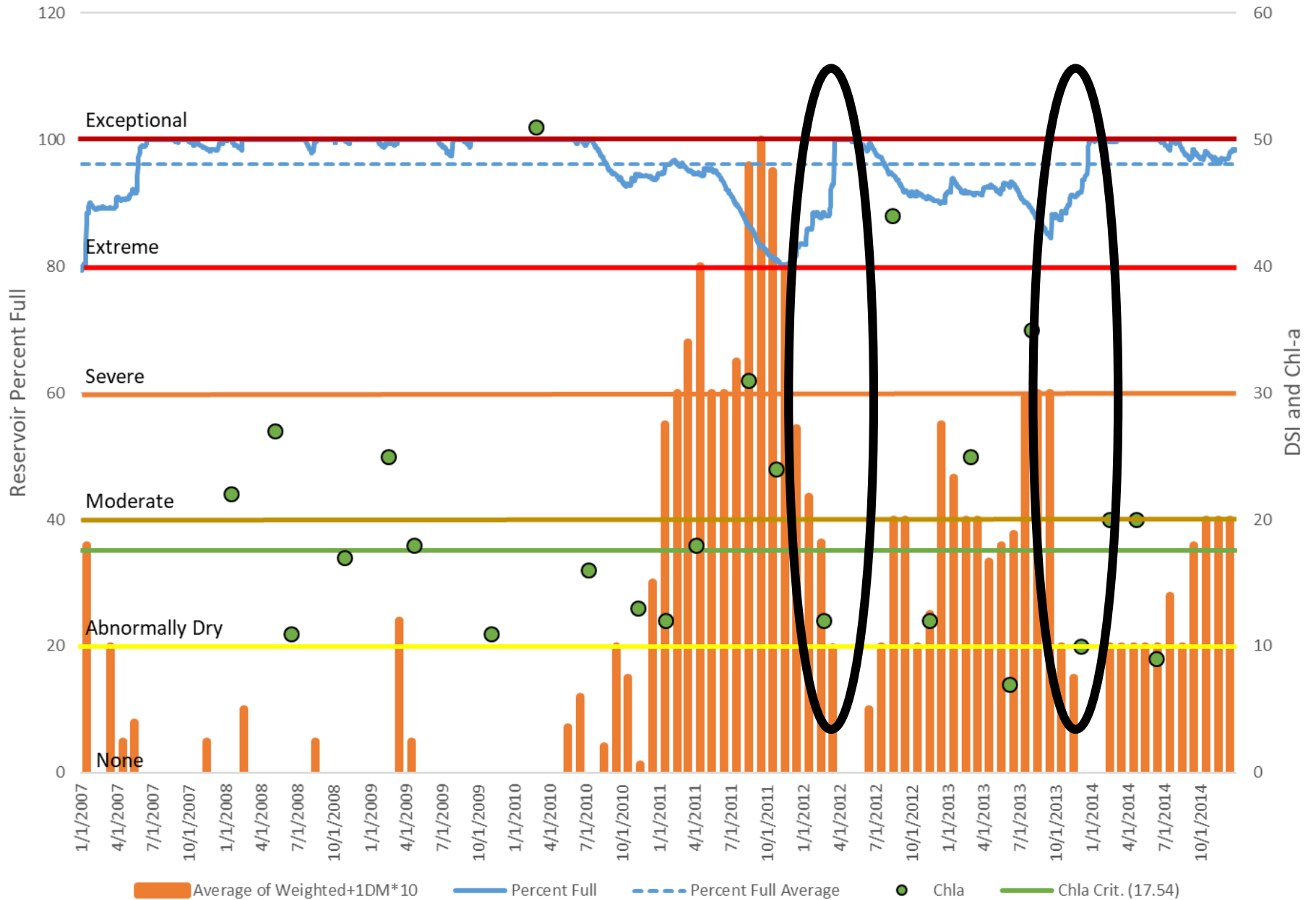
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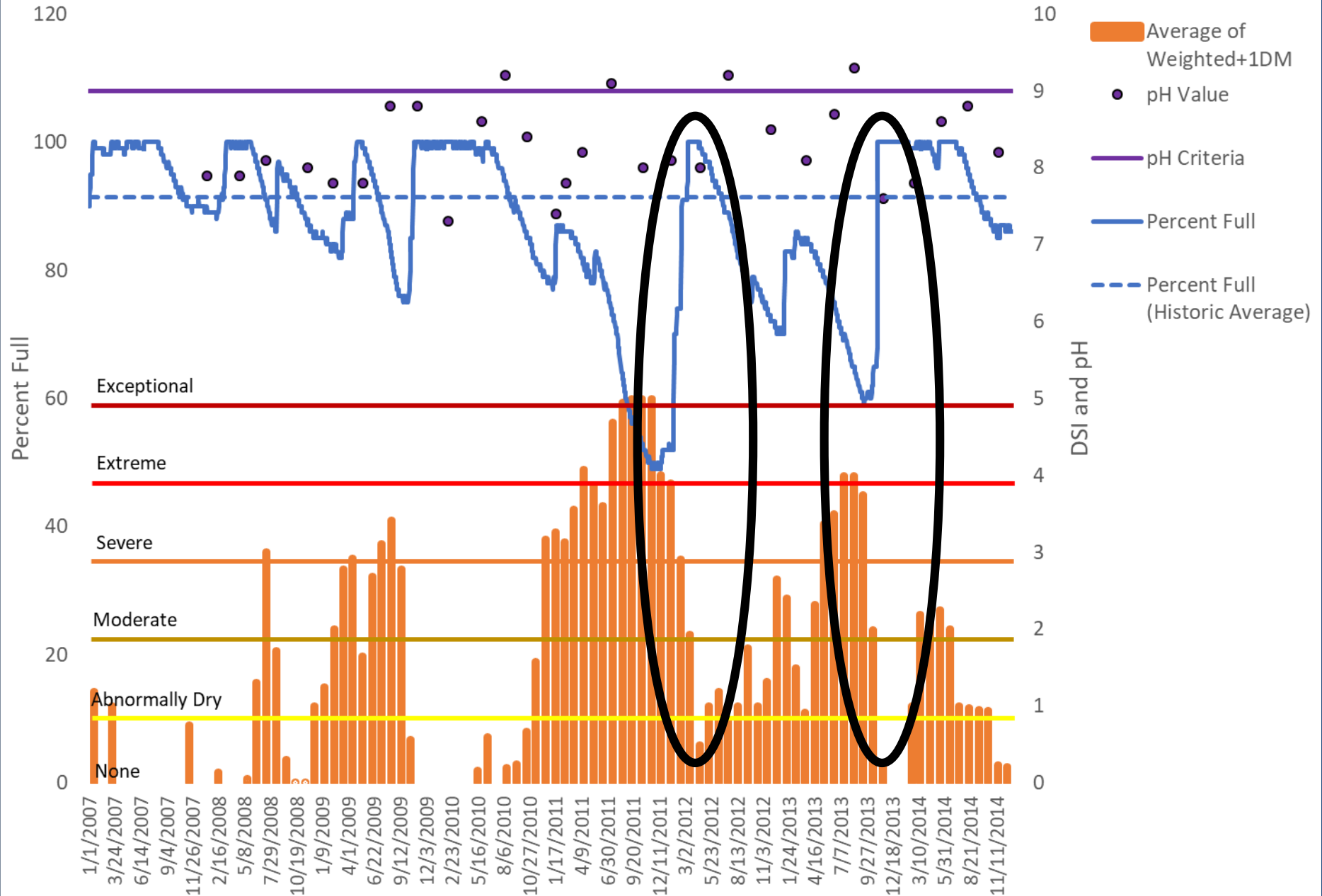
Drought Options: Conclusion

- A. Reservoir percent full increases above historical average percent full
- B. Wt. DSI ≤ 2 (moderate drought)
Wt. DSI < 2 (more towards abnormally dry)
Wt. DSI ≤ 1 (abnormally dry)
- C. A combination of the above
- D. Other options and/or parameters?

Lake Cypress Springs - 0405



Lake Limestone - 1252



Drought Options: Data Exclusion

- A. Exclude all sample results within drought period

Determination of Standards Attainment

§307.9 (b). Samples to determine standards attainment are collected at locations approved by the commission. Samples collected at non-approved locations may be accepted at the discretion of the commission. Samples to determine standards attainment in ambient water must be representative in terms of location, seasonal variations, and hydrologic conditions. Locations must be typical of significant areas of a water body. Temporal sampling must be sufficient to appropriately address seasonal variations of concern. Sample results that are used to assess standards attainment must not include samples that are collected during extreme hydrologic conditions such as high-flows and flooding immediately after heavy rains. Further guidance on representative sampling, both spatially, temporally, and hydrologically, can be found in the TCEQ Surface Water Quality Monitoring Procedures and the TCEQ Guidance for Assessing and Reporting Surface Water Quality in Texas as amended.

Drought Options: Data Exclusion

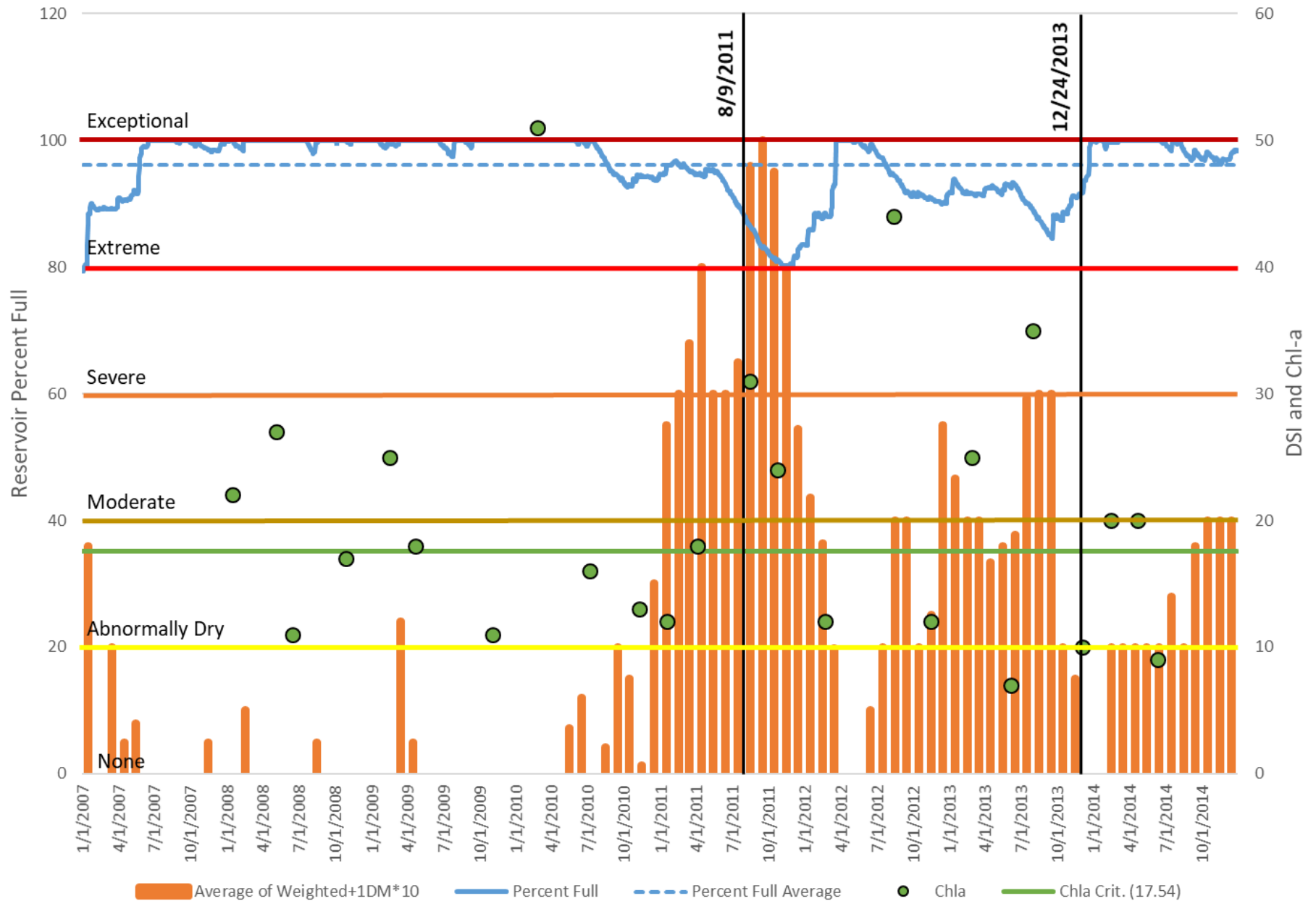
A. Exclude all sample results within drought period

B. Exclude only exceedances within drought period

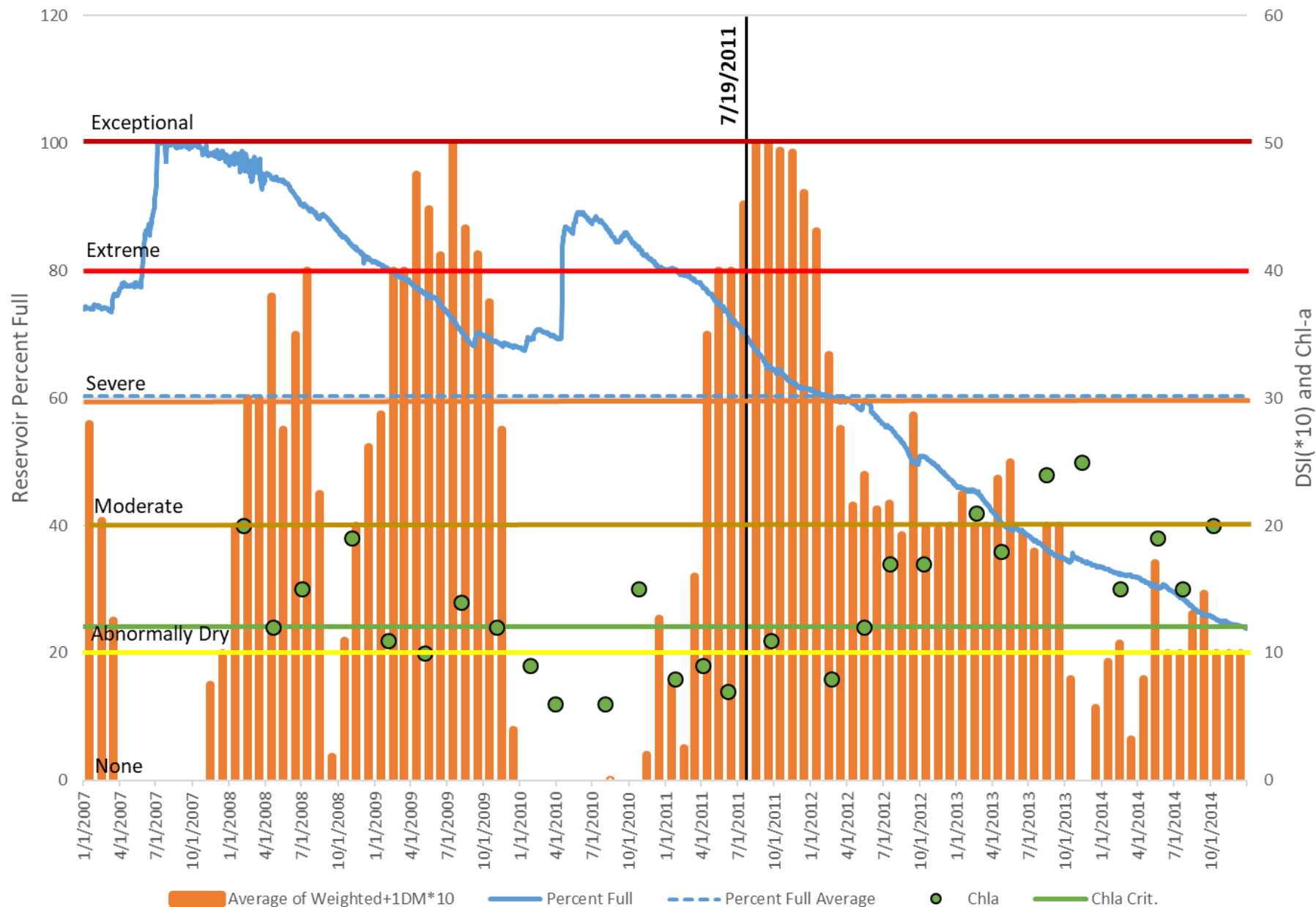
Reservoir Name	Segment ID	Summary outcome (no drought)	Summary outcome (all drought removed)	Summary outcome (drought exceedances removed)
Lake Cypress Springs	0405	not supporting	not supporting	fully supporting
Hubbard Creek Reservoir	1233	not supporting	fully supporting	fully supporting
White River Lake	1240	not supporting	not supporting	fully supporting
Lake Coleman	1419	not supporting	fully supporting	fully supporting
Choke Canyon Reservoir	2116	not supporting	insufficient data (TN)	insufficient data (TN)

Reservoir Name	sample count	sample count (all drought removed)	sample count (drought exceedances removed)	Criteria Chl-a	Chl-a median	Chl-a median (all drought removed)	Chl-a median (drought exceedances removed)
Lake Cypress Springs	24	15	19	17.54	18	17.9	16.4
Hubbard Creek Reservoir	15	8	10	5.61	5.89	5.08	3.0
White River Lake	22	10	12	13.85	15.5	14.15	13.3
Lake Coleman	15	8	10	6.07	6.85	4.8	4.53
Choke Canyon Reservoir	28	15	17	12.05	14.55	10.8	10.8

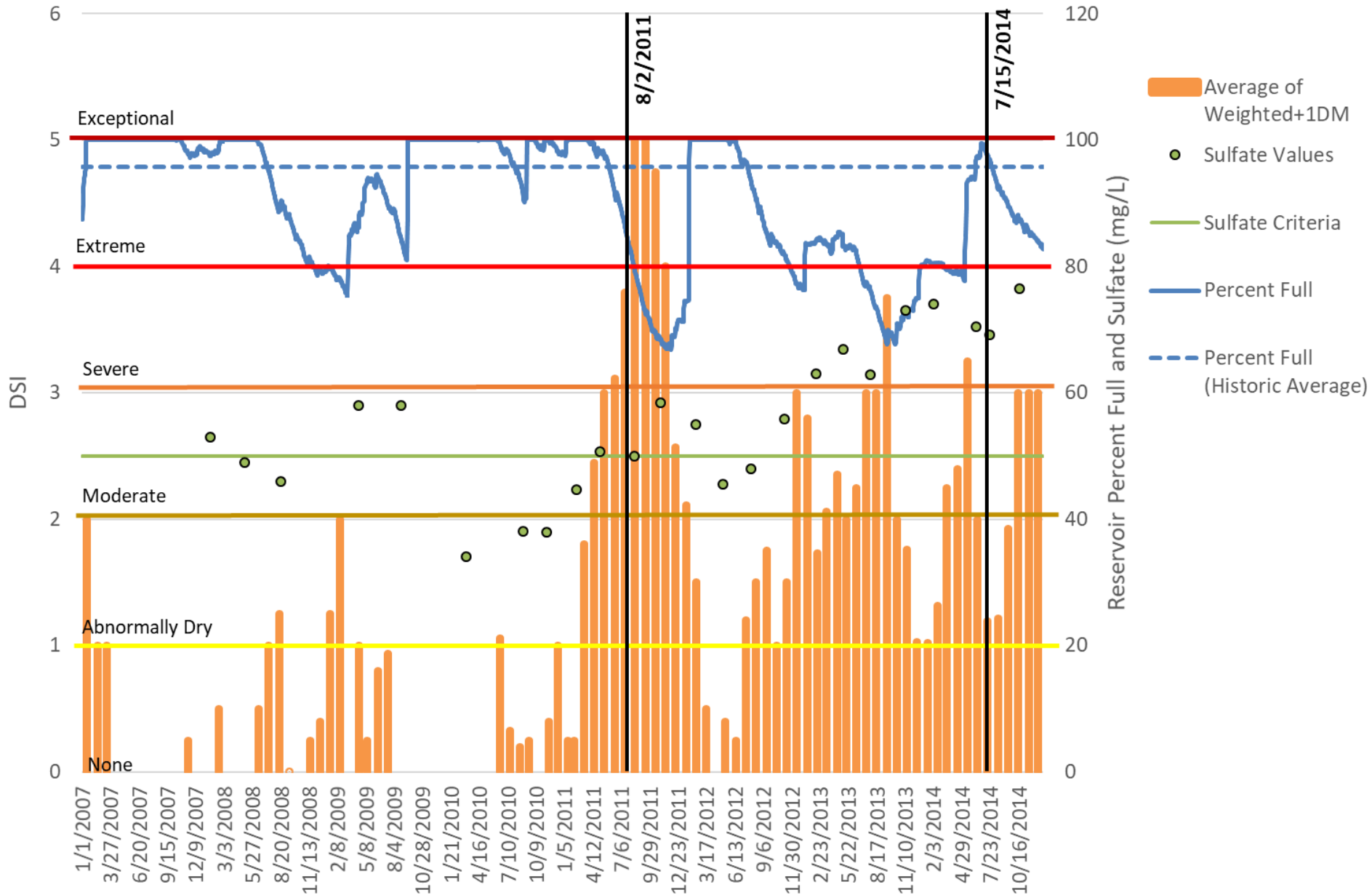
Lake Cypress Springs - 0405



Choke Canyon Reservoir - 2116



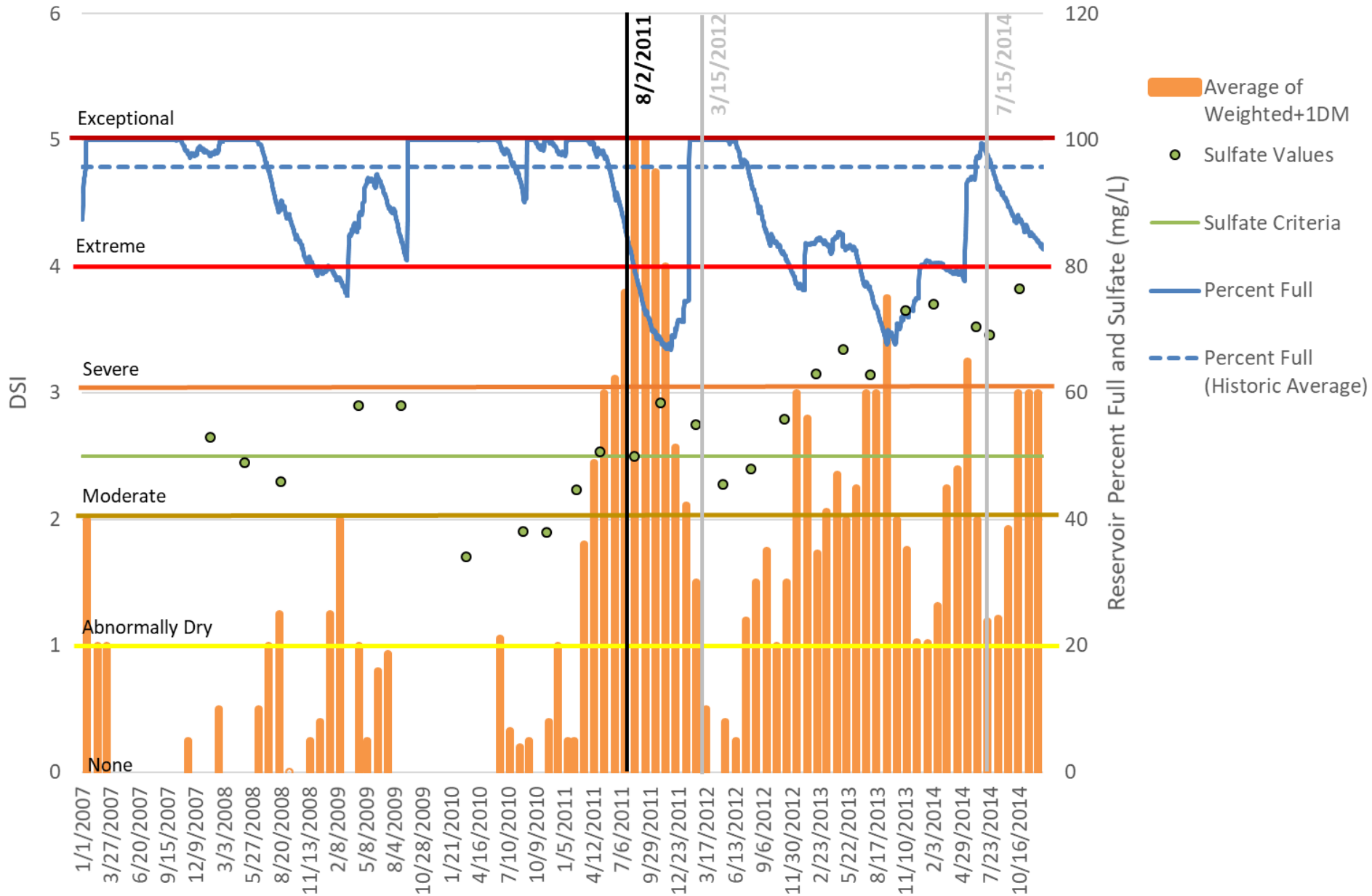
Bardwell Reservoir - 815



Drought Options: Water Quality Data

- How should we evaluate if and what water quality data should be excluded?
 - Overall data trends
 - Additional information and best professional judgement
 - Do not take water quality data into consideration
 - Other options?

Bardwell Reservoir - 815



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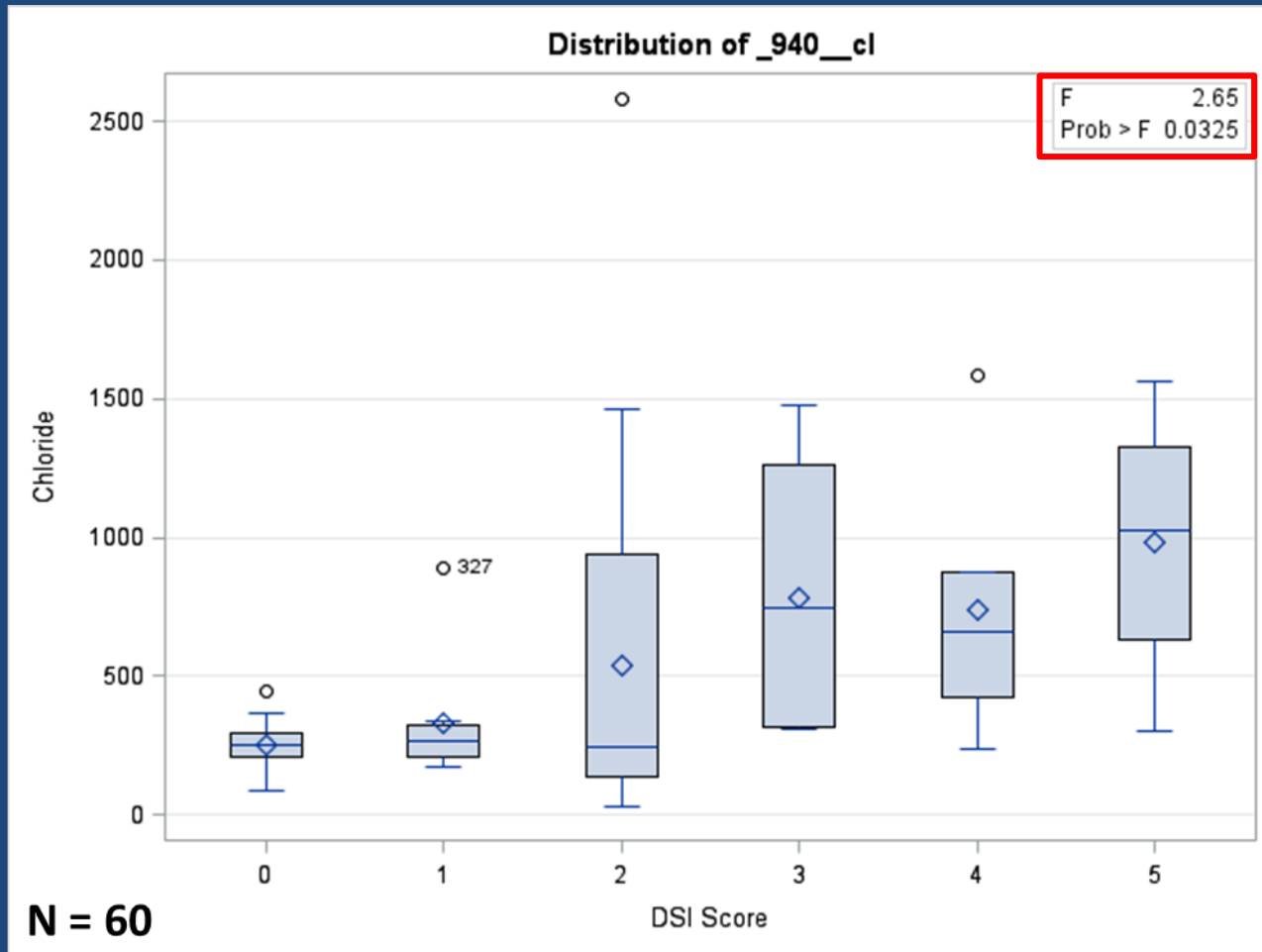
Drought in Rivers

- Small rivers and streams are already evaluated during low-flow conditions or are dry during drought conditions
- What methods should be used to evaluate drought in large rivers?
 - Statistics
 - Naturally small sample size due to monitoring schedule
 - Lower sample size when exceedances are removed
 - Values have wide range (focus is on impairments)
 - Graph visualizations
 - Flow variations

Drought in Rivers

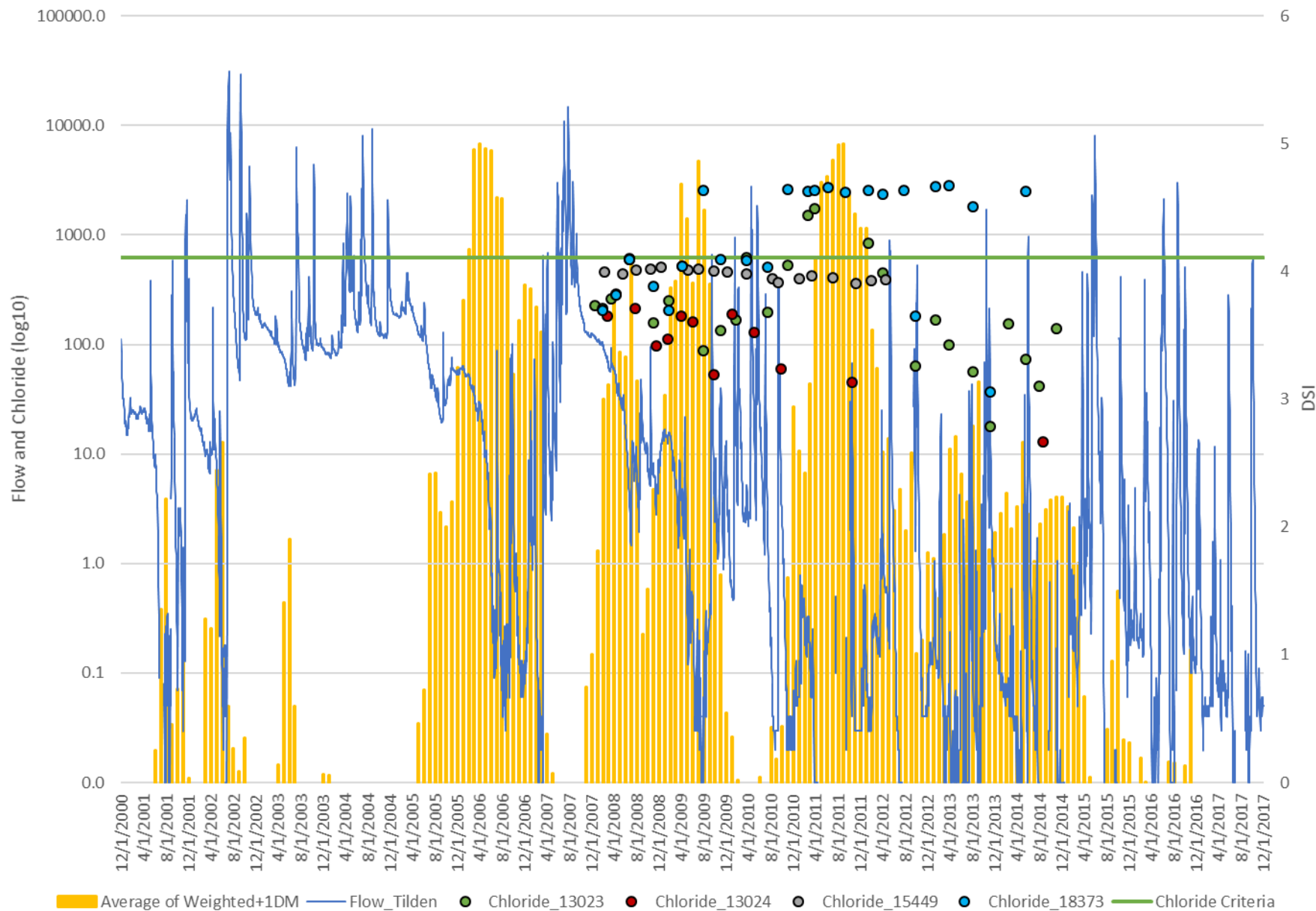
- Factors to consider
 - Water quality
 - DSI
 - Flow
 - Other parameters?
- Examples of preliminary ANOVAs and graphs for new impairments in 2016 IR

Frio River - Chloride

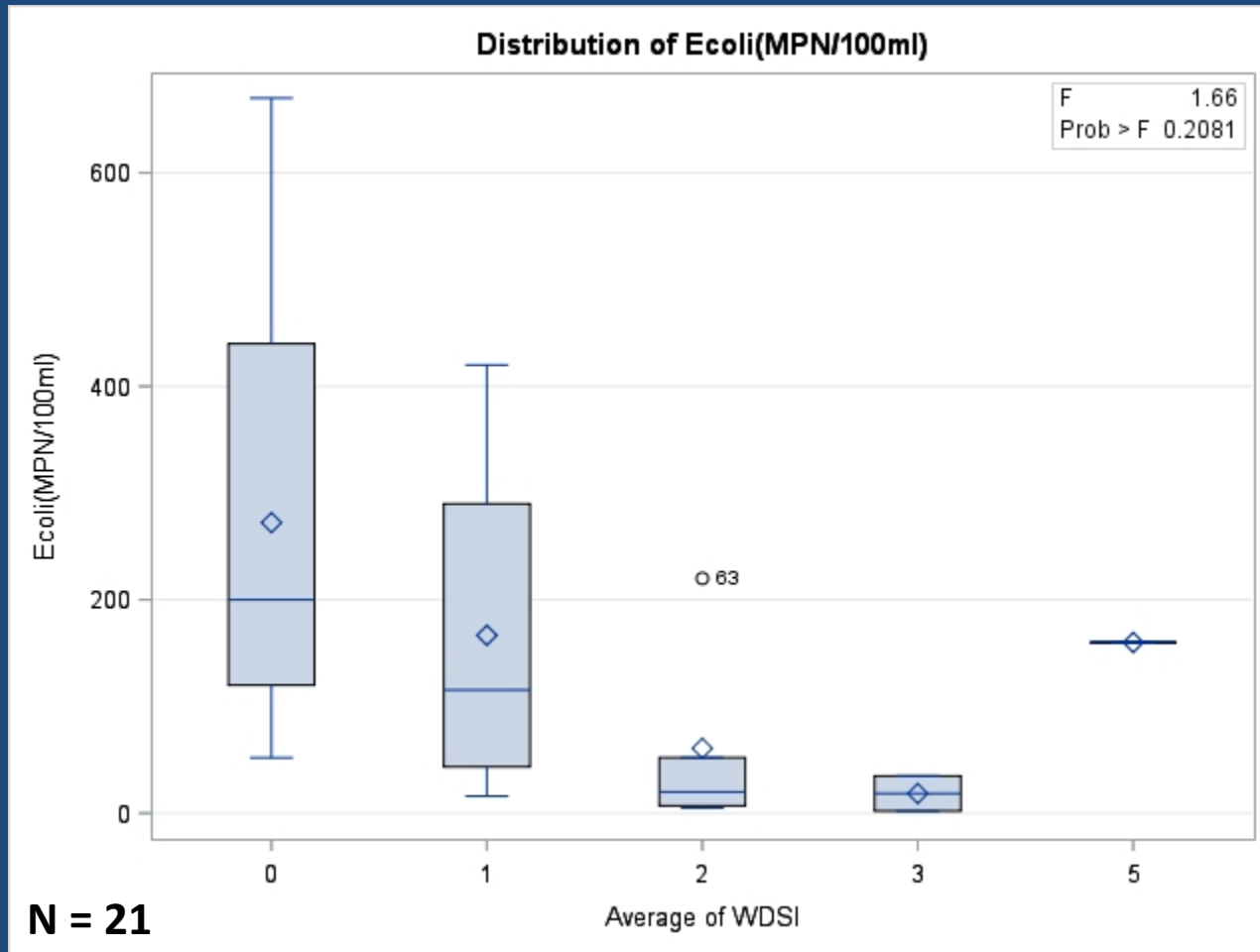


ANOVA significant; Tukey's did not show individual significance

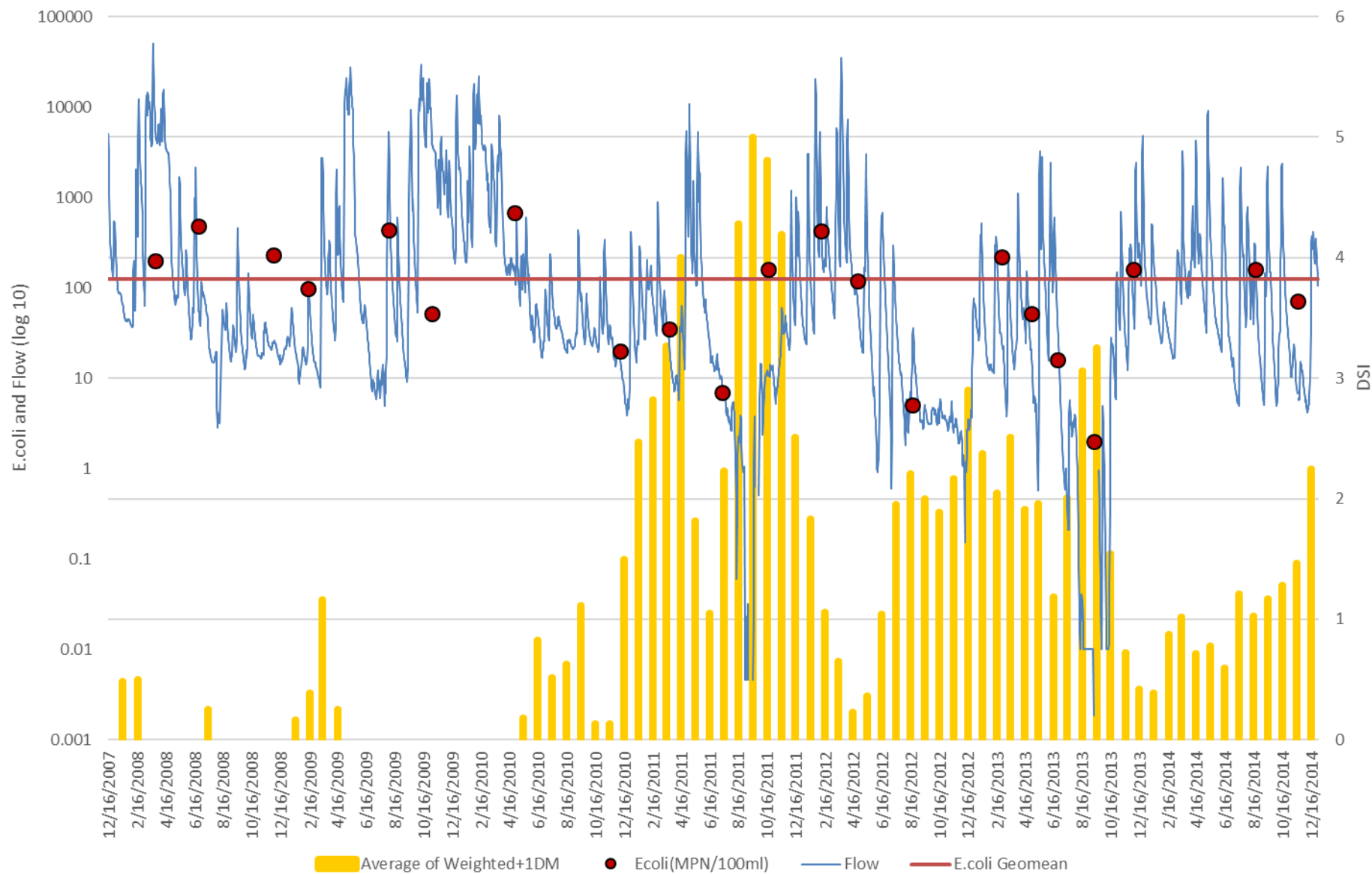
Frio River - 2017 - Chloride



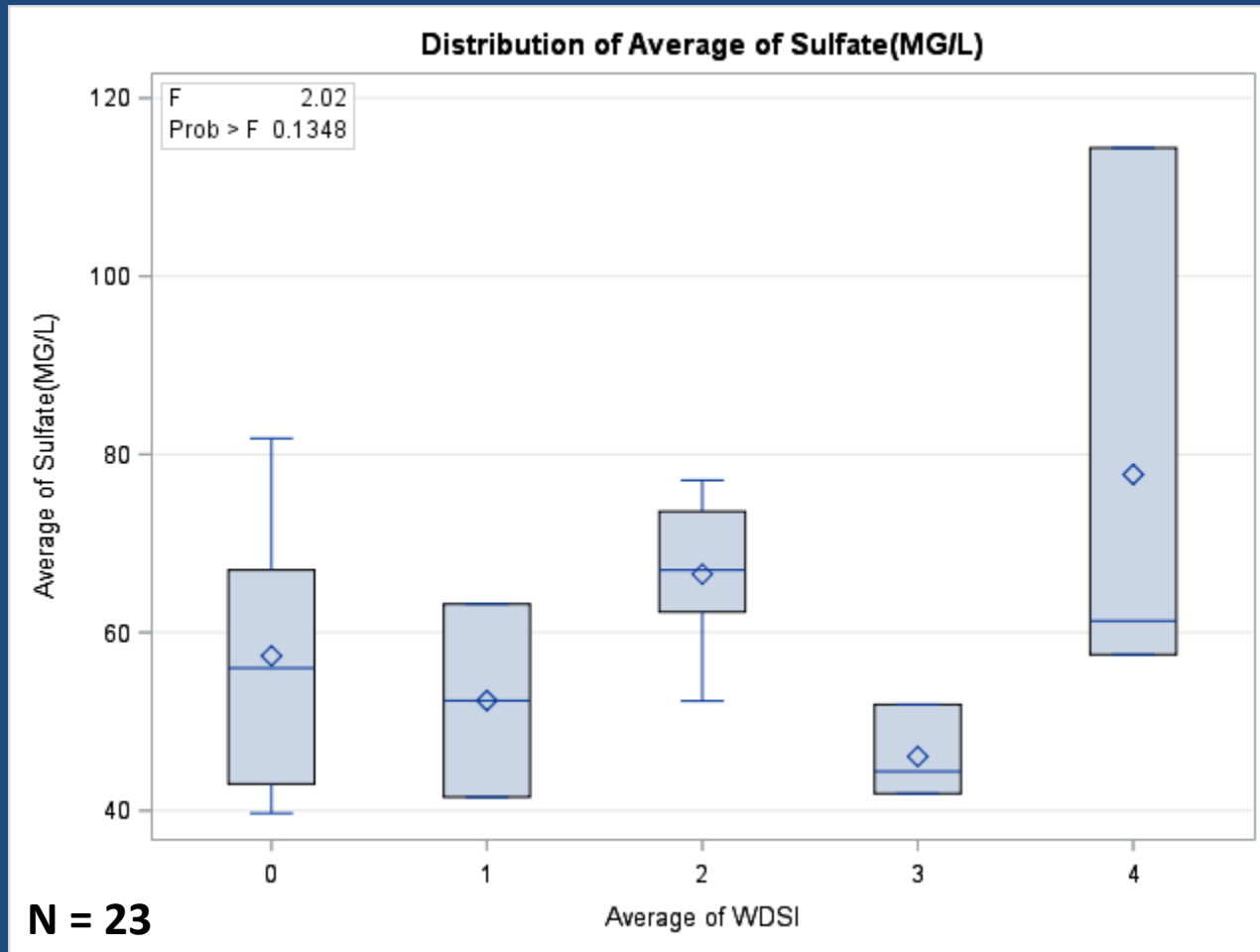
Sulphur River - Bacteria



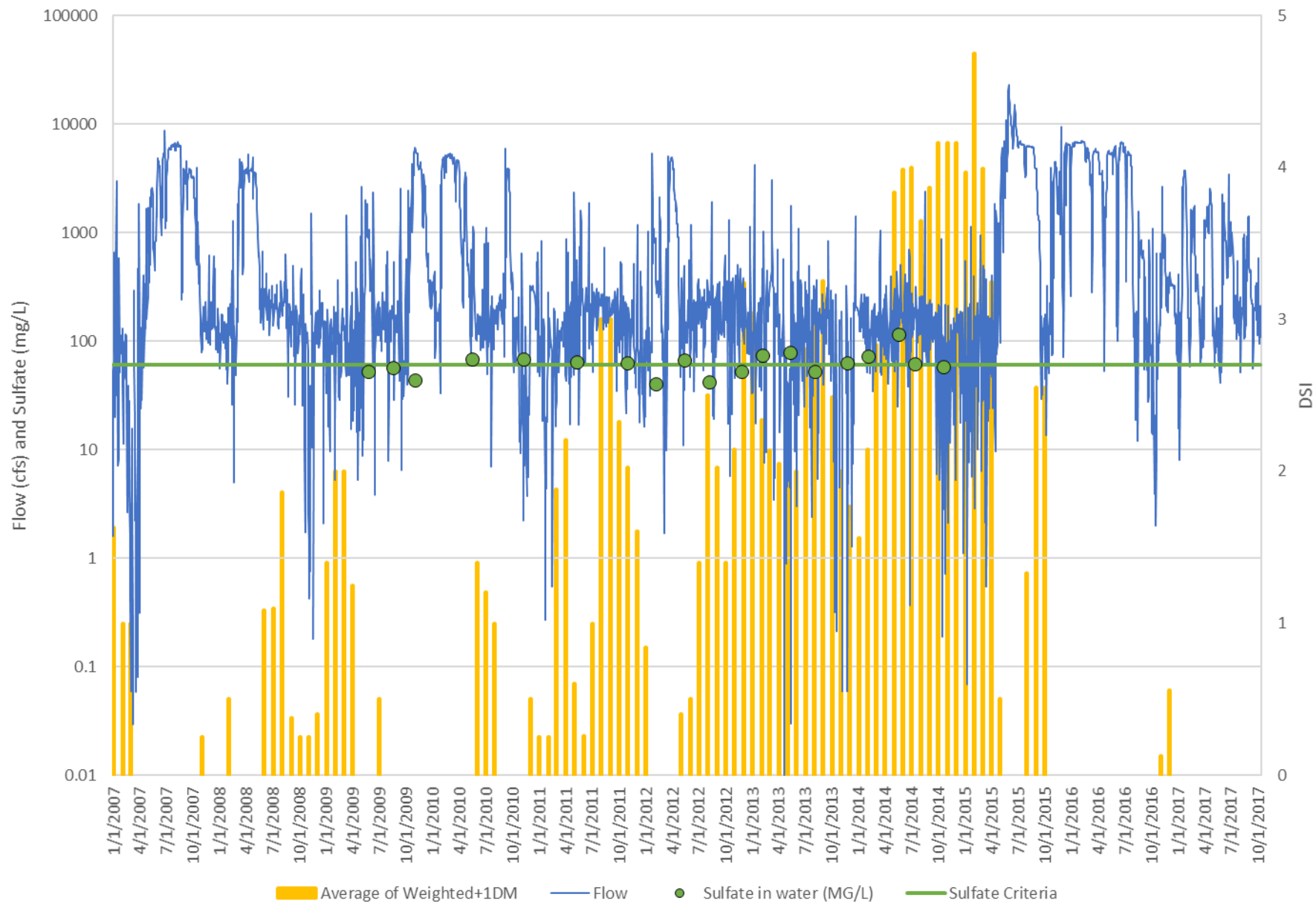
Sulphur River - 303 - Bacteria



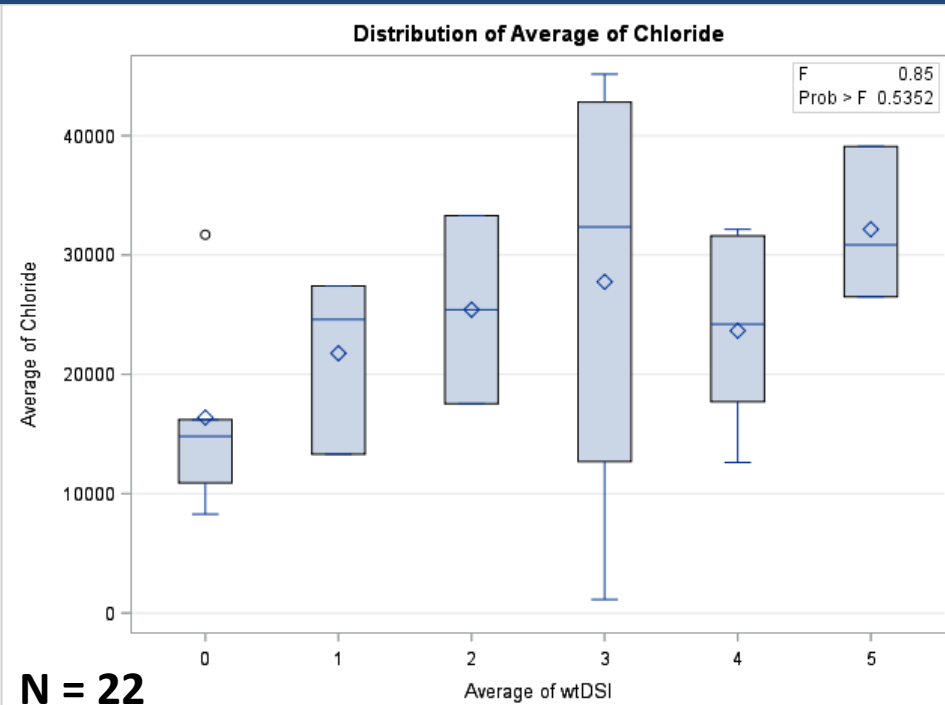
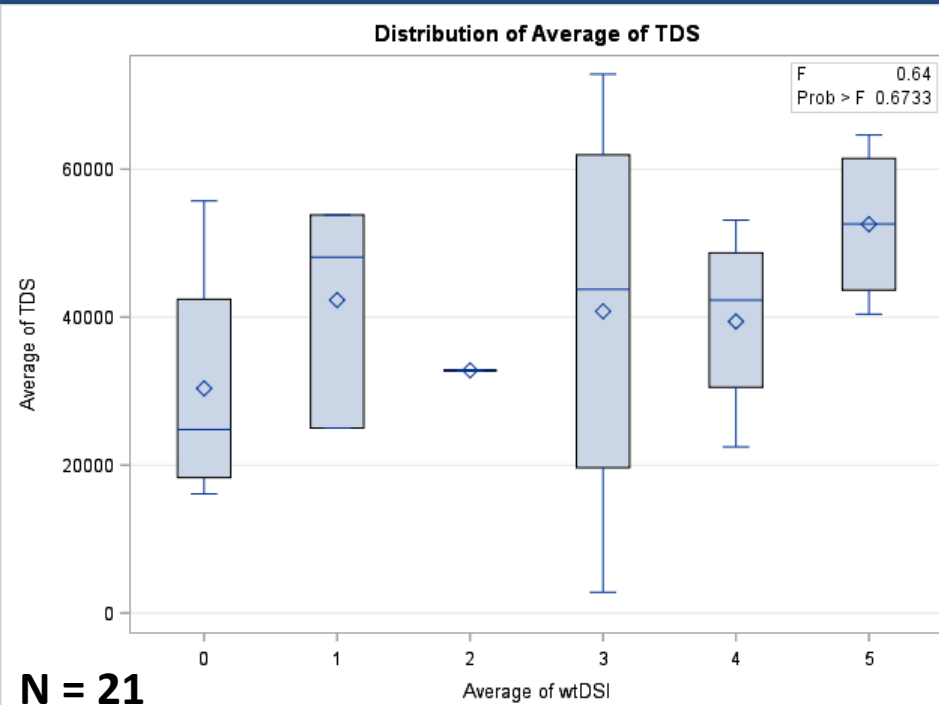
Elm Fork Trinity River - Sulfate



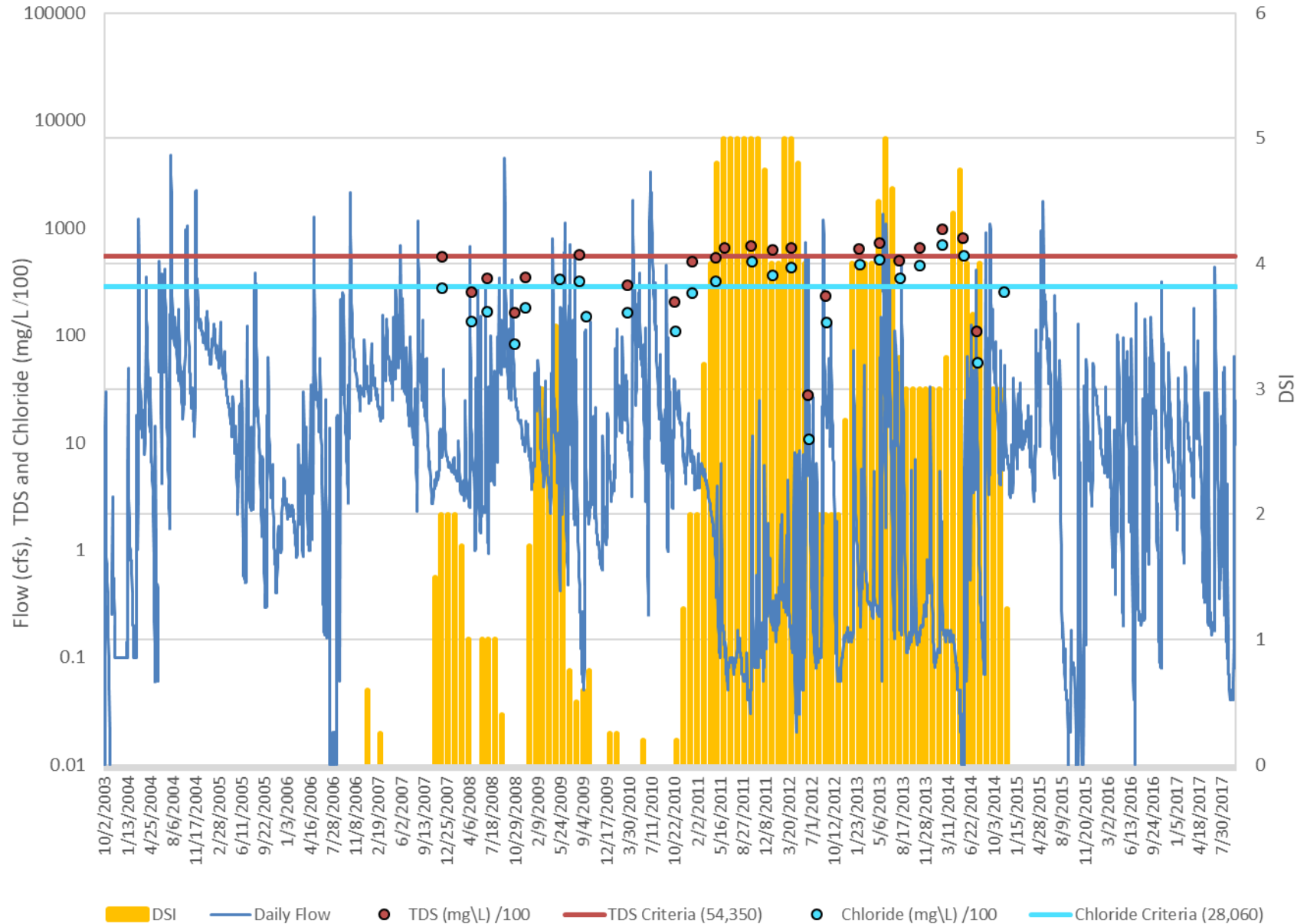
Elm Fork Trinity River - 0822 - Sulfate



Salt Fork Brazos River – TDS and Chloride



Salt Fork of the Brazos River - 1238 - TDS and Chloride



Drought in Rivers

- How should we evaluate if and what water quality data should be excluded?
 - Overall data trends
 - Additional information and best professional judgement
 - Consider gaging stations and associated flows
 - Do not take water quality data into consideration
 - Other options?

Drought Methods

- Methods continue to be developed
 - Is there a better method that we have not explored?
 - Can the same or similar method be applied to rivers as we used for reservoirs?
 - Can one method be applied to all water quality parameters for the same waterbody type?
 - Dissolved Solids
 - Bacteria
 - pH



Evaluating Drought Assessments on Water Quality

THOUGHTS
SUGGESTIONS
QUESTIONS?

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