

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Progress On Use of Paleo-Conditioned Streamflow Data On Gunnison River Basin For Aspinall EIS

Christopher Cutler
Salt Lake City, Utah Regional Office



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Colorado River Basin



Upper Colorado River Basin
Lower Colorado River Basin

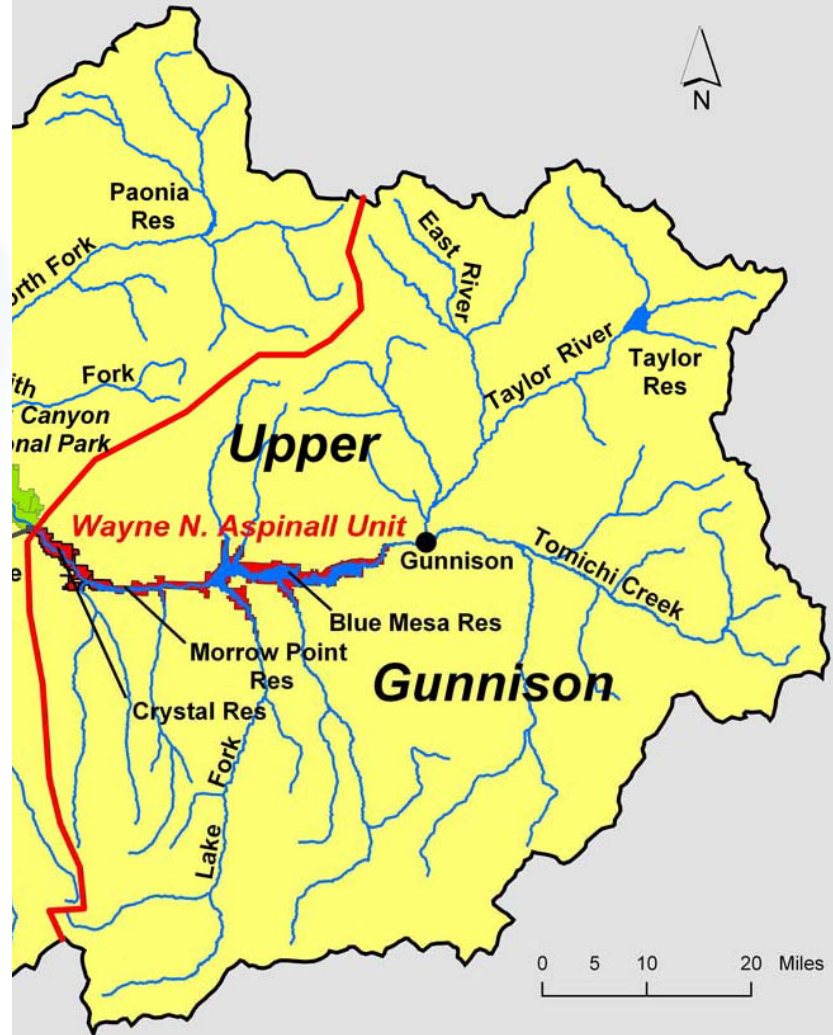


Figure 1. Gunnison River Basin

RECLAMATION

Tree Ring Data Related Developments

- **June '05**
 - Hydrologic Period of Record
 - Tree Ring Data Discussed
 - Single trace / index sequential / stochastic analysis
 - Depletions – staged or up-front
- **September '05**
 - Committed to iterative trace analysis (at a min)
- **December '05**
 - Began statistical analysis of unique periods of record including proxy data 1569 to 1997
- **February '06**
 - Dr Rajagopalan and Dr Ray presented preliminary plan for implementing tree-ring data

Tree Ring Data Developments, continued

- **April '06**
 - Developed Forecasting Algorithm for any given hydrology
 - Solved leap-year problem (daily model issues)
 - Decided to use natural flow data (StateMod -> RiverWare)
 - Settled on '37-'97, with paleo-conditioned data in appendix
- **August '06**
 - Continued debate on period of record (!)
 - Jim Prairie presented single trace/ISM/stochastic comparison, and techniques for handling data and interpreting results

Paleo Problems...

- Large extremes are outside scope of study
- Annual volumes applied, but seasonal variability is needed (fixed with transition sequencing)
- May not capture magnitudes of events
- Temporal (year-year) transitions problematic
- Spatial distributions problematic
- “This must be voodoo!” :)

Hist
(1906-2001)



WGM1
(1536-1997)



WGM2
(1536-1997)



SRP
(1520-1964)



Hidalgo
(1520-1962)



Stockton1
(1520-1961)



Stockton2
(1520-1961)



Udall, 2005

RECLAMATION

Paleo Game Plan 1/2

1) Stochastic Historic Flow Sequences

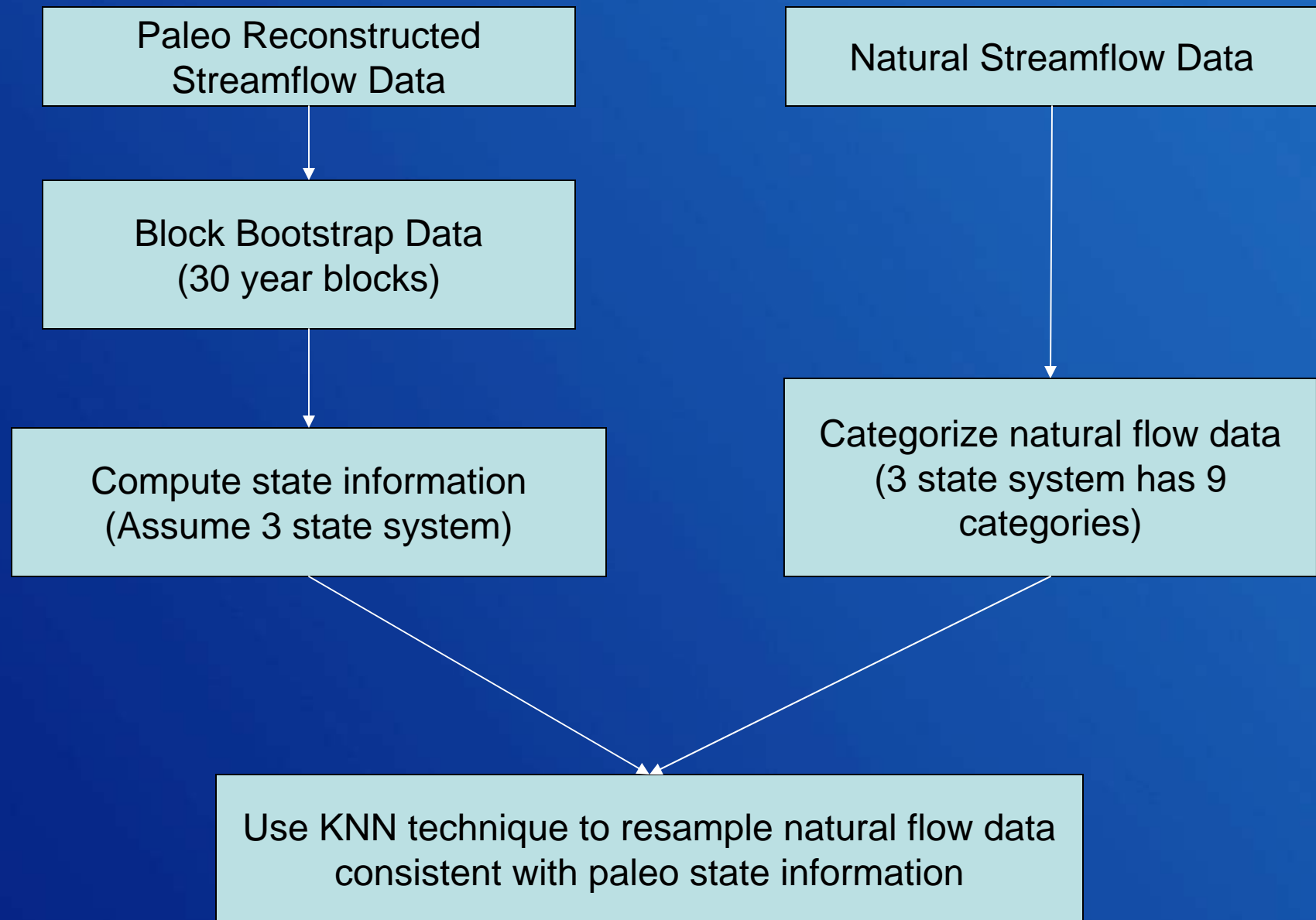
- a) Generation of annual flow sequences using KNN
- b) Historic data: 1937-1997 (flow recs)
- c) Compare results to ISM

2) Statistical Support

- a) Compute suite of statistics
 - i. Wet and dry period stats
 - ii. Run lengths of droughts and floods
 - iii. Monthly flow properties
- b) Compare with results from historic data

Paleo Game Plan 2/2

- **Baseline Risk Assessment**
 - **Develop a sequent-peak algorithm**
 - Storage required for given yield over various drought deficits
 - Assess system risk (reliability)
 - Provides storage required for various levels of firm yield
- **Transition Sequencing of Prehistoric Data**
 - **Using paleo reconstruction from Woodhouse et al. 2006:**
 - Simple block bootstrap of paleo data
 - Determine the state of the system for paleo data
 - For each year use a KNN method to resample the observed data to conditionally generate the flow magnitudes that are consistent with the generated “state” of the (paleo) system



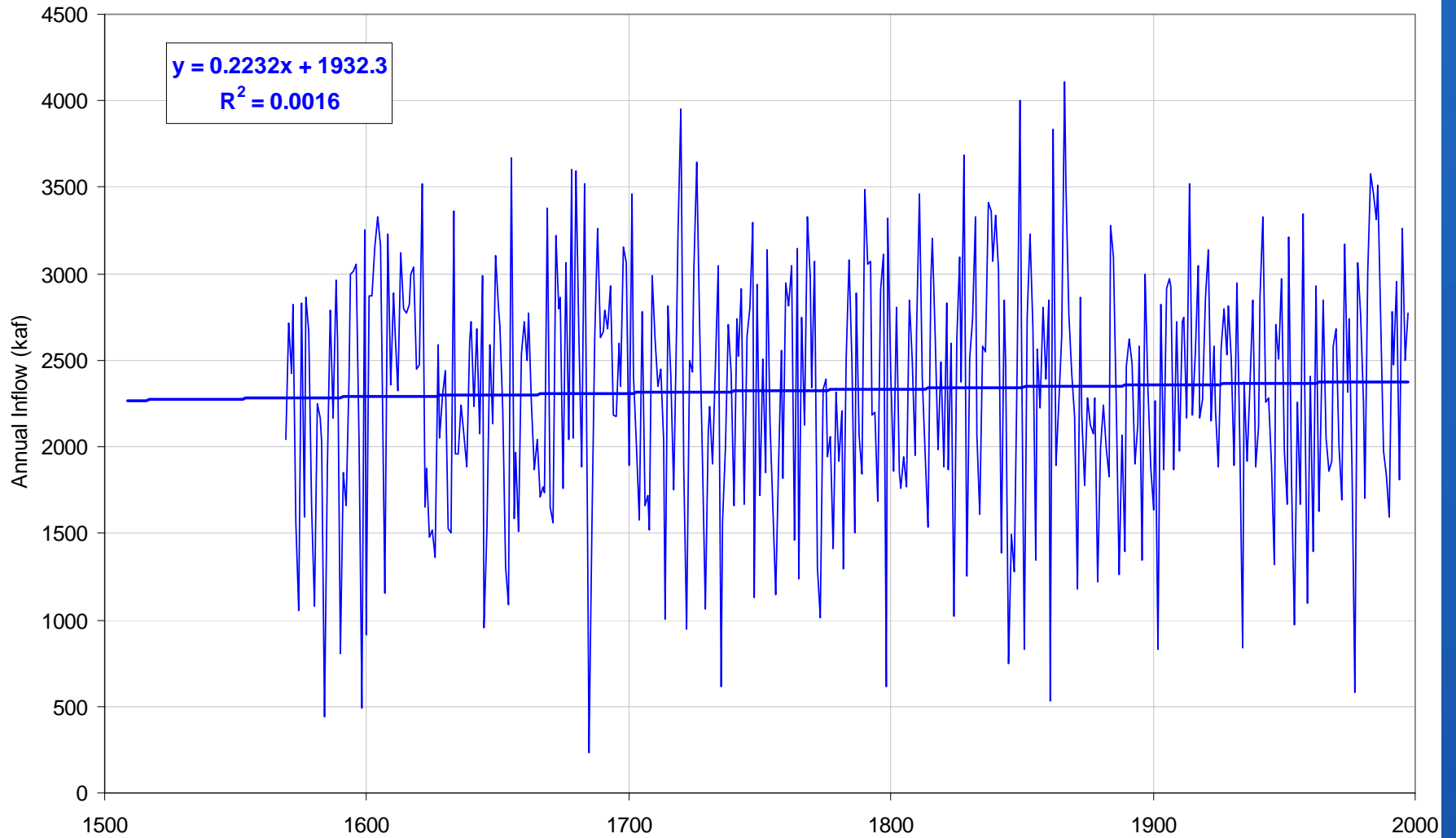
Periods under Consideration

- **1569-1997** Proxy Data Obtained From Recent Dendrochronology (Woodhouse, 2006)
- **1906-1916** Regressed Monthly Gauge Data
- **1917-1936** Recorded Monthly Gauge Data
- **1937-1997** USFWS Flow Recommendations
- **1937-2004** Updated Flow Recs
- **1975-2004** Daily Gauged Data Record

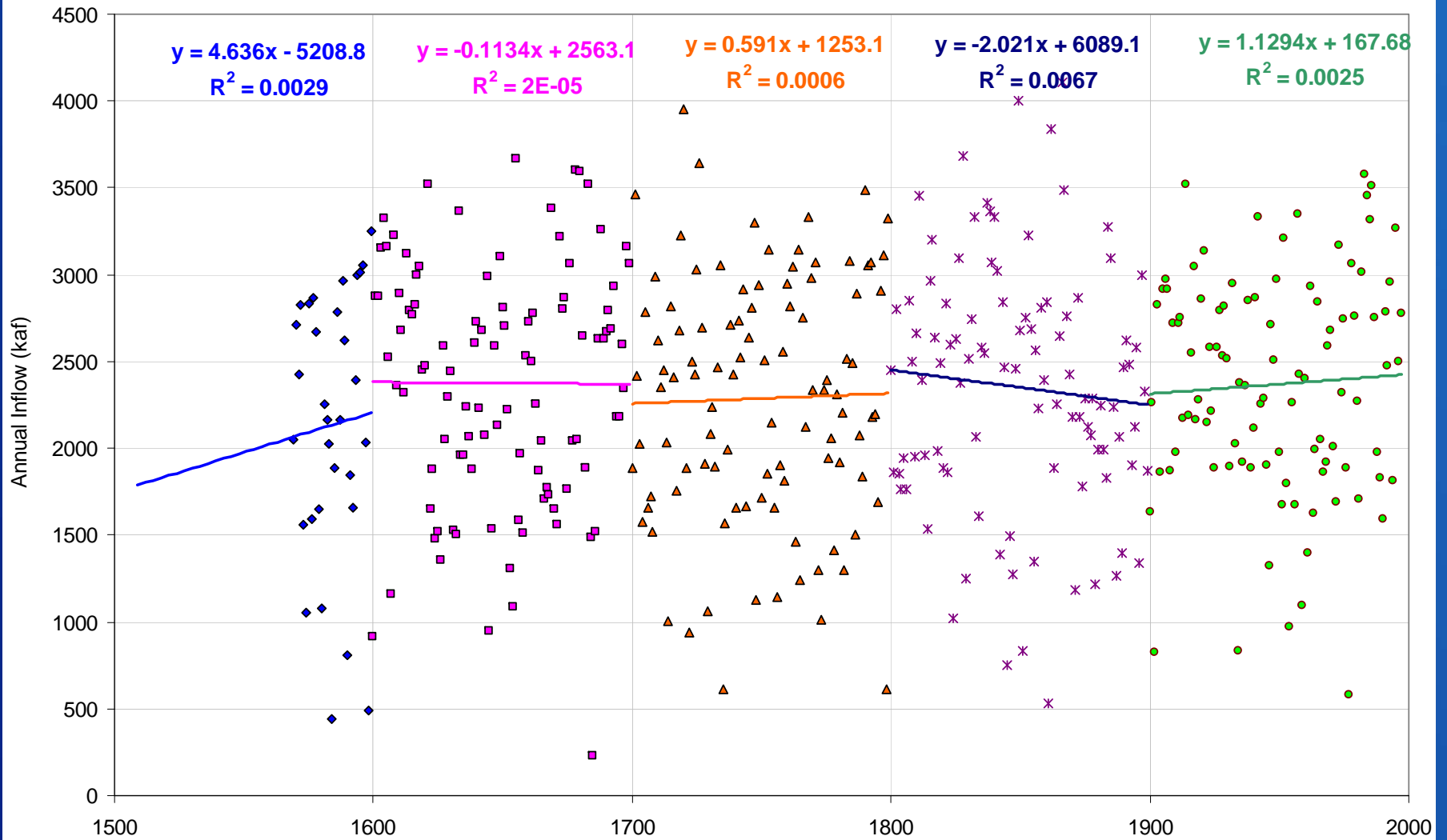
Comparison of basic statistics on Annual Flow Volumes

Period	Mean	Median	Count
• 1569-1997	2,330	2,393	429
• 1906-1916	2,630	2,809	11
• 1917-1936	2,501	2,454	20
• 1937-1997	2,319	2,269	61
• 1937-2004	2,247	2,192	68
• 1975-2004	2,313	2,276	30

Trend Comparison: Tree Ring Record 1569-1997

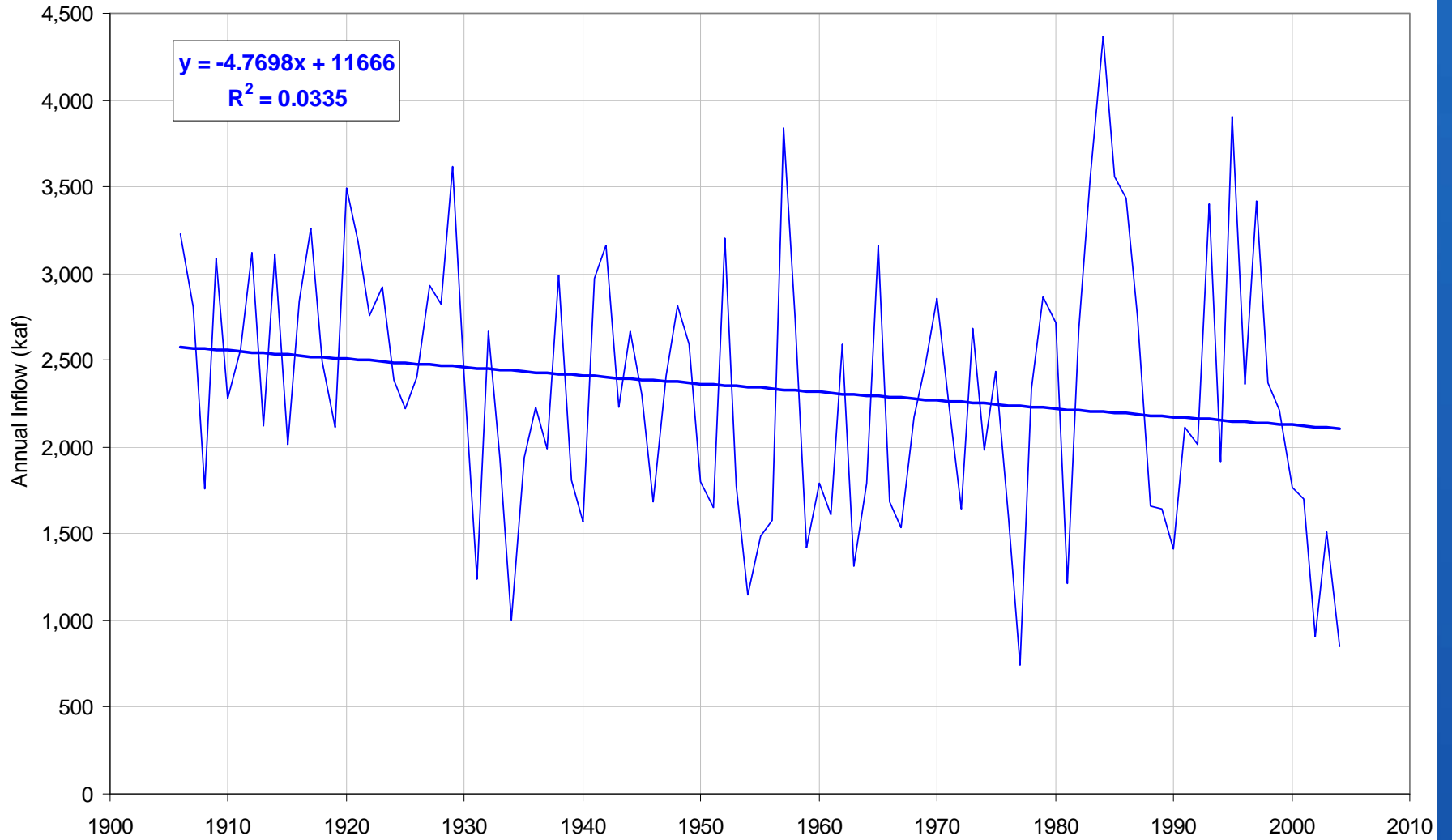


Trend Comparison: Tree Ring Record by Century



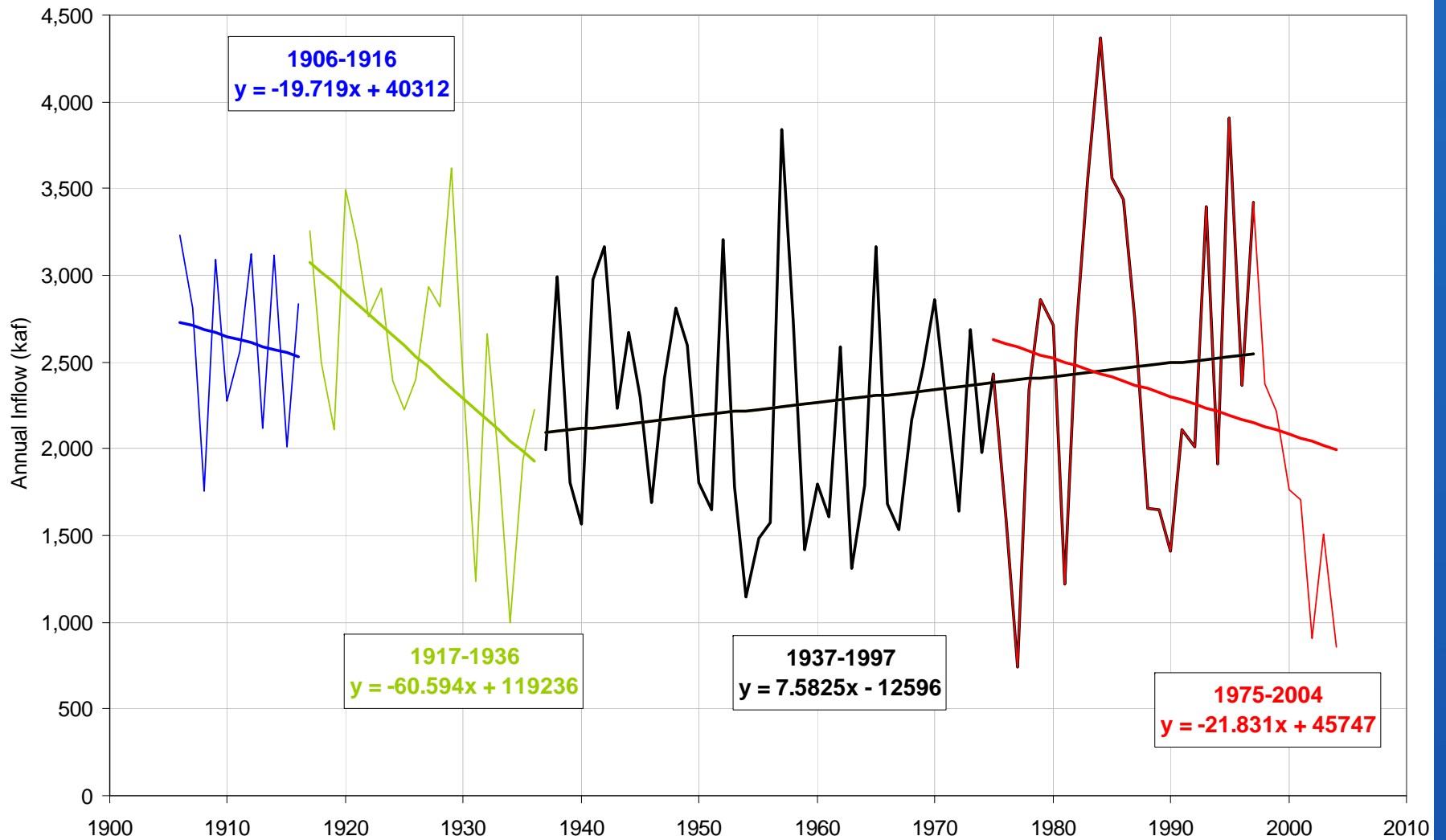
RECLAMATION

Trend Comparison: Natural Flow 1906-2004



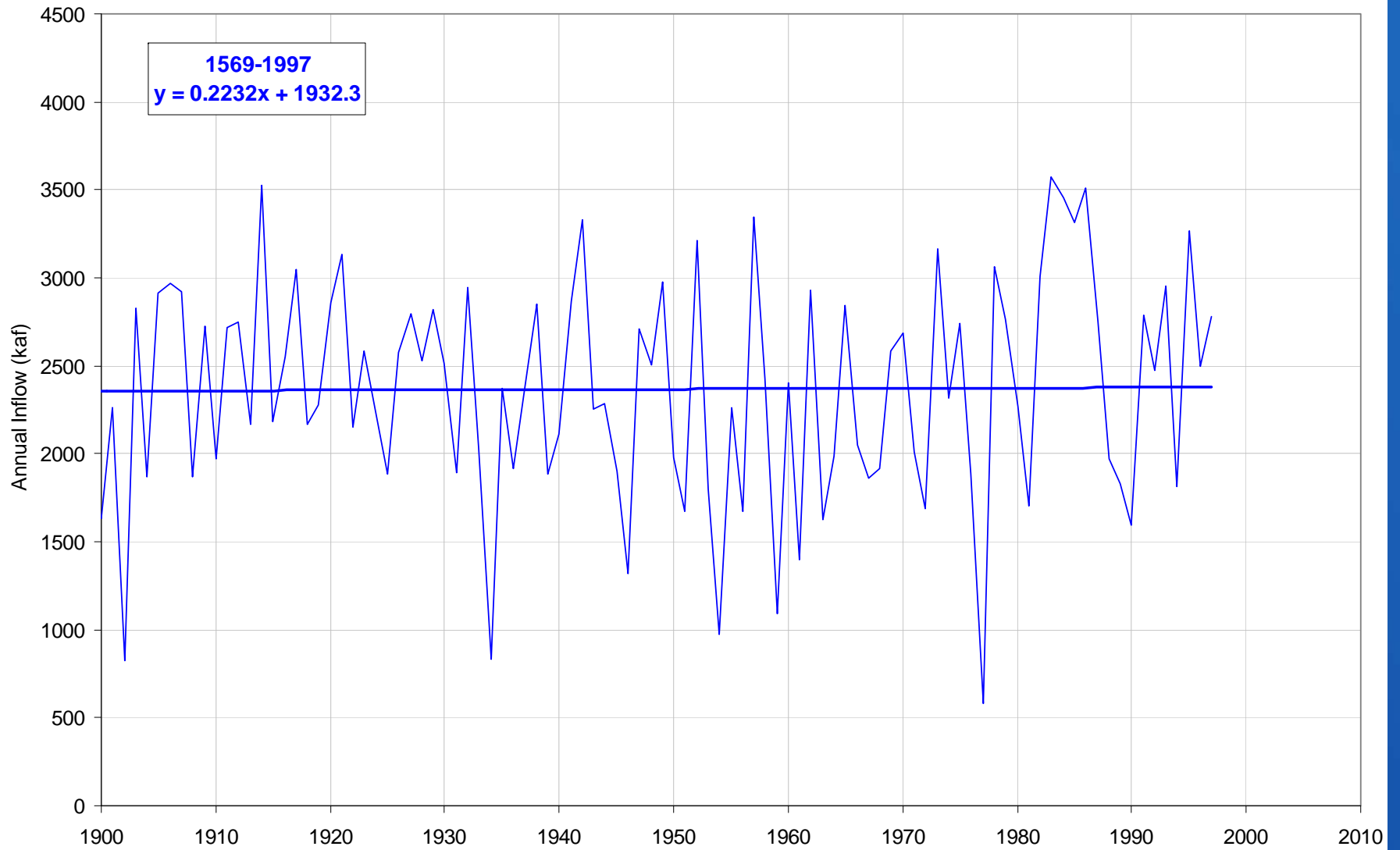
RECLAMATION

Trend Comparison: Natural Flow 1906-2004



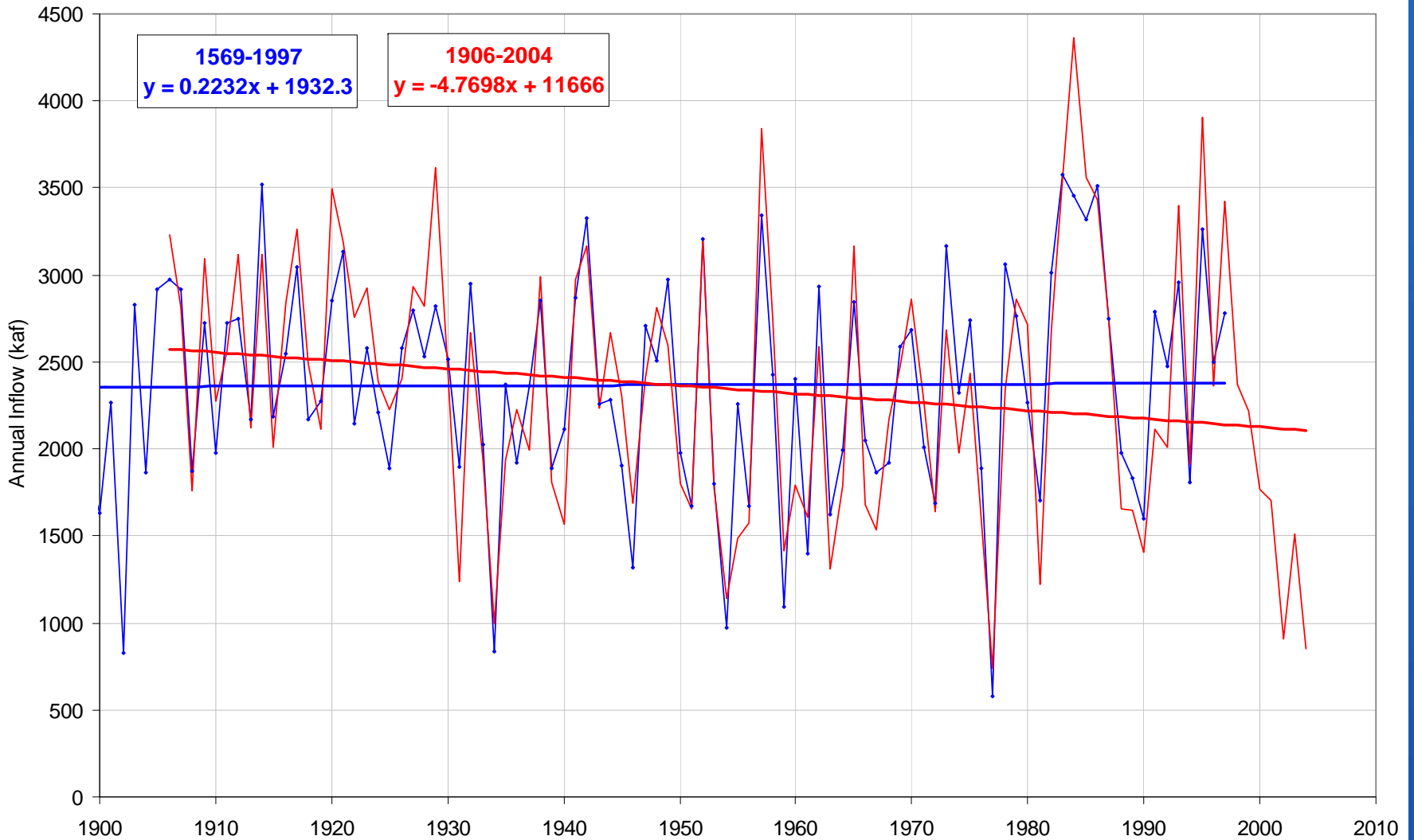
RECLAMATION

Trend Comparison: Tree Ring Record 1569-1997



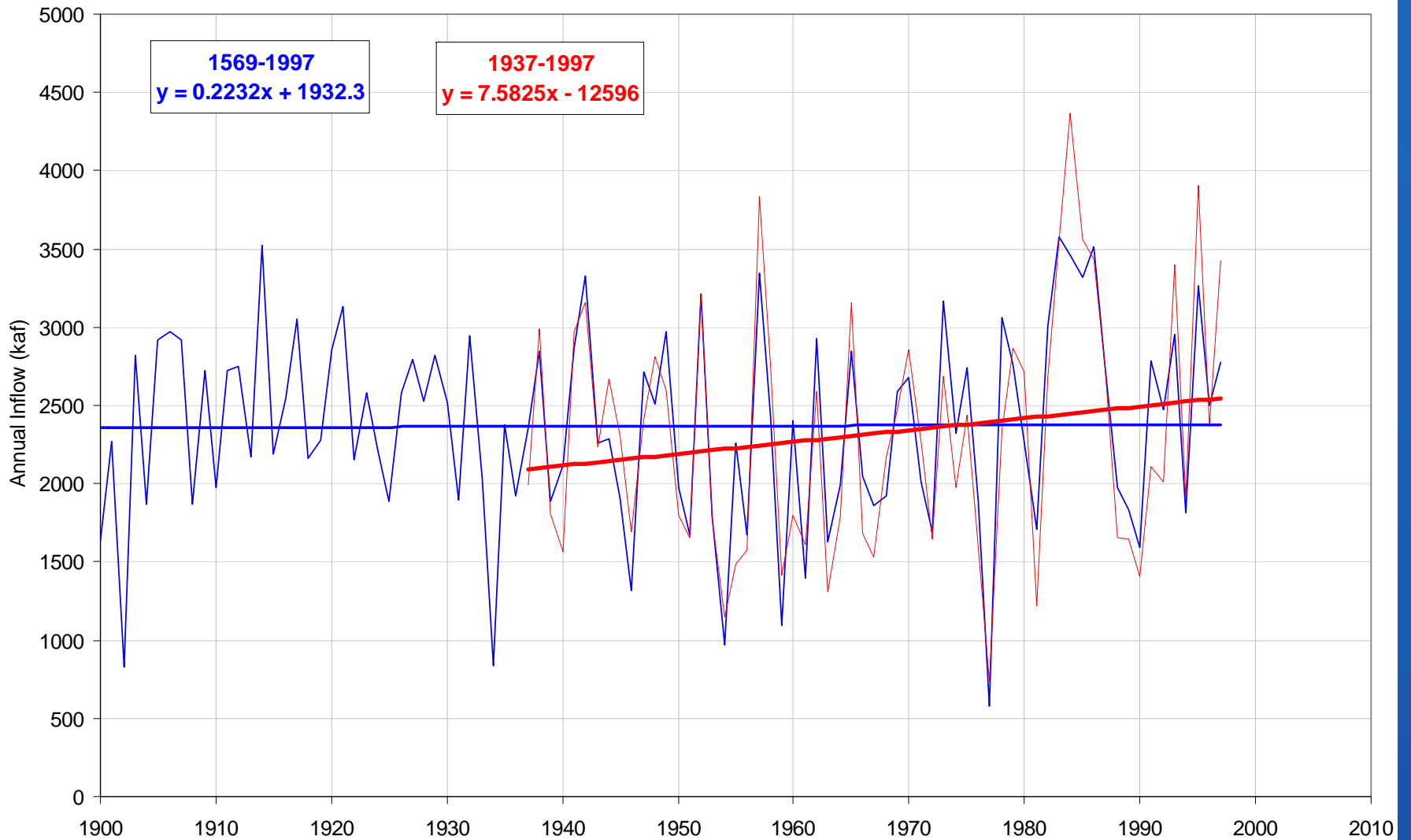
RECLAMATION

**Trend Comparison:
Tree Ring Record 1569-1997 and 1906-2004 Natural Flow Data**



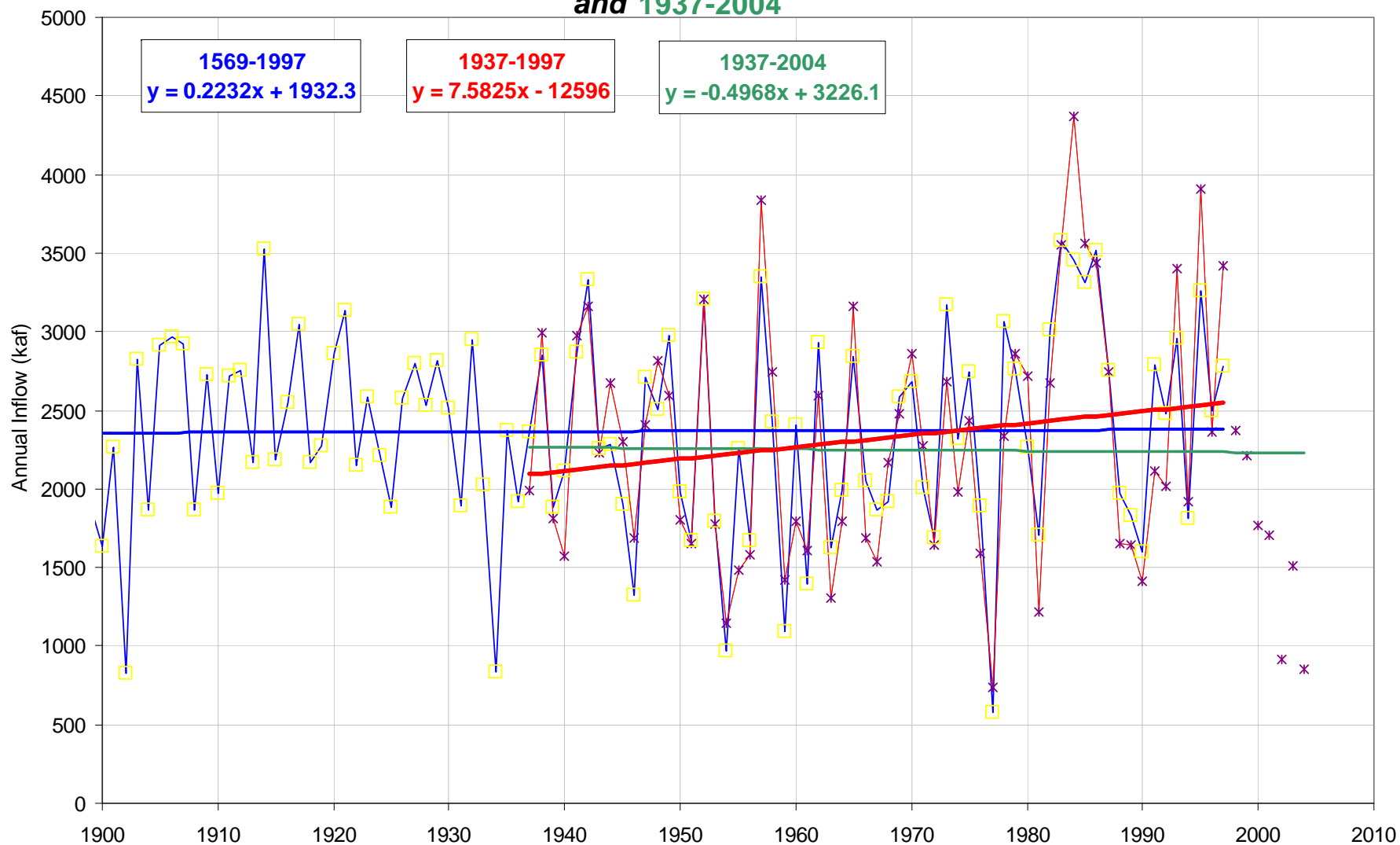
RECLAMATION

Trend Comparison: Tree Ring Record 1569-1997 and 1937-1997



RECLAMATION

Trend Comparison:
Tree Ring Record 1569-1997 and 1937-1997
and 1937-2004



RECLAMATION