

Hydrological forecasts through ensemble modeling in the Andes Cordillera



James McPhee, Pablo Mendoza, Diego Hernández, Francisco Jara, María Ignacia Orell

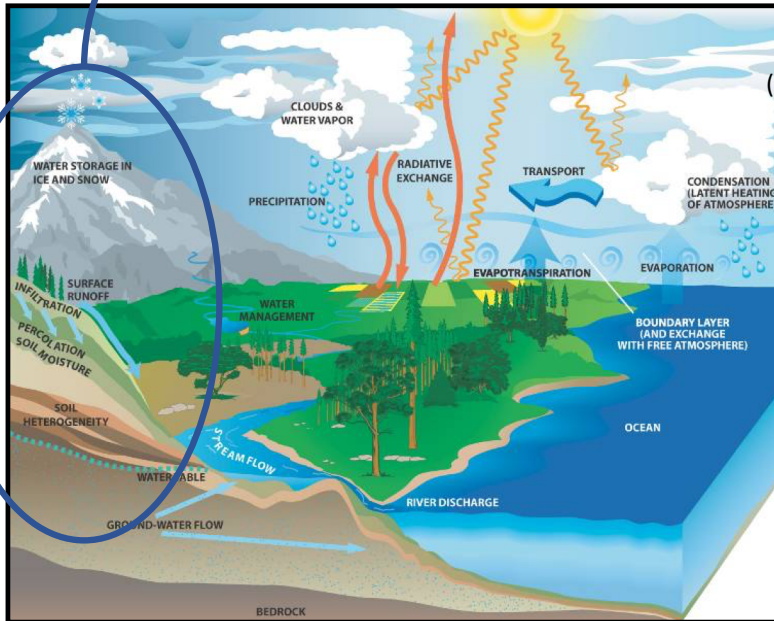
Universidad de Chile



Motivation

Opportunities for prediction

hydrological predictability
(land)



Water Cycle (from NASA)

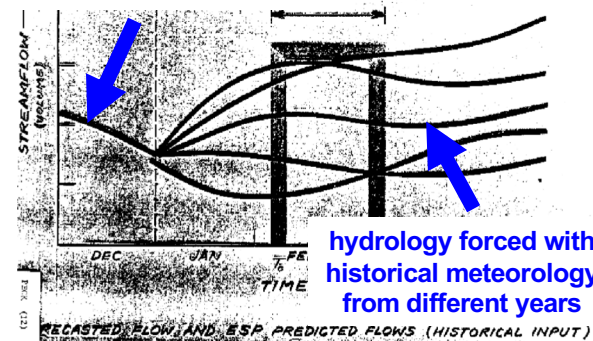


Source: NRCS

April-July volume Weber @ Oakley =
 $+ 3.50 * \text{Apr 1st Smith \& Morehouse}$
 (SMMU1) SWE
 How well can we estimate
 $+ 1.66 * \text{Apr 1st Trial Lake (TRLU1) SWE}$
 $+ 2.40 * \text{Apr 1st Chalk Creek \#1 (CHCU1) SWE}$

Statistical with *in situ* observations

Hydrology model forced
with recent meteorological
observations

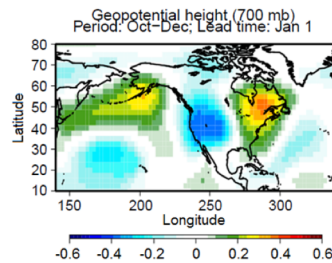


hydrology forced with
historical meteorology
from different years

Dynamical (ESP)

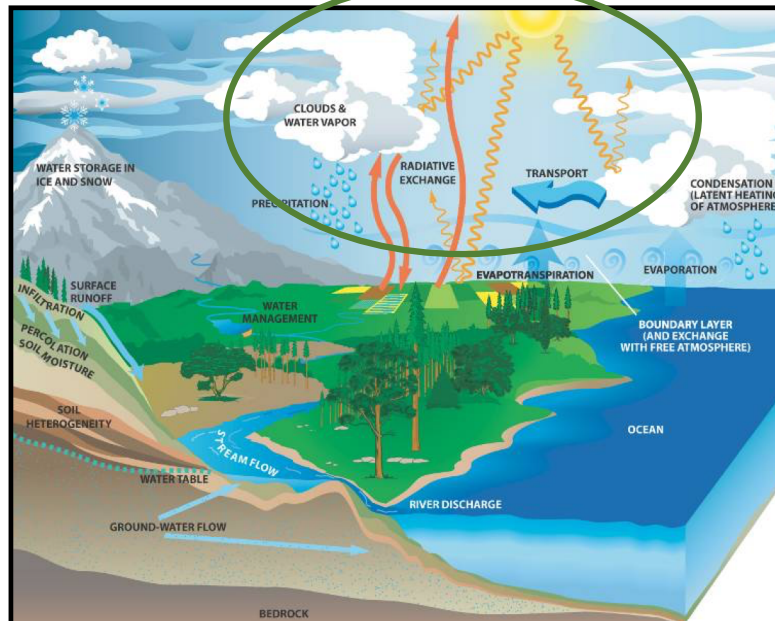
Motivation

Opportunities for prediction



Reanalysis data

*meteorological predictability
(climate)*



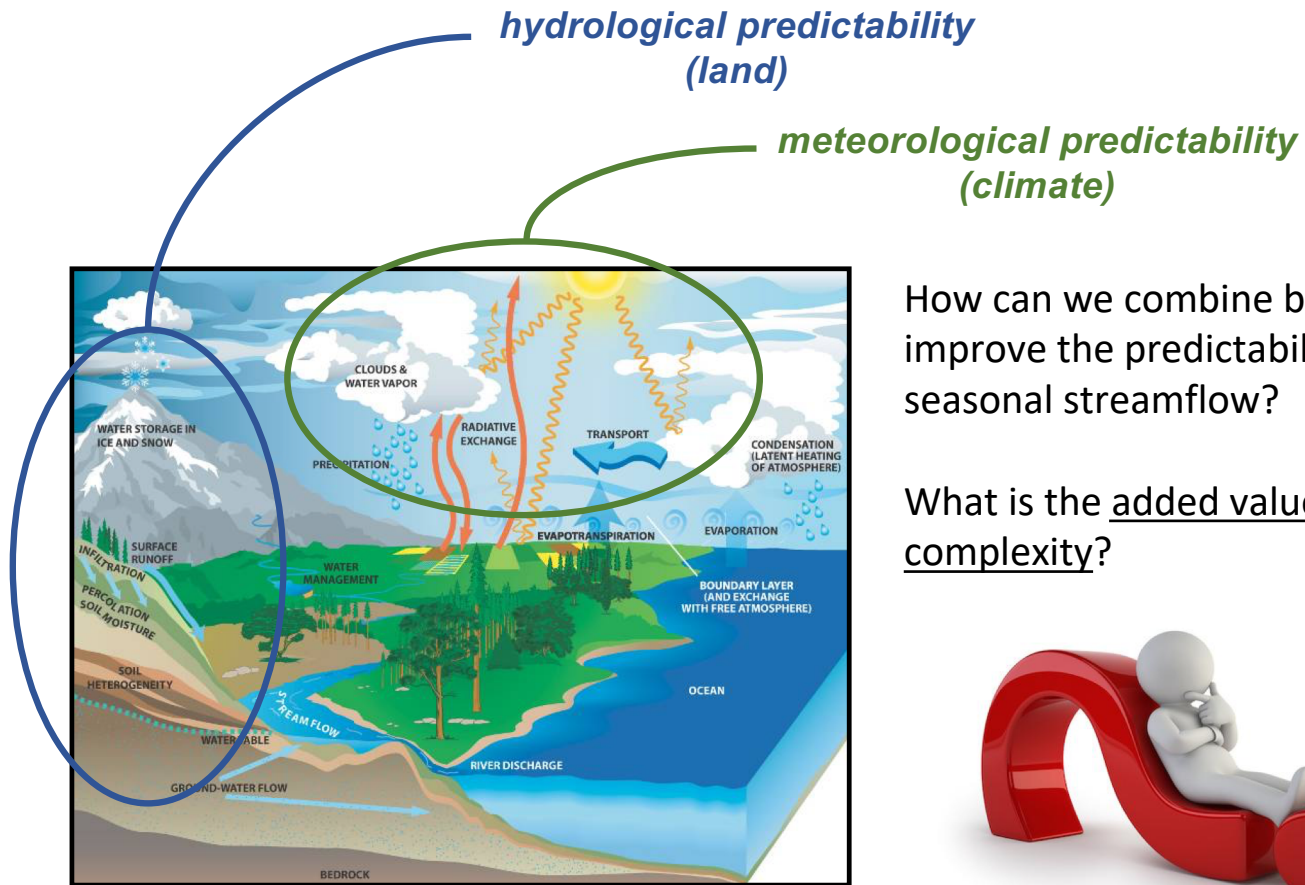
Water Cycle (from NASA)

Climate indices

Index	Pattern
Nino 3.4	East Central Tropical Pacific SST
Nino 1+2	Extreme Eastern Tropical Pacific SST
Nino 3	Eastern Tropical Pacific SST
Nino 4	Central Tropical Pacific SST
AMO	Atlantic Multidecadal Oscillation
NAO	North Atlantic Oscillation
PDO	Pacific Decadal Oscillation
PNA	Pacific North American Index
SOI	Southern Oscillation Index
MEI	Multivariate ENSO index
WP	Western Pacific Index
TNA	Tropical Northern Atlantic Index

Motivation

Opportunities for prediction



How can we combine both to improve the predictability of seasonal streamflow?

What is the added value of complexity?



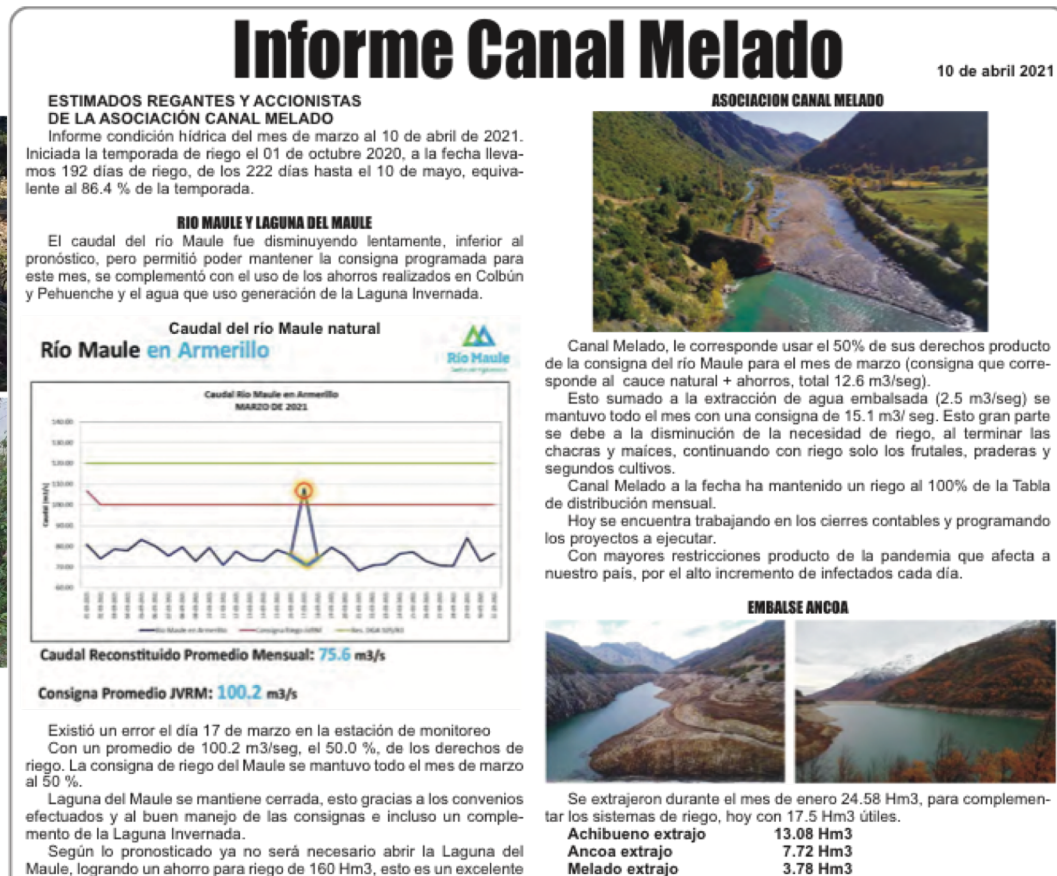
Water resources in Central Chile

- **Andes Cordillera**: largest natural water reservoir.
- Rivers flowing from the Andes are the **main source for water supply**.
- Water resources in this region are highly vulnerable to projected increases in temperature and decrease in precipitation.
- Drought conditions over the last 11 years.
- **Key challenge**: hydrometeorological monitoring network is quite sparse.

La Paloma reservoir, march 2015



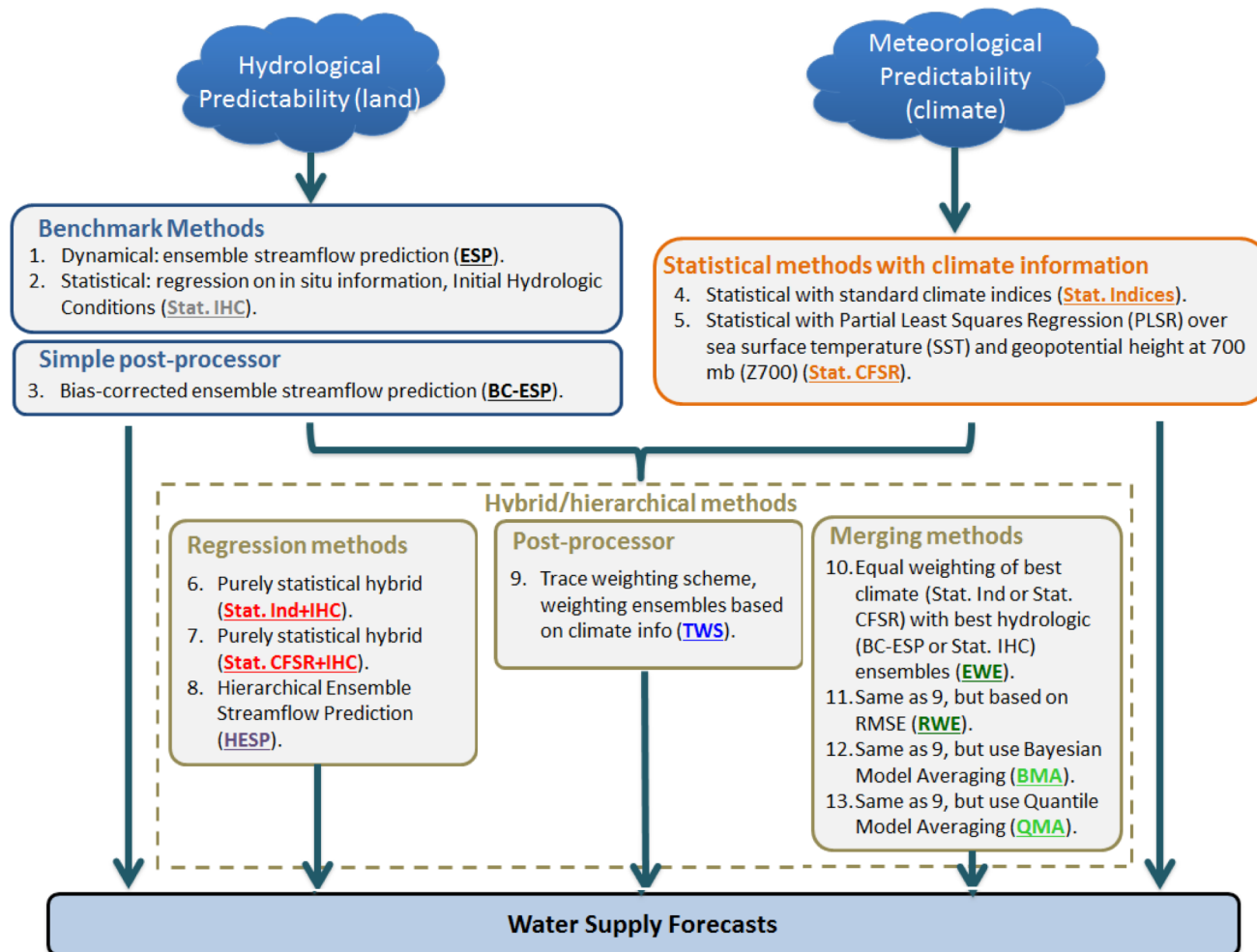
Seasonal hydrological forecasts are required for appropriate water management



Water allocation relative to existing water rights

Reservoir operations for hydropower and irrigation

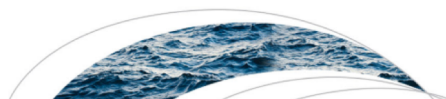
Sources of predictability



Mendoza et al. 2017 (HESS)

Sources of predictability

We build on previous experience testing ensemble forecasting systems in Andean watersheds



Water Resources Research

RESEARCH ARTICLE

10.1002/2014WR015426

Key Points:

- Multimodel ensemble forecasting systems involve several methodological choices
- A robust framework for decision-making is provided
- The utility of this approach is demonstrated for seasonal streamflow forecasts

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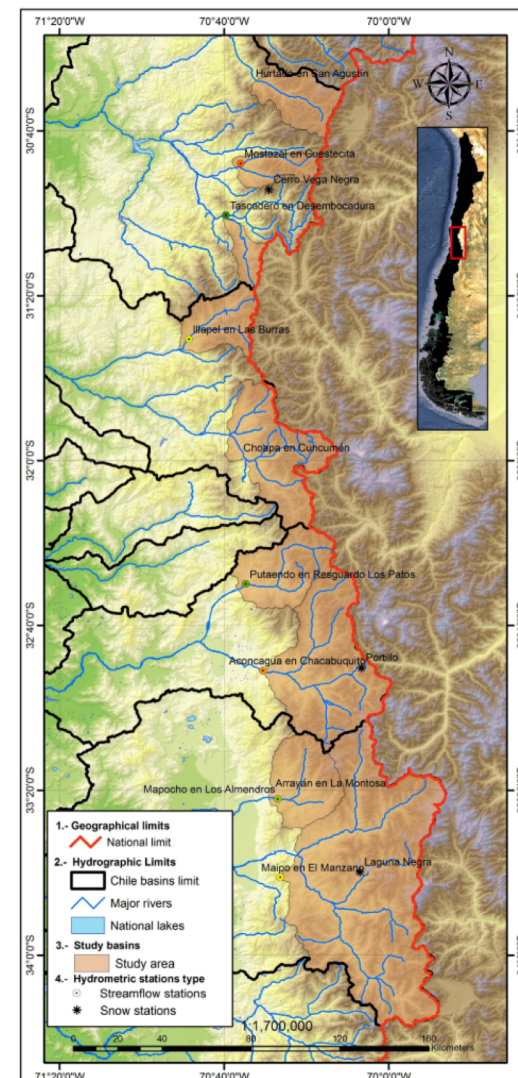
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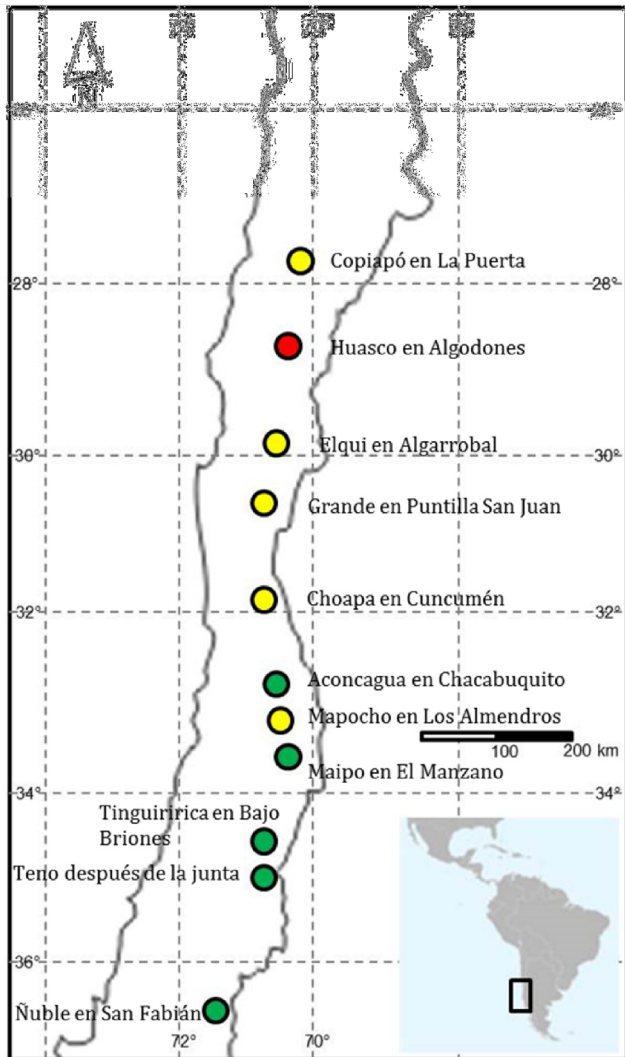
A robust multimodel framework for ensemble seasonal hydroclimatic forecasts

Pablo A. Mendoza^{1,2,3}, Balaji Rajagopalan^{1,2}, Martyn P. Clark³, Gonzalo Cortés⁴, and James McPhee^{5,6}

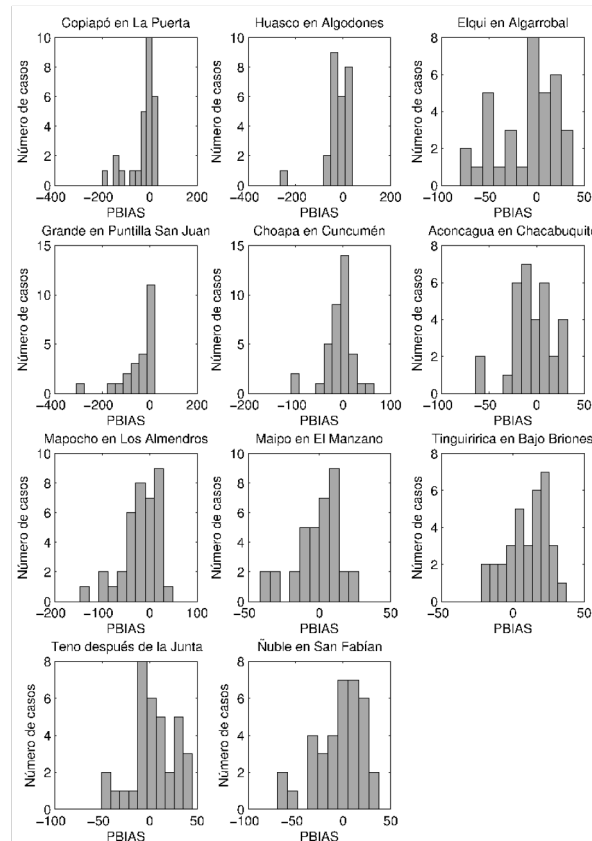
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Abstract We provide a framework for careful analysis of the different methodological choices we make when constructing multimodel ensemble seasonal forecasts of hydroclimatic variables. Specifically, we focus on three common modeling decisions: (i) number of models, (ii) multimodel combination approach, and (iii) lead time for prediction. The analysis scheme includes a multimodel ensemble forecasting algorithm based on nonparametric regression, a set of alternatives for the options previously pointed, and a selection of probabilistic verification methods for ensemble forecast evaluation. The usefulness of this framework is tested through an example application aimed to generate spring/summer streamflow forecasts at multiple locations in Central Chile. Results demonstrate the high impact that subjectivity in decision-making may have on the quality of ensemble seasonal hydroclimatic forecasts. In particular, we note that the probabilistic verification criteria may lead to different choices regarding the number of models or the multimodel combination method. We also illustrate how this objective analysis scheme may lead to results that are extremely relevant for the case study presented here, such as skillful seasonal streamflow predictions for very dry conditions.





In Chile, official forecasting program since 1970's, based on regression models and in-situ hydrometeorological observations



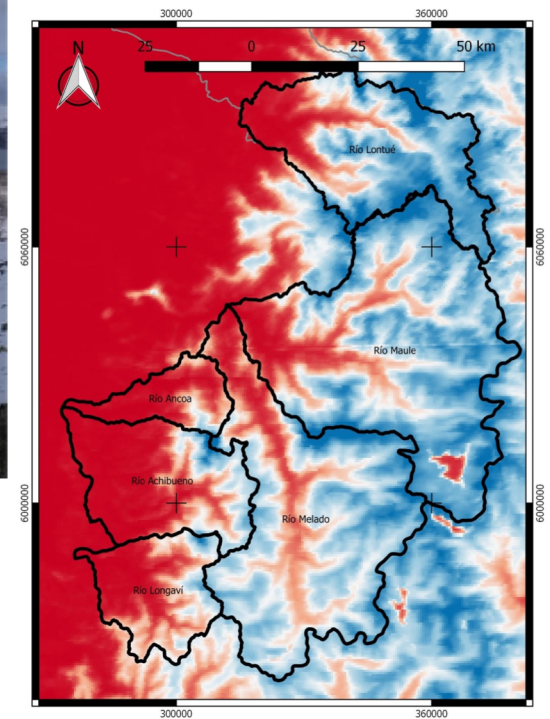
Room for improvement:

- Probabilistic forecasts
- Skill statistics
- Reliability under changing climate

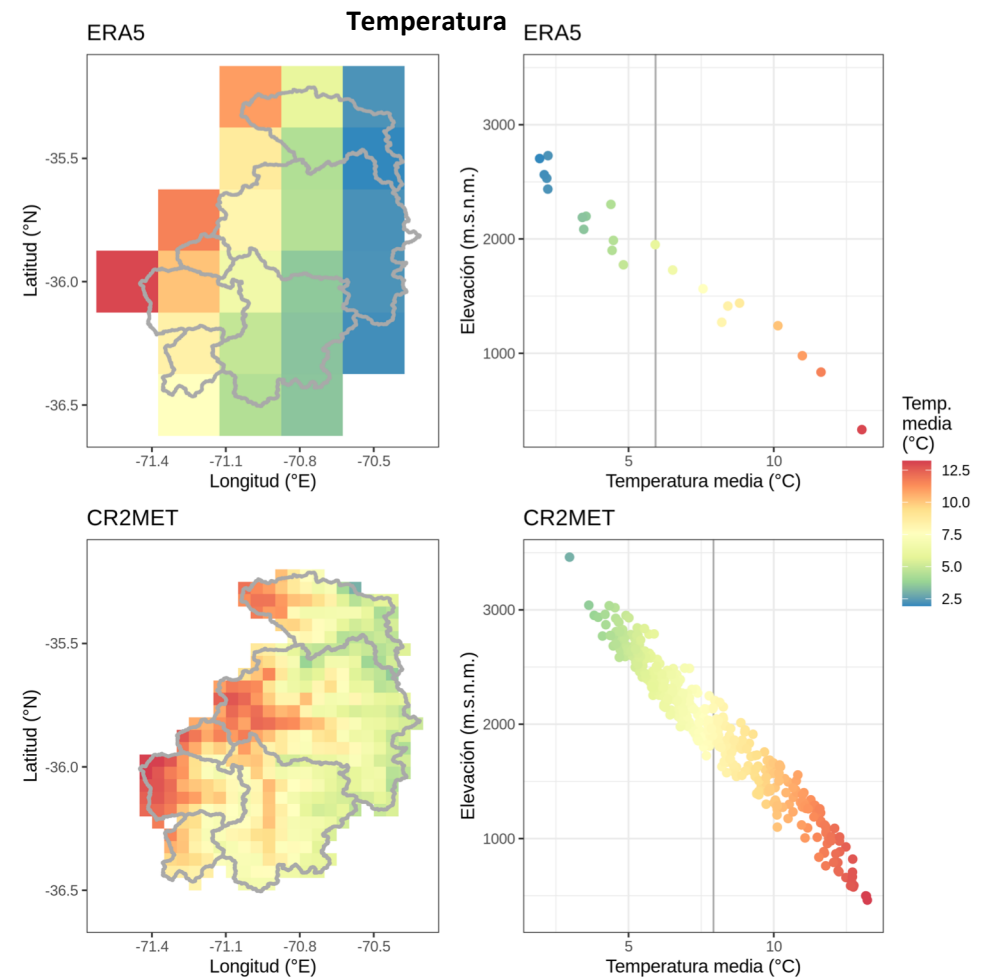
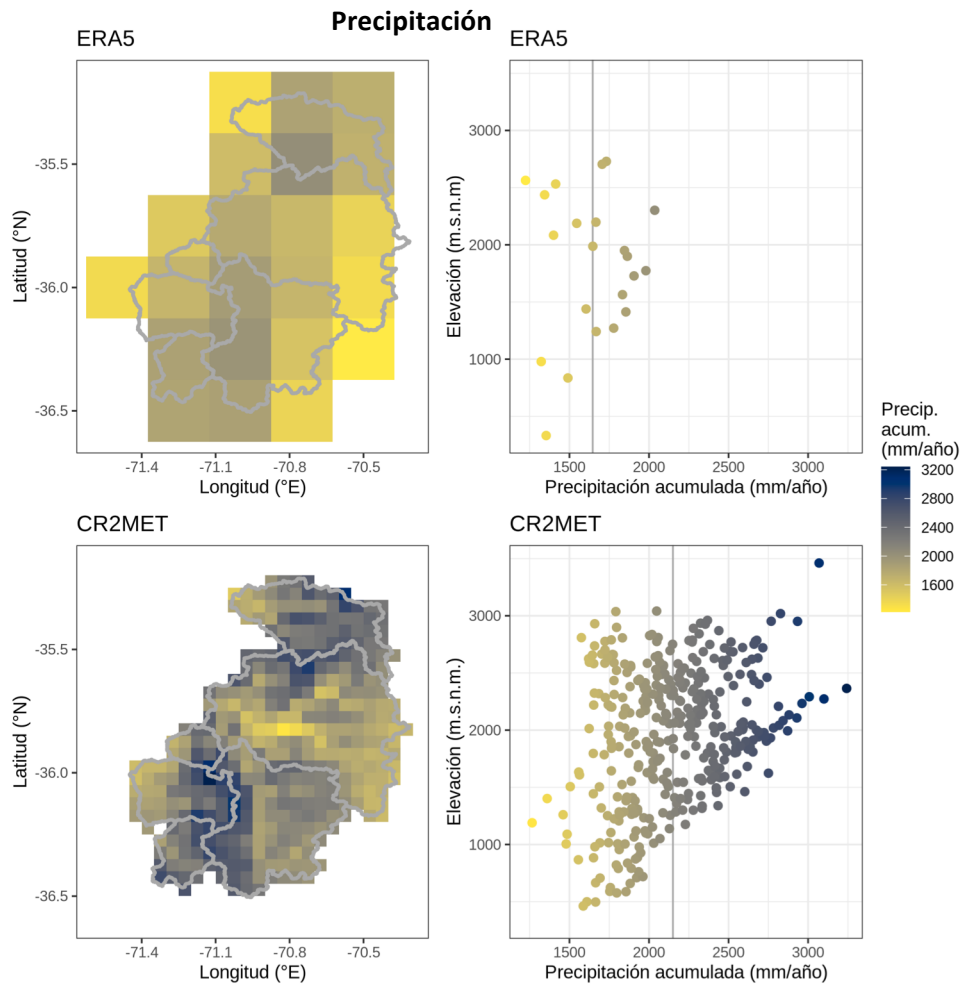
A case study: the Maule River Basin (aprox. 36°S)



- 6 subbasins
- Mixed flow regimes (snow and rain dominated)
- 1 Snow station



A case study: the Maule River Basin climate data

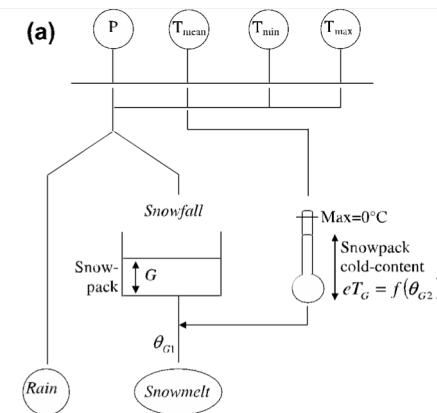
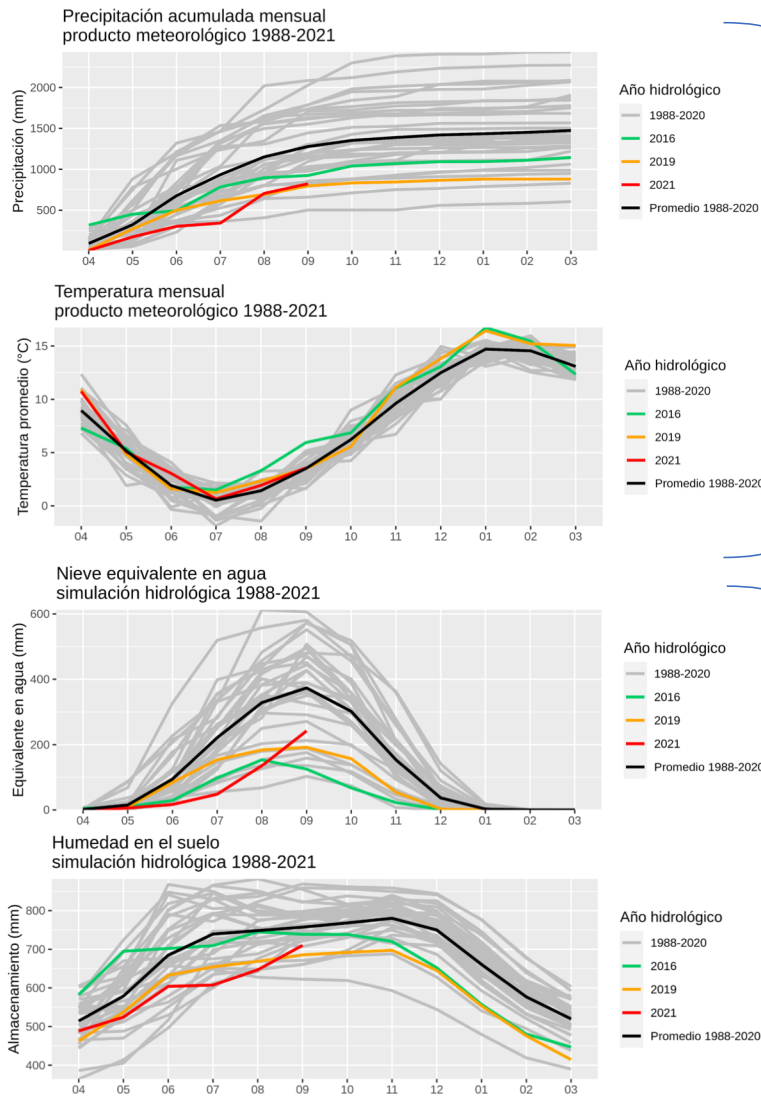


Forecasting algorithms: seasonal

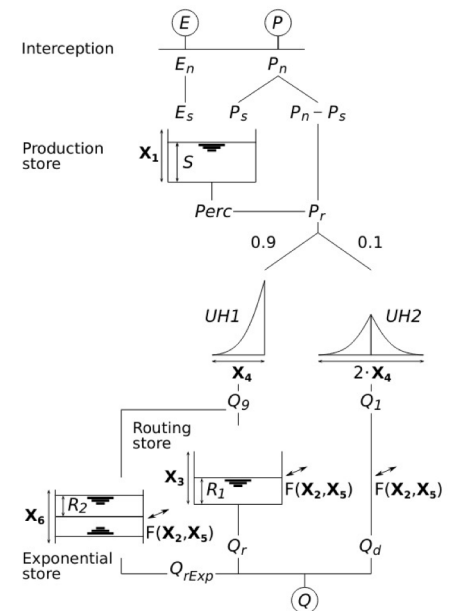
Simulated Initial Hydrological Conditions (IHC) + multiple regression

Preprocessed ERA5

GR6J + CemaNeige

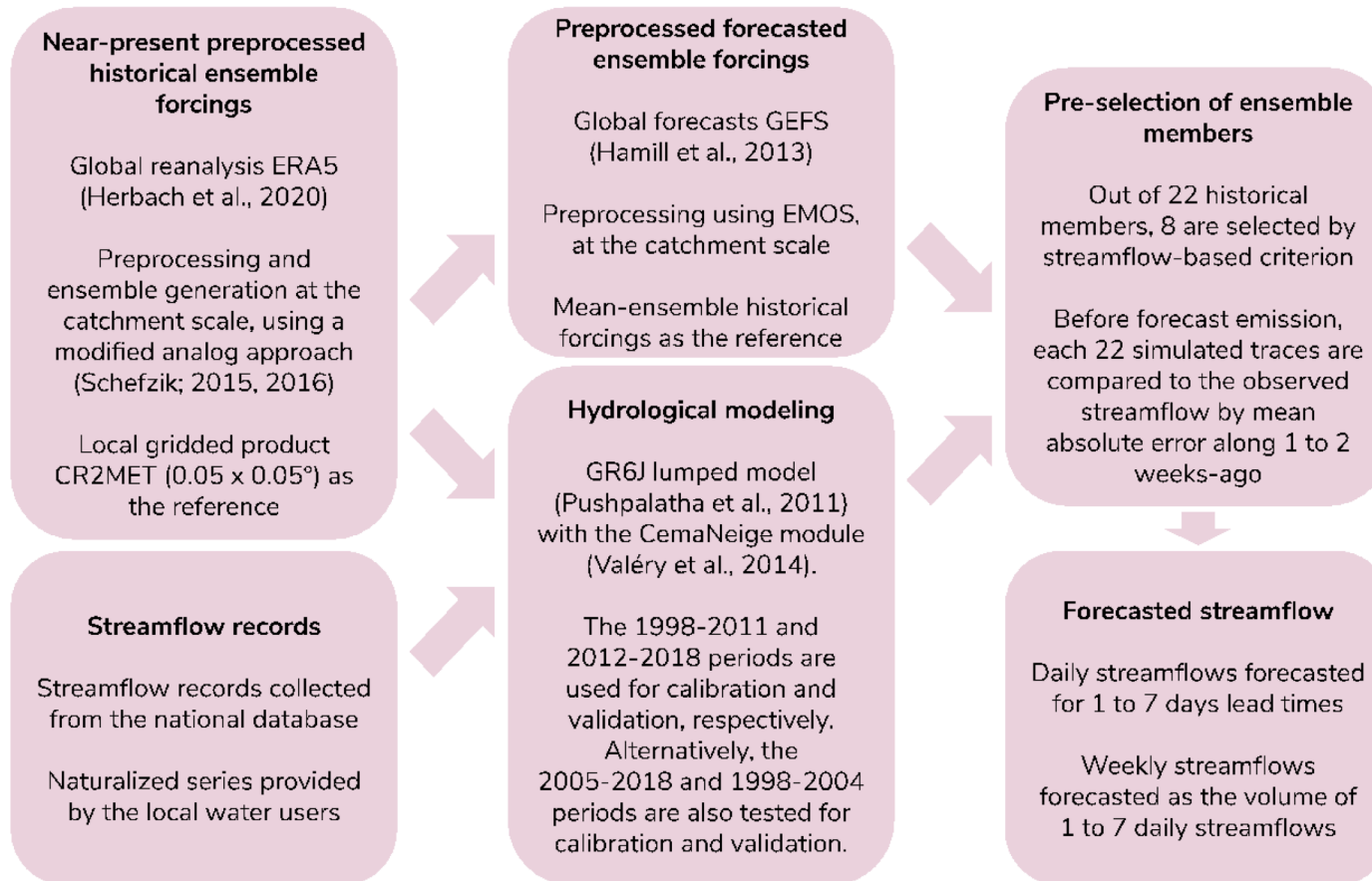


Model_GR6J

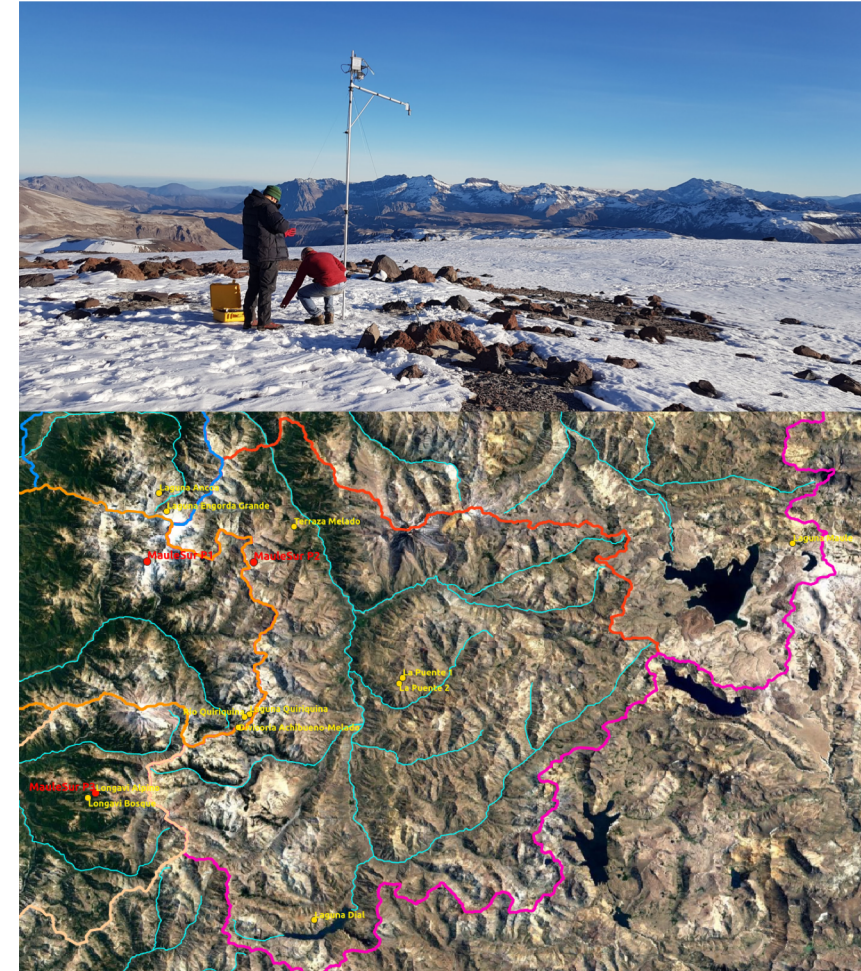
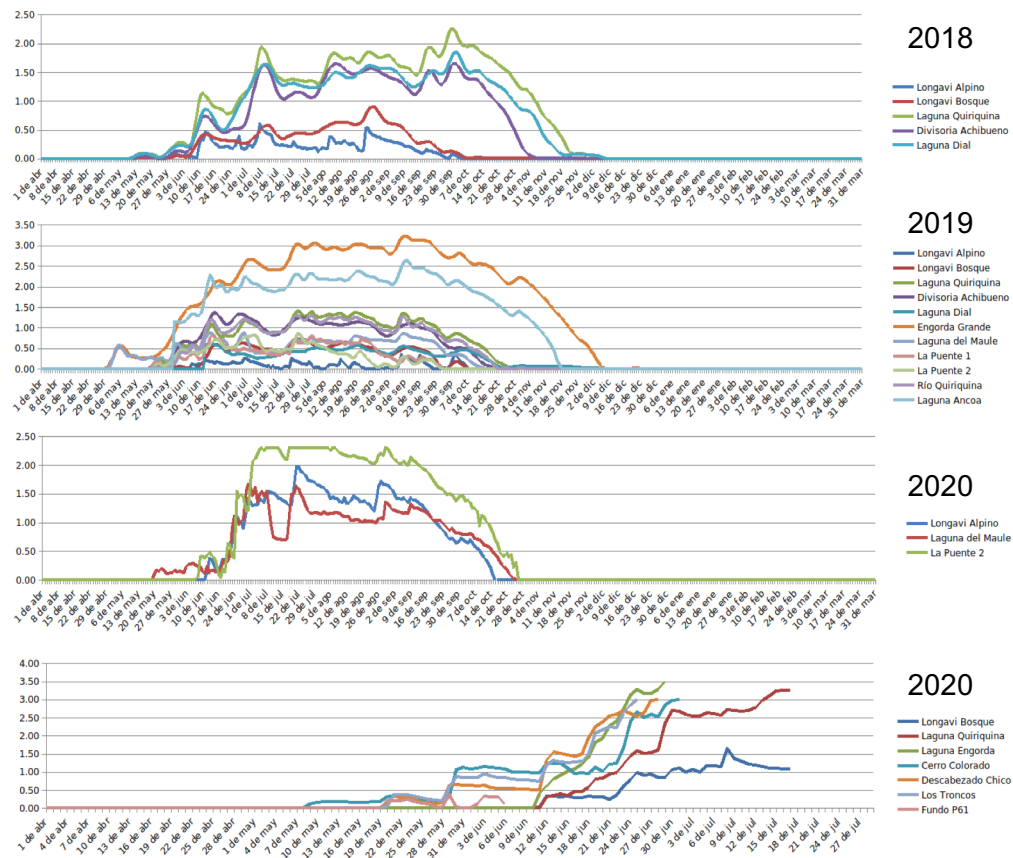


Forecasting algorithms: weekly

Simulated Initial Hydrological Conditions (IHC) + NWP-driven simulation



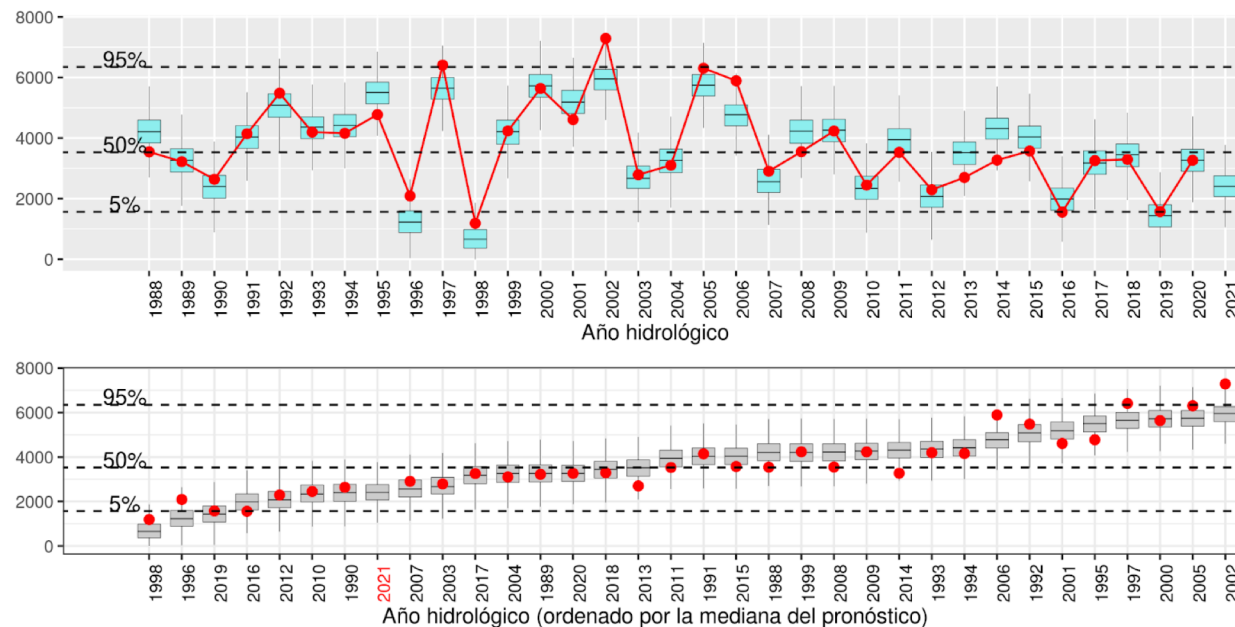
Adding snowpack observations through a low-cost sensing network



Globally available meteorological products and hydrological simulation do provide some predictive power at the seasonal level.

Pronóstico del Rio Maule en Armerillo. Inicializado el 1° de oct 2021

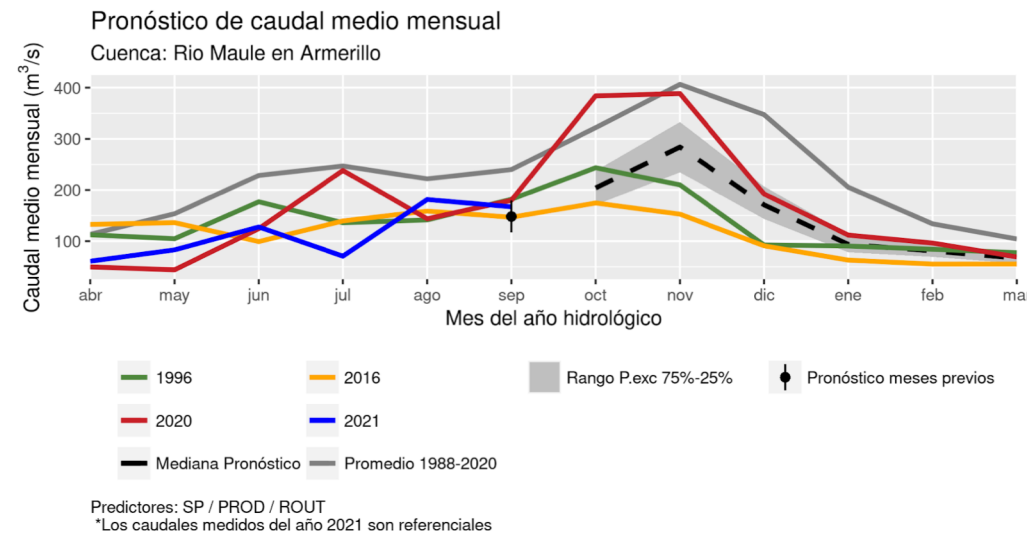
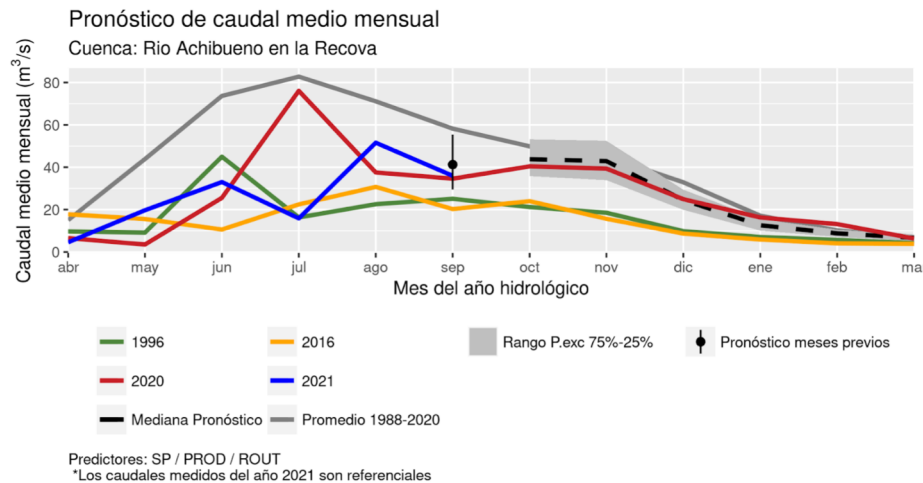
Volumen OCT - MAR . Año 2021= 2405 ± 353 Millones m^3



● Caudales medidos

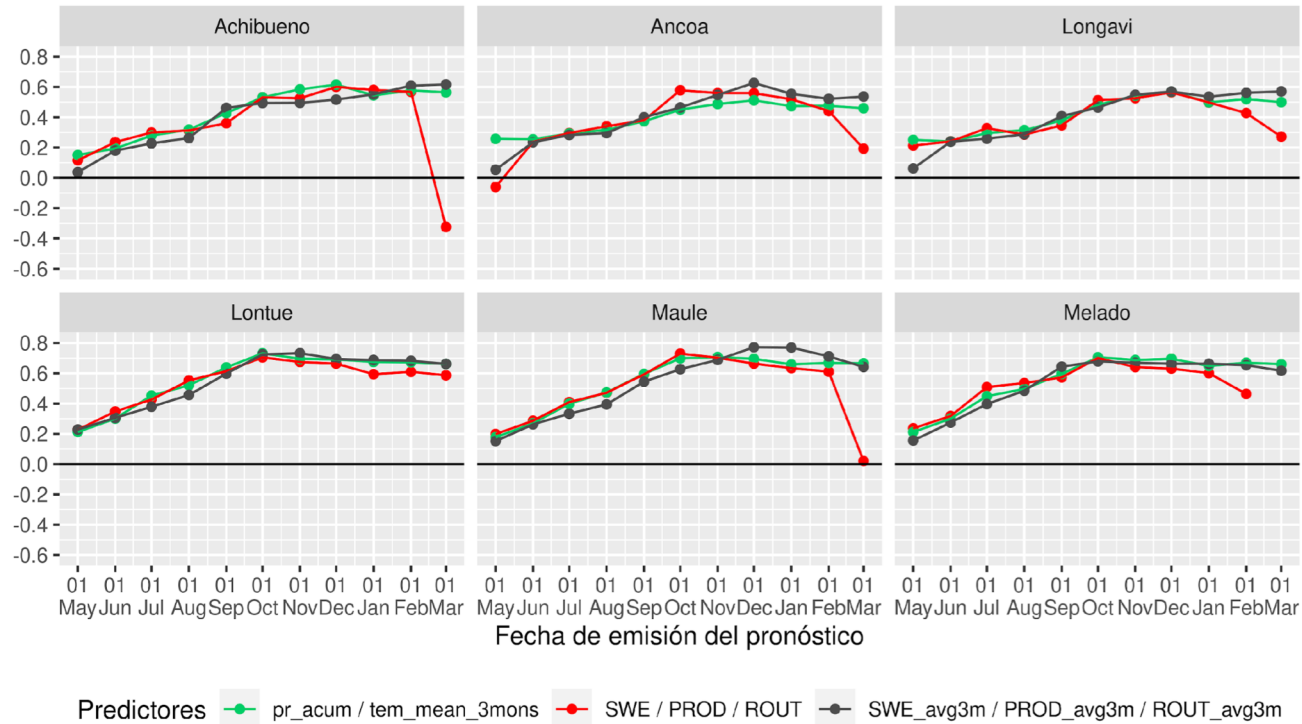
CRPSS (c/r promedio) = 0.187
 Regresión = lineal
 Predictores = SP / PROD / ROUT

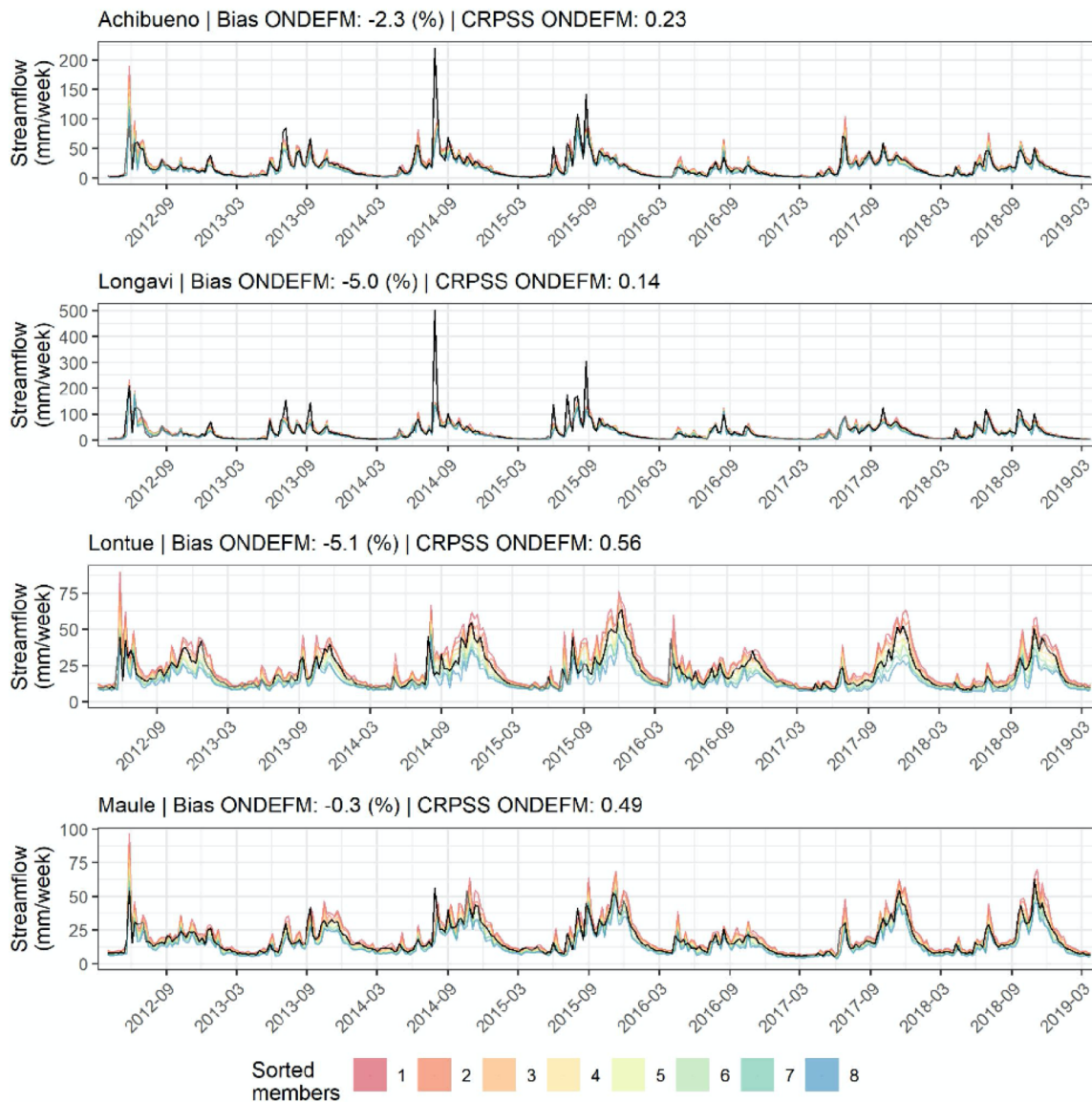
Globally available meteorological products and hydrological simulation do provide predictive power at the seasonal level.



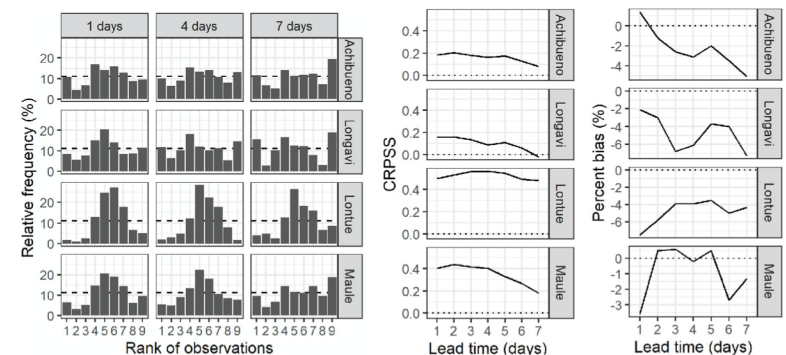
Is it possible to issue earlier forecasts (mid-winter) with increased skill?

CRPSS para distintas fechas de emisión del pronóstico
(respecto a pronóstico con volumen promedio 1988-2020)





Ensemble weekly forecasts capture streamflow observations. Screening (preprocessing) reduces problem size and increases forecast skill.



Ongoing work

- “Assimilate” snow depth observations through screening of ensemble forecast members -> density simulation
- Testing climate forecast products for ESP
- Testing different hydrological model options

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THANKS!