

An aerial photograph of a river with white-water rapids and a dam. The water is a vibrant blue, and the surrounding landscape is lush green. The title text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

# DWQ Intermittent and Perennial Streams and Origins Mapping

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In cooperation with

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NC Department of Transportation

# Intermittent and Perennial Streams and Origins Mapping

- DWQ, DOT, and NCSU (early 2004) funded the Intermittent and Perennial Streams and Origins Project
- Center for Geographical Information and Analysis (CGIA) Streambed Mapping - of Senate Bill 1152 passed in late 2004.
- Project Coordination
  - CGIA –Primary Stream Layer
  - DWQ - Provide additional data to manage regulatory needs

# Intermittent and Perennial Streams and Origins Mapping

- DWQ Stream Mapping Requirements

- \*\*Headwater streams

- Stream Origins

- Flow Duration

- Existence (or not)

- DWQ 401 program, DOT, DENR Divisions, developers and planners

**Stream Origin and Flow Duration can be Integrated into CGIA Stream Map**

# Intermittent and Perennial Streams and Origins Mapping

## Methodology

- Field Component

  - Locate and GPS stream origins (DWQ Stream Identification 2005)

- GIS/Modeling Component

  - Lidar >>> DEM

  - best method -ANUDEM

  - best resolution –tie 1.52m (5ft) and 3.05m (10ft)

- Build model based on field data and geospatial data

  - Determine characteristics that contribute to origin locations e.g., slope curvature, local gradient, contributing watershed area, soils...

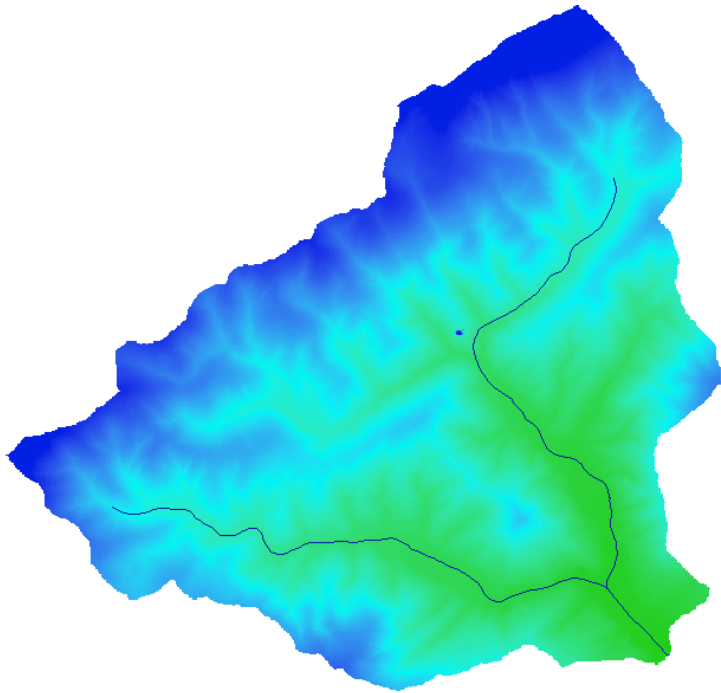
- Model Application

  - Predict remaining origins in the state

- Validate model predictions

# Comparison Between USGS Streams and Field Mapped Streams

White Mountain, North Carolina  
USGS/NHD High Resolution Streams



0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

**Legend**

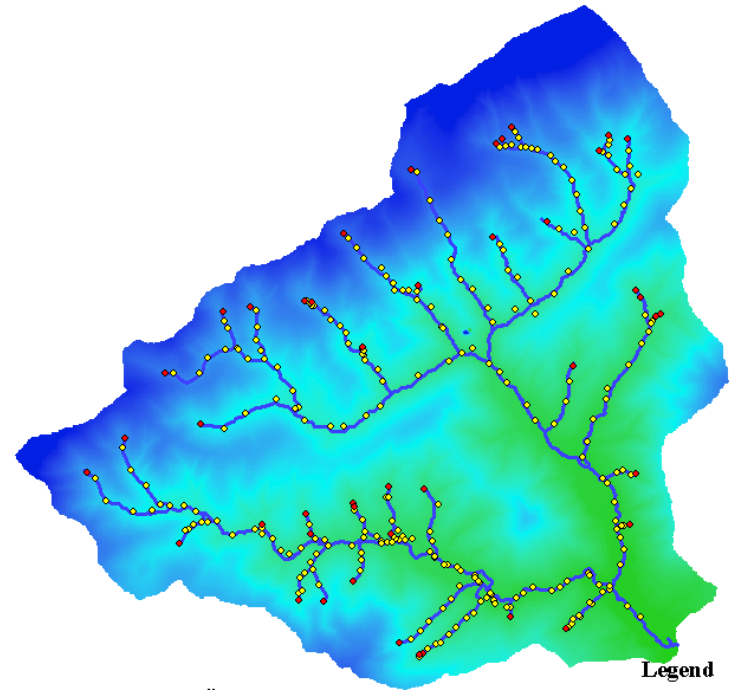
— White Mountain: NHD Hi Res Flowlines

**Elevation (ft)**

Value



White Mountain, North Carolina  
GPS'd Stream Points and Origins



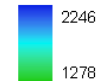
0 750 1,500 3,000 Feet

**Legend**

- White Mtn Origins
- White Mountain: Surveyed Stream Points
- Field Mapped Streams

**Elevation (ft)**

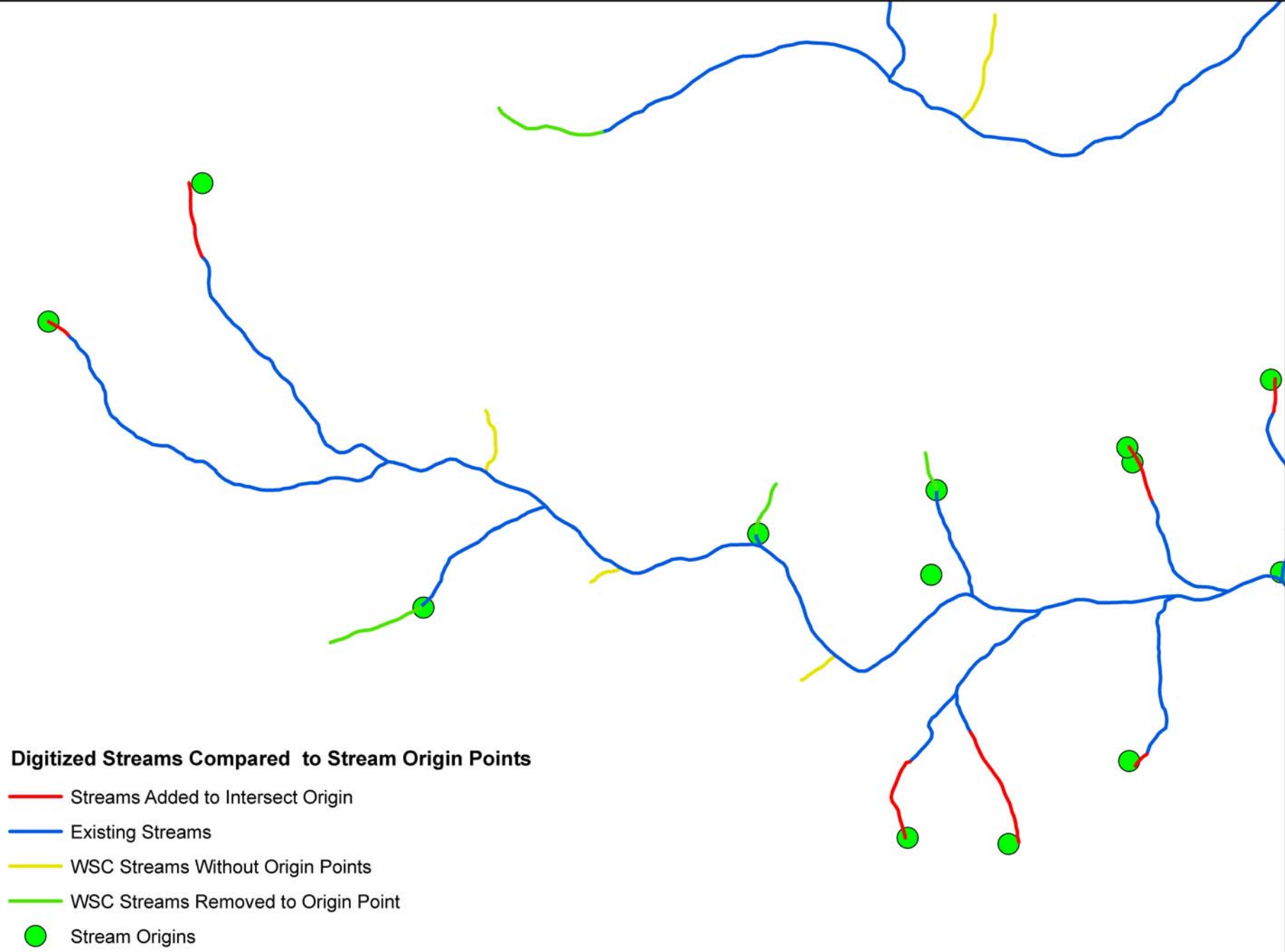
Value



### Digitized Streams Compared to Stream Origin Points

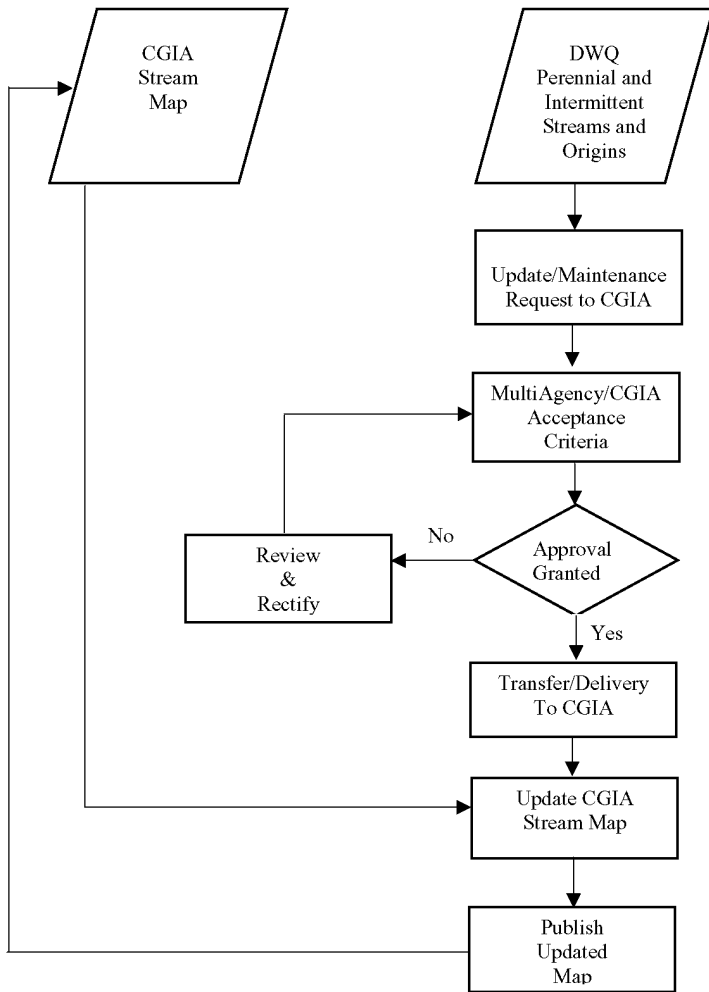
- Streams Added to Intersect Origin
- Existing Streams
- WSC Streams Without Origin Points
- WSC Streams Removed to Origin Point
- Stream Origins

0 50 100 200 300 400 Feet





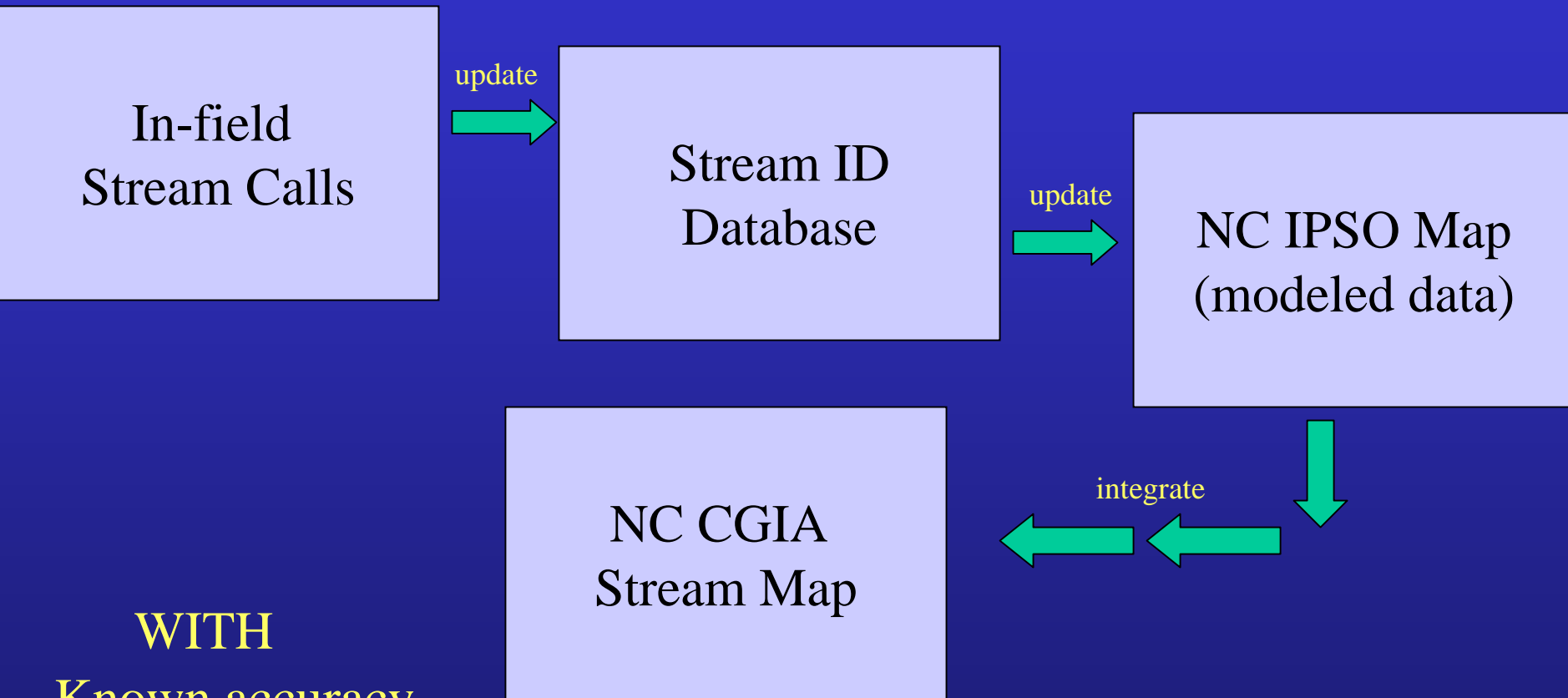
**Basic Components of Process Steps for IP Streams and Origins Maintenance to CGIA Stream Map**



**Conceptual Model  
for  
Business Process  
in  
CGIA  
Data Maintenance Plan**

# DWQ Intermittent and Perennial Streams and Origins Mapping

In a few years, we will have.....



**WITH**  
Known accuracy  
Digitally accessible  
Regular updates



# Intermittent and Perennial Streams and Origins Mapping

## Benefits

- Save time, money and resources for DENR staff (DWQ, EEP, DLR, DWR, WRC and DCM) Delegated Counties, other public agencies
- Better oversight and management of stream and buffer impacts and mitigation
- Accurate stream representation will become even more important with resolution of Rapanos and Carabell U.S. Supreme Court cases