



# Development of Inferential Sensors for Real-time Quality Control of Water-level Data for the EDEN Network

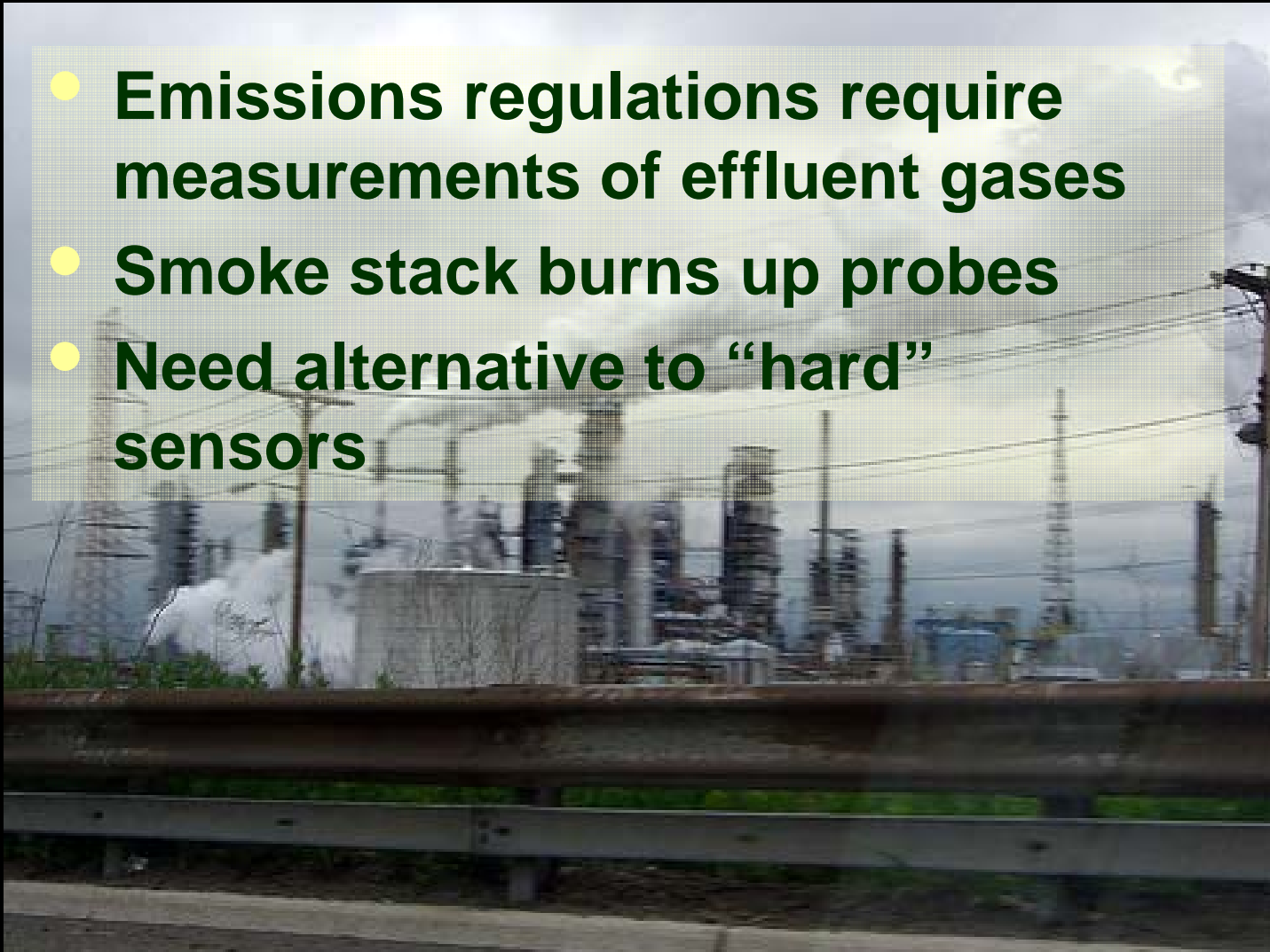
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**SC Water Science Center**  
**GEER 2008 – Naples, FL**  
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# Presentation Outline

- **What is a “Inferential Sensor”?**
- **Background**
  - **Industrial application**
  - **Homeland security**
- **EDEN Network**
- **Water-level Inferential Sensor**
- **Challenges**

# Tough Environment to Monitor

- Emissions regulations require measurements of effluent gases
- Smoke stack burns up probes
- Need alternative to “hard” sensors

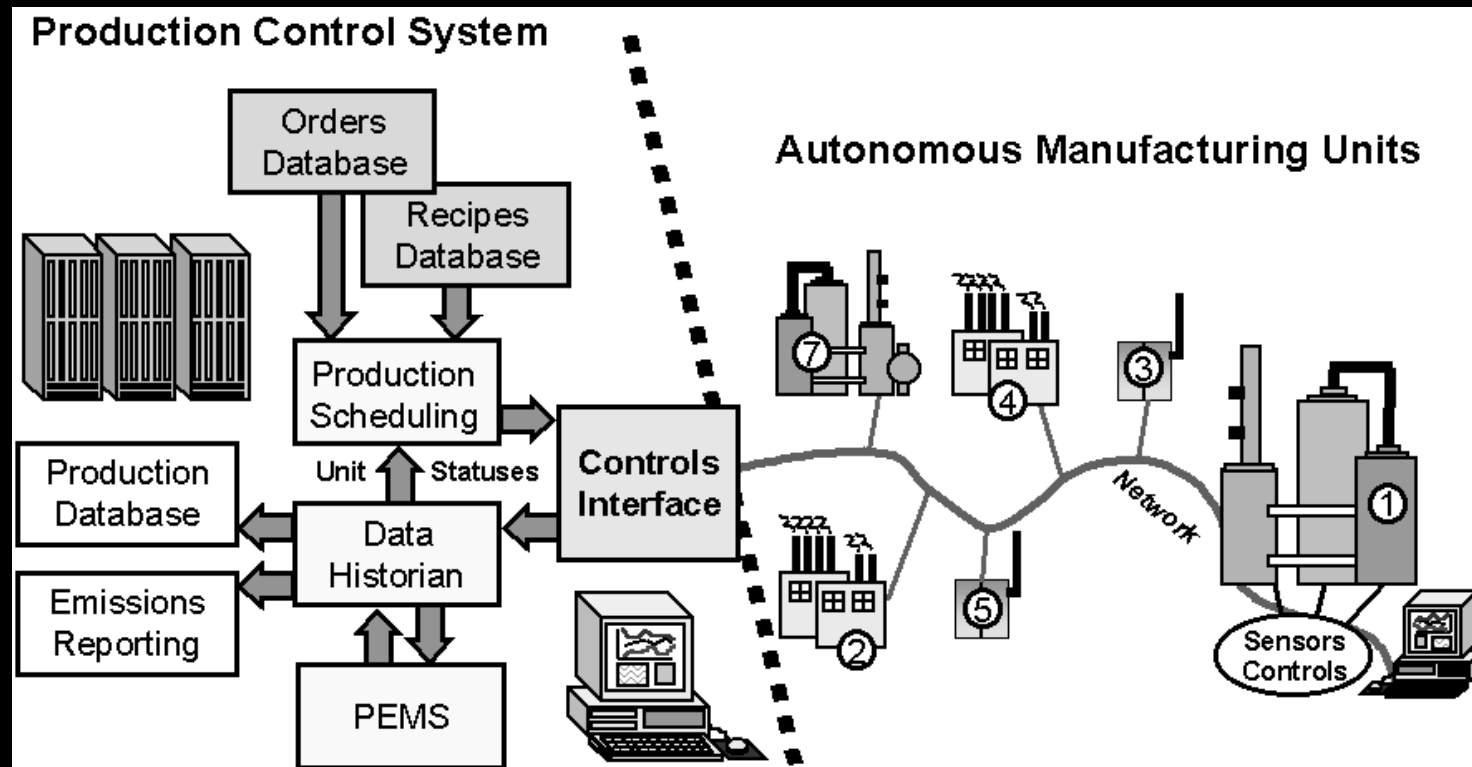


# Hard Sensor vs. Inferential Sensor



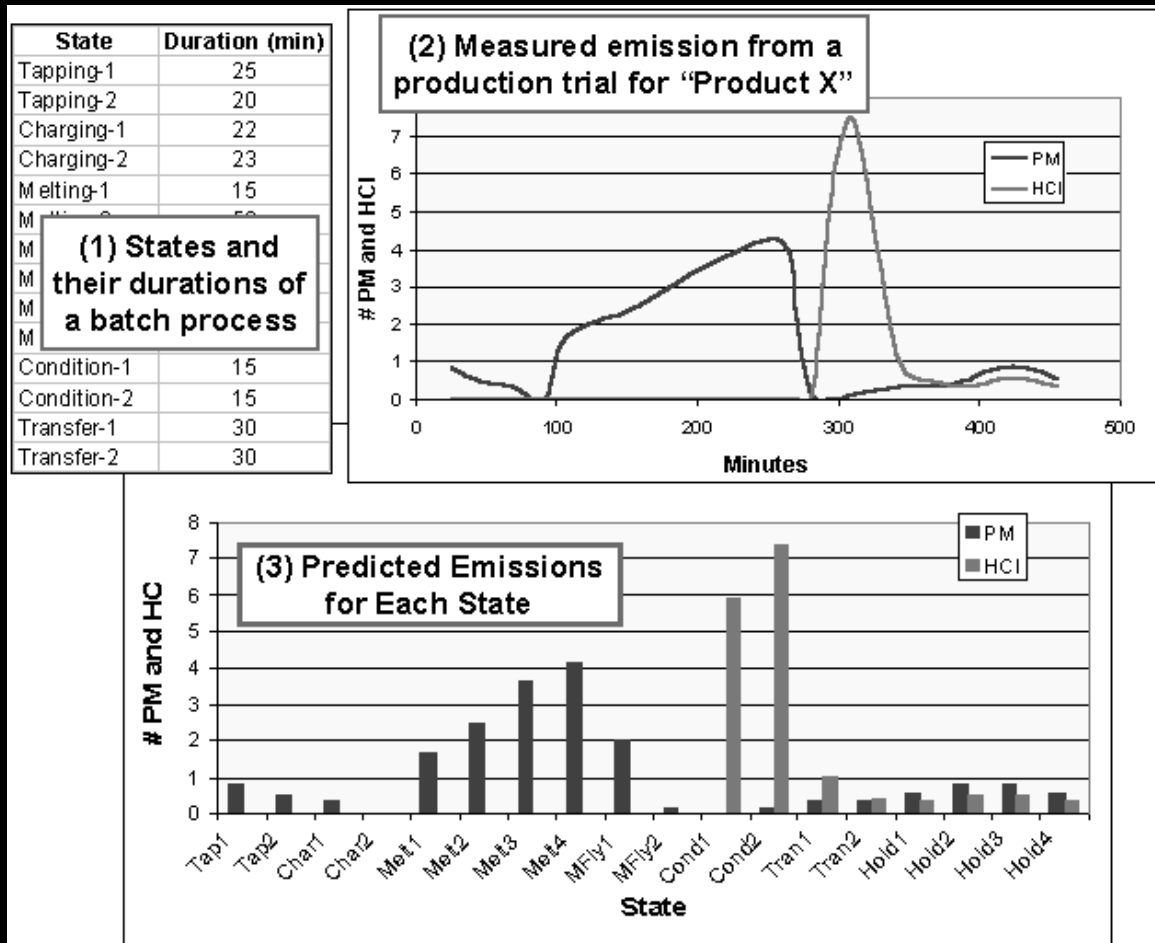
- **Virtual sensor replaces actual sensor**
  - **Temporary gage smoke stack**
  - **Operate industry to cover range of emissions**
  - **Develop model of emissions based on operations**
  - **Model becomes the “Inferential Sensor”**

# Industrial Application: Production Emission Monitoring System



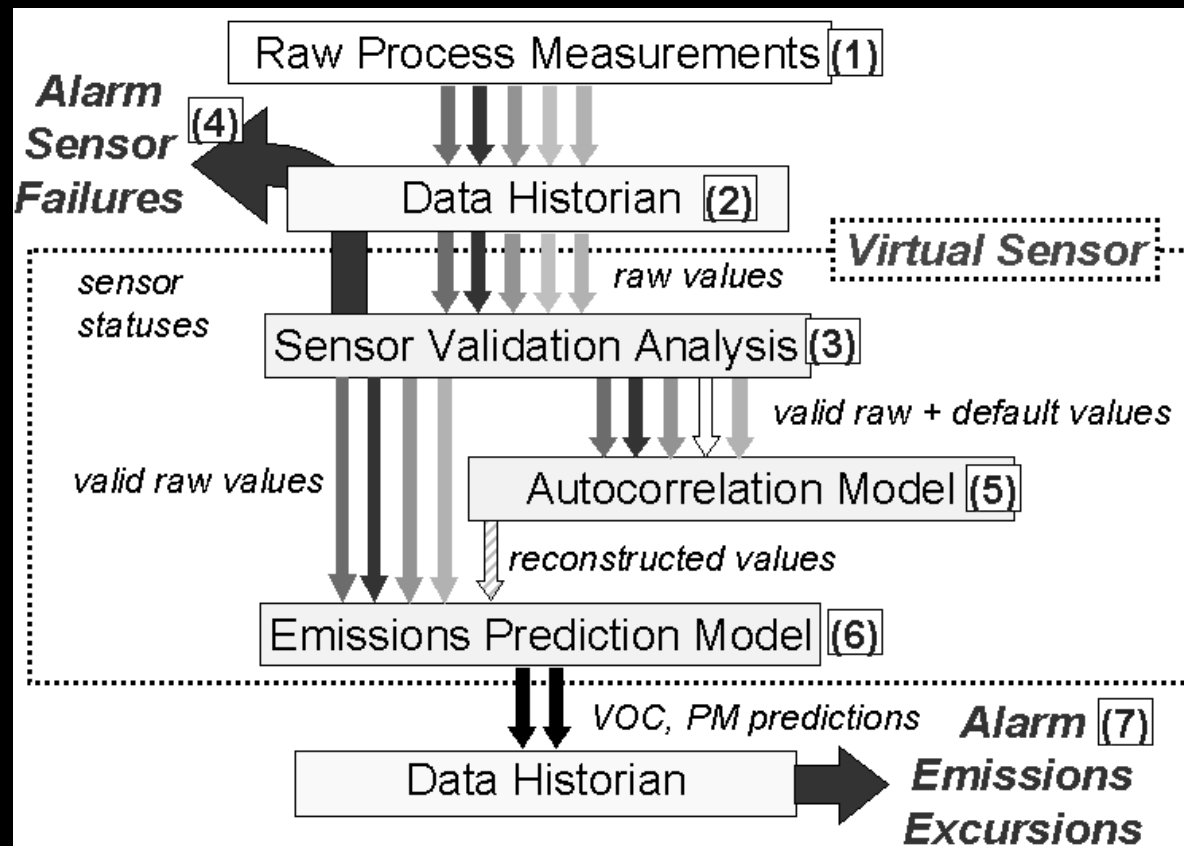
**Production Control System Components.** A Data Historian is a special database designed to hold massive amounts of process and laboratory time series data.

# Production Emission Model



**Predicted Emissions History for a Manufactured Product.**

# Inferential Sensor Architecture



**PEMS Architecture**

# Industrial Benefits

- Optimizes Manufacturing Processes
- Documents Continuous Compliance
- Lower Cost – *In some situations, a proactive intelligent system can partially or fully replace passive back end controls to reduce capital and long-term operating expenses*
- Most Advantageous Permitting – *because it actively prevents pollution*
- Works with Existing or New Production Controls



## **If it is good enough for Industry...**

- **Use similar approach for real-time data**
- **Develop models to predict real-time data**
- **Use predictions as “inferential-sensor” to:**
  - **QA/QC hard sensor**
  - **Provide accurate estimates for hard sensor**
  - **Provide redundant signal**

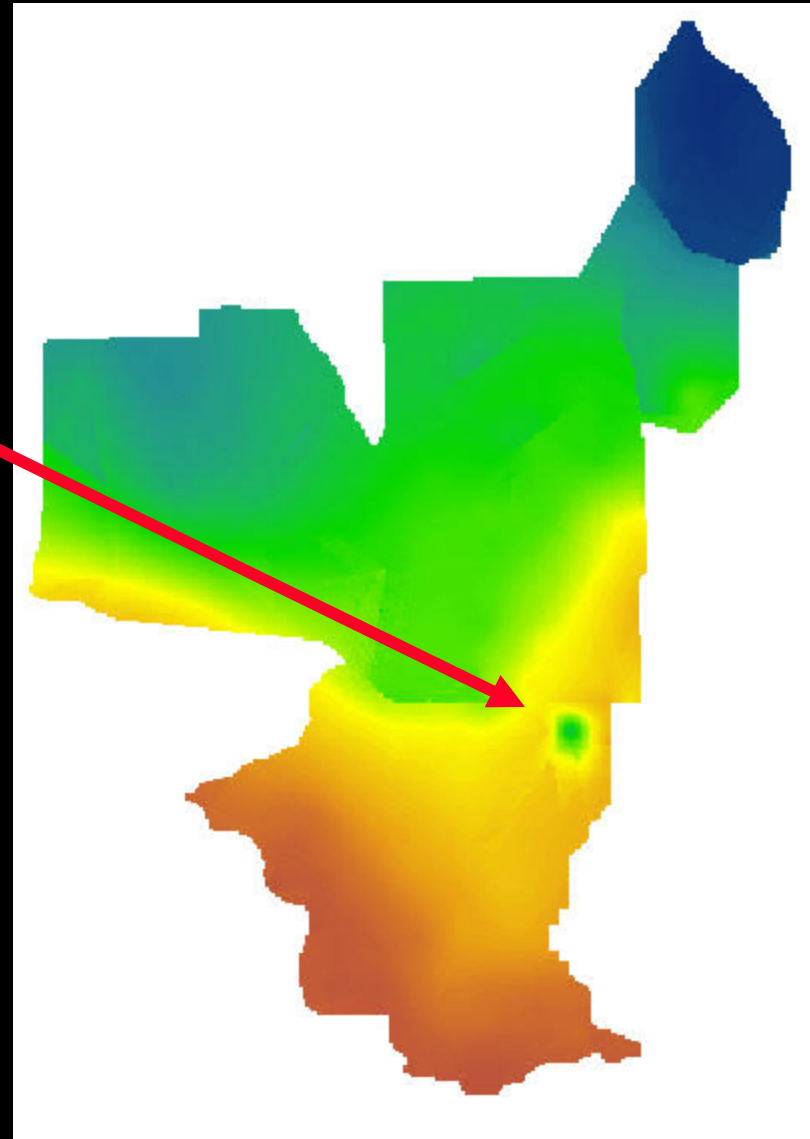
# Everglades



**Differences of 1 ft can change  
vegetation communities**

# EDEN Water-Surface Map

**Bad values creates  
erroneous areas on  
maps**

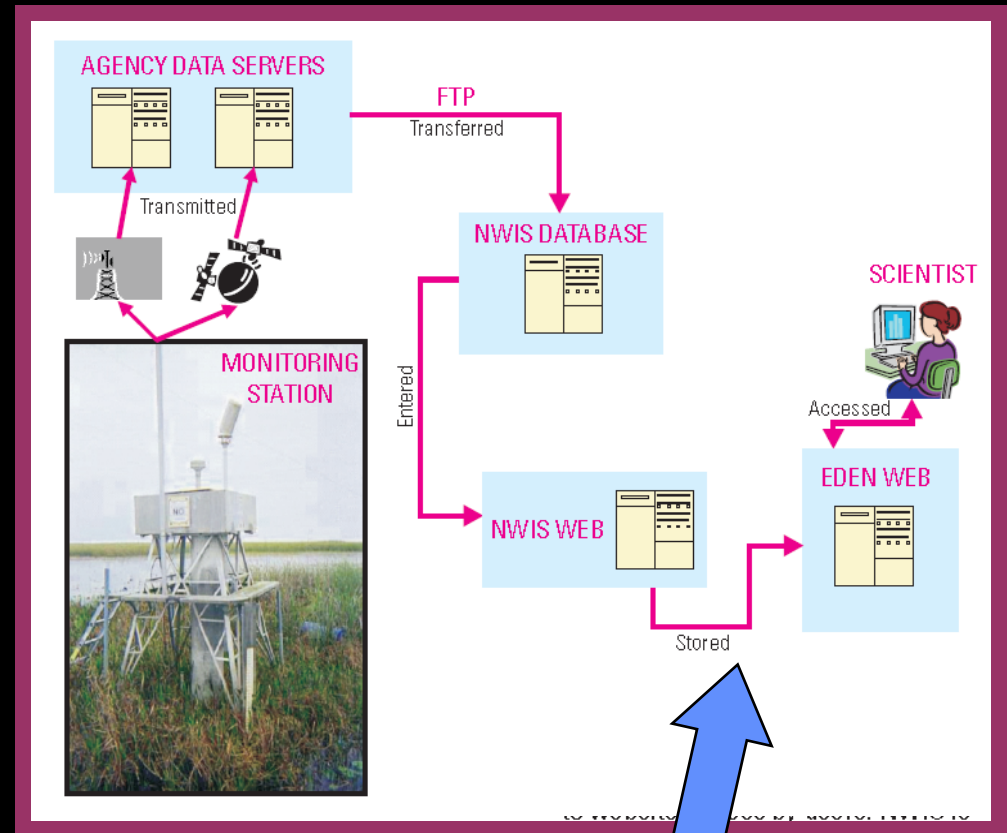


# Problem

Need to minimize missing and erroneous data

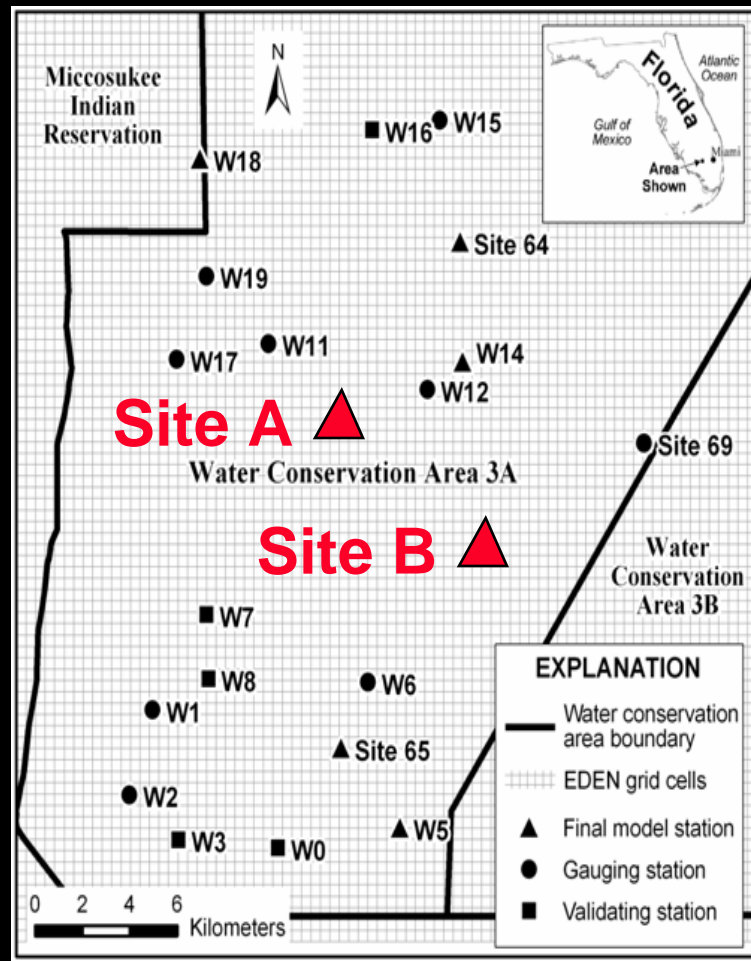
# Approach

Develop “inferential” sensors for redundant signal



*Inferential  
Sensor  
application*

# Hypothetical Case

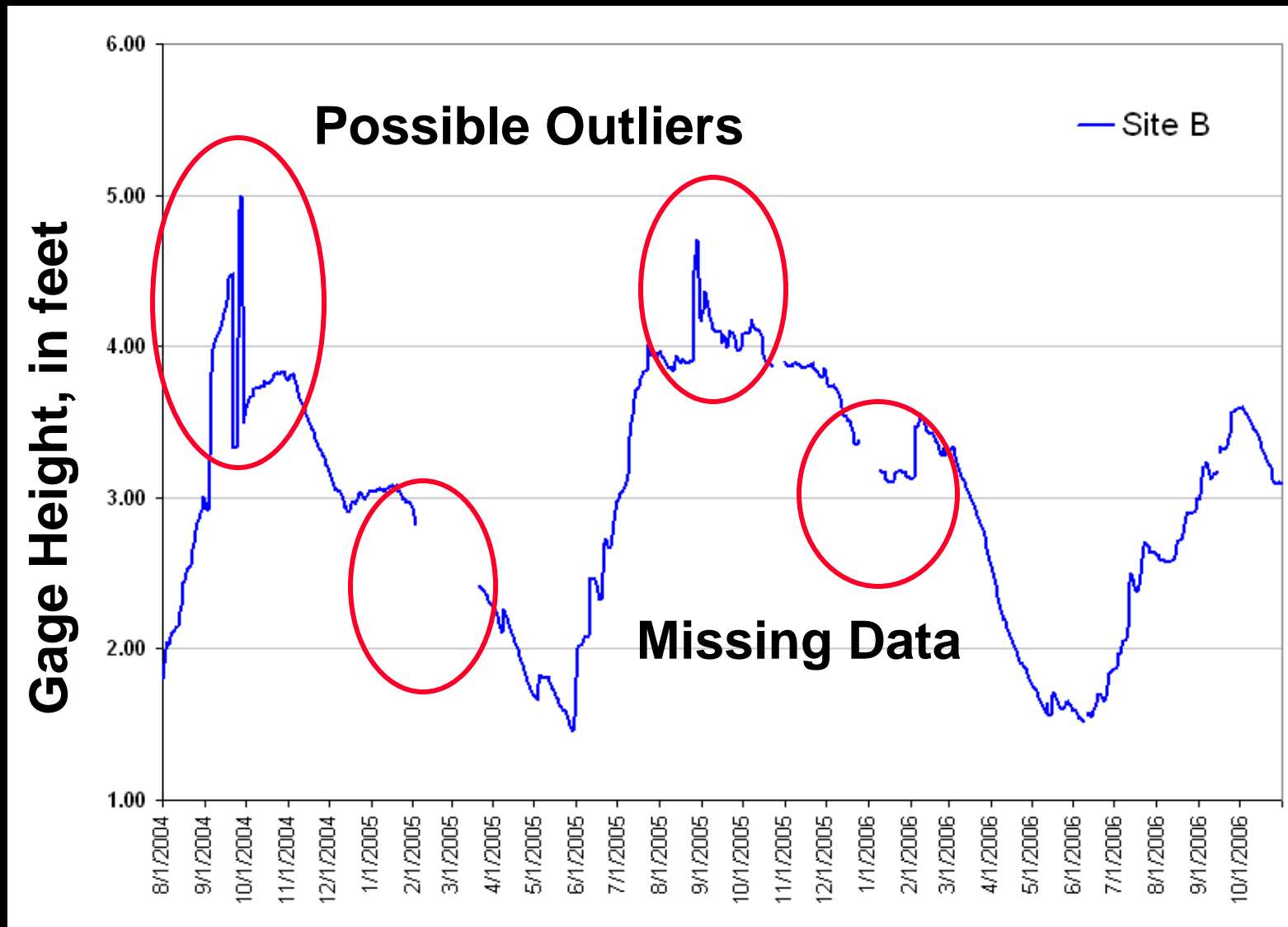


Create model  
(Inferential Sensor) for  
Site B using Site A as  
an input

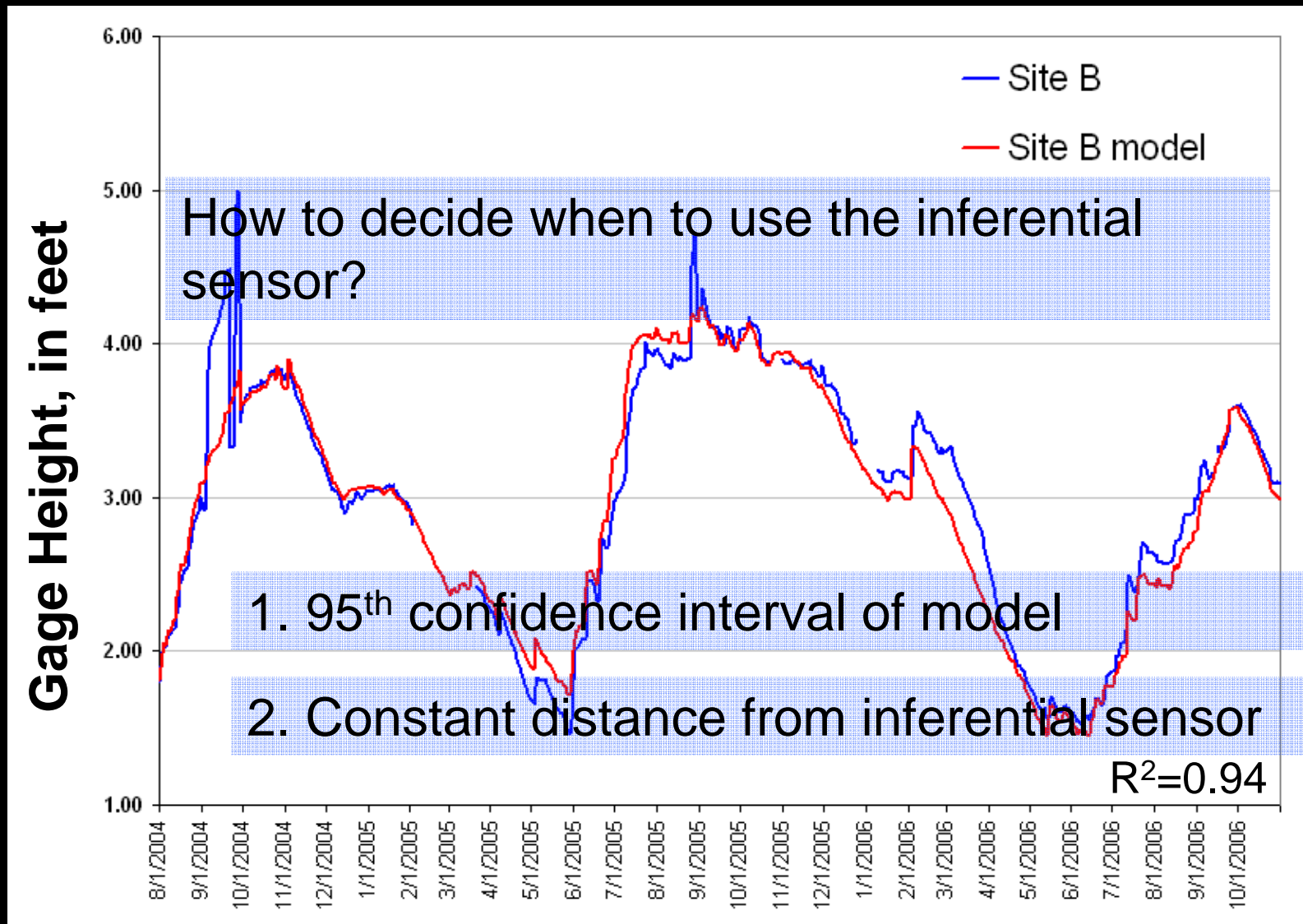
Decide when to use  
Inferential Sensor  
instead of gage data

*Actual application  
would be for 253  
stations*

# Hypothetical Case: Gage Data



# Hypothetical Case: Inferential Sensor



# When to use Inferential Sensor? 95<sup>th</sup> confidence interval of model





# When to use Inferential Sensor?

## Constant distance from inferential sensor



# Hypothetical Case - comments

- Issue of model accuracy
- Immediate benefit for missing data
- Made the assumption that Site A was correct
- Example used daily data
  - Use inferential sensor on hourly data
  - Compare daily medians (used for EDEN maps)
- What if data for Site A is missing?
- *Issues are magnified when dealing with a network of 253 gages*

# Initial Approach: Data Evaluation

- **Need to know what data is good**
- **Set of filters to evaluate data quality**
- **Robust series of thresholds**
  - **Differences with other gages**
    - **Time delays and moving window averages**
  - **Time derivatives**
    - **Rate of change over various time intervals**
- **Create subset of good data**

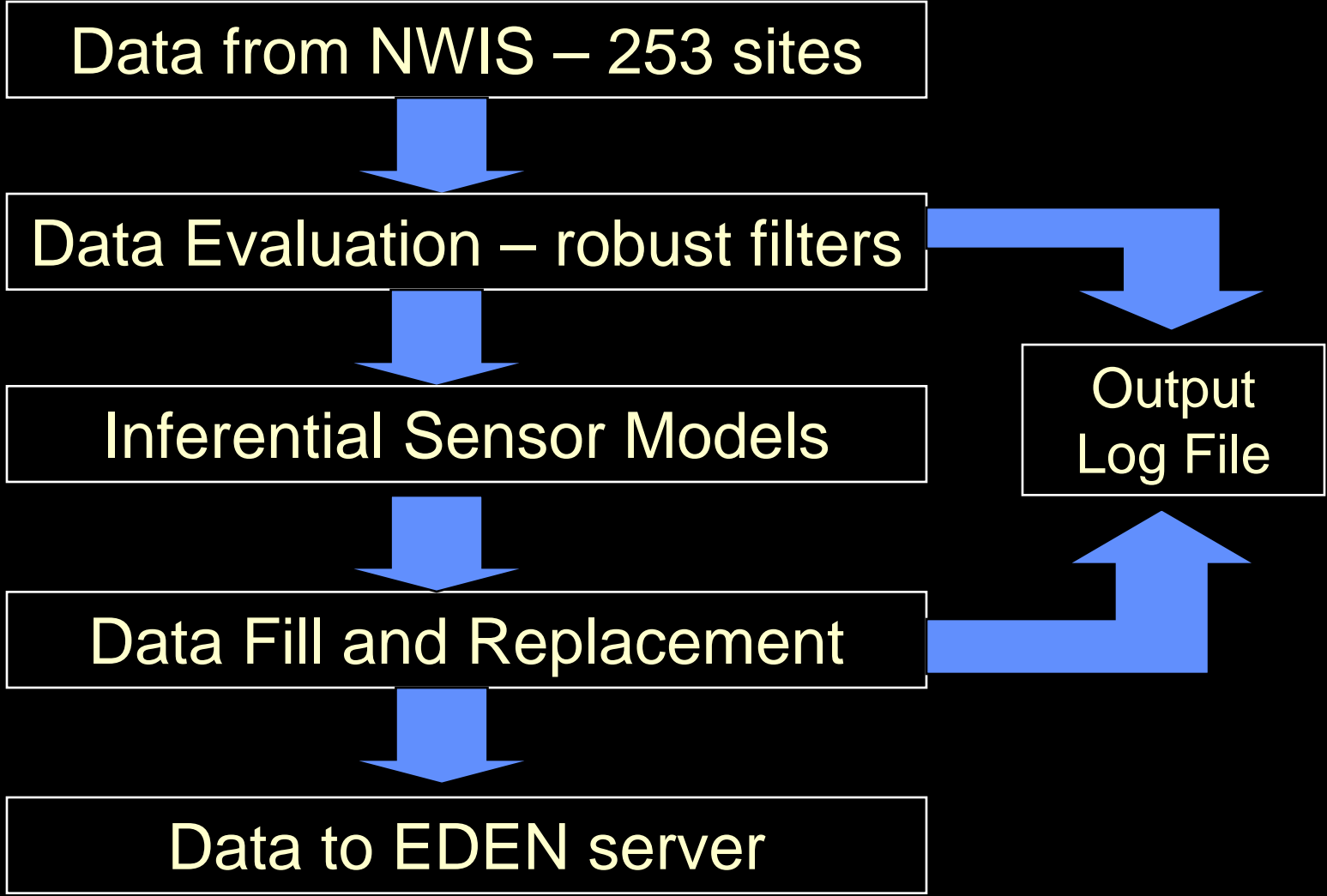
# Initial Approach: Model Development

- **One Approach – Canned Models**
  - **Create multiple models for a gage**
  - **Set priority for model to use depending on available data**
  - **Large number of models**
  - **Not all combinations of gages would be addressed**

# Initial Approach: Model Development

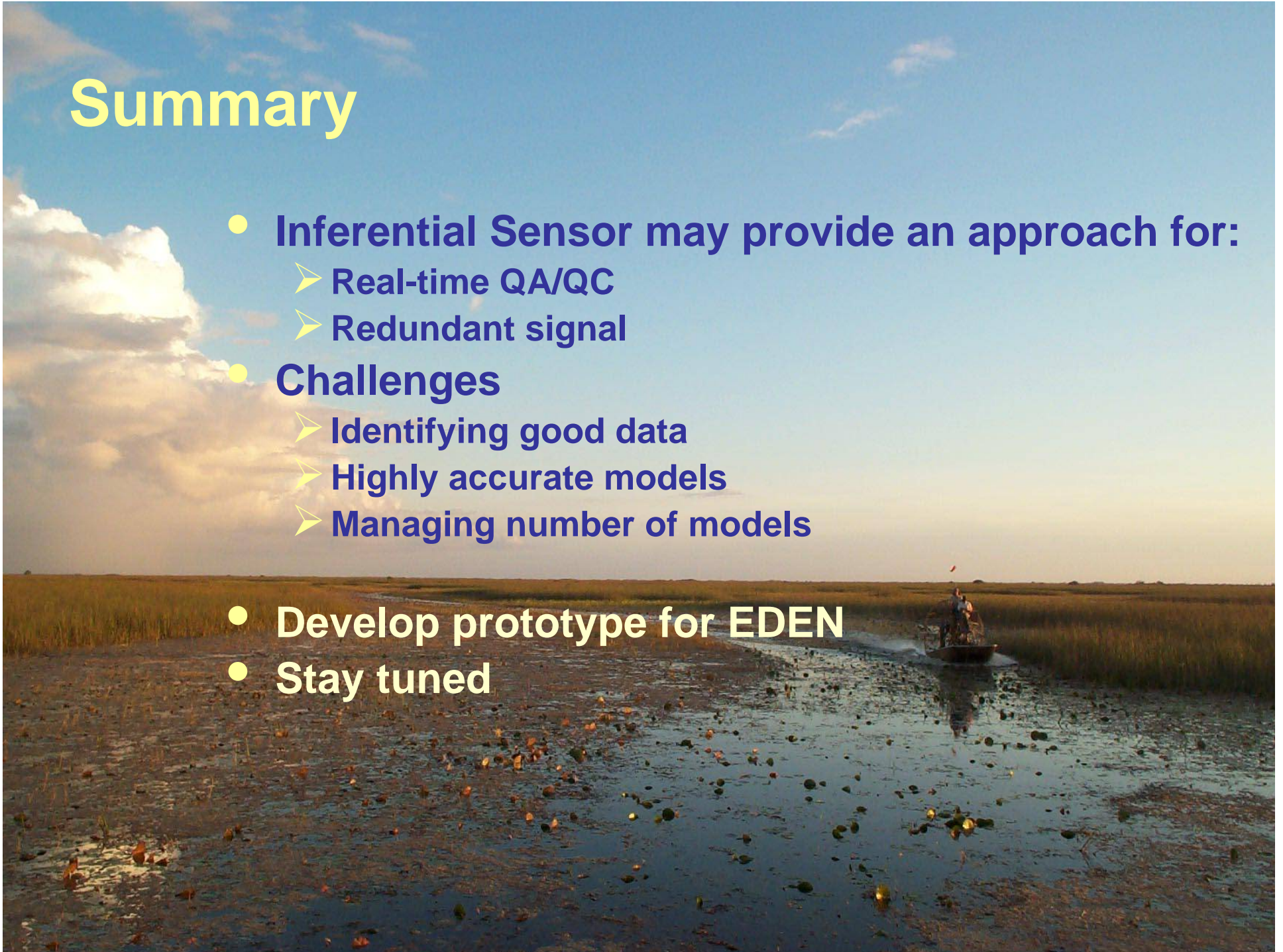
- **Second Approach – Model on the Fly**
  - **Subset of good data, determine input data with the highest correlation**
  - **Develop models based on available data**
  - **Issue of evaluation of models**
  - **More complex programming than first approach**

# EDEN Inferential Sensor Architecture



# Summary

- **Inferential Sensor may provide an approach for:**
  - Real-time QA/QC
  - Redundant signal
- **Challenges**
  - Identifying good data
  - Highly accurate models
  - Managing number of models
- **Develop prototype for EDEN**
- **Stay tuned**



**Questions?**

