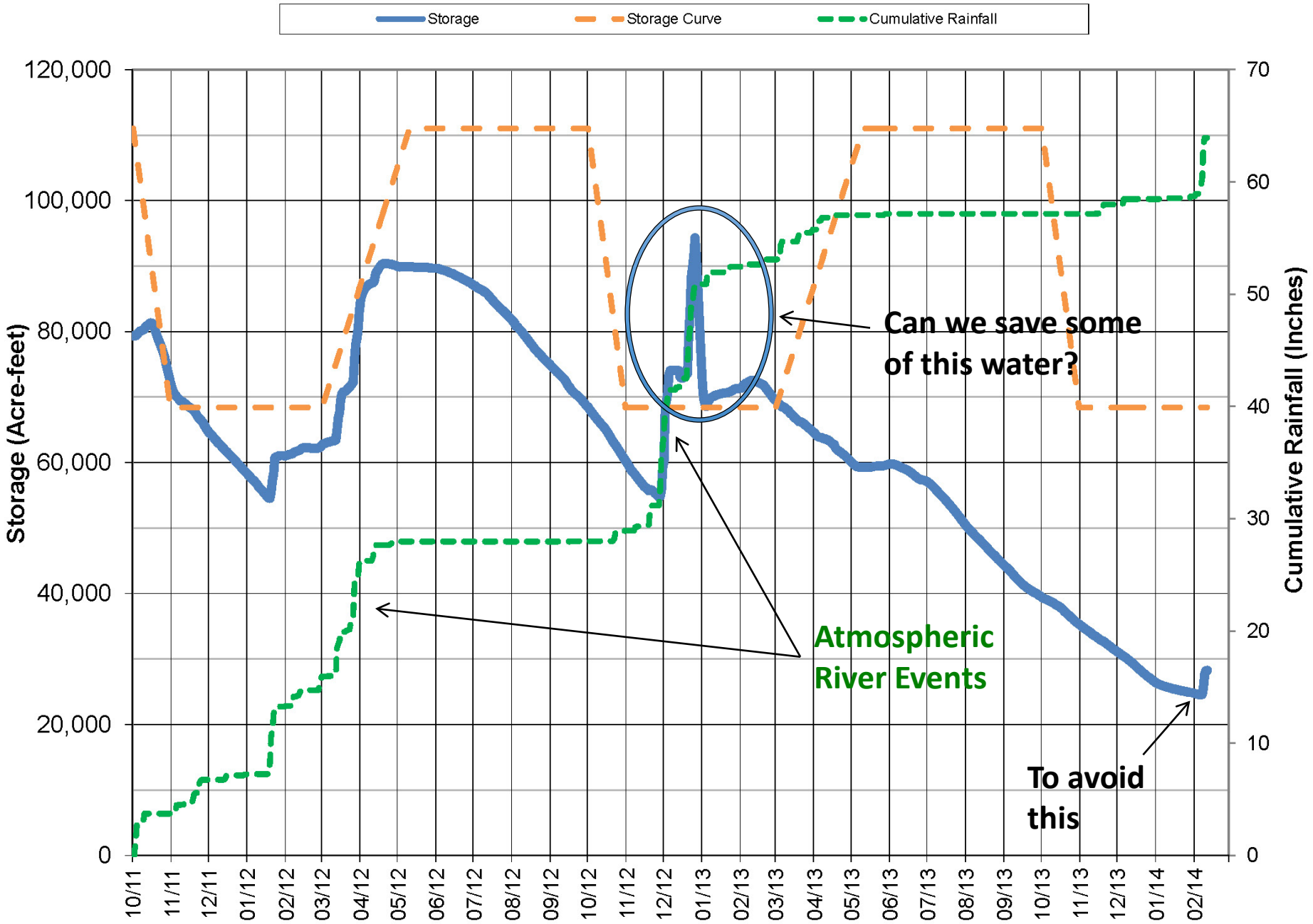
Lake Mendocino FIRO Demonstration Project : A Brief History

- February 2014: Governor's Drought Task Force visits Lk Mendocino – Politics, Media & Public Attention
- Spring 2014 Meeting (USACOE, Scripps, SCWA)
- Partnerships & Collaborations -IWRSS and NOAA Habitat Blueprint

Lake Mendocino Water Years 2012 - 2014



Key Points of Agreement

- FIRO should not impair flood protection/dam safety and ideally will enhance both
- We cannot assume FIRO is currently viable – we must objectively evaluate its viability – no preconceived conclusions
- No agency can or should do this alone – this effort and will require a partnership and collaboration of water managers and scientists – and ultimately policy makers
- We need to communicate in a consistent manner with other interested parties
- Not only is the work we're doing unique, the way in which we're doing our work is unique:
    - Need to work across organizations & disciplines

Three Good Years!

First Year

- Organize our mission & agree on our goals
- Organize ourselves & figure out how to work together (e.g. Steering Committee)
- Initiate education regarding FIRO concept

Second Year

- Develop workplan providing a roadmap for FIRO
- Organize into work groups
- Secure additional federal funding

Third Year

- Preliminary Viability Study
- Science work group activities
- Coordinated outreach program

A Comprehensive Plan to Evaluate the Viability of Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) for Lake Mendocino

Steering Committee Co-Chairs
Jay Jasperse
Sonoma County Water Agency
F. Martin Ralph
Center for Western Weather and Water Extremes
Steering Committee Members
Michael Anderson
California State Climate Office, Department of Water Resources
Levi Brekke
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Mike Dillabough
US Army Corps of Engineers
Michael Dettinger
United States Geological Survey
Rob Hartman
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Christy Jones
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Patrick Rutten
NOAA Restoration Center
Cary Talbot
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Robert Webb
NOAA's Earth System, Research Laboratory
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David Ford
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Arleen O'Donnell
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FIRO Roadmap

Viability Evaluation

Is FIRO currently viable strategy to improve water supply and environmental conditions without impairing flood protection?

NO- FIRO is NOT currently a viable strategy to improve reservoir operations

What Improvements in scientific knowledge & decision tools need to occur so that FIRO is viable and can meet the needs of water managers?

YES – FIRO is a viable strategy

(Note: some FIRO strategies may be currently viable while others are not)

How can FIRO become incorporated into reservoir operations?

- Process
- Decision support tools/model

Science & Technical Programs

- Data collection & monitoring (watershed, hydrometric)
- Weather Forecasting
  - QPI
  - QPE
  - ARs
- Decision support model
- Data interoperability