



Pebble Project Surface Water Hydrology – Mine

Shawn Florio, PE
Agency Meetings
November 28, 2007

HDR



Discussion Topics

- Program Objectives
- Study Area
- Field Studies
- Results

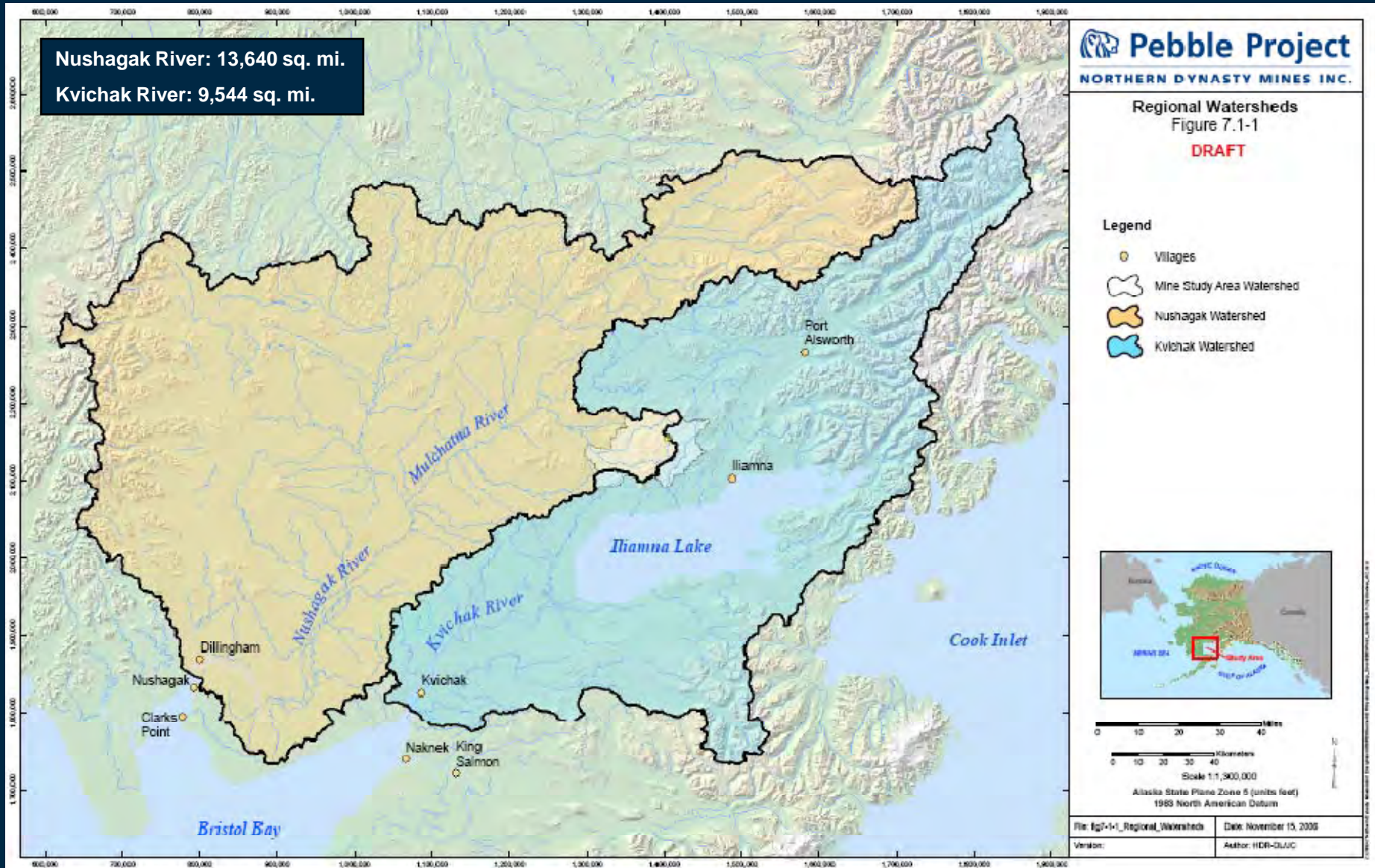


Program Objectives

- **Fulfill NEPA & CWA Needs
(USEPA Hardrock Mining Handbook)**
 - Watershed Delineation
 - Stream Flows (Avg. Monthly, Baseflows, Flood Frequency)
 - Understand Gaining & Losing Reaches
 - Precipitation/Infiltration/Runoff Relationships
 - Channel Morphology & Sediment Transport
- **Provide Baseline Data**
 - Project Design
 - Water Balance
 - Alternatives Analysis
 - Project Permitting Process

Study Area

Regional Drainage Basins



Study Area Drainage Basins



Field Studies

- **Baseline Hydrology**
- **Low Flow (Baseflow)**

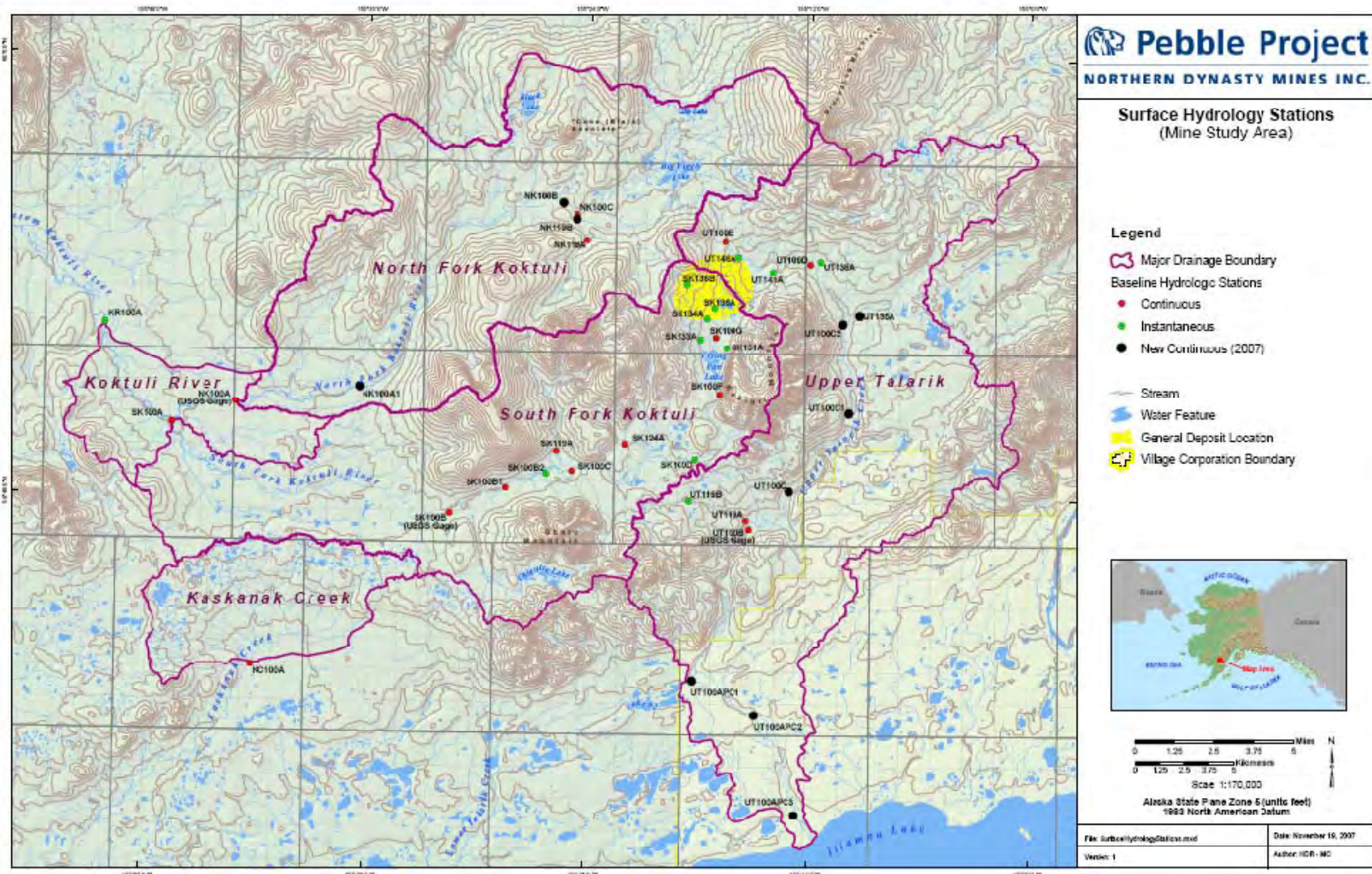




Baseline Hydrology

- **Monthly Field Visits**
 - 38 Stations
 - 12 Measurements Per Year Per Station
 - Coincident with Water Quality Samples
- **12 Instantaneous (Only) Stations**
 - Measurement Provided to Water Quality Team
- **26 Continuously Gaged**
 - During Ice-Free Months
 - Winter Field Measurements
- **Period of Record**
 - 1991 to 1994 – Partial Record
 - 2004 to 2007 – Continuous Record
 - 2005 - 2 New Gages
 - 2007 - 10 New Gages
 - Data Through May 2006 Processed

Baseline Station Locations

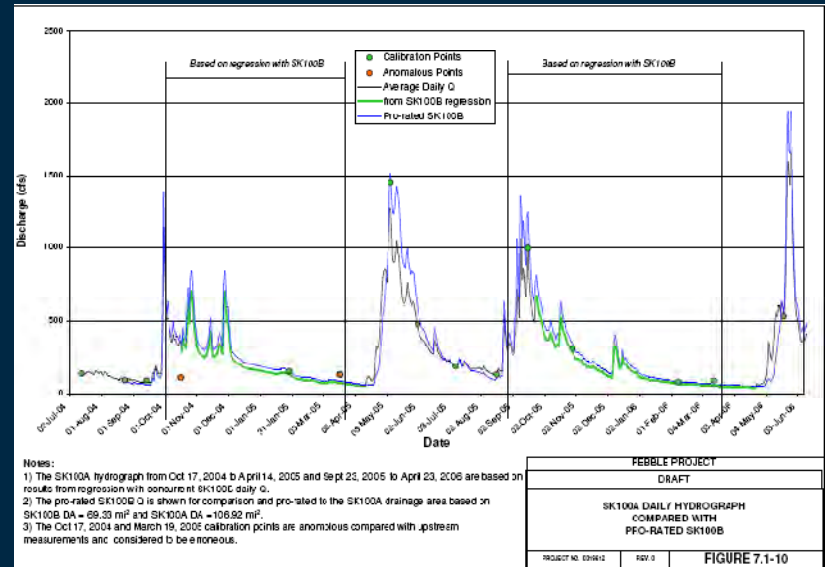


Discharge Measurement Methods

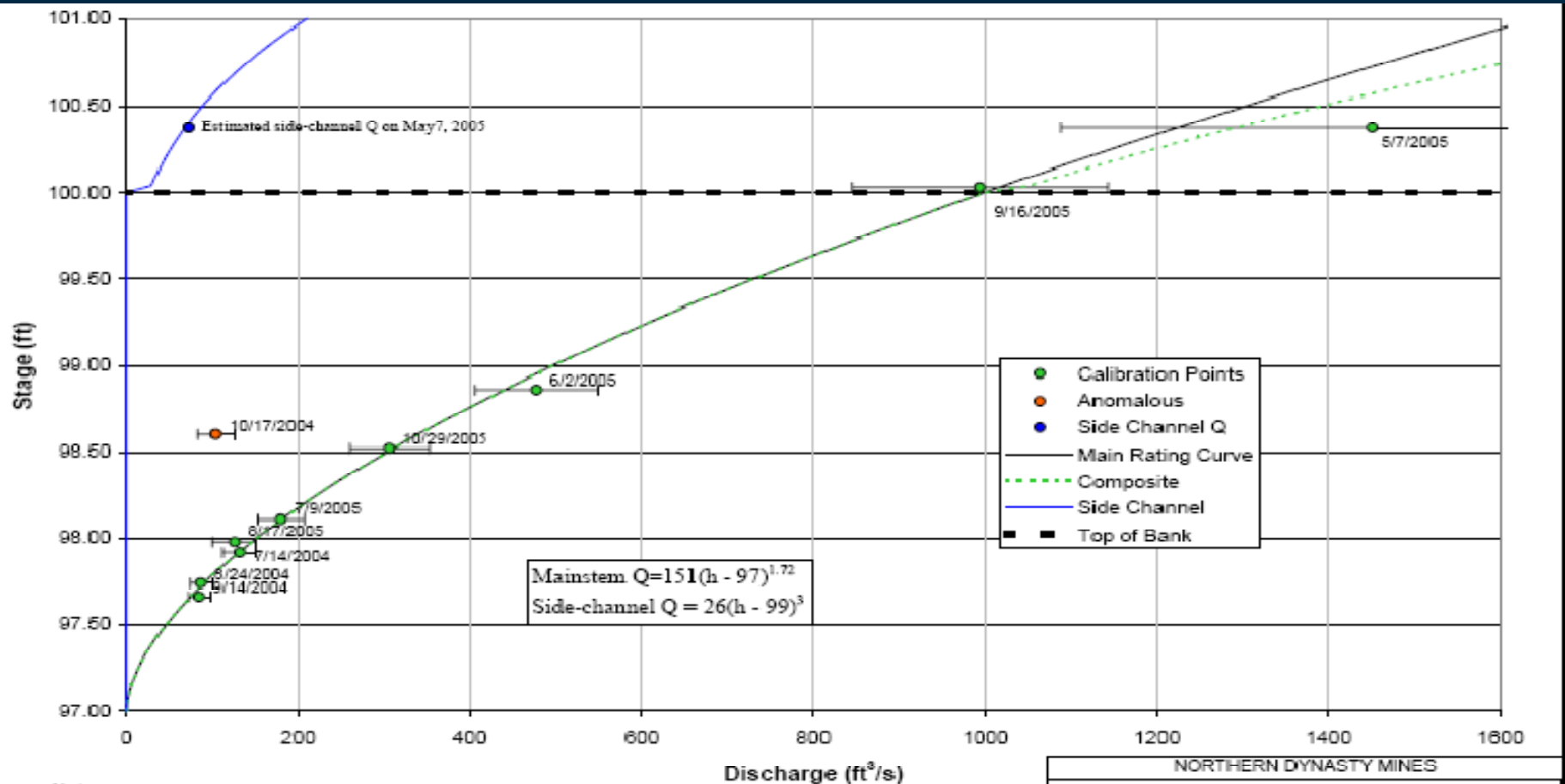
- **Standard USGS Discharge Methods**
 - Velocity Meters
 - Salt-Dilution
- **Surveyed Staff Gages & Data Loggers**



Results of Baseline Studies



Rating Curve Development



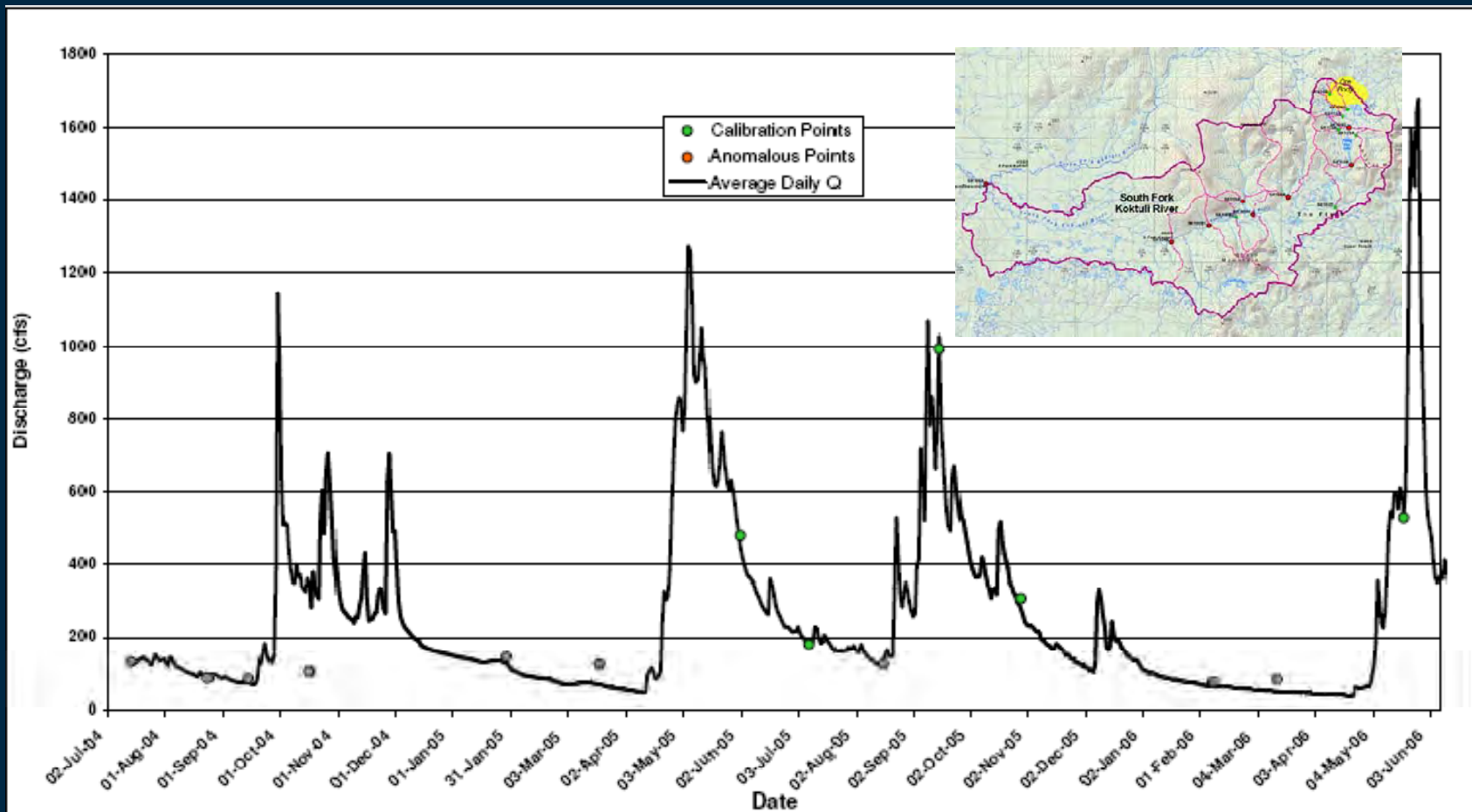
Notes:

- 1) The May 7th, 2005 calibration point discharge is estimated based on the average ratio of valid Sept:May discharge measurements at upstream sites, with an uncertainty of +/- 25%. The May 7th, 2005 side-channel Q is an estimated 5% of mainstem Q.
- 2) The Oct 17, 2004 discharge measurement is a poorly documented outlier and not used in the rating curve development.

Rev 0 - Issued for Report

NORTHERN DYNASTY MINES			
PEBBLE PROJECT			
SK100A RATING CURVE			
	PROJECT / ASSIGNMENT	REF. NO.	REV.
	NO. VA101-17016-A	2	0
FIGURE 3.1			

Hydrographs SK100A

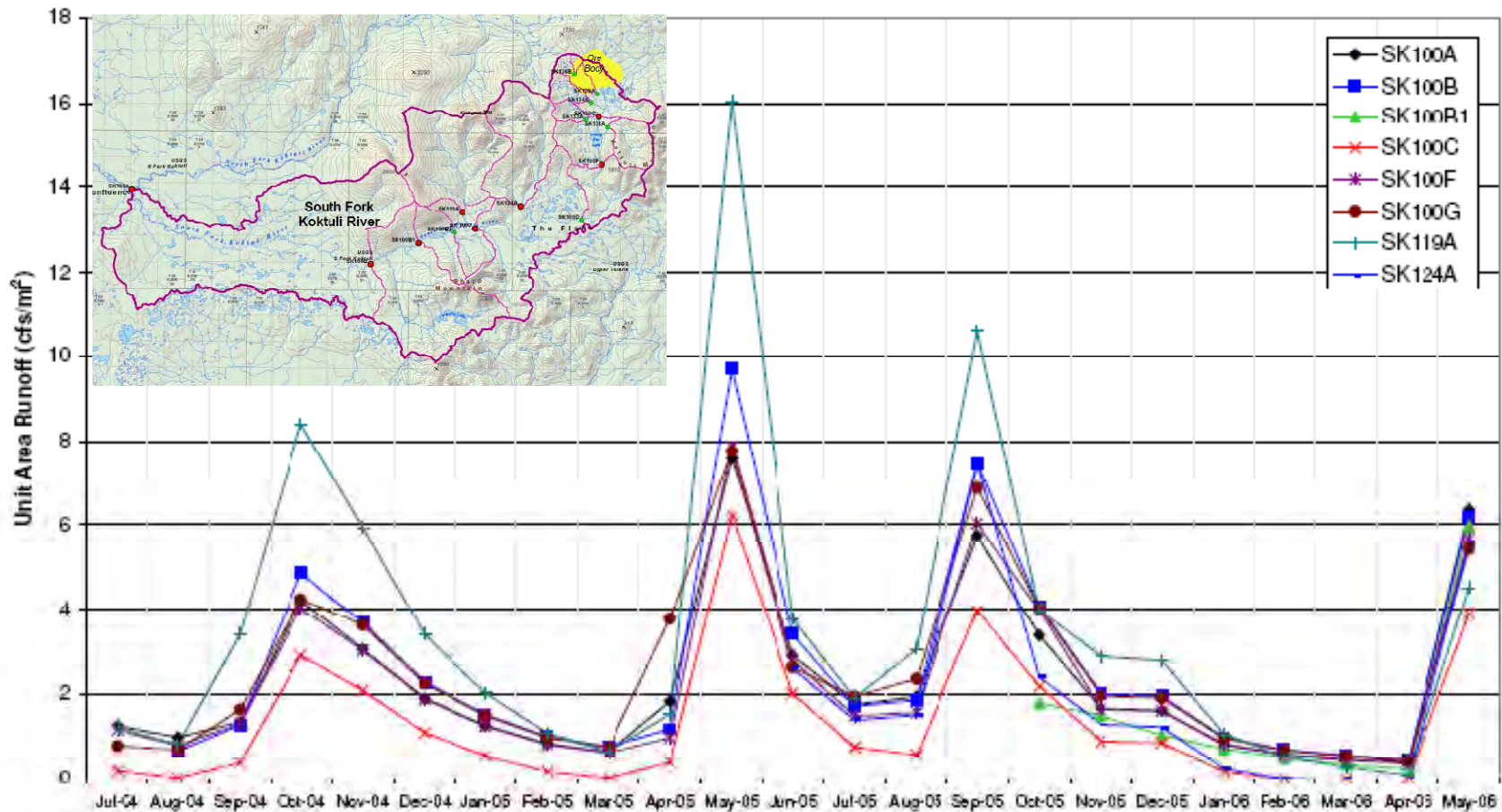


Notes:

- 1) The SK100A hydrograph from Oct 17, 2004 to April 14, 2005 and Sept 23, 2005 to April 23, 2006 are based on results from regression with concurrent SK100B daily Q.
- 2) The Oct 17, 2004 and March 19, 2005 calibration points are anomalous compared with upstream measurements and considered to be erroneous.

PEBBLE PROJECT		
DRAFT		
SK100A DAILY HYDROGRAPH		
PROJECT NO. 009612	REV. #	FIGURE 7.1-10

Unit Runoff Comparison Monthly Means on South Fork



Notes:

1) SK119A flows are larger than expected, but agree with discharge measurements. Although the rating curve used to develop this hydrograph is considered to be high quality, the resulting monthly hydrograph suggests this station should be a focus in future field work.

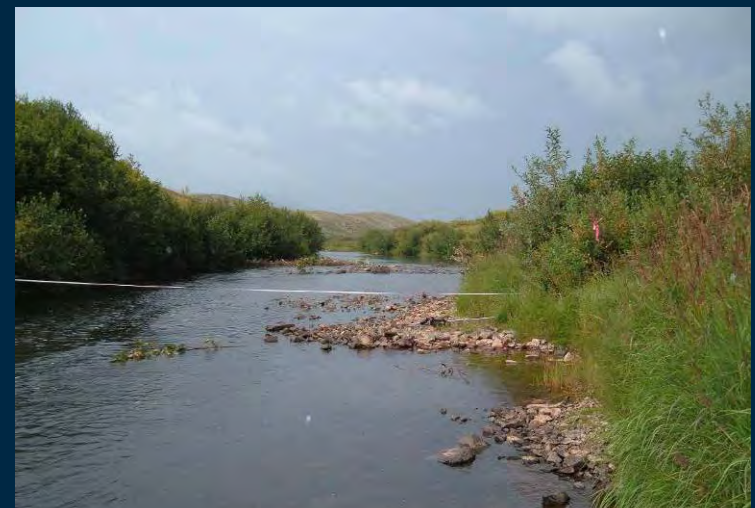
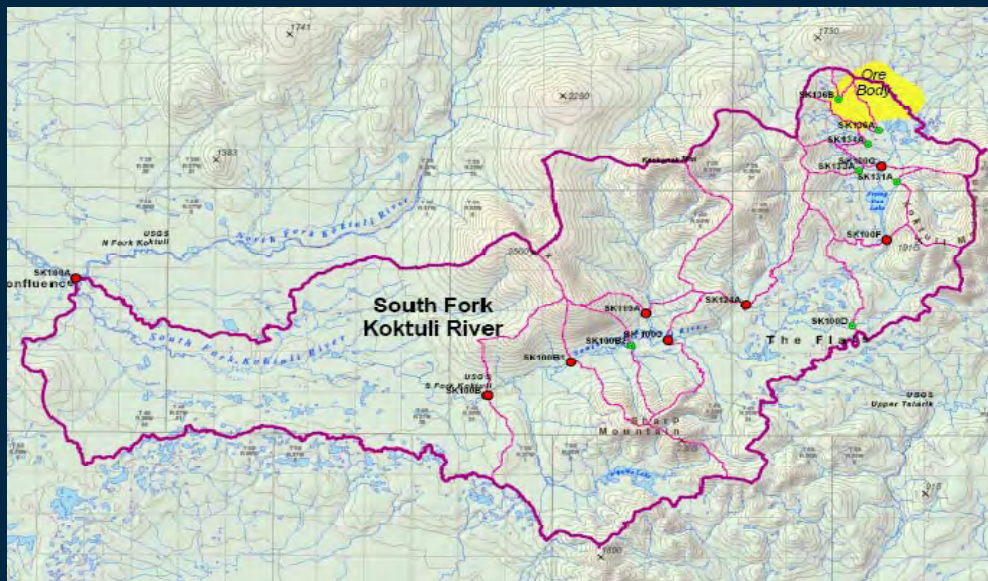
Intermittent Reach



SK100C - July 2005. Q = 22 cfs.

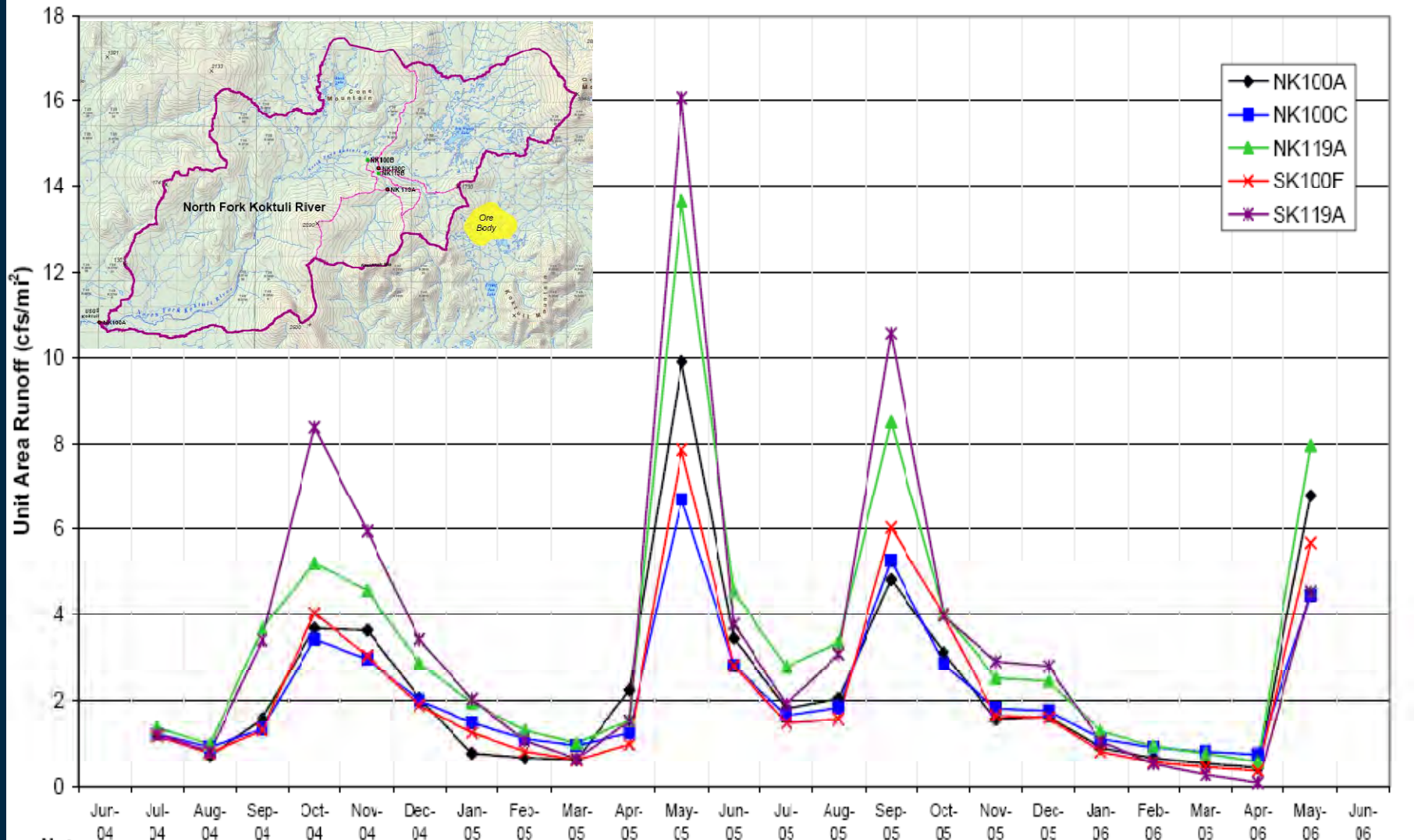


SK100C - August 2005. Q = 0 cfs.

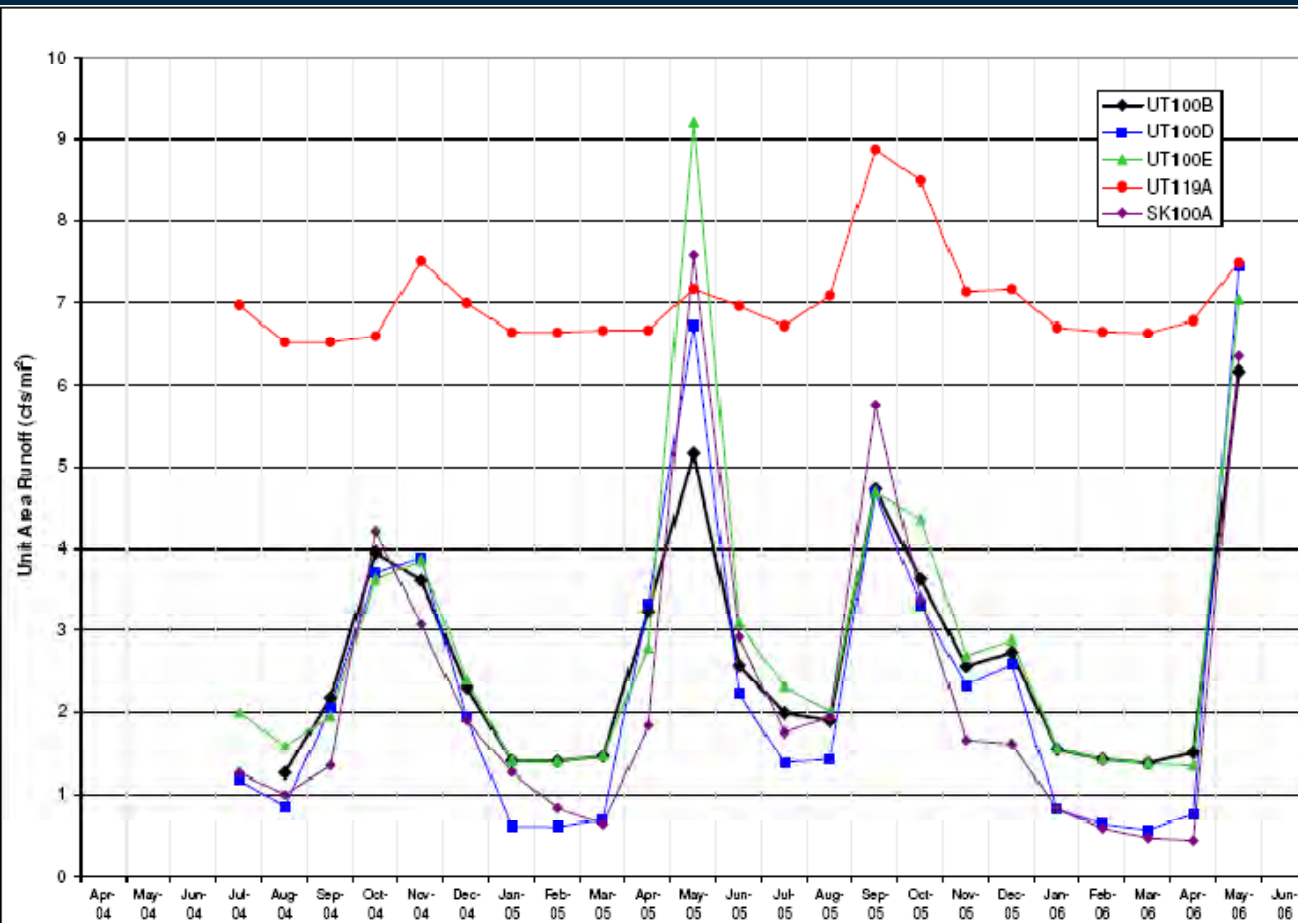


SK100F - August 2005. Q = 16 cfs.

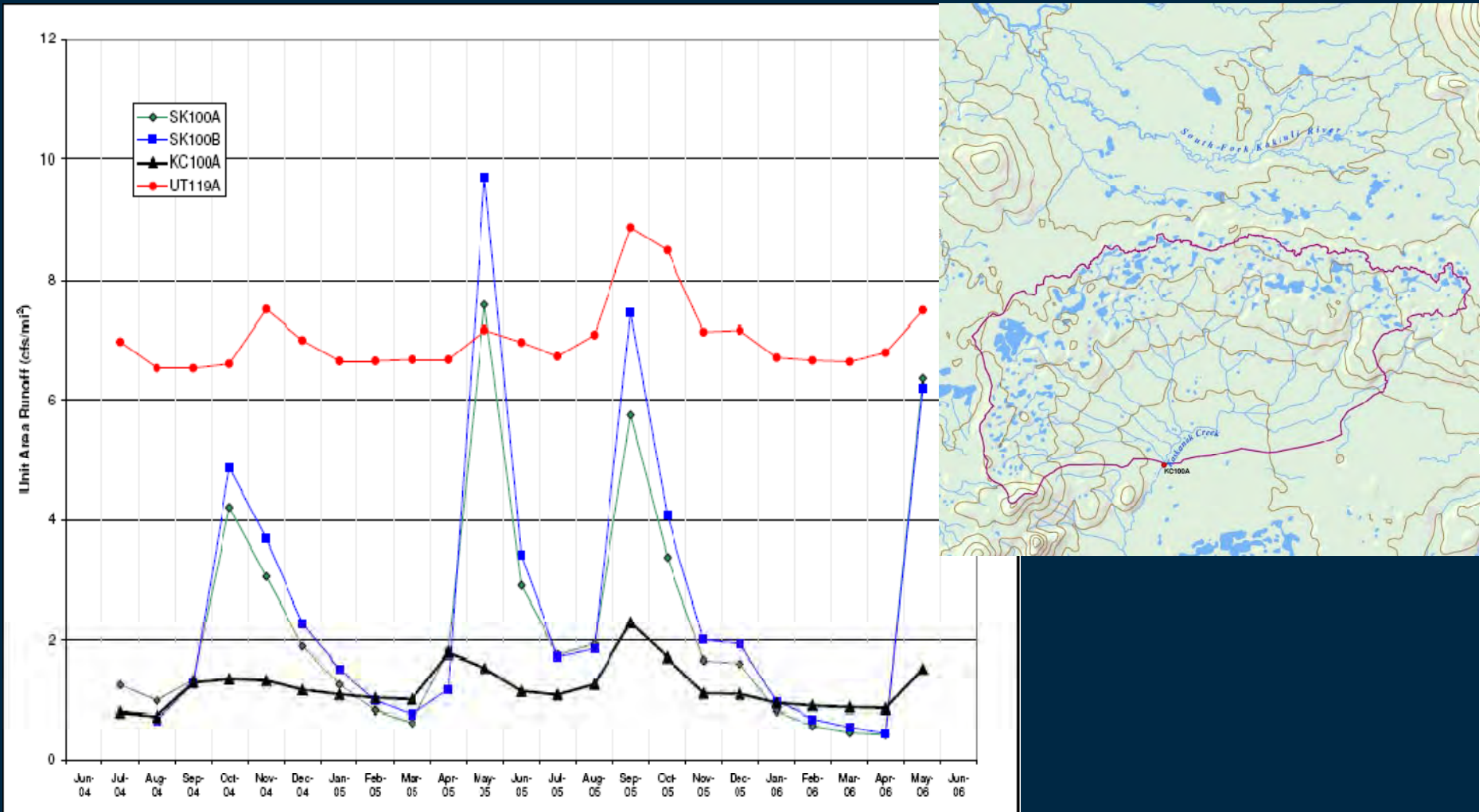
Unit Runoff Comparison Monthly Means - North Fork Koktuli



Unit Runoff Comparison Monthly Means on Upper Talarik



Unit Runoff Comparison Kaskanak Creek to SFK and UT



Baseflow (Low Flow) Analysis

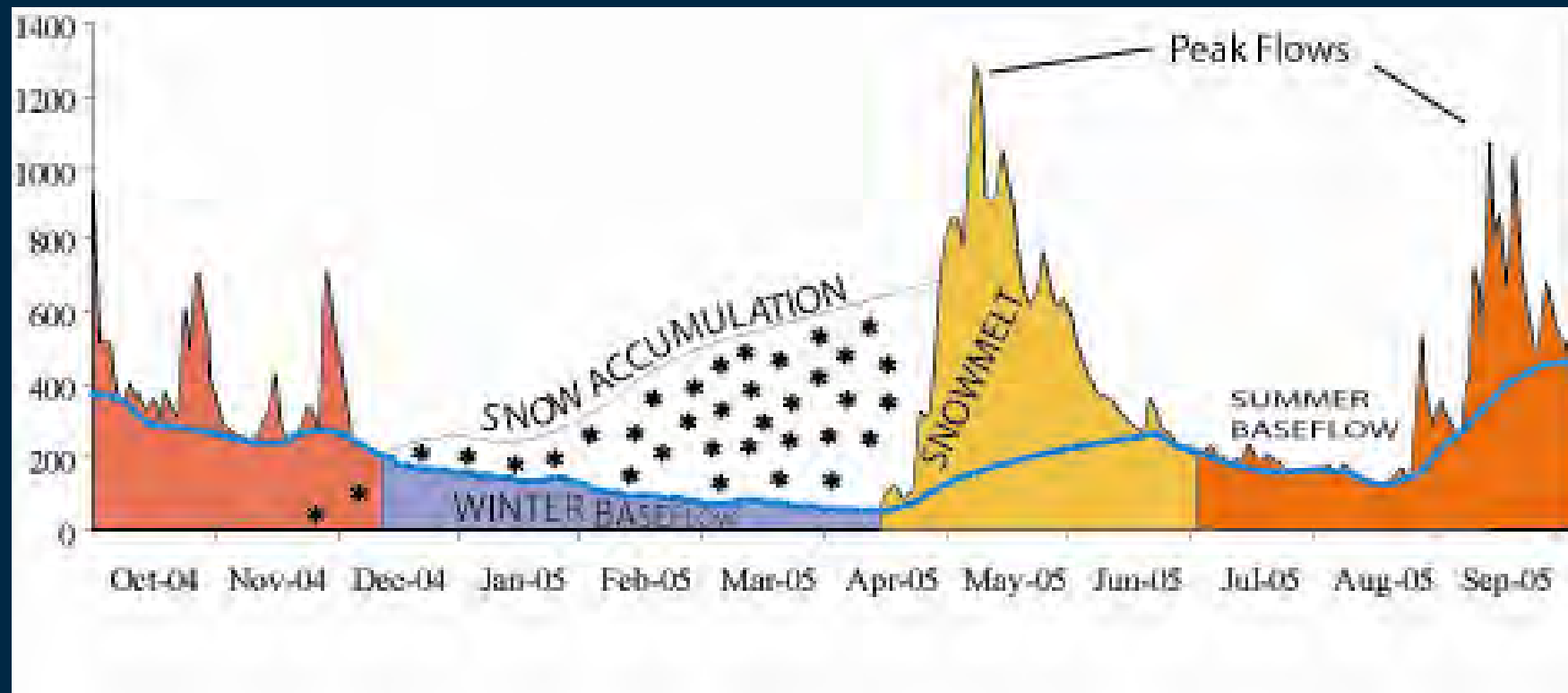
Objectives:

- Documenting Low Flow Conditions
- Understanding Gaining & Losing Reaches

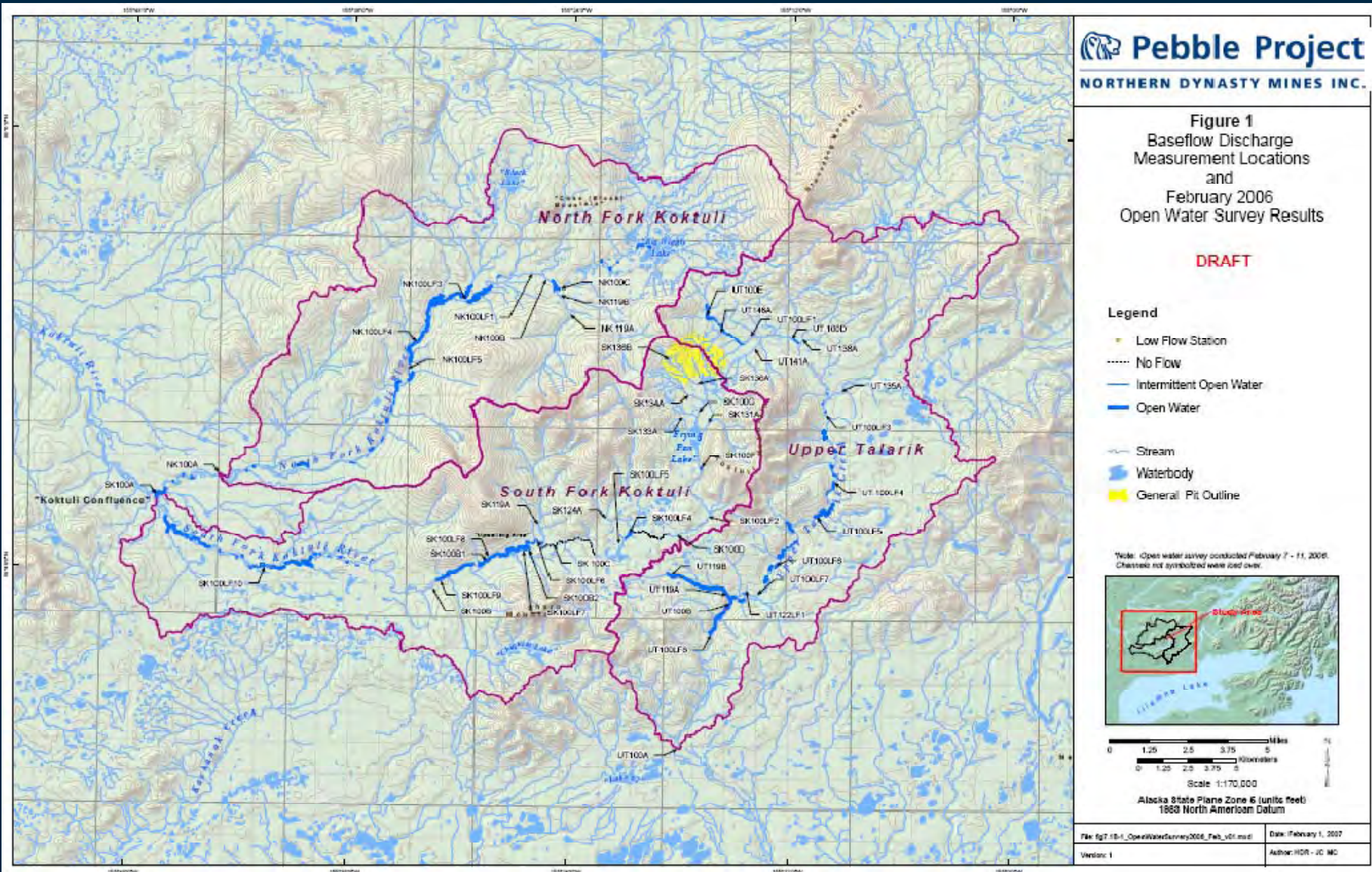


Baseflow Fieldwork

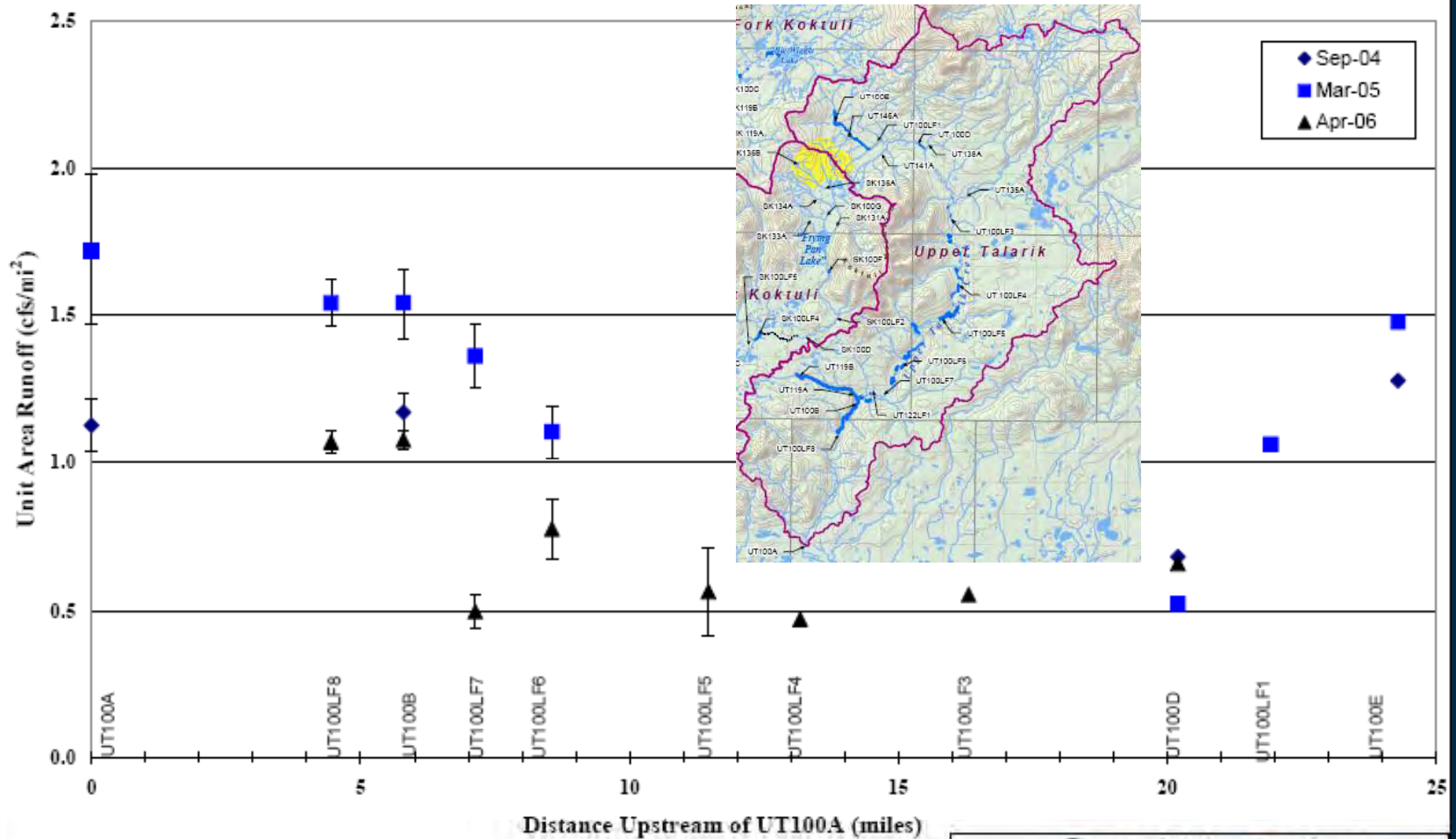
- 41 Stations
- Instantaneous Measurements
- Develop Profiles of Drainages



Baseflow Measurement Locations



Upper Talarik Creek Baseflow Unit Area Runoff Profile

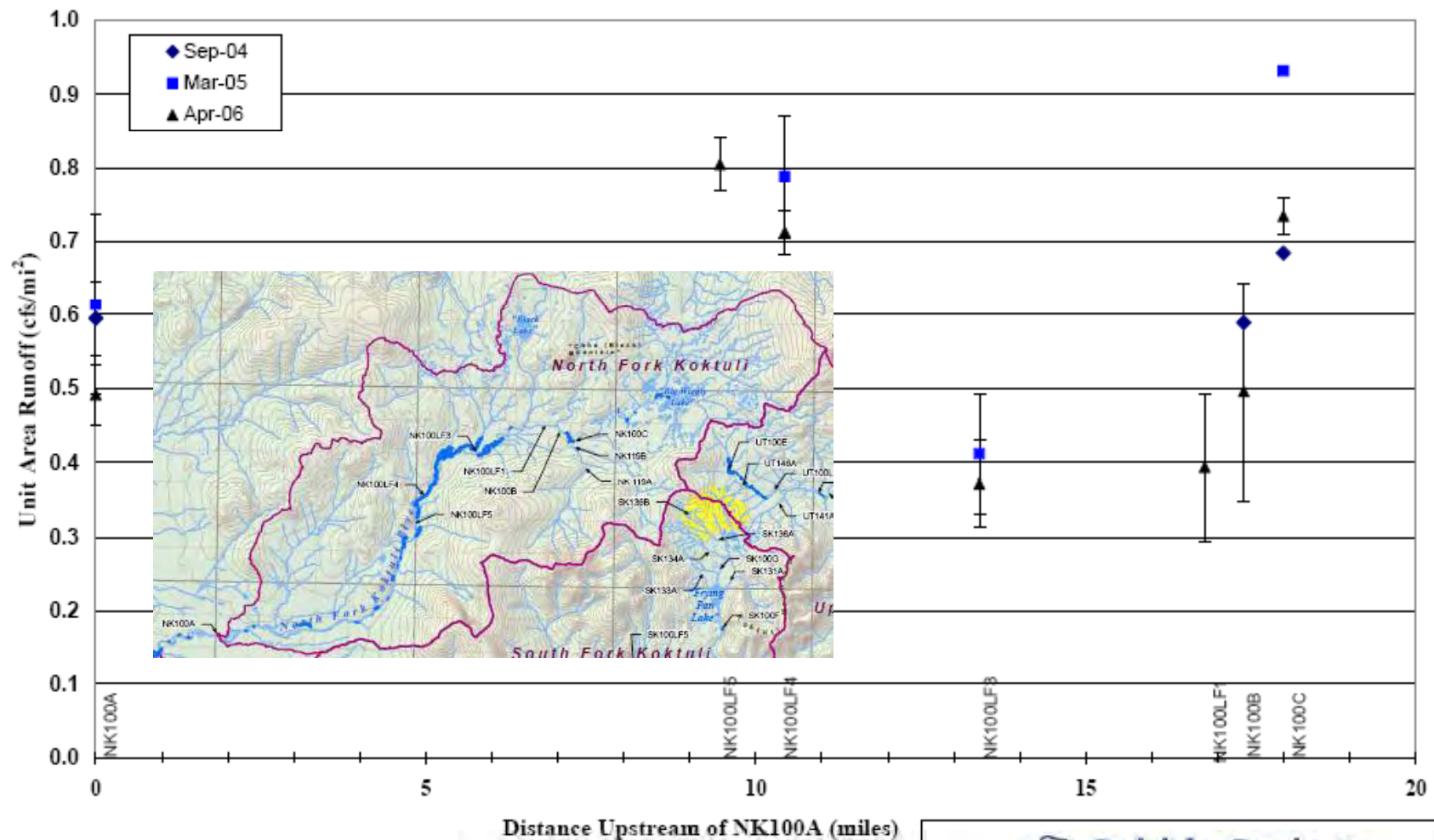


Pebble Project

NORTHERN DYNASTY MINES INC.

2004-2006 BASE FLOW DISCHARGE
MEASUREMENTS UPPER TALARIK
CREEK, UNIT RUNOFF PROFILE

North Fork Kaktuli Baseflow Unit Area Runoff Profile



Pebble Project

NORTHERN DYNASTY MINES INC.

2004-2006 BASE FLOW DISCHARGE
MEASUREMENTS NORTH FORK KAKTULI RIVER, UNIT
RUNOFF PROFILE

Summary

- **Seven New HDR-Operated Gages**
- **Three New APC-Operated Gages**
- **Increasing Period of Record**
 - Continuous Baseline Hydrographs
 - Baseflow Measurements
- **Mean Annual Runoff Consistent Between SK, NK & UT**
 - Exception for Kaskanak Creek

Summary

- **High Runoff in Steep Tributaries**
 - SK119A
 - NK119A
 - High, Steep Drainages without Groundwater Storage
- **Groundwater Interaction Important To SK, NK & UT**
 - Controlled by Permeable Glacial Deposits
 - Losing Between Frying Pan Lake and SK100C
 - Gaining Reach Between SK100C and SK100B
 - Cross-Drainage Transfer to Upper Talarik