A photograph of a road construction site. In the foreground, a stream flows through a rocky, eroded bank. A large pile of dark gravel is visible on the left side of the stream. In the background, a road is under construction, with a yellow triangular warning sign on the left and blue and yellow directional signs on the right. The sky is overcast and grey.

**Evaluating the effects of
simulated land use measures
on peak discharge of a
catchment adjoining a road**

**Kalantari, Z., Jansson, P.-E., French, H. K.,
Folkeson, L., Sassner, M., Stolte, J.**

➤ “Adaptation of road drainage structures to climate change”

➤ Funded by The Swedish Transport Administration (Trafikverket) through the Centre for Operation and Maintenance (CDU)

➤ Operated by the Royal Institute of Technology, KTH, Sweden.



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Motivations

The climate change will lead to more frequent

- extreme precipitation events
- snow melt periods
- flooding on the roads

- Already today, many road-drainage facilities lack the capacity to deal with extreme flows.



Flooding, Road 918, Stava



Erosion, Road 240, Hagfors

Hence, due to the climate change and landuse change, the number of incidences on roads will increase.



Photo: SGU

Debris flow, Fulufjället, 1997



Photo: SGI

Landslide, Småröd, 2006

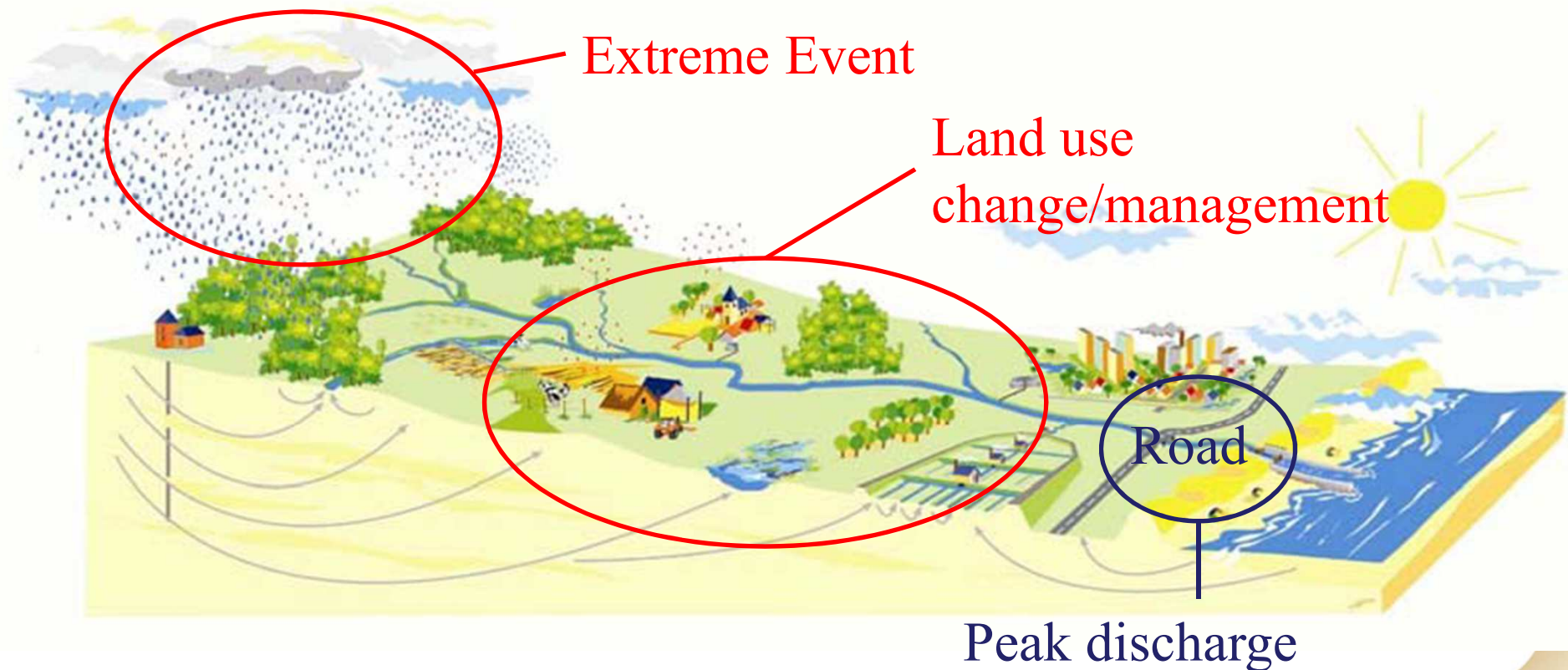
Main Objective

To develop scientifically well-founded recommendations and suggestions on a cost-efficient adaptation of road drainage systems to climate change and land use change



Specific Objectives

- Study the effect of different measures to combat negative impact of extreme events on discharge meeting the road
- Study the effect of land use change by creating and modelling land use scenarios



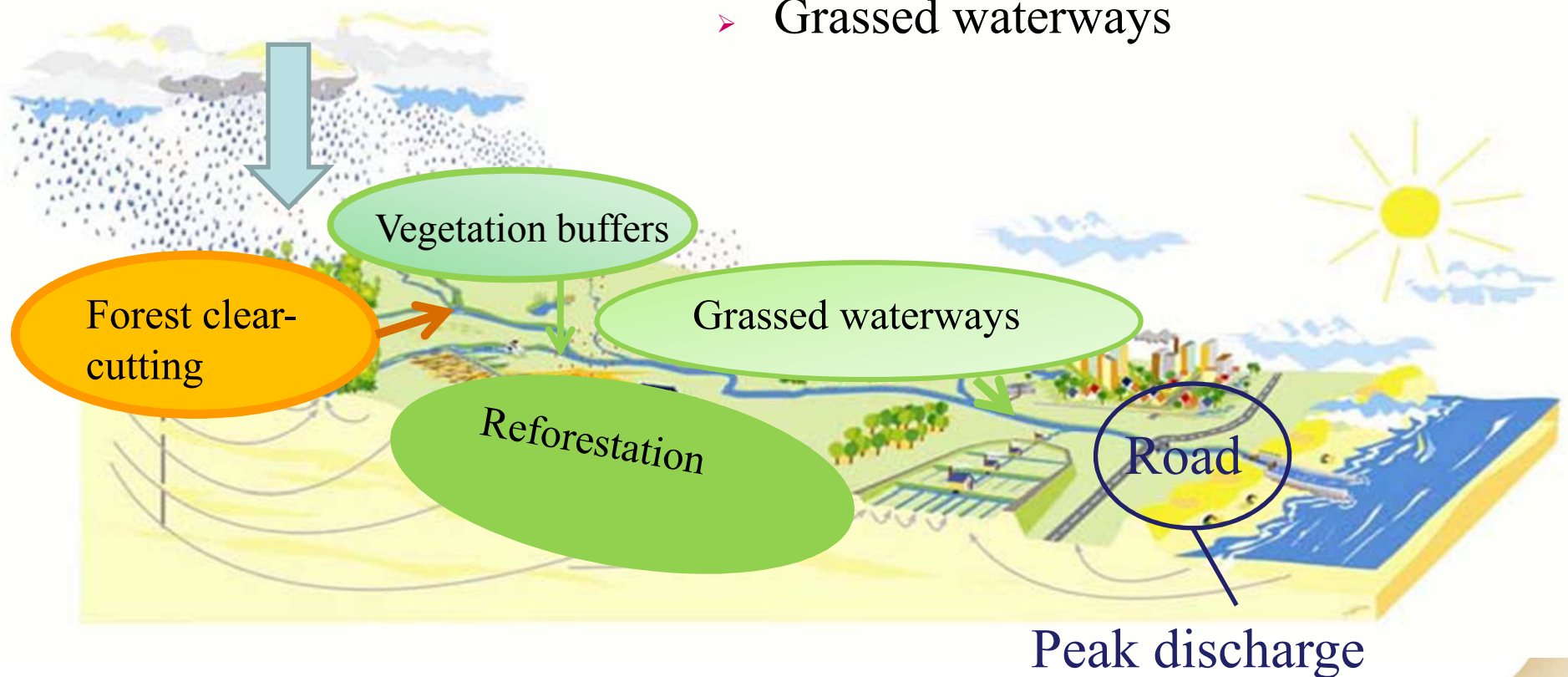
Methods

A Physically distributed hydrological model (MIKE SHE)

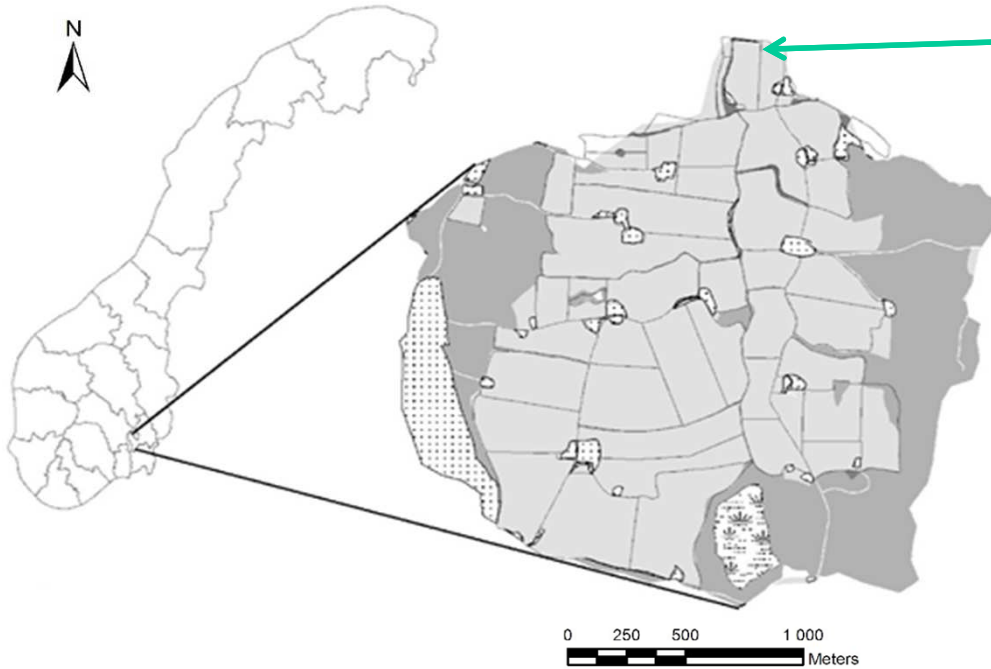
Four historical storm events with return periods of 2, 5, 10 and 50 years

Four different land use scenarios:

- Clear-cutting
- Reforestation
- Vegetation buffers along creeks
- Grassed waterways



Study area: Skuterud, Norway



Monitoring station



- Total area: 4.5 km²
- Arable land: 60 %
- Forest: 30 %
- Urban: 10 %

Event pictures



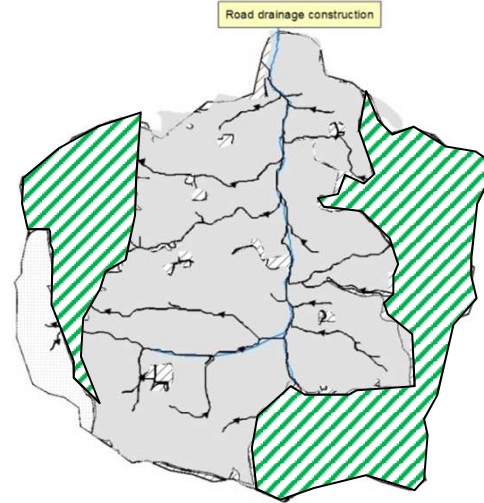
Runoff generation caused by freeze/thaw cycles in combination with snowmelt/precipitation

Simulated land use scenarios

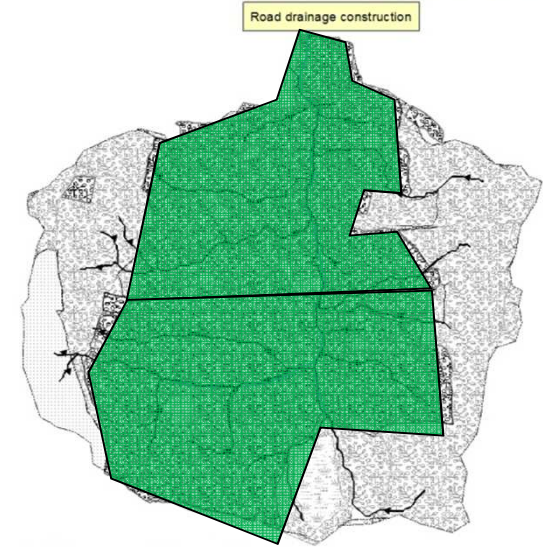
Current



30% forest clear-cutting

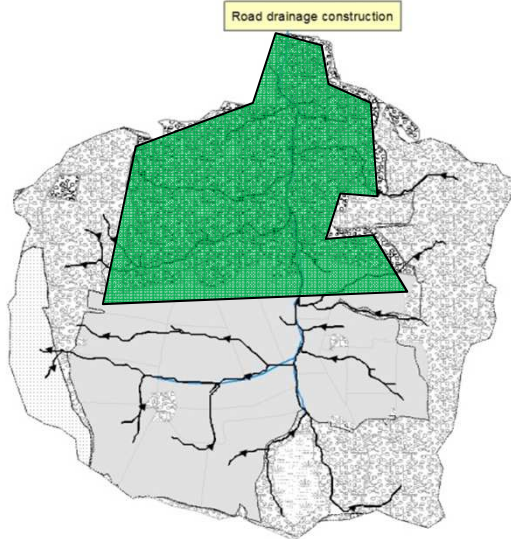


+60% forest

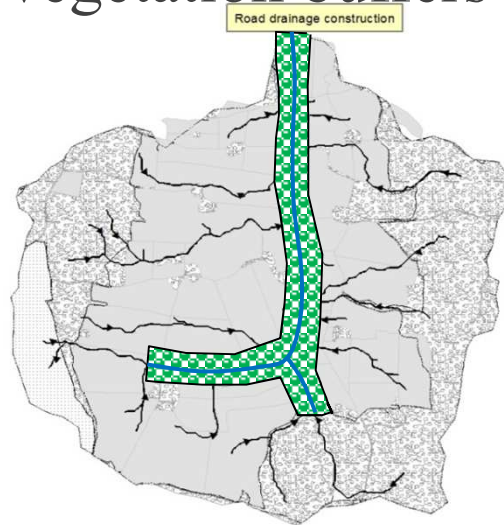


SK

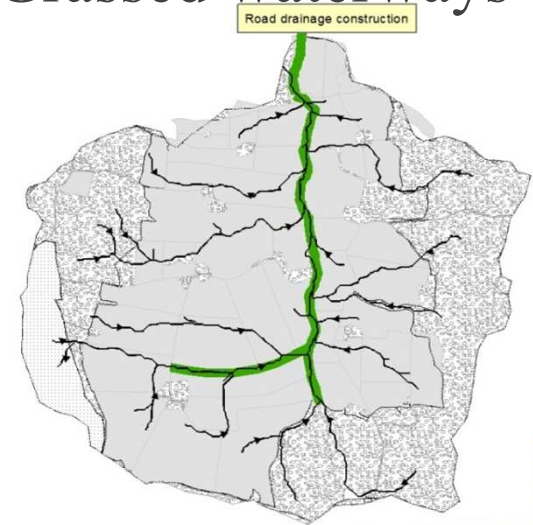
+30% forest



Vegetation buffers

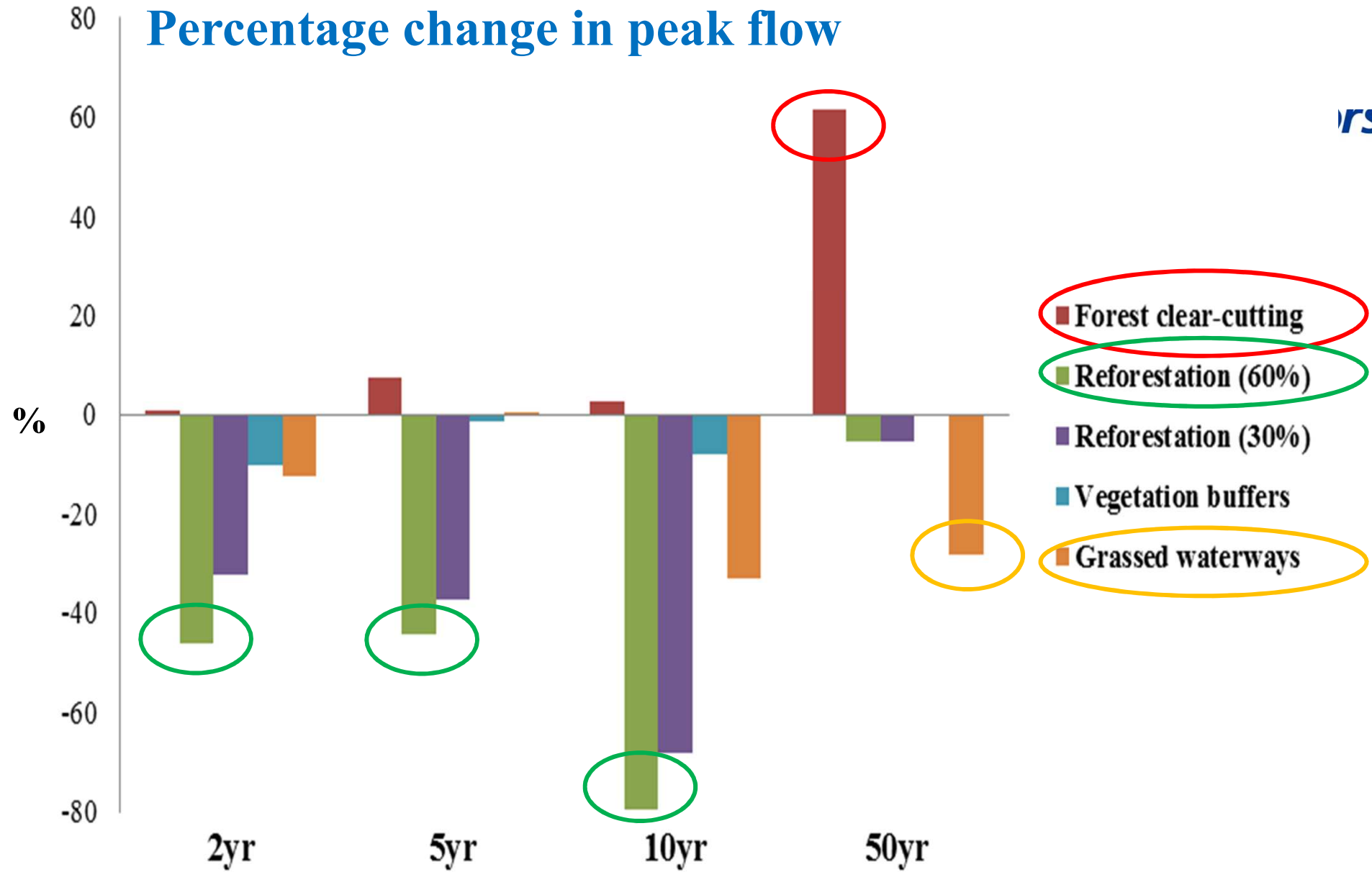


Grassed waterways

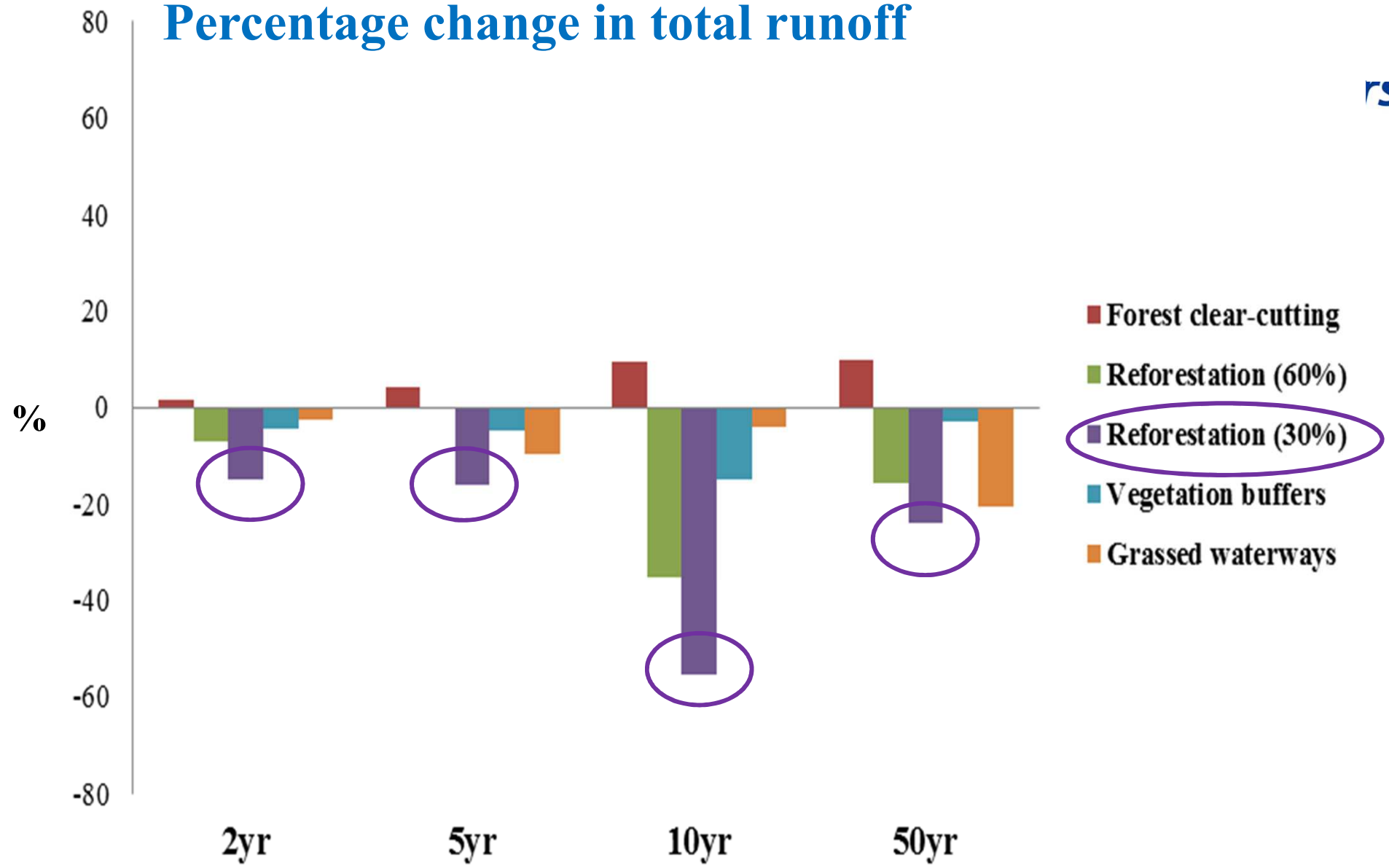


Percentage change in peak flow

IRSK



Percentage change in total runoff



Main lessons learned:

- Land use composition and configuration **affect discharge** (peak flow and total runoff)
- The specific effect of land use measures on discharge depends on their **spatial distribution** and on the **size** and **time** of storm events.
- For example, doubling the forest area does **not** give a **doubling** in runoff volume **reduction**
- The **location** of any land use change is of high **importance**

Conclusions so far...

- **Forestation /reforestation** important in **controlling** peak flow and total runoff.
- Need for strategies that improve **communication** between **road managers** and the **forestry** and **agriculture** sectors.



Effect of land use change scenarios, MIKE-SHE , Skuterud

