



# COMPARISON OF NATURAL SOURCE DEPLETION (NSZD) CHARACTERIZATION METHODS

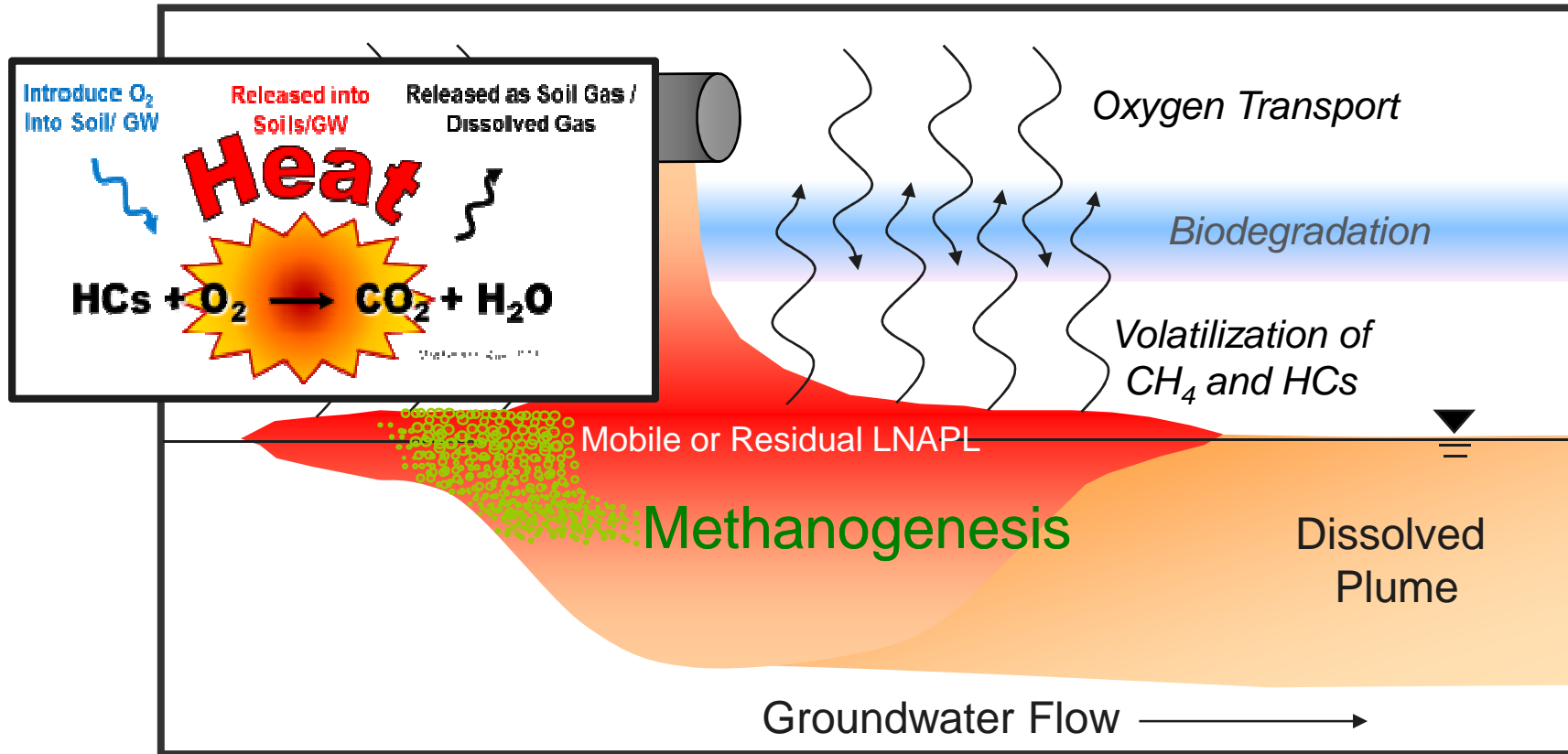
Mark Malander and Harley Hopkins (ExxonMobil)  
Andy Pennington, Jonathon Smith, and  
Steven Gaito (Arcadis)

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# Agenda

- **Study Objectives**
- **Findings from each Method**
- **Comparison of NSZD Rates**
- **Temperature Observations**
- **Summary**

# NSZD Processes in the Vadose Zone



**Mass loss occurs from:**

**Volatilization:** Observed from soil gas concentration data

**Biodegradation:** Inferred from oxygen, methane, and hydrocarbon soil gas depth profiles

$CO_2$  flux through groundsurface

or

# NSZD Methodology Comparison: Study Objectives



CO<sub>2</sub> Trap



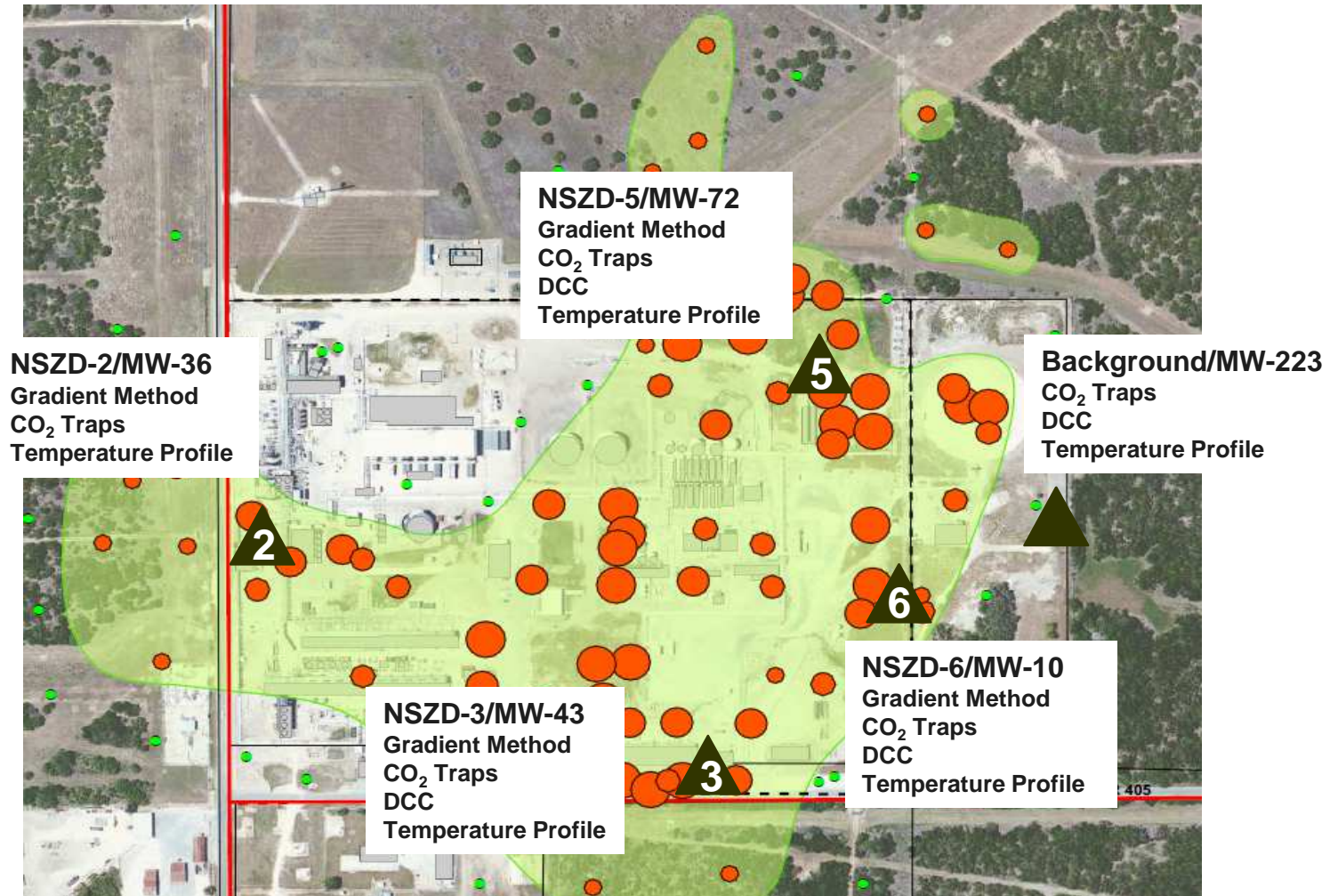
LI-COR Chamber and Analyzer



Temperature Datalogger

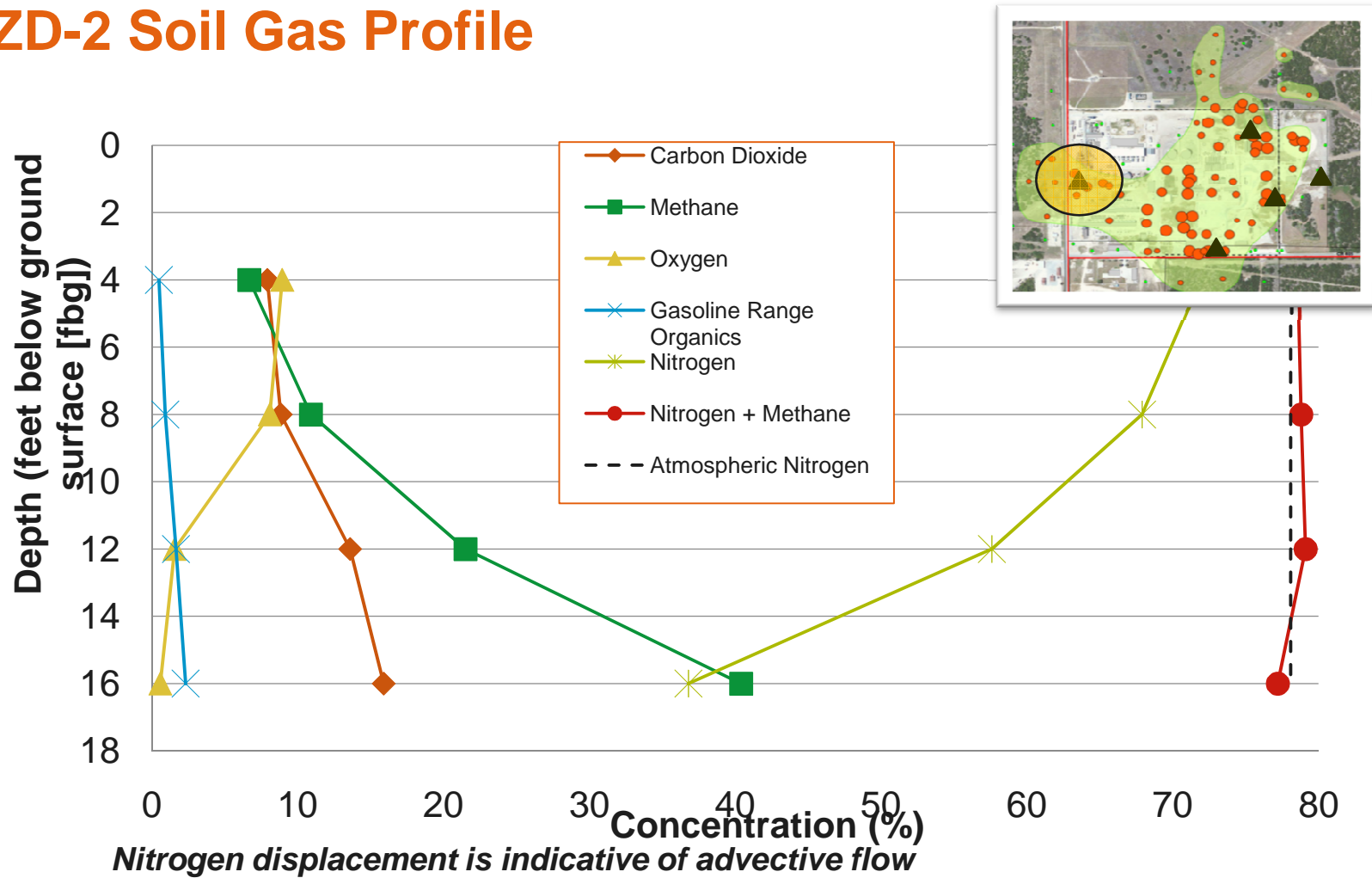
- Side-by-side comparison of NSZD quantification methods
- Gradient Method
- Dynamic Closed Chamber (DCC)
- CO<sub>2</sub> Traps
- Collect duplicate CO<sub>2</sub> trap data to evaluate repeatability
- Collect ancillary data:
  - Soil moisture
  - Rainfall from airport
  - Barometric pressure
  - Temperature profiles

# Method Comparison Study Locations



# Gradient Method

# Gradient Method NSZD-2 Soil Gas Profile



# Vapor-Phase Porous Media Diffusion Coefficient

Location ID	$D_{\text{eff}, \text{O}_2}$ (cm <sup>2</sup> /sec)		Ratio
	March 2014	Aug 2012	2014:2012
NSZD-2	0.0124	0.0071	1.75
NSZD-3	0.0084	0.0206	0.41
NSZD-5	0.0060	0.0085	0.70
NSZD-6	0.0042	0.0017	2.48

***Diffusion coefficient is dependent on pore fluid saturation***



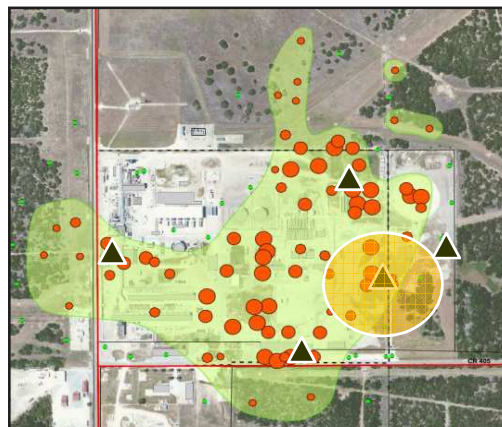
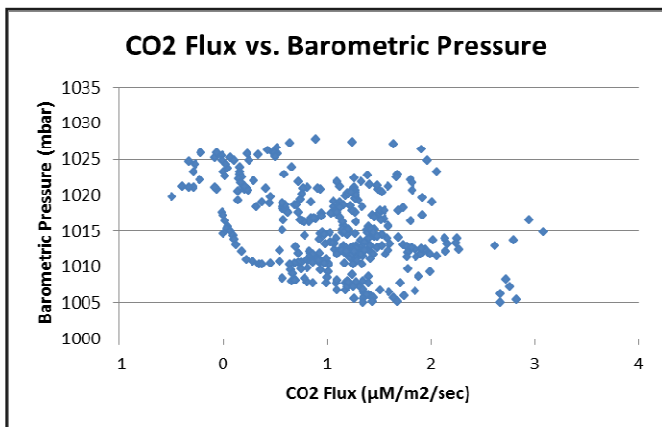
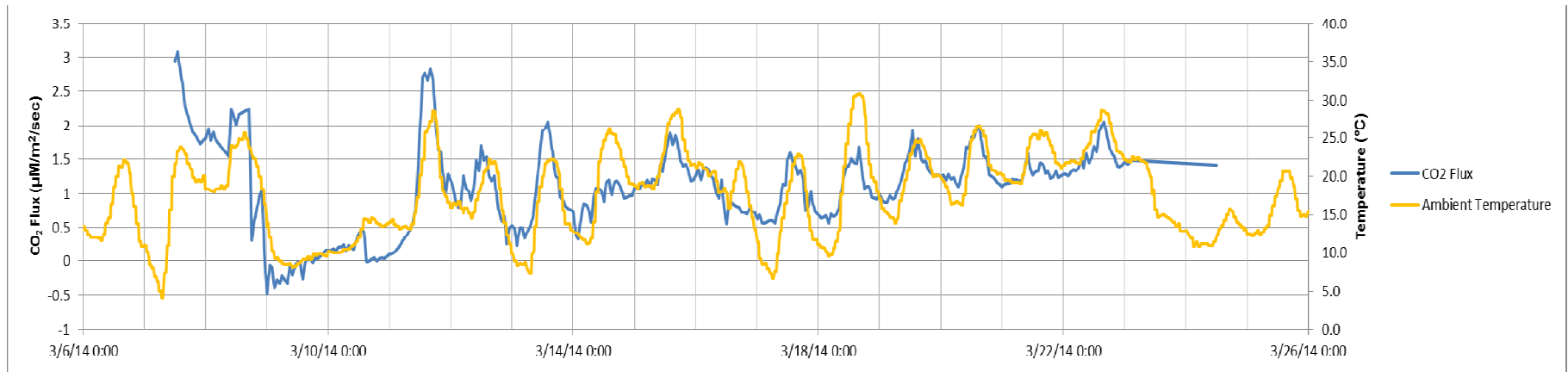
# CO<sub>2</sub> Flux Methods

# Dynamic Closed Chamber (DCC)

High-quality data, but demanding setup

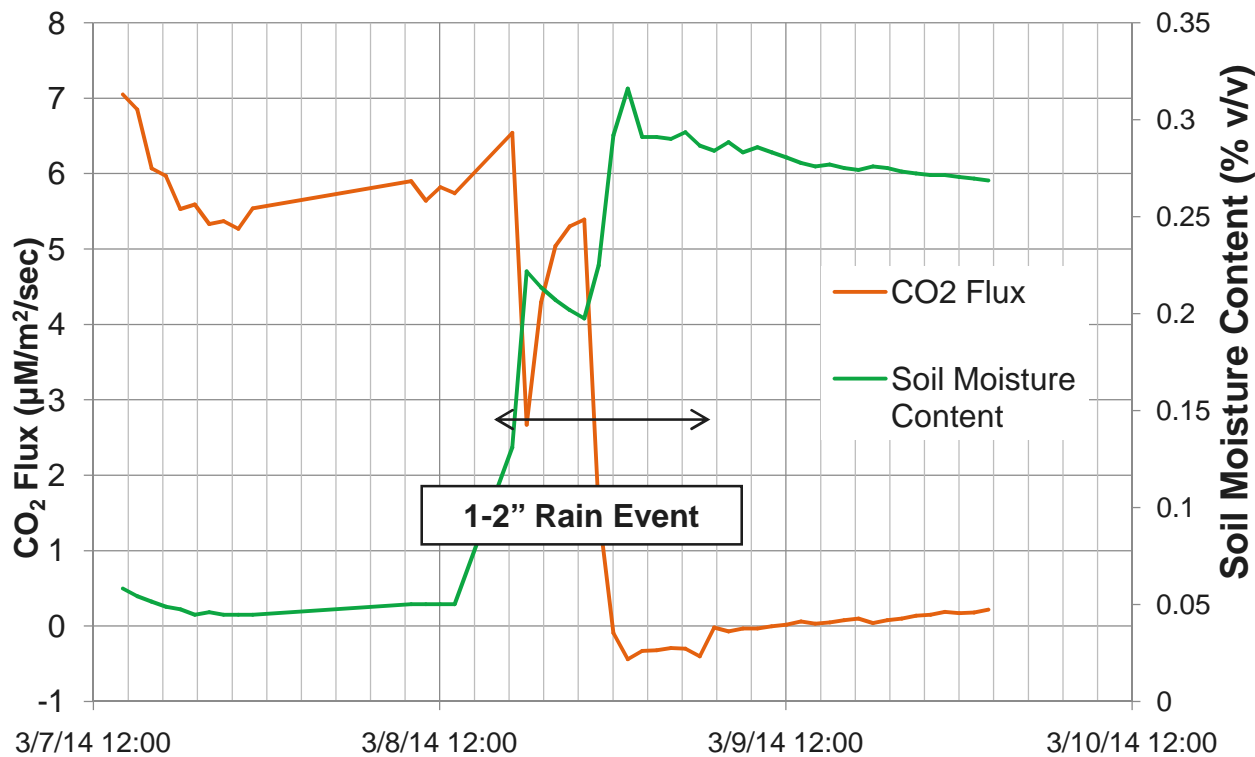


# CO<sub>2</sub> Flux Data (DCC): NSZD-6

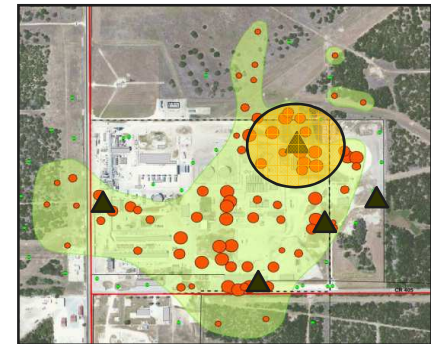


**Strong correlation  
between atmospheric  
temperature and flux**

# CO<sub>2</sub> Flux Data (DCC): NSZD-5



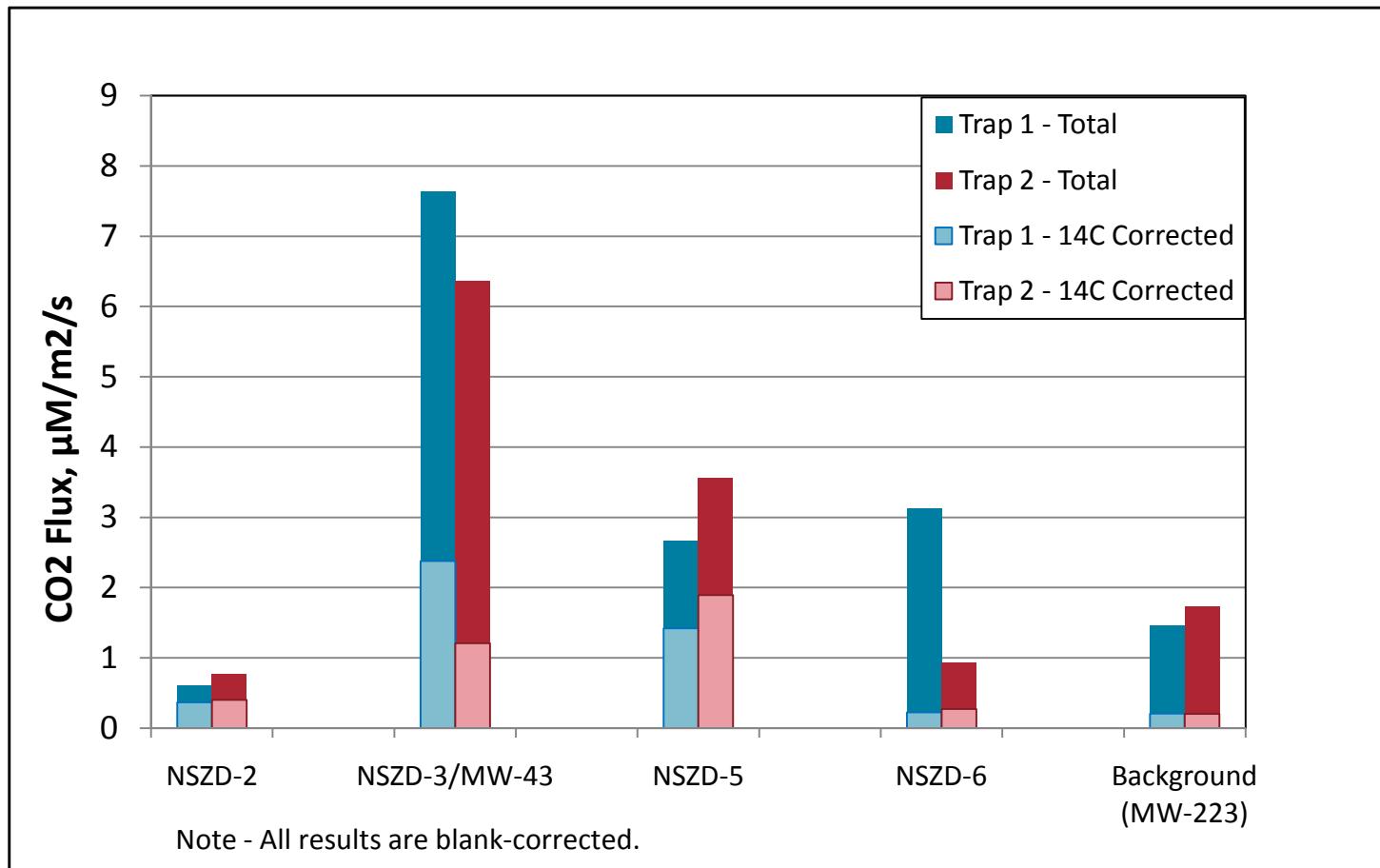
Effects of soil moisture/rainfall are significant



# CO2 Traps



# CO<sub>2</sub> Trap Results Duplicate Comparison

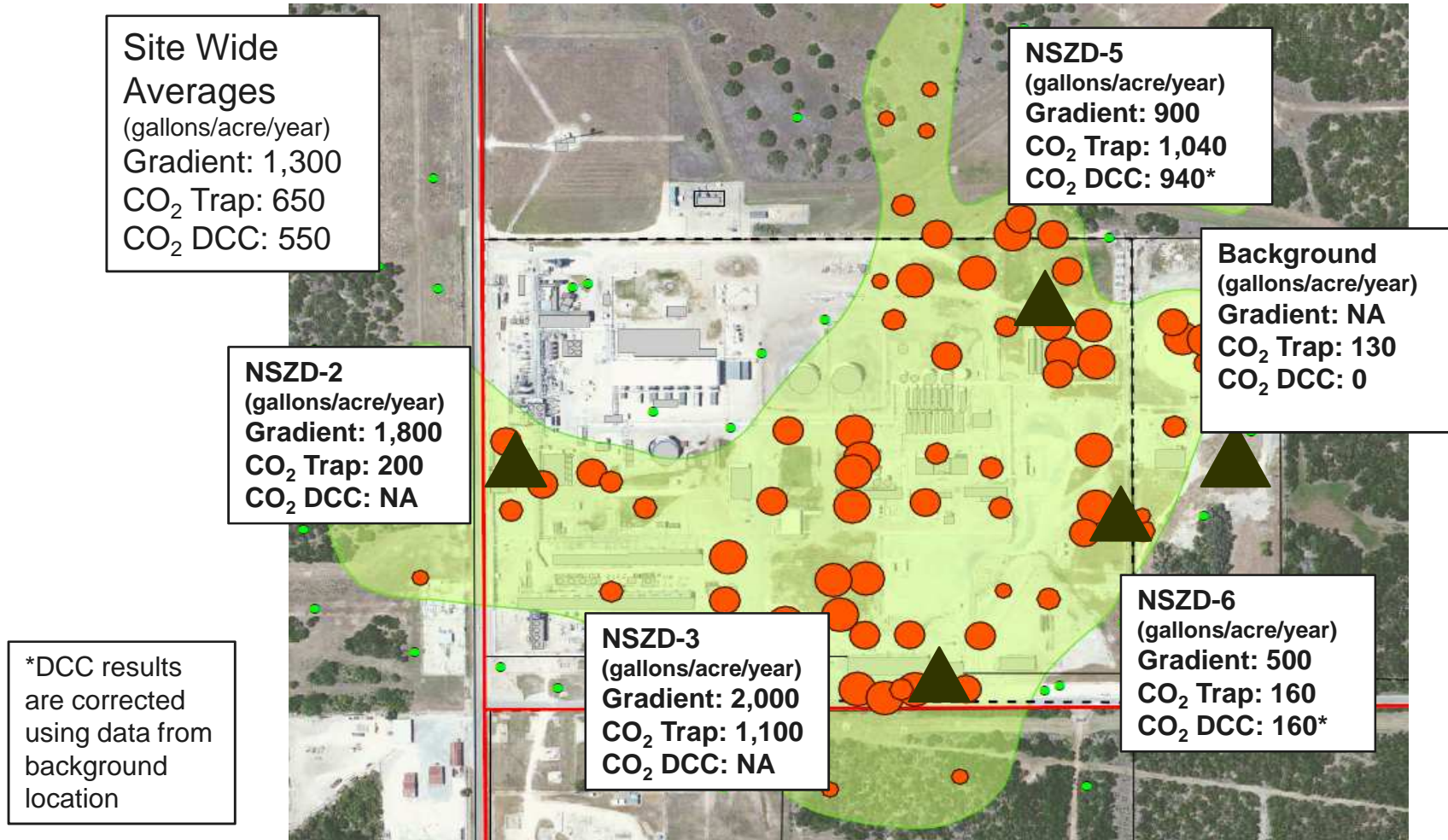


# CO<sub>2</sub> Trap Results

## Modern Carbon Flux

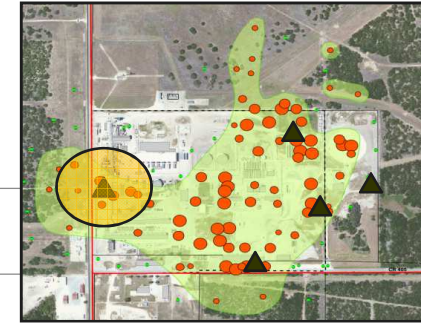
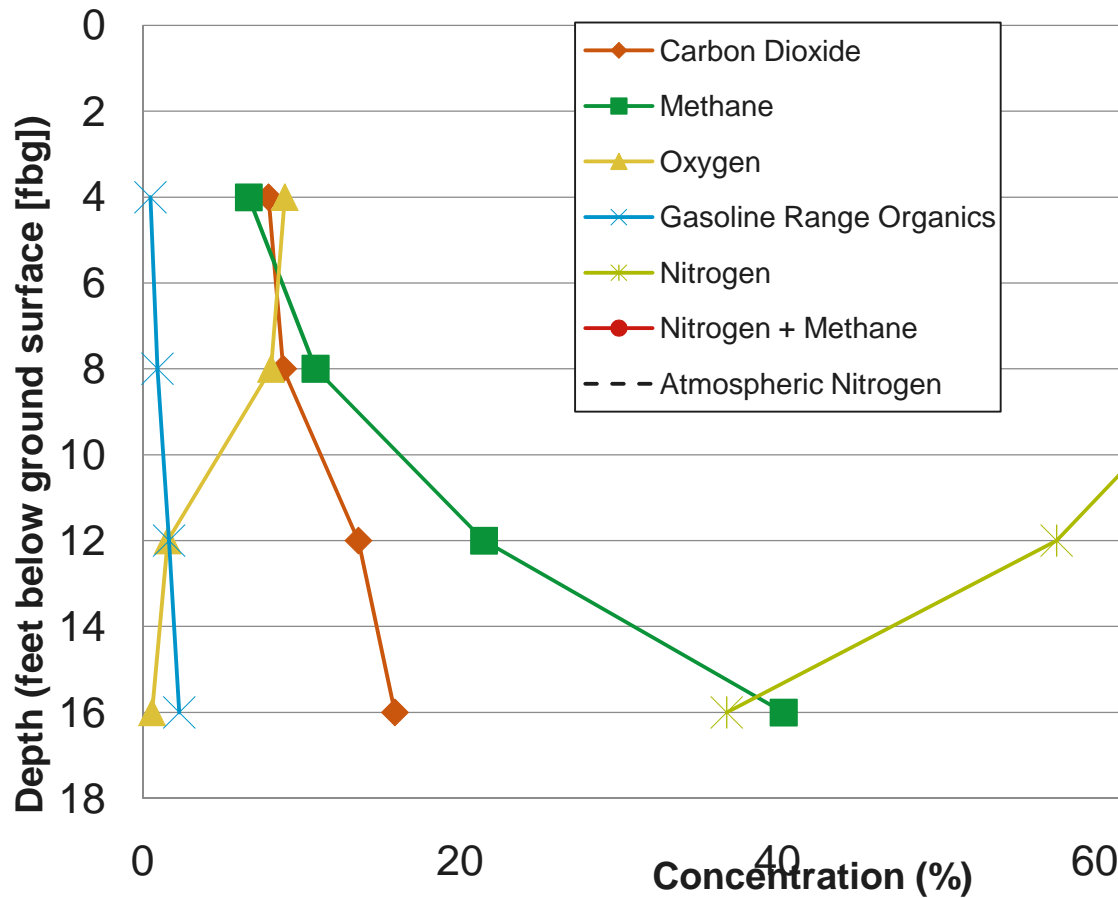


# Method Comparison Site Wide Average

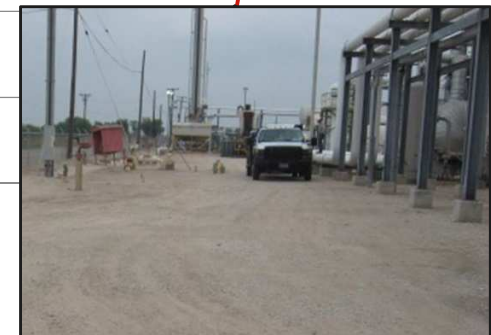




# Gradient Method NSZD-2 Soil Gas Profile



**NSZD-2**  
(gallons/acre/year)  
**Gradient: 1,800**  
**CO<sub>2</sub> Trap: 200**  
**CO<sub>2</sub> DCC: NA**



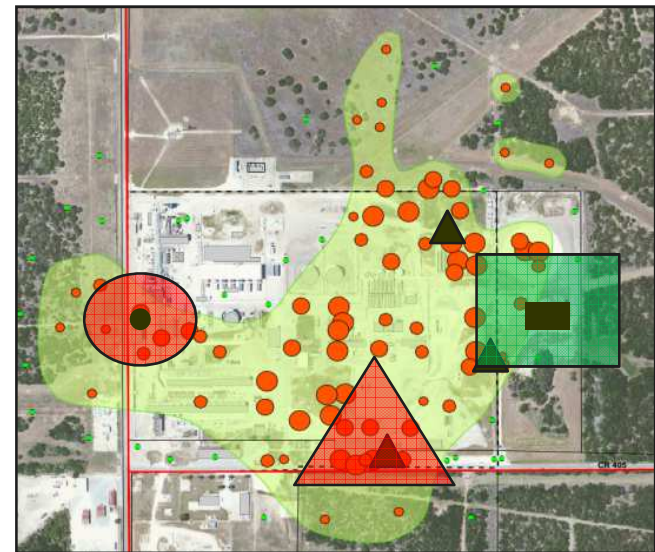
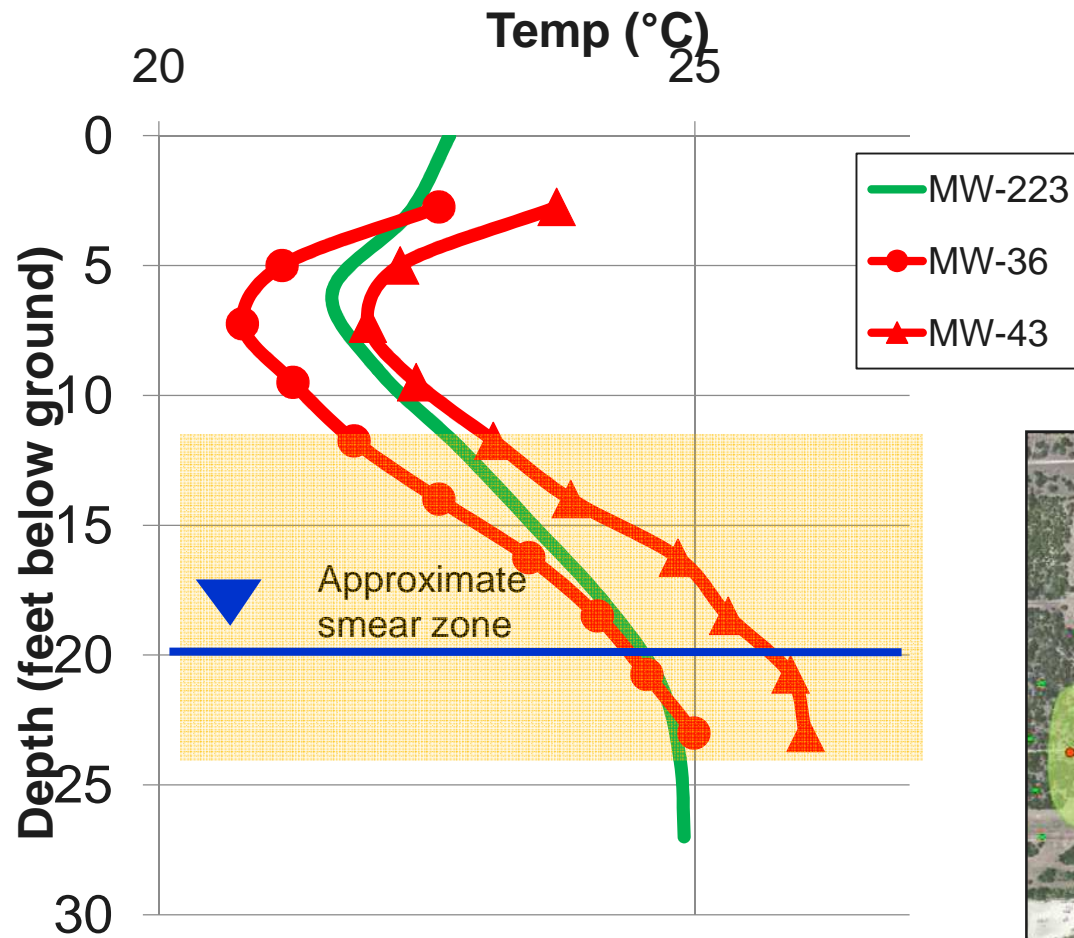
# Temperature Observations

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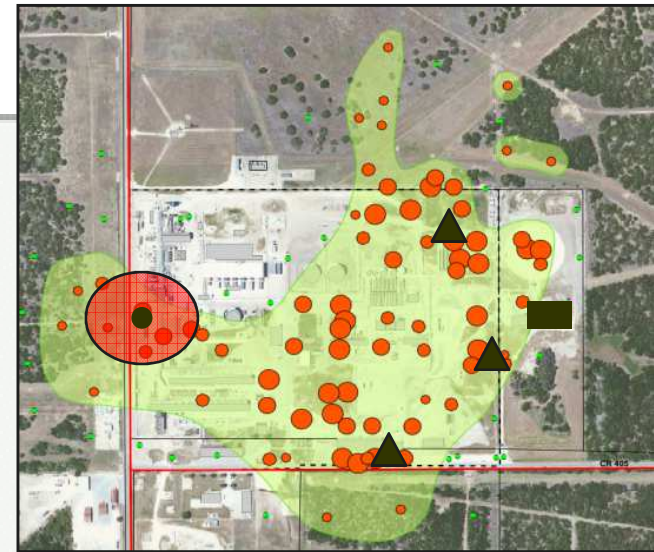
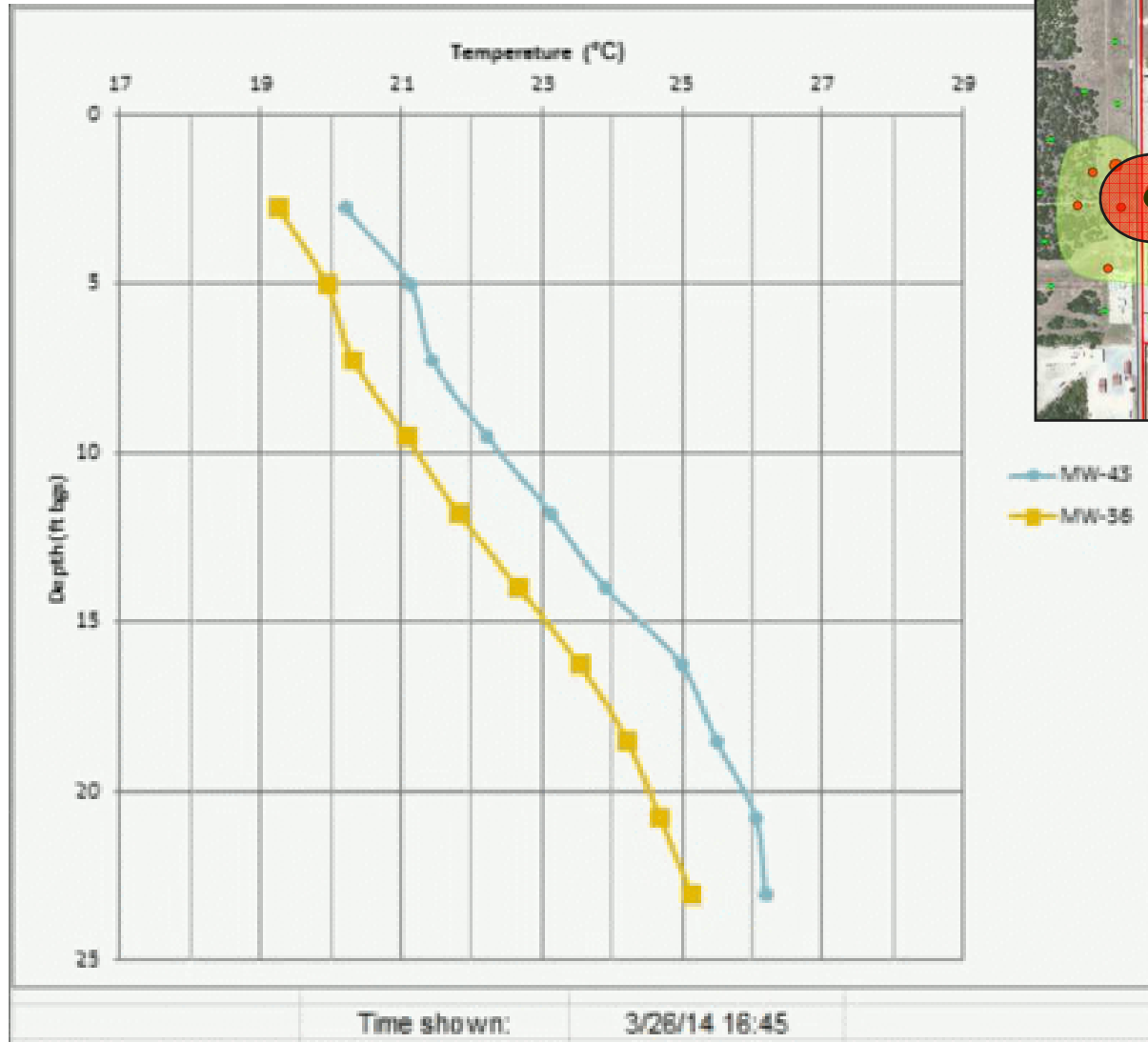
- Intrinsically safe temperature dataloggers set down-well at 2.5-foot to 3-foot intervals
- Temperature data logged every 15 minutes
- Data logging resolved downward propagation of temperature variation at surface



# Temperature Observations



# Temperature Profile



# Method Comparison Summary

	Capital Costs	Field Deployment Costs	Data Reliability	Qualitative Evidence	Data Density	Ease of Use	Best Application
Gradient Method	B	C	B	A	B	C	Sites with existing soil gas sampling infrastructure
CO <sub>2</sub> Traps	A	B	A	C	C	A	Well-understood sites with relatively uniform subsurface and climate conditions
LI-COR DCC	C	A	B	B	A	B	Initial screening of locations; Detailed rapid measurements; Investigating complex influences

**Notes:** Gradient method includes diffusion coefficient field measurement  
Capital costs assume purchase of LI-COR DCC



# QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Thank you!