

# Middle Vernon Creek DSS Tutorial

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## Background

Middle Vernon Creek (MVC) is an important spawning channel for Kokanee (*Oncorhynchus nerka*) in the Okanagan. It typically supports between ~5000 and ~22,000 spawners each year (Figure 1) and is the principal creek used for spawning by the Kokanee population in Wood Lake. The sport fishery on Wood Lake is estimated to be worth more than \$300,000 annually and is one of the few remaining low elevation lakes in the Okanagan that supports a Kokanee sports fishery. The in-stream flow requirement for Kokanee spawning in MVC during September and October is estimated to be approximately 0.15 m<sup>3</sup>/s. Unfortunately, flows are frequently below this target and MVC frequently runs dry (e.g. 2003 and 2004) (Figure 2).

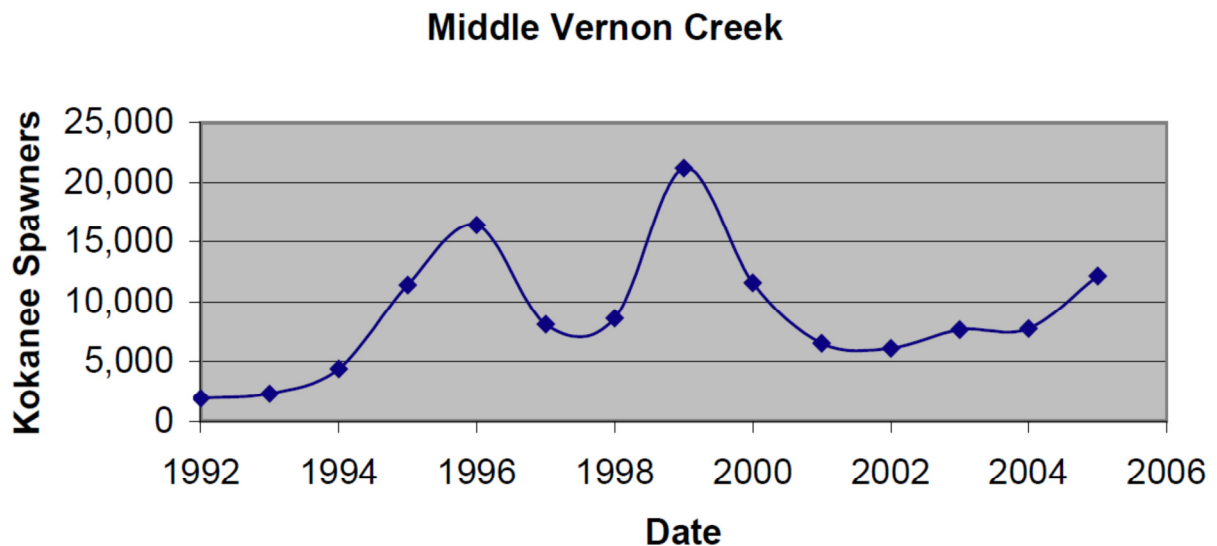


Figure 1: The number of Kokanee spawners for Middle Vernon Creek from 1992 to 2005 (Geostream 2006).



Figure 2: Picture of Middle Vernon Creek running dry (from OFGC Presentation 2006).

Middle and Upper Vernon Creek drain an area of approximately 154 km<sup>2</sup> draining to Wood Lake. From the headwaters, Upper Vernon Creek runs through a series of small lakes including the Swalwell (Beaver) Lake reservoir and then drops steeply before flowing over an alluvial fan and the Hiram Walker flume. At that location, Upper Vernon Creek is joined by Clark Creek and flows into the shallow Ellison (Duck) Lake. MVC flows out of Ellison Lake at a low gradient for approximately 5 km before joining Wood Lake (elev. 390 m).

Flows in MVC are managed primarily by a permanent dam at Swalwell Lake (managed by the District of Lake Country, DLC) and a seasonal sandbag dam at the outlet of Ellison Lake (managed by the Ocoela Fish and Game Club, OFGC). The sandbag dam has been utilized for almost 10 years. The Swalwell Lake outflows are usually managed conservatively, as mean annual inflows are insufficient for refilling the reservoir from a fully drained state. Several water users hold water licenses on Upper and Middle Vernon Creek, including the District of Lake Country, Eldorado Ranch, and domestic licences. Many licenses are not fully utilized (e.g. DLC only uses 20-30% of their licensed capacity. The DLC also has a large (~11,000 ML) water license on Okanagan Lake, which could potentially be used to divert water into MVC; however, the water would require de-chlorination.

The Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) is currently in its second year of a five-year study that includes development of a water management plan for MVC. A key component of the plan is an analysis of the impacts of various reservoir operations and water withdrawals on flows in MVC, with a particular focus on the Kokanee spawning period. The water balance analysis serves as an important communication tool for exploring alternative water management strategies and communicating multiple objective trade-offs with water users. The purpose of the decision support system (DSS) for MVC is to function as an in-season management tool with new features that would allow more detailed analysis of risks and help water managers identify optimal water management strategies. Further, the design and technology platform we would use for the enhanced DSS could be extended in the future to include near real-time data links for more enhanced forecasting. This would build upon proven technology strategies and designs used in the award winning Okanagan Fish Water Management Tool (FWMT) developed by ESSA Technologies, under the technical and scientific leadership of the Canadian Okanagan Basin Technical Working Group.

## Exercise 1: Running a basic scenario

Purpose: To get familiar with the scenario screen of the MVC DSS

1. Start the MVC DSS
2. Enter the following data:
  - a. Name: "Exercise 1"
  - b. Start date: 30 May 2013
  - c. End date: 17 November 2013
  - d. Swallowell lake elevation (m): Historical
  - e. Ellison Lake Elevation (m): Historical
3. Leave the Hydrology table unchanged.
4. Your screen should now look like Figure 3
5. Click the Run-button
6. The MVC DSS status (at the bottom of the screen) will change to "Running hydrological submodels" and "Generating report" as the simulation runs.
7. The simulation report opens in Excel and should look like Figure 3

**Middle Vernon Creek Decision Support System**

Scenario: **Exercise 1**

Simulation: Start Date: 30 May 2013; End Date: 17 November 2013; Forecast Type: User-defined

Initial lake elevations: Swallowell Lake Elevation (m): Historical (3.779); Ellison Lake Elevation (m): Historical (1.293)

Week #	Week Ending	Swallowell (Beaver) Lake Controlled Release (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	District of Lake Country consumption (m <sup>3</sup> /d)	Upper to Middle Vernon Creek bypass flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Ellison (Duck) Lake sandbag dam status
23	08-Jun-2013	0.81	19156	0.0	Out
24	15-Jun-2013	0.65	28018	0.0	Out
25	22-Jun-2013	0.34	11491	0.0	Out
26	29-Jun-2013	0.31	571	0.0	Out
27	06-Jul-2013	0.24	24698	0.0	Out
28	13-Jul-2013	0.29	39226	0.0	Out
29	20-Jul-2013	0.56	36411	0.0	Out_1
30	27-Jul-2013	0.56	47174	0.0	Out_1
31	03-Aug-2013	0.55	42830	0.0	Partial_40
32	10-Aug-2013	0.55	41929	0.0	Full_55
33	17-Aug-2013	0.41	34303	0.0	Full_88

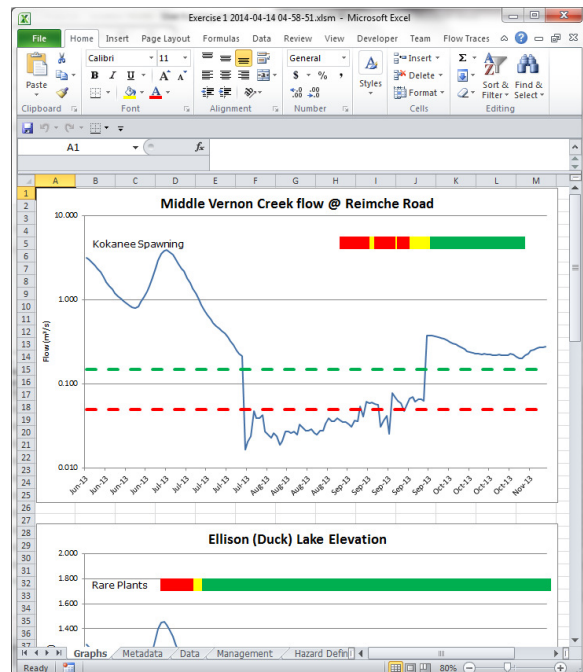


Figure 3: Filled out Scenario screen for Exercise 1 (left pane). Results for exercise 1 (right pane).

## Exercise 2: Running a management scenario

Purpose: In this exercise we will run our first alternative management scenario

1. Start the MVC DSS (if it is not already running)
2. Enter the following data:
  - a. Name: "Exercise 2"
  - b. Start date: 30 May 2013
  - c. End date: 17 November 2013
  - d. Swallowwell lake elevation (m): Historical
  - e. Ellison Lake Elevation (m): Historical
3. Change the "Ellison (Duck) Lake sandbag dam status" column to "Out" for all simulation weeks.
4. Your screen should now look like Figure 4
5. Click the Run-button
  - a. The MVC DSS status (at the bottom of the screen) will change to "Running hydrological submodels" and "Generating report" as the simulation runs.
6. The simulation report opens in Excel and should look like Figure 4

The screenshot shows the MVC DSS Scenario screen for Exercise 2. The scenario name is "Exercise 2". The simulation start date is 30 May 2013 and the end date is 17 November 2013. The initial lake elevations are Swallowwell Lake Elevation (m): Historical (3.779) and Ellison Lake Elevation (m): Historical (1.293). The hydrology table is as follows:

Week #	Week Ending	Swallowwell (Beaver) Lake Controlled Release (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	District of Lake County consumption (m <sup>3</sup> /d)	Upper to Middle Vernon Creek bypass flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Ellison (Duck) Lake sandbag dam status
36	07-Sep-2013	0.31	15015	0.0	Out
37	14-Sep-2013	0.27	14073	0.0	Out
38	21-Sep-2013	0.28	4771	0.0	Out
39	28-Sep-2013	0.31	4165	0.0	Out
40	05-Oct-2013	0.35	2736	0.0	Out
41	12-Oct-2013	0.29	3493	0.0	Out
42	19-Oct-2013	0.35	3224	0.0	Out
43	26-Oct-2013	0.35	3044	0.0	Out
44	02-Nov-2013	0.35	2846	0.0	Out
45	09-Nov-2013	0.35	1187	0.0	Out

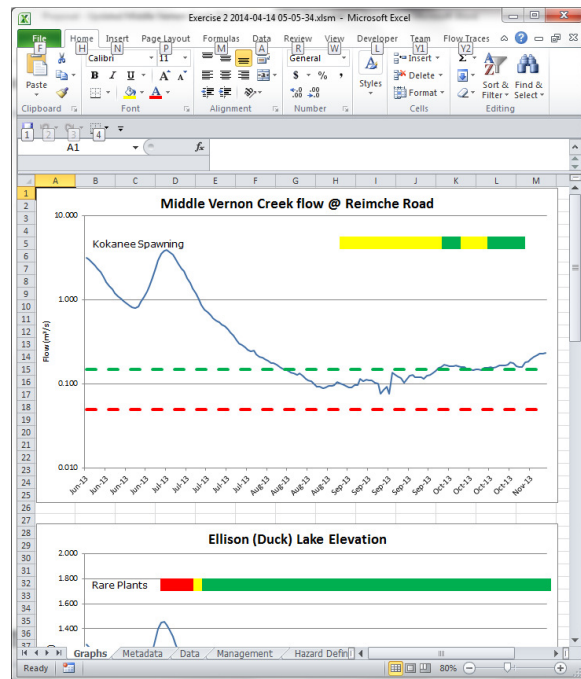


Figure 4: Filled out Scenario screen for Exercise 2 (left pane). Results for exercise 2 (right pane).

## Exercise 3: Quick updating of management actions

Purpose: To practice a quicker way of updated the management actions and calculating new flows

1. Open the "Management" sheet of the Exercise 2 report
  - a. Insert a new column C and D and name it "Modified outflow")
  - b. Copy data from cell C2 to C18 to cell D2 to D18
  - c. For cell D19, enter the equation "=C19+0.150"
  - d. Copy the equation from cell D19 to cell D20 to D24
2. The final table should look like Figure 5
3. Select cell D2 to D24 in Excel
4. Press Ctrl+C to copy
5. Open MVC DSS
6. Click on the cell for "Swallowwell (Beaver) Lake Controlled Release (m3/s) for week 23
7. Right click and select copy (see Figure 5)

Week #	Week Ending	Swallowwell (Beaver) Lake Outflow (m³/s)	Modified outflow	District of Lake County Withdrawals (m³/d)	Upper to Lower Vernon Creek bypass flow (m³/s)	Ellison (Duck) Lake sandbag dam status
1	23	0.81	0.81	19156.00	0.00	Out
2	24	0.65	0.65	29018.00	0.00	Out
3	25	0.84	0.84	11491.00	0.00	Out
4	26	0.31	0.31	571.00	0.00	Out
5	27	0.24	0.24	24698.00	0.00	Out
6	28	0.29	0.29	39226.00	0.00	Out
7	29	0.56	0.56	36411.00	0.00	Out
8	30	0.56	0.56	47174.00	0.00	Out
9	31	0.55	0.55	42830.00	0.00	Out
10	02-Aug	0.55	0.55	41929.00	0.00	Out
11	03-Aug	0.41	0.41	35202.00	0.00	Out
12	04-Aug	0.43	0.43	31277.00	0.00	Out
13	05-Aug	0.30	0.30	14812.00	0.00	Out
14	06-Sep	0.31	0.31	15015.00	0.00	Out
15	07-Sep	0.27	0.27	14073.00	0.00	Out
16	08-Sep	0.28	0.28	4771.00	0.00	Out
17	09-Sep	0.31	0.31	4165.00	0.00	Out
18	10-Sep	0.35	0.50	2736.00	0.00	Out
19	11-Sep	0.29	0.44	3493.00	0.00	Out
20	12-Sep	0.35	0.50	3224.00	0.00	Out
21	13-Sep	0.35	0.50	3044.00	0.00	Out
22	14-Sep	0.35	0.50	2846.00	0.00	Out
23	15-Sep	0.35	0.50	1187.00	0.00	Out
24	16-Sep	0.35	0.50		0.00	Out

Week #	Week Ending	Swallowwell (Beaver) Lake Controlled Release (m³/s)	District of Lake County consumption (m³/d)	Upper to Middle Vernon Creek bypass flow (m³/s)	Ellison (Duck) Lake sandbag dam status
23	08-Jun-2013	0.81	19156	0.0	Out
24	15-Jun-2013	0.65	29018	0.0	Out
25	22-Jun-2013	0.84	11491	0.0	Out
26	29-Jun-2013	0.31	571	0.0	Out
27	06-Jul-2013	0.24	24698	0.0	Out
28	13-Jul-2013	0.29	39226	0.0	Out
29	20-Jul-2013	0.56	36411	0.0	Out
30	27-Jul-2013	0.56	47174	0.0	Out
31	03-Aug-2013	0.55	42830	0.0	Out
32	10-Aug-2013	0.55	41929	0.0	Out
33	17-Aug-2013	0.41	35202	0.0	Out

Figure 5: Final excel table for Exercise 3 (left pane). Notice how modified flows in Column D are higher than Column C in September to November. The data can be copied from Excel (or any other program) into the MVC DSS by right-clicking in a cell in the Hydrology table and selecting Copy (right pane) for a quick way to setup new scenarios.

8. Change Name to Exercise 3
9. Your screen should now look like Figure 6
10. Click the Run-button
  - a. The MVC DSS status (at the bottom of the screen) will change to “Running hydrological submodels” and “Generating report” as the simulation runs.
11. The simulation report opens in Excel and should look like Figure 6

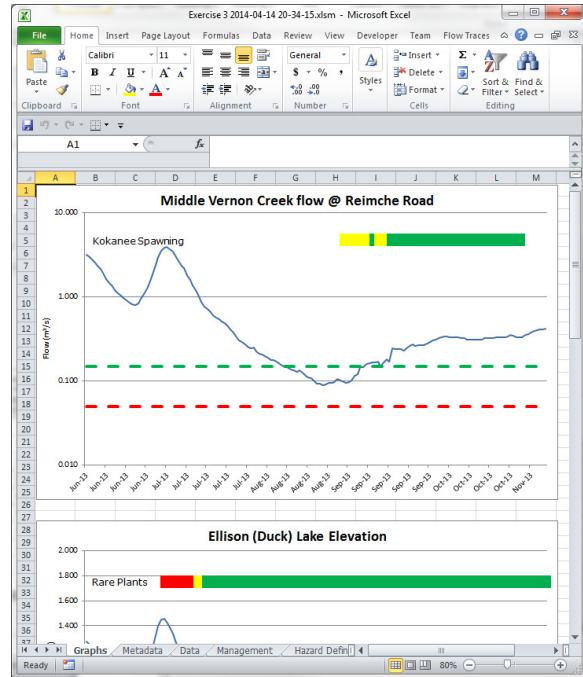
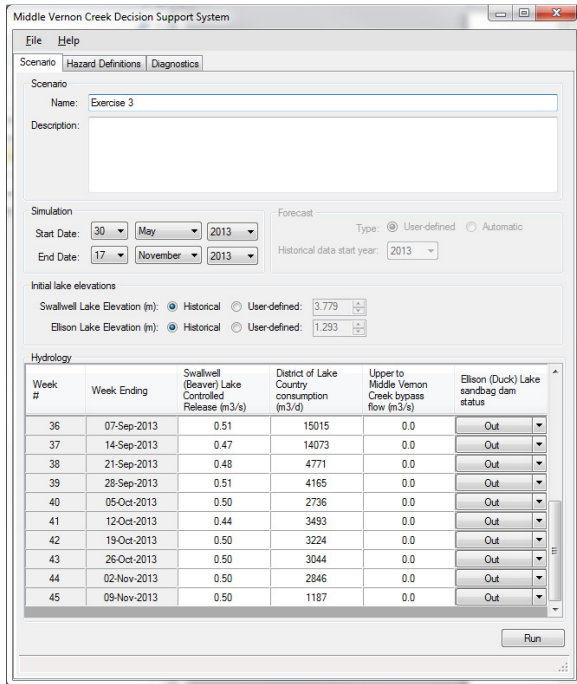


Figure 6: Filled out Scenario screen for Exercise 3 (left pane). Notice how the values from September to November is on average approximately 0.50. Results for exercise 3 (right pane).

## Exercise 4: User-defined lake levels

Purpose: In this exercise we will look at the impact of alternative lake levels

1. Start the MVC DSS (if it is not already running)
2. Enter the following data:
  - a. Name: "Exercise 4"
  - b. Start date: 30 May 2013
  - c. End date: 17 November 2013
  - d. Swallwell lake elevation (m): **User-defined. 3.5m**
  - e. Ellison Lake Elevation (m): Historical
3. Your screen should now look like Figure 7
4. Click the Run-button
  - a. The MVC DSS status (at the bottom of the screen) will change to "Running hydrological submodels" and "Generating report" as the simulation runs.
5. The simulation report opens in Excel and should look like Figure 7
6. Compare the results for Swallwell (Beaver) Lake Elevation to the results for Exercise 3

Middle Vernon Creek Decision Support System

File Help

Scenario Hazard Definitions Diagnostics

Scenario Name: Exercise 4

Description:

Simulation Start Date: 30 May 2013 End Date: 17 November 2013 Forecast Type: User-defined Automatic Historical data start year: 2013

Initial lake elevations Swallwell Lake Elevation (m): Historical User-defined: 3.500 Ellison Lake Elevation (m): Historical User-defined: 1.293

Week #	Week Ending	Swallwell (Beaver) Lake Controlled Release (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	District of Lake County consumption (m <sup>3</sup> /d)	Upper to Middle Vernon Creek bypass flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Ellison (Duck) Lake sandbag dam status
36	07-Sep-2013	0.51	15015	0.0	Out
37	14-Sep-2013	0.47	14073	0.0	Out
38	21-Sep-2013	0.48	4771	0.0	Out
39	28-Sep-2013	0.51	4165	0.0	Out
40	05-Oct-2013	0.50	2736	0.0	Out
41	12-Oct-2013	0.44	3493	0.0	Out
42	19-Oct-2013	0.50	3224	0.0	Out
43	26-Oct-2013	0.50	3044	0.0	Out
44	02-Nov-2013	0.50	2846	0.0	Out
45	09-Nov-2013	0.50	1187	0.0	Out

Run

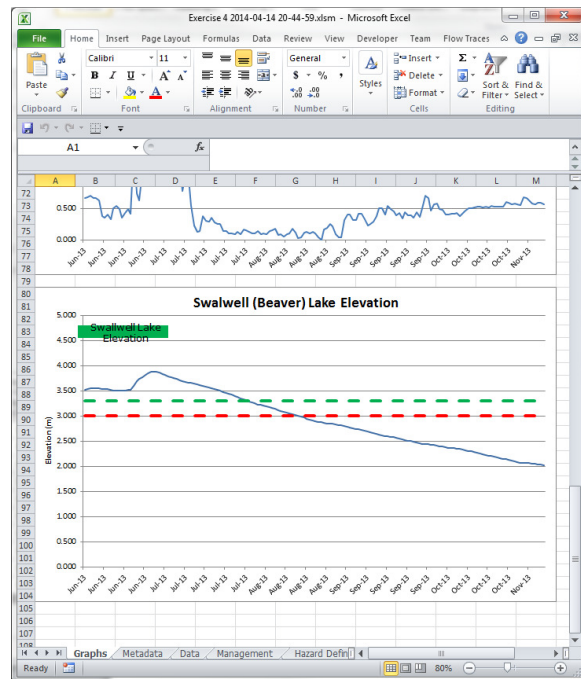


Figure 7: Filled out Scenario screen for Exercise 4 (left pane). Results for exercise 4 (right pane).

## Exercise 5: Running a forecast simulation

Purpose: In this exercise we will run our first forecast simulation

1. Start the MVC DSS (if it is not already running)
2. Enter the following data:
  - a. Name: "Exercise 5"
  - b. Start date: **1 July 2013**
  - c. End date: **30 June 2014**
  - d. Swallwell lake elevation (m): **Historical**
  - e. Ellison Lake Elevation (m): **Historical**
3. When the end date is later than the historical data, the Forecast form will be enabled. Enter the following data
  - a. Forecast type: User-defined
  - b. Historical data start year: 1978
4. Your screen should now look like Figure 8
5. Click the Run-button
  - a. The MVC DSS status (at the bottom of the screen) will change to "Running hydrological submodels" and "Generating report" as the simulation runs.
6. The simulation report opens in Excel and should look like Figure 8

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Scenario: Exercise 5

Simulation: Start Date: 1 July 2013, End Date: 30 June 2014, Forecast Type: User-defined, Historical data start year: 1978

Initial lake elevations: Swallwell Lake Elevation (m): Historical (3.718), Ellison Lake Elevation (m): Historical (1.082)

Week #	Week Ending	Swallwell (Beaver) Lake Controlled Release (m <sup>3</sup> /e)	District of Lake County consumption (m <sup>3</sup> /d)	Upper to Middle Vernon Creek bypass flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Ellison (Duck) Lake sandbag dam status
28	13-Jul-2013	0.29	39226	0.0	Out
29	20-Jul-2013	0.56	36411	0.0	Out_1
30	27-Jul-2013	0.56	47174	0.0	Out_1
31	03-Aug-2013	0.55	42830	0.0	Partial_40
32	10-Aug-2013	0.55	41929	0.0	Full_55
33	17-Aug-2013	0.41	35202	0.0	Full_55
34	24-Aug-2013	0.43	31277	0.0	Full_55
35	31-Aug-2013	0.30	14812	0.0	Full_55
36	07-Sep-2013	0.31	15015	0.0	Full_55
37	14-Sep-2013	0.27	14073	0.0	Partial_40
38	21-Sep-2013	0.28	17731	0.0	Partial_40

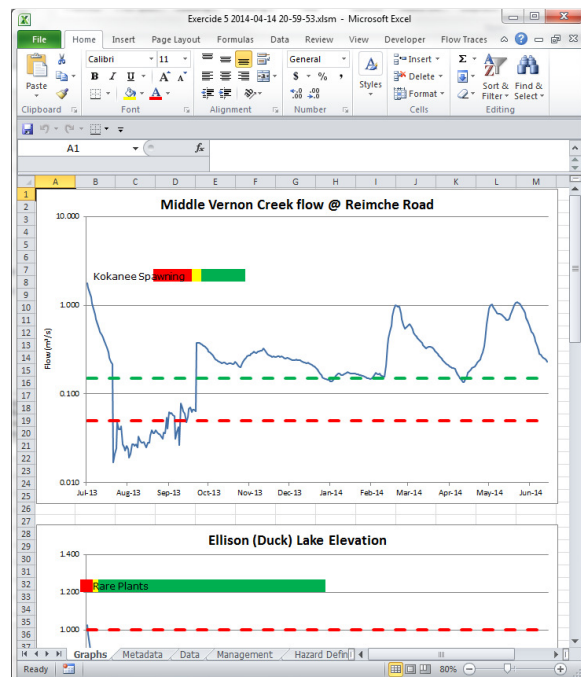


Figure 8: Filled out Scenario screen for Exercise 5 (left pane). Results for exercise 5 (right pane).



## Exercise 6: Adding a new Hazard Definition

Purpose: To illustrate how users can add and modify hazard definitions

1. Start the MVC DSS (if it is not already running)
2. Switch to the “Hazard Definitions” tab, see Figure 9
3. Click the “add new hazard definition” button. A new form will open
4. Enter the following data into the Hazard Definitions form
  - a. Objective: Swallwell Lake Drawdown
  - b. Performance Measure: Swallwell (Beaver) Lake Drawdown
  - c. Good-OK Threshold: 0.50
  - d. OK-Poor Threshold: 0.80
  - e. Time Period Start: August 1
  - f. Time Period End: December 31
5. Your Hazard Definition form should now look like Figure 9
6. Click the OK-button
7. Switch back to the Scenario-tab
8. Change name to Exercise 6
9. Your screen should now look like Figure 10
10. Click the Run-button
  - a. The MVC DSS status (at the bottom of the screen) will change to “Running hydrological submodels” and “Generating report” as the simulation runs.
11. The simulation report opens in Excel and should look like Figure 10

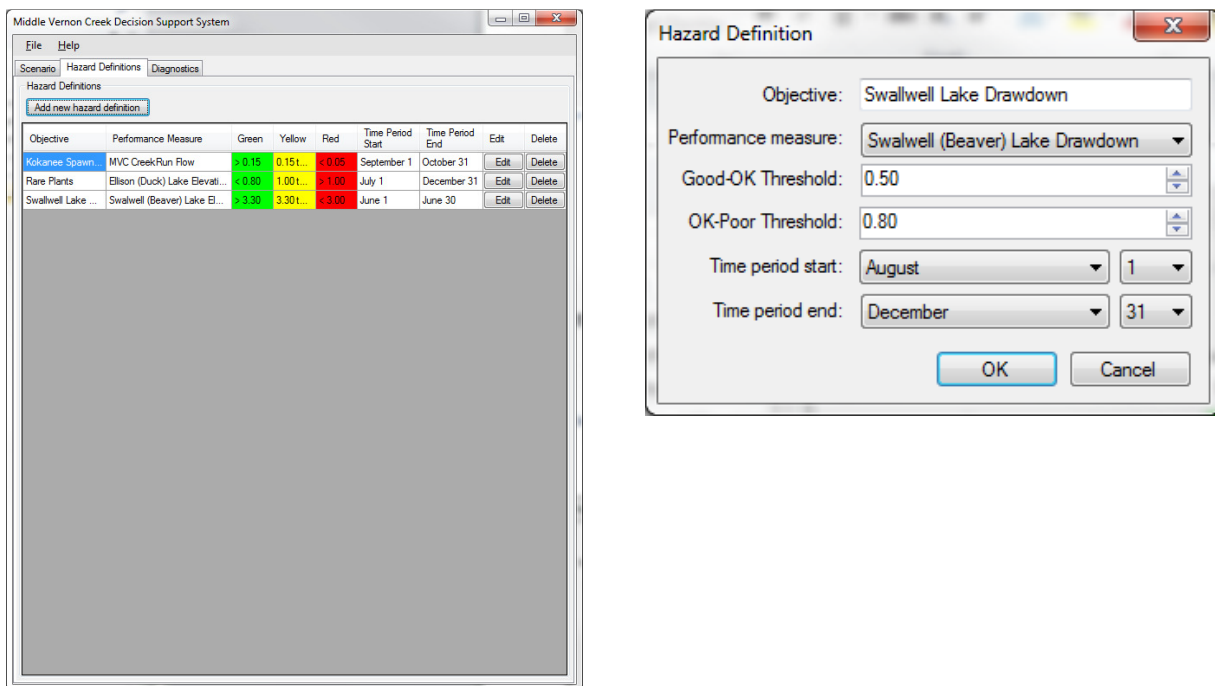


Figure 9: Hazard definitions tab (left pane). Hazard definitions form filled out for Exercise 6 (right pane).

Middle Vernon Creek Decision Support System

File Help

Scenario Hazard Definitions Diagnostics

Scenario Name: Exercise 6

Description:

Simulation Start Date: 1 July 2013 End Date: 30 June 2014 Forecast Type:  User-defined  Automatic Historical data start year: 1978

Initial lake elevations  
 Swalwell Lake Elevation (m):  Historical  User-defined: 3.718  
 Elison Lake Elevation (m):  Historical  User-defined: 1.082

Hydrology

Week #	Week Ending	Swalwell (Beaver) Lake Controlled Release (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	District of Lake Country consumption (m <sup>3</sup> /d)	Upper to Middle Vernon Creek bypass flow (m <sup>3</sup> /s)	Elison (Duck) Lake sandbag dam status
16	19-Apr-2014	0.14	935	0.0	Out_1
17	26-Apr-2014	0.14	11678	0.0	Out_1
18	03-May-2014	0.08	22720	0.0	Out_1
19	10-May-2014	0.15	22139	0.0	Out_1
20	17-May-2014	0.43	30407	0.0	Out_1
21	24-May-2014	0.00	30649	0.0	Out_1
22	31-May-2014	0.00	29261	0.0	Out_1
23	07-Jun-2014	0.00	36634	0.0	Out_1
24	14-Jun-2014	0.20	38430	0.0	Out_1
25	21-Jun-2014	0.67	33966	0.0	Out_1

Run

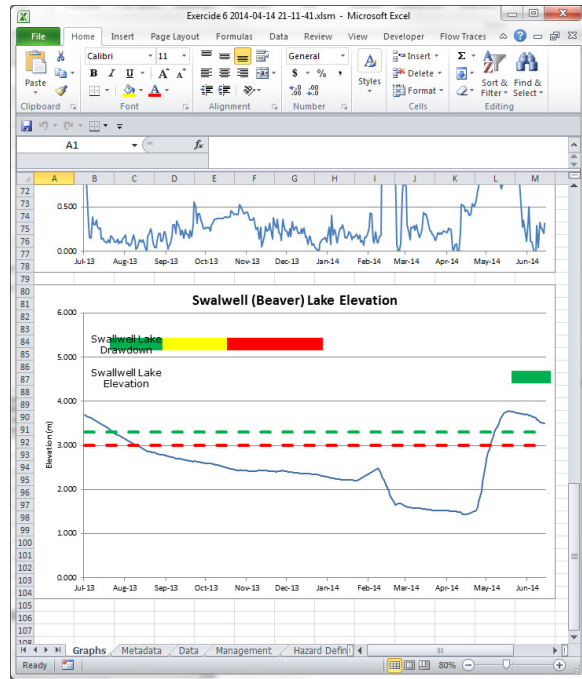


Figure 10: Filled out Scenario screen for Exercise 6 (left pane). Results for exercise 6 (right pane).