Management of water balance at Siilinjärvi mining area WaterSmart

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WaterSmart









Water balance at mining sites

Aims:

- Reliable estimates for the water balance (precipitation, runoff, evaporation) at mining sites: in ponds, tailing ponds, open pits, etc.
- Estimates and forecasts for water level, pumping and discharge

Solution:

- Build a tool to estimate and simulate water balance in the area
- WSFS (Watershed Simulation and Forecasting System, Vesistömallijärjestelmä) developed for Yara Siilinjärvi area



WSFS provides

- Real time simulation and forecasting of water balance
- Forecasting the need for pumping/outflow of storage ponds especially before rain/snow melt
 - To avoid overflow and dam breaks
- Estimating amount of discharge at channels and streams
- In planning phase of the sites: estimate water level and outflow in worst case scenarios
- Inputs for other systems:
 - E.g. Percolation for GTK's ground water model
- WSFS can be applied for simulations of:
 - Effect of climate change
 - Exceptional events (precipitation and temperature)



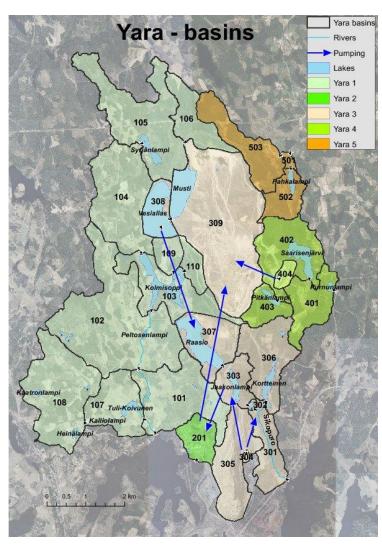
Inputs for the WSFS

- Weather observations and forecasts
 - From FMI, ECMWF
 - Real time weather forecast, weather radar observations
- Historical observations for calibration and long term forecasts
- Observations of water level, discharge and pumping, snow
 - Real time observations from mining site
- Outflowing and inflowing process waters given as input for the model
- Real time observations used in model updating
 - Improves forecast accuracy



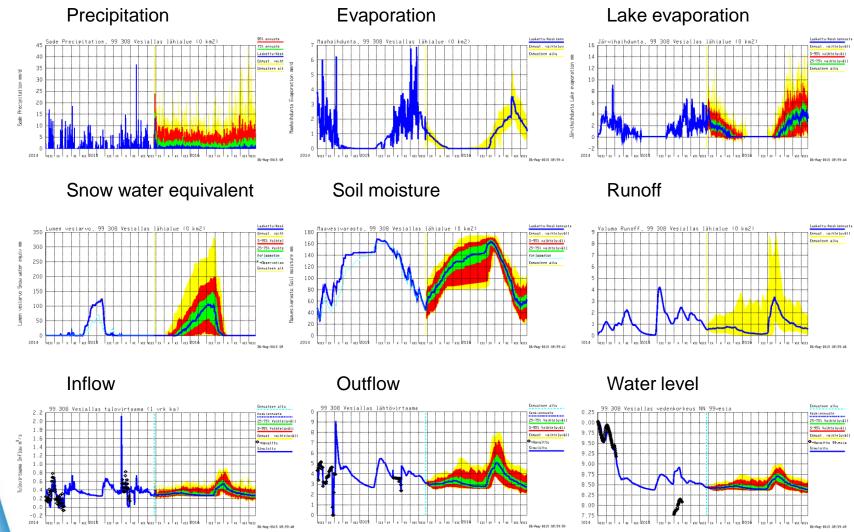
Water balance model for Siilinjärvi mining site

- Mining site divided into 27 water balance areas according to ponds
- Water balance components obtained for each area:
 - Precipitation
 - Evaporation
 - Snow
 - Soil moisture
 - Ground water storage
 - Runoff
- Water balance for ponds:
 - Inflow
 - Water surf. evaporation
 - Outflow
 - Water level



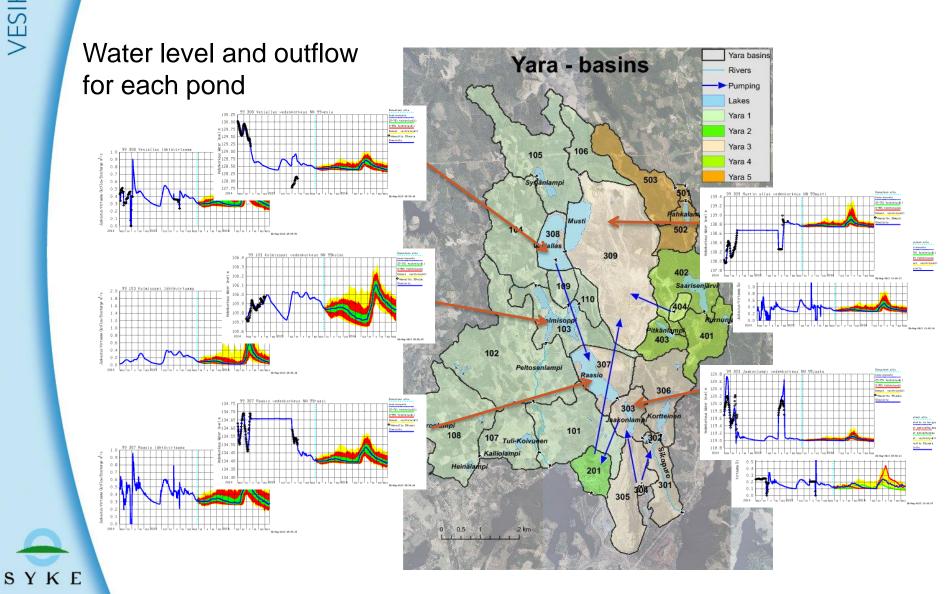


Results for each basin

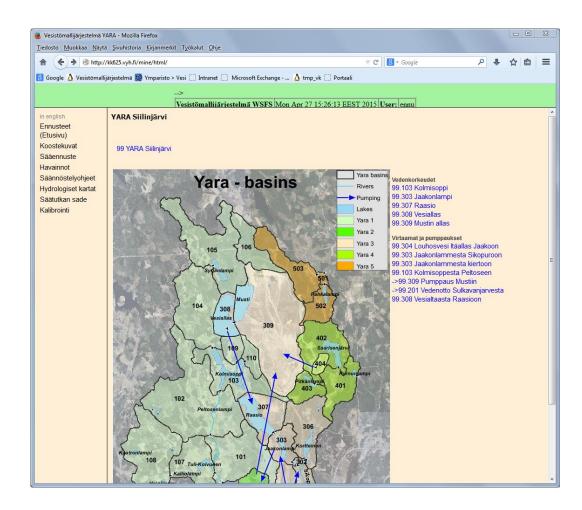




Siilinjärvi mining site



www-based interface (local access or certificate required)



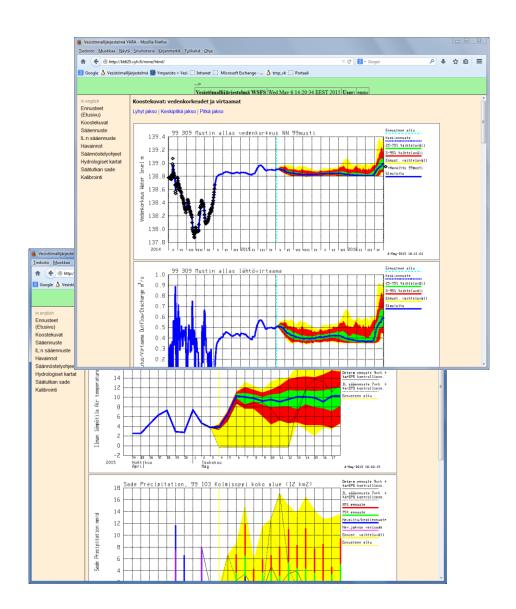


www-user interface for:

- Viewing forecast images and reports
 - Images by basins/ponds
 - Weather observations and forecasts
- Entering observations (water level, discharge, snow,...)
- Real time planning of pond outflows
 - Regulation schedules
 - Water level and outflow/pumping plans

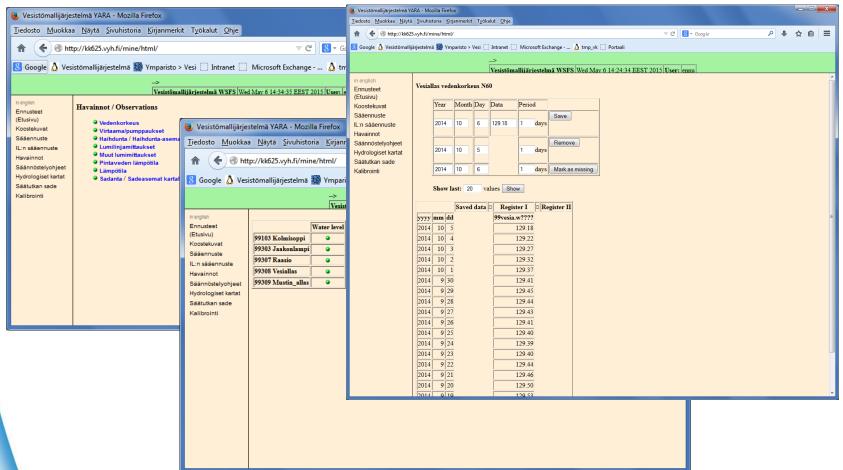


- Simulation results for each basin
 - View by basin
 - Summary view of water level and discharge
- Weather observations and forecasts
 - Temperature, precipitation





Entering observations (water level, outflow/pumping)

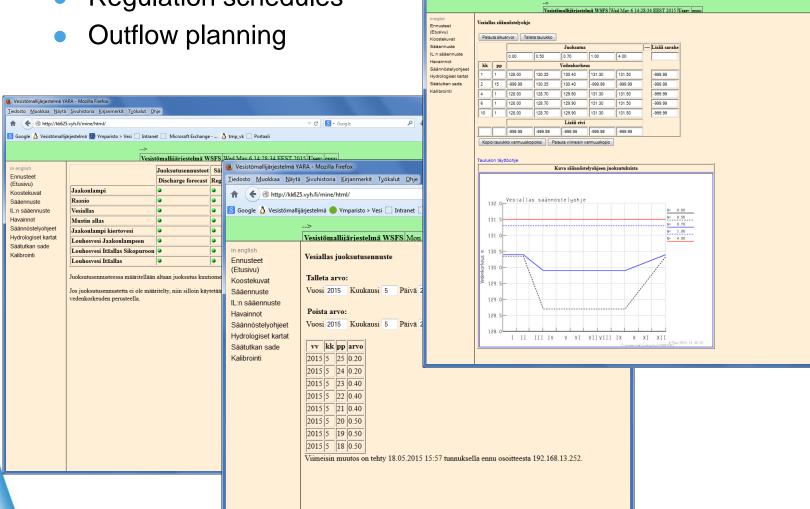




SYKE

WSFS user interface

Regulation schedules



Vesistömallijärjestelmä YARA - Mozilla Firefox

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⊗ http://kk625.vyh.fi/mine/html/

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Main usage of interface

- Viewing results via map
- Entering pumping, regulation schedules and discharge plans
- Entering observations (water level, discharge, snow, etc.)
- Viewing weather observations (precipitation, temperature, snow, etc.) and forecasts



Requirements for reliable forecasts

- Real time observations of pumping and water level
- Regulation schedules
- Can be entered via www-interface
- Accurate data enable real time forecasting and planning of water level/discharge



WSFS WaterSmart - Further work

- Updating model to be included: automatical updating of water balance (precipitation, temperature) to observations
- Automatization of the system (operational 24/7 if required)
- Delivering data automatically
- Fine tuning of the user interface
- Transport of metals and other substances
- Lake evaporation (water colour and surface temperature)
- Soil moisture simulation with soil types
- More:
 - End-user feedback required: How end-users would like to use system and what kind of needs they have



WSFS in general

 WSFS (Watershed Simulation and Modelling System, Vesistömallijärjestelmä)

A system which simulates several hydrological and other

quantities:

Water level

Discharge

- Evaporation
- Snow
- Runoff
- Ground water
- Soil moisture

