

# Technology Transfer Opportunities: New Development Computerized Field Manual Provides Valuable Resource for Hydrologic Investigations

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## Background

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is known throughout the world for conducting quality scientific investigations in hydrologic environments. Proper and consistent field techniques have been an integral part of this good research. Over the past few decades, the USGS has developed and published detailed, standard protocols for conducting studies in most aspects of the hydrologic environment. These protocols have been published in a number of diverse documents. The wealth of information contained in these diverse documents can benefit other scientists in industry, government, and academia that are involved in conducting hydrologic studies.

Scientists at the USGS have brought together many of the most important of the field protocols in a user-friendly, graphical-interfaced field manual that will be useful in both the field and in the office. This electronic field manual can assist hydrologists and other scientists in conducting and documenting their field activities in a manner that is recognized standard throughout the hydrologic community.

## Computerized Field Manual

The computerized field manual brings together a number of published, detailed field protocols that have been developed by the USGS for conducting hydrologic investigations. These protocols include methods for measuring water quantity, measuring water quality field parameters,

collecting environmental samples for chemical analyses, and conducting ecological assessments. The protocols cover most hydrologic environments, including surface water, bed sediment, ground water, and rain. Also included are electronic reproductions of the standard USGS field forms that can be printed out to be used for recording information in the field.

In addition to the various field protocols, there is a section of supplemental material that is useful in the field. This includes a section on safety with Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) for chemicals used in the protocols, an environmental glossary, unit conversions, and a telephone directory for travel.

The information in the field manuals and the supplemental information can be accessed by personnel in the field (or office) to answer questions about procedures or to serve as a resource in making decisions. The information is organized by hydrologic matrix (surface water, bed sediment, biota, ground water, rain) and indexed by keywords. Related information is connected with hyper-text linkages for easy access.

A final product should be available late in 1996. The USGS is searching for companies who may be interested in commercializing the field manual.

**More.....**

**Applications**

The USGS is interested in commercializing the computerized field manual. This will be valuable to both government and industry, particularly the scientific and monitoring community, by providing ready access to the numerous protocols developed by the USGS in its hydrologic investigations.

**For More Information**

Additional information about the computerized field manual can be obtained by contacting:

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