

# Geologic Framework of Aquifer Units and Ground-Water Flowpaths, Verde River Headwaters, North-Central Arizona



Open-File Report 2004-1411

# **Geologic Framework of Aquifer Units and Ground-Water Flowpaths, Verde River Headwaters, North-Central Arizona**

Edited by Laurie Wirt, Ed DeWitt, and V.E. Langenheim

Prepared in cooperation with the Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission

Open-File Report 2004-1411

**U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey**

**U.S. Department of the Interior**  
Gale A. Norton, Secretary

**U.S. Geological Survey**  
P. Patrick Leahy, Acting Director

U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia: 2005

This publication is *only* available online at URL:

**<http://pubs.usgs.gov/of/2004/1411/>**

For information on other USGS products and ordering information:

World Wide Web: <http://www.usgs.gov/pubprod/>

Telephone: 1-888-ASK-USGS

For more information on the USGS—the Federal source for science about the Earth,  
its natural and living resources, natural hazards, and the environment:

World Wide Web: <http://www.usgs.gov/>

Telephone: 1-888-ASK-USGS

Any use of trade, product, or firm names in this publication is for descriptive purposes only  
and does not imply endorsement by the U.S. Government.

Although this report is in the public domain, permission must be secured from the individual  
copyright owners to reproduce any copyrighted materials contained within this report.

# Contents

|   |   |
|---|---|
| The Verde River Headwaters, Yavapai County, Arizona.....                        | A |
| by Laurie Wirt  |   |
| Geologic Framework.....   | B |
| by Ed DeWitt, Victoria E. Langenheim, and Laurie Wirt                           |   |
| Geophysical Framework.....  | C |
| by Victoria E. Langenheim, Ed DeWitt, and Laurie Wirt                           |   |
| Hydrogeologic Framework.....  | D |
| by Laurie Wirt, Ed DeWitt, and Victoria E. Langenheim                           |   |
| Geochemistry of Major Aquifers and Springs.....                                 | E |
| by Laurie Wirt and Ed DeWitt  |   |
| Sources of Base Flow in the upper Verde River.....                              | F |
| by Laurie Wirt  |   |
| Synthesis of Geologic, Geophysical, Hydrological, and Geochemical Evidence..... | G |
| by Laurie Wirt  |   |
| Glossary  |   |
| Appendix A  |   |
| Appendix B  |   |

## Abbreviated Water-Quality Units

mg/L, milligrams per liter  
 µg/L, micrograms per liter  
 µS/cm, microsiemens per centimeter at 25 degrees Celsius  
 % meq/l, percent milliequivalents per liter  
 $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ , delta notation, for the ratio of oxygen-18/oxygen-16,  
 expressed in per mil or parts per thousand  
 $\delta\text{D}$ , delta notation for the ratio of hydrogen-2/hydrogen-1,  
 expressed in per mil or parts per thousand  
 ‰, notation for per mil, or parts per thousand  
 TU, tritium units  
 pCi/L, picocuries per liter  
 pmc, percent modern carbon

## Conversion Factors

### Inch/Pound to International Scientific Units (SI)

| Multiply                                   | By       | To obtain                                  |
|--|----------|--|
| Length                                     |          |  |
| inch (in.)                                 | 2.54     | centimeter (cm)                            |
| inch (in.)                                 | 25.4     | millimeter (mm)                            |
| foot (ft)                                  | 0.3048   | meter (m)                                  |
| mile (mi)                                  | 1.609    | kilometer (km)                             |
| Area                                       |          |  |
| square foot (ft <sup>2</sup> )             | 0.09290  | square meter (m <sup>2</sup> )             |
| square mile (mi <sup>2</sup> )             | 2.590    | square kilometer (km <sup>2</sup> )        |
| Volume                                     |          |  |
| gallon (gal)                               | 3.785    | liter (L)                                  |
| gallon (gal)                               | 0.003785 | cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> )              |
| acre-foot (acre-ft)                        | 1,233    | cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> )              |
| Flow rate                                  |          |  |
| gallon per minute (gal/min)                | 0.06309  | liter per second (L/s)                     |
| acre-foot per day (acre-ft/d)              | 0.01427  | cubic meter per second (m <sup>3</sup> /s) |
| acre-foot per year (acre-ft/yr)            | 1,233    | cubic meter per year (m <sup>3</sup> /yr)  |
| cubic foot per second (ft <sup>3</sup> /s) | 0.02832  | cubic meter per second (m <sup>3</sup> /s) |
| Hydraulic conductivity                     |          |  |
| foot per day (ft/d)                        | 0.3048   | meter per day (m/d)                        |
| Hydraulic gradient                         |          |  |
| foot per mile (ft/mi)                      | 0.1894   | meter per kilometer (m/km)                 |
| Transmissivity*                            |          |  |
| foot squared per day (ft <sup>2</sup> /d)  | 0.09290  | meter squared per day (m <sup>2</sup> /d)  |

\*Transmissivity: The standard unit for transmissivity is cubic foot per day per square foot times foot of aquifer thickness [(ft<sup>3</sup>/d)/ft<sup>2</sup>]ft. In this report, the mathematically reduced form, foot squared per day (ft<sup>2</sup>/d), converted to gallons per day per foot (gpd/ft), is used for convenience.

| <b>Multiply</b>               | <b>By</b> | <b>To obtain</b>                    |
|-------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Area</b>                   |           |                                     |
| acre                          | 4,047     | square meter (m <sup>2</sup> )      |
| acre                          | 0.004047  | square kilometer (km <sup>2</sup> ) |
| <b>Volume</b>                 |           |                                     |
| million gallons (Mgal)        | 3,785     | cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> )       |
| cubic foot (ft <sup>3</sup> ) | 0.02832   | cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> )       |
| acre-foot (acre-ft)           | 1,233     | cubic meter (m <sup>3</sup> )       |
| <b>Mass</b>                   |           |                                     |
| ounce, avoirdupois (oz)       | 28.35     | gram (g)                            |
| pound, avoirdupois (lb)       | 0.4536    | kilogram (kg)                       |
| <b>Activities</b>             |           |                                     |
| tritium unit                  | 3.2       | picocuries                          |

Temperature in degrees Celsius (°C) may be converted to degrees Fahrenheit (°F) as follows:  
 $^{\circ}\text{F}=(1.8\times^{\circ}\text{C})+32$

Temperature in degrees Fahrenheit (°F) may be converted to degrees Celsius (°C) as follows:  
 $^{\circ}\text{C}=(^{\circ}\text{F}-32)/1.8$

## Cover Photograph

The photograph on the cover of this report overlooks Stillman Lake facing east toward the Verde River/Granite Creek confluence, north-central Arizona. The rocks are Devonian Martin Formation capped with Tertiary basalt. In the confluence area, ground water discharges along three distinct flowpaths to Stillman Lake, lower Granite Creek, and upper Verde River springs. This photograph is also figure 15A of this report.

## Author's Note

The Arizona Water Protection Fund Commission has provided a portion of funding for this report through grant #99-078WPF. The views or findings represented in this deliverable are the Grantee's and do not necessarily represent those of the Commission nor the Arizona Department of Water Resources.