Contents is the volume of water in a reservoir. Unless otherwise indicated, volume is computed on the basis of a level pool and does not include bank storage.

The drainage area of a stream at a specified location is that area, measured in a horizontal plane, which is so enclosed by a topographic divide that direct surface runoff from precipitation normally would drain by gravity into the river above the specified point. Figures of drainage area given herein include all closed basins, or noncontributing areas, within the area unless otherwise noted.

WSP is used as an abbreviation for "Water-Supply Paper" in reference to previously published reports.

DOWNSTREAM ORDER OF LISTING GAGING STATIONS

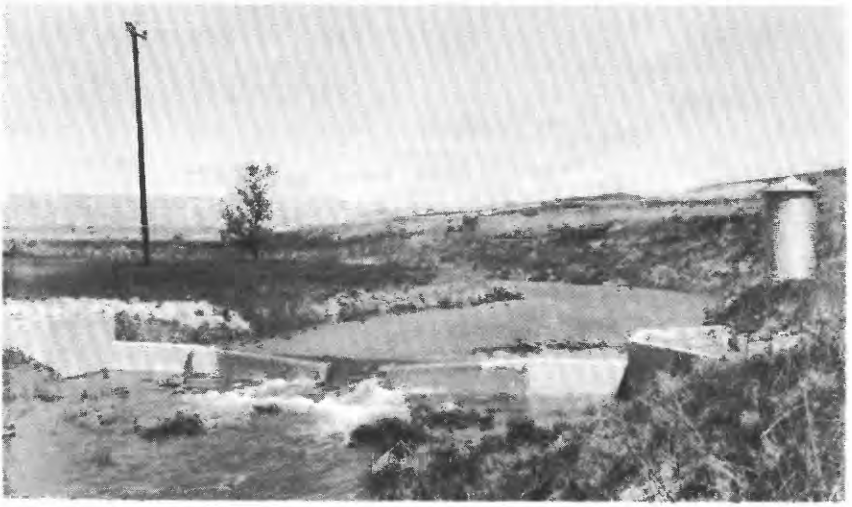
Beginning with the series of reports for the water year ending September 30, 1951, the order of listing gaging-station records was changed. In this report, in a downstream direction along the main stem all stations on a tributary entering above a main-stem station are listed before that station. If a tributary enters between two main-stem stations, it is listed between them. A similar order is followed in listing stations on first rank, second rank, and other ranks of tributaries. To indicate the rank of any tributary on which a gaging station is situated and the stream to which it is immediately tributary, each indention in the listing of gaging stations in the table of contents of this report represents one rank. This downstream order and system of indention show which gaging stations are on tributaries between any two stations on a main stem and the rank of the tributary on which each gaging station is situated.

The order of listing used before the publication of the 1951 report listed first all stations on the main stem from headwaters toward mouth, then all stations on the uppermost tributary to the main stem from the tributary's source to mouth, and then all stations from source to mouth of the uppermost tributary to the tributary.

EXPLANATION OF DATA

The base data collected at gaging stations consist of records of stage and measurements of discharge. In addition, observations of factors affecting the stage-discharge relation, weather records, and other information are used to supplement base data in determining the daily flow. The records of stage are obtained either from direct readings on a nonrecording gage or from a water-stage recorder that gives a continuous record of fluctuations. Measurements of discharge are made with a current meter by the general methods adopted by the Geological Survey on the basis of experience in stream gaging since 1888. These methods are described in Water-Supply Paper 888 and are also outlined in standard textbooks on the measurement of stream discharge. Typical structures in use at gaging stations are shown in figure 1.

Rating tables giving the discharge for any stage are prepared from stage-discharge relation curves defined by discharge measurements. If extensions to the rating curves are necessary to define the extremes of discharge, they are made on the basis of indirect determinations of peak discharge (such as slope-area or contracted-opening determinations, computation of flow over dams or weirs, and by other methods), velocity-area studies, and logarithmic plotting. The application of the daily mean gage height to those rating tables gives the daily mean discharge, from which the monthly and the yearly mean discharge are computed. If the stage-discharge relation is subject to change because of frequent or



A. NIOBRARA RIVER BELOW BOX BUTTE RESERVOIR, NEBR.

B. NORTH POPO AGIE RIVER NEAR LANDER, WYO.

FIGURE 1.—GAGING-STATION STRUCTURES.

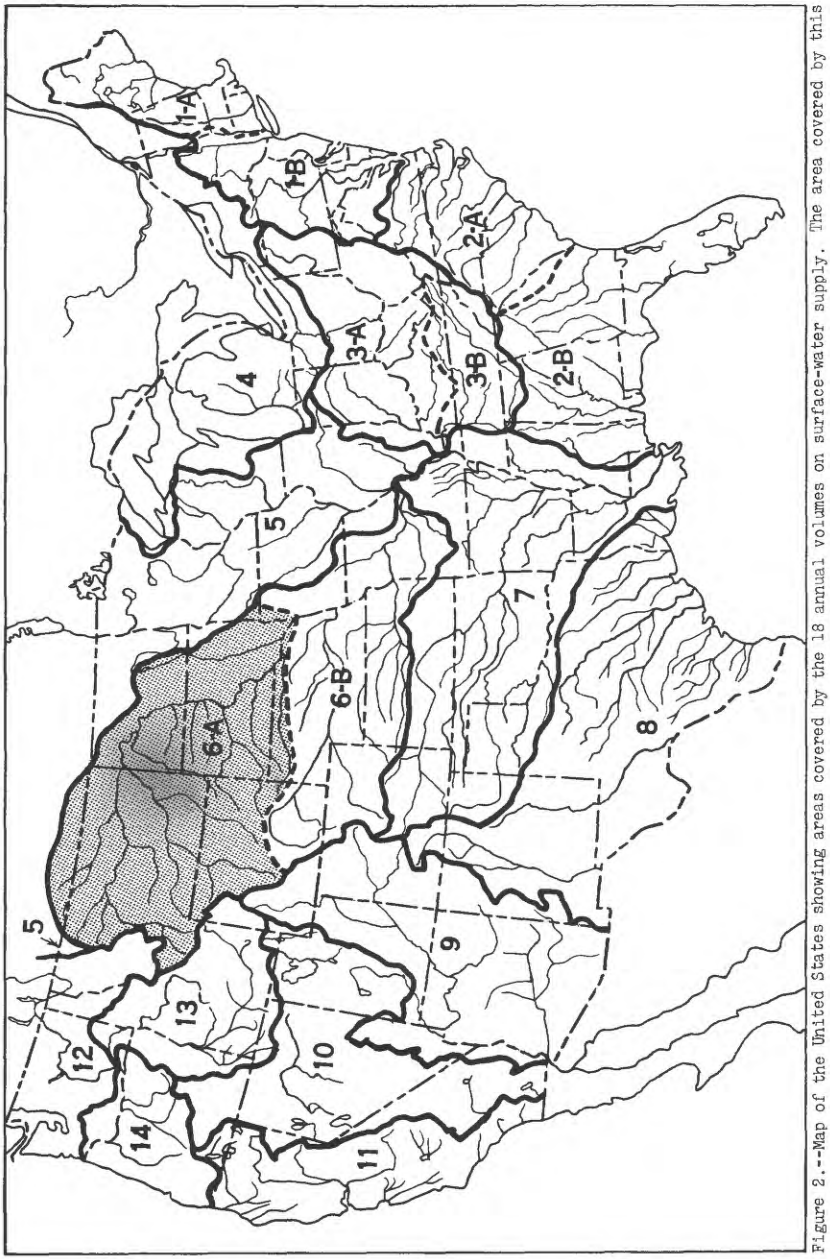


Figure 2.--Map of the United States showing areas covered by the 18 annual volumes on surface-water supply. The area covered by this report is shaded.

indicated have been included for some streams.

Streamflow data for the years 1884-1901, in reports of the Geological Survey

(A = Annual Report; B = Bulletin)

Report	Character of data	Year
10th A, pt. 2	Descriptive information only.	
11th A, pt. 2	Monthly discharge and descriptive information.....	1884 to September 1890.
12th A, pt. 2	....do.....	1884 to June 30, 1891.
13th A, pt. 3	....do.....	1884-92.
14th A, pt. 2	Monthly discharge.....	1888-93.
B 131.....	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1893-94.
16th A, pt. 2	Descriptive information only.	
B 140.....	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, ratings, and monthly discharge.	1895.
WSP 11.....	Gage heights.....	1896.
18th A, pt. 4	Descriptions, measurements, ratings, and monthly discharge..	1895-96.
WSP 15.....	Descriptions, measurements, and gage heights of streams east of the Mississippi River, and Missouri River and tributaries above Kansas River.	1897.
WSP 16.....	Descriptions, measurements, and gage heights of streams west of the Mississippi River, except Missouri River and tributaries above Kansas River.	1897.
19th A, pt. 4	Descriptions, measurements, ratings, and monthly discharge.	1897.
WSP 27.....	Measurements, ratings, and gage heights of streams east of the Mississippi River, and Missouri River and tributaries.	1898.
WSP 28.....	Measurements, ratings, and gage heights of streams west of the Mississippi River, except Missouri River and tributaries.	1898.
20th A, pt. 4	Monthly discharge.....	1898.
WSP 35 to 39.	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1899.
21st A, pt. 4	Monthly discharge.....	1899.
WSP 47 to 52.	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1900.
22d A, pt. 4.	Monthly discharge.....	1900.
WSP 65, 66...	Descriptions, measurements, gage heights, and ratings.....	1901.
WSP 75.....	Monthly discharge.....	1901.

Reports on surface-water supply containing records from 1899 to date for drainage basins in this report are listed below. The data for any particular gaging station will, in general, be found in the reports covering the years during which the station was maintained. Before 1951, records for the Missouri River basin above Sioux City, Iowa, were included with those of the other rivers of the Missouri River basin.

Numbers of water-supply papers containing results of stream measurements in Missouri River basin above Sioux City, Iowa, 1899-1956

Year	WSP	Year	WSP	Year	WSP	Year	WSP	Year	WSP
1899	a36, 37	1912	326	1925	606	1937	826	1949	1146
1900	49	1913	356	1926	626	1938	856	1950	1176
1901	66, 75	1914	386	1927	646	1939	876	1951	1209
1902	84	1915	406	1928	666	1940	896	1952	1239
1903	99	1916	436	1929	686	1941	926	1953	1279
1904	130	1917	456	1930	701	1942	956	1954	1339
1905	172	1918	476	1931	716	1943	976	1955	1389
1906	208	1919-20	506	1932	731	1944	1006	1956	1439
1907-8	246	1921	526	1933	746	1945	1036		
1909	266	1922	546	1934	761	1946	1056		
1910	286	1923	566	1935	786	1947	1086		
1911	306	1924	586	1936	806	1948	1116		

a Gallatin River.

The records at most of the stations discussed in these reports extend over many years. Discharge measurements at many points other than regular gaging stations have been made each year and are published at the end of each report. The streams and points of measurement are listed in the same order as the streams and gaging stations in the body of the report. An index of the records obtained before 1904 has been published in Water-Supply Paper 119.

Each of the reports on the surface-water supply for the year 1939 (Water-Supply Paper 876 for the Missouri River basin above Sioux City, Iowa) contains, for the area included in that report, a summary of yearly discharge at gaging stations at which 10 or more complete years of record had been collected. These summaries were reprinted separately.

Reports also have been published that are compilations of records for various areas, usually a single State or drainage basin. These reports contain records previously published (some of which may have been revised), as well as some records not contained in

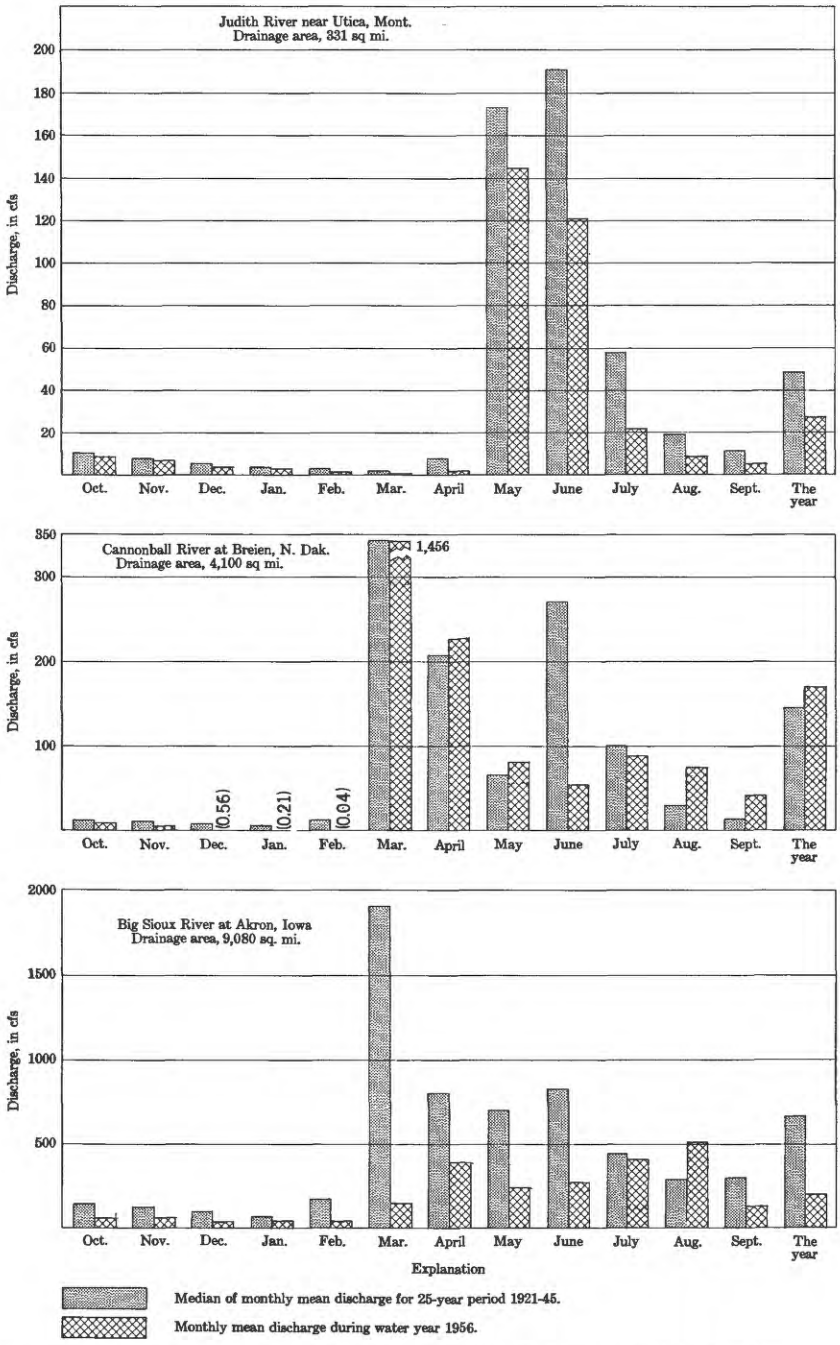


Figure 3. Comparison of discharge at three key gaging stations during 1956 water year with median discharge for 25-year period.

MISSOURI RIVER MAIN STEM

Red Rock River at Kennedy Ranch, near Lakeview, Mont.

Location.--Lat 44°39', long 112°03', near center of sec. 2, T. 14 S., R. 4 W., on right bank at Kennedy Ranch, 4 miles upstream from Long Creek and 14 miles northwest of Lakeview.

Drainage area.--318 sq mi.

Records available.--July 1936 to September 1956 (no winter records 1943-56).

Gage.--Water-stage recorder and wooden control. Datum of gage is 6,596.37 ft above mean sea level, unadjusted. Prior to Sept. 30, 1936, staff gage and Oct. 1, 1936, to Aug. 27, 1942, water-stage recorder, at site 1 mile upstream at different datum.

Extremes.--Maximum discharge recorded during year, 596 cfs Apr. 24 (gage height, 3.77 ft); minimum daily, 25 cfs Nov. 24.
1936-56: Maximum discharge recorded, 1,360 cfs Apr. 30, 1952 (gage height, 5.24 ft); minimum, 1.5 cfs Sept. 2, 1940.

Remarks.--Records good except those for periods of ice effect or no gage-height record, which are poor. Diversions for irrigation of about 6,000 acres above station.

Revisions (water years).--WSP 1086: 1946. WSP 1339: 1937.

Rating table, water year 1955-56, except periods of ice effect (gage height, in feet, and discharge, in cubic feet per second)

1.5	21	2.6	260
1.7	41	3.0	393
2.0	90	3.5	535
2.3	160	4.0	681

Discharge, in cubic feet per second, water year October 1955 to September 1956

Day	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.
1	45	45						426	310	84	44	31
2	48	45						374	278	88	45	33
3	48	42						333	*274	94	45	28
4	*48	45						330	282	*80	41	30
5	48	50						289	285	77	38	32
6	40	55					80	271	264	79	37	32
7	40	57						271	249	77	38	33
8	49	55						230	230	73	38	34
9	45	57						223	216	66	38	34
10	48	58						230	213	55	39	37
11	45	51						210	206	71	39	38
12	42	42						206	184	80	38	41
13	55	40					300	203	169	66	38	42
14	60	38						230	175	65	38	41
15	60	36						200	175	58	41	38
16	60	32						190	166	55	40	36
17	63	30						187	166	55	39	37
18	63	30						181	136	51	39	40
19	63	32						187	119	51	39	41
20	60	34					550	193	138	49	40	42
21	66	35						203	181	48	39	42
22	68	33						210	131	48	37	*36
23	65	30						213	131	45	*36	37
24	68	25					*584	216	133	45	36	42
25	69	26					565	230	122	44	34	42
26	71	28					554	256	115	41	34	42
27	54	30					543	262	110	41	36	42
28	61	30					524	285	106	40	37	44
29	55	30					488	320	92	47	34	44
30	63	30			------		463	323	86	47	33	47
31	57	------			------		------	320	------	45	28	------
Total	1,727	1,171	-	-	-	-	10,421	7,795	5,442	1,865	1,178	1,138
Mean	55.7	39.0	-	-	-	-	347	251	181	60.2	38.0	37.9
Ac-ft	3,430	2,320	-	-	-	-	20,670	15,460	10,790	3,700	2,340	2,260

Calendar year	: Max	Min	Mean	Ac-ft	
Water year	: Max	Min	Mean	Ac-ft	

* Discharge measurement made on this day.
Note.--Stage-discharge relation affected by ice Nov. 2-6, 13-22. No gage-height record Nov. 23-30; Apr. 1-23; discharge estimated on basis of weather records, storage in Lima Reservoir, and records for station below Lima Reservoir.