

# The U.S. Geological Survey National Streamgauge Network

2023

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) operated 11,850 continuous surface-water monitoring locations (streamgages) across the United States in 2023. The streamgages provide information on river height and streamflow, typically at 15-minute intervals. This information is then made available to everyone, most of it delivered nearly in real-time on the USGS National Water Dashboard.

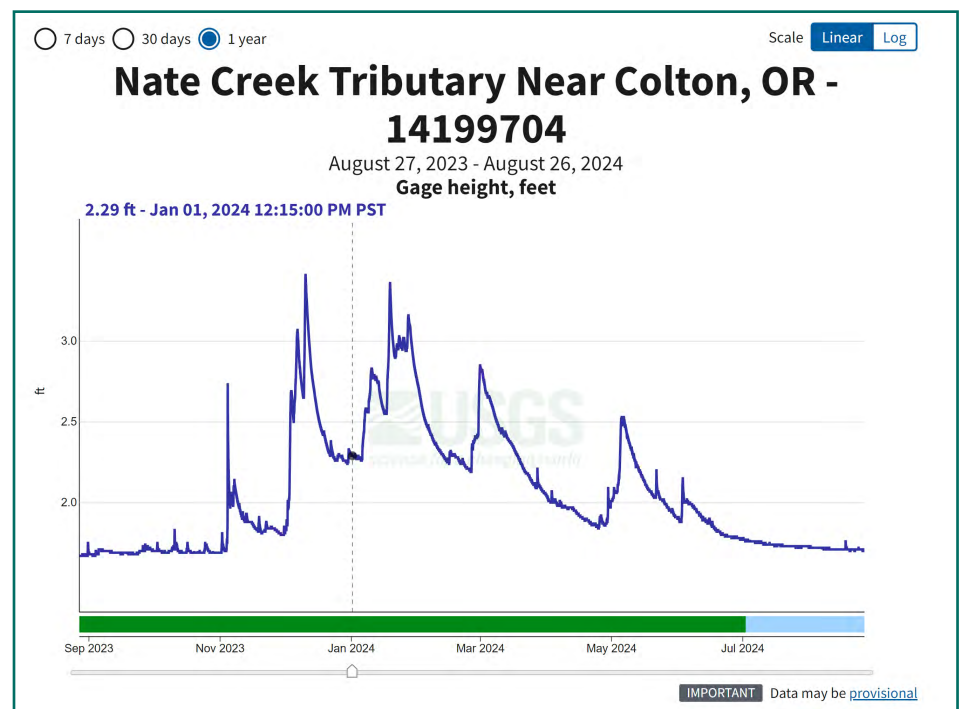


USGS hydrologic technician inspecting the streamgage at Roseau River below South Fork near Malung, MN (USGS streamgage 05104500). Photograph by Brett Savage, U.S. Geological Survey.

Streamflow was computed at 8,630 locations where USGS staff made individual measurements to calculate streamflow. This information is fundamental to economic well-being, protection of life and property, infrastructure design, and effective management of water resources for both human and ecological uses.



USGS hydrologic technician making a wading streamflow measurement. Photograph by Alan Cressler, U.S. Geological Survey.



Real-time graph of river water levels (stages) at USGS streamgage 14199704, January 1, 2024.

**11,850**

National Streamgauge Network locations of the USGS in the United States

**8,630**

Streamgauge locations where continuous streamflow is computed in the United States

**3,220**

Streamgages only recording water levels or seasonally operated

**For more information about the U.S. Geological Survey National Water Monitoring Networks, visit:**  
<https://www.usgs.gov/mission-areas/water-resources/observing-systems-division>