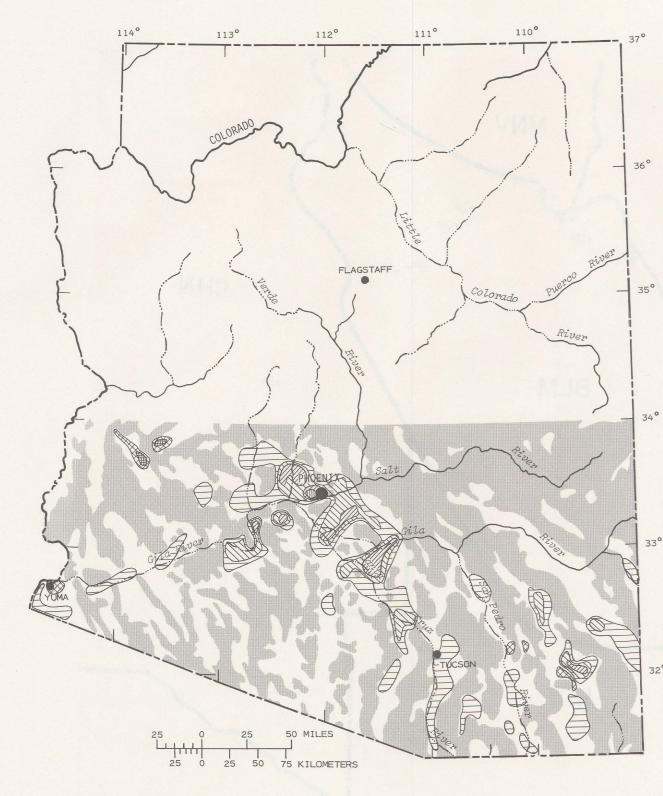
BLM



EXPLANATION

CHANGE IN WATER LEVEL, IN FEET

More than +20 +10 to +20 +5 to +10

0 to +5

-5 to -10 Insufficient data

0 to -5

CRYSTALLINE AND CONSOLIDATED SEDIMENTARY ROCKS

CHANGE IN WATER LEVEL, SPRING 1983 TO SPRING 1984

STATUS OF GROUND-WATER INVENTORY AND OBSERVATION-WELL PROGRAM

EXPLANATION

UPDATE IS IN PROGRESS

BEEN PUBLISHED

AREA BOUNDARY

---- WATER-PROVINCE BOUNDARY

AREA FOR WHICH A REPORT HAS BEEN RELEASED

AREA FOR WHICH A REPORT HAS BEEN RELEASED AND AN

AREA FOR WHICH AN UPDATE OF PREVIOUS REPORT HAS

NUMBER OF ACTIVE OBSERVATION WELLS—As of Spring 1984

COP CHV 10 123 50 25 50 75 KILOMETERS EXPLANATION

ESTIMATED GROUND-WATER PUMPAGE, IN THOUSANDS OF

PUMPAGE OF 500 ACRE-FEET OR LESS

AREA BOUNDARY

WATER-PROVINCE BOUNDARY

NOTE: In areas where no data are shown, the pumpage is mostly from domestic and stock wells, and the amount is unknown. The total pumpage in these areas is estimated to be about 10,000 acre-feet for 1983 (see

ESTIMATED GROUND-WATER PUMPAGE IN ARIZONA IN 1983

ESTIMATED ANNUAL GROUND-WATER PUMPAGE, IN THOUSANDS OF ACRE-FEET, IN ARIZONA, BY AREA [NUMBERS ROUNDED TO NEAREST THOUSAND ACRE-FEET. AREA: AVR, SEE MAPS FOR LOCATION]

TO 1915 347 1915 1916 1917

TOTAL 21G EXPLANATION OF SYMBOLS

conductance, dissolved solids, and fluoride.

- N: PUMPAGE OF 500 ACRE-FEET OR LESS. A: WITHDRAWAL MOSTLY FOR DRAINAGE PURPOSES. PUMPAGE FOR THESE AREAS WAS NOT ESTIMATED PRIOR TO 1974. THUS, TOTAL IS FOR 1974-83 ONLY. ESTIMATED PUMPAGE BEFORE 1974 IS INCLUDED IN "OTHERS."
- C: PUMPAGE FOR LHA AREA WAS INCLUDED IN SRV AREA PRIOR TO 1973. THUS, TOTAL IS FOR 1973-83 D: PUMPAGE FOR LSP AND USP AREAS WAS NOT ESTIMATED PRIOR TO 1966. THUS, TOTAL IS FOR 1966-83 ONLY. ESTIMATED PUMPAGE BEFORE 1966 IS INCLUDED IN "OTHERS."

WAS FOR DRAINAGE OF WATERLOGGED LANDS.

- E: YUM AREA INCLUDES SOUTH GILA VALLEY, YUMA MESA, AND YUMA VALLEY. BEGINNING IN 1947 IN YUMA VALLEY, IN 1961 IN SOUTH GILA VALLEY, AND IN 1970 IN YUMA MESA, PART OF THE PUMPAGE
- F: PUMPAGE FOR BIS, HAS, AND SFR AREAS WAS NOT ESTIMATED PRIOR TO 1978. THUS, TOTAL IS FOR 1978-83 ONLY. ESTIMATED PUMPAGE BEFORE 1978 IS INCLUDED IN "OTHERS."
- I: PUMPAGE FOR ALT, GSK, AND SBY AREAS WAS NOT ESTIMATED PRIOR TO 1983. THUS, TOTAL IS FOR 1983 ONLY. ESTIMATED PUMPAGE BEFORE 1983 IS INCLUDED IN "OTHERS." : "OTHERS" INCLUDE: BLACK RIVER BASIN, UPPER SALT RIVER BASIN, AND WHITE RIVER BASIN.
 PUMPAGE IN THESE AREAS IS MOSTLY FROM DOMESTIC AND STOCK WELLS, AND THE AMOUNT IS UNKNOWN.
 TOTAL ANNUAL PUMPAGE FOR THESE AREAS IS APPROXIMATED.

H: PUMPAGE FOR LVR AREA WAS NOT ESTIMATED PRIOR TO 1981. THUS, TOTAL IS FOR 1981-83 ONLY. ESTIMATED PUMPAGE BEFORE 1981 IS INCLUDED IN "OTHERS."

Introduction

In arid and semiarid regions such as Arizona, the availability of adequate water supplies has a significant influence on the type and extent of economic development. About two-thirds of the water used in the State is ground water. The nature and extent of the ground-water reservoirs must be known for proper management of this valuable resource.

The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the State of Arizona, which is represented by the Arizona Department of Water Resources, has conducted a program of ground-water studies in Arizona since 1939. The primary purposes of these studies are to define the amount, location, and quality of the ground-water resources of Arizona and to monitor the effects of large-scale development of the groundwater supplies. The program includes the collection, compilation, and analysis of the geologic and hydrologic data necessary to evaluate the ground-water resources of the State. The geohydrologic data, results of areal studies, and research findings are presented in publications of the U.S. Geological Survey and the Arizona Department of Water Resources and in technical journals and other publications. (See section entitled "Recent Publications.") The basic hydrologic data are in computer storage and are available to the public. Since 1974, a major thrust of the program has been to inventory the ground-water conditions in the 68 ground-water areas of the State. Several selected ground-water areas are studied each year; water levels are measured annually in a statewide observation-well network, many ground-water samples are collected and analyzed annually, and ground-water pumpage is computed for most of the areas. (See small maps at top of sheet 1.) As of July 1984, reports had been published for 56 of the 68 groundwater areas. Data collected in the ground-water areas include information on selected wells, water-level measurements, and water samples for chemical analysis. The data for each of the selected ground-water areas are analyzed, and the results are published in map form. Typically, the maps show depth to water; change in water levels; altitude of the water level; and quality-of-water data, such as specific

Conversion Factors

For readers who prefer to use the International System of Units (SI) rather than inch-pound units, the conversion factors for the terms used in this report are listed below:

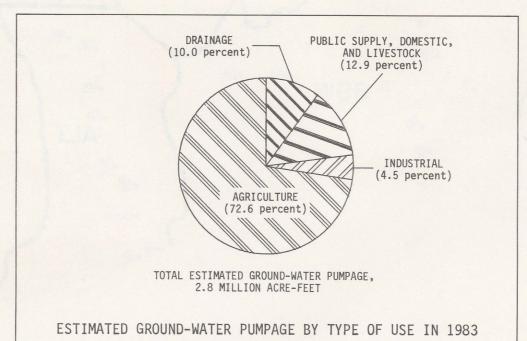
Multiply Ву foot (ft) 0.3048 meter (m) gallon per minute 0.06309 liter per second (gal/min) cubic hectometer (hm³) 0.001233 acre-foot (acre-ft)

Availability and Use of Water

In Arizona the availability of adequate and potable water supplies has as great an influence on the location of cities and cropland as any other factor. Agriculture is dependent almost entirely on irrigation because rainfall is inadequate for raising crops. Some surface water is available in a few areas, but the amount is not sufficient to meet the continually increasing demand. For many years, nearly two-thirds of Arizona's water supply has been withdrawn from the ground-water reservoirs. The principal use of the ground water is for the irrigation of crops, although municipal and industrial uses are increasing steadily.

In 1983 the withdrawal of ground water was about 2.8 million acre-ft. This amount is about 1.4 million acre-ft less than the amount withdrawn in 1982, 2.6 million acre-ft less than in 1981, and 1.8 million acre-ft less than in 1980. The withdrawal in 1983 is the least amount withdrawn since the mid-1940's. Most of the decrease in 1983 was in the amount of ground water used for irrigation in the Basin and Range lowlands province. Slightly more than 2.0 million acre-ft of ground water or 72.6 percent of the total withdrawal was used for the irrigation of crops in 1983. The rest was used for public-supply, industrial, domestic, and livestock uses, and some ground water was pumped for drainage of waterlogged lands. The percentage of total withdrawal that was used for agriculture is the smallest since these percentages have been calculated beginning in 1974; in other years more than 80 percent was used for agriculture. Through 1983, about 196 million acre-ft of ground water had been withdrawn from the ground-water reservoirs in Arizona. The amount of water pumped in 1983 is given on the map showing estimated ground-water pumpage; the annual and accumulated pumpage since the beginning of record are shown in the table. In addition to the ground water pumped, about 3.0 million acre-ft of surface water was diverted for use in the State in 1983. About 2.2 million acre-ft of the diverted surface water was consumptively used and the rest was returned to the Colorado River through drains and spillways. All the surface water diverted is used in the Basin and Range lowlands province. Potential well production, depth to water in selected wells in spring 1984, and change in water level in selected wells from 1979 to 1984 are shown on the map on sheet 2. The use of ground water and the effects of this use on the ground-water reservoirs in each of the three water provinces (see map showing water provinces, sheet 2) are discussed separately in the following sections.

Basin and Range lowlands province.--The Basin and Range lowlands province is the most highly developed of the three water provinces. The province is characterized by rugged mountain ranges separated by broad elongated alluvium-filled basins. The ground-water reservoirs are mainly alluvial deposits in the basins, but small supplies of water can be obtained locally from the crystalline and sedimentary rocks in the mountains that bound the basins. In 1983, about 2.65 million acre-ft of ground water was withdrawn in the province, of which about 1.96 million acre-ft was used for the irrigation of crops. Through 1983, more than 191 million acre-ft of ground water had been withdrawn from the ground-water reservoirs in the province. The amount of ground water withdrawn in 1983 is about 1.35 million acre-ft less than that withdrawn in 1982 and is the least since pumpage has been calculated separately for the water provinces (1974). The amount withdrawn for the province probably is the least since the mid-1940's. Precipitation in the province in 1983 averaged nearly 7 in. above the long-term average. (See U.S. Environmental Data Service, 1983, Climatological data—annual summary—Arizona: National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, v. 87, no. 13, 27 p.) The above-average precipitation and greater availability of surface water only partly account for the fact that the amount of ground water used to irrigate crops was about 1.36 million acre-ft or 41 percent less in 1983 than in 1982. The factor that probably had more influence on the decline in pumpage was the "Payment-in-Kind" (PIK) program in which farmers were paid to let land be idle. The program was administered by the U.S. Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation Service and their report indicates eligible farms were those that had previously been planted in wheat, cotton, rice, or feed grains. In some counties more than 40 percent of the farms eligible for the program participated and many acres were fallowed in 1983. Annual reports



show that 285,360 acres less were harvested in 1983 than in 1982 (Arizona Crop and Livestock Reporting Service, 1982 and 1983, Arizona Agricultural Statistics: Statistical Reporting Service, U.S. Department o Agriculture and University of Arizona, College of Agriculture). The lesser amount of acreage harvested and the unusually wet year can easily account for the smaller amount of pumpage in 1983. Industrial use of ground water was about 7,000 acre-ft or 8 percent greater than in 1982. Municipal and domestic use increased about 19,000 acre-ft or 6 percent.

The Salt River Valley and the lower Santa Cruz basin are the largest agricultural areas in the State. Agricultural ground-water pumpage in the two areas amounted to more than half the total pumpage for the State in 1983. In the Salt River Valley area, about 707,000 acre-ft of ground water was withdrawn in 1983—the first time the pumpage has been less than 1 million acre-ft since 1942. In several years during the 1950's, pumpage was more than 2 million acre-ft. In the lower Santa Cruz basin area, the ground-water withdrawal in 1983 was 495,000 acre-ft, which is the smallest since 1942. In nearly all the areas where large amounts of ground water are pumped each year, the withdrawal in 1983 was less than that in 1982; in many other areas, the withdrawal was the smallest in many years. In the Yuma area, ground-water withdrawal in 1983 was 11,000 acre-ft greater than that in 1982; the increase was about equally divided between the amount used for agriculture and the amount pumped for drainage of

A significant effect of the decrease in pumpage and the greater amount of precipitation during 1983 was the rise in water levels that occurred from spring 1983 to spring 1984. Patterns of the change in water level in the developed areas of the State for this period are shown on one of the small maps at the top of the sheet. In large areas, the water level rose as much as 5 ft and in smaller areas more than 20 ft of rise occurred. Water-level declines of 5 to 10 ft occurred in only a few small areas.

water-logged land.

<u>Plateau uplands province.</u>--In the Plateau uplands province, ground-water development is small compared with that in the Basin and Range lowlands province but somewhat greater than that in the Central highlands province. The area is underlain by a sequence of sandstone, siltstone, and limestone overlain locally by volcanic rocks and "shoestring" deposits of thin alluvium. Most of the ground water is pumped from layered sandstone that stores ground water under confined and unconfined conditions and from thin deposits of alluvium along the major streams. The use of ground water is limited largely to scattered farms and homesites; industrial and utility sites; and a few population centers, such as Flagstaff, Holbrook, and the White Mountains recreational areas. In 1983 about 92,000 acre-ft of ground water was withdrawn in the province, which is about 11,000 acre-ft less than in 1982. For the most part, no pattern of rise or decline in water levels is discernible, although a few feet of decline has occurred in the Black Mesa, Snowflake, and Holbrook areas.

Central highlands province. -- The Central highlands province is a transition zone between the Basin and Range lowlands province and the Plateau uplands province and is the smallest of the three water provinces. Ground water is obtained from thick alluvial deposits in a few areas; from layered sandstone, limestone, and conglomerate in some areas; from thin alluvial deposits along major stream channels; and locally from fractured crystalline and sedimentary rocks. Only a few thousand acres of land is under cultivation, and the amount of ground water withdrawn annually is small—about 45,000 acre-ft in 1983. The small amount of ground water withdrawn has not resulted in notable water-level declines except in parts of Little Chino Valley.

Recent Publications

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Raymond, L. H., 1984, Overview of remote sensing for estimating consumptive use in the lower Colorado River flood plain, Arizona and California [abs.]: The Application of Remote Sensing to Agriculture, Casa Grande, Arizona, May 18, 1984, Proceedings, p. 23. Robertson, F. N., 1984, Trace elements in ground water in southern Arizona [abs.], in Replogle, J. A., and Renard, K. G., eds., Water today and tomorrow: Specialty Conference, Irrigation and Drainage Division of the American Society of Civil Engineers, Flagstaff, Arizona, July 24-26,

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