



ESTIMATED GROUND-WATER PUMPAGE IN ARIZONA IN 1986

ESTIMATED ANNUAL GROUND-WATER PUMPAGE, IN THOUSANDS OF ACRE-FEET, BY AREA

Year	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC	Annual Total	
1915																							200
1916																							200
1917																							200
1918																							200
1919																							200
1920																							200
1921																							200
1922																							200
1923																							200
1924																							200
1925																							200
1926																							200
1927																							200
1928																							200
1929																							200
1930																							200
1931																							200
1932																							200
1933																							200
1934																							200
1935																							200
1936																							200
1937																							200
1938																							200
1939																							200
1940																							200
1941																							200
1942																							200
1943																							200
1944																							200
1945																							200
1946																							200
1947																							200
1948																							200
1949																							200
1950																							200
1951																							200
1952																							200
1953																							200
1954																							200
1955																							200
1956																							200
1957																							200
1958																							200
1959																							200
1960																							200
1961																							200
1962																							200
1963																							200
1964																							200
1965																							200
1966																							200
1967																							200
1968																							200
1969																							200
1970																							200
1971																							200
1972																							200
1973																							200
1974																							200
1975																							200
1976																							200
1977																							200
1978																							200
1979																							200
1980																							200
1981																							200
1982																							200
1983																							200
1984																							200
1985																							200
1986																							200

CONVERSION FACTORS AND VERTICAL DATUM
Multiply By To obtain
foot (ft) 0.3048 meter
gallon per minute 0.06309 liter per second
(gal/min)
acre-foot (acre-ft) 0.001233 cubic hectometer

INTRODUCTION
The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the State of Arizona, which is represented by the Arizona Department of Water Resources, has conducted studies of ground-water conditions in Arizona since 1939. The primary purpose of these studies is to determine the quantity, chemical quality, and areal distribution of the ground-water resources of Arizona and to monitor the effects of large-scale withdrawals of the ground water. The studies include the collection, compilation, and analysis of the geologic and hydrologic data necessary to evaluate the State's ground-water resources. Data collected include areal extent, thickness, lithology, and hydraulic characteristics of the aquifers; occurrence and movement of ground water; quantities and distributions of ground-water recharge and discharge; measured and potential well yields; physical and chemical characteristics of the ground water; and changes that occur within aquifer systems over time.

separated by broad elongated basins filled with alluvial deposits. The ground-water reservoirs are mainly the 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 1986, about 3.03 million acre-ft of ground water was withdrawn in the province, more than 94 percent of the total ground-water withdrawn in the State. About 203 million acre-ft of ground water has been withdrawn from the ground-water reservoirs in the province since pumping began.

The hydrographs of water levels in wells on sheet 2 represent conditions in several ground-water areas in the province. In general, most water levels declined significantly from the 1950's through the 1970's when ground-water withdrawal was the greatest. In recent years, however, because of decreased ground-water withdrawal, the water levels have declined less and are rising, and in some instances water levels are rising.

Reeter, R.W., and Remick, W.H., 1986. Maps showing groundwater conditions in the West Salt River, East Salt River, Lake Pleasant, Carefree and Fountain Hills sub-basins of the Phoenix Active Management Area, Maricopa, Pinal and Yavapai Counties, Arizona—1986; Arizona Department of Water Resources Hydrologic Map Series Report Number 12, 3 sheets.

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, technical journals, and other publications. (See section entitled "Recent Publications.") The basic hydrologic data are in computer storage and are available to the public.

In 1986 the Central Arizona Project (CAP) Canal delivered Colorado River water to the Maricopa Plains, Lower Hassayampa basin, and the Salt River Valley. The quantity of ground water withdrawn in the Salt River Valley was not affected by the delivery of Colorado River water; however, ground-water withdrawal greatly decreased in the Maricopa Plains and Lower Hassayampa basin where about 61,000 acre-ft of surface water was delivered.

Freethy, G.W., and Anderson, T.W., 1986. Predevelopment hydrologic conditions in the alluvial basins of Arizona and adjacent California, Nevada, and New Mexico: U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Investigations Atlas H-664, 3 sheets.

Webb, R.H., 1987. Preliminary assessment of water quality in the alluvial aquifer of the Puerco River basin, northeastern Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 87-4126, 70 p.

AVAILABILITY AND WITHDRAWAL OF GROUND WATER
In Arizona the availability of adequate and potable water supplies has a great influence on the location of cities and cropland. Surface water is available along the Gila River, in the Verde River Valley, in the Salt River Valley, and along the Lower Colorado River; however, the quantity available is not sufficient to meet the continually increasing demand. For many years, more than half of Arizona's water supply has been withdrawn from the ground-water reservoirs. The principal use of the ground water is for irrigation of crops, although municipal and industrial users are steadily increasing.

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 the alluvial basins and from limestone, limestone, and conglomerate in some areas; from 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 quantity of ground water withdrawn in 1986 was 89,000 acre-ft, which is 4,000 acre-ft more than in 1985 and 41,000 acre-ft more than in 1984. The quantity of ground water withdrawn has not resulted in notable water-level declines.

Anderson, T.W., and White, N.D., 1986. Arizona surface-water resources, in Moody, D.W., Chase, E.B., and Aronson, D.A., Compilers, National Water Summary, 1985—Hydrologic Events and Surface Water Resources: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 86-4071, 22 p.

Webb, R.H., Steiger, J.W., and Turner, R.M., 1987. Dynamics of Mojave Desert shrub assemblages in the Panamint Mountains, California: Ecology, v. 68, no. 3, p. 478-490.

In 1986, 3.216 million acre-ft of ground water was withdrawn. This quantity is about 0.17 million acre-ft less than the 3.386 million acre-ft withdrawn in 1985, nearly 0.5 million acre-ft less than in 1984, but 0.38 million acre-ft more than in 1983, when withdrawals were the lowest since 1947 (see pumpage table). The withdrawal in 1986, although more than the quantity withdrawn in 1983, is still much less than the 4.5 to 5.7 million acre-ft of water withdrawn from the 1950's through the 1970's. Most of the differences are in the quantities of ground water used for irrigation in the Basin and Range lowlands province. More than 2.3 million acre-ft of ground water or 72.7 percent of the total withdrawal was used for agricultural purposes in 1986; most of this water was used for irrigation of crops.

Plateau Uplands Province
In the Plateau uplands province, ground-water development is small compared with that in the Basin and Range lowlands province. The area is underlain by layers of sandstone, siltstone, and limestone that are overlain locally by volcanic rocks and "shoshonitic" deposits of thin alluvium. Most of the ground water is pumped from layered sandstone that stores ground water in confined or unconfined aquifers 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 area. In 1986, about 96,000 acre-ft of ground water was withdrawn from the province, about 10,000 acre-ft more than in 1985 and 7,000 more than in 1984. 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.

Freethy, G.W., Pool, D.R., Anderson, T.W., and Tucci, Patrick, 1986. Generalized distribution of aquifer types in the alluvial basins of Arizona and adjacent parts of California and New Mexico: U.S. Geological Survey Hydrologic Investigations Atlas H-663, 3 sheets.

Webb, R.H., Steiger, J.W., and Milshire, H.C., 1986. Recovery of compacted soils in Mojave Desert ghost towns: Soil Science Society of America Journal, v. 50, no. 5, p. 1341-1344.

The annual and accumulated pumpage since the beginning of record are shown in the pumpage table. Potential well production, depth to water in selected wells in the spring of 1987, and change in water level in selected wells from 1982 to 1987 are shown on the map on sheet 2. The withdrawal of ground water and its effects 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

Littin, G.R., 1987. Ground-water resources of the Bisbee-Naco area, Cochise County, Arizona: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Resources Investigations Report 87-4103, 34 p.

White, N.D., and Garrett, W.B., 1987. Water resources data for Arizona, water year 1984: U.S. Geological Survey Water-Data Report 87-04-1, 381 p.