

**Prepared in cooperation with the Colorado Water Conservation Board**

# **Evaluation of Mean-Monthly Streamflow-Regression Equations for Colorado, 2014**

Scientific Investigations Report 2015–5016

STREAM GAGING STATION GEOLOGICA

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

**Cover.** Photograph showing Missouri Creek near Gold Park, Colorado by Jeff Foster, U.S. Geological Survey.

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## **U.S. Department of the Interior**

SALLY JEWELL, Secretary

#### **U.S. Geological Survey**

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U.S. Geological Survey, Reston, Virginia: 2015

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Suggested citation:

Kohn, M.S., Stevens, M.R., Bock, A.R., and Char, S.J., 2015, Evaluation of mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations for Colorado, 2014: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2015–5016, 53 p., http://dx.doi. org/10.3133/sir20155016.

ISSN 2328-0328 (online)

# **Contents**



# **Figures**



# **Appendix Figures**





# **Tables**



# **Appendix Table**



## **Conversion Factors**

[Inch/Pound to International System of Units]



## **Datums**

Vertical coordinate information is referenced to the North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD 88).

Horizontal coordinate information is referenced to the North American Datum of 1983 (NAD 83).

Elevation, as used in this report, refers to distance above the vertical datum.

## **Supplemental Information**

Water year in this report is defined as the period from October 1st of one year through September 30th of the following year and is named for the year of the ending date.

## **Abbreviations**

- adjR2 adjusted-coefficient of determination
- CDWR Colorado Division of Water Resources
- NWIS National Water Information System
- SEP standard error of prediction
- USGS U.S. Geological Survey

# <span id="page-8-0"></span>**Acknowledgments**

Jeff Baessler and Brandy Logan of the Colorado Water Conservation Board provided helpful guidance and thoughtful feedback throughout the study. Chris Brown and Doug Stenzel of the Colorado Division of Water Resources were instrumental in coordinating the compilation of Colorado Division of Water Resources streamgage data to be used in this study. The following Colorado Division of Water Resources lead hydrographers helped determine which Colorado Division of Water Resources streamgages were representative of natural streamflow conditions and could be used in this study: Russell Stroud (Region 1), Joseph Talbott (Region 2), Scott Veneman (Region 3), Jerry Thrush (Region 4), Craig Bruner (Region 5), Dan Meyer (Region 6), and Brian Boughton (Region 7).

William Asquith and Andrea Veilleux of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) offered invaluable technical assistance during the undertaking of the study. Julie Kiang of the USGS provided support and guidance throughout the study and as a technical reviewer. John Fulton of the USGS contributed constructive comments as a technical reviewer, which enhanced the quality of the analysis and report.

# <span id="page-10-0"></span>**Evaluation of Mean-Monthly Streamflow-Regression Equations for Colorado**

By Michael S. Kohn, Michael R. Stevens, Andrew R. Bock, and Stephen J. Char

## **Abstract**

The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, evaluated the predictive uncertainty of mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations representative of natural streamflow conditions in Colorado. This study evaluates the predictive uncertainty of meanmonthly streamflow-regression equations developed in a 2009 U.S. Geological Survey study using streamflow data collected over the entire period of record at each streamgage through calendar year 2013. The study area for this report is limited to the Mountain, Northwest, Rio Grande, and Southwest hydrologic regions of Colorado.

Data collected from the beginning of the period of record through calendar year 2013 were used to evaluate the meanmonthly streamflow equations using the same basin characteristics as in the 2009 study. U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado Division of Water Resources streamgages with at least 10 years of streamflow record and identified as representative of natural streamflow conditions were selected for this study. During the streamgage selection process, a total of 432 streamgages, composed of 278 from the 2009 study and 154 new streamgages, were identified.

The updated standard error of prediction and adjusted coefficient of determination values that correspond to the mean-monthly streamflow equations developed in the 2009 study are in close agreement with the results of this study. The old streamgages performed slightly better than the new streamgages, with approximately 88 and 85 percent of the data within the prediction intervals, respectively. This result was expected because the streamgages used to develop the regression equations should yield a better performance than the new streamgages.

For all hydrologic regions, approximately 87 percent of the data are within the 95-percent prediction intervals. The explanation for why fewer than 95 percent of the data are within the prediction intervals is that the data do not conform perfectly to the regression assumptions required to accurately estimate performance metrics. The equations for the Rio Grande hydrologic region had the best fit with the parametric prediction-interval assumptions, with approximately 91.8 percent of the data within the prediction interval (average 12 months). The Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions had 87.8, 84.9, and 83.5 percent of the data contained within the prediction interval, respectively.

Monthly adjusted coefficient of determination values were computed and have the same general pattern for all four hydrologic regions. The largest values usually occur in March or April, and the lowest values usually occur in August or September. Only the Rio Grande hydrologic region deviates from this seasonal pattern, exhibiting a decrease in adjusted coefficient of determination values in August and September, with the lowest values occurring in the winter months (December, January, and February). Generally, the adjusted coefficient of determination values for this report are just slightly less (0.76 compared to 0.79) than the values computed in the 2009 study. The similarity of values, even when tested with data not used to originally develop the mean-monthly streamflowregression equations, provides confidence that the predictive uncertainty of mean-monthly regression equations in the 2009 study are accurate. The fact that the results for the two datasets are very similar provides assurance that when these equations are applied to locations not used to develop the equations, the standard error of prediction and adjusted-coefficient of determination error metrics should be similar to those established in the 2009 study for locations with natural streamflow.

The median absolute differences between the observed and computed mean-monthly streamflow for Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions are fairly uniform throughout the year, with the exception of late summer and early fall (July, August, and September), when each hydrologic region exhibits a substantial increase in median absolute percent difference. The greatest difference occurs in the Northwest hydrologic region, and the smallest difference occurs in the Mountain hydrologic region. The Rio Grande hydrologic region shows seasonal variation in median absolute percent difference with March, April, August, and September having a median absolute difference near or below 40 percent, and the remaining months of the year having a median absolute difference near or above 50 percent. In the Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions, the mean-monthly streamflow equations perform the best during spring (March, April, and May). However, in the Rio Grande hydrologic region, the mean-monthly streamflow equations perform the best during late summer and early fall (August and September).

## <span id="page-11-0"></span>**Introduction**

Streamflow-regression equations are statistical relations between streamflow statistics computed from available streamgage records (including mean-monthly streamflow) and relevant basin and climatic characteristics. Streamflow-regression equations generally are developed for geographic regions where basin and climatic conditions are relatively consistent. The equations are accompanied by estimates of predictive uncertainty and provide useful and economic tools for calculating streamflow statistics at ungaged locations. Streamflowregression equations are commonly used to estimate streamflow statistics at ungaged sites across the Nation (Capesius and Stephens, 2009). Reliable estimates of streamflow statistics are critical for water-resource management, stream-related structural design, stream-hazard identification, and water-quality management.

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) developed a Webbased computer program called StreamStats (Ries and others, 2004). The software facilitates the computation of streamflow statistics using regional regression equations or other procedures that have been published previously. StreamStats allows the user to compute streamflow statistics for both gaged and ungaged sites by selecting a specific stream location on a map interface. If the location of interest lacks a streamgage, the algorithms in StreamStats delineate the basin for the location, compute basin and climatic characteristics, and provide estimates of the streamflow statistics using the available regression equations.

The USGS, in cooperation with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, evaluated the predictive uncertainty of mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations representative of natural streamflow conditions in Colorado. Streamflowregression equations were previously developed to estimate natural streamflow statistics at ungaged sites in Colorado by Capesius and Stephens (2009), which is hereinafter referred to as the "2009 study." The present study evaluates the predictive uncertainty of mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations developed in the 2009 study using streamflow data collected over the entire period of record at each streamgage through calendar year 2013. Mean-monthly streamflow data from the regression equations were compared to mean-monthly streamflow data from streamgage records to evaluate the predictive uncertainty.

#### **Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of this report is to evaluate the streamflowregression equations presented in the 2009 study by comparing the predictive uncertainty using streamflow data through calendar year 2013 for computation of mean-monthly streamflow for Colorado basins with hydrology that is influenced predominantly by natural runoff processes (fig. 1).

The 2009 study updated mean-monthly streamflow equations developed by Kircher and others (1985) in four (Mountain, Northwest, Rio Grande, and Southwest) of the five Colorado hydrologic regions. The 2009 study determined that data in the Plains hydrologic region were inadequate for regression-equation development for any streamflow statistics other than peak streamflow, so no mean-monthly streamflow equations exist for this hydrologic region. The study area for this report is therefore limited to the Mountain, Northwest, Rio Grande, and Southwest hydrologic regions of Colorado. The appropriate area for the use of the equations is limited to Colorado, despite the extension of the study area to include streamgages within a 50-mile boundary or buffer surrounding Colorado for the purpose of equation development (Capesius and Stephens, 2009).

The regression equations for mean-monthly streamflow estimation in Colorado were developed in the 2009 study by Capesius and Stephens using streamflow data collected from the beginning of the period of record at each streamgage through water year 2007 (October 1, 2006, through September 30, 2007). Data collected from the beginning of the period of record through calendar year 2013 were used to evaluate the mean-monthly streamflow equations using the same basin characteristics as in the 2009 study.

Regression equations computed in the 2009 study are used to estimate natural streamflow statistics for ungaged sites. "To clarify, the equations are based on analysis of streamflow data representing streamflow conditions relatively unaffected by anthropogenic influences such as regulation and diversion or return flows such as from a municipality, or mining operation, or urban development in a basin" (Capesius and Stephens, 2009, p. 3). "Kircher and others (1985) defined natural streamflow as streamflow from drainage basins relatively unaffected by urban development or water-management activities such as substantial reservoir storage, streamflow diversions, or return flows of previously diverted streamflow. Further, those authors defined natural streamflow as streamflow having less than about 10 percent of the mean-annual streamflow volume at the streamgage affected by anthropogenic activity" (Capesius and Stephens, 2009, p. 3). This report includes only streamgages that have been determined to meet the Kircher and others (1985) criteria.

#### **Previous Studies and Background Information**

Many studies have computed regression equations for estimating flood-frequency streamflow statistics in Colorado—Patterson (1964, 1965), Patterson and Somers (1966), and Matthai (1968), Headman and others (1972), McCain and Jarrett (1976), Kircher and others (1985), Livingston and Minges (1987), Vaill (1999), and the 2009 study—but fewer studies have developed regression equations for meanmonthly streamflow, such as Kircher and others (1985) and the 2009 study. The hydrologic regions used in this report were delineated by McCain and Jarrett (1976) and were incorporated as the regional framework in Kircher and others (1985). Kircher and others (1985) developed regression equations for

<span id="page-12-0"></span>

**Figure 1.** Boundaries of the hydrologic regions in Colorado that extend 50 miles into the adjacent States included in the study area.

mean-monthly streamflow in western Colorado for data collected through 1983. The 2009 study published Statewide peak and non-peak (with the exception of the Plains hydrologic region) statistics (including mean-monthly streamflow) using USGS streamflow data from the beginning of the period of record at each streamgage through water years 2006 and 2007, respectively. In the 2009 study, error associated with the meanmonthly streamflow-regression equations was characterized using the standard error of prediction (SEP, in percent) and the adjusted-coefficient of determination ( $\text{adj} \mathbb{R}^2$ , dimensionless).

#### **Description of the Study Area**

Colorado has a diverse landscape and climate and includes the headwaters of the major river basins of the Colorado, Rio Grande, Platte, and Arkansas Rivers. The physiographic differences in Colorado can be described by three major physiographic provinces, which trend north to south across the State (Fenneman, 1931). The Great Plains Province, in the eastern 40 percent of the State, consists mostly of grasslands with scattered hills, bluffs, shallow river valleys,

#### <span id="page-13-0"></span>**4 Evaluation of Mean-Monthly Streamflow-Regression Equations for Colorado, 2014**

and some cultivated areas. The Southern Rocky Mountains Province, west of the Great Plains, includes most of central Colorado from north to south and is characterized by mountain ranges and intermountain valleys. The Colorado Plateaus Province is in western Colorado between the Utah border to the west and the Southern Rocky Mountains to the east. The landscape is distinguished by mesas, plateaus, and eroded canyon terrain that includes much of the western quarter of Colorado from north to south. More detailed descriptions of the major physiographic provinces can be found in Fenneman (1931) and the 2009 study.

For this report "…a hydrologic region is qualitatively defined as a region of similar hydrology and climatology. The five hydrologic regions of Colorado were defined on the basis of the physiographic and climatic characteristics that were used to develop best-fit regression equations. The Mountain hydrologic region is identified as that region of central Colorado above about 7,500 feet in elevation located between the Colorado-Wyoming border and the Rio Grande basin. The Mountain hydrologic region encompasses the headwaters of most major river basins in Colorado where the annual peak streamflow generally is produced by snowmelt runoff. The Northwest hydrologic region is defined as the northwestern part of Colorado below 7,500 feet and encompassing substantial areas of the Yampa, White, and Gunnison River basins. The Rio Grande hydrologic region ranges in elevation from about 5,000 feet near the Colorado-New Mexico border to more than 14,000 feet in the northern parts and encompasses the Rio Grande basin. The Southwest hydrologic region is defined as the region located south of the Gunnison River basin and west of the Rio Grande basin and encompasses the Dolores, Animas, and San Juan River basins. The Plains hydrologic region is east of the Rocky Mountains and below 7,500 feet in the South Platte River basin and below 9,000 feet in the Arkansas River basin" (Capesius and Stephens, 2009, p. 4). Because hydrology is not affected by the political borders between States, the hydrologic region boundaries were extended 50 miles into all States surrounding Colorado (fig. 1) (Capesius and Stephens, 2009). As a result, the study area includes parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Wyoming along with the four western hydrologic regions in Colorado.

## **Methods**

This section describes the methods used in data acquisition, processing, and computations necessary to determine mean-monthly streamflows and evaluation statistics.

#### **Mean-Monthly Streamflow from Streamgage Record**

The mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations were evaluated by analyzing the predictive uncertainties of the equations presented in the 2009 study. Mean-monthly

streamflow data from the beginning of the period of record at each streamgage through calendar year 2013 from USGS and Colorado Division of Water Resources (CDWR) streamgages were compared to mean-monthly streamflow determined from the regression equations at all suitable streamgages in the study area. During the streamgage selection process, a total of 432 streamgages, composed of 278 from the 2009 study and 154 new streamgages, were identified, and the mean-monthly streamflow was determined from the streamgage records. At the streamgage locations, basin and climate characteristics were used to compute mean-monthly streamflow with regression equations (fig. 2, tables 1 and 2, appendix 1). Observed (streamgage data) and predicted (regression equation values) data were compared by scatter plots, computation of median absolute percent difference in streamflow, graphical analysis of monthly bias by examination of boxplots of residual streamflow, adjR<sup>2</sup> statistics, and SEP statistics.

Streamgages selected for the analysis were chosen on the basis of location, inclusion in the 2009 study, and available data. For the four hydrologic regions, all streamgages used in the 2009 study were selected. The USGS National Water Information System (NWIS) mapper (USGS, 2013a) was used to compile the USGS streamgages within 50 miles of the Colorado border. Only USGS and CDWR streamgages with at least 10 years of streamflow records and identified as representative of natural streamflow conditions were selected. In determining which streamgages were representative of natural streamflow conditions, codes from the NWIS peak streamflow database were followed along with professional judgment. In each of the CDWR regions, the lead CDWR hydrographer for that respective region was contacted and engaged to help determine which streamgages were representative of natural streamflow conditions as defined in a 1985 study by Kircher and others. A number of the selected streamgages have been operated at different periods of time by both the USGS and the CDWR. In these special cases, if 10 years of data had been collected between the two agencies, the streamgage was used. A total of 300 daily-mean values for a month are approximately equal to 10 years of record. Hereinafter in this report, streamgages used in the 2009 study will be referred to as "old streamgages" and streamgages not used in the 2009 study will be referred to as "new streamgages."

Mean-monthly streamflow was computed following the same procedure used in the 2009 study and as described herein. Daily-mean streamflow data were retrieved from the USGS NWIS database (USGS, 2013b) with an automated script developed in Python 2.7 (Python Software Foundation, 2013). Data were retrieved for each of the 432 streamgages operated by the USGS from the beginning of the period of record through the 2013 calendar year. Daily-mean streamflow data for each of the 47 streamgages operated by the CDWR were retrieved from the beginning of the period of record through the 2013 calendar year from the CDWR Web page (Colorado Division of Water Resources, 2013). The CDWR streamflow data included 19 streamgages operated solely by the CDWR and 28 streamgages that have been operated

<span id="page-14-0"></span>

**Figure 2.** Location of the streamgages used to evaluate the mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations; old streamgages were used in the 2009 study, and new streamgages were not used in the 2009 study.

by both the USGS and CDWR. CDWR daily-mean streamflow data for the nonoverlapping period of record for the 28 streamgages that have been operated jointly by the CDWR and USGS (fig. 2 and table 1) were appended to the USGS NWIS daily-mean streamflow data.

The statistical software package R (R Core Team, 2013) was used to calculate mean-monthly streamflow at each streamgage from the daily-mean value dataset for each of the 12 months. In addition, the total number of days for each month with no data collected at a streamgage, such as at gages that were operated seasonally, was summarized. The summaries of the number of days with no data did not include days

when the streamgage was operating normally, but the streamflow was below the reportable limit of the streamgage computation. From these summaries of the number of days with no data, the number of daily-mean values used to compute the mean-monthly streamflow at each streamgage for each of the 12 months was tabulated. Any streamgage with fewer than 280 daily-mean values for February or fewer than 300 dailymean values for all other months for the computation of meanmonthly streamflow was omitted from analysis for February and all other months, similar to the criteria in the 2009 study. Some streamgages used in the analysis are operated seasonally and computations could not be made for all 12 months.

<span id="page-15-0"></span>**Table 1.** Streamgages used in analysis sorted by (1) hydrologic region, (2) whether the streamgage was used in the 2009 study, and (3) the agency that collected the data.

[USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; CDWR, Colorado Division of Water Resources; new streamgage, a streamgage not used by Capesius and Stephens (2009); old streamgage, a streamgage used by Capesius and Stephens (2009)]



**Table 2.** Comparison of basin and climate characteristics of the 278 old streamgages and the 154 new streamgages that were used for analysis in this report.

[mi<sup>2</sup>, square miles; in, inches; ft, feet]



### **Mean-Monthly Streamflow from Basin Characteristics and Regression Equations**

Environmental Systems Research Institute, Inc. (Esri), ArcMap 10.1 was used to determine the basin and climate characteristics, which were used in the regression equations to determine the mean-monthly streamflow at each streamgage (Esri, 2014). For the computation of mean-monthly streamflow in the Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions, the drainage area (in square miles), and the meanannual precipitation (in inches), were determined for the basin of each streamgage. In the Rio Grande hydrologic region, the mean elevation of the basin (in feet) also was determined for the computations.

First, the location coordinates of every streamgage were converted into GIS data points. To perform the basin delineation, the locations of some points were moved slightly to lie directly on the digital stream network used in the 2009 study. For streamgages used in the 2009 study, the drainage area was determined using the National Elevation Dataset (Gesch and others, 2009), which is the same elevation raster dataset used in the 2009 study. Then, using the elevation and precipitation raster data that were used in the 2009 study (Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model Total Precipitation, 1971–2000; Daly and others, 1994), the mean elevation of the basin, in feet, and the mean-annual precipitation, in inches, were determined for each streamgage.

For streamgages not used in the 2009 study but within the area covered by Colorado StreamStats, basin data were determined by submitting the point data to the USGS Stream-Stats Web site (USGS, 2013c). Results were returned in a vector GIS dataset. Because various methodologies are supported within the National StreamStats program, the results of the basin characterization were checked to ensure the results were reasonable by comparing the results from the different methodologies and confirming the different methodologies provided similar solutions.

For streamgages in adjacent States outside the Colorado StreamStats domain, for which there were no StreamStats data because those States do not currently have StreamStats, basins were generated using elevation and flow-direction raster data from the Elevation Derivatives for National Applications (EDNA) program (USGS, 2013d). Points representing streamgage locations were assigned to raster cells of maximumflow accumulation (Esri, 2014) before the basins were generated. EDNA data are coarser in spatial resolution than Stream-Stats data, but this did not affect computation of the specific basin characteristics. The basins were converted from a raster format into a vector format and submitted to the Geo Data Portal of the USGS Center for Integrated Data Analysis to determine the basin characteristics needed to use the mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations (Blodgett, 2013). The mean elevation of the basin, in feet, was determined from the Geo Data Portal using the National Elevation Dataset Digital Elevation Model Web Coverage Service (Gesch and others, 2009). The mean-annual precipitation, in inches, was determined from

<span id="page-16-0"></span>the Geo Data Portal using Parameter-elevation Regressions on Independent Slopes Model monthly Climate Data for the Continental United States (Daly and others, 1994).

The mean-monthly streamflow for all 12 months of the year was computed by using the regression equations from the 2009 study (appendix 2) and the following basin characteristics: drainage area, mean-annual precipitation of the basin, and mean elevation of the basin.

#### **Quality Assurance**

The streamgaged basins that were initially complied to evaluate the mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations were analyzed to confirm that their basin characteristics were within the constraints outlined in the 2009 study. This eliminated 11 new streamgages from the study resulting in 154 new streamgages for the analysis. The regression equations in the 2009 study were developed for streamgages with drainage areas between 1 and 5,250 square miles, mean-annual precipitation between 8 and 51 inches, and mean basin elevations between 4,808 and 11,955 feet for the Mountain, Northwest, Rio Grande, and Southwest hydrologic regions. A comparison of the drainage area, precipitation, and elevation for the 278 old streamgages and the 154 new streamgages is shown in figures 3–5. The comparison of drainage area, precipitation, and elevation for old and new gages provided assurance that only streamgages that fit the ranges of basin characteristics listed above would be used for this analysis.

## **Evaluation of Mean-Monthly Streamflow-Regression Equations**

Evaluation of mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations was accomplished through the use of scatter plots of observed and predicted data, computation of median absolute percent difference in streamflow between observed and predicted streamflow, graphical analysis of monthly bias by examination of boxplots of residual streamflow, adjR<sup>2</sup> statistics, and SEP statistics (Helsel and Hirsch, 2002).

## **Graphical Comparison of Observed and Predicted Mean-Monthly Streamflow**

The observed (streamgage record) mean-monthly streamflows are plotted with the predicted (regression computed) mean-monthly streamflows for each of the four hydrologic regions for both the old streamgages and the new streamgages for all 12 months. These plots facilitated identification of variance and bias for evaluation of the regression equations.

Generally, the mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations in the Mountain and the Rio Grande hydrologic regions had the least amount of variance over the range of streamflows as shown graphically by more narrow clustering of data points along the line of agreement in figures 6



**Figure 3.** Drainage area and mean-annual precipitation for the 278 old streamgages and the 154 new streamgages that were used for analysis in this report.

<span id="page-17-0"></span>



**Figure 4.** Drainage area and mean-basin elevation for the 278 old streamgages and the 154 new streamgages that were used for analysis in this report.



**Figure 5.** Mean-annual precipitation and mean-basin elevation for the 278 old streamgages and the 154 new streamgages that were used for analysis in this report.

<span id="page-18-0"></span>and 8, respectively. The regression equations for the Mountain hydrologic region have the best agreement between observed and predicted values (although still somewhat biased toward underprediction at the high end) when the predicted streamflows are greater than 100 cubic feet per second  $(f<sup>3</sup>/s)$ , evidenced by data that more closely fit the line of agreement when compared to the streamflows less than  $100 \text{ ft}^3/\text{s}$  (fig. 6). At predicted streamflows of less than  $3 \text{ ft}^3\text{/s}$  in the Mountain hydrologic region, the regression equations tend to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow (fig. 6).

The Northwest hydrologic region follows the same pattern as the Mountain hydrologic region showing predicted streamflows greater than 200 ft<sup>3</sup> /s with a closer fit (although still biased toward underprediction at the high end) with the line of agreement, and at streamflows less than 10 ft<sup>3</sup>/s in the Northwest hydrologic region, the regression equation bias tends to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow (fig. 7).

Unlike the other three hydrologic regions, the Rio Grande has relatively consistent variance from the line of agreement throughout the range of streamflows. However, similar to the other three hydrologic regions, predicted streamflows at the high end are biased low. At streamflows less than 3 ft<sup>3</sup>/s, the regression equations in the Rio Grande hydrologic region show high bias and tend to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow. The bias seems mainly to be a result of extremely low streamflow values from the new streamgages added for this report (fig. 8).

The Southwest hydrologic region exhibits the lowest variance and least bias at predicted streamflows greater than 100 ft3 /s and the greatest variance at predicted streamflows less than 20 ft<sup>3</sup>/s of any of the four hydrologic regions. At predicted streamflows less than 20  $ft<sup>3</sup>/s$ , the regression equations are imprecise and tend to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow  $(fig. 9)$ .

## **Absolute Percent Difference**

The absolute percent difference between the predicted (regression equations) and observed (streamgage record) mean-monthly streamflow, expressed as a percent, was determined as

$$
d_r = \frac{\left| \begin{array}{c} Q_{predicted} \ - \ Q_{observed} \end{array} \right|}{Q_{observed}} * 100 \tag{1}
$$

where

 $d_r$  is absolute difference, in percent,<br>is mean-monthly streamflow from<br>in properties in orbital properties. is mean-monthly streamflow from the regression equation, in cubic feet per second, and *Qobserved* is mean-monthly streamflow from the

streamgage record, in cubic feet per second.

The absolute percent difference between the observed and predicted streamflows for each of the 48 mean-monthly

streamflow-regression equations is listed in table 3 and shown on maps in appendix 3 (figs. 3–1 through 3–12). This statistic provides a metric for assessing performance of the regression equation based on all currently (2013) available streamgage data.

The median absolute differences between the observed and predicted streamflows computed for Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions have fairly uniform values throughout the year (table 3), with the exception of late summer and early fall (July, August, and September), when each hydrologic region exhibits a substantial increase in median absolute percent difference. The greatest difference occurs in the Northwest hydrologic region, and the smallest difference occurs in the Mountain hydrologic region (table 3). The Rio Grande hydrologic region shows seasonal variation in median absolute percent difference with March, April, August, and September having a median absolute difference near or below 40 percent and the remaining months of the year having a median absolute difference near or above 50 percent. In the Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions, the mean-monthly streamflow equations perform the best during spring (March, April, and May). However, in the Rio Grande hydrologic region, the mean-monthly streamflow equations perform the best during late summer and early fall (August and September).

The 30 mean-monthly streamflow equations identified as having "no bias" in the 2009 study (appendix 2), seem to have less bias than the remaining 18 mean-monthly streamflow equations when comparing the median absolute percent differences. The 30 equations identified as "no bias" have a median absolute difference of 40 percent, on average; whereas, the 18 equations identified in the 2009 study as having a bias have a median absolute difference of 54 percent, on average.

## **Graphical Analysis of Monthly Bias**

The residual streamflow (in cubic feet per second) is the difference between the observed (from streamgage record) and predicted (from regression equations) mean-monthly streamflow. Residual streamflows were determined for each of the 48 mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations and are shown on boxplots, by hydrologic region, in figures 10–13, using all available data. These figures exhibit a tendency for over- or underprediction bias for the 48 equations when compared to the observed data by illustrating measures of central tendency (median), interquartile range (central tendency and symmetry of the middle 50 percent of the data), and range of extremes of the data (5th and 95th percentiles).

In the Mountain hydrologic region, boxplots of residuals indicate slight overprediction bias in the months of May, June, and July based on median differences (fig. 10). The residual plots for the September through March equations seem to indicate some positive bias in the upper quartile (50th to 75th percentile range). The April plot indicates some negative bias (underprediction in the lower quartile (25th to 50th percentile range).

<span id="page-19-0"></span>

**Figure 6.** Comparison of observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow in the Mountain hydrologic region for all 12 months.

<span id="page-20-0"></span>

**Figure 7.** Comparison of observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow in the Northwest hydrologic region for all 12 months.

<span id="page-21-0"></span>

**Figure 8.** Comparison of observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow in the Rio Grande hydrologic region for all 12 months.

<span id="page-22-0"></span>

#### <span id="page-23-0"></span>**14 Evaluation of Mean-Monthly Streamflow-Regression Equations for Colorado, 2014**

**Table 3.** The median absolute percent difference between the observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow for each of the 48 mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations.

[Jan., January; Feb., February; Mar., March; Apr., April; Aug., August; Sep., September; Oct., October; Nov., November; Dec., December]





**Figure 10.** Residual streamflow for each month for the Mountain hydrologic region.

<span id="page-24-0"></span>

**Figure 11.** Residual streamflow for each month for the Northwest hydrologic region.



**Figure 12.** Residual streamflow for each month for the Rio Grande hydrologic region.

<span id="page-25-0"></span>

**Figure 13.** Residual streamflow for each month for the Southwest hydrologic region.

In the Northwest hydrologic region, the residual plots (fig. 11) for April and June indicate the equation underpredicts the lower quartile. Equations for July, August, and September overpredict mean-monthly streamflow; whereas, the October through March residual plots indicate some positive bias in the upper quartile (50th to 75th percentile range).

In the Rio Grande hydrologic region, residual plots (fig. 12) seem to indicate small bias of the predicted values, with the exception of May and June, which tend to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow. Small under- and overpredictions (interquartile range bias) are evident in the July through April months.

In the Southwest hydrologic region, the residual plots for March, April, May, and September seem to indicate some underprediction of streamflows; whereas, the equations for June and July tend to overpredict streamflow. Residuals for the remaining months seem to indicate little substantial bias.

## **Adjusted Coefficient of Determination**

The adjusted coefficient of determination is indicative of goodness-of-fit (accuracy) for the data in the regression equation (higher values usually indicate better fit) (Eng and others, 2009). The adjusted coefficient of determination  $\text{(adjR}^2\text{)}$ compensates for the number of independent variables used in the regression. The adj $R^2$  values for the mean-monthly streamflow for each of the 48 mean-monthly streamflow-regression

equations are shown in table 4 (dataset current through the 2013 calendar year); adj $R^2$  values were computed for each equation using all available streamgage data. The  $\text{adj} \mathbb{R}^2$  values were determined as follows (Eng and others, 2009):

$$
adjR2 = 1 - \frac{SSr}{SSr}/(n-k-1)
$$
 (2)

where



The residual sum of squares is determined using a logarithmic transformation (base 10) (Eng and others, 2009):

$$
SS_r = \frac{1}{n} \Sigma e_i^2 = \frac{1}{n} \Sigma \left[ log \left( Q_{predicted} \right) - log \left( Q_{observed} \right) \right]^2 \tag{3}
$$

where

*SS*

*e<sub>i</sub>* is the residual errors,

The total sum of squares is determined using a logarithmic transformation (base 10) (Eng and others, 2009):

$$
SS_T = \Sigma S = \Sigma \Big[ log \Big( Q_{predicted} \Big) - log \Big( \bar{Q} \Big) \Big]^2 \tag{4}
$$

<span id="page-26-0"></span>where

- *S* are squares that are equal to the sum of the amount of variability in the observations, and
- $\overline{Q}$  is average of the mean-monthly streamflow from the regression equation, in cubic feet per second.

The monthly adj $R^2$  values were computed and have the same general pattern for all four hydrologic regions (table 4). The largest values usually occur in March or April, and the lowest values usually occur in August or September. Only the Rio Grande hydrologic region deviates from this seasonal pattern, exhibiting a decrease in adjR<sup>2</sup> values in August and September, with the lowest values occurring in the winter months (December, January, and February). Generally, the adjR2 values for this report are just slightly less (0.76 compared to 0.79) than the values computed in the 2009 study. The similarity of values, even when tested with data not used to originally develop the mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations, provides confidence that the predictive uncertainty of meanmonthly regression equations in the 2009 study are accurate.

## **Standard Error of Prediction**

The SEP, in percent, in the 2009 study was used as a measure of the precision of values predicted from the regression equation. Standard error of prediction as a percentage for each hydrologic region and each month at all streamgages from the 2009 study is shown in table 5. The average of the 12 monthly SEPs for the Mountain hydrologic region was smallest at 53 percent, followed in increasing order by Rio Grande (64 percent), Northwest (83 percent), and Southwest (91 percent). Generally, many of the largest mean SEPs among all hydrologic regions tended to be associated with the April through October open-water season, but there is variation among the hydrologic regions. In the Mountain hydrologic region, the largest SEPs were in July and August (76 and 80 percent, respectively). In the Northwest hydrologic region, the largest SEPs were in August, September, and October (90, 104, and 94 percent, respectively). In the Rio Grande hydrologic region, the largest SEPs were in May and June (84 percent for both months), and in the Southwest hydrologic region,

**Table 4.** The adjusted coefficient of determination for the 48 mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations.







[Ann., annual; Jan., January; Feb., February; Mar., March; Apr., April; Aug., August; Sep., September; Oct., October; Nov., November; Dec., December]



#### **18 Evaluation of Mean-Monthly Streamflow-Regression Equations for Colorado, 2014**

the largest SEPs were in June, July, August, September, and October (121, 180, 119, 120, and 106 percent, respectively). Generally, SEPs tended to be smallest during November through March (table 5).

In this study, the data were split into subsets based on hydrologic region, period of record, and old and new streamgages (table 6). To evaluate the performance of the 48 mean-monthly streamflow equations, the upper and lower prediction intervals (calculated for the 95-percent confidence level) were used to determine the number of data points from observed streamgage data inside those limits. The SEP was converted from percent to logarithmic (base 10) units by (Tasker, 1978):

$$
SEP_{\text{log10 units}} = \sqrt{\frac{\ln \left[ \left( SEP_{\text{percent}} / 100 \right)^2 + 1 \right]}{Ln \left( 10 \right)^2}}
$$
(5)

where

*SEP*<sub>percent</sub> is standard error of prediction, in percent. Then, the upper and lower prediction intervals (PI) were determined as follows:

$$
PI_{upper, lower\,(in\,log10\,units)} = \log\left(Q_{predicted}\right) \pm 2\text{SEP}_{log10\,units} \tag{6}
$$

Each streamgage for every month was categorized as outside or within the 95-percent prediction intervals, established by the SEP values in the 2009 study. For all hydrologic regions, approximately 87 percent of the data are within the 95-percent prediction intervals (average of the 12 months in table 6). The explanation for why fewer than 95 percent of the data are within the prediction intervals is that the data do not conform perfectly to the regression assumptions required to accurately estimate performance metrics. For example, if the regression residuals are not normally distributed and homoscedastic, then the predictions intervals are inexact. In addition, the regression equations were developed using weighted least squares giving greater weight to streamgages with longer periods of record. As a result, the regression line is pulled slightly toward the longer record stations. In contrast, the prediction intervals are evaluated without regard to record length, and this difference may somewhat confound the analysis.

The equations for the Rio Grande hydrologic region had the best fit with the parametric (Helsel and Hirsch, 2002) prediction-interval assumptions, with approximately 91.8 percent of the data within the prediction interval (mean for 12 months, table 6). The Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions had 87.8, 84.9, and 83.5 percent contained within the prediction interval, respectively (mean for 12 months, table 6). The performance of the equations did not change when analyzing different the periods of record of the streamgage. Streamflow data from 1971 through 2000 were used to analyze the equations because the precipitation data from Daly and others (1994) that were used to generate the regression equations in the 2009 study only included data from 1971 through 2000. When compared to the dataset for the entire period of record, the results from the 1971 through 2000 dataset (average of the mean in all four hydrologic regions) were equivalent with both datasets having 87 percent of the data within the prediction interval. The old streamgages performed slightly better than the new streamgages, with approximately 88 and 85 percent of the data within the prediction intervals, respectively. This result was expected as the streamgages used to develop the regression equations should yield a better performance than the new streamgages. The fact that the results for the two datasets are very similar provides assurance that when these equations are applied to locations not used to develop the equations, the SEP and  $\text{adj} \mathbb{R}^2$  error metrics should be similar to those established in the 2009 study for locations with natural streamflow. The 30 mean-monthly streamflow equations identified as having no bias in the 2009 study (appendix 2) did not have substantially lower SEPs than the remaining 18 meanmonthly streamflow equations. The 30 equations identified in the 2009 study as having no bias were determined to have 86 percent of their data within the prediction intervals, and the 18 equations identified in the 2009 study as having a bias were determined to have 83 percent of their data within the prediction intervals. In April 2014, a miscalculation of the SEP in Capesius and Stephens (2009) was uncovered. As a result, in April 2014, the SEP was updated. The updated SEP and adj $\mathbb{R}^2$ values that correspond to the mean-monthly streamflow equations developed in a study by Capesius and Stephens in 2009 are in close agreement with the results of this study. Based on the results presented in this report, the updated standard error of prediction and adjusted coefficient of determination values for the mean-monthly streamflow equations developed in the 2009 study are consistent with the findings of this study.

#### <span id="page-28-0"></span>**Table 6.** Percentages of data from streamgages that are within the 95-percent prediction interval, based on the standard error of prediction from the 2009 study.



[Jan., January; Feb., February; Mar., March; Apr., April; Aug., August; Sep., September; Oct., October; Nov., November; Dec., December; POR, period of record]

## <span id="page-29-0"></span>**Summary**

The U.S. Geological Survey, in cooperation with the Colorado Water Conservation Board, evaluated the predictive uncertainty of mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations representative of natural streamflow conditions in Colorado. The purpose of this report is to evaluate the streamflow-regression equations presented in a 2009 U.S. Geological Survey study by comparing the predictive uncertainty using streamflow data through calendar year 2013 for computation of mean-monthly streamflow for Colorado basins with hydrology that is influenced predominantly by natural runoff processes. The study area for this report is limited to the Mountain, Northwest, Rio Grande, and Southwest hydrologic regions of Colorado.

Data collected from the beginning of the period of record through calendar year 2013 were used to evaluate the meanmonthly streamflow equations using the same basin characteristics as in the 2009 study. U.S. Geological Survey and Colorado Division of Water Resources streamgages with at least 10 years of streamflow record and identified as representative of natural streamflow conditions were selected. During the streamgage selection process, a total of 432 streamgages, composed of 278 from the 2009 study and 154 new streamgages, were identified.

Generally, the mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations in the Mountain and the Rio Grande hydrologic regions had the least amount of variance over the range of streamflows as shown graphically by more narrow clustering of data points. The regression equations for the Mountain hydrologic region have the best agreement between observed and predicted values (although still somewhat biased toward underprediction at the high end) when the predicted streamflows are greater than 100 cubic feet per second  $(f<sup>3</sup>/s)$ , evidenced by data that more closely fit the line of agreement when compared to the streamflows less than 100 ft<sup>3</sup>/s. At predicted streamflows of less than  $3 \text{ ft}^3\text{/s}$  in the Mountain hydrologic region, the regression equations tend to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow.

The Northwest hydrologic region follows the same pattern as the Mountain hydrologic region showing predicted streamflows greater than 200 ft<sup>3</sup>/s with a better fit (although still biased toward underprediction at the high end) with the line of agreement, and at streamflows less than 10 ft<sup>3</sup>/s in the Northwest hydrologic region, the regression equation bias tends to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow.

Unlike the other three hydrologic regions, the Rio Grande has relatively consistent variance from the line of agreement throughout the range of streamflows. However, similar to the other three hydrologic regions, predicted streamflows at the high end are biased low. At streamflows less than 3 ft<sup>3</sup>/s, the regression equations in the Rio Grande hydrologic region show high bias and tend to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow. The bias seems mainly to be a result of extremely low streamflow values from the new streamgages added for this report.

The Southwest hydrologic region exhibits the lowest variance and least bias at predicted streamflows greater than 100 ft3 /s and the greatest variance at predicted streamflows less than 20 ft3 /s of any of the four hydrologic regions. At predicted streamflows less than 20  $\text{ft}^3\text{/s}$ , the regression equations are imprecise and tend to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow.

The median absolute differences between the observed and predicted streamflow computed for Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions have fairly uniform values throughout the year, with the exception of late summer and early fall (July, August, and September) when each hydrologic region exhibits a substantial increase in median absolute percent difference. The greatest difference occurs in the Northwest hydrologic region, and the smallest difference occurs in the Mountain hydrologic region. The Rio Grande hydrologic region shows seasonal variation in median absolute percent difference with March, April, August, and September having a median absolute difference near or below 40 percent and the remaining months of the year having a median absolute difference near or above 50 percent. In the Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions, the mean-monthly streamflow equations perform the best during spring (March, April, and May). However, in the Rio Grande hydrologic region, the mean-monthly streamflow equations perform the best during late summer and early fall (August and September).

In the Mountain hydrologic region, boxplots of residuals indicate slight overprediction bias in the months of May, June, and July based on median differences. The residual plots for the September through March equations seem to indicate some positive bias in the upper quartile (50th to 75th percentile range). The April plot indicates some negative bias (underprediction) in the lower quartile (25th to 50th percentile range).

In the Northwest hydrologic region, the residual plots for April and June indicate the equation underpredicts the lower quartile. Equations for July, August, and September overpredict mean-monthly streamflow; whereas, the October through March residual plots indicate some positive bias in the upper quartile (50th to 75th percentile range).

In the Rio Grande hydrologic region, residual plots seem to indicate small bias of the predicted values, with the exception of May and June, which tend to overpredict mean-monthly streamflow. Small under- and overpredictions (interquartile range bias) are evident in the July through April months.

In the Southwest hydrologic region, the residual plots for March, April, May, and September seem to indicate some underprediction of streamflows; whereas, the equations for June and July tend to overpredict streamflow. Residuals for the remaining months seem to indicate little substantial bias.

The adjusted coefficient of determination  $(\text{adj} \mathbb{R}^2)$  is indicative of goodness-of-fit (accuracy) for the data in the regression equation (higher values usually indicate better fit). The monthly adj $R^2$  values were computed and have the same general pattern for all four hydrologic regions. The largest values usually occur in March or April, and the lowest values usually occur in August or September. Only the Rio Grande

<span id="page-30-0"></span>hydrologic region deviates from this seasonal pattern, exhibiting a decrease in adj $R^2$  values in August and September, with the lowest values occurring in the winter months (December, January, and February). Generally, the adjR<sup>2</sup> values for this report are just slightly less (0.76 compared to 0.79) than the values computed in the 2009 study. The similarity of values, even when tested with data not used to originally develop the mean-monthly streamflow-regression equations, provides confidence that the predictive uncertainty of mean-monthly regression equations in the 2009 study are accurate.

Each streamgage for every month was categorized as outside or within the 95-percent prediction intervals established by the SEP values in the 2009 study. For all hydrologic regions, approximately 87 percent of the data are within the prediction intervals. The explanation for why fewer than 95 percent of the data are within the prediction intervals is that the data do not conform perfectly to the regression assumptions required to accurately estimate performance metrics. For example, if the regression residuals are not normally distributed and homoscedastic, then the predictions intervals are inexact. In addition, the regression equations were developed using weighted least squares giving greater weight to streamgages with longer periods of record. As a result, the regression line is pulled slightly toward the longer record stations. In contrast, the prediction intervals are evaluated without regard to record length, and this difference may somewhat confound the analysis.

The Rio Grande hydrologic region had the best fit with the parametric prediction-interval assumptions, with approximately 91.8 percent of the data within the prediction. The Mountain, Northwest, and Southwest hydrologic regions had 87.8, 84.9, and 83.5 percent of the data contained within the prediction interval, respectively. The performance of the equations did not change when analyzing different periods of record of the streamgage. Streamflow data from 1971 through 2000 were used to analyze the equations because the precipitation data used to generate the regression equations in the 2009 study only included data from 1971 through 2000. When compared to the dataset for the entire period of record, the results from the 1971 through 2000 dataset (average of the mean in all four hydrologic regions) were equivalent with both datasets having 87 percent of the data within the prediction interval. The old streamgages performed slightly better than the new streamgages, with approximately 88 and 85 percent of the data within the prediction intervals, respectively. This result was expected because the streamgages used to develop the regression equations should yield a better performance than the new streamgages. The fact that the results for the two datasets are very similar provides assurance that when these equations are applied to locations not used to develop the equations, the SEP and adjR2 error metrics should be similar to those established in the 2009 study for locations with natural streamflow. Based on the results presented in this report, the updated standard error of prediction and adjusted coefficient of determination values of the mean-monthly streamflow equations developed in the 2009 study are consistent with the findings of this study.

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# **Appendixes 1–3**

<span id="page-33-0"></span>





[USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; CDWR, Colorado Division of Water Resources; A, drainage area; mi2, square miles; P, mean-annual precipitation; in, inches; E, mean basin elevation; ft, feet; Colo., Colorado; Wyo., Wyoming; N. Mex., New Mexico; Ariz., Arizona]













[USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; CDWR, Colorado Division of Water Resources; A, drainage area; mi2, square miles; P, mean-annual precipitation; in, inches; E, mean basin elevation; ft, feet; Colo., Colorado; Wyo., Wyoming; N. Mex., New Mexico; Ariz., Arizona]



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[USGS, U.S. Geological Survey; CDWR, Colorado Division of Water Resources; A, drainage area; mi2, square miles; P, mean-annual precipitation; in, inches; E, mean basin elevation; ft, feet; Colo., Colorado; Wyo., Wyoming; N. Mex., New Mexico; Ariz., Arizona]



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## <span id="page-47-0"></span>**Appendix 2. Table of Mean-Monthly Streamflow-Regression Equations from Figures 3–6 of Capesius and Stephens (2009)**

[A, drainage area in square miles; P, mean-annual precipitation in inches;  $\sqrt{ }$ ], denotes equations for which no bias was identified; SEP, standard error of prediction in percent; adjR<sup>2</sup>, adjusted coefficient of determination]

#### **Mean-Monthly Streamflow for Mountain Hydrologic Region**

Weighted least-squares (WLS) regression, 129 stations Approximate range of predictor variables

 $A: 1-1,060$  square miles and  $P: 18-47$  inches



#### **Mean-Monthly Streamflow for Northwest Hydrologic Region**

Weighted least-squares (WLS) regression, 56 stations Approximate range of predictor variables

 $A: 1-5,250$  square miles and  $P: 8-49$  inches



### **Mean-Monthly Streamflow for Rio Grande Hydrologic Region**

Weighted least-squares (WLS) regression, 32 stations Approximate range of predictor variables

 $A: 2-517$  square miles and  $E: 7,790-11,500$  feet



## **Mean-Monthly Streamflow for Southwest Hydrologic Region**

Weighted least-squares (WLS) regression, 57 stations Approximate range of predictor variables

 $A: 1-4,390$  square miles and  $P: 10-51$  inches

$$
Q_{\text{ot}} = 10^{-4.80} A^{1.00} P^{2.89}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{nov}} = 10^{-4.59} A^{0.91} P^{2.78}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{dot}} = 10^{-4.22} A^{0.91} P^{2.45}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{int}} = 10^{-4.28} A^{0.96} P^{2.39}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{int}} = 10^{-3.97} A^{0.98} P^{2.18}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{int}} = 10^{-3.79} A^{1.00} P^{2.12}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{apr}} = 10^{-4.98} A^{1.12} P^{3.11}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{ampr}} = 10^{-5.16} A^{1.01} P^{3.63}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{sum}} = 10^{-6.13} A^{0.91} P^{3.63}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{int}} = 10^{-5.19} A^{0.91} P^{3.58}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{int}} = 10^{-4.60} A^{0.94} P^{2.95}
$$
  
\n
$$
Q_{\text{supr}} = 10^{-8.72} A^{0.98} P^{5.46}
$$
  
\n

## <span id="page-51-0"></span>**Appendix 3. Figures Showing Absolute Percentage Difference Between Observed and Predicted Mean-Monthly Streamflow at all Streamgages**



**Figure 3–1.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of January.

<span id="page-52-0"></span>

**Figure 3–2.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of February.

<span id="page-53-0"></span>

**Figure 3–3.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of March.

<span id="page-54-0"></span>

**Figure 3–4.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of April.

<span id="page-55-0"></span>

**Figure 3–5.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of May.

<span id="page-56-0"></span>

**Figure 3–6.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of June.

<span id="page-57-0"></span>

**Figure 3–7.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of July.

<span id="page-58-0"></span>

**Figure 3–8.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of August.

<span id="page-59-0"></span>

**Figure 3–9.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of September.

<span id="page-60-0"></span>

**Figure 3–10.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of October.

<span id="page-61-0"></span>

**Figure 3–11.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of November.

<span id="page-62-0"></span>

**Figure 3–12.** Absolute percentage difference between observed and predicted mean-monthly streamflow at all streamgages used in the analysis for the month of December.

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Publishing support provided by: Denver and Rolla Publishing Service Centers

ISSN 2328-0328 (online)