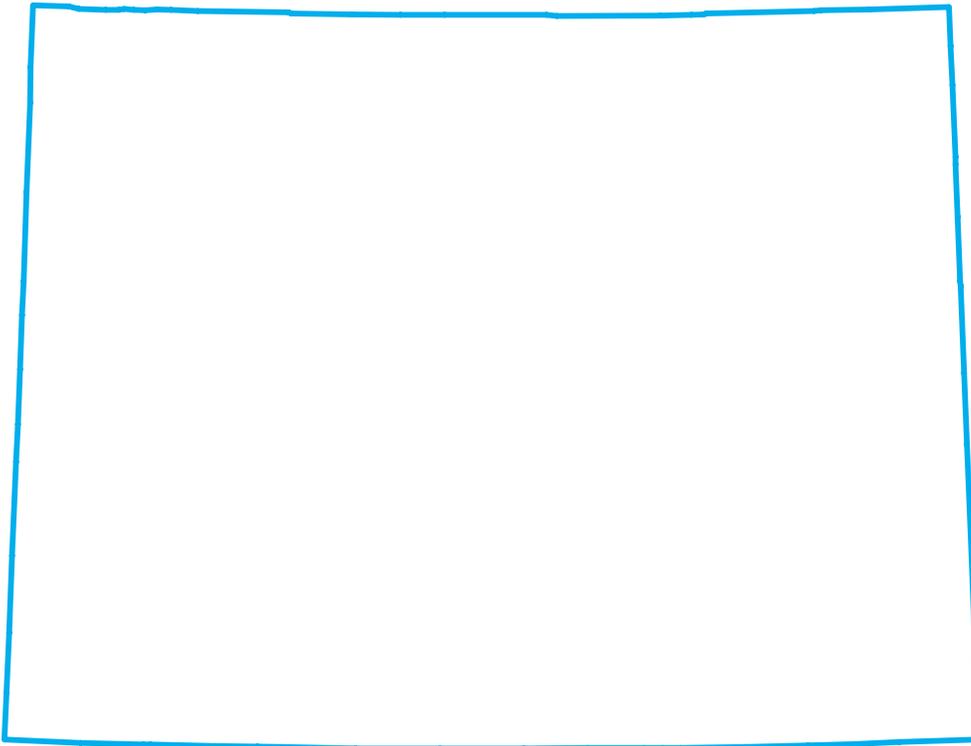


# Water Resources Data Wyoming Water Year 2003

Volume 2. Ground Water

Water-Data Report WY-03-2



# CALENDAR FOR WATER YEAR 2003

## 2002

OCTOBER							NOVEMBER							DECEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2	1	2	3	4	5	7	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31				

## 2003

JANUARY							FEBRUARY							MARCH						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4						1							1	
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
26	27	28	29	30	31		23	24	25	26	27	28		23	24	25	26	27	28	29
														30	31					

APRIL							MAY							JUNE						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5					1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
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20	21	22	23	24	25	26	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30				25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30					

JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5						1	2		1	2	3	4	5	6
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
27	28	29	30	31			24	25	26	27	28	29	30	28	29	30				

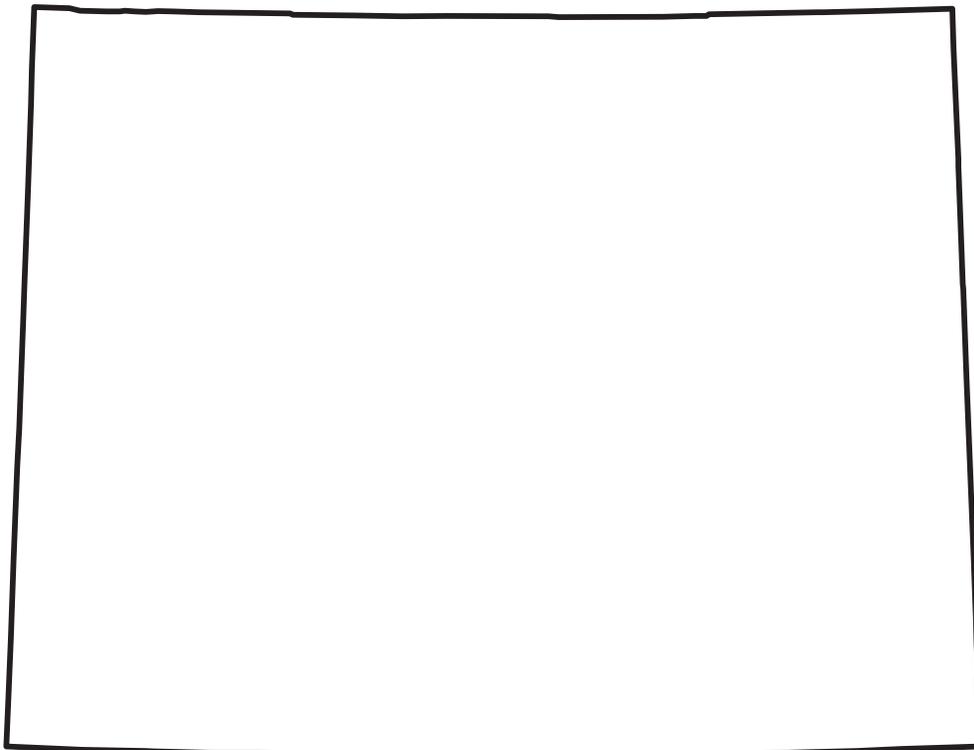
U.S. Department of the Interior  
U.S. Geological Survey

# Water Resources Data Wyoming Water Year 2003

## Volume 2. Ground Water

By R.B. Swanson, E.J. Blajszczak, S.C. Roberts, K.R. Watson, and J.P. Mason

Water-Data Report WY-03-2



Prepared in cooperation with the Wyoming State Engineer's Office  
and with other State and local agencies



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GALE A. NORTON, Secretary

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Charles G. Groat, Director

For information on the water program in Wyoming, write to:  
District Chief, Water Resources Division  
U.S. Geological Survey  
2617 East Lincolnway, Suite B  
Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001-5662

2004

## PREFACE

This annual hydrologic data report of Wyoming is one of a series of annual reports that documents hydrologic data gathered from the U.S. Geological Survey's surface- and ground-water data-collection networks in each State, Puerto Rico, and the Trust Territories. These records of streamflow, ground-water levels, and the quality of water provide the hydrologic information needed by Federal, State, and local agencies, and the private sector for administrating, developing, and managing our Nation's land and water resources. These records are contained in 2 volumes:

Volume 1. Surface-Water Data

Volume 2. Ground-Water Data

These reports are the culmination of a concerted effort by personnel from the Wyoming District of the U.S. Geological Survey and personnel of the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. Water-quality data and some water-level data contained in this report were collected by personnel from the U.S. Geological Survey. In addition, U.S. Geological Survey personnel compiled, analyzed, verified, and organized the data, as well as typed, edited, and assembled the report. The authors had primary responsibility for assuring that the information contained herein is accurate, complete, and adheres to U.S. Geological Survey policies and guidelines. The following U.S. Geological Survey personnel are recognized for their significant contributions to this report:

T. Bartos	G. Laidlaw	K. Remley	J. Wheeler
E. Blajszczak	T. Lehman	W. Sadler	R. Woodruff
M. Clark	C. Miller	P. Spatz	
N. Friday	J. Norris	J. Swanson	
L. Hallberg	T. Pointon	K. Watson	

Most of the water-level data contained in this report were collected by personnel from the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. The following Wyoming State Engineer's Office personnel are recognized for their significant contributions to this report:

J. Harju	D. Parkin	T. Quinn	S. Horgen
J. Manley	L. Porter	C. Verplancke	

This report was prepared under the general supervision of Myron H. Brooks, District Chief, Wyoming, and in cooperation with Patrick T. Tyrrell, the Wyoming State Engineer.

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Station number, 422338107145001. Local number, 28-087-16cca01. Local name, Split Rock #2. ....	44

**CONVERSE COUNTY**

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Station number, 431140105151901. Local number, 37-070-10cbb01. Local name, Bill #6. ....	47

**CROOK COUNTY**

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Station number, 441113104151002. Local number, 49-062-36cbb02. Local name, Inyan Kara Mountain CCMOW6A. ....	50
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Station number, 443453104425602. Local number, 53-065-18bbd02. Local name, Park Service. ....	52
Station number, 444854104534502. Local number, 56-067-28aab02. Local name, Cole #41 Minnelusa. ....	53

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Station number, 414049104074501. Local number, 20-060-30bbb01. Local name, LaGrange #2. ....	57
Station number, 414051104100701. Local number, 20-061-23ccc01. Local name, Curt Meier. ....	58
Station number, 422519104095101. Local number, 28-061-02ccd01. Local name, Prairie Center #6. ....	59
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Station number, 411136104125301. Local number, 16-061-17aaa01. Local name, Laramie County #5. ....	89
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Station number, 420748104565001. Local number, 25-068-24aad01. Local name, Platte County #3. ....	104
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## INTRODUCTION

The Water Resources Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in cooperation with State, Tribal, county, municipal, and other Federal agencies, collects data each water year describing the water resources of Wyoming. These data, accumulated through many water years, contribute to an improved understanding of the water resources of the State. To make these data readily available to interested parties outside the USGS, the data are published annually in this report series entitled, "**Water Resources Data for Wyoming**".

Water resources data for Wyoming in this volume consists of records of ground-water levels and quality for water year 2003, which began October 1, 2002, and ended September 30, 2003. This report contains historic water levels from 66 observation wells in the form of tables and hydrographs. The locations of observation wells listed in this report are shown in figure 1. Additional ground-water data were collected at various sites, not part of the systematic data collection program, and are published as miscellaneous measurements.

Since 1940, the USGS, in cooperation with State, Tribal, county, municipal, and other Federal agencies, has measured ground-water levels in observation wells in Wyoming. Ground-water levels were systematically measured in 66 observation wells in 15 counties in Wyoming during the water year. The observation-well program is conducted by the USGS in cooperation with the Wyoming State Engineer's Office. Water-level data were collected at 57 of the 66 observation wells by Wyoming State Engineer personnel; data at the remaining nine wells were collected by USGS personnel. The wells are located primarily in areas where ground water is used in large quantities for irrigation or municipal purposes.

Prior to 1997, only miscellaneous ground-water data were published in this report. In the past, the majority of ground-water level data collected in Wyoming was published in other report series of the USGS. Records of ground-water levels were published from 1935 to 1974 in a series of USGS water-supply papers entitled "Ground-Water Levels in the United States." Water-supply papers may be consulted in the libraries of the principal cities of the United States or may be purchased from USGS Information Services, Box 25286, Denver Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225. Wyoming ground-water-level data and hydrographs can be found in a series of 14 open-file reports published by the USGS between 1973 and 1995.

Beginning with the 1971 water year, streamflow, water-quality, and ground-water data were published in official USGS reports on a State-boundary basis. These official USGS reports carry an identification number consisting of the two-letter State abbreviation, the last two digits of the water year, and the volume number. For example, this volume is identified as "**U.S. Geological Survey Water-Data Report WY-03-2**." These water-data reports are for sale, in paper copy or on microfiche by the National Technical Information Service, U.S. Department of Commerce, Springfield, VA 22161.

Additional information, including current prices, for ordering specific reports may be obtained from the District Chief at the address given on the back of the title page, by telephone at (307) 778-2931, or by email at [state\\_rep\\_wy@usgs.gov](mailto:state_rep_wy@usgs.gov). Hydrologic data for Wyoming is available on the World Wide Web at: <http://water.usgs.gov>

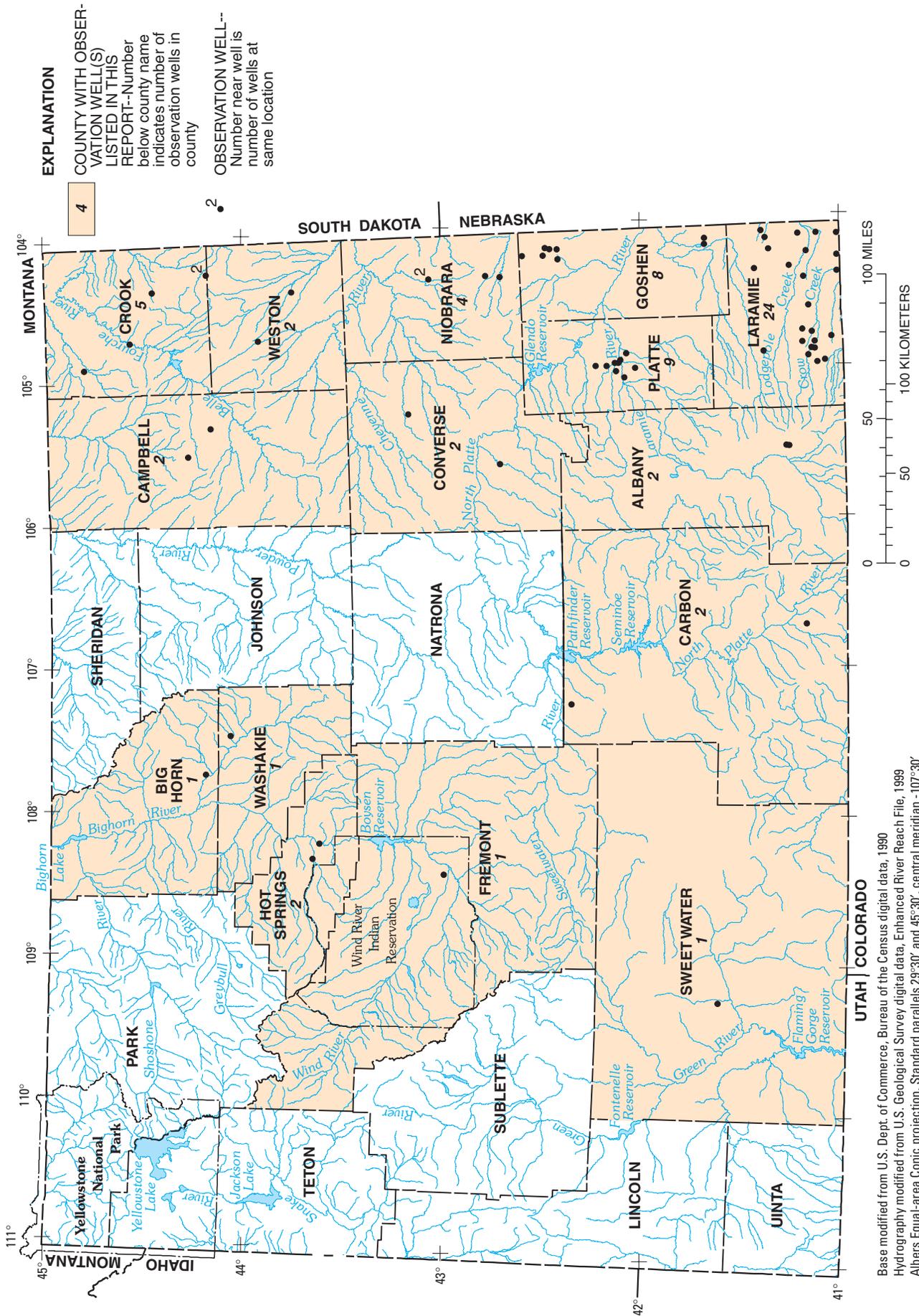


Figure 1. Location of observation wells covered by this report.

## COOPERATION

The USGS and organizations of the State of Wyoming have had cooperative agreements for the systematic collection of streamflow records since 1895, for measurement of ground-water levels since 1940, and for collection of water-quality samples since 1946. Agencies and organizations that assisted in data collection during water year 2003 through cooperative agreements with the USGS were:

### Federal Agencies

National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior

### State Agencies

Wyoming State Engineer's Office, Patrick T. Tyrrell, State Engineer

Wyoming Department of Agriculture, John Etchepare, Director

## SUMMARY OF HYDROLOGIC CONDITIONS

### Ground-Water Levels

Wyoming continued to experience prolonged drought during water year 2003. Water-levels measured in Wyoming last year (water year 2002) were already declining and in water year 2003 continued to decline. On average, water-levels in the statewide observation-well network decreased by 1.18 ft between water years 2001 and 2002 and by 0.92 ft between water years 2002 and 2003. Record low water levels were recorded at 36 percent of the wells in the statewide network in water year 2003. The average period of record from wells with record-setting low water levels was 25 years with the longest record being 47 years.

Wells completed in the High Plains aquifer coincide with areas of ground-water withdrawal in southeastern Wyoming and comprise 65 percent of the observation-well network. Ground water is withdrawn from the High Plains aquifer for irrigation in Niobrara County, Platte County, Goshen County, and the eastern part of Laramie County. In addition, large quantities of ground water are withdrawn from the High Plains aquifer for municipal and domestic use in central Laramie County. Record low water levels were recorded during water year 2003 at 49 percent of the network observation wells completed in the High Plains aquifer. The average period of record from wells with record-setting low water levels in the High Plains aquifer was 25 years with the longest record being 47 years. Hydrographs from representative High Plains observation wells in southeastern Wyoming are shown in figure 2.

Water levels were measured in at least one observation well in 15 of 23 counties in Wyoming. During 2003, water levels were measured continuously in 51 wells equipped with float-driven digital water-level recorders or electronic data recorders, and in two wells equipped with pressure-sensing transducers and electronic data recorders. Hydraulic heads in two flowing wells were measured continuously using pressure-sensing transducers and electronic data recorders. The remaining 11 wells were periodically measured using a steel tape, electric tape, or an air line.

Changes in water levels for the statewide observation-well network and for wells completed only in the High Plains aquifer are summarized in table 1. Many of the observation wells in these networks are located in areas with extensive ground-water withdrawal or in areas of artificial recharge. Water levels

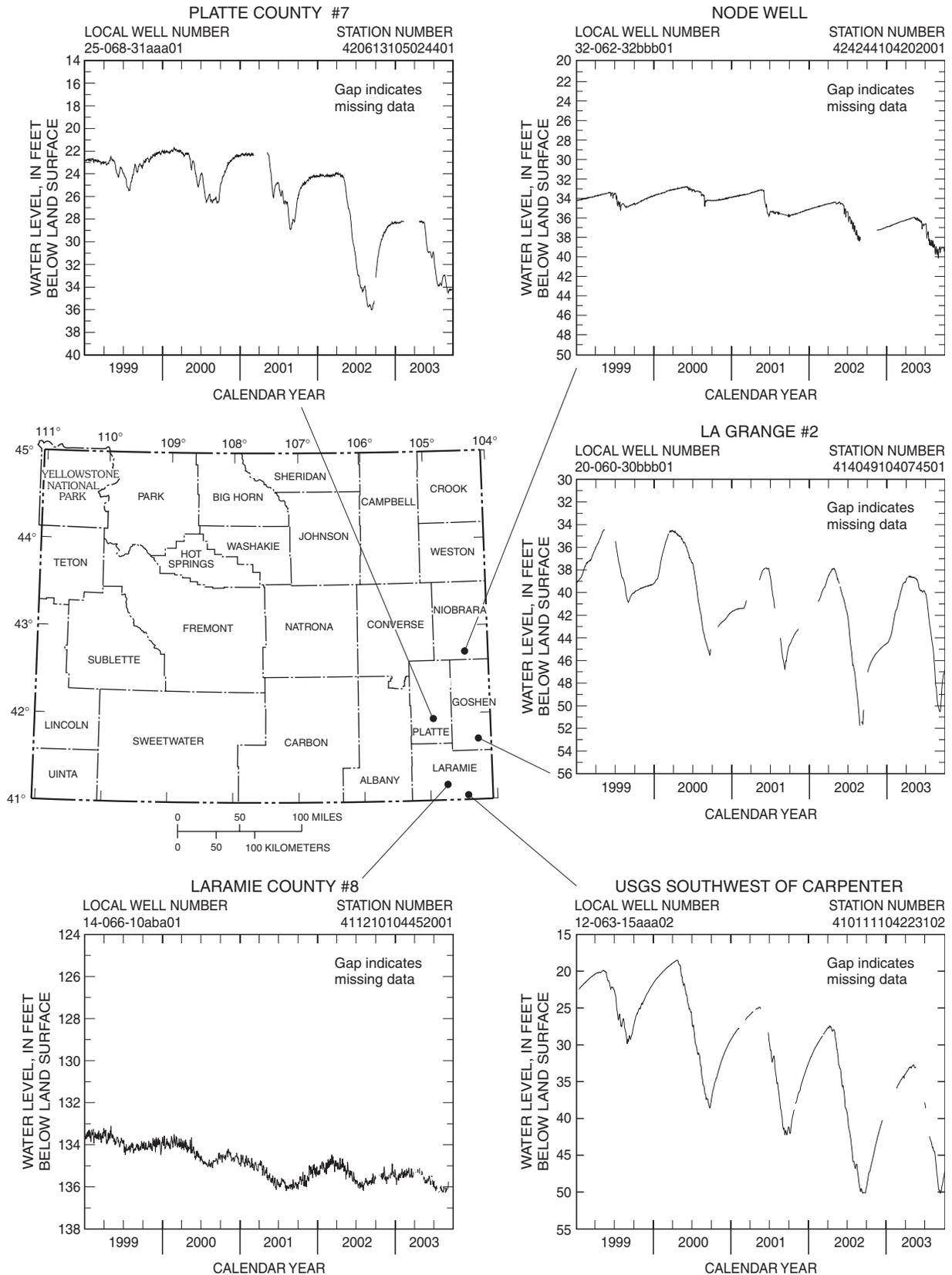
from some of these wells may reflect local, rather than regional ground-water conditions. Local influences such as nearby pumping can cause water levels in observation wells to be lower than the regional-water table, while artificial recharge by surface-water irrigation can cause the water levels in observation wells to be higher than the regional-water table. The changes in water levels from water year 2002 to water year 2003 were determined from the difference between the highest water levels measured each year. Some wells in the network were not included in the comparison of water-level changes between water years because few water-level measurements were made at the wells.

**Table 1.**--Changes in ground-water levels in statewide observation-well network and wells completed in the High Plains aquifer.

[Hydrographs for five representative observation wells in southeast Wyoming are shown in figure 2]

Observation-well network	Water years <sup>1</sup>	Number of wells in network	Number of wells with water-level increase	Average water-level increase (in feet)	Number of wells with water-level decrease	Average water-level decrease (in feet)	Number of wells with no change in water level	Number of wells with few water-level measurements
Statewide network	2002-2003	66	12	1.24	36	-1.69	2	18
High Plains aquifer	2002-2003	43	6	1.88	29	-1.39	0	8

1. Water year is from October 1 to September 30 of the following year.



**Figure 2.** Water-level hydrographs for observation wells in areas of extensive ground-water withdrawals, calendar year 1999 through September 30, 2003.

## EXPLANATION OF GROUND-WATER-LEVEL RECORDS

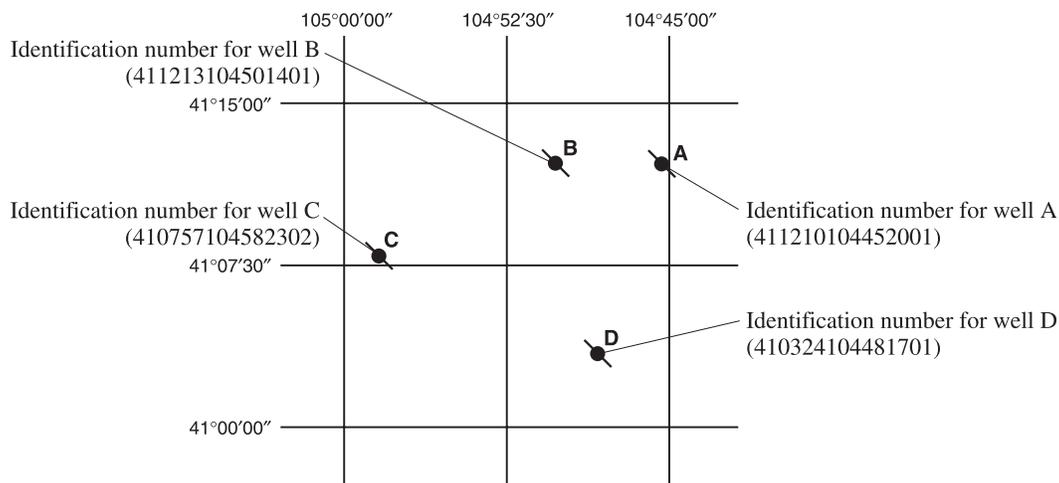
Generally, only ground-water-level data from selected wells with continuous recorders from a basic network of observation wells are published in this report. This basic network contains observation wells located so that the most significant data are obtained from the fewest wells in the most important aquifers.

### Site Identification Numbers

Each well is identified by means of (1) a 15-digit number that is based on latitude and longitude and (2) a local number that is produced for local needs.

### NUMBERING SYSTEM FOR WELLS AND MISCELLANEOUS SITES

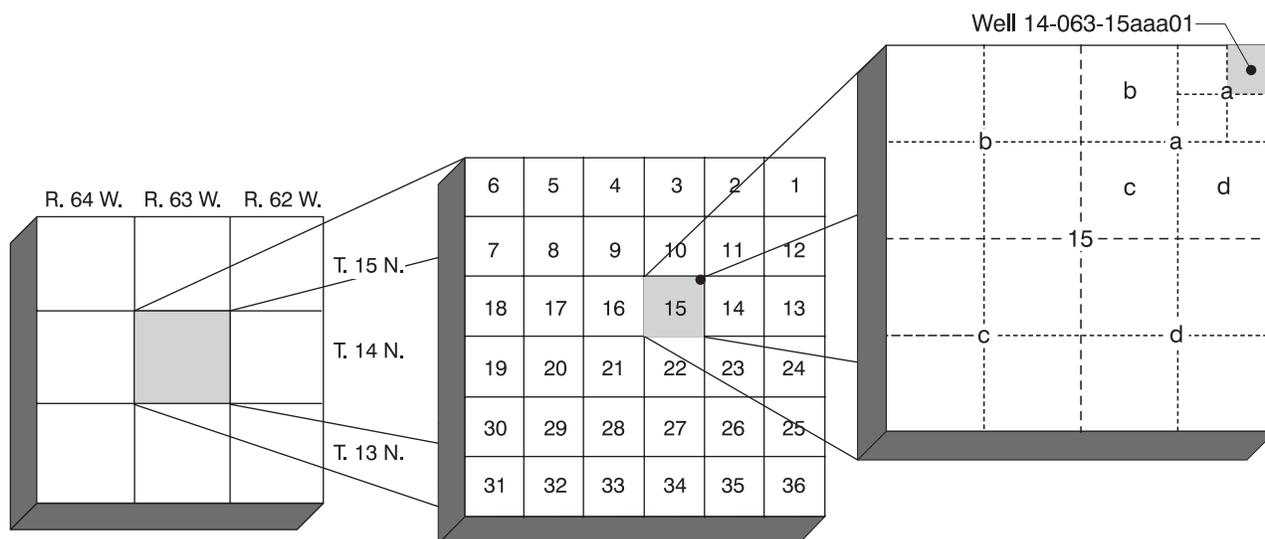
The USGS well and miscellaneous site-numbering system is based on the grid system of latitude and longitude. The system provides the geographic location of the well or miscellaneous site and a unique number for each site. The number consists of 15 digits. The first 6 digits denote the degrees, minutes, and seconds of latitude, and the next 7 digits denote degrees, minutes, and seconds of longitude; the last 2 digits are a sequential number for wells within a 1-second grid. In the event that the latitude-longitude coordinates for a well and miscellaneous site are the same, a sequential number such as "01," "02," and so forth, would be assigned as one would for wells (see fig. 3). The 8-digit, downstream order station numbers are not assigned to wells and miscellaneous sites where only random water-quality samples or discharge measurements are taken.



**Figure 3.** System for assigning identification numbers to wells using latitude and longitude.

In addition to the well number that is based on latitude and longitude given for each well, another well number is given that is based on the U.S. Bureau of Land Management's system of land subdivision. This well number is familiar to the water users of Wyoming and shows the location of the well by quadrant, township, range section, and position within the section (see fig. 4). The capital letter at the beginning of the location number indicates the quadrant in which the well is located. Four quadrants are formed by the intersection of the base line and the principal meridian—A indicates the northeast quadrant, B the northwest, C the southwest, and D the southeast. The first numeral indicates the township, the second the range, and the third the section in which the well is located. Lowercase letters following the section

number locate the well within the section. The first letter denotes the quarter section, the second the quarter-quarter section, and the third the quarter-quarter-quarter section. The letters are assigned within the section in a counter-clockwise direction beginning with (a) in the northeast quarter of the section. Letters are assigned within each quarter section and quarter-quarter section in the same manner. Where two or more wells are located within the smallest subdivision, consecutive numbers beginning with 1 are added to the letters in the order in which the wells are inventoried. For example, in figure 4, observation well 14-063-15aaa01 is the first well inventoried in the northeastern quarter of the northeastern quarter of section 15, township 14 north (T. 14 N.), range 63 west (R. 63 W.). All wells in this report have ranges west of the Sixth Principal Meridian and townships north of the 40th Parallel Base Line.



**Figure 4.** Federal township-range system for numbering wells.

On the Wind River Indian Reservation, the township-range system is based on the Wind River Meridian and Base Line system. Townships are denoted as north or south of the base line and ranges are denoted as east or west of the meridian. Wells may be located in the northeastern, northwestern, southwestern, or southeastern quadrants of this base-line and meridian net. For example, in figure 4, observation well 1N-4E-28acc01 is the first well inventoried in the southwestern quarter of the southwestern quarter of the northeastern quarter of section 28, township 1 north (T. 1 N.), range 4 east (R. 4 E.), in the northeastern quadrant of the Wind River Indian Reservation.

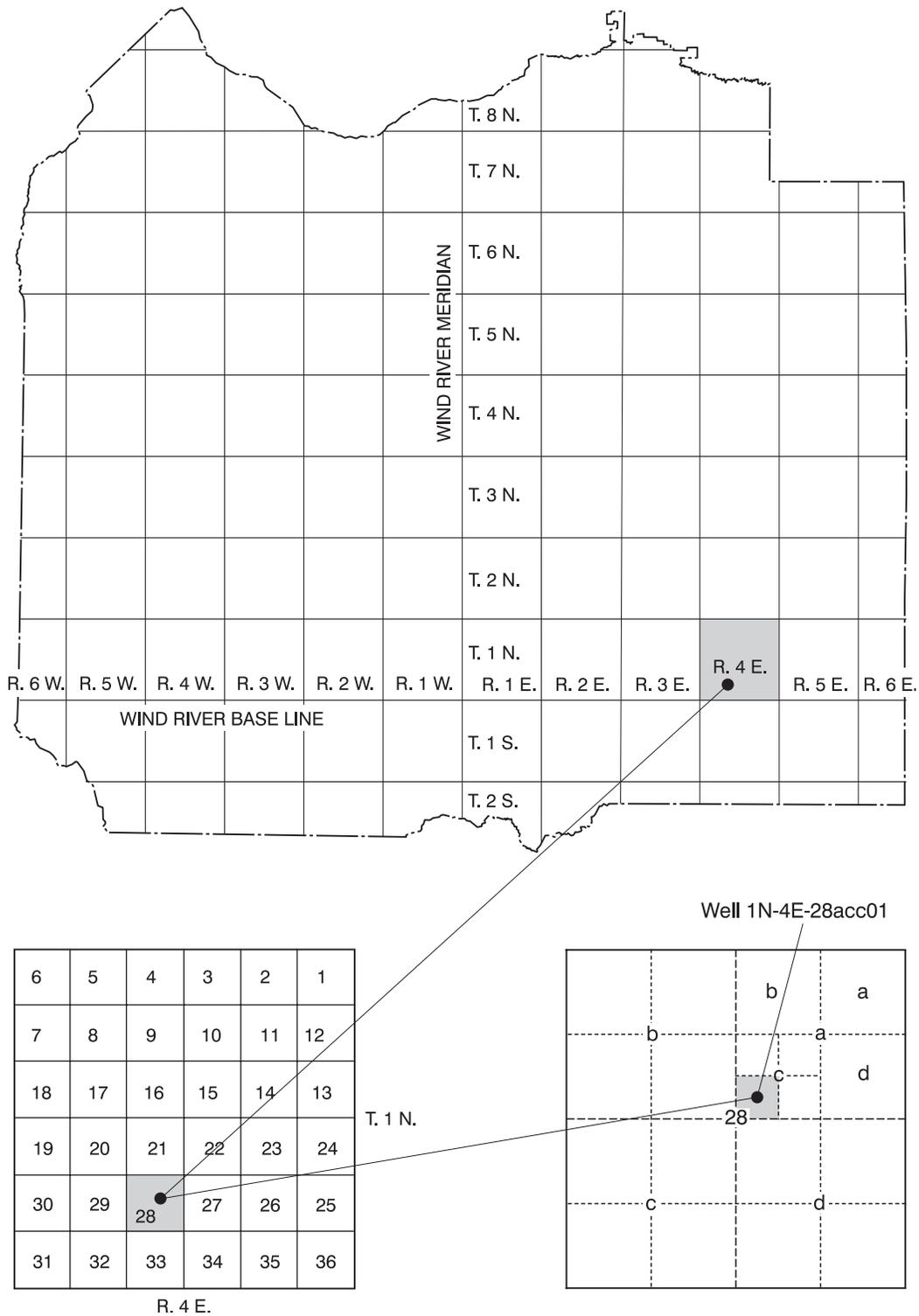


Figure 5. System for numbering wells on the Wind River Indian Reservation.

## Data Collection and Computation

Measurements are made in many types of wells, under varying conditions of access and at different temperatures; hence, neither the method of measurement nor the equipment can be standardized. At each observation well, however, the equipment and techniques used are those that will ensure that measurements at each well are consistent.

Most methods for collecting and analyzing water samples are described in the TWRI's referred to in the On-site Measurements and Sample Collection and the Laboratory Measurements sections in this report. In addition, TWRI Book 1, Chapter D2, describes guidelines for the collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents. Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRI's Book 1, Chapter D2; Book 3, Chapters A1, A3, and A4; and Book 9, Chapters A1 through A9. The values in this report represent water-quality conditions at the time of sampling, as much as possible, and that are consistent with available sampling techniques and methods of analysis. These methods are consistent with ASTM standards and generally follow ISO standards. Trained personnel collected all samples. The wells sampled were pumped long enough to ensure that the water collected came directly from the aquifer and had not stood for a long time in the well casing where it would have been exposed to the atmosphere and to the material, possibly metal, comprising the casings.

Water-level measurements in this report are given in feet with reference to land-surface datum (lsd). Land-surface datum is a datum plane that is approximately at land surface at each well. If known, the elevation of the land-surface datum above sea level is given in the well description. The height of the measuring point (MP) above or below land-surface datum is given in each well description. Water levels in wells equipped with recording gages are reported for every fifth day and the end of each month (EOM).

Water levels are reported to as many significant figures as can be justified by the local conditions. For example, in a measurement of a depth of water of several hundred feet, the error in determining the absolute value of the total depth to water may be a few tenths of a foot, whereas the error in determining the net change of water level between successive measurements may be only a hundredth or a few hundredths of a foot. For lesser depths to water the accuracy is greater. Accordingly, most measurements are reported to a hundredth of a foot, but some are given only to a tenth of a foot or a larger unit.

## Data Presentation

Water-level data are presented in alphabetical order by county. The primary identification number for a given well is the 15-digit site identification number that appears in the upper left corner of the table. The secondary identification number is the local or county well number. Well locations are shown in figures 6-20; each well is identified on the map by its local well or county well number.

Each well record consists of three parts: the well description, the data table of water levels observed during the water year, and, for most wells, a hydrograph following the data table. Well descriptions are presented in the headings preceding the tabular data.

The following comments clarify information presented in these various headings.

**LOCATION.**—This paragraph follows the well-identification number and reports the hydrologic-unit number and a geographic point of reference. Latitudes and longitudes used in this report are reported as North American Datum of 1927 unless otherwise specified.

**AQUIFER.**—This entry designates by name and geologic age the aquifer that the well taps.

**WELL CHARACTERISTICS.**—This entry describes the well in terms of depth, casing diameter and depth or screened interval, method of construction, use, and changes since construction.

**INSTRUMENTATION.**—This paragraph provides information on both the frequency of measurement and the collection method used, allowing the user to better evaluate the reported water-level extremes by knowing whether they are based on continuous, monthly, or some other frequency of measurement.

**DATUM.**—This entry describes both the measuring point and the land-surface elevation at the well. The altitude of the land-surface datum is described in feet above the altitude datum; it is reported with a precision depending on the method of determination. The measuring point is described physically (such as top of casing, top of instrument shelf, and so forth), and in relation to land surface (such as 1.3 ft above land-surface datum). The elevation of the land-surface datum is described in feet above National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD 29); it is reported with a precision depending on the method of determination.

**REMARKS.**—This entry describes factors that may influence the water level in a well or the measurement of the water level, when various methods of measurement were begun, and the network (climatic, terrane, local, or areal effects) or the special project to which the well belongs.

**PERIOD OF RECORD.**—This entry indicates the time period for which records are published for the well, the month and year at the start of publication of water-level records by the USGS, and the words “to current year” if the records are to be continued into the following year. Time periods for which water-level records are available, but are not published by the USGS, may be noted.

**EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.**—This entry contains the highest and lowest instantaneously recorded or measured water levels of the period of published record, with respect to land-surface datum or sea level, and the dates of occurrence.

### **Water-Level Tables**

A table of water levels follows the well description for each well. Water-level measurements in this report are given in feet with reference to either sea level or land-surface datum (lsd). Missing records are indicated by dashes in place of the water-level value.

For wells not equipped with recorders, water-level measurements were obtained periodically by steel or electric tape. Tables of periodic water-level measurements in these wells show the date of measurement and the measured water-level value.

### **Hydrographs**

Hydrographs are a graphic display of water-level fluctuations over a period of time. In this report, current water year and, when appropriate, period-of-record hydrographs are shown. Hydrographs that display periodic water-level measurements show points that may be connected with a dashed line from one measurement to the next. Hydrographs that display recorder data show a solid line representing the mean water level recorded for each day. Missing data are indicated by a blank space or break in a hydrograph. Missing data may occur as a result of recorder malfunctions, battery failures, or mechanical problems related to the response of the recorder's float mechanism to water-level fluctuations in a well.

## GROUND-WATER-QUALITY DATA

### Data Collection and Computation

The ground-water-quality data in this report were obtained as a part of special studies in specific areas. Consequently, a number of chemical analyses are presented for some wells within a county but not for others. As a result, the records for this year, by themselves, do not provide a balanced view of ground-water quality Statewide.

Most methods for collecting and analyzing water samples are described in the Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations of the United States Geological Survey (TWRI). Procedures for on-site measurements and for collecting, treating, and shipping samples are given in TWRI, Book 1, Chapter D2; Book 3, Chapter C2; and Book 5, Chapters A1, A3, and A4. Also, detailed information on collecting, treating, and shipping samples may be obtained from the USGS District office (see address shown on back of title page in this report).

### Laboratory Measurements

Analysis for sulfide and measurement of alkalinity, pH, water temperature, specific conductance, and dissolved oxygen are performed on site. All other sample analyses are performed at the USGS laboratory in Lakewood, Colorado, unless otherwise noted. Methods used by the USGS laboratory are given in TWRI, Book 1, Chapter D2; Book 3, Chapter C2; and Book 5, Chapters A1, A3, and A4.

### Remark Codes

The following remark codes may appear with the water-quality data in this section:

Printed Output	Remark
E or e	Estimated value.
>	Actual value is known to be greater than the value shown.
<	Actual value is known to be less than the value shown.
K	Results based on colony count outside the acceptance range (non-ideal colony count).
L	Biological organism count less than 0.5 percent (organism may be observed rather than counted).
D	Biological organism count equal to or greater than 15 percent (dominant).
V	Analyte was detected in both the environmental sample and the associated blanks.
&	Biological organism estimated as dominant.

### Blank Samples

Blank samples are collected and analyzed to ensure that environmental samples have not been contaminated in the overall data-collection process. The blank solution used to develop specific types of blank samples is a solution that is free of the analytes of interest. Any measured value signal in a blank sample for an analyte (a specific component measured in a chemical analysis) that was absent in the blank solution is believed to be due to contamination. Many types of blank samples are possible; each is designed

to segregate a different part of the overall data-collection process. The types of blank samples collected in this district are:

**Field blank**—A blank solution that is subjected to all aspects of sample collection, field processing preservation, transportation, and laboratory handling as an environmental sample.

**Trip blank**—A blank solution that is put in the same type of bottle used for an environmental sample and kept with the set of sample bottles before and after sample collection.

**Equipment blank**—A blank solution that is processed through all equipment used for collecting and processing an environmental sample (similar to a field blank but normally done in the more controlled conditions of the office).

**Sampler blank**—A blank solution that is poured or pumped through the same field sampler used for collecting an environmental sample.

**Filter blank**—A blank solution that is filtered in the same manner and through the same filter apparatus used for an environmental sample.

**Splitter blank**—A blank solution that is mixed and separated using a field splitter in the same manner and through the same apparatus used for an environmental sample.

**Preservation blank**—A blank solution that is treated with the sampler preservatives used for an environmental sample.

### Reference Samples

Reference material is a solution or material prepared by a laboratory. The reference material composition is certified for one or more properties so that it can be used to assess a measurement method. Samples of reference material are submitted for analysis to ensure that an analytical method is accurate for the known properties of the reference material. Generally, the selected reference material properties are similar to the environmental sample properties.

### Replicate Samples

Replicate samples are a set of environmental samples collected in a manner such that the samples are thought to be essentially identical in composition. Replicate is the general case for which a duplicate is the special case consisting of two samples. Replicate samples are collected and analyzed to establish the amount of variability in the data contributed by some part of the collection and analytical process. Many types of replicate samples are possible, each of which may yield slightly different results in a dynamic hydrologic setting, such as a flowing stream. The types of replicate samples collected in this district are:

**Concurrent samples**—A type of replicate sample in which the samples are collected simultaneously with two or more samplers or by using one sampler and alternating the collection of samples into two or more compositing containers.

**Sequential samples**—A type of replicate sample in which the samples are collected one after the other, typically over a short time.

**Split sample**—A type of replicate sample in which a sample is split into subsamples, each subsample contemporaneous in time and space.

### **Spike Samples**

Spike samples are samples to which known quantities of a solution with one or more well-established analyte concentrations have been added. These samples are analyzed to determine the extent of matrix interference or degradation on the analyte concentration during sample processing and analysis.

### **ACCESS TO USGS WATER DATA**

The USGS provides near real-time stage and discharge data for many of the gaging stations equipped with the necessary telemetry and historic daily-mean and peak-flow discharge data for most current or discontinued gaging stations through the World Wide Web (WWW). These data may be accessed from <http://water.usgs.gov>.

Water-quality data and ground-water data also are available through the WWW. In addition, data can be provided in various machine-readable formats on various media. Information about the availability of specific types of data or products, and user charges, can be obtained locally from each Water Discipline District Office (See address that is shown on the back of the title page of this report.)

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

Specialized technical terms related to streamflow, water quality, and other hydrologic data, as used in this report, are defined below. Terms such as algae, water level, and precipitation are used in their common everyday meanings, definitions of which are given in standard dictionaries. Not all terms defined in this alphabetical list apply to every State. See also table for converting English units to International System (SI) Units. Other glossaries that also define water-related terms are accessible from <http://water.usgs.gov/glossaries.html>.

**Acid neutralizing capacity** (ANC) is the equivalent sum of all bases or base-producing materials, solutes plus particulates, in an aqueous system that can be titrated with acid to an equivalence point. This term designates titration of an “unfiltered” sample (formerly reported as alkalinity).

**Acre-foot** (AC-FT, acre-ft) is a unit of volume, commonly used to measure quantities of water used or stored, equivalent to the volume of water required to cover 1 acre to a depth of 1 foot and equivalent to 43,560 cubic feet, 325,851 gallons, or 1,233 cubic meters. (See also “Annual runoff”)

**Adenosine triphosphate** (ATP) is an organic, phosphate-rich compound important in the transfer of energy in organisms. Its central role in living cells makes ATP an excellent indicator of the presence of living material in water. A measurement of ATP therefore provides a sensitive and rapid estimate of biomass. ATP is reported in micrograms per liter.

**Adjusted discharge** is discharge data that have been mathematically adjusted (for example, to remove the effects of a daily tide cycle or reservoir storage).

**Algal growth potential** (AGP) is the maximum algal dry weight biomass that can be produced in a natural water sample under standardized laboratory conditions. The growth potential is the algal biomass present at stationary phase and is expressed as milligrams dry weight of algae produced per liter of sample. (See also “Biomass” and “Dry weight”)

**Alkalinity** is the capacity of solutes in an aqueous system to neutralize acid. This term designates titration of a “filtered” sample.

**Annual runoff** is the total quantity of water that is discharged (“runs off”) from a drainage basin in a year. Data reports may present annual runoff data as volumes in acre-feet, as discharges per unit of drainage area in cubic feet per second per square mile, or as depths of water on the drainage basin in inches.

**Annual 7-day minimum** is the lowest mean value for any 7-consecutive-day period in a year. Annual 7-day minimum values are reported herein for the calendar year and the water year (October 1 through September 30). Most low-flow frequency analyses use a climatic year (April 1–March 31), which tends to prevent the low-flow period from being artificially split between adjacent years. The date shown in the summary statistics table is the initial date of the 7-day period. (This value should not be confused with the 7-day, 10-year low-flow statistic.)

**Aroclor** is the registered trademark for a group of polychlorinated biphenyls that were manufactured by the Monsanto Company prior to 1976. Aroclors are assigned specific 4-digit reference numbers dependent upon molecular type and degree of substitution of the biphenyl ring hydrogen atoms by chlorine atoms. The first two digits of a numbered aroclor represent the molecular type, and the last two digits represent the percentage weight of the hydrogen-substituted chlorine.

**Artificial substrate** is a device that purposely is placed in a stream or lake for colonization of organisms. The artificial substrate simplifies the community structure by standardizing the substrate from which each sample is collected. Examples of artificial substrates are basket samplers (made of wire cages filled with clean streamside rocks) and multi-plate samplers (made of hardboard) for benthic organism collection, and plexiglass strips for periphyton collection. (See also “Substrate”)

**Ash mass** is the mass or amount of residue present after the residue from a dry-mass determination has been ashed in a muffle furnace at a temperature of 500 °C for 1 hour. Ash mass of zooplankton and phytoplankton is expressed in grams per cubic meter (g/m<sup>3</sup>), and periphyton and benthic organisms in grams per square meter (g/m<sup>2</sup>). (See also “Biomass” and “Dry mass”)

**Aspect** is the direction toward which a slope faces with respect to the compass.

**Bacteria** are microscopic unicellular organisms, typically spherical, rodlike, or spiral and threadlike in shape, often clumped into colonies. Some bacteria cause disease, whereas others perform an essential role in nature in the recycling of materials; for example, by decomposing organic matter into a form available for reuse by plants.

**Bankfull stage**, as used in this report, is the stage at which a stream first overflows its natural banks formed by floods with 1- to 3-year recurrence intervals.

**Base discharge** (for peak discharge) is a discharge value, determined for selected stations, above which peak discharge data are published. The base discharge at each

station is selected so that an average of about three peak flows per year will be published. (See also “Peak flow”)

**Base flow** is sustained flow of a stream in the absence of direct runoff. It includes natural and human-induced streamflows. Natural base flow is sustained largely by ground-water discharge.

**Bed material** is the sediment mixture of which a streambed, lake, pond, reservoir, or estuary bottom is composed. (See also “Bedload” and “Sediment”)

**Bedload** is material in transport that primarily is supported by the streambed. In this report, bedload is considered to consist of particles in transit from the bed to the top of the bedload sampler nozzle (an elevation ranging from 0.25 to 0.5 foot). These particles are retained in the bedload sampler. A sample collected with a pressure-differential bedload sampler also may contain a component of the suspended load.

**Bedload discharge** (tons per day) is the rate of sediment moving as bedload, reported as dry weight, that passes through a cross section in a given time. NOTE: Bedload discharge values in this report may include a component of the suspended-sediment discharge. A correction may be necessary when computing the total sediment discharge by summing the bedload discharge and the suspended-sediment discharge. (See also “Bedload,” “Dry weight,” “Sediment,” and “Suspended-sediment discharge”)

**Benthic organisms** are the group of organisms inhabiting the bottom of an aquatic environment. They include a number of types of organisms, such as bacteria, fungi, insect larvae and nymphs, snails, clams, and crayfish. They are useful as indicators of water quality.

**Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)** is a measure of the quantity of dissolved oxygen, in milligrams per liter, necessary for the decomposition of organic matter by microorganisms, such as bacteria.

**Biomass** is the amount of living matter present at any given time, expressed as mass per unit area or volume of habitat.

**Biomass pigment ratio** is an indicator of the total proportion of periphyton that are autotrophic (plants). This also is called the Autotrophic Index.

**Blue-green algae** (*Cyanophyta*) are a group of phytoplankton and periphyton organisms with a blue pigment in addition to a green pigment called chlorophyll. Blue-green algae can cause nuisance water-quality conditions in lakes and slow-flowing rivers; however, they are found commonly in streams throughout the year. The abundance of blue-green algae in phytoplankton samples is expressed as the number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) or biovolume

in cubic micrometers per milliliter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{mL}$ ). The abundance of blue-green algae in periphyton samples is given in cells per square centimeter (cells/cm<sup>2</sup>) or biovolume per square centimeter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{cm}^2$ ). (See also “Phytoplankton” and “Periphyton”)

**Bottom material** (See “Bed material”)

**Bulk electrical conductivity** is the combined electrical conductivity of all material within a doughnut-shaped volume surrounding an induction probe. Bulk conductivity is affected by different physical and chemical properties of the material including the dissolved-solids content of the pore water, and the lithology and porosity of the rock.

**Canadian Geodetic Vertical Datum 1928** is a geodetic datum derived from a general adjustment of Canada’s first order level network in 1928.

**Cell volume** (biovolume) determination is one of several common methods used to estimate biomass of algae in aquatic systems. Cell members of algae are used frequently in aquatic surveys as an indicator of algal production. However, cell numbers alone cannot represent true biomass because of considerable cell-size variation among the algal species. Cell volume ( $\mu\text{m}^3$ ) is determined by obtaining critical cell measurements or cell dimensions (for example, length, width, height, or radius) for 20 to 50 cells of each important species to obtain an average biovolume per cell. Cells are categorized according to the correspondence of their cellular shape to the nearest geometric solid or combinations of simple solids (for example, spheres, cones, or cylinders). Representative formulae used to compute biovolume are as follows:

$$\text{sphere } \frac{4}{3} \pi r^3 \quad \text{cone } \frac{1}{3} \pi r^2 h \quad \text{cylinder } \pi r^2 h.$$

pi ( $\pi$ ) is the ratio of the circumference to the diameter of a circle; pi = 3.14159....

From cell volume, total algal biomass expressed as biovolume ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{mL}$ ) is thus determined by multiplying the number of cells of a given species by its average cell volume and then summing these volumes for all species.

**Cells/volume** refers to the number of cells of any organism that is counted by using a microscope and grid or counting cell. Many planktonic organisms are multicelled and are counted according to the number of contained cells per sample volume, and generally are reported as cells or units per milliliter (mL) or liter (L).

**Cfs-day** (See “Cubic foot per second-day”)

**Channel bars**, as used in this report, are the lowest prominent geomorphic features higher than the channel bed.

**Chemical oxygen demand (COD)** is a measure of the chemically oxidizable material in the water and furnishes an approximation of the amount of organic and reducing material present. The determined value may correlate with BOD or with carbonaceous organic pollution from sewage or industrial wastes. [See also “Biochemical oxygen demand (BOD)”]

***Clostridium perfringens* (*C. perfringens*)** is a spore-forming bacterium that is common in the feces of human and other warmblooded animals. Clostridial spores are being used experimentally as an indicator of past fecal contamination and the presence of microorganisms that are resistant to disinfection and environmental stresses. (See also “Bacteria”)

**Coliphages** are viruses that infect and replicate in coliform bacteria. They are indicative of sewage contamination of water and of the survival and transport of viruses in the environment.

**Color unit** is produced by 1 milligram per liter of platinum in the form of the chloroplatinate ion. Color is expressed in units of the platinum-cobalt scale.

**Confined aquifer** is a term used to describe an aquifer containing water between two relatively impermeable boundaries. The water level in a well tapping a confined aquifer stands above the top of the confined aquifer and can be higher or lower than the water table that may be present in the material above it. In some cases, the water level can rise above the ground surface, yielding a flowing well.

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

**Continuous-record station** is a site where data are collected with sufficient frequency to define daily mean values and variations within a day.

**Control** designates a feature in the channel that physically affects the water-surface elevation and thereby determines the stage-discharge relation at the gage. This feature may be a constriction of the channel, a bedrock outcrop, a gravel bar, an artificial structure, or a uniform cross section over a long reach of the channel.

**Control structure**, as used in this report, is a structure on a stream or canal that is used to regulate the flow or stage of the stream or to prevent the intrusion of saltwater.

**Cubic foot per second (CFS, ft<sup>3</sup>/s)** is the rate of discharge representing a volume of 1 cubic foot passing a given point in 1 second. It is equivalent to approximately 7.48 gallons per second or approximately 449 gallons per minute, or 0.02832 cubic meters per second. The term “second-foot”

sometimes is used synonymously with “cubic foot per second” but is now obsolete.

**Cubic foot per second-day (CFS-DAY, Cfs-day, [(ft<sup>3</sup>/s)/d])** is the volume of water represented by a flow of 1 cubic foot per second for 24 hours. It is equivalent to 86,400 cubic feet, 1.98347 acre-feet, 646,317 gallons, or 2,446.6 cubic meters. The daily mean discharges reported in the daily value data tables numerically are equal to the daily volumes in cfs-days, and the totals also represent volumes in cfs-days.

**Cubic foot per second per square mile [CFSM, (ft<sup>3</sup>/s)/mi<sup>2</sup>]** is the average number of cubic feet of water flowing per second from each square mile of area drained, assuming the runoff is distributed uniformly in time and area. (See also “Annual runoff”)

**Daily mean suspended-sediment concentration** is the time-weighted mean concentration of suspended sediment passing a stream cross section during a 24-hour day. (See also “Sediment” and “Suspended-sediment concentration”)

**Daily record station** is a site where data are collected with sufficient frequency to develop a record of one or more data values per day. The frequency of data collection can range from continuous recording to data collection on a daily or near-daily basis.

**Data collection platform (DCP)** is an electronic instrument that collects, processes, and stores data from various sensors, and transmits the data by satellite data relay, line-of-sight radio, and/or landline telemetry.

**Data logger** is a microprocessor-based data acquisition system designed specifically to acquire, process, and store data. Data usually are downloaded from onsite data loggers for entry into office data systems.

**Datum** is a surface or point relative to which measurements of height and/or horizontal position are reported. A vertical datum is a horizontal surface used as the zero point for measurements of gage height, stage, or elevation; a horizontal datum is a reference for positions given in terms of latitude-longitude, State Plane coordinates, or Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) coordinates. (See also “Gage datum,” “Land-surface datum,” “National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929,” and “North American Vertical Datum of 1988”)

**Diatoms (*Bacillariophyta*)** are unicellular or colonial algae with a siliceous cell wall. The abundance of diatoms in phytoplankton samples is expressed as the number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) or biovolume in cubic micrometers per milliliter (μm<sup>3</sup>/mL). The abundance of diatoms in periphyton samples is given in cells per square centimeter

(cells/cm<sup>2</sup>) or biovolume per square centimeter (µm<sup>3</sup>/cm<sup>2</sup>). (See also “Phytoplankton” and “Periphyton”)

**Diel** is of or pertaining to a 24-hour period of time; a regular daily cycle.

**Discharge, or flow**, is the rate that matter passes through a cross section of a stream channel or other water body per unit of time. The term commonly refers to the volume of water (including, unless otherwise stated, any sediment or other constituents suspended or dissolved in the water) that passes a cross section in a stream channel, canal, pipeline, and so forth, within a given period of time (cubic feet per second). Discharge also can apply to the rate at which constituents, such as suspended sediment, bedload, and dissolved or suspended chemicals, pass through a cross section, in which cases the quantity is expressed as the mass of constituent that passes the cross section in a given period of time (tons per day).

**Dissolved** refers to that material in a representative water sample that passes through a 0.45-micrometer membrane filter. This is a convenient operational definition used by Federal and State agencies that collect water-quality data. Determinations of “dissolved” constituent concentrations are made on sample water that has been filtered.

**Dissolved oxygen (DO)** is the molecular oxygen (oxygen gas) dissolved in water. The concentration in water is a function of atmospheric pressure, temperature, and dissolved-solids concentration of the water. The ability of water to retain oxygen decreases with increasing temperature or dissolved-solids concentration. Photosynthesis and respiration by plants commonly cause diurnal variations in dissolved-oxygen concentration in water from some streams.

**Dissolved solids concentration** in water is the quantity of dissolved material in a sample of water. It is determined either analytically by the “residue-on-evaporation” method, or mathematically by totaling the concentrations of individual constituents reported in a comprehensive chemical analysis. During the analytical determination, the bicarbonate (generally a major dissolved component of water) is converted to carbonate. In the mathematical calculation, the bicarbonate value, in milligrams per liter, is multiplied by 0.4926 to convert it to carbonate. Alternatively, alkalinity concentration (as mg/L CaCO<sub>3</sub>) can be converted to carbonate concentration by multiplying by 0.60.

**Diversity index (H)** (Shannon index) is a numerical expression of evenness of distribution of aquatic organisms. The formula for diversity index is:

$$\bar{d} = - \sum_{i=1}^s \frac{n_i}{n} \log_2 \frac{n_i}{n},$$

where  $n_i$  is the number of individuals per taxon,  $n$  is the total number of individuals, and  $s$  is the total number of taxa in the sample of the community. Index values range from zero, when all the organisms in the sample are the same, to some positive number, when some or all of the organisms in the sample are different.

**Drainage area** of a stream at a specific location is that area upstream from the location, measured in a horizontal plane, that has a common outlet at the site for its surface runoff from precipitation that normally drains by gravity into a stream. Drainage areas given herein include all closed basins, or noncontributing areas, within the area unless otherwise specified.

**Drainage basin** is a part of the Earth’s surface that contains a drainage system with a common outlet for its surface runoff. (See “Drainage area”)

**Dry mass** refers to the mass of residue present after drying in an oven at 105 °C, until the mass remains unchanged. This mass represents the total organic matter, ash and sediment, in the sample. Dry-mass values are expressed in the same units as ash mass. (See also “Ash mass,” “Biomass,” and “Wet mass”)

**Dry weight** refers to the weight of animal tissue after it has been dried in an oven at 65 °C until a constant weight is achieved. Dry weight represents total organic and inorganic matter in the tissue. (See also “Wet weight”)

**Embeddedness** is the degree to which gravel-sized and larger particles are surrounded or enclosed by finer-sized particles. (See also “Substrate embeddedness class”)

**Enterococcus bacteria** commonly are found in the feces of humans and other warmblooded animals. Although some strains are ubiquitous and not related to fecal pollution, the presence of enterococci in water is an indication of fecal pollution and the possible presence of enteric pathogens. Enterococcus bacteria are those bacteria that produce pink to red colonies with black or reddish-brown precipitate after incubation at 41 °C on mE agar (nutrient medium for bacterial growth) and subsequent transfer to EIA medium. Enterococci include *Streptococcus feacalis*, *Streptococcus feacium*, *Streptococcus avium*, and their variants. (See also “Bacteria”)

**EPT Index** is the total number of distinct taxa within the insect orders Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, and Trichoptera. This index summarizes the taxa richness within the aquatic insects that generally are considered pollution sensitive; the index usually decreases with pollution.

***Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*)** are bacteria present in the intestine and feces of warmblooded animals. *E. coli* are a member species of the fecal coliform group of indicator bacteria. In the laboratory, they are defined as those bacteria that produce yellow or yellow-brown colonies on a filter pad saturated with urea substrate broth after primary culturing for 22 to 24 hours at 44.5 °C on mTEC medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 mL of sample. (See also “Bacteria”)

**Estimated (E) value** of a concentration is reported when an analyte is detected and all criteria for a positive result are met. If the concentration is less than the method detection limit (MDL), an E code will be reported with the value. If the analyte is identified qualitatively as present, but the quantitative determination is substantially more uncertain, the National Water Quality Laboratory will identify the result with an E code even though the measured value is greater than the MDL. A value reported with an E code should be used with caution. When no analyte is detected in a sample, the default reporting value is the MDL preceded by a less than sign (<). For bacteriological data, concentrations are reported as estimated when results are based on non-ideal colony counts.

**Euglenoids (*Euglenophyta*)** are a group of algae that usually are free-swimming and rarely creeping. They have the ability to grow either photosynthetically in the light or heterotrophically in the dark. (See also “Phytoplankton”)

**Extractable organic halides (EOX)** are organic compounds that contain halogen atoms such as chlorine. These organic compounds are semivolatile and extractable by ethyl acetate from air-dried streambed sediment. The ethyl acetate extract is combusted, and the concentration is determined by microcoulometric determination of the halides formed. The concentration is reported as micrograms of chlorine per gram of the dry weight of the streambed sediment.

**Fecal coliform bacteria** are present in the intestines or feces of warmblooded animals. They often are used as indicators of the sanitary quality of the water. In the laboratory, they are defined as all organisms that produce blue colonies within 24 hours when incubated at 44.5 °C plus or minus 0.2 °C on M-FC medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 mL of sample. (See also “Bacteria”)

**Fecal streptococcal bacteria** are present in the intestines of warmblooded animals and are ubiquitous in the environment. They are characterized as gram-positive, cocci bacteria that are capable of growth in brain-heart infusion broth. In the laboratory, they are defined as all the organisms that produce red or pink colonies within 48 hours at 35 °C plus or minus 1.0 °C on KF-streptococcus medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentra-

tions are expressed as number of colonies per 100 mL of sample. (See also “Bacteria”)

**Fire algae (*Pyrrhophyta*)** are free-swimming unicells characterized by a red pigment spot. (See also “Phytoplankton”)

**Flow-duration percentiles** are values on a scale of 100 that indicate the percentage of time for which a flow is not exceeded. For example, the 90th percentile of river flow is greater than or equal to 90 percent of all recorded flow rates.

**Gage datum** is a horizontal surface used as a zero point for measurement of stage or gage height. This surface usually is located slightly below the lowest point of the stream bottom such that the gage height is usually slightly greater than the maximum depth of water. Because the gage datum is not an actual physical object, the datum is usually defined by specifying the elevations of permanent reference marks such as bridge abutments and survey monuments, and the gage is set to agree with the reference marks. Gage datum is a local datum that is maintained independently of any national geodetic datum. However, if the elevation of the gage datum relative to the national datum (North American Vertical Datum of 1988 or National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929) has been determined, then the gage readings can be converted to elevations above the national datum by adding the elevation of the gage datum to the gage reading.

**Gage height (G.H.)** is the water-surface elevation, in feet above the gage datum. If the water surface is below the gage datum, the gage height is negative. Gage height often is used interchangeably with the more general term “stage,” although gage height is more appropriate when used in reference to a reading on a gage.

**Gage values** are values that are recorded, transmitted, and/or computed from a gaging station. Gage values typically are collected at 5-, 15-, or 30-minute intervals.

**Gaging station** is a site on a stream, canal, lake, or reservoir where systematic observations of stage, discharge, or other hydrologic data are obtained.

**Gas chromatography/flame ionization detector (GC/FID)** is a laboratory analytical method used as a screening technique for semivolatile organic compounds that are extractable from water in methylene chloride.

**Geomorphic channel units**, as used in this report, are fluvial geomorphic descriptors of channel shape and stream velocity. Pools, riffles, and runs are types of geomorphic channel units considered for National Water-Quality Assessment (NAWQA) Program habitat sampling.

**Green algae** (*Chlorophyta*) are unicellular or colonial algae with chlorophyll pigments similar to those in terrestrial green plants. Some forms of green algae produce mats or floating “moss” in lakes. The abundance of green algae in phytoplankton samples is expressed as the number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) or biovolume in cubic micrometers per milliliter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{mL}$ ). The abundance of green algae in periphyton samples is given in cells per square centimeter ( $\text{cells}/\text{cm}^2$ ) or biovolume per square centimeter ( $\mu\text{m}^3/\text{cm}^2$ ). (See also “Phytoplankton” and “Periphyton”)

**Habitat**, as used in this report, includes all nonliving (physical) aspects of the aquatic ecosystem, although living components like aquatic macrophytes and riparian vegetation also are usually included. Measurements of habitat typically are made over a wider geographic scale than are measurements of species distribution.

**Habitat quality index** is the qualitative description (level 1) of instream habitat and riparian conditions surrounding the reach sampled. Scores range from 0 to 100 percent with higher scores indicative of desirable habitat conditions for aquatic life. Index only applicable to wadable streams.

**Hardness** of water is a physical-chemical characteristic that commonly is recognized by the increased quantity of soap required to produce lather. It is computed as the sum of equivalents of polyvalent cations (primarily calcium and magnesium) and is expressed as the equivalent concentration of calcium carbonate ( $\text{CaCO}_3$ ).

**High tide** is the maximum height reached by each rising tide. The high-high and low-high tides are the higher and lower of the two high tides, respectively, of each tidal day. See NOAA Web site:  
<http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/tideglos.html>

**Hilsenhoff’s Biotic Index** (HBI) is an indicator of organic pollution that uses tolerance values to weight taxa abundances; usually increases with pollution. It is calculated as follows:

$$HBI = \frac{\sum(n)(a)}{N},$$

where  $n$  is the number of individuals of each taxon,  $a$  is the tolerance value of each taxon, and  $N$  is the total number of organisms in the sample.

**Horizontal datum** (See “Datum”)

**Hydrologic index stations** referred to in this report are continuous-record gaging stations that have been selected as representative of streamflow patterns for their respective regions. Station locations are shown on index maps.

**Hydrologic unit** is a geographic area representing part or all of a surface drainage basin or distinct hydrologic feature as defined by the former Office of Water Data Coordination and delineated on the State Hydrologic Unit Maps by the USGS. Each hydrologic unit is identified by an 8-digit number.

**Inch** (IN., in.), in reference to streamflow, as used in this report, refers to the depth to which the drainage area would be covered with water if all of the runoff for a given time period were distributed uniformly on it. (See also “Annual runoff”)

**Instantaneous discharge** is the discharge at a particular instant of time. (See also “Discharge”)

**International Boundary Commission Survey Datum** refers to a geodetic datum established at numerous monuments along the United States-Canada boundary by the International Boundary Commission.

**Island**, as used in this report, is a mid-channel bar that has permanent woody vegetation, is flooded once a year, on average, and remains stable except during large flood events.

**Laboratory reporting level** (LRL) generally is equal to twice the yearly determined long-term method detection level (LT-MDL). The LRL controls false negative error. The probability of falsely reporting a nondetection for a sample that contained an analyte at a concentration equal to or greater than the LRL is predicted to be less than or equal to 1 percent. The value of the LRL will be reported with a “less than” (<) remark code for samples in which the analyte was not detected. The National Water Quality Laboratory (NWQL) collects quality-control data from selected analytical methods on a continuing basis to determine LT-MDLs and to establish LRLs. These values are reevaluated annually on the basis of the most current quality-control data and, therefore, may change. The LRL replaces the term ‘non-detection value’ (NDV).

**Land-surface datum** (lsd) is a datum plane that is approximately at land surface at each ground-water observation well.

**Latent heat flux** (often used interchangeably with latent heat-flux density) is the amount of heat energy that converts water from liquid to vapor (evaporation) or from vapor to liquid (condensation) across a specified cross-sectional area per unit time. Usually expressed in watts per square meter.

**Light-attenuation coefficient**, also known as the extinction coefficient, is a measure of water clarity. Light is attenuated according to the Lambert-Beer equation:

$$I = I_o e^{-\lambda L},$$

where  $I_o$  is the source light intensity,  $I$  is the light intensity at length  $L$  (in meters) from the source,  $\lambda$  is the light-attenuation coefficient, and  $e$  is the base of the natural logarithm. The light-attenuation coefficient is defined as

$$\lambda = -\frac{1}{L} \log_e \frac{I}{I_o}.$$

**Lipid** is any one of a family of compounds that are insoluble in water and that make up one of the principal components of living cells. Lipids include fats, oils, waxes, and steroids. Many environmental contaminants such as organochlorine pesticides are lipophilic.

**Long-term method detection level (LT-MDL)** is a detection level derived by determining the standard deviation of a minimum of 24 method detection limit (MDL) spike-sample measurements over an extended period of time. LT-MDL data are collected on a continuous basis to assess year-to-year variations in the LT-MDL. The LT-MDL controls false positive error. The chance of falsely reporting a concentration at or greater than the LT-MDL for a sample that did not contain the analyte is predicted to be less than or equal to 1 percent.

**Low tide** is the minimum height reached by each falling tide. The high-low and low-low tides are the higher and lower of the two low tides, respectively, of each tidal day. See NOAA Web site:  
<http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov/tideglos.html>

**Macrophytes** are the macroscopic plants in the aquatic environment. The most common macrophytes are the rooted vascular plants that usually are arranged in zones in aquatic ecosystems and restricted in the area by the extent of illumination through the water and sediment deposition along the shoreline.

**Mean concentration of suspended sediment** (Daily mean suspended-sediment concentration) is the time-weighted concentration of suspended sediment passing a stream cross section during a given time period. (See also “Daily mean suspended-sediment concentration” and “Suspended-sediment concentration”)

**Mean discharge (MEAN)** is the arithmetic mean of individual daily mean discharges during a specific period. (See also “Discharge”)

**Mean high or low tide** is the average of all high or low tides, respectively, over a specific period.

**Mean sea level** is a local tidal datum. It is the arithmetic mean of hourly heights observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. Shorter series are specified in the name; for

example, monthly mean sea level and yearly mean sea level. In order that they may be recovered when needed, such datums are referenced to fixed points known as benchmarks. (See also “Datum”)

**Measuring point (MP)** is an arbitrary permanent reference point from which the distance to water surface in a well is measured to obtain water level.

**Megahertz** is a unit of frequency. One megahertz equals one million cycles per second.

**Membrane filter** is a thin microporous material of specific pore size used to filter bacteria, algae, and other very small particles from water.

**Metamorphic stage** refers to the stage of development that an organism exhibits during its transformation from an immature form to an adult form. This developmental process exists for most insects, and the degree of difference from the immature stage to the adult form varies from relatively slight to pronounced, with many intermediates. Examples of metamorphic stages of insects are egg-larva-adult or egg-nymph-adult.

**Method detection limit (MDL)** is the minimum concentration of a substance that can be measured and reported with 99-percent confidence that the analyte concentration is greater than zero. It is determined from the analysis of a sample in a given matrix containing the analyte. At the MDL concentration, the risk of a false positive is predicted to be less than or equal to 1 percent.

**Method of Cubatures** is a method of computing discharge in tidal estuaries based on the conservation of mass equation.

**Methylene blue active substances (MBAS)** indicate the presence of detergents (anionic surfactants). The determination depends on the formation of a blue color when methylene blue dye reacts with synthetic anionic detergent compounds.

**Micrograms per gram (UG/G, µg/g)** is a unit expressing the concentration of a chemical constituent as the mass (micrograms) of the element per unit mass (gram) of material analyzed.

**Micrograms per kilogram (UG/KG, µg/kg)** is a unit expressing the concentration of a chemical constituent as the mass (micrograms) of the constituent per unit mass (kilogram) of the material analyzed. One microgram per kilogram is equivalent to 1 part per billion.

**Micrograms per liter (UG/L, µg/L)** is a unit expressing the concentration of chemical constituents in water as mass (micrograms) of constituent per unit volume (liter) of

water. One thousand micrograms per liter is equivalent to 1 milligram per liter. One microgram per liter is equivalent to 1 part per billion.

**Microsiemens per centimeter** (US/CM,  $\mu\text{S}/\text{cm}$ ) is a unit expressing the amount of electrical conductivity of a solution as measured between opposite faces of a centimeter cube of solution at a specified temperature. Siemens is the International System of Units nomenclature. It is synonymous with mhos and is the reciprocal of resistance in ohms.

**Milligrams per liter** (MG/L, mg/L) is a unit for expressing the concentration of chemical constituents in water as the mass (milligrams) of constituent per unit volume (liter) of water. Concentration of suspended sediment also is expressed in milligrams per liter and is based on the mass of dry sediment per liter of water-sediment mixture.

**Minimum reporting level** (MRL) is the smallest measured concentration of a constituent that may be reliably reported by using a given analytical method.

**Miscellaneous site**, miscellaneous station, or miscellaneous sampling site is a site where streamflow, sediment, and/or water-quality data or water-quality or sediment samples are collected once, or more often on a random or discontinuous basis to provide better areal coverage for defining hydrologic and water-quality conditions over a broad area in a river basin.

**Most probable number** (MPN) is an index of the number of coliform bacteria that, more probably than any other number, would give the results shown by the laboratory examination; it is not an actual enumeration. MPN is determined from the distribution of gas-positive cultures among multiple inoculated tubes.

**Multiple-plate samplers** are artificial substrates of known surface area used for obtaining benthic invertebrate samples. They consist of a series of spaced, hardboard plates on an eyebolt.

**Nanograms per liter** (NG/L, ng/L) is a unit expressing the concentration of chemical constituents in solution as mass (nanograms) of solute per unit volume (liter) of water. One million nanograms per liter is equivalent to 1 milligram per liter.

**National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929** (NGVD 29) is a fixed reference adopted as a standard geodetic datum for elevations determined by leveling. It formerly was called "Sea Level Datum of 1929" or "mean sea level." Although the datum was derived from the mean sea level at 26 tide stations, it does not necessarily represent local mean sea level at any particular place. See NOAA Web site: [http://](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/faq.shtml#WhatVD29VD88)

[www.ngs.noaa.gov/faq.shtml#WhatVD29VD88](http://www.ngs.noaa.gov/faq.shtml#WhatVD29VD88) (See "North American Vertical Datum of 1988")

**Natural substrate** refers to any naturally occurring immersed or submersed solid surface, such as a rock or tree, upon which an organism lives. (See also "Substrate")

**Nekton** are the consumers in the aquatic environment and consist of large, free-swimming organisms that are capable of sustained, directed mobility.

**Nephelometric turbidity unit** (NTU) is the measurement for reporting turbidity that is based on use of a standard suspension of formazin. Turbidity measured in NTU uses nephelometric methods that depend on passing specific light of a specific wavelength through the sample.

**North American Datum of 1927** (NAD 27) is the horizontal control datum for the United States that was defined by a location and azimuth on the Clarke spheroid of 1866.

**North American Datum of 1983** (NAD 83) is the horizontal control datum for the United States, Canada, Mexico, and Central America that is based on the adjustment of 250,000 points including 600 satellite Doppler stations that constrain the system to a geocentric origin. NAD 83 has been officially adopted as the legal horizontal datum for the United States by the Federal government.

**North American Vertical Datum of 1988** (NAVD 88) is a fixed reference adopted as the official civilian vertical datum for elevations determined by Federal surveying and mapping activities in the United States. This datum was established in 1991 by minimum-constraint adjustment of the Canadian, Mexican, and United States first-order terrestrial leveling networks.

**Open or screened interval** is the length of unscreened opening or of well screen through which water enters a well, in feet below land surface.

**Organic carbon** (OC) is a measure of organic matter present in aqueous solution, suspension, or bottom sediment. May be reported as dissolved organic carbon (DOC), particulate organic carbon (POC), or total organic carbon (TOC).

**Organic mass** or **volatile mass** of a living substance is the difference between the dry mass and ash mass and represents the actual mass of the living matter. Organic mass is expressed in the same units as for ash mass and dry mass. (See also "Ash mass," "Biomass," and "Dry mass")

**Organism count/area** refers to the number of organisms collected and enumerated in a sample and adjusted to the number per area habitat, usually square meter ( $\text{m}^2$ ), acre, or hectare. Periphyton, benthic organisms, and macrophytes are expressed in these terms.

**Organism count/volume** refers to the number of organisms collected and enumerated in a sample and adjusted to the number per sample volume, usually milliliter (mL) or liter (L). Numbers of planktonic organisms can be expressed in these terms.

**Organochlorine compounds** are any chemicals that contain carbon and chlorine. Organochlorine compounds that are important in investigations of water, sediment, and biological quality include certain pesticides and industrial compounds.

**Parameter code** is a 5-digit number used in the USGS computerized data system, National Water Information System (NWIS), to uniquely identify a specific constituent or property.

**Partial-record station** is a site where discrete measurements of one or more hydrologic parameters are obtained over a period of time without continuous data being recorded or computed. A common example is a crest-stage gage partial-record station at which only peak stages and flows are recorded.

**Particle size** is the diameter, in millimeters (mm), of a particle determined by sieve or sedimentation methods. The sedimentation method uses the principle of Stokes Law to calculate sediment particle sizes. Sedimentation methods (pipet, bottom-withdrawal tube, visual-accumulation tube, sedigraph) determine fall diameter of particles in either distilled water (chemically dispersed) or in native water (the river water at the time and point of sampling).

**Particle-size classification**, as used in this report, agrees with the recommendation made by the American Geophysical Union Subcommittee on Sediment Terminology. The classification is as follows:

Classification	Size (mm)	Method of analysis
Clay	>0.00024 - 0.004	Sedimentation
Silt	>0.004 - 0.062	Sedimentation
Sand	>0.062 - 2.0	Sedimentation/sieve
Gravel	>2.0 - 64.0	Sieve
Cobble	>64 - 256	Manual measurement
Boulder	>256	Manual measurement

The particle-size distributions given in this report are not necessarily representative of all particles in transport in the stream. For the sedimentation method, most of the organic matter is removed, and the sample is subjected to mechanical and chemical dispersion before analysis in distilled water. Chemical dispersion is not used for native water analysis.

**Peak flow (peak stage)** is an instantaneous local maximum value in the continuous time series of streamflows or

stages, preceded by a period of increasing values and followed by a period of decreasing values. Several peak values ordinarily occur in a year. The maximum peak value in a year is called the annual peak; peaks lower than the annual peak are called secondary peaks. Occasionally, the annual peak may not be the maximum value for the year; in such cases, the maximum value occurs at midnight at the beginning or end of the year, on the recession from or rise toward a higher peak in the adjoining year. If values are recorded at a discrete series of times, the peak recorded value may be taken as an approximation of the true peak, which may occur between the recording instants. If the values are recorded with finite precision, a sequence of equal recorded values may occur at the peak; in this case, the first value is taken as the peak.

**Percent composition or percent of total** is a unit for expressing the ratio of a particular part of a sample or population to the total sample or population, in terms of types, numbers, weight, mass, or volume.

**Percent shading** is a measure of the amount of sunlight potentially reaching the stream. A clinometer is used to measure left and right bank canopy angles. These values are added together, divided by 180, and multiplied by 100 to compute percentage of shade.

**Periodic-record station** is a site where stage, discharge, sediment, chemical, physical, or other hydrologic measurements are made one or more times during a year but at a frequency insufficient to develop a daily record.

**Periphyton** is the assemblage of microorganisms attached to and living upon submerged solid surfaces. Although primarily consisting of algae, they also include bacteria, fungi, protozoa, rotifers, and other small organisms. Periphyton are useful indicators of water quality.

**Pesticides** are chemical compounds used to control undesirable organisms. Major categories of pesticides include insecticides, miticides, fungicides, herbicides, and rodenticides.

**pH** of water is the negative logarithm of the hydrogen-ion activity. Solutions with pH less than 7.0 standard units are termed "acidic," and solutions with a pH greater than 7.0 are termed "basic." Solutions with a pH of 7.0 are neutral. The presence and concentration of many dissolved chemical constituents found in water are affected, in part, by the hydrogen-ion activity of water. Biological processes including growth, distribution of organisms, and toxicity of the water to organisms also are affected, in part, by the hydrogen-ion activity of water.

**Phytoplankton** is the plant part of the plankton. They usually are microscopic, and their movement is subject to the water currents. Phytoplankton growth is dependent upon

solar radiation and nutrient substances. Because they are able to incorporate as well as release materials to the surrounding water, the phytoplankton have a profound effect upon the quality of the water. They are the primary food producers in the aquatic environment and commonly are known as algae. (See also “Plankton”)

**Picocurie (PC, pCi)** is one-trillionth ( $1 \times 10^{-12}$ ) of the amount of radioactive nuclide represented by a curie (Ci). A curie is the quantity of radioactive nuclide that yields  $3.7 \times 10^{10}$  radioactive disintegrations per second (dps). A picocurie yields 0.037 dps, or 2.22 dpm (disintegrations per minute).

**Plankton** is the community of suspended, floating, or weakly swimming organisms that live in the open water of lakes and rivers. Concentrations are expressed as a number of cells per milliliter (cells/mL) of sample.

**Polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs)** are industrial chemicals that are mixtures of chlorinated biphenyl compounds having various percentages of chlorine. They are similar in structure to organochlorine insecticides.

**Polychlorinated naphthalenes (PCNs)** are industrial chemicals that are mixtures of chlorinated naphthalene compounds. They have properties and applications similar to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and have been identified in commercial PCB preparations.

**Pool**, as used in this report, is a small part of a stream reach with little velocity, commonly with water deeper than surrounding areas.

**Primary productivity** is a measure of the rate at which new organic matter is formed and accumulated through photosynthetic and chemosynthetic activity of producer organisms (chiefly, green plants). The rate of primary production is estimated by measuring the amount of oxygen released (oxygen method) or the amount of carbon assimilated (carbon method) by the plants.

**Primary productivity (carbon method)** is expressed as milligrams of carbon per area per unit time [ $\text{mg C}/(\text{m}^2/\text{time})$ ] for periphyton and macrophytes or per volume [ $\text{mg C}/(\text{m}^3/\text{time})$ ] for phytoplankton. The carbon method defines the amount of carbon dioxide consumed as measured by radioactive carbon (carbon-14). The carbon-14 method is of greater sensitivity than the oxygen light- and dark-bottle method and is preferred for use with unenriched water samples. Unit time may be either the hour or day, depending on the incubation period. (See also “Primary productivity”)

**Primary productivity (oxygen method)** is expressed as milligrams of oxygen per area per unit time [ $\text{mg O}/(\text{m}^2/\text{time})$ ] for periphyton and macrophytes or per volume [ $\text{mg O}/(\text{m}^3/\text{time})$ ] for phytoplankton. The oxygen method

defines production and respiration rates as estimated from changes in the measured dissolved-oxygen concentration. The oxygen light- and dark-bottle method is preferred if the rate of primary production is sufficient for accurate measurements to be made within 24 hours. Unit time may be either the hour or day, depending on the incubation period. (See also “Primary productivity”)

**Radioisotopes** are isotopic forms of elements that exhibit radioactivity. Isotopes are varieties of a chemical element that differ in atomic weight but are very nearly alike in chemical properties. The difference arises because the atoms of the isotopic forms of an element differ in the number of neutrons in the nucleus; for example, ordinary chlorine is a mixture of isotopes having atomic weights of 35 and 37, and the natural mixture has an atomic weight of about 35.453. Many of the elements similarly exist as mixtures of isotopes, and a great many new isotopes have been produced in the operation of nuclear devices such as the cyclotron. There are 275 isotopes of the 81 stable elements, in addition to more than 800 radioactive isotopes.

**Reach**, as used in this report, is a length of stream that is chosen to represent a uniform set of physical, chemical, and biological conditions within a segment. It is the principal sampling unit for collecting physical, chemical, and biological data.

**Recoverable from bed (bottom) material** is the amount of a given constituent that is in solution after a representative sample of bottom material has been digested by a method (usually using an acid or mixture of acids) that results in dissolution of readily soluble substances. Complete dissolution of all bottom material is not achieved by the digestion treatment and thus the determination represents less than the total amount (that is, less than 95 percent) of the constituent in the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data, equivalent digestion procedures would be required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different digestion procedures are likely to produce different analytical results. (See also “Bed material”)

**Recurrence interval**, also referred to as return period, is the average time, usually expressed in years, between occurrences of hydrologic events of a specified type (such as exceedances of a specified high flow or nonexceedance of a specified low flow). The terms “return period” and “recurrence interval” do not imply regular cyclic occurrence. The actual times between occurrences vary randomly, with most of the times being less than the average and a few being substantially greater than the average. For example, the 100-year flood is the flow rate that is exceeded by the annual maximum peak flow at intervals whose average length is 100 years (that is, once in 100 years, on average); almost two-thirds of all exceedances of the 100-year flood occur less than 100 years after the previous exceedance, half occur less than 70 years after the

previous exceedance, and about one-eighth occur more than 200 years after the previous exceedance. Similarly, the 7-day, 10-year low flow ( $7Q_{10}$ ) is the flow rate below which the annual minimum 7-day-mean flow dips at intervals whose average length is 10 years (that is, once in 10 years, on average); almost two-thirds of the nonexceedances of the  $7Q_{10}$  occur less than 10 years after the previous nonexceedance, half occur less than 7 years after, and about one-eighth occur more than 20 years after the previous nonexceedance. The recurrence interval for annual events is the reciprocal of the annual probability of occurrence. Thus, the 100-year flood has a 1-percent chance of being exceeded by the maximum peak flow in any year, and there is a 10-percent chance in any year that the annual minimum 7-day-mean flow will be less than the  $7Q_{10}$ .

**Replicate samples** are a group of samples collected in a manner such that the samples are thought to be essentially identical in composition.

**Return period** (See “Recurrence interval”)

**Riffle**, as used in this report, is a shallow part of the stream where water flows swiftly over completely or partially submerged obstructions to produce surface agitation.

**River mileage** is the curvilinear distance, in miles, measured upstream from the mouth along the meandering path of a stream channel in accordance with Bulletin No. 14 (October 1968) of the Water Resources Council and typically is used to denote location along a river.

**Run**, as used in this report, is a relatively shallow part of a stream with moderate velocity and little or no surface turbulence.

**Runoff** is the quantity of water that is discharged (“runs off”) from a drainage basin during a given time period. Runoff data may be presented as volumes in acre-feet, as mean discharges per unit of drainage area in cubic feet per second per square mile, or as depths of water on the drainage basin in inches. (See also “Annual runoff”)

**Sea level**, as used in this report, refers to one of the two commonly used national vertical datums (NGVD 1929 or NAVD 1988). See separate entries for definitions of these datums.

**Sediment** is solid material that originates mostly from disintegrated rocks; when transported by, suspended in, or deposited from water, it is referred to as “fluvial sediment.” Sediment includes chemical and biochemical precipitates and decomposed organic material, such as humus. The quantity, characteristics, and cause of the occurrence of sediment in streams are affected by environmental and land-use factors. Some major factors are topography, soil

characteristics, land cover, and depth and intensity of precipitation.

**Sensible heat flux** (often used interchangeably with latent sensible heat-flux density) is the amount of heat energy that moves by turbulent transport through the air across a specified cross-sectional area per unit time and goes to heating (cooling) the air. Usually expressed in watts per square meter.

**Seven-day, 10-year low flow ( $7Q_{10}$ )** is the discharge below which the annual 7-day minimum flow falls in 1 year out of 10 on the long-term average. The recurrence interval of the  $7Q_{10}$  is 10 years; the chance that the annual 7-day minimum flow will be less than the  $7Q_{10}$  is 10 percent in any given year. (See also “Annual 7-day minimum” and “Recurrence interval”)

**Shelves**, as used in this report, are streambank features extending nearly horizontally from the flood plain to the lower limit of persistent woody vegetation.

**Sodium adsorption ratio (SAR)** is the expression of relative activity of sodium ions in exchange reactions within soil and is an index of sodium or alkali hazard to the soil. Sodium hazard in water is an index that can be used to evaluate the suitability of water for irrigating crops.

**Soil heat flux** (often used interchangeably with soil heat-flux density) is the amount of heat energy that moves by conduction across a specified cross-sectional area of soil per unit time and goes to heating (or cooling) the soil. Usually expressed in watts per square meter.

**Soil-water content** is the water lost from the soil upon drying to constant mass at 105 °C; expressed either as mass of water per unit mass of dry soil or as the volume of water per unit bulk volume of soil.

**Specific electrical conductance (conductivity)** is a measure of the capacity of water (or other media) to conduct an electrical current. It is expressed in microsiemens per centimeter at 25 °C. Specific electrical conductance is a function of the types and quantity of dissolved substances in water and can be used for approximating the dissolved-solids content of the water. Commonly, the concentration of dissolved solids (in milligrams per liter) is from 55 to 75 percent of the specific conductance (in microsiemens). This relation is not constant from stream to stream, and it may vary in the same source with changes in the composition of the water.

**Stable isotope ratio** (per MIL) is a unit expressing the ratio of the abundance of two radioactive isotopes. Isotope ratios are used in hydrologic studies to determine the age or source of specific water, to evaluate mixing of different

water, as an aid in determining reaction rates, and other chemical or hydrologic processes.

**Stage** (See “Gage height”)

**Stage-discharge relation** is the relation between the water-surface elevation, termed stage (gage height), and the volume of water flowing in a channel per unit time.

**Streamflow** is the discharge that occurs in a natural channel. Although the term “discharge” can be applied to the flow of a canal, the word “streamflow” uniquely describes the discharge in a surface stream course. The term “streamflow” is more general than “runoff” as streamflow may be applied to discharge whether or not it is affected by diversion or regulation.

**Substrate** is the physical surface upon which an organism lives.

**Substrate embeddedness class** is a visual estimate of riffle streambed substrate larger than gravel that is surrounded or covered by fine sediment (<2 mm, sand or finer). Below are the class categories expressed as the percentage covered by fine sediment:

0	no gravel or larger substrate	3	26-50 percent
1	> 75 percent	4	5-25 percent
2	51-75 percent	5	< 5 percent

**Surface area of a lake** is that area (acres) encompassed by the boundary of the lake as shown on USGS topographic maps, or other available maps or photographs. Because surface area changes with lake stage, surface areas listed in this report represent those determined for the stage at the time the maps or photographs were obtained.

**Surficial bed material** is the upper surface (0.1 to 0.2 foot) of the bed material that is sampled using U.S. Series Bed-Material Samplers.

**Surrogate** is an analyte that behaves similarly to a target analyte, but that is highly unlikely to occur in a sample. A surrogate is added to a sample in known amounts before extraction and is measured with the same laboratory procedures used to measure the target analyte. Its purpose is to monitor method performance for an individual sample.

**Suspended** (as used in tables of chemical analyses) refers to the amount (concentration) of undissolved material in a water-sediment mixture. It is defined operationally as the material retained on a 0.45-micrometer filter.

**Suspended, recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent that is in solution after the part of a representative suspended water-sediment sample that is retained on a

0.45-micrometer membrane filter has been digested by a method (usually using a dilute acid solution) that results in dissolution of only readily soluble substances. Complete dissolution of all the particulate matter is not achieved by the digestion treatment, and, thus, the determination represents something less than the “total” amount (that is, less than 95 percent) of the constituent present in the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data, equivalent digestion procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different digestion procedures are likely to produce different analytical results. Determinations of “suspended, recoverable” constituents are made either by directly analyzing the suspended material collected on the filter or, more commonly, by difference, on the basis of determinations of (1) dissolved and (2) total recoverable concentrations of the constituent. (See also “Suspended”)

**Suspended sediment** is the sediment maintained in suspension by the upward components of turbulent currents or that exists in suspension as a colloid. (See also “Sediment”)

**Suspended-sediment concentration** is the velocity-weighted concentration of suspended sediment in the sampled zone (from the water surface to a point approximately 0.3 foot above the bed) expressed as milligrams of dry sediment per liter of water-sediment mixture (mg/L). The analytical technique uses the mass of all of the sediment and the net weight of the water-sediment mixture in a sample to compute the suspended-sediment concentration. (See also “Sediment” and “Suspended sediment”)

**Suspended-sediment discharge** (tons/d) is the rate of sediment transport, as measured by dry mass or volume, that passes a cross section in a given time. It is calculated in units of tons per day as follows: concentration (mg/L) x discharge (ft<sup>3</sup>/s) x 0.0027. (See also “Sediment,” “Suspended sediment,” and “Suspended-sediment concentration”)

**Suspended-sediment load** is a general term that refers to a given characteristic of the material in suspension that passes a point during a specified period of time. The term needs to be qualified, such as “annual suspended-sediment load” or “sand-size suspended-sediment load,” and so on. It is not synonymous with either suspended-sediment discharge or concentration. (See also “Sediment”)

**Suspended solids, total residue at 105 °C concentration** is the concentration of inorganic and organic material retained on a filter, expressed as milligrams of dry material per liter of water (mg/L). An aliquot of the sample is used for this analysis.

**Suspended, total** is the total amount of a given constituent in the part of a water-sediment sample that is retained on a

0.45-micrometer membrane filter. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent determined. Knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to determine when the results should be reported as “suspended, total.” Determinations of “suspended, total” constituents are made either by directly analyzing portions of the suspended material collected on the filter or, more commonly, by difference, on the basis of determinations of (1) dissolved and (2) total concentrations of the constituent. (See also “Suspended”)

**Synoptic studies** are short-term investigations of specific water-quality conditions during selected seasonal or hydrologic periods to provide improved spatial resolution for critical water-quality conditions. For the period and conditions sampled, they assess the spatial distribution of selected water-quality conditions in relation to causative factors, such as land use and contaminant sources.

**Taxa (Species) richness** is the number of species (taxa) present in a defined area or sampling unit.

**Taxonomy** is the division of biology concerned with the classification and naming of organisms. The classification of organisms is based upon a hierarchical scheme beginning with Kingdom and ending with Species at the base. The higher the classification level, the fewer features the organisms have in common. For example, the taxonomy of a particular mayfly, *Hexagenia limbata*, is the following:

Kingdom:	Animal
Phylum:	Arthropoda
Class:	Insecta
Order:	Ephemeroptera
Family:	Ephemeridae
Genus:	<i>Hexagenia</i>
Species:	<i>Hexagenia limbata</i>

**Thalweg** is the line formed by connecting points of minimum streambed elevation (deepest part of the channel).

**Thermograph** is an instrument that continuously records variations of temperature on a chart. The more general term “temperature recorder” is used in the table descriptions and refers to any instrument that records temperature whether on a chart, a tape, or any other medium.

**Time-weighted average** is computed by multiplying the number of days in the sampling period by the concentrations of individual constituents for the corresponding period and dividing the sum of the products by the total number of days. A time-weighted average represents the composition of water resulting from the mixing of flow proportionally to the duration of the concentration.

**Tons per acre-foot (T/acre-ft)** is the dry mass (tons) of a constituent per unit volume (acre-foot) of water. It is computed by multiplying the concentration of the constituent, in milligrams per liter, by 0.00136.

**Tons per day (T/DAY, tons/d)** is a common chemical or sediment discharge unit. It is the quantity of a substance in solution, in suspension, or as bedload that passes a stream section during a 24-hour period. It is equivalent to 2,000 pounds per day, or 0.9072 metric ton per day.

**Total** is the amount of a given constituent in a representative whole-water (unfiltered) sample, regardless of the constituent’s physical or chemical form. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent present in both the dissolved and suspended phases of the sample. A knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to judge when the results should be reported as “total.” (Note that the word “total” does double duty here, indicating both that the sample consists of a water-suspended sediment mixture and that the analytical method determined at least 95 percent of the constituent in the sample.)

**Total coliform bacteria** are a particular group of bacteria that are used as indicators of possible sewage pollution. This group includes coliforms that inhabit the intestine of warmblooded animals and those that inhabit soils. They are characterized as aerobic or facultative anaerobic, gram-negative, nonspore-forming, rod-shaped bacteria that ferment lactose with gas formation within 48 hours at 35 °C. In the laboratory, these bacteria are defined as all the organisms that produce colonies with a golden-green metallic sheen within 24 hours when incubated at 35 °C plus or minus 1.0 °C on M-Endo medium (nutrient medium for bacterial growth). Their concentrations are expressed as number of colonies per 100 milliliters of sample. (See also “Bacteria”)

**Total discharge** is the quantity of a given constituent, measured as dry mass or volume, that passes a stream cross section per unit of time. When referring to constituents other than water, this term needs to be qualified, such as “total sediment discharge,” “total chloride discharge,” and so on.

**Total in bottom material** is the amount of a given constituent in a representative sample of bottom material. This term is used only when the analytical procedure assures measurement of at least 95 percent of the constituent determined. A knowledge of the expected form of the constituent in the sample, as well as the analytical methodology used, is required to judge when the results should be reported as “total in bottom material.”

**Total length** (fish) is the straight-line distance from the anterior point of a fish specimen's snout, with the mouth closed, to the posterior end of the caudal (tail) fin, with the lobes of the caudal fin squeezed together.

**Total load** refers to all of a constituent in transport. When referring to sediment, it includes suspended load plus bed load.

**Total organism count** is the number of organisms collected and enumerated in any particular sample. (See also "Organism count/volume")

**Total recoverable** is the amount of a given constituent in a whole-water sample after a sample has been digested by a method (usually using a dilute acid solution) that results in dissolution of only readily soluble substances. Complete dissolution of all particulate matter is not achieved by the digestion treatment, and thus the determination represents something less than the "total" amount (that is, less than 95 percent) of the constituent present in the dissolved and suspended phases of the sample. To achieve comparability of analytical data for whole-water samples, equivalent digestion procedures are required of all laboratories performing such analyses because different digestion procedures may produce different analytical results.

**Total sediment discharge** is the mass of suspended-sediment plus bed-load transport, measured as dry weight, that passes a cross section in a given time. It is a rate and is reported as tons per day. (See also "Bedload," "Bedload discharge," "Sediment," "Suspended sediment," and "Suspended-sediment concentration")

**Total sediment load** or **total load** is the sediment in transport as bedload and suspended-sediment load. The term may be qualified, such as "annual suspended-sediment load" or "sand-size suspended-sediment load," and so on. It differs from total sediment discharge in that load refers to the material, whereas discharge refers to the quantity of material, expressed in units of mass per unit time. (See also "Sediment," "Suspended-sediment load," and "Total load")

**Transect**, as used in this report, is a line across a stream perpendicular to the flow and along which measurements are taken, so that morphological and flow characteristics along the line are described from bank to bank. Unlike a cross section, no attempt is made to determine known elevation points along the line.

**Turbidity** is the reduction in the transparency of a solution because of the presence of suspended and some dissolved substances. The measurement technique records the collective optical properties of the solution that cause light to be scattered and attenuated rather than transmitted in straight lines; the higher the intensity of scattered or attenuated

light, the higher the value of the turbidity. Turbidity is expressed in nephelometric turbidity units (NTU). Depending on the method used, the turbidity units as NTU can be defined as the intensity of light of a specified wavelength scattered or attenuated by suspended particles or absorbed at a method specified angle, usually 90 degrees, from the path of the incident light. Currently approved methods for the measurement of turbidity in the USGS include those that conform to USEPA Method 180.1, ASTM D1889-00, and ISO 7027. Measurements of turbidity by these different methods and different instruments are unlikely to yield equivalent values.

**Ultraviolet (UV) absorbance (absorption)** at 254 or 280 nanometers is a measure of the aggregate concentration of the mixture of UV absorbing organic materials dissolved in the analyzed water, such as lignin, tannin, humic substances, and various aromatic compounds. UV absorbance (absorption) at 254 or 280 nanometers is measured in UV absorption units per centimeter of path length of UV light through a sample.

**Unconfined aquifer** is an aquifer whose upper surface is a water table free to fluctuate under atmospheric pressure. (See "Water-table aquifer")

**Vertical datum** (See "Datum")

**Volatile organic compounds (VOCs)** are organic compounds that can be isolated from the water phase of a sample by purging the water sample with inert gas, such as helium, and, subsequently, analyzed by gas chromatography. Many VOCs are human-made chemicals that are used and produced in the manufacture of paints, adhesives, petroleum products, pharmaceuticals, and refrigerants. They often are components of fuels, solvents, hydraulic fluids, paint thinners, and dry-cleaning agents commonly used in urban settings. VOC contamination of drinking-water supplies is a human-health concern because many are toxic and are known or suspected human carcinogens.

**Water table** is that surface in a ground-water body at which the water pressure is equal to the atmospheric pressure.

**Water-table aquifer** is an unconfined aquifer within which the water table is found.

**Water year** in USGS reports dealing with surface-water supply is the 12-month period October 1 through September 30. The water year is designated by the calendar year in which it ends and which includes 9 of the 12 months. Thus, the year ending September 30, 2003, is called the "2003 water year."

**Watershed** (See "Drainage basin")

**WDR** is used as an abbreviation for “Water-Data Report” in the REVISED RECORDS paragraph to refer to State annual hydrologic-data reports. (WRD was used as an abbreviation for “Water-Resources Data” in reports published prior to 1976.)

**Weighted average** is used in this report to indicate discharge-weighted average. It is computed by multiplying the discharge for a sampling period by the concentrations of individual constituents for the corresponding period and dividing the sum of the products by the sum of the discharges. A discharge-weighted average approximates the composition of water that would be found in a reservoir containing all the water passing a given location during the water year after thorough mixing in the reservoir.

**Wet mass** is the mass of living matter plus contained water. (See also “Biomass” and “Dry mass”)

**Wet weight** refers to the weight of animal tissue or other substance including its contained water. (See also “Dry weight”)

**WSP** is used as an acronym for “Water-Supply Paper” in reference to previously published reports.

**Zooplankton** is the animal part of the plankton. Zooplankton are capable of extensive movements within the water column and often are large enough to be seen with the unaided eye. Zooplankton are secondary consumers feeding upon bacteria, phytoplankton, and detritus. Because they are the grazers in the aquatic environment, the zooplankton are a vital part of the aquatic food web. The zooplankton community is dominated by small crustaceans and rotifers. (See also “Plankton”)

## Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations of the U.S. Geological Survey

The USGS publishes a series of manuals, the Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations, describing procedures for planning and conducting specialized work in water-resources investigations. The material is grouped under major subject headings called books and is further divided into sections and chapters. For example, section A of book 3 (Applications of Hydraulics) pertains to surface water. The chapter, the unit of publication, is limited to a narrow field of subject matter. This format permits flexibility in revision and publication as the need arises.

Reports in the Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations series, which are listed below, are online at <http://water.usgs.gov/pubs/twri/>. Printed copies are for sale by the USGS, Information Services, Box 25286, Federal Center, Denver, Colorado 80225 (authorized agent of the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office), telephone 1-888-ASK-USGS. Please telephone 1-888-ASK-USGS for current prices, and refer to the title, book number, chapter number, and mention the “U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations.” Products can then be ordered by telephone, or online at <http://www.usgs.gov/sales.html>, or by FAX to (303)236-469 of an order form available online at <http://mac.usgs.gov/isb/pubs/forms/>. Prepayment by major credit card or by a check or money order payable to the “U.S. Geological Survey” is required.

### Book 1. Collection of Water Data by Direct Measurement

#### Section D. Water Quality

1–D1. *Water temperature—Influential factors, field measurement, and data presentation*, by H.H. Stevens, Jr., J.F. Ficke, and G.F. Smoot: USGS–TWRI book 1, chap. D1. 1975. 65 p.

1–D2. *Guidelines for collection and field analysis of ground-water samples for selected unstable constituents*, by W.W. Wood: USGS–TWRI book 1, chap. D2. 1976. 24 p.

### Book 2. Collection of Environmental Data

#### Section D. Surface Geophysical Methods

2–D1. *Application of surface geophysics to ground-water investigations*, by A.A.R. Zohdy, G.P. Eaton, and D.R. Mabey: USGS–TWRI book 2, chap. D1. 1974. 116 p.

2–D2. *Application of seismic-refraction techniques to hydrologic studies*, by F.P. Haeni: USGS–TWRI book 2, chap. D2. 1988. 86 p.

#### Section E. Subsurface Geophysical Methods

2–E1. *Application of borehole geophysics to water-resources investigations*, by W.S. Keys and L.M. MacCary: USGS–TWRI book 2, chap. E1. 1971. 126 p.

2–E2. *Borehole geophysics applied to ground-water investigations*, by W.S. Keys: USGS–TWRI book 2, chap. E2. 1990. 150 p.

#### Section F. Drilling and Sampling Methods

2–F1. *Application of drilling, coring, and sampling techniques to test holes and wells*, by Eugene Shuter and W.E. Teasdale: USGS–TWRI book 2, chap. F1. 1989. 97 p.

## Book 3. Applications of Hydraulics

### Section A. Surface-Water Techniques

- 3–A1. *General field and office procedures for indirect discharge measurements*, by M.A. Benson and Tate Dalrymple: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A1. 1967. 30 p.
- 3–A2. *Measurement of peak discharge by the slope-area method*, by Tate Dalrymple and M.A. Benson: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A2. 1967. 12 p.
- 3–A3. *Measurement of peak discharge at culverts by indirect methods*, by G.L. Bodhaine: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A3. 1968. 60 p.
- 3–A4. *Measurement of peak discharge at width contractions by indirect methods*, by H.F. Matthai: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A4. 1967. 44 p.
- 3–A5. *Measurement of peak discharge at dams by indirect methods*, by Harry Hulsing: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A5. 1967. 29 p.
- 3–A6. *General procedure for gaging streams*, by R.W. Carter and Jacob Davidian: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A6. 1968. 13 p.
- 3–A7. *Stage measurement at gaging stations*, by T.J. Buchanan and W.P. Somers: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A7. 1968. 28 p.
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- 3–A9. *Measurement of time of travel in streams by dye tracing*, by F.A. Kilpatrick and J.F. Wilson, Jr.: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A9. 1989. 27 p.
- 3–A10. *Discharge ratings at gaging stations*, by E.J. Kennedy: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A10. 1984. 59 p.
- 3–A11. *Measurement of discharge by the moving-boat method*, by G.F. Smoot and C.E. Novak: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A11. 1969. 22 p.
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- 3–A16. *Measurement of discharge using tracers*, by F.A. Kilpatrick and E.D. Cobb: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A16. 1985. 52 p.
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- 3–A19. *Levels at streamflow gaging stations*, by E.J. Kennedy: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A19. 1990. 31 p.
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- 3–A21. *Stream-gaging cableways*, by C. Russell Wagner: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. A21. 1995. 56 p.

### Section B. Ground-Water Techniques

- 3–B1. *Aquifer-test design, observation, and data analysis*, by R.W. Stallman: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. B1. 1971. 26 p.
- 3–B2. *Introduction to ground-water hydraulics, a programed text for self-instruction*, by G.D. Bennett: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. B2. 1976. 172 p.
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- 3–B4. *Regression modeling of ground-water flow*, by R.L. Cooley and R.L. Naff: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. B4. 1990. 232 p.

3–B4. *Supplement 1. Regression modeling of ground-water flow—Modifications to the computer code for nonlinear regression solution of steady-state ground-water flow problems*, by R.L. Cooley: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. B4. 1993. 8 p.

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3–B6. *The principle of superposition and its application in ground-water hydraulics*, by T.E. Reilly, O.L. Franke, and G.D. Bennett: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. B6. 1987. 28 p.

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3–B8. *System and boundary conceptualization in ground-water flow simulation*, by T.E. Reilly: USGS–TWRI book 3, chap. B8. 2001. 29 p.

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