

USGS OVERVIEW to CAHMDA/DAFOH

12 September 2014

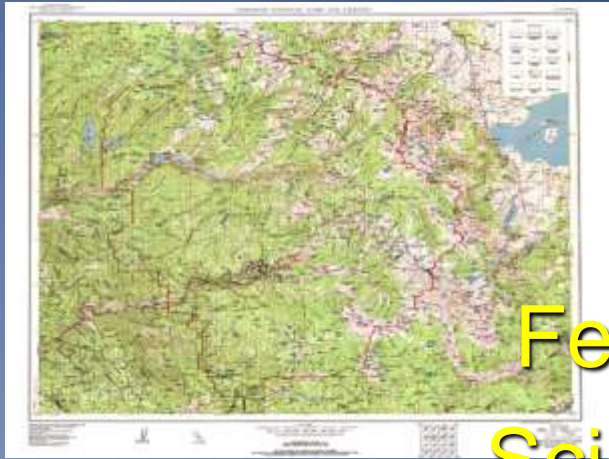
Bob Joseph
Director USGS Texas Water Science Center – Austin, TX



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



Who is the USGS?



Federal Agency
Scientific Mission
Non-Regulatory



Introduction to USGS

- Dept. of Interior
- Founded in 1879
- Six Science Themes
 - Ecosystems
 - Energy, Minerals and Environmental Health
 - Core Science Systems
 - Climate and Land-Use Change
 - Natural Hazards
 - Water Resources
- Federal Agency
- Scientific Mission
- Non-Regulatory

USGS Geographic Regions and Headquarters

- Alaska
- Northwest
- Pacific
- Midwest
- Southwest
- Northeast
- Southeast
- Anchorage
- Seattle
- Sacramento
- Ann Arbor
- Denver
- Reston
- Nurcross



USGS: Overview

- Has 9,000 employees located in offices in every state.
- Conducts interdisciplinary scientific monitoring, assessment, and research.
- Primary scientific disciplines are biology, geography, geology, and hydrology

WATER RESOURCES MISSION –

...to provide hydrologic information and understanding needed by others to achieve the best use and management of the Nation's water resources. **USGS accomplishes this mission in cooperation with State, local, and other Federal agencies.**

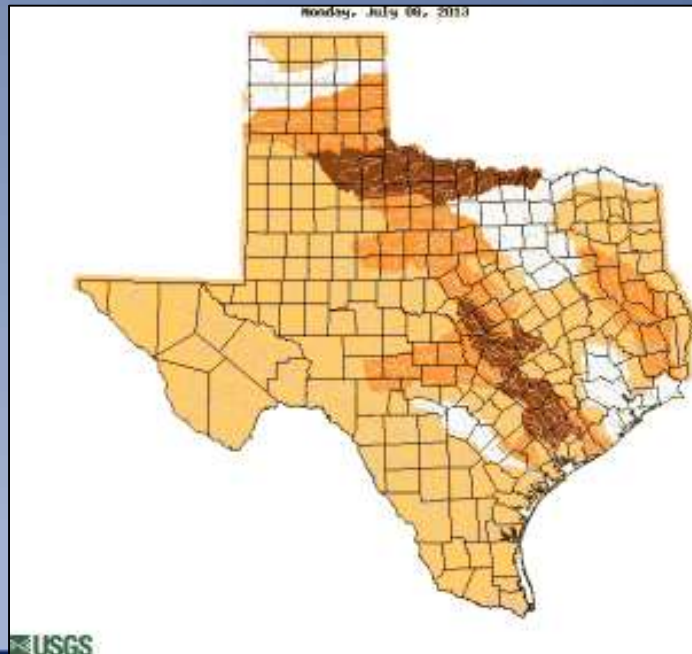
USGS Mission – Water Resources

USGS accomplishes this mission in cooperation with State, local, and other Federal agencies.



Water Science Information

- Informs water managers
- Informs civil engineers
- Monitor and model our environment
- Ensure compliance between water users



National Support

- National Laboratory
- Hydrologic Instrumentation Facility
- National Research Program
- Publishing Network
- Nationwide Database
- Discipline Office Reviews
 - Groundwater
 - Surface Water
 - Water Quality
 - Publication
 - Safety

In cooperation with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Detroit District

Quality-Assurance Plan for Discharge Measurements Using Acoustic Doppler Current Profilers



Scientific Investigations Report 2005-5183

NATIONAL WATER INFORMATION SYSTEM WEB (NWISWeb) Water Data For Your County

The central map shows the United States with county boundaries. Red lines connect the map to several data visualization elements:

- Top Left:** A line graph showing flow data over time. Below it is a photograph of a river with the caption "Frio River, Texas".
- Top Right:** A line graph showing flow data over time. Below it is a photograph of a person drinking water with the caption "Characterizing Water Quality".
- Bottom Left:** A line graph showing flow data over time. Below it is a photograph of a desert landscape with a well and a cactus, with the caption "A Ground-Water Well in Arizona".
- Bottom Center:** Two more line graphs showing flow data over time.
- Inset Maps:** Small maps of Alaska and Hawaii are shown below the main map.

<http://water.usgs.gov/nwis/>

USGS NWISWeb Database

Total monitoring sites	1.58 million
Real-time sites	13,384
Real-time GW sites	1,874
Daily values	354 million
Groundwater levels	8.94 million
Water-quality samples	5.24 million
Water-quality analyses	98 million
Peak discharges (floods)	736.692

April 22, 2013

USGS NWISWeb Daily Values

Discharge	216.6 million
Stage	34.9 million
Water Levels in Wells	22.4 million
pH	3.3 million
Temperatures	20.2 million
Specific Conductance	9.3 million
Other	40.8 million

April 22, 2013

USGS Real-time Water Monitoring

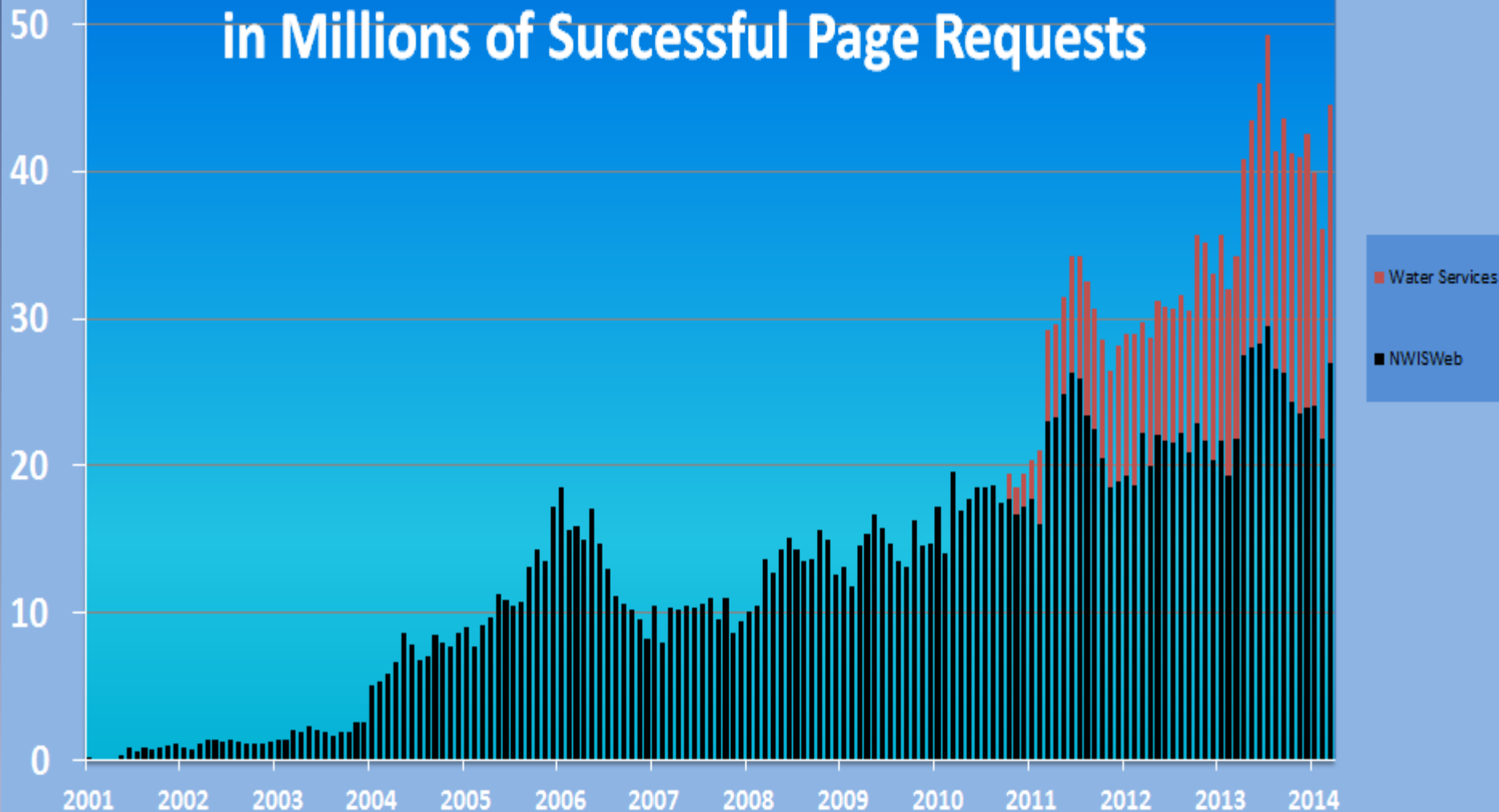
Sites Name

Sites Name

9737 Gage height	102 Relative humidity
8125 Discharge	99 Barometric pressure
2787 Precipitation	50 Solar radiation
2118 Water temperature	42 Soil moisture
1801 Groundwater levels	33 Nitrate/nitrogen
1100 Stream/lake/res elevation	28 Dissolved gases
957 Specific conductance	27 Chlorophyll
518 Dissolved oxygen	23 Sediment
444 pH	21 Tide Stage
382 Turbidity	17 Soil temperature
349 Stream velocity	12 Water depth
327 Air temperature	10 Sodium adsorption ratio
169 Wind speed/direction	9 Blue green algae
149 Salinity	4 Surface area
130 Reservoir storage	3 Atmospheric vapor

Chart Area

NWISWeb and NWIS Water Services in Millions of Successful Page Requests

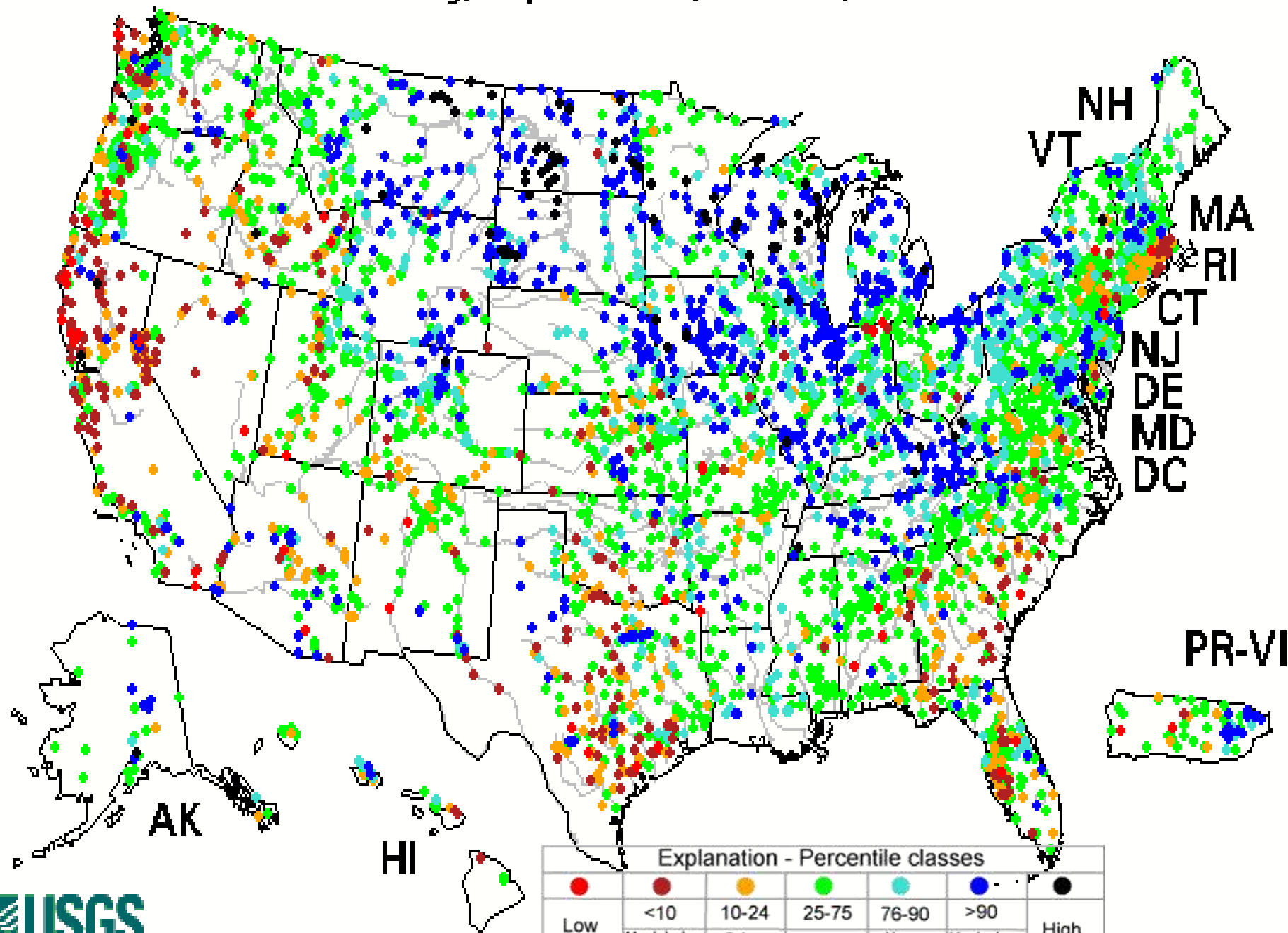


Through March 2014

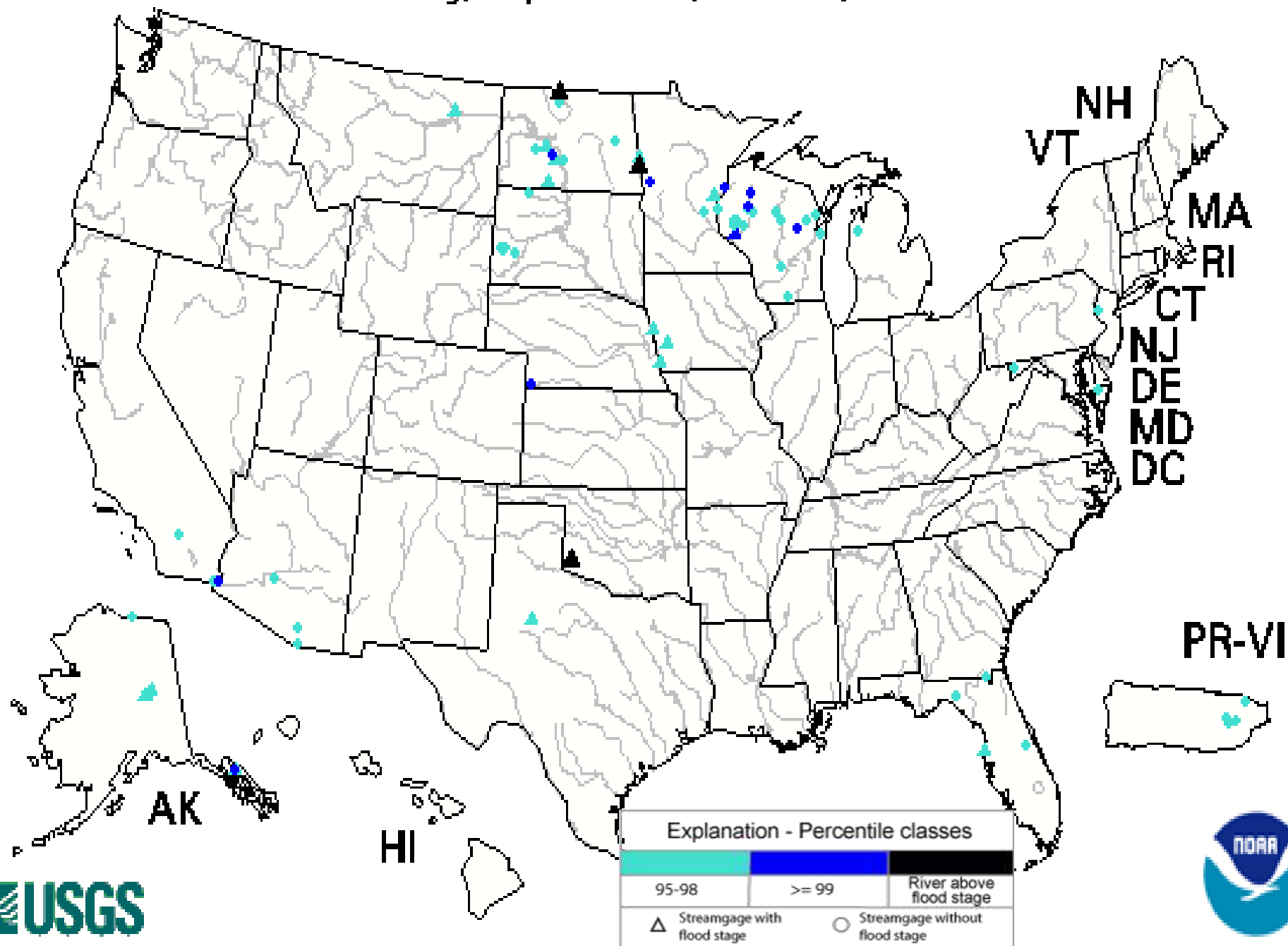
WaterWatch

- <http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/>
- Current Streamflow
- Flood
- Drought
- Past Flow/Runoff

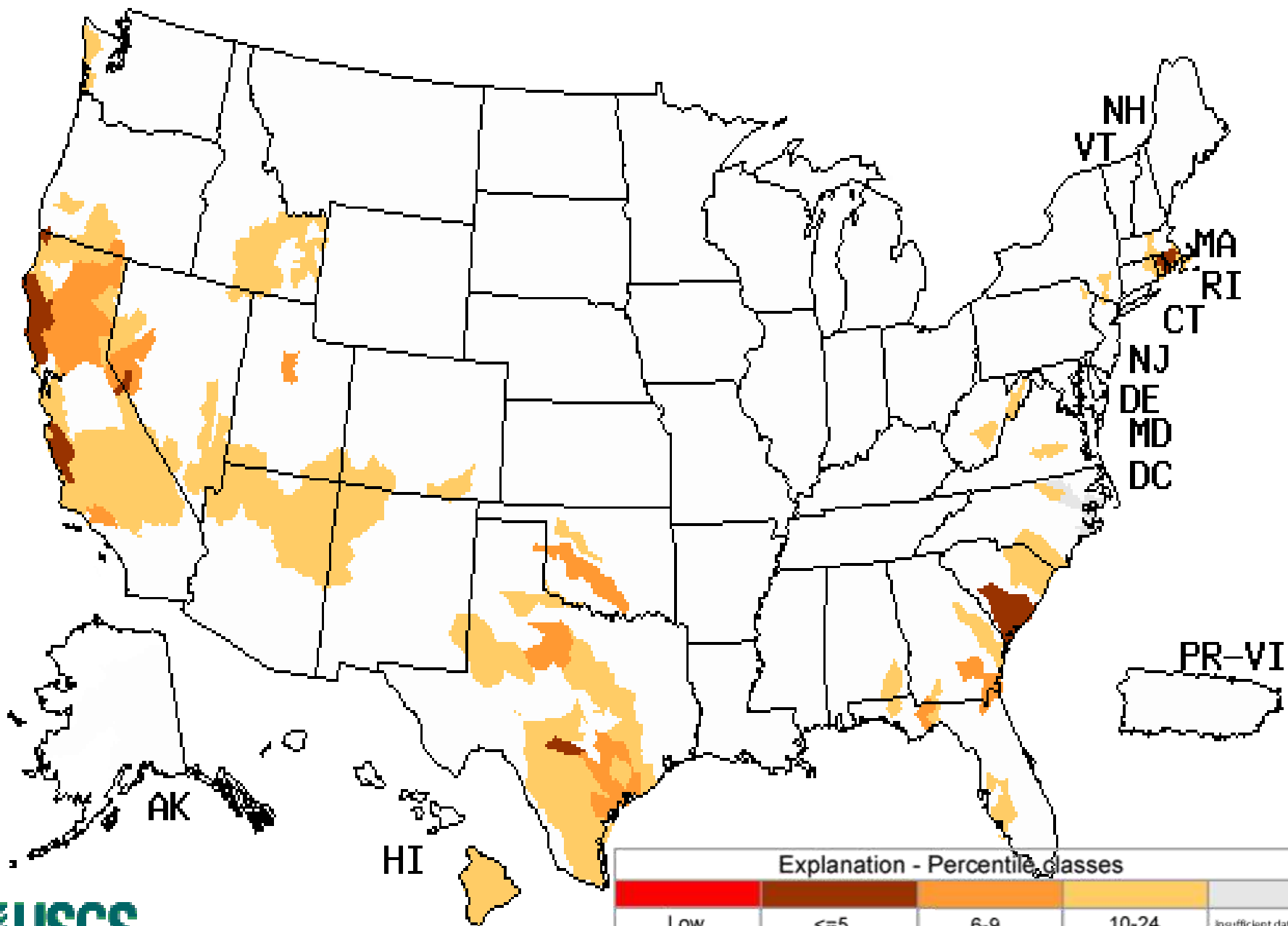
Sunday, September 07, 2014 14:30ET



Sunday, September 07, 2014 14:33ET



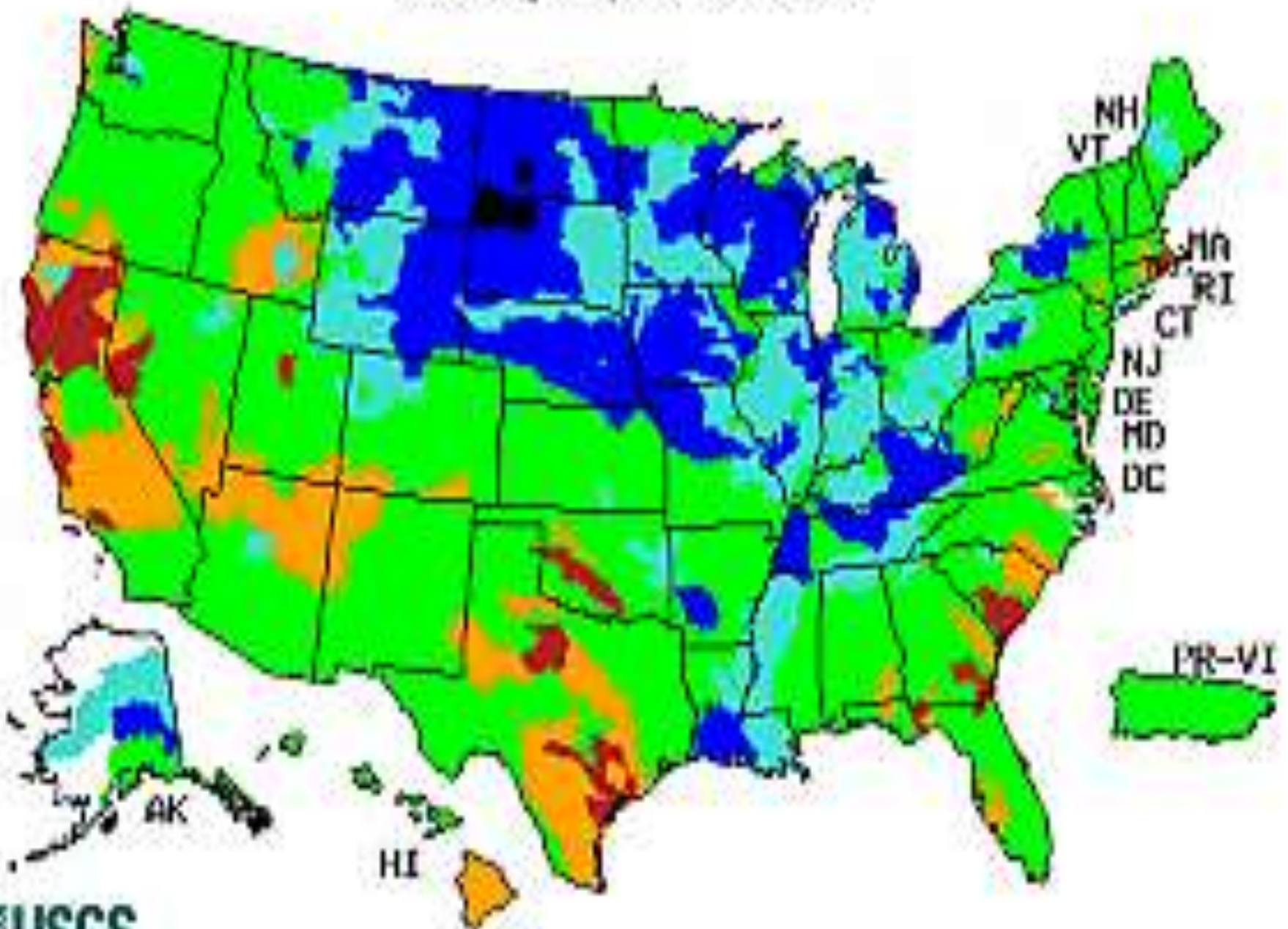
Saturday, September 06, 2014



Explanation - Percentile classes				
Low	<=5	6-9	10-24	Insufficient data for a hydrologic region
Extreme hydrologic drought	Severe hydrologic drought	Moderate hydrologic drought	Below normal	

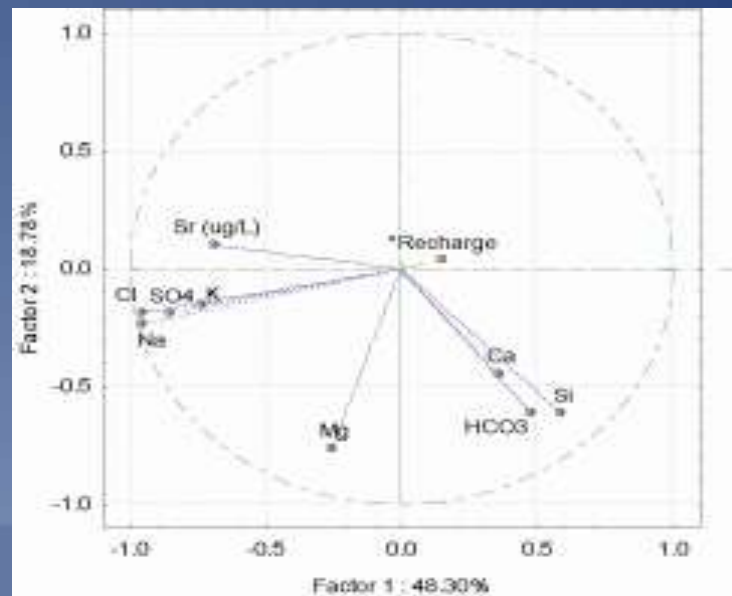


Saturday, September 06, 2014



Water Science Center Staff Expertise

- Civil Engineers
- Surveyors
- Certified Flood Plain Managers
- Hydrologists
- Geologists
- Geographers
- Hydrologic Technicians
- Biologists
- Hydraulic Engineers
- Chemical Engineers
- Chemist



Water Science Center Staff Expertise

- Geomorphologists
- Hydrogeologists
- Computer Programmers
- Mathematicians
- Statisticians
- Civil Engineers
- Computer Scientists
- Web designers
- Geophysicists

Hydrologic Activities

- Water Availability – GW Modeling
- Salt Water Intrusion
- Aquifer Storage and Recovery
- Flood Frequency Analyses
- Land Use Effects – Watershed Modeling
- Contaminant Distribution and Transport
- Eutrophication – Lakes and Estuaries
- Drinking Water Quality



Surface-Water Activities

- Real-time flood Inundation
- Levee Analysis
- Dam Analysis
- Streamgaging
- Flood Warning
- Watershed Modeling
- H&H Modeling
- Time and Travel Investigations
- Gain/Loss Investigations
- Flood Frequency Analysis
- Historical Database/Archival



Water-Quality Activities

- Stream and Reservoir Data Collection
- Real-Time Water-Quality Monitoring
- Chemical/Microbial Source Tracking
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Development
- Biological Indicator Analysis
- Sediment Coring/Age Dating
- Trend Analysis
- Historical Database/Archival



USGS Texas Activities

- Invasive Species Monitoring
- Ground Water Assessments (Quantity & Quality)
- Surface Water Modeling
- Evapotranspiration Monitoring (Water Budget)
- Drinking Water Supply Monitoring (Decision Support)
- Biological Habitat Monitoring and Mapping
- Web Application Development

Zebra Mussel Monitoring

- Invasive Species
- Impacts on systems for water managers
- Spreading across US and now in Texas
- Local concern about transfer from Red River Basin to Trinity River Basin



Pecos Water Availability Assessment

- **Edwards-Trinity is the principal aquifer and a vital groundwater source**
- **Resource managers are concerned with future groundwater availability and the potential effects of withdrawal increases and/or redistribution**
- **Scale of the existing regional Groundwater Availability Model (GAM) is too coarse to adequately simulate the Edwards-Trinity aquifer in the study area**

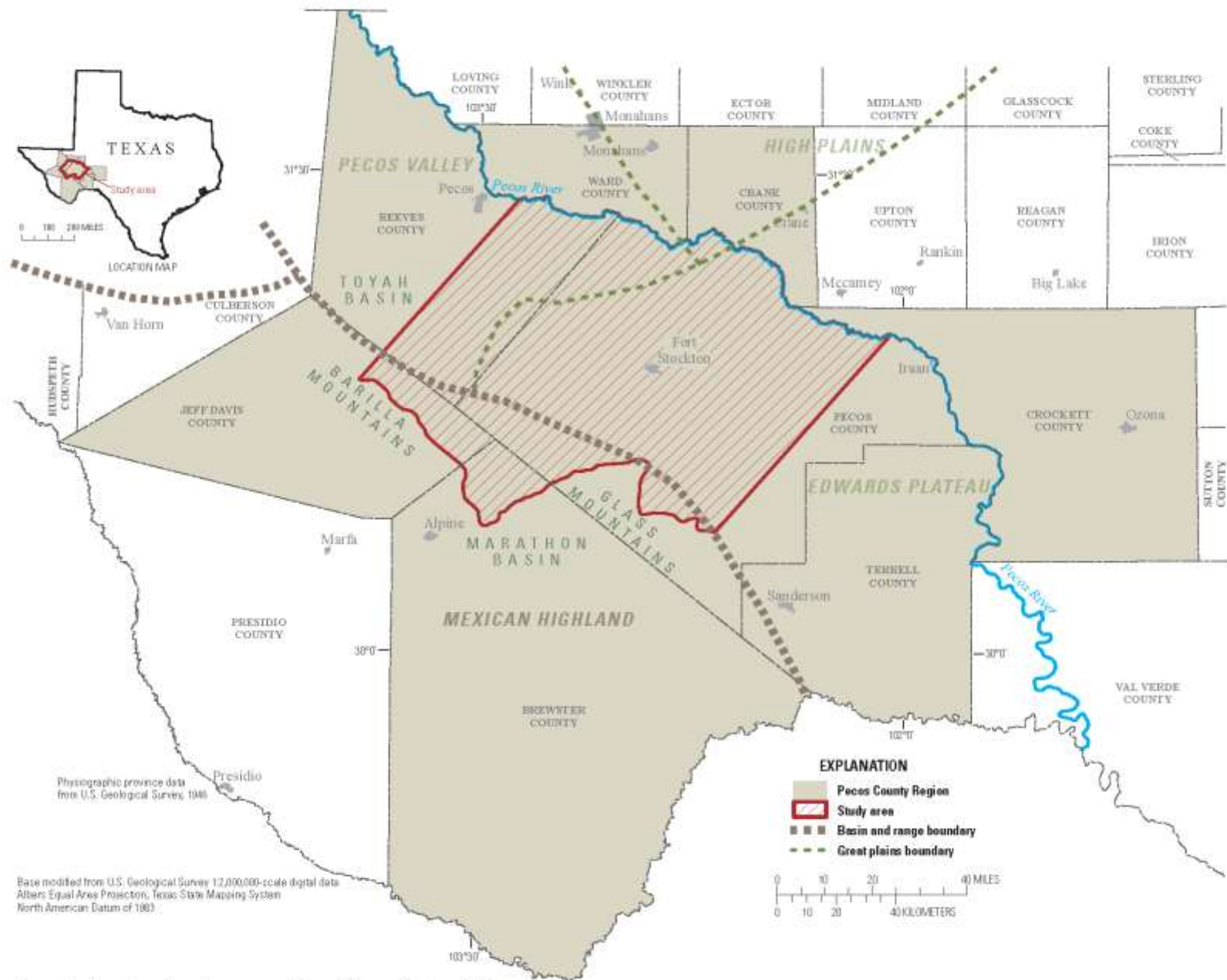


Figure 1. Location of study area and Pecos County Region, 2011.

Pecos Project Overview

- Evaluate the potential effects of changes in groundwater withdrawals and/or distribution
- Three phase study:
 - Phase 1: Groundwater, water-quality, geophysical, and geologic data collection, compilation, and management
 - Phase 2: Develop a conceptual model of the hydrogeologic framework, geochemistry, and groundwater-flow system
 - Phase 3: Develop geochemical and groundwater-flow models to simulate future conditions

Lake Alan Henry SWAT Model

- Run-of-river reservoir on the Double Mountain Fork Brazos River in Garza County, Texas
- 63.9 percent full or 14.70 feet below conservation pool as of 03/10/2014
- After calibration, effects of brush management will be simulated to evaluate water yields to Lake Alan Henry



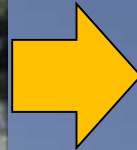
Honey Creek Paired Watershed Brush Management Study



Honey Creek Hydrology

- Evaluated differences in hydrology between watersheds
 - Statistical difference in evapotranspiration between pre- and post-treatment periods
 - Conclusion published in USGS SIR 2011-5226
- Prescribed burn occurred in the treatment watershed
 - Approximately 8 years after initial brush management

Before

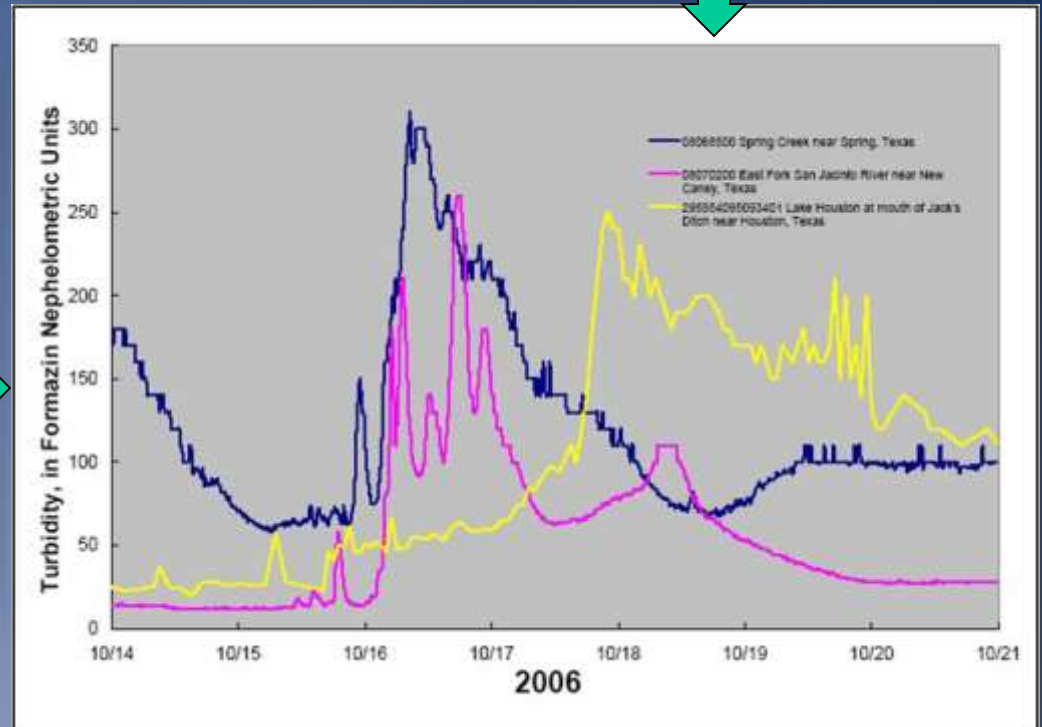
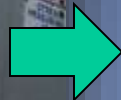


After

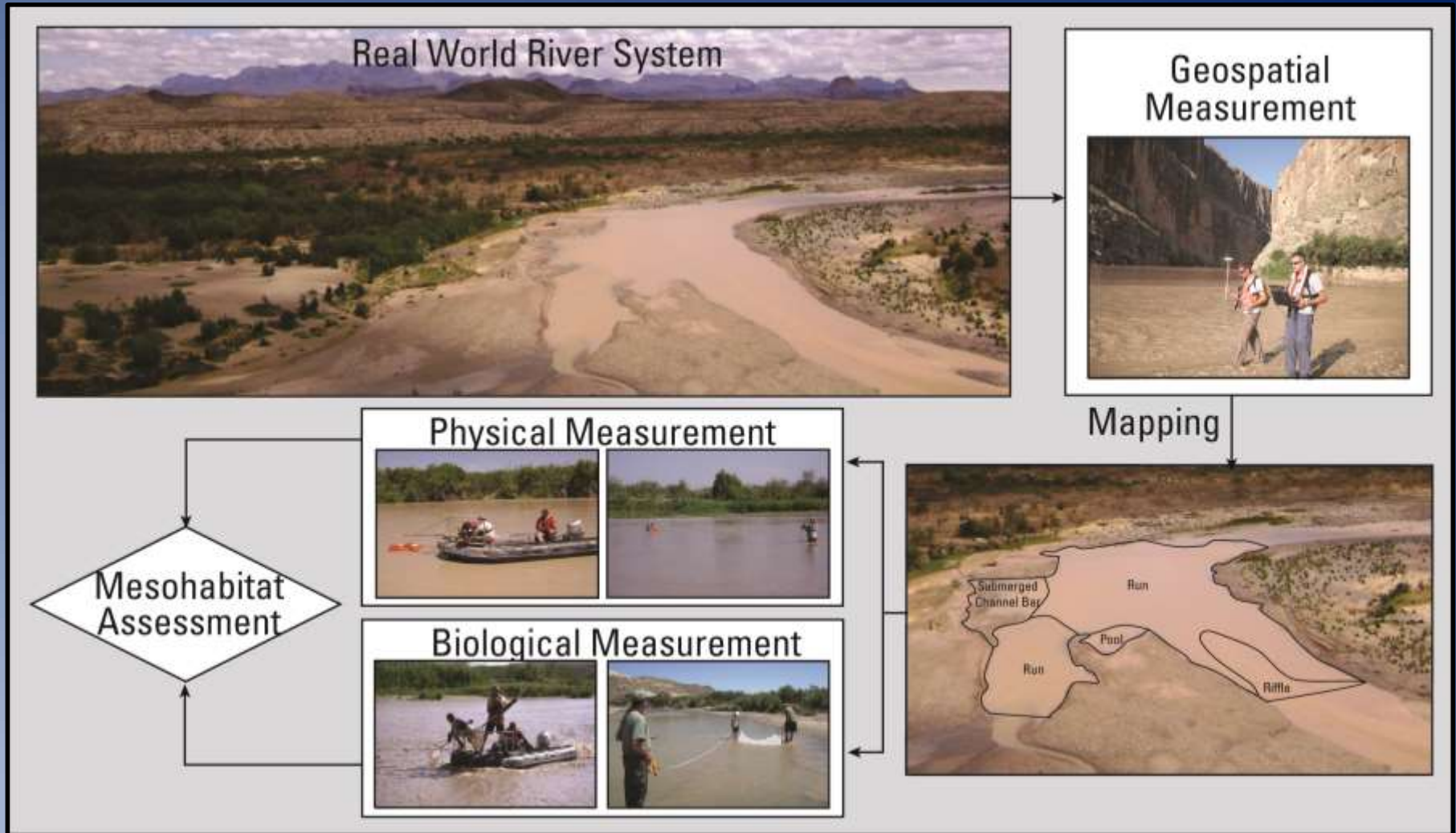


Lake Houston Study

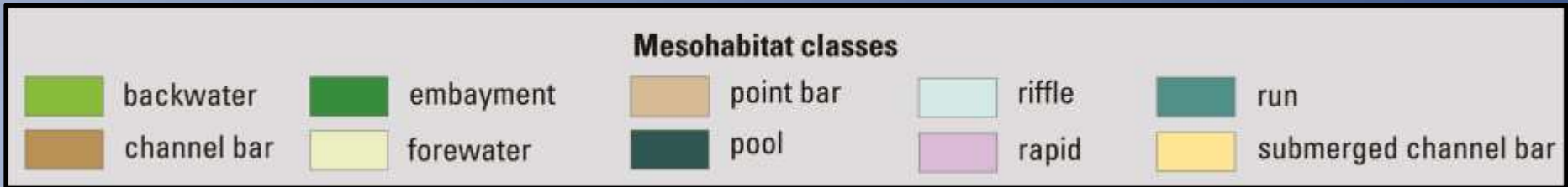
A synergistic approach to gain a better understanding of the watershed as well as provide continuous data to aid in drinking water treatment operations and long term resource planning



Mesohabitat Assessment for the Silvery Minnow in the Rio Grande



Terlingua Creek Site Over a Range of Flows



Mobile Application Development

Scope:

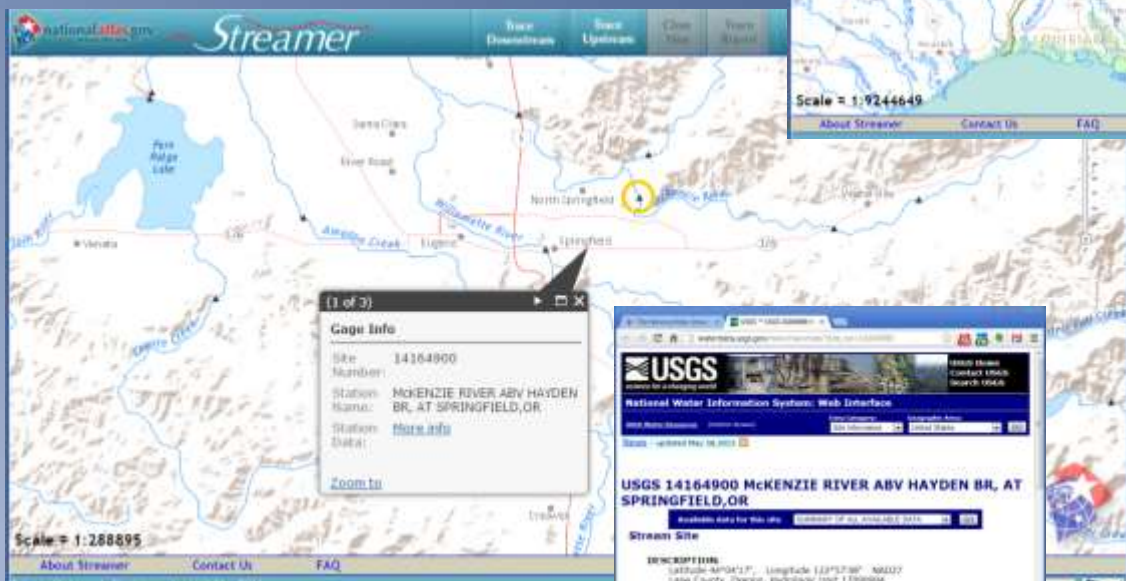
- Build mobile application to collect location and attributes of fish passage barriers throughout Texas

Technology:

- Google Android App and HTML5 solution along with online mapping system
- SQL database to capture data and provide web services to online solution



Streamer



Walker Basin Hydro Mapper

Scope:

- Working with the Nevada Water Science Center in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
- Interactive map and web site as common operating picture for stakeholders in and affected by the Walker Basin Restoration Program
- Visual and quantitative summary of daily streamflow conditions and waterbody storage in the Walker River Basin in Nevada and California

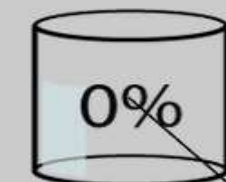


Walker Basin Hydro Mapper



Walker Basin Hydro Mapper

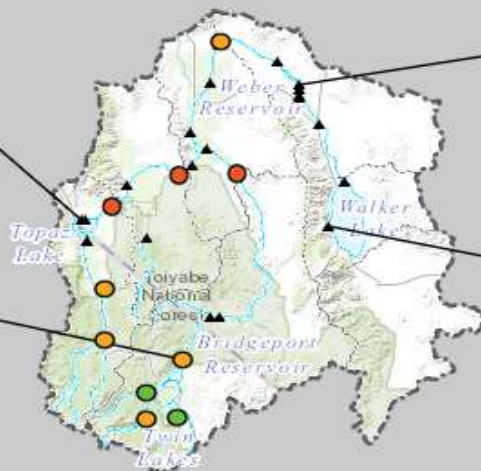
Home Full-Size Map



Topaz Lake



Bridgeport Reservoir



Weber Reservoir

66%



Walker Lake

0 15 30mi

10301700 Weber Res Nr Schurz, NV

Stage: 4,204.31 ft
Current volume: 7,788 acre-ft
Maximum volume: 11,876 acre-ft
Percentage full: 65.57%
Measurement date-time: 2014-03-27 10:00 PDT

Site elevation: 4,218 ft
Site drainage area: 2,770 sq.mi

Click cylinder to view NWISWeb realtime page



Hydro Mapper. This mapping application provides a basin-wide perspective of real-time streamflow and lake and reservoir storage capacity and stage for the Walker River Basin in Nevada and California. It also provides access to historic streamflow, lake, and reservoir data. This tool was developed to create a common operating picture for the stakeholders involved in and affected by the Walker Basin Restoration Program.



BACKGROUND

The Walker Basin Restoration Program was enacted by Congress in 2009 through Public Law 111-85 and is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) through the Bureau of Reclamation's (BOR) Desert Terminal Lakes Program. The program's core purpose is to restore and maintain Walker Lake, a natural, terminal lake in west-central Nevada at the endpoint of the Walker River system of Nevada and California. Walker Lake is an internationally protected stopover point for migratory birds on the Pacific Flyway and an important fishery for threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. Depleted freshwater inflows and changes to the hydrologic cycle have resulted in declines in lake levels and increases in salinity which threaten the ecological health of the lake.

REAL-TIME DATA



125 years of science for America



1879-2004

USGS Activities in Texas

[Texas Home](#)

[Real-time Water Data](#)

[Historical Data](#)

[District Info](#)

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Water Resources

NEW [NRC Review of USGS Streamflow Program](#)

Real Time Water Data

[TX Stations Currently Above Flood](#)

[Stage](#) | [Map of TX Sites / Basins](#) | [Stream Lake / Reservoir](#) | [Ground Water](#) | [Water Quality](#) | [Coast Storm Surge and Salt Water Intrusion](#)

Recent Daily Water Data

Daily Data for Texas: [Stage and Streamflow](#)

Historical / Summaries

[Retrieve NWIS Historical Water Data](#)
[Daily Streamflow Data for TX or US](#)
[Water Data Reports: 2003 - 1998](#)
[Lake Conservation Pools / Elevations](#)
[Barton Springs](#) | [Non-USGS Data](#)

National Water Quality Assessment - NAWQA

Texas NAWQA Projects: [Reconstructed Trends](#)
[High Plains Ground Water](#) | [South Central Texas](#)
[Trinity River Basin](#)

Flood and Drought

[NWS Flood Guidance](#) | [NWS Recent Precip](#)
[Current Flood Warnings NWS/NOAA](#) | [TWDB Drought](#)
[Conditions Summary](#) | [Texas Weather Information](#)
[County Hurricane/Hazard Risk Maps](#)

Recent USGS Flood Reports

[Preliminary July 2002 Flood Report](#) | [Preliminary Ground-Water Levels during July 2002 Flood](#)

USGS Study in Austin Determines PAH Concentration in Parking Lot Runoff



Edwards Aquifer & Barton Springs



Current data, studies, and publications including water, biology, & geological maps.
[Barton Springs Groundwater Characterization Project](#)

Biology & Environment



[CERC Biological Research Projects in Texas](#)
[TX Gulf Coast](#) | [Big Bend](#) | [Big Thicket Prsv](#)
[Houston](#) | [US/Mexico Border](#)

Galveston Bay Wetland Inventory



General Info

- [Frequently Asked Questions in Texas](#)
- [Data Request Form](#)
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Education

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- [The Water Cycle](#)
- [Earth Science Week](#)
- [Water Science](#)
- [La Ciencia del Agua](#)

Thank You

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