



National Streamflow Information Program

For more information, visit the NSIP home page: <http://water.usgs.gov/nsip/>

MISSION

Provide streamflow information and interpretation needed for local, state, regional, and national use.

GOALS

- Develop and operate a stable, Federally-funded baseline streamgaging network to meet national needs*
- Improve streamflow data delivery timeliness, reliability, and convenience
- Complete regional assessments of streamflow information
- Improve understanding of flood and drought
- Invest in research and development of technology and techniques

USES OF STREAMFLOW INFORMATION

- Water-resource appraisal and allocation
- Water-supply plans
- Interstate agreements
- Operations
 - Reservoirs
 - Power production
 - Navigation
- Streamflow effects from changes in
 - Land use
 - Water use
 - Climate
- Flood planning and forecasting
- Streamflow forecasting
- Water-quality evaluations
- Stream habitat assessments
 - Flow requirements
- Recreation safety and enjoyment
- Design bridges, culverts, and dams

*National needs for streamflow information

- Forecast floods and water supplies
- Supply data for legal compacts and decrees and for major river crossings at State and international borders
- Support USGS water-quality monitoring networks
- Account for river flow from the Nation's major basins
- Evaluate streamflow characteristics of natural basins to determine effects of land and water use and climate change

HOW ARE STREAMFLOW DATA COLLECTED?

Continuous Stage Measurements

Discharge Measurements

Rating Curve

USGS National Data Base

Real-time data: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/rt/>
 Historical data: <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/sw/>