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Groundwater in the West (Summer Conference,  
June 16-18)

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### SLIDES: Ground-Water Resources in the Western United States: Status and Trends

Alan Burns

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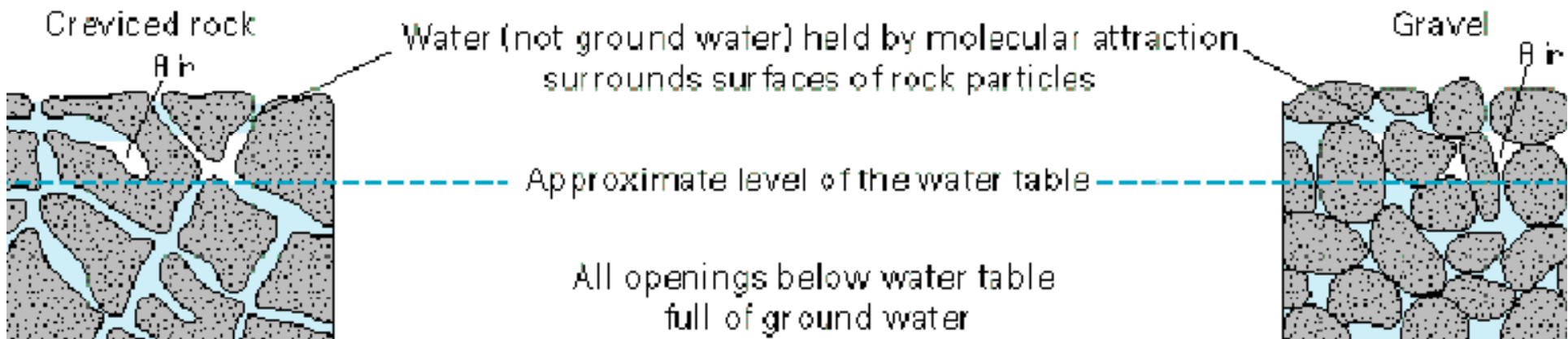
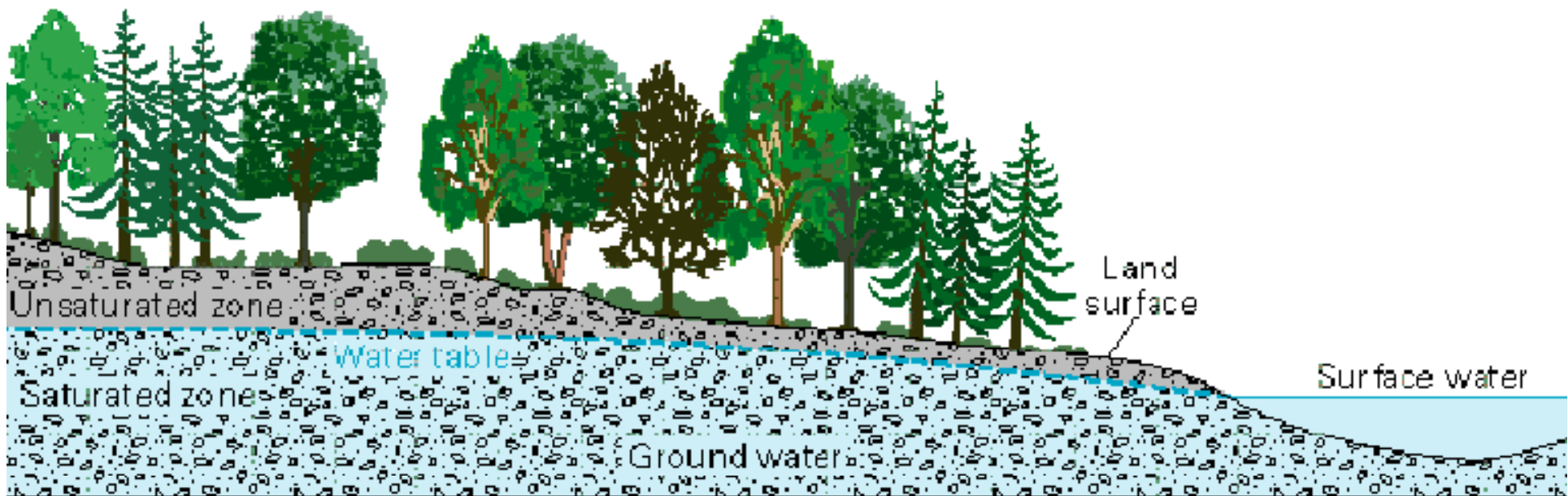
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Alan Burns, *Ground-Water Resources in the Western United States: Status and Trends*, in *GROUNDWATER IN THE WEST* (Natural Res. Law Ctr., Univ. of Colo. Sch. of Law, 2004).

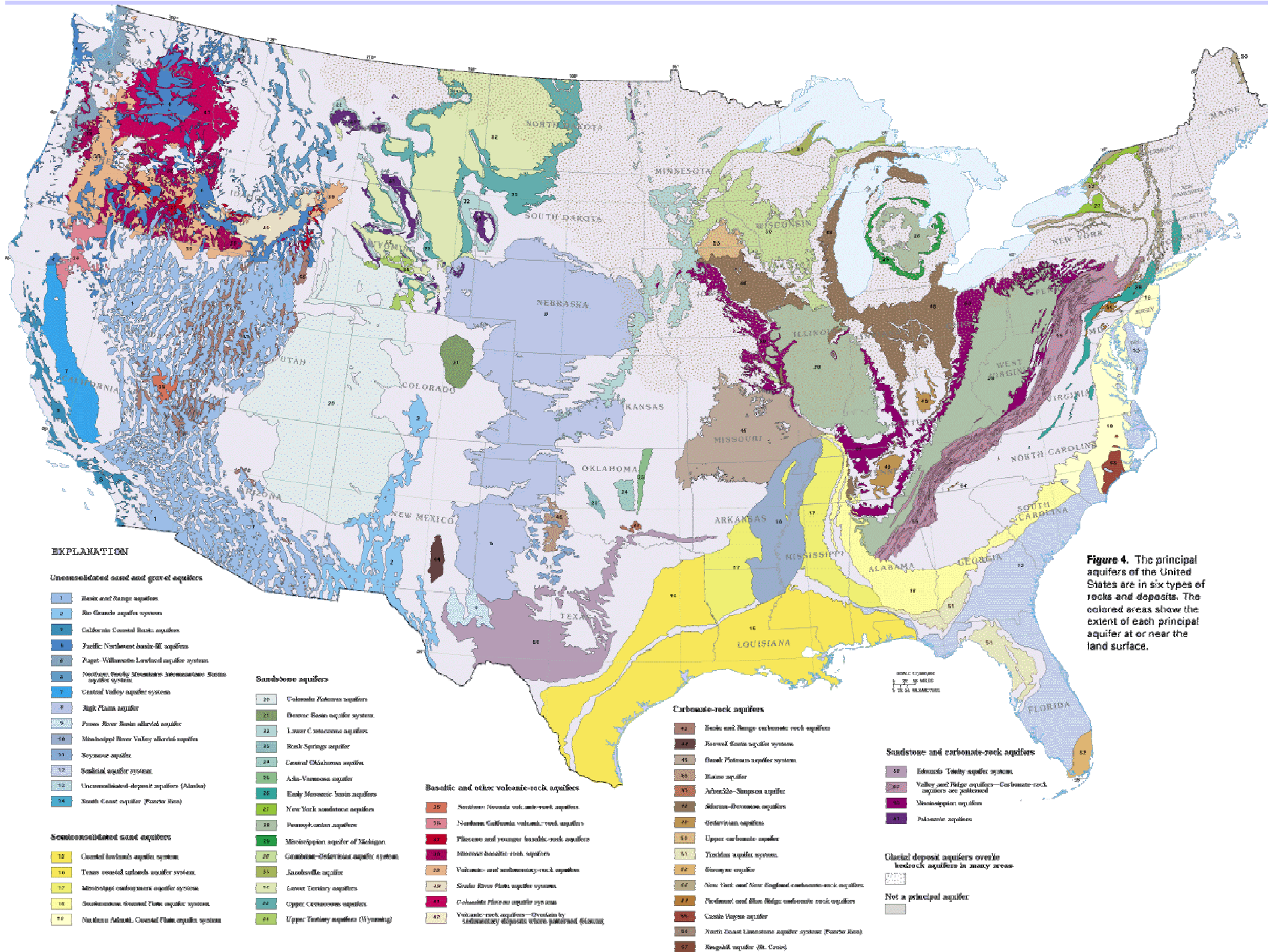
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# Ground-Water Resources in the western United States

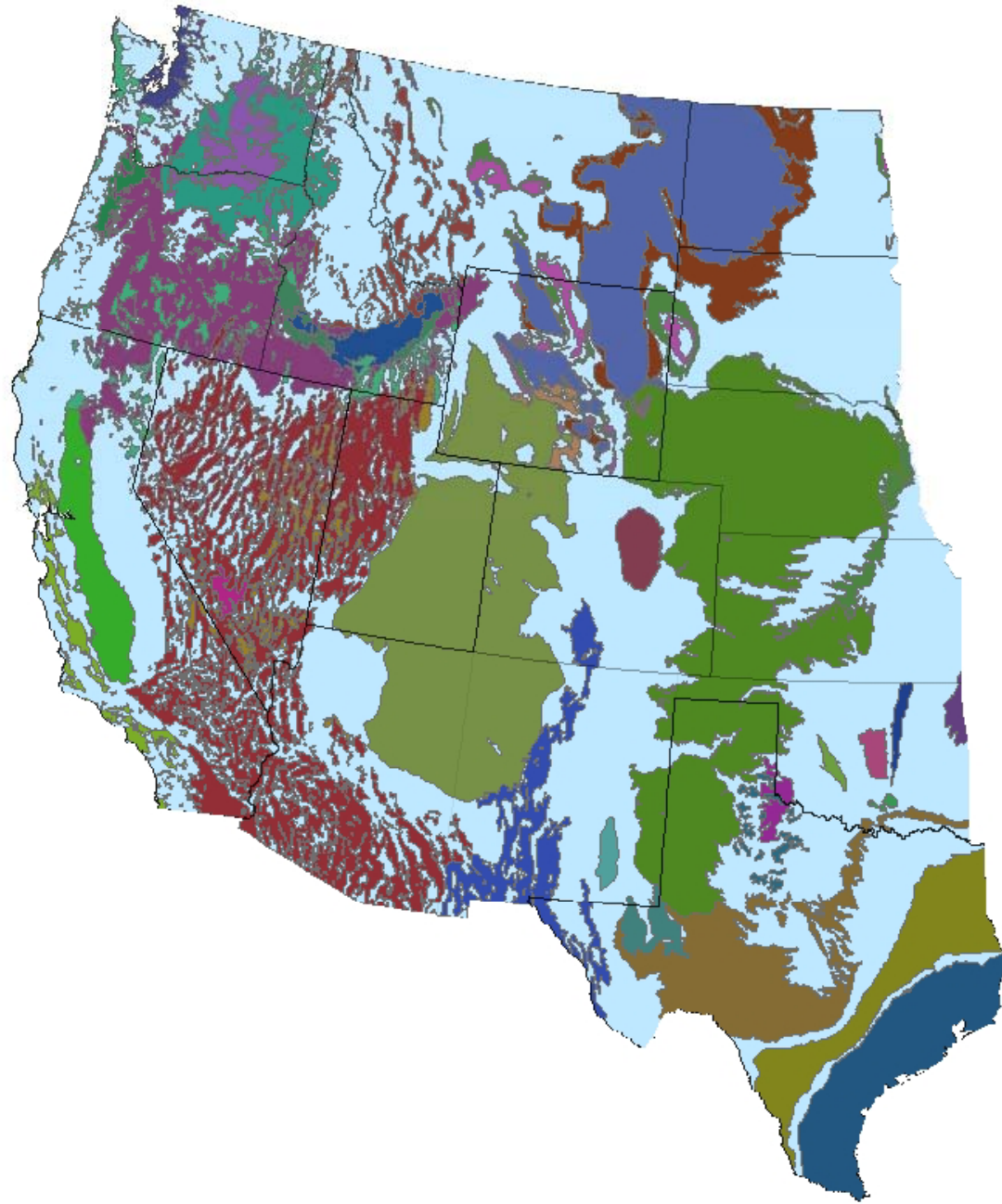
## Status and trends





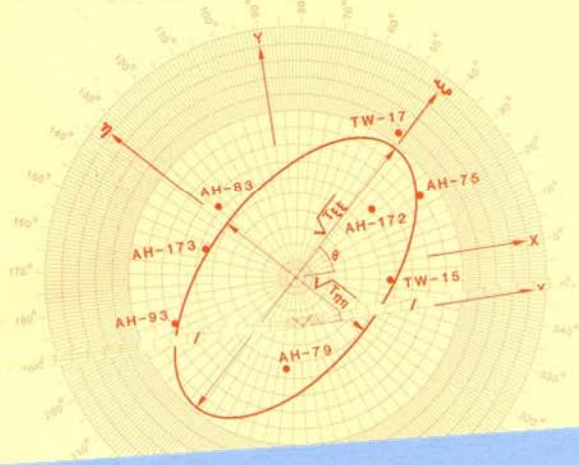


**Figure 4.** The principal aquifers of the United States are in six types of rocks and deposits. The colored areas show the extent of each principal aquifer at or near the land surface.





**METHODS AND COMPUTER PROGRAM DOCUMENTATION FOR DETERMINING ANISOTROPIC TRANSMISSIVITY TENSOR COMPONENTS OF TWO-DIMENSIONAL GROUND-WATER FLOW**



**DERIVATION OF EQUATIONS DESCRIBING SOLUTE TRANSPORT IN GROUND WATER**

$$+ \frac{c}{V_0} \sum_{j=1}^n \frac{dm_j}{dt} + W \rho^*$$

$$q_y = \frac{-k_{ij}}{\mu} \left( \frac{\partial P}{\partial x_j} + \rho g \frac{\partial z^*}{\partial x_j} \right)$$

$$\frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left( T_{ij} \frac{\partial h}{\partial x_j} \right) = S \frac{\partial h}{\partial t} + W$$

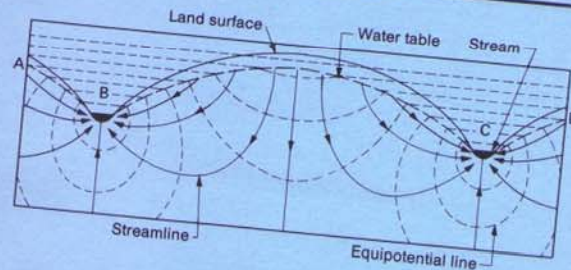
$$\frac{\partial C}{\partial t} = \frac{\partial}{\partial x_j} \left( D_{ij} \frac{\partial C}{\partial x_j} \right) - \partial \left( C v_j \right) + C w$$

**THE PRINCIPLE OF SUPERPOSITION AND ITS APPLICATION IN GROUND-WATER HYDRAULICS**

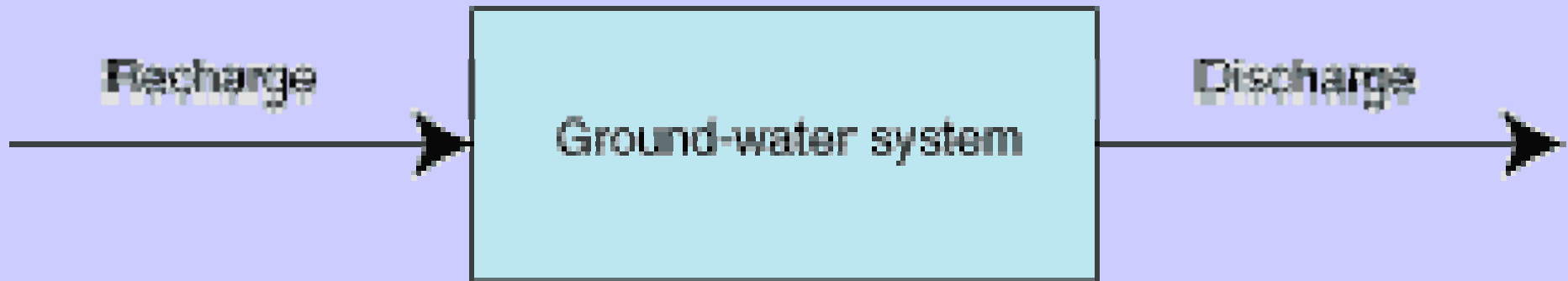


Waves in phase ( $z = x + y$ )

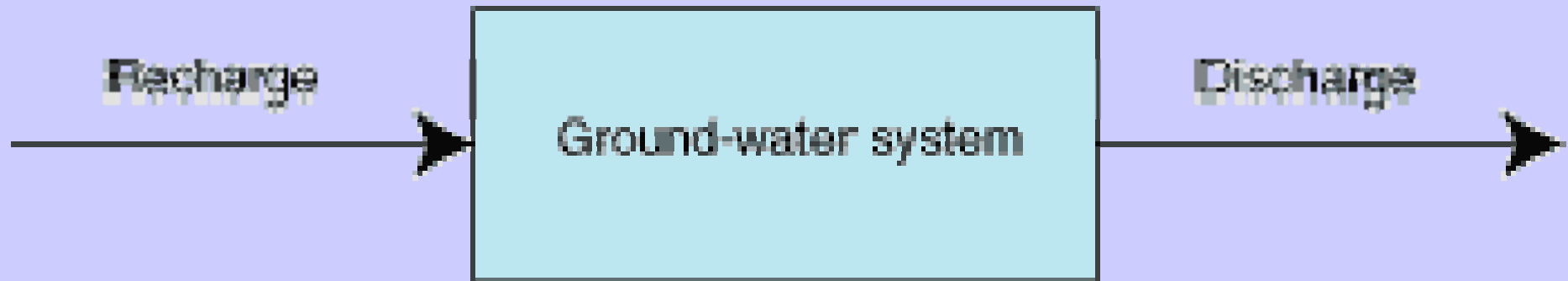
**DEFINITION OF BOUNDARY AND INITIAL CONDITIONS IN THE ANALYSIS OF SATURATED GROUND-WATER FLOW SYSTEMS — AN INTRODUCTION**



$$I - O = \Delta S$$



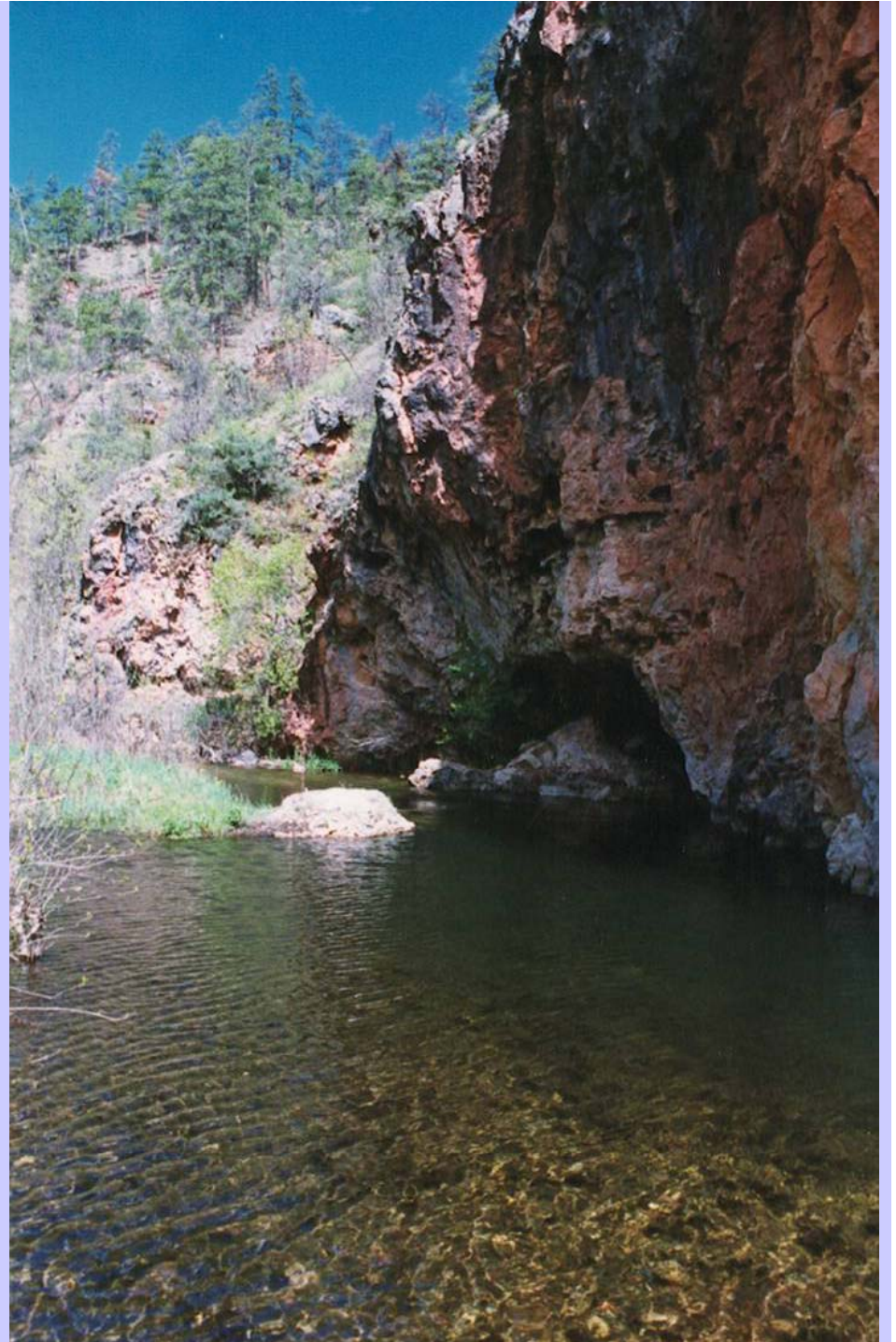
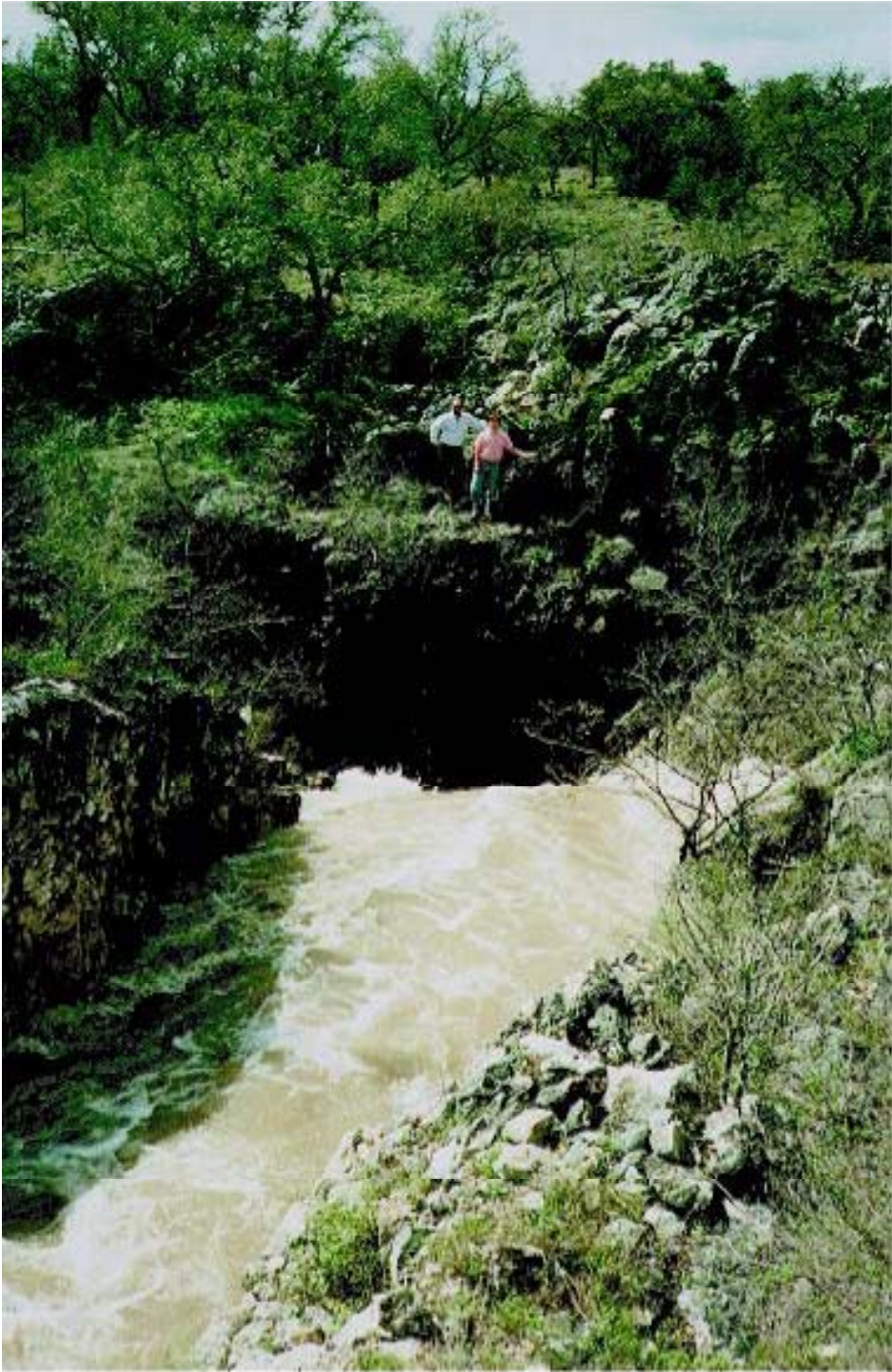
$$I - O = \Delta S$$



$$I = O$$











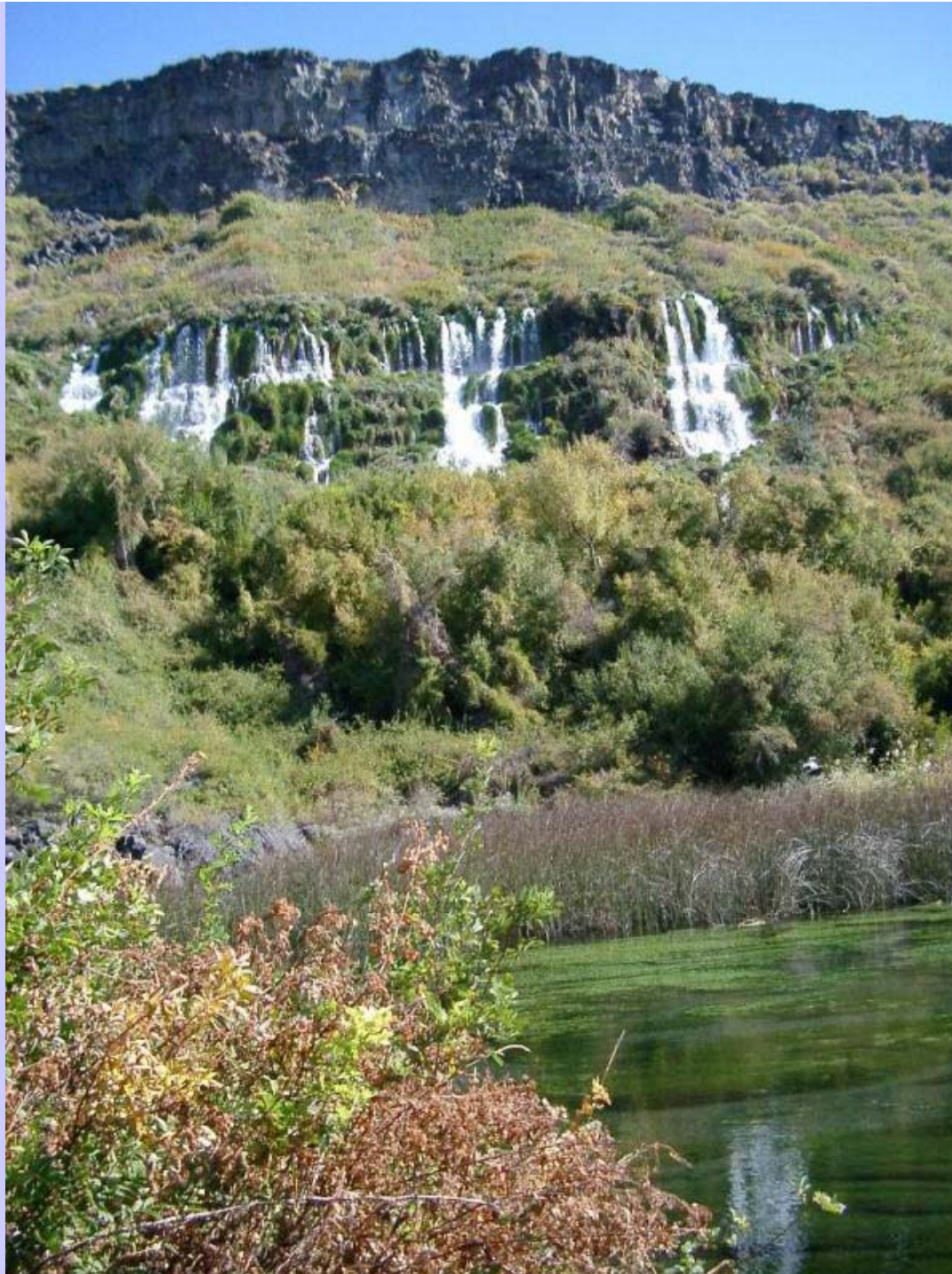






Photograph (C) 1995 by Gregg A. Eckhardt







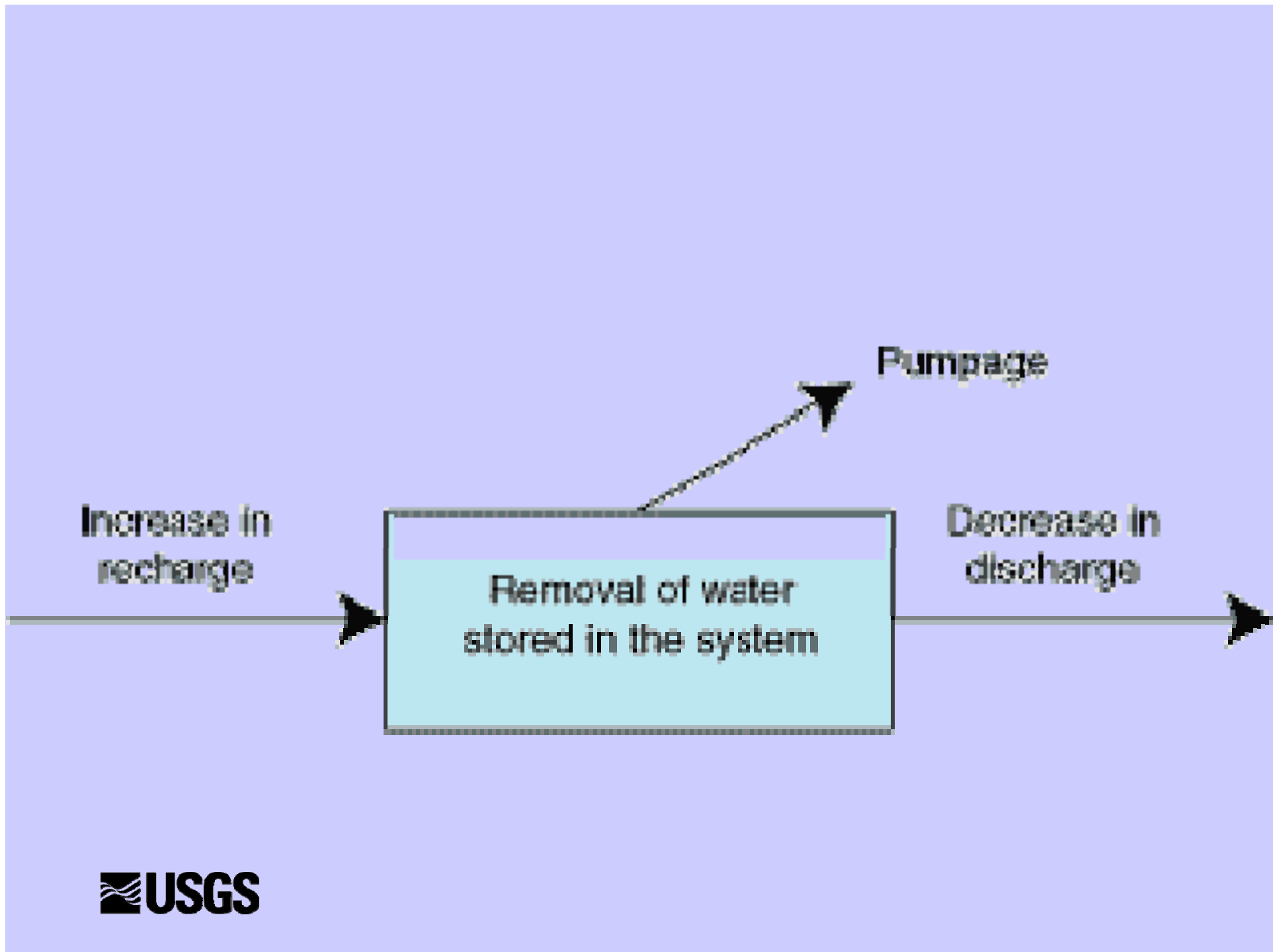










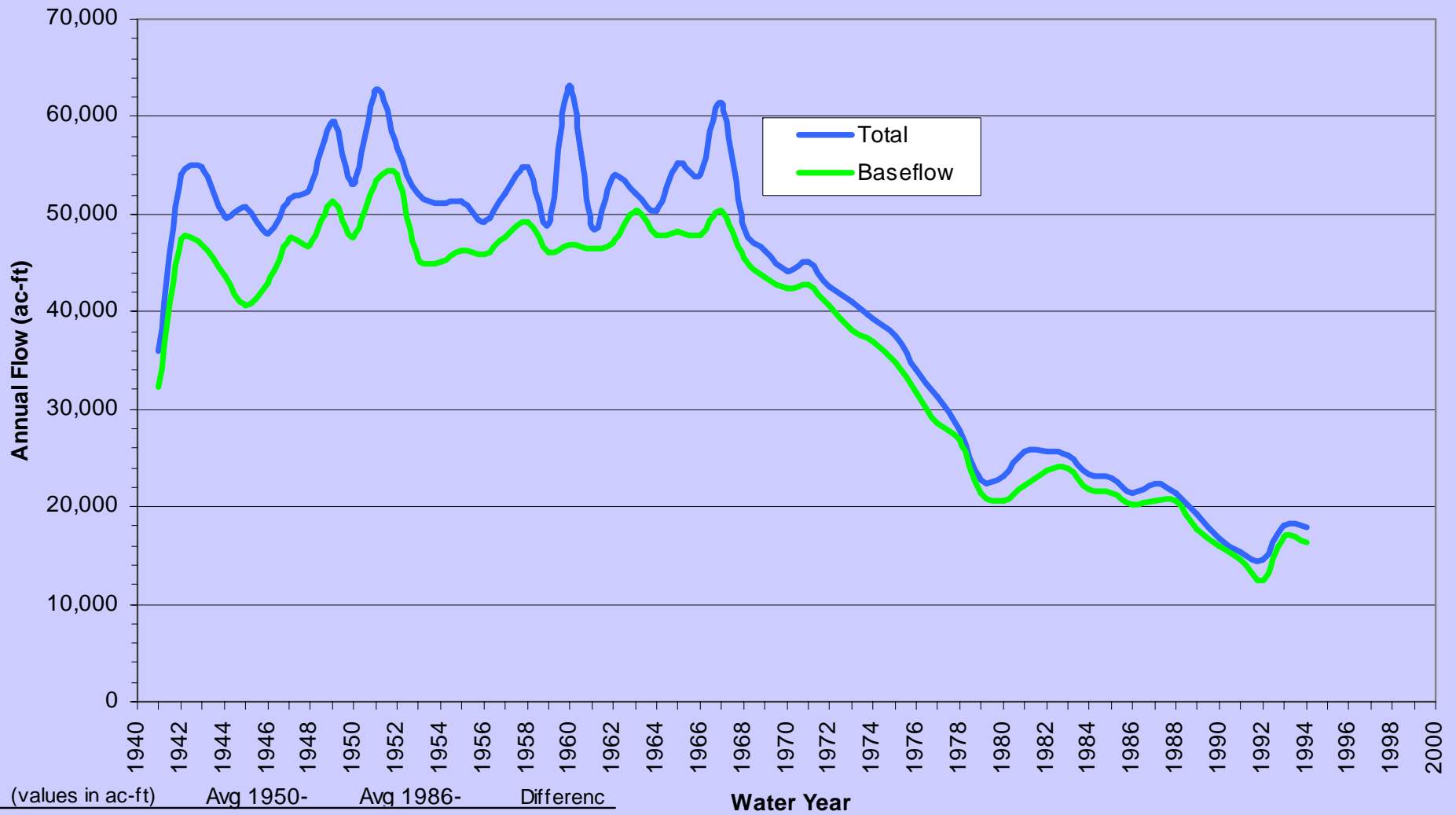




# Schematic of the artificial recharge process



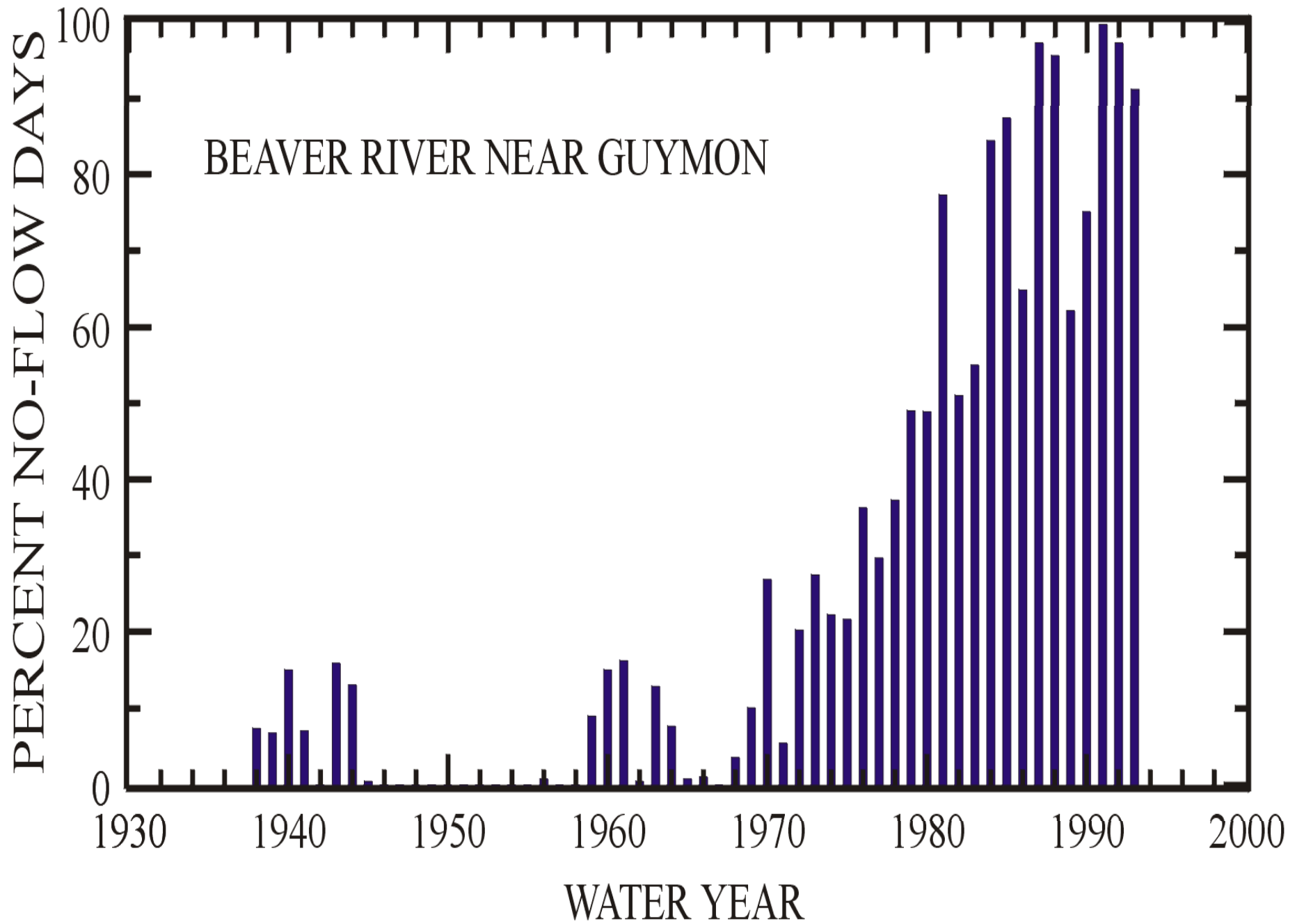
## Estimated Baseflow - Frenchman Creek near Imperial, Ne (6831500)

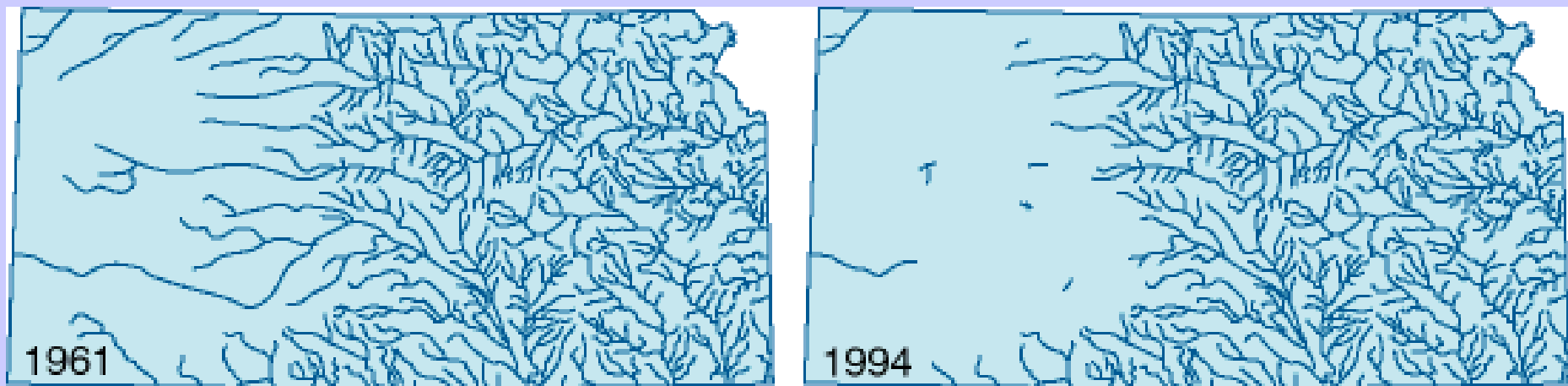


(values in ac-ft)

	Avg 1950-	Avg 1986-	Differenc
	53,390	18,552	-34,838
	47,952	17,278	-30,674



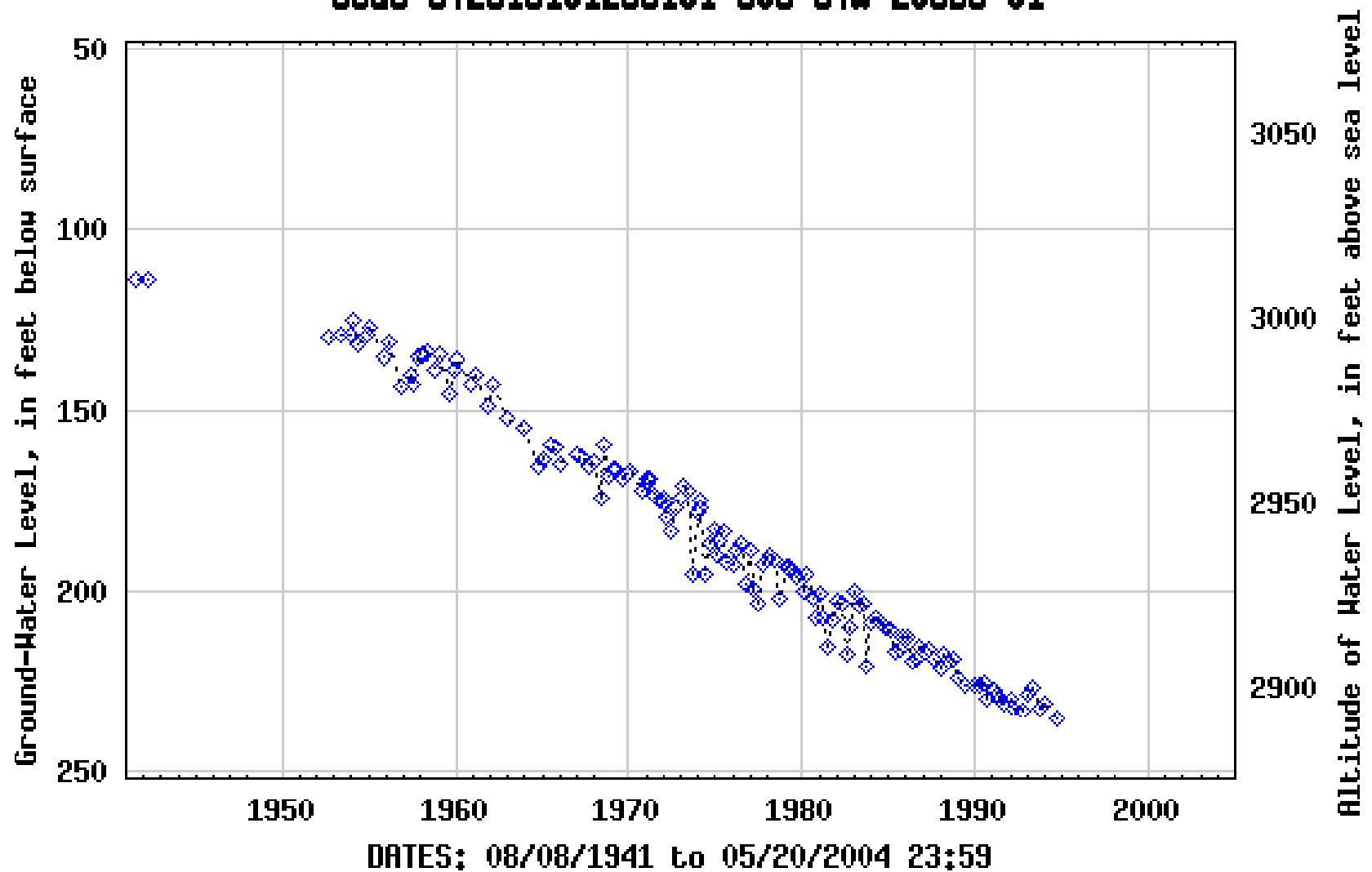




Map of perennial stream reaches in Kansas

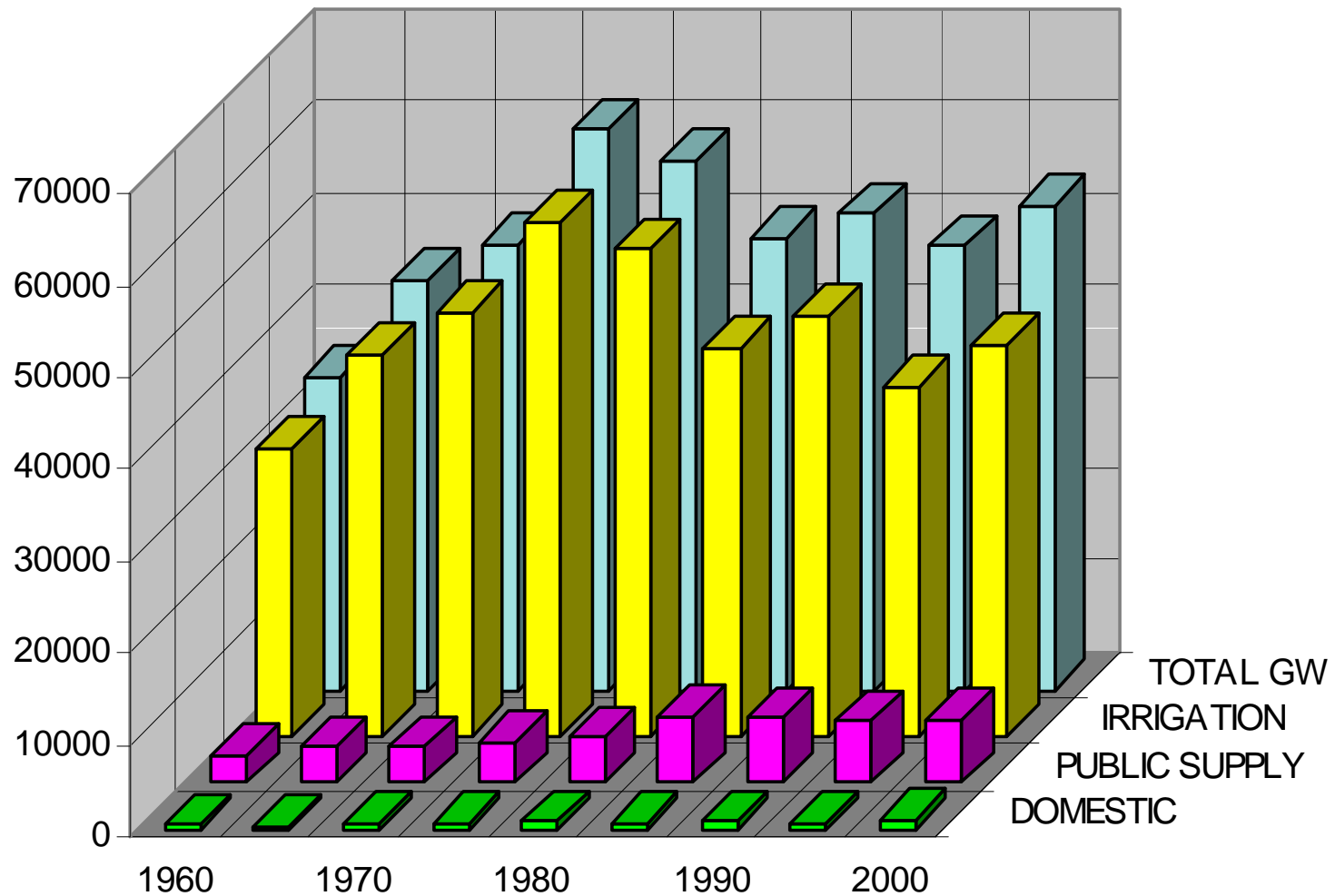


USGS 972515101295101 308 37W 20CBC 01

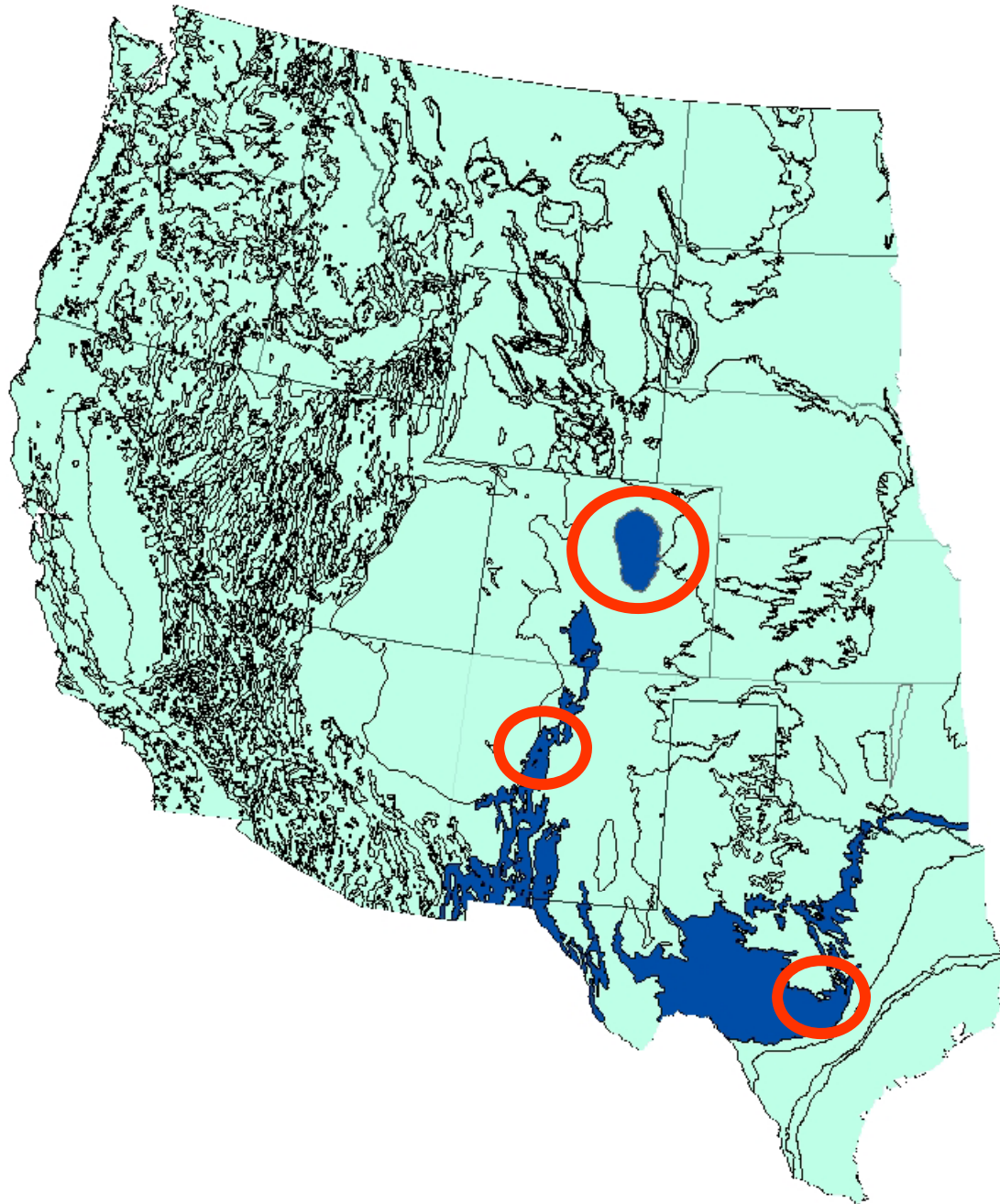


Provisional Data Subject to Revision

## GROUND-WATER USE (MGD) IN THE 17 WESTERN STATES









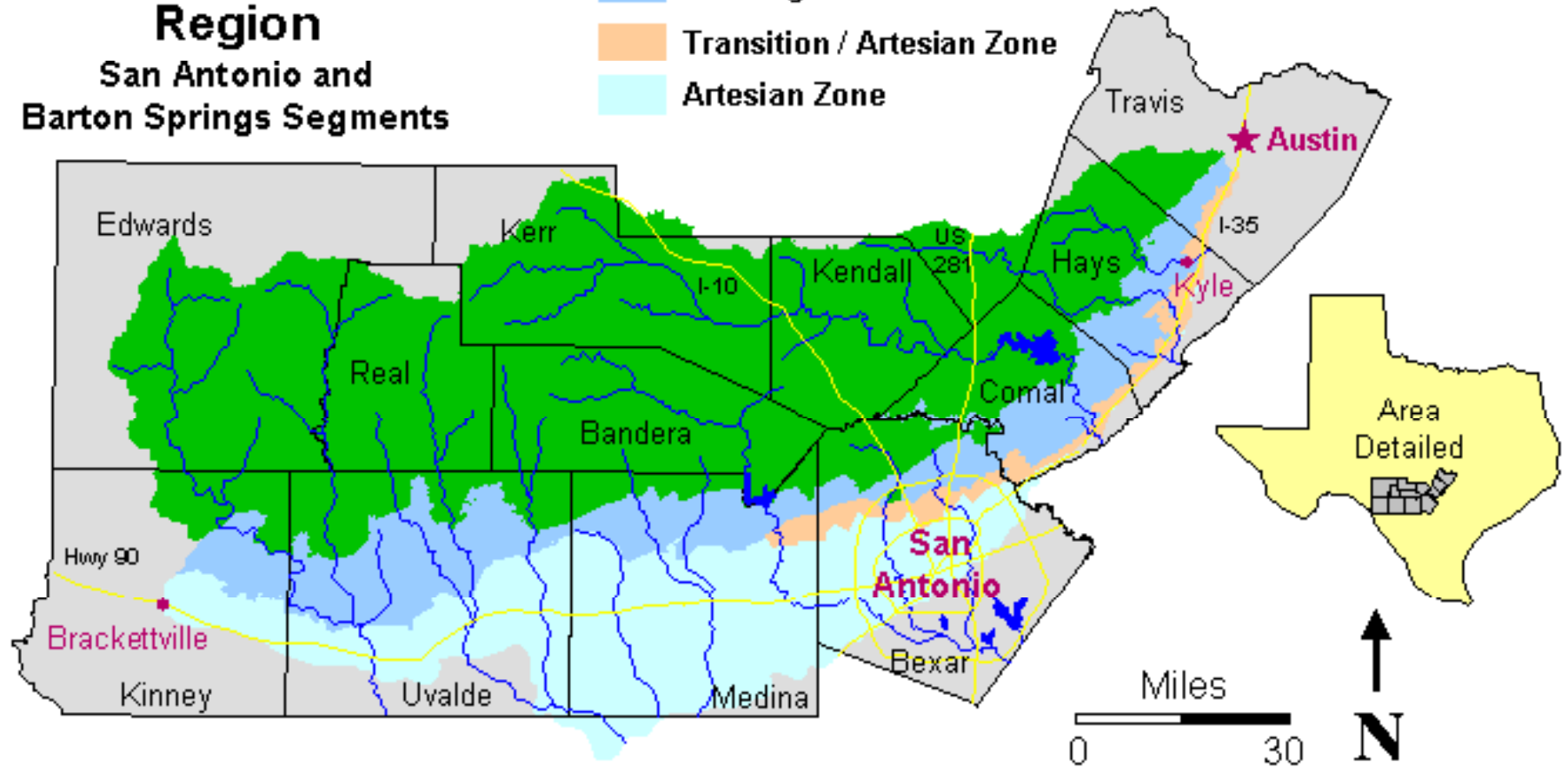




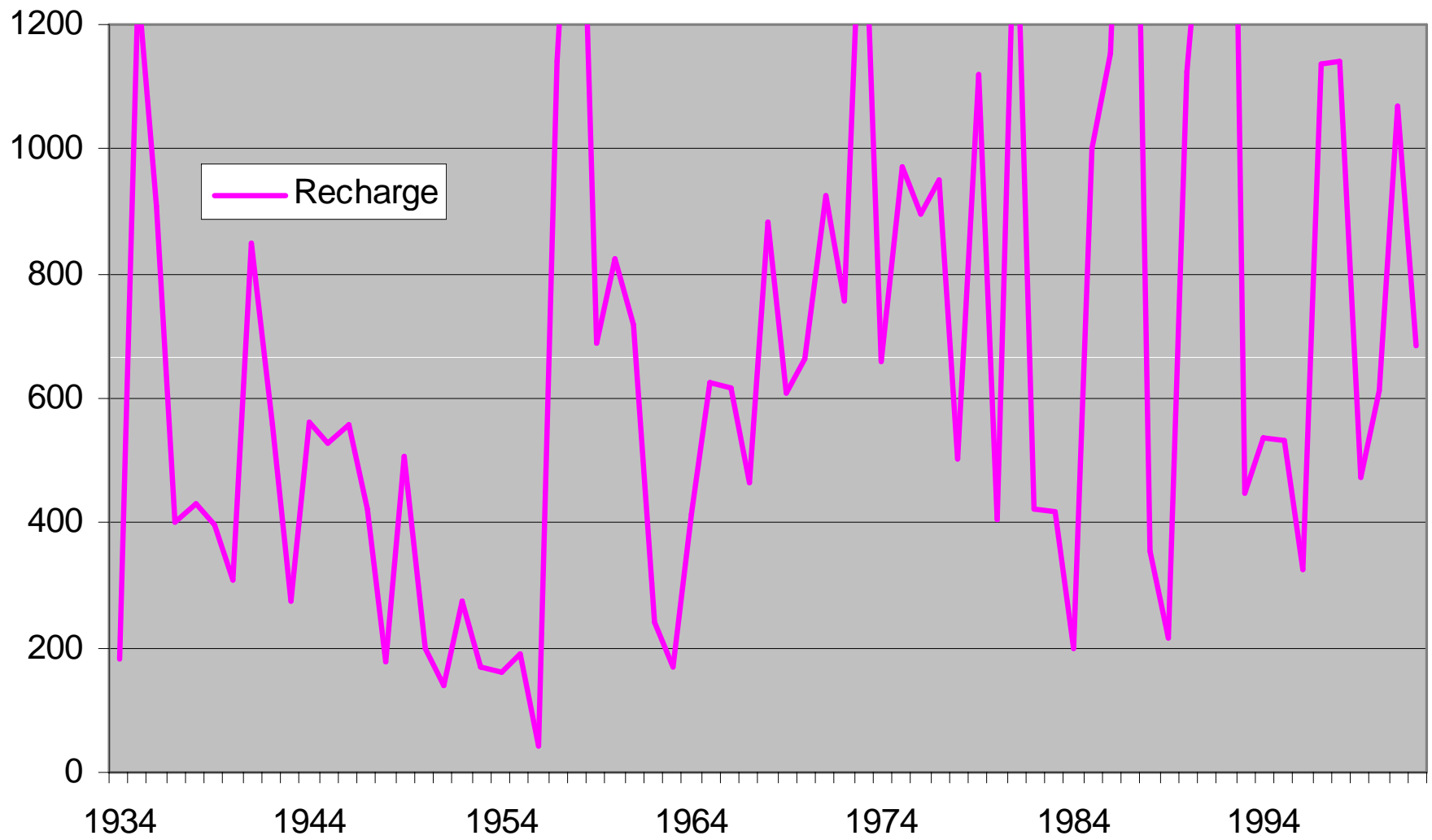
# The Edwards Aquifer Region

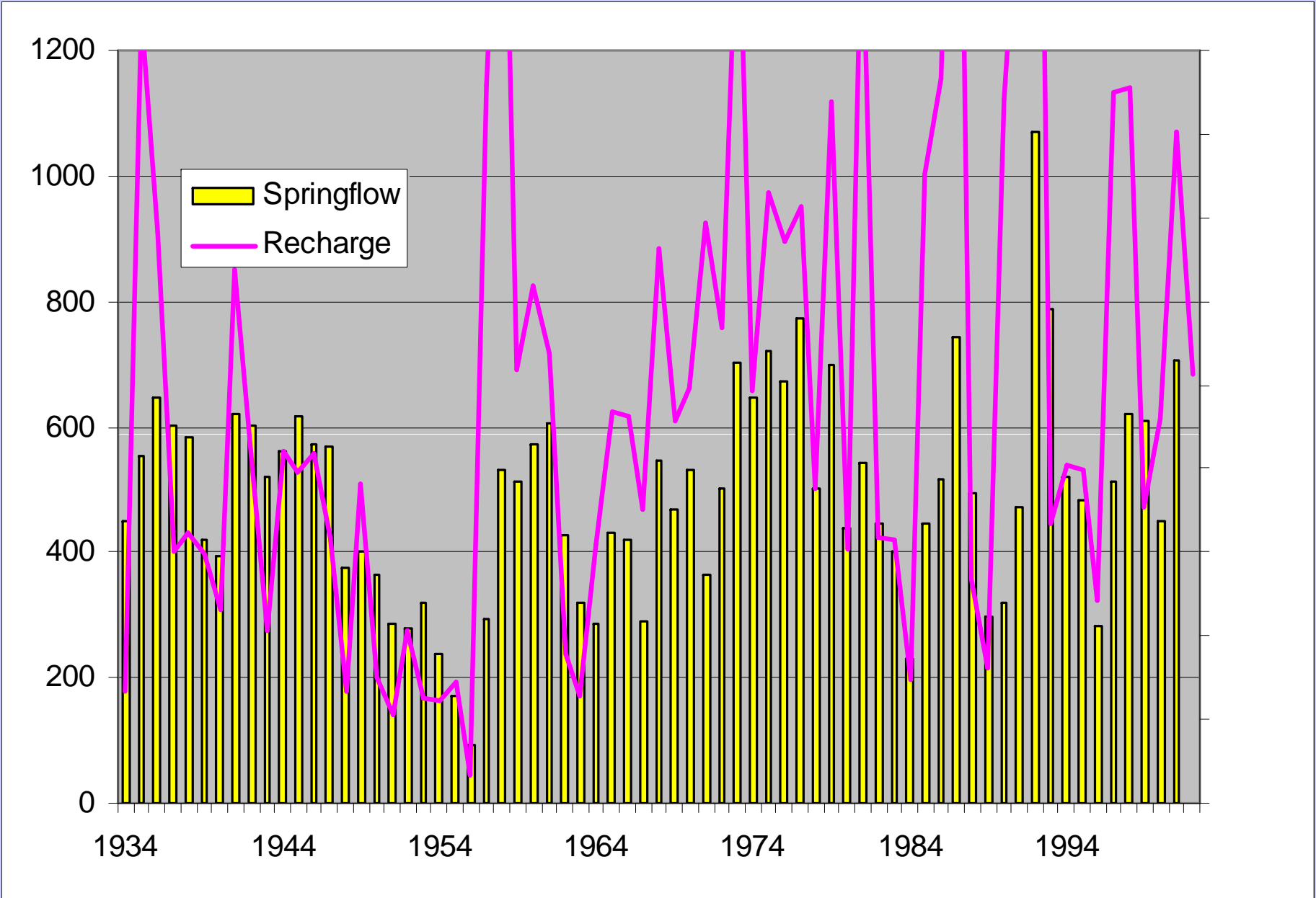
## San Antonio and Barton Springs Segments

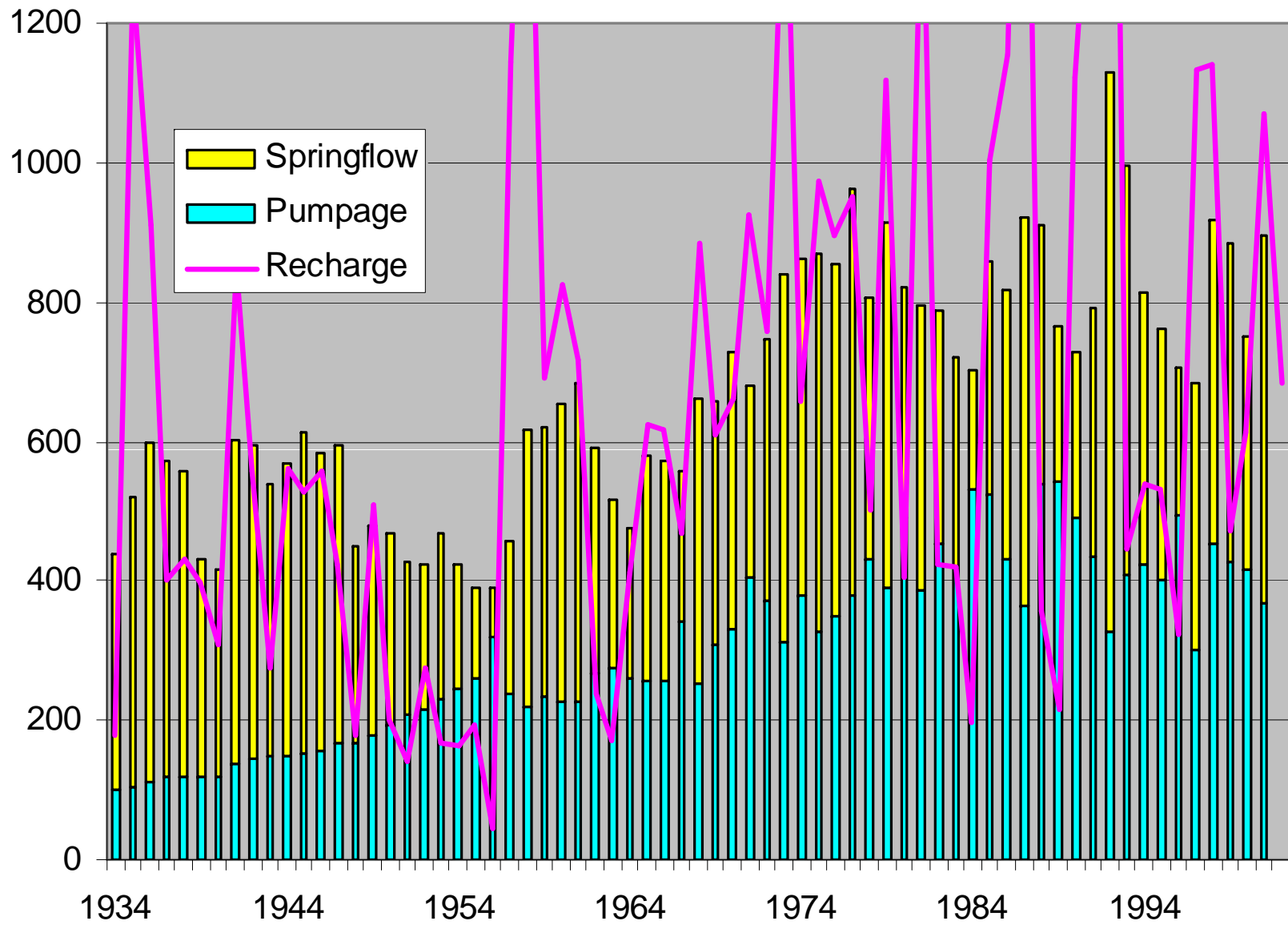
-  Contributing Zone
-  Recharge Zone
-  Transition / Artesian Zone
-  Artesian Zone



# Recharge









# Aquifer

High

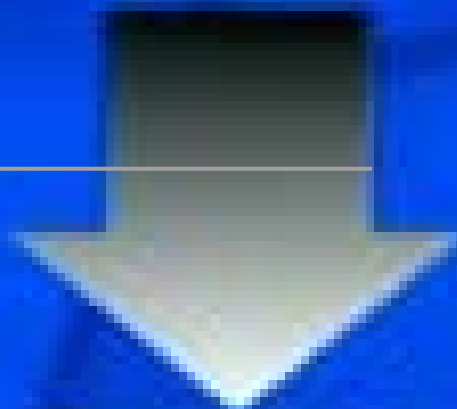
703.2

Average

657.1

Low

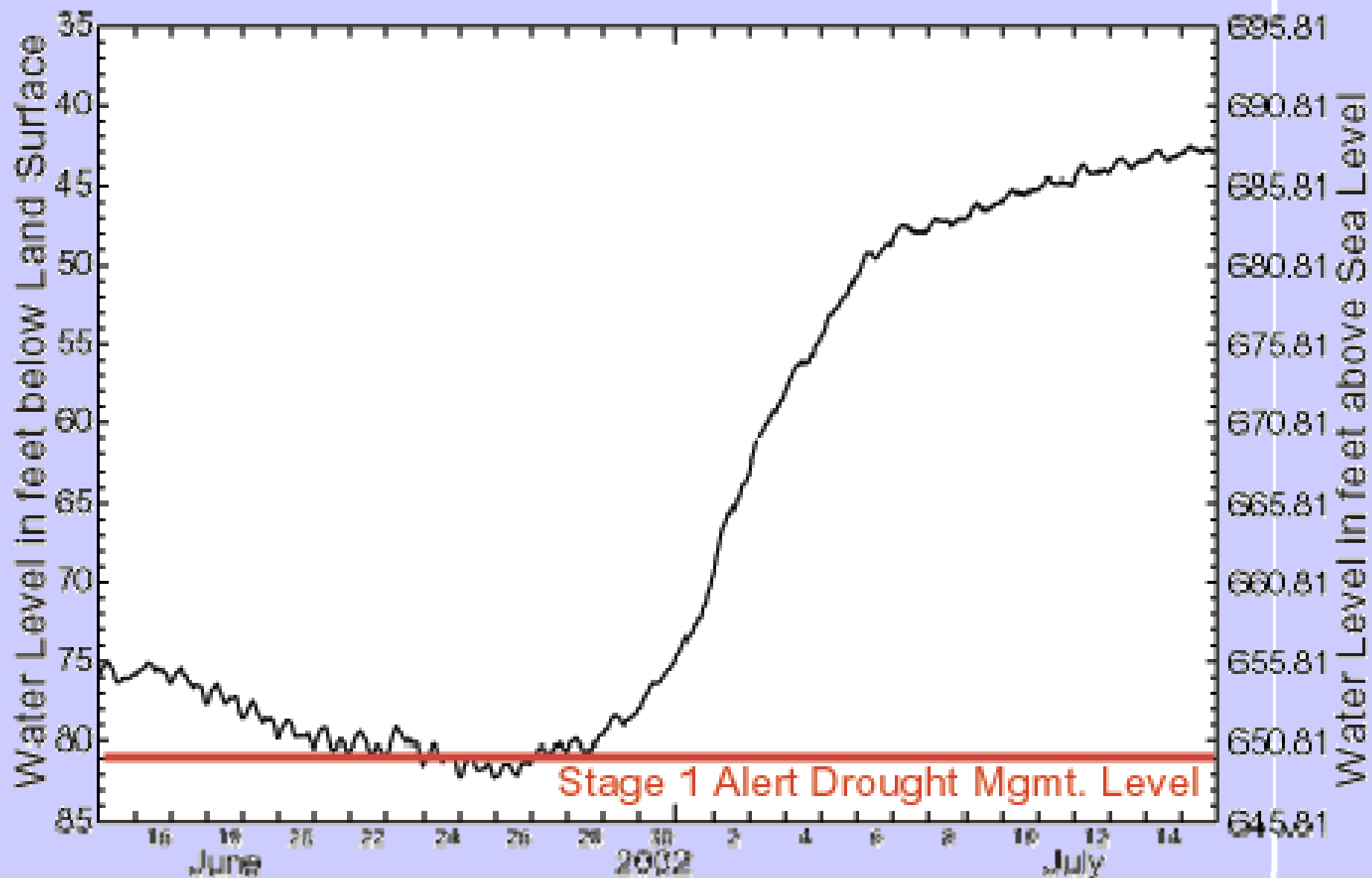
612.5



.6 ft.

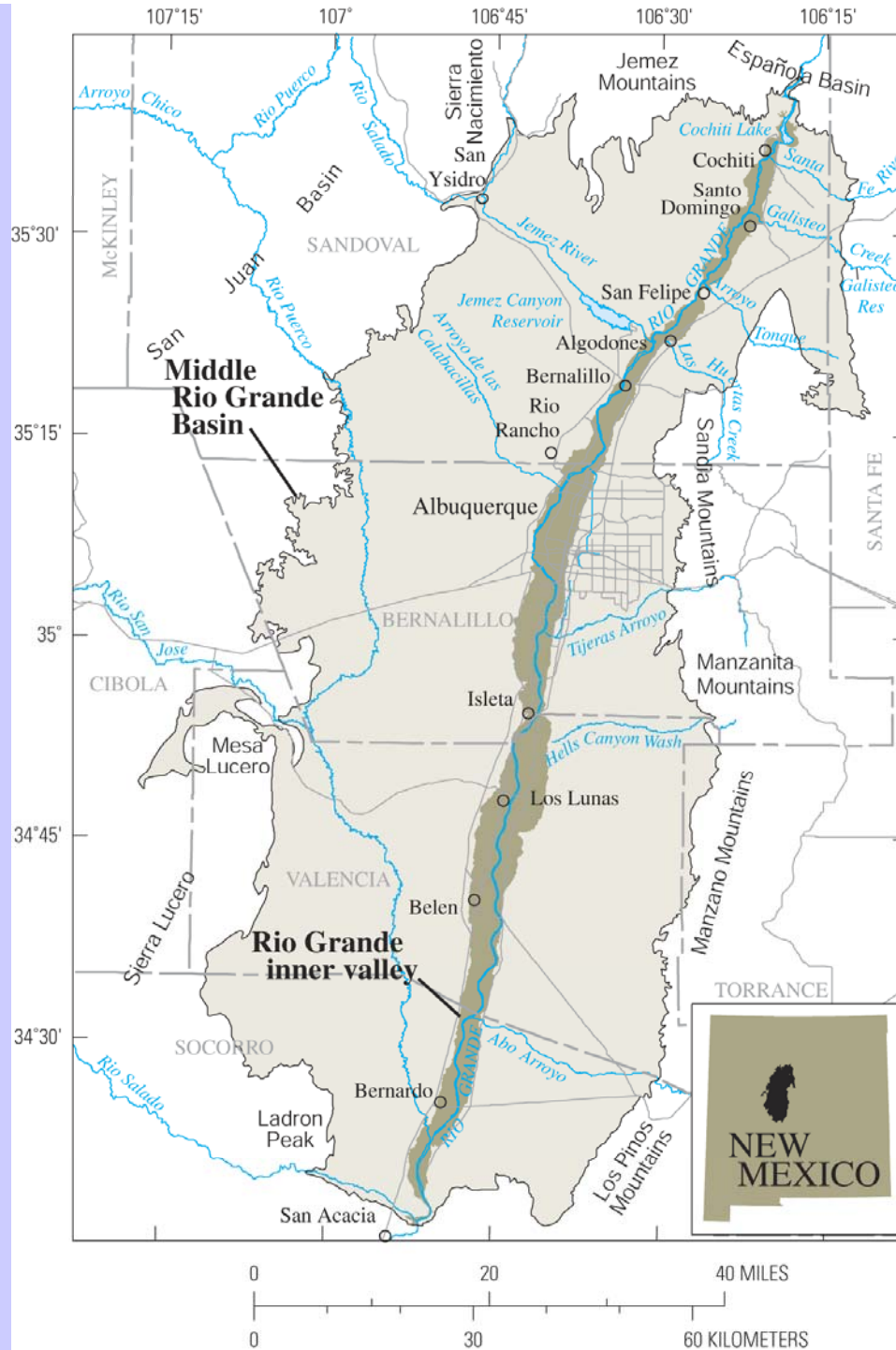
652.9





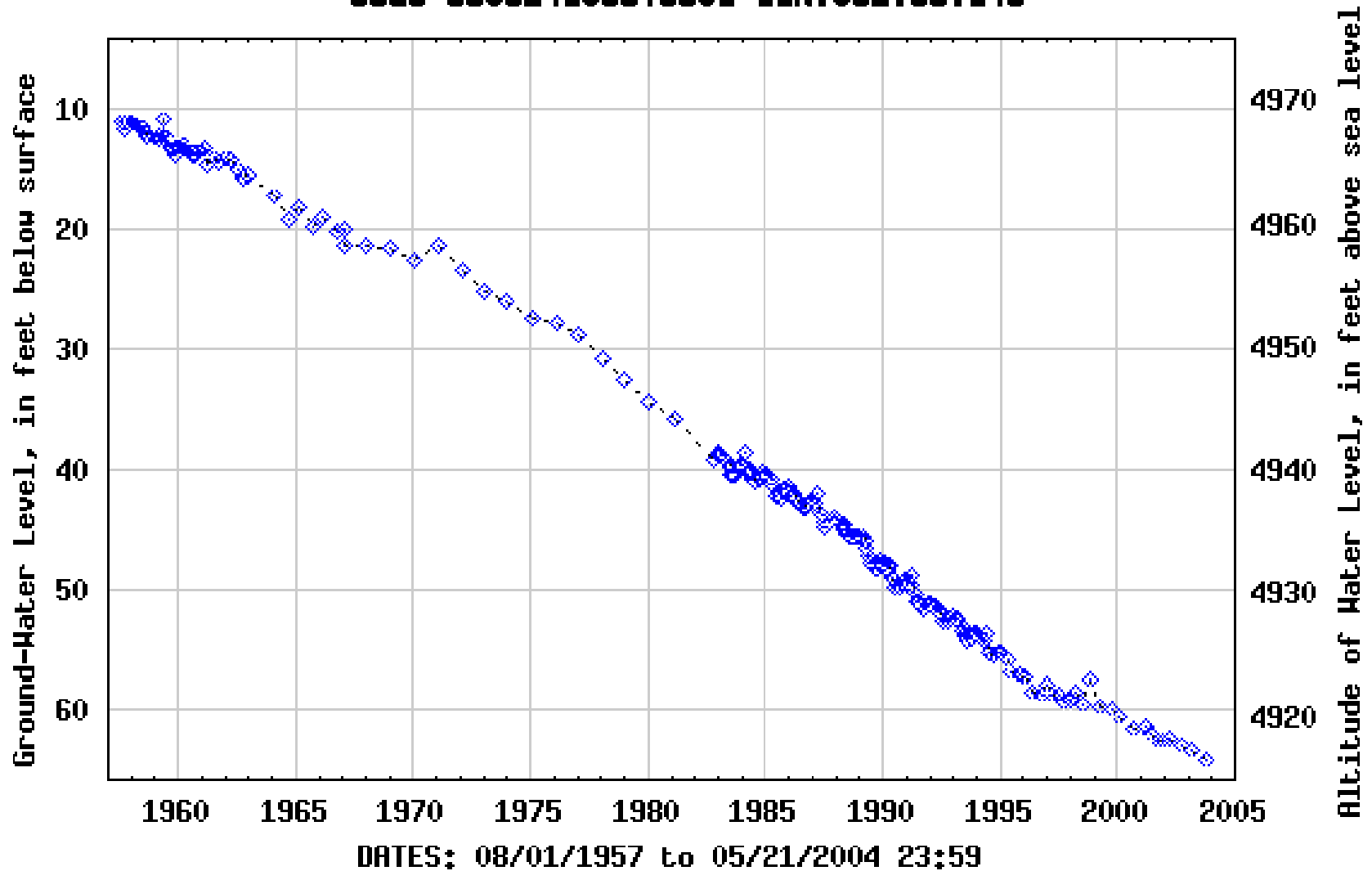
292845098255401 Bexar County Index J17







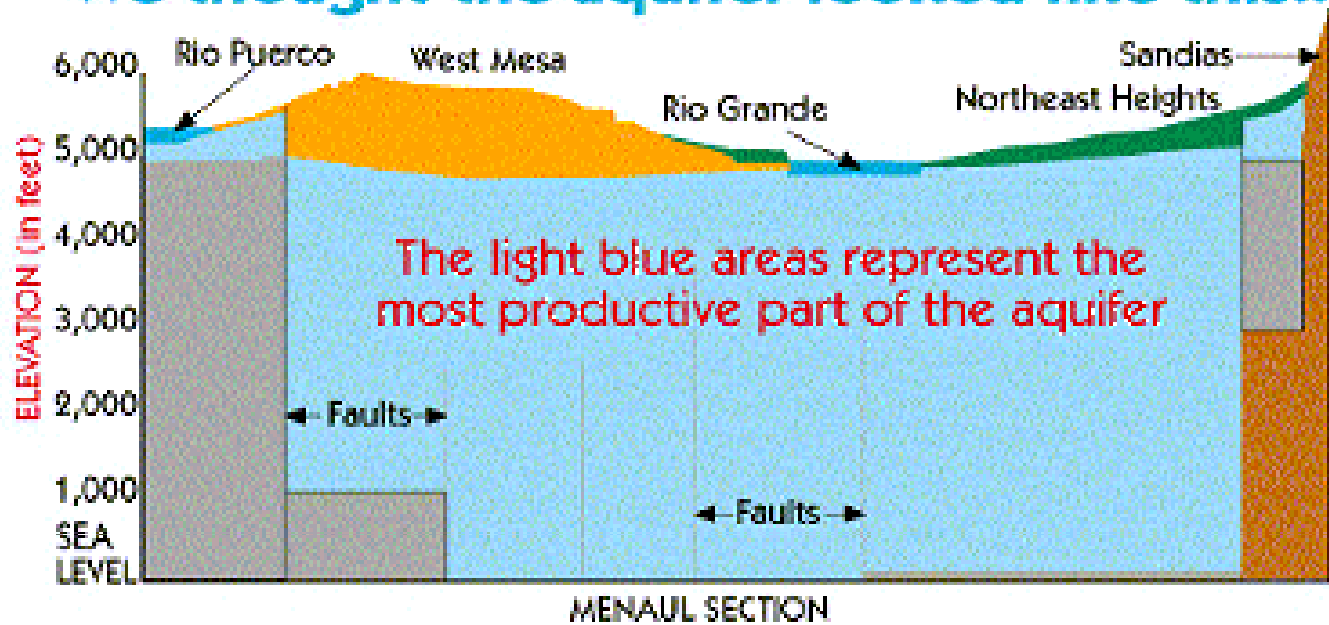
USGS 350824106975301 11N.03E.88.143



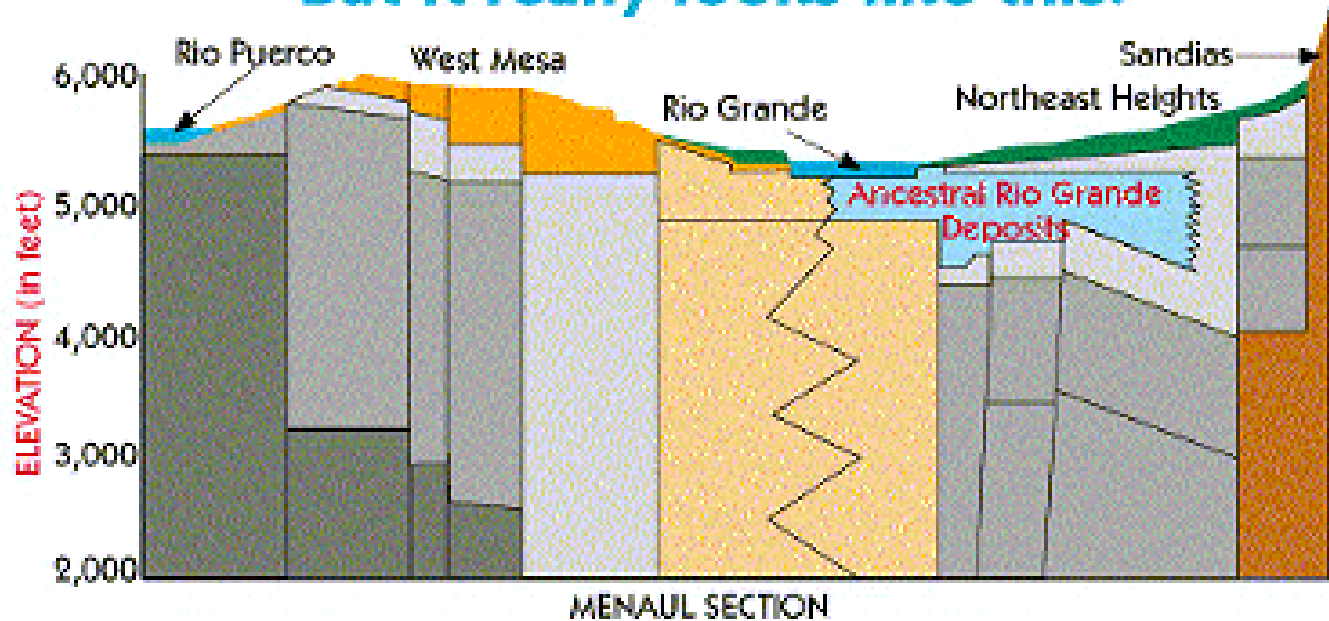
Provisional Data Subject to Revision



## We thought the aquifer looked like this...



## But it really looks like this:



Mayor Martin Chavez announced Albuquerque's

## **WATER CONSERVATION GOAL**

**TO REDUCE OUR USE BY 40% BY 2014**

### **WATER REBATES**

- ★ XERISCAPE
- ★ TOILET
- ★ WASHING MACHINE
- ★ WATER RECIRCULATION
- ★ FREE AUDIT/RETROFIT
- ★ RAINWATER HARVESTING
- ★ DISHWASHER
- ★ MULTI-SETTING SPRINKLER TIMER

### EXPLANATION

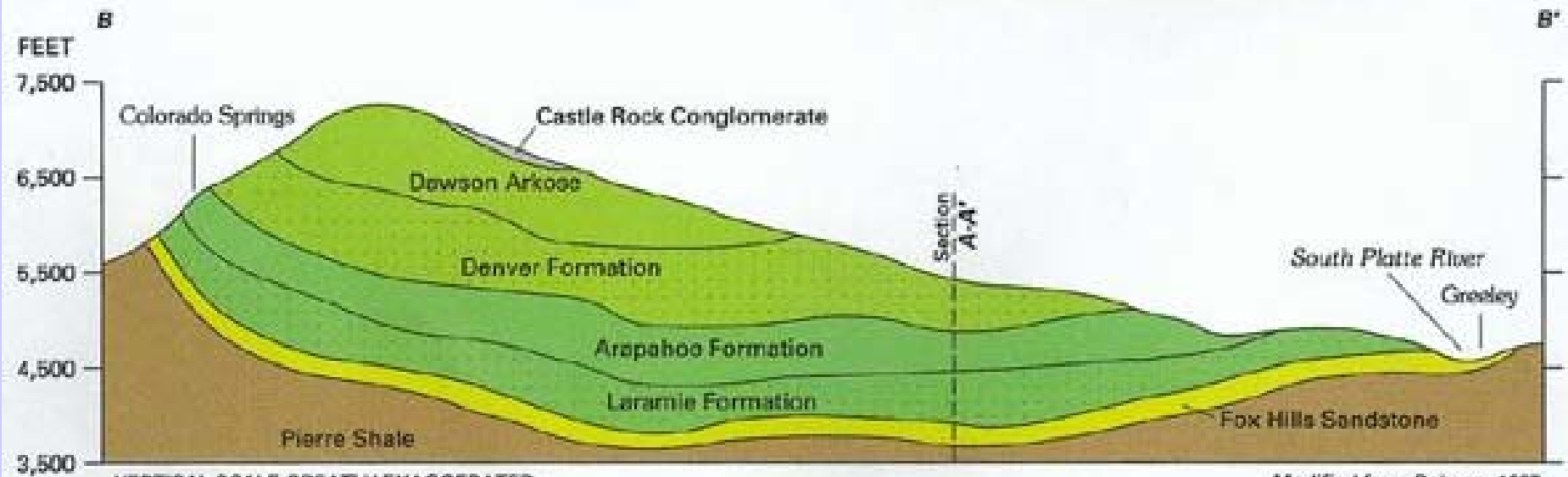
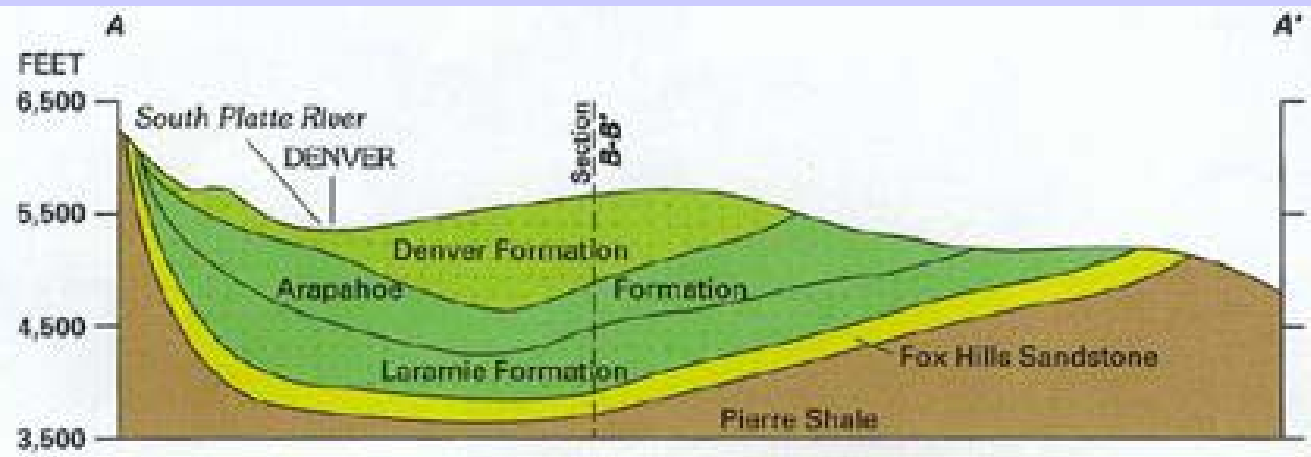
#### Denver Basin aquifer system

-  Dawson aquifer
-  Denver aquifer
-  Arapahoe aquifer
-  Laramie-Fox Hills aquifer



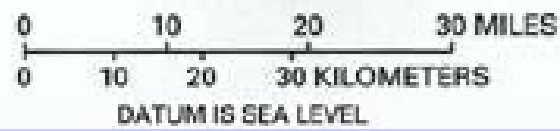
Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey, digital data, 1:2,000,000, 1972





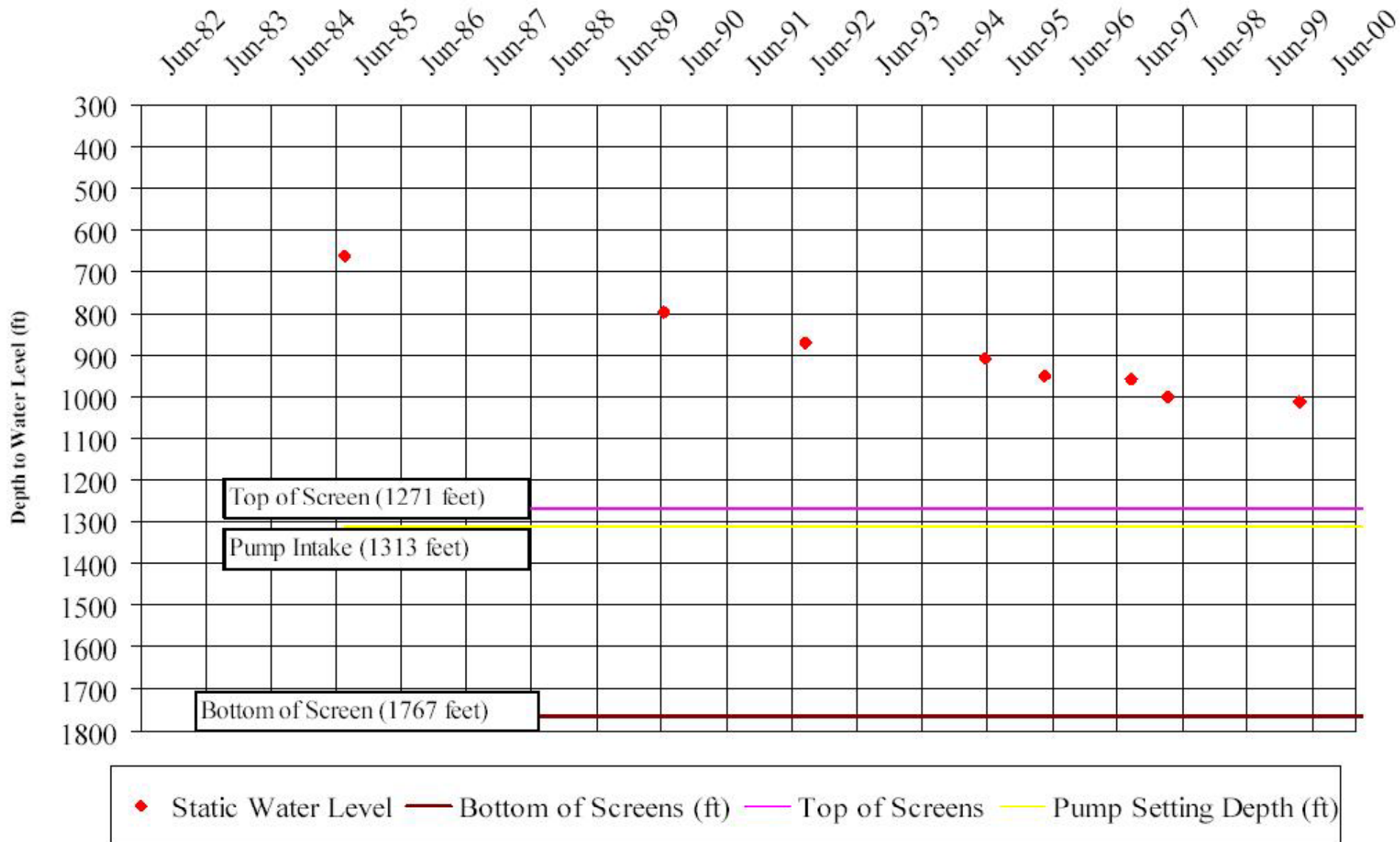
VERTICAL SCALE GREATLY EXAGGERATED

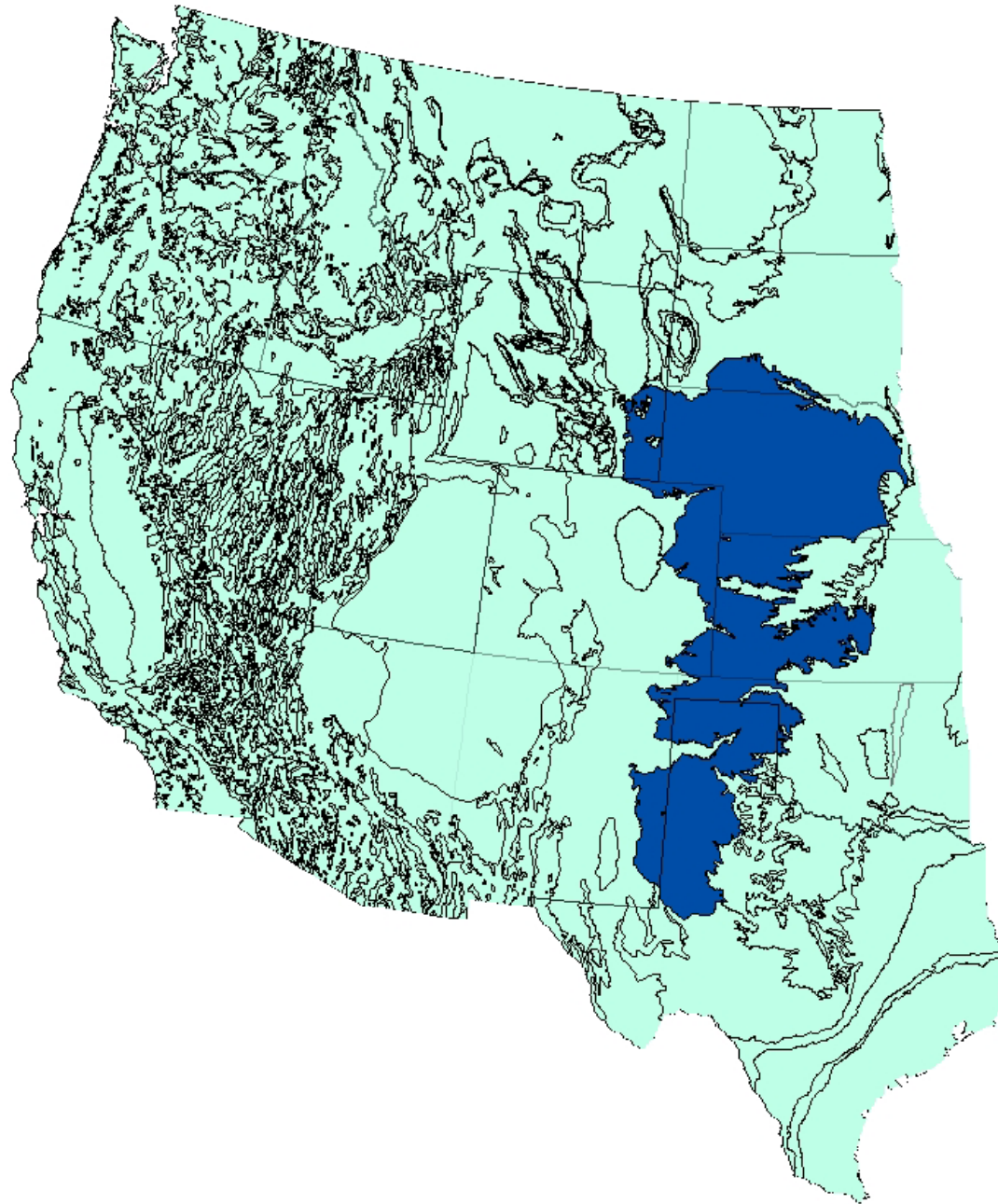
Modified from Robson, 1987

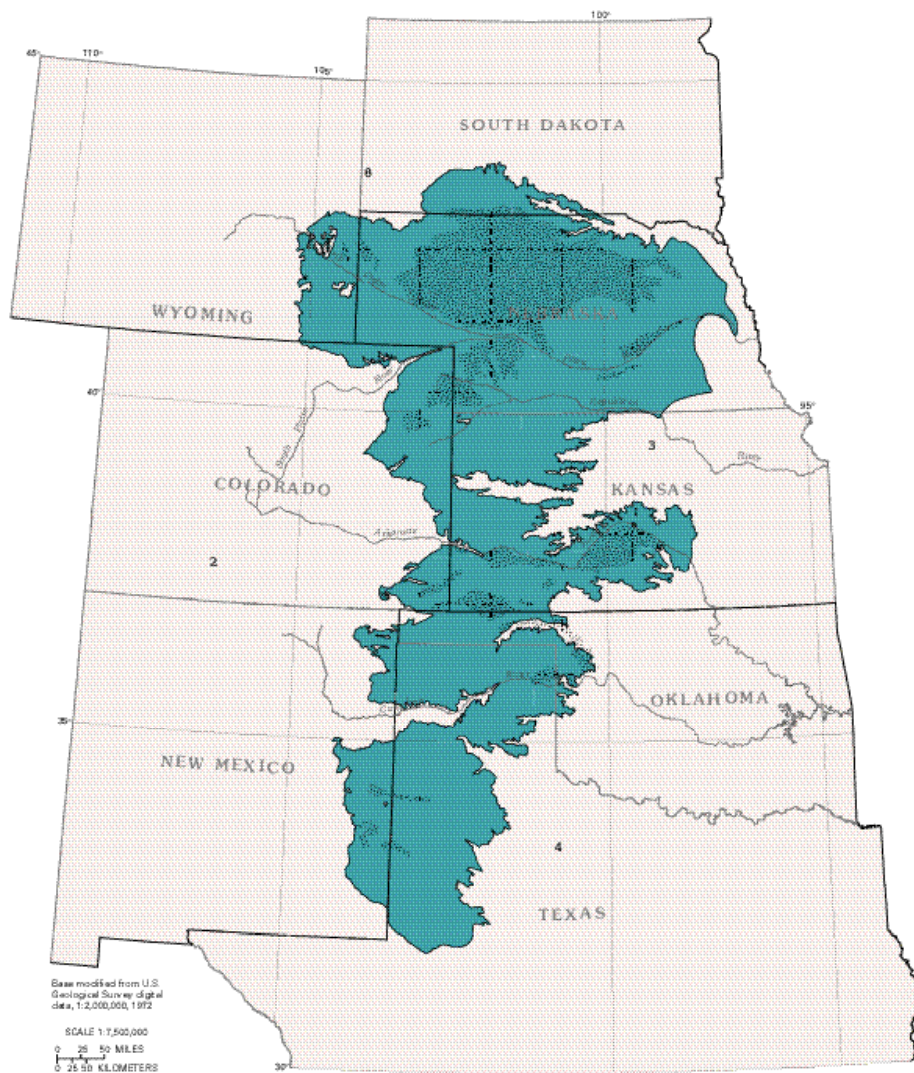




## Arapahoe Aquifer Well - Permit No. 29073-F - Castle Rock








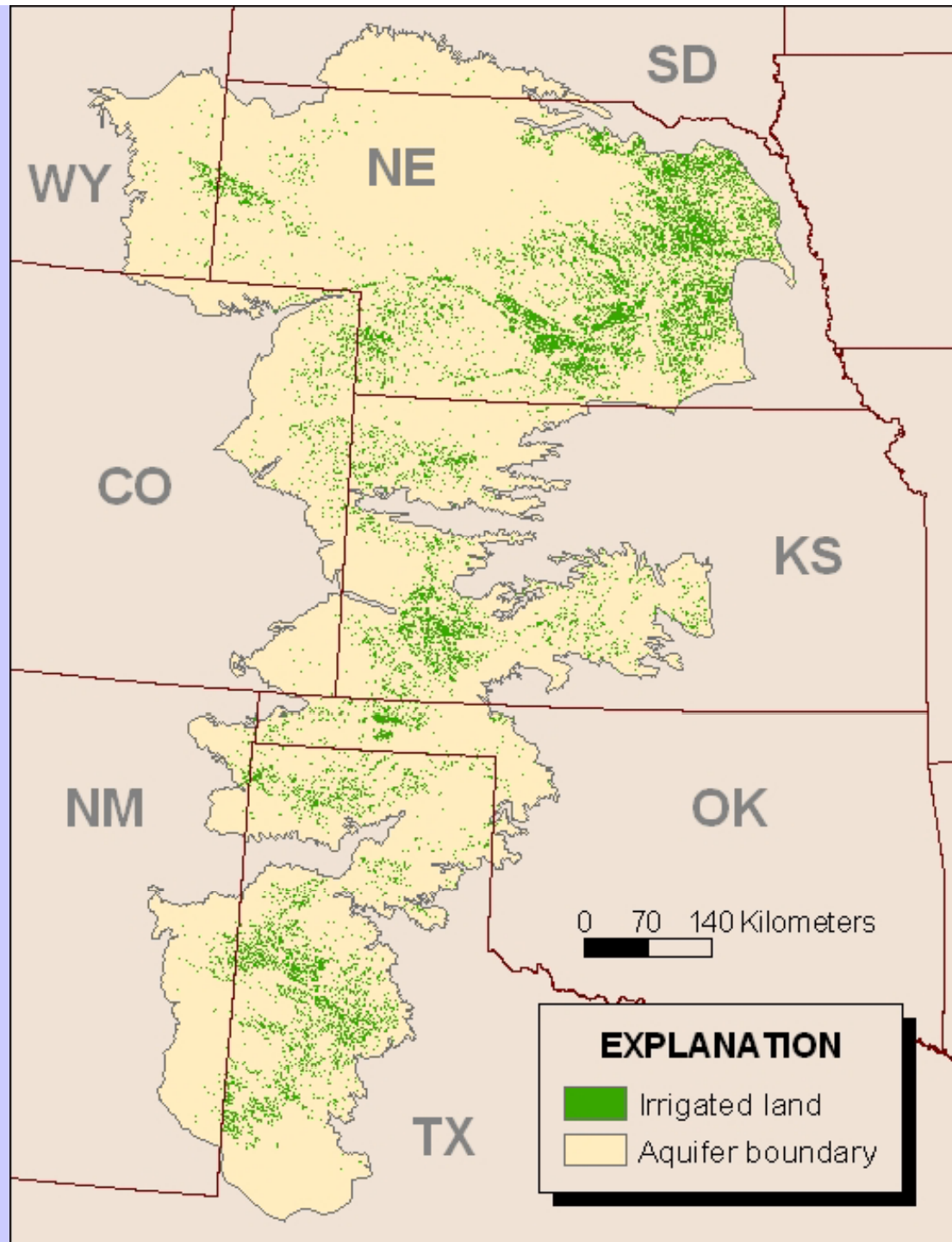


Modified from:  
 Gutentag, E.D., Heimes, F.J., Kroethe, N.C., Luckey, R.R., and Weeks, J.B., 1984, Geohydrology of the High Plains aquifer in parts of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1400-B, 63 p.  
 Weeks, J.B., Gutentag, E.D., Heimes, F.J., and Luckey, R.R., 1988, Summary of the High Plains regional aquifer-system analysis in parts of Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming: U.S. Geological Survey Professional Paper 1400-A, 30 p.

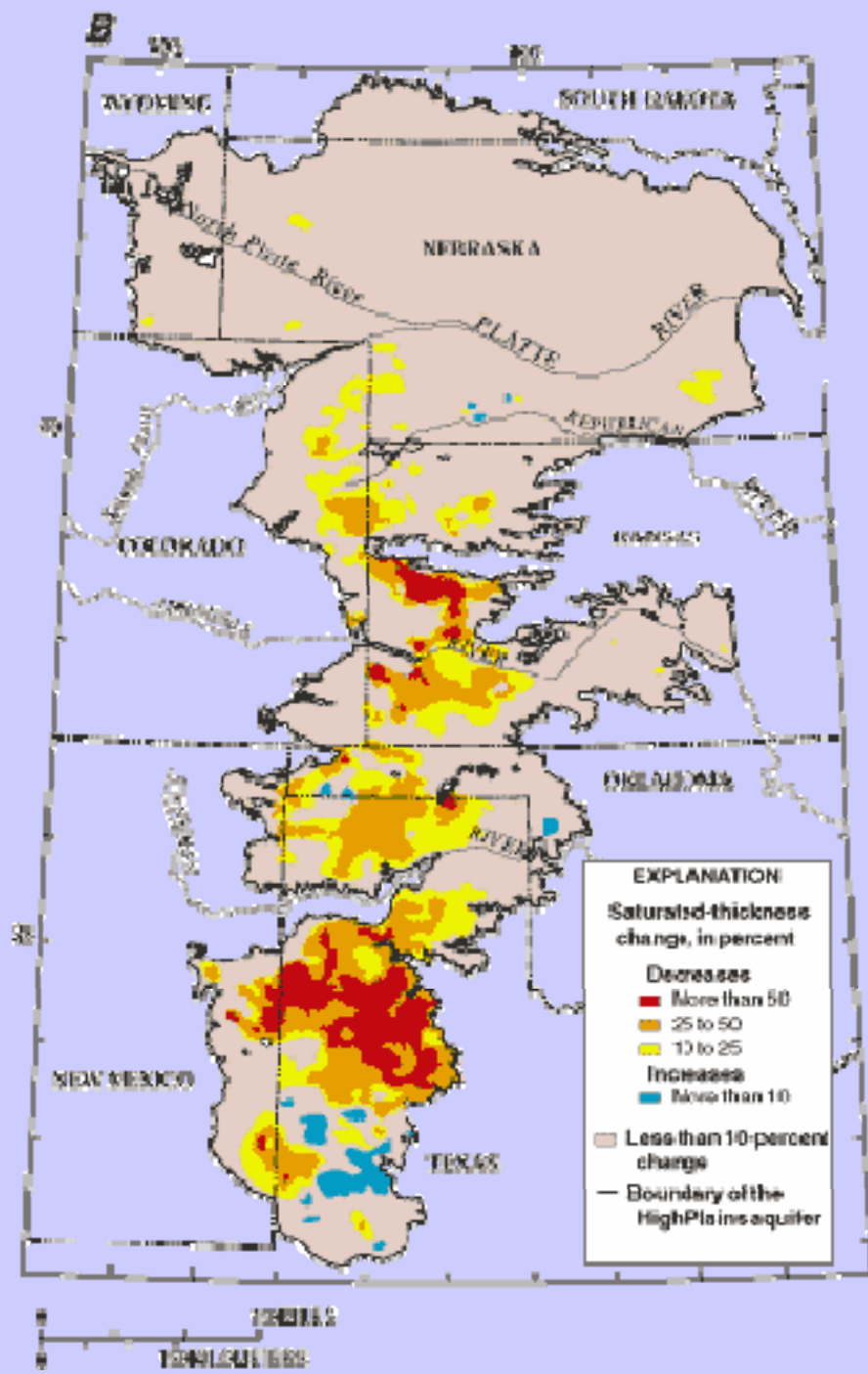
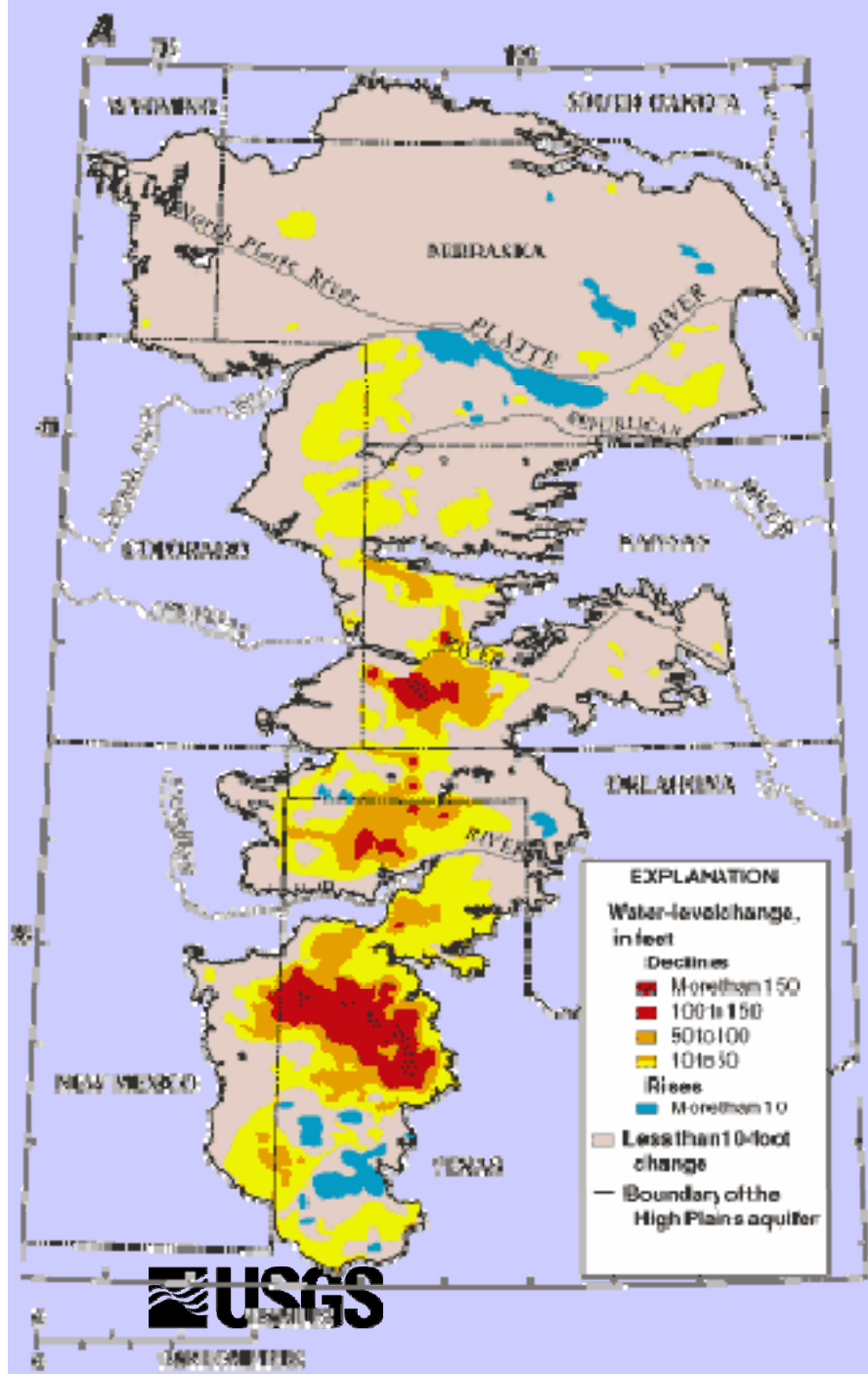
**EXPLANATION**

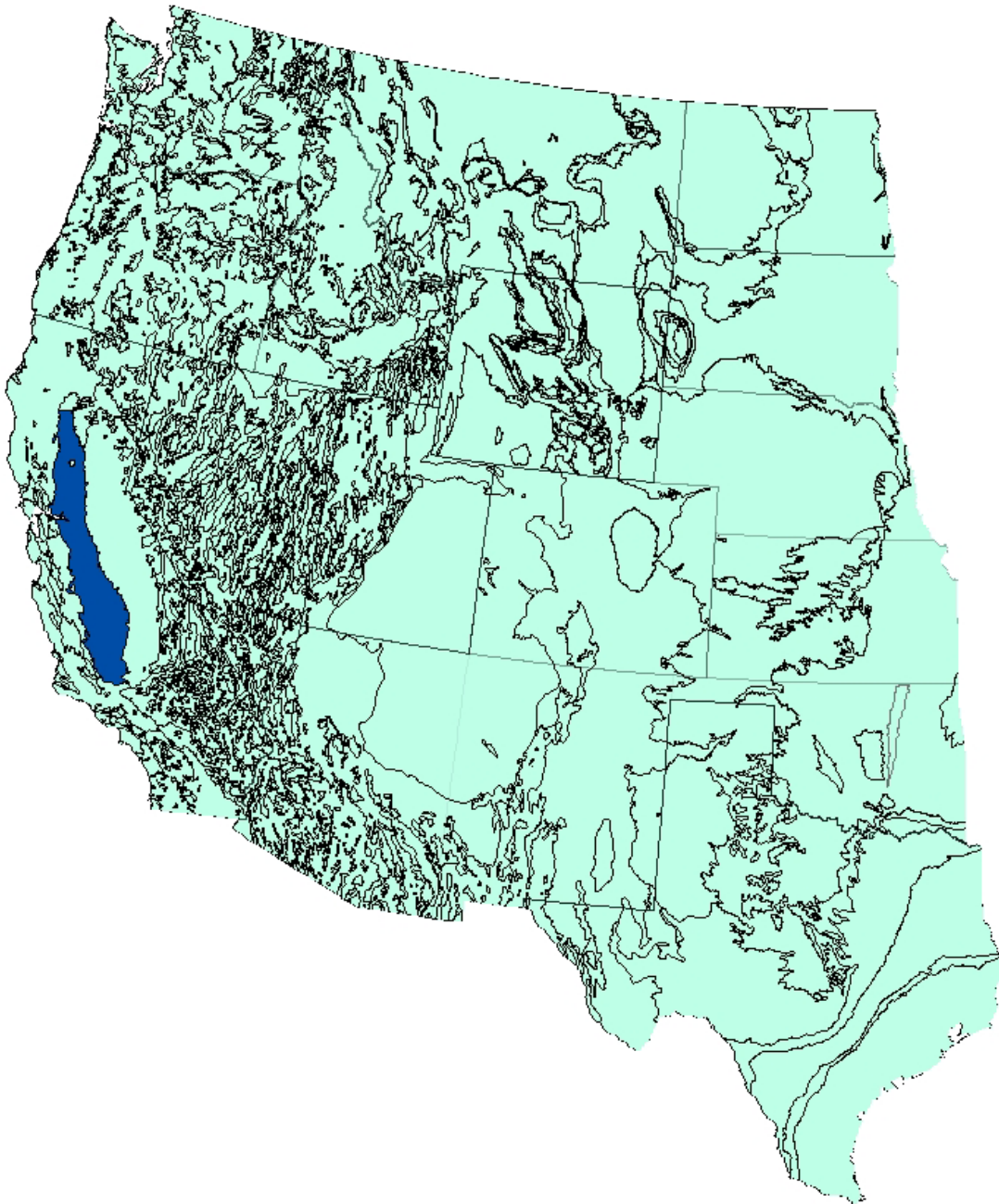
-  High Plains aquifer
-  Dune sand
-  Atlas segment boundary and number







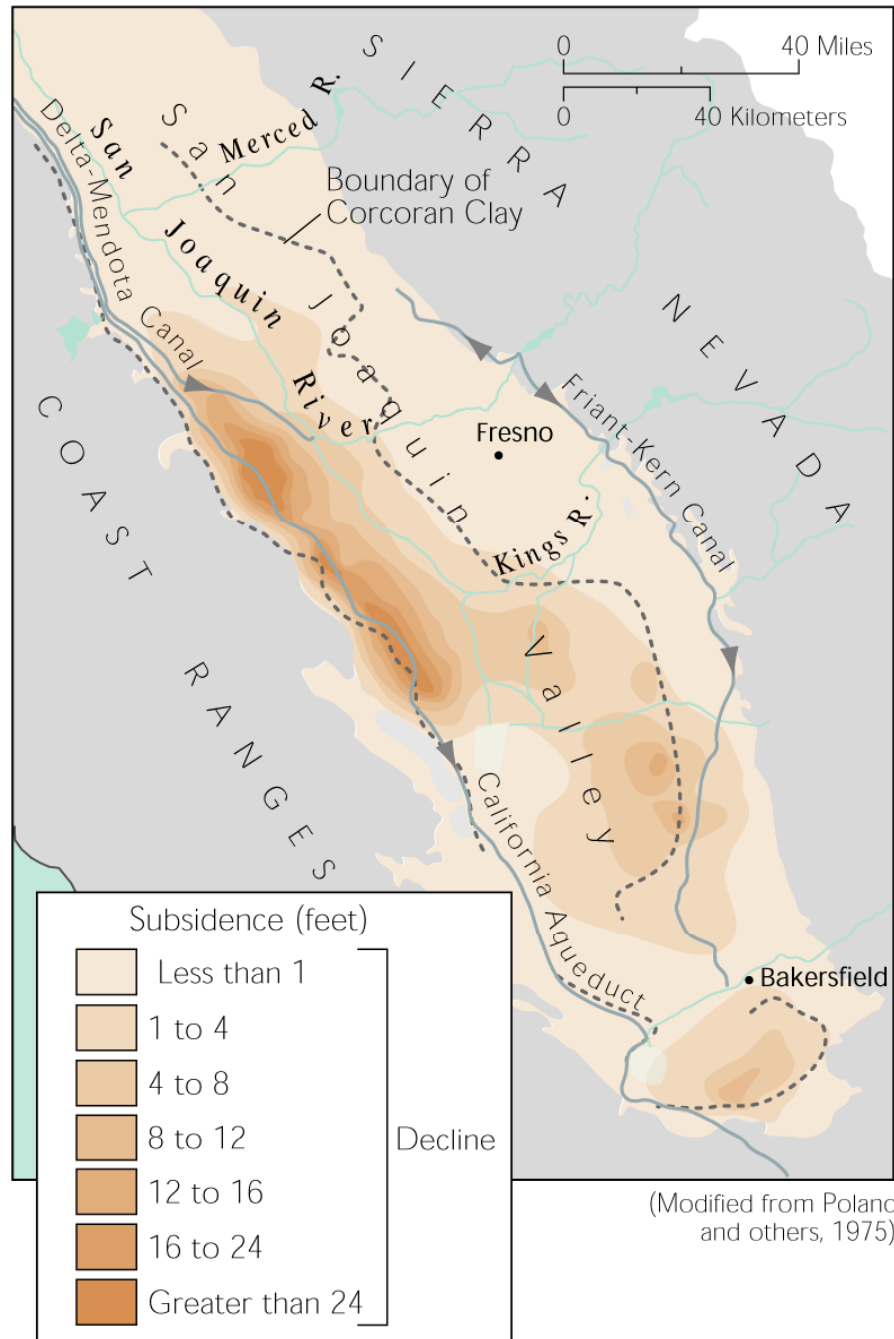




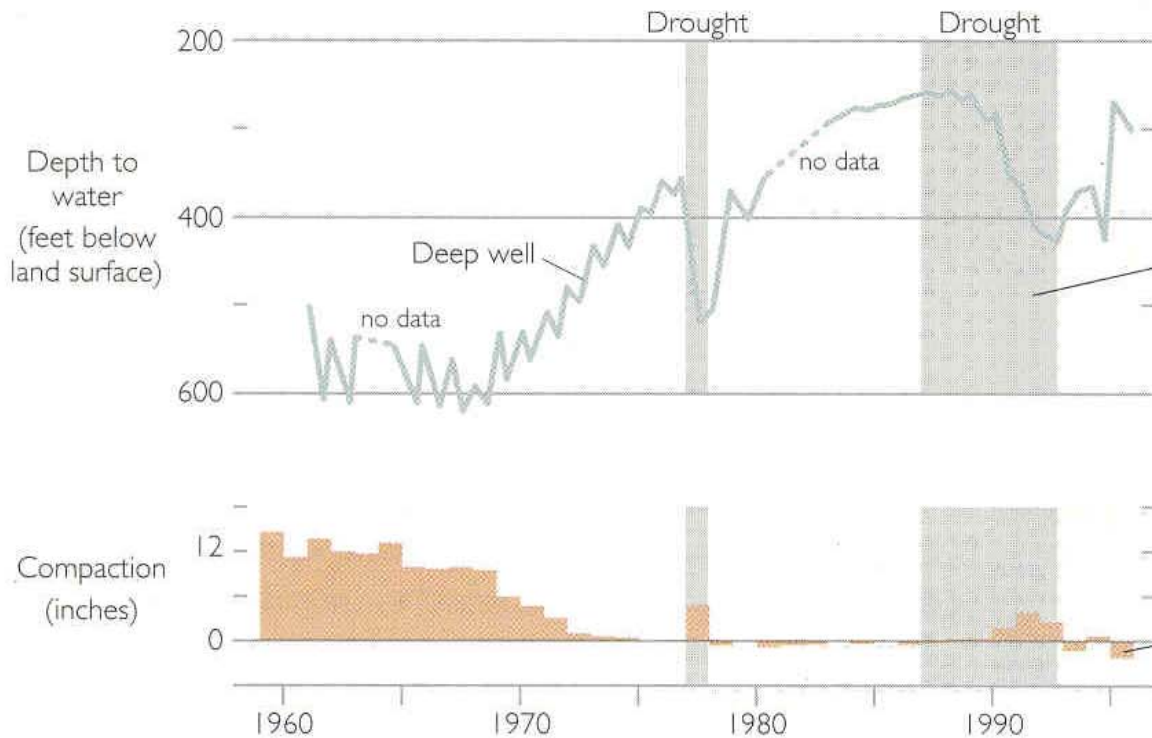




Land subsidence from 1926 to 1970



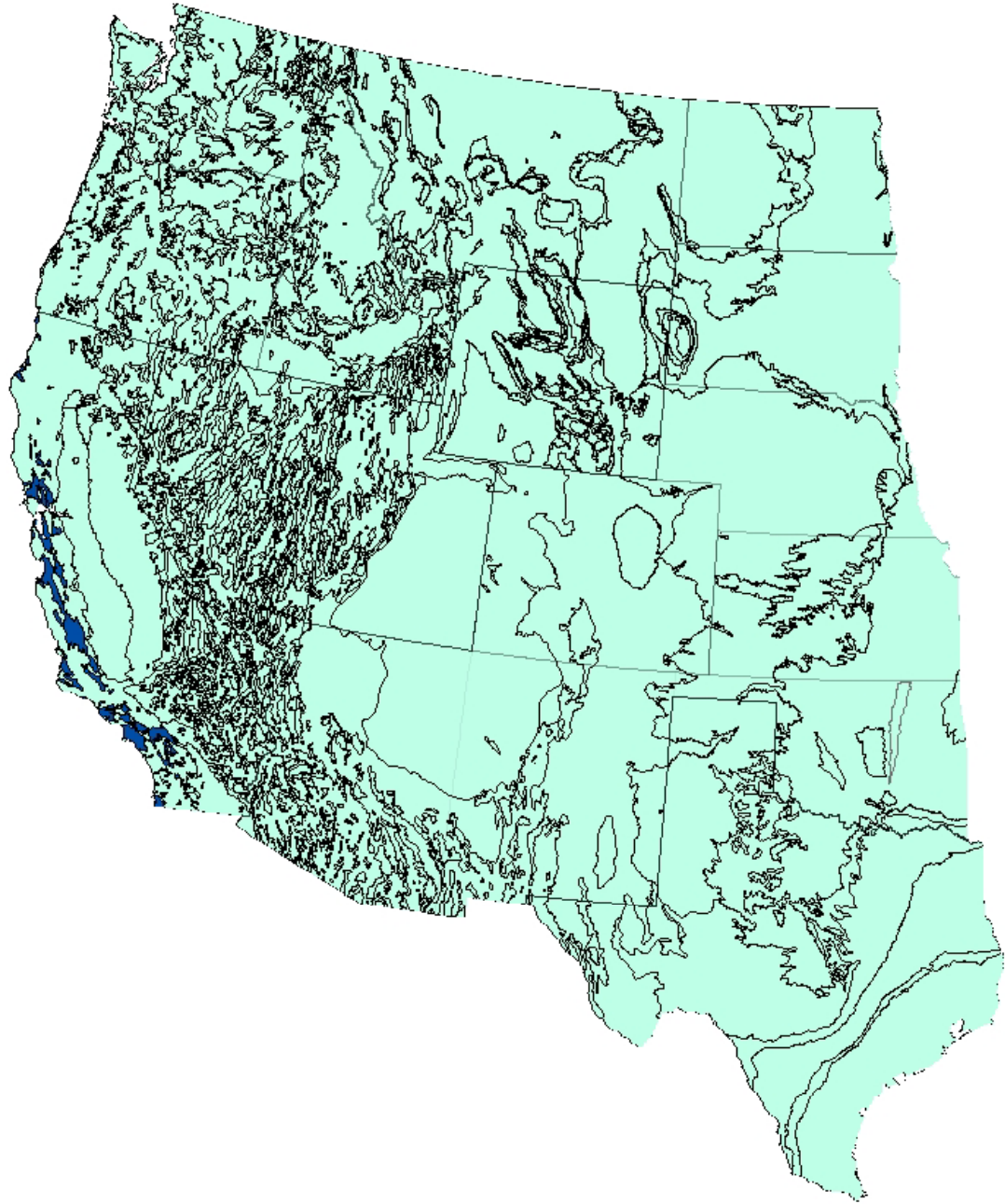


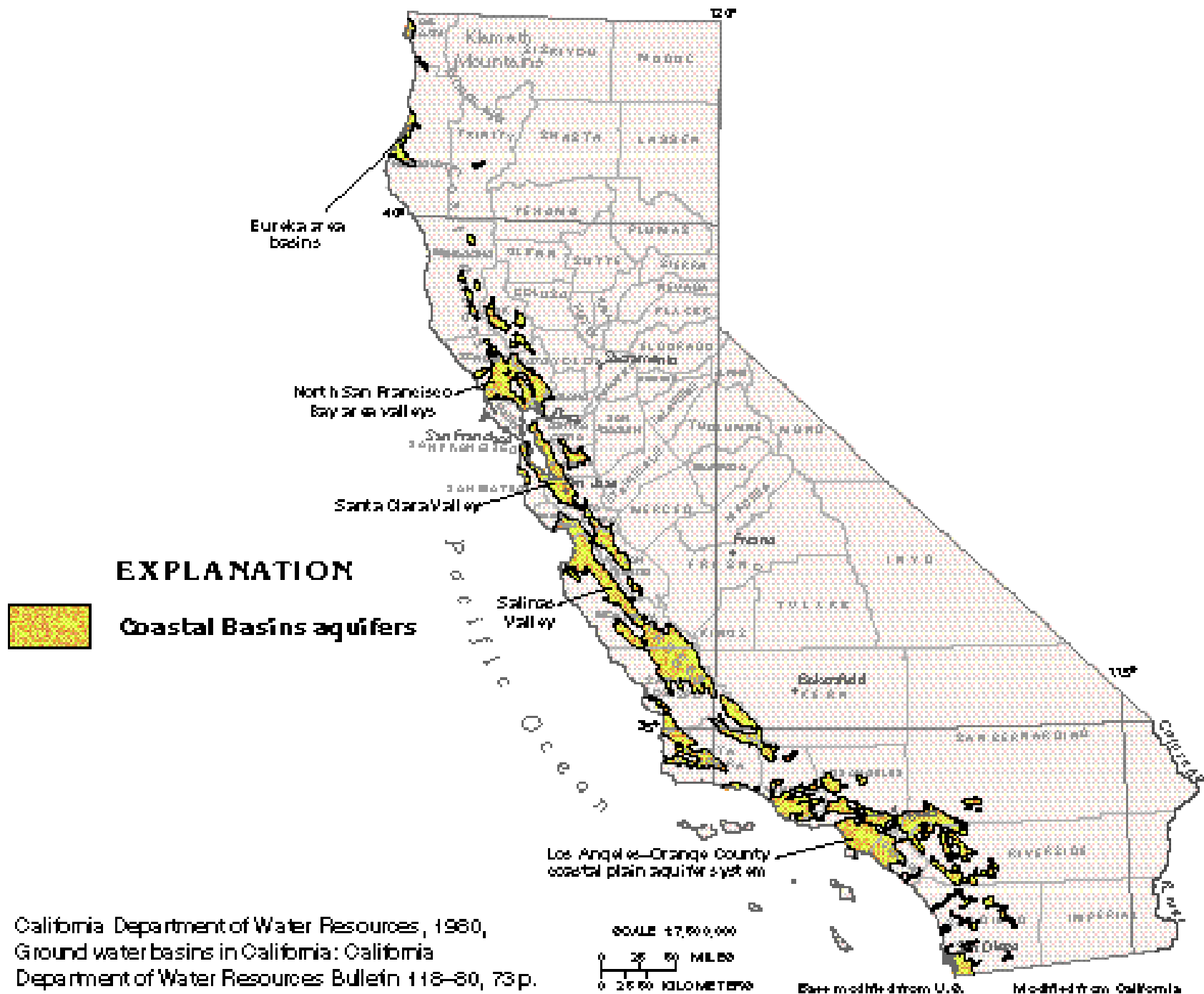


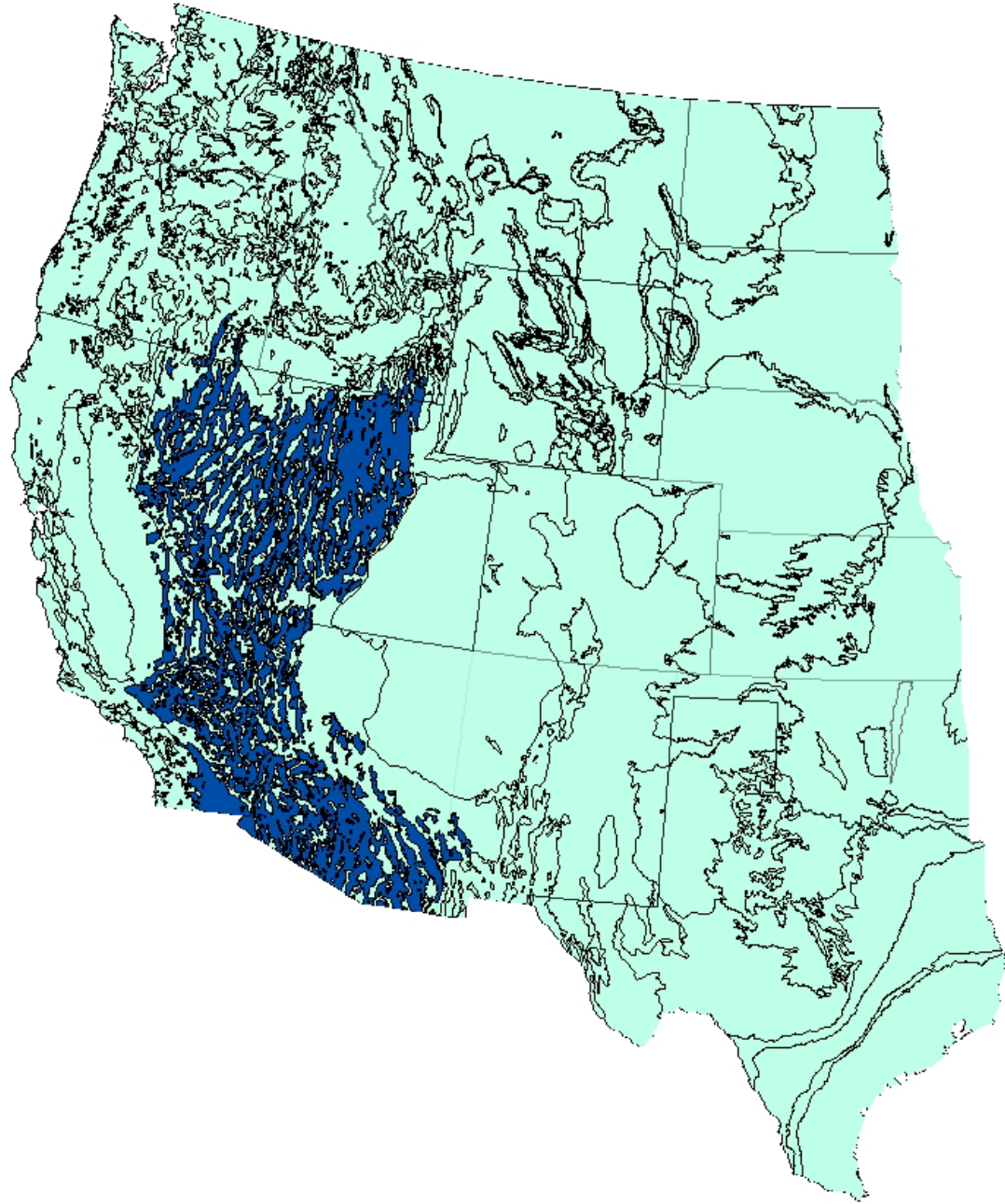
During the droughts of 1976–77 and 1987–91, deliveries of imported water to the west side of the San Joaquin Valley were cut back. More ground water was pumped to meet the demand, resulting in a drop in the water table and consequent compaction.

Some elastic expansion of the aquifer system has occurred, but the compacted materials can never return to their pre-compacted thickness.

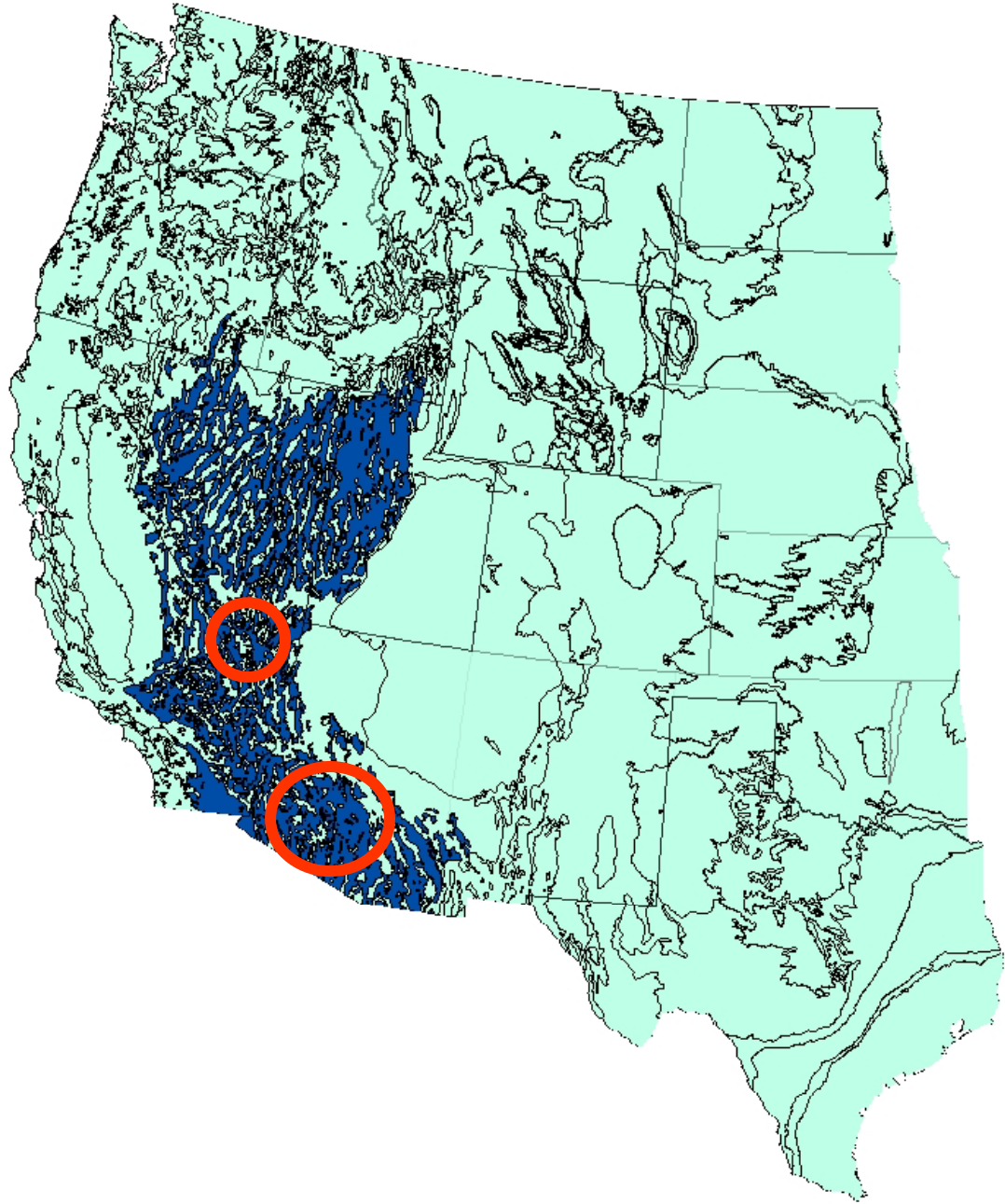
(Modified from Swanson, 1998)

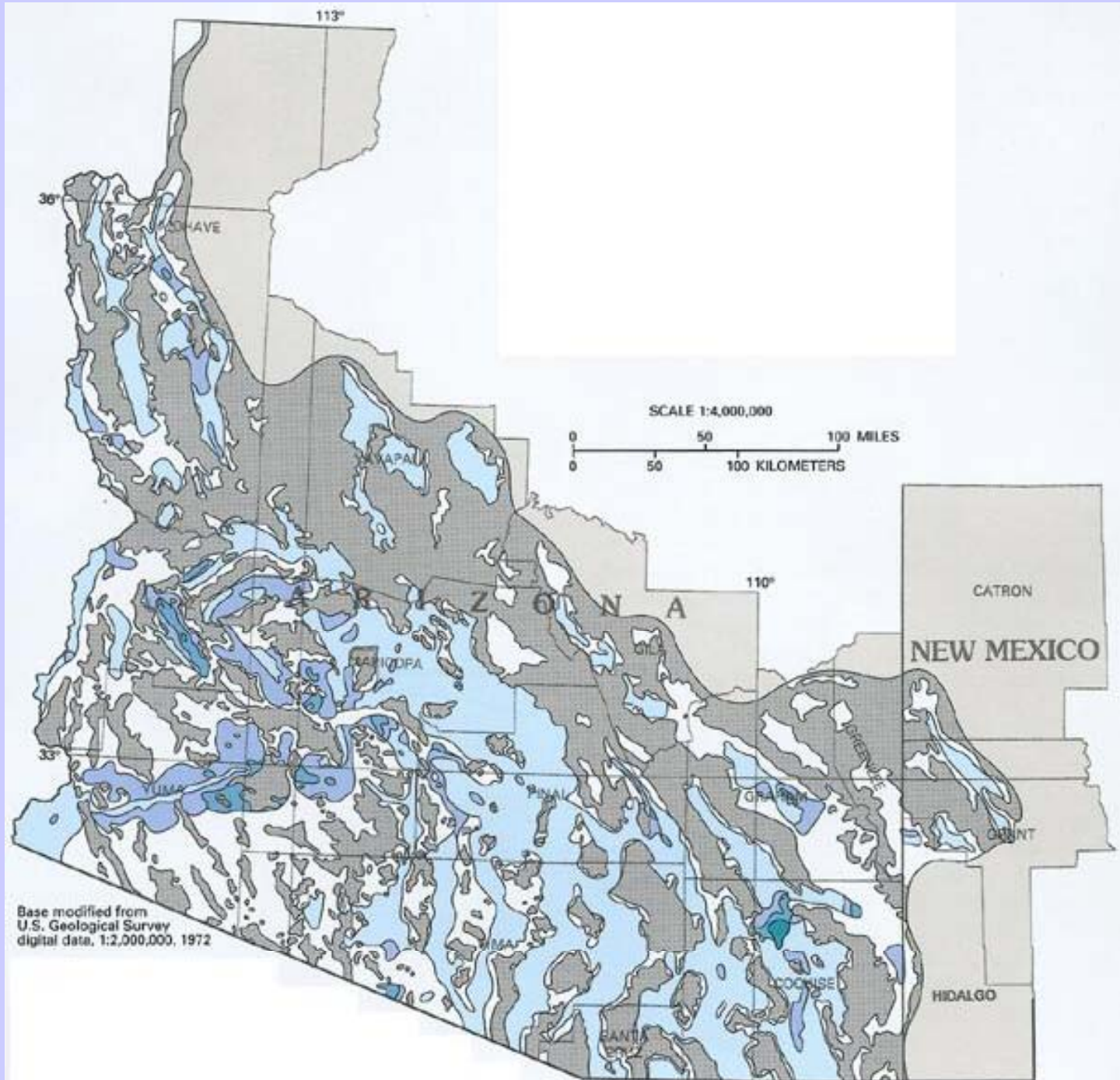








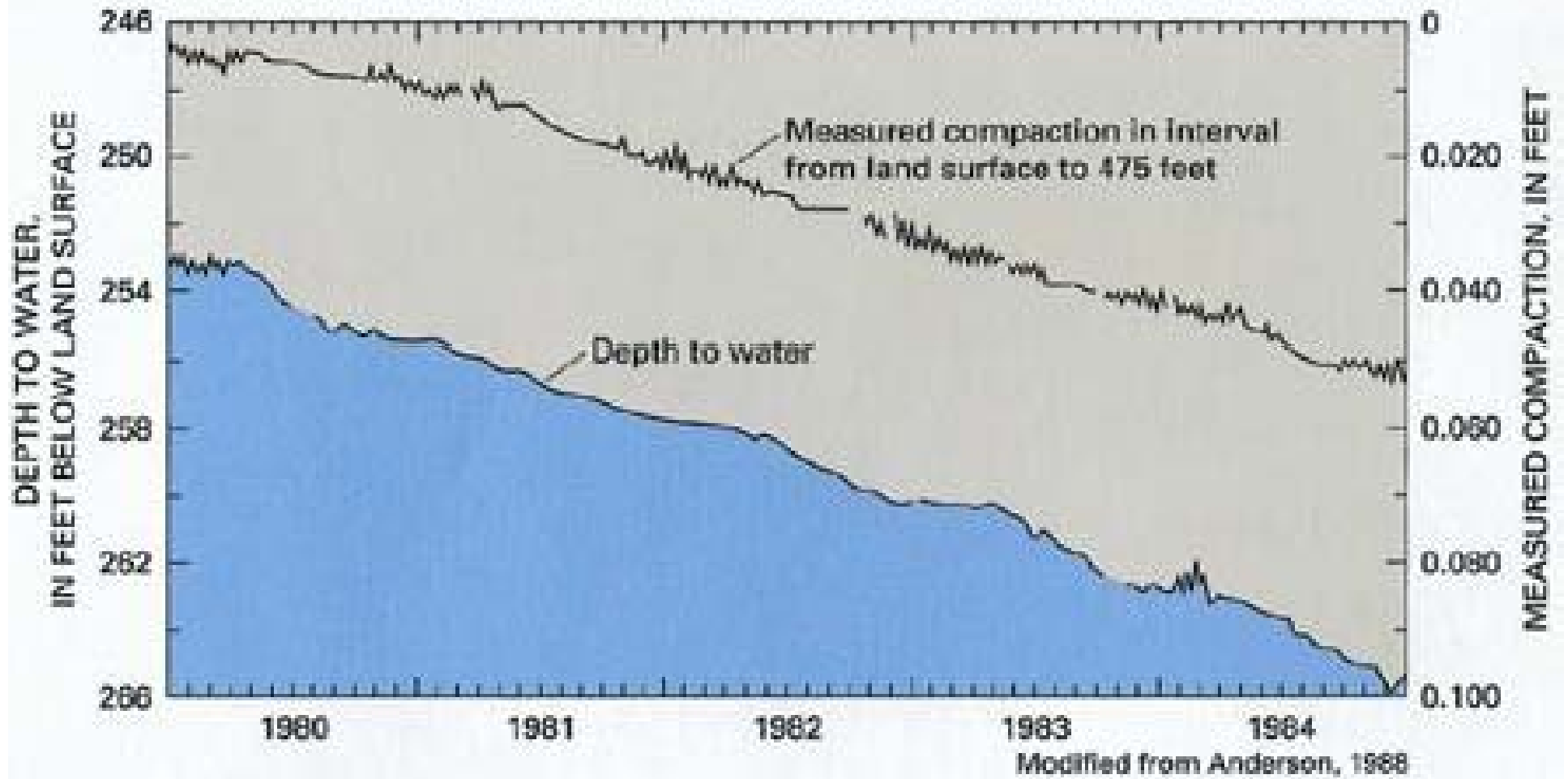




Base modified from  
U.S. Geological Survey  
digital data, 1:2,000,000, 1972

Modified from Robertson and Garrett, 1983









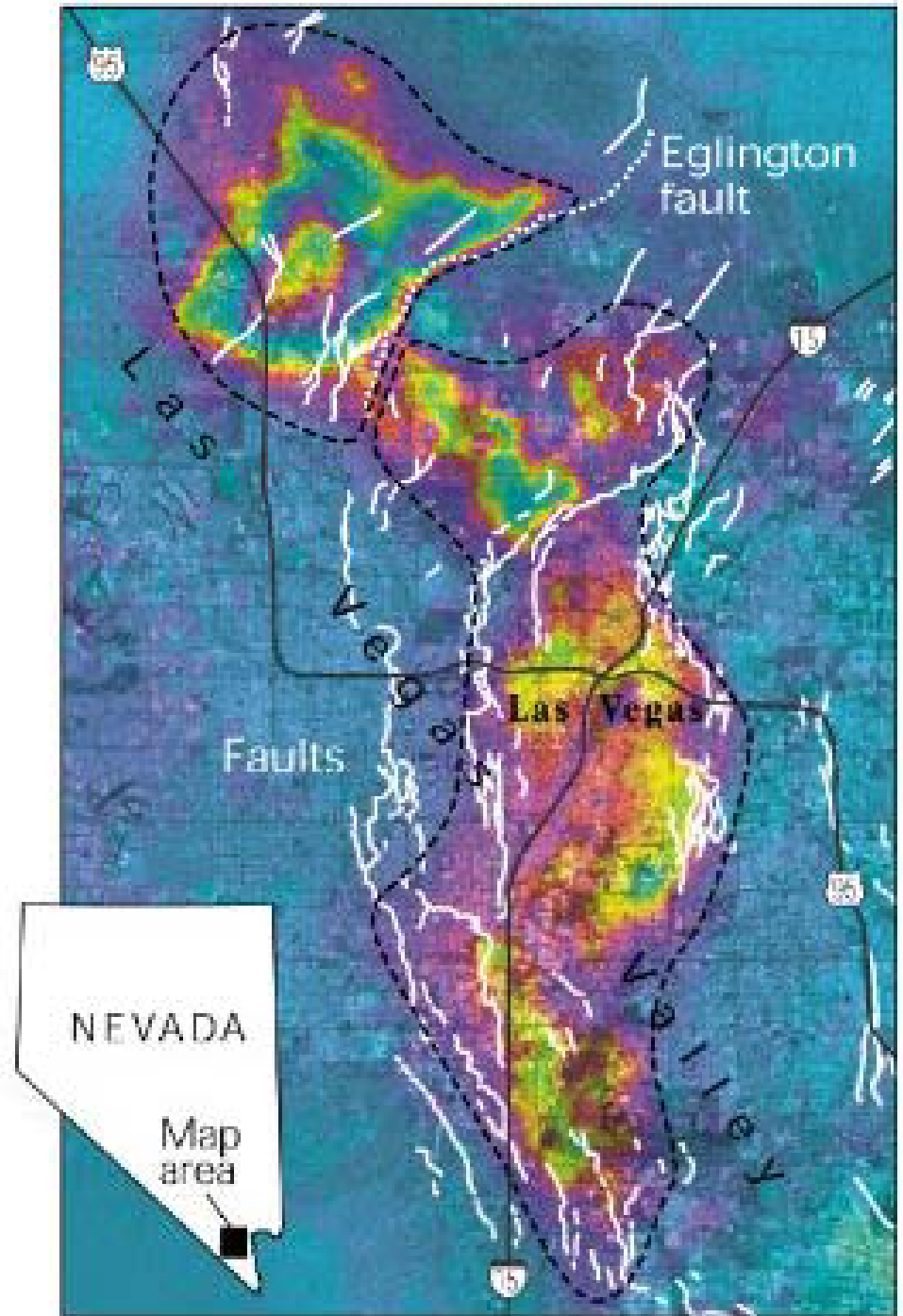
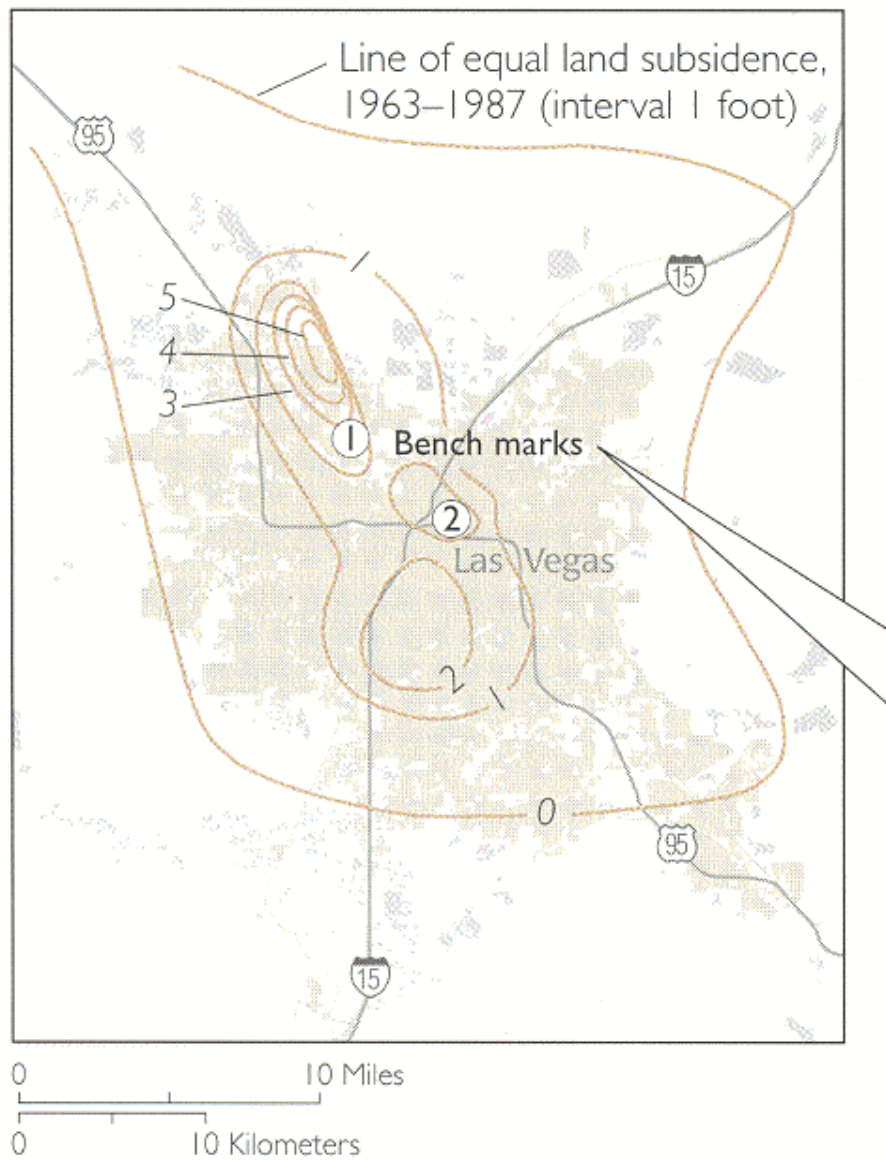






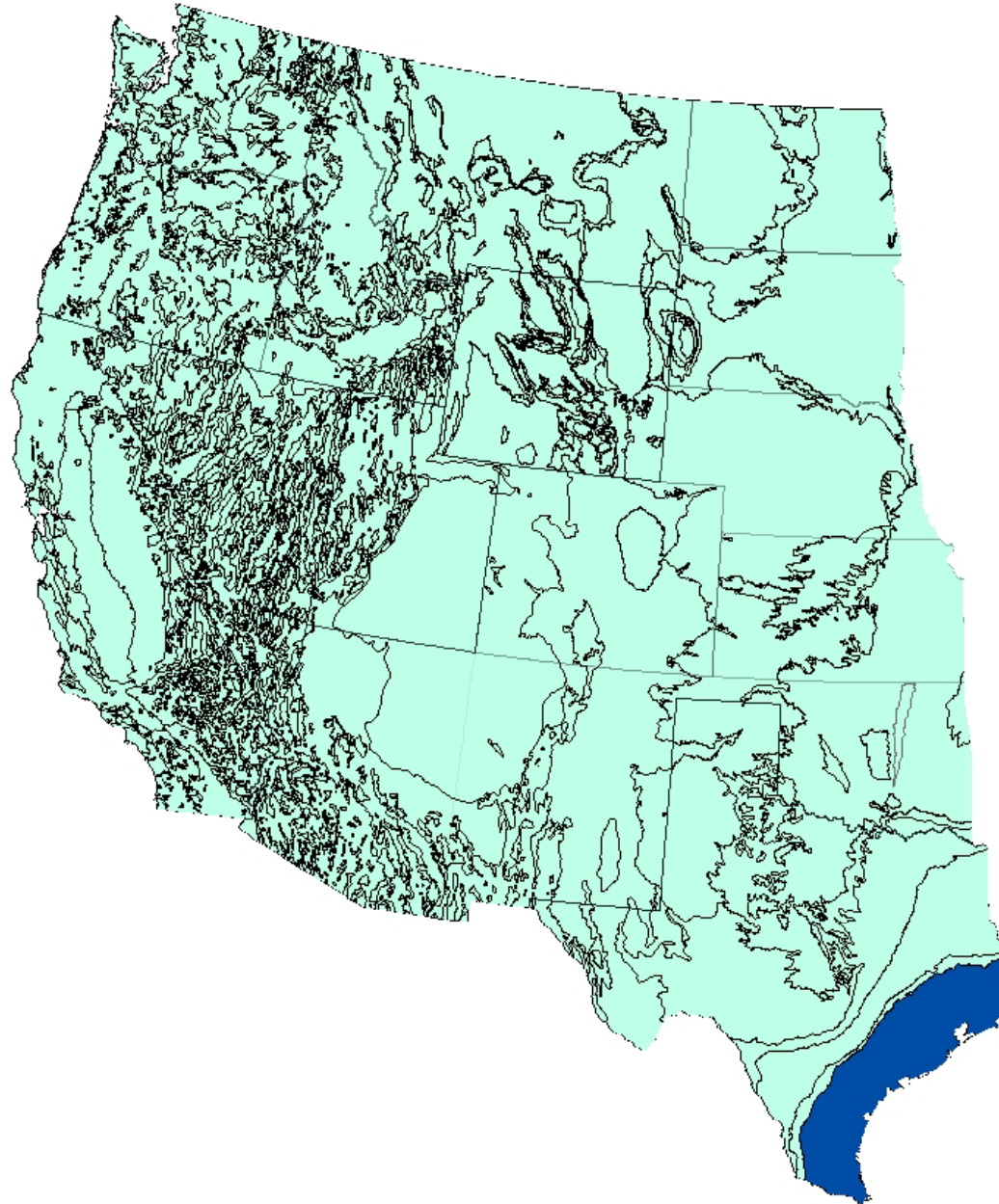


 **USGS**

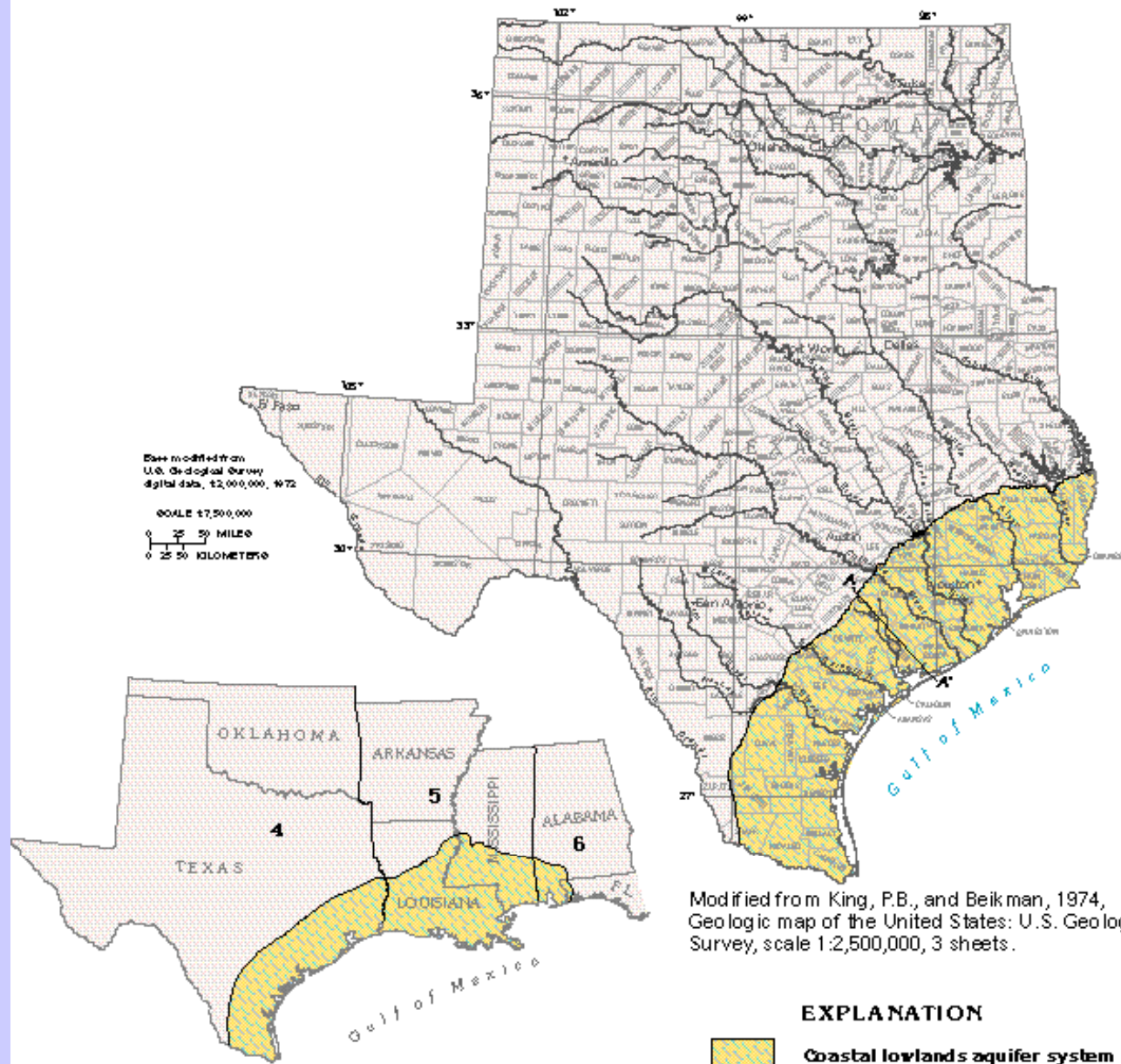




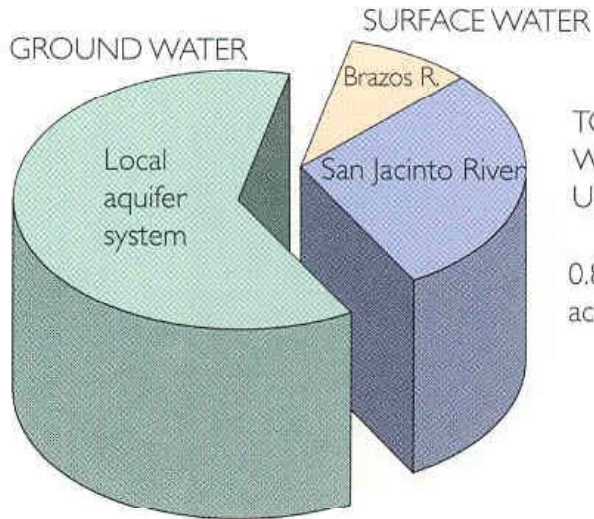






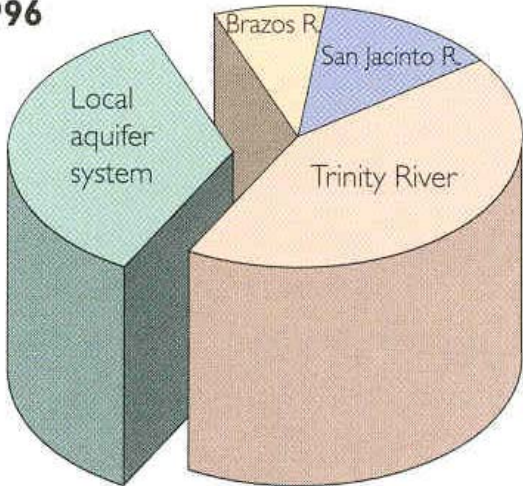


**1976**



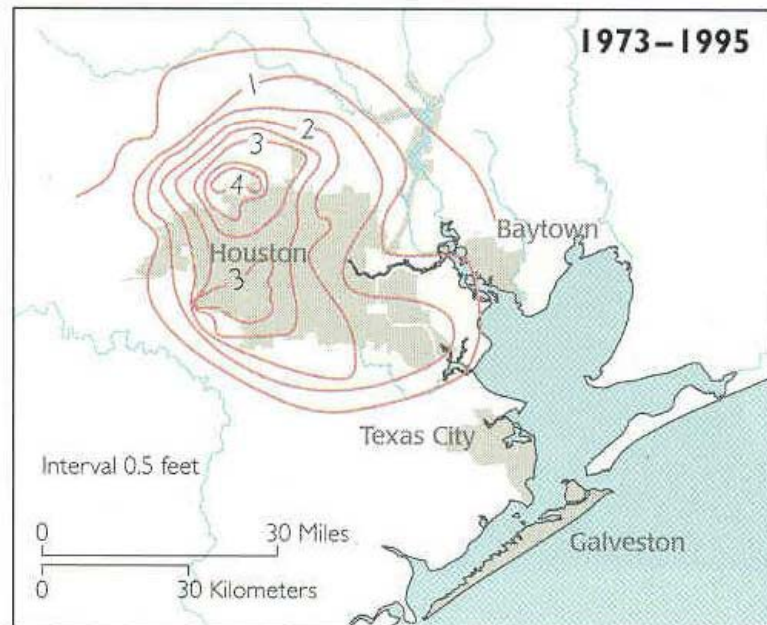
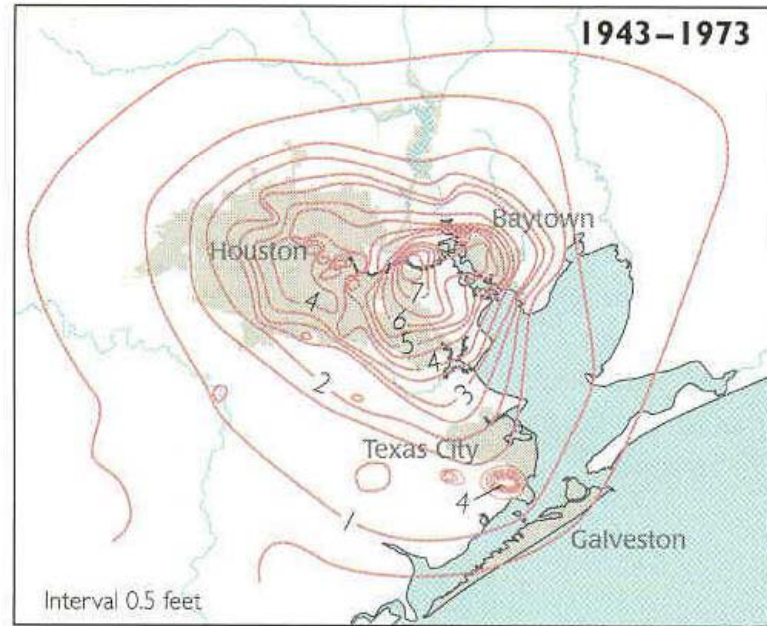
TOTAL  
WATER  
USE  
0.826 million  
acre-feet

**1996**



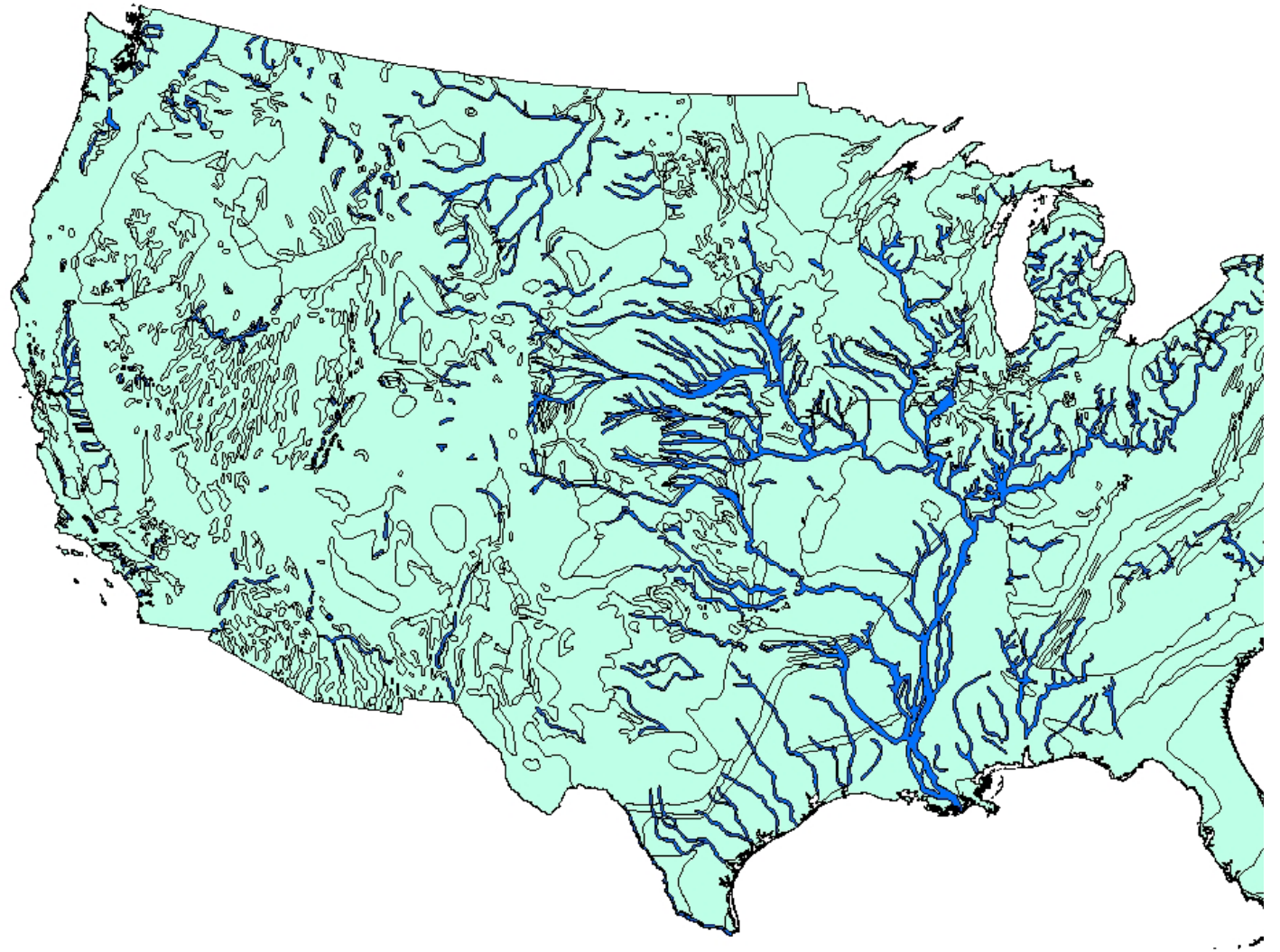
1.016 million  
acre-feet

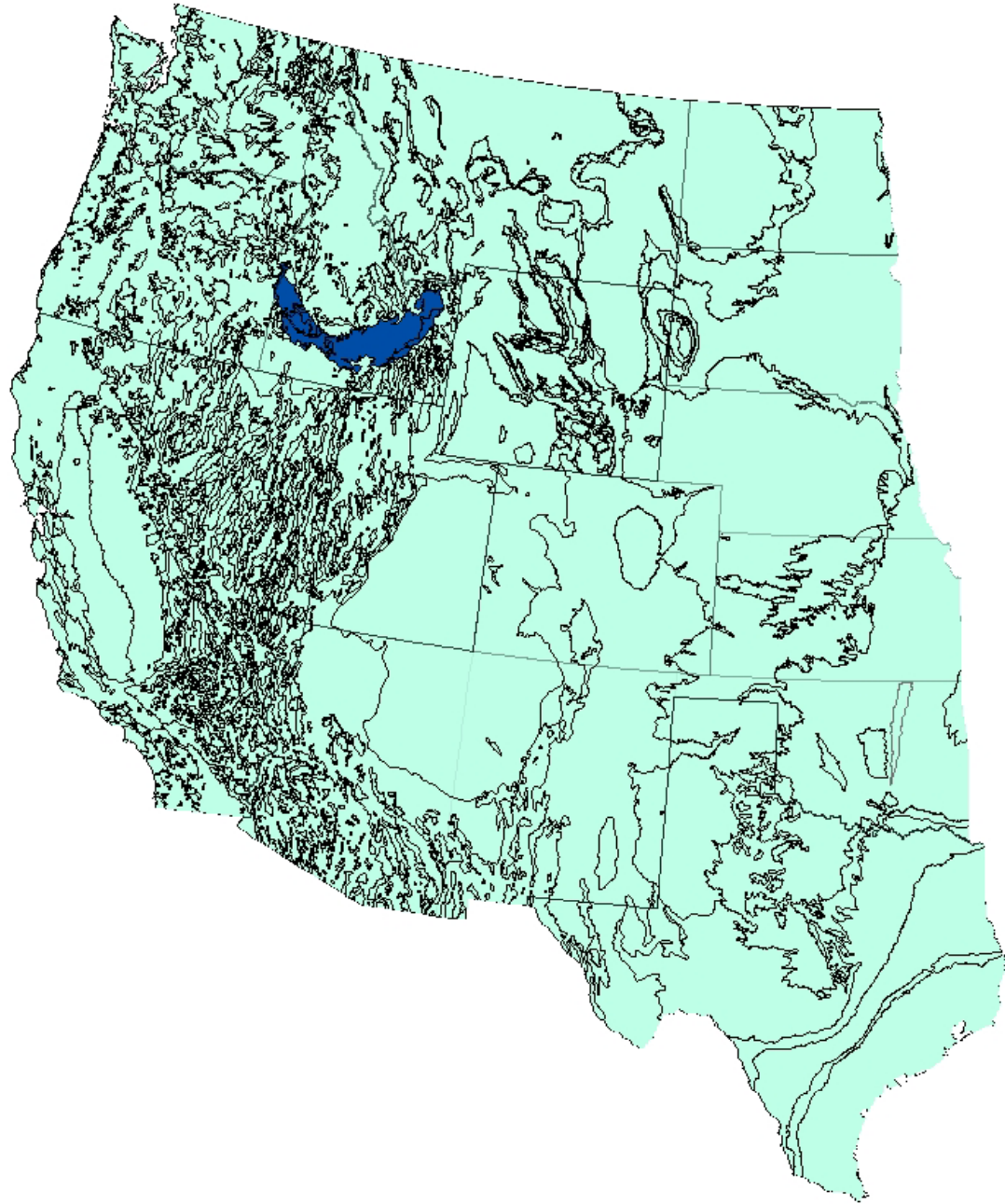
As a percentage of the total, ground-water use has dropped significantly, but total water use is rising.







(Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District)

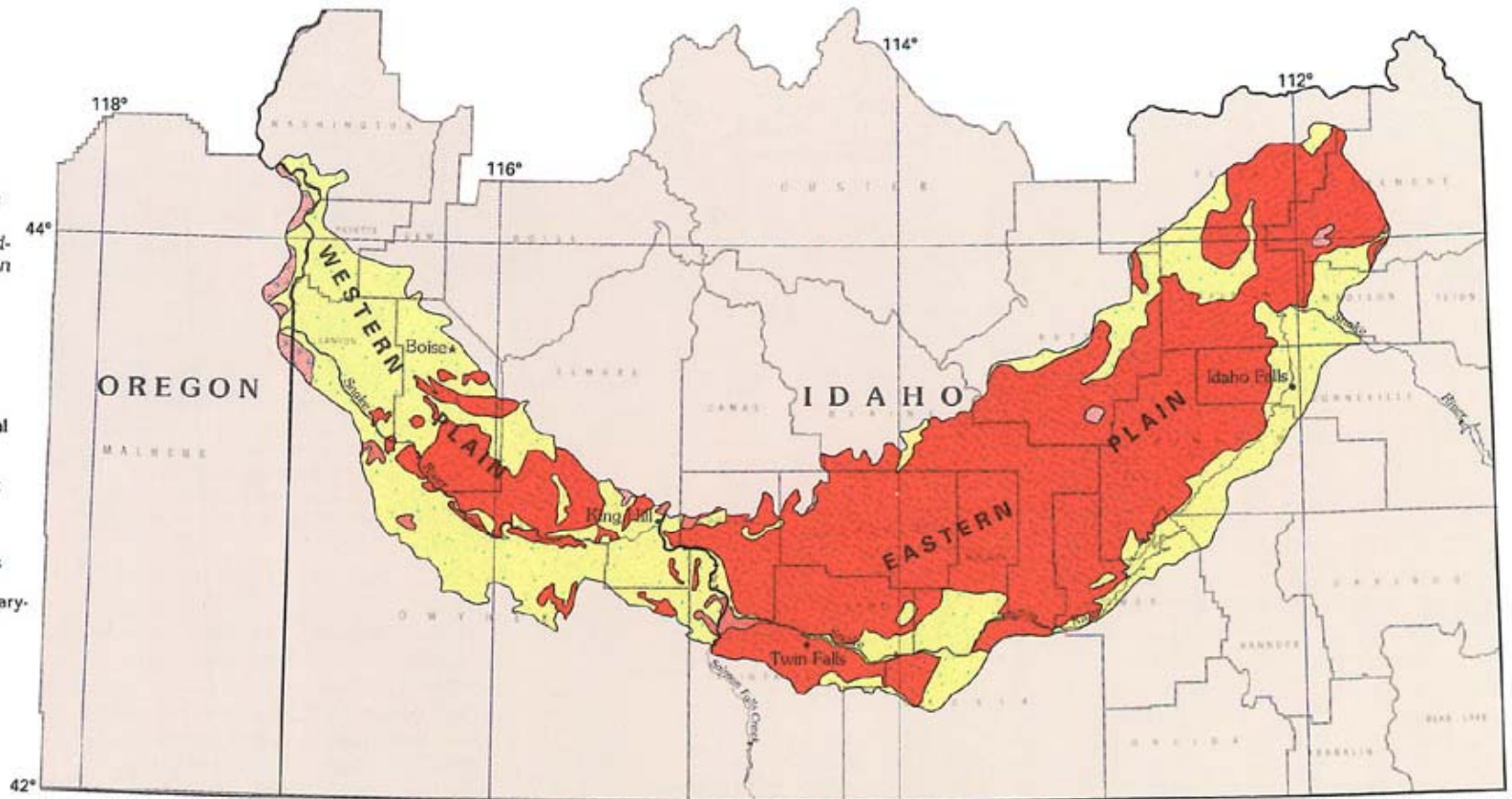






**Figure 53.** Pliocene and younger basaltic-rock aquifers predominate in the eastern plain, whereas unconsolidated-deposit aquifers predominate in the western plain.

- EXPLANATION**
- Snake River Plain regional aquifer system
-  Unconsolidated-deposit aquifers
  -  Pliocene and younger basaltic-rock aquifers
  -  Volcanic- and sedimentary-rock aquifers
  -  Miocene basaltic-rock aquifers



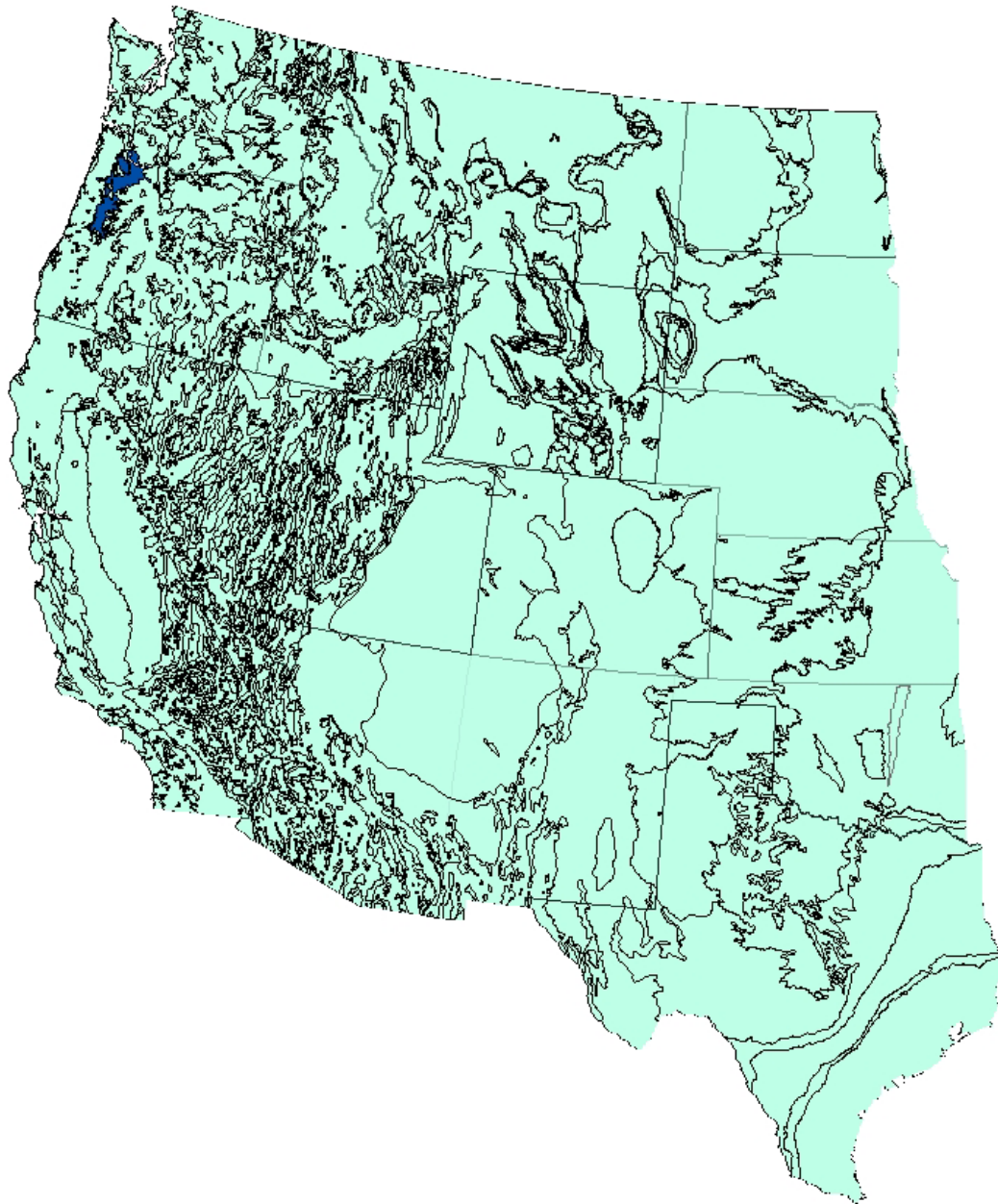
Base modified from U.S. Geological Survey National Atlas, 1:2,000,000, 1970

Modified from Whitehead, 1992

SCALE 1:2,500,000

0 25 50 MILES  
0 25 50 KILOMETERS









# Archive

## Ground Water Atlas of the United States

The series consists of 13 chapters which describe the ground-water resources of regional areas that collectively cover the 50 States, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands

*Area described in each chapter:*



Each of the 13 chapters is published as a Hydrologic Investigations Atlas (HA).

*For chapter author, table of contents and book availability:*



Internet