

# Crests

**Flood Stage:** Enter the flood stage in feet.

**Action Stage:** The stage at which the hydrology situation along a river/stream requires additional attention.

**Bankfull Stage:** An established river stage at a certain point along a river. This stage is intended to represent the maximum safe water level which will not overflow the river banks or cause any significant damage within the reach of the river. \_\_\_\_\_

**Flood Flow:** Enter the flow in cubic feet per second (CFS) at flood stage. Some gages have a flood flow defined instead of a flood stage, in this case, enter the flood flow. This entry will change when the rating table changes.

**How can you find this information???**

**Visit the river/forecast point site**

**Rating curves for preliminary bankfull stage and flood flow information**

**NOTE:** Final flood stage, action stage, and bankfull stage, are usually collaborated with other agencies, emergency managers, and local officials.

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**This section highlights various high water crests at or near the gage site.**

<b><u>Date of Crest:</u></b>	This is the date that the crest occurred. If the exact month or day of the month is unknown, enter a value of one in its place. This should be noted in the remarks section for clarification.
<b><u>Time (LST):</u></b>	Enter the time that the crest occurred.
<b><u>Crest (feet):</u></b>	Enter the stage of the crest.
<b><u>Flow (cfs):</u></b>	Enter the peak flow of the river or stream.
<b><u>From Survey:</u></b>	If the crest was determined by surveying high water marks, then mark this column with an X - otherwise leave blank.
<b><u>Old Datum:</u></b>	Place an X in the column if the crest was based on a zero datum which is no longer valid - otherwise leave blank.
<b><u>Caused by Jam:</u></b>	If the crest was caused by ice jamming, mark with an X - otherwise leave blank.
<b><u>Preliminary Crest:</u></b>	Place an X in the column if the crest entered is a preliminary value - otherwise leave blank.
<b><u>Remarks:</u></b>	Any additional remarks about the crest should be entered in this section.

**How can you find this information???**

USGS Water Resources Data (paper copies or CD ROM)  
Old E-5s and E-3s  
NWS surveys or reports  
*talking with the owning agency*

USGS Water Supply Papers  
State flood/damage reports  
Supporting RFC(s)

**NOTE:** For USGS stations, the primary source of crest information should be a USGS source (either a publication, or direct contact with a USGS data manager) - other sources of information should not be considered official.

