Conditions Affecting Flow

The purpose of this page is to provide information about what conditions might affect the flow near the gage.

Miles Above Mouth: This is the number of miles the gage is located above

the mouth of the river.

Drainage Area: Enter the drainage area in square miles.

<u>Pool Stage:</u> This value represents a normal water pool elevation, if

a gage is located on a navigable river with a lock and dam, or behind a low head dam. Most river gages will not have a pool stage, in which case this can be left

blank.

Stream Bed: What is the streambed mainly composed of (i.e. sand, silt, rock, etc.)?

Regulation: What type of regulations (reservoirs/dams) are located upstream? It is helpful to

mention the reservoir's capacity and operating plans to help determine their

influence on the channel.

Diversion: What type of diversions are located along the channel (i.e. canals, irrigation,

detention basins, bypasses, etc.)? If possible, a description of why and how

water is diverted around the gage should be included.

Winter: What type of winter conditions is the channel subject to?

Topography: Describe the topography of both banks along the reach. This should include the

topographical characteristics of the country side along the river/stream, not just

the area around the gage.

Remarks: Mention any other information that is important to know about conditions which

may influence a channel's flow. This would include information about the elevation of the low steel of bridges, cross section diagrams, as well as

information about backwater.

How can you find this information???

Visit the river/forecast point site
USGS Water Resources Data (paper copies or CD ROM)
USGS Gaging Description

talking with local agencies, entities, or residents gage owner (if not USGS)