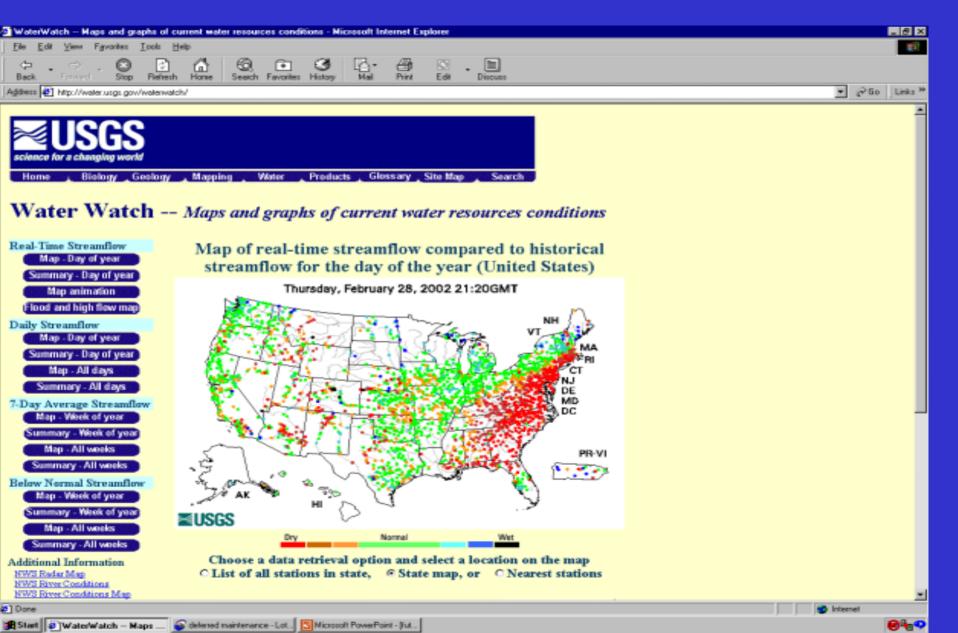
# Developments in the USGS Streamflow-Gaging Station and Real-Time Data Systems

**By** James E. Putnam U.S. Geological Survey Lawrence, Kansas

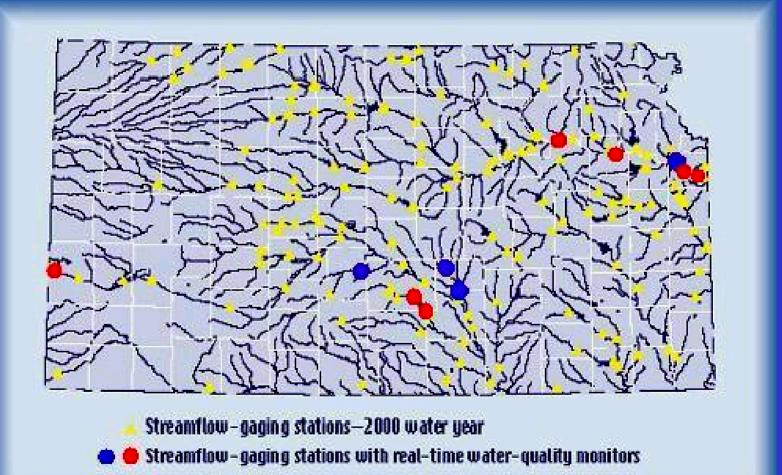


Water and Future of Kansas Conference March 5, 2002

# http:water.usgs.gov/waterwatch



# Streamflow-Gaging and RTQW Stations in Kansas



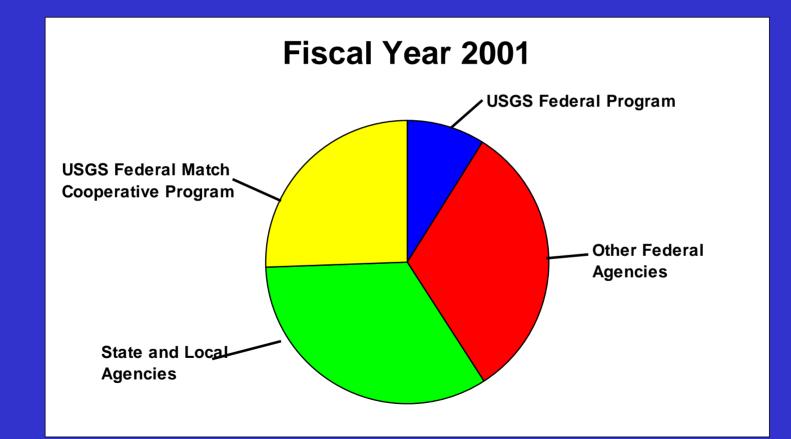


# Uses for Streamflow Information in Kansas

- Resource Appraisal and allocation
- Design of State's water infrastructure
- Flood Hazard Planning and forecasting
- Reservoir Operations
- Water Quality Management
- Instream flows for habitat assessment
- Understanding changes in streamflow
- Recreational safety

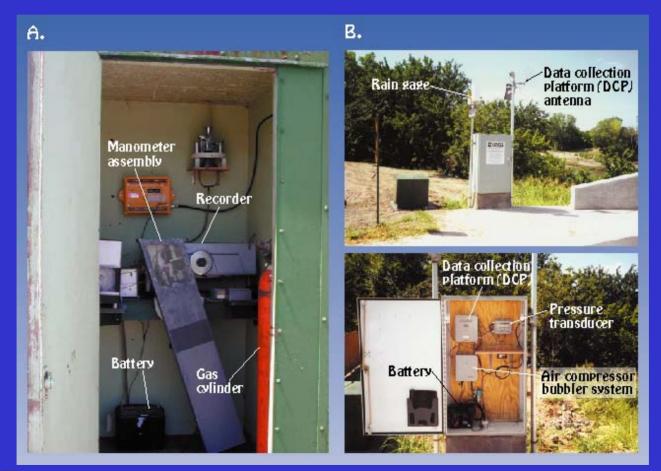


# Funding Sources for USGS Streamgaging Stations





# 1980 Gaging Station and Modern Gaging Station

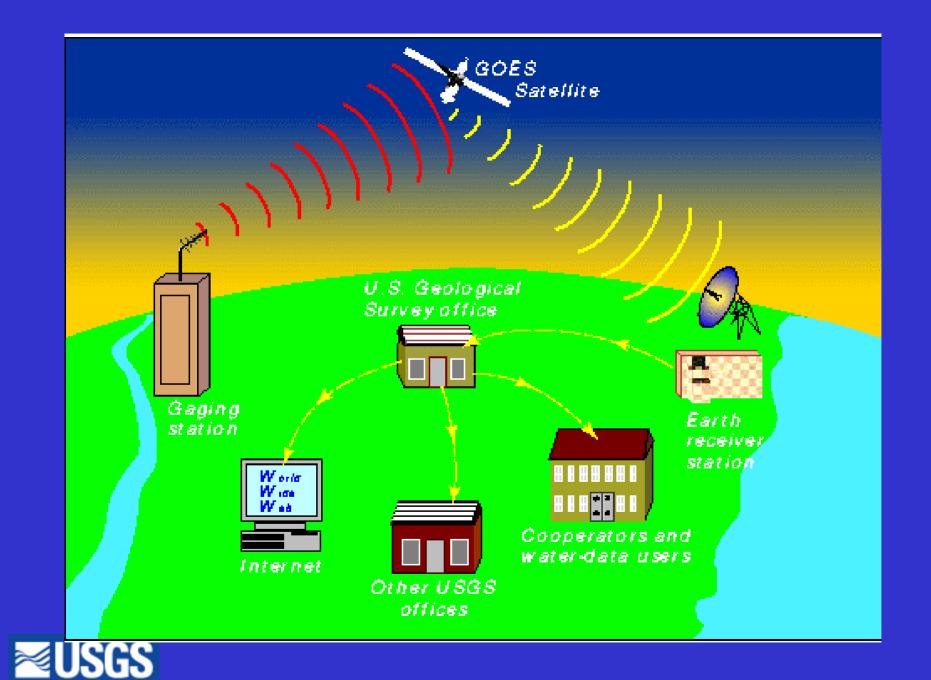




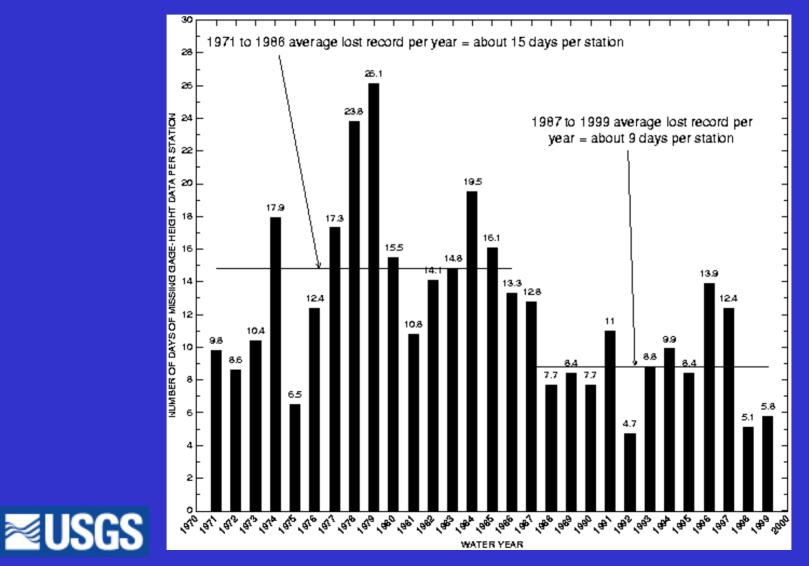
# New Equipment: Improved Reliability and Data Quality







## Comparison of Lost Record 1971-86 and 1987-99



## New Instrumentation for Stage and Streamflow Measurement











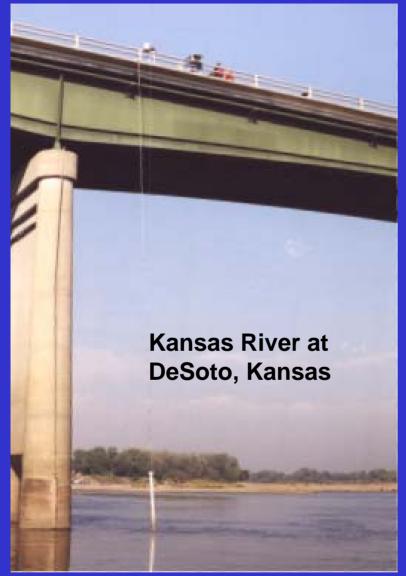
In the last 5 years, new tools have become available--- In-stream continuous monitors with turbidity...

### **Turbidity sensor**



- рΗ
- Water Temperature
- Dissolved Oxygen
- Specific Conductance
- Turbidity
- ORP
- Fluorescence







- Upgrade stream gages with RTQW monitors
- Collect manual samples over range of hydrologic conditions
- Develop regression equations using collected samples and sensor values
- Estimate concentrations and loads based on regression relations
- Put RTQW regression estimates and uncertainty on the web.



## http://ks.water.usgs.gov/nwis

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### **NWISWeb Data for Kansas**

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NOTE: During cold periods, gage height and streamflow information may be adversely affected by backwater from ice (or temporary freeze-up of orifice lines).

#### Data Category

Real-time Site information	Current-conditions data transmitted from selected surface-water, ground-water, and water- quality sites Descriptive site information for all sites with links to all available water data for individual sites.	These pages provide access to water-resources data collected at approximately 1.5 million sites in all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. Online access to this data is organized around the categories listed to the left. The USGS investigates the occurrence, quantity, quality, distribution, and movement of surface and underground waters	
Surface water	Water flow and levels in streams, lakes, and springs.	and disseminates the data to the public, State and local	
Ground water	Water levels in wells.	governments, public and private utilities, and other Federal	
Water quality	Chemical and physical data for streams, lakes, springs, and wells.	agencies involved with managing our water resources.  About Us Help	
Internal Access On	ly See this section.		
[Home] [NWISW	eb News] [NWIS-side processing] [nw_edit] [	Web-side processing] [Frequently Asked Questions]	
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Introduction

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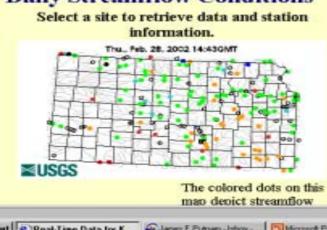
### **Real-Time Data for Kansas**

NOTE: During cold periods, gage height and streamflow information may be adversely affected by backwater from ice (or temporary freeze-up of orifice lines).

**Build Table** 

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### **Daily Streamflow Conditions**



1

### Statewide Streamflow Table

Real-time data typically are recorded at 15-60 minute intervals, stored onsite, and then transmitted to USGS offices every 1 to 4 hours, depending on the data relay technique used. Recording and transmission times may be more frequent during critical events. Data from real-time sites are relayed to USGS offices via satellite, telephone, and/or radio and are available for viewing within minutes of arrival.

Build a custom summary table for one or more stations

D internet

All real-time data are provisional and subject to revision.

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## **Example of Station Description**

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#### Surface-Water Data for Kansas - Microsoft Internet Explorer \_ @ X Elle Edit View Favorites Tools Help 10 Seath Favorites History 02 Ċ1 1 Skop Sack. Address D http://ks.wster.upps.gov/nevis/sw · Fio Links \* District Access Data Category: Geographic Area: skip navigation Surface Water Kansas Water Resources

### Surface-Water Data for Kansas

NOTE: During cold periods, gage height and streamflow information may be adversely affected by backwater from ice (or temporary freeze-up of orifice lines).

#### Real-time

Data for selected sites recorded at 5-60 min interval-- may include surface-water, groundwater, water-quality, and meteorological parameters.

#### Recent

Provisional daily data for the previous 18 months--includes published streamflow.

#### Streamflow

Daily streamflow data for the period of record at each site.

#### Statistics Daily

Monthiy Annual

#### Computed from published daily data.

#### Peaks

Annual maximum instantaneous peak streamflow and gage height

#### Measurements

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Field measurements of streamflow and gage height

#### Introduction

Nationally, USGS surface-water data includes more than 850,000 station years of time-series data that describe stream levels, streamflow (discharge), reservoir and lake levels, surface-water quality, and rainfall. The data are collected by automatic recorders and manual <u>measurements</u> at field installations across the Nation.

Data are collected by field personnel or relayed through telephones or satellites to offices where it is stored and processed. The data relayed through the Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite (GOES) system are processed automatically in near real time, and in many cases, <u>real-time data</u> are available online within minutes.

Once a complete day of readings are received from a site, daily summary data are generated and stored in the data base. <u>Recent provisional daily data</u> are updated on the web once a day when the computation is completed.

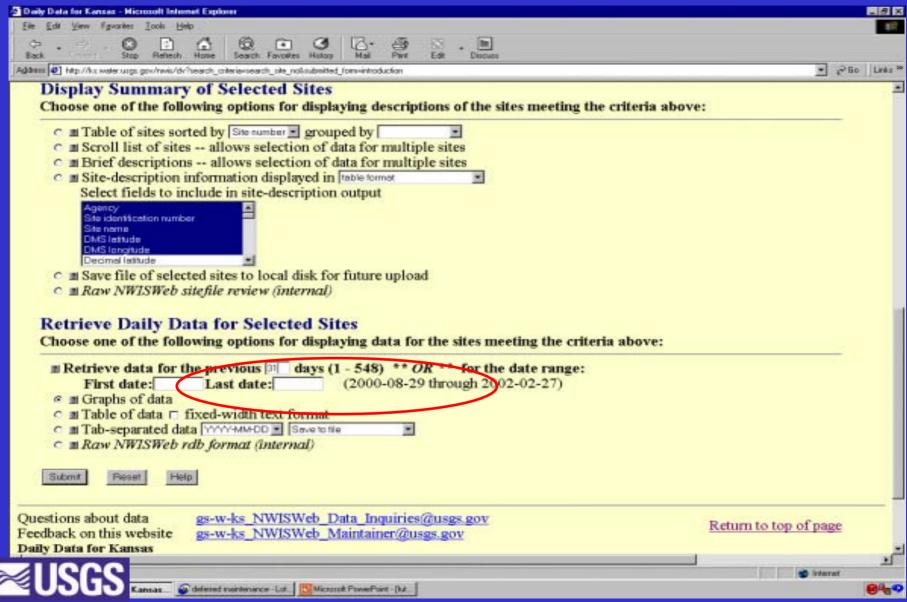
Annually, the USGS finalizes and publishes the daily data in a series of water-data reports. <u>Daily streamflow data</u> and <u>peak data</u> are updated annually following publication of the reports.

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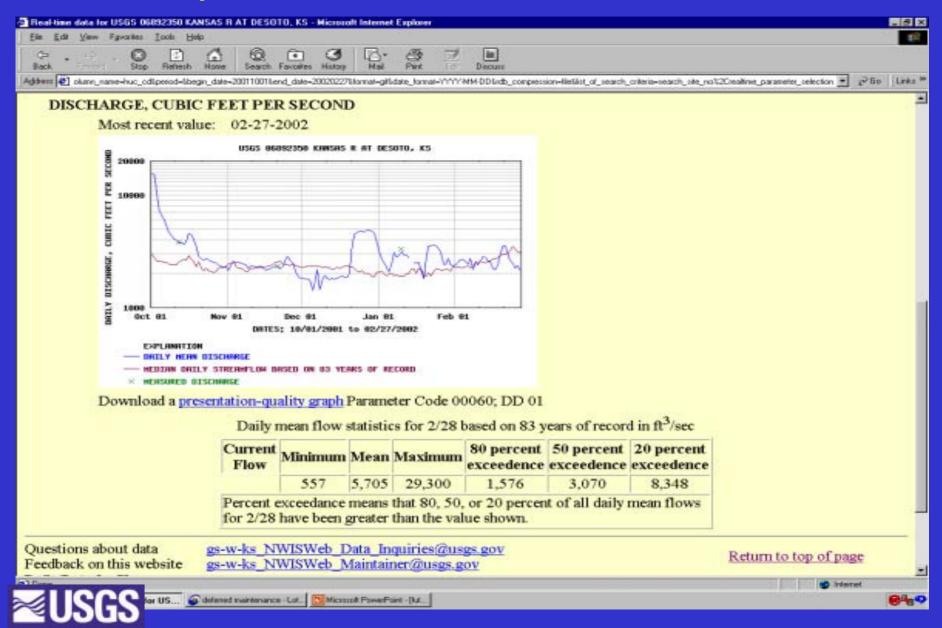
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Available parameters select sites that have data for the following parameters:	
Enter numbers to choose parameters and order columns in the output $or \square$ Select all.	
3 Gage height, ft (166 sites) Oxidation Reduction Potential (millivolts) (1 sites)	Lake/R
4 Streamflow, ft <sup>3</sup> /s (144 sites) Specific Conductance, μS/cm (14 sites)	DCP si
Water Temperature, °C (60 sites) Dissolved oxygen, mg/l (12 sites)	DCP si
Water Temperature, °F (1 sites) PH, standard units (12 sites)	DCP es
Air Temperature, °F (2 sites) Turbidity Field, Unfiltered (ntu) (11 sites)	DCP fr
Barometric pressure, mm of Hg (1 sites) Chlorophyll, Total, Water, Fluorometric, 650-700 Nanometers, In-Situ Sensor (Mg/L)	(6 sites) DCP m
Precipitation, in (160 sites) Battery Voltage (216 sites)	DCP tr
Depth of stream, mean, ft (2 sites) Depth below land surface, ft (2 sites)	
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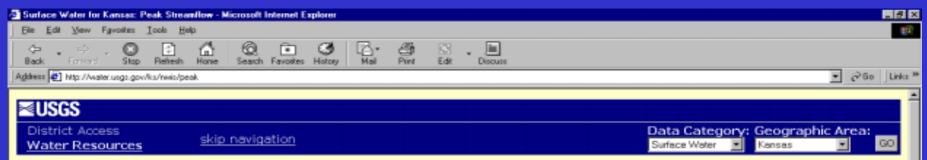
## Retrieve Daily Values for Current Year



## **Daily Values--Current Water Year**



## **Selection Menu**

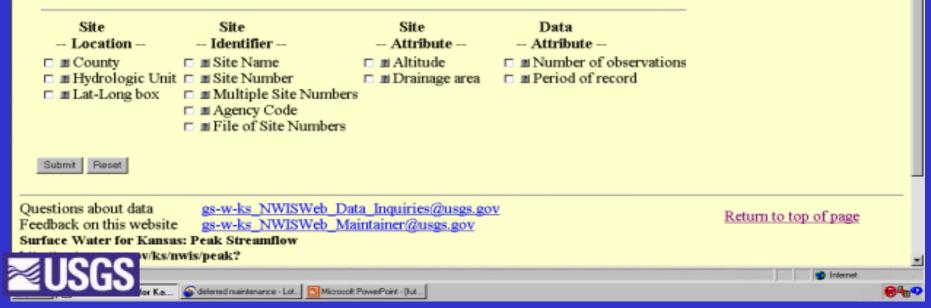


### **Peak Streamflow for Kansas**

NOTE: During cold periods, gage height and streamflow information may be adversely affected by backwater from ice (or temporary freeze-up of orifice lines).

### Site Selection Criteria

Choose one or more criteria to use for selecting sites:



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Data Category: Geographic Area: Water Dunity

### Water-Quality Data for Kansas

NOTE: During cold periods, gage height and streamflow information may be adversely affected by backwater from ice (or temporary freeze-up of orifice lines).

#### Real-time

Real-time water-quality data are returned directly from field instruments. Instantaneous data are recorded at 5-minute to 1hour intervals and uploaded to the data base every 4 hours.

#### Samples

Retrieve water-quality data from field and/or laboratory analysis of water, biological tissue, stream sediments, and other environmental samples.

#### Introduction

The USGS collects and analyzes chemical, physical, and biological properties of water, sediment and tissue samples from across the Nation. The NWISWeb discrete sample data base is a compilation of over 3.5 million historical water quality analyses in the USGS district data bases through September 1999. The discrete sample data is a large and complex set of data that has been collected by a variety of projects ranging from national programs to studies in small watersheds. Users should review the help notes and particularly the Data retrieval precautions before beginning any retrieval or analysis of data from this data set. Additions of more current data, modifications to ancillary information, and enhanced retrieval options to help users find and appropriately use the data they need are planned for a future release of NWISWeb.

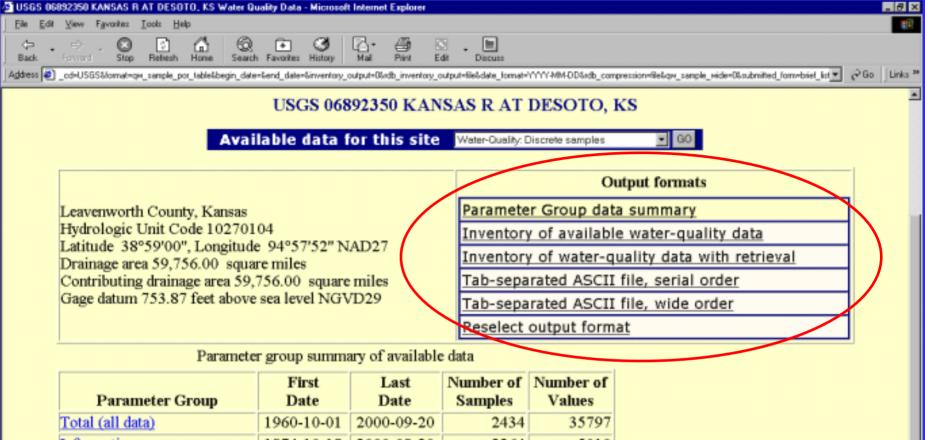
At selected surface-water and ground-water sites, the USGS maintains instruments that continuously record physical and

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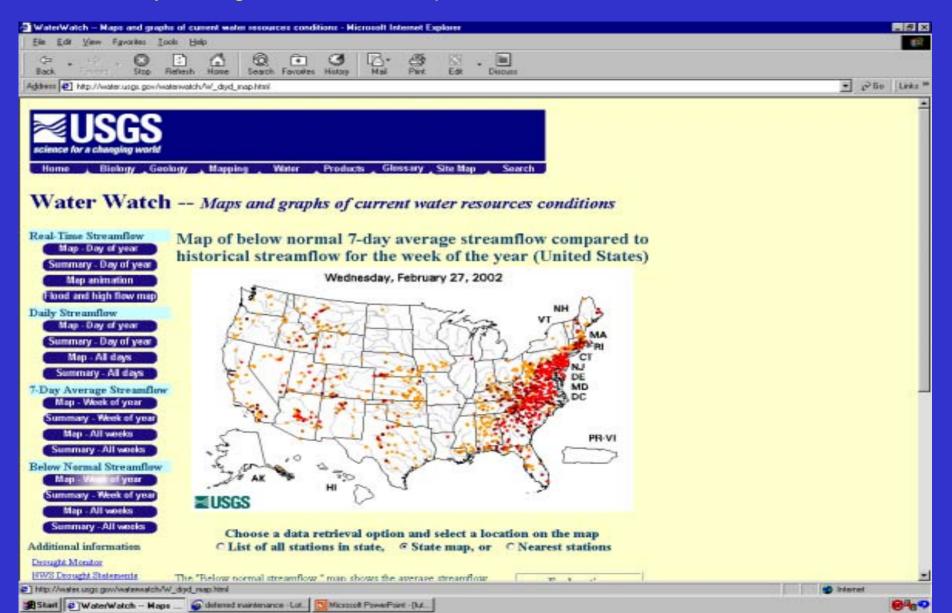


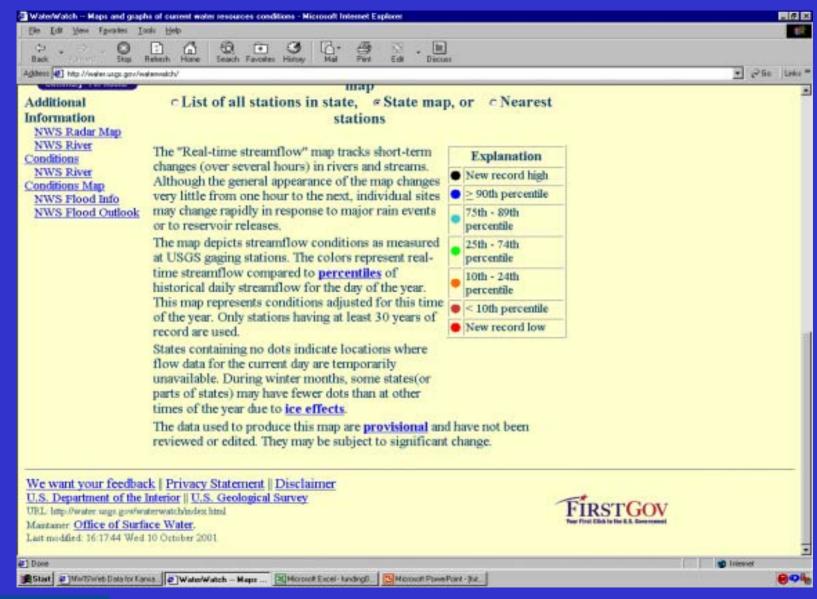
<u>Total (all data)</u>	1960-10-01	2000-09-20	2434	35797
Information	1974-10-18	2000-09-20	2264	5010
Biological	1974-10-07	2000-09-20	211	841
Nutrients	1973-08-21	2000-09-20	221	1667
Organics	1975-01-28	2000-09-20	177	2088
Major Inorganics	1973-08-21	2000-09-20	221	2459
Minor and Trace Inorganics	1973-08-21	2000-09-20	144	3024
Physical Property	1960-10-01	2000-09-20	2424	10852
Radiochemicals	1981-01-26	1989-04-18	22	81
Sediment	1975-10-10	2000-09-20	2047	9622

Done

## http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch

7-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for week









# Links to USGS Data on the Internet

Streamflow: <u>http://ks.water.usgs.gov/nwis/rt</u> Water Quality: <u>http://ks.water.usgs.gov/Kansas/rtqw</u> Waterwatch <u>http://water.usgs.gov/waterwatch</u>

