

# Hydrogeologic Framework of the Yakima River Basin Aquifer System

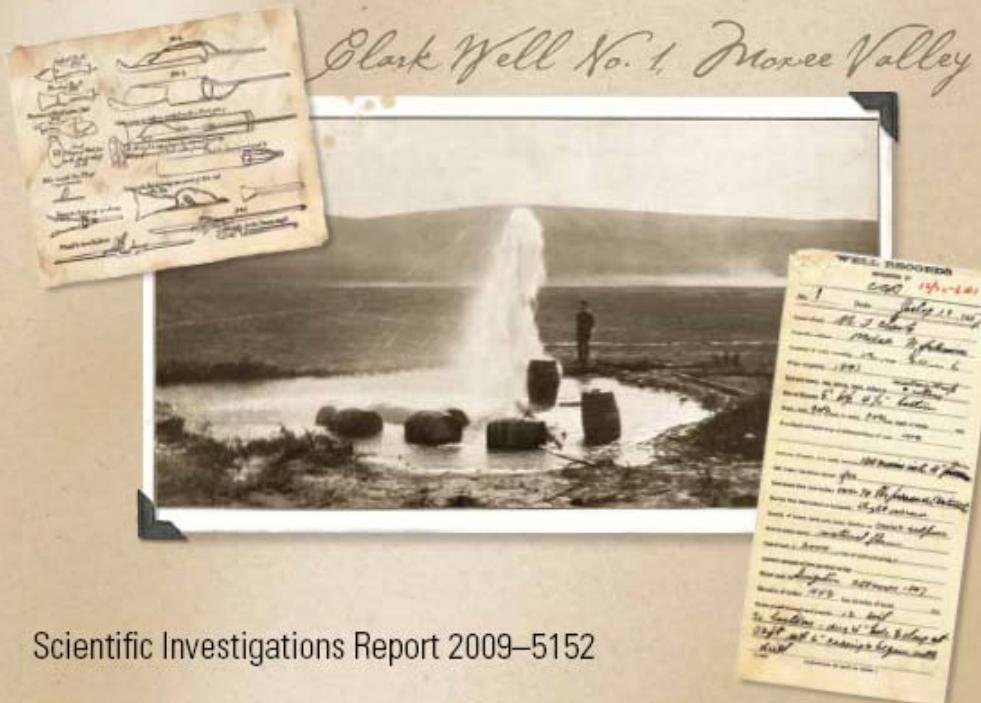


USGS

Prepared in cooperation with the  
Bureau of Reclamation,  
Washington State Department of Ecology, and the  
Yakama Nation



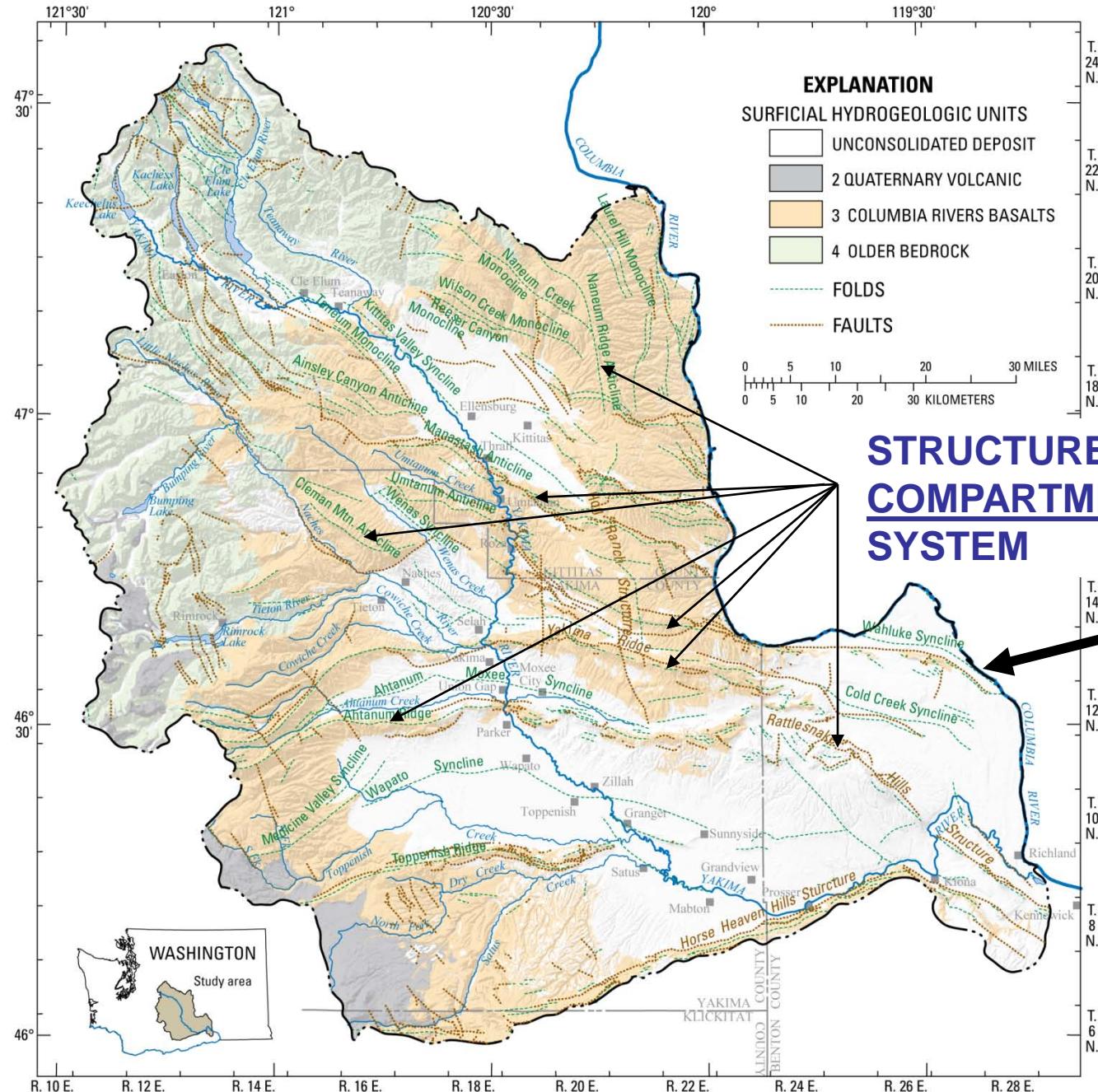
## Hydrogeologic Framework of the Yakima River Basin Aquifer System, Washington



Scientific Investigations Report 2009-5152

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# **HYDROGEOLOGIC UNITS**



## **STRUCTURE → COMPARTMENTALIZES FLOW SYSTEM**

## Extended study area

Base from U.S. Geological Survey digital data, 1983, 1:100,000  
Universal Transverse Mercator projection, Zone 10  
Horizontal Datum: North American Datum of 1927 (NAD 27)



# BASIN-FILL DEPOSITS

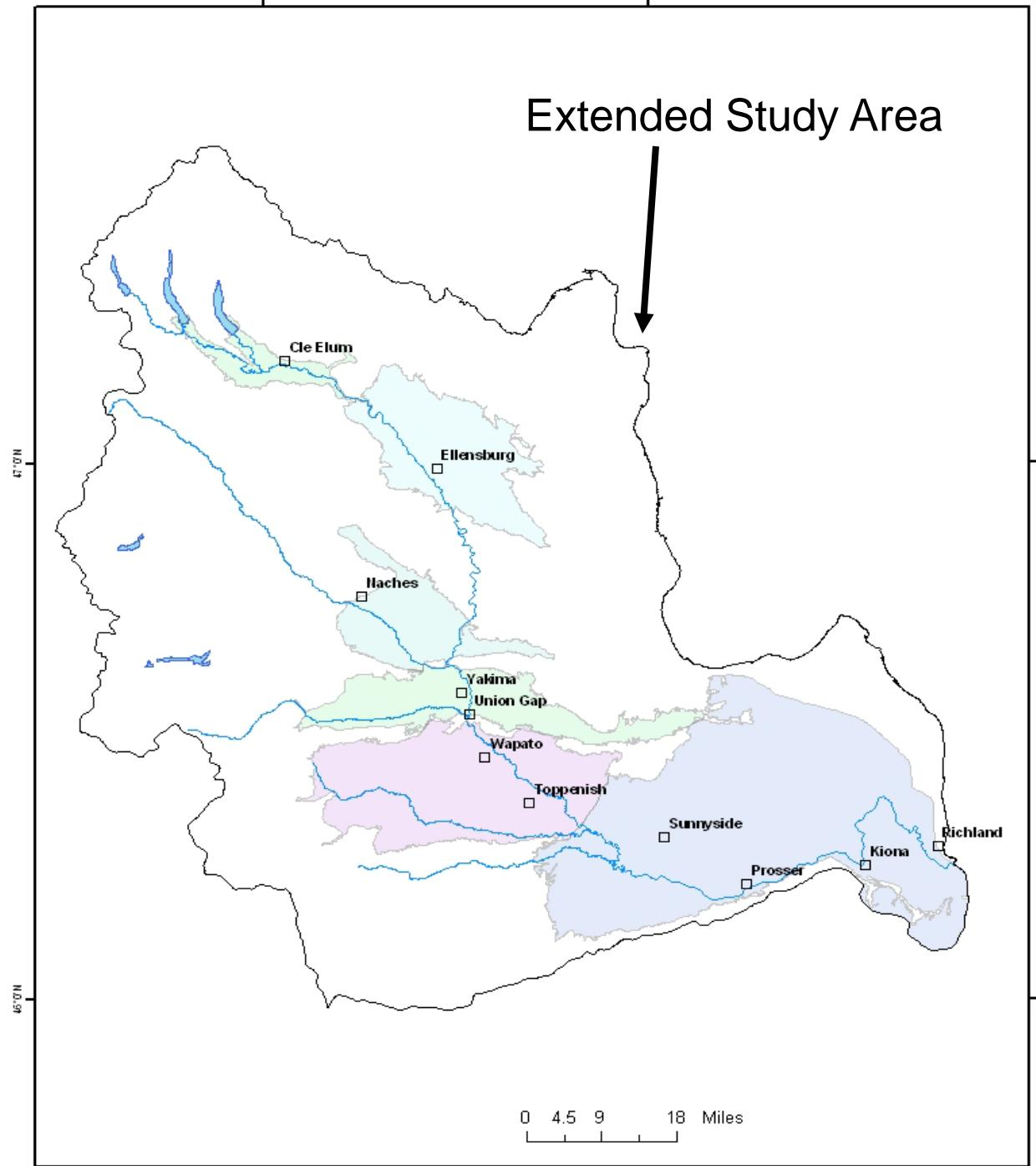
- MAPPED HYDROGEOLOGIC UNITS  
AND TOTAL THICKNESS

# Six Structurally controlled Basins that contain basin-fill deposits

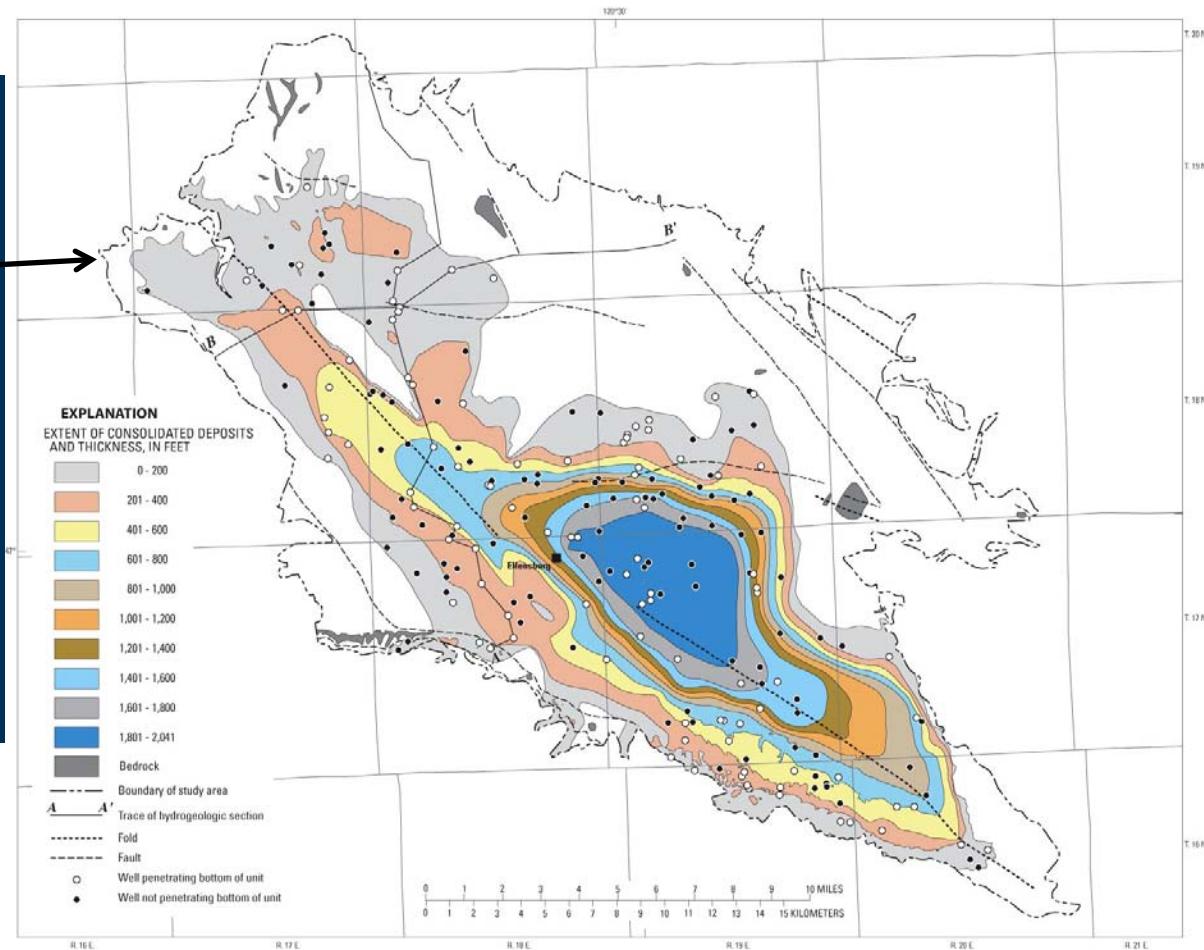
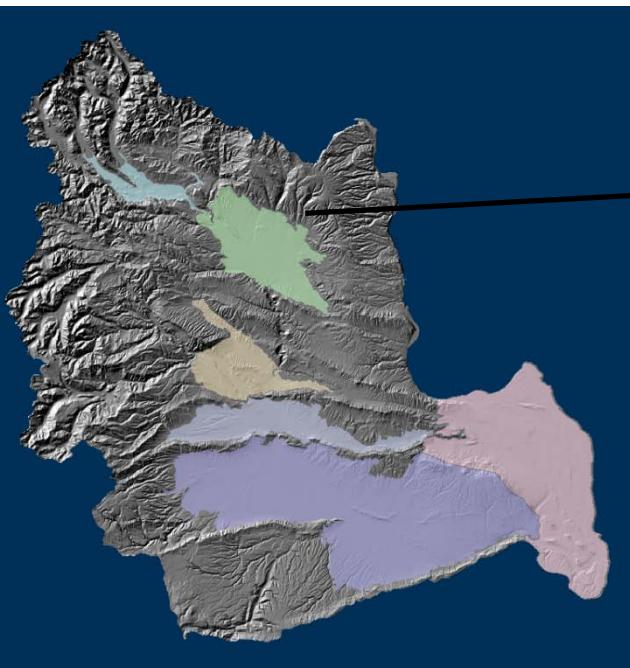
2,200 mi<sup>2</sup>

70 – 1,020 mi<sup>2</sup>

Extended Study Area

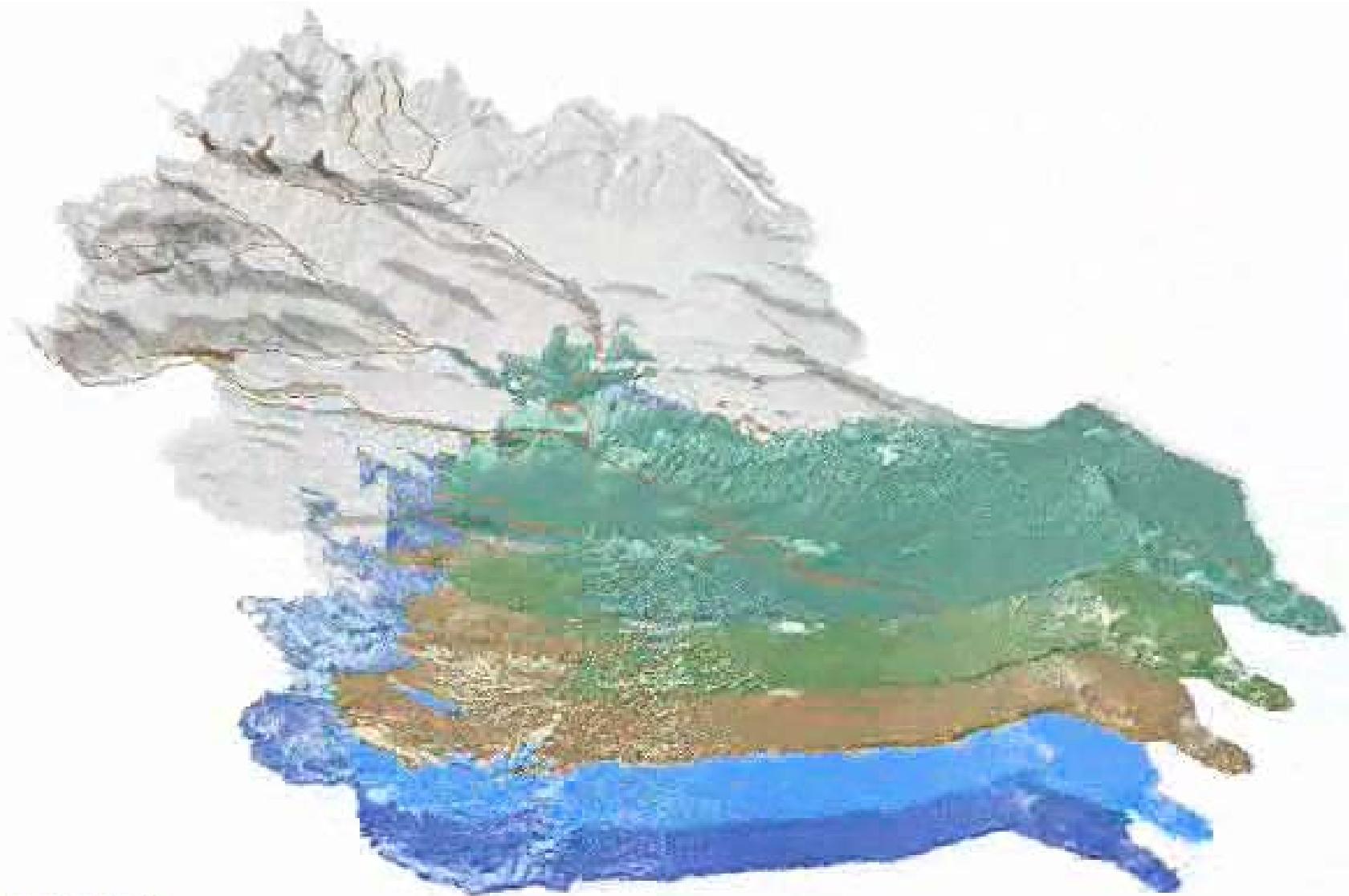


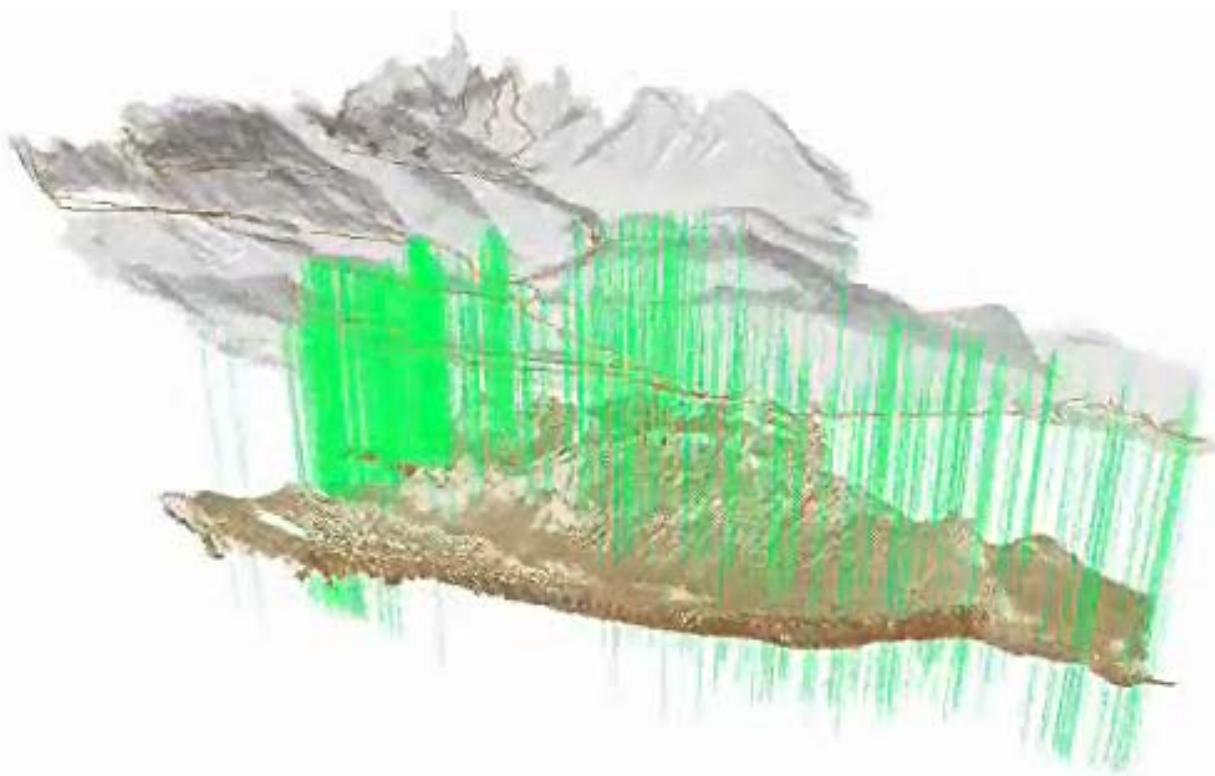
# Hydrogeologic Framework of Sedimentary Deposits in Six Structural Basins

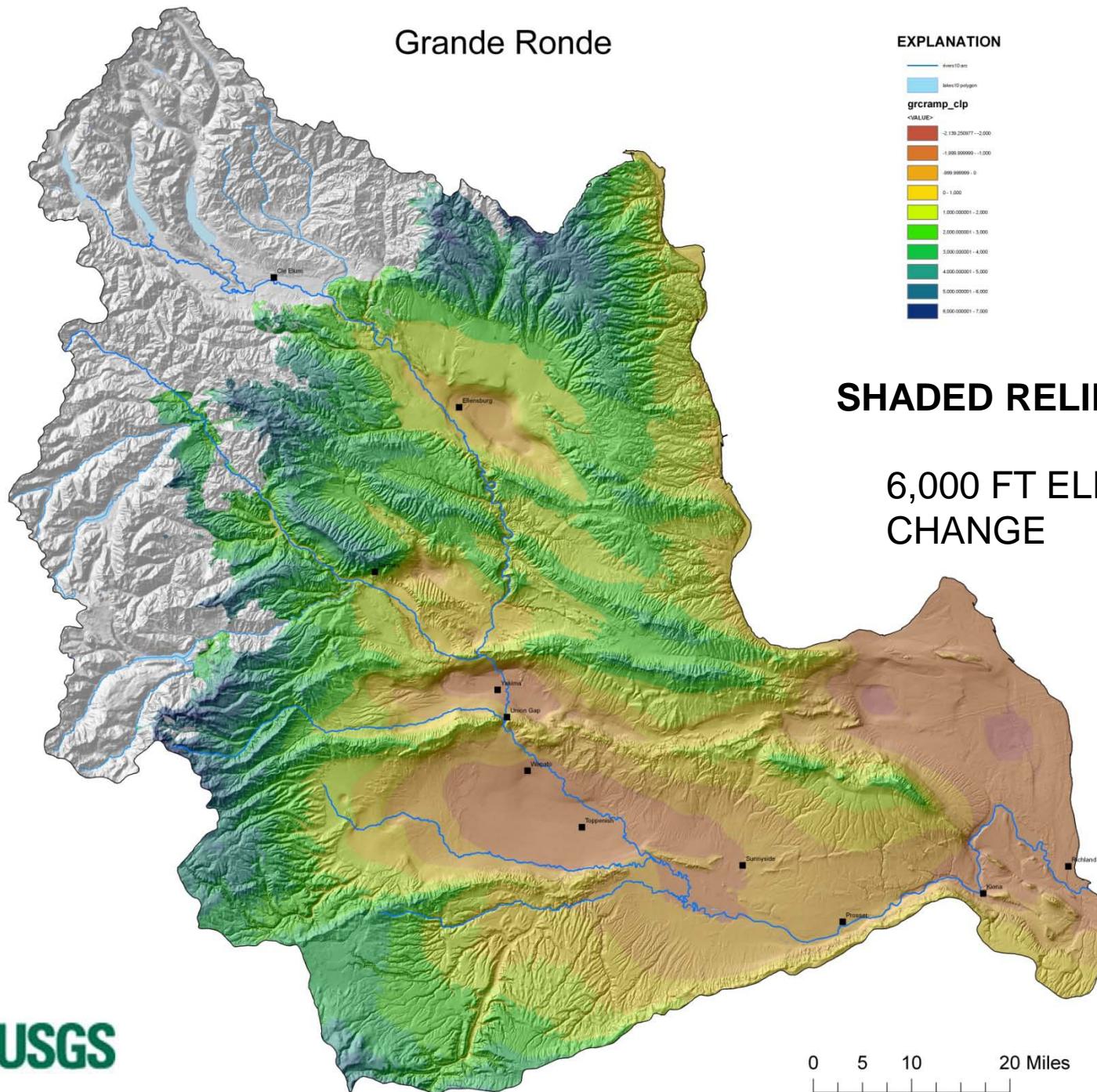


# COLUMBIA RIVER BASALT GROUP

- MAPPED LATERAL EXTENT AND DEPTH TO TOP OF UNIT of: Saddle Mountains, Wanapum, and Grande Ronde Units (basalts) and Mabton and Vantage Units (interbeds)







### BASIN-FILL AND COLUMBIA RIVER BASALT GROUP UNITS

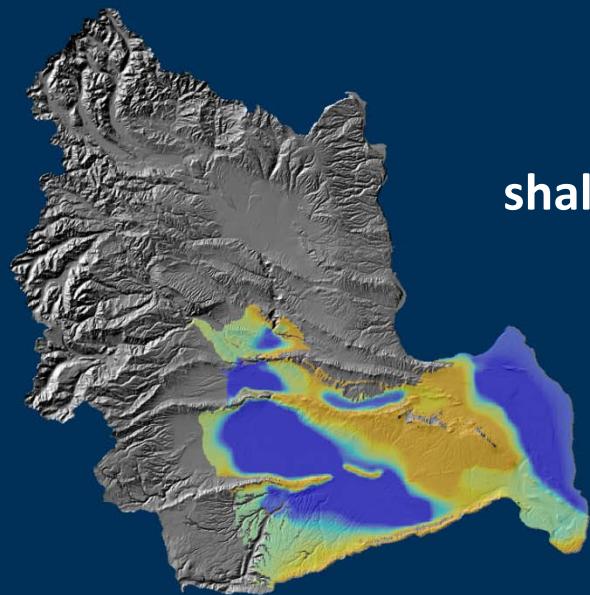
ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SIMPLIFIED GEOLOGIC UNITS	HYDROGEOLOGIC UNIT
CENOZOIC	Quaternary	Holocene	Alluvium, alpine glaciation, alluvial fan, dune sand, artificial fill, and peat deposits	Unit 1 (R, K, S, Y, T, BI)
		Pleistocene	Alluvium, alpine glacial drift, alluvial fan, Palouse Fm., Lakedale Drift, Lookout Mountain Ranch Drift, Hayden Creek Drift, Kittitas Drift, Evans Creek Drift, unknown continental sedimentary deposits, dune sand, Missoula glacial lake deposits	Unit 1 (R, K, S, Y, T, BI), Unit 2 (R, K, S, Y, T)
	Tertiary	Pliocene	Alluvial fan, Ringold Fm., Ellensburg Fm., Dalles Fm., Thorpe Gravel, and unknown continental sedimentary deposits	Unit 1 (BI), Unit 2 (R, K, S, Y, TI), Unit 3 (R, K, S, Y)
		Miocene	Ellensburg Fm., Ringold Fm., Dalles Fm., Snipes Mountain deposits, and unknown continental sedimentary deposits	Unit 2 (BI), Unit 3 (R, K, S, Y, TI), Unit 4 (TI), Unit 5 (TI)
	Columbia River Basalt Group	Saddle Mountains Basalt flow members and interbeds		Saddle Mountains unit (SM)
		Mabton Interbed		Mabton unit
		Wanapum Basalt flow members and interbeds		Wanapum unit (WN)
		Vantage Interbed		Vantage unit
	Grande Ronde Basalt flow members and interbeds		Grande Ronde unit (GR)	

BEDROCK UNITS					
ERA	PERIOD	EPOCH	SIMPLIFIED GEOLOGIC UNITS	HYDROGEOLOGIC UNIT	
CENOZOIC	Quaternary	Holocene to Pleistocene	Old Snowy Mt. andesite, Mount Rainier andesite, Tieton andesite, Russell Ridge andesite, Round Mt. andesite, Pear Lake andesite, Jess Lake complex andesite, Deep Creek andesite, Deer Lake Mt. andesite, Swampy Meadow andesite, Signal Peak andesite, South Butte andesite, Hellroaring and Big Muddy Creek complex andesite, Mt. Adams volcanics, Tumuc Mt. basalt, Rimrock Lake basalt, Lava Creek basalt, Kincaid Lake basalt, Hogback Mt. basalt, Canyon Creek basalt, Paradise Falls basalt, Outlaw Creek basalt, McClellan Meadows basalt, White Chuck cinder cone basalt, Walup Lake basalt, Two Lakes Basalt, Trout Lake Creek basalt, Thomas Lake basalt, Tillicum Creek basalt, Twin Buttes basalt, Sleeping Beauty basalt, Sawtooth Mt. basalt, Red Lake basalt, Riley Creek basalt, Rush Creek basalt, Red Butte basalt, Mosquito Creek basalt, Lakeview Mt. basalt, Little Goose Creek basalt, Losf basalt, Lake Comcomly basalt, Lou Bute basalt, Indian Viewpoint basalt, Indian Heaven basalt, Ice Cave basalt, Hidden Lake basalt, Goat Butte basalt, Green Canyon basalt, Gochen Creek basalt, Glaciate Butte basalt, Flattop Mt. basalt, East Canyon Creek basalt, Dead Horse Creek basalt, Deep Lake basalt, Camas Prairie basalt, County Park basalt, Cheamus Lake basalt, Burnt Peak basalt, Bunnell Butte basalt, Bird Mountain basalt, Blue Lake basalt, Badger Peak basalt, Placid Lake basalt, Spiral Butte dacite, Clear Fork dacite, Snyder Mt. dacite, Ollalie Lake dacite	QB Quaternary Bedrock unit (for area that overlays the older bedrock deposits and lies outside the Grande Ronde Basalt extent)	
			Simcoe Mtn. volcanics, Devils Horns volcanics, Goat Rocks andesite, Bee Flat andesite, Lincoln Plateau basalt, Hogback Mtn. basalt, Devils Washbasin basalt, Dalles Ridge basalt, Bald Mt., pluton, and Bethel Ridge basalt		
	Tertiary	Miocene	Conglomerate Point breccia, Howson andesite, Council Bluff volcanics, Clear West rhyolite, Silver Creek tonalite, Skyscraper Mtn. volcanics, Eagle tuff, Palisades tuff, Blensburg Fm. volcanics, Cooper Pass volcanoclastics, Stevens Ridge Fm. volcanics, Elfe's Peak Fm. volcanics, Tatoosh pluton, Bumping Lake pluton, Box Canyon gabbro, Carbon River stock, Nisqually diorite, Jug Lake sills, Snoqualmie Batholith, Snipes Peak Fm. sediments, White River pluton, Box Canyon volcanics	TB Tertiary Bedrock unit	
			Wenatchee Fm. sediments, Chumstick Fm. andesite, Grotto Batholith, Mount Daniel volcanics, Index Batholith, Mount Ax volcanics, Eagle Gorge volcanics, Ohanapecosh Fm. volcanics, Mill Creek basalt, Wildcat Creek volcanoclastics, Spencer Creek volcanoclastics, Rattlesnake Creek tuff, Bumping River tuff, and Burnt River tuff		
		Oligocene	Tukwila Fm. volcanics, Tiger Mtn. Fm., sediments, Roslyn Fm. sediments, Renton Fm. sediments, Naches Fm. sediments and volcanics, Barlow Pass volcanics, Swauk Fm. sediments and volcanics, Manastash Fm. sediments, Lookout Creek sandstone, Tenaway Basalt, Camas Land diabase, Goat Mtn. dacite, Banks Lake dacite, Fuller Mount polug, Cooper Mtn. Batholith, Raging River Fm. sediment, Mt. Paris volcanics, Taneum andesite, Summer Creek basalt, Peoh Point andesite, Frost Mtn. basalt, Chumstick Fm. volcanics, and Spencer Creek tuff, Tieton Pass basalt, Discovery Creek basalt		
			Swawilia Basin granite, Coffee Lake granite		
	MESOZOIC	Cretaceous	Early to Late	MB Mesozoic Bedrock unit	
			Nason Ridge Gneiss, Mount Stuart Batholith, Bald Mtn. pluton, Arbuckle Mtn. tonalite, Russell Branch Fm. sediments, Ten Peak pluton, Sloan Creek pluton		
		Jurassic	Early to Late		
PALEOZOIC	Permian	Early to Late	Lookout Mountain Fm. metamorphics and metavolcanics, Alta Lake metamorphics, Ingalls tectonic complex metamorphics and metavolcanics, eastern and western melange ekt metavolcanics, Indian Creek complex diorite, Samington phyllite, Shuksan greenschist, Quartz Mt. stock tonalite		
			Tonga Fm. metamorphics and metavolcanics, Gibraltar Rock migmatite, Chiwauklum schist		
			North Peak metavolcanics	PB Paleozoic Bedrock unit	

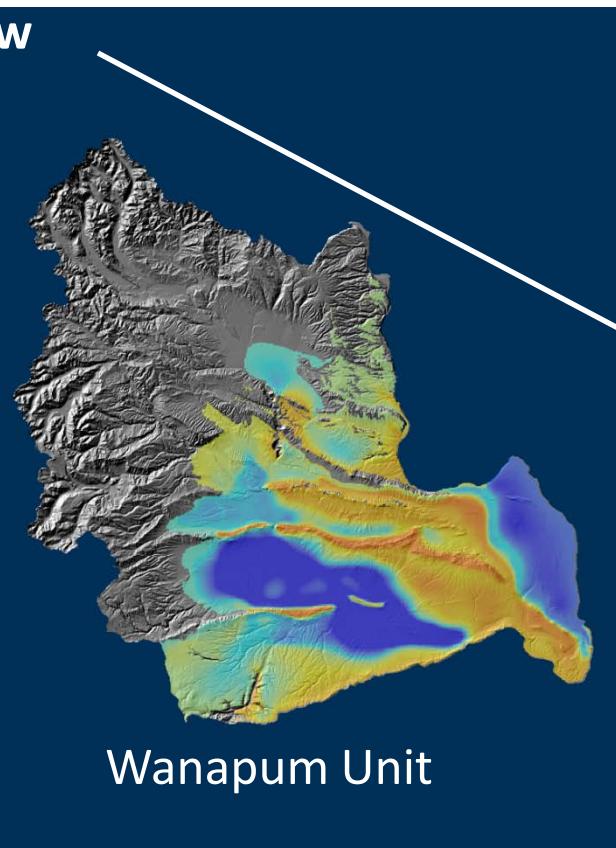
# **HYDRAULIC CHARACTERISTICS OF UNITS**

The ability of sediments and rocks to store and transmit groundwater (their hydraulic characteristics) determines how a groundwater-flow system functions. Knowledge of the hydraulic characteristics also is necessary to evaluate how the flow system responds to stresses such as pumpage.

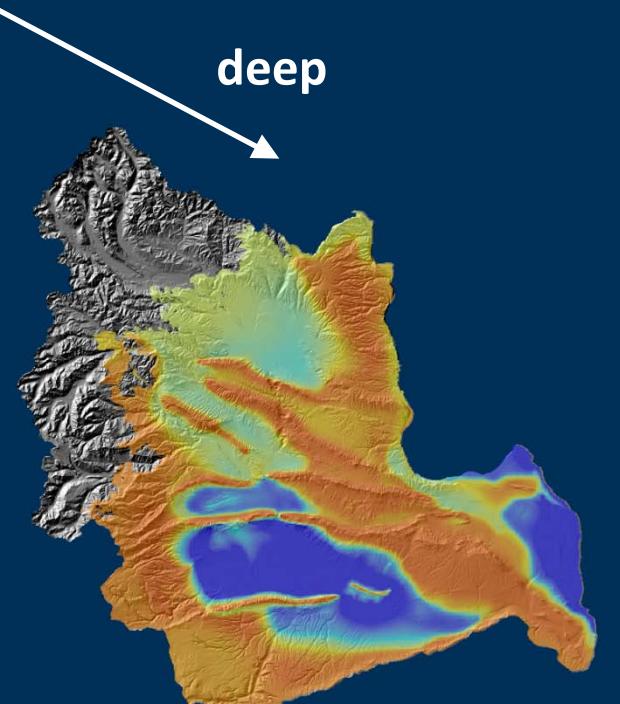
# Distributed Hydraulic Conductivity



Saddle Mountains Unit



Wanapum Unit



Grande Ronde Unit

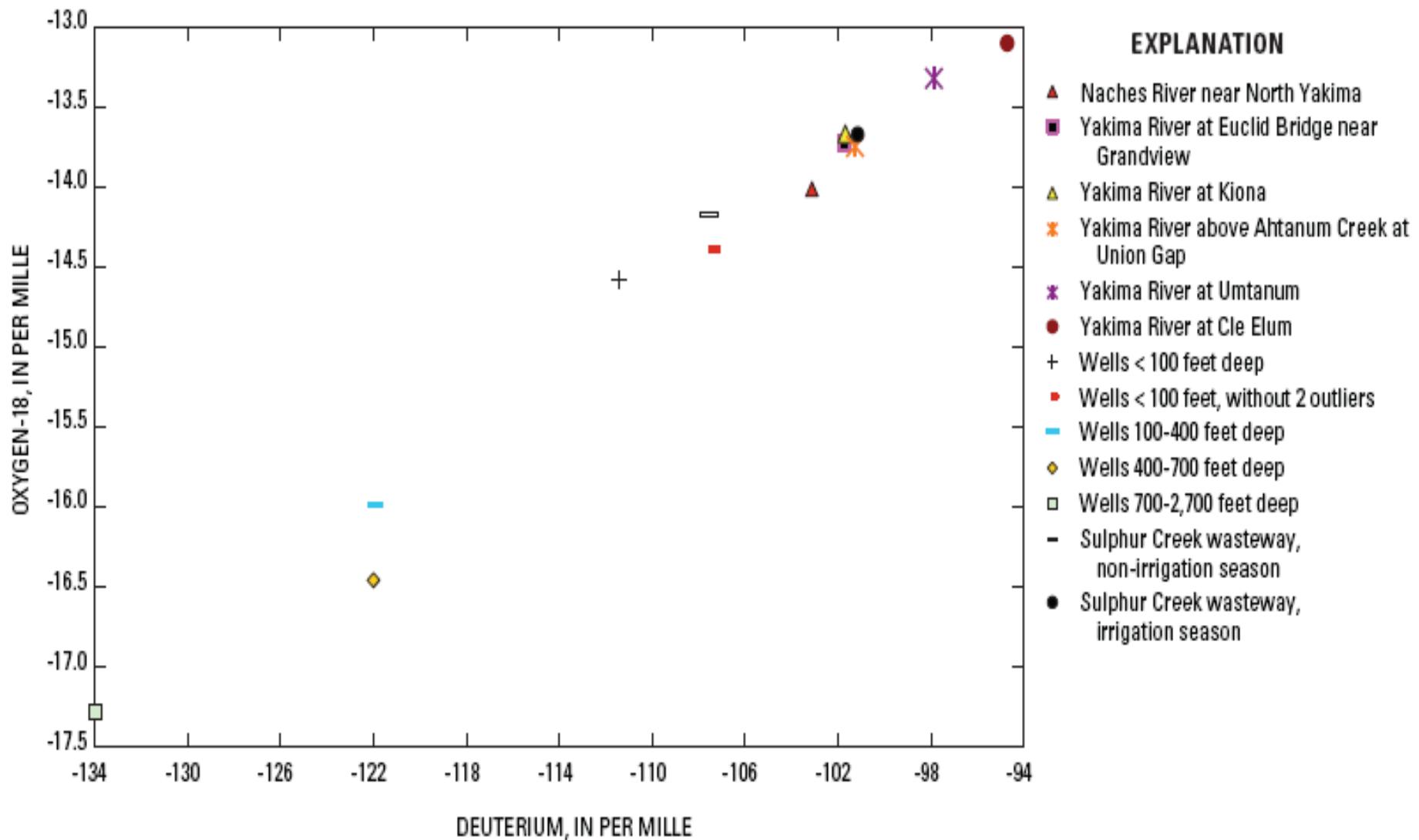
shallow

deep

Hydraulic conductivity of the basalts can range several orders of magnitude.

Hydraulic conductivity of the productive zones in the basin-fill deposits are as much as 2 orders of magnitude larger than the basalts.

# HYDROCHEMISTRY



# Dissolved Methane and its Stable Carbon Isotope

**Most of the occurrences of methane measured in groundwater samples from wells outside of the Hanford Site were found at locations several miles distant from mapped structural fault features, indicating upward vertical movement of predominantly thermogenic methane from the underlying bedrock may be more widespread than previously thought and (or) the more general occurrence of unmapped fault structures. In either case, upward migration of methane through the CRBG from the underlying bedrock units is indicated by the data.**

# Helium - A noble gas

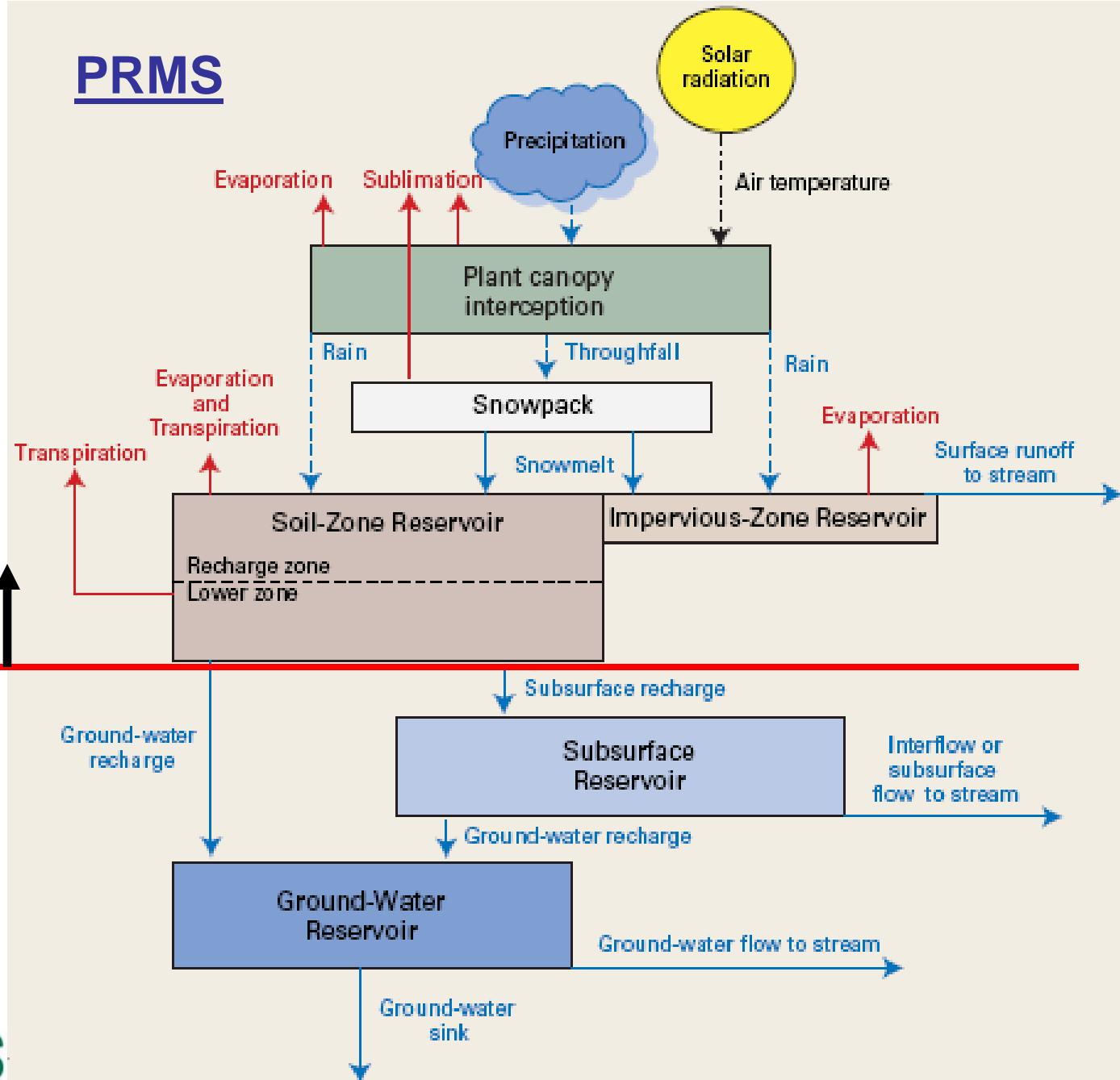
**One cannot explicitly determine if part of the helium is from a mantle source, only that the predominant source is radiogenic helium. But mantle helium is so enriched with  $^3\text{He}$  that the likely source is mantle derived.**

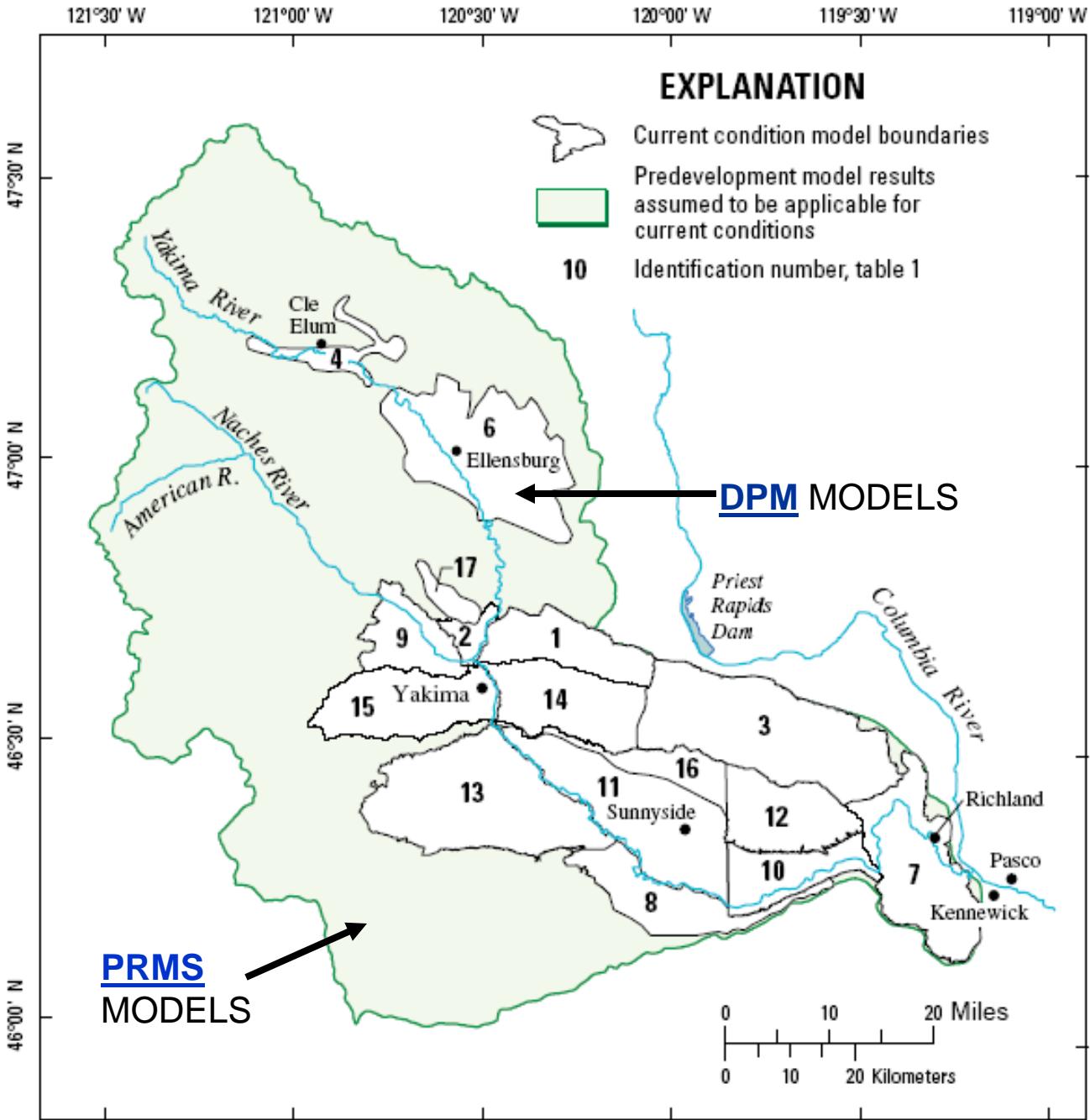
# **GROUNDWATER OCCURENCE**

# Groundwater Occurring in the Hydrogeologic Units was Derived From:

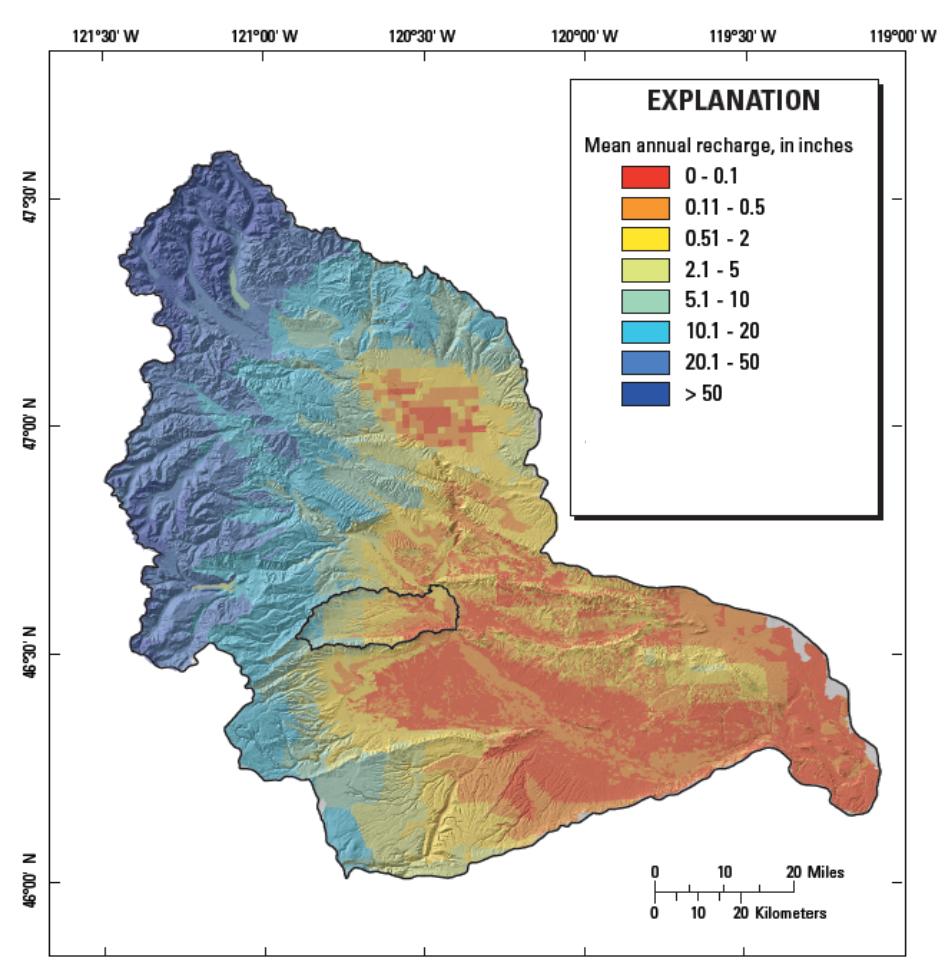
- Rainfall
- Snowmelt
- Irrigation starting in the late 1800's

# PRMS



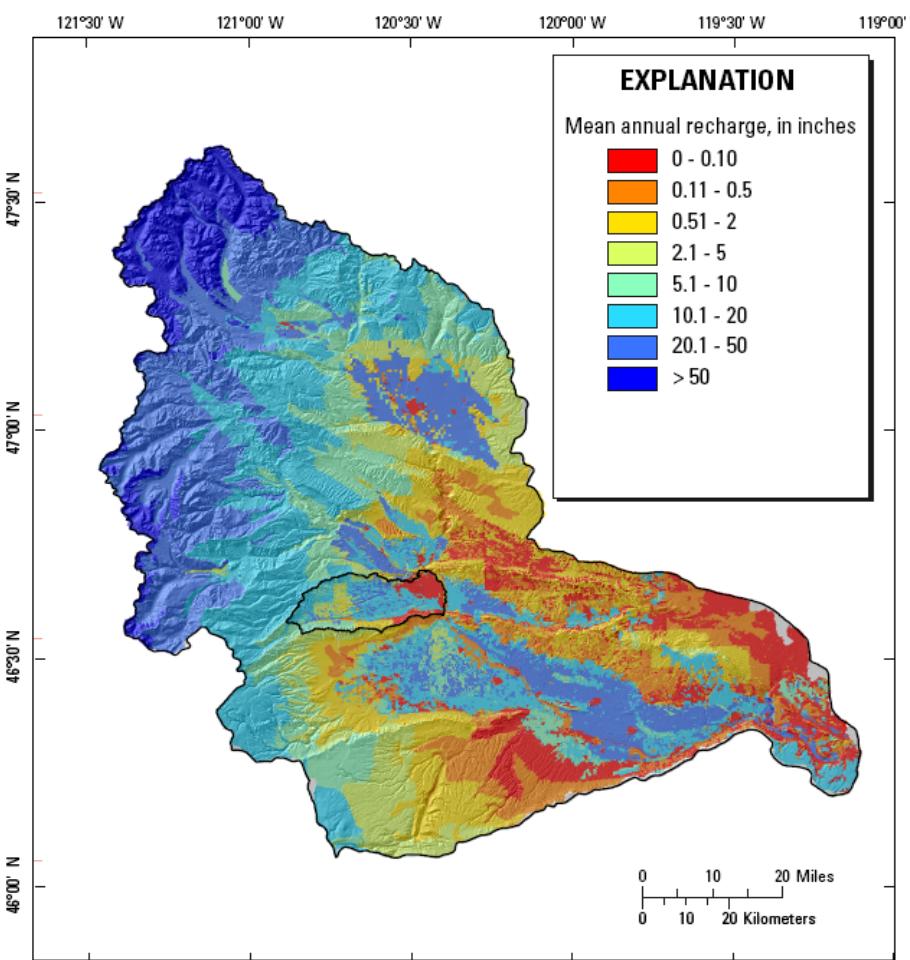


# Derived Estimates of Potential Recharge



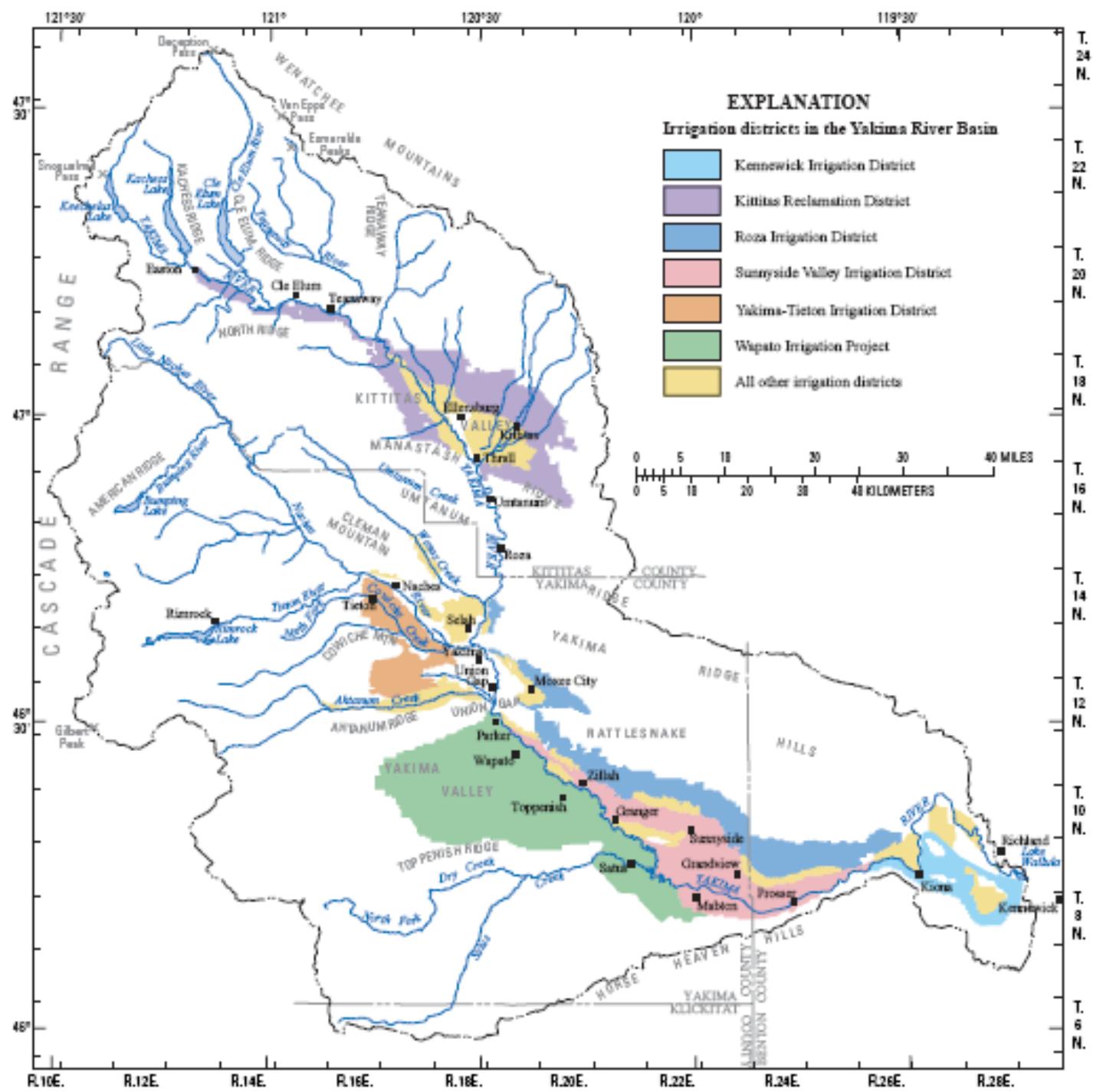
## Predevelopment Recharge

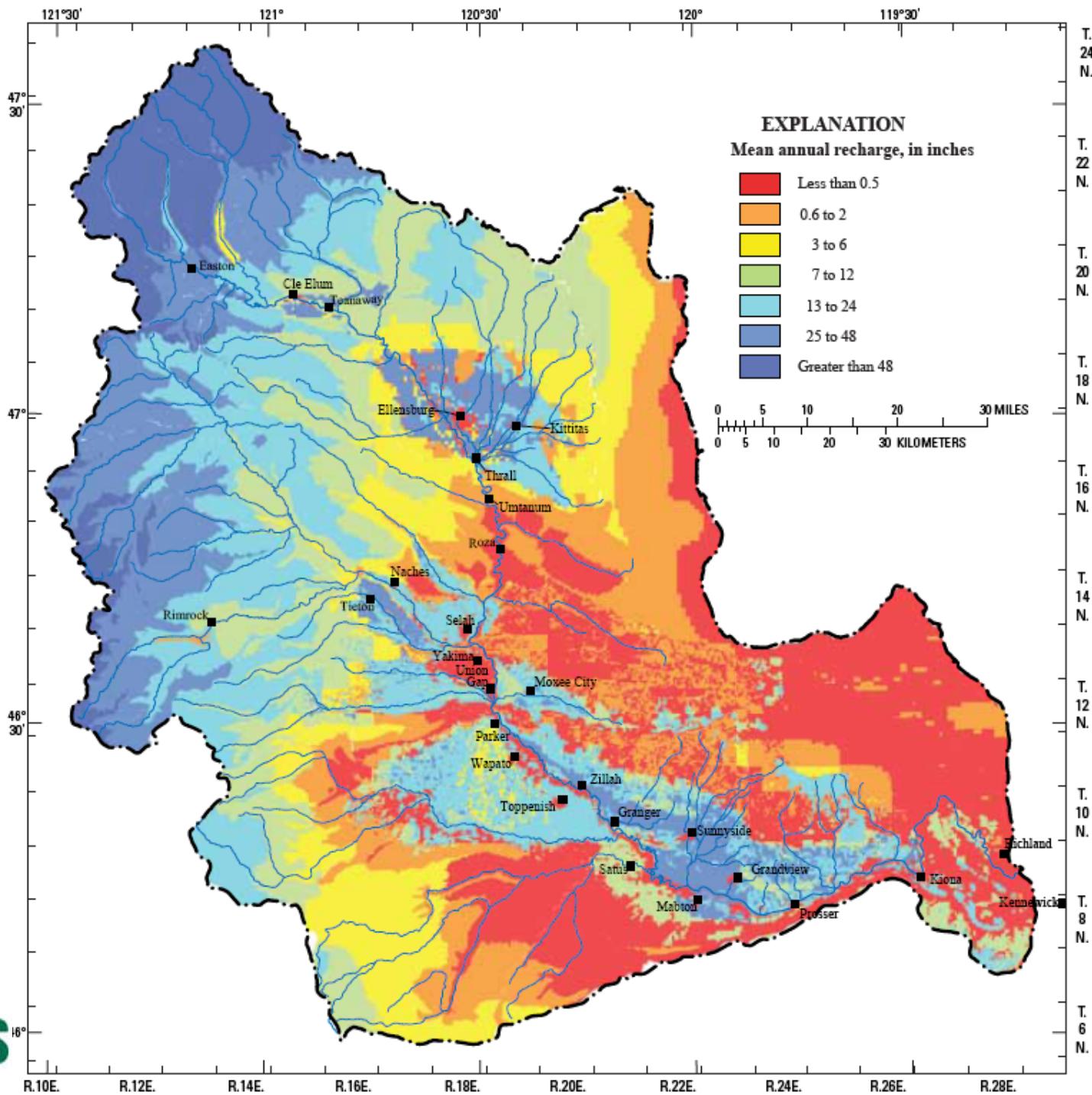
- 11.9 in
- 5,540 ft<sup>3</sup>/s
- 3.9 million acre-feet



## Current Recharge

- 15.6 in
- 7,149 ft<sup>3</sup>/s
- 5.2 million acre-feet





Most of the recharge in the bedrock-floored, humid, forested-upland slopes of the Cascade geologic province (where the bedrock units occur) discharges as shallow subsurface groundwater flow to upland streams and thus is not available to recharge the deeper parts of the aquifer system. Recharge in some of these upland areas, especially in Kittitas County, is limited because the bedrock generally has a much lower hydraulic conductivity and infiltration capacity than the overlying soils and (or) unconsolidated deposits, which also are generally thin or missing.

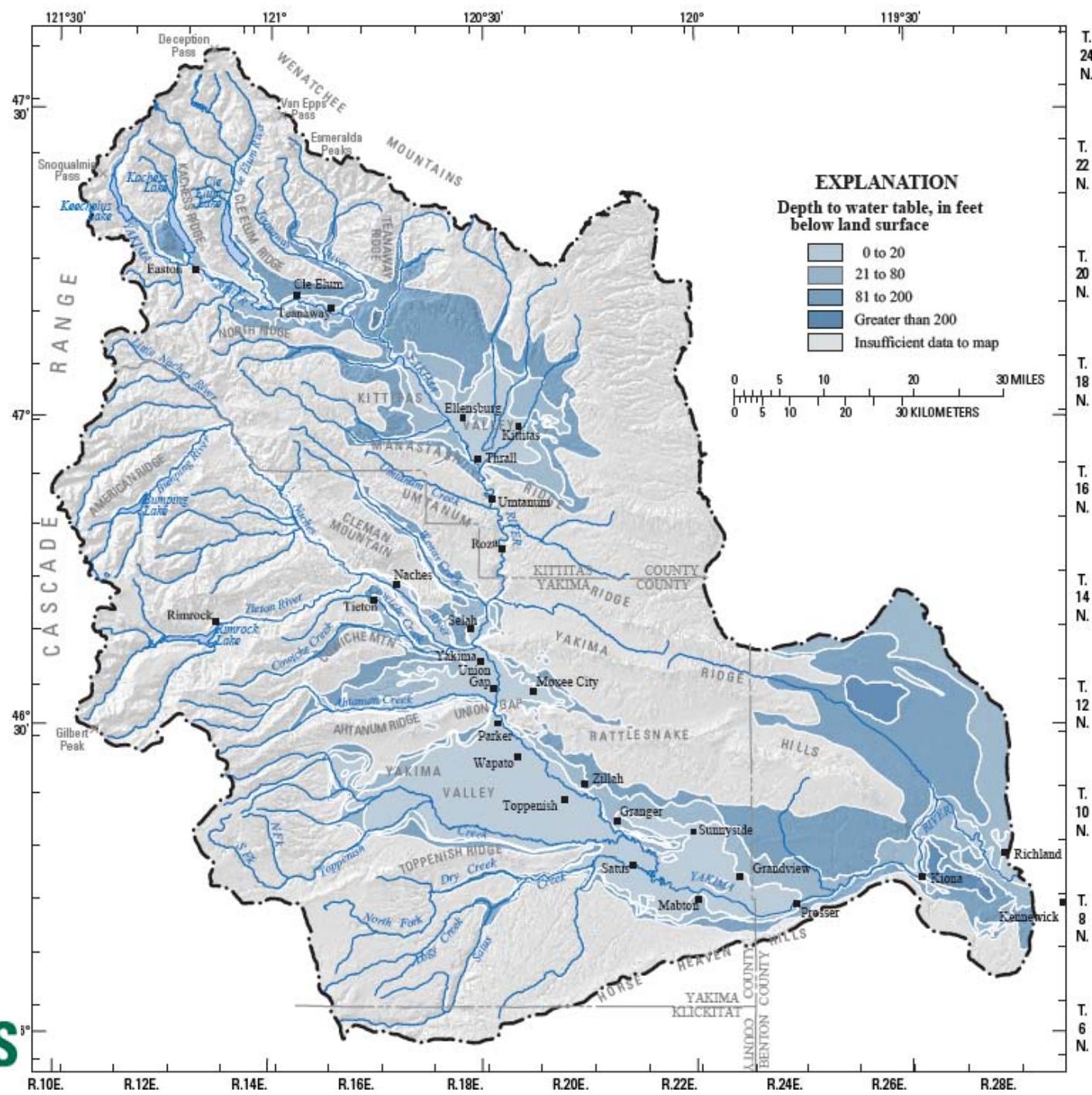
On a long-term basis, only about 34 percent of the potential mean annual recharge (percentage varies on an interannual basis) was estimated to have entered the regional groundwater flow system in the bedrock units in the upper Yakima River basin in Kittitas County.

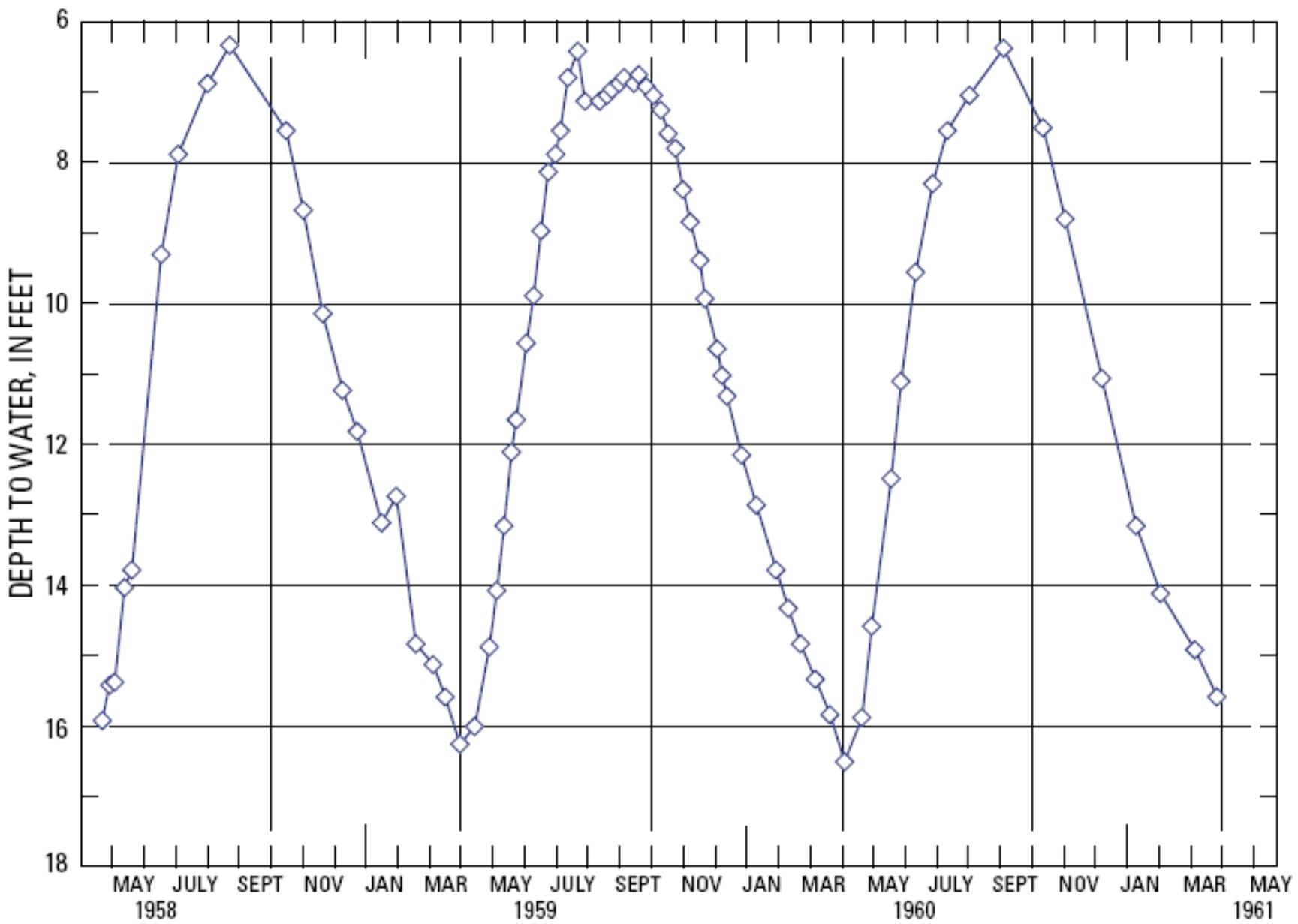
Within the Yakima River basin, the percentage (rounded) of recharge that occurs in the outcrop areas of the hydrogeologic units is about 0.29 percent for the basin-fill units, 0.007 percent for the Saddle Mountains, 0.008 percent for the Wanapum, 0.13 percent for the Grande Ronde, and 0.57 percent for the bedrock units

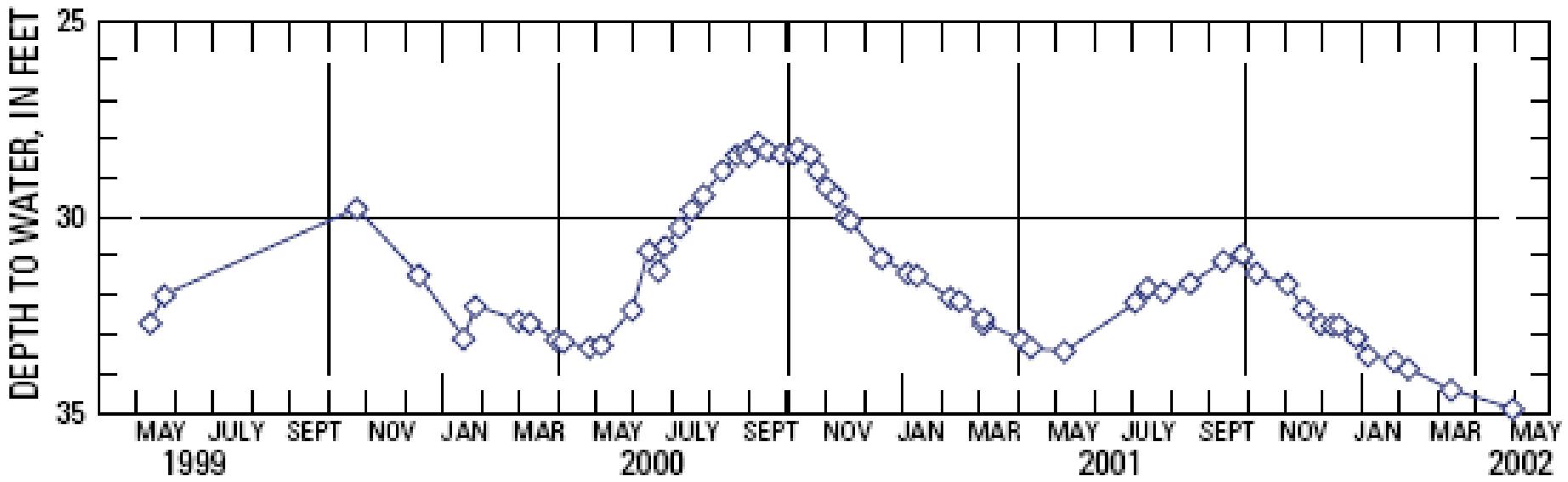
Flow paths range from a few feet to about 50 miles, and groundwater ages range from very recent to more than 10,000 years in the deeply buried units near regional discharge locations.

# **CONDITIONS OF OCCURENCE**

- Water table
- Semi-confined
- Confined
- Perched





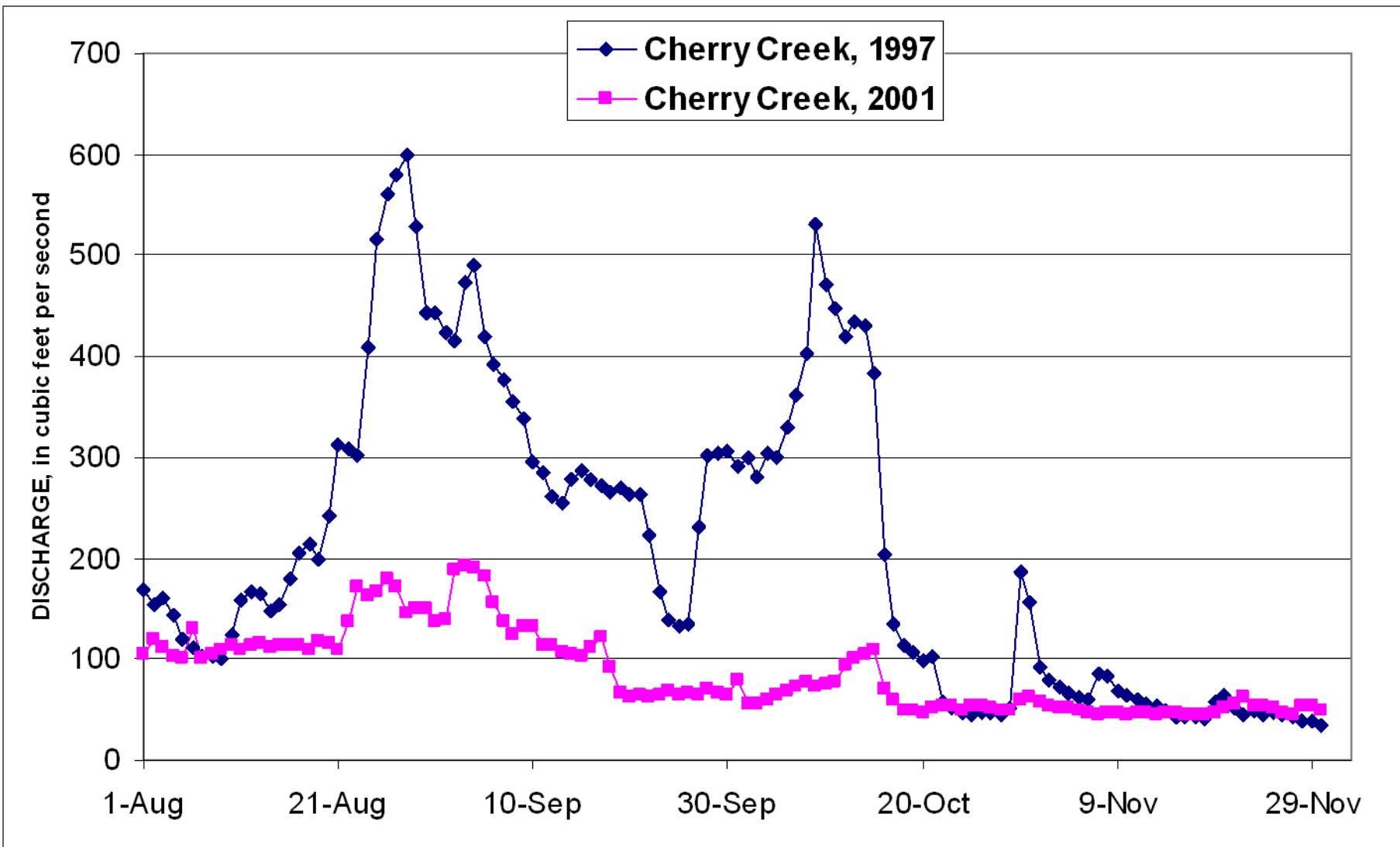


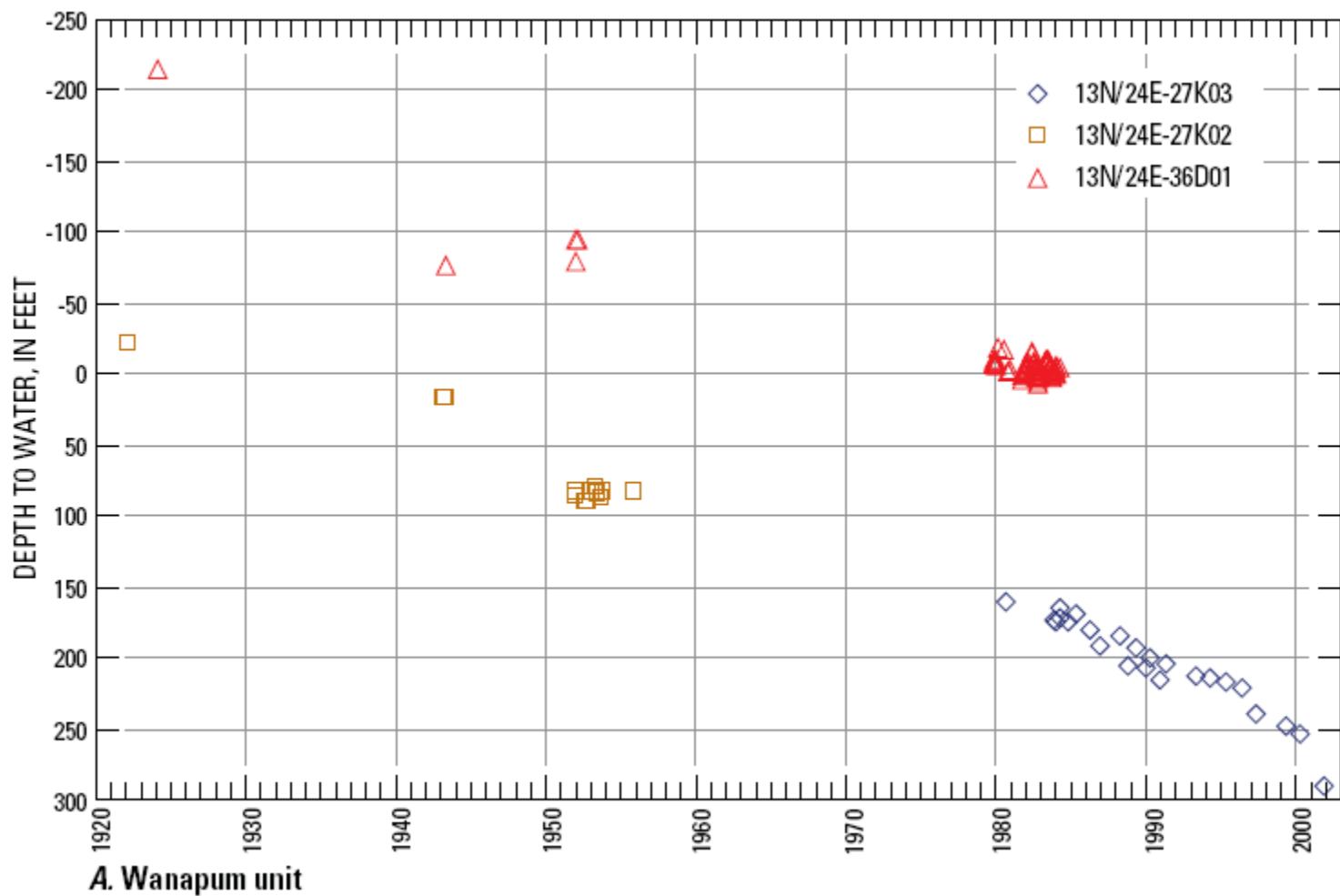
Smaller Rise in Drought Years

# Why-What shallow water table in basins

In describing the relation between irrigation and drainage, Jayne (1907) presents information for nine wells in the Sunnyside area dug between 1890–1900 that shows that by 1902 there were water-level rises from 14 to 75 ft.

The shallow water table in the structural basins suggests a readily available supply of groundwater, but much of this irrigation-derived water in the shallow system discharges to drains and streams and is relied on to meet downstream uses (both in-stream flows and diversions with entitlements). Areas with high water tables (shallow groundwater) also are more susceptible to contamination from sources at the land surface.

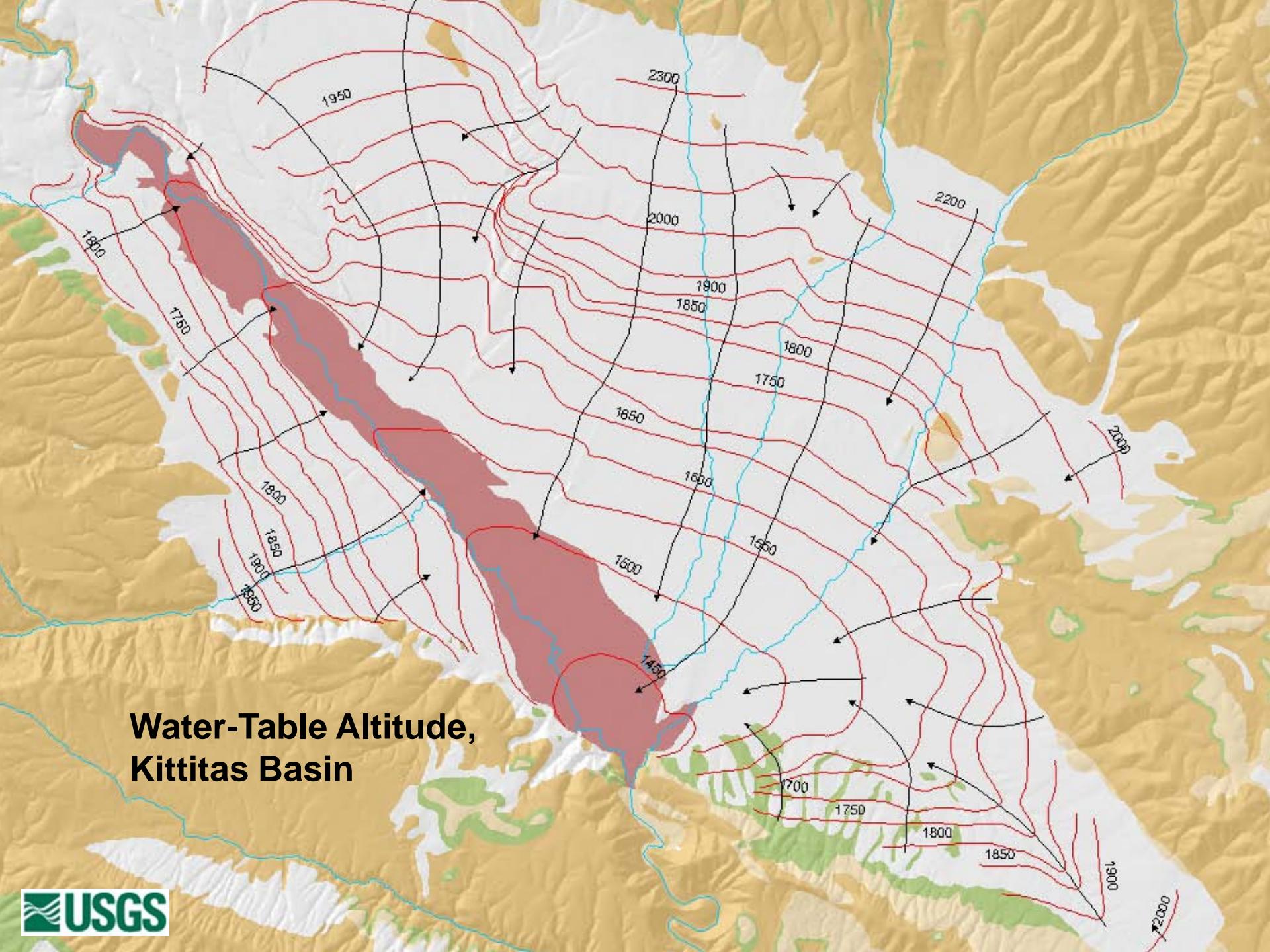




# **FLOW SYSTEM**

Groundwater moves through the aquifer system from the uplands (high land-surface altitude—topographic highs) to surface drainage features in the lowlands, principally to the Naches and Yakima Rivers and to the Columbia River in the eastern part of the extended study area.

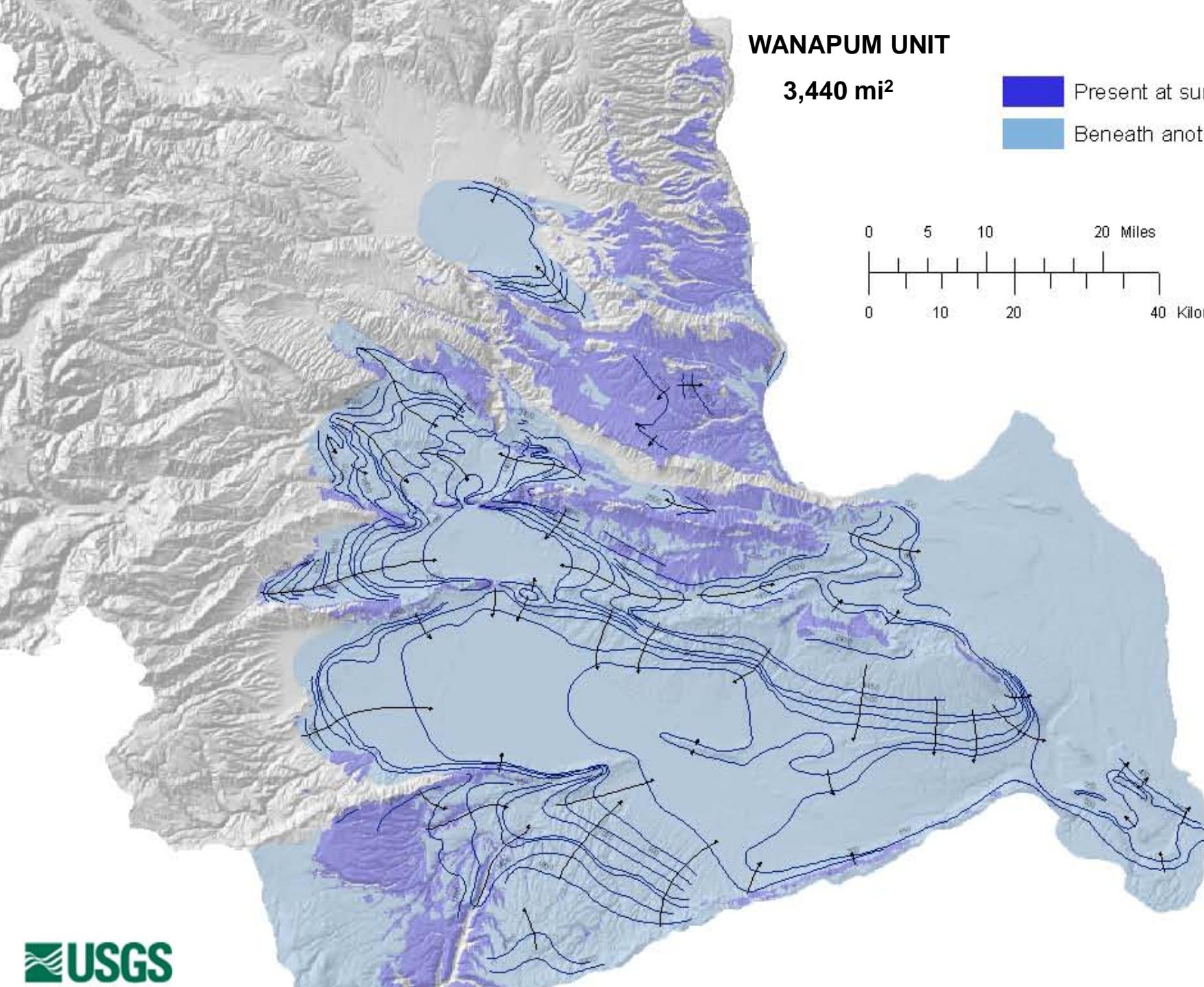
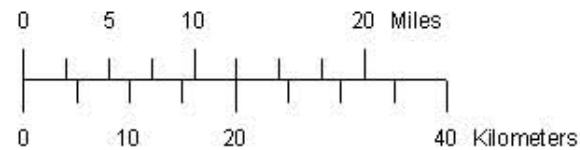
## Water-Table Altitude, Kittitas Basin



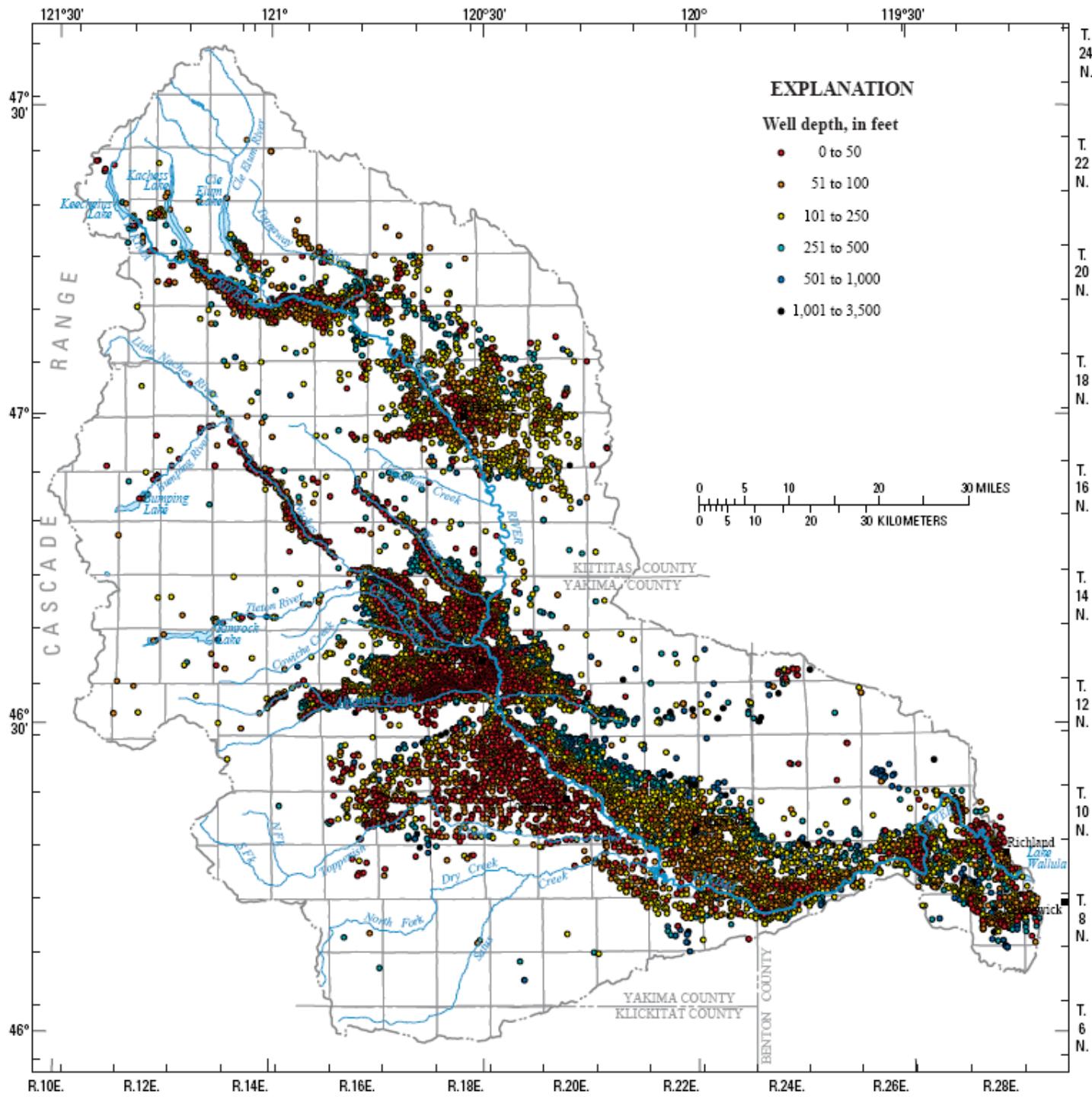
## WANAPUM UNIT

3,440 mi<sup>2</sup>

- Present at surface
- Beneath another unit



# **GROUNDWATER USE**



# Groundwater Rights

Number	Instantaneous (GPM)	Annual (Acre-FT)	Irrigated Area (Acres)
2,874	950,000	530,000	130,000

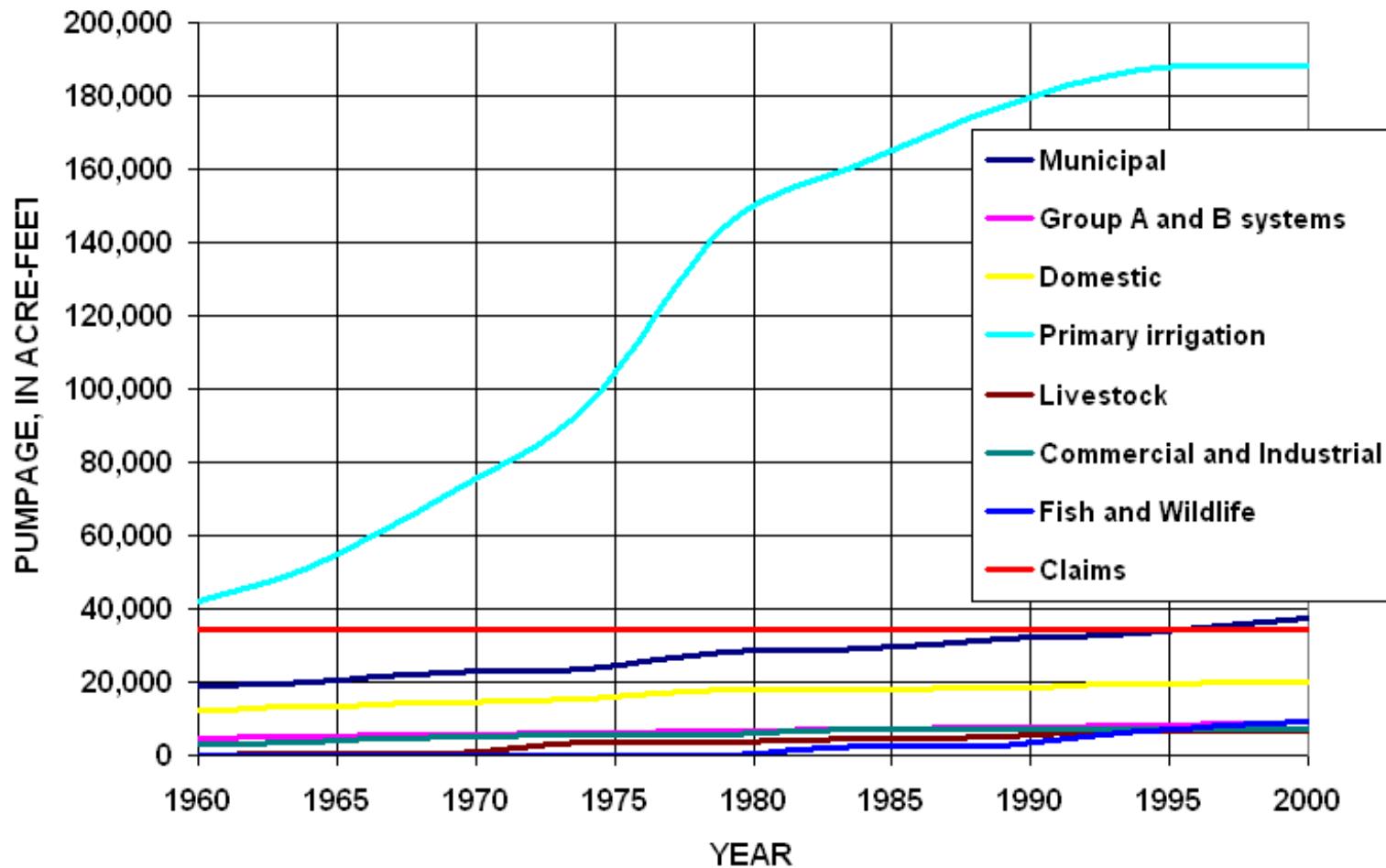
Instantaneous  
Annual  
Streamflow leaving the Basin

= 1.4 Billion gallons per day  
= 730 Cubic feet per second  
= 3,600 Cubic feet per second

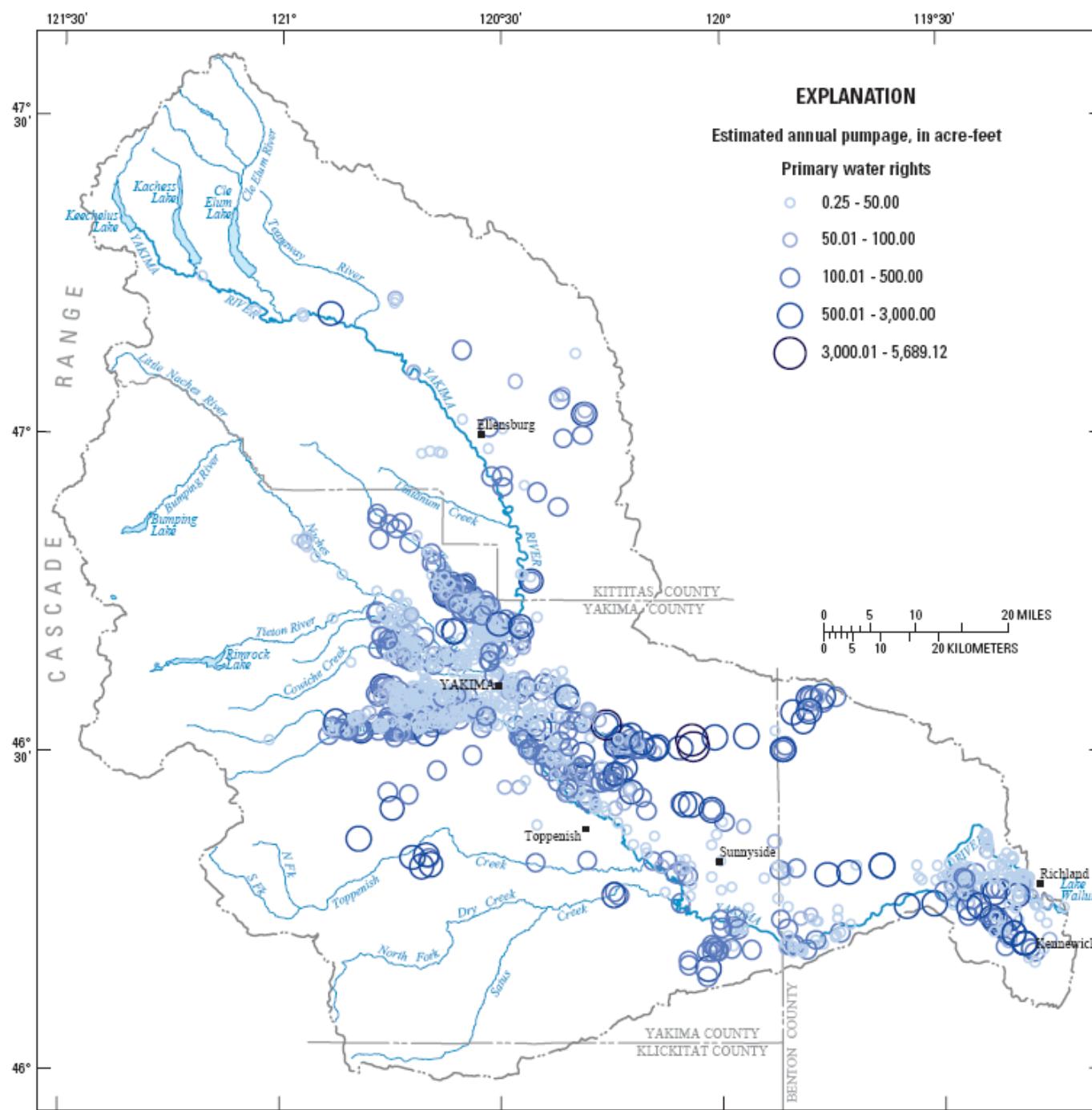
Note: about 25% of Irrigation Rights  
are Standby/Reserve Rights

**1960 116,000 ACRE-FT**

**2001 400,000 ACRE-FT**

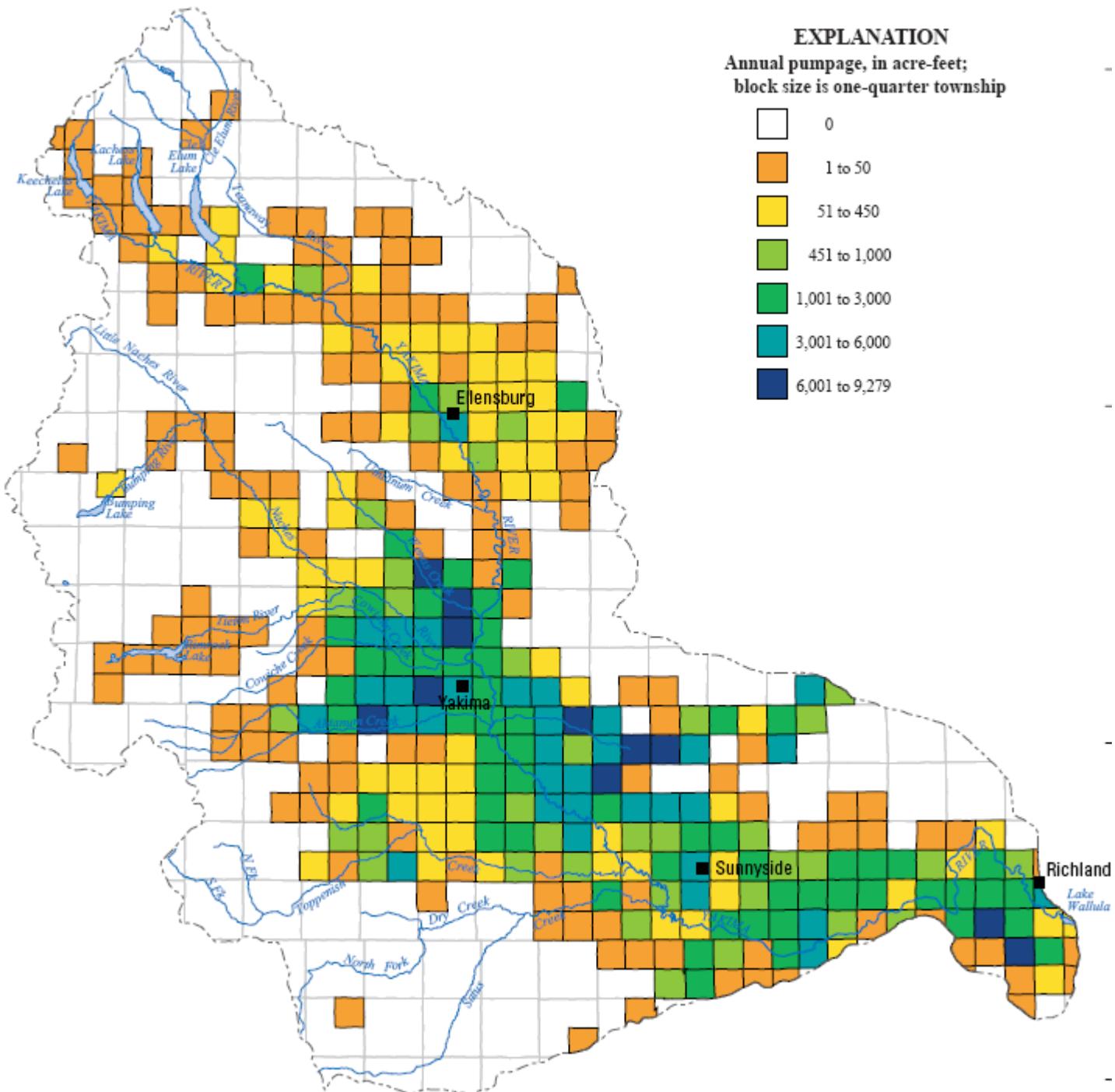


# IRRIGATION PUMPAGE 2000

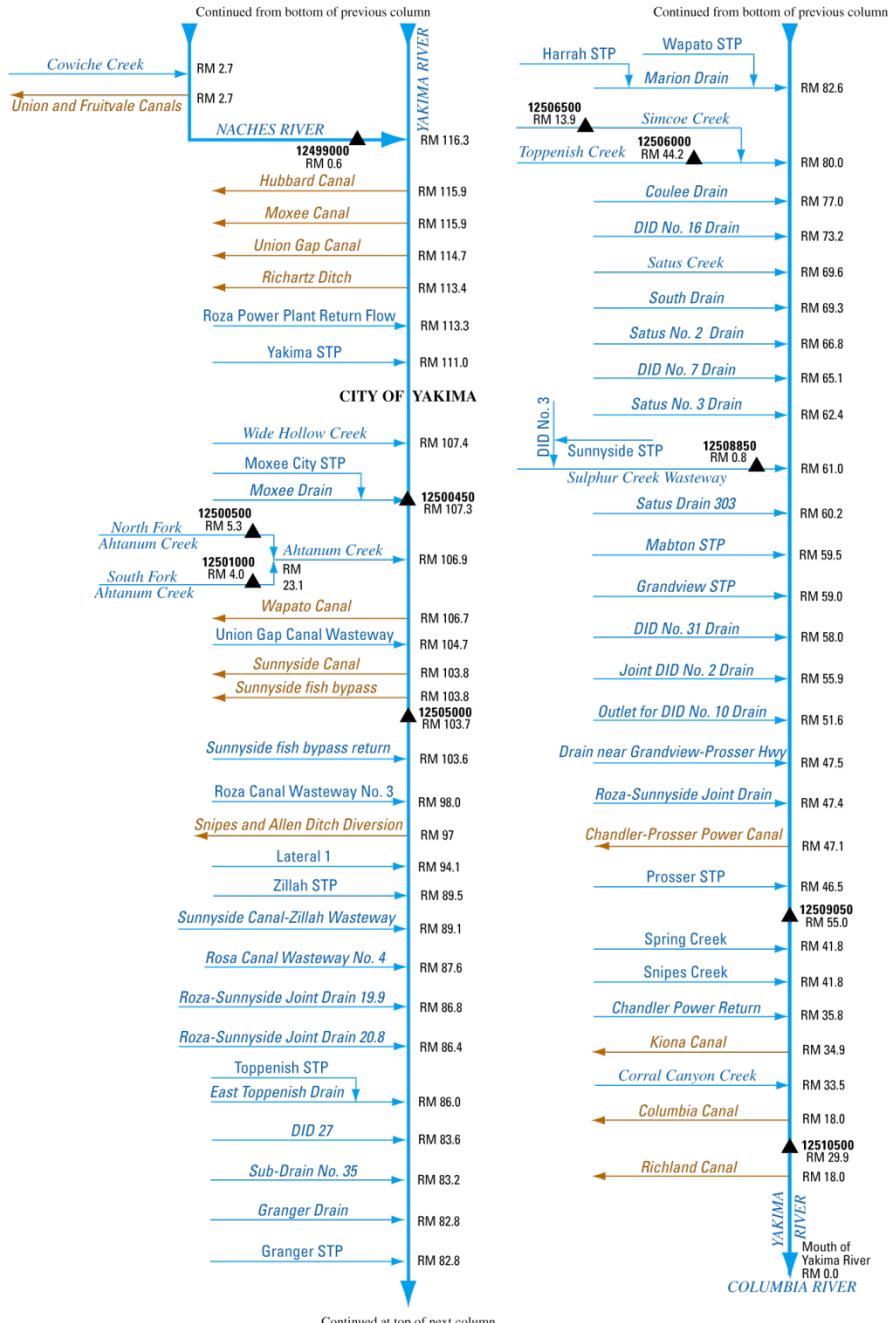
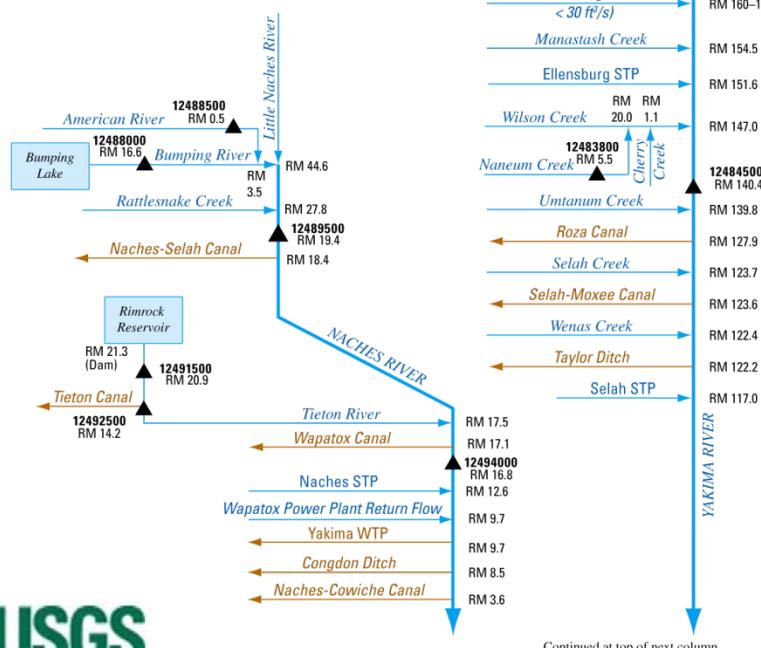


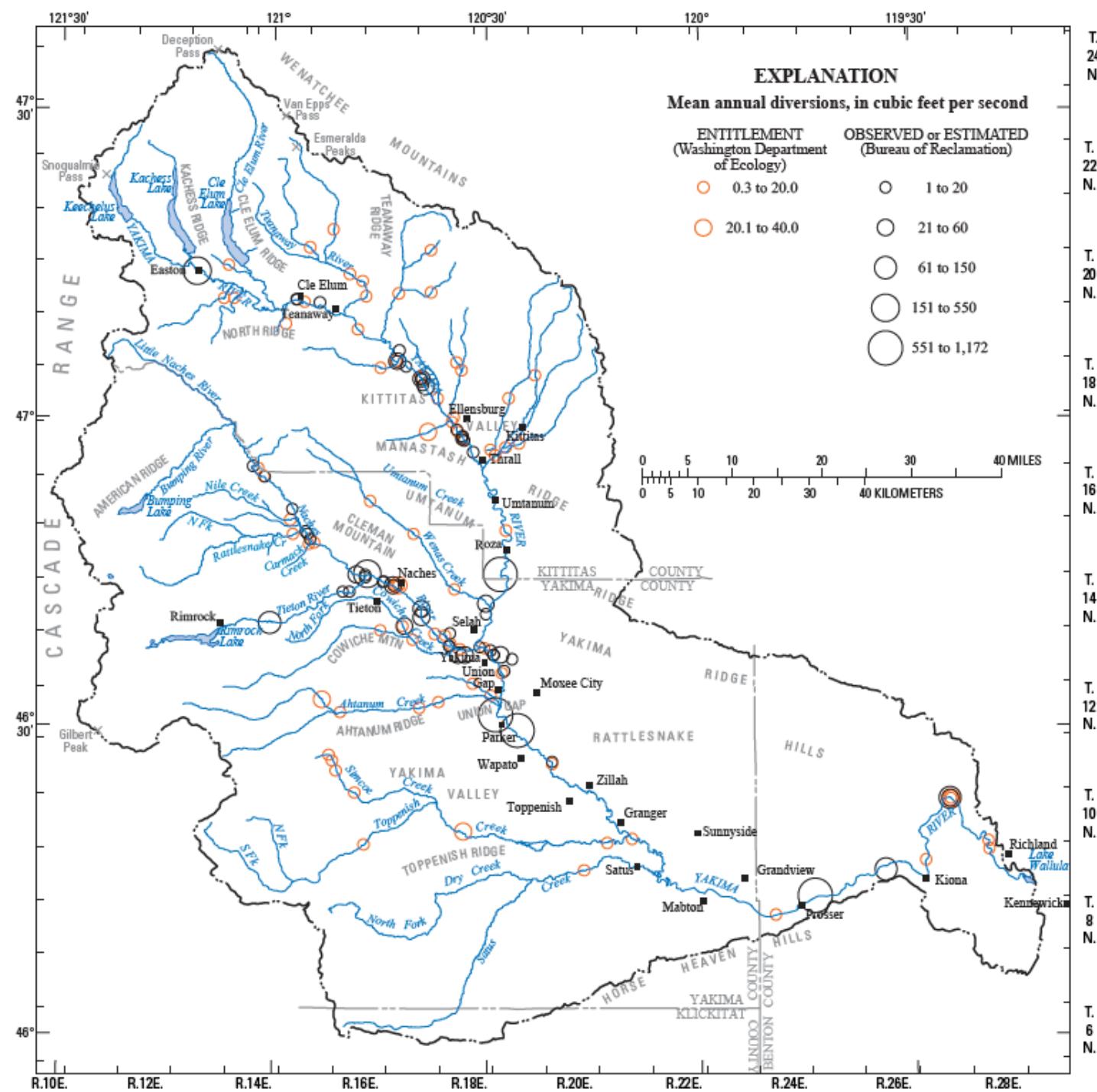
## EXPLANATION

Annual pumpage, in acre-feet;  
block size is one-quarter township



EXPLANATION	
←	OUTFLOW FROM MAIN STEM
→	INFLOW TO MAIN STEM
▲	GAGING STATION AND NO.
RM 140.4	RIVER MILE
STP	SEWAGE-TREATMENT PLANT
WTP	WATER-TREATMENT PLANT
DID	DRAINAGE IRRIGATION DISTRICT





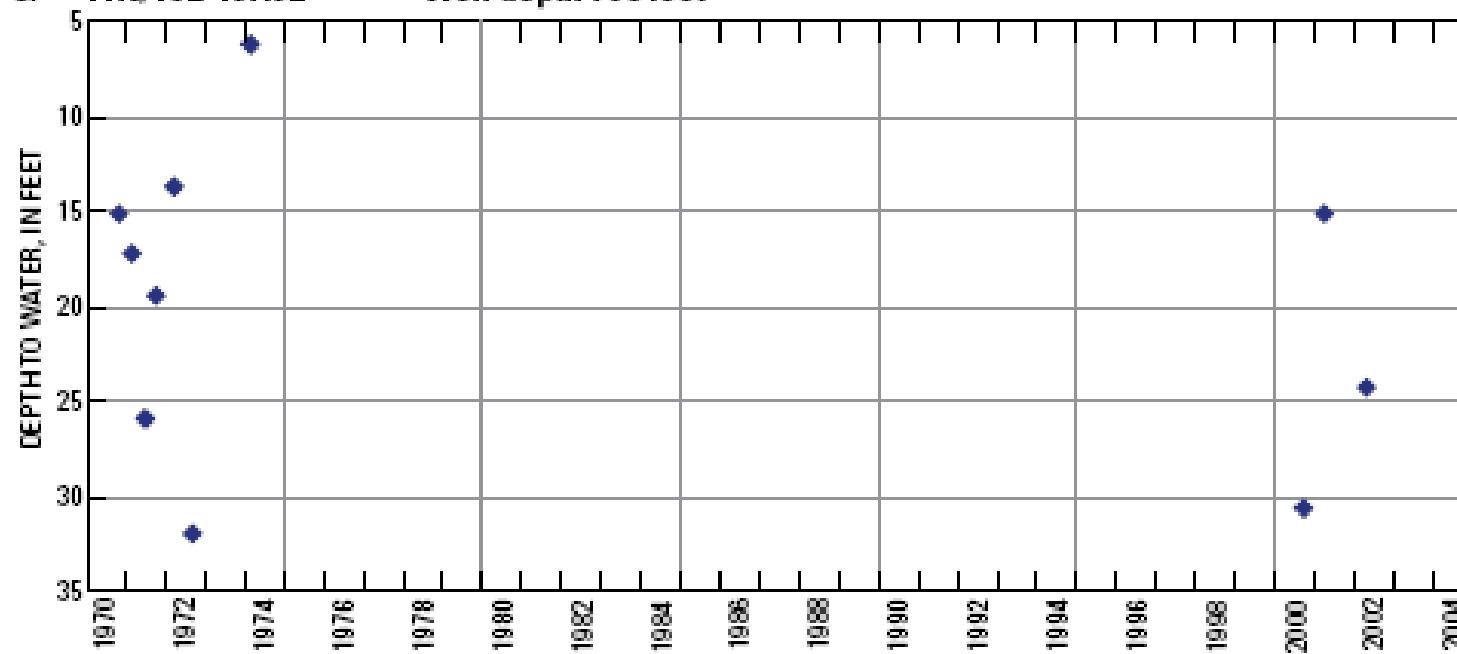
# **WATER-LEVEL TRENDS**

Trends, and absence of trends, when analyzed in conjunction with groundwater pumpage, streamflow, and recharge, can indicate areas where there have been: (1) changes in groundwater storage, (2) potential capture of recharge, and (3) changes in groundwater discharge to streams, springs, or wetlands. Pumpage (discharge by wells) must be balanced by one or a combination of the above three changes (Theis, 1940).

Groundwater-level trends were categorized as: stable to small water-level declines (0–20 ft), moderate declines (21–75 ft), large declines (76–150 ft), and very large declines (greater than 150 ft).

C. 11N/19E-10A02

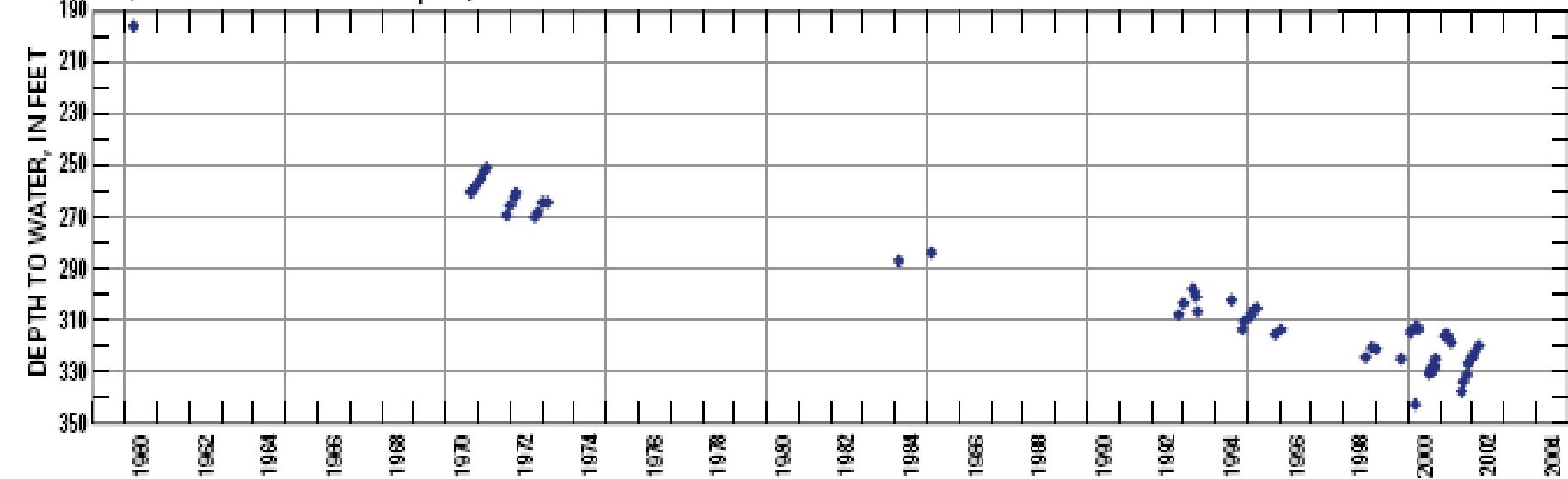
Well depth 765 feet



A.

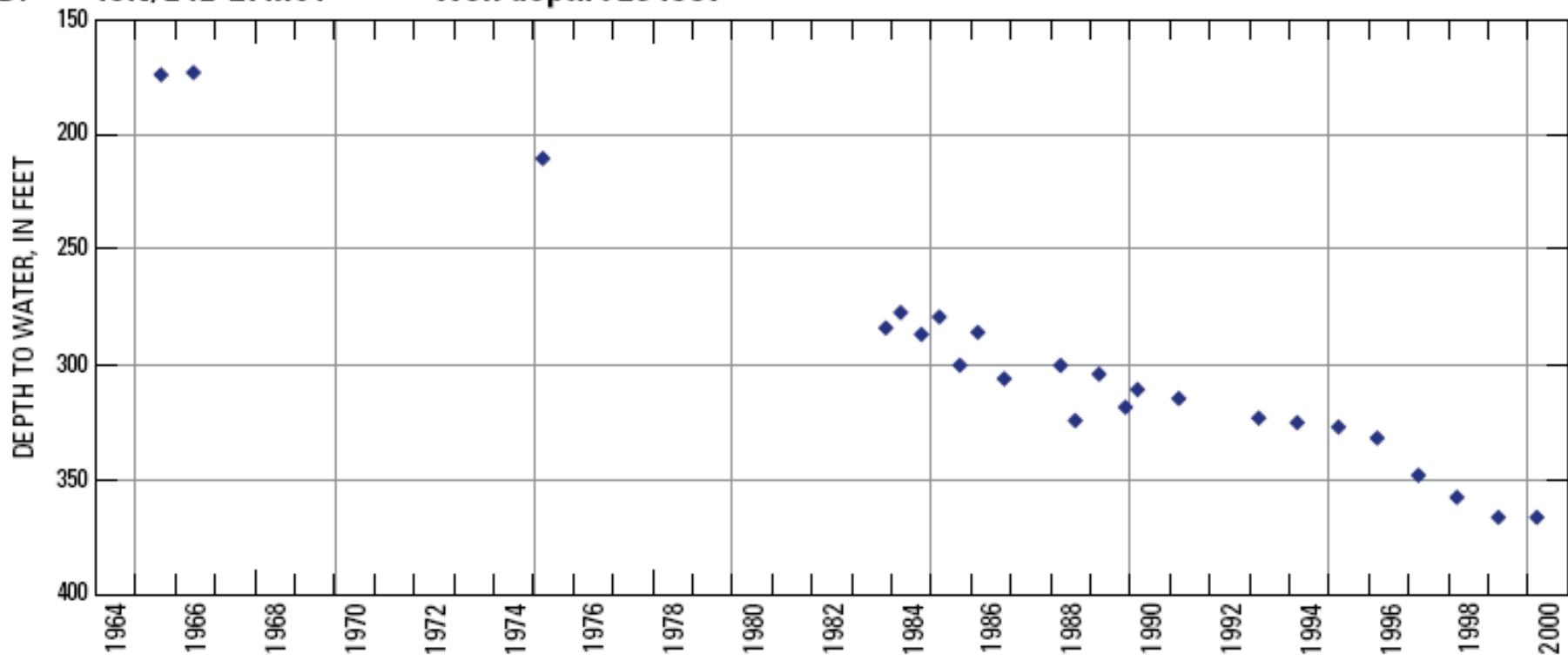
10N/17E-27001

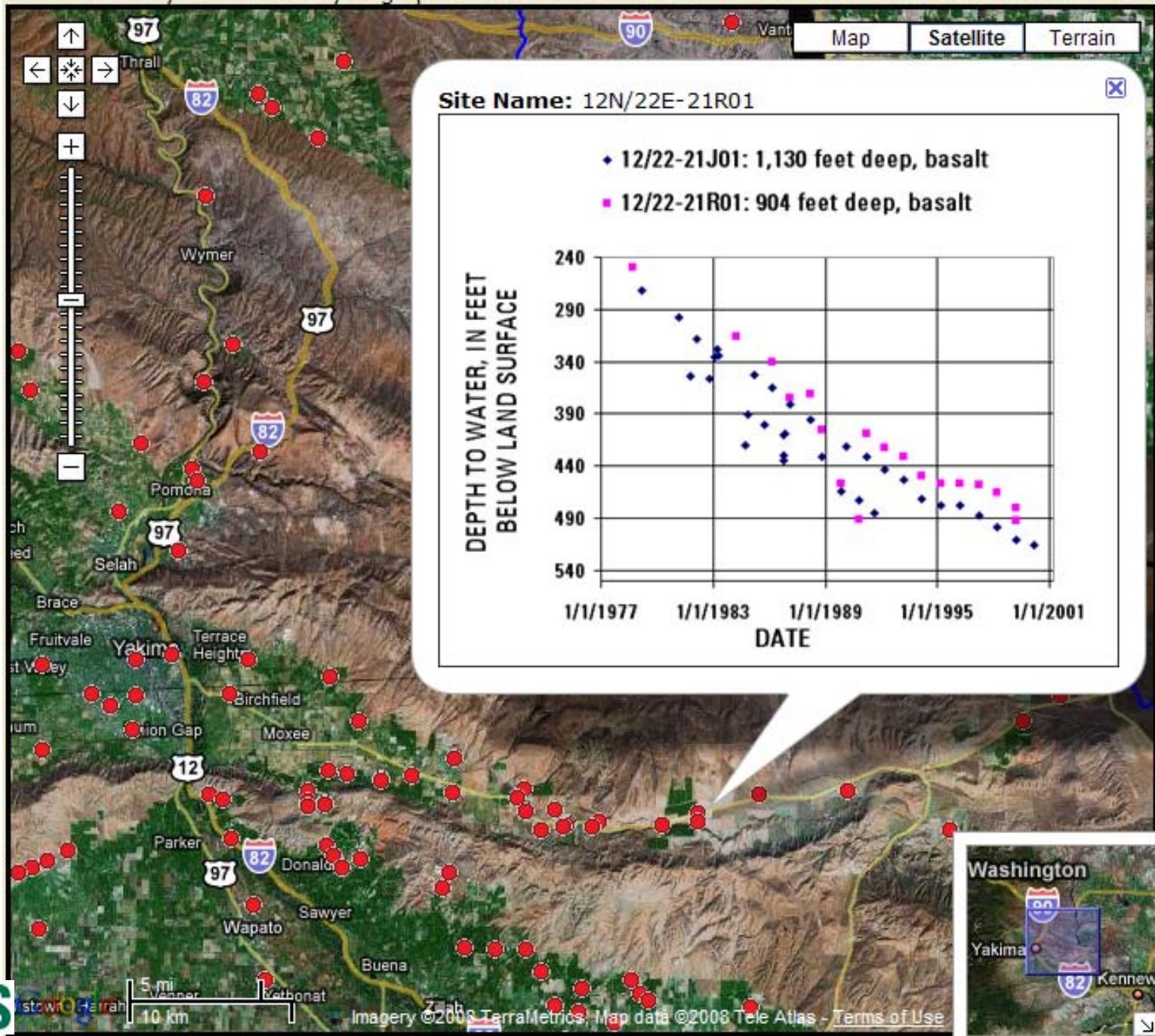
Well depth 1,510 feet

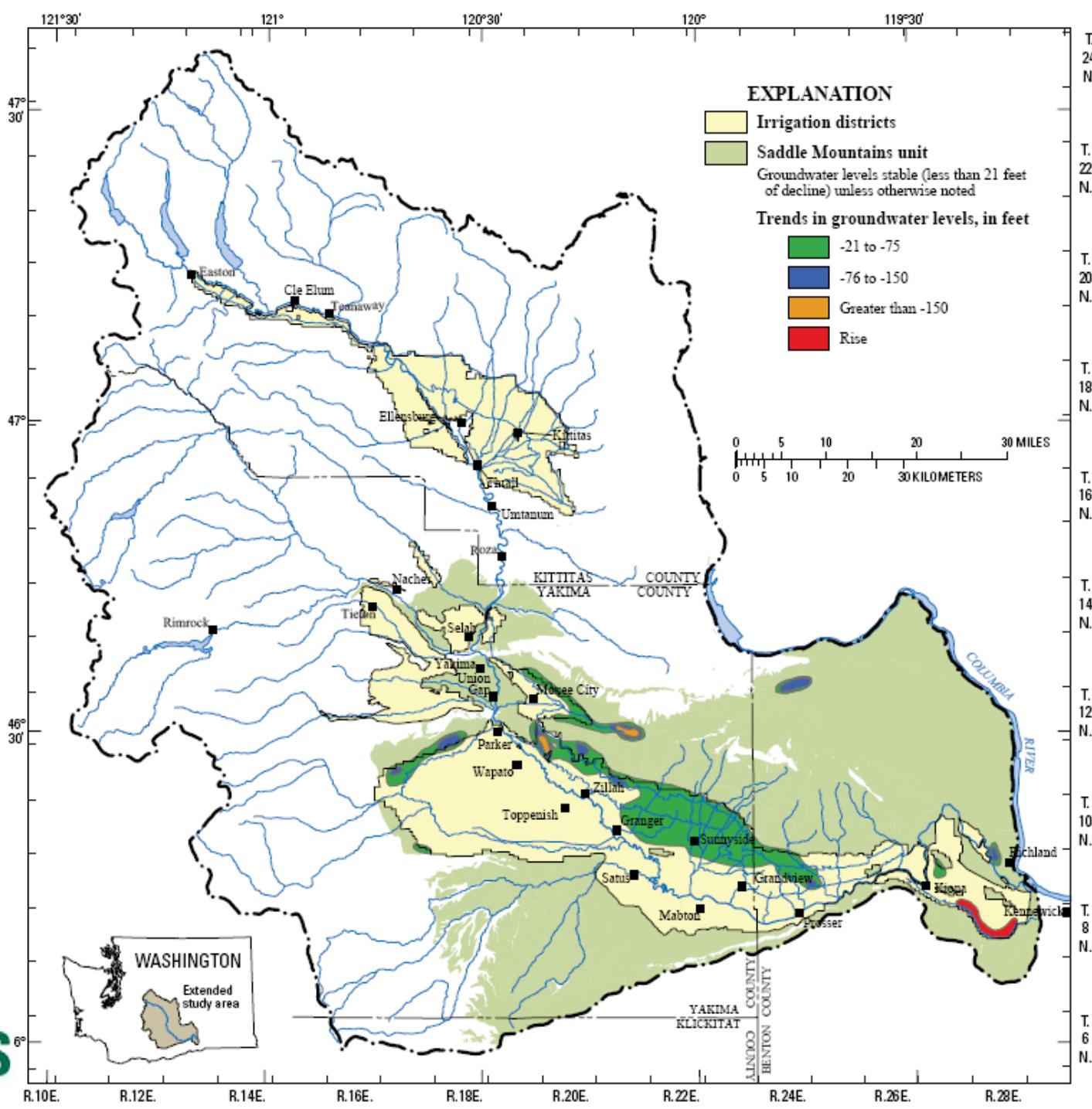


D. 13N/24E-27M01

Well depth 723 feet





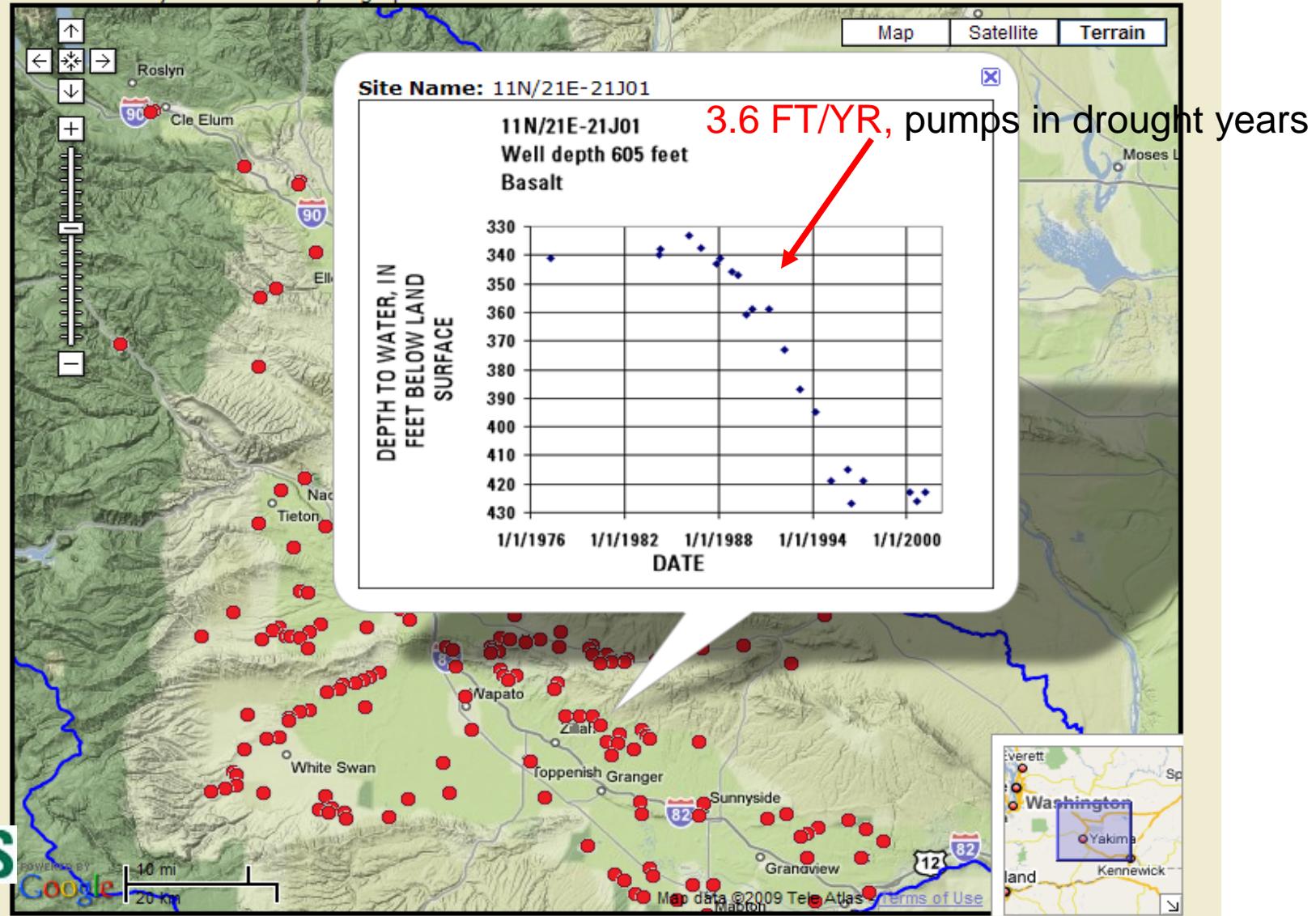


# Yakima Ground Water Sites - Hydrographs

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Click on well symbol to see hydrograph.



# **WATER BUDGET FOR THE YAKIMA RIVER BASIN**

<b>Water budget component</b>	<b>Predevelopment conditions</b>	<b>Current conditions</b>
Precipitation	8.6	8.6
Streamflow	4.1	2.5
Evapotranspiration	5.1	6.1
Recharge <sup>1</sup>	3.8	5.0
Pumpage	.0	.24
Reservoir storage	.0	1.1
Diversions <sup>2</sup>	.0	3.1

Values in Millions of Acre-Feet

**The product is available online at:**

**<http://pubs.usgs.gov/sir/2009/5152/>**

**Yakima Groundwater Project Web Site:**

**<http://wa.water.usgs.gov/projects/yakimagw/>**

# Cooperators

