

Definitions:

Base flow = The part of stream flow originating from groundwater discharge and that sustains year-round flow. Several studies are available in the scientific literature that estimate base flow for a subset of Arizona's rivers. Those studies estimated base flow values very close to median annual flow.

Groundwater underflow = Subsurface water that flows out of a basin into the next down-gradient basin, including both shallow groundwater in the Holocene alluvium and water contained in Tertiary basin fill. Groundwater underflow estimates are only available for the Upper San Pedro River and will not be included in estimates of annual flow for other Arizona rivers described in the WRDC's work.

Riparian evapotranspiration = Riparian evapotranspiration (ET) refers to the combined amount of water evaporated from riparian soil or open water surfaces, or transpired by riparian vegetation.

Total flow supporting current water-dependent natural resources = the sum of total annual base flow, groundwater underflow, and riparian ET. Note that estimation of underflow is typically done through use of a basin-wide groundwater model, so quantification is not available for most of the basins in the state.

Discharge = flow discharge from springs (gpm) and wastewater discharge for an environmental purpose. Spring flow is from the Arizona Water Atlas and is generally the most recent discharge measurement identified at a spring site.

Storage = the maximum storage capacity in a reservoir or stockpond.

Allocation = amount of water allocated for an environmental purpose through a settlement, agreement, permit, decree, or other legal or administrative process.