

WATER YEAR DATA SUMMARY

1999 and 2000

May 2001



Minnesota
Department of Natural Resources
Waters

www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters

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1999 and 2000

October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000

by the DNR Waters Staff
St. Paul, MN

May 2001



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Introduction

This publication provides a review and summary of basic hydrologic data gathered through DNR Waters programs. There are four major areas of data collection including climatology, surface water, ground water and water use. These areas follow the hydrologic cycle (see diagram) and provide important facts concerning the distribution and availability of Minnesota's water resources.

Basic hydrologic data are essential to a variety of water resource programs and related efforts. The extent of our knowledge depends on the quality and quantity of hydrologic data. Analysis and use of data are vital to understanding complex hydrologic relationships. With expanding technologies, there is a greater need for even more data of higher quality.

The DNR Waters web site at www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters provides a wealth of information on Minnesota's lakes, rivers and streams, wetlands, ground water and climate, much more than can be included in this summary report. Maps, publications, forms, educational resources and answers to common water resources questions can be found on the site. Visitors will find access to lake level data, stream flow information and ground water level data. The site, which is updated regularly, is intended to help the citizens of Minnesota become better stewards of the state's water resources by providing comprehensive information about those resources.

This report is a continuation of Water Year reports published by DNR Waters in 1979, 1980, 1991, 1993, 1995, 1997 and 1999. This edition is also available on our web site.

Water Year

The climatology, surface water and ground water data presented are for Water Years 1999 and 2000.

WY 1999: October 1, 1998 - September 30, 1999

WY 2000: October 1, 1999 - September 30, 2000

Use of water year as a standard follows the national water supply data publishing system that was started in 1913. This convention was adopted because responses of hydrologic systems after October 1 are practically all a reflection of precipitation (snow and rain) occurring within that water year.

Water use data is reported and presented on a calendar year basis.

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COVER PHOTOGRAPH:

Mississippi River Headwaters, Lake Itasca - Courtesy of the Minnesota Office of Tourism.

Glen Yakel, *Editor*

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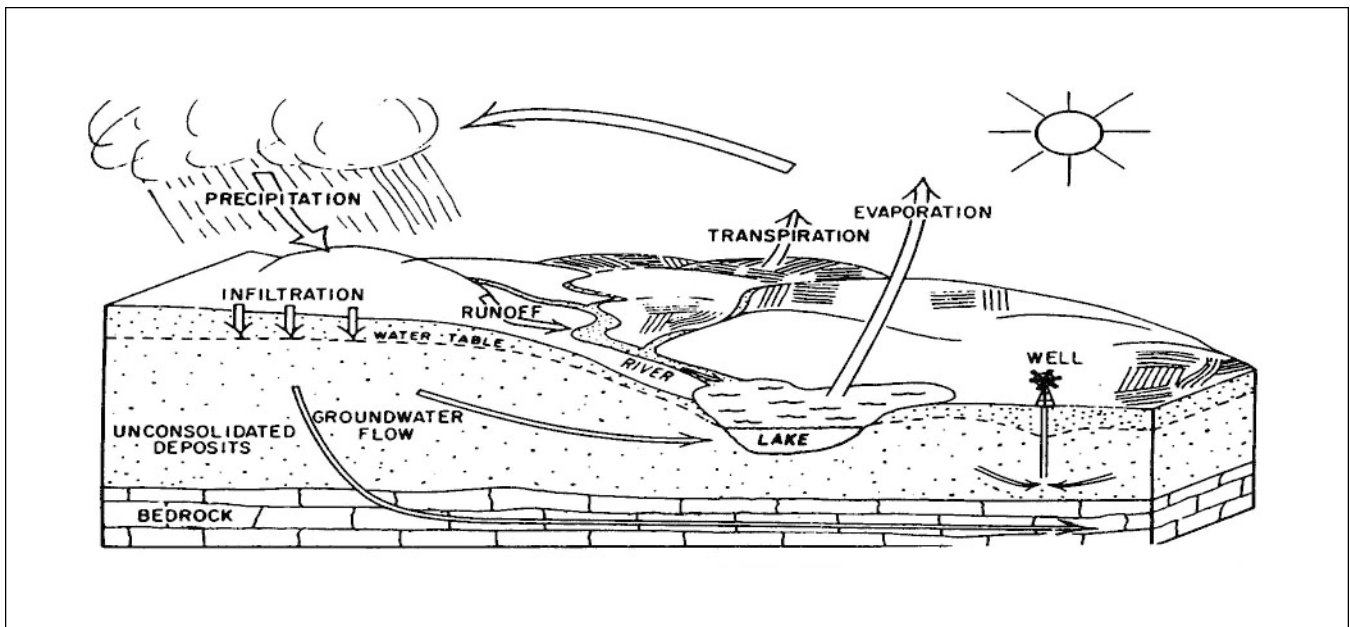
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Hydrologic Cycle



The hydrologic cycle is a concept used to explain the movement of water around the earth. This movement is continuous and has no beginning or end. Change at any point in the cycle will be reflected later in the cycle.

Surface water, which predominately exists in oceans, is evaporated into the atmosphere by the energy of the sun. It returns to the earth as precipitation (rain or snow). As precipitation falls, it may be intercepted by vegetation and evaporate or it may reach the ground surface. Water that reaches the surface may either soak into the soil or move downslope. As it soaks into the

soil (infiltration), it may be held in the soil or continue to move downward and become ground water. Ground water may be stored in the ground, returned to the surface as a spring, flow into a concentrated body such as a stream or lake, or be returned to the atmosphere by plant transpiration. Water that does not infiltrate the soil moves downslope, until concentrated areas form a stream. Streams lead to lakes and into other streams, which ultimately return the water to the oceans.

At any point where water is on the ground surface, it is subject to evaporation into the atmosphere or infiltration into the soil.

Minnesota Counties

