

Earth-Science Information for the Present and Future

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The mission of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) is to provide reliable scientific information to describe and understand the Earth. The information and understanding are used by natural-resource managers and others to enhance and protect our quality of life; to manage water, biological, energy, and mineral resources; and to minimize loss of life and property from natural disasters.

The USGS monitors streamflow and water quality at various locations throughout Montana and surrounding areas. In the coal-bed methane (CBM) resource areas of southeastern Montana, the USGS monitors streamflow and water quality at nine sites in the Tongue River watershed and three sites in the Powder River watershed. The USGS also monitors streamflow at three sites and water quality at two sites in the Rosebud Creek watershed. The monitoring programs and other activities are conducted in cooperation with Federal, State, Tribal, and local entities.

Historical and real-time streamflow information for most of the sites is available on USGS web pages (see <http://waterdata.usgs.gov/mt/nwis/rt>). Information on streamflow, specific conductance, and estimated sodium adsorption ratio (SAR) for most of the sites in the Tongue River watershed also is available in real-time on other USGS web pages (see <http://tonguerivermonitoring.cr.usgs.gov>), along with results of historical and recent water-quality analyses and information on the development and testing of a field SAR analyzer.