

# **Streamflow-Hydrograph Methods for Estimating Ground-Water Recharge**

***Dennis Risser***

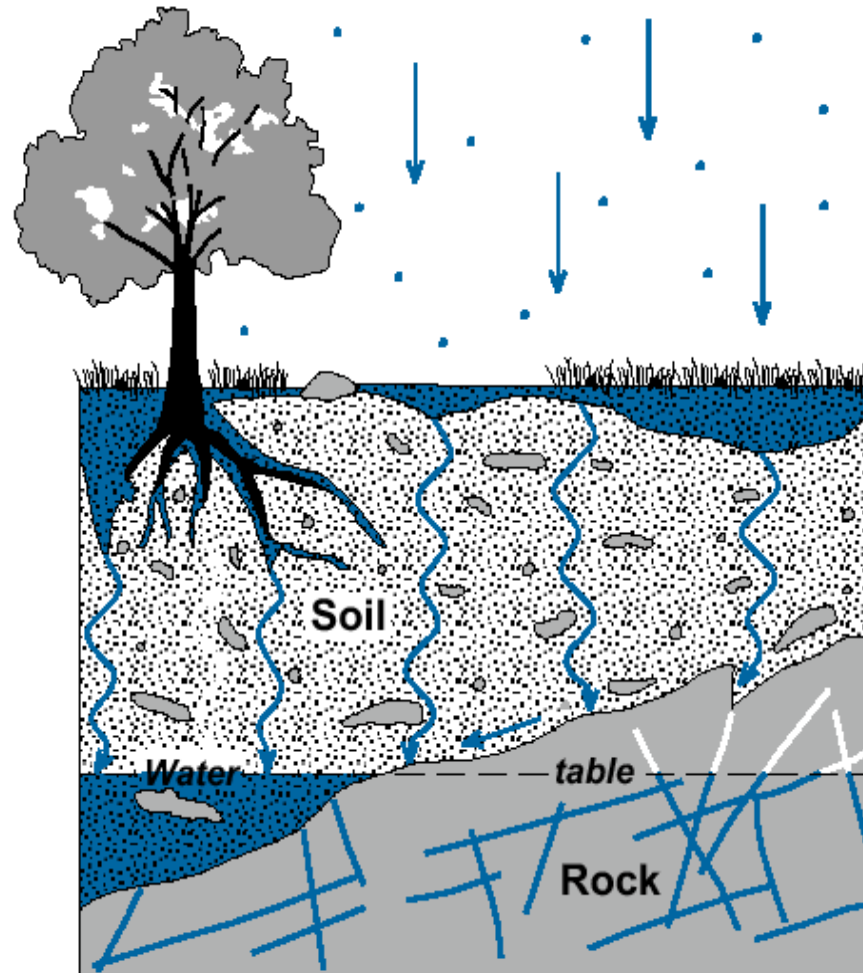
**USGS**

**New Cumberland,  
Pennsylvania**

# GROUND-WATER RECHARGE

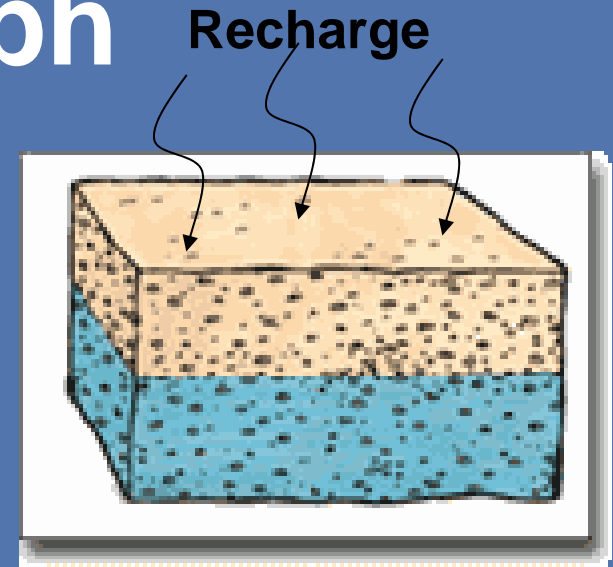
Recharge is the addition of water to the saturated zone.

It is difficult to measure directly.



# POPULAR METHODS FOR ESTIMATING GW RECHARGE

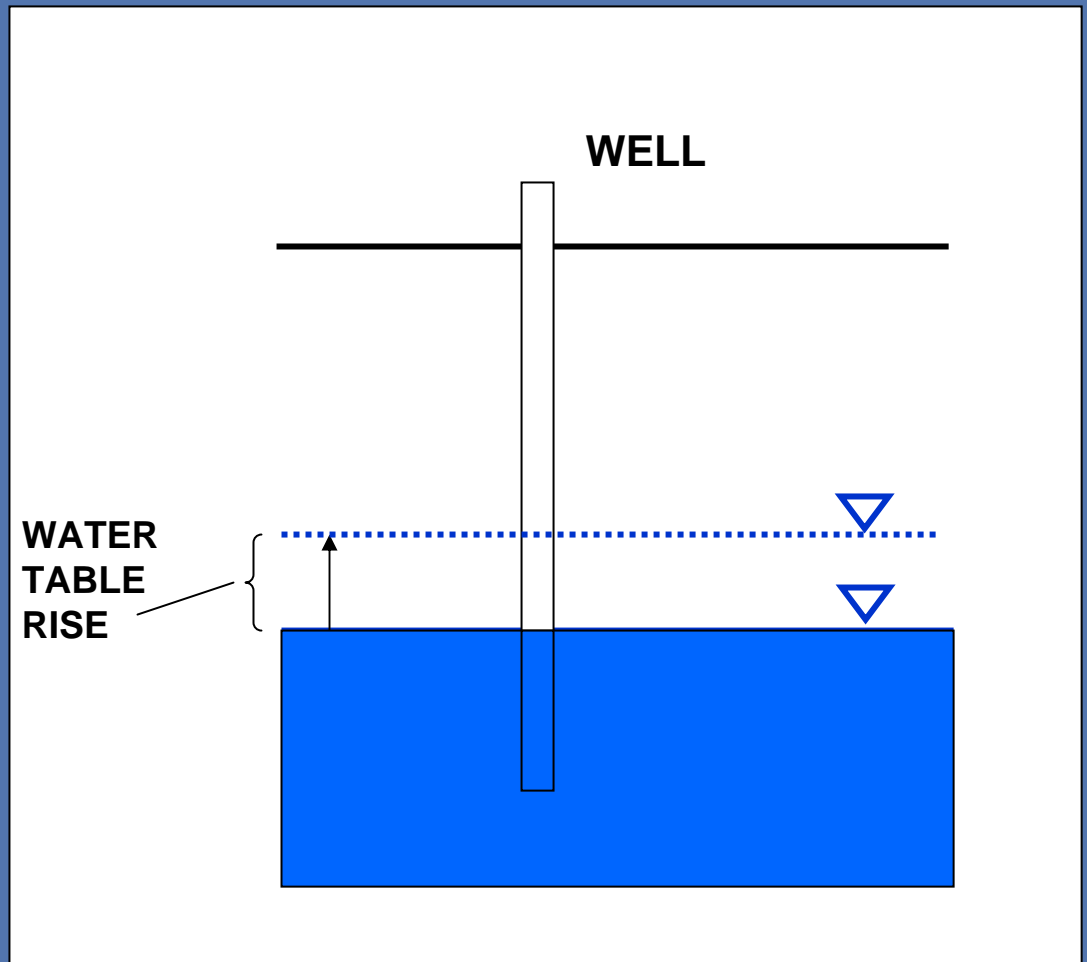
- Water-Table Rise
- Water Budget
- Stream-Hydrograph



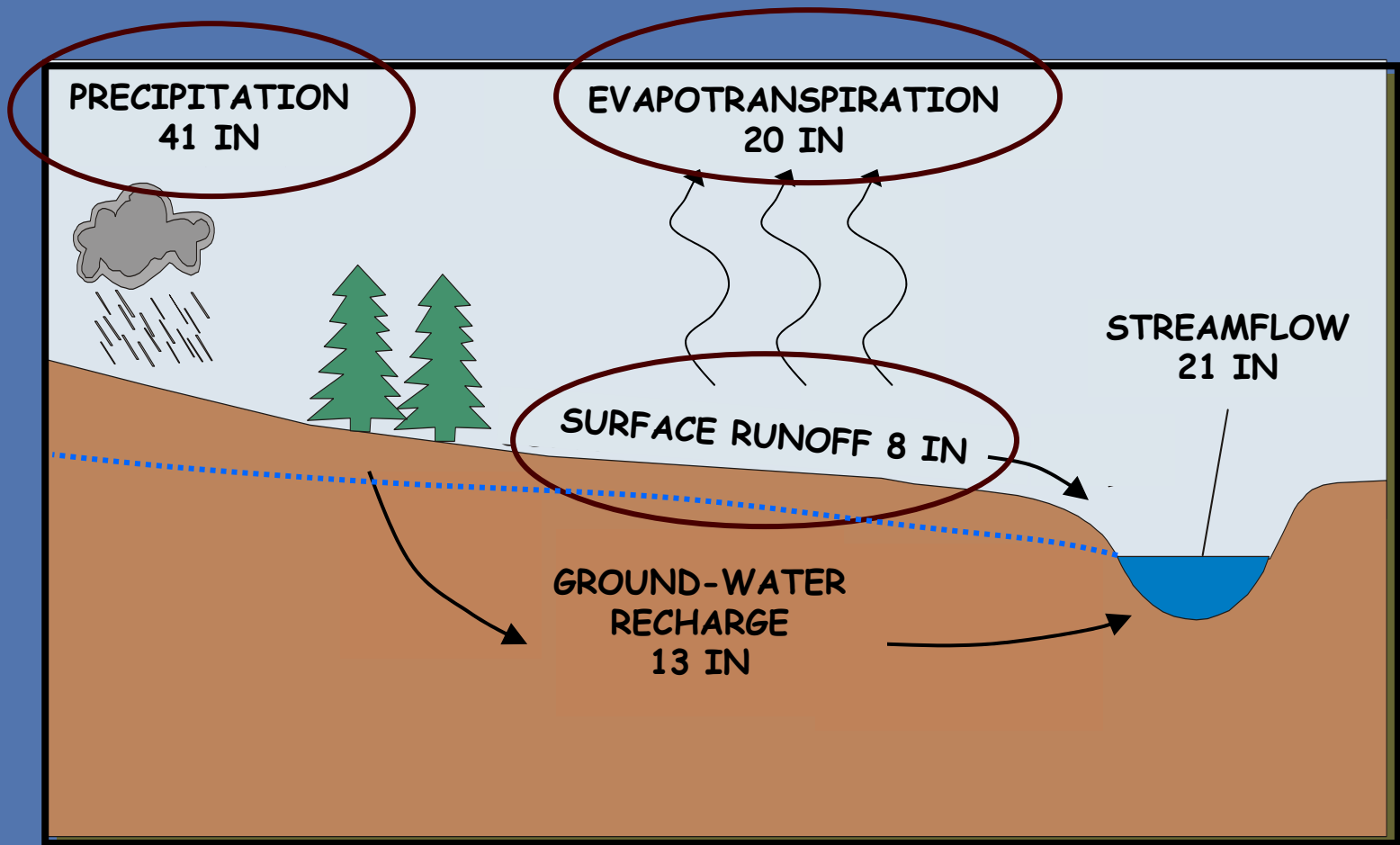
# WATER-TABLE RISE

Estimating  
ground-  
water  
recharge  
with wells.

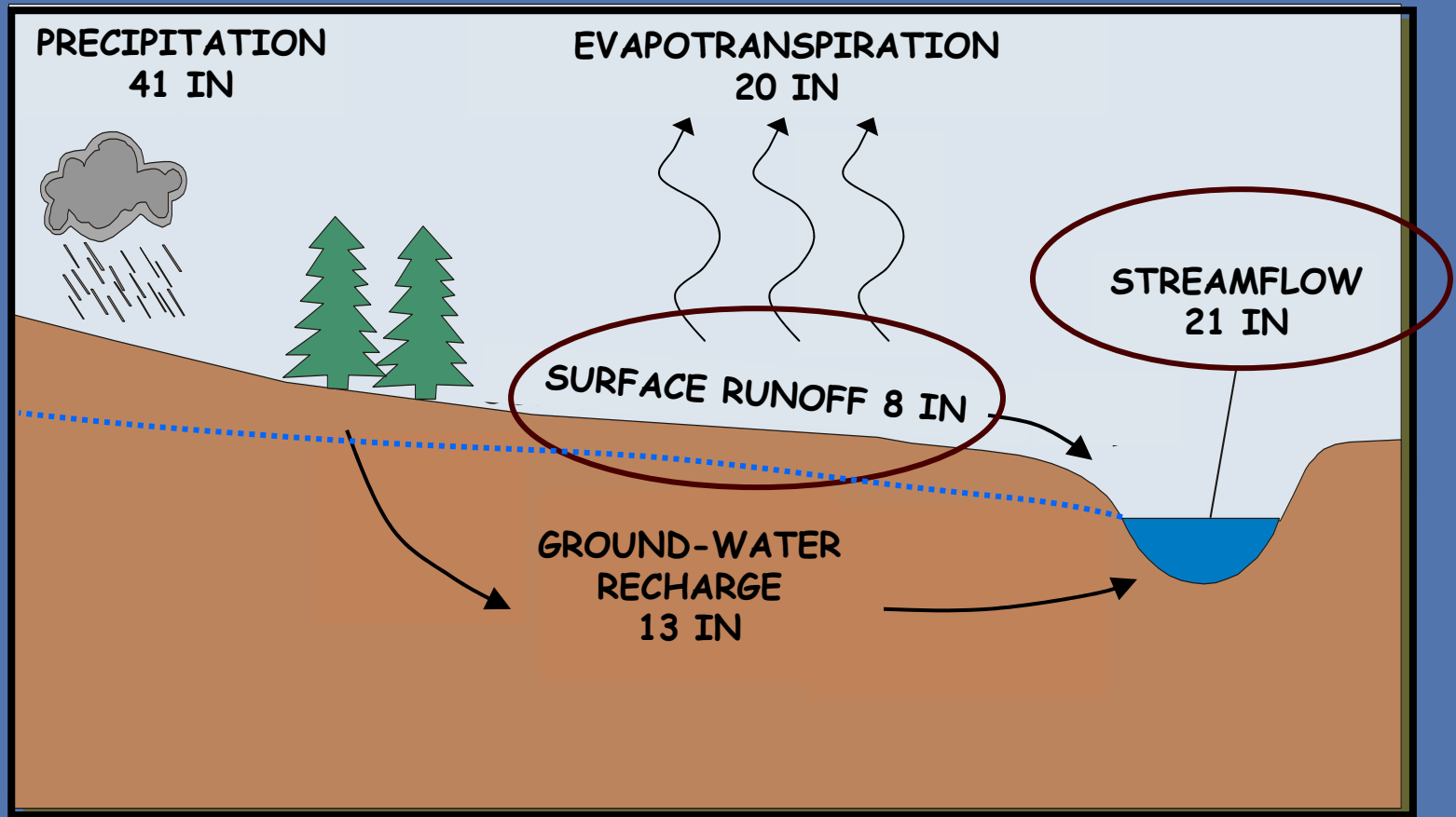
$$\text{Recharge} = \text{Rise} \times S_y$$



# WATER BUDGET METHOD

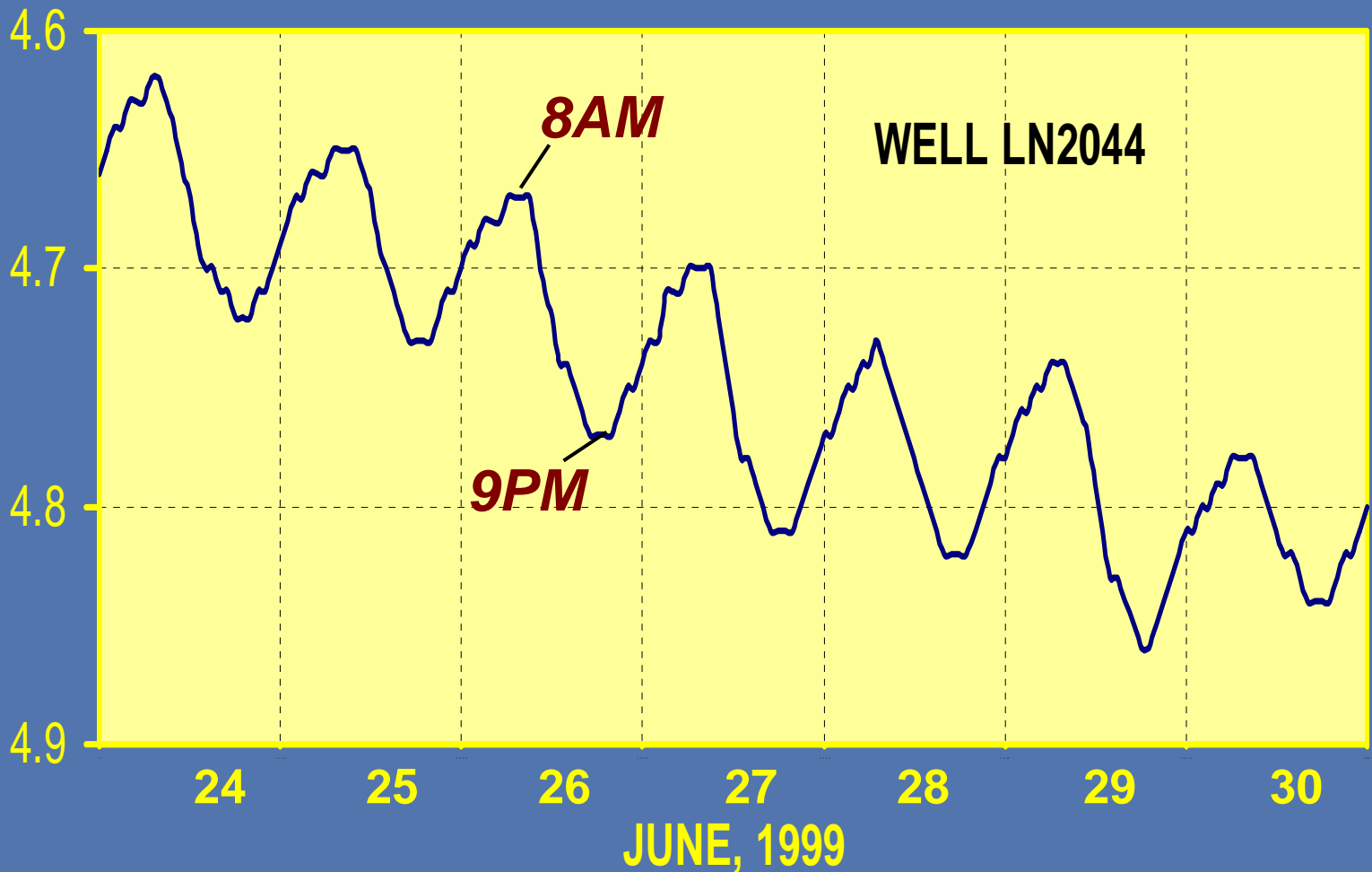


# STREAMFLOW-HYDROGRAPH METHODS

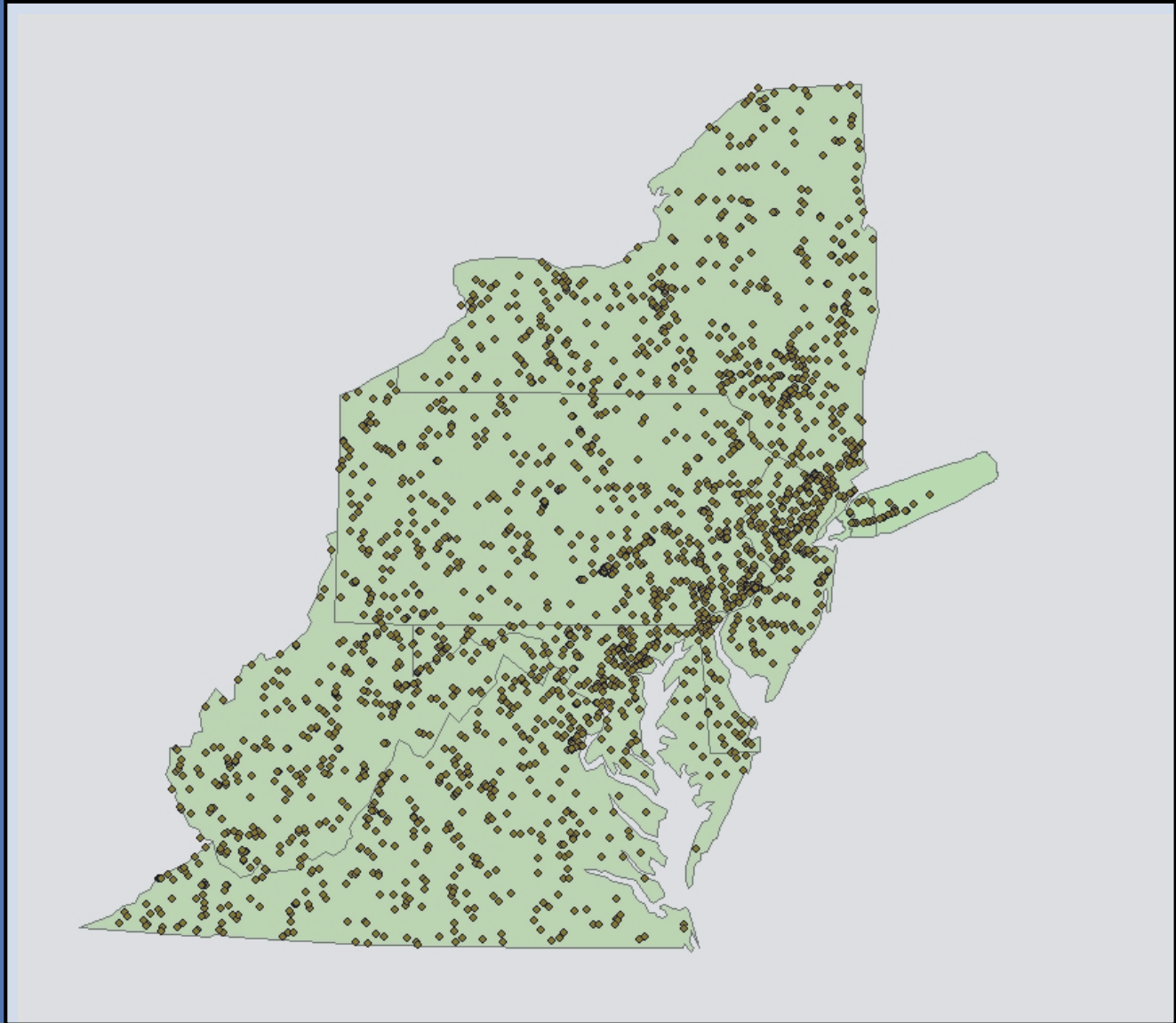


# ET FROM GROUND WATER

DEPTH TO WATER IN FEET

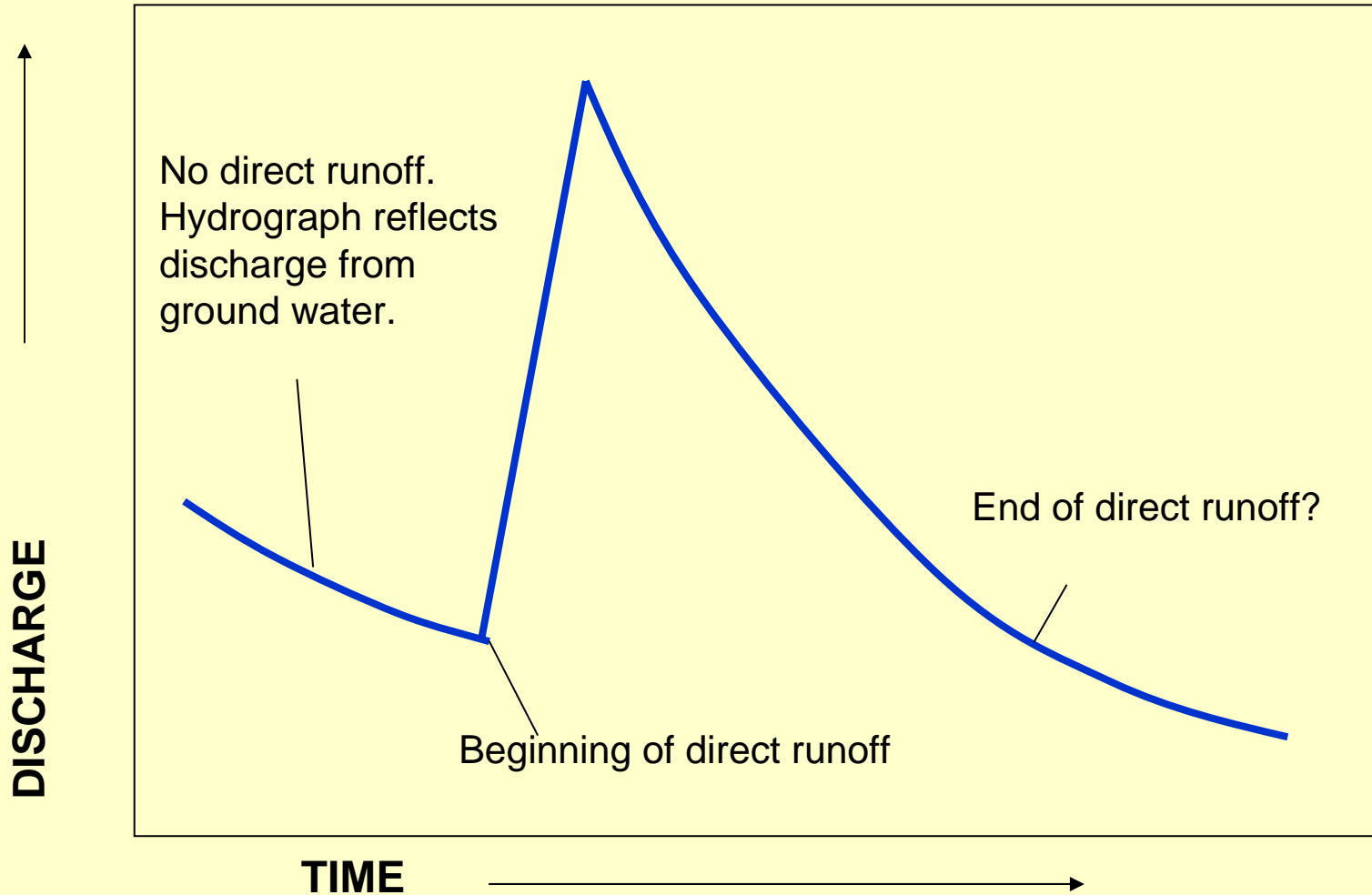


# 1,600 STREAMFLOW GAGES

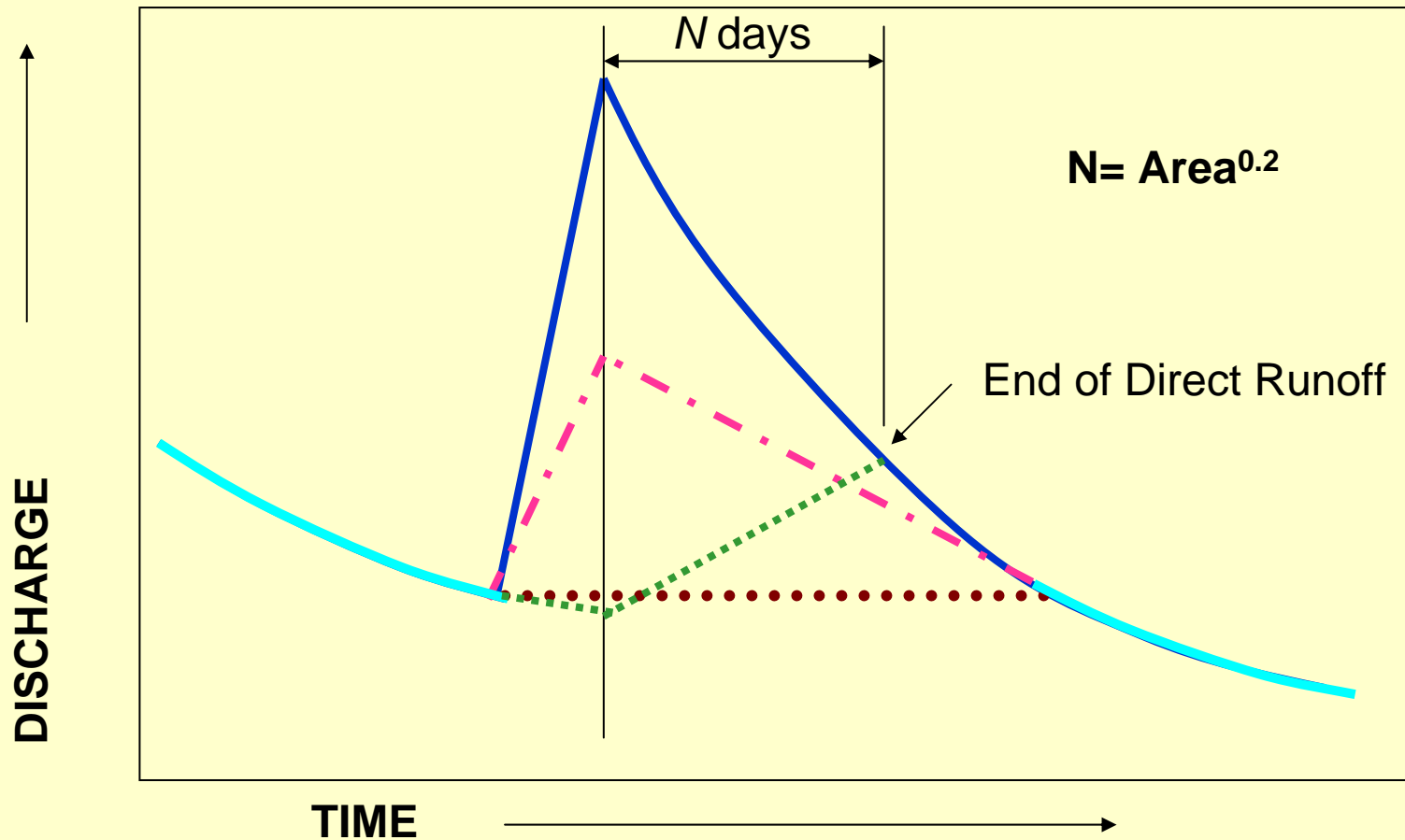




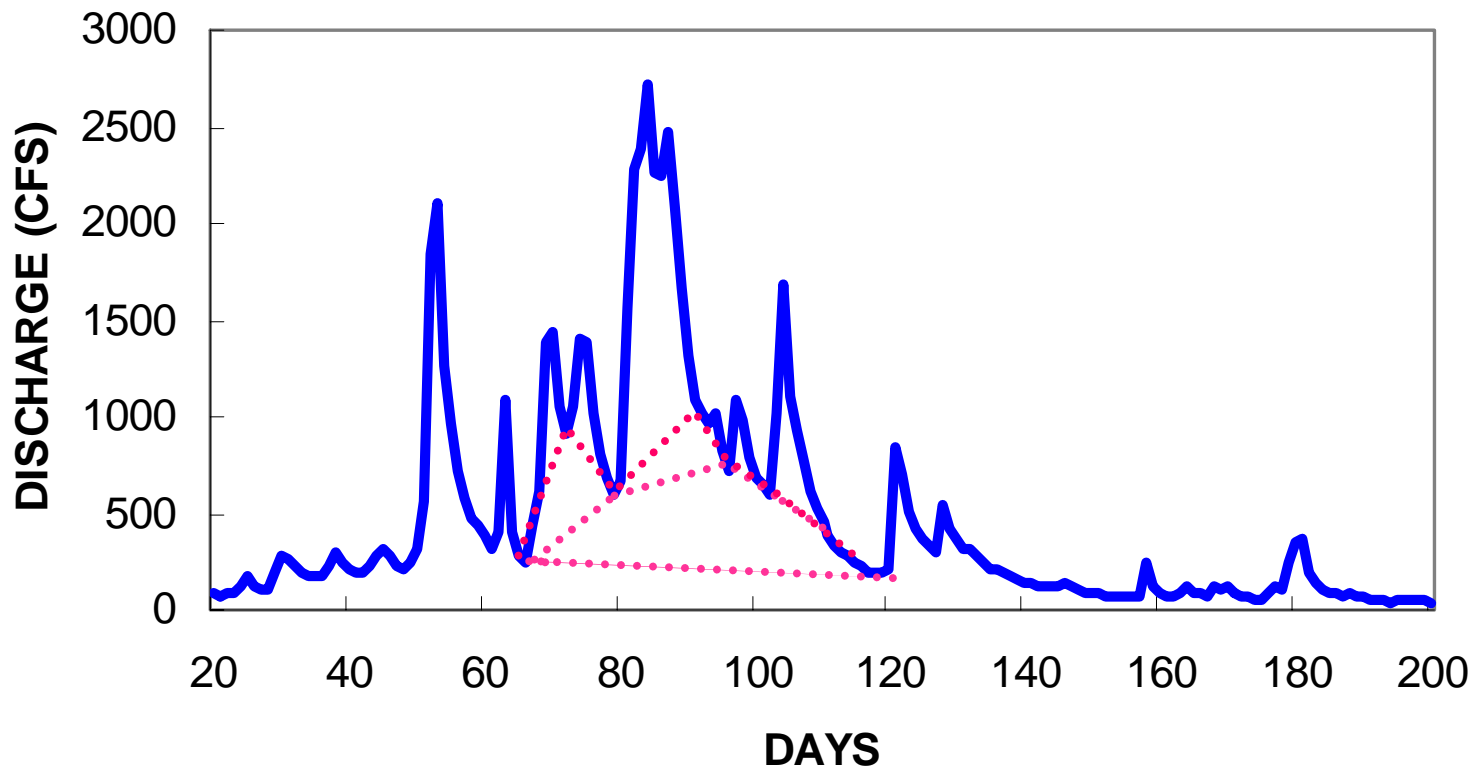
# STORM HYDROGRAPH



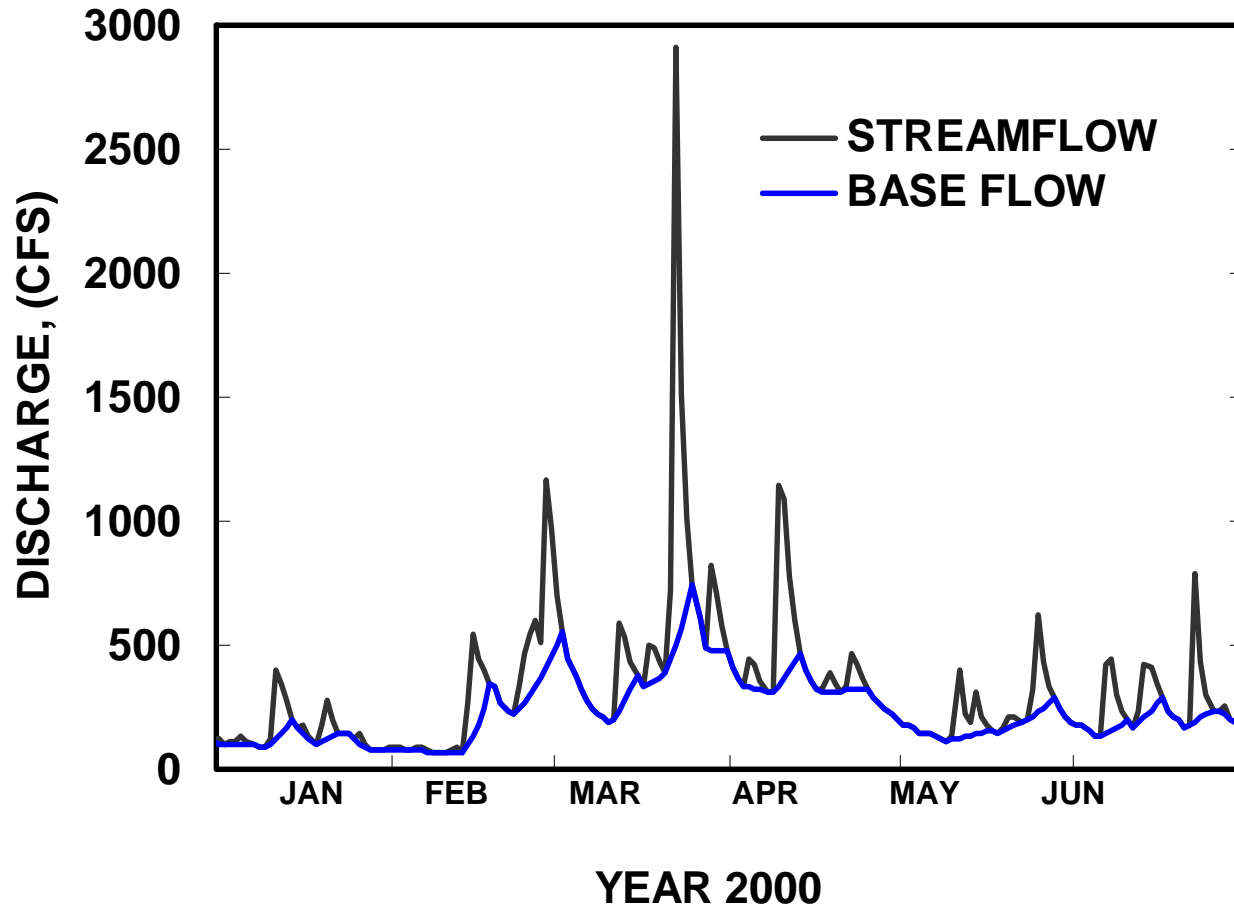
# BASEFLOW SEPARATION



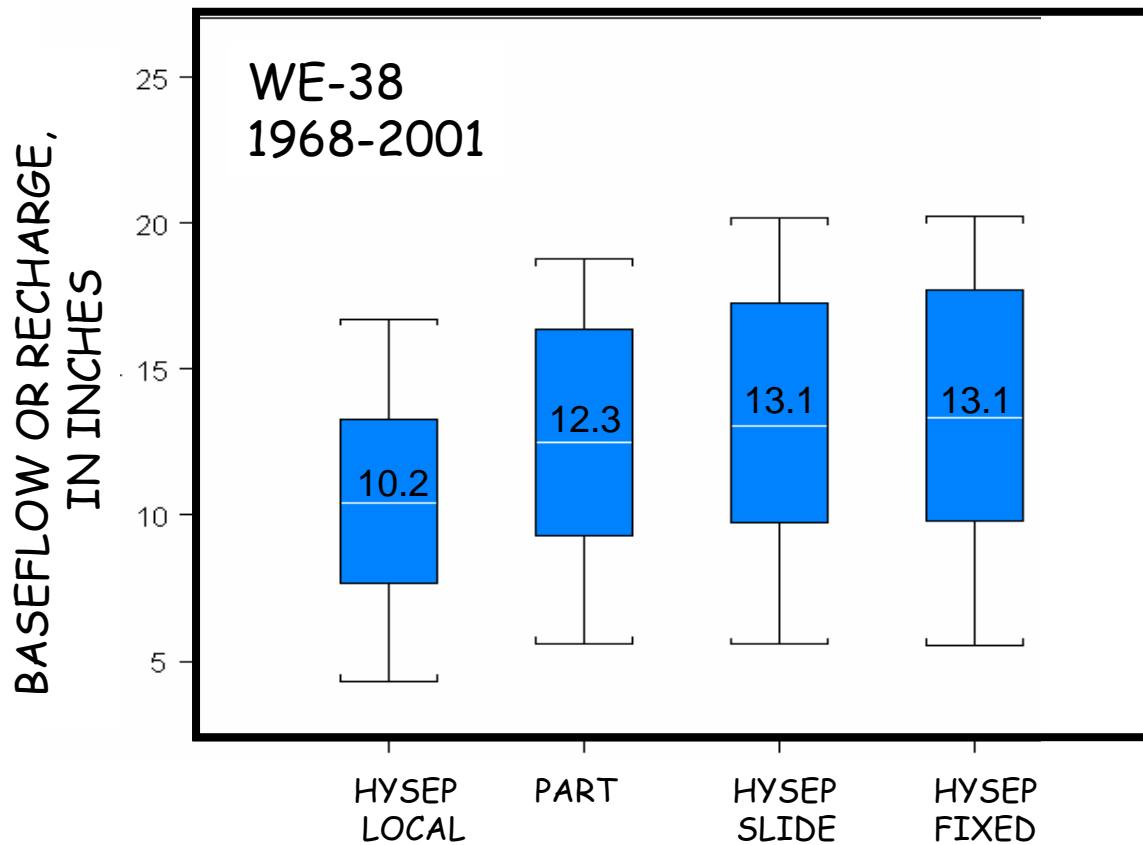
# COMPLEX HYDROGRAPHS



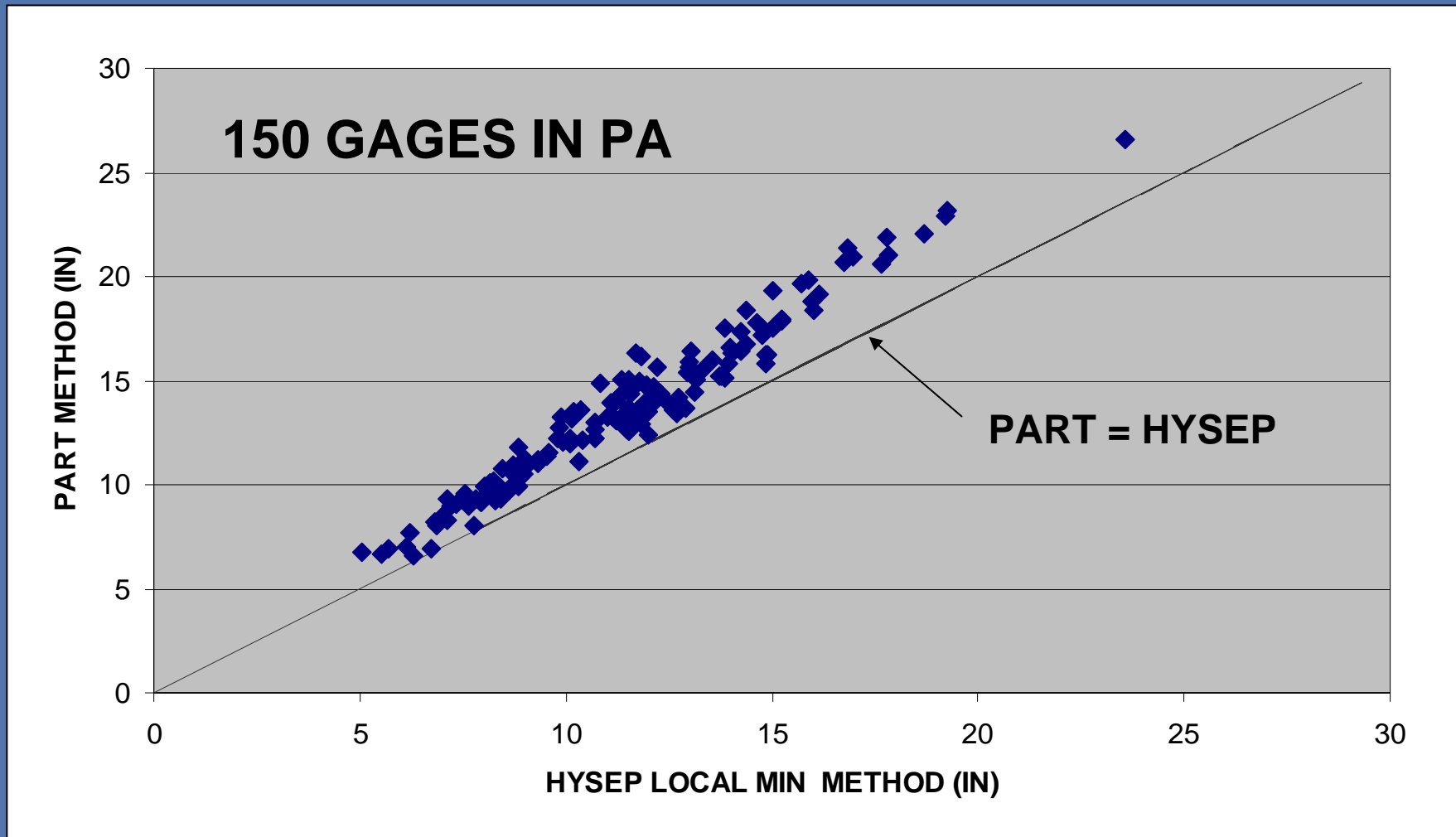
# AUTOMATED BF SEPARATION PART PROGRAM



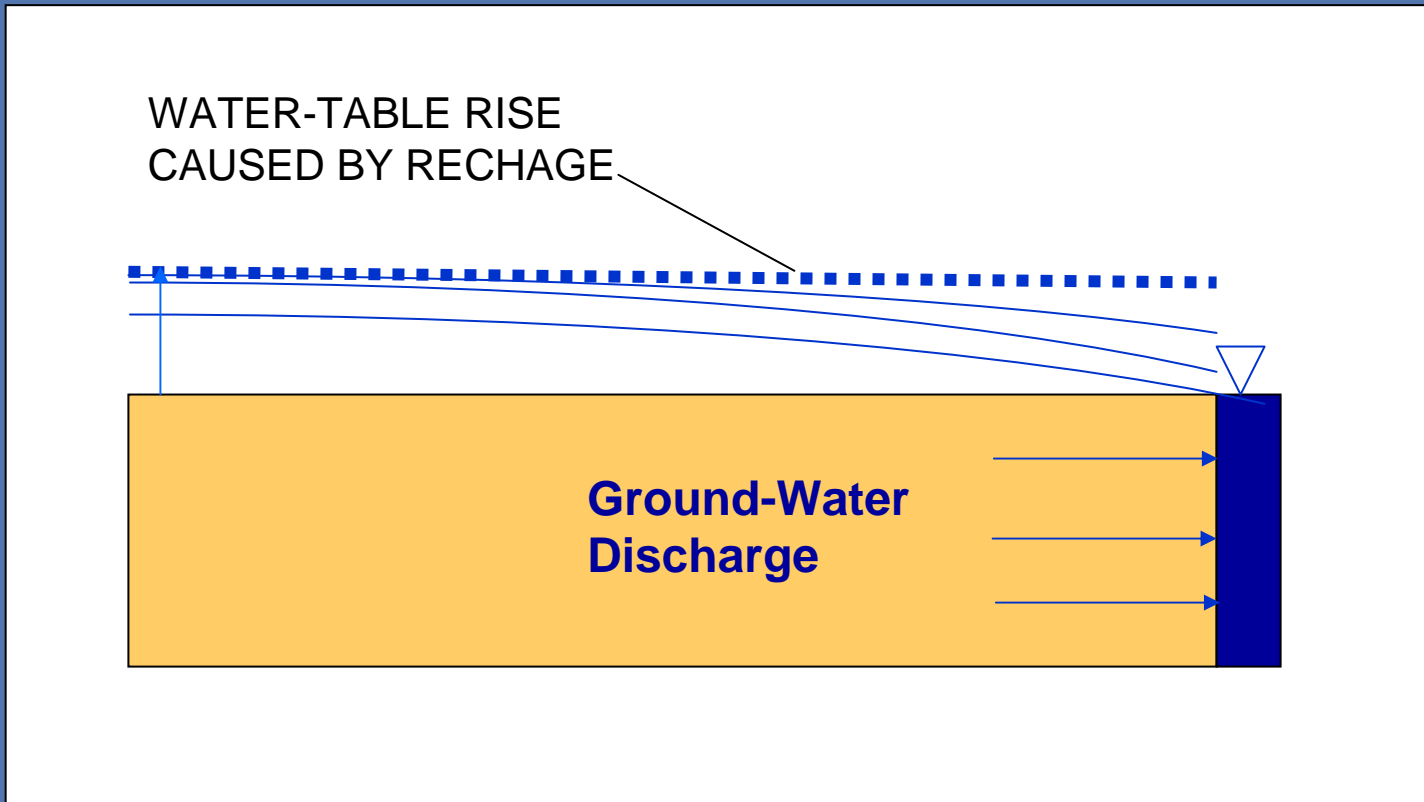
# FOUR AUTOMATED BASE-FLOW METHODS COMPARED AT ONE SITE



# TWO AUTOMATED BASE-FLOW METHODS COMPARED AT 150 SITES



# STREAMFLOW-RECESSION-DISPLACEMENT METHOD

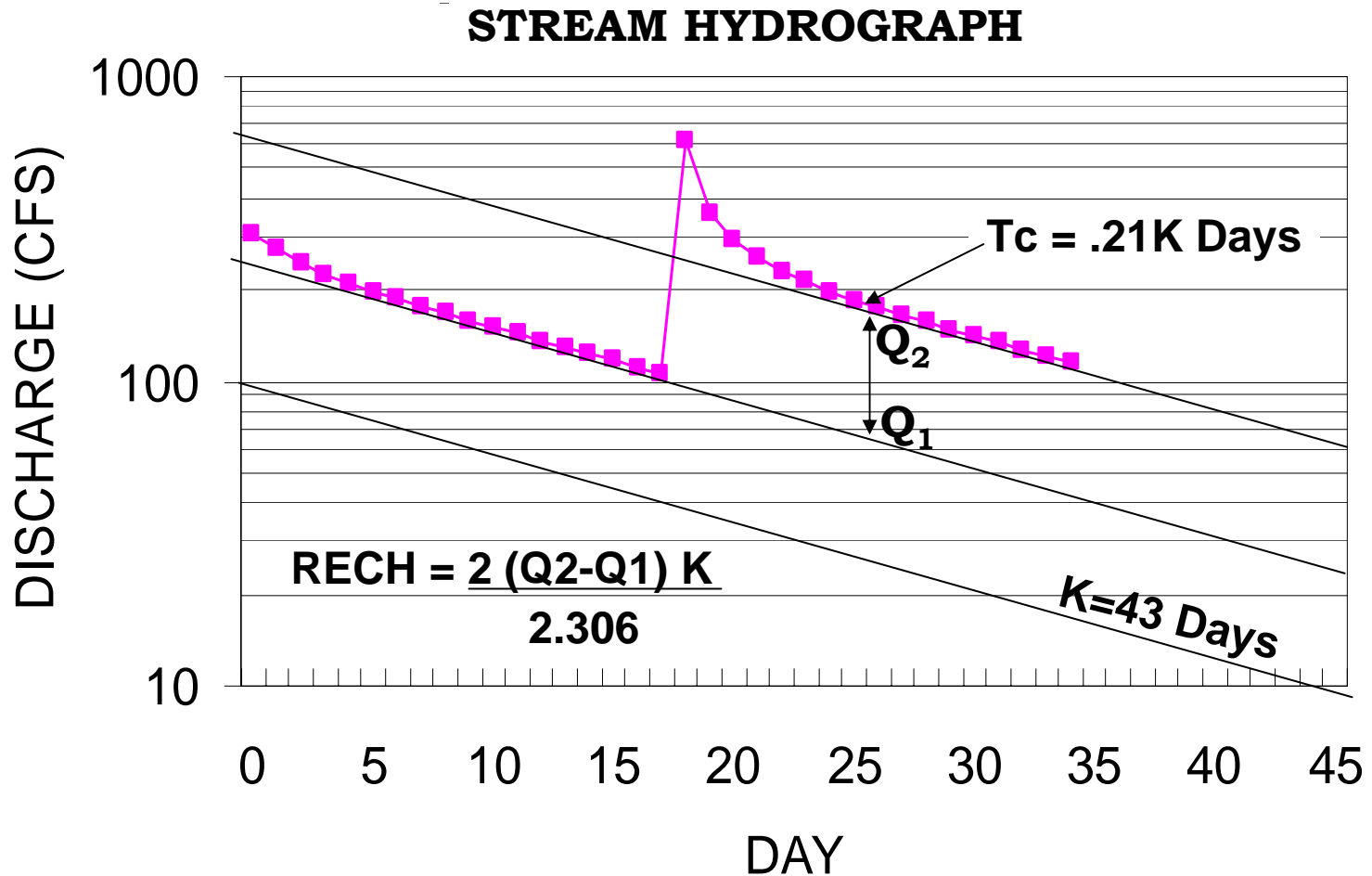


# **STREAMFLOW-RECESSION- DISPLACEMENT METHOD**

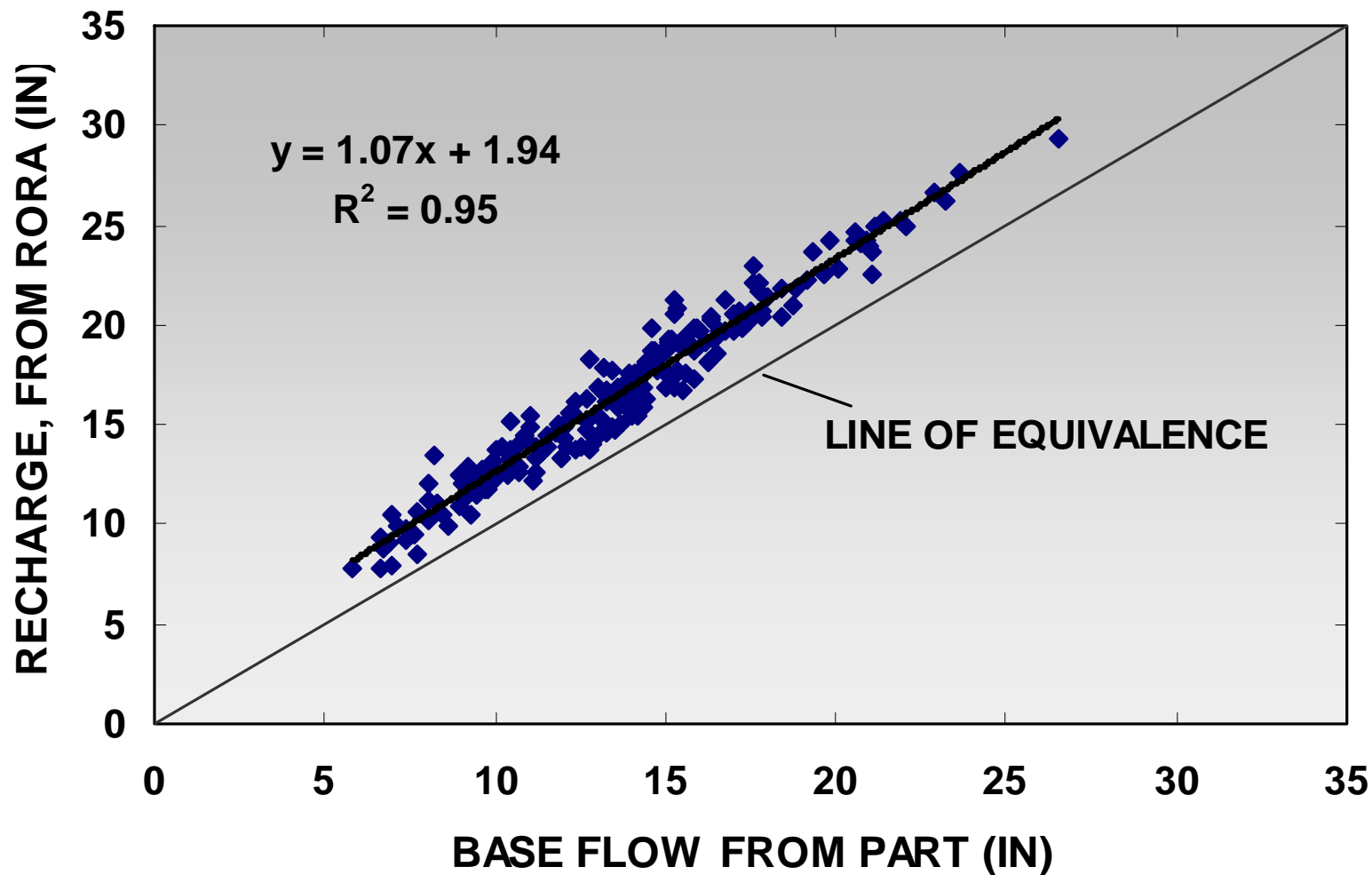
- ✓ **Instantaneous Recharge**
- ✓ **Diffuse Areal Recharge**
- ✓ **Idealized Aquifer**
- ✓ **Ground-Water Discharge to Stream**
- ✓ **Negligible Diversions or Regulation**



# STREAMFLOW-RECESSION-DISPLACEMENT METHOD



# RECHARGE AND BASEFLOW ESTIMATES -- 150 STREAMS



# COMPARISON OF METHODS AT ONE SITE

## □ Stream Hydrograph Methods

- HYSEP
- PART
- RORA



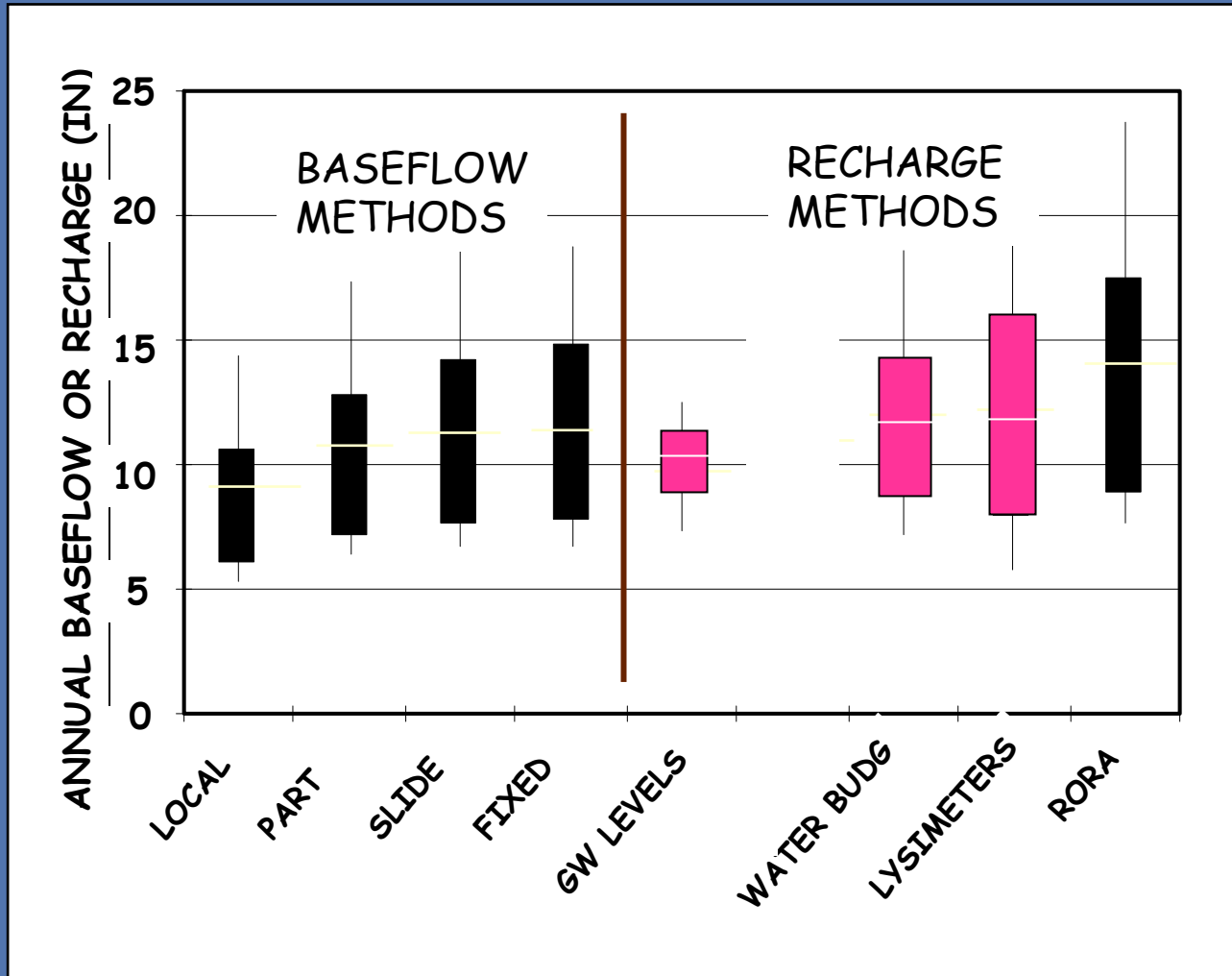
## □ Lysimeters

## □ Ground-Water Levels

## □ Water Budget

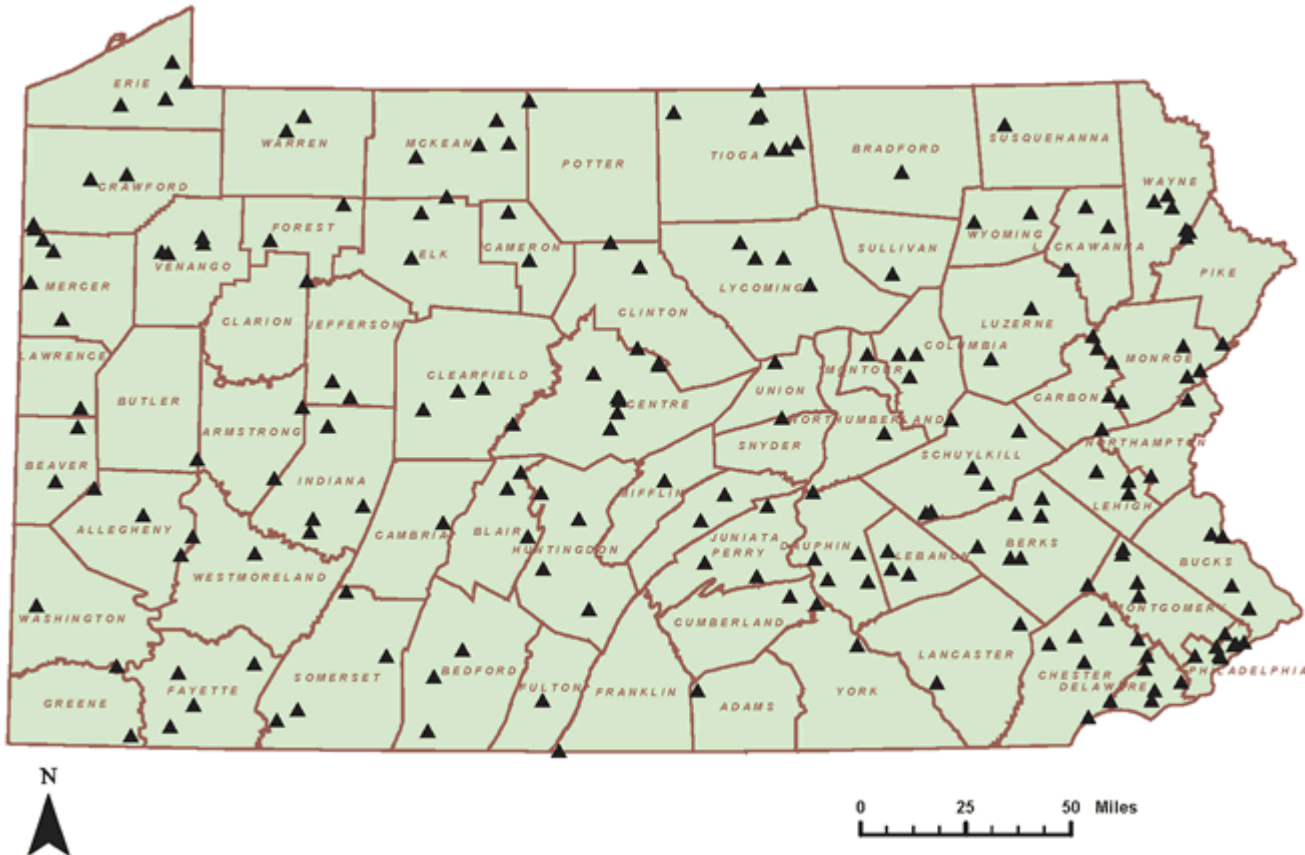


# COMPARISON OF BASE FLOW AND RECHARGE METHODS



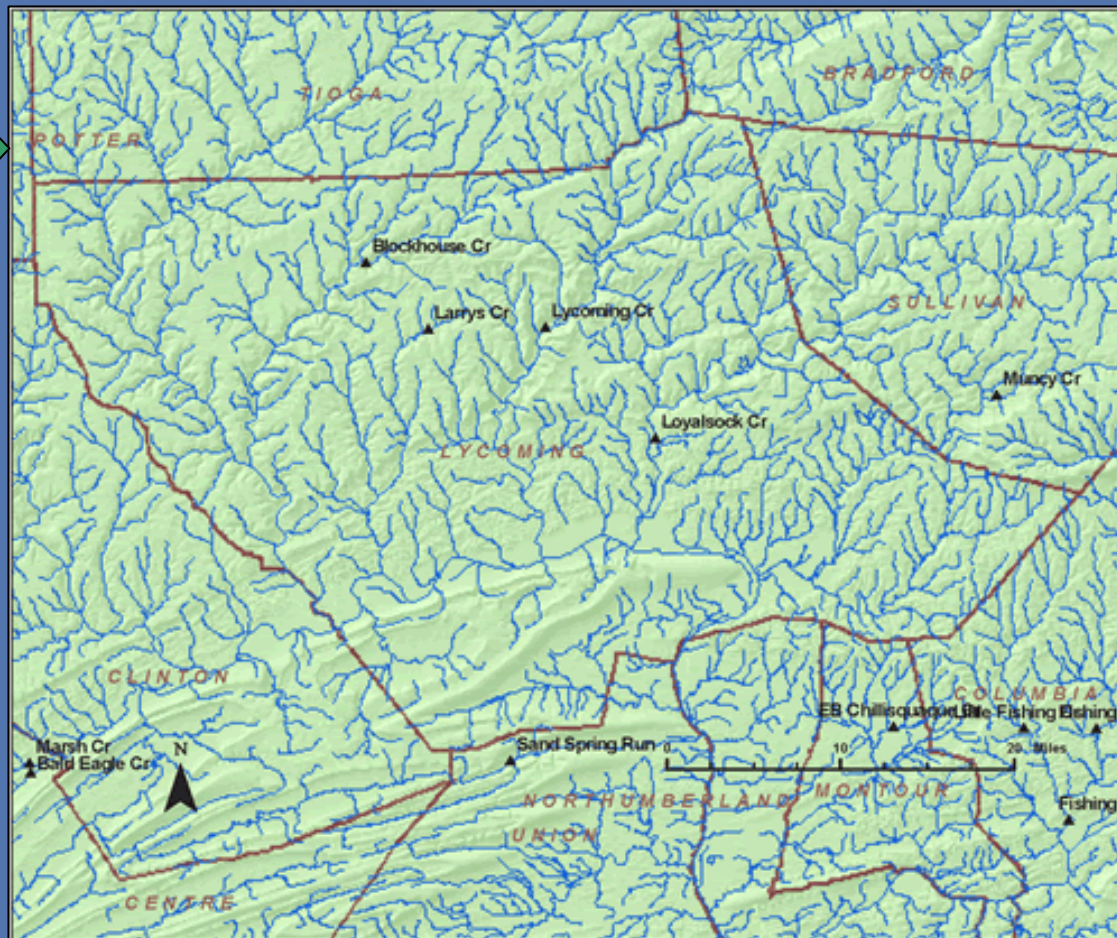
## Estimates of Ground-Water Recharge in Pennsylvania by Streamflow-Hydrograph Methods

For a description of the methods, [click here](#)



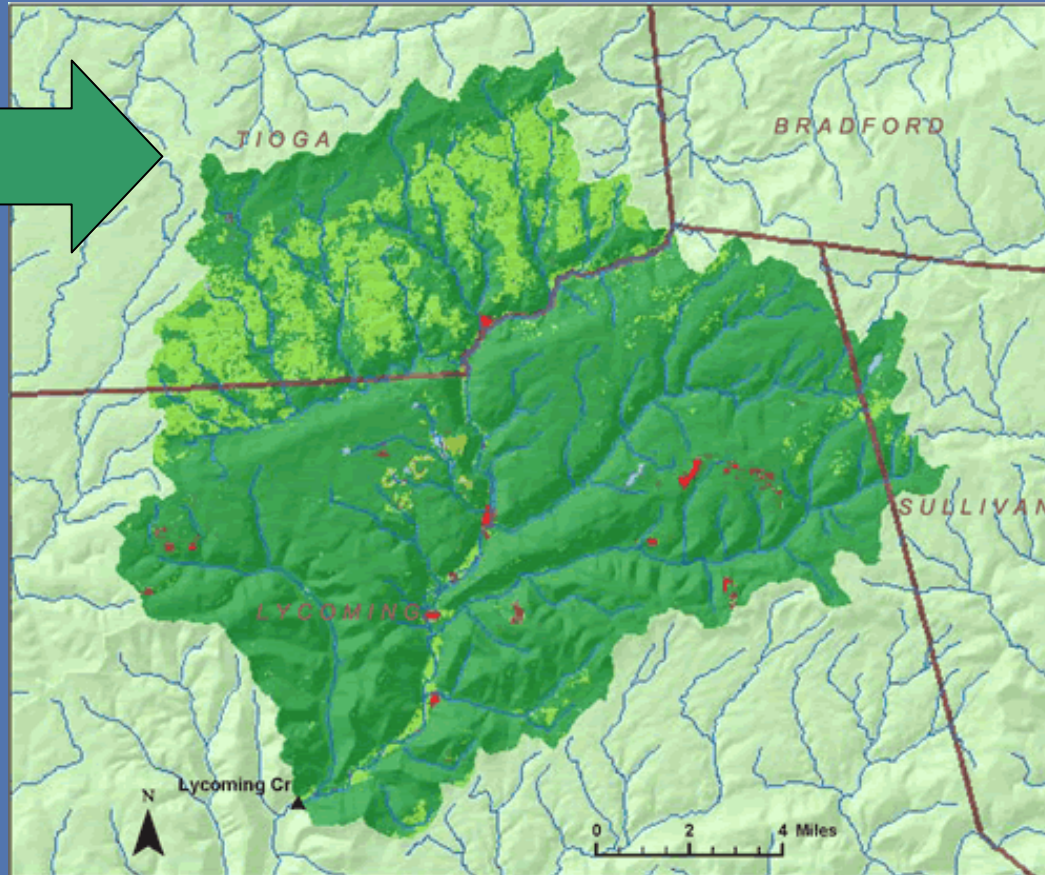
# SELECT COUNTY OF INTEREST

SELECT  
LYCOMING  
COUNTY  
FROM  
MAP



# LYCOMING CREEK WATERSHED

SELECT  
LYCOMING  
CREEK  
FROM  
MAP



## LAND COVER

### Legend

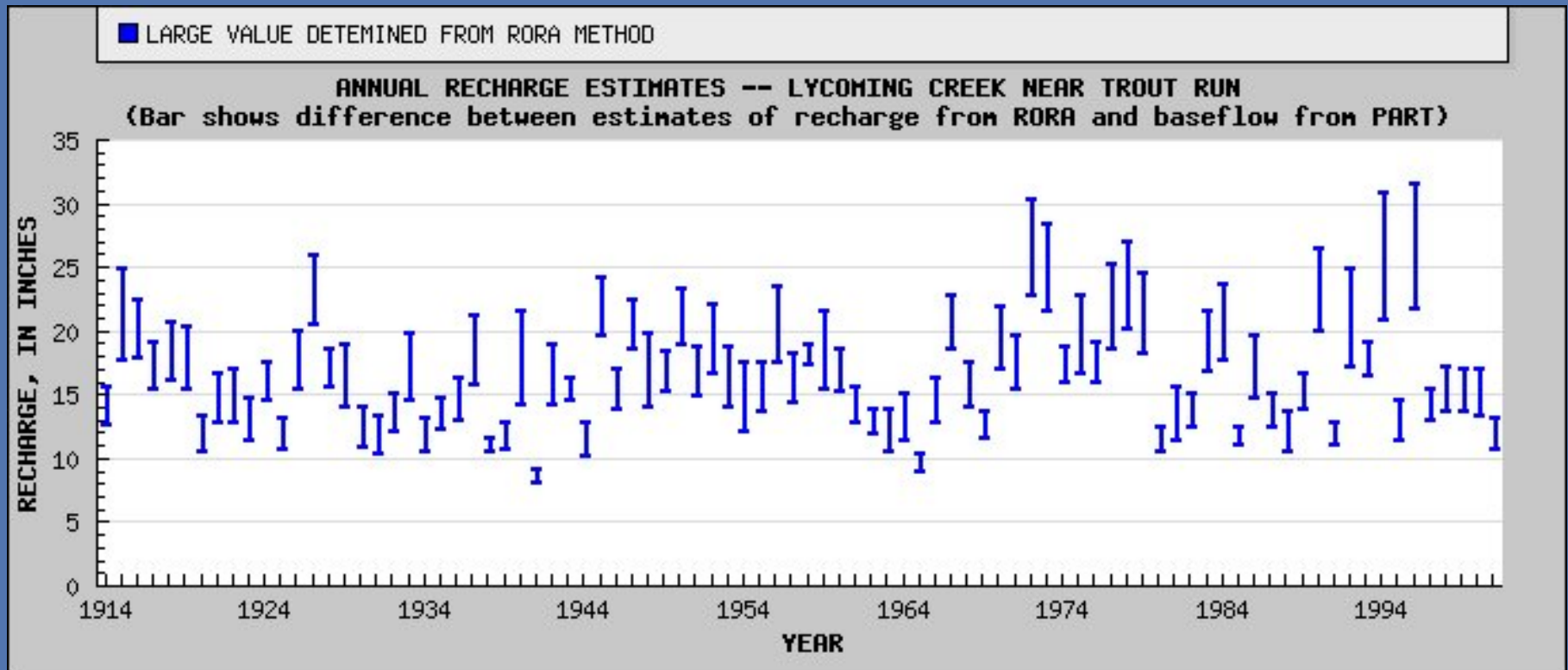
- STREAMS
- ▲ STATE RECHARGE SITES
- PENNSYLVANIA COUNTIES
- Land cover**
- Agricultural
- Bare Ground-Quarries-Mines-Pits
- Developed
- Forest
- Open Water
- Wetlands
- Pennsylvania counties

# RECHARGE AND BASEFLOW ESTIMATES FOR LYCOMING CR

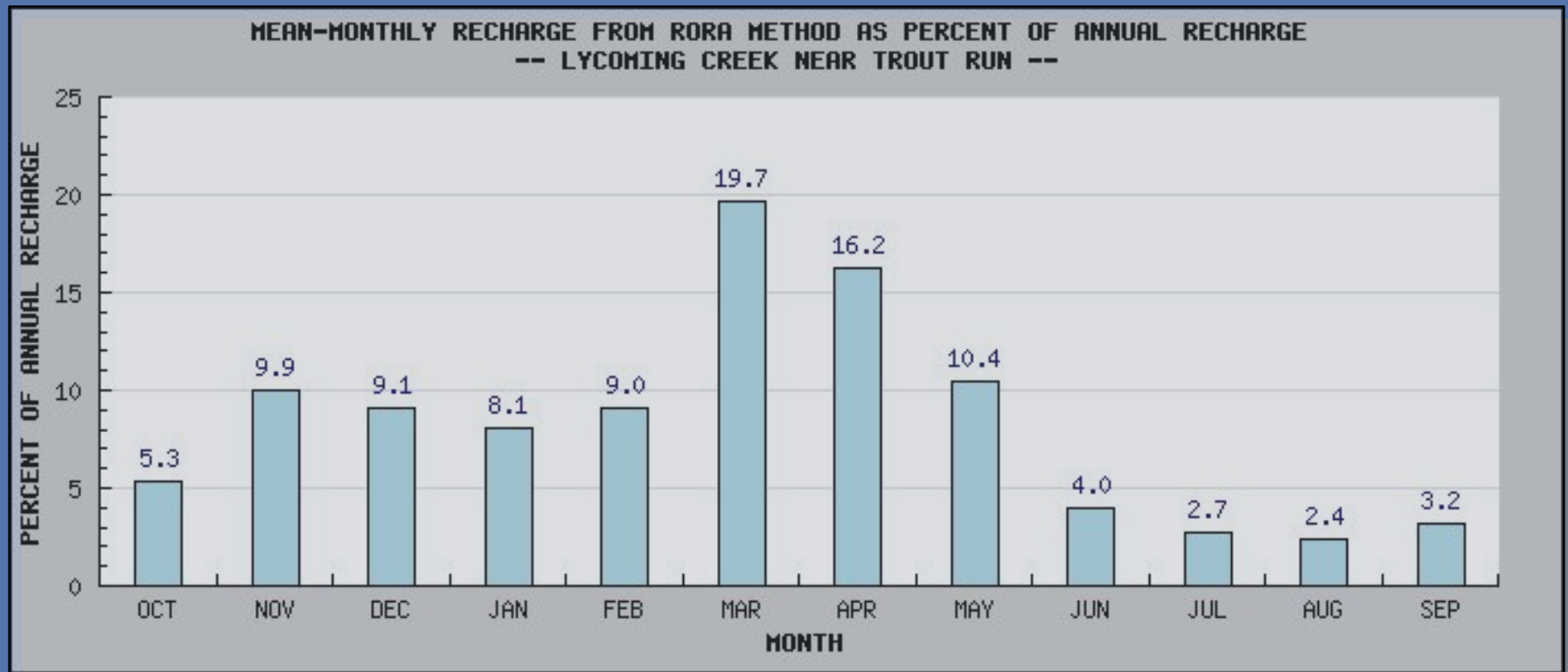
Available Options							
<a href="#">Graphs</a>	<a href="#">Data Tables</a>	<a href="#">Detailed Station Information</a>	<a href="#">Land Use Map</a>	<a href="#">Geology Map</a>	<a href="#">Back to county map</a>	<a href="#">Back to state map</a>	<a href="#">Main Page</a>
<b>Mean-Annual Recharge Estimates for Period of Record, in inches</b>							
From Recession Curve Displacement (RORA) Method							18.7
From Hydrograph Separation of Baseflow (PART) Method							14.7
<b>Basin Characteristics</b>							
Drainage Area (square miles)							173
Period of Record Used for Estimating Recharge							1914-2001
Land Cover ( <a href="#">show map</a> ) (Forest/Agriculture/Developed/Other) as % of Area							85.2/13.9/0.5/0.5
Rock Types ( <a href="#">show map</a> ) (Sandstone and Shale/Carbonate/Crystalline/Unconsolidated Sediments) as % of Area							100/0/0/0



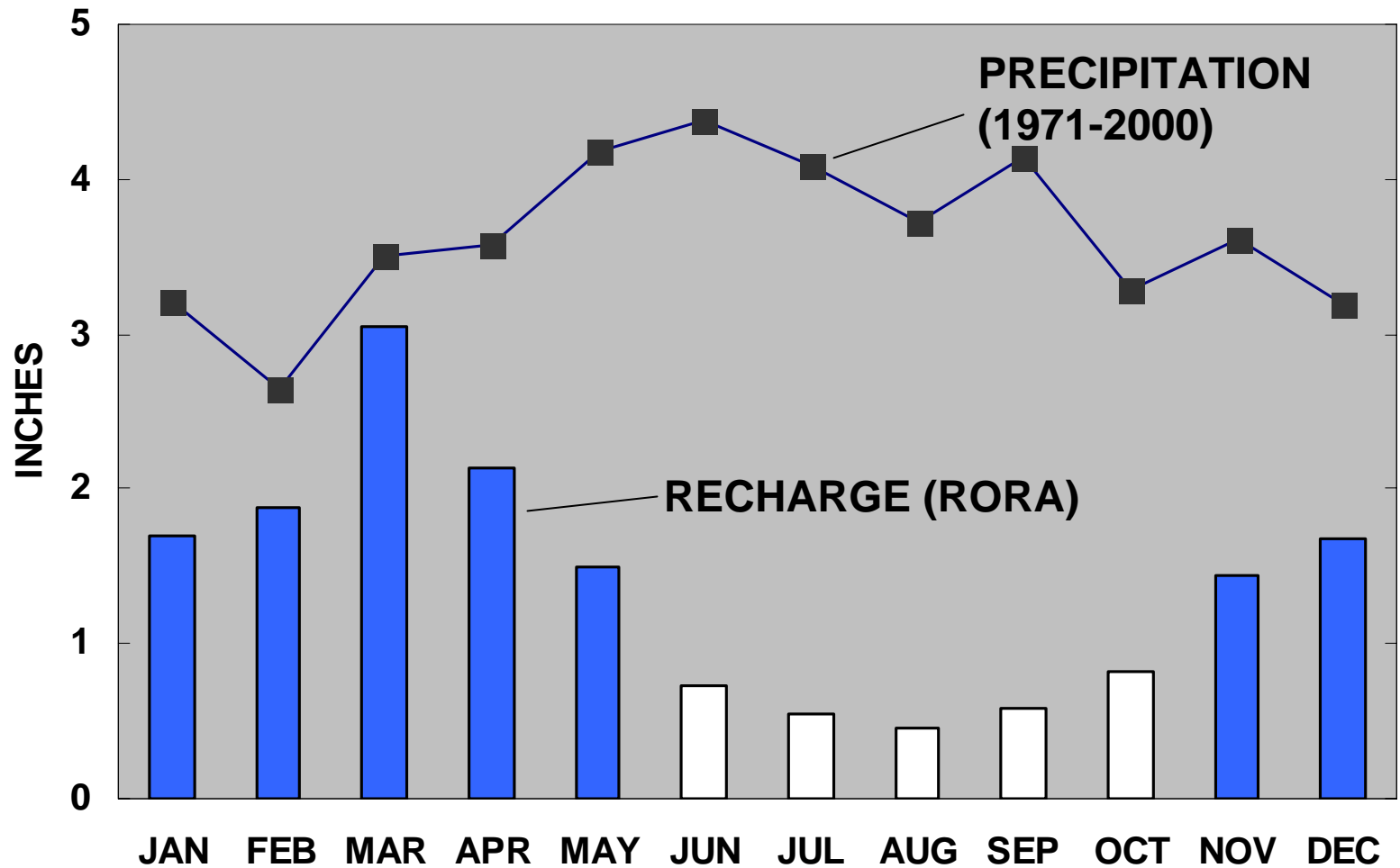
# TIME SERIES OF ANNUAL RECHARGE AND BASE FLOW



# MEAN-MONTHLY RECHARGE LYCOMING CREEK



# MONTHLY RECHARGE FOR PA



# SPATIAL DISTRIBUTION OF GROUND WATER RECHARGE MICHIGAN

