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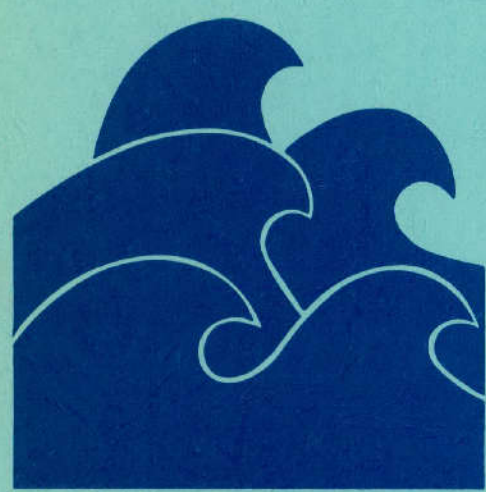
*ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE
OGALLALA AQUIFER
IN OCHILTREE COUNTY, TEXAS*

Projections of Saturated Thickness, Volume of Water in
Storage, Pumpage Rates, Pumping Lifts, and Well Yields

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TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

October 1980



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REPORT 258

**ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE OGALLALA AQUIFER IN
OCHILTREE COUNTY, TEXAS**

**Projections of Saturated Thickness, Volume of Water in Storage,
Pumpage Rates, Pumping Lifts, and Well Yields**

By

Ann E. Bell and Shelly Morrison

October 1980

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ANALYTICAL STUDY OF THE OGALLALA AQUIFER IN OCHILTREE COUNTY, TEXAS

Projections of Saturated Thickness, Volume of Water in Storage, Pumpage Rates, Pumping Lifts, and Well Yields

CONCLUSIONS

The Ogallala aquifer in Ochiltree County contained approximately 21.9 million acre-feet (27.0 km^3) of water in 1974. Historical pumpage has exceeded 175,000 acre-feet (0.22 km^3) annually, which is approximately eight times the rate of natural recharge to the aquifer in the county. This overdraft is expected to continue, ultimately resulting in reduced well yields, reduced acreage irrigated, and reduced agricultural production.

There is a very uneven distribution of ground water in the county. Some areas have ample ground-water resources to support current usage through the year 2020; whereas, in other areas of the county, ground water is currently in short supply.

To obtain maximum benefits from the remaining ground-water resources, Ochiltree County water users should implement all possible conservation measures so that the remaining ground-water supply is used in the most prudent manner possible and with the least amount of waste.

INTRODUCTION

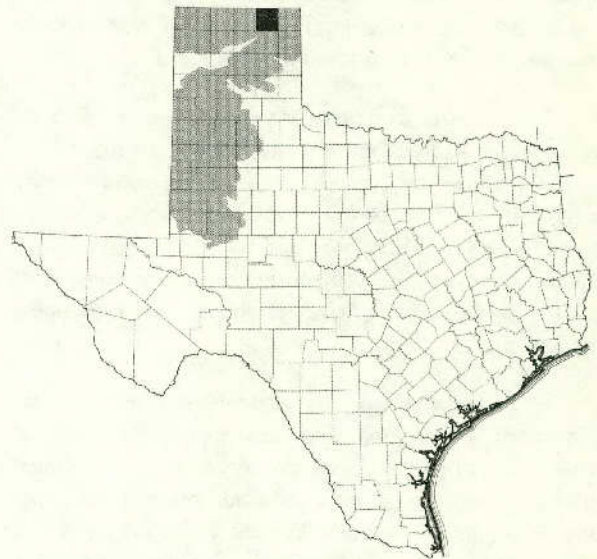
Ochiltree County is situated in the Northern High Plains of Texas. Perryton, the county seat, is located approximately 120 miles (193 km) northeast of Amarillo. The county contains an area of about 907 square miles ($2,349 \text{ km}^2$) and has a total population of approximately 8,800.

Ochiltree County produces a total farm income of over \$50 million annually (Texas Almanac and State Industrial Guide 1978-79). Leading crops in the county are wheat, grain sorghums, corn, and alfalfa. Numerous agribusinesses, including livestock feeding, grain storage,

and sale of irrigation equipment supplies, feed and seed, and fertilizer, also make significant contributions to the total county income.

Ground water is extremely important to the economy of the county inasmuch as most of the crops are irrigated with ground water. Additionally, the water used by rural residents, municipalities, and local industries is mostly ground water.

The principal source of fresh ground water in the county is the Ogallala aquifer. During the past three decades, the withdrawal of ground water has greatly exceeded the natural recharge to the aquifer. If this overdraft continues, the aquifer ultimately will be depleted to the point that it may not be economically feasible to produce water for irrigation.



Location of Ochiltree County, and Extent of the
Ogallala Aquifer in Texas

This is one of numerous planned county studies covering the declining ground-water resource of the Ogallala aquifer in the High Plains of Texas. The report contains maps, charts, and tabulations which reflect estimates of the volume of water in storage in the Ogallala aquifer in Ochiltree County and the projected depletion of this water supply by decade periods through the year 2020. The report also contains estimates of pumpage, pumping lifts, and other data related to current and future water use in the county. However, the report does not attempt to project that portion of the volume of water in underground storage which may be ultimately recoverable.

PURPOSE AND SCOPE OF STUDY

This study resulted from an immediate need for information to illustrate to the High Plains water users that the ground-water supply is being depleted. It is hoped that this study will help persuade the water users to implement all possible conservation measures, so that the remaining ground-water supply will be used in the most prudent manner possible and with the least amount of waste.

The study was also conducted to provide information to local, State, and federal officials for their use in implementing plans to alleviate the water-shortage problem in the High Plains of Texas.

These immediate needs for current information have resulted in a concerted effort by the Texas Department of Water Resources to utilize high-speed computers to conduct evaluation and projection studies of ground-water resources. The results of one of these computer studies is contained in this report.

This report does not represent a detailed ground-water study of the county; rather, the report was prepared using only those data which were readily available in the files of the Texas Department of Water Resources. Information provided for 1974 is considered reliable; however, the projections of future conditions should be used only as a guide to reasonable expectations.

This study represents a new approach by the Department in making and presenting appraisals of ground-water resources. Consequently, a detailed explanation of the methods and assumptions used in the study is included. A complete set of tabulations and illustrations resulting from this study is presented at the end of the report.

The illustrations were prepared to answer four questions believed to be of prime importance to the

Ochiltree County landowners and water users. These questions, and methods by which a set of answers can be obtained from the illustrations, are as follows:

1. Question: How much water is in storage under any given tract of land in the county and what is expected to happen to this water in the future?

Answer: First, determine the approximate location of the tract on the most current (1974) map of saturated thickness. Read the value of the contour line at this location (if midway between two contour lines, take an average of the two). This thickness value can then be converted to the approximate volume of water in storage, in acre-feet per surface acre, by multiplying it by the coefficient of storage of 0.15, or 15 percent. To obtain estimates of what can be expected in the future, the same procedure can be followed by using the maps which illustrate projected saturated thickness in the years 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020.

2. Question: What can be expected to happen to well yields if the saturated thickness diminishes as illustrated by the maps?

Answer: Well yields are expected to decline as the aquifer thins; therefore, a map of estimated well yields has been prepared for each year of the study. The landowner need only find the approximate location of his property on the well-yield map that applies to the year in question and read the well-yield estimates directly from the map.

3. Question: With energy cost increasing, pumping lifts (pumping levels) are becoming more and more important. What are the estimates of current pumping lifts and what are they expected to be in the future?

Answer: Contour maps depicting estimated pumping lifts have been prepared for each year of the study. These maps are contoured in feet below land surface. The landowner need only find the approximate location of his property on the map that applies to the year in question to read the pumping-lift estimates.

4. Question: If an all-out effort is made to conserve ground-water resources, how can landowners and water users determine how they are doing compared to the projections in the study?

Answer: Using the maps that show rates of water-level declines, the landowners and water users can determine what the changes in water levels are in their area and what they are projected to be in the future. This can be accomplished by finding the approximate location of their property on the map pertaining to the year in question and by reading the estimates of water-level changes which are recorded in feet. To determine how he is doing from year to year, the landowner or water user can make measurements of depth to water in his own wells or obtain copies of measurements made by the Department or the ground-water district for his area. These measurements can then be compared to the projected values on the map nearest to the year of interest to obtain an estimate of the effectiveness of the conservation efforts.

NATURE OF THE OGALLALA AQUIFER

Because thorough understanding of the Ogallala aquifer is not necessary for the water user, the following discussion of aquifer geology and hydrology is rather general. Readers interested in pursuing the subject in more detail may do so from the numerous reports which have been published on the Ogallala. Many of these publications are included in the list of selected references of this report.

General Geology

Fresh ground water in Ochiltree County is obtained principally from the Ogallala Formation of Pliocene age. Water in the Ogallala Formation is unconfined and is contained in the pore spaces of unconsolidated or partly consolidated sediments.

The Ogallala Formation principally consists of interfingering bodies of fine to coarse sand, gravel, silt, and clay—material eroded from the Rocky Mountains which was carried southeastward and deposited by streams. The earliest sediments, mainly gravel and coarse sand, filled the valleys cut in the pre-Ogallala surface. Pebbles and cobbles of quartz, quartzite, and chert are typical of these early sediments. After filling the valleys, deposition continued until the entire area that is now the Texas High Plains was covered by sediments from the shifting streams.

The upper part of the formation contains several hard, caliche-cemented, erosionally resistant beds called

the "caprock." A wind-blown cover of fine silt, and soil overlies the caprock.

The Ogallala deposits overlie rocks of Permian age. These rocks, principally red shale, serve as a nearly impermeable floor for the aquifer. On a broad scale, the erosional surface at the top of the Permian rocks dips gently (about 10 feet per mile [2 m/km]) toward the southeast, similar to the slope of the land surface. In general, however, this pre-Ogallala surface had greater relief than the present land surface. Low hills and wide valleys which contain deep, narrow stream channels are typical features of the Permian erosional surface. Because the Ogallala was deposited on top of this irregular surface, the formation is very thin in some areas and very thick in others. Often this contrast occurs in relatively short distances.

The Canadian River has cut deeply through the Ogallala Formation in the northern part of the Texas High Plains area. The valley effectively separates the formation geographically into two units having little hydraulic interconnection. Erosion has also removed the Ogallala from much of its former extent to the east in Oklahoma, and to the west in New Mexico, and there is only a relatively narrow communication with the Ogallala to the north for a short distance at the Beaver River in the Oklahoma Panhandle. As a result, both the Northern and the Southern High Plains are virtually hydraulically independent of adjacent areas. For this reason, coupled with the scarcity of local rainfall, water that is being withdrawn from the aquifer cannot be replaced quickly by natural recharge and is in effect being mined.

Storage Properties

The coefficient of storage of an aquifer is defined as the volume of water released from or taken into storage per unit surface area of the aquifer per unit change in the component of head normal to that surface. In water-table aquifers such as the Ogallala, the coefficient of storage is nearly equal to the specific yield, which is defined as the quantity of water that a formation will yield under the force of gravity, if it is first saturated and then allowed to drain, the quantity of water being expressed as a percentage of the volume of the material drained.

A coefficient of storage of 15 percent has been selected for use in this study based on past studies and the results of numerous aquifer tests published in Texas Water Development Board Report 98 (Myers, 1969). The following chart shows the volumes of water corresponding to various amounts of aquifer saturated

thickness, based on a storage coefficient of 15 percent. These are the approximate amounts of water that would drain from the aquifer material by gravity flow if the entire saturated thickness could be drained.

SATURATED THICKNESS (feet)	VOLUME OF WATER IN STORAGE (acre-feet, per surface acre)
25	3.75
50	7.50
75	11.25
100	15.00
150	22.50
200	30.00
250	37.50
300	45.00
400	60.00
500	75.00

Natural Recharge and Irrigation Recirculation

Recharge is the addition of water to an aquifer by either natural or artificial means. Natural recharge results chiefly from infiltration of precipitation. The Ogallala aquifer in Ochiltree County receives natural recharge by precipitation that falls within the county and in adjoining areas.

The amount and rate of natural recharge from precipitation depend on the amount, distribution, and intensity of the precipitation; the amount of moisture in the soil when the rain or snowmelt begins; and the temperature, vegetative cover, and permeability of the materials at the site of infiltration. Because of the wide variations in these factors, it is difficult to estimate the amount of natural recharge to the ground-water reservoir. Estimates of annual natural recharge to the Ogallala aquifer made by Barnes and others (1949, p. 26-27) indicate only a fraction of an inch. Theis (1937, p. 546-568) suggested less than half an inch, and Havens (1966, p. F1), in a study of the Ogallala in New Mexico, indicated about 0.8 inch (2 cm) per year.

The authors of this report believe that recharge from precipitation may be more than these earlier estimates, due to changes in the soil and land surface that have accompanied large-scale irrigation development in the county. Some of the farming practices which are believed to have altered the recharge rate are: clearing the land of deep-rooted native vegetation; deep plowing of fields, which eliminates compacted zones in the soil (locally called "hard pans"), and the plowing of playa lake bottoms and sides; bench leveling, contour farming, and terracing; maintaining a generally higher soil moisture condition by application of irrigation water

prior to large rains; and increasing the humus level in the root zone by plowing under a large amount of foliage from crops grown under irrigation.

Obtaining a reliable estimate of the present recharge rate is further complicated by the consideration which must be given to irrigation recirculation. A substantial portion of the water pumped from the Ogallala for irrigation percolates back to the aquifer. This does not constitute an additional supply of water, but reduces the net depletion of the aquifer. As with natural recharge, many factors are involved in making estimates of recirculation. Some of these factors are the rate, amount, and type of irrigation application; the soil type and the infiltration rate of the soil profile in the root zone; the amount of moisture in the soil prior to the irrigation application; the type of crop being grown, its root development, and its moisture extraction pattern; and the climatic conditions during and following the irrigation application. Tentative estimates of the actual amounts of recharge and irrigation recirculation in Ochiltree County will be found in a subsequent section on "Calculating Pumpage."

PROCEDURES USED TO OBTAIN PROJECTIONS

Hydrologic Data Base

The Texas Department of Water Resources and the North Plains Ground Water Conservation District No. 2 cooperatively maintain a network of water level observation wells in Ochiltree County. Records from these wells provided the principal data base used in this study. This data base was supplemented in some areas with records from water well drillers' logs collected by both the District and the Department.

The data base included: (1) measurements of the depth to water below land surface, which have been made annually in the wells in the observation network; (2) the dates these measurements were made; and (3) the depth from land surface to the base of the Ogallala aquifer (In many cases, this was identical to the well depth). To facilitate automatic data processing with modern, high-speed computers, the data base also included a unique number for each well and the geographical coordinates of each well location.

Wells chosen from the data base for use in obtaining projections of future conditions were those in which depth to the base of the aquifer could be determined or estimated, and those needed to provide spaced data coverage in the county. Locations of the

wells that were selected and used for control are shown on the various maps in this report.

Projecting the Depletion of Saturated Thickness

The water-use patterns between 1960 and 1972 as reflected in the changes in water levels in wells measured in the High Plains of Texas were used as the principal data source for developing an aquifer depletion schedule. The depletion schedule generally reflects average precipitation and precipitation distribution in the area for the duration of the study period. Additionally, in developing and applying the depletion schedule, adjustments through time were made to reflect the effects of depletion of the aquifer on its ability to yield water. That is, as the aquifer's saturated thickness decreases, its ability to yield water to wells is reduced, the well yields decline, less water is pumped, and there results a lessened rate of further aquifer depletion.

The aquifer's hydraulics are such that if a well penetrates the total saturated section and the pump is sized to produce the maximum the aquifer will yield, the well yield will decline at a disproportionately greater rate than the reduction in saturated thickness. Actually, the remaining well yield expressed as a percentage of former yield will be only about half of the remaining saturated thickness expressed as a percentage of former thickness. For example, a well with 60 feet (18.3 m) of saturated section and a maximum yield of 900 gallons per minute (56.8 l/s) will probably yield only 225 gallons per minute (14.2 l/s) when the saturated section is reduced to 30 feet (9.1 m).

The depletion schedule for Ochiltree and surrounding counties was developed in the following manner:

1. The records for all water level observation wells for the years 1960 through 1972 in Dallam, Hansford, Hartley, Hemphill, Hutchinson, Lipscomb, Moore, Ochiltree, Roberts, and Sherman Counties were separated from the master file. These counties have similar soil types, cropping patterns, depths to water, saturated thickness, and climatic conditions.
2. These well records were then sorted into groups according to the saturated thickness in each well as of 1966 (the middle year). Each group included records of all wells in a

20-foot (6.1-meter) range of saturated thickness. (Ranges are shown in the tabulation below.)

3. The average decline in water level was calculated for each year for each well group, and these decline values were adjusted to remove the effects of each year's deviation from long-term average precipitation.
4. The average annual decline in water level for the total period (1960-72) was calculated for each well group, incorporating the adjustments for departure from average precipitation.

From the foregoing procedure, the following depletion schedule was developed (no depletion was allowed for areas with 10 feet or less of saturated thickness):

RANGE OF SATURATED THICKNESS (feet)	AVERAGE ANNUAL WATER-LEVEL DECLINE, 1960-72 (feet)
0 to 10	0.00
10 to 20	.50
20 to 40	1.00
40 to 60	1.50
60 to 80	2.00
80 to 100	2.25
100 to 120	2.50
120 to 140	2.75
140 to 160	3.08
160 to 180	2.95
180 to 200	3.04
200 to 220	3.07
220 to 240	2.93
240 to 260	3.15
260 to 280	3.36
280 to 300	3.13
300 to 320	3.27
320 to 340	3.37
340 to 360	3.47
360 to 380	3.57
380 to 400	3.66
400 to 420	3.66
420 to 440	3.50
440 to 460	4.00
460 to 480	4.00

Based on this depletion schedule, a computer program was written to calculate future saturated thickness at individual well sites. The following problem is presented to show the computational procedures used.

Problem: A well has a saturated thickness of 100 feet in 1974 and one wants to project what the saturated thickness will be in this well for every year to the year 2020.

- Factors:
1. The beginning saturated thickness is 110 feet in 1974.
 2. The average decline rate is 2.50 feet per year for wells with saturated sections of 100 to 120 feet.
 3. The average decline rate is 2.25 feet per year for wells with saturated sections of 80 to 100 feet.
 4. The average decline rate is 2.00 feet per year for wells with saturated sections of 60 to 80 feet.
 5. The average decline rate is 1.50 feet per year for wells with saturated sections of 40 to 60 feet.
 6. The average decline rate is 1.00 foot per year for wells with saturated sections of 20 to 40 feet.
 7. The average decline rate is 0.50 foot per year for wells with saturated sections of 10 to 20 feet.
 8. The time interval is 1974 through 2020.

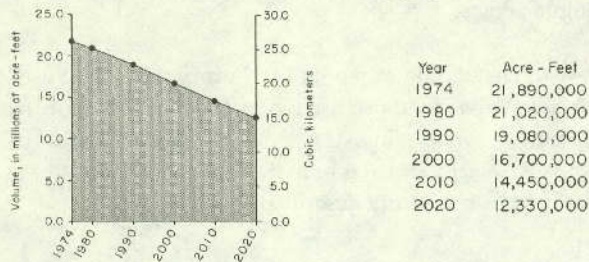
The projected saturated thicknesses in the subject well are calculated and shown in the following table:

YEAR	SATURATED THICKNESS, BEGINNING OF YEAR (feet)	AVERAGE DECLINE RATE (feet)	SATURATED THICKNESS, END OF YEAR (feet)
1974	110.00	2.50	107.50
1975	107.50	2.50	105.00
1976	105.00	2.50	102.50
1977	102.50	2.50	100.00
1978	100.00	2.25	97.75
1979	97.75	2.25	95.50
1980	95.50	2.25	93.25
1981	93.25	2.25	91.00
1982	91.00	2.25	88.75
1983	88.75	2.25	86.50
1984	86.50	2.25	84.25
1985	84.25	2.25	82.00
1986	82.00	2.25	79.75
1987	79.75	2.00	77.75
1988	77.75	2.00	75.75
1989	75.75	2.00	73.75
1990	73.75	2.00	71.75
1991	71.75	2.00	69.75
1992	69.75	2.00	67.75
1993	67.75	2.00	65.75
1994	65.75	2.00	63.75
1995	63.75	2.00	61.75
1996	61.75	2.00	59.75
1997	59.75	1.50	58.25
1998	58.25	1.50	56.75
1999	56.75	1.50	55.25
2000	55.25	1.50	53.75
2001	53.75	1.50	52.25
2002	52.25	1.50	50.75
2003	50.75	1.50	49.25
2004	49.25	1.50	47.75
2005	47.75	1.50	46.25
2006	46.25	1.50	44.75
2007	44.75	1.50	43.25
2008	43.25	1.50	41.75
2009	41.75	1.50	40.25
2010	40.25	1.50	38.75
2011	38.75	1.00	37.75
2012	37.75	1.00	36.75
2013	36.75	1.00	35.75
2014	35.75	1.00	34.75
2015	34.75	1.00	33.75
2016	33.75	1.00	32.75
2017	32.75	1.00	31.75
2018	31.75	1.00	30.75
2019	30.75	1.00	29.75
2020	29.75	1.00	28.75

Similar computations were made for each of the selected data-control wells in Ochiltree County, and the saturated-thickness values for 1974, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020 were extracted from this data set for use in further calculations and mapping.

Mapping Saturated Thickness, and Calculating Volume of Water in Storage

To obtain estimates of the volume of water in storage in the Ogallala aquifer, an electronic digital computer was used to construct maps which reflect the saturated thickness of the aquifer for those years included in the study. These maps were then refined by the computer to reflect the number of acres corresponding to each range of saturated thickness. The number of acres for each range was multiplied by the saturated thickness in feet for that range and then by the coefficient of storage (0.15 or 15 percent), to yield an estimate of the volume of water in storage in each saturated-thickness range. Totaling these volumes produced an estimate of the volume of water in storage in the county. The current (1974) and projected volume estimates are shown in the following graph:



Estimated Volume of Water in Storage

Preparing a data base and writing the necessary programs for the computer to use in constructing the saturated-thickness maps and in making the necessary calculations is time consuming; however, once the data base is prepared and programs written, the computer can perform in a few hours calculations that would have required many years of manual effort.

A generalized description of the methodology used in mapping and in computing water volume follows: A base map with a scale of 1 inch equals 2 miles (1:125,000) was selected to prepare data for computer processing. All data points (observation wells) were plotted on these base maps by hand and assigned identifying numbers. A machine called a *digitizer* was then used to translate these mapped location data (well locations, county boundaries, etc.) into information processible by the computer. To accomplish this, a latitude and longitude coordinate was recorded on each base map as a central reference point, and all data points

and county boundaries were then digitized; that is, measurements were made by the digitizer to reference these data points and boundaries to the initial latitude and longitude coordinate. Then the digitized information was processed by the computer and the maps were re-created by a computer-driven plotter. The computer-plotted image maps were ultimately checked against the hand-constructed maps to verify that the data were plotted accurately.

The assignment of a unique number to each data point (observation well) on the base maps made it possible to machine process the data related to these points and to plot these data back on the maps at the proper location.

To compute the volume of water in storage, the computer was instructed to subdivide the county into squares measuring approximately 0.5 mile (0.8 km). The known saturated-thickness values obtained from the data points were filled into the squares in which the data points were located. Based on these known values, the computer filled in a weighted-average value for each remaining square, taking into consideration all known values within a radius of 7 miles (11 km). After this step was completed, the computer then counted the numbers of squares having equal values, thus obtaining the approximate area in square miles (later converted to acres) corresponding to each range of saturated thickness. As previously stated, the number of acres in each 25-foot (7.6-meter) range of saturated thickness was multiplied by the corresponding saturated-thickness value and the storage coefficient (0.15 or 15 percent) to obtain the approximate volume of water in acre-feet in that saturated-thickness range.

Although the calculations were made by the computer from information stored in its image field, the data in the image field were printed out in the form of contoured saturated-thickness maps, which are reproduced in this report. Facing each saturated-thickness map in the report is a corresponding tabulation of the approximate volume of water in storage.

Calculating Pumpage

Estimates of current pumpage were obtained in this study by calculating the storage capacity of the dewatered section of the Ogallala aquifer as reflected in changes in the annual depth-to-water measurements made in the water level observation wells. Factors for natural recharge and irrigation recirculation were then added to these volumetric figures to obtain more realistic pumpage estimates.

The step-by-step procedure involved in making pumpage estimates is similar to the procedures used in calculating the estimates of volume of water in storage; therefore, a more general explanation follows.

Change in water level (decline) maps for the aquifer were made by the computer for the years considered. From these maps, the volume of desaturated material was multiplied by the number of acres corresponding to each 0.25-foot (.076-meter) range of decline and then multiplied by the storage coefficient of the aquifer (0.15 or 15 percent), which resulted in an estimate of the volume of water taken from storage for each decline range. Estimates for natural recharge and irrigation recirculation were added to these values to obtain estimates of pumpage.

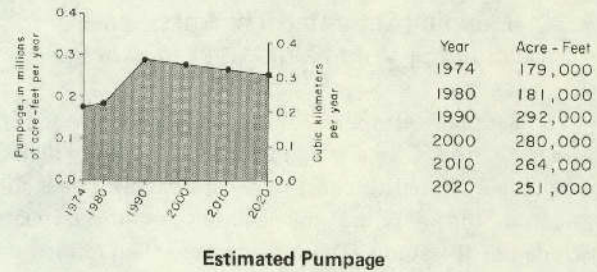
An attempt was made to obtain a reliable estimate of the natural recharge and recirculation for use in this study. This involved obtaining an estimate of the amount of water required by each of the major crops grown in the area. These values, generally referred to as "duty of water," were obtained from Texas Agricultural Experiment Stations located in the High Plains area. The duty of water figure for each major crop was multiplied by the number of crop acres, and the resulting numbers were added together to yield an estimate of the total crop water demand.

The amount of precipitation which fell just prior to and during the growing season was subtracted from the total water demand estimate. The difference between these values should equal that amount which would have been supplied by irrigation, which will be referred to as irrigation makeup water.

The volume figure represented by the dewatered section was then compared to the volume of water which should have been supplied to crops by irrigation makeup water. In all tests, the volume of water represented by the depletion of the aquifer was considerably less than the makeup water estimate. This difference was attributed to irrigation recirculation and natural recharge.

Various combinations of estimates for natural recharge and recirculation were added to the volume represented by aquifer depletion, in an attempt to obtain comparable values with the makeup water estimated for the test years. One-half inch (1.3 cm) per year of natural recharge added to the volume represented by the depletion of the aquifer, and then adding 10 percent of this for recirculation, most nearly equaled the makeup water estimated in the largest number of instances in Ochiltree County and in adjoining counties with similar conditions.

These amounts were added to the previously calculated storage capacity of the dewatered section to obtain estimates for current (1974) and future pumpage. The following graph shows the current and projected estimates of pumpage:



Calculating Pumping Lifts

The pumping lift (pumping level) is the depth from land surface to the water level in a pumping well; it is equal to the depth of the static water level plus the drawdown due to pumping. The amount of pumping lift largely determines the amount of energy required to produce the water, and thus strongly affects the pumping costs.

In calculating pumping lifts, procedures were used that are similar to those used in making estimates of the volume of water in storage and the estimates of pumpage. Again, the computer and original data base were used as previously described.

In making estimates of pumping lifts, it was assumed (1) that the yield of each pumping well is 900 gallons per minute (56.8 l/s) except as limited by the capacity of the aquifer (this conforms with the historical trend of equipping new wells with 8-inch [20-centimeter] or smaller pumps), (2) that the specific well yield is 15 gallons per minute per foot of drawdown (3.1 [l/s]/m), and (3) that once the well yield equals the capacity of the aquifer, the well will continue to be produced at a rate near the capacity of the aquifer until pumping lifts are within 10 feet (3 m) of the base of the aquifer. After that time, it is assumed that the pumping lift will remain constant because of greatly diminished well yields. It should be noted that this 10-foot (3-meter) minimum is somewhat arbitrarily chosen, as one cannot predict accurately the minimum saturated thickness that will be feasible for producing irrigation water under future economic conditions.

The above assumptions restrict the drawdown in wells to a maximum of 60 feet (18.3 m); that is, the maximum well yield of 900 gallons per minute (56.8 l/s) divided by specific well yield of 15 gallons per minute

per foot (3.1 [l/s]/m) equals 60 feet (18.3 m) of maximum drawdown.

Based on the above assumptions, pumping lifts were calculated separately for each of the selected data-control wells in the county. The factors involved were the historical and projected saturated-thickness values, the historical and projected static water levels, and the drawdown value assigned to the Ochiltree County area.

In all areas where the aquifer's saturated thickness was 70 feet (21.3 m) or greater (areas where a well, pumped at full capacity, would be drawn down 60 feet [18.3 m] to yield 900 gallons per minute [56.8 l/s]), the computer was instructed to add 60 feet (18.3 m)—the drawdown—to the static water level to determine pumping lift. For a well with a saturated thickness of less than 70 feet (21.3 m), the pumping lift was calculated by subtracting 10 feet (3 m) from the depth of the well (base of the aquifer). These calculations were made for each year of record to be reported (1974, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020) for each well. The pumping-lift values were stored in the computer and printed out in the form of contour maps. Additionally, the surface area corresponding to each interval between the mapped contours was calculated and printed out in tabular form.

Well-Yield Estimates

Estimates of the rate, in gallons per minute, at which the Ogallala aquifer should be capable of yielding water to wells in various areas of the county are presented on maps for each year of record reported (1974, 1980, 1990, 2000, 2010, and 2020). These well-yield estimates are based on capabilities of the aquifer to yield water to irrigation wells of prevailing construction as reflected by the very large number of aquifer tests which have been conducted in various saturated-thickness intervals in the Texas High Plains. The estimates are adjusted to reflect the expected decreases in well yields through time due to the reduced saturated thickness as depletion of the aquifer progresses.

The well-yield estimates are subject to deviations caused by localized geological conditions. The Ogallala is not a homogeneous formation; that is, the silt, clay, sand, and gravel which generally comprise the formation vary from place to place in thickness of layers, layering position, and grain-size sorting. The physical composition of the formation material can drastically affect the ability of the formation to yield water to wells. As an example, in areas where the saturated

portion of the formation is comprised of thick beds of coarse and well-sorted grains of sand, the well yields probably will exceed the estimates shown on the maps. In other localized areas, the saturated portion of the formation may be comprised principally of thick beds of silt and clay which can be expected to restrict well yields to less than those shown on the maps.

The following can be used as a general guide in Ochiltree County in estimating well yields based on saturated thickness:

SATURATED THICKNESS (feet)	WELL YIELD (gallons per minute)
Less than 20	Less than 100
20 to 30	100 to 250
30 to 40	250 to 500
40 to 60	500 to 800
60 to 80	800 to 1,000
More than 80	More than 1,000

The maps presented in this report are intended for use as general guidelines only and are not recommended for use in determining water availability when buying and selling specific tracts of land. Inasmuch as the availability of ground water constitutes a large portion of the price of land bought and sold in this area, it is recommended that a qualified ground-water hydrologist be consulted to make appraisals of ground-water conditions when such transactions are contemplated.

DISTINCTION BETWEEN PROJECTIONS AND PREDICTIONS

The actions of the Ochiltree County water user will determine whether the projections of this study come to pass, as the rate of depletion of the ground-water resource is determined by the rate of water use. The authors have not made predictions of what will occur, but have furnished projections based on past trends and presently available information.

There are many unpredictable factors which can influence the future rates of withdrawal of ground water from the Ogallala aquifer for irrigation farming. These factors include: (1) the amounts and distribution of precipitation which will be received in the area in the future; (2) federal crop acreage controls or the lack of these; (3) the price and demand for food and fiber grown in the area; (4) the cost and availability of energy to produce water from the aquifer; (5) farm labor cost and availability of farm labor; (6) results of continuing research that seeks to develop more frugal water-application methods for irrigation, crops having less water demand, and methods for inducing clouds to

yield more water as rain; and (7) most important, the degree to which feasible soil and water conservation measures are employed by the High Plains irrigator. Any of these factors could appreciably influence the rate

of use of ground water in the future; however, the projections in this study provide a reasonable set of general expectations on the further depletion of the aquifer.

U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
WATER RESOURCES DIVISION

Water Resources Investigations Report

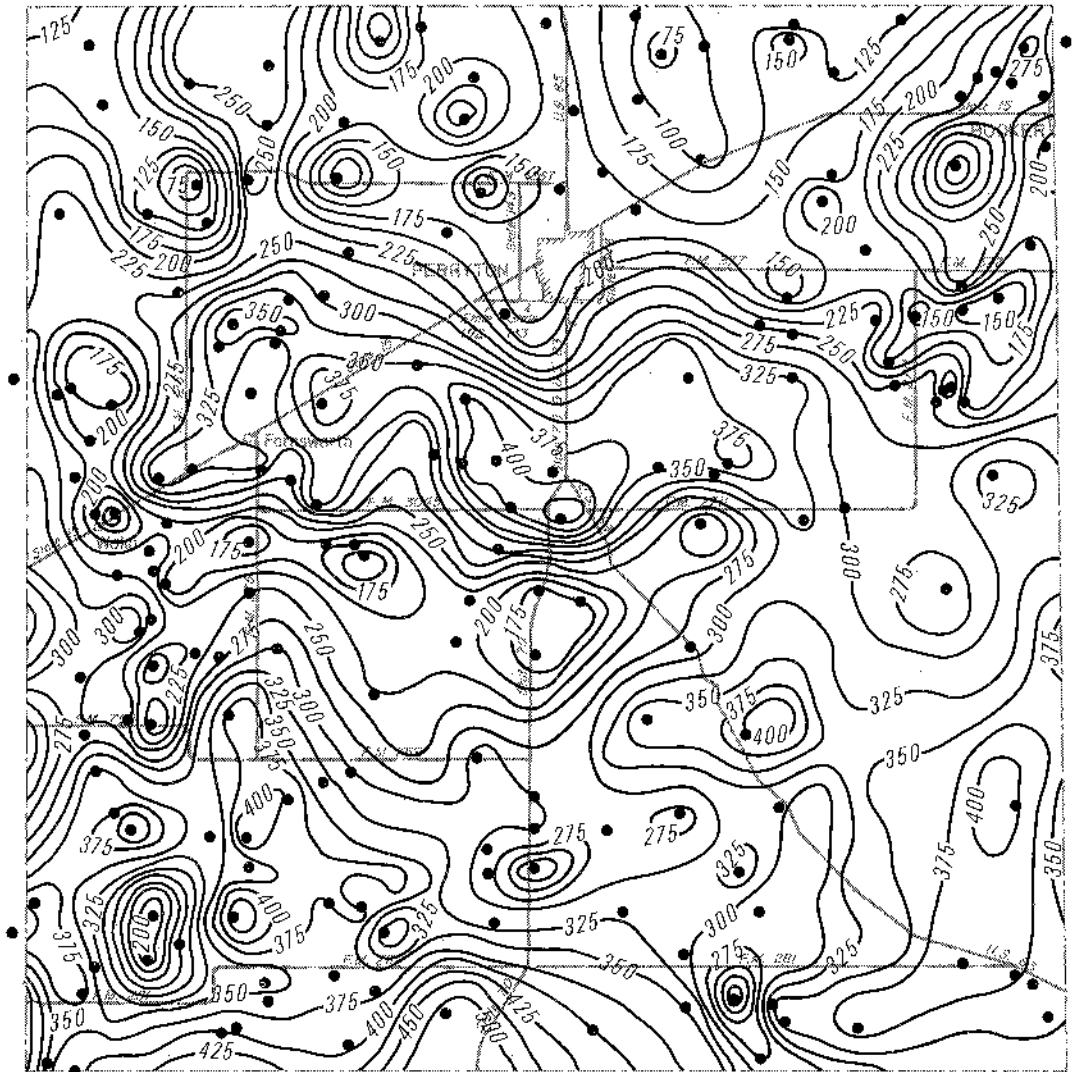
SATURATED THICKNESS AND VOLUME OF WATER IN THE OGALLALA AQUIFER

1974

Volume of Water in Storage Corresponding
to Mapped Saturated-Thickness Intervals

(Coefficient of Storage: 15 percent)

<u>MAPPED SATURATED- THICKNESS INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>	<u>VOLUME OF WATER IN STORAGE (acre-feet)</u>
50-- 75	866	9,149
75--100	5,535	76,253
100--125	12,959	219,914
125--150	21,660	449,565
150--175	35,862	874,717
175--200	41,456	1,168,819
200--225	43,643	1,395,778
225--250	40,110	1,432,003
250--275	41,433	1,632,378
275--300	58,411	2,520,179
300--325	65,081	3,046,670
325--350	57,084	2,882,887
350--375	54,531	2,963,020
375--400	40,472	2,337,042
400--425	10,912	670,623
425--450	1,733	112,717
450--475	698	47,298
475--500	693	50,407
TOTAL	<u>533,139</u>	<u>21,889,419</u>



EXPLANATION

•
Well used for control

—— 150 ——

Line showing approximate saturated thickness of the Ogallala aquifer, in feet.

Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)



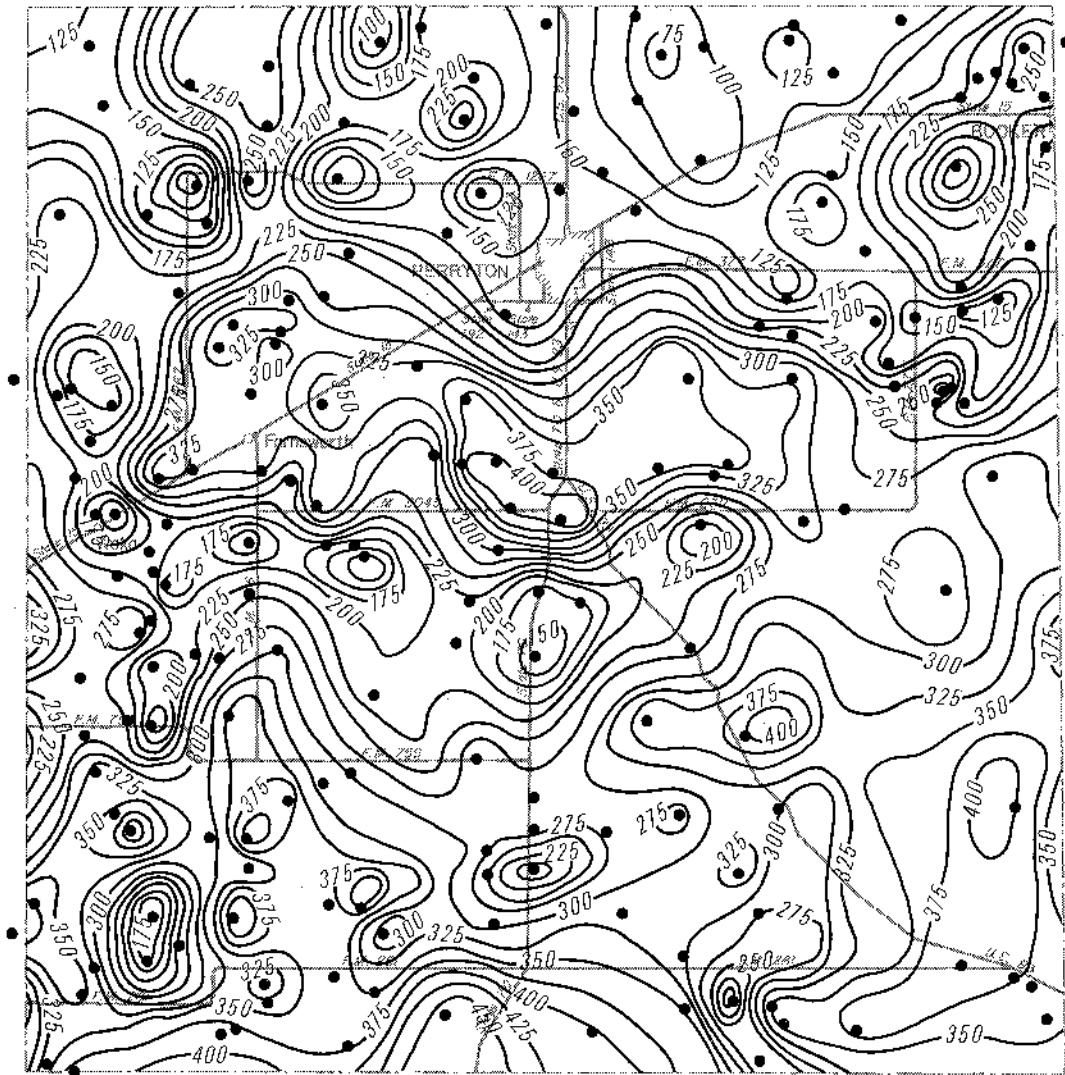
1974
Estimated Saturated Thickness

1980

Volume of Water in Storage Corresponding
to Mapped Saturated-Thickness Intervals

(Coefficient of Storage: 15 percent)

<u>MAPPED SATURATED- THICKNESS INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>	<u>VOLUME OF WATER IN STORAGE (acre-feet)</u>
50- 75	1,386	13,727
75-100	8,985	121,711
100-125	18,172	309,844
125-150	26,862	560,863
150-175	39,649	962,036
175-200	41,365	1,159,748
200-225	43,838	1,391,179
225-250	40,989	1,457,603
250-275	46,462	1,829,636
275-300	60,778	2,616,614
300-325	63,664	2,981,280
325-350	53,618	2,710,752
350-375	51,482	2,793,241
375-400	27,398	1,586,345
400-425	6,932	423,653
425-450	866	56,188
450-475	693	47,959
TOTAL	<u>533,139</u>	<u>21,022,379</u>



EXPLANATION

•
Well used for control

— 150 —

Line showing approximate saturated thickness of the Ogallala aquifer, in feet.

Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)



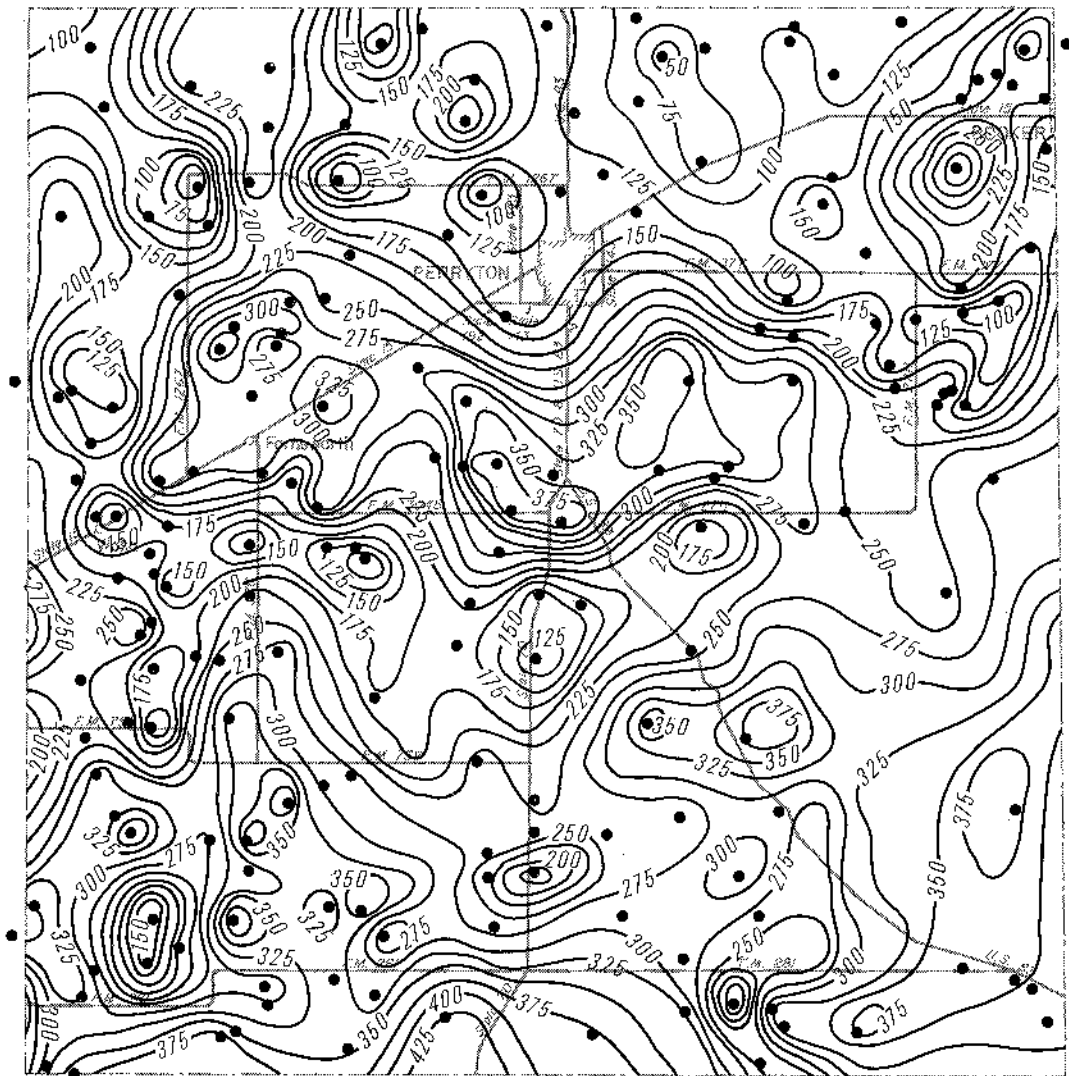
1980
Projected Saturated Thickness

1990

Volume of Water in Storage Corresponding
to Mapped Saturated-Thickness Intervals

(Coefficient of Storage: 15 percent)

<u>MAPPED SATURATED- THICKNESS INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>	<u>VOLUME OF WATER IN STORAGE (acre-feet)</u>
25- 50	346	2,364
50- 75	6,226	62,111
75-100	18,678	250,111
100-125	26,689	455,216
125-150	42,325	870,820
150-175	41,635	1,013,026
175-200	45,715	1,282,408
200-225	42,994	1,372,272
225-250	46,632	1,666,769
250-275	57,433	2,260,428
275-300	63,355	2,733,600
300-325	55,696	2,609,809
325-350	45,993	2,321,319
350-375	29,886	1,622,747
375-400	8,665	499,171
400-425	698	43,284
425-450	173	11,255
TOTAL	<u>533,139</u>	<u>19,076,707</u>



EXPLANATION

●
Well used for control

— 150 —

Line showing approximate saturated thickness of the Ogallala aquifer, in feet.

Interval is 25 feet



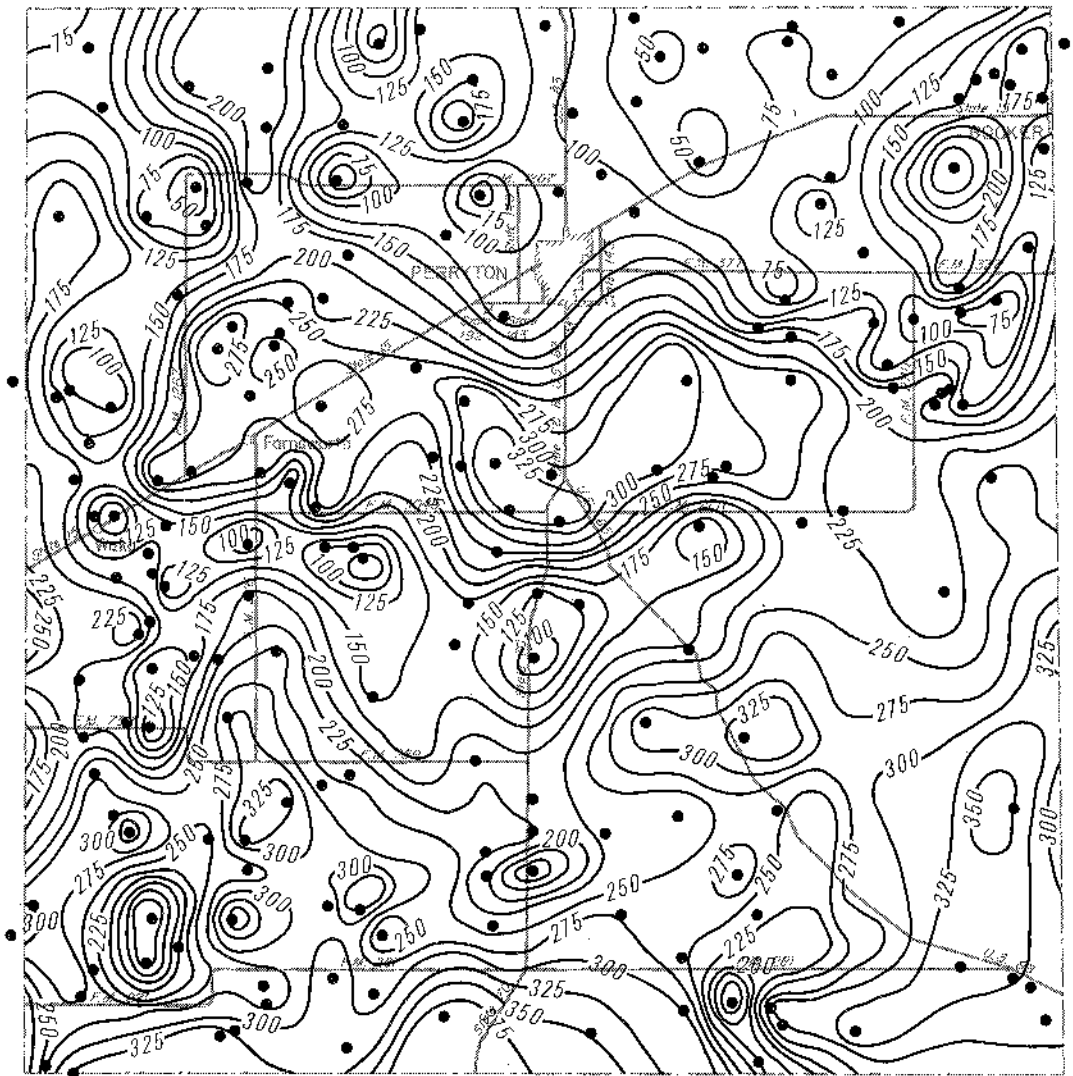
1990
Projected Saturated Thickness

2000

Volume of Water in Storage Corresponding
to Mapped Saturated-Thickness Intervals

(Coefficient of Storage: 15 percent)

<u>MAPPED SATURATED- THICKNESS INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>	<u>VOLUME OF WATER IN STORAGE (acre-feet)</u>
25- 50	2,766	18,026
50- 75	18,683	181,147
75-100	29,278	387,784
100-125	45,791	769,741
125-150	46,917	969,041
150-175	44,336	1,078,829
175-200	45,428	1,276,973
200-225	50,275	1,608,171
225-250	60,952	2,166,774
250-275	64,878	2,547,489
275-300	56,533	2,436,473
300-325	40,183	1,876,487
325-350	22,610	1,135,402
350-375	3,816	203,672
375-400	693	40,236
TOTAL	<u>533,139</u>	<u>16,696,245</u>



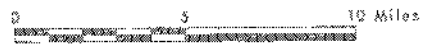
EXPLANATION

●
Well used for control

— 150 —

Line showing approximate saturated thickness of the Ogallala aquifer, in feet.

Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)



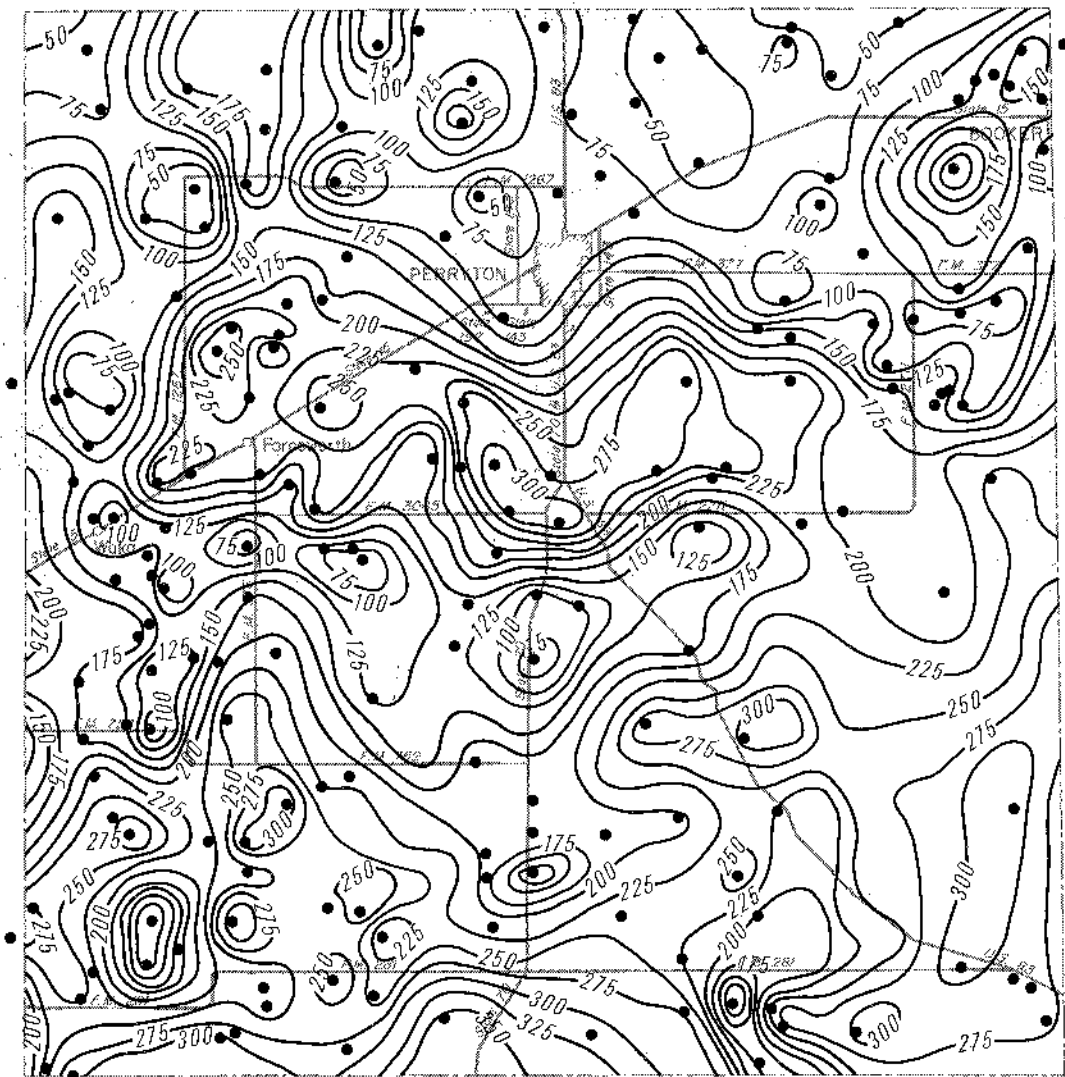
2000
Projected Saturated Thickness

2010

Volume of Water in Storage Corresponding
to Mapped Saturated-Thickness Intervals

(Coefficient of Storage: 15 percent)

MAPPED SATURATED- THICKNESS INTERVAL (feet)	SURFACE AREA (acres)	VOLUME OF WATER IN STORAGE (acre-feet)
25- 50	12,971	81,189
50- 75	31,863	302,291
75-100	49,951	654,622
100-125	50,730	855,878
125-150	47,629	979,592
150-175	48,028	1,170,863
175-200	57,020	1,613,370
200-225	63,045	2,014,260
225-250	63,318	2,248,541
250-275	56,171	2,208,686
275-300	35,772	1,540,056
300-325	15,256	706,819
325-350	1,039	52,181
350-375	346	18,533
TOTAL	533,139	14,446,881



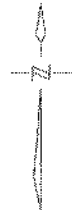
EXPLANATION

•
Well used for control

— 150 —

Line showing approximate saturated thickness of the Ogallala aquifer, in feet.

Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)



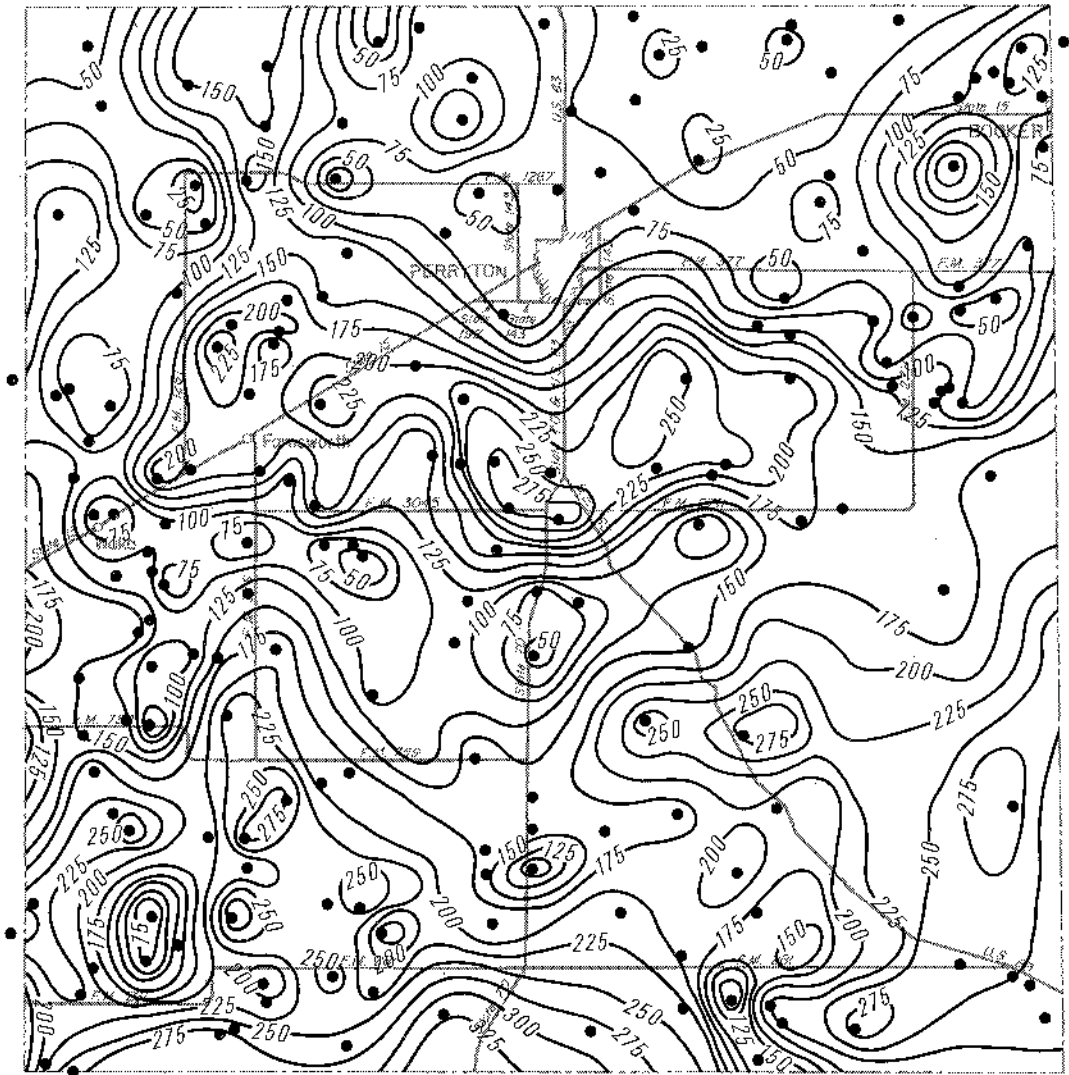
2010
Projected Saturated Thickness

2020

Volume of Water in Storage Corresponding
to Mapped Saturated-Thickness Intervals

(Coefficient of Storage: 15 percent)

<u>MAPPED SATURATED- THICKNESS INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>	<u>VOLUME OF WATER IN STORAGE (acre-feet)</u>
0- 25	2,079	7,014
25- 50	30,450	180,533
50- 75	54,110	513,081
75-100	56,969	749,647
100-125	51,269	862,716
125-150	51,134	1,051,832
150-175	62,926	1,536,540
175-200	67,667	1,908,690
200-225	62,802	1,999,749
225-250	51,057	1,810,454
250-275	33,661	1,319,989
275-300	8,145	345,779
300-325	697	32,329
325-350	173	8,476
TOTAL	533,139	12,326,829



EXPLANATION

•
Well used for control

— 150 —

Line showing approximate saturated thickness of the Ogallala aquifer, in feet.

Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)

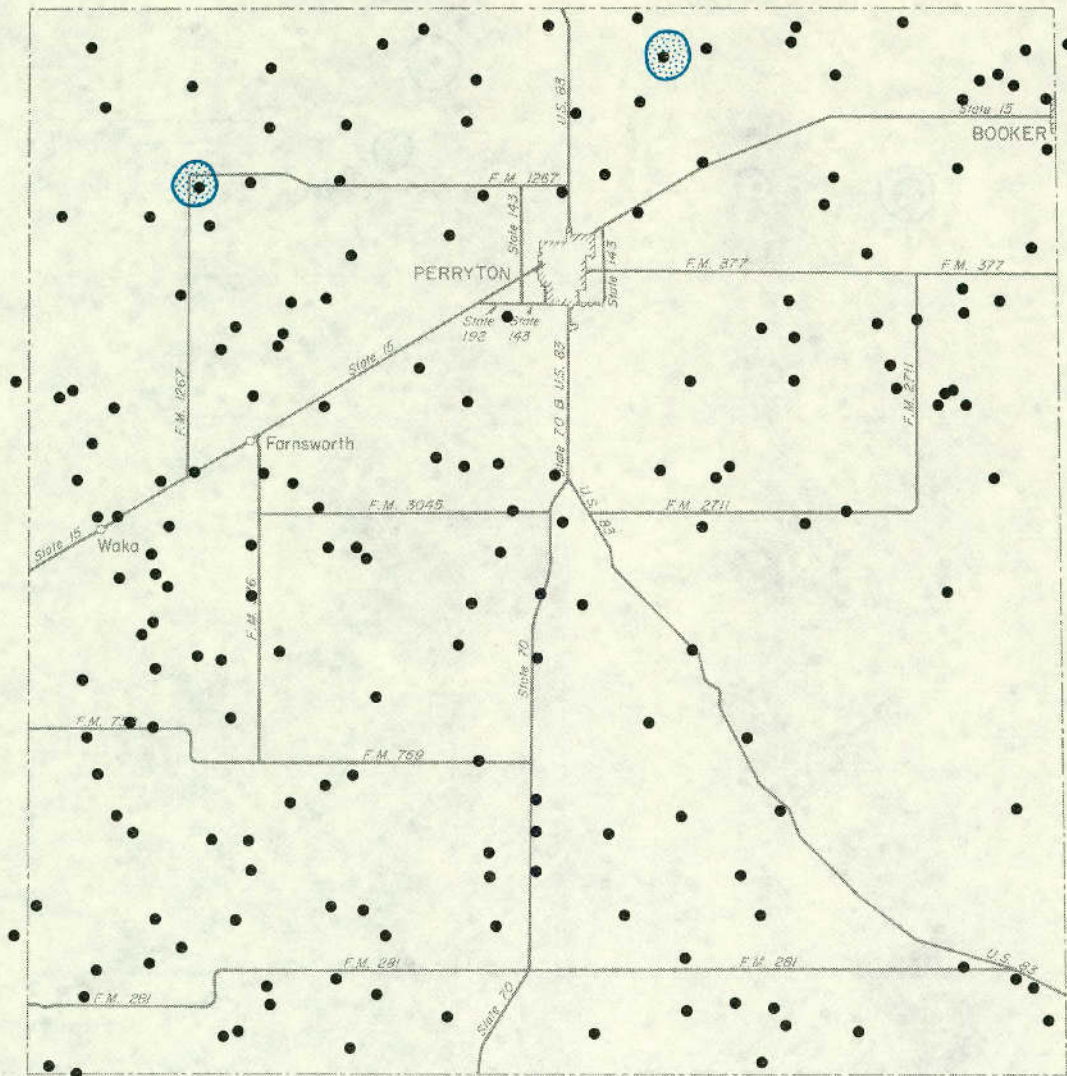
0 5 10 Miles

0 5 10 Kilometers



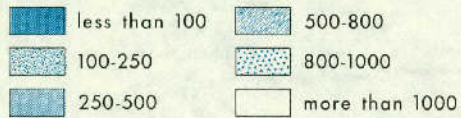
2020
Projected Saturated Thickness

POTENTIAL WELL YIELD OF THE
OGALLALA AQUIFER

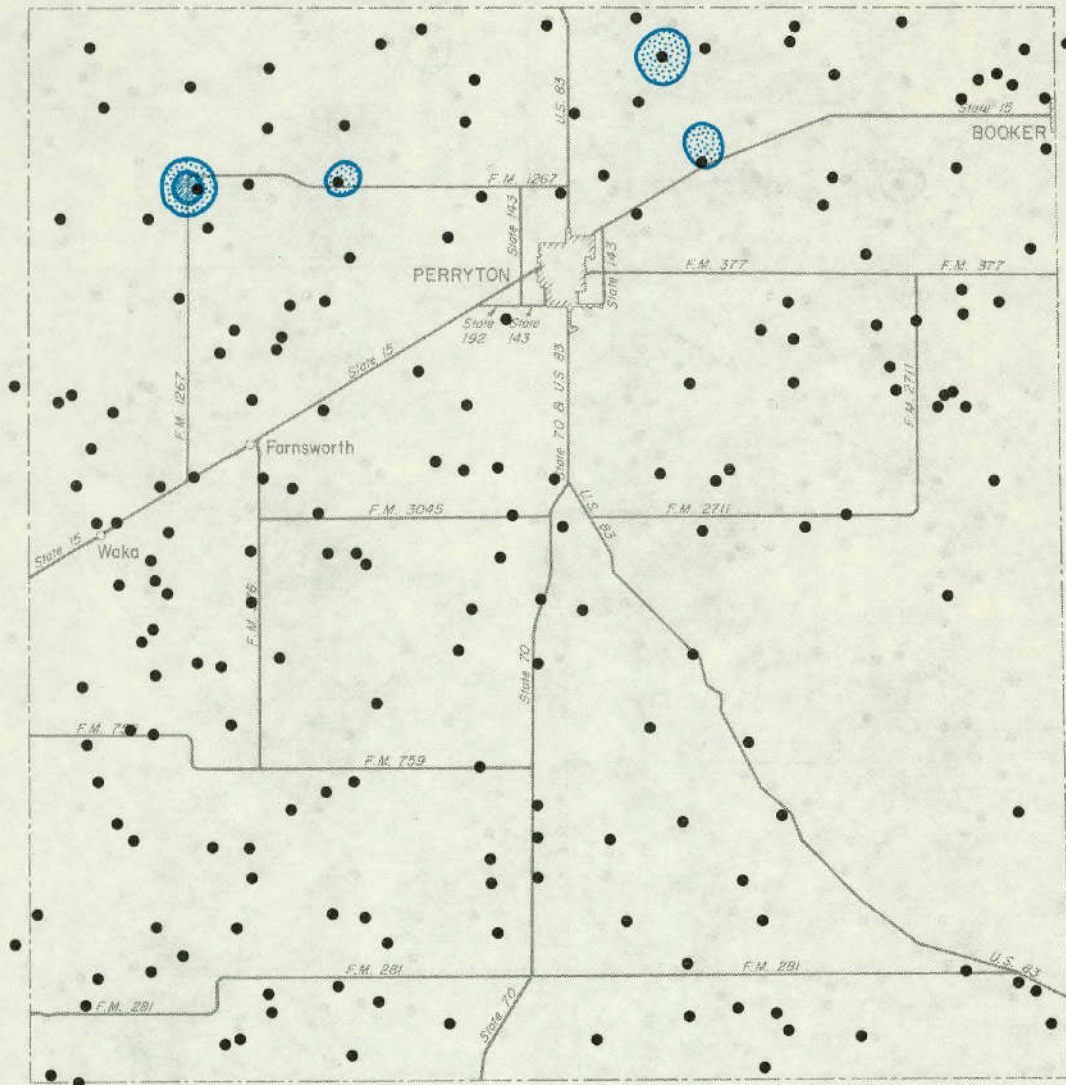


EXPLANATION

Potential well yields, in gallons per minute

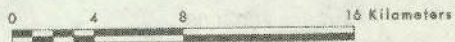
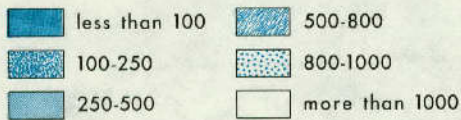


1974
Estimated Potential Yield

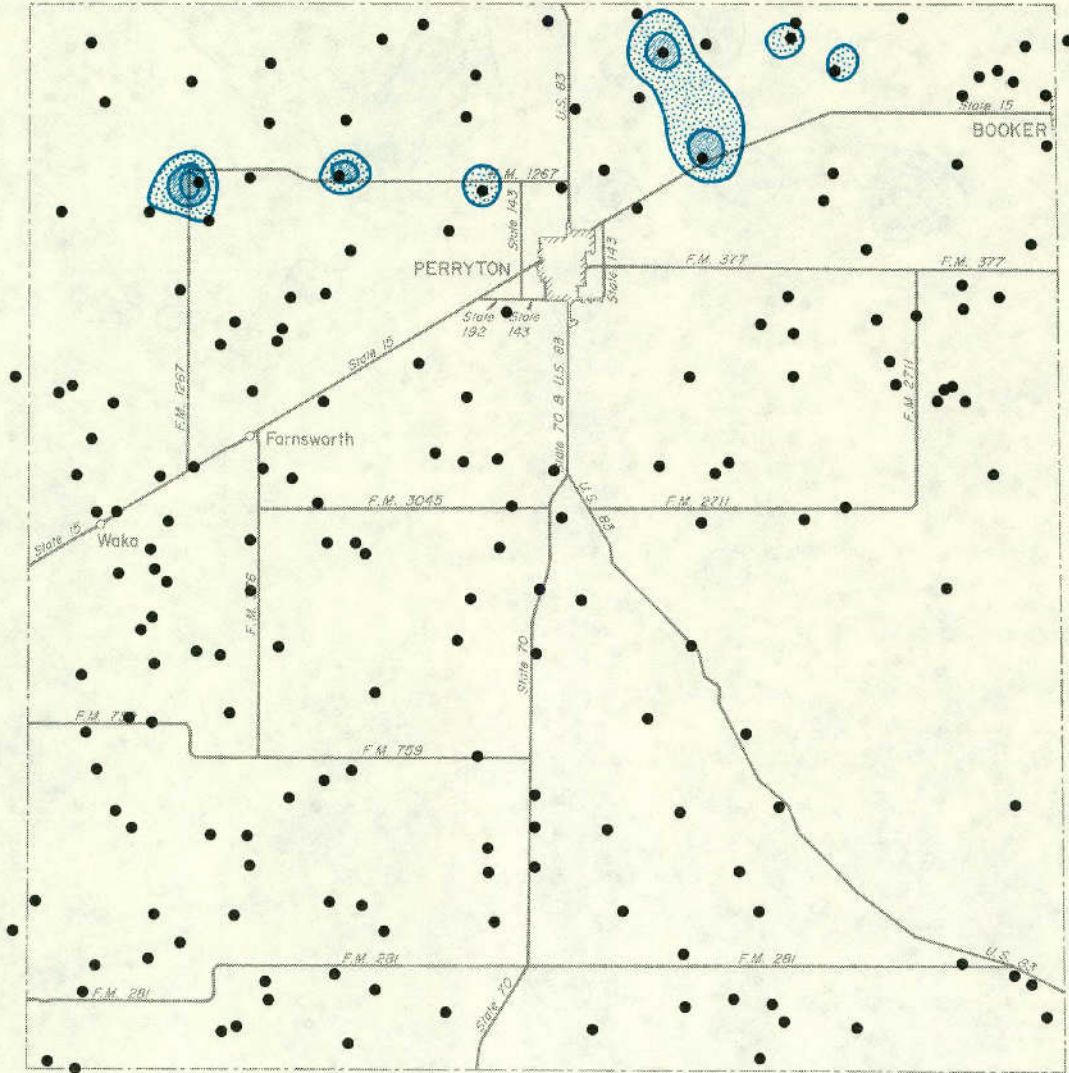


EXPLANATION

Potential well yields, in gallons per minute









1980
Projected Potential Yield



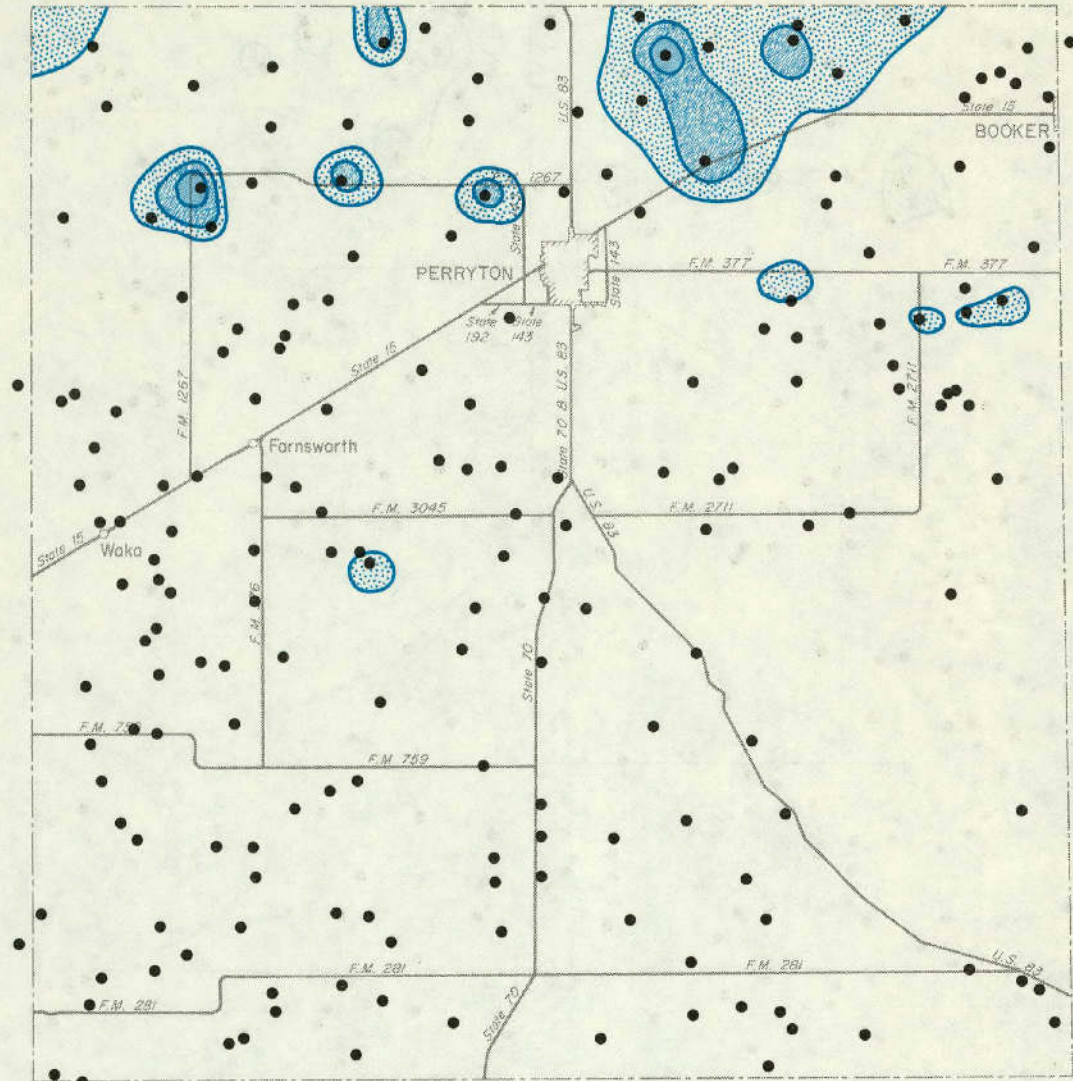
EXPLANATION

Potential well yields, in gallons per minute

 less than 100	 500-800
 100-250	 800-1000
 250-500	 more than 1000









1990
Projected Potential Yield



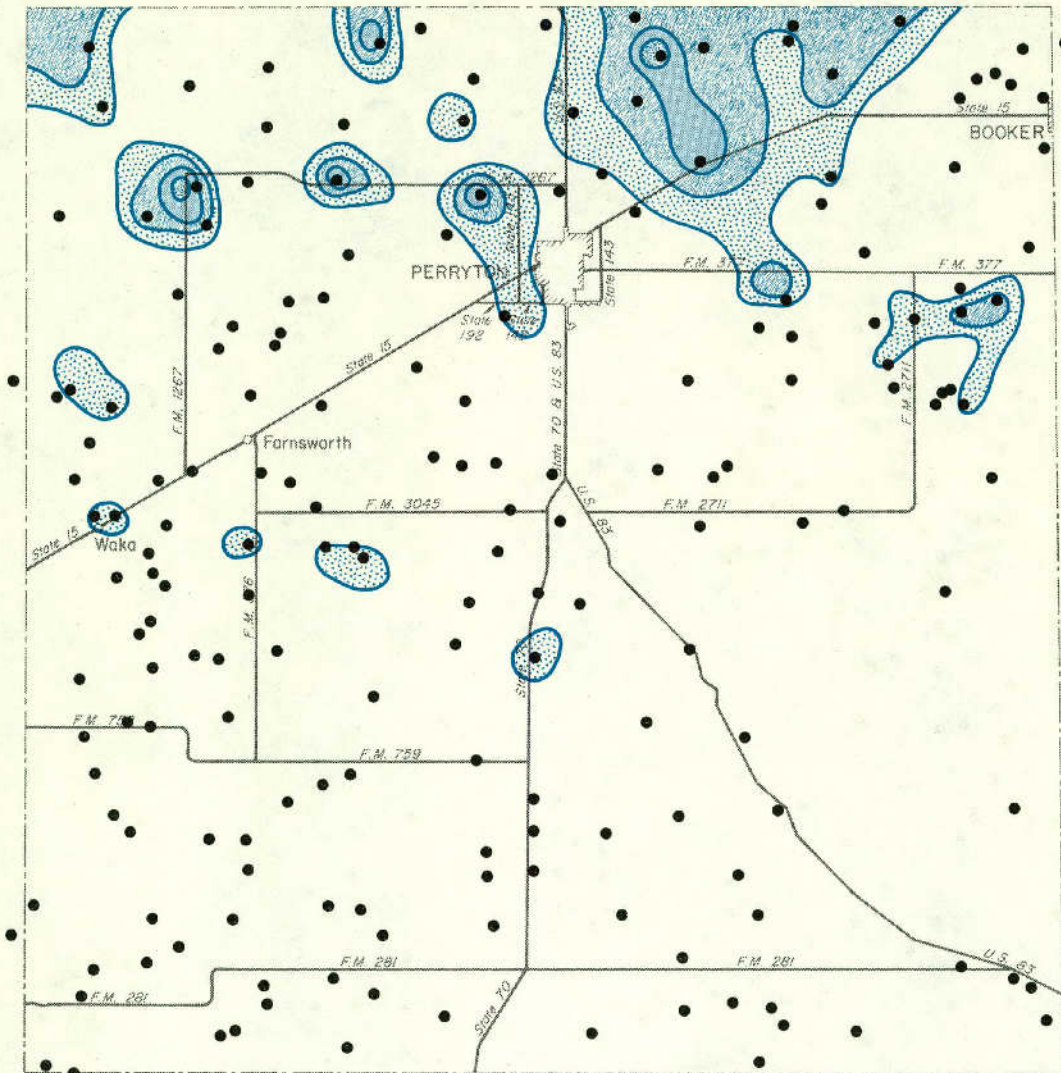
EXPLANATION

Potential well yields, in gallons per minute

 less than 100	 500-800
 100-250	 800-1000
 250-500	 more than 1000









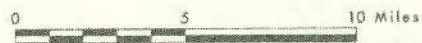
2000
Projected Potential Yield



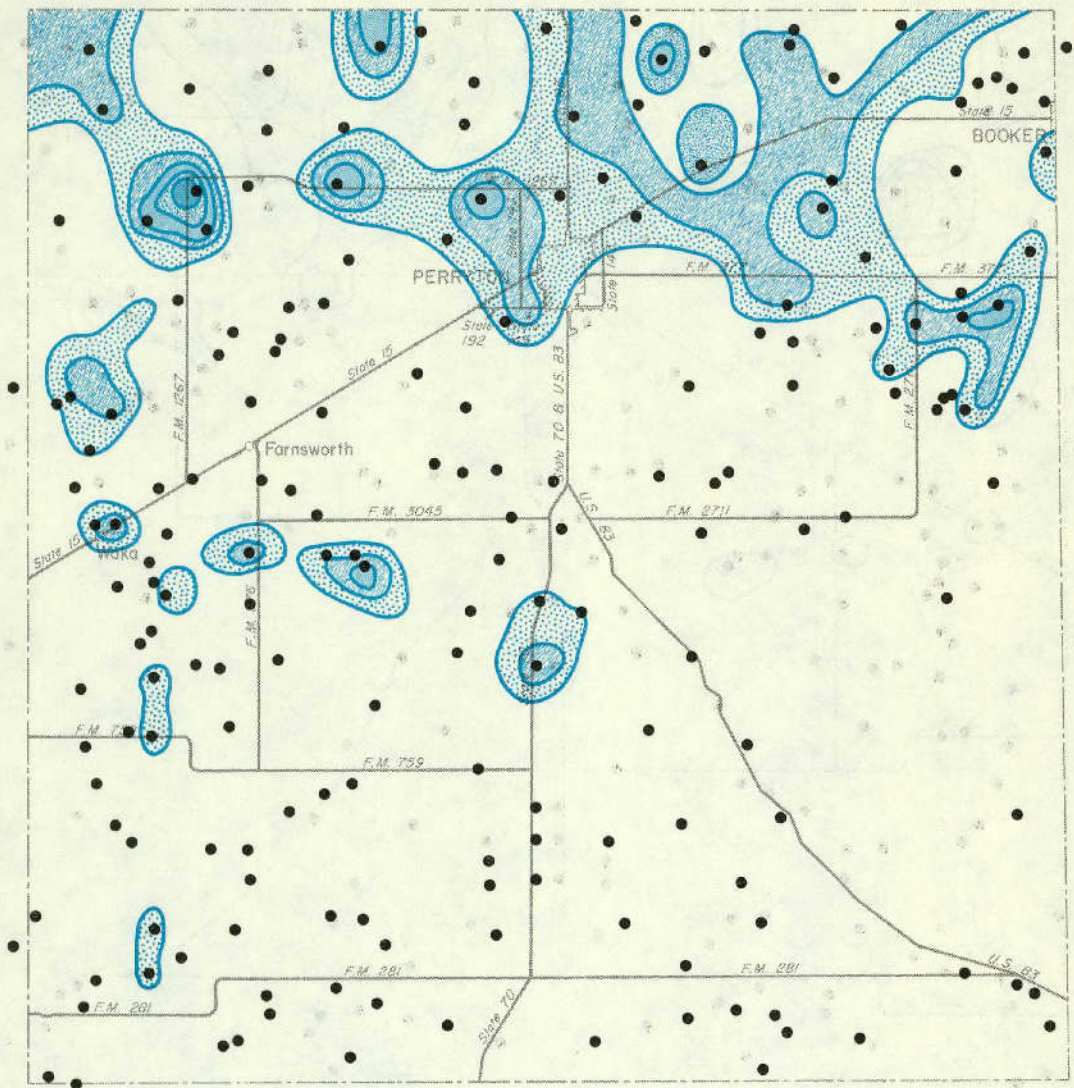
EXPLANATION

Potential well yields, in gallons per minute

	less than 100		500-800
	100-250		800-1000
	250-500		more than 1000


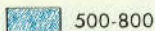
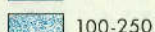
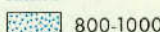
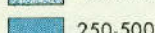



2010
Projected Potential Yield



EXPLANATION

Potential well yields, in gallons per minute

 less than 100	 500-800
 100-250	 800-1000
 250-500	 more than 1000

0 5 10 Miles

0 4 8 16 Kilometers



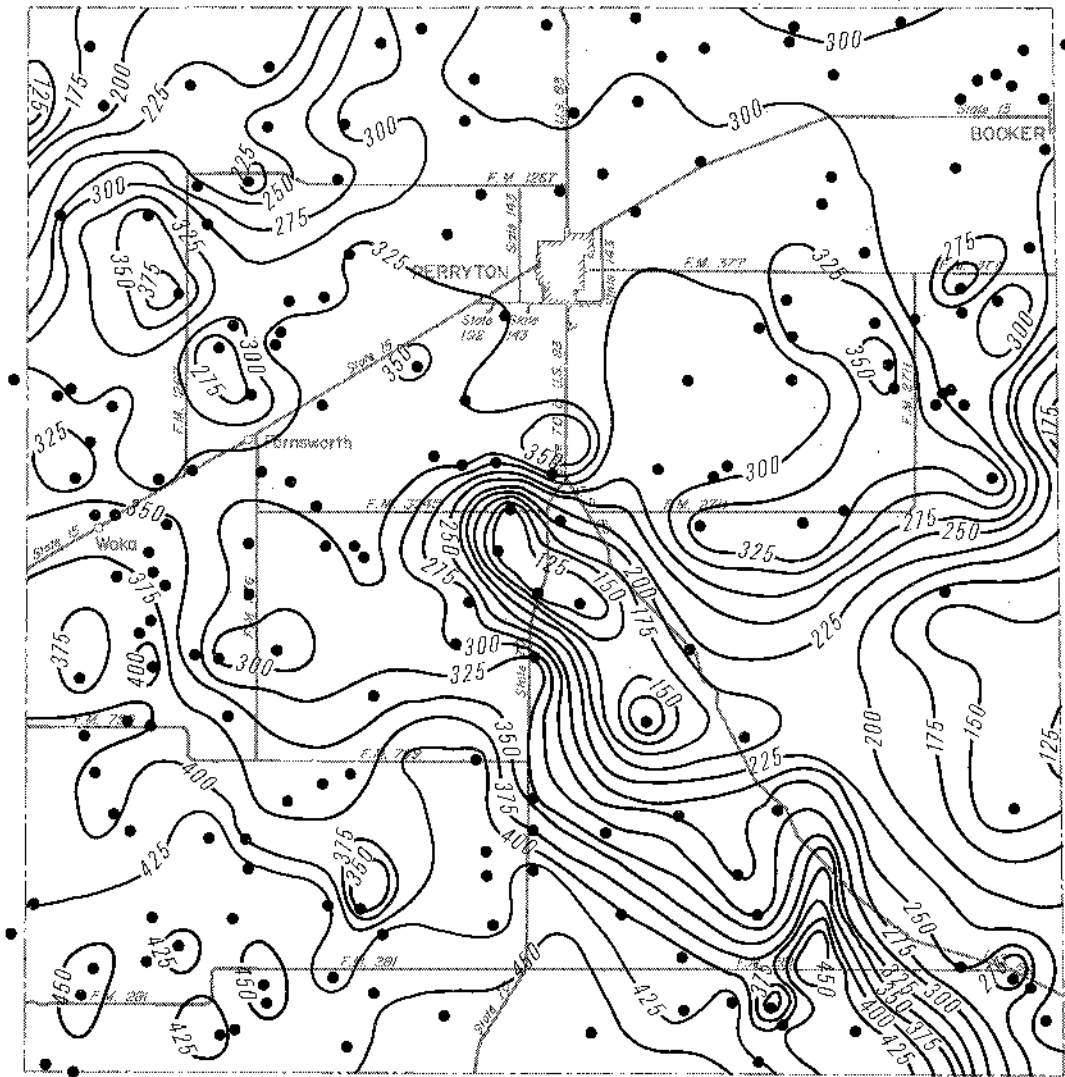
2020
Projected Potential Yield

PUMPING LIFTS IN THE OGALLALA AQUIFER

1974

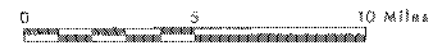
Surface Area Corresponding to Mapped
Pumping-Lift Intervals

<u>MAPPED PUMPING-LIFT INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>
100-125	3,185
125-150	14,227
150-175	13,838
175-200	19,497
200-225	20,984
225-250	26,356
250-275	29,339
275-300	95,397
300-325	118,680
325-350	66,550
350-375	26,169
375-400	25,649
400-425	30,177
425-450	33,735
450-475	9,356
TOTAL	<u>533,139</u>



EXPLANATION

- Well used for control
- 200 — Line showing approximate pumping lift, in feet.
- Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)

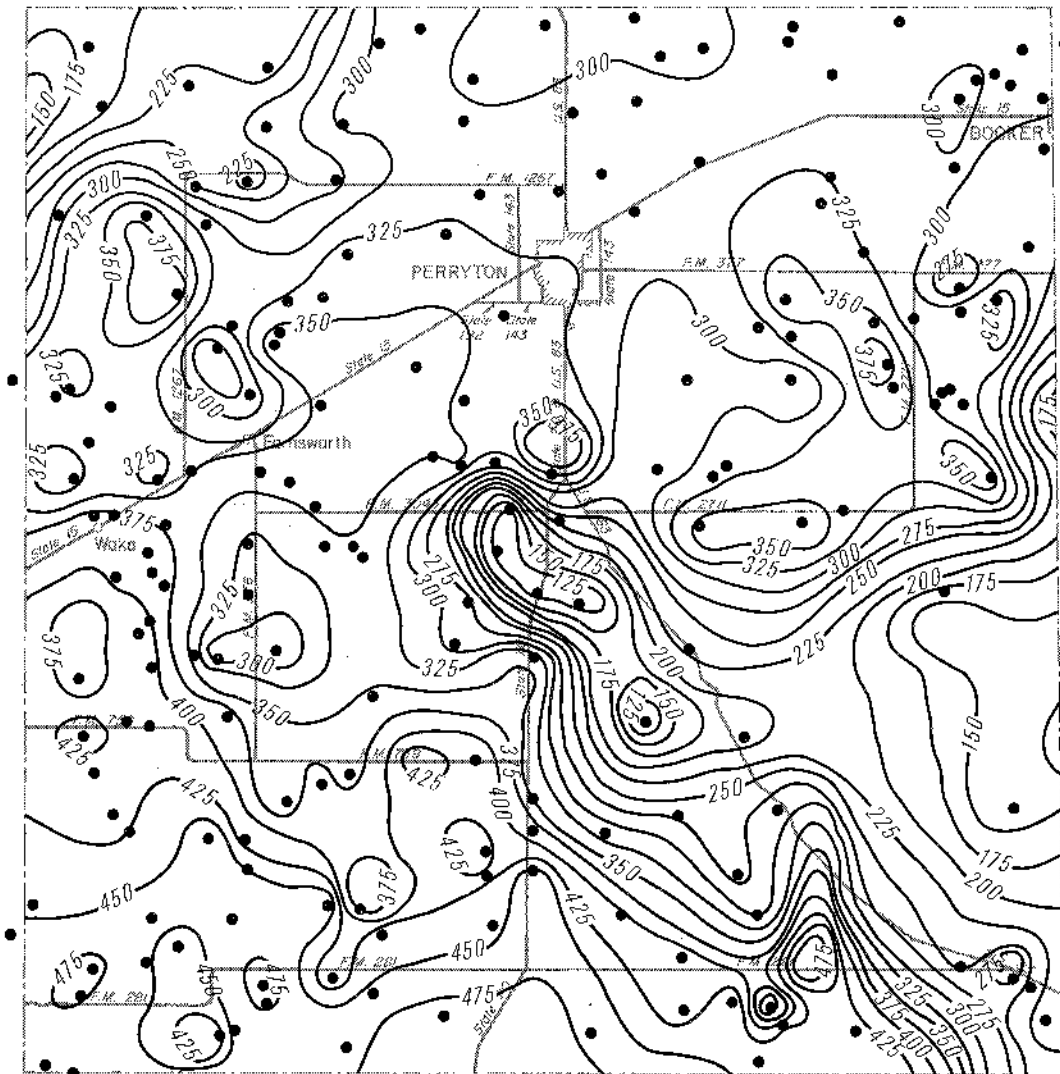


1974
Estimated Pumping Lifts

1980

Surface Area Corresponding to Mapped
Pumping-Lift Intervals

<u>MAPPED PUMPING-LIFT INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>
100-125	3,011
125-150	13,534
150-175	12,972
175-200	18,804
200-225	19,944
225-250	24,796
250-275	25,568
275-300	55,863
300-325	115,366
325-350	83,015
350-375	47,660
375-400	23,916
400-425	31,715
425-450	27,170
450-475	27,207
475-500	2,598
TOTAL	<u>533,139</u>



EXPLANATION

- Well used for control
- 200 — Line showing approximate pumping lift, in feet.
- Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)

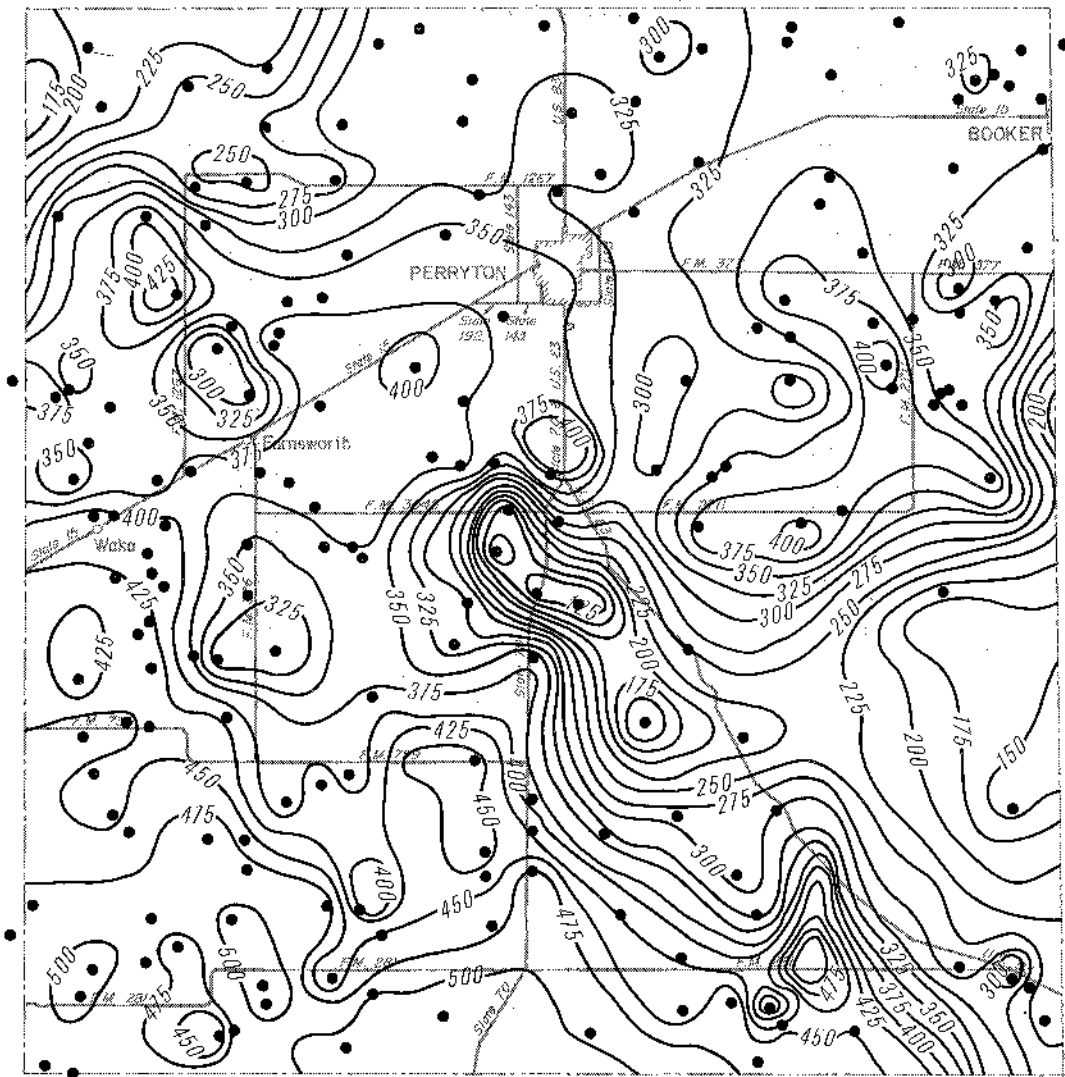


1980
Projected Pumping Lifts

1990

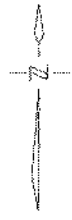
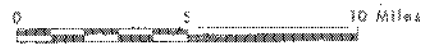
Surface Area Corresponding to Mapped
Pumping-Lift Intervals

<u>MAPPED PUMPING-LIFT INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>
100-125	346
125-150	6,493
150-175	13,490
175-200	12,653
200-225	18,970
225-250	22,125
250-275	23,489
275-300	28,946
300-325	71,115
325-350	93,096
350-375	71,230
375-400	56,325
400-425	23,743
425-450	31,542
450-475	24,510
475-500	26,055
500-525	9,011
TOTAL	<u>533,139</u>



EXPLANATION

- Well used for control
- 200 — Line showing approximate pumping lift, in feet.
- Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)

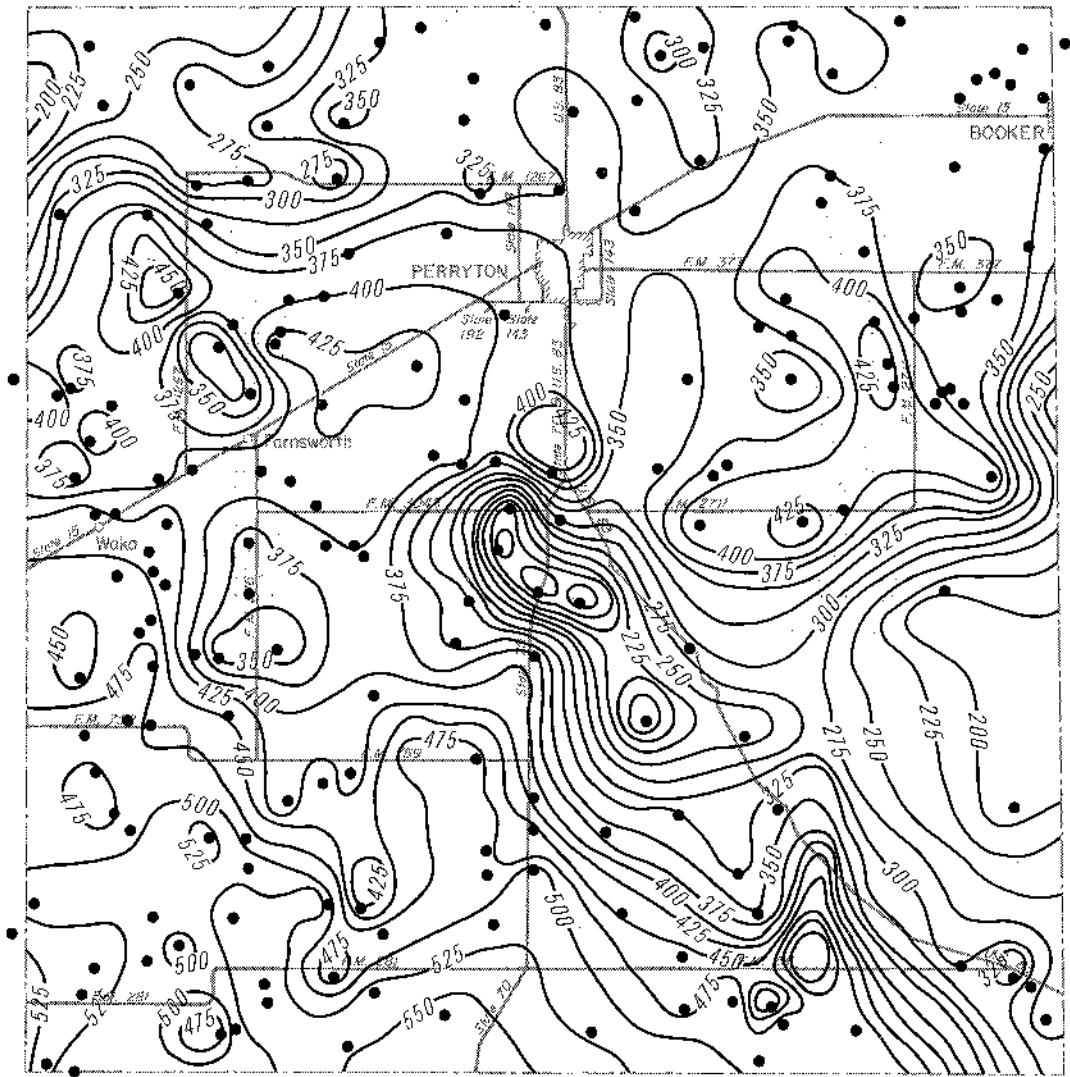


1990
Projected Pumping Lifts

2000

Surface Area Corresponding to Mapped
Pumping-Lift Intervals

MAPPED PUMPING-LIFT INTERVAL (feet)	SURFACE AREA (acres)
125-150	349
150-175	2,568
175-200	13,338
200-225	12,471
225-250	18,388
250-275	20,874
275-300	26,466
300-325	30,227
325-350	69,418
350-375	89,179
375-400	66,550
400-425	58,925
425-450	27,729
450-475	26,169
475-500	28,915
500-525	25,636
525-550	14,898
550-575	1,039
TOTAL	533,139



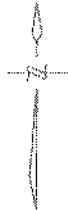
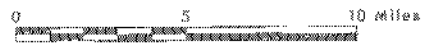
EXPLANATION

● Well used for control

—200—

Line showing approximate pumping lift, in feet.

Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)

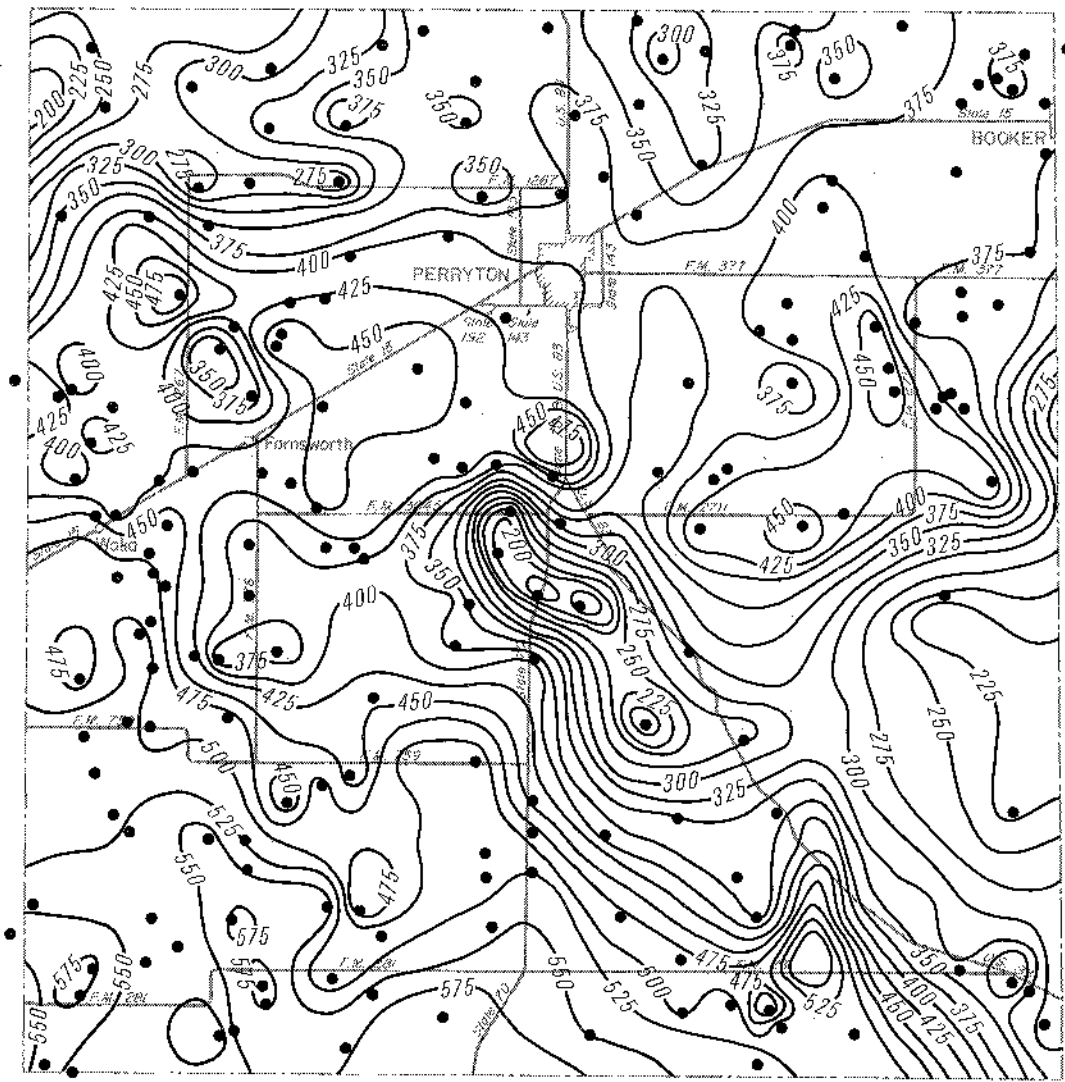


2000
Projected Pumping Lifts

2010

Surface Area Corresponding to Mapped
Pumping-Lift Intervals

<u>MAPPED PUMPING-LIFT INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>
150-175	173
175-200	2,079
200-225	9,537
225-250	14,583
250-275	17,740
275-300	22,023
300-325	30,197
325-350	35,592
350-375	71,865
375-400	80,521
400-425	63,957
425-450	52,512
450-475	31,368
475-500	24,436
500-525	30,835
525-550	24,063
550-575	19,410
575-600	2,254
TOTAL	<u>533,139</u>



EXPLANATION

• Well used for control

— 200 —

Line showing approximate pumping lift, in feet.

Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)

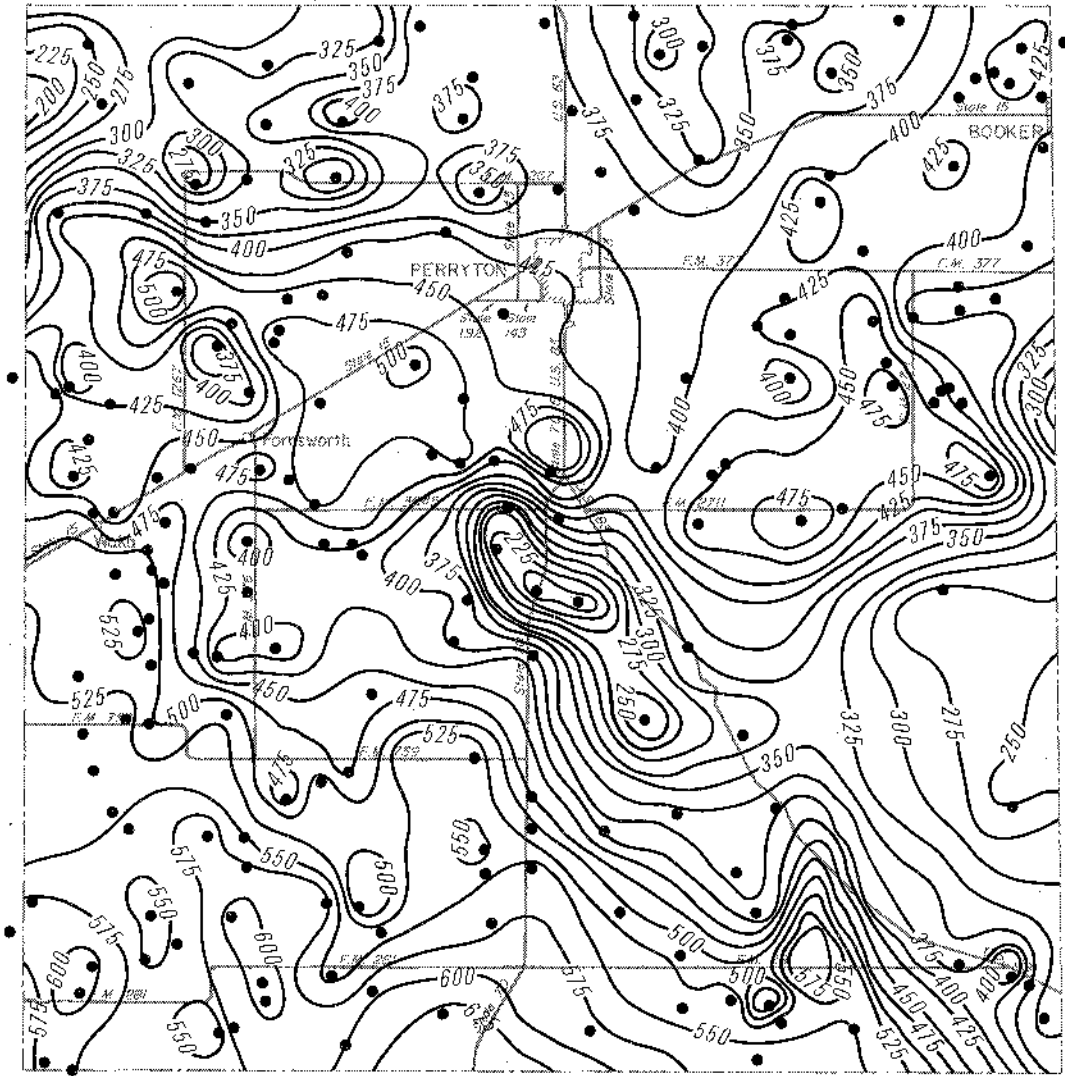


2010
Projected Pumping Lifts

2020

Surface Area Corresponding to Mapped
Pumping-Lift Intervals

<u>MAPPED PUMPING-LIFT INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>
175-200	178
200-225	1,906
225-250	6,667
250-275	17,280
275-300	16,185
300-325	27,446
325-350	34,447
350-375	42,896
375-400	68,648
400-425	77,156
425-450	55,285
450-475	46,620
475-500	34,661
500-525	23,396
525-550	29,809
550-575	24,844
575-600	19,309
600-625	6,060
625-650	346
TOTAL	<u>533,139</u>



EXPLANATION

- Well used for control
- 200 — Line showing approximate pumping lift, in feet.
- Interval is 25 feet (7.62m)



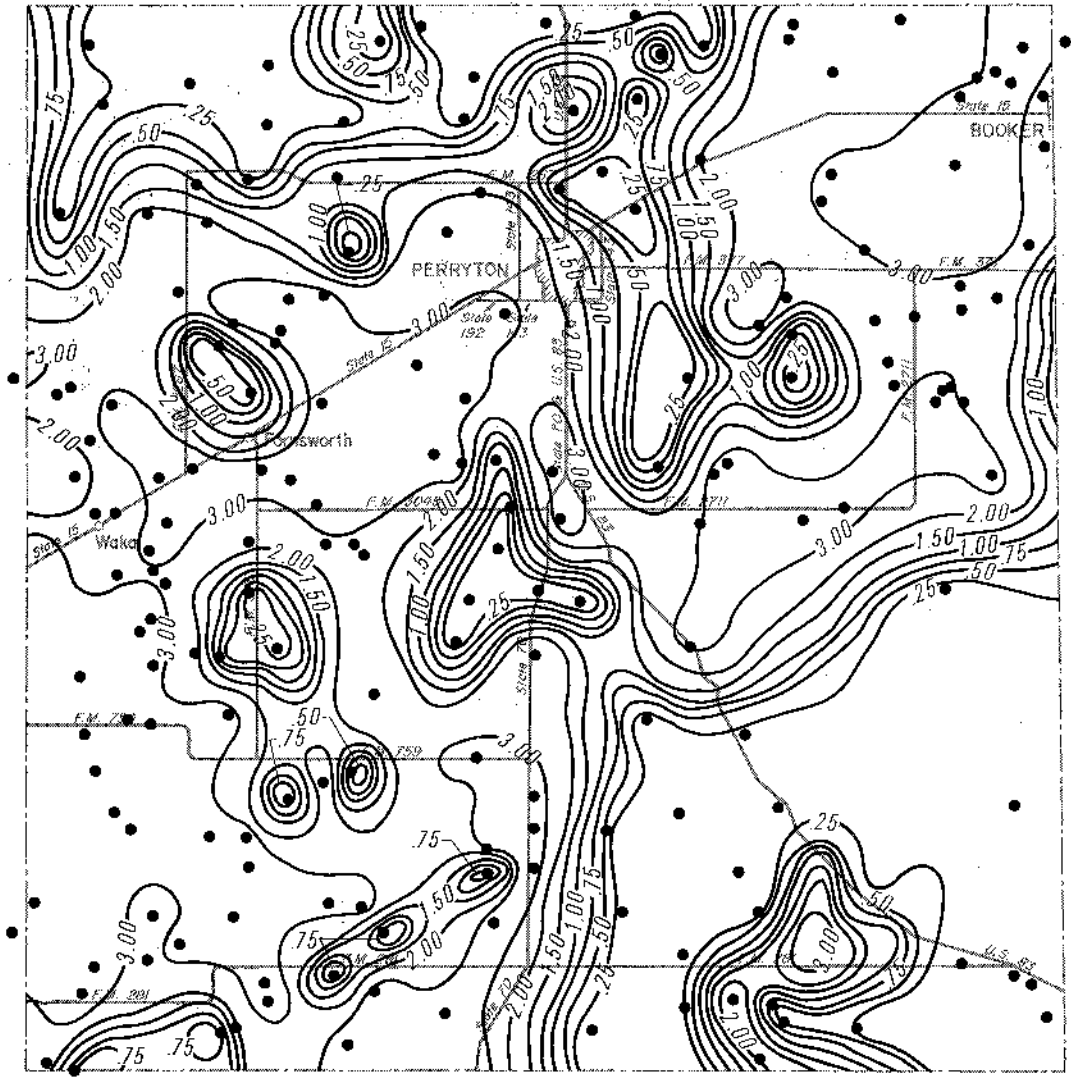
2020
Projected Pumping Lifts

PUMPAGE FROM THE OGALLALA AQUIFER

1974

Pumpage Corresponding to Mapped
Decline-Rate Intervals

<u>MAPPED DECLINE- RATE INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>	<u>STORAGE CAPACITY OF DEWATERED SECTION (acre-feet)</u>	<u>ESTIMATED PUMPAGE RATE, INCLUDING NATURAL RECHARGE AND IRRIGATION RECIRCULATION (acre-feet per year)</u>
0.00-0.25	74,003	879	4,359
.25- .50	30,485	1,691	3,257
.50- .75	25,431	2,369	3,771
.75-1.00	24,240	3,200	4,631
1.00-1.50	48,682	9,029	12,163
1.50-2.00	51,106	13,474	17,164
2.00-3.00	151,454	58,268	71,034
3.00-4.00	108,894	52,312	62,533
TOTAL	514,295	141,222	178,912



EXPLANATION

●
Well used for control

— 1.25 —
Line showing approximate rate of decline in water level, in feet per year.

Interval is variable

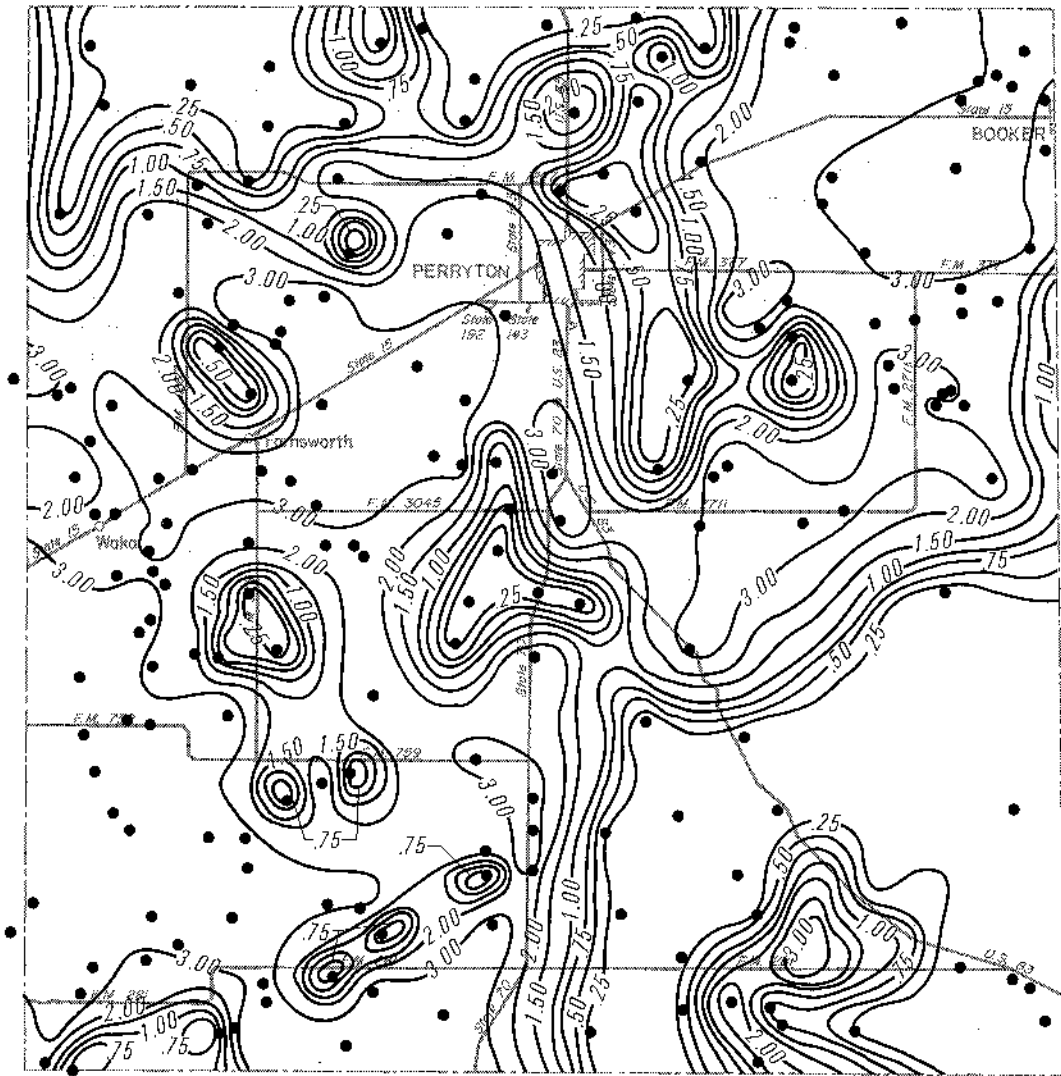


1974
Estimated Rates of Water-Level Decline

1980

Pumpage Corresponding to Mapped
Decline-Rate Intervals

MAPPED DECLINE- RATE INTERVAL (feet)	SURFACE AREA (acres)	STORAGE CAPACITY OF DEWATERED SECTION (acre-feet)	ESTIMATED PUMPAGE RATE, INCLUDING NATURAL RECHARGE AND IRRIGATION RECIRCULATION (acre-feet per year)
0.00--0.25	73,830	884	4,356
.25-- .50	29,016	1,610	3,101
.50-- .75	25,687	2,401	3,818
.75--1.00	23,374	3,089	4,470
1.00--1.50	47,989	8,928	12,021
1.50--2.00	51,279	13,464	17,161
2.00--3.00	151,499	58,378	71,160
3.00--4.00	111,621	54,647	65,224
TOTAL	514,295	143,401	181,311



EXPLANATION

● Well used for control

— 1.25 —

Line showing approximate rate of decline
in water level, in feet per year.

Interval is variable



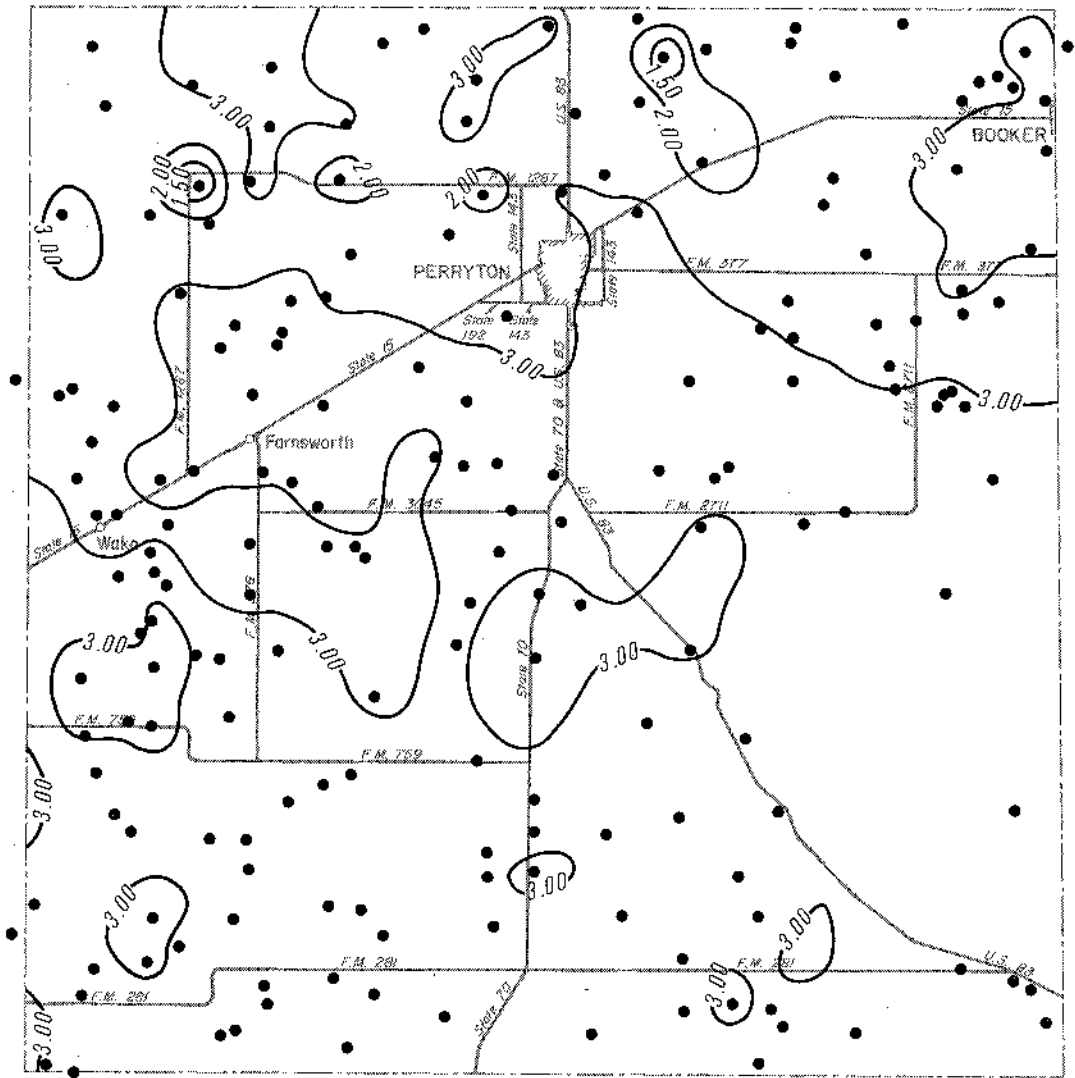
1980

Projected Rates of Water-Level Decline

1990

Pumpage Corresponding to Mapped
Decline-Rate Intervals

<u>MAPPED DECLINE- RATE INTERVAL (feet)</u>	<u>SURFACE AREA (acres)</u>	<u>STORAGE CAPACITY OF DEWATERED SECTION (acre-feet)</u>	<u>ESTIMATED PUMPAGE RATE, INCLUDING NATURAL RECHARGE AND IRRIGATION RECIRCULATION (acre-feet per year)</u>
1.00-1.50	1,039	218	288
1.50-2.00	9,525	2,593	3,289
2.00-3.00	180,269	73,097	88,669
3.00-4.00	342,306	167,628	200,079
TOTAL	533,139	243,536	292,325



EXPLANATION

•
Well used for control

— 1.25 —

Line showing approximate rate of decline
in water level, in feet per year.

Interval is variable

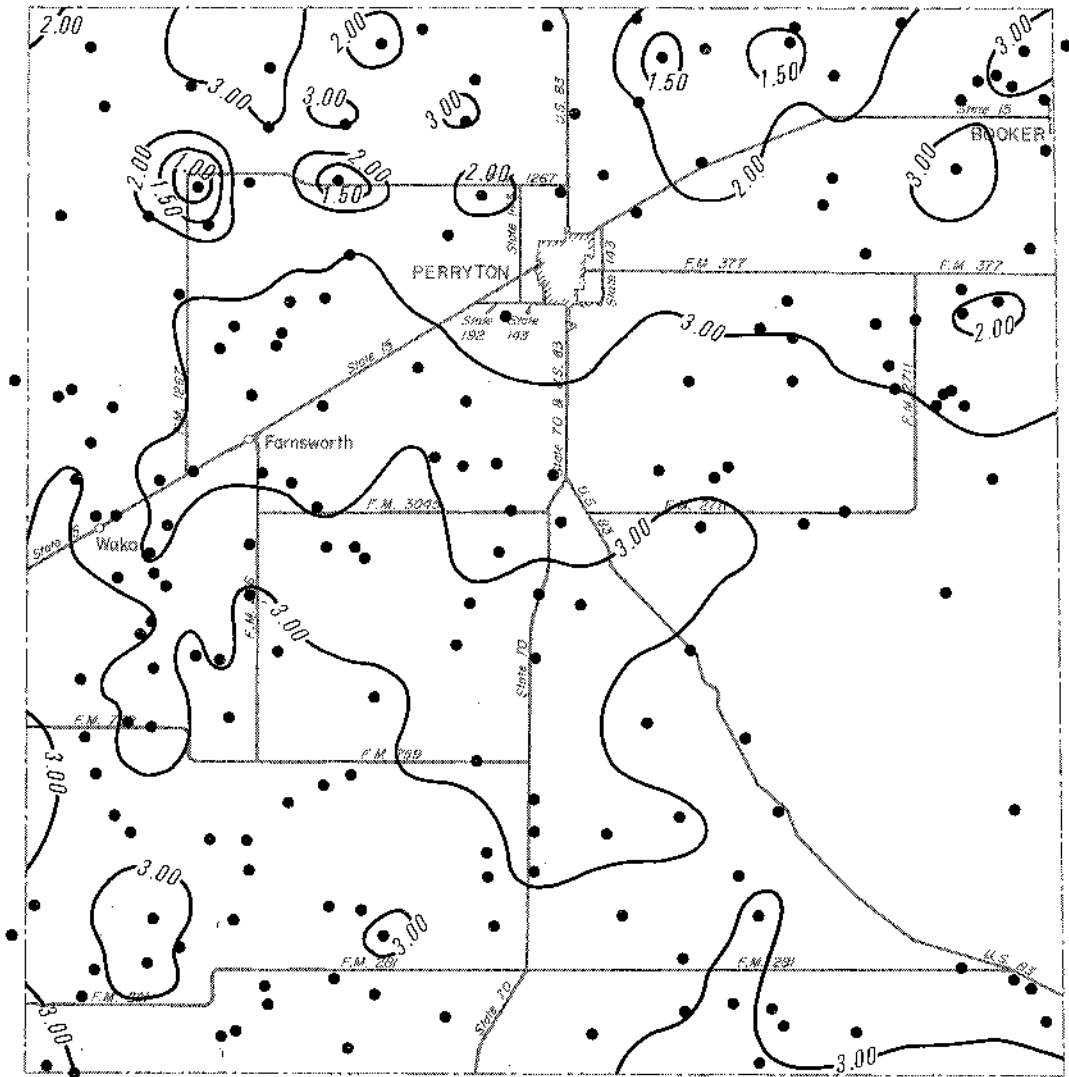


1990
Projected Rates of Water-Level Decline

2000

Pumpage Corresponding to Mapped
Decline-Rate Intervals

MAPPED DECLINE- RATE INTERVAL (feet)	SURFACE AREA (acres)	STORAGE CAPACITY OF DEWATERED SECTION (acre-feet)	ESTIMATED PUMPAGE RATE, INCLUDING NATURAL RECHARGE AND IRRIGATION RECIRCULATION (acre-feet per year)
0.75-1.00	346	44	65
1.00-1.50	2,593	517	688
1.50-2.00	21,806	5,912	7,501
2.00-3.00	220,515	87,439	106,290
3.00-4.00	287,879	138,757	165,827
TOTAL	533,139	232,669	280,371



EXPLANATION

•
Well used for control

— 1.25 —
Line showing approximate rate of decline
in water level, in feet per year.
Interval is variable

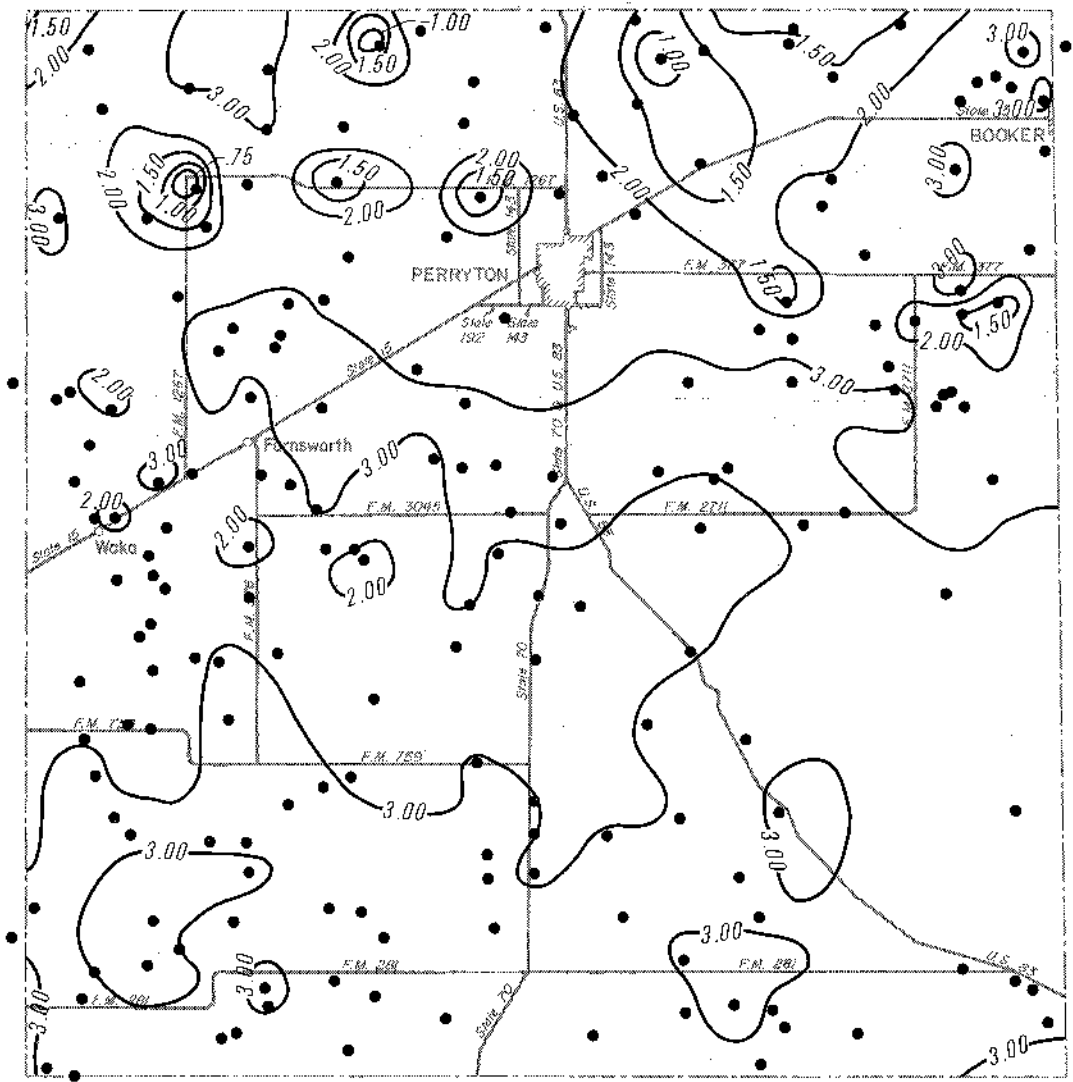


2000
Projected Rates of Water-Level Decline

2010

Pumpage Corresponding to Mapped
Decline-Rate Intervals

MAPPED DECLINE- RATE INTERVAL (feet)	SURFACE AREA (acres)	STORAGE CAPACITY OF DEWATERED SECTION (acre-feet)	ESTIMATED PUMPAGE RATE, INCLUDING NATURAL RECHARGE AND IRRIGATION RECIRCULATION (acre-feet per year)
0.75-1.00	1,893	256	368
1.00-1.50	12,626	2,489	3,316
1.50-2.00	37,420	9,931	12,640
2.00-3.00	259,147	100,988	122,963
3.00-4.00	222,053	104,657	125,300
TOTAL	533,139	218,321	264,587



EXPLANATION

●
Well used for control

— 1.25 —

Line showing approximate rate of decline
in water level, in feet per year.

Interval is variable

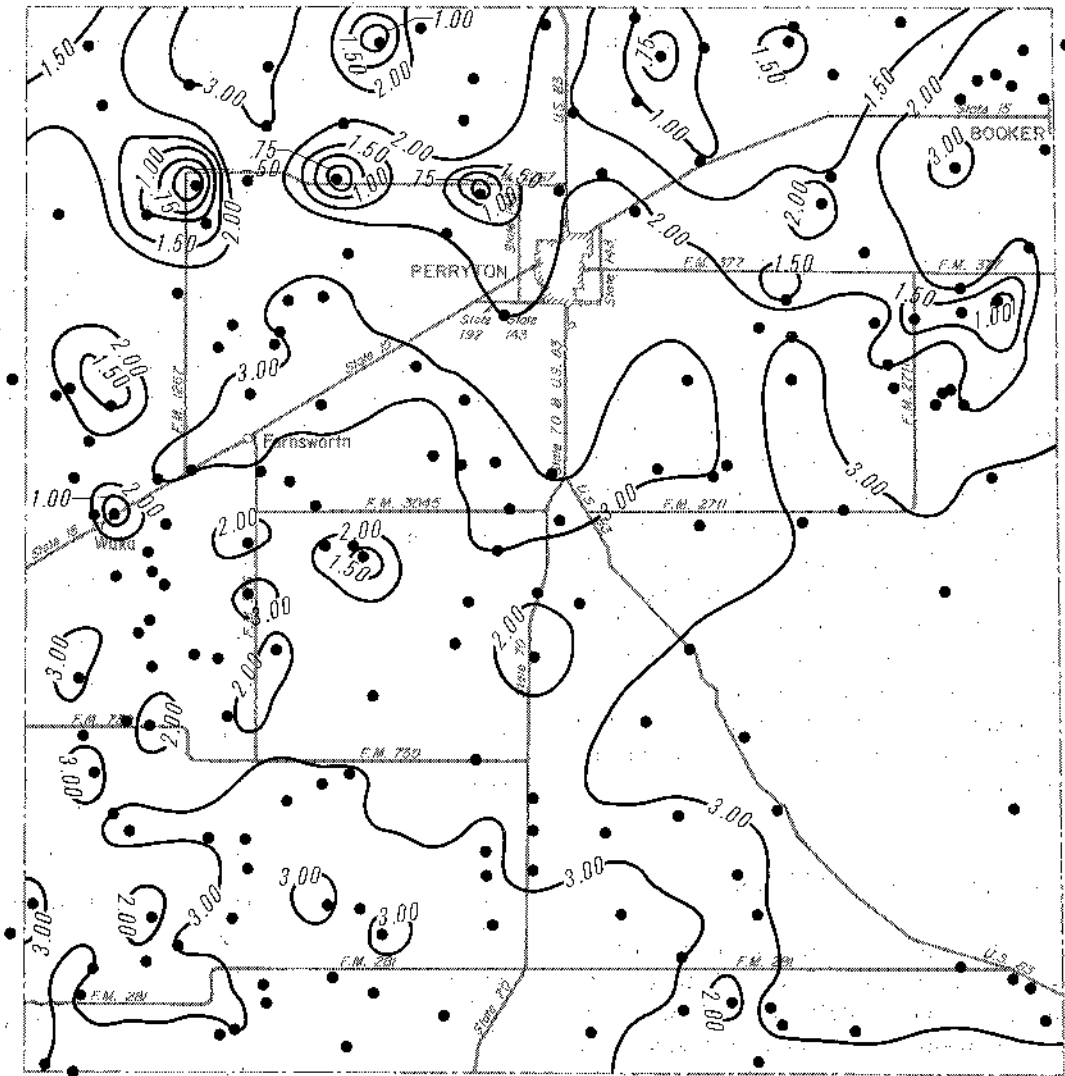


2010
Projected Rates of Water-Level Decline

2020

Pumpage Corresponding to Mapped
Decline-Rate Intervals

MAPPED DECLINE- RATE INTERVAL (feet)	SURFACE AREA (acres)	STORAGE CAPACITY OF DEWATERED SECTION (acre-feet)	ESTIMATED PUMPAGE RATE, INCLUDING NATURAL RECHARGE AND IRRIGATION RECIRCULATION (acre-feet per year)
0.25-0.50	693	42	78
.50- .75	693	72	112
.75-1.00	6,038	823	1,182
1.00-1.50	29,090	5,570	7,460
1.50-2.00	62,453	16,630	21,156
2.00-3.00	245,778	95,495	116,307
3.00-4.00	188,394	87,693	105,097
TOTAL	533,139	206,325	251,392



EXPLANATION

Well used for control

—1.25—

Line showing approximate rate of decline
in water level, in feet per year.

Interval is variable

0 5 10 Miles

0 4 8 16 Kilometers



2020
Projected Rates of Water-Level Decline

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Special appreciation is expressed to the Ochiltree County landowners and water users for allowing their wells to be measured by Department and Water District personnel. This study could not have been accomplished without their cooperation and the records obtained from their wells.

Special thanks are also expressed to the staff of the North Plains Ground Water Conservation District No. 2, Mr. J. W. Buchanan, manager, for providing records and consultation during the study.

Additionally, appreciation is expressed to several individuals for consultation and for review and comment on the methodology and techniques employed in this study: Mr. Frank A. Rayner, former manager of the High Plains Underground Water Conservation District No. 1; Dr. Donald Reddell, associate professor of Engineering, Texas A&M University; Mr. Leon New, irrigation specialist, Texas Agriculture Extension Service, Lubbock, Texas; Mr. Shelby Newman, superintendent, Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, Stephenville, Texas; Dr. C. C. Reeves, Jr., professor of Geosciences, Texas Tech University; and Dr. James Osborn, former chairman of the Department of Agricultural Economics, Texas Tech University.

STAFF INVOLVEMENT

This report is one of a series of county reports being published under the title "Analytical Study of the Ogallala Aquifer." Former staff member A. Wayne Wyatt was instrumental in initiating the study and coauthored a number of the previously published reports of this series.

The Ochiltree County report was prepared under the supervision of Bernard B. Baker, head of the Ground Water Data Unit in the Texas Department of Water Resources' Data Collection and Evaluation Section, Dr. Tommy R. Knowles, chief. Numerous staff members of this Section assisted the authors in assembling and evaluating data and information. Overall technical

supervision of the Ogallala study is exercised by C. R. Baskin, director, Data and Engineering Services Division. The Department's Information Systems and Services Office, David L. Ferguson, director, provided automated data processing and computational services, and prepared the manuscript copy of tabular and graphical displays.

METRIC CONVERSIONS TABLE

For those readers interested in using the International System (SI) of Units, the metric equivalents of English units of measurement have been given in parenthesis in the text. The English units used in tables of this report may be converted to metric units by the following conversion factors:

MULTIPLY ENGLISH UNITS	BY	TO OBTAIN SI UNITS
inches	2.540	centimeters (cm)
feet	.3048	meters (m)
miles	1.609	kilometers (km)
square miles	2.590	square kilometers (km ²)
gallons	3.785	liters (l)
gallons per minute	.06309	liters per second (l/s)
gallons per minute per foot	.207	liters per second per meter (l/s) / m)
acres	.4047	square hectometers (hm ²)
acres	.004047	square kilometers (km ²)
acre-feet	1,233.	cubic meters (m ³)
acre-feet	1.233 X 10 ⁻⁶	cubic kilometers (km ³)
million acre-feet	1.233	cubic kilometers (km ³)

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