

TABLE 2-2. DISTRIBUTION OF WATER IN THE CONTERMINOUS UNITED STATES

(Source: U.S. Geological Survey)

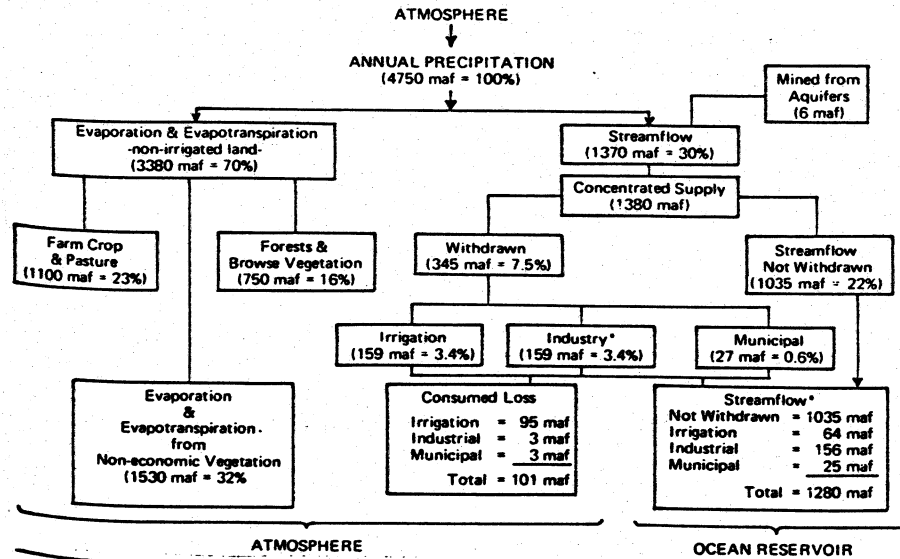
	Area (sq. mi.)	Volume (cu. mi.)	Annual circulation (million acre-ft per year)	Detention period (yr)
Frozen water:				
Glaciers	200	16	1.3	40
Ground ice			(seasonal only)	
Liquid water:				
Fresh-water lakes ¹	61,000	4,500	150	100
Salt lakes	2,600	14	4.6	10
Average in stream channels	—	12	1,500	.03
Ground water:				
Shallow	3,000,000	15,000	250	200
Deep	3,000,000	15,000	5	10,000
Soil moisture (3-ft root zone)				
	3,000,000	150	2,500	.2
Gaseous water:				
Atmosphere	3,000,000	45	5,000	.03

¹United States part of Great Lakes only.

FIGURE 2-2. DISTRIBUTION OF PRECIPITATION IN THE CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES

(Source: Wolman, Publ. 1000-B, National Academy of Sciences—National Research Council, 1962)

[Average values in million acre-feet (maf)]



*The same water may be reused at points spaced along a single stream.

TABLE 2-3. ESTIMATED WORLD WATER SUPPLY AND BUDGET

(Source: U.S. Geological Survey, 1967)

Water item	Volume (thousands)		Percent of total water
	Cubic miles	Cubic kilometers	
Water in land areas:			
Fresh-water lakes	30	125	0.009
Saline lakes and inland seas	25	104	.008
Rivers (average instantaneous volume)3	1.25	.0001
Soil moisture and vadose water	16	67	.005
Ground water to depth of 4,000 m (about 13,100 ft)	2,000	8,350	.61
Icecaps and glaciers	7,000	29,200	2.14
Total in land area (rounded)	9,100	37,800	2.8
Atmosphere	3.1	13	.001
World ocean	317,000	1,320,000	97.3
Total, all items (rounded)	326,000	1,360,000	100
Annual evaporation:¹			
From world ocean	85	350	0.026
From land areas	17	70	.005
Total	102	420	0.031
Annual precipitation:			
On world ocean	78	320	0.024
On land areas	24	100	.007
Total	102	420	0.031
Annual runoff to oceans from rivers and icecaps			
	9	38	0.003
Ground-water outflow to oceans ²4	1.6	.0001
Total	9.4	39.6	0.0031

¹Evaporation (420,000 km³) is a measure of total water participating annually in the hydrological cycle.

²Arbitrarily set equal to about 5 percent of surface runoff.