HYDROLOGIC UNITS

This map depicts a hydrologic system that divides and subdivides the United States into successively smaller river basin units. These levels of subdivision, used for collection and organization of hydrologic data, are called "hydrologic units." The hydrologic units outlined on this map represent natural and manmade stream-drainage areas.
The identifying numeric codes associated with these units are "hydrologic unit codes."

HYDROLOGIC UNIT BOUNDARY

- Regional
- Subregional
- Accounting
- Cataloging

HYDROLOGIC UNIT CODE

03090202
- Regional
- Subregional
- Accounting
- Cataloging

Regions are the largest drainage basins shown. These areas contain either the drainage area of a major river, such as the Missouri region, or the combined drainage areas of several rivers, such as the Texas-Gulf region. They are used for comprehensive planning and were designated by the U.S. Water Resources Council. Colored areas differentiate regions on this map. The regional hydrologic unit name is indicated.

Subregions divide the regions and include the area drained by a river system, a reach of a river and its tributaries in that reach, a closed basin(s), or a group of streams forming a coastal-drainage area.

Accounting units subdivide many of the subregions. They are used by the U.S. Geological Survey for managing National Water Data.

Cataloging units are the smallest hydrologic subdivisions shown. Most are larger than 700 square miles in area. A cataloging unit is a geographic area representing part or all of a surface drainage basin, a combination of drainage basins, or a distinct hydrologic feature.

Regional and subregional boundaries serve as accounting and cataloging unit boundaries.

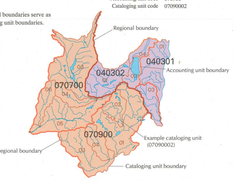
Hydrologic unit code is an eight digit number that identifies each of the hydrologic areas into which the country has been divided for the purpose of water-resources planning and data management. The code uniquely identifies each of the four levels of hydrologic classification within four two-digit fields.

The first two digits identify the water-resources region; the first four digits identify the subregion; the first six digits identify the accounting unit; and the addition of two more digits identifies the cataloging unit.

On this map, the code is shown as a group of six digits and a separate group of two digits.

Example shows how to identify, by hydrologic unit code, the sample cataloging unit shown below.

Regional code 07
Subregional code 0709
Accounting unit code 070900
Cataloging unit code 07090002



The boundaries and numerical codes were modified from the State Hydrologic Unit Maps (1:500,000 scale) prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Water Resources Council. Descriptions, names, and drainage areas of hydrologic units were published in "Hydrologic Unit Maps" by Seaber, Kapinos, and Knapp, U.S. Geological Survey Water-Supply Paper 2294, 1987.

Non–United States hydrologic subdivisions—This line represents drainage basins in Mexico and Canada. Derived from the USGS's 30 arc-second global elevation model (GTOPO30), these drainage divides are a subset of the global drainage basins (HYDRO1K) layer currently under development. For information relating to these data, please see: http://edcwww.cr.usgs.gov/landdaac/gtopo30/hydro/index.html

SCALE 1:3,500,000
0 100 200 300 400 MILES
0 100 200 300 400 500 600 KILOMETERS
Albers equal area projection, standard parallels 29°30'N and 45°30'N, central meridian 96°W

Compiled by U.S. Geological Survey
1998

Principal Islands of HAWAII
SCALE 1:3,500,000
Albers equal area projection, standard parallels 8°N and 18°N, central meridian 157°W

ALASKA
SCALE 1:10,000,000
Albers equal area projection, standard parallels 55°N and 65°N, central meridian 154°W

Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands
SCALE 1:3,500,000
Albers equal area projection, standard parallels 8°N and 18°N, central meridian 66° 30'W

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