

Groundwater and Streamflow Information Program

**Publication Brief**

**Water-Level and Recoverable Water in Storage Changes, High Plains Aquifer, Predevelopment to 2015 and 2013–15**

The High Plains aquifer underlies 111.8 million acres (about 175,000 square miles) in parts of eight States—Colorado, Kansas, Nebraska, New Mexico, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming. The USGS report “Water-Level and Recoverable Water in Storage Changes, High Plains Aquifer, Predevelopment to 2015 and 2013–15” presents water-level changes in the High Plains aquifer from the time before substantial groundwater irrigation development began (generally before 1950) to 2015 and from 2013–15. The report’s findings are:

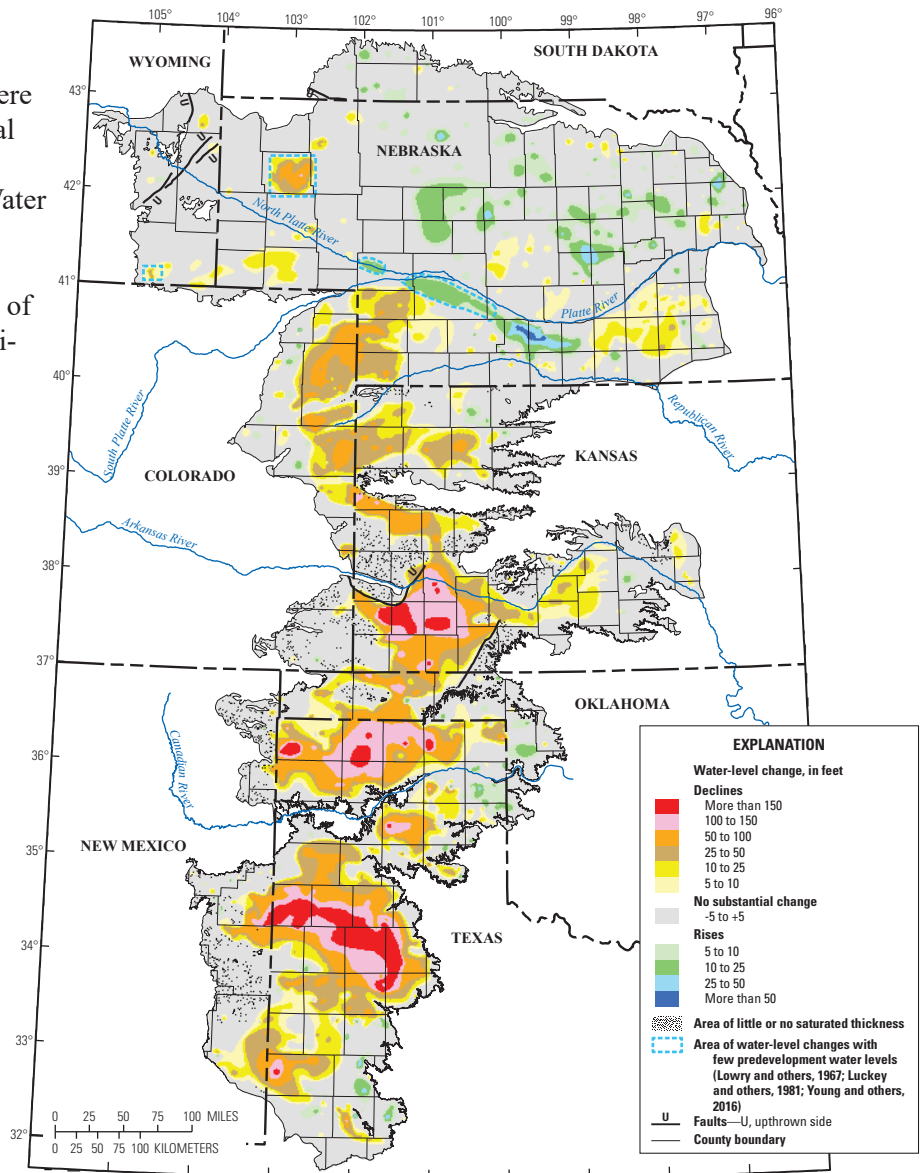
- Water-level changes from predevelopment to 2015, by well, ranged from a rise of 84 feet to a decline of 234 feet;
- Area-weighted, average water-level changes in the aquifer was a decline of 15.8 feet from predevelopment to 2015;
- Area-weighted, average water-level changes in the aquifer was a decline of 0.6 foot from 2013–15;
- Total water in storage in the aquifer in 2015 was about 2.91 billion acre-feet;
- Change in water in storage, predevelopment to 2015, was a decline of 273.2 million acre-feet; and
- Change in water in storage, 2013–15, was a decline of 10.7 million acre-feet.

**Acknowledgments**

Most of the water-level data used in this report were provided by the following State, local, and Federal entities: Colorado Division of Water Resources; Kansas Department of Agriculture–Division of Water Resources; Kansas Geological Survey; Central Nebraska Public Power and Irrigation District; Nebraska Natural Resources Districts; University of Nebraska–Lincoln, Conservation and Survey Division; New Mexico Office of the State Engineer; Oklahoma Water Resources Board; South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources; Texas Groundwater Conservation Districts; and Texas Water Development Board; Wyoming State Engineer’s Office; Bureau of Reclamation; and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

**Reference:** McGuire, V.L., 2017, Water-level and recoverable water in storage changes, High Plains aquifer, predevelopment to 2015 and 2013–15: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2017–5040, 14 p., <https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20175040>.

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**Water-level changes in the High Plains aquifer, predevelopment to 2015**