

INTERPRETIVE THREE-DIMENSIONAL NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW  
MODELING, ROARING SPRINGS, GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA

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## ABSTRACT

### INTERPRETIVE THREE-DIMENSIONAL NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODELING, ROARING SPRINGS, GRAND CANYON, ARIZONA

LANYA E. ROSS

The Redwall-Muav aquifer (R-aquifer), an unconfined karstified carbonate aquifer, discharges through large springs in Grand Canyon. The largest R-aquifer springs in Grand Canyon are on the North Rim and include Roaring Springs, the sole municipal water supply for Grand Canyon National Park. This study provided new data and synthesized existing information about the R-aquifer where it discharges from Roaring Springs, providing information for source water protection and acting as a model for the larger R-aquifer system on the Kaibab Plateau. In 2003, temporary stream gaging stations were established with pressure transducers in the stream channel below Roaring Springs and in Roaring Springs cave. Discharge was measured on a monthly basis through the summer monsoon, and two stage-discharge curves were constructed to calculate discharge in the stream (stage-discharge  $R^2 = 0.53$ ) and in the cave (stage-discharge  $R^2 = 0.35$ ) between March and December 2003. The quality of the stage-discharge relationships was primarily affected by the roughness of the stream channel and the effects of barometric pressure changes in Roaring Springs cave.

In addition, monthly water samples were collected from the spring for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}/\delta^2\text{H}$  and tritium analyses to constrain recharge rates and groundwater flow paths. These data, combined with improvements in Grand Canyon geologic maps, were used to construct a digital geologic framework model (DGFM), a conceptual model and a numerical

groundwater flow model of the Roaring Springs system. The final datasets were displayed with a GeoWall (a digital three-dimensional projection system) to test its applicability for hydrologic education.

Results indicate that groundwater flow to Roaring Springs is very localized, particularly when compared to springs recharge areas on the South Rim of Grand Canyon. The Roaring Springs recharge area is estimated to be no larger than 30 km<sup>2</sup>. Roaring Springs requires most of the winter snow pack to sustain perennial flow (~70% annual precipitation), as little to no recharge occurs during the summer monsoon. Recharging groundwater moves through the aquifer along two principal pathways which are apparent on the Roaring Springs hydrograph base flow recession curves. Water flowing through the conduit system moves from the surface to Roaring Springs in less than a month, possibly within a day. Water moving through the larger aquifer matrix moves more slowly, with travel times ranging from months to years. Mean groundwater residence time is ~7 years, based on tritium analysis of spring water.

Attempts to display the Roaring Springs groundwater system on the Kaibab Plateau with GeoWall technology met with limited success. The difference in scale between spring recharge area and the Kaibab Plateau as a whole made them difficult to view in tandem.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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I wish to thank the many people who contributed to the completion of this thesis. Foremost among them is Dr. Abe Springer. I would also like to thank Drs. Ronald C. Blakey and Roderic A. Parnell, Jr. for editing the study report and serving on my committee. Thanks to Donald Bills at the USGS in Flagstaff, who provided unpublished Grand Canyon spring discharge data for this study. Many Northern Arizona University students assisted in fieldwork, and deserve special thanks: Jeremy Kobor and Siobhan McConnell, Amy Welte-Bernard, Meg (Plevich) Varhalmi, and the notorious Jacob Miller.

Finally, I would like to thank Ben Hinkley, whose wide-ranging and unending support was so important that I married him.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT.....	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iv
LIST OF TABLES.....	vii
LIST OF FIGURES.....	viii
LIST OF APPENDICES.....	x
CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION.....	1
Purpose and Objectives.....	2
Significance of Problem.....	3
Study Area Location.....	4
Previous Investigations.....	6
CHAPTER 2: DIGITAL GEOLOGIC FRAMEWORK MODEL.....	11
Purpose and Objectives.....	11
Model Construction Methodology.....	11
Software.....	11
Data Sources.....	12
Process.....	13
Discussion and Conclusions.....	20
CHAPTER 3: CONCEPTUAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL.....	24
Purpose and Objectives.....	24
Data Collection Methodology.....	24
Conceptual Model Boundaries.....	29
Hydrostratigraphic Units.....	29
Stratigraphy.....	31
Structural Geology.....	41

Water Budget .....	47
Precipitation .....	47
Evapotranspiration .....	49
Spring Discharge.....	52
Runoff .....	64
Recharge .....	70
Change in Aquifer Storage.....	77
Flow System .....	77
Groundwater Flow Direction .....	78
Groundwater Flow Rates .....	84
Conclusions and Discussion .....	89
CHAPTER 4: NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL .....	93
Purpose and Objectives.....	93
Model Code.....	94
Model Construction .....	94
Time and Space.....	95
Model Grid.....	95
Model Boundaries.....	95
Model Parameters .....	97
Model Calibration .....	101
Calibration Targets.....	101
Calibration Process .....	101
Sensitivity Analysis .....	106
Model Limitations.....	108
Conclusions and Discussion .....	109
CHAPTER 5: SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION .....	110
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	113
APPENDICES .....	120

## LIST OF TABLES

Table 1. Mean monthly precipitation (1925-1998), Bright Angel Ranger Station, AZ ...	49
Table 2. Mean monthly maximum and minimum temperatures (°C), Bright Angel Ranger Station, AZ.....	49
Table 3. Typical vegetation zones of the Grand Canyon by elevation range .....	49
Table 4. Historic discharge measurements at Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, AZ.....	54
Table 5. 2003 discharge measurements at Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, AZ.....	55
Table 6. Tritium concentrations (TU) at Roaring Springs cave.....	88
Table 7. Qualitative interpretation of tritium data. ....	88
Table 8. 2003 Roaring Springs conceptual water budget. ....	90
Table 9. Annual water budget for Roaring Springs groundwater flow model. ....	103
Table 10. Parameters and stresses in calibrated Roaring Springs flow model. ....	103

## LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1. Location of the study area on the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona..	5
Figure 2. Basal geologic contact elevation data point distribution for the Kaibab and Muav formations	16
Figure 3. Semivariogram models used in the kriging interpolation method	17
Figure 4. Variance grid generated by ArcView 3.2 GIS	18
Figure 5. Geologic cross-sections constructed across the Kaibab Plateau using the digital geologic framework model	19
Figure 6. Paleozoic geologic surfaces of the southern Kaibab Plateau, AZ	21
Figure 7. Location of sites sampled in Roaring Springs Canyon in 2003.	26
Figure 8. Stream channel cross section of Roaring Springs stream	27
Figure 9. Conceptual model boundaries of the Roaring Springs flow system	30
Figure 10. Roaring Springs Canyon hydrostratigraphy, Kaibab Plateau, AZ.	32
Figure 11. Major faults and folds on the Kaibab Plateau, AZ	43
Figure 12. Geologic cross-section of the East Kaibab Monocline in Grand Canyon	46
Figure 13. Kaibab Plateau spring locations	53
Figure 14. Discharge-discharge relationship between Roaring Springs and Bright Angel Creek, Grand Canyon, AZ.	57
Figure 15. Roaring Springs stage-discharge relationship	58
Figure 16. Roaring Springs discharge-turbidity relationship	59
Figure 17. Stage-discharge relationship between Roaring Springs Stream and Roaring Springs Cave, Kaibab Plateau, AZ	61
Figure 18. 2003 spring discharge, Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, AZ	62
Figure 19. Daily discharge comparison between Roaring Springs and Bright Angel Creek, Grand Canyon, AZ.	63
Figure 20. Roaring Springs stream surface watershed, Kaibab Plateau, AZ	65



Figure 21. Comparison of 2003 daily precipitation and discharge, Roaring Springs Stream, Kaibab Plateau, AZ.....	67
Figure 22. Roaring Springs discharge between March 7 and March 28, 2003 showing effects of snowmelt on stream discharge .....	68
Figure 23. Roaring Springs stream and cave hydrographs .....	69
Figure 24. Photograph of Kaibab Plateau sinkhole .....	71
Figure 25. Sinkhole watersheds on the Kaibab Plateau, AZ.....	72
Figure 26. 2003 Roaring Springs hydrograph illustrating the effect of seasonal recharge on the Kaibab Plateau, AZ .....	74
Figure 27. Stable isotope analyses of 1993 and 2003-2004 Roaring Springs discharge and Kaibab Plateau precipitation .....	76
Figure 28. Trends in sinkhole distribution versus trends in Bouguer gravity and isostatic gravity data.....	79
Figure 29. 25 km <sup>2</sup> watersheds on the basal surface of the Muav Formation. ....	80
Figure 30. Photograph of R-aquifer in Roaring Springs Canyon, AZ .....	82
Figure 31. Modern R-aquifer cave passage orientation for selected caves in Grand Canyon. ....	83
Figure 32. Daily spring discharge versus seasonal variation in tritium, $\delta^{18}\text{O}$ and $\delta^2\text{H}$ in 2003 for Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, AZ. ....	86
Figure 33. 2003 Roaring Springs seasonal variation in temperature, pH, and specific conductivity.....	87
Figure 35. Initial no-flow boundary conditions for ground water flow model of Roaring Springs. ....	98
Figure 36. Maps showing the distribution of hydraulic conductivity and recharge values in the groundwater flow model of Roaring Springs.....	100
Figure 37. Final locations of no-flow boundary conditions in groundwater flow model of Roaring Springs. ....	104
Figure 39. Model sensitivity to recharge and Roaring Springs drain conductance .....	107

## LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix A. Digital Geologic Framework Model grid files (Enclosed CD).

Appendix B. Roaring Springs 2003 field sheets.

Appendix C. Roaring Springs 2003 hydrologic data.

Appendix D. Roaring Springs MODFLOW files (Enclosed CD).

This work is dedicated to my father and grandfather's strong hearts.

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

The most obvious water feature associated with Grand Canyon is the Colorado River. Less visible, but equally important from a water resources management perspective, is the groundwater flow system supplying base flow to the Colorado River and rare desert spring ecosystems, drinking water to Arizona tourists and residents, and cultural meaning to tribal communities in and around Grand Canyon.

The primary aquifer in Grand Canyon is the R-aquifer, composed of the Redwall, Temple Butte and Muav formations. This aquifer extends across much of northern Arizona, but groundwater movement is bisected by the Colorado River in Grand Canyon. The result is two separate groundwater systems with similar geologic characteristics but incredibly different behavior – one on the South Rim and the other on the North Rim.

The South Rim of the Grand Canyon has been the focus of recent groundwater research, as development pressure (due in particular to tourism in Tusayan, AZ) continues to grow. Research has included the identification of the seeps and springs along the South Rim of the Canyon, and the delineation of the major spring recharge areas in fracture zones on the Coconino Plateau (Montgomery and Associates 1996; Wilson 2000; Kessler 2002; Stevens 2002b, Kobor 2004; Monroe et al 2004). Spring discharge from this aquifer is low, but remains stable throughout the year.

Major springs on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon also discharge out of the R-aquifer, more numerous and larger than those on the South Rim. The discharge rates for these North Rim springs are commonly believed to fluctuate significantly throughout the year (Stevens 2002), a conclusion based primarily on observations at Vasey's Paradise,

the only North Rim spring being actively monitored due to its designation as a protected ecosystem for the endangered *Oxyloma haydeni kanabensis* (Kanab ambersnail), and its convenient access at river level from Colorado River boat trips. This fluctuation has not been adequately documented at other North Rim springs, and this fluctuation has never been incorporated into groundwater models for the area. This lack of information is of particular concern when considering that Roaring Springs is the sole source of potable water for Grand Canyon National Park facilities on the North and South Rims. Under federal regulation, this spring is regularly monitored as a drinking water supply. Since the early 1970's, the amount of water diverted and the turbidity and pH of the water of Roaring Springs has been monitored daily from May to October. The spring is sampled every three years for major ion chemistry and other parameters required for drinking water supplies (Huntoon 2002; Aiken 2003). Interestingly, the total discharge of Roaring Springs has never been regularly monitored, and limited attempts to date the age of spring water have been inconclusive. Consequently, the recharge area for Roaring Springs has never been determined (Rihs 2002).

### **Purpose and Objectives**

The purpose of this study was to gather new data and to synthesize existing information about the R-aquifer where it discharges from Roaring Springs in Grand Canyon, Arizona. A new conceptual model was created using recently developed three-dimensional visualization software to develop a more cohesive picture of the aquifer structure and to make it more available in an easily understandable format for the sake of park hydrologists, managers, and visitors.

The purpose was accomplished through completion of the following objectives:

- 1) Develop a digital geologic framework model for the Kaibab Plateau,
- 2) Construct and calibrate a numerical groundwater flow model for the Redwall Muav aquifer on the Kaibab Plateau, and
- 3) Incorporate both the geologic framework model and the groundwater flow model into three-dimensional computer visualization software for community outreach and technology transfers.

### **Significance of Problem**

Recent South Rim models indicate that most groundwater movement through the R-aquifer on the Coconino Plateau is through faults and fractures. The system directs water toward three major discharge points on the South Rim: Havasu Spring, Hermit Spring, and Indian Garden Spring (Montgomery and Associates 1996; Wilson 2000; Kessler 2002). No such equivalent work has been done on the North Rim, even though Roaring Springs, on the North Rim, is Grand Canyon National Park's municipal water supply, providing water to over 4 million annual visitors and year-round employees (<http://www.nps.gov/grca/>). The karst springs on the North Rim also provide significant perennial base flow to the Colorado River, as well as supporting havens of biodiversity in the arid to semi-arid Grand Canyon along tributary canyons. Only 0.003% of the area in Grand Canyon National Park is occupied by tributary streams, but these streams support 36% of the Canyon's total riparian flora (Hart et al 2002b).

Lack of planned development on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon ensures a low probability of impacting spring discharge quantity in the future. However, rapid

groundwater recharge through fault and fracture systems may mean that land use occurring north of the park boundaries could significantly impact water quality.

A comparison of springs on the North and South Rims of the Grand Canyon may also provide insight into the rate and process of karst development on the Colorado Plateau. Due to the higher elevation of the North Rim, annual precipitation is approximately 250 mm (10 inches) greater there than on the South Rim. This project may help to quantify the level of karst development, which has been determined to be a critical part of future work at the Grand Canyon (Rihs 2000; Huntoon 1974).

### **Study Area Location**

The study area is located on the southern portion of the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona (Figure 1). The Kaibab Plateau is one of five plateaus located on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. The Canyon itself is located on the southwestern part of the Colorado Plateau physiographic province, a large Laramide-Tertiary uplift that comprises a 1.5 km thick section of predominantly flat-lying sedimentary rocks. The Kaibab Plateau (along with the others on the North Rim) is bounded by north-trending Laramide monoclines and superimposed late Tertiary normal faults (Huntoon 1990).

This project focuses on the Redwall, Temple Butte, and Muav Formations in the middle of the Grand Canyon stratigraphic section. A thorough understanding of the geologic units above these three limestone formations is also critical for understanding groundwater recharge.

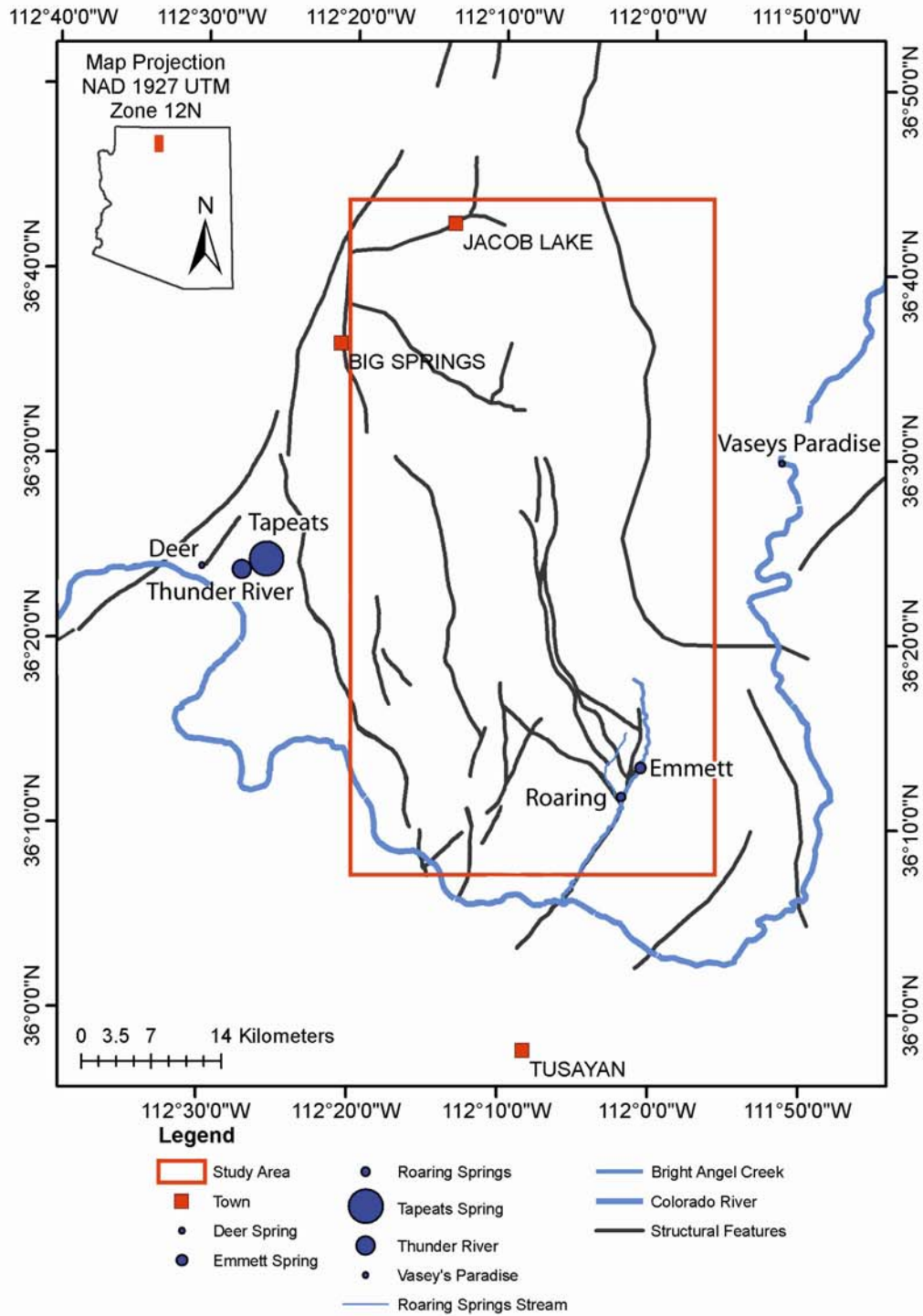


Figure 1. Location of the study area on the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. Springs discharging from the R-aquifer on the North Rim of Grand Canyon are sized according to relative discharge. Base map modified from Billingsley and Hampton (2000).



## **Previous Investigations**

Working in Grand Canyon is a challenging task but one that has appealed to many scientists since the mid-1800's. The result is that much hydrogeologic data exist for the Grand Canyon; but these data are sporadic, often incompatible with other data sets, and difficult to find. This section provides an overview of previous Grand Canyon research which applies to the groundwater flow system through the R-aquifer. This is by no means a complete list of Grand Canyon geologic resources, which are too numerous to mention here. Rather, these sources have provided specific information during this study.

The Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Inc. (Stevens 2001) summarized the extent and quality of existing data regarding seeps, springs, and ponds on the Arizona Strip. This report is concerned with the distribution and quality of spring ecosystems; it briefly presents hydrogeologic research along the Arizona Strip, summarizes land use, presents biological resource data, and presents case studies that include Vaseys Paradise. There is a notable absence of data regarding conceptual groundwater models for springs discharging below the Supai Group on the north side of Grand Canyon.

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) (Johnson and Sanderson 1968) published a compilation of all known spring and tributary stream discharge and chemistry data. This report briefly describes all springs visited during a ten-day boat trip from Lees Ferry to Pierce Ferry in 1960 and compiles all known additional discharge data for springs in Grand Canyon collected since 1923. In order to maximize the value of the sparse data set, discharge relationships were developed between Bright Angel Creek and Roaring Springs, between Thunder River flow and Tapeats Creek discharge, and between Bright Angel and Tapeats Creeks.

The USGS report undoubtedly shaped subsequent spring research by Huntoon (1970). His primary interest was karst development in the R-aquifer, although he also produced geologic cross-sections, measured spring and stream discharge, and created a two-dimensional, steady-state finite difference model of the southern Kaibab Plateau. He provided a few more discharge data points for North Rim springs, but his work is most notable for improving the conceptual model of groundwater flow through a better understanding of the Kaibab Plateau's structural geology. His investigation of fractures sets in the R-aquifer led him to conclude that the karst springs connected to these structural features drain approximately 60% of the plateau. He continued to study the structural development of eastern Grand Canyon as well as karst development in the Redwall Limestone, paying particular attention to the stages of karst development evident in Redwall cave systems of varying ages (Huntoon 1970; 1974; 2000).

In the early 1970's the Grand Canyon's current public water supply system was completed, with a pump house at Roaring Springs supplying water to North Rim park facilities and a trans-canyon pipeline funneling spring water to Phantom Ranch and the pump house at Indian Gardens. From approximately April to October of each year, park service staff record the daily volume of water diverted and pumped from the spring, the turbidity, and pH. The spring is sampled every three years for major ion chemistry and other parameters required for drinking water supplies (Aiken 2003). Very little of these data were available for this project. Most of the paper files are located at the Roaring Springs pump house and there was limited time to assist with data entry on field trips to collect spring discharge and water samples.

Foust and Hoppe (1985) analyzed a ten-year span of spring and tributary stream chemistry in Grand Canyon with the purpose of identifying long-term seasonal trends and baseline chemical concentrations. Many samples were taken at sites both near the springs and near the Colorado River to understand how water chemistry changed due to exposure to different geologic formations. North Rim sources in this study included: Bright Angel Creek, Clear Creek, Deer Creek, Manzanita Creek, Phantom Creek, Ribbon Creek, Roaring Springs, Tapeats Creek, Thunder River, Transept Creek, and Wall Creek. Seven water samples were collected at Roaring Springs between 1975 and 1981; most were collected between June of 1980 and February of 1981.

Further chemical analysis of Grand Canyon spring water was published by Zukosky (1995). Her work focused on springs, groundwater, and surface water on the South Rim of the Grand Canyon. She analyzed field measurements, major anions, selected trace-element concentrations, and ratios of the stable isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen. Her results quantified chemical similarities between springs discharging from similar lithologic units and/or geographic localities. She also concluded that local groundwater has similar chemistry to the springs, particularly those issuing from the Redwall-Muav limestone. Roaring Springs was the only North Rim source that she analyzed for stable isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen, and she found that this water source is significantly more isotopically depleted than South Rim water sources, implying a different origin.

Crossey (2002) published a report that examined spring chemistry above and below the Great Unconformity in Grand Canyon to better understand groundwater circulation and travertine formation throughout the entire stratigraphic section.

Grand Canyon National Park is currently working with the USGS on a newly created spring sampling protocol on the South Rim (Rihs 2000; Hart et al 2002b). Springs are sampled for stable isotopes of carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, and strontium. Samples are also analyzed for tritium. Initial results substantiate South Rim groundwater flow modeling work indicating long flow paths. Sporadic discharge data are available for North Rim springs. The USGS published a compilation of spring data in 1968, and they are currently updating this (Rihs 2002).

Detailed descriptions of the geologic units in Grand Canyon are available in many volumes and maps (McKee and Gutschick 1969; Huntoon 1970; Beus and Morales 1990; Billingsley and Hampton 2000; Billingsley and Hampton 2001; Billingsley and Wellmeyer 2001a, b; Wellmeyer 2001). Tindall's (2000a, b) studies of the structural deformation of the East Kaibab Monocline provided valuable insight regarding the orientation and character of faulting and fracturing on the Kaibab Plateau, relating to groundwater flow pathways. Cepeda (1994) used Landsat images and fieldwork to map fracture orientations and distribution on the Kaibab Plateau. This map was then used to contour fracture density and fracture intersection density, which may have implications for the source area and volume of groundwater recharge. Gettings and Bultman (2005) explored the potential to use geophysical data and GIS technology to predict the occurrence of deep penetrative fractures in Grand Canyon National Park; their results can be used to predict groundwater flow pathways.

In 1996, Montgomery and Associates (Victor and Montgomery 2000) created a three-dimensional, transient groundwater model as part of the Tusayan, Arizona environmental impact assessment. In a parallel study, Wilson (2000) built a steady-state

three-dimensional groundwater model for the Coconino Plateau using Stratamodel. This included the delineation for spring-sheds on the South Rim of the Canyon. Similarly, Kessler (2002) modeled the Coconino Plateau using a finer resolution model coupled with ArcView software (ArcGIS 3D Analyst) and MODFLOW to create a model that was easily accessible to the public. These publications all tested the ability of MODFLOW to realistically predict groundwater flow regimes in the R-aquifer on the Colorado Plateau and yielded information regarding the relationship between structure, stratigraphy, and hydrogeology.

As groundwater flow models are being used more often as planning tools, a debate is ongoing regarding their validity. This is of particular concern in karst aquifers, where porous media models such as MODFLOW may not be appropriate. Scanlon et al (2003) concluded that porous media models can generate reasonable results if the study area is large enough to justify averaging values of permeability. Regional scale groundwater flow models of karst aquifers are commonly used for water budget analyses (Diodato 1994; Knochenmus and Robinson 1996; Quinn and Tomasko 2002; Smith and Hunt 2004). These models may not adequately simulate contaminant flow pathways, however (Diodato 1994; Ginsberg and Palmer 2002).

## CHAPTER 2

### DIGITAL GEOLOGIC FRAMEWORK MODEL

#### **Purpose and Objectives**

Framework models are commonly used in every branch of geology to describe the three-dimensional nature of a particular area's geology more simply. A framework model can be constructed to represent lithologic data, geologic data, and/or hydrogeologic data. The digital geologic framework model (DGMF) constructed for this project serves as the foundation for a conceptual model of the hydrologic system associated with Roaring Springs on Grand Canyon's North Rim, highlights the areas of greatest uncertainty in aquifer geometry, and provides data sets for a conceptual groundwater flow model, a numerical groundwater flow model, and the GeoWall, a three-dimensional projection system used for public education (<http://geowall.geo.lsa.umich.edu/>).

#### **Model Construction Methodology**

The basal surface of each geologic unit in the Paleozoic stratigraphic section of the study area was interpolated from a randomly distributed set of geologic contact elevation points using an ordinary kriging method in ArcView GIS 3.2 (Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc. 1999).

#### Software

The software needed to build the digital DGMF must be capable of handling a wide variety of data sets and multiple geospatial projections. In addition, it must be

powerful enough to handle high-resolution, large-area elevation data. The most common GIS software currently in use world-wide is ESRI's ArcView/ArcInfo software (Environmental Systems Research Institute Inc. 1999). Its power as a GIS program, combined with its widespread use, make it a reasonable fit for this project. The specific software packages used for this process include: ArcView GIS 3.2 with 3D Analyst, Spatial Analyst and Spatial Tools 3.4, and Themes Intersection to Points extensions; ArcView GIS 3.2 Raster to Grid and Projection utilities; and ArcView GIS 3.2 Geoprocessing Wizard.

#### Data Sources

The most important component of a DGFM is the three dimensional distribution of geologic units and structures. The extent of geologic units and structures in two dimensions (x and y) can be determined primarily from maps of geologic outcrops. The behavior of these units and structures in the third dimension (z) requires elevation data, which can be obtained from topographic maps and/or digital elevation models (DEMs). X, y, and z datasets can be combined using ArcView to describe the three dimensional distribution of the study area geology. Oil exploration and water well logs record geologic data with x, y, and z information, but these records are sparse on the Kaibab Plateau (Pierce and Scurlock 1972). In areas where no specific data are available, the behavior of geologic stratigraphy and structures has been inferred by geologists and this information is provided in a variety of publications (Huntoon 1970; Billingsley and Hampton 2000; Billingsley and Hampton 2001; Billingsley and Wellmeyer 2001a, b; Wellmeyer 2001; Bills and Flynn 2002).

Specific data sets used in the process include the digital Geologic Map of the Eastern Part of the Grand Canyon National Park, Arizona (Billingsley and Hampton 2000), The Hydro-mechanics of the Ground Water System in the Southern Portion of the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona (Huntoon 1970), The Geologic Map and Digital Database of the Cane Quadrangle, Coconino County, Northern Arizona (Wellmeyer 2001), the Arizona Well Information, The Arizona Bureau of Mines Bulletin 185 (Pierce and Scurlock 1972), and the following 7.5 degree USGS 10 m resolution DEMs: Big Springs, AZ; Bright Angel Point, AZ; Buffalo Tank, AZ; Buffalo Ranch, AZ; Cane, AZ; De Motte Park, AZ; Dog Point, AZ; Emmett Hill, AZ; Havasupai Point, AZ; House Rock, AZ; Jacob Lake, AZ; Kanabownits Spring, AZ; King Arthur Castle, AZ; Little Park Lake, AZ; Point Imperial, AZ; Shiva Temple, AZ; Telephone Hill, AZ; Timp Point, AZ; Wallhalla Plateau, AZ; and Warm Springs Canyon, AZ (<http://www.gisdatadepot.com>).

### Process

Digital surfaces were interpolated for each basal contact from data-points created with ArcView's Themes Intersection to Points extension. In addition, data points were manually added throughout the study area where geologic outcrops were not present. Values for these manual points were determined using previous mapping (Huntoon 1970; Billingsley and Hampton 2000; Wellmeyer 2001).

10 m topographic contours were created for the study area using the USGS DEMs. They were downloaded in Spatial Data Transfer Standard (SDTS) format, and converted from the SDTS format to ArcView Grids using the SDTS Raster to Grid utility in ArcView. The grid files were merged into a single surface using the Spatial Tools



ArcView extension developed in 1997 by the USGS in Anchorage, Alaska ([http://www.absc.usgs.gov/glba/gistools/spatialtools\\_doc.htm](http://www.absc.usgs.gov/glba/gistools/spatialtools_doc.htm)). 3D Analyst was used to convert the new DEM into contour lines. A 10m contour interval was chosen because it is the minimum displacement along faults in Roaring Springs Canyon.

Basal contacts were isolated for each geologic formation in a multi-step process. The digital geologic maps of Grand Canyon and the Cane Quadrangle were saved as new temporary shapefiles (to preserve the originals). The temporary shapefiles were edited through their attribute tables to delete geologic formations stratigraphically below the geologic unit of concern. A new field, added to attribute the table, defined all data stratigraphically above the unit of concern as a single unit. ArcView's Geoprocessing Wizard was then used to dissolve the shapefiles' features based on the new attribute field. The resulting polygons represent the geographic extent of each geologic unit's basal contact.

The ArcView Themes Intersection to Points extension created a data point at each intersection of the contour elevation polyline shapefile and the geologic unit polygon shapefile. This new point shapefile was manually edited to remove all elevation points in locations that did not correspond to the formation's lower surface such as along the study area boundaries, the edges of landslides, or where the unit was buried by alluvium.

The new contact elevation point shapefile had an extremely random point distribution, with closely spaced points along the rim of Grand Canyon and no points in the northern two-thirds of the study area. For improved surface interpolation, points were manually added along Roaring Springs graben and throughout the northern two-thirds of the study area. One oil exploration well is located near the northern boundary of the study

area, providing known contact elevations at that location (Scurlock 1973). Data points along Roaring Springs graben were assigned values based on calculations of strike and dip. Data points throughout the northern study area were assigned values based on previous geologic maps (Figure 2).

The lower contact surface of each geologic unit was interpolated using ArcView's Spatial Tools 3.4 extension. Ordinary kriging using a linear (with sill) semivariogram model was chosen as the interpolation method for these geologic datasets. The semivariogram model characterizes the spatial continuity of basal contact elevation for pairs of locations as a function of the distance between the locations (lag). The model fit is affected by the choice of lag interval. The data point spacing in the northern study area determines a lag interval of 7,000 m. The irregularity of each geologic surface results in a different 'best fit' model for each layer. Because 75% of the geologic surfaces were best fit with the linear (with sill) model (Figure 3), this is the model used to interpolate all the surfaces. The interpolated surfaces have a uniform grid cell size of 20 meters<sup>2</sup>. A variable search radius of 30,000 m was defined and 12 data points were chosen for grid interpolation. An analysis of the model fit was accomplished through the use of the variance grid, which highlights how accurate the estimated values are and provides evidence of problems of the fit (Figure 4).

The model fit was also assessed by creating geologic cross-sections using the interpolated surfaces (Figure 5). Geologic unit profiles were created using the Spatial Tools 3.4 extension. Each geologic unit cross section profile was exported as a \*.txt file, and then opened and graphed in Microsoft Excel. These cross-sections illustrate the DGFM's ability to represent structural topography on the Kaibab Plateau.

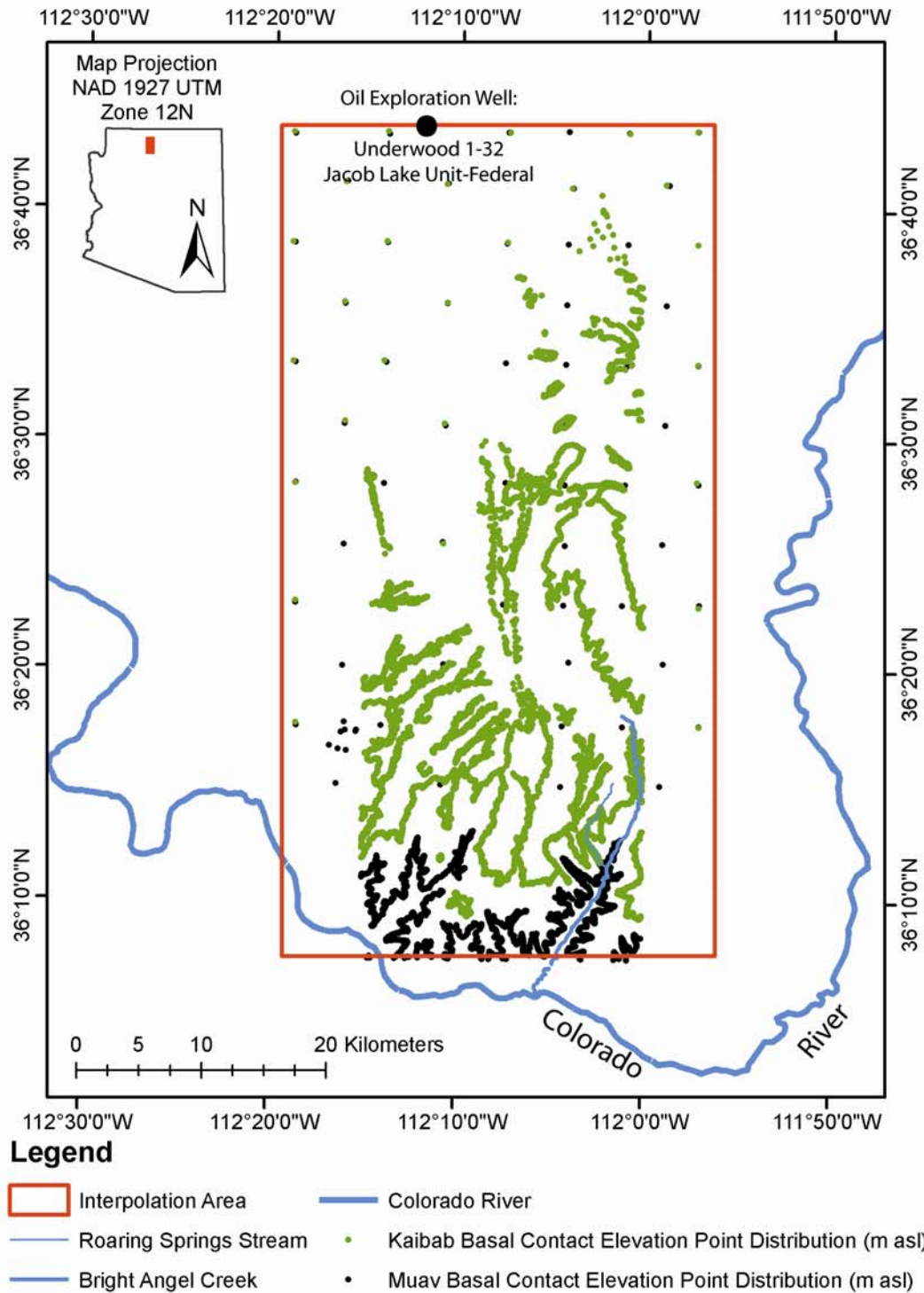


Figure 2. Basal geologic contact elevation data point distribution for the Kaibab and Muav formations. This figure illustrates the range in geologic contact elevation data set variability. Base map modified from Billingsley and Hampton (2000).

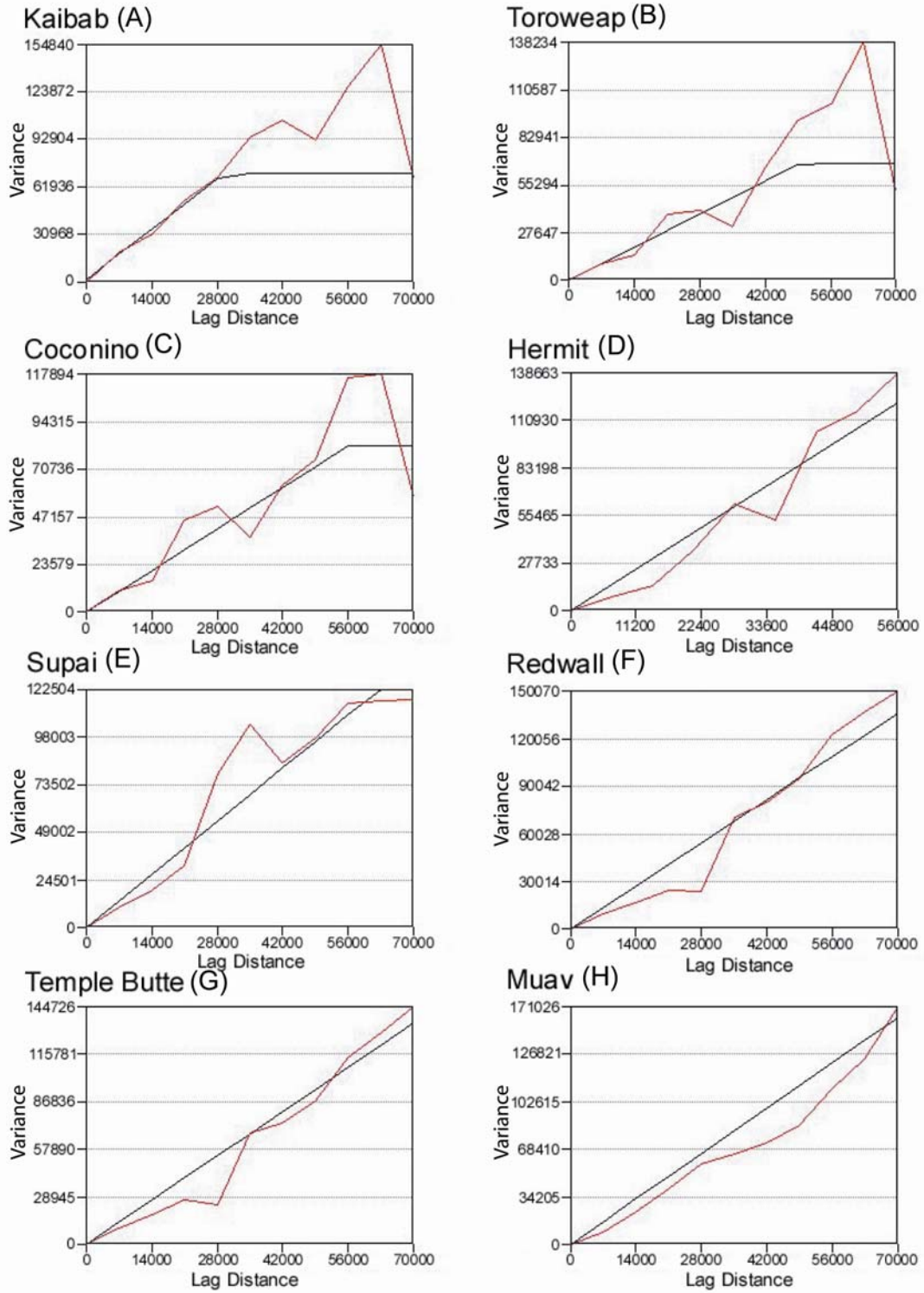


Figure 3. Semivariogram models used in the kriging interpolation method for the base of Kaibab (A), Toroweap (B), Coconino (C), Hermit (D), Supai (E), Redwall (F), Temple Butte (G), and Muav (H) formations on the Kaibab Plateau.

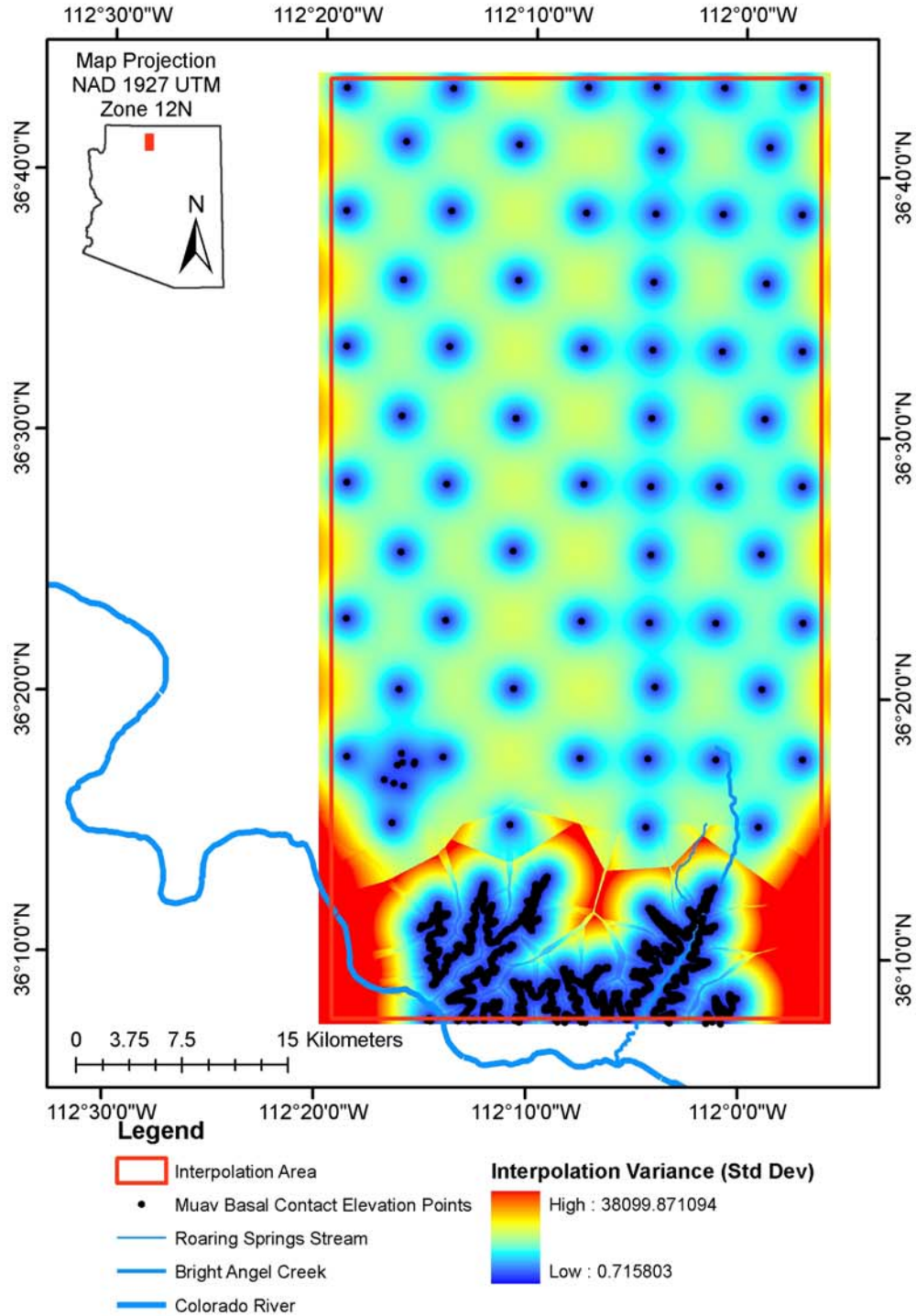


Figure 4. Variance grid generated by ArcView 3.2 GIS after interpolating the basal surface of the Muav Limestone. This example illustrates the graphical method used to assess model error for each interpolated geologic surface.



Finally, the geologic unit surfaces were viewed using a GeoWall. The GeoWall is simply a combination of visualization software and projection hardware that allows educators to present complex geologic spatial problems in three dimensions. A monitor signal splitter sends the images through two DLP projectors with polarizing filters for viewing through polarized glasses. The software is based on the Agave technology developed at the Electronic Visualization Lab in Chicago, Illinois. This display system highlighted areas where the DGFM needed refinement. Areas where landslides obscured contact elevation were readily visible and easy to correct. The GeoWall also illustrated the inadequacy of ArcView to accurately model thinning of the Supai Group and Redwall Formation in the East Kaibab anticline axis without additional data points.

## **Discussion and Conclusions**

Geologic surfaces created in this process were displayed in traditional map views and 3D projection views (Figure 6). The ArcView 3.2 grids are also available on the DVD for examination (Appendix A).

Throughout the modeling process, it was important to consider sources of error imbedded in the geologic surfaces created by this interpolation process. Inaccuracies are due in part to six different factors.

There is a lack of real data throughout the study area. There are few, if any, geologic outcrops in most of the study area and only one deep oil exploration well has been drilled in the study area. In addition, much of the Kaibab Plateau, including the Kaibab Monocline, has only been mapped at a scale of 1:100,000. The DGFM would

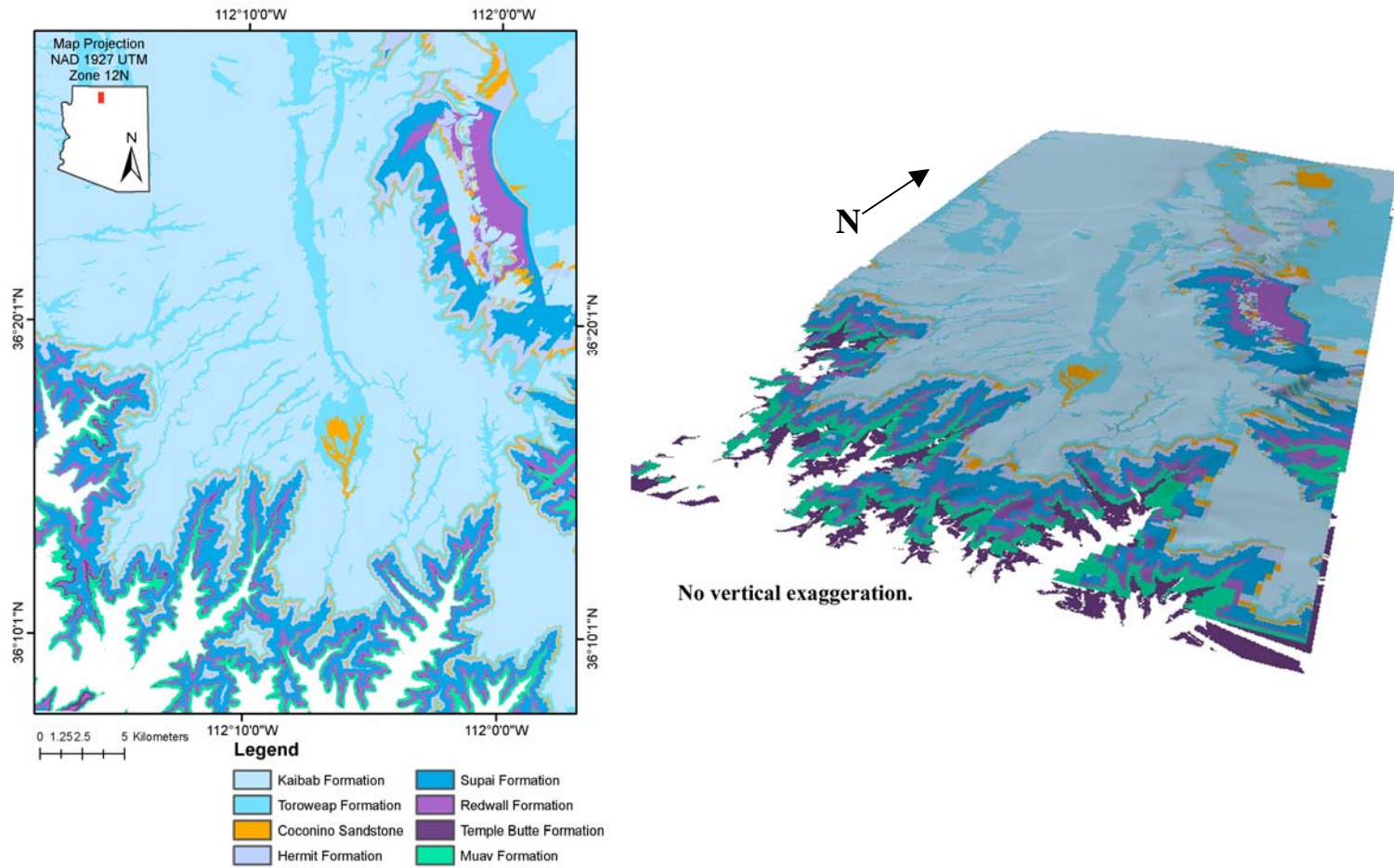


Figure 6. Paleozoic geologic surfaces of the southern Kaibab Plateau, Arizona, interpolated using an ordinary kriging method.



benefit from 1:24,000 scale mapping along the entire length of the monocline, where there are some inaccuracies in the interpolated thicknesses of some geologic units.

Multiple data sources affect data accuracy, in part due to differing map scales. The effect of map scale on spatial data accuracy is particularly apparent when examining geologic contact locations. In many places, contacts do not accurately follow mapped topographic contours. Instead, contacts cross many contour lines, suggesting a false sense of strike and dip in some locations. The interpolation process, which averages neighboring data points, addresses much of this problem. It is an important concept to keep in mind, however. The resulting geologic surfaces should not be used for quantitative analysis at a scale less than 1:100,000.

The random distribution of data points affected the interpolation process. Along the rim of Grand Canyon, contact elevation data points are aligned in rows. This may lead to a directional bias in the interpolation. Kriging was the interpolation method chosen because it historically handles irregular data better than the inverse-distance-weighted (IDW) or the spline method (Wingle 1992; Zimmerman et al 1999; Siska and I-Kuai 2001). Future improved interpolation methods may improve this model.

ArcView is unable to interpolate a surface that folds over itself. Only one elevation value is allowed for each point in x-y space; the highest surface of overturned geologic units is identified. The model fit along the East Kaibab Monocline, therefore, is not accurate. The modeled eastern flank of the axis does not dip steeply enough, and it does not reflect the thinning of geologic units such as the Supai Formation and Redwall Limestone (Huntoon 1970; Tindall 2000a, b). There is no way to correct this problem

using ArcView software, because the software lacks the ability to create overturned beds like those found in the monocline axis.

The effect of geologic processes such as landslides and high-angle gravity faults complicates the accurate identification of geologic contact elevations. The modeled surfaces “stair-step” from the north down to the Canyon’s rim. Large blocks appear to be sliding off the side of the Kaibab Plateau and into Grand Canyon. While this appearance is partially an artifact of the interpolation process, it is also due to the fact that landslides and faulting along the Canyon walls *have* caused blocks to rotate and have buried contacts in some places (Hereford and Huntoon 1990). In addition, extensional tectonics created small grabens and other structures that have not been mapped but that affect geologic contact elevations. The ability of the interpolation process to identify these gravity faults was an unexpected and interesting outcome.

After considering the DGFM limitations, the model is deemed appropriate for use in the larger groundwater flow modeling effort at Roaring Springs. The primary purposes of the DGFM are to 1) provide general aquifer geometry; small scale variability will not be preserved in subsequent numerical groundwater flow modeling, and 2) highlight probable groundwater flow boundaries such as structural highs and lows that will control the direction of groundwater flow to Roaring Springs. The DGFM succeeds at these two primary goals. DGFM datasets are also compatible with a GeoWall system for educational presentations to highlight the structural controls on the hydrogeologic system of the Kaibab Plateau (Ross 2003; Fry and Springer 2005a, b).

## CHAPTER 3

### CONCEPTUAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL

#### **Purpose and Objectives**

A conceptual model was constructed to organize the field data for the Roaring Springs groundwater flow system. The objectives were to define the groundwater flow model boundaries, define the hydrostratigraphic units, create a conceptual water budget, and define the groundwater flow system.

#### **Data Collection Methodology**

Data to support a water budget for Roaring Springs are sparse (Johnson and Sanderson 1968; Huntoon 1970; Rihs 2002). Precipitation data at Bright Angel Ranger Station, approximately two kilometers from Roaring Springs, are adequate. However, only seven discharge measurements exist for Roaring Springs between 1952 and 1994 (Johnson and Sanderson 1968; Huntoon 1970; Bills and Flynn 2002); many of these measurements were actually made some distance downstream from the springs. It was a goal of this study to collect additional field data that would highlight the seasonal variability of flow through the R-aquifer. Spring discharge and isotope data were collected from March through October of 2003 (Appendix B). This included the period of spring recharge due to snowmelt and the monsoon season.

Aquifer hydraulic head and discharge were measured at three locations in Roaring Springs canyon: upstream of Roaring Springs where small but perennial flow occurs, immediately downstream of the Roaring Springs complex, and in Roaring Springs cave

(Figure 7). Most data were collected at Roaring Springs stream below the confluence of the entire spring complex, because this location captured flow from all spring outlets and did not impact the protected ecosystem or public water supply.

On March 8 2003, a pressure transducer (In-Situ, Inc., Laramie, WY) (Troll Model SP4000, serial number 10747) was installed in the stream channel immediately below Roaring Springs (Figure 8). This pressure transducer recorded pressure (precision  $\pm 0.03\%$  of full scale at  $15^{\circ}\text{C}$ ,  $\pm 0.05\%$  at  $0^{\circ}\text{C}$  to  $30^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and temperature (precision  $\pm 0.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The operating temperature is  $0\text{-}30^{\circ}\text{C}$ . The pressure transducer had a data point capacity of 100,000 (208 kb). It was designed to operate at a pressure range of up to 15 psi ( $\sim 35$  ft, 11 m of water, 103 kPa). From March 8 to April 12, 2003 the pressure transducer recorded water depth at 1-minute intervals. This interval was selected to capture the range of water-level change due to dynamic flow in the stream. An examination of the 1-minute interval pressure transducer data indicates that dynamic flow causes water level to rapidly fluctuate up to 0.0125 m. A gap in data collection occurred due to equipment failure between April 12 and May 18, 2003. From May 18 to June 14, 2003, the pressure transducer recorded water levels at 5-minute intervals. From June 15 to August 15, 2003, the pressure transducer recorded water levels at 15-minute intervals. The pressure transducer was removed from the stream channel by a flash flood on August 15, 2003.

On July 13, 2003, a pressure transducer (Global Water Instrumentation, Inc., Golden River, California) was installed in Roaring Springs cave, immediately upstream of the cave outlet. This pressure transducer recorded water level changes in Roaring

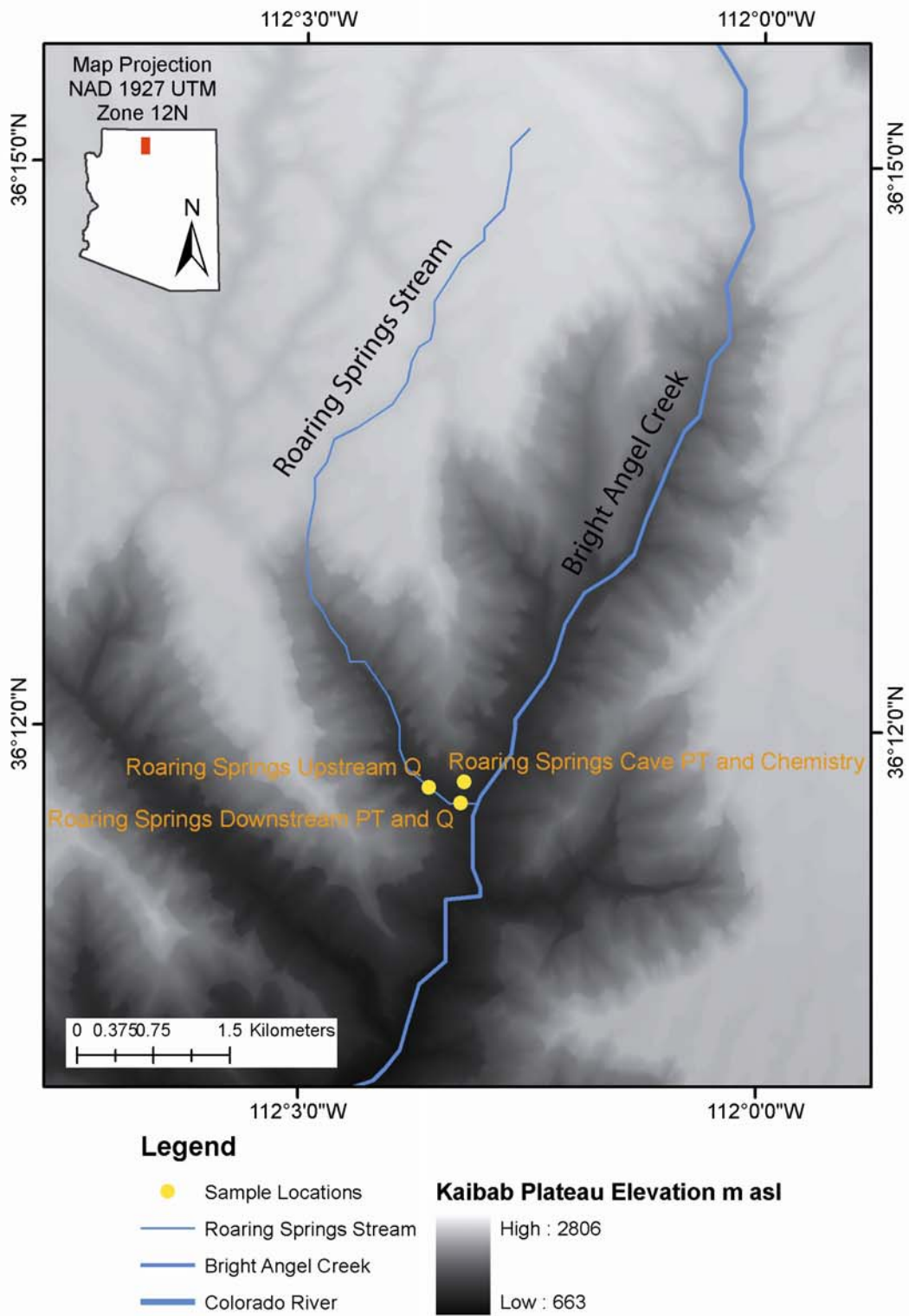
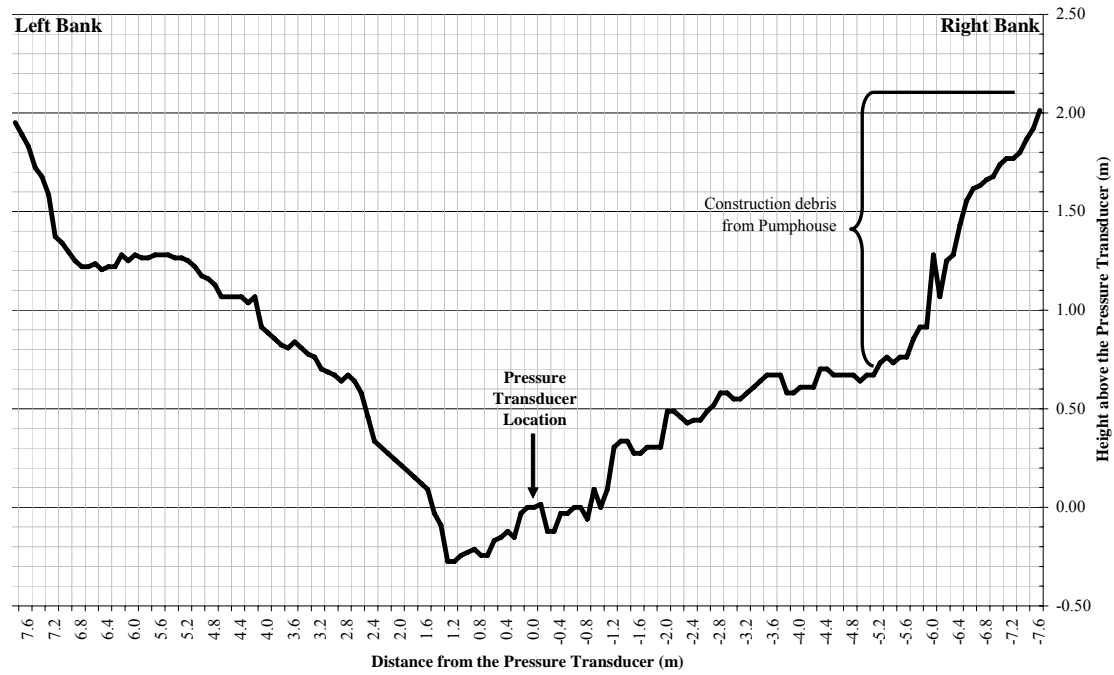


Figure 7. Location of sites sampled in Roaring Springs Canyon in 2003.

A.



B.

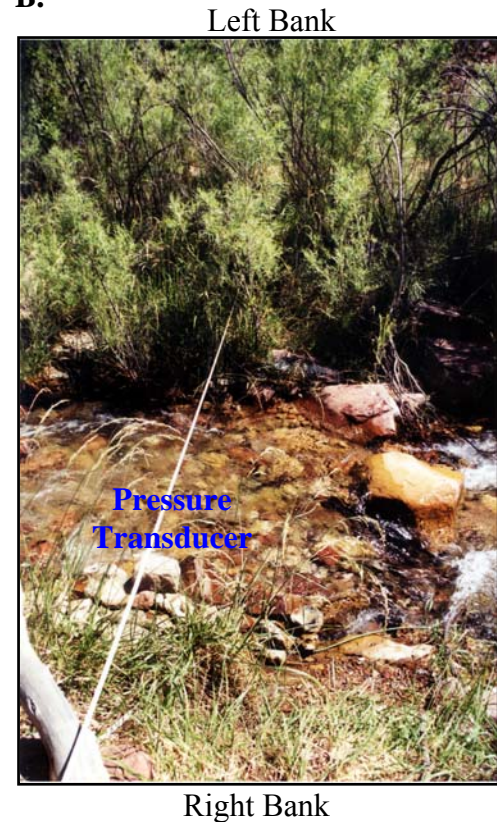


Figure 8. Stream channel cross section of Roaring Springs stream on April 12, 2003 (A) at the location where a pressure transducer was installed in the stream adjacent to the Roaring Springs pump house (B).

Springs cave at 15-minute intervals from July 13 to December 29, 2003.

Discharge was measured upstream of the spring complex four times during the summer of 2003. A Scientific Instruments, Inc. Model 1205 Price Type "Mini" Current Meter (Milwaukee, Wisconsin) was used at this location. It is capable of measuring flows between 0.075 and 0.914 m/s (0.25 to 3.0 ft/s) (Appendix B).

On a monthly basis between March and October, 2003, stream discharge was measured immediately downstream of the point where Roaring Springs flows into Roaring Springs stream (at the location of the pressure transducer) with a Scientific Instruments, Inc. Model 1210 Price Type "AA" Current Meter (serial number 500794). This instrument measures discharge velocities between 0.08 and 2.4 m/second (0.25 to 8.0 ft/s). Velocity was measured at 60% of total depth when measured from the surface, at 0.3048 m (1.0 ft) intervals across the stream. Discharge was calculated using the method described in Rantz (1983) (Appendix B).

Water samples were collected at the spring orifice on a monthly basis from March 2003 through October 2003 (Appendix C). During each site visit, three, 250 ml, heavy-duty plastic sample bottles were filled without any head-space. The bottles were wrapped in camping gear to insulate them during the hike out of the canyon. In all cases, the samples were refrigerated one to two days after collection. Samples were analyzed for  $\delta^{18}\text{O}/\delta^2\text{H}$  at the Colorado Plateau Stable Isotope Laboratory, Flagstaff, Arizona. Samples were analyzed for tritium at the Laboratory of Isotope Geochemistry, Tucson, Arizona. The tritium detection limit, based on a 1500 minute count and 9x enrichment, was 0.6 tritium units (TU).

The pH and specific conductance of the spring water were measured during monthly site visits (Appendix C). The pH-temperature probe used was an Orion Model 250A (Beverly, Massachusetts) (serial number 004927). The specific conductance probe was an Orion Model 122 (serial number 24020099). The pH probe was calibrated with pH 7 and 10 buffers on the day the spring was sampled.

### **Conceptual Model Boundaries**

The study area is on the southern Kaibab Plateau which is defined by the geometry of the East Kaibab Monocline (Figure 9). The aerial extent of the groundwater flow system supplying water to Roaring Springs is truncated on the south by Grand Canyon. The axis of the East Kaibab monocline, north and east of Roaring Springs, is a likely groundwater divide. The western boundary of the groundwater flow system is uncertain but likely does not extend beyond the Muav fault. The northern boundary of the groundwater flow system is also uncertain; a groundwater divide may be present at the crest of the Kaibab Plateau in the Saddle Mountain Wilderness, from which stratigraphy dips gently to the north and south. Depending on the elevation of the potentiometric surface of the aquifer, the groundwater flow system may continue north past the Arizona-Utah border.

### **Hydrostratigraphic Units**

The hydraulic properties of the aquifers in the study area are controlled by the bedrock lithology, subsequent structural deformation of the bedrock, and ongoing chemical processes such as carbonate dissolution along fractures.



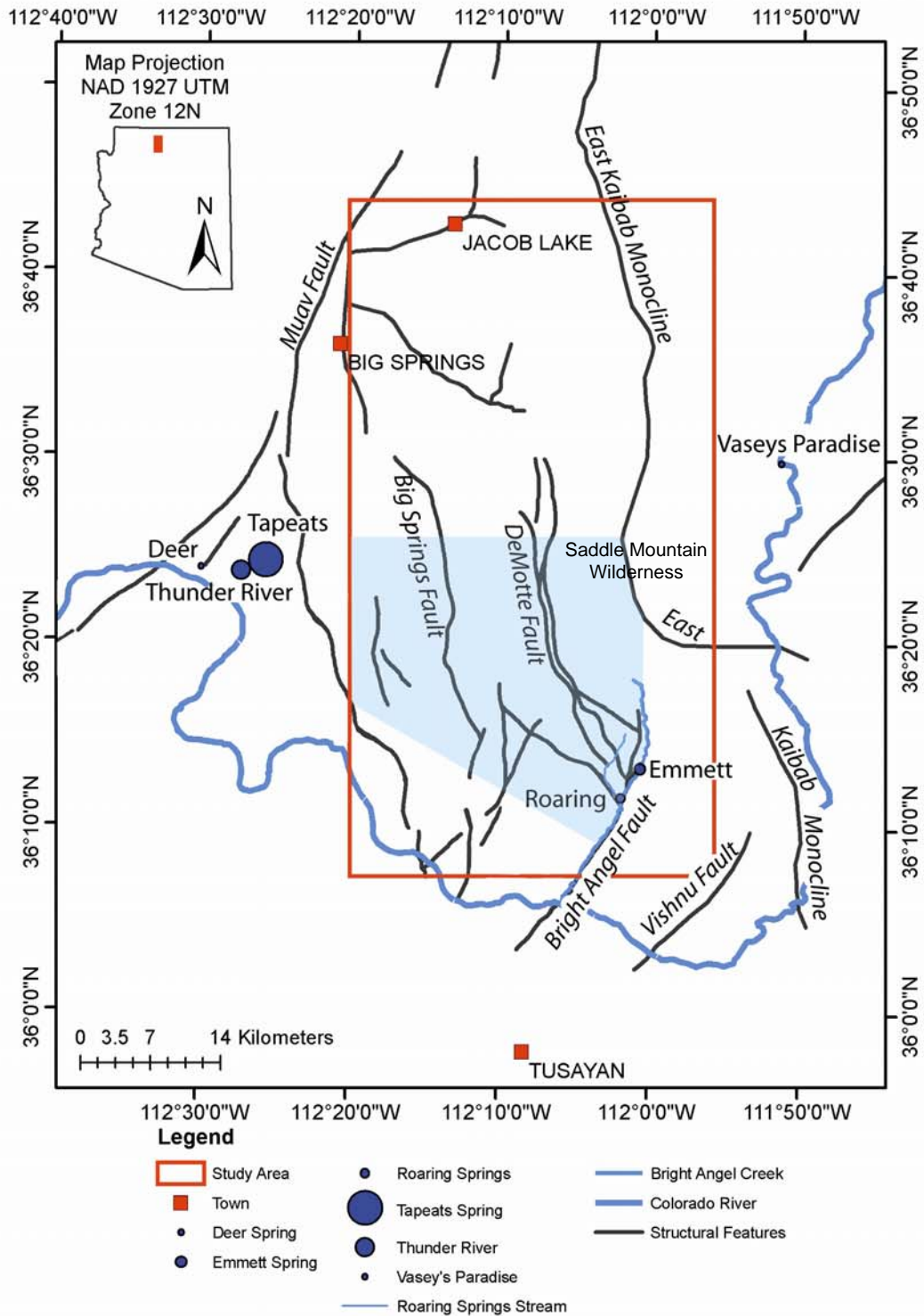


Figure 9. Conceptual model boundaries of the Roaring Springs groundwater flow system on the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. Assumed Roaring Spring recharge area is highlighted in blue. Base map from Billingsley and Hampton (2000).

The R-aquifer, which is the focus of the study, discharges through large karst springs on the North Rim of Grand Canyon. It is composed of three geologic units: the Muav Formation, the Temple Butte Formation, and the Redwall Formation (Figure 10). Due to their similar hydrogeologic properties, they are grouped as one hydrostratigraphic unit in the conceptual model. The Bright Angel Shale forms a barrier to flow at the base of the aquifer, although this boundary is variable due to a complex relationship with the Muav Formation. Overall, the thickness of the aquifer is ~400 m, although it gradually thickens to the west (Huntoon 1970; Middleton and Elliot 1990). A conceptual understanding of flow through the R-aquifer also relies on the hydrogeologic properties of the rock units above and below it. The Paleozoic stratigraphy and structural evolution of Grand Canyon has been studied in great detail by many researchers over many decades. The following discussion attempts to place the study area in its proper geologic context and to highlight stratigraphic and structural details that have a specific bearing on groundwater movement through the section.

### Stratigraphy

The stratigraphy of the Kaibab Plateau is well exposed in Grand Canyon. Highly metamorphosed Proterozoic basement and the Grand Canyon Supergroup are overlain by relatively unaltered sedimentary sequences of sandstone, limestone, and shale. The limestone formations show evidence of dissolution enhancement beginning soon after their formation and continuing in cycles until the present day. Quaternary deposits of alluvium and colluvium discontinuously cover the Plateau (Huntoon 2000).

Section	Stratigraphic Name	Thickness (m)	Lithology	Hydrostratigraphy
	P Kaibab Formation	Variable due to erosion	The Harrisburg Member is gypsum dolostone, sandstone, redbeds, chert, and minor limestone. The Fossil Mountain Member is a cherty, fossiliferous limestone and siliciclastic dolomite.	<b>C-AQUIFER</b> Coconino Sandstone is primary water-bearing unit. Upper carbonates have well-developed secondary porosity. From Hart (2002): Transmissivity: 1.34 – 4,690 ft/d Hydraulic Conductivity 0.14 – 81.5 g/d/ft <sup>2</sup> Notes: Kaibab chert beds are impermeable; sandy Kaibab bed K = 2.7 x 10 <sup>-3</sup> g/d/ft <sup>2</sup> (Huntoon 1970). Torowep massive gypsum K = 0.15 g/d/ft <sup>2</sup> (Huntoon 1970).
	P Torowep Formation	80-160 m	Fine- to medium-grained non-cross-bedded sandstone inter-bedded with thin beds of evaporites, carbonates, and fine-grained, cross-bedded sandstone.	
	P Coconino Sandstone	90-120 m	Very fine to fine-grained, rounded cross-bedded eolian quartz sandstone with minor amounts of potassium feldspar.	
	P Hermit Formation	100-110 m	Reddish brown siltstone, sandy mudstone, and very fine-grained silty sandstone.	<b>LEAKY AQUITARD</b> Un-jointed rock samples of both Hermit Formation and massive fine-grained sandstone from the Supai Formation are impermeable; groundwater movement occurs along vertical joints and bedding partings (Huntoon 1970).
	P Esplanade Sandstone	100-110 m	Cross-bedded fine-grained sandstone with thin beds of mudstone and limestone	
	P Wescogame, Manakacha, and Watahomigi Formations	160-170 m	The Wescogame Formation is primarily sandstone. The Manakacha is mixed quartz sandstone and red mudstone. The Watahomigi Formation consists of red mudstone, siltstone, gray limestone and dolomite.	
	M Redwall Limestone	170-230 m	Overall a thick-bedded, cliff-forming, fine-grained limestone. Horseshoe Mesa Member: thin-bedded, fine-grained light gray limestone. Mooney Falls Member: chiefly pure limestone, with local dolomitization. Thunder Springs Member: alternating thin beds of limestone or dolomite and weathered chert. Whitmore Wash Member: fine-grained limestone.	<b>R-AQUIFER</b> Supports base flow to springs >250,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d (100 cfs). Muav is the primary aquifer on the Kaibab Plateau. Un-jointed samples of the Redwall, Temple Butte and Muav Fm. are impermeable; groundwater moves through bedding plane partings, vertical joints or the minor porosity of interbedded clastic constituents. Fault zones composed of breccia and fault gouge readily transmit water (Huntoon 1970).
	D Temple Butte Formation	20-70 m	Predominantly dolomite (often sandy) occurring as lenses.	
	C Muav Limestone	80-100 m	Horizontally laminated or structureless carbonate, dolomitic and calcareous mudstone, and minor amounts of fine-grained sandstone or siltstone.	
C Bright Angel Shale	70-80 m	Greenish shale and mudstone, containing thin beds of coarse-grained sandstone and conglomerate.	<b>AQUIFER</b> Minor groundwater flow due to quartz cementation	
C Tapeats Sandstone	>100 m	Coarse-grained sandstone and basal conglomerate with significant quartz cementation.		

Figure 10. Roaring Springs Canyon hydrostratigraphy, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona.

### *Bright Angel Shale*

In Roaring Springs Canyon, the Bright Angel Shale is approximately 100 m thick, but this thickness varies considerably due to intertonguing with the overlying Muav Formation. Shale, composed mostly of illitic clay and smaller amounts of chlorite and kaolinite, is the primary lithology. Beds of fine-grained sandstone and siltstone are also present (Middleton and Elliot 1990). Bed thickness ranges from a few centimeters to approximately 5 m on the eastern Kaibab Plateau (Huntoon 1970). The dramatic red, purple, and green colors in this unit are due to the presence of iron oxide cement, hematitic ooids and glauconite. The high clay content of the Bright Angel Shale allows it to hydrologically seal faults when the shale is pulverized to an impermeable gouge; open (hydrologically active) fractures are uncommon (Huntoon 1970). In Grand Canyon, most springs in the lower Paleozoic section discharge above the Bright Angel Shale. The depositional environment of the Bright Angel Shale is interpreted to be a subtidal environment affected by long-term movements of the strandline (Middleton and Elliot 1990). This environmental variation is recorded in the irregular surface topography, lithology and sedimentary structures of the Bright Angel Shale. The direction and rate of groundwater flow through this unit is a function of all of these components, but the surface topography, in particular, is an important control on groundwater flow direction through the overlying R-aquifer. Surface topography has been dramatically affected by the structural development of the Kaibab Plateau, as illustrated by the DGFM.

### *Muav Formation*

The contact between the Bright Angel Shale and Muav Formation is gradational and complex. In Roaring Springs Canyon, the Muav Formation is approximately 100 m thick; the formation thickens to the north and west on the Kaibab Plateau. Most of the formation is a laminated carbonate, but it does contain thin beds of mottled, dolomitic and calcareous mudstone and packstone. Intraformational and flat-pebble conglomerates also occur as scattered lenses and as widespread thin beds (Middleton and Elliot 1990). The porosity of the Muav Formation is increased by layers of conglomerate and fine-grained sandstone and by fractures and cave development related to structural deformation of the Kaibab Plateau. Fracture spacing in the Muav Formation is approximately 0.6 – 2.4 m in unfaulted regions. Unfractured rock samples are impermeable, but large springs discharge from the Muav Formation along dissolution enhanced fractures associated with faults (Huntoon 1970). The Muav Formation, like the Bright Angel Shale, was deposited in a subtidal and peritidal marine environment (Middleton and Elliot 1990).

### *Temple Butte Formation*

The contact between the Muav Formation and the Temple Butte Formation is unconformable, and the Temple Butte is often present as lenses in deep channels eroded into the surface of the Muav Formation. In the eastern Grand Canyon and on the Kaibab Plateau, these lenses are usually less than 30 m thick, but may be 120 m wide. The formation gradually thickens from east to west across Grand Canyon. The primary lithology of the Temple Butte is dolostone or sandy dolostone with minor sandstone and

limestone beds. The Temple Butte Formation in eastern Grand Canyon is believed to be deposited in westward draining tidal channels, although the depositional system is still poorly understood (Beus 1990b). Minor groundwater flow through this unit occurs primarily through fault-related fracturing and subsequent dissolution (Huntoon 1970).

### *Redwall Formation*

The Redwall Formation is one of the most dramatic geologic units in Grand Canyon, forming vertical cliffs up to 250 m high. The unconformity at the base of the Redwall is irregular in western Grand Canyon where west-draining valleys were incised, but subdued in the eastern part of the canyon (McKee and Gutschick 1969). The thickness of the Redwall Formation increases from Roaring Springs Canyon gradually to the north and west.

The Redwall Formation is separated into four members: Whitmore Wash Member, Thunder Springs Member, Mooney Falls Member, and the Horseshoe Mesa Member. The Whitmore Wash Member in eastern Grand Canyon is a fine-grained limestone with 0.6 – 1 m thick beds. The Thunder Springs Member is characterized by thin beds (2.5 – 10 cm) of alternating chert and carbonate; in eastern Grand Canyon, dolomite is the dominant carbonate. The Mooney Falls Member is predominantly limestone, found in 0.6 – 6 m thick beds which form much of the dramatic Redwall cliff of Grand Canyon. The Horseshoe Mesa Member is characterized by relatively thin beds of limestone (Huntoon 1970; Beus 1990a).

The Redwall is marked by cavern development throughout, but especially in its upper part. High elevation caves, however, are not hydrologically active. Some of these

caverns contain pre-Supai brecciated material and red silt introduced from above (Huntoon 2000). Solution along subhorizontal fractures is common throughout the Redwall Formation, and this has been noted in detail on the Hualapai Indian Reservation in western Grand Canyon; the orientation of fracture sets showing the greatest dissolution enhancement are N50E and N50W (Roller 1987). This orientation correlates to sections of Roaring Springs Cave. Fracture orientations also correlate to deeply buried breccia pipes that extend upward as much as 1,000 m from the Redwall Formation (Roller 1987; Wenrich and Aumente-Modreski 1994). These breccia pipes formed as sedimentary strata collapsed into solution caverns within the underlying Mississippian Redwall Formation (Wenrich and Aumente-Modreski 1994). When identified correctly, breccia pipes may be used to pinpoint areas of direct hydrologic connection between the surface of the Kaibab Plateau and the Redwall-Muav aquifer.

#### *Surprise Canyon Formation*

Chemical weathering of the Redwall Formation created a pronounced unconformity between the Redwall Formation and overlying rocks (Beus 1990a). The Surprise Canyon Formation occurs as isolated lenticular beds of clastic and carbonate rocks filling the topographic lows of the Redwall Formation karst surface. Some valleys are over 100 m deep. The Surprise Canyon Formation is generally composed of a lower conglomerate and sandstone, a middle marine limestone, and an upper mix of siltstone and silty limestone. The Surprise Canyon Formation has not been mapped in Roaring Springs Canyon, but it is likely present within the aquifer system of the Kaibab Plateau (Beus 1990a). Fracture sets in the Surprise Canyon Formation appear to be related to

fractures in the Redwall Formation below, particularly in the basal conglomerate (Roller 1987). The depositional environment of the Surprise Canyon Formation is fluvial, grading into a marine environment.

### *Supai Group*

Where the Surprise Canyon Formation is absent, the Supai Group rests upon the karst surface of the Redwall Formation. The Supai Group, approximately 275 m thick in Roaring Springs Canyon, thickens rapidly to the north and west of the Kaibab Plateau. In the eastern Grand Canyon, the Supai Group contains the Watahomigi, Manakacha, and Wescogame formations and the Esplanade Sandstone (McKee 1982). The Watahomigi Formation is the most fine-grained unit of the group, composed of thin-bedded mudstones, siltstone, limestone and dolomite; however, a basal chert-pebble conglomerate is visible in most exposed sections. The Manakacha and Wescogame formations are predominantly quartz sandstone, but layers of mudstone, limestone and dolomite are common (Blakey 1990). Limestone beds in the Watahomigi, Manakacha and Wescogame formations are approximately 5 m thick (Huntoon 1970). The Esplanade Sandstone is the uppermost formation in the Supai Group. It is a thick unit of sandstone characterized by distinctive eolian cross-stratification. The entire Supai Group, in fact, exhibits eolian characteristics although they are not always as clear as in the Esplanade Sandstone (Blakey 1990). Joint spacing is variable throughout the Supai Group and ranges from less than 0.3 m (1 ft) in shale beds to 60 m (200 ft) in massive sandstones (Huntoon 1970; Roller 1987).



The depositional environment of the Supai Group is understood to be a coastal plain affected by fluctuations in sea level – leading to a complex combination of eolian and noneolian carbonate sandstones, red siltstone and mudstone, and local conglomerate (Blakey 1990). Groundwater flow through such a unit is equally complex. A significant amount of water in this unit moves relatively slowly down through sand bodies until a layer of mudstone forces the water to flow horizontally to the Canyon walls. Some water flows rapidly down through well-developed joints in the Supai Group (Huntoon 1970). Evidence of these complex flow paths can be seen in the small perched aquifers and springs that swell during the late winter and spring and wane during the dry summer.

#### *Hermit Formation*

The Hermit Formation is approximately 100 m thick in Roaring Springs Canyon. This formation thickens dramatically across Grand Canyon from east to west. It is primarily a silty sandstone or sandy mudstone. Intraformational conglomerates are common. In general, sandstone is more abundant at the base of the formation, and mudstone increases upward. Cracks at the top of this formation can reach over 5 meters depth, and are filled with sandstone of the Coconino Formation (Blakey 1990). Structureless units form beds 1 m thick. Vertically continuous joints are spaced at greater than 0.3 m. Unfractured rock samples are impermeable when tested in the laboratory (Huntoon 1970). Complex cross-bedding is common and indicative of a fluvial depositional environment (Blakey 1990). Like the underlying Supai, the Hermit Shale acts as a regional aquitard where it is unfaulted (Huntoon 1970).

### *Coconino Sandstone*

The tall white cliffs of the Coconino Sandstone are one of the most obvious features in Grand Canyon. The Coconino Sandstone is approximately 100 m thick in Roaring Springs Canyon, and it thins to the north. The northern edge of deposition on the Kaibab Plateau roughly correlates to the Arizona-Utah border (Blakey 1990). The Coconino is a homogenous, fine- to medium-grained, complexly cross-bedded quartz sandstone. Crossbed sets range from 1.5 – 23 m thick. The Coconino Sandstone is in many ways an ideal aquifer, and supplies water to communities across northern Arizona (Hart et al 2002a; Bills and Flynn 2002). On the Kaibab Plateau, it acts as a perched aquifer where the underlying Hermit Shale is unfaulted. Numerous small springs and a large spring, Big Spring, issue from the Coconino where a fault has uplifted and exposed the sandstone on the North Rim (Huntoon 1970). The Coconino Sandstone was deposited as large dunes advanced across the landscape. Dune morphology and migration was controlled by regional structural features (primarily the Sedona Arch), resulting in variable unit thickness across Arizona (Blakey 1990).

### *Toroweap Formation*

In the Marble Canyon area, the fine- to medium-grained sandstones of the Toroweap Formation intertongue with the Coconino Sandstone. The Toroweap Formation is approximately 120 m thick in Roaring Springs Canyon; it pinches out entirely to the east of Grand Canyon. Significant vertical heterogeneity is present. The formation is made up of three members: the Woods Ranch Member is an upper evaporite and redbed interval, the Brady Canyon Member is a middle limestone unit, and the

Seligman Member is a lower sandstone and evaporite interval. Evaporite facies are predominantly found north of Grand Canyon (Turner 1990). Joint spacing in the Toroweap ranges from 0.05 – 1 m in redbeds to 2.5 m in limestone beds. This is a complex hydrogeologic setting, with multiple groundwater flow pathways. These pathways have been enhanced through karst development where the formation outcrops on the surface of the Kaibab Plateau (Huntoon 1970).

Springs are common in the Toroweap Formation where clastic layers prohibit vertical migration of infiltrating groundwater. Laboratory analyses of unfractured Toroweap limestone indicate that this rock is impermeable; gypsum samples yielded a permeability of  $6.1 \times 10^{-3}$  m/d (Huntoon 1970).

The depositional setting of this formation was a fluctuating shallow marine environment, tidal flats, sabkhas, and eolian dune fields. The shoreline was commonly in the vicinity of Grand Canyon, leading to the dramatic changes in lithofacies in the Canyon (Turner 1990).

### *Kaibab Formation*

The Kaibab Formation is the uppermost geologic unit on the Kaibab Plateau. Its thickness in Roaring Springs Canyon is variable due to erosion, which obscures its original geometry. This unit gradually thickens to the west. The base of the Kaibab Formation, a cherty carbonate, is underlain by gypsum and the deformed sandstones of the Toroweap Formation. The contact between the two formations is marked by localized breccias and erosional surfaces that formed as collapse features related to evaporite dissolution in the upper Toroweap Formation. The Kaibab Formation is composed of

cyclic beds of carbonate and siliciclastic sediments mixed with diagenetic chert and dolomite (Hopkins 1990).

Two members are recognized: the Fossil Mountain Member consists of approximately 75% sandstone or sandy dolostone (Hopkins 1990); joint spacing ranges from 1.2 – 2.4 m (Huntoon 1970). The upper portion of the Kaibab Formation, the Harrisburg Member, consists of a mix of gypsum, dolostone, sandstone, redbeds, chert, and minor limestone (Hopkins 1990); joint spacing ranges from 0.05 – 0.61 m (Huntoon 1970). Laboratory analyses of unfractured limestone containing chert from the Kaibab Formation indicate the rock is impermeable; unfractured sandy limestone has a permeability of  $1.1 \times 10^{-4}$  m/d (Huntoon 1970).

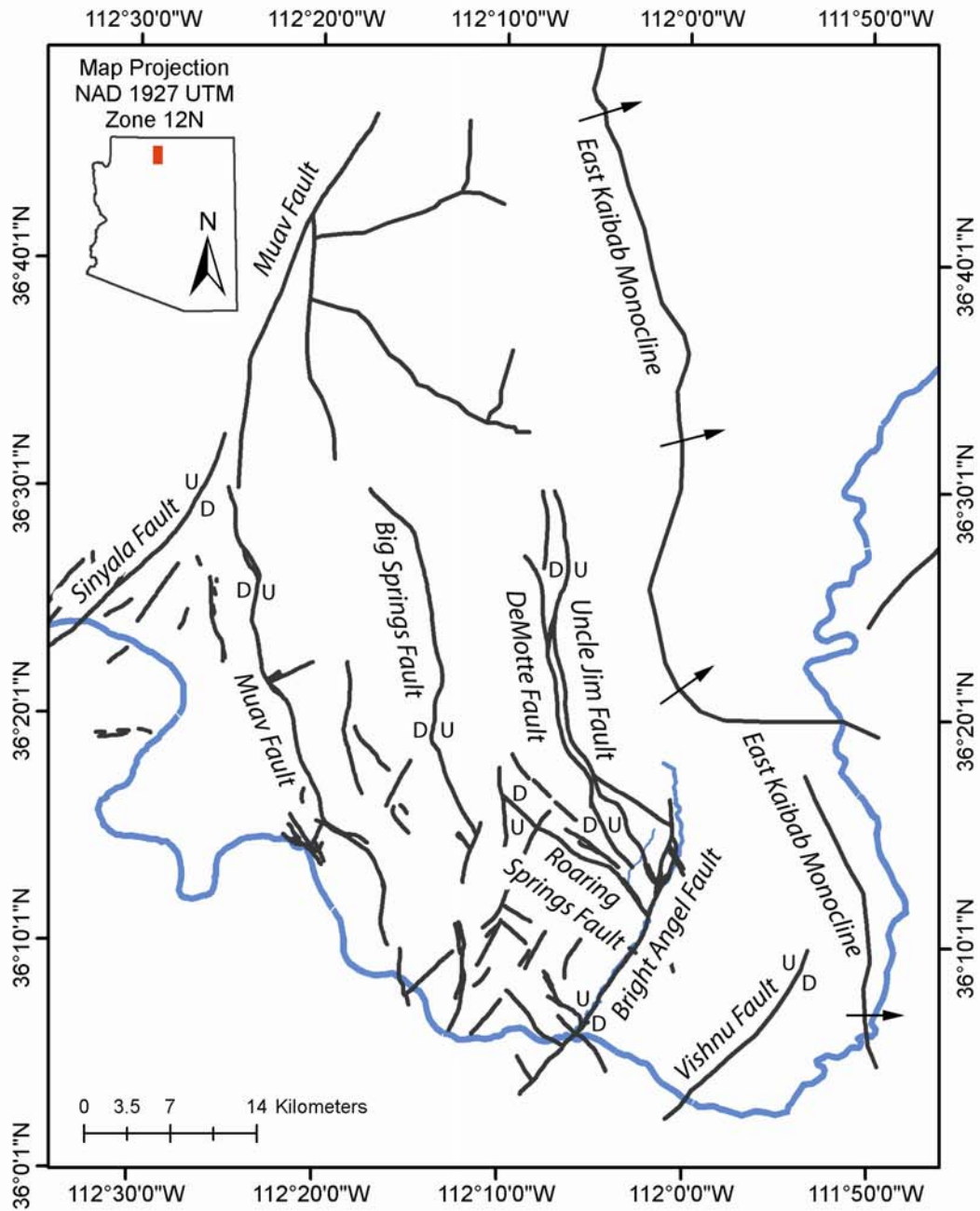
The upper surface of the Kaibab Formation is dotted with sinkholes that allow precipitation to enter the groundwater system. Many small springs have been mapped in the Kaibab Formation; they are often located at the contact between the Kaibab and Toroweap Formations but are also found along bedding planes in the Kaibab Formation (U.S. Forest Service 1994; Billingsley and Hampton 2000). The depositional environment of the Kaibab Formation was a fluctuating sea level along a mixed carbonate-siliciclastic ramp (Hopkins 1990).

### Structural Geology

The structural history of the Kaibab Plateau is the primary control on groundwater flow pathways to seeps and springs. The most obvious feature on the Kaibab Plateau is the East Kaibab monocline. While this structure undoubtedly controls the groundwater flow system of the Kaibab Plateau, other structural features and events have played an

important role in the development of the hydrogeologic character of the region as well. Structural features affect groundwater flow in two principal ways: direction and magnitude. Direction is controlled when the aquifer geometry is affected, such as changing an aquifer's thickness or slope. Direction can also be controlled by creating barriers (such as impermeable fault gouge) or conduits (such as fractures). Magnitude can be controlled by increasing the number, size and connectedness of conduits. Major faults and folds in the study area include the Bright Angel Fault, Muav Fault, Eminence Fault, Uncle Jim and DeMotte Faults, Big Springs Fault, and the East Kaibab Monocline (Figure 11).

The orientation of Precambrian faults (Bright Angel, Butte, Crystal, Muav, and Phantom-Cremation, for example) is the primary control on the direction of groundwater flow; these old faults act as "structural hinges" in response to subsequent tectonic events and changes in sediment loading (Huntoon 1990). Throughout the Paleozoic, minor movement along these Precambrian faults accommodated the stress created by sediment loading and distant tectonic events. The effect of this reactivation can be seen in the variation in thickness of sediments deposited during this time. Huntoon (1990) cited an example of such variation in a band 400 m wide across the Bright Angel Fault where the upper 9 m of the Redwall Formation is missing due to reverse motion along the fault.



### Legend

- Structural Features
- Roaring Springs Stream
- Bright Angel Creek
- Colorado River

Figure 11. Major faults and folds on the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. Base map modified from Billingsley and Hampton (2000).

Larger faults (greater than 30 m of offset) are associated with fault zones exceeding 30 m in width and composed of gouge, breccia, and even large blocks torn from the walls (Huntoon 1970). Shattered rock is found along all fault slip planes. The fault zones along smaller faults (Roaring Springs Fault, for example) are generally less than 7 m wide and are composed of gouge and breccia.

The brittle carbonates of the Redwall, Temple Butte, and Muav Formations are characterized by a regular pattern of fractures associated with faulting. Master joints can be found spaced at intervals of approximately 300-900 m in a rectilinear network extending up to 6.5-8 km on each side of major faults. These joints are often enlarged by dissolution, and are commonly less than 3 m wide but over 15 m high. In eastern Grand Canyon, joints in the Muav Formation are spaced regularly at intervals of 0.6 - 2 m (2 - 8 ft) in unfaulted regions. Where the Redwall Formation is exposed in the Cockscomb, many small solution tubes less than 0.5 m in diameter are found (Huntoon 1970). These faults and associated fractures have increased the permeability of the carbonate and sandstone units, and dissolution enhancement has enlarged these flow paths (Cepeda 1994). Joint spacing throughout the Paleozoic section is ~1 to 2 times the thickness of the beds in which they are found (Huntoon 1970).

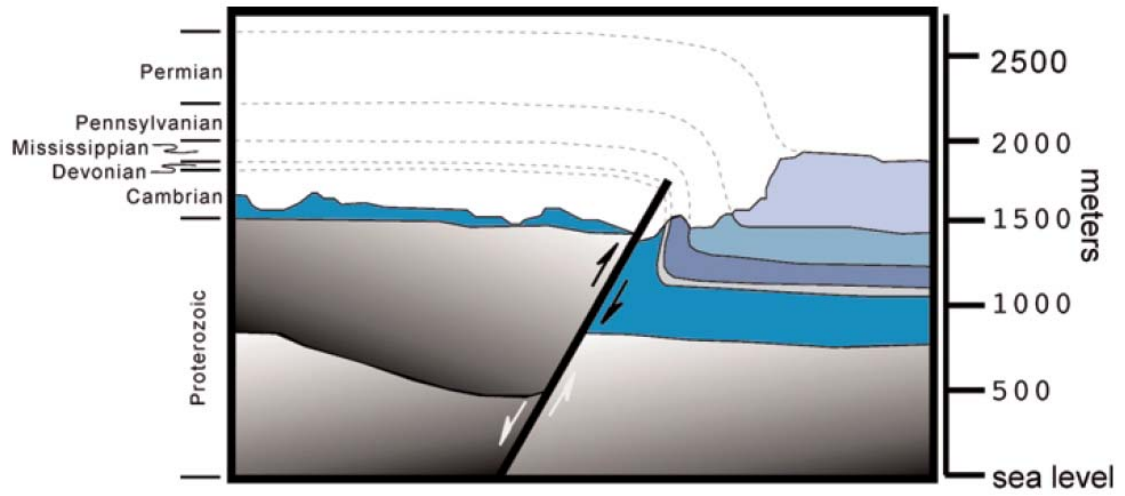
The tectonic event that has most impacted the shape of the modern Kaibab Plateau is the Laramide orogeny. The east-northeast crustal shortening that defined this event led to the development of the Grand Canyon monoclines over preexisting, steeply west-dipping, Precambrian basement faults (Huntoon 1990). The East Kaibab monocline is a classic example of Laramide monocline development. After the cessation of Laramide contraction, the Grand Canyon region was tectonically stable until the onset of

east-west extension during the Late Cenozoic. The strain associated with this extension is accommodated primarily through normal displacement along pre-existing north trending fault zones. Fracture sets associated with extensional tectonics are particularly likely to increase the flow rate of groundwater through the bedrock (Huntoon 1990).

The N20E-striking, steeply (60-70°) west dipping Precambrian Butte Fault underlies the folded Paleozoic and Mesozoic rocks that constitute the east-dipping Kaibab Monocline fold (Figure 12). This fault was reactivated in a reverse-right-lateral oblique sense during the Laramide orogeny and it propagated upward through the stratigraphic section to the level of the Redwall Formation before Laramide deformation ended (Tindall 2000b). This is common for all the monoclines in Grand Canyon which do not fault above the Supai (Huntoon 1990). There is ~800 m of offset along the Butte Fault in Grand Canyon. A sequence of deformation took place along the developing East Kaibab monocline as Paleozoic and Mesozoic cover rocks folded and faulted in response to movement on the reactivated basement fault (Tindall 2000b).

In Grand Canyon, thinning and low-grade metamorphism of the lower Paleozoic rocks occurred in the transition from fault to fold; Huntoon (1990) observed thinning of the Redwall Formation and Supai Group by 30-60%. Branching is well developed along the East Kaibab monocline, and prominent northwest-trending branches splay from the main fold (Tindall 2000a). In addition, segments of the East and West Kaibab monoclines develop en echelon patterns. Changes in strike and complicated branching of the East Kaibab monocline are linked on outcrops to intersecting basement fault patterns that have been reactivated (Huntoon 1990).





Not to scale.

Figure 12. Geologic cross-section of the East Kaibab Monocline in Grand Canyon, from Tindall (2000).

Finally, the surface of the Kaibab Plateau is also criss-crossed by a complex set of fractures, which can be identified on LandSat imagery. The orientation of this fracture set shares the same trend as the faults (Gettings and Bultman 2005). In addition, sinkholes in the Kaibab Limestone appear to correlate with the intersection of these fractures (Cepeda 1994).

### **Water Budget**

A water budget is a volumetric assessment of a groundwater system. Inputs equal outputs, plus or minus a change in aquifer storage. Inputs to the Roaring Springs groundwater system are a function of climate, which is controlled by the elevation of the Kaibab Plateau. Outputs are a function of evapotranspiration, spring discharge, and through-flow. Downward leakage from the R-aquifer is assumed to be negligible based on geochemical analysis of springs above and below the Bright Angel Shale which show very little connection between the two hydrologic systems (Crossey 2002).

The change in storage of this groundwater system is difficult to define, and is controlled by both inputs and outputs as well as by aquifer characteristics such as aquifer porosity.

### **Precipitation**

The weather station nearest to Roaring Springs is the Bright Angel Ranger Station (NOAA COOPID 21001), located at an elevation of 2560.3 meters above sea level (m asl) on the southern tip of the Kaibab Plateau (Latitude 36: 13:00, Longitude -112:04) in Coconino County, Arizona. Weather data were collected at this site daily since 1925,

although there were some gaps in the record due to the inaccessibility of the site. The average annual precipitation at this site, based on the 32 years with complete precipitation records, is 652 mm. January is the wettest month of the year, on average; June is the driest (<http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwcgi.dll?WWDI~StnSrch>). Precipitation varies with elevation across the Kaibab Plateau, with lower elevations receiving much less water (Huntoon 1970) (Table 1).

Precipitation occurs in late summer convective thunderstorms and late winter snowstorms. Summer precipitation is usually a result of thermal heating in Grand Canyon. Convection cells build through the day and afternoon showers result. Occasionally, tropical weather patterns will move up through Arizona from the Pacific Ocean and Gulf of California. In the winter, Pacific storm tracks usually move south and east into Arizona from the Pacific Northwest and California (Huntoon 1970). These two different sources of precipitation are associated with different oxygen and hydrogen stable isotope compositions. Research by Miller (2004) indicates that winter precipitation on the Kaibab Plateau is characterized by  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of -12.66 ‰ and  $\delta^2\text{H}$  values of -92.16 ‰; summer precipitation is characterized by  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  values of -6.58 ‰ and  $\delta^2\text{H}$  values of -40.44 ‰.

The precipitation during the 2003 year, when field data were collected for this study, was 527 mm (94% average). February was the wettest month; June was the driest (<http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwcgi.dll?WWDI~StnSrch>).

Table 1. Mean monthly precipitation (1925-1998), Bright Angel Ranger Station, Arizona  
(<http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwcgi.dll?WWDI~StnSrch>).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann
Monthly Precip (mm)	92.7	87.9	81.6	40.0	24.5	15.9	48.0	63.2	47.7	37.8	40.4	72.4	652

### Evapotranspiration

Evapotranspiration is primarily a function of aspect, elevation, vegetation, and temperature (Table 2). There are 6 typical vegetation zones in the study area which have characteristic evapotranspiration rates associated with them (Table 3). The remote nature of the study area precluded direct measurement of evapotranspiration. Estimates were taken from published values at sites with comparable elevation and vegetation.

Table 2. Mean monthly maximum and minimum temperatures (°C), Bright Angel Ranger Station, AZ (<http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwcgi.dll?WWDI~StnSrch>).

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Ann
Avg Max Daily Temp	3.50	4.61	7.00	11.56	16.66	22.70	25.23	23.55	20.44	14.57	7.94	4.44	13.5
Avg Min Daily Temp	-8.27	-7.55	-5.67	-2.06	0.78	4.61	8.11	7.61	4.22	-0.50	-4.17	-7.61	-0.89

Table 3. Typical vegetation zones of the Grand Canyon by elevation range, modified from Huntoon (1970).

Elevation	Vegetation Description
Below 1525 m asl:	
Marble Canyon	Typical Arizona desert vegetation: stunted grasses, a variety of cacti. At perennial water sources, cottonwoods and box elder are common.
Kanab Plateau	
Lower Canyon	

Elevation	Vegetation Description
1525 - 1585 m asl: Marble Canyon Kanab Plateau Mid Canyon	Grasses are common, and grade into sagebrush.
1585 - 1710 m asl: Marble Canyon Kanab Plateau Upper Canyon	Sagebrush mixes into juniper and pinon.
1710 – 2075 m asl: Kaibab Plateau Upper Canyon	The woodland complex: juniper and pinon with sage and grass undergrowth.
2075 – 2500 m asl: Kaibab Plateau	Ponderosa pine forest dominates, with shrub oak and locust at lower elevations. Note: locust is a good indicator of groundwater seepage. Aspen is present at higher elevations.
Above 2500 m asl: Kaibab Plateau	Aspen and ponderosa pine begin to grade into spruce, Douglas fir. And white fir. Open grasslands are found in the upper montane forests, associated with linear valleys and sinkholes.

An inventory of springs in the Arizona Strip by the Grand Canyon Wildlands Council, Inc. (Stevens 2001) noted that over 90% of the annual precipitation falling in the area was lost to evaporation and evapotranspiration. This percentage includes low elevation deserts as well as higher elevation woodlands. At the Bright Angel Ranger Station, evapotranspiration would thus be greater than 587 mm/yr (1.6 mm/d).

Bryce Canyon National Park, Utah, is at an elevation of 2,412 m asl; average annual temperature is about 6°C; the vegetation in this area consists primarily of Ponderosa pine woodlands. These conditions are roughly comparable to the altitude, temperature, and vegetation zone on the upper Kaibab Plateau. In Bryce Canyon National Park, potential evapotranspiration exceeds precipitation from April through September. Potential evapotranspiration peaks in July, at approximately 110 mm. The average

potential evapotranspiration during the summer (April through September) is approximately 80 mm (~0.44 mm/d). From October through March, precipitation is equal to or greater than potential evapotranspiration (Spence 1999).

The Rocky Mountain Research Station collects data in the Beaver Creek watershed (<http://ag.arizona.edu.OALS/watershed/beaver/climate.html>), which is located in north-central area of Arizona and is a semi-arid high elevation watershed. Pine woodlands are found at higher elevations, where the average annual temperature is 7°C. In this environment, the estimated annual evapotranspiration is 500 mm (1.37 mm/d). This value was determined by calculating the difference between annual precipitation and stream flow.

The Arizona Meteorological Network (2005) reports that the cumulative 2003 potential evapotranspiration for Flagstaff (elevation 2056 m asl) was 89 – 99.8 mm (0.24 – 0.27 mm/d).

Evapotranspiration and snow sublimation in ponderosa pine forests at altitudes of approximately 2100-2700 m asl were reviewed as part of an environmental impact investigation at Arizona Snowbowl ski resort (U.S. Forest Service 2005). The report cited data collected in a number of studies that can also be applied to the Kaibab Plateau. Snow sublimation rates were measured during the winters of 1990 and 1991 (an unusually dry period) at two sites in Flagstaff, Arizona (elevation ~2100 m asl). Over the course of the experiment, mean daily evapo-sublimation was 0.152 mm; the maximum amount of 7.87 mm occurred on a clear, dry, windy day. While sublimation on San Francisco Mountain is expected to be highly variable, 60 - 90% snow pack loss is considered a reasonable approximation. An average annual evapotranspiration rate from 1993-1996 at ponderosa

pine forests in northern New Mexico was 457.2 mm (1.25 mm/d) (US Forest Service 2005).

Transpiration data were collected at Hart Prairie, near Flagstaff, Arizona during the 129-day growing season in the summer of 2000. This site is slightly below 2,800 m asl, which makes it a good comparison to the Kaibab Plateau. In Hart Prairie, water use by the prairie communities was between 1.8 and 5.8 mm per day (Springer et al, in press).

In summary, annual evapotranspiration rates for sites comparable to the Kaibab Plateau range from 0.24 to 1.6 mm/d. Evapo-sublimation during the winter ranges from 1.52 to 7.87 to mm/d. Evapotranspiration during the summer ranges from 0.44 to 5.8 mm/d. It is expected that the Kaibab Plateau, which at its crest attains elevations slightly above those mentioned here, has evapotranspiration and sublimation rates on the lower end of these ranges.

### Spring Discharge

Springs have been mapped in geologic units above the R-aquifer in the study area (Huntoon 1970; U.S Forest Service 1994; Billingsley et al 2000; Stevens 2002b). Spring locations correlate to geologic contacts, bedding planes, and structural features on the plateau (Figure 13). In the Supai, Toroweap and Kaibab Formations, springs occur in sandstone layers above impermeable shale and/or unfractured carbonate and chert. They are most active during the wet season, but discharge less than a gallon per day (0.01 m<sup>3</sup>/d) (Huntoon 1970). Some notable exceptions are rare small springs at the contact between the Supai Group and the Redwall Formation. One of these, along the North Kaibab Trail in Roaring Springs Canyon, may discharge up to 30 m<sup>3</sup>/d during the late





spring. Larger springs occur at the Coconino-Hermit contact; the largest of these by far is Big Springs, which discharges approximately 1,200 m<sup>3</sup>/d (Huntoon 1970). Spring discharge from aquifers above the R-aquifer is difficult to measure, and very little data are available. If one assumes that Big Springs, the 30 m<sup>3</sup>/d North Kaibab Trail spring, and 1,000 low-magnitude-discharge springs (0.01 m<sup>3</sup>/d) discharge above the R-aquifer in the Roaring Springs recharge area, then discharge can be estimated to be approximately 500,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr. The number of low-magnitude-discharge springs was estimated based on a literature review and field observations made during monthly site visits (Billingsley and Hampton 2000; Bills and Flynn 2002; Stevens 2002b). This is a gross estimate, but provides a starting point for conceptualizing discharge through aquifers stratigraphically above the R-aquifer.

Discharge from the R-aquifer occurs through springs located where canyons have dissected structural depressions on the Kaibab Plateau (Huntoon 2000). Before this project, discharge at Roaring Springs had only been measured less than 10 times between 1950 and 1995 (Table 4). Grand Canyon National Park diverts approximately 1,000,000 gal/d from the spring, but does not monitor the total amount of water discharged by the spring (Aiken 2003).

Table 4. Historic discharge measurements at Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona.

Date	Discharge	Method	Researchers
6/21/1952	13 ft <sup>3</sup> /sec (32,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d)	unknown	S.F. Turner, J.H. Gardiner, and J.A. Baumgartner of the USGS (Johnson and Sanderson 1968)
7/31/1952	10 ft <sup>3</sup> /sec (24,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d)	unknown	S.F. Turner, J.H. Gardiner, and J.A. Baumgartner of the USGS (Johnson and Sanderson 1968)
8/30/1952	8.5 ft <sup>3</sup> /sec (21,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d)	unknown	S.F. Turner, J.H. Gardiner, J.A. Baumgartner of the USGS (Johnson and Sanderson 1968)

Date	Discharge	Method	Researchers
6/27/1953	7.5 ft <sup>3</sup> /sec (18,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d)	unknown	John Baumgartner of the USGS (Johnson and Sanderson 1968)
11/11/1961	5.67 ft <sup>3</sup> /sec (13,900 m <sup>3</sup> /d)	unknown	P.W. Johnson and R.B. Sanderson of the USGS (1968)
7/10/1969	9.6 ft <sup>3</sup> /sec (23,000 m <sup>3</sup> /d)	float	P.W. Huntoon (1970)
5/20/1994	13.233 ft <sup>3</sup> /sec (32,375 m <sup>3</sup> /d)	unknown	Grand Canyon National Park (Bills and Flynn 2002)

The data collected between 6/21/1952 and 7/10/1969 were compared to discharge measurements made at the USGS gaging station at the mouth of Bright Angel Creek (<http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/>), after Johnson and Sanderson (1968). There is a strong linear correlation between the two during base flow conditions (Figure 14). After editing the Bright Angel Creek data to delete flows greater than 420 ft<sup>3</sup>/s (1,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d) (these high discharge values are assumed to be caused by flooding from surface water runoff), daily Roaring Springs discharge was calculated between October 1, 1923 and April 12, 1993. Using this method, the average annual discharge of Roaring Springs was estimated to be 9,740,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr. The minimum annual discharge was 5,190,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr; maximum annual discharge was 85,100,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr.

During this study, discharge measurements were made in Roaring Springs stream above and below Roaring Springs between March and October, 2003 (Table 5).

Table 5. 2003 discharge measurements at Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona.

Roaring Springs Picnic Area (upstream)	Discharge (m <sup>3</sup> /d)
9/28/02	1,080
5/17/03	1,000
6/14/03	563
7/13/03	220
Roaring Springs Pump House (downstream)	Discharge (m <sup>3</sup> /d)
3/7/03	11,700

4/11/03	14,100
5/17/03	51,100
6/14/03	8,700
7/13/03	10,600
9/3/03	8,520
10/11/03	9,010

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The discharge data collected upstream of Roaring Springs were used to estimate diffuse flow through the R-aquifer. The average daily discharge from the aquifer up-gradient of Roaring Springs was 716 m<sup>3</sup>/d; average annual discharge was 261,000 m<sup>3</sup>.

Discharge data collected immediately downstream of the Roaring Springs complex were compared to water-level data collected by the pressure transducer installed at this location to build a stage-discharge relationship (Figure 15). High frequency fluctuation in stream stage is the primary cause for the low R<sup>2</sup> value of modeled stage-discharge relationship. Calculated spring discharge may realistically vary by ±2,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d.

Because the stream pressure transducer failed between April 12 and May 17, 2003, discharge for this time period was determined by developing a relationship between stream discharge and turbidity (measured at the Roaring Springs pump house daily) (Figure 16). This relationship also allows discharge to be calculated for future seasons. The validity of this method was discussed in Wilkinson (2000). It has also been substantiated by field observations at Roaring Springs. The primary limitation of this method is the sporadic turbidity record; data were only collected when NPS staff were able to visit the pump house (Aiken 2003).

A relationship was also defined between stage in Roaring Springs Stream and in Roaring Springs Cave for the time period when both pressure transducers were

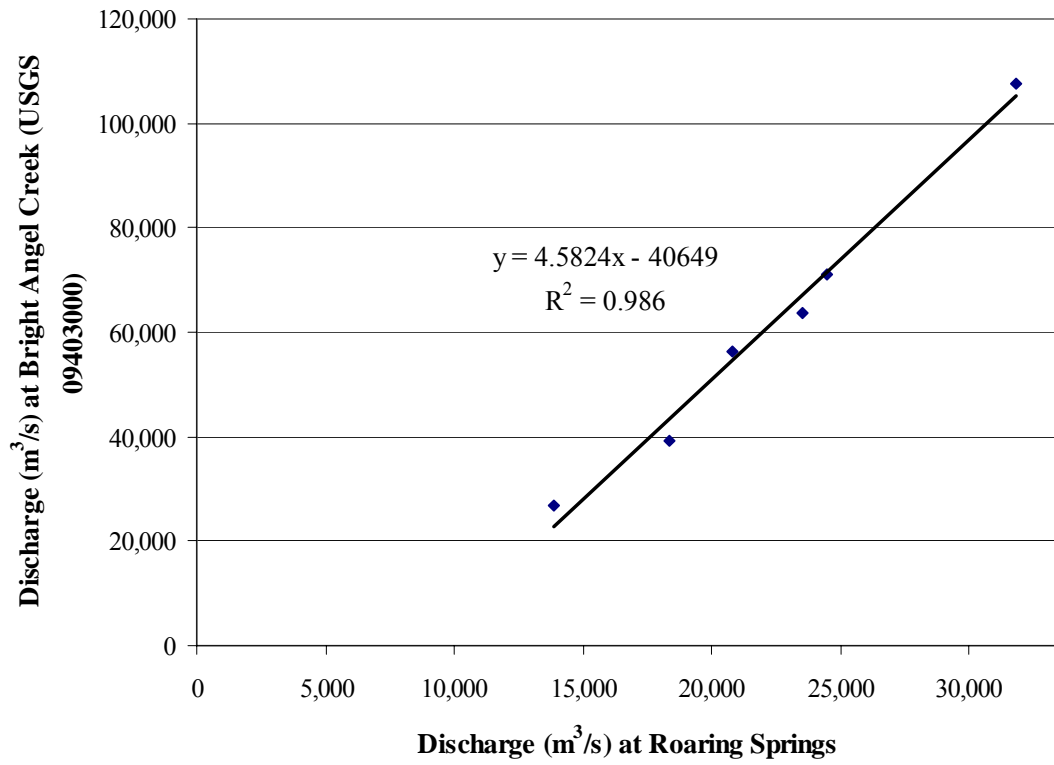


Figure 14. Discharge-discharge relationship between Roaring Springs and Bright Angel Creek based on historical data collected between 1952 and 1969 (modified from Johnson and Sanderson 1968).

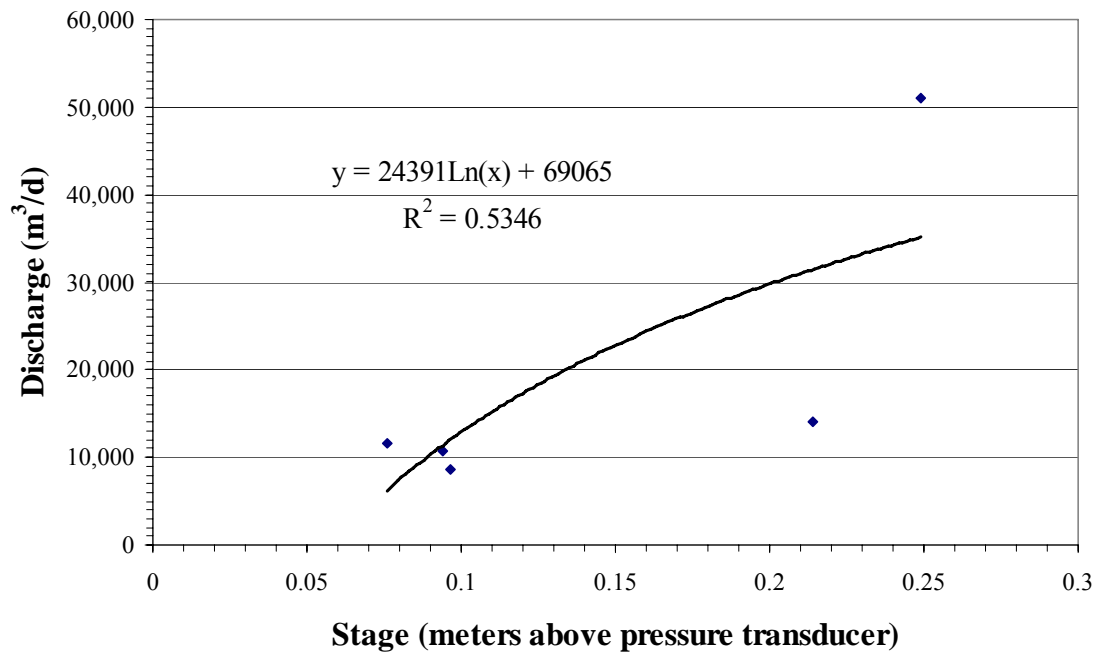


Figure 15. Roaring Springs stage-discharge relationship from data collected between March and August, 2003, in the stream adjacent to the pump house and immediately downstream of the Roaring Springs complex.

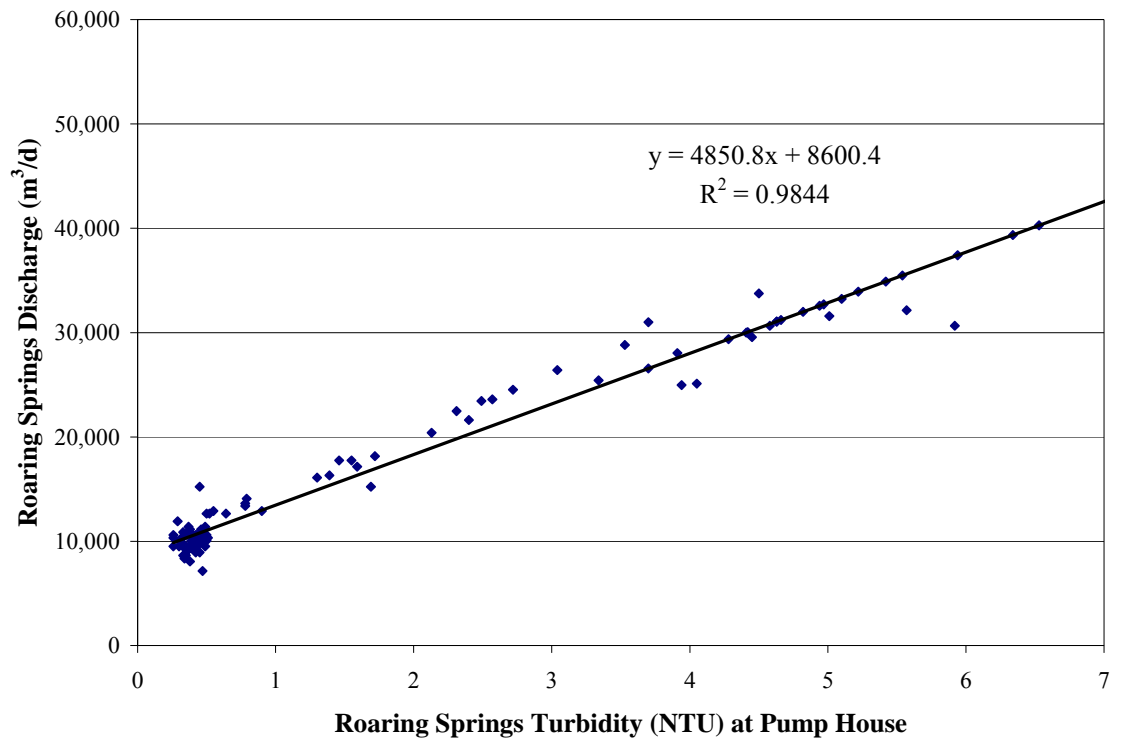


Figure 16. Discharge-turbidity relationship for Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona.

From turbidity data collected in 2003 at the Roaring Springs pump house.

simultaneously recording (Figure 17). The low  $R^2$  value associated with this relationship is due to the limited number of discharge measurements, water level changes caused by differences in barometric pressure in the cave and in the stream, and perhaps by the pumping schedule at the Indian Gardens lift station. To estimate total annual discharge in 2003, discharge at Roaring Springs stream between January 1 and March 8, 2003 had to be determined. Discharge for this time period was assumed to remain constant at approximately the same discharge measured on March 8 ( $4,890,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{d} \pm 2,000 \text{ m}^3/\text{d}$ ). This assumption is validated by an examination of January-March base flow conditions in Bright Angel Creek for previous years and noting the roughly constant discharge during those winter months.

Figure 18 illustrates discharge rates through Roaring Springs for the period of study. These methods yield an annual discharge of  $4,700,000 (\pm 730,000) \text{ m}^3$  out of the R-aquifer through Roaring Springs in 2003. Including the volume diverted from the stream, total annual discharge through Roaring Springs is  $6,110,000 (\pm 730,000) \text{ m}^3$ . March 7 – June 15, 2003 is the time period dominated by snowmelt recharge. This volume of snowmelt water accounts for  $2,750,000 (\pm 198,000) \text{ m}^3$ , or approximately 60% total annual discharge from the R-aquifer.

The analyses of data collected in this study validates the use of Bright Angel Creek discharge as a proxy for historical spring discharge through the R-aquifer. The 2003 Roaring Springs hydrograph was compared to the hydrographs of Bright Angel Creek during similar climatic years in 1955, 1956, and 1992 (Figure 19). These years correspond to a year with precipitation most similar to 2003, the driest year on record, and the wettest year on record.

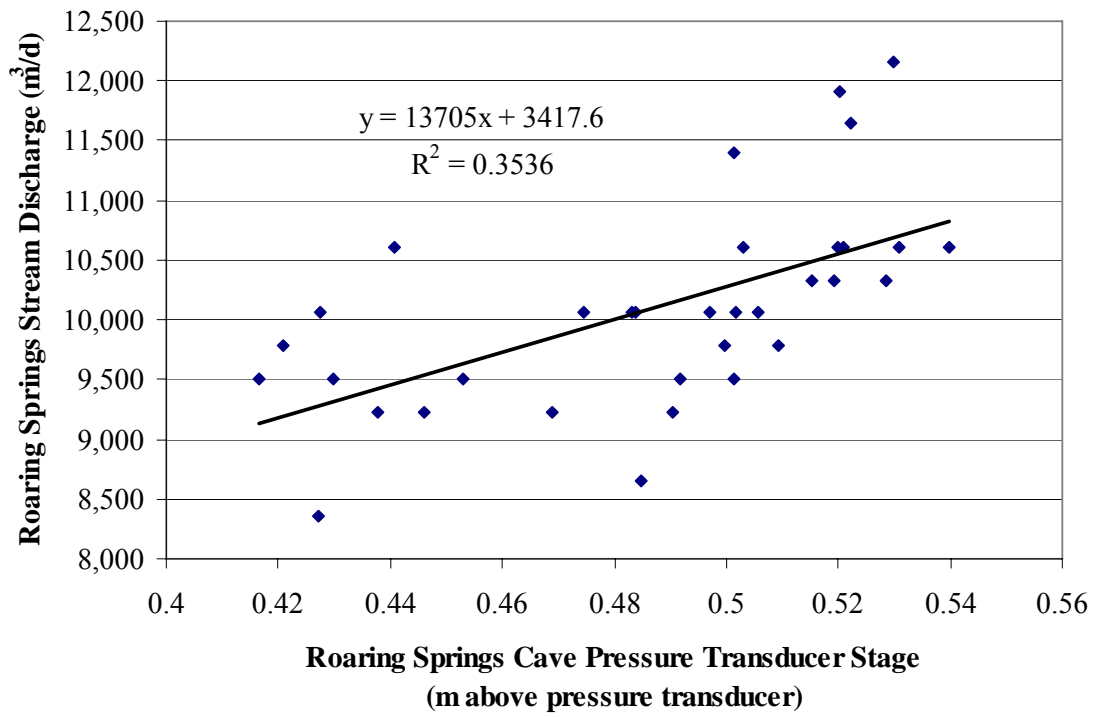


Figure 17. Stage-discharge relationship between Roaring Springs Stream and Roaring Springs Cave, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona, based on daily data collected between July 13 and August 15, 2003.



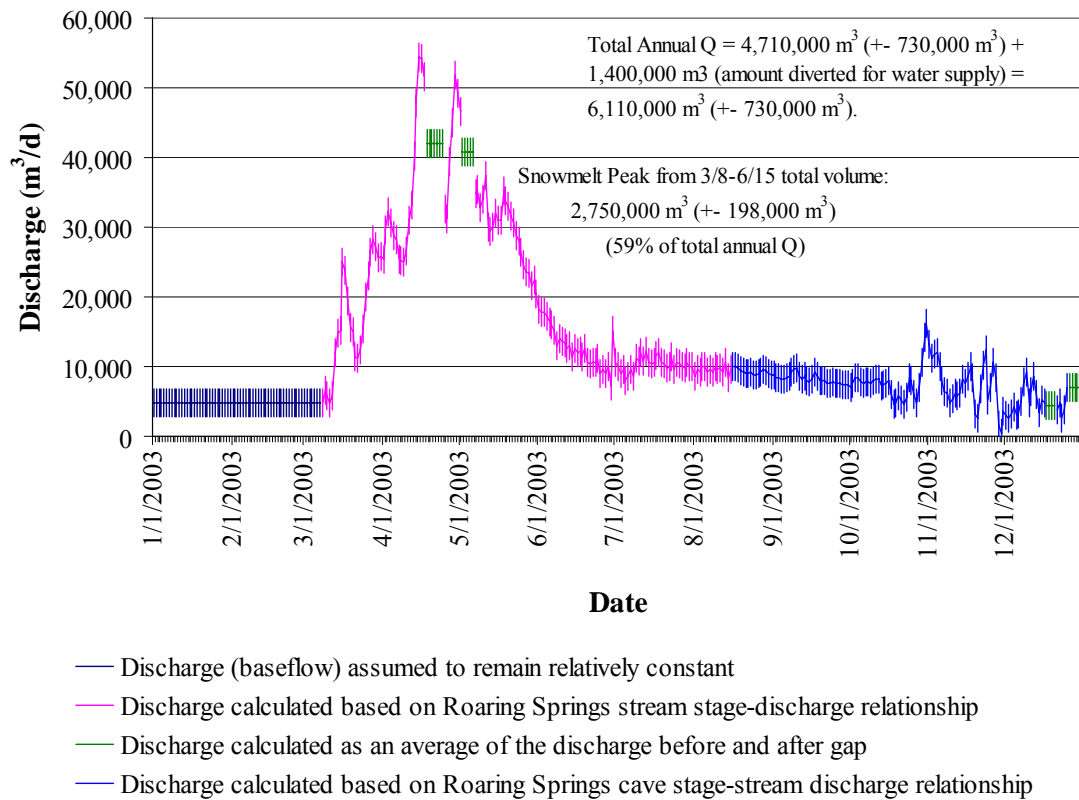


Figure 18. Total annual discharge in 2003 from Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. Discharge (m<sup>3</sup>/d) calculated using several methods which are summarized in the legend. Discharge line width reflects error resulting from dynamic flow in the stream.

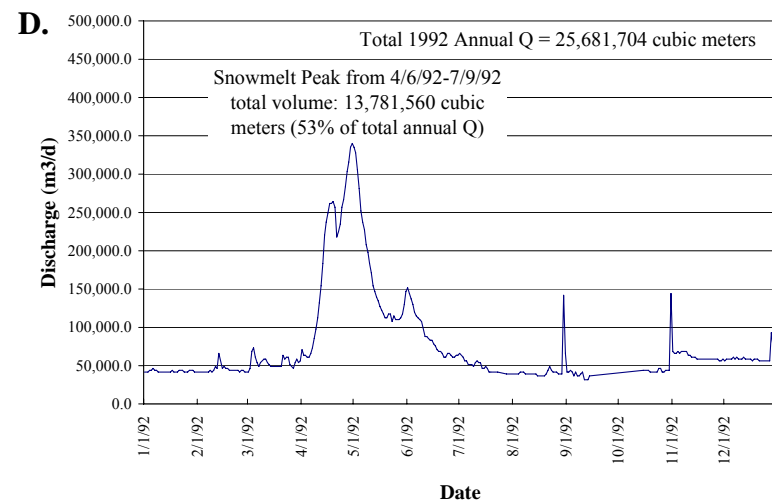
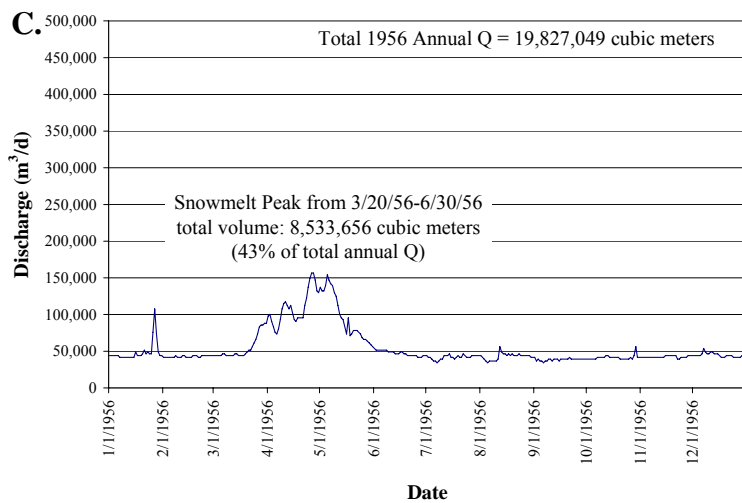
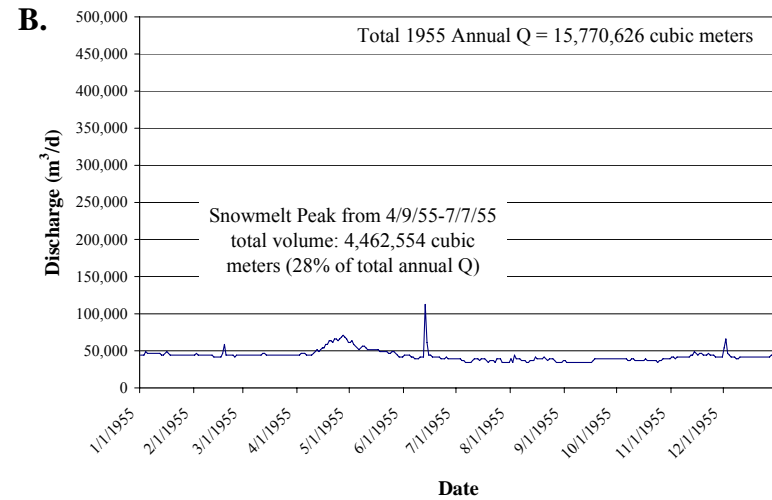
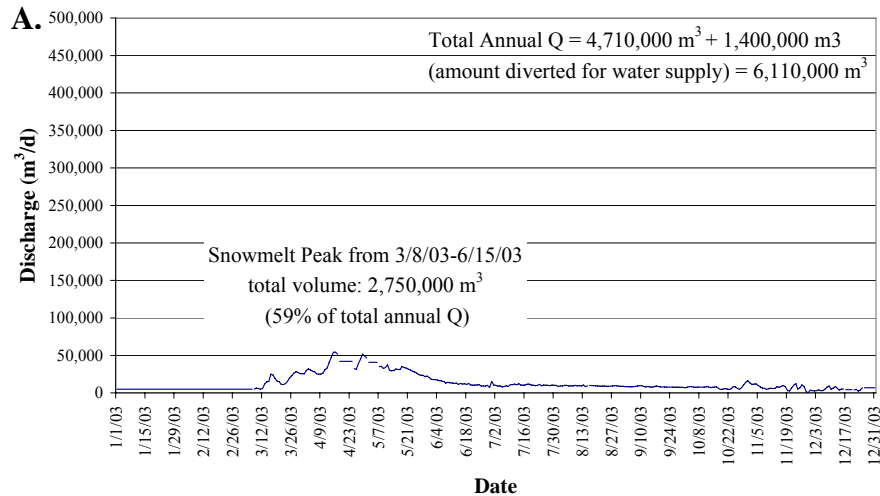


Figure 19. Daily discharge comparison between Roaring Springs in 2003 (A) and Bright Angel Creek during a year with precipitation most similar to 2003 (B), the driest year on record (C), and the wettest year on record (D).

## Runoff

There are no perennial streams on the Kaibab Plateau. This observation indicates that water not lost to sublimation and evapotranspiration recharges the groundwater system. The exception is along the rim of Grand Canyon, where rapid snowmelt or heavy rainstorms can generate significant runoff; monsoon rainstorms are capable of creating dramatic and dangerous flash-flood conditions.

The pressure transducer in Roaring Springs stream measured overland flow as well as spring flow. The length of time (days) between a storm peak in stream discharge and the end of overland flow impact on discharge is roughly approximated by

$$D = 0.827A^{0.2} \text{ (Fetter 2001)} \quad (1)$$

where  $D$  = number of days between storm peak and end of overland flow and

$$A = \text{drainage basin area in km}^2$$

This method does not incorporate the effects of topographic slope; it is a first approximation of the time that runoff impacts the stream hydrograph. The surface watershed contributing to Roaring Springs Canyon was delineated using the Spatial Tools extension for ArcView GIS 3.2 (Hooge 1997). The watershed area was calculated to be  $9.89 \text{ km}^2$  ( $9,890,400 \text{ m}^2$ ) (Figure 20).

$$D = 0.827 \times (9.89 \text{ km}^2)^{0.2} = 0.13 \text{ days } (\sim 3 \text{ hours}) \quad (2)$$

Anecdotal evidence suggests that runoff may impact streams in Grand Canyon for a longer period of time in larger streams (Parnell 2005). The small size of the Roaring Springs stream watershed would result in smaller runoff volumes and shorter travel times than those found in larger streams like Bright Angel Creek, for example. The very short period of time that stream discharge is apparently affected by overland flow suggests that

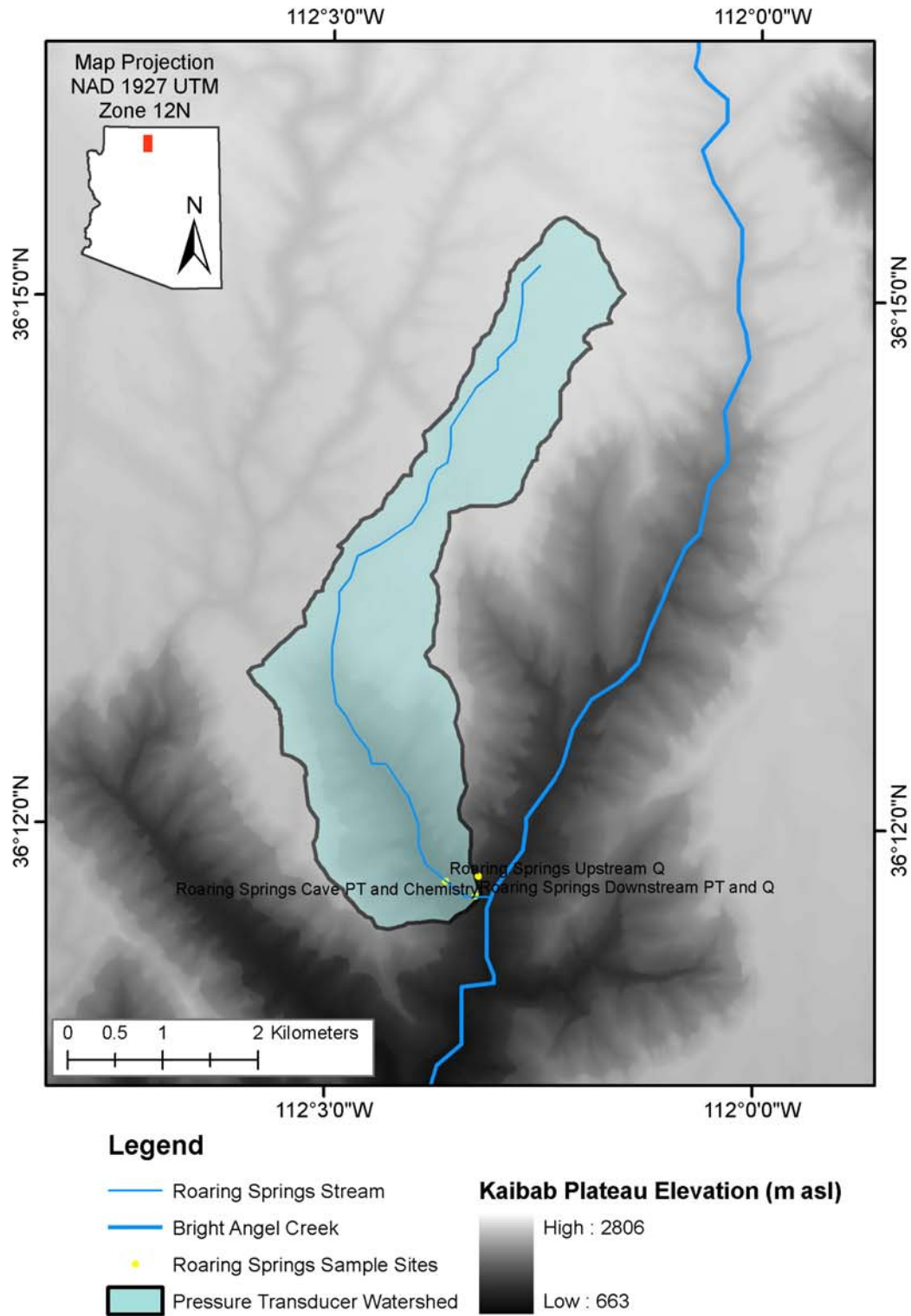


Figure 20. Roaring Springs stream surface watershed, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. The watershed area is 9.89 km<sup>2</sup>.

runoff has a minimal impact on the Roaring Springs water budget and that the Roaring Springs stream hydrograph can be assumed to represent spring discharge. This is evident when the stream hydrograph is compared to precipitation at Bright Angel Ranger Station, and it is supported by field observations (Figure 21). The only time that stream discharge is dominated by runoff is immediately following heavy rain or in the first few days of snowmelt, before Roaring Springs begins to respond to snowmelt recharge. In terms of the larger water budget of the Kaibab Plateau, however, these events are insignificant due to their short duration.

Because the pressure transducer was installed immediately following a large snowfall on the Kaibab Plateau, the effects of daily snowmelt are very clear on the hydrograph. Snowmelt pulses can be seen in the Roaring Springs hydrograph from March 7 to March 28, 2003 although the daily snowmelt runoff peaks are very small after March 12 (Figure 22). Snowmelt runoff began between 6:00 and 7:00 am each day, peaked at approximately 4:00 pm, and declined over night until dawn the next day. The volume of these daily peaks was calculated and represents the amount of water entering the channel as runoff. On March 8, snowmelt runoff contributed 1,500 m<sup>3</sup> to stream discharge, 14% of that day's total stream discharge. Snowmelt contribution to total stream discharge declined rapidly in the following days; less than 500 m<sup>3</sup> of snowmelt entered the stream on March 10. During the summer monsoon season, precipitation events less than 160 mm (0.53 inch) did not generate enough runoff to significantly affect the discharge in Roaring Springs Stream. This is in part due to the effect of evapotranspiration (Figure 23).

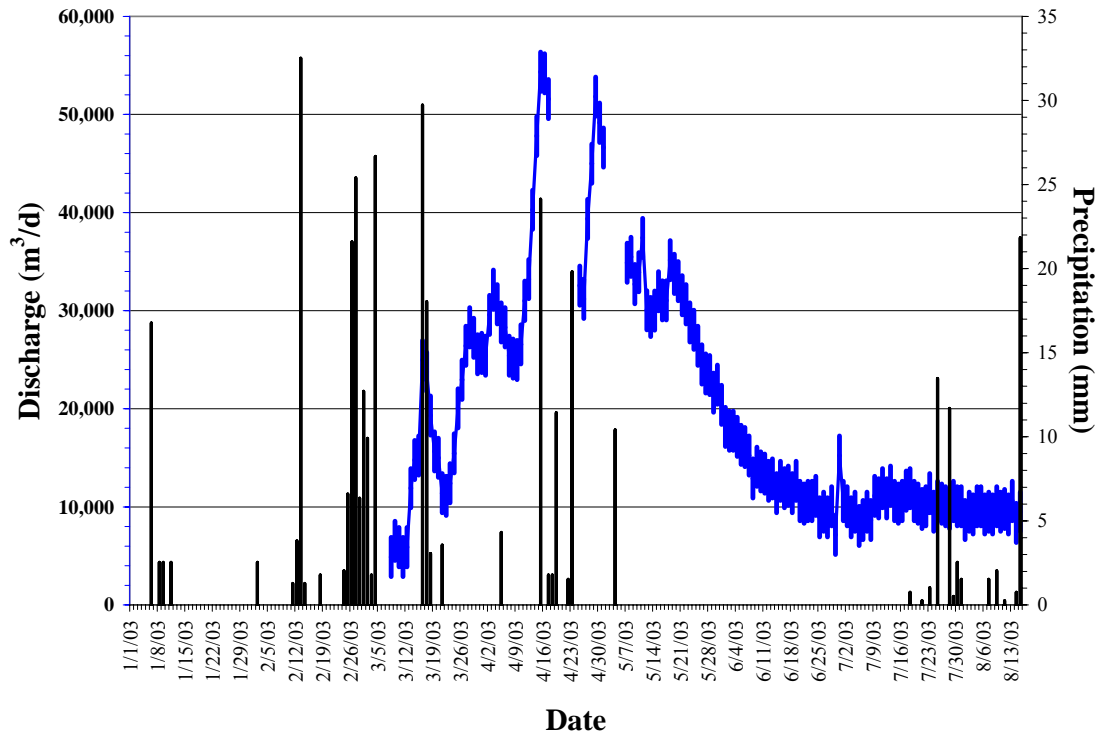


Figure 21. 2003 total daily precipitation at Bright Angel Ranger Station versus average daily discharge between in Roaring Springs Stream, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. Data gaps occur when both stage and turbidity data are missing. Discharge line width reflects error resulting from dynamic flow in the stream.

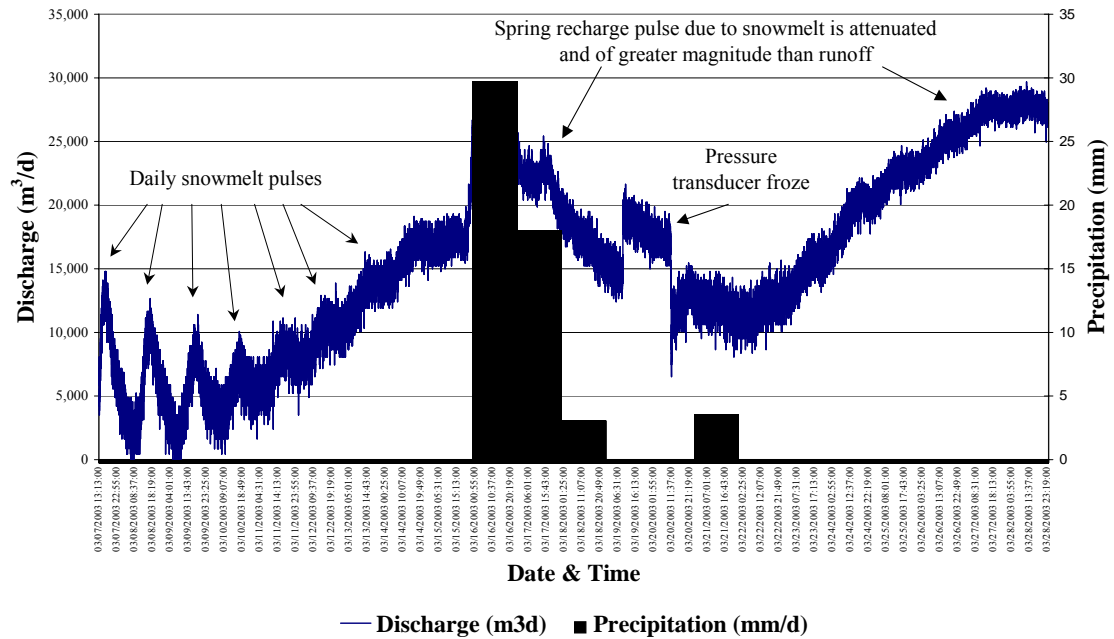
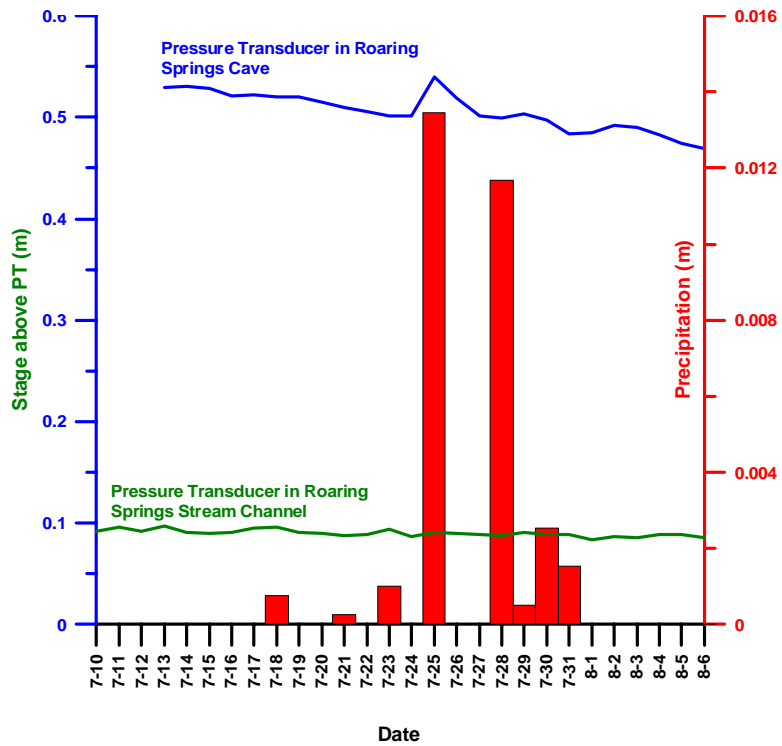
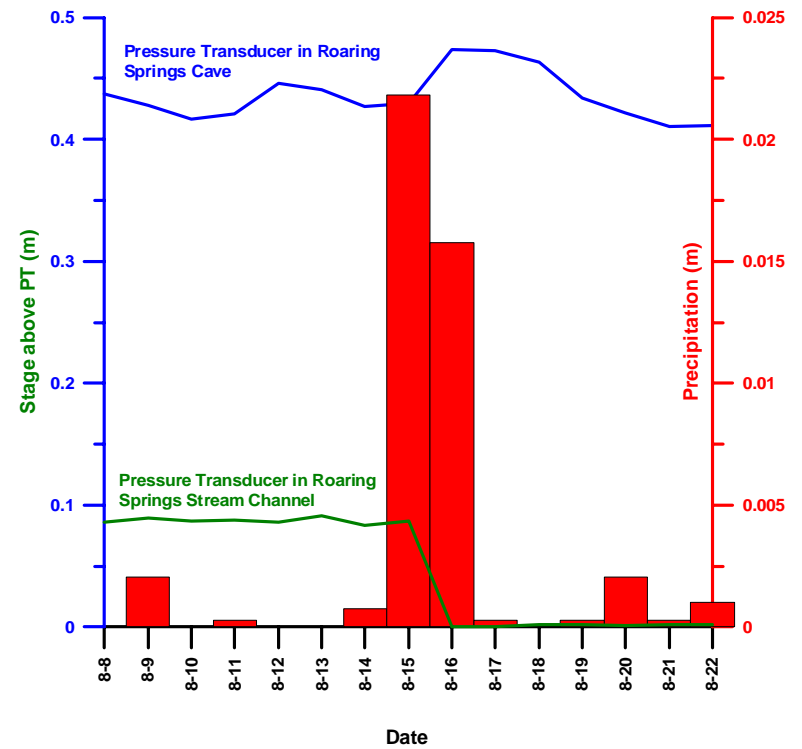


Figure 22. Discharge, measured in 1-minute intervals, in Roaring Springs stream between March 7 and March 28, 2003 showing effects of snowmelt on stream discharge. Discharge calculated with the Roaring Springs stage-discharge relationship (Figure 15).



A.



B.

Figure 23. Roaring Springs stream and cave hydrographs illustrating the effects of two monsoon precipitation events in (A) July and (B) August 2003 on daily spring discharge. These records indicate that discharge in Roaring Springs responds to precipitation events within one to six days.



For the most part, erosion and karst development of the Kaibab Formation funnels runoff into fault valleys, closed depressions, and sinkholes. Runoff becomes inseparable from recharge, and is discussed with recharge processes.

### Recharge

Along the southern axis of the East Kaibab Monocline, the entire stratigraphic column above the Redwall Formation has been eroded, creating a point of direct recharge to the Redwall-Muav aquifer in the Saddle Wilderness area. This is the only place other than in the Grand Canyon itself that the Redwall-Muav aquifer is exposed at the surface. Recharge is not expected to occur along the rim of Grand Canyon, where steep slopes promote rapid runoff. Little to no recharge is also expected below 2,000 m asl, where vegetation patterns indicate less precipitation.

Most recharge must enter the stratigraphic layers of the Grand Canyon through fractures in the Kaibab and Toroweap Formations. This recharge is directed along widely spaced extensional fault zones where the faulting has propagated upward through the entire Paleozoic section (Huntoon 2000). Sinkholes are common in both formations, and they funnel runoff into the groundwater system (Figure 24). The catchments supplying runoff to sinkholes tend to be linear depressions related to structural joints (Figure 25). These valleys are identifiable on satellite photos as linear meadows. Tributary drainages feeding larger valleys such as DeMotte Park often follow east-west trending fractures and smaller faults. Sinkholes typically occur as round depressions in the grassy valley bottoms. The karst development poses a problem in terms of defining recharge areas,



Figure 24. Kaibab Plateau sinkhole accepting snowmelt on May 16, 2003 (photo by Abe Springer). Sinkhole located immediately north of Grand Canyon National Park North Rim Entrance Station.

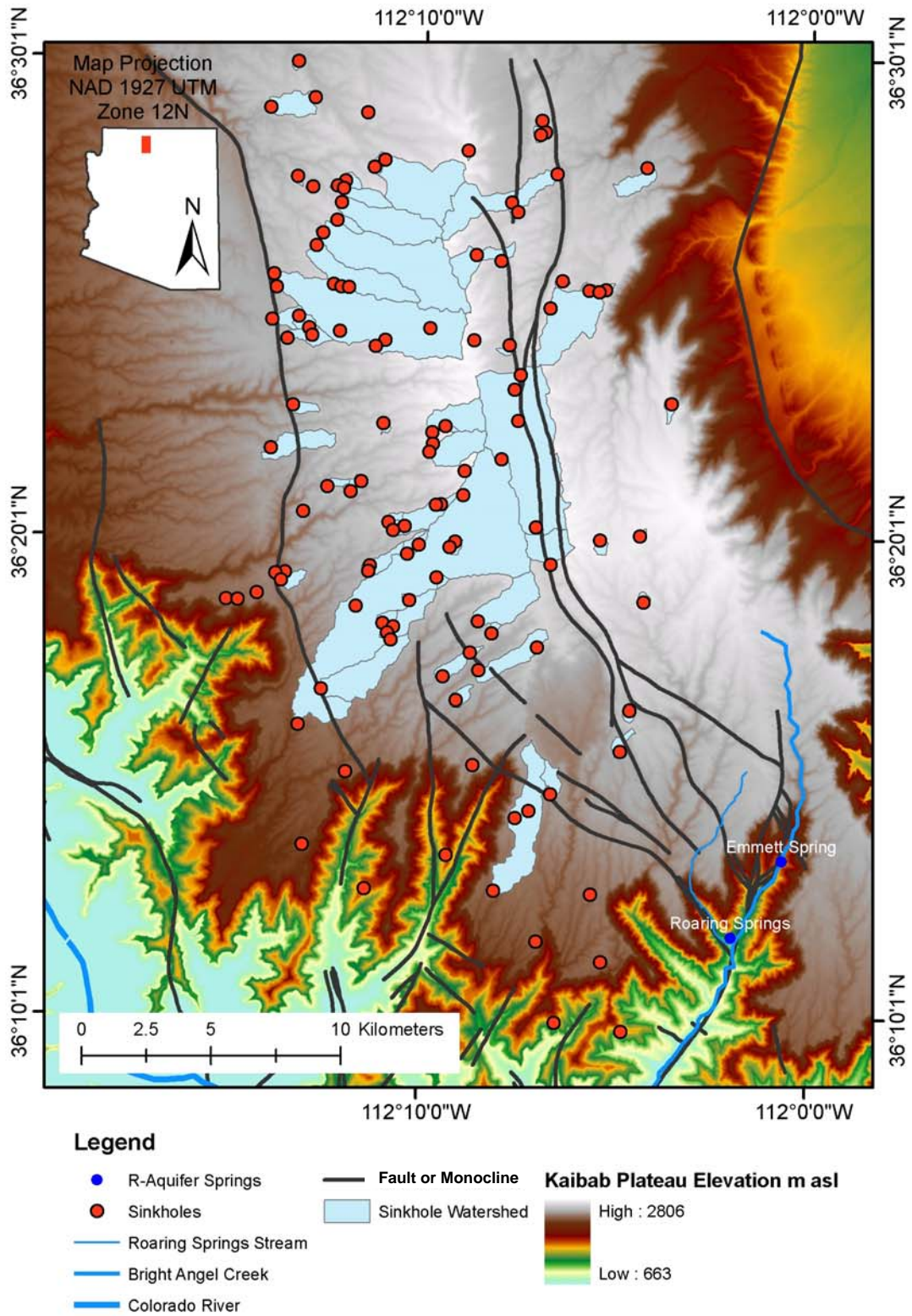


Figure 25. Watersheds of mapped sinkholes on the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. Base map from Billingsley and Hampton (2000).

because water from isolated basins outside of the Roaring Springs stream watershed may be contributing to spring discharge.

A dynamic average steady-state groundwater flow system is one where discharge and recharge are in long-term equilibrium (Anderson and Woessner 1992). Recharge to the Roaring Springs groundwater flow system should therefore be approximately 9,740,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr, which is the average annual discharge of Roaring Springs based on a relationship developed between spring discharge and the 87-year discharge record of Bright Angel Creek.

Annual recharge across the study area can also be estimated by subtracting annual evapotranspiration from annual precipitation across the study area. Using this method and the data presented previously, recharge across the Kaibab Plateau should range from zero to 290 mm annually, with less recharge occurring at lower, drier elevations.

Recharge is seasonally variable. Most precipitation falls during the winter, when low temperatures and plant use allow more water to recharge the aquifer system. There is less precipitation during the summer when evapotranspiration rates are much higher. This seasonal recharge pattern is apparent on the Roaring Springs hydrograph as a peak during late spring and declining base flow through the summer monsoon season (Figure 26).

The hydrograph also indicates that recharge is occurring through two different processes. A large volume of water flows rapidly through the aquifer's conduit system, while perennial base flow at the spring is sustained by water discharging from aquifer storage. The volume of water discharging from Roaring Springs between March 8 and June 15, 2003 is approximately 2,750,000 m<sup>3</sup> (~60% of annual spring discharge). This large peak in spring discharge corresponds to the snow pack melting on the Kaibab

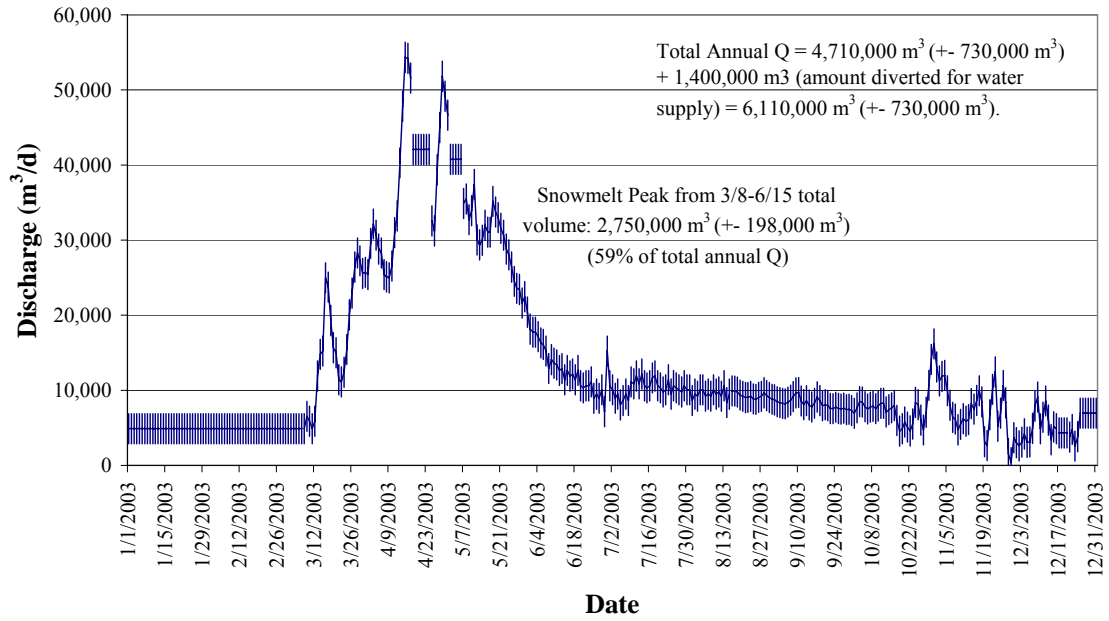


Figure 26. Roaring Springs hydrograph for 2003 illustrating the effect of seasonal recharge on the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. Daily discharge line width reflects error resulting from dynamic flow in the stream.

Plateau; it was observed in the field that discharge began to rise following a large snowfall on the Kaibab Plateau on March 5 and began to wane when the last snow melted in mid-May. The remaining 1,960,000 m<sup>3</sup> of water (~40% of annual spring discharge) sustains perennial flow to Roaring Springs stream. This pattern is also apparent in Bright Angel Creek discharge data.

The source of water discharging from the aquifer during base flow conditions is uncertain. It may be stored in the matrix of the R-aquifer, or it may be stored in the matrix of overlying clastic sedimentary units, such as the Coconino or Esplanade sandstones.

Roaring Springs water samples were collected monthly between March and October 2003 and analyzed for stable isotopes of oxygen and hydrogen. These data were used to identify the source of recharge to the R-aquifer. The ratios of stable isotopes (R) are expressed in delta units ( $\delta$ ) as ppt as shown in the following equation:

$$\delta_{\text{ppt}} = \frac{R_{\text{samples}} - R_{\text{standard}}}{R_{\text{standard}}} \times 1,000 \quad (3)$$

The standard is an arbitrary standard, known as the Vienna Standard Mean Ocean Water (VSMOW). The stable isotope analyses from Roaring Springs water were placed on a global meteoric water line (MWL) and local MWL for the South Rim of Grand Canyon with precipitation samples collected on the Kaibab Plateau (Figure 27). This analysis shows that Roaring Springs water is recharged by precipitation, as all stable isotope values fall close to the MWLs. It is also evident that summer precipitation does not play a role in aquifer recharge. The seasonal pattern of spring stable isotope values also suggests that discharge during base flow may be affected by evaporation occurring during recharge.

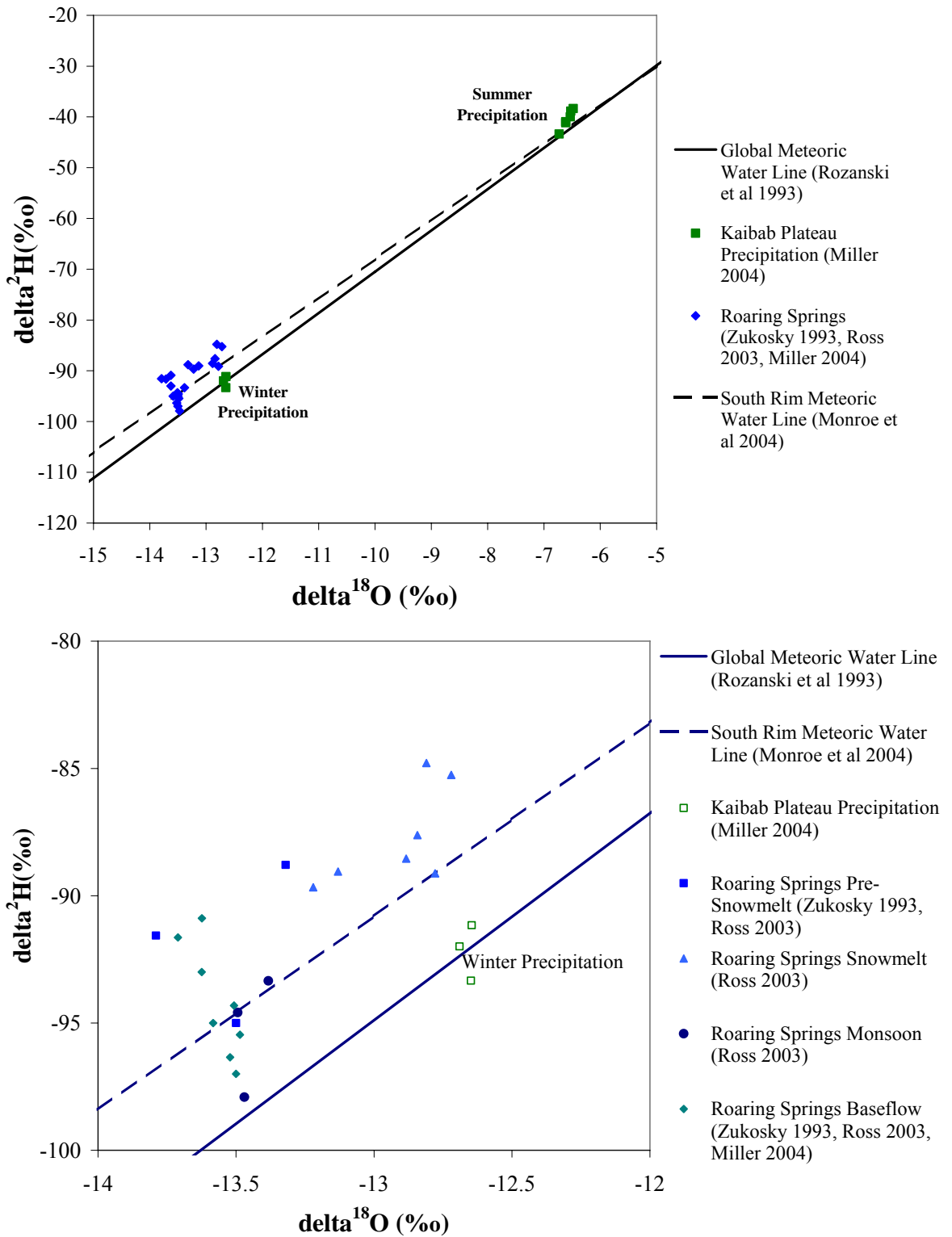


Figure 27. Oxygen and hydrogen stable isotope analyses of 1993 and 2003-2004 Roaring Springs discharge and Kaibab Plateau precipitation.

### Change in Aquifer Storage

Quinlan and others (1992) recognized that long-term storage in a karst aquifer is controlled by the distribution of dissolution porosity in relation to the regional base level. If most porosity in the aquifer is above base level, as is the case with the Kaibab Plateau, then flow through the aquifer will be rapid and storage minimal. Huntoon (2000) used similar reasoning to conclude that there is minimal groundwater storage in the unconfined portions of the R-aquifer, as cave passages tend to be widely spaced and are partially drained. The distribution of aquifer storage is necessary for transient modeling. This parameter is not known with any certainty on the Kaibab Plateau. The range of acceptable values was based on a literature review of similar aquifers (Johnson 2000; Kessler 2002; Smith and Hunt 2004). Storage values ranged from 0.01-0.50, based on karst aquifer research in Arizona, Texas and New Mexico.

### **Flow System**

The hydraulic character of karst aquifers is defined by the spatial and temporal distribution of flow regimes that range from turbulent flow in freely draining conduits to diffuse laminar flow through narrow fractures, partings, and intergranular pores. Solution conduits develop along the routes of greatest unsaturated zone water movement, which are often vertical or steeply dipping fractures. When the steepest pathways are unable to transmit all the water entering from karst recharge features, water will overflow along the next steepest pathway such as bedding-plane partings. Turbulent conduits are surrounded by bedrock that contains only diffuse laminar flow; the diffuse bedrock seepage drains into these conduits (Ginsberg and Palmer 2002).



## Groundwater Flow Direction

Dye-tracing studies are a common tool used to explore karst groundwater flow pathways, but this type of work was beyond the scope of this project due to environmental protections in place for Grand Canyon National Park, the status of Roaring Springs as a public drinking water supply, and lack of money and manpower necessary to monitor such a test. Groundwater flow directions were instead inferred based on an examination of geophysical data, structural data, and a topographic analysis of the Bright Angel Shale.

Bouguer gravity- and isostatic-gravity-anomaly trends were defined for Grand Canyon National Park by Gettings and Bultman (2005). Anomaly trends are indicators of deep penetrative fractures that may control recharge locations and flow directions. These trends were compared to the distribution of structural features, sinkholes, and springs. Similar techniques have been used to study karst systems in Missouri and Arizona (Lange 1999; Gamey 2001; Getting and Bultman 2005). Sinkholes do appear to correlate with lineations in the Bouguer gravity and isostatic gravity data; they trend parallel or perpendicular to the gravity lineations (Figure 28). It was also interesting to note that, while the area over which sinkholes occurred appeared to be oriented with the East Kaibab Monocline, the local distribution of sinkholes was oriented with northeast trending Precambrian faults such as the Bright Angel Fault.

The basal surface of the Muav Formation was used to delineate the watersheds expected to contribute to Roaring Springs (Figure 29). Initially, 25 km<sup>2</sup> watersheds were delineated, the minimum surface area required to collect 4,700,000 m<sup>3</sup> (the approximate volume of water discharging through Roaring Springs in 2003) assuming that 70% of

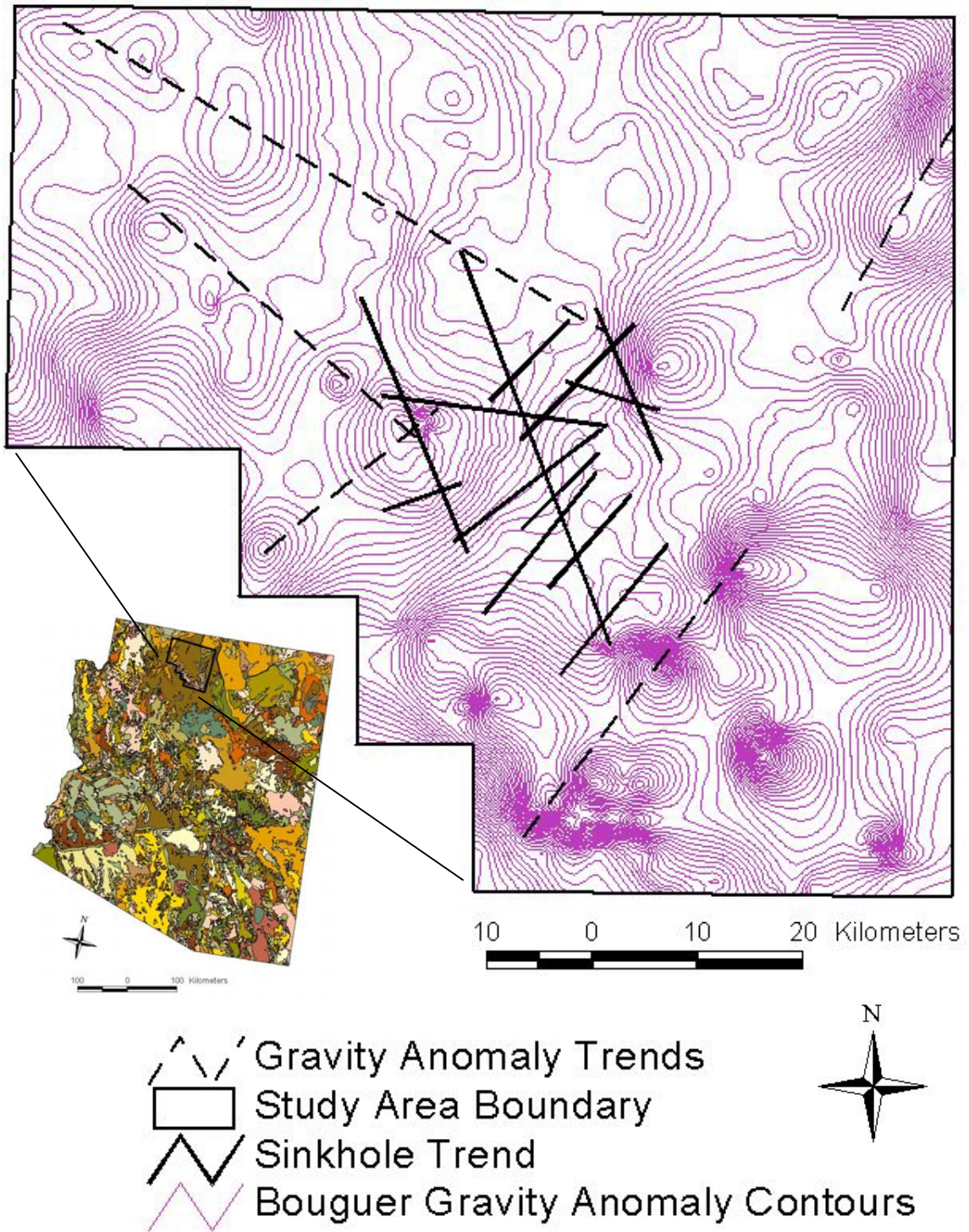


Figure 28. Trends in sinkhole distribution versus trends in Bouguer gravity and isostatic gravity data; they trend parallel or perpendicular to the gravity lineations. Base map from Sweeney and Hill (2001).

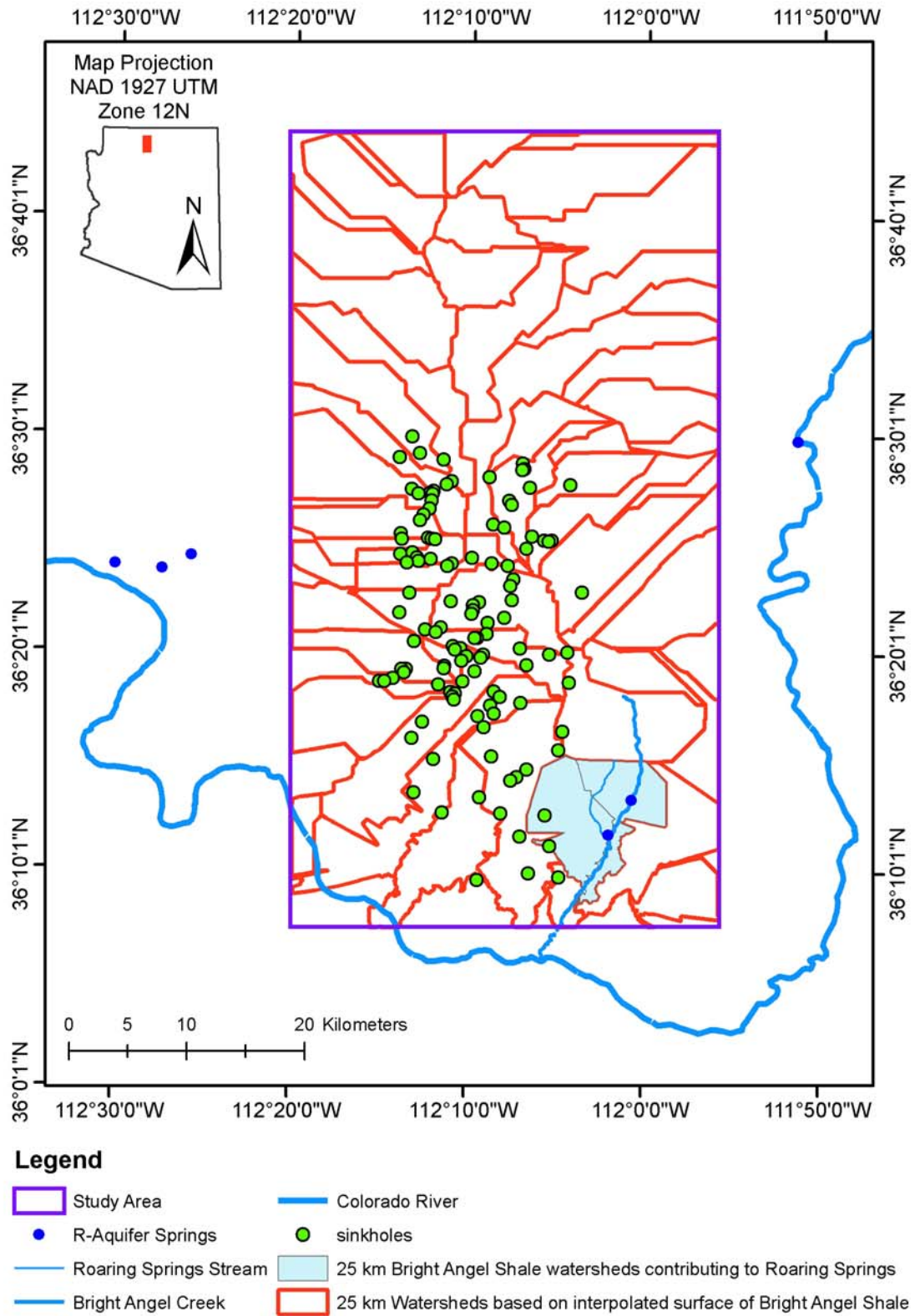


Figure 29. 25 km<sup>2</sup> watersheds on the basal surface of the Muav Formation.

annual precipitation was lost to sublimation, evaporation, and transpiration. Assuming a homogenous aquifer, this is a minimum determination of the spring recharge area. If only 1% of annual precipitation is assumed to recharge the Roaring Springs system in 2003, the necessary recharge area grows to about 720 km<sup>2</sup>. This method quantifies the initial hydrogeologic bounds of the Roaring Springs groundwater flow system.

The capture area is not the only spatial variable to consider; water must be able to flow from the surface capture area to Roaring Springs. Vertical controls on this movement are fractures (examples are clear along the walls of Grand Canyon) and related sinkholes (Figure 30). Horizontal controls are contact and bedding plane surfaces; examples can be seen in the springs mapped at geologic contacts and along bedding planes in the Supai Group and Redwall Formation in Roaring Springs Canyon. As mentioned earlier, fractures related to compressional and extensional tectonic events penetrate multiple geologic units, penetrating aquitards and connecting aquifers. If fractures become blocked at some point at depth, groundwater flow will move horizontally down along the structural dip of impermeable bedding planes.

R-aquifer springs on the Kaibab Plateau discharge from caves located adjacent to faults, indicating that fault zones on the Kaibab Plateau are capable of transmitting large quantities of water. These caves have apparently adjusted to the hydraulic boundary conditions governing circulation through the aquifer; they are organized parallel to modern hydraulic gradients and are thus fairly independent of preexisting dissolution-enhanced fracture permeability (Huntoon 2000) (Figure 31). This indicates that sufficient time has elapsed since the modern circulation system boundaries became established for the flow regime to have created optimally oriented karstic permeability pathways.

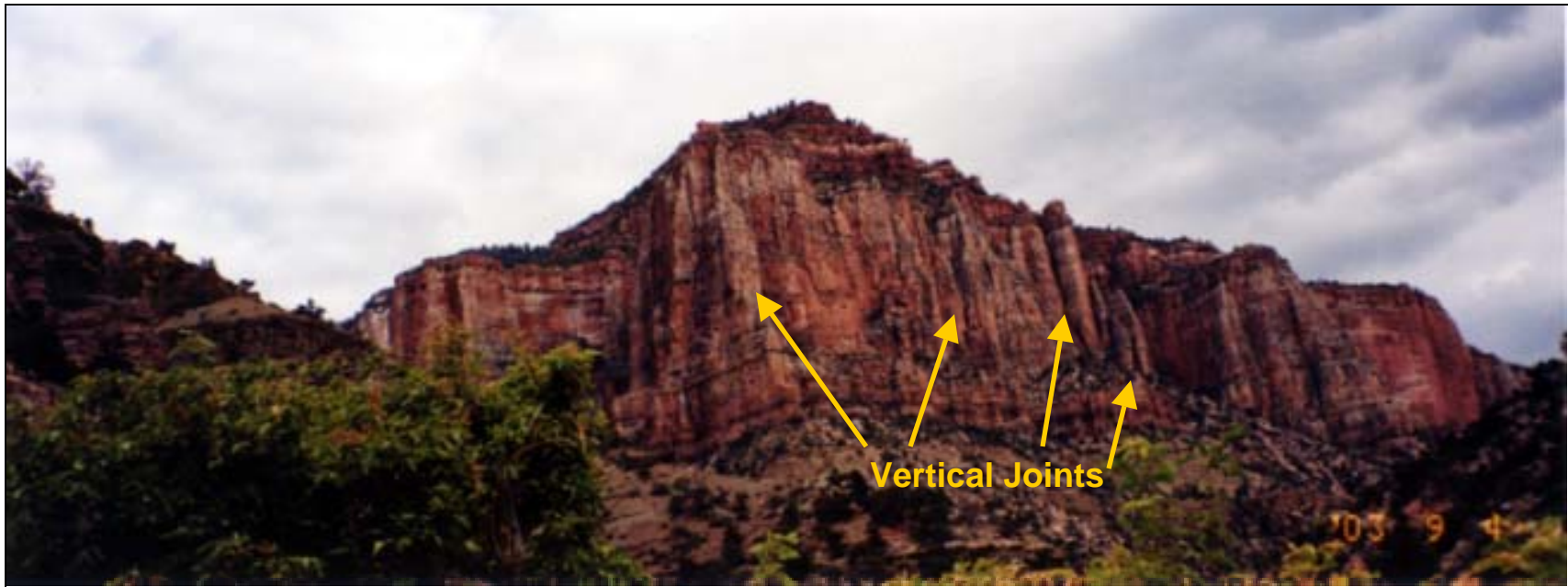


Figure 30. Photograph of R-aquifer in Roaring Springs Canyon, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona (September 4, 2003) Regularly spaced, vertical joints are common through the Redwall Formation.

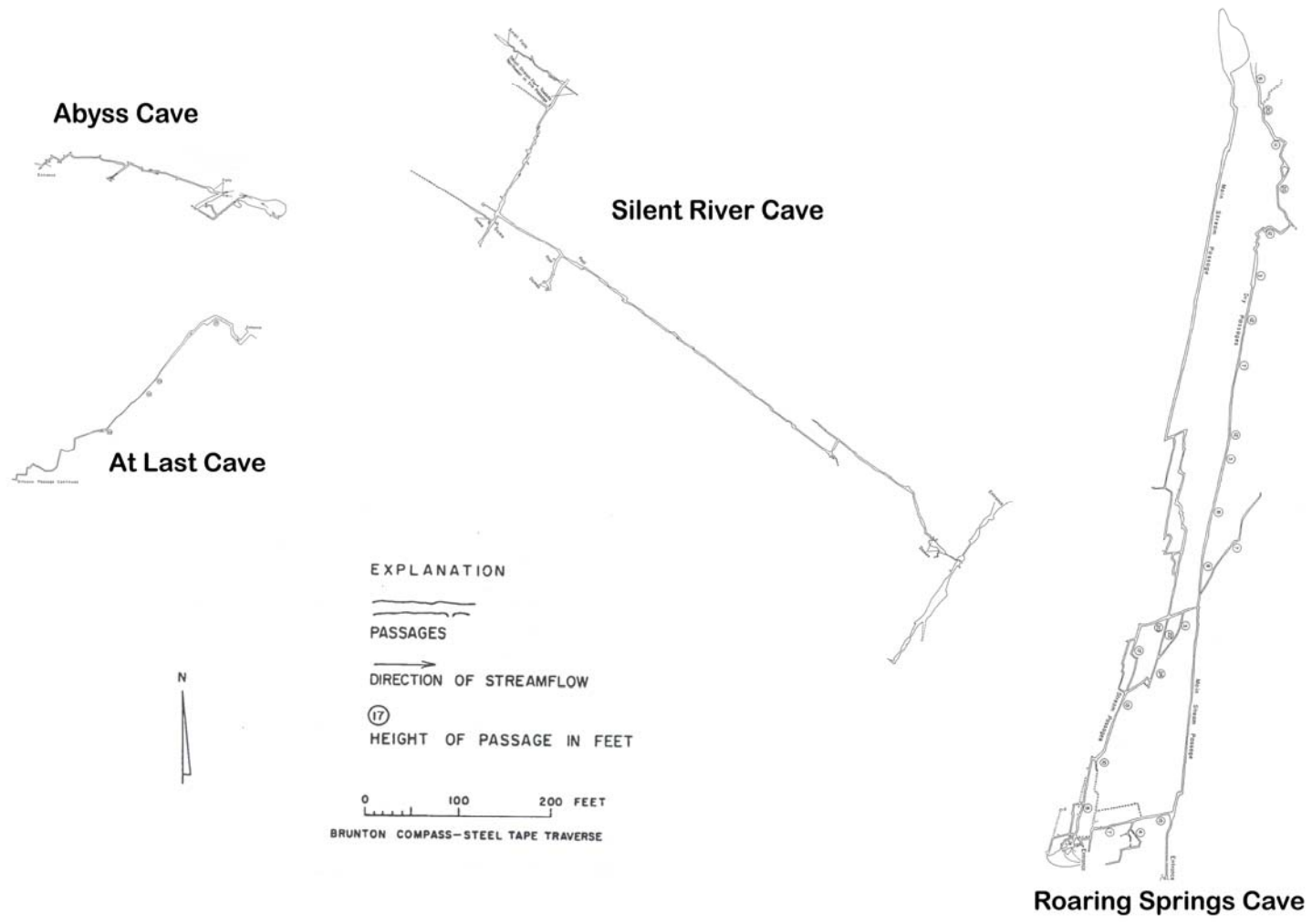


Figure 31. Modern R-aquifer cave passage orientation for selected caves in Grand Canyon. Modified from the Arizona Speleological Society (Huntoon 1970).

## Groundwater Flow Rates

The age of water discharging through Roaring Springs was determined as a mean groundwater residence time, a value which reflects the likely mixture of modern and older inputs in the aquifer. Only in well-defined and usually regional artesian aquifers will true age gradients along the flow path be preserved (Clark and Fritz 1997). Evidence of even small amounts of modern recharge was noted, however, because of its serious implications for contaminant pathways. Groundwater flow rates through the R-aquifer were estimated based on spring hydrograph analysis, oxygen and hydrogen stable isotope analyses, and tritium age dating.

Previous to this study, documentation of spring response to precipitation events was purely anecdotal (Johnson and Sanderson 1968; Huntoon 1970; Rihs 2002; Aiken 2003; Ross 2003). Pressure transducers installed in Roaring Springs Canyon monitored water levels at 1 – 15 minute increments between March 8 and December 28, 2003. As determined previously, this dataset quantifies the response time of the spring to recharge events (Figure 23). Based on this figure, the spring responds to precipitation on the Kaibab Plateau between 1 and 6 days. This conclusion assumes: peaks in the spring hydrograph are due to increased flow and not due to head changes caused by barometric pressure changes, that water discharging from the springs is the same water that fell as precipitation, and that precipitation recorded at the Bright Angel Ranger Station on the southern Kaibab Plateau represents the timing of precipitation in the nearby Roaring Springs recharge area.

Recharge processes attenuate seasonal variations in  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}$ , and this rate of attenuation has been found to be proportional to the length of groundwater flow paths,

and, consequently, to time (Raeisi and Karami 1997; Clark and Fritz 1997; Davisson 2000; Long and Putnam 2002). The preservation of any seasonal variation signifies short-term mean residence times. When the pattern of stable isotope variability is compared to spring discharge, it exhibits a seasonal variation. It also appears that recharge from snowmelt reaches the spring in less than a month's time (Figure 32). This conclusion is also supported by an examination of the seasonal variation of Roaring Springs temperature, pH, and specific conductivity (Figure 33).

The radiogenic isotope hydrogen, tritium ( $^3\text{H}$ ), can be incorporated in water molecules and may be used to determine groundwater age, which can be used to infer travel times along ground-water flow paths. This method has historically relied on the use of the "bomb" signal, which was a peak in atmospheric tritium levels during thermonuclear testing between 1952 and 1969 (Hart et al 2002b). By 1990, most bomb tritium had been washed from the atmosphere, and tritium levels in global precipitation are now close to natural levels. While thermonuclear tritium can still be found in some slowly moving groundwater, the largely natural  $^3\text{H}$  signal is now relied upon for dating modern groundwater. Natural tritium is formed in the upper atmosphere from the bombardment of nitrogen by the flux of neutrons in cosmic radiation. The amount of tritium in the atmosphere (precipitation) is a function of latitude; greater production occurs at higher latitudes. The few measurements of natural pre-bomb tritium in precipitation indicate that 3.4 - 6.6 TU is appropriate for latitudes corresponding to Naples New York, and the Bordeaux and Rhone regions of France (Clarke and Fritz 1997). Water samples collected at Roaring Springs were analyzed for tritium to qualitatively and quantitatively estimate a mean groundwater residence time.



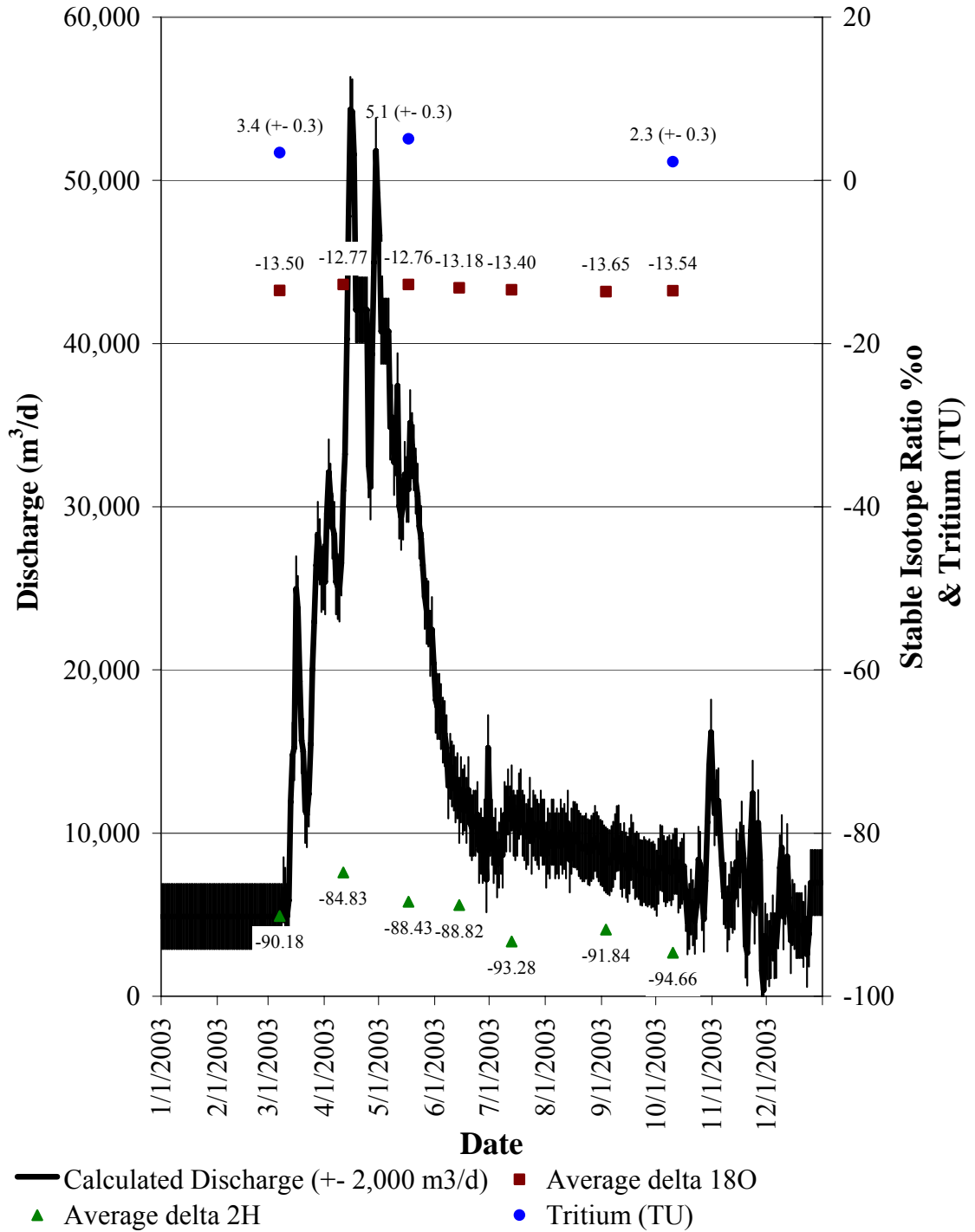


Figure 32. 2003 daily spring discharge versus seasonal variation in tritium,  $\delta^{18}\text{O}$  and  $\delta^2\text{H}$  at Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, AZ. Discharge line width reflects error resulting from dynamic flow in the stream.

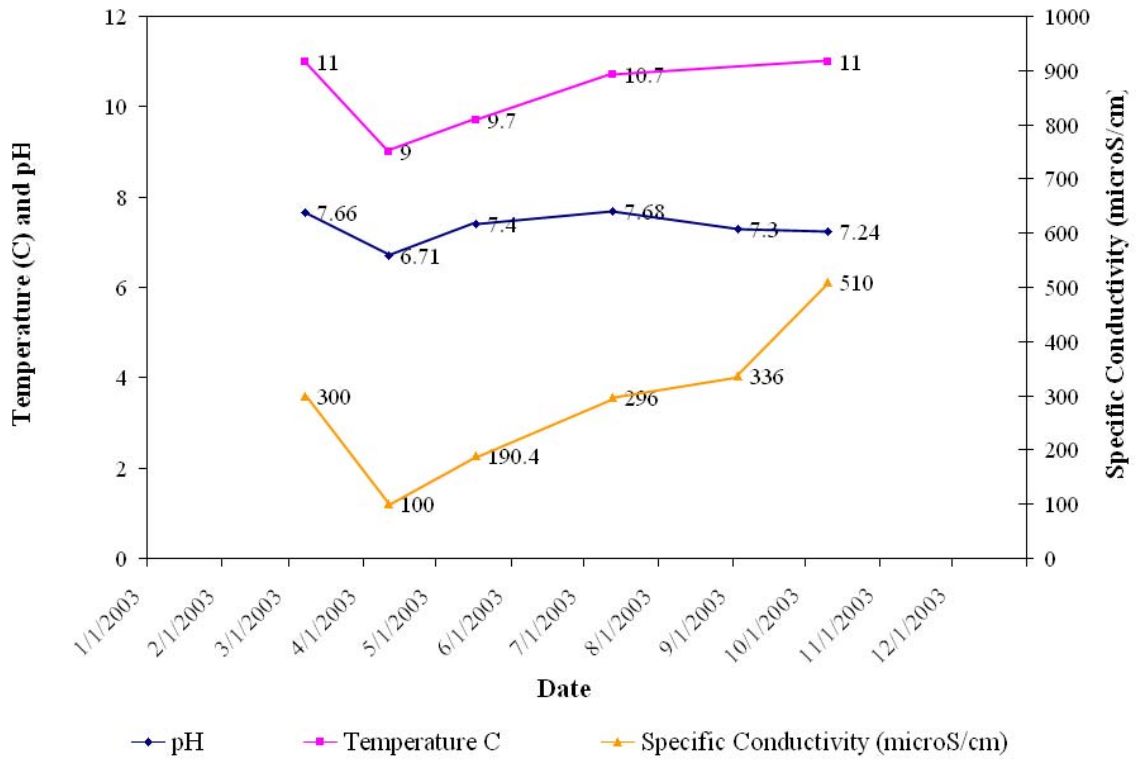


Figure 33. 2003 Roaring Springs seasonal variation in temperature, pH, and specific conductivity.

Table 6. Tritium concentrations (TU) at Roaring Springs cave. Analyses done at The University of Arizona Laboratory of Isotope Geochemistry, Tucson, Arizona.

Date	Tritium Concentration (TU)
3/7/03	3.4 ± 0.3
5/17/03	5.1 ± 0.3
10/10/03	2.3 ± 0.28

Table 7. Qualitative interpretation of tritium data from Clarke and Fritz (1997).

For continental regions	
Tritium Concentration	Estimated age of groundwater
<0.8 TU	Submodern – recharge prior to 1952
0.8 - ~4 TU	Mixture between submodern and recent recharge
5-15 TU	Modern (<5 to 10 years)
15-30 TU	Some “bomb” present
>30 TU	Considerable component of recharge from 1960s or 1970s
>50 TU	Dominantly the 1960s recharge
For coastal and low latitude regions	
Tritium Concentration	Estimated age of groundwater
<0.8 TU	Submodern – recharge prior to 1952
0.8~2 TU	Mixture between submodern and recent recharge
2-8 TU	Modern (<5 to 10 years)
10-20 TU	Residual “bomb” 3H present
>20 TU	Considerable component of recharge from 1960s or 1970s

Using the information presented by Clarke and Fritz (1997), Roaring Springs discharges a mixture of submodern and recent recharge during base flow conditions (June through March) and mostly modern water during spring snowmelt (March to June).

Mean groundwater residence time can also be estimated by assuming the tritium input into the Roaring Springs groundwater system is known, and that the residual tritium

measured in the spring water is a result of radioactive decay alone. This method is imprecise, but may be easily refined if more data is collected on the Kaibab Plateau.

$$a_t^{3\text{H}} = a_0^{3\text{H}}e^{-\lambda t} \quad (4)$$

where  $a_0^{3\text{H}}$  = initial tritium activity (in TU),  
 $a_t^{3\text{H}}$  = residual activity (measured in sample) remaining after decay over time t, and  
 $\lambda$  =  $\ln 2$ /half-life ( $t^{1/2}$ ) in years.

Using tritium's half-life of 12.43 years, this equation can be re-written as

$$t = -17.93 \ln(a_t^{3\text{H}}/a_0^{3\text{H}}) \quad (5)$$

where  $a_0^{3\text{H}}$  = 5.1 TU (assumed initial tritium activity) and  
 $a_t^{3\text{H}}$  = 3.4, 5.1, or 2.3 TU (residual activity measured in Roaring Springs).

Assuming that natural atmospheric tritium concentrations are 5.1 TU, the mean groundwater residence time for the Roaring Springs system is between 0 and 14 years. The spring discharges almost entirely 'new' water during the middle of the spring snowmelt pulse on May 17, 2003; spring discharge during base flow conditions on October 10, 2003 was predominantly older water (mean residence time = 14 years). The mean groundwater residence time estimated on March 7, 2003 is 7 years. Natural tritium concentrations in precipitation on the Kaibab Plateau must be less than 2.3 TU if all water discharging from Roaring Springs is less than 1 year old. It is assumed, however, that the tritium concentration measured on May 17 is close to natural atmospheric levels, based on hydrograph analysis and the chemical signature of the water during this time period.

### Conclusions and Discussion

No streams drain from the Kaibab Plateau, and runoff only follows very infrequent and intense rainstorms or heavy snowmelt. Chemical data (Crossey 2002)

indicate that there is little through-flow from the R-aquifer through the Bright Angel Shale. No water wells penetrate the R-aquifer on the Kaibab Plateau. It is safe to assume, therefore, that most of the water falling on the Plateau leaves through evaporation, transpiration, or spring discharge.

Table 8. 2003 Roaring Springs conceptual water budget.

	Precip (mm/d)	ET (mm/d)	Recharge (mm/d)	Upper Aq. Spring Q (m <sup>3</sup> /d)	Roaring Springs Q (m <sup>3</sup> /d)	Δ Storage
Summer (Apr 1 – Sept 30) 183 days	1.31	0.044 – 5.80	0.00 – 0.87	2,730	17,400 ± 2,000	Unknown
Winter (Oct 1 – Apr 30) 182 days	2.27	1.52 – 7.87	0.00 – 0.74	2,750	16,100 ± 2,000	Unknown
Total Annual	652 mm	358 – 2,490 mm	0.00 -294 mm	500,000 m <sup>3</sup>	6,110,000 ± 730,000 m <sup>3</sup>	Unknown

Precipitation data were from the weather station at Bright Angel Ranger Station, Arizona (<http://www4.ncdc.noaa.gov/cgi-win/wwwcgi.dll?WWDI~StnSrch>). Evapotranspiration data were an average of published values for sites with similar elevation and vegetation. Recharge was estimated by subtracting evapotranspiration from precipitation. Spring discharge data from aquifers stratigraphically above the R-aquifer were compiled from previously published data and were only included as a rough approximation of groundwater flow through perched aquifers above the R-aquifer (Johnson and Sanderson 1968; Huntoon 1970; Foust and Hoppe 1985; Stevens 2002b). Roaring Springs discharge was calculated from a stage-discharge relationship developed during 2003; this discharge is expected to be a slightly low representation of spring

discharge as 2003 precipitation of 527 mm was slightly below average. Change in storage can not be calculated until the aquifer extent is better defined.

Approximately 60% of recharge flows through the system almost immediately after entering the aquifer, while 40% of annual recharge flows more slowly through the aquifer and supports base flow out of the aquifer. This distribution of conduit and diffuse flow is common in karst systems (White 2002).

The recharge area for Roaring Springs must be at least 25 km<sup>2</sup> and is most likely much larger. A topographic analysis of the Bright Angel Shale indicates that the northern boundary of the Roaring Springs recharge area is likely located at a latitude of 36°20', approximately 16 km north of Roaring Springs.

Estimates of flow rate through the Roaring Springs groundwater system vary between 1 day and >14 years, indicating that all water discharging from the aquifer is relatively young and susceptible to rapid impacts from land-use activities on the Kaibab Plateau. The range in flow rates reflects the diverse flow regimes present in the karst aquifer. Rapid flow occurs through conduits while diffuse flow occurs in fractures, partings, and intergranular pores.

Building a conceptual model of the Roaring Springs groundwater system depends upon a multidisciplinary approach. Many of the datasets used in this study are lean, and calculations based on these data have a significant level of uncertainty. The results presented here are estimates that will be used as the initial parameters for the numerical groundwater flow model developed in Chapter 4.

The conceptual model for the Roaring Springs groundwater flow system will benefit from the collection of additional field data. Frequent, seasonal discharge

measurements at the Roaring Springs picnic area, which is above the main spring complex, could quantify diffuse flow through the aquifer. Additional discharge measurements immediately downstream of Roaring Springs would also be useful. Installing a semi-permanent pressure transducer capable of collecting pressure, temperature, and specific conductivity data in Roaring Springs cave would be an inexpensive and valuable tool for understanding head changes and flow rates in the aquifer.

Additional precipitation samples should be collected on the Kaibab Plateau and at Roaring Springs for hydrogen and oxygen stable isotope and tritium analysis. If these samples are collected over at least a year, a number of methods may be used to determine mean groundwater residence times (Clark and Fritz 1997). The precipitation data would also be useful to groundwater studies across the region. Bi-monthly or higher frequency sampling is preferred.

## CHAPTER 4

### NUMERICAL GROUNDWATER FLOW MODEL

#### **Purpose and Objectives**

The Grand Canyon National Park has expressed an interest in developing a high-quality map of spring recharge areas to determine if these areas fall inside or outside of Park jurisdiction (Rihs 2002). This is a difficult task in a karst setting, but numerical groundwater flow modeling methods have been adapted to this purpose. The karst conduit system of Grand Canyon has not been well mapped, but other karst regions (such as Kentucky) have been numerically modeled using a ‘black box’ approach (Anderson and Woessner 1992). In this approach, functions are developed to reproduce recharge and spring flow; this is the approach used in this study. The model developed in this study is designed to define certain constraints on the Roaring Springs flow system (Anderson and Woessner 1992).

The numerical groundwater flow model of the Roaring Springs flow system was designed as an interpretive tool that organizes hydrogeologic field data and provides a mathematical framework for studying the groundwater system, including the location of groundwater sources, generalized flow paths, and flow boundaries. A numerical groundwater flow model was chosen over an analytical model because analytical models may oversimplify a problem, and they usually assume a homogenous porous medium.

The data in the numerical groundwater flow model was taken from the DGFM and conceptual models developed for this study. The model was calibrated to the field



data collected for this study and verified against previous discharge data for Bright Angel Creek (<http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis>).

### **Model Code**

MODFLOW-2000 (Harbaugh et al 2000) was chosen as the numerical code for this groundwater model because of its three-dimensional modeling capabilities. It uses the finite-difference method to solve the partial differential equation for three-dimensional groundwater flow through porous media. A three-dimensional approach was preferred to examine groundwater flow along the structural surface of the Bright Angel Shale. Groundwater Vistas 3.47 was chosen as the pre- and post-processor (Rumbaugh and Rumbaugh 2002). Datasets created through these software programs are compatible with ArcView GIS and GeoWall display technology. The LMG (algebraic, multi-grid package) mathematical solver was used with 50 maximum iterations and a convergence criterion of 0.001 (Appendix D).

### **Model Construction**

The DGFM formed the foundation for the Roaring Springs conceptual groundwater flow model. That conceptual model, along with the DGFM, provided parameter and calibration datasets for the numerical groundwater flow model. A steady state unconfined groundwater flow model was built and calibrated (Appendix D).

### Time and Space

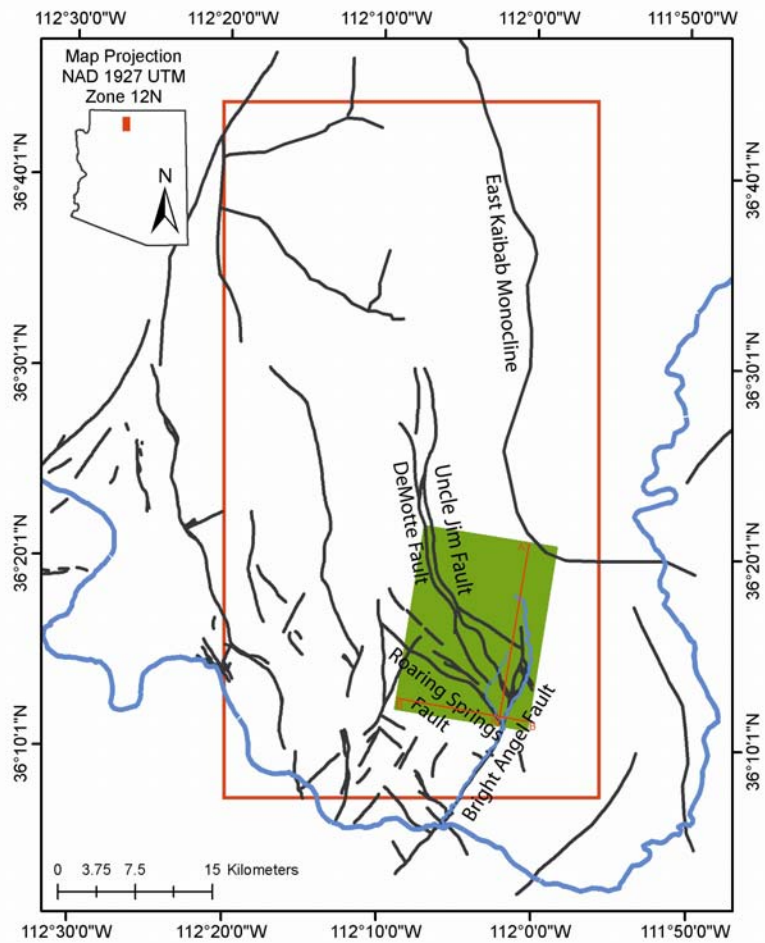
The model coordinate system was NAD 1927 UTM Zone 12N. Units were defined in days for time and meters for length. The model used 1 stress period, which was 365 days long and divided into 12 time steps.

### Model Grid

MODFLOW-2000 uses a finite difference method to solve the three-dimensional groundwater flow equation. The Roaring Springs model used a finite-difference grid defined by regularly spaced 20 m<sup>2</sup> grid cells. The grid contained 900 rows and 650 columns. The total model area was 234,000,000 m<sup>2</sup>. The grid was rotated N9.25°W; it was aligned to the orientation of Bright Angel Fault and Roaring Springs Cave, the primary flow direction toward Roaring Springs. The R-aquifer was represented in the model as a single layer containing the Redwall, Temple Butte, and Muav Formations (Figure 34).

### Model Boundaries

The groundwater flow model grid was much smaller than the DGFM, which was used to define the approximate boundaries of the groundwater flow system. The groundwater flow model grid extended slightly beyond Bright Angel Canyon on the southeast to Roaring Springs Canyon on the southwest and to a groundwater divide controlled by the structure of the Kaibab Plateau on the northeast and northwest.



**Legend**

- Roaring Springs Stream
- Bright Angel Creek
- Colorado River
- Structural Features
- Groundwater Vistas model grid
- Study Area

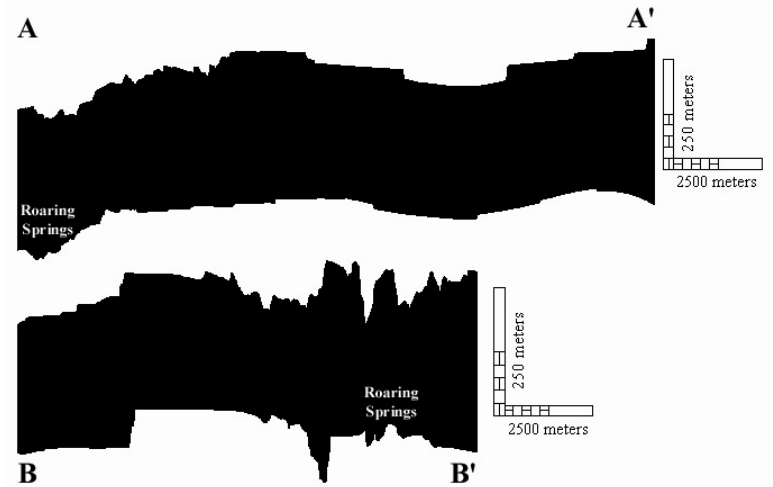


Figure 34. Location and orientation of finite difference grid used in the Roaring Springs numerical groundwater flow model.

Two types of boundaries were defined for this model: constant flux (all no-flow) and head-dependent flux (defined by MODFLOW-2000 as general-head boundaries and drains). No-flow boundaries represented groundwater divides and areas where the aquifer has been eroded by the Colorado River in Grand Canyon (Figure 35). Drains were used to simulate natural spring discharge at Roaring Springs; the amount of flow through each drain cell depended upon the cell dimensions, the hydraulic conductivity assigned to the drain cell, and the hydraulic gradient calculated by the model across the cell (Harbaugh et al 2000).

### Model Parameters

#### *Initial Heads*

Initial heads in the aquifer were set 500 m above the highest elevation on the base of the aquifer (2,330 m asl). Although initial heads for the aquifer distal from the edge of the Rim are uncertain, field observations of flow in Roaring Springs Creek indicated that the potentiometric surface of the aquifer was located in the middle to upper Muav Limestone throughout 2003. As the model neared calibration, the initial heads for subsequent iterations were set equal to the heads determined by the previous solution. Hydraulic heads were not allowed to rise above 1710 m asl (10 m above the Muav Formation) at the head Roaring Springs Canyon in the final calibrated model.

#### *Hydraulic Conductivity*

Two hydraulic conductivity zones were assigned to the model, based on the conclusions of spring hydrograph analysis. Zone 1 represented matrix hydraulic



Figure 35. Initial no-flow boundary conditions for ground water flow model of Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, AZ.

conductivity; Zone 2 represented fault zone and fracture hydraulic conductivity. An ArcView shapefile was created that combined mapped faults with a regular pattern of intersecting lines representing the rectilinear set of fractures found across the Kaibab Plateau. The faults and fractures were assigned a width of 50 m. The shapefile was imported directly into the Groundwater Vistas hydraulic conductivity zone database (Figure 36a). The matrix hydraulic conductivity value of the Redwall and Muav Formations was determined to be approximately zero, based on hydraulic analysis of the bulk rock; this value is considered to be quite reliable but was allowed to vary somewhat due to the expected presence of minor fractures and dissolution.

#### *Recharge*

Two recharge zones were used in the model (Figure 36b). No recharge was applied to the cliffs of Grand Canyon, assuming all precipitation would run off. Recharge was uniformly applied across the rest of the model. Recharge values assigned to the model were uncertain, but were constrained by spring discharge and precipitation data in Roaring Springs Canyon. Recharge was automatically applied to the top layer of the model, which implies that recharge through the Supai Group is occurring more or less uniformly over the model area.

#### *Top and Bottom Aquifer Elevations*

The top and bottom aquifer elevations were defined by an x, y, z matrix extracted from the DGFm. The basal surface of the Supai Formation defined the top elevation of

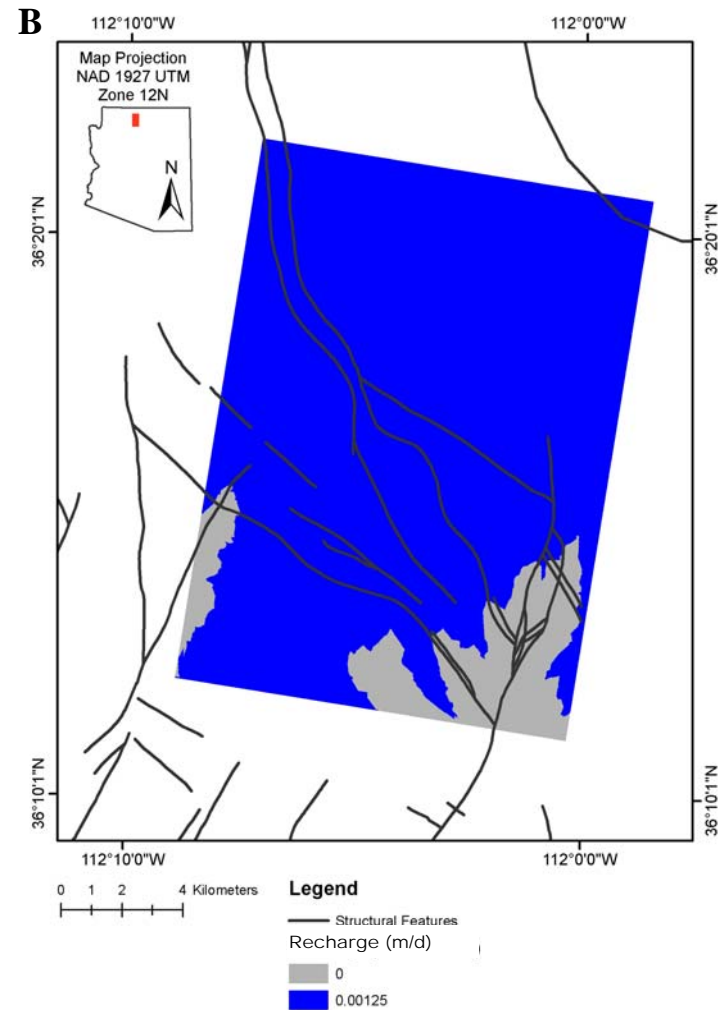
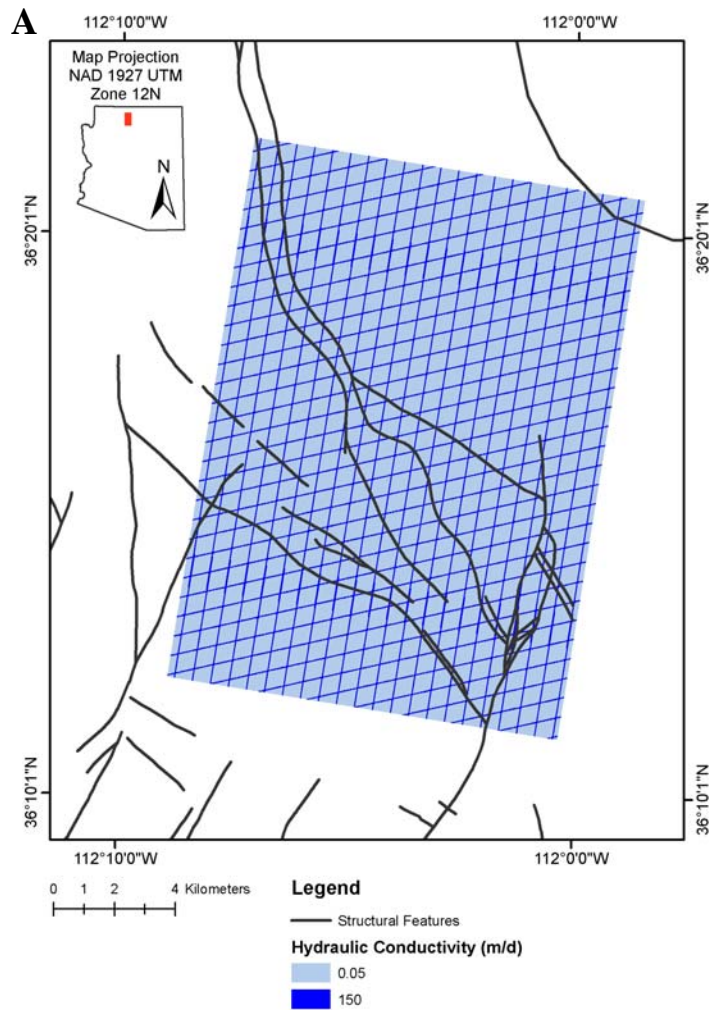


Figure 36. Maps showing the distribution of hydraulic conductivity (A) and recharge values (B) in the groundwater flow model of Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, AZ.

Layer 1. The basal surface of the Muav Limestone was the bottom elevation of Layer 1. The elevation of the aquifer top and bottom was known with some certainty (Chapter 2).

### **Model Calibration**

The model was loosely calibrated to hydraulic head at 2 locations in Roaring Springs Canyon. Calibration targets were based on annual discharge calculations for both Bright Angel Creek and Roaring Springs Canyon from 1923 to 1993, and 2003 (<http://nwis.waterdata.usgs.gov/nwis/>) (Ross 2003).

#### Calibration Targets

The model was calibrated to total annual spring discharge at Roaring Springs. The annual water budget was allowed to vary between 80,400 m<sup>3</sup>/yr (Roaring Springs picnic area discharge during base flow conditions) and 375,000,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr (Bright Angel Creek discharge during peak recharge conditions). The target goal (based on discharge at Roaring Springs) was between 8,280,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr and 11,200,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr (15% deviation of average annual discharge).

#### Calibration Process

The model was calibrated to within the target goal of 15% deviation from average annual discharge at Roaring Springs (Table 9). This was accomplished using a manual trial-and-error adjustment of parameters. Boundary conditions and aquifer properties were adjusted during successive simulations until the computed hydraulic head and



spring discharge values approximated field conditions. Table 10 details the final parameters and stresses in the calibrated model.

Early in the calibration process, no-flow boundaries were only assigned to locations where the aquifer was truncated by Grand Canyon. During calibration, it became apparent that regions of the grid were consistently flooded, contributing to model error. These areas correspond to locations where groundwater flow followed the structural surface of the Bright Angel Shale away from Roaring Springs, but could not leave the model grid. These regions were subsequently assigned no-flow boundaries, removing them from the Roaring Springs groundwater flow system (Figure 37).

The model was most sensitive to changes in recharge, which was initially defined as 30% annual precipitation. When the recharge rate was raised to 70% of annual precipitation (roughly corresponding to the amount of precipitation that falls as snow), spring discharge was within the calibration target. Decreasing recharge rates while maintaining calibration was attempted by adjusting no-flow boundaries, drain conductance, and hydraulic conductivity; these attempts were only minimally successful.

Drain conductance was allowed to vary between values of 100 and 10,000 m<sup>3</sup>/d, based on the discharge and dimensions of Roaring Springs Cave. Lowering drain conductance values routinely led to increased spring discharge. This counter-intuitive response was caused by lower conductance keeping the model from going seasonally dry and allowing more water to discharge through drains over the entire year.

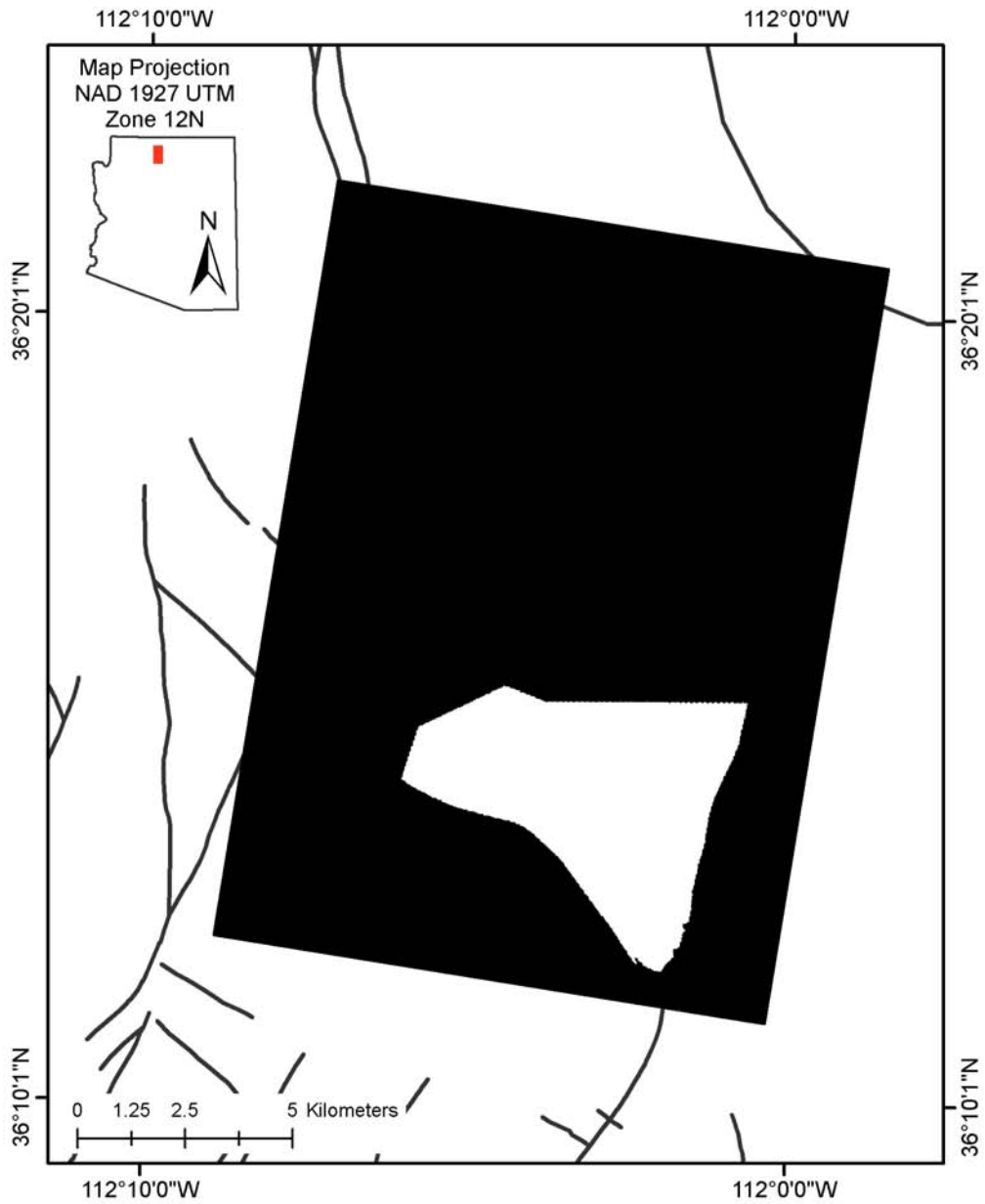
The final calibrated model was within the calibration target for Roaring Springs. The simulated potentiometric surface result is reasonable, with less saturated thickness at high elevation, and head fluctuating across modeled fault and fracture zones (Figure 38).

Table 9. Annual water budget for steady-state, Roaring Springs groundwater flow model. Spring discharge (drain) calibration target was between 8,280,000 and 11,200,000 m<sup>3</sup>/yr (15% deviation of Roaring Springs average annual discharge).

Cumulative Volumes (m <sup>3</sup> )		Rates for final time step (m <sup>3</sup> /d)	
IN		IN	
Recharge	10,519,371.0000	Recharge	28,856.5000
TOTAL IN	10,519,371.0000	TOTAL IN	28,856.5000
OUT		OUT	
Drains	10,519,368.0000	Drains	28,856.5000
TOTAL OUT	10,519,368.0000	TOTAL OUT	28,856.5000
IN - OUT	3.0000	IN - OUT	0.0000
% DISCREPANCY	0.00	% DISCREPANCY	0.00

Table 10. Parameters and stresses in calibrated, steady-state Roaring Springs flow model.

Drain Conductance (m <sup>2</sup> /d)		
		Value
	Roaring Springs Cave	8,600
	Roaring Springs Matrix	100
Hydraulic Conductivity (m/d)		
Zone Number	Zone Description	Value (K <sub>x</sub> , K <sub>y</sub> , K <sub>z</sub> )
1	Represents Matrix Blocks	.05, .05, .05
2	Represents Fractures	150, 150, 150
Recharge (m/d)		
Zone Number	Zone Description	Value
1	Steep Topography	0.0
2	Plateau Surface	0.00125



**Legend**

— Structural Features

**Boundary Condition**

■ No-Flow

Figure 37. Final locations of no-flow boundary conditions in groundwater flow model of Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, AZ.

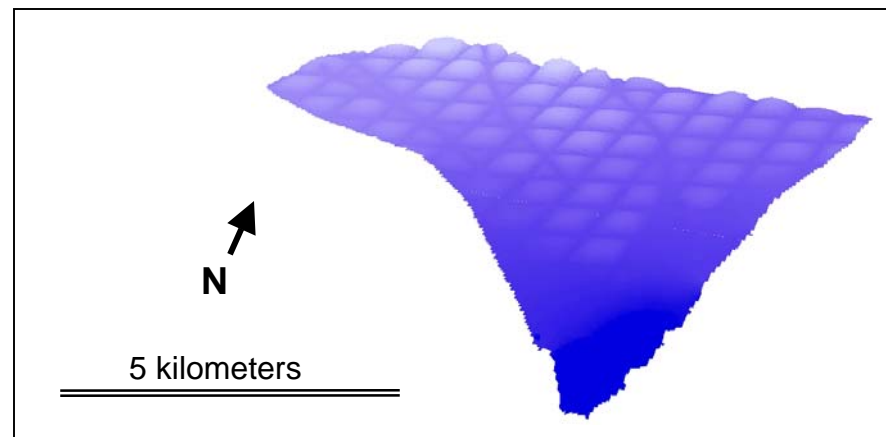
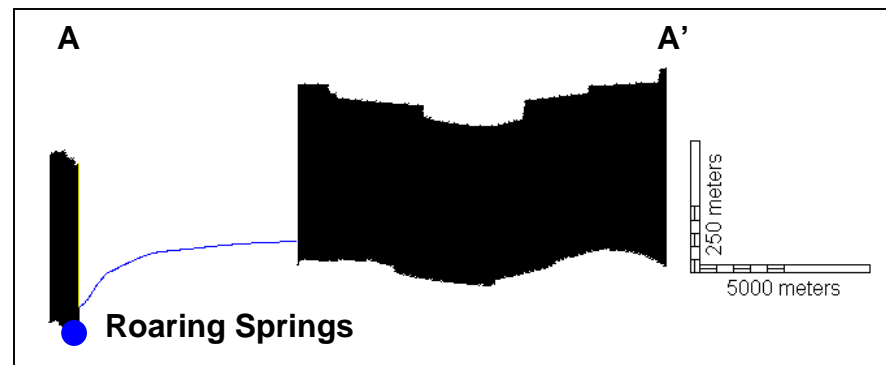
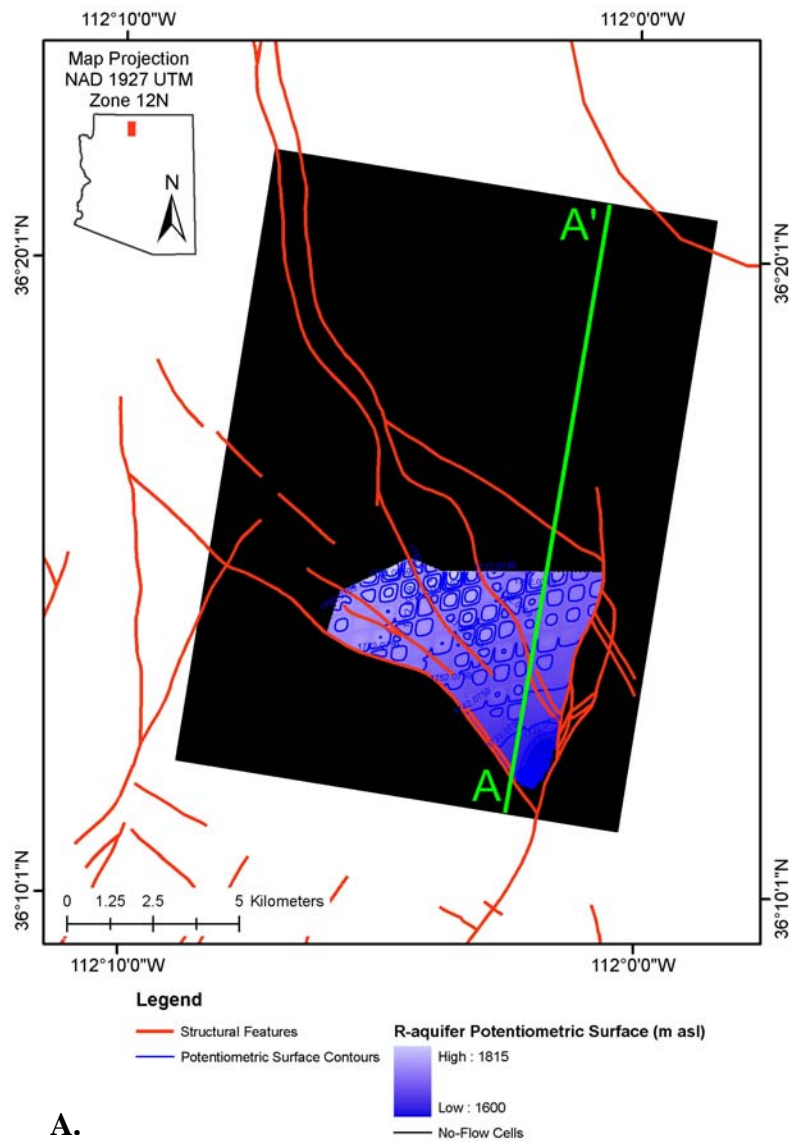


Figure 38. Recharge area (A), aquifer cross-section (B), and conceptualized potentiometric surface (C) of the calibrated steady-state numerical groundwater flow model for Roaring Springs, Kaibab Plateau, Arizona.

## **Sensitivity Analysis**

A model journal was kept to evaluate the calibration process. Based on a manual trial-and-error sensitivity analysis, the model water budget was deemed most sensitive to recharge volumes. The simulated water budget was deemed least sensitive to hydraulic conductivity values assigned to the matrix and fractures. A sensitivity analysis was conducted to better quantify model sensitivity to recharge and Roaring Springs drain conductance values (Figure 39). The sensitivity analysis corroborates the conclusion that the model water budget is most sensitive to recharge volumes. The model water budget is least sensitive to the hydraulic conductivity values assigned to the aquifer matrix and fractures. This conclusion realistically reflects the observed seasonal flux in spring discharge due to seasonal recharge variability.

Varying fracture and matrix hydraulic conductivity did not impact the annual water budget. These values primarily affect the relationship between flow in the matrix and fractures, which controls the smoothness of the aquifer potentiometric surface. The difference in hydraulic conductivity between the matrix and the fractures also affects the expected chemical signature of spring discharge. The larger the volume of water held in matrix blocks, the older the average ‘age’ of Roaring Springs discharge. Older water is expected to contain greater concentrations of dissolved constituents. If the hydraulic conductivity difference between matrix and fractures is smaller, flow will occur more easily between them and differences in chemistry will be reduced. The model represented the two different flow regimes of the Kaibab Plateau.

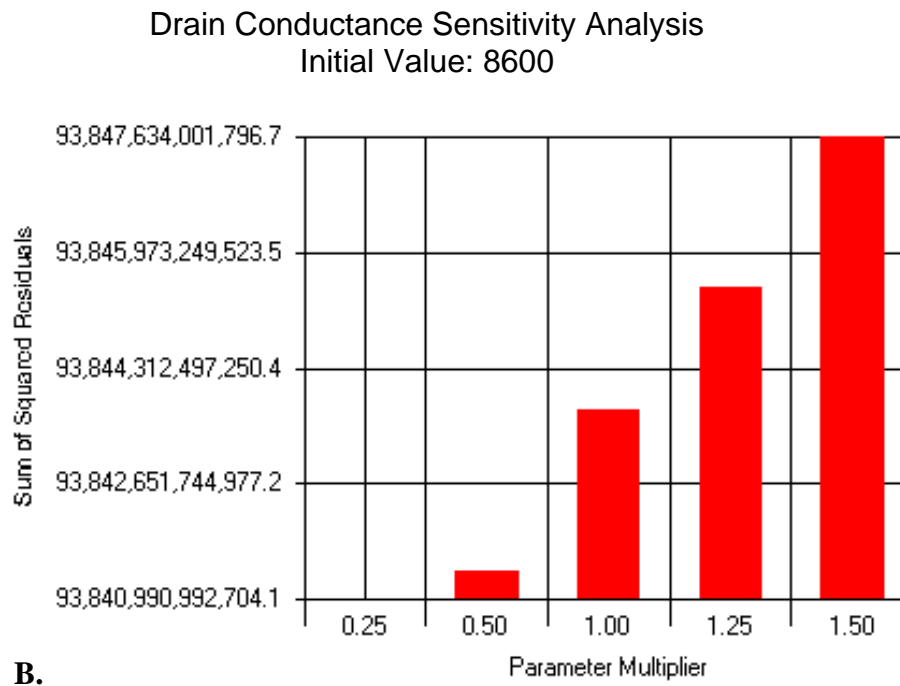
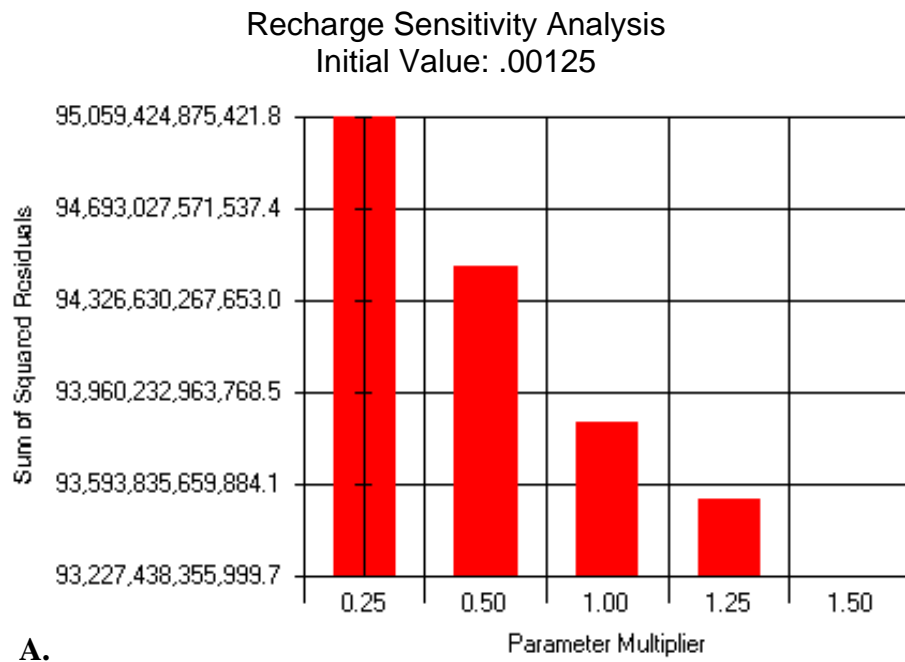


Figure 39. Model sensitivity to recharge (A) and Roaring Springs drain conductance (B).

## **Model Limitations**

This model is not intended for use as a predictive tool. It was constructed to organize hydrogeologic field data and to illustrate the primary components of the Roaring Springs groundwater system. This model demonstrates the volume of recharge required to maintain spring flow, estimates hydraulic conductivity values of fractures, and defines the general locations of groundwater divides.

Lack of data regarding the specific geometry of the conduit system in the R-aquifer precluded the use of code written for discrete-fracture network models. MODFLOW-2000 was chosen because it allowed the model to balance lack of data with the inferred structural complexity of the plateau. While MODFLOW-2000 is an equivalent porous media model, it can be adapted to function as a dual-continuum formulation model. This problem has been examined by a variety of researchers who concluded that MODFLOW-2000 generates reasonable results in karst terrains, particularly when used to model spring discharge over a large area. MODFLOW-2000 should not be used to track particle flow through a karst aquifer because of the great uncertainty in predicting the distribution of flow paths (Knochemnus and Robinson 1996, Daniel et al 1997, Wilson 2000, Scanlon et al 2003).

Some assumptions made in the conceptual model were carried through to the numerical model. When analyzing results of the numerical model, one should consider the following subjects: how karstification and aquifer heterogeneity impact the distribution of hydraulic conductivity; the assumption that Darcy's law is applicable to flow through the fractures and solution openings in a karst region; the assumption that little to no water is stored from one recharge event to the next in pools within the karst

system; and that the Bright Angel Shale is an effective confining layer and that little or no water leaves the model through this unit.

### **Conclusions and Discussion**

The calibrated model budget verifies that the R-aquifer within the conceptual model boundaries is capable of sustaining field measured discharge to Roaring Springs, although most of the winter snow pack is necessary for recharge. Under these conditions, the Roaring Springs groundwater flow system is restricted to the Kaibab Plateau within Grand Canyon National Park.

The model did not quantitatively define the flow pathways from the surface of the Kaibab Plateau to Roaring Springs. This can only be addressed through tracer studies and expanded mapping of the cave system.

The model should be improved by re-examining the conceptual model after more data collection has occurred. The model may also be improved by expanding the boundaries to include data from other springs, which would provide better calibration potential. Future data collection should include many more spring discharge and aquifer head measurements, particularly upstream of Roaring Springs. More data are also needed regarding recharge rates in sinkholes and fractures on the Kaibab Plateau.

The process used in this project demonstrates the use of a preliminary model in an interpretive sense and illustrates the strength of a groundwater flow model as a framework for organizing available field data and for identifying deficiencies in the existing database.



## CHAPTER 5

### SUMMARY AND DISCUSSION

Roaring Springs discharges from the unconfined, karstic, R-aquifer in the Kaibab Plateau, Arizona. As the sole supply of drinking water to Grand Canyon National Park, an assessment of the Roaring Springs recharge area and groundwater flow rate was warranted. This study's groundwater flow modeling methodology included the construction of a digital geologic framework model, description of a conceptual model of the Roaring Springs groundwater flow system, and the construction and calibration of a numerical groundwater flow model.

Results indicate that almost 70% of annual precipitation (corresponding to the volume of winter precipitation) is needed to recharge the R-aquifer and that recharge occurs solely during the winter season. Recharging groundwater moves through the aquifer along two principal pathways: 1) turbulent flow through structurally-controlled dissolution enhanced conduits, and 2) diffuse laminar flow through small fractures, fault gouge, and along bedding plane partings. These two flow regimes are apparent on the Roaring Springs hydrograph base flow recession curves. Water flowing through the conduit system moves from land surface to Roaring Springs in less than a month, likely within a day. Water moving through the larger aquifer matrix moves more slowly, with travel times ranging from months to years. Mean groundwater residence time is ~7 years, based on tritium analysis of spring water.

The recharge area is constrained by the structural relief of the Bright Angel Shale, the R-aquifer's basal confining unit. The approximate recharge area is 30 km<sup>2</sup>. Aquifer

geometry can be easily displayed on the GeoWall, a three-dimensional visualization technology designed to enhance understanding of complex geologic systems. The GeoWall allows for rapid and simple identification of errors in geologic model construction, especially for interpretive modeling exercises, such as this study.

The results presented above are based primarily on high-frequency stage measurements made between March and December 2003 in Roaring Springs stream and cave, hydrograph analysis of historical discharge data in Bright Angel Creek, watershed modeling using a DGFM, and calibration of a numerical flow model.

Roaring Springs discharge and isotope data were collected to quantify the response time of the aquifer to recharge events occurring on the Kaibab Plateau, to determine the source of recharge, and to approximate mean groundwater residence time in the aquifer. These data effectively quantified response time and identified the presence of multiple flow paths, but more chemical data are needed to refine flow pathways. Collection of precipitation and spring water samples over a full year would yield better results. Collection of chemistry samples during and immediately after precipitation events, late season sample collection, and sample collection above the main stream complex would also improve understanding of matrix/diffuse flow processes.

A DGFM was constructed to define aquifer geometry. Available datasets restricted accuracy of this geometry to scales greater than 1:100,000, but this scale is adequate to assess groundwater flow bounds. The model would be improved by refined mapping and development of improved interpolation methods. The DGFM illustrated the dilemma of moving from paper to digital data; geologic mapping and model construction will not be efficient until a more consistent digital mapping scheme is widely adopted.

The move to 3D digital geologic modeling will greatly benefit hydrogeologic research by providing more reliable data.

Calibration of an interpretive numerical flow model was done to test the strength of the conceptual model and to refine the Roaring Springs/Kaibab Plateau water budget. MODFLOW-2000, the software program chosen, is appropriate for this purpose but is not capable of predicting groundwater flow paths accurately. The model is deemed an appropriate tool to improve our conceptual understanding of the system, although future modeling (both numerical and analytical) will continue to improve our understanding of Roaring Springs.

The final model was displayed with a GeoWall (a digital three-dimensional projection system designed for classroom presentations) to test its applicability for hydrologic education (Ross 2003; Fry and Springer 2005a, b). The digital geologic framework model can be easily rotated and examined at different scales using this system; the structure of the Kaibab Plateau is clearly illustrated. The recharge area and potentiometric surface of the Roaring Springs groundwater system are too small, however, to be viewed easily in the context of the Kaibab Plateau using the GeoWall. In general, this method continues to improve with technological advances in geographic information system software programs, but common challenges include computer processing time needed to render detailed, large-scale, complex geological datasets, educators and others' lack of time and their unfamiliarity with visualization software and/or GIS software, and lack of detailed technical resources for newly developed and developing visualization software.

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## APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

DIGITAL GEOLOGIC FRAMEWORK MODEL GRID FILES  
(ENCLOSED CD)

APPENDIX B

ROARING SPRINGS 2003 FIELD SHEETS

Table 11. Roaring Springs Field Data, September 28, 2002, Roaring Springs picnic area, immediately downstream of 2-foot nick point.

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information
<b>Time:</b> Afternoon			<b>Time:</b> NA	<b>Time:</b> NA
<b>Equip:</b> Scientific Instruments Mini Meter			<b>Equip:</b> NA	<b>Equip:</b> NA
<b>Width:</b> 4.9 feet			<b>Temp:</b> NA	<b>Stage:</b> NA
<b>Average Velocity:</b> 1.15 ft/sec			<b>PH:</b> NA	<b>Temp:</b> NA
Dist. From Right Bank	Depth	Velocity or rev/sec	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> NA	<b>Battery:</b> NA
0 ft	Bank edge	0 ft/sec	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b> NA	<b>Memory:</b> NA
1	.5 in	1.1 ft/sec		
2	1	1.1 ft/sec		
3	2	1.2 ft/sec		
4	1	1.2 ft/sec		
4.9	Bank edge	0 ft/sec		
				<b>Notes:</b> NA NA

**General Notes:**

**Weather:** 50% cloudy, sporadic sprinkles, ~67 degrees F

Measured discharge using float method (used small, broken pieces of tree branch and stop watch).

Table 12. Roaring Springs Field Data, March 7, 2003, Roaring Springs pump house (stream channel).

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information
<b>Time:</b> 1:00 pm			<b>Time:</b> 2:50 pm	<b>Time:</b> NA
<b>Equip:</b> AA meter			<b>Equip:</b> Rod's Equip	<b>Equip:</b> NA
<b>Width:</b> 7.0 ft			<b>Temp:</b> 11 C, 10.7 C	<b>Stage:</b> NA
<b>Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> 7.66	<b>Temp:</b> NA
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> 300 microS/cm	<b>Battery:</b> Full
2 ft	0.6 ft	19 rev/60 sec	<b>Samples?</b> YES	<b>Memory:</b> Full
3 ft	0.9 ft	57 rev/60 sec		
4 ft	0.6 ft	46 rev/60 sec	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>
5 ft	0.4 ft	57 rev/60 sec		P.T. test began at 12:00 pm. We finished installing it at 12:30. It was set to zero itself to barometric pressure, so it registered air pressure at R.S. bathrooms as zero. Then we walked down to pump house.
6 ft	0.3 ft	49 rev/60 sec		
7 ft	Edge	NA		
At 3:30 pm (water rose 2-3 inches?)				
At P/T			1.82 ft/sec	
Mid Channel			2.51 ft/sec	
Discharge estimated: $\frac{1}{2} (\text{width} \times (\text{avg depth } (2.5/12)) \times \text{avg vel})$				
<p><b>General Notes:</b> Determined location for P.T., directly adjacent to pump house in stream, just below where Roaring Springs enters channel, at end of riparian vegetation, above nick-point in Bright Angel Shale. Captures all spring flow. On Wed, Mar 5, 2003 there was 10 inches of snow on the South Rim. At Bright Angel Camp (Mar 6), the Ranger said there'd been 1-2 inches of snow at Roaring Springs. When we arrived, we saw .25 inches of snow in very small patches along the trail. At Cottonwood Camp (3-7), a hiker said there was a blizzard on the North Rim and he'd dug through the Supai tunnel to get down the trail. We noted the high water mark in the stream by looking at tree damage – saw broken and missing branches. After sampling at the cave, we returned to the P.T. and saw the effects of snowmelt on the stream (3:30 pm). The water appeared to rise 2-3 inches and was laden with red colored sediment (have photo of this).</p>				

Table 13. Roaring Springs Field Data, April 11, 2003, Roaring Springs pump house (in channel).

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information
<b>Time:</b> 9:45 am, 4-12-03			<b>Time:</b> 5:05 pm	<b>Time:</b> 3:40 pm
<b>Equip:</b> Scientific Instruments AA meter			<b>Equip:</b> Foust's equipment	<b>Equip:</b> Troll 4000
<b>Width:</b> 8.9 ft			<b>Temp:</b> Colder than last month	<b>Stage:</b> NA
<b>Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> 6.71	<b>Temp:</b> NA
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> .1 milleSemen/cm	<b>Battery:</b> NA
7.6 ft	0.9 ft	1.17 ft/sec	<b>Samples?</b> YES	<b>Memory:</b> NA
8.0 ft	1.6 ft	1.07 ft/sec	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b> Yes	<b>Notes:</b> Downloaded at 3:40 pm. The first attempt timed out when screen saver kicked in.  Pressure transducer did not appear to move from last month.  4-12-03: Downloaded at 10:40 am
8.9 ft	0.6 ft	8.9 ft/sec		
<b>General Notes:</b>				
<p><b>Weather:</b> 3% cloud, ~65 deg. F. Water level is significantly higher than last month. The water is also cloudy in both the cave and the stream – whitish/blue color. The head in the cave is ~10-20 cm higher than last month (See photo). Met with Bruce Aiken for first time. Suggested talking to Mike “Cosmos” Martin (638-7790, works for Dave Wellborn in Utilities). Bruce said highest turbidity can reach 15 ntu, but usually around .25 ntu. Once turbidity drops to .25, it'll stay there for months. Nov. 1 is the best time to see base flow. The Bright Angel Ranger Station keeps snowfall data for the North Rim. Bruce has data on: turbidity, pH, pump rate. He also knows most spring locations. His opinion is that monsoon storms are all runoff, so very little recharge occurs – he doesn't see any turbidity spikes during monsoon.</p>				



Table 14. Roaring Springs Field Data, May 17, 2003, Roaring Springs Picnic Area.

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information
<b>Time:</b> Morning			<b>Time:</b> NA	<b>Time:</b> NA
<b>Equip:</b> Pygmy Meter			<b>Equip:</b> NA	<b>Equip:</b> NA
<b>Width:</b> 2.0 ft			<b>Temp:</b> NA	<b>Stage:</b> NA
<b>Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> NA	<b>Temp:</b> NA
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> NA	<b>Battery:</b> NA
0 ft	0			<b>Memory:</b> NA
.15	.15	1.15 ft/sec		
1.85	.15	1.59 ft/sec	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b> NA	<b>Notes:</b> NA
<b>General Notes: Weather:</b> ~70 degrees F, 95% cloudy. Roaring springs rest area discharge appears to be roughly the same as last September. Abe took measurements. Saw three toads – took photo. Vegetation: grasses, mosses.				

Table 15. Roaring Springs Field Data, May 17, 2003, Roaring Springs pump house (in channel).

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information
<b>Time:</b> 1:00 pm			<b>Time:</b> 1:50 pm	<b>Time:</b> 12:10 pm
<b>Equip:</b> Scientific Instruments AA current meter			<b>Equip:</b> Rod's equip (look up)	<b>Equip:</b> Troll 4000
<b>Width:</b> 8.3 ft			<b>Temp:</b> 9.7 C., 10.1 C	<b>Stage:</b> .253 m
<b>Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> 7.40	<b>Temp:</b> 10.93 C
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> 190.4 microS/cm	<b>Battery:</b> NA
0.2 ft	Bank edge	NA	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b> Yes	<b>Memory:</b> NA
1.0	.5 ft	0 rev/45 sec		<b>Notes:</b>  Began new test at 12:22 pm on 5-17-03. Remember → the reference was set to 0.00, so all data after this point must be adjusted using the stage noted above (0.00 = .253)
2.0	1.10	49 rev/45 sec		
3.0	1.40	Same		
4.0	1.60	Same		
5.0	1.30	52 rev/45 sec		
6.0	1.10	49 rev/45 sec		
7.0	.90	52 rev/45 sec		
9.0	.35	58 rev/45 sec		
10.0	Bank edge	NA		

**General Notes: Weather:** 75 degrees F, 100% cloudy. 1:20 pm: Bruce Aiken noted that peak flow in the stream occurred the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May. He said to look for the temperature peak in weather data – that's when the peak also occurred in turbidity (~7.5 ntu). He thought that flow was still going down (also turbidity); he expects lows in June-July. He commented on "Martinez Lake", which is a runoff-created lake on the rim. He said spring melt would be gone by June.

The cave opening to the right (south) of the main pipe outlet may be enlarged? Seems to be putting out more flow than where the main pipe outlet is. This is different than the last trip, I think.

Table 16. Roaring Springs Field Data , June 14, 2003, Roaring Springs Picnic Area.

<b>Discharge</b>			<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>P.T. Information</b>
<b>Time:</b> 7:00 am			<b>Time:</b> NA	<b>Time:</b> NA
<b>Equip:</b> Scientific Instruments Mini Meter			<b>Equip:</b> NA	<b>Equip:</b> NA
<b>Width:</b> 3.7 ft			<b>Temp:</b> NA	<b>Stage:</b> NA
<b>Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> NA	<b>Temp:</b> NA
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> NA	<b>Battery:</b> NA
1 ft	.1 ft	.428 ft/sec		<b>Memory:</b> NA
2.2 ft	.2 ft	.94 ft/sec		
<b>General Notes:</b> NA			<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b>	<b>Notes:</b>

Table 17. Roaring Springs Field Data, June 14, 2003, Roaring Springs pump house (in channel).

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information
<b>Time:</b> 9:25 am			<b>Time:</b> NA	<b>Time:</b> 2:00 pm
<b>Equip:</b> Scientific Instruments AA Meter			<b>Equip:</b> NA	<b>Equip:</b> Troll 4000
<b>Width:</b> 7.3 ft			<b>Temp:</b> NA	<b>Stage:</b> NA
<b>Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> NA	<b>Temp:</b> NA
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> NA	<b>Battery:</b> ½ gone
1.3 ft	.7 ft	NA	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b>	<b>Memory:</b> good
2.3	1.0	1.09 ft/sec		
3.3	0.9	1.38		
4.3	0.6	1.27		
5.3	0.5	NA		
6.3	.05	.839		
7.3	Edge	NA		
<b>General Notes:</b> On the trail from the picnic area to the pressure transducer, water was running over the rope (which was dry each previous trip). The stage seemed higher, or the stream had been diverted since last trip (the latter is most likely). Could not sample at spring box because field assistant was sick due to heat exhaustion/dehydration – ran out of time. Spent most of this trip working with Bruce to enter turbidity data for past years.				<b>Notes:</b> At 2:00, started new test (so new zero value will need to be adjusted when looking at data – match to previous data set). Changed sampling interval to 15 minutes.

Table 18. Roaring Springs Field Data, July 13, 2003, Roaring Springs Cave.

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information	
<b>Time:</b> NA			<b>Time:</b> 6:00 am	<b>Time:</b>	
<b>Equip:</b> NA			<b>Equip:</b> Rod's pH and Sp.Cond	<b>Equip:</b> Global Datalogger	
<b>Width:</b> NA			<b>Temp:</b> 10.7 deg. C	<b>Stage:</b> 1.75 ft.	
<b>Velocity:</b> NA			<b>PH:</b> 7.68	<b>Temp:</b> NA	
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> 296 microsem/cm	<b>Battery:</b> NA	
				<b>Memory:</b> NA	
			<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b> Yes	<b>Notes:</b>  Installed Park Service P.T. in cave, under walkway/grate. It is 4.0 feet below the highest ladder rung. I monitored the effect of someone walking on the grate; movement was slight and returned to original level immediately. Set record every 15 minutes to match P.T. in stream channel below. P.T recorded depth as 1.75 feet. Sven measured water depth as 1.85 feet. The P.T. was installed just above the pipe intake location.	
<b>General Notes:</b> Weather is 100% clear, 70 F°. 3 water samples were taken for stable isotope analysis (O, H) and tritium analysis. The water level was the lowest I've seen yet. The water was clear. See photo for illustration of stage AND note the pink/red sand bar deposited on top of limestone boulders. Could be sediments from Supai deposited as conduit discharge waned after snowmelt pulse. Also noted that there is a soft bottom in the cave entrance. Could be interesting to take a core to look for periodicity of sediment deposition. Walked a couple hundred meters back into cave, approximately 20 meters upstream of diversion dam. Estimate 5-6 feet of head drop along that distance. See photos and think about effects diversion would have on flow.					

Table 19. Roaring Springs Field Data, July 13, 2003, Roaring Springs pump house (in channel).

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information
<b>Time:</b> 9:15 am			<b>Time:</b> NA	<b>Time:</b> NA
<b>Equip:</b> Scientific Instruments AA Meter			<b>Equip:</b> NA	<b>Equip:</b> NA
<b>Width:</b> 7 feet			<b>Temp:</b> NA	<b>Stage:</b> NA
<b>Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> NA	<b>Temp:</b> NA
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b>	<b>Battery:</b> NA
0.0 ft	Bank edge	NA	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b>	<b>Memory:</b> NA
1.0 ft	.55 ft	.564 ft/sec		
2.0 ft	.70 ft	.564 ft/sec		
3.0 ft	.70 ft	.969 ft/sec		
4.0 ft	.80 ft	.633 ft/sec		
5.0 ft	.80 ft	.759 ft/sec		
6.0 ft	.70 ft	2.65 ft/sec		
7.0 ft	Bank edge	NA		
<b>Notes:</b> Could not download pressure transducer because someone deleted the datalogger software from the Pentab. Memory and battery should last another month. Pressure transducer was located .38 ft above the channel bottom.				
<b>General Notes:</b> Weather is 100% clear, 80 F°. Spin test of pygmy meter show that it is in good working condition – took over 60 seconds to stop spinning. Flow appeared to be lower than April.				

Table 20. Roaring Springs Field Data, July 13, 2003, Roaring Springs Picnic Area.

<b>Discharge</b>			<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>P.T. Information</b>
<b>Time:</b> 12:30 pm			<b>Time:</b> NA	<b>Time:</b> NA
<b>Equip:</b> Scientific Instruments Mini Meter			<b>Equip:</b> NA	<b>Equip:</b> NA
<b>Width:</b> 46 inches			<b>Temp:</b> NA	<b>Stage:</b> NA
<b>Velocity:</b> > .307 ft/sec			<b>PH:</b> NA	<b>Temp:</b> NA
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> NA	<b>Battery:</b> NA
0 in	Bank edge	NA		<b>Memory:</b> NA
11 in	.1 ft	.307 ft/sec		
23 in	.2 ft	Unknown	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b>	<b>Notes:</b> NA
34 in	.2 ft	Unknown		
46 in	Bank edge	NA		
<b>General Notes:</b>				
Weather is 97% clear, 90 F°. Digimeter having trouble working. Could only measure velocity at one location before trouble began. Velocity in the thalweg appeared to be twice as fast? Use 0.307 as minimum discharge.				

Table 21. Roaring Springs Field Data, September 3, 2003, Roaring Springs channel next to pump house.

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information
<b>Time:</b> 5:20 pm			<b>Time:</b>	<b>Time:</b> 5:45 pm
<b>Equip:</b> Scientific Instruments AA meter			<b>Equip:</b> Cond: ORION model 122 (ser# 24020099); pH/T: ORION mod 250A (ser# 004927)	<b>Equip:</b> Troll 4000 pressure transducer
<b>Width:</b> 6.50 feet			<b>Temp:</b> Unknown	<b>Stage:</b> .001 m
<b>Average Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> 7.30	<b>Temp:</b> NA
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> 336 (using 1999 micro/S/cm)	<b>Battery:</b> NA
1.0 ft	.35 ft	41 rev/min	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b> YES	<b>Memory:</b> NA
2.0 ft	0.4 ft	40 rev/min		
3.0 ft	0.4 ft	42 rev/min		
4.0 ft	0.5 ft	57 rev/min		
5.0 ft	.05 ft	102 rev/min		
<b>Notes:</b> Pressure transducer had been ripped out by flash flood; it was hung up on some rocks approximately 5 feet downstream from where it had been installed. It was still recording data, and the dataset indicates that the flood occurred on 8-16-03. This was corroborated by Bruce Aiken, who said Roaring flashed on the 16, 17 or 18 <sup>th</sup> (per conversation on 9-3-03). Took photo of PT while in stream before disassembling it.				
<b>General Notes:</b> <b>Weather is</b> 55% cloud cover, ~85 F°. There was evidence of a flash flood in the stream channel: grasses and small willow trees along the stream were flattened down. These markers suggest that the high water line reached the top of the right bank, but did not reach higher. The stream overflowed the left bank ~1/2 way up the narrow adjacent 'flood plain'.				



Table 22. Roaring Springs Field Data, September 3, 2003, Roaring Springs Cave.

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information	
<b>Time:</b> NA			<b>Time:</b> NA	<b>Time:</b> 4:15	
<b>Equip:</b> NA			<b>Equip:</b> NA	<b>Equip:</b> Global Water Logger	
<b>Width:</b> NA			<b>Temp:</b> NA	<b>Stage:</b> 1.194 ft	
<b>Average Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> NA	<b>Temp:</b> NA	
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b>	<b>Battery:</b> Unknown	
				<b>Memory:</b> Unknown	
			<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b> YES	<b>Notes:</b>  Downloaded.	
<b>General Notes:</b> Weather is 55% cloud cover, ~85 F°. Water level at spring box was as low as I've seen.					

Table 23. Roaring Springs Field Data, October 10 (Cave and PT) & 11 (Stream Discharge), 2003, Roaring Springs Cave and Stream Channel.

Discharge			Chemistry	P.T. Information
<b>Time:</b> 10:10 am, Oct. 11			<b>Time:</b> 3:20 pm, Oct. 10	<b>Time:</b> 3:20 pm, Oct. 10
<b>Equip:</b> AA meter			<b>Equip:</b> Rod's pH and Spec Cond	<b>Equip:</b> Global Water Logger
<b>Width:</b> 7.0 ft			<b>Temp:</b> 11 degrees C	<b>Stage:</b> 1.104 ft above PT
<b>Average Velocity:</b>			<b>PH:</b> 7.24	<b>Temp:</b> NA
<b>Dist. From Right Bank</b>	<b>Depth</b>	<b>Velocity or rev/sec</b>	<b>Sp. Cond.:</b> 510 (~?)	<b>Battery:</b> Unknown
1 ft	.25 ft	50 rev/min	<b>Photo of Spring Box:</b> Yes	<b>Memory:</b> Unknown
2 ft	.30 ft	32 rev/min		
3 ft	.35 ft	38 rev/min		
4 ft	.40 ft	53 rev/min		
5 ft	.50 ft	43 rev/30sec		
6 ft	.25 ft	48 rev/min		
<b>Notes:</b>				
Cleared history from logger for winter collection. Waited to check that it was still recording, but new recordings may need to be adjusted to match with the 1.104 ft I recorded just before resetting.				
<b>General Notes:</b>				
Weather on October 10: 100% Cloudy/Rain ~1:30 pm; Oct 11: 100% clear				
On October 10, it began to rain ~1:40 pm at the Picnic area (it was raining earlier on the Plateau). The rain stopped around 2:40 pm. The stream width at the picnic area before (runoff started) was 3.8 feet. 1 foot from RB, depth was .3 ft; 2 ft from RB it was .1 ft; 3 ft from RB depth was .1 ft. Bruce mentioned that the bench turbidimeter was calibrated daily with standardized gels of 1, 10, 50, and 100 NTU. He also wondered if the fluctuation in pumps at Indian Gardens would have an effect on the pressure in the cave.				
At the spring box, I measured the height of the right side opening – 1.65 feet. The high water measured in May was .6 ft above the bottom lip of the spring box. On October 10, the water level was .1 ft above the bottom lip of the box.				

APPENDIX C

ROARING SPRINGS 2003 HYDROLOGIC DATA

APPENDIX D

ROARING SPRINGS MODFLOW FILES  
(ENCLOSED CD)