

SCADA vs. GCD gage?

Glen Canyon Dam Adaptive Management Program
Technical Work Group Meeting
February 26, 2002

Prepared by:
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Arizona Game and Fish Department

TO: Technical Work Group members

FROM: Bill Persons, Arizona Game and Fish Department

DATE: December 11, 2001

RE: Assessment of Glen Canyon Dam Gage and SCADA data

At the last Technical Workgroup meeting (November 13-14,2001) I was asked to evaluate the data obtained from the Glen Canyon Dam Gage (USGS 09379910) and the SCADA system and to make a recommendation to the TWG as to whether to close down the Dam gage and rely solely on the SCADA system for discharge data. I contacted Kirk LaGory, Argonne National Lab, and obtained the SCADA data he used in his assessment of AGC at Glen Canyon Dam and also downloaded Glen Canyon Dam gage data from the USGS web site at (http://dg0daztcn.wr.usgs.gov/rt-cgi/gen_stn_pg?station=09379910).

I compared the two data sets, and found that for some time periods SCADA data were not available, and missing data values were not uncommon. I contacted Kirk LaGory and he confirmed that the data for 19 Mar 2001 - 25 March 2001 and 9 April 2001 - 15 April 2001 were not available and were not on the website that has in the past posted SCADA data. I attempted to contact the website where SCADA data have been posted but was unable to access the site. Kirk confirmed that it is not uncommon for the SCADA system to not report data, and he also reported that the SCADA system gives anomalous reading occasionally.

I've prepared two graphs of a period with missing SCADA data (March 2001), one showing the SCADA system data and one showing the USGS dam gage data, that highlight my concerns with relying on the SCADA system to provide accurate, reliable data. Note that the period of missing data from the SCADA system (19-25 March) corresponds with a period that shows unusually high releases at the USGS gage. The high discharge shown at the dam gage also appears at the Lees Ferry gage.

SCADA system data are not always available, and the system also gives anomalous readings occasionally. The USGS system provides reliable, easily accessible, published discharge and stage data. USGS data can also be accessed "real-time" on the internet. **Therefore, my recommendation is that the USGS gage just downstream of Glen Canyon Dam be maintained.**

Note N/A

data "Not available" for 4/2001, 3/2001, 7/2000

SCADA web page

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Updated: 1/16/2002

12/2001	Dec 3-9	Dec 10-16	Dec 17-23	Dec 24-30	Dec 31-Jan 6
11/2001	Nov 5-11	Nov 12-18	Nov 19-25	Nov 26-Dec 2	
10/2001	Oct 1-7	Oct 8-14	Oct 15-21	Oct 22-28	Oct 29-Nov 4
9/2001	Sep 3-9	Sep 10-16	Sep 17-23	Sep 24-30	
8/2001	Aug 6-12	Aug 13-19	Aug 20-26	Aug 27-Sep 2	
7/2001	Jul 2-8	Jul 9-15	Jul 16-22	Jul 23-29	Jul 30-Aug 5
6/2001	Jun 4-10	Jun 11-17	Jun 18-24	Jun 25-Jul 1	
5/2001	May 7-13	May 14-20	May 21-27	May 28 - Jun 3	
4/2001	Apr 2-8	N/A	Apr 16-22	Apr 23-29	Apr 30-May 6
3/2001	Mar 5-11	Mar 12-18	N/A	Mar 26-Apr 1	
2/2001	Feb 5-11	Feb 12-18	Feb 19-25	Feb 26-Mar 4	
1/2001	Jan 1-7	Jan 8-14	Jan 15-21	Jan 22-28	Jan 29-Feb 4
12/2000	Dec 4-10	Dec 11-17	Dec 18-24	Dec 25-31	
11/2000	Nov 6-12	Nov 13-19	Nov 20-26	Nov 27-Dec 3	
10/2000	Oct 2-8	Oct 9-15	Oct 16-22	Oct 23-29	Oct 30-Nov 5
9/2000	Sep 4-10	Sep 11-17	Sep 18-24	Sep 25-Oct 1	
8/2000	Aug 7-13	Aug 14-20	Aug 21-27	Aug 28-Sep 3	
7/2000	N/A	N/A	N/A	Jul 24-Jul 30	Jul 31-Aug 6
6/2000	Jun 5-11	Jun 12-18	Jun 19-25	Jun 26-Jul 2	
5/2000	May 01-07	N/A	May 15-21	May 22-28	May 29-June 4
4/2000	Apr 03-09	Apr 10-16	Apr 17-23	Apr 24-30	
3/2000	Mar 06-12	Mar 13-19	Mar 20-26	Mar 27-Apr 02	
2/2000	Feb 07-13	Feb 14-20	Feb 21-27	Feb 28-Mar 05	
1/2000	Jan 03-09	Jan 10-16	Jan 17-23	Jan 24-30	Jan 31-Feb 06

Note: This SCADA information is believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed to be correct. It is subject to change...

SCADA web page (2)

12/1999	Dec 06-12	Dec 13-19	Dec 20-26	Dec 27-Jan 02	
11/1999	Nov 1- 7	Nov 8-14	Nov 15-21	Nov 22-28	Nov 29-Dec 05
10/1999	Oct 4-10	Oct 11-17	Oct 18-24	Oct 25-31	
9/1999	Sep 6-12	Sep 13-19	Sep 20-26	Sep 27-Oct 3	
8/1999	Aug 2-8	Aug 9-15	Aug 16-22	Aug 23-29	Aug 30-Sep 5
7/1999	Jul 5-11	Jul 12-18	Jul 19-25	Jul 26-Aug 1	
6/1999	Jun 7-13	Jun 14-20	Jun 21-27	Jun 28-Jul 4	
5/1999	May 3-9	May 10-16	May 17-23	May 24-30	May 31-Jun 6
4/1999	Apr 5-11	Apr 12-18	Apr 19-25	Apr 26-May 2	
3/1999	Mar 1-7	Mar 8-14	Mar 15-21	Mar 22-28	Mar 29-Apr 4
2/1999	Feb 1-7	Feb 8-14	Feb 15-21	Feb 22-28	
1/1999	Jan 4-10	Jan 11-17	Jan 18-24	Jan 25-31	
12/1998	Dec 7-13	Dec 14-20	Dec 21-27	Dec 28-Jan 3	
11/1998				Nov 23-29	Nov 30-Dec 6

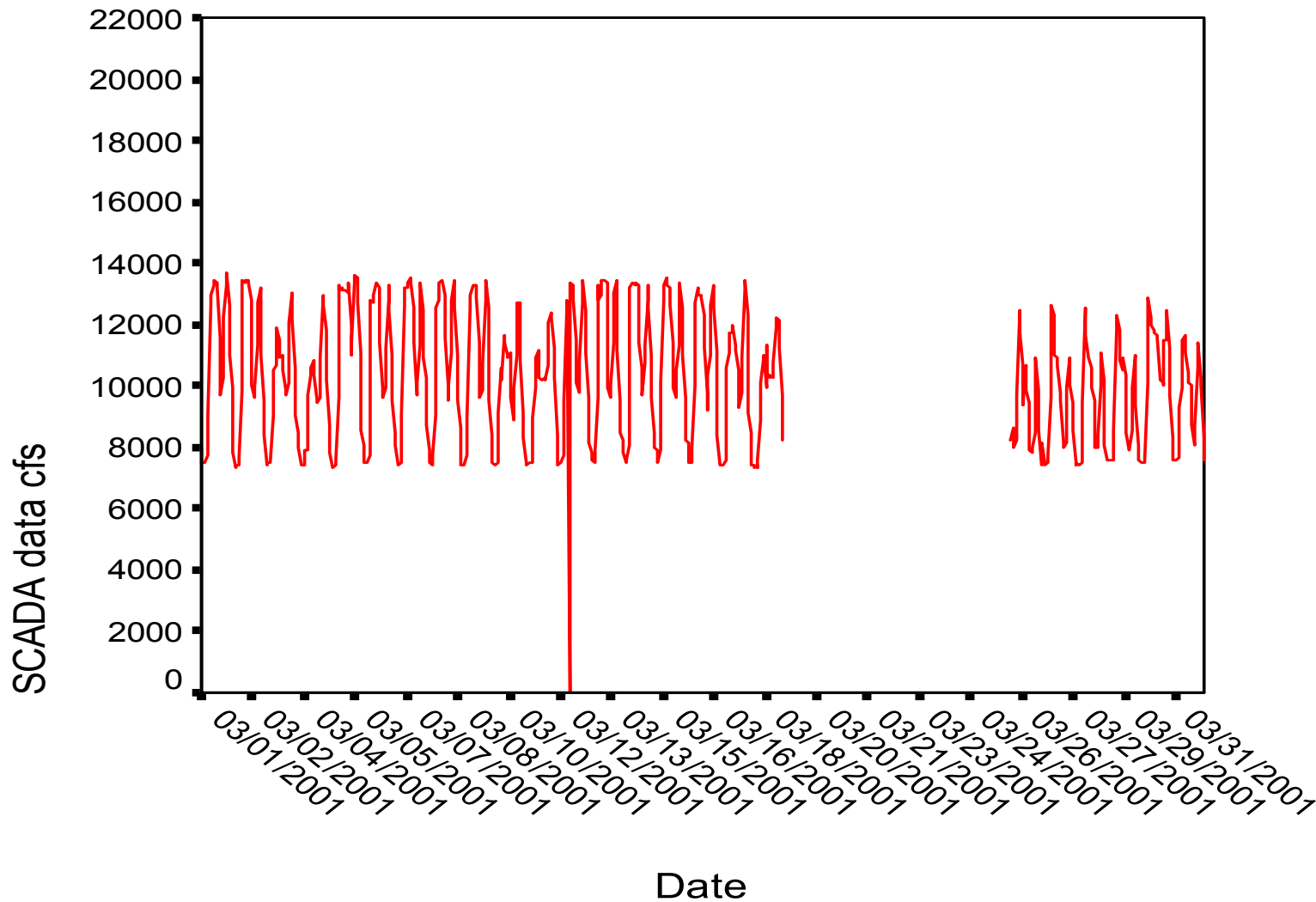
Monthly SCADA Data Files

(500k File Size)	Nov. 1998	Oct. 1998	Sep. 1998	Aug. 1998	Jul. 1998
Jun. 1998	May 1998	Apr. 1998	Mar. 1998	Feb. 1998	Jan. 1998
Dec. 1997	Nov. 1997	Oct. 1997	Sep. 1997	Aug. 1997	Jul. 1997
Jun. 1997	May 1997	Apr. 1997	Mar. 1997	Feb. 1997	Jan. 1997
Dec. 1996	Nov. 1996	Oct. 1996	Sep. 1996	Aug. 1996	Jul. 1996
Jun. 1996	May 1996	Apr. 1996	Mar. 1996	Feb. 1996	Jan. 1996
Dec. 1995	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
N/A	N/A	Apr. 1995	Mar. 1995	Feb. 1995	Jan. 1995
Dec. 1994	Nov. 1994	Oct. 1994	Sep. 1994	Aug. 1994	Jul. 1994
Jun. 1994	May 1994	Apr. 1994	Mar. 1994	Feb. 1994	Jan. 1994
Dec. 1993	Nov. 1993	Oct. 1993	Sep. 1993	N/A	Jul. 1993
Jun. 1993	May 1993	N/A	Mar. 1993	Feb. 1993	Jan. 1993

Note: This SCADA information is believed to be reliable but is not guaranteed to be correct. It is subject to change without notice as additional information is received.

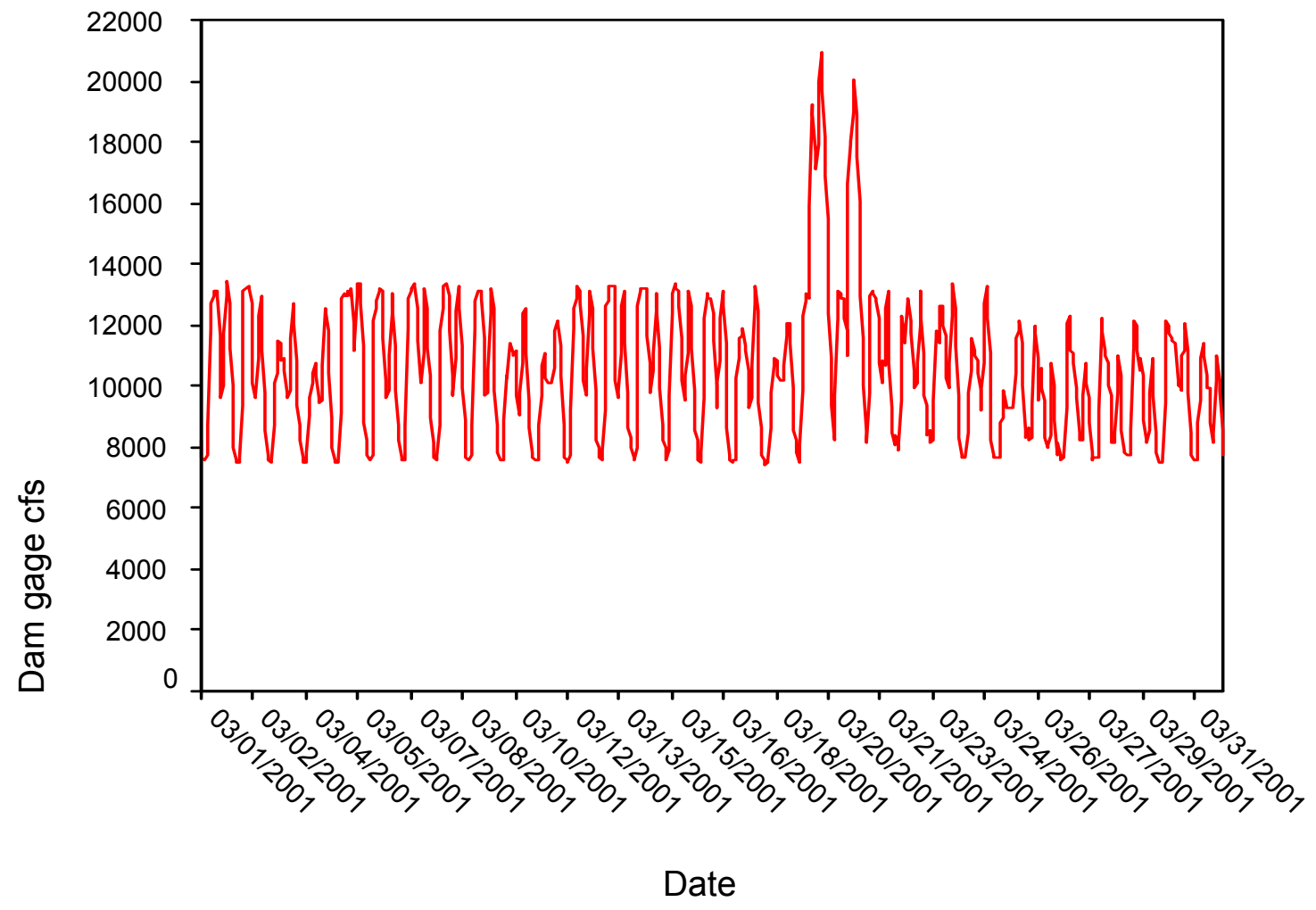
Note missing data

SCADA data March 2001



Note complete data for March

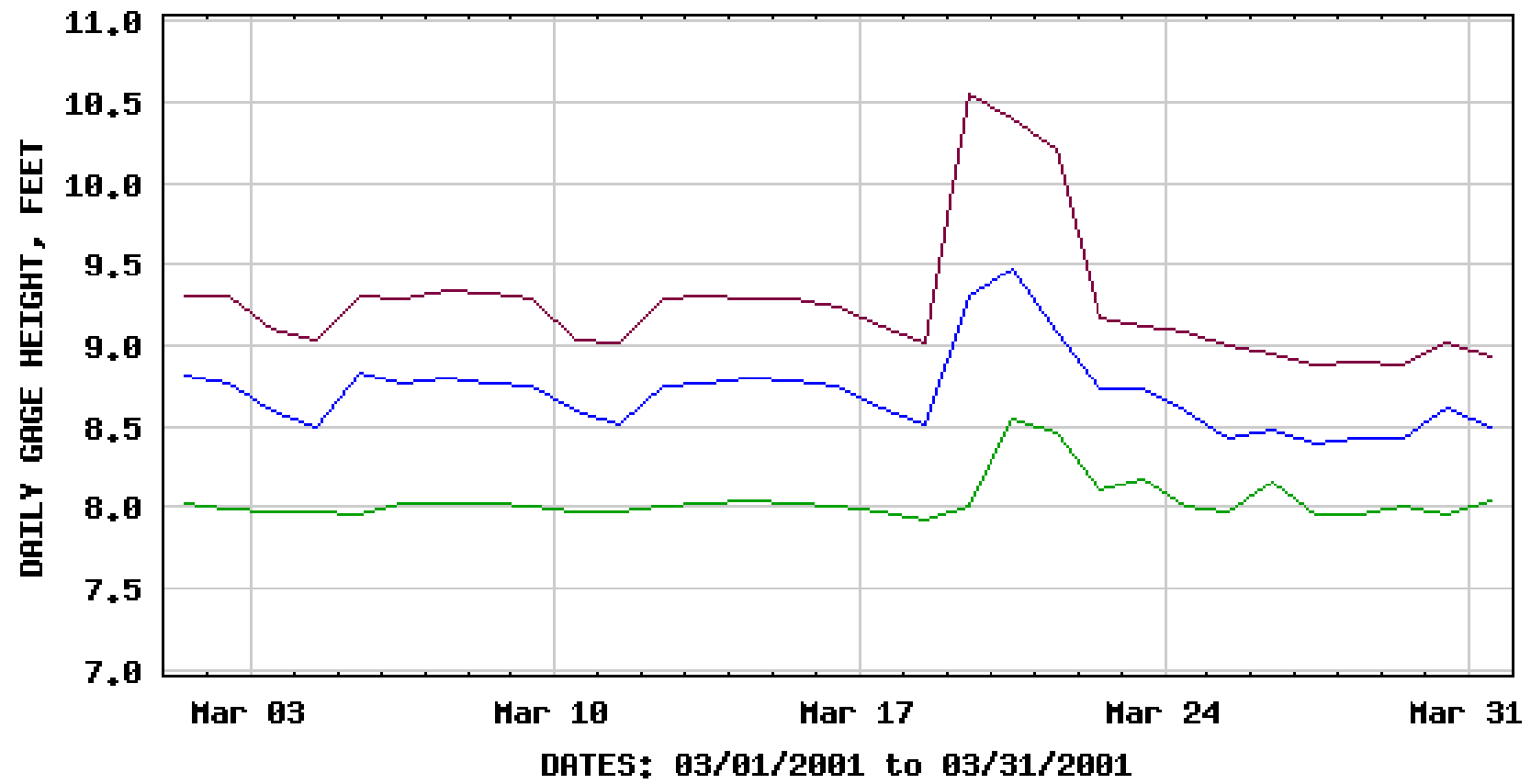
GCD gage data March 2001



Lees Ferry gage confirms GCD gage for March 2001.

Lees Ferry gage March 2001

USGS 09380000 COLORADO R AT LEES FERRY, AZ.



- EXPLANATION**
- DAILY MEAN GAGE HEIGHT
 - DAILY MINIMUM GAGE HEIGHT
 - DAILY MAXIMUM GAGE HEIGHT

Note ease of retrieving data.

Example of USGS data query screen

The screenshot shows the USGS website interface for querying data. At the top, there is a blue header with the USGS logo and navigation links like 'Water Resources' and 'skip navigation'. Below this, there are dropdown menus for 'Data Category' (set to 'Surface Water') and 'Geographic Area' (set to 'Arizona'), with a 'GO' button. The main title is 'Daily Streamflow for Arizona' with the site identifier 'USGS 09379910 COLORADO RIVER BELOW GLEN CANYON DAM, ARIZ.'. A secondary dropdown menu shows 'Available data for this site' set to 'Surface-water: Daily streamflow', with another 'GO' button. The site information includes 'Coconino County, Arizona', 'Hydrologic Unit Code 14070006', 'Latitude 36°55'20", Longitude 111°29'00" NAD27', 'Drainage area 107,700. square miles', and 'Gage datum 3,100. feet above sea level NGVD29'. A 'Period of record' table shows data from 1965-10-01 to 2000-09-30 with a count of 3989. The 'Choose Output Format' section offers options to retrieve data from a date range, view graphs (log scale), or download tab-separated data. At the bottom, there are 'Submit', 'Reset', and 'Help' buttons, and a footer with contact information and a 'Return to top of page' link.

USGS

[Water Resources](#) [skip navigation](#)

Data Category: Surface Water Geographic Area: Arizona GO

Daily Streamflow for Arizona

USGS 09379910 COLORADO RIVER BELOW GLEN CANYON DAM, ARIZ.

Available data for this site: Surface-water: Daily streamflow GO

Coconino County, Arizona
Hydrologic Unit Code 14070006
Latitude 36°55'20", Longitude 111°29'00" NAD27
Drainage area 107,700. square miles
Gage datum 3,100. feet above sea level NGVD29

Period of record		
From	To	Count
1965-10-01	2000-09-30	3989

Choose Output Format

Retrieve Daily streamflow data for Selected Sites

Choose one of the following options for displaying data for the sites meeting the criteria above:

Retrieve data from: [] to: [] (YYYY-MM-DD -- Blank = all data)

Graphs of data [log scale]

Tab-separated data [YYYY-MM-DD] [Save to file]

Submit Reset Help

Questions about data gs-w-az_NWISWeb_Data_Inquiries@usgs.gov
Feedback on this website gs-w-az_NWISWeb_Maintainer@usgs.gov [Return to top of page](#)
Daily Streamflow -- 1 sites found
<http://water.usgs.gov/az/nwis/discharge?>

Summary:

SCADA

- Not always available
- Unreliable
- Occasional anomalous reading
- Difficult format to convert to usable datafiles

USGS

- Easily available
- Reliable
- Published discharge and stage data
- Consistent format for conversion to datafiles

Example data from USGS web sites for
Glen Canyon Dam gage and
Lees Ferry gage,
February 15 – 22, 2002.

GCD Gage and LF Gage

