The region’s population has grown in the past 100 years with the exception of a dip in 1920-1930. While the growth rate in Spokane County has remained stable since 1930, Kootenai County experienced a sharp population increase in 1990. A growing population requires an increasing amount of potable water, and the demand for Aquifer water continues to grow.

The annual precipitation varies across the Aquifer, increasing from west to east. The average annual precipitation in Spokane is about 16 inches, while it is over 25 inches in Coeur d'Alene. Precipitation is the primary Aquifer recharge source. Weather station locations are provided on the Geography map, page 6.

The 7 day low flow is the lowest average flow of seven consecutive days in the year. For the Spokane River two graphs are provided: one near Post Falls and the other in Spokane near the Monroe Street Bridge. River gage station locations are provided on the Geography map, page 6.

Variations in groundwater elevations are related to several factors, including precipitation, water withdrawals, and river flow. Compare the Spokane River 7 day low flow and precipitation graphs with the groundwater elevation graphs, and you may see similarities in general fluctuations and trends. Well locations are provided on the Geography map, page 6.