

Source: Igor A. Shiklomanov, State Hydrological Institute (SHI, St. Petersburg) and United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO, Paris), 1999.

Water Budget

- **Input - Output = Change in Storage**
- Also called water balance
- Quantifies water cycle stores and fluxes
for a specific place and time
 - Often for a year or season
 - Often for a watershed

What is a watershed?



- An area that drains into a stream, lake, or ocean
- Bounded by topographic divides
- Multiple scales
 - Breakneck Creek → Cuyahoga River → Lake Erie → Great Lakes/St. Lawrence
- Same as a catchment and a drainage basin

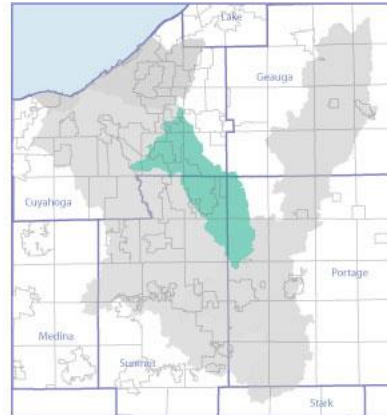
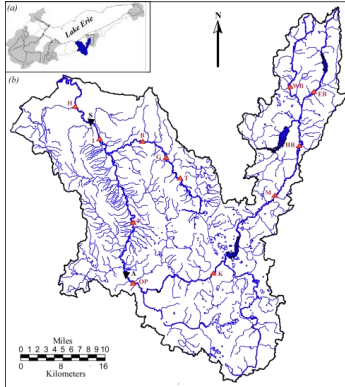
Image source: <http://tecalive.mtu.edu/meec/module01/whatiswatershed.htm>

Very simple water budget for a very simple watershed

- Inputs - Outputs = Change in Storage
- $P - E - T - R = \Delta S$
- What is ΔS ?
 - Soil moisture
 - Groundwater
 - Surface water in streams lakes and ponds
 - Ice and snow at the surface
 - Temporary depression storage
 - Intercepted water on plant surfaces

Example Water Budget Question:

What is the long-term average evapotranspiration for the Tinker's Creek watershed?



Watershed area = $217.3 \text{ km}^2 = 2.173 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^2$

Image sources: <http://fyuan.wordpress.com>
<http://www.cuyahogairverrap.org/tinkerscreek.html>

$$P - ET - R = \Delta S$$

$$P - R - \Delta S = ET$$

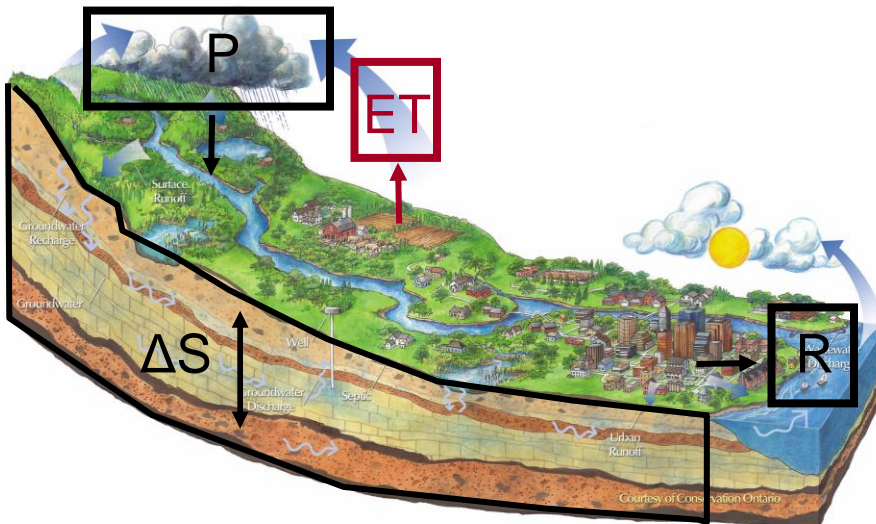
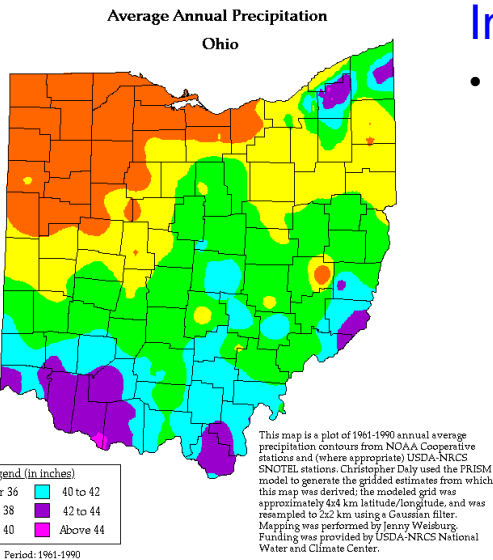


Image modified from source:

Tinkers Creek Water Balance

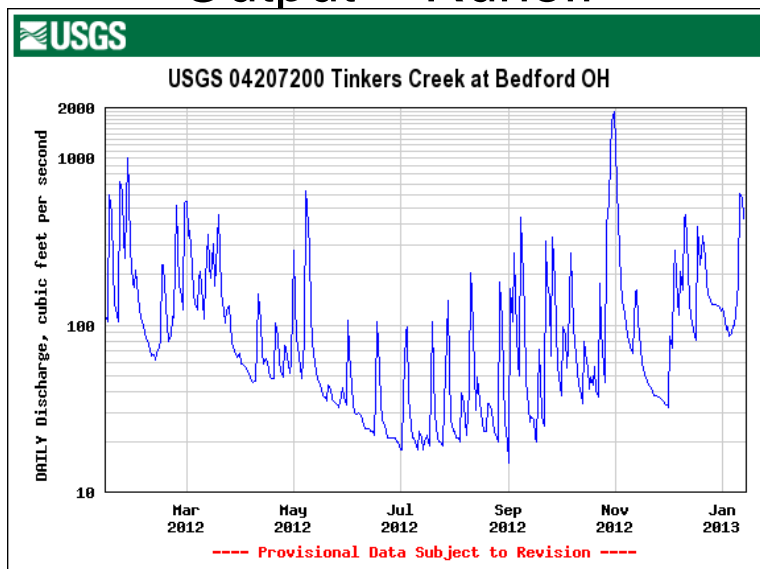


Input: Precipitation

- ~40 in. =
~1.016 m/yr

Tinkers Creek Water Balance

Output = Runoff



Tinkers Creek Water Balance

Observed mean discharge at Bedford for 1964-2011 is 139 ft³/s or 3.93 m³/s

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Discharge (per second)} \times \text{seconds (per year)} &= \\ 3.93 \text{ m}^3/\text{s} \times 3.16 \times 10^7 \text{ s/yr} &= \\ &= 1.24 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^3 / \text{yr} \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Discharge (per year)} / \text{Watershed Area} &= \text{Runoff} \\ 1.24 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^3 / \text{yr} / 2.173 \times 10^8 \text{ m}^2 &= 0.571 \text{ m/yr} \end{aligned}$$

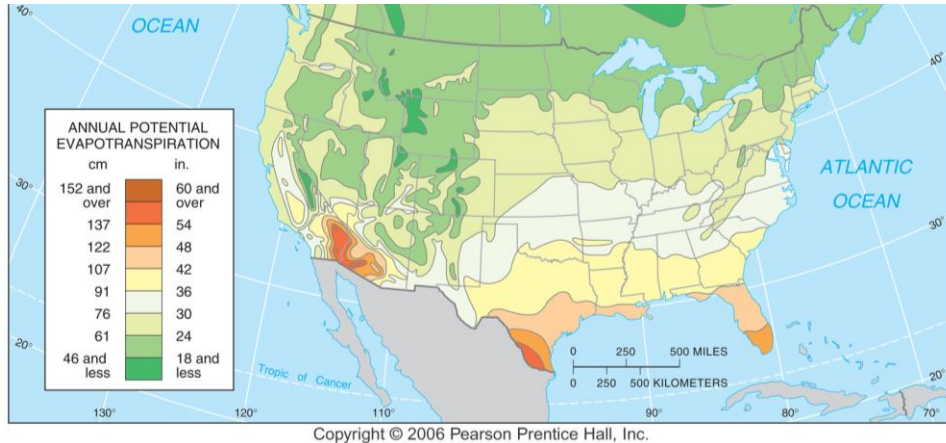
Tinkers Creek Water Balance

- Assume no change in storage?
- Input = Output
- Precipitation = Runoff + ET
- Precipitation - Runoff = ET

$$1.016 - 0.571 = 0.445 \text{ m/yr} = \text{ET}$$

Tinkers Creek Water Balance

- We estimated ET = 44.5 cm/yr.
- *Is that reasonable?*



If it's not reasonable, what might explain it?