



United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) - Arizona

The Watershed Boundary Dataset (WBD) is a national consistent, seamless, and hierarchical hydrologic unit dataset based on topographic and hydrologic features across the United States. The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service in Arizona has completed the Arizona portion of the WBD and this dataset was certified into the national dataset in October 2008.

The history of this dataset dates back to the 1970's when the USGS under the sponsorship of the Water Resources Council developed a standardized hydrologic unit system referred to as the Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) system. This system covered hydrologic unit areas to the 4th level at the 1:250,000 scale.



Funding Partners in Arizona

- Arizona Geographic Information Council (AGIC) - 6th level
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) - 5th and 6th level
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - 6th level
- Department of Defense (DoD) - 5th level
- Navajo Nation - 5th level
- U.S. Forest Service (USFS) - 5th level

Data Development for the Arizona WBD

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

- ◆ 1st through 4th level refinement to NSSDA accuracy
- ◆ 5th level development
- ◆ 6th level QA/QC through Interagency Agreement with USGS

U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)

- ◆ 6th level development through Interagency Agreement with NRCS

In the early 1990's, NRCS along with State agency conservation partners began a national initiative to delineate and digitize watersheds (5th level) and subwatersheds (6th level) that meet national map accuracy standards (1:24,000 scale). The NRCS and USGS along with member agencies of the Federal Geographic Data Committee on Spatial Water Data adopted the Federal Standards for Delineation of Hydrologic Unit Boundaries in 2000. Arizona completed the 5th level watersheds in 2003 and the 6th level subwatersheds in 2008.

Hydrologic Unit Level	Hydrologic Definitions	Number of Hydrologic Units in Arizona
1st Level	2 Digit Regions	2
2nd Level	4 Digit Subregions	10
3rd Level	6 Digit Basins	18
4th Level	8 Digit Subbasins	84
5th Level	10 Digit Watersheds	469
6th Level	12 Digit Subwatersheds	3288

To Download - Go To:
<http://datagateway.nrcs.usda.gov/>