

RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN STAGE AND FLOW/DISCHARGE

- Stream stage (also called gage height) is the water level above a reference elevation in the river and is commonly measured in feet.
- Stream flow (also called discharge) is the measure of the rate of water flowing in a stream or river. That rate is usually expressed in cubic feet per second (cfs).
- Gages measure and record the water level (gage height or stage) of a stream. Stream flow (also called discharge) is computed from measured water levels using a site-specific relation (called a stage-discharge rating curve) developed from onsite water level and streamflow measurements.
- Stage or gage height data can be used to monitor real-time development of flooding. Flow or discharge data can be used to compare current flow levels to peak levels during historic events.

