USGS
science for a changing world

Sediment Science

Large-volume suspended-sediment (LVSS) sampling equipment

Suspended Sediments in Streams, Storm Runoff, and Impervious Surface Runoff:

- Quantify Loads and Yields of Contaminants
- Identify Sources of Sediment-Associated Trace Elements and Hydrophobic Organic Contaminants
- Understand Relations Between Streamflow and Sediment and Contaminant Transport
- Characterize Relations Between Land-Use and Sediment Quality

Streambed-sediment sampling

Streambed Sediments:

- Characterize Sediment Quality
- Identify Source(s) of Contaminant Inputs

Lake/Reservoir Bottom Sediments:

- Age Dating of Sediments to Calculate Deposition Dates and Sedimentation Rates
- Reconstruct Water-Quality Trends of Sediment-Associated Trace Elements and Hydrophobic Organic Contaminants
- Describe Effects of Land-Use and Regulatory Changes and Urbanization on Water-Quality

Subsampling a lake-bottom sediment box core

Lake bottom-sediment coring boats

USGS Lake Sediment Study Sites

MISSION: To provide reliable, impartial, timely information that is needed to understand the Nation's water resources.

The Water Resources Discipline actively promotes the use of this information by decision makers to

- Minimize the loss of life and property as a result of water-related natural hazards, such as floods, droughts, and land movement
- Effectively manage groundwater and surface-water resources for domestic, agriculture, commercial, industrial, recreational, and ecological uses
- Protect and enhance water resources for human health, aquatic health, and environmental quality
- Contribute to wise physical and economic development of the Nation's resources for the benefit of present and future generations

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

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The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Texas Water Science Center works in cooperation with approximately 100 municipalities, river authorities, groundwater districts, and State and Federal agencies in Texas to provide reliable, impartial scientific information to resource managers, planners, and other customers. This information is gathered by the USGS Texas Water Science Center to minimize the loss of life and property from natural disasters, to contribute to the conservation and sound economic and physical development of the Nation's natural resources, and to enhance the quality of life by monitoring water, biological, energy, and mineral resources.

If you have any questions or concerns with which we can assist you, contact us or visit our Web site at http://tx.usgs.gov or the national Web site at http://www.usgs.gov. We look forward to serving you in the near future.

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