

**Not Just For Scientists Anymore: Why the Public Cares About
the Connection Between Groundwater and Surface Water**

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The USGS Circular “Ground water and surface water - A single resource” has greatly changed the thinking of water-resource scientists and managers since it was published in 1998. The concept that groundwater and surface water are actually one resource, linked at the sediment-water interface of lakes, wetlands, streams, and estuaries, is now widely held. Study of the physical, geochemical, and biological processes that control and are affected by the linkages between groundwater and surface water is not just the esoteric pursuit of scientists, however. These processes and linkages are directly relevant to the public. Examples from across the country will illustrate how the Public is affected, sometimes greatly, by the linkage between groundwater and surface water, and how improved understanding of processes and exchanges at this interface has influenced water-management decisions.