

Figure 3.3-6 Water Levels and Flow Directions in Alluvium

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Figure 3.3-7 Cross-sections Showing Geologic Features

Figure 3.3-8a Figure 3.3-8b Hydrographs for Selected Monitoring Wells

(Two Pages)

Figure 3.3-9 Cross Section Showing Monitoring Wells in Reese Canyon Area

Figure 3.3-10 Regional Bedrock Groundwater Level Elevations

3.3.5 Groundwater Quality

Groundwater samples were collected from 13 monitoring wells in the alluvium, 3 monitoring wells in the Rex Chert Member, 1 monitoring well in the Upper Meade Peak Member, and one production well in the Wells Formation. The wells were sampled in Fall 2001 and late Spring 2002, although five of the alluvial wells were dry in 2001 and could not be sampled. Samples collected for the baseline characterization program had a high degree of turbidity and suspended sediment (Maxim 2002d and 2002f), and turbid or cloudy samples may not be representative of in-situ groundwater conditions. Samples for dissolved constituents were field filtered to remove suspended material and preserved according to generally accepted sampling methodology (Maxim 2002d and 2002f). Because the samples were filtered, laboratory analyses for dissolved constituents in groundwater are considered to be representative of in-situ conditions. Samples that were analyzed for total recoverable concentrations, however, were not filtered (which is standard sampling protocol), and laboratory analyses are considered to overestimate total concentrations for in-situ groundwater because of the high suspended sediment content. Thus, the following discussion is based on results of the dissolved analyses from the baseline sampling.

Groundwater in the alluvium is a calcium-bicarbonate type, generally well-buffered, with moderate concentrations of total dissolved solids (116 to 506 mg/L) and neutral to slightly acidic pH (5.39 to 7.8). Median TDS concentrations are lower in No Name Creek (168 mg/L) than in Reese Canyon Creek (242 mg/L) or the West Fork of Sheep Creek (246 mg/L). The alluvial groundwater samples showed eight of 21 samples were high in dissolved manganese and results for 2 of 21 samples exceeded standards for dissolved aluminum and iron. No other dissolved metals were detected at concentrations that exceeded groundwater standards (**Table 3.3-14**).

Groundwater in the Rex Chert is a calcium-bicarbonate type with moderately high concentrations of total dissolved solids (98 to 421 mg/L) and neutral to slightly acidic pH (5.21 to 7.1). Groundwater from wells NR-C-4 and NR-R-12 is strongly buffered, while groundwater from well NR-R-2 is weakly buffered. Dissolved concentrations of manganese, cadmium, and nickel were detected at concentrations that exceeded groundwater standards in 33 to 83 percent of the samples. Dissolved iron and aluminum were detected at concentrations exceeding standards in 17 percent of samples. No other results for dissolved metals exceeded standards (**Table 3.3-15**).

Groundwater in the Upper Meade Peak Member is a calcium-bicarbonate type, moderately well buffered, with moderate concentrations of total dissolved solids (176 to 288 mg/L). The result from one of the two groundwater samples from the Upper Meade Peak exceeded groundwater standards for dissolved selenium (0.082 mg/L) and manganese (0.06 mg/L). No other results for dissolved metals exceeded groundwater standards (**Table 3.3-15**).

Groundwater from Dust Control Well #2 is a mixture of water from the Wells Formation and the Rex Chert and was analyzed for a limited suite of parameters in May 2002. The water is a moderately well buffered calcium-bicarbonate type. Cadmium and selenium were not detected (**Table 3.3-15**). Site-specific water quality data for the Wells Formation are not available, but in the region, water quality in the Wells Formation generally meets applicable standards. Naturally occurring elevated manganese concentrations (up to 1.1 mg/L) in Wells Formation water have been observed, however, at the nearby Dry Valley Mine (Whetstone 2002).

Table 3.3-14 GROUNDWATER QUALITY IN ALLUVIAL MONITORING WELLS

Location Sample Station Date	NR-C-1 6/13/02	NR-NN-1 9/18/01	NR-NN-1 6/10/02	No Name Creek Drainage 9/18/01	NR-NN-2 6/10/02	NR-NN-2A 9/18/01	NR-NN-2A 6/10/02	NR-NN-3 9/18/01	NR-NN-3 6/11/02	Reese Canyon 6/12/02	NR-R-5 6/12/02	NR-R-6 6/12/02	NR-R-7 9/19/01	NR-R-7 6/12/02	NR-R-11 10/2/01	NR-R-11 6/12/02	West Sheep Creek Drainage 9/18/01	NR-WS-1 6/11/02	NR-WS-1 9/18/01	NR-WS-2 6/11/02	NR-WS-2 9/18/01	NR-WS-3 6/11/02	Ground Water Standards Primary	Secondary
General Parameters																								
pH (field)	Std. Units	6.71	7.1	6.2	7.5	6.26	6.9	5.39	7.8	5.98	5.61	6.35	6.72	7.3	6.25	6.6	6.35	6.7	6.19	7.1	6.43	6.9	6.5 - 8.5	
pH (lab)	Std. Units	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.2	8	7.7	7.4	7.6	7.7	7.1	7.6	7.4	7.8	7.7	7.6	7.8	7.1	7	7.9	8	8	6.5 - 8.5	
Temp. (field)	C	10.5	7.3	8.6	7.1	6.2	8	4.8	6.8	5.2	5.8	5.0	6.3	7.3	5.7	7.0	5.2	9.1	5.6	9	6.4	6.5		
Total Alkalinity	mg/l CaCO ₃	90	102	212	146 J	396 J	93	101	49	60	35	176	387	208	189	221	153	177	162	159	171	149		
Bicarbonate Alkalinity	mg/l HCO ₃	110 F	124	259 F	178 J	483 JF	114	123 F	60	73 F	43 F	215 F	472 F	254	231 F	270	187 F	216	198 F	194	209 F	182 F		
Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/l CO ₃	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Hydroxide	mg/l	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
Acidity	mg/l	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2	-2		
E.C. (field)	sS/cm	172	223	208	296	240	425	212	1211	342	171	361	619	476	404	441	346	426	326	353	367	302		
E.C. (lab)	sS/cm	162	219	202	1285	252	1231	217	109	310	127	346	687	437	394	325	306	359	334	353	339	264		
TDS	mg/l	124	188	116	247	169	229	158	154	506	231	205	413	300	242	254	231	267	248	246	198	161		
Hardness	mg/l CaCO ₃	85	89	103	151	136	85	40	125	45	203	467	208	235	191	176	159	162	152	201	142			
Major Ions																								
Ca	mg/l	21	29	33	44	33	27	32	11	8	13	63	93	65	71	60	54	44	40	41	49	47	4	250
Cl	mg/l	<4	<4	7	5	6	6	<4	5	<4	5	5	5	<4	5	<4	<4	<4	4	<4	5	<4	5	
F	mg/l	9.85	0.13	0.19	0.19	0.16	0.2	0.19	0.18	0.23	0.25	0.9	0.16	0.17	0.13	0.21	0.2	0.18	0.23	0.23	0.43	0.2		
K	mg/l	2	1	<1.	2	1	5	<1.	2	<1.	2	1	2	4	2	3	<1.	3	1	7	2	2	2	
Mg	mg/l	8	4	5	10	13	7	11	3	4	3	57	11	14	10	10	12	15	12	19	6	6		
Na	mg/l	3	5	6	7	6	7	6	3	45	6	5	6	5	4	4	10	12	7	6	4	10		
SO ₄	mg/l	6	6	5	12	9	13	8	8	95	31	15	13	13	23	13	16	6	27	7	17	10		
Nutrients																								
NO ₂ + NO ₃	mg/l N	0.63	0.20	0.58	0.16	0.41	0.32	0.16	0.33	1.09	1.39	0.38	0.44	0.09	0.73	0.42	0.12 J	<0.05	0.46	0.32	0.68	0.37		
NO ₃	mg/l N	0.44	0.20	0.49	0.16	0.29	0.32	0.16	0.09	0.74	1.23	0.13	0.44	0.09	0.5	0.36	<0.05	<0.05	0.33	0.32	0.63	0.29		
NO ₂	mg/l N	0.19	<0.05	0.09	<0.05	0.12	<0.05	<0.05	0.24	0.35	0.16	0.25	<0.05	<0.05	0.23	0.06	0.24 J	<0.05	0.13	<0.05	0.05	0.08		
NH ₄	mg/l N	<0.05	<0.05	0.12	<0.05	0.06	<0.05	<0.05	0.26	0.35	0.11	0.05	<0.05	0.11	<0.05	0.12	0.09	0.24	<0.05	0.08	0.05	0.51		
PO ₄	mg/l	5.4	13 J	6.4	29 J	11	2.5 J	0.46	5.3 J	9.3	5.8	0.76	1.8	0.11 J	0.3	18	3.1 J	0.09	0.44 J	0.48	0.71			
PO ₄ , Ortho	mg/l	0.17	0.10 J	0.07	0.12 J	0.14	0.17 J	0.07	0.29 J	0.12	0.18	0.03	0.25	0.02 J	0.03	0.08	0.04 J	0.04	0.03 J	0.03	0.02			
Dissolved Metals																								
Ag	mg/l	<0.001	<0.0005	<0.001	<0.0005	<0.001	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.001	<0.001	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005	<0.0005		
Al	mg/l	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	1.3 J	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	1.1 J	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1		
As	mg/l	0.002	<0.003	0.002	0.003	0.003	<0.003	0.002	<0.003	0.003	0.002	0.002	0.003	<0.003	0.002	<0.003	0.003	<0.003	0.003	<0.003	0.003	0.05		
B	mg/l	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	0.2		
Ba	mg/l	0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.02	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01		
Be	mg/l	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F			
Cd	mg/l	<0.001 F	<0.001 F	<0.001 F	<0.001 F	<0.001 F	<0.001 F	<0.001 F	<0.001 F	<0.001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F	<0.0001 F			
Cr	mg/l	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.005		
Cr, Cu	mg/l	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01		
Fe	mg/l	<0.05	0.11	<0.05	1.97 J	<0.05	0.07	<0.05	1.57 J	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	0.16 J	<0.05	0.17	<0.05	0.11 J	<0.05	0.11 J	<0.05	<0.05	0.3		
Hg	mg/l	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002			
Mn	mg/l	4.51 F	n/a	20.8 F	n/a	42.7 F	n/a	2.24 F	n/a	5.13 F	n/a	1.29 F	n/a	1.78 F	n/a	0.21 F	n/a	2.05 F	n/a	2.86 F	n/a	10.8 F	n/a	
Ni	mg/l	0.2 F	n/a	0.07 F	n/a	0.2 F	n/a	<0.2 F	n/a	0.11 F	n/a	0.19 F	n/a	0.15 F	n/a	<0.2 F	n/a	0.06 F	n/a	<0.2 F	n/a	0.06 F	n/a	
Pb	mg/l	0.063	n/a	0.051	n/a	0.19	n/a	0.014	n/a	0.24	n/a	0.68	n/a	0.024	n/a	0.008	n/a	0.015	n/a	0.017	n/a	0.028	n/a	
Sb	mg/l	<0.001 UJ	n/a	0.002 J	n/a	<0.001 UJ	n/a	0.002	n/a	<0.001 UJ	n/a	<0.001 UJ	n/a	<0.001 UJ	n/a	<0.001 UJ	n/a	<0.001 UJ	n/a	<0.001 UJ	n/a	0.006		
Se	mg/l	<0.001	n/a	<0.001	n/a	<0.001	n/a	<0.001	n/a	0.006	n/a	0.006	<0.001	n/a	<0.001	n/a	<0.001	n/a	<0.001	n/a	<0.001	n/a		
Tl	mg/l	0.005	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	n/a		
V	mg/l	0.29 F	n/a	0.063 F	n/a	0.13 F	n/a	0.008 F	n/a	0.14 F	n/a	0.049 F	n/a	0.017 F	n/a	0.015 F	n/a	0.007 F	n/a	0.014 F	n/a	0.051 F	n/a	
Zn	mg/l	0.78 F	n/a	0.65 F	n/a	1.01 F	n/a	0.35 F	n/a	1.25 F	n/a	1.09 F	n/a	0.43 F	n/a	1.09 F	n/a	0.11 F	n/a	0.14 F	n/a	0.07 F	0.16 F	

Notes: All concentrations reported in milligrams per liter (mg/l).

< indicates parameter was not detected above the listed practical quantitation limit (POL).

J = estimated concentration.

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TABLE 3.3-15
GROUNDWATER QUALITY IN BEDROCK MONITORING WELLS

Hydrostratigraphic Unit Sample Station Date	NR-C-4 10/4/01	NR-C-4 6/13/02	Rex Chert					Upper Meade Peak			Wells / RC. DC # 2 5/20/02	Ground Water Standard Primary Secondary
			NR-R-2 10/3/01	NR-R-2 6/13/02	NR-R-12 10/6/01	NR-R-12 6/13/02	NR-C-3 10/5/01	NR-C-3 6/13/02	NR-C-3 6/13/02			
General Parameters												
pH (field)	Std. Units	n/a	6.74	5.9	5.21	7.1	6.75	6.5	6.23	6.23		6.5 - 8.5
pH (lab)	Std. Units	n/a	7.6	6.7	7	7.8	7.6	7.6	7.8	7.8	7.2	6.5 - 8.5
Temp. (field)	C	n/a	10.2	7.6	6.4	7.7	7.7	7.2	9.6	9.6		
Total Alkalinity	mg/l CaCO ₃	n/a	210	62	43	168	176	194	131	131	157	
Bicarbonate Alkalinity	mg/l HCO ₃	n/a	256. F	76	52. F	205	215. F	237	160. F	160. F	157	
Carbonate Alkalinity	mg/l CO ₃	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<2.	
Hydroxide	mg/l	n/a	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<2.	
Acidity	mg/l CaCO ₃	n/a	<2.	<2.	41	<2.	<2.	<2.	<2.	<2.	<2.	
E.C. (field)	umhos/cm	n/a	512	213	148	314	553	450	296	296		
E.C. (lab)	umhos/cm	n/a	610	187	134	348	572	324	277	278	403	
TDS	mg/l	n/a	421	278	405	98	398	288	176	215		500
Hardness	mg/l CaCO ₃	n/a	381	42	53	182	354	213	158	162	193	
Major Ions												
Ca	mg/l	n/a	113	12	13	45	79	59	45	45	46.9	
Cl	mg/l	n/a	<4.	4	<4.	6	6	<4.	<4.	<4.	5	250
F	mg/l	n/a	0.58	0.15	0.31	0.17	0.17	0.24	0.94	0.87	n/a	4
K	mg/l	n/a	2	1	<1.	<1.	<1.	1	<1.	<1.	n/a	
Mg	mg/l	n/a	24	3	5	17	38	16	11	12	18.4	
Na	mg/l	n/a	7	35	7	5	5	10	6	6	12.9	
SO ₄	mg/l	n/a	135	44	26	25	141	43	21	24	20	250
Nutrients												
NO ₃ + NO ₂	mg/l N	n/a	<0.05	0.90	1.23	<0.05	0.08	0.91	0.34	0.29		
NO ₃	mg/l N	n/a	<0.05	0.25	1.05	<0.05	<0.05	0.91	0.16	0.11		10
NO ₂	mg/l N	n/a	0.12 J	0.65	0.18	<0.05	<0.05	<0.05	0.18	0.18		1
NH ₄	mg/l N	n/a	0.1	<0.05	0.1	<0.05	0.07	0.1	0.12	0.11		
PO ₄	mg/l	n/a	2.3	5.4	2	0.13	0.07	20	2.9	3.7		
PO ₄ Ortho	mg/l	n/a	0.02	0.04	0.56	0.02	0.04	0.13	0.19	0.19		
Dissolved Metals												
Ag	mg/l	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001		0.1
Al	mg/l	<0.1	<0.1	0.5	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1		0.2
As	mg/l	<0.001	0.004	0.001	0.003	<0.001	0.003	0.004	0.007	0.007		0.05
B	mg/l	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1		
Ba	mg/l	<0.1	0.03	0.2	0.05	<0.1	0.02	<0.1	<0.01	<0.01		2
Be	mg/l	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001		0.004
Cd	mg/l	0.0057	0.008 F	0.0013	0.0006 F	<0.0001	<0.0001 F	0.0019	0.0004 F	0.0005 F	<0.008	0.005
Cr	mg/l	<0.01	<0.01	0.03	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.02	<0.01	<0.01		0.1
Cu	mg/l	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	0.04	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01	<0.01		1.3
Fe	mg/l	0.19	<0.05	0.77	<0.05	0.1	<0.05	0.15	<0.05	<0.05		0.3
Hg	mg/l	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002	<0.0002		0.002
Mn	mg/l	0.32	0.32	0.08	<0.02	0.09	0.89	0.06	<0.02	<0.02		0.05
Ni	mg/l	0.36	0.55	0.04	0.02	0.02	0.39	0.08	0.06	0.05		
Pb	mg/l	<0.001	<0.001	0.009	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001	<0.001		0.015
Sb	mg/l	0.005	0.002	<0.001	0.005	0.001	0.005	<0.001	0.002	0.002		0.006
Se	mg/l	0.021	0.001	0.005	0.005	<0.001	0.002	0.082	0.02	0.02	<0.001	0.05
Tl	mg/l	0.002	<0.002	0.002	<0.002	0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002	<0.002		0.002
V	mg/l	0.018	<0.005	0.02	<0.005	<0.005	<0.005	0.014	<0.005	0.009		
Zn	mg/l	0.37	1.3	0.17	0.04	0.1	0.5	0.2	0.13	0.13		5
Total Metals												
Ag	mg/l	n/a	<0.001 UJF	n/a	<0.001 UJF	n/a	<0.001 UJF	n/a	0.004 JF	<0.001 UJF		0.1
Al	mg/l	n/a	1. F	n/a	53.9 F	n/a	<0.1 F	n/a	5.3 F	3.9 F		0.2
As	mg/l	n/a	0.018 F	n/a	0.026 F	n/a	0.015 F	n/a	0.038 F	0.032 F		0.05
B	mg/l	n/a	<0.1	n/a	<0.1	n/a	<0.1	n/a	<0.1	<0.1		
Ba	mg/l	n/a	0.05 F	n/a	1.01 F	n/a	0.04 F	n/a	0.05 F	0.03 F		2
Be	mg/l	n/a	<0.001	n/a	0.008	n/a	<0.001	n/a	<0.001	<0.001		0.004
Cd	mg/l	n/a	0.016	n/a	0.008	n/a	0.0006	n/a	0.0064	0.0044		0.005
Cr	mg/l	n/a	0.02 F	n/a	0.07 F	n/a	<0.01 F	n/a	0.13 F	0.09 F		0.1
Cu	mg/l	n/a	0.01	n/a	0.05	n/a	<0.01	n/a	0.04	0.03		1.3
Fe	mg/l	n/a	1.89 F	n/a	47.1 F	n/a	0.7 F	n/a	10.8 F	6.93 F		0.3
Hg	mg/l	n/a	<0.0004 F	n/a	<0.0004 F	n/a	<0.0004 F	n/a	0.0055 F	<0.0004 F		0.002
Mn	mg/l	n/a	0.34 F	n/a	0.57 F	n/a	0.96 F	n/a	0.32 F	0.18 F		0.05
Ni	mg/l	n/a	0.73 F	n/a	0.29 F	n/a	0.5 F	n/a	0.28 F	0.22 F		0.1
Pb	mg/l	n/a	0.004	n/a	0.095	n/a	<0.001	n/a	0.029	0.026		0.015
Sb	mg/l	n/a	0.002	n/a	<0.001 UJ	n/a	<0.001 UJ	n/a	0.003 J	0.002		0.006
Se	mg/l	n/a	0.005	n/a	0.012	n/a	<0.001	n/a	0.036	0.03		0.05
Tl	mg/l	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	n/a	<0.002	<0.002		0.002
V	mg/l	n/a	0.016 F	n/a	0.071 F	n/a	<0.005 F	n/a	0.062 F	0.048 F		
Zn	mg/l	n/a	1.43 F	n/a	1.25 F	n/a	0.53 F	n/a	1.18 F	0.81 F		5

Notes:

< indicates parameter was not detected above the listed practical quantitation limit (PQL),

J = estimated concentration,

UJ = Reported PQL for sample is approximate

F = field duplicate results exceeded acceptable limits,

Bold and shaded values exceeds ground water standard listed in IDAPA 58.01.11 (IDAPA, 2002b). Results for total metals are not considered to be representative of in-situ conditions because of high sample turbidity