






# Groundwater Recharge Areas

Recharge characteristics were mapped in the BACOG area as a result of the research undertaken as part of the water resource initiative. A system of relative travel times for infiltrating water to reach the uppermost aquifer was established based on soil characteristics. These travel times were used to classify area recharge characteristics as being highly sensitive, sensitive, moderately sensitive, poor, or very poor.

Recharge Designation	Description
 Highly Sensitive	In the highly sensitive areas relative travel times are measured in days. Recharge sensitivity is estimated to be greater than 80 percent, indicating that recharge is very fast and that the risk for groundwater contamination from a pollutant surface spill is high. The percent of annual precipitation that reaches the groundwater in the highly sensitive recharge areas is estimated to be about 48 percent.
 Sensitive	The relative time of travel in the sensitive recharge areas ranges from days to one or two years, and the recharge sensitivity ranges from approximately 60 to 79 percent. The estimated portion of annual precipitation that reaches the groundwater is about 30 percent.
 Moderately Sensitive	The areas having moderately sensitive recharge characteristics exhibit an estimated relative travel time of one or two years to about 40 years. The recharge sensitivity is estimated to be in the range of 40 to 59 percent, and the portion of annual precipitation reaching groundwater is estimated at 10 percent.
 Poor	Poor to very poor recharge areas exhibit relative travel times that range from 42 years to hundreds of years or more. The recharge sensitivity is estimated to be less than 40 percent and the portion of annual precipitation reaching groundwater is estimated at 6 percent.
 Very Poor	

Recharge Characteristics provided by Kurt O. Thomsen, Ph.D., P.G.

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