

Glossary for water quantity allocation

Environmental flow: A type of limit which describes the amount of water in a freshwater management unit which is required to set freshwater objectives. Environmental flows for rivers and streams must include an allocation limit and a minimum flow (from NPS-FM definition).

In effect, environmental flows are a combination of minimum flows and the amount of water allocated from a river (allocation limit).

Freshwater objective: An intended environmental outcome in a freshwater management unit (from NPS-FM definition).

Minimum flow (or “hands off flow”): The flow of a river or stream at which at the taking of water is restricted (or required to cease) (from PNRP definition).

Minimum flows may be established to provide for ecological, cultural, amenity, recreational, landscape, natural character and other values associated with water.

Supplementary allocation: Water available for allocation when the river is at a high flow (e.g. flow is above median flow) (from PNRP definition).