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The Clearwater River at Draper is situated in a vast area of approximately 30,800 km². The river's headwaters are formed by Broach Lake in Saskatchewan, which lies at an elevation of 460 m. As the river flows through its upper reaches, it traverses the Precambrian shield. In the middle sections, it navigates through the interior plains, whereas in the lower sections, high valley walls composed of limestone and dolomite characterize the river system. The hydrological data collected by WSC at station 07CD001 (Clearwater River at Draper) since 1958 reveals a range of daily flows. The maximum recorded flow is 790 m³/s on April 30, 1974, while the lowest recorded value is 26.2 m³/s on February 19, 1982. High flows often occur during spring due to snowmelt and spring rainfall, resulting in seasonal high (peak) flows. Flooding events are also common during summer months due to extreme rainfall within the drainage area. Conversely, low flows typically take place in winter when precipitation is stored as snow. In some cases, another low flow period may emerge during late summer under dry conditions throughout the watershed. However, for this location, the annual minimum daily low flow has consistently occurred in winter months. The Clearwater River holds Canadian Heritage River status both in Alberta and Saskatchewan, making it a natural river system with minimal oil sands developments. This characteristic allows researchers to use the river as a baseline to study natural systems' variability and characteristics. The South Fork Clearwater River, nestled in Idaho's picturesque landscape, is a treasured gem that shelters a delicate ecosystem and supports vibrant communities. As one of the last remaining strongholds for steelhead and salmon populations, its waters are a testament to the power of natural resilience. Here, amidst the turbulent flow of the river, lies a haven for biodiversity – the Selway forest snail, an endemic species found nowhere else on the planet, calls this stretch home. The Nez Perce Tribe has long revered the South Fork Clearwater River's fisheries as a vital part of their heritage. Both indigenous and non-indigenous anglers find solace in its banks, which offer unparalleled access to fishing opportunities. The river also caters to families seeking adventure on hot summer days – lazy tubing and swimming are just a splash away from the red tea-colored headwaters that flow from the Red River. Beyond its recreational value, the South Fork Clearwater River boasts an impressive array of whitewater paddling sections, including Golden Canyon and Mickey Mouse, which are synonymous with expert kayakers and rafters. Boulder-strewn rapids offer a thrilling plunge through rocky canyon walls, challenging even the most seasoned adventurers. The river's storied history dates back to 1861 when placer gold was discovered along its banks, drawing thousands of prospectors to what is now Elk City. Placer tailing piles remain as a testament to this rich mining heritage. However, amidst these natural wonders and human endeavors lies a pressing concern – the threat of future hydroelectric or water storage facility construction looms large over the South Fork Clearwater River. Dworshak Dam, once the third tallest dam in the United States, stands as a reminder of past development. Its legacy is marked by fish ladders that obstruct passage to the North Fork Clearwater River and its tributaries. Grangeville (Harpster) Dam's history offers hope – built on the South Fork Clearwater River in 1910 for hydroelectricity generation, it was demolished in 1963, restoring populations of Chinook salmon and steelhead. Though the river now flows freely, concerns about future dams and diversions persist. Elk City remains one of Idaho's most active gold placer mining areas, with 59 claims along its banks. The threat of logging, streamside development, and further dam construction hangs over both the North and South Forks of the Clearwater River – a stark reminder that conservation efforts are far from complete. The release of the new Nez Perce-Clearwater National Forest plan in January 2025 has significantly altered the landscape for these rivers. This shift heavily favors logging and extractive industries, stripping protections from nearly 700 miles of river corridors, including both North and South Forks. The implications will be felt for at least the next two decades unless invalidated through litigation. In a broader context, this story intersects with global efforts to preserve natural heritage sites. In Canada, the Clearwater River has been designated under the Canadian Heritage Rivers System (CHRS), which protects its outstanding natural features and diverse recreational opportunities. The tables below offer available timeseries data for the river's flow, broken down by various methods and climate models. These resources are invaluable for understanding how to conserve this precious ecosystem in the face of an ever-changing environment. ========== Click the link to download zip files of all streamflow timeseries for this site. The files can be quite large, up to 140 MB in size. Unfortunately, there is no bias-corrected data available for this location as it lacks reference (NRNI) flows, making it impossible to process. Researchers have used alternative approaches like the Livneh (2013) meteorological forcings to generate historical simulations, offering four different downscaled methods: BCSD, MACA, and two versions of DYNAMICAL downscaling.