



Bedload Research International Cooperative (BRIC)

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The state of the science of bedload research and monitoring in the last quarter century has progressed at a much slower rate than the rate for suspended sediment due to a number of constraints. Most of the traditional devices still entail routine collection and subsequent analyses of physical samples. The amount and reliability of bedload data remain limited by the characteristics of the collecting instrument, hydraulic and bed conditions, vagaries associated with manual deployment and a lack of temporal continuity in measurements. Acceptably and quantifiably accurate measurement of bedload discharge at discrete time intervals, let alone as a time series, is often an unattainable goal. The accuracy of equations for estimating bedload transport, predicated on data reliability, remains unquantifiable for most prototype conditions. Ongoing research on bedload-measurement instruments and measuring techniques has been taking place on an ad hoc basis within and between various countries, with little coordination among researchers. Bedload studies often lack adequate funding and adequate local or institutional scientific support.

The Bedload Research International Cooperative (BRIC) has been established to address some of these constraints. The BRIC is by, for, and responsive to the international bedload research and monitoring community. It will provide an international focal point for bedload research, methods development and data sharing. Membership is free, as would be acquisition of BRIC data. Information compiled and disseminated as part of the BRIC would enable coordination of research to fill critical gaps in our knowledge of bedload processes and measurement techniques. The concept of the BRIC is evolving (see http://water.usgs.gov/osw/techniques/sediment/sedsurrogate2003workshop/bric_3_19_2004.pdf);

suggestions are sought as the concept matures.