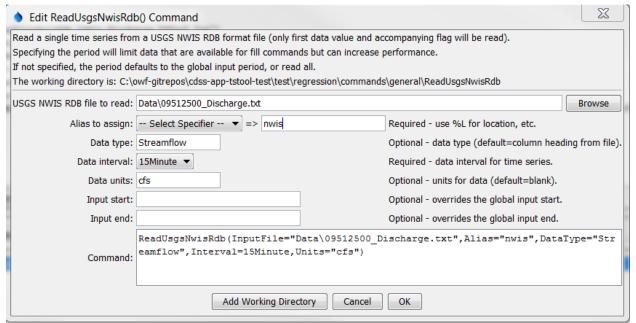# Command Reference: ReadUsgsNwisRdb()

Read a single time series from a USGS NWIS RDB file

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The ReadUsgsNwisRdb() command reads a single time series from a USGS NWIS RDB file (see the **UsgsNwisRdb Input Type Appendix**) and assigns an alias to the result. This command replaces the older ReadUsgsNwis() command – legacy ReadUsgsNwis() commands are automatically translated to ReadUsgsNwisRdb() commands. RDB files do not have complete metadata (such as indicating the data interval) and therefore command parameters are required. See also the WebGet() command, which can be used to retrieve data files from the USGS website.

The following dialog is used to edit the command and illustrates the syntax.

ReadUsgsNwisRdb() Command Editor

The command syntax is as follows:

```
ReadUsgsNwisRdb(Parameter=Value,…)
```

The following legacy command syntax is updated to the above syntax when a command file is read:

```
TS Alias = ReadUsgsNwis (Parameter=Value,…)
```

Command Parameters

Parameter	Description	Default
InputFile	The name of the USGS NWIS RDB file to read, surrounded by double quotes. The path to the file can be absolute or relative to the working directory. Can be specified with ${Property}.	None – must be specified.
Alias	The alias to assign to the time series, as a literal string or using the special formatting characters listed by the command editor. The alias is a short identifier used by other commands to locate time series for processing, as an alternative to the time series identifier (TSID).	None – must be specified.
DataType	The data type to assign to time series.	Use the column heading, e.g., 01_00060.
Interval	The time series data interval for output.	In the future may determine from the file but should be defined by the parameter.
Units	Data units to assign to output.	No units assigned.
InputStart	The start of the period to read data – specify if the period should be different from the global query period. Can be specified with ${Property}.	Use the global query period.
InputEnd	The end of the period to read data – specify if the period should be different from the global query period. Can be specified with ${Property}.	Use the global query period.