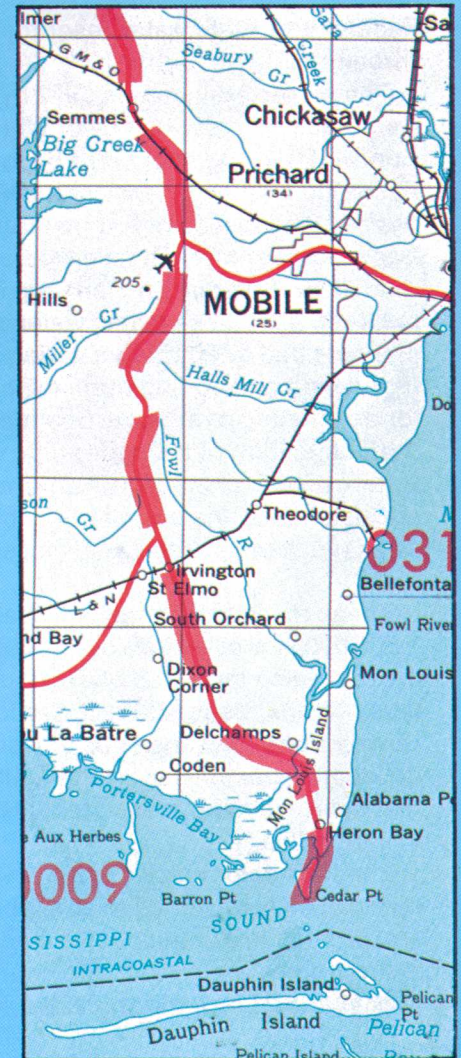
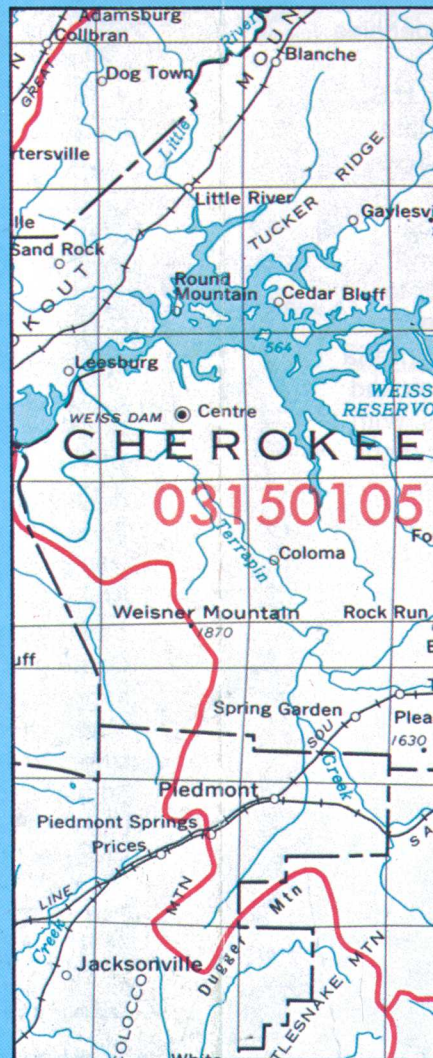
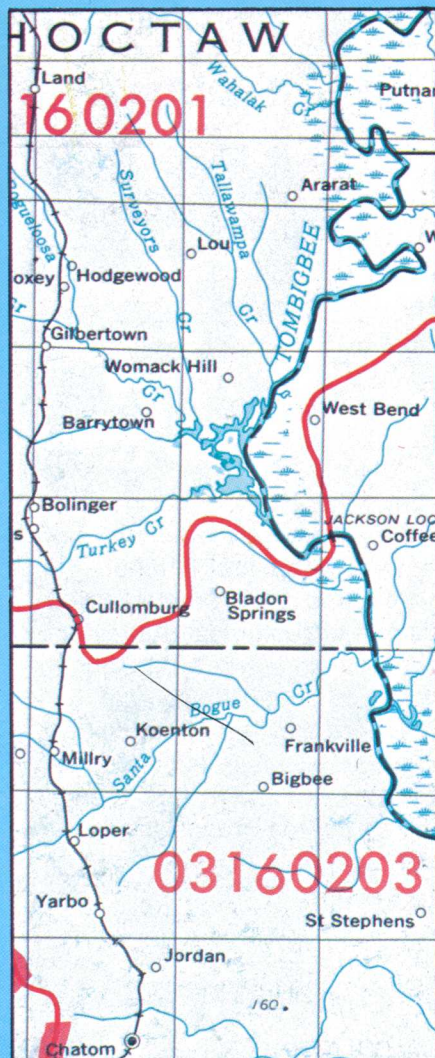




As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering the wisest use of our land and water resources, protecting

our fish and wildlife, preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places, and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The Department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to assure that their development is in the best interests of all our people. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

State Hydrologic Unit Maps



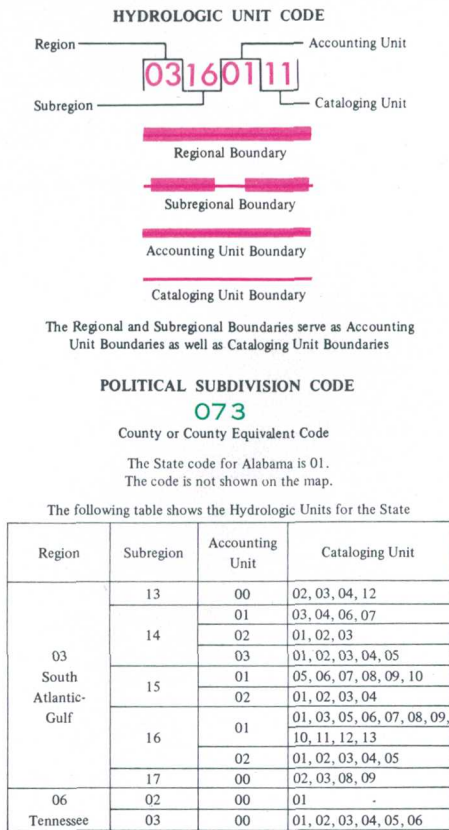
State Hydrologic Unit Maps

A series of uniform, nationally consistent State Hydrologic Unit Maps that accurately delineate the hydrographic boundaries of major U.S. river basins has been prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey in cooperation with the U.S. Water Resources Council. These maps provide a standardized base for use by Federal and State water resources agencies throughout the country.

The project, initiated in 1972 by the U.S. Geological Survey's Office of Water Data Coordination and supported by the Survey's Resource Planning Analysis Office, has resulted in a standard geographical framework for more detailed water- and related land-resources planning. Prior to publication of these maps, water-resources planners had been using a variety of criteria for naming and coding drainage basins and for delineating hydrologic boundaries. With the publication of the hydrologic unit maps, water-resources managers now have a consistent starting point for planning, as well as an aid for organizing and disseminating data.

These maps, published at a scale of 1:500,000 (1 inch equals nearly 8 miles), present twice the detail of previous river-basin maps. Using the U.S. Geological Survey State map series as a base, they delineate river basins in the United States that have drainage areas greater than 700 square miles.

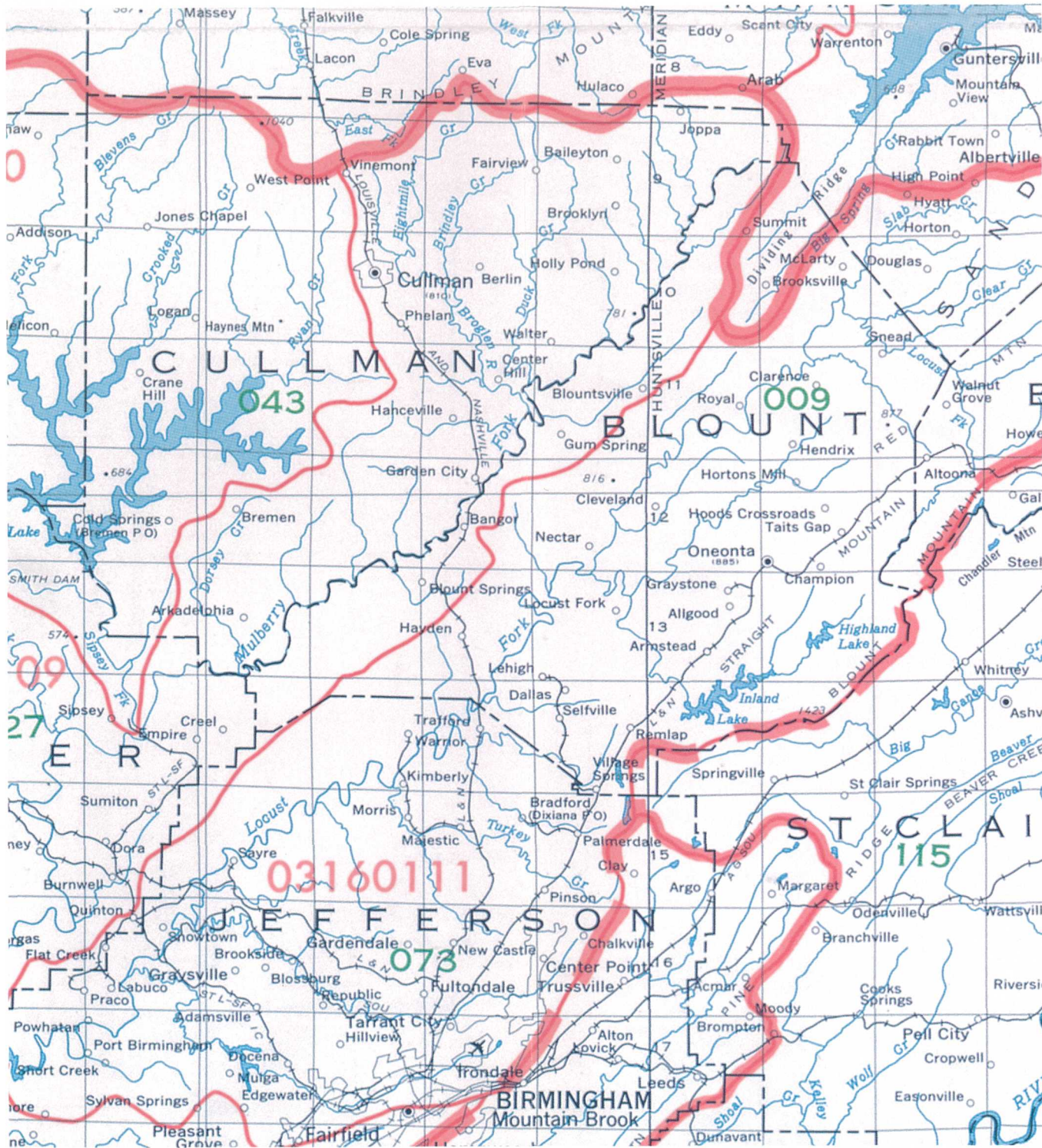
The four-color maps show a distinct numeric code assigned to each river basin and provide information on drainage, culture, hydrography, and hydrologic boundaries for each of the 21 regions and 222 subregions



An example of a State Hydrologic Unit Map legend.

designated by the Water Resources Council. They also depict the boundaries and codes of 352 accounting units within the National Water Data Network and approximately 2,100 cataloging units of the Geological Survey's *Catalog of Information on Water Data*. The hydrologic units are arranged within each other, starting from the smallest (Cataloging Units) to the largest (Regions). Also included on the maps are State and county codes that use the Federal Information Processing Standards (FIPS).

An example of part of a State Hydrologic Unit Map that shows culture in black, hydrography in blue, hydrologic unit boundaries and eight-digit hydrologic unit codes in red, and county codes in green.



The uses of the State Hydrologic Unit Maps are many. From the standpoint of data collection, storage, and manipulation, a standard coding system is necessary for those wishing to use all data from a particular river basin. The Geological Survey is using the coding system to document all its water-data collection activities and its data-planning efforts. The Survey's National Water Data EXchange (NAWDEX) system has incorporated the code into its computer system to allow all its members easier access to data holdings that consist of more than a billion water-resource measurements. Other Federal agencies (including the Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Council on Environmental Quality, National Weather Service, and Water Resources Council) and State, county, and local agencies are using the hydrologic units for codifying and displaying the data that were collected locally and nationwide.

State Hydrologic Unit Maps cost from \$1.75 to \$5.00. They can be purchased from:

U.S. Geological Survey
Map Distribution
Box 25286, Federal Center
Denver, CO 80225

Residents of Alaska may purchase maps from Denver or directly from:

U.S. Geological Survey
Distribution Section
New Federal Bldg., Box 12
101 Twelfth Avenue
Fairbanks, AK 99701

This publication is one of a series of general interest publications prepared by the U.S. Geological Survey to provide information about the earth sciences, natural resources, and the environment. To obtain a catalog of additional titles in the series "General Interest Publications of the U.S. Geological Survey," write to the Denver address.

Water Resources Council Regions and their code numbers in the United States and its possessions are shown on the new maps.

