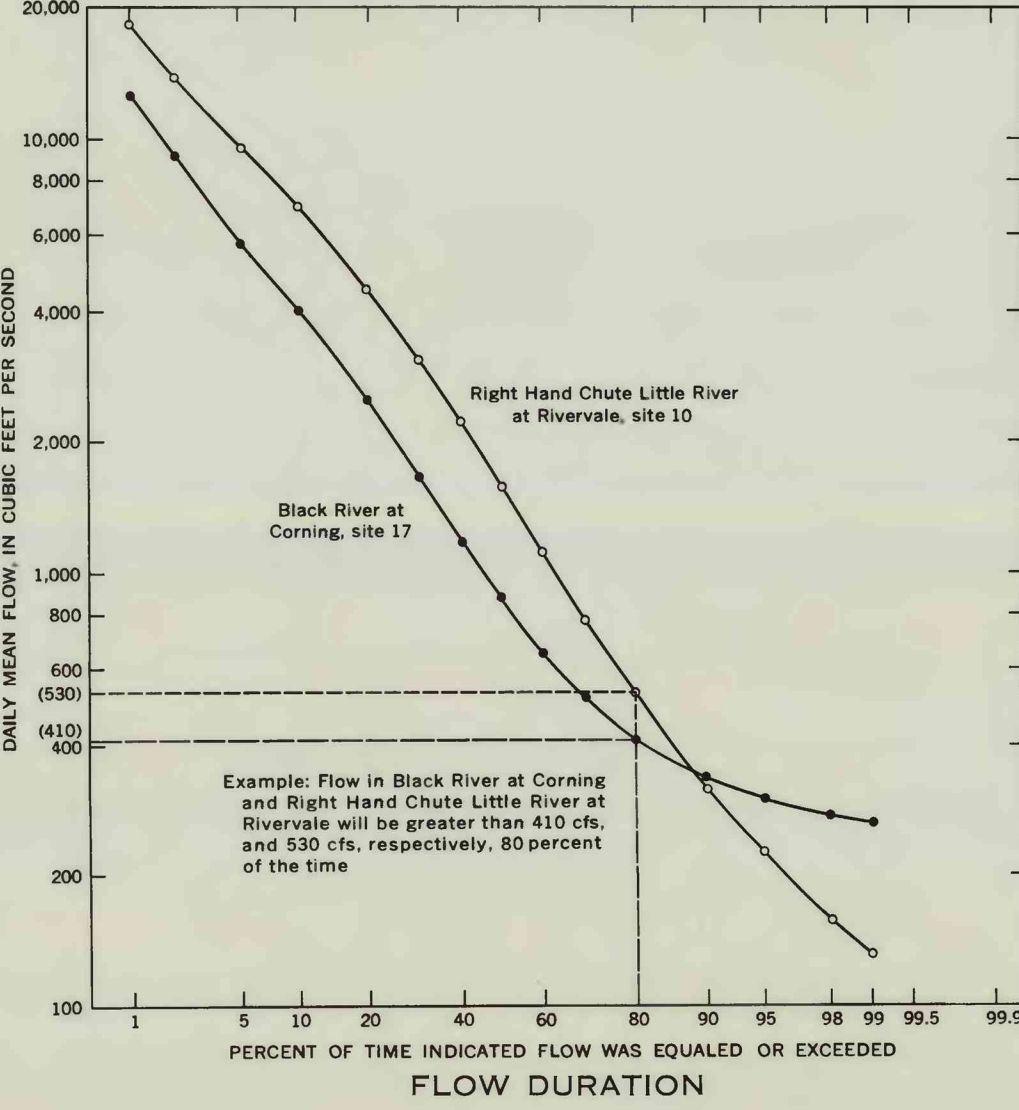
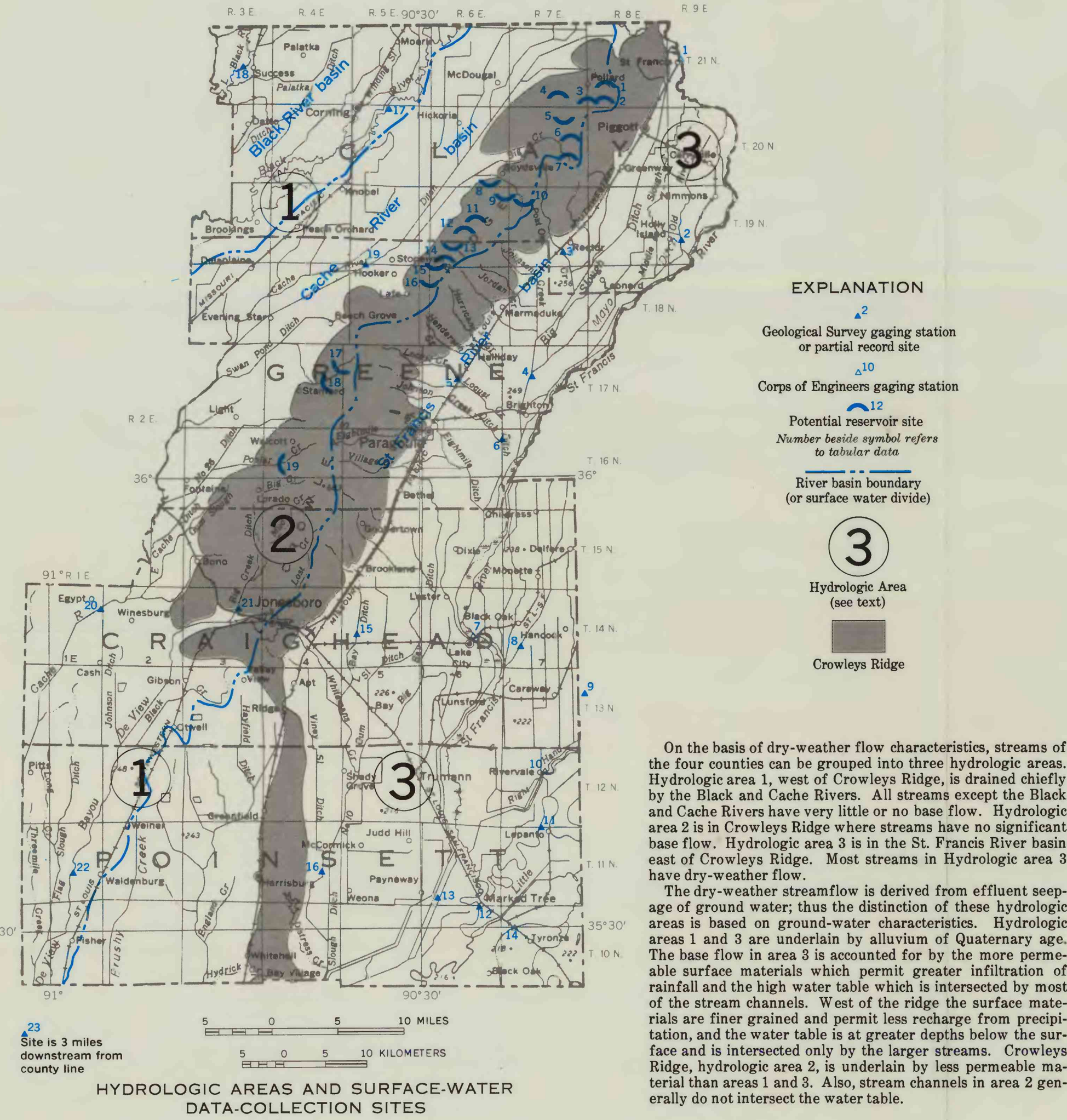


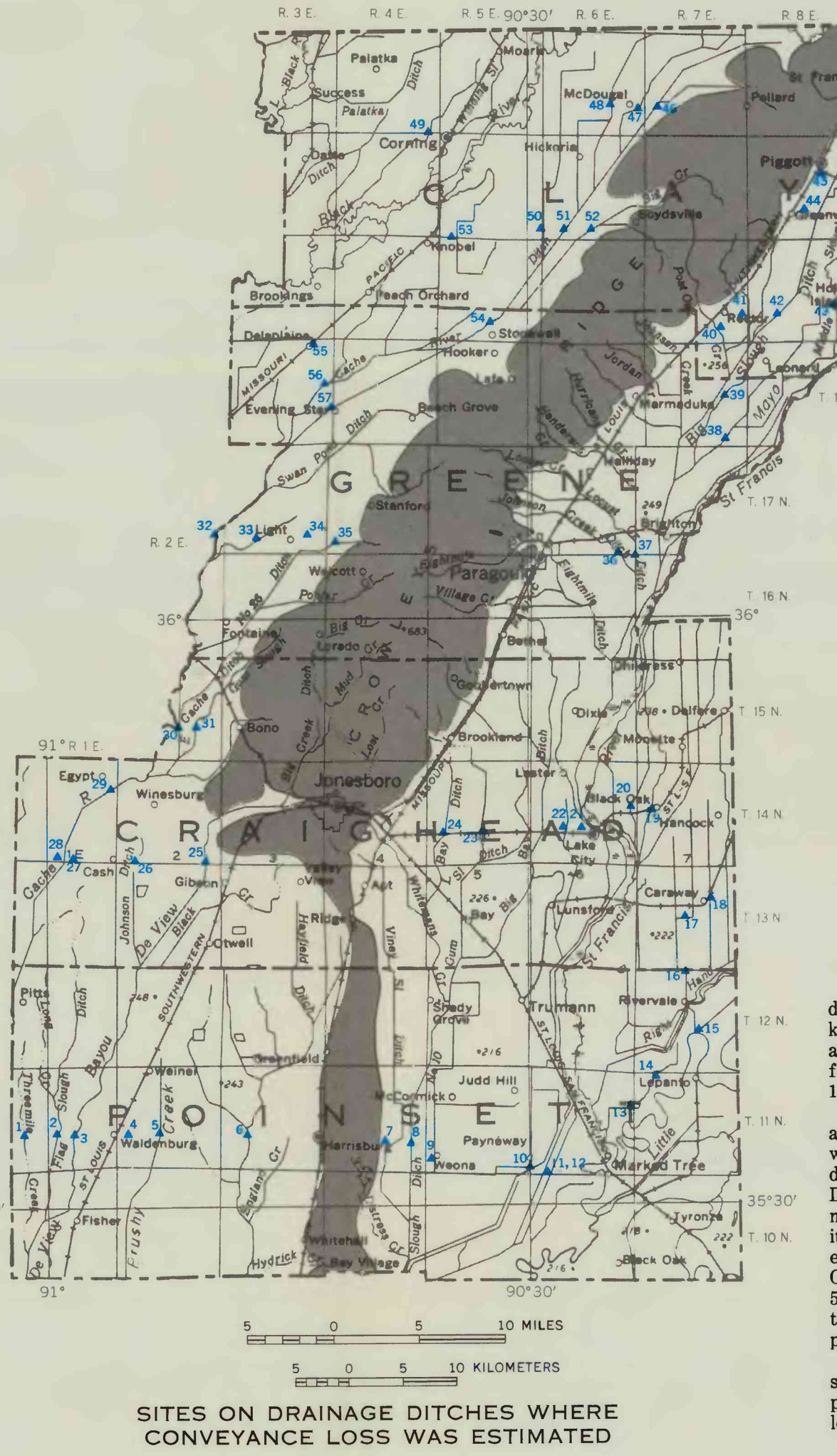
SURFACE WATER



Flow duration shows the percentage of time a daily mean flow is equalled or exceeded. For example, the curves show that the flow in Black River at Corning will be greater than 410 cfs 80 percent of the time, and the flow in Right Hand Chute Little River at Riverdale will be greater than 530 cfs 80 percent of the time. If water supplies of 410 and 530 cfs are required from Black River at Corning and Right Hand Chute Little River at Riverdale, then 20 percent of the time, or on the average 73 days each year, flow in the streams will be deficient. The duration curves show that sustained flow (higher percentages) are available from Black River even during severe droughts; whereas, flows in Right Hand Chute may recede considerably below 100 cfs during extended dry periods.

The dry-weather streamflow is derived from effluent seepage of ground water, thus the distinction of these hydrologic areas is based on ground-water characteristics. Hydrologic areas 1 and 3 are underlain by alluvium of Quaternary age. The base flow in area 3 is accounted for by the more permeable stream channels which permit greater infiltration of rainfall and the high water table which is interested by most of the surface materials. West of the ridge the surface materials are finer grained and permit less recharge from precipitation, and the water table is at greater depth below the surface and is interested only by the larger streams. Crowley Ridge, hydrologic area 2, is underlain by less permeable material than areas 1 and 3. Also, stream channels in area 2 generally do not intersect the water table.

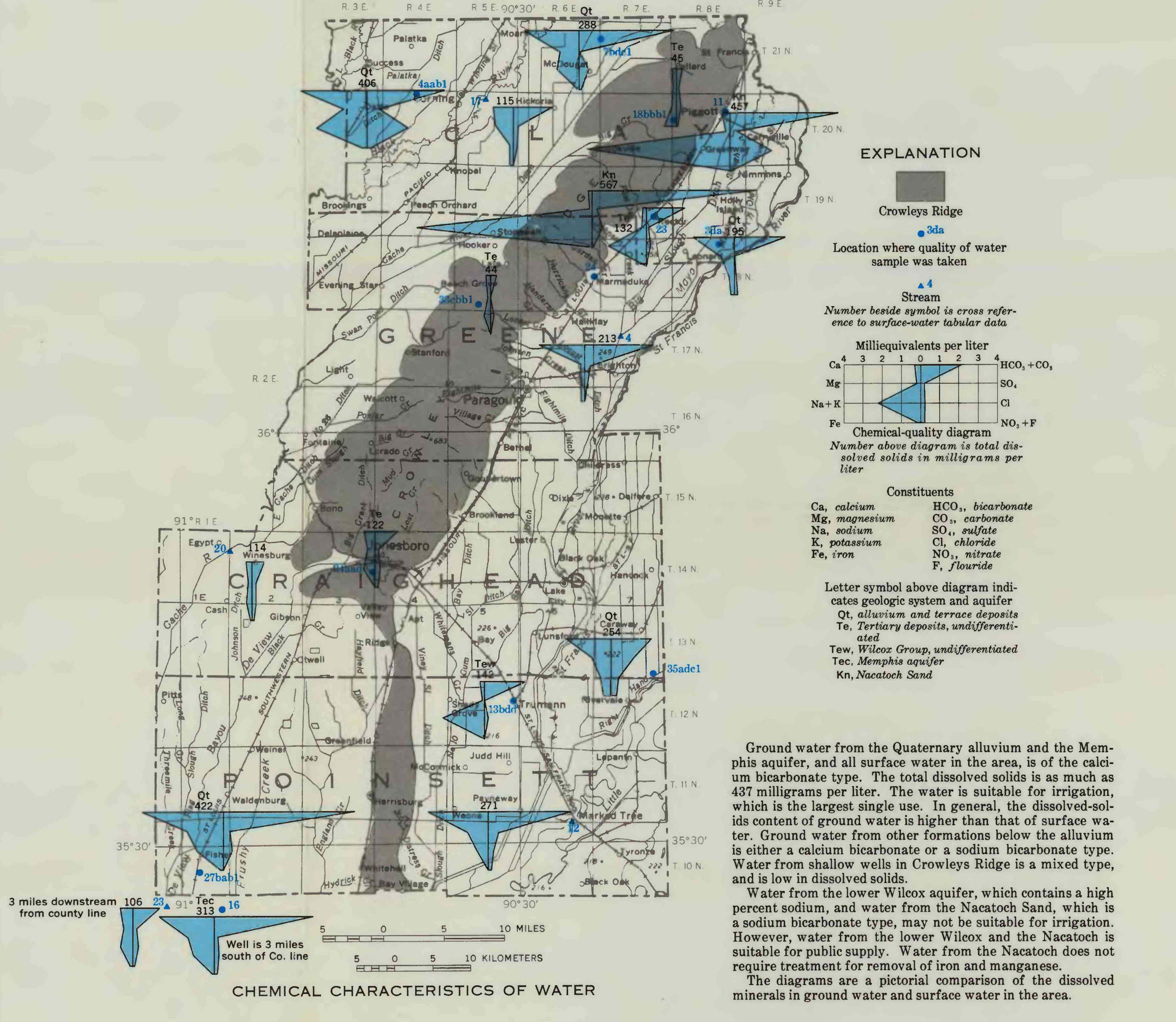
PROBLEMS



An average of about 500,000 acres of crops are damaged or destroyed annually in the area by water, according to the Arkansas Conservation Needs Committee. Surface-water damage is caused by inundation from streams, slow runoff of rainfall, and rejected recharge. Flood protection is required for 1.2 million acres, and drainage is a problem on 724,000 acres. Protection from surface water is provided mostly by drainage ditches. With time, drainage ditches become overgrown with vegetation and partially filled with sediment. This reduces the efficiency of the ditches to remove storm runoff. Ditches were observed at 57 sites in 1967, and judgments made of the present capacity compared with the design capacity of the ditches to transmit water. These estimates, expressed as conveyance loss, are shown in the accompanying table. Of the ditches observed, the conveyance loss was greater than 50 percent, perhaps as much as 70 percent, at five sites, and the conveyance was at or near design capacity at 11 sites (10-percent conveyance loss).

Channel rectification is in progress in the upper reaches of some ditches, but not in the lower reaches. Coordination and planning of this work are needed to prevent flooding and crop loss.

QUALITY OF WATER



Ground water from the Quaternary alluvium and the Memphis aquifer, and all surface water, is of the calcium bicarbonate type. The total dissolved solids is as much as 437 milligrams per liter. The water is suitable for irrigation, which is the largest single use. In general, the dissolved-solids content of ground water is higher than that of surface water. Ground water from other formations below the alluvium is either a calcium bicarbonate or a sodium bicarbonate type. Water from shallow wells in Crowley Ridge is a mixed type, and is low in dissolved solids.

Water from the lower Wilcox aquifer, which contains a high percent sodium, and water from the Natchez Sand, which is a sodium bicarbonate type, may not be suitable for irrigation. However, water from the lower Wilcox and the Natchez is suitable for public supply. Water from the Natchez does not require treatment for removal of iron and manganese.

The diagrams are a pictorial comparison of the dissolved minerals in ground water and surface water in the areas.

WATER-SUPPLY CHARACTERISTICS OF SELECTED STREAMS

Three of the most useful water-supply characteristics of a stream are the average flow, low-flow frequency, and flow duration. The low-flow frequency and flow duration shown below are indices of the dry-weather flow of the streams. Streams in the St. Francis River basin (hydrologic area 3) typically have greater dry-weather flow than streams of comparable drainage areas in the Black and Cache River basins (hydrologic areas 1).

The 7-day, 10-year flow is a good index for water supply without storage.

Map number	Station name	Tributary to—	Drainage area (sq mi)	Estimated flow (cfs)				Remarks
				Average	7-day	95-percent		
					2-year*	50-year*	dike tion*	
St. Francis River basin								
2	Mayo Ditch near Holly Island	Big Slough Ditch	33.7	50	5.9	2.0	5.3	Perennial stream. Numerous bank seeps. Deep dredged channel.
3	Post Oak Creek near Recto	Big Slough Ditch	9.82	10	0	0	0	Flow present only immediately after rainfall in basin.
4	Big Slough Ditch near Marmaduke	St. Francis River	247	360	68	23	55	Perennial stream. Dredged channel.
5	Locust Creek near Paragould	St. Francis River (through Locust Creek Ditch)	19.8	25	.3	< .1	.3	No flow during severe drought.
6	Locust Creek Ditch near Paragould	St. Francis River	78.3	105	1.4	< .1	.9	Do.
7	Cockle Burr Slough near Black Oak	St. Francis River	108	160	48	23	45	Perennial stream. Dredged channel.
8	Buffalo Creek near Caraway	Left Hand Chute Little River	235	380	70-80	20-30	60-70	Do.
10	Right Hand Chute Little River at Riverdale	St. Francis River	2,106	2,734	*268	*56	*226	Do.
15	Little Bay Ditch near Jonesboro	St. Francis Bay (through Ditch 10)	27.1	35	0	0	0	No flow in most years. Dredged channel.
16	Ditch No. 1 near Harrisburg	St. Francis Bay (through Ditch 10)	61.5	80	0	0	0	Do.
White River basin								
17	Black River near Corning	White River	1,749	1,742	*295	*205	*298	Perennial stream. Headwaters in Interior Highlands in Missouri. Do.
18	Little Black River at Stone	Current River	384	450	30	13	33	Do.
19	Cache River near Stonewall	White River	285	380	1.2	< .1	1.1	No flow during severe drought. Dredged channel.
20	Cache River near Egypt	White River	688	920	21	.2	18	Perennial stream. Dredged channel. Affected by irrigation.
21	Big Creek near Jonesboro	Bayou De View	51.1	65	.4	< .1	.3	Base flow is entirely leakage from floodplain. Natural base flow unknown. Measured flow, 20 cfs on June 23, 1966.
22	Bayou De View near Waldenburg	Cache River						Do.

* Minimum average flow for 7 consecutive days will be less than value shown in column, and with average recurrence, in years, as shown in column head.
* Recurrence interval of 20 years, or 20-percent chance of occurrence in any year.
* Recurrence interval of 10 years, or 10-percent chance of occurrence in any year.
* Percentage of time daily mean flow will exceed value shown in column.
* Estimated.
* Not estimated but adjusted to base period 1929-57.

SURFACE-WATER RECORDS

Streamflow data, consisting of various combinations of daily flow, low-flow discharge measurements, and chemical analysis, have been collected at 23 sites in the four-county area.

Map number	Streamflow station	Period of record		Records available from
		Streamflow	Chemical analysis	
1	St. Francis River at St. Francis	D 1930-	C	CE, GS
2	Mayo Ditch near Holly Island	Mb 1966-67, St E		GS
3	Post Oak Creek near Recto	Mb 1966-67, St E		GS
4	Big Slough Ditch near Marmaduke	Mb 1967-68, St A		Mb, GS
5	Locust Creek near Paragould	Mb 1966-67, St A		Mb, GS
6	Locust Creek Ditch near Paragould	Mb 1967-68, St A		Mb, GS
7	St. Francis River at Lake City	D 1931-	C	CE, GS
8	Cockle Burr Slough near Black Oak	Mb 1966-67, St E		GS
9	Buffalo Creek Ditch near Caraway	Mb 1966-67, St E		GS
10	Right Hand Chute Little River at Riverdale	D 1947-, St A		CE, GS
11	Left Hand Chute Little River near Leganto	Mb 1965		GS
12	St. Francis River at Marked Tree	D 1934-	C	GS
13	St. Francis River floodway near Marked Tree	D 1927-31, 1934-	C	GS
14	Tyronea River near Tyronea	D 1949	Mb	CE, GS
15	Little Bay Ditch near Jonesboro	Mb 1959-63, St A		Mb
16	Ditch No. 1 near Harrisburg	Mb 1960-67, St E		GS
17	Black River near Corning	D 1939-, St A		C, GS
18	Little Black River at Stone	Mb 1964, St E		Mb
19	Cache River near Stonewall	Mb 1959-63, St A		GS
20	Cache River near Egypt	D 1964, St E		CE, GS
21	Big Creek near Jonesboro	Mb 1959-63, St A		Mb
22	Bayou De View near Waldenburg	Mb 1960-67, St E		GS
23	Bayou De View near Hickory Ridge	Mb 1965		M

Period of record: A, adjusted to base period 1929-57; C, chemical analysis made periodically; D, daily discharge or chemical analysis; E, estimated; M, miscellaneous chemical analysis; Mb, miscellaneous base-flow discharge measurements or chemical analysis of base flow; St, temperature and dissolved-solids duration curves; St E, low-flow and flow-duration data.

Records available from: CE, District Engineer, Department of the Army, Memphis District, Corps of Engineers, 486 Federal Building, Memphis, Tenn. 38103; GS, District Chief, Water Resources Division, U.S. Geological Survey, 2501 Federal Office Building, Little Rock, Ark. 72201.

POTENTIAL RESERVOIR SITES ON CROWLEY RIDGE

The water-supply characteristics of a stream with little or no low flow can be enhanced by surface-water reservoirs. Hydrologic area 2 is favorable for surface storage because the topography is suitable for construction of reservoirs. Reservoirs can provide a year-round water supply in area 2 on streams that would not otherwise provide sufficient water during dry weather.

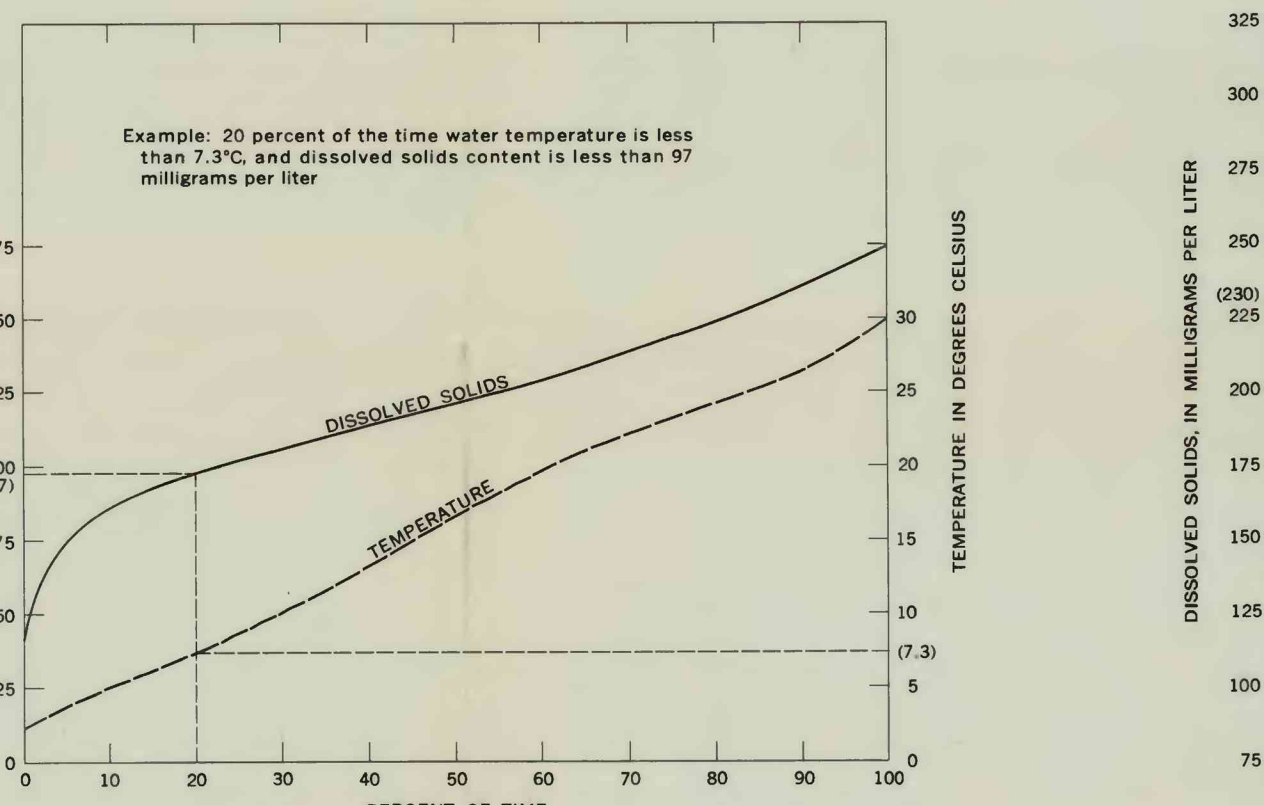
Map number	Dam site	Stream name	Storage capacity (acre-ft)	Drainage area (sq mi)	Estimated average annual runoff (in./year)	Drift/1 cubic foot per second
1	21N-46-NW sec. 29	Pollard (Horse) Creek tributary	449	1.53	1,470	0.89
2	21N-46-NW sec. 32	Pollard Creek (Horse Creek)	846	2.56	2,400	1.66
3	21N-46-NW sec. 36	Hosman Creek	299	1.80	1,730	.88
4	21N-46-NW sec. 27	Sales Creek	784	2.58	2,480	1.64
5	20N-76-SW sec. 11	South Fork Big Creek tributary	365	2.18	2,090	1.30
6	20N-76-SW sec. 14	South Fork Big Creek tributary	419	1.43	1,270	.83
7	20N-76-SW sec. 23	South Fork Big Creek	378	1.29	1,240	.75
8	20N-66-SW sec. 35	Big Creek tributary	275	1.28	1,220	.75
9	19N-66-SW sec. 1	Big Creek tributary	720	2.40	2,300	1.52
10	19N-76-NW sec. 7	Big Creek tributary	609	2.04	1,960	1.22
11	19N-66-NW sec. 15	Johnson Creek	609	2.14	2,050	1.37
12	19N-46-NW sec. 21	Dart Creek	452	1.54	1,480	.90
13	19N-46-NW sec. 29	Mill Creek tributary	346	1.18	1,120	.69
14	19N-46-SW sec. 39	Mill Creek tributary	475	1.02	1,560	.84
15	19N-46-SW sec. 30	Mill Creek tributary	311	1.06	1,030	.62
16	18N-46-NW sec. 12	Big Creek	609	2.04	1,960	1.22
17	17N-46-SW sec. 12	Sugar Creek	888	6.31	6,960	4.67
18	17N-46-SW sec. 14	Sugar Creek	2,014	10.36	9,950	4.67
19	16N-46-SW sec. 17	Poplar Creek	2,362	7.03	6,740	4.67
Total			13,736	52.37	50,300	28.50

* Permissible rate of withdrawal on a day-to-day basis, 20 year frequency (supply will be deficient on average of once in 20 years).
Note.—1 cubic foot per second=0.66 million gallons per day, 448.4 gallons per minute or 1.98 acre-ft per day.

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DISSOLVED-SOLIDS AND TEMPERATURE-DURATION CURVES FOR BLACK RIVER NEAR CORNING, ARK. WATER YEARS 1957-59

DISSOLVED-SOLIDS AND TEMPERATURE-DURATION CURVES FOR ST. FRANCIS RIVER AT MARKED TREE, ARK. WATER YEARS 1953-55

VARIATION IN DISSOLVED SOLIDS AND WATER

Dissolved solids and temperature-duration curves are shown for Black River at Corning and St. Francis River at Marked Tree. Chemical and physical characteristics of other perennial streams in the area are similar to those for Black and St. Francis Rivers, but in some of these streams the dissolved solids content may be lower. Representative chemical analyses of ground water and surface water are shown in the tables.

WATER RESOURCES OF CLAY, GREENE, CRAIGHEAD, AND POINSETT COUNTIES, ARKANSAS

By
Marion S. Hines, Raymond O. Pleubach, and A. G. Lamond
1972