

BACKWATER AT BRIDGES AND DENSELY WOODED FLOOD PLAINS, LOBUTCHA CREEK AT ZAMA, MISSISSIPPI

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Prepared in cooperation with the DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION and the MISSISSIPPI STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT



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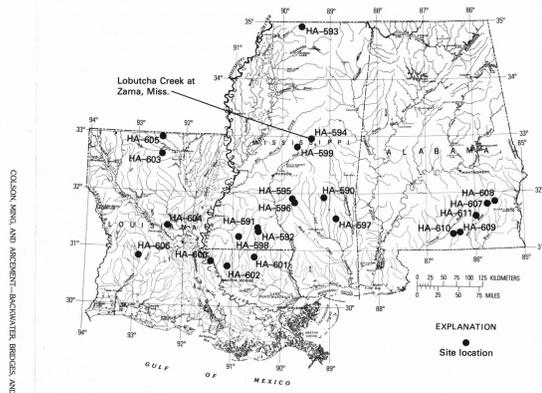


FIGURE 1—INDEX MAP OF STUDY SITES IN THE BRIDGE BACKWATER INVESTIGATION PROJECT, ALABAMA, LOUISIANA, AND MISSISSIPPI.

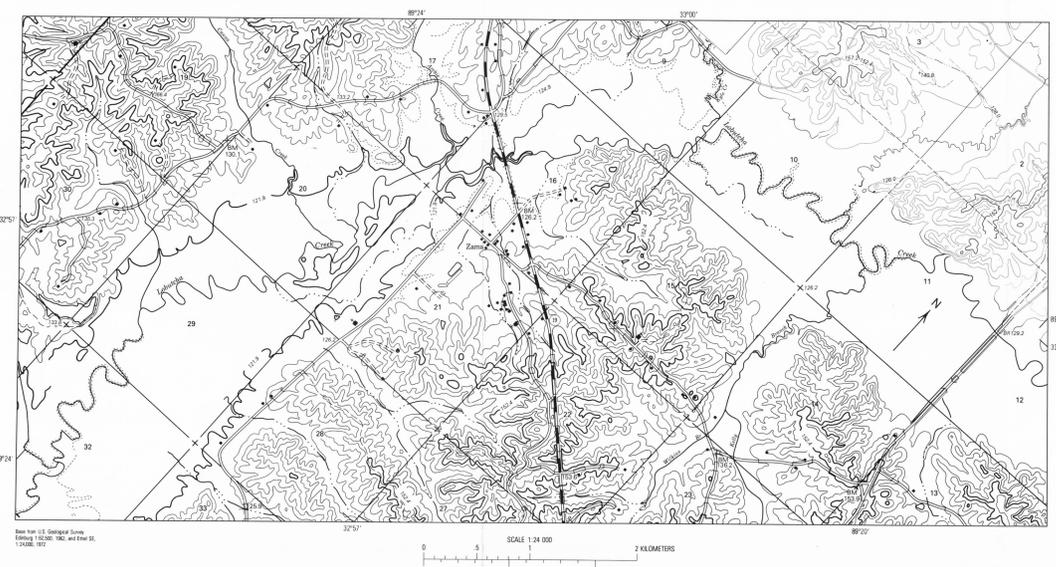


FIGURE 2—INDEX MAP SHOWING STUDY REACH, LOBUTCHA CREEK, AT ZAMA, MISSISSIPPI

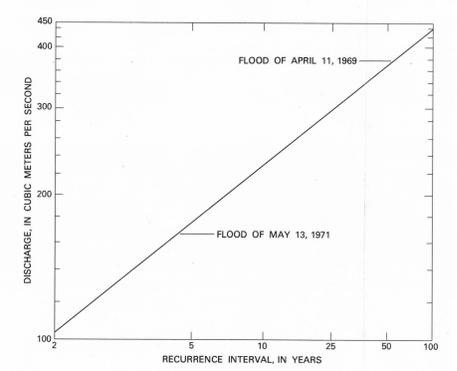


FIGURE 4—FREQUENCY OF FLOODS, LOBUTCHA CREEK, AT ZAMA, MISSISSIPPI

BACKWATER AT BRIDGES AND DENSELY WOODED PLAINS LOBUTCHA CREEK AT ZAMA, MISSISSIPPI

INTRODUCTION New techniques for predicting water-surface profiles, needed in the design of economical, structurally sound, and environmentally compatible stream crossings, are under investigation. The investigation has accelerated with the advent of digital computers capable of analyzing large quantities of data. Among the techniques is the development of two-dimensional (2-D) digital models. Field data are essential for development and evaluation of these techniques for predicting water-surface profiles. This atlas is one of a series that provide a wide range of field data.

Since 1969 the U.S. Geological Survey has been collecting backwater data where wide, densely vegetated flood plains are crossed by highway embankments and single-opening bridges. This work was done in cooperation with the Federal Highway Administration Department of Transportation, the Alabama State Highway Department, the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, and the Mississippi State Highway Department. The objective of this cooperative project is to present the data in a format conducive to the development of improved models for predicting hydraulic responses of flow at highway crossings of streams in complex hydrologic and geographic settings.

Backwater data were obtained at 22 sites for 35 floods; that is, 11 sites had 1 flood each; 9 sites, 2 floods each; and 2 sites, 3 floods each. Analysis of the data (Schneider and others, 1976) showed that backwater and discharge at these sites computed by methods presently in use, would be inaccurate. The floodflow data are unique in the range and detail in which information was collected and provide a base for evaluating digital models relating to open-channel flow.

The data sites (figure 1) are listed below. This atlas shows flood data obtained at Lobutcha Creek at Zama, Miss., one of the 22 sites.

Table listing hydrologic investigations atlas numbers for various sites in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Sites include locations like Shiloh, Red Bank, and Zama in Alabama; various river crossings in Louisiana; and sites like Bogue Chitto and Colowater in Mississippi.

Table showing conversion factors for length, area, volume, and velocity. Length: 3.281 Meter (m) = 10.76 Feet (ft). Area: 10.76 Square meter (m²) = 115.83 Square feet (ft²). Volume: 35.31 Cubic meter (m³) = 1251.68 Cubic feet (ft³). Velocity: 3.281 Meter per second (m/s) = 7.24 Feet per second (ft/s).

DESCRIPTION OF DATA

Data collected at all study sites consist of (1) depths, velocities, and discharges measured through the bridge openings, and (2) peak water-surface elevations along the highway embankment and along cross sections. A minimum of eight valley cross sections were surveyed at approximately one valley-width intervals in the vicinity of the bridge at each site. Locations of the cross sections were aimed perpendicular to the assumed direction of flow. Cross sections were extended to intersect the edge of the valley at equal water-surface elevations. Surveying procedures described in the U.S. Geological Survey Techniques of Water-Resources Investigations series (Matthai, 1967; Benson and Dalrymple, 1976) were followed.

High-water marks Water-surface elevations were determined from high-water marks identified along the cross sections and the edges of the valley on each flood. Downstream of the bridge, standard water-surface elevations were marked with standard surveying stakes along the upstream and downstream sides of the highway embankment. For some floods additional high-water marks were identified in the valley adjacent to the bridge to define in detail the water surface in the approach and exit reaches.

Bridge geometry Detailed bridge geometry was obtained at each site. The bridge cross section was surveyed at the most contracted section. Piers, spur dikes, wingwalls, abutment slopes, and other pertinent geometry were measured.

MANNING'S ROUGHNESS COEFFICIENT

Schneider and others (1976) used composite Manning's roughness coefficient values n where frequent changes in roughness occurred. In this study, composite values of n were verified by matching step-backwater computations of the water surface with actual water-surface profiles for measured discharges. The range of n values used in this report is based on values used by Schneider and others (1976). Roughness varies from open fields to dense forests.

PRESENTATION OF DATA

The data are presented on topographic maps enlarged from standard 1:24,000 or 1:62,500 scale U.S. Geological Survey topographic maps which comply with National Map Accuracy Standards. Accuracy limitations of the base maps are retained in the enlargements. Although positions may be scaled closely on the enlargements, they are not defined with greater accuracy than positions on the base maps.

Ground elevations are placed adjacent to solid squares. Elevations of floodmarks are indicated by numerical values adjacent to solid triangles. Floodmark elevations for separate floods are shown on separate sheets. Bridge geometry and road-embankment dimensions are shown with brief notations of pier spacing and configuration.

In addition to the data points shown on the maps, discharge measurements of selected floods, plots of cross sections, and velocity distribution diagrams are shown. Cross-section elevations are tabulated to define stream channels and floodplain features in greater detail. Each cross section is referred to a zero station established at the extreme left edge (facing downstream) of the valley.

All elevations presented in this report are referred to National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD).

FLOOD FREQUENCY Flood-frequency relations are presented graphically. Techniques for deriving flood-frequency relations are those described by the U.S. Water Resources Council (1976), and by Colson and Hudson (1976).

INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS (SI) is used throughout this report. All data were measured in the U.S. customary units and converted to SI units. Ground elevations which were originally determined in feet and inches are rounded to the nearest 0.01 meter. Water-surface elevations which were surveyed to hundredths of a foot are rounded to millimeters. The same criteria apply to all other dimensions except contour elevations which are shown to the nearest tenth of a meter.

MULTIPLY SI UNITS BY TO OBTAIN U.S. CUSTOMARY UNITS

LENGTH: Meter (m) to Feet (ft) multiply by 3.281. AREA: Square meter (m²) to Square feet (ft²) multiply by 10.76. VOLUME: Cubic meter (m³) to Cubic feet (ft³) multiply by 35.31. VELOCITY: Meter per second (m/s) to Feet per second (ft/s) multiply by 3.281.

DATA FOR LOBUTCHA CREEK AT ZAMA, MISSISSIPPI

Data for Lobutcha Creek at Zama, Miss., obtained in a 9-kilometer reach crossed about midway by State Highway 19, are presented on four sheets (fig. 2). Sheet 1 contains tables showing cross-section data (table 1) and discharge data (table 2). An aerial view looking upstream in vicinity of the bridge is shown in figure 3. Relative magnitudes of the floods of April 1969 and May 1971 are shown on the frequency curve (fig. 4). The locations of representative ground elevations are shown on sheet 2. These are points of significant changes in cross-section elevation and alignment of the axis. Plots of the cross sections (sheet 2) are graphic presentations of the tabular data.

Bridge geometry and road embankments are shown on sheet 2 as they existed at the time of the floods. The cross section surveyed at the downstream side of the bridge is tabulated on sheet 1. The cross section shown for velocity distribution was obtained by sounding from upstream side of the bridge during the discharge measurement.

Data for two floods on Lobutcha Creek are presented. The first flood occurred April 11, 1969 (sheet 3). Floodmarks in vicinity of the bridge and an abandoned road embankment (section 7) about 100 meters downstream were surveyed after this flood. The abandoned road embankment was removed completely during July 1970. A second flood occurred May 13, 1971 (sheet 4). Twelve cross sections were surveyed after this flood, including section 6 along the downstream edge of the site of the former road embankment. Floodmark elevations

we were obtained along an abandoned railroad embankment (section 5) located about 800 meters downstream from the bridge. With the exception of sections 6 and 7, valley cross sections as surveyed are considered valid for both floods.

Manning's roughness coefficient values and the 1969 flood boundaries are shown on sheets 2, 3, and 4.

FLOOD OF APRIL 11, 1969

Peak water-surface elevations, the measured cross section, and velocities for the flood of April 11, 1969, are shown on sheet 3. The flood crest was at an elevation of 125.215 meters at the reference point located on the downstream guardrail 64 meters from the left abutment. The peak discharge of 379 cubic meters per second (m³/s) was measured, which included 19 m³/s through the culvert and 1 m³/s over the road (table 2). The recurrence interval of the peak discharge is 50 years (Colson and Hudson, 1976). See figure 4.

FLOOD OF MAY 13, 1971

Peak water-surface elevations for the flood of May 13, 1971, are shown on sheet 4. The peak discharge of 156 m³/s was measured at an elevation of 124.377 meters at the reference point located on the downstream guardrail. The recurrence interval of the peak discharge is 5 years (Colson and Hudson, 1976). See figure 4.

SUMMARY

Floodflow data that will provide a base for evaluating digital models relating to open-channel flow were obtained at 22 sites on streams in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Thirty-five floods were measured. Analysis of the data indicated that backwater and discharge computed by standard indirect methods currently in use would be inaccurate where densely vegetated flood plains are crossed by highway embankments and single-opening bridges. This atlas presents flood information at the site on Lobutcha Creek at Zama, Miss. Water depths, velocities, and discharges through bridge openings on Lobutcha Creek at Zama, Miss., for floods of April 11, 1969, and May 13, 1971, are shown, together with peak water-surface elevations along embankments and along cross sections. Manning's roughness coefficient values in different parts of the flood plain are shown on maps, and flood-frequency relations are shown on a graph.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other information pertaining to floods in Alabama, Louisiana, and Mississippi may be obtained at the offices of the U.S. Geological Survey: U.S. Geological Survey, Room 202, Oil and Gas Board Building (P. O. Box V) University, Alabama 35486; U.S. Geological Survey, 6554 Florida Boulevard (P. O. Box 6482) Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70896; U.S. Geological Survey, 430 South Street Jackson, Mississippi 39206

SELECTED REFERENCES

List of references including: Barnes, H. H., Jr., 1967, Roughness characteristics of natural channels. U.S. Geol. Surv. Water Supply Paper 1849, 213 p.; Benson, M. A., and Dalrymple, T., 1967, General field and office procedures for indirect discharge measurements. U.S. Geol. Surv. Techniques Water-Resources Inv., book 3, chap. A4, 44 p.; Bradley, J. N., 1970, Hydraulics of bridge waterways: Federal Highway Admin., Hydraulic Design Ser. No. 1, 111 p.; Colson, B. E., and Hudson, W., 1976, Flood frequency of Mississippi streams: Mississippi State Highway Dept., 34 p.; Hains, C. F., 1973, Floods in Alabama, magnitude and frequency. Alabama Highway Dept., 37 p.; Hedman, E. R., 1964, Effects of spur dikes on flow through constrictions. Am. Soc. Civil Engineers Proc., Jour. Hydraulics Div., v. 91, pt. 1, W. Colson, B. E. Lee, F. N., and Matthai, H. F., 1967, Measurement of peak discharge at width contractions by indirect methods: U.S. Geol. Surv. Techniques Water-Resources Inv., book 3, chap. A4, 44 p.; Neely, B. L., Jr., 1976, Floods in Louisiana, magnitude and frequency, 34 ed.; Louisiana Dept. Highways, 340 p.; Schneider, V. R., Board, J. W., Colson, B. E., Lee, F. N., and Druffel, L., 1976, Computation of backwater and discharge at width contractions of heavily vegetated flood plains: U.S. Geol. Surv. Water-Resources Inv. 76-129, 64 p.; U.S. Water Resources Council, 1977, Guidelines for determining flood flow frequency: Washington, D.C., U.S. Water Resources Council Bull. 17A, 163 p.

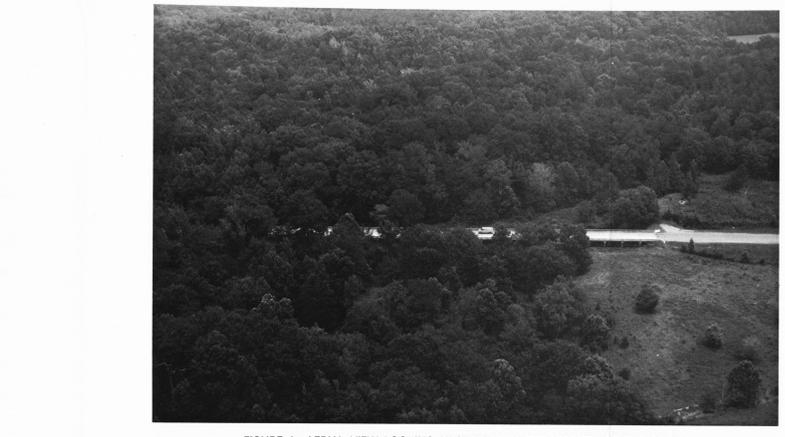


FIGURE 3—AERIAL VIEW LOOKING UPSTREAM IN THE VICINITY OF THE BRIDGE ON STATE HIGHWAY 19, LOBUTCHA CREEK AT ZAMA, MISS.

TABLE 1—VALLEY CROSS SECTION DATA FOR LOBUTCHA CREEK AT STATE HIGHWAY 19 AT ZAMA, MISS., ZERO STATION IS AT LEFT EDGE OF THE VALLEY (FACING DOWNSTREAM).

Table 1: Valley Cross Section Data for Lobutcha Creek at State Highway 19 at Zama, Miss. The table lists station numbers and elevations for 13 cross sections (1-13) across the valley. Each cross section has multiple stations with their corresponding elevations in meters.

Tables 2-13: Discharge Measurements for Floods of April 11, 1969, and May 13, 1971. Each table (2-13) provides discharge measurements (m³/s) at various stations for a specific flood event. Table 2 is for the April 11, 1969 flood, and tables 3-13 are for the May 13, 1971 flood.

TABLE 2—DISCHARGE MEASUREMENTS, APRIL 11, 1969, AND MAY 13, 1971, LOBUTCHA CREEK AT STATE HIGHWAY 19 AT ZAMA, MISS., ZERO STATION IS AT THE EDGE OF THE LEFT ABUTMENT (FACING DOWNSTREAM).

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENT APRIL 11, 1969, LOBUTCHA CREEK AT STATE HIGHWAY 19 AT ZAMA, MISS., WATER-SURFACE ELEVATION=125.215 METERS) TOTAL DISCHARGE=379 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND

Tables 14-15: Discharge Measurements for Flood of May 13, 1971. Table 14 provides discharge measurements at various stations for the May 13, 1971 flood. Table 15 provides bridge section data, including station numbers, elevations, and discharge measurements.

DISCHARGE MEASUREMENT MAY 13, 1971, LOBUTCHA CREEK AT STATE HIGHWAY 19 AT ZAMA, MISS., (WATER-SURFACE ELEVATION=124.377 METERS) TOTAL DISCHARGE=165 CUBIC METERS PER SECOND

Tables 16-17: Bridge Section Data. Table 16 provides bridge section data for the bridge at Zama, Miss., including station numbers, elevations, and discharge measurements. Table 17 provides additional bridge section data.

Observation depth is the ratio of the water-surface elevation to the total depth at the station. U.S. Geological Survey, Water Resources Division, 1225 North First Street, Denver, Colorado 80202.