

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

SEDIMENT DISCHARGE DATA FOR SELECTED SITES IN THE
SUSITNA RIVER BASIN, ALASKA, 1981-82

By James M. Knott and Stephen W. Lipscomb

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JAMES G. WATT, Secretary

GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Dallas Peck, Director

For additional information
write to:

District Chief
U.S. Geological Survey
Water Resources Division
1515 E. 13th Avenue
Anchorage, Alaska 99501

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CONVERSION TABLE

<u>Multiply</u>	<u>by</u>	<u>to obtain</u>
foot (ft)	0.3048	meter (m)
square mile (mi ²)	2.590	square kilometer (km)
acre-foot (acre-ft)	1,233	cubic meter (m ³)
foot per second (ft/s)	0.3048	meter per second (m/s)
cubic foot per second (ft ³ /s)	0.02832	cubic meter per second (m ³ /s)
ton, short	0.9072	megagram (Mg) or metric ton
ton per day (ton/d)	0.9072	megagram or metric ton per day (Mg/d)
degree Fahrenheit (°F)	°C=5/9 (°F-32)	degree Celsius (°C)

Milligram per liter (mg/L) is a standard reporting unit for which no inch-pound equivalent is used.

National Geodetic Vertical Datum of 1929 (NGVD of 1929): The reference surface to which relief features and altitude data related; formerly called mean sea level.

SEDIMENT DISCHARGE DATA FOR SELECTED SITES IN THE SUSITNA RIVER BASIN, ALASKA, 1981-82

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INTRODUCTION

The Susitna River is one of the major rivers in Alaska, ranking fifth in drainage area and annual runoff. The upper reaches of the river are under consideration as possible sites for several dams and reservoirs that would be part of a large power-generation system in south-central Alaska.

This report presents a summary of sediment and hydraulic data collected at five sites in the Susitna River basin in the area between the proposed damsites and Sunshine (fig. 1). The data were collected during water years 1981-82 to determine total-sediment yield of the Susitna, Chulitna, and Talkeetna Rivers prior to any construction activities. The data-collection effort is part of a cooperative program between the Alaska Power Authority and the U.S. Geological Survey.

DESCRIPTION OF AREA

The Susitna River basin (fig. 1) lies on the southern flank of the Alaska Range in south-central Alaska. The basin, which has a drainage area of about 19,400 mi², is a contrast of steep rugged mountains towering above wide valley lowlands. Elevations range from 20,320 ft at Mt. McKinley to sea level where the Susitna River empties into Cook Inlet.

Tributaries to the Susitna River are commonly referred to as glacial or nonglacial streams. The nonglacial streams are noted for their clarity, even during intense summer rainstorms. Glacial streams are generally turbid throughout most of the open-flow season (May through October). The Susitna River and its larger tributaries are all affected to some degree by glacial runoff.

Because of the remoteness of the area and rugged landscape, population is sparse and development within the basin has been slow. The economy is based principally on recreation and tourism. The many forests, streams, and mountains are extremely popular with recreationists who enjoy the good hunting, fishing, and scenic beauty of the area.

CLIMATE

The climate of the Susitna River basin is divided into two broad categories according to maps prepared by Searby (1968). Higher elevations of the basin are included in the Continental Zone, where diurnal and annual temperature variations are great and precipitation is relatively low. Mean annual temperature ranges from 15 to 25°F (Hartman and Johnson, 1978). The lowlands lie in the Transition Zone where temperatures are less variable than in the Continental Zone. Mean annual temperatures generally range from 25 to 35°F.

Climatological records for the Talkeetna weather station are probably representative of lowland areas. A summary of climatological data for this station (Selkregg, 1974) indicates that summer temperatures range from 38 to 62°F, winter temperatures range from -9 to 18°F, and extremes range from -44 to 85°F. Annual precipitation averages 28 in., about 60 percent of which is rainfall.

DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

Systematic measurements of sediment discharge and hydraulic data were obtained at four sites in the basin beginning during the 1981 water year (October 1980 - September 1981) and intensifying during the 1982 water year (October 1981 - September 1982). During the 1982 water year, samples were obtained at weekly intervals from the Susitna, Talkeetna, and Chulitna Rivers near Talkeetna and from the Susitna River at Sunshine. The measurements were made to define the amount and distribution of sediment transport by the Susitna River and its major tributaries between Gold Creek and Sunshine (fig. 1). The program included:

- (1) Measurement of suspended-sediment concentration and discharge, bedload discharge, and channel cross-sectional dimensions at weekly intervals following spring breakup.
- (2) Analysis of selected samples for particle-size distribution.
- (3) Supplemental samples of streambed material.

Streamflow characteristics were defined from data available for existing stream-gaging stations. At sampling sites that did not coincide with streamgaging sites, sufficient discharge measurements were obtained to develop stage-discharge relations. All measurements were made from a boat; either a cableway or sextant were used to ascertain stationing along the measuring section.

Suspended-sediment samples were collected with a standard depth-integrating P-61 sampler (Guy and Norman, 1970). Samples were collected at selected verticals in the stream cross section and analyzed to determine average values of suspended-sediment concentration and the particle-size distribution of sediment in the water-sediment mixture. Samples of suspended sediment contain particles (usually finer than 2.0 mm) transported in the stream between the water surface and a point about 0.5 ft above the streambed.

Sediment transported on or within 0.3 feet of the streambed was sampled using a bedload sampler (Helley and Smith, 1971, p. 1-18) designed for collecting coarse sediment (0.062-76.2 mm). Sampling time, number of sampling points, stream width and depth, and weight of dry sediment were recorded as a basis for calculating bedload discharge. Trap efficiency of the sampler was assumed to be 1.0. Characteristics of the Helley-Smith sampler and procedures for its use have not yet been fully evaluated. In the interim, the Geological Survey follows a provisional method (U.S. Geological Survey, written comm., 1979) based largely on field tests (Emmett, 1980).

A few bed-material samples were obtained at each site using a 6-inch diameter pipe dredge. At some sites, deep and swift waters, armoring, and the presence of coarse particles on the streambed made sampling difficult. Bed-material data presented in this report, although indicative of the sizes of particles present in the streambed

(less than 128 mm), may not be representative of actual particle-size distributions.

Measurements of depth and width at sampling sections were generally obtained during bedload measurements. Depths were measured by sounding with the Helley-Smith sampler at 16 to 25 verticals in the cross section. Stream width was determined from station markings on cableways or from sextant readings. Average velocity was determined by dividing the rated discharge of the stream by the cross-sectional area.

SEDIMENT DISCHARGE Sediment Transport

Sediment is transported in suspension, by rolling and bouncing along the streambed or as a combination of both. Suspended sediment, as the name implies, consists of particles which are transported in a stream while being held in suspension by the turbulent components of the flowing water. Coarse sediment that is transported on or near the streambed constitutes the bedload. Clay and silt particles usually are moved in suspension and gravel particles move on or near the streambed. Sand particles may be transported either as suspended load, as bedload, or both.

Suspended-Sediment Discharge

Suspended-sediment sampling for this study was initiated during the 1981 water year. Samples were obtained at monthly intervals at Susitna River at Gold Creek (15292000), Chulitna River near Talkeetna (15292400), Talkeetna River near Talkeetna (15292700), and Susitna River at Sunshine (15292780). In 1982, the program was modified to include weekly sampling at the Chulitna, Talkeetna, and Sunshine sites and to establish a new site, designated "Susitna River near Talkeetna" (15292100). Sediment-transport rates for the new site are more comparable to those for the other sites than is the site at Gold Creek because of its closer proximity to the other sites.

Suspended-sediment data obtained during the 1981-82 water years are listed in table 1. Comparison of data from the five sites indicates both similarities and differences between the amount of sediment transported by the Susitna River and its tributaries.

During the winter period (November - March) suspended-sediment concentrations are generally less than 10 mg/L at all sampling sites. The rivers are generally ice covered and streamflow is at its annual minimum. Precipitation is stored as snow or ice, and glacier melting is at a minimum.

Spring breakup usually occurs in May. Concentrations of suspended sediment increase rapidly to several hundred milligrams per liter soon after the breakup period. Samples collected in late May and early June typically contain a large percentage of sand, which may indicate that coarse sediment is being primarily eroded from stream channels or banks. Water levels are generally high during this period. Large parts of the river flood plain are covered by ice, so that flow is confined and diverted toward the other bank. Bank erosion by ice-block abrasion may be severe.

Suspended-sediment concentrations at the different sampling sites are most variable during the summer (July-August). The larger concentrations typically occur during periods of storm runoff. The Susitna and Talkeetna Rivers are moderately affected by glacial runoff; glaciers account for 5 to 7 percent of the drainage areas. Concentrations for the sites on these rivers "near Talkeetna" (nos. 15292100 and 15292700) ranged from 90 to 768 mg/L during July and August 1982.

About 28 percent of the drainage area above the Chulitna River sampling site (15292400) is covered by glaciers. Concentrations of suspended sediment at this site ranged from 766 to 1,270 mg/L during July and August 1982. Concentrations during periods of maximum glacial melt were roughly equivalent to those during periods of storm runoff. During July and August 1982 suspended-sediment concentrations for the Sunshine site (15292780) ranged from 424 to 1,430 mg/L and represent a mixture of sediment and streamflow contributions from the Susitna, Chulitna, and Talkeetna Rivers near Talkeetna.

Particle-size data for July and August indicate significant differences in the composition of suspended sediment for the sampling sites. The Susitna River near Talkeetna typically transports the least percentage of sand (21 percent) compared to the Chulitna River (29 percent) and the Talkeetna River (55 percent). The Susitna River at Sunshine transports an average of 28 percent sand.

Relation Between Suspended-Sediment Discharge and Water Discharge

A common method for analyzing sediment-transport characteristics at a site is to construct a graph of sediment discharge versus water discharge. This relation is generally expressed as a plot on logarithmic paper and is referred to as a sediment-transport curve. Sediment-transport curves showing the relation between instantaneous sediment discharge and water discharge for the Susitna, Chulitna, and Talkeetna River sites are shown in figures 2-5. Similar curves were prepared for the silt-clay and sand fractions to examine possible differences in sediment supplied from glacial runoff and storm runoff. Only data for 1982 were used in developing the transport curves. Coefficients of determination (r^2) were computed from a least-squares fit of log-transformed values to provide a qualitative measure of the variance of sediment discharge to water discharge.

The transport curves should be considered representative only for sediment transport during the period of sediment measurement (June to September 1982). The curves are not applicable to winter periods (October to April). Although runoff during the 1982 water year was about average in total flow, maximum water discharges were considerably below extremes for the period of record and minimum flows were much greater than low flows for most years.

Suspended-sediment discharge characteristics were similar at all sampling sites. That is, that sediment discharge increased at about the same rates relative to increases in water discharge. Sediment discharge increased exponentially at a faster rate than increases in water discharge. Exponents of water discharge, Q , in the sediment transport relations (figs. 2-5) ranged from 2.11 for Susitna River at Sunshine to 2.37 for Chulitna River near Talkeetna; r^2 ranged from 0.75 to 0.91. Division of suspended sediment into silt-clay and sand fractions, however, indicated some extreme differences between individual sites.

At Susitna River near Talkeetna, the amount of suspended sand carried by the stream increased at more than twice the rate of silt-clay with increases in water discharge. At the lowest discharge sampled, sand discharge was 1,090 ton/d compared to a silt-clay discharge of 8,840 ton/d. At the highest discharge sampled, sand and silt-clay discharges were both about 35,000 ton/d.

At the Chulitna and Talkeetna Rivers, sand and silt-clay discharges both increased at approximately the same rates. Silt-clay discharge increased at a slightly greater rate than sand discharge at the Chulitna River and at a slightly lower rate at the Talkeetna River.

At the Sunshine site, sand discharge increased at a much higher rate than silt-clay discharge. For all ranges of discharge sampled, however, the amount of sand transported was less than the silt and clay sized material.

Bedload Discharge and Hydraulic Characteristics

The bedload and hydraulic data for the three sampling sites near Talkeetna and the Susitna River at Sunshine are summarized in table 2. Bedload data are expressed both as a transport rate in tons per day and in terms of its particle size distribution, in percent finer than the indicated sieve size. Samples were collected monthly starting in July 1981 and weekly beginning in June 1982.

During the summer of 1981, bedload samples were collected at Susitna River at Gold Creek (table 2). In 1982 the sampling site was relocated downstream to the new station, Susitna River near Talkeetna. The bedload discharge for the Susitna River near Talkeetna ranged from 106 to 2840 ton/d during the 1982 water year. During this same period, the water discharge ranged from 16,900 to 44,400 ft³/s. A comparison of data from the two sites indicates that, for a given discharge, similar amounts of sediment are transported past either site. The grain-size distribution of bedload for both locations showed a fairly even mixture of sand and gravel at the beginning of the summer with a steady decrease in gravel-size material as the summer progressed and flows diminished. This trend was interrupted only during the major storms of the summer, which occurred near the end of July and in mid-September. During these periods of higher flows there is a shift to increasing grain size but the median values still remained in the sand range.

In 1982 the bedload discharge at the Chulitna River site ranged from 2560 to 18,300 ton/d, with water discharge varying from 12,500 to 33,400 ft³/s. The particle-size distribution on the Chulitna River tended toward a higher percentage of gravel than sand. A typical mixture of 30-40 percent sand and 60-70 percent gravel was fairly constant throughout the summer. Storm-runoff events produced only a slightly larger median particle size. Low flows seemed to produce variable results, sometimes increasing and sometimes reducing the median size of bedload.

In the 1982 water year, bedload discharge at the Talkeetna River site ranged from 243 to 5790 ton/d for flows ranging from 5960 to 19,100 ft³/s. The particle sizes on the Talkeetna River were typically 70-90 percent sand. Exceptions occurred during snowmelt runoff in early June. For this period the size distribution changed to about 65 percent gravel and 35 percent sand. During a September storm the amount of gravel again rose to 73 percent. In June and again in August and September bedload discharges typically ranged from 1000 to 2000 ton/d. For several

weeks in July bedload discharge decreased to less than 1000 ton/d. Even during the storm on July 27-28, when streamflow was 14,300 ft³/s at the time of the sampling, the bedload discharge was only 885 ton/d. Then in August it rose to its earlier levels and remained at those levels throughout the summer and fall.

At Susitna River at Sunshine in 1982, bedload discharge ranged from 1050 to 13,600 ton/d; streamflow from 38,500 to 99,000 ft³/s. During most of the 1982 sampling period (June-September), the total bedload discharge at the three upstream sites was two to five times larger than that at Sunshine. This indicates that the excess material, moved through the three sites above Talkeetna, is either deposited in the Susitna River between Talkeetna and Sunshine or in the Chulitna River downstream of the sampling site. The only exceptions to this were on July 26 and again on September 18, when the total of the three upstream sites was slightly less than that measured at Sunshine. These two dates correspond to the two peak flows at Sunshine during 1982. Thus, the data indicate that material deposited above Sunshine during low and medium flows is transported during high flows.

At Sunshine, the sand and gravel fractions of bedload discharge varied with season and water discharge. In the early part of June the mixture was about 20 percent sand and 80 percent gravel. This coincided with the high runoff flows during that period. Later during August, when the water discharge was low, the gravel proportion decreased to about 15 percent, with sand increasing to 85 percent. This mixture was affected during the storm events in July and September when gravel increased to 75 percent.

Selected channel cross sections for the four sites, with a corresponding plot of bedload discharge at individual sampling points, are shown on figures 6-9. In most cases the location of the active bedload movement is within the deeper part of the channel where the velocities are greatest. The bedload values for each individual point across the section were estimated during sampling, as most analyses were composited from samples obtained at more than one point. The estimated values were used, together with the actual weight of the cumulative sample, to give a weighted estimate of each point sampled in the cross section. This method gives a qualitative approximation for the lateral distribution of bedload movement.

Relation Between Bedload Discharge and Water Discharge

A relation can be defined between bedload discharge and water discharge, using similar methods as for suspended sediment. Log-transformed data and a least-squares method were used to obtain a best-fit line through the plotted points. Transport curves and corresponding equations describing the relations are shown in figures 10-13.

The small scatter of data points for the Susitna River near Talkeetna suggests that water discharge has a strong influence on bedload discharge; an increase in water discharge results in an exponential increase in bedload discharge. Data for the Chulitna and Talkeetna Rivers have considerably more scatter, indicating that bedload discharge is influenced by several factors. It is likely that glacial processes are partly responsible for this increased scatter. Other factors may include the available supply of coarse material, bedload-suspended sediment interaction (sand sizes), and timing of sampling visits with respect to storm events.

Most visits in 1982 were made during recession periods after peak discharge or during extended base-flow periods.

During some periods when either glacial or storm processes were dominant, the slope for the bedload to water discharge relation was similar to that for suspended-sand discharge. Transport curves developed from graphical comparisons between bedload and suspended-sand discharge were used when coefficients of determination (r^2) for regression equations were unusually low.

BED-MATERIAL DATA

Bed-material samples, representative of the sediment occurring in the submerged parts of the river channels, were extremely difficult to obtain because the rivers were too deep and swift for direct access to streambeds. Samples, representative of particles finer than 128 mm, were obtained at Chulitna River near Talkeetna (15292400) and at most sampling points at Susitna River at Sunshine (15292780). A few samples were obtained at the Talkeetna River (15292700) and Susitna River near Talkeetna (15292100) sites. Most samples obtained at the latter sites consisted of a few coarse particles. Bed-material data for 1981-82 are listed in table 3.

ESTIMATED SEDIMENT YIELD, MAY TO SEPTEMBER 1982

The sediment yield from a drainage basin is commonly expressed in terms of weight (short or metric tons) or volume (acre-feet or cubic meters). Sediment yields may be estimated by several methods, depending generally on the amount and type of available data. If daily records of streamflow are available, but sediment discharge has been measured only infrequently, the method most commonly used involves defining a relation between instantaneous sediment discharge and water discharge and applying this relation to daily values of water discharge. This method was initially used to estimate sediment yield for this study.

At some sites, however, a single sediment-transport curve could not be applied for the entire period because of seasonal changes in the amount and particle-size distribution of sediment for given water discharges. At the Chulitna River site the scatter of bedload-discharge data was such that even the definition of a bedload-water discharge relation is subject to individual interpretation. Several alternative methods were selected to estimate sediment yield for the period May to September 1982.

Suspended-sediment yield was estimated using the Colby shift-control method (Colby, 1956). According to Colby, part of the scatter of sediment data in sediment-transport relations is due to random or very short-term fluctuations in concentration, particularly the concentration of the coarse sediments. Part may be due to inflow from tributaries or an actual change that may persist for days, weeks, or seasons. In the opinion of the authors, most of the observed scatter is probably due to seasonal changes and complex mixing of sediment produced from glacial melt and storm runoff, and Colby's method would result in more accurate estimates.

Colby suggests that if a change in the relation persists for several days or more the transport curve could be shifted to pass through or near each individual measurement. The method is subjective in that judgment is used to decide whether

the measurement is representative of an actual change or a random fluctuation. An important advantage in using this method is that the accuracy of fit of the transport-curve is of small importance.

Bedload yield also was estimated using the Colby shift-control method. At sites where the scatter in data on bedload discharge was extreme, the initial transport curve was constructed based on transport curves of suspended sand. Sediment-transport curves were constructed for silt-clay, sand, and gravel components for both suspended-sediment and bedload discharge measurements.

Estimated sediment yields for the period May to September 1982 are given in table 4. Total sediment yields (sum of bedload and suspended-sediment yield) for the sites near Talkeetna ranged from 1.6 million tons for the Talkeetna River to 8.4 million tons for the Chulitna River. The Susitna River near Talkeetna transported about 2.8 million tons of sediment from May to September 1982.

Total sediment composition was predominantly silt-clay for the Susitna (71 percent) and Chulitna (61 percent) Rivers near Talkeetna and sand (54 percent) for the Talkeetna River. The amount of gravel ranged from 0.3 percent of total sediment yield for the Susitna River near Talkeetna site to 5.2 and 8.1 percent for the Talkeetna and Chulitna River sites respectively. The total sediment transported past the three sites near Talkeetna (12,800,000 tons) agrees reasonably well with that estimated for the site at Sunshine (13,000,000 tons). Examination of the bedload-size data, however, indicates that less than half of the gravel transported past the upper sites reached Sunshine during 1982.

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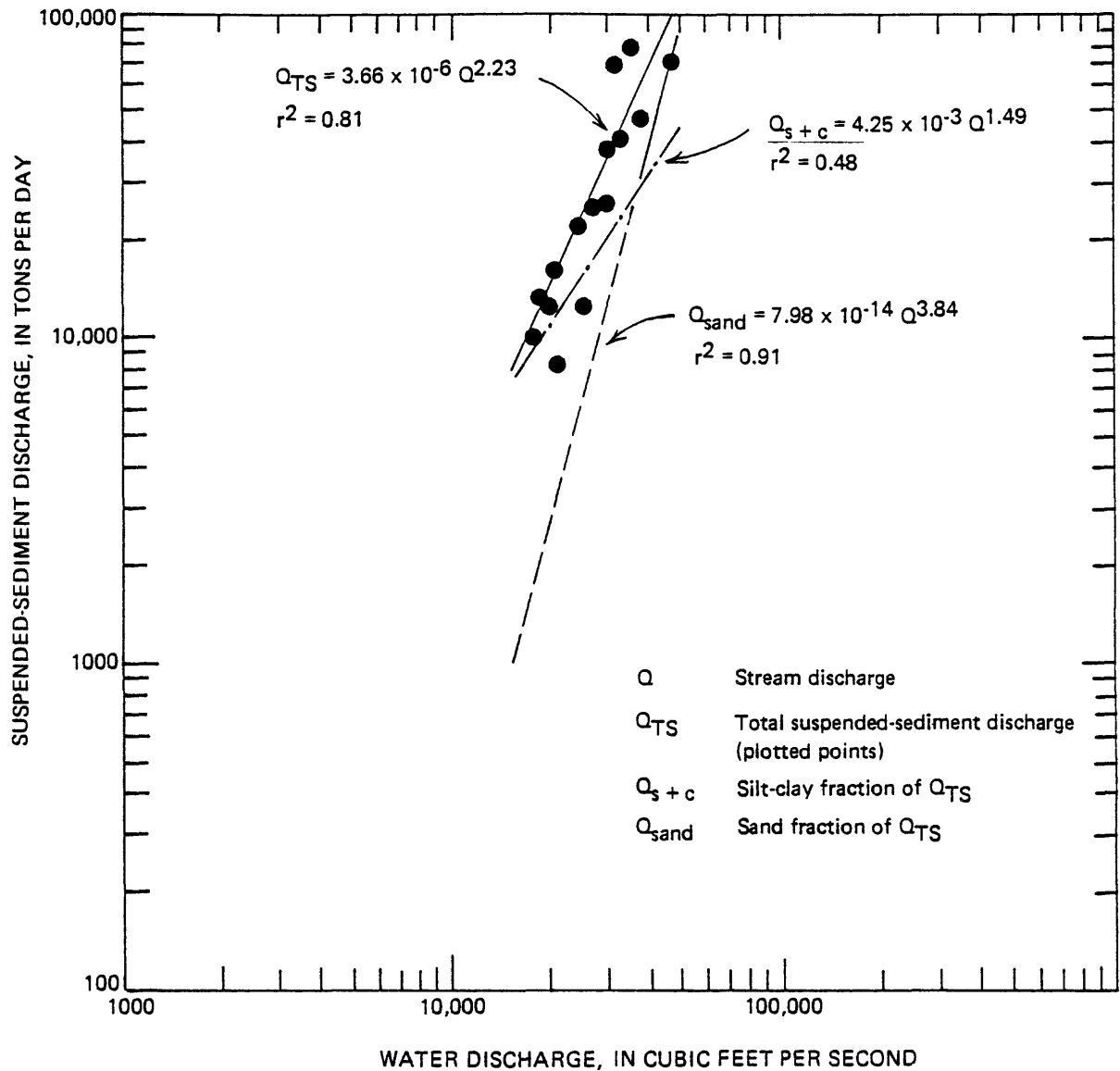


Figure 2.--Relation between suspended-sediment discharge and water discharge for Susitna River near Talkeetna, 1982 water year.

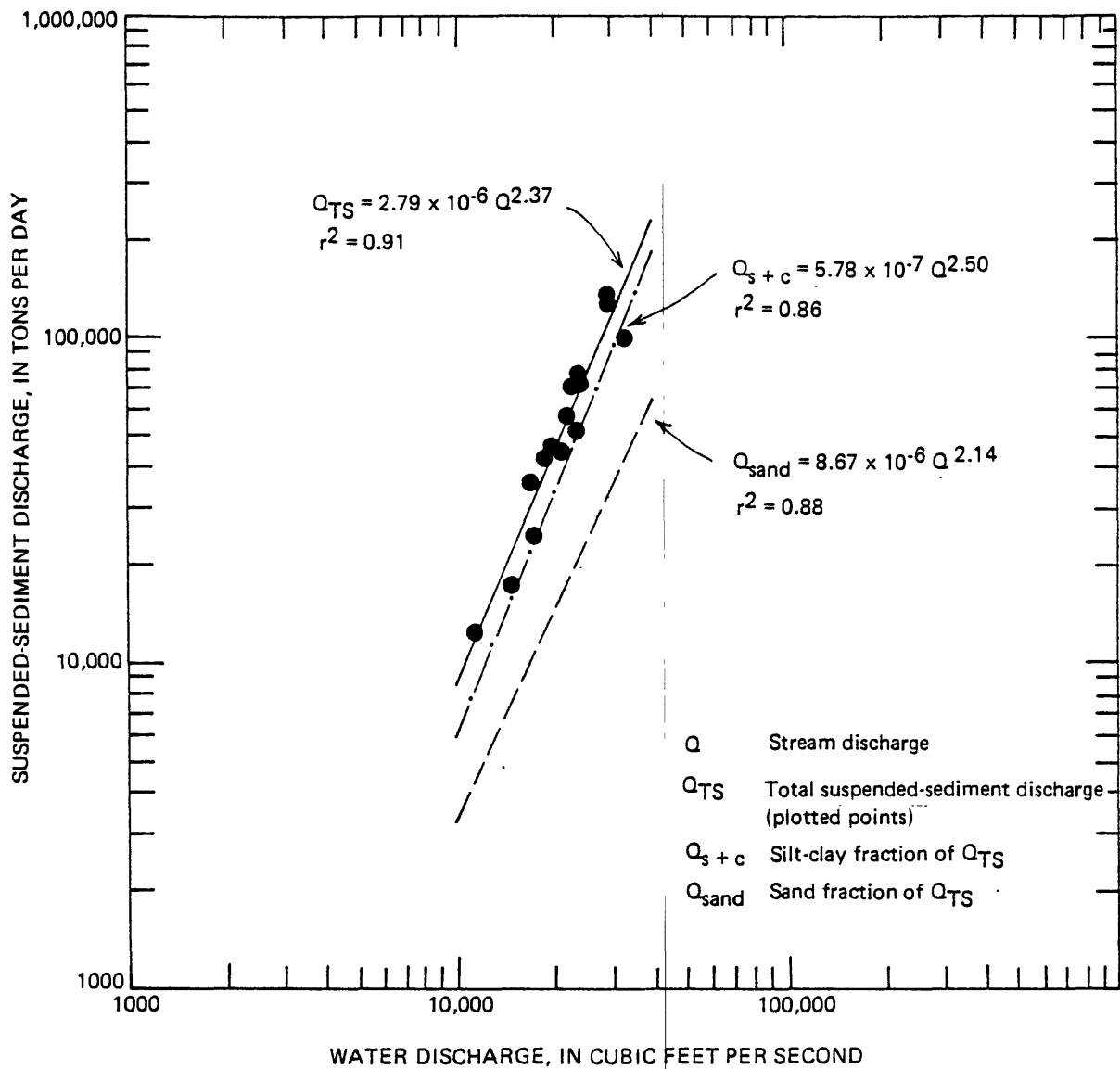


Figure 3.--Relation between suspended-sediment discharge and water discharge for Chulitna River near Talkeetna, 1982 water year.

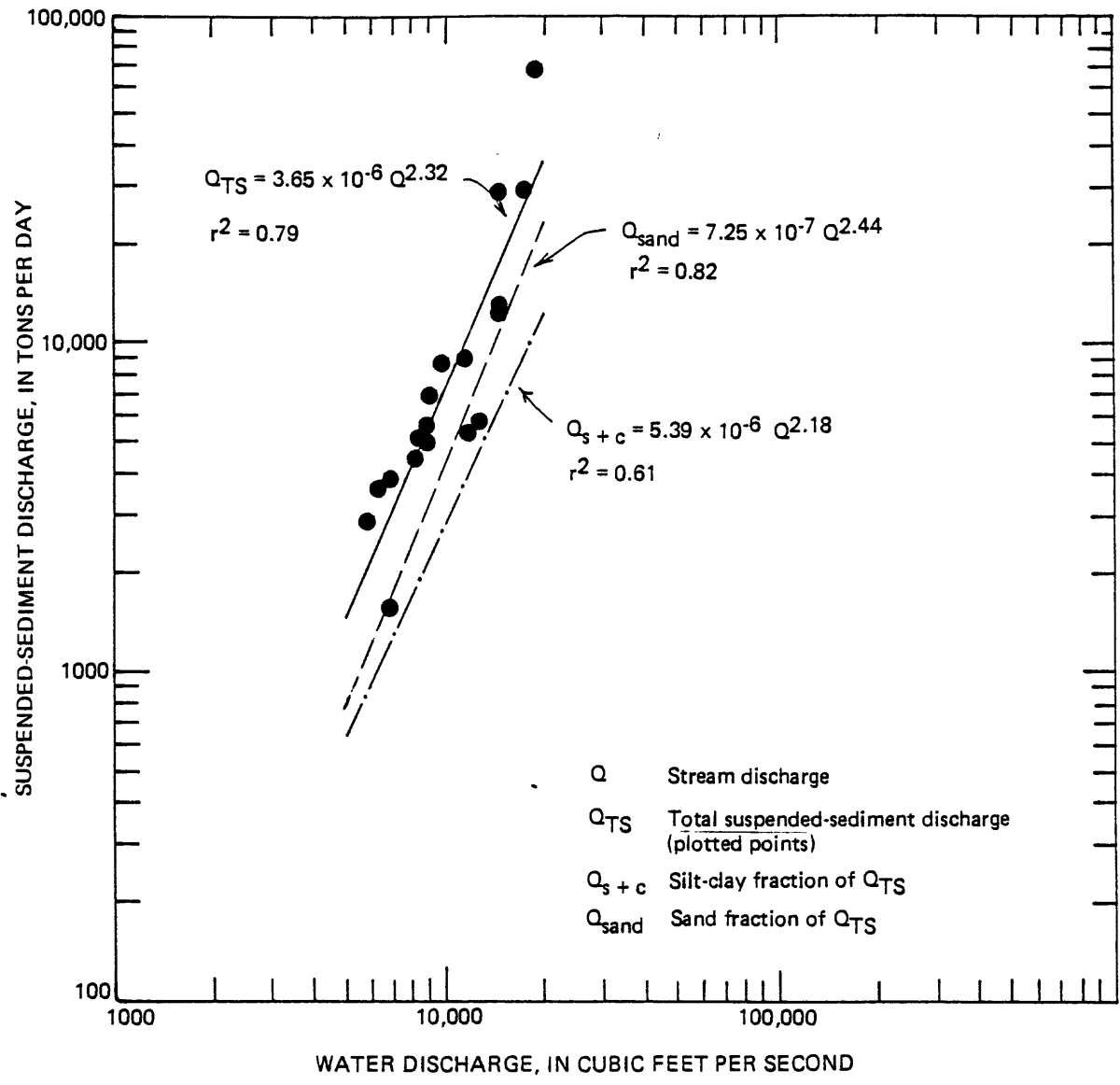


Figure 4.--Relation between suspended-sediment discharge and water discharge for Talkeetna River near Talkeetna, 1982 water year.

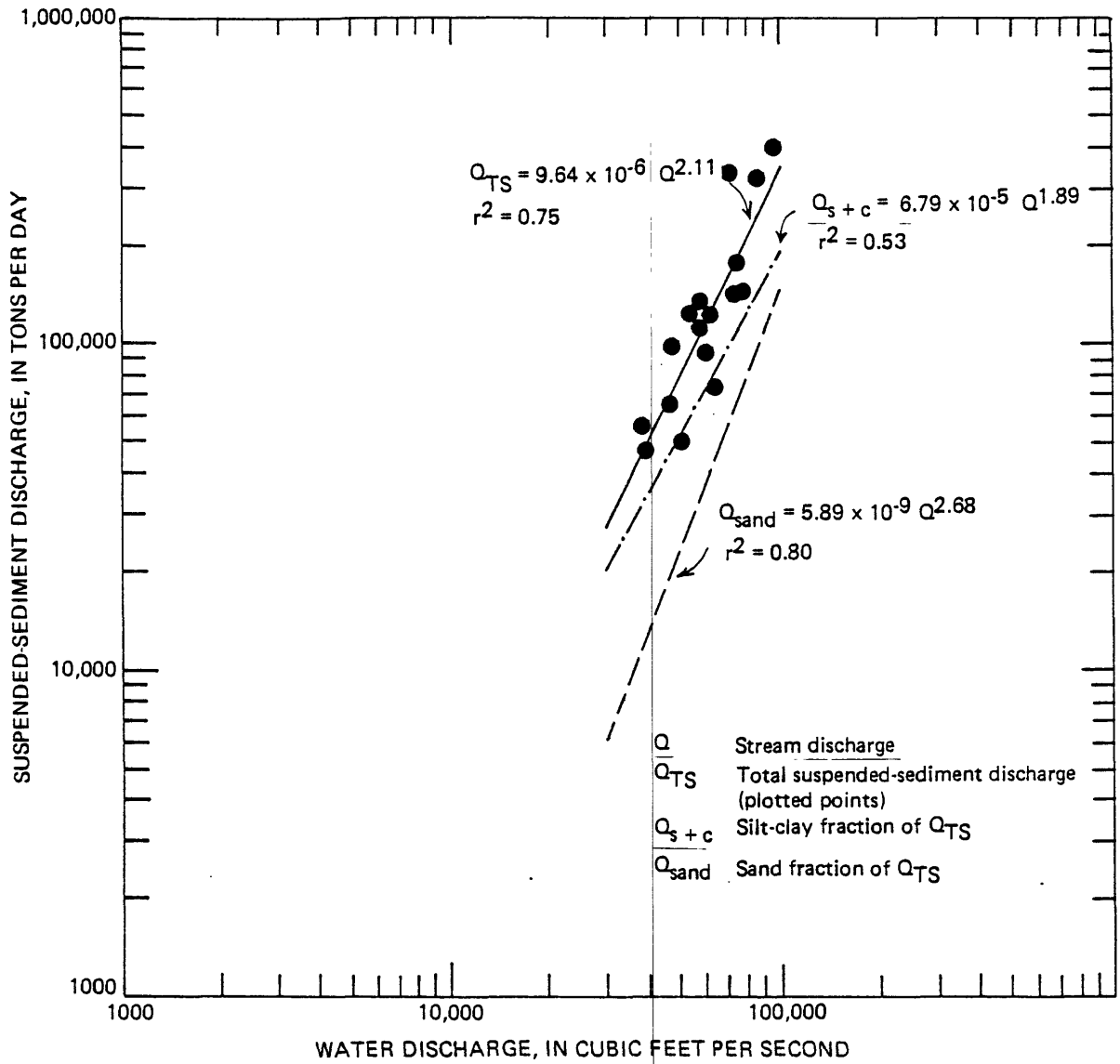


Figure 5.--Relation between suspended-sediment discharge and water discharge for Susitna River at Sunshine, 1982 water year.

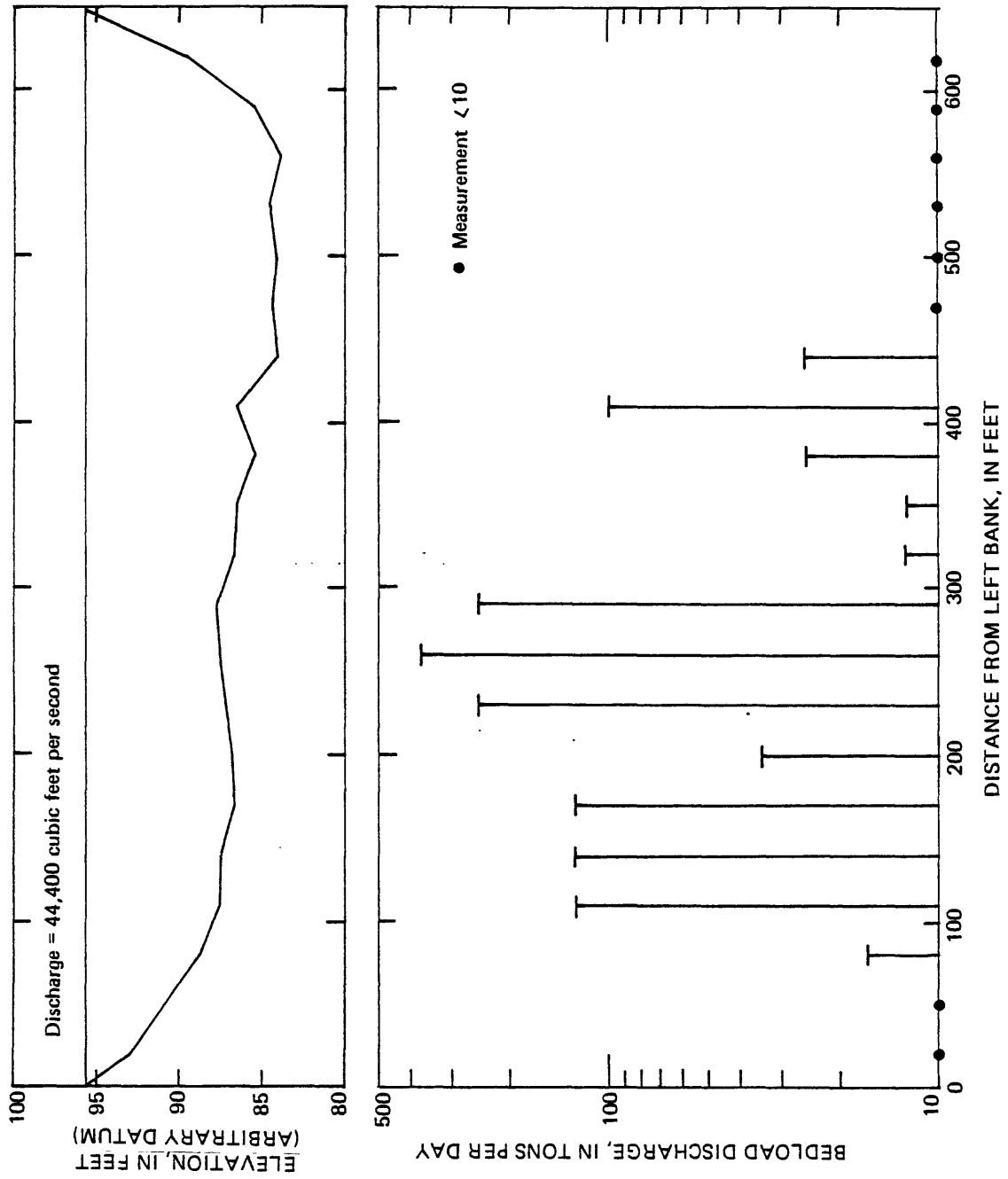


Figure 6a.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River near Talkeetna, June 8, 1982.

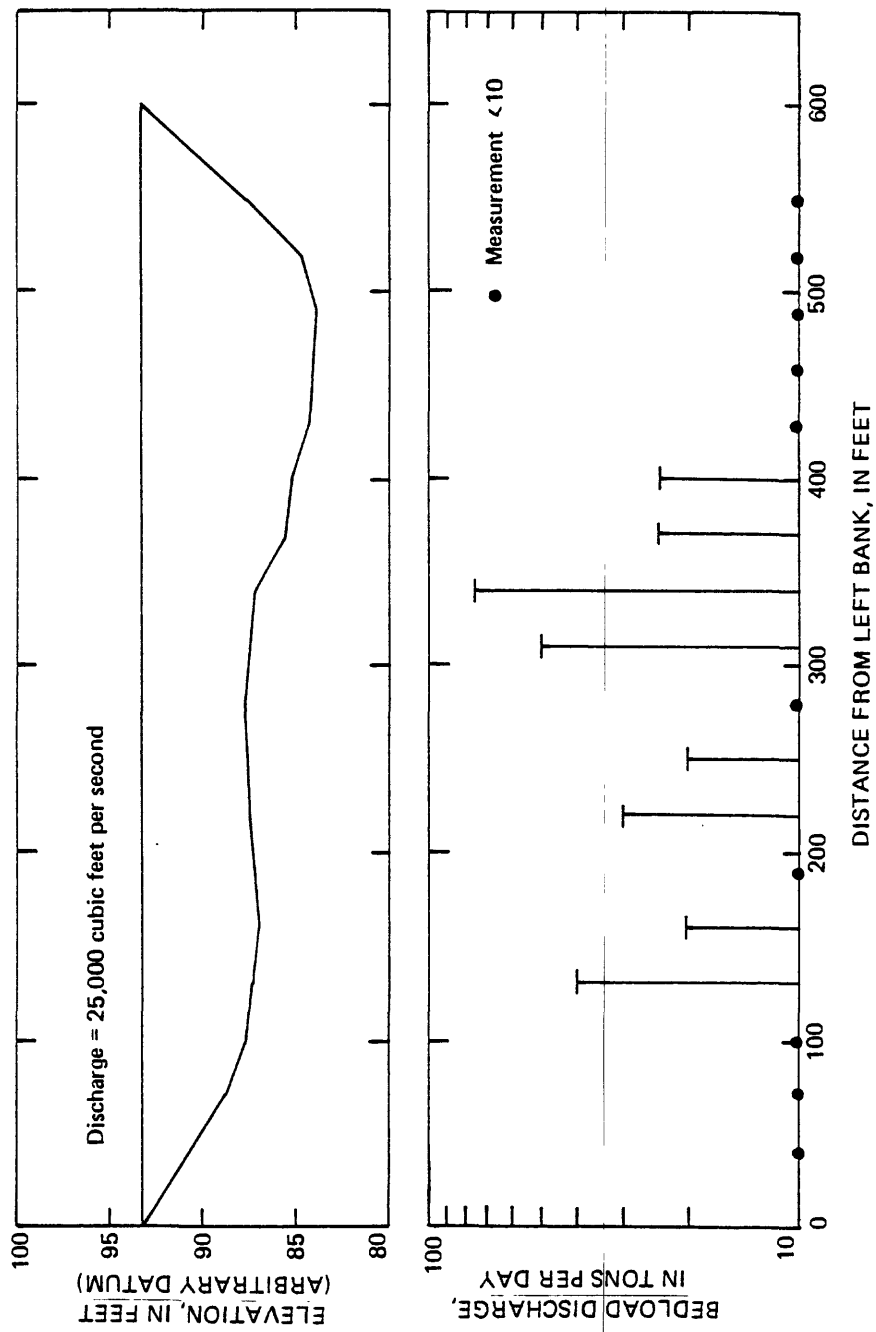


Figure 6b.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River near Talkeetna, July 21, 1982.

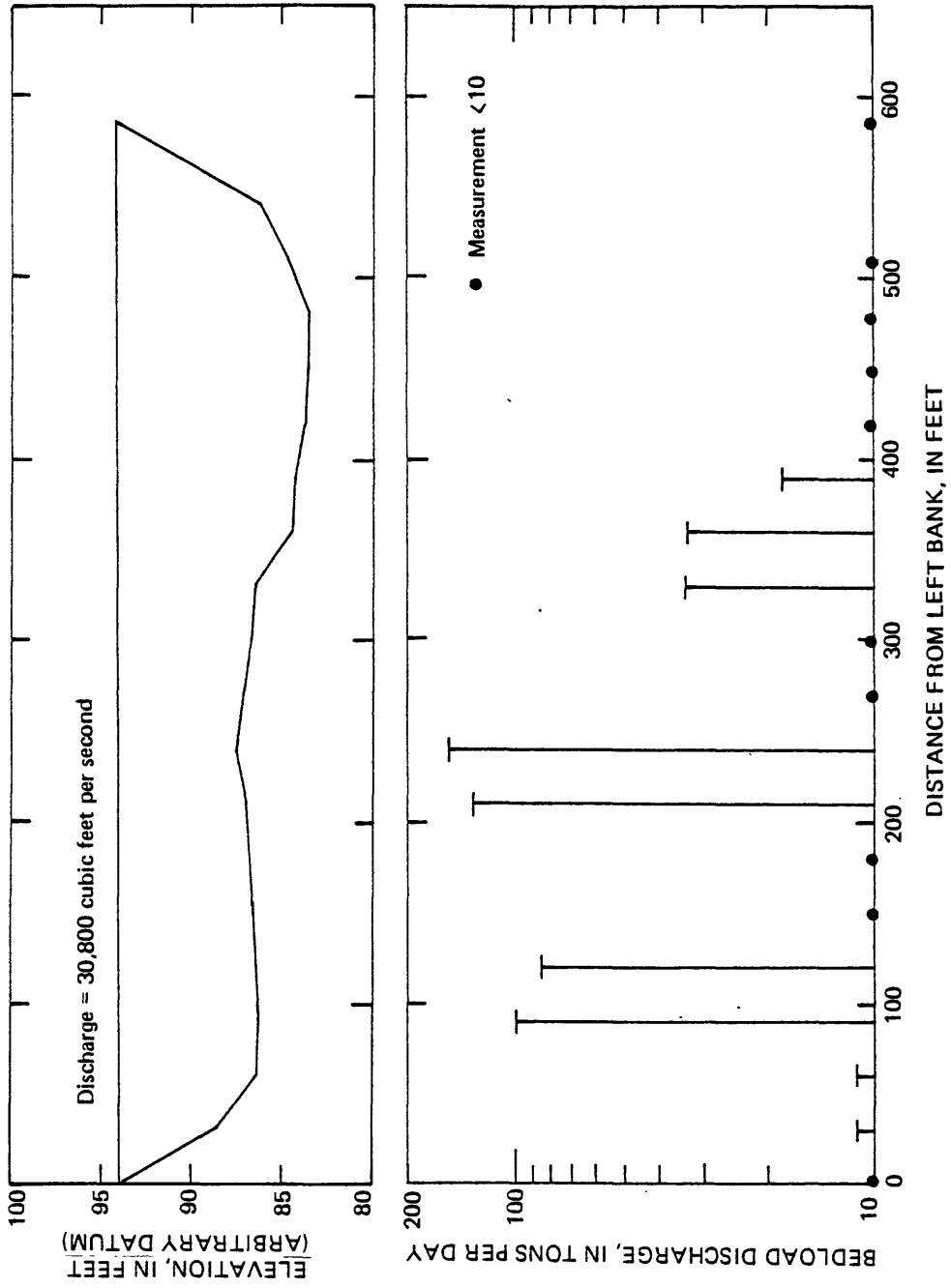


Figure 6c.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River near Talkeetna, July 28, 1982.

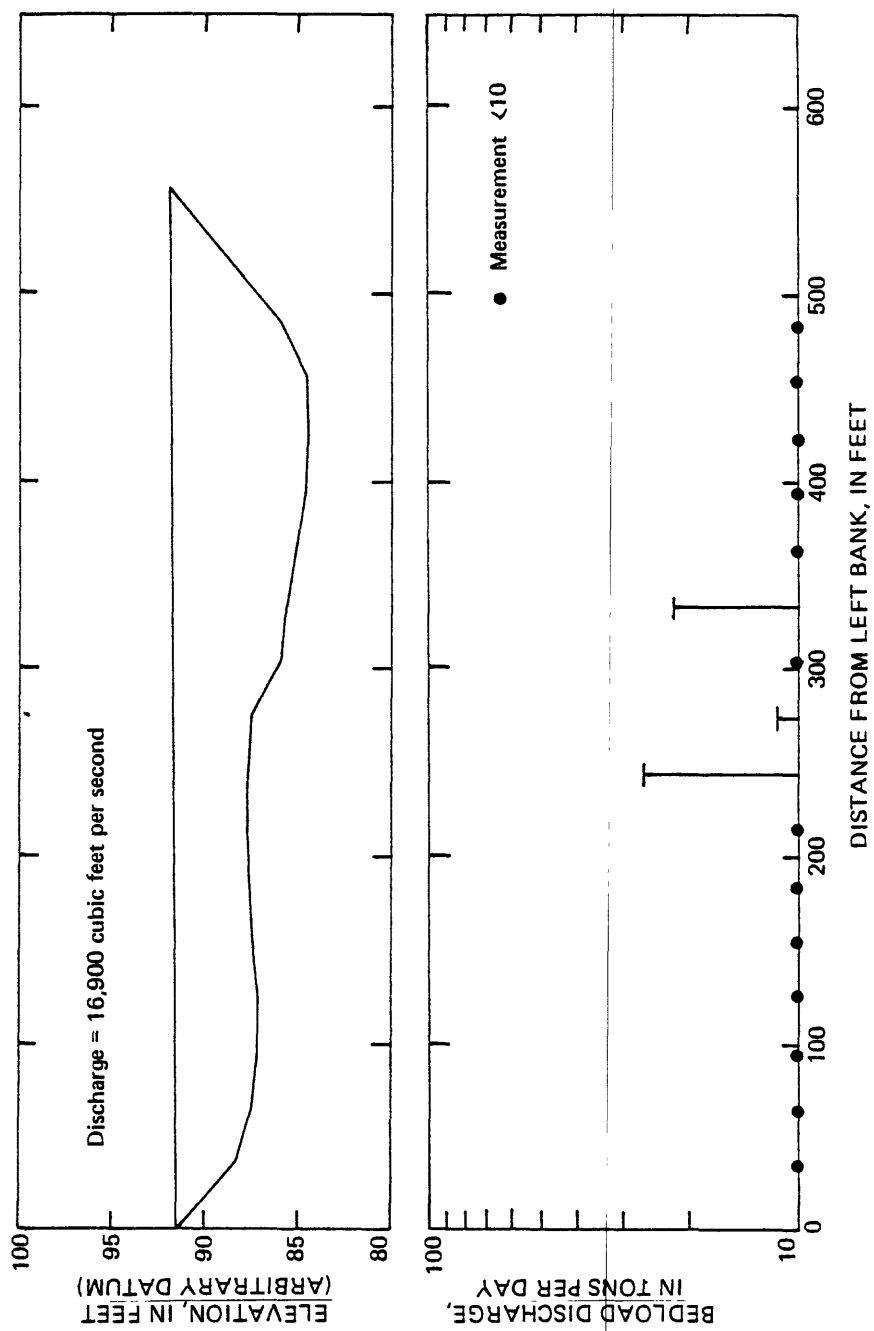


Figure 6d.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River near Talkeetna, August 25, 1982.

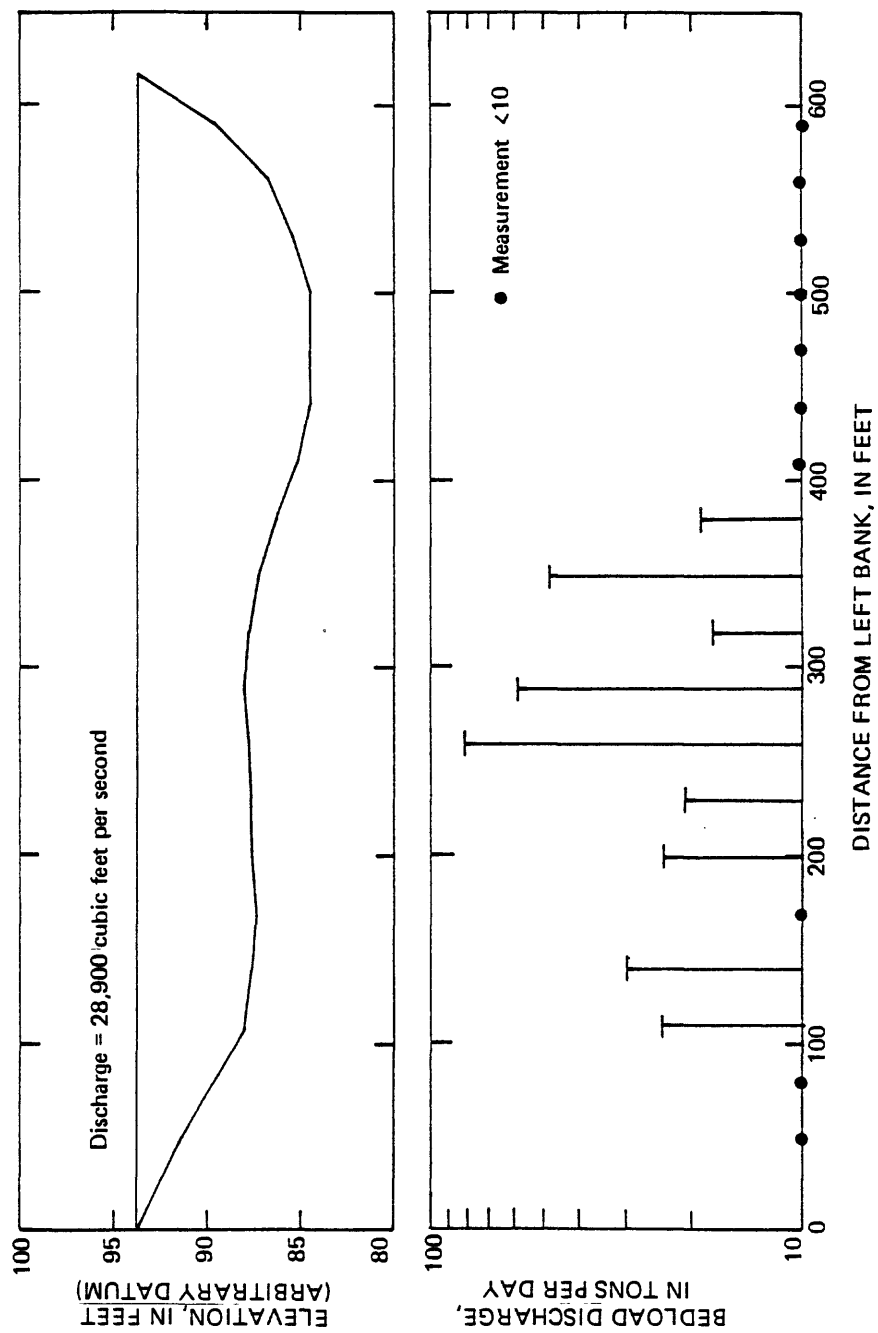


Figure 6e.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River near Talkeetna, September 19, 1982.

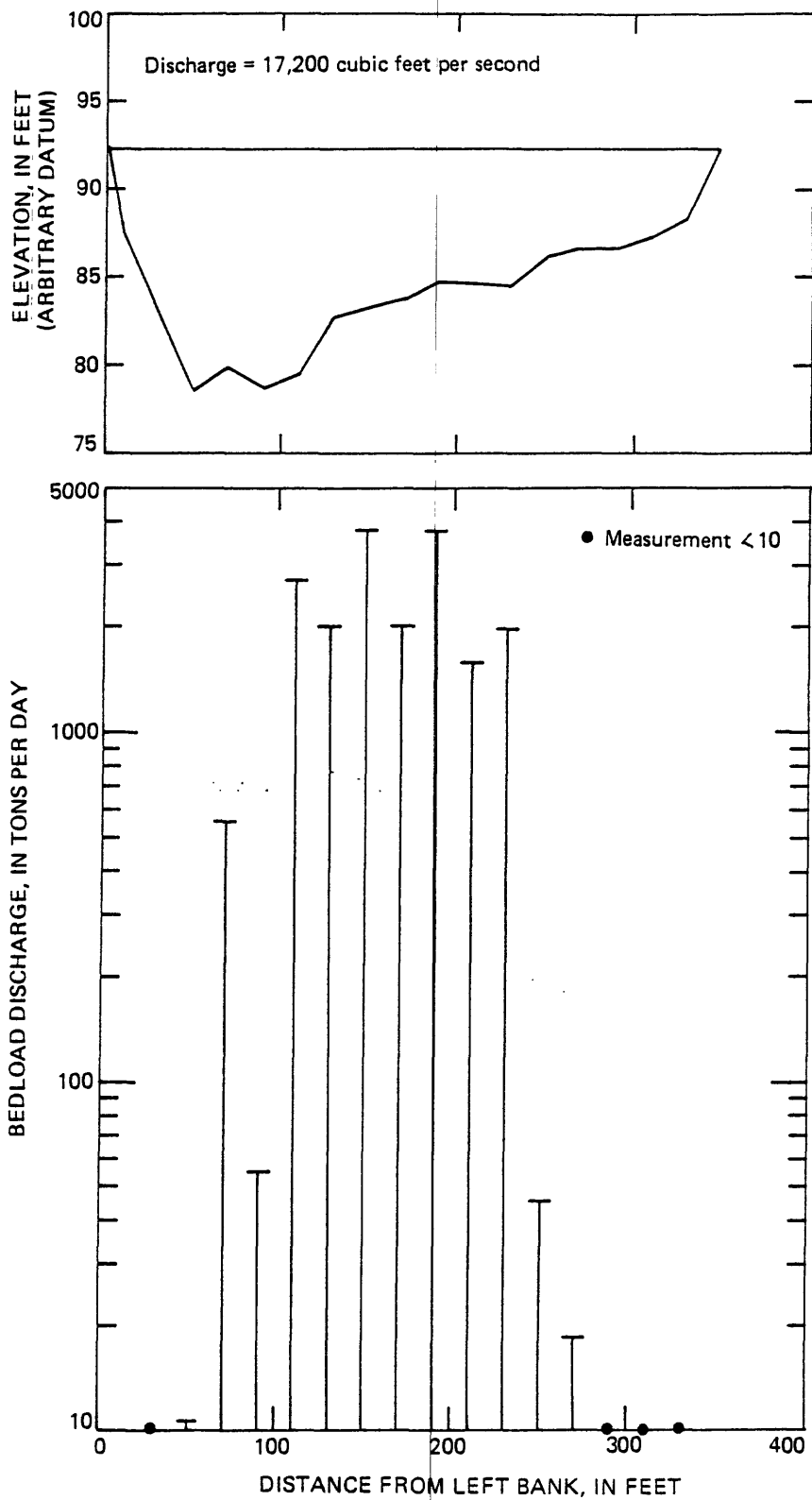


Figure 7a.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Chulitna River near Talkeetna, June 9, 1982.

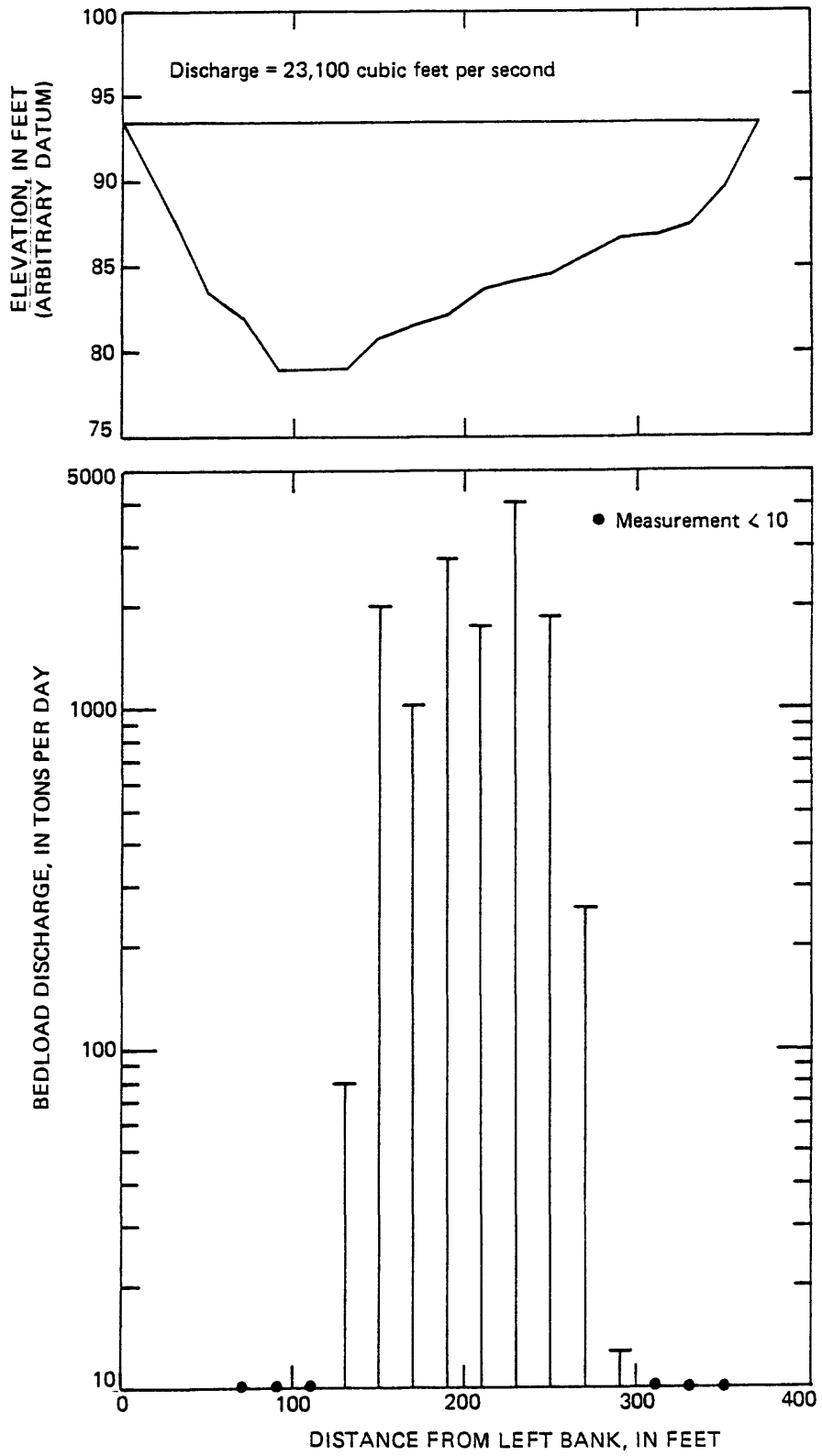


Figure 7b.-Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Chulitna River near Talkeetna, July 20, 1982.

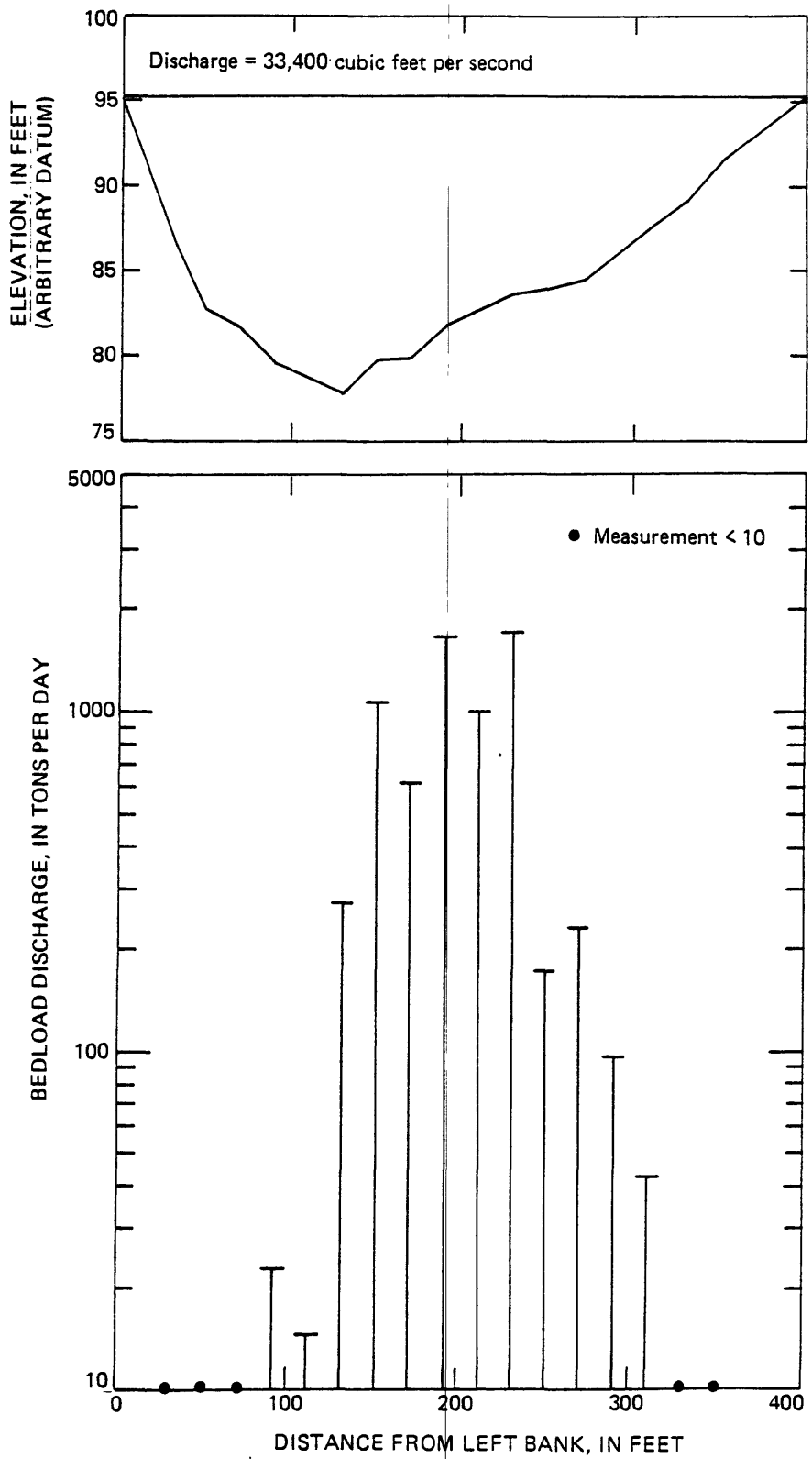


Figure 7c.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Chulitna River near Talkeetna, July 27, 1982.

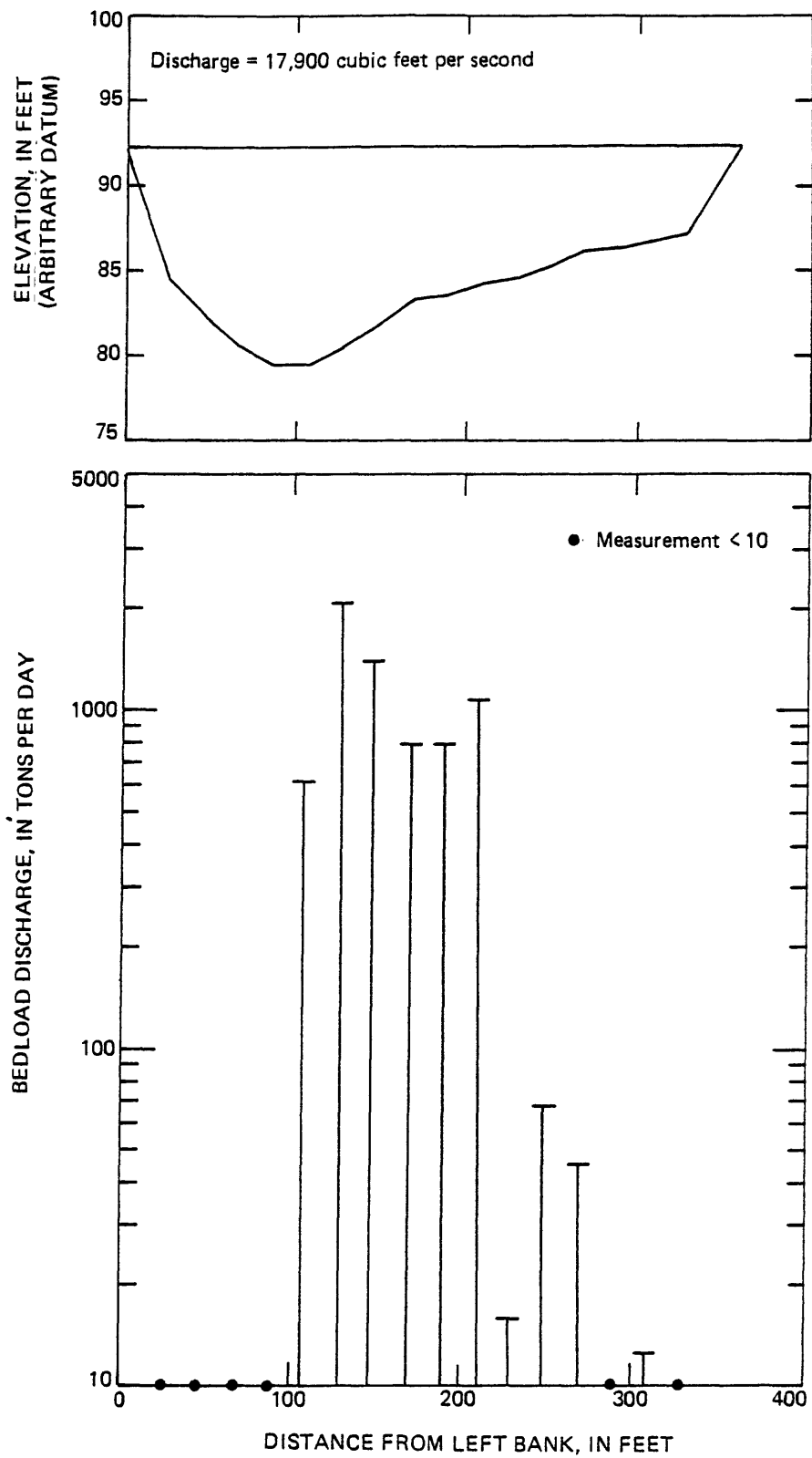


Figure 7d.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Chulitna River near Talkeetna, August 24, 1982.

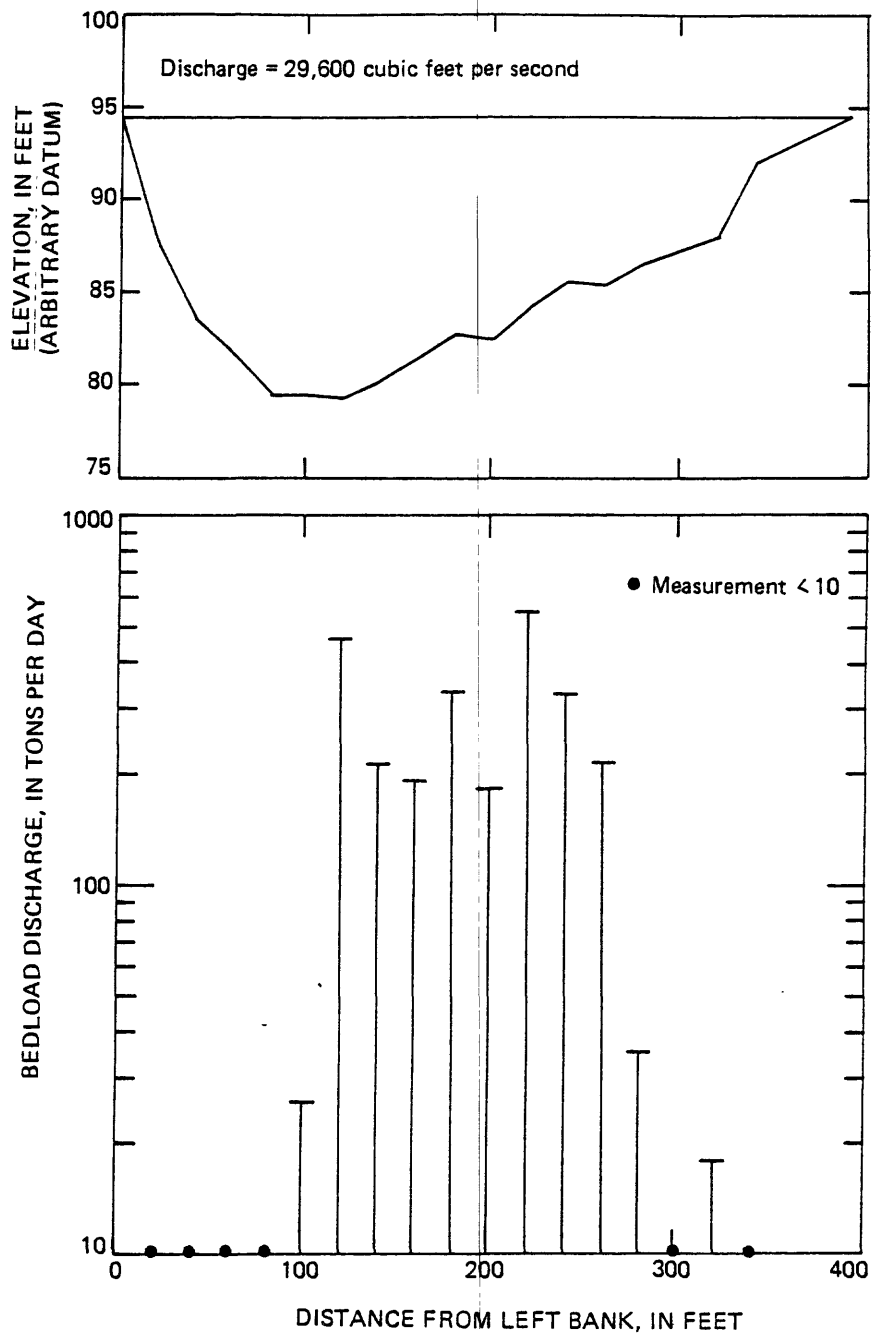


Figure 7e.—Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Chulitna River near Talkeetna, September 18, 1982.

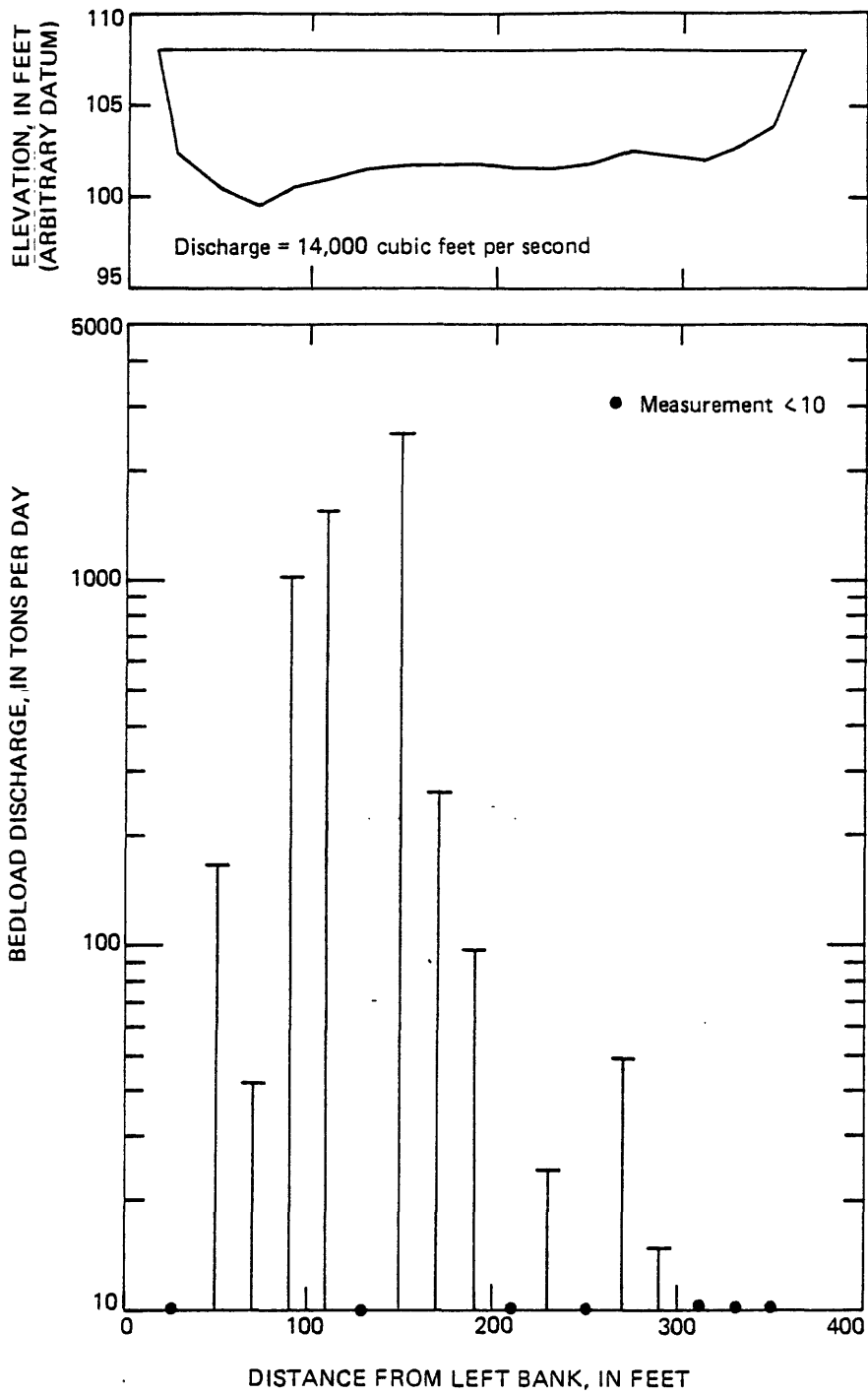


Figure 8a.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Talkeetna River near Talkeetna, June 9, 1982.

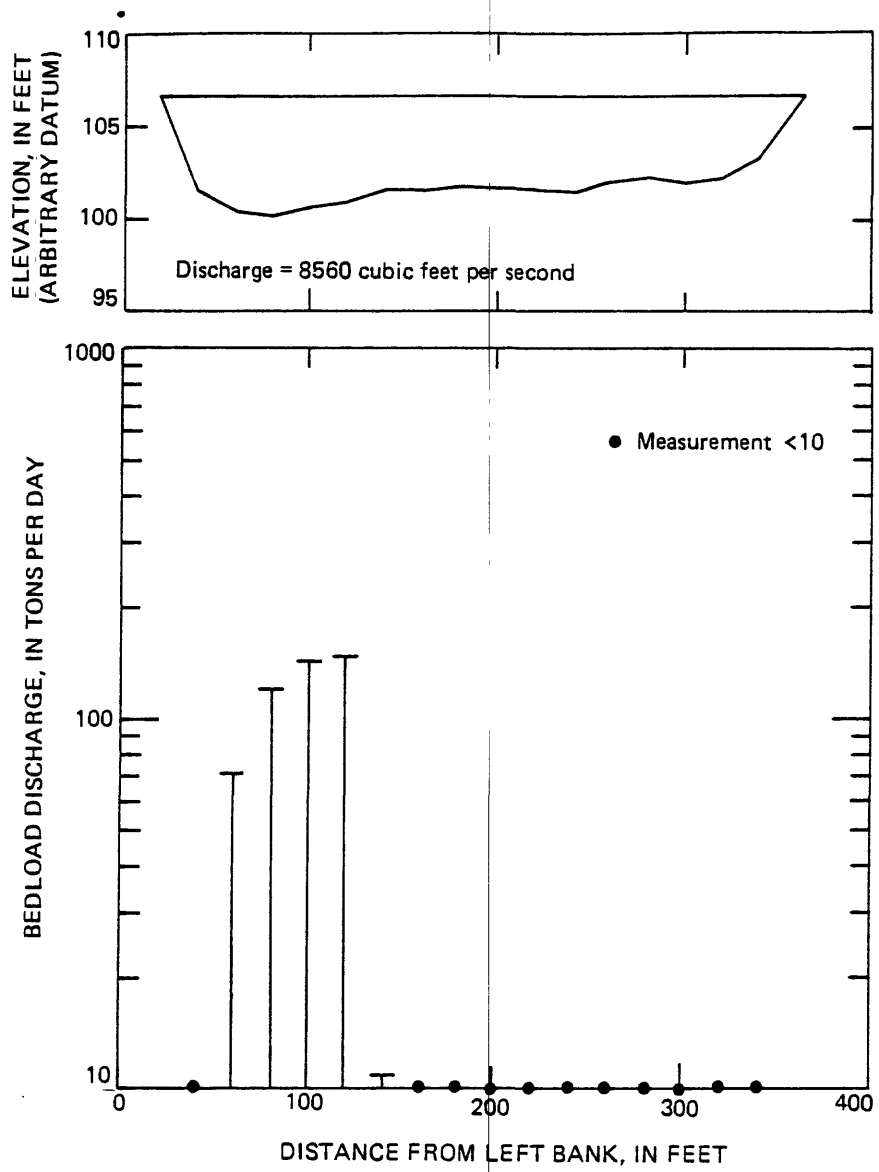


Figure 8b.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Talkeetna River near Talkeetna, July 20, 1982.

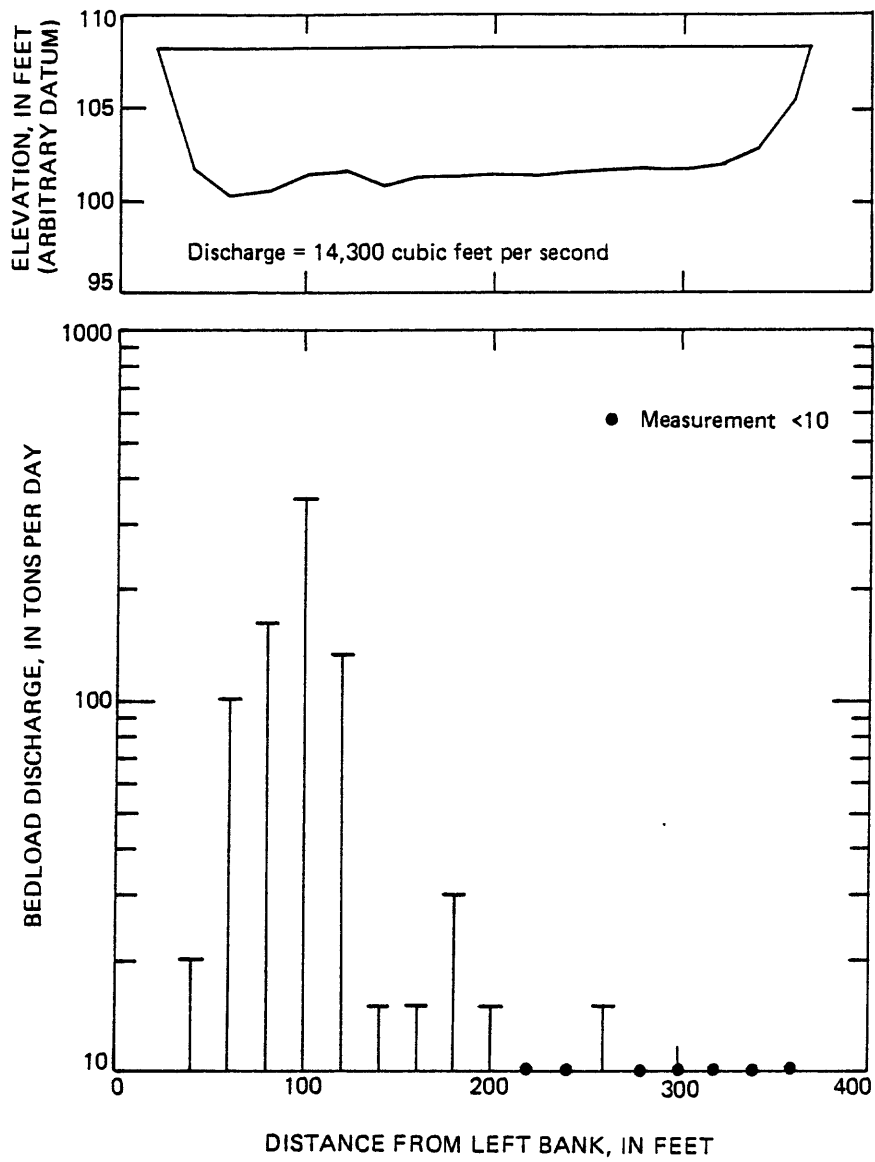


Figure 8c.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Talkeetna River near Talkeetna, July 28, 1982.

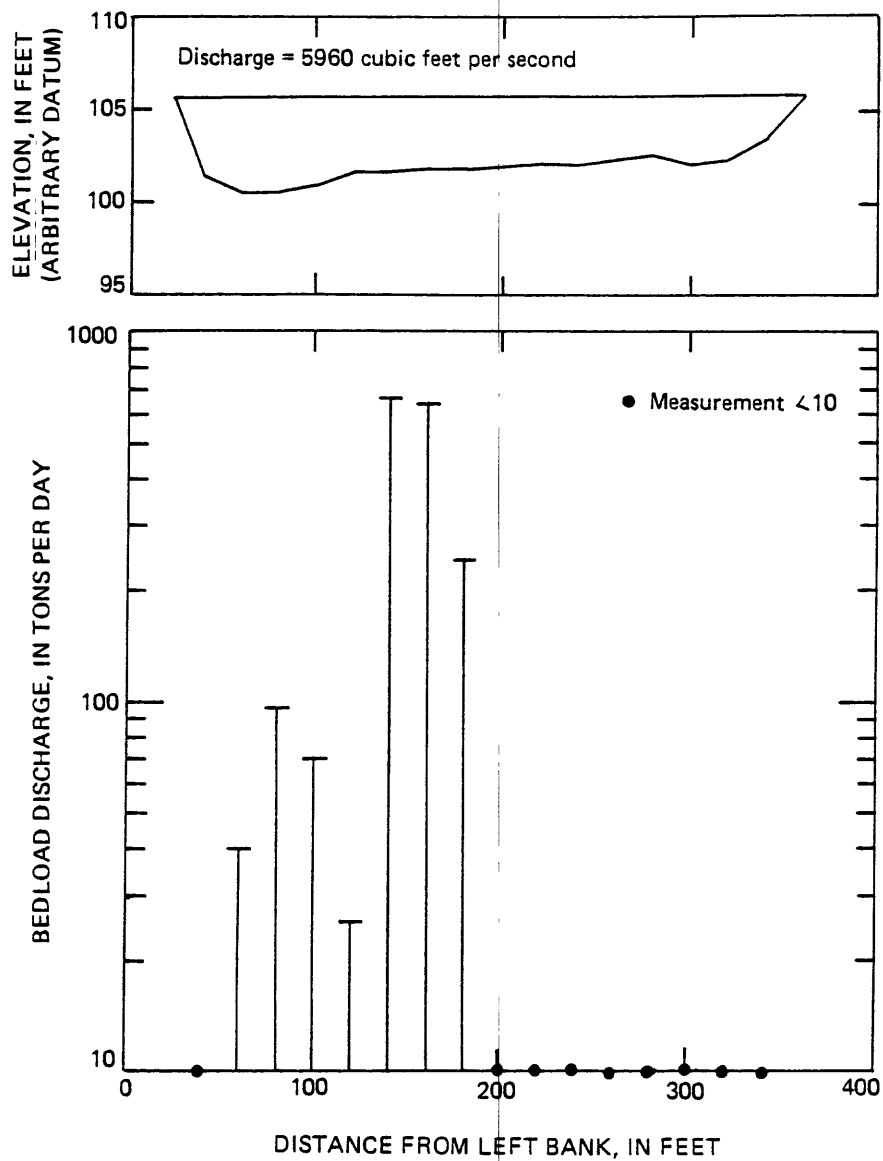


Figure 8d.—Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Talkeetna River near Talkeetna, August 24, 1982.

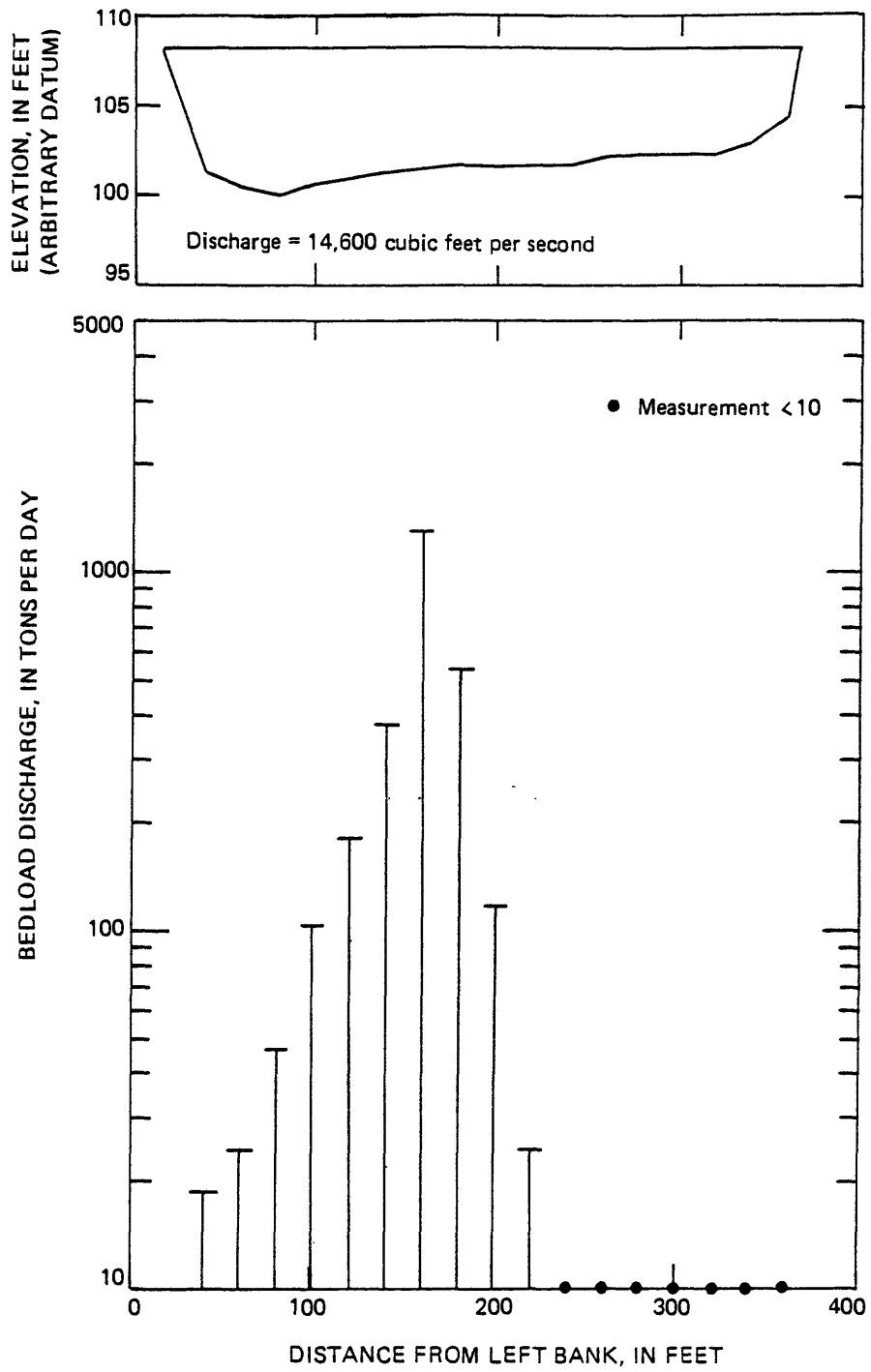


Figure 8e.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Talkeetna River near Talkeetna, September 20, 1982.

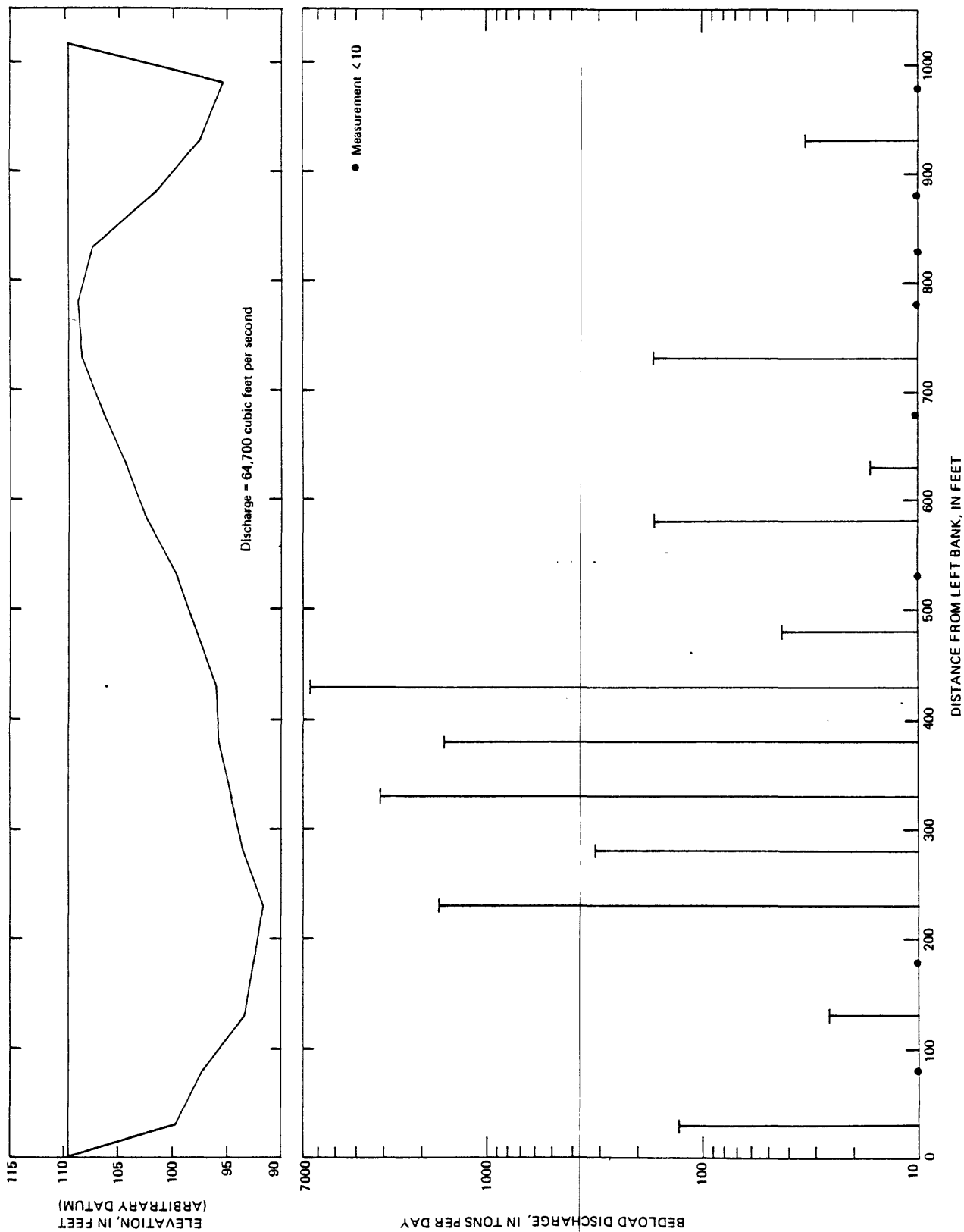


Figure 9a.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River at Sunshine, June 10, 1982.

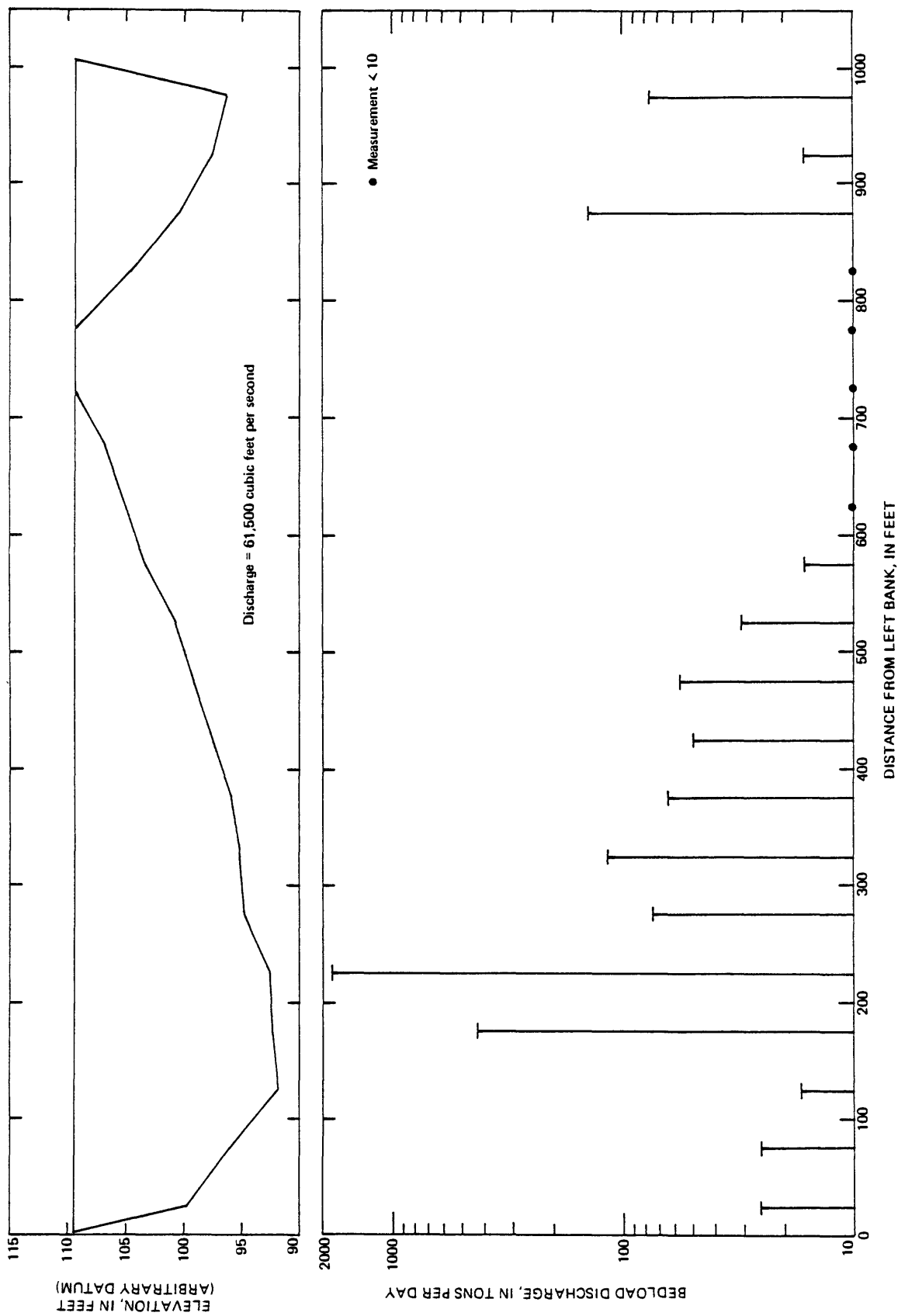


Figure 9b.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River at Sunshine, July 19, 1982.

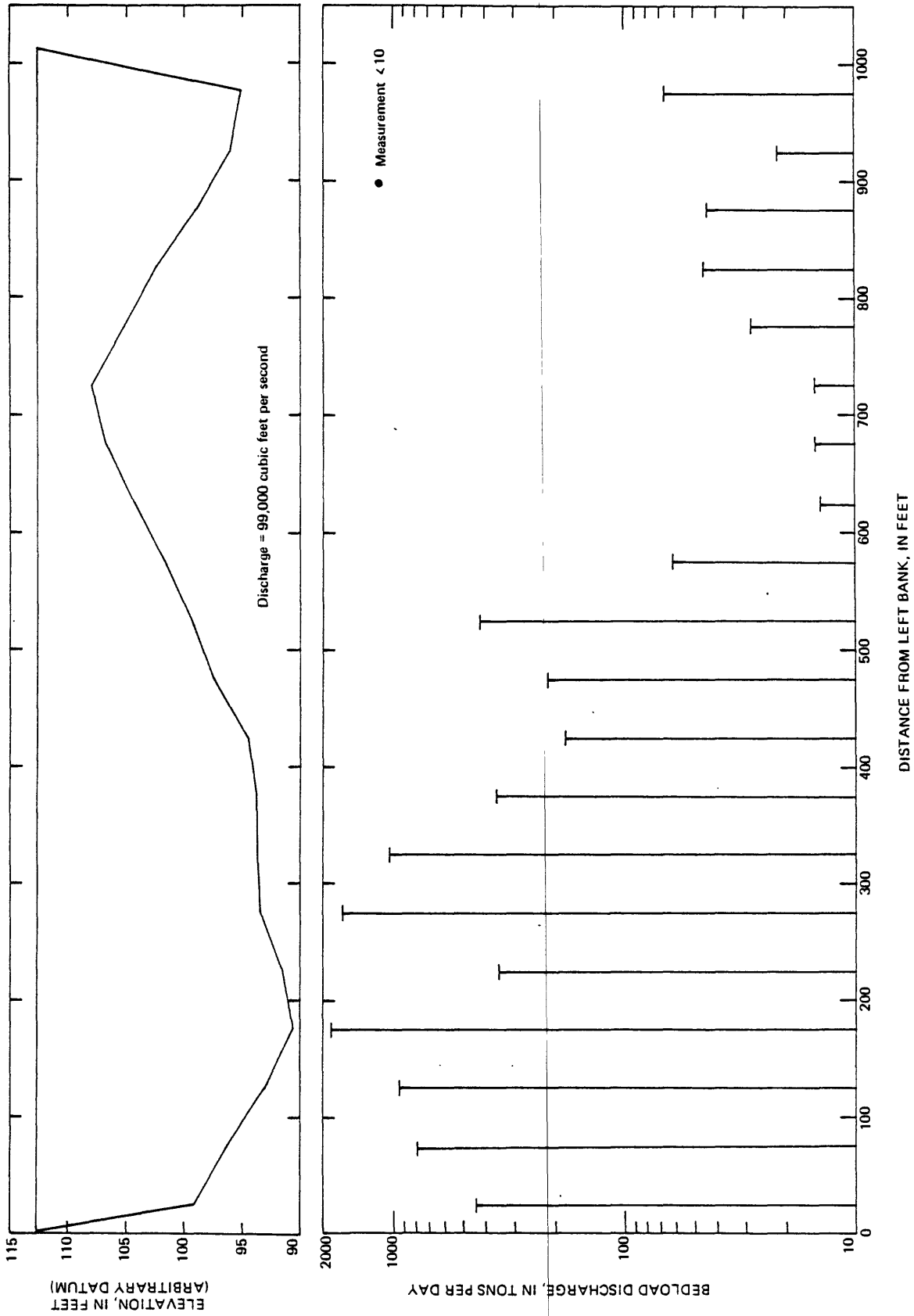


Figure 9c.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River at Sunshine, July 26, 1982.

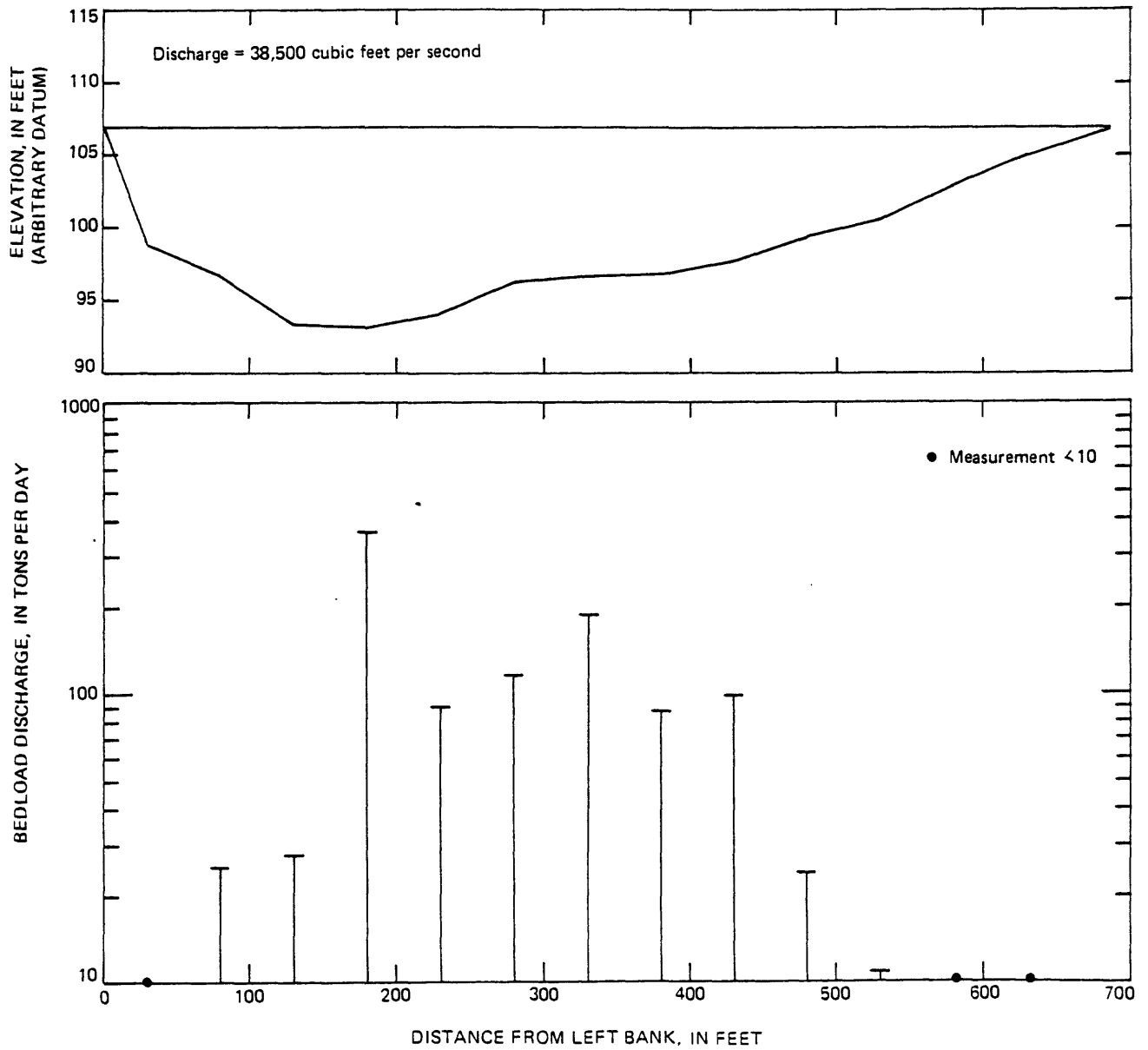


Figure 9d.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River at Sunshine, August 23, 1982.

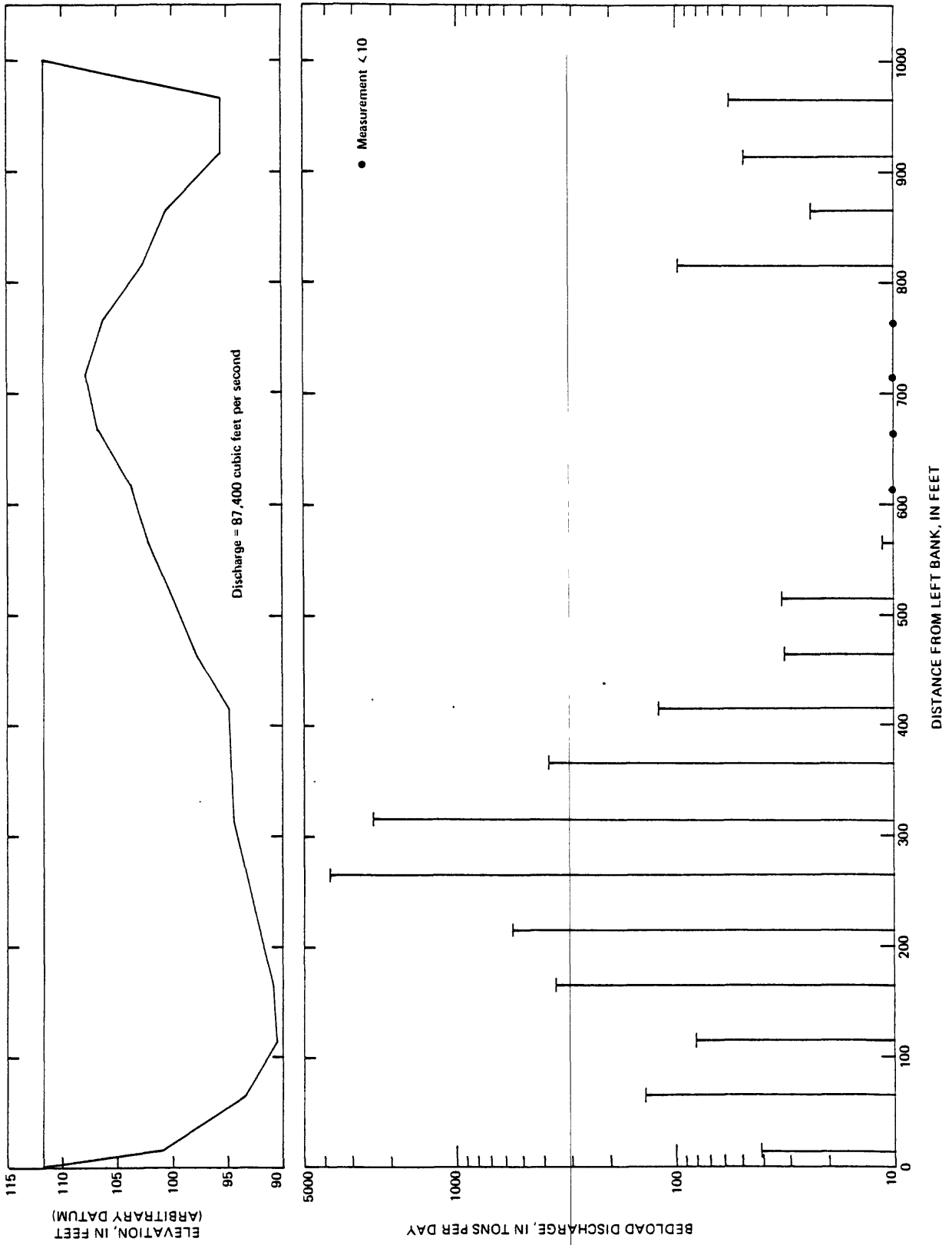


Figure 9e.--Cross section and distribution of bedload discharge, Susitna River at Sunshine, September 17, 1982.

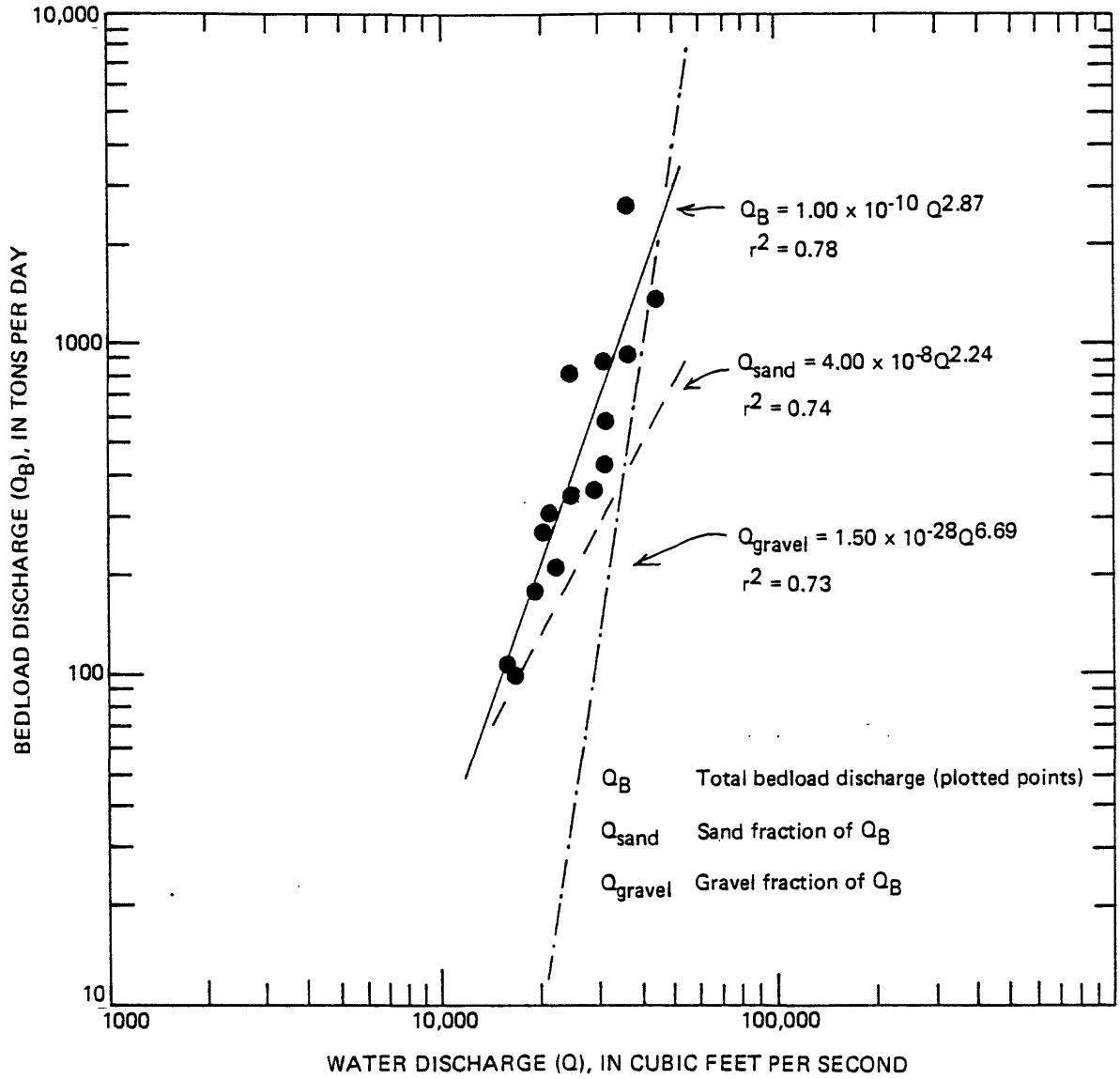


Figure 10.--Relation between bedload discharge and water discharge, 1982 water year, Susitna River near Talkeetna (15292100).

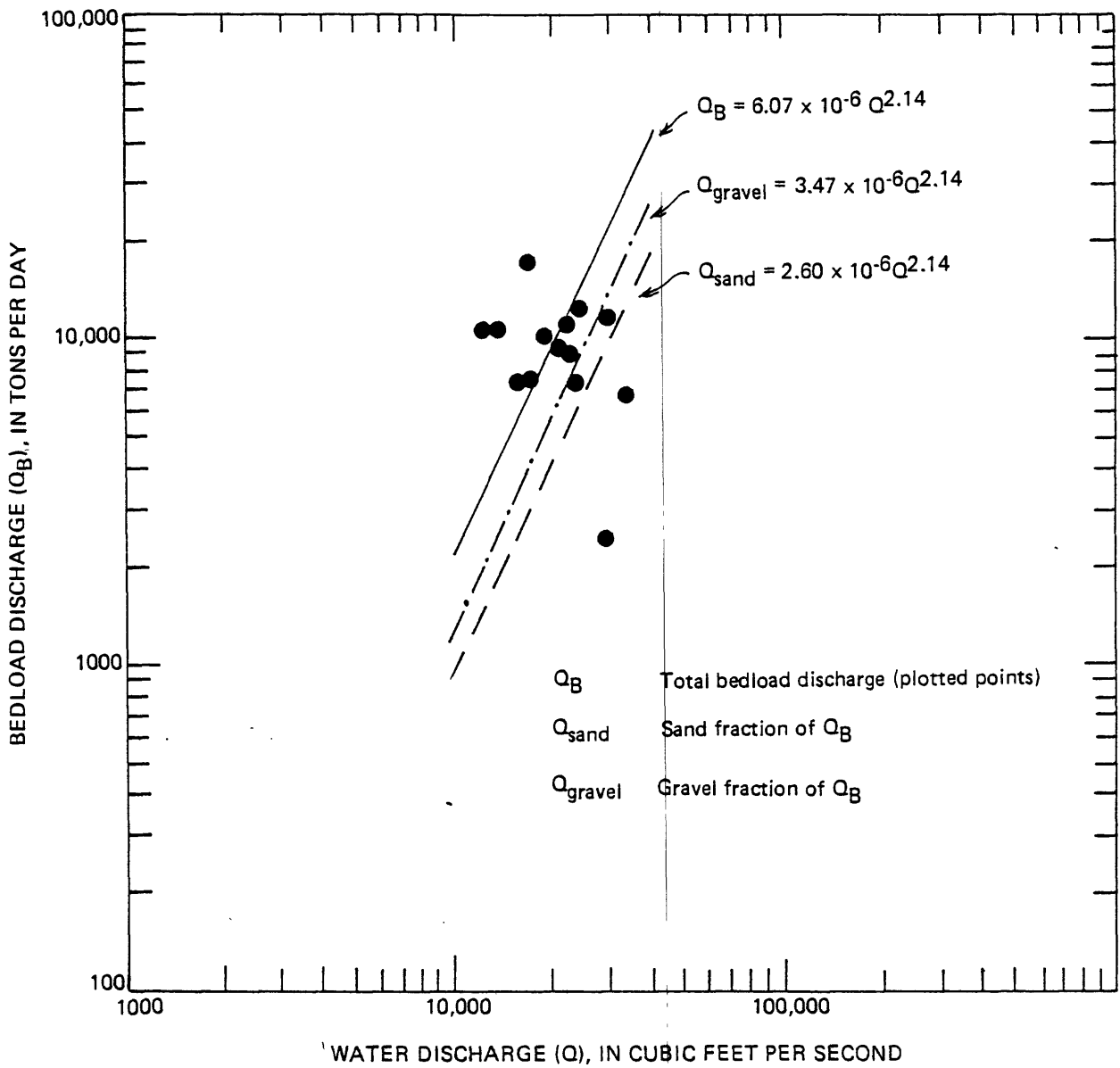


Figure 11.--Relation between bedload discharge and water discharge, 1982 water year, Chulitna River near Talkeetna (15292400). Transport curves based on assumed bedload-suspended sand relations. Equations obtained from least-squares analysis were not used (r^2 less than 0.10).

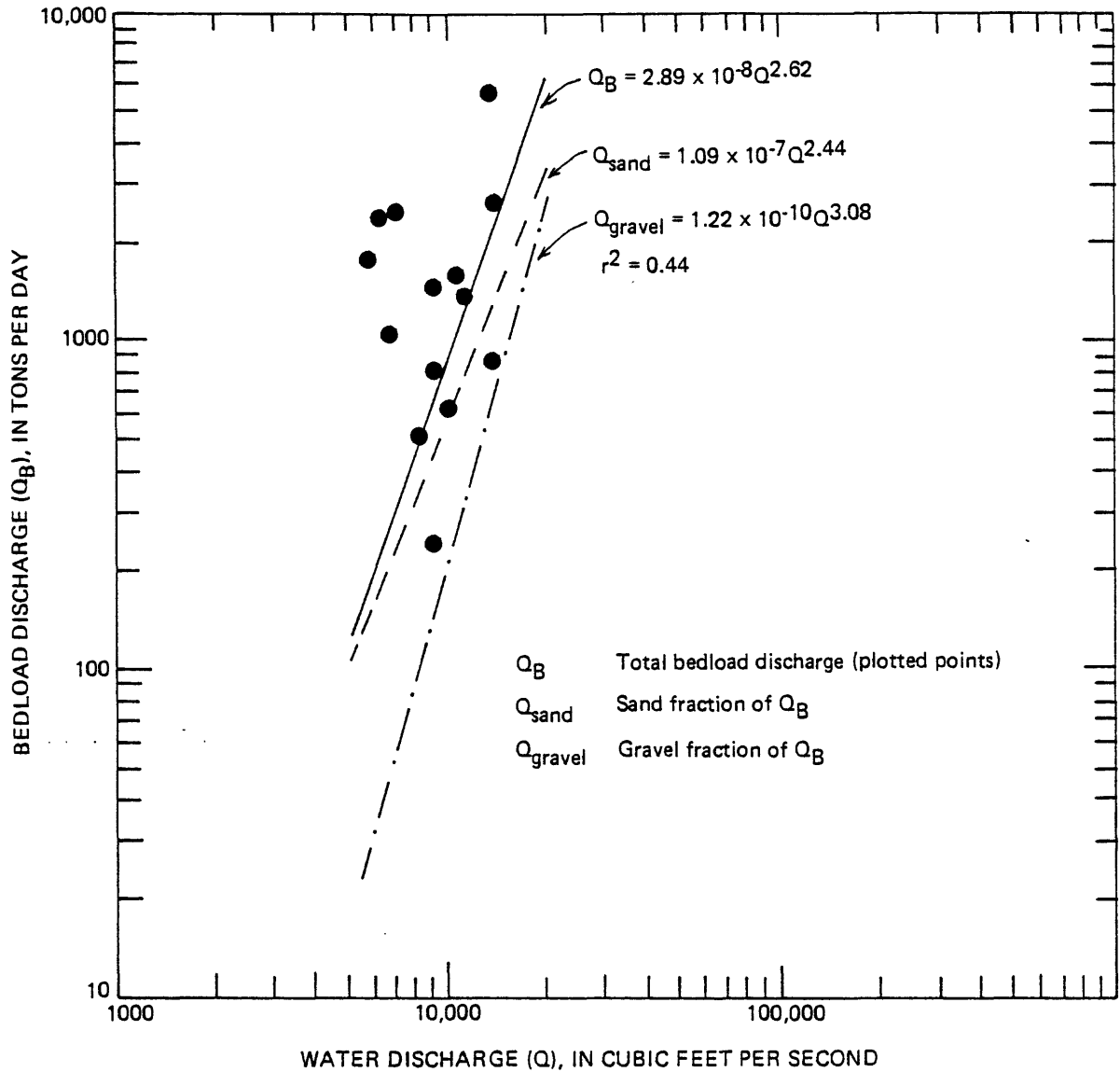


Figure 12.--Relation between bedload discharge and water discharge, 1982 water year, Talkeetna River near Talkeetna (15292700). Transport curve for Q_{sand} based on assumed bedload-suspended sand relation. Equation obtained from least-squares analysis was not used ($r^2 = 0.08$).

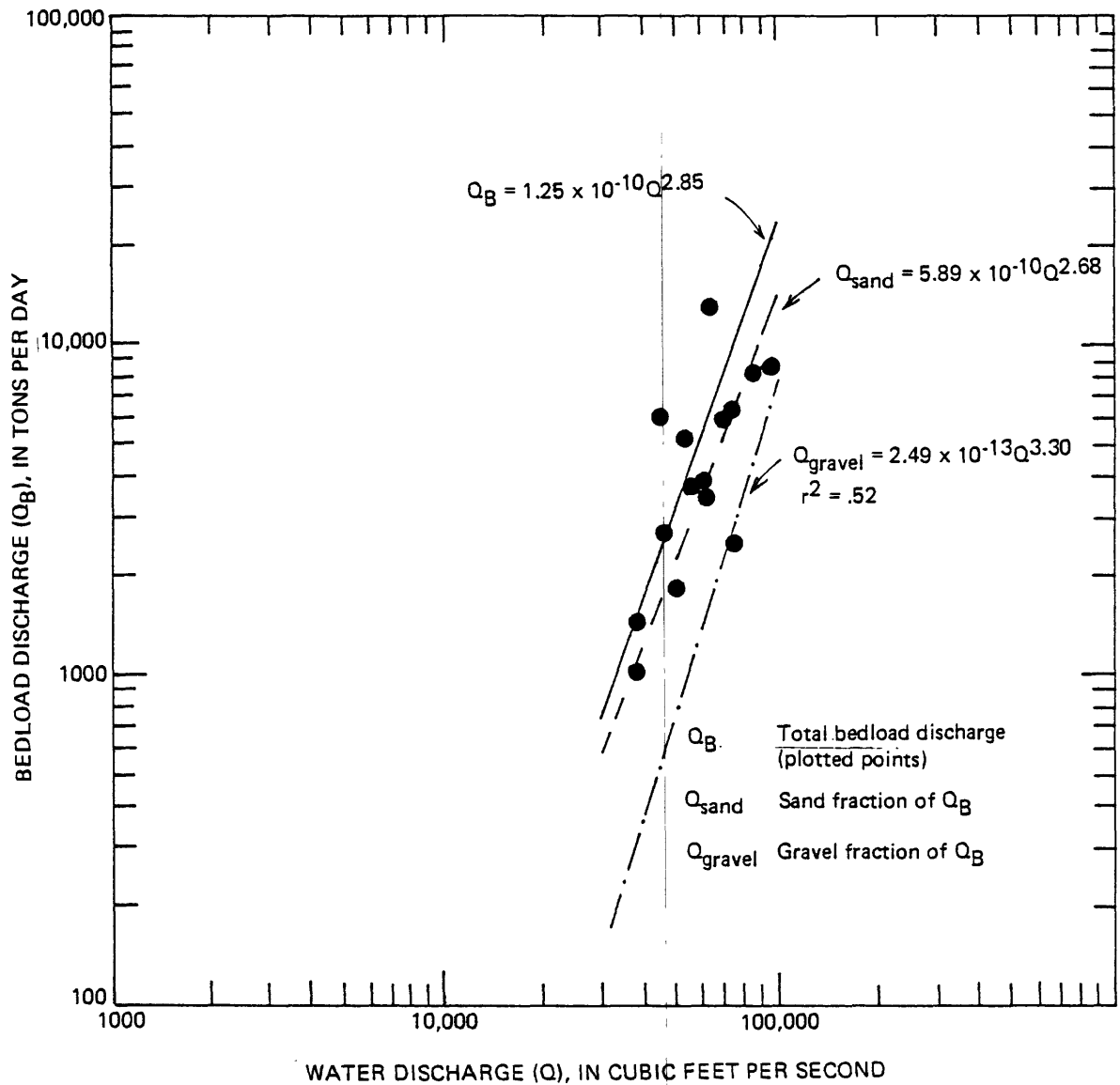


Figure 13.--Relation between bedload discharge and water discharge, 1982 water year, Susitna River at Sunshine (15292780). Transport curve for Q_{sand} based on assumed bedload-suspended sand relation. Equation obtained from least-squares analysis was not used ($r^2 = 0.07$).

Table 1.--Suspended-sediment data for selected stations in the Susitna River basin, 1981-82 water years

Station name and number	Water temperature (°C)	Date of collection	Discharge (ft ³ /s)	Sediment concentration (mg/L)	Sediment discharge (ton/d)	Suspended sediment															
						0.002	0.004	0.008	0.016	0.031	0.062	0.125	0.250	0.500	1.000	2.000					
Susitna River at Gold Creek (15292000)	4.0	1980 Oct. 7	9,060	13	318	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
	.0	1981 Jan. 16	2,080	1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	.0	Feb. 12	2,200	2	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	.0	Mar. 24	1,680	2	9.1	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	10.0	May 27	15,900	164	7,040	8	10	14	19	26	37	51	79	98	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	12.5	June 23	17,800	327	15,700	26	37	46	57	64	70	77	86	98	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	10.5	July 21	42,500	680	78,000	--	17	23	31	39	49	58	80	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	12.0	Aug. 27	26,600	158	11,300	7	10	21	27	36	49	64	86	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
	.5	Sept. 28	8,540	44	1,020	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	.0	1982 Jan. 20	2,310	2	12	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	.0	Mar. 3	1,070	1	2.9	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	.0	Mar. 30	1,520	8	33	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	5.0	May 27	23,600	524	33,400	--	--	--	--	--	26	43	76	96	99	100	100	100	100	100	100
10.0	July 1	24,500	303	20,000	29	40	--	55	--	59	76	88	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
10.5	Aug. 19	13,200	238	8,480	36	51	--	71	--	84	87	95	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
7.5	Sept. 16	34,600	812	75,900	--	--	--	--	--	45	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Susitna River near Talkeetna (15292100)	6.0	1982 June 3	35,800	769	74,300	8	10	--	16	--	31	48	78	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	7.5	June 9	46,600	548	68,900	11	14	--	24	--	46	59	82	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	8.0	June 15	24,200	181	11,800	--	--	--	--	--	40	47	75	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	10.0	June 22	37,000	438	43,800	13	16	--	27	--	46	59	82	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	11.5	June 30	30,200	438	35,700	22	34	--	52	--	73	79	90	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	14.5	July 8	20,700	145	8,100	--	--	--	--	--	76	80	92	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	12.0	July 14	30,800	768	63,900	30	42	50	59	71	80	87	94	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	13.5	July 21	24,900	383	25,700	29	35	--	56	--	72	78	86	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	--	July 28	30,800	461	38,300	21	27	32	44	58	68	75	88	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	13.0	Aug. 4	22,700	341	20,900	30	39	--	63	--	77	82	90	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	10.0	Aug. 10	20,000	289	15,600	30	43	--	71	--	87	90	96	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	10.5	Aug. 18	17,700	285	13,600	43	51	54	77	88	92	93	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	12.0	Aug. 25	16,800	219	9,930	32	44	--	68	--	89	92	97	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	9.0	Aug. 31	19,300	251	13,100	23	29	--	48	--	72	80	94	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	
	6.5	Sept. 19	28,700	442	34,300	33	41	47	53	60	67	74	88	99	100	100	100	100	100	100	

Table 1.--Continued

Station name and number	Water temperature (°C)	Date of collection	Discharge (ft ³ /s)	Sediment concentration (mg/L)	Sediment discharge (ton/d)	Suspended sediment												
						0.002	0.004	0.008	0.016	0.031	0.062	0.125	0.250	0.500	1.000	2.000		
Chulitna River near Talkeetna (15292400)	5.0	1980 Oct. 22	4,530	47	575	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
	.0	1981 Jan. 14	1,620	3	13	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	--	Feb. 10	1,540	5	21	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	--	Mar. 25	1,150	7	22	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	--	May 18	11,700	500	15,800	17	26	35	43	51	59	67	79	94	100	--	--	--
	8.0	June 23	22,100	1,420	84,700	--	34	46	56	64	70	75	84	94	99	100	--	--
	--	July 20	34,000	1,010	92,700	16	24	35	46	55	62	71	86	98	100	--	--	--
	14.5	Aug. 24	23,500	782	49,600	11	17	24	30	37	42	47	64	88	100	--	--	--
	--	Sept. 28	5,950	129	2,070	--	--	--	--	--	53	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	--	1982 Mar. 2	789	4	8.5	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	--	Apr. 8	1,100	383	1,140	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
	6.0	June 4	11,500	424	13,200	22	32	37	46	54	59	68	88	99	100	--	--	--
	6.5	June 9	16,900	760	34,700	19	27	--	41	--	77	83	96	99	100	--	--	--
	4.5	June 16	14,500	428	16,800	24	36	--	48	--	62	68	84	100	--	--	--	--
	7.5	June 22	19,500	880	46,300	19	25	32	39	47	58	64	75	98	100	--	--	--
	7.0	June 29	29,000	1,600	125,000	34	45	56	62	70	77	83	94	100	--	--	--	--
	9.0	July 7	20,700	1,000	55,900	26	36	51	60	69	78	84	93	100	--	--	--	--
6.5	July 13	22,700	1,270	77,800	--	--	--	--	--	71	76	83	99	100	--	--	--	
9.0	July 20	23,100	1,140	71,100	30	44	54	65	77	78	84	92	100	--	--	--	--	
6.0	July 27	31,900	1,110	95,600	16	25	30	42	51	60	70	85	98	99	100	--	--	
8.0	Aug. 3	23,300	803	50,500	24	33	42	55	67	73	77	87	99	100	--	--	--	
6.0	Aug. 11	21,300	766	44,100	23	34	40	51	60	68	75	85	99	100	--	--	--	
5.0	Aug. 17	21,900	1,180	69,800	25	37	48	59	68	75	80	87	97	100	--	--	--	
5.5	Aug. 24	18,200	830	40,800	17	24	34	42	54	65	75	81	93	100	--	--	--	
6.0	Sept. 1	17,300	506	23,600	17	26	--	42	--	64	68	84	100	--	--	--	--	
5.0	Sept. 18	29,200	1,680	132,000	33	43	52	58	68	74	86	96	99	100	--	--	--	

Table 3.--Bed-material data for selected sites in the Susitna River basin
[Sampling point stationing from left bank]

Station name and number	Date of collection	Sampling point	Bed material													
			0.062	0.125	0.25	0.50	1.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	16.0	32.0	64.0	128.0		
Susitna River at Gold Creek (15292000)	1981 Sept. 28	100a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	100
		130b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
		160b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
		190b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
		220b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
		250b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
		280b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Susitna River near Talkeetna (15292100)	1982 July 28	310a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	1	27	100	--	--	
		370b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
		120b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
Susitna River near Talkeetna (15292100)	1982 July 28	200b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
		290b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
		410a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	100	--	--	0	100	
		550a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
		130b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
		210b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
		310c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	7	53	100	--	--
Susitna River near Talkeetna (15292100)	1981 Aug. 4	400c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	1	6	42	100	--	
		540b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
		140a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
		210a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
		300a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	4	30	100	--	
		430a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	2	19	100	--	
		570a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	5	100	--	
Chulitna River near Talkeetna (15292400)	1981 Sept. 29	90c	--	--	--	--	0	7	52	81	94	100	--	--		
		110c	--	0	1	1	2	10	57	92	100	--	--			
		130c	--	0	2	5	15	30	68	90	100	--	--			
		150c	--	0	2	10	18	30	59	83	98	100	--			
		170c	--	0	4	60	76	79	84	91	99	100	--			
		190c	--	0	1	26	47	53	65	78	94	100	--			
		210b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
		230c	0	2	24	84	100	--	--	--	--	--	--	--		
		Chulitna River near Talkeetna (15292400)	1982 July 27	180c	--	--	--	--	0	1	3	15	46	71	89	100
				240c	--	--	--	--	0	1	5	18	44	72	93	100
290c	--			0	5	29	34	36	42	52	67	100	--			
330c	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	5	24	100			
380c	--			0	2	5	6	6	8	13	36	87	100			
380c	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--			

a Few particles obtained, non-representative sample
b Streambed too coarse for obtaining samples
c Representative sample obtained for particles finer than 128 mm

Table 3.--Continued

[Sampling point stationing from left bank]

Station name and number	Date of collection	Sampling point	Bed material															
			Percent finer than size indicated, in millimeters															
			0.062	0.125	0.25	0.50	1.0	2.0	4.0	8.0	16.0	32.0	64.0	128.0				
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna (15292700)	1981 Sept. 29	60a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	100		
		90c	--	--	--	0	3	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	13	100	
		120c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	2	2	52	100	
		150c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	1	3	100	100	100	--	--	
		180a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	7	100	100	--	--	
		210a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	2	18	100	100	
		240a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	11	100	100	
		270a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	45	100	
		300c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	35	100	100
			1982 July 28	50b	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
70b	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
110c	--			0	1	7	50	74	84	91	95	100	100	100	100	100	100	
180c	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	0	4	25	100	100	100	100	100	
240a	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	7	100	100	100	100	
300a	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	100	100	100	100	
340b	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
40b	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	
80c	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	6	100	100	
140c	--			--	--	--	--	--	--	0	5	22	65	100	100	100	100	
Susitna River at Sunshine (15292780)	1981 Sept. 30	200c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	4	38	80	100	100		
		270c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	1	3	30	100	100	100		
		490a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	100	100	100	
		560a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	58	100	100	100	
		625a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	100	100	100	100	
		690a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	18	100	100	100	
		755a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	41	100	100	100	
		820c	--	0	2	47	64	67	69	74	86	96	100	100	100	100	100	
		885a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	36	100	100	100	
		950a	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	52	100	100	100	
	1982 July 26	230c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	2	18	100	100	100		
		530c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	8	54	100	100		
		650c	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	4	31	100	100		
		800c	--	0	1	3	5	11	23	38	53	62	100	100	100	100		
		830c	--	--	--	--	--	--	0	1	15	100	100	100	100	100		
		910c	--	--	--	0	2	4	6	12	23	64	100	100	100	100		

a Few particles obtained, non-representative sample
 b Streambed too coarse for obtaining samples
 c Representative sample obtained for particles finer than 128 mm

Table 4.--Water discharge and estimated sediment yields at selected sites in the Susitna River basin, May to September 1982

Station name and number	Drainage area (mi ²)	Period	Water discharge (acre-ft)			Suspended sediment (tons)			Bedload (tons)			Total sediment (tons)								
			discharge			Silt-clay			Sand			Silt-clay			Sand			Gravel		
Susitna River near Talkeetna (15292100)	6,320	May	920,000a	200,000	100,000	3,000	900	200,000	100,000	900	100,000	900	301,000							
		June	1,700,000a	450,000	350,000	12,000	5,400	450,000	360,000	5,400	360,000	5,400	815,000							
		July	1,500,000a	670,000	210,000	11,000	1,900	670,000	220,000	1,900	220,000	1,900	892,000							
		August	1,000,000a	310,000	49,000	3,900	90	310,000	53,000	90	53,000	90	363,000							
		September	1,100,000a	330,000	140,000	4,400	1,000	330,000	140,000	1,000	140,000	1,000	471,000							
May - September	6,200,000a	1,960,000	849,000	34,300	9,290	1,960,000	873,000	9,290	873,000	9,290	2,840,000									
Chulitna River near Talkeetna (15292400)	2,570	May	386,700	90,000	40,000	30,000	50,000	90,000	70,000	50,000	70,000	50,000	210,000							
		June	1,092,000	880,000	400,000	210,000	220,000	880,000	610,000	220,000	610,000	220,000	1,710,000							
		July	1,575,000	1,900,000	750,000	140,000	190,000	1,900,000	890,000	190,000	890,000	190,000	2,980,000							
		August	1,252,000	1,000,000	400,000	110,000	150,000	1,000,000	510,000	150,000	510,000	150,000	1,660,000							
		September	1,085,000	1,200,000	490,000	57,000	70,000	1,200,000	550,000	70,000	550,000	70,000	1,820,000							
May - September	5,390,700	5,070,000	2,080,000	547,000	680,000	5,070,000	2,630,000	680,000	2,630,000	680,000	8,380,000									
Talkeetna River near Talkeetna (15292700)	2,006	May	203,700	30,000	30,000	2,000	2,000	30,000	32,000	2,000	32,000	2,000	64,000							
		June	770,200	150,000	250,000	36,000	45,000	150,000	290,000	45,000	290,000	45,000	485,000							
		July	680,900	310,000	200,000	29,000	11,000	310,000	230,000	11,000	230,000	11,000	551,000							
		August	447,100	56,000	82,000	54,000	4,700	56,000	140,000	4,700	140,000	4,700	201,000							
		September	568,600	82,000	160,000	18,000	21,000	82,000	180,000	21,000	180,000	21,000	283,000							
May - September	2,670,000	628,000	722,000	139,000	83,700	628,000	872,000	83,700	872,000	83,700	1,580,000									
Susitna River at Sunshine (15292780)	11,100	May	1,633,000	400,000	200,000	6,000	10,000	400,000	210,000	10,000	210,000	10,000	620,000							
		June	3,738,000	1,500,000	1,200,000	45,000	130,000	1,500,000	1,200,000	130,000	1,200,000	130,000	2,830,000							
		July	3,876,000	2,800,000	1,400,000	78,000	74,000	2,800,000	1,500,000	74,000	1,500,000	74,000	4,370,000							
		August	2,083,000	1,800,000	600,000	60,000	14,000	1,800,000	660,000	14,000	660,000	14,000	2,470,000							
		September	2,906,000	1,900,000	820,000	52,000	43,000	1,900,000	870,000	43,000	870,000	43,000	2,810,000							
May - September	14,236,000	8,400,000	4,220,000	241,000	271,000	8,400,000	4,440,000	271,000	4,440,000	271,000	13,100,000									

a Estimated