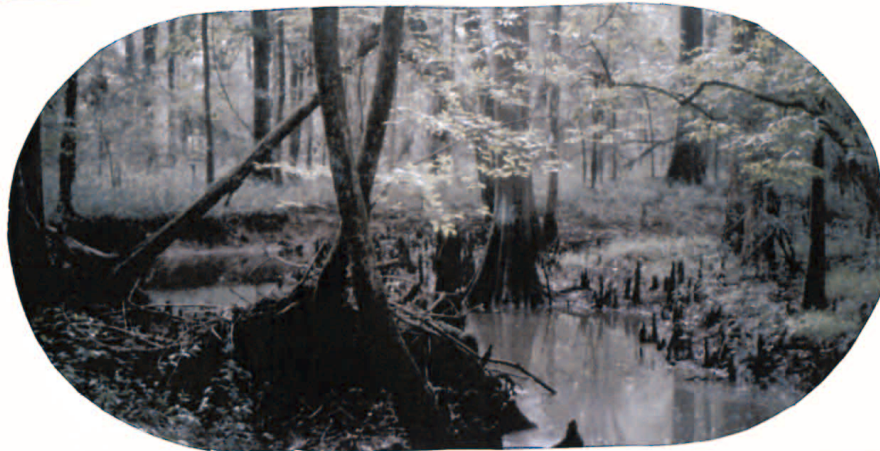




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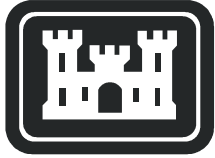
RECONNAISSANCE REPORT

CYPRESS VALLEY WATERSHED TEXAS



SEPTEMBER 1995





**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
Fort Worth District

RESOURCE DOCUMENT
CYPRESS VALLEY
WATERSHED
TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 1995
Revised November 1998

CYPRESS VALLEY WATERSHED

RESOURCE DOCUMENT CYPRESS VALLEY, TEXAS

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FORT WORTH DISTRICT
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

SEPTEMBER 1995
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Cypress Valley Watershed

Resource Document

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

Resource Document

Cypress Valley Watershed Texas

Chapter 1 - Introduction

This report is a resource document that can be used by area residents and communities as they plan for the future of the Cypress Basin. The report presents the findings of investigations made by the Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers, to determine existing conditions in the Cypress Valley Watershed and to identify potential water resources improvements. Findings relating to opportunities for environmental restoration, recreation improvements, flood damage reduction, streambank erosion, source water protection and water quality improvements are discussed. This chapter provides details on the authority, purpose and scope of this investigation, participants, and prior studies performed within the watershed.

STUDY AUTHORITY

The initial funding appropriation for this investigation, the Water Resource Appropriation of 1994 (PL 103-126, signed 28 Oct 1993), contained the following language designating a study of the problems and opportunities in the watershed:

"...The conferees have provided \$600,000 for the Corps of Engineers to conduct a watershed management study of the Cypress Valley Watershed, Texas, in close coordination with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. This study is to be conducted under the authority of the resolution of the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation for the Cypress Bayou Basin."



As noted above, the study was conducted under the authority contained in the following House of Representatives Committee on Public Works and Transportation Resolution dated May 9, 1979, as quoted:

RESOLVED BY THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC WORKS and Transportation of the House of Representatives, United States, that the Board of Engineers for Rivers and Harbors is hereby requested to review reports on Red River and tributaries, Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas, and Louisiana, downstream from Denison Dam, submitted in House Document No. 602, 79th Congress, 2nd Session, and prior reports, with a view to determining if improvements within the Cypress Bayou Basin, Harrison, Gregg, Marion, Camp, Cass, Morris, Titus, Franklin, Wood, and Upshur Counties in Texas and

Caddo Parish, Louisiana, with respect to flood control, ground and surface water supply and conservation, drainage, and other water resources purposes are warranted.

The area of investigation encompasses all of the Cypress Valley watershed. The Cypress Valley watershed is located within the Red River Basin, upstream of Caddo Dam in northeast Texas and northwest Louisiana. The basin is bounded on the north by the Sulphur River Basin, on the west and south by the Sabine River Basin, and on the east by the Texas-Arkansas state boundary and the Red River.

The Red River rises in the high plains country of eastern New Mexico, flows eastward across the Texas Panhandle and forms 440 miles of the boundary between Texas and Oklahoma. The total drainage area of the Red River, exclusive of the Ouachita-Black River system, is 69,200 square miles. The drainage from the upper 39,700 square miles is controlled by Lake Texoma near Denison, Texas. The portion of the Red River basin below lake Texoma and above Fulton, Arkansas, has a drainage area of 12,580 square miles covering parts of southwestern Arkansas, southeastern Oklahoma, and northeastern Texas.

Federal projects completed and in operation (excluding local flood protection projects) are Area V, Red River Basin, Chloride Control Project, Area VIII, Red River Basin, Chloride Control Project, Caddo Dam Replacement, Lake Kemp, Lake Meredith, Lake O• The Pines, Lake Texoma, Pat Mayse Lake, Cooper Lake, and Wright Patman Lake.

The Cypress Valley watershed encompasses approximately 6,000 square miles and three bayous (Big Cypress, Little Cypress, and Black Cypress) comprise the major drainages within the basin. The headwaters of Big Cypress Creek form in southeastern Hopkins County. The creek flows southeasterly and becomes Big Cypress Bayou in Marion County. In Marion County, Big Cypress Bayou is joined from the north by Black Cypress Creek. Big Cypress Bayou is then joined from the south by Little Cypress Bayou in Harrison County. Big Cypress Bayou then flows easterly into Caddo Lake.

This investigation was conducted to address the environmental and water resource problems, needs, and opportunities of the Cypress Valley watershed. The entire Red River Basin is shown in figure 1-1 and the Cypress Valley watershed (investigation area) is shown in figure 2-1.

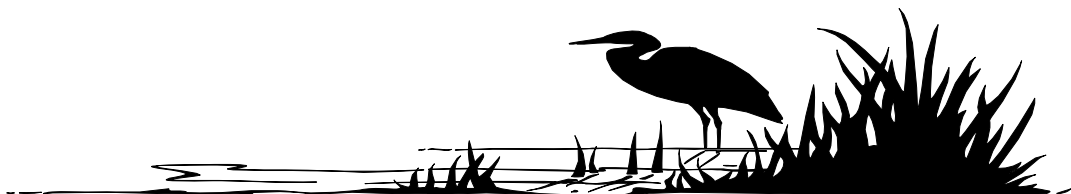
PURPOSE AND SCOPE

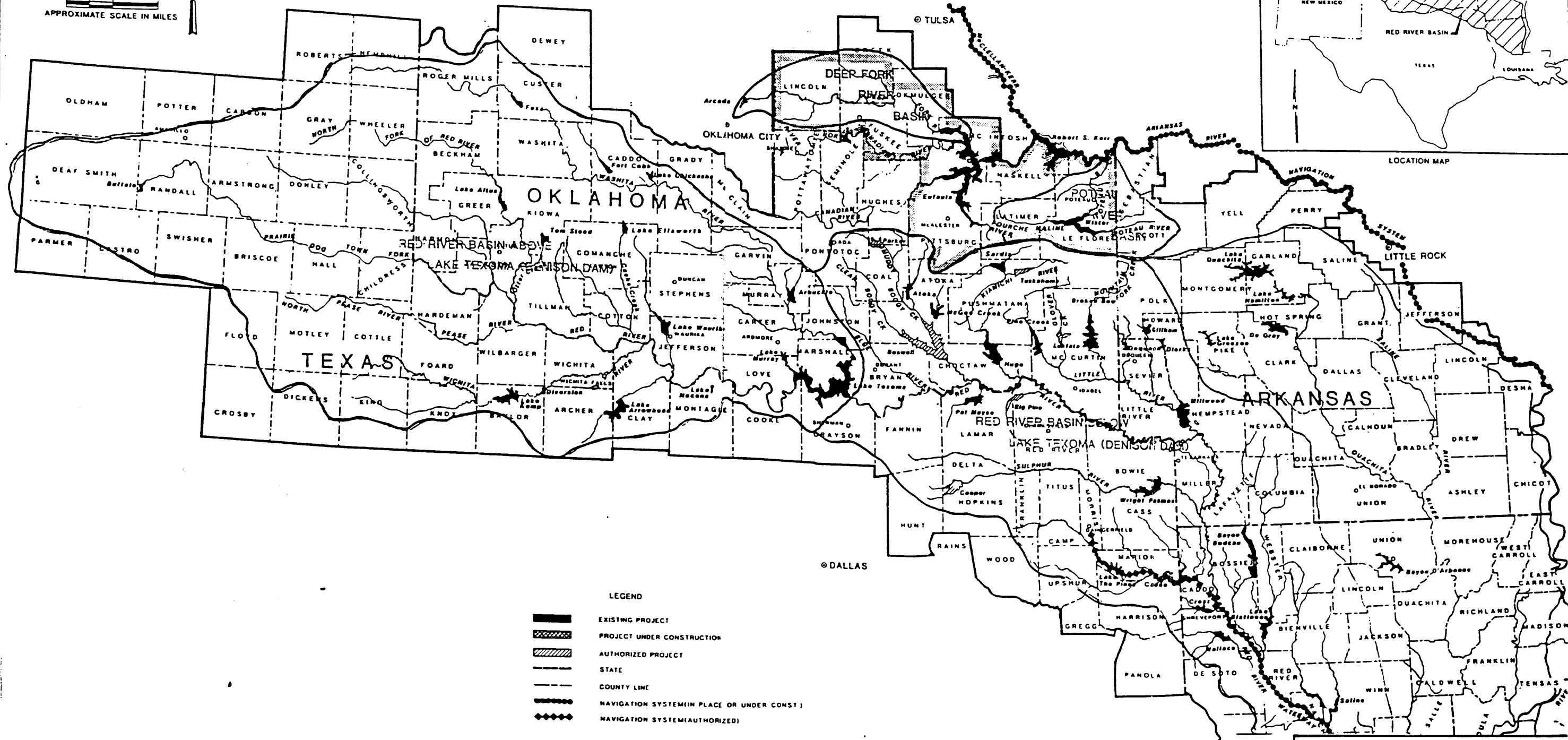
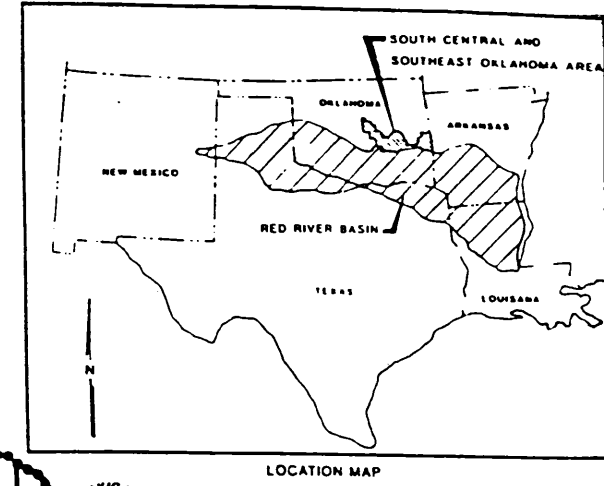
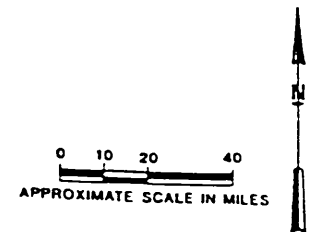
The primary purpose of this investigation was to conduct a watershed management investigation, with a view toward the potential for providing environmental restoration, recreation, source water protection, water supply, and added flood protection measures to alleviate flooding within the Cypress Bayou Watershed. The investigation was requested by the Congressman Jim Chapman (Congressional District Number 1), with support from the city of Jefferson, Texas, and others.

INVESTIGATION PARTICIPANTS

This investigation was conducted by the Fort Worth District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Extensive coordination was maintained throughout the investigation with interested Federal, state, and local government officials, the news media, and citizens in the Cypress Bayou Watershed (mainly the city of Jefferson and the counties of Marion, Harrison, and Upshur). The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) was a major investigation participant and actively assisted in public participation activities. The TPWD was contracted to conduct a major portion of the public involvement functions, gather environmental data, and conduct various environmental analyses. Existing flood plain information developed from prior Federal Emergency Management Agency studies of cities and counties within the Cypress Bayou Watershed aided in these efforts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) was also consulted during this investigation in accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act of 1958 (Public Law 85-624). Their participation included providing a Planning Aid Letter, which investigated the fish and wildlife problems and needs within the Cypress Bayou Watershed. The Texas State Historic Preservation Officer was also kept informed of investigation activities. The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation officials were contacted to obtain bridge profiles and other available transportation related information. Numerous other contacts were made with individual city, county, state, and Federal investigation participants to identify potential project areas, obtain pertinent data, and discuss viable alternatives. The Bureau of Reclamation, who was also performing studies in the area, provided data on water quality issues around Caddo Lake and boat access to the Big Cypress Bayou. The National Biological Service (NBS) provided investigation information on beaver problems, regeneration of cypress trees, and songbirds (which migrate through or nest in the winter months) in the area. The United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service provided recent aerial photographs of the investigation area. Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission provided water quality data and source water protection initiative information. In addition, local real estate companies aided in verifying current land and property values in the investigation area.

Throughout the investigation conduct, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), the Cypress Valley Navigation District, the Cypress Valley Alliance, and the local office of Congressman Chapman assisted in coordinating and disseminating information to the affected governments, local communities, and the general public within the investigation area. All of the above referenced organizations were utilized to varying degrees because of their broad technical knowledge and interest in water resource development within the Cypress Valley Watershed.





- LEGEND
- EXISTING PROJECT
 - PROJECT UNDER CONSTRUCTION
 - AUTHORIZED PROJECT
 - STATE
 - COUNTY LINE
 - NAVIGATION SYSTEM (IN PLACE OR UNDER CONST.)
 - NAVIGATION SYSTEM (AUTHORIZED)

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, FORT WORTH
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
FORT WORTH, TEXAS

CYPRESS VALLEY WATERADHD
TEXAS

RED RIVER BASIN