

## Mississippi River Flood of 1927

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Miss. R.-Drains 41% of the continental U.S.

Transports, on average, 500,000 tons of sediment per day. Much more during floods.

Historically, nation challenged with preventing floods while maintaining river commerce.

Congress, in 1850, ceded swamp and overflow land to states

- LA=9.5M acres
- AR=7.7 M acres
- MO=3.4 M acres
- MS=3.3M acres

Idea was that states would sell land and use proceeds for flood control and drainage.

1881, MS sold 774,000 acres to the Yazoo & Miss. Valley RR.

a few days later, sold 706,000 acres to the Southern RR for \$2,500 and \$46,000 in nearly worthless levee board bonds.

RR helped develop the MS Delta

Two schools of thought in late 1800's for Flood Control of MS. R.

1. levees, cut-offs, reservoirs, outlets or diversions.
2. Levees only.

Levees only won.

By 1927, levees were massive. Towering 30 or more feet above the delta with 421,000 cubic yards of material per mile of levee., some 300 feet wide in total.

Wednesday, September 30, 2020

1927 Flood actually began in August, 1926. Rained heavily and continuously throughout the basin. The only break was a dry period of 6 weeks in Nov.-Dec. Rains began again in January along with unseasonable cold weather.

Flood last from Jan-July 1927.

13 Major Levee crevasses formed.

April 21st, Mounds Landing Levee about 23 miles north of Greenville crevassed. wall of water raced through the Delta, reaching 60 miles to the east and 90 miles to the south, covering the land to a depth of 20 feet in places.

Impact in Washington County, MS.

1. over 200 drown.
2. 11,255 farm animals lost
3. 2,200 buildings destroyed, thousands more damaged.
4. Pre-flood population of the Delta was 931,159
  - a. G.T. 300,000 people rescued from rooftops, trees, etc.
  - b. G.T. 300,000 people housed in camps on the Levees
  - c. G.T. 300,000 others outside of the camps were fed by the Red Cross.

#### AFTERMATH

Flood Control Act of 1928 established the Miss. R. and Tributaries Project (And WES!)

Levees only policy ended

Move from cotton crops to soybeans in the Delta

Population decreased by 50% (Moved North and West)

Ironically, a drought in 1928 ravaged crops

In March, 1928, 12,000 people in Wash. Co. still being fed by Red Cross

10s of thousands in Delta developed Pellagra



# 1927 FLOOD

## Legend

 1927 Flooded Area

**Flooded 26,000 sq. miles**  
**600,000 homeless**  
**Over 250 people killed**  
**Economic Damages ~\$1B**



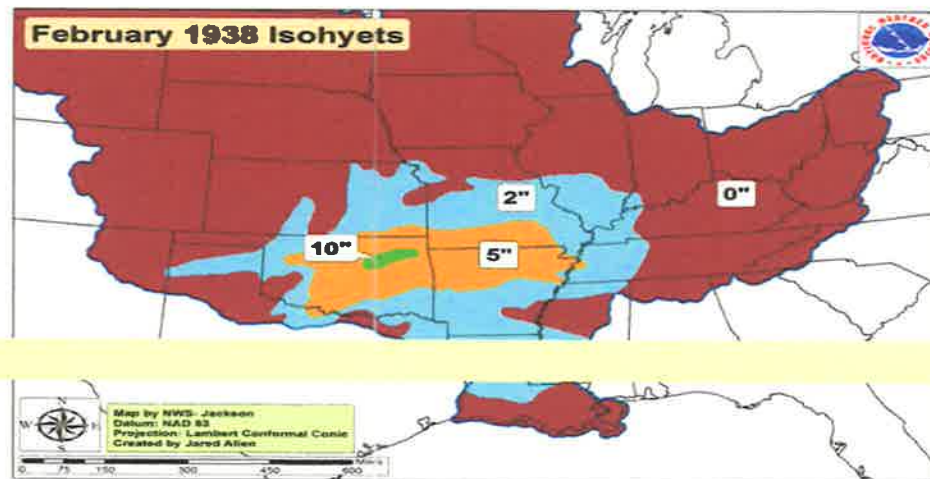
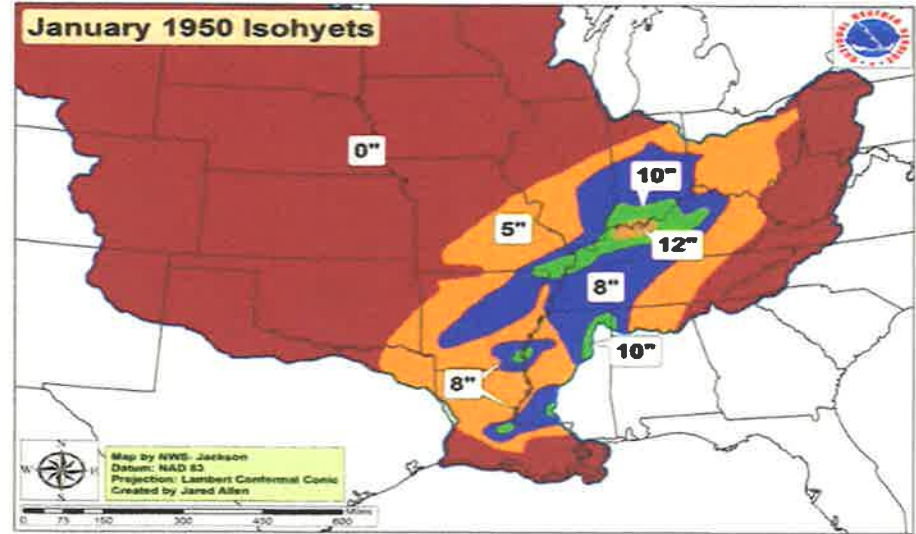
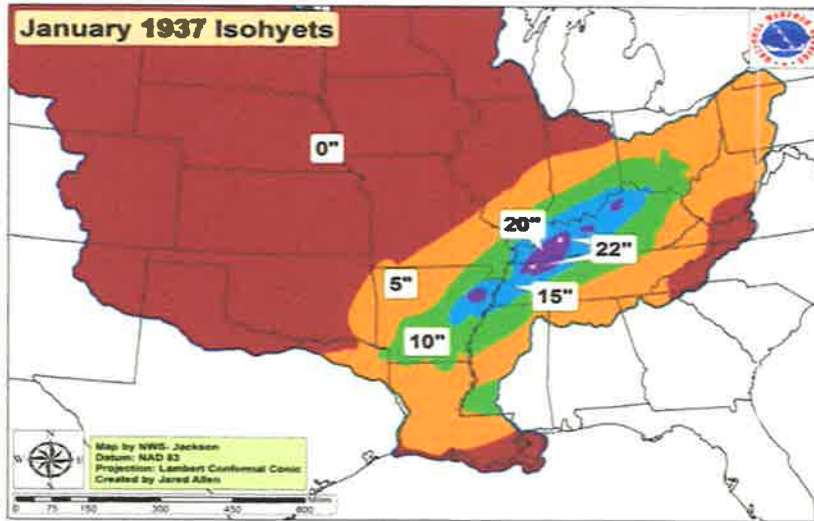


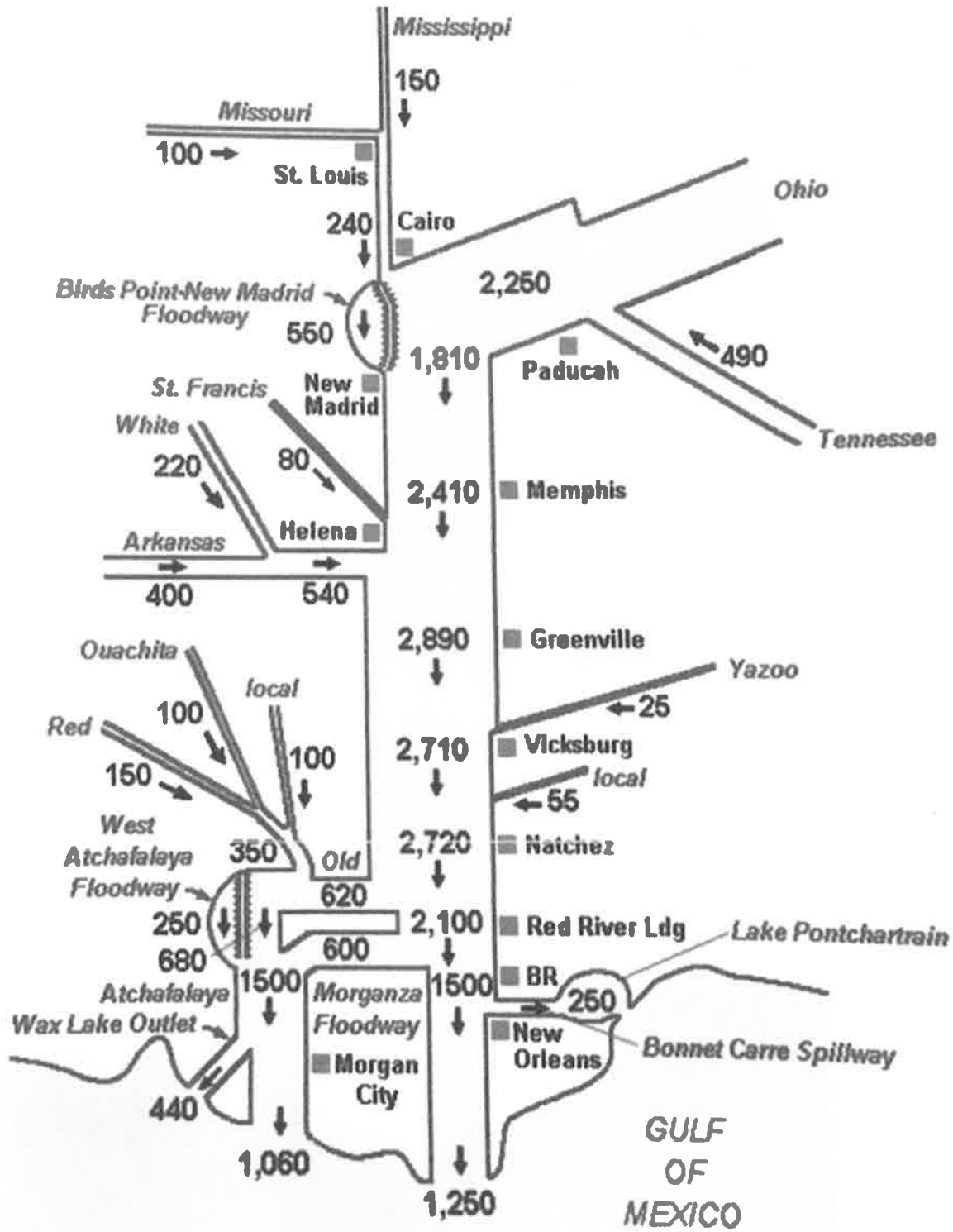
Vicksburg



*Greenville*

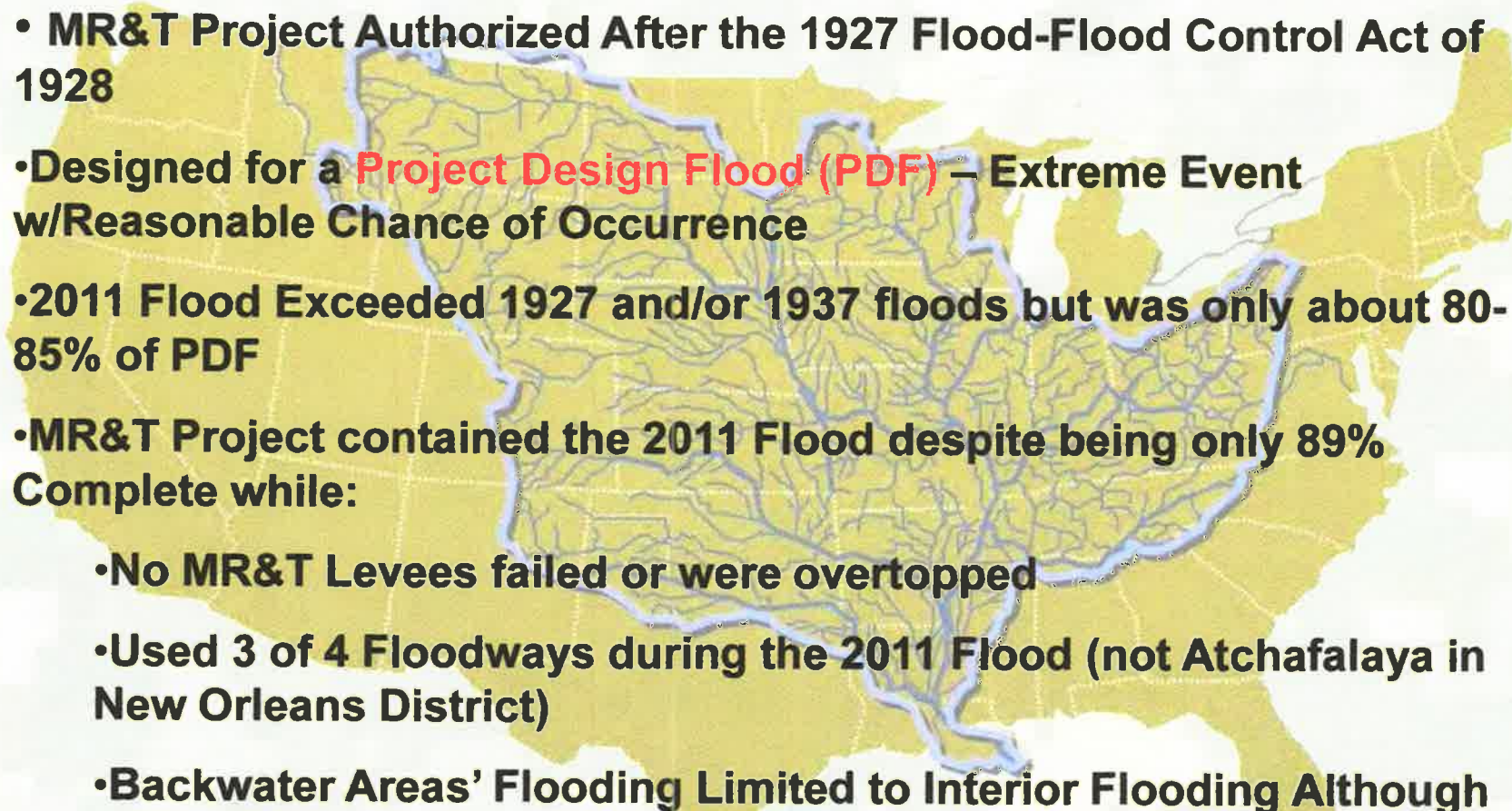
# Project Design Flood Rainfall







# MR&T Project & 2011 Flood Facts

- MR&T Project Authorized After the 1927 Flood-Flood Control Act of 1928
  - Designed for a **Project Design Flood (PDF)** – Extreme Event w/Reasonable Chance of Occurrence
  - 2011 Flood Exceeded 1927 and/or 1937 floods but was only about 80-85% of PDF
  - MR&T Project contained the 2011 Flood despite being only 89% Complete while:
    - No MR&T Levees failed or were overtopped
    - Used 3 of 4 Floodways during the 2011 Flood (not Atchafalaya in New Orleans District)
    - Backwater Areas' Flooding Limited to Inferior Flooding Although Came Close to Using Yazoo BW Area in the Vicksburg Distrit
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- A map of the United States with the Mississippi River basin highlighted in yellow. The river network is shown in blue, extending from the northern plains down to the Gulf of Mexico. The map is overlaid with the text of the slide.