



US Army Corps  
of Engineers  
Vicksburg District

# Project Fact Sheet

## Yazoo Basin, Upper Yazoo Projects, MS

Flood Control Acts of 1936, Sec. 4 and 8a; 1941, Sec. 3b and 3g;  
1946, Sec. 3, 10f, and 10q; and 1965, Sec. 2045

### Mississippi River and Tributaries, Construction (FRM)

**Location:** The Upper Yazoo Projects (UYP) includes channel and levee features along the main channel of the Yazoo, Tallahatchie, and Coldwater Rivers from the vicinity of Yazoo City, MS, to the vicinity of the confluence of Arkabutla Creek with the Coldwater River.

**Description:** The project provides much needed flood risk reduction for this region by decreasing flood stages up to 3 feet in most areas. The project began in 1976 near Yazoo City and had advanced to near Sidon, MS before the project was reformulated in 1994. Reformulation resulted in approximately 130.3 miles of channel enlargement in nine segments from Sidon to Darling, MS. The project focuses on cleaning out and restoring channel capacity to the Yazoo River and its tributaries. Before initiating construction on the UYP, about 1.1 million acres were subject to the 100-year flood. Damages totaled more than \$18,600,000 annually, including \$3,000,000 in urban damages and 700,000 acres of agricultural land subject to inundation. To date, 12,400 acres of mitigation lands have been acquired. A total of 16,250 acres of mitigation land is required for this project.

**Issues:** Absence of funding will delay remaining flood control and economic benefits to the area by not allowing the initiation of any new construction items. Currently there are 29,000 people protected in the 100-year flood plain. In the past five years there has been significant bank caving in these channels which greatly diminishes the conveyance and increases the flooding in the area.

**Importance:** The project provides flood protection for 8,900 square miles in this region through reduction of flood stages up to 3 feet in most areas. Approximately 26 million cubic yards of material will be excavated at the project's completion providing an average conveyance increase of approximately 50 percent over current channel capacity. Existing flooding damages would be reduced by 55 percent. To date, we have invested \$297,000,000 that allowed protection to almost 90,000 acres of urban and agricultural land. There is still over 47,000 acres that remain unprotected. Due to the highly erodible soils of the Mississippi Delta, it is imperative that this project is completed to increase conveyance and stabilize banks along the Yazoo River. This project also allows us to operate the four North MS Reservoirs

more efficiently to provide flood protection to the entire Yazoo Basin, allowing us to store water in the spring and release during the crop season and not carry floodwaters over from one flood season to another.

**Risk:** Impacts include loss of life, isolation of homes and numerous rural communities and months of flooding.

**Consequence:** Commercial impacts include roads, agricultural and timber production. Farmland is at risk of flooding, resulting in devastation of the primary economic engine of the region. Environmental losses of terrestrial habitat and wildlife would be significant.



**Construction along the bank of the Tallahatchie River  
Item 6B near Phillip, MS**

**Activities for FY 20:** There are no funds in the FY20 President's Budget for this project.

**Acquisition Strategy:** N/A

**Amount That Could Be Used in FY 21:** There are no funds in the FY 21 President's Budget for this project. Funds in the amount of \$14,750,000 could be used to evaluate and design Item 7D Phase II and Item 8A (\$750,000), construct Item 7D Phase II (\$12,000,000), acquire lands necessary for Item 8A (\$500,000), and update the Water Control Master Plan (\$1,500,000).

**Project Sponsor/Customer:** The Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board

**Congressional Interest:** Senate: Hyde-Smith and Wicker (MS); House: Thompson (MS-2)

Phase	Estimated Federal Cost of Phase	Federal Funding Thru FY 19	FY 20 Allocation	FY 21 Budget	FY 21 Total Capability
Construction	\$476,000,000	\$331,566,431	\$0	N/A	\$14,750,000