

BLACK WARRIOR
ALABAMA

Drawer 35

Dr 35

BLACK WARRIOR - ALABAMA
September 13, 1963

I. RIVER AREA INVENTORY FORM

A. General Information:

1. Name of river: Black Warrior
2. Location of study unit(s): Tributaries of the Black Warrior, the Mulberry Fork from John Hollis Bankhead Lock and Dam upstream to U. S. Highway 228. Locust Fork from headwaters of John Hollis Bankhead Lock and Dam to a location two miles northeast up to Locust at Highway 278 crossing.
3. State(s): Alabama
4. County(ies): Blount, Cullman, Walker and Jefferson
5. Major drainage basin (see appendix A): Number 2 - South Atlantic and Eastern Gulf of Mexico Basin (Black Warrior-Tombigbee Basin)
6. Population within 50 miles: 1,600,000; 150 miles: 6,800,000; 250 miles: 15,000,000.
7. Weather characteristics by seasons and inclusive dates when study unit(s) is best suited for public use and normal weather conditions during that period: Winter season, December-March, moderately cold and damp. Spring, May-June, warm with considerable rain. Summer, July-August, hot with thunderstorms. Fall, September-November, cool and dry. Maximum recreational use of the river would be during the warmer months with emphasis in July and August.

B. Description and characteristics of river (by study unit(s)):

1. Number of miles in study unit(s): Locust Fork - 60 miles; Mulberry Fork - 62 miles.
2. Width characteristics: Both tributary streams are of uniform tapered width varying from 50 feet near headwaters area to 100 feet near head of reservoir.
3. Depth characteristics: Most streams are generally similar in depth characteristics with shallow shoals and deeper pools. Silting has been moderate to severe.
4. Flow characteristics: Flow of these tributaries from moderate to sluggish. High flow occurring during late winter and early spring. Low flow in latter part of summer and early fall.

5. Course characteristics and stability: These streams are sinuously meandering in a relatively stable bed.
 6. Bed material: Some bedrock observed, light gravel, stratified shoals, and heavy siltation noted. Siltation is encrusted on rocks and banks along the entire distance of study area.
 7. Water quality (kind, degree and source of pollution): Some pollution noted in headwaters. This became more severe in areas where strip mining was prevalent. Primary in the lower third of the study area.
 8. Type of fishery (warm or cold water) and dominant species of fish (commercial and sport): Fisheries of warm water type, largemouth bass, few spotted bass, bluegills, sunfish, catfish, and related species.
- C. Description and characteristics of setting (by study unit(s)):
1. Nature of topography: Moderate to steep rolling hills.
 2. Ecological type (deciduous, coniferous, prairie, desert, shrub, or other) and brief description: Mixed pine-hardwood forest throughout the area.
 3. Important species of wildlife and status: Big game - moderate population of deer. Small game consists of squirrel, fox, raccoon, possum, rabbit, bobwhite quail, dove, etc.
- D. River access:
1. Types and locations of public access (spot on map): Access by Federal, state, and county roads crossing and paralleling study areas.
 2. Factors limiting public access (physical, legal): Steep abutments at many of the highway crossings and private ownership along the river.
- E. Special scientific, educational and esthetic values:
1. Geologic: These rivers transect several formations which are of major geologic importance.
 2. Biotic: The biotic communities in this area are those normally found in central and northern Alabama consisting of a mixed deciduous tree community.

3. Historic: History in this area is insignificant.
4. Archeologic: Indian sites are located in the study area, they are few and insignificant.

F. Present quality of recreation and environmental factors limiting quality:

<u>Kinds</u>	<u>Quality</u>				<u>Environmental Limiting Factors</u>
	<u>Excellent</u>	<u>Good</u>	<u>Fair</u>	<u>Poor</u>	
Boating:					
Motor				X	This activity is restricted to impounded areas downstream from study unit.
Non-motor		X to	X		Low water during much of the year.
Fishing			X		Heavy siltation is a limiting factor
Hunting					
Big game			X		
Small game		X to	X		
Waterfowl			X to	X	
Camping			X to	X	
Swimming				X	
Hiking			X to	X	
Sightseeing			X to	X	
Nature study			X		

G. Classification of study unit(s) (according to six ORRRC classes):

Class 3, Natural Environment Area. This is not considered a good example of the classification.

H. Status of economic development:

1. Characterize the economy of the general river area. Entire area of the study unit is eligible for assistance under the Area Redevelopment Act. Economy is based on coal and iron ore mining (mainly strip mining), agriculture in the upper two-thirds of the study area.
2. Is the economy growing, declining, stagnant: What economic activities are there that are growing, declining: From all outward appearances, economy of this area would appear to be declining. Reference is made to number 1 in this category.
3. Describe the transportation routes to and through the general river area (rail, air, boat, auto) and facilities (such as landing strips, etc.): Air and rail transportation converging on Birmingham. Commercial bus transportation available in small towns adjacent to river. Federal, State and county roads criss-cross the two branches of the study area in a close network.

I. Describe present development and give the status of plans for water resource developments in the general area by Federal agencies and others that would drastically and permanently affect the study unit(s):

There appear to be no recreational or other developments on the river at this time. There are no Federal developments above the John Hollis Bankhead Reservoir and Dam. The Warrior River Electric Cooperative Association is now constructing a dam on Locust Fork and has a license to construct an additional dam on Locust Fork and has a permit to study dam sites on Mulberry Fork. Location of these dams and studies is not known at this time.

J. What impact (detrimental or beneficial) will the following uses (present or planned) have on the qualities of the study unit(s):

1. Agriculture: From aerial observations, agricultural patterns seem good with some contour farming noted. It is expected that this will continue and possibly improve in the future.
2. Forestry: Commercial forestry in this area does not appear to be a factor at this time.
3. Mining: Lower third of area has been and is being badly cut up with strip mining. Little evidence of activity of this nature in upper two-thirds of the study area.
4. Transportation: Highway construction north of Birmingham crosses study area near town of Cullman, Alabama.

5. Industry: With the exception of mining activities, the study area shows no industrialization.

6. Recreation: Recreational activities apparently limited to local residents.

K. Condition of headwater lands and trends in management:

Headwaters of Black Warrior tributaries heavily forested. Management appeared satisfactory.

L. Land ownership (general pattern of Federal, State and private ownerships)(show on map): All lands in the study area appear to be in private ownership.

M. Actions that have been taken or are planned to protect the natural qualities of the river and its environment (such as special State legislation, zoning, easements, etc.):

State and Federal agencies are working with private landowners to improve land management. Whether efforts are being made to control strip mining activities is unknown.

O. Sources of reference and information (maps, reports, agencies, persons, etc.):

Field observations by study group including aerial flights. Highway and back road cruising of area by study group. USGS Topographic maps; State, county and local highway maps; U. S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Resource Developments in Alabama, 1961; U. S. Department of Commerce, Area Redevelopment Administration, publication, May 1, 1963. Interview with local residents.

Q. Method of study:

Investigation was made by car along segments of roads leading to or along river. Aerial flights were made over entire river area. A great deal of information was obtained from such secondary sources as maps, Corps of Engineers reports, and interviews.

R. Period of study:

A field study was made during all or part of a two-day period, August 26 and 27, 1963.

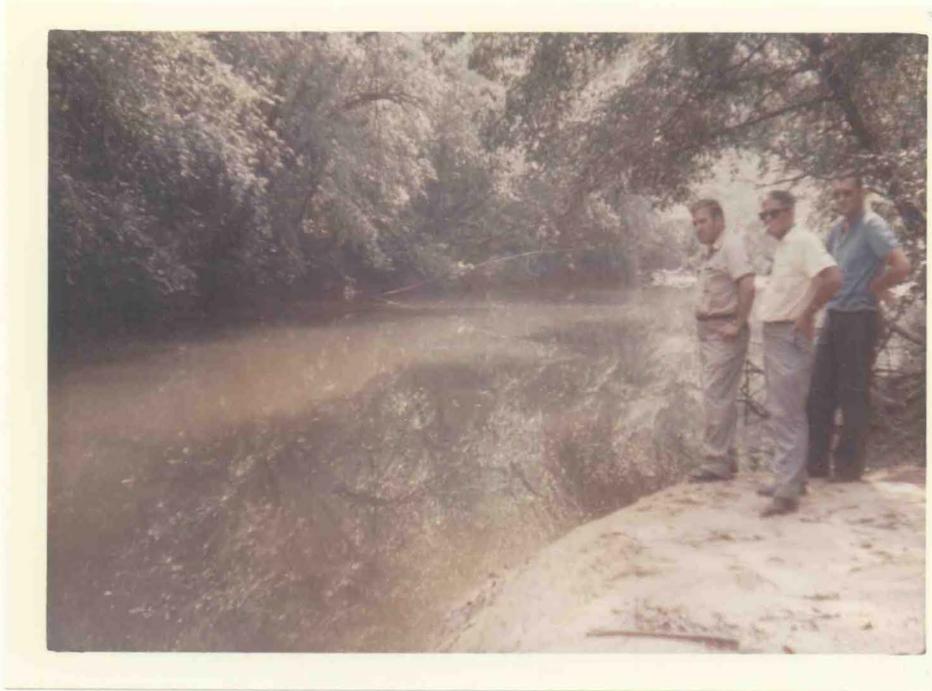
BLACK WARRIOR RIVER-
ALA.
September 13, 1963



1. Tributary of Black Warrior near headwaters showing siltation.



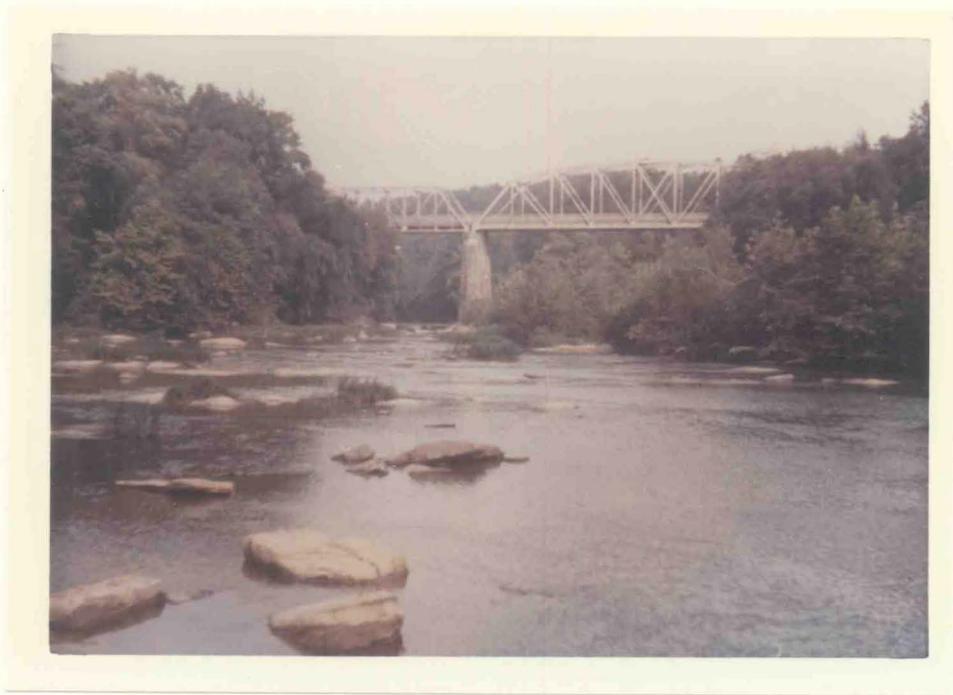
2. Rocky shoal with silt encrusted boulders.



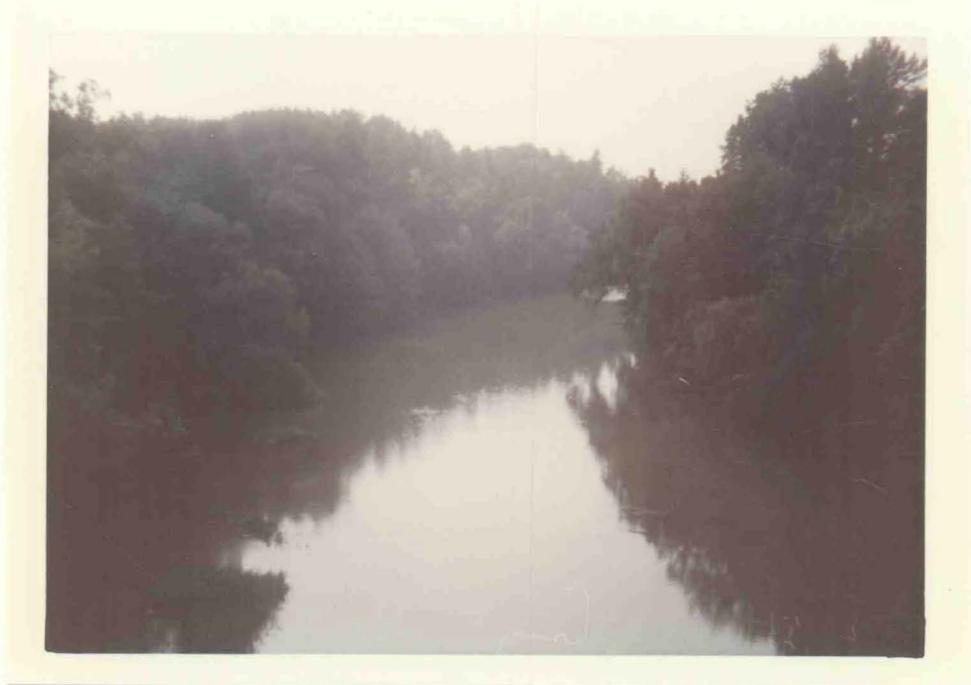
3. Quiet pool with sand-silt bar.



4. Typical river scene with silted channel and mine waste.



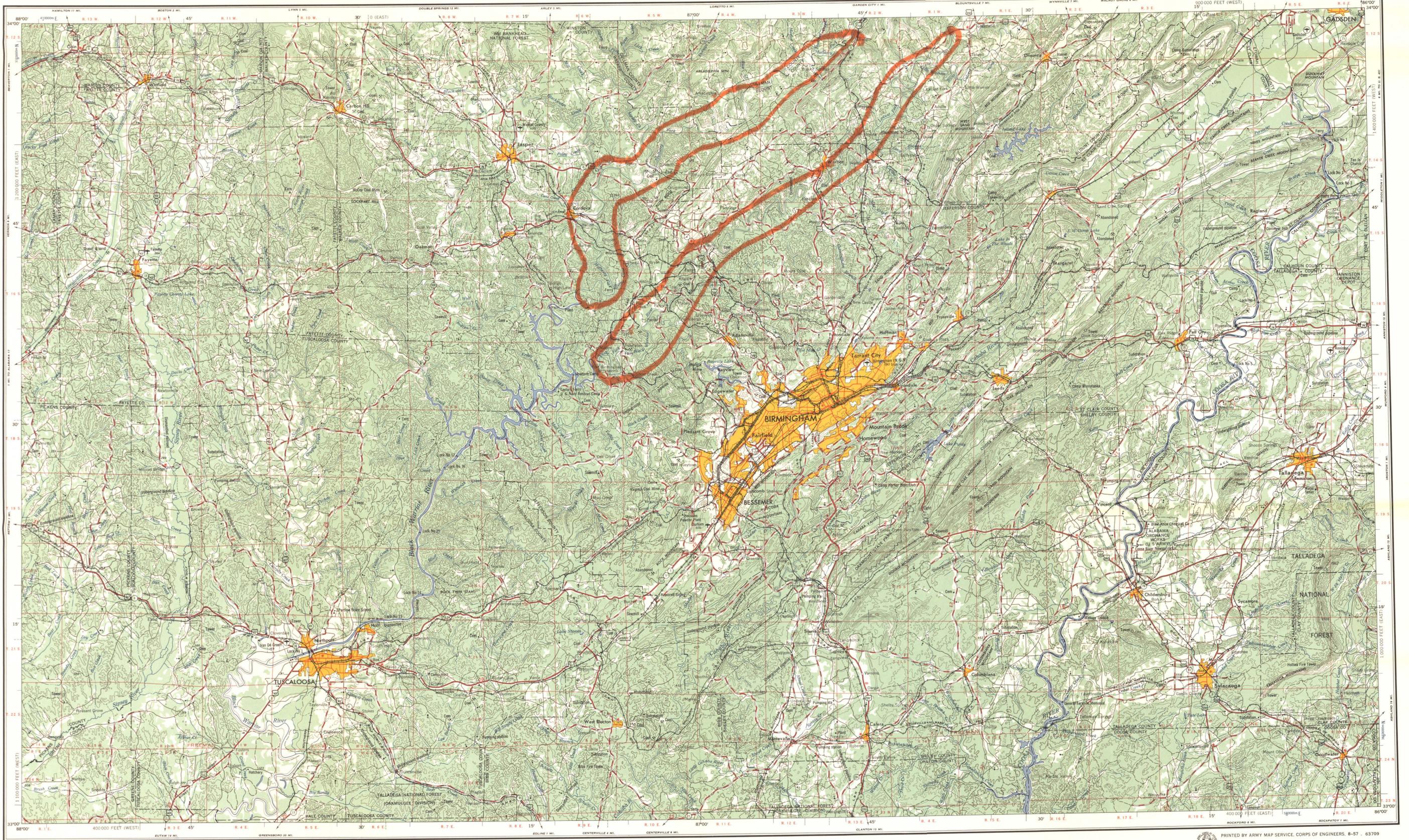
5. Rocky aspect of river channels in lower sections.



6. Channel deepens near impoundments.

"In the case of the Black Warrior River, I have helped organize an annual white water canoe trip on various headwater branches of this stream for the past several years, originally starting with the Locust Fork Branch which has now been 'lost' to the impounded waters of the Louis Smith Dam which reservoir our firm basically cruised for acquisition purposes. In this area occurred the unique ecological situation of eastern hemlock growing side by side, in certain areas, with longleaf pine which to any forester or botanist is a somewhat startling situation. Since the construction of said dam in a long box canyon, our canoeing has shifted primarily to the Mulberry Fork which lacks the hemlock stands, but perhaps contains even better white water canoeing runs when the river is sufficiently high."

Excerpt from letter of August 26, 1963, to Edward Gratta from
John K. Brasley, President, Southern Timber Management Service, Inc.,
Birmingham, Alabama.



Prepared by the Army Map Service (AJEE), Corps of Engineers, U. S. Army, Washington, D. C. Compiled in 1955 by photogrammetric methods. Horizontal and vertical control by USGS, USCGS and CE. Aerial photography 1952. Photographic field annotated 1963.

100,000-foot grids based on Alabama coordinate system, west and east zones

10,000 meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks, zone 18, shown in blue

LEGEND

ROAD DATA 1953
Figures in red denote approximate distances in miles between stars

POPULATED PLACES

Over 500,000	Large circle	BOSTON
100,000 to 500,000	Medium circle	RICHMOND
25,000 to 100,000	Small circle	EVANSTON
5,000 to 25,000	Circle with dot	Hialeah
1,000 to 5,000	Circle with cross	Bar
Less than 1,000	Circle with star	Harbor

RAILROADS

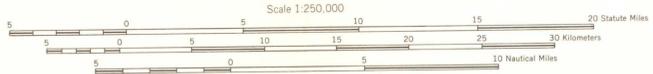
Single track	Single line
Double or Multiple	Double line
Standard gauge	Standard line
Narrow gauge	Narrow line

BOUNDARIES

International	Thick dashed line
State	Thin dashed line
County	Dotted line
Park or reservation	Thin solid line

Other Symbols:

- Landmarks: School, Church, Other, etc.
- Horizontal control point
- Landing area
- Spot elevation in feet
- Marsh or swamp
- Intermittent or dry stream
- Power line



CONTOUR INTERVAL 100 FEET
WITH SUPPLEMENTARY CONTOURS AT 50 FOOT INTERVALS
TRANSVERSE MERCATOR PROJECTION

1963 MAGNETIC DECLINATION FOR THIS SHEET VARIES FROM 4°00' EASTERLY FOR THE CENTER OF THE WEST EDGE TO 2°30' EASTERLY FOR THE CENTER OF THE EAST EDGE. MEAN ANNUAL CHANGE IS 0°01' WESTERLY.

FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

LOCATION DIAGRAM FOR NI 16-8

ARKANSAS NI 15-3 MISSOURI NI 15-4 MISSOURI NI 15-9 MISSOURI NI 15-12 MISSOURI NI 15-3	KENTUCKY NI 16-1 Tennessee NI 16-4 Tennessee NI 16-7 MISSISSIPPI NI 16-10 MISSISSIPPI NI 16-11 MISSISSIPPI NI 16-11 MISSISSIPPI NI 16-11	LOUISIANA NI 16-2 LOUISIANA NI 16-5 LOUISIANA NI 16-8 LOUISIANA NI 16-11 LOUISIANA NI 16-12 LOUISIANA NI 16-2 LOUISIANA NI 16-3 LOUISIANA NI 16-3 LOUISIANA NI 16-3	MISSISSIPPI NI 17-1 MISSISSIPPI NI 17-4 MISSISSIPPI NI 17-7 MISSISSIPPI NI 17-10 MISSISSIPPI NI 17-10 MISSISSIPPI NI 17-10 MISSISSIPPI NI 17-10 MISSISSIPPI NI 17-10 MISSISSIPPI NI 17-10
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TOWNSHIP OR RANGE LINE
LAND GRANT BOUNDARY

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

II. CRITERIA

Based on the information and impressions gained during the study, evaluate the river area against the following five criteria. To qualify for further consideration for status in a national system of wild rivers, a river area should meet all of these criteria.

1. The river is still relatively undeveloped, unpolluted, and free-flowing and the scene as viewed from the river is pleasing whether primitive or rural-pastoral, or these conditions must be capable of restoration as far as practicable and within foreseeable legislative, financial, and technical capabilities.

Yes _____

No X

Pollution has progressed to the extent that it is felt it would be economically unfeasible if not technically impossible to reclaim this river.

2. The river area possesses recreation, scientific, historic, or esthetic values of outstanding quality.

Yes _____

No X

Although the river has certain qualities, and may be used for recreational purposes locally, it is not considered of outstanding quality for the purposes of this report. Power dams being constructed on Locust Fork will have a profound effect on that segment of the study area.

3. The river area is large enough to sustain existing public recreation use or accumulate more without resulting in appreciable reduction of the quality of the experience or damage to the resource (rule of thumb: 50 miles long and 50 feet wide).

Yes X

No _____

Recreational use at the present time is light and of local origin. Expansion of this type of use will undoubtedly occur as population in the area increases.

4. The quality, size, and uniqueness of the river and its setting is of sufficient importance to attract use from beyond the boundaries of the locality and state(s) and would appear to outweigh other uses of the river.

Yes _____

No X

With the elimination of siltation and pollution caused by strip mining, this river could develop into a pleasant recreational stream for local use. It is not felt that it would attract visitation from outside of a regional area. Since the Locust Fork is being impounded, the Mulberry Fork appears to be one of the three remaining free-flowing streams in this area; therefore, it should be protected by local and state authorities for this remaining characteristic.

5. Plans for other uses of the river or its setting that would permanently and drastically impair the natural conditions have not progressed to the point that construction has commenced.

Yes _____

No X

On the Locust Fork Branch, the Warrior River Electric Cooperative Association has broken ground for one dam and has license for another.