Yazoo Pump: Protecting people or political pork?

By LARRY MOWRY

Editor's Note: This is the first of a four-part series examining the status of the Yazoo and Big Black river basin flood control projects. These projects, which total over $8 billion in costs, were approved by the United States Congress in the mid-1950s and are the largest flood control projects ever undertaken in the nation. The Yazoo Pump Project is one of the two most controversial projects in the United States, with the other being the Army Corps of Engineers' plan to build a new lock-and-dam complex on the Mississippi River.

Yazoo Pump Project: The Yazoo Pump Project is one of the most controversial flood control projects in the United States. The project was approved by Congress in the mid-1950s and is designed to protect the flood-prone areas of the Yazoo River basin, which includes parts of Mississippi, Alabama, and Tennessee. The project includes the construction of a large pump plant that will be used to divert water from the Yazoo River to the Mississippi River, thereby reducing the risk of flooding in the Yazoo basin.

The Yazoo Pump Project was initially conceived as a way to alleviate the flooding problems in the Yazoo basin, which had been worsened by the construction of the Tennessee Valley Authority's (TVA) Wilson Dam on the Tennessee River. The dam has caused a significant rise in the water levels of the Yazoo River, leading to increased flooding in the Yazoo basin. The Yazoo Pump Project was designed to help alleviate this problem by diverting water from the Yazoo River to the Mississippi River, thereby reducing the risk of flooding.

The project was initially met with resistance from landowners in the Yazoo basin, who feared that it would result in the loss of valuable farmland and wetlands. However, Congress eventually approved the project, and construction began in the late 1950s.

The Yazoo Pump Project was completed in 1967, and it has been in operation ever since. The project has been controversial throughout its history, with opponents arguing that it has not lived up to its intended purpose and is a waste of taxpayer money. Opponents also argue that the project has had negative environmental impacts, including the loss of wetlands and the disruption of aquatic ecosystems.

In recent years, the Yazoo Pump Project has come under increased scrutiny, with calls for it to be redesigned or even terminated. Opponents of the project argue that it is no longer needed and should be decommissioned, while supporters argue that it remains an important tool for flood control in the Yazoo basin.

WHERE DOES IT STAND NOW? The Yazoo Pump Project is currently operating at a reduced capacity, with much of its capacity reserved for emergency use. The United States Army Corps of Engineers is responsible for managing the project and ensuring that it is operating as intended. The Corps of Engineers is also responsible for monitoring the project's performance and making adjustments as necessary.

The Yazoo Pump Project is a significant piece of infrastructure, and its maintenance and operation are critical to the safety and well-being of the communities in the Yazoo basin. However, the project's future is uncertain, and it will be up to Congress and the Corps of Engineers to determine its fate.

Who are the people here who are concerned about the Yazoo Pump Project? The Yazoo Pump Project has a significant impact on the people who live in the Yazoo basin, and they have a vested interest in its operation and maintenance. The project's impact is felt in multiple ways, including the economic impact on the local economy and the impact on the environment.

The Yazoo Pump Project is a complex and controversial issue, and it will be up to Congress and the Corps of Engineers to determine its future. The project's impact on the people who live in the Yazoo basin is significant, and they should be involved in any decisions about its future.
Yazoo Pump: Whose homes here are flooding?

According to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency report, 257 homes were flooded in the Yazoo Basin between 1978-2002. Of those homes, 143 were protected by the Yazoo Backwater Levee in 1960. The agency estimates that the levee saved homes and property from flooding.

Not so much any more

The signs of South Delta homes flooded and others threatened, like those during the flood of 1973, are once common. However, the construction of water control structures and the completion of the Backwater Levee in 1960 have greatly reduced residential flooding here.

Population Location Analysis
Southern Areas of Sharkey & Issaquena Counties

On Jan. 21, 2001, the U.S. Senate passed a $6 million funding bill for the Yazoo Backwater Levee Project. How many of its benefits are as old as the levee itself?

Local residents have been able to save their homes from flooding by participating in the flood insurance program. As the flood insurance program evolves, the need for flood insurance coverage increases. In the future, the Yazoo Backwater Levee will continue to protect homes and property from flooding.
Yazoo Pump: Is it really a farm project?

Lots of trees

The United States government is the largest landowner in southern Sharkey and Issaquena counties and most of that land, along with several large private holdings, is

The Corps of Engineers is the largest landowner in the Yazoo Basin, and its holdings include the entire Yazoo National Wildlife Refuge, which is the largest of its kind in the country. The refuge covers over 120,000 acres and is managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The Yazoo Basin is located in the Mississippi Delta, and its water management system has been in place since the 1930s. The system includes a network of dikes, levees, and canals that control flooding and provide irrigation for agriculture.

The Yazoo Project, which was completed in the 1940s, was designed to prevent flooding in the Delta and improve the navigation of the Mississippi River. The project involved the construction of levees, dikes, and canals that cover over 800,000 acres of land.

The Yazoo Project has been controversial, with some people arguing that it has led to the loss of habitat for wildlife and the displacement of people. Others have praised the project for its benefits, including improved agriculture and navigation.

Today, the Yazoo Project is still managed by the Corps of Engineers, and it continues to be a source of debate and controversy. Some people argue that the project should be expanded, while others advocate for its contraction or even its complete removal.
Yazoo Pump: Which names, numbers, correct? The Yazoo Drainage District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi River Commission, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the State Water Board have all been involved in the Yazoo Project for years, with conflicting reports and numbers. The Yazoo Project is a flood control project that has been a source of controversy for many years. The project was intended to help control flooding in the Yazoo River Basin, which includes parts of Mississippi, Louisiana, and Arkansas. However, the project has faced numerous challenges, including cost overruns, environmental concerns, and disputes over the project's effectiveness.

The Yazoo Project was authorized by Congress in 1950 and has been in operation since the 1960s. The project includes a series of levees, dams, and flood control structures designed to protect the area from flooding by the Yazoo River and its tributaries. The project has been controversial due to its cost and environmental impact, as well as questions about its effectiveness in controlling flooding.

The project has faced numerous delays and budget overruns, with estimates of the project's cost increasing significantly over time. In 2003, the Corps of Engineers estimated the project's cost at $6.4 billion, while in 2017, the estimate was increased to $8 billion. The project has also faced numerous environmental challenges, including concerns about the impact of the project on the Yazoo River and its wildlife.

The Yazoo Project has been a source of disagreement among stakeholders, including state officials, environmental groups, and local communities. The project has been criticized for its cost and environmental impact, as well as questions about its effectiveness in controlling flooding. Despite these challenges, the Yazoo Project remains a significant part of the nation's flood control infrastructure and continues to be a source of debate and controversy.