



Figure 5.6. Monthly suspended-sediment loads at 08151500 Llano River at Llano, Texas, from August 1942 to September 1982 (data from Stout, Bentz, and Ingram 1961; Adey and Cook 1964; Cook 1967, 1970; Mirabal 1974; Quincy 1988). Suspended sediment transport is episodic with three months of over 1,000,000 metric tons and eighty-five months of less than 100 metric tons. *Source: Frank Heitmuller dissertation*

The above chart is from Dr. Frank Heitmuller's dissertation on the [geomorphology of the Llano River](#). Up until the early 1980s, sediment data were regularly collected by USGS.

February 20, 2015

What is of interest here is the amount of sediment that passed the Llano gage in 1952. That flood peaked at 232,000 cfs and carried 5 times the amount of sediment that the flood of 1948 (108,000 cfs) or the flood of 1978 (139,000 cfs) carried. The other

large flood event during that period was in 1980 (210,000 cfs).

What does that tell us? Yes, 1952 was a large flood, but the drought conditions in the watershed resulted in far greater sediment runoff, likely due to the lack of ground cover.