



From this multi-origin misery, multiple changes occurred. The Corps reversed its policy on a number of flood control projects. In revised reports, it concluded that construction was justified by the need for public work relief and the suffering caused by recurring floods. Even more dramatic policy changes lay ahead.

“Little less than an economic and environmental revolution,” said Settle, arose in the region after many forces were united by “the floods of the 1920s, 1930s, and 1940s in the Arkansas and Red River basins; the hot, dry years of the 1930s; and realization of the inadequacy of the industrial development.”

THE HISTORIC 1936

FLOOD CONTROL ACT. National flood control policy reached a true watershed point when Congress passed the 1936 Flood Control Act, which made sweeping changes in policy.

It established flood control as “a proper activity of the federal government” in cooperation with state and local governments.

It assigned the Corps chief responsibility for federal flood control measures.

It authorized 211 flood control works in 31 states, at \$300 million cost.

And it established the practice of multipurpose planning. This meant that federal river basin development would include flood control, hydropower, soil conservation, navigation, and water supply. By this action, it increased the factors used to determine economic benefits.¹³