

# **CHAPTER 4**

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## **SECTION 4.01 - INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) procedures and accepted methodologies for hydrologic analyses for roadway design. The procedures and methodologies presented in this chapter assume that the designer has a basic understanding of the science of hydrology and its principles. Additionally, the designer should also be familiar with regulations and requirements of various State and Federal agencies that regulate water-related construction as they may affect TDOT projects.

Hydrology is generally defined as the science dealing with the interrelationship between water on and under the earth and in the atmosphere. For this manual, hydrology will consist of estimating storm water runoff discharge rates and/or volumes from precipitation for the design of the highway drainage system and any required cross drainage structures. In general, only computed peak flow rates will be required from the hydrologic analyses. Runoff hydrographs and volumes will be required only under special circumstances such as when designing a permanent detention basin or temporary sediment basin.

In urban or urbanizing areas, the designer should consider the impact changing land use conditions would have on the size and capacity of the roadway drainage system and cross drainage structures.

The sections of this chapter of the Manual will present the hydrologic design criteria for the components of the roadway drainage system and cross drainage structures, recommended methods, and approved software. The Appendix of this chapter contains example computations and procedures of the various topics presented within this chapter. Additionally the Appendix contains a glossary or terms, list of references, and a list of abbreviations used in the text of this chapter. All of these are included to assist the designer during the design process.

## **SECTION 4.02 - DOCUMENTATION PROCEDURES**

The designer will be responsible to document the hydrologic analyses performed for the roadway design. The documentation should contain drainage area maps, hand calculations, and hardcopy and electronic files of the computer model input and output. The documentation should be organized by drainage type design (ditch design, culvert, storm sewer, etc.) and by roadway station from the beginning to the end of the improvement.

Two drainage area maps will be required in the documentation. The drainage areas should be delineated on the project aerial mapping. The scale of the drainage area map should be at an adequate scale to be legible and show sufficient detail to document the assumptions in the hydrologic analyses. For drainage areas that extend beyond the limits of the project aerial mapping, the drainage areas should be delineated on USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps. The project alignment should be plotted on the USGS topographic map. In addition to the drainage area boundaries, the maps should also include information supporting the calculations for time of concentration, runoff coefficient or curve number, computed area and/or sub-areas, etc.

The designer should provide adequate information on all hand calculation sheets to accurately identify the project design. In general, the information to be provided in the project file should include, but is not limited to, a project description, project location, a description of the type of calculation, project specific location (station and offset), project designer, and the date of the computations. All hand calculations shall be prepared and assembled in the project folder in a neat, legible, and orderly manner.

Input and output files from computer analysis should be clearly identified with a project description, type of calculation, roadway station, name of designer, and date of computation. The following items should be included in the documentation file when computer calculations are performed:

- printout of input data and program output, or a computer disk containing the input and output files. When the output file is only a few pages, both may be included.
- file names and dates
- software used for analysis
- written description of any methods used in spreadsheet computations, if necessary

For unusual project features or designs, the designer should include in the documentation a description of the hydrologic analyses performed and any assumptions made during the analysis. The documentation should be sufficient to answer any reasonable question that may arise in the future regarding the design methods and procedures used for analysis.

### **SECTION 4.03 - DESIGN CRITERIA**

Design frequency for roadway drainage facilities is based on achieving a balance between construction cost, maintenance needs, amount of traffic, potential flood hazard to adjacent property, and expected level of service. The design frequencies presented in Table 4-1 are the minimum that will achieve this balance for the various road classifications and types of drainage facility.

Cross structures should be designed based on the design frequencies in Table 4-1 such that they:

- a. Shall not significantly increase the flood hazard for adjacent property and
- b. Shall permit maintenance of traffic on roads and streets under design flood conditions.

Storm drainage structures should be designed based on the design frequencies in Table 4-1 such that they:

- a. Shall not significantly increase the flood hazard for adjacent property and
- b. Shall limit the encroachment onto the traveled lanes which could cause a hazard to traffic.

The design frequency for a given flood is the reciprocal of the probability that a flood will be equaled or exceeded in a given year. If a flood event has a 10 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in a year, the flood event will be equaled or exceeded on average every 10 years. The designer should note that the 10-year flood event will not be equaled or exceeded once every 10 years, but has a 10 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded in any given year. Therefore, the 10-year flood event could conceivably occur in consecutive years, or possibly even more frequently.

	Freeway and Multi-Lane Divided Arterial	Arterial	Collector	Local Road
Inlet Design Frequency	50-yr	10-yr <sup>1</sup>	10-yr <sup>1</sup>	10-yr
Sewer Design Frequency	50-yr	10-yr <sup>1</sup>	10-yr <sup>1</sup>	10-yr
Culvert Design Frequency	50-yr Check for 100-yr	50-yr Check for 100-yr	50-yr Check for 100-yr	50-yr Check for 100-yr
Roadway Freeboard <sup>2</sup>	50-yr	50-yr	50-yr	50-yr
Ditch Design Frequency	50-yr	10-yr <sup>1</sup>	10-yr <sup>1</sup>	10-yr

<sup>1</sup> 50-year in Roadway Sag Sections

<sup>2</sup> The design high water elevation should be at or below the bottom of the roadway subgrade.

**Table 4-1  
Hydrologic Design Criteria**

## **SECTION 4.04 - APPLICABLE METHODS**

This section of the chapter describes the hydrologic methods that are approved for use by the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT). The designer should be familiar with the limitations of each of the methods so that appropriate methods are applied. There will be some projects where the approved methodologies are not applicable. The designer will need to be familiar with a variety of hydrologic methods to ensure the correct methodology is selected and used for these isolated circumstances. Any methodology not described in this section of the Manual must be approved by the TDOT Design Manager or the Hydraulics Section prior to any hydrologic analyses using the methodology.

Other hydrologic methods and software may be considered for use on TDOT projects at the discretion of the Design Manager at the request of the designer. For other hydrologic methods and software to be considered, the designer will need to demonstrate that the method is appropriate for the intended application.

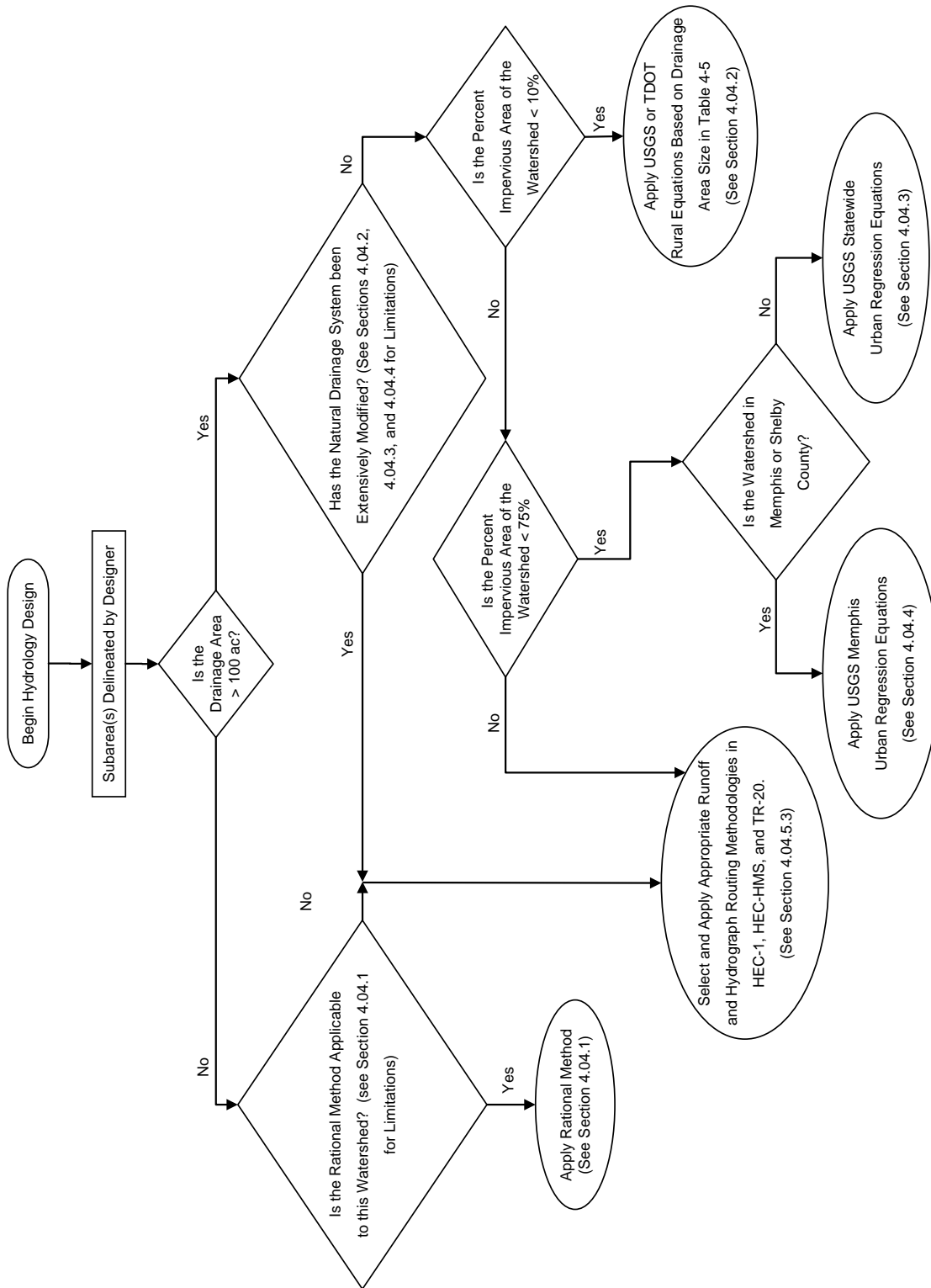
To assist the designer in selecting the appropriate hydrologic method, a flow chart is shown in Figure 4-1. The first decision point is strictly based on drainage area. The rational method is the preferred method for all drainage areas less than 100 acres. The USGS regression equations for rural and urban areas are the preferred methods for drainage areas larger than 100 acres. These methods should be used for all projects unless they are not applicable due to the watershed conditions or the need for a runoff hydrograph.

The primary reason the preferred methods (Rational and USGS Regression Equations) would not be applicable is due to man-made modifications in the watershed or to the stormwater conveyance system. A natural lake or man-made reservoir with sufficient storage volume to attenuate the peak flow rate for the design frequency is one example of when the preferred methods would not be applicable. The limitations of each method will be discussed in this chapter.

The software presented in the Appendix of Chapter 8 will be required for any TDOT drainage design where the project will include a stormwater storage facility (existing or proposed). HEC-1 may be used if there is an existing HEC-1 model available.

If the design peak flow rate computed by the selected analysis method is greater than 500 ft<sup>3</sup>/s for the 50-year storm, the designer should indicate the location of the structure on the proposed roadway layout drawing. This drawing, along with the related drainage survey and hydrologic calculations, should be forwarded to the Hydraulic Design Section of the Structures Division. The Hydraulic Design Section will then furnish all of the necessary data to be shown on the plans for the particular structure. The designer will be responsible for incorporating this information into the design plans.

Table 4A-11 of the chapter Appendix may be used by the designer for quick reference as to whether a watershed analysis should be forwarded to the Hydraulic Design Section or not. In general, if the watershed area being analyzed equals or exceeds the values contained in the table, then the 50-year storm discharge will be greater than 500 cubic feet per second; and the designer should forward the appropriate material to the Hydraulic Design Section.



**Figure 4-1**  
**Hydrologic Method Selection Flow Chart**



**4.04.1 RATIONAL METHOD**

The Rational method is recommended for estimating the design storm runoff for drainage areas less than 100 acres. The Rational Method is the preferred method to be used when all of the required data is available. The Rational Method for computing *peak* storm runoff is expressed as Equation 4-1:

$$Q = CiA \tag{4-1}$$

Where: Q = peak rate of runoff, (ft<sup>3</sup>/s)  
 C = weighted runoff coefficient representing a ratio of runoff to rainfall, (unitless)  
 i = average rainfall intensity for a duration equal to the time of concentration, for a selected return period, (in/hr)  
 A = drainage area tributary to the point under design, (acres)

Although the formula is not dimensionally correct (ft<sup>3</sup>/s vs. ac\*in/hr), the conversion coefficient of 1.008 is ignored as being insignificant. For further technical information and details, refer to the 1965 and 2001 (metric) publications *Hydraulic Design Series 4 (HDS-4)* by the FHWA. The results obtained using the Rational Method to estimate peak discharge is very sensitive to the parameters selected for use in the equation. Under some conditions, peak runoff occurs before all of the drainage area contributes runoff to the point of analysis. The likelihood of error in the runoff estimate increases as the size and complexity of the drainage area increases. This likelihood of error is why the limit is set at 100 acres for applying the Rational Method by TDOT. The designer should use sound engineering judgment when estimating peak runoff values using the Rational Method.

**4.04.1.1. RUNOFF COEFFICIENT**

The runoff coefficient represents the ratio of the rate of runoff to the rate of rainfall at an average intensity (i) when all the drainage area is contributing. The runoff coefficient is tabulated as a function of land use conditions; however, the coefficient is also a function of slope, rainfall intensity, infiltration, and other abstractions. The amount of water reaching the drainage structure is reduced by evaporation, transpiration, infiltration, and ponding. Two methods are commonly used for calculating the runoff coefficient. The first is to utilize known soil properties, infiltration rates, and land slopes. This method requires information from the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), and/or other agencies for pervious and impervious surface soil conditions. The second method for calculating the runoff coefficient is to utilize tables developed for various types of surface conditions and land use. Typical runoff coefficients to be used on TDOT projects are shown in Table 4-2.

Complex watersheds with several different types of land use will require that a weighted runoff coefficient be computed. The weighted runoff coefficient is computed by multiplying the runoff coefficient for each land use type by the respective area for each land use; summing these values, and then dividing the sum by the total area. An example of how to compute a weighted runoff coefficient is provided in the chapter Appendix. It should be noted that the Rational Method produces better results when the land use within the watershed being studied is fairly consistent over the entire area.

Surface Type and Condition <sup>1,2</sup>	Runoff Coefficient (C)
Rural Areas	
Concrete or sheet asphalt pavement_____	0.8 - 0.9
Asphalt macadam pavement_____	0.6 - 0.8
Gravel roadways or shoulders_____	0.4 - 0.6
Bare earth_____	0.2 - 0.9
Steep grassed areas (2H:1V)_____	0.5 - 0.7
Turf meadows_____	0.1 - 0.4
Forested areas_____	0.1 - 0.3
Cultivated fields_____	0.2 - 0.4
Urban Areas	
Flat residential, with about 30 percent of area impervious_____	0.40
Flat residential, with about 60 percent of area impervious_____	0.55
Moderately steep residential, with about 50 percent of area impervious_____	0.65
Moderately steep developed area, with about 70 percent of area impervious_____	0.80
Flat commercial/industrial, with about 90 percent of area impervious_____	0.80

<sup>1</sup>For flat slopes and/or permeable soil, use the lower values. For steep slopes and/or impermeable soil, use the higher values.

<sup>2</sup>For areas where there is a shallow bedrock surface, use the higher values.

**Table 4-2**  
**Runoff Coefficients (C) for Use in the Rational Method**  
 Reference: USDOT, FHWA, HDS-4 (2001)

**4.04.1.2 INTENSITY**

Rainfall intensity (I) is the average rainfall rate (in/hr) for a duration equal to the time of concentration for a selected return period. Once a particular return period has been selected for design, and the time of concentration calculated for the drainage area, the rainfall intensity can be determined from Rainfall Intensity Duration Frequency (IDF) Curves. To view the IDF curves and the rainfall intensity data, navigate to the following link and follow the [IDF Curve Guide](#):

<https://hdsc.nws.noaa.gov/hdsc/pfds/>

**4.04.1.3 TIME OF CONCENTRATION ( $T_c$ )**

Time of Concentration is the total time that it takes water to travel from the hydraulically most distant point in a watershed to the watershed’s outlet or the drainage structure being designed. The time of concentration may consist of overland flow (including sheet flow and shallow concentrated flow), pipe flow, channelized flow or a combination thereof. If there is a combination of flow types in the drainage basin, the time for each portion is identified as an individual travel time ( $t_t$ ). Equation 4-2 shows that summing the travel times for each reach will yield the time of concentration. As a general guideline, if the time of concentration is calculated to be less than 5 minutes, a minimum value of 5 minutes should be used.

$$T_c = t_{t1} + t_{t2} + t_{t3} + \dots + t_{tn} \tag{4-2}$$

Several methods have been studied and proposed to compute the travel time for overland flow. TDOT has selected several methods acceptable for their projects. The preferred method is the Kinematic Wave equation described in HDS-4. Another acceptable method for TDOT is the NRCS TR-55 methodology (Mannings' Kinematic Solution for overland flow travel time and NRCS Upland Method for shallow concentrated flow). A discussion of these methods is included in this section.

Methods for determining travel time for pipe flow, gutter flow, and channel flow have also been studied. The acceptable methods for TDOT projects include the Manning equation or a modified Manning equation for gutter flow. When the average water velocity is known, travel time can be calculated. Equation 4-3 is used to calculate travel time when an average water velocity is available:

$$t_t = \frac{L}{60 \times V} \tag{4-3}$$

Where:  $t_t$  = travel time, (min)  
 L = length of flow, (ft)  
 V = average velocity, (ft/s) (see Figure 4A-1)  
 60 = conversion factor from seconds to minutes

**4.04.1.3.1 TRAVEL TIME – OVERLAND FLOW**

The overland flow time consists of the time required for runoff to flow over the ground surface to a channel, gutter, inlet, or pipe. The first portion of overland flow is termed sheet flow. After the water concentrates and collects in indentations on the ground such as swales, the flow becomes shallow concentrated flow. The sum of the two is overland flow. Some publications indicate that the Kinematic Wave Equation accounts for both the sheet flow travel time and the shallow concentrated flow travel time. TDOT follows the HDS-4 approach by limiting the equation's use to sheet flow. The components of overland flow are best shown by Equation 4-4 as:

$$t_{t(overland\ flow)} = t_{t(sheet\ flow)} + t_{t(shallow\ concentrated\ flow)} \tag{4-4}$$

**4.04.1.3.1.1 TRAVEL TIME – SHEET FLOW**

A portion of overland flow may be categorized as sheet flow. Friction in sheet flow is usually comprised of drag over the plane surface which may include obstacles such as litter, vegetation, sediment, and rocks. Sheet flow is normally considered when water flows at a depth of 0.1 feet (1.2 inches) or less. The time of concentration for sheet flow is approximated by utilizing the Kinematic Wave method or the NCRS Runoff method. It is not always apparent when flow changes from sheet flow to shallow concentrated flow. If shallow ridges, swales, or small channels are not evident in the field, it is reasonable to assume the runoff remains in sheet flow for a maximum of 300 feet. After 300 feet, it is assumed that storm runoff will typically find shallow ridges or swales on the ground's surface in which to collect. Once to this point, the water is termed shallow concentrated flow.

**Kinematic Wave Theory for Computing Sheet Flow Travel Time**

The Kinematic Wave Equation (Regan, 1971) for calculating sheet flow travel time was developed for flow on a plane surface of less than 300 feet in length, and is a derivative of Mannings Equation. Some publications have added assumptions to the equation and have permitted its use for shallow concentrated flow travel time and small channel or pipe travel time. TDOT chooses not to make these same assumptions and limits its use to sheet flow. For sheet flow, the Kinematic Wave method is the most physically correct approach according to HDS-4. The Kinematic Wave equation follows:

$$t_t = C \frac{n^{0.6} L^{0.6}}{i^{0.4} S^{0.3}} \tag{4-5}$$

- Where:
- $t_t$  = sheet flow travel time, (minutes)
  - C = 0.938 (constant)
  - n = Manning roughness coefficient (see Table 4-3)
  - L = sheet flow length, (ft) (Maximum is 300 feet)
  - i = rainfall intensity, (in/hr) (see Figures 4A-2 through 4A-11)
  - S = slope of the surface, (ft/ft)

Solving the Kinematic Wave equation requires the designer to go through an iterative process since both the travel time and rainfall intensity is unknown. Start by assuming a travel time, determine the rainfall intensity from the charts provided in the Appendix (see Figures 4A-2 through 4A-11), and then insert the rainfall intensity into the equation. When the assumed travel time approaches the travel time generated by the equation, the designer should use this value as the solution for the sheet flow travel time. If the equation is used for sheet flow estimation in a grassy area, the n value should be quite large (e.g., 0.45 for Bluegrass).

As per HDS-4 "This is necessary to account for the large relative roughness resulting from water running through grass rather than over it as compared to channel flow conditions." A smaller n value should be used for smooth paved conditions (e.g., 0.011 for concrete). The Manning's n-values applicable for overland applications are included in Table 4-3. The designer should use an n-value based on the season of the year when the greatest likelihood of heavy rainfall will occur. This is especially pertinent to agricultural areas and roadside ditches. Farming practices alter the ground throughout the year and often different crops are planted over the years. The designer will need to make a judgment based on knowledge of farming practices in the area or from available aerial photos. In the case of roadside ditches and other maintained land, the designer will need to use engineering judgment to select an average condition based

on mowing practices and channel lining material for when the greatest likelihood of heavy rainfall would occur. For areas that are or will be infrequently mowed, tall grass should be considered.

Surface Type	Minimum	Normal	Maximum
Concrete	0.010	0.011	0.013
Asphalt	0.010	0.012	0.015
Bare Soil	0.010	0.011	0.030
Bare Sand	0.010	0.010	0.016
Graveled Surface	0.011	0.012	0.030
Bare Clay-Loam (eroded)	0.012	0.020	0.033
Packed Clay		0.030	
Fallow (no residue)	0.006	0.050	0.160
Cultivated (till) (residue ≤ 20%)	0.006	0.060	0.120
Cultivated (till) (residue > 20%)	0.070	0.170	0.470
No Till (no residue)	0.030	0.040	0.100
No Till (20% - 40% residue)	0.010	0.070	0.170
No Till (>60% residue)	0.016	0.300	0.470
Plow (fall)	0.020	0.020	0.100
Range (natural)	0.100	0.130	0.320
Pasture	0.300	0.350	0.400
Pasture (sparse vegetation)	0.053	0.070	0.130
Grass (bluegrass sod)	0.390	0.450	0.630
Grass (Bermuda)	0.300	0.410	0.480
Lawns	0.200	0.250	0.300
Woods and Shrubbery	0.400	0.400	0.800

**Table 4-3  
Manning's n Values for Overland Flow**

Table References:

American Society of Civil Engineers and Water Environment Federation. *Design and Construction of Urban Stormwater Management Systems*. ASCE Manuals and Reports of Engineering Practice No. 77 and WEF Manual of Practice FD-20. New York, New York and Alexandria, Virginia. 1992.

Indiana Department of Transportation. *Indiana Design Manual Part IV Volume I*. Indianapolis, IN. 1999.

Kentucky Transportation Cabinet, *Drainage Guidance Manual - Proposed Revisions*. Frankfort, KY. September 29, 2000.

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Department of Public Works Engineering Division. *Stormwater Management Manual*. Nashville, Tennessee. Sept. 1999.

United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service. Engineering Division. *Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds - Technical Release 55*. June 1996.

Virginia Department of Transportation. *Drainage Manual*. Richmond, Virginia. February 1989.

### NRCS Runoff Method for Sheet Flow

The NRCS Runoff method for calculating sheet flow is applicable to depths of approximately 0.1 foot (1.2 inches) or less. As with the Kinematic Wave Theory, the Manning's n value is taken from Table 4-3 which has been developed for shallow flow depths. Equation 4-6 is used to compute the travel time used in the NRCS runoff method.

$$t_t = \frac{0.007(nL)^{0.8}}{P_{2-24}^{0.5} S^{0.4}} \quad (4-6)$$

Where:  $t_t$  = sheet flow travel time, (hr)  
 n = Manning sheet flow roughness coefficient (see Table 4-3)  
 L = sheet flow length, (ft)  
 $P_{2-24}$  = 2-year, 24-hour rainfall, (in) (see Table 4A-5)  
 S = slope of hydraulic grade line, assumed to be the surface, (ft/ft)

Note:  $P_{2-24}$  should be used in this equation even if the design storm under investigation for determining the peak discharge is for a different return period.

#### 4.04.1.3.1.2 TRAVEL TIME – SHALLOW CONCENTRATED FLOW

After sheet flow, the water usually becomes shallow concentrated flow. The shallow concentrated flow normally has a depth greater than 0.1 feet (1.2 inches). After some distance, the shallow concentrated flow further concentrates to a ditch, gutter, channel, or drainage structure. Once the water has reached a more concentrated flow such as in a gutter, pipe, or channel, the travel time in the channel will be calculated and added to the overland flow travel time. If a shallow concentrated flow time is required, then the nomograph found in the chapter appendix as Figure 4A-1 should be used to approximate this travel time. Alternately, the designer may use the equations represented by this nomograph. Equations 4-7 and 4-8 are based on Manning's equation with assumptions for Manning's roughness coefficient and hydraulic radius which will permit a calculation of an average shallow concentrated flow velocity. The assumptions include, for unpaved areas, a Manning's n-value equal to 0.05 and a hydraulic radius equal to 0.4 feet; and for paved areas, a Manning's n-value equal to 0.025 and hydraulic radius equal to 0.2 feet. Once the velocity is known, travel time can be calculated using Equation 4-3.

$$V_{unpaved} = 16.1345(S)^{0.5} \quad (4-7)$$

$$V_{paved} = 20.3282(S)^{0.5} \quad (4-8)$$

Where: V = average velocity, (ft/s)  
 S = slope of hydraulic grade line, assumed to be watercourse slope, (ft/ft)

**4.04.1.3.2 TRAVEL TIME - PIPE, GUTTER & CHANNEL FLOW**

Travel time for pipe, gutter, or channel flow can be estimated from the hydraulic properties of the conduit or channel. After first determining the average velocity in the pipe or channel, the travel time is obtained by dividing the pipe or channel length by the determined velocity. In watersheds with gutters, storm drains, pipes, or channels, the travel time for these items must be added to the overland flow travel time to find the total time of concentration. Manning's equation can be used to determine water velocity for these types of flow. When calculating the velocity for channels, the designer should presume bank full conditions. For an engineered channel that has been well maintained or is in the process of design, then the designer may assume one foot of freeboard. In special situations, additional design information may be available and a different depth of flow may be used.

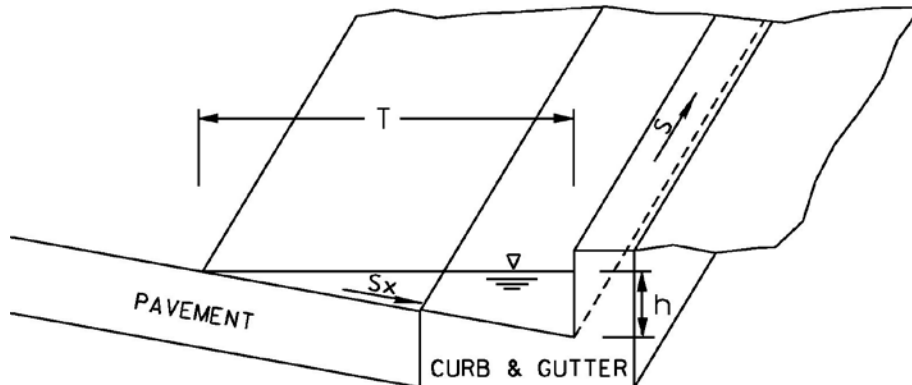
$$V = \frac{1.49}{n} * R_h^{0.67} * S_c^{0.5} \tag{4-9}$$

Where: V = average Velocity, (ft/s)  
 R<sub>h</sub>= hydraulic radius, (ft)  
 S<sub>c</sub>= friction slope (assumed to be average slope), (ft/ft)  
 n = Manning's roughness coefficient (see Table 5A-1)

A detailed discussion of the Manning's equation is included in Chapter 5. The Manning's roughness coefficient (n-value) used in Equation 4-9 is not the same as those presented in Table 4-3. Table 5A-1 in the Appendix to Chapter 5 should be used to determine the n-value used in Equation 4-9.

**Triangular Gutter Section**

A modified version of the Manning's equation may be applied to triangular gutter sections. The modified equation describes the flow in wide, shallow, triangular channels. The area of the gutter and the hydraulic radius are a function of the water's spread and the roadway cross slope. This assumes that the gutter cross slope and the roadway cross slope are equal. This would lead to the following assumed channel shape:



**Figure 4-2  
 Triangular Gutter Section**

With this assumed gutter section, the velocity of the storm water in the gutter can be calculated using Equation 4-10.

$$V = \frac{1.12}{n \cdot h} * S_x^{1.67} * S^{0.5} * T^{1.67} \quad (4-10)$$

Where:

- V = flow velocity, (ft/s)
- n = Manning roughness coefficient, (See Table 5A-1 in Chapter 5 Appendix)
- S<sub>x</sub> = cross slope or roadway, (ft/ft)
- S = longitudinal slope of roadway, (ft/ft)
- h = water depth at curb, (ft)
- T = width (spread) of flow, (ft)

If the gutter cross section is different from the shape shown in Figure 4-2 (especially the pavement cross slope and gutter cross slope), then the designer should use methods described in Chapter 7 for composite gutter sections.

#### 4.04.1.4 DRAINAGE AREA

The drainage area contributing to a point in question can be determined in the field or measured from a topographic map. Data needed to determine the required variables in the rational equation should be noted at the time of the field reconnaissance. Many drainage areas are straight-forward (i.e., in a fill section where only pavement area may be considered for an inlet). For other situations the drainage area may be complex. Example problems are provided in the chapter Appendix for the designer's reference. One is a simple drainage area example and the other is for a more complex drainage area. These example problems are included in the chapter Appendix. According to HDS-4:

“[I]t is possible that the maximum rate of runoff will be reached from the higher intensity rainfall periods less than the time of concentration for the whole area, even though only a part of the drainage area is contributing. This might occur where a part of the drainage area is highly impervious and has a short time of concentration, and another part is pervious and has a much longer time of concentration. Unless the areas or times of concentration are considerably out of balance, the accuracy of the method does not warrant checking the peak flow from only a part of the drainage area. This is particularly true for the relatively small drainage areas associated with highway pavement drainage facilities.”

Often the designer may use USGS 7.5 minute quadrangle (quad) maps to assist in delineating drainage areas, elevations, and channels. With the availability of electronic quad maps, the proposed project can be represented superimposed over the quad map in a Microstation file. Although not required, this electronic representation is suggested. The designer also develops runoff coefficients, structure locations, and other design information for each area on the map, which develops into a drainage map.



#### 4.04.1.5 PROCEDURES

Once the designer has selected the rational method for determining design discharge, the following steps are applicable:

**Step 1:** Determine drainage area.

**Step 2:** Calculate runoff coefficient.

**Step 3:** Find time of concentration. If the designer chooses the NRCS TR-55 Time of Concentration Method, a useful worksheet is included in the Appendix as Figure 4A-2.

**Step 4:** Determine rainfall intensity.

**Step 5:** Calculate storm runoff (design discharge).

**Step 6:** Verify that any sub-area does not provide higher runoff.

Rational Method example problems are presented in the chapter Appendix.

#### 4.04.2 USGS REGRESSION EQUATIONS FOR RURAL AREAS

##### 4.04.2.1 BACKGROUND

The United States Geological Survey (USGS) published regression equations for rural areas of Tennessee in 2003. The rural regression equation development is described in Water-Resources Investigations Report 03-4176, "Flood-Frequency Prediction Methods for Unregulated Streams of Tennessee, 2000". The study was based on stream flow data gathered from 453 gauging stations located in rural and lightly developed areas of Tennessee and the adjacent states (except Arkansas). Of these, 297 gauges were located in Tennessee. All of the gauges had a minimum of 10 years of stream flow data. Stream gauges were not included in the analysis where historical discharge records had been significantly impacted by urbanization, dredging, or other man-made watershed changes.

A regional flood frequency analysis was conducted with these gauges and regional-regression equations were developed based on a single variable, multivariable, and a region-of-influence method. For the single variable regression equations the contributing drainage area is used in predicting peak flow for the range of flood frequencies. The multiple variable regression equations add in the main channel slope and a climate factor in addition to the contributing drainage area in predicting peak flow for the range of flood frequencies. The region-of-influence method calculates multivariable regression equations using basin characteristics from 60 similar sites selected from the study area. The variables that may be used in the region-of-influence regression equations include contributing drainage area, main channel slope, a climate factor, and a physiographic-region factor.

Four hydrologically similar areas were identified during the regional flood frequency analysis that improved the predictive capability of the regression equations. These four Hydrologic Areas are shown in Figure 4-3 and Figure 4A-5. The single variable and multivariable regression equations for each of the four Hydrologic Areas of the state are shown in Table 4-4. The region-of-influence method is computationally intensive and is not suitable for

manual application, however, it along with the other two methods can be easily applied using the TDOTv203 computer application. In the absence of the flood-frequency computer application the single variable regression equations, shown in Table 4-4 should be used. The resulting flow in cubic feet per second can be obtained by using these equations.

The USGS regression equations should be applied to rural watercourses with drainage area ranges shown in Table 4-5. The USGS methods were developed using stream-gauge records from unregulated streams draining basins having from 1 percent to about 30 percent total impervious area. These methods, however, should not be used in heavily developed or enclosed drainage system areas with impervious areas greater than 10 percent.

Recurrence Interval (years)	Single Variable Regression Peak Discharge Equations (cfs)	Multivariable Regression Peak Discharge Equations (cfs)
<b>Hydrologic Area 1 (CDA = 128 ac to 9,000 mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>		
2	119(CDA) <sup>0.755</sup>	1.72(CDA) <sup>0.798</sup> (CS) <sup>0.112</sup> (CF) <sup>4.581</sup>
5	197(CDA) <sup>0.740</sup>	3.41(CDA) <sup>0.783</sup> (CS) <sup>0.114</sup> (CF) <sup>4.330</sup>
10	258(CDA) <sup>0.731</sup>	5.34(CDA) <sup>0.775</sup> (CS) <sup>0.116</sup> (CF) <sup>4.087</sup>
25	342(CDA) <sup>0.722</sup>	9.00(CDA) <sup>0.766</sup> (CS) <sup>0.117</sup> (CF) <sup>3.778</sup>
50	411(CDA) <sup>0.716</sup>	12.8(CDA) <sup>0.760</sup> (CS) <sup>0.117</sup> (CF) <sup>3.560</sup>
100	484(CDA) <sup>0.710</sup>	17.9(CDA) <sup>0.754</sup> (CS) <sup>0.117</sup> (CF) <sup>3.354</sup>
500	672(CDA) <sup>0.699</sup>	36.1(CDA) <sup>0.742</sup> (CS) <sup>0.114</sup> (CF) <sup>2.904</sup>
<b>Hydrologic Area 2 (CDA = 300 ac to 2,557 mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>		
2	204(CDA) <sup>0.727</sup>	106(CDA) <sup>0.787</sup> (CS) <sup>0.151</sup>
5	340(CDA) <sup>0.716</sup>	170(CDA) <sup>0.779</sup> (CS) <sup>0.158</sup>
10	439(CDA) <sup>0.712</sup>	218(CDA) <sup>0.776</sup> (CS) <sup>0.160</sup>
25	573(CDA) <sup>0.709</sup>	285(CDA) <sup>0.772</sup> (CS) <sup>0.160</sup>
50	677(CDA) <sup>0.707</sup>	340(CDA) <sup>0.769</sup> (CS) <sup>0.159</sup>
100	785(CDA) <sup>0.705</sup>	397(CDA) <sup>0.766</sup> (CS) <sup>0.157</sup>
500	1,050(CDA) <sup>0.702</sup>	547(CDA) <sup>0.761</sup> (CS) <sup>0.151</sup>

CDA is Contributing Drainage Area in square miles. CS is Channel Slope in feet per mile. CF is Climate Factor.

**Table 4-4 (1 of 2)**  
**USGS Rural Regression Equations by Hydrologic Area**

Reference: Flood-Frequency Prediction Methods for Unregulated Streams of Tennessee, 2000  
Water-Resources Investigations Report 03-4176. USGS (2003)

Recurrence Interval (years)	Single Variable Regression Peak Discharge Equations (cfs)	Multivariable Regression Peak Discharge Equations (cfs)
<b>Hydrologic Area 3 (CDA = 109 ac to 30.2 mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>		
2	280(CDA) <sup>0.789</sup>	211(CDA) <sup>0.815</sup> (CS) <sup>0.063</sup>
5	452(CDA) <sup>0.769</sup>	329(CDA) <sup>0.798</sup> (CS) <sup>0.071</sup>
10	574(CDA) <sup>0.761</sup>	405(CDA) <sup>0.793</sup> (CS) <sup>0.078</sup>
25	733(CDA) <sup>0.753</sup>	497(CDA) <sup>0.789</sup> (CS) <sup>0.086</sup>
50	853(CDA) <sup>0.748</sup>	565(CDA) <sup>0.786</sup> (CS) <sup>0.092</sup>
100	972(CDA) <sup>0.745</sup>	632(CDA) <sup>0.785</sup> (CS) <sup>0.096</sup>
500	1,250(CDA) <sup>0.739</sup>	789(CDA) <sup>0.781</sup> (CS) <sup>0.102</sup>
<b>Hydrologic Area 3 (CDA = 30.2 mi<sup>2</sup> to 2,048 mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>		
2	679(CDA) <sup>0.527</sup>	409(CDA) <sup>0.584</sup> (CS) <sup>0.102</sup>
5	1040(CDA) <sup>0.523</sup>	767(CDA) <sup>0.558</sup> (CS) <sup>0.061</sup>
10	1280(CDA) <sup>0.523</sup>	980(CDA) <sup>0.554</sup> (CS) <sup>0.054</sup>
25	1590(CDA) <sup>0.525</sup>	1,200(CDA) <sup>0.557</sup> (CS) <sup>0.056</sup>
50	1800(CDA) <sup>0.527</sup>	1,330(CDA) <sup>0.562</sup> (CS) <sup>0.061</sup>
100	2020(CDA) <sup>0.529</sup>	1,430(CDA) <sup>0.568</sup> (CS) <sup>0.068</sup>
500	2490(CDA) <sup>0.537</sup>	1,600(CDA) <sup>0.587</sup> (CS) <sup>0.090</sup>
<b>Hydrologic Area 4 (CDA = 486 ac to 2,308 mi<sup>2</sup>)</b>		
2	436(CDA) <sup>0.527</sup>	No multivariable regression equations developed for this region.
5	618(CDA) <sup>0.545</sup>	
10	735(CDA) <sup>0.554</sup>	
25	878(CDA) <sup>0.564</sup>	
50	981(CDA) <sup>0.570</sup>	
100	1,080(CDA) <sup>0.575</sup>	
500	1,310(CDA) <sup>0.586</sup>	

CDA is Contributing Drainage Area in square miles. CS is Channel Slope in feet per mile. CF is Climate Factor.

**Table 4-4 (2 of 2)**  
**USGS Rural Regression Equations by Hydrologic Area**

Reference: Flood-Frequency Prediction Methods for Unregulated Streams of Tennessee, 2000  
 Water-Resources Investigations Report 03-4176. USGS (2003)

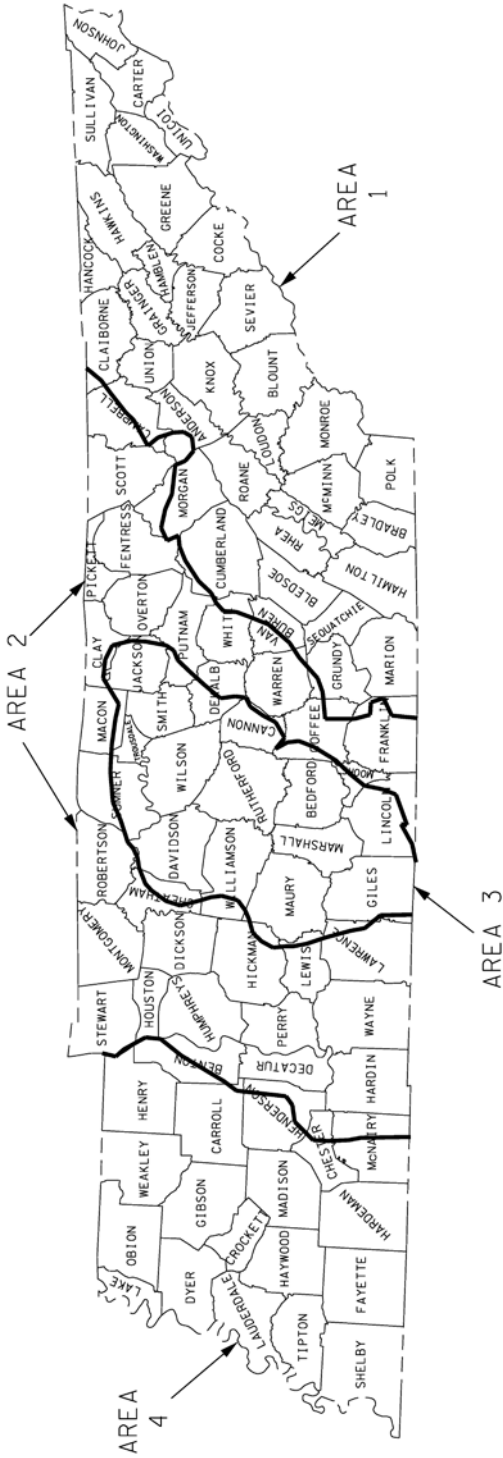
TDOT has determined that in most cases the Rational Method should be used for drainage areas less than 100 acres. The TR-55 Method should be used for rural drainage areas between 100 acres and the lower drainage area limit of the USGS rural regression equations for each Hydrologic Area shown in Table 4-5. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) has developed a computer application called WinTR-55 for small watershed hydrology that can be used to apply the TR-55 method.

Hydrologic Area	USGS Area Limits
1	128 ac to 9000 mi <sup>2</sup>
2	300 ac to 2557 mi <sup>2</sup>
3	109 ac to 30.2 mi <sup>2</sup>
4	486 ac to 2308 mi <sup>2</sup>

**Table 4-5**

**USGS Rural Regression Equation Drainage Area Range Limitations**

Reference: Flood-Frequency Prediction Methods for Unregulated Streams of Tennessee, 2000  
 Water-Resources Investigations Report 03-4176. USGS (2003)



**Figure 4-3**  
**Hydrologic Area Map**  
(Note: Bold lines identify Hydrologic Area boundaries)

## 4.04.2.2 PROCEDURES

### 4.04.2.2.1 SINGLE VARIABLE REGRESSION EQUATIONS

The procedures for applying the single variable rural regression equations are described in the following steps. The designer should follow these steps for all rural watersheds when the flood frequency computer application is not available.

**Step 1:** The designer determines the drainage area in acres using detailed project mapping, surveys, and/or the USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps.

**Step 2:** The designer determines in which Hydrologic Area the majority of the watershed lies. A map of the Hydrologic Area boundaries is shown in Figure 4-3.

**Step 3:** Select the appropriate regression equation based on the hydrologic area, design frequency, and drainage area.

**Step 4:** Compute the peak discharge using the appropriate regression equation for the desired design frequency, drainage area, and hydrologic area.

An example problem showing computations using the USGS single variable regression equations for rural areas is included in the Appendix of this chapter.

### 4.04.2.2.2 FLOOD FREQUENCY COMPUTER APPLICATION

The procedures for applying the single variable regression equations, multivariable regression equations, and region-of-influence method are described in the following steps. The designer should follow these steps for all rural watersheds.

**Step 1:** Determine the latitude (LAT) and longitude (LNG), in degrees, minutes, and seconds, of the site of interest.

**Step 2:** Determine the hydrologic area(s) (HA) of the drainage basin upstream from the site of interest.

**Step 3:** Determine the contributing drainage area (CDA) in square miles, and the main channel slope (CS), in feet per mile, of the site of interest using the best available information. If there are two HAs, determine the proportion of CDA that lies within each HA.

**Step 4:** Enter data from Steps 1 thru 3 into the TDOT v203 computer application. The results will provide estimated discharges for the site of interest calculated based on the single regression equations, multivariable regression equations, and region-of-influence method. Use the estimated discharges from the method with the lowest standard error (SE).

## 4.04.3 USGS REGRESSION EQUATIONS FOR URBAN AREAS

### 4.04.3.1 BACKGROUND

The USGS developed regression equations for small urban streams of Tennessee in 1984. The process is described in Water-Resources Investigations Report 84-4182,

“Synthesized Flood Frequency for Small Urban Streams in Tennessee”. Twenty-two streams were studied statewide in urban areas with populations between 5,000 and 100,000. The drainage areas for these twenty-two sites ranged from 0.21 to 24.3 square miles. The impervious percentage in the watersheds for the study, ranged from 4.7 to 74.0 percent.

The stream flow record for the gages ranged from four to eight years. Due to the short record for the gages, rainfall-runoff models were calibrated for each of the watersheds. Flood magnitudes for selected recurrence intervals were then estimated for each of the watersheds using the calibrated models. These flood magnitudes were then used in a regional regression analysis to develop the regression equations. Three basin characteristics were determined to be significant in the regional regression analysis. These characteristics are drainage area, percent impervious, and the 2-year, 24-hour rainfall. The urban regression equations developed from this analysis are as follows:

$$Q_2 = 1.76(A/640)^{0.74} I_{IMP}^{0.48} P_{2-24}^{3.01} \quad (4-11)$$

$$Q_5 = 5.55(A/640)^{0.75} I_{IMP}^{0.44} P_{2-24}^{2.53} \quad (4-12)$$

$$Q_{10} = 11.8(A/640)^{0.75} I_{IMP}^{0.43} P_{2-24}^{2.12} \quad (4-13)$$

$$Q_{25} = 21.9(A/640)^{0.75} I_{IMP}^{0.39} P_{2-24}^{1.89} \quad (4-14)$$

$$Q_{50} = 44.9(A/640)^{0.75} I_{IMP}^{0.40} P_{2-24}^{1.42} \quad (4-15)$$

$$Q_{100} = 77.0(A/640)^{0.75} I_{IMP}^{0.40} P_{2-24}^{1.10} \quad (4-16)$$

Where:  $Q_r$  = estimated discharge for the recurrence interval indicated, (ft<sup>3</sup>/s)  
 A = drainage area of the watershed, (acres)  
 $I_{IMP}$  = percentage of impervious area in watershed, (%)  
 $P_{2-24}$  = 2-year, 24-hour rainfall, (inches)

Note: The 2-year, 24-hour rainfall amounts for Tennessee counties are shown in Table 4A-5 found in the chapter Appendix.

The USGS urban stream regression equations should be applied to all urban drainage areas greater than 100 acres. The impervious area for the watershed should be between 10 and 75 percent of the total watershed area. The stream flow should be unregulated. The peak flow magnitude should not be affected by in-channel storage or overbank detention storage. These equations should not be used in the City of Memphis or Shelby County. The USGS has developed regression equations specifically for urban watersheds in the City of Memphis and Shelby County.

#### 4.04.3.2 PROCEDURES

The procedures for applying the urban regression equations are described in the following steps.

**Step 1:** The designer determines the drainage area in acres using the detailed project mapping and/or the USGS 7.5-minute topographic maps.

**Step 2:** The designer determines the 2-year, 24-hour rainfall amount by from Table 4A-5. Projects located in more than one county shall use an interpolated value from the table.

**Step 3:** Determine the amount of the impervious area in the watershed. The designer then computes the impervious percentage by dividing the impervious area by the total drainage area.

**Step 4:** Compute the peak discharge using the appropriate regression equation for the desired frequency (see Equations 4-11 to 4-16).

USGS regression equation method example problem for urban areas is included in the chapter Appendix.

#### **4.04.4 USGS REGRESSION EQUATIONS FOR THE CITY OF MEMPHIS AND SHELBY COUNTY URBAN AREAS**

##### **4.04.4.1 BACKGROUND**

A method for estimating the magnitude and frequency of peak discharges in the urban areas of the City of Memphis and Shelby County was developed by the USGS in 1984. The methodology development is described in Water-Resources Investigations Report 84-4110, "Flood Frequency and Storm Runoff of Urban Areas of Memphis and Shelby County, Tennessee." The study was based on stream flow and rainfall records from 27 stream gauging stations and 37 rainfall gages. The drainage areas for the 27 gages ranged from 0.043 to 19.4 square miles.

Eight years of stream flow and rainfall records were gathered at the gages. This data was used to calibrate a rainfall-runoff model for each gage for about 30 storms. The Lichty and Liscum map model procedure (1978) was used to develop peak discharge frequency curves for each of the gages using parameters optimized in the rainfall-runoff model calibration. These peak discharge frequency curves were used in a regional frequency analysis to identify physical basin characteristics that were significant in estimating peak flows. Two physical characteristics were identified in the regional frequency analysis as being significant predictors of peak flow rates. These basin characteristics are drainage area in square miles and channel condition. Channel condition represents how much of the channel at four points in the watershed is paved.

#### **4.04.5 OTHER HYDROLOGIC METHODS**

##### **4.04.5.1 INTRODUCTION**

This section presents other hydrologic methods that may be used by the designer when the preferred methods discussed previously are not applicable due to watershed conditions or where other hydrologic data is available for the stream crossing location. Examples of other hydrologic data are published peak flow rates from FEMA Flood Insurance Studies or other agencies. Hydrologic models utilizing hydrograph routing techniques may be required for some watersheds due to the presence of existing or proposed storage reservoirs. This section will discuss other sources of existing flow data and hydrologic models.

##### **4.04.5.2 SOURCES OF EXISTING FLOW DATA**



The designer should check for existing published flow data for the project site. A typical source of flow data is Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Studies (FIS). These studies are generally published by FEMA for each community. As a minimum, the appropriate design storm published FIS flows should be used for the project site for the design of a structure. Other sources of existing flow data are stormwater management or flood control studies conducted by Federal, State, or local government agencies.

#### **4.04.5.3 HYDROLOGIC MODELS INVOLVING DETENTION (HEC-1, HEC-HMS, AND TR-55)**

The hydrologic models and methods described in this section are to be used by the designer when detention storage will be included in the highway drainage design or for watersheds where the rational method or regression equations are not applicable. These methods should also be used for watersheds that have significant existing reservoir storage, diversions, and other significant man-made changes that have made TDOT preferred hydrologic methods inapplicable to the watershed. The hydrologic models for this purpose are the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' HEC-1 and HEC-HMS and the Natural Resource Conservation Service's TR-55. When using one of these models, the designer should be familiar with hydrologic modeling concepts.

HEC-1 and HEC-HMS are more versatile and provide a wider variety of modeling techniques for watershed features. The user's manuals for these models should be consulted for the specifics on how to use the models and the data input requirements. Additional information on the routing capabilities of these programs can be found in Chapter 8 of this Manual.

##### **4.04.5.3.1 HYDROLOGIC MODEL LOSS RATE AND UNIT HYDROGRAPH METHODOLOGY**

The SCS curve number loss rate and unit hydrograph methodology are the preferred methods to be used by the designer in computing runoff hydrographs in HEC-1, HEC-HMS, and TR-55. The SCS TR-55 time of concentration methodology described in Section 4.04.1.3 should be used by the designer. The following paragraphs describe the methodology for determining the SCS curve number for a watershed.

The principle factors that determine the Runoff Curve Number (CN) are the hydrologic soil group, ground cover type, treatment, hydrologic condition, antecedent runoff condition, and how the flow enters the drainage system. This design methodology assumes that the runoff potential before a storm event is at "average" conditions. This pre-storm runoff potential is also described as the Antecedent Runoff Condition. Tables 4A-1 to 4A-3 found in the Appendix list runoff curve numbers for various land uses and hydrologic soil groups. A worksheet for determining the composite runoff curve number and runoff is included in the Appendix as Figure 4A-3.

In determining the curve number, soils are classified into four hydrologic soil groups (A, B, C, and D). The classifications are based on bare soil infiltration rates after prolonged wetting. The infiltration rates are affected by subsurface permeability and surface intake rates. The soils in the project or study area can be identified from a soil survey report which can be obtained from a soil and water conservation district office or local National Resource Conservation Service office. A summary of common Hydrologic Soil Groups found in Tennessee are included

in Table 4A-4 found in the chapter appendix. If the soil group is not included in Table 4A-4, then the designer should refer to the TR-55 document referenced in Table 4A-1.

Even though urban areas have more impervious areas (i.e., buildings, roadways, and sidewalks) than rural areas, soil remains an important factor in estimating the amount of runoff. According to TR-55, "Urbanization has a greater effect on runoff in watersheds with soils having high infiltration rates (sands and gravels) than in watersheds predominantly of silts and clays, which generally have low infiltration rates." The designer should be aware that natural soils may have been disturbed by prior projects. Native soils may be mixed with soils introduced from other areas (fill material) or may be removed (excavation). Hydrologic Soil Groups for disturbed soils can be characterized by the soil texture as identified in Table 4-7.

Hydrologic Soil Group (HSG)	Soil Textures
A	Sand, loamy sand, or sandy loam
B	Silt loam or loam
C	Sandy clay loam
D	Clay loam, silty clay loam, sandy clay, silty clay, or clay

**Table 4-6**  
**Hydrologic Soil Groups for Disturbed Soils**  
 Reference: NRCS, TR-55, Second Edition (1986)

Tables 4A-1 to 4A-3 address the most common ground cover types. The preferred method for determining the type of ground cover is from field reconnaissance. Aerial photography and land use maps are also useful sources.

Ground Treatment describes a modification to the ground cover made by management practices on agricultural land. The treatments are bare soil, crop residue cover, straight row, contoured, and contoured & terraced. These are each identified in Table 4A-2.

The hydrologic condition indicates the effects of the ground cover and any given ground treatment on runoff and water infiltration. The hydrologic condition is generally classified as either "good" or "poor." "Good" hydrologic conditions indicate that the soil would have low runoff potential. According to the NRCS, the designer should consider five factors when estimating the effect of the cover on infiltration and runoff:

- Density of lawns, crops, or other vegetative areas
- Amount of year-round cover
- Amount of grass or close-seeded legumes in rotations
- Percent of residue cover
- Degree of surface roughness

**4.04.5.3.2 RAINFALL DISTRIBUTIONS**

The 24-hour rainfall amounts (in inches) for the desired design frequency are available in the NWS Rainfall Atlas 14, Volume 2 and are included in the chapter appendix as Tables 4A-5 to 4A-10. A balanced rainfall distribution should be used by the designer. A balanced rainfall

distribution is where the greatest rainfall intensity occurs during the central portion of the storm. The tabulated balanced storm distribution is shown in Table 4-10 and plotted graphically as Figure 4A-4 in the Appendix. For analysis with TR-55 or HEC-HMS, the NRCS Type II rainfall distribution, which is pre-coded into both programs, may be used.

Hours	Quarter Hours			
	0.0000	0.2500	0.5000	0.7500
0	0.0000	0.0003	0.0005	0.0008
1	0.0010	0.0015	0.0020	0.0025
2	0.0030	0.0039	0.0048	0.0056
3	0.0065	0.0074	0.0083	0.0091
4	0.0100	0.0138	0.0175	0.0213
5	0.0250	0.0288	0.0325	0.0363
6	0.0400	0.0450	0.0500	0.0550
7	0.0600	0.0650	0.0700	0.0750
8	0.0800	0.0870	0.0940	0.1010
9	0.1080	0.1185	0.1290	0.1395
10	0.1500	0.1675	0.1850	0.2025
11	0.2200	0.2450	0.2800	0.3900
12	0.5000	0.6080	0.7150	0.7570
13	0.7900	0.8075	0.8250	0.8425
14	0.8600	0.8688	0.8775	0.8863
15	0.8950	0.9008	0.9065	0.9123
16	0.9180	0.9226	0.9273	0.9319
17	0.9365	0.9411	0.9458	0.9504
18	0.9550	0.9581	0.9613	0.9644
19	0.9675	0.9706	0.9738	0.9769
20	0.9800	0.9819	0.9837	0.9856
21	0.9875	0.9894	0.9912	0.9931
22	0.9950	0.9956	0.9963	0.9969
23	0.9975	0.9981	0.9987	0.9994
24	1.0000			

**Table 4-7**  
**Balanced Storm Rainfall Distribution (P/P<sub>24</sub> Ratio)**  
 Reference: City of Nashville SWMM (1998)

**SECTION 4.05 - ACCEPTABLE SOFTWARE**

The hydrology software listed in this section is acceptable for use on all TDOT projects. This software should be used unless special circumstances on the project or watershed require other software. The TDOT design manager should approve the use of any other software for these special circumstances. The acceptable software is listed in Table 4-11.

Under special circumstances, the designer will need to compute peak flow rates from mostly impervious areas or generate runoff hydrographs for the design of detention facilities, or determining peak flow rates from upstream reservoirs. When a runoff hydrograph is required, the designer should use either the Corps of Engineers HEC-HMS, or NRCS TR-55 hydrologic models. The Corps of Engineers HEC-1 model may be used only if there is an existing HEC-1 model.

The National Flood Frequency program is published by the United States Geological Survey and is available on the internet. The results of this program should be consistent with the current USGS regression equations for both rural and urban areas. The user should verify that results obtained from this program are consistent with the regression equations presented in this manual.

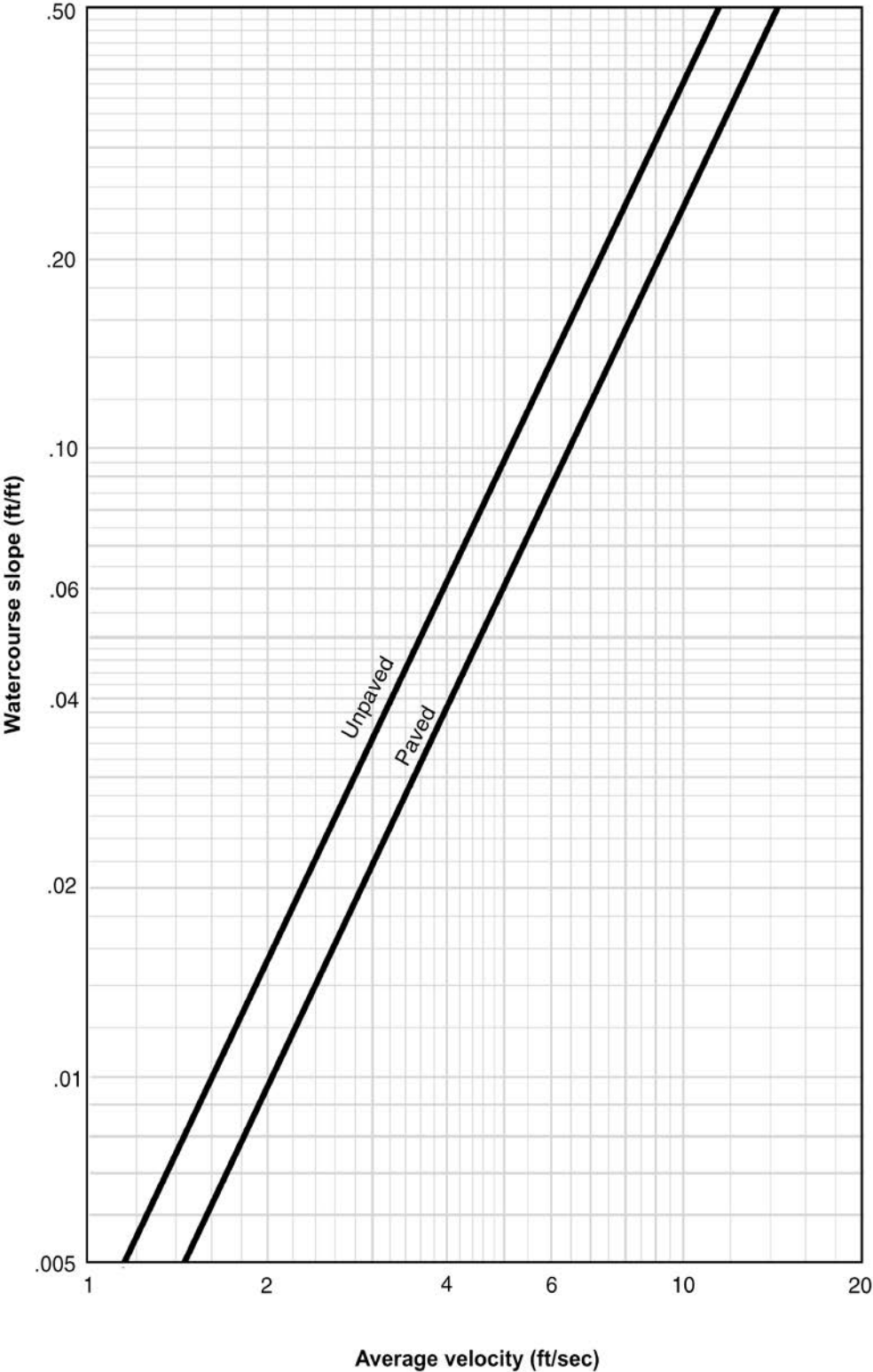
Approved Software	Uses
GeoPak	Computes Peak Discharge Rational Method NRCS Curve Number Method
National Flood Frequency Program, USGS StreamStats, TDOTv2.0.3	Computes Peak Discharge USGS Rural Regression Equation USGS Urban Regression Equation USGS Memphis Regression Equation
HEC-HMS, HEC-1 *	Develops Hydrographs using NRCS Curve Number and Unit Hydrograph Methods Channel Routings Reservoir Routings (existing and proposed) Diversions
TR-55	Develops Hydrographs using NRCS Curve Number and Unit Hydrograph Methods Channel Routings Reservoir Routings (existing and proposed) Diversions

\* HEC-1 may be used only if there is an existing HEC-1 model

**Table 4-8  
Acceptable Computer Software**

**SECTION 4.06 - APPENDIX**

**4.06.1 FIGURES AND TABLES**



**Figure 4A-1**  
**Shallow Concentrated Flow Average Velocities**  
Reference: USDA, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds (1986)

Time of Concentration (T <sub>c</sub> ) Worksheet																																										
Project	By	Date																																								
Location	Checked	Date																																								
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Developed Notes: As many as two segments of each flow type can be analyzed on this worksheet. Include a map, schematic or description of the flow segments.																																										
Sheet Flow																																										
Segment ID 1. Surface Description (Table 4-3) ..... 2. Manning's roughness coefficient, n (Table 4-3) 3. Flow length (total ≤ 300 feet) ..... ft 4. 2-year, 24-hour rainfall, P <sub>2</sub> .....in 4. Rainfall intensity ..... in/hr 5. Land slope, S ..... ft/ft 6. Compute t <sub>t(sheet)</sub> ..... hr Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> NRCS $t_t = \frac{0.007(nL)^{0.8}}{P_2^{0.5}S^{0.4}}$ <input type="checkbox"/> Kinematic Wave $t_t = 0.938 \frac{n^{0.6}L^{0.6}}{i^{0.4}S^{0.3}}$	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>																					<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>																				
7. Surface description (paved or unpaved) ..... 8. Flow length, L ..... ft 9. Watercourse slope, S ..... ft/ft 10. Average velocity, V (Figure 4A-10) ..... ft/sec 11. Compute t <sub>t(shallow)</sub> ..... hr $t_t = L / (3600V)$	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>																					<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>																				
Channel Flow																																										
Segment ID 12. Cross sectional flow area, a ..... ft <sup>2</sup> 13. Wetted perimeter, p <sub>w</sub> ..... ft 14. Hydraulic r = a/p <sub>w</sub> .....	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>									<table border="1" style="width: 100%; height: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> <tr><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td><td style="width: 50%; height: 20px;"></td></tr> </table>																																



radius	ft			
15. Channel slope, S				
.....	ft/ft			
16. Mannings coefficient, n (Table 5A-1)				
.....				
17. Velocity	$V=1.49 r^{2/3} S^{1/2} / n$			
.....	ft/s			
18. Flow length, L				
.....	ft			
19. $t_t = L / (3600V)$	Compute $t_{t(\text{channel})}$		+	=
.....	hr			
20. Time of concentration ( $T_c$ ): $t_{t(\text{sheet})} + t_{t(\text{shallow})} + t_{t(\text{channel})}$				
..... hr				

**Figure 4A-2**  
**NRCS Time of Concentration Worksheet**  
 Reference: USDA, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds (1986)

Curve Number Computation Worksheet						
Project		By		Date		
Location		Checked		Date		
Check one: <input type="checkbox"/> Present <input type="checkbox"/> Developed						
Soil Name and Hydrologic Group (see Table 4A-4)	Cover Description:  (cover type, treatment and hydrologic condition; % impervious; unconnected or connected impervious area ratio)	Curve Number <sup>1</sup>			Area  <input type="checkbox"/> ac. <input type="checkbox"/> mi <sup>2</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> %	Product of CN x Area
		Table 4A-1	Table 4A-2	Table 4A-3		
<sup>1</sup> Use only one CN source per line				<b>TOTALS:</b>		
$CN (weighted) = \frac{total\ product}{total\ area} = \frac{\quad}{\quad} = \quad$				<b>USE CN =</b> <span style="border: 1px solid black; display: inline-block; width: 100px; height: 20px; vertical-align: middle;"></span>		

**Figure 4A-3**  
**Curve Number Worksheet**  
Reference: USDA, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds (1986)

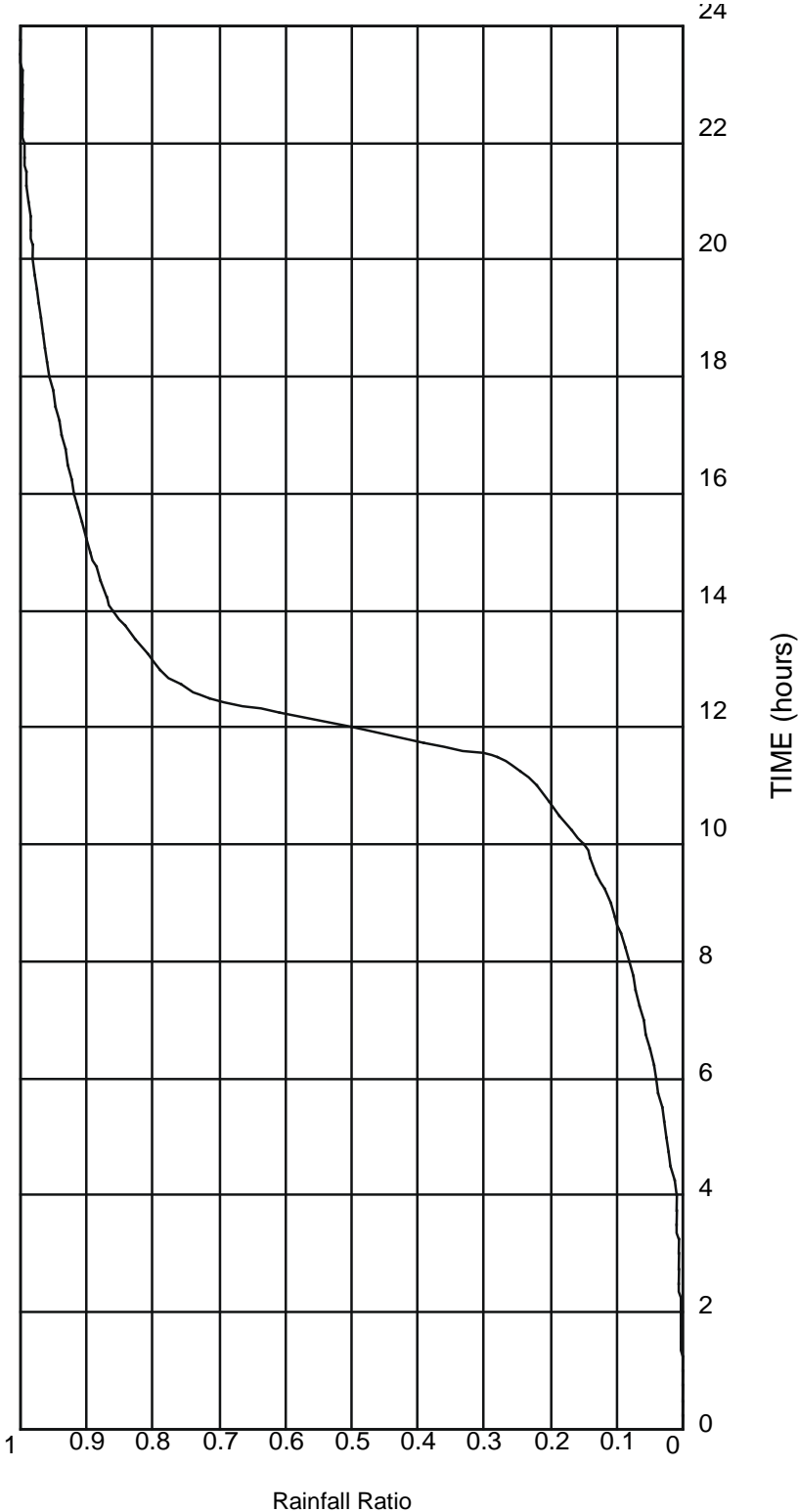
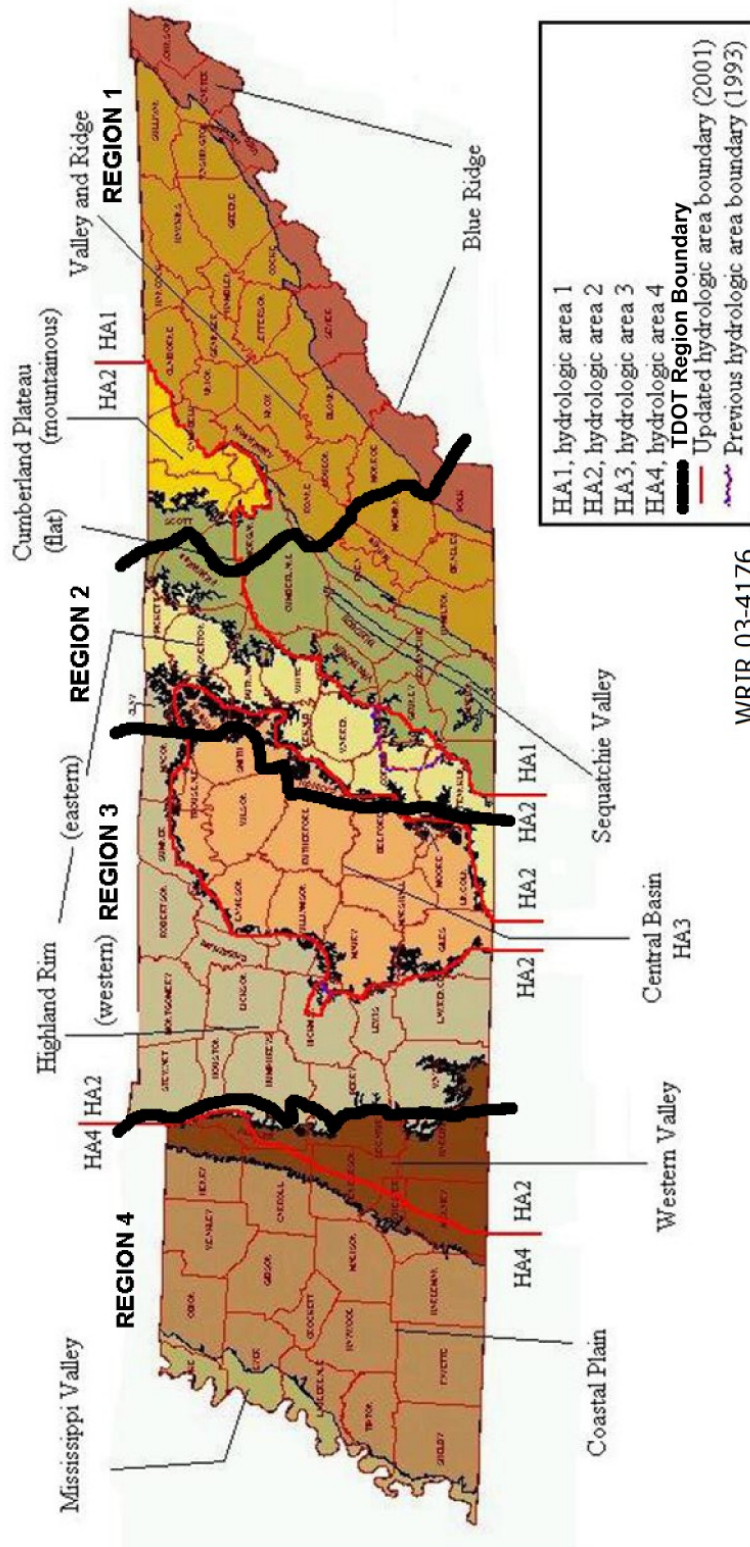


Figure 4A-4  
Balanced Storm Rainfall Distribution (P/P<sub>24</sub> Ratio)



**Figure 4A-5**  
**Tennessee Physiographic Regions**  
 Reference: Adapted from USGS, 2003

Cover Type and Hydrologic Condition Fully Developed Urban Areas (vegetation established): <sup>a</sup>		CN for Soil Group			
		A	B	C	D
<b>Open space (lawn, parks, golf courses, cemeteries, etc.):<sup>c</sup></b>					
Poor condition (grass cover < 50%)		68	79	86	89
Fair condition (grass cover 50% to 75%)		49	69	79	84
Good condition (grass cover > 75%)		39	61	74	80
<b>Impervious areas:</b>					
Paved parking lots, roofs, driveways, etc. (excluding right-of-way)		98	98	98	98
<b>Streets and roads:</b>					
Paved; curbs and storm sewers (excluding right-of-way)		98	98	98	98
Paved; open ditches (including right-of-way)		83	89	92	93
Gravel (including right-of-way)		76	85	89	91
Dirt (including right-of-way)		72	82	87	89
<b>Urban districts:<sup>b</sup></b>					
Commercial and business	85% average impervious area	89	92	94	95
Industrial	72% average impervious area	81	88	91	93
<b>Residential districts by average lot size:<sup>b</sup></b>					
1/8 acre or less (town houses)	65% average impervious area	77	85	90	92
1/4 acre	38% average impervious area	61	75	83	87
1/3 acre	30% average impervious area	57	72	81	86
1/2 acre	25% average impervious area	54	70	80	85
1 acre	20% average impervious area	51	68	79	84
2 acres	12% average impervious area	46	65	77	82
<b>Developing urban areas:</b>					
Newly graded areas (pervious areas only, no vegetation) <sup>d</sup>		77	86	91	94
For idle lands, CN's are determined using cover types similar to those in Table 4A-3					

**Table 4A-1**  
**Runoff Curve Numbers for Urban Areas**  
 Reference: USDA, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds (1986)  
 (See following page for notes)

<sup>a</sup>Average runoff condition and  $I = 0.2S$

<sup>b</sup>The average percent impervious area shown was used to develop the composite CN's. Other assumptions are as follows: impervious areas are directly connected to the drainage system, impervious areas have a CN of 98, and pervious areas are considered equivalent to open space in good hydrologic condition. CN's for other combinations of conditions may be computed using methods described in TR 55.

<sup>c</sup>CNs shown are equivalent to those of pasture. Composite CN's may be computed for other combinations of open space cover type.

<sup>d</sup>Composite CN's to use for the design of temporary measures during grading and construction should be computed based on the degree of development (impervious area percentage) and the CN's for the newly graded pervious areas.

Table References:

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. *Model Drainage Manual* [Metric Edition]. Washington, D.C. 1999.

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Department of Public Works Engineering Division. *Stormwater Management Manual*. Nashville, Tennessee. Sept. 1999.

United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service. Engineering Division. *Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds - Technical Release 55*. June 1986 (available for download at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/water/quality/common/tr55/tr55.html>).

**Table 4A-1 (continued)**  
**Runoff Curve Numbers for Urban Areas**

Reference: USDA, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds (1986)

Cover Description <sup>a</sup>		Hydrologic Condition <sup>c</sup>	CN for Soil Group			
Cover type	Treatment <sup>b</sup>		A	B	C	D
Fallow	Bare soil	-----	77	86	91	94
	Crop residue cover (CR)	Poor	76	85	90	93
		Good	74	83	88	90
Row crops	Straight row (SR)	Poor	72	81	88	91
		Good	67	78	85	89
	SR + CR	Poor	71	80	87	90
		Good	64	75	82	85
	Contoured (C)	Poor	70	79	84	88
		Good	65	75	82	86
	C + CR	Poor	69	78	83	87
		Good	64	74	81	85
	Contoured & terraced (C&T)	Poor	66	74	80	82
		Good	62	71	78	81
C&T + CR	Poor	65	73	79	81	
	Good	61	70	77	80	
Small grain	SR	Poor	65	76	84	88
		Good	63	75	83	87
	SR + CR	Poor	64	75	83	86
		Good	60	72	80	84
	C	Poor	63	74	82	85
		Good	61	73	81	84
	C + CR	Poor	62	73	81	84
		Good	60	72	80	83
	C&T	Poor	61	72	79	82
		Good	59	70	78	81
C&T + CR	Poor	60	71	78	81	
	Good	58	69	77	80	
Close-seeded or broadcast legumes or rotation meadow	SR	Poor	66	77	85	89
		Good	58	72	81	85
	C	Poor	64	75	83	85
		Good	55	69	78	83
	C&T	Poor	63	73	80	83
		Good	51	67	76	80

**Table 4A-2**  
**Runoff Curve Numbers for Cultivated Agricultural Lands<sup>a</sup>**

Reference: USDA, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds (1986)

(See following page for notes)

<sup>a</sup>Average runoff condition,  $I = 0.2S$

<sup>b</sup>Crop residue cover applies only if residue is on at least 5% of the surface throughout the year

<sup>c</sup>Hydraulic condition is based on combination factors that affect infiltration and runoff, including

- a.) density and canopy of vegetative areas
- b.) amount of year-round cover
- c.) amount of grass or close seeded legumes
- d.) percent of residue cover on the land surface (good  $\geq 20\%$ )
- e.) degree of surface roughness

Poor: Factors impair infiltration and tend to increase runoff

Good: Factors encourage average and better than average infiltration and tend to decrease runoff

Table References:

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. *Model Drainage Manual* [Metric Edition]. Washington, D.C. 1999.

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Department of Public Works Engineering Division. *Stormwater Management Manual*. Nashville, Tennessee. Sept. 1999.

United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service. Engineering Division. *Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds - Technical Release 55*. June 1986 (available for download at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/water/quality/common/tr55/tr55.html>).

**Table 4A-2 (continued)**  
**Runoff Curve Numbers for Cultivated Agricultural Lands**  
 Reference: USDA, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds (1986)



Cover Type and Description	Hydrologic Condition	CN for Soil Group			
		A	B	C	D
Pasture, grassland, or range--continuous forage for grazing <sup>b</sup>	Poor	68	79	86	89
	Fair	49	69	79	84
	Good	39	61	74	80
Meadow--continuous grass, protected from grazing and generally mowed for hay	----	30	58	71	78
Brush--brush-weed-grass mixture with brush the major element <sup>c</sup>	Poor	48	67	77	83
	Fair	35	56	70	77
	Good	30 <sup>d</sup>	48	65	73
Woods--grass combination (orchard or tree farm) <sup>e</sup>	Poor	57	73	82	86
	Fair	43	65	76	82
	Good	32	58	72	79
Woods <sup>f</sup>	Poor	45	66	77	83
	Fair	36	60	73	79
	Good	30 <sup>d</sup>	55	70	77
Farmsteads--buildings, lanes, driveways, and surrounding lots	----	59	74	82	86

**Table 4A-3**  
**Runoff Curve Numbers For Rural Areas and Other Agricultural Lands<sup>a</sup>**

Reference: USDA, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds (1986)  
 (See following page for notes)

<sup>a</sup>Average runoff condition, and  $I = 0.2S$ .

<sup>b</sup>Poor: <50% ground cover or heavily grazed with no mulch.  
 Fair: 50 to 75% ground cover and not heavily grazed.  
 Good: >75% ground cover and lightly or only occasionally grazed.

<sup>c</sup>Poor: <50% ground cover.  
 Fair: 50 to 75% ground cover.  
 Good: > 75% ground cover.

<sup>d</sup>Actual curve number is less than 30; use CN = 30 for runoff computations.

<sup>e</sup>CN's shown were computed for areas with 50% woods and 50% grass (pasture) cover. Other combinations of conditions may be computed from CN's for woods and pasture.

- Poor: Forest litter, small trees, and brush are destroyed by heavy grazing or regular burning.
- Fair: Woods are grazed but not burned, and some forest litter covers the soil.
- Good: Woods are protected from grazing and litter and brush adequately cover the soil.

Table References:

*American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. Model Drainage Manual [Metric Edition]. Washington, D.C. 1999.*

Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County Department of Public Works Engineering Division. *Stormwater Management Manual*. Nashville, Tennessee. Sept. 1999.

United States Department of Agriculture. Soil Conservation Service. Engineering Division. *Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds - Technical Release 55*. June 1986 (available for download at <http://www.wcc.nrcs.usda.gov/water/quality/common/tr55/tr55.html>)

**Table 4A-3 (continued)**  
**Runoff Curve Numbers For Rural Areas and Other Agricultural Lands**  
 Reference: USDA, Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds (1986)

Soil Name	HSG	Soil Name	HSG	Soil Name	HSG
Adler	C	Biltmore	A	Chagrin	B
Agee	D	Birds	B/D	Chenneby	C
Alcoa	B	Bland	C	Chestnut	B
Allegheny	B	Bledsoe	C	Chewacla	C
Allen	B	Bloomington	D	Chickasaw	C
Alligator	D	Bluestocking	C	Chiswell	D
Almaville	D	Bodine	B	Christian	C
Almo	D	Bolton	B	Citico	B
Altavista	C	Bonair	D	Claiborne	B
Alticrest	B	Bonn	D	Clarkrange	C
Amagon	D	Bosket	B	Clarksville	B
Apison	B	Boswell	D	Cleveland	C
Arents	B	Bouldin	B	Cloudland (Monongahela)	C
Arkabutla	C	Bowdre	C	Cobbly Alluvium	B
Arkaqua	C	Braddock	B	Cobbly Alluvium (Cobb)	B
Armour	B	Bradyville	C	Cobbly Alluvium (Welchland)	B
Armuchee	C	Brandon	B	Cobstone	B
Arrington	B	Brantley	C	Coghill	B
Ashe	B	Brasstown	B	Coile	C
Ashe Variant	B	Braxton	C	Colbert	D
Ashwood	C	Brevard	B	Collegedale	C
Askew	C	Brookshire	C	Collins	C
Atkins	D	Bruno	A	Colvard	B
Augusta	C	Buladean	B	Combs	B
Balsam	B	Buncombe	A	Commerce	C
Barbourville	B	Burton	B	Conasauga	C
Barfield	D	Busseltown	C	Congaree	B
Barger	C	Byler	C	Convent	C
Baxter	B	Bloomington	D	Cookeville (Dewey)	B
Bays	C	Busseltown	C	Corryton	B
Beason	C	Calhoun	D	Cotaco	C
Bedford	C	Calloway	C	Craggey	D
Beechy		Calvin	C	Craigsville	B
Beechy (Bibb)	D	Caneyville	C	Crevasse	A
Beersheba	B	Cannon	B	Crider	B
Bellamy	C	Capshaw	C	Crossville	B
Bethesda	C	Captina	C	Cullasaja	B
Bewleyville	B	Carbo	C	Culleoka	B
Bibb	D	Cataska	C	Cumberland	B
Biffle	B	Center	C	Curtistown	B

Table 4A-4 (page 1 of 4)  
Hydrologic Soil Groups by Soil Name

Soil Name	HSG	Soil Name	HSG	Soil Name	HSG
Cuthbert	C	Falkner	C	Holston	B
Cutshin	B	Farragut	C	Humphreys	B
Cynthiana	D	Fletcher	B	Huntington	B
Dandridge	D	Forestdale	D	Hymon (Collins)	C
Deanburg	B	Fountain	D	Hymon (Iuka)	C
Decatur	B	Frankstown	B	Iberia	D
Dekoven	D	Freeland	C	Ina (Arkabutla)	C
Dellrose	B	Fullerton	B	Ina (Mantchie)	C
Dewey	B	Gilpin	C	Inman	C
Dexter	B	Gladdice	C	Ironcity	B
Dickson	C	Gladeville	D	Iuka	C
Dillard	C	Godwin	D	Jefferson	B
Dilton	D	Greendale	B	Jeffrey	B
Ditney	C	Greenlee	B	Junaluska	B
Donerail	B	Grenada	C	Keener	B
Dowellton	D	Grimsley	B	Keyespoint	D
Dubbs	B	Groseclose	C	Kinston	B/D
Dulac	C	Guthrie	D	Landisburg (Paden)	C
Dumps	A	Guyton	D	Lanton	D
Dundee	C	Gumdale	C	Lawrence	C
Dunmore	B	Hagerstown	C	Lax	C
Dunning	D	Hamblen	C	Leadvale	C
Eagleville	D	Hampshire	C	Lee	D
Ealy	B	Hanceville	B	Leesburg	B
Edneytown	B	Harmiller	B	Lehew	C
Edneyville	B	Harpeth	B	Lexington	B
Egam	C	Hartsell	B	Lexington Materials	B
Elk	B	Hartsells	B	Lily	B
Elkins	D	Hatboro	D	Lindell	C
Ellisville	B	Hatchie	C	Lindside	C
Emory	B	Hawthorne	B	Linker	B
Enders	C	Hayesville	B	Litz	C
Ennis	B	Hayter	B	Lobdell	B
Enville	C	Hendon	C	Lobelville	C
Etowah	B	Henry	D	Lomond	B
Eustis	A	Hermitage	B	Lonewood	B
Evard	B	Hicks	B	Lonon	B
Fairmount	D	Hillwood	B	Loring	C
Falaya	D	Hollywood	D	Lostcove	B

Table 4A-4 (page 2 of 4)  
Hydrologic Soil Groups by Soil Name

Soil Name	HSG	Soil Name	HSG	Soil Name	HSG
Luverne	C	Norene	C	Rosebloom	D
Lynnville	C	Northcove	B	Rosman	B
Magnolia (Smithdale)	B	Oaklimeter	C	Routon	D
Mantachie	C	Ocana	B	Ruston	B
Marsh	B	Ochlockonee	B	Saffell	B
Masada	C	Oktibbeha	D	Sandhill	B
Maury	B	Ooltewah	C	Sango	C
Maymead	B	Openlake	D	Saunook	B
Maymead Variant	A	Opequon	C	Savannah	C
Mccamy	B	Pace (Minvale)	B	Sees	C
Melvin	D	Paden	C	Sengtown	B
Memphis	B	Pailo	B	Sensabaugh	B
Mercer	C	Pembroke	B	Sequatchie	B
Mhoon	D	Petros	D	Sequoia	C
Mimosa	C	Pettyjon	B	Sewanee	B
Minter	D	Philo	B	Shack	B
Minvale	B	Pickaway (Byler)	C	Shady	B
Monogahela	C	Pickwick	B	Shannon (Vicksburg)	B
Monongahela	C	Pigeonroost	C	Sharkey	D
Monteagle	B	Pikeville	B	Shelocta	B
Montevallo	D	Pineola	B	Shouns	B
Morehead	C	Plott	B	Shubuta	C
Morganfield	B	Pope	B	Silerton	B
Mountview	B	Porters	B	Skidmore	B
Mullins	D	Potomac	A	Smithdale	B
Muse	C	Prader	D	Soco	B
Muskingum	C	Providence	C	Spivey	B
Natchez	B	Purdy	D	Staser	B
Needmore	C	Ramsey	D	State	B
Nella	B	Ranger	C	Statler	B
Nelse	B	Red Hills	B	Steadman	C
Nesbitt	B	Reelfoot	C	Stecoah	B
Neubert	B	Riverby	A	Steekee	C
Newark	C	Roane	C	Steens	C
Nixa	C	Roanoke	D	Stemley	C
Noah	B	Robertsville	D	Stiversville	B
Nolichucky	B	Robinsonville	B	Suches	B
Nolin	B	Rockdell	B	Sugargrove	B
Nonaburg	D	Roellen	D	Sullivan	B

Table 4A-4 (page 3 of 4)  
Hydrologic Soil Groups by Soil Name

Soil Name	HSG	Soil Name	HSG	Soil Name	HSG
Sulphura	B	Tigrett (Elk)	B	Varilla	B
Sumter	C	Tilsit	C	Vicksburg	B
Sunlight	C	Tippah	C	Wakeland	C
Susquehanna	D	Tiptonville	B	Wallen	B
Swafford	C	Toccoa	B	Waverly	B/D
Swaim (Talbott)	C	Tooterville	D	Wayah	B
Swaim(Mimosa)	C	Townley	C	Waynesboro	B
Swamp (Rosebloom)	D	Trace	B	Weaver	C
Sweatman	C	Transylvania	B	Wehadkee	D
Sykes	B	Tsali	C	Welchland	B
Sylco	C	Tunica	D	Wellston	B
Sylvatus	D	Tupelo	D	Whitesburg	C
Taft	C	Tusquitee	B	Whitwell	C
Talbott	C	Tyler	C	Wolftever	C
Tarklin	C	Una	D	Woodmont	C
Tasso	B	Unaka	B	Woolper	C
Tate	B	Unicoi	C	Worthen	B
Teas	C	Unison	B	Zenith	B
Tellico	B	Upshur Variant	C		
Tichnor	D	Vacherie	C		

**Table 4A-4 (page 4 of 4)**  
**Hydrologic Soil Groups by Soil Name**

County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)
Anderson	3.33	Hamilton	3.75	Morgan	3.55
Bedford	3.88	Hancock	3.07	Obion	3.89
Benton	3.75	Hardeman	4.02	Overton	3.50
Bledsoe	3.66	Hardin	3.98	Perry	3.85
Blount	3.31	Hawkins	2.71	Pickett	3.39
Bradley	3.61	Haywood	3.88	Polk	3.61
Campbell	3.23	Henderson	3.68	Putnam	3.63
Cannon	3.80	Henry	3.71	Rhea	3.71
Carroll	3.72	Hickman	3.80	Roane	3.37
Carter	3.15	Houston	3.71	Robertson	3.51
Cheatham	3.59	Humphreys	3.77	Rutherford	3.72
Chester	3.79	Jackson	3.54	Scott	3.33
Clairborne	3.10	Jefferson	2.83	Sequatchie	3.84
Clay	3.42	Johnson	3.41	Sevier	2.87
Cocke	2.86	Knox	3.07	Shelby	3.95
Coffee	3.85	Lake	3.88	Smith	3.59
Crockett	3.85	Lauderdale	3.92	Stewart	3.70
Cumberland	3.63	Lawrence	3.93	Sullivan	2.55
Davidson	3.44	Lewis	3.86	Sumner	3.57
Decatur	3.80	Lincoln	3.86	Tipton	3.87
DeKalb	3.70	Loudon	3.26	Trousdale	3.60
Dickson	3.72	McMinn	3.56	Unicoi	2.85
Dyer	3.88	McNairy	4.02	Union	3.21
Fayette	3.98	Macon	3.61	Van Buren	3.74
Fentress	3.33	Madison	3.87	Warren	3.70
Franklin	3.96	Marion	3.86	Washington	2.67
Gibson	3.84	Marshall	3.88	Wayne	3.97
Giles	3.90	Maury	3.84	Weakley	3.81
Grainger	3.01	Meigs	3.56	White	3.67
Greene	2.77	Monroe	3.58	Williamson	3.68
Grundy	3.85	Montgomery	3.63	Wilson	3.64
Hamblen	2.80	Moore	3.92		

**Table 4A-5**  
**2-year, 24-hour Rainfall Depths by County**  
 Reference: National Weather Service, NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 2 (2004)

County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)
Anderson	4.07	Hamilton	4.57	Morgan	4.32
Bedford	4.73	Hancock	3.73	Obion	4.77
Benton	4.65	Hardeman	4.86	Overton	4.27
Bledsoe	4.46	Hardin	4.83	Perry	4.70
Blount	4.04	Hawkins	3.22	Pickett	4.13
Bradley	4.40	Haywood	4.81	Polk	4.42
Campbell	3.96	Henderson	4.57	Putnam	4.43
Cannon	4.63	Henry	4.62	Rhea	4.53
Carroll	4.63	Hickman	4.64	Roane	4.11
Carter	3.72	Houston	4.55	Robertson	4.28
Cheatham	4.38	Humphreys	4.62	Rutherford	4.54
Chester	4.65	Jackson	4.32	Scott	4.06
Clairborne	3.80	Jefferson	3.46	Sequatchie	4.68
Clay	4.18	Johnson	4.33	Sevier	3.53
Cocke	3.50	Knox	3.75	Shelby	4.86
Coffee	4.69	Lake	4.76	Smith	4.38
Crockett	4.75	Lauderdale	4.80	Stewart	4.53
Cumberland	4.42	Lawrence	4.80	Sullivan	3.00
Davidson	4.19	Lewis	4.71	Sumner	4.34
Decatur	4.69	Lincoln	4.71	Tipton	4.80
DeKalb	4.51	Loudon	3.97	Trousdale	4.38
Dickson	4.54	McMinn	4.34	Unicoi	3.37
Dyer	4.74	McNairy	4.87	Union	3.94
Fayette	4.86	Macon	4.41	Van Buren	4.56
Fentress	4.06	Madison	4.71	Warren	4.51
Franklin	4.83	Marion	4.71	Washington	3.15
Gibson	4.75	Marshall	4.73	Wayne	4.83
Giles	4.77	Maury	4.68	Weakley	4.73
Grainger	3.65	Meigs	4.34	White	4.47
Greene	3.40	Monroe	4.38	Williamson	4.48
Grundy	4.70	Montgomery	4.45	Wilson	4.43
Hamblen	3.37	Moore	4.78		

**Table 4A-6**  
**5-year, 24-hour Rainfall Depths by County**  
 Reference: National Weather Service, NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 2 (2004)



County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)
Anderson	4.67	Hamilton	5.21	Morgan	4.93
Bedford	5.40	Hancock	4.28	Obion	5.42
Benton	5.40	Hardeman	5.53	Overton	4.89
Bledsoe	5.10	Hardin	5.50	Perry	5.39
Blount	4.63	Hawkins	3.62	Pickett	4.74
Bradley	5.02	Haywood	5.57	Polk	5.08
Campbell	4.55	Henderson	5.30	Putnam	5.07
Cannon	5.29	Henry	5.36	Rhea	5.18
Carroll	5.38	Hickman	5.31	Roane	4.68
Carter	4.16	Houston	5.24	Robertson	4.91
Cheatham	5.02	Humphreys	5.31	Rutherford	5.18
Chester	5.35	Jackson	4.94	Scott	4.64
Clairborne	4.41	Jefferson	3.99	Sequatchie	5.34
Clay	4.79	Johnson	5.08	Sevier	4.08
Cocke	4.03	Knox	4.29	Shelby	5.59
Coffee	5.36	Lake	5.42	Smith	5.03
Crockett	5.45	Lauderdale	5.46	Stewart	5.22
Cumberland	5.05	Lawrence	5.48	Sullivan	3.35
Davidson	4.80	Lewis	5.39	Sumner	4.99
Decatur	5.42	Lincoln	5.38	Tipton	5.55
DeKalb	5.16	Loudon	4.54	Trousdale	5.04
Dickson	5.20	McMinn	4.96	Unicoi	3.77
Dyer	5.38	McNairy	5.54	Union	4.54
Fayette	5.55	Macon	5.07	Van Buren	5.21
Fentress	4.64	Madison	5.38	Warren	5.15
Franklin	5.52	Marion	5.38	Washington	3.52
Gibson	5.47	Marshall	5.41	Wayne	5.53
Giles	5.45	Maury	5.35	Weakley	5.48
Grainger	4.20	Meigs	4.96	White	5.11
Greene	3.90	Monroe	5.02	Williamson	5.13
Grundy	5.37	Montgomery	5.10	Wilson	5.09
Hamblen	3.82	Moore	5.46		

**Table 4A-7**  
**10-year, 24-hour Rainfall Depths by County**  
 Reference: National Weather Service, NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 2 (2004)

County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)
Anderson	5.53	Hamilton	6.10	Morgan	5.78
Bedford	6.31	Hancock	5.03	Obion	6.28
Benton	6.45	Hardeman	6.41	Overton	5.75
Bledsoe	5.97	Hardin	6.39	Perry	6.32
Blount	5.45	Hawkins	4.15	Pickett	5.57
Bradley	5.87	Haywood	6.65	Polk	5.98
Campbell	5.41	Henderson	6.33	Putnam	5.94
Cannon	6.19	Henry	6.42	Rhea	6.06
Carroll	6.45	Hickman	6.24	Roane	5.48
Carter	4.75	Houston	6.21	Robertson	5.79
Cheatham	5.92	Humphreys	6.28	Rutherford	6.07
Chester	6.30	Jackson	5.82	Scott	5.44
Clairborne	5.28	Jefferson	4.77	Sequatchie	6.25
Clay	5.65	Johnson	6.17	Sevier	4.88
Cocke	4.75	Knox	5.03	Shelby	6.60
Coffee	6.27	Lake	6.28	Smith	5.91
Crockett	6.42	Lauderdale	6.32	Stewart	6.18
Cumberland	5.90	Lawrence	6.42	Sullivan	3.79
Davidson	5.65	Lewis	6.31	Sumner	5.88
Decatur	6.45	Lincoln	6.29	Tipton	6.60
DeKalb	6.03	Loudon	5.31	Trousdale	5.95
Dickson	6.13	McMinn	5.80	Unicoi	4.29
Dyer	6.21	McNairy	6.42	Union	5.41
Fayette	6.49	Macon	6.00	Van Buren	6.09
Fentress	5.44	Madison	6.26	Warren	6.03
Franklin	6.47	Marion	6.30	Washington	4.00
Gibson	6.46	Marshall	6.32	Wayne	6.46
Giles	6.38	Maury	6.26	Weakley	6.55
Grainger	4.96	Meigs	5.80	White	5.98
Greene	4.59	Monroe	5.89	Williamson	6.04
Grundy	6.28	Montgomery	6.03	Wilson	5.99
Hamblen	4.44	Moore	6.38		

**Table 4A-8**  
**25-year, 24-hour Rainfall Depths by County**  
 Reference: National Weather Service, NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 2 (2004)

County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)
Anderson	6.23	Hamilton	6.80	Morgan	6.44
Bedford	7.04	Hancock	5.64	Obion	6.94
Benton	7.33	Hardeman	7.10	Overton	6.45
Bledsoe	6.65	Hardin	7.08	Perry	7.08
Blount	6.13	Hawkins	4.56	Pickett	6.25
Bradley	6.55	Haywood	7.54	Polk	6.71
Campbell	6.12	Henderson	7.19	Putnam	6.64
Cannon	6.90	Henry	7.30	Rhea	6.76
Carroll	7.32	Hickman	7.00	Roane	6.11
Carter	5.21	Houston	7.00	Robertson	6.51
Cheatham	6.65	Humphreys	7.07	Rutherford	6.77
Chester	7.08	Jackson	6.53	Scott	6.08
Clairborne	6.02	Jefferson	5.42	Sequatchie	6.97
Clay	6.35	Johnson	7.10	Sevier	5.55
Cocke	5.35	Knox	5.64	Shelby	7.41
Coffee	6.99	Lake	6.95	Smith	6.62
Crockett	7.19	Lauderdale	6.99	Stewart	6.96
Cumberland	6.58	Lawrence	7.16	Sullivan	4.13
Davidson	6.34	Lewis	7.05	Sumner	6.61
Decatur	7.29	Lincoln	7.01	Tipton	7.46
DeKalb	6.73	Loudon	5.93	Trousdale	6.70
Dickson	6.88	McMinn	6.47	Unicoi	4.69
Dyer	6.84	McNairy	7.12	Union	6.13
Fayette	7.23	Macon	6.78	Van Buren	6.79
Fentress	6.08	Madison	6.97	Warren	6.71
Franklin	7.23	Marion	7.02	Washington	4.36
Gibson	7.26	Marshall	7.05	Wayne	7.20
Giles	7.12	Maury	6.99	Weakley	7.44
Grainger	5.60	Meigs	6.47	White	6.67
Greene	5.15	Monroe	6.60	Williamson	6.78
Grundy	7.00	Montgomery	6.78	Wilson	6.72
Hamblen	4.94	Moore	7.12		

**Table 4A-9**  
**50-year, 24-hour Rainfall Depths by County**  
 Reference: National Weather Service, NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 2 (2004)

County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)	County	Depth (inches)
Anderson	6.97	Hamilton	7.52	Morgan	7.12
Bedford	7.78	Hancock	6.28	Obion	7.60
Benton	8.26	Hardeman	7.79	Overton	7.16
Bledsoe	7.35	Hardin	7.78	Perry	7.85
Blount	6.82	Hawkins	4.96	Pickett	6.95
Bradley	7.24	Haywood	8.48	Polk	7.46
Campbell	6.88	Henderson	8.11	Putnam	7.35
Cannon	7.63	Henry	8.23	Rhea	7.48
Carroll	8.26	Hickman	7.77	Roane	6.75
Carter	5.67	Houston	7.83	Robertson	7.25
Cheatham	7.42	Humphreys	7.89	Rutherford	7.50
Chester	7.88	Jackson	7.25	Scott	6.74
Clairborne	6.82	Jefferson	6.13	Sequatchie	7.72
Clay	7.07	Johnson	8.09	Sevier	6.28
Cocke	5.96	Knox	6.25	Shelby	8.26
Coffee	7.73	Lake	7.62	Smith	7.37
Crockett	7.99	Lauderdale	7.66	Stewart	7.78
Cumberland	7.27	Lawrence	7.92	Sullivan	4.46
Davidson	7.06	Lewis	7.79	Sumner	7.38
Decatur	8.17	Lincoln	7.74	Tipton	8.37
DeKalb	7.44	Loudon	6.56	Trousdale	7.48
Dickson	7.66	McMinn	7.15	Unicoi	5.09
Dyer	7.46	McNairy	7.81	Union	6.91
Fayette	7.99	Macon	7.59	Van Buren	7.51
Fentress	6.74	Madison	7.68	Warren	7.42
Franklin	8.01	Marion	7.77	Washington	4.72
Gibson	8.10	Marshall	7.79	Wayne	7.97
Giles	7.88	Maury	7.72	Weakley	8.37
Grainger	6.28	Meigs	7.15	White	7.37
Greene	5.72	Monroe	7.32	Williamson	7.54
Grundy	7.74	Montgomery	7.57	Wilson	7.48
Hamblen	5.45	Moore	7.88		

**Table 4A-10**  
**100-year, 24-hour Rainfall Depths by County**  
 Reference: National Weather Service, NOAA Atlas 14, Volume 2 (2004)

Hydrologic Area	Watershed Area	
	Acres	Square Miles
1	832	1.30
2	326	0.51
3	205	0.32
4	269	0.42

**Table 4A-11**  
**Drainage Area Required to Produce a 50-year Discharge**  
**of 500 ft<sup>3</sup>/s or Greater**

Reference: TDOT Hydraulic Design Section

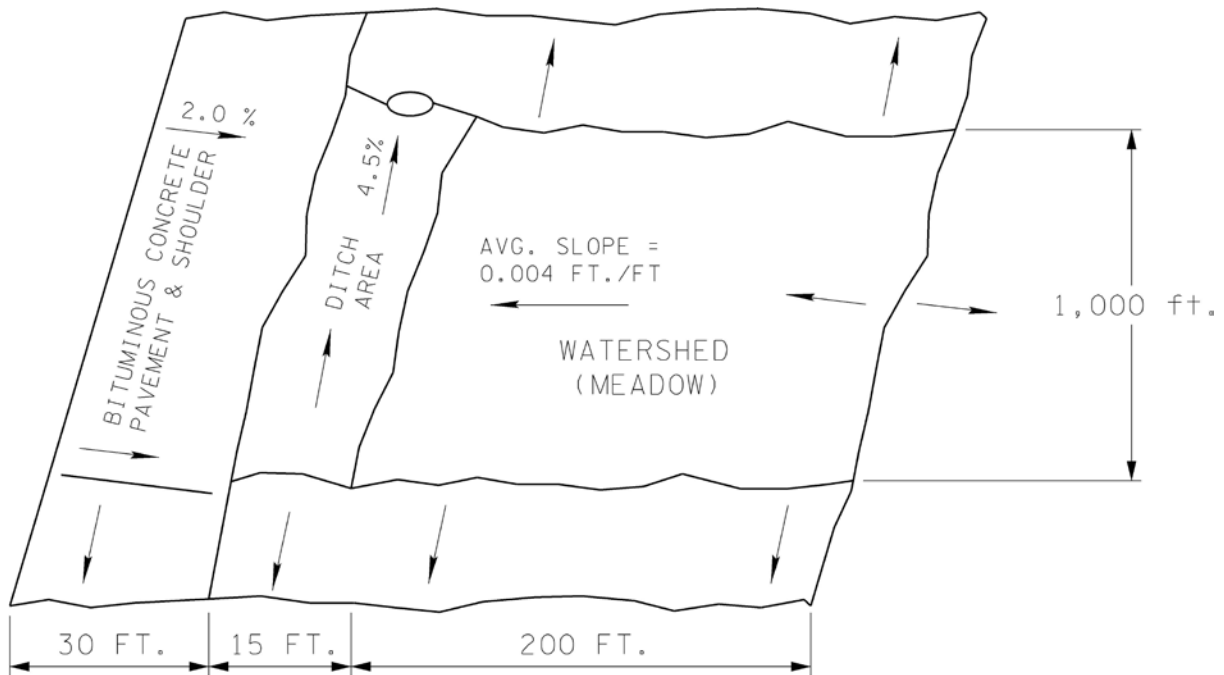
4.06.2 EXAMPLE PROBLEMS

4.06.2.1 RATIONAL METHOD EXAMPLE PROBLEMS

4.06.2.1.1 SIMPLE DRAINAGE AREA DESIGN DISCHARGE EXAMPLE

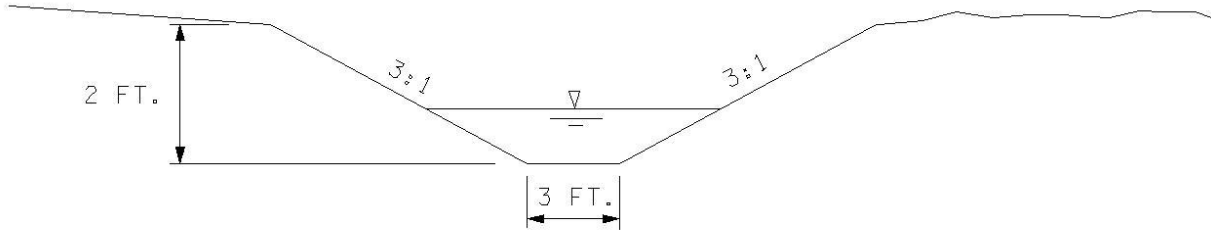
**GIVEN:**

A ditch will collect runoff from the proposed roadway and an adjacent watershed. The tributary area has a fairly uniform cross section with 30 feet of bituminous concrete and shoulders, 15 feet of gravel lined ditch (1" stones), and 200 feet of meadow draining to the ditch. The ditch begins at a small summit and drains to a culvert for a length of 1,000 feet. The location of this proposed road is near Franklin, Tennessee.



**Figure 4A-6**  
**Simple Drainage Area Example**

**FIND:** The 50-year storm discharge to the culvert.



DITCH CROSS SECTION

**Figure 4A-7**  
**Ditch Cross Section for Simple Drainage Area Example**

**SOLUTION:**

**Step 1:** Determine the drainage area to verify that Rational Method is the proper method for analysis:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{AREA} &= 1,000 \text{ ft} \times (30 \text{ ft} + 15 \text{ ft} + 200 \text{ ft}) \\ &= 245,000 \text{ square feet} \\ &= 5.62 \text{ acres} \end{aligned}$$

Since 5.62 acres is less than 100 acres and no other special conditions are identified, the Rational Method is selected ( $Q=CiA$ ).

**Step 2:** Determine the Runoff Coefficient:

Type of Surface	AREA		Runoff Coefficient (C) (Table 4-2)	C x A
	Square Feet	Acres (A)		
Roadway (Bituminous Concrete)	30,000	0.69	0.9	0.62
Ditch (Gravel)	15,000	0.34	0.6	0.20
Meadow	200,000	4.59	0.3	1.38
<b>TOTAL</b>	245,000	5.62		2.20

**Table 4A-1**  
**Runoff Coefficient Calculation**

$$\text{Weighted } C = \frac{2.20}{5.62} = 0.39$$

**Step 3:** Find the Time of Concentration and Rainfall Intensity. This project is in Franklin County. When following the IDF Curve Guide type in "Franklin County, TN, USA" for the location by address. This gives you the most accurate data for Franklin County.

The time of concentration for this drainage area includes overland flow travel time and channel travel time. The overland flow component is obtained from the Kinematic Wave equation or the NRCS TR-55 method because the flow is assumed to be sheet flow. Sheet flow is assumed because areas of shallow concentrated flow are not identified and the distance to the ditch is 200 feet, which is less than the 300 feet requirement where shallow concentrated flow would need to be considered.

A. Sheet Flow Travel Time:

Known parameters for Kinematic Wave equation:

- L = 200 feet
- n = 0.35 (Table 4-3 - assume "meadow" is similar to "pasture")
- S = 0.004 ft/ft
- C = 0.938 (constant for Kinematic Wave equation)

Iteration 1: Assume travel time,  $t_t$ , for sheet flow = 10 minutes. Thus, using the IDF Curve Guide,  $i_{50} = 7.97$  in/hr. Then, using Equation (4-5),

$$t_t = C \frac{n^{0.6} L^{0.6}}{i^{0.4} S^{0.3}}$$

$$10 \text{ min} \rightarrow 0.938 \frac{(0.35)^{0.6} (200)^{0.6}}{(7.97)^{0.4} (0.004)^{0.3}} = 27.4 \text{ min}$$

Iteration 2: Assume a higher sheet flow travel time, 35 minutes. Thus, from interpolating the data using the IDF Curve Guide,  $i_{50} = 4.79$  in./hr.

$$35 \text{ min} \rightarrow 0.938 \frac{(0.35)^{0.6} (200)^{0.6}}{(4.67)^{0.4} (0.004)^{0.3}} = 34.0 \text{ min}$$

Iteration 3: Assume a lower sheet flow travel time, 33.5 minutes. Thus, from interpolating the data using the IDF Curve Guide,  $i_{50} = 4.87$  in/hr

$$33.8 \text{ min} \rightarrow 0.938 \frac{(0.35)^{0.6} (200)^{0.6}}{(4.73)^{0.4} (0.004)^{0.3}} = 33.8 \text{ min}$$

Therefore, the travel time,  $t_t$ , for sheet flow = 33.4 minutes.

B. Channel Travel Time:

The channel flow velocity may be found using Equation (4-9). For this computation, a depth of 0.7 feet will be assumed.



Use Equation (4-9):  $V = \frac{1.486}{n} * R_h^{0.67} * S_c^{0.5}$

Where: n = 0.084 (From Table 5A-10)  
 A = 3.57 ft<sup>2</sup> (Area)  
 P = 7.43 ft (Wetted Perimeter)  
 R<sub>h</sub> = A/P = 0.48  
 S<sub>c</sub> = 0.045 ft/ft (slope of channel). Thus:

$$V = \frac{1.486}{0.084} \times 0.48^{0.67} \times 0.045^{0.5} = 2.3 \text{ fps}$$

Next, find the channel travel time using Equation (4-3):

$$t_{t(\text{channel})} = \frac{L}{60 \times V} = \frac{1000}{60 \times 2.3} = 7.2 \text{ min}$$

C. Compute the Time of Concentration:

Use Equation (4-2): T<sub>c</sub> = t<sub>t(sheet flow)</sub> + t<sub>t(channel)</sub> = 33.4 + 7.2 = 40.6 minutes

D. Rainfall Intensity:

Using the IDF Curve Guide where T<sub>c</sub> = 40.6 minutes, i<sub>50</sub> = 4.48 in/hr

**Step 4:** Find the storm runoff rate:

Use Equation (4-1): Q<sub>50</sub> = C<sub>i</sub>A = (0.39) (4.48 in/hr) (5.62 acres) = 9.8 cfs

Using the procedure provided in Section 5.06 for the design of vegetated ditches, the depth for this flow rate is found to be 0.94 feet which matches well with the depth assumed in the channel flow velocity computations shown above. In addition, this depth should be well below the subgrade of the roadway.

**Step 5:** Check to see if the pavement alone provides higher discharge than the entire area including the meadow.

A. Determine the Runoff Coefficient:

Type of Surface	AREA		Runoff Coefficient (C) (Table 4.2)	C X A
	Square Feet	Acres (A)		
Roadway (Bituminous Concrete)	30,000	0.69	0.9	0.62
Ditch (Gravel)	15,000	0.34	0.6	0.20
<b>TOTAL</b>	45,000	1.03		0.82

**Table 4A-13  
Runoff Coefficient Calculation - Pavement Only**

$$\text{Weighted C} = \frac{0.82}{1.03} = 0.80$$

B. Find the Time of Concentration and Rainfall Intensity:

The time of concentration for this drainage area includes overland flow travel time and channel travel time. The overland flow component is obtained from the Kinematic Wave equation or the NRCS TR-55 method because the flow is assumed to be sheet flow for the pavement.

C. Sheet Flow Travel Time:

Known parameters for the Kinematic Wave equation:

- L = 30 feet
- n = 0.011 (Table 4-3)
- S = 0.02 ft/ft
- C = 0.938 (constant for Kinematic Wave equation)

Iteration 1: Assume travel time,  $t_t$ , for sheet flow = 5 minutes. Thus, using the IDF Curve Guide,  $i_{50} = 10.0$  in/hr

Use Equation (4-5):  $t_t = C \frac{n^{0.6} L^{0.6}}{i^{0.4} S^{0.3}}$

$$5 \text{ min} \rightarrow 0.938 \frac{(0.011)^{0.6} (30)^{0.6}}{(10.0)^{0.4} (0.02)^{0.3}} = 0.62 \text{ min}$$

This indicates that the sheet flow travel time to the ditch is much less than 5 minutes.

D. Channel Travel Time: This will still be 7.2 minutes, as calculated above.

E. The Time of Concentration: This may be calculated as 0.6 min + 7.2 minutes = 7.8 minutes.

F. Rainfall Intensity

Using the IDF Curve Guide where  $T_c = 7.5$  minutes,  $i_{50} = 9.0$  in/hr

G. Find the Storm runoff rate:

Using Equation (4-1):  $Q_{50} = CiA = (0.80) (9.0 \text{ in/hr}) (1.03 \text{ acres}) = 7.4 \text{ cfs}$

This indicates that the pavement and ditch provide a somewhat lower discharge than the entire drainage area.

**Step 6:** Determine Design Discharge:

The design discharge that should be used is 9.8 cfs because  $9.8 \text{ cfs} > 7.4 \text{ cfs}$ .

4.06.2.1.2 COMPLEX DRAINAGE AREA DESIGN DISCHARGE EXAMPLE

GIVEN:

A ditch will collect runoff from the proposed roadway and an adjacent watershed. The tributary area has a fairly uniform cross section with 30 feet of bituminous concrete and shoulders, 15 feet of grass lined ditch with some small shrubs and cattails, and 550 feet of forested land with light underbrush draining to the ditch. The ditch begins at a small summit and drains to a culvert for a length of 850 feet. The location of this proposed road is outside of Cleveland, Tennessee.

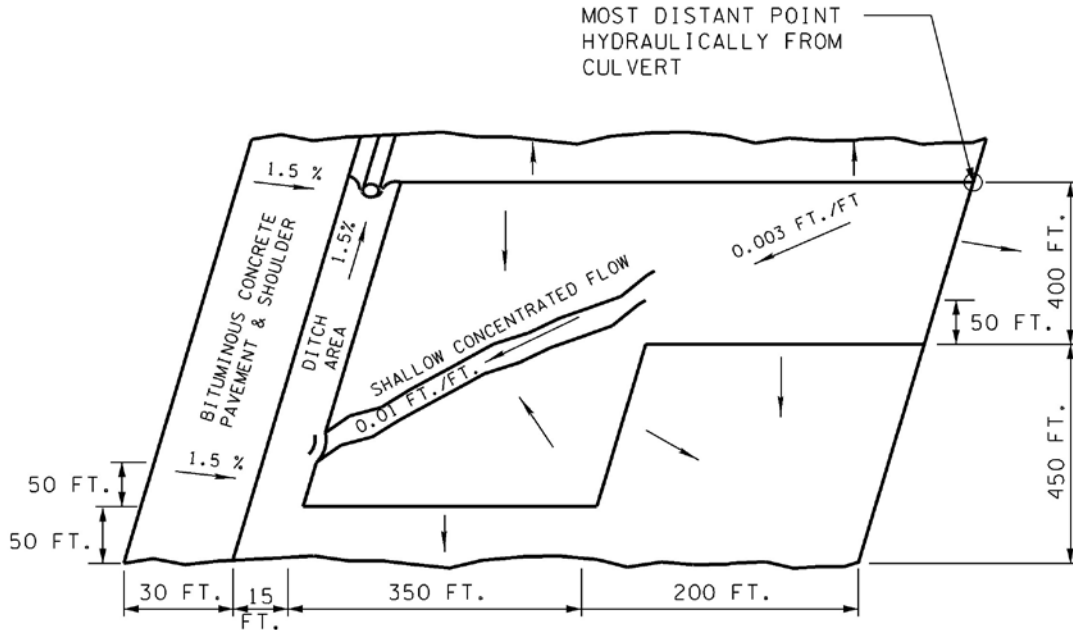


Figure 4A-8  
Complex Drainage Area Example

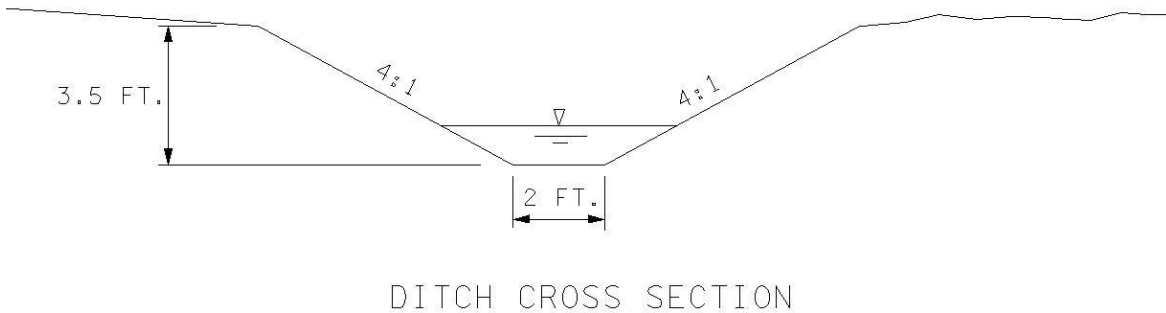


Figure 4A-9  
Ditch Cross Section for Complex Drainage Area Example

**FIND:** Determine the storm runoff rate to the culvert for a 50-year storm.

**SOLUTION:**

**Step 1:** Determine the drainage area to verify that the Rational Method is the proper method:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{AREA} &= 30 \text{ ft (850 ft)} + 15 \text{ ft (850 ft)} + 350 \text{ ft (850 ft)} + 200 \text{ ft (400 ft)} \\ &= 415,750 \text{ square feet} \\ &= 9.54 \text{ acres} \end{aligned}$$

Since 9.54 acres is less than 100 acres and no other special conditions are identified, the Rational Method is selected ( $Q=CiA$ ).

**Step 2:** Determine the Runoff Coefficient:

Type of Surface	AREA		Runoff Coefficient (C) (Table 4-2)	C X A
	Square Feet	Acres (A)		
Roadway (Bituminous Concrete)	25,500	0.59	0.9	0.53
Ditch (Grass & Vegetation)	12,750	0.29	0.4	0.12
Forested Land	377,500	8.67	0.2	1.73
<b>TOTAL</b>	415,750	9.55		2.38

**Table 4A-14**  
**Runoff Coefficient Calculation – Complex Example**

$$\text{Weighted C} = \frac{2.38}{9.55} = 0.25$$

**Step 3:** Find the Time of Concentration and Rainfall Intensity: This project is located outside of Cleveland, TN. When following the IDF Curve Guide, select the “Cleveland Filter Plant” station for the project location.

Find time of concentration. The time of concentration for this drainage area includes overland flow travel time and channel travel time. The overland flow is made of both sheet flow and shallow concentrated flow as described. The sheet flow component is obtained from the Kinematic Wave equation or the TR-55 method. The shallow concentrated flow travel time can be estimated by the equations or nomograph provided in this manual.

A. Sheet Flow Travel Time:

Known parameters for the Kinematic Wave equation

$$L = \sqrt{400^2 + 200^2} = 447 \text{ feet.}$$

(However, use 300 feet as this is the maximum allowed for sheet flow.)

n = 0.400 (Table 4-3)  
 S = 0.003 ft/ft  
 C = 0.938 (constant for Kinematic Wave equation)

Iteration 1: Assume travel time,  $t_t$ , for sheet flow = 10 minutes. Thus, using the IDF Curve Guide,  $i_{50} = 7.07$  in/hr

Use Equation (4-5):  $t_t = C \frac{n^{0.6} L^{0.6}}{i^{0.4} S^{0.3}}$

$$10 \text{ min} \rightarrow 0.938 \frac{(0.40)^{0.6} (300)^{0.6}}{(7.16)^{0.4} (0.003)^{0.3}} = 43.1 \text{ min}$$

Iteration 2: Assume a higher sheet flow travel time, 45 minutes. Thus, using the IDF Curve Guide,  $i_{50} = 3.78$  in/hr

$$45 \text{ min} \rightarrow 0.938 \frac{(0.40)^{0.6} (300)^{0.6}}{(3.82)^{0.4} (0.003)^{0.3}} = 55.4 \text{ min}$$

Iteration 3: Assume a higher sheet flow travel time, 60 minutes. Thus, using the IDF Curve Guide,  $i_{50} = 3.05$  in/hr

$$60 \text{ min} \rightarrow 0.938 \frac{(0.40)^{0.6} (300)^{0.6}}{(3.09)^{0.4} (0.003)^{0.3}} = 60.3 \text{ min}$$

Iteration 4: Assume a higher sheet flow travel time, 60.8 minutes. Thus, using the IDF Curve Guide,  $i_{50} = 3.03$  in/hr

$$64 \text{ min} \rightarrow 0.938 \frac{(0.40)^{0.6} (300)^{0.6}}{(3.08)^{0.4} (0.003)^{0.3}} = 60.4 \text{ min}$$

Therefore  $t_{t(\text{sheet flow})} = 60.8$  minutes.

B. Shallow Concentrated Flow Travel Time:

First, find the Shallow Concentrated Flow velocity, using Equation (4-7):

$$V_{\text{unpaved}} = 16.1345(S)^{0.5}$$

Where S = 0.01 ft/ft. Thus,

$$V_{\text{unpaved}} = 16.1345(0.01)^{0.5} = 1.6 \text{ ft/s}$$

Use the velocity to calculate travel time, using Equation (4-3):

$$t_t = \frac{L}{60 \times V}$$

Where  $L = \sqrt{350^2 + 450^2} + (447 - 300) = 717$  ft and  $V = 1.6$  ft/s, the shallow concentrated flow time is 7.5 min

C. Channel Travel Time:

The channel flow velocity may be found using Equation (4-9). For this computation, a depth of 0.9 feet will be assumed.

$$V = \frac{1.486}{n} \times R_h^{0.67} \times S_c^{0.5}$$

Where: n = 0.14 (From Table 5A-10)  
 A = 5.04 ft<sup>2</sup> (Area)  
 P = 22.6 ft (Wetted Perimeter)  
 R<sub>h</sub> = A/P = 0.53  
 S<sub>c</sub> = 0.015 ft/ft (slope of channel). Thus:

$$V = \frac{1.486}{0.14} \times 0.53^{0.67} \times 0.015^{0.5} = 0.86 \text{ fps}$$

Then, find the channel flow time using Equation (4-3):

$$t_{t(\text{channel})} = \frac{L}{60 \times V} = \frac{800}{60 \times 0.86} = 15.6 \text{ min}$$

D. Time of Concentration:

Using Equation (4-2):

$$T_c = t_{t(\text{sheet flow})} + t_{t(\text{shallow concentrated flow})} + t_{t(\text{channel})} = 60.8 + 7.5 + 15.6 = 83.9 \text{ min.}$$

E. Rainfall Intensity:

Using the IDF Curve Guide where T<sub>c</sub> = 83.9 minutes, i<sub>50</sub> = 2.57 in/hr

**Step 4:** Find the storm runoff rate:

Use Equation (4-1): Q<sub>50</sub> = C<sub>i</sub>A = (0.25) (2.57 in/hr) (9.55 acres) = 6.1 cfs.

Using the procedure provided in Section 5.06 for the design of vegetated ditches, the depth for this flow rate is found to be 0.94 feet which matches well with the depth assumed in the channel flow velocity computations shown above. In addition, this depth should be well below the subgrade of the roadway.

**Step 5:** Check to see if the pavement alone provides higher discharge than forested area.

A. Determine the Runoff Coefficient:

Type of Surface	AREA		Runoff Coefficient (C) (Table 4-2)	C X A
	Square Feet	Acres (A)		

Roadway (Bituminous Concrete)	25,500	0.59	0.9	0.53
Ditch (Gravel)	12,750	0.29	0.4	0.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>38,250</b>	<b>0.88</b>		<b>0.65</b>

**Table 4A-15  
Runoff Coefficient Calculation – Complex Example Check**

$$\text{Weighted } C = \frac{0.65}{0.88} = 0.73$$

B. Find Time of Concentration and Rainfall Intensity:

The time of concentration for this drainage area includes overland flow travel time and channel travel time. The overland flow component is obtained from the Kinematic Wave equation or the TR-55 method because the flow is assumed to be sheet flow for the pavement.

C. Sheet Flow Travel Time:

Known parameters for the Kinematic Wave equation.

- L = 30 feet
- n = 0.011 (Table 4-3)
- S = 0.015 ft/ft
- C = 0.938 (constant for Kinematic Wave equation)

Iteration 1: Assume that the sheet flow travel time,  $t_t$ , will be 5 minutes. Thus, using the IDF Curve Guide,  $i_{50} = 8.88$  in/hr

Use Equation (4-5):  $t_t = C \frac{n^{0.6} L^{0.6}}{i^{0.4} S^{0.3}}$

$$5 \text{ min.} \rightarrow 0.938 \frac{(0.011)^{0.6} (30)^{0.6}}{(9.0)^{0.4} (0.015)^{0.3}} = 0.7 \text{ min}$$

This indicates that the sheet flow travel time to the ditch is much less than 5 minutes.

D. Channel Travel Time will be the same 15.6 minutes calculated above.

E. Time of Concentration will thus be: 0.7 min + 15.6 minutes = 16.3 minutes.

F. Rainfall Intensity: Using the IDF Curve Guide where  $T_c = 16.3$  minutes,  $i_{50} = 6.26$  in/hr

G. Find the storm runoff rate:

Using Equation (4-1):  $Q_{50} = CiA = (0.73) (6.26 \text{ in/hr}) (0.88 \text{ acres}) = 4.02 \text{ cfs}$ . This indicates that the pavement and ditch provide less discharge than the entire drainage area.

**Step 6:** Determine the Design Discharge:



The design discharge that should be used is 6.1 cfs because  $6.1 \text{ cfs} > 4.02 \text{ cfs}$ .

#### **4.06.2.1.3 COMPUTER APPLICATION**

Please refer to the current version of the GEOPAK Drainage program and associated documentation for flow analysis using the rational method.

**4.06.2.2 REGRESSION EQUATION EXAMPLES**

**4.06.2.2.1 RURAL REGRESSION EXAMPLE**

**GIVEN:**

A drainage culvert located under SR-6 (U.S. 43) over a tributary to Bluewater Creek near Leoma, TN, Lawrence County. There was a USGS stream gaging station near this site from 1955 to 1983. The drainage area at the gage was 0.49 square miles (314 acres).

**FIND:** The design flow for a culvert under this arterial route.

**SOLUTION:**

**Step 1:** Delineate and measure drainage area on USGS topographic quadrangles. Based on Figure 4A-10, the drainage area is 302 acres.

**Step 2:** Determine in which Hydrologic Area the drainage basin is located in. Using Figure 4-3, the drainage area is found to be in Hydrologic Area 2.

**Step 3:** Determine the design frequency and which regression equation to use. Table 4-1 indicates that the design frequency for a culvert under an arterial route is the 50-year storm. The equation to use for drainage areas greater 300 acres in Hydrologic Area 2 is in Table 4-4.

**Step 4:** Compute 50-year recurrence interval design flow using the USGS Rural Regression Equation for Hydrologic Area 2.

$$Q_{50} = 677(CDA)^{0.707}$$

Where: CDA=302 acres. Thus,

$$Q_{50} = 677(302/640)^{0.707} = 398 \text{ ft}^3/\text{s} \text{ (Equation from Table 4-4).}$$

See Figures 4A-22a, 4A-22b and 4A-23 for the National Flood Frequency Program (NFF) inputs and outputs.

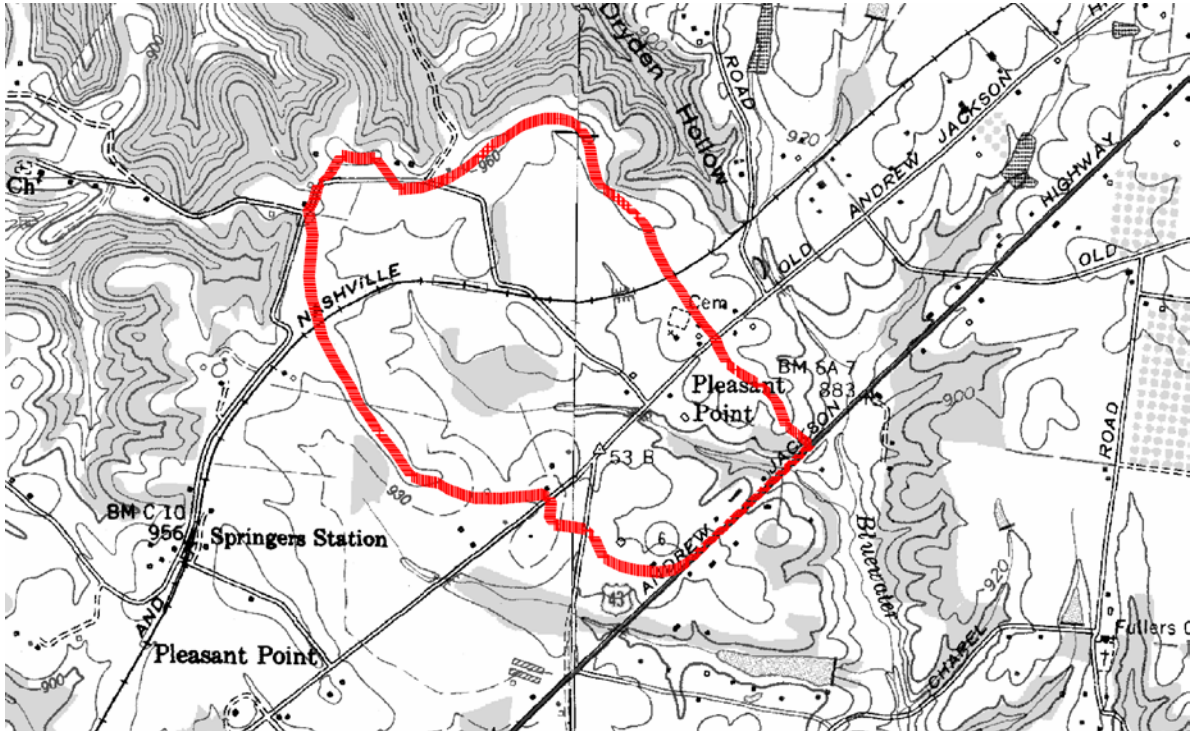
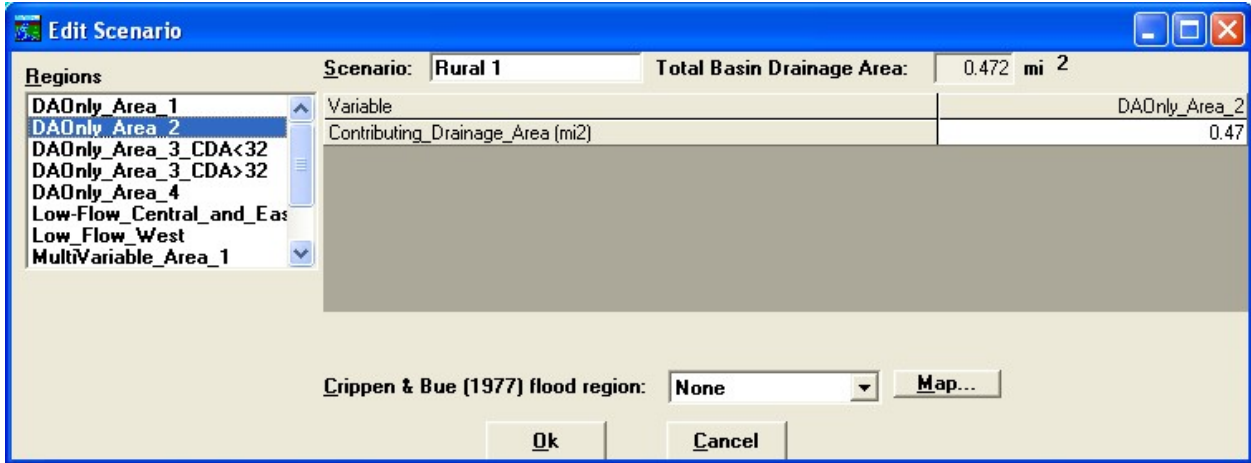
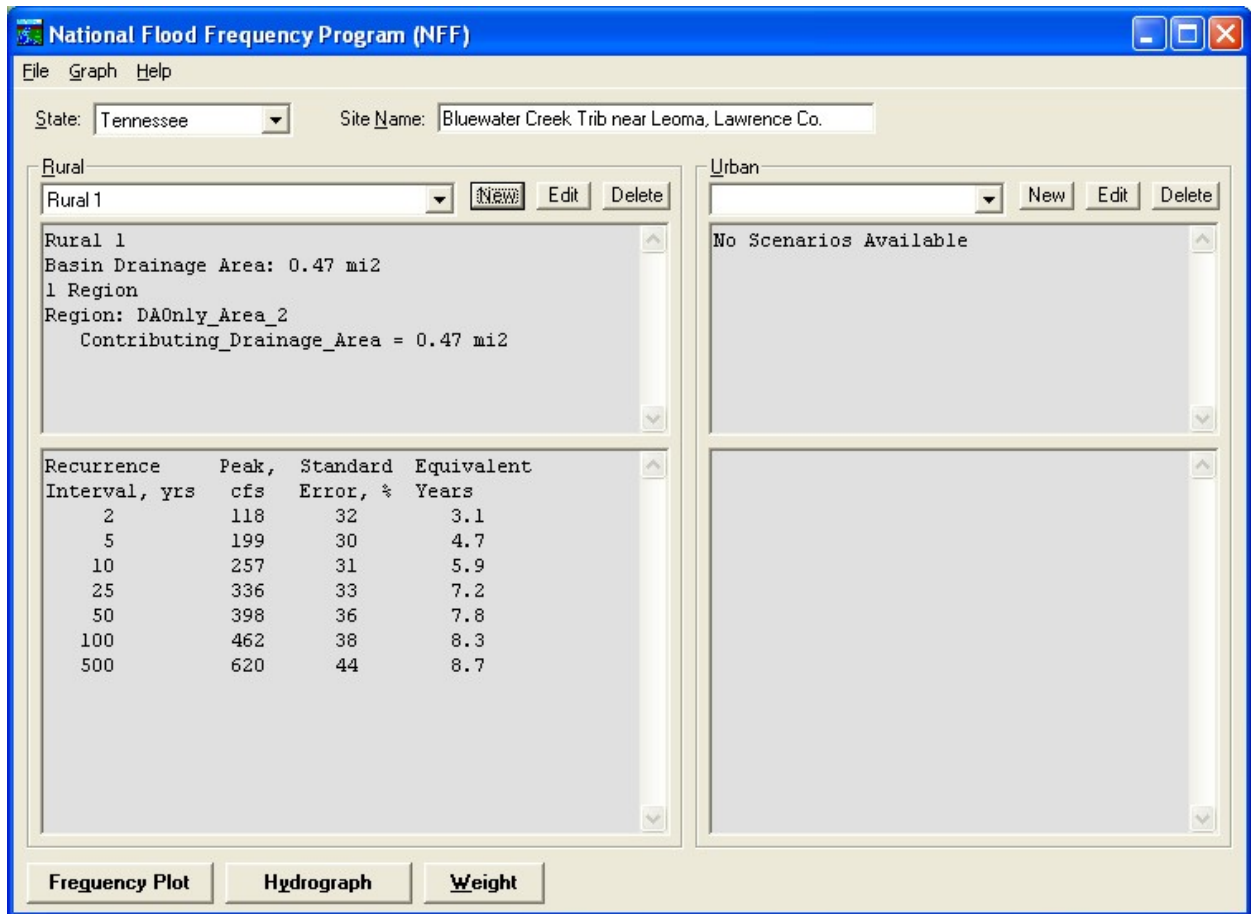


Figure 4A-10  
Bluewater Creek Tributary Drainage Area at SR-6



**Figure 4A-11a**  
**NFF Input Screen for Tennessee Rural Regression Equations**



**Figure 4A-11b**  
**NFF Output Screen for Tennessee Rural Regression Equations**  
 National Flood Frequency Program

Version 3.0

Based on Water-Resources Investigations Report 02-4168

Equations from database C:\Download\NFF Install\NFFv3.2\_2004-12-14.mdb

Updated by kries 9/22/2004 at 4:03:24 PM fixed decimal place in constant

Equations for Tennessee developed using English units

Site: Bluewater Creek Trib near Leoma, Lawrence Co., Tennessee

User:

Date: Monday, December 05, 2005 08:28 AM

Rural Estimate: Rural 1

Basin Drainage Area: 0.47 mi<sup>2</sup>

1 Region

Region: DAOnly\_Area\_2

Contributing\_Drainage\_Area = 0.47 mi<sup>2</sup>

Flood Peak Discharges, in cubic feet per second

Estimate	Recurrence Interval, yrs	Peak, cfs	Standard Error, %	Equivalent Years
Rural 1	2	118	32	3.1
	5	199	30	4.7
	10	257	31	5.9
	25	336	33	7.2
	50	398	36	7.8
	100	462	38	8.3
	500	620	44	8.7

**Figure 4A-12**  
**NFF Output Report for Tennessee Rural Regression Equations**

**4.06.2.2.2 STATEWIDE URBAN REGRESSION EXAMPLE**

**GIVEN:** A drainage culvert on Bybee Branch in McMinnville, TN, in Warren County.

**FIND:** The design flow for the culvert under this collector route.

**SOLUTION:**

**Step 1:** Delineate and measure drainage area on USGS topographic quadrangle. Based on Figure 4A-13, the drainage area is 199 acres.

**Step 2:** Determine the 2-year, 24-hour rainfall amount. Based on Table 4A-5, the 2-year, 24-hour rainfall is 3.70 inches.

**Step 3:** The amount of impervious area in the watershed is estimated to be 30 acres or 15% of the watershed.

**Step 4:** According to Table 4-1, the design frequency for a collector route is 50 years.

**Step 5:** Compute the 50-year recurrence interval design flow rate. Since the project site is in an urban area, Equation 4-15 should be used.

$$Q_{50} = 44.9(A/640)^{0.75} I_{IMP}^{0.40} P_{2-24}^{1.42} \quad Q_{50} = 44.9(A/640)^{0.75} I_{IMP}^{0.40} P_{2-24}^{1.42}$$

Where: A = 199 acres  
 I<sub>IMP</sub> = 15 percent  
 P<sub>2-24</sub> = 3.71 inches. Thus,

$$Q_{50} = 44.9(199/640)^{0.75} (15^{0.40})(3.71^{1.42}) = 355 \text{ ft}^3/\text{s}$$

See Figures 4A-25a, 4A-25b and 4A-26 for the NFF inputs and outputs.

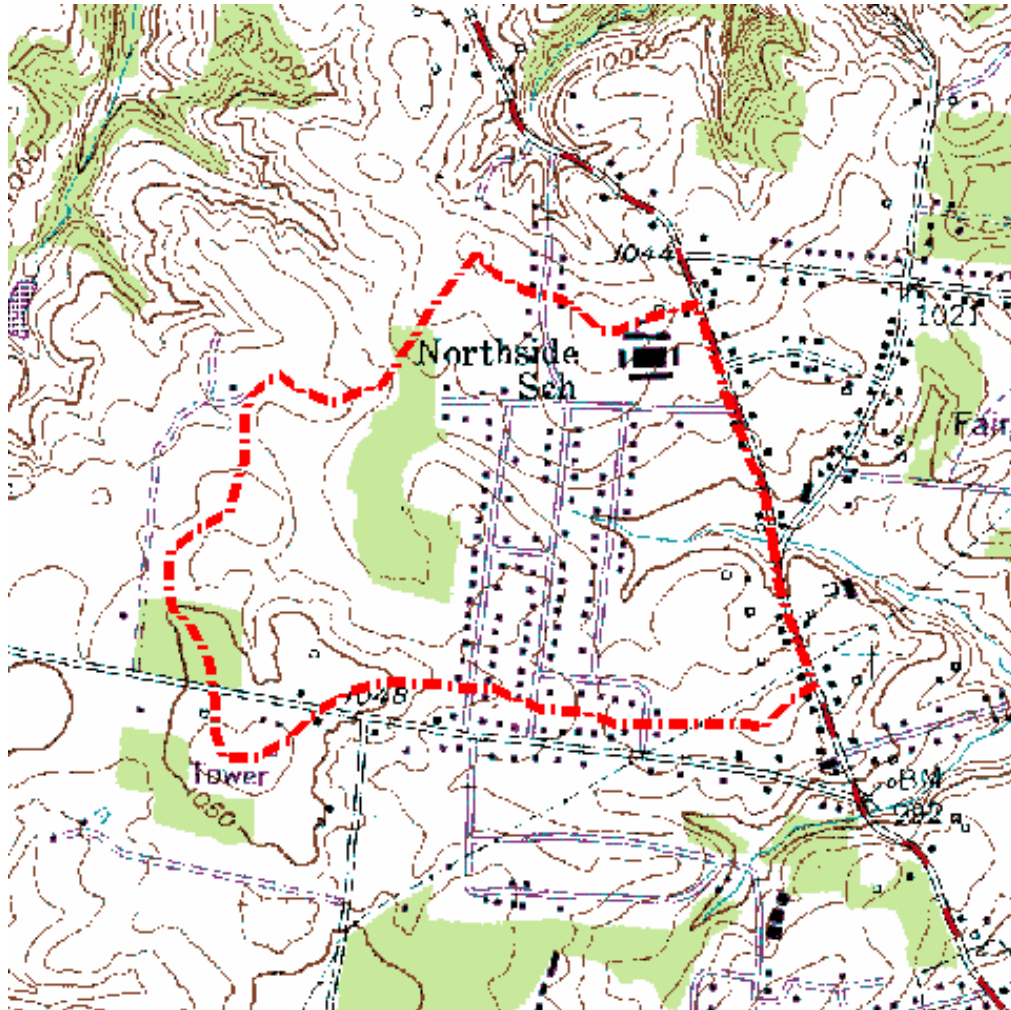
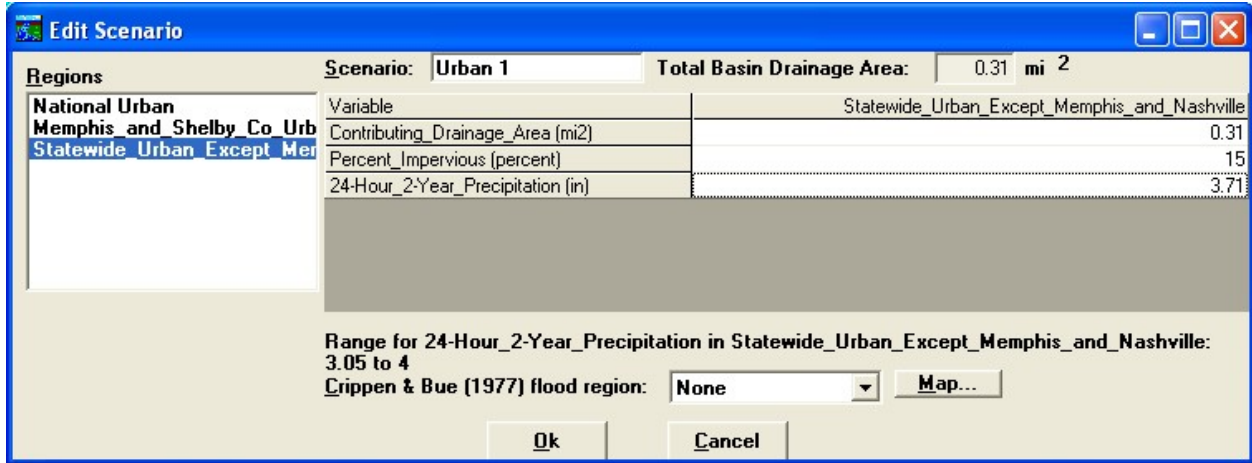
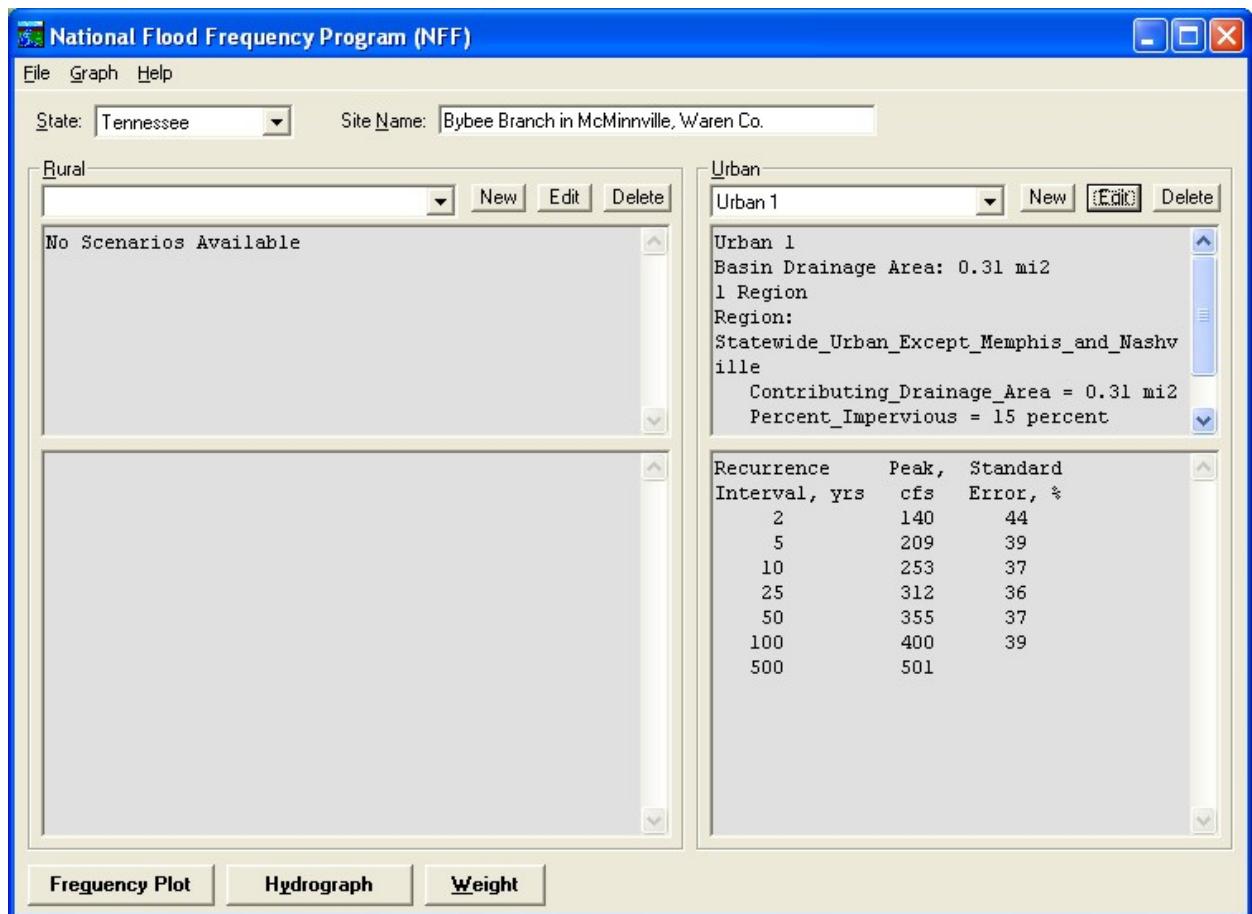


Figure 4A-13  
Bybee Branch Drainage Area





**Figure 4A-14a**  
**NFF Input Screen for Tennessee Statewide Urban Regression Equations**



**Figure 4A-14b**  
**NFF Output Screen for Tennessee Statewide Urban Regression Equations**

National Flood Frequency Program

Version 3.0

Based on Water-Resources Investigations Report 02-4168

Equations from database C:\Download\NFF Install\NFFv3.2\_2004-12-14.mdb

Updated by kries 9/22/2004 at 4:03:24 PM fixed decimal place in constant

Equations for Tennessee developed using English units

Site: Bybee Branch in McMinnville, Warren Co., Tennessee

User:

Date: Tuesday, December 06, 2005 10:11 AM

Urban Estimate: Urban 1

Basin Drainage Area: 0.31 mi<sup>2</sup>

1 Region

Region: Statewide\_Urban\_Except\_Memphis\_and\_Nashville

Contributing\_Drainage\_Area = 0.31 mi<sup>2</sup>

Percent\_Impervious = 15 percent

24-Hour\_2-Year\_Precipitation = 3.71 in

Flood Peak Discharges, in cubic feet per second

Estimate	Recurrence Interval, yrs	Peak, cfs	Standard Error, %	Equivalent Years
Urban 1	2	140	44	2
	5	209	39	3
	10	253	37	4
	25	312	36	6
	50	355	37	7
	100	400	39	8
	500	501		

**Figure 4A-15**  
**NFF Output Report for Statewide Urban Regression Equations**

### 4.06.3 GLOSSARY

The following list of terms is representative of those used in hydrologic analysis for drainage design. All of the terms may not necessarily be used in the chapter text; but rather are commonly used by engineers, scientists, and planners.

ANTECEDENT MOISTURE CONIDTION (AMC) – An index of moisture stored in the soils of a drainage area before a storm event occurs. This index accounts for the variation in curve number at a site due to recent previous rainfall events. Curve numbers presented in this Manual are based on AMC II, which represents average condition.

CHANNEL – A long narrow depression associated with a waterway which is shaped by the concentrated flow of a stream and conveys the ordinary flows.

CHANNEL FLOW – The flow of water in a defined conveyance such as a stream, ditch or pipe.

COUNTY SOIL SURVEYS – Publications, usually produced by the NRCS, which provide detailed information on the properties of the soil types found in each county of the state. These surveys include aerial mapping which may be used to identify the soil types present on a specific site.

CURVE NUMBER – A numeric parameter used to estimate the portion of the rainfall in a given precipitation event which will become runoff. The value of this parameter is based on a combination of the soil types present in a watershed and the land uses present on those soils (the soil-cover complex).

DESIGN FREQUENCY – A selected storm event, described in terms of the probability of occurrence once within a given number of years, for which stormwater drainage facilities or other flood control improvements are designed. For example, a 5-year, 24-hour duration storm event has a 20 percent probability of occurring in any given year. The precipitation associated with that storm would be measured over a 24 hour period.

DETENTION – The collection of stormwater runoff into a surface reservoir so that the water can be released at a reduced rate. Detention will typically be used to reduce the peak discharge from developed area to a rate that is equal to or less than the pre-developed condition (c.f. – Retention, Extended Detention).

DISCHARGE – The quantity of flow, usually expressed as the number of cubic feet of water passing a given point in one second (ft<sup>3</sup>/s).

DRAINAGE AREA – All of the area which will contribute runoff to a given point.

DURATION (of Rainfall) – The length of time between the start of a given rainfall event and its finish.

EVAPORATION – The part of the hydrologic cycle in which liquid water on the ground surface is converted to vapor and enters the atmosphere.

FLOOD INSURANCE STUDY – A document, usually published by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, which provides information on flood flow rates, flood elevations and the extent of floodplains within a given town, city or county.

GUTTER – A narrow channel usually at the edge of a roadway specifically used to collect and convey stormwater runoff. Normally placed with a curb.

HYDROGRAPH – A graphic representation showing variation in discharge or depth (stage) of a stream of water over a specified period of time. May be defined in terms of discharge from a stormwater basin or runoff from a watershed.

HYDROLOGIC CONDITION – An indication of the effects of cover type and treatment on infiltration rates. For example, good hydrologic condition indicates that the soil has a low runoff potential for its specific hydrologic soil group, cover type, and treatment.

HYDROLOGIC SOIL GROUP – A classification of different soil types into groups (A, B, C, and D) according to their minimum infiltration rate, based upon bare soil after prolonged wetting.

HYDROLOGY – The scientific study of the properties, distribution, and effects of water on the earth's surface, in the soil and underlying rocks, and in the atmosphere. As applied in engineering design, hydrology often refers to the determination of flood flow rates for the design of hydraulic structures such as cross drains or detention ponds.

IMPERVIOUS AREA – The permanent surfaces in a drainage basin which cannot infiltrate rainfall. Areas typically consist of rooftops, sidewalks, pavements, slabs, driveways, etc.

INFILTRATION – As applied in Hydrology, the process by which water percolates into soil and becomes a part of the groundwater regime. Water which infiltrates during a rainfall event is removed from the direct runoff and usually does not contribute to the peak flood flow rate a stream.

INITIAL ABSTRACTION – In the curve number method, this is the quantity of rainfall, usually expressed as inches of depth, which must infiltrate into the soil before direct runoff can begin.

INTENSITY (of Rainfall) – The rate at which rainfall occurs, usually expressed as inches of rainfall per hour (in/hr).

LOSS RATE – The rate at which water from a rainfall event will infiltrate into the soil. Usually refers to infiltration which occurs once the initial abstraction has been satisfied.

N-VALUE – An empirical number assigned to a given material as a gage of its frictional resistance to the flow of water.

OVERLAND FLOW – Sheet flow beginning from the point at the top of watershed where runoff begins to the point at which flows begin to concentrate.

RATIONAL METHOD – A means of determining flow rates for the design of drainage structures based upon the drainage area, rainfall intensity and runoff coefficient. (see Runoff Coefficient).

REGULATED STREAM – A stream or other watercourse on which flows, especially flood flows, are affected by the presence of a man-made structure, usually a reservoir or detention pond.

ROUTING – The determination of the attenuating effect of storage on a storm passing through a stormwater management facility.

RUNOFF – The portion of the water from a rainfall event which flows across the surface of the ground.

RUNOFF COEFFICIENT – A ratio, defined for a given soil type or land use, of the rate of direct runoff to the average rate of rainfall in a storm event.

SHALLOW CONCENTRATED FLOW – An overland flow condition which occurs as sheet flows begin to collect into rills or other small low areas on the surface of the ground. This condition is intermediate between sheet flow and channel flow.

SHEET FLOW – A flow condition in which water moves across the ground surface in a thin sheet. This is usually the first step in the process of forming runoff and can persist only for a short distance before water is concentrated into ground surface irregularities.

TIME OF CONCENTRATION -- The time required for a particle of stormwater runoff to flow from the most hydrologically distant point in a drainage area to the point of interest, such as an inlet.

TRANSPIRATION – The removal of moisture from the soil by terrestrial plants. This moisture is taken up by the roots and then evaporated into the atmosphere from the leaves.

TREATMENT (of Soil) – A cover type modifier used in the determination of curve numbers for cultivated agricultural lands. It includes mechanical practices, such as contouring and terracing, and management practices, such as crop rotation and reduced or no tillage.

UNIT HYDROGRAPH – The hydrograph which represents a runoff volume of 1 inch associated with a precipitation event of a specified duration. The unit hydrograph is a theoretical hydrograph which is intended to describe how a river at a particular point will react to one inch of runoff, and which can in turn be used to derive how the river will react to any amount of runoff.

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#### 4.06.5 ABBREVIATIONS

AASHTO – American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials  
 BLM – Bureau of Land Management  
 CFR – Code of Federal Regulations  
 CFS – Cubic feet per second  
 COE – U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
 EOC – Emergency Operation Center  
 EPA – U.S. Environment Protection Agency  
 FBFM – Flood Boundary and Floodway Map  
 FEMA – Federal Emergency Management Agency  
 FHBM – Flood Hazard Boundary Map  
 FHWA – Federal Highway Administration  
 FIRM – Flood Insurance Rate Map  
 FIS – Flood Insurance Studies  
 FWS – United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
 HDS-4 – Introduction to Highway Hydraulics Hydraulic Design Series Number 4  
 HEC-1 – Hydrologic Engineering Center Flood Hydrograph Package  
 HEC-HMS – Hydrologic Engineering Center Hydrologic Modeling System  
 HSG – Hydrologic Soil Group  
 IDF – Intensity Duration Frequency  
 ISTEA – 1991 Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act  
 NFF – National Flood Frequency  
 NFIP – National Flood Insurance Program  
 NOAA – National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration  
 NRCS – Natural Resources Conservation Service (formerly Soil Conservation Service)  
 NWS – National Weather Service  
 SCS – Soil conservation Service  
 TR-20 – *The Natural Resources Conservation Service Technical Release 20*  
 TR-55 – *Urban Hydrology for Small Watersheds- Technical Release 55*  
 USFS – U.S. Forest Service  
 USGS – United States Department of the Interior, Geological Survey  
 USWB – United States Department of Commerce, Weather Bureau  
 WS – Water Surface