NWS FORM E-5 (7-78) (PRES. by WSOM E-41)	U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE	RIVER DISTRICT OFFICE WSFO Lubbock, Texas
MONTHLY REPORT OF RIVER AND FLOOD CONDITIONS		REPORT FOR: MONTH December YEAR 1991
TO: Hydrologic Services Division, W22 National Weather Service National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Silver Spring, Maryland 20910		SIGNATURE **John W. Lipe** In Charge of River District DATE January 2, 1992

When no flooding occurs, include miscellaneous river conditions, such as significant rises, record low stages, ice conditions, snow cover, droughts, and hydrologic products issued (NWS Instruction 10-924)

_X_ No flood stages were reached in this river district for the month indicated above.

Although no flooding occurred over West Texas or the Panhandle of Oklahoma, extremely heavy rains just east of the area produced major flooding. Flood reports from San Antonio and Fort Worth Weather Offices detail this flooding.

For West Texas another unrelated situation posed a very serious flood threat for interests along the Rio Grande. The threat still existed at months end. All three major reservoirs on the Rio Conchos in northern Mexico were at maximum capacity by the middle of the month. The Rio Conchos empties into the Rio Grande at Presidio, Texas.

The largest reservoir, La Boquilla, remained near its capacity of 2,353,815 acre-feet through the month. At the end of December it had 2,378,070 acre-feet and reported a small spill of 850 cubic feet per second (cfs). La Boquilla Reservoir is located farther from the Texas border and maintains no flood storage capacity.

The second reservoir along the Rio Conchos, F. I. Madero also remained near its capacity of 282,200 acre-feet through the month. At month's end it had 281,605 acre-feet. Madero reservoir is on a tributary that dumps into the Rio Conchos. It also maintains no flood storage capacity.

Luis Leon is the third reservoir and is located closest to the Texas border. It is the primary cause for flooding concern on the Rio Grande. After the major flood earlier this year in September and early October, Luis Leon was drained to about 518,000 acre-feet on October 7th. The gates were closed at that time and remained closed until December 20th. Luis Leon, unlike the other two reservoirs, has a designated flood storage capacity. Normal conservation level is 283,000 acre-feet. Maximum flood storage capacity is 689,000 acre-feet. With gates closed since October, the reservoir slowly filled to 683,812 acre-feet on December 20th before gates were finally opened. This level was only 5,000 acre-feet below its normal maximum and some leakage was being reported through its spillway gates. Late on December 20th, a small release of 1,765 cfs was finally started. Storage had fallen very slowly to 676,327 acre-feet at month's end.

Although heavy rainfall over northern Mexico is not a usual event during the winter months, and unexpected heavy rainfall could pose an extremely

serious flood threat.

CC: W/SR2 , RFC FTW
IBWC , RFC TUL
USGS, USCE
West Texas WSOs