

Tate's Bluff Bridge. For the past several months, the Ouachita River Valley Association partnered with the Ouachita River Commission and other stakeholders to lobby for a river gage at the bridge located on Ouachita County Road 25. What is locally known as the “Tate’s Bluff Bridge” is located just south of the confluence of the Little Missouri and Ouachita Rivers in northern Ouachita County.



During periods of excessive rain, the river floods at this location, creating hazardous, and sometimes fatal, roadway conditions. Traffic traverses this area, moving from Chidester to Sparkman and back, including timber and agricultural producers.

The picture at left, taken from the Tate's Bluff bridge, looks north; the Little Missouri River on the left and the Ouachita River on the right. They converge at this location.

The picture below shows the bridge during normal conditions.



The picture below shows the bridge during recent flooding events; it tells us much more than graphs and charts.



Gages have been installed at Boughton, Arkadelphia, and Camden, but not in the middle of these points. **Not until now!**

On December 9, 2025, the Vicksburg District Water Management gage technicians installed a gage on the Tate's Bluff bridge.

This gage is an efficient way for USACE to obtain more data to improve modeling, forecasting, flood inundation mapping, and watershed studies in addition to providing a flood risk management tool for the local area. Data reporting is available on the Vicksburg District website. The Corps will also coordinate data with USGS and NWS on the addition.

The government shutdown delayed installation by 2 months; unable to do the install until FY26 funding was received.