Land Loss

It took 7,000 years to create 6,000 square miles of wetlands known to have existed as late as the 1880s. In just over a century, almost a third of that land, 1800 square miles has disappeared due to human interference.

1/3 of the 6,000 sq miles of wetlands has disappeared over the last century solely due to human interference. Sediments have dropped by half since the 1950s due to the construction of dams along the Missouri and upper Mississippi.

Just offshore there are hundreds of oil platforms, while just 30miles further south there are 4,000 + platforms and drilling rigs, servicing a total of 35,000 wells. It is a vast hydrocarbon reservoir below the ocean. and now our oil technology is creating the largest artificial mass of offshore property ever conceived.

Global warming causing rising sea levels

The great flood of 1927 killed over a thousand people in Arkansas, Mississippi and Louisiana and the Army Corps of Engineers perfected the construction of massive, unbreachable levees along the entire lower Mississippi, never to let it stray its course again. This frozen river streams past New Orleans and out into the Gulf where its sediments are dumped off the continental shelf thousands of feet below. Louisiana adopted the Dutch model: flood control, levees, dredged canals for navigation, forced drainage of swamps, large-scale marshland elimination, and the end result... the land began sinking.

4 tombs visible 10 months ago are now underwater. In Leeville, there are many underwater cemetaries now. "You see those kids swimming along the bayou? We used to play baseball right there!" That was home plate where they're swimming. The shore moved 8 feet in 7 months.

No more than 40% of the lower MIssissippi can be diverted into the coastal marshes for land-building purposes due to the rest need for ship navigation past the city of New Orleans.

Death of marsh grass - as each square foot of grass dies, so does the root system holding together the delicate soil below. Oncde the roots decompose completely, erosion quickly follows and it is this square foot that joins the others in its conversion to open water. although this process has always been occuring. it is a natural process. the problem is that no new sediment is being added to generate new land as it always has been.

In the 1930s, at almost the exact same time the lower Mississippi River was finally conquered with levees, oil exploitation began throughout the bayous. This infrastructure still produces 18% of annual US oil supplies and 24% of natural gas. The marshes are filled with pipeline canals. 10,000 miles of them. These canals trigger disastrous erosion and every 14 years these canals double their width.

New Orleans, already 8' below sea level, the Gulf shore was 50 miles away a century ago. Today is about 20 and shrinking fast.

Oil is 20% of the state's GEP and through this fear of loss, no one is saying there is a problem. it has been common practice among oil companies to dump toxic brine (a byproducct of deep underground drilling) into large and unstable waste pits in the marsh. Thanks to Kerry St. Pe, itis now a banned process

20 years ago this tree was on a solid bank of land , today it is under 4 feet of water. The marsh is continuing to disappear at a rate of 25 sq. miles a year. For every 2.7 miles of marsh grass, absorbs a foot of a hurrican's storm surge. There are 2 million people that rely on this.

ecological collapse, the city of Houma is now just 2 feet above sea level on land that is sinking 4 feet a century, and the city's main source of drinking water is increasingly contaminated by saltwater intrusion, forcing officials to draw water from the bayou which drains the murkey swamp. fish kills where pesticide run off of sugarcane fields.