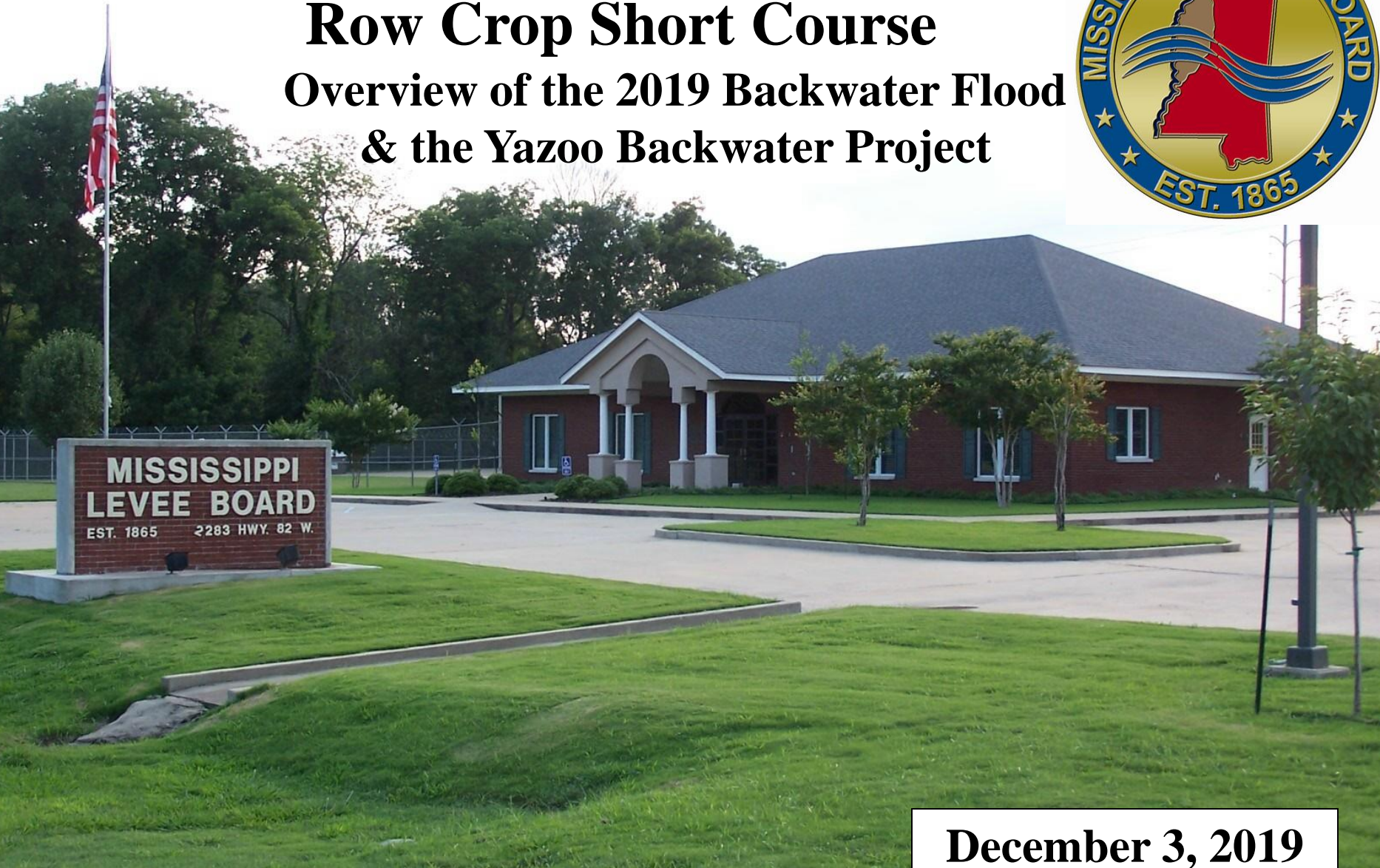


2019 MSU Extension Row Crop Short Course Overview of the 2019 Backwater Flood & the Yazoo Backwater Project



December 3, 2019

www.msleveeboard.com

MEMPHIS, TN

-  Mississippi Levee Board
-  Yazoo-Mississippi Delta Levee Board

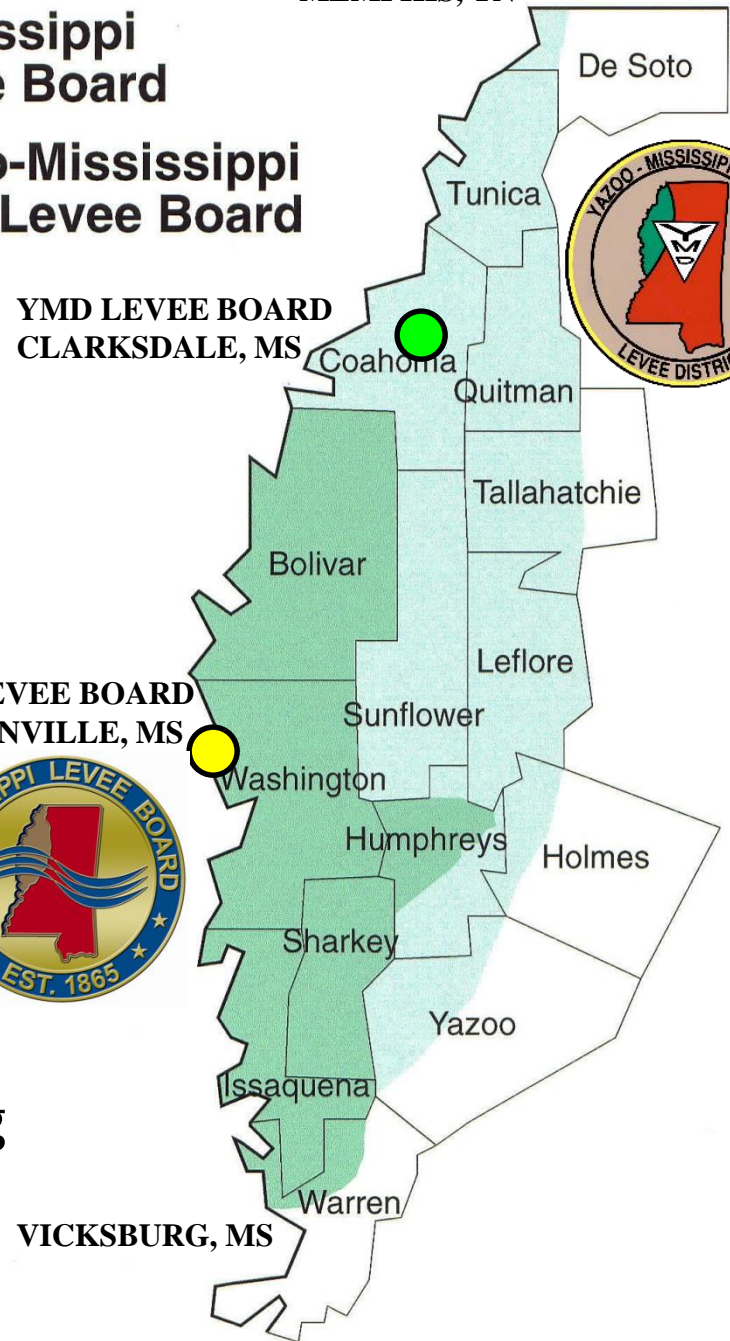
There are two (2) Levee Boards in the Mississippi Delta.

The MS Levee Board (shown in green) was established in 1865 as the first act of the MS Legislature following the Civil War. It is headquartered in Greenville, MS.

The YMD Levee Board (shown in light green) was established in 1884 following the flood of 1882. It is headquartered in Clarksdale, MS.

YMD LEVEE BOARD
CLARKSDALE, MS

MS LEVEE BOARD
GREENVILLE, MS



2019 Backwater Flood

Why this happened:

Historic Rainfall in MS River Valley

Historic long duration MS River Flooding

Historic 2019 Backwater Flood:

548,000 acres Flooded

231,000 acres of Crop Land Flooded

686 Homes Flooded

3 Highways Flooded

2 People died

Economic Devastation

Environmental Devastation

The Solution – Finish the Pumps

YBW Project – Accomplishments of the Balanced Project

EPA Veto in 2008

Backwater Floods since the 2008 EPA Veto

Recent changes in EPA Leadership

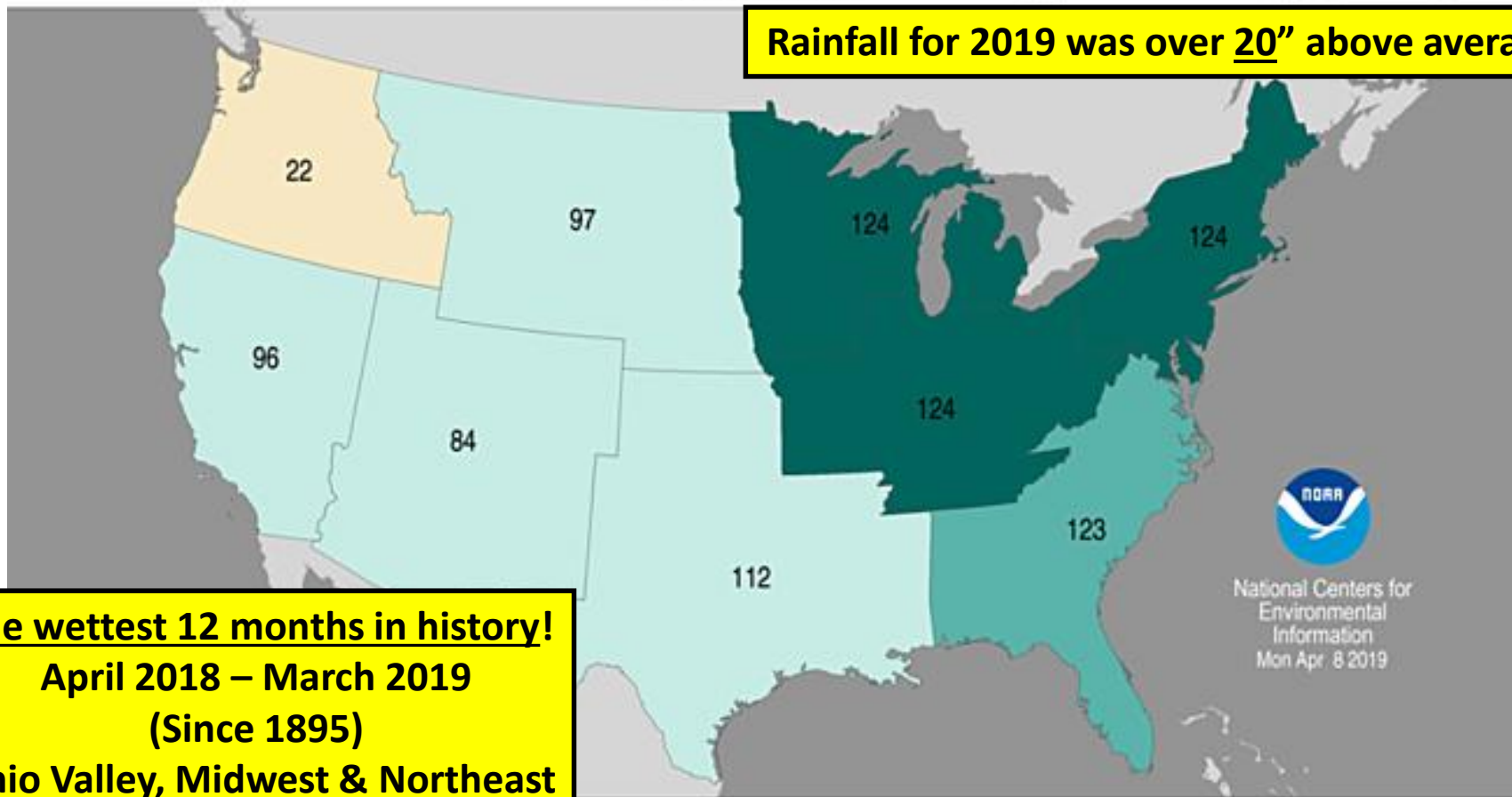
Corps & EPA working together to find a solution

Regional Precipitation Ranks

April 2018–March 2019

Period: 1895–2019

Rainfall for 2019 was over 20" above average!



National Centers for
Environmental
Information
Mon Apr. 8 2019

The wettest 12 months in history!

April 2018 – March 2019

(Since 1895)

Ohio Valley, Midwest & Northeast

Record
Driest
(1)

Much
Below
Average

Below
Average

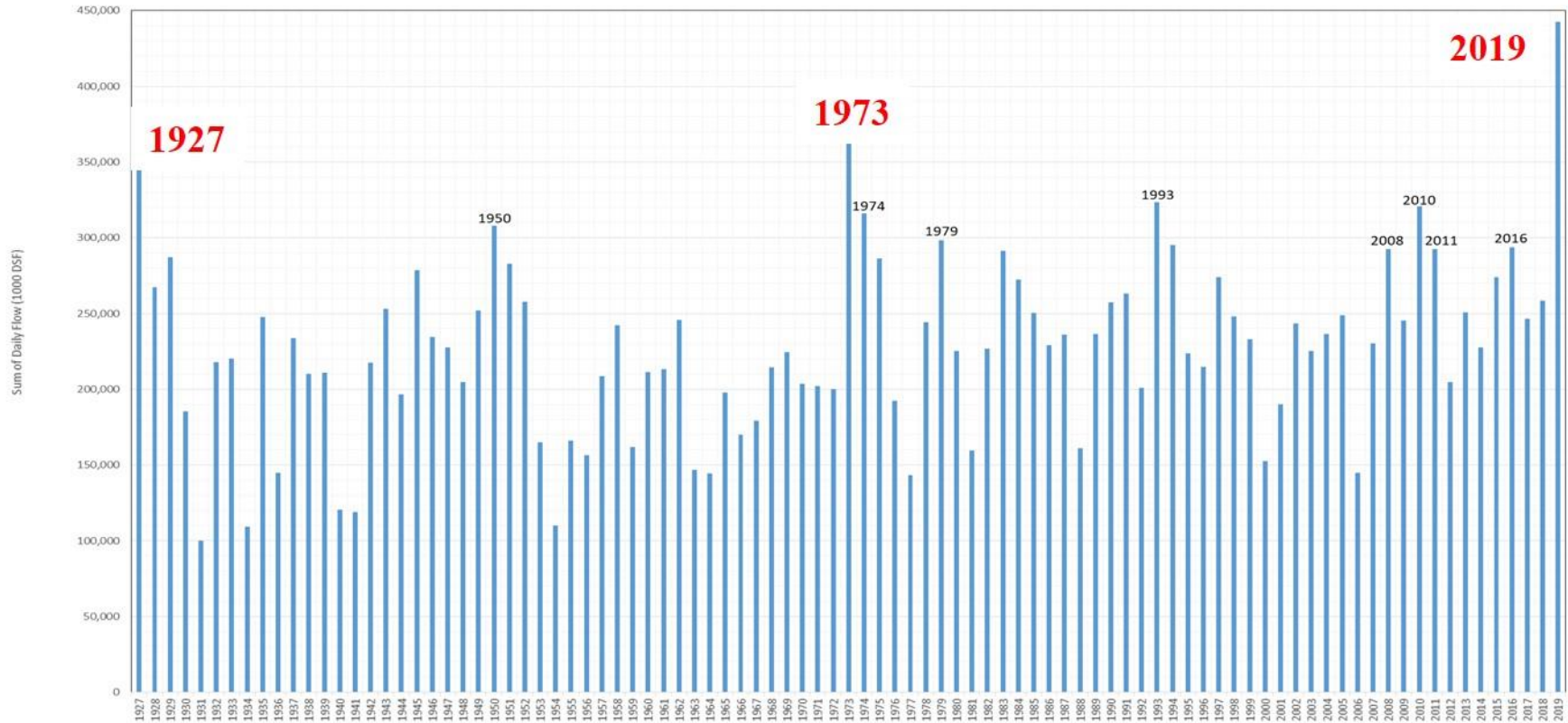
Near
Average

Above
Average

Much
Above
Average

Record
Wettest
(124)

MS River @ Vicksburg
Water Year Total Flow



2019 RECORD SET ON THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER

Record Precipitation - from April 2018 until March 2019 - record precipitation for any 12 month period since 1895.

Cairo - a record 156 **consecutive days above Flood Stage** breaking the 1973 record of 97 days.

Greenville - a record 154 consecutive days above Flood Stage breaking the 1927 record of 115 days.

Natchez - a record 215 consecutive days above Flood Stage breaking the 1973 record of 90 days.

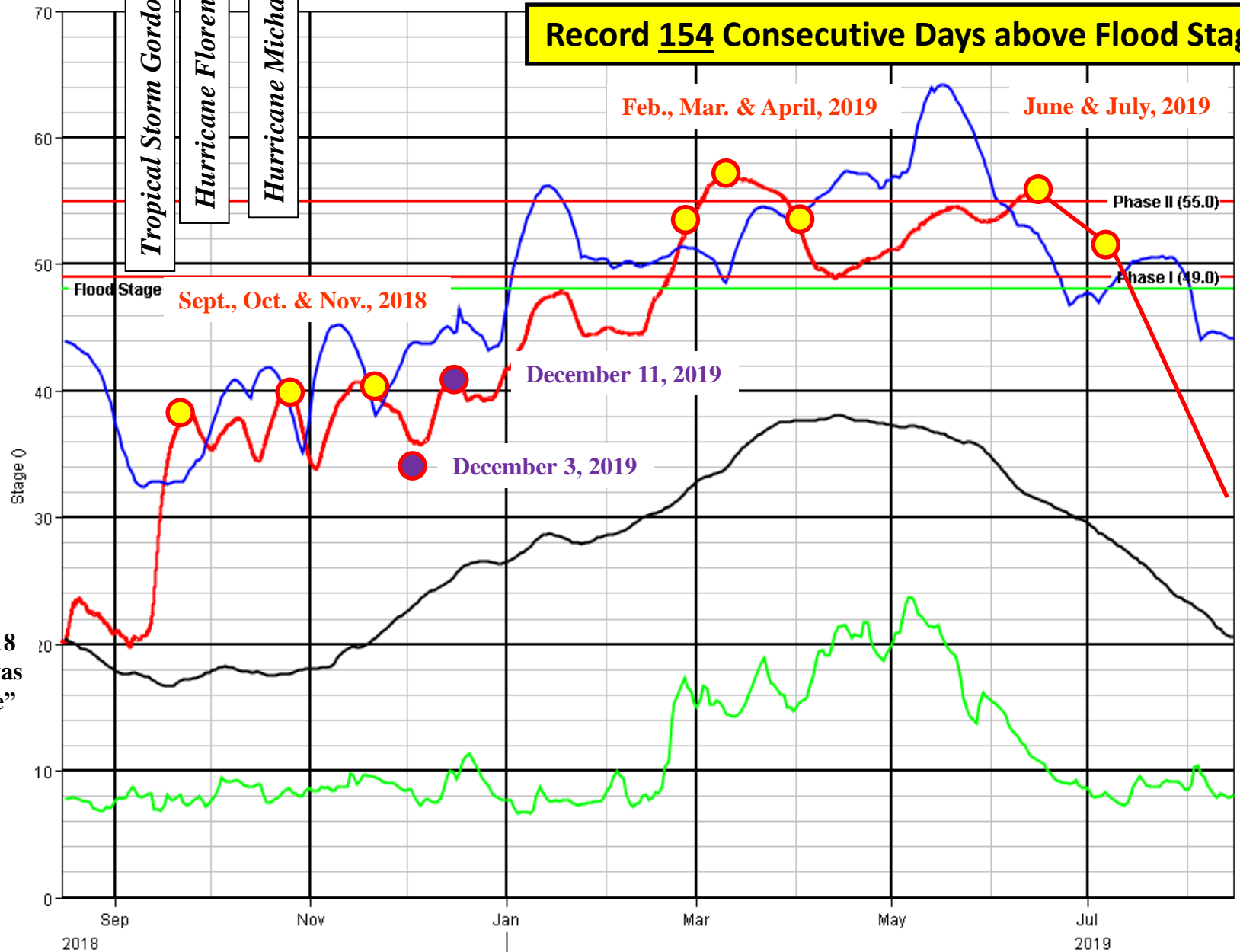
Red River Landing - a record 227 consecutive days above Flood Stage breaking the 1927 record of 152 days.

Baton Rouge - a record 212 consecutive days above Flood Stage breaking the 1927 record of 135 days.

Bonnet Carre Spillway - first time ever that it opened twice in one year.

Mississippi River @ Greenville, MS

Record 154 Consecutive Days above Flood Stage!



— Observed Stage — Average Stage (1941-2016) — Maximum Stage (1941-2016) — Minimum Stage (1941-2016)

● 2018 & 2019 Record High Stages

Drainage Basin to the Steele Bayou Structure

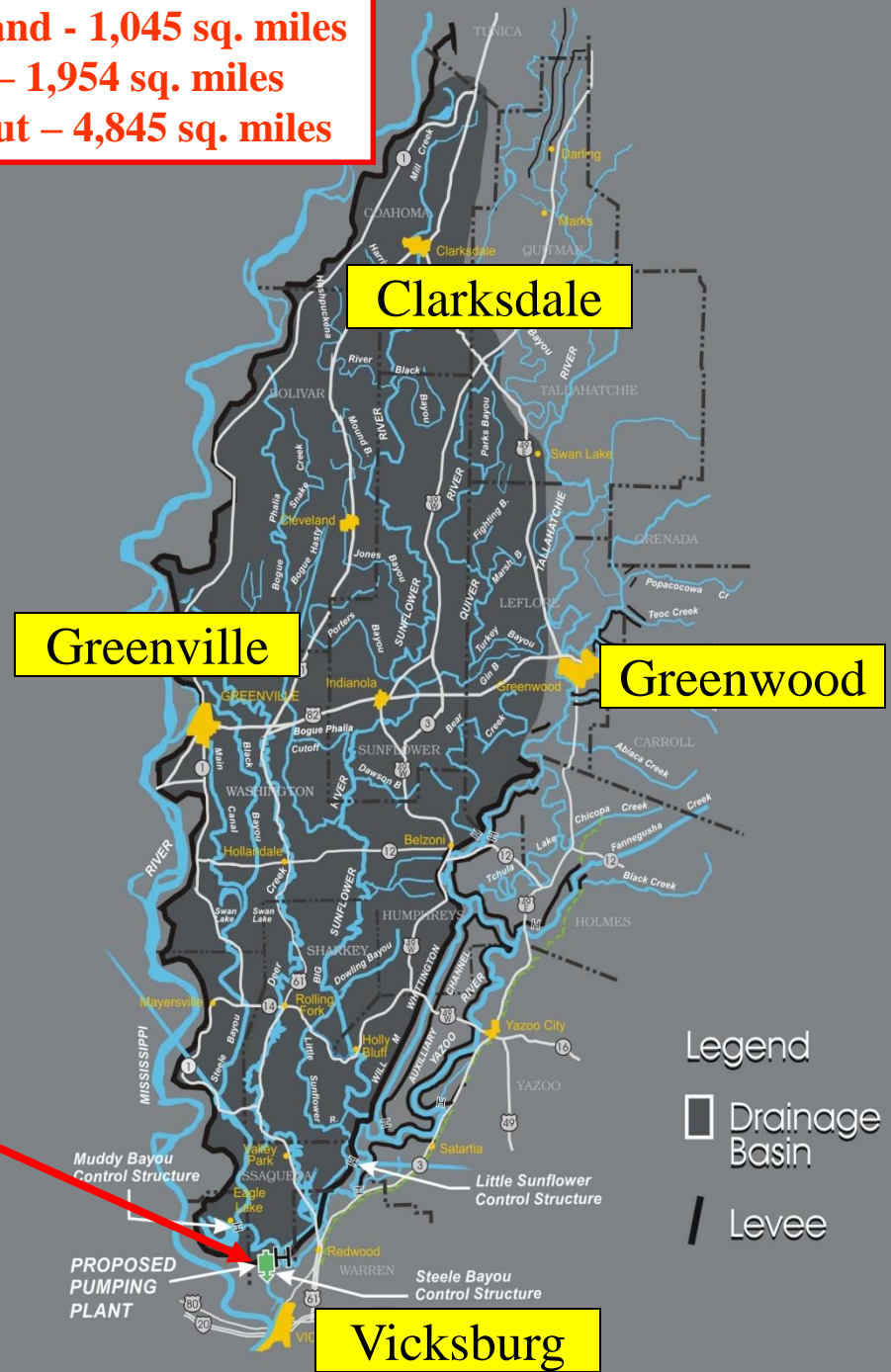
Rhode Island - 1,045 sq. miles
Delaware - 1,954 sq. miles
Connecticut - 4,845 sq. miles

All the rainfall in the MS Delta shown on this map must exit through the Steele Bayou Structure to enter into the Yazoo River to the MS River.

4,093 square miles
(2.62 Million Acres)



Steele Bayou Drainage Structure



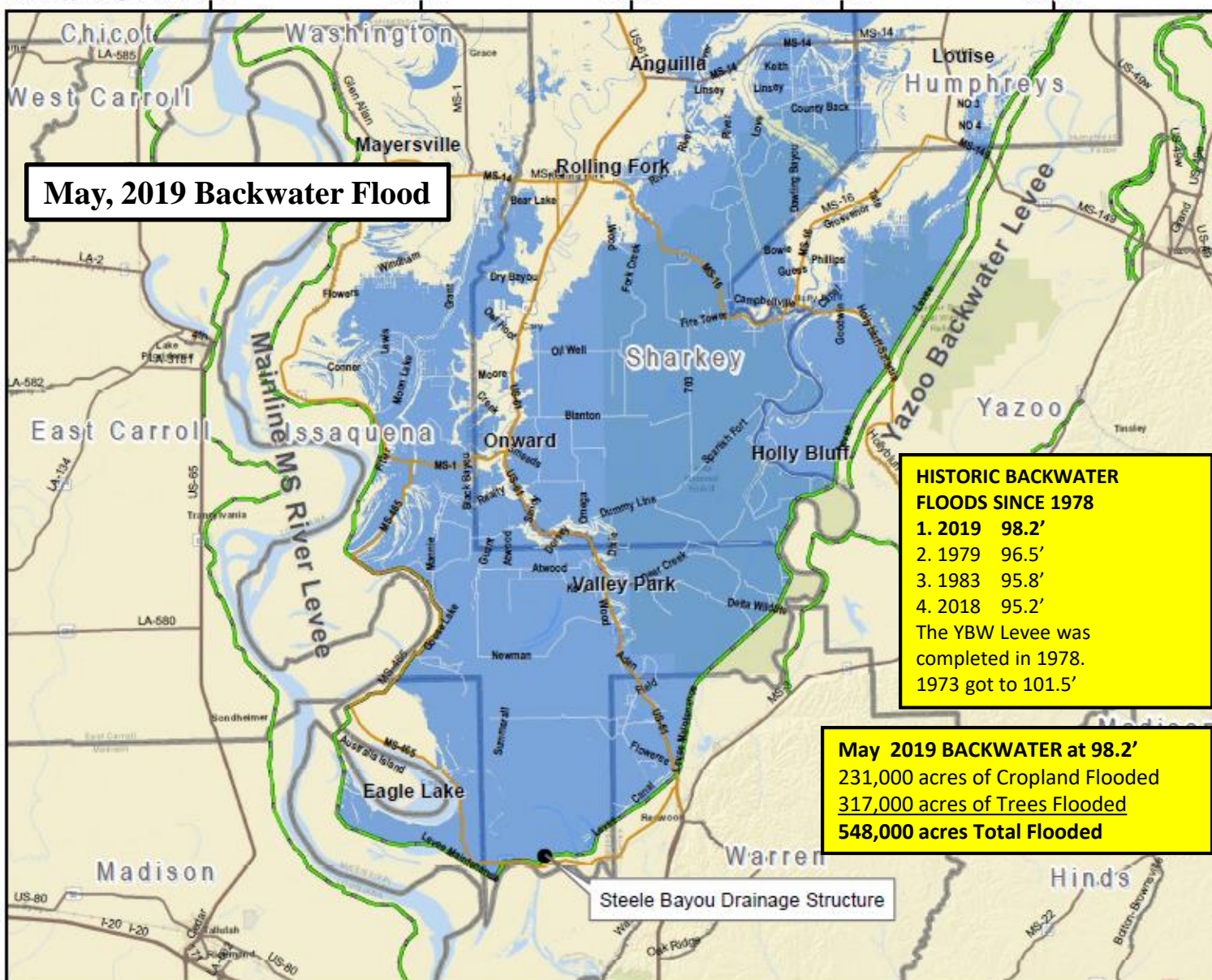


Yazoo Backwater Area Inundation Map

28 FEB 2019
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

US Army Corps
of Engineers

Mississippi Valley Division



May, 2019 Backwater Flood

HISTORIC BACKWATER FLOODS SINCE 1978
1. 2019 98.2'
2. 1979 96.5'
3. 1983 95.8'
4. 2018 95.2'
The YBW Levee was completed in 1978.
1973 got to 101.5'

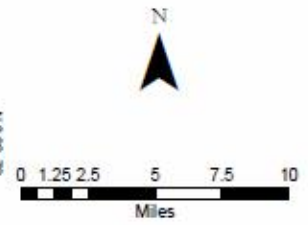
May 2019 BACKWATER at 98.2'
231,000 acres of Cropland Flooded
317,000 acres of Trees Flooded
548,000 acres Total Flooded

Steele Bayou Drainage Structure

Legend

- Major Roads
- Levee Centerlines
- Streets
- YBW EL - 96.5 ft

Total Acres Inundated at 96': 470,000
Total Acres Inundated at 97': 605,000



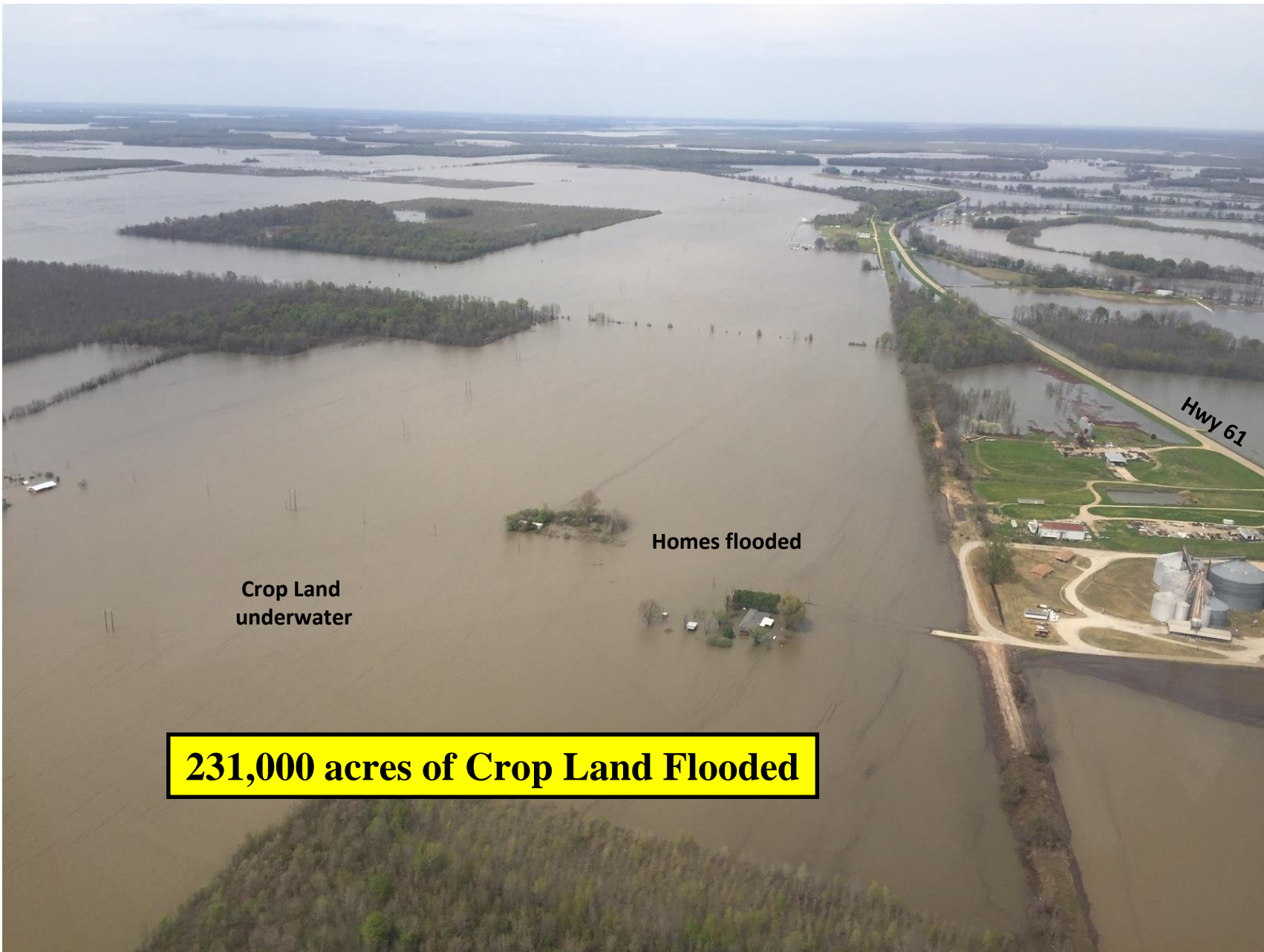
Disclaimer:
This map has been compiled using the best information available and is believed to be accurate; however, its preparation required many assumptions. Actual conditions during a flood event may vary from those assumed, so the accuracy cannot be guaranteed. The risks of flooding shown should only be used as a guideline for emergency planning and response actions. Actual areas inundated will depend on specific flooding conditions and may differ from the areas shown on the map.



Floweree, MS
Backwater at 96.8' on March 19, 2019



**Hwy 61 – Hardee, MS
Backwater at 96.8' on March 19, 2019**



Crop Land
underwater

Homes flooded

Hwy 61

231,000 acres of Crop Land Flooded

**South of Valley Park, MS
Backwater at 97.2' on March 29, 2019**



Crop Land
underwater

Backwater overtopping
Eagle Lake Shore Road

Eagle Lake

Top Bank of Eagle Lake
Eroding & scouring



Eagle Lake

Crop Land
underwater

Eagle Lake, MS
Backwater at 97.0' on March 22, 2019



**Eagle Lake, MS
Backwater at 98.0' on May 19, 2019**



May 20, 2019
Backwater at 98.0'
Eagle Lake at 97.2'

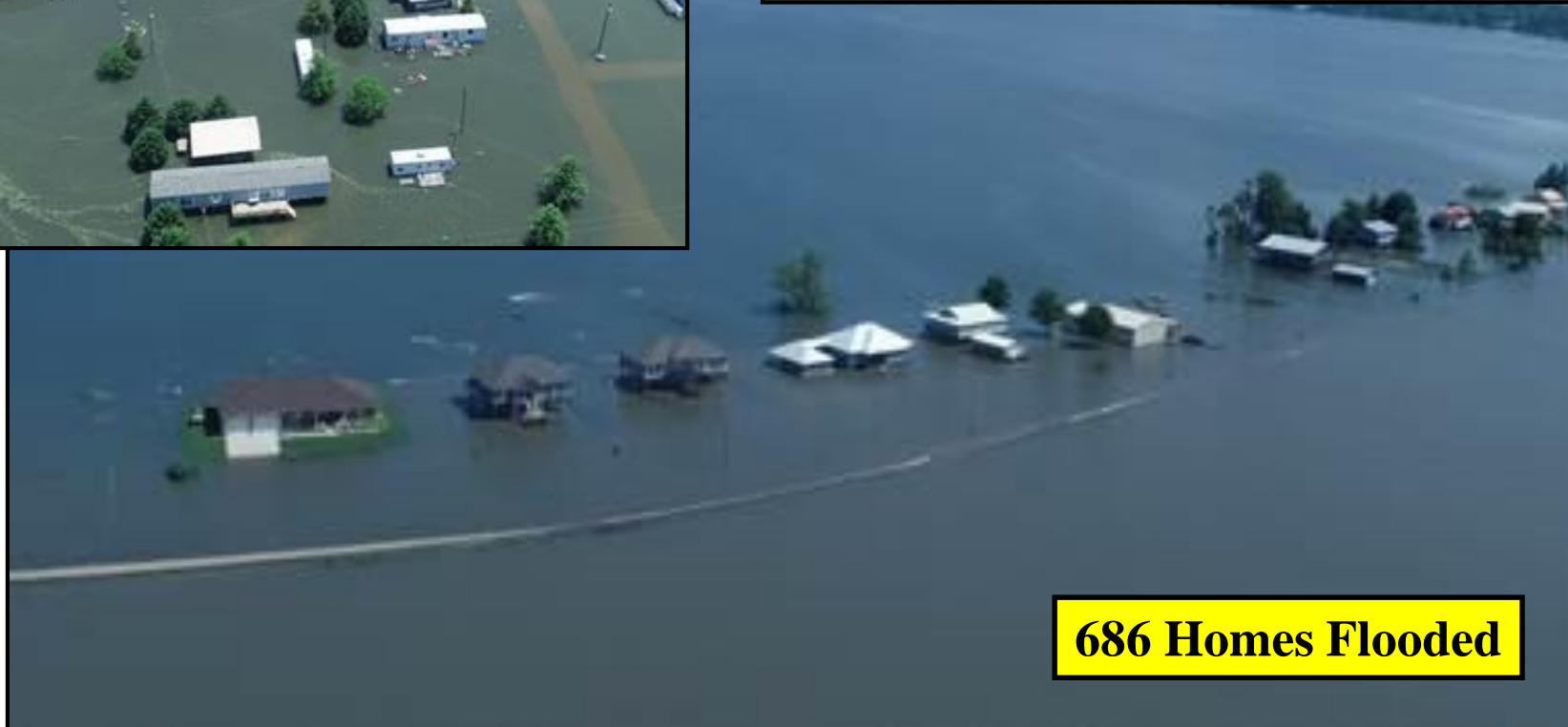


Eagle Lake, MS

May 21, 2019 – Backwater at 98.0'
Eagle Lake at 98.0'



Eagle Lake, MS
Backwater at 98.0' on May 21, 2019

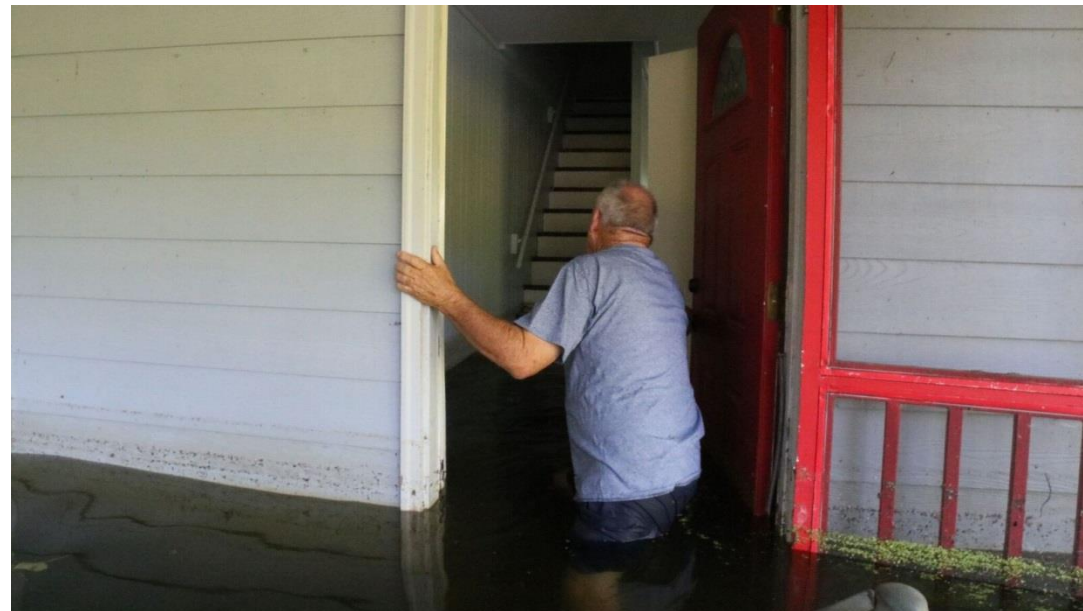


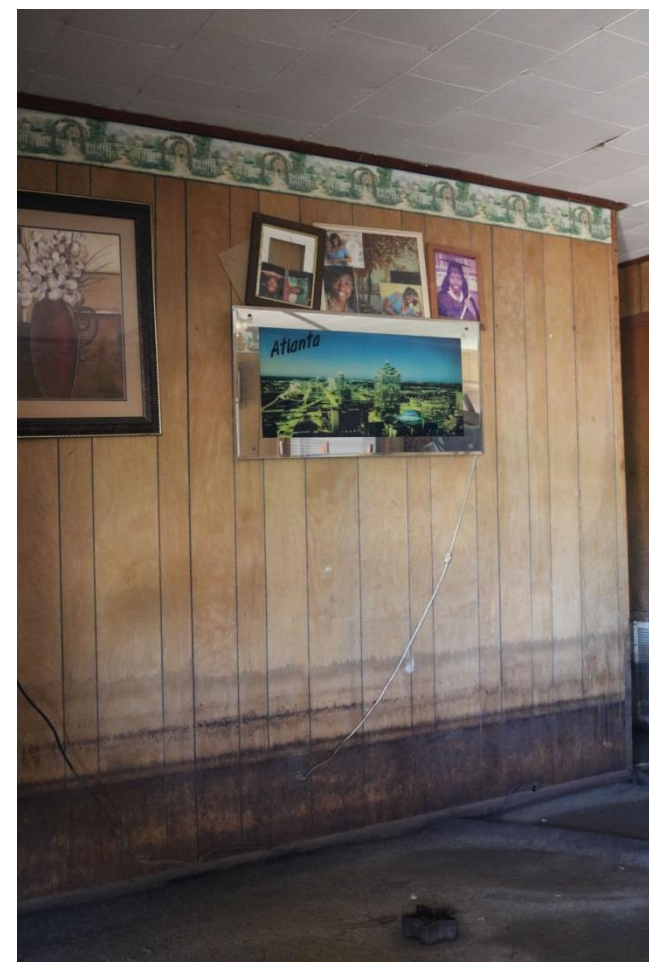
686 Homes Flooded

**Eagle Lake, MS
Backwater at 98.2' on May 24, 2019**



Home flooded on Eagle Lake





Interior of Homes
flooded by Backwater



Black Mold



Clean-up Process for the Interior of Homes flooded by Backwater





CEMETERY AT
HOLLY BLUFF
June 2019



Cemeteries flooded by Backwater



FLOATING CASKET REMOVED FROM FLOODWATER July 2019



Deer Population seeking higher ground

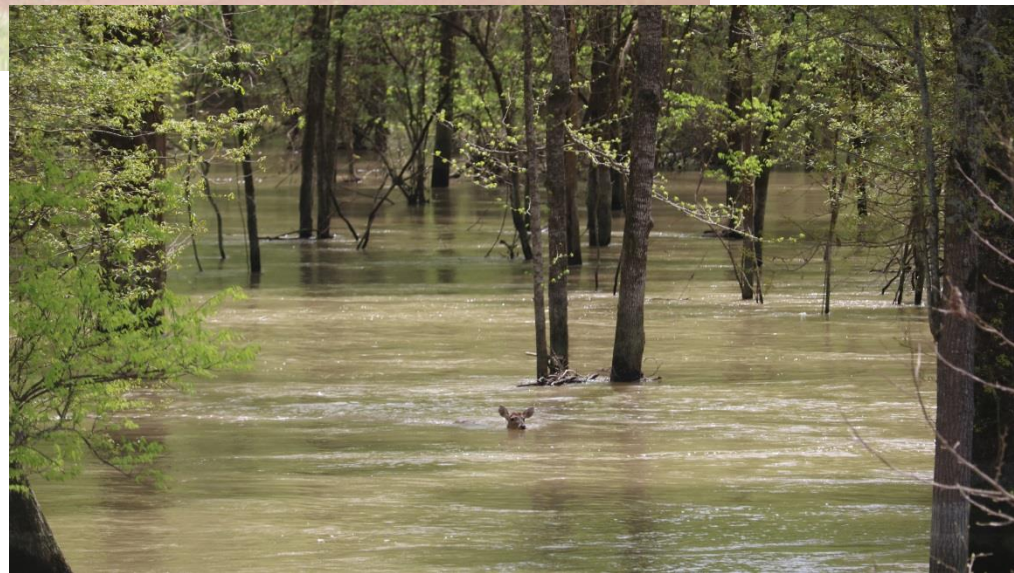


DEER TRAPED ON THE BACKWATER LEVEE





Deer Population
Worn-out by the long duration
Backwater Flood



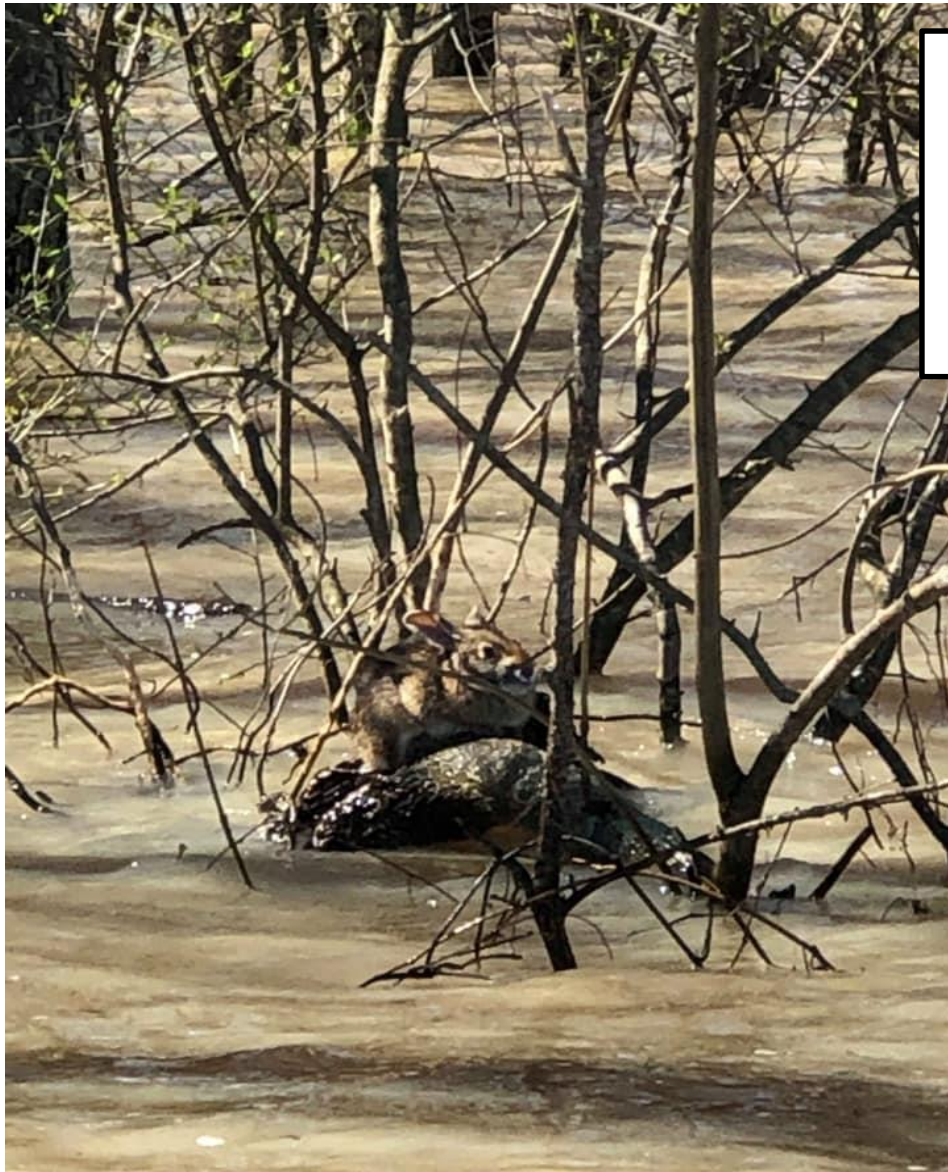


DEER FOUND ON A
SMALL PATCH OF LAND
SURROUNDED BY
FLOODWATER
JULY 2019



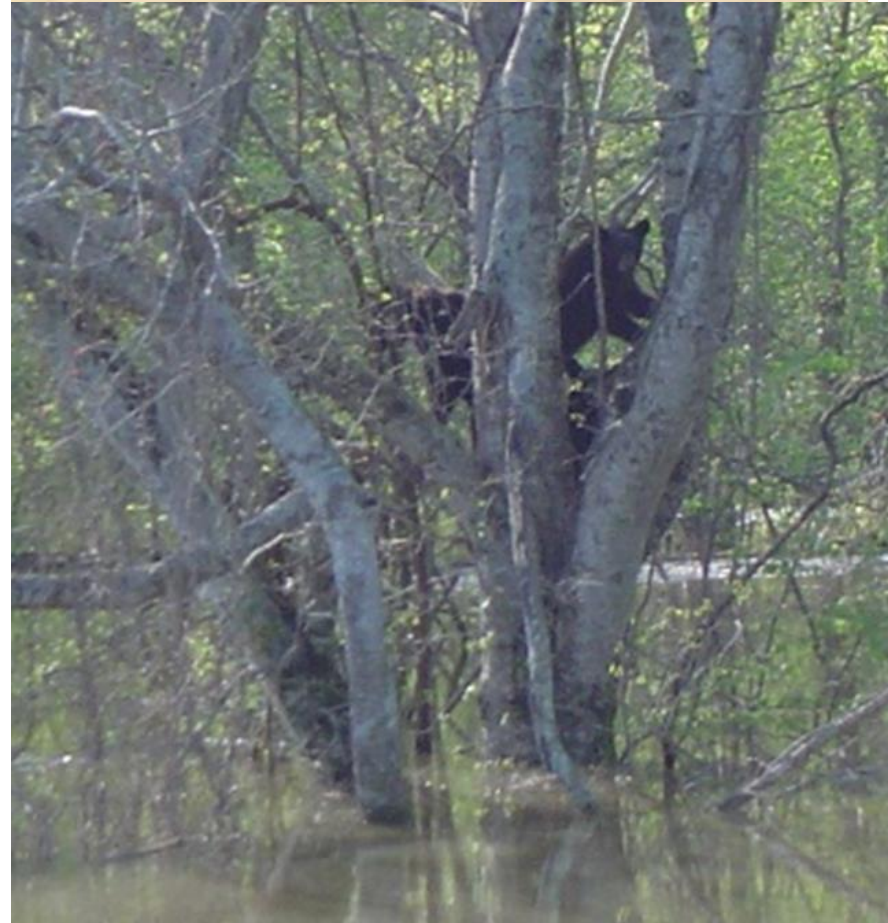
Deer Population
Decimated by the long duration
Backwater Flood

503 Dead Deer on the Levee

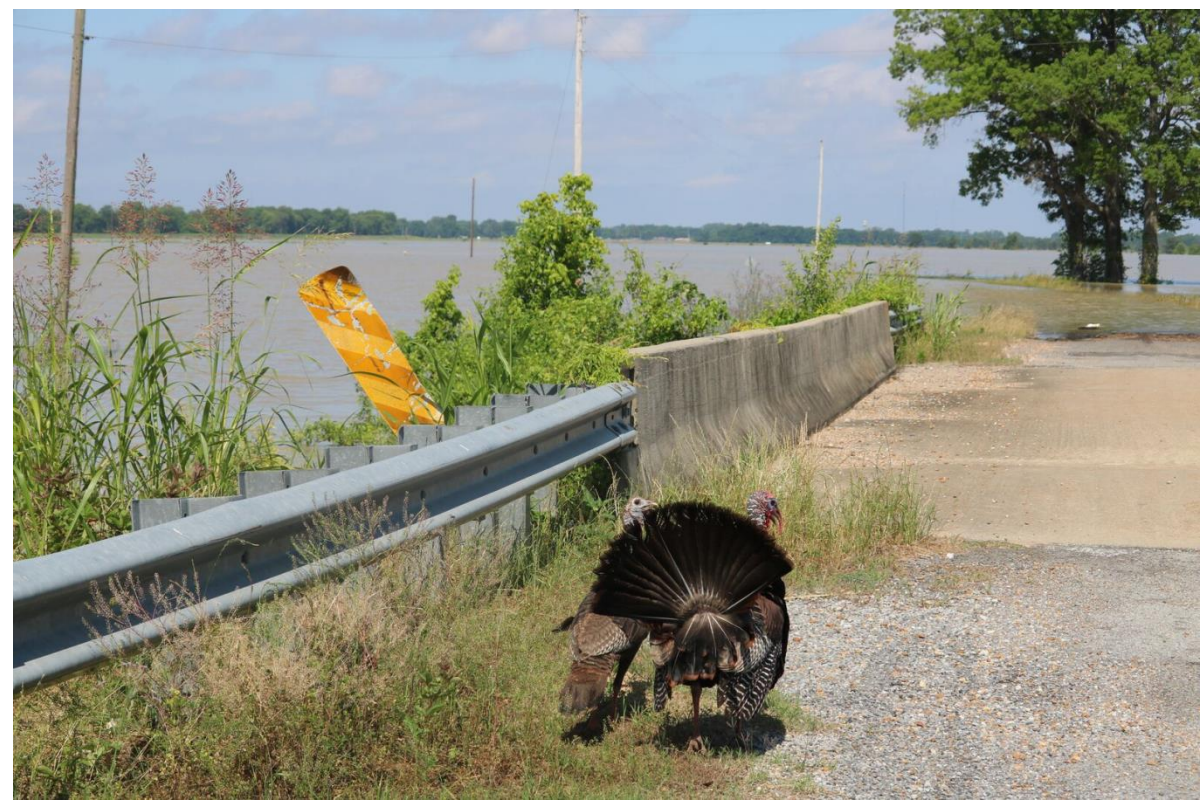


Rabbit stranded on a log
Small animal population
Decimated by the long duration
Backwater Flood

BEAR KILLED
BY AN
AUTOMOBILE
WHILE
ECSAPING THE
FLOODWATER



Bears stranded in a tree



Turkeys seeking higher ground
Turkey population
Decimated by the long duration
Backwater Flood



DEAD TURKEY



Hogs & Alligators
seeking higher elevation

**Raccoons ate all the Turkey Eggs, Alligator Eggs & Turtles Eggs.
We have lost an entire generation of Wildlife.**

FEEDING
THE
STARVING
ANIMALS



Blue Lake
CAMPGROUND
DELTA
National Forest

DEAD FISH HANGING
FROM TREES AS THE
WATER RECEDES

**Lost all small tree regeneration
on 317,000 acres of Woods.**

**DAMAGED AND
DYING CRP TREES**



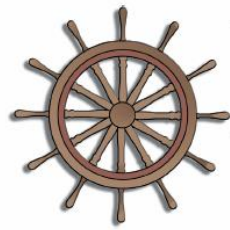
**10 YEAR
OLD
DAMAGE
D CRP**



Environmental Disaster!



LEAKING
DIESEL



Deer Creek Pilot

Guiding the South Delta for 142 years

Volume 143 Number 24

Rolling Fork, MS

June 20, 2019

\$1.00

Floodwaters prove deadly to local couple

HOLLY BLUFF—The news they would get would be devastating. Many in the South Delta are mourning the loss of a young mother this week after she and her boyfriend were found in floodwaters about a half-mile from this small Yazoo County community last Saturday afternoon, while another Issaquena County woman is thankful her encounter with floodwaters had a much less

tragic ending. According to Yazoo County Coroner Ricky Shivers, an area farmer discovered two bodies floating



LaTamela Taylor



Dorren Wilson

in floodwaters along Sataria Road around 5 p.m. Saturday. "He saw skid marks and looked over and saw the bodies," Shivers said.

tragic ending.

LaTamela Taylor, 29, and her boyfriend, 34-year-old Dorren Wilson of Vicksburg, left her brother's house in Vicksburg for Rolling Fork last Thursday night about 11:30 p.m. in her 2008 Mazda, according to Sharkey County Sheriff Lindsey Adams.

By Friday morning, Taylor was reported missing, and by early Saturday morning, her friends and family had taken to Facebook pleading for help in finding the missing couple.

"I heard it on the radio and responded since it was so close," Holly Bluff Volunteer Fire Chief Glen Reams said. "I was the first one on the scene...I just knew it was them."

Reams said he helped recover the bodies, and Adams positively identified the young woman who was employed as a dispatcher with his department.

A Yazoo County dive team recovered the car in what Adams said was much more than 10 feet of water. The driver's side win-



Aerial drone images of Holly Bluff Road at the Big Sunflower bridge from May 30 shows just a small part of the more than 500,000 acres still inundated with floodwaters mid-June. With less than predicted rainfall and an equalization of the water on both sides of the Steele Bayou Draining Structure, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced Wednesday morning that the structure's gates would be opened sometime during the day.

—Image courtesy of David Battaly, MEMA

dow was down, according to Shivers, who said there was really no way to know whether the couple tried to escape the sinking car.

Shivers also confirmed Monday that security cameras on a nearby farm shop captured video of Taylor's car at 2:32 a.m. Friday. The video shows the car traveling at a high rate of speed before spinning and sliding

backwards into the floodwater. Shivers said the camera couldn't make out what happened after the car sank.

"I just believe they made a wrong turn and got disoriented," Adams said.

At almost the same time and a county away, Mayersville resident Angela Stubbs found herself in floodwaters just off Highway 1 in Issaquena County.

According to that sheriff department's dispatcher Brenda Peterson, Stubbs said she encountered deer on the road around 3 a.m. Friday morning. She swerved to miss the animals and ran off the road and in to standing water.

The only occupant in her 2015 Chevy Impala, Stubbs was able to free herself and get to safety before

calling 911.

Shivers, who said Taylor was 13-weeks pregnant when she died, had not received reports from autopsies performed at the state medical examiner's office as of Monday afternoon.

A graduate of South Delta High School, Taylor lived in Rolling Fork with her young son.

On June 13, 2019 LaTamela Taylor (13 weeks pregnant) and Darron Wilson drown when their car slipped off in the Backwater near Holly Bluff, MS.

Their car was found 10' underwater.

These 2 people died because of the EPA decision to veto the Pumps in 2008.

Aerial Photos taken March 29, 2019

**Mainline Levee in Louisiana
Versus
Mainline Levee in Mississippi**



Louisiana – Dry Crop Land

Question:

Why is MS flooding and LA not?

Answer:

Louisiana has Pumps!

Mississippi does not have a Pump!!

Mississippi – Crop Land underwater



Eagle Lake, MS - Public Meeting – February 23, 2019



Valley Park, MS- Public Meeting – March 7, 2019



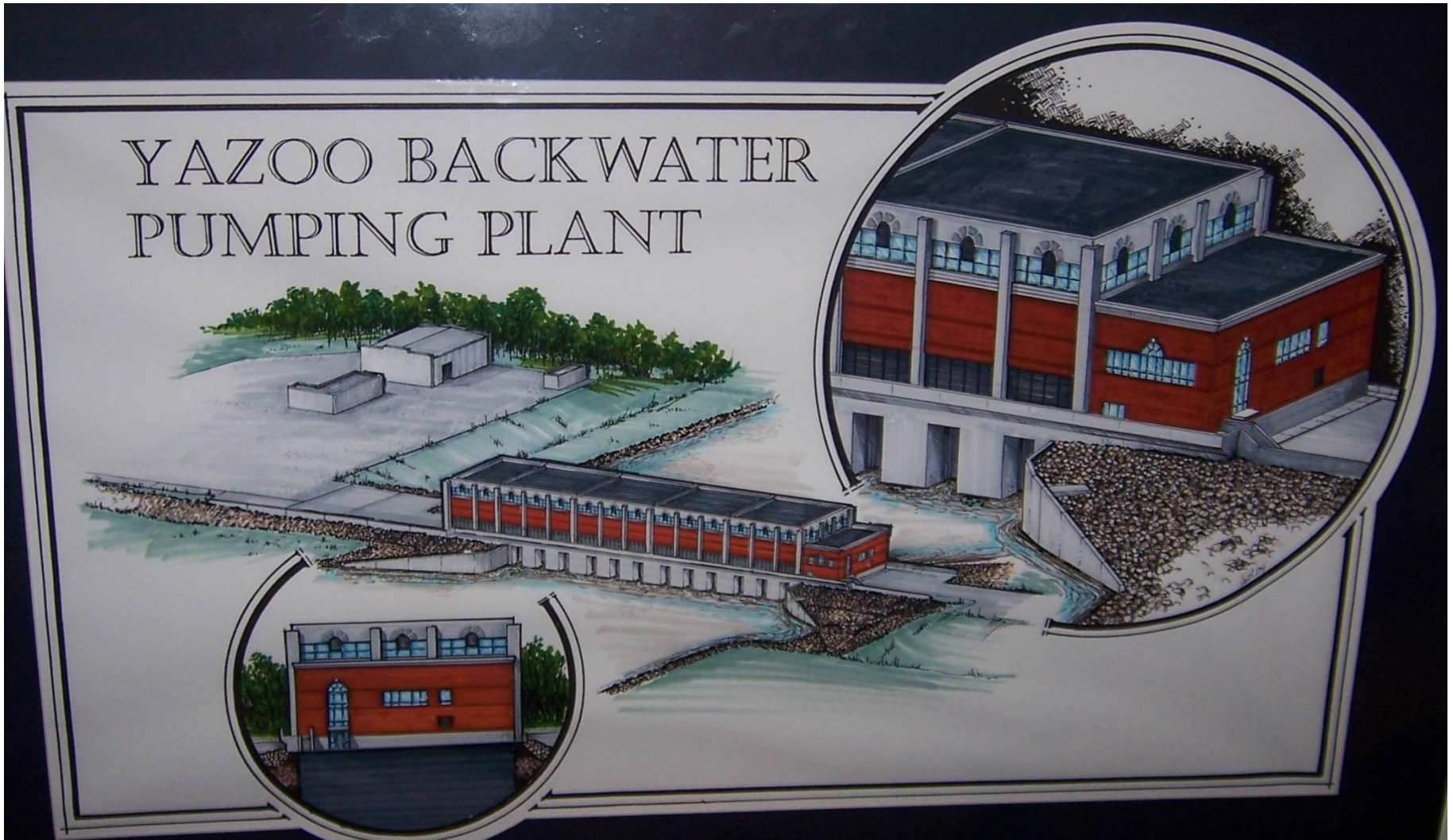
Holly Bluff, MS- Public Meeting – March 12, 2019



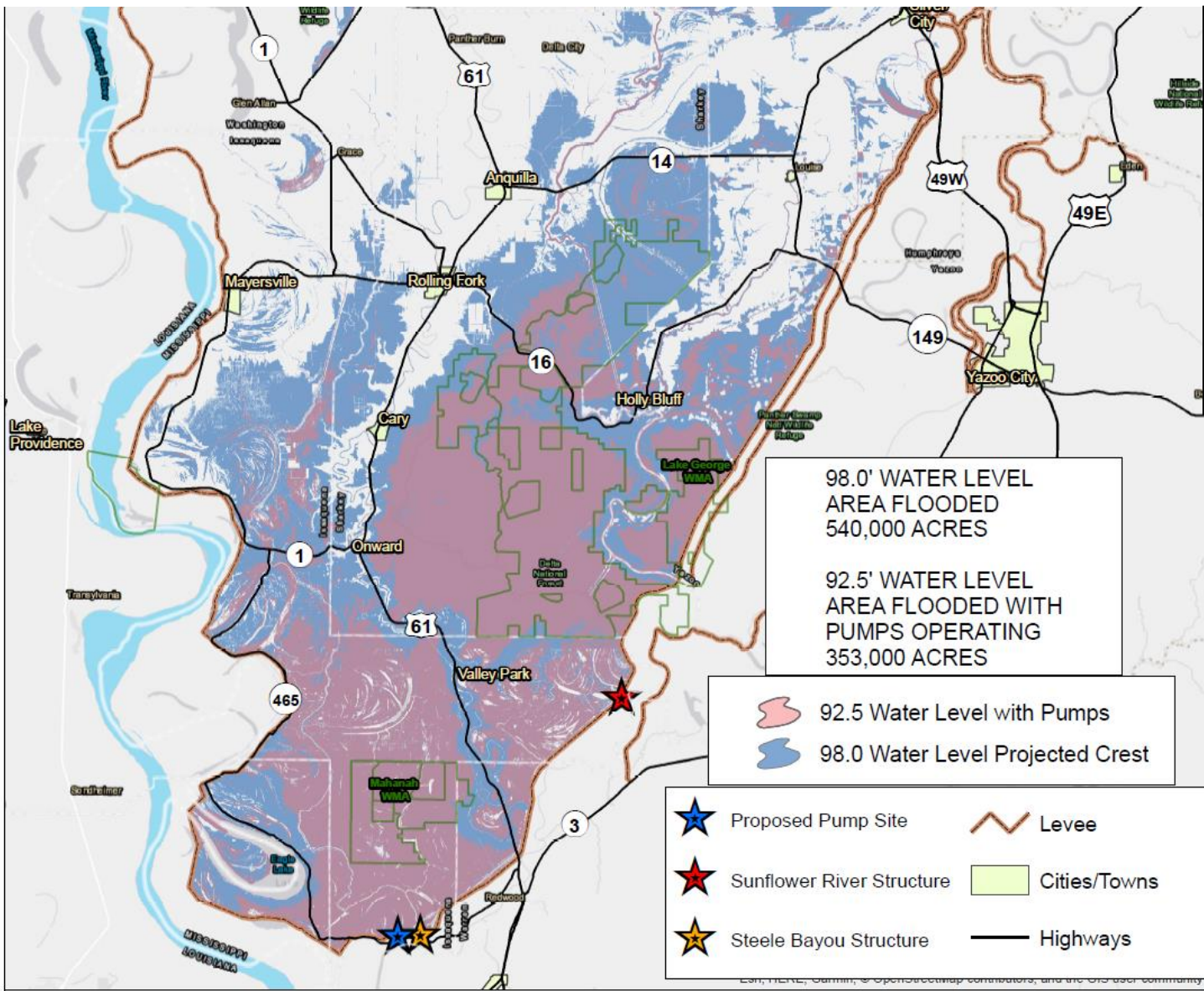
Rolling Fork, MS- Public Meeting – March 18, 2019

Public Meetings in Backwater Area

What is the Solution to stop Backwater Flooding?



Finish building the Yazoo Backwater Pumps!



MAJOR ROADS/HIGHWAYS FLOODED BY BACKWATER IN MAY 2019

- Hwy 1 near Fidler
- Hwy 465 near Fidler
- Hwy 16 near Holly Bluff
- Hwy 465 at Eagle Lake
- Satartia Rd near Holly Bluff
- Low-Water Bridge Road
- Goose Lake Road
- Spanish Fort Road
- Blanton Road

WITHOUT A PUMP

Backwater at 98.2'

- 548,000 acres Flooded
- 231,000 acres Crop Land
- 3 Highways Flooded
- 686 Homes Flooded

WITH PUMP

Backwater at 92.5'

- 354,000 acres Flooded
- 109,000 acres Crop Land
- 0 Highways Flooded
- 0 Homes Flooded

Yazoo Backwater Pumps

Had the Pumps been in place the Backwater would have crested at **92.5'** instead of 98.2' (**5.7' lower crest**).

At 92.5' **354,000 total acres** would be flooded instead of 548,000 acres (**194,000 less acres flooded**).

At 92.5' there are **109,000 acres** of Crop Land flooded (**122,000 less acres of Crop Land flooded**).

At 92.5' **no** homes would have flooded and **no** highways would have overtopped.

The Yazoo Backwater Project



Balancing Economics ...

(Flood Control Benefits with a 14,000 cfs Pump)



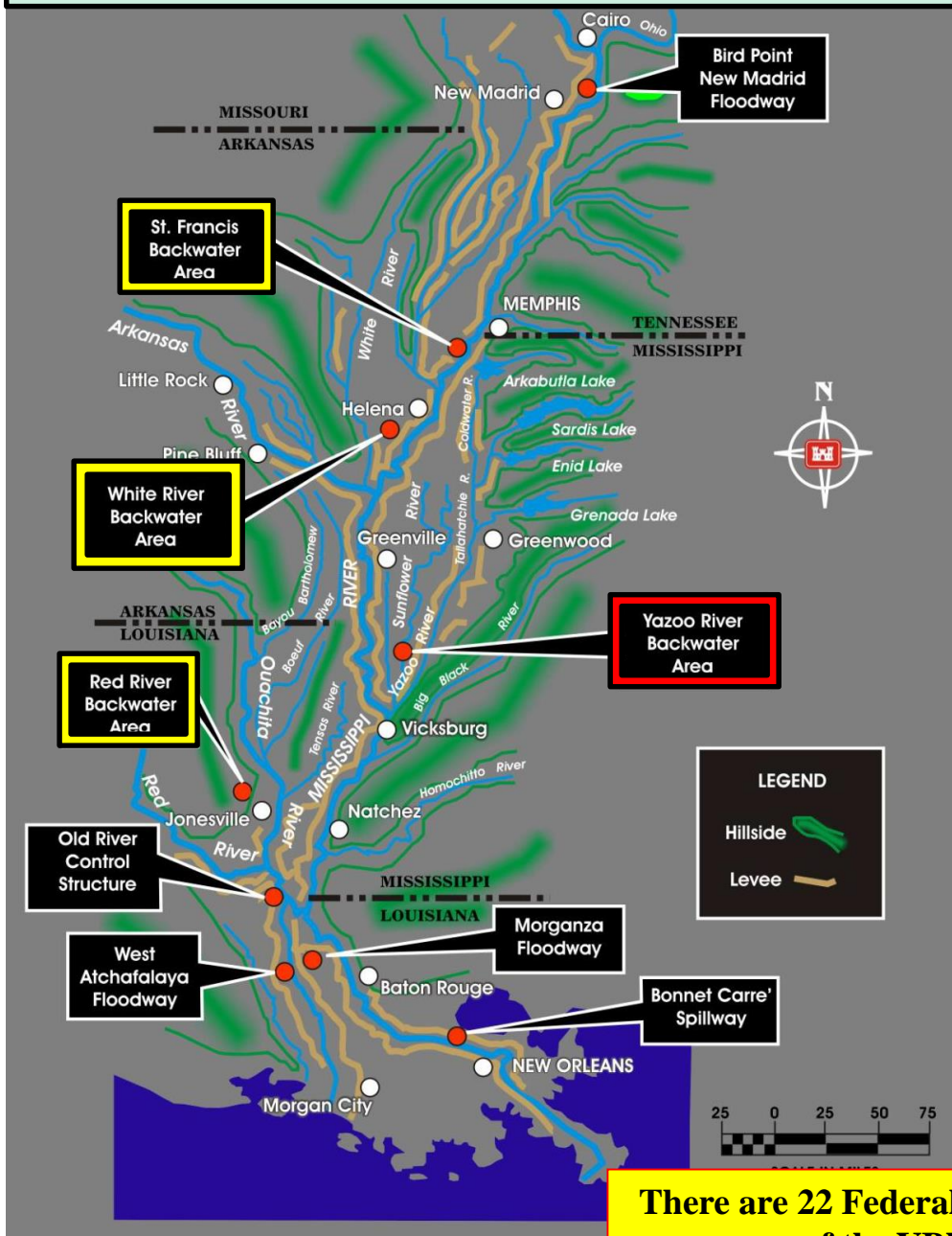
...with the Environment!

(Environmental Benefits with the Reforestation of up to 55,600 acres)



A Balanced Project that is good for People, Trees, Wildlife & Fish!

Backwater Areas of the MR&T Project



There are 4 Backwater Areas along the MS River
 These Backwater Levees have Drainage Structures to allow water to pass through the levee during low-water and they can be shut during high water times to keep the MS River from backing into the basin.

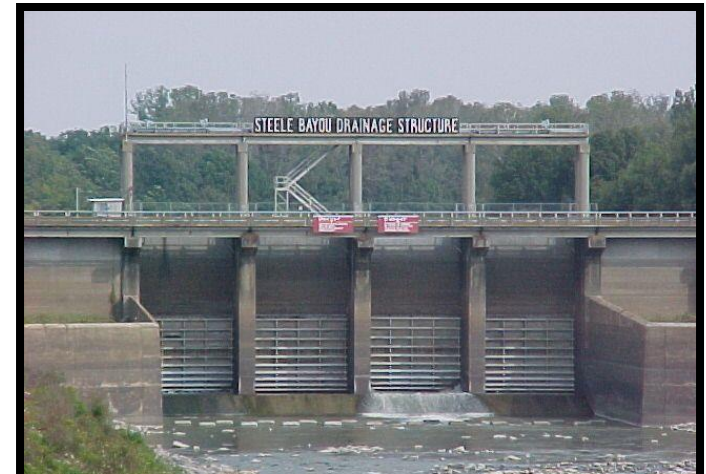
During high water times when the gates are closed – any rainfall that occurs in the basin gets backed up behind the closed gates. A pump is required to remove the rainwater.

3 Backwater Areas have an adequate pump in place.

Unfortunately the Yazoo Backwater Area does not have a pump in place!

Pumping Plants to evacuate stormwater

- | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| (1) St. Francis – AR & MO | Huxtable built in 1977 |
| (2) White River - AR | Graham-Burke built in 1964 |
| (3) Red River -LA | Tensas-Cocodrie built in 1986 |
| (4) <i>Yazoo River - MS</i> | <i>NONE</i> |



There are 22 Federally Funded Pumping Plants within a 200 mile radius of the YBW Pump Site that are in operation today!

YAZOO BACKWATER PROJECT

COMPROMISES

BY THE RESIDENTS OF THE SOUTH DELTA

	Original Project (1982)	Recommended Plan (2007)
Pump Capacity	17,500 cfs (25,000 cfs NED Plan)	14,000 cfs ½ the Pumping Capacity
On/Off (elevation)	80'	87' (1 year flood plain)
Acres Flooded when Pumps turn on	19,400 acres	216,200 acres 11x more Flooding
Reforested Land	Fee purchase Mitigation of 6,500 acres	Reforestation Easements of 55,600 acres 9x more Mitigation
Protecting Local County Tax Base	No	Yes

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE YAZOO BACKWATER PROJECT RECOMMENDED PLAN

ENVIRONMENTAL BENEFITS – Reforestation of 55,600 acres

1. **19.2% Increase in Wetlands Resources.**
2. **11.2% Increase in Terrestrial Resources.**
3. **34.5% Increase in Aquatic Resources.**
4. **52.8% Increase in Waterfowl (Duck Habitat) Resources.**
5. **Water Quality will improve with reforestation – Reduces Sediment & Nutrients.**
6. **Water Quality will improve by reducing the duration of flooding on the forest land thus reducing the Mercury content in the water.**
7. **Endangered Species – LA Black Bear & Pondberry – have been addressed, in fact reforestation will provide additional habitat.**
8. **Reforestation – Requires no Condemnation – Maintains Private Ownership.**
9. **Protects the 1-year Aquatic Habitat.**
10. **Raises Water Levels during Low-Flow season – Irrigation and Fish Benefits.**
11. **Alleviates Forest Fragmentation.**
12. **Improves Recreation Opportunities in Area.**
13. **Provides for Positive Socio-Economic Benefits.**

ECONOMIC BENEFITS – 14,000 cfs Pump

14. **Lowers the 100-year Flood by 4.5’.**
15. **Reduces Urban and Rural Structural Damages.**
16. **Provides Benefits to remaining Agricultural Lands.**
17. **Duration & Frequency of Floods will be greatly reduced.**

The YBW Project achieves both Economic and Environmental Benefits!

The Corps released the YBW Project Final Report in November 2007



February 1, 2008

EPA attempting to use their veto authority found in Section 404(c) of the CWA

MISSISSIPPI LEVEE BOARD
P.O. BOX 637
GREENVILLE, MS
est argu...

March 18, 2008

would like to send us a letter to the editor, e-mail it to ddtletters@ddtonline.com

FOR THE PUMP PROJECT

We cannot begin to expose the irony of a federal agency called the "environmental protection agency" trying to kill a project that will only enhance the environment in every way if completed.

EPA trying to kill the Yazoo Backwater Project

DELTA DEMOCRAT TIMES
Tuesday, March 18, 2008

■ YAZOO BACKWATER PROJECT

EPA calls for comment on pump project

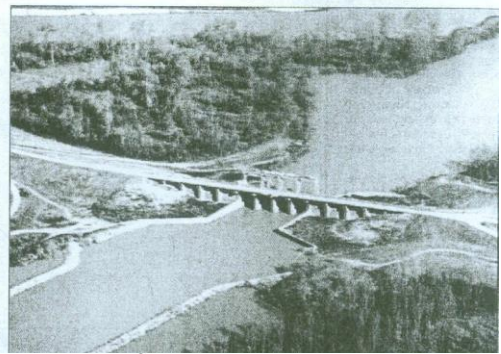
EPA: The construction and operation of the proposed pumps would degrade the critical functions of wetlands area

TERRI FERGUSON
terriferguson@ddtonline.com

ATLANTA, Ga. — The Environmental Protection Agency is calling for comment from the public about the long-debated Yazoo Backwater Project

Engineers Civil Works proposal designed to address flooding concerns affecting 630,000 acres of land between the Mississippi and Yazoo Rivers," according to the EPA statement. "The primary component of the project is the

The Mississippi Levee Board is appalled that after more than a decade of study, coordination and communication among the Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Yazoo Backwater Project is about to become the victim of an interagency policy dispute over the future of flood control. The EPA's proposed "veto" of the project, as described in its



being dug at its site. An exercised Section 404 veto of the project by EPA would be only the 12th the agency has issued in its history. The federal agency communicated the numerous wetlands-related misgivings it had about the project following the release of the Corps' preliminary project report in 2000. While project proponents had believed that many of those differences had been resolved through negotiations between the two agencies, EPA remains clearly unconvinced. "EPA is initiating this 404(c) action based on the record to date and our assessment that the project may cause or contribute in significant degradation of the aquatic environment, including impacts to fish and wildlife," Starfield wrote. "We do not believe the potential impacts of the project, as currently proposed, can be adequately mitigated." EPA continues to maintain that the proposed project would impact aquatic wetlands "on a massive scale," potential-

6 Rolling Fork, Mississippi February 7, 2008 50 Cents

EPA poised to veto pumps

RAY MOSBY
Editor
ROLLING FORK—It took the Vicksburg District of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers seven years and more than 10,000 pieces of paper to produce its reformulated Yazoo Backwater Project report. But now it is being given less than two weeks to show why the Environmental Protection Agency shouldn't veto it. Perhaps the most controversial single flood control project in the country, the Yazoo Backwater Project, also known as the Yazoo Pumps, has for years drawn the staunch opposition of much of the environmental community. But among its opponents, only the EPA, which has virtually unchecked authority under the Clean Water Act, has the ability to administratively shut it down. And that's exactly what it is now threatening. In a letter dated Friday to the Corps and the Mississippi Levee Board, which

Delta Democrat Times

TUESDAY • ddtonline.com • FEBRUARY 5, 2008 50 CENTS

■ MID-DELTA

EPA may veto pump project

Levee Board says it does not understand why EPA would try to stop a project that will provide benefits in the project area

TERRI FERGUSON
terriferguson@ddtonline.com

GREENVILLE — The Environmental Protection Agency is taking steps that may stop the long-debated Yazoo Backwater pump project. EPA sent a letter on Friday stating that the agency is initiating

ing a review that could veto the Yazoo Backwater Project, according to Peter Nimrod, chief engineer of the Mississippi Levee Board. "The Mississippi Levee Board is extremely disappointed that the Environmental Protection Agency is considering initiation of a 404(c) veto of the Yazoo

Backwater Project," Nimrod said. "The board does not understand why EPA would try to stop a project that will provide benefits in every environmental resource in the project area. In fact, with the reforestation of up to 55,600 acres of existing agriculture land back into bottomland hardwood trees, this pro-

ject will increase wetland functions by 19.3 percent, terrestrial benefits by 11.2 percent, aquatic benefits by 34.5 percent, and waterfowl benefits by 52.8 percent." EPA has indicated that it is



Nimrod

willing to discuss this matter further with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Nimrod said. "The board hopes that the Corps and EPA will reconvene and work these issues out and EPA will drop their pursuit of a 404(c) veto," Nimrod said. "The board is very concerned that while the project has been made more 'environmentally friendly,' leaving vast acreage and

See PUMP on A7

EPA Veto – Major Issue # 1 - Wetlands

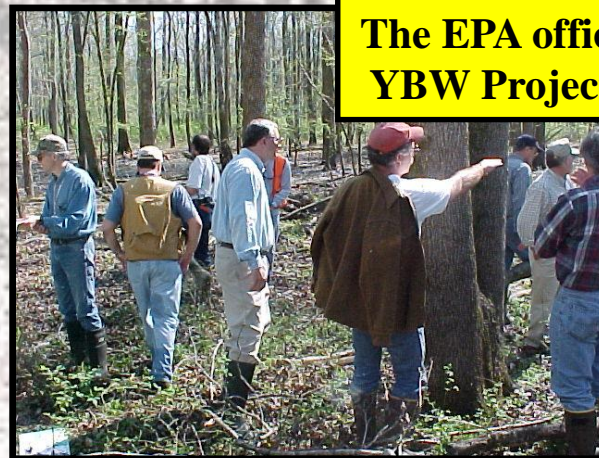
Wetland Adverse Hydrologic Effects

Existing Wetland Functional Values ~ 900,000 FCU's

	Acres	Functional Value (FCU's)	Relative Reduction To Functional Value
Total Wetlands Pump Losses	66,945	- 14,188	-1.6%
Reforestation Gains	55,600	+ 186,953	+20.8%
Recommended Plan – Pump & Trees		+ 172,765	+19.2%

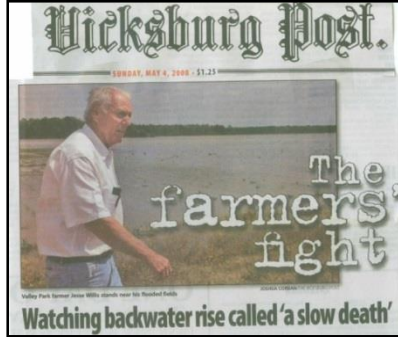


The Corps assumed all Wetlands are sustained only by Backwater Flooding - they completely ignored annual precipitation.



The EPA officially Vetoed the YBW Project in August 2008

EPA & Corps Wetland Verification



YAZOO BACKWATER PUMP PROJECT

October 1, 2018

Cleared Acres, Acres Benefited, Ag Damages, Ag Benefits, Forested Acres, All Acres, Acres Benefited.

YBW Area for events above the 87.0' cut-on for the Yazoo Backwater Pump 1/.

	Elevation	Cleared Acres 2/	Acres Benefited	Ag damages		Ag Benefits	Forested Acres 3/	Acres Benefited	All Acres 4/	Acres Benefited
				Observed	With Project					
Pump On	87.0	37,000					45,000		203,000	
May 2008	92.2	98,000	61,000	\$91,081,000	\$34,136,000	\$56,945,000	87,000	42,000	344,000	141,000
June 2009	93.7	133,000	96,000	\$128,724,000	\$35,684,000	\$93,040,000	95,000	50,000	394,000	191,000
June 2011	90.0	71,000	34,000	\$68,725,000	\$35,684,000	\$33,041,000	84,000	39,000	280,000	77,000
May 2013	90.9	82,000	45,000	\$76,217,000	\$34,136,000	\$42,081,000	78,000	33,000	304,000	101,000
April 2015	90.7	80,000	43,000	\$72,444,000	\$33,469,000	\$38,975,000	76,000	31,000	283,000	80,000
January 2016	91.4	89,000	52,000	\$16,158,000	\$6,719,000	\$9,439,000	82,000	37,000	319,000	116,000
March 2016	92.0	99,000	62,000	\$51,528,000	\$19,156,000	\$32,372,000	86,000	41,000	337,000	134,000
May 2017	88.5	52,000	15,000	\$48,292,000	\$34,136,000	\$14,156,000	56,000	11,000	241,000	38,000

March 2018 95.2 \$52,700,000
Total Ag Damages Prevented w/ Pumps in place during Backwater Floods 2008-2018 \$372,749,000
 Total Project Cost for the Yazoo Backwater Pump Project (2007 estimate) **\$220,000,000**
Total Benefit with Ag Damages Prevented (\$320M) minus Project Cost (\$220M) \$152,749,000

2008 - 2018

Does not include 2019

If the Pumps had been in place in 2008 – the year EPA vetoed the Project – the \$220M Project Cost would have already been re-couped and we would have a net gain of \$152M today!

Good Things Happening in 2017:



1. Improve the Environmental Protection Agency

Solution – New EPA Leadership reforms the EPA

*Senate confirmed Pruitt on February 24, 2017
In 2018 Andrew Wheeler takes Scott Pruitt's place*



Andrew Wheeler



2. Reduce Regulations

Solution – Eliminate proposed WOTUS, FFRMS, revised P&G

President Trump signed Executive Orders on Feb. 28, 2017 for WOTUS & Mar. 28, 2017 for FFRMS



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3. New Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works (ASACW)

Solution – Appoint R.D. James

Jan. 25, 2018 Senate confirms R.D. James as ASACW (89-1 vote)



R.D. James





"This project is of critical importance to the state of Mississippi. These issues of flooding have worsened as evidenced by the aftermath of the recent flooding which affected approximately 500,000 acres of farmland in the state each month. The use of water pumps will be a critical solution by lifting excess rainfall runoff from the Mississippi River."

– Congressman Bennie Thompson



"The recent devastating flooding demonstrated the critical importance of flood control infrastructure. It is a commonsense solution to protect farmers, residents, and property."

– Senator Roger Wicker



Instagram



MONDAY, AUGUST 26, 2019



Liked by benniegthompson and 37 others

sencindyhydsmith Appreciate Maj Gen Mark Toy and @usacehq officials for engaging in meaningful discussions as we continue to press for a resolution to persistent Yazoo Backwater flooding. And thanks to the Lower Mississippi River Museum and Riverfront Interpretive Site for hosting us for our Yazoo Backwater flood talks. They offer a virtual reality demonstration of Eagle Lake flooding.

"Similar flooding has occurred not once, but ten separate times since the EPA in 2008 prohibited the Corps from completing the final aspects of a 78-year-old comprehensive flood control effort... We can all agree that decisions made in 2008 have not only failed to meet the intent with respect to the environment, wildlife and habitat but also placed a tremendous burden on the lives and properties of thousands of Mississippians."

– Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith





Governor Bryant with Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, R. D. James, this week in Washington

“The Army Corps of Engineers continues to support the installation of the pumps. They believe after seven different reviews and studies, that the pumps would have substantial impact in the flooding in the Mississippi Delta, and we have the total and complete support of the Corps of Engineers, and now that the review is beginning, I am extremely encouraged that the pumps in the Yazoo Backwater area may be installed.”

– Governor Phil Bryant



MSEMA @MSEMA

Governor @PhilBryantMS and @MSEMA Executive Director Greg Michel met today at the White House with Rear Admiral Fears, Deputy Assistant to The President of the United States, on matters of #HomelandSecurity to discuss Delta Backwater #Flooding.

4 6 Shares

.@PhilBryantMS and @SenatorWicker calling for revival of Yazoo pumps project in the face of historic Yazoo Backwater flood. #mswx #msleg

Phil Bryant @PhilBryantMS
 Agreed. I have had very positive meetings and conversations with the @EPA. They should revisit the 2008 veto of the pumps. We need them now. twitter.com/senatorwicker/...

3/21/19, 9:35 AM

**Backwater Tour with Sen. Cindy Hyde-Smith and
Region IV EPA Administrator Mary Walker
March 18, 2019**



**Backwater Tour with ASACW R.D. James
March 29, 2019**



**Backwater Tour with Gen. Scott Spellmon
Corps Headquarters
June 4, 2019**



Backwater Tours

Significant changes since SEIS in 2007

- Period of record with backwater levee in place is >40 years (1978-2019)
- LIDAR based DEM with 10 meter resolution or less is available
- 7 years of groundwater monitoring well data is available



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of Engineers®

Wetland hydrologic sources in the Yazoo Basin

PRELIMINARY RESULTS: 92% of wetland hydrologic events occurred due to rainfall (w/ or w/o secondary flooding effects)

Rainfall maintained wetland hydrology at 87% of study locations

CONCLUSION: Most wetlands would persist in the absence of flooding

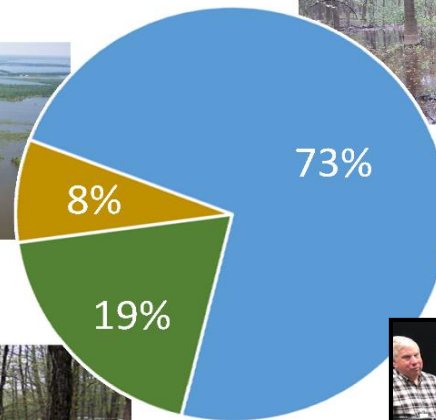
Flood dominated



Rainfall dominated



Rainfall w/ flood



Annual Precipitation sustains 92% of the Wetlands in the Backwater Area – not Backwater Flooding!



Lee Forsgren – EPA HQ



Mary Walker – EPA Region IV Administrator



October 21, 2019
EPA Listening Session
Rolling Fork, MS



The EPA meet with the Corps on October 22, 2109 to discuss ways to enhance the project to make it more environmentally friendly so they could consider issuing a new permit based on a modified project. The Corps is working on this and will get back with the EPA before Christmas.

2019 BACKWATER EVENT



Church Flooded FLOWEREE, MS



HWY 61 Home Flooded



Homes Flooded

EAGLE LAKE, MS



Crop Land Underwater & Homes Flooded

EAGLE LAKE, MS



MAY 2019 - WITHOUT A PUMP
 Backwater at 98.2'
 548,000 acres Flooded
 231,000 acres Crop Land
 3 Highways Flooded
 686 Homes Flooded

MAY 2019 - WITH A PUMP
 Backwater at 92.5'
 354,000 acres Flooded
 109,000 acres Crop Land
 0 Highways Flooded
 0 Homes Flooded



HWY 61 NEAR VALLEY PARK, MS

Crop Land Underwater & Homes Flooded

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