Mississippi River and Tributaries Levee System

“No doubt the great benefit to the present and two or three following generations accruing from a complete system of absolutely protection levees, excluding the flood waters entirely from the great areas of the lower delta country, far outweighs the disadvantages to future generations from subsidence of the Gulf delta lands below the level of the sea and their gradual abandonment due to this cause.”

-E. L. Corthell, National Geographic, December 1897

Prevented $612 billion in damages since 1928, a 44 to 1 return on investment
1,900 square miles of land lost since 1930’s

Increased vulnerability to hurricanes

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita led to changes in how we plan for future challenges
Water Sediment Funding
Resource Limited Planning
Wetland Restoration Non-Structural Protection
Levees Integrated Planning Non-Structural Protection

Comprehensive Planning
Leves Wetland Integrated Planning Non-Structural Protection

Scenario Planning
"Plan for the Worst and Hope for the Best"

Resource Limited Planning
Water Sediment Funding
Currently experiencing 16 square miles/year

Future could reach 51 square miles/year
Current Moderate Scenario

Future Without Action

Could experience 10x more damages than today

Expected Annual Damages ($ Billions)

- Current: $2.4 B
- Moderate Scenario: $7.7 B
- Less Optimistic Scenario: $23.4 B
Implementation of the $50 billion, 50-year plan – a combination of 109 structural, restoration and non-structural projects