The Corps’ Damage

The Army Corps of Engineers have drained over 90% of the floodplain from the Mississippi river that provides a habitat for much river wildlife. And they aren’t stopping there, the Corps wants to build a levee and pump to drain the last part of the wetlands left for the river. But, this was prevented by a District Court Judge who would not approve of the plan. The judge proposed a different plan for the Corps that involved two flood-control projects, but they would harmfully affect the wetlands as well, creating a barrier for many migratory fish to get through. One of the projects is creating huge pumps and widening the streams to remove water from a floodway. The Corps promised local citizens of East Prairie, an impoverished town, that the project would eliminate flooding. However, it has been predicted that even with the project, there would still be flooding in that town every 10 years, and it would be a lot cheaper for the townspeople to find an alternative to help with the flooding, such as better drainage systems. Since this proposed project, there has been more research into the Corps’ plans and calculations, leading to the finding of miscalculations. And so there have been reforms made for the Corps to be responsible for mitigating damaging and further review of their costly and controversial projects. However, their original idea to drain the last of the wetlands is still being debated by politicians and Congress and could possibly still happen.

Tiana Royer
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