

Nutrient Farming: the Business of Environment Management

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Problems to be solved:

- 1. water pollution**
- 2. flood damage**
- 3. erosion and sedimentation**
- 4. habitat destruction**
- 5. global warming**
- 6. waste heat**
- 7. mercury methylation**

The environmental management syllogism

1. Land use controls the nature and distribution of development and its environmental impacts.
2. Economics controls land use.
3. Therefore, economics controls air, land and water pollution.

The solution corollary:

If economics controls our environmental problems,
it can solve our problems!

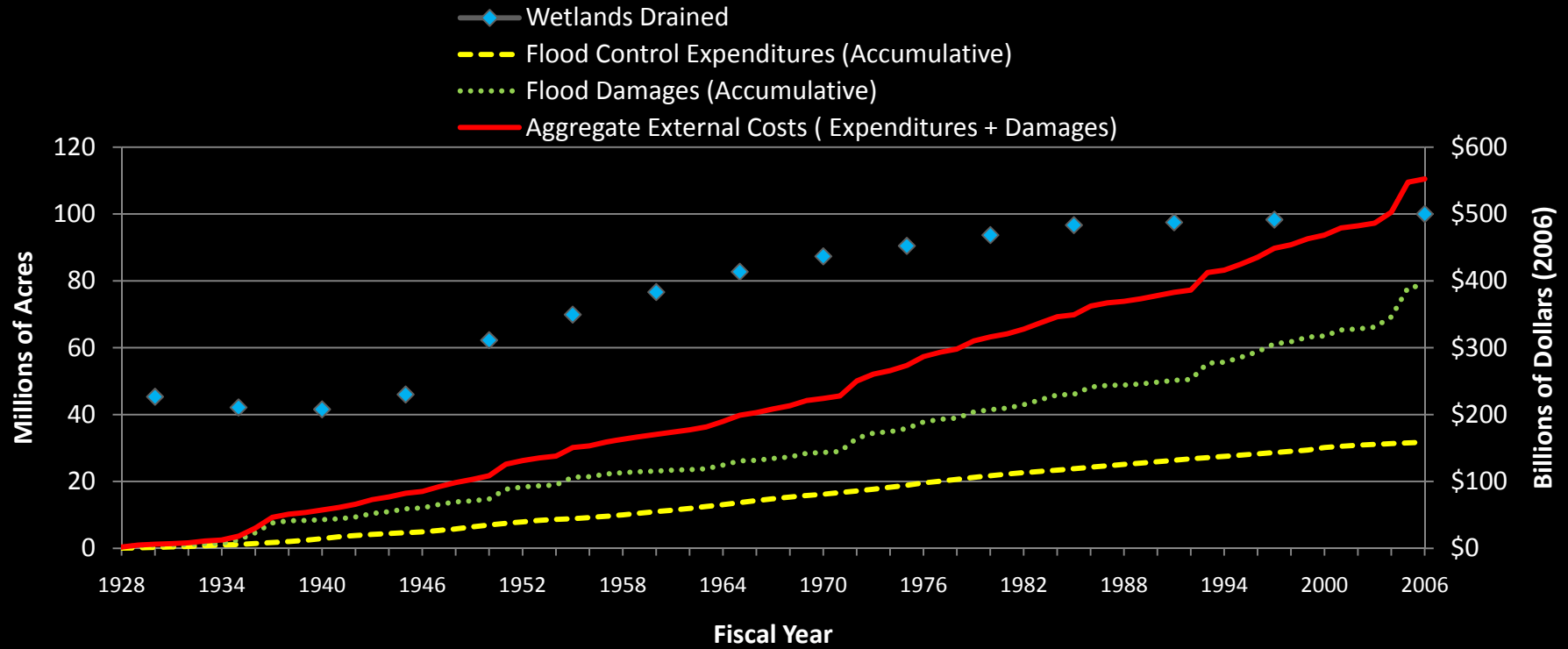
If economics is to control,
all development on the floodplain
must bear the full cost of the development activity.

- No governmental subsidies
- No cost externalization

Externalizing the cost of floodplain development...

Wetland Loss and Flood Damage Costs Compared to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Expenditures

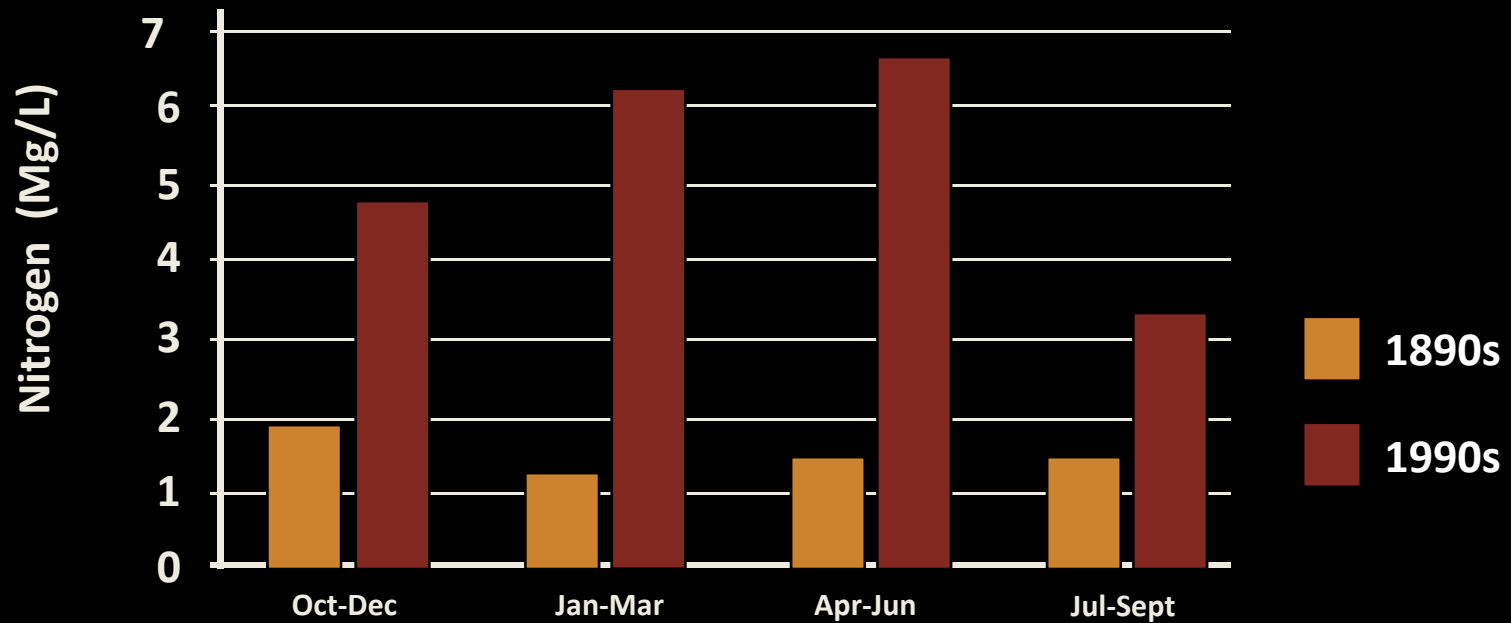
Adjusted to 2006 using Construction Cost Index EM 1110-2-1304



...causes flood damages to grow

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Externalizing the cost of farming...

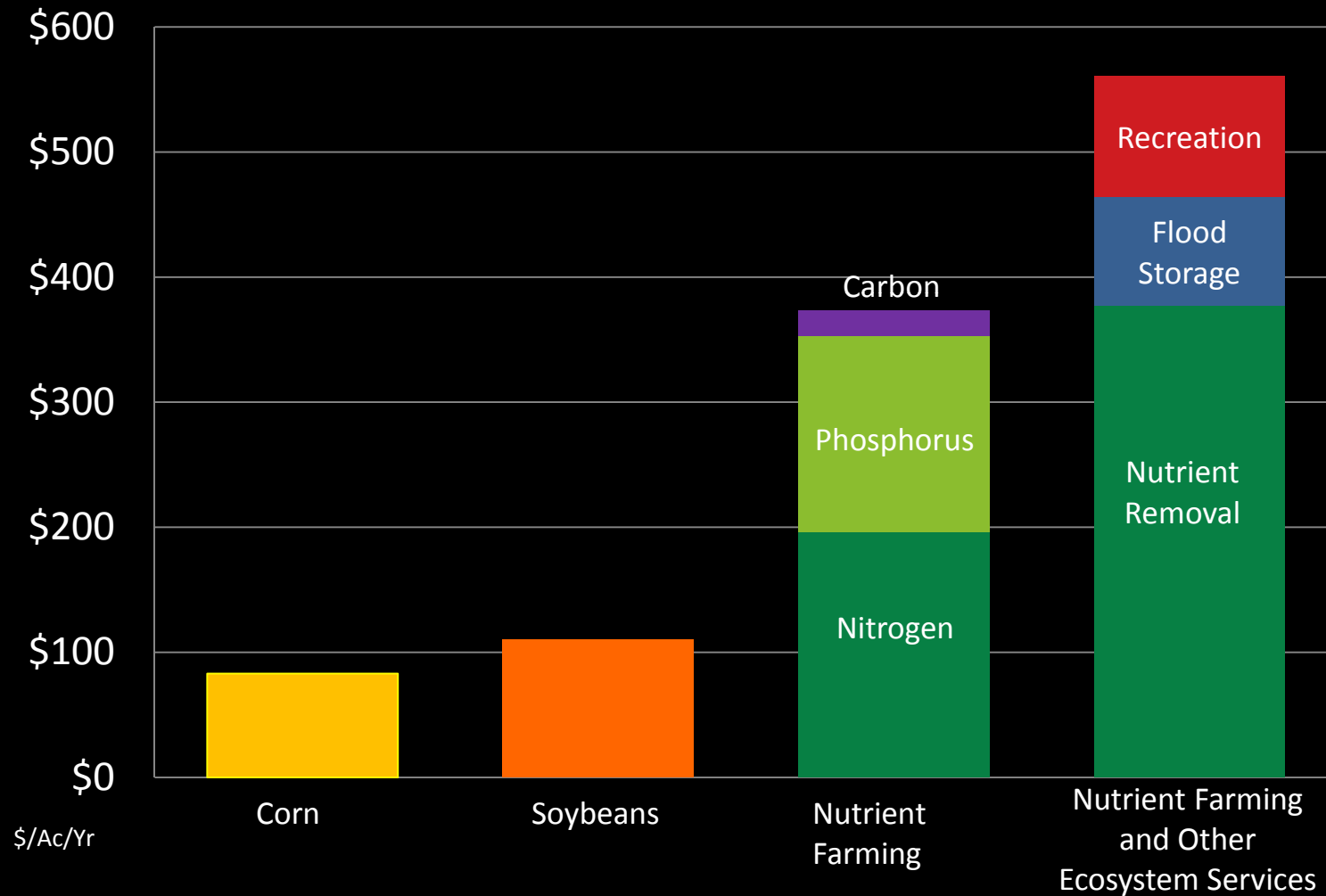


...nitrogen concentrations in the Illinois River have more than tripled in 100 years

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Our Land Could be More Valuable Wet than Dry

Potential Profit of Nutrient Farming



The Hennepin Drainage and
Levee District, which became...



Lost habitat

The Sue & Wes Dixon
Waterfowl Refuge



Restored habitat

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The potential annual market for ecosystem services produced by 5 million acres of restored floodplain could exceed \$2 billion dollars

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www.wetlands-initiative.org

If you have any questions related to this presentation,
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