



Rivers Under Siege: The Troubled Saga of West Tennessee Wetlands (Paperback)

By Jim Johnson

University of Tennessee Press, United States, 2007. Paperback. Condition: New. Rmst. Language: English . Brand New Book. Rivers under Siege is a wrenching firsthand account of how human interventions, often well intentioned, have wreaked havoc on West Tennessee s fragile wetlands. For more than a century, farmers and developers tried to tame the rivers as they became clogged with sand and debris, thereby increasing flooding. Building levees and changing the course of the rivers from meandering streams to straight-line channels, developers only made matters worse. Yet the response to failure was always to try to subdue nature, to dig even bigger channels and construct even more levees-an effort that reached its sorry culmination in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers massive West Tennessee Tributaries Project during the 1960s. As a result, the rivers natural hydrology descended into chaos, devastating the plant and animal ecology of the region s wetlands. Crops and trees died from summer flooding, as much of the land turned into useless, stagnant swamps. The author was one of a small group of state waterfowl managers who saw it all happen, most sadly within the Obion-Forked Deer river system and at Reelfoot Lake. After much trial and error,...



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