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**OFFICE OF GOVERNOR RONNIE MUSGROVE**  
**INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM**

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**TO:** GOVERNOR  
**FROM:** BOYD  
**SUBJECT:** LOWER YAZOO BASIN PLANNING PARTNERSHIP  
**DATE:** 06-19-01  
**CC:** RENICK

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Ray Aycock and Kevin Sloan with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service presented an idea to form the Lower Yazoo Basin Planning Partnership for the creation of the Theodore Roosevelt National Recreation Area. This area would encompass the area between the Yazoo and Mississippi Rivers from Vicksburg to above Rolling Fork.

The discussed purposed of this project is to reforest the South Delta through “Carbon Credits”. (Corporations may purchase carbon credits to offset Carbon Dioxide emissions—recent issue with the Bush administration. These credits are used to reforest areas across the United States. Sam Hamilton, regional director, mentioned this during his meeting with you earlier this year.)

What makes this project unique, according to Aycock and Sloan, is (1) the effort will attempt to educate private landowners on how to provide 75-year easements for reforestation—thereby allowing landowners to keep the land and continue to use it (i.e., hunting leases); (2) they are not seeking financial support from the state, merely input from state agencies; and (3) this project can be done with or without the Pump Project.

They came to me from Dr. Polles’ office, so I suggest that we move cautiously forward on this. This partnership will likely take a position on the Pump Project that may not be in the best interest of the Mississippi Delta. The Delta Council is a proposed member of the partnership, but like state agencies, has not been included in the discussion yet.

November 2002 will mark the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Theodore Roosevelt’s bear hunt in the Mississippi Delta and the creation of the “Teddy Bear.” Aycock and Sloan are on a timeline to complete this initiative by late fall 2002.