



Restoring the Mississippi River Delta:

# OUR PRIORITY RESTORATION PROJECTS



**RESTORE**  
THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



# OUR VISION

Reconnect the Mississippi River to its delta to protect people, wildlife and jobs.

The Mississippi River Delta and coastal Louisiana provide unique and varied landscapes that offer an array of benefits to Louisiana, the Gulf Coast and the entire nation. Coastal Louisiana feeds and fuels the country, and its ports connect the United States to the world.

Unfortunately, Louisiana's coast – including the Mississippi River Delta – is vanishing at an alarming rate. Since the 1930s, about 2,000 square miles of land have turned into open water – an area nearly the size of the state of Delaware.

## Time for Action

With the unanimous passage of the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, and with significant revenue coming to Louisiana from the BP oil spill settlement and the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, now is the time for state and federal decision makers, business leaders and the public to work together to quickly advance restoration projects.

Without swift, decisive action and bold, large-scale restoration efforts, our coastal land loss crisis will only worsen. Strategic prioritization and efficient implementation of projects can help avoid a future in which our state could lose an additional 2,250 square miles of land over the next 50 years.

Restore the Mississippi River Delta has identified 17 projects in Louisiana's 2017 Coastal Master Plan that, if prioritized and implemented quickly, will help restore and maintain as much of Louisiana's coast as possible to achieve a resilient future for the people, wildlife and industries of this nationally-significant region.



Aerial view of the Mississippi River Delta. Credit: Richie Blink.



Coalition staff participate in CRCL's Oyster Shell Recycling Program. Credit: Emily Falgoust.

## About Restore the Mississippi River Delta

Restore the Mississippi River Delta is a coalition of Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation. Comprised of conservation, policy, science and outreach experts, we are working to rebuild coastal Louisiana's nationally-significant landscape by reconnecting the river with its wetlands to protect people, wildlife and jobs. As our region faces an ongoing and severe land loss crisis, we offer science-based solutions through a comprehensive approach to restoration.

## Using a Full Suite of Restoration Solutions

There is no single restoration solution that will solve Louisiana's land loss crisis. Maintaining as much of Louisiana's coast as possible will require a suite of restoration projects and programs planned and operated together to maximize their effectiveness and benefits over time, allowing land to be built and sustained in a way that surpasses the benefits of any single project or project type.

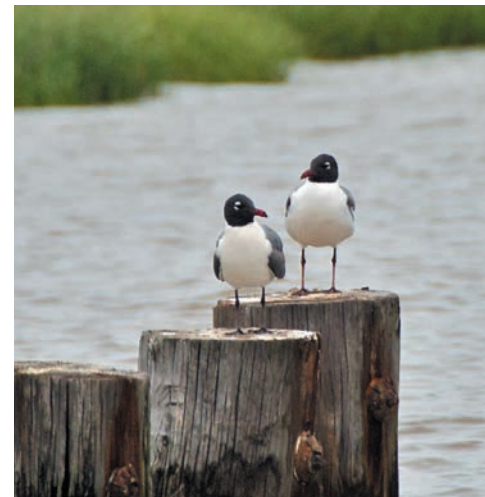
# OUR PRIORITY PROJECTS & PROGRAMS

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These priority projects were identified by our experts through a science-based analysis as the most urgent and most beneficial to the long-term sustainability of the delta. Equally important, these 17 projects are a central part of the Coastal Master Plan, which was developed and passed after months of comprehensive scientific research, modeling and stakeholder input. By expediting funding and construction of these projects, we have a historic opportunity to restore our coastal wetlands and protect the thousands of businesses and jobs that depend on a healthy Mississippi River Delta.

Our list of 17 priority projects encompasses a wide variety of project types, including sediment and freshwater diversions, hydrologic restoration, marsh creation and ridge restoration. We have also selected two programmatic priorities from the 2017 Coastal Master Plan, including barrier island restoration and oyster reef restoration.

These projects and programs are grouped within five distinct basins across coastal Louisiana and advance critical restoration priorities that have benefits to the entire ecosystem.



Laughing gulls near the Bohemia Spillway.  
Credit: Shannon Cunniff, EDF.



## PRIORITY PROJECTS

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Ama Diversion                                     | 12 Freshwater Bayou North Marsh Creation                                     |
| 2 Atchafalaya River Diversion                       | 13 Golden Triangle Marsh Creation  |
| 3 Lower Breton Diversion                            | 14 Large-scale Barataria Marsh Creation                                      |
| 4 Mid-Barataria Diversion                           | 15 New Orleans East Landbridge Restoration                                   |
| 5 Mid-Breton Diversion                              | 16 Breton Ridge Restoration:<br>A Bayou Terre aux Boeuf<br>B Bayou la Loutre |
| 6 Central Wetlands Diversion                        | 17 Terrebonne Ridge Restoration:<br>A Mauvais Bois<br>B Bayou DuLarge        |
| 7 East Maurepas Diversion                           |  |
| 8 Increase Atchafalaya Flow to Terrebonne           |  |
| 9 Manchac Landbridge Diversion                      |  |
| 10 Union Freshwater Diversion                       |  |
| 11 Calcasieu Ship Channel Salinity Control Measures |  |

## PRIORITY PROGRAMS

*Barrier Island program components currently supported:*

- 18 Barataria Pass to Sandy Point Restoration
- 19 Belle Pass to Caminada Pass Restoration
- 20 Timbalier Islands Restoration
- 21 Isles Dernieres Restoration

*Oyster Reef program component currently supported:*

- 22 Biloxi Marsh Oyster Reef Restoration

 **FOR MORE INFORMATION ON OUR PRIORITY PROJECTS, VISIT:**  
[MississippiRiverDelta.org/PriorityProjects](https://MississippiRiverDelta.org/PriorityProjects)



# COASTAL LOUISIANA BY THE NUMBERS

%

Louisiana accounts for **80 PERCENT** of total coastal wetland loss in the U.S.

#

The five lower Mississippi River ports handle more than **500 MILLION TONS** of domestic and foreign cargo annually, accounting for **20 PERCENT** of all U.S. waterborne commerce.

\$

The total cost of not pursuing significant coastal restoration in Louisiana could reach **\$133 BILLION**.

%

Louisiana provides nearly **30 PERCENT** of the commercial fishing landings of the continental U.S.

#

Nearly **60,000 JOBS** will be supported by investments in coastal restoration and protection over the next 10 years.

For more information on these statistics, visit: [MississippiRiverDelta.org/PriorityProjects](http://MississippiRiverDelta.org/PriorityProjects)

## Since 2007, Louisiana's Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority has:

Benefited over 36,161 acres of coastal habitat

Moved over 150 projects into design and construction

Constructed projects in 20 parishes

Constructed 60 miles of barrier islands and shorelines



Restoration in action at the Caminada headlands. Credit: Liz Van Cleve.

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