

# RESTORE

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA



## Our Vision:

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

## Our Goals:

- Advancing Coastal Restoration Solutions
- Engaging Coastal Stakeholders
- Championing the Best Science
- Maximizing Coastal Funding



## Coastal Louisiana's Importance:

**1.2 million**

Acres of Louisiana wetlands lost since the 1930's

**97**

Percent of Gulf's commercial fish and shellfish rely on coastal wetlands

**\$2.4 billion**

Annual economic impact of Louisiana's commercial fisheries

**380,000**

Jobs dependent on Louisiana's shipping industry

**\$9.3 billion**

Per year in tourism across the state of Louisiana

**100 million**

Birds living in or passing through the delta each year

# Our Goals

## Advancing Coastal Restoration Solutions

The land loss crisis in the Mississippi River Delta and across coastal Louisiana is not a result of any single factor; rather, a variety of complex man-made and natural forces have contributed to the loss of nearly 1,900 square miles. Similarly, building and sustaining land across our coast cannot be achieved through any single project type. Restoring Louisiana's coast will require a suite of complementary projects from the state's Coastal Master Plan, including the use of sediment diversions to build deltaic wetlands, barrier island restoration, marsh creation, hydrologic restoration, oyster reef restoration, shoreline protection and ridge restoration.

## Engaging Coastal Stakeholders

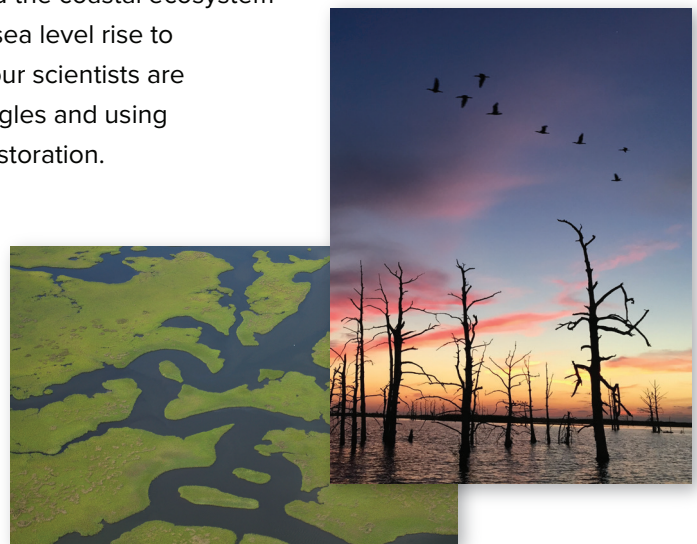
Restore the Mississippi River Delta is working with coastal residents, business owners, industry representatives, local and state government officials, and other groups and organizations to educate and engage them on our changing coastal landscape and the solutions available to secure a more resilient future for our communities and our coast. Our staff seeks to raise awareness to Louisiana's land loss crisis and build broad-based support for addressing it with urgency.

## Championing the Best Science

In a dynamic and ever-changing landscape like the Mississippi River Delta, it is of utmost importance to use the latest research and modeling to understand what the future coast will look like, comparing a restored coast to the coast of a future without action. That's why Restore the Mississippi River Delta supports, synthesizes and interprets the latest scientific research, the gathering and analysis of field data, and the results of cutting-edge modeling. In that way we can recommend and comment upon projects for prioritization and better understand the coastal ecosystem and how it may react to future changes. From sea level rise to subsidence, fisheries to hydrology and more, our scientists are approaching the coastal crisis from multiple angles and using the best-available data to support a path for restoration.

## Maximizing Coastal Funding

Restore the Mississippi River Delta is working to maximize and leverage currently available funding for coastal restoration as well as identify additional funding streams. We also seek to ensure that existing and future coastal funding is safeguarded for coastal restoration and protection projects.



**WHO WE ARE** Restore the Mississippi River Delta is working to protect people, wildlife and jobs by reconnecting the river with its wetlands. As our region faces the crisis of threatening land loss, we offer science-based solutions through a comprehensive approach to restoration. We are composed of conservation, policy, science and outreach experts from Environmental Defense Fund, National Audubon Society, the National Wildlife Federation, Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana and Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation.