

## RESTORE the Mississippi River Delta: An NGO collaborative

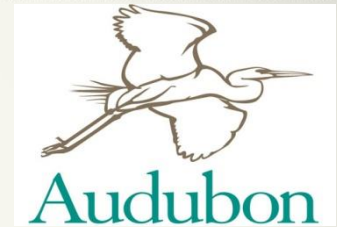
National Conference on Ecosystem Restoration  
July 2013



# Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign

## National

- Environmental Defense Fund
- National Audubon Society
- National Wildlife Federation



## Louisiana

- Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana
- Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation

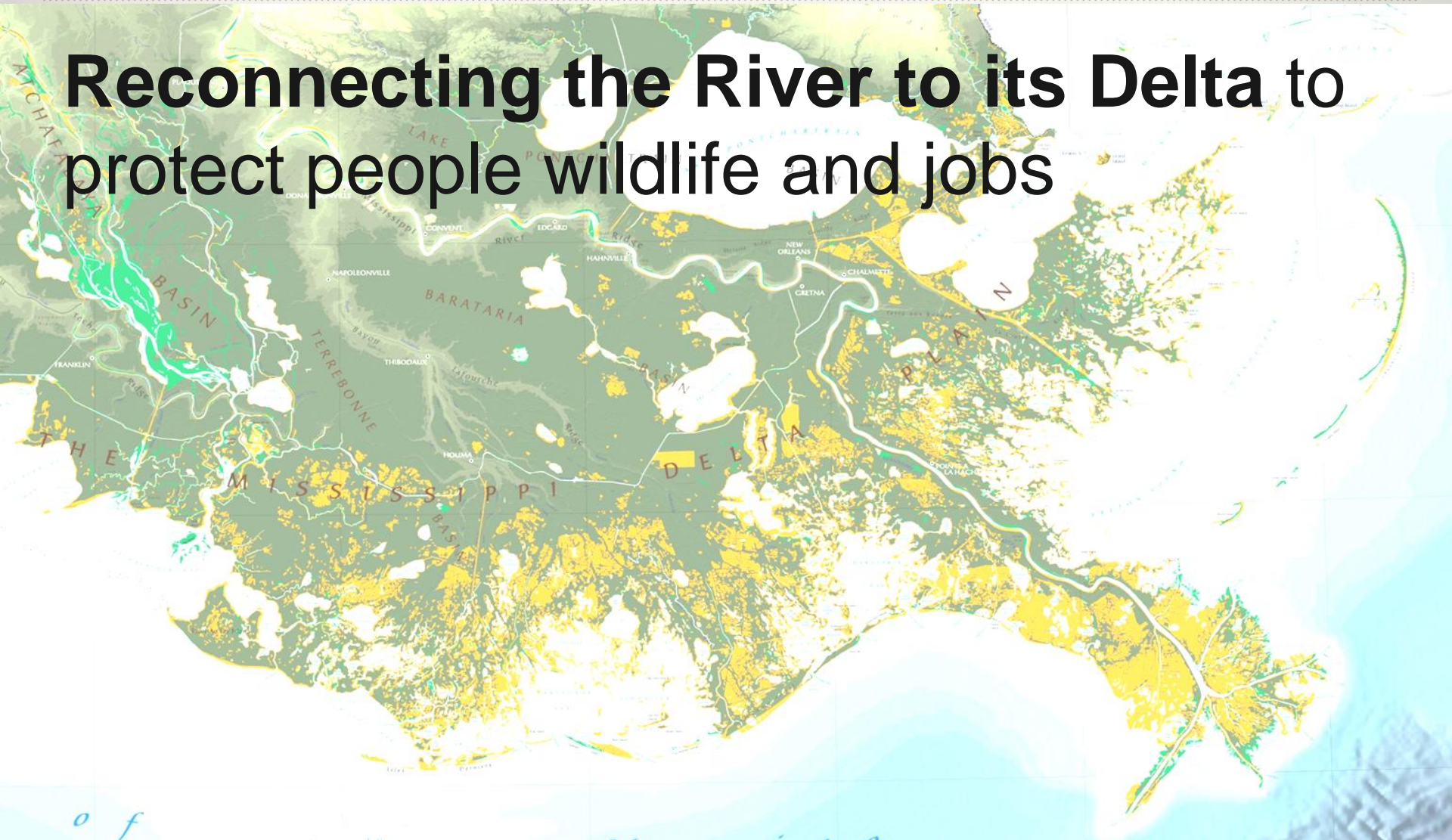


## Partners:

- The Nature Conservancy
- The Ocean Conservancy
- Oxfam America
- Louisiana Wildlife Federation

# Restore the Mississippi River Delta

**Reconnecting the River to its Delta to protect people wildlife and jobs**



# Goals:

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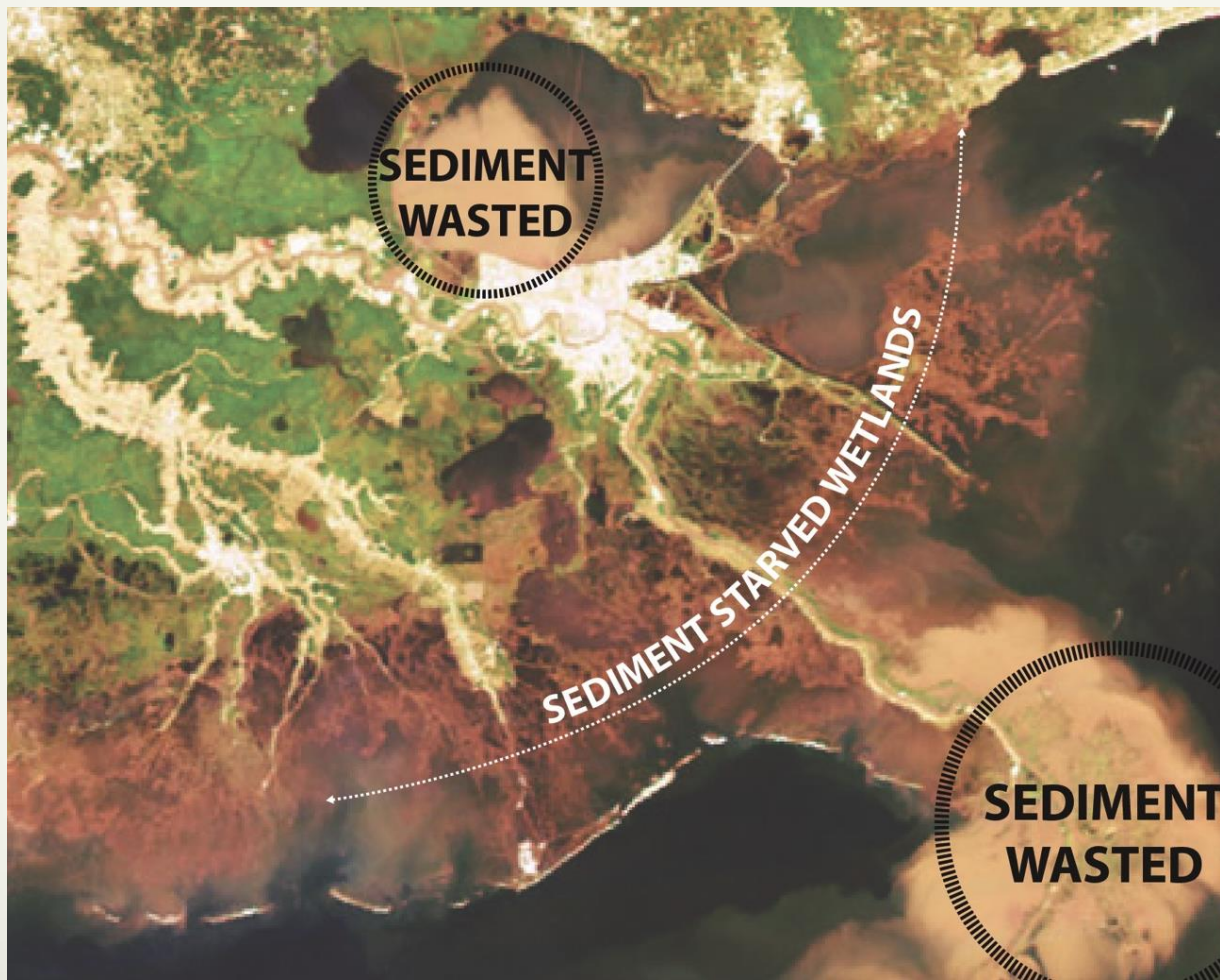
- **Implement Restoration** Implementation of a Mississippi River Delta restoration plan which will incorporate a multi-disciplinary, science-based, comprehensive approach with both federal and state buy-in.
- **Governance** Enhance the effectiveness of governance over restoration of the Mississippi River Delta to ensure implementation of coastal restoration and risk reduction.
- **Funding** By 2017, \$5 billion will be identified and committed to restoration of coastal Louisiana and non-structural solutions as outlined in the State Coastal Master Plan.
- **Expand what is possible** Expand the understanding of what is scientifically possible and expand what is politically possible for the Mississippi River Delta.

# Where we work, what we do





# Keystone of the 2012 Master Plan: Reconnecting the River to its Dying Delta



# Grounded in Science...



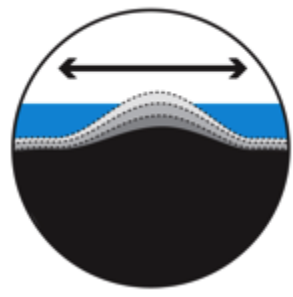
## Decision Criteria and Ecosystem Services

### Risk Reduction



Expected Annual Damages

### Restoration



Land Area



Distribution of flood risk across socioeconomic groups



Flood protection of historic properties



Flood protection of strategic assets



Operation and maintenance costs



**Sustainability**



Support for navigation



**Use of natural processes**



Support for cultural heritage



Support for oil & gas

Oyster



Shrimp



Freshwater Availability



Alligator



**Waterfowl**



Saltwater Fisheries



Freshwater Fisheries



**Carbon Sequestration**



**Nitrogen Removal**



Agriculture/Aquaculture



**Other Coastal Wildlife**

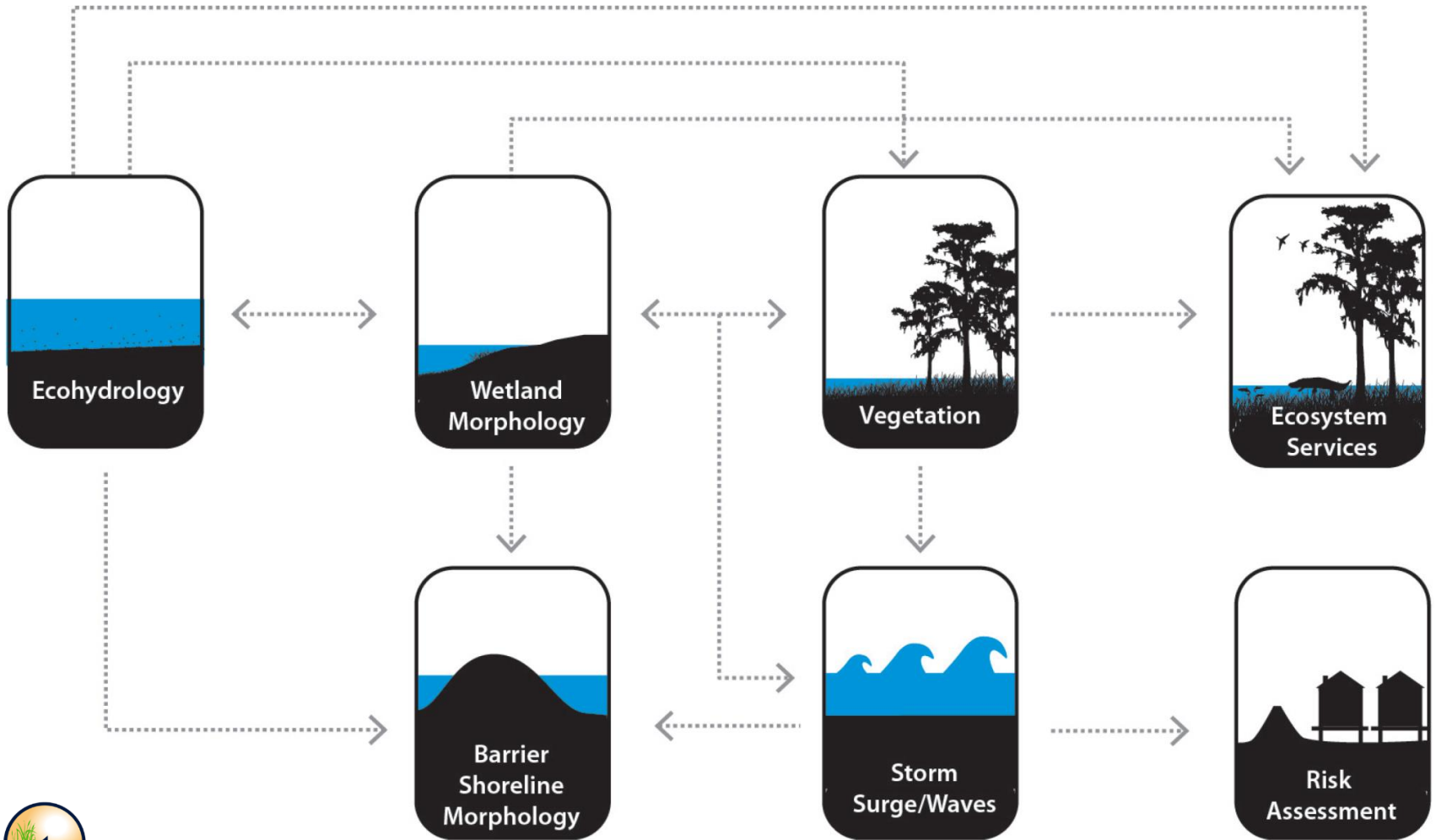


**Nature-Based Tourism**





# Using New Tools, Breaking New Ground



# What was the role RESTORE the Mississippi River Delta?

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- Informing process
- Technical/Scientific input on projects
- Providing stakeholder input
- Advocacy for getting it passed
- Advocacy for funding
- Public awareness and support

# Informing process

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## ➤ Framework Development Team

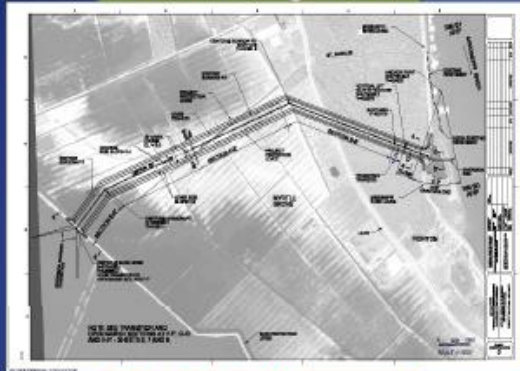


# Technical/Scientific input on projects

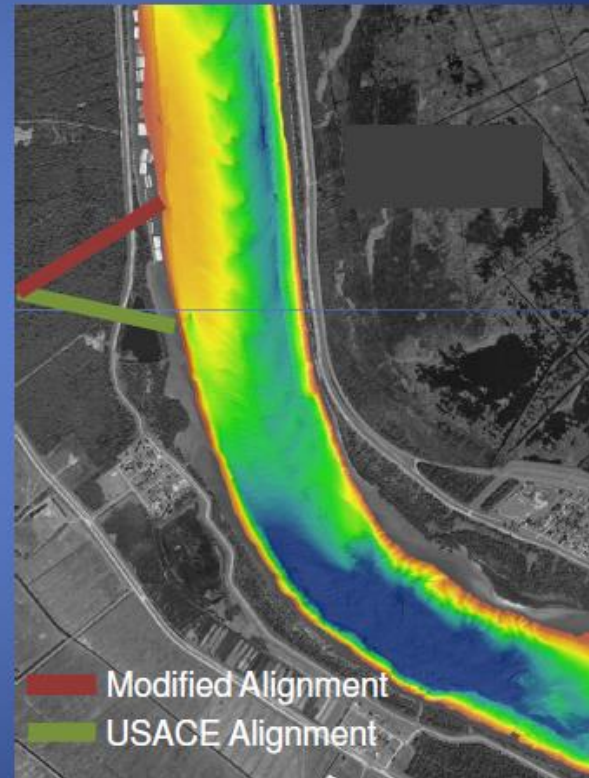
## ➤ Bathymetry and River Modeling

### Myrtle Grove Diversion Alignment

USACE Alignment



Modified Alignment



Modified Alignment  
USACE Alignment

# Providing stakeholder input

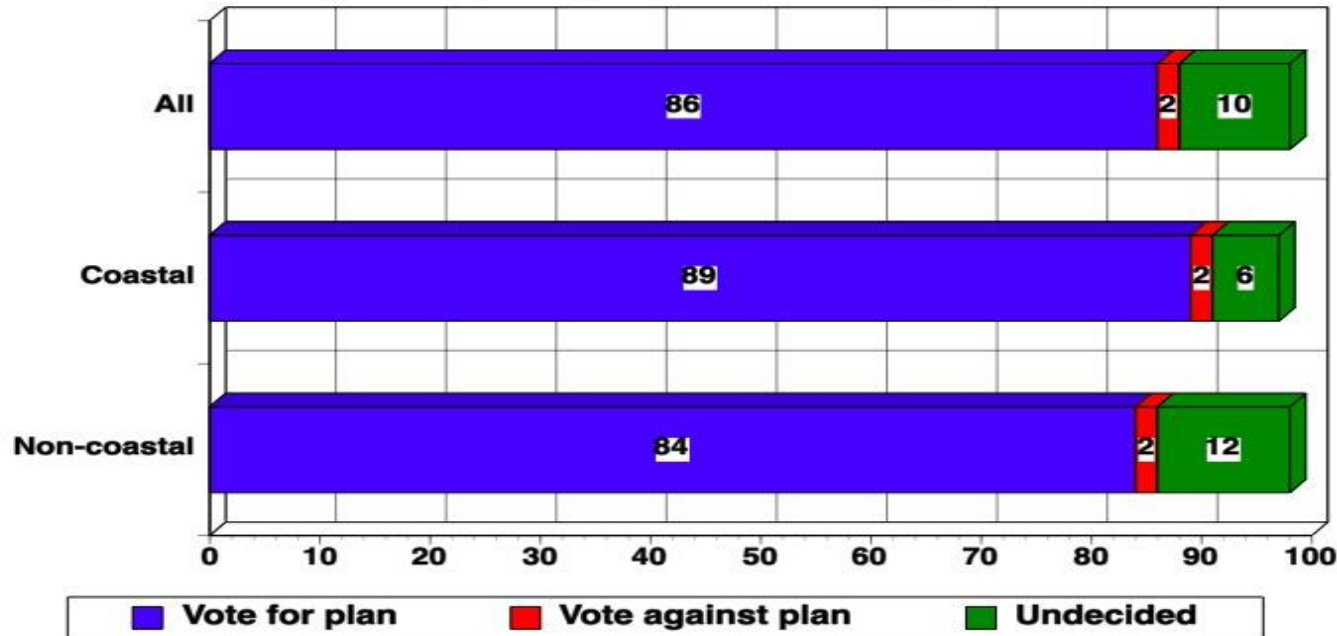
- Turn-out at Public Meetings.



# Advocacy for getting it passed

## ➔ Polling

**The Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority is presenting to the legislature a master plan containing a prioritized list of projects and activities to build new land and maintain the land we already have in Louisiana's coastal areas and wetlands and to reduce hurricane flood risk in coastal Louisiana. The projects will be paid for from the state's dedicated coastal protection and restoration fund, not from general state revenues. Do you want your legislator to vote for or against that plan?**



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# Advocacy for funding

➔ National campaign to secure money (fines) from BP oil spill:

- RESTORE Act
- Criminal penalties

(National Fish & Wildlife Foundation)

- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA)



# Public awareness and support

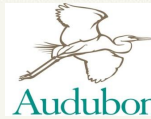
➤ Online, social media, traditional media

The screenshot shows the website for RESTORE THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA. The header includes the organization's name, a tagline "Reconnecting the river to its delta to protect people, wildlife and jobs", social media icons for Facebook, Twitter, and RSS, a search bar, and links for "Contact" and "Sign Up For News". A green navigation bar contains the following menu items: DISCOVER THE DELTA, AMERICA NEEDS THE DELTA, RESTORE THE DELTA, BLOG: DELTA DISPATCHES, MEDIA ROOM, ABOUT, and TAKE ACTION. The main content area features a large aerial photograph of a coastal restoration project. Below the photo is a sidebar with a "RESTORE THE DELTA" section containing links for Overview, Restoration Projects (Mid-Barataria, Key Principles), Public Policy (2012 Coastal Master Plan, The Natural Resource, Damage Assessment Process, Clean Water Act Penalties, The RESTORE Act), and Science. The main article is titled "The 2012 Coastal Master Plan" with a subtitle "A vision to restore and protect Louisiana's coastal resources and communities". The article text states: "Louisiana's 2012 Coastal Master Plan is a landmark 50-year, \$50 billion blueprint for a revived coast and secure future. This plan, drafted by the Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA), was released in draft form in January 2012 and passed unanimously by the Louisiana legislature in April 2012. The 2012 Coastal Master Plan builds off previous plans but is the most comprehensive attempt yet at putting forth solutions to coastal Louisiana's myriad environmental and engineering challenges."



# Recap:

➔ NGO Collaborative



➔ Working in Louisiana and across the Country

➔ Focus was on crafting & passing Coastal Master Plan

➔ Focus is now on implementing Plan

➔ Campaign implements plan through:

- Science
- Policy input at state and federal level
- Outreach and communications

# RESTORE

THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER DELTA

[www.mississippiriverdelta.org](http://www.mississippiriverdelta.org)



[fb.me/MississippiRiverDelta](https://fb.me/MississippiRiverDelta)



[@RestoreDelta](https://twitter.com/RestoreDelta)