

News Release

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Mississippi River Delta Restoration Campaign Launches New Website

New site goes live today

(Washington, DC—November 28, 2011) Conservation groups today launched a new website, www.MississippiRiverDelta.org, focused on restoring one of America’s greatest natural resources, the Mississippi River Delta. The site houses scientific information, public policy analysis, cultural and historical summaries, and [Delta Dispatches](#), a news blog about restoration efforts in the delta.

“MississippiRiverDelta.org is a one-stop shop for news, analysis, and solutions for delta restoration,” said Kevin Chandler, Mississippi River Delta restoration campaign communications coordinator. “You’ll want to subscribe to our feed and come back often.”

The campaign and the site area a collaborative effort by the [Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana](#), [Environmental Defense Fund](#), [Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation](#), [National Audubon Society](#), and [National Wildlife Federation](#).

The Mississippi River Delta contributes tens of billions of dollars to the U.S. economy every year and supports millions of jobs. The delta sustains the following:

- Commercial trade routes that connect America’s heartland to the rest of the world, critical and extensive energy infrastructure, and fisheries that produce 25 percent of American seafood, all valued at hundreds of billions of dollars. Read more about the [economics of the delta](#).
- Wildlife habitat for hundreds of species, including endangered mammals and reptiles, [commercially important seafood species](#), migratory waterfowl and other birds from across the hemisphere.
- Jobs and ways of life for approximately 2 million [people living in or near the delta](#), including fishermen, boat captains and restaurant owners.

Unfortunately, the delta and Louisiana lose one football field of land on average every hour, amounting to more than 16.5 square miles of land lost per year, mainly due to the leveeing and channelization of the Mississippi River and the construction of thousands of miles of channels

and canals through the delta's fragile wetlands. The delta also is struggling to recover from last year's BP oil disaster. MississippiRiverDelta.org provides updates on action to restore the delta, including a bipartisan bill introduced in both the House and Senate, the RESTORE Act, that would dedicate 80 percent of the BP oil spill penalties to restoring the delta and the rest of the Gulf Coast.

“Science tells us that we can begin reversing the delta's land loss to protect and restore natural resources that sustain critical shipping and energy infrastructure, millions of jobs, and globally important wildlife habitat,” Chandler concluded. “MississippiRiverDelta.org tells that story and will fast become a resource for anyone with an interest in delta restoration.”

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