

PRESERVING AND RESTORING LOUISIANA WETLANDS

The EPA's efforts to protect coastal wetlands in Louisiana are an example of cooperative environmental management in action. Currently, experts estimate that 25 square miles of wetland are lost each year to erosion and loss of sediment. This trend threatens the economic and cultural structure of the area, where commercial and recreational hunting and fishing are a way of life.

The EPA is part of a federal and state partnership that is working on addressing, developing and implementing projects for the coastal erosion problem. It has taken the lead in forging this partnership, encouraging input from the public and the scientific community. As a first step, the Agency is directing an effort to reconstruct the Barrier Islands that serve as a buffer to hurricanes and other storm surges. The EPA is also promoting demonstration projects that seek to construct marsh areas through careful use of dredged sediment and composted vegetation. The EPA will continue to forge new partnerships to pursue the vision of a restored coastal Louisiana.

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