

# PASS A LOUTRE



## QUICK FACTS

**Location:** Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area, Louisiana

**Date:** 2010 - Present

### Project Attributes

- Jump start re-growth following an environmental disaster
- Supports accretion and soil formation
- Erosion prevention
- Stabilization of newly created land

## BACKGROUND

The Pass a Loutre Wildlife Management Area (WMA) is characterized by river channels with attendant channel banks, natural bayous and man-made canals which are interspersed with intermediate and fresh marshes. Hurricane Katrina caused major damage and subsidence, contributing to the serious demise of vegetated marsh areas, which resulted in the formation of large ponds. Habitat restoration in these areas is primarily directed toward diverting sediment-laden waters into open bay systems (i.e. creating delta crevasses), which promote delta growth.

Located at the mouth of the Mississippi River, this region, known as the Bird's Foot Delta, experienced extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina and oiling during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. In addition, coastal Louisiana wetlands are eroding at a rapid rate. This project has mitigated and will continue to mitigate the ongoing loss of wetland habitat by converting open shallow water habitat into more desirable coastal ridges and wetlands, providing productive bird and fisheries habitat.

The wetland habitat within the WMA provides a natural home and breeding grounds for shrimp, crabs, oysters and more than five million migratory birds. The southeastern Louisiana shoreline wetlands and barrier islands are the first line of defense protecting the area's populations against storm surge and tidal fluctuations.

The goals of this project address the protection and building of land and living coastal resources, the restoration of habitat and water quality, the re-establishment of biodiversity, the enhancement of community resilience and the revitalization of the Gulf economy.

## PROJECT BENEFITS

- Rapid establishment of functional wetlands (<2 years)
- Better shore resistance with less plant loss
- Replicable and scalable
- "Hurricane Proof": survived Hurricane Isaac in 2012
- Re-vegetation of project area 5 times faster than bare root planting
- Coast-wide application
- Easily incorporated into existing projects
- Custom compost remediates soil conditions on challenging sites

## PROJECT DETAILS

- Site specific restoration: determined on a site by site basis using native wetland grasses, native trees or both
- Restoration has been taking place since the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill
- New project sites identified and prioritized by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF)

The first Pass a Loutre project deployment that took place in 2010 was the very first wetland restoration on oil soiled wetlands following the Deep Water Horizon oil spill. Since the first planting at Pass a Loutre, Restore the Earth has been working with LDWF to restore forested wetlands on critical outer barrier land strips in the Pass a Loutre WMA. To date, Restore the Earth, its partners and volunteers have planted over 10,000 native trees in critical low lying areas identified and prioritized by the land managers, LDWF.



## OUTCOMES

- 90% total cover of native vegetation within one year
- 8 meters of lateral growth in 17 months
- Creation of wildlife habitat including rookeries
- Erosion protection

## PARTNERS

As one of the longest running continuous sites of restoration for Restore the Earth, hundreds of volunteers, partners and stakeholders have been engaged in the restoration.

