

The Public's Role in Shaping Our Coast's Future:

Critical Legislation for Restoration



Amanda Moore
National Wildlife Federation
June 2011

Why Advocate?

1. You can make a difference
2. Working together can make a difference
3. You can change laws
4. Advocacy is a democratic tradition
5. Policymakers need YOUR expertise
6. Advocacy helps people (and wildlife!)
7. Advocacy is easy

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Advocating for the Coast



The Mississippi River Delta is important to the nation.

We need restoration. We need funding. A dedicated source of funding for restoration is critical.

Clean Water Act Penalties

- Mabus Report
- Oil Spill Commission Report

Critical Legislation for Restoring the Gulf Ecosystem

The RESTORE Act (S. 861 - Landrieu)

The Gulf Coast Restoration Act (H.R. 56 - Scalise)

- Replenishing Coastal Ecosystems
- Rejuvenating Fisheries
- Rebuilding the Economy



The Public's Role:

Ensuring Clean Water Act Penalties are Dedicated to Gulf Ecosystem Restoration

Your Voice is Powerful!

- CWA support letter
- Fly-ins
- In-district meetings
- Contact your legislators
- Letters to the Editor, Op-Eds
- Post card campaign
- Action alerts
- Events like this one!

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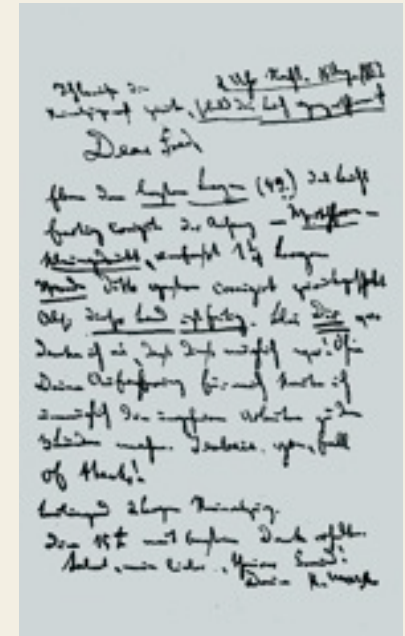
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Delivering the Message

- Tell *your* story
- Do your homework
- Recent Polling: accountability/responsibility/economic dependence



Timeline for Action

CWA legislation in Senate: In negotiation – Hoping to move legislation forward in next couple of months

CWA legislation in House: Rep. Scalise planning to get hearing before Transportation and Infrastructure Committee

Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force:

- Draft is due in July 2011
- Report to President Obama in October 2011

State Master Plan:

- Public Meetings from July – November 2011
- State Legislature Votes March 2012

Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Ecosystem

Restoration: Likely a Fall 2011 public comment period

