

## 2010 Coastal America Award Program



The Coastal America Awards Program annually recognizes efforts to protect, preserve, and restore the nation's coastal resources and ecosystems through collaborative action and partnership. Three award categories exist:

1. Partnership Awards recognize outstanding Coastal America partnership efforts and/or multi-agency projects. The Partnership Award winners receive a letter of recognition from the President which is presented at a ceremony by a Coastal America Principal.
2. Special Recognition Awards recognize non-federal organizations for their demonstrated leadership in establishing partnerships. The Special Recognition Award winners receive a letter of recognition from the Chairman of Coastal America which is presented at a ceremony by a Coastal America Principal.
3. Spirit Awards recognize outstanding partnership efforts that demonstrate the "spirit" of Coastal America. The Spirit Award winners receive a letter of recognition from the Chairman of Coastal America, which is generally presented at a ceremony by a Coastal America Regional Principal.

### **Background:**

The Coastal America established an "Awards Review Committee" (ARC) who carefully reviewed the nominations and made a preliminary assessment of worthy projects that met the Partnership Award criteria. The criteria are:

- At least one (1) federal agency partner, as well as one (1) non-federal entity must be involved in the project.
- The project must clearly demonstrate the "value added" of the partnership effort.
- The project should demonstrate an innovative or unique way of accomplishing stated goals and objectives with positive environmental results.
- The project must demonstrate a contribution to the Coastal America objectives: (1) to protect, preserve and restore the Nation's coastal resources; and/or (2) to increase public awareness and education.

Six Partnership Awards and two Special Recognition Awards are recommended to the National Team for approval. Regional Spirit and Special Recognition Awards are to be determined and distributed at the discretion of the relevant regional implementation team. The summaries for the recommended project teams are below.

## Project Summaries Recommended for Partnership Awards

### **1) Team Name: Peconic River Fishway Partnership**

**Issue Area:** Fish Passage – Habitat Restoration

**Region:** MARIT/NY

**Federal Lead:** NOAA/EPA

**Summary:** After nearly 10 years of project planning, permitting, and contracting delays, the construction of the Rock Ramp on the South Spillway in the Park commenced and was completed in 2009, with \$839,000 invested and secured to design and install the rock ramp. The effort to restore diadromous fish access in the Peconic River will ultimately return alewife and American eels to their historic habitat and spawning areas on the Peconic River.

**Partners include:** NOAA, EPA, USFWS, Peconic Estuary Program, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Suffolk County, Town of Riverhead, American Rivers, FishAmerica Foundation, Peconic River Fish Restoration Commission, New York Corporate Wetlands Restoration Partnership, National Grid and Spectra Energy.

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### **2) Name: Lower Cape May Meadows – Cape May Point, New Jersey Ecosystem Restoration Project**

**Issue Area:** Habitat Restoration

**Region:** MARIT/NJ

**Federal Lead:** USACE

**Summary:** The project consists of a 1.3 mile long, 350 acre area of undeveloped oceanfront land located along New Jersey's southern Atlantic coast containing Cape May Point State Park, The Nature Conservancy's (TNC) Cape May Migratory Bird Refuge, and the Borough of Cape May Point, New Jersey. The purpose of the project was to restore eroded beachfront lands and wetlands that were severely degraded through saltwater intrusion, restore lost wetland acreage, manage invasive species and restore the site's hydrology.

**Partners include:** State of New Jersey, USFWS, The Borough of Cape May Point, USACE and The Nature Conservancy

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### **3) Team Name: Treasure Coast Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area Partnership**

**Issue Area:** Invasive Species Management

**Region:** SERIT/FL

**Federal Lead:** USFWS

**Summary:** The Treasure Coast Cooperative Invasive Management Area (TC Cisma) Partnership was established in 2007 with the mission to implement a comprehensive, cooperative approach across boundaries to address the threats of invasive species throughout four coastal counties in Florida. The basic premise of this partnership is that each of the individual entities does not have the staff or resources to fully accomplish individual land management goals on their own and that their efforts are much more effective by working together across the landscape.

**Partners include:** TC Cisma has more than a dozen active partners including representatives from various programs within each of the four county governments, the state's Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Park Service and Water Management District, non-governmental

organizations, and federal agencies such as the Natural Resources Conservation Service and The USFWS.

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**4) Team Name: Eel River Headwaters Restoration Partnership**

**Issue Area:** Habitat Restoration, Climate Change Adaptation

**Region:** NERIT/MA

**Federal Lead:** USFWS

**Summary:** The restoration of the headwaters of Eel River is one of the most ambitious coastal restoration projects completed to date in New England. It is the largest Atlantic white cedar swamp restoration in the Commonwealth and includes a variety of restoration techniques in a single project area including; stream channel and floodplain re-construction, fill removal, extensive wetland plantings, rare-species habitat creation/enhancement, dam removals and culvert replacements. It exemplifies holistic restoration of an entire coastal headwaters area, including both wetland and riverine elements.

**Partners include:** Town of Plymouth, Mass Department of Fish and Game, Mass Division of Ecological Restoration, USFWS, USDA NRCS, American Rivers, The Nature Conservancy, MA DEP, MA CWRP, Horsley Witten Group, Inter-fluve, Inc., Sumco Eco-Contracting

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**5) Team Name: Nisqually Estuary Restoration Team**

**Issue Area:** Habitat Restoration

**Region:** NWRIT/WA

**Federal Lead:** USFWS

**Summary:** The Nisqually Estuary Restoration Team has worked for over 15 years planning, funding, and implementing over 900 acres of tidal habitat restoration in the Nisqually Delta. This is the largest ongoing estuary restoration project in the Pacific Northwest and top priority to recover endangered Chinook salmon in the Nisqually Watershed. This restoration work has focused on restoring natural processes, which will allow the system to recover and restore processes within the Nisqually estuary which sustain its unique habitats. The tides and floodplain connectivity have been restored to 190 acres of the Nisqually Tribal land over the last 14 years and restoration work has culminated in the restoration of tides to over 760 acres of Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge land in the fall of 2009.

**Partners include:** USFWS, Nisqually Indian Tribe, Ducks Unlimited, WA Department of Fish and Wildlife, NOAA, NFWF, Puget Sound Partnership, Dept of Defense – U. S. Army Fort Lewis, USDA/NRCS, USGS and 5 South Puget Sound Watershed Salmon Recovery Entities.

**6) Team Name: Card Sound Road Environmental Restoration Team**

**Issue Area:** Marine Debris Removal

**Region:** SERIT/FL

**Federal Lead:** NOAA

**Summary:** For the past three years, the team has combined resources of volunteers and federal, state and local government agencies to protect preserve and enhance an area of high-quality coastal waters and wetlands that historically was badly abused by the public. The project has focused on a 2 square mile area surrounding a stretch of Card Sound near the southeastern tip of FL. The

location is in a national marine sanctuary and state aquatic preserve; project partners overcame decades of inertia, political and cultural challenges in order to completely restore the area. **Partners include:** Miami-Dade County DERM, NOAA, Florida Fish & Wildlife Conservation Commission Division of Law Enforcement, FDEP, Audubon of Florida, and Miami-Dade County's Attorney's Office, Police Department, Dept of Building and Neighborhood Compliance, and Public Works Department.

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### Project Summary Approved for Special Recognition Awards

#### **1) Name: Maryland Port Administration – Harbor Development**

**Issue Area:** Creation of Environmental Education Center

**Award Category:** Special Recognition

**Region:** MARIT/MD

**Summary:** The Masonville Cove Environmental Education Center (MCEEC) and trails system was conceived with community input and was designed specifically to improve community access to Masonville Cove and to improve recreation and environmental educational opportunities in the Brooklyn-Curtis Bay area. The education center is a “near net zero energy building”

#### **2) Name: Replant South Mississippi**

**Issue Area:** Habitat Protection – tree planting

**Award Category:** Special Recognition

**Region:** GMRIT

**Summary:** Replant South Mississippi (“Replant”) is a partnership between LTMCP and the Sun Herald founded in 2006 with the mission to replace thousands of trees lost due to Hurricane Katrina. Replant works with local communities to leave a legacy of urban forests for future generations by providing fast-growing native trees for public spaces as well as privately owned lands with public viewsheds. The project also includes an education program about the importance of trees and their care and monitors plantings to ensure long term success. To date, over 63,000 native trees have been distributed and planted across the six coastal counties.