



Estado Libre Asociado de Puerto Rico

Departamento de Recursos Naturales y Ambientales

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September 23, 2009

Matt Menashes
NERRA Executive Director
444 N Capitol St. NW Ste 322
Washington DC, 20001

Dear Mr. Menashes,

I am writing to support the grant proposal "A Partnership to Restore Fish Habitats Associated with the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) and Associated Restoration Reference Sites" that NERRA is submitting to the National Marine Fisheries Service's Office of Habitat Conservation.

JBNERR is interested in the implementation of restoration science projects that will enhance our estuarine and coastal habitats that have been impaired by decades of pressure from activities such as agriculture, industries and urbanization.

The Reserve has a great need for seagrass and habitat restoration that this proposal could support. Education program and CTP capacity and Monitoring and research capacity would be brought to enhance the project.

We urgently need to implement various restoration projects to prevent, and manage impacts on coastal areas. This will happen with the direct help of the research, education, and stewardship coordinators that coincide with the goals of the reserve's management plan.

The proposed project will significantly stimulate not only JBNERR development but local communities through a coordinated effort.

Please contact me if you have any further question.

Luis A. Encarnacion
Acting Manager
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