# BUDGET PRIORITIES
## for estuaries & coastal communities

NERRA
NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE ASSOCIATION

## NERRA's FY 12 REQUEST:

### NERRS Operations

~~$28.0 million~~ $23.5 million

### NERRS Land Conservation & Facilities

~~$7.0 million~~ $1.89 million

## YOUR NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVES:

- Protect more than 1.3 million coastal and estuarine acres.
- Are mutually beneficial federal-state partnerships that are located in 28 local coastal communities.
- Have significant local, regional and national benefits because the lands are publicly owned and function as living laboratories and classrooms.
- Are used by scientists, decision makers, educators, and the general public.
- Are pristine coastal areas that serve as "sentinel sites," places where early indicators of environmental change are scientifically measured to provide up-to-date information to local officials and the public to support environmental decision-making.

Full funding will allow the National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) to provide science-based practical help to coastal communities and the public to attain clean water, insure resilient coastlines and create economically and environmentally sound communities.

## NERRS PROGRAMS

Research & Monitoring • Education • Training
Stewardship • Science Collaborative
Graduate Research Fellowships

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# RESERVES PROVIDE ENDLESS BENEFITS

***The Reserves host over two million people a year to hike the trails, tour the waterways, and learn.***

## Funding the Reserves...

**...protects vulnerable coastal communities**

**...supports commercial fisheries**

**...provides national resources available to the public**

**...provides over 2,000 K-12 education programs**

**...introduces close to 100,000 students to estuaries**

**…works for clean waters upstream and downstream**

**…connects people to nature**

***Funding for the Reserves creates jobs and increases recreation and tourism.***

## Meet a few of our Reserves...

### Chesapeake Bay (Virginia)

In Chesapeake Bay, **over 3,000 local seventh grade students** have had a hands-on approach to learning for the past five years. The educational programs give them a deeper understanding of the Bay while connecting field trips to work they are doing in the classroom throughout the year. **Research and good science** play key roles in responding to large-scale storms, droughts, sea level rise and salt intrusion as a result of monitoring protocols, infrastructure, and local vertical control networks developed at the Reserve.

### Jacques Cousteau (New Jersey)

Barnegat Bay and the Mullica River-Great Bay system are **extraordinary economic and natural resources** for New Jersey, providing more than $4.0 billion dollars annually, and many environmental benefits they serve as a vital nursery area for fish and shellfish, provide a natural storm buffer that protects communities from storm damage, and filter sediments that runoff from land thereby maintaining wetlands, marshes and water quality. Coastal training programs at the Reserve **help communities** protect these resources with science-based information and strategies to improve stormwater management, reduce erosion, and mitigate risks associated with coastal hazards.

### Weeks Bay (Alabama)

**Water Quality Monitoring,** as part of the System-wide Monitoring Program (SWMP), provides very important continuous monitoring data to researchers. The data was also used extensively by the State to document the impacts of the Deep Water Horizon Oil Spill. **Land Acquisition for Conservation** has utilized federal funds to help acquire 820 acres of coastal wetlands. This acquisition is known locally as the Meadows and was the largest land acquisition in the 25-year history of the Reserve.

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