

# South Slough Reserve Education is Change on the Ground



2022

## Connect



112 programs  
1930 participants  
2825 hours



## Prepare

46 teachers trained  
2038 students engaged  
4680 student contact hours

## Improve



3654 hours of intern service  
1211 volunteer hours



*"It's wonderful to see these students open up in the small group. (student) hardly ever raises her hand or speaks up in class, now here she is answering your questions and running around with the other kids."*

6th Grade Teacher  
Millicoma School

*"My guys had a really great time today ... and I learned about a really great mushrooming spot. Feel free to reach out to me for your next project we'd love to put our hands up the next time."*

Joseph  
USCG, Trail Steward

## After-school Explorers

South Slough Reserve redesigned the Estuary Explorers after-school program with the help of an AmeriCorps member, local teachers and four high school interns. The program launched at the Millicoma School, which has a natural area with hiking trails adjacent to the Coos estuary. Sixty students in grades three through six participated in a four-week program after school to extend learning in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM). Classroom teachers helped to identify students who would benefit most from this experience. Each week the students explored a new habitat type around the estuary. The program wrapped up with a "Families in the Field" hike through the Reserve, where students had the opportunity to invite their family and share what they learned.

Four high school interns helped to plan and run the after school programs. They were paid through a partnership with the Oregon Coast STEM Hub and gained career and leadership experience.



## Community Engagement in Reserve Action

Community science and stewardship programs build strong connections with community members through environmental actions. In 2022 projects regularly engaged the public in Reserve work.

- Community scientists sampled 39 locations for a project mapping the distributions of Pacific and Western Brook Lampreys using eDNA.
- Second Saturday Stewards involved community members in 577 hours of action toward stewardship issues, including invasive species removal and native willow planting.
- The Trail Stewards trains volunteers who regularly walk the trail system to help care for the trails, increasing investment and appreciation for recreation activities.

Oregon's South Slough Reserve is one of 30 sites in the National Estuarine Research Reserve System. Each site is a state federal partnership that combines research, monitoring, and education to advance the understanding and management of estuarine environments.



# National Estuarine Research Reserve Education

## Change on the Ground in 2022



### Connects

People to Estuaries

**1 million+  
ACRES**

of natural classrooms & living laboratories with



**26 INTERPRETIVE  
CENTERS**



*Hello to the Connecticut Reserve, designated in 2022!*



**296,131 VISITORS**

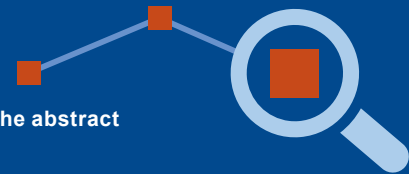
learn about estuaries through Research Reserve outreach & education

### Prepares

the Next Generation

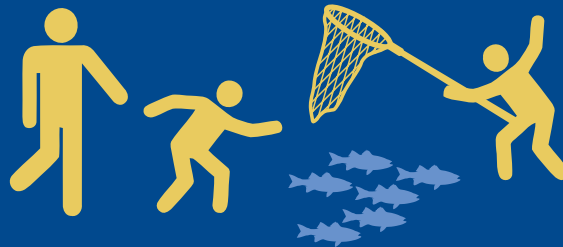
**54,773 STUDENTS**

take learning out of the abstract & into the outdoors



**4,347 TEACHERS**

are trained in the estuary & supported in the classroom



#### SKILLS BUILT

- ✓ Observation
- ✓ Asking research questions
- ✓ Problem solving
- ✓ Data driven decision making

ESTUARY SCIENCE

LOCAL DATA

LAB WORK

FIELD INVESTIGATION

### Improves

the Environment

**10,570 CITIZENS**

are trained & inspired to protect their coasts & estuaries



#### VOLUNTEER ACTIONS

- ✓ Protect wildlife
- ✓ Monitor water quality
- ✓ Plant native species
- ✓ Clean up the coasts

**30 RESEARCH RESERVE EDUCATORS**

lead programs that foster coastal stewardship in communities in 25 states



Creating value through education  
37,371 volunteer hours = \$1,119,261\*