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RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

2011 ANNUAL REPORT



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RAE MISSION | VISION | VALUES



RESTORE
AMERICA'S
ESTUARIES

MISSION

To preserve the nation's network of estuaries by protecting and restoring the lands and waters essential to the richness and diversity of coastal life.

VISION

To empower the RAE member organizations to increase the scale and pace of coastal and estuarine restoration and to act as the cohesive force and guiding beacon for coastal and estuarine habitat restoration across the country.

VALUES

Honesty
Commitment
Integrity
Professionalism





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— A — MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Although 2011 was a year of great challenges and frustration on Capitol Hill, Restore America's Estuaries had some significant accomplishments that we are all proud of.

Foremost is the remarkable on-the-ground restoration work by our 11 national alliance organizations.

While you will read more about each organization's accomplishments in the pages that follow, it is worth noting that, as a whole, they restored more than 377 acres of salt marsh, introduced nearly 21 million shellfish spat on shell, constructed and placed almost 2,000 concrete oyster domes, removed 1.5 million tons of trash and more than 600 abandoned crab traps, and re-opened hundreds of miles of rivers and streams to spawning fish. And, as always, volunteers from around the country made this possible. This past year, 15,385 volunteers pitched in, donating 57,414 hands-on hours on behalf of wetland restoration projects. What did you accomplish last year?

One of the great challenges we faced last year was how to keep our habitat restoration work relevant to funders in this recessionary economy. We have traditionally relied on arguments stressing the ecological importance of restoring and protecting habitats. But we've learned in these tough times that we can't rely on common-sense conservation alone to prevail—that if want to carry this fight forward and win, we also need to promote the economic value and job-creating merits of restored habitats to coastal communities and the United States as a whole.

Recognizing that need, we produced "Jobs & Dollars: Big Returns from Coastal Habitat Restoration," a report that demonstrates that coasts and estuaries are not only essential to the nation's economy, but that investments in coastal habitat restoration produce jobs in a cash-strapped, job-starved economy at a higher rate than many other sectors, including oil and gas, road infrastructure, and green building projects. The national response to the report far exceeded our expectations. But the most meaningful call I received was from an out-of-work fisherman from Louisiana just to say "thank you," and that he and his friends in the Gulf had been trying to make the case that healthy estuaries mean more fish and more jobs for local fishermen.

In addition to the economic benefits provided by healthy coasts and estuaries, salt marshes, mangroves, and underwater grasses are significant carbon sinks. Protecting and restoring these vital ecosystems makes significant contributions to climate change mitigation. In 2011, we continued to lead a national effort to link climate change mitigation and adaptation with coastal wetland restoration and protection. With the help of dozens of partners, we laid the groundwork for future carbon offset methodologies for coastal wetland projects and increased national and global awareness of the climate change contribution of coastal wetland ecosystems.

In September, Restore America's Estuaries organized and led another successful National Estuaries Day. The theme was "Spend a Day on the Bay," and thousands of people turned out across the country to clean beaches, plant marshes, and celebrate their local estuary. RAE organized its own celebration at Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, a remarkable gem in Washington, D.C., on the Anacostia River. Kenilworth is the only remaining tidal marsh in D.C., where 32 acres of wetlands were restored 10 years ago as a model urban tidal wetland.

Above all, it is the cooperation and collaboration of our partners and colleagues that continue to inspire us to develop, organize, and, yes, celebrate on-the-ground habitat restoration while building a national coastal habitat restoration movement. Without the help of all our friends—your help—we would and could not be as successful as we are.

Together we will restore America's estuaries!
Best wishes for 2012.

Jeff Benoit
President



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The HISTORY OF

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Founded in 1995 and established as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization in 1999, Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) serves as a national alliance of 11 community-based organizations that protect and restore coastal and estuarine habitat.

Restore America's Estuaries and its member groups work closely with governments, businesses, and volunteer and conservation organizations to restore our nation's coasts and estuaries. Our member organizations are leaders in estuary habitat restoration and have built lasting partnerships with scientists, universities, community organizations, government agencies, schools and teachers, non-profit organizations, and businesses to better promote and facilitate critical habitat restoration along our coasts. Since its founding, Restore America's Estuaries and its member groups have restored more than 56,000 acres of coastal habitat and engaged more than 300,000 volunteers nationwide.

Community participation, education, and outreach are at the heart of what makes Restore America's Estuaries and its member groups effective and influential. We believe that an involved and educated community leads to an informed citizenry with an increased

awareness of coastal and estuarine issues, and fosters a stewardship ethic within local communities.

As the leader of this alliance, whose influence spans the length and breadth of America's coastline, Restore America's Estuaries is an important national force for the conservation of estuarine and coastal habitats.



*Restore
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Our MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS



Driving Restore America's Estuaries' success—and the flourishing restoration movement nationwide—is the alliance of 11 member organizations that engage coastal communities to protect and restore coastal and estuarine habitats along the Atlantic, Gulf, and Pacific coasts.



Since 1961, the American Littoral Society has empowered people to care for the coast through advocacy, education, and conservation. ALS has pioneered new environmental laws, fostered new advocates, and fought against powerful special interests to ensure public access to beaches and protection of

wetlands, dunes, and other coastal habitats. With more than 13,000 members in 49 states, ALS continues to engage and educate thousands of students and volunteers. In 2011, the Littoral Society educated and trained 1,200 elementary school students to grow and plant 2,500 plants of American beach grass; engaged 6,368 volunteers in cleaning up 262 miles of shoreline in New York; enhanced three acres of oyster reef in Delaware Bay with the help of approximately 1,500

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Photo credit: VA State Parks

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

student shell-bag builders and 100 restoration volunteers; raised and planted thousands of hard clams in Barnegat Bay; and educated more than 70 adults about the value, design, and need for Living Shorelines in New Jersey.



**CHESAPEAKE BAY
FOUNDATION**

Saving a National Treasure

The Chesapeake Bay Foundation (CBF) is the only non-profit organization dedicated solely to restoring and protecting the

Chesapeake Bay and tributaries. Since its founding more than 40 years ago, its goal has been to restore the health of the Bay by reducing pollution and reversing the loss of wetlands, underwater grasses, oysters, and other natural filters.

In 2011, CBF planted 22 million “spat”—juvenile oysters—throughout the Bay and placed 685 reef balls onto restored oyster reefs throughout the Bay system. None of our work would have been possible without our dedicated volunteers who donated more than 46,000 hours this year to support our oyster restoration efforts.

In Maryland, CBF and project partners collaborated on a project with double benefits: removing Simkins Dam, a barrier to fish movement and spawning on the Patapsco River, and creating a new oyster reef. After the dam was removed in 2010, the concrete was broken up, then shipped to Chester River, where the rubble was blasted into place with water cannons. After establishing the artificial substrate reef in late October, CBF planted seven million spat-on-shell

oysters. CBF had the help of more than 500 volunteers from community groups, who planted 2,870 trees and shrubs throughout the watershed, resulting in 27 reforested acres along 11,000 linear feet of Maryland streams.

In Virginia, hundreds of volunteers planted trees, shrubs and grasses to prevent sediment and pollution run-off, helping create 152 reforested acres along more than 33 miles of stream. During CBF's June “Clean the Bay Day” approximately 200,000 pounds of debris were removed from more than 500 miles of Commonwealth shoreline.



The Coalition to Restore Coastal Louisiana (CRCL) fosters

participation of businesses, local governments, scientists, and concerned citizens. Since 1988, CRCL's mission has been to preserve, restore, and steward the wetlands and barrier shorelines of coastal Louisiana. CRCL works to reverse net land loss along the coasts and to reestablish a sustainable balance to



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its geologic processes and communities. CRCL recruited 825 volunteers in 2011 who participated in 4,757 hours of service, planted 94,950 plants (including marsh grass, dune grass, mangroves, and cypress trees) at 20 different project sites across coastal Louisiana, and restored 89 acres of wetlands. CRCL also partnered with a local AmeriCorps program (the Delta Service Corps) to bring in one full-time AmeriCorps member to assist with Community-Based Restoration Program implementation.



conservation law foundation

The Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) is the oldest regional environmental advocacy organization in the nation. Since 1966, CLF has worked to solve New England's most significant environmental challenges. CLF uses law, economics, and science to create innovative strategies to conserve natural resources, protect public health, and promote regional communities.

In 2011, the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) used its RAE-NOAA Community-Based Partnership funding to support critical estuary restoration projects throughout Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and Maine.

In 2011, CLF's restoration programs were awarded funding for two important Massachusetts projects: the Herring River Restoration Project in Wellfleet,

and the Farm Pond Restoration project in Oaks Bluffs.

The Herring River project will restore estuary functions to 1,000 acres of former marshes and herring runs in the Cape Cod National Seashore. It is one of the largest restoration projects underway in the northeast U.S. and is the top-priority restoration project in Massachusetts. The Farm Pond project, adjacent to Martha's Vineyard, will restore a 42-acre salt pond and eight acres of adjoining salt marsh. RAE funds ensured both multi-partner projects got underway with no significant delays.

CLF also noted completion of a number of other RAE-sponsored activities projects in 2011, including: completion of engineering and permitting of the Shorey's Brook culvert removal project in Eliot, Maine; restoration of Marsh Brook in the Weskeag Watershed in Thomaston, Maine; completion of permitting activities in conjunction with the Town Brook Dam removal project in Plymouth, Massachusetts; the feasibility analysis for the removal of the Royal River Dam in Yarmouth, Maine; and the removal of the West Winterport Dam in West Winterport, Maine.



The Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) was founded in 1987 to preserve, protect, and enhance Galveston Bay—one of the world's most productive estuaries. Through advocacy, conservation, education, and research, GBF seeks a balance between the needs of the Galveston ecosystem and the increasing demands of commercial and recreational users.

It was a busy year! In 2011 GBF installed 800 feet of geotextile tubes at Snake Island Cove, protecting 30 acres of intertidal marsh and creating 19 acres of shallow-water seagrass habitat; pulled 407 abandoned crab traps; coordinated the "River, Lakes, Bays 'N Bayous Trash Bash" site at Armand Bayou with 855 volunteers collecting over 600 bags of trash and over 250 bags of recyclable items from Armand Bayou; constructed the Clear Lake Forest Park living shoreline on Mud Lake, a 650-foot rock breakwater protecting one-third





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acre of new intertidal marsh; held “Bay Day 2011,” with over 7,000 attendees and 150 volunteers; and hosted “Marsh Mania,” with 373 volunteers planting nearly five acres of marsh and seagrass habitat at seven sites around Galveston Bay.

Under direct EPA coordination, GBF oversaw the completion of the intermediate capping of the San Jacinto River Waste Pits Superfund Site. Galveston Bay Foundation also published a new Living Shorelines “how-to” guide; expanded the “Get Hip to Habitat” program over the summer, from 300 students at seven schools in the 2010-11 school year to 860 students at 14 schools in the 2011-12 school year; hosted a National Estuaries Day event at Dickinson Bay Island with 58 volunteers planting 60 mangroves, removing undesirable vegetation, and picking up an estimated 2,500 pounds of trash and debris; placed 120 seafood advisory signs in English and Spanish at 60 locations in upper Galveston Bay and the Houston Ship Channel/San Jacinto River area; constructed 3,749 feet of rock breakwater along Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge’s Gulf Intracoastal Waterway shoreline; reached a record of 956 registered riders for “Bike Around the Bay,” and collected over 14 tons of discarded oyster shell

from one restaurant through the pilot Galveston Bay Oyster Shell Recycling Program.



For 27 years, the North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) has worked with citizens to safeguard the coastal rivers, sounds, and beaches of North Carolina.

In the northeast region, NCCF led efforts to create a quarter-acre saltwater wetland near Highway 64 in Manteo. Community members and project partners planted 8,600 marsh grass plugs within the wetland. The Federation also helped protect the Hatteras working waterfront with a living shoreline at Durant’s Point, creating a quarter-acre marsh with community volunteers.

Teachers and students played a big part in NCCF’s 2011 restoration projects. At Jockey’s Ridge State Park, NCCF staff and volunteers enhanced an acre of marsh with the help of more than 220 students. At a week-long educators’ seminar at Jockey’s Ridge, NCCF enhanced more than an acre of marsh with 22 educators and 90 students. And, if students and teachers came out to NCCF projects, NCCF also

went to the schools. The Federation developed a master stormwater plan for a three-school campus in Kill Devil Hills, and NCCF installed two rain gardens and involved students in classroom lessons and field activities. Over the past year, NCCF’s Curriculum Programming engaged more than 800 students at six coastal schools.

NCCF also took preservation and restoration messages to the public. The Coastal Federation participated in six outreach events, hosting booths, and leading activities reaching more than 1,000 people. Looking toward the future, NCCF developed plans to restore wetlands on nearly 10,000 acres of previously ditched and drained farmland linked to improved water quality and oyster habitat restoration in Pamlico Sound.

In the central region, NCCF worked with students and community volunteers who donated nearly 4,000 hours to create oyster shell bag sill at Jones Island, and plant salt marsh grass. At Bogue Sound, NCCF helped restore more than a quarter-acre of shoreline, and helped two homeowners to plant 600 marsh plants along their shorelines. NCCF’s 1st Annual Cycling for the Coast event on Bogue Banks drew 112 riders and raised \$5,100 for restoration and education programs.

Believing that an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,

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the Federation developed Low Impact Development manuals for the towns of Cedar Point and Cape Carteret. NCCF constructed and installed best management practices in Cedar Point to reduce polluted stormwater entering the White Oak River, including a stormwater wetland, a bio-retention area, two rain gardens, and three pet waste receptacles.

Environmental education remains a strong NCCF component. NCCF conducted wetland nursery, oyster, rain garden, and other educational programs, involving 1,671 students and teachers in 19 schools in five coastal counties. More than 1,176 Carolinians and guests took part in NCCF education programs, marsh cruises, summer camps, and kayak/yoga cruises at Hammocks Beach State Park and Jones Island. Almost 10,000 people attended Federation presentations, festivals and workshops. More than 1,000 people came to the NCCF 8th Annual Native Plant Festival.

In the southeast region, at Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve, NCCF constructed three oyster reefs and planted *Spartina alterniflora* in salt marsh behind the reefs. Morris Landing was also the site of a living shoreline project. *S. alterniflora* was planted by students and teachers to enhance salt marsh habitat, and volunteers filled oyster shell bags to add to an existing oyster reef.

NCCF constructed a 7,800-square foot bio-retention area at Bradley Creek Elementary School and worked with students and volunteers to plant and maintain five other stormwater reduction projects at Bradley Creek, as well as a rain garden at Alderman

Elementary, five community rain gardens in the Lockwood Folly River watershed, and conducted wetland nursery, oyster, rain garden, and other environmental educational programs in seven schools in two coastal counties.



People For Puget Sound (PFPS) is working to protect and restore the health of Puget Sound through education and action. This effort combines education, advocacy, habitat protection, and restoration to ensure all of Puget Sound's shorelines are restored to health and are protected for future generations. Sound Stewardship is a community-based program that contributes to the long-term success of restored shoreline habitat while engaging citizens of all ages and all walks of life. Sound Stewards provide critical monitoring and maintenance of restoration sites managed by People For Puget Sound. Events at these sites also provide avenues to engage the larger community in shoreline restoration activities. Participants include groups from local businesses, volunteer organizations, universities, community colleges and high schools. In 2011 the Sound Stewardship Program involved 2,801 volunteers who spent 11,144 hours working to restore 21 sites during 185 different events throughout the year. They planted 7,380 plants and removed 26,992 sq meters of invasive plants. Riparian restoration and stewardship continued throughout 2011 at the Deer



Harbor Estuary on Orcas Island where PFPS is using an innovative mycoremediation installation to address contamination of surface runoff by failing septs and other residential pollution sources. Construction of the installation was completed in Spring 2011 and ongoing maintenance and adaptive management is underway. Preliminary monitoring has been conducted through an exciting partnership with the Orcas Christian High School, who is providing laboratory facilities, equipment, and students to collect and analyze water quality samples.



Since 1970, Save The Bay (STB) has been working to ensure that the environmental quality of Narragansett Bay and its watershed are restored and protected from the harmful effects of human activity. Save The Bay leads the community by initiating programs and activities that increase the environmental awareness and knowledge of the public. In 2011, STB played a key role in the removal of a dam at Pawtuxet River Falls, restoring 7.5 miles of historic spawning grounds for river herring and American shad; worked to restore the bay scallop population in a coastal salt pond in Rhode Island by introducing 11,000



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bay scallops into the estuary; engaged more than 300 local students and 100 volunteers in salt marsh restoration projects around the state including students planting salt marsh plants grown in school greenhouses; and mobilized more than 1,100 volunteers to participate in clean-ups throughout the year collecting over 20,000 lbs of debris.

More than 13,000 students participated in Save The Bay education programs, learning about the habitats and water quality of Narragansett Bay and its tributaries. Seven hundred and sixty-six school-based programs resulted in 20,663 contacts with local students. STB also won an eight-year battle to save Mount Hope Bay from construction of a major Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) terminal, worked with the states of Rhode Island and Connecticut to collaboratively address water quality issues in Little Narragansett Bay, and successfully advocated for reforms to the Rhode Island Coastal Resources Management Council.



Save The Bay - San Francisco (STB-SF) is the largest regional organization working to protect and restore San Francisco Bay. As its leading champion since 1961, STB-SF protects the Bay from pollution and inappropriate shoreline development, making the Bay cleaner and healthier for both people and wildlife. STB-SF restores habitat and has helped secure strong policies designed to reestablish 100,000 acres of

wetlands essential for Bay health. Each year, STB-SF engages more than 25,000 supporters, advocates, and volunteers to protect the Bay, and inspire the next generation of environmental leaders by educating thousands of students in Northern California. In 2011, STB-SF completed monitoring and maintenance of over 50 acres of enhanced and restored tidal marsh ecotone restoration at seven restoration sites throughout San Francisco Bay; propagated 40,000 native wetland plants; seeded three acres of tidal marsh ecotone habitat with native seeds; worked with 5,800 volunteers who contributed 18,900 hours to plant 22,046 native plants in tidal marsh ecotone habitat; and removed almost 50,000 lbs of invasive weeds and collected 40,000 pounds of trash from the Bay shoreline. In addition, we hosted three workshops and trainings for site partners to encourage best restoration practices, launched three new environmental education programs to bolster our efforts to inspire a new generation of Bay stewards, and to further engage local students and teachers in critical hands-on shoreline wetland restoration. STB-SF completed three pilot experimental restoration projects aimed at improving best practices and management of San Francisco Bay ecotone restoration.



The mission of the Connecticut Fund for the Environment (CFE) is to protect and improve the



land, air, and water of Connecticut and, through its program Save the Sound, use legal and scientific expertise to bring people together to protect and restore Long Island Sound for current and future generations. In the 2011 spring migratory run, 196,966 alewives travelled through the Bride Brook box culvert to spawn. The culvert, constructed in 2010 by Save the Sound, has seen record numbers of alewives, more than double the pre-construction numbers, pass through since the project's completion. Save the Sound's Coastal Cleanup program helped organize 75 cleanup events that brought together 2,655 volunteers, who removed more than 29,000 pounds of trash from nearly 54 miles of Connecticut beach and riverfront. Save the Sound also brought together 255 volunteers for native dune grass planting, eelgrass restoration/planting, invasive species removal, and American eel releases. The Clean Water Investment Coalition, co-chaired by Save the Sound, had a successful advocacy story, with the State of Connecticut allocating \$658.38 million in bonds for wastewater/sewage treatment projects that will create thousands of jobs.



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CFE and other environmental organizations achieved victory this winter when the Connecticut state legislature approved new streamflow regulations to restore healthy flow to Connecticut rivers. This past year also saw the release of the SoundVision Action Plan, a two-year plan for the restoration and preservation of Long Island Sound. Save the Sound is a member of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study, which authored and championed the plan.



Established in 1993, Tampa Bay Watch (TBW) trains and organizes citizen volunteers, students, at-risk youth, and civic organizations to participate in environmental projects while heightening community awareness of the fragile nature and importance of the environment. By expanding

community involvement in hands-on restoration and protection projects around the Bay, TBW strives to counteract the huge loss of bay wetland habitat over the past 100 years.

In 2011, TBW constructed 1,795 feet of oyster shell bar in Tampa Bay using 188 tons of fossilized shell to create habitat and foraging areas for wildlife, and to help stabilize shorelines and reduce the rate of erosion; collected over 30 tons of discarded oyster shell for use in future reef restoration work; removed 305 derelict crab traps; restored 11.86 acres of salt marsh habitat with the help of 1,564 students in TBW's Bay Grasses in Classes program; removed 2,400 pounds of trash through our Coastal Cleanups and recycled 450 pounds of monofilament line through our Monofilament Recycling Program; reached more than 16,000 students and campers through our Estuary EDventures program; and engaged 2,357 hands-on community volunteers in habitat restoration.

Tampa Bay Watch celebrated Earth Day 2011 with a Community



Restoration Project and a special appearance by Jack Hanna. The Weedon Island restoration project began with the installation of new oyster shell reef habitat, aided by 20 Sea World/Busch Gardens employees. The group shoveled fossilized oyster shell into mesh bags and assisted in transporting each bag by outboard motorboat to be placed on the shoreline of the island to create approximately 100 feet of new habitat.



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Strategic INITIATIVES

“BLUE CARBON”—LINKING TIDAL WETLANDS RESTORATION, PROTECTION, AND ADAPTATION

This year, Restore America's Estuaries continued to lead the national effort to link carbon finance with tidal wetlands restoration, protection, and adaptation. RAE is at the forefront of this exciting initiative and is now closely coordinating with a parallel global effort.

In late 2010, RAE published the “Action Plan to Guide Protocol Development” and has been implementing its recommendations in 2011. In May, RAE convened a Wetlands Technical Working Group to draft new requirements for crediting the climate benefits of wetland activities under the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), a leading carbon registry. The working group consists of Dr. Stephen Crooks, ESA PWA; Dr. Igino Emmer, Silvestrum; Dr. Boone Kauffman, Oregon State University; and Dr. Pat Megonigal, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center, and it is led by RAE's Steve Emmett-Mattox.

These requirements will create a broad new VCS project category for crediting climate benefits from all wetlands areas, including mangroves, freshwater tidal coastal wetlands, salt marshes, sea grasses, floodplains, peatlands (already covered by existing VCS Peatland Rewetting and Conservation requirements) and potentially other land areas. The requirements are expected to be approved by the VCS in mid-2012. Most significantly, the requirements will clear a path for greenhouse gas offset methodologies to be developed for wetlands.

With funding from NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation, RAE also began addressing another recommendation of the Action Plan, and in November convened a working group on “additionality.” The working group will create tools for restoration project managers to determine if their project could be eligible for carbon credits, and anticipates releasing its results in early 2012.

Throughout the year, RAE has coordinated its national effort with a parallel global effort led by Conservation International, the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, and the Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission. RAE was invited to

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participate in international blue carbon science and policy working groups, and has benefitted from this new opportunity.

We are grateful for the support of many partners to make this work possible, including: Entergy, KBR, NOAA's Office of Habitat Conservation, America's WETLAND, GenOn Energy, and ConocoPhillips.

**COASTAL
RESTORATION
CORPS: INVESTING
IN OUR COASTS,
COMMUNITIES,
AND ECONOMIES**

The United States has a long history of innovation and job training through national service programs. In response to the Great Depression, President Roosevelt created the 1930s Civilian Conservation Corps. In the 1960s, President Kennedy

created the Peace Corps. In the 1990s, President Clinton created AmeriCorps. Restore America's Estuaries, in concert with our partners in the restoration and service communities, is building upon this history of innovation with the creation of a Coastal Restoration Corps.

Our coasts and estuaries provide myriad benefits, yet are suffering great damage. Our economy and future depend on ensuring that our coasts and estuaries are flourishing and providing a wide variety of services that sustain our people and the communities in which they live.

On a different front, our nation's unemployment remains stubbornly high and persistent. While unemployment nationwide is approximately nine percent, young veterans have an unemployment rate of 21.9 percent, and youth unemployment varies between 15.3 percent to a stunning 31 percent depending on the

demographic group.

Collectively, the snapshot these statistics portray is somewhat gloomy, but hope and strength exist in the form of America's people with their drive, passion, and knowledge. As a result of both the importance of and stressors affecting our coasts and estuaries, it is more imperative than ever to take action in a focused, planned, and efficient way.

The essence of the Coastal Restoration Corps is to network local organizations already doing coastal and estuarine habitat restoration in a way that more effectively and efficiently makes use of personnel and funding. The Coastal Restoration Corps would then offer a cost-effective way to address coastal challenges by leveraging public-private partnerships and utilizing a diverse network of existing assets. Beyond that, establishment of the Coastal Restoration Corps will have a

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— Cont'd — STRATEGIC INITIATIVES



multiplier effect on restoration, job creation, education and training, community service and involvement, and disaster preparedness. The Corps would also provide a pathway for people interested in joining the restoration community by giving them real-world, hands-on experiences that simply cannot come from a book or classroom.



In support of these efforts, RAE organized two workshops to foster development of the Corps. The first workshop was convened in February 2011 in Washington, DC. The CRC steering committee and working groups continued efforts throughout the year with RAE providing strategic and administrative support. In association with partners, RAE convened a second, smaller workshop in Silver Spring, MD, in October 2011, the goal of which was to further refine the vision and implementation plan.

The resulting summary documents provide additional details and timelines. In 2012, RAE will continue to shepherd the process to make the CRC a reality. In that capacity, we will provide support to the larger effort by engaging the larger service and restoration communities and working to implement the recommendations to bring the CRC to fruition.

We welcome wider involvement, so please contact RAE if you would like to become a part of this initiative or if you would like additional information.



RAE RELEASES LANDMARK COASTAL JOBS REPORT

New times sometimes call for new arguments. In September, Restore America's Estuaries released a landmark report, "Jobs & Dollars: Big Returns from Coastal Habitat Restoration," that does just that. Faced



with today's recessionary economy, RAE looked beyond mainstay environmental and ecological arguments and made the case that coasts and estuaries are essential to the nation's economy, and that coastal habitat restoration produces jobs at a faster rate than many other sectors, including oil and gas, road infrastructure, and green building projects.

"Jobs & Dollars" lays out a powerful case for government and private investment in the nation's coasts and estuaries. Among its key findings: Coastal habitat restoration projects typically create between 20 and 32 jobs for every \$1 million invested compared with seven per million for road infrastructure, five jobs for oil and gas, and 17 jobs per million invested for green building retrofits. Habitat restoration creates local jobs and generates revenues that stay local and in-state. Restoration not only creates direct jobs, but helps stimulate indirect jobs in industries supplying project materials and supports induced jobs in businesses providing good and services to restoration workers and their families.

In the months since its release, "Jobs & Dollars" has become an essential informational tool not only for the RAE 11-member National Alliance, but for a host of federal agencies dealing with coastal issues and restoration, as well as congressional staff and aides working to secure funding for coastal and estuarine habitat restoration.

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LEGISLATION AND ADVOCACY

Restore America's Estuaries is a respected and effective voice in Washington for the coastal and estuarine habitat restoration community. Working closely with our 11 member organizations and the broader conservation community, we achieved many

noteworthy successes in 2011 that significantly advanced our organizational goals. The following section highlights a number of activities in which we were involved in the areas of federal budget and appropriations and policy.

BUDGET AND APPROPRIATIONS

Restore America's Estuaries worked to increase Fiscal Year 2011 funding for a host of national programs benefiting habitat restoration nationwide. A summary chart at the end of this section highlights budget and appropriations numbers for specific restoration programs of interest, which are referenced in the following summary.

In February, 2011, the Obama administration released the Fiscal Year 2012 President's Budget. The Administration requested an increase of \$10 million over the FY11-enacted level for the Community-based Restoration

Program (CRP) and Open Rivers Initiative (ORI)—a higher level that can be attributed in large part to RAE's meetings with key officials at CEQ, OMB, Commerce, and NOAA. RAE also authored the environmental community's FY12 budget request justifications for CRP/ORI, the ERA, and the Coastal Program, all of which were included in the conservation community's FY12 Green Budget* recommendation.

In November, Congress passed a "Minibus" appropriations bill that included FY12 funding for a handful of agencies, including NOAA. Thanks to a last-minute amendment, CRP received an increased level of funding compared to its FY11-enacted level. However, the language also called on NOAA to consolidate habitat grant program funding in their FY13 budget request, and to work with their non-federal

**Prepared annually by a coalition of national environmental and conservation organizations to recommend National Funding Priorities.*



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partners in doing so. RAE will be leading a coalition of groups who will be meeting with NOAA Leadership in early 2012 to begin discussions on this issue.

In December, Congress passed an Omnibus Appropriations bill providing FY12 funding for all remaining agencies not covered by the aforementioned Minibus bill, including the Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Program.

In preparation for release of the President's FY 2013 Budget, Restore America's Estuaries met with key agency officials requesting at least level funding for the aforementioned programs. In addition, RAE authored the marine community's

FY13 NOAA budget request justifications for CRP/ORI and the ERA, which are included in the marine community's FY13 funding request and the broad environmental community's FY13 Green Budget recommendation.

On September 7, 2011, Restore America's Estuaries joined with several other conservation organizations to host **Senate and House briefings** regarding impacts of the FY12 CJS Appropriations bill on NOAA's coastal and ocean programs. Both briefings were well-attended, collectively having about 140 attendees, and served to educate Members of Congress and their staff on the value of restoration funding.

POLICY

Restore America's Estuaries continued to build upon previous efforts to reinvigorate the Estuary Restoration Act (ERA) and to revise its Estuary

Habitat Restoration Strategy. A draft Strategy was unveiled on November 15, 2010, at the RAE Conference in Galveston, and in January, 2011, RAE submitted a comment letter to guide the next set of revisions signed by more than 50 organizations. The Council continues work to finalize the Strategy, which is expected to be completed in mid-2012.

Restore America's Estuaries continued efforts within a coalition of environmental organizations in support of a strong National Policy to protect, maintain, and restore the nation's oceans, coasts, and Great Lakes. In July, 2010, the Obama Administration issued Executive Order 13547 establishing a **National Ocean Policy**. In April, 2011, RAE submitted numerous letters to CEQ to guide their development of Strategic Action Plans that will carry out the goals of the National Ocean Policy. After these Action Plans were released later in 2011, Restore America's Estuaries submitted additional comment letters to guide CEQ's work and RAE remains engaged on this issue as the administration continues work to implement the Executive Order.

Again this year, Restore America's Estuaries led efforts to commemorate **National Estuaries Day**. RAE hosted a tour of Kenilworth Aquatic Gardens, a restored marsh on the Anacostia River, attended by more than 30 congressional staff and agency officials. Two RAE member groups were represented by Will Baker, President of the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and Peter Clark, President of Tampa Bay Watch (and Vice-Chair of the RAE Board). The event served to educate many leading decision makers on the benefits of habitat restoration efforts.

PROGRAM	FY 2010 Enacted (\$ million)	FY 2011 Spend Plan (\$ million)	FY 2012 President's Request (\$ million)	FY 2012 Enacted (\$ million)
NOAA Fisheries (Open Rivers & CRP)	\$27.97	\$20.831	\$30.806	\$22.229
NOAA Estuary Restoration Program	\$3	\$1.186	\$1.188	\$1
Army Corps Estuary Restoration Program	\$1	\$1.996	\$2	\$1.96
Fish & Wildlife Service Coastal Program	\$15.931	\$15.137	\$15.436	\$14.894





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Our HIGHLIGHTED PARTNERS

HOUSTON ENDOWMENT INC.

A PHILANTHROPY ENDOWED BY MR. AND MRS. JESSE H. JONES

Houston Endowment, Inc.

Jesse and Mary Gibbs Jones established the Houston Endowment in 1937 to formalize and perpetuate their philanthropy, helping to create and develop institutions and organizations that would nurture Houston's people and encourage the city's growth. In addition to the city of Houston, Houston Endowment also supports projects and programs in the eight counties surrounding it.

Since Jesse and Mary Gibbs Jones established Houston Endowment, the foundation has evolved, but the intention of its board and staff throughout the years to support and improve education, human services, health, arts and culture, and the environment for the people of the greater Houston area has not changed. Over time, Houston Endowment has contributed more than \$1.4 billion (\$2.5 billion in current dollars) to fulfill the Joneses' vision of a vibrant community where the opportunity to thrive is available to all.

Dating back to Restore America's Estuaries' 2nd National Conference on Coastal and Estuarine Habitat Restoration (Seattle 2004), Houston Endowment has been a consistent partnering supporter of its program and scholarship fund. Scholarships significantly support those who would otherwise not be able to attend the Conference, including university students and staff from non-profit organizations. As a result of the Houston Endowment's support, they have helped RAE over the years to leverage other foundation funders in the state of Texas, in supporting RAE's biennial National Conference.

KBR

KBR, Inc.

With more than 35,000 employees in 45 countries on five continents, KBR is one of the world's premier engineering, procurement, and construction companies. Its mission is to safely deliver any project, any time, in any environment for the benefit of its customers, shareholders, employees, and the communities it serves. KBR is more than a global company; it is a citizen and neighbor in hundreds of communities around the world. Every day, KBR employees reach out to those in need through numerous corporate charitable initiatives, volunteer organizations and community outreach programs in charitable focus areas of education, environment and health.

KBR's support to RAE began in 2008 as a result of an introduction from one of its community partners, the Galveston Bay Foundation. RAE's mission to preserve the nation's network of estuaries resonates with one of KBR's charitable focus areas: environment—to support environmental initiatives that create healthier and more sustainable green spaces and water systems for everyday use, recreation, and quality of life. KBR has been a major partnering sponsor of the biennial conference since 2008. KBR was an initial funder of RAE's tidal wetlands greenhouse gas offsets initiative and continues its support of this initiative today.



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SUPPORTER ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

ACKNOWLEDGING OUR MANY SUPPORTERS IN 2011

Restore America's Estuaries is appreciative of the many organizations and individuals who have supported our work over the last year.

America's WETLAND Foundation
Anonymous
Anonymous Foundation
Sheri Bazany, Bazany Design
Nancy Beiter
Alexander Bernhard
Gregg Brown
Cheniere Energy
Clayton Fund
ConocoPhillips
Patrick Drum
EarthShare
Richard Engel
Entergy
Kathy Fletcher
Florida Airboat Association
GenOn
Joyce Gibson
Give to the Max Day
Just Give.org
KBR
Mr. & Mrs. George Kinkle
LightHawk

Marathon Oil Corporation
Market Street Investment Group
Derek Markham
MarshRider Magazine
Maryland Department of Natural Resources
The Curtis and Edith Munson Foundation
Robert Myers
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
(NOAA) - Office of Habitat Conservation
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
(NOAA) - Restoration Center
National Marine Manufacturers Association
Barbara O'Hare
Jim Olive
Sea World Busch Gardens Conservation Fund
Linda Shead
Shell
Donald Strait
U.S. Department of Agriculture - Natural Resources
Conservation Service
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - Coastal Program
Victoria and Edward Welch



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A SPECIAL NOTE

Kathy Fletcher Retires as Executive Director of People For Puget Sound

This past year wasn't without a bit of sadness. Kathy Fletcher, the founder and executive director of People For Puget Sound (PPS)—and a founding director of Restore America's Estuaries—retired in June after 20 years at the helm of PPS.

She founded People For Puget Sound in 1991...but that begs the larger story. A native Washingtonian, she came by her love of outdoors naturally. In 1970, she attended the first Earth Day rally and became, for the first time, a dyed-in-the-wool, unapologetic environmentalist. Kathy graduated from Harvard in 1971 with a biology degree.

She headed to Washington, DC, to lobby for a bill taxing sulfur dioxide emissions—an “idea before its time,” she admits. She moved to Colorado and spent five years fighting Interior Department policies on oil shale, water use and rights, and mining. She built up a formidable reputation for political savvy and science that led Jimmy Carter, then a presidential candidate, to tap her expertise for campaign policy papers on the environment and Interior. Fletcher came back to DC as part of Carter's White House policy staff.

She returned to Washington State when it became obvious Carter would not be re-elected. After years away, she was shocked at the degraded state of the Sound. She worked for Seattle City Light for five years, dealing with environmental issues. In 1983, she was tapped to head an advisory board, the Puget Sound Water Quality Authority. When the Authority became a city agency, Fletcher became its chairperson, where she drafted a far-reaching Sound management plan. The Authority was then, in her words, “defanged.” She resigned.

Seeing the need for a citizen's organization that would work on behalf of the Sound, she founded People For Puget Sound in 1991. She worked for free until she could get funding for the fledgling group.

For the next 20 years, Kathy built People For Puget Sound into one of the nation's most effective conservation and advocacy organizations. There is no part of Puget Sound that has not benefited from her work and the work of her staff and legions of volunteers over the years. While it is impossible to catalog a full list of her accomplishments, it is safe to say that Kathy tackled everything—salmon and orcas, habitat restoration, public education and advocacy, oil spills and septic systems, storm water run-off and pollution, citizen involvement and citizen apathy, and, of course, often hostile politicians and intransigent bureaucrats—for the betterment of Puget Sound.

A number of people have described Kathy as “a force for nature,” a tribute both to her effectiveness and a tenacity shading into dogged determination when it came to fighting for the Sound and on issues affecting the Sound (politicians and bureaucrats beware). But her true legacy is not only People For Puget Sound, now entering its third decade and in the capable hands of its new executive director, Tom Bancroft, but her ability to educate, engage, and involve people from all over the Pacific Northwest who are now working on behalf of the Sound—a legacy of collaboration that is to envied and emulated. JB

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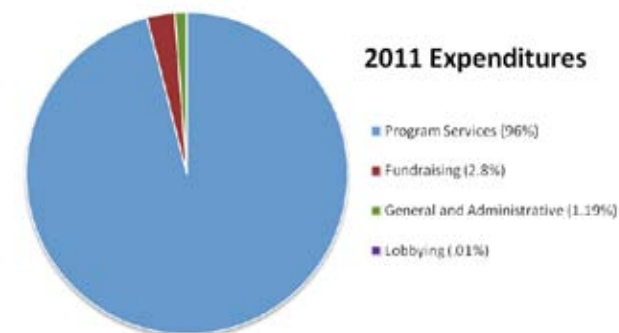
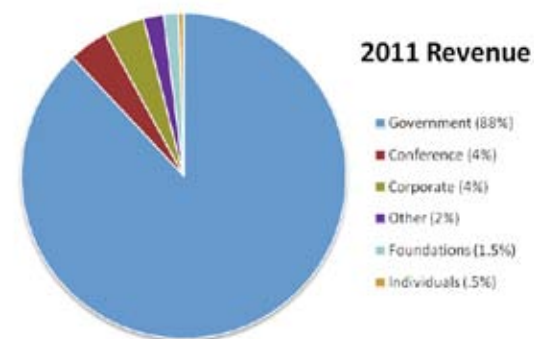
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2011 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Years Ended December 31	2011	2010
Revenue		
Grants	\$2,685,330	\$2,412,875
Contributions	253,285	387,113
Conference	98,531	855,552
Other Income	0	5,595
Investment Income	15,197	15,728
Total Revenue	\$3,052,343	\$3,676,863
Expenses		
Program Expenses	\$3,233,783	\$3,293,860
General and Administrative	43,504	39,976
Fundraising	95,682	83,644
Lobbying	279	4,029
Total Expenses	\$3,373,248	\$3,421,509
Change in Net Assets	\$(320,905)	\$255,354
Net Assets at Beginning of Year	\$1,312,271	\$1,056,917
Net Assets at End of Year	\$991,366	\$1,312,271





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ANNUAL REPORT



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