

## NOAA: COASTAL & ESTUARINE LAND CONSERVATION PROGRAM

Since 2002, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management has been partnering with state and local governments to protect significant coastal and estuarine habitats. Between 2002 and 2007, the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program distributed nearly \$200 million in 26 coastal states. With partners, the program has successfully conserved over 35,000 acres through more than 150 projects involving fee simple acquisition and/or conservation easements, and the number of acres will grow as more projects come to completion.

### WHAT IS CELCP?

The Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Program (CELCP, pronounced "kelp") was established to protect coastal and estuarine lands that are (1) important for ecologic, conservation, historic, recreation, and/or aesthetic values, or (2) threatened by conversion from a natural or recreational condition to another use. Priority is given to ecologically valuable lands that can be effectively managed and protected.

The program provides state and local governments with 1:1 matching funds to purchase from willing sellers either lands in fee or conservation easements. Lands or conservation easements acquired with CELCP funds are protected in perpetuity.

### PROJECT ELIGIBILITY

Prospective projects eligible for competitive funding must:

- Be located in a state, trust territory, or commonwealth with either a federally-approved coastal zone management (CZM) program or National Estuarine Research Reserve
- Be located in a state that has developed and received NOAA approval for a CELCP Plan
- Complement and advance the goals, objectives, or implementation of federal, regional, state, or local coastal management plans, including the CZM program, CELCP plan, and other applicable plans
- Be submitted by a public entity, i.e., state agency, local government, or other authority, e.g., a park district
- Provide for [non-federal] public ownership in perpetuity
- Provide non-federal matching resources in the form of cash or in-kind contributions, at a ratio of 1:1

### Why preserve coastal & estuarine lands?

Coastal and estuarine areas are important both to humans and wildlife. These areas shield us from coastal storms, facilitate flood control, filter pollutants to maintain water quality, and provide access to waterfront areas for recreation. Our coasts also shelter fish and shellfish that are important to commercial and recreational fisheries. Coastal habitats provide nesting and foraging areas for coastal birds. These unique areas sustain numerous animal and plant species, including rare, threatened, and endangered species.



Deer Island, MS. Photo: NOAA/Elisabeth Morgan

### PROJECT SELECTION

NOAA's Office of Ocean & Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) annually invites proposals for projects that are "ready and eligible" for funding. Each state's lead (typically the CZM Program) completes the initial solicitation, evaluation, and selection process. The lead may nominate qualified projects for the national competition in accordance with the Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity.

OCRM compiles, reviews, and submits project applications to a national level panel for a merit evaluation. Projects are scored and ranked in accordance with published criteria. Available monies are allocated in rank order until funds are exhausted.

CELCP Funding History									
Fiscal Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Funding (millions)	\$15.8	\$37.4	\$50.6	\$38.7	\$38.4	\$27.5	\$8.0	\$15.0**	
Projects Funded	22	18	35	28	32	17*			

\* Includes re-programmed funds  
 \*\* President's request

CELCP Accomplishments in Conservation									
Fiscal Year	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	
Projects Completed/ Properties Acquired	5	6	15	19	28	34			
Acres Conserved	556	806	13,593	7,034	3,411	9,259			

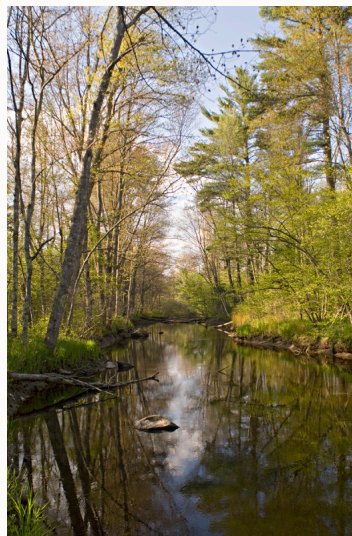
## SELECTED PROJECTS

CELCP projects often accomplish many goals, including protecting wetlands and other significant coastal habitats, reducing coastal water pollution, and providing the public with access to our coasts. The following are just a few examples of the types of projects CELCP has supported.

Project Name	Sand Hill Bluff, CA	Piscassic Greenway, NH	Manahawkin Marsh, NJ
Sponsor	CA Department of Parks & Recreation	Town of Newfields	Ocean County
Year Purchased	2005	2006	2005
Acres Protected	147 (fee)	340 (easement)	93 (fee)
Funding	\$2M	\$3.8M	\$780K
Significant Project Features	1 mi. Pacific Ocean front, unique coastal habitats, historic shell midden	106 acres of wetlands, 1,200 feet of Piscassic River front	75 acres of wetlands, buffer for a state wildlife management area



Sand Hill Bluff, CA  
 Photo: NOAA/Elisabeth Morgan



Piscassic Greenway, NH  
 Photo: Tim Gaudreau [www.wake-up.ws](http://www.wake-up.ws)



Manahawkin Marsh, NJ  
 Photo: Ocean County