

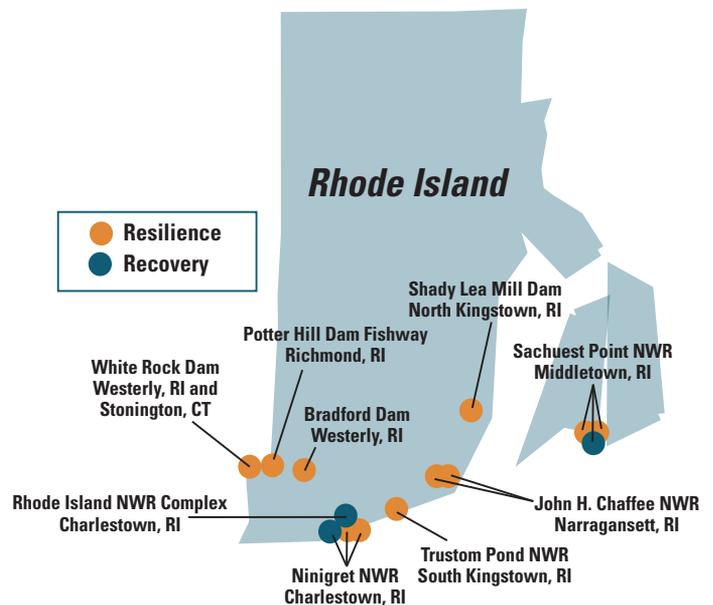
Building a Stronger Coast in Rhode Island

Hurricane Sandy Recovery and Resilience Projects

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, through the Disaster Relief Appropriations Act of 2013, is investing more than \$7 million in projects to help Rhode Island recover from impacts of Hurricane Sandy and to better withstand future storms. The projects will restore and add resilience to freshwater and saltwater habitats, and repair and restore national wildlife refuge (NWR) facilities for safe visitor and staff access.

Six planned projects will:

- Evaluate four dams for removal
 - Open 70 miles of waterways for fish passage
 - Restore 400 acres of salt marsh
 - Restore 1,967 of pond habitat
- Total funding: \$6,849,591**



RHODE ISLAND RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY PROJECTS

| Project | Type | Description | Location | Funding Awarded |
|--|------------|--|--|---|
| Protect property and help coastal wildlife | Resilience | Engineer more storm-resistant coastal salt marshes | Narragansett, Charlestown, Middletown, RI, ME and MA | \$3,936,000 <i>Amount above invested in Rhode Island out of \$4,150,000 in total funding</i> |
| Connect waterways and protect communities / Remove dams and improve fishways | Resilience | Restore connections of streams to regional river systems, enhances fish passage and reduces the risk of flooding | Richmond, Westerly, North Kingstown, RI and CT | \$1,500,250 <i>Amount above invested in Rhode Island out of \$2,294,250 in total funding</i> |
| Provide backup power - generator, solar and electrical improvements | Recovery | Increase sustainability and reliability by installing solar-powered systems | Rhode Island NWR Complex | \$686,591 |
| Rehabilitate Sachuest Point roads | Recovery | Restore safe visitor and staff access | Sachuest Point NWR | \$451,250 |
| Remove trees and debris, repair refuge infrastructure | Recovery | Rebuild damaged structures throughout the RI NWR | Rhode Island NWR Complex | \$180,500 |
| Repair access road | Recovery | Repair damaged road | Ninigret NWR | \$95,000 |

REGIONWIDE SCIENCE PROJECTS

Rhode Island also will benefit from regionwide science projects designed to help resource managers, planners, conservation partners and private landowners make better-informed decisions.

| Project | Description | Location | Funding Awarded |
|---|---|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Modernize coastal barrier resources system (CBRS) comprehensive map | Update the CBRS maps, which highlight delicate natural areas vulnerable to change | CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY, NC, RI, VA | \$5,000,000 |
| Provide decision support for increasing resilience of tidal wetland habitats and species | Create a central, regionwide study on wetland impact and effective responses with standardized metrics | CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY, RI, VA | \$2,200,000 |
| A Stronger Coast: increase coastal resilience and preparedness | Identify current condition of salt marshes, evaluate shifts in sandy beaches, provide scientific data to help strengthen the coast | CT, DE, ME, NJ, NY, RI, VA | \$2,060,000 |
| Provide decision support for increasing resilience of beach habitats and beach-dependent species | Create and integrate predictive models of coastal impacts such as rising sea levels, storms, and beach habitats to study their interaction and guide conservation decisions | CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY, RI, VA | \$1,750,000 |
| Determine resilience of the tidal marsh bird community | Assess Hurricane Sandy's impact on tidal marsh sites and identify high-priority areas, standardizing measurement metrics | CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, NY, RI, VA | \$1,573,950 |
| Increase resilience and improve standards for culverts and road stream crossings | Develop a survey of New England road stream crossings to assess condition and effective storm management strategies | CT, DE, MD, MA, NJ, RI, VA | \$1,270,000 |
| Model submerged aquatic vegetation and salt marsh resilience | Build a model to help predict effects of future storms on salt marshes and associated migratory bird populations | CT, DE, MD, NJ, NY, NC, RI, VA | \$217,000 |



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For more information, visit <http://www.fws.gov/hurricane/sandy/> or contact:

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