

Building a Stronger Coast in Virginia

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 Virginia 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.



8 planned projects will:

- Construct two acres of oyster reef
 - Open 6.25 miles of aquatic habitat
 - Replace 22 water control structures
 - Construct 3,650 feet of living shoreline
- Total funding: \$7,016,607**

VIRGINIA RESILIENCE AND RECOVERY PROJECTS

Project	Type	Description	Location	Funding Awarded
Increase water management capability at Great Dismal Swamp NWR	Resilience	Improve resilience by increasing the refuge's water storage capacity. Also aims to reduce effects of flooding and risks of wildfire and improve wildlife habitat	Great Dismal Swamp NWR	\$3,130,000
Construct living shorelines, oyster reef	Resilience	Improve refuge coastal resilience to future storms and provide habitat for marine organisms	Chincoteague NWR	\$553,425
Replace the Quantico Creek culvert	Resilience	Open aquatic habitat and improve resilience of public infrastructure	Prince William County, VA	\$330,750
Remove trees and debris, repair buildings and restore beach road	Recovery	Repair storm damage to refuge buildings, roads, and grounds	Chincoteague NWR	\$1,425,000
Provide backup power - generator, solar and electrical improvements	Recovery	Provide emergency power and reduce energy use	Back Bay NWR	\$686,591
Provide backup power - generator, solar and electrical improvements	Recovery	Provide emergency power and reduce energy use	Chincoteague NWR	\$686,591
Replace signs, infrastructure and boundary buoy	Recovery	Repair dike and marks water boundaries	Back Bay NWR	\$190,000
Remove debris from shoreline	Recovery	Clear debris from refuge	Eastern Virginia Rivers NWR	\$14,250

REGIONWIDE SCIENCE PROJECTS

Virginia 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, region-wide 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

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

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Sunrise at Chincoteague NWR