

Storm Damage at Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge

On December 13, Moosehorn National Wildlife Refuge in Baring, Maine, received 7.7 inches of rain in a 24-hour period, causing the worst structural damage in the refuge's 73-year history. The rainstorm put highway US 1 in jeopardy of flooding from the refuge impoundment, which is the only access to nearby Calais and the Canadian border crossing. A December 16 press release cautioned the public about the presence of high, moving water on and adjacent to the refuge.

While further assessment will take place when waters recede, initial assessments estimate damage to refuge infrastructure in excess of \$200,000, which includes road repair, impoundment stabilization, and replacement of culverts and water control structures. The refuge is already working with the state to repair roads near the refuge.

More than a mile of submerged dikes still awaits assessment for damage. Freezing temperatures and an additional 5 to 6 inches of snow have slowed or stopped receding waters. Tests of and repairs to the integrity of these structures may have to wait until spring.



