



NOAA Funding under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law And Inflation Reduction Act

COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT AND NATIONAL ESTUARINE RESEARCH RESERVE SYSTEM

Habitat Protection and Restoration Awards

Coastal Zone Management Awards

2023 Projects Selected for Funding through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act

Conservation of Coastal Pine Savanna and Emergent Marsh Habitat on West Fowl River, Mississippi Sound in Mobile County, Alabama

Recipient: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Federal Funding: \$1,103,000

Summary: This land purchase will conserve and protect sensitive tidal marsh, pine flatwood, and savanna habitats, which act as a habitat and nursery ground for commercially and recreationally important fishery species, protect uplands from storm surge and coastal flooding, and allow carbon to be sequestered.

American Samoa Wetlands Delineation

Recipient: American Samoa Government Department of Commerce

Federal Funding: \$203,000

Summary: This investment will benefit ecosystems and communities by completing an effort to verify and map wetlands, as well as conducting wetland monitoring, partner training, and community outreach workshops on their ecosystem benefits. The effort will also support the update of land use permitting policies and regulations to help ensure the protection of these wetlands and the services they provide, including the mitigation of flooding, and will help identify and inform prioritization of future nature-based restoration projects in each wetland village.

Restoring and Strengthening Resilience of Maui Nui Reefs

Recipient: The Coral Reef Alliance

Federal Funding: \$3,194,361

Summary: This investment will restore habitats and strengthen coastal resilience at two sites in West Maui and South Moloka'i in Hawai'i. Specifically, this project will restore the lower Wahikuli streambank, restore estuarine habitat within two 30-acre fishponds in south shore Moloka'i, engage the community in designing a water quality outreach and education program, and document lessons learned to inform and scale future restoration efforts statewide.

Critical Conservation for Climate Resilience in the Northeast Florida Blueway

Recipient: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Federal Funding: \$6,000,000 (\$5,373,363 in FY22 funds; \$626,637 in FY23 funds)

Summary: This award will fund the acquisition of a portion of the remaining 10,976 acres of the 73,400-acre Northeast Florida Blueway project, which is part of the Florida Forever Program's Climate Change Lands. Most of the acquisition is within the Guana Tolomato Matanzas National Estuarine Research Reserve and will protect and maintain the waters and shoreline plant communities of the Tolomato and Matanzas Rivers, which provide critical habitat for 14 federally listed species of plants and animals.

Ossabaw Island Living Shoreline: A Collaboration to Model Resiliency through Ecosystem Restoration

Recipient: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Resources Division

Federal Funding: \$826,000

Summary: This project will result in the design and construction of a living shoreline on Ossabaw Island in Georgia. Significant ecological and cultural resources are being lost to erosion on the island due to an increase in storm events, wave frequency, and tidal inundation. The project will restore functional estuarine habitat and protect natural shoreline ecosystems, while preserving unique cultural and archeological resources.

Coastal Conservation at Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge Cameron Parish, Louisiana

Recipient: Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries

Federal Funding: \$4,000,000

Summary: This purchase of 6,800 acres of critical coastal habitat in Cameron Parish, Louisiana, directly adjacent to the Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge, will reduce coastal flood risks, conserve critical ecosystems, and preserve habitats for a variety of coastal resources, as well as provide much needed public recreational opportunities through the expansion of public lands.

Coastal Habitat Resilience and Community Adaptation in Downeast Maine

Recipient: Maine Department of Marine Resources

Federal Funding: \$1,654,680

Summary: This project will apply innovative, science-based approaches to inform the planning and design of infrastructure projects. The project will strengthen partnerships through a collaborative, locally-led process to gather new scientific information and work with communities to derive solutions to flooding that also benefit key habitats to alewives and other sea run fish, and will result in increased local and regional capacity to manage and implement similar projects in Downeast Maine.

Manchester Central Street Bridge Replacement and Sawmill Brook Restoration Project

Recipient: Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Federal Funding: \$1,561,511

Summary: This award supports habitat restoration and fish passage while increasing resiliency for the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea. The project includes replacing the Central Street Bridge, removing a tide gate structure, upgrading channel walls, restoring saltmarsh wetlands, and creating living shorelines to stabilize the stream banks. One acre of salt marsh and 1,534 linear feet of stream connectivity will be restored, which in turn will improve resiliency for the Sawmill Brook watershed and the community.

Truro Pamet River Restoration

Recipient: Massachusetts Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Federal Funding: \$2,183,779

Summary: This award will result in a feasibility study and the collection of the data necessary to design a remediation of six tidal restrictions within five project focus areas: the Little Pamet River, Lower Pamet, Upper Pamet, Mill Pond, and Eagle Neck Creek Earthen Berm. These elements together will support the greater goal of restoring salt marsh functioning within the Pamet River system.

Resilient Tidal Crossings Project – Building Resilience through Upgraded Replacements of High Priority Tidal Culverts

Recipient: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services

Federal Funding: \$2,988,122

Summary: This project will result in the replacement of three undersized tidal culverts on state roads in the towns of Stratham and Rye. Repairing these tidal crossings was identified as a high priority via the New Hampshire Resilient Tidal Crossings Project. The project will replace the existing culverts at these sites with upgraded alternatives, which in turn will increase ecosystem and flood resiliency.

Beach Restoration to Create Habitat and Protect Tidal Salt Marsh Buffers within the Bay Point Area of Lawrence Township

Recipient: New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Federal Funding: \$3,500,137

Summary: This investment in restored shoreline will improve community resilience by enhancing ecosystem services that mitigate flooding and extreme weather and protect human lives and critical infrastructure. The project will restore habitat within the Bay Point peninsula of Lawrence Township in Cumberland County. The Bay Point shoreline ecosystem also provides critical spawning habitat for horseshoe crabs and foraging grounds for the federally listed red knot.

Bay River Coastal Partnership

Recipient: North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission

Federal Funding: \$500,000

Summary: This award will support the Bay River Coastal Partnership in the purchase and conservation of an ecologically significant coastal property within the over 400-acre Bay River Tract in Pamlico County. Conservation of this area will protect an undeveloped natural shoreline and rare coastal forest communities, minimize the loss of life and property by directing development out of a high risk area, and safeguard coastal water quality along the Bay River.

Chagrin River Floodplain Land Conservation Project

Recipient: Ohio Department of Natural Resources

Federal Funding: \$1,705,000.00

Summary: These funds will be used to acquire 105 acres of riparian habitat along the Chagrin River in a coastal community approximately four miles upstream from the confluence with Lake Erie. The Chagrin River Floodplain Land Conservation Project will provide critical habitat that will increase climate resiliency for urban coastal communities and will contribute to a growing conservation, public access, and recreation corridor along the river, from downtown Willoughby to Lake Erie.

Conservation of Cape Foulweather Headland, an Icon of the Central Oregon Coast

Recipient: Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

Federal Funding: \$2,011,465

Summary: Through this funding, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians will purchase the ecologically and culturally significant “Cape Foulweather” property, located on a bluff overlooking the Pacific Ocean. This project will conserve the undeveloped coastal property that hosts habitats rich in marine mammals, a rare salt spray meadow complex, and upland forest connections that are important to threatened species. The headland will provide opportunities for community resilience education and play a central role in the stewardship and conservation of these important tribal lands and waters. Partners in the project will build from this investment toward a conservation and education program that strengthens community resilience in an inclusive, informed manner.

South Carolina’s Black River State Park Land Conservation Project Georgetown County, South Carolina

Recipient: South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

Federal Funding: \$4,500,000

Summary: Conservation partners will use these funds to conserve 1,800 acres of key floodplain properties within two coastal counties. The area will allow for recreational uses compatible with habitat protection, including fishing, non-motorized boating, birding, hiking, biking, kayaking, camping, picnicking, and environmental education.

Mangrove, Seagrass, and Coral Restoration in the Vieques Bioluminescent Bay Natural Reserve

Recipient: The Vieques Conservation and Historical Trust

Federal Funding: \$2,962,196

Summary: This funding will restore coastal habitats within Bahía Puerto Mosquito, also known as the Vieques Bioluminescent Bay, located within the Vieques Bioluminescent Bay Natural Reserve. The project will create living shorelines and expand the restoration of mangroves and coral reef habitat, which will improve ecosystem and community resilience.

Virginia Eelgrass and Bay Scallop Restoration in Burtons Bay

Recipient: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Federal Funding: \$2,259,633

Summary: Building on the knowledge gained from a successful eelgrass and bay scallop restoration in southern Virginia’s coastal bays, this project will focus on Burtons Bay. Over a four-year period, at least 60 acres of eelgrass will be planted and over six million bay scallops released. The project will include long-term monitoring, as well as an educational component, with the end goal of a healthy and expanding eelgrass meadow and a resident scallop population in Burtons Bay that will enhance water quality, create carbon stocks, and increase productivity of a commercially harvested species.

Conservation of Ancestral Lands – Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe’s Return to the River

Recipient: Virginia Department of Environmental Quality

Federal Funding: \$3,037,052

Summary: The Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe, through the Virginia Coastal Zone Management Program, will acquire and conserve 866 acres of historic tribal lands along the tribe’s namesake river, the Mattaponi, within the Chesapeake Bay watershed. This is the tribe’s first opportunity to acquire ancestral lands for conservation, which will allow them to pursue future activities to enhance culturally significant fish, wildlife, and plants through habitat restoration. The conservation benefits will extend to tribal citizens and others who enjoy the region’s coast.

Graveyard Spit Restoration & Resilience Project

Recipient: Washington State Department of Transportation

Federal Funding: \$3,976,788

Summary: This investment will result in the restoration and protection of Graveyard Spit, on the north shore of Willapa Bay, to help protect community infrastructure and cultural resources that are threatened by sea level rise and other coastal hazards. The project will include the rehabilitation and revegetation of the historic barrier dune; the construction of a nature-based cobble berm; and the protection and restoration of backshore marsh and tidal embayment environments.

Sand River Headwaters Acquisition

Recipient: Wisconsin Department of Administration

Federal Funding: \$1,965,000

Summary: This project will allow Bayfield County to acquire 2,001 acres of ecologically significant land that are vital to the health and functioning of Lake Superior's coastal resources. The ecosystems within the acquired land provide stopover habitat for migratory birds, spawning areas for Great Lakes fish, aesthetic views of Lake Superior, and passive recreation. The acquisition also completes a broader agreement with the Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa for the county's reinvestment of proceeds from an earlier land sale that repatriated nearby land formerly owned by the county to the Red Cliff.

National Estuarine Research Reserve Awards

*2023 Projects Selected for Funding through President Biden's
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Conservation in the Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, Baldwin County, Alabama

Recipient: Alabama Department of Conservation and Natural Resources

Federal Funding: \$147,000

Summary: This land purchase will help protect the ecological integrity of the area and the important ecosystem services it provides, such as acting as a buffer for storm surge and coastal flooding, providing space for marsh migration, providing carbon sequestration services, and maintaining water quality.

Kachemak Drive Peatlands Water Quality Improvement Project

Recipient: University of Alaska Anchorage

Federal Funding: \$1,272,383

Summary: Through a partnership with the Kachemak Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve, the City of Homer will acquire 55 acres of peatland, an area that provides habitat for fish and coastal wildlife, and improves water quality for salmon and other fish. Peatlands also serve as a nature-based solution for stormwater collection. This project will simultaneously recharge water levels in the peat, protect the water quality of Kachemak Bay, and mitigate coastal erosion.

Enhancing Climate Resilience through Coastal Ecosystem Restoration in Elkhorn Slough

Recipient: Elkhorn Slough Foundation

Federal Funding: \$2,249,711

Summary: This project will restore three iconic coastal habitats within the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, significantly increasing the extent of tidal marsh vegetation, native grassland, and oyster habitat. The funding will invest in restoration, monitoring, and stakeholder engagement at the reserve's Hester Marsh restoration site, adding value to existing investments at this site. The project will also engage a number of community groups, including local Native American tribal members and the broader coastal management community.

Henderson Creek Hydrologic Restoration Project

Recipient: Florida Department of Environmental Protection

Federal Funding: \$3,999,163

Summary: This award will fund restoration of hydrologic sheet flow and related hydrologic regimes within the Rookery Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve in Collier County, Florida. The project will increase habitat resilience against future climate change impacts by enhancing wildlife habitat, hydrologic connectivity, wildlife corridor connectivity, water quality, and preservation of stormwater receiving areas that help prevent flooding in local communities.

Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary Stream and Shoreline Restoration

Recipient: Maryland Department of Natural Resources

Federal Funding: \$992,728

Summary: This project will result in the creation of a freshwater tidal marsh living shoreline and the restoration of three headwater streams, coupled with the installation of stormwater best management practices, in the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary—a component of the Maryland Chesapeake Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The shoreline work will protect the property from erosion and enhance resilience to sea level rise and climate hazards. Project work will also significantly reduce the amount of sediment and nutrient pollution going into Chesapeake Bay.

Creating a Multi-Beneficial Stormwater Park Using Nature-Based Solutions

Recipient: Mississippi Department of Marine Resources

Federal Funding: \$319,730

Summary: This project will focus on the development of a community stormwater park that will reduce flooding and nonpoint source pollution for the community of Moss Point. Funding will be used to determine the feasibility and impact of a stormwater park; create a maintenance plan; create designs that prioritize diversity, inclusion, and community engagement; and promote activities to create a “shovel-ready” project.

Wasson Creek Watershed Ridgetop-to-Estuary Restoration Project

Recipient: Oregon Department of State Lands

Federal Funding: \$3,535,900

Summary: This project will restore the ecological health of and cultural connections with the Wasson Creek watershed in the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, resulting in more resilient wetlands, streams, tidal forested swamps, and upland forest habitats. These restored systems will provide habitat for ecologically and culturally important fish species, have significant blue carbon storage benefits, support sustainable harvesting for Indigenous cultural practices, and provide a seed source for local restoration projects.

Improving Coastal Wetland Resilience within the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve

Recipient: Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management

Federal Funding: \$199,959

Summary: This project will address sea level rise impacts by supporting the design and permitting of projects that protect important coastal wetland habitats within the Narragansett Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The development of construction plans, cost estimates, and permit applications for three habitat areas—Coggeshall Marsh, Nag West Marsh, and the T-Wharf Shoreline—will ultimately provide room for the habitat to move upland. The restoration planning will include mitigation measures, such as rerouting coastal roads and removing infrastructure that impedes marsh migration.

A Path Forward; Codesigning Habitat Protection and Restoration and Community Resilience

Recipient: San Francisco University

Federal Funding: \$202,896

Summary: This investment will support planning efforts to restore the marsh at China Camp State Park, part of the San Francisco Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve. The project will ultimately reconnect tidal and watershed hydrology to improve ecological functions, as well as to maintain access to the park for recreation, education, subsistence fishing, and tribal and Chinese cultural practices.

Improving the Resilience of Salt Marsh Ecosystems within the ACE Basin through the Creation of Intertidal Oyster Reef Habitat

Recipient: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

Federal Funding: \$620,313

Summary: This project will address salt marsh erosion and habitat loss, and generate essential fish habitat, by creating intertidal oyster reefs within the ACE Basin National Estuarine Research Reserve. The project will also promote salt marsh stewardship by engaging various stakeholder groups, including the use of volunteers, in the project implementation efforts.

Protection and Restoration of a Bird Nesting Island in Aransas Bay

Recipient: The University of Texas at Austin

Federal Funding: \$4,000,000

Summary: This project will protect and restore a three-acre island in Aransas Bay that provides critical nesting habitat for hundreds of pairs of colonial nesting waterbirds, such as pelicans and egrets, important to the ecological resilience of the bay. The project will also support the recruitment and growth of oyster larvae, resulting in the development of an oyster reef complex that will create habitat for recreationally and commercial fish species.

Padilla Bay Samish Conservation Area Protection Project

Recipient: Washington State Department of Ecology

Federal Funding: \$2,332,854

Summary: This project, which will allow Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve to protect and restore 74.5 acres of former and current tidal marsh, is part of a larger overall effort to restore up to 105 acres of tidal marsh to Padilla Bay. The project will increase climate resilience by reducing flood risk for the only road and utility corridor that services the Samish Island community. The project will also restore tribal cultural connections with the site, which is near an important historical longhouse location. Access to the area, and the natural resources that once flourished on the site, will be restored.

Establishing Regional Restoration Visions and Identifying Projects within the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership Region

Recipient: The Board of Regents of the University of Wisconsin System

Federal Funding: \$350,047

Summary: This project will develop detailed, actionable habitat restoration visions for congruent geographic regions within the St. Louis River Estuary, with guidance from a diverse and participatory group of stakeholders. The work will be led by the Minnesota Land Trust through the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership, a consortium of federal, tribal, state, county, municipal, and community partners working to implement sustainable, landscape-level conservation in the headwaters of Lake Superior.