Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund

OVERVIEW
Hurricanes Michael and Florence, Typhoon Yutu, and the coastal wildfires of 2018 caused more than $50 billion in damage and severely degraded a range of wildlife habitats. Congress provided funding under the Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2019 (P.L. 116-20), allowing grants to be awarded through a partnership between NFWF and NOAA. NFWF’s Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund was launched in August 2019, two months after Congress passed the emergency supplemental appropriations bill, to support natural and nature-based infrastructure that will help impacted communities and wildlife recover and be better prepared for future events.

The following 27 projects address two priorities: 1) building coastal resilience through restoration and enhancement; and 2) addressing design and engineering barriers to coastal resilience. This slate represents more than $43 million in grant funding, which has been further leveraged by more than $54.7 million from other sources to generate a total conservation impact of nearly $98 million. These projects will use nature-based infrastructure such as living shorelines, wetlands, dunes, coastal forests, floodplain habitat, and coral reefs to achieve the dual benefits of improving human community resilience while also improving the ecological integrity of coastal ecosystems and enhancing fish and wildlife habitats.

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ALABAMA
Dauphin Island Causeway Shoreline and Habitat Restoration Project (AL)
Grantee: Mobile County Commission
Grant Amount: .................................................. $4,900,000
Matching Funds: ............................................ $10,862,000
Total: ................................................................. $15,762,000
Complete design and implementation for breakwater and a coastal marsh in Mobile Bay on the east side of the Dauphin Island Causeway. Project will create and protect critical coastal marsh habitat and reduce the vulnerability of the only emergency/hurricane evacuation route between the mainland of south Mobile County and Dauphin Island.

CALIFORNIA
Santa Monica Mountains Woolsey Fire Recovery and Adaptation Program (CA)
Grantee: Conservation Biology Institute
Grant Amount: ................................................. $2,500,000
Matching Funds: ................................................. $2,500,000
Total: ................................................................. $5,000,000
Create a comprehensive fire prevention program for the region, focusing on homeowner outreach and education, in addition to conserving and restoring plant and wildlife habitat functions by improving homeowner practices and reestablishing native oaks in critical locations. Project will leverage prior and ongoing planning efforts to achieve more sustainable and resilient approaches to wildfire management in the Santa Monica Mountains region.

Comprehensive Community-Based Debris Flow Mitigation and Habitat Restoration (CA)
Grantee: Santa Barbara Foundation
Grant Amount: ............................................... $2,477,273
Matching Funds: .............................................. $5,995,902
Total: ................................................................. $8,473,175
Mitigate future flood impacts from debris flows and improve steelhead trout migration and habitat by removing passage barriers and restoring riparian areas. Project will excavate debris from ring nets, increase debris basin capacity, remove fish barriers, improve native riparian canopy and work with the community to increase awareness of the interconnectedness of watershed functions and flooding.

FLORIDA
Franklin County Living Shoreline (FL)
Grantee: Apalachee Regional Planning Council
Grant Amount: ............................................... $7,444,000
Matching Funds: .............................................. $8,230,000
Total: ................................................................. $15,674,000
Install nearshore reefs to reduce wave energy and allow the creation of expansive intertidal salt marshes to protect 12 miles of shoreline and Highway 98. Project will improve Apalachicola Bay’s health and productivity with anticipated benefits to include 12 miles of shoreline habitat improved and roadway protected, 30 acres of intertidal marsh created, 20 acres of estuarine reef created, and almost 3,000 community residents benefited.

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St. Joseph Peninsula Dune Habitat Enhancement Project (FL)
Grantee: Gulf County Board of County Commissioners
Grant Amount: $3,700,000
Matching Funds: $1,300,000
Total: $5,000,000
Restore 3 miles of shoreline on St. Joseph Peninsula through sand and vegetation restoration. Project will provide coastal resilience by increasing the stability and longevity of the beach sand and encouraging additional dune growth through trapping wind-blown sand, increasing storm protection, and promoting wildlife protection and increasing habitat.

Raffield Peninsula Restoration (FL)
Grantee: Bay County Board of County Commissioners
Grant Amount: $2,951,645
Matching Funds: $3,030,000
Total: $5,981,645
Restore Raffield Peninsula through primary dune habitat restoration, mud-flat/salt pan creation, and vegetation management. Project will provide over 50 acres of wildlife habitat and added protection to U.S. Highway 98.

Veterans Park Living Shoreline, Erosion Control and Habitat Restoration (FL)
Grantee: Okaloosa County
Grant Amount: $1,500,000
Matching Funds: $1,500,000
Total: $3,000,000
Install a living shoreline to protect over 2,200 linear feet of shoreline at Veterans Park on Choctawhatchee Bay. Project will reduce the impact of wave energy and provide oyster habitat, a seagrass recruitment area, and a salt marsh shelf.

Coastal Dune Lake Hydrologic Restoration (FL)
Grantee: Walton County, Florida
Grant Amount: $1,224,604
Matching Funds: $1,175,396
Total: $2,400,000
Remove two old and dilapidated culverts vulnerable to catastrophic weather events under County Road 30A and replace them with bridges on two coastal dune lakes. Project will restore the connection and circulation of the lakes and improve the lake community and adjacent ecosystems.

City of Mexico Beach Wetland Restoration and Dune Installation (FL)
Grantee: City of Mexico Beach
Grant Amount: $335,908
Matching Funds: $3,736,000
Total: $4,071,908
Restore 45 acres of wetlands to address flood control, water quality and habitat restoration, and complete design of a beach dune to protect against storm surge and establish beach vegetation habitat for the benefit of species. Project will conduct planning, design and permitting required to get the project construction-ready and implement wetland restoration.

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**Okaloosa Island Dune Restoration and Enhancement (FL)**  
Grantee: Okaloosa County  
Grant Amount: $60,000  
Matching Funds: $60,000  
**Total:** $120,000  
Install sand fencing and plant native vegetation across a three-mile stretch on Okaloosa Island. Project will reestablish the sand dunes to mitigate lost habitat and create additional habitat and the native vegetation will help stabilize the dunes especially during major storm events.

**NORTH CAROLINA**

**Protecting Education Infrastructure, Critical State Roadways and Estuarine Habitats with Living Shorelines (NC)**  
Grantee: North Carolina Coastal Federation, Inc.  
Grant Amount: $2,719,349  
Matching Funds: $2,894,489  
**Total:** $5,613,838  
Install three large living shorelines that will protect important community infrastructure as well as restore and protect vital salt marsh and oyster habitat in Bogue Sound and the White Oak River. Project will result in a total of 3,518 linear feet of saltwater marsh living shorelines, protecting and restoring a total of over 23 acres of salt marsh, oyster and upland habitat.

**Brunswick Town Fort Anderson Shoreline Restoration (NC)**  
Grantee: N.C. Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
Grant Amount: $2,002,500  
Matching Funds: $1,516,669  
**Total:** $3,519,169  
Install a living shoreline to protect 1,000 linear feet along the Brunswick Town/Ft. Anderson State Historic Site by attenuating wave action and mitigating erosion. Project will protect and provide salt marsh and oyster habitat, and safeguard the site’s historical resources.

**Building Adaptive Shorelines for Resilient Coastal Communities (NC)**  
Grantee: Carteret County Shore Protection Office  
Grant Amount: $1,513,500  
Matching Funds: $1,514,941  
**Total:** $3,028,441  
Construct living shorelines to naturally stabilize and protect 3,800 linear feet of eroding estuarine shorelines at two important project sites within Carteret County. Project will enable the communities of Beaufort and Down East to enhance existing resilient infrastructure, and protect important fish, shellfish, submerged aquatic vegetation habitat and the largest colony of nesting royal terns in North Carolina.

**Clear Run Branch Drainage Improvement and Stream Restoration (NC)**  
Grantee: City of Wilmington, North Carolina  
Grant Amount: $1,410,345  
Matching Funds: $4,500,000  
**Total:** $5,910,345  
Construct a stable stream channel that can safely accommodate high flows from upstream development during storms and alleviate flooding along the channel. Project will improve wildlife habitat and decrease flood risk through stream and floodplain restoration or enhancement of 7.5 acres of floodplain habitat and 5,900 feet of stream channel.

**Shoreline Restoration and Tidal Wetland Creation at the Battleship North Carolina (NC)**  
Grantee: USS North Carolina Battleship Commission  
Grant Amount: $1,250,000  
Matching Funds: $1,583,931  
**Total:** $2,833,931  
Restore 800 linear feet of estuarine intertidal shoreline and create approximately 2 acres of intertidal estuarine marsh.

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habitat within a North Carolina Significant Natural Heritage Area. Project will remove and reconnect 2 acres of existing parking lot to the Cape Fear River, resulting in 2 acres of tidal wetland creation to build resilience.

**Overcoming Local Barriers to Implementation and Getting to Shovel Readiness (NC)**
Grantee: NC Dept of Environmental Quality
Grant Amount: $1,141,050
Matching Funds: $500,000
**Total**: $1,641,050

Establish an incentive-based state framework which will support comprehensive local community resilience planning and build upon an existing vulnerability assessment and knowledge base that will help strengthen ecosystems at the Rachel Carson Reserve. Project will protect the Town of Beaufort and result in several shovel-ready projects that increase the resilience of natural resources and coastal communities in North Carolina.

**Restoring Pocosin Hydrology to Improve Flood Resiliency and Wildlife Habitat (NC)**
Grantee: The Nature Conservancy
Grant Amount: $820,644
Matching Funds: $248,903
**Total**: $1,069,547

Restore hydrologic conditions across 7,500 acres of drained headwater pocosin wetlands on the southern portion of Angola Bay Game Land. Project will produce a finalized design and install restoration infrastructure that will enable managers to effectively control drainage levels, providing community flood resilience benefits in the Northeast Cape Fear River floodplain while enhancing pocosin wetland habitat.

**Enhancing Aquatic Connectivity Resiliency and Flood Capacity in the Black River Watershed (NC)**
Grantee: Cape Fear Resource Conservation and Development
Grant Amount: $500,000
Matching Funds: $384,011
**Total**: $884,011

Replace two culverts to enhance up to 2 miles of stream habitat within the lower Black River basin to improve aquatic connectivity resiliency and flood capacity for local coastal communities and fish habitat. Project will improve drainage in these areas and decrease the likelihood of overbank flooding and road overtopping during storm events.

**North Duck Village Living Shoreline (NC)**
Grantee: Town of Duck
Grant Amount: $384,011
Matching Funds: $384,011
**Total**: $768,022

Construct 1,100 linear feet of sheetpile sill and restore eroded wetlands along the shoreline of Currituck Sound. Project will create a more resilient coastal edge, improve coastal habitat, and protect the adjacent sidewalk, bike lane and road that serve as the primary transportation artery.

**NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

**Enhancing Wetlands and Corals Resilience in Saipan’s Priority Management Watershed (CNMI)**
Grantee: CNMI Office of Planning and Development
Grant Amount: $1,679,215
Matching Funds: $325,274
**Total**: $2,004,489

Build community resilience in Saipan’s most populated priority management watershed through wetland and coral reef restoration. Project will restore 2.5 acres of wetlands and one acre of coral reefs benefitting over 250 species including endangered as well as economically important species, and establish a pipeline of projects to reduce flooding and pollutant runoff and increase community resiliency.

**Identifying Priority Reef Restoration Sites in Saipan (CNMI)**
Grantee: SymbioSeas
Grant Amount: $250,000
Matching Funds: $225,000
**Total**: $475,000

Develop a framework for identifying and prioritizing candidate sites to implement coral reef restoration in Saipan. Project will assess restoration need, restoration feasibility, and likelihood of short and long-term coral survivorship.

**Shoreline Stabilization and Enhancement Plan for the Beach Road Pathway (CNMI)**
Grantee: Pacific Coastal Research & Planning
Grant Amount: $248,903
Matching Funds: $60,130
**Total**: $309,033

Develop a Shoreline Master Plan for a highly used 6-mile portion of Saipan’s western coast. Project will produce a comprehensive management plan as well as select one project for further development and implementation.

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SOUTH CAROLINA

Church Creek Habitat Restoration and Flood Protection Project (SC)
Grantee: City of Charleston, South Carolina
Grant Amount: $1,345,000
Matching Funds: $1,354,825
Total: $2,699,825
Implement nature-based solutions and green infrastructure to protect critical infrastructure in and around the Church Creek Basin, promote community resilience around the basin and in surrounding communities, and enhance ecosystem services and hydrological function. Project will complete 33 acres of floodplain restoration, 2.5 miles of instream restoration, 28.5 acres of land restoration, and 29.5 acres of wetland restoration.

North Charleston Restoration for Resilience (SC)
Grantee: City of North Charleston
Grant Amount: $200,000
Matching Funds: $100,000
Total: $300,000
Conduct Restoration Master Planning for three waterways, with parallel goals of reducing flood risk and restoring habitat. Project will advance three site-level concepts to 30 percent design and explore the potential for design-build delivery of the projects to be initiated alongside other local efforts.

Informed Scenario Planning For Community-Wide Resilience Strategy Building on Kiawah Island (SC)
Grantee: Kiawah Conservancy
Grant Amount: $125,924
Matching Funds: $153,000
Total: $278,924
Address barriers to coastal resilience by engaging stakeholders within the community to reach a consensus on the use of nature-based solutions to increase resilience to flooding and natural hazards for both human and wildlife communities. Project will engage stakeholders in scenario planning, and discuss the use of nature-based solutions within the barrier island community.

Johns Island Restoration Plan to Improve Flood Resiliency (SC)
Grantee: City of Charleston, South Carolina
Grant Amount: $117,500
Matching Funds: $117,500
Total: $235,000
Reduce barriers to coastal resilience by producing a preliminary floodplain restoration planning framework that will integrate ecological function to increase the overall resilience of Johns Island’s communities, fish and wildlife. Project will evaluate how and where stream naturalization, floodplain protection and enhancement, wetland restoration/creation, and other nature-based infrastructure can be used to mitigate current and likely future flood risk on the island.

VIRGINIA

Creating Coastal Resiliency through Living Shoreline Strategies (VA)
Grantee: Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission
Grant Amount: $219,410
Matching Funds: $90,968
Total: $310,378
Assist homeowners in Mathews County through the Fight the Flood program to design, permit, install and monitor living shorelines that meet Federal Emergency Management Agency storm event standards. Project will survey locations for living shorelines in targeted locations on the East River and the North River.