



Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund

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ABOUT NFWF

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) works with the public and private sectors to sustain, restore and enhance the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats for current and future generations. Chartered by Congress in 1984, NFWF has grown to become the nation's largest private conservation grant-maker, supporting more than 17,000 projects and generating a total conservation impact of more than \$5.3 billion.

Learn more at www.nfwf.org

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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Flooding caused by Hurricane Florence | Credit South Carolina Air National Guard

OVERVIEW

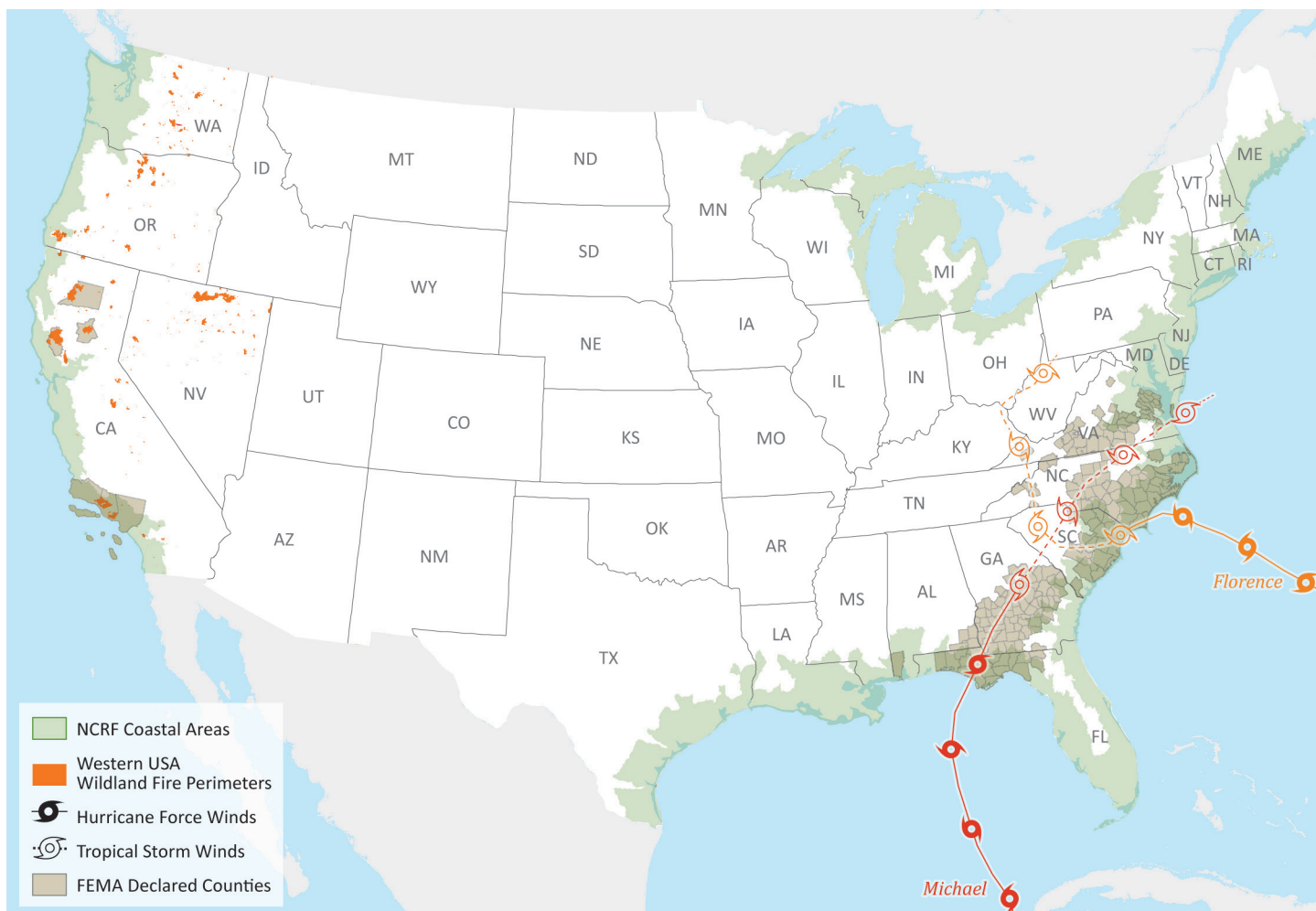
The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), is implementing a new \$48 million emergency grant fund to build resilience for coastal communities impacted by natural disasters in 2018. The fund will target coastal communities within counties declared a disaster by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) as a result of the impacts of Hurricanes Florence and Michael, Typhoon Yutu and catastrophic wildfires. As coastal communities work to rebuild following the devastation caused by these disaster events, the new fund will provide needed funding for projects that protect community assets and restore critical habitats for fish and wildlife.

GOALS AND STRATEGIES

Based on Congressional direction, the Emergency Coastal Resilience Fund will focus primarily on coastal communities located in Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, but also affected counties in Alabama, California, Georgia, Virginia and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), all areas for which a national emergency declaration was made as a result of hurricanes and wildfires in 2018. Projects will be solicited that both:

- Benefit coastal communities by reducing the impact of future storms and associated natural hazards (e.g. coastal storm surge, sea-level rise, wave velocity, flooding, debris flow, stormwater run-off) to properties, community infrastructure (such as schools and municipal buildings), assets of economic importance, and health and safety assets (such as hospitals, evacuation routes, utilities and fire and rescue response); and
- Benefit fish and wildlife by enhancing the ecological integrity and functionality of coastal and inland ecosystems.

(continued)



STRATEGIC INVESTMENTS IN RESILIENCE

Coastal communities face different challenges and have different resilience needs. Grants will be awarded based on the needs and circumstances of each individual region with a priority on projects that:

- Implement design-ready restoration projects that enhance resilience and reduce risks to communities
- Demonstrate the benefits of natural infrastructure to enhance coastal resilience

NFWF will build on significant coordination and planning that has been done by coastal communities in the areas affected by disaster and focus investments on projects that have been prioritized in existing community or regional resilience plans.

To assist communities in identifying promising areas for investment, NFWF and NOAA have developed the Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool (CREST), a new tool to assess social and environmental vulnerability for communities along the U.S. coastline. The focus for CREST

is to help communities identify areas where restoration work will have the greatest benefit for human community resiliency as well as for fish and wildlife habitat.

OUTCOMES-BASED APPROACH

NFWF and its partners are working to help further the understanding of how natural infrastructure can help communities plan for natural disasters. NFWF works with grantees to develop standards in monitoring for impacts so that practices can be compared and evaluated for their resilience benefits under different circumstances. NFWF will proactively work to make these lessons and best practices available to the broader community to support future resilience efforts nationwide.

GRANT AWARD TIMELINE

NFWF expects to announce funding availability and publish a Request for Proposals in August, 2019. Proposals for grants will be due in November and final grant award decisions will be announced in March 2020.