



# National Coastal Resilience Fund

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## PROGRAM PARTNERS

- National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- U.S. Department of Defense
- Shell USA
- Occidental

## ABOUT NFWF

Chartered by Congress in 1984, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) protects and restores the nation's fish, wildlife, plants and habitats. Working with federal, corporate and individual partners, NFWF has funded more than 6,800 organizations and generated a total conservation impact of more than \$10 billion.

Learn more at [www.nfwf.org](http://www.nfwf.org)



Dune preservation

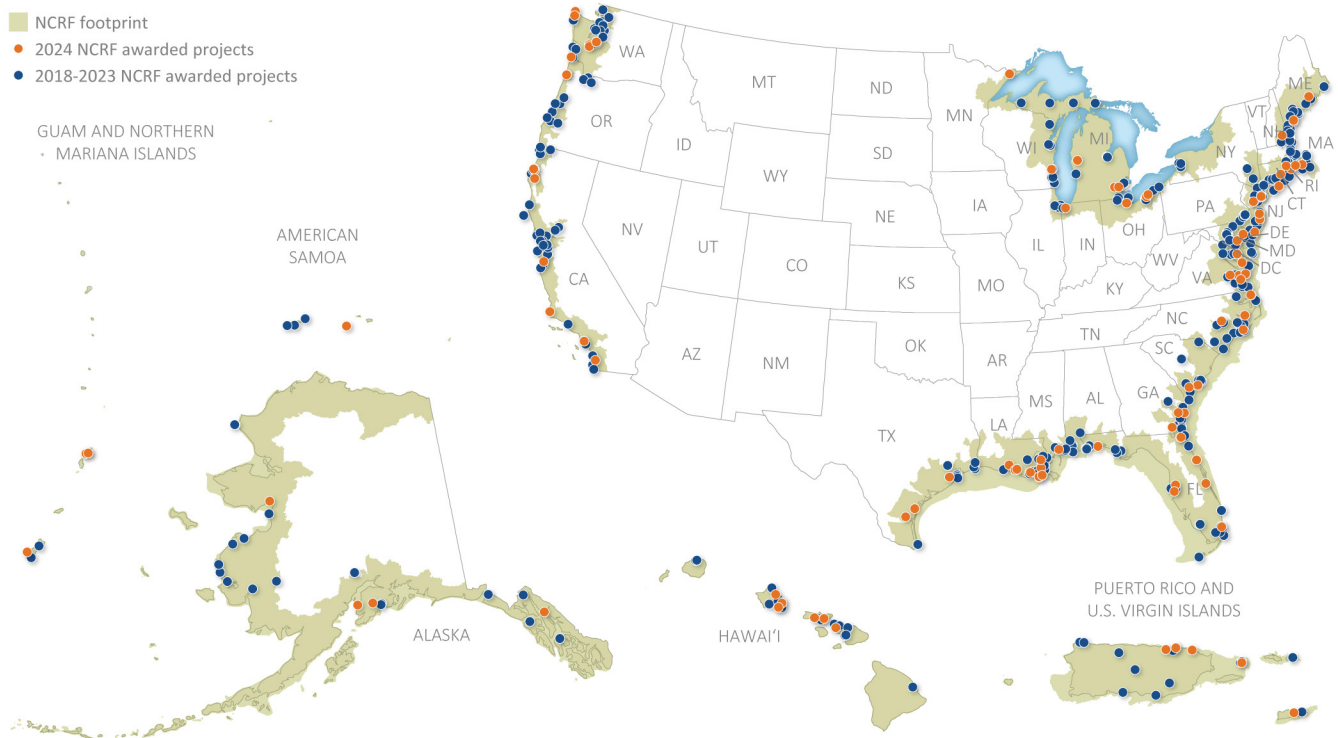
## OVERVIEW

The [National Coastal Resilience Fund \(NCRF\)](#) supports nature-based solutions that enhance the resilience of coastal communities and habitats to address increasing threats from storms, sea and lake level changes, flooding, erosion and other coastal hazards. The NCRF invests in nature-based projects – restoring coastal marshes and forests and coral reefs, reconnecting floodplains, removing fish passage barriers, rebuilding dunes or other natural buffers, or installing living shorelines – to protect communities from coastal hazards and enhance habitats for fish and wildlife.

In 2024, the NCRF awarded \$139 million to 94 competitive grants to support planning, design and implementation of nature-based solutions for coastal resilience. Since its creation in 2018, the NCRF has invested \$616 million to 494 projects, leveraging more than \$596 million in conservation resources for a total conservation impact of \$1.2 billion.

The NCRF is funded by, and coordinated with, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Department of Defense. In 2024, additional funding was contributed by Shell USA and Occidental.

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### NATIONAL PROGRAM MEETING REGIONAL NEEDS

The NCRF is a national program focused on enhancing the resilience of coastal communities across the United States in consideration of differing regional circumstances, needs and priorities. There is no “one-size-fits-all” approach for building community resilience as a changing climate is affecting communities differently. For example, communities in the Southeastern Atlantic and Gulf coasts are experiencing more intense storms and land subsidence, Northeastern and Great Lakes communities are grappling with increasingly heavy rainfall events and stormwater flooding, and communities in Alaska are experiencing thawing permafrost and extreme erosion. To address this regional variation, NFWF is building a diverse portfolio of projects that have been prioritized in state and local resilience plans and are tailored to meet the unique needs of coastal communities in each region.

To meet communities where they are and to build on significant planning and assessment that has already been done in many coastal communities, NFWF uses a “pipeline” approach to fund projects through all stages from planning to implementation. We prioritize projects that:

- Are “restoration-ready” and can be quickly implemented to deliver community resilience and habitat benefits
- Advance planning, site assessment, design and permitting to position at-risk communities for future implementation
- Increase our understanding of innovative nature-based approaches for building resilience and adapting to changing environmental conditions

- Benefit underserved communities and directly engage residents in all stages of project planning, design and implementation

### A SCIENCE AND OUTCOME-BASED APPROACH

NFWF works to ensure that we are funding the most impactful projects by using science to inform our investment decisions and conducting robust evaluation of project outcomes. Through Regional Coastal Resilience Assessments, we identify lands where restoration has the greatest potential for enhancing protection for human communities and improving habitat for fish and wildlife. The public can access these Assessments through the online [Coastal Resilience Evaluation and Siting Tool \(CREST\)](#) and use these tools to select and evaluate sites. These tools are being developed and refined in partnership with NOAA and the University of North Carolina-Asheville’s National Environmental Modeling Analysis Center.

Through monitoring and evaluation, NFWF measures the efficacy of our investments in terms of community resilience and ecological outcomes. This helps build our understanding of the most cost-effective solutions for mitigating risk to coastal systems and communities and helps us refine and improve our grant-making.

Finally, through capacity building and knowledge transfer, we share lessons from NCRF-funded projects with the goal of building community capacity. This furthers our understanding of how nature-based solutions can be effectively deployed to reduce risks to communities, enhance habitats for fish and wildlife, and deliver other ecological benefits.