



INITIATIVE NEWS

The big news this month is that SASMI's regional *NFWF NCRF proposal has been selected for funding!* This award will help build capacity for marsh conservation throughout the four states of the SASMI geography, and it demonstrates the potential of our Coalition to work together on competitive and impactful grant submissions. A big thank you to LegacyWorks Group for leading that effort, to The Pew Charitable Trusts for providing funding, and to all the partners who contributed to its success! Learn more in the article below.



Andy Johnson/Cornell Lab of Ornithology

SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[NFWF and NOAA Announce \\$144 Million in Grants to Support Coastal Resilience Projects.](#) The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and NOAA announced \$144 million in new grants to support natural infrastructure projects in 31 coastal states and U.S. territories. The grants were awarded through the National Coastal Resilience Fund (NCRF), which supports capacity building and larger-scale planning, design, and implementation projects to help improve community and coastal habitat resilience and reduce risks and devastating impacts of rising seas, coastal flooding, and more intense storms. We are thrilled to announce that SASMI's submission, led by LegacyWorks Group and funded by The Pew Charitable Trusts, is among those being awarded! You can find a full [list of projects here](#) and read more about our effort, titled "Building Capacity to Conserve Salt Marsh Habitat within Coastal Communities (NC, SC, GA, FL)," on page 14. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this submission!

[America the Beautiful Challenge Recipients Receive \\$141 Million in Grants.](#) The Department of Defense's (DOD) Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration (REPI) Program is pleased to join the Council on Environmental Quality and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) in announcing over \$141 million in grants through the new America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC). The 74 new grants will support projects that conserve, restore, and connect habitats for wildlife while improving community and installation resilience across 46 states and three U.S. territories. ATBC project locations include Southeastern Sentinel Landscapes (Georgia, Northwest Florida, Avon Park Air Force Range, South Carolina Lowcountry, and Eastern North Carolina – REPI Funds: \$814K), among others. [Learn more about ATBC here.](#)

[New Report Details Ocean Conservation Priorities for America the Beautiful.](#) For years, Tribal and Indigenous communities and other local community leaders have proposed and stewarded conservation actions for our ocean and coasts. This report, published by the National Ocean Protection Coalition, features Tribal, Indigenous, and community-led proposals which provide a unique opportunity to continue addressing the climate crisis and ensure that all people can benefit from an effective, inclusive, and representative system of ocean and coastal protected areas. Access the full report or learn more in this [Storymap](#).

[Morehead City's Sugarloaf Island restoration project begins.](#) Construction of a long-planned project to save Sugarloaf Island, the rapidly eroding, uninhabited barrier island across from the

Morehead City waterfront, is officially underway. Carteret County-based Sandbar Oyster Co. will soon be deploying its oyster tables on the east end of the island. Made of biodegradable hardscape formed in the shape of a table, these are designed to provide a surface for oysters to attach and grow and create an intertidal oyster reef and salt marsh habitat. Coastal Federation Living Shoreline Program Director Dr. Lexia Weaver told Coastal Review that the nonprofit organization is eager to begin construction and that it will not only stabilize the shoreline of Sugarloaf Island and protect downtown Morehead City, but also restore valuable salt marsh and oyster habitats that have been lost through time.

FUNDING REMINDERS

[NOAA 2024 Effects of Sea Level Rise](#)

Providing the scientific foundation for coastal decision making, particularly related to sea level rise and coastal flooding, is key to supporting adaptation and planning for long term coastal resilience. The ESLR Program is soliciting research proposals to evaluate and quantify the ability of nature-based solutions (NBS) to mitigate the effects of sea level rise and inundation (i.e., storm surge, nuisance flooding, and/or wave actions) on coastal communities, ecosystems and infrastructure. The deadline for Letters of Intent for both focus areas is November 13, 2023, and for full applications is **January 24, 2024**. View the [full NOFO here](#).

[Climate Ready Workforce Initiative](#)

Sea Grant and the NOAA Climate Program Office, with support from the NOAA Office of Coastal Management, have opened the Climate Ready Workforce for Coastal States, Tribes, and Territories Initiative funding opportunity. NOAA envisions making between 10-20 awards under this competition, at amounts ranging from \$500,000-\$10 million each, to establish programs aimed at training people for and connecting them with good jobs related to climate resilience and assisting employers in developing a 21st century workforce that is climate literate, informed by climate resilience, and skilled at addressing consequent challenges. Applications are due **February 13, 2024**.

[Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program](#)

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law appropriates billions of dollars to FEMA to promote resilient infrastructure, respond to the impacts of climate change, and equip our nation with the

resources to combat its most pressing threats. It is a once-in-a-generation investment in infrastructure, which will grow a more sustainable, resilient, and equitable economy by enhancing U.S. competitiveness and ensuring stronger access to economic and environmental benefits for disadvantaged communities. The funding priorities for this application cycle are: (1) Capacity and Capability Building (C&CB) Activities, (2) Localized Flood Risk Reduction Projects, and (3) Individual Flood Mitigation Projects. Refer to the full NOFO linked above for more details on supported projects or access the [submission portal here](#). Applications are due **February 29, 2024**.

LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

[Webinar: Community Based Research for Resiliency | December 5, 2023 | Virtual](#)

The SINERR Coastal Training Program provides support and information to elected officials and professionals so they can better manage the coastal resources so vital to their economies and way of life. CTP responds to individuals, businesses and communities by providing information on topics ranging from waste removal systems to shoreline erosion and shellfish habitat. The Coastal Training Program targets the entire coastline of Georgia and partners and collaborates with many agencies and organizations. Webinars are free to attend.

[Webinar: Conservation Finance Opportunities in Sentinel Landscapes | December 6, 2023 | Virtual](#)

Opportunities for conservation finance exist at the intersection of national defense and natural resource management. The Sentinel Landscapes Partnership recognizes that cross-agency collaboration in partnership with local stakeholders can lead to cost-effective conservation outcomes within sentinel landscapes. Join this webinar on December 6, 2023, to learn from the Conservation Finance Network and their partners working in sentinel landscapes on how to use innovative funding and financing approaches to achieve conservation goals.

[Webinar: Climate & Conservation Coffee | December 7, 2023 | Virtual](#)

This climate & conservation coffee is an informal gathering of the landscape conservation and climate change community in the Raleigh, NC area. It began in 2012 as a South Atlantic LCC event, and is now co-hosted by the Southeast Conservation Adaptation Strategy (SECAS) and the Southeast Climate Adaptation Science Center (SE CASC).

MARSH Forward!

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