



## INITIATIVE NEWS

SASMI friends, we need YOU! We are assembling the metrics that will go into our first ever Impact Report later this year, and we are looking for your input on two elements of that: SASMI engagement events and media/communication materials. With our Coalition now totaling more than 400 members, we need your help to capture anything we might have missed. To do that, we have a [simple form with just a few questions](#). Thank you for helping us highlight these efforts!



*Kaitlyn Hackathorn, SCDNR*

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## SASMI PARTNERS' GOOD WORK

[Community Voices in Action: A Framework for Flood Resilience Workshops in a Coastal Community](#). Researchers in Wilmington, North Carolina, held two community workshops where residents and local partners discussed flooding, shared experiences, and suggested ideas for improving safety. Participants expressed strong concern about future flooding, a need for

clearer and timelier information, and interest in staying involved in preparedness efforts. From this, they developed inclusive, trauma-aware principles to help communities and decision-makers collaborate on stronger flood-readiness plans. Read more about that effort and the resulting framework in this article.

[Clarendon Farms donation by Cox Enterprises marks one of the most significant conservation easements in U.S. history.](#) BEAUFORT, SC – March 10, 2026 – Ducks Unlimited (DU) announced that it will steward one of the most significant conservation easements ever recorded in United States history — a monumental conservation achievement made possible by Cox Enterprises and the Cox family. Valued in the hundreds of millions of dollars, this easement sets a new national benchmark for private land stewardship. The nearly 4,400-acre easement permanently protects Clarendon Farms (Clarendon), one of the last major unprotected tracts in rapidly developing Beaufort County, South Carolina. The newly protected acreage includes over 40 miles of river and marsh frontage, nine islands and several hammock islands, and nearly 1,300 acres of upland forest.

[How to find – and fund – the lands that hold corridors together.](#) New research from Florida has produced a method for prioritizing lands for conservation, the statewide Human Modification Index (HMI), which goes well beyond traditional land cover classifications. A combination of high-resolution human pressure mapping, connectivity modeling, biodiversity analysis, and parcel-level economic valuation can be applied to regions facing a familiar set of fundamental challenges: limited conservation dollars, accelerating land conversion, and the need to identify the small fraction of the landscape that holds disproportionate ecological value. This brief article introduces the method and its uses.

## **FUNDING REMINDERS**

### [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities \(BRIC\)](#)

FEMA's Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) program is a Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) grant program that makes federal funds available to states, U.S. territories, federally recognized Tribal Nations, and local governments for hazard mitigation activities. It does so by recognizing the need to upgrade and modernize the nation's infrastructure against the growing risks to communities and the need for natural hazard risk

mitigation activities that promote resilience with respect to natural hazards. Proposals are due **Thursday, July 23.**

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## **LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

### **[Introducing NOAA Coastal Flood Forecast & Monitoring Services | April 23, 2026 | Virtual](#)**

Join the Coastal Inundation Community of Practice on April 23rd for a webinar exploring Coastal Flood Forecast and Monitoring Services used by NOAA's National Weather Service. This presentation will showcase NOAA's publicly available suite of coastal flood prediction tools and services for real-time and near-term flood forecasting. Participants will get an overview of the National Water Prediction Service for visualizing local data, as well as other flood inundation mapping services that coastal decision-makers can use to understand and visualize impacts in their area.

### **[National Adaptation Forum | May 12-14, 2026 | Pittsburgh, PA](#)**

The National Adaptation Forum is a biennial convening for adaptation professionals to innovate, network, and focus on established and emerging climate adaptation issues of the day. The Forum provides opportunities for professional development through training sessions, facilitated presentations and panels, and formal and informal networking sessions. The overall goal of the National Adaptation Forum is to move beyond adaptation awareness into adaptation action by highlighting the breadth of adaptation activities occurring in the United States and around the world.

### **[Climate Change Preparedness Conference and Workshop | May 20-22, 2026 | Las Vegas, NV](#)**

This conference will bring together 300+ senior leaders and experts, including representatives from Native American tribes, local and regional communities, city and county governments, state and federal agencies, NGOs, international organizations, consulting firms, academia, and private industry.

### **[Restore America's Estuaries 2026 Coastal and Estuarine Summit | September 22-25, 2026 | San Francisco, CA](#)**

Restore America's Estuaries (RAE) proudly presents the 2026 Coastal & Estuarine Summit in partnership with Save the Bay (STB) in San Francisco, California. This event will bring together

the coastal restoration and management communities to explore issues, solutions, and lessons learned. The Summit will address all aspects of coastal and estuarine restoration and management, including the Great Lakes and international locales. These topics are crucial as coastal communities pursue new, more robust strategies to manage, protect, and restore their resources in a changing climate and the need to support all community members.

**MARSH Forward!**

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