



NOAA Sea Grant Knauss Coastal Policy Fellowship 2023

Project Title: Nature-Based Solutions Inventory of FEMA Public Assistance Grants

Fellow: Ana Dulskiy

Partners and Funders: FEMA, NOAA

Purpose

This is a one-year fellowship position hosted jointly by CSO and FEMA, overseen by NOAA Sea Grant.

This position serves a critical convening role in the ongoing partnership to more effectively integrate the work of FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Assistance (HMA) Division and the activities of CSO.

The fellow is responsible for serving as the staff lead for the Coastal Hazards Planning and Adaptation Work Group, which organizes CSO members around coastal hazards, mitigation funding, climate adaptation, and resilience planning issues.

For 2023, the fellow is leading a project to inventory and assess FEMA's nature-based solutions (NBS) policies and applicant funding proposals for the post-disaster Public Assistance (PA) program, and to support the FEMA HMA internal NBS working group and interagency efforts to advance the use of NBS for hazard mitigation and risk reduction.

CSO Point of Contact

Ana Dulskiy, Knauss Fellow
adulskiy@coastalstates.org

Approach

Advance the use of NBS for hazard mitigation and risk reduction:

- Use data science techniques to conduct text-based analysis of PA Mitigation funding proposals to identify most common NBS strategies funded through PA.
 - Create graphics to visualize trends in NBS project funding across time, regions, and states.
 - Identify gaps in NBS project funding and potential policy solutions to reduce barriers.
 - Develop case studies to support future applicants in funding NBS projects with PA Mitigation funding.
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Project Status

Analysis of PA Mitigation applicant proposals and data visualization is nearing completion. Work is being done to identify projects for case study development, and information is being shared regularly with the HMA NBS working group. The remainder of the fellowship will be dedicated to:

- 1) Finalizing data analysis and visualization,
- 2) Developing case studies, with the intention of contributing to HMA-wide resources currently in development by members of the NBS working group, and
- 3) Presenting findings to partners.