

HURRICANE HARVEY: TX/LA REFUGES SUFFER REAL PROPERTY DAMAGES OF \$336 MILLION



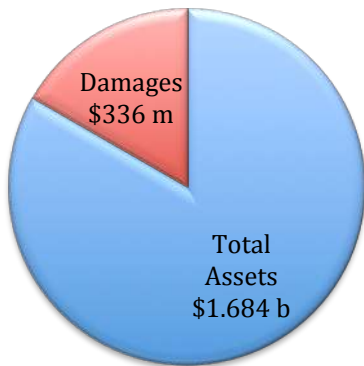
CARE REQUESTS A MINIMUM OF \$336 MILLION TO BEGIN REPAIRS TO REAL PROPERTY

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is still assessing damages to the wildlife refuges along the coasts of Texas and Louisiana. There are no estimates available yet for habitat recovery, but we have preliminary information on real property damages.

The total value of all real property assets at these 14 refuges is **\$1.684 billion**. Based on assessments from previous hurricanes and floods, we estimate that roughly **20%** of all assets have been damaged, or **\$336 million**. The entire Refuge System O&M budget is **\$484 million** each year, and there is no possible way for the Service to absorb these costs.

This request does not take into account any costs needed to restore habitat or create resiliency for these refuges into the future. There will be millions more in damages to habitat and species.

- Real Property Assets in Harvey Impact Zone:**
- 221 buildings
 - 12 visitor centers
 - 48 boat launches, piers, etc
 - 389 miles of levees
 - 91 miles of trails
 - 876 lane miles of road
 - 14 bridges
 - 5 dams
 - 225 outdoor recreation assets



Total Damages to Real Property



Photo courtesy of USFWS Southwest Region

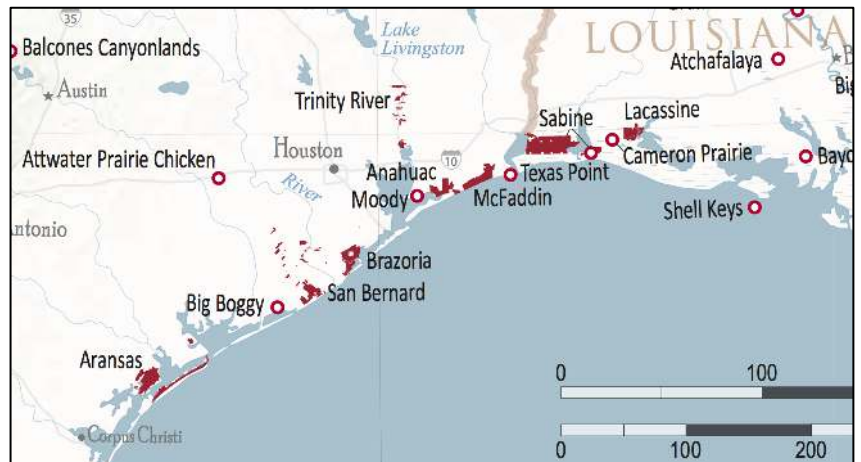
The 14 Refuges Affected:

Texas Refuges—

- Aransas NWR
- Big Boggy NWR
- Attwater Prairie Chicken NWR
- San Bernard NWR
- Brazoria NWR
- Moody NWR
- Anahuac NWR
- Trinity River NWR
- McFaddin NWR
- Texas Point NWR

Louisiana Refuges:

- Sabine NWR
- Cameron Prairie NWR
- Lacassine NWR
- Shell Keys NWR



These 14 refuges welcomed **1.5 million** visitors in FY 2016.

OTHER NATURAL DISASTER AFFECTING TO THE REFUGE SYSTEM:

Western Wildfires:

USFWS is currently fighting fires in the western states of Montana, California, Oregon, and Washington. Montana is suffering the worst of all these states, with 1 million acres burning. The Charles M. Russell NWR, which is located in the center of the dark red area of the Drought Monitor map, already has 1,000 acres on fire.

At the end of July, DOI Secretary Ryan Zinke opened up parts of the Charles M. Russell NWR to ranchers displaced from fires elsewhere in Montana. The refuge, which is 1.1 million acres total, is now threatened itself.

The USFWS has deployed massive resources out west for fire fighting, while at the same time trying to respond to Texas and Louisiana for Harvey recovery and to Florida for Irma recovery. USFWS has sent 200 staff to fight fires, and the National Interagency Fire Center has established a Preparedness Level 5—all hands on deck.

Hurricane Irma:

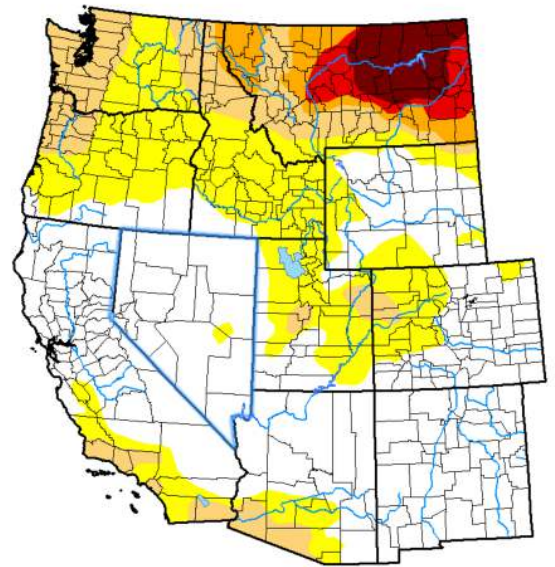
This hurricane season has seen multiple strong hurricanes hit the United States. We are still waiting for damage assessments from Hurricane Irma, but we do know that many of the 8 Puerto Rico and 3 Virgin Island refuges were affected, and there are a total of 45 FWS stations within the trajectory of Irma.



To the left is a photo of a boardwalk damaged at Aransas NWR in Texas. Florida is expected to be heavily affected by Irma, and we anticipate many hundreds of millions of dollars in damages from this storm. Several large, iconic refuges lie directly in the path of Hurricane Irma or could suffer from storm surge, including Key Deer NWR in the Florida Keys, Loxahatchee NWR, J.N. Ding Darling, and Merritt Island NWR, among many others.

We respectfully request **\$336 million** for repair to real property at the 14 affected refuges along the Texas and Louisiana coast. Unfortunately, we expect further requests for additional Hurricane Harvey damages, as well as fire damages and recovery from Hurricane Irma.

U.S. Drought Monitor, As of 9/5/17



Members of the Cooperative Alliance for Refuge Enhancement:

American Birding Association
American Fisheries Society
American Sportfishing Association
Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation
Defenders of Wildlife
Ducks Unlimited, Inc.
Izaak Walton League of America
Marine Conservation Institute
National Audubon Society
National Rifle Association
National Wildlife Federation

National Wildlife Refuge Association
Safari Club International
The Corps Network
The Nature Conservancy
The Wilderness Society
The Wildlife Society
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership
Trout Unlimited
U.S. Sportsmen's Alliance
Wildlife Forever
Wildlife Management Institute

**Please contact Caroline Brouwer with questions at cbrouwer@refugeassociation.org or 202-420-9625