



INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Preparing Georgia Parks for the Future

Photo: Sea Turtle, Cumberland Island National Seashore

National parks are experiencing more record-setting floods, fires, droughts and disease each year. Irreplaceable objects of cultural significance are at risk of disappearing, and the natural world, which draws millions of visitors who contribute significantly to local economies, is changing.

Work has begun to help parks prepare for the impacts from climate change they cannot avoid. The Inflation Reduction Act is one important source of funding that helps parks plan for hotter temperatures and extreme storms. Currently 100% of the park service's IRA funds have been planned, scheduled and announced across 78 projects. However, nearly twice as many projects were proposed than could be funded with the park service's IRA funding.

These investments support parks and secure the natural heritage of these treasured landscapes for future park visitors. They leverage collaborative approaches through partnerships with youth, conservation organizations and Indigenous communities and work to foster community engagement while ensuring these resources exist for future generations.

Control Feral Swine to Protect Natural and Cultural Resources in the Southeast and Texas Parks

GA NPS Sites: *Cumberland Island National Seashore*

Project Type: *Restoration-Invasive Species*

Investment: *\$3.5M*

Feral swine have significantly threatened natural and cultural resources across more than 40 Southeast United States National Parks. Feral swine is an invasive species that damages ecosystems, disrupts cultural sites, and impacts protected species, particularly sea turtles at Cumberland Island National Seashore. Funding provided by the Inflation Reduction Act focuses on finding and removing as many feral swine as possible to prevent these animals from completely wiping out sea turtle nests. Cumberland Islands feral swine controls have dropped the feral swine population from over 1,000 animals to 200 or fewer across the 36,000-acre park. Due to this funding and action, about 1,000 sea turtle nests are now on the 17-mile park beach. However, the park could quickly lose all progress with a reduction or removal in funding to support feral swine removal. At Canaveral National Seashore, the funding lapsed for feral swine control, and 300 sea turtle nests were lost as the feral swine population revitalized. Without continued funding for managing feral swine, National Seashores may lose their sea turtle populations altogether.

Develop Adaptation Plans for Coastal National Parks that are Highly-Exposed to Sea Level Rise

GA NPS Sites: *To be determined*

Project Type: *Resilience-Climate Change Vulnerability Assessments*

Investment: *\$3.0M*

Rising sea levels due to climate change pose a significant threat to coastal national parks, impacting their facilities, cultural and natural resources, and visitor experiences. To address these challenges, the National Park Service, supported by the Inflation Reduction Act, will leverage climate change vulnerability assessment data to develop adaptation plans for 20+ highly exposed parks in the Northeast and Southeast regions. This project aims to create a systematic adaptation planning rubric to guide parks in classifying assets and prioritizing actions. These strategies will serve as roadmaps for both short- and long-term adaptation actions, ensuring coastal parks remain resilient and sustainable in the face of future climate conditions.

Designing and Implementing Pilot Resiliency Projects at Southeastern Coastal Fortifications

GA NPS Sites: *Fort Pulaski National Monument*

Project Type: *Resilience-Cultural Resources at Risk*

Investment: *\$491,000*

The impact and irreplaceable damage to coastal forts across the southeast has only worsened due to changing coastal climate conditions. These one-of-a-kind historic forts, some dating back to the 17th century, have suffered storm surge damage, structural damage, problems with stormwater drainage, and rising groundwater levels, putting our historic cultural resources at risk of disappearing altogether. Cockspur Island Lighthouse, in Fort Pulaski National Monument, has been fighting erosion for over a decade as sea-level rise accelerates. Through Inflation Reduction Act funding, this project works to preserve these structures in compliance with Section 106 of the National Trust for Historic Preservation Act. This project assesses how changing coastal conditions impact coastal forts' structural integrity, establishes a structural stability investigation protocol, facilitates post-storm recovery, and develops incident resource orders to protect these forts before climate incidents and preserve them after climate disasters. This forward-focused project works to protect these structures now while identifying opportunities for recovery should the worst-case scenario occur. Without this project, these unique historic structures could simply wash away.



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