

VALUING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES FROM SALT MARSH RESTORATION RELATED TO HURRICANE SANDY

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Hurricane Sandy had significant impacts on ecosystem services in the New York and New Jersey area. Restoration work related to Sandy has started and will continue for some time. This presentation will discuss work funded by NOAA to place economic values on restoration and resiliency work using work being performed at the Forsythe National Wildlife Refuge (FNWR) as a case study. The FNWR work involves both thin layer placement of sediment to raise marsh elevation and tidal flow restoration work. This project involved developing a choice experiment survey and implementing the survey in the New Jersey area. The presentation will discuss the design of the project, the results from the project and the implications of the results to making decisions on future restoration work. Although the project focuses on restoration from Sandy, the use of a choice experiment will allow for broader application of the results. Choice experiments allow for assessing the economic trade-offs that people make between different levels and types of ecosystem services. Thus, the study provides estimates for the value of the specific restoration work being performed at Forsythe, but also provides information that can be used to inform future restoration decisions.