



Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads Program

FEDERAL LANDS TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM FACT SHEET

Natural disasters such as floods, storms, wildfires, and hurricanes frequently impact transportation infrastructure in national parks. The National Park Service (NPS) works in partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to secure funding that can be used to repair federally owned roads, bridges, and other transportation infrastructure.

Supporting NPS Disaster Recovery for Transportation Infrastructure

The Emergency Relief for Federally Owned Roads Program (ERFO) assists the National Park Service with the repair or reconstruction of federal roads and infrastructure with serious damage from a natural disaster or from a catastrophic failure. ERFO program funding can supplement repairs to restore National Park Service federally owned transportation facilities (e.g., public highway, road, bridge, trail, or transit system). ERFO provides \$100 million in funding for all federal land management agencies annually. From 2015 to 2020, the National Park Service received ERFO reimbursement funding for 21 disasters across 16 states, in urban, suburban, and rural areas, totaling \$47.5M.

ERFO funds are provided by FHWA - Federal Lands Highway, and have three funding criteria:

- » the National Park Service must own the land where the damage occurred,
- » the land must be open for use by the public, and
- » at least \$700,000 worth of damage must have occurred per disaster.

Following a natural disaster, National Park Service transportation facilities must be assessed for damages. Park managers work with their regional Federal Lands Transportation Program coordinator to consider ERFO eligibility. If the combined damages are less than \$700,000, agencies must pay for the repairs with their own funds. If the damage exceeds \$700,000, the National Park Service can apply to Federal Highway Lands for funding. National Park Service ERFO applications can be combined with other Federal Land Management Agencies to meet the \$700,000 threshold.

Find out more about ERFO at <https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/erfo>.

Access to and within the National Park System has been a defining experience for generations of visitors. The National Park Service coordinates the planning and implementation of transportation systems that improve the visitor experience and care for national parks by: **1) Preserving natural and cultural resources** **2) Enhancing visitor safety and security** **3) Protecting plant and animal species** **4) Reducing congestion** **5) Decreasing pollution.**

By partnering with FHWA, parks can assess damage quickly and receive financial assistance for repairs to critical federal transportation facilities. For example, Hurricane Sandy was especially destructive for northeastern national parks in 2012. The partnership between the National Park Service and FHWA enabled quick completion of damage surveys, approval, and transfer of ERFO funds to expedite recovery work.

Cape Lookout National Seashore Dock on Shackleford Banks Island

Cape Lookout National Seashore in North Carolina stretches 56 miles and promotes family recreation with activities such as surf fishing, wild horses, birds, and shipwrecks. In 2018, Hurricane Michael made landfall in the Florida panhandle and maintained destructive power throughout the Southeastern United States to include North Carolina. Damage occurred in many locations along the hurricane's path and the images below show a Shackleford Banks pier that was completely washed away and required ERFO funding to repair.



Shackleford Banks pier destroyed by Hurricane Michael in 2018.



Repaired Shackleford Banks pier side view following Hurricane Michael.



The reconstructed Shackleford Banks pier in 2019. (NPS Photos)

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park

Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park contains some of the most unique geological, biological, and cultural landscapes on the planet. Extending high above the land are two of the most active volcanoes in the world, Kilauea and Mauna Loa. In April of 2018, the US Geological Survey issued Volcanic Alert Notifications related to instability beneath the Kilauea Volcano. Lava flows east of the park opened new fissures causing significant deformation of the ground surface within the park. Within two months, there had been 26 earthquakes over magnitudes of 5.0. Multiple sites were identified and assessed for ERFO funding assistance related to this period of volcanic activity. The National Park Service and FHWA collaborated to apply for \$4.7 million dollars to repair the damage. The work included removal of undermined, heaved, and broken concrete pavement road sections.



Damage at the Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park following Kilauea activity in 2018.



Deformation at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park.



Damage assessment and safety perimeter at Hawai'i Volcanoes National Park. (NPS Photos)