

## SC RECOVERY PLAN - ANNEX 6

### NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES RECOVERY SUPPORT FUNCTION

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**COORDINATING:** SC Department of Archives and History, State Historic Preservation Office; SC Department of Natural Resources, Heritage Trust Program

**PRIMARY:** SC Department of Agriculture; SC Department of Archives and History, Archives and Records Management; SC Department of Health and Environmental Control; SC Department of Natural Resources; SC Emergency Management Division; SC Forestry Commission; SC Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, Office of the State Archeologist; SC Parks, Recreation and Tourism

**SUPPORTING:** Palmetto Archives, Libraries & Museums Council on Preservation; SC Historical Society; SC State Library

#### I. INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Support Function (RSF) is to protect natural and cultural resources and historic properties through appropriate planning, mitigation, response, and recovery actions to preserve, conserve, rehabilitate, restore, salvage, and stabilize them consistent with post disaster community priorities and best practices and in compliance with applicable environmental and historic preservation laws and Executive orders.

South Carolina's RSF framework is designed to foster coordination between stakeholders and improve access to resources during short-term, intermediate, and long-term recovery. The Natural and Cultural Resources RSF annex outlines processes for supporting local recovery priorities and completing critical tasks identified in the South Carolina Recovery Plan. This annex is not intended to replace or supersede recovery activities, roles and responsibilities, or program rules of Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) described in the South Carolina Emergency Operations Plan (SCEOP) or individual agencies.

#### II. PURPOSE

- A. Describe processes through which RSF members coordinate to identify state recovery priorities and implement solutions to support local recovery efforts.
- B. Identify resources available for natural and cultural resource recovery and outline processes for coordinating recovery resources across federal, state, non-governmental, and private sector organizations.

#### III. ASSUMPTIONS

- A. The activities and responsibilities contained within this RSF relate to the jurisdictional responsibilities of the listed RSF agencies and may not reflect all the cultural, artistic, historic, and natural resources recovery actions at different jurisdictional levels. This RSF is intended to be flexible and scalable depending on

the incident magnitude, resource needs, and to account for additional entities that may indirectly support this RSF.

- B. Local and tribal governments are the primary decision makers driving community recovery.
- C. State and Federal assistance may be constrained based on the magnitude and scope of a disaster.
- D. Statutory, regulatory, and policy issues may contribute to gaps, inconsistencies, and unmet needs during recovery.
- E. Challenges to recovery can stem from a lack of capabilities and resources required to conduct outcome-based recovery planning.
- F. Deviation from the operational concepts identified in this plan may be necessary based on the environment or conditions.

#### **IV. CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS**

- A. The Natural and Cultural Resources RSF is active in all phases of disaster management to prepare for and execute the recovery mission.
- B. Mobilization
  - 1. Immediately following most disasters, South Carolina Emergency Management Division (SCEMD) in its role as the coordinating agency of ESF-14 schedules a SC Recovery Task Force conference call to establish a common operating picture, discuss emerging local needs, and identify key recovery resources.
  - 2. During response and short-term recovery, ESF-14 coordinates with the State Coordinating Officer (SCO), South Carolina Department of Archives and History (SCDAH), and South Carolina Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) to mobilize the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF. State RSFs are generally mobilized when it becomes apparent recovery activities will require enhanced coordination among state agencies. Circumstances that may warrant mobilizing the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF include:
    - a. Damage to significant buildings, sites, structures, districts, landscapes, and traditional cultural places, or natural resources.
    - b. Damage in areas with high concentrations of objects, sites, records, manuscripts, photographs, other materials illustrative of the cultural, artistic, and natural history of South Carolina and the United States.

- c. Requests for assistance from natural and cultural resource managers that exceed the capabilities or resources of individual agencies or organizations.
  3. When the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF mobilizes, SCDAH and SCDNR coordinate communication among the RSF coordinating, primary, and supporting agencies. RSF members collaborate to share information, identify natural and cultural resource recovery priorities, coordinate resources and program delivery, and support solutions to local recovery needs.
  4. Throughout recovery, SCEMD supports State RSFs and organizes SC Recovery Task Force meetings to facilitate communication among RSFs.
  - 5.
  6. As recovery progresses, SCDAH and SCDNR determine when the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF demobilizes. Demobilization occurs when interagency recovery coordination is sufficiently covered by steady state activities and regularly scheduled SC Recovery Task Force meetings.
- C. Information collection and analysis
  1. Following a disaster, the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF gathers information from various sources, including but not limited to ESFs (e.g., ESF-4, ESF-10, ESF-14), SC Recovery Task Force members, federal partners (e.g., Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI), the Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF)), and local networks of natural and cultural resource partners.
  2. Once mobilized, the RSF shares information among participating organizations via conference calls, email or other platforms. The agency responsible for organizing information and coordinating communications may vary based on the nature of the disaster and impacts to natural and cultural resources.
  3. The RSF prioritizes collecting the following Essential Elements of Information (EEI), which may be adjusted to fit the needs of the incident.
    - a. Impacts to artistic, cultural, and historic resources (e.g., objects, sites, records, manuscripts, photographs, and other materials illustrative of the cultural, artistic and natural history of this state and the facilities that support them).
    - b. Impacts to buildings, sites, structures, districts, landscapes, and traditional cultural places that are listed in or eligible for the

- National Register of Historic Places and/or have attained a local designation as historically significant.
- c. Impacts to resources that have artistic, cultural, and historic significance to Native American tribes, as determined by tribal communities.
  - d. Impacts to natural resources (e.g., forestry, waterways).
  - e. Cascading impacts to the environment and remedial measures (e.g., post-wildfire debris flows that may require additional stream gauge monitoring).
  - f. Requests for assistance from jurisdictions, and public and private entities related to artistic, cultural, and historic resources, and natural resources.
  - g. Preventive measures to reduce impacts to artistic, cultural, and historic resources, especially during debris clearing activities.
  - h. Environmental hazards impacting artistic, cultural, and historic resources and containment and remedial measures.
  - i. Applicable restoration or salvage methods for impacted artistic, cultural, and historic resources, and natural resources.
  - j. Opportunities to coordinate damage assessments and restoration projects with other RSFs, particularly infrastructure and housing.
4. State RSF members work collaboratively to analyze the information and develop state recovery priorities in the areas of natural and cultural resources. The recovery priorities developed by the RSF are shared with the Recovery Executive Group, which helps refine priorities, develop strategic objectives, and identify metrics for measuring success.
  5. RSF members work collaboratively, as needed, to request and deliver recovery resources that address identified priorities. Resources include those described in Attachment A and additional resources that may become available post disaster.
  6. The RSF may need to provide information to the public about natural and cultural resource recovery. Potential public information topics include instructions for reporting damages to historic properties and the availability of federal recovery resources. Public information related to a disaster is coordinated through ESF-15 and the Joint Information Center (JIC), if activated.

D. Coordination with federal and regional partners

1. The Federal Natural and Cultural Resources RSF, coordinated by DOI, may provide financial and technical assistance after a disaster. The State Natural and Cultural Resources RSF integrates vertically with the Federal Natural and Cultural Resources RSF, if activated.
  2. Resources available from federal and regional partners are found in Attachment(s) A (and B).
- E. Coordination with local partners
1. Recovery is locally driven. Recovery activities begin and end at the local level.
  2. If a community does not have a local Natural and Cultural Resources RSF or equivalent coordinating body, the State Natural and Cultural Resources RSF works with local leadership, emergency managers, and natural and cultural resource partners to assess damages, identify priorities, and develop strategies for recovery.

## **V. RSF ACTIONS**

### **A. Preparedness**

1. Support plans and projects to maintain the health and protection of natural and cultural resources.
2. Engage in predisaster recovery planning. Actions include:
  - a. Identify critical natural and cultural resources throughout South Carolina and assess threats from hazards.
  - b. Identify and maintain contact information for RSF coordinating, primary, and supporting agencies.
  - c. Identify resources (funding, technical assistance, data, supplies, etc.) to assist natural and cultural resource managers in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from disasters.
  - d. Identify strategies that may be used during response and recovery to stabilize, protect, and restore natural and cultural resources.
3. Ensure methods for communicating with the public about natural and cultural resources are interoperable, redundant, and appropriate for diverse communities.
4. Organize and publicize trainings for guardians of natural and cultural resources and the general public. Provide opportunities to review disaster

recovery procedures and supplies with natural and cultural resource managers.

**B. Response**

1. Coordinate with ESF-14 (Initial Recovery and Mitigation) and support additional ESFs in response activities as needed.
2. Assist natural and cultural resource managers in responding to emergencies. Examples of include:
  - a. Identify loaned collections within impacted cultural institutions.
  - b. Stabilize culturally-significant organic materials (i.e., paper, leather, fur, textiles).

**C. Short-Term Recovery**

1. Support ESFs in recovery activities (e.g., debris removal, damage assessments) by providing expertise on natural and cultural resource protections and compliance with environmental planning and historic preservation requirements.
2. Coordinate with ESF-14 to mobilize the Natural and Cultural Resources RSF. Synchronize natural and cultural resource recovery activities with additional RSFs on the South Carolina Recovery Task Force.
3. Conduct and assist in preliminary assessments of the impacts to natural and cultural resources.
4. Work to direct supplies, volunteers, and other resources to stabilize natural and cultural resources.
5. Identify stabilization, protection, and mitigation measures that need to be in place through recovery.
6. Work with local governments and impacted communities to assess and address capacity gaps for the recovery of natural and cultural resources.
7. Facilitate the extension of expertise to communities so considerations related to the management and protection of natural and cultural resources, as well as compliance with environmental planning and historic preservation requirements, are incorporated into intermediate and long-term community recovery efforts.

**D. Intermediate Recovery**

1. Support development of the state's Recovery Support Strategy to establish priorities for RSF activities. Update as required.

2. Conduct intermediate recovery support activities, including:
  - a. Assist local and tribal partners in developing environmental rehabilitation plans.
  - b. Conduct post disaster environmental monitoring activities.
  - c. Develop and implement strategies for remediation of disaster related contamination by hazardous materials.
  - d. Monitor compliance with state and federal environmental regulations.
  - e. Conduct education and outreach efforts related to natural and cultural resource recovery activities.
  - f. Identify locations for long-term protection of cultural resources that can be relocated.
  - g. Plan for and address burnout among recovery teams and decreases in available funding.

E. Long-Term Recovery

1. Continue assessing progress on intermediate recovery activities. Update recovery strategies as needed.
2. Continue providing technical assistance to local communities.
3. Transition RSF activities back to responsible departments to manage through routine operations.

F. Mitigation

1. Integrate strategies to mitigate against adverse impacts from future disasters into recovery strategies.
2. Review, evaluate, and comment on proposed State Hazard Mitigation Plan amendments.

## VI. RESPONSIBILITIES

A. General

1. Facilitate communication and collaboration between RSF agencies and other members of the South Carolina Recovery Task Force.

2. Coordinate efforts to implement natural and cultural resources recovery activities.
  3. Assist with developing and updating natural and cultural resources priorities and strategies in the South Carolina Recovery Support Strategy.
  4. Provide technical assistance and other resources to support local and tribal recovery activities.
- B. SC Department of Archives and History, State Historic Preservation Office
1. Facilitate or provide technical assistance in support of recovery activities to protect, restore, rehabilitate, or minimize impacts to culturally or historically significant sites, buildings, structures, objects, and districts.
  2. Assist federal and state agencies and applicants for such assistance to identify historic properties listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, assess the impact of proposed projects on such properties, and avoid, minimize, or mitigate negative impacts.
  3. Collect information on damages to historic properties via an online damage report form and through communication with stakeholders.
  4. Administer Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund grants through the National Park Service (NPS), if appropriated.
- C. SC Department of Natural Resources, Heritage Trust Program
1. Facilitate or provide technical assistance in support of recovery activities to protect, restore, rehabilitate, or minimize impact to culturally and historically significant sites and objects.
  2. Facilitate or coordinate technical assistance and response to recover and stabilize culturally and historically significant sites and objects at locations that require assistance.
  3. Collect information on damages to archaeological sites, historic properties, and other culturally significant sites via an online damage report form and through communication with stakeholders.
- D. SC Department of Archives and History, Archives and Records Management
1. Facilitate or provide technical assistance in support of recovery activities to protect, restore, rehabilitate, or minimize impacts to historically significant records and manuscripts at the state and local levels.
  2. Provide assistance with identifying and assessing impacts on historically significant records and manuscripts.



3. Collect information on damage to historically significant records and manuscripts via damage report form and through communications with impacted state and local agencies.
- E. SC Department of Natural Resources
1. Provide technical assistance to guide recovery activities to minimize impact to important wildlife areas and species.
  2. Coordinate technical assistance and response to recover and stabilize important wildlife areas and species habitats at locations that require assistance.
  3. Collect information on damages to important wildlife areas and species via an online damage report form.
- F. SC Department of Parks, Recreation & Tourism
1. Coordinate restoration of state parks.
  2. Utilize parks not affected, or minimally affected, by the disaster to stage transitions from response to recovery.
  3. Provide technical assistance through the department's natural resources, engineering, and interpretive sections.
  4. Provide technical assistance to guide recovery activities to minimize impact to culturally or historically significant sites.
  5. Collect economic impact data for South Carolina's tourism industry after a disaster.
  6. Liaise with tourism industry stakeholders.
- G. SC Emergency Management Division
1. Convene the SC Recovery Task Force and facilitate communication across State RSFs throughout recovery.
  2. Work with State RSF coordinating agencies to mobilize RSFs, gather, analyze and disseminate recovery information, identify recovery priorities, and implement solutions to help local communities.
  3. Share Local Initial Damage Assessment (LIDA), Joint Preliminary Damage Assessment (JPDA), and Small Business Administration (SBA) Damage Survey information relevant to natural and cultural resource recovery with State RSF members.

4. Coordinate with State RSFs and federal partners to activate Federal RSFs, communicate state recovery priorities, and channel federal resources to South Carolina's communities throughout recovery.
5. Request and administer the Public Assistance (PA) program and Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) through FEMA.
6. Request and support delivery of Individual Assistance (IA) programs through FEMA and loan assistance through SBA.

**VI. ATTACHMENTS**

- A. Federal and State Resources

**SC RECOVERY PLAN - ANNEX 6**

**ATTACHMENT A: STATE AND FEDERAL RESOURCES**

<b>Program</b>	<b>Eligibility/Stipulations</b>	<b>Action</b>	<b>Cost Share Information</b>	<b>State Agency</b>	<b>Contact</b>
<a href="#"><u>Small Business Administration (SBA) Physical Damage Loans</u></a>	Requires SBA disaster declaration. Declaration thresholds are based on uninsured damages to homes and businesses.	The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) offers low-interest loans to businesses, nonprofits, homeowners, and renters to cover repairs and replacement of physical assets damaged during a disaster.	N/A	SCEMD	
<a href="#"><u>Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program</u></a>	Requires presidential disaster declaration for PA.	The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) PA grant program reimburses a portion of money eligible applicants spend on debris removal, emergency protective measures, and the repair/restoration of public infrastructure damaged during a disaster. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, and certain private non-profit (PNP) organizations that serve essential public functions.	75% federal, 25% non-federal	<a href="#"><u>SCEMD</u></a>	PA Mailbox <a href="mailto:PA@emd.sc.gov"><u>PA@emd.sc.gov</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Fire Management Assistance Grant Program (FMAG)</u></a>	Requires federal Fire Management Assistance declaration.	FEMA's FMAG program is available to states, local and tribal governments, for the mitigation, management, and control of fires on publicly or privately owned forests or grasslands, which threaten such destruction as would constitute a major disaster.	75% federal, 25% non-federal	SCEMD	PA Mailbox <a href="mailto:PA@emd.sc.gov"><u>PA@emd.sc.gov</u></a>
<a href="#"><u>Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)</u></a>	Requires presidential disaster declaration. Funding amount is typically 15% of total estimated federal	FEMA's HMGP program is intended to reduce the risk of loss of life and property from future disasters. Applicants do not need to have sustained disaster related damage to apply for HMGP.	75% federal, 25% non-federal	<a href="#"><u>SCEMD</u></a>	Mitigation Mailbox <a href="mailto:Mitigation@emd.sc.gov"><u>Mitigation@emd.sc.gov</u></a>

	assistance for the disaster.				
Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC)	Only available to Local Governments, State Agencies, Special Purpose Districts, and Tribal Governments. National competition submitted through FEMA GO.	The BRIC grant program give states, local communities, tribes and territories funding to address future risks to natural disasters, including ones involving: wildfires, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme heat, and flooding. Addressing these risks helps make communities more resilient.	75% Federal/25% Non-Federal. Economically Disadvantaged and Rural Communities:90% Federal/10% Non-Federal.	SCEMD	Mitigation Mailbox <a href="mailto:Mitigation@emd.sc.gov">Mitigation@emd.sc.gov</a>
<a href="#">Emergency Supplemental funding from the Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPPF)</a>	Owners of historic buildings, structures, objects, and archeological sites in counties designated for Public Assistance	The National Park Service (NPS) grants will assist with the repair of damage to historic properties by reimbursing documented costs of approved repairs and related efforts.	No match required	SCDAH	Brad Sauls <a href="mailto:bsauls@scdah.sc.gov">bsauls@scdah.sc.gov</a>

Additional Resources:

- The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) [Clearinghouse for Environmental Finance \(Clearinghouse\)](#) catalogues funding, financing, and instructional resources available to improve environmental conditions.
- The Heritage Emergency National Task Force (HENTF) sponsored by FEMA and the Smithsonian Institution maintains a [list of resources](#) from federal agencies and private nonprofit organizations to assist cultural institutions with disaster planning, response, and recovery.
- SC Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) maintains a [list of resources](#) for historic property disaster preparedness and recovery.
- SC Department of Archives and History (SCDAH) and SC Institute for Archaeology and Anthropology (SCIAA) maintain [SC ArchSite](#), an online cultural resource information system. ArchSite combines data from the state's archaeological and built heritage to provide researchers with an online source for cultural resource information. Archaeological site and other sensitive site data is restricted to approved Subscribers.
- [South Carolina Historical Repository Directory](#)
- [Lowcountry Alliance for Response](#)
- [Smithsonian Cultural Rescue Initiative \(SCRI\) Resources hub](#)

- Disaster Preparedness and Recovery in State Agency and Local Government Offices  
[ [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Records%20Management%20\(RM\)/Microfilm/Information%20Leaflets/Leaflet16.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Records%20Management%20(RM)/Microfilm/Information%20Leaflets/Leaflet16.pdf) ]
- Disaster Preparedness (Paper, Photographs, & Electronic Records)  
[ [https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Records%20Management%20\(RM\)/DisasterBooklet.pdf](https://scdah.sc.gov/sites/scdah/files/Documents/Records%20Management%20(RM)/DisasterBooklet.pdf) ]
- Northeast Document Conservation Center Preservation Leaflets  
[ <https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/preservation-leaflets/overview#section3> ]
- Seasonal Emergency Resources (from NEDCC) [ <https://www.nedcc.org/free-resources/emergency-resources> ]
- Emergency Salvage Procedures (Minnesota Historical Society)  
[ <https://www.mnhs.org/preserve/conservation/floodresponse.php> ]
- National Heritage Responders – highly skilled conservators and collection care professionals with expertise in emergency response provided through the Foundation of the American Institute for Conservation (202-661-8068),
-