

**Coastal Barrier Resource System (CBRS)**  
**Administered by U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (FWS)**  
**Prepared by the Maine Floodplain Management Program**

### **Overview**

In the early 1980s, Congress recognized that certain actions and programs of the Federal Government have historically subsidized and encouraged development on coastal barriers, resulting in the loss of natural resources; threats to human life, health, and property; and the expenditure of millions of tax dollars each year. To remove the federal incentive to develop these areas, the Coastal Barrier Resources Act (CBRA) of 1982 and subsequent amendments designated relatively undeveloped coastal barriers along the Atlantic, Gulf of Mexico, Great Lakes, U.S. Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico coasts as part of the John H. Chafee Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), and made these areas ineligible for most new federal expenditures and financial assistance. CBRA encourages the conservation of hurricane prone, biologically rich coastal barriers by restricting federal expenditures that encourage development, such as federal flood insurance. Areas within the CBRS can be developed provided that private developers or other non-federal parties bear the full cost.

- Historically, CBRS have been shown on FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
- Federally backed flood insurance is not available in these areas unless the building was built prior to being designated as a CBRS. When new CBRS areas are established, existing structures are grandfathered for flood insurance purposes.
- CBRS units and FIRMs have different life cycle.
- CBRS units will be removed from the National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL), however, the FEMA Map Service Center will display the USFWS' CBRS dynamic maps.

### **New CBRS Data Available and Removal of the CBRS boundaries from the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps**

In September 2018, the Service released a new Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS) data set which contains the flood insurance prohibition date for each area within the CBRS and the System Unit establishment date for each area within a System Unit. **Beginning on February 25, 2019, CBRS boundaries and flood insurance prohibition dates will no longer be depicted on Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) issued by FEMA. Letters of Map Revision were issued/effective on February 15, 2019 for all Maine communities that had CBRS shown on their FIRMs.** The most up-to-date CBRS digital data will be available via the Service's CBRS Mapper, downloadable shapefile, Web Map Service and Arc GIS Representational State Transfer Service.

### **New CBRS Validation Tool**

In October 2018, the Service released a new CBRS Validation Tool within the CBRS Mapper which allows users to create their own CBRS documentation for specific properties and project sites. This self-service tool will allow users to produce documentation that indicates whether or not a specific area is within or outside of the CBRS and will also provide the necessary dates needed for flood insurance and other purposes.

### **CBRA Hurricane Guidance**

After a Presidentially-declared disaster, FEMA and other Federal agencies make expenditures and provide financial assistance to help communities recover and rebuild. Most Federal funding for disaster relief is prohibited within the Coastal Barrier Resources System (CBRS), with some exceptions. Helpful information is available on the FWS website, including where to find CBRS maps and data, CBRS documentation, and CBRA consistency consultations.