NEPA Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact

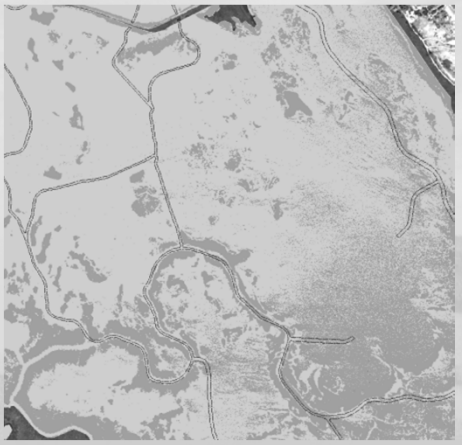
Generally, the EA includes a brief discussion of:

- The need for the proposal
- Alternatives (when there is an unresolved conflict concerning alternative uses of available resources)
- The environmental impacts of the proposed action and alternatives

Storming Back:
Restoration, Resiliency and Readiness at Northeast National Wildlife Refuges

Vegetation Community Response

- Some large areas in Unit III adjacent to dredged channels, where material has been sidecast, filled in substantially



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Environmental Impact of Alternatives

- **Prime Hook Alternative- "No Action"**
  - **Continued frequent flooding of adjacent communities and agricultural lands**
  - **Hypoxia, algal blooms and fish kills**
  - **Botulism outbreaks in waterfowl**
  - **Septic system failures**
  - **Methyl mercury production and toxicity**
  - **Hydrogen sulfide release to the atmosphere**

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Environmental Impacts of Alternatives

- **Prime Hook alternative – Close breaches and maintain water control structures**
  - **Slow return to fresh water**
  - **No fish passage capability**
  - **Sedges, rushes and forbs which are extremely vulnerable to salt water intrusion from storm surges**
  - **Increased maintenance costs**
  - **Limited flushing**
  - **Hydrogen sulfide generation**
  - **Reduced sediment transport downstream**

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Environmental Impacts of Alternatives

- Prime Hook alternative-restore tidal wetland, beach/dune/back barrier complex; remove water control structures
  - Increase fish passage for anadromous and catadromous fish
  - Improve water circulation and nutrient removal and carbon sequestration
  - Reduce hydrogen sulfide gas generation
  - improve horseshoe crab spawning
  - Restore colonial water bird and shore bird nesting habitat
  - Reduce frequency and duration of flooding
  - Reduce septic system failures
  - Sequester carbon
  - Expanded high marsh habitat for salt marsh sparrow

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