

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

Fact Sheet



Overview

The Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) assists in recovery efforts to relieve imminent hazards to life and property from natural disasters such as floods, fires, windstorms and hurricanes. The program is administered by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Funding is subject to Congressional appropriations.

The Facts

NRCS may assist in two types of emergencies:

- **Presidentially declared disaster**--the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is responsible for coordinating all recovery efforts.
- **Local disaster**--in the absence of a presidentially declared disaster, the NRCS State Conservationist may declare a local emergency and provide assistance to sponsors pending funding.

Assistance must be requested by an eligible sponsor, which includes state government agencies, cities, counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and American Tribes or organizations. NRCS provides technical assistance and may reimburse up to 75 percent of the construction.

Local sources contribute the remaining portion in the form of cash, in-kind services or a combination of the two. Sponsors are responsible for:

- Providing land rights to do repair work
- Securing necessary permits
- Accomplishing the installation of work
- Performing operation and maintenance

Authorized Work

- Debris-clogged stream channels or drainage canals
- Undermined and unstable streambanks or drainage canal banks
- Jeopardized water control structures and public infrastructures
- Wind-borne debris removal
- Damaged upland sites stripped of protective vegetation by fire or drought

Floodplain easements for restoring, protecting and enhancing the functions and values of floodplains, including associated wetlands and riparian areas are available through EWP.

How to Apply

Contact the Florida NRCS State Office at 352-338-9500.

Sponsor's Guide

For more information see the guide on the Florida NRCS website: <http://tinyurl.com/yd4wkev>

Information about federal assistance programs and USDA's hurricane relief efforts are at <https://www.usda.gov/topics/disaster/storms>.

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