

EWP Program

1. Introduction to Program: Purpose, Goals and Objectives:

The purpose of the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program is to undertake emergency measures, including the purchase of flood plain easements, for runoff retardation and soil erosion prevention to safeguard lives and property from floods, drought, and the products of erosion on any watershed whenever fire, flood or any other natural occurrence is causing or has caused a sudden impairment of the watershed.

The program objective is to assist sponsors and individuals in implementing emergency measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster. Activities include providing financial and technical assistance to remove debris from streams, protect destabilized streambanks, establish cover on critically eroding lands, repairing conservation practices, and the purchase of flood plain easements.

NRCS may bear up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent must come from local sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind services. Sponsors are responsible for providing landrights to do repair work and securing the necessary permits. Sponsors are also responsible for furnishing the local cost share and for accomplishing the installation of work. The work can be done either through federal or local contracts.

A case by case investigation of the needed work is made by NRCS. All projects undertaken must be sponsored by a political subdivision of the State, such as a city, county, general improvement district, or conservation district.

The Floodplain Easement Program (FEP) is operated under the EWP program and is described in detail in the FEP section of this programs package.

For additional information go to the NRCS National web site @ <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/> or <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/ewp/index.html>
Additional information on EWP can be found in the National Emergency Watershed Protection Handbook, 390-VI, Issue 1.

2. Fact sheets:

The following fact sheets are attached:
Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP-FEP Fact Sheet.doc)

3. Application process: Step-by-step with timeframes for actions

1. The Natural Disaster Occurs
2. The Local NRCS Contact collects preliminary information such as locations, types, and extent of damages.
3. The local NRCS office contact identifies an eligible sponsor for EWP assistance.

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4. The eligible sponsor must request NRCS EWP assistance in writing.
5. Field Coordinator assigns and dispatches Damage Survey Report (DSR) Teams
6. The DSR Team completes the assessment of the site(s) for the DSR.
7. If funding is not available, the State Office will notify sponsors of findings, set priorities and wait for funding.
8. If funding is available, sponsors will obtain appropriate permits and land rights.
9. Sponsors will sign the project agreement.
10. If the disaster is considered Urgent and Compelling and the sponsor has the ability to carry out contracting activities, remove the threat within 5 days if funding is available.
11. If the disaster is not considered Urgent and Compelling, a design and bid package must be prepared.
12. NRCS awards the contract, inspects and completes the work.
13. NRCS completes a follow-up and evaluation.

4. Forms Required:

All of the following forms are attached:

Letter from local sponsor- provided by local sponsor

Damage Survey Report (DSR.doc)

Electronic Disaster Report (ElectDisast.doc)

Request for Establishment of an EWP Drawing Account (Drawing Acct.doc)

EWP Final Report (FinalReport.doc)

5. Indiana contact information:

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