



CONSERVATION *Showcase*

NRCS Assists with Repairing Storm Damages to Snyder County Streams

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In the fall of 2011, Tropical Storm Irene and Hurricane Lee caused substantial damage in many parts of Pennsylvania. Among the damage was severe stream bank erosion caused from rising waters that threatened many homes and businesses. Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, Congress authorized the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to provide assistance to over 150 projects in Pennsylvania.

Following the Storms, the NRCS Field Office in Middleburg, along with an NRCS engineer, the Snyder County Conservation District, and the County Emergency Management Coordinator visited several homes and businesses that were being threatened by eroding stream banks. Three sites were determined to meet eligibility for EWP assistance.

Through the EWP program, NRCS provided 75 percent of the construction costs to stabilize the eroding stream banks. The Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) covered the remaining 25 percent of the costs for the Snyder County projects. The Snyder County Commissioners with the help of the Snyder County Conservation District acted as the local sponsor and assisted with many of the administrative aspects of the projects.

The EWP program protected several businesses along Dry Run in Center Township, a private residence along an un-named tributary to Penn's Creek in Center Township, and a rental property utilized by a head start facility along Stumps Run in Franklin Township. Stream banks were armored with approximately 415 feet of rock rip rap to prevent further stream bank erosion from occurring and to protect the homes and businesses in these areas.



Before: Rising waters from both storms caused severe stream bank erosion that threatened many homes and businesses along Dry Run.



Dry Run, Center Township- After: Rip Rap secures the stream bank to protect it from erosion.