

Emergency Watershed Protection Program

An EWP Success Story in Coffee County, AL

A ditch near a property line in Coffee County had remained stable for years; however, repeated heavy rains during the later part of July 2009, resulted in an active gully. This is very common in the Wiregrass area of Alabama because of the mostly sandy soils in the coastal plain area.

The large head-cutting gully threatened homes, a county road, and electrical utilities. The sediment from the gully inundated a railroad track making it impassable.

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The head-cutting gully site was quickly determined an Exigency by the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program Coordinator and the Alabama NRCS State Conservationist.

The original estimated damage survey report's (DSR) construction cost was \$306,200. Funding for the project was received on August 3, 2009, and the Agreement with the sponsor - The Coffee County Commission - required the work to be finished by August 14.

The sponsor received emergency bids on August 5 from four interested contractors and work started on August 6. The low bidder

for the work had just finished another job nearby and was able to start on this job with very little mobilization cost.

The work consisted of the shaping and grading of over 2,500 feet of gully with 10-12 foot walls, installed over 4,000 tons of riprap with geotextile, removing over 1,000 cubic yards of sediment, and stabilizing the construction site.

The work was completed on August 13, one day ahead of the Exigency deadline. The final project cost was \$237,432.

The sponsor, railroad, homeowners, and the nearby City of Enterprise were all most appreciative of the assistance.



This head-cutting gully threatened homes, a county road, and electrical utilities.



The gully was stabilized using riprap and geotextile.

The sponsor understood the nature of the Exigency and the County Engineer made the job happen in a timely manner.



Sediment piled up and made train tracks impassable.



The train tracks were stabilized with riprap and geotextile.

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