



*Helping People Help the Land*

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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## **Natural Resources Conservation Service Announces Application Period For The Emergency Watershed Protection Program Floodplain Easements**

NRCS is accepting applications for floodplain easements through EWPP from Monday, March 9<sup>th</sup> until the close of business on Friday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Applications are available at NRCS field offices throughout the state. For a listing of Michigan NRCS offices go to <http://www.mi.nrcs.usda.gov/contact/Field%20Offices.html> or call (517) 324-5270.

Applications will be ranked based on a standard ranking form. Applications will be selected by the State Conservationist based on funding allocations and ranking score. The purpose of this funding is to acquire floodplain easements on eligible lands and to restore the floodplain functions and values to natural conditions to the greatest extent practicable.

Information required with application: 1) copy of deed to the land, 2) if landowner is an entity then they must provide a list of individuals that comprise the entity including the percent ownership for each individual and provide proof that they are a legal and valid entity in the State of Michigan and which member has authority to sign contractual documents on the entity's behalf.

### **Eligibility**

To be eligible for a floodplain easement the land must:

- Have been damaged by flooding at least twice within the previous 10 years or at least once in the last 12 months.
- Land would be inundated or adversely impacted as a result of a dam breach.
- Be privately owned or owned by state or local units of government.

Lands enrolled in the floodplain easement program will only be eligible for a permanent easement. Easement compensation will be determined by the lower of two values, either the Geographic Area Rate Cap (GARC) or the landowner offer.

Restoration on floodplain easements will include all necessary conservation practices, measures and activities required to restore the floodplain functions and values. Cost-share for restoration will be 100% of the actual cost of installing the restoration practice.

### **Landowner Rights**

Upon purchase of the floodplain easement, the landowner retains several rights to the property including quiet enjoyment, the right to control public access, the right to undeveloped recreational uses such as hunting and fishing, and the right to subsurface resources. Cropping of the land under easement is not authorized.

If you have questions or need further information contact Sean Duffey, EWPP Coordinator, (517) 324-5247 or Tim Redder, WRP Coordinator, (517) 324-5257.