

How does NRCS help?

NRCS employees monitor flooding and communicate with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts, county officials, and other sponsors about the EWP program and its use. When potential projects are identified, NRCS employees will work with sponsors to prepare damage survey reports (DSR's) as the first step in providing EWP assistance.

How does the EWP program protect the environment?

When the situation allows, an inter-disciplinary team, including biologists, geologists, resource conservationists, and engineers, evaluate all of the impacts of a proposed measure to ensure that it is environmentally sound.

An interagency approach is used when necessary to coordinate efforts with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and other federal and state agencies.

Georgia
October 2009

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For Assistance

For general information about NRCS and its programs, visit www.ga.nrcs.usda.gov. Click on Programs and page down to Emergency Programs for specific information on the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program. For assistance, contact your local NRCS office. Contact information is provided below for the September 2009 Flood.

Bartow (706) 629-2582	Fulton (706) 792-0594
Carroll (770) 832-8942	Gwinnett (770) 963-9288
Catoosa (706) 638-2207	Heard (770) 832-8942
Chattooga (706) 291-5651	Houston (478) 987-2280
Cherokee (706) 629-2582	Newton (706) 342-1315
Cobb (706) 792-0594	Paulding (706) 792-0647
Coweta (770) 251-4283	Peach (478) 827-0016
Crawford (478) 827-0016	Rockdale (770) 963-9288
Dawson (770) 536-6981	Stephens County (706) 779-2134
Dekalb (770) 963-9288	Taylor County (478) 827-0016
Dooly (229) 268-9106	Walker (706) 638-2207
Douglas (706) 792-0647	

EWP

Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program

A program to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by natural disasters.

United States Department of Agriculture



Natural Resources Conservation Service

Helping People Help the Land

Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to communities to restore watersheds ravaged by natural disasters.

Through the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) program, NRCS helps safeguard people and property following natural disasters such as floods, fires, wind storms, earthquakes, and drought.

In some cases, floodplain easements can be purchased. These easements restore, protect, maintain and enhance the functions and values of the floodplain, including associated wetlands and riparian areas.

Assistance Available

NRCS provides technical and financial assistance to address damage from flooding, runoff, and erosion--reducing the threat to life and property.

NRCS helps repair over-topped levees, dikes, and other flood retarding structures. Assistance is also available to help clear water courses clogged by sediment and debris in order to prevent future flooding.

Measures include repairing existing water control structures; removing debris and sediment from channels; and establishing vegetative cover, controlling gullies, and protecting stream-banks.

This assistance protects homes, businesses, and other properties from further damage in the event of subsequent storms. NRCS provides up to 75 percent financial assistance of construction costs of eligible emergency treatments; up to 90 percent in limited resource areas.

NRCS will complete a Damage Survey Report (DSR) which provides a case-by-case investigation of the work necessary to repair or protect a site. NRCS will only provide funding that is necessary to reduce applicable threats and repair to pre-storm condition. Should sponsors want to improve or increase the level of protection, the sponsor will be responsible for paying 100 percent of the costs of the upgrade and additional work.

Eligibility

Public and private landowners are eligible for assistance, but must be represented by a project sponsor. Sponsors include legal subdivisions of a state, such as a city, county, conservation district, or Native American tribe or tribal organization.

Sponsors

Local sponsors of EWP projects determine priorities for emergency assistance and coordinate work with other federal and local agencies.

They are responsible for obtaining the necessary permits, paying a percentage of the construction cost, and providing operation and maintenance of completed emergency measures. These sponsors may provide their share of construction costs in the form of cash or in kind services,

such as labor or equipment.

Questions and Answers

When will damage assessments begin?

Responding to the safety of flood victims is always a community's first priority. As soon as rescue efforts are completed and floodwaters recede, damage assessments can begin.

Who can receive EWP assistance?

Landowners who have experienced severe property damage due to recent flooding may be eligible for assistance. All EWP work must reduce threats to life and property, and be economically and environmentally defensible and sound from an engineering standpoint.

All work must represent the least expensive alternative. Requests must be submitted within 60 days of the event.

How can we become a project sponsor?

All EWP work must have a project sponsor. The sponsor must meet the following criteria:

- Must be a state or a legal subdivision of a state government, a local unit of government, or a qualified Indian Tribe or Tribal organization;
- Must be able and willing to obtain needed land rights, water rights, and permits;
- Must supply the required financial assistance or in kind services for needed construction work;
- Must agree to provide for the operation and maintenance of emergency measures when completed.