

# Indiana NRCS

## 2012 Disaster Relief Efforts



Factsheet #2 - Washington County, Indiana

March 21, 2012



### SUMMARY OF STORM

On March 2, 2012 six Indiana counties were devastated by severe weather and tornadoes. One of the most destructive tornadoes began in Fredricksburg, located in Southwest Washington County, and put down on the ground approximately three miles north of the Harrison County line directly west of Highway 135. This tornado traveled for seventeen miles on the ground in Washington County in a northeasterly direction to Pekin before crossing into Clark County. The width of destruction ranged from several hundred feet to over a half mile in width. A Pekin family of 5 was killed and several hundred Washington County residents were rendered homeless.

### DAMAGE IN WASHINGTON COUNTY

On Thursday, March 8, 2012, Jane Hardisty, Indiana NRCS State Conservationist, along with a team of state and area NRCS employees, visited southern Indiana to perform an environmental assessment of damage done. The assessment revealed 14,400 feet of stream impairment in Washington County on the South Fork of Blue River. The debris located in the stream consists mostly of fallen trees and will impact a main bridge downstream if not removed.

### NRCS PREPAREDNESS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service administers the Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, which responds to emergencies created by natural disasters. The program is designed to help people and conserve natural resources by relieving imminent hazards to life and property caused by floods, fires, windstorms, and other natural occurrences.

NRCS field office and technical staff receive annual EWP training to identify eligible sites and the process needed to get funding for these sites. Because of these training efforts, Salem Technical Team staff led by Chris Downing and Washington County District Conservationist, Ruth Hackman were able to assess the damage within days of the storm and quickly develop the disaster survey report to submit for funding.

### NRCS CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Within 24 hours after assessment, NRCS was able to secure funding to assist Washington County in the following conservation efforts on South Fork of Blue River:

- \* 14,400 linear feet of debris removal
- \* 11,500 linear feet of access road
- \* 6.6 acres of seeding
- \* 49.5 acres of repair damage to fields



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