

NRCS Helps Protect Properties After Storms Destroy the History of Wyoming County

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In August and September of 2011, Tropical Storm Lee and Hurricane Irene left many residents in Wyoming County of Northeastern Pennsylvania devastated. Heavy rains from both storms caused the Susquehanna River to exceed its flooding stage which forced a state of emergency to be declared. Lee and Irene severely damaged many historic homes, family businesses, and other properties.

The Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) Program, administered by the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), repairs streambanks and removes debris to protect homes and businesses damaged by storms. In Wyoming County, over 20 streambank projects are receiving EWP funds. Under EWP, NRCS grants aid for emergency work that displays an urgent threat to life or property and requires immediate action to be taken. NRCS may provide up to 75 percent of the construction cost of emergency measures. The remaining 25 percent comes from the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) or local county funds provided by the Wyoming County Commissioners.

Tom Daniels, property owner in Tunkhannock, Pennsylvania, was left devastated once he realized how much his historic Bed and Breakfast building suffered through both powerful storms.



The aftermath of both storms resulted in flooding and erosion of Tom Daniels property.

Through EWP, over 300 feet of the stream bank along the property was restored and stabilized by installing riprap (i.e., large rocks) and mulch. Unfortunately, however, the Bed and Breakfast was not able to be saved because of the significant storm damage it endured.



With the help of NRCS's EWP program the stream bank was protected and restored with grouted rip-rap and mulch to prevent future erosion.

Like Tom Daniels, Betty Ayers, Don Rogers, Bruce Rogers, and Herb Rogers also had properties along the stream that were severely damaged. To save these properties, riprap and concrete blocks were installed. Each of these projects was completed within a month, thereby protecting homes and properties against future storms.



The severe erosion of the stream bank after both storms hit it.



With the help of NRCS's EWP program the stream bank was protected and restored with concrete and rip-rap to prevent flooding and erosion.

For more information about NRCS and its Emergency Watershed Program, contact your local USDA Service Center, or visit us on the web at www.pa.nrcs.usda.gov.