

Kansas
Natural Resources Conservation Service
Emergency Recovery Plan
for the
Emergency Watershed Protection Program

I. Introduction

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to communities for restoring 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, windstorms, tornadoes, and drought. Assistance is limited to implementing emergency recovery measures to relieve imminent hazards to life and property created by a natural disaster that causes a sudden impairment of a watershed.

The objective of the Kansas Emergency Recovery Plan (ERP) is to describe the organization and plans for the implementation of the NRCS EWP Program. The ERP outlines work details and establishes operating policies and procedures prior to a natural disaster striking. Appendix A is a step-by-step process that NRCS employees should follow when addressing a potential EWP Program situation.

II. Agency Contacts

The ERP was developed with input from other local, state, and federal disaster relief agencies. Those agencies are:

- Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
- USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA)
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- Kansas Division of Emergency Management (KDEM)
- Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Water Resources (DWR)
- Kansas Forest Service (KFS)
- Kansas State Historical Society (KSHS), Disaster Recovery Team
- Kansas Water Office (KWO)
- Kansas Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism (KDWPT)
- Kansas Department of Agriculture, Division of Conservation
- Kansas Department of Health and Environment (KDHE)
- Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT)

For point of contact information for the agencies listed above, see Appendix B.

III. Agency Roles and Responsibilities

See Appendix C for roles and responsibilities of the individual agencies and groups listed above. NRCS will conduct a review to update state procedures and identify new representatives to the team bi-annually. An updated ERP will be redistributed to all agencies and groups involved with emergency recovery.

IV. EWP Program Sponsor(s)

EWP Program recovery assistance is made available to sponsoring local organizations (Sponsor(s)). Sponsor(s) must be a legal subdivision of a state government or agency, a local unit of government, or a qualified Native American tribe or tribal organization. Sponsor(s) determine priorities for emergency assistance and coordinate work with other federal and local agencies. Among other things, EWP Program Sponsor(s) are responsible for:

- Providing written request for assistance with documentation.
- Accepting requests for assistance from landowners.
- Obtaining the necessary land rights, water rights, and Federal, state, and *local* permits such as Clean Water Act Section 404.
- Providing at least 25 percent cost share in the form of cash and/or in-kind services such as labor or equipment. (EWP funds may not exceed 75 percent construction cost including work required for mitigation.)
- Providing operation and maintenance on completed emergency measures.
- Have a legal interest or responsibility for the areas threatened.
- Ability to administer a contract if part of local agreement.

Some of the more common eligible EWP Program Sponsor(s) are state agencies, Native American tribes and tribal organizations, county commissions, watershed districts, conservation districts, and township boards.

V. Eligibility

The State Conservationist (STC) determines EWP Program project eligibility.

Eligibility is based on the following:

- A sudden watershed impairment occurs, creating an imminent threat to life or property.
- There are eligible project Sponsor(s) (see Section IV above).
- The Sponsor(s) have documented that they have exhausted other resources or have insufficient funding available to provide adequate relief from applicable hazards.

VI. Description of Typical Recovery Measures

An EWP Program recovery measure must reduce threats to life or property, retard runoff to prevent flooding and/or soil erosion, restore hydraulic capacity, or remove debris

deposited by the disaster that might pose a health or safety hazard. Measures must be defensible--economically, socially, environmentally, and technically. Measures must conform to rules and regulations published by NRCS for complying with Executive Orders 1990 (protection of wetlands) and 11988 (floodplain management). Some of the more common measures are:

Conservation practice repairs	Critical area treatment
Debris and sediment removal	Dike and levee repair (limited)
Erosion control	Flood control structure repair
Road and bridge protection	Streambank stabilization

Note: EWP Program recovery measures will restore the damaged area to the pre-existing condition only.

VII. Contracting Procedures

Installation of recovery measures can be accomplished using contract and/or agreement actions. Sponsors or NRCS may contract for the installation of the recovery measures.

VIII. Appendices of Emergency Recovery Plan

- Appendix A: Kansas Emergency Recovery Plan Procedures
- Appendix B: Agency Contacts
- Appendix C: Agency Roles and Responsibilities
- Appendix D: Sample Electronic Disaster Report
- Appendix E: Form NRCS-ADS-78, Assurances Relating to Real Property Acquisition
- Appendix F: Form 1199A Direct Deposit Sign-Up
- Appendix G: Sample Damage Survey Report (DSR)
- Appendix H: Standard Form (SF) 424 and 424 A, B, C, D
- Appendix I: Kansas SF-424 Supplement
- Appendix J: Progress Report Form
- Appendix K: Sample Project Agreement
- Appendix L: Sample Final Report Form
- EWP Program Brochure