



United States Department of Agriculture



WA NRCS, Engineering Updates

November 2024 | Lynelle M. Knehans,
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Anaerobic Digesters Update



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Anaerobic Digesters Update



NRCS Anaerobic Digester Fact Sheet

- Available on the FOTG under Conservation Practice Standard 366 Anaerobic Digester

Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Anaerobic Digesters

Background

Anaerobic digesters are an expensive and complex project to take on for a livestock

The producer and NRCS planner will work together to determine the appropriate conservation practices for the facility. Relevant practices are based on the work that is completed during the creation of the CNMP. From the Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) the planner will assist in selecting the right conservation practice components to develop a conservation plan and estimate of financial assistance. Upon the producer's successful application and acceptance into an NRCS program, the selected conservation practices and components from the CNMP are used to develop a conservation contract. Producers are eligible for cost assistance upon successful implementation of a component

collection, handling, processing of manure, to waste utilization. The major processes and potential NRCS conservation practices are shown below. A



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Anaerobic Digesters Update

Climate-Smart Livestock Management Advisor Committee

- Washington State committee for multiple livestock related state funding opportunities for landowners
- Dairy Anaerobic Digester Subcommittee includes Chris Clark as the NRCS representative
- Currently \$22 million of State funds under development for Anaerobic Digester



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Anaerobic Digesters Update

Partnerships and Funding Opportunities with NRCS

- Partners were actively pursuing NRCS funding for Anaerobic Digesters under the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) in 2024
- There have been other discussion on funding opportunities under EQIP and Alternative Funding Arrangements (AFA) for Tribes only
- Still restrictions on EQIP of \$450,000 in FY25



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Anaerobic Digesters Update

NRCS Developed Payment Scenarios Active for FY25

Two New for CPS 366 Anaerobic Digester

- Gas and Flare System, Greater Than or Equal to 2,000 Animal Units
 - Based on number of animal units for a large system
- Gas and Flare System, Less Than 2,000 Animal Units
 - Based on number of animal units for a small system

Two Existing for CPS 366 Anaerobic Digester

- Anaerobic Digester
 - Based per each anaerobic digester
- Covered Lagoon or Holding Pond
 - For cover only based on number of animal units

Note: Other practices can be used to supplement anaerobic digesters. For example: 634 Waste Transfer, 533 Pumping Plant, 313 Waste Storage Facility, etc.



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Anaerobic Digesters Update



NRCS Continued Challenges

- **Cost of Anaerobic Digesters and payment limitations for producers.**
 - Thinking outside typical EQIP and trying other programs to find the most flexibility for the producers.
- **Planning requirements including Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans (CNMP)**
 - NRCS now has 2 CNMP teams in the state, but still needing to fill a CNMP Engineer for the teams on the west side.



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 **Emergency
Watershed
Protection (EWP)
Program**



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NRCS EWP Program



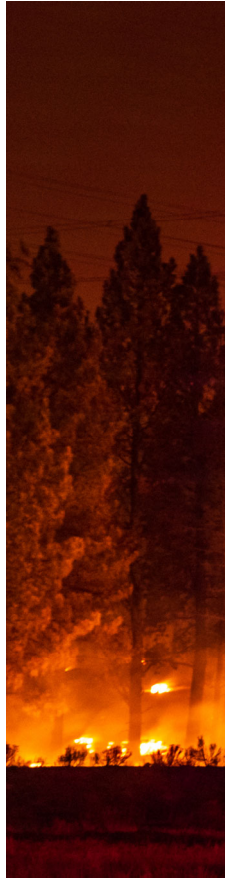
<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs-initiatives/ewp-emergency-watershed-protection>

What is it?

- Offers technical and financial assistance to help local communities relieve imminent threats to life and property caused by natural disasters that impair a watershed.
- NRCS provides services post event for reducing continued threats

What are the project criteria?

- Protection from flooding or soil erosion
- Reduce threats to life and property
- Restore the hydraulic capacity to the natural environment
- Economically and environmentally defensible.



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NRCS EWP Program

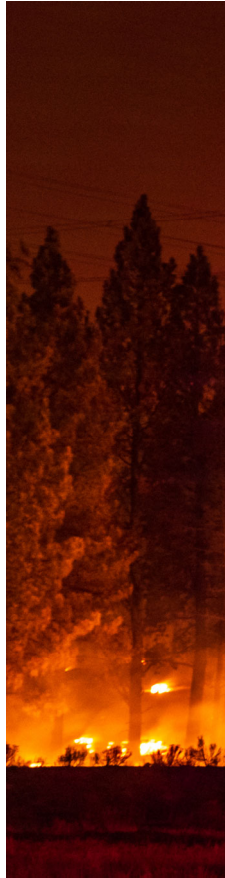


Who is eligible?

- **A disaster needs to be declared** either by the State Conservationist for small local disasters, or a federal or state disaster declaration.
- **A private landowner must work through a local sponsor**, that meets the requirements, typically a state, local or tribal government.
- Project must demonstrate a **reduction in threats to life and property**. Property is considered infrastructure such as buildings and dams

What is not eligible?

- Crop land, forest land
- Infrastructure that is not directly tied to private landowner risk
 - An example would be replacing a bridge that was damaged to a field.



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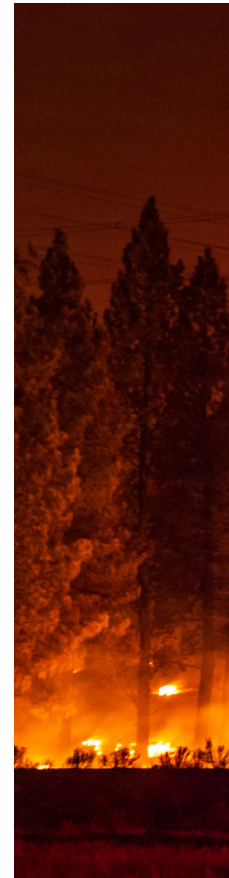


NRCS EWP Program



Other information:

- Recovery is to be completed within 220 days.
- The EWP program is only a partial funding source and is a reimbursement program at 75% or 90% for HU/Tribal
- A sponsor is required and must meet criteria such as obtaining land rights for repairs, securing permits, responsibility for operation and maintenance...



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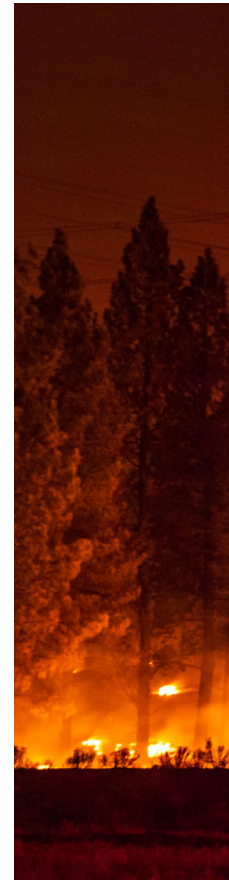
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NRCS EWP Program

Example Projects from past:

- Post flooding that moved the stream channel and a permanent residence is now in threat of collapsing into the stream due to rapid soil erosion.
- Post fire threat of flood and debris for homeowners or city.



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NRCS EWP Program



Potential and Active EWP Projects

Gorge Dam Boom – Seattle City Light Sponsor

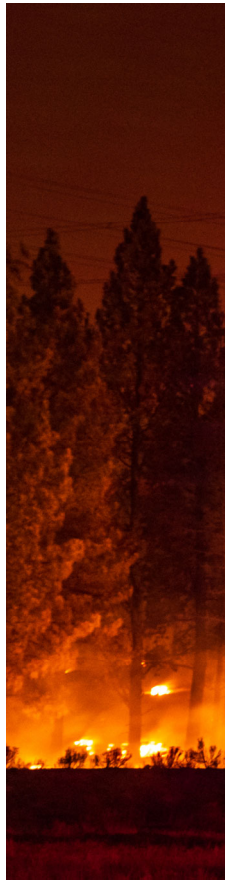
- Post fire threat to dam with debris

Retreat Fire – Yakima-Tieton Irrigation District Sponsor

- Post fire threat to irrigation pipeline system

Pioneer Fire – Cascadia Conservation District Sponsor

- Post fire threat to residential homes



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